

Sarah Kip and Her Revolutionary War Officer Husbands
by Diane Crane Benelli^{1 2}

Born in New York in 1755, Sarah Kip descended from one of the first families of merchants who came to New Amsterdam from Holland. Her ancestors were an integral part of the founding of New York and records indicate they were industrious, determined and quite outspoken.

Sarah's great great grandfather, Hendrick Kip (the tailor), arrived in New Amsterdam in 1637 when it was a tiny colony of some 300 inhabitants. He built a house and a shop on Bridge Street near Whitehall, where he had an unobstructed view of ships in the East River and the wooded Long Island shores beyond. Hendrick was a politician of the popular party and so much in opposition to Director General Kieft that he agitated for his deposal and forced his deportation to Holland.³ So thorough was Hendrick's hatred of Kieft, that when Kieft was about to depart from the city, the townspeople tendered him a respectful farewell, all except "Hendrick Kip the Tailor," who would have nothing to do with him.⁴

Hendrick continued his political role under Peter Stuyvesant and was appointed to the Board of Nine Men,⁵ and he was one of the committee of eleven leading citizens who signed an appeal to the Hague to provide New Amsterdam with a suitable municipal government.

Hendrick had three sons, Jacob, Isaac and Hendrick, all of whom took an active role in the community. Jacob and Hendrick married daughters of two of the most notable men in the province.⁶

Jacob Kip was the first provincial secretary of the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens and was responsible for receiving the revenues of the city. Jacob purchased the land known as Kip's Bay Farm,⁷ which comprised all the land north of 26th Street and south of 42nd Street from Lexington Avenue to the East River. This property was so extensive and so many titles vested in it that in 1894 John J. Post of the New York Bar published a three-volume book of deeds and wills showing its division and containing many maps of its extent. Jacob's house, at 35th Street and Second Avenue, was built of bricks imported from Holland; and over the door, the Kip Coat of Arms was sculpted in stone. The house endured for nearly 200 years until it was torn down in 1851.

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³ Margherita Arlina Hamm, *Famous Families of New York: historical and biographical sketches of families which in successive generations have been identified with the development of the nation*, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1902, p.219.

⁴ D.T. Valentine, *Manual of the Common Council of New York, 1852, Biographical Sketches of All the Magistrates of New Amsterdam 1653-1678 Part IV.*

⁵ Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, *History of the City of New York in the Seventeenth Century*, Vol. 1, New York, The A.S. Barnes Company, p.273.

⁶ Jacob Kip married the daughter of Dr. Johannes De La Montagne, the only member of Governor Kieft's Council; and Hendrick Kip, Jr., married the daughter of the illustrious Nicasiaus de Sille, the First Counselor to Governor Petrus Stuyvesant. (Frederic Ellsworth Kip, *History of the Kip Family in America*, Montclair, New Jersey, 1928, p.33)

⁷ Frederic Ellsworth Kip, *History of the Kip Family in America*, Montclair, New Jersey, 1928, p.33.

Hendrick's son, Isaac, was admitted to the rights of a Great Burgher in 1657. Unlike his father and brothers, he did not choose a political career but became a yacht captain in the river trade between New Amsterdam and the settlements at Kingston and Albany.

Hendrick's namesake and direct ancestor of Sarah, was a child when he came to New Amsterdam in 1637. He was a brewer and was admitted to the right of a Great Burgher in 1657, at about which time, he moved to New Castle, Delaware. There he was a member of the Council and was appointed as one of the Commissaries. While still in New Castle, he purchased a house and lot east of Broadway and North of Exchange Place, subsequently left the Delaware Colony and returned to settle in Flatbush where he was overseer of the town. According to a recorded list of the Great Citizenship in 1657, the aristocracy was composed of just twenty people, Hendrick and Hendrick, Jr., being two of those twenty.⁸

The Kip women were no less formidable. In 1646, Hendrick's wife, Tryntie, publicly called the Director General and the Council false judges,⁹ and was accused of slander. Sarah's great grandmother, Anna de Sille, was said to be both beautiful and accomplished. Anna's father, Nicasius De Sille, came to New Netherlands with a commission from the West India Company as First Counselor of the colonial government; and next to Director General Stuyvesant, he was the most important man in New Netherland.¹⁰

Although born to a successful and well-known family of considerable privilege, the events of Sarah's life have gone unchronicled. At a time when New York was riding on a tide of prosperity from the French and Indian War, Sarah's city would soon be passionately divided by the politics of Loyalists and Patriots. Sarah's brothers were merchants and her sisters were married to merchants. They present a tightly woven family, who all lived in what is now known as lower Manhattan. Had the times been different, no doubt they would have profitably continued in their businesses through the early part of the 19th century, but their lives were scattered by their country's struggle for independence.

Sarah Kip Marries Joseph Crane

At nineteen years of age on 8 December 1774, Sarah married Joseph Crane in the Dutch Reformed Church.¹¹ Joseph was a descendant of Jasper Crane, a key founder of Newark, New Jersey. His ancestry was not Dutch but English. Joseph's father, Ezekiel Crane, died in the French and Indian War, fighting with Col. Peter Schuyler's "Jersey Blues"¹² leaving a wife and

⁸ William Leete Stone, *The Centennial History of New York City: From the Discovery to the Present Day*, New York, R. D. Cooke, 1876, p.33.

⁹ Edmund B. O'Callaghan, ed., *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York*, printed by Weed, Parsons & Company, 1865, Volume IV, Council Minutes, p.106.

¹⁰ Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, *History of the City of New York in the Seventeenth Century*, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1909, Vol. 1, p.353.

¹¹ Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume IX, *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church New Amsterdam – New York City*, p.242.

¹² Ezekiel was taken prisoner by the French in Oswego, New York, and died in Canada in 1758.

five children. Joseph's mother, Elizabeth Holloway, then married John Range, Esq.,¹³ who was of Dutch descent.¹⁴ With no additional details, the Dod Family genealogy references that John Range "journeyed to Lake George, New York, in the Spring of 1770."¹⁵ It may be that John Range, along with his stepson, Joseph Crane, traveled there in search of a land grant as a result of Ezekiel Crane's service in the French and Indian War.¹⁶ It is also possible that John Range may have had some connection to the new opportunities in the Lake George area, which enabled Joseph to participate in one of the largest land grants involving over 1,150,000 acres in the south-central Adirondacks.

During the two years prior to his marriage,¹⁷ Joseph Crane lived and traveled in upstate New York, surveying land for Ebenezer Jessup.¹⁸ The Jessup brothers, Ebenezer, Edward and Joseph, were shrewd and very successful businessmen. They were well connected to many English Colonial officials, especially the last of the royal governors,¹⁹ and to Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs in New York. Through these connections, the Jessups were able to secure large tracts of land obtained either directly from the government or indirectly through purchase from the Indians.²⁰ The Jessups settled west of Queensbury, New York, and filled their spacious log dwellings with elegant furniture and costly paintings. Understandably, the Jessups were loyal to the Crown.²¹ Their connections had brought them both fortune and social position, and they held title to practically all of what is now western and northern Warren County. Their most extensive transaction was the "Totten and Crossfield" patent, also known as "Jessup's Purchase." This mammoth grant involved over a million acres and was named for Joseph Totten and Stephen Crossfield, shipwrights out of New York City,²² although most believe that Totten and Crossfield were merely front men for the Jessups.²³ In 1771, Governor Dunmore of the Province of New York approved their petition; and in August of 1772, the purchase was complete.

Now came the job of surveying the property - a great wilderness of spectacular mountains, pristine lakes, waterfalls, rapids, rivers and unbroken forests. Ebenezer Jessup, himself a surveyor, organized teams for the immense task. Here, Joseph Crane and a host of

¹³ Ellery Bicknell Crane, *Genealogy of the Crane Family*, Worcester, Massachusetts, Press of Charles Hamilton, 1900, Vol.II, p.316.

¹⁴ Allison Dodd and Rev. Joseph Fulford Folsom, Secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society, *Genealogy and History of the Daniel Dod Family in America 1646-1940*, Bloomfield, New Jersey, 1940, p.63. "A letter is extant in Dutch from a sister, while his own letters show an excellent hand and education in English."

¹⁵ Allison Dodd and Rev. Joseph Fulford Folsom Secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society, *Genealogy and History of the Daniel Dod Family in America 1646-1940*, Bloomfield, New Jersey, p.63.

¹⁶ Robert Ervien, *History of Assembly Point on Lake George, New York*, published by the author, 1956, Chapter 3. 1772-1774

¹⁷ New York State Archives, Microform A1816, *Petitions, Correspondence and Reports Relating to Forfeited Estates, 1778-1826*.

¹⁸ The Earl of Dunmore and General William Tryon.

¹⁹ Rev. Henry Griswold Jesup, *Edward Jessup of West Farms, Westchester Co., New York, and His Descendants*, Cambridge, Privately Printed for the Author by John Wilson and Son, 1887, p.217.

²⁰ Compiled by workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of New York, *Warren County, A History and Guide*.

²¹ H. P. Smith, *History of Essex County With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, New York, D. Mason & Co., 1885, p.253.

²² Harold K. Hochschild, *Township 34, A History with Digressions of an Adirondack Township in Hamilton County in the State of New York*, New York, privately printed, 1952, p.2.

others laid out fifty townships of nearly 40 square miles each. A remnant of that history – Crane Mountain – still exists today in Warren County, New York, within the original Totten & Crossfield Patent. Two legends of its naming prevail: one of Cranes nesting in the vicinity, and the other that it is attributable to a surveyor named Crane who began at the north end of the Hudson River and laid out the “line of mile trees” running some fifty-five miles west.²⁴ Joseph Crane was that surveyor,²⁵ and his survey line passed over Crane Mountain.²⁶

No doubt influenced by the affluence of the Jessups and the beauty of opportunity, in December of 1774, two days after Joseph and Sarah married, Joseph purchased some twenty-four thousand acres²⁷ from Ebenezer Jessup at a cost of £480.²⁸

The following June, Joseph enlisted as a First Lieutenant in Captain John Lamb’s Artillery Company in New York City.²⁹ On 3 September 1775, Joseph Crane wrote his will, naming his “dear beloved wife Sarah” of New York City, sole heiress of his estate;³⁰ and the next day, Joseph boarded a boat bound for Albany through Fort Ticonderoga, up Lake Champlain and then into Canada, where he fought in the battle at St. John’s and at Montreal with Major General Richard Montgomery.³¹ His detachment of artillerymen led by Lamb participated with Benedict Arnold in the December 31 assault on Quebec.³² The accounts of this devastating battle are filled with the hardships of frigid cold, fierce winds and blinding snow.³³ Richard Montgomery was killed, and Lamb was severely injured by a musquet ball just below his eye.³⁴ The patriotism of the summer of seventy-five seemed nearly extinguished by the winter of seventy-six. Most were either captured or killed, but somehow Joseph returned to New York; and undaunted from the ordeal of the Canada campaign, he petitioned the Provincial Congress of New York to appoint him to a company of artillery.³⁵ In consideration of his merits and experience, and after being qualified as to his knowledge in gunnery, in March of 1776, Joseph was given a Captain Lieutenancy and assigned to Sebastian Bauman’s Company of New York

²⁴ Barbara McMartin, *50 Hikes in the Adirondacks*, Woodstock, VT, Countryman Press, 1988, p.155

²⁵ Catalogue of Maps & Surveys in the Offices of the Secretary of State, State Engineer and Surveyor, and Comptroller and the New York State Library, orig.1851, corrected 1859, p.403-406.

²⁶ Barbara McMartin, *50 Hikes in the Adirondacks*, Woodstock, VT, U.S.A.: Countryman Press, 1988, p.155.

²⁷ Harold K. Hochschild, benefactor of the Adirondack museum and author of *Township 34: a history with digressions of an Adirondack township in Hamilton County in the State of New York*, New York, 1952, includes in his book Plate II, a 1815 map by Duncan MacMartin, Jr. (Part of *A map of the provinces of New York, New Hampshire and Main, [1772-1776?]*, an unsigned and undated manuscript map. Reproduced by courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York City.)

²⁸ New York State Archives, Microform A1816, *Petitions, Correspondence and Reports Relating to Forfeited Estates, 1778-1826*.

²⁹ *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State*, Albany, New York, Vol.1, p.43.

³⁰ Compiled and edited by Berhold Fernow, *New York Calendar of Wills 1626-1836*, p.382.

³¹ Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Naval Documents of the American Revolution, Vol.2, Appendix F, *The Journal of Robert Barwick During the Canadian Campaign*.

³² John Codman, *Arnold’s Expedition to Quebec*, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1901, p.180.

³³ John Joseph Henry, *An Accurate and Interesting Account of the Hardships and Sufferings of that Band of Heroes, who Traversed the Wilderness in the Campaign Against Quebec in 1775*, Lancaster Printed by William Greer, 1812, p.129

³⁴ Isaac Q. Leake, *Memoir of the Life and Times of General John Lamb*, Albany, Joel Munsell, 1850, p.131.

³⁵ *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution*, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York, Vol.1, p.250.

Artillery.³⁶³⁷ Bauman had just been appointed a Captain in the permanent Continental service and was recruiting a company of New York artillery attached to Colonel Henry Knox's Regiment.³⁸ Born in Germany and educated at Heidelberg University as an Engineer and Artillerist in the Austrian service, Bauman had served in the French and Indian War with George Washington.³⁹ Joseph was the first and highest ranking officer in Bauman's regiment.⁴⁰

When the British took possession of New York in September of 1776, Bauman's Company was the last to leave the city. While British warships occupied New York harbor, Bauman was left with just eighty men and two howitzers, which he got off at the risk of his life, narrowly escaping capture by the British.

Two months later during the Battle of Long Island, Joseph was captured at Fort Washington;⁴¹ but it was early in the war when officers were exchanged quickly, and Joseph soon returned to his unit. He joined the fighting in Trenton and Princeton alongside Alexander Hamilton.

Within days of the victory at the Battle of Princeton, George Washington wrote to Robert Morris in Philadelphia to inform him that he would be sending Captain Joseph Crane to oversee the specifications for the manufacture of cannon and munitions there.⁴² No evidence has been found to date to support Captain Crane's arrival in Philadelphia. To the contrary, the Henry Knox Papers contain a letter dated 15 January 1777, from S. Shaw, Adjutant of Artillery, to Captain Lieutenant Joseph Crane. It states: "I have it in command from General Knox to acquaint you that from this day you are considered as no longer an officer in the Corps of Artillery."⁴³

While Joseph was in the thick of the fighting, Sarah's brother, Richard, an upholsterer who had fled the city to Pompton, New Jersey, was supplying the Army with materials for tents and knapsacks through the Quartermaster General's office. It was from that location on 15 April 1778 that Richard Kip penned a letter to Alexander Hamilton stating that at the Battle of Princeton, Joseph Crane had taken a small box belonging to the British that contained a quantity

³⁶ Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety, and Council of Safety of the State of New York, Albany, Printed by Thurlow Weed, printer to the State, 1842, Vol.II, p.93.

³⁷ Mary C. Doll Fairchild, *Memoirs of Sebastian Bauman*, New York, privately printed, 1900, p.4

³⁸ Edited by Mary C. Doll Fairchild, *Memoirs of Colonel Sebastian Bauman and his descendants with Selections from his Correspondence*, publisher unknown, 1900, p.4.

³⁹ Frederic Gregory Mather, *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut*, Albany, New York, J.B.Lyon Company, 1913, p.661.

⁴⁰ Henry Knox Papers (1719-1806), on microfilm at the David Library of the Revolution, owned by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and deposited in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Vol.II, p.107, Boston, 1960, The Meridian Gravure Company, Meriden, CT.

⁴¹ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army, April 1775 – December 1783*, Washington, D.C., W.H. Lowdermilk & Co. 1893, p.176.

⁴² *Writings of Washington*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1889, Vol.II, p.474, 7 January 1777 Letter to Robert Morris, George Clymer and George Walton,

⁴³ *Henry Knox Papers (1750-1806)*, on microfilm at the David Library of the Revolution, owned by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and deposited in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Vol.LVI, Boston, 1960, The Meridian Gravure Company, Meriden, CT.

of hard money. Richard claimed that he had seen the box in Joseph's possession and that Joseph resided in Clarks Town in Orange County, New York and was preparing to leave the continent.⁴⁴

From Alexander Hamilton, the letter found its way to General George Washington who recalled the incident at Princeton where there were some suspicions against a Captain Lieutenant [sic] Crane.⁴⁵ Short on resources, General Washington wrote to George Clinton in Poughkeepsie, New York, and enclosed the letter, instructing Clinton to investigate the information and if possible, to recover the money.⁴⁶

At the time, Joseph was a Captain in the Orange County Militia in Ann Hawke Hay's^{47/48} regiment.⁴⁹ Hay was a dedicated patriot who had sacrificed considerable property in his native Jamaica, West Indies, to take up the patriot cause. Clinton immediately directed Col. Gilbert Cooper, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the same regiment, to use every means in his power to recover the box and its contents.⁵⁰ While Gilbert Cooper was tasked with the investigation of the missing box, no further correspondence regarding it has been found, and it appears that Joseph was never formally charged.

At first blush, Richard's claim that Joseph was planning to leave the continent sounds improbable. It is unlikely that a dedicated patriot would abandon his country in the midst of their fight for independence.

In the fall of 1778, a huge force of the British army descended on Bergen County, New Jersey, driving north in a foraging expedition that virtually seized the entire Hudson valley. On the evening of 27 September, four regiments under General Charles Grey attacked Colonel George Baylor and his troop of American Light Horse who had settled in for the night at Haring's farm a few miles south of Tappan village. The orders were to kill all and take no prisoners. Those who offered to surrender were bayoneted repeatedly; and of some 100 sleeping American soldiers at Tappan, sixty-seven patriots were killed, injured or taken prisoner.⁵¹

That same night, worn out with fatigue from a scouting expedition, the militia company of Captain Joseph Crane bedded down in a barn just a few miles south of the massacre. At sunrise,

⁴⁴ Harold C. Syrett, ed., *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, New York and London, Columbia University Press, 1961, Vol.I: 1768-1778, p.475.

⁴⁵ *Writings of Washington*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1889, Vol.II, p.479. George Washington to George Clinton dated April 24, 1778 from Valley Forge. The draft was in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ For confirmation of this unusual first name see RECORD 10 [1879]:94, 11 [1880]:31, 33. .

⁴⁸ Charles J. Colcock, *The Family of Hay, A History of the Progenitors and Some South Carolina Descendants of Col. Ann Hawkes Hay*, privately printed for the author by The Genealogical Association, New York, 1908; reprinted with later lines added by Mrs. T. D. Bateman (Errolaine Hay 1959, New Orleans, Louisiana, Pelican Publishing Company, p. 114: "The sister of Judge Martin Wilkins, Mrs. Ann Mister, who was a widow for many years, left her property to Ann Hawkes Hay, and she is doubtless the great-aunt for whom **he** was named Ann." Hugh Hastings, *Public Papers of George Clinton*, New York, NY State of New York 1899, Vol.IV, p.796

⁴⁹ NARA, Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Indexing Document M246, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93, Film 4, Reel 74, Hays Regiment of Militia 1778-1780, Vol.9, p.4.

⁵⁰ *Writings of Washington*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1889, Vol.II, p.479, George Washington to George Clinton.

⁵¹ William S. Stryker, *The Massacre near Old Tappan*, Read before the New Jersey Historical Society at their Meeting at Trenton, January 23, 1879, 1882, Naar, Day & Naar, Book and Job Printers, Trenton, NJ.

realizing that the British were above them, Captain Crane quickly paraded his men and marched to a hill, where they immediately saw that the British had surrounded them. Captain Crane shouted for all to make their escape.⁵² They were so greatly outnumbered that most of the company were killed or wounded. One of the militia, Abraham Blauvelt, offered to surrender, but he was instantly fired upon and wounded in the thigh, bayoneted in the breast and left for dead. It was then that he heard the British officers and soldiers swear that they would give quarter to no militia man.⁵³

The British took five prisoners, all of whom were wounded.⁵⁴ Days later, a notice appeared in *The Royal Gazette*: “We are informed that among the prisoners lately brought in here, is a Mr. Crane, well known for his persecuting the Loyalists in this city.”⁵⁵ This citation indicates that Joseph Crane was probably active with the Sons of Liberty in New York City.

As the months passed and Joseph remained in prison on Long Island,⁵⁶ Joseph’s stepfather, John Range, and a number of notables in Essex County, New Jersey, appealed to George Clinton for an exchange that would result in the release of Captain Joseph Crane so that he could “return home to his family and be of further service to his country.” The signatories to the petition included Colonel Phillip Van Cortland, four Captains, several officers in the Continental Army, and four members of the Dod family, one of whom had married Joseph’s sister.⁵⁷ It appears that at least a year passed before Joseph was able to leave prison and return home,⁵⁸ where his name continued on the rolls of the Orange County Militia at least until August of 1780.⁵⁹

In Sarah’s own words, it was “shortly after peace had taken hold”⁶⁰ that she and Joseph left the continent (as Richard Kip’s letter had predicted) and journeyed to Jamaica “on business.”⁶¹ The exact date of their departure is not known, but Sarah and Joseph had a son, born sometime between 1783 and 1785, so they either journeyed to Kingston with a baby; or their only child, Joseph S. Crane, was born in Jamaica.⁶²

Their connection to Jamaica was Sarah’s uncle, Abraham Kip,⁶³ a gold and silversmith who had made a life for himself in the town of Kingston.⁶⁴ What “business” Joseph had in Jamaica is not known. It may have been connected to Colonel Ann Hawks Hay, the Jamaican-

⁵² Pension Application Records of James Quackenbush, S15200.

⁵³ *Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser*, 27 November 1778, Vol. XI, Issue 536, p.1.

⁵⁴ *The Royal Gazette*, New York, 3 October 1778.

⁵⁵ *The Royal Gazette*, New York, 3 October 1778, p.3.

⁵⁶ Hugh Hastings, *Public Papers of George Clinton*, New York, NY State of New York 1899, Vol. IV, p.796.

⁵⁷ Bethuel L. Dodd, M.D., and John R. Burnet, *Genealogies of the Male Descendants of Daniel Dod, of Branford, Connecticut*, Newark, NJ, Printed at the Daily Advertiser Office, 1864, p. 52.

⁵⁸ Hugh Hastings, *Public Papers of George Clinton*, New York, NY State of New York 1899, Vol. V, p.349.

⁵⁹ Hays Regiment of Militia, *NARA Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783*, Film 4, Reel 74, Indexing Document M246; War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93.

⁶⁰ *Petitions, Correspondence and Reports Relating to Forfeited Estates, 1778-1826*, New York State Archives, Microform A1816.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² Obituary of Joseph S. Crane, *The Baltimore Sun*, 9 April 1839, p.2.

⁶³ Abraham married Ann Newland in Jamaica on 24 February 1749 and married Catherine Guin on 15 July 1775. (Kinston Parish Register, Marriages I, 1721-1825, p.61.

⁶⁴ *Petitions, Correspondence and Reports Relating to Forfeited Estates, 1778-1826*, New York State Archives, Microform A1816.

born head of Joseph's militia regiment, or it may be that Joseph's surveying skills were in demand on the island. Another possibility is that in Jamaica the coins he supposedly plundered from the British could be openly spent or more easily transformed into a redeemable form.

Sarah Kip – Widow

The Anglican records of the Kingston Parish Church show that Joseph was buried in their churchyard on 30 August 1786.⁶⁵ There is no documentation as to the cause. Jamaica was rampant with yellow fever and other fatal tropical diseases. Dangerous storms often blasted the island.⁶⁶ Although he may have fallen victim to disease or to the elements, it cannot be ruled out that Joseph's participation in the American Revolution with its many battles in the dead of winter and his two imprisonments and the injuries he suffered, may have eventually taken a fatal toll on his health.

After Joseph died, Sarah and her son remained in Jamaica for two years living with her Uncle Abraham, who by then was approaching the age of 80.⁶⁷ In 1788, she returned to her father's home in New York City where her family had resumed their lives and continued in their businesses.

Sarah's Siblings

By 1784, Sarah's brother, Richard, who had written the fateful letter to Alexander Hamilton, had returned to New York City.⁶⁸ Richard married Ann Lyon in 1776, and they had five children. He had quite a successful upholstery business and resided on Wall Street, an extremely fashionable location and the center of political life in the United States. When Richard died in 1793, his widow, Ann, carried on the business from 60 Broadway,⁶⁹ which had been part of Sarah's father's estate. The Kip family was entwined with the Haight family. Sarah's niece (Richard's daughter, Ann) married David Haight; and Sarah's younger sister, Maria, married David's brother, Benjamin Haight.

Maria and Benjamin lived nearby at 152 Broadway. They were married at Trinity Church in 1780. Benjamin had served as a Lieutenant and Captain in the New York Militia;⁷⁰ and after the war, he operated a hardware store where he sold all sorts of goods relating to the saddlery and the harness making business. It was said that Benjamin attended to his business faithfully and was a very respected citizen.⁷¹

Sarah's older brother, James, had returned to the city and was living in the same neighborhood as Alexander Hamilton, by now a successful lawyer, and Sebastian Bauman,⁷²

⁶⁵ *Kingston Parish Registers Burials*, Vol.II, p.90.

⁶⁶ George Wilson Bridges, *The Annals of Jamaica*, George Wilson Bridges, London: J. Murray 1827-1822, p.194.

⁶⁷ According to *The Kip Family in America*, Abraham was baptized 3 January 1719.

⁶⁸ *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1948* (Vol. LXXXI), p. 146; *New-York Packet*, and *the American Advertiser*, December 13, 1784.

⁶⁹ *The Daily Advertiser*, 8 October 1793, Vol.IX, Issue 2698, p.3.

⁷⁰ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, Washington, D. C., GPO, p.266.

⁷¹ Walter Barrett, *The Old Merchants of New York City*, New York, Carleton, Publisher, 1863, p.184, 186.

⁷² 1790 New York Census.

who became the postmaster of the New York in 1789.⁷³ James was a brass founder and in 1774 had married Cornelia Ryckman, who was also a descendant of Hendrick Kip.⁷⁴ Because of Cornelia's fears at the time the British took possession of New York, James abandoned his well-furnished home on Broadway and relocated to Fishkill, New York, where he served for six years as an artificer. Although no record of the event was found, family legend has it that James Kip foiled a plot by the British to capture General Frederick von Steuben. James' grandson recounted the story in a letter to the Board of Pensions adding that when after the war General Steuben was in the city of New York and met James' wife and daughter nearly opposite the building where the British kept their prisoners, Steuben said if it had not been for James, he would have been confined in that prison.⁷⁵

Sadly, the Revolution ruined James' business, and he never regained it, nor the style of living to which he had been accustomed. In 1796, James sold his home in New York City and moved to Johnstown, New York. After the War of 1812, he lost his farm in Johnstown worth five or six thousand dollars by providing security for others during a period of manufacturing speculation. In spite of the claim that he saved General Von Steuben from capture by the British, his application for a pension was denied, and James Kip was left destitute in his old age.⁷⁶ He died 19 November 1834.

Daniel Ebbets, who married Sarah's older sister just a week before Sarah's marriage to Joseph Crane, does not appear to have served in the patriot cause and may have aligned with his uncle,⁷⁷ Daniel Ebbets, Jr., who was commissioned as a Loyalist officer. Daniel is listed in the 1790 city directories as a grocer at the Broadway address recently vacated by Benjamin Haight.⁷⁸ By the early 1800s, he had established himself in a china and glass business, partnering with his uncle Daniel's son-in-law, Samuel Gale. Daniel took pride in his New York City heritage, and is quoted reminiscing of the beautiful beach at the foot of Beaver Path, where he once caught fish and many herring. In describing the old fort in its last years, Daniel remembered an old linden and two apple trees on the city side that were as high as the wall.⁷⁹ In 1809, he accepted a commission by the city council to lay out Canal Street in lower Manhattan.⁸⁰ The closeness of Sarah's extended family is reflected in the name of her first grandchild: Edward Ebbets Crane born in 1810.

Sarah Kip Marries William Scudder

⁷³ Mary C. Doll Fairchild, *Memoirs of Colonel Sebastian Beauman and His Descendants*, New York privately printed, 1900, p.8.

⁷⁴ Cornelia was the great great granddaughter of Hendrick Kip through Hendrick's son, Jacob Kip.

⁷⁵ Letter from John Livingston Kip (son of James Kip) to the Honorable A. Z. McCarty, Court of Pensions, written from Hannibal, March 10, 1858.

⁷⁶ Letter from John Livingston Kip (son of James Kip) to the Honorable A. Z. McCarty, Court of Pensions, written from Hannibal, March 10, 1858.

⁷⁷ *New York City During the Revolution: being a collection of original papers (now first published) from manuscripts in the possession of the Mercantile Library Association of New York City*, privately printed for the Association, 1861, p.125.

⁷⁸ 52 Broadway

⁷⁹ Rodman Gilder, *The Battery*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1936, p.109.

⁸⁰ Stokes, *Iconography*, 5:1507.

Widowed at the young age of thirty and after being single for some seven years, in 1792, Sarah married the recently widowed, William Scudder, of Westfield, New Jersey.⁸¹ Like Joseph Crane, William Scudder had also served as an officer in the continental army during the Revolution. Both men were from Essex County, New Jersey, and it may be that William and Joseph knew each other prior to the war. William's privately published Journal details a curious probable connection to Joseph Crane:

"In February (1776) our regiment was ordered to New York and began to fortify the town. In the same month, I met with an old friend of mine, who had formerly been well acquainted at my father's house, and had just received a captain's commission from the New York Provincial Congress⁸²; he solicited me to accept a commission and go with him, which I had no objection to, as I had often had to stand cap in hand to some officers whom I did not think my equals before they received their commissions and became men of consequence; I therefore immediately made application to Lord Sterling, who interceded with General Lee, then commander in chief, and on producing a warrant from the New York Congress, obtained a discharge. I then purchased a sword and became an officer."⁸³

In November of 1775, William enlisted as a first sergeant in the first New Jersey regiment, and recruited young men to serve in the fight for their country. During the early days of the war, while Joseph Crane was battling on the Canadian front, William Scudder was in Hempstead, Long Island, disarming inhabitants who were unfriendly to the common cause.

The following spring, William traveled with his regiment to Stillwater, Fort Ticonderoga and then to Crown Point under the command of General Sullivan. By the fall, William received a lieutenant's commission under Colonel Goose Van Schaick to once again recruit in New Jersey; and in the spring of 1777, he joined his regiment at Fort George and traveled on towards Fort Edward, where there was some lighthearted conversation between William and his friend, Lieutenant Tobias Van Vactor. Tobias had remarked how William would be a terror in the woods, etc.; and as Tobias went off on duty to the heights beyond Fort Edward, William innocently teased, "Now Tobias, surely the savages will tremble at your approach." William sorrowfully regretted his words to Tobias, as that was the last time they saw each other. Tobias' fate was "too mournful to dwell on," as he was scalped and brutally killed by Indians on the way to Fort Edward. The same Indians then murdered and scalped Jane McCrea and her mother. William was a pallbearer for his friend Van Vactor, who was buried in the same grave as Jane

⁸¹ Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Volume IX, *Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church, New Amsterdam – New York City*, 1940, p.266.

⁸² Joseph Crane received a Captain's Commission from the New York Provincial Congress in March of 1776 – documented in the *Proceedings of the Provincial Congress*, p.85.

⁸³ William Scudder, *The Journal of William Scudder, an Officer in the Late New-York Line, Who was taken Captive by the Indians at Fort Stanwix, on the 23rd of July, 1779, and was holden a Prisoner in Canada until October, 1782, and then sent to New-York and admitted on Parole: with a Small Sketch of his Life and some Occurrences of the War, which chiefly happened under his Notice previous to his Captivity, printed for the author, 1794*; reprinted in *The Garland Library of Narratives of North American Indian Captivities*, Vol.22, Wilcomb E. Washburn, Director of the Office of American Studies, Smithsonian Institution, 1977, p.7.

McCrea. Her story spread throughout the colonies and was memorialized not only in word but also in art.⁸⁴

William's journal details his travels from Fort Stanwix to Schenectady and on to Albany where his regiment embarked to Fishkill, Newburgh, Warwick, Sussex, East Town and on to Valley Forge. From there he traveled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where orders came to join the main army and follow the British north to Princeton. William marched to Kingsbridge and to Tuckehowe where his unit was tasked with watching the movements of the British in New York. In November, 1778, his regiment was called to Fort Stanwix. Once there, nothing eventful happened, until the fateful day in July of 1779 when just a half mile outside the fort, William and a party of men cutting hay, were ambushed and captured by Indians. Thus, for William, began more than three years in captivity, the majority of the time spent in Canada. His book tells of the difficulties of harsh winters and the comings and goings of fellow soldiers. While in prison on the honor system, he was able to move about within certain restrictions. In a letter to his brother in Westfield, New Jersey dated 17 September 1780,⁸⁵ William expressed paramount concern over the education of his son and virtually demanded that if no school in Westfield was good enough, his son should be sent overseas regardless of the cost. He was anxious for the health of his mother and was eager for a glorious peace between Great Britain and America.

William's years in captivity passed slowly, and he wrote multiple letters for his release. His hands were sore from chopping wood, and he continually struggled with intestinal woes. His compassion for his fellow soldiers compelled him to lend substantial amounts of money to others in his regiment. His birthdays were particularly difficult for him and he longed for his freedom. During his last year in Canada, he represented himself as a doctor of medicine, which while at times served to his advantage, was also somewhat intimidating to him. He writes of bloodletting and leaches. His journal includes an appendix in which he declared his disappointment that Thomas Paine's writings in "The Age of Reason" clearly contradict the bible. He is philosophical and religious; and appears to be in contrast to Sarah's first husband, Joseph, who seemed to thrive in the challenges of the Adirondack Mountains and returned from the ordeal of the Canada campaign with a desire to play an even more prominent role in the fighting.

When Sarah wed William Scudder in 1792, he had four children from his first marriage: Asa, Susanna, Charles and Charlotte. William seemed to have multiple interests. In 1793, William formed a partnership with a John Gillespy (Gillespy & Scudder) and was running a freighting business from the wharfs of Old New Windsor Village, New York.⁸⁶ He also briefly opened a land office in New Windsor, offering large parcels of property for purchase.⁸⁷ He was a merchant in New York City⁸⁸ and in 1794, Sarah and William had their first child, a daughter,

⁸⁴ Painting by John Vanderlyn, *Death of Jane McCrea*, 1804

⁸⁵ William Scudder, op. cit., pp. 108-109.

⁸⁶ Edward M. Rutterber, *History of the Town of New Windsor, Orange County, NY, Goshen, N.Y.*, Orange County Genealogical Society, 1997.

⁸⁷ *New Jersey Journal*, 19 February 1794, Vol. XI, Issue 540, p.3: Three thousand acres west of New Windsor, six thousand acres on the Susquehannah and six thousand acres in the county of Green Briar, Virginia

⁸⁸ Kenneth Scott, *Genealogical Data from further New York Administration Bonds 1791-1798*, Collections of the NYG&B, Volume XI, New York, 1971, p.27.

Sarah Ogden Kip Scudder.⁸⁹ In 1796 they were running a boarding house on Oliver Street,⁹⁰ where two years later, they had a son, William Kip Scudder.⁹¹

Sarah Widowed Again

Within months of the birth of their son, Sarah became a widow for a second time.⁹² A severe outbreak of yellow fever ravaged Manhattan from July through November of 1798. All who could, fled the city; stores were closed, and business streets deserted.⁹³ Yellow fever victims died quickly and violently, typically within six days of contracting the disease. Too ill to pen his signature, William signed his will with an “X” on 1 October 1798 – at his “last hour and death.” No doubt he was dead before morning. Over 2,000 New Yorkers died as a result of the yellow fever that swept through New York City. William’s name is among those listed in the 1798 Minutes of the Committee on Health⁹⁴ who died between October – December 1798.^{95 96 97}

During their brief years together, William self-published his Journal and subscribed to membership in the Society of the Cincinnati.⁹⁸⁹⁹ In his will, he is listed as a “gentleman.”¹⁰⁰ He bequeathed two-thirds of his estate to his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Sarah. The other third was left to two children from his first marriage, Charles and Charlotte. In particular, he states that the bonds for land should not be sold. He did not specifically mention 5,000 acres of land in Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia that he had purchased outright in 1791 from Francis Graves of the city of Richmond.¹⁰¹

In the 1780s, while Sarah and Joseph were in Jamaica, the 24,000 acres of land they had purchased in the Totten and Crossfield Patent had been confiscated by the Commissioners of Forfeitures. Because the Jessups were loyal to the Crown and had fled New York - two to

⁸⁹ Obituary of Sarah Ogden Anthony, The New York Times, 28 May 1880.

⁹⁰ New York City Directories, 1796, 1797, 1798, Microfilm at NYG&B Society Library.

⁹¹ Greenbrier County Register of Deaths, Vol. VI (1853-1901), Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, WV.

⁹² Francis B. Heitmann, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783*, New, Revised, and Enlarged Edition, Washington, D.C., The Rare Book Shop Publishing Company, Inc., 1914, p.176

⁹³ Mary L. Booth, *History of the City of New York*, New York, E. P., Dutton & Company, 1880, p. 612-613.

⁹⁴ Board of Health Minutes 1798-1819/1828, Reel 1, New York City Municipal Archives.

⁹⁵ In the approved DAR application for membership by Mrs. Alice H. Benet Baird Ledoux, the date for William Scudder’s death is listed as 1798.

⁹⁶ In Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army*, p.487, the date for William Scudder’s death is listed as 1799.

⁹⁷ Both Francis J Sypher, Jr.’s *New York State Society of the Cincinnati*, 2004, and John Schuyler’s *Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati*, 1886 list the date for William Scudder’s death as 1800. It may be that the dates listed in both Society of the Cincinnati publications were based on Sarah Scudder’s initial petition for assistance to the Society, which was reviewed on 7 May 1800 at the meeting of the standing committee of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

⁹⁸ Francis J. Sypher, Jr., ed., *New York State Society of the Cincinnati: Biographies of Original Members & Other Continental Officers* (Fishkill, New York: New York State Society of the Cincinnati, 2004, pp.421-423.

⁹⁹ John Schuyler, *Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, formed by the Officers of the American Army of the Revolution 1783*, Originally printed by the Society by Douglas Taylor, NY, 1886.

¹⁰⁰ New York County Willis 44:262, microfilm at NYG&B Society Library.

¹⁰¹ Greenbrier County Land Records, Book 6, p.240, Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Canada and one to England¹⁰² - the Commissioners claimed much of the property in the Totten and Crossfield Patent. Joseph's and Sarah's property, Township 34, in what is now Hamilton County, had been confiscated by the Commissioners and sold to Alexander McComb.

Sarah had long since begun the process of proving ownership and attempted to extract compensation from the New York State Legislature on her behalf and on behalf of her son, Joseph S. Crane. Their petition, dated 26 December 1797, some of which was burned in the Albany Fire in 1911, contends that while Sarah and her husband were in Jamaica on business, they had no suspicion of any insufficiency on the title. She referred to Joseph's military service in Canada and his role as an active and faithful friend to his country.¹⁰³ She included papers that documented Joseph's purchase of Township 34 in 1774. The legislative committee was convinced that the accompanying vouchers supported Sarah's petition;¹⁰⁴ and on 19 March 1800, the Assembly of the State of New York passed a bill entitled *An Act for the Relief of Sarah Scudder*, which awarded her \$205 as a full compensation for all claims upon the State.¹⁰⁵ The reasons for Joseph's travel to Jamaica may never be known; but the ramifications are more tangible. Sarah had lost an enormous tract of some of the most beautiful land in the state of New York. Blue Mountain Lake resides within its boundaries and is now home to the Adirondack Museum. The benefactor of the Adirondack Museum, Harold K. Hochschild, published the history of the township in a formidable book entitled, "Township 34."¹⁰⁶ Hochschild's reference to the original owner of Township 34 erroneously lists Joseph's name as Josiah, "another of Jessup's surveyors." Hochschild also mistakenly purports that although Crane was cited as the original holder it was "probably merely as nominee for someone else."¹⁰⁷

The \$205 Sarah received from the Legislature did not seem to go far. In May of 1800, Sarah applied to the Society of the Cincinnati for financial relief.¹⁰⁸ The Society managed a fund to assist widows and children of their members; and even today, they have a process to discharge their philanthropic duties under their charter.¹⁰⁹ By virtue of the fact that in June of that same year the Society saw fit to provide Sarah with aid in the amount of \$50, one must conclude that she was struggling.

Whatever debts William Scudder had amassed during his lifetime, they propelled Sarah into a relationship with the New York surrogate court system over a five-year period (1805-1810) as she petitioned for the right to sell his real estate holdings in order to satisfy his creditors. The specific properties mentioned in the court documents were in the County of

¹⁰² Rev. Henry Griswold Jesup, Edward Jessup of West Farms, Westchester County, N.Y. and His Descendants, Cambridge, MA, Privately Printed for the Author by John Wilson and Son, 1887.

¹⁰³ Petitions, correspondence and reports relating to forfeited estates, 1778-1826, New York State Legislature, Assembly, New York States Archives, A1816 Microform.

¹⁰⁴ *Journal of the Assembly of the State of New York at their 22nd Session, Second Meeting, began and held at the City of Albany, January 2, 1799, New York State Legislature*, New York State Library, Microform, Control Number ESTCW16446, Call Number 820, E34 83-28932.

¹⁰⁵ *Laws of the State of New York Passed at the 23rd Session of the Legislature*, microfiche, New York State Library, FF348-747, N5322; 8456526, 1800 – 23rd Session, 1 of 2, p.476.

¹⁰⁶ Harold K. Hochschild, *Township 34, A History with Digressions of an Adirondack Township in Hamilton County in the State of New York*, New York, privately printed, 1952

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid*, p.19.

¹⁰⁸ Original Records of the Society of the Cincinnati, Washington, D.C.

¹⁰⁹ Conversation with Philip Livingston, Secretary of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

Onandago [*sic*], in the Military Tract, one in the township of Dryden and another in the township of Solon. Sarah eventually prevailed and was given the right to dispose of the properties and then return to the court with the monies arising from the sale in order to clear the debts of her husband.¹¹⁰ As was the custom of the day, a guardian was appointed for the infant children of William Scudder, deceased.¹¹¹ He was Gilbert Haight, the brother of Sarah's brother-in-law, Benjamin Haight.

As a new century dawned on New York City, William's daughter, Susannah, married David S. Lyon.¹¹² David Lyon was a Custom-House Broker¹¹³ and was active in a number of organizations. He was Chairman of a committee to erect a Presbyterian Church in the vicinity of Band and Bleeker Streets; Vice President of the Young Men's Missionary Society of New York; the first officer of the Patrons of the American Conservatorio and founding Chairman of the New York Auxiliary Bible Society.¹¹⁴

William's son, Charles, apprenticed with James Hallett, a coachmaker; but in 1803, Charles petitioned the courts with stories of mistreatment and lack of clothing, which were supported by testimony from Joseph S. Crane and David S. Lyon. As a result, Charles was successful in separating from his relationship with Hallett.¹¹⁵ The records of the Westfield Presbyterian Church indicate that Mr. William Scudder's child died 15 October 1805.¹¹⁶ Since no additional information has been found concerning Charles, it is suspected that this citation refers to him. William's daughter, Charlotte, married Eliakim Ross in 1808 in Westfield, New Jersey.¹¹⁷ They eventually settled in Ohio. Asa, William's oldest son, went into business as a saddler.¹¹⁸ It may be that he apprenticed with Sarah's niece's husband, David Haight. Asa married Catherine Slater in 1809.¹¹⁹

Sarah remained in New York City; and on numerous occasions during the early 1800s, she received assistance from the Society of the Cincinnati. In fact, it appears that Sarah may have been the most consistent petitioner and recipient of funds in the Society's history. Over a sixteen-year period, Sarah received thirty separate payments totaling \$441.¹²⁰

¹¹⁰ Record of Real Estate Proceedings, New York County, Surrogates Court, Book 1, (1800-1812), p.174.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, p.267.

¹¹² The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C. National Number 21733, Application for Membership Alice H. Benet Baird Ledoux

¹¹³ The Evening Post, 4 May 1805, Issue 1074, p.3.

¹¹⁴ New-York Commercial Advertiser, 30 June 1813, Vol.XVI, Issue 6520, p.2.

¹¹⁵ Kenneth Scott, *NYC Court Records 1801-1804, Minutes of the Court, Genealogical Data from the Court of General Sessions*, National Genealogical Society, Arlington, VA 1988, p.58.

¹¹⁶ William K. McKinney, Ph.D., Charles A. Philhower, A.M., and Harry A. Kniffin, *Records of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ: Commemorative History of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey 1728-1928*.

¹¹⁷ William K. McKinney, Ph.D., Charles A. Philhower, A.M., and Harry A. Kniffin, *Records of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ: Commemorative History of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey 1728-1928*.

¹¹⁸ 1799 New York City Directory, Microfilm at New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Library.

¹¹⁹ *Index of Marriages and Deaths in the New York Weekly Museum: 1788-1817*, author unknown, 1952.

¹²⁰ Volume 2, Proceedings of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati currently in the Library of the National Society of the Cincinnati, Washington, D.C., Original records.

While William's children married and made their own lives, Sarah's son, Joseph, became a cordwainer and relocated his business to Baltimore.¹²¹ On 18 October 1808, Joseph was part of a group of shoemakers who tarred and feathered Robert Beaty, a shoemaker and British subject from Bermuda. The story was carried in newspapers throughout the country. Although some accounts characterized the group as desperados and ruffians, others claimed that the event was politically motivated. A flurry of passionate articles appeared a few months later when the Governor of Maryland fully pardoned the entire group, saying that Beaty had "abused the Americans, declaring them a set of rebels, the offspring of convicts, transported for thieving, murder and treason." The *New York Evening Post* condemned the Governor's pardon, calling him a "wretch" and a "disgrace to the state he inhabits."¹²² Six days after the incident, Joseph married Catherine Sopp in the Zion Lutheran Church¹²³ and began a family of his own, only to be interrupted by another war – the war of 1812. Retracing his father's steps in Canada, Joseph served under the command of General Zebulon Pike and fought at the Battle of York. Joseph served a term of 24 months in Captain Moore's volunteers,¹²⁴ and also served as a private in the Maryland Militia. He was at North Point during the battle at Fort McHenry¹²⁵ when Francis Scott Key penned the words to our National Anthem.

Sarah Kip Leaves New York

In 1816, Sarah received a final \$5 from the Society of the Cincinnati and left New York for the last time. Following her son Joseph, Sarah and her daughter moved to Baltimore where her daughter soon married Reuben Tisdale¹²⁶ and they, too, started a family.

One might assume that now in her early 60s and having lived through the turmoil of the Revolution, burying two husbands and struggling for survival, Sarah would settle down and seek a peaceful life. But what she did at that point was a more enterprising challenge than most women of her day would have undertaken at any age. Armed with the 1791 bill of sale to William's 5,480 acres in (West) Virginia, Sarah sold off 250 acres of it and with the proceeds, moved to Greenbrier County. In the winter of 1820, while her son, Joseph, began to survey the land,¹²⁷ Sarah set up house in Greenbrier County, as did her daughter and son-in-law with their two babies, John Henry Tisdale and William Scudder Tisdale.¹²⁸

According to Tisdale genealogy, Reuben died in 1822 in Ohio. Not long after, Sarah Tisdale returned to her native New York City where she raised her sons and kept in very close contact with the Kips.¹²⁹

¹²¹ *Fry's Baltimore Directory for 1812*, Printed by B.W.Sower & Co. for the publisher, 1812, pg.20

¹²² *The Evening Post*, 2 February 1809, Issue 2161, p.2.

¹²³ Zion Lutheran Church, Marriage Register, page 259, line 53, Baltimore, MD; *Baltimore Evening Post*, 26 October 1808.

¹²⁴ NARA Records, Statement of Joseph S. Crane, Jr., in claiming land warrant for Richard K. Crane, John Q. A. Crane and Sarah Catharine Crane.

¹²⁵ Thomas V. and Joanne Hunts Leary, *North Point, War of 1812*, 1985, MD XE 356.BZH86, p.55.

¹²⁶ Robert Barnes, *Register of the First Methodist Episcopal Church*, Vol.2, Maryland Marriages 1801-1820, p.184.

¹²⁷ Land Office Surveyor's Entry Book #1, p.11, Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, West Virginia

¹²⁸ 1820 Census Records, Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia.

¹²⁹ Letter from John H. Tisdale to William K. Scudder, December 4, 1846, Letter in possession of family member.

Once settled in Greenbrier County, Sarah had to overcome yet another court battle. There was some question whether Frances Graves, who sold the land to William, actually had clear title. Land transactions in Virginia were at best chaotic during the 1800s; and in many cases, the transfers of properties were duplicitous. The land in Greenbrier County known as “Big Mountain,” Sarah’s final legacy, was in serious question. Yet going forward from 1825 through 1844, tax records¹³⁰ continue to show Sarah Scudder paying taxes on 5,490 acres, when the entry changes to “Sarah Scudder’s estate.”

In 1828, Sarah’s son, Joseph Crane, purchased 212 acres on Meadow River at the foot of Big Mountain, where he made plans to erect a mill. Joseph additionally purchased over 6,000 acres in 1832,¹³¹ which he willed to his six sons from his first marriage.¹³²

All six of Joseph’s sons settled on his land in Greenbrier County, and today Cranes are still live on the property he originally purchased. Joseph died in Baltimore in 1839 and never settled in Greenbrier County, nor was his mill ever operational.¹³³ Joseph’s son, Edward, and Joseph’s second wife, Sarah Woodfield Crane, fought many a court battle over the rights to the 212 acres which Joseph willed to her, their three children and Joseph’s only daughter from his first marriage, who never left Baltimore. The dispute was eventually settled for a pittance nearly thirty years later.

Sarah’s son, William Kip Scudder, secured property in the Meadow Bluff district and married and lived out his years there. He was an original trustee of the Soule Chapel Methodist Church in Greenbrier; and his son, Fulton, fought in the Civil War and took up his grandfather’s hereditary membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. A few Scudder descendants still live in Greenbrier County, although the years have completely obliterated the Scudder-Crane family connection.

Sarah’s daughter, Sarah Scudder Tisdale, married again late in life to her cousin’s widower, Jacob Anthony.¹³⁴ Anthony’s first wife, Jane Kip,¹³⁵ was the daughter of Sarah’s brother, Richard Kip, who wrote the accusatory letter to Alexander Hamilton in 1778. Sarah Anthony died in 1880 at her home on East 18th Street at the age of 86¹³⁶ and is buried at the New York City Marble Cemetery on Second Street and First Avenue¹³⁷ with Jacob, her husband.

The 1830 census lists Sarah as living in Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia. Deaths were not recorded in Greenbrier County until the 1850s, thus there is no official record of the death of Sarah Kip Crane Scudder. Since property records for that period in Greenbrier are not reliable for their timeliness, one cannot assume that Sarah lived until 1844, which is when the property records change to the “estate” of Sarah Scudder. It is highly doubtful that Sarah lived until the age of 89, although Sarah’s name on the 1830 census does provide documentation that

¹³⁰ Greenbrier County Land Tax Records, Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, West Virginia.

¹³¹ Greenbrier County Court Records, Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, West Virginia.

¹³² Last Will and Testament of Joseph S. Crane, 1839 Will Book 17, p.275, Maryland State Archives.

¹³³ Obituary of Joseph S. Crane, *The Baltimore Sun*, 9 April 1839, p.2.

¹³⁴ *New York Times*, 28 May 1880, p.5, Garden Street Dutch Reformed Church, October 20, 1853.

¹³⁵ Obituary of Jane Kip Anthony, *New York Tribune*, 29 December 1851.

¹³⁶ Obituary of Sarah Ogden Anthony, *New York Times*, 28 May 1880.

¹³⁷ Vault Records, New York City Marble Cemetery, Second Street between First and Second Avenues.

Sarah reached the age of 75. No headstone or cemetery record exists to provide any information as to the date of her death. Nonetheless, it can be said with certainty that Sarah lived a long and full life. She was born in the mid-1700s when Manhattan was a small town and merchants ruled the day. She weathered the hardships of the American Revolution and laid two husbands to rest, one on foreign soil. She raised her own three children as a single mother and finally took her destiny into her own hands when she boldly made the journey into the new frontier. Although there is no headstone to mark her life and death, surely she merits some memorial, if only that of the written word.

SARAH KIP CRANE SCUDDER
1755 – 183-