



CORRESPONDING SOCIETY
DESCENDANTS OF ROGER TERRILL
of Milford, Connecticut



Volume VI, Number 4

WINTER 1994 NEWSLETTER



Children of Philander Lorenzo and Sarah (Bates) Tyrrel. Back row left to right: Dorliska, John, Perry, James, Osman. Front row: Isaac, Mary, Sidney, Olive.



C I V I L W A R L E T T E R S

Above are nine of the twelve children of Philander Lorenzo¹ and Sarah "Sally" (Bates) Tyrrel of Monroe county, 'A. (Philander Laurel⁶, Ichabod⁵, Oliver⁴, Josiah³, John², Roger¹.) Their eldest, Sidney Francis⁸, b. 25 Aug 1835, and the next eldest son, Isaac Newton³, b. 14 April 1840, served in the Civil War. Sidney in Company A, 36th Iowa Voluntary Infantry; and Isaac who enlisted 28 Oct 1861, at age 21, in Company I, 2nd Kansas Cavalry.

Like many who served in the Civil War, Issac's health suffered, not from battlefield wounds, but from camp conditions. In his pension papers he explains: ... In December 1861, at Fort Leavenworth, Kans, I was taken with measles - We had neither tents nor blankets at the time - slept in rain and snow which brought on a severe cold - still affects me about the breast and head and predisposes epileptic attacks.

In a letter to Sidney and his wife Catherine, dated 6 Feb 1864, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Isaac tried to put a good face on his health: Dear Brother and Sister, It is with the greatest of pleasure I now sit down to answer your kind and welcome letter which I received on the 5th inst and was glad to hear that you was all well. It found me as well as I have been for six weeks past but I am not as stout as I was before I left there... the old second Kansas are reenlisting every day. All I have to complain of is they won't take me yet but the surgeon says he will see how I am in the spring he says if I am not worse I can reenlist but I am afraid when spring comes he will not let me go... well I [can't] think of any more at present so I will close. I remain your ever affectionate Brother until Death. I send my respects to all enquiring Union Friends and tell the rest to go to the Devil for me. Oh yes Sidney, mother wrote that you may be going into the army. I don't think you ought to think of enlisting when there is so many single men back there, besides I know you can't stand the hardship you would have to go through, so Sidney take my advice and not enlist...

Isaacs appeal, clearly prompted by mother Sarah, came to naught. Sidney was drafted. By 31 March 1864, Isaac wrote to Catherine: Dear Sister,.. I have not got any letter from Sidney yet since he left there.

Sidney would have been 30 years of age at the time, the father of two children, Kester Lincoln b. 1858, and Mary A. b. 1861. In a family essay written by Sylvia Spears Brewbaker (1888-1966) she says of this period: Catherine's tales of those lonely days while he was away, used to hold us enthralled by the hour. I have seen the log cabin in which they lived, while "proving up" on their 160 acres of government land. A low unfloored cabin with 2 small windows and a big fireplace in one end for both heat and cooking...

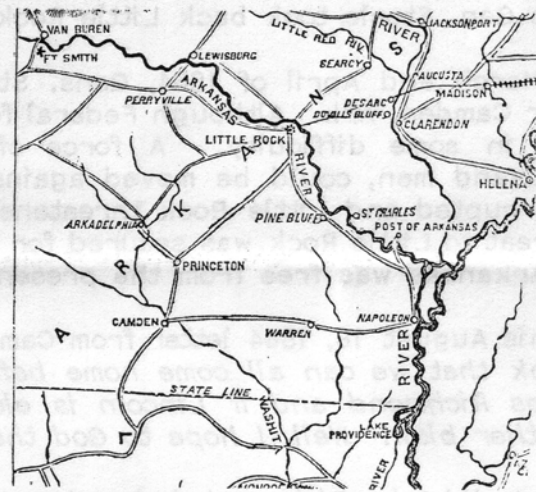
Both of Sidney's parents were well educated, especially his father. They were an exceptionally fine pioneer family, all blonde, of medium height, with beautifully formed faces, low spoken and good Christians. Sidney was never well again [after the war] although he always laughed away his illnesses. Now I suspect that he had ulcers of the stomach although in those days of crude or no doctoring they just called it "catarrh" of the stomach.

Of Catherine she explains: ..Her father Doster Nolan was what in those days was called a "horse doctor", in these times a veterinarian, and came as far as the place where Albia now stands, with the Mormons when they were driven out of Nauvoo, Illinois...[after her mother died] her father bound her out to have her taught housework and weaving, so until she was 18 she was a bound girl, who was taught all the things a pioneer girl in those days must know, but no book education. She worked as a servant for the two years preceding her marriage to one of the countryside's most eligible young men, Sidney Tyrrel, who immediately began to teach his bride how to spell and write.

On 22 March 1864 Sidney wrote Catherine from Camp Little Rock: ...my health is not very good at present but it is nothing but a hard cold...tell Aunt Cathy that Uncle Lorel [Laurel Hubert Tyrrell] is not very well at present but he is a getting better...the thirty sixth is a goin to start out on Red River which is

about two hundred miles but I think that me and Bill will not have to go on this trip because we're not drilled enough...oh yes, Ellen, there is some of the best boys here that [I] ever seen in my life, well Ellen you must be a good gal and I will do the best that I can for you...

Little did Sidney know how lucky he was not to have been drilled enough to join the expedition. Gen. Steele left Little Rock on 23 March 1864, in command of the 7th Army Corps, to join up with General Banks' Red River expedition. After the first day out the 36th had about thirty days fighting beginning at Spoonville, Elkins Ford, Prairie de Ann, Camden and Mark's Mill. The loss was inconsiderable until the battle at Mark's Mills. On 25 April, under the command of Lieut. Col. Drake, of the 36th Iowa, the supply train which had started with two hundred and fifty wagons, six ambulances, and an escort of two hundred cavalry and twelve hundred infantry, with four pieces of artillery, was engaged within six miles of the Saline River at Mark's Mill by a Confederate cavalry force. The result was the capture or wounding of all the officers, nearly all the men--of whom two hundred and fifty were killed and wounded--only one or two escaped.



Little Rock/Camden Area

Among the prisoners captured and marched to the Confederate stockade at Camp Ford, Smith County, Texas, were Sidney's "Uncle Lorel", and his cousin, Leander¹, son of Marshall¹. The Ellen that Sidney was teasing in his letter was no doubt his cousin, the 14 year old daughter of "Uncle Lorel."

Sidney to Catherine, 28 June 1864: *In camp at Little Rock, Ark...The rebes say that they are a goin to take Little Rock on the fourth of July but I think that is the wrong day for them to undertake to whip us. Well we have about from 18 to 20 thousand soldiers here at the present and this place is well fortified and I think that it will be another Helena again but let them try it if they want. Well Catherine you must not let it trouble you for I think there is no danger of them here. Well I will have to stop for tonight. Well I will finish my letter this morning. Well Catherine they say that the rebes are a goin to attack this place in a day or two. Well if they come let them come....*

Sidney has reason to be jumpy about Fort Little Rock. It early 1863 it had been the headquarters for Confederate army Gen. Marmaduke. Sidney's reference to Helena and July 4th was based on battle history. In mid-1863 the army of the frontier had been greatly depleted to furnish reinforcements to Gen. Grant, while he was engaged in the siege of Vicksburg. The Confederate generals took advantage of this fact to make an attack on Helena, Arkansas, where the Federal general, Prentiss, was in command, with a force of about four thousand troops. The Confederate attack was made on the 4th of July, with a force of about fifteen thousand men.

At first, the Confederates were successful, capturing a small fort forming a part of the outworks. But the Federal gunboat Tyler, came up opportunely with its

heavy guns. The Confederates were compelled to abandon their position with severe loss. Determined not to relinquish their purpose, the Confederates fought desperately, charging repeatedly, but everywhere the undermanned Federals, with the Tyler's help, beat them back. At length, having lost over one thousand killed and wounded, and more than one thousand one hundred prisoners, the Confederates fell back, retreating to the interior of Arkansas. In the weeks following there was continued heavy fighting between the forces, with the result that Gen. Steele took back Little Rock 10 September 1863.

In March and April of 1864, Gens. Steele and Marmaduke were again engaged, near Camden, Ark. Although Federal forces took this city, Gen. Steele's command was in some difficulty. A force of enemy, estimated to reach twenty-five thousand men, could be moved against him. He fell back, his communications interrupted and Little Rock threatened. In battles waged in late April, a safe retreat to Little Rock was secured for Gen. Steele, and for some time that portion of Arkansas was free from the presence of the Confederates.

In his August 18, 1864 letter from Camp Little Rock, Sidney seemed optimistic: *...I think that we can all come home before long for the rebels say that if Grant takes Richmond and if Lincoln is elected president that they will not strike another blow. Well, I hope to God that old Abe will be elected president again.*

Grant did take Richmond, but not until over 8 months later. And, Lincoln was reelected president but would survive only two weeks after the capture of Richmond, assassinated by a pistol shot 15 April 1865.

Sidney reassures and jokes in his letter of 20 Oct 1864: *...you never [need] feel uneasy about me going with the women down here for there is not a woman in the whole of Arkansas for a white man to live with but know that you won't worry about that for you know me too well for that...*

A homesick Sidney writes 8 Feb 1865: *..Well Catherine the war news is pretty good that we get, hear now there is a good deal [of] talk about peace down here but I guess there is more talk than cider. But God knows that I don't care how quick peace is declared so that all the soldiers can go home and stay with their wives, children and their sweethearts.*

May of 1865, Saint Charles, Ark., to Catherine: *...well the news is pretty good as far as I can hear I think the fighting is over...the mosquitos and buffalo gnats [black flies] are thick enough so a man can take his hat and one swipe with it will fill it full, they are so thick that a man has to brush them away so that he can see to walk. Well you can believe all of that or a _____ but it is so by jingo!*

At last on his way home, Sidney writes from Keokuk, Iowa 31 August 1865: *... well I can't write much for I am on the boat and it shakes so that can't write to do any good...if we have no bad luck we will get to Davenport next Saturday.*

Sidney was officially discharged 3 November 1865. In 1867 he and Catherine had Sarah, James in 1872 and Alice in 1875. He died 2 April 1909 at age 73 mourned by his Catherine. "Uncle Lorel" and Leander were paroled for exchange from Camp Ford in February 1864, eventually reunited with their regiment until discharged 24 August 1865. Leander died 16 April 1935 in Moscow, ID. After the war Laurel and his family moved to Kansas. He died 25 Dec 1910. Isaac married Margaret Jane H. Riddle 10 April 1865 and they had 10 children. He died 14 January 1908. [Spelling corrections and punctuation used for clarity.] ntt

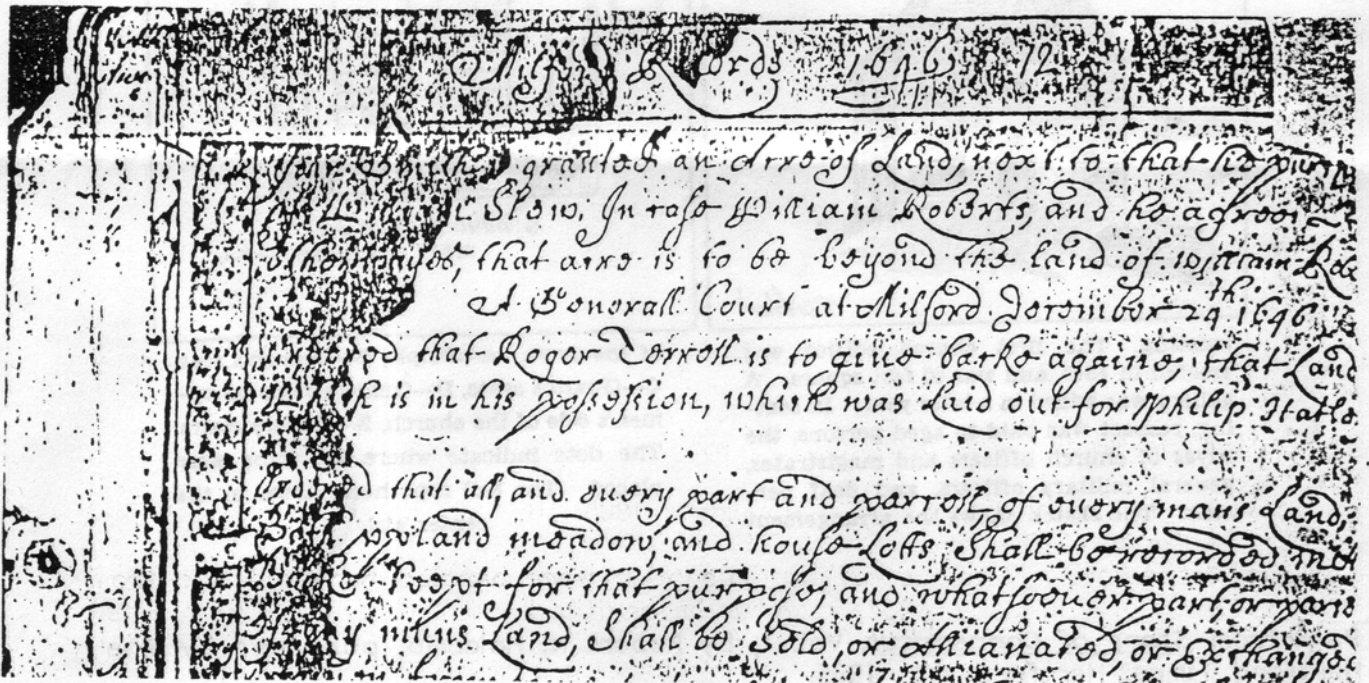
"At General Court at Milford, December 24, 1646, ordered that Roger Terrell is to give back again, that land which is in his possession, which was laid out for Philip Hatley.

Ordered that all and every part and parcel of everymans land, both upland meadow, and houselots shall be recorded in a Book of _____ for that purpose, and whatsoever part....."

Constant disputes over the boundaries of the grants made to the settlers accompanied the rapid division of the land in Milford. "Boundary fixers" were in constant demand. To clear up the confusion, in 1646 the first map of the town was made showing the location of each homelot, the name of the owner, and the number of the lot. (For location of Roger's lot, #49, see DOR newsletter Vol. III, No. 3.)

That same year on December 24, it was ordered by the General Court that every transfer of property, whether by sale, gift, or inheritance, should be recorded in a special book. The fee for recording the transfer was to be twopence, and twopence for a copy of the deed. Two months was the time limit allowed for recording a land transfer, with a fourpence penalty for failure to comply with the law. A report of land transfers was made by the recorder at each meeting of the judges, so that proper tax assessments could be levied.

Included in this 24 December 1646 order by the General Court were orders to community residents to restore property they were using that belonged to others. Evidently our Roger was using land that rightfully belonged to Philip Hatley and was ordered to return it to Hatley "again." Evidently there must have been a tug-of-war over this piece of property! Philip Hatley's homelot was #48, bounding Roger's homelot on the north. ntt



SELECTING THE SEVEN

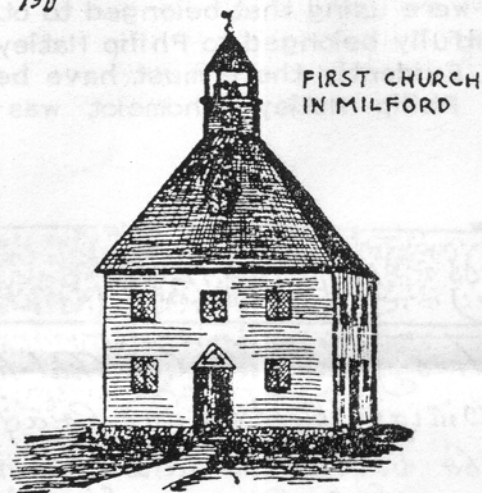


The government of Milford was patterned in general after New Haven's. Seven "Pillars" were chosen before the departure to Milford to constitute the church and therefore be town rulers. No one was excused from attending church services except on account of illness. The penalty



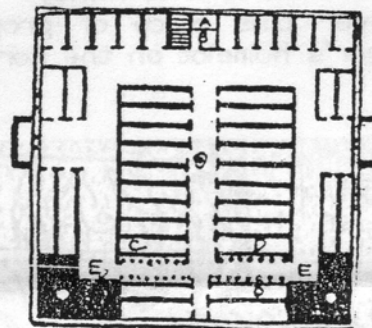
for failing to obey this was a fine of four shillings and sometimes a whipping. Like most Puritan towns the Sabbath laws were strict. "No one shall indulge in apples or nuts on the Lord's Day." No one was permitted to travel more than a Sabbath journey (two miles), except to attend

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meeting. The first church edifice was erected in 1640, and was 40 feet square. A gallery was added in a later year. In seating, respect was paid to aged persons, the wives of church officers and magistrates, general military officers, and deaf persons. The sketch shows the arrangement

FORTY FEET SQUARE



GROUND PLAN OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE — A

of the pews. A—Pulpit, B—Deacon's seat, C—Guard's seats, D—Guard's seats on women's side of the church, E—Gallery stairs. The dots indicate where the guns were placed. The bell rope hung down in the center aisle.



TERRILL TALK

DONNA TERRILL NORTHUIS has issued her long awaited family history entitled Ancestors and Descendants of Mary Trumbull-Millins, Malinda A. Campbell and Jerome Terrill of Hudson, Michigan. This attractive hardbound, 386 page book is divided into six chapters with a bibliography and index. There are numerous photographs, as well as many interesting quotes from letters, literary works and legal documents. Jerome¹ Terrill descends Hiram⁵, Zalmon⁵, Capt. George, Jr.⁴, George³, Daniel², Roger¹. To obtain a copy of this history, Donna asks that you direct inquiries to her at 9619 108th Avenue North, Seminole, FL 34643. The family historians who helped Donna compile the history are recognized at the beginning of various sections and include DOR members Bramwell⁹ Terrill and Charles L.¹ Terrill.

CHARLES L. TERRILL

In this connection, it is our sad duty to report the death of CHARLES L. "CHUCK" TERRILL on 3 October 1994 in Adrian, MI. He was born to JEROME, JR.¹ and MARY (TRUMBULL) TERRILL 19 May 1916 at Wright Twp., Hillsdale county, MI, the last Terrill child born on the homestead. Donna relates: *"When asked why he didn't continue to MI Agricultural College, Chuck guessed that farmers didn't usually do that in those days. His father was in poor health, and he was needed on the farm. The time came when Chuck did all of the farm work....Chuck was a natural with radios and small appliances, could fix almost any electrical equipment, wired the Terrill farm for electricity in 1939."*

Chuck was inducted into the army on 4 Aug 1943 serving the duration of the war in the European theater, and was discharged in May 1946. Using the G.I. Bill, Chuck earned his BA Degree in Education at Adrian College in 1950, and an MS Degree in Education at U. of M. in 1952. However, by 1957 he had returned to the electrical work he always loved, employed by Wards of Adrain.

Chuck, known to many as Charlie, was a major biographer of all five sons of Jerome¹ Terrill, as well as several of the previous generations. A gifted writer, Donna was grateful that he read the manuscript for her book page by page, offering corrections and additions, often times contributing new *"just remembered"* family stories. He is survived by long time companion, Bernadine "Bernie" Hogan, niece and nephews and one first cousin, Bramwell Terrill of Tavares, FL.

LAWRENCE FONTAINE LeSTOURGEON

We just received word of the death, on 16 September 1991, of LAWRENCE FONTAINE LeSTOURGEON, a DOR charter member who was also active in our sister society, Terrell Society of America. Lawrence was born 5 April 1906 in Arkansas City, Cowley county, KS to Arthur Edward and Kate Pattison (Heard) LeSturgeon. He received a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in 1925 and spent a year at the University of Chicago in graduate business study.

Lawrence married a former schoolmate, AFTON FREDONIA THOMPSON, 5 October 1926, and they settled in Arkansas City. Eight years later they moved to North Carolina where they remained, eventually settling in Charlotte. At the time of his sudden death from a heart attack, they were about to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

An enthusiastic booster of this and other family societies to which he belonged, Lawrence always found time for yet another project and an encouraging word for all. Besides his wife, Lawrence was survived by daughters Ann Harris of Raleigh, Kathy Smith of Albemarle; grandchildren John Smith, Erskine Smith, Susan Harris West, Martha Harris Owen, Elizabeth Harris and four great grandchildren.

His Terrell descent is through BARBARA OVERTON TERRELL, b. 3 Sep 1756, who m. AARON FONTAINE 19 April 1773 in Louisa county, VA. Barbara is the daughter of RICHMOND TERRELL, by direct descent the fourth of that name in the new world.

* * * *

And, speaking of the Terrell Society of America, DOR member DON C. TERRILL, is the president of this sister organization and the editor of their newsletter *Terrell Trails*. This society's application for membership lists as among their goals to locate of all living descendants of John Terrell, late of Henry county, GA, who died c.Dec 1828-Mar 1829 and his wife Marian (maiden surname unknown); and to accept members from the above Terrell line and descendants of all other Terrell lines who have or may have descended from the Terrell/Tyrrells who migrated here from England or elsewhere in Europe for possible future linking of all related lines. Those interested in membership should contact Mrs. Pat Terrell Walker, Corresponding Secretary, Rt. 5 Box 211, Reed Creek Drive, Bassett VA 24055.

We are happy to announce the birth of their first grandchild to DOR members DUDLEY and BOBBIE TERRILL of Bow, NH. Born to their daughter KATHLEEN and husband WILLIAM RAYCRAFT, a daughter, JOHNNA LEE RAYCRAFT on 29 November 1994. Johnna descends Kathleen¹², Dudley¹¹, Reginald¹⁰, Warren⁹, Benjamin⁸, Samuel⁷, Jonathan⁶, Josiah⁵, Lewis⁴, Josiah³, Thomas², Roger¹. Congratulations to the entire clan!

DOR member JOANIE TERRILL shares with us "another Terrill fortitude and longevity story. My father, WILLIAM NESSLER TERRILL of New Hartford, NY was married to HELEN MARY BROWN on 21 July of this year. He has been legally blind for 10 years now and maintains his own home including doing all the yard work, lawn mowing and snow shoveling. Dad is a radio pioneer, having built the first radio station in Utica, NY back in the early 20's, and has been an active ham, radio operator for over 70 years. Oh - he'll be 88 on 3 November!" Our warmest DOR congratulations to the newlyweds and admiration for William's Terrillness talent and tenacity!



People are what they are because they have come out of what was.

Carl Sandburg

LEMAN TURRELL - SUSQUEHANNA, P. A.

Died - In Forest Lake, on the 29th December, 1848, Mr. Leman Turrell, in the 73rd year of his age.

Mr. Turrell was born July 5th, 1776, (the day after the Declaration of American Independence) in New Milford, Litchfield co., Connecticut, where he resided until the year 1794, when at the age of 18 years he came into Pennsylvania in the capacity of Surveyor, in the employ of his uncle, Job Turrell, who then owned a large tract of land in Northern Pennsylvania under the Connecticut Title.

At that early period nearly all this section of country was an unbroken and trackless wilderness. After remaining in this capacity about one year he returned to his native place in Connecticut, where he married in 1797, and there resided until April, 1810, when he removed to his late residence, (now Forest Lake, Susq. co., Pa.) since which time he has resided on the same farm, and endured much of the hardships and toils incident to the settlement of a new country. But by untiring industry and perseverance, seldom equalled, he acquired a handsome competence, and made the desert wilderness about him 'to smile and blossom like the rose.'

He lived to see his children (five sons and two daughters) all settled in life, the most of whom he assisted to locate around him on parts of his own domain. He has left a worthy and amiable wife, with whom he had lived about fifty two years, to mourn the loss of the companion of her youth. He was remarkable for the perseverance with which he carried out and finished all his worldly plans: and in his intercourse with his fellow men he had established a high reputation for strict honesty, punctuality, and fair dealing. He was a member of the Middletown Baptist Church, and died in the triumphs of faith in the atoning blood of Jesus.

The funeral was attended at his residence on Sunday the 31st December, by a large concourse of neighbors and friends, who listened to an appropriate discourse by Eld. Frink, from Genesis, 25th chapter, 8th verse. He was buried in the family burying ground on his own farm.

Published 4 January 1849 in *Susquehanna Register & Northern Farmer* and re-printed by the Susquehanna County Historical Society. Leman⁶ descends James⁵⁻⁴, Daniel³⁻², Roger¹.

The children of Leman⁶ and Lucy⁶ Turrell: Britannia¹ b. 1798, m. Adolphus Olmstead; Stanley¹ b. 1800, m. Alice R. Thacher; Joel¹ b. 1801 m. 1) Patty Griffis, 2) Mrs. Mary Gilbert; Leman Minor¹ b. 1808 m. Lovina Griffis; Abel¹ b. 1812 m. Adelia Catlin; Lucy Ann¹ b. 1816, m. Abner Griffis; and James¹ b. 1818 m. Hanna Gurney.

The Connecticut and Susquehanna county, PA connection was discussed in the Summer 1991 DOR Newsletter, Volume III, No. 2.



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John²

*

Well

Another year of
climbing the genealogy tree.

We've looked under leaves and what did
we see? At times not much, just a name or two,
but it's better than nothing, especially when true.

Still we search on, through films and a book, hoping our
family's in the next one we look. May next year be fruitful, our
lost ones we find, and prove that our Terrill families all intertwine!!

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR!

6-40

 **CORRESPONDING SOCIETY** 
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