

Sears

GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY

—OF—

SOUTHERN NEW YORK

AND THE

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and
the Building of a Nation.

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cello. Children: Alexander T., of whom further; Clarissa, died unmarried; Isaac, residing in Oklahoma; Thomas, living in Jersey City; Susan, wife of Joseph Bird, residing in Yonkers, New York; John, died unmarried; Agnes, wife of Charles Phillips, of Yonkers.

(IV) Alexander T., eldest child of Thomas (2) and Susan E. (Acker) Neil, was born June 26, 1851, in the town of Thompson. He received his education in the district school at Bridgeville, Sullivan county. Ever since attaining his majority he has been engaged in the grocery business, having spent twenty-one years of this time in Yonkers, New York, whence he removed to Monticello in 1894. Like his father he has been active in political movements, being a Republican in principle, and served eight years as justice of the peace. He was one of the board of sewer commissioners for one year.

He married, November 1, 1876, Georgia Amanda, daughter of Lewis Henry and Elizabeth (Millspaugh) Barnum, of Fallsburg, New York (see Barnum VIII).

SEARS The several attempts of genealogists to trace the pre-American ancestry of the Sears immigrant have met with many discouraging obstacles and few satisfactory results; while it seems to be pretty well established that the family is one of great antiquity there has always existed a doubt regarding its origin, and there are those who are disposed to place it among the old Holland families and bring forth Dutch intermarriages in support of their reasoning. In these annals no attempt is made to investigate the subject of the origin of the family of the Sears immigrant, for it is not known when or where he was born, and nothing of his parentage, although there are various traditions and vague conclusions regarding his forebears. The family in America is fully strong enough in every material respect to stand forever without the warrant of distinguished pre-American lineage. But in regard to the apparent lack of earlier data the Sears family is only one in the long list of our best colonial families whose history back of the immigrant is unknown, and the absence of definite knowledge of his ancestors is not

to be taken as evidence of doubtful or obscure origin, for the simple truth is that it has been found impossible to trace his lineage in the mother country.

(I) **Richard** Sears appears in our New England colonial history with the mention of his name in the records of the Plymouth colony tax list in 1633, when he was one of forty-four persons there assessed nine shillings in corn at six shillings per bushel. From Plymouth he soon crossed over to Marblehead, Massachusetts, and was taxed there, as shown by the Salem list, in 1637-38. He also had a grant of four acres of land "where he had formerly planted," from which it appears that he may have been in that plantation at some previous time. In 1639 he joined the colonists under Anthony Thacher and went to Cape Cod and founded the town of Yarmouth. His first house was built on Quivet Neck, and afterwards he built another house a short distance to the northwest of his first house there. In 1643 the name of Richard Sears appears in the list of inhabitants of Yarmouth "liable to bear arms." He was made freeman in 1652, grand juror in 1652, took the oath of allegiance and fidelity in 1653, was constable in 1660, and representative to the court in Plymouth in 1662. In 1664 Richard Sears, husbandman, purchased for twenty pounds from Allis, widow of Governor William Bradford, a tract of land at Sesuit. He died in August, 1676, and was buried on the 26th of that month. His wife was Dorothy —, who was buried March 19, 1678-79; but it is not certain that she was his only wife, or the mother of all or even any of his children. Indeed, there is a presumption that he was previously married and that his children may have been born of his former wife. So far as known his children were as follows: Paul, of whom further; Deborah, born in Yarmouth, September, 1639; Silas, died in Yarmouth, January 13, 1697-98.

(II) **Captain Paul Sears**, son of Richard Sears, the immigrant, is supposed to have been born in Marblehead, Massachusetts; sometime after February 20, 1637-38, died at Yarmouth, February 20, 1707-08. He took the oath of fidelity in 1657, held a commission as captain of the militia, and made a claim for a horse lost in the war with the

Narragansett Indians, but there is no further record of his military services. He was one of the original proprietors of Harwich, Massachusetts, grand juror there in 1667, and appears to have been of considerable importance in the plantation. His estate was appraised at the value of four hundred and sixty-six pounds, hence he was well possessed in lands and goods. He married, at Yarmouth, in 1658 Deborah Willard, baptized at Scituate, September 14, 1645, died at Yarmouth, May 13, 1721, daughter of George Willard, of Scituate. They had ten children, all born in Yarmouth: Mercy, July 3, 1659. Bethia, January 3, 1661, died 1724; Samuel, of whom further; a daughter, October 24, 1666; Paul, June 15, 1669; Mary, or Margery, October 24, 1672; Ann, March 27, 1675, died November 14, 1745; John, 1677-78, died April 9, 1738; Richard, 1680-81, died May 24, 1718; Daniel, 1682-83, died August 10, 1756.

(III) Captain Samuel Sears, eldest son of Captain Paul and Deborah (Willard) Sears, was born in Yarmouth, "the last of January," 1663-64, died in Harwich, Massachusetts, January 8, 1741-42. He was one of the first settlers in Harwich and was constable there in 1702, lieutenant in 1706, and in 1715 "Captain Sears granted liberty to build a pew in the meeting-house." He married Mercy Mayo, born 1664, died January 20, 1748-49, daughter of Deacon Samuel and Tamzin (Lumpkin) Mayo, and granddaughter of Rev. John Mayo. They had eleven children, all born in Harwich: Hannah, July 1, 1685, married John Vincent; Samuel, September 15, 1687; Nathaniel, September 23, 1689; Tamzin, November 13, 1691, died July 17, 1761; Jonathan, September 3, 1693; Captain Joseph, July 15, 1695, died August 25, 1765; Joshua, May 3, 1697; Judah, October 29, 1699; John, July 18, 1701; Seth, May 27, 1703; Benjamin, June 16, 1706.

(IV) Benjamin, youngest child of Captain Samuel and Mercy (Mayo) Sears, was born June 16, 1706, in Harwich. He settled, between 1744 and 1749, in the town of South East, then Dutchess, now Putnam county, New York. He married (first) in Yarmouth, March 16, 1732, Lydia Ryder, of that town, who was admitted to the Harwich church by a letter from the Yarmouth

church, June 3, 1733, and died March 24, 1734. He married (second) intentions published July 16, 1735, Mercy Snow, born November 18, 1705, in Harwich, died there June 29, 1736. She was a great-granddaughter of Nicholas Snow, an immigrant settler of Plymouth county, who was succeeded by a numerous progeny. Like her predecessor she was buried at West Bridge-water, Massachusetts. Mr. Sears married (third) in Harwich, June 30, 1737, Abigail (Burgess) Sears, widow of Stephen Sears. She was admitted to the church in East Yarmouth, August 8, 1736. The children of the first wife were a daughter, who died at the age of three days, and Heman, who died under three months of age. The second wife was the mother of Heman, who died when fourteen months old. Children of third wife: Benjamin and Stephen (twins), born May 2, 1738; Enoch, September 2, 1741; Reuben, February 19, 1744; Sunderland, December 14, 1749; Seth, of whom further; Samuel. ³¹¹⁴

(V) Seth, eighth son of Benjamin Sears and sixth child of his third wife, was born in what was known as the Oblong, including the town of South East, New York. No record of the date can be found, and no record of his marriage, but he is known to have had children: William, of whom further; Lydia, born January, 1780; Sally; Betsey.

(VI) William, son of Seth Sears, was born October 19, 1775, in South East, died in Neversink, New York, May 24, 1864. In 1804 he settled in the town of Thompson, Sullivan county, New York, where he cleared land and engaged in farming. He had lived for some time previous in Ridgefield or Stamford, Connecticut. He married, in Ridgefield, October 24, 1796, Thirza Sears, born March 22, 1779, eldest child of Comfort and Eunice (Crane) Sears, of Ridgefield. She died January 3, 1861. Children: 1. Miles, of whom further. 2. Clarissa, born October 18, 1801; married S. M. Hoyt; died in Thompson, Sullivan county, New York, April 5, 1824. 3. Eunice, born July 9, 1803; married Sturges Andrus, of Mountindale, New York. 4. Polly Matilda, born April 6, 1805; married E. T. Partridge; died November 3, 1853, in Jamestown, New York. 5. Camilla, born April

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13, 1807; became the wife of Alson Lord, of Bridgeville, Sullivan county, New York; died April 1, 1827. 6. James William, born March 12, 1809, went south. 7. Hiram, born March 9, 1811; settled in Gerry, New York; died in Jamestown, New York, aged ninety-six. 8. Esther, born March 9, 1813; married William Bowers and lived in Bridgeville. 9. George E., born March 3, 1815, died in 1884, without issue. 10. Patty Maria, born March 19, 1817; married (first) Henry Race, (second) Walter Hoyt; died in Bridgeville. 11. Mary Ann, born April 18, 1819; married Robert Knapp; died without issue. 12. Caroline Ophelia, born May 18, 1824; married James O'Neil and had a large family; lived in Thompson; died in 1911.

(VII) Miles, eldest child of William and Thirza (Sears) Sears, was born December 1, 1798, in Ridgefield, died January 1, 1872, in Rileyville, Pennsylvania. He engaged in farming for some years in Sullivan county, removing thence to the town of Lebanon, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, where he continued in the same occupation. Mr. Sears married (first), in Glenwild, New York, Sally Bowers, born in 1800, in Thompson, Sullivan county, died October 6, 1833, in that town. She was a daughter of Zephaniah Bowers, of Thompson, a soldier of the revolutionary war, serving with Washington at Valley Forge, and lived to the age of ninety-four years. Mr. Sears married (second), October 6, 1835, Catherine Misner, born March 4, 1820. Children of first wife: 1. John H., born February 3, 1823, died 1907, in La Honda, California. 2. Lewis Mortimer, born November 24, 1824; was a carpenter in Honesdale, Pennsylvania; died 1908. 3. Clarissa C., born September 19, 1826; married David Kiessler, of Damascus, Pennsylvania; died 1895. 4. Alfred Wurtz, of whom further. Children of second wife: 5. George E., served in the civil war; died in 1864. 6. Oliver C., born September 21, 1839. 7. Anna Augusta, married John Conklin; lived in Pennsylvania. 8. Mary A., married (first) William H. Curry, (second) a Mr. Dayton; resided in Jersey City, New Jersey. 9. Harriet V., born July 1, 1848; married John B. Warwick; lived in Oregon township, Wayne county, Pennsylvania. 10. Herman J., born January 23, 1852; lives in Cameron county, Pennsyl-

vania. 11. Helen Adelia, married William Palmer, of Dyberry, Pennsylvania. 12. Caroline Ophelia, unmarried, lived in Dyberry.

9487
(VIII) **Alfred Wurtz**, third son of Miles and Sally (Bowers) Sears, was born February 11, 1821, in the town of Thompson, Sullivan county, New York. He was fourteen years of age when the family removed to Pennsylvania. His education was supplied by the common schools, and he early learned the trade of carpenter. After working some years as a journeyman he began taking contracts on his own account, and in 1853 returned to his native town where he engaged in the same occupation. Many of the best buildings in Monticello were constructed by him including the Mansion House, which was the finest building in the county at the time of its erection. He assisted in the erection of the first bridge, one mile out of Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, on the Erie railroad. In 1873 he removed to Middletown, New York, where he carried on an extensive contracting business until his retirement in 1900. While residing at Monticello he was collector of the town of Thompson, and also served as school trustee of the village of Monticello. Since settling in Middletown he has served as alderman of that city. Politically he has always adhered to the Democratic party, and although not subject to military duty he was active in raising troops for the prosecution of the civil war and supported the government through that struggle.

He married, April 4, 1855, in Thompson, New York, Louisa, born in Bridgeville, May 31, 1833, died June 30, 1908, daughter of Leander Hoyt, a farmer and blacksmith, of Bridgeville, Sullivan county, New York, and Mary Ann (Weed) Hoyt. They had two children: Roger W., of whom further; Pluma Ella, born October 6, 1865; educated in the schools of Middletown, and now resides with her aged father in that town.

(IX) **Roger William**, only son of Alfred Wurtz and Louisa (Hoyt) Sears, was born January 20, 1856, at Glenwild in the town of Thompson, and grew up in Monticello, receiving his education in the old Monticello Academy. He then entered the employ of Dr. E. F. Quinlan, of Monticello, in his drug store; in 1871 he removed to

[21965]

Honesdale, Pennsylvania, entered the employ of William H. Reed; in 1877 he returned to Monticello and entered the drug store of A. A. Crain; in 1881 he went to Minnesota and was employed in the drug business in St. Paul and later at Rice Lake, Wisconsin. After pursuing a course in chemistry he passed an examination in pharmacy at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, after which he spent some time in the drug business in Minneapolis and other points in Minnesota. Returning to his native country he conducted a drug store for some time in Liberty, New York, and in 1887 returned to Honesdale, Pennsylvania, remaining for six years, then returned to Liberty, where he continued in that business until his election as county treasurer in November, 1910. Before assuming the duties of this office he sold out the drug business, but is still interested in property at Liberty, where he owns several parcels of real estate. While residing in Liberty he filled numerous local offices, and was for several years treasurer of the local Masonic Lodge. He has long been active in fraternal circles, being past master of his lodge. He has served as treasurer of the village of Liberty, also served as trustee. He has always been a strong Democrat. He was one of the incorporators of the Episcopal church at Liberty, for seventeen years was warden and treasurer and now vestryman of St. John's Episcopal Church of Monticello.

He married, December 31, 1889, Sadie, daughter of Henry and Emily (Adgate) Mead, of Liberty, and they have a son, Frank Mead Sears, born February 27, 1891, now a student of art at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York.

[30552] The name of Stoddard STODDARD was originally derived from the office of standard-bearer, and was anciently written De La Standard. According to tradition the first of the name in England was a relative of William the Conqueror, who accompanied that sovereign from Normandy, serving as standard-bearer to the Viscount Pulesdon. This office, which conferred high rank upon its holder, was generally given to a relative, in whose family it frequently became hereditary. The records of heraldry

in England give the coat-of-arms of the Stoddard family a very ancient date, thus substantiating to a considerable extent the above tradition. In addition to the English family, there are Scotch and Irish families of this name, emanating from the same source, and all answering to the name of Stoddard, Stoddart or Stodart, descended from the ancient Norman standard-bearer above mentioned.

(I) John Stoddard, immigrant ancestor of this branch of the Stoddards, was probably a native of the county of Kent, but thus far no evidence has been discovered to verify this fact. Born about 1612 he emigrated to New England and settled in New London, Connecticut, prior to 1652, in which year he was given a house lot of six acres situated on Foxen Hill. The same year he received, according to the New London record of grants, "fifty acres of upland up Mohegan river (now Thames), eastern side, lying at the head of John Gadger's land on the east." In 1671 he sold fifty acres of land to Joshua Ramond. He died probably in 1676. His wife, Catherine, whose family name is unknown, survived him and married (second) John Sampson. Children: 1. Robert, of whom further. 2. Ralph, born about 1666, died December 17, 1753; married Mary Ames, of Boston. He was a farmer and resided in Groton, Connecticut, having purchased the south grant of the John Gadger lands. This property has ever since remained in the possession of his descendants, and was recently owned by Mrs. Hester Satterlee, wife of E. A. Satterlee, and daughter of Jonathan Stoddard. It is situated at Gales Ferry, now in the town of Ledyard, and Ralph Stoddard's wife was the first person interred in the ancient cemetery nearby. Members and relatives of this family shared nobly in the defense of Fort Griswold in 1781. 3. Thomas, born about 1674; married Deborah Roise, of Norwich, Connecticut, and resided in that town.

(II) Robert, eldest son of John and Catherine Stoddard, was born in New London about 1652, died in Groton, September 5, 1749. About 1713 he purchased the north grant of the John Gadger lands in Groton, where he carried on farming. This property, long known as Stoddard's Landing, is now owned by his descendant, Cap-