



John W. Jordan.

Colonial *and* Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania

Genealogical and Personal Memoirs

EDITOR

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Historical Society of Pennsylvania
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and Registrar of Pennsylvania Society

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INTRODUCTORY

The present work, "Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania," presents in the aggregate an amount of genealogical and personal information unequalled by any kindred publication. Indeed, no similar work concerning Pennsylvania families has ever been presented.

Numerous voluminous histories of Pennsylvania have presented in fullness the political, social and material conditions, from the earliest times. In this work are contained chronicles of the people who have made Pennsylvania what it is. These records are presented in a series of independent genealogical and personal narratives relating to lineal family heads, and the most conspicuous representatives down to the present generation, thus giving it a distinct personal interest. These ends have been conscientiously and faithfully conserved through the assistance of those who have long pursued genealogical studies with intelligence and enthusiasm, with John W. Jordan, LL.D., as supervising editor. Much assistance was rendered by Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, Miss Leach, Oliver Hough, Warren S. Ely, and others.

HAROLD MONTGOMERY SILL

JOSEPH SILL, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born at Carlisle, Cumberland County, England, March 14, 1801, and was a son of Sylvester Sill, born June 8, 1773, died May 13, 1814; grandson of Joseph Sill, of Brownfield, Cumberland, born December 25, 1725; and great-grandson of Richard Sill, who was born November 17, 1691, and died May 22, 1729.

Joseph Sill came to Philadelphia from England, in 1825, and resided in that city until his death which occurred November 2, 1854. He married in Philadelphia, October 20, 1825, Jane Todhunter (b. July 30, 1801, London, d. Jan. 27, 1877, Phila.), daughter of Joseph Todhunter (b. Nov. 10, 1767, at High Hollows, Cumberland, England, m. August 17, 1794, in London, d. October 12, 1833, in Philadelphia) and his wife Mary Wright (b. July 28, 1768, at Messlem, Co. Derby, Eng., d. Dec. 16, 1824).

JOHN TODHUNTER SILL, son of Joseph and Jane (Todhunter) Sill, was born in Philadelphia, August 1, 1828, and died on board the steamship "Atlantis," off Holyhead, Wales, November 11, 1855. He married, in Philadelphia, October 28, 1851, Sarah Cauffman Dunlap (b. Phila. Dec. 13, 1825), youngest child of Sallows Dunlap, of Philadelphia, and his wife Susanna Bispham, granddaughter of James Dunlap, of Bucks county and his wife Susanna Shewell, daughter of Robert and Sarah (Sallows) Shewell, of Bucks county.

The Shewell family was founded in America by three brothers, Walter, Robert and Thomas Shewell, natives of the little rural village of Painswick, County Gloucester, England. They came to Philadelphia together, arriving June 7, 1722. Robert Shewell, remained in Philadelphia and was a prominent and successful shipping merchant. He was, however, associated with his brother Walter in the purchase of land in Bucks county, which he owned until his decease.

Walter Shewell, born at Painswick, County Cumberland, England, in 1702, came to Philadelphia with his brothers in 1722, and in 1729, purchased a large tract of land in New Britain township, Bucks county, lying along the line of Warwick township, about two miles east of the present county seat, Doylestown, in what is now Doylestown township, on the north branch of Neshaminy creek. His brother Robert purchased an adjoining tract and the whole, aggregating 500 acres, came into the ownership of Walter at the death of Robert, and is the site of "Painswick Hall," the historic home of the Shewell family for several generations, which is still standing, on the banks of the Neshaminy. Walter Shewell married, in 1731, Mary Kimber of Cecil county, Maryland, and took up his residence on his plantation in Bucks county, where he lived until his death, October 23, 1795, at the age of ninety-three years. His wife, Mary Kimber, who was born February 10, 1702, died December 29, 1790. Walter Shewell and his descendants for several generations were prominent in the affairs of Bucks county.

ROBERT SHEWELL, son of Walter and Mary (Kimber) Shewell, born in New Britain township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1740, went to Phil-

adelphia when a young man and was for several years engaged in the West India trade, as a member of the firm of Oldman & Shewell, but returned to Bucks county in 1769, and erected in that year, "Painswick Hall," on a part of his father's plantation, and spent the remainder of his days there, dying in Painswick Hall, December 28, 1825.

From the inception of the struggle for national independence, Robert Shewell, and his brothers were among the ardent supporters of the rights of the colonies. Robert was the representative of his township in the Bucks County Committee of Safety, and at a meeting of that committee at Bogart's tavern, Buckingham, April 24, 1776, was chosen lieutenant-colonel of the second battalion of Associators of the county, and his selection with that of the other officers of the battalion, (Colonel Joseph Hart having been selected as colonel), was directed by the Committee of Safety to be certified to the speaker of the assembly, "agreeable to a late resolve of that body," and he was duly commissioned, and marched with the battalion to Amboy, New Jersey, where it was stationed until near the close of 1776. Colonel Shewell was however in attendance as a member of the Committee of Safety, at its meeting held at Bogart's, July 1, 1776, and at the subsequent meetings of July 29, and August 12, 1776, and took an active part in the work of the committee in fitting out the Bucks county contingent of the Flying Camp, and served on important committees.

He married, at the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, January 15, 1764, Sarah, daughter of Richard Sallows, of Philadelphia, and his wife Sarah Stone, the former born at East Carshold, county Suffolk, England, November 4, 1694, and the latter in London, England, March 16, 1704. Richard Sallows died in Philadelphia, September 30, 1741. Sarah (Sallows) Shewell, born in Philadelphia, April 2, 1741, was baptized by the Rev. Morgan Edwards, as a member of the First Baptist Church of Philadelphia, June 11, 1762, eighteen months before her marriage at that church to Robert Shewell. She died at Painswick Hall, now Doylestown township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1804. Robert and Sarah (Sallows) Shewell, had eight children. Five of their sons became merchants in Philadelphia.

JULIANA SHEWELL, daughter of Robert and Sarah (Sallows) Shewell, was born in Philadelphia, April 5, 1769, and the same year was taken by her parents to Painswick Hall, Bucks county, where she resided until her marriage at Neshaminy Presbyterian church of Warwick, Bucks county, May 16, 1793, to James Dunlap, of a Scotch-Irish family who had settled in New Britain, Bucks county about the middle of the eighteenth century.

SALLOWS DUNLAP, son of James and Juliana (Shewell) Dunlap, born near Doylestown, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, April 16, 1794, went to Philadelphia when a youth and was for many years engaged in the mercantile business there. From 1832 to 1858, he was senior member of the dry-goods firm of Dunlap & Bispham, the junior partner being his brother-in-law, Joseph Bispham. He married, March 14, 1816, Susanna Bispham, who was born in Philadelphia, December 2, 1794, and died there September 1, 1880.

JOHN BISPHAM, the great grandfather of Susanna (Bispham) Dunlap, was an early minister of the Society of Friends at Bicursteeth, (Bickerstaffe) meeting, Lancashire, England, and married there, April 24, 1677, Mary Bostwell. He

travelled extensively in the ministry and his name appears frequently on the records of the early Friends in England.

Joseph Bispham, only child of John and Mary (Bostwell) Bispham, born in Lancashire, England, May 17, 1678, married March 6, 1699-1700, Hannah Hubbersty, of Yelland, Lancashire, and they had two sons, both of whom emigrated to America, Benjamin, born March 31, 1702-3, and Joshua, born April 11, 1706. Benjamin married Sarah Backham, July 5, 1727, and soon after emigrated to New Jersey, where he has numerous descendants.

Joshua Bispham, second son of Joseph and Hannah (Hubbersty) Bispham, of Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, England, born April 11, 1706, married February 12, 1729, Mary Lawrence, and resided for seven years in Manchester, England. December 13, 1736, with his wife and son, Joshua, he sailed from London in the ship "Mary and Hannah," Captain Henry Savage, and landed in Philadelphia, April 26, 1737. A daughter was born to them on the voyage, March 22, 1737, whom they named Atlantica.

Joshua Bispham purchased a house on Fifth Street, Philadelphia, where he resided until the death of his wife in 1742. He married (second) February, 1743, Ruth Atkinson, daughter of Samuel and Ruth (Stacy) Atkinson of Burlington county, New Jersey, and soon after removed to Moorestown, New Jersey, where his wife's parents had large landed possessions, and near where his elder brother Benjamin had located. He was town clerk of Moorestown and assessor, 1744-7, and a chosen freeholder, in 1753.

THOMAS ATKINSON, the grandfather of Ruth (Atkinson) Bispham, for many years an esteemed minister of the Society of Friends, first in England, and later in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was a son of John Atkinson of Thrus-cross, parish of Fewston, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England. John Atkinson was among the earliest converts to the Society of Friends in Yorkshire, with the Stacys of Ballifield, into which family his grandson married in New Jersey. Besse, in his *Sufferings of Friends*, gives an account of several persecutions of John Atkinson, of Fewston, for his religious belief, as early as 1659. It is thought that his wife was Mary Canby, daughter of Thomas Canby, of Thorne, Yorkshire, whose will, dated October 17, 1667, and probated March 16, 1668, gives a legacy to his daughter, "Mary, wife of John Atkinson," and also to her son Thomas Atkinson. This "Thomas Canby, the elder, of Thorne, Yorkshire, Gent," born about the year 1590, was the grandfather of Thomas Canby, another eminent minister of the Society of Friends in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, whither he came with his uncle Henry Baker in 1684.

Thomas Atkinson, son of John, and Mary (Canby) Atkinson, born at Newby, Yorkshire, England, prior to 1660, married under the care of Knaresborough Meeting of the Society of Friends, 13 miles from Thrus-cross in Yorkshire, June 4, 1678, Jane Bond, of a well known family of that name in Yorkshire, several members of which emigrated to Pennsylvania at different periods. Both husband and wife entered the ministry of the Society of Friends. In 1681 they obtained a certificate from the Friends Meeting at Beamsley, Yorkshire, and came to New Jersey, but soon after located in Bristol township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where Thomas Atkinson was a considerable landowner. His brother, John Atkinson, followed him to Pennsylvania, but little is known of him. Thomas Atkinson died in Bucks county, October 31, 1687. His widow,

Jane, married again, December 11, 1688, William Biles, of Bucks county, one of the most noted men of Pennsylvania in his day, a member of Provincial council; many years a member of the Assembly and justice of the Bucks county courts. She died in 1709, after a long and zealous service in the ministry, continuing to her death. With her second husband also a minister she made a religious visit to England and Ireland, covering the greater part of the years 1701 and 1702. Thomas and Jane (Bond) Atkinson, had three sons, Isaac, William, and Samuel, the two former born in England.

Samuel Atkinson, the father of Ruth (Atkinson) Bispham, was the youngest son of Thomas and Jane (Bond) Atkinson, and was born in Bristol township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, July 17, 1685. On the re-marriage of his mother in 1688, he went to live with her and his step-father William Biles in Falls township, and remained in that township until 1714, when he removed to Nottingham township, Burlington county, New Jersey, taking a certificate from Falls Meeting in Bucks, to Chesterfield Meeting in Burlington county, dated August 4, 1714, and proposing intentions of marriage the following day at Chesterfield Meeting to Ruth (Stacy) Beakes widow of William Beakes, formerly of Bucks county, and daughter of Mahlon Stacy and his wife Rebecca Ely, who were among the most prominent people of Burlington county. Mahlon Stacy belong to the prominent family of landed gentry of Ballifield, Yorkshire, and married there in 1668, Rebecca Ely, of a like prominent family. He was one of the purchasers of the lands of West Jersey, becoming one of the lords proprietors of the province, of which he owned one-tenth interest. He came over with his family in 1678, and settled on the site of Trenton, New Jersey, of which settlement he was the founder, and named his main plantation Ballifield, after his ancestral home in England. He erected a mill on the site of Trenton, which with a goodly portion of his land thereabout was sold by his son, of the same name to Colonel William Trent and Trent adding a number of other manufacturing industries, the town took its name from him. Mahlon Stacy was one of the principal men of the province and filled many important official positions. Ruth Stacy inherited considerable estate from her father, and after the death of her first husband, William Beakes, purchased 100 acres of land of her stepson, Edmond Beakes, adjoining Ballifield, on which she and her second husband, Samuel Atkinson, took up their residence on their marriage, which took place at the house of her brother Mahlon, September 12, 1714. She was born March 30, 1680, and died June 9, 1755. They however resided here but a short time, removing in 1719, to a large tract of land in Chester township, in the lower part of Burlington county, embracing what is now the easterly portion of Moorestown, where he lived in lordly style. His wife having inherited a large part of the estate of her brother Mahlon Stacy, Jr., who died without issue, as well as a considerable estate from her father, Samuel and Ruth Atkinson were among the most wealthy people of the province in their day. They were, after their removal to Moorestown, active members of Gloucester, later Haddonfield, Monthly Meeting of Friends, of which Samuel was an overseer, and frequently represented in the Quarterly Meeting at Salem, and the Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia. He died at his home in Chester township, Burlington county, New Jersey, February 21, 1775, aged nearly ninety years. An obituary notice of him in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, of March 1,

1775, says of him, "In every period and station of his life, he supported the character of an *honest man*, which secured him the esteem of those who were acquainted with his virtues—With a tender benevolent heart, he possessed extensive knowledge and good abilities, which he always cheerfully exerted for the benefit of his fellow-creatures. He endured all the infirmities of old age with Christian fortitude and resignation, leaving this world with a well-grounded hope of unfading joys, in a kingdom '*not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.*'" Samuel and Ruth (Stacy) Atkinson, had four children, of whom Ruth, the wife of Joshua Bispham, was the youngest.

Joshua Bispham left a considerable landed estate about Moorestown, most of which descended to his eldest son Joshua. By his second wife, Ruth Atkinson, he had four children, Sarah, Samuel, Benjamin and Joseph. Joseph Bispham, the father of Susanna (Bispham) Dunlap, above mentioned, was the youngest son of Joshua and Ruth (Atkinson) Bispham, and was born at Moorestown, New Jersey, October 4, 1759. He came to Philadelphia with his elder brother Samuel Bispham, in 1772, and on arriving at mature age engaged in business there, and continued to reside in the city until the breaking out of the yellow fever in 1798, when he removed with his family to Moorestown, and engaging in farming there, never again took up his residence in Philadelphia, though he died there in 1832, while on a visit, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Sallows Dunlap. Like his father, he was a member of the Society of Friends. He married, April 1, 1783, in Philadelphia, Susanna, daughter of William and Ann Pearson, of that city. She died at Moorestown, New Jersey, in 1831. They had four daughters and two sons.

Sallows and Susanna (Bispham) Dunlap had seven children, Joseph Dunlap, Robert Shewell Dunlap, James Hendrie Dunlap, Juliana, Susan, (wife of William Clayton Newell) Sarah Cauffman Dunlap, and Josephine.

SARAH CAUFFMAN DUNLAP, the youngest child of Sallows and Susanna (Bispham) Dunlap, born in Philadelphia, December 13, 1825, married, October 28, 1851, John Todhunter Sill, before mentioned, who was born in Philadelphia, August 1, 1828, and was a son of Joseph and Jane (Todhunter) Sill, of Philadelphia. He died at sea on board the steamship "Atlantis" Captain West, off Holyhead, Wales, November 11, 1855, and is buried at Laurel Hill cemetery, Philadelphia.

HAROLD MONTGOMERY SILL, son of John Todhunter and Sarah Cauffman (Dunlap) Sill, was born in Philadelphia, April 15, 1854. He was educated at the Protestant Episcopal Academy of Philadelphia, and in 1871 engaged in the banking business with E. W. Clark Co., and entered the firm Jan. 1, 1882. In 1888 he withdrew from active business pursuits and has since lived retired on School House Lane, Germantown. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and of the Rittenhouse, Philadelphia, Racquet, Radnor Hunt, Germantown Cricket and Philadelphia Country Clubs. He married, (first) October 10, 1877, Pauline, (b. May 26, 1855, d. Feb. 2, 1900) daughter of Heinrich and Eliza (Anderson) Wiener, of Philadelphia. He married (second) April 17, 1906, Agnes Jessie, daughter of the Reverend C. George Currie, and they have one child, Margaret Sill, born May 23, 1907.

Jordan
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John
Atkins = Mary
Canby

Thomas
Atkins
Friends
soon after 1681
Bucks Co
d 1687 Buck

Samuel = Ruth
Atkins
of Burl. Co
b. Bucks
1686
1688 lived w/
stepfath Wm
Biles
1714 to Burl. Co
d m 1714

1719 to Chester Twp
Glov. / Hadd. Friends
d. 1775 Burl. Co

Jane
Bond
m 1678 Friends Eng
d 1709 m 2nd Wm Biles Becks

Mahlon - Rebecca
Stacy Eng

John Bispham = Mary Boswell
Friends Eng m 1677

Joseph Bispham
only child
b. 1678 Lancashire Eng

Hannah Hubersty

Benjamin = Sarah Backham
b 1702/3 m 1727

eng to NJ
soon after 1727

she b 1680 many descendants
d 1753 located near Moorestown

Ruth ATKinson
m 1743

removed to Moorestown NJ
soon after 1743 m
estate Moorestown NJ

his 1st Mary Lawrence
Sarah Backham
m 1727
m 1729

his 2nd
b 1706
emig soon after
1727 to NJ
of Bickerstaffe
Lancashire Eng

resided Phila.

resided 2 yrs Manchester Eng
sailed 1731 w/ wife & son Jos
from London arriv Phil 1737
died 1742

Joshua
b. Eng

Atlantica
Female
b. 1737 on voyage

William = Ann
Pearson

Sarah

Samuel

Benjamin

Susanna
Pearson
d. 1831
Moorestown

Joseph
b. Moorestown 1759
came Phil 1772
1798 to Moorestown
d. in Phil 1832 on visit
Friend

4 dau
Susanna

2504