

GENEALOGICAL  
AND  
FAMILY HISTORY  
OF  
WESTERN NEW YORK

A RECORD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER PEOPLE IN THE MAKING  
OF A COMMONWEALTH AND THE BUILDING  
OF A NATION

COMPILED UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

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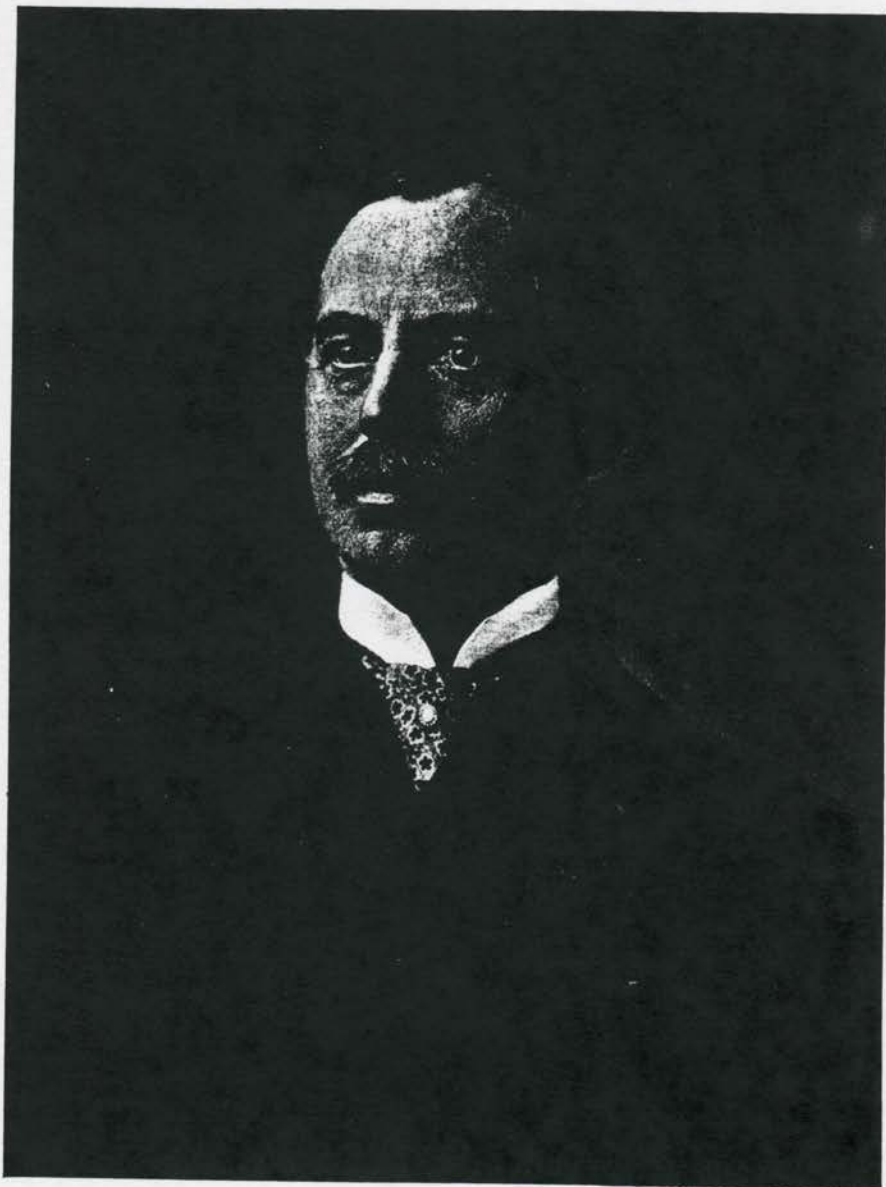
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*James S. Whipple.*

both village churches, to whose support he is a liberal giver.

He married, January 1, 1865, Ellen S., daughter of Daniel and Fannie (Parsons) Brown, whose six children are: Ellen S., married John A. Seekins; Harriet, married William S. Easton; Jeannette, married Dinzel Ingersoll; Josephine, married Walter Ballard; Julius, married Ida Easterly; Ellis, married Sadie Williams. Children of John A. and Ellen S. Seekins: Georgia, born February 3, 1866, married, December 5, 1893, Rollin H. Pratt; Persis, born June 25, 1881.

Matthew and John Whipple, WHIPPLE brothers, were among the earliest settlers of that part of Ipswich, Massachusetts, called the Hamlet, where they received a grant of land of more than two hundred acres, in 1638. They may have been sons of Matthew Whipple, of Bocking, county of Essex, England, whose will proved January 28, 1618, mentions sons, Matthew and John. Another record speaks of "John Whipple, son of Matthew, is said to have been baptized in Essex, England, 1632." The descendants of Matthew Whipple seem to have settled in Northern New England largely, among them being General William Whipple, born in 1730, died at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, November 28, 1785, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and general of a New Hampshire brigade, and in civil life judge of the supreme court of New Hampshire. Other noted descendants of John and Matthew Whipple are statesmen, soldiers and scholars, whose names are found in army records of every war, in college posters, legislative reports and in high positions in the church, probably among the latter Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota.

(I) John Whipple, born in 1617, died May 16, 1685, was of Ipswich and Dorchester, Massachusetts, and in July, 1659, of Providence, Rhode Island, where he was received as a purchaser. He took the oath of allegiance, 1666, and was chosen deputy, 1666-69-70-72-74-76-77. In 1674 he was licensed to keep an ordinary. August 14, 1676, being one of those "who staid and went not away," he had a share in the disposition of the Indian captives of King Philip's war, whose services were sold for a term of years. His will proved May 27, 1685, disposes of quite a large amount of land. He and his wife were buried on their own land, but their bodies were afterward removed to

the North Burial Ground. His wife Sarah was born in 1624, died 1666. Children: 1. John, was town treasurer of Providence, Rhode Island; town clerk; deputy and assistant to the governor; married (first) Mary Olney; (second) Rebecca, widow of John Scott. 2. Sarah, born 1642; married John Smith. 3. Samuel, born 1644; was constable and deputy; married Mary Harris. 4. Eleazer, born 1646; was deputy; married Alice Angell. 5. Mary, born 1648; married Epenetus Olney. 6. William, born 1652; married Mary ——. 7. Benjamin, born 1654; married Ruth Matthewson. 8. David, of further mention. 9. Abigail, married (first) Stephen Dexter; (second) William Hopkins. 10. Joseph, born 1662; was deputy twenty terms; member of the town council sixteen terms; assistant and colonel of a militia regiment; married Alice Smith. 11. Jonathan, born 1664; married Margaret Angell. These children all settled in Providence, Rhode Island.

(II) David, son of John and Sarah Whipple, was born in 1656, died December, 1710. He was of Providence, but seems to have removed to Rehoboth, Massachusetts, late in life. He held the military rank of ensign. His will proved January 8, 1711, disposes of real and personal estate. He married (first), May 15, 1675, Sarah, died April 2, 1677, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (White) Hearnden, who bore him a son David, see forward. He married (second), November 11, 1677, Hannah, daughter of John and Margaret Tower, who bore him seven children.

(III) David (2), only child of David (1) and his first wife, Sarah (Hearnden) Whipple, was born in 1676; married and had issue.

(IV) David (3), son of David (2) Whipple, was born about 1707, died 1776. He removed to Cumberland, Rhode Island. He married, July 7, 1737, Martha Reed, and had sons.

(V) David (4), son of David (3) and Martha (Reed) Whipple, married Joanna Jones.

(VI) Joseph, son of David (4) and Joanna (Jones) Whipple, was born December 27, 1787, settled in Pennsylvania, 1810, where he died at Silver Lake. He married, September 19, 1813, Betsey Finch, born December 9, 1795. Children: 1. Patty A., born February 19, 1814; married (first) a Mr. Sould; (second) James Gage; six children. 2. Jonathan J., born September 7, 1815; married, May 27, 1841, Susan Tracy; three children. 3. Nancy, born September 21, 1817; married Edward Stewart; four children. 4. Henry Francisco, of further

mention. 5. Joanna, born September 7, 1821. 6. Sarah, born May 28, 1824. 7. Alpheus, born December 13, 1826. 8. Lydia, twin of Alpheus. 9. Dorcas, born July 19, 1829. 10. Elizabeth, born March 2, 1832. 11. David Spencer, born May 28, 1834. 12. Joseph Warren, born December 10, 1837. These children were all born at Brackney, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania.

(VII) Henry Francisco, fourth child of Joseph and Betsey (Finch) Whipple, was born October 20, 1819, died in the Andersonville prison pen, July 9, 1864. He removed from Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, to Cattaraugus county, New York, where he engaged in farming and lumbering. He cleared a farm in Sternburg and another at Salamanca. In the fall of 1862 he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Regiment, New York Volunteers, leaving his wife and six children to struggle on the farm. He saw hard service with the Army of the Potomac, was in the battle of Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where nearly the entire One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Regiment was taken prisoners. At that time he was ranking as sergeant. He was confined in the prison on Belle Isle for six months, from there taken to Libby Prison, thence to Andersonville, Georgia. He suffered all the horrors of that prison with thirty thousand other Union prisoners who had unfortunately fallen under the inhuman treatment of the fiend Wirtz, until July, 1864, when he died a victim of starvation. He was buried in what was then an abandoned cotton field with fourteen thousand other boys in blue who shared the same fate. Their place of sepulchre is now the beautiful Andersonville National Cemetery, where, on each recurring Decoration Day the Sons of Veterans of Massachusetts place a small United States flag at the head of each of the fourteen thousand graves.

He married, March 19, 1844, Martha Alvira Hatch, born March 19, 1826, daughter of Stephen and Mary Hatch, of whom her son writes:

She was an exceptional woman. She was of Mohawk Valley Dutch descent, well educated, a handsome, wholesome woman, who displayed the same bravery, in keeping her family together, as her husband did on the field of battle. She did the work for a large family of her own, and kept from ten to sixteen boarders, woodsmen, cooking and doing the housework for them all. It was a task well done and an example of industry to her children that they have never forgotten and seem to have followed.

She died February 14, 1896, at Salamanca, aged sixty-nine years. When Mr. Whipple enlisted in 1862 the eldest child was sixteen years of age. There was no other means of support, and all who could assisted the mother in caring and providing for the family. Children: 1. Alfred A., born October 31, 1845; attended the public school until his father's enlistment, worked in a sawmill later, and for several years on the railroad. He later decided to become a physician and entered Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was graduated an M. D., and for three years practiced his profession at Randolph, Cattaraugus county. He then took a course in Homoeopathy at the Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, later going to Quincy, Illinois, where he now (1911) resides. He has risen to the topmost round in his profession. Was president of the State Medical Society, and is a noted contributor to the medical journals. He became prominent in the Masonic order attaining the highest degrees, and is well known as an authority on Masonic law and work. He married, October 6, 1869, Lydia E. Learned, deceased, daughter of Dr. Henry Learned. Children: Harry, captain of the Fifth Illinois Regiment during the Spanish-American war; Merrill, died aged five years; Arthur, Willis and Grace. 2. Sally G., married Andrew Harkness, and is now (1911) living in the state of Washington; children: Henry, Edith, Martha, Laura, Truman, Lee, Ella, William and Oliver. Of Sally G. Harkness her brother, James S., says:

She, in some respects, is a remarkable woman. She is now (1911) sixty-three years of age, in perfect health without a gray hair and able to do much more work than many young women of to-day. She was married at the early age of fifteen, bore ten children, cared for them until they were grown up, did the work for a number of laborers most of the time, during all the time the children were with her, her husband being engaged in lumbering, and at the same time studying, covering a wide range of subjects, and to-day is the best read woman of my acquaintance. Although a small woman yet she has accomplished all of these things, and is to-day an active, well and happy woman, getting much pleasure and enjoyment out of every day.

3. Stephen J., a locomotive engineer, now on the New York, Pittsburgh and Ohio railroad; resides in Greenville, Pennsylvania; married (first) Florence Seaver; after her death he married (second) a Miss Blockley; children: Lloyd, Charles, Juva and Josephine. 4. James

S., of further mention. 5. Fred D., a farmer of Kalkaski, Michigan; married (first), June 3, 1879, Lois M. Bailey (deceased); (second), December 25, 1894, Lena W. Wells; children: Alfred M., Beulah B., Burr W., Bethel and Ruby. 6. Willis Walton, graduated from Randolph Academy, entered the employ of the Erie Railroad Company and is now manager of the East Salamanca stock yard; married Nellie Burroughs; children: Una and Ava.

This record of the six children of Henry F. and Martha A. (Hatch) Whipple is one that excites admiration. Left to the care of their mother, on a woods farm, by their father in 1862, all have become successful and well-to-do and two at least famous. The widowed mother builded wisely and well and much of their success is due to her wise teaching and example.

(VIII) James S., third son of Henry Francisco and Martha Alvira (Hatch) Whipple, was born in Steamburg, Cattaraugus county, New York, October 1, 1852. His education was obtained in the public schools of Salamanca and through a constant and wide course of reading. He early bore his share of the family burden imposed through the tragic end of his soldier father. He was first employed in a sawmill, after which he worked as a steamfitter with Davis & Shaw, of Toledo, Ohio, then for several years on the railroad. When he decided to study law he was employed in the yards at Salamanca, and after his five hours study in a law office during the day, he made his required hours at night in the railroad yards. Naturally and always a student and possessed of such determination and spirit it is not strange that during his long and active life he has acquired so broad and complete a knowledge of many subjects. He was admitted to the bar during the June term of the supreme court held at Buffalo in 1881. He practiced his profession for a time but soon became interested in politics and public life.

He served as justice of the peace, supervisor, being chairman of the Cattaraugus county board. In 1887 he was elected a member of the state assembly, serving four terms until 1891. He was United States commissioner for several years, and clerk of the New York state senate, 1898-1905, inclusive, a longer term of service in that position than held by any other man in the state. While a member of the assembly he served on important committees: Was chairman of general laws, chairman of insurance and a member of the judiciary com-

mittee. He was chairman of a special committee appointed in 1888 to investigate the Indian problems of the state. After an exhaustive investigation of the subjects committed to them, they laid before the legislature in 1889 a report that is yet an authority on Indian life, habits, land, titles, etc., with recommendations far in advance of public thought, but now generally approved by nearly every student of the Indian question. In 1905 he resigned the clerkship of the senate to accept the office of commissioner of forests, fish and game, of the state of New York. This position he held for six years, giving such close attention and careful study to the duties and needs of the service as to attract the attention of those in charge of similar departments in other states and in Canada. During his term great progress was made in the work of preserving the forests and in creating a public sentiment for conservation of all the natural resources of the state. As a lecturer on forestry he has few equals, and during his six years in office he delivered more than six hundred addresses on forestry and conservation of natural resources. He was then unable to meet all the demands made on him for addresses. Those who know Mr. Whipple best agree that as a convincing speaker he has few equals. The present dean of the Buffalo Law School says in regard to his public addresses, "his forte is that of a teacher, as he possesses the faculty of making all who hear him understand and believe what he says." He has always been more the orator, pleader and teacher than the business man, his years of public service having allowed him to gratify his natural tastes and disposition. October 3, 1910, Mr. Whipple resigned his office of commissioner of forests and returned to the practice of law in his native village with his son, Burdette D.

He has always taken an active interest in the affairs of his home town, and has contributed to every charity and business enterprise to the full extent of his ability. He was for a long period an active member of the leading literary societies of the village. He belongs to lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masonic order in Salamanca, and is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, Ismailia Temple, Buffalo. He also belongs to the Salamanca Lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His clubs are: The City of Salamanca, Albany of Albany, New

York, and The Republican of New York City. He holds honorary membership in many societies throughout the state for the conservation of natural resources, and is a member of the American Forestry Association. His public speaking and his office of commissioner of forests has gained Mr. Whipple a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and has made him one of the best known men in the state.

He married, November 25, 1873, Sarah R. Dean, born July 10, 1851, daughter of Seymour and Margaret (Everts) Dean. Children: 1. Gurth A., born September 5, 1874; married Olga McGuire. He served as a private in the Seventy-first New York during the Spanish-American war. Was for several years connected with the business affairs of the Bell Telephone Company in New York City, and is now connected with the *Knickerbocker Express*, a daily paper published in Albany, New York. 2. Burdette D., born April 5, 1876; a lawyer now in practice in Salamanca; married Laura S. Vreeland; children, James Vreeland and Elizabeth Olive. 3. Willis Walton, born February 16, 1882; prepared for the profession of dentistry at Michigan University, class of 1906, and at the New York School of Dentistry. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession in Salamanca. He married, October 7, 1908, Wilhelmina Edith Sander; child, Vivian Olive, born February 15, 1910.

This family is traced through PEASLEE its varied spellings: Peaselee, Peasely, Peasle, Peaslee, Peasley, Peaslie, Peasly, Peslee, Peisley (Irish) and Paisley (Scotch). These variations are more numerous in the first and second generations, later Peaslee or Peasley was generally used, while the majority of the present generation spell the name Peaslee.

The American family was founded in Massachusetts about 1635 and from there has spread to every state and territory in the Union. Many distinguished men have borne the name or inherited the blood through intermarriage. One of the latter is John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet. Two governors of New Hampshire have borne the name, a chief justice of the Massachusetts supreme court and several members of congress. Few men have attained higher honor in the medical profession than Dr. Edmund Randolph Peaslee, of New York City, while judges, clergymen, lawyers, physicians, educators, eminent business men and farmers

may be named without number. The family furnished its full quota of soldiers to the revolutionary army (although many were Quakers), and in the "Anti Rent" war that raged in the counties of the Mohawk valley. Thomas Peaslee was a strong, fearless leader and to his wise council and grim determination to never yield may be largely attributed the successful result of the strife in Schoharie county. Whoever opens for examination the old book of town records of Haverhill, Massachusetts, will find on one of its first pages, "Joseph Peasley and Mary, Joseph, born September 9, 1641," and further search will disclose repeated mention of Joseph Peasley, father and son, through the records of three-quarters of a century.

(1) Joseph Peaslee, the emigrant ancestor, came to this country about 1635. Prior to the emigration he married, in Wales, Mary Johnson, daughter of a well-to-do farmer who lived near the river Severn, in the western part of England, near the Wales line. The first mention of Joseph Peaslee in Massachusetts is in the records of Newbury, in 1641. He took the freeman's oath, June 22, 1642. He was granted land in Haverhill, March 14, 1645, and subsequent allotments up to 1656. He was a farmer, eminently respectable, of strong character, a self-educated physician, and often mentioned in old records as a "preacher and gifted brother." His descendant, the poet Whittier, speaks of him as the "brave confessor." He was a commissioner of claims and selectman of Haverhill, 1649-50-53. He removed from Haverhill to Salisbury, Massachusetts, to the part called Newtown, now Amesbury. He was made a "townsman" there July 17, 1656, and granted land; later grants were made in 1657 and 1658. The inhabitants of "Newtown" neglected to attend church worship in the "Old Town" and failed to contribute to the support of the minister. They held meetings for worship in private houses, and having no minister, Joseph Peaslee and Thomas Macy officiated as such; this soon coming to the notice of the general court, who decreed that all the inhabitants of "New Town" should attend church in "Old Town" and also contribute to the support of the minister. All who did not obey were to be fined five shillings unless they had a reasonable excuse. Under the leadership of Peaslee and Macy the people did not heed the "decree" of the general court, nor did the leaders cease preaching