

A SHORT
HISTORY

OF THE FAMILY OF GRAYS.

FROM THEIR FIRST LANDING IN THIS COUNTRY, TO THE PRESENT
TIME.

Where are they—the companions of our games,
With whom in youth we gamboled on the sod
The gray-haired father's and the gentle dames
Whose hospitable thresholds once we trod;—
The beauteous forms that taught our hearts to love,
And woke our hopes and tears with magic spell;
The cheerful friends with whom we wont to rove,
Who twines around the hearts we loved so well.

WRITTEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING INFOR-
MATION TO THOSE OF THE NAME
THAT FEEL INTERESTED,
IN THINGS OF TH-
IS KIND.

1764

1743

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

1791

There has in all ages of the world, been some record made, of persons, either by hieroglyphics, or other means, to keep them in remembrance; some because they were benefactors of mankind; and others that were instrumental, in distroying, and butchering there species.

These records are, of a diferent kind, they are designed to perpetuate the memory of those of our name; and among them we shall find, our Fathers, our Mothers, and our Children, that we have held dear in life, and why not keep them in remembrance when dead?

They have lived, and where are they now? we could once see them, but they are gone! we know perhaps where their body lies, but shall we ever meet them again? some may answer this question by saying, if they died impenitent, they are in hell! there ever to remain. How awful such a thought! Another may tell me they are suffering in Purgatory, until purged by fire.

Enough to draw tears from the hardest heart. Another may tell me that the spirit returns to God that gave it, "and he will cleanse it from all sin; how pleasant if true; But the Infidel will say, they have no existance, and when dead, they are no more.

A gloomy thought indeed!

There is none I presume, although they may believe, they are chained in hell! or they have suffered annihilation; but would be glad to meet, if inteligant, those they have held dear in life.

And if there is as much joy felt, at meeting, as sorrow at parting, tongue can not discribe the scene.

THE AUTHOR.

Asa Gray (see # 33)

A short history of the Gray Family.

The first of this family as handed down to us, is as follows. Philip Gray, and Benjamin Gray, two brothers, whilst boys were enticed, or come aboard a vessel, lying at the island of Goturnsey, and were detained, and were broat into Boston; And were bound out to pay there passage. It is said they were of Scotch descent.

Benjamin settled in Boston, and we know little or nothing, of his posterity; It is said that Billy Gray, is a desendant.

Philip Gray married in Boston, and after his wife had 2 children died, or he left her, and come to the town of then New London, since Groton, and now Ledyard.

His age then is supposed, to be, 28 or 30 years.

He married soon after his arrival here to the Widow Buttor, her maiden name was Mary Stoddard, They had 4 children, Philip, Benjamin, Ezekiel, and Elijah. His trade was a nitter,

He after many years of domestic peace, and toiles, departed this life, in April 1780, aged about 90. Mary died 1794 aged 77.

Philip son of Philip, and Mary Gray, was born 1739, He married Hannah Latham, and they had the following children, Jonas, Latham, Ezekiel, Stephen, Lydia, & Mary.

Philip, was industrious, and prident, and he enjoyed, many of the comforts of this life. Hannah Gray died and he married a

second time, Her name was Mercy Chapman, she had but one child, Asa Gray. Philip Gray died, in 1802, aged 63 years.

Mercy Gray died, in 1816.

Benjamin Gray, son of Philip & Mary Gray, was born in 1740, he married, Temperance Baxter, and they had two children, Thomas B, and Philip Gray, Temperance it is said, possessed uncommon endowments as a cook. Benjamin was indu-

strious, and prudent, and enjoied many of the blesings of this life. Temperance died in 1811. And Philip in 1813, of Bilious Cholic. 4th Elijah Gray, son Philip & Mary Gray, was born, in 1743,

Benjamin?

and married Candis Perkins, and they had 4 children. Elijah, Prudence, Hannah, and Eunice. Elijah lived, in the time of the Revolution; and was Sacrificed, on the alter of liberty; for being wounded, and taken prisoner, he died aboard of the Jersey prison ship, near N. York, A. D. 1777. Candise Gray died, A. D. 18-

[5] Ezekiel Gray, son of Philip & Mary Gray, was born A. D. 1745, he went to sea, and was lost, æd 18 years, A. D. 1763, and never married.

(6) Jonas Gray, son of Philip and Hannah Gray, was born A. D. 1770, he married Lucy Spicer, and they had the following children Philip, Winthrop, Oliver, Abisha, Hannah, Mary, and Alatheia. Jonas for many years followed the West-india trade, as a common sailor, and in after years, would tell rather large stories of his adventures, and it appears that he was not quite so close a calculator, as some of the Grays, yet he enjoyed many, of the comforts of this life. Lucy died rather suddenly in Sept, 1813, æd 43. And Jonas married Mary Gardner, for a second wife. Soon after this he moved into the state of Pennsylvania, and is dead, but the exact time is not known. Mary still survives.

[7] Latham Gray, son of Philip & Hannap Gray, was born A. D. 1772, he married Amy Brown, and they had the following children Henry, Latham, Mercy, Esther, Annah, Betsey, Anny, Amy, and Filena. Latham followed the water in his yonger days, but afterwards, Agriculture and the making of cask.

He is rememberd as being very expert, in telling and greeing a story; and when a glass or 2 of cider, was parsed round, he was very agreeable, he injoyed many comforts, but a cancer soon terminated his existance, he died A. D. 1821. Amy died in, 1822.

[9] Stephen Gray, son of Philip & Hannah Gray, was born A. D. 1775. he married Lydia Stedman, they had 5 children, Stedhen, Austain, Norman, Lydia, and Ardelle. Stephen was a man of good merrals and he had but few enemies, he therefore enjoyed many of the blessings of this life, he was a good mechanic, but death came suddenly on him in, 1841. Lydia still survives in 1851.

The 8th was omitted in its place, so I place it here. Ezekiel Gray son, of Hannah & Philip Gray, was born in 1775. he ventured on the ocean, and was lost, for the vessel never was head of.

This was in 1794 He never married

(10) Mary & Lydia, daughters of Hannah & Philip Gray, both married, Mary to a Barns, and Lydia to a Rood, both moved west, and we know little or, nothing of them.

[11] Asa Gray, son of Mercy, & Philip Gray, was born 1786, he married, Susannah Wilcox, she had but one child, Asa Gray.

Asa was a mechanic, a black-smith, but after years of industry, his health failed him, and he ceased to live, in 1814.

It is said he was an honest man. Suannah still survives.

(12) Thomas B. Gray, son of Temperance & Benjamin Gray, was born in 1769, he married Surviah Stanton, she had no children, and soon died Thomas soon after married, Katurah Stanton and she had 5 children. Benjamin, John, Thomas, Surviah and Temperance, that lived, and one or two that died in infancy.

Thomas was industrious, and accumulated considerable property, but did not long enjoy domestic felicity, he moved west, and it is said, died in 1830. Katurah yet survives.

[13] Philip Gray, son of Temperance & Benjamin, Gray was born in 1775, he married Sabrina Sitanton, she was feeble when married, and died in 1800, he soon after married, Saran Morgan, and she had 8 children, Thomas B. Benjamin, S. William M. Sabrina, Mary, Sally, Julia, and Betsy. Philip was a mechanic, a house carpenter, and he accumulated considerable property, and he was a man of a good deal of influence, but was not calculated in every respect, to be competely happy, he was cut down suddenly, in the full enjoyment of his facultys, in 1838.

Sarah Gray, still survives.

(14) Elijah Gray, son of Candis & Elijah Gray was born in, 1771, he married Abby Hilliard, she had 7 children, Ezekiel, Jonathan, Hilliard, Caroline, Phebe, Sally, & Abby. Elijah was industrious, but never got rich, he enjoyed many of the blessings

of this life, he still survives. Abby died in 1849.

[15] Prudence, born in 1773, Eunice born in 1777, and Hannah, born in 1775, Daughters of Candis, & Elijah Gray. Prudence died in 1745, and did not marry, Hannah married and moved west, and Eunice married, and is yet living.

[16] Benjamin son of Katurah, & Thomas B. Gray, was born in 1797, it is believed he never married, he moved west, and it is said become very wealthy, and deceased in 1841.

[17] John Gray, son of Katurah & Thomas B., was born in 1799, he moved west, and was about to return, to the land of his birth, but was murdered in the year 1848, and never married.

[18] Thomas J. Gray, son of Katurah & Thomas B. was born in 1802, he moved west, and married Eunice Halsey, and she had 5 children, about this time, Thomas left her, and has not since been heard from. ?

[19] The daughters of Katurah & Thomas B. were Surviah born in 1794, and Temperance, they both went west, and Surviah married John D. Veares, and Temperance married, Henry Gold.

[20] Philip Gray, son of Lucy & Jonas Gray, was born in 1798, he married Meriah Hewlit, she had one son Philip. he soon after he married, enlisted into the United States service, and it was said he deserted, and was shot about the year 1840.

[21] Windthrop, born in 1802, Oliver, born in 1805, & Abisha born in 1810 sons of Lucy & Jonas Gray all moved west, and we know but little since of them.

[22] Hannah born in 1793, Mary, born in 1795, and Alatheia, born in 1798, daughters of, Lucy & Jonas Gray, all went west, Hannah married before she went, to Isaac Park, and Mary after she went, to a Sharp, and it is not remembered, who, Alatheia did marry.

[23] Thomas B. son of Sally & Philip Gray, was born in 1802, he married Amanda Williams, and she was mother of 8 children, Philip B. Thomas B. James B. William S. Daniel M.

Amander W. Prudence M. and Lucy A. Thomas is a man of good natural talents, and rather shrewd, his domestic relations are pleasant, and his memory is proverbial to all; for it gave most all, the information of these memories, together with the dates, and was it not for his almost to strong spirit, of retaliation he feels towards his enemies, he would be an ornament to any society, but as it is his worth is not appesiated. Amanda died in 1849, and Thomas B. married, Martha B. York, they have one child Eno: M. born in 1851. †

[24] Benjamin S. son of Sally & Philip Gray, was born in 1812, and married Sarah J. Lewis and they have 3 children, John S. William W. and Eunice. Benjamin enjoys many of the comforts of this life, and is a member of a Church, which is almost the only one of the name that does, wether they are not so easily affected by *sympaty*, or they have more discrimination than others, or not, I will not detrmine. *

[25] William M. son of Sally & Philip Gray, was born in 1814, he married Sarah Gallup, they have 2 children, Edwin and Ellen. William enjoys many of the blessings of this life, has many friends, and is very well calculated, to live without the drudgery, that some voluntary submit to. †

[26] The daughters of Sally & Philip Gray were, Sabrina, born in 1804, married, James B. Williams. Mary, born in 1806, married, Charles S. Hewit. Sarah, born in 1808, and died in 1824. Julia A. Born in 1818, married, Amos Allyn. And Betsey, born in 1821, and married Rufus Gallup.

[27] Latham, son of Amy & Latham Gray, was born in 1799, he married, Julia Pendleton, he soon after moved west, it is said, she had 2 children Henry and William, Julia has since died, and that he has married, a woman by the name of Sarah Bensly, and we know but little more of them. *

[28] The daughters of Amy & Latham were, Mercy, born in 1793, she married, Rufus Williams. Annah, born in 1795, she

† These that are marked, is supposed, to be now living.

x End Aug. 27, 1867

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married James Hemsted. Ester, born in 1797, and she married, William Kimball. Betsey, born in 1801, and died in 1818. Anny, born in 1805, and married a man by the name of snow. Filena, born in 1807, and is not married. And Amy born in 1810, and married a Noyes. *

(29) Stephen, son of Lydia & Stephen Gray, was born in 1809. he married Caroline Babcock, they have but one child, Stephen.

Stephen is a mechanic, of the first class, and a disposition well calculated for domestic enjoyments, and tranquility, how pleasant it is to see a person with a mind of this description.

(30) Austain, son of Lydia & Stephen Gray, was born in 1807. he married Betsey Smith, they have 5 children, Austain, Lydia E. Julia F. Sarah J. and an infant. Austain is a mechanic, of the first order, and is very industrious, has quite a hard row to hoe, and is an ornament to any society. *

(31) Norman, son of Lydia & Stephen Gray was born in 1810, he moved west, and we know but little of him, it is said he has had two wives, the first a Bensley, and the other an Irish woman. both had 4 children. *

(32) The daughters of Lydia, & Stephen Gray were, Lydia, born in 1802, she married Charles H. Dean, she died in ———.

And Ardelia, born in 1812, she married Ethan O. Barber.

(33) Asa, son of Susanah & Asa Gray, was born in 1802, he married Lusanna Prosser, they had 7 children, Asa F. Denman. George. Montgomery. Mercy, Susan, and Sarah, and one or two that died in infancy. Asa is a man of some learning, enjoys many of the blessings of this life, he has had many ups and downs, he is fortunate in his matrimonial connection, and is the writer of these memories, prompted by a desire to perpetuate the memory, of those of our name, that the rising generation may know, to the latest posterity, the source from which they spring. *

(34) Ezekiel, son of Abby & Elijah Gray, was born in 1798. he married Hannah Perkins, they had 2 children, Nelson, and Delia, both died whilst young. Ezekiel followed going to sea for

* John M. + died May 3
2 days 1863. 1898

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some years, and it was thought he acquired a bad habit there by, he enjoyed feeble health for some time, and took his exit in 1838, he received of the town, at the time of his death some help, and it is said, he is the only one of the name that has received help, of the town, up to the date of these memories. Hannah yet survives.

(35) Jonathan, son of Abby, was born in 1811, he married, Mary A. Thorries, he lives in N. York, and we know but little of him. Hilliard, son of Abby & Elijah Gray, was born in 1814, he died in 1832. The daughters of Abby were, Sally born in 1800, married Silas Sterry. Phebe, born in 1802, died in 1837. Caroline, born in 1805, died in 1845. And Abby, born in 1807, died in 1845. married Lester Perkins.

We commence the fifth Generation with Philip B. born in 1825 son of Amanda & Thomas B. Gray, he married Mary Myers, Thomas B. son of Amanda, born in 1826, married, Esther Gates. they have one child, James E, born in 1848. James B. son of Amanda born in 1828, and is not married. † William S. son of Amanda & Thomas born 1830 † Amander W. born in 1832. The daughters are, Prudence M. born in 1838. and Lucy A. born in 1841. †

(37) The children of Betsey & Austan are, Austain born in eighteen hundred forty five, Lydia E., born in eighteen hundred thirty eight. Julia F., born in eighteen hundred forty. And Sarah J. born in eighteen hundred forty two.

The children of Sarah J. and Benjmin, are, Eunice born in eighteen hundred forty four, John S. in eighteen hundred thirty eight.

(40) The children of Sarah & William M. are Edwin born in eighteen hundred forty four Ellen in eighteen hundred forty three.

The children of Lusanna & Asa, are, Asa F. born in eighteen hundred twenty three, died in eighteen hundred forty six. Denman born in 1830, died in 1831. George born in 1835. Montgomery, born in 1837. Mercy born in 1822, died in 1838. married Joseph Philip. Susan born in eighteen hundred twenty five married Stanton Main & Sarah, born in 1833, and died in 1839.

This ends these memories up to this date, 1851. It is not presumed they are in every instance correct; for they were taken from memory, but in the main, they are believed to be, sufficiently correct, for the purpose for which they were desired.

There is but few familys, that can trace there parentage back to the time, when the first of the name landed in this country, but if any of the rising Generations, feel as interested in this matter, as did those that gave these for this purpose, information will be given, to the latest posterity.

Perhaps a few words of comment, will be admisible. You will observe that the persons of this history, were industrious, and lived within there means, and none of them have been supported by the town, as a pauper. And it is said, there was not one of them imprisoned for debt, or for any offence except being taken in the act of fighting for *Liberty*.

There has a few of them, indulged there appetite more than was for there good, but in this respect I think there is but few families, but they will favorbly compare with.

But as to there religion, none of them were profosed Infidels believing in no God; nor any thing hereafter: but they were men that exorcised there judgement in believing, — they did not believe all the dogmays, that designing Priests have inveted, for the purpos of agrandizement; and to draw the hard wrought earnings, of the people to their pocket.

They believed, that, "God was *LOVE*." And his mercy, was over all his works. " with this belief they have gone, to the confines of eternity, to test the reality, whether it will there be correct, or not. it appeared by there words and actions, many of them believed, Christ come to save all, whilst living.

THE END.