

EARLY RECORDS  
OF THE  
CALLAHAN FAMILY  
OF ANDOVER

COMPILED BY

CHARLOTTE HELEN ABBOTT

The CALLAHAN FAMILY

of ANDOVER

( with line of GARDNER.)

From "Vital Records of Andover", from correspondence with George (4) Callahan of Lewiston, Me. and Robert (4) Callahan of Seattle, Wash. and his cousin, Martha, representing lines of Augustus(3), Henry (3) and William (3), and from the aged widow of Robert (3), I gather this material. I am also indebted to the sender of the letters of Lydia (3), wife of Jabez Burrill of Oberlin, Ohio, from which I copied excerpts, concerning the GARDNER family. (Have never had time to get court records. Some deed or probate may reveal the name of the first male of the succession.

Widow Sarah Gardner(1) died in Andover, Nov. 15, 1809, aged 93 years, 3 days, so she was born about Nov. 12, 1716. She was the mother of Jonathan(2) Gardner who died here March 8, 1821. Those who copied the record gave no age and I conclude there was no grave here. He may have been buried in Gloucester and the grave left unmarked.

All the parties agree that Jonathan Gardner and his mother came here from Gloucester during the Revolution, because that port was not well defended. There is some evidence that Jonathan resided here continuously after that time—at least in the summer—until the time of his death. The Gardners are said to be direct descendants of Elder Robinson of Plymouth Colony.

Lydia (2) (Gardner)Callahan, daughter of old Sarah, died here Aug. 17, 1835 at 93, so was born 1741 or 2. She may have been older than Jonathan. They had an elder brother, according to tradition, who was a sea captain and was drowned at sea. Lydia, who came here with her mother and brother, was the widow of Robert(1) Callahan who was killed at White Plains during the Revolution, July 19, 1779.

All agree to the age of Robert (1) Callahan, a lad who ran away from his home in Londonderry, Ireland, at the age of 16, about 1760. He brought with him a small Bible with silver clasps, in which his name was written ROBERT CALLAGHAN, the Scotch manner of spelling. He was therefore born about 1745.

He landed as a runaway and reached Gloucester on Cape Ann in 1760 or 1761. I conclude that the Gardners may have helped transport Robert, as the eldest son was a sea captain. George (4) Callaghan said that his grand-father first lived on a farm in Danvers. On attaining his majority he followed the sea, fishing at the Banks in summer and was engaged in West Indies trade in the winter.

By all accounts, he was in Gloucester when he married Lydia (2) Gardner, about 1771. Their daughter, Lydia (2) Callahan, died May 30, 1781, age 9, so was born 1772. She was buried in North Parish Yard, North Andover. A son, Robert (2) Callahan was born Sept. 3, 1774. These children were brought to Andover by Jonathan Gardner and their mother and grand-mother.

Robert (1) Callahan served first under Capt. Nath'l Warner and Col. Moses Little, in 1775. He was at Bunker Hill where the regiment suffered heavily. Two enlistments were under Capt. John Lane and Col. Foster at Cape Ann, for coast defense, so I conclude the family was still in Gloucester and came to Andover in 1781. He was a Corp. in the Coast Defense, for one month, and then joined the Continental Army with Col. Glover's "web-footed" regiment.

His death was a brave one. All accounts center it near a fort at Stony Point, captured July 17, 1779, which Washington resolved to blow up, as he had to retreat from the position. Tales of the Callahans say that on July 17, a magazine was prepared and powder laid and the men drew lots to see who would fire it.

It is said that the man who drew the lot became scared, knowing that the powder was too dry to give him time to escape. Callahan volunteered to take the other's place, was not nimble enough to get away, and was blown up. This story I conclude came from tales told the Callahan family by their father's comrades.

Robert (2) who was about five years old when his father was killed was raised in North Andover, by uncle Jonathan Gardner. He married Dorcas Pettingill, June 3, 1802. She was b. April 4, 1780, near New Sharon, Me., daughter of James Pettengill and his 2nd wife, Dorcas Gage. She was two years old when her father was killed in a raid on New Sharon. Her mother hid with her in the cellar, finally escaped to the woods and passed the night lying behind a log. Next day, they, with a woman neighbor equally scared, footed it to Portland, and sent them back to Andover. Later little Dorcas was "put out" to Col. Timothy Osgood, and it was in one of Isaac Osgood's houses- now the Lodge House at the Moses T. Stevens' estate- that she and Robert Callahan started their married life. Her mother Dorcas Pettengill died on Dec. 29, 1821. Her grave and those of the Gardner family are said to be in the old North Yard, but the stones are gone. Robert (2) died in Oberlin, Ohio, Nov. 1, 1864. He was living with his daughter Lydia (Burrill). Dorcas died March 25, 1869, at 89.

Old Jonathan Gardner is said to have been an autocrat, pure and simple. Was head of the family. Always kept open house and was generous and entertained all the kinsmen liberally. He was a courtly gentleman and a man of great business integrity. The whole family was very intelligent and the traits were handed down by Lydia to the Callahan family. "As honest as God", was the tribute paid by a townsman, when asked about the qualifications of a Callahan who applied for work as a stone-mason- and that described the whole line.

Robert (2) Callahan (Robert (1) and wife Dorcas Pettengill, had:-

William (3), b. May 15, 1803; d. Feb. 4, 1889; was a stone-mason;  
m. Hannah Bailey Lovejoy, Sept. 29, 1842; she was b. 1816,  
and adopted by her uncle, James Lovejoy; she d. Jan. 23, 1888.

Charles (3) b. May 15, 1803; twin; d. in Carrol Co. Missouri; he m.  
Nov. 13, 1842, Sarah Foster Stevens of Norway, Me. a dau. of  
one of the 1st settlers of Norway.

James (3), b. Jan. 8, 1805; m. Feb. 25, 1833, Catherine Kittredge  
Kimball, daughter of Wm. Kimball and w. Elizabeth Osgood;  
he was of Pembroke, N.H. and she of Andover; Katherine was  
b. here May 3, 1811; she d. May 5, 1835; he m. 2nd., Emily  
Buswell of a Boxford family, -int. Oct. 19, 1839; she was  
dau. of James Buswell and w. Sarah Pearl; d. about 1890  
at home on High Street, aged 76; he went to Pawtucket, R.I.  
to live with his dau. Fanny; d. there Sept. 2, 1896.

Lydia (3), b. Jan. 27, 1807; d. 1897, in Oberlin, Ohio; m. Jabez  
Burrill of Oberlin, Sept. 6, 1852, as his 3rd wife; he  
was son of Jabez and Mary, b. in Sheffield, Mass; d. in  
Oberlin, 1900 at 84; she adopted the daughter of Wm. (3)  
Callahan and took her West with her.

Robert (3), b. Jan. 21, 1809; d. here May 22, 1889; a stone-mason;  
m. Mary Ann (Loring) Currier, widow of Anthony J. Currier  
of Newburyport, Dec. 6, 1841. (She m. Currier 1835; had 1  
son, Anthony, b. 1836; he was drowned at Salisbury Beach.)  
Robert had no ch.

Henry (3), b. Jan. 5, 1811; in North Andover; Union College, 1836;  
Andover Sem. 1840;  
a clergyman, 1st Presbyterian Ch. at Niagara Falls, 1845-  
1849; Oxford, N.Y., 1851-1861; served in Army; lived in  
Franklin, N.Y.; d. 1885; m. Mary Allis;  
his widow built a hospital for  
crippled children; she lived later in Bowlder City, Col.

Children of Robert (2) Callahan and wife, Dorcas Pettengill(cont.):-

Edward (3), b. June 18, 1813; d. Sept. 19, 1815.

Augustus (3), b. Mar.12, 1815;d Feb. 16, 1880 at Lewiston, Me.,  
m. June 29, 1838, Mary H. Messer, daughter of Kimball Messer  
and w. Lydia Harris of Methuen; he learned wool business at  
Marland Mill;went to No. Vassalboro, Me., 1840; Oxford, Mass.  
1846;1847 to Lewiston; overseer of carding room until death;  
was a Free Mason.

Edward (3) 2nd., b. Feb.1. 1818; m. a widow, Messer; lived near Lewiston  
no children; was alive in 1902.

Maria (3), b. Dec.25,1819; d. Sept.14, 1828;buried in South Yard.

Jonathan Gardner (3), b. Sept. 2, 1823; m. Martha--- ; he d. 1893;  
widow lived at Eau Clair, Wis.

Wm.(3) Callahan(Robert (2-1) and w. Hannah B. Lovejoy, had:-

Henry(4), b. Jan. 22, 1844; d. Jan. 26; buried in South Yard.

Louisa G. (4), b. June 1845; d. Aug. 20,1845.

Martna (4), b. Jan. 24,1847; went to Ohio in 1842 with aunt Lydia;  
educated at Oberlin; taught in South; m. Allen O. Mayward  
Aug. 7, 1872; he was /  
b. in Alstead, N.H., Dec.11, 1842; she was a writer for  
magazines; lived in Oregon City; he was son of Menemah  
Mayward and Lucy Brown.

William H. (4), b. Nov. 23, 1849; d. July 6, 1860.

Charles(3) Callanan(Robert (2-1) and 1st w. Catherine K. Kittredge, had:-

Charles H. (4), b. April 11, 1833; was in Army; lived in Chelsea; a  
boat builder;raised by Aunt Lydia after his mother died; d.  
May 29, 1862;death caused by exposure while in Army;buried  
in South Yard. Enlisted 1861.







A line on the PETTENGILL FAMILY of Dorcas Pettengill, wife of Robert(2)

James Pettengill, father of Dorcas, was, -it is said, -a soldier in the Revolution, though I have never seen the records. After the war, with others, he settled as a pioneer in Shelbourne, N.H. In 1782 the Indians attacked the settlement, destroyed the houses and killed or made captive all the inhabitants save Dorcas Pettengill and her two-year-old daughter, Dorcas. It is said that the wife secreted herself under a barrel in the cellar and after the Indians went away she walked to Portland, and was sent back to Andover, where her relatives in the Gage family, had lived.

Little is known of James Pettengill. Dorcas (Gage) was his 2nd wife. By his 1st wife he had two sons and a daughter: Asa, James and "Aunt Messer", according to the writer.

Asa Pettengill went to Charlestown, Mass; married and raised a large family.

James, his brother, was an able and expert seaman. He was a prisoner-of-war in France during the latter part of the French Revolution and was there when Robespierre was guillotined. He was boatswain of the ship under Commander Truxton and was taken prisoner in the British Channel and sent to Dartmoor. He was exchanged to Charleston, May 1812. Went to sea on a privateer from Salem and was again taken prisoner and carried to Dartmoor. Was there at the time of the massacre of prisoners.

He came back to Andover after the War and lived more or less, with the Callaghan family. He, I think, married Ruth Wardwell, Sept. 6, 1818. She was dau. of Joshua Wardwell and Mary C. Sanders Foster; they lived near the Shawshin House in Lawrence. They had no children.

A

Allis, Amy .....4.....6

B

Burrill, Jabez .....4  
 " , Lydia .....3  
 Buswell, Emily .....4.....6

C

Currier, Mary A. (Loring).....4

D

Dustin, George L. ....6

G

Gage, Dorcas ..... 8  
 Gardner, Jonathan ..... 1  
 " , Lydia .....1.....2  
 " , Sarah ..... 1

H

Haywood, Allen O. ....5.....7

K

Kimball, Katherine Kittredge.4.5.6

L

Lovejoy, Hannah Bailey.....4.....5

M

Messer, Mary H. ....5.....6...7  
 " , Mrs.- (widow) .....5

N

Norcross, Fred .....7

P

Pettengill, Dorcas ....3...4...5  
 " , James .....8

S

Stevens, Sarah Foster .....4

T

Thornley, James P. ....6.  
 Turner, Charlotte .....6

W

Walker, Mrs. ( widow) .....6  
 Wardwell, Ruth ... .....8

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