
 Archives

Thomas Scott Papers

Collection. Thomas Scott Papers. 1851 OCT 31 [VFM 2599]

VFM 2599

Typescript dated 1897 entitled "Scraps, Biographical and Historical, Relating to the life and times of Thomas Scott, written by himself."
Written in the city of Chillicothe, Ohio, October 31, 1851.

1 item (34 p.).

Scott, Thomas

Chillicothe (Ross County, Ohio)

There are transcription errors within this document committed by Judge Thomas Scott's granddaughter when she converted his 1851 hand written letter to a typed letter in 1898. I've noted several by inserting red text above the transcription errors I've identified. There are most likely others! I've also inserted last names for several individuals where Judge Scott just referenced peoples first names.

References to Nathaniel Parker of Hampshire County, VA begin at the bottom of page 8 of the original document for his marriage to Elizabeth Scott and on page 10 it references Nathaniel Parker's brother Aaron Parker and his marriage to Polly Dobson half-sister to Nathaniel Parker's wife Elizabeth Scott.

SCRAPS BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL, RELATING
TO THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THOMAS SCOTT, WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

WRITTEN IN THE CITY OF CHILLICOTHE, OHIO.

OCTOBER 31st. 1851.

Scraps Biographical and Historical relating to the life and times of Thomas Scott, written by himself.

No. 1--

City of Chillicothe, Ross, Co. Ohio.

October 31st. A.D. 1851.

My dear children, Amanda F, Catherine Ann; Thomas T; Sarah Eliza R; John W.; William McK; Martha B & James B. This day completes the seventy-ninth year of my age, and admonishes me, that it is time to commence writing the scraps promised.

My eyes are but slightly dimmed, yet my ears begin to be dull of hearing. I still walk erect, and my step is still firm and elastic. My diet which is simple yet substantial, digests freely, and produces its desired effects. The works, the beauties of nature, and of natures God, are contemplated by me with as high a zest, as at any former period of life. I never look upon the countenance of any human being in which I do not trace some marks of its divine original, however deeply sunk in vice and corruption he or she may be. For them Jesus died--to them pardon and redemption is freely offered upon the easy terms of the Gospel, and if they be but willing and obedient, their corrupt natures shall be purified and made white in the blood of the Lamb. I therefore never look upon the countenance of any one, whom intentionally I would injure in, either body, mind or estate; whom I do not love and for whose happiness I do not pray. When I retire to rest I bid adieu to all cares and anxieties, and commit myself, and all that appertains to me to the guardianship of that good being who never slumbers nor sleeps. I sleep sweetly, awake refreshed and find that my gracious redeemer is still nigh to comfort and bless. I know that with me the shadows of the evening are stretching out and I must soon pass through the dark valley and shadow of death. Yet I feel strong consolation and good hope through

grace, that, while by the rod of God I may be driven forward, this staff will comfort and sustain me in that drak, that trying hour. I bless God I do not look with terror on the tomb. "There once the flesh of Jesus lay and left a rich perfume". He conquered death, and brought life and immortality to light. Hallelujah. God is love.

I was born in old Town alias Skipton, near the junction of the north and south branches of the Potomack River in the then Washington now, Alleghana County, Maryland, on the 31st. day of October A.D.1772; and the names of my parents were John and Sarah Scott. Your mother was born in Frederick County, Maryland, December 11th. A. D. 1778. The names of her parents were Robert and Catherine Wood. My parents had ten children, two of whom, Alice and Susannah died in infancy. The names of those who attained to majority are, Mary, Thomas, James, Sarah, Edward, Elizabeth, John and Hannah.

Mary when in the sixteenth year of her age united in marriage with Mr. James Lewis by whom she had three children, who attained to majority, namely, Britain, John and Sally. Britain inter-married with Sally Ward, daughter of Col. William Ward, origiaal proprietor of the town of Urbanna, Champaign County. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. The railroad leading from Springfield to or through Urbanna passes through his farm situated about four and a half miles north of Springfield. He is now dead. His widow and some of the children reside on the farm. I do not recollect the maiden name of the lady whom John Lewis married (Sydney Sweet) she was a young widow at the time of their intermarriage, named (Sydney Hedge). John was a Blacksmith and for many years was in the employment of the Government among the Indians at Sandusky. He and his wife were acceptable members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He maintained when in life and has left behind him, a

"good name which is better than precious Ointment". But he has fallen asleep. I have heard that all his children were well educated, that they all sustain worthy characters and that their Father left them in comfortable circumstances. But I have never had the pleasure of seeing any of John's children. Sally Lewis intermarried with a Mr. McCartney of Springfield, they removed from there to Indiana, since which I have seldom had the pleasure of hearing from them.

My sister Lewis having remained a widow several years, intermarried with Mr. Thomas Madison Pendleton, by whom she had two daughters and one son who attained to mature age.

Mr. Pendleton was a nephew of old Judge Pendleton of Virginia and half brother to the state auditor Pendleton of that state. The maiden name of his mother was Madison, a near relative of the late President Madison, and he and the late Mrs. ^{Pres.} Madison were born at the home of his Father in Virginia on the same night. One of their daughters intermarried with a Doctor Bardwell, they reside, I believe, in Lyon County, Iowa. Their son Henry Madison Pendleton is married and resides, if I am correctly informed, in Madison County Iowa. Their other daughter intermarried with a Mr. Richmond. He was a partner with a Mr. Fletcher a practicing Lawyer at Indianapolis, Indiana, at the time of his death.

He left but one child, a son, said to be a young man of great promise. He is now finishing his education in one of the Eastern Colleges. My Sister Pendleton has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church between sixty-five and seventy years. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Pendleton each became members of the church many years prior to their respective deaths and died in full fellowship with it. Sister Pendleton and her daughter, Richmond, reside together in Indianapolis, Indiana, and she and her daughter do, or it is said each sustain an elevated standing as members

church ever since he was a small boy. He united in marriage with a Miss Levi of Mason County, Ky. by whom he had several sons all of whom are still living, except one, who was robbed and murdered on the Mississippi river. One of the sons has recently commenced the practice of Law in Maysville, Mason County, Ky. and the other sons reside in Aberdeen in Adams County, Ohio. It is believed they are all doing well. Your Uncle John is now a widower. My Sister Hannah intermarried with a Mr. Levi by whom she had several children. Her husband has been dead several years. She resides with one of her daughters in Brown County, Ohio. She was once a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church but for several successive years last past has been a member of the Baptist Church (Cammellite).

You had one brother and six sisters who have entered their last sleep. Maria and Harriet were twins. Maria died eleven days after her birth and Harriet was still born. She was named by Mrs. Judith Taylor now widow and relict of Francis Taylor, late of Ripley, Brown County, Ohio. deceased, a few minutes prior to her birth. Their earthly remains ly interred in the Baptist burying ground, Washington, Mason County, Kentucky. The next who was a daughter, who having had an untimely birth was not named. The next was named Edward Dorsey. He died in Chillicothe, Ohio April 18th. 1803, and aged one year, one month and fourteen days; and was buried in the old Chillicothe grave yard, southwesterly of the south abutment of the bridge across the Scioto River. Your sister Eveline died in Chillicothe, June 10th. 1805 aged five years, 4 months and 2 days and was buried by the side of her brother Edward Dorsey Scott. Her earthly frame was fragile; but her intellectual organs manifested an extraordinary degree of elevation and expansion. She was all sensibility, all intellect, and scarcely ever manifested the least inclination

(6)

to engage in those amusements common to children of her age. She was one of the most courteous, graceful and engaging children in the manners and conversation whom I ever saw. Her voice was sweetly melodious and could be distinctly heard above every other voice in the congregation. She conversed with ease, fluency and propriety. She was known and beloved by all the citizens of Chillicothe, and her funeral was more numerously attended than any I have ever attended in Chillicothe since that day. When at home before age and affliction had impaired the voice of your mother and of myself (in addition to the morning and evening sacrifice which we offered on the family altar) a portion of each evening was spent in singing the best selected Hymns and Anthems we could procure, and in those services your dear Sisters Caroline and Eveline always joined. "The good old way how sweet thou art" was a great favorite with them. The day previous to the death of your Sister Eveline, when all hopes for her recovery had failed, her Sister Caroline (who has since followed her to the mansions of bliss) commenced singing "The good old way, how sweet thou art". After listening for a few moments she exclaimed "Sister, you do not sing that tune right" then raising herself up on the bed, she in a clear and distinct voice sang that Hymn correctly from beginning to end. Her whole soul seemed to be in raptures as she sang, and more particularly when she came to these words "and I'll sing hallelujah and glory flaming through the sky" she seemed to be perfectly conscious that her dissolution was at hand, retained all her faculties perfect to the last moment, and her soul was constantly drawn out in prayer. The next morning a few moments before she expired she asked to be raised up in bed, so that she might take her last leave of us, when we had done so, she threw her arms around her Mother's and then around her Sister

Caroline's neck and kissed each of us, but when her arms were extended to embrace you my dear Amanda and impress upon your lips the last kiss, her head sunk in death, and as it was gently lowered down to the pillow, she breathed her last, and her disembodied spirit took its flight to the Mansions of bliss.

Your Sister Caroline was born in the town of Washington, Mason County Kentucky, September 16th. A.D. 1798. She became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church while still in her minority and adorned her Christian profession until her death. On the 2nd. of December A.D. 1819 she and Mr. James Clark were joined in marriage by whom she had several children, three only of whom attained majority, and on the 25th. day of March A.D. 1835, after a protracted illness, she fell asleep in Jesus being 36 years, 6 months and 9 days old. Her earthly remains lie interred in the Methodist grave yard at the west end of the now City of Chillicothe.

Your Sister Harriet Newland Scott was born in Chillicothe April 12th A.D. 1812; embraced religion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in the 14th. year of her age; united in marriage with Troilus J. Graham October 25th. A.D. 1836 and died in Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio in the summer of A.D. 1850 in the full assurance of a blessed immortality. She left no enemies--all who knew her loved her. To her a good name was better than precious ointment, and the day of her death was better than the day of her birth. Her body reposed in silence in the grave yard near Portsmouth, O. Her remains were afterward removed to the Methodist Graveyard at the west end of the city of Chillicothe.

Your graat grand parents on my father's side were Thomas and Susannah Scott. They had five children who attained to mature age, namely, my father, his brothers Edward and Thomas, and Sisters Susannah and Elizabeth. Edward and Thomas were among the first families who settled in

the vicinity of Beason, now called Uniontown in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, subsequent to General Braddock's defeat. The maiden name of Edwards's wife has faded from my memory. They had one son and several daughters, all of whom attained majority, married and died leaving issue. Their parents are also dead. Their decedents removed from the Redstone settlement many years since; but whether any of them are still living, or, if living, where they reside, I am unadvised.

The maiden name of ^{the wife of} my Uncle Thomas was Polly Hickenbottom. They had two children, Susannah and Polly, each of them attained to mature age and married. My uncle and his family removed to the west upwards of fifty years ago. Polly died without issue and her parents are also dead.

Susannah intermarried with Mr. Zachariah Morgan. They reside in the Northern part of Indiana, maintain an excellent character, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and possess considerable wealth.

My father's Sister, Susannah, intermarried with Mr. Pennel of New Jersey by whom she had two sons, Thomas and Joshua and three daughters, Jane, Susannah and Elizabeth. The family of Mr. Pennel were Quakers of high degree and standing at the time of his intermarriage with my aunt, and he was a man of unimpeachable character and possessed considerable wealth, but he ultimately became intemperate in his habits, spent all his estate--died in a fit of intoxication and left his family penniless. Some few years after his death the family removed and settled in the Western part of Pennsylvania. Whether any of them or their decedents are still living, I am unadvised. Between fifty and sixty years have elapsed since I either saw or heard from any of them.

My father's sister Elizabeth, ^{Scott} intermarried with Mr. Nathaniel Parker. He owned a beautiful well-kept cultivated farm and mills, two or

three miles above the town of Frankfort on Patterson's creek, in Hampshire County, Virginia. He was a man of more than ordinary industry, economy and enterprise, and owned considerable wealth. My aunt had three daughters and seven sons by him, namely, Susannah, Elizabeth and Polly, John, Thomas, Richard, Aaron, Robert Isaac and Nathaniel. Susannah intermarried with Charles Buler. More than sixty years since they removed and settled at ^{Mann's Lick} Maristick a few miles from Louisville Kentucky. They had several children, but are both now deceased. Neither the names nor the places of their descendants are to me known. Elizabeth intermarried with Col. Micheal ^{Collier} Collyer and John ^{Parker} with Miss Sally Collier, grand-son and grand-daughter of old Col. Thomas Cresap. These two families many years since removed and settled in Shelby County, Kentucky. After the decease of my aunt, Mrs Parker with the residue of his sons and daughters, their families removed to the state of Tennessee, where he intermarried with the widow of Col. Bledsoe deceased, but report says they did not live happily together.

My father, beside those named, had three sisters of the half blood, Alice, Polly and Margaret. After the death of my Grandfather, Thomas Scott my grandmother intermarried with a Major William ^{Dobson} Jobson by whom she had the children last above named. Major Jobson was a large, well proportioned, pretty good -looking Irishman and I believe he generally maintained a good character for honesty and integrity. He commanded a company in General Braddock's Brigade at the time of this defeat; and wrote the dispatch for the Officer next in Command who was badly wounded.

Alice intermarried with William Hargess by whom she had several children whose names except William, her oldest son, have faded from my memory.

Polly intermarried with Aaron Parker by whom she had three sons, William, Thomas and Nathaniel. Margaret never married. On the death of the old Major, their last surviving parent, his estate, real and personal, which was pretty considerable, passed to his said three children or their legal representatives. I have heard that they emigrated to the West, I know not where. Nearly sixty years have elapsed since I met with any of them, except William Parker who called to see me many years since

My grandfather had two brothers James and Thomas Scott who resided in Pennsylvania. James married, but died without issue. Report says he left a large estate, but how it was disposed of after his death I am unadvised. John married and left sundry children, ^{John}him surviving. I never saw either of my said Grand Uncles, or the decedents of John. During the period in which I was Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of this State, when travelling along its eastern border adjoining to the state of Pennsylvania, I was repeatedly asked, whether I was not the Rev. Thomas Scott of Pennsylvania. From those circumstances I inferred that the Rev. Thomas Scott of Pennsylvania was probably a decendent of my Grand Uncle, John Scott. In a conversation which I once held with the late Col. Johnson of Pittsburgh, one of the proprietors of the City of Columbus, the Capital of Ohio, he informed me that when young he was personally acquainted with my Father and knew that he had a full cousin Thomas Scott Esquire, who resided near the head of Chesapeake Bay. That he possessed a large estate, was old and married, but without issue. He strongly urged the propriety of my paying him a visit, but I never did, and have since heard that he was dead.

The maiden name of my Grandmother was Watson; she had one brother named William, and one sister named Elizabeth, she intermarried with Col.

William Walker. They, at an early period removed to the South and settled, I believe on the Gadkin. Doct. Robert C. Wilson, late of Chillicothe, deceased, shortly after taking charge of the old Presbyterian Congregation of this city informed me that he was personally acquainted with my said Grand-uncle. He said Col. William Watson, who was then a very ancient man, "That Mr. Watson was one of the ruling Elders in his congregation during the whole period in which he remained in Carolina. He had no children, divided his large estate to his wife's relatives and died shortly after the Doct. first settled in Chillicothe." Col. Walker had sundry children by my Aunt, but I never saw any of them except James and Lenox. James paid a visit to my father when I was a small boy, and I once met Lenox at Washington City about thirty years since. He then represented one of the districts of North Carolina in the Congress of the United States.

General Brien Bruce claimed to be a relation of my Father's, but whether the claim was on my Grand-father's or Grand-mother's side, I do not recollect. His son col. Peter Bruce removed from Carolina and settled on the Mississippi river, at a place which was noted on the old maps as Brucesville. The foregoing contains all the information I possess relative to Father's family, except that which rests on tradition in the family, which from facts and circumstances communicated to me by others, I believe to be true. According to the Genealogical traditions of the Scotts and of the Watsons, the former trace back their descent to and from one of the most ancient Aristocratic Scotch families; and the latter to and from one of the ancient Dukes of Buc(e)lugh(?) The Ancestors of those families were protestants and settled in Ireland some time prior to the Battle of the Boine. Prior to that Battle they

sustained heavy losses by the Catholic(k)s in the destruction of their property, houses, cattle, household furniture, plate and Jewels. Some few years after that Battle was fought, the Scotts and Watsons, named, emigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. Sometime after their arrival in America my Grand-father purchased a large valuable tract of land in Burkis County, Pennsylvania, to which he removed and on which he remained seated until his death.

After the marriage of my Grand-mother to Major Dobson they disposed of their interest in my grand-father's lands in Pennsylvania and removed to, and purchased and settled on lands in Hampshire County, Virginia, on which they continued to reside until they died.

That marriage was a source of deep regret and mortification to her immediate relations who ever after regarded her as thereby being greatly disparaged. And consequently, no cordial sincere affection or kindness of feeling ever thereafter existed between the Major and my Father. A distant reserve, something like restraint always marked their intercourse with each other. So far as respected family, education and intellectual attainments the marriage was unequal, otherwise not.

Immediately after that marriage was consummated, my Father was sent for and carried to Carolina by his Uncle Watson where he received a good English education; after which he was sent to Philadelphia and apprenticed to a Tailor in order to learn the art mystery of that trade. After having completed his apprenticeship, he paid a visit to his mother in Hampshire County, Virginia, and sometime thereafter married. In hight he was about five feet, four and three fourth inches. His body was large in proportion to his hight, his ordinary weight being about one hundred and seventy pounds; fore-head high, slightly retreating. His face was

considerably spotted with the small-pox. He loved his friends and never feared his enemies. He was naturally quick and excitable, but never sullen or vindictive. He would never tamely submit to an insult offered by any man; but whatever he did in order to obtain satisfaction was the impulse of the moment. He would knock a man down for an insult, and the next moment on an acknowledgment, extend to his antagonist the right hand of forgiveness and friendship. His ears and voice were formed for conversation, melody and harmony. He was a great reader, possessed fine Colloquial powers and was a jovial boon companion. He was poor but kept a good table and was always free from embarrassment and want.

The enumerated qualities which ⁱⁿ an eminent degree he possessed, placed him on an eminence equal to the highest ranks, by whom his society was constantly courted. During the Revolutionary struggle and for some two or three years after its close, the Society in and about Old town Maryland (so far as the same has respect to intelligence and all those graces which tend to embellish, adorn and add a zest to society) has never been surpassed by any Society with whom I have had the satisfaction of mingling since that period. My father was neither a tipler nor a drunkard, and yet like all other men of that day, when he was in the Company of his friends he would drink until he became mellow--and yet I do not remember of having ever seen him so far intoxicated as to stagger when he walked. All the above observations have reference to him prior to the period in which he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and embraced religion. There was one peculiarity in his character which ought not to be omitted. From the earliest period of my recollection until his death scarcely any particular circumstance affecting either the interest of the public or of his family occurred, of which he was not fore-warned in his dreams. About the commencement

of the Revolutionary struggle he entertained very serious doubts whether it was lawful for the United States to rise in rebellion against and renounce their allegiance to the Mother Country. It was a constant custom with him every-day to sleep some fifteen or twenty minutes immediately after dinner. On one day having fallen asleep as usual, he dreamed he was standing in a large extended plain, and as his eyes were ranging over it he saw two great armies arranging themselves in order of battle. One he thought was the British, and the other the American Army. On looking upwards he saw the heavens open and an angel rise up from the American Army and fly over and descend into the British Camp and with a loud voice proclaim, you Britons forbear, you will never succeed, you need not fight, you shall not prevail. America shall establish her independence. The Angel re-ascended to heaven and he awoke. That dream made such an impression on his mind, that he never thereafter entertained the least doubt as respected the propriety of the course the colonies were pursuing and he hereafter lived and eventually died a staunch revolutionary Whig.

The first Methodist Society in old town Maryland was, if my memory serves me correctly, formed in 1785 and my parents were of the number who formed the first class. In the fall of 1790 the family removed to and settled on the head waters of Bracken creek, Mason County, Kentucky, where my father purchased a small farm. He resided there until his death which took place A.D. 1804, and his earthly remains were buried by the side of my brother Edward on said farm. My father died of suffocation in fine vigorous health, in the seventieth year of his age. A pimple arose in one of his nostrils which he picked and a rapid inflammation and swelling ensued. They neglected to send for medical aid until too late. The inflammation and swelling having ascended to the brain almost

instantly descended to the throat and he suffocated. The last words he uttered were, "I the chief of sinners am, but Jesus died for me".

There were, if my information be correct, three brothers of the name of Chenoweth; who at an early period emigrated from England to the United States and from those brothers have descended all the Chenoweths which are to be found in the middle and Western States and Territories of the United States. The external appearance and prominent traits of character observable in one, may be pretty distinctly traced in all who bear the name. They may with propriety be denominated a hard fisted set of men, who never show labor and toil. External appearance, rough--Bones and muscles large. Step firm. Countenance evincive of independence, kindness of purpose and of courage that never quails before an enemy. Kind, honest and sincere. Never quarrelsome, but ever ready to avenge an insult offered by others to innocent females, aged persons and such others as by reason of weakness or other infirmity were unable to avenge their wrongs done to them by others. Generally, they are plain good substantial livers; and I do not recollect of having heard of one of the name having ever been guilty of a mean, dishonest, dishonorable action. These are the marks and prominent traits of character which the male ancestors of your Grand-mother Scott possessed. She had seven brothers, Thomas, Arthur, John, Elijah, Richard, William and Abraham Chenoweth, and three sisters, Patsey, Polly and Hannah, all of whom attained majority, married, raised large families of children and are now dead. The three first named of her brothers served in the Revolutionary war. Patsey intermarried with Henry Carter of Virginia, and Polly with Timothy Downey. Hannah's first husband was named Kerr the second Glaze, and third Davis. The descendents of the said brothers and sisters are very much scattered through the Western States and Territo-

rios. All the brothers except Richard and their Sister Hannah when in life were acceptable members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a large portion of their descendents are at this time acceptable members. Thomas and Elijah were among the first who became members of the church on the introduction of Methodism along the north branch of the Potomac River. The others joined at a later period.

The name of the Grandmother of my mother was Prickett. She came from Wales. From her proceeded the Pricketts, the Morgans, the Frosts, the Springers of Fayette County Pennsylvania and other descendents too tedious to mention. After she had attained to the age of a little upwards of one hundred years old, she together with my grand mother Chenoweth were in 1789 or 1790 removed to Mason County, Kentucky where they died. My Grand-father Chenoweth died on the north branch of the Potomack when I was a small boy.

My mother possessed in an eminent degree those qualities essential to the diffusing of happiness in the domestic circle. Her person, household and house were always kept neat and clean. She was an excellent cook and had her food dressed and prepared in the very best style. She loved her family and friends, but never uttered an unkind expression to, or against her enemies, if any she had. Her children all loved her and delighted to obey her. From the period in which she embraced religion and joined the Methodist Church until her death her life was like an even spun thread without kinks or flaws. All her domestic, private, civil and religious duties were performed with conscientious precision and punctuality. For many years prior to her death she was a daughter of affliction but she never complained. Calm and unruffled amidst all the afflictions and difficulties she had to encounter, she pursued the even tenor of her ways. Hers were the mild diffusible Christian virtues

the influence of which was more easily perceived than we can find words to describe. The year prior to her dissolution she visited several of her children and friends, the last of whom were your parents and family. She spent two or three months with us prior to her death which occurred in April A.D. 1814, she died of the disease denominated the Cold plague. During her last sickness she was as serene as a summer's evening, no clouds intervened to darken the prospect before her, until she closed her eyes in death.

Your Great Grand-father Wood emigrated from England to America and settled in Frederick County in the state of Maryland at an early period. By his first wife he had two sons, Colonel Joseph Wood, the original proprietor of Woodsbury in the County and state last aforesaid, and your Grand-father Mr. Robert Wood and one daughter who intermarried with a Mr. Hedges; and by his second wife had two sons John and Abraham and two daughters, one of whom intermarried with a Mr. Bentley and the other with a Mr. Reynolds. John and Abraham Wood removed with their families from Maryland and settled near Mount Carmel in Illinois, more than thirty years ago. The late Mr. Thomas S. Hinde told me that he knew them well, that they were substantial wealthy farmers and members of the Methodistical Church. The old stocks are all dead and their descendents are scattered through Maryland and the Western States.

The maiden name of your Great Grand-mother Dorsey was Sarah Griffith. They, the Dorseys and the Griffiths were among the most ancient families who emigrated from England and settled in Maryland. They brought with them to this Country the evidences of their noble descent. We are indebted for a knowledge of these facts to Col. Hart, father-in-law of the Honorable Henry Clay, late of Lexington Kentucky, deceased, who was a great stickler for families, and had examined the evidence showing their

descent. But few of that family of the Griffiths remain. Two Methodist travelling preachers belonging to that family have been raised up. They were second cousins to your mother. One of them Walter Griffith is dead, the other still travels.

There is one circumstance connected with the death of your great-grandmother Dorsey, which we know, although not how to account for it on purely natural principles, ought not to be omitted. She and her brother Henry Griffith lived about fifty miles from each other. Each was taken sick about the same time, but the sickness of the one was not known to the other. A few minutes before your great Grand-mother expired she exclaimed "brother Henry wait for me a few minutes and I will go with you". The circumstance was so remarkable that they wrote down the words of her exclamation and the time of her departure, and upon comparing dates, the conclusion arrived at was that she and her brother Henry entered the Eternal World at the same instant of time.

The Dorseys are very numerous and the descendants of the original stock are to be met with in every, no almost every state and territory in the Union, from the state of New York to the Pacific Ocean. Thomas Stephenson when in life, brother-in-law of the late Col. John Evans of this County, deceased, told me that, during the Revolutionary war there were residing in Ann Arundel County, Maryland, upwards of three hundred men of the name of Dorsey capable of bearing arms, who were all staunch Revolutionary Whigs.

The Dorseys of Maryland were among the very first families who opened their homes for the Reception of Mr. Asbury and his co-laborers in the ministry on their landing in America; and they were among the first families in the City of Baltimore and parts adjacent who became members of the Methodist Church. I infer from what I have heard and

seen that there is not another family on the continent of America that has furnished and continues to furnish so many members to the Methodist Episcopal Church as the Dorseys. An elderly lady who formerly resided in this city, but is now deceased, who was long and intimately acquainted with the Dorseys in Maryland and elsewhere informed your mother and myself that at a ~~camp~~-meeting which she attended before she removed from Maryland, it was estimated there were in attendance on that occasion upwards of five hundred persons of the name of Dorsey. They kept open free table for the accommodation of all who were not provided with the necessary supplies. She further said, she had often heard it stated by others, that of those females of the name of Dorsey, who had descended from the original stock of the Dorseys they had never heard of one of them who was unchaste; and that it was worth one thousand dollars to anyone to be called by that name and I can with truth say, I never knew or heard but of one of them who was a ^{not} pattern. We believe there was not a family in the United States to whom Bishop Asbury was more sincerely attached than the Dorseys, and that attachment remained unabated through life. The last time he visited Chillicothe he put up at the home of the late Dr. Tiffin, one of the Maryland preachers accompanied him. The late Mr. Thomas S. Hinde's first wife and your mother walked over to the Doctors to render to the Bishop homage of their respect. After mutual salutations they seated themselves and the Bishop proceeded with his writing. Presently his travelling companion came in when the Bishop turned round on his seat, waved his right arm and said "brother this is Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Judge Scott, she has Dorsey blood running in her veins" and added no more. The next morning when mounted for his departure he rode up opposite our door to take leave of the family and

on extending his hand to your mother said, was not your mother a Dorsey?

I refer to this incident as evidence of his attachment to all who were connected with the Dorseys. The Ridgeleys, the Warfields, the Lawrences in Kentucky and else-where are connected with the Dorseys by marriage.

Your Grand-mother Wood had five brothers and six sisters who attained mature age, married and reared large families. The names of her brothers and sisters were, Charles, Nicholas, Vachel, Orlando, Henry, Rachel, Fanny, Lidia, Mackky, Lacy and Sally Dorsey.

Edward *Swing* of Frederick County Maryland was the first and Charles Dorsey was the second Local Methodist preacher raised up on the continent of America. His son Charles intermarried with Miss Welsh, and one of his daughters with Mr. John Welsh, they removed to Kentucky and settled in Shelby County upwards of thirty years since. One of the daughters of Nicholas Dorsey intermarried with Mr. Benjamin Grover, Uncle of the Rev. Mr. Grover of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now stationed in the city of Chillicothe in charge of the Walnut street church. Mr. Grover has been dead several years, but his widow and her daughters, Mrs. Fearing, Mrs. Bigger, widow relict of the late Governor Bigger of Indiana, deceased, Mrs. *Swing* and her other daughters and sons reside in and about the town of Madison Indiana, near where the decedents of two of her brothers also reside.

Orlando was married twice. By his first wife he had one son whom he named Luke Trotton Dorsey. That son emigrated to Ohio and settled in the Miami Valley nearly fifty years ago. We presume that G. Volney Dorsey whose name is affixed to the new constitution of Ohio is a descendent of the said Luke Trotton Dorsey, but we do not know that such is the fact. By his second wife Mr. Orlando Dorsey had one son Henry and one daughter and perhaps others. The first wife of his son Henry

and one daughter and perhaps others. The first wife of his son Henry was a Miss Dorsey, one of the daughters of John Zee Dorsey late of Beargrass, late of Jefferson County, Kentucky, deceased. His second wife was a cousin of Wm. V. Bond formerly of this city but now of Cincinnati whose name has faded from my memory. And his third wife was the widow of the Rev. Samuel Parker, deceased, and daughter of the Rev. Richard (Tilton) Pate (?) of Fleming County, Kentucky, deceased. Mr. Henry Dorsey is now dead and has left some children by his first wife him surviving. His sister intermarried with a gentleman of Bracken County, Kentucky. The names and places of residence of the Children of Vachel and Henry Dorsey are to me unknown.

Rachel Dorsey intermarried with a Mr. Lindsey, Fanny with a Mr. Chapman; Lidia with a Mr. Dorsey, Macky with a Mr. Gazaway; they are all dead; but the names and places of residence of their descendents respectively are to me unknown.

Your Grand Parents, Mr. Robert and Catherine Wood, besides several who died in infancy, had four sons, Nicholas, Charles, Dennis and Robert and two daughters, Catherine (your mother) and Nancy Dorsey Wood. At the period of the intermarriage of your said grand-parents a very pleasing prospect of future happiness and prosperity lay stretching out before them. I never had the pleasure of seeing your Grand-father Wood, and all the information I possess in relation to him has been derived from the late Major Zackens A. Beatty, the proprietor of the town of Cambridge, Guernsey County, Ohio, deceased, and Col. John Evans, late of this County, deceased.

Your Grand-mother Wood and the three individuals herein after named who spent some considerable time in his service. Assuming the information thus obtained to be true, we arrive at these conclusions. He re-

ceived when young an excellent English education; this fact is further evidenced by his hand writing and composition specimens of which I have seen. He possessed extraordinary colloquial powers and mechanical genius, and by all who knew him he was regarded as one of the most active, enterprising business men in Frederick County, Maryland. At the time of his marriage with your Grand-mother he owned a good farm, on which had been erected a saw and merchant mill, and was engaged in the mercantile business. Your grand-mother had been well educated, mingled in the first circles of Maryland society (the evidence of which she manifested in her general deportment until she died) and brought with her as her dowery in marriage several negroes, household and kitchen furniture, so that their entrance into the marriage state presented a reasonable prospect of future happiness and prosperity. But your grand-father possessed one radical fault. He was never content with doing well. Like many others he was whimsical and when doing well was constantly aiming to do better. In addition to his mercantile and milling establishment, he established a coopers shop, a card manufactory, a nail factory and blacksmith shops. Peyton who formerly resided on Scioto Brush Creek, was his head cooper; Thomas Brown, late of Lexington, Kentucky was his head nailer, and the Rev. Mr. Meek, father of William G. Meek, Esquire of this City was the foreman in his blacksmith shops. The names of his other foremen have faded from my memory. He found it difficult to procure, at all times, a supply of nail rods for his factory, as there were at that time but one forge and slitting mill in the country. On one occasion when he went to purchase a supply of nail rods he found the Forge and slitting mill taken to pieces for the purpose of making certain repairs. He hastily inspected the different parts of the machinery as they lay scattered about; but the moment the proprietor discovered he was examining the different parts of the machinery he hurried him away and would not permit

him to take drafts of any part of them. However, on his return home he made accurate drafts of every piece of the machinery and constructed models by which he had erected, in addition to his other works, an excellent forge and slitting mill. For several successive years he went on and prospered, but ultimately he became weary of his multiplied operations and resolved to dispose of his farm, mills and machinery and devote himself entirely to mercantile pursuits. His farm, mills and machinery were valued at twenty thousand pounds, and by one imprudent contract he was swindled out of every part of it. He had so much confidence in the honesty and integrity of the man to whom he had contracted to sell the property that he executed and delivered to him a deed of conveyance of the property without either receiving^{ing} the consideration or requiring payment. He rested solely upon the verbal promise of the purchaser to make payment in the City of Baltimore on a certain day named. Immediately after receiving the conveyance the purchaser sold and conveyed the property to another and started with Mr. Wood for Baltimore, where he had promised to make payment, but as they were on their way to the city he secreted himself in the woods, made his escape and was never thereafter seen by Mr. Wood. Mrs. Wood told me she was confident she got sight of him at Louisville, Kentucky just after they had landed at that place in 1788, but he instantly fled and his place of retreat could never be discovered by them. During the period in which he had been doing an active business he contracted sundry debts, debts to large amounts also became due to him by others. During that same period he received in payment for merchandise and manufactured articles a very large amount of continental bills which soon began to depreciate in his hands. Deprived of his farm, etc. as above stated, he immediately commenced winding up his business, continental money was a legal tender, and all those

who were indebted to him compelled him to take payment in continental bills at their nominal instead of their real values. Mrs. Wood told me that the whole quantity of those continental bills which eventually accumulated in his hands would have filled a half bushel. Those bills continuing to depreciate, Mr. Wood deemed it an act of dishonesty to force his creditors to receive them in payment of debts due to them, and acting upon that principle he continued to dispose of the residue of his property and apply the avails to the payment of debts due by him to others until the last cent of his debts were paid in cash. When that was done scarcely anything was left, except his continental bills. Those continued to depreciate until they were considered to be of no value, and in a fit of dispondency he committed them to the flames. Had he preserved and refunded those bills he would eventually have become rich. When he discovered the imprudent act of which he had been guilty, by which himself and family were reduced to penury, his spirits sunk, and he was never thereafter able to make any vigorous effort towards gaining a support for himself and family. He became restive and dissatisfied with everything around him. From Frederick he removed to the City of Baltimore, where your late Aunt Tiffin was born and from thence to Cumberland Uniontown, Brownsville, Louisville, and early in 1790 settled down in Lexington, Kentucky. In addition to the gloom consequent upon his loss of property he was attacked with Asthma and after severe protracted suffering with that afflictive complaint, in the forepart of the summer of 1792 he breathed his last, and was interred in the Swington Grave-yard at the north end of that town.

On arriving in Baltimore, your Uncle Charles Dorsey Wood was bound to a House joiner and your Uncle Nicholas to a Baker in order to learn the art and mystery of those respective pursuits. On the completion of his apprenticeship, Charles Dorsey intermarried with a Catholic lady of

the City of Baltimore. From thence they removed to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, where they continued to reside until the death of your Uncle Charles some twenty five or thirty years ago. Charles D. left at the time of his decease, his widow, one son and two daughters, him surviving. I do not recollect their Christian names, nor the name of the husband of the youngest daughter. The oldest daughter intermarried with a Mr. Simons, a clerk for many successive years, in one of the departments at Washington City. I never saw Charles' son, but have seen his son's wife and his two daughters. They are intelligent women, belong to the Catholic church and maintain a good character and standing in Norfolk. Charles son was bred a sailor and has long been in command of a fine merchant ship. Whether all, any or which of them is, or are dead, I am unable to say. Your Uncle Nicholas on completing his apprenticeship proceeded to Kentucky and settled in the town of Lexington where he established a Bakery. During the conference year of 1788 he embraced religion under the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Williamson then stationed on the Lexington circuit, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and some time thereafter united in marriage with a Miss Nancy Spellman then recently from Virginia. His choice was an unfortunate one, for although no stain rested upon her moral character, yet she was a poor, feeble inefficient, dog little kind of creature. Sometime thereafter Mr. Wood was licensed to preach. I never had the pleasure of hearing him preach, but spent one afternoon with him at Newtown, Frederick County, Virginia in the fall of 1792. He was then on his journey from Kentucky to Maryland to visit his old friends. He was to preach at Newton on the night of the afternoon I spent with him. But as I had to set out on that evening for the General Conference which was to assemble in Baltimore in a few days, I was thereby deprived of an opportunity of hearing him.

Those in Kentucky, Virginia and Maryland who heard him preach spoke highly of his performances as a young preacher. He conversed with great ease and fluency and gave evidence that his knowledge of men, of things and of books far surpassed the ordinary class of men of his age. In the winter of 1793-4 the small-pox in its most virulent form raged in and about Lexington, and as there were but few physicians or others who had either had the disease or were acquainted with the mode of treating it, Mr. Wood was sent for far and near, either to inoculate or prescribe the mode of treatment of the small-pox. His movements were active, and on returning home late on a very dark night he struck his breast with violence against a post planted upon the edge of one of the side-walks in Lexington, and from the injury thus inflicted he lingered but a few days and then died. He left a widow, and a son and two daughters, him surviving. His son was named Wilson Lee Wood, after the Rev. Wilson Lee and his daughters were named Mahala and Thurza. Since our settlement in this city Mrs. Wood intermarried with a Mr. Stark and they removed to the Salt or Green Rivers Country. We do not know that any of them are still living, or if living, where they reside.

Some short time after the decease of your grand-father, your Uncle Dennis, ascent of his mother, placed himself under the instruction of two young men in Lexington who carried on the Tayloring business, and, having acquired a knowledge of that trade, he eventually settled at Port Gibson situated on Bayou Pierre Creek, about thirty miles by water above its mouth. About one and a half miles below, on the left bank of the Mississippi River, the beautiful farm of our relative Judge Peter Bruce may be seen. Of him the author of the Navigator, Page 209, says; This gentleman's hospitality and politeness to navigators, seems to be highly spoken of by those who have occasion to call on him. During the last

war with England, your Uncle Dennis was called into public service in order to aid in the defense of New Orleans against the British forces. He was in the battle of the memorable 8th. of January. The privations and bodily sufferings to which he was exposed, on that campaign were too great to be sustained by a constitution so feeble as his, disease fastened itself upon his vitals, and with it he lingered until he reached home, where he expired in the bosom of his family. He left a widow and daughter, his only child, him surviving. Your Uncle Robert died at our house in this city, unmarried and without issue in A. D. 1819.

Of your Aunt Nancy D. Tiffin and her descendents I need say nothing. You were intimately acquainted with your aunt during her life and are well acquainted with her offspring. Your Aunt was converted to God in the 14th. year of her age under the ministry of the Rev. Nicholas Snetting, and joined the Methodist Episcopal church with which she remained united until her death. Her last end was peace. Her earthly remains were deposited by the side of her then late husband Joseph Tiffin Esq. deceased, brother of Dr. Edward Tiffin, the first Governor of Ohio, within the family enclosure in the Presbyterian Grave-yard, so called, at the east end of the city. I omitted to state in its proper place that the maiden name of the widow and relict of the late General Bazalot, Wells of Steubenville, deceased, Mrs. Fetter, wife of Mr. Fetter of Wellsburg, Brooke County, Virginia and a Mrs. Clark of Tuscarawas County, Ohio were Griffiths. They and their father are or were relatives of your mother. I name those because your relatives of the name of Griffith, Wood and Scott are nearly extinct.

In several particulars the character of your Grand-mother Wood varied from that of your Grand-father Wood. Her intellectual and other organs were well developed and balanced, she possessed a sound discrimi-

nating judgment with uncommon firmness and decision. Misfortunes could never break down her spirits, or cause her to cower beneath the inquisitive supercilious gaze of such as manifested a disposition to sport with the misfortune of others. Reared and accustomed to move in the highest circles of the society of Maryland, her native state, she never lost that easy, dignified graceful deportment in her manner or conversation which had previously marked her intercourse with the circles in which she had been accustomed to move. She at once perceived the necessity of meeting with firmness the existing crisis of her fate. She did not deem it disgraceful to work with her own hands for the maintenance of herself and family, and without repining put forth every effort to accomplish that ~~effort~~ object. When she could not get sufficient employment for her needle, she became a nurse to the afflicted, and took in washing for a living. It was through her indefatigable exertions, aided by what little effort Mr. Wood in his depressed debilitated state could make that they with their family were enabled eventually to reach Kentucky and make a permanent settlement in Lexington. After the decease of Mr. Wood she studied medicine and midwifery under the instruction of her relative Dr. Ridgeley and Dr. Downey and at length became an accomplished accouchier. By keeping in constant service one or more negro women as washers, your mother as seamstress, and applying herself diligently as an accouchier and nurse she was enabled to support and educate her children and eventually purchased a lot of ground in Lexington and erected comfortable tenement thereon, which she facetiously named "Castle Economical". She embraced religion and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church prior to the period in which the the family in the Spring of 1788 descended the Ohio River and settled in Louisville, and was, we believe, the first Methodist who ever resided

in that town, when they voluntarily formed themselves into a little class and established prayer-meetings amongst themselves. Among those newcomers there was a man who professed to be a Local Methodist Preacher, who made a loud profession of religion and manifested, more than ordinary zeal in promoting its progress, but he had not remained long with them before it was ascertained that the officers of the justice were in pursuit of him as a fugitive of justice, he instantly fled. That circumstance produced much mortification and regret among the little class. Sometime during that conference year the Rev. - Wilson Lee, ~~with~~ with whom Mrs. Wood had formed an acquaintance at the conference held at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1757, paid them a visit.

During the period in which the family remained at Louisville the Indians were very troublesome. They frequently crossed the river about dusk, passed through the town with stolen horses or other property and was out of reach before morning. Your mother says she heard them repeatedly. They could always ascertain the next morning whether any of them had or had not been in town over night. This could readily be ascertained by their tracks, paint or other signs. On one night they came into town before the usual hour for retiring to bed, and one of them climbed up to the top of the chimney and on looking down saw the old gentleman seated by the fire with one of his children on his knee and the old lady on the opposite side of the hearth spinning. At another time an Indian climbed over into the garden of the lot adjoining to that on which Mr. Wood and the family resided. In crossing the fence he made a little more noise than he anticipated. Not knowing what could have occasioned the noise the owner of the house opened the door and carefully examined the lot but being unable to discover anything which could have occasioned any alarm, he returned into the house and shut to the door. Next morning they noticed where the Indian had crouched his-

self in the corner of the chimney. The Indian afterward said the man must have been a blind son of a bitch, or he must have seen him as he almost touched him as he passed.

At another time a fine plump hearty young woman with her clothes tucked up and her breast bare was washing clothes in Beargrass in open day in sight of town, an Indian came near and viewed her for a considerable time hesitating whether to kill her or take her prisoner. But on contemplating her breasts he concluded she had a young sucking ~~par-pass~~ ^{par-pass}? at home and he withdrew without interfering with her. He communicated the incident to some one of the Indian traders, who told it in Louisville. The young lady perfectly recollected the time and place when and where it occurred. During the time or period last above indicated while Col. Richard Chenoweth and his lady were seated at the supper table some Indians entered, knocked them both down, scalped Mrs. Chenoweth, mangled and bruised each of them and as they supposed, left them both dead. Their little daughter who was lying in bed did not awake nor was she discovered by them. After the Indians had retired Mr. Chenoweth crawled out into the wood-yard and Mrs. Chenoweth crawled into the oven. In those places they were each found next morning by some of the neighbors, covered with blood. Mrs. Chenoweth was carried into Louisville and had her head dressed by the Doctor at your Grand-parents house. Col. Chenoweth was a cousin to your Grand-mother Scott. They resided at that time some four or five miles from Louisville on or near the road leading from there to Lexington, as I have been informed.

In 1817 or 1818 when your sister Caroline, since deceased, was on a visit to her relatives the Dorseys in Shelby and Jefferson Counties, Kentucky, she saw Mrs. Chenoweth and her said daughter. Her daughter said she would never marry or leave her mother so long as she lived.

In the fall of 1789 the family removed from Louisville to Lexington. They were under the necessity of travelling along a narrow trace through extensive cane breaks and wood-lands and were constantly exposed to danger from the savages and wild beasts of prey, but they reached their destination in safety.

The first time Bishop Asbury ever visited Kentucky was in the Spring of A.D. 1790, and the first sermon he ever preached in the town of Lexington, Kentucky, he preached at the home of your Grand-father Wood that spring; during the time he was preaching a guard was stationed at the door to keep off the rabble.

In 1804, your Grand-mother Wood removed to this City, and from then until her death resided partly with your Aunt Tiffin, but principally in our family. Her bodily and mental vigor remained unabated until the day previous to her death and on the morning of that day, visited one of her sick patients. She contributed freely of her earnings towards the support of the Gospel and for the relief of those who were in distress. She would rise at any hour of the night, no matter how dark and stormy it might be in order to render every aid in her power to the poor and to the afflicted, with whom she was always willing to divide her last morsel. She died of the Cold plague in about twenty-four hours after first attack. She retained her senses perfectly until the last moment, met death without fear and left the world in the full assurance of a blessed immortality, in the month of April A.D. 1814, in the 70th. year of her age. She was buried at the west end of the Presbyterian grave-yard, at the east end of this city, by the side of my mother, who had closed her eyes in death about forty-eight hours previous. They were warmly united to each other when in life, and in death they were separated from each other, but a few hours, and I doubt not that, each of

them is basking in the smiles of the God of Love.

I have been thus particular in communicating to you all the information I possess relative to your ancestry and collateral relatives, because these are subjects on which I have but seldom conversed with any of you. I have drawn the lights and shades of their respective characters as accurately as was in my power to draw them; without either exaggeration, or extenuation, mental reservation or evasion. You will perceive several things which is cause of regret and others which is cause of commendation. While we shun the former let us never forget to imitate the latter. If the records speak truth, you will perceive that small portions of what on the continent of Europe will be dominated, aristocratic and noble blood have been communicated to each of you by each of your parents. But are those portions any purer than those which have been communicated through the other channels with which they have commingled and continued to flow(?) not a whit. The virtues and excellencies of our ancestors will not render our characters illustrious, except in so far as the same are reflected back by us. If we do not reflect them back they will be absorbed and not produce in us corresponding splendor. Neither ancestry, nor office, nor wealth, nor all these combined, can alone constitute lustrous characters. But Chastity, virtue, Honor, intelligence and morality combined with all the Christian virtues, will when these qualities, ancestry, office, and wealth be added, the character shines ^{with} new and increasing splendor.

Money alone never makes the man, but as Dean Swift has it, it only makes the fellow, all the rest is leather and Prunello. Light, however, as we may think of it, there is something in having descendants from a good stock of ancestors. Children, almost, without exception, either in a greater or less degree partake of the qualities, good or bad of each of their parents. If the qualities possessed by the parents be sit

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good or bad, the same can be usually traced in the general deportment, conversation and conduct of the children.

A good stock of ancestors is therefore a good foundation on which to build up a good reputation, and except that, it is of no avail; "act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Copied by Caroline Officer Scott, Grand-daughter of Judge Thomas Scott in the Spring of 1897, in the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, finished April 12th. 1897.