

**History of the Edgecomb, Bassitt, and Snyder Families of Allen
County, Ohio**

Steve James Bassett Baskauf

2007

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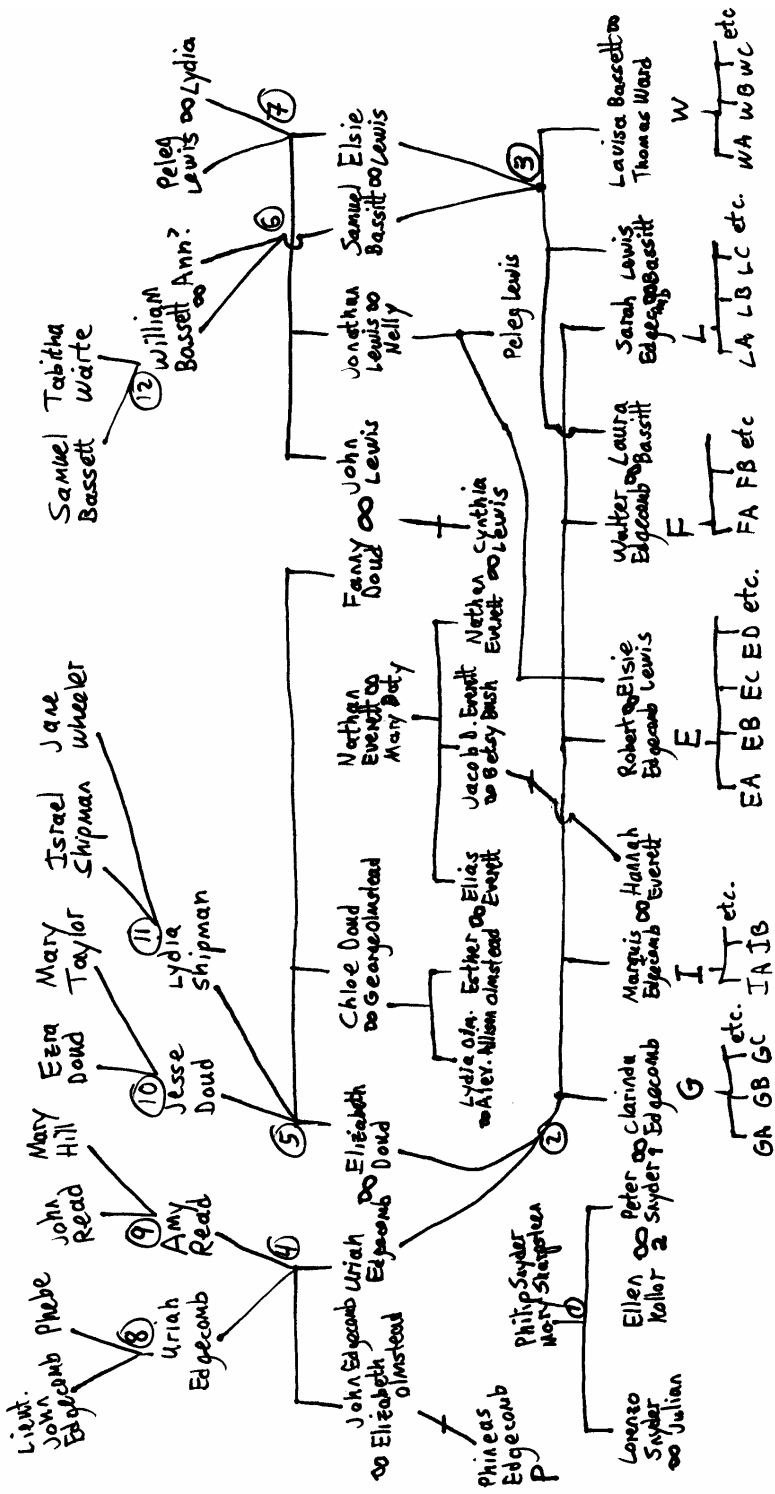
Organization of the book

The sections in the first part of the book are generally numbered as they would be in a standard pedigree chart for any child of Walter and Laura (Bassitt) Edgecomb. That is, the section about Walter Edgecomb and his family as he grew up (the family of Uriah and Betsey Edgecomb) is numbered 2. The section about Laura Bassitt and her family as she grew up (the family of Samuel and Elsie Bassitt) is numbered 3. To go back a generation, double the number for the father or double+1 for the mother. To go down a generation, halve the number to follow a child as he or she grew up.

The sections in the second part of the book are given a code similar to the Henry system, except that letters are used rather than numbers. The original family is that of Uriah and Betsey Edgecomb, since they cover nearly all descendands of interest. The first child is A, second B, etc. In the next generation, start with the code of the parent and add another letter on the end (i.e. CB would be the second child of the third child of Uriah Edgecomb). See the diagram on the next page for details.

Why did I spell the title Bassitt and not Bassett?

From 1836 to 1920 the name in Allen County was nearly always spelled Bassitt, and that's the time period I'm most interested in. After 1920, I tried to use the spelling preferred by particular families. Read the book - I have more to say on this subject!



ORGANIZATION OF SECTIONS OF THIS BOOK

an relationships among Trumbull County families in Bath Township.

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Introduction

In the beginning, there was no need to write down a history of the Edgecomb, Bassitt, and Snyder families in Allen County, Ohio because the members of the family **were** the history. The other players in the history were their siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins and family members either knew the history, or could just ask someone at the next family visit. But by the turn of the 20th century, the family was large, members were scattered, and the family patriarchs were aged. The younger generation didn't know who all the relatives were. Contacts were made with distant cousins who wanted to know how the family was connected. Younger folks wanted to know how the family names were **really** supposed to be spelled. By the time there was interest in writing the family history, the children of those who had first settled in the county were gone.

In 1908, a formal attempt was made to gather the three families at the first Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion. The site was Lewis Grove, a stop on the Interurban rail line that connected Lima with Toledo and allowed easy transport for family members who lived at a distance. It was also in the middle of the area in northeast Bath Township where the families originally settled and where many family members still farmed. Family members "brought teams of horses to pull logs around for benches to sit on."¹

At this first family meeting, Charlotte Bassitt (known to family members as Lottie) undertook to record the descendants of the family in the back of a Student's Exercise Book in which she had kept attendance for a Bible training class at the Beaverdam Church of Christ. In that book she wrote the beginning of the first history of the Bassitt ancestry:

Bassitt-Edgecomb-Snyder families. Samuel Bassitt was born in Eng. in 1795, died in Bath Twp. Allen Co., O. Apr. 16, 1865, aged 70 yrs. 9 mo.. He with his brothers William and James came to America around 1815 and settled in Oswego Co., Y.Y. One brother moved farther North and West, one was drowned while out for a day of enjoyment on the N.Y. lakes. Samuel moved with his family to Ohio where he purchased a tract of land from the Gov. which still bears the Bassitt name in Bath Twp. Allen Co.

As will be seen in this book, this account has a considerable lack of accuracy, although it records some interesting anecdotes. A similarly apocryphal account of the Edgecomb ancestry was told in 1931 by Lansil Edgecomb in his unpublished account: *History of the Edgecomb family back as far as the 7th generation.*

Back in the year 1757, there were three Edgecomb brothers emigrated to the U.S. from Scotland and settled in New York, near where the city is now located.

Here they founded a colony called Edgecombville which still holds its name and which I am told is quite a nice place. These three boys, whose names I could not learn, separated, locating in different places, and from one of these boys our immediate families originated.

To one of these boys was born a son whose name was Uriah.



Bassett - Edgecomb - Snyder Reunion, 24 Aug 1930

First contacts with genealogists from beyond Allen County

Near the turn of the 20th century, Edgecomb and Bassett genealogists from other parts of the U.S. who were trying to make connections with the broader family made connections with the Allen County, OH members. In particular, G.T. Ridlon appears to have made contact with the Edgecombs in Beaverdam, Allen County, Ohio sometime before he published his *Saco Valley Settlements and Families* in 1895. This book attempted to relate all of the American Edgecombs with the family in England and Ridlon had incorrectly assumed that the Allen County Edgecombs had come from the branch of Edgecombs living in Maine². Madison Edgecomb, of Beaverdam was quite happy to have a "connection" (however vague) with the titled gentry of England, and his biographer mentions that "Lord William Henry Edgecomb, of England, is a relative of our subject and his photograph is among the family pictures which adorn the Edgecomb home."³ However, Ridlon complained that "this family ordered portraits of Lord Edgecomb which they did not pay for, and promised full records of their connection which they have not furnished!"⁴

Frank G. Lewis, who was researching the connections among Bassetts who had lived in New York, made contact with Lottie Bassitt in 1919. It appears from his letters which were saved in the reunion records that she also did not send the information on our branch that he requested (at least for several years).

It appears that one consequence of these contacts with more distant relatives may have had one effect: family members became aware that the accepted spellings of their last name were not the same as the spellings used elsewhere. Some branches of the family attempted to use what they felt were the "more correct" original spellings, while other branches of the family kept the spellings that had been used by the family during their early years in Allen County. For example, the most widespread spelling of Bassett in Allen County from the 1830s to about 1920 was "Bassitt", a spelling which seems to be unique to our branch of the family. The most likely reason for the origin of the spelling "-itt" is the fact that the Allen County immigrants, Samuel and Elsie Bassitt were both illiterate and signed deeds with "X". Their only son, Lewis, could read and write but learned to do so while living in Ohio, relatively isolated from other relatives who could have corrected the phonetic spelling of "-itt". Before 1900, the spelling "-ett" is also used occasionally and interestingly on Lewis' gravestone his name is spelled

"Bassett" while his wife Sarah's name is spelled "Bassitt" on the other side of the stone! The exact spelling of the name did not seem to be a major issue. However, in approximately 1920, several of Lewis' sons (Samuel, Philo, and Lewis E.) and their descendants began to consistently use the spelling "Bassett", while others (Marquis and William) continued to use the spelling "Bassitt". For example, in the 1919 minutes of the B-E-S Reunion, the secretary, Edythe Bassitt (a descendant of Philo) wrote "Bassitt-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion". The following year, Edythe Bassett wrote "Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion". The timing of this change coincides exactly with the arrival of Frank G. Lewis' letters to Lottie.

A similar situation occurred with descendants of Uriah Edgecomb's (b. 1781) son Robert. The name had been spelled Edgecomb consistently in Allen County and by most descendants of Robert. But descendants of Robert's son Uriah (b. 1847) spell their name "Edgecombe", adding an "e" to the end as in the historical British spelling "Edgcombe", but without dropping the "e" following "Edg". Ridlon was known to have had contact with Robert Edgecomb and perhaps the newly gained knowledge of this connection to the ancient British line inspired the adding of the "e".

In 1942, Lottie Bassett (who by then was Lottie Marshall) corresponded with Eben P. Bassett, who had begun collection of material on all the Bassetts in the United States as a part of his Bassett Genealogy. She furnished data to him, but unfortunately he never published his work.

A fortunate correspondence with Doud relatives

In 1944, Florence Doud Carr corresponded with Mrs. John E. Breese, a genealogist in Lima, Ohio and asked her to do some research on the Edgecombs and Douds. Mrs. Carr was the daughter of Davis Rogers Doud, a nephew of Betsey Doud Edgecomb, and his third wife, Mary Showalter Tinsman whom he married at age 62. Mrs. Carr was thus in a position to have heard recollections from her father about relatives who died as much as a hundred years earlier. In addition, Davis Doud kept a journal in which he recorded his memories about his early life. Mrs. Breese kept careful notes about her research and these notes were archived in the Allen County Historical Museum in Lima. From these notes, we see that in addition to checking published histories and public records, Mrs. Breese called on local people who might have information on the Edgecombs. "I also called Howard Bassett, and he told me his sister [Lottie Bassett Marshall] might know something - he didn't ...". By the 1940's there were very few descendants who carried the name Edgecomb in Allen County. Contact with one of these led to Frank P. Edgecomb.

Frank P. Edgecomb was 92 in 1944 and not only was his mind clear at that age, but he knew how his father, Phineas Edgecomb (born in 1795) was connected to Uriah and Edgecombs descended from Uriah. "Ezra, Robert, Lancel, Walter and Mark were sons of Uriah, he also had four daughters of which I could tell you as know whom they all married. ... Any time you can call. I can tell you any number of things I recall."⁵ Mrs. Breese interviewed him on 29 Oct 1944 and recorded that his grandfather John was Uriah Edgecomb's brother. He was less clear about how the Douds were connected, but fortunately Mrs. Carr already know that. Not only did Mrs. Breese's interview record the Frank's connections to the Edgecombs, but she also wrote down two interesting anecdotes (related in appropriate sections of this book) about the Philo and Lewis Bassett who were

Frank's next door neighbors. Mrs. Breese also made transcripts of the Bible of Phineas Edgecomb, which was in the possession of Frank Edgecomb at that time. Its current whereabouts is not known.



70th Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion, held at Pleasant View Church of the Brethren, Lima, OH, Aug 1977. I am below the arrow.

My involvement in Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder research

By the 1960's, the relationships among some participants in the Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion had become so distant that it was no longer clear just how they were related to each other. My father, James Bassett, who was first elected president of the Reunion for 1962, drafted three large family trees that year, one each for Bassett, Edgecomb, and Snyder family members⁶. These large trees were based on the results of a reply postcard sent that year and on the memories of family members attending the reunion, and were made on tracing paper so that he could duplicate them on blueprint paper in his landscape architecture office. However, they were lacking an explanation of how the ancestors at the top of the tree were connected.

Although I had attended the Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion many times in my childhood, I never paid much attention to its purpose. In 1975, when I was fifteen, my dad (James Bassett) was reunion president and my mom secretary again. The box of reunion records was sitting on the table one day when I started looking through it and reading the letters and documents pertaining to the family history. I became intrigued and started taking notes on small cards. I was careful to document each detail with references to photocopies that I kept in an increasing number of large black notebooks. After consulting with some of the published Allen County, Ohio histories I was able to reestablish the connections between the three families. I realized that I was actually a descendant of Uriah Edgecomb (b. 1781) twice, through his daughter Clarinda Edgecomb Snyder on my mother's side and through his daughter Sarah Edgecomb Bassett on my father's side. Thus my interest in Edgecomb history was doubled! For the next several years I spent a lot of time visiting older relatives and tape recording interviews, doing research in the Allen County Museum historical library and the court house in Lima, visiting cemeteries, collecting death certificates, and writing letters. As I was not able yet to drive, my mother, Jo Ann Vore Bassett supported my ventures by chauffeuring me to many of these places.

About this time, I was elected "historian" of the reunion - a somewhat undefined and apparently permanent job which meant that people were happy that I was collecting and documenting the family history. In that capacity, I began collecting family "updates"

- information sheets documenting the names, dates and places of birth and death, marriages, and children - for anyone I could find who was a descendant of the Bassett, Edgecomb, or Snyder families. These records form the basis of much of the second (descendants) part of this book.

In the process of these investigations, I made contact (mostly by letter) with a large number people who were researching the Edgecomb, Bassett, and Snyder families and without the information that they shared with me much of this book would not be possible. The first of these was Vern Hennon, whose enthusiasm for the family history was unquenchable. I hesitate to try to list all of the others from whom I obtained important information because I am sure to leave someone out, but that list would include Judy Voran, Jean Vore, Lois Vore, Lois Bassett, Charlou Dolan, Jane Taylor, Alan Taylor, Jeffrey N. Bassett, Maurice Click, Ken Kinman, Wayne Ward, Ira Simons, Alan White, June Hulvey, Brian Clark, and Sarah M. Grove. My sister, Susan (Bassett) Snyder, provided logistical and moral support. Last but not least were the many individuals who filled out family updates, allowed me to copy photographs, and gave me copies of documents they had, trusting that eventually this book would happen!

In 1977, Kathryn Snyder Geiser, daughter of Clay Snyder, was interested in becoming a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). I had interviewed her about that time. In her attempts to gain information, she corresponded with the same Florence M. Carr who had contacted Mrs. Breese in 1944! By this time Mrs. Carr was 87 years old. By this time, much of the Doud research was being carried on by Mrs. Carr's niece, Inez L. Eagleton. In 1981, I corresponded with Mrs. Eagleton and she provided me with much important information about the Douds in Trumbull County and gave me the critical entry from the diary of her grandfather (Davis Doud) which provided the proof of the connection between Betsey Doud and the rest of the Douds.

Although I've listed myself as the author of this book, it would be unfair to fail to recognize the sources upon which I have depended significantly in compiling the material found here. Some sections are re-edited versions of previous material that I've written, most notably the article "Edgecombs of Ohio and the West", in which I outlined information about the settlement of Uriah (b. 1781) and Betsy Edgecomb and their family in Ohio for the July 1991 issue of the *Edgecombe Family Genealogy and History* newsletter edited by Alan Taylor. Some material associated with Samuel Bassitt's Civil War letters are drawn original research I did in March 1978 for a high school English paper called "The Civil War Letters of Samuel Bassitt". In several cases, I have also drawn heavily on published accounts from county histories. In particular, nearly all of the information about the early history and ancestors of Peter Snyder is taken from his two biographies in the 1885⁷ and 1896⁸ histories of Allen County, Ohio. It would have been impossible to write the section on the ancestors of Uriah Edgecomb (b. 1781) without leaning heavily on Judy Voran's master work "The Edgecombs of Allen County OH and New Hartford CT" from *The American Genealogist*, Jan/Apr. 1986. The number of descendants listed in the book would have been much smaller without the wholesale absorption of smaller scale histories and databases from a number of people. In some of these cases I was able to directly import descendants via GECOM computer files that had been entered by others, which has saved me a huge amount of work. I'm afraid to try to mention all of the people who have provided these data for fear of forgetting someone,

but they include at least Jan Edgecombe Bodine, Melissa C. Hiatt, Ira Simmons, and Judy Voran.

Since I started collecting information I've finished college, met my first computer (and typed in information from one thousand index cards!), gotten married and had two children, moved to Africa and back, witnessed the birth of the Internet, and gotten my Ph.D. I have never spent as much time working on the Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder genealogy as I did in those first five years, but those big black notebooks and cassette tapes still hold the information I collected from many sources, including family members who are now long gone. This book is my attempt to pass that information on to you.

Steve (Bassett) Baskauf
2007

¹ Jo Ann Bassett, Minutes of the Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion for 1962.

² G. T. Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements and Families*. Portland, Maine: 1895, p.675

³ Charles C. Miller, *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Richmond & Arnold, 1906, p. 621

⁴ Ridlon, p. 654

⁵ Letter from Frank P. Edgecomb to Mrs. John E. Breese, 3 Nov 1944, in Edgecomb notes at Allen County Museum, Lima, OH.

⁶ Jo Ann Bassett, Minutes, 1962.

⁷ *History of Allen Co., Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers, & Co., 1885.p. 587-588.

⁸ *A Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*. Chicago, A.W. Bowen & Co., 1896. p. 489-490.

1. Ancestors of Peter Snyder (b. 1820)

Philip Snyder, the son of Philip Snyder who was a native of Germany, married Mary Sharpsteen, the daughter of John Sharpsteen who was a farmer¹. They lived in New York state. It is not known if they lived at more than one location, but in 1820 they were living in Livingston County. They had twelve children²:

John

Henry

Lydia d. in New York

Cornelius

William

Mary (Slocum), m. Asa Slocum

Walter

Loisa (Learn), m. Samuel Learn

Philip

Phebe (Pifer)

Lorenzo D. m. Julian UNKNOWN

Peter³ 13 Aug 1820⁴ - 1 Oct 1900, m.(1) Clarinda Edgecomb, m.(2) Ellen Baker Kollar

Philip "was a blacksmith and expert at his trade, which he followed all his active life."⁵ Philip died in 1824⁶, probably in New York. Within a few years his children moved west. William was living in Iowa in 1896, but most of the rest of the children, including John, Henry, Cornelius, Mary, Walter, Louisa, Philip (Jr.), Phebe, and Lorenzo eventually ended up in Michigan⁷.

In about 1832 or 1833, Lorenzo and Peter moved to Trumbull Co., Ohio. Peter lived with Lorenzo for about year and afterwards worked by the month doing farm work during five months in the summer and attended school in the winter. In 1835, Lorenzo and his wife Julian bought the southwest quarter of section 14 in Bath Township, Allen Co., Ohio. This is in the northwest part of the township where many other immigrants from northeastern Ohio settled, including the Bassitts and Edgecombs. It is not known whether Lorenzo and Julian were still living in Trumbull Co. at that time or if they had already moved to Allen County, but by Sep 1838, when they sold the north half of this land, they were described as "of Allen County, Ohio"⁸. In about 1839 Peter moved to Bath Twp. and became acquainted with the family of Uriah and Betsy Edgecomb (who had come from Trumbull County in 1832). The next year on April 9th, Peter was married to their daughter Clarinda. Unlike the rest of Peter's family, he and Clarinda remained in Allen County, Ohio for the rest of their lives⁹.

There were other Snyders who bought land near Lorenzo. Peter and Betsy Snyder bought land in section 11, to the north of Lorenzo (and diagonally northwest of Samuel Bassitt). They were described as "of Trumbull County, Ohio" so it is not clear that they ever moved to Allen County. Because of the similarity in name and the close proximity to Lorenzo's property it is tempting to speculate that this Peter may have been an uncle to Peter and Lorenzo. It is also possible that this Peter and Betsy Snyder may have been the same persons mentioned along with Samuel Bassett in the formation of the Disciples

Church in Lordstown, Trumbull Co.¹⁰ In 1839, Peter and Betsy sold land to a "Cisero Snyder". It is not known what connection he had with the family.

Lorenzo and Julian sold more of their land in 1840. It's not known when Lorenzo moved to Michigan, but his mother, Mary died at his home there.¹¹

¹ *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885. p.587-88.

² *Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*. Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1896. p. 489-490.

³ In the first part of this book which describes the ancestors of the Bassett, Edgecomb, and Snyder families, underlining is used to indicate the child from which our families are descended.

⁴ The date given in his biography in *History of Allen County*, 1885 is 13 Aug 1820. However, his tombstone, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH says "PETER SNYDER DIED OCT 1, 1900 AGED 81 Y. 1 M. 20 D." This produces a birth date of 11 Aug 1819. This is the same date given in the family Bible of Peter Snyder. However, based on handwriting in the Bible, the dates appear to have been written about 1899. There are numerous discrepancies in the dates in the Bible and since the account in the biography was taken from Peter directly at an earlier date, it is considered here to be more accurate. *Portrait and Biographical Record*, 1896 gives 1820 as his birth year, but does not give an exact date.

⁵ *Portrait*, 1896.

⁶ *History*, 1885.

⁷ *Portrait*, 1896.

⁸ Deeds, Book F, p. 188, Allen Co., OH Recorder's office. 25 Sep 1838.

⁹ *Portrait*, 1896.

¹⁰ *History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties*, Vol. 2, Cleveland, H.Z. Williams & Bro. 1882, p. 542.

¹¹ *Portrait*, 1896.

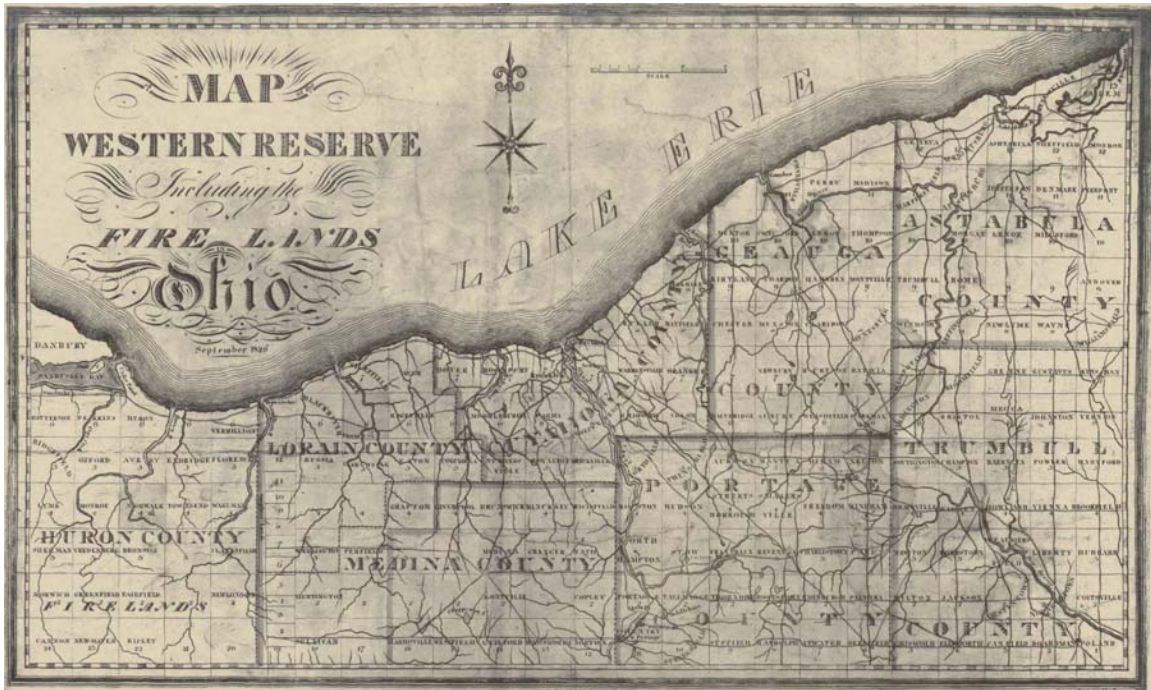
2. Uriah (b. 1781) and Betsy (Doud) Edgcomb

Uriah (b. 1781) was married to Elizabeth "Betsy" Doud (born 1792¹ and 11 years his junior) in Connecticut sometime c. 1808 to 1810.² At this time, the Doud and Edgcomb families began the move to the western frontier. It is not clear where Uriah and Betsy were living in 1810. A Uriah Edgcomb is listed in the 1810 census for Canton, Connecticut³ with a female the appropriate age to be Betsy and one child under 10 (presumably their eldest son, Uriah). However, there is also a Uriah Edgcomb listed in the census for Preston, Chenango County, New York. We find Uriah selling land in Canton, Conn. in March of 1811⁴, and purchasing land in August in Preston the same year⁵. This land was described as "part of lot number 42 to 43 in Township number fourteen".

Apparently Uriah and Betsey made the move to New York with her brother Alvah Doud.⁶ Alvah is also listed in the 1810 census there and Uriah and Alvah sold land together in Preston in 1815. Betsey's parents and their family also made the move west to New York. They were not alone, as many other Connecticut residents were also moving west during this time. "The pressure of the rapidly growing population in [Connecticut] meant that many families were being driven to cultivation of thin marginal lands, which under then current agricultural practices could not produce crops adequate for a decent standard of living. ... It is little wonder that the availability of far cheaper and more fertile lands on the frontier caused an explosive emigration movement by thousands of Connecticut Yankees."⁷ Uriah and Betsey lived in New York until about 1818. Uriah and Betsey signed a deed together when they sold land there.⁸

As was the case in many pioneer families, Uriah and Betsey immediately began a family which grew to thirteen children: [letters correspond to the sections in the second part of the book]

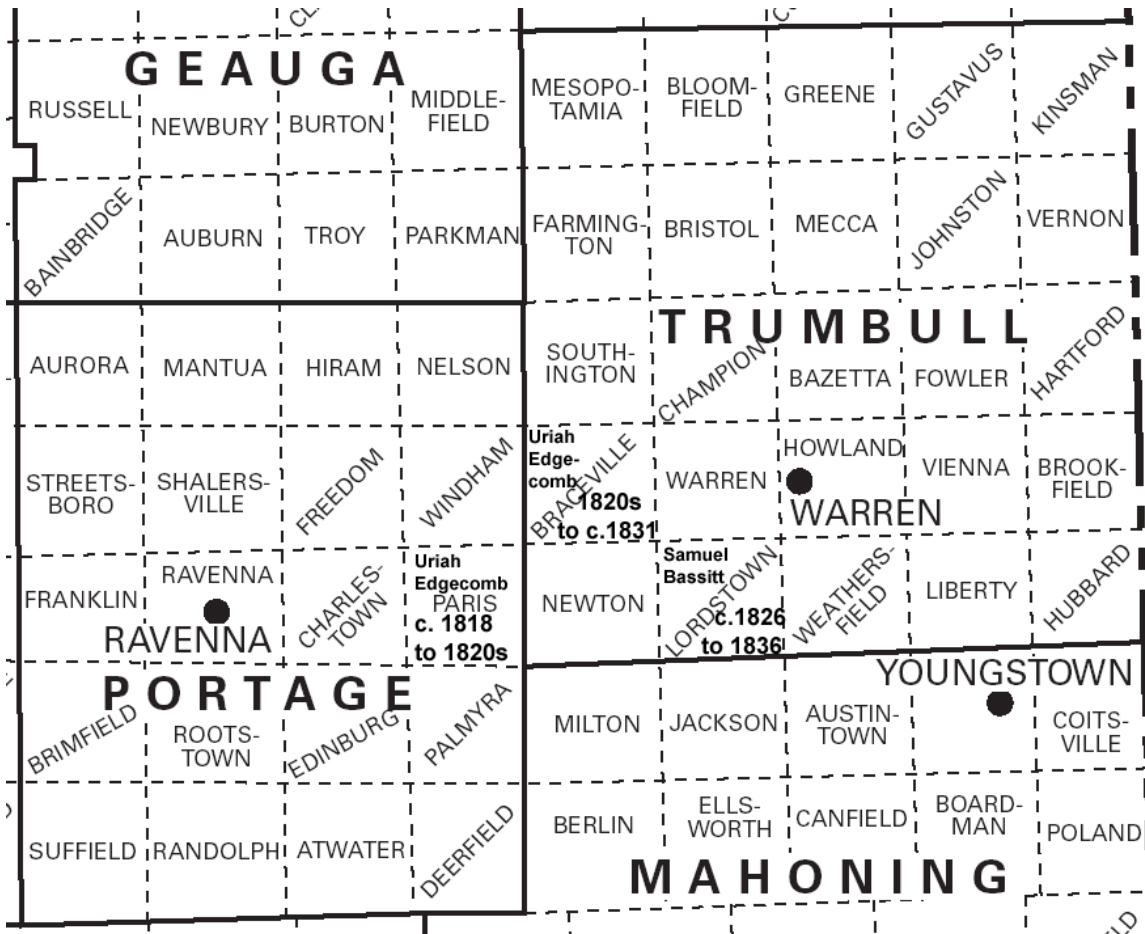
- A. **Uriah.** b. in Conn. before 1810. According to his brother Marquis, he lived to adulthood⁹, but little else is known about him.
- B. **Marilla.** b. about 1811. Family records say that she married Josiah DeLong, however the marriage records of Trumbull County, Ohio state that a Marilla Edgcomb married Harvey P. Allen on 25 May 1834.
- C. **Ezra.** 25 Oct 1812 - 21 Jun 1868¹⁰
- D. **Lansil.** c. 1815 - before 1880
- E. **Robert.** 1817 - 4 Sep 1898
- F. **Walter.** 6 Aug 1819¹¹ - 16 Jun 1893¹²
- G. **Clarinda.** 11 Dec 1822 in Ohio - 19 Dec 1866¹³
- H. **Lydia.** c. 1824 in Ohio - bef. 1880, m. Warren Roberts on 15 Nov 1840 in Allen Co.
- I. **Marquis K.** 11 Dec 1826¹⁴ - 20 May 1901¹⁵
- J. **Amy.** 13 Sep 1827 in OH - 11 Dec 1850 in Allen Co., OH, m. J. P. Cowan¹⁶.
- K. **Mary Ann** (also known as **Anna**). 14 Jan 1830 in OH - 13 Apr 1893, m. 24 Dec 1850 in Allen Co., OH, Elisha C. Pangle.
- L. **Sarah.** 20 Sep 1831 in Ohio, probably Trumbull County - 28 Jan 1891¹⁷ in Bath Twp., Allen County, m. Lewis Bassett (10 Nov 1825 - 25 Mar 1902) on 1847 Dec 23 in Allen County.
- M. an infant, died unnamed.



Map of the Connecticut Western Reserve and Fire Lands - 1826 (Cleveland Public Library)

Movement to the Western Reserve in Ohio

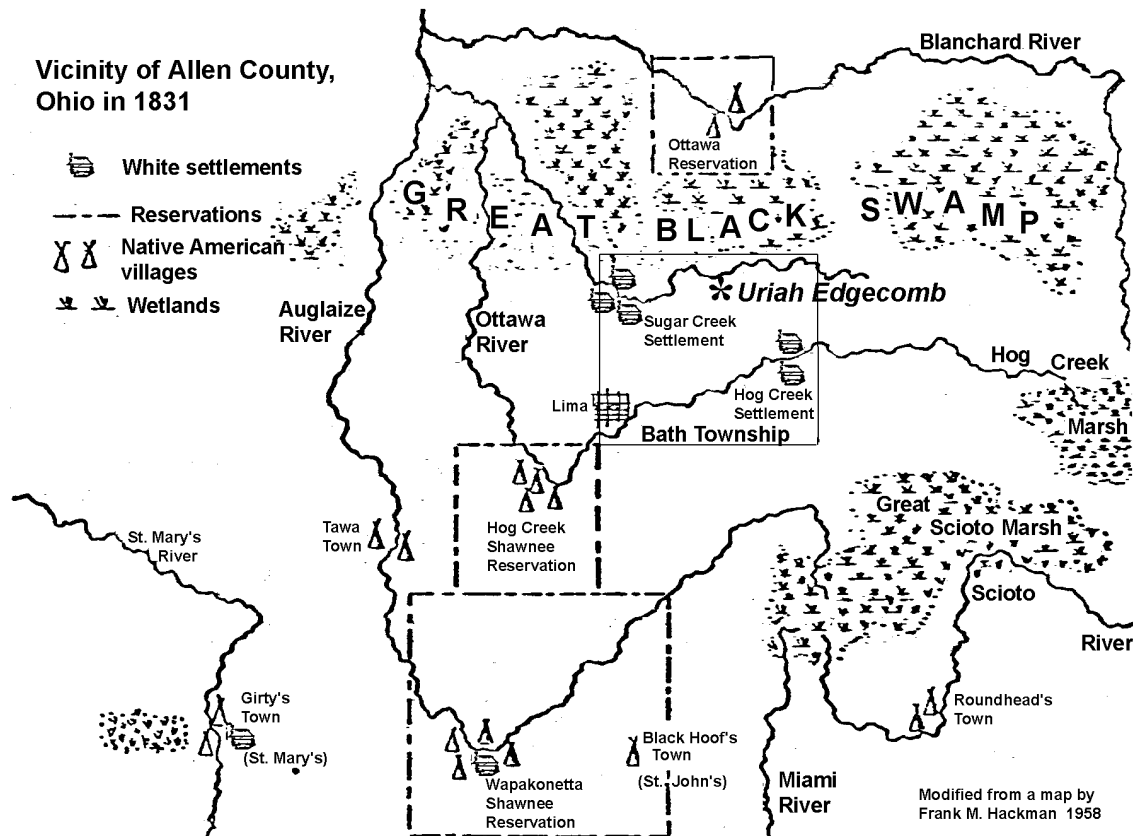
Following the end of the War of 1812, many settlers from Connecticut were hit by "Ohio Fever" and moved to the northeast corner of Ohio. This area, called the Connecticut Western Reserve, was an artifact of the early colonial period when most of the original colonies claimed land from their eastern borders west to the Pacific Ocean, even though they had no idea what lay beyond the Appalachian mountains. This caused some problems after the formation of the United States, since some states (such as Connecticut and Pennsylvania) claimed the same areas. When Connecticut ceded her claims to land in Pennsylvania, she specifically reserved a strip of land in the Northwest Territories (now Ohio), the "Western Reserve". This land was not unoccupied - it was the home to many Native Americans and it was not until after these people had been coerced into moving further west in 1805 that settlers began to migrate there in large numbers.¹⁸ In 1820, we find Uriah and Betsey living in Paris Township of Portage County, Ohio with their six children.¹⁹



Townships in northeastern Ohio, showing locations where Edgecombs and Bassitts lived in the early 1800's.

There appears to have been an extensive migration of families from Chenango and Cortland Counties in New York to southwest corner of Trumbull County (which borders Paris Township) soon after this time. Alva Doud, Betsey's brother, came about the same time as she and Uriah did. They were followed by her parents and three sisters, several of her aunts and uncles, and Uriah's brother John (who applied for a pension there in 1831²⁰). Other families which would later be closely associated with the Edgecombs in Allen County, Ohio also moved from New York to Trumbull County at this time, namely the Lewis's, Snyders, Bassetts, Everetts, and perhaps the Olmsteads.

In 1830, Uriah lived in Braceville Township with his family which had now grown to 9 children. By this time, the oldest son, Uriah (III), was either living on his own or had died, since the census does not place him at his parents' home. Ezra may have also been on his own by that time.²¹ It has been suggested that Uriah and Betsy were living with or near Betsey's brother Alva or her parents.²²



The Edgecombs in Allen County, Ohio

We don't know why the urge to move on was so strong - whether the soil in northeast Ohio was too poor or if Uriah just had itchy feet, but by 1832 the family was ready to move on again to Allen County in Northwestern Ohio. We also don't know why they chose to go there in particular, since Uriah and his family seem to have been the first of many Trumbull County folks to go there. In any case, Allen County was a wilderness at the time they moved.

Although much of the rest of Ohio had been settled by whites much earlier, the northwest quarter of the state had been set aside in the Treaty of Greenville of 1795 as a "permanent" reserve for the Indians. It was not until 1817, when the white population of Ohio became overcome with greed for this Indian land, that they pushed the Indians onto three small reservations of twenty-five, ten, and forty square miles respectively in the Treaties of Maumee and St. Mary's. Although this act theoretically opened up the area to settlers, the settlement actually proceeded rather slowly. One reason for this was that much of the area around Allen County consisted of two great wetlands: the Great Black Swamp and the Hog Creek and Scioto Marshes. The soggy soil made farming impossible in many places and malaria (known at that time as "ague" and which was thought at the time to be caused by the vapors of the marsh) made life difficult there. The first white settlers in Allen County came in 1824 and started the Sugar Creek settlement in Bath Township on higher ground between the two swamps. To give an idea of how dense the wilderness was at that time, a second family lived at the Hog Creek settlement within a

few miles of the Sugar Creek settlement for a year before the two parties became aware of each other's existence!

Uriah's oldest daughter, Marilla may not have gone with the family when they moved in 1832, since she was married in Trumbull County in 1834. However, Lansil, who did move with the family apparently returned briefly in 1837 to Trumbull County for his marriage, so she may have done the same. The family's trip to Allen County must have been difficult, since roads were non-existent and the family was large, ranging from Ezra who was twenty, to the infant girls. Walter Edgecomb, who was about thirteen at the time, describes the family's journey from Trumbull County thus: "He states they were twenty-one days making the trip, bringing their stock with them. When they arrived Indians were still in the neighborhood, and he remembers seeing them frequently passing through the woods in single file."²³

On 12 Jul 1832, Uriah bought eighty acres of land located near the banks of the Sugar Creek in Bath Township²⁴. This land was an original grant from the State of Ohio and was a part of several tracts of land given by the federal government to the State of Ohio. The proceeds from the sale of the land were intended to be used to finance the building of the Miami-Erie Canal, which passed through the western part of Allen County and was a major factor in the development of the area after it opened in 1844. On those 80 acres the family made their home. An Indian cemetery was located in the northwest corner of their farm and this may explain why they frequently saw the Shawnee Indians passing by on their way from the nearby Hog Creek reservation (now Shawnee Township).

But the Indians were not to remain for long. Despite promises that the reservations were theirs forever, they were persuaded to sell them and relocate to Kansas. In the fall of 1832, "many surrendered themselves to despair, and plunged into a course of dissipation; others, with more regard to the legends of the tribe, collected their trophies, articles of the chase, domestic utensils, and even leveled the mounds of the burial grounds of the tribe. This accomplished, the sub-agents, Robb and Workman, gave the order to proceed on that long Western journey, and 700 members of the Shawnee family, with half that number of Senecas, moved toward the west...".²⁵ Their wooded hunting grounds and sacred burial grounds were transformed into corn fields and their memory would only be evoked when some later resident plowed up one of their relics years later.

In about 1834, Betsey's sister Chloe and her husband, George Olmstead followed the Edgecombs from Trumbull County to Allen County.²⁶ This was the beginning of a tide of Trumbull County folks who were among the first white settlers of the northwest corner of Bath Township. Included in this group was Uriah's nephew, Phineas Spencer Edgecomb (b. 5 Sep 1795, son of Uriah's brother, John) who lived out the rest of his life there. Uriah's older sons, Ezra and Lansil, bought land near his farm in 1833, and Robert did the same in 1835. The children of Uriah and Betsey began families of their own. For supplies and news, the families traveled to the log cabin village of Lima (now a city of 40 000), founded only a few years earlier in 1831. On 4 Apr 1835, Uriah and Elizabeth Edgecomb took out a mortgage on their farm for \$250 with the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Co.²⁷ In the record of this transaction, Elizabeth signed with "her X mark", indicating that she was illiterate.

Tragedy struck the Edgecomb family when Betsey died on 11 Jan 1838. She was laid to rest in a small cemetery on a hilltop just north of their farm on what is now Wolfe

Road. Other family members were later buried there, including Uriah, Ezra, Amy, and Phineas. The weathered tombstones of these and other Trumbull County emigrants can still be seen there today. Another cemetery in the nearby village of Beaverdam contains the graves of Walter, Marquis, and Sarah, as well as Betsey Edgecomb's sister Chloe (Olmstead) Mowen.

Several of Uriah's children married children from the other Trumbull County families that followed the Edgecombs to Allen County. One such family was Samuel and Elsie (Lewis) Bassett, who came to Bath Township in 1836. Walter married Laura, the oldest Bassett girl, and Sarah married Lewis Bassett. In addition to Walter and Sarah, Ezra, Clarinda, Marquis, and Amy lived out most of their lives around an area called "Lordstown" (after a township in Trumbull County) in the northwest corner of Bath Township and around the nearby village of Beaverdam. The Edgecomb family maintained connections with their relatives in Trumbull County and were visited by Doud cousins from there.²⁸

In 1845, Uriah bought the southeast quarter of section 11 (shown as the Hiram Prottzman farm on the 1880 map)²⁹. He lived there with his youngest son Marquis³⁰ until 1857, when they moved just west of Beaverdam³¹. Both Uriah and Marquis bought land there in the late 1850's. In the 1860 census, Uriah was listed living by himself in Richland Twp. in a separate household from Marquis.³² Uriah died on 22 Jul 1861³³, at Marquis' home.

¹ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery

² In 1808 Betsy would have been 16, so it is unlikely that she would have married before then. Based on the birth dates of their children, their first child could not have been born after 1810. Census records also indicate that he was born in 1810 or earlier.

³ United States Census, 1810, Connecticut, Hartford Co. p. 691.

⁴ Land Records of New Hartford, Connecticut, Vol. 9, p. 195 (18 Mar 1811)

⁵ Land records of Norwich, New York, Book O, p. 341 (20 Jul 1811)

⁶ Correspondence with Inez Eagleton, Morrison, Illinois, 1981

⁷ Albert E. VanDusen, *Connecticut*. New York: Random House, 1961, p.191

⁸ Letter from Inez Eagleton to Kathryn Snyder Geiser, 12 Jan 1979.

⁹ *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885, p. 761

¹⁰ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Ezra Edgecomb Died June 21, 1868 aged 55 Y 7 M 27 d".

¹¹ This birth date agrees with that given by his son in "History of the Edgecomb Family back as far as the 7th generation" by Lansil Edgecomb (b. 1869), Pennville, IN 16 Sep 1938.

¹² Tombstone inscription, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH "WALTER EDGECOMB Died June 16, 1893 Aged 73 Y. 10 M. 10 D." It is possible that the final digit in the days might be a 6 but the lack of an obvious ornament such as the one seen at the top of the "6" of the "16" indicates that it is a zero.

¹³ Tombstone inscription, Old Shawnee Cemetery, Zurmehly and Shawnee Rds., Shawnee Twp., Allen Co., OH. "CLARINDA WIFE OF P. SNYDER DIED DEC. 19, 1866 AGED 44 Y 8 D"

¹⁴ Birth date given in *History of Allen*, p.761.

¹⁵ Tombstone inscription, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH "Marquis Edgecomb Died May 20, 1901 aged 74 y 5 m 9 d". This gives the same birth date as *History of Allen*.

¹⁶ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Amy wife of J. P. Cowan died Dec 11, 1850 aged 23 y 2 m 28 d".

¹⁷ Tombstone inscription, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH "Sarah wife of Lewis Bassitt died Jan 28, 1891 aged 59 y 4 m 8 d". Dates agree with those from family Bible of Philo Bassett & papers, entries from 1875-1917, in possession of James H. Bassett.

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- ¹⁸ *Connecticut*, p. 199
- ¹⁹ United States Census, 1820, Ohio, Portage County, Paris Township, p. 48
- ²⁰ *Soldiers of the Revolution*, p. 130
- ²¹ United States Census, 1830, Ohio, Trumbull County, Braceville Township, p.176
- ²² Letter from Inez L. Eagleton, to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981
- ²³ R.H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*. Philadelphia: R.H. Harrison, 1880, p. 27
- ²⁴ Land records of Allen County, Ohio, Vol. A, p. 446
- ²⁵ *History of Allen County* (1885), p. 206
- ²⁶ Diary of Davis R. Doud, Gardner, Illinois, 1902. It may also have been that they came at the same time as Uriah and Betsey as suggested in Diary of Davis R. Doud, 31 Dec 1902, quoted in a letter from Inez L. Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf), 9 Sep 1981.
- ²⁷ Mortgages of Allen Co., OH, Book B, p. 42.
- ²⁸ Letter Eagleton Sep 1981 reports that Davis R. Doud, son of Alvah Doud and nephew of Betsey Edgecomb noted in his journal that he visited his first cousing Robert Edgecomb. Frank P. Edgecomb also mentioned in his reminiscences, 1944 Oct 29, recorded at Allen Co, OH Museum that "When I was a small boy a man named Doud came from Trumbull County and visited four or five days. He asked my father if he recalled som one back in Connecticut. He was related to some of the Edgecomb family."
- ²⁹ Deed: William and Rosetta Richardson to Uriah Edgecomb, Allen Co., OH Recorders office, Book L, p. 334. 6 Jan 1845.
- ³⁰ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Allen County, Bath Township, p. 493.
- ³¹ *History of Allen County* (1885), p. 579.
- ³² United States Census, 1860, Ohio, Allen County, Richland Township, p. 423, household 540.
- ³³ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio. "U Edgecomb Died July 22, 1861 aged 80 yrs 3 mo".

2.A. Phineas S. Edgecomb, Mary Ann (Brooks) Edgecomb, and Tabitha J. (Shafer) Edgecomb

Phineas Edgecomb was a son of John Edgecomb (brother to Uriah b.1781) and Elizabeth Olmstead (c. 1775 - 17 Nov 1801¹, daughter of Roger and Eunice Olmstead). He was born on 5 Sep 1795 in Connecticut². His mother died at the age of 26, when he was six years old. He was first married in Trumbull County to Mary Ann (or Maria) Brooks on 20 Sep 1832. There was at least one son born to this marriage: **John V.** (9 Mar 1836 - 1897). It may be that Maria died from complications related to childbirth since her death in Trumbull County was only eight days after the birth of John V.³ In 1842, Phineas bought land in the northeast corner of section 14 of Bath Township, Allen Co., OH (across the road from Samuel and Elsie Bassitt) from John and Fanny (Doud) Lewis, brother-in-law and sister of Betsy (Doud) Edgecomb who was the wife of Phineas' uncle Uriah. In the deed, both parties are listed as "of Warren, Trumbull Co., Ohio". Sometime between 1842 and 1846, Phineas moved to his land in Allen County.

Phineas' second marriage was to Tabitha J. Shafer (15 Jan 1826 - 30 Aug 1894) on 1 Mar 1846, and they had eleven children (all born in Allen County, Ohio)⁴:

Mariah Edna (Rise) 28 Nov 1846 - 12 Jan 1929, m. Sep 1865 Thomas C. Rise.

Nancy S. (Boop) b. 28 Mar 1848, m. Sep 1866 Martin Boop.

Benton. 7 May 1850 - 6 Mar 1855.

Franklin Pierce. 17 Feb 1852 - 1949, m. 31 Oct 1880 Agnes J. Fensler 24 Sep 1859 - 16 Dec 1924.

Elizabeth M. (Patterson) (Clark) 26 May 1854 - 10 Oct 1926. m.(1) Moses W. Patterson and (2) UNKNOWN Clark.

Edward. 12 Apr 1856 - 10 Jun 1858

Margaret C. 17 Jul 1858 - 23 Sep 1859.

Ida Ann (Hahn) b. 3 Jun 1862, m. 13 Sep 1893 Henry W. Hahn.

Edith Jane (Boop) b. 12 Jun 1864, m. 22 Oct 1883 Samuel A. Boop.

George S. 3 Oct 1869 - Apr 1906, m. 30 Jan 1898 Lulu V. Gray.

Jesse G. b. 17 Aug 1872 (when Phineas was 76 years old!), d. 11 Nov 1921, m.(1) 13 Jun 1899 Sarah R. Gray but she died on 9 Oct of the same year. m.(2) 11 Dec 1901 Margaret E. Hahn.

Frank P. Edgecomb recalled in an interesting interview (recorded in 1944 when he was 92 years old) that "when we were boys, Philo Bassett [son of Sarah Edgecomb Bassett] and I had never made rails but we wanted to try. [Split rails were used by pioneers for fences.] We made 4000 for my father [Phineas], 5000 for Lew Bassett (Philo's father) and 17 000 for Almon Hadsell. By that time we felt as if we knew how to make rails!"⁵ This story gives just one indication of the amount of hard manual labor that was involved in farming at that time, as well as the large number of trees that were being cut as the virgin forest was destroyed. In addition to farming, Phineas Edgecomb was also a carpenter. He died on 14 Mar 1881.⁶

¹ Barbour Collection, Connecticut Vital Records, New Hartford:14

² Frank P Edgecomb's Reminiscences, 1944 Oct 29, recorded at Allen Co, OH Museum. This date agrees with that calculated from his tombstone.

³ Communication from Maurice A. Click, Olympia, Washington, 1991 July 9

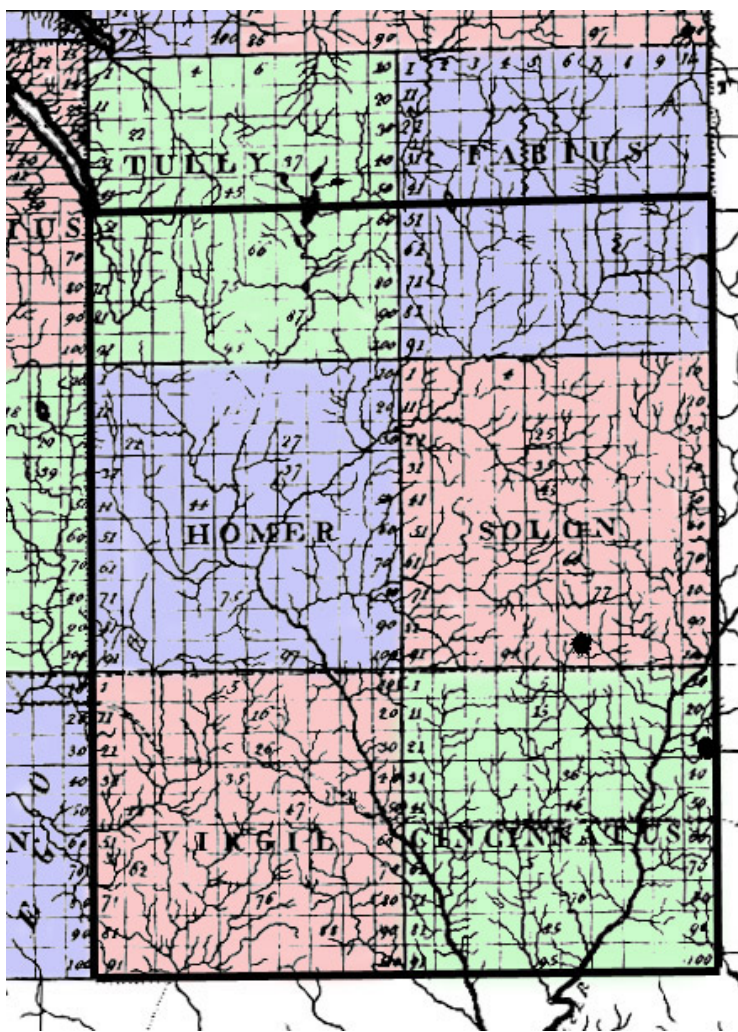
⁴ Family Bible of Phineas Edgecomb, found among family Bible records at the Allen County Museum, Lima, Ohio

⁵ "Frank P. Edgecomb's Reminiscences", from Allen County Museum files

⁶ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Phineas S Edgecomb died Mar 14, 1881 aged 85 y 6 m 9 d".

3. Samuel (b. 1795) and Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt

On 3 Sep 1812 "Samuel Basset of the Town of Butternuts in the County of Otsego", New York bought 100 acres in the southeast corner of lot 30 in Cincinnatus Township of Cortland County for \$250¹. (This land lies east of Baldwin Corners Road 165 in the southeast corner of present day Cincinnatus Township, Cortland Co.) It is not certain that this was our ancestor. Given that he was born in 1795 he would have been only about seventeen years old at the time, which would have been rather young for him to have accumulated such a large sum of money. However, several pieces of circumstantial evidence suggest that this Samuel was our ancestor. Otsego County, New York does seem to be the place where our Samuel's family lived, although in 1820 they lived about 30 miles to the north of Butternuts. In addition, according to family tradition, Samuel's son Lewis was said to have been born in Oswego Co., New York, which is unlikely but the similarity between "Oswego" and "Otsego" suggests that there may have been discussion in the family about Otsego County as a place where the family resided.



Plat of part of the Central New York Military Tract drawn by Simeon DeWitt, c. 1792. The present day Cortland County is outlined by the dark line.

Cortland County, New York was a part of the Central New York Military Tract, which was set aside as compensation for veterans of the Revolutionary War. In the original survey, the area was laid out in townships ten miles square that were named for famous figures from Greek or Roman culture. These townships were subdivided into lots that were one mile square and numbered from one to one hundred from west to east in rows starting at the north side and going south. The original townships were later divided among counties and in many cases the townships themselves were further subdivided into other townships. We can definitely place Samuel in Solon, Cortland Co., New York on 1 Jan 1820 when he paid \$260 for 50 acres in the northeast corner of lot 96 there and was described as "Samuel Bassett of Solon"². (This land lies just south of Hill Road in the southwest corner of present day Taylor Township, Cortland Co.) This location is only about six miles from the land bought by Samuel Basset in Cincinnatus, which lends further support to the idea that these two Samuels were the same person.

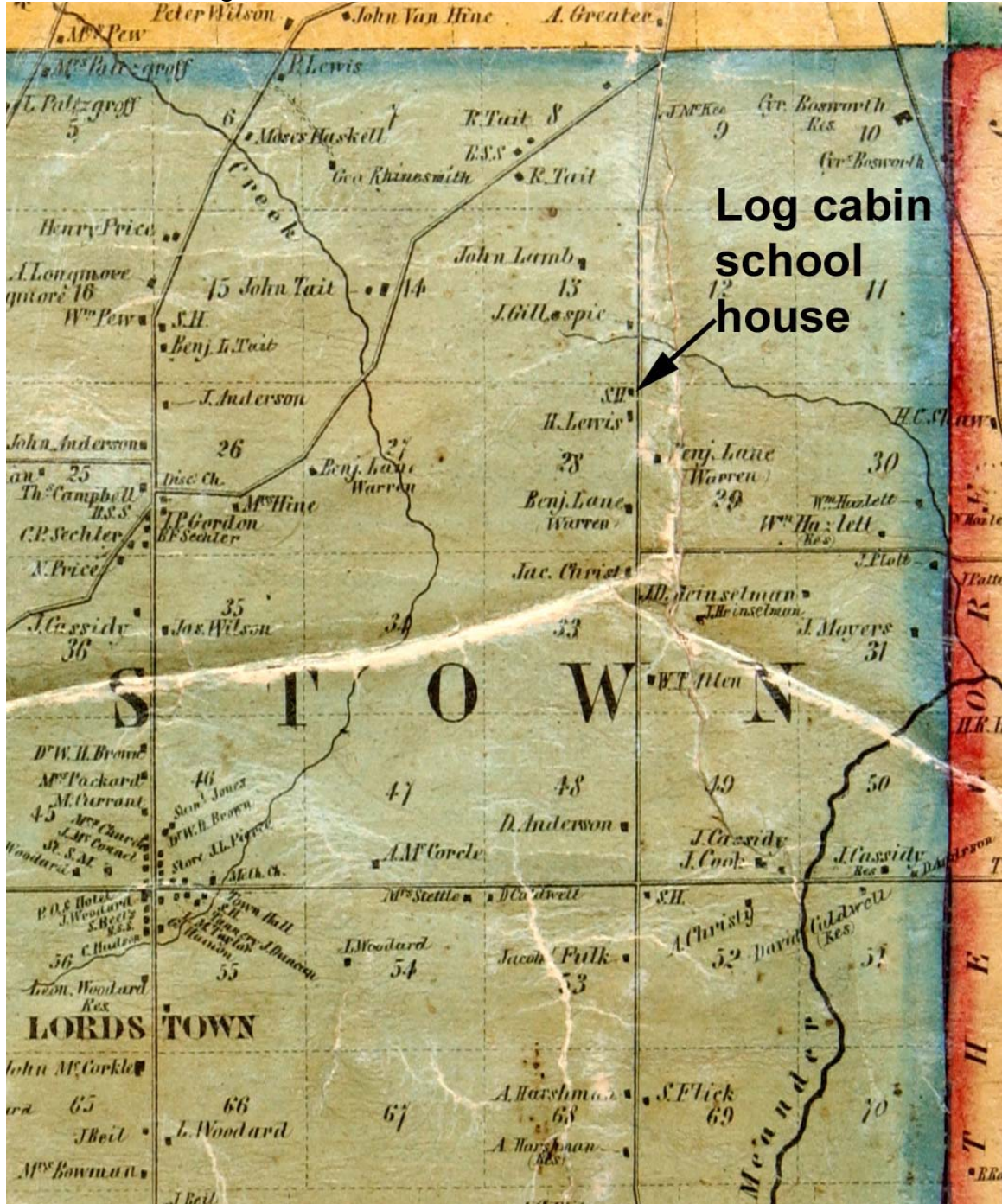
Samuel Bassitt and Elsa Lewis (b. 23 Oct 1795³) were married in about 1820. Given the uncertainty in the date of their marriage, the precise location cannot be known, although it is likely to have been Cortland County. There is no Samuel Bassett listed in the 1820 New York census, but a Peleg, Jonathan, and Abraham Lewis are listed as living in Solon.⁴ Elsa was probably the daughter of Peleg Lewis and the 1820 census lists two females aged between 16 and 26 in his household. One of them could have been Elsa, who would have been about 25 at that time. The names Peleg and Jonathan Lewis appear alongside that of Samuel Bassitt each time that Samuel moved in Ohio, so it is likely that either they were his neighbors in Solon, or that he bought land there to live near his in-laws.

Samuel and Elsie's first two children were born during the time when they lived in Solon⁵: **Laura** on 16 Jun 1824⁶ and **Lewis** on 10 Nov 1825⁷. Their choice of the name Lewis is significant in several ways. Obviously it was Elsie's maiden name, but it may also have been the name of one of Samuel's uncles⁸. The name Lewis with that particular spelling has been given as a first or middle name to at least six of his descendants⁹.

In about 1826, Samuel and Elsie and their family moved to Lordstown Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, where they were reported to have lived north of the center of the township¹⁰. On 3 May 1827 "Samuel Bassit" and "Elsa Bassit" sold the 50 acres in lot 96 of Solon¹¹. Family tradition says that they also had a daughter **Mary** who may have been born about 1828. Her name does not appear in any official records, but the 1830 census record shows a female under the age of 5 living with the family¹² and a female aged 10 to 15 was also listed in the 1840 census. Mary was said to have died at age 17. In Lordstown, their youngest daughter, **Lavisa** was born on 21 Jun 1832¹³.

When the Bassitts moved to Lordstown, it was still largely unsettled by Europeans. The first white settler moved there in 1822 and by 1826 only about 14 families were reported to be living there¹⁴. The farmland there was not particularly productive and before artificial drainage, much of the land in the township was described as "boggy waste"¹⁵. It is likely that they did not move there in isolation, but rather along with members of Elsie's family. Among the others listed as living near them in northern Lordstown Township in 1826 were Peleg Lewis, John Lewis, and Peter Snyder¹⁶. As mentioned previously, we do not know Elsie's family relationships for sure, but Peleg and John Lewis were probably Elsie's brothers and Peter Snyder may have been an in-law. In

1830 David Lewis, who was believed to be Elsie's brother is also mentioned along with John Lewis as living in Lordstown¹⁷.



Map of northeast portion of Lordstown Township in 1856 (Newton Falls Public Library)

In the 1820's northeastern Ohio was swept by a great religious revival known as "The Restoration Movement". Walter Scott, an evangelist and associate of Alexander Campbell, preached in the area in January 1828 and his fervor resulted in the formation of a number of congregations. On 20 March 1830, Rev. John Henry oversaw the

formation of the first church in Lordstown at the log cabin school house on the northeast corner of David Lewis' farm on lot 28¹⁸. This church became a part of the denomination that eventually became known as the Disciples of Christ. David Lewis was elected as a deacon and among the original members were Samuel and Elsie as well as several persons who were probably Elsie's relatives: Peleg, Fanny, and Rachel Lewis, and David Lewis and his wife. Also listed were Peter Snyder and his wife, and Betsy Snyder, people also probably associated with the Bassitts and Edgecombs. The Bassitt family remained associated with the Disciples of Christ over the next hundred years.

In the early 1830's a number of residents of the Trumbull Co., Ohio area became interested in moving to Allen County in northwestern Ohio. In many cases, it can be seen that there were family connections among those who made this move. This was true in the case of Samuel and Elsie as well. John Lewis, who was probably Elsie's brother was living near the Bassitts in Lordstown in 1830. His wife, Fannie (Doud) Lewis was the sister of Betsey (Doud) Lewis, wife of Uriah Edgecomb, the first Trumbull Co. immigrant to Allen County. Thus Samuel and Elsie would have had occasion to hear reports from Uriah and Betsey about the prospects in Allen County when they visited with John and Fannie.

In 1834, Samuel purchased the west half of the northwest quarter of section thirteen, township three south, range seven east. This is the eighty acres southeast of the intersection of Bluelick and Thayer Roads in Bath Township. In order to finance the extension of the Miami Canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, the Congress put huge tracts of land in Northwestern Ohio up for sale and this land was part of that effort.

At the time the family moved to this property in 1836 it consisted of Samuel who was forty one, Elsie, thirty nine, and Lorey, Lewis, Mary, and Lavisa, aged twelve, ten, about eight, and four respectively. At that time, Bath Township was a wilderness with only patches of cleared land and a few blazed trails. According to family tradition, they lived in a small log cabin on this property. A major task which probably took years was clearing the dense forest into fields for growing crops.

Although there were relatively few residents in Bath Township at that time, the Bassitt family did not live in isolation. In 1835-36, properties just to the west of their farm were purchased by John and Jonathan Lewis, who are believed to be Elsie's brothers and at least Jonathan was living there by 1838. A number of the other farmers who lived in northwestern Bath Township were from Trumbull County and the community in that area was known informally as "Lordstown", presumably named after their previous home in northeastern Ohio. The connection with the Disciples church was also maintained in their new home. The Disciples were said to have erected the first church in Bath Township in about 1840¹⁹.

On 13 Nov 1840, at age 16 Laura married Walter Edgecomb, a son of Uriah and Betsey Edgecomb who lived nearby. This was the beginning of a close relationship between the Bassitt and Edgecomb families that would continue for years.

The early 1840's were a period of financial difficulty for Samuel. In May of 1841, he mortgaged his farm to Thomas Kennedy for \$60. We don't know the events of the next year but the records show that Thomas Kennedy foreclosed on the mortgage and on 18 Oct. 1842 he "received debt and costs by purchase of land."²⁰ Presumably the Bassitts continued to live on the farm despite the loss of ownership. Another blow occurred around 1845 with the death of Mary.

In the sparsely settled country there were probably few opportunities for subsistence farmers like the Bassitts to earn cash. According to family tradition, Lewis walked to and from the western edge of Allen County to work on construction of the Miami-Erie Canal. The canal was a major engineering feat considering the undeveloped state of the region and it opened officially in 1845. After the completion of the canal, there may have been opportunities to sell crops to more populated parts of the country.

In 1847, Samuel bought three acres on the southeast corner of section 11 (on the opposite side of the crossroads from the original farm) for \$1500. On 13 April 1849, he was able to buy back the original eighty acre farm from the heirs of Thomas Kennedy, James and Martha Cunningham, for \$500.²¹

On 23 Dec. 1847, at the age of 21, Lewis married Sarah Edgecomb who had just turned 16, and was another child of Uriah²². On 7 April 1848, Lewis bought the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section twelve in Bath Township from the State of Ohio for \$107.20²³. This 40 acre plot was just north of the family homestead on the other side of Bluelick Road and was part of the land that was granted to the State of Ohio to help finance the Miami-Erie Canal.

On 27 June 1850, one week after her eighteenth birthday, Lavisa married Thomas Robinson Ward. According to family tradition, they moved to Wisconsin. However, by the 1860s their family was living in Troy Mills, Linn Co., Iowa.

During the 1850s and 1860s, Lewis and Samuel bought more tracts of land in section 12 to the north of the original farms.

In about 1856, Samuel's brother, William and his wife Susannah moved from New York to Vaughnsville, Sugar Creek Township, Putnam Co., OH²⁴. This is located about ten miles from the Bassitt homestead in Bath Township, so the brothers would have had opportunities to visit occasionally before William moved to Michigan in the 1860's²⁵.

At the time of the 1860 census, three generations were living on the farm: Samuel, aged 64, Elsie, 63, Lewis, 35, Sarah, 29, and four children ranging from age 11 to 2.²⁶

Like most other residents of Allen County at the time, the Bassitts were ardent Republicans and Lincoln supporters. After the Civil War broke out, they had a personal stake in the conflict. One of Samuel and Elsie's grandsons through their daughter Laura, Lewis Alfred Edgecomb was killed in July of 1864. So there was undoubtedly great trepidation when Lewis' oldest son Samuel, Jr. enlisted in the 27th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1864 at the age of 15. We know that Samuel and Elsie followed the conflict carefully through the letters that Sam sent them. By the end of the war in 1865, Samuel Sr. was on his deathbed. When Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, his family never told Samuel. He was such a "red hot" Republican that they were afraid that it would disturb him too much.²⁷ The precaution did not help because he died on April 16 and was buried in the Sproat Cemetery on Wolfe Road²⁸.



Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt

Elsie continued to live with Lewis and his family until her death on 9 Feb 1876²⁹. Originally the family had planned to bury her next to Samuel. However, due to bad weather, the stream to the south of the Wolfe Rd. cemetery was flooded and it was necessary to bury her in the Old Beaverdam Cemetery³⁰.

¹ Deed from Joseph Hall Dent to Samuel Basset, 3 Sep 1812, Lot 30 Cincinnatus Township, Cortland County, NY, recorded by Jesse Clarke Junr. 23 Nov 1812.

² Land purchase by Samuel Bassett, 1 Jan 1820, Solon, Cortland Co, NY, Deeds Book N, p. 3.

³ Tombstone of Elsa Bassitt, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Elsa, wife of Samuel Bassitt, Died Feb 9, 1876 aged 80 ys 3 Ms 17 D"

⁴ U.S. Census of 1820 for Solon, Cortland Co., NY, p. 584.

⁵ In "History of the Edgecomb Family back as far as the 7th generation" by Lansil Edgecomb (b. 1869), Pennville, IN 16 Sep 1938, he gives Otsego Co., NY as the birthplace of his mother, Laura.

⁶ Tombstone, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. "LAURA WIFE OF WALTER EDGECOMB Died Feb. 28, 1904, Aged 79 y. 8 m. 12 d. In "History of the Edgecomb Family", Lansil Edgecomb gives her birth date as 17 Jun 1824. The discrepancy could be due to a calculation mistake.

⁷ Family Bible of Philo Bassett & papers, entries from 1875-1917. In possession of James H. Bassett. Date agrees with Tombstone in old Beaverdam Cemetery, "Lewis Bassett died Mar 25, 1902 aged 76 Y 4 m 15 d".

⁸ Letter from Frank Grant Lewis to Charlotte Bassett, 26 Apr 1919.

⁹ Lewis Ezra Bassett b. 27 Jan 1871, Lewis Napoleon Bassett b. 20 Aug 1874, Lewis Harrison Bassett b. 8 Oct 1888, Lewis Everett Bassett b. 3 May 1923, Dennis Lewis Bassett b. 26 Jan 1948, Christopher Lewis Bassett b. 9 Dec 1978.

¹⁰ *History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties*, Vol. 2, Cleveland, H.Z. Williams & Bro. 1882, p. 537.

¹¹ Land sale: Samuel & Elsa Bassit, 3 May 1827, Solon, Courtland Co, NY.

¹² U.S. Census of 1830 for Lordstown Twp., Trumbull Co., OH.

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- ¹³ Tombstone of Lavisa Ward, Lower Spring Grove Cemetery east of Troy Mills, Iowa. Died Feb 10, 1862, aged 29 years, 6 months, 20 days.
- ¹⁴ *Hist. Trumbull & Mahoning*, p. 536-7.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.* p. 536.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 537.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.* p. 537.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.* p. 542.
- ¹⁹ "Personal Reminiscences of Matthew Allison" in R.H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*, 1880 (Philadelphia), p. 27.
- ²⁰ Allen County (Ohio) Equity Journal B, p. 64. Allen County Ex. Doc. A, p. 64. Allen County Judg. Vol. D., p. 62.
- ²¹ Allen, Co., Ohio, Deeds, Vol. 7, p. 315
- ²² Allen Co., Ohio, Marriage Records No. 2, p. 192.
- ²³ Allen Co., Ohio Deeds, Vol. 7, p. 314.
- ²⁴ U.S. Census of 1860 for Sugar Creek Twp., Putnam Co., OH, p. 42.
- ²⁵ Letter Frank G. Lewis, 26 Apr 1919.
- ²⁶ U.S. Census of 1860 for Bath Township, Allen Co., OH, p. 813.
- ²⁷ Interview of James H. Bassett by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 27 March 1977.
- ²⁸ Tombstone of Samuel Bassitt, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "SAMUEL BASSITT DIED April 16, 1865 AGED 70 Y. 9 d"
- ²⁹ Tombstone of Elsa Bassitt.
- ³⁰ James Bassett interview.

Descendants of Lavisia (Bassett) and Thomas Robinson Ward

W. **Lavisia Bassett Ward**,^{1,2} b. 21 Jun 1832. She married 27 Jun 1850 in Allen Co., OH, Thomas Robinson Ward,^{2,1,3} b. 13 May 1827 in Champaign Co., OH (son of Joseph Ward and Catherine Harner Ward). His family lived near Hog Creek (i.e. the Ottawa River) in Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH in the second European settlement in Allen County. d. 23 Dec 1907 in Upper Selah, WA, buried: in Tahoma, Yakima Co., WA.

Lavisia died in childbirth on 10 Feb 1862 near Troy Mills, Linn Co., Iowa aged 29 years, 6 months, 20 days, and was buried at Lower Spring Grove Cemetery, east of Troy Mills, IA. Thomas was a member of the I.O.O.F. Unadilla Lodge #299, Troy Mills, IA and was a miller and Methodist. His second wife was the widow of his brother, George. Thomas lived with daughter "Mrs. M. Husshouser" when he died.

¹ Mrs. F. E. Mattison, *BES family update 102* (1978).

² Internet source, *Descendants of Lavisia Bassett* (c. 2003).

³ Anonymous, *Obituary of Thomas R. Ward* (1907).

4. Uriah (b. 1740) and Amy (Read) Edgecomb

The families of both Uriah Edgecomb (b. 1740/1) and Amy (or Ami) Read lived in the area of West Simsbury (now called Canton) Connecticut. They were married sometime before 3 Jun 1775 when "Ame" was listed as the wife of Uriah Edgecomb in the distribution of her mother's estate.

Uriah was listed as one of the first settlers of Canton (formerly West Simsbury) Connecticut, with sons John and Uriah¹. Grantor land records in the Simsbury, CT Town Hall mention them there on 26 Oct 1794 and 26 Feb 1798².

Uriah and Amy had a family of six children³:

John b. after 1760, married Elizabeth Olmstead⁴,

Nancy (Russell) married Josiah Russell

Clary (Daily) married Erastus Daily

Anna (Spencer)

Amma (William)

Uriah 22 Apr 1781 - 22 Jul 1861⁵, married Elizabeth Doud.

John must have been considerably older than Uriah Jr., since he applied for a pension for service in the Revolutionary War which was over before Uriah Jr. was born⁶.

Uriah Sr. was listed in the 1800 census for Simsbury, CT. When Uriah Sr. died in about 1810, he left one third of his real estate to Amy, his wife, and gave \$17 to each of his children except Uriah. To Uriah he left all the rest of his personal property and real estate. Why he chose to leave most of his property to his youngest son is unknown.

¹ Abiel Brown, *Genealogical History with Short Sketches and Family Records of the Early Settlers of West Simsbury, now Canton, Conn.* Hartford: Press of Case, Tiffany and Co., 1856, p. 62

² Book 20, p. 32. Mentioned in notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

³ Will of Uriah Edgecomb, Sr., 30 Apr 1807, probated 30 Jan 1810. Canton, Hartford Co., Connecticut: 1810, #918

⁴ Barbour Collection Connecticut Vital Records, New Hartford:14. Elizabeth Edgecomb "w. John and d. Roger Olmstead, decd. & Eunice".

⁵ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio. "U Edgecomb Died July 22, 1861 aged 80 yrs 3 mo".

⁶ *Soldiers of the Revolution in Ohio*, Vol. 2, p. 130

5. Jesse and Lydia (Shipman) Doud

Jesse Doud and Lydia Shipman were probably married in Connecticut shortly before 1790. They are listed in the 1790 and 1800 census records as living in Bristol, CT and in Burlington, CT in 1810. They and members of their family followed their son Alvah and daughter Betsey and her husband Uriah Edgecomb as they moved westward. Uriah and Alva were listed as living in Preston, Chenango Co., New York in the 1810 census and Uriah and Alvah Doud sold land together there in 1815.¹ In 1830 Jesse lived in Newton Twp., Trumbull Co., Ohio.

The proof of the connections among members of this family comes from the diary of Davis R. Doud. Here are some excerpts:²

"Dec. 31, 1902. I was born in Braceville, Trumbull Co., Ohio in 1926 [sic, should be 1826], June 29. My earliest recollections of my life is of my mother's visit to my Grandfather Jesse Doud with me some two or three miles through a dense forest most of the way south of our home in Newton Township. My Mother was accompanied by one of my Father's sisters - Aunt Lydia Brown, I think.

"A few years later I went to visit my Uncle George Olmstead who lived some four miles from our home near the Mahoning River where he owned a sawmill by which he lost one of his legs.

"At the age of some 5 or 6 I went to stay with my sister Hannah Miller (my oldest sister) who then lived some six miles away in Warren, the County Seat of Trumbull County.

"About the time that I was 6 years old, my uncle George Olmstead and my uncle Uriah Edgecomb by marriage to my Father's sisters moved to Allen County, Ohio, some 200 miles Westward through dense roads the most of the way.

"On our way to and from that sale, my Father and I visited one of my aunts by the name of Rust³."

"Jan 1, 1903. This is a fine morning. I remember of seeing my Father's Father at the age of ten and eleven. I often walked over the fields with my Father's mother [Lydia Shipman Doud] who was then quite old. She died a year or so after my Father's [Alva Doud] death. I with one of my sisters and her husband attended her funeral. She died at her daughter's in Lordstown - Aunt Fanny Lewis."

Based in this information, Jesse died in Newton Twp., Trumbull Co., OH in 1839⁴ and Lydia died about c. 1839-40⁵ at the home of her daughter Fanny Lewis in Lordstown, Trumbull Co., OH⁶.

Children of Jesse and Lydia Doud, probably born in Bristol or Burlington, Connecticut⁷:

Alvah 22 Feb 1790 - 27 Feb 1839⁸

Elizabeth "Betsey" (Edgecomb) 1792 - 11 Jan 1838⁹

Lydia (Brown) (Snyder) c.1794 - 1873

Fannie (Lewis) b. c.1800

Chloe (Olmstead) (Mowen)¹⁰ 25 Aug 1802 - 4 Jan 1872¹¹

Alvah was listed in the 1810 census as living in Preston, Chenango Co., NY¹². On 28 Jul 1811 in Preston, NY¹³, Alvah married Martha "Patty" Rogers, born in

Waterford, CT 14 Sep 1788. Alvah's son, Davis Rogers Doud, recalled that as a small boy in eastern Ohio he played with his cousin Mark Edgecomb (Betsy and Uriah's son) before the Edgecombs moved to Allen County, OH¹⁴. The two boys were about the same age and would have been about 5 years old at the time. Alvah died in Braceville, Trumbull Co., OH in 1839¹⁵ and was buried in the old Braceville Cemetery in Trumbull Co., OH. His son, Alvah, Jr. and father Jesse were in attendance at the sale held 21 May 1839 after his death.¹⁶ In 1848, Martha went west to Gardner, Illinois where she died on 3 Jun 1869¹⁷. She is buried in the Wheeler Cemetery near Gardner. Alva and Martha's son Davis was the father of Florence Margaret Carr and grandfather of Inez L. Eagleton who did much research on the Douds.

Lydia married Lewis Brown who died in Newton Twp., Trumbull Co., OH on 1 Apr 1828.¹⁸ Her second marriage was to Stephen Brown who died in Newton Twp. on 18 Sep 1850 and is listed with her on the 1850 census.¹⁹ Lydia's third marriage on 26 Jun 1851 was to a Peter Snyder of Milton Twp., Mahoning Co., OH (adjacent to Newton Twp of Trumbull Co).²⁰ It is not known what relationship, if any, this Peter Snyder is to the Peter Snyder who married Clarinda Edgecomb or to the Peter Snyder associated with the Lewis family in Lordstown, Trumbull Co.

Fannie Doud married John Lewis who was born c.1796 in Vermont. They were probably married in Preston or Oxford, NY²¹. John and Fannie Lewis bought land in section 14 of Bath Township, Allen Co., OH on 15 Sep 1835. This land was across the road from the land bought by Samuel Bassitt in 1834 and next to the land purchased in 1836 by Jonathan Lewis who is believed to have been Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt's brother (and wife of Samuel). It is believed that John Lewis was also the brother of Elsie. Frank P. Edgecomb states that his father, Phineas "took land that was taken up by John Lewis who came with the Edgecombs"²². This insinuates that John and Fanny lived in Allen County at some time, but census records show them living in Lordstown, Trumbull County in 1830 and 1840 and in Warren in 1850. They were in Warren, OH when they sold their land to Phineas in 1842, so if they ever lived in Allen County, it must have been only briefly. John died in 1873 in Warren, OH.

Chloe Doud married George Olmstead (who was born 10 Nov 1797²³) in Warren, Trumbull Co., OH on 22 Aug 1822²⁴. Their children were:²⁵

Lydia Mary (went by **Mary**) (**Allison**) b. 1823, m. Alexander Allison, Jr. on 10 Mar 1842²⁶

Esther (Everett) 11 Jun 1827 - 18 Jul 1852 m. Elias Everett on 19 Nov 1846²⁷

George Orson b. c.1830 m. Rachel Jane Sprott on 17 Mar 1853

Stephen b. c.1832 m. Eleanor C. Young on 14 Nov 1855

Jesse Doud b. 9 Apr 1833 m. Leanna Bemiss on 12 Apr 1857

Olive (Wise) b. 25 Apr 1836 m. T. Jefferson Wise of Ada, OH on 25 Aug 1852

Emeline (Rich) b. 24 Jan 1838 m. (1) Andrew Jackson Rich on 23 Nov 1856 m. (2) A. J. Rich of Glendale, MI

James 1843 - 1864 Died in the Civil War in Knoxville, TN

Chloe and George came to Bath Twp., Allen County, OH in about 1834.²⁸ George died on 19 Aug 1845 and their younger children lived with older siblings. In 1850, Steven and Emeline were living with their sister Esther Everett and Jesse and Olive were living with

their oldest sister, Mary Allison. George O. was shown living on his own next to the Allisons.²⁹ However, George Olmstead, age 20, was also reported as living with Alva Doud, Jr. in Newton Twp., Trumbull Co., OH on the census there.³⁰ Chloe later married a Mowen.

¹ Notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

² The diary was in possession of Inez L. Eagleton in 1981, when she wrote to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) giving the quoted excerpts. It is not known who has possession of the diary at the present (2007). However, excerpts from the diary were used as proof of descentancy by several members of the DAR, so photocopies of parts of the diary may exist in DAR records. On page 1, Davis Doud writes "Dec. 30, 1902. In this book I will write something of my childhood days as well as my trials and experiences and incidents in later years of my long and eventful life."

³ According to Inez Eagleton, "this was Esther Rust, daughter of Ezra Doud, who married Aloney Rust and both of them are buried in the Doud Cemetery which was, and is placed on part of Samuel Doud's original land bought in 1822. I've been there several times. Samuel was son of Ezra and brother of my Jesse, also a son of Ezra Doud."

⁴ DAR application for Florence Doud Carr (No. 530118), Supplemental for Ezra Doud, 5 Apr 1976, mentions Probate Court Record for Alvah Doud, 21 May 1839 which comments that Jesse Doud died shortly after this date.

⁵ Letter from Susan B. Traffarn to Mr. Schnare, date unknown. Special Genealogical File, Connecticut State Library.

⁶ DAR application.

⁷ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

⁸ DAR application.

⁹ These dates are determined from her tombstone in the Sproat Cemetery on Wolfe Rd. in Bath Twp, Allen Co., OH. The inscription is clear and reads "ELIZABETH, Wife of U. EDGECOMB, DIED Jan 11, 1839, AE. 45 Yrs. Unless her birthday occurred in the first 11 days of January, that would place her birth date in 1792.

¹⁰ *Edward Shipman and His Descendants*, p. 31

¹¹ Tombstone of Chloe Mowen, Old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH

¹² Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

¹³ Letter from Inez L. Eagleton to Kathryn Snyder Geiser, 28 Jul 1978.

¹⁴ Letter from Florence M. Carr to Kathryn Snyder Geiser, 14 Mar 1978.

¹⁵ Letter Traffarn. DAR application mentions Probate Court Record (Book 10 Warren, OH Probate Court) for Alvah Doud, 21 May 1839.

¹⁶ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

¹⁷ DAR application, mentions *History of LeSalle and Grundy Counties, IL*, 1900, p. 659.

¹⁸ Notes Eagleton Sep 1981, mention administration papers in Warren, OH Probate Court Book 4.

¹⁹ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

²⁰ Letter Eagleton 28 Jul 1978.

²¹ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

²² Letter from Frank P. Edgcomb to Mrs. John E. Breese, 3 Nov 1944, in Edgcomb notes at Allen County Museum, Lima, OH.

²³ Tombstone of G. Olmstead, Sproat Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Died Aug. 19, 1845, AE 47 Yrs. 9 mo. & 9 d. You too must die."

²⁴ *Edward Shipman*, p. 31

²⁵ Notes Eagleton Sep 1981 notes that *Genealogy of the Olmsted Family in America, 1632-1912* by Henry K. Olmsted M.D. and Rev. George K. Ward includes information on this family.

²⁶ Their infant son died 11 Jun 1843 and infant daughter died 3 Jun 1846. Both were buried in the Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH.

²⁷ Family Bible of Elias Everett, in possession of Steve (Bassett) Baskauf

²⁸ Notes Eagleton Sep 1981.

²⁹ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Allen County, Bath Township, families 199, 200, and 209.

³⁰ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

6. William (b. circa 1765) and Ann (?) Bassett

William Bassett lived in Rhode Island and was said to have married Ann or Anna. He is known to have had the following children¹:

Daniel b. c.1789 in Coventry, Rhode Island and died in Steuben Co., New York.² He married Abigale Livingston.

Samuel 7 Apr 1795 - 16 Apr 1869. He was born in Rhode Island, married Elsie Lewis in Solon, Cortland Co., NY, and died in Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. His family is the only one known to have spelled their last name as "Bassitt".

William 30 Aug 1796 - 1867. He was born in Rhode Island and married Susannah Livingston, daughter of James and Catherine (Coens) Livingston in 1816. He lived in Steuben Co., New York, then in about 1856 moved to Vaughnsville, Putnam Co., Ohio where he was living in 1860. He died in Ovid, Michigan in 1867.³

There may have been other children of William Bassett (b. c.1765):

Job or Joab⁴

James

Joseph

Lewis⁵

a daughter, possibly Mariah⁶

William's parents moved to Shaftsbury, Bennington Co., Vermont⁷ and William probably moved with them. Around 1800, the family of Peleg and Lydia Lewis were also living in Shaftsbury and both the Bassetts and Lewis's moved to Otsego Co., New York soon after 1800⁸. William was married a second time after 1810.⁹ He was said to have last lived in Lysander, Onondaga Co., NY. He may have died about 1848.

¹ Letter from Jeffrey N. Bassett to Steve Baskauf, 6 Apr. 1996

² Letter from Frank G. Lewis to Charlotte Bassett, 26 Apr 1919

³ In the letter from Frank G. Lewis (1919), Mr. Lewis relates the following story connecting William (b. 1796) to Samuel (b. 1795): "I cannot tell you how interesting it is to read in your letter the tradition that three Bassetts came directly from England, settled in New York, one was drowned, one went to Michigan or Wisconsin, and the third was your great grandfather who went to Ohio. With this I will put some items that are likewise interesting. How dependable they are you can judge as I tell how I picked them up.

In the summer of 1915 I visited my mother's youngest brother at West Clarksville, New York, and talked with him particularly to see what I could, by all the questions I could think of, recall of his early days and what he used to hear said. His father, my grandfather Jesse B. Payne, died in 1857. His mother, my grandmother Mary Ann (Bassett) Payne, was a daughter of William Bassett, whose wife was Susannah (Livingston) Bassett. they moved from New York to Allen county, Ohio, about 1856, or the beginning of 1857. In the winter of 1857-1858, after my grandfather Payne died, Grandmother Mary Ann (Bassett) Payne went to Allen county with her younger children, whom of whom was my uncle, Newell Jasper Payne, whom I visited in 1915. He was born in 1848, and so was nearly nine years old at the time the trip was made. He remembered very distinctly how they went to Lima and then went out a few miles to the home of an "uncle," on the way to the home of his grandfather, William Bassett, who then, or at least at the time of the census of 1860, was living in the town of Sugar Creek, Putnam county, his post office being recorded as Vaughnsville (which may very likely appear quite curious to you from the point of view of present geography).

Now I am very sure that "uncle" was uncle for his mother and that this "uncle" was a brother of his grandfather William Bassett, in other words, that this "uncle" was your great grandfather Samuel Bassett.

Here the tradition you have that a Bassett went to Michigan, or Wisconsin, is interesting, for William Bassett, brother of your great grandfather went on into Michigan, spent the last years of his life at the home of his son Philo C. Bassett, at Ovid, Mich, where the son had gone before 1860; and there William died Mar. 7, 1867. The son Philo C. afterward went to Detroit, died there in 1900, and is buried in Ovid. Descendents of William now live in Michigan."

⁴ A letter from Charlou Dolan to Lois Bassett 11 Feb 1985 states that a Joab Bassett who married Lucy Robbins lived in Chenango Co., NY and was buried in the "Rhode Island Cemetery" there. This may be a son of William (b. c.1765).

⁵ In Lewis, 1919, he notes that a Lewis Bassett lived next door to William (b. c.1765) and might have been his son. There is no record of him after than and Mr. Lewis speculates that this might have been the brother who was said to have drowned.

⁶ Mariah (Bassett) Wood and her husband Harmon Wood were early settlers in northern Bath Township, Allen County, OH. However, the names of her parents have never been determined.

⁷ Information from Jeffrey N. Bassett.

⁸ The family's move to New York soon after 1800 is supported by the confusion about Samuel's birthplace in the census records. Although born in Rhode Island and living in Vermont at an early age, Samuel's birthplace is listed as New York in 1850 and "Mass." in 1860. A move to New York around 1800 would have meant that Samuel would have only been about five years old at the time and not likely to have had a clear memory of these earlier places of residence. (Massachusetts is the probable origin of Samuel's wife's family.) To add to the confusion, Samuel's son, Lewis was listed as born in New Jersey in the 1870 census and he was certainly born in New York. This makes it clear that the combination of lack of written records, illiteracy, and interview of family members other than the person in question resulted in inaccuracies in census birth places in these situations where families moved repeatedly over the span of a few years.

⁹ Letter from Jeffrey N. Bassett to Steve Baskauf, 6 Apr. 1996

7. Peleg and Lydia Lewis¹

Peleg and Lydia Lewis were probably from Massachusetts. Lydia may have been Lydia Reed of Dighton, MA. In 1790 they were listed in the town of Swanrey, Massachusetts.² In the 1800 census they were living in the town of Shaftsbury, Bennington Co., Vermont. Sometime soon after that they moved to Otsego Co., NY. Eventually, Peleg moved to Cortland County, NY where he served as Overseer of Highways, a post later held by his son Jonathan.

The following is a list of their probable children. The first two were born in Massachusetts and the rest probably in Vermont.

Peleg, Jr. c.1786³ - 25 Aug 1858.

a daughter b. c.1788

David b. c.1790-91. His will in Trumbull Co., OH is dated 7 Sep 1853.

a daughter b. c.1791-92

Jonathan c.1791⁴ - 12 Mar 1871. Died in Allen Co., OH

a daughter, perhaps Rachel b. c.1794-95

Elsa "Elsie" (Bassitt) 23 Oct 1795 - 9 Feb 1976⁵. Married Samuel Bassitt and died in Bath Township, Allen Co., OH.

John c.1796⁶ - 1873. Died in Warren, Trumbull Co., OH

Abraham b. c.1796

Of these children, at least Peleg, David, John, and Elsie had moved to Lordstown, Trumbull Co., OH by 1830⁷. That year a church was organized at the log cabin school house on the northeast corner of David's farm. David was elected as a deacon with Elsie and her husband Samuel, Peleg, and David and his wife listed as original members.⁸ Also listed as original members were Fanny and Rachel Lewis, and Peter Snyder and his wife. It is possible that Fanny and Rachel were also children of Peleg and Lydia. Peter Snyder is associated with the Lewis's and it may be that his wife (born between 1790 and 1800)⁹ was another daughter.

Peleg, Jr. married Philora UNKNOWN in about 1808. He may have had a son Martin (b. 1809¹⁰). Martin had a daughter listed in the census as "Filora". Peleg died in Warren, OH on 25 Aug 1858.

Jonathan and his wife Nelly (or Elanour) moved to Bath Township, Allen Co., OH where he bought land near the Bassitts in 1836.¹¹ In 1838, their daughter, Elsie Lewis (1818-1891), married Robert Edgecomb who lived nearby. In 1846, Jonathan and Nelly essentially traded farms with Elias Everett¹², whose mother-in-law, Chloe (Doud) Olmstead was a sister to Robert's mother Betsey (Doud) Edgecomb. This put Jonathan and Nelly in Monroe Township (just north of Bath Twp.), the location where they spent the rest of their lives. This location was near land owned by Martin Lewis, who was also from Trumbull County and probably the eldest son of Jonathan's brother Peleg. Jonathan's eldest son was Peleg (b. 1819-20). In the 1850 census¹³ for Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH Peleg is listed just before Robert and "Elsy". Thus these two siblings (Peleg and Elsie) were living side by side near the farm bought by their parents in 1836.

¹ The connections between individuals has not been verified by records such as wills or family Bibles. Therefore it should be considered unproven. However, the strong connections between the listed individuals in land transactions and census records supports the presumed relationships. Thanks to Ken Kinman for figuring out most of this.

² United States Census, 1790, Town of Swanrey, MA, Peleg Lewis, 1 male over 18, 1 male under 18, 2 females.

³ The 1840 census for Lordstown Twp., Trumbull Co., OH, p. 86 disagrees with this date, listing one male aged 40-50 (i.e. born between 1790-1800. However, the female in the household was aged 50 to 60 (i.e. born between 1780-1790), suggesting that the husband's birth date was closer to 1790 than 1800.

⁴ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Allen County, Monroe Township, Jonathan Lewis, aged 59, born in Vermont.

⁵ Tombstone of Elsa Bassitt, Old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. Census records report her as born in New York in 1850 and "Mass." in 1860; however, the same records give incorrect birthplaces for her husband Samuel so it is probable that the person providing the information was not well informed about where they were born.

⁶ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Trumbull Co., Warren Twp. John Lewis, aged 54, born in VT, Fanny Lewis, aged 50, born in Conn.

⁷ United States Census, 1830, Ohio, Trumbull Co., Lordstown Twp. David Lewis, aged 40 to 50, John Lewis, aged 30 to 40, Peleg Lewis, aged 30-40, Samuel Basset: female aged 30 to 40.

⁸ *History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties*, Vol. 2, Cleveland, H.Z. Williams & Bro. 1882, p. 542.

⁹ United States Census, 1830, Ohio, Trumbull Co., Lordstown Twp, p. 196. Peter Snider, aged 30 to 40, a female aged 30-40.

¹⁰ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Allen Co., Monroe Twp., p. 737. Martin Lewis aged 41, born in New York.

¹¹ Deeds, Book K, p. 364, 25 Feb 1836. Allen County, OH Recorders Office.

¹² Deeds, Book L, p.176, 14 Jul 1846 and Book I, p.584, 22 Jul 1846. Allen County, OH Recorders Office.

¹³ United States Census, 1850, Ohio, Allen Co., Bath Twp., p.494. "Pegley" Lewis aged 30, born in New York.

8. John and Phebe Edgecomb

John Edgecomb, our earliest proven Edgecomb ancestor, first appears in the records of West Hartford, Connecticut on 19 May 1729 when he "owned the covenant" at the West Hartford Church. On the same day, a Phebe Brace joined the same church. It is possible that she was the Phebe who later became the wife of John.

On 26 Sep 1735, a survey was recorded for land in New Hartford granted to John by the proprietors of the town. Other land transactions involving John Edgecomb were recorded in New Hartford and Simsbury from 1735 to 1764. In March of 1738 a deed recorded that John purchased land in Barkhamstead with Henry Brace, Jr., sister of Phebe. This additional circumstantial evidence supports the idea that John's wife Phebe may have been Phebe Brace.

The town records of New Hartford record the births of John and Phebe Edgecomb's children¹:

John b. 16 Mar 1738/9 d. before 1 May 1775

Uriah 24 March 1740/1 - Jan 1810

Ammi (Humphrey) b. 20 Feb 1745/6 m. Jonathan Humphrey

Ezra b. 3 May 1748 m. Elizabeth UNKNOWN

Huldah "Huldy" (Mills) b. 28 Jun 1749 m. David Mills

In 1756, John entered the Connecticut militia to serve in the French and Indian War. By 1758 when he left the militia, he had attained the rank of Lieutenant.

John died sometime in or before 1772. In the records of his estate, he is referred to as "Lieut. John Edgecomb". His son John was not mentioned and was therefore probably deceased before that time. Lieut. John's son Uriah was administrator of his father's estate and was described as his "eldest son". On 18 Apr 1772, an allowance from his estate was given to "Mrs. Phebe Edgecomb, widow of said John deceased". On 7 Dec 1772, the New Hartford church records report that "Phebe Edgecomb, widow" was assigned to Pettibone's district.

A number of genealogists have sought to connect Lieut. John with the Edgecombs of New London, Connecticut and hence to many generations of Edgecombs in England². Despite much time and research, the effort to definitively make a connection has not been successful.³ A John Edgecomb, b. 29 Jan 1700/1 and son of John and Hannah (Hempstead) Edgecomb is the most likely candidate to be Lieut. John Edgecomb. However, if this were Lieut. John, this birth date would have made him much older than the typical age at the birth of his first child. The will of John Edgecomb (m. Hannah) also insinuates that his son John (b. 1700/1) was deceased by 1736. Until further evidence is found, the question of Lieut. John's ancestry must remain unanswered.

¹ Barbour Collection, New Hartford, Connecticut, vital records

² For more information, see the section entitled "Line of John Edgecomb (b. 1700) to John of Edgcumbe (d. 1285)".

³ For a clear outline of the evidence related to this issue, see "The Edgecombs of Allen County OH and New Hartford CT" by Judith T. Voran, *The American Genealogist*, Jan/Apr 1986. This article also describes the proof she used to connect the Allen County Edgecombs to "Lieut. John" Edgecomb and forms the basis of this section.

9. **Jacob (b. 1700) and Mary (Hill) Read**¹

Jacob Read (b. 1700) was a third-generation doctor. On 9 Apr 1724, he married Mary Hill, the daughter of John and Sarah (Phelps) Hill²³. They had the following children:

Mary (Bunce) b. 20 Jan 1724/5, m. 9 Nov 1752 Phinehas Bunce

Lydia (Barber) 18 Nov 1726 - 1806, m. John Barber

John b. 20 Jun 1728

Elizabeth (Segar) b. 27 Apr 1729, m. 5 Aug 1751 John Segar

Jacob b. 20 Aug 1731

Titus b. 9 Jan 1735/6

Sarah d. 11 Dec 1736

Silas b. 22 Jun 1737

Sarah (Fuller) b. 8 Jul 1740, m. 5 May 1763 Joseph Fuller

Amy (Edgecomb)⁴ m. Uriah Edgecomb b. 1740

Mary died in May 1773 and Jacob died soon after on 8 Jan 1775.

¹ George E. McCracken. "Dr. Philip Reade and his earlier descendants". *New England Hist. and Gen. Register*, 112:119-129. Except as noted, most of the material in this section comes from this source.

² Lillian E. Good. *A Lineal Genealogy of the Wilson Cross Family and Allied Families*. 1982.

³ Charles William Manwaring. 1906. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records, Vol. III. Hartford District 1729-1750*. Hartford, CT. p. 284 summarizes the estate of John Hill and mentions his widow Sarah and daughter Mary Read.

⁴ *Boston Transcript* genealogical column, 1912 October 23, #2412

10. Ezra and Mary (Taylor) Doud

Ezra Doud and Mary Taylor were married on 12 Jun 1755¹ in Middleton, Connecticut. She was born on 23 Feb 1737/38² and the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Bevin) Taylor. In about 1761 they moved to Farmington, CT. They were listed as living in Canton Center, CT in the 1810 census.³ Ezra signed an oath of fidelity and support to the State of Connecticut at Farmington in 1776⁴. On 19 Apr 1806, Ezra and his son Samuel, residents of West Simsbury, signed the petition to the General Assembly for incorporation of the town of Canton.⁵ Ezra and Mary were listed in the 1810 census as residents of Canton Center. Ezra died on 21 Jan 1814⁶ in Canton Center, CT. His will was probated 28 Jan 1814 and his sons Samuel and Stephen were executors.⁷ Mary died 10 Apr 1823⁸ in Burlington, CT⁹ and is buried in the East Church Cemetery of Plymouth, CT.

Children of Ezra and Mary Doud^{10 11}:

Chloe 28 Mar 1756 - 19 Oct 1757

Stephen b. 5 Feb 1758 - 19 Jul 1823

Mary (Moses) b. 1 Dec. 1760 - 8 Oct 1841

Jesse b. 5 Nov 1762 in Farmington, CT¹².

Chloe 18 Aug 1765 - before 1803 (probably married Beach or Andrus)¹³

Reuben 3 Apr 1768 - 7 Sep 1829

Runama 2 May 1770 - before 1803 (probably married Beach or Andrus)¹²

Rachel (Broughton) 28 Jul 1772 - 16 Aug 1856

Esther or Hester¹⁴ (Rust) 3 Nov 1774 - 9 Aug 1865

Samuel b. 1 Dec 1781 lived in Fowler or Vienna, Trumbull Co., OH^{15 16}

Stephen fought in the American Revolution. He was listed in the 1800 census in Bristol, CT and in 1810 in New Hartford, CT.¹⁷

Mary married Othniel Moses, Jr. before 1783. He died in 1818 and his will mentions his wife and children.¹⁸

Reuben married Chloe (1770 - 14 Mar 1858, buried East Plymouth Cemetery, CT).¹⁷ Reuben was listed in the 1810 census in Harwinton.

Rachel married Samuel Broughton. She died in Fowler, OH near where her brother Samuel lived and is buried in the Chadwick Corners Cemetery (also known as Doud Cemetery).¹⁷

Esther married Aloney Rust in 1790. He was a private in the Revolutionary War from Farmington, CT. They moved from Bristol, CT to Wells, Vermont in the early 1800s where their children were born. Later they lived in New York. In 1841 they moved to Fowler, Ohio near where her brother Samuel lived. Aloney died on 29 Jun 1859 in Fowler and she died in Gustavus, OH. Both are buried in the Chadwick Corners Cemetery.¹⁷

Samuel married Lois Garrett (17 Feb 1799 - 25 Feb 1861) of Connecticut on 1 Jan 1800. He and his wife Lois were admitted to membership in the Canton Center Congregational Church on 4 May 1806. In the 1810 census, he is listed living near his parents and siblings. In 1822 he bought land in Trumbull and Portage Counties of Ohio and moved his family to Vienna Twp., Trumbull Co. "Samuel and Lois sold their

farm in Guilford, Conn. in 1822 and with their 11 children came to Ohio. The journey, mad in two covered wagons, took three weeks with the older children often walking rather than riding, according to handed-down accounts..."¹⁹ Samuel became a well-to-do farmer owning about 1100 acres of land. The Doud (i.e. Chadwick Corners) Cemetery was on his farm.¹⁷ His farm, known as the "old homestead" was owned by his son Lucas Doud in 1874.

¹ DAR application, mentions marriage record in Barbour Collection.

² DAR application for Florence Doud Carr (No. 530118), Supplemental for Ezra Doud, 5 Apr 1976.

³ Notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

⁴ DAR application, mentions Farmington Town Records from State Library at Hartford, CT.

⁵ Notes Eagleton Sep 1981.

⁶ DAR application, mentions Ezra Doud's will, also Hale Collection of Connecticut Gravestones, Vol. 8 (Canton) p. 158.

⁷ Simsbury, CT Probate District

⁸ DAR application, mentions Hale Collection of Connecticut Gravestones, Vol. 4:57.

⁹ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

¹⁰ DAR application, mentions records in Barbour Collection.

¹¹ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

¹² DAR application, mentions Ezra Doud's will naming Jesse as son and Esther as daughter.

¹³ According to Inez Eagleton, she wasn't mentioned in her father's will, but granddaughters named Andrus and Beach are listed.

¹⁴ DAR application, references Davis R. Doud diary mentioning Hester as daughter.

¹⁵ Letter from Inez Eagleton to Kathryn Snyder Geiser, c. 1978.

¹⁶ Letter from Inez Eagleton to Kathryn Snyder Geiser, 28 Jul 1978

¹⁷ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981.

¹⁸ Notes Eagleton, Sep 1981 notes his administration papers are in the New Hartford Town Hall.

¹⁹ Janie S. Jenkins, "Trumbull Cemetery Attests to Lives of Stalwart People", *Youngstown Vindicator*, 25 May 1981.

11. Israel and Jane (Wheeler) Shipman

Lieut. Israel Shipman (b. 1731-2 Oct 1817) married Jane Wheeler (b. 1735-28 Feb 1816). They were members of the First Congregational Church at Chester, Conn.¹

"Israel Shipman was granted land in the northwesterly part of Kelsey Hill in Essex, Connecticut, northwest of the town of Deep Riber on Feb. 11, 1790. On Nov. 28, 1791 Israel Shipman purchased land in the western part of Chester Parish, Conn. "

Israel died on 2 Oct 1817. In his will, dated 12 Sep of that year, he left the "south half of my dwelling house, garden on south side, furniture, all my articles necessary to carry on the weaving business, a cow, firewood, as long as she remains single." To the rest of his children or their heirs, he left \$100. He left the rest of his estate to Daniel Barker (the husband of his daughter Hannah) and grandson Abijah Pratt.²

The children of Israel and Jane Shipman were:³

Lydia (Doud) (c.1758-60 - c. 1839-40⁴) m. Jesse Doud.

Priscilla (Pratt) (1764 - 7 Nov 1820)

Job (2 Jul 1772 - 12 Jan 1833)

Nathan (20 Sep 1776 - 6 Mar 1857)

Thomas (d. before 1817)

Hannah (Barker)

Abigail (Skells)

Anna (Covil) (d. before 1817)

Martha

Jane (Baldwin)

Israel (d. 31 Oct 1778)

Thomas Shipman moved west in 1816 and settled in Utica, NY⁵.

Israel Shipman (d. 1778) Lived in New London, CT and was said to have served under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted 1 Mar 1778 and died on the Hudson River while serving in the war.

¹ *Edward Shipman and His Descendants*, p. 16

² *Edward Shipman*, p. 16

³ *Edward Shipman*, p. 16

⁴ Letter from Susan B. Traffarn to Mr. Schnare, date unknown. Special Genealogical File, Connecticut State Library.

⁵ *Edward Shipman*, p. 31

12. Samuel (b. circa 1736-8) and Tabitha (Waite) Bassett¹

Samuel Bassett married Tabitha Waite on 10 Oct 1762 in West Greenwich, Kent Co., Rhode Island.² She was b. 31 Dec. 1741 in Greenwich, Kent Co., RI, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Sullivant) Waite. Samuel was a cooper and a farmer. He also served as a sergeant in the Revolutionary War. Samuel and Tabitha moved to Shaftsbury, Vermont for a few years and then moved to Otsego County, New York. Both Samuel and Tabitha died in about 1808 in Burlington, Otsego County, New York.

They had the following children, probably all born in Coventry, Kent Co., RI:

Elizabeth (Stone) b. c.1763. Married Oliver Stone c.1787 and moved to Indiana.

William b. c.1765. Died in New York, possibly c.1848.

Sara (Chapin) Married Joseph Chapin.

John 30 Jan 1770 - c. 20 Jun 1842. Married Clarissa Kellogg.

Waite (a daughter)

Samuel b. c.1775. Married Isabel Yonts c.1800.

Tabitha Married in Burlington, Otsego Co., NY.

Joseph 13 Dec 1778 - 14 Dec 1862. Married (1) Elizabeth Soule c.1800 and (2) Eliza Wightman. He lived in Otsego County, NY near his father and was buried in South New Berlin, Chenango Co., NY.³

Benjamin 10 Jun 1780 - 25 Apr 1863. Married (1) Olive Young on 2 Jun 1803 and (2) Sarah Sprague (a widow) on 13 Feb 1817.

The will of "John Bassett of Butternuts" in Otsego Co., NY⁴, dated 8 Sep 1817 and probated 30 Dec 1817 mentions his wife Mary and brothers Benjamin Bassett and Samuel Bassett, Jr. This death date and wife do not agree with those listed above, although the location and names of siblings are consistent.

¹ Except as noted, the information in this sections comes from a letter from Jeffrey N. Bassett to Steve Baskauf, 6 Apr 1996. It is consistent with information from Lois Bassett who cites LDS film 000,287.

² West Greenwich, RI Marriages, Book 1, p.172. "Samuel Bassett of Samuel of Coventry married Tabitha Waite of John of W. Greenwich."

³ Letter from Charlou Dolan to Lois Bassett 11 Feb 1985.

⁴ Abstract of Wills, Otsego Co., NY, Vol. 1 (1794-1829), p.49.

Line of John Edgecomb (b. 1700) to John of Edgcumbe (d. 1285)

As mentioned in the section for Lieut. John and Phebe Edgecomb, it is not known for certain who were his parents. It has been speculated and is felt by some that it is highly probably that Lieut. John was the same as John Edgecomb (b. 1700) of New London, Connecticut. As a point of interest, the line of descent of John (b. 1700) is presented here.¹

John, died 1285, of Edgcumbe. His father may have been **William**, of Edgcumbe who was the head of family in 1274. John was the father of

Richard, died 1319, of Edgcumbe. The second of his four sons was

Richard, died 1349 (the year of the Black Death), of Edgcumbe. His younger son William was the ancestor of the Edgcombes of Cotehele and Mount Edgcumbe. His elder son was

John, c.1328 - 1403, of Edgcumbe. The elder of his two known sons was

John, c.1370 - 1464, of Edgcumbe. Father of

Richard, c.1400 - 1486, of Edgcumbe. Married Thomasin with two known sons. The younger was

John, c.1430 - 1497, of Edgcumbe and Oxford. Married Alice daughter of John Clark with five sons. Their second son was **Richard** of Buckland Monachorum, father of **Richard** of Lamerton who might have married Catherine and had six or seven children including **Richard**, c.1523 - 1578, merchant of Tavistock. This Richard married Agnes Durant; their eldest child was **Agnes** who married Peter Edgcombe (below). The fourth son of John and Alice (Clark) was

Thomas, c.1465 - c.1540, who bought the Edgcumbe estate from his nephew John in 1521. He had four sons². The second son was

Peter, c.1495 - after 1563, a merchant in Tavistock, who had three sons, the eldest being

John, c.1520 - before 1574, of Tavistock and probably also a merchant. He married Joan Trelawney with three sons, the eldest being

Peter, c.1550-1608, merchant of Tavistock who married **Agnes Edgcombe** (see above) who died 1625. The fourth of their eight known children was

Peter, c.1588 - 1621, merchant of Plymouth; married 1611 Elizabeth Colwill who remarried Thomas Dipford and died 1642. The eldest of Peter's six children was

Nicholas, 1612 - 1649, brewer and merchant of Plymouth; married Joan who died 1674. The eighth of their nine children was

John, 1657 - 1721, tanner of New London, CT; married (1) 1673 Sarah daughter of Edward and Margaret Stallion; and (2) 1704 Elizabeth daughter of Greenfield and Phoebe (Brown) Larrabee and widow of Joshua Hempstead senior. The second of his seven children (by Sarah) was

John, 1675 - 1731, of New London, CT; married 1699 Hannah, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Larrabee) Hepmstead (who also became his step-sister with his father's second marriage). The eldest of their seven children was

John, born 1700 who might have been Lieut. John Edgecomb who married Phebe.

¹ Thanks to Alan J. C. Taylor, editor of *Edgcombe Family Genealogy and History*, for this summary (6 Feb 2006). More details related to this line can be found in the following volumes of *EFGH*: Introductory, 20, 27, 30, and 39.

² Alan Taylor is descended from the youngest son (John of Ottery).

18. **Jacob (b. 1673) and Elizabeth (Law) Read**¹

Jacob Reade married Elizabeth Law, daughter of John and Lydia (Draper) Law on 29 Apr 1699² in Concord, Massachusetts. Like his father, Jacob was a doctor. He served in the army and it was said that when he returned home he lay sick for six weeks.

Jacob and Lydia had three children, all born in Simsbury, Connecticut:

Jacob b. 15 May 1700 - 8 Jan 1775

Lydia (Humphrey) b. c.1703, m. 15 Jun 1721 John Humphrey in Simsbury, CT.

John b. 20 Jun 1708, m. 17 Feb 1736 Hannah Holcomb³

Jacob, Sr. died 3 Dec 1709 in Simsbury. The value of his estate was estimated to be £211/18/2, a large amount for that time. His widow and John Tuller were named administrators of the estate on 6 Mar 1709/10. However, soon after Jacob's death, Elizabeth married William Moses of Simsbury. This precipitated a series of disagreements related to the settling of the estate. On 2 July 1711, John Tuller complained against William Moses and Elizabeth and they were cited to appear in court. Later that year, others were appointed guardians of Jacob and Lydia, although apparently Elizabeth's baby, John remained in her custody. On 7 Jan 1712/3, John Tuller did pay £22 to the widow's husband William Moses, but on 2 Mar, she and William complained that John Tuller had taken away a bed and sundry items from the estate and Tuller had to appear in court. Then on 1 Apr 1718, Tuller complained that Elizabeth had £46 of the estate and she had to appear in court! Eventually Elizabeth received a one-third share of Jacob Read's land and on 5 May 1724 John Tuller produced a satisfactory account and the estate was finally settled. Elizabeth died in Simsbury on 13 May 1738.

¹ George E. McCracken. "Dr. Philip Reade and his earlier descendants". *New England Hist. and Gen. Register*, 112:119-129. Except as noted, most of the material in this section comes from this source.

² Alternative date of 10 Apr 1699 given in Jacob Whittemore Reed, *History of the Reed Family in Europe and America*, 1861

³ Lillian E. Good. *A Lineal Genealogy of the Wilson Cross Family and Allied Families*. 1982. Also gives alternative birth year of 1709.

20. Isaac and Abigail (Stevens) Doud

On 19 Jun 1725, Isaac Doud married Abigail Stevens, who was born on 3 Oct 1704 and daughter of John and Abigail (Cole) Stevens. They lived in East Guilford or Madison, Connecticut.¹ They later moved to Middletown, CT. Isaac died in 1769 and his will was probated 30 Aug 1769 in Middletown, CT.² She died after July 1761.

Their children were¹:

Amos d. young

Chloe (Chillson) 26 Sep 1727 - 31 Aug 1761. She married Asaph Chilson (b. 9 Mar 1727) of Wallingford on 20 Jul 1749.

Isaac, Jr. 30 Jan 1729/30 - 29 Mar 1761. He married Phoebe Stow (19 Jan 1734/5 - 3 Dec 1813) on 9 Dec 1754.

Ezra 21 Nov 1732 - 21 Jan 1814 in Middletown, CT³ m. Mary Taylor

Abigail 26 Mar 1735 - 1736

Abigail (Bacon) (Wetmore) b. 29 Sep 1737. She married Nathan Bacon on 3 Apr. 1755. He died 12 Nov 1760 and she remarried to Beriah Wetmore on 2 Jun 1763.

Esther b. 19 Jun 1739

Deborah (Spencer) baptized 14 Nov 1742, d. 2 Nov 1773. She married John Spencer, Jr. on 19 Nov 1765.

Amos b. 16 Jun 1744. He married Sarah Norton on 20 Oct 1768.

¹ Notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

² Notes Eagleton Sep 1981 reference File No. 1240, presumably of probate records of Middletown, CT.

³ DAR application for Florence Doud Carr (No. 530118), Supplemental for Ezra Doud, 5 Apr 1976, mentions Ezra's birth record in Barbour Collection.

22. The Shipman line back to Edward Shipman (d. 1697)

The book, Edward Shipman and his descendants trace our line from Edward Shipman, the immigrant to Lydian Shipman Doud. The line is as follows:

1. **Edward Shipman** b. in England - d. 15 Sep 1697
2. **Edward Shipman** Feb 1654 - 30 Dec 1711
3. **Joseph Shipman** 1702 - 17 Feb 1793
4. **Lieut. Edward Shipman** 1731 - 2 Oct 1817
5. **Lydia Shipman Doud**

Edward was said to have been a taylor after reaching America. He married Elizabeth Comstock (b. 1633 at Hull, England, daughter of William and Elizabeth Comstock, d. July 1659 at Saybrook, Connecticut) in Jan 1651. They had several children.

He volunteered and served in the Narragansett War and in recognition received five acres of land in 1678 from the town.

In Sep 1697 he presented to his sons property by deed of gift.

24. **Samuel (b. 1700) and Alice (Weaver) Bassett**

Samuel Bassett and Alice Weaver, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Harris) Weaver, were married on 16 Mar 1728¹ in East Greenwich, Kent Co., Rhode Island. Samuel died about 1766, probably in Coventry, Kent Co., RI.

Their children (all probably born in East Greenwich) were:²

Elizabeth b. 28 Dec 1729

Joseph b. 27 Jan 1731-2

William b. 27 Jan 1731-2

Samuel b. 1736-38

¹ East Greenwich, RI Marriages, Book 1, p. 9.

² East Greenwich, RI Births, Book 1, p. 90.

25. Ancestors of Tabitha Waite Bassett¹

50. **John Wait** b. 30 Nov 1711 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI. Will proved 31 Mar 1770. Married 21 Oct 1733:
51. **Elizabeth Sullivant Wait** b. c.1715. She was "of Dartmouth, Barnstable, MA".
100. **Thomas Wait** b. 23 Apr 1683 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI and died after 1729. Married 25 Jan 1711:
101. **Mary Tripp Wait** b. 22 Aug 1689 in Newport, Newport Co., RI.
200. **Reuben Wait** b. c.1652 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI. d. 7 Oct 1707. Married 1681 in Portsmouth, RI:
201. **Tabitha Landers Wait** d. after 1707
202. **Joseph Tripp** b. 1644 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI. d. 23 Nov 1718. Married 6 Aug 1667 in Newport Co., RI:
203. **Mahitabel Fish Tripp** b. c.1648 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI.
400. **Thomas Wait** b. 1601-04 in Wales. d. 1677. Married:
401. **Eleanor UNKNOWN**
402. **Thomas Landers** b. 1613 London, England. d. 11 Nov 1675 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA. Married 2 Jul 1651:
403. **Jane Kirby Landers** b. c.1634 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA. d. 21 Jul 1707 in Sandwich, MA.
404. **John Tripp** b. 1610 in Skirbeck, Lincolnshire, England. d. 28 Oct 1678 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI. Married:
405. **Mary Paine Tripp** b. c.1611 d. 12 Feb 1687 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI.
406. **Thomas Fish** b. 1 Jan 1619 in Great Bowden, Leicestershire, England. D. 1687 or 89 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI. Married 1645:
407. **Mary Ayers Fish** b. c.1625 d. 1699.
800. **UNKNOWN Wait** b. c.1566 in England. Married:
801. **Rosanna Wordwell** b. c.1570 in Warwickshire, England.
806. **Richard Kirby** b. c. 1614 in England. Was "of Barnstable, MA". d. 1687 in Dartmouth, Bristol Co., RI. Married:
807. **Jane UNKNOWN** b. c.1615. Buried 23 Mar 1649.
808. **John Tripp** b. 27 May 1587 in Skirbeck, Lincolnshire, England. Married:
809. **Isabel Moses Tripp** b. c.1579 in Skirbeck, Lincolnshire, England.
810. **Anthony Paine** b. c.1585-86 in England. d. 1650 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., RI.
812. **Robert Fish** christened 12 Aug 1593 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England. d. 20 Dec 1639 in Market Harborough. Married 24 Feb 1618 in Market Harborough:
813. **Alice Fish Fish** b. 6 Nov 1567 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England.
814. **Henry Ayers.**

1602. **William Wardwell** b. c.1540 in Warwickshire, England. Married:
1603. **Meribe Lascelle Wardwell** b. c.1544 in France.
1612. **Humphrey Kirby** b. c.1592 in Rowington, Warwickshire, England. Married:
1613. **Marjorie White(?) Kirby** b. c.1596 in Rowington, Warwickshire, England.
1624. **Thomas Fish**
1626. **John Fish** b. c.1555 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England. d. 19 Feb
1623. Married:
1627. **Margaret Craddock(?) Fish** c.1557 - 28 Apr 1630.
3204. **Richard Wardwell/Woodwell** of Glenvil, Leicestershire, England. Married:
3205. **Mary Ithell** b. c.1518 in Wales.
3206. **Gersham Lascelle** Married:
3207. **Meribe UNKNOWN Lascelle**
3252. **Augustine Fish**
6410. **Piers Ithell** b. c.1486 in Wales. Was "of Billesden, Leicestershire, England".
Married:
6411. **Margerett Curwen Ithell**
12820. **David Ithell** b. c.1455 in Wales. Married in 1480:
12821. **UNKNOWN Delwood Ithell** b. c.1459 in Wales.
12822. **George Curwen** of Curwen Hall, Lancashire, England
25642. **Robert Delwood** Married:
25643. **UNKNOWN Stanley Delwood**
51286. **Piers Stanley** of Ellow in Flintshire, Wales.

¹ This information is taken from the pedigree of Charlou Dalton (1985) and has not been verified.

36. Philip and Abigail (Rice) Reade

Philip Reade (b. c.1623) was a physician and a colorful character described as having an "exceedingly quarrelsome disposition"¹ as will be apparent from a number of situations described in this section. In 1667 "Phillip Reade of Norwake (i.e. Norwalk, Connecticut), Phission" was involved in a lawsuit for money owed to him. Soon after, he moved to Concord, Massachusetts, where in about 1669 he married Abigail Rice, daughter of Richard Rice and his first wife, Elizabeth.

Immediately after his arrival in Concord, he became embroiled in lawsuits. On 27 Aug 1669, he made a complaint against Robert Williams, who ran away. On 23 Sep, Dr. Read was accused of slander concerning Goodwife Blood, a midwife for Sara Wyman and on 5 Oct "the New Doctor Read" was accused of slander of Sarah Wyman herself by her father. Then in November Dr. Reade made derogatory remarks about the Concord minister, Edward Bulkely, in the presence of a number of witnesses, resulting in more litigation that dragged into 1670. He was fined in April 1670, but didn't pay. The threat of fines and legal fees may have caused Philip to mortgage his property. On 9 Sep 1670, "Philip Reade, of Concord, Phisitian" deeded his land and house to Charles Buckner of Boston with the provision that if Read paid the grantee £7/10 before 1 May 1671 the deed would be void. Apparently the mortgage was foreclosed since the deed was recorded. The legal cases above were apparently settled by Dec 1671.

But these cases were only the beginning of Dr. Reade's legal troubles. On 5 Jul 1671, a warrant for his arrest was issued for blasphemous remarks that he made in front of several witnesses, including his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Rice. The indictment issued was as follows:

"Philip Read of Concord Chirurgeon or practitioner in Phisick: for not having the feare of God before his eyes & being Instigated by the divill did sometime in May last Blaspheme the holy name of Christ & also on a motion then & there made to pray to God for his wife then sick blasphemously Cursed bidding the Divill take yo^w & yo^r praye^{rs}, etc. Boston. 5 7^{ber} 1671".

The next day, Reade admitted "that the name of Christ was mentioned", but denied that he had blasphemed. Elizabeth Rice refused to testify. Read was imprisoned that day in Cambridge and on 12 July he was transferred to the Boston jail.

In Reade's trial, Susanna Gleison, aged 55 testified that she heard his words and that his mother-in-law had remarked that he had blasphemed. She said that Reade's response was to blame his mother-in-law ("the Devill take her..."). The defendant denied this and Elizabeth Rice and several others declared that they had not heard the words. Eventually on 30 Apr 1672, the court found "Philip Reade of Concord presented for Swearing and cursing, the presentment not being fully proved though not without Strong Suspicion of his being guilty". He was admonished and required to pay the legal fees.

Paying for all of these legal fees apparently took a toll on Philip and Abigail. In 1673, Philip sued Joseph Parker for failure to pay for the treatment of his son who had been staying with the doctor for 8 months. Apparently just before Dr. Reade was imprisoned, Mr. Parker took his son from the doctor's house without paying. Philip won that case. In 1674, the doctor presented a bill for £14/15 against Joseph Parker for medicine.

Between 23 Aug and 25 Jan 1675/6, Dr. Reade served as a surgeon in King Philip's war, for which he was paid £9/7/4.

Philip's "quarrelsome nature" was not limited to blasphemy and slander. In 1679 and 1680 he was involved in a serious feud with John Gifford of Lynn. The cause of this quarrel is not known, but it led to a sword fight one day when they met on the highway. As a result, they were hauled into court. In addition to brawling, Philip accused Gifford's wife, Margaret of witchcraft. She was summoned before the Essex Court, but did not appear.

Philip and Abigail were the parents of five children born in Concord:

Philip b. 13 May 1671, m. 6 Dec 1698 Thanks Dole²

Jacob b. 30 Mar 1673, m. Elizabeth Law

Abigail (Davis) 26 Dec 1675³ - 13 Jan 1709/10, m. 2 Mar 1697/8 to Samuel Davis

Amy (Case) b. 3 Mar 1678/9⁴, m. 1 Sep 1701 to Richard Case in Simsbury, Conn.

Elizabeth (Adams) c.1690 - 17 May 1764, m. Samuel Adams

Philip was recorded to have died on 10 May 1696 in Concord, although a deed dated 4 Jan 1693/4 mentions "Abigail Read, widow of Philip". Abigail died 16 Apr 1709.⁵

¹ George E. McCracken. "Dr. Philip Reade and his earlier descendants". *New England Hist. and Gen. Register*, 112:119-129. Except as noted, most of the material in this section comes from this source.

² Lillian E. Good. *A Lineal Genealogy of the Wilson Cross Family and Allied Families*. 1982.

³ Alternative birth date of 26 Oct 1675 in Good. 1982.

⁴ Alternative birth date of 3 Jun 1678 in Good. 1982.

⁵ Jacob Whittemore Reed. *History of the Reed family in Europe and America*. 1861.

40. John and Mary (Bartlett) Doud

John Doud married Mary Bartlett about the middle of Jan 1687/8 at Guilford, Connecticut.¹ John died shortly before 12 Dec 1711 when his inventory was taken.² She died after 6 Sep 1726.

Their children were:

Mary 1688 - after Jul 1725

John 3 Feb 1690/1 - between July 1738 and 13 Feb 1741. He married Rebecca Grinnell before 1725. She later married Gideon Wellman on 13 Feb 1741 or 1742.

Jacob 3 Jan 1692/3 - 18 Oct 1735. He married Elizabeth Cornwell on 8 Jun 1716. She later married Isaac Lane and possibly Joseph Tibbals.

David 15 Mar 1694/5 - 1740. he married Mary Cornwell 24 Sep 1718.

Abraham about Oct 1697 - c.1781. He married Abigail Johnson.

Isaac last week of June 1700 - 1769. He married Abigail Stevens.

Hannah (Acerly) b. 8 May 1703. She married Benjamin Acerly on 21 Aug 1731.

Ebenezer b. 3 Dec 1706. He and his wife were listed in Morristown, Hew Jersey records of 1752.

Elizabeth b. 4 May 1708. She married Edward Stocker on 4 Mar 1724.

¹ The information in this section is based entirely on notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

² Reference to New Haven Probate Dist. File No. 3612.

48. Samuel (b. 1670) and Elizabeth (Jones) Bassett

Samuel was born in Massachusetts but sometime in his early life he moved to Rhode Island, which became home to the Bassetts for several generations¹. He married Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Berry) Jones in 1699. Elizabeth died before 1742 and Samuel died about 1760 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI.

The following children were born to Samuel and Elizabeth.² The first three were born in Kingston, RI and the last four were born in East Greenwich, RI.

Samuel b. 7 Apr 1700

Joseph b. 10 Dec 1702

William b. 17 Oct 1704

Elizabeth b. 5 Mar 1708

Hannah b. 14 Jul 1710

Sarah b. 12 Nov 1712

Ruth b. 25 Jun 1715

¹ The connection between Samuel b. 1670 of Rhode Island and his father Nathaniel of Massachusetts is the least well substantiated connection in our Bassett ancestry back to William Bassett, the Pilgrim who emigrated to MA in 1621. However, the author, Steve (Bassett) Baskauf, participated in a project conducted by Jeffrey N. Bassett to compare microsatellite markers of Y chromosome DNA among as many known Bassetts as possible. Steve's markers matched those of others known to be descended from William through other lines, thus supporting (although not proving) our descent from William through Nathaniel. See appendix D for more details.

² E. Greenwich, RI Births, Book 2, p. 6.

49. Ancestors of Alice Weaver Bassett¹

98. **William Weaver** b. 1670 in Newport, Newport Co., RI. d. 22 May 1718. Married on Dec 1693 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI:
99. **Elizabeth Harris Weaver** b. c.1673 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI. Will proved 28 Oct 1748 in East Greenwich, RI.
196. **Clement Weaver** b. c.1647 in Newport, Newport Co., RI. d. 8 Sep 1691 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI.
198. **Edward Harris** b. c.1647 in Asfordby, Leicestershire, England. Married:
199. **Joan UNKNOWN Harris**.
392. **Clement Weaver** b. 1620 in Glastonbury, Somerset, England. d. c.1683. Married 1645 in Newport, RI:
393. **Mary Freeborn Weaver** b. 1627 in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. d. c. 6 Mar 1664.
784. **Clement Weaver** b. 1590 in Glastonbury, Somerset, England. d. 1688 in Newport, Newport Co., RI. Married 19 May 1617:
785. **Rebecca Holbrook Weaver** b. c.1597 in Glastonbury, Somerset, England.
786. **William Freeborn** b. 1594 in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. d. 1683. Married 1625 in Maldon, Essex, England:
787. **Mary Wilson Freeborn** b. c.1601-05 in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. d. 1670.
1568. **Thomas Weaver**
1570. **William Holbrook** b. c. 1558 in Glastonbury, Somerset, England.
3140. **Thomas Holbrook** b. in Somerset, England. d. 1571. will at Norton Malreward, Somerset, England. Married:
3141. **Edith Saunders Holbrook**. Will: 1593.
6280. **Thomas Holbrook** b. c.1520 in Somerset, England. d. 1559 in Dundry, Somerset, England. Married:
6281. **Agnes UNKNOWN Holbrook**
12560. **Richard Holbrook, alias Hoges**

¹ This information is taken from the pedigree of Charlou Dalton (1985) and has not been verified.

72. Elias Reade

Elias Reade was probably born in Maidstone, Kent, England in 1595.¹ It is believed that his father was William Reade, a Professor of Divinity and that his mother was Lucy. Elias immigrated to Woburn, Massachusetts in 1640. His wife's name is not known but he had three children, probably all born in England:

William

Philip c.1623 - 1696?

Thomas d. 25 Jul 1659 in Sudbury, MA

¹ Except as noted, information in this section is from Lillian E. Good. *A Lineal Genealogy of the Wilson Cross Family and Allied Families*. 1982. That information is consistent with Jacob Whittenmore Reed. *History of the Reed Family in Europe and America*. 1861. However, George E. McCracken, *Dr. Philip Reade and His Earlier Descendants*. 1958 concludes that the likely parents of Dr. Philip Reade were Jacob Reade and Jane Audye (a French lady) who were married 15 Nov 1621 in London.

80. Henry and Elizabeth (Wollett) Doude

Henry and Elizabeth Doude are thought to have come from Surrey or Kent County, England to Guilford, CT. He was one of the twenty-five signers of the covenant founding the town of Guilford on 1 Jun 1639:

Covenant

We, whose names are hereunder written, intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England, and , if it may be , in the southerly part, about Quinnipiach: We do faithfully promise each to each, for ourselves and families, and those that belong to us; that we will, the lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation, and to be helpful each to the other in every common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require; and we promise not to desert or leave each other or the plantation, but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement.

As for our gathering together in a church way, and the choice of officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, the first day of June, 1639.

Robert Kitchell

John Bishop

Francis Bushnell

William Chittenden

William Leete

Thomas Joanes

John Jurdon

William Stone

John Hoadly

John Stone

William Plane

Richard Guttridge

John Hughes

Wm. Dudley

John Parmelin

John Mepham

Henry Whitfield

Thomas Norton

Abraham Cruttenden

Francis Chatfield

William Halle

Thomas Haish

Henry Kingsnorth

Henry Doude

Thomas Cooke

Henry was buried 31 Aug 1668 and Elizabeth was buried late in 1683.

Their children were:¹

Thomas d. 7 Feb 1712/3. He married Ruth Johnson 11 Dec 1679.

John 24 May 1650 - shortly before 12 Dec 1711. He first married Hannah Sellman or Salmon on 14 Jun 1679. They had two children: Cornelius (1680 - 1727) and Sarah (1682 - 3 Feb 1758) who married her cousin Abraham Doud. John's second marriage was to Mary Bartlett c. Jan 1687/8.

Jacob 16 Feb 1653 - after 1684. He was a weaver.

Elizabeth d. 1669

Jeremiah d. 1668

Sarah (Bowers). Married John Bowers before her mother's will was written in 1680.

Mary (Hughes) d. after 1717. Married Samuel Hughes 26 Apr 1666.

Rebecca (Evarts) d. 1703. Married Daniel Evarts the 1st Wednesday of March, 1664.

¹ The information in this section is based entirely on notes sent from Inez Eagleton to Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 25 Sep 1981.

96. Nathaniel Bassett

Nathaniel Bassett married Dorcas Joyce, daughter of John and Dorothy (Cotchet) Joyce, in 1672. Dorcas was buried 12 Jan 1679 in Yarmouth, Barnstable Co., MA. Nathaniel married again to Hanna UNKNOWN. He died 16 Jan (or Jul) 1710/11 in Yarmouth, Barnstable Co., MA.

Nathaniel had the following children:

William Married (1) Martha Godfrey 23 Feb 1710 and (2) Sarah Jenkins 30 Jan 1722/3

Mary (Mulford) married Thomas Mulford of Truro

Nathaniel

Joseph married Susannah Howes 27 Feb 1706/7

Ruth

Samuel

Hannah

Sara (Nickerson)

Nathan married Mary Crow 7 Mar 1709

97. **Ancestors of Elizabeth Jones Bassett**¹

194. **Josiah Jones** b. c.1661. Will proved 28 Jan 1748 in East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI.
Married:

195. **Elizabeth Berry Jones** b. c.1665.

388. **Teague Jones**

390. **Richard Berry** b. c.1626 in England. d. 7 Sep 1681. Married:

391. **Alice UNKNOWN Berry** b. c.1630 in Yarmouth, Barnstable Co., MA.

¹ This information is taken from the pedigree of Charlou Dalton (1985) and has not been verified.

192. William (b. circa 1590) and Elizabeth Bassett

William Bassett was probably born about 1590. Despite much speculation about who his parents might have been they remain unknown. He came to America on the "Fortune" in 1621 and was married about the same time to Elizabeth UNKNOWN. He was a member of the religious group known as "Pilgrims" who came to Massachusetts to escape religious persecution in England.

William was an original proprietor at Bridgewater and later of Sandwich and Duxbury, MA. He also fought in the Pequot War.

William and Elizabeth were parents of the following children:

William

Elizabeth (Burgess)

Nathaniel

Sarah (White)

Ruth (Sprague)

Jane (Gilbert)

Joseph

The will of William Bassett was as follows:

The last Will ... of William Bassett seni^r exhibited to the Court holden at Plymouth the fift Day of June Ann^o Dom 1667, on the oaths of M^r William Britt and Hohn Carey.

The third of the 2^{eond} month Ann^o Dom 1667 ... The Last Will ... of Willam Bassett seni^r being very weake and sicke and having spoken to his wife and said wife I must leave thee but I shall leave thee with the Lord; if God had lengthened out my life It might have bine that thou mightest have bine more Comfortably provided for but it being Demanded of him by one which was acquainted with his mind about the Deposing of his estate; whether his mind was as formerly; That hee would give his moveable goods with his Chattles to his wife, Answared yea it was his mind; and that shee should have the house and ground till shee Died; if shee Married not; and then hee would give it to his son Williams son; and his tools to his son Joseph; and being Demanded about his bookes which hee formerly took Care about; Answared hee Could not now Doe it; To satisfy as farr as wee may; p^rsent then with him wee have sett to our hand as witnesses to the above writing soe farr as wee know

Witnes hereunto

Willam Brett

John Carey

C. Ezra Edgecomb, Sarah Ann (Wood) Edgecomb, and Louisa (Bemis) Edgecomb

Ezra's first marriage was to Sarah Ann Wood (18 Jan 1817¹) on 21 Oct 1834 in Allen County. After her death on 15 Dec 1844, Ezra's second marriage was on 2 Aug 1846 to Louisa Thayer Bemus (b. 10 Jan 1821² in probably Plainfield, Herkimer Co., NY) on 1846 Aug 2. Louisa had a daughter, Louisa Bemiss, from her first marriage who lived with the Edgecomb family.

Ezra was a farmer and by 1853 moved to Beaverdam where he was a merchant. Louisa died on 30 Oct 1865 and Ezra died 1868 June 21³ at Beaverdam, Allen County, Ohio. The executor of his will was his brother, Walter⁴. Ezra and both of his wives are buried in the old Sproat Cemetery on Wolfe Rd. in Bath Township.

Although Uriah's son Ezra Edgecomb died and was buried in Allen County, many of his children continued further west. His son Alvah moved to Missouri Valley, Harrison County, Iowa, and Edwin F. went to Kansas City, Missouri. Oscar resided in Denver, Colorado before moving on to Berkeley, California. Cynthia Ann (Ezra's youngest daughter from his first marriage) married a lawyer, Samuel McKee, who was the son of a farmer, Robert McKee. After a number of deaths in the family, Samuel and Cynthia moved with their children and his parents to Marshall County, Kansas in 1871, perhaps hoping for a better climate.

¹ Tombstone, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Sarah A. Wife of E. Edgecomb died Dec 15, 1844 AE 27 yrs 10 mo & 27 ds"

² Tombstone, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH "Louisa Wife of E. Edgecomb Died Oct 30, 1865 Aged 44 yrs & [11 mo]. The last part of the inscription is hard to read. If it is actually "11 mo" then she would have been born 30 Nov 1820.

³ Tombstone inscription, Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "Ezra Edgecomb Died June 21, 1868 aged 55 Y 7 M 27 d".

⁴ Allen Co., OH wills, Vol. B, p 459, quoted in Abstract of Title of Claude G. Vore and Edna Pearle Vore.

D. Lansil and Malinda M. (Russell) Edgecomb

Lansil married Malinda M. Russell on 2 (or 6) Feb 1837 in Trumbull Co., OH. Lansil purchased land next to his father Uriah in Bath Township, Allen Co., OH in 1833. In 1835 bought land in Monroe Twp. which at that time was in Putnam Co., but adjacent to Bath Twp. He moved to Wisconsin sometime between 1854 and 1860 and was a carpenter. Lansil died 1870. Ezra had the following children:

- DA. **Maryetta Edgecomb Jacobs**, b. 6 Nov 1837 in Ohio. m. 20 Dec 1855 to William L. Jacobs
- DB. **?Marcellia Edgecomb Delany** Lived in Evansville, IN in 1894.
- DC. **?Ann Edgecomb Paugh** Lived in Delphos, OH in 1894.
- DD. **Ezra Edgecomb** b. 1845 in Allen Co., OH. m. 22 Jun 1867 to Margaret J. Bartholomew Edgecomb
- DE. **Rufus Edgecomb** 22 Feb 1848 in Allen Co., OH - 30 May 1918 m. (1) 24 Oct 1869 to Permelia F. Bartholomew, m. (2) Mary E. Cliff Edgecomb.
- DF. **Louisa Elizabeth Edgecomb Ricks** b. 4 Jan 1850 in Allen Co., OH. m. 24 Oct 1869 to William H. Ricks
- DG. **Sarah Ann Edgecomb Clark** b. 1854/5 in OH m. 30 Sep 1877 to William E. Clark

DD. Ezra Edgecomb

Ezra Edgecomb (b. 1845)^{1,2} married 22 Jun 1867 in Boscobel, Grant Co., WI, Margaret J. Bartholomew,² b. 3 May 1852 in Iowa Co., WI. Enlisted 4 Jan 1864 as a private in the Wisconsin army. Promoted to sergeant in 1st Wisconsin Cavalry 19 Jul 1865 at Edgefield, TN. Ezra died by 1880.

¹ Alan J.C. Taylor, *Information compiled on Lansil Edgcombe (1815-)* (6 May 2001).

² Alan J. C. Taylor, *Information compiled on Ezra Edgecomb (1845-)*.

E. Robert (b. 1817) and Elsie (Lewis) Edgecomb

It is difficult to know the details of the early life of Robert and Elsie (Lewis) Edgecomb because there are no written accounts of their early life. However, some things can be inferred from land records and the places they lived. Robert bought 40 acres in section 10 of Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH next to his father Uriah on 23 Apr 1835 at age of 18. So he was probably living near or with his father at the time that he married "Elsy" Lewis on 16 Jan 1838. Elsie, born in 1818 in Solon, NY was a daughter of Jonathan and Nelly Lewis, who lived a little over a mile from the Edgecombs in section 14. Jonathan was probably a brother of the Elsie Lewis who married Samuel Bassitt, thus Robert's wife Elsie was named after her aunt who lived about a mile further down the road from Jonathan.

Robert and Elsie had the following children:

- EA. **Elizabeth "Betsey" (Miller)**^{1,2} b. 1839, m. 19 Mar. 1862 to Samuel D. Miller
- EB. **William E.** ^{3,3} 5 Apr 1840 - 1 May 1934, m. (1) 7 Feb? 1865 to Anna Miller⁴ m. (2) Anna Wyne⁵
- EC. **Sally Ann (Overly)**,³ b. 1842, m. John Overly.³
- ED. **Robert Wilson**^{5,6,1,3} 14 May 1845 - 1922, m. 10 Oct 1867 to Mary Jane Ulrey^{6,1}
- EE. **Uriah**^{7,8,3} 1847 - 1897, m. 30 Dec 1871 to Hannah Fouts³
- EF. **Samuel**³ b. Jul 1849.
- EG. **Eleanor "Ellen"**³ b. 1852. Listed as "Clara" by Judy Voran.
- EH. **Harriett "Hattie" (Huff)**³ 8 Aug 1854 - 13 Mar 1914
- EI. **John** ^{3,9}
- EJ. **Mary** b. 1859¹⁰. m. Huff or Ulrey.

After their marriage, Robert and Elsie apparently moved several miles to the north in Monroe Twp. where Robert's brother Lansil owned land and where several other Lewis' lived. We know this because when Robert bought land in section 35 (near the Disciples meetinghouse) on 23 Sep 1843, he was described as "of Putnam County"¹¹. Before the reorganization of Allen County in 1848, Monroe Township was a part of Putnam County. On 15 May of 1846, Robert and Elsa of Putnam County sold this property.¹² This is apparently when they moved back to Bath Township. In the previous year, Robert's father Uriah had sold out and moved to section 11 and by 1850 several of Robert's brothers and sister were living near each other there. Although the 1850 census does not give an "address" for the persons recorded, the households are reported in approximately the order in which they were encountered by the census taker. The census reports Robert and "Elsy" three households after Elias Everet, who was known to have lived on the corner of Bluelick Rd. and the Dixie Hwy, and immediately after "Pegley" and Elisabeth Lewis.¹³ Thus it is likely that they lived on Bluelick Road between the Dixie Hwy. and Thayer Rd. They may have been living on part of the farm that Jonathan and Nelly Lewis bought in section 14 in 1836; "Pegley" was Elsie's brother, Peleg.

Sometime after Robert and Elsa moved back from Monroe Township, they became associated with the Sugar Creek German Baptist, or Dunkard church (now called the Church of the Brethren). The Sugar Creek church was started by Elder Abraham Miller who moved to the Sugar Creek settlement in the northwest corner of the township in

1833¹⁴ making it one of the oldest congregations in Bath Township. At that time the church met in members' homes and did not have paid ministers. Elder Miller preached in German, so it seems as though his ministry must have been primarily to the families of other Brethren immigrants given that most Bath Township residents spoke English. The church had eleven members in 1840 and thirty in 1845. In 1846, the family of David and Elizabeth (Miller) Weaver moved from Virginia to section 9 of Bath Township. On 15 November 1846, he wrote to his family in Virginia to report on how they were doing.

"... I would have wrote to you long ago if I could write myself and now I have got some person to write to you and I will first let you know that I had a spell of the intermitting fever and I took it about the 20 of Sept. and I wasn't able to work anything until about 10 days ago but now I am tolerable stout again and little Bethy and Davy had the chills and fever but they are well again and there has been very sickly here this fall but few deaths.

"Now I will let you know something about ower country and so we had a very dry season here this summer but with all we raised a tolerable good crop of corn which we planted the 27th of May so that we have a plenty to do us and I suppose we raised about 30 loads of pumpkin and I let you know that we live in a plentiful country and we like this country well and let you know that we had grate crop of wheet here this harvest that I can say that I never saw such wheet in Virginia and with all the drowth we had grate crops of hay and I let you know that we think we have made a grate exchange by comeing to this country and I believe that I have very good land so that I wouldhn't give my plase for any plase that I have had yet ... P.S. Dear friends I have another attact of the ague sence this was wrote and had it opened to inform you of it. Betsy is very much discouraged with the ague that I have tho she has had her health sence we came to this state, D.W."¹⁵

On 24 Jan 1847 he wrote to his parents in Virginia. "I embrace this opportunity to write a few lines to you having written to you in a former letter about our being unwell as our country around us has been brushed smartly with sickness such as fever and ague. We also had to suffer somewhat along with the rest of the neighbors. ... I will now write a few lines to Elizabeth's mother. If she has any notion of coming out here ther is a good little house now for sale here about sixteen acres of land well improved. It is all cleared but I have a plenty of timber so there will be no difficulty in getting wood ... The land lies in a good Germin settlement ..."¹⁶

Several interesting things can be inferred from these passages. Although David Weaver identifies with the "good Germin settlement", he writes in English. So despite their distinctive religious customs, he and other Brethren immigrants to Bath Township were able to integrate well with the non-Brethren members of the community. (In contrast, the Swiss Mennonite immigrants to Bluffton in Allen County continued to speak their dialect of German into the 20th century.) Reports of good land and crops influenced many other friends and relatives to move from Virginia to Allen County over subsequent decades until a significant fraction of the residents of northern Bath Township and eastern German Township (now American Township) were members of the Brethren community. Finally, it is clear that malaria (known at that time as "the ague") had become a significant health problem in the Sugar Creek settlement. At that time, the cause of the ague was not known, although it was associated with the "bad air" of swamps and wetlands. When the Sugar Creek settlement was started, its proximity to a good source of water was probably a major factor in the choice of site, but with its close

proximity to the clouds of mosquitos of Great Black Swamp (which carried the malarial parasite) and the increasing pool of white settlers to harbor the malarial disease, living near the creek may have become a net negative factor.

How was a "Connecticut Yankee" such as Robert Edgecomb drawn to an essentially "ethnic" group like the Brethren, given that nearly all church members were from intermarried German families from Virginia? Preaching at the Sugar Creek church was done exclusively in German until about 1840 and after that "sermons were preached in the English language occasionally"¹⁷. A possible explanation is the proximity of Robert and Elsie's farm to Brethren families. The 1850 census shows him living near the family of Lewis and Catharine Miller from Virginia. Although the background of this family is not known, they are likely to be related to the many Brethren Millers who lived in Bath Township. So Robert and Elsie may have been drawn to the German Baptist church through interactions with their neighbors. Robert's conversion must have been a profound one because by the late 1850's, Robert was called to the ministry. He preached (presumably in English!) in the new meeting house that had been constructed in 1853 on Bluelick Rd. in section 7, about four miles from where Robert lived¹⁸.

In 1856, Robert's sister Clarinda Snyder and her husband Peter sold their land¹⁹ near Robert and moved to Shawnee Township. Robert's father Uriah and brother Marquis sold their land²⁰ near Robert and moved to Beaverdam in Richland Township. Both of these pieces of land were sold to David Weaver (who was serving as a minister²¹), making David and Elizabeth neighbors to Robert and Elsie in 1860²².

When members of the Brethren church began moving west after 1860, Robert Edgecomb and his family moved to the area of Macon and Piatt County, Illinois, where many descendants of Robert's son Uriah live today. Robert and Elsa sold land in section 12 of Bath Township in 1859²³ and 1862²⁴ and this may have been associated with their move west. Presumably they had already made the move to Illinois by 1865, since Wilson enlisted in an Illinois company in the Civil War. In 1865, Robert's son William married Anna Miller, daughter of Jacob B. and Salome (Wine) Miller. Jacob Miller was a brother to Elizabeth Weaver (their neighbor) and a minister of the Brethren Church who moved to Piatt Co., IL in 1870.²⁵ In 1870, Robert and Elsa were living in Cerro Gordo Township of Piatt Co., IL.²⁶ Their neighbors were Charles and Martha Huff and several children of these families married. Harriett "Hattie" married George Washington Huff on 7 Apr 1870 and Samuel married Maria Miranda "Mira" Huff on 17 Jan 1872.²⁷

In October of 1875, Samuel and Wilson, two other sons of Robert, moved to the prairies of McCune, Kansas, and were followed by their father the next year. In 1878, the Osage Church of the Brethren congregation was founded by Robert Edgecomb in Osage Township of Crawford Co., KS. "The congregation first met in the Osage Schoolhouse. Sometimes services were also held in a straw barn on Lightning Creek and in the Christian Church. A charter was obtained in 1881, and the first church building was erected in 1885."²⁸ The distinctive practices of the Brethren evoked the curiosity of their non-Brethren neighbors. The local paper reported that " 'the Dunkards part their hair in the middle and kiss each other like women when they meet.' The Brethren custom of foot-washing also drew attention from neighbors of other denominations. 'People would come from miles around to see the foot washing ... Sometimes so many onlookers came that worship was impossible.' Two of the most obnoxious onlookers were arrested, put on trial in Girard and sentenced to jail time. 'It's interesting that some of those obnoxious

onlookers were later converted' ... To block the view of the curious, the lower windows of the church were painted white ..."²⁹.

In the 1880s, the Brethren Church was rocked by schisms between conservative members who felt that the church had strayed too far from their roots of plain dress, simple lifestyle, and church discipline and progressives who felt that the church had not gone far enough in promoting higher education, salaried ministers, and Sunday Schools³⁰. In 1881, this conflict came to a head and the conservatives split to form the Old German Baptist Brethren. In 1883, the progressives formed the Brethren Church. The majority of the Brethren remained in the moderate group which continued to use the name "German Baptist Brethren" until 1908. The church conflicts affected the Edgecombs, with one of Robert's sons, going with the Old Order and the rest of the family remaining in the main body of the church. There may have also been trouble associated with the Progressive faction, as it was reported that in 1881 "Robert Edgecomb lost his eldership"³¹.

Elsie died in 1891 and Robert died on 4 Sep 1898 in Crawford Co., KS. Robert and Elsie Edgecomb are buried in the cemetery of the Osage church. Descendants of Samuel and Wilson still live in Kansas today. In later years, other Robert Edgecomb descendants went further west - to Oklahoma, California, Idaho, and Washington.

¹ Bessie Burkett Dyke, *BES family update 37* (1977), 1037.

² Marguerite Edgecombe Gentili, *Letter from Marguerite Gentili to Steve Bassett* (30 Sep 1978).

³ Hulvey, Vera June Good, *The William Good Family - Tracing this Good Family from Hasli Valley, Switzerland to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia* (Commercial Press, Inc., Stephens City, VA, 1996), William Good Family, 115-118.

⁴ Hulvey, Vera June Good, *The William Good Family - Tracing this Good Family from Hasli Valley, Switzerland to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia* (Commercial Press, Inc., Stephens City, VA, 1996), William Good Family.

⁵ Marjie Ruth Fouts Paul, *BES family update 67* (1977).

⁶ Preston R. and Ruth Fouts Paul, *BES family update 103* (1978).

⁷ Steven J. Bassett (Baskauf), *Notes on descendants of Uriah and Hannah (Fouts) Edgecombe*, Notes written on a tablecloth, taken at the Edgecombe reunion in Illinois in about 1978.

⁸ Ryan Jay Edgecombe, *Email from Ryan Edgecombe to Steve Baskauf* (2007).

⁹ Maurice Click, *Family group sheets* (c. 1978).

¹⁰ United States Census, 1870, Cerro Gordo Twp., Piatt Co., IL, p. 12

¹¹ Deed: Nathan Huey to Robert Edgecomb, NW quarter of SW quarter of section 35, Monroe Twp., 23 Sep 1843, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Book I, p. 554.

¹² Deed: Robert and Elsa Edgecomb to Samuel Barber, NW quarter of SW quarter of section 35, Monroe Twp., 15 May 1846, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Vol. 190, p. 343.

¹³ United States Census, 1850, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH, household 212.

¹⁴ R.H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*. Philadelphia: R.H. Harrison, 1880, p. 27

¹⁵ Letter from David Weaver to John Weaver, 15 Nov 1846, published in Mary Mae Cupp Campbell, *A Sense of Place Volume III, Virginia to Ohio and States West Descendants of Peter Weaver and J. Jacob Kopp and Related Families 1787-1986*, 1986, p. 48.

¹⁶ Letter from David Weaver to Peter and Elizabeth (Whitmer) Weaver, 24 Jan 1847 in Campbell, p. 51.

¹⁷ Harrison, p. 27.

¹⁸ Harrison, p. 27.

¹⁹ Deed: Peter and Clarinda Snyder to David Weaver, 5 Sep 1856, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Book W, p. 228.

²⁰ Deed: Uriah Edgecomb to David Weaver, 1856, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Book W, p. 224.

²¹ Hulvey, Vera June Good, *The William Good Family - Tracing this Good Family from Hasli Valley, Switzerland to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia* (Commercial Press, Inc., Stephens City, VA, 1996), William Good Family, p. 44.

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- ²² United States Census, 1860, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH, p. 348.
- ²³ Deed: Robert and Elsa Edgecomb to Nancy Olmstead, 16 Nov 1859, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Vol. 5, p. 186.
- ²⁴ Deed: Robert and Elsa Edgecomb to Samuel Basset and Lewis Basset, 23 Jan 1862, Allen Co., OH Recorder's Office, Vol. 7, p. 316.
- ²⁵ Hulvey, p. 111.
- ²⁶ United States Census, 1870, Cerro Gordo Twp., Piatt Co., IL, p. 12
- ²⁷ Information from Ken Kinman, 24 Jun 2007.
- ²⁸ Nikke Patrick, "Revamped Church Dedicated", Crawford Kansas *Morning Sun*, 17 Nov 2003.
- ²⁹ Patrick.
- ³⁰ Wikipedia, Church of the Brethren, 2007.
- ³¹ RootsWeb Brethren-I Archives, 8 May 1998.



F. Walter and Laura (Bassitt) Edgecomb

Walter was "in his 13th year when his parents settled in Bath Township [Allen Co., OH]. He received a limited education in the district schools of his time, and when 18 years of age started life for himself, working on a farm by the day and month until he was 21."¹

On 13 Nov 1840, Walter married Laura Bassitt², daughter of Samuel and Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt. "After his marriage, our subject engaged in farming on a rented farm. He has owned two farms besides the one he now occupies"³ (in 1885). One of these farms was 60 acres in the southwest quarter of section 24 in Monroe Township (then in Putnam Co.) which he bought on 17 Jul 1838⁴. This land was about two miles north of land purchased by his brothers Lancel and Ezra a few years earlier. However, it does not appear that Walter and Laura lived there, since they were listed as "of Allen Co." when they sold it in 1842⁵. It is likely that they were living near where his father moved in section 11 in 1845. The 1850 census lists Walter's household after his father Uriah and his sister Clarinda Snyder and before Elias Everett who lived at the corner of Bluelick Rd. and the Dixie Hwy. This would also locate their family less than a mile from Laura's parents' farm. Walter also bought a 40 acre farm in section 12 in 1849, but this is probably not where he lived.

In December 1856, Walter and Laura moved to the farm in section 1 (near the corner of Sugar Creek Rd. and the Dixie Hwy.) where they spent the rest of their lives⁶, "all of which he has cleared and improved."⁷

As the Civil War raged through the southern states in the early 1860's, many families in the area felt its effect as their sons left home to join the regiments. On 13 May 1864, Walter Edgecomb's son, Alfred, wrote home to his Grandfather Bassett describing his experiences with the 12th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in Alabama:

Now Grand Pap and Grandmother, I will talk to you with the pen a little while as we cannot talk face to face, and will tell you that I am all over well and like to soldier Bully well and I hope these few lines may find you two well although your heads is ablossoming with Grey hairs. I trust that I and You will live to see Each other on Earth and talk face to face and then I can have the Pleasure of atelling you some good storys. I tell You there is plenty of cesesh [secessionist] families around here but thank the Lord they have not much to be saucy over. They have nothing in the shape of Chickens, pigs, geese, or anything that can be eat and the soldiers can eat anything now.

There is not but two men sick in the Regt. There has not a man died since I came out in the Regiment. When we was at Clifton there was Eight privates and one Lieutenant and I was among the squad went out on a Scout and we only saw two Rebbels and we captured both of them and the next morning he under took to get away and as he was apassing the Picket line they saw him and Halted him three times and he no halt and the picket shot him dead and we fetched the other one down here with us and last night he undertook to get out of the guard house and he was in the upper story and he jumped out of the window and broke one leg and one of his arms and I tell You he did not get far. I expect he will be shot as a spy for his papers show that he is a Rebbel spy of the worst kind.

Old forest has got out of this neck of woods I guess and it is well for his old Jacket that he did for if we had of a got ahold of him we would of apunched his hide so full of holes that it would not hold Water, for we have about 8 or 9 thousand men here and plenty of Artillery. I tell you there is plenty of News to read here now and we have nothing to do but to read it. I suppose you have heard about the fight at Richmond. General Breckenritz and Beaureguard say that they can do nothing and they might just as well give up the job and so think I. I think that we will get to come home to stay against one year from this time. There is a Jolly old set of boys here now I tell you. There is all kinds of tearing around all the time. We are Camped in a pretty place. It is a nice Country through here as I ever saw. There is plenty of fine trees to shade us.



Lewis Alfred Edgecomb

I must bring my few lines to a close for the Major and Colonel has got their horses saddled. If you cant Read this fetch it down here to me and I will read it for you. Write soon without Delay. From Lewis A. Edgecomb⁸

But Alfred's wish to tell his grandparents some good stories face to face was not to be granted. Two months later he was killed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Walter Edgecomb "has been a farmer all his life, and by industry and close attention to business has acquired a competency. He served as township trustee a number of years, and is much respected by his neighbors."⁹ "Our subject is one of the leading farmers of Bath. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Edgecomb are members of the Disciples Church."¹⁰ According to his daughter Loretta Barber, Walter said that he would not live in a community where there was not a church and a school for his children to attend.¹¹

Walter died on 16 Jun 1893 and Laura died on 28 Feb 1904. They were buried together in the old Beaverdam cemetery.¹²



(l-r) Rhett (=Loretta) Barber, a sister ("Pet"? = ?), Alba Edgecomb, Jane White?

Children of Walter and Laura (Bassitt) Edgecomb¹³:

FA. **Ann Eliza (White)**,^{14,15} 24 Aug 1842 - 16 Feb 1916, m. 21 Aug 1859², Reuben White¹⁶

FB. **James**, b. 22 Jul 1844

FC. **infant daughter**.

FD. **Lewis Alfred Edgecomb**, 21 Feb 1847 - 21 Jul 1864.

FE. **Loretta (Barber)**,^{17,18,1} 10 Mar 1849 - 25 Oct 1931, m. 15 Mar 1866, James Hiram Barber,^{4,1}

FF. **Sarah Ellen (Phillips)**, b. 24 Mar 1851, m. Allen Phillips.

FG. **Mary Jane (White)**, b. 20 Sep 1852, m. Willis W. White.

FH. **Alba**,^{19,20} 30 Jun 1855 - 1928²¹ m. JimEtta "Bird" Wood Edgecomb,⁷

FI. **Elsie M. (Phillips)**, b. 30 Mar 1857, m. W. Shannon Phillips.

FJ. **Samuel S.**,²² b. 17 Apr 1865

FK. **Lansil "Jack"**,^{23,24} 6 Sep 1868 - 22 July 1955, m. (1) 23 Dec 1889?, Lizzy Weaver Edgecomb Bragg,⁹ m. (2) 12 Jun 1914, Ruth Lucy Allen Edgecomb,^{9,25}

¹ *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885, p. 579.

² Marriage Record No. 2 (1842-1850), Allen Co., OH, p. 137.

³ *History of Allen*, p. 579.

⁴ Deeds, Book I, p. 386, Allen Co. OH Recorder's Office.

⁵ Deeds, Book I, p. 387, 7 Jun 1842, Allen Co. OH Recorder's Office.

⁶ R.H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*. Philadelphia: R.H. Harrison, 1880, p. 27.

⁷ *History of Allen*, p. 579.

⁸ On file at the Allen County Museum.

⁹ Harrison, p.

¹⁰ *History of Allen*, p. 579.

¹¹ Interview of Lela Barber Baker by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 13 Aug. 1978 in which she recalled things told to her by her grandmother Loretta Edgecomb Barber.

¹² Tombstone of Walter and Laura Edgecomb, Old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH

¹³ Birth dates for all children given in "History of the Edgecomb Family back as far as the 7th generation" by Lansil Edgecomb (b. 1869), Pennville, IN 16 Sep 1938.

¹⁴ Cheryl McDonald Slack, *BES family update 173* (c. 2004).

¹⁵ Ruth Anne Dutton, *Unpublished list of descendants* (2006).

¹⁶ Reuben White was the son of Adam and Rebecca (Walton) White. Rebecca Walton was the daughter of Deborah (Gilbert) and Joseph G. Walton who came to the McClure settlement in Bath Township in 1826. Deborah Arvilla Mitchell a.k.a. Gilbert was the daughter of Montaignai Mitchell and Pe-Aitch-Ta, a famous chief of the Shawnee Indians who lived in Allen County before their removal in 1832 and who figures prominently in the early history of the county. For more details, see "A Missionary, An Indian, and a Hill: Their story" from *The Allen County Reporter*, vol. L11 No. 1 (1996), published by the Allen County Historical Society.

¹⁷ *Tombstone of Loretta and James H. Barber* (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery).

¹⁸ Loretta Barber Blackburn, *BES family update 114* (1979).

¹⁹ Virginia Goble Herdel, *BES family update 19* (1977).

²⁰ Hattie Goble Hardy, *BES family update 91* (1978).

²¹ Kathy Herdel, *phone call to Susan Snyder* (Aug 1999).

²² Samuel is buried in the Sproat Cemetery, Wolfe Rd., Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. His death date and age are illegible. Family burials generally shifted from the Sproat Cemetery to the old Beaverdam Cemetery around 1880. So it is likely that he died at a young age, possibly in his teens. He was deceased in 1885 according to *History of Allen*. There are no known records of a marriage or children for Samuel, so it is likely that he had no descendants.

²³ Treva Edgecomb Fruchey, *BES family update 8* (1977).

²⁴ Anonymous, *Births and deaths recorded in the minutes of the Bassett, Edgecomb, and Snyder Reunion* (1936-1975).

²⁵ Lansil Edgecomb, Jr., *Letter from Lansil Edgecomb, Jr. to Steve Bassett* (Oct. 8, 1979).

G. Clarinda (Edgecomb) and Peter Snyder

Clarinda Edgecomb was born 11 Dec 1822¹ in northeastern Ohio. When she was about 10 years old, her family moved to the wilderness of Bath Township in Allen County, Ohio. In the ensuing years, members of a number of other Trumbull County families also moved west to Allen County. One such person was Peter Snyder, born 13 Aug 1820. In 1839, at the age of 19, Peter followed his brother, Lorenzo, to Bath Township². Upon his arrival, he began working as a farm laborer. During this time Peter became acquainted with Clarinda's family and the next year on April 9th, Peter and Clarinda were married.³

Peter and Clarinda rented a 160 acre farm and in subsequent years became the parents of many children. Their names were as follows:⁴

GA. **Josiah**, 18 Sep 1840 - Dec 1862, m. Clarissa Reed

GB. **Marilla (Reed) (Mason)**, b. 28 Mar 1842. Marilla Snyder married a man named Reed. This was probably when they lived in Shawnee, because there were several Reed families in the area there. It is believed that her first husband died in the Civil War without leaving any children. Rilla's second marriage was to Sumner F. Mason, and they lived on a farm in Bath Township on Stewart Road three quarters of a mile south of Bluelick Road.

GC. **William**, 10 Jun 1844 - Jun 1862.

GD. **George**, 15 Oct 1846⁵ - 12 Sep 1901, M. Barbara A. Roeder.

GE. **Amy Louisa (Mason)**,⁶ 13 Sep 1848- 28 Feb 1912, m. Marquis D. Mason

GF. **Henrietta (Shinaberry)**,⁷ 17 Mar 1850 - 1923⁸, m. Charles Alden Shinaberry.

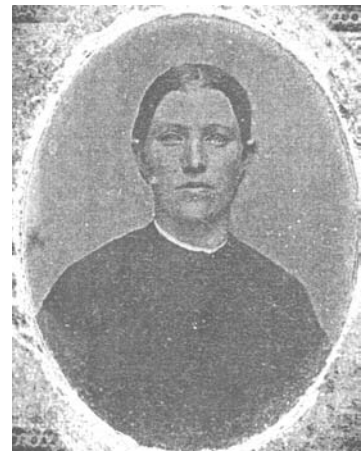
GG. **Walter**,⁹ 14 Oct 1852 - 15 Feb 1927, m. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Roeder.

GH. **Jasper**, 29 Mar 1854 - 17 Nov 1926, m. Alice Lackey.

GI. **Newton**,¹⁰ 9 Jun 1856 - after 1896, m. Emma Custer.

GJ. **Cassius Clay**,¹¹ 3 Jun 1860 in Allen Co., OH - Jul 1932, m. Christina Weber

GK. **Anna (Prottsman)**, b. 26 Nov 1862 - 1943¹², m. John Prottsman.



Marilla (Snyder) Mason

In 1849, Peter and Clarinda bought a 47 acre farm in Bath Township on what is now the Old Dixie Highway just northeast of Bluelick Road. This was just west of where Clarinda's father was living with her brother Marquis and sister Anna.¹³ They later added 100 acres to this and lived there until about 1856, when they sold the farm and moved to Shawnee Township¹⁴.

Their farm in Shawnee was located along the Ottawa River just north of Adgate Rd. on what is now called Fort Amanda Rd. By the time of the 1860 census, there were ten children, aged one month to nineteen years, all under one roof. But this was not to last. In 1861, the Civil War broke out and in October of that year, seventeen year old William enlisted as a private in the 81st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Less than a year later, in June of 1862, he was dead.¹⁵ On July 6 the oldest son, Josiah was married to his next

door neighbor, Clarissa Reed, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Akers) Reed of Fairfield Co. (This may be the same Reed family of Marilla's first husband.) But only a month later, he enlisted as a private in the 99th O.V.I. and left home. By December, he died in Nashville, Tennessee, leaving behind his widow, pregnant with their first child, Pet Snyder, who was born the next year.¹⁶ Both of the Snyder boys were buried in the old cemetery at the corner of Zurmehly and Shawnee Roads.

In 1862, the family sold out and moved back to Bath Township. There they bought the farm on Sugar Creek Road one half mile west of Slabtown Road. A distinctive feature of this farm was the large brick house that would eventually be occupied by four generations of Snyder descendants.

There must have been some trepidation when on 20 September 1864, seventeen year old George signed up in the 180th O.V.I. Fortunately, he survived the war and returned home in July of 1865 to go back to work on his parents' farm.¹⁷

On 19 December 1866, Clarinda died at the age of 44. She had spent 23 out of her 26 years of marriage either pregnant, or caring for infants in diapers. She was buried in Shawnee next to her two sons. Within a few years, Peter had remarried, to Ellen (Baker) Kollor, widow of George W. Kollor and seventeen years his junior. Mrs. Kollor was born on 10 July 1837, the daughter of John and Arzilla (Minnis) Baker. Peter and Ellen were the parents of seven more children:^{18 19}



Alta

Ida

Della

Alta (Roberts)(Renollett) 1 Aug 1870²⁰ - 16 Dec 1955. Alta married Albert Roberts of Bath Township, but they were divorced. She met Charles Daniel Renollet, a telegrapher in Cecil, Ohio, and they were later married. They lived in Paulding County, Ohio where he worked as a building contractor. Alta and Charles had one child, **Raymond Charles Renollet**. In 1920 when they moved to Defiance, Ohio where Charles died on 1949 January 15. In 1951 Alta was the first person to be admitted into the River Rest Convalescent Home. She died there in 1955.

Ida May (Getz) 16 Feb 1872²¹ - 27 May 1894. Ida married James Getz of Bath Township. They had one child, **Lillie M Getz** on 1893 July 1. About nine months later, Ida died.

Della (Kiser)(Cox) 8 May 1873²² - 24 Mar 1954. Della married Dr. Kiser of Bluffton, Ohio. They had no children. When she was in her 50's, her first husband died. In the 1930's she married Lorenzo Cox.



Edward

James

Edward F. 16 Sep 1874²³ - 20 Aug 1899. Edward lived in Beaverdam. He died of tuberculosis and had no children.

James 26 Oct 1876²⁴ - 4 Mar 1933. Jim Snyder had some kind of disability in one leg that caused him to put his hand on one knee when he walked. He married Eva 1870-1951. He also had no children.



Laura

Addie

Laura (Lenney) b. 7 Apr 1878²⁵. Laura married John Lenny. They had only one child, **John Lenny, Jr.**

Adda (Grant) 1 Jun 1882²⁶ - 23 Jan 1936. Addie married Oren Grant. They had three children, one of whom was **Evelyn E. Grant Drew**. At the time that she died in 1936, they lived in Kiefer, Oklahoma which was an oil town.

Many of these children were members of the Church of Christ.

In 1875, Peter bought a farm in Bath Township on Findlay Road (now the Old Dixie Highway) just southwest of Thayer Rd. Peter and Ellen lived there for the rest of their days. About this time, George, his oldest living son was married and lived on Peter's old farm on Sugar Creek Road. George later bought the farm from his father.

During his later years, Peter, a Republican, served as Township Trustee for several terms²⁷.

In his last years, Peter's daughter Henrietta Shinnaberry and her family lived on his farm. Peter and Ellen lived in a little house just west of the Shinnaberrys. Lela (Shinnaberry) Jacobs remembered them butchering beef when she was a little girl. They would take a quarter of beef and hang it up over the stove to dry it. When Lela would go down to visit them, her "Aunt Ellen" (as she called her) would cut a piece off and give it to her. Lela thought that was pretty good! Her only memories of her Grandpa Snyder were that he had a moustache and was not a very large man.



Ellen (Baker)(Kollor) Snyder



Peter Snyder

Peter died on 1 Oct 1900 at the age of 80. Lela remembered riding in her mother's lap in a horse and buggy on the way to his funeral. At her young age she couldn't understand why her mother felt so bad and was crying.²⁸ The process of settling Peter Snyder's estate among his eighteen children was immense and took years. Peter's executor was his son George, but George died before settling the estate, so the task fell to Dave Byerly, who was George's executor (George also had a large family).²⁹ One result of this is that tombstones for Peter, George, and Peter's first wife Clarinda were purchased at the same time. So although they are found in three different cemeteries, they all have the same style. Ellen Snyder lived for about five years after Peter died. She was ill for some time and had an operation to relieve her condition, but it failed and on 17 January 1906 January she died.³⁰

¹ Tombstone inscription, Old Shawnee Cemetery, Zurmehly and Shawnee Rds., Shawnee Twp., Allen Co., OH. "CLARINDA WIFE OF P. SNYDER DIED DEC. 19, 1866 AGED 44 Y 8 D"

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- ² *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885. p.587-88.
- ³ Allen County, Ohio Marriage Record No. 1 (1831-1842), p. 137.
- ⁴ Family Bible of Peter Snyder. Copies of the information in the Bible were provided by Brian Clark of DeGraff, Ohio. The owner of the Bible is unknown. Note: The entries were probably made as late as 1890, and so there may be inaccuracies in the exact dates.
- ⁵ Date given in family Bible of Peter Snyder is November 13, 1846. However, his tombstone in the Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH states "GEORGE SNYDER DIED SEPT.12, 1901 AGED 54 Y. 10 M. 28 D." This gives a birth date of 15 Oct 1846. Since the early dates in the Bible were written long after the fact and many are known to be inaccurate, the tombstone date is used here.
- ⁶ Vernon Cloyd Hennon, *BES family update 13* (1977).
- ⁷ Lela Shinaberry, *BES family update 31* (1977).
- ⁸ Tombstone, Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH "SHINABERY, SON FRANK 1885 - 1909 FATHER CHARLES ALDEN 1850 - 1918, MOTHER HENRIETTA SNYDER 1850 - 1923"
- ⁹ Margaret Louise Hall Hall, *BES family update 88* (1978).
- ¹⁰ Raymond K. Snyder, *BES family update 56* (1977).
- ¹¹ Kathryn Snyder Geiser, *BES family update 27* (1977).
- ¹² Tombstone, Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "PROTSMAN JOHN 1854 - 1921 ANNA 1862 - 1943"
- ¹³ United States Census, 1850, Allen County, Ohio, Bath Township, p.493-4.
- ¹⁴ Deeds Book W, p. 228, Allen Co., OH Recorders Office. 5 Sep 1856.
- ¹⁵ *Historical Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*, 1880, Philadelphia: R.H. Harrison, p.140.
- ¹⁶ Carrie Wallace, interviewed by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 August 11.
- ¹⁷ A George Snyder who enlisted in the Union Army on 20 Sep 1864 served as a sergent in the 180th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and was discharged in Jul 1865. Although it is not known for sure whether this was the same George Snyder, the grave of our George (b. 1846) has a G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) marker, indicating that he was a Civil War veteran. The George who enlisted in 1864 is the only George Snyder listed from Allen County.
- ¹⁸ Dates from Family Bible of Peter Snyder. Note: these birth dates agree with the dates listed on an old paper seen by Brian Clark at the Kimmey/Baker Reunion in 1973, except that the dates on that paper were all one year earlier.
- ¹⁹ Information from *A Portrait and Biographical Record...*, 1896, p.490; interview of Lela Jacobs, 1977; and information obtained from Evelyn E. Drew (daughter of Addie Grant) and other sources by Brian Clark of DeGraff, Ohio in about 1977.
- ²⁰ 1870 in Bible, 1869 on old paper
- ²¹ 1872 in Bible, 1871 on old paper
- ²² 1873 in Bible, 1872 on old paper.
- ²³ 1874 in Bible, 1873 on old paper. His tombstone, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. says "Edward F. Snyder Died Aug 22, 1899 Aged 25 y 11 m 6 d". This produces a birth date of 16 Sep 1873 rather than 1874. If the 1873 date is correct, then the dates for older siblings listed on the old paper seen by Brian Clark are likely to be correct rather than the dates in the family Bible.
- ²⁴ 1876 in Bible, 1875 on old paper.
- ²⁵ 1878 in Bible, 1877 on old paper.
- ²⁶ 1882 in Bible, 1881 on old paper.
- ²⁷ *Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*. Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1896. p. 489-490.
- ²⁸ Interview of Lela Shinaberry Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 June 15.
- ²⁹ Interview of Nina (Byerly) Landes by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 22 Sep 1977
- ³⁰ Obituary of Ellen Snyder, *The Lima Daily News*, Vol. 10, No. 17, 1906 Jan 19, p.2.



George and Barbara (Roeder) Snyder

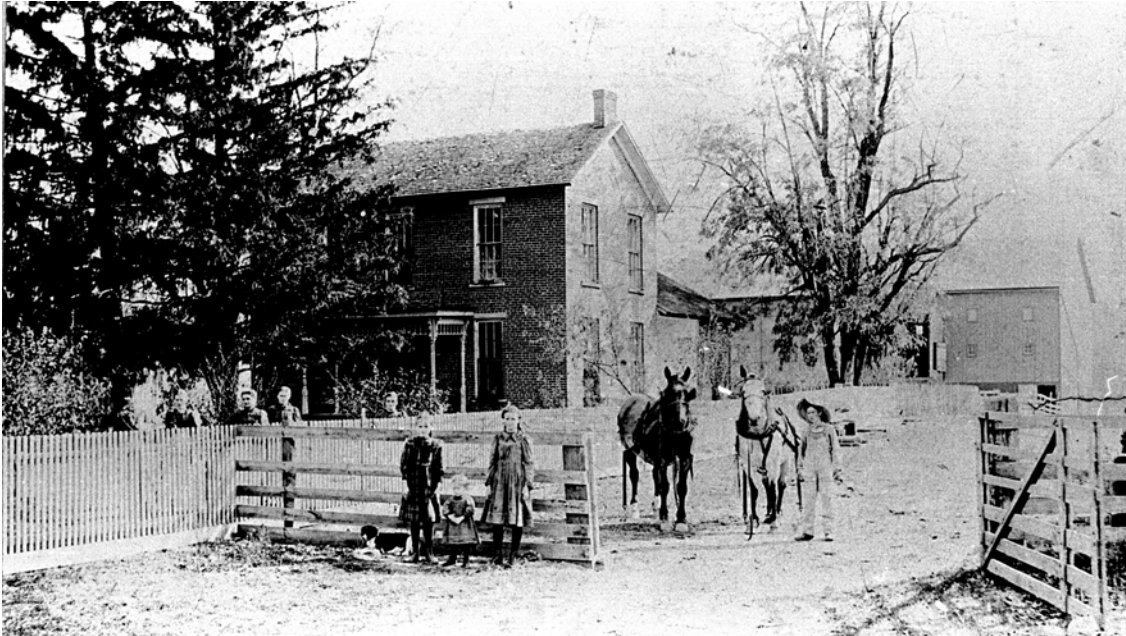
GD. George Snyder

George Snyder and Barbara A. Roeder (15 Jul 1859 - 30 Jan 1898¹) were married on 22 Oct 1876². At the time he was thirty years old and she was seventeen. They had the following children³:



(l-r) Back row: Bertie, Olive, Abbie. Front row: Flo, Alma, Minnie, Roy

GDA. **Minnie Louella (Vore)** 13 Sep 1877 Oct 13 - 4 Nov 1927, m. John Emmett Vore
 GDB. **Bertha "Bertie" L. (Byerly)** 1879 Sep 5 - 1934?, m. Fred Byerly
 GDC. **Flora "Flo" Dell (Byerly)** 11 Mar 1881 - 15 Mar 1955, m. Chester J. Byerly
 GDD. **Clifford D.** 5 Aug 1882 - 11 Jan 1885
 GDE. **Archie Roy** 27 Sep 1884 - 11 Nov 1959, m. Emma Louis Kreig
 GDF. **Abbie Fern (Leedy)** 24 Jun 1886 - 1920, m. Sam Leedy
 GDG. **Olive Irene (McNett)** 11 Jul 1888 - 7 Jun 1953, m. William Clinton McNett
 GDH. **Alma Lois (Vore)** 26 Feb 1897 - 20 Mar 1976, m. Harold Charles Vore



Behind fence on left (l-r): Minnie, ?, Bertie, Flo. In front of fence: Abbie, Alma, Olive. Right: Roy

George and Barbara lived in a big brick house on a farm on what is now called Sugar Creek Road in Bath Township. This farm was bought by George's father, who owned it until 1891, when George bought it from him.

Barb (or Bartie) was very close to her mother (Elizabeth Roeder), and when she and George moved up to the brick house it seemed like a long way from there to home where her parents lived, even though it was only about two miles. Barb's mother had made it a custom to come and visit regularly every week (or two weeks). On the day that her mother was to come, Barb would be just so sure that it was time for her to come to visit that she just couldn't work. She would just go and sit down at the window and watch until she saw her mother coming. She would get so homesick to see her mother that she couldn't get her work done until she saw her coming.

Bartie was also very close to her sister, Mary Byerly. In about 1894 the Byerly family had just moved from Cool Rd. over to Bluelick Road (where the I-75 interchange is now). They moved into an old log cabin that had been a sheep shed and had cleaned it up. Their baby, Paul, had been sick and Bartie stopped by to see how they were doing.

Mary thought that he was better, but Bartie said "I believe I'm going to stay with you tonight." The baby died that night.

For quite some time, Barb had had sick spells caused by gall stones. In 1898, she became sick again and did not recover. She died on 30 Jan. She left behind her large family, including the baby, Alma, who was only five months old. The responsibility for housekeeping fell on the older girls, especially Minnie, who was twenty at the time.

Soon after this, Bertie went to work for her Aunt Mary Byerly when they were building their new house. Now this caused a problem, because they were going to be smoking meat in a week or so and Minnie would have to be going out to the smokehouse often to check on it and she didn't want to leave Alma in the house by herself. The other children couldn't help because the Sugar Creek school where they went hadn't closed for the summer yet. But the Bluelick school had already closed about two weeks before Sugar Creek, so Mary's daughter, Nina Byerly went over to stay with Alma until school was out.

Nina used to like to come over and spend the night with her cousins. She liked her Uncle George, who had a big bushy moustache. She thought it was great fun to stay upstairs in the big room where the girls stayed. They had two or three beds in that one room. One time Nina stayed over on Friday night. The next morning, Abbie and Olive decided to go fishing at the creek that ran through the end of the farm with two of the older Prottzman girls, their cousins on the Snyder side. Nina, who was younger, tagged along. On the way home, Abbie, Olive, and Bertha Prottzman began to tease Nina and she started crying. She bawled and bawled and the girls tried to make up to her. They said that if she would stop crying and not tell Bertie, Minnie, and Flo what they had done, they would give her the one good sized fish that they caught. They were afraid of being punished when they got home. So Nina agreed and got to take the fish when she walked home later that day.⁴

The girls also played with their Shinnaberry cousins, whose mother was a sister to George. Lela (Shinnaberry) Jacobs remembered coming down to their house to play with Alma when she was very small, and Alma also came over to her house, which was nearby.⁵

In 1899, Minnie married Emmett Vore. They had a big wedding at the house there and were married by S. G. Maymer, who had been holding revival meetings in the community. Then in April 1901, Bertie married Fred Byerly, a younger brother of her uncle, Dave Byerly. Bertie and Fred moved out to Indiana. About this time, George was suffering from emphysema. He had farmed for years and during the harvest his job was to feed the threshing machine. He ended up breathing a lot of dust, which made his condition worse. The last year or so he had difficulty breathing and was unable to work. He sat out in the front yard in a rocking chair because being outside made it easier for him to breathe. After a while he was so tan from being in the sun all the time that he looked brown.

George's condition got worse and finally he died on 12 Sep 1901 of "dropsy of the chest", which was what they called an accumulation of fluid in the lungs. The children that weren't yet married were kept by neighbors and relatives. Abbie stayed with Lizzie Driver's for a while until she was married to Sam Leedy in 1902 at the age of 16. Olive stayed with Jesse and Sarah Miller, who were neighbors, for a while. Eventually she married Will McNett in 1906.

Dave and Mary Byerly (Barbara's sister) had been very close to both George and Barbara, and when George died, Dave was named executor of George's estate. This turned out to be a huge job, because less than a year earlier George's father Peter Snyder had died and George was named executor of **his** estate. Now Peter had had eighteen children by two wives and because of George's illness he had not been able to do much of the work in clearing up the estate. So that job fell on Dave Byerly as well as settling up George's estate. It was a lot of work for him and took years to finish.

Dave and Mary also took in Flo and Alma for one winter. Alma and their boy Arch were about the same age, just about ready to start school. They had a lot of fun together. In the evening they liked to play and say that they were going to hunt mice. Although there weren't really any mice, they would go around from room to room to see if there were any mice in there.

At that time, Flo was going out with Chet Byerly, who was a younger brother of Dave, and also a brother of Bertie's husband Fred. When Flo would go out with him in the evenings, Alma would just cry and cry for her because she had left. So Mary would take her and rock her and sing to her. Flo and Chet eventually got married, and Alma went out to Indiana to live with her sister, Bertie. During another winter, Roy also stayed with Dave and Mary Byerly. Later in his life, Roy lived in eastern Ohio.

Alma lived out in Indiana with Fred and Bertie Byerly the whole time she was in school. She also attended the Brethren church out there. They had a lot of children, and Alma loved their babies, although she had to work hard, carrying them upstairs and down. She had a few bad memories of living there, because she remembered that they wouldn't buy her a pair of boots and she had to tramp through the wet on her way to school. As a result, she had a bad ear infection, which wasn't properly taken care of. For the rest of her life she had hearing problems.

After school, she went to Manchester College in Indiana. During this time of her life, she was interested in painting, and painted several nice oil paintings which hung in her house after she was married.

When Alma was eighteen, she moved back to Ohio and stayed with her sister Flo in Lima. She always liked Flo and Chet a lot and they were close for the rest of their lives. She got a job working as a housekeeper for Jake and Chloe Vore for a number of years, and she stayed out there. Then lived with Flo again in Lima and worked at a store until she was married to Harold Vore (son of Jake and Chloe) in 1925.⁶

The following are two letters that were in the same envelope. The envelope was addressed to Miss Alma Snyder, North Manchester Indiana, % College. The return address was: From Mrs. J.E. Vore, Lima, O R.R. 8

Lima O March 3 - 1918

Dear sister Alma. Received your letter last Wed - Was washing that day but I stopped long enough to read your letter, Say I didnt know you could write such a nice letter. and tears came in my eyes too, When I think of dear mother and what we miss, but some how I always pity you most of all, for I think we had the best mother in the world. and Gladys

too had a very dear good mother. And Alma I am trying to live for my children. you know I dont keep house like I would like - but we dont stick fast in dirt quite. Myrth has company this P.M. Hettie Driver is here they are looking at magazines. Louring stopped at Kagys for dinner and George took a spin on his bike. Ruth Crabb wanted me to come down to their house this P.M. and I rather promised I would, but somehow I get tired when I go to church. So didnt go She said they were giving a farewell dinner for George Protsman her mothers brother (he is a soldier boy) and about all the family would be there some how I feel as tho I should have gone Louring has just gotton over German measles and the rest of us havent taken them yet. Abbie called down after dinner. and wanted us to come up there. the two girls have the mumps. Cecil has them real hard. Harold had them first they are surely having their share of sickness. had the chicken pox too. Well what are you going to do about coming back to your old place to work. You know Chloe will have to have some one when the busy work begins. and if you are counting on coming back seems to me you wont get a better place, but I suppose Chloe & you have an understanding I would hate for you to lose your place, that is if you like the place. I'll bet you had a nice time at Berties. Have you seen Flo lately. I want to write Bertie this day but dont know if I will get it done or not I suppose you heard about Nettie Millers sickness She was at the Hospital 2 wks She is home now but I havent been up yet Grand ma went up yesterday to see her She is doing fine. Tell Gladys Clyde was here Wed eve and staid all night with us he came up on business they were well. Say do you know Gails girl, does she belong to the church. Clyde didnt think she did. Well this is all for this time. "Have a good time at school" We are pretty well at present

Good Bye Minnie

[at top of page three:] Just got a letter from Flo today she is looking for you out next Sat. She said Bertie wasnt well Dr said her heart was her trouble, I surely hope she isnt like me in her affliction.

[at top of page four:] I would ask you to write but suppose you will be home soon.

Lima,O.,Mar.3,'18.

Miss Alma Snyder,
N. Manchester Ind.

Hello Alma, How are you this fine day? This is such a fine day I think we had all ought to be feeling fine. We children went to the Spelling contest at Blue Lick Fri. Evening. I tried to get a prize awfully hard, but didn't succeed. We had a ciphering contest there also. Lowell Byerly won a prize in spelling in our grade & Lucille Armentrout won one in ciphering. Mr. Landes got two; one for spelling and one for ciphering. We have fine times at school this year and I suppose you do too.

Myrth will be fifteen years old the fourteenth of this month. She's getting old isn't she? Mama wants to make her think she's a little girl yet though. Are you coming to work for Aunt Chloe this summer? If you are perhaps I will make you be my teacher in

painting. Papa got me some oil paints. Last Fri. P.M. Mr. Landis went to a sale & left the school in charge of Leonard Kagy and some school it was too. He positively (so it seemed) couldn't make them behave. We ciphered and spelled in the afternoon and practiced for the Spelling Contest. We weren't going to have our regular lessons. So it wasn't quite so bad as it might have been. Well, I had better quit so I will say good bye. Write soon. Mary.

Hettie said I should tell you to write to her.

¹ Tombstone, Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH "BARBARA A. SNYDER DIED JAN. 30, 1898 AGED 38 Y. 6 M. 15 D."

² Allen Co., OH Probate court.

³ Dates that were not provided by children of those listed were taken from a family group sheet of George and Barbara Snyder from Lois Vore, via Jean Vore, Gunnison, CO.

⁴ Interview of Nina (Byerly) Landes by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 22 Sep 1977

⁵ Interview of Lela (Shinnaberry) Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 1977 June 15

⁶ Interview of Harold Vore by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 1977 March 20



Amy (Snyder) Mason



M. D. Mason

GE. Amy Louisa Snyder Mason

On 2 Oct 1866 Amy Snyder¹ married Marquis D. Mason (1840 - 1908). According to Lela Shinaberry, for a nickname people called him "Doc" since he went by "M.D.". They lived near her sister Henrietta. Those two families were very close and had children that were about the same age. Amy died 28 Feb 1912, and was buried in the Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH.



Back row (l-r): Don, Harry, Sarah?, Charles, Amy. Front row: Marquis D., Amy Louisa.

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¹ Vernon Cloyd Hennon, *BES family update 13* (1977).

GF. **Henrietta Snyder Shinaberry**

Henrietta Snyder¹ married Charles Alden Shinaberry who was born 21 Mar 1850 and died Dec 1918. According to Lela Shinaberry Jacobs (15 Jun 1977), for some time they lived on Henrietta's father Peter's last farm on the Old Dixie Highway. Later they lived in north central Bath Township, near the old Sugar Creek School (located where the Sugar Creek crosses Slabtown Road). After that they rented a house from her oldest sister, Rilla Mason. Charles Shinaberry was a "trucker" (grower of fruit and vegetables) and raised melons. He also liked fine horses. Henrietta died in 1923.

The last name is apparently also spelled "Shinabery" in some cases.

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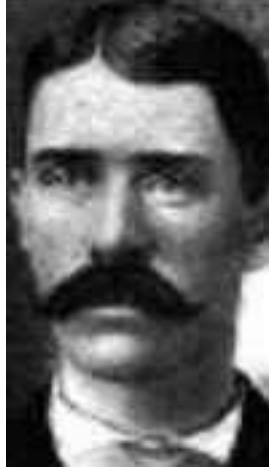
¹ Lela Jacobs, *BES family update 31* (1977).

GG. Walter Snyder

Walter Snyder¹ married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Roeder,¹ d. 1878. According to Lela Shinaberry Jacobs (15 Jun 1977), Walter lived in Indiana in 1896, then went out west, possibly to Oklahoma, where he was an oil man. Walter died on 15 Feb 1927.

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¹ Margaret Louise Hall Hall, *BES family update 88* (1978).



GH. Jasper Snyder¹

Jasper Snyder married Alice Lackey Snyder,¹ (1857 - 1928). Jasper (or "Uncle Jas") lived in Paulding County, Ohio in 1896.² He was a farmer and did some logging during the winters. Due to health reasons, he moved to Dekalb Co., Indiana near his son Jay. "In about 1914, they built a house by Jackson Twp in Dekalb County. This was one of the first homes in the area to have built-in closets and Carbide lighting. The house that had been used was burned about 1 year prior to this and during that year they built a small house that was later used as a chicken coup."¹ Jasper died 17 Nov 1926.

GHA. Stella Snyder Hughes¹ She married George Hughes.¹

GHB. Warren F. Snyder¹ b. 1875. He married (1) Ella Schaller Snyder.¹ He married (2) Bertha Klophenstein Snyder.¹

GHC. Calvin E. Snyder¹ b. 1876 in Ohio. He married Estella Atkins Snyder.¹

GHD. Maud C. Snyder Mason¹ b. 1881. She married Harry Mason.¹ Maud died 1917.

GHE. Charles A. Snyder¹ b. 1886.

GHF. Jay W. Snyder¹ b. 1889. He married Alma Rice Snyder.¹ Jay died 1974 in St. Joe, Dekalb Co., IN.

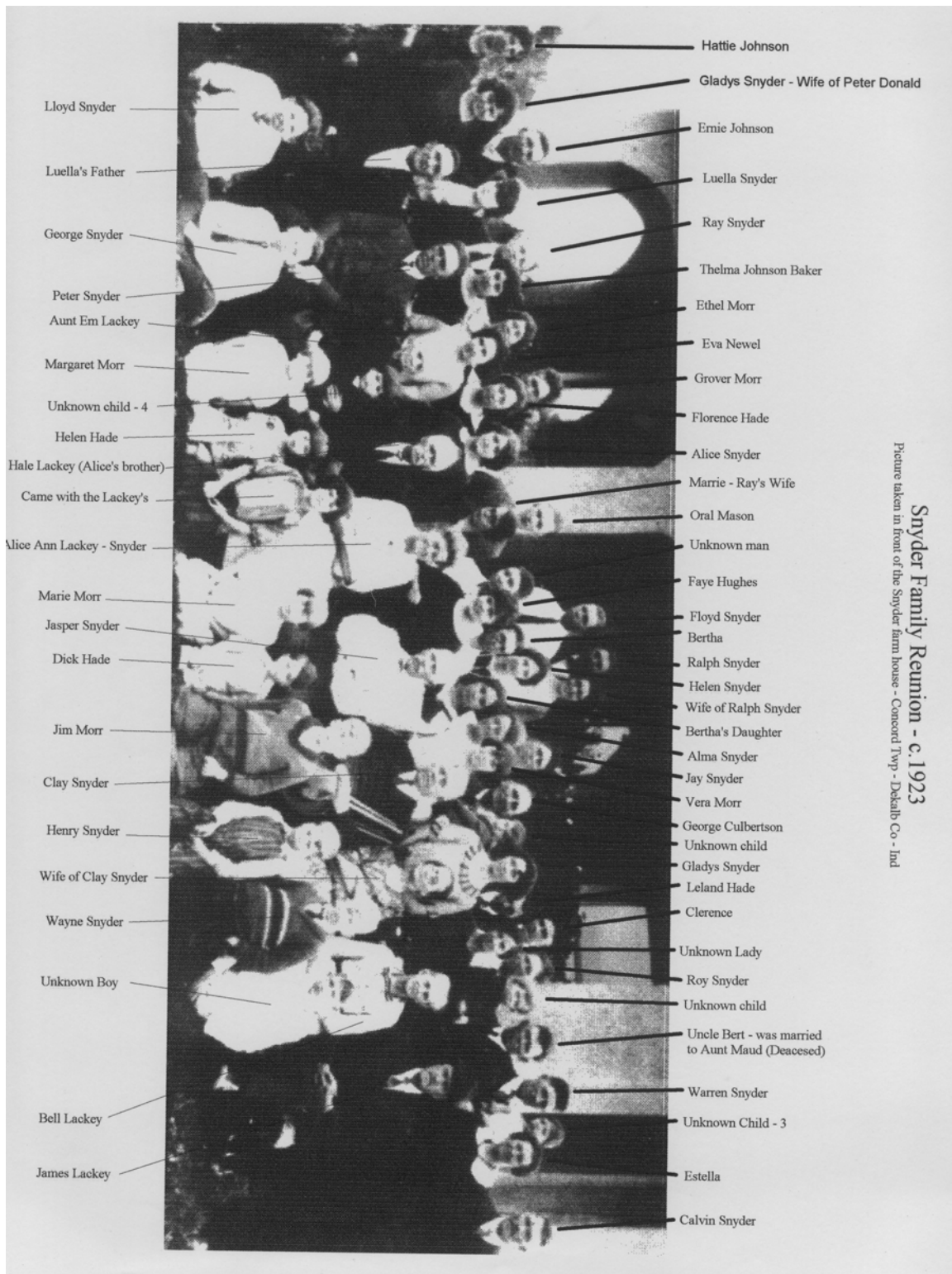
GHG. Ethel M. Snyder Morr¹ b. 1890. She married Grover Morr.¹

GHH. Florence D. Snyder Hade¹ b. 1894. She married Leland Hade.¹

GHI. Peter D. Snyder¹ b. 1896. He married Gladys Place Snyder.¹ Peter died 1963.

GHJ. James A. Snyder¹ b. 1900.

GHK. Floyd J. Snyder¹ b. 1901. He married Louetta Dailey Snyder.¹



¹ Van Snyder, *Letter from Van Snyder to Steve Baskauf* (1995).

² Interview of Lela Shinaberry Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 June 15.

GI. **Newton Snyder**

Newton Snyder¹ married Emma Custer Snyder. He lived on Jefferson Street in Lima, Ohio, just across from Schoonover Park. Newton died after 1896.

¹ Raymond K. Snyder, *BES family update 56* (1977).



GJ. Cassius Clay Snyder

On 16 Aug 1888 Clay Snyder¹ married Christina Weber Snyder, b. Jan 1868 in Lima, OH, d. 1950 in Hardin Co, OH. Clay Snyder lived in Lima. For some time he lived next door to his brother Newton, but then moved to the corner of Murphy and N. Main St. Somehow he had lost one of his legs, and so his work was making cigars. He had a little shop behind his home where he did his work.² Cassius died Jul 1932 in Hardin Co, OH.

GJA. Guy Snyder.

GJB. Kathryn Snyder Geiser,¹ b. 1 Apr 1899 in Lima, OH. She married 30 Oct 1925, Walter Geiser, b. 25 Mar 1898 in Lima, OH, d. 29 Aug 1959 in Hardin Co, OH. Walter was a medical doctor.



GK. Anna Snyder Protsman

Ann Snyder married John Protsman (1854 - 1921). They lived in Lima.³ Anna died in 1943. Their children were:

GKA. Lulu Protsman

Crab.

GKB. Adda Protsman.

GKC. Bertha Protsman.

GKD. Frank Protsman.

GKE. Blanche Protsman.



"John & Anna Protsman, 10 of 11 children 1908"

¹ Kathryn Snyder Geiser, *BES family update 27* (1977).

² Interview of Lela Shinaberry Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 June 15.

³ Interview of Lela Shinaberry Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 June 15.

I. Marquis K. and Hannah E. (Everett) Edgecomb

Marquis Edgecomb was born 11 Dec 1826 in northeastern Ohio. He was a small child when his parents moved to Allen County. "Our subject, the ninth in the family, was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools. He has been very successful in life, has engaged in farming most of the time, and now owns a farm in Richland Township and property in Beaver Dam. He operated a threshing machine during the falls and winters from 1844 to 1858, and now keeps a hotel in Beaver Dam. He was married, November 18, 1847, to Hannah E., daughter of Jacob Everitt¹, a farmer and an early settler of Allen County, this State, and of English descent. ... Mr. and Mrs. Edgecomb are members of the Disciples Church, in which he is elder and of which he has been superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He is a Republican in politics."² "... He was a member of the Home Guards during the Civil War and was at all times a patriotic citizen."³

Marquis died 20 May 1901 in Allen Co., OH and was buried in the old Beaverdam cemetery. Hannah (who was born 1 Sep 1825) died on 5 Apr 1910⁴ and was buried by her husband.

The children of Marquis and Hannah Edgecomb were⁵:

- IA. **Sarah Ann Edgecomb**. d. in infancy
- IB. **Madison Edgecomb**, b. 9 Jun 1850. He married (1) 19 Dec 1872 to Philena M. Barnhart Edgecomb 24 Feb 1855 - 8 Feb 1882⁶. He married (2) 5 Jun 1884 to Molliee Frisbie Fee Edgecomb,⁴ b. 6 Sep 1855, d. 1925, and they had no children. Madison, was involved in various business ventures in Beaverdam, and "in addition to general farming, he has engaged in the production of oil, having nine wells on his land, which yield a handsome income."⁷ (Although one does not generally think of Ohio as an oil center, the Lima field was the largest oil producing region in the world in the period soon after 1885.) He also operated a flour mill in Beaverdam. Madison died 1920⁸.
 - IBA. **Orrin Edgecomb**, (son of Madison Edgecomb and Philena M. Barnhart Edgecomb). Died in youth.
 - IBB. **Virgil Edgecomb**, (son of Madison Edgecomb and Philena M. Barnhart Edgecomb). Died in youth.
- IC. **George Washington Edgecomb**. He married Belle Hesser Edgecomb.
 - ICA. **Mary Edgecomb**.
 - ICB. **Elwood Edgecomb**.
 - ICC. **Lena Edgecomb**.
- ID. **Margaret Ann Edgecomb Phillips**.
 - IDA. **Calvin Phillips**.
- IE. **Betsey M. Edgecomb Baily**, m. P. R. Bailey
- IF. **William Edgecomb**,⁹ b. 24 Dec 1874. He married Dollie Neuman Edgecomb,² b. 1877, d. 1948. William died 1950.
- IG. **Elisha Edgecomb** 18 Mar 1854 - 19 Sep 1874¹⁰.
- IH. **Sarah Priscilla Edgecomb**. d. at age 5.

¹ See Appendix C for more about the Everetts.

² *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885. p.761.

³ Charles C. Miller, *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Richmond & Arnold, 1906, p. 621

⁴ Tombstone of Hannah Edgecomb, "died Apr 5, 1910 aged 84 y 7 m 4 d" (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery)

⁵ Miller, p. 621.

⁶ Tombstone of Philena M. Edgecomb (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery). "Philena M. wife of M. Edgecomb died Feb 8, 1882 Aged 28 y 11 m 11 d". Miller gives her birth date as 24 Feb 1855.

⁷ Miller, p. 621.

⁸ Tombstone of Madison Edgecomb (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery).

⁹ Tombstone of William and Dollie Edgecomb (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery).

¹⁰ Tombstone of Elisha Edgecomb (Old Beaverdam, OH Cemetery). "Elisha son of MC & H Edgecomb died Sept. 19, 1874 aged 20 y 6 m 1 d"



(l-r) Front row: Marquis, Lewis, Sarah (Edgecomb), Samuel H.
Back row: Lewis E., William, Ann (Roeder), Nelson, Jane (Flager)

L. Sarah (Edgecomb) and Lewis Bassitt

Sarah Edgecomb and Lewis Bassitt (son of Samuel and Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt) were married on 29 Dec 1847.¹ Their families were well acquainted - in fact Lewis' oldest sister Laura had married Sarah's older brother Walter seven years earlier. On April 4th of the following year, Lewis paid \$107.20 to buy forty acres of land in section 12 of Bath Township from the State of Ohio. (This land had been granted by an act of congress to the state to aid in financing the construction of the Miami and Erie Canal. The canal, which connected Lake Erie with the Ohio River, was completed in 1845 and ran through the western edge of Allen County.) Lewis and Sarah settled down on this land, which is located northeast of the intersection of present-day Bluelick and Thayer Roads, and which adjoined the farm of Lewis' parents to the south.

Sarah and Lewis began rearing a large family, which eventually grew to eleven children:

- LA. **Samuel Harry**,² 23 Oct 1848 - 9 Mar 1925, m. (1) Mary Margaret Whipp, m. (2) Lizzie Mitchell.
- LB. **Rozetta**, b. 13 May 1850 in Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH, d. before 1860.
- LC. **Philo Horace**,^{3,4} 1 Apr 1852 - 8 Apr 1936, m. Alice Netta Everett
- LD. **Marquis**,⁵ 26 May 1854 - 15 Aug 1914, m. Harriet "Hattie" Hedges,⁴

- LE. **James**, 16 Feb 1857 - before 1860.
 LF. **Nelson**, 23 Apr 1858 - after 1908, m. Katherine Burns.
 LG. **William**,⁶ 27 Dec 1860 - 22 Aug 1933, m. Emma Nichols Schull,^{5,7}
 LH. **Carlinda Ann (Roeder)**, 1 Jun 1863 - c.1934, m. John Roeder.
 LI. **Sarah Jane (Flager)**,⁸ 27 Apr 1866 - 13 Feb 1939, m. George Flager.
 LJ. **Charles**, 21 Oct 1868 - 27 Sep 1869⁹.
 LK. **Lewis Ezra**, 27 Jan 1871 - 1912, m. Anna Viola Burns .

From their early days, the boys had to work hard helping their dad with the farm work. And he certainly needed help with more and more little mouths to feed. Sarah must have been very busy, since for years there were no girls in the family to help her. The family also took an interest in spiritual matters, as evidenced by their support of the American Bible Society in 1863.¹⁰

In 1864, there were distractions for teenage boys as the Civil War raged and the local newspapers whipped up sentiments with calls for patriotic young men to enlist. The promise of adventure, lure of \$300 bounty money, and the example of several cousins enticed Sam to persuade his parents to let him enlist at the age of only fifteen. On February 12, he was mustered into company I of the 27th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and left six days later for an experience that would change his life forever. His exploits are chronicled in a series of letters that he wrote home which were carefully saved by his parents (Appendix A)¹¹. and can still be seen at the Allen County Museum in Lima. In these letters, one can trace changes in his outlook as he moved with his unit through the South:

February the 22nd, 1864
 (Nashville, Tennessee)

My dear Grand Father and Grand Mother - i thought that i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well at the present time and i hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same state of health. ... i have seen a great deall of the world since i left you. We went through mountains. We went through a channel too miles long and it was just as dark as anything you eve saw. You couldnt see your hand before you. ... I have been in ten days and i like it fusstrate. Although a soldier's life is a hard life. We havent had anything but hard crackers and charcoal Coffee ...

Camp of the 27th Ohio Regiment
 Chattahoochee River, Georgia
 July the 14th A.D., 1864

Ever kind and affectionate Father & Mother it is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to answer your kind and most welcome letter which arrived at hand about half an hour ago. ... The weather is awfull hot and sultry down here and we have had some marching to do since i wrot to you last the first day we marched 15 miles and the was lots of the boys that Just fell down and could not

go any further when we was marching along in ranks. ... if they keep running us on much longer they wont have any in the company fit for duty we lossed 41 men kiled and wounded in that charge that we made on the fourth of July, 64. ... Well Father i saw the Captain about getting a discharge and he said when the Law was passed the was so many days appointed to get a discharge in and the number of days had expired before you sent the paper and therefore he could not get one. ...

Hospital 1st Division 17th Army Corpse
Goldsboro North Carolina
March 29th A.D. 1865

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to inform you that I am still on the land amongst the living and sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may find you enjoying the best of health I am not very well at the presant time I have had the fever and ague for the last three weeks but have got it about broke although I am awfull weak I am now detailed as a nurse tending to the wounded the is 9 wounded men in the room that I am in and out of the 9 the is 6 that have there legs off 5 of them are off above the Knee and one below the knee. ... I tell you now it is an awfull job they haft to be handled carefuller than a child for you can handle a child and them you cant. The was one man died in my room last night that had his leg off. ... The rebles calles us Shermans swamp dogs.

During this last raid through South Carolina and a portion of North Carolina we have waded swamps where we had to take our catridge box off and buckle them around our neck and lay them on the top of our heads to keep them from getting wet and more then that we had to stand in the water and skirmish with the rebs for half a day to a time and then when we would come out we had no dry clothes to put on and would be nearly froze stiff and when it comes to putting them all together it is not very plesant. ...¹²

We don't know the thought and feelings experienced by Lewis and Sarah at this time since their letters weren't preserved. But a few quotes from Samuel's letters give us glimpses of loving parents' concern for their son far away:

... Well Father you wanted me to write and Let you know whather i got them things that you sent me or not. I got too Handkerchieves, too towels, too Combs and one skain of Black thread and one Inkstand. And the Last and greatest was the Potraits of my most Beloved Father and Mother whom i had once enjoyed the Pleasures of the winter fireside...¹³

... Well Father you wrote that you had set Lawyer Guthrig to work to get my discharge i hope he may be sucessfil in getting it so that i can come home once more and help you do your work for i know that you kneede someone to help you. ...¹⁴

... Mother, you must write right away as soon as you get this letter. This road is not agoing to be abandoned and therefore mail can come through. You must write once evry weak wheather you receive any ancer from me or not for we aint agoing to have much time to write, but i will write as often as i can. ... And i will send my money home if i can any way a tall. You said that mabby i thought that you diddent want me to come home. Never never do i think of any such a thing.
...¹⁵

With Sam far away in the army, a lot of responsibility fell on Philo and Marquis who were only 12 and 10.

... Well Father i Suppose that you have a pretty hard task in getting your Harvest cut this summer i wish that i could ben at home so as to helped you i think things would went a great deal better. Tell Philo that i give him the prais of being a diligent boy this summer. I think if nothing happens and i live and have my health good i will be at home next summer to help you in doing your work on the farm. ...¹⁶

Samuel did come back to Ohio after the war, and the family was reunited again. Sometime in the 1870's, Lewis built a large house for his family on the farm. The house on the east side of Thayer Rd. just north of Bluelick Rd. is still standing there today and has been occupied by generations of the family through Lewis' great-great-great grandsons.

Philo followed in his father Lewis' footsteps on the farm. As a young man, he and his second cousin, Franklin P. Edgecomb worked splitting rails for fences from timber cut in the forests of Bath Township. "When we were boys, Philo Bassett and I had never made rails, but we wanted to try. We made 4000 for my father, 5000 for Lew Bassett (Philo's father) and 17 000 for Almon Hadsell. By that time we felt as if we knew how to make rails!"¹⁷ Frank Edgecomb also recalled an experience he had once with Lewis:

I recall when the Erie Railroad came through Allen County. Old man Bassett took \$100 worth of stock; was later offered \$20 for it but did not sell, holding on to it for years. Lew Bassett and I decided to go to the State Fair, but he refused to buy a ticket. The train was crowded and when the conductor came along to collect the fares, he took my ticket and asked old man Bassett for his. Lew showed him his stock in the railroad, to which the conductor stated, "Old man, you can't ride on that." "Keep it", says Mr. Bassett. "You pay or I'll put you off", replied the conductor. "It takes a man to do that", was Mr. Bassett's reply. "I'll show you", says the conductor. "At the next station you get off." This Mr. Bassett did not do. So I told the conductor I would pay the fare for Mr. Bassett. So then Mr. Bassett was telling me that he was getting to ride for his railroad stock, so I finally told him that I had paid for him. On the way home Mr. Bassett paid his own fare.¹⁸

In about 1890, all of the children who lived into adulthood got together for a family photograph. Unfortunately, on that day Philo (who had quite a temper) was mad about something and refused to go and have his picture taken with the rest. Soon

afterward, Sarah died on 1891 January 28, probably of cancer. A large portrait of Sarah was made from that family photograph; perhaps it was commissioned by her grieving husband.

In his old age, Lewis would often drive a horse and buggy up to Beaverdam to visit his grandchildren (Samuel's children) there. DeWitt Bassett remembered that as a child he used to talk to him during those visits. He was a "nice old fellow", and no longer had the beard that he had during his earlier years.¹⁹ In 1899, Lewis received a letter from his son Samuel, who at that time was working in the Treasury Dept. in Washington, DC. The letter gives a feeling of how their lives had diverged since Samuel left Ohio:

" ... I want you to answer this Father and tell me all the news. How your crops are, and how you are all getting along. How is the oil excitement, and have they found oil on your farm yet? How is the wheat and corn, and hay and hogs. It has been so long since I have been in a wheat field, or had any thing to do with any such things, that I am getting rather homesick to be with them again and see whether it would seem natural. I am shut up here in the office from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon without even the sun shining on me ..."

Lewis died on 25 March 1902 and was buried next to Sarah in the old cemetery on the east side of Beaverdam.

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residence Thursday afternoon at 2
o'clock and will be conducted by Rev
Figley and Rev. Deer. The remains
will be consigned to a final resting
place in Woodlawn cemetery

PIONEER

**Resident of Bath Township
Died This Morning.**

Lewis Bassett, one of the well
known pioneers of Bath township,
died this morning at 2:45 o'clock and
the funeral will be held at Beaver
Dam at 10 o'clock Thursday morning.
The deceased lived on the farm in
Bath township on which his father set-
tled after having secured title to the
property from President Jackson.

**Lamson & Hubbard's Pan-
To-Ro, newest hat out. Sold
only by Albrecht Bros.**

Clothing
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Regular
216 P. H. C.

How do you spell Basse/itt?

According to Eben P. Bassett, a genealogist working on compiling a list of Bassett descendants in about 1945, the spelling Bassitt is unique to the Allen County, Ohio Bassetts. All other Bassetts around the country spell the name Bassett.

This can be understood when realizes that Samuel and Elsa Bassitt, parents of Lewis, who came to Allen County when their children were quite young, could not write their names. In deeds from New York to Ohio, they signed by an "X". For example:

his
Samuel Bafset X
mark

Since there were few other Bassetts in the area, people simply spelled the name the way it sounded: Bassitt, Bassit, Basset, etc.

Samuel and Elsie had only one son, Lewis, and he and all of his family signed their name Bassitt into the 20th century. When Samuel and Elsa died, both of their tombstones were inscribed Bassitt. Although Bassitt seems to have been the accepted spelling, the spelling didn't seem to be an issue until about 1920²⁰. Lewis and Sarah, who died in 1902 and 1891 respectively, share one tombstone, yet on one side it says Lewis Bassitt and on the other side Sarah Bassett.

The "correctness" of the spelling of the name seems to have only become an issue with the grandchildren of Lewis and successive generations. Of the four sons of Lewis which had descendants bearing the family name, descendants of Samuel H. and Philo use Bassett, and those of Marquis and William²¹ use Bassitt.

The greatest amount of "argument" (all in fun, of course) about the issue of spelling seems to be between descendants of Philo and Marquis. Perhaps this is because those two seem to have been the most stubborn of Lewis' sons! In defense of the -ett clan, everybody else **does** spell it that way. However the -itt branch claims that that is only because the -ett Bassetts are too lazy to dot the i. Only time will tell if the conflict will ever be resolved!

¹ Allen Co., OH Marriage Record No. 2 (1842-1850), p. 192

² Lois Bassett (DeWitt Bassett), *BES family update 41* (1977).

³ Marvel Cheney Bielstein, *BES family update 60* (1977).

⁴ Edythe Bassett Conaway and others, *Philo & Alice Bassitt (Bassett) Family Members* (unpublished, 2005).

⁵ Karen Newman, *Bassett and Bassitt Family from Lewis Bassett to Oak Bassitt, etc.* (2004).

⁶ Alice Jane Burns Bassitt, *BES family update 89* (1978).

⁷ Anonymous, *Births and deaths recorded in the minutes of the Bassett, Edgcomb, and Snyder Reunion* (1936-1975).

⁸ Eunice Growden Flager, *BES family update 40* (1977).

⁹ Letter from Jeffrey N. Bassett to Steve Baskauf 6 Apr 1996.

¹⁰ Pledge of \$5.00 to the American Bible Society by Lewis Bassitt of Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio, 1863 Sep 25. Located in the Genealogy and Family History files of the Allen County Museum, Lima, Ohio.

¹¹ Some of the original letters are in the Allen Co. Museum, Lima, OH. Others are in the possession of Richard W. Bassett.

¹² Civil War letters of Samuel Bassitt, written to family members from 1864 Feb 22 to 1865 Sep 12. The originals and typewritten transcripts are found in the Allen County Museum, Allen County, Ohio.

¹³ Letter from Samuel Bassitt to Lewis and Sarah Bassitt and family, Marietta, Georgia, 1864 Aug 25.

¹⁴ Letter from Samuel Bassitt to Lewis and Sarah Bassitt, Marietta, Georgia, 1864 Oct 16.

¹⁵ Letter from Samuel Bassitt to Sarah Bassitt, Marietta, Georgia, 1864 Nov 7.

¹⁶ Letter from Samuel Bassitt to Lewis and Sarah Bassitt, Chattahoochee River, Georgia, 1864 July 14.

¹⁷ Frank P. Edgecomb's Reminiscences, recorded 1944 October 29 by Mrs. John E. Breese. The transcript of this interview is in the Allen County Museum, Lima, Ohio.

¹⁸ Frank P. Edgecomb's Reminiscences, 1944.

¹⁹ Interview of DeWitt Simpson Bassett by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1978 July 2.

²⁰ For more on the spelling of Basse/itt, see the introduction.

²¹ William's daughter Helen Binkley used the spelling "Bassett".

LA. Samuel Harry Bassett

After returning from the Civil War, Samuel H. Bassett was a school teacher, carpenter, and farmer near Beaverdam, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. At the age of 20 he married (1) in 1868, Mary Margaret Whipp (30 Oct 1850 - Oct 1932, buried in Rockport Cemetery, Allen Co., OH), who was 18 at the time. Samuel and Mary were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They lived near Beaverdam where he taught school, worked as a carpenter, and later farmed.¹

The wanderlust in Sam that began with his Civil War experience never quite left him and eventually he abandoned his wife, leaving her to rear their nine children on her own. After they were divorced in 1895, he lived in Washington, D.C., where he worked as a clerk in the Treasury Department as chief of the clerical staff covering naval officers. He was married to (2) Lizzie Mitchell. While he was working in Washington, he signed his correspondence "S. H. Bassett".

Samuel's children never knew him after he left home. As his son DeWitt said, "I seen him at Grandpa's funeral. Rossie and Oak and I went up. ... Grandpa's funeral was at the house. And he was there and he was talking to Rossie and asking about his children, you know. And he said, 'Well, how about DeWitt?' 'Well', she said, 'ask him yourself - he's settin' right there beside you!' I was seventeen years old then. And I've never seen him since. And I had never seen him from the time he left home when I was seven until seventeen."² After Samuel died on 9 Mar 1925, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Most of Samuel's children worked in the oil fields of Allen County during the boom years of the 1890s and later moved west to work in the oil fields of Texas, Oklahoma, and California.

¹ *History of Allen County, Ohio*, Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885, p.756.

² Interview of DeWitt S. Bassett by Steve Bassett (Baskauf), 1978.



(l-r) Back row: Lottie, Harrison, Carrie, Florence, Zora, Effie, Wilhelmina.
 Center row: Alice (Everett), Bernice, Philo
 Front row: Roy, Edythe, Howard

LC. Philo Horace Bassett

Philo Bassett and Alice Netta Everett (6 Dec 1854 - 20 Feb 1917) were married on 13 Aug 1874 at the home of her father, Elias Everett, by Rev. O. Gates. They had grown up in the same neighborhood and their families lived less than a mile apart. They had a large family consisting of the following children¹:

- Zora Anne (Maynard)** 5 Mar 1875 - 18 Oct 1958, m. Ed B. Maynard
- Effie Jane (Michael)** 26 Nov 1877 - 25 May 1953, m. Ellsworth Leroy Michael
- Carrie (Carey)** 12 Dec 1879 - 9 Jun 1914, m. George R. Carey
- Florence (Saum)(Millisor)** 16 Feb 1882 - 15 Dec 1966, m.(1) Loren Saum, m.(2) Omie Millisor
- Charlotte "Lottie" Pearl (Marshall)** 18 Mar 1884 - 13 Mar 1965, m. Walter Marshall
- Wilhelmina "Willa"** 6 Jun 1886 - 14 Aug 1905
- Lewis Harrison** 8 Oct 1888 - 20 Jan 1966, m. Betty Mort Bassett
- Roy Clifford** 18 Nov 1890 - 14 Dec 1914
- Howard Everett** 27 Feb 1893 - 6 Feb 1950, m. Doris Delphine Giffin Bassett
- Bernice Blanche (Early)** 9 Sep 1895 - 26 Feb 1992, m. George Gale Early

The family lived on a farm on what is now Thayer Rd. in Bath Township, just north of the place where Philo's father Lewis lived.

Philo was a good father and husband, but he was also a very strict and stern man, and kept the family on good behavior. Alice worked very hard and "kept the family on her butter and egg money".²

Life on the farm was hard and with a such a large family, everyone was kept very busy. Because there weren't any boys in the family for years, the older girls sometimes had to stay home from school and work in the fields. Alice was often sick and there was always a baby, so the girls had to wash clothes at night. There was very little time for play.

In 1899, Effie became pregnant and had a child, Edythe, on September 29. Edythe grew up with the family and, although she called him "Grandpa", Philo was the only father she knew. He always used to call her "baby" and he would put her in his lap and sing. When Edythe would try to sing, he would say "Quit your cryin'." And Edythe would say "Grandpa, I'm not a'cryin', I'm a'singin'!" Alice like to spoil Bernice and Edythe, because they were the littlest ones.

Philo's father, Lewis died in March of 1902. He did not leave a will, so the process of distributing the inheritance took several years. In September of 1903, all of the heirs sold their interest in the farm to James Heath. But only ten days later, Philo bought the original parts of the farm, purchased by his father from the government in 1848 and his grandfather in 1834. We don't know why he used this indirect method to obtain the farm, but presumably he had encountered problems of some sort. The family moved from his farm down to the home place on the corner of what is now Bluelick and Thayer Road.

In 1905, Willa came down with tuberculosis, or the "summer consumption" as they called it. She died on August 14. This was a real shock for the family because she was only 19.

On 1907 July 3, Carrie was married to George Cary. They had two children, Howard and Doris, and lived in Manson, Washington, where she died on 1914 June 9. After her death, her children lived around Lima.

Over the next several years, several of the other older girls were also married. Zora married Edgar B. Maynard on 1911 August 26, and Florence married Loren D. Saum on 1912 Dec 24. Then tragedy struck the family again when Roy, too, came down with tuberculosis. He was treated at the Tuberculosis Hospital in Lima, but he died the same year as Carrie, on 1914 December 14 at the age of 24.

In addition to farming, Philo was involved in political and community affairs. He organized a community threshing "ring", in which different farmers worked together in harvesting crops. He also served as a Bath Township trustee from 1913 to 1920. He was instrumental in completing the road building program in Bath Township.³ He also ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate for county commissioner in about 1920.

Philo was not a very religious man, but he was converted at the Billy Sunday campaign at the Central Church of Christ in Lima. The girls were active in the Beaverdam Church of Christ.

Although the kids had to work hard, there was still some time for fun. Howard was always playing practical jokes. One of the community social events was the "box social". The girls would make a box lunch and then it would be auctioned off to support

some community project. The boys would always try to figure out which box was made by the girl they liked so that they could buy it and eat it with the girl. Well, one time when they were having a box social at the Lordstown school, Howard got a box and trimmed it all up. Then he went out to the barn and got some live sparrows. When the guy who bought the box opened it up the birds flew out!

Howard and Edythe were very close, and she was often the victim of his jokes. Once Edythe had prepared little individual cherry pies with whipped cream to put in her box for a social. Bert Conaway (whom she later married) bought her box and when they started eating the pies, they discovered that Howard had put ketchup on top of the cherries before she had put the whipped cream on the pies! After the older children were gone, Howard would take Edythe places with him. When Edythe was too young to have a date, they would go to parties together. But then Howard would get a girl that he wanted to take home and he would want Edythe to go home with Bernice and her boyfriend, Gale Early. After Edythe was older and was teaching school, Howard would "fix" her lunch for her. Before she left for school she would open it up and find something like a lot of potato peelings instead of what she had put in it. When Howard would tell her something she never knew whether to believe him or not because he was always teasing her! Later in life, when Howard had children of his own he tried to get Edythe to not tell some of the things that he used to pull. He didn't want his boys getting any ideas!

Alice's health had not been good and in 1916 she had a gall bladder operation. For over a year she was very sick with chronic hepatitis. Finally, she died on 1917 Feb 20. After her death, Effie kept house for Philo. Later in 1917, Harrison was married to Bessie Mort on August 30, and Bernice was married to Gale G. Early on December 22. After Effie was married to Ellsworth L. Michael in 1919 September 12, Harrison and Bessie lived with Philo in the old home place.

The younger children always looked up to their sister Lottie. She played the piano and taught school for twelve years, and she helped Edythe through college. Then in about 1920, she went to nursing school in Chicago. Edythe remembered that "we always looked to her for anything. She was a person who would come home from a case (often people were nursed at home), would go out and milk the cows and make bread, living just as if she'd never been a trained registered nurse. If anyone in the family had medical problems, they relied on her and what she would tell us."⁴ Lottie was married in December of 1926 to Walter Marshall.

Edythe and Howard were among the last in the family to be married. Edythe married E. Bert Conaway on 1921 July 2, and Howard married Doris D. Giffin later that year on December 24.

Philo was known to have had an awful temper if things didn't go his way. When Harrison and Betty lived with him, they had to do what he said in matters related to the farm. His health began to deteriorate in about 1933 and he was ill for several years. On 1936 April 8, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Soon after Philo died, family problems began. All of the brothers and sisters came out to the old house and Howard began to read the will. When he got to the part where the sisters were mentioned, he broke down and cried and couldn't read on. Philo had left the farm with a lot of machinery and a lot of stock to Harrison, and Howard got some of the machinery. But the girls got only \$300. Perhaps due to problems he had had

in getting the family farm when his father had died, Philo wanted to make sure that it stayed in the Bassett name. In his will, he stated that if Harrison were to die, the farm was to go to his son Bob, and if Bob wasn't living it was to go to Howard's boys, Lewis and Bill.

An awful fight began. Everybody began accusing everybody else about everything. Some thought that Philo had gotten mad at some of the children, and the girls felt that they had been treated very unfairly, because they had worked so hard at home when the boys were just babies. Everybody felt bad about the situation. Later Howard had Lewis and Bill sign papers renouncing their claims to the farm.

Harrison and Bessie lived on the farm for the rest of their lives. Harrison liked to visit with people and would light up his pipe and sit down on the sofa in the front room and talk for hours. With Bessie, "you couldn't get away unless you were going to eat. She'd have to give you a supper if it was three o'clock in the afternoon!"⁵

After Harrison and Bessie died, their son Bob inherited the farm. Bob sold the farm to Howard's son Lewis, and Lewis's son Dave still lives on the farm. So Philo's desire that the farm remain in the Bassett family has been satisfied. One can still see the old wrought iron fence with "P. Bassett" on the gate in front of the house on Thayer Rd.



In front of the Bassett homeplace on Thayer Rd. north of Bluelick Rd. On fence: Howard. In front (l-r): Harrison, Roy, Philo, Edythe, Willa, Bernice, Alice, Lotta.

¹ Family Bible of Mr. and Mrs. Philo Bassett, with entries from 1875 to 1917.

² Interview with Edythe (Bassett) Conaway, 1976 Jan. 11.

³ Obituary of Philo Bassett, *The Lima News*, 1936 April 8.

⁴ Interview with Edythe (Bassett) Conaway, 1976 Jan. 11.

⁵ Interview with DeWitt Bassett, 1978 July 2.



LD. Marquis Bassitt

In 1875 Marquis Bassitt¹ married Harriet "Hattie" Hedges,¹ (b. 1856, d. 1915, buried: at Lafayette Cemetery, Lafayette, OH). They lived near Lafayette, Ohio. Mark, as he was called, lived with his family on Cool Road along the banks of Hog Creek. They were so close to the river that they had to have regular pens for their chickens. Otherwise they would have slid down the hill into the river!

In his later years, Marquis' son Alvah and his family lived with him. According to DeWitt Bassett, they were a somewhat eccentric family. Once when Mary Flager went out for a visit "Alvy's wife was telling about how many pears they had and she said 'You just go out there and get you some.' And Mary said that the weeds were so high you couldn't get out there."² Florence (Bassitt) Frick, Alvah's daughter said that "Marquis always wore his long underwear clear up until the first of May, regardless of how hot it was in April."³

Marquis died on 15 Aug 1914 and was buried at Lafayette Cemetery, Lafayette, OH.

¹ Karen Newman, *Bassett and Bassitt Family from Lewis Bassett to Oak Bassitt, etc.* (2004).

² Interview of DeWitt S. Bassett, 1978.

³ Told by Sam Bassitt at the 1977 Bassett-Edgecomb-Snyder Reunion.

LF. Nelson Bassett

Nelson Bassett married Katherine "Kate" Burns Bassett. Nelson was sometimes called "Nelt". Nelson and Kate lived near the northeast corner of Bath Township. The interurban (electric train) line that went from Lima to Findlay had a stop near their home.

LG. William Bassitt



On 17 Feb 1886, William Bassitt¹ married Emma Nichols Schull Bassitt,^{1,2} b. 17 Feb 1866 in Beaverdam, OH, (daughter of James Nichols and Nancy UNKNOWN Nichols) d. 8 (or 7) Nov 1956 in Beaverdam, OH. Will and Emma Shull lived on a 55 acre farm east of Beaverdam for a number of years. Eventually they sold their farm and bought the livery barn north of the square in Beaverdam. His son Ed worked with him until Will sold the livery business and retired.

William died 22 Aug 1933 in Lima, OH. Of his children, most spelled their name "Bassitt". However, Helen Binkley used "Bassett".

¹ Alice Jane Burns Bassitt, *BES family update 89* (1978).

² Anonymous, *Births and deaths recorded in the minutes of the Bassett, Edgecomb, and Snyder Reunion* (1936-1975).

LH. Carlinda Ann Bassett Roeder

Ann Bassett married John Roeder. They lived in the south side of Lima. John Roeder worked for a railroad company at their roundhouse. Carlinda died about 1934.

LHA. **Charles Roeder.** He married Ethel Clark Roeder.

LHAA. **Wilford Roeder.**

LHB. **Bertha Roeder King.** She married Zealous King.

LHC. **Perry Roeder.** He married Gertrude East Roeder.

LHCA. **Raymond Roeder.**

LHCB. **Alice Perel Roeder.**

LHD. **Lola Pearl Roeder.**

LI. Sarah Jane Bassett Flager

Jane Bassett¹ married George Flager, b. 15 Sep 1859, d. 22 Mar 1931. Jane died 13 Feb 1939.

¹ Eunice Growden Flager, *BES family update 40* (1977).

LK. Lewis Ezra Bassett

In 1892 Lewis E. Bassett married Anna Viola Burns who was a sister to the wife of Lewis' brother Nelson. According to DeWitt Bassett, Lewis, whose nickname was "Pucker", and Anna lived about a mile northwest of Beaverdam. Lewis died 1912 and is buried in the Rockport Cemetery, Allen Co., OH. Lewis and most of his family died of tuberculosis, except for Anna, who later remarried.

Appendix A. Civil War letters of Samuel H. Bassitt (b. 1848)

"Who'll Take the Money! \$402 Bounty To Veteran Volunteers. \$302 Bounty To New Recruits. Pay, Clothing and Subsistences same as Heretofore. 27th Ohio Vol. Infantry.

Persons enlisting now will receive the above bounty in installments as follows:

To a Veteran Volunteer, \$60 as soon as mustered in, 50 dollars in two months, 50 dollars in six months, 50 dollars in one year, 50 dollars in eighteen months, 50 dollars in two years, 50 dollars in two and a half years, and 40 dollars at expiration of three years.

To a New Recruit, 60 dollars as soon as mustered in, 40 dollars in two months, \$40 dollars in six months, 40 dollars in one year, 40 dollars in eighteen months, 40 dollars in two years, and 40 dollars at the expiration of three years.

All recruits, whether veteran, or raw will receive \$75 as soon as mustered into the United States service, as follows: First installment of bounty, \$60; one month's pay in advance, \$13; premium, \$2.

Young men desiring to go into the army can do no better than to enlist in the 27th Ohio Vol. infantry, now at Chattanooga. Come, hurry, volunteer; don't risk the "lottery" that takes place soon.

Apply to

Capt. E. G. HAMILTON

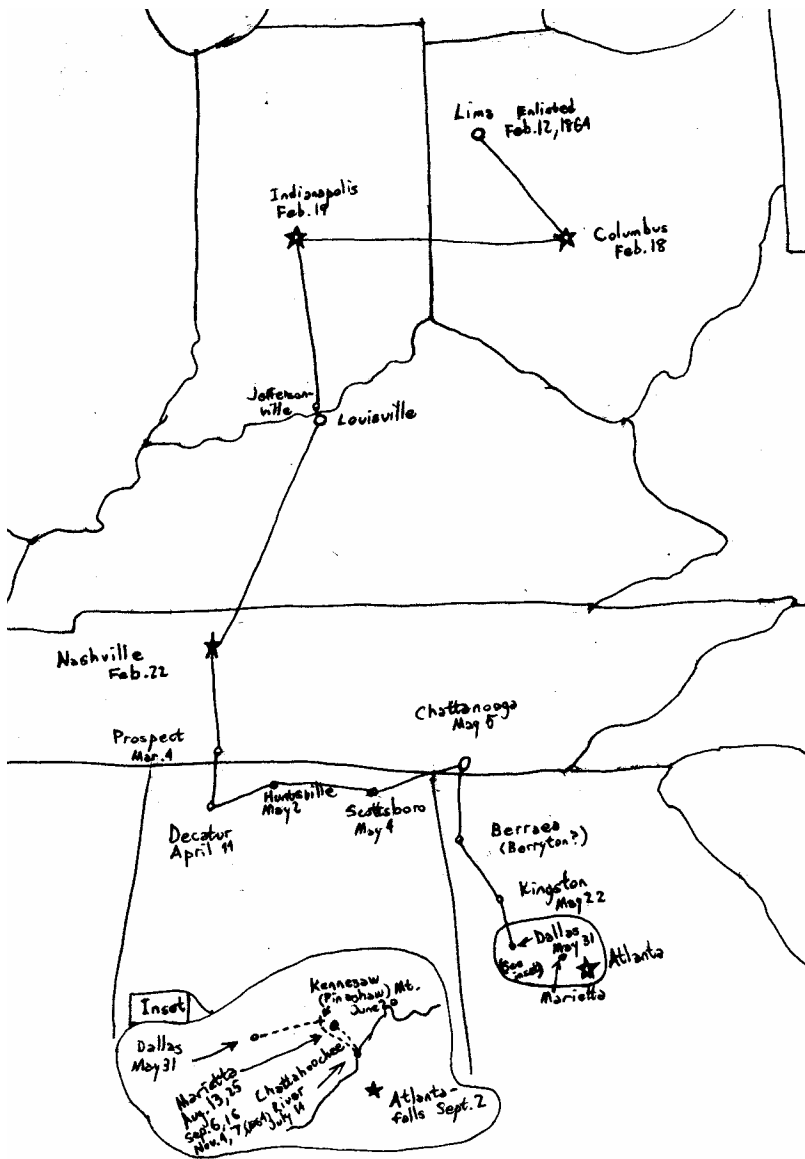
27th O.V.I. Recruiting Officer

Office at the Lima House "

This advertisement in the Lima Weekly Gazette undoubtedly caught the attention of young Samuel Bassitt, age 15. Despite the reservations of his parents, Samuel volunteered and on 12 Feb 1864 he was mustered into the 27th O.V.I.

The following series of letters were sent home by Sam to various family members, who carefully preserved them. They tell the story of his initial excitement and eventual (unsuccessful) attempt to get a discharge, followed by his resigned participation in Sherman's March to the Sea and skirmishes in the swamps of the Carolinas.

Many of these letters were donated to the Allen County Museum (by Walter Flager) where they were transcribed in their collection of Civil War letters. The originals are preserved in the museum archives. The rest were given to DeWitt Bassett by Walter. After his death they were found in his home and came into the possession of Richard W. Bassett, Samuel's grandson. They were later transcribed by Lois (Price) Bassett. There is at least one more letter that is not included here. This letter was shown to Steve Baskauf by Mary Flager in about 1978, but it could not be copied at the time. It's current whereabouts are not known.



Movement of Samuel H. Bassitt from enlistment (12 Feb 1864) to the fall of Atlanta (2 Sep 1864)

February the 19th 1864

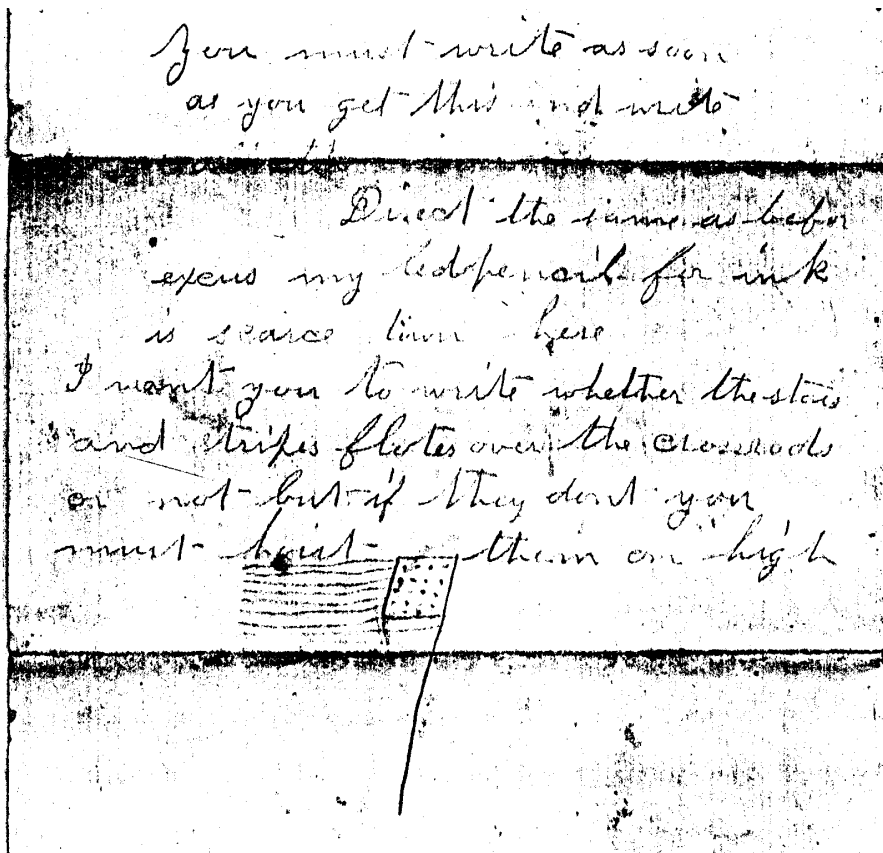
My dear and kind Father it is with great pleasure that i take my pen in hand to enform you that i am well at this present time and i hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the Same State of health. They are calling the rool now and my name was called and my comrads name was called to. his name is Edson Church they have just dismissed calling the roll we leave this afternoon at one oclock. We are a going to Noxville it is five hundred miles

Well Father the Contract was between you and me and that you was to take care of the money and if you wanted to use it you could do it and if not you was to take it and put it out on interest and I have sent forty five dollars by express and i will send you the receipt and you can get the money when it comes to Blue Lick.

So i must bring my letter to a cloas all men that is agoing a way today is ordered to find his napsak.

From Samuel Bassitt to Lewis Bassitt

[Transcribed by Lois Bassett Jul 20, 1993.]
[Letters in possession of Richard W. Bassett.]



Last page of original letter of 20 Jun 1864

February the 22nd, 1864

My dear Father and Mother - This morning finds me in Tennessee and at Nashville. We started from Columbus a Thursday in the afternoon at three o'clock and we come to Indianapolis in Indiana. We arrived there at too o'clock and then we got our brekfast and then we came up to Jeffersonville Indiana and then we crossed the Ohio river on the stemboat and we landed in Louisville Kentucky and then we got on the cars and come up to Nashville Tennessee and who knows where we will go next or dont. The is talk of us agoing to Chatanooga Tennessee or at Noxville. They have had another Battle at noxville Tennessee. The troops are all well at the present time. But the is some of them has got a bad coald. I have got a cold but am in the best of spirits. When i wrote that letter to you i had got it about half wrote and the order came for every man that belonged to the 27 to pack napsacks and i had to bring it to a close quicker than i would. So i must bring my few lines to a close by sending my best respects to Father and Mother and all the connecting friends.

From Samuel Bassitt to Lewis Bassitt and Sarah.

February the 22nd, 1864

My dear Grand Father and Grand Mother - i thought that i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well at the presant time and i hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same state of health. i am at Nashville Tennessee, but i dont know how long we will stay here. The is talk of agoing to Chatanooga or noxville but i dont know where we will be taken to. i have seen a great deall of the world since i left you. We went through mountains. We went through a channel too miles long and it was just as dark as anything you eve saw. You couldnt see your hand before you. We passed large plantations where the was half a dozen nigger shanties. I seen where old morgan went through Indiana and where he camped the was horses laying on the field. One place the was over one hundred hed of ded horses laying on the field.

So i must bring my few lines to a cloas. From Samuel Bassitt to Grand Father and Grand Mother. I remain your affectionate

Grand Son

Well Philo you must mind and Obey Father and mother in all things. And if I ever live to get home i will do the same. I have been in ten days and i like it fusstrate. Allthoug a soldier's life is a hard life. We havent had anything but hard crackers and charcoal Coffee. So i must Bring my letter to a close.

From Samuel Bassitt

To my dear brother Philo Bassitt.

You foalks must not write untill i write again. Philo, you and Marquis must Obey your Father and Mother in all things. A.D. 1864.

When this you See think of one who thinks of the.

Samuel Bassitt

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Prospect, Tennessee
March the 4th, A.D. 1864

My dear Father and Mother:

I thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I have had the whooping cough but am getting better now. I am takeing medisin of the doctor and am getting better. Well, Father, the news is that the soldiers can get there Local bounties, all them that hant got them, the is a chance now and I send you an order and if you hant got my bounty you can get it now.

So no more at this present time. I like soldering the best kind. From

Samuel Bassitt
To Father and Mother

Direct your letters to
Samuel Bassitt
In care of Captain Hamilton
Co. I, 27 Regiment, O.V.I.

Prospect, Tennessee
March the 4th, A.D. 1864

Mr. Lewis Bassitt of Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio, is authorized by me to receive and receipt in my name for any and all local bountys which may be paid for my enlistment in the U. S. Army and being credited to Bath Township, Allen Co., Ohio, or from any other Township in said County and said State which will pay local Bountys to Soldiers and to have me credited to said Township.

Samuel Bassitt

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

My Dear Father and Mother - March 22, 1864

Decatur, Alabama

I am on picket this morning and thought I would write you a few lines letting you know I am well, and also it may be the last time I will ever get the chance to write to you. The Rebels sent in a flag of truce on the 20th demanding that we surrender this place to them by 12: o'clock on the 21st, or if it wasn't then they would force us out with seven thousand cavalry troops. The Illinois 8th cavalry went out on the 20th in the night and on the next morning the Rebels made a counter attack on them and drove them back to camp. There were about 50 killed missing and wounded. We are expecting a heavy battle here every day, the civilians have been ordered out of the lines for the last four days and the pickets are not allowed to have any fire at night. I was glad to receive your letter and also one from Uncle Philo and Margaret Allison but I cannot answer them until I get some envelopes. It surely was good to hear from old Ohio once more and to hear that all of you are fine. Well Father if we have a battle here and it is my lot to fall, I am willing to die in defense of my country, and if we should never meet here on earth again then let us meet in that glorious world above where battles shall never be. If however I get through this one safe I will write you and let you know about it. There are some of the fellows who think we will not have a battle here, but for my part there has got to be just so many battles before this war will end and I would just as well fight here as anyother place. That last letter you wrote to me was first rate and if I could only get such letters once a week I would be satisfied. I better bring this scribbling to a close. This may be the last letter I ever get to write to you. Send my respects to Grandfather and Grandmother, I remain your affectionate son until death.

Samuel

[Transcribed by Lois Bassett July 20, 1993]
[Letters in possession of Richard W. Bassett.]

Camp of the 27th Regiment

Decatur, Alabama - April the 11th, 1864

My dear Father and Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to enform you that i am well and hearty and in the best of spirits. I received your kind and most welcom letter last night and was glad to hear from you once more and was glad to hear that you was well and in the best of Spirits. We are still in camp in decatur alabama but the is talk of us amoving to a place call the Landing about twelve miles up the river from here, but i dont know where we will go. Maby we may not leave this place. The is now telling where we will go.

Well Father the is about 15 thousand men in this place at this present time. We were reenforced by General Veech with five regiments. They landed here on the 9th of April and the 17th Newyork zouaves is here. They are hard looking fellows. They have been on a march for 28 days and the is some that look as if they hadent washed scince they started on the march. They are all uniformed in zouaves cloths. The is reports comes in evry day that the rebs is agoing to attact this place. The was a report came in the other night that the rebs was anvancing on this place in too columns and we was called out in line of battle about 4 O'clock in the morning of the 9th and laid there till about ten o'clock, but they no come. They know better than to make an attact here while the is so many here. We have got a cowardly old General here. His name is Fuller. The news came in camp the other day that the rebs was advancing on this place in too Columns and he sent a dispatch to General Veech that we would haft to surrender this place if we wasant reenforc9d emediately.

April the 12th, 1864

Well Father i had to leave off awriting on the account we had to move camp. We are about a quarter of a mile south of decatur and we have got the nicest place for a camp that we have had yet. We have got a nice shanty put up to stay in. We have got too bunks in it. The is too sleeps in a bunk.

Well Father the is four of us in our mess. The is William Fields, Edson Church, Martin R. Shells and myself. We have Company kooks and we dont haft to kooock anything only when we draw flour or cornmeal, then we haft to bake it up. Our Regiment dont do any picket duty now at this presant time and we hant drilled any for too or three days and we are agitting so lazy that after awhile we cant do anything. The is talk of us agetting payed of the first of next month. We will get \$50 of our bounty then and too months wages. Charles Mckee is sick but i am well and hearty and like Soldering the best kind. So i must bring my scribbling to a close I remain your affectionate son. From

Samuel Bassitt

To Lewis Bassitt and family. You must write as soon as you get this and write all the news.

Camp of the 27 Regiment, O.V.I.
Chattanooga, Tennessee
May the 5th, A.D. 1864

My dear Father and Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to enform you that i am well and hearty and in the best of spirits. i received your kind and most welcome letter the morning of the 2nd and was glad to hear from you once more. Well Father we have mad a move since i wrote to you. We left Decatur Alabama on the morning of the 1st of May and we march 15 miles and then put up for loggin and then we marched 15 miles the next day to a place called huntsvill and there we staid all night and then the next day we marched 20 miles. And then that night we was ordered to be all ready against 5 o'clock in the morning to march and when morning came we was every one of us ready against 4 o'clock and then we marched 5 miles to a station called Scottsville and then we took the cars and started for Chattanooga. We arrived in Chattanooga at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 5th and we went in camp right at the back of lookout mountains where our boys charged up that mountain and drove the rebs away. Perhaps you missed of it being published in the papers. i tell you now it is quite a hill - hant been to the top of it yet. They say that the is quite a large town on the top of it. The name of the town is summerville. The is some of the boys been up and seen it. When the is one on the top of it it looks like a black speck and you can concider how high it is.

You wanted me to write whether i herd from any of the boys or not. I seen Ruben White and Hiram Barber this morning and they were all well, and i seen Snotgrass boys and ricer boys and they wer all well. Rube is the same old chap and as talkative as ever. They say that the fiftyfourth is acomeing in tonight and if they do i will get to see Wilson Allison and Watts boys. The was 8 trains all in a string came in last night - all loded with soldiers. I tell you now that the is a large force here now. They are afigting out about 20 miles from here to a place called Ringgold. Old Johnson has atacted our army. They have been fighting for the last too days. The first day old Johnson drove our men back but yesterday our men held there own.

So i must bring my scribbling to a close. From

Samuel Bassitt
To Lewis Bassitt

Write soon.

My Dear Father and Mother -

May 20, 1864

Kingston, Georgia

I am well and in the best of spirits and hope you folks are the same. Well Father we have laid still today that is to say we haven't marched any. We have had considerable skirmishing since we left Chattanooga. We drove the Rebs out of a town called Resaca but there was considerable loss on both sides. We have had skirmishes ever since with them. We are now within 60 miles of Atlanta. I tell you ole Grant is giving them fits up at Richmond, the news is that the Rebs are going to evacuate Richmond and then come down here and run us out, but I'll tell you they will have a sweet time if they undertake that game. Well Father you asked how I liked to be a soldier by now and I like it well so far. You mentioned you wanted to get a discharge for me since all soldiers under 18 was entitled to one. So you go ahead and get the papers showing I am under 18 and send them to the Provost Marshall and I can get my discharge. I must bring my scribbling to a close for now,

Your affectionate son until death.

Samuel

[Transcribed by Lois Bassett Jul 20, 1993.]
[Letters in possession of Richard W. Bassett.]

Camp of the 27th Co in Regiment
June the 20th A. D. 1864.
Near Big Shanty Station Georgia
Dearest Father and Mother,
It is with the greatest of pleasure that
I take my pencil in hand to inform
you that I am well and hearty and
in the B E S T of spirits and hope and
trust that those few lines may find
you enjoying the same state of health
I received your kind and most welcome
on the evening of the 17th of June and
I was glad to hear from you once more
and was glad to hear that you all was
well and enjoying the comforts of life

Beginning of first page of original letter - 20 Jun 1864

Camp of the 27th Ohio Regiment O.V.V.I.
Kingston, Georgia, May the 22nd, A.D. 1864

My dear grandfather and grandmother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to enform you that i am well and hearty and in the best of spirits. The weather is warm and it is awfull hot here. Well Father we have had conciderable of a fight. We fought them three days with heavy loss on both sides. The fight was at Berraea Georgia. Out loss was three thousand kill, wounded and missing. The rebles loss is not known but is supposed to be a great deal larger than ours. Old Johnson retreated and is still on the retreat and our men is close to his heals. We captured one battery with 6 pieces and 64 pounders and also a lot of prisoners was captured. [turn over]

The report is that the rebs is agoing to make a stand at Atlanta Georgia but we have force enough to drive them away from any place they are amind to get. Our force is reported at 180 thousand strong and the prisoners that we take says that they have got 75 thousand. Our Regiment was not engaged in the fight every day but we stood ready to be called on any minute. The report is that we are agoing to start on another long march. We have drawed four days rations this morning and we haft to put it all in our havarsacks and i tell you now it makes them pretty full. The cars is arunnign from Chattanooga to Kingston and that is fifty-nine miles from Atlanta where the rebs is. The report is that old Lee is agoing to evacute richmon and come and reinforce old Johnson but i gess if he evacuates richmond it will be because he hafts to. Grant has been fighting at richmon and he captured foity eight pieces of cannon and a lotof prisoners.

From Samuel Bassitt

To Grandfather and Grandmother. You must write as soon as you get this and write what is agoing on in Lordstown.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp of the 27th Regiment
Dallas Georgia
May the 31st, A.D., 1864

My dear Father and Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to enform you that i am well and hearty and hope and trust that these few lines may find you enjoying the same state of health.

Well Father we have got into another muss with the rebs. We have been fighting the rebs four days . The fight begun the morning of the 28th. 'The rebs have don there verry best to get us out of khis place but they cant come it. They have Charged our breastworks several times but it is just fun to lay in the works and listen to them come with a whoop and a yeal till they get up within about 25 yards and then rais and let them have a few rounds. Whenever they make a charge they alwase give a whoop and a yell and then they start. They lossed 3 thousand in one charge the other night. They made a reglar charge along the whole line. The was an awfull time. They charged about four o'clock in the afternoon. Our line is about 25 miles long. Our loss was five hundred in all. Our Regiment fired three rounds. We had one Captain, one Lieutenant, and five privates wounded. They wer wounded on the skirmish line. The Captain lived about half an hour after his wound and the Lieutenant lived one day. They all belonged to Co. A, 27th Regiment. Captain Green was shot through the foot last night when he was asleepe in bed. He belongs to Co. E, 27th Regiment. The was one Regiment of our Brigad charged the rebbles lines and drove them back about half an hour ago.

I will tell you what Corps i belong to so that if you ever here of us amoveing you can tell what Corps is on the move. I belong to the 16 army Corps, 4 Division, 1 brigade, 1 battallion. The rebs lines is about half a mile from ours. We took some rebble prisoners and they say that their officers told them that the was nothing but hundred day men in them intrenchments and that they wouldnt stand fire atoll and they said that if the hundred day men was all like them that they diddent want to come across many like them. I tell you know the bullets comes pretty thick heresome times. The general opinion of the boys is that it is agoing to be another Vixburg seige before we get through with it. The rebs is on a range of hils called the Cono mountains and they have a good position.

So i must bring my letter to, a close hoping to receive an answer soon and you must write oftener than you do for i am acheing to get a letter from home.

From Samuel Bassitt
to Father and Mother

Direct Chattanooga, Tennessee.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp of the 27th Ohio Regiment
June the 20th, A.D. 1864
Near Bigshanty station, Georgia

Dearest Father and Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pencil in hand to enform you that i am well and hearty and in the BEST of spirits and hope and trust that these few lines may find you enjoying the same state of health. I received your kind and most welcome on the evening of the 17th of June and i was glad to hear from you once more and was glad to here that you all was well and enjoying the comforts of life.

. We have just advanced toward the enemy about half an hour ago and we are in sight of the rebs at this preasant time. The rebs is on Pinashaw mountain and our Battery is a shelling them like evry thing. The is about 20 or 25 pieces of Artillery a playing on them now and they are a firing by volleys and you better believe it makes conciderable nois when they fire. We are a driving the rebs evry day. When the rebs stays one night we stay there the next night. Our regiment was engaged in the fight one day but the was only too wounded in our Company oneof them was wounded in the left arm and the other one was wounded in the back. The Bullet went in at his left shoulder and cam out at the small of his back under his write arm. But he is agetting along fine. I did not get touched but they whicled pretty close some times. I shop so much that it made my shoulder conciderable sore, but i dont know wheather i hit any one or not. Our men takes prisoners evry day. The Skirmighers made a charge on the Rebble Skirmishers the other day and they captured 150 prisoners and the has been a lot of the rebs captured today.

It is reported that Old Geo. Hooke is a getting around in the rear of the rebs and if that is true the Rebs will either haft to fight or retreat. The rebs says that if they only could capture Old Jo Hooker they could whip our army like a ? . But he awlwas gets around and gets in the rear of them and then they haft to retreat or get their communications cut off. But i gess that it twill take a longer head than Old Jo Johnsons to get him in a trap where they can capture him. The was 10 or 15 wounded out of our Regiment and the was one Lieutenant kiled and one Private kiled.

Well Grandfather i gess that i will haft to bring my scribbling to a close for it is about supertime and we aint allowed any fires here after dark. I remain your affectionat friend

From Samuel Bassitt

(over)

To Grandfather and Grandmother. You must write as soon as you get this and write all the news.

Direct the same as before. Excus my ledpencil is scarce down here.

I want you to write whether the stars and stripes flotes over the crossrods or not, but if they dont you must hoist them on high.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp of the 27th Ohio Reg
Near Chattahoochee River, Georgia
July the 8th A.D., 1864

Respective Brother

It is with the greatest enjoyment that i take my seat on the ground to answer your kind and most welcome letter which arrived at hand last night and it found me well and hearty and enjoying the best of spirits. Well, Philo the weather is dry and awfully hot down here in Georgia corn is about waste high down here but it dont last long when the army goes through the country. Well Philo you wanted me to write and let you know what our grub is. we draw hard tack bacon coffee shugar is our main living. once and awhile we draw beans and beef but it aint very often we draw them.

I have plenty of clothing at this present time we can draw clothing most any time we want to and i do my washing myself whenever _____. This is a sun and if i have any dirty clothes i take a piece of soap a start. We have seen a pretty hard time our brigade has been at the front for the last 25 days and during that time we made a charge on the rebel lines and took one line of breastwork and 8 thousand 41, (not sure I transcribed the amount correctly - very hard to read. LB), kiled and wounded but i got through safe and sound. Flour is \$1.16, (or is it \$1.96 LB), per barrel in atlant and meat \$5.00 per pound and other things in perportion.

Well Philo i will haft to bring my scribbling to a close for we haft to move but where i do not know.

I remain your affectionate brother.

From Samuel Bassitt
To Philo Bassitt

Philo i want you write often for if you knew how much good it does me to get a letter from you you wouldnt delay in writing to me. when i receive an answer i will write a big letter to you but i havent time now.

write whether Willie and Anni, grows or not and whether Willie remembers me or not.

Mother i put what time i can in reading the word of God.

Farwell, write

[Transcribed by Lois Bassett Jul 20, 1993.]
[Letters in possession of Richard W. Bassett.]

Camp of the 27th Ohio Regiment
Chattahoochee River, Georgia
July the 14th A.D., 1864

Ever kind and affectionate Father & Mother it is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to answer your kind and most welcome letter which arrived at hand about half an hour ago and it found me well and hearty and i hope and trust that this may find you enjoying the same state of health. The weather is awfull hot and sultry down here and we have had some marching to do since i wrot to you last the first day we marched 15 miles and the was lots of the boys that Just fell down and could not go any further when we was marching along in ranks. But i stould it through both days but i tell you it was a hard task for me the dust was aflying and the sun was so hot that one could hardly get his breath. We have pretty good times here now for grub we have all the Blackberrys that we want to eat and we also have ripe apples to use. I tell you now the boys is run down considerable we only have 28 men able for duty in our company. And if they keep running us on much longer they wont have any in the company fit for duty we lossed 41 men kiled and wounded in that charge that we made on the fourth of July, 64. Corn is silked out and the wheat is cut down here and the rest of things is in perpotion. Our grub Concists of Crackers, Bacon, Coffee and Shugar and sometimes we draw Beaf and Beans. Although we forage considerably through the Country we go out and get Bread and milk and Honey and other things that we want. Well Father i saw the Captain about getting a discharge and he said when the Law was passed the was so many days appointed to get a discharge in and the number of days had expired before you sent the paper and therefore he could not get one. He said all the way that i could get one was to go to Provost-Marshel in Lima and get him to fix out one. Well Father i have been out agethering Blackberrys today i got a big buckket full of the nicest kind of berrys i wish that you could enjoy the pleasure with me aeating them. You wrote that if i wanted any money or anything to write and let you know. Some money would come pretty handy to me just at the present time for i hant any money nor writing paper and unless i can get some money i will haft to quit awriting and if you will send me some i will make it all right with you when i get payed off. Tell Mother that i would like to have her send me too towels and too Hankerchieves and also send me your likness and hers for they would do me considderable good. A cotton Handkerchief one that is about one foot square cost from 60 to 75 cents down here. You can send them things by mail and i want you to get me a rubber inkstand you can get them at the Bookstore in Lima. But you must not forget to send your likeness to me dont fail in doing it.

Well Father i Suppose that you have a pretty hard task in getting your Harvest cut this summer i wish that i could ben at home so as to helped you i think things would went a great deal better. Tell Philo that i give him the prais of being a diligent boy this summer. I think if nothing happens and i live and have my health good I will be at home next summer to help you in doing your work on the farm. We have Retreat evry evening that is inspection of armes we haft to have our guns bright and clean as a dollar. We are camped in the woods on the banks of the Chattahoochee River and it is a pretty cool nice place for Soldiers to camp. But i dont know how long we will stay here the is a town on the other side of the river Called Bossville the was a large woollen and cotten factory in the edge of town but our Cavalry Burnt it down when we came here. The rebs burnt the bridge acrost the river and when we came here we had to ford the river. But they have got a bridge up in the place of that one the rebs burnt.

Well Father the time has come that i must bring my letter to a close. So i will close. Remaining your affectionate Son untill death

From Samuel Bassitt
To Father and Mother & Family

Excuse my leadpencil no ink here. Write soon.and give all the news both Home and abroad.
Direct: Samuel Bassitt, Company I, 27th Ohio Regiment 1st Brigade, 4tn Division, 16th Army
Corps

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Voll. Inft.

13th, 1864

Camp of the 27th Ohio Vet.

Marietta, Georgia, August the

Ever kind and affectionate Father & Mother:

Time has placed an opportunity this pleasant afternoon that i thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well and Hearty and Hope and trust that those few lines may find you enjoying the same Health. I received a letter from you this morning and i also received 2 packages - one containing 25 sheets of paper and 15 Envelopes, the other had 2 towles and 2 Handkerchieves and some other things and the greates of all was the Portraits of my most beloved Father & Mother which i had been Longin to see for the past 3 months and at last they arrived at .Hand. Mother i think that your picture looked natural but Fathers diddent look so natural to me, as if i could see his face with my naked eye.

Well Father and Mother we are now camped in the edge of the town of Marietta. We came here on the evening of the 10 of August to do Guard here. We left the front on the morning of the 10. You better believe we have a little better time now than we have had for a time back. We dont haft to grind as much Hardtact as we have been in a habit of doing. We draw light bread scince we came. The news is that we are agoing to get payed off now soon, i wish that we would. This place is about twice as larg as Lima is and some of the buildings is a great deal larger than any in Lima. It is awfull warm down here yet. You wrote that you had got don harvesting and i was glad to hear it for i know that you have had to work hard this summer. But you have not been where you have been in danger all the time of having your nogin crackked. i tell you one will work pretty hard in building breastworks an fortifying so that he can hid from them.

The Nonveterans in our regiment startes for home tonight. The rest of the boys in our Company is well and hearty. The aint much agoing on in camp today.

So i will bring my scribbling to a close. From

Samuel Bassitt

To Father and Mother. Write soon. I most forgot to tell you that i received 15 postage stamps in that letter which i got this morning and i tell you now they come just in the time of kneede. Write soon

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Vol. Inf.
25th, A.D. 64

Camp of the 27th Ohio Vet.
Marietta, Georgia, August the

Ever kind and most affectionate Father and Mother, Brothers and Sister:

Time has placed an opportunity of which I am now engaged in writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land amongst the living and right side up with care and hope and trust that these few unworthy lines may find you enjoying the same health. I received your kind and most welcome rote letter the other day and have neglected answering it until this time. But you must excuse me and I will be prompter the next time if nothing happens no more than did this time.

We are still Camped in Marietta and it is awfully warm here although it rains pretty Down here but the air seems to be hot and sultry. The Citizens brings in Plenty of Vegetables such as Corn, Potatos, Beens, Apples, Peeches, Watter Meallons and Cucumbers, Butter and Buttermilk, Tomatos, Plums and Graps. But I tell you that they are dear. Our Grub that we Draw from Uncle Sam is Crackers, Meat, Coffee and Sugar and Homeny. When we first came here we drew soft Bread but they have quit issuing it to us now.

They are Still Fighting Down at atlanta. General Kilpatrick has been on another raid. He Started from the right of our army and went clear around Atlanta Capturing 7 hundred Prisoners and one Piece of Artillery. He had to Let 6 hundred of the Prisoners go but he took all of their arms away from them. He cut the railroad in too Places.

Well Father you wanted me to write and Let you know whather I got them things that you sent me or not. I got too Handkerchieves, too towels, too Combs and one skain of Black thread and one Inkstand. And the Last and greatest was the Potraits of my most Beloved Father and Mother whom I had once enjoyed the Pleasures of the winter fireside. Father You wanted to know wheather the was any ink in the Inkstand wen I got it. The was no ink in it atall when I got it. But I had just got. a bottle of furstrate ink before I got them things. Ink costs 85 cts a bottle down here. Father iff you will Pleas send me five or six Dollars in your next letter I will get my Likeness taken emediately and send it to you. It costs three Dollars to get a Picture taken Down here. And if we leave here the is know telling when I can get another chance.

Well Father I believe I have ritten all of the news that is of much importance so I will close hoping to receive an answer soon. I remain your son

Samuel Bassitt

Write Soon and dont delay. Direct the same as before. Tell Philo to write to me and write soon.

Camp of the 27th Ohio Vet. Vol. Infant.
Marietta, Georgia
Sept. the 6th A. D. , 1864

Ever Kind Father and Mother

Time has once more placed an oportunity of which i am now engaged in scribbling you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the Land amonst the Living and sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may schance to find you enjoying the same state of good health.

I received your kind and most welcome rote Letter last night and was truly glad to hear from you once more and to hear that you were all well and hearty. Well Father i have been sick for the last too weaks i had the Chills and Diarnoia together. But have got about well So that i can do Duty once more.

Our Regiment is still Camped in Marietta and the duty is heavyer than ever one day we haft to go on Picket and then me next day on fatig Duty Building Forts and Breastworks. Atlanta has at last fallen. She fell on the 2nd Day of September A.D. 64 with the loss of 9 thousand Prisoners and a larg amount of Artillery and small armes. Our men have Driven them forty miles on the other side of Atlanta they had a fight with them on the 4th day of September capturing 2 thousand more Prisoners.

The Brigade that our regiment belongs to was all Killed and captured. It included the 39th Ohio 64th Ill 18th Missouri 17th New York and 32nd New York they were all captured. But our regiment happened to escape The report is that the rebble force is all scattered they say that the aint but six rebs left and the army of the Tennessee is after them.

I dont know wheather Letters will go through or not for it is reported that the Railroad is towrn up between Chattanooga and Nashville and also Between Nassville and Louisville. So i will bring my scribbling to a close hoping you will prosper in all your undertakings.

I remain your affectionate son -

From Samuel Bassitt
To Family and Relations

Address

Samuel Bassitt
Company I, 27th Ohio Vet. Vol. Inf.
1st Brigade 4th Division 16th A. C.
Marietta Georgia

Write soon and dont delay for the morrow. You must excuse my poor hand write and write soon. Give these to Marquis and tell him they are rebs and ask him if he has forgotten me.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp of 27th Ohio Vet. Vol. Infantry
Marietta, Georgia
October 16th, A.D., 1864.

Dear Fattier & Mother

Time has once more placed an opportunity of which i am engaged in writing you a few Lines to let you know that i am still on the Land amongst the Living And sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy Lines may schance to find you the same. I received your kind and most welcome wrote Letter on the 14th inst and was truly glad to near from you once more and to near that you were all well. For it had been quite a spell since i had received any Letter from you I begin to think that you had forgotten me entirely. But it was on the account of the Railroad being tore up from Bigshanty to Altona Mountain the Distance was 15 mile. Well Father Politics is raging pretty high down here with and amongst the Soldiers. Old Abe is all the goe now. At the State Election the other day the was five Democratic Tickets Voted in the regt. Our Company went Union all out And it will go for old Abe the same. We are Doing all kinds of Duty now at this present time. We are doing Provost gard and Picket and Fatig duty and Headquarter Duty and Foring And it keeps us on duty pretty near all the time. Old Hood and Sherman had a fight yesterday near Caves Springs, Georgia. I have not heard the result yet. Hood cut the railroad From Big Shanty to Altona Mountain on the 3rd of October. The distance is 15 miles and they got that fixed up so that the cars could run through and then they cut it again the distance was 12 miles and about the time they get that fixed he will Pitch in and cut it again.

Well Father you wrote that you had set Lawyer Guthrig to work to get my discharge i. hope he may be sucessfil in getting it so that i can come home once more and help you do your work for i know that you kneede someone to help you. Well Father i must bring my Letter to a close fore we have General Inspection this afternoon at one oclock and it will soon be time. I remain your affectionate Son And obblige me in writing soon.

From Samuel Bassitt
To Lewis Bassitt & Sarah Bassitt

Direct the same as before. Write soon and dont delay.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

O.V.V.I.

Headquarters Company I, 27th

Marietta Georgia

November the 4th A.D., 1864.

Dear Father & Mother

I once more endeavor to write you a few lines to inform you that i am still on the land amongst the living and sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may chance to find you enjoying the same state of good health. Well Father & Mother i thought that i would write you a. few lines while i have a chance as it may be the last time for probably two or three months and maby longer I cannot tell. We are agoing off on a raid to Mobiel Georgia down on the gulf the distance is between 250 and 300 miles it is agoing to take a great deal of hard marching to go their. This Railroad is agoing to be evacuated and the Army of the Tennessee is agoing right on to the gulf. We will leave this place next weak some time. And all the rations that we will get will only be what we have along with us but one good thing we are agoing where the has never any army been to distroy the produce and you may bet we will live well as long as the is anything for us to live on. I tell you a Soldier is not agoing to starve as long as the is anything for him to get. But woe unto the citizens of Georgia. Father if i am lucky enough to get through safe and sound with my brave comrads at my side to help plant the banner of libberty ... sea coast and on the firtile soil of Georgia then i can write you a good long letter concerning the trials and hardships that we haft to endure in this mighty struggle of libberty which is at hand. I dont think that we will have much of an army to oppose us for old Hood is up in Tennessee and old Lee is in Richmond Virginia with old Grant.

Father you must keep on writing to me if you dont get any letters from me for it is likely we will haft to be on the go all of the time. You must get that distarge if you can and send it on to me emediately and i will do the best i can with it. Our Company is detailed into a battery and we have left the regiment and came down in town we have been here about a weak and in charge of five pieces of Artillery but when we leave we will turn the pieces over to someother battery it is the 1st Missouri Light Artillery. It has been raining for the last too or three days and is awfull cold down here. The aint much news here today onlay about the raid that is agoing off. But one can hear all the news about that that he is amond to listen to. I am on guard today agarding the Artillery.

So i will close my letter hoping good success in the future I remain your true and most affectionate Son Samuel Bassitt

I send my bes respects to all enquireing Friends.

Hoping to receive answers from each and all of them.

Direct: Samuel Bassitt, Co. I. 27th Ohio V.V.I., 1st Brigade, 1st Div., 17th A. C., Marietta Georgia.

So Goodby And dont forget and write to me. I have no stamps nor cant get any.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp of 27th Ohio Veteran Vol. Infantry
Marietta, Georgia, November the 7th, A.D. 1864

Dear Mother:

I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that i am still well and hearty and sincerely hope and trust that these few unworthy lines may chance to find you enjoying the same good health.

I received your kind and most welcome wrote letter yesterday and was truly glad to hear from you once more and to hear that you all were enjoying good health.

Well Mother we have not left this yet but we leave on the 8th and rejoin our Brigade which lays about four miles from this place. It is raining here this evening and is pretty cold and disagreeable and it is tremendous muddy and it all is going to make hard, tiresome and disagreeable marching. We start with twenty (20) days rations along with us. I suppose that Reuben White has arrived at home with his little family. Tell him that i say he has got his head out of one good march.

Mother, you must write right away as soon as we (you?) get this letter. This road is not going to be abandoned and therefore mail can come through. You must write once every week whether you receive any answer from me or not for we ain't going to have much time to write, but i will write as often as i can. We have a good deal to see to today and therefore i cannot write much. We have all of our tents to turn over and camp utensils so as to be ready when our Brigade is. I think we will get payed off before we leave Atlanta. We are going there tomorrow. And i will send my money home if i can any way a tall. You said that maybe i thought that you didn't want me to come home. Never never do i think of any such a thing.

Well Mother i have to bring my scribbling to a close for we are called on to turn over our things immediately.

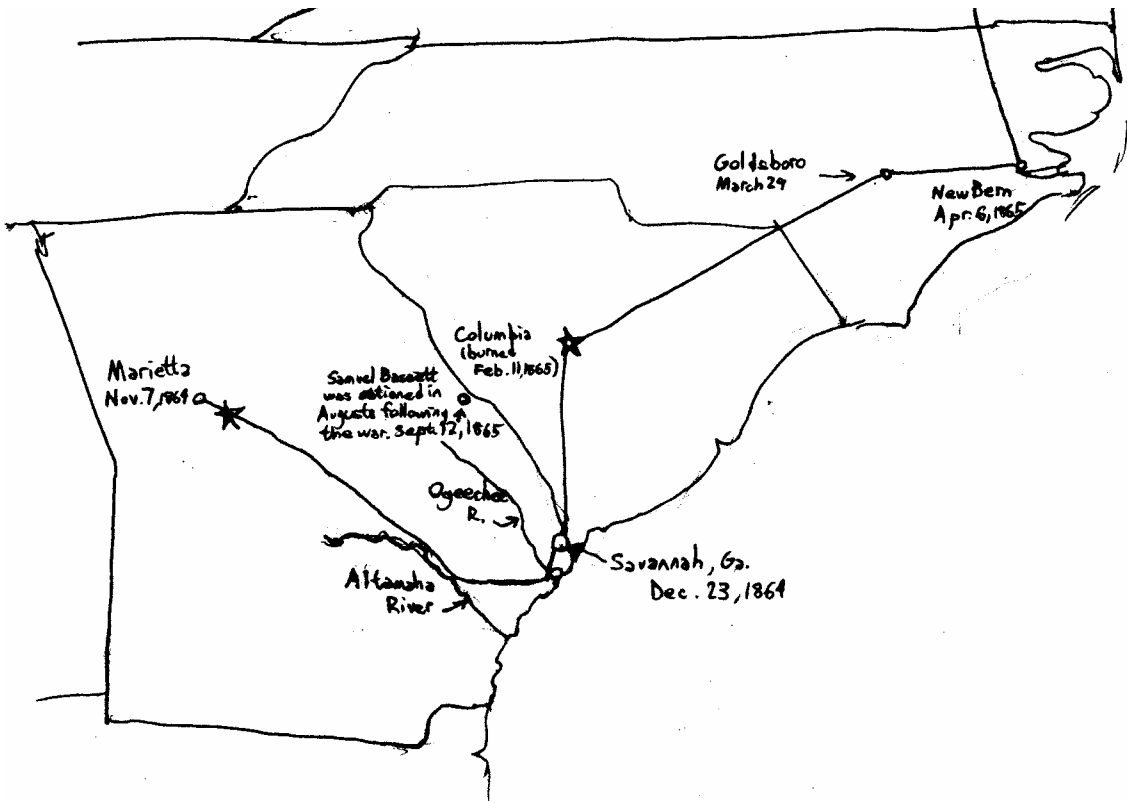
You must write soon and often whether you receive any answer from me or not.
Goodby

From Samuel Bassitt

I have written this letter in about two minutes.

Write soon and tell Father to go ahead with that Paper.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]



Movement of Samuel H. Bassitt during Sherman's March to the Sea (Dec 1864) and skirmishes in the Carolinas (spring 1865)

Camp of 27th Ohio Vet. Vol. Inftry
Savana, Georgia
December the 23rd, 1864

Respective Father & Mother

Time has once more placed an oportunity of which i am engaged in writing you a few lines to let you know that i still remain well and hearty and sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may chance to find you the same. I received a letter from you about one weak ago dated the 9th of Nov. We then started off on a raid to the altamana river which is 50 miles from here. Well Father we have had conciderable of a time since i wrote to you last we have traveled some 485 miles and we have tore up 250 miles of railroads and we have also had some Pretty hard fighting to do We have had hard times on this campaign the boys come pretty near starving to death the was for 10 days i never saw a mowfull of rations only what we could forage out of the country the was one time we had one pint of rice issued to us for 3 days rations and another time the was one ear and a half of corn issued for three days i saw some of the boys give five dollars for five ears of corn and another fellow give fifteen dollars for three crackkers. So you can judge what times we have had while we was acoming through we just had all of the sweet potatoes and freash meat that we could eat but as soon as we struck Savana everything got foraged on in a little bit then we could not get anything till communications was opened and then we took fort Mccalister which is on the Ogeechee river and get communications we captured all of the guns and men that was in the fort. Savana has fallen into the hands of the federal Soldiers and the stars and stripes now floats on the sea coast. The Rebs evacuated Savana on the evening of the 20 of December. They left all of their artillery and got out the best way they could. It is reported that they left one thousand pieces of Artillery. But they were all spiked. The boys all remain well and hearty. You may think Strange but it is as warm here now as it is up north in the summer time and we have marched 25 and 30 miles a day and carriad a big Knapsack. If a fellow wants to learn to soldier let him come down here and join Uncle Billy Sherman band.

Well, Father, about that Discharge. Do the best you can and hurry up.

1st Lt. William L. Watt has resined and went home he command our company. We have no company commanders now only an Ordely Sergt he commands our company and Capt. Morgan commands our regt.

Father, i want you to send me some Postage Stamps.

I remain your affectionate Son

Samuel Bassitt
Direct
Company B, 27, O.V.V.I
Savanan Georgia

[Over]

Write soon and tell the rest to write if they want to. It has been so long since i recieved any letters from friends at home i begin to think that they dont care anything about me, but if they dont want to write i will lay up my pen and quit. Good by

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Hospital 1st Division 17th Army Corpse
Goldsboro North Carolina
March 29th A.D. 1865

It is with the greatest of pleasure that i take my pen in hand to inform you that I am still on the land amongst the living and sincearly hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may find you enjoying the best of health I am not very well at the presant time I have had the fever and ague for the last three weeks but have got it about broke although I am awfull weak I am now detailed as a nurse tending to the wounded the is 9 wounded men in the room that, I am in and out of the 9 the is 6 that have there legs off 5 of them are off above the Knee and one below the knee. The is one that has his right arm off clost to his shoulder and one that is wounded five times twice in his right hand twice in his right arm between his elbow and shoulder and once in his left hand. His arm is not off but it might as well be for it is shot into a jelly. The other man is shot through the thigh. I tell you now it is an awfull job they haft to be handled carefuller than a child for you can handle a child and them you cant. The was one man died in my room last night that had his leg off. The is about 250 sick and wounded in this hospital out of the 1st Division. It is wet and rainy here today. You wrote that you had some pretty good sleighing up north this last winter. I wish that I could of been with you to help you enjoying it. But I have been down in the Southern Confederacy Enjoying myself with old Billy Shermans raiders. The rebles calles us Shermans swamp dogs.

During this last raid through South Carolina and a portion of North Carolina we have waded swamps where we had to take our catridge box off and buckle them around our neck and lay them on the top of our heads to keep them from getting wet and more then that we had to stand in the water and skirmish with the rebs for half a day to a time and then when we would come out we had no dry clothes to put on and would be nearly froze stiff and when it comes to putting them all together it is not very plesant.

But it all goes in three years. We came through the city of Columbia South Carolinia. It was a pretty nice City before it was burnt. I saw her burnt flat to the ground the most of the city was burnt on the evening of the 17th of February and about 10 o'clock. I tell you it was a nice sight to see her burn. We burnt every town and city in South Carolina if the was only a Church and a couple of dwelling houses they would set a mach to them.

I received a letter from you this morning for the first time for three or four months and I also received your Photograph which looked very natural. And I thank you verry much for your kindness in sending me your picture althoug I am of the same opinion that you are I think that if the picture was as goodlooking as the being that it would be very handsome Indde. You wrote about whom had B. I think that all the Gentlemans has left Lordstown if that be the case or else they would use them all alike. I think that L.E.B. stepped out of sight and you didnt thik of him. I guess that this is enough of my foolery at the present time.

You wrote that Frank Hipkins was taken prisoner and when you herd from him last he had nothing but rages on. The is lots of Sherman's men that are without shoes and and dreped in rags and some haint many of them. During our last trip we only drewed 6 days Government rations all that we got to eat was what we foraged through the Country. I will haft to bring my scribbling to a close.

I remain your true and most affectionate Cousin..

From Samuel Bassitt

To Loretta Edgecomb

Write soon and give all the news home and abroad. I send my love and best respect to only inquiring friends

N. B. I will send my Photograph as soon as I can get it.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Foster's General Hospital, Division 16,
Newbern, North Carolina,
April the 6th, A.D., 1865

Most respective Grand Father & Grand Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am still on the land amongst the living and sincerely hope and trust that these few unworthy lines written by the feeble hand may find you enjoying the same state of good health. I am now in the hospital at Newbern North Carolina. I came on the morning of the 2nd of April. I am not as well as I was before we left Goldsboro. The Fever has come back again and I have got the chronic diareah and I am getting rund down pretty low although I am up and around most all the time. In writing this letter I haft to write a line or too and then lay down but iff I keep up courage and spunk I think that I will get along yet. The is only 10 or 12 Patients here now - all that were able were shiped north yesterday. They went to New York. I think that I will be able to go in a few days or at least I hope so for it is lonesome staying here in this place.

April the 8th, A.D., 1865.

I will now endeavor to scribble a few more lines. I still remain about the same but better in Spirits. The is exciting news about the Army of the Potomac. The report is that Richmond and Petersburg have at last fallen with the loss of 23 thousand prisoners, 5 hundred pieces of artillery and three ironclads in good running order and that Lee is retreating down the Shenandoah Valley where he will meet Sheridan and his force in intrenchments. The news came here on the 6th of April about 10 oclock A.M. and less than 10 minutes the air was filled with shouts and yells sent forth from one of the most brave and victorious armies that ever trod on the American soil The is a piece published in the papers stating that Sherman said that the war would be over and that he was agoing to be redy to discharge his army within four months. I tell you Grandfather we have seen some pretty hard times since we started out on this last campaign. We had to fight nearly every daywith the rebs more or less. Some days wading Swamps wast depe. Some days we had to wade swamps where we had to take our catridge box off and put them around our necks to keep them from geting wet, and then we had to stand in the watter and skirmish with the rebs besides. I tell you that was hard on the boys. Coming through on the march nearly one half of the boys were barefooted and were sick and used up.

I am nearly out of patients. My clothes is dirty and I cant draw new clothes and I am not able to wash what i have got. And I cant hire them washed for I hant got any money and therefore I haft to remaind with my dirty clothes which is not verry agreeable to my health and a great deal more to my feelings .

The news has just been received that General Lee has surrendered his entire army to general Grant. I hope such is the case. I think that this war is pretty near played out Or at least I hope so. If I ever live to get well and haft to stay in the army till my time is up I am agoing to spend the rest of my time in Souldering. I never was more lonesome than I have been since I left the regiment in my life. I want to go to my regiment as quick as they will letme off.

The was some boys out of our regiment went out aforageing the other day and when night came they diddent come in. And in too or three days the was some more went out and they found them hung up to a limb on a tree. When we was coming through on our raid the was lots of the boys found with their throats cut laying along side of the road. Where ever they found one

kiled they would just take a rebble prisoner out and shoote him down. But if i could have my way I would shoote every Cussed rebble that I could get my eyes on And then maby they wouldent be so keen to kill.

Well Grandfather & mother I must bring my scribbling to a close hoping to receive an answer soon. I guess Father has forgotten me entirely for I haint received the scratch of a pen from Father or Mother since communications has been opened to Sherman's Army.

From Samuel Bassitt
To Grandfather & Grandmother

Write soon.and excuse my scribbling. Direct

Samuel Bassitt
Foster General Hospital, Division 16
Newbern, North Carolina.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp Denison, Ohio
April the 28th, A.D., 1865

Dear Father & Mother:

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I seat myself in Ohio once more to write you a few lines to let you know that I still remain on the land amongst the Living. And hope you are in the same state of good health. I am in the hospital at Camp Denison, Cincinnati, Ohio. We arrived here this morning about 10 o'clock. We got on the Boats at New York City at 2 o'clock Wednesday and crossed over into Jersey City in New Jersey and there we got on the cars at 5 1/2 o'clock. and came down to Dunkirt New York where we changed cares and came to Cleaveland. There we changed cares and came to Columbus and changed cares and came through to Cincinnati. We were too days and too nights a comming through the Distance of about five hundred and fifty miles.

I am no better than I was when I wrote to you last. I think that I am in a place now where I can get well for it is a prety nice place. When we came through on the cars I could see farmers to work on their farmes a planting corn. And I thought to myself I would like to be a farmer once more. I think that before very long if our armies keeps progressin on the way that they have in the last year we will all be returned that is spared to our homes to share the comforts with our Parents, Brothers and sisters once more around the family fireside and also family table. The boys was all when I left them at Goldsboro North Carolina.

Father you may send me them things that I wrote for. The will be no danger of them getting lost. Father, I want you to send me some money if you will. I want you to send me ten (\$10) Dollars for I am in kneede of it now. So you will Oblige a son. I think that we will get payed off here before long. When we do get payed off I will pay you thrible for all of fyour trouble.

I must bring my scribbling to a close hoping that these few unworthy lines may find you enjoying good health. I remain your affectionate Son

Samuel Bassitt

Direct Samuel Bassitt, Camp Denison, Ohio, Division 2nd, Ward 6.

Write as soon as you receive this letter and dont delay. I send my love and best respect to only enquireing friends. Excuse my poor writing and bad spelling.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Camp Dennison Ohio
May the 27 A.D. 65

Respected Father and Mother

This being a wet and rainy morning I thought that I would engage my time in writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land amongst the living and since I hope and trust that those few unworthy lines may chance to find you enjoying the same state of good health I am still at camp Dennison and in the best of spirits but cant tell you when I will be at home I may be at home next week and then again I may not get home for one month It is hard to tell My Descriptive Roll has not come yet as I know of. They have mustered some few out but not very many yet It is awful wet here and has been for the last too or three weeks The Grand Review of the Army Commanded by Major General W. T. Sherman Took place at Washington yesterday morning And I suppose will soon start to their own Respective States to be mustered out of the United States Service to return to their own Native Homes once more to live in peace and quietude once more.

Well Father the aint much sight of me being mustered out for one or too months but I am waiting patiently for the time to come Father I received a letter from you the other day and was glad to here that you were all well.

Well Father I must bring my scribbling to a close hoping to seeing an answer soon. I remain your true and most affectionate son. Samuel Bassitt

Address Camp Dennison Ohio
Ward C (Or is it Ward 6 ? LB) Division I

And write soon and give all the news.
Excuse my poor writing and bad spelling and I will try and do better in the future

[Transcribed by Lois Bassett Jul 20, 1993]
[Letters in possession of Richard Bassett]

Head-Quarters Department of Georgia
Medical Director's Office
Augusta, Ga., 12th Sept., 1865.

Dear Father:

Your letter in answer to mine in reference to buying Bailey's store, is received. It is not very satisfactory on the main question but I presume I am to understand that a reasonable bargain cannot be obtained from Bailey. Well if he wants to be ciaxed as well as liberally paid, he can consider me out of the ring. I would like very much to be owner of a nice drug store in Lima, but if people are so excited there as to want as much for a good will as the stock is worth, I will try and find another location. I am sure the World is not entirely taken up, even if Lima is. Enclosed is a list of articles I would like you to send me immediately by Express. I consider myself a fixed institution in the Army and propose hereafter to devote my attention to making myself comfortable. Do not delay sending these things any longer than you can possibly avoid. Send a "bill"/ Direct to my address "Post Hospital", Augusta, Ga. I am well and living comfortably.

Your son

Sam.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Treasury Department
Office of Auditor for the War Dept.
Washington, D.C., July 22, 1899

Dear Father:

I am here in the office, and as it is fifteen minutes yet until time to commence work I have concluded to write you a few lines, a thing I have been wanting to do for a long time. We begin work at 9 o'clock in the morning and quit at 4 in the afternoon except on Saturdays when we quit at 3 o'clock

It is pretty warm here in Washington, yet I do not have to be out in the sun much.

Washington is a beautiful City and is classed as a Southern City. It has a population estimated at two hundred and seventy thousand, and seventy thousand are colored. It seems to me that there are more negroes here than that.

I am improving slowly. I had a sick spell last winter that left me in a very bad condition. I have the rheumatism, or something the matter with my shoulders, and the muscles of my arms, which bothers me to the extent that I have been unable to dress and undress myself without assistance every since.

I have not doctored much for it hoping that in the course of time it would leave on its own accord. They have been telling me that frequent bathing in the ocean would entirely relieve me. I concluded to try it and last Sunday went to Beach City on the Atlantic Ocean, and was in bathing for an hour and a half. The bottom was just splendid and we could go out at least 40 rods and did and not be in water deeper than our shoulders, which made it fine bathing. I got water in my mouth, several times and it was salty as brine.

After we came out of the water we ate our dinner and then went and lay down on the grass, in the shade, and took a good sleep. I came home at 10 o'clock feeling tip-top.

The next day I began to itch and burn, and by night I was broke out all over with blotches just like hives, and have been doing but little else than to dig and scratch every since.

I got sun burnt wherever the sun shone on me and am now peeling off. As a result I am not much stuck on ocean bathing.

There is an insect found along the ocean beach called Chiger, and wherever it touches one it causes a spot to raise and it itches worse than any itch ever did. That was what was the trouble.

Wednesday, July 26

I will now try and finish this letter. Some days I have 50 and 60 letters to write. Last Sunday I visited the Zoo. I think it is the finest and most interesting one I ever saw. It is very large and extensive, and I think they have every specie of animal, fowl and fish that ever existed, and some of them are very fine specimens indeed. I counted 14 coon in one tree, and not a very large tree either.

I wish you were here so you could see some of the Sights and visit the many places of

interest.

I expect to go to Philadelphia, Pa., next September, to attend the National Encampment. Why can you not come there too, and then come from there here and spend a month or such matter with me. It shall not cost you one cent to stay here, and the fare will be very cheap from your place to Philadelphia.

I want you to answer this Father and tell me all the news. How your crops are, and how you are all getting along.

How is the oil excitement, and have they found oil on your farm yet?

How is the wheat and corn, and hay and hogs. It has been so long since I have been in a wheatfield, or had anything to do with any such things, that I am getting rather homesick to be with them again, and see whether it would seem natural.

I am shut up here in the office from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon without even the sun shining on me, yet I have become rather used to it.

Well I hope I may soon see you. Give my regards to all

S. H. Bassitt
Warner Building

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Athens, Alabama, May 13, /64
Camped near Athens, Alabama

Now Grand Pap and Grandmother, I will talk to you with the pen a little while as we cannot talk face to face, and will tell you that I am all over well and like to soldier Bully well and I hope these few lines may find you two well although your heads is ablossoming with Grey hairs. I trust that I and You will live to see Each other on Earth and talk face to face and then I can have the Pleasure of atelling you some good storys. I tell You there is plenty of cesesh families around here but thank the Lord they have not much to be saucy over. They have nothing in the shape of Chickens, pigs, geese, or anything that can be eat and the soldiers can eat anything now.

There is not but two men sick in the Regt. There has not a man died since I came out in the Regiment. When we was at Clifton there was Eight privates and one Lieutenant and I was among the squad went out on a Scout and we only saw two Rebbels and we captured both of them and the next morning he under took to get away and as he was apassing the Picket line they saw him and Halted him three times and he no halt and the picket shot him dead and we fetched the other one down here with us and last night he undertook to get out of the guard house and he was in the upper story and he jumped out of the window and broke one leg and one of his arms and I tell You he did not get far. I expect he will be shot as a spy for his papers show that he is a Rebbel spy of the worst kind.

Old forest has got out of this neck of woods I guess and it is well for his old Jacket that he did for if we had of a got ahold of him we would of apunched his hide so full of holes that it would not hold Water, for we have about 8 or 9 thousand men here and plenty of Artillery. I tell you there is plenty of News to read here now and we have nothing to do but to read it. I suppose you have heard about the fight at Richmond. General Breckenritz and Beaureguard say that they can do nothing and they might just as well give up the job and so think I. I think that we will get to come home to stay against one year from this time. There is a jolly old set of boys here now I tell you. There is all kinds of tearing around all the time. We are Camped in a pretty place. It is a nice Country through here as I ever saw. There is plenty of fine trees to shade us.

I must bring my few lines to a close for the Major and Colonel has got their horses saddled. If you cant Read this fetch it down here to me and I will read it for you.

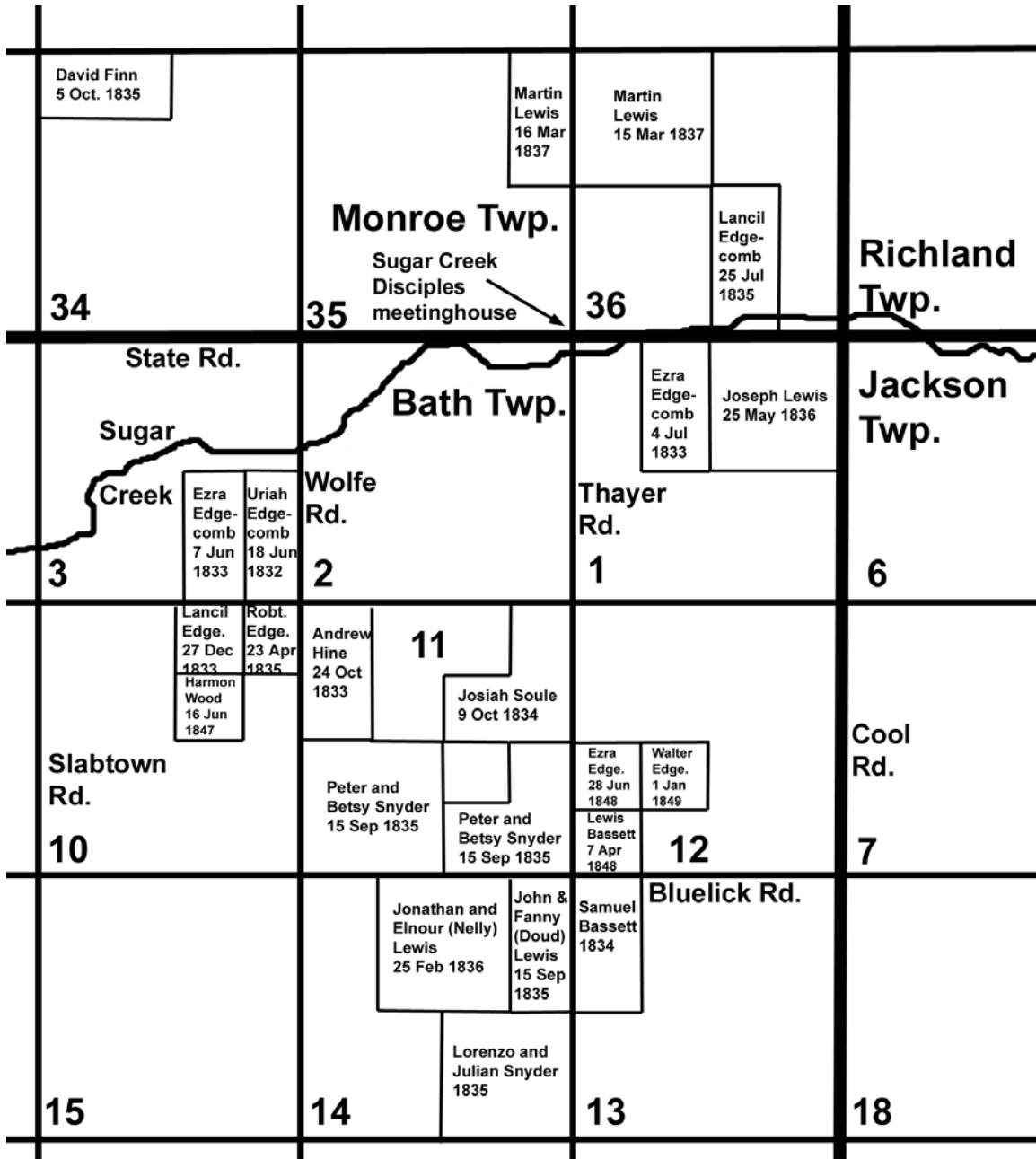
Write soon without Delay. From

Lewis A. Edgecomb

To Samuel Bassitt and under his folder. Write soon. Direct to
Mr. Lewis A. Edgecomb, Athens, Alabama
Co. F, 12 Regt. O.V.I.
via Nashville, Tennessee, to follow the Regiment.

[Transcripts from Civil War Letters binder in Allen County (Ohio) Museum library, c. 1975]
[Original letters in the Allen County (Ohio) Museum archives]

Appendix B - Settlement of northeastern Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio



The map above shows the purchasers and dates of early land purchases in northwest Bath Township, Allen County, OH and portions of adjacent townships. The purchases are (with one exception) limited to those made by persons living in or known to have come from the Trumbull County area. (In the text of the deeds a purchaser is described as "of Trumbull County" if they were residing there at the time of purchase.)

The map shows several patterns. First, it can be seen that the earliest purchase was made by Uriah Edgecomb in section 3 in June 1832. In his deed, he is described as "of Allen County". Therefore he came to Bath Township before making a land purchase.

Since there were no previous immigrants to consult, a probably wanted to examine the area before deciding what parcel to buy. His sons initially bought land adjacent to his farm. However, beginning with Ezra in July 1833, they made several purchases in or near the southeast corner of Monroe Twp. This area was eventually settled by Lewis' and Everetts from Trumbull Co. It is not known who the Andrew Hine was who bought land in section 11 in Oct 1833.

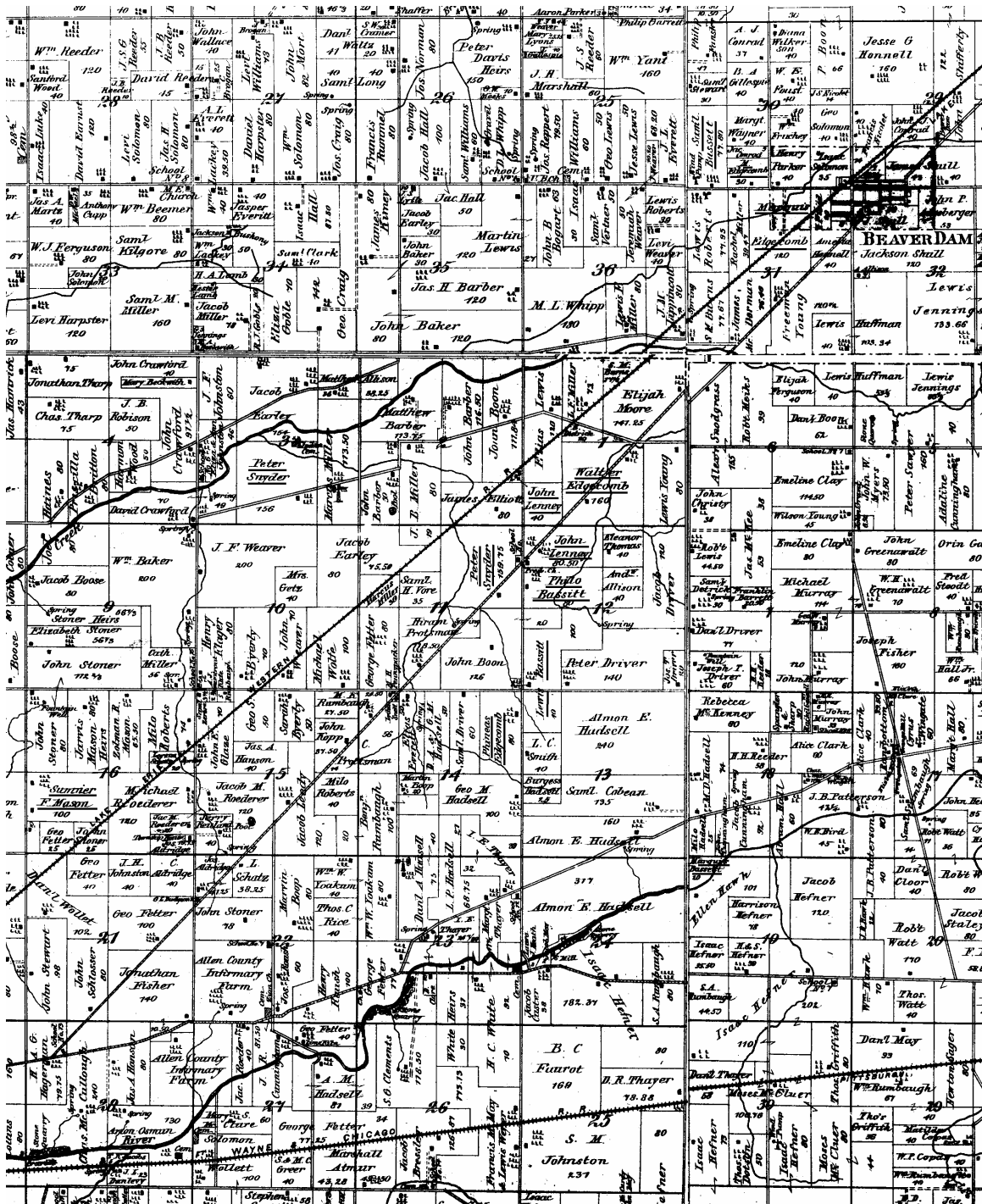
The second pattern begins with Samuel Bassitt's purchase of land in section 13 in 1834. Given that he and Elsie did not move to Bath Twp. until 1836, this purchase may have been on the advice of Uriah and Betsey Edgecomb. Betsey's sister, Fanny (Doud) Lewis was married to John Lewis, who was probably Elsie (Lewis) Bassitt's brother. They lived near the Bassitts in Lordstown Twp., Trumbull Co., so Samuel and Elsa would have had the opportunity to hear reports from Betsey. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that John and Fanny bought land across the section line from Samuel and Elsie's property on 15 Sep 1835. It is also interesting to note that Peter and Betsy Snyder purchased their land in section 11 on the exact same date as John and Fanny. This suggests the possibility that Peter's wife may have been another sister of John Lewis. It is also suggestive that Lorenzo Snyder bought land nearby in the same year. He is known to be the brother of Peter Snyder (b. 1820). Could it be that the Peter Snyder who purchased land on 15 Sep 1835 was an uncle of Lorenzo? Finally, in Feb 1836 Jonathan Lewis, another brother of Elsie Bassitt buys land near his siblings and actually moves onto it to settle.

Between the 1830s and 1850, another shift takes place. Jonathan Lewis buys land in and moves to the southeast corner of Monroe Twp., near where other Lewis' are living. The Edgecombs move from various locations to farms on or near Bluelick Rd. in sections 11 and 14. This includes Uriah with Marquis, Robert, Walter, Clarinda (married to Peter Snyder b. 1820), and Uriah's nephew Phineas Edgecomb who buys the property of John Lewis across the road from Samuel and Elsie Bassitt. This stretch along Bluelick Rd. was probably the beginning of what Samuel Bassett (Jr.) called "Lordstown" in his Civil War letter.

Also in the late 1840's the land in the southwest corner of section 12 is purchased for the first time from the State of Ohio, 15 years later than the original purchase in other sections. Why it was sold so late is not known, but it allowed "Lordstown" to extend north along Thayer Road.

This convergence of Edgecombs along Bluelick Road did not last. Uriah and Marquis Edgecomb moved to Beaverdam. The Snyders moved to Shawnee. Robert Edgecomb eventually moved to Illinois and Walter Edgecomb moved up to section 1. By 1880, Church of the Brethren families were encroaching on "Lordstown" from the west, resulting in a number of marriages between the two groups. Now Lordstown represented the name of the community, not just the place of origin of some of its residents. The Lordstown one-room school maintained its identity at the corner of the Dixie Hwy. and Thayer Road until Bath Schools were consolidated in the 1930s.

One non-Trumbull County immigrant was also listed on the map of early land purchases. Harmon Wood was not from Trumbull Co., but his wife Mariah was a Bassett said to have been born in Genesee Co., NY in 1806. We do not know the name of her parents - could she have been Samuel's sister?



Map of northeast Bath Township, Allen Co., Ohio and adjacent sections of southeast Monroe Twp., southwest Richland Township, and northwest Jackson Twp. in 1880 showing property owners. The center of the map is the community known informally as "Lordstown". (From R. H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio from Records and Original Surveys*, Philadelphia: R. H. Harrison, 1880)

In the map above, underlined names indicate farms of Bassett, Edgecomb, and Snyder descendants or spouses. Note also Lewis and Everetts who are known or possible Trumbull County immigrant descendants.

The locations of some landmarks will be noted here. The one-room Lordstown School (name used until consolidation in about 1935) is located adjacent to Peter Snyder's farm in the northeast corner of section 11. It was later moved to the east side of the road. The original Bassitt homestead was located in the northwest corner of section 13. The original homestead of Uriah Edgecomb was located in the southeast corner of section 3 (The Marcus Miller farm). The Sproat Cemetery containing the earliest Bassitt and Edgecomb burials is located just south of Sugar Creek on the eastern edge of section 3 (cemetery not shown on map). Later burials were in the old Beaverdam Cemetery located on the east side of Beaverdam.

The first preaching in Bath township was reported to have been done by William Wilson, a Disciple, and the Sugar Creek Disciples meetinghouse was the first built in the Township, in 1840.¹ In 1848, 50 persons attended the meetinghouse², presumably many of whom immigrated from Trumbull Co. to the Lordstown community of Bath Township. The congregation was organized officially in October 1855. The original location of the Sugar Creek meeting house of the Disciples Church was described as "one mile south of Lewis's corner, where the Cook-Trumble (sic) Road crosses the State Road"³. Cook-Trumbo Road is now known as N. Thayer Rd., thus the meeting house would have been north of Sugar Creek near the junction of sections 1 and 2 of Bath Twp. and 35 and 36 of Monroe Twp. According to oral tradition, an alternative location was at the junction of Sugar Creek Rd. and the Dixie Hwy. (near the center of section 1 of Bath Twp.)⁴. In December 1868 the congregation purchased lot 21 in Beaverdam and erected a building there, which is the present-day Beaverdam Church of Christ⁵.

The post office that served the community was known as Bluelick. It was located at the corner of Bluelick Rd. and Slabtown Rd. in the northeast corner of section 16. For many years (as late as the 1970s) a general store was located in Bluelick. Just west of this intersection, on the south side of the road is the Bluelick Cemetery where George Snyder is buried.

In 2007, the descendants of the Edgecombs, Bassetts, and Snyders still are having their impact on northeast Bath Township and southeast Monroe Twp. Descendants of Howard Bassett (b. 1893): Lewis, Dennis, Dave, James, Scott, and Bill Bassett as well as Jo Ann (Vore) Bassett (a Snyder/Edgecomb descendant) own and/or farm a significant fraction of the farm land in that area.

¹ "Historical Sketch of Allen County, Ohio: Bath Township, Personal Reminiscences of Matthew Allison" in R. H. Harrison, *Atlas of Allen County, Ohio from Records and Original Surveys*, Philadelphia: R. H. Harrison, 1880, p. 27.

² Henry K. Shaw, *Buckeye Disciples*, Ohio Christian Missionary Society, 1952.

³ *Oct 1855-Oct 1955, One Hundredth Anniversary of the Beaverdam Church of Christ*. Church of Christ Archives, Nashville, TN.

⁴ Interview of Lela Barber Baker by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 13 Aug. 1978 in which she recalled things told to her by her grandmother Loretta Edgecomb Barber.

⁵ *Oct 1855*.

Term Report.

The following named pupils have the average per cent. annexed to their names for the term of school taught in Sub-District No. 10, Bath township, commencing November 19th, 1877, and ending March 9th, 1878, in all four months. The per cent. is a general average for the entire term in attendance, punctuality, deportment and scholarship. The figures relatively stand thus, 80 fair, 90 good, 95 excellent, 100 the maximum. No scholar having attained 100 per cent., owing either to absence, tardiness, conduct or the rigidity of the questions submitted at the monthly examination. For convenience all have been thrown into one grade and names given according to their grades.

Elsie Edgcomb, 95; Alta Snyder, 93.7; Willie Cramer, 93.4; Lausil Edgcomb, 93.3; Abi Cramer, 93.3; Addie Hipkins, 93.2; J. H. Fairburn, 93; Sarah Driver, 92; Lule Bassett, 92; Jane Bassett, 91.8; Walter Holten, 91.5; Eda Snyder, 91.4; J. B. Driver, 91.3; Della Driver, 91.1; McClellan Cramer, 91; Mahala Protsman, 90.8; Blanch Ziler, 90; Nella Holten, 90; Samuel Driver, 90; E. Snodgrass, 89.7; Della Snyder, 89.2; George Kollar, 89; J. F. Kollar, 89; Anna Snyder, 88.8; Almond Holten, 88.7; Nannie Protsman, 88.3; James Ferguson, 88; James Barber, 87.8; S. Zeller, 87.5; John Barber, 87; Virginia Ziler, 86.7; Charles Snodgrass, 86.5; Cashus Snyder, 84.6; Rinehart Moore, 84.5; A. Moore, 84.4; G. J. Pennypacker, 84.3; Nelson Bassett, 84; William Ferguson, 82.7; William Bassett, 82.6; M. Ziler

Appendix C - The Everett Family in Allen County, Ohio

Although the Everetts are not ancestors of the Edgecombs, Bassitts, or Snyders that are the focus of this book, they interacted with the three families as neighbors or through marriage. They were also members of the Disciples Church as were the Bassitts and Edgecombs. As immigrants who came from New York via Trumbull County, Ohio, it seems appropriate to briefly outline their connection with the Edgecombs and Bassitts.¹

The Everetts originated in New Jersey, where the name was typically spelled "Everit". Nathan Everit was born 4 Nov 1780² in Sussex Co., NJ. His mother was Thankful Everit. He married Mary Doty, born on 15 Jan 1789³ and daughter of Benjamin and Mary Doty.⁴ In 1813, Nathan and Mary were living in Chemung Co., New York.⁵ They may have lived in Solon, Cortland Co., NY in 1826 because Hannah Everett (Edgecomb), their granddaughter through son Jacob D. was born there in that year. That would have placed them in Solon at the same time that Samuel and Elsa Bassitt lived there. Nathan and Mary had the following children:

Abram (or Abraham) 28 Dec 1801 in Sussex Co., NJ - 3 Jun 1878 in Cortland, OH, m. Mary (Polly) Bush

George

Benjamin m. 3 Mar 1833 Catherine Laramore in Trumbull Co., OH

Jacob Doty 27 Feb 1807 in Erie Co., NY - 30 May 1852 in Monroe Twp., Allen Co., OH, m. 30 Dec 1828 to Elizabeth "Betsey" Bush 12 Feb 1806 - 16 Dec 1878^{6 7}

Alexcina (or Lexcina) (Smith)(Faunce) c. 1811 in NY - 30 Mar 1860 in Trumbull Co., OH, m.(2) Robert S. Faunce

Martin

Nathan 22 Jul 1816 in NY - 3 Jul 1901 in Bazetta Twp., Trumbull Co., OH, m. 7 Oct 1841 to Cynthia Lewis

Elias 8 May 1817 in NY - 22 Feb 1885 in Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH, m.(1) 19 Nov 1846 to Esther Olmstead, m.(2) 13 Oct 1853 to Marellah Lippencott Trumbo.⁸

Thankful

Mary

Of these children, George, Abram, Benjamin, Jacob D., Alexcina, and Nathan were known to have lived in Trumbull County, OH. It is interesting to note that family members that stayed in Trumbull Co. tended to spell their name "Everitt", while those who came to Allen Co. spelled it "Everett". Tradition says that a misunderstanding between the brothers caused the change in spelling.

George was the first known to have moved to Trumbull Co., Ohio. In 1828, he was the teacher at the first school in Lordstown, which was located on David Lewis' farm. (This school has been noted in the Bassett and Lewis histories as the location where the Disciples church was organized in 1830.) Abram and Jacob D., who married the sisters Polly and Elizabeth Bush, respectively, moved to Lordstown Twp., Trumbull Co. in about 1830. Benjamin may have moved there at about the same time, since he was married there in 1833. He may have later come to Allen Co. Nathan lived with his widowed sister, Alexcina Smith when they came to Trumbull Co. Nathan told a grandson that when he and his brother came on horseback to Ohio, they had to swim the

Allegheny River because there were no bridges at that time. After their arrival in Trumbull Co., Lexcina married Robert S. Faunce and on 7 Oct 1841 Nathan married Cynthia Lewis, the daughter of John and Fanny (Doud) Lewis, who were discussed in the Doud and Lewis sections of this history.

In 1835, Jacob Doty and Elizabeth Everett moved to Allen County. "As there was no road within three-quarters of a mile of the property, he had to 'blaze' the trees in order to make his way to and from his home. He became the owner of 280 acres of land, the greater part of which he cleared during his life. The log house which he built for his home is still standing as a reminder of the hardy and enduring character of the brave old pioneer."⁹ Their daughter, Hannah married Marquis Edgecomb, son of Uriah and Betsy Edgecomb.¹⁰

In 1836, Jacob D. and Betsey were followed by Jacob's parents, Nathan and Mary (Doty) Everett, who were said to have moved to Trumbull Co. and spent one winter there before moving to Allen Co., the following spring¹¹. The Everetts settled in southwestern Monroe Township, where Edgecombs and Lewis's from Trumbull Co. were settling.

Sometime around 1840, Jacob's brother Elias came to Allen County, where he purchased land in southwestern Monroe Twp. He was a surveyor as well as a farmer, and in about 1845 he surveyed part of the town of Delphos which was located on the Miami-Erie Canal in western Allen County¹². On 19 Nov 1846, he married Esther Olmstead, daughter of George and Chloe (Doud) Olmstead and niece of Uriah and Betsy Edgecomb. The same year, he bought land in the "Lordstown" community of Bath Township, although he was still living in Monroe Twp in 1850. After Esther's death, on 13 Oct 1853 Elias married Marellah Lippencott Trumbo. Eventually, Elias moved to his property in Bath Twp. where he served as a Justice of the Peace. Alice, daughter of Elias and Marilla married Philo Bassett, who was their neighbor.

Mary (Doty) Everett died on 29 Sep 1866 and Nathan died on 18 Jul 1858 and both were buried in the Williams Cemetery on the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) in Section 25 of Monroe Twp., ¼ mi. east of Thayer Rd.

¹ Except as noted, the information in this section come primarily from Sarah M. Grove, directly and from the article "Everit, Everitt, Everett" from the spring 1977 *Reporter* of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

² Tombstone, Williams Cemetery, Monroe Twp., Allen Co., OH "Nathan Everett, Died July 18, 1858, Aged 82 Yr. 4 Mo. & 20 da.". This would mean that he was born on 4 Nov 1780. The 1850 Census gives his age as 70, which would indicate a birth date of about 1780. Sarah Grove gives his birth date as 28 Feb 1776.

³ Tombstone, Williams Cemetery, Monroe Twp., Allen Co., OH "Mary, Wife of N. Everett, Died Sept. 29, 1866, Aged 77 Yr. 8 Mo. 14 d.". This would mean that she was born on 15 Jan 1789. The 1850 Census gives her age as 63, which would indicate a birth date of about 1787. Sarah Grove gives her birth date as 1778. The 1789 birth date causes some difficulty with the birth date of 1801 for her son Abram. Further research is warranted to resolve this issue.

⁴ In Mrs. Grove's notes she states that Benjamin Doty was a descendant of Edward Doty who came to America on the Mayflower. However, this has since been found to be in error.

⁵ Deed Book I2, p.76, Newton, Sussex Co., NJ, 3 Feb 1813. "Nathan Everit and Mary Everit, late Mary Doty, one of the children and heirs of Benjamin Doty, deceased of the Twp. of Oxford and County of Chemung, New York ..."

⁶ Charles C. Miller, *History of Allen County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, Chicago, 1906. p. 422-23. Article on Jasper Everett.

⁷ Tombstone, Williams Cemetery, Monroe Twp., Allen Co., OH "Jacob D. Everitt Died May 30, 1852 Aged 45 y 3 m 3 D, Betsey wife of Jacob D. Everitt Died Dec. 16, 1878 Aged 72 y 10 m 4 d"

⁸ Information from family Bible of Elias Everett, in possession of Steve Baskauf.

⁹ Miller, p. 422.

¹⁰ Miller, p. 620-21. Article on Madison Edgecomb.

¹¹ Nathan and Mary may have come to Allen Co. as early as 1833.

¹² *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885, p. 448.

Appendix D - DNA evidence of descent from William Bassett of Plymouth

Since 2002, Jeffrey N. Bassett has conducted a Bassett family Y-chromosome DNA study involving many Bassetts from around the world. Because the Y chromosome is passed on only from father to son and changes only through occasional mutations, it provides a means to examine whether males that are believed to be descended from the same paternal ancestor share similar genetic markers. The variable microsatellite loci that act as the markers mutate at a rate which is slow enough so that two individuals with a common paternal ancestor several hundred years ago would have many identical haplotypes (versions of the markers), while individuals that share a common paternal ancestor much longer ago (i.e. thousands of years ago) would have many different haplotypes.

Analysis of the Bassett study is described in detail in "The Bassetts of New England: A Comparison of Five Early Immigrants" by Jeffrey N. Bassett, *New England Ancestors*, Spring 2004, so it will not be repeated here. In a nutshell, there are characteristic patterns of haplotypes that are found in known descendants of particular immigrant Bassetts. The first six lines of the table below, taken from the *New England Ancestors* paper shows typical haplotypes at twelve markers for five early Bassett immigrants to New England (there are actually more markers that are tested but this table only shows twelve).

Bassett Ancestor	393	390	19	391	385a	385b	426	388	439	389i	392	389ii
William of Lynn, MA	12	22	15	10	12	14	11	13	11	12	11	29
John of New Haven, CT	13	23	13	10	13	12	12	12	12	12	14	28
William of New Haven, CT	13	23	13	10	13	12	12	12	12	12	14	28
Thomas of Fairfield, CT	13	24	15	11	11	15	12	12	12	13	13	29
William of Plymouth, MA	13	23	14	11	10	14	12	12	12	13	13	29
<i>Steve (Bassett) Baskauf (sample 13485)</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>29</i>

As a participant in the study, I received a copy of my haplotype results (shown in the last row of the table). As can be seen, all of the markers shown match those typically found for descendants of William Bassett of Plymouth, who came on the *Fortune* in 1621. (The same holds for additional markers not shown, these can be seen at <http://www.bassett.net/dna/> .)

This does not prove that we are descended from William of Plymouth. Rather, it shows that we are probably either descended from William of Plymouth or from someone relatively closely related to him (e.g. a cousin). However, given that tradition and some historical records indicate that we are descended from William through his son Nathaniel, the results of this test support that contention.

A similar study conducted using samples from Edgecomb males could support or refute the contention that Lieut. John Edgecomb is the same person as the John Edgecomb (b. 1700) of New London, CT.