

THE ANCESTRY  
OF A CERTAIN  
BURTIS FAMILY

EDWIN SAMUEL BURTIS

EL PASO, TEXAS

1955



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## INTRODUCING

### YOUR KIN

Where we get our generosity: 1787—"I will unto my wife, Hannah, the best room in my house and the leanto adjoining,\* \* \* the privilege of keeping on my farm one horse, two cows, six sheep and two hogs, and the privilege of cutting hay for said creatures so long as she remains a widow."

1746—"I give to my wife Margaret one negro wench called Lib."

1842—"They give me \$40.00 a quarter (for teaching). I talk of boarding at Mr. Rushmors, but it was more than I could pay for board, 50 cts. more."

1842—"Bill Lewis like to got married, he had the wedding cake and everything in English stile, and asked everybody to the wedding, but when the day came Miss McCully said she did not promise him so it ended."

1852—"Mrs. H---has left off taking snuff, so Mr. H---bought her the watch he promised whenever she quit taking snuff."

1852—"If I see John I'll tell him you don't want him to kiss you anymore. I hope you have recovered the use of your limbs from last Sundays desperate struggle."

1861—"The most of them don't know enough to chew gum without a string tied to it. \* \* The best soldiers they have are the Texas Raingers."

1862—"Those volunteering receive \$246.00 bounty."

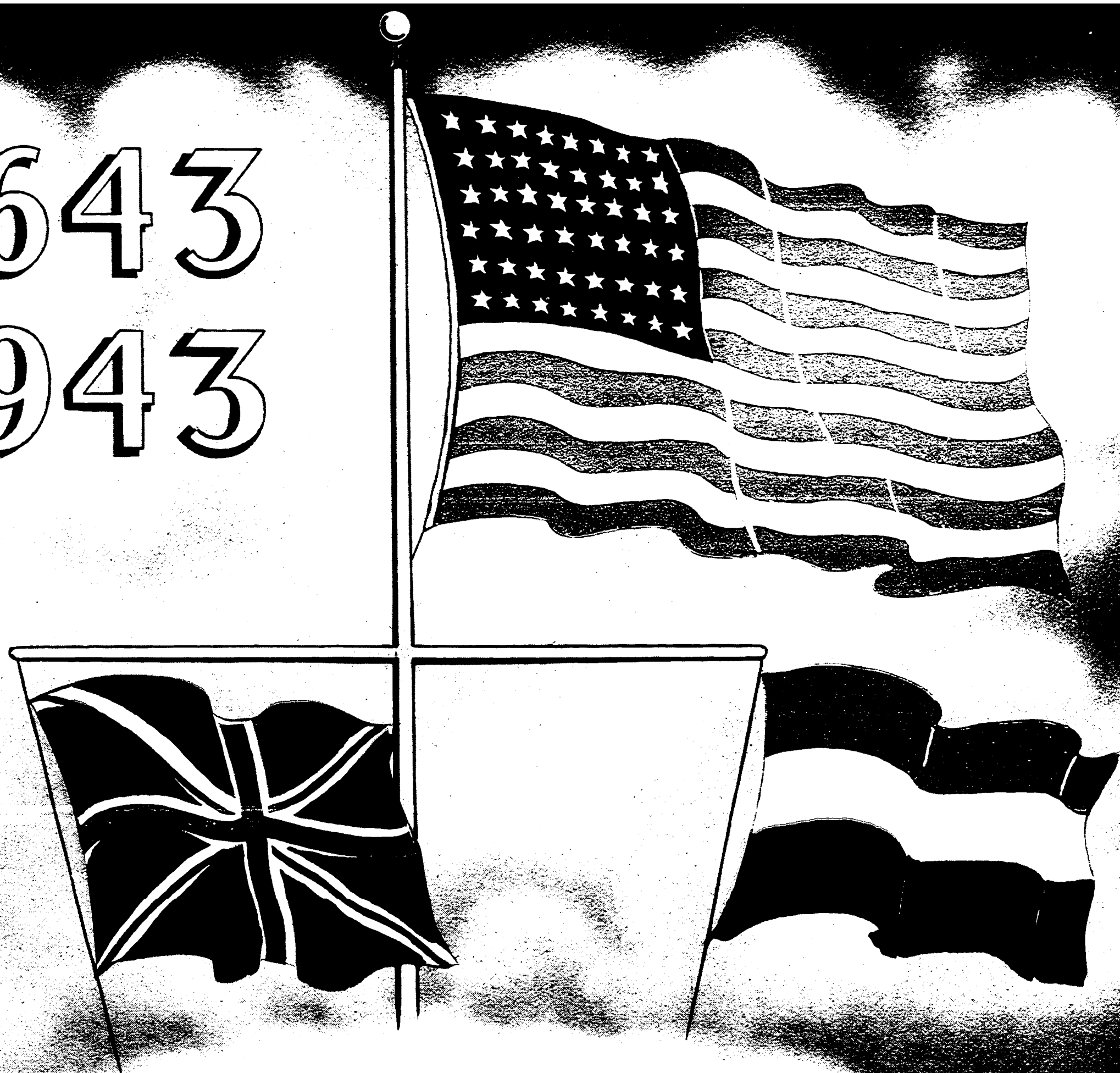
1864—"I don't think you need to draft me for I have no teeth, and that will clear me, but I expect Old Abe will take them teeth or no teeth soon."

1864—"I should like to be there once more and eat a good mess of clams. Put two or three in a bottle so we can all have a lick. As father says, 'Tie a string to one and swallow it, pull it up and let the next one have it.'"

1864—"James had not been well all summer. How he ever come to go I cannot tell, there were men around coaxing the boys, and telling them they would be drafted, so they would better go and get the bounty."



1643  
1943



*Commemorating the  
300th Anniversary  
of the Settlement of  
The Village of Hempstead*

"NEAR THIS SPOT IN MARCH 1664, MET THE CONVENTION WHICH ADOPTED THE 'DUKE'S LAWS', ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE OF THIS REPUBLIC."

The Above Inscription Appears on the Plaque at the Base of the "Freedom Flag Staff" Erected as a Part of Hempstead Tercentenary Celebration on the Site of the "Duke's Laws" Convention, the First General Assembly of Elected Delegates in New York.

The American flag flies from the main mast and the Dutch and English flags from the yardarms, to denote the nations which have exercised dominion over Hempstead: Dutch rule 1643-1663, English rule 1663-1783.





### *Barter and Bargain*

The first real estate transaction in Hempstead occurred on December 13th, 1643, when Chief Tackapousha and "The One-eyed Sachem" along with other Indians conveyed to Rev. Robert Fordham and John Carman, — as agents for the settlers — all of the land which now comprises the Township of Hempstead — an area of about 64,000 acres, for articles of a present day value







of less than \$100.00. Hempstead's growth can be judged by comparing a price of 1/7 of a cent per acre in 1643 with present day land valuations of more than \$3,000.00 per front foot along Main Street.

Above is a reproduction of a mural depicting artist Robert Gaston Herbert's conception of the first land purchase, based on eye-witness description and old town records. The mural is to be placed on the north wall of the Village Board Room.





1643

HEMPSTEAD

1943

# TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10th

Morning—SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES IN ALL CHURCHES

Afternoon—FLAG STAFF DEDICATION

1:00 P.M.—PARADE ASSEMBLY, WEST FULTON AVE.

2:00 P.M.—FLAG CONSECRATION SERVICES, ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

2:45 P.M.—MILITARY ESCORT AND PROCESSIONAL

3:00 P.M.—REVIEW OF PARADE

3:30 P.M.—FLAG RAISING CEREMONIES

NETHERLAND FLAG

T. Elink Schuurman  
Netherland Consul General  
New York City

BRITISH FLAG

Sir Godfrey Haggard, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E.  
British Consul General  
New York City

AMERICAN FLAG

Hon. J. Russel Sprague  
Nassau County Executive

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th

8:00 P.M. — At Hempstead High School Auditorium — A Re-enactment of "YE OLDE TOWNE MEETING"

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12th, COLUMBUS DAY

451st Anniversary of the Discovery of America

HOFSTRA COLLEGE CELEBRATION PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th

"OLD TIMERS" DINNER

At the Hempstead Country Club, Front Street, 6:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14th

HEMPSTEAD SCHOOLS DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15th

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL — Rabbi Harry E. Schwartz  
SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th

Afternoon and Evening

DENTON GREEN AND USO BUILDING,  
NICHOLAS COURT

SHEEP PARTING FROLIC

BAND CONCERT, FOLK SONGS AND DANCES

OLD TIMERS BASKET PARTY • BOOTHS AND EXHIBITS

BLOCK PARTY AND SQUARE DANCING

8:30 P.M. — HEMPSTEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Inspection and Presentations  
West End Fire House, Front Street

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## TERCENTENARY EXHIBIT

October 11th to 16th

OLD PICTURES — PAINTINGS — PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES  
OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

*At the Hempstead High School*

Dr. William A. Gore, Coordinator



## PRELUDE

At the beginning of the seventeenth century the Reformation movement was in full sway in Europe, and the Papal controlled Spanish monarch was determined to exterminate it. Those who dared question the infallibility of papal dogma were meted with harsh treatment. All biblical interpretation was reserved exclusively for the priests, and the reading of the bible by the masses was practically unknown.

Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others, had dared to dispute Catholic doctrine, and through their influences many joined them. In France these followers of Calvin banded together and were known as Huguenots.

Phillip II of Spain directed by papal influence was determined to blot out for all time these anti-Catholic dissenters, and ordered their extermination. His decree of extermination was climaxed by the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre when thousands of Huguenots died.

The followers of Calvin living in northern France adjacent to Belgium, and the southern part of Belgium, known as the Walloon country, were likewise not spared from Phillip II's decree.

William the Silent, then ruler of the Netherlands, the one man in Europe who dared to oppose Spanish power, opened the gates of the Netherlands to all Protestant refugees.

The French speaking Protestant Walloons fleeing for their lives, came in great numbers. Though they were welcome to live in the Netherlands, they were not accepted as citizens, and some restrictions were put upon their residence. Among these restrictions was one that they could never acquire land. This is reasonably understandable because of the Netherland's limited area for so many people.

The Spanish pope, Alexander VI, in 1493, had decreed that all lands discovered westward of a line 100 leagues beyond the Azores belonged to Spain. John II, then the ruler of Portugal, backed by his superior navy negotiated with the Spanish rulers Ferdinand and Isabella, and set a demarc-

tion line on the meridian 370 leagues west of the Azores. They agreed that all discoveries east of this line should belong to Portugal, and all west went to Spain. It was through this agreement that Brazil fell under the domain of Portugal.

Two other European countries whose naval powers were fast growing, England and the Netherlands, scoffed at this mighty decree and legalized open piracy upon the Spanish and Portuguese commerce. No Spanish or Portuguese ship was safe from these piratical raids for the next two centuries.

The West Indies Company, a Netherlands organized company, was founded to exploit commerce in the new world. They employed the English mariner Henry Hudson to search for a shorter passage to China. His first venture in this quest was his attempt to circumnavigate North America by the north, but the frozen waters of the Arctic stopped him. It was at this time, 1610, that Hudson Bay was first explored. On his second attempt he sailed up the Hudson river hoping to find a passage through to the Pacific Ocean.

The beauty of the Hudson river and its adjacent fertile valleys seen on Hudsons voyage up the river influenced the West Indies Company to make its first settlements here primarily for establishing trading posts for buying furs from the Indians.

When the West Indies Company advertized for settlers in the Netherlands it is natural that the Walloon refugees were the first to accept their offer. Though they were welcomed in the Netherlands they were not granted the status of the Netherlands citizen. Here was their opportunity to settle in a new land where they were allowed religious freedom and political equality. The first boatload of settlers were brought over in 1624 by the West Indies Company. In all of the following years that the Netherlands controlled the lands adjacent to the Hudson river, never did a boat of the West Indies Company come to these lands without bringing Walloon immigrants. All along the Hudson as far north as Albany the Walloons settled. But their most

important settlements were on the islands of Manhattan and Long Island.

Many of our ancestors were among the French speaking immigrants. Jorge Remsen Rapalye and his wife Catalyn Trico who came in 1624 were probably the first. John Mainje, his wife Martha Chambort, and their daughter Judith, were also among the first. Judith later married Petro Caesar Alberti. Undoubtedly some of our ancestors were Dutch, but many of them were French Walloons who had fled first to the Netherlands and then immigrated to America.

Our history books delve copiously on the Pilgrim and Puritan settlements. Our histories tell of the Dutch settling what is now New York City, but nothing is mentioned of the part the Protestant French Walloons played in the making of America. It is even known that the French language was the prevailing word spoken by these earliest settlers for several generations after they came to America. Not until their final assimilation by the English was the French language superseded by the English language.

It would be interesting to know what influenced Pietro Caesar Alberti to come to America. He being the first Italian (or Venitian) to come to New Netherlands, some powerful force must have motivated him in coming. Perhaps he was a Waldenses, that Protestant group in Italy that was practically exterminated by the Pope. In 1654 the Dutch had brought the first boatload of Waldenses to America. This is only nineteen years later than Pietro came. He may have been of this same faith and also a religious refugee.

Pietro's first association with the Dutch was while they maintained a garrison in Venice from 1616 to 1632. His association with them influenced him to go with them when they left Venice and returned to the Netherlands. He may have first met Judith Mainje while her father was stationed in Venice. His love for her may be the reason why he followed the Dutch back to the Netherlands and then on to America. (What a thrilling ANTHONY ADVERSE novel could be written of his life.)

## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

It is a cardinal characteristic of man to wonder where he is going, and to wonder from whence he came. We have been well informed as to where we are going by our theologians, but never before has a study been made of this branch of the BURTIS family to learn from whence it came. Probably this study never before has been made because such a compilation can only be made by a certain type of person plus favorable circumstances. The average person is too busy with his daily business of making a living, and, if he had the time, is not of that patient make-up to delve into the multitude of records to compile such a history. Most of us know who our grand-parents were, and possibly our great-grand-parents, but further back than that we are lost. We can go a surprisingly long way back definitely proving each step of our ancestry if we will only take the time and patience to search available records for this information. Surely - you must know how to go about it, but you can do it -IF - you will only take the TIME and PATIENCE to make the search; very few have the PATIENCE, even less have the TIME.

The BURTIS FAMILY IS A TYPICAL AMERICAN FAMILY whose ancestors founded this nation. More than twenty of their grand-parents lived in America before 1660; the first one came in 1624. Primarily they were emigrants from Holland who settled in New Amsterdam, and English who came over with the Puritans. The BURTIS name, however, originated from an Italian, or Venetian, who immigrated to New Netherlands in 1635. The BURTIS ancestry over the past three hundred years is of that "upper middle class" much the same as they are found today.

In searching out a history of the BURTIS family generation by generation, you are reading a history of Colonial America and of the United States, much of which cannot be found in history text books, but it gives a more intimate insight of a typical American family. It tells of the hardships

and fears of our first ancestors in living adjacent to the Indians, even of some being killed by them. It tells of life in Dutch New Netherlands, their fights with the English until absorption by them. It tells of the blending of the Dutch, English, Italian and French bloods making it "purely" American. A history of the family for two hundred years parallels a history of Long Island; it gives their part in its settlement and growth, and also through its English occupancy during the Revolutionary War. In knowing that YOU took part in all of these historical events adds much glamour to the story of Americas founding.

This genealogical record and family history would never have been made if it had not been for the interest and encouragement of my brothers **CLYDE LEWIS BURTIS** and **GUY SEAMAN BURTIS**. Much of the information herein of the paternal **BURTIS** lineage had been compiled from ancestral notes that Clyde had taken down over the past fifty years. The paternal lineage was definitely traced and proven by him back to the immigrant, **PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTI**, who came in 1635; this being the first and only verified record ever made. His ancestral interest has covered almost a lifetime, but not until recently was the missing link, **JACOBUS** or **JAMES**, definitely proven, making the lineage complete to the immigrant of 1635.

Pietro Caesar Alberto had three sons, Jan Aert and Willem. Traditionally it was believed that our branch of the family came from Willem, but Clyde's keen observation definitely has proven that our branch comes from **AERT (ARTHUR)**.

The information contained in this genealogy was gotten by spending many days in libraries in New York, Chicago, Washington, Denver, Brooklyn and other Long Island cities. Many cemeteries were visited, church records examined, and people interviewed.

Ours is an interesting family, typically American; much historical information is available to make its history most interesting reading.

## CHAPTER II

## PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO THE IMMIGRANT

## PROGENITOR OF THE BURTIS FAMILY.

PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO from the island of Malamocco, Republic of Venice, now a part of Italy, is the progenitor of the Burtis family. He was the son of Andreo and Veronica Alberto, and baptized in the San Luca (St. Luke) Catholic Church, Republic of Venice, June 20, 1608.

The Alberti family of Northern Italy is of Gothic or Lombardic origin. The name Alberti, derived from an ancestor Albert, points of Teutonic origin. The principal seat of the family was Venice, where we find the name recorded as early as 1204. Other branches flourished at Genoa and Florence. Some members of the Florence branch settled at Venice in 1406. The Alberti family are among the members of the San Luca Church as early as 1326.

He seems to be identical with the Guilio Cesare Alberti who as son of Andreo Alberti, Secretary of the ducal treasury of Venice, and Lady Veronica, his wife, was baptized there in the San Luca Church on June 20, 1608. An older brother, Pietro, had died previously. The child Guilio was later named Pietro, but for the sake of avoiding an ill omen, was not baptized by that name. <sup>1</sup>

During the early years of the seventeenth century the Thirty Years War was in progress. The Dutch Republic and the Republic of Venice had formed an alliance. Several thousand Dutch soldiers were stationed in Venice, and garrisoned on the island of Malamocco. Pietros association with these soldiers at that time accounts for his leaving Venice and going to Amsterdam a few years later.

The relation between the Dutch Republic and the Republic of Venice was very friendly between the years of 1616 and 1632. These two republics formed an alliance against the Emperor and the Pope during the Thirty Years War. Three thousand Dutch soldiers were garrisoned at Venice during that period under command of Count Johan Ernest of Nassau, a half brother of Maurice of Nassau, who later became Governor of Dutch Brazil. It is a fact that many of the ex-soldiers from Venice The Dutch garrison at Venice had its own Reformed Church and minister.

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<sup>1</sup>Notes on Old New Netherland's Settlers, by Louis P. de. Boers. Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, V.1, p. 29-32



During the years of 1630 and 1632 when Venice was terribly ravaged by the black death, the Dutch troops were quartered on the island of Malamocco. These circumstances seem to account for the coming of Pietro Caesar Alberti to Holland. His conversion to the evangelical faith may have had something to do with it. <sup>1</sup>

Pietro is hired as a sailor on the Dutch ship "de Coninck David" (The King David) commanded by Captain de Vries. In the "Korte Historical", written by de Vries, is recorded the journey of the "de Coninck David" sailing from Holland to the West Indies, Cayenne, Dutch Guiana, then northward to Virginia and on to New Amsterdam where it arrived on June second, 1635. Through court records Pietro is first heard of in New Amsterdam in 1639 by his suit against his former ship captain, de Vries, for back wages, de Vries being in port upon a later voyage. Through the court settlement in Pietro's favor, justification is shown in his leaving the ship.

On January 12, 1639, Jacob Walingsen Van Winckel, \* \* \* \* declared in court that in the year 1635 Captain de Vries had threatened to leave a certain CICERO PIERE in Cayenne, Guyana, and later in Virginia. On January 13th and 20th, CICERO PIERE, plaintiff, against David Pietersen, defendant, demanded payment of his monthly wages then in arrears. When on January 27th the court settled the matter de Vries declared that he did not owe Pietro anything, as he had deserted from the ship. \* \* \* \* Ten florins of the wages due were awarded him by the court. <sup>2</sup>

On December 15th, 1639 historical records mention him again: Pieter Montfoort and Pietro Caesar Alberto agree to make a plantation and build a house at Wall-Bogt<sup>3</sup> The land adjacent to what is known today as Wallabout Bay (Bay of the Foreigners) is the site of this first plantation. This site was settled primarily by Walloons, those protestant refugees from France who had fled to the Netherlands a few years before.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid

<sup>2</sup>Calendar of Dutch Manuscripts, p.5; Original Register of the Provincial Secretary, Vol. 1, p. 64. Also see de Boers, Op. Cit.

<sup>3</sup>New York Historical Records, p. 47, New York, Public Library.

On June 16th, 1637, JORIS JANSEN de RAPALIE, a Walloon, purchased from native proprietors (Indians) a piece of land on Long Island, now known as Wallabout Bay. This purchase of about 355 acres now is occupied in part by the grounds of the United States Marine hospital, and by a portion of the city of Brooklyn lying between Nostrand and Grand Avenue. <sup>1</sup>

JORIS SANSEN de RAPALIE is one of the BURTIS grand-fathers through MIRIAM DORLAND, the wife of JAMES BURTIS, born in 1708. Any land acquired upon Long Island prior to 1639 by emigrants was gotten from the Indians. In that year the West Indies Company bought from the Indians all of the land lying along the East River from Wallabout Creek to Newtown Creek, and thereafter acquisition was gotten from that company.

In 1640 was drawn "The Charter of Exemption and Freedom for all Patroons, Masters and Freemen." "All Good inhabitants of Netherlands" would be allowed to select land and form colonies. Divers freemen requested by petition to the Council conveyance of the land which they are cultivating at present. That request was granted upon condition the petitioners should after ten years from commencement of the plantation annually pay to the company the tenth of all produce which God shall bestow upon the land. <sup>2</sup>

On June 2nd, 1643, Governor Kieft of New Netherlands, granted land at Wallabout to Pieter Caesar Alberti, Italian, for a tobacco plantation, and on May 1st, 1647, an additional grant is made for land adjoining. <sup>3</sup>

The above two parcels had a river frontage of seven hundred feet, and lies between Clermont and Hampden Avenues in Brooklyn, and now is a part of the United States Navy Yard. On June 5th, 1647, the additional piece of land was approved on condition he did not prejudice his neighbors. <sup>4</sup>

In the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of New Amsterdam, is the following marriage announcement:

1642 den 24 August, Peter Petro  
Alberto, j m. Van Venetian en  
Judith Jane, j d. Van Amsterdam

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<sup>1</sup>History of Brooklyn, p. 33, by Stiles, New York Library

<sup>2</sup>History of Williamsburg, by Williamsburg Savings Bank, Newberry Library

<sup>3</sup>King's County Registers Office, p.34, V. 1, Deeds.

<sup>4</sup>Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y. Sec'y, N.Y. Library

JUDITH JANS is identified as the daughter of JAN MAINJE and MARTHA CHAMBART, both of whom were Walloons, having recently immigrated from the Netherlands, and settled in the Wallabout area. "Governor Kieft had granted to JAN MAINJE, land twenty morgens<sup>1</sup> in extent situated between Andries Hudder and Class Jansen Rayter. On January 29th, 1652, this land was transferred by Pieter Linde (husband of Jan Mainje's widow) to Bearent Jansen."<sup>2</sup> "Martha Chambart married Pieter Linde, July 1, 1644."<sup>3</sup> "JAN MAINJE had died of wounds received while fighting the Indians at Stamford, Connecticut in 1644."<sup>4</sup>

Pietro Alberto and his wife, Judith Mainje, settled on the farm he had acquired in 1639, and there had seven children, all of whom were baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of New Amsterdam.

The Dutch had been at intermittent warfare with the Indians from the time of their settling in America. Governor Kieft's warfare with them had claimed the life of one of the Burtis's grand-parents in 1644 when JAN MAINJE was killed by them. The last Dutch war with them began in 1655, fifteen hundred Indians suddenly attacked New Amsterdam while the main body of the Dutch were away on an Indian fighting expedition elsewhere. In this attack on New Netherlands more than one hundred of the Dutch were killed and one hundred and fifty were captured. PIETRO ALBERTO and his wife JUDITH MAINJE were undoubtedly killed by them in this raid.

Whereas Pieter Caesar, alias Mallemock, and his wife have lately died, leaving six small children. Therefore their Worships, the Burgomasters as Orphan Masters, have deemed it necessary that tutors and guardians for his children be appointed and they have selected as such and herewith appoint Pieter van Linde as being the step-father of the mother, and Isaac Kip as witness for the youngest child. They are hereby authorized to sell or employ the goods and property left by deceased, for the benefit of the children, to hire out or bind out the children to honest and suitable

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<sup>1</sup>One morgen equals two and one-tenth acres.

<sup>2</sup>New York Historical Society, 1913 Coll, p. 65. N.Y. Library

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Society of Colonial Wars, N.Y. Library

people and to do everything that time and circumstances point out as proper. They shall be held, when called upon to render account, produce vouchers, etc. to the Orphan Masters. Thus done. November 9, 1655.

Whereas Pieter van Linde was at the last meeting appointed guardian with Isaac Kipp of the minor children of Pieter Cecer and in the meantime has produced sufficient reason for declining to act. Therefore the Orphanmasters have chosen and commissioned in his place Jacob Huges, Surgeon, to have the same powers. Done, November 16, 1655

Whereas the guardians of the minor children of Pieter Cecer alias Malle-mock, dec'd having several times complained that there is no property or means of paying all the debts and to collect what is due; that they have no money to support the children in their charge, who are often brought to their house, and whereas they have requested that some other arrangement might be made. Therefore the Orphanmasters herewith order said guardians to take the estate, as far as is known to them, to the Stewards of the Dead and of Indian Sufferers, or to the Deaconry, who are to clear the estate and take care of the children. Done, January 20, 1656.<sup>1</sup>

The children of (1st gen)	PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO	bap't	6-20-1608;	died	1655
	and JUDITH JANS MAINJE	m'd	8-24-1642	died	1655
	were				
	Jan (John)	bap't	1643	d.	1691
	m'd Elizabeth Scudder				
	Marta	bap't	1645		
(2nd gen.)	AERT (ARTHUR)	bap't	1647	d.	1690
	m'd ELIZABETH WAY				
	Maria (Mary)	bap't	1649		
	m'd John Bandt				
	Francyntie	bap't	1651		
	Willem (William)	bap't	1654		
	m'd Mehitabel -----				
	Francyn	bap't	1656		
	m'd John Allen				

2

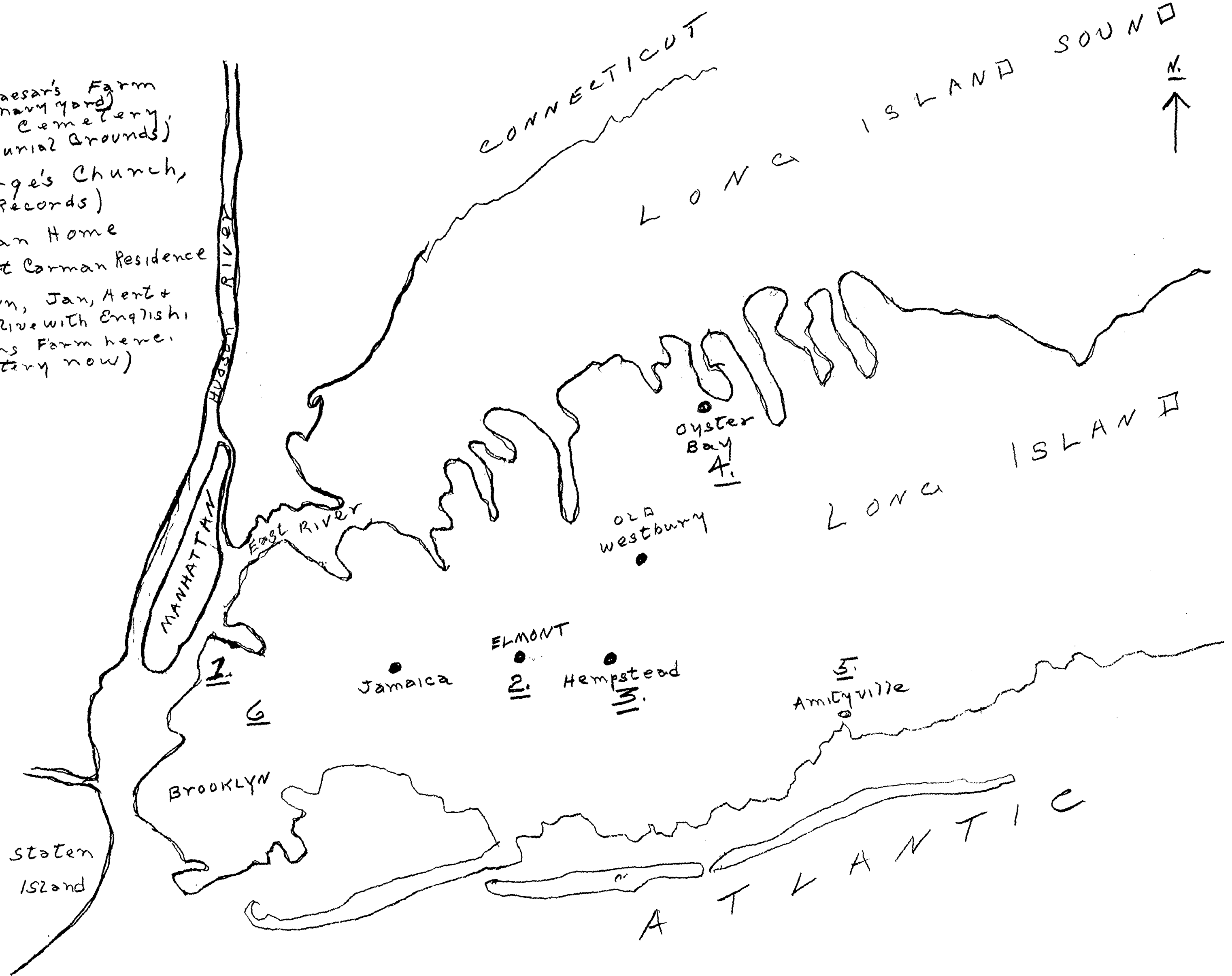
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<sup>1</sup>The Minutes of the Orphanmaster's of New Amsterdam,  
1655, 1663, by the Colonial Dames of New York,  
Berthold Fernow, Newberry Library, Chicago

<sup>2</sup>Baptisimal Records of the Dutch Reformed Church,  
New Amsterdam.

II

- 1. Pietro Caesar's Farm  
(Brooklyn Navy Yard)
- 2. Elmont Cemetery  
(Burtis Burial Grounds)
- 3. St George's Church,  
(Burtis Records)
- 4. Carman Home
- 5. Present Carman Residence
- 6. Newtown, Jan, Aert +  
Willem live with English,  
Jan owns Farm here.  
(cemetery now)



## CHAPTER III

## THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE -

## JAN, AERT, WILLEM

It is logical to assume that the children grew to maturity in the Deaconry, or under the guidance of guardians, as is directed in the 'Minutes of the Orphanmaster's'. No further mention is made of them until 1655, nine years later, when the three sons are found living up Newtown Creek from the East River at Maspeth Kills. They have left the Dutch and Walloon settlement and have cast their lot with the English who founded this settlement, which today is located at the site of the New Calvary cemetery near Brooklyn. Jan, now John, remained at Maspeth Kills, or Newtown, for his lifetime and acquired a large estate which remained in his families possession for the following one-hundred years.

The Peter Alburtis farmhouse is on the south side of old Newtown road at Newtown Avenue between Betts Avenue and Laurel Hill Blv'd. On the opposite side of the road included in the grounds of New Calvary cemetery was another house. John Alburtis bought the land in 1682, and it remained in the family over a century. <sup>1</sup>

The earliest real estate transaction by the brothers is recorded March 16th, 1667.

Jonas Wood of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, sells to John Alburtis the house and land at Maspeth Kills, formerly John Toes, south of William Herrick's land. The said John Alburtus sells part to his brother Arthur. <sup>2</sup>

There are other records mentioning the brothers about this same time:

"In 1669 William is fined for shooting David Whitehead." <sup>3</sup> In 1674 William protested that "The Quaker should have no right in court." <sup>4</sup> In September 1675, the following estates were listed in Newtown, John Alburtus, Arthur Alburtus, William Alburtus. <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Long Island Landmarks, by Eugene Armbruster, N.Y. Library.

<sup>2</sup> Town Minutes of Newtown, Newberry Library

<sup>3</sup> Queens County in Olden Times, Onderdonk, p. 7. N.Y. Library

<sup>4</sup> Historical Notes of Newtown, Riker, p. 7., N.Y. Library

<sup>5</sup> Documentary History of New York, p. 464, Denver Library.

In an action of the case brought by William Smith against Thomas Case in 1674, Ott (Aert) Alburtus testifies that his brother, William, should have no right in court.<sup>1</sup>

The two brothers, William and Arthur, sell their properties in Newtown: "William Alburtus of Marshbeg Cills in Newtown in west-side of Yorkshire, sells property to Henry Johnson, March 12, 1682."<sup>2</sup> "William Alburtus of Maspath Kills in bounds of Newtown-Yorkshire, sells property to William Smith, March 3, 1683."<sup>3</sup>

William and Arthur finally sell all of their property in Newtown, William moves to New Jersey and Arthur to Hempstead Plains; John remains in Newtown. "Adam Moott, of Hempstead, sells to After (Arthur) Alburtis of Maspeg Kills in bounds of Middlebow, fifty akers in Hempstead, Feb 1, 1682."<sup>4</sup> "After Alburtus sells land in Maspeth Kills to James Way, March 23, 1683."<sup>5</sup> "William Smith of Hempstead, sells to After Alburtus of Mashpeg Kills belonging to Medellor in West Riding in Yorksher a part of meadow April 28, 1683."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Newtown Annals, p. 93, Riker, N.Y. Library

<sup>2</sup>Records of North and South Hempstead. N.Y. Library

<sup>3</sup>Records of North and South Hempstead, p. 452

<sup>4</sup>Records of North and South Hempstead, Vol. II

<sup>5</sup>Town Minutes of Newtown, Newberry Library

<sup>6</sup>Records of North and South Hempstead, Vol. II, p. 453



## CHAPTER IV

## RIVAL COLONIZERS IN AMERICA

It was while the brothers were living in Newtown that the great political transition took place in New Netherlands. The Dutch first became interested in America upon Hendrick Hudson's momentous voyage up the Hudson river in 1609 in his quest for finding a passage to the Pacific. In 1614 Fort Nassau, south of Albany, was built by them to serve as a fur trading post. This fort was destroyed by water and another fort taking its place, Fort Orange, was built at the site of Albany.

In 1621 the West India Company was founded by the Dutch, and in 1624 the first boat load of settlers were brought over by them mostly of which were Walloons. They settled at Fort Orange. The following year these same settlers were brought from Fort Orange to Manhattan Island where another fort had been erected. The Dutch West India Company was organized solely for profit, and the settlers were exploited by them too much for fostering prosperous conditions.

Rival English colonizers had settled during these same years at Jamestown, Virginia, to the south, and at Plymouth, Massachusetts, to the north. These two colonizer's interests were so closely entwined that friction was soon to arise. The rivalry and aggression of the English caused annoyance to the Dutch for many years culminating in the seizure of New Amsterdam by them in 1664. In 1673 the Dutch recaptured the Colony, but in 1674 through the treaty of Westminster, the Dutch exchanged all claim to New Netherlands in recognition of their claim to Dutch Guiana in South America. Thereafter New Amsterdam became New York and remained under English rule until the close of the Revolutionary War. Also, because of this treaty, Dutch Guiana has remained to this day under the rule of the Netherlands.

The Dutch and Walloon settlers remained in New York under the rule of England, they mixed with with the English, and they prospered. To this day the Knickerbocker descendant is the aristocracy of New York.



## CHAPTER V

## AERT MOVES TO HEMPSTEAD

Arthur Alburtus moved to the Foster's Meadow location in Hempstead Plains shortly before 1680, and his descendants remained there for several generations. He married Elizabeth Way, daughter of James Way, an English Quaker who was one of the original settlers of Newtown.

Arthur Alberto built a house in Hempstead, L.I. in 1680, which stood until 1892 when it was torn down. Of the farm of 52 acres, where he lived until 1692, only the burying ground and a few acres remain. Five generations of the family are buried there. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Way, an English Quaker, originally of Somerset-Shire. The Way family appear upon the records there in 1400. James Way died in 1695, a just man, a loyal Englishman, and an orthodox Quaker of great wealth. Of the seven children mentioned in the will of Arthur Alberto, James, born in 1682, seems to have lived and died in Hempstead. John, son of Arthur and Elizabeth Way, was born in 1688, he lived to be a very old man. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Christian Snedecker, of Jamaica, Long Island. <sup>1</sup>

James Way, founder of this name in Newtown, a Quaker, died October 4th, 1685, leaving the following children: James, Frances, John, Hannah (married Jeremiah Burroughs), ELIZABETH, married ARTHUR ALBURTIS, Martha. <sup>2</sup>

April 4, 1691, James Way, Frances Way, Jeremiah Burroughs, Elizabeth, wife of Arthur Alburtis, deceased, for a certain sum paid them by brother John Way, released to him all claims on estate of their father JAMES WAY deceased. <sup>3</sup>

The children of ARTHUR ALBURTIS	bap't	1647; d.	1692
and			
ELIZABETH WAY			
were			
JAMES	bapt.	1682; d.	1-11-1770
m'd JANNETJE van NOSTRAND			
John	bapt.	1688	
Elizabeth			
Arthur			
(There were three others)			4

The last will of ARTHUR ALBURTIS, Hempstead, Long Island. Executed November 10, 1690; attested Sept 22, 1692

<sup>1</sup> Ontario County New York, p. 472, by Milliken, N.Y. Library

<sup>2</sup> Newtown Annals, p. 378, by Riker, N.Y. Library

<sup>3</sup> Historical Notes of Newtown, p. 33, by Riker, N.Y. Library

<sup>4</sup> Burhan's Genealogy, N.Y., 1894 p. 468, Library of Congress

I will that all my estate shall remain in the hands of my wife, ELIZABETH ALBURTIS, during her widowhood; if she marries again the two-thirds of all of my estate, lands, and movable, to be equally divided between my seven children. I desire my brother, William Alburdis, and my brother-in-law, Jeremiah Burroughs, of Newtown, to take oversight of my children and my children's estate, to be put out for their use if there be occasion for it. My wife, ELIZABETH, shall be my administrator. <sup>1</sup>

In this will are mentioned his wife, ELIZABETH, his seven children, his brother, William, and his brother-in-law, Jeremiah Burroughs.

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<sup>1</sup> Long Island Wills, Recorded in Libers A & C of Deeds, Register's Office, Jamaica, N.Y.

## CHAPTER VI

## JAMES ALBURTIS - THE MISSING LINK

The third generation of our paternal ancestors in America was the missing link, and only recently has this link been definitely established. Tradition had said that the lineage of our branch descended from William, the third son of Pietro Caesar Alberto, but this has been proven incorrect. Through years of patient study, and through a keen observation, CLYDE LEWIS BURTIS, of Chicago, has definitely proven that our lineage descends through ARTHUR, Pietro's second son. It was known that the family had descended from JAMES, born in 1708 (fourth generation), but who was his father has only recently been definitely established. A study of Burhan's Genealogy (New York Library) 1894, gave the first clue:

JAMES	Born	1682; died Jan.11, 1770
m'd JANNETJE van NOSTRAND		
Elizabeth	Bapt.	3-17-1707
JACOBUS (JAMES)	"	10-12-1708; (Born 9-1-1708)
Aeltje	"	1710
Elizabeth	"	8-5-1712
Aert	"	8-10-1714
Jannetje	"	5-2-1716
Maria	"	10-12-1718
Aaron	"	1- 8-1721
Jan	"	6- 9-1723

All were baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of Jamaica. The name JACOBUS is JAMES in English, and this spelling in the Dutch accounts for the oversight.

In the same genealogy, on page 468 is this account:

PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO  
 m'd JUDITH JANS MENJE

1. AERT ALBERTIS, m. ELIZABETH WAY
2. JAMES, born 1682
3. Aaron, born 1720
4. Aletta, born 3-17-1762, m'd Samuel Burhans.

In Freehold, New Jersey Records, N.Y. Library is this record:

JAMES BURTIS, b. 1682  
 m'd JANNETJE van NOSTRAND  
 They had a son, JAMES, b. 9-1-1708  
 Also a son, Aaron, b. 1720

In the Documentary History of Dutch Congregations of Oyster Bay, by Stoutenburgh, Newberry, Library, is recorded the marriage of JAMES ALBURTIS and JANNETJE van NOSTRAND.

About five miles west of Hempstead, Long Island, is the village of Elmont. Located alongside of the Elmont road in the south part of the town is a large cemetery, a small portion of which, separated from the main part, is a very old burial ground. This is probably located on the original farm of ARTHUR ALBURTIS, and is one of the most important burial grounds of the BURTIS family. It should be a shrine and visited by every Burtis going back East. In it was counted nineteen Burtis graves, and probably many more are there. Also Burtis connected families, the van Nostrands, and their grandmother, MIRIAM DORLAND BURTIS are buried there. In this cemetery is the grave of JAMES, born in 1682, who was the missing link for such a long time.

The grave is marked by a very old stone, and its inscription can barely be de-ciphered.<sup>1</sup> Alongside this stone are others equally important to the Burtis family, and in front of these is the third stone important in establishing our paternal Burtis lineage. Behind these stones is the burial plot of the van Nostrands, who you will remember are related through JANNETJE van NOSTRAND, wife of JAMES BURTIS who was born in 1682. These Burtis stones further verify three generations in whom we are interested, including the missing link. This must be the cemetery mentioned in the Snedecker Genealogy in which is mentioned ARTHUR ALBURTO. "Of the farm of 52 acres where he lived until 1692, only the burying ground and a few acres remain. Five generations of the family are buried there."<sup>2</sup> The inscriptions on the BURTIS monuments would figure their births as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> A modern stone was erected in 1950 by Guy S. and Clyde L. Burtis to perpetuate the memory of these grand-parents.

<sup>2</sup> Ontario County New York, p. 472, by Milliken, N.Y. Library

JAMES BURTIS, died Jan. 10, 1770, age 87 years 11 months  
(3rd gen.) (This figures him being born in 1682)

JAMES BURTIS, died, Dec. 26, 1793, age 85 years.  
(4th gen.) (This figures him being born in 1708)

MIRIAM, his wife, died Dec. 18, 1789, age 75 years.  
(This figures her being born in 1715)

James Burtis, son of JAMES and MIRIAM BURTIS, died Sept. 18, 1796, age 62.  
(This figures him born in 1735)

Other Burtis's buried in this cemetery were noted as follows:

Thomas	Foster	Abraham	Mary	Jane	John
Deborah	Matilda	Sylvanus	Maria	John	John
Daniel	Phebe	Kendrick			

The children of

JAMES ALBURTIS born 1682; died 1770

and

JANNETJE van NOSTRAND

were

JACOBUS (JAMES) bapt 8-12-1708; died 12-26-1793 1

m'd

MIRIAM DORLIN m'd 3-19-1733

Aeltje bapt 1710

m'd Isaac Bloom

Elizabeth bapt 8-5-1712

m'd Richard Wiggins

Aert bapt 8-10-1714

Jannetje bapt 5- 2-1716

m'd Christian Burtis 1735

Maria bapt 10-12-1718

m'd Adrian (Odyeron)Burtis 1736

Aaron bapt 1- 8-1721

Jan (John) Bapt 6- 6-1723

m'd Mary Ater

JANNETJE van NOSTRAND's grand-father, JACOB JANSEN van NOSTRAND

emigrated to New Netherlands in 1638. A fuller description of this family

will be found later in this book.

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<sup>1</sup>Baptism witnessed by his grand-parents, Aaron van Nostrand and Aeltje van Steinwyck. See Documentary History of Dutch Congregations of Oyster Bay, by Stoutenburgh, N.Y. Library

## CHAPTER VII

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE BURTIS NAME

The BURTIS family is variously identified for their first several generations in America. The name is first mentioned in the trial for wages of CICCERO PIERE, against the Captain of the ship de Conick David. In the Dutch Reformed Church marriage records the name as PETER PETRO ALBERTO. In THE MINUTES OF THE ORPHANMASTER'S making disposition of his children, he is listed as PIETER CECER, alias MALLEMOCK; several other similar spellings are listed. The Mallemock being attached because of his former residence on that island in Venice. When the sons are established in English, Newtown, they are generally known as ALBURTUS, occasionally as ALBURTO. When Arthur moves to Hempstead, he is called ALBURTUS; his son, James, is ALBURTIS. James, born in 1708 (fourth generation) is first identified the same as his father, ALBURTIS, and he is married by that name, but later he becomes James BURTIS. The John ALBURTIS family, brother of Arthur, who remained in Newtown, the name continues as ALBURTIS. Often in the same legal document the name is in different ways, especially in the third and fourth generations of our lineage. Our grand-fathers, the two James, were born and married ALBURTIS, while their grave stones are marked BURTIS.

When Pietro, the Italian, settled with the Dutch his name was unfamiliar to them. He was the only native of a Latin country among them, and they didn't know how to handle his name, consequently, the many variations in spelling. When the sons of Pietro settled in Newtown they were among the English, and likewise while they were in Hempstead. This anglicized the name to ALBURTIS, and finally to the simpler, and more English spelling of BURTIS.

The anglicizing of the BURTIS name is no different from the present practice of anglicizing, or Americanizing foreign names; Schmidt becomes Smith. Russian names are drastically changed as their pronunciation is hopeless to the American's ear.

## CHAPTER VIII

## JAMES AND ELIAS BURTIS

## AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Burtis family in heretofore years was associated with the Reformed Dutch Church. Commencing with this generation the St. George's Episcopal Church of Hempstead, Long Island, takes an important place in the family life. The following event is recorded with that church:

March 19, 1733, the marriage of  
JAMES ALBURTIS and  
MIRIAM DIRLIN

1

James was baptized in the Reformed Dutch Church; now as it so happens today, it appears that the young man was influenced by an attractive Episcopalian maiden to give up his church and join hers. The "Charter of Incorporation" of the St. George's Episcopal Church, in 1735, is headed by the name of James Alburtis.<sup>2</sup> Hereafter for the next one-hundred years the Burtis name is associated with this church.

Numerous records are found of incidents of James Burtis about Hempstead. "In the will of Henry Ater, of Hempstead, he leaves property to his daughter, Mary Alburtis, making hisson-in-law, John Alburtis, executor. It was witnessed by James Alburtis and Aaron Burtis."<sup>3</sup> (Note the spelling.) "In 1759, in the will of David Bedel, of Hempstead, he leaves a legacy to his daughter, Elizabeth Alburtis. Witness: James Burtis, Jr."<sup>4</sup> "In the will of Odyeron Alburtis, 'I leave to my wife Mary - -; I leave to my three sons, John, James, Isaac - -; I make my brother, John Alburtis, and my wife's brother, James Alburtis, my executor'".<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> History of St. George's Church, by John Sylvanus Haight

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Abstract of Wills, N.Y. Library, Liber 17, p. 311. L.I. Wills

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Liber 25, Surrogate Court

There were seven Burtis' of Queens County, Long Island, who acknowledged allegiance in 1776 to the Continental Congress: Elias, John, John, Carmen, John, James and John.<sup>1</sup>

In the first census of the United States taken in 1790, the following Burtis' were listed as living in Queens County, Hempstead, Long Island:

Head of family.	Male above 16 years.	Free white males under 16.	Free white females.	Slaves, Indians, Indentured servants.
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South Hempstead

Elias	1	3	4	2
James	2		1	3
Aaron	2	4	5	1
John	2	4	4	
Abraham	2	1	4	
John	2	1	2	
Laalta	2	1	3	

North Hempstead

John	2	1	2	
John	2	1	4	
Carman	1	2	6	2

The children of

and  
were

JAMES BURTIS	b. 9 -1 -1708; d. 12-26-1793
M. 3-16-1733	
MIRIAM DORLAN	b. 4-22-1715
James	b. 3-13-1734; d. 9-18-1796
Miriam	b. 2-1 -1737
m'd John Oldfield	
Jane	b. 4-1-1743
m'd Anthony Remsen	
m'd Nicholas Schenck	
ELIAS	b. 6-22-1746; d. 5-28-1812
m'd HANNAH DORLAN	m. 1-8-1776
	b. 3-4- 1756; d. 9- 7-1817
Phebe	b. 6-18-1752
m'd Joseph Fox	

3

<sup>1</sup> Documentary History of New York, N.Y. Library

<sup>2</sup> First Census Report, Dallas Library

<sup>3</sup> This information taken from family bible of Jane Burtis Pettit (5th gen.), as related to Eliza Arabella Weeks Sealey.



In a will dated April 29, 1794, South Hempstead; "James Burtis gives to his brother, ELIAS, all of his real estate. To his sister, Miriam, wife of John Oldfield, Jame, widow of Anthony Remsen, and Pheby, wife of Joseph Fox, he gives his personal effects."<sup>1</sup>

ELIAS BURTIS married HANNAH DORLON, January 9th 1776.<sup>2</sup> She is the niece of MIRIAM DORLON, wife of JAMES BURTIS. For two generations the BURTIS family marry into the DORLAND family, each of whom are descendants of the Dutch emigrant JAN GERRETSE DORLAND. A fuller account of the DORLAND family is found later in this book.

#### WILL OF PHEBE BURTIS FOX

##### Devises

- 1st To Phebe Bergin \$1000.00, a looking glass and other personal things.
- 2nd To Nicholas Melbourn \$200.00 for his education.
- 3rd To Phebe Skidmore \$125.00.
- 4th To Alletta Schenck \$ 50.00 .
- 5th To James W. Burtis & Joseph J. Burtis \$25.00 each.
- 6th To Sarah Higbie, Jane Pettit, JACOB BURTIS & Hannah Burtis \$25.00 ea.
- 7th To Joseph Fox Burtis & Phebe Burtis \$25.00 each.
- 8th To Phebe Burtis daughter of Barent Burtis \$25.00.
- 9th To Merriam Bergin, wife of John Bergen & Catherine Hendrickson and Jean Skidmore, wife of Michael Skidmore and also Phebe Skidmore, daughter of Michael Skidmore \$25.00 each.
- 10th To Phillis, my colloured woman, certain personal property with \$25.00. Also life use of house on Poplar St. At her decease said house to become the property of Bethuma and Sarah, her Daughters.
- 11th To said Bethuma personal property and \$25.00.
- 12th To Abraham and George Benson \$60.00

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<sup>1</sup> Long Island Wills, Long Island Collection, p. 76, N.Y. Library.

<sup>2</sup> Adventure for God, by John Sylvanus Haight

- 13 To Mary Wheeler, wife of Henry Wheeler \$25.00
- 14 To Jane Bouman wife of Martin Bouman, the interest of \$100.00 during her life; principal to her daughter, Phebe.

Surplus to be equally divided among all my brothers and sisters children and GRANDCHILDREN.

Guardianship: Granted May 20 1826, to JACOB H. BURTIS over EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS 4 yrs old 21st of March 1826, and PHEBE ELIZA BURTIS 2 yrs old 10th Feb'y 1826, who came in possession of property by death of Phebe Fox.

1

It was during the lifetime of our grand-fathers, JAMES BURTIS, born in 1708 (4th gen.), and his son, ELIAS BURTIS, born 1746 (5th gen.), that the American struggle for independence took place; for eight years the American colonies were at war with their mother country, England. There are no records indicating that either JAMES, or ELIAS ever wore the Continental Army Uniform. To fairly judge the action of the people of that time, a study of conditions must be made, which is a long discussion, it will only be briefly touched upon so as to give a better estimation of our ancestor's action.

Because of an injudicious colonial policy, England had caused much dissatisfaction among her American colonists, resulting in a faction believing that the only solution could be was severance of the colonies from their mother country and to set up an independent government. The other group thought that these grievances could be amicably arbitrated. The separatists were a small group to start with, but grew as the war progressed. In July 1776, one year after the war had commenced, the following action may give us some idea of the division of the people:

Four-fifths of the people on this island (Long Island) are loyal.  
Two-thirds of the people in New York and Pennsylvania are loyal.  
More than half of the people in all North America are loyal. (to England)<sup>2</sup>

This was an extremely bitter political problem for every American to decide upon. Generally speaking, those with wealth were opposed to separation,

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<sup>1</sup> Recorded, King County, N.Y. Liber 3 of Wills page 53

<sup>2</sup> Oliver Wiswell, p. 250, by Kenneth Roberts

many of whom sided with the British to prevent it. Others, though desiring to remain with England, were opposed to aiding them nor taking up arms against their fellow Americans. In 1776 there was a Declaration signed by many Long Island residents which definitely shows that their feelings were with the American separatists. This Declaration is a long document which ends as follows;

January 19, 1776

- - - - - We will never take up arms against the Americans, and that we will not aid, assist or join with any of His Majesties troops in the present contest between Great Britain and America.

- - - - -  
JAMES BURTIS  
- - - - -

1

Long Island was occupied by the British during the entire eight years of the war. No enlisting was ever done on the island for the Continental Army; those who did enlist had to slip quietly away by boat to the mainland. At Hempstead the British troops were quartered in the public buildings, and in many of the homes. There were minor altercations between the British troops and the inhabitants, but, generally, they got along amicably. Even after the close of the war many British soldiers remained, having married American girls. The American Rebels made intermittent raids upon the island, primarily for food and materials, but the inhabitants had little intercourse with anyone other than the British. As the war progressed, more and more Loyalists from the mainland fled to the island making it thoroughly pro-British. When living under conditions as these were we can readily realize that there would be little opportunity for a resident to be of assistance to the Continental rebellion; the least expression of American sympathy would have placed him in a British prison camp for the wars duration.

JAMES'S declaration as of January 19th, 1776, indicates that he favored the American secession; his remaining on Long Island after the war indicates that he lived up to his declaration; otherwise he would have been forced to go with the many other Loyalists to New Brunswick, or some other Loyalist

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<sup>1</sup> Long Island in Revolutionary Days, by Onderdonk, Newberry Library.

asylum. What a pity it was for America to lose those thousands of fine, educated, Americans at the close of the Revolutionary War. A policy of reuniting the people and forgetting their past differences would have saved many a capable person to aid in building this nation. JAMES and ELIAS lived through the bitterest days this nation has ever experienced, those days when this nation was born.

WILL OF ELIAS HICKS

August 5, 1863

Molly Hicks, the mother of Elias Hicks, left one sister and two brothers:

- I. Hannah Burtis
- II. Linnington Dorlon
- III. John Dorlon

1. HANNAH (DORLON) BURTIS (wife of ELIAS BURTIS) died leaving nine children.

1. James, 2, Mariam, and 3, Hannah, died leaving no children.

4. Elias Burtis, the second, left 4 children:

1. Joseph F. Burtis who resides in Jamestown, N.Y.
2. Oliver D. Burtis, Syosett, Queens County, d. 9-2-87, 78 yrs.,  
  1. Olivia R. m'd Wm. Taylor buried Greenwood.
  2. George (Civil War) (wife d. 12-30-47)
  3. Theodore E.

3. Phebe F. Burtis, Brooklyn

4. Mary Ann Burtis, "

5. Joseph Burtis died leaving three children

6. JACOB BURTIS, residing in Hudson, near Jacksonville, Ill.

7. Linnington Burtis left one child

1. John L. Burtis, residing in Binghamton, N.Y.

8. Sarah Burtis, left one child

1. Elias B. Higbie, Brooklyn

9. Jane Burtis, married Clinton Pettit, left 6 children:

1. Horatio N. Pettit, San Francisco, Calif.
2. William W. Pettit, Fort Plains, N.Y.
3. Michael B. Pettit, " " "
4. Julia M. wife of Jeremiah Schenck, Carnarsie, Kings Co.
5. James H. Pettit, Hempstead.
6. Amelia Webster, wife of Peter Webster, Fort Plains, N.Y.

The town of Hempstead, Long Island, is the "mother" of the BURTIS family; for seven generations their ancestry lived in this locality. Through ELIZABETH (ELIZA) ARABELLA CARMAN, wife of JACOB HICKS BURTIS, they are related to the founders of the village. She is the seventh generation from REVEREND ROBERT FORDHAM, and sixth generation from JOHN CARMAN, who jointly made the deal with the Indians buying that part of the island upon which the Hempstead colony was founded. Another grand-parent, CAPTAIN JOHN SEAMAN, was also one of the original signers of the Hempstead compact. Other grand-parents who had lived there were AARON van NOSTRAND and ELIAS DORLAND. Not only in Hempstead, but in Brooklyn and other Long Island towns are the names of the family's grand-parents perpetuated. The names are found today in streets, roads, parks and towns being named after them.

In the cemeteries adjacent to Hempstead's two oldest churches, the Presbyterian and the St George's Episcopal, are buried many of our ancestors. Recently the tombstones of the Presbyterian cemetery were removed and it was made into a park called Denton Green. In this park is found FORDHAM and CARMAN lanes. A plat with the names of those buried there is in the hands of the village recorders at the city hall. In the St George's cemetery are found the monuments of ELIAS BURTIS (5th gen.) and ELIZABETH (ELIZA) ARABELLA CARMAN BURTIS, wife of JACOB HICKS BURTIS. There are two other stones alongside of ELIAS BURTIS', but their face is completely obliterated from each.

The children of

	ELIAS BURTIS	b. 6-22-1746;	d.5-28-1812
and		m. 1- 8-1776	
	HANNAH DORLAN	b. 3- 4-1756;	d.9- 7-1807
were			
	Sarah	b.10-29-1777	
	m'd Joseph Higbie		
	Their children:		
	Elias B	(Brooklyn in 1863)	
	Jane		
	m'd Clinton Pettit		
	Their children:		
	Horatio N.	(San Francisco 1863)	
	William W.	(Fort Plains, N.Y. 1863)	
	Michael B	" " " "	
	Julia M.		
	m'd Jeremiah Schenck,	(Carnarsie, Kings Co 1863)	
	James H.	(Hempstead, L.I. 1863)	
	Amelia		
	m'd Peter Webster	(Fort Plains, N.Y. 1863)	

Elias	b. 1- 12-1781
m'd Elizabeth Dorlon	
Their children:	
Joseph F.	(Jamestown, N.Y. 1863)
Oliver D.	(Syosett, Queens County 1863)
Phebe F.	(Brooklyn 1863)
Mary Ann	(Brooklyn 1863)

Mariam,	b. 2- 1- 1783
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James W.	b. 12-12-1784
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Joseph J.	b. 12-12-1784
Their children:	
Elizabeth, m'd Theodore Monroe	(Pen Yan, N.Y. 1863)
Julia A. Blair,	(New York)
James W.	(Last heard from in Pictonia, Ill)

JACOB HICKS	b. 11-18-1794;	d. 6-16-1873	
m'd ELIZABETH ARABELLA CARMAN		m. 2- 5- 1821	1
Their children:	(SEE FOLLOWING)		
m'd Martha (Mary) Weeks		m. 5-28-1835	

Hannah	b. 11-11-1802
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Linnington  
Their children  
    John L.

## CHAPTER IX

JACOB HICKS BURTIS  
STARTS THE CLAN  
IN ILLINOIS

During the first half of the nineteenth century there was a great migration to the middle west. The Northwest Territory was opened for settlers, and as the Indians were pushed westward the white settlers followed in their footsteps. The waterways were the sole means of transportation, so, consequently, the first settlements were made along the rivers and lakes.

Illinois was first settled by emigrants from Kentucky and Virginia which culminated in Illinois becoming a state in 1818. Shortly thereafter, great waves of easterners formed into colonies and came west to settle. The waterways being the only mode of transportation, the Illinois-Michigan canal was planned by the state's first governor, Shadrack Bond. In 1836 the canal was begun, and in 1848 it was opened for traffic.

Jacob Hicks Burtis first came west to settle at Jacksonville, Illinois, where he and his nephew, Horatio Pettit, established the merchantile business of BURTIS & PETTIT. A great panic struck the country in that year, 1836, and the business did not succeed. Their eastern creditors were to haunt them for many years to come.

On February 6th, 1836, at Jacksonville, there was organized the Illinois Land Association by a group of easterners who had recently come from New York. It was headed by Horatio N. Pettit, George F. Durkitt and John Gregory. In June of that year they went to that part of Illinois which is now Hudson, and had the township surveyed by Elbert Dickason who was then the county surveyor. He layed out the town site and township. Shares in the township were sold to those who had recently come from the east, and to their relatives and friends still living in the east.

On the fourth of July 1836, the lots in the village, and the lands in the country were drawn by the colonists. A colony share was purchased for \$235.00. It entitled the owner to 160 acres of prairie land, 20 acres of

timberland, and four lots in the village. In all, twenty one sections of land were parceled out to the new owners. The land was covered with heavy prairie grass, there were no fences nor roads. Travel was primarily on horseback. There were many ponds and sloughs which was conducive to mosquitos and its accompanying malaria.

The first house built in Hudson was that of James T. Gildersleeve, which was completed in December 1836; it still stands. JACOB HICKS BURTIS and family arrived in Hudson in December 1836 and they spent their first winter with the Gildersleeves in their new home. The following spring he settled on his patented land two miles north of Hudson and there he built his own home. Here he lived until his death on June 16th 1873.

JACOB HICKS BURTIS is the progenitor of the BURTIS family originating in Central Illinois. "He was born November 18th, 1795 in Queens County, Long Island, within a few miles of Hempstead. During the War of 1812, he enlisted in a company at New York City, and later was chosen captain; he never was called into active service. He was a cabinet maker by trade." <sup>1</sup> He married ELIZABETH ARABELLA CARMAN February 5th, 1821 and they had four children. She died in 1832. He carried on the business of cabinet making for several years in Brooklyn.

He married Mary Weeks on May 28th 1835, and in September of the same year he set out for Illinois with his wife and three of his children by his first wife, leaving the youngest with his first wife's sister. They first settled at Jacksonville, where he went into the Merchantile business, and then a year later moved to Hudson where he had bought a share in the Hudson Colony.

The prairie land was considered worthless without timberland because they had to have the logs for lumber for building their homes. Consequently, every share of land included twenty acres of nearby timberland.

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<sup>1</sup> Old Settlers of McLean County, Bloomington Library.



Malaria fever was the plague of every settler. Great parts of the prairie was swampland which made travel almost impossible a great part of the year, and, worst still, the malaria carrying mosquito made living almost unbearable. Sickness was prevalent with everyone with its accompanying large death toll. It took most of the following one hundred years to get these swamps drained by ditching and tiling. After the swamps were drained, that land was unbelievably rich, and fertilizing was unnecessary for many years to follow.

In one of Arabella Week's letters, she mentions the pond south of their house reaching almost to the house (1861). The pond south of Edwin Elias Burtis' house was of large proportions until recent years. Where these swamps crossed roads made travelling almost impossible during the Spring months and after each rain.

Wild fowl and game was everywhere abundant. Prairie chickens were so tame and plentiful that they would even roost upon the houses. Wild duck and geese abounded in never ending flights. Deer were available with little effort. The land flowed with "milk and honey"--till the soil, and anything would grow. But to till the soil with the crude plows of those days was not so easy as the sod was tough from the hundreds of years of growth. And, too, money was almost nonexistent for buying those few necessary tools of agriculture. The breaking of the soil came slowly, ten acres this year, twenty the second, and a farm of thirty or forty acres of tilable soil was no small farm. Their allotted 160 acres took many years before they ever were put into cultivation. Worst of all was that vicious mosquito, carrying malaria to everyone it bit, and no one was spared. The settlers had to carry on regardless of how they felt, men in the fields and women about the house. Practically every letter they wrote tells about their sicknesses and their struggle of trying to keep on going even though feeling nearly dead.

Mary Weeks Burtis, second wife of Jacob Hicks Burtis, was an heir of Richard Weeks, her father, and she inherited a share of his farm located in Queens County, N.Y. This is a "power of attorney" given to her brother, Alfred Weeks, for handling the sale of the farm.

Know all men by these presents that whereas, we Jacob H. Burtis and Mary Burtis, his wife of Hudson in the County of McLean and state of Illinois are seized in fee, of in and to an undivided share or interest in and to all the Real Estate of which Richard Weeks, late of Queens County in the State of New York, died siezed of consisting of the farm upon which the said Richard Weeks resided at the time of his death, and other lands situated in the said county of Queens. And whereas also the said Jacob H. Burtis and Mary Burtis acquired title to said Real Estate as heirs of the said Richard Weeks deceased. Now know ye, that we the said Jacob H. Burtis and Mary Burtis, his wife have made constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make and appoint Alfred S. Weeks of Scott County in the State of Illinois our true and lawful attorney for us, and in our name, to lease, sell and devise our undivided share in and to the Real Estate of which the said Richard Weeks, deceased died siezed of, to such person and for such a term or number of years and at and under such yearly rent as he shall think fit, or otherwise to sell, grant and convey the same in fee simple, for such price to such person as he shall think fit; And also for us and in our names to seal, execute and deliver deeds, conveyances, and sales for the absolute sale and disposal therof, or of any part thereof, with such clauses, covenants, and agreements to be therin contained, as our said attorney shall think fit and convenient. Hereby ratify and confirming all such leases and deeds which shall at any time hereafter be sealed and executed by our attorney touching the premises.

In withefs whereof we have hereunto set our hand and seat this twenty first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine.

Attested by Clerk of McLean County

M. L. COVELL

UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA, State of ILLINOIS

Attested by Secretary of State of Illinois

A. P. FIELD

JACOB H. BURTIS

MARY BURTIS

Richard Weeks had bought a share in the Hudson Colony and he had sent his son to develop it. He lived with his sister Mary, and son-in-law Jacob Hicks Burtis, while developing this farm. His letter follows:

(23¢ postage)  
 Post Office, Bloomington, Ill.  
 Hudson, Illinois  
 April 16, 1840

(To Alfred Weeks  
 North Hempstead Postoffice  
 Queens County, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

It is now about sunset, I have come in from plowing for corn. I received yours for which I received with pleasure, and more so to hear you was all well. We are all enjoying good health here for which I feel thankful. Health I prize above all things.

Concerning what you wrote about, the commissioners in regard to their selling without your consent, I disapprove of it. It was my wish for them to obey you. I think they have acted in a manner that if I had been there, and there had been any law to make the sale legal I would did it. I wish you entered a suit against them before the last court. I think they would not have acted as they did if they had not been buying it for some of their own connection.

I told Mr. B. when you wrote that Mr. Cocks bought the place, that it was for Widdow Hicks son or they would not acted so redickulous. As you wrote, perhaps it will be more to my interest, but still I don't thank the commissioners for their conduct. As for your carrying it to a Court of Chancery you may act your own pleasure, you will not offend me if you conclude to let it rest where it is.

You may leave the money with O.D. Burtis, or deposit it in a bank, and send me a certificate which ever way you wish.

I heard you were coming out with Mr. Stillwell. If you do, I wish you would get me an overcoat made. Something that will be durable, two frock coats, two roundabouts, two pair pants. I think I would like blue cloth for the above named clothes. Perhaps it will come cheaper to get all of one kind. Tell Eliza I should like for her to make what she can of my clothes. Please pay her for same. I should like to have them made by Edmunds measure.

If you can get my clothes readymade by Stitwills or Burtis's to come cheaper, you may do so. As to the colours of them, if they will come cheaper to me you may get them different colours. Please get me two pairs boots, No nines.

My love to all,

C. WEEKS

(23¢ postage)  
 Bloomington, Ill.  
 Hudson, Illinois  
 April 16, 1840

(To Alfred S. Weeks,  
 North Hempstead Postoffice  
 Queens County, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

I wrote a letter to you on Sunday last with the intention of sending it this week. But before I sent it I received one from J.B. & J. O'Dell of New York stating that they had found out that I had a legacy coming to me, and that they would take out an attachment at once and attach the debt. Saying that they had taken council and could attach anything belonging to a non-resident. But they thought I would rather give them an order on Wm & Joseph Tutus than pay fifty dollars cost and be exposed. They say I am now in their hands and there is no help for me.

It may be so as far as I know, but they wrote too saucy to scare me as the letter appears to be for that purpose. It is the debt of Burtis & Pettit, and whether Pettit has wrote on or how they found out I cannot tell. Pettit has gone to Jacksonville, I expect, to get married to Harriet, so I have no chance to ask him now.

How it is they are not paid I cannot tell, he had all the goods that we took from Ranson. Besides the book accounts in Jacksonville. The goods amounted to three thousand dollars, and all I have had since is about three hundred. I think I have no right to pay Odell and will not do it except I am forced to, and if there is any way to keep them from getting it from that money I want it done. I wish you would get the necessary information and write me, or take any measure you may see fit. I wrote the other letter that I could not give any advice concerning selling the place over again, and that I put explicit faith in your judgment, and wish you to do as you think proper and let it be as it will no blame shall come from me.

I believe they have acted underhandedly. Carman prophesied it was not Cox but Hicks. Whether to sell it again in Chancery will amount to more than the interest I cannot say. Interest is all that I shall take for myself. I intend to secure it to Alfred and Catherine. That seems to be Mary's wish as well as mine.

I received a letter from S.B. Stilwell directed to Pettit & Burtis. He said he was coming out here the last of June or the first of July and said you talk of coming out with him if you could get ready. I should be very glad to see him. I shall try to make some arrangement to settle up all old scores and I should be very glad if you could be here. I am determined to have a settlement with Pettit and try and get straight again.

Seems as soon as I get clean of one trouble another comes. Spring opened so fine, crops good and everything looking prosperous. I have more land fenced. Carman has quite a large farm, and timber sawed ready for building. We are all in good health.

Yours with respect,  
 J.H. Burtis

(25¢ postage)  
 Bloomington, Illinois  
 Hudson  
 June 14, 1840

(To Alfred S. Weeks, Hempstead,  
 Queens County, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

I received your letter dated May 25th and 14th, both by the same mail, and was very glad to hear you were all well, and that they could not attach that money. Consequently it set us to thinking it is best to have it secured there to Alfred and Catherine. Carman seems to be of the mind to have it here made over to Mary as it would fetch more interest. You wrote that it could be invested there and the interest transmitted, or if I would rather have it here I must get the power of attorney. Now if it can be invested there and you think without the power of attorney, you can do so. I shall get the power done at any rate. We shall have to go to Springfield to get it done. You wrote that I could draw for eighty two dollars ninety-eight cents. Owing some money here I gave a draft to Allen & Roberson for the amount.

I am afraid that the B & P accounts are in such a tangle that we cannot settle. He has charged interest at ten percent for money that we had of the Colony, which will amount to over four hundred dollars, and he has charged one dollar per day from the time he bought Walker out in Jacksonville until I came out. In fact, he has done everything that a rogue could invent to lesson his account and swell mine. He has refused to give me a deed for my land, which since the sale of Colony land he has been giving to any one that asks for them. But since he got married he got mighty sociable. His wife came over and made us a visit, and he came for her and took tea the day after we received your letter. So you may know how we felt, but we used him well and I took the opportunity to ask him for my deed again. He said he would give it to me and I went next day only for the quarter we live on, and got it. I took Esq. Gildersleeve with me to have it acknowledged.

The next day we went to Bloomington to get the advice of a lawyer on how to proceed to make that much sure and to secure the money I owe to the children; that money that Aunt Fox left Edwin and Phebe, 110 dollars which I am guardeen for, and the money that Father gave Mary. The lawyer told me he saw no impropriety in it if that would cover all the property. But he should like to have until next Tuesday to make up his mind, and he would give me his advice.

How I shall ever get a settlement with Pettit I donot know. I expect his property is made over to William. If it were not, I do not know whether it would not be best to give up to our creditors and try and get a final clearance. You say you are getting to be quite a lawyer, I wish you would give me your advice. As he has managed, I believe he will strip me and make money for himself. You said I must keep my eyes skinned, I have stretched it so far that I have almost uncovered my brain, and still cannot get hold of the right way. I looked over the books and your account stands, cr 319 dollars and forty cents, and dr 197 dollars sixty three cents. I do not know that you will ever get it except you take it out of the money you get there. I have thought whether or no Pettit has not made his property over to William Pettit, but I shall try and be even with him. I shall either sell to Carman or make it over to the children.

I am afraid you will have to read this with a prayerful heart like they do the Bible, or you cannot understand it.

Your ever affectionate brother,  
 JACOB H. BURTIS

25¢ postage  
Bloomington, Ill  
Hudson  
June 14, 1840

(To Alfred S. Weeks,  
Hempstead P.O.  
Queens County, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

We are all enjoying good health. I was happy to hear that you are all well. I have had to rush business a little this Spring to get my fields enclosed. I made my rails last winter and made my fence in March, although it was cold I could keep myself very comfortable laying fence. I thought if I did not get it up early as I had too much else to do, or I would get behind with the work. Forty-five acres I have enclosed. I have fifteen acres of corn, four acres of wheat, nine of oats, all looking pretty well. Trees are beautiful, nearly enough lumber for a house.

Your affectionate brother,

CARLAN WEEKS



#37

Hudson  
Oct. 27, 1840

(To Alfred S. Weeks, Hempstead,  
Queens County, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

I have no one to help me with this letter; I have been waiting for Carman to come home to help me with one page. But having an opportunity to send this by E. Cole I have embraced the chance. I received yours and Carmans dated Sept 16th in which you wrote for another power of attorney. I have not been able to get it yet owing to sicknefs. The fall coat has sat in Bloomington, but Mary was not able to go down for it.

We have had another present of a girl, she is seven weeks old, large and fat, weighed ten pounds when she was born. The old women say it is very hansome, it looks just like its daddy. But I shall write no more on that subject for I have to repete it so often that It will not do to spend much time on each.

We are all well except Phebe, she has the shakes off and on. I had a power of attorney when C--left which I forget to send by him. I think it is signed as you wrote for me to get one signed. But I wrote as you requested I was very sorry I did not send it, but shall enclose it in this letter. I would of had it done before but as I wrote sicknefs and difficulty traveling so far for everything has been impossible for me to do. \* \* \*

I saw a letter that was sent to Burtis & Pettit from a lawyer living in Ottawa. He said the account must be attended to. Horatio (Pettit) sent William to me with it. I sent word back that Horatio must pay it for he had all dht availables in his hands. I gave William a full account how he had used me. He said that he thought Horatio had not done right but we had ought to have a settlement. I told him I was ready and willing, and that I had been to settle once but he would not let me have the books. Since that I have not seen either of them. But I have heard of a letter he sent to his brother James, which James does not hesitate to show to all that know Horatio. James sent for meney that Horatio owed him for working for him, and told him he could not wait any longer for it. Horatio wrote back that he did not fear him nor the cunstable--too, he might sue as quick as he was a min to, for his property was all morgaged, and his houseould furniture and stock was all made over to William--to fire away little boy as quick as you are mind to. So you can judge how affairs stand with him. It is certain here he gets more curses than coppers.

\* \* \* \* \* I have got almost done thinking of seeing you return without Phebe. Wife says she knows you are engaged to be married.

This from yours,

J.H. BURTIS

Hudson, Illinois  
October 21, 1842

(To Alfred S. Weeks,  
66 Fulton St  
Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

I received Phebe's letter and then yours and was glad to hear you got safe to that garden spot of the world. I should have written before in answer, but the measure of our iniquity was not quite fully, in fact, I do not know if it is now. But I will give you the particulars as far as this date. \* \* \*

Our crops came in good, and having good health, I got all harvested excepting two acres of oats. I had never felt better and more like work in my life at that time. Fall wheat turned out about 25 bushels per acre. I could not get any to Chicago, consequently I have all of it on hand and it is only worth 20 to 25 cents at the river, and only 43 at Chicago, and the prospects of it falling. Trees are growing remarkably, all are living. Peaches got ripe about the last of August. There are about seven different kinds, we dried some. I got my sod wheat in and it looks well. The wind blew my corn down and I got part in the usual way and part of it I waited and put in as Dunham did last year.

Tell Phebe we have got cabbage so plentiful that mother was willing to give some away. Beets, onions and beans plenty, and too was willing to give some away. Oats 6 cents, potatoes 4 cents in trade, for we have no money. "Well--walk in! We don't expect any these times," is the answer. Everything is done by barter.

Edwin has swapped Whiteface and Speck for a two-year old colt, and three heifers that will come in next Spring--pretty good for him.

I was taken about the middle of September with the bilious fever, but by the blessing of God and Hygeon pills, I drove it off unto a real old shake, and shook it all away. Mary was taken soon after with the same complaint, but instead of the shakes she was confined and has another Sucker boy without any name yet; he is two weeks old last Tuesday. She is not well, of course, and seems to be inclined to chills and fever. Alfred and little Rachel have both got the chills. They have been sick about three weeks. We could not get any help except the neighbors. They have been very kind, especially neighbor Gastman. He has got religion, he was over one night and sat up with me and told me what the Lord was doing for his soul. R.B. Stroud is religious; he has lost his son, buried in Hudson. Doc Hall's wife has twins, but it is like all of Doc's work, he does too much, both dead. George Dunham is dead, died of bilious fever. There has been much sickness this fall.

Having to cook and nurse, my fall business has been little. Tell Phebe, Bill Lewis like to get married, he had the wedding cake and everything in English style, and asked everybody he saw to the wedding, but when the day came, Miss McCully said she did not promise to have him and so it ended.

J.H. BURTIS



(Postage 25¢)  
Hudson, Illinois  
February 26, 1844

(To Alfred S. Weeks,  
Brooklyn, Long Island, N.Y.)

Dear Brother:

I seem to have something new every letter. We had made up our minds to sacrifice our household property for what it would fetch and our cattle, thirteen in number, which would average about eight dollars per head. McGoun would have to have about forty dollars out of it; the doctor I do not know what his bill is, but if I paid him fifteen dollars I would let him sweat. Edwin offered me sixty dollars for house and rails, and he would keep the farm open for fifteen years or until Catherine comes of age, so that it could be sold as we supposed.

I thought I had made a pretty safe calculation on having about one hundred dollars to come on with. I had set it down for fifty dollars to fetch us on and fifty dollars to live upon when we got there if I could not get in business the first day. So I started down to Bloomington to see Gridley to know when the property would be sold, and he very modestly told me it had been sold the week before, and he had bought it in for me for eight dollars and fifty cents. He advertized it in Bloomington on the courthouse and only enough to stand law for fear Pettit would bid on it. He now said he would give me a good deed or give it to the children by paying him forty dollars for his fees and the eight dollars and fifty cents his bid. He said that the mortgage giving to Catherine and Alfred was of no account. Edwin's and Phebe's was all that would hold. So I had made up my mind to raise that fifty dollars and get the property in to my hands again so I can sell it if there should be a chance provided I can secure the money to the children and fetch it east if ever I can come.

I think I can raise the money to pay Gridley by selling the sideboard and looking glass stand for thirty dollars. The rest I shall have to sell stock for. So you will see by this calculation it will leave me too small a sum to venture to come east as Edwin will most likely buy land or something else with his money before I can raise money to settle with Gridley.

Ed said he was going to write to you about the farm. Old man Luis has offered him a quarter section for nothing. So what he will do I cannot tell, for I shall have to tell him he can make no dependence on my place for this year.

Now, I suppose, you will think I am about backing out for the present. It looks a great deal like it to me. But thanks to God for all things, it has taken one load off of my stomach if it has put one twice as large on. I have ten acres of fall wheat. I shall not likely see my children crying for want of bread and pork, if their back and head are empty, and my neighbors cannot say "you ragged fool."

My health is gaining, but I am not half the man I was before I was sick. Ed says he is married and Sal does not deny it. Old woman Luis makes some great speeches about their courtship. Ed comes quite often.

Yours,  
J.H.B.

When things looked the blackest for JACOB HICKS BURTIS and he surrendered his farm and had arranged to sell his furniture to settle the affairs of BURTIS & PETTIT and get money to return to Brooklyn, Mr. Gridley stepped in unknown to J.H.B. and bought the farm which had been put up for public sale. For a very nominal sum he returned it to J.H.B. Consequently, J.H.B. remains in Illionis.

(postage 10¢)  
Hudson, Ill  
Jan. 26, 1845

(To Phebe Burtis, % O.D. Burtis,  
Brooklyn, L.I.N.Y.)

Dear Sister:

i take this oppertinity to write you a few lines about things in general. We got the box a month ago and all things safe.

Things look prety mutch the same as they did when you went a way. the cottonwood tree has groad a bout a foot thick that stod by the sodsellar, the apile trees bared a litle. we had plenty of peaches last year, we dride five bushel.

Mr. Loudon has sold his plase and gon to canada James Gildersleeve has mived to bloomington, he is county clerk. Edwin and Sary ann lives in a house at the east of Coxes. Petit has sold his house and mill and gon to Jacksonvill.

i have had my health this year, Mother has rneumatism in the shouler Farther has got a cold all the rest is well.

Mrs Lewis has bin very low this fall-mother talks of cumming on east Mr. Samiel Lewis talks of cuming on east in the spring Mr. William Mott got married last spring

we talk of sending a barral of venerson hams on of my on cilling i have cild six deear this fall tell uncle Alfred that he out too bee near to hund with mee this fall deear is plenty

i have groad to be five foot and nine inches tall bloomington has groad very mutch with in the last five years there is twelv stores there they are all duing a big bisnes they will take all sorts of grain and produce give my love to all in-quiring friends

excuse my bad writeing and spelling

Jacob H. Burtis  
Junier

Hudson  
Jan. 26, 1845

(To Phebe Eliza Burtis  
% O.D. Burtis  
Brooklyn, L.I. N.Y.)

Dear Daughter:

I did not think to write at this time but you can see by the other side of this letter how I came to write, Jacob ran completely aground. You must excuse him as he tried to write as hard as ever you have seen anyone. He has not improved himself any in writing or ciphering, nor thinking, except about deer and shooting. That he goes the whole hog in. I tell him his letter is like old Dolls tail, rather short and somewhat behind hand. He has given you pretty much all the news although he has not given a very minute description. He mentioned about getting the box, but has not given a description of our receiving it.

We received Uncle Alfred's letter in about fifteen days informing us there was a box sent for us. I went to Bloomington and found it there. We got it home about eight at night, we made old Dick and Lyon fetch us home as quick as possible for it was bitter cold. The first thing we see when we stoep at the woodpile was Edwin. Have you got the box? It went in the house in a hurry. Ed and Sarah Ann had come over to see it opened. Supper was ready and I had not eat anything since morning but I could not get a chance before the box was opened. 'This is for Father, O whats this, another coat, another trowsers. O see here's a pipe for Father to smoke with. Mr Gasman cam in ---Catherine a bonnet. Ain't that a pretty bonnet, wonder if thats the fashion. Sary Ann holding up William, his little hat in one hand to keep anything from being thrown on it. Once and awhile, look at it, its a sweet little thing ain't it --and so they went on till Mother says, well there Father, we've not had supper yet. But it would take half a dozen sheets of paper to tell how tickled they were.

Tell Uncle James I searched every pocket thinking there must be a letter somewhere from him but I could not find any.

\* \* \* \*

There has been some improvement in the Collony by folks coming in, and some by getting married. Jesse Havens is to be married soon, then there will be none left but Bill and Ida.

There is a new Methodist Meeting house built in the lane between Hudson and where Trimmer did live.

This from your ever loving father,

J.H. BURTIS

42  
(10¢postage)  
Hudson, Illionis  
Dec. 19, 1846

(To Alfred Weeks  
Brooklyn, King County  
Long Island, N.Y.

Dear Son:

I have been a long time of commencing my letter with the endearing appellation of Son, although it has not been any lefs in my mind than usual. But owing to sicknefs in the first place, and I am sorry to say, carelefsnefs too, I have put it off until this time.

By your getting married it has taken one source of trouble off of my mind. Phebe seemed to be there without any protection except you. I hope she will make a dutiful wife and you both may live as happy as it is possible for two to live in this world of disappointments. I should be very glad to come and take dinner with you if I would stay no longer. Whether it will ever be I think it is rather doubtful. It does seem as if this was to be the spot until I am either drove or dragged away. I had some hopes last Spring as I wrote you, I had some bitters that was doing wonders for me. I felt as well as ever I did until the last of August and have not seen a well day since, although not confined to bed. It has been somewhat like the dumb ague. It seems more like an everyother day fever. Jacob was taken sick the first of August, he was sick about a month. Catherine and Rachel was taken about the last of July. Mary had a short attack of about three days, but has not felt quite so well as usual. All the rest has taken quinine and broke it. We have not had any doctor, yet it has cost me eight or ten dollars for medicine. It has been a general thing throughout the state, and as I can hear not one solitary individual has escaped. There have been some deaths principally children. They have high fever which throws them into fits. Edwin's boy had them; Mary was called over to Edwin's the other night; When she came back another child then a girl. They have named it Mary Eliza.

Edwin kept school last summer until he left off for to fix the school house for winter. They did not get it done. He commenced again this Spring and kept until sicknefs broke him off. The schoolhouse is not done this winter, so you can see what a chance here for education. There is not much spirit here for giving children learning and lefs money.

You wrote to get my opinion concerning this land, and I am as much at a lofs to give advice as a stranger. There seems to be some improvement in the township in the way of mills. There is talk about a bridge acrost the Mackanaw, and now and then a family related to Hinthorns comes in but they are no account. Doughty has let his unimproved land go for taxes, and I do not think this would fetch over congrefs prices here now. J.T. Gildersleeve advises not to sell. Our Governor says the canal will be done in lefs than one year which must give things an upward tendency.

The orchard is growing tolerably well. Old Dick and Lion is getting older as well as myself, so it will be a tight pupp as I have promised to plow more this Spring. I have been waiting so long for something good that I do not know what advice to give you. The taxes will amount to four and half to five dollars. Land that is not productive is like self-righteousnefs. Mary's advice is not to sell yet at present prices.

Your a- Father,  
J.H. BURTIS

(postage 10¢)  
Hudson, Ill  
August 11, 1847

(To Alfred S. Weeks,  
Kings County,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Dear Alfred:

I have to make some apology for not writing sooner, and that is I received yours just as I had began a very large harvest, and have had to work so hard my fingers has been so stiff that I could not write nor think.

We have cut about twenty-five acres of wheat, oats, barley, and flax, which is more than common for me. But we had our health through the blefing of Brother Hubbard's pills and wafers and ash bitters. The children neglected to take the bitters and they have had slight attacks of fever which pills and quinine have broke.

Prices of grain is down here again, fall wheat is forty cents, flax seed fifty two, barley I sold last year for fifty cents. The highest price offered now is eighteen cents. Pork I cannot tell anything about until fall; I shall have about two thousand pounds to spare. But there is always some drawback to getting ahead, for my waggon has gone down and it will take all my surplus to get another.

You wrote you had received the money from the County Clerk, I was afraid it was lost. I cannot express my thankfulness enough to you for your aid. But I shall try to press it on the childrens mind that It was through your efforts that they got it. \* \* \* \* \* I intend to take this and other money and try once more to make it secure for them.

The taxes for the year 1842 amounted to \$1.57. The year of 1843 through the negligence of Edwin or the carelessness of me or the mistake of the assessor it was sold, which I had to pay \$11.65. Edwin had the land in 1844 and taxes was \$3.66 and in 1845 \$2.88. They did not have the timber land on the books and they said I must see if it was not advertized. The year of 1846 the taxes was \$4.88.

You wrote about letting the land go for taxes, but Mary stopped me from reading any further until she exclaimed it shan't be sold for taxes.

\* \* \* \* \*

J.A. BURTIS

Jacob wished me to ask if you should see Letty or William Pettit that if they will take fifty cents per acre for what we call Cozen Lettie's quarter, that he will give it as it corners on me?

The children of

(6th gen) JACOB HICKS BURTIS b. 11-18-1795; d. 6 -16-1873  
and m. 2 - 5-1821

ELIZABETH ARABELLA CARMAN b. 5-28-1800; d. 1 -27-1832

were

EDWIN ELIAS b. 3 -22-1822; d. 3 -14-1869

m'd m. 12-23-1843

SARAH ANN LEWIS b. 10-16-1824; d. 2 -18-1864 1

Phebe Eliza b. 2 -10-1824; d. 12-4 -1891

m'd m. 8 -3 -1846

Alfred S. Weeks b. 2 -9 -1807; d. 7 -3 -1891 2

Jacob Hicks b. 7 -14-1834; d. 6 -2- 1900

m'd m.

Nancy Mitchell b. 7 - 1-1834; d. 7-11 -1887 3

Hannah Alma b. 1829; d. 9-15- 1859

m'd m. 11-15- 53

John Carll 4

1 See details of their children on later pages.

2 The children of Phebe Eliza Burtis  
and Alfred S. Weeks  
are:

Elizabeth Arabella, b. 1 -26-1848; d. 5 -28-18  
m'd m. 1872

Stephen Sealey

Who had one child:

Grace Arabella, b. 2-26-1873; d. 3-26-51  
m'd m. 4-11-1921

Fred M. Smith d. 7-11-26

3 The children of Jacob Hicks Burtis Jr b. 7 -14-1827; d. 6 - 2 -1900  
and Nancy Mitchel

are:

Emma b. 12-5 -1856; d. 11-13-1944

m'd

Henry McCord

Laura b. 10-11-1860; d. 10-29-1882

John Carll b. 11-16-1862; d. 3 -16-1932

m'd m. 1-19 1888

Hannah b. 2 1865; d. 8 1865

4 The children of Hannah Alma Burtis  
and John Carll

are:

Two died in infancy

The children of JACOB HICKS BURTIS,  
and  
Mary Weeks (Second wife)  
are:

Alfred S. b. 5 -27-1837; d. 1 -29-1862

Catherine b. 11-7 -1838; d. 2 - 9-1915  
m'd m. 3-3 -1864

William Collins b. 1-29-1839; d. 4 - 8-1887

Rachel b. 9-12-1840; d. 9 -17-1876

m'd Francis Johnston d.5 -24-1886

James W. b. 10-10-1842; d. 2 -9 1864

Two other children died in infancy

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<sup>1</sup>The children of Catherine Burtis  
and William Collins  
are:

Henry B. b. 6- 2 - 1868

m'd  
Carrie Hess

Ulla Della b. 10- 1-1870; d. 1947

m'd  
George Fosberg  
Their children:

Catherine b. 11-19-1904

Pauline b. 4-12-1906

Effie May b. 12-17-1872; d. 4-18-1918  
m'd m. 10- 8-1902

Fred Musgrove  
Their children:

Lucille b. 10- 6-1905

m'd m. 1- 5-1944

Hugh S. Campbell

<sup>2</sup>The children of Rachel Burtis  
and Francis Johnston  
are

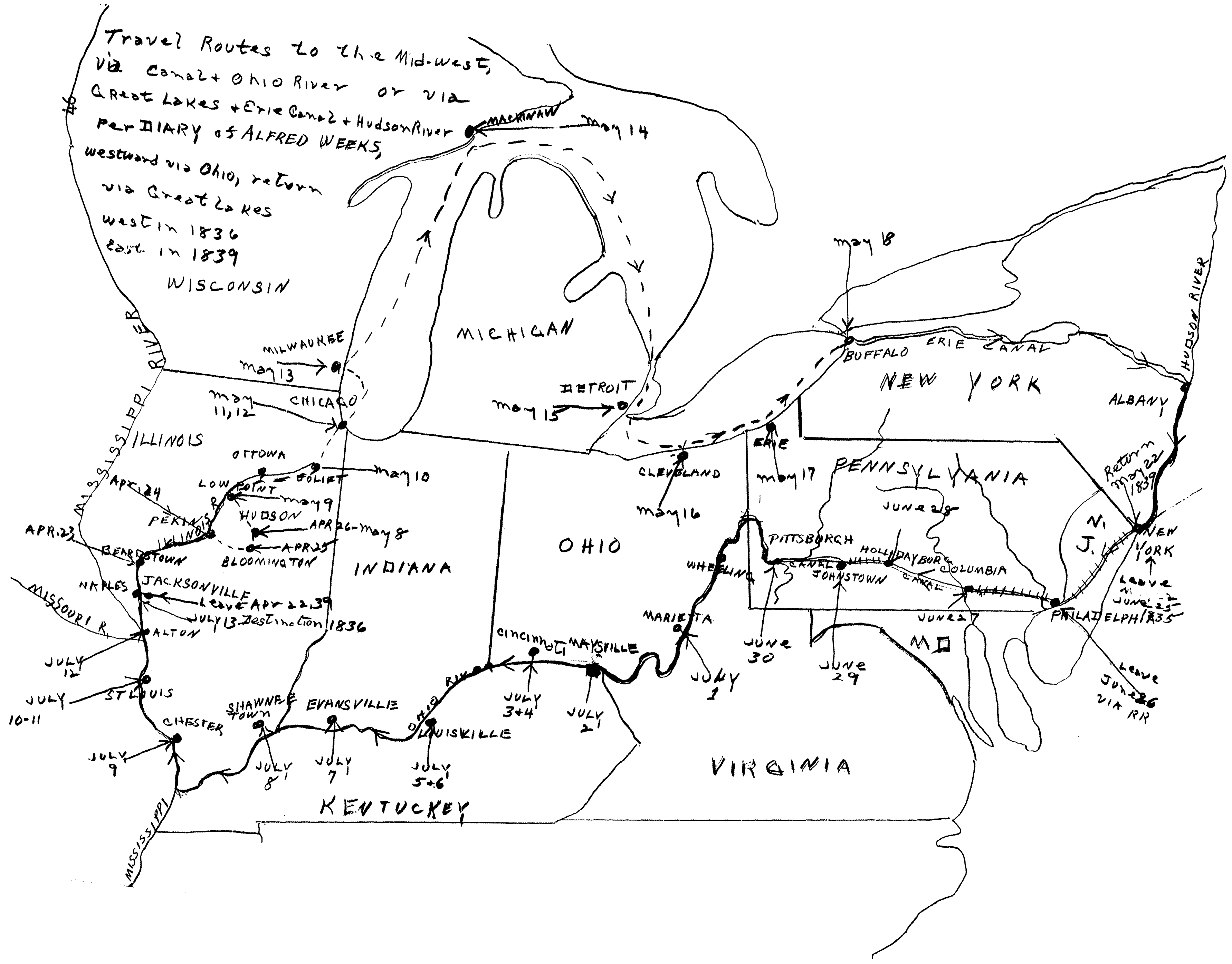
Bertha b. 4- 5 -1872; d. 1951  
m'd m.10-23-1895

Lee Merriam  
Their children:  
Jeness b. 8-10-1896 (by adoption)

Lulu b. 5-16-1875; 4. 1942



Travel Routes to the Mid-west,  
 via Canal + Ohio River or via  
 Great Lakes + Erie Canal + Hudson River  
 PER DIARY of ALFRED WEEKS,  
 westward via Ohio, return  
 via Great Lakes  
 west in 1836  
 east in 1839





## CHAPTER X

## ALFRED S. WEEKS &amp; PHEBE BURTIS (WEEKS)

A diary of Alfred Weeks describing his journey to Jacksonville, Illinois in the year of 1836 from his home in Westbury, Long Island, by the way of the few miles of railways then available, the canals across Pennsylvania, and then down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to Cairo, thence up the Mississippi and the Illinois rivers to Jacksonville, vividly describes the modes of travelling of that day. A similar diary is kept by him when he returned to Westbury in 1839 by the way of the Great Lakes, the Erie Canal and the Hudson River.

Alfred went to Jacksonville during the summer of 1836, and had gone into the merchantile business with Isaac Israel. They established stores at Exeter (near Jacksonville) and at Hanover which is now Metamora, Illinois. He was engaged in these businesses until 1839 when word of his father's death prompted him to return to Long Island.

Alfred's sister, Mary, was the second wife of JACOB HICKS BURTIS, and it was through his influence that prompted Jacob to venture into the mid-west; he and his family going in the fall of 1836.

Through Alfreds influence his father, Richard Weeks, bought shares in the Hudson Colony when it was first organized by Horatio Pettit who was then living in Jacksonville. Alfred's brother, Carman Weeks, went to Hudson first to look after the property bought by his father.

When Alfred received word of his father's death, he sold his interest in the merchantile businesses to his partner, Isaac Israel, and returned via Hudson to the East. He stopped in Hudson a few days to see his sister, Mary, and his brother, Carman, who then was living with his sister. JACOB HICKS BURTIS had built a house on his farm north of Hudson, and his brother-in-law, Carman, was living with them while he was developing his father's farm nearby.

For year around travelling the waterways were the only practical ways for travelling. What roads there were, were impassible many months of the year. Bridges were not built over the rivers, and with high water they could not be forded. The undrained prairies made every bog a major obstacle to cross after every rain. Horseback was the only mode of travelling on many of these roads.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIARY OF ALFRED S. WEEKS,  
HIS JOURNEY TO ILLINOIS, 1836.

Wednesday, June 22, 1836- Left Westbury, (Long Island) which was by far my greatest trial. It was so hard for them to part with me. For the life of me I could not prevent the then prevailing feelings to overcome my fortitude, and I with the rest gave way to tears.

Thursday, June 23, Stopped in Brooklyn.

Saturday, June 25, Left Brooklyn for Philadelphia via railroad. Arrived at 5 o'clock in Philadelphia. Put up at the Congress Hotel. Saw the waterworks, (Fairmount), Penn's state, theatre, parks, Girard (college) and U.S. (bank).

June 26, Sunday morning in Philadelphia, raining fast. Waiting for breakfast without much appetite. Left Philadelphia at 8 a.m., dined at Lancaster, and arrived at Columbia at 4 p.m., from whence we took the canal. The scenery is beautiful up the Susquehanna River as the canal runs parallel with it for some 50 miles.

Monday, June 27- On board the canal boat 10 a.m. We passed through Harrisburg at 11 p.m. Most of the passengers were asleep but I could not. I had an idea that bugs were crawling over me. The horns blowing for locks, the walking on decks, passengers getting out, the women talking, which "by the by" were very near me, I always like to get near the fair ones.

The scenery today has been sublimely beautiful through a mountainous and wild country. We have passed two towns, Mexico and Milford. We have been travelling with a range of the Allegheny Mountains in sight all day, sometimes on either side, wooded with various trees differing in color or foliage, which renders the sight beautiful with the Juniata River close in sight constantly and occasionally crossing it. We have seen several log houses, some appear comfortable, others seem as if the occupants might stay in them but not live.

I would that all my friends were so comfortable as Myself. I will here remark that we travel by the Good Intent Line from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, which line we find very comfortable, more so in consequence of having but few passengers.

June 28, Tuesday 10 o'clock. We still continue in a mountainous section of the country, well suited for the lovers of the sublime and romantic. Sometimes it seems that one solid body of rock composed the whole ridge, without sufficient to nourish the trees which abound upon the mountains. Sometimes a space of some few acres is one complete mass of stone without any soil, and then again cloffs overhang the river with water oozing from them in various veins forming little cascades. The abutments of the river are beautifully raised to get a head of water. The whold river flows and falls over in perpendicular, often to 12 feet in one solid sheet.

We arrived in Hollidaysburg this afternoon, passed over the Appalachin Mountains; went through the tunnel in the evening. The entrance is beautifully arched. The interior is excavated or wrought out. We descended an inclined plane and could not procure horse power to carry us to Johnstown, but from the descent our captain proposed to start the cars, which accordingly he did. Ran four and one-fourth miles in a few minutes.

At Johnstown, which is the termination of the railroad, we were badly entertained both supper and lodging. I slept near my "bull dogs". This place in my opinion is destined to be important and valuable. The streets are not sufficiently raised to lead off the water.

June 29, Wednesday-- After considerable muss with the captain we indued him to leave Johnstown this morning. He wanted to keep us until noon but we threatened to expose our being detained, consequently he was willing to leave.

We are in the last canal to Pittsburg, its length is 107 miles. Our route continues wild and mountainous. The mornings are foggy and cool, midday hot, powerful sun. We passed through another tunnel 360 yards in length. The mountains 150 yards above the tunnel with a farm and well at the top directly over the passage. It dropped water in the middle, which they said was occasioned by the well.

June 30, Thursday-- We arrived in Pittsburg this morning at 6 a.m., 24 hours from Johnstown. Made no stop but took the steamboat to Cincinnati. Pittsburg appears to be considerable of a city, but a smoky hole, probably in consequence of many iron foundries. The streets are filthy.

Took passage on the Huntress for Cincinnati. Arrived at Wheeling at 6:30 p.m. Stopped one hour. It is pleasantly situated on the Ohio River opposite to an island, which has only one house visible, but building lots have been sold for \$6000.00 which is astonishing beyond conception.

July 1, Friday-- We have been running down between the states of Ohio and Virginia at about 10 or 12 miles to the hour, with a fine breeze to the southwest. Passed Marietta, Ohio, this morning. It is a beautifully situated on the bank of the Ohio. We have also passed Blennerhasset Island remarkable for having been the residence of a man whose name it bears.

There are many islands in the river formed from floating snags and timber lodged, an account of which I cannot give here from the shaking of the boat which renders it almost impossible to write. We expect to arrive at the border of Kentucky this evening.

I have said nothing of the weather or the climate since I left New York. The latter has been perceptible since we left Philadelphia and now would be very warm but for the breeze from the southwest. We have had it clear since Sunday last. Evenings and mornings have been invariably dumpy and foggy, so much so that I have confined myself to the cabin from early in the evening until 9 in the morning.

Corn as high as fences.

I took cold some days ago which caused me to be thus particular. Passed Kanawa and stopped at Gallipolis, Ohio, this afternoon. The bottoms on this river are very productive, especially on the Virginia side. The corn is as high as the fences. The rye and wheat fit for the reaper, and indeed passed a field that was in shocks or either rye or wheat. The Kanawa river rises nearly 200 miles up in Virginia in the mountains. Some natural curiosity near its source--a promontory of rock overlooking it nearly perpendicular, warm springs, burning springs, etc., etc. This intelligence acquired from a Kentucky traveller.

Saturday, July 2- We passed Greyandotte River and town last evening. The river separates Virginia and Kentucky. The town is one of considerable consequence, but had no opportunity of seeing it.

We arrived at Maysville, Ky., this morning 10 o'clock. Left a passenger, Mr. Scott of Lexington, who has travelled with us from Philadelphia, and with whose acquaintance I was much pleased. Maysville is pleasantly situated on the bank of the Ohio river, the bluff directly in the rear and within a short distance. The inhabitants appear to want enterprise. A little eastern ambition would do much for this town, but whether it would render the citizens more happy is a matter of doubt. This place, Maysville, is 65 miles from Cincinnati. Passed the little Miami this afternoon, it is 8 miles from Cincinnati. The country on the banks of the river (Ohio) is so universally the same today as heretofore that it is scarcely worthy of any particular remarks.

Arrived at Cincinnati at 7 o'clock p.m. Cincinnati is a city situated opposite two towns on Kentucky side and Covington, divided by Licking river. Put up at Denison's hotel.

Sunday, July 3- Tarried in Cincinnati. Wrote a letter to R. Weeks. The weather being very warm, showery day. The ladies in this place study comfort, judging from their large feet and waists. The inhabitants want perseverance and ambition. Went to the theater at---Oh Great Hamberg and Son on ---. The boxes were passable but the pit was a real pig's eye of a place.

Monday, July 4- Got disappointed in getting a boat down, wasting an opportunity to go on. Saw the military, etc. Don't compare with even Brooklyn. The merchants appear to keep common goods here. Been here long enough. Dull music.

July 5, Tuesday- Arrived in Louisville, Ky, this morning. No boat going out today. Put up at the Galt House, which is called the best in the western country, and it is indeed a good house. It is so hot that we cannot go out, therefore, we shall not see much of the place. I wrote to S B L from here.

Wednesday, July 6- Took breakfast in Louisville. Saw considerable of the city this morning. It is a place of much trade; more enterprise than is found in most Western towns. Took the Clinton for St Louis. Got underway at 3½ o'clock p.m. Passed a considerable town called (New) Albany in Indiana, a few miles below Louisville. Also many other smaller towns. We passed the steamboat, Champion, this afternoon from New York. Weather delightful this evening.

Thursday, July 7- We are 150 miles from Louisville this morning. The bottoms on this river on either side are exceedingly fertile. Corn grows beautifully. It stands five feet, tasseled out in full. We stopped at Evansville at 10 a.m., a small town in Indiana, mostly stores, but this town as well as most others is deficient of Eastern enterprise, of go aheadness. The inhabitants appear indolent, want ambition. All the towns that I have passed through are much the same since I left Philadelphia, except Louisville which seems an exception.

We passed Mt Vernon, (Indiana), and some island this afternoon. Landed in Shawneetown at 5 p.m. Shawneetown is the first town in Illinois, a few miles below the Wabash river. When I landed on terra firma I felt as if a desirable object was nearly attained.

Friday, July 8- Doubled the southern part of Illinois--at the mouth of the Ohio River. Ran in the Mississippi, found a great difference in the water. The water of the Mississippi is thick with mud. Corn grows very large on the banks. We passed several small towns today, but being a little indisposed, I passed them lying in my berth. The day was very warm, in the evening we had a shower of wind and rain, the only one of moment since I left New York. The wind blew very hard. We fastened to the bank. I apprehended some danger of the trees from the bank blowing down, and falling on our boat, but it soon passed over.

Saturday, July 9- Since the storm last night we have a fine wind from the north, which renders it comfortably cool. We stopped at a town this morning in Illinois called Chester. It is small but is improving rapidly. We ran up a few miles and stopped for wood which we do twice or three times a day. To give a description of these huts is beyond my ability. A pig pen on Long Island is as far superior to them as one can possibly imagine. Their manner of churning I shall describe hereafter. We got in St Louis at 9 p.m. I slept on board.

Sunday, July 10- We removed our baggage to the City Hotel, St Louis; it being esteemed the best house, but they kept more boarders than appeared at the dining table.

There are not many public buildings here. The Catholic church is a fine building. The cornerstone of the new theater has recently been laid. We saw the locust tree to which the negro was chained when he was burnt, the one that dirked and murdered Sheriff Hammon. The tree was dead except near the roots.

St Louis is a mean, filthy place. Some of the cellars have six to 12 inches of stagnated water. Yet they consider this a healthy place.

I thought of - - - -this evening. Would that I could have wafted that sweet converse that I so often have enjoyed in dreams.



Monday, July 11- Tarried in St Louis, no boats going up the Illinois, got heartily sick of the place. The weather exceedingly warm, and no place to afford amusement. Our meals were very well, but our beds and rooms the meanest I have yet found.

Tuesday, July 12- Got on board the Cygnet at 9 a.m. The captain kept us until half past eleven. We then got under way in a very mean boat. Our dinner which we have just taken is a sample of the fare we shall have, but it's only one day.

Got in Alton at 5 p.m. It is a much smaller place than I had expected to see, but it appears to be rapidly improving. Almost all who visit Alton are disappointed in its smallness.

Wednesday, July 13- This morning found us in the Illinois river. This river has much less current than either the Ohio or the Mississippi, and the water is clear, but it is not considered good.

\* \* \* \* \*

Here the diary closes except for the itinerary which gives his destination as Naples, Illinois, where he debarks. His log is listed as follows:

New York to Philadelphia . . . . .	100 miles.
Philadelphia to Columbia, Penna via RR . . . . .	82 " .
Columbia to Hollidaysburg via Harrisburg, Penna. via canal . . . . .	172 " .
Hollidaysburg to Johnstown via RR . . . . .	36 " .
Johnstown to Pittsburg via canal . . . . .	103 " .
Pittsburg to Cincinnati via steamboat on the Ohio . . . . .	500 " .
Cincinnati to Louisville via steamboat . . . . .	15 " .
Louisville to St Louis " " . . . . .	500 " .
St Louis to Naples, Illinois via " . . . . .	100 " .

THE DIARY OF ALFRED S. WEEKS;  
HIS RETURN TO LONG ISLAND IN  
1839 VIA THE GREAT LAKES.

Tuesday, April 22, 1839- Left Exeter at 9 a.m.-took steamboat. Arrived at Naples (Illinois) at 11 p.m.; did not go to Beardstown until 7 the next morning. Found her a slow boat. Our accommodations are common, in fact the boat is anything but a pleasant one, but the day being beautiful and having good company who make up for the deficiency of the boat. But this pleasure will be of short duration as my friends will leave me at Pekin at which place we shall arrive today. This evening at nine o'clock I bid adieu to my much esteemed friend Mr. Parker. I stopped at Pekin, and they continued on the boat bound for Peoria. I will not attempt a description of the Illinois river as it is very much of a sameness.

Thursday, April 24- I hired a conveyance from Pekin to Hudson by way of Bloomington at which place we arrived at 9 o'clock p.m. Next morning we set out for Hudson. Got there at 8 in the morning of Friday the 26th of April.

Remained at Mr. Burtis's in Hudson from 26th of April until the 8th of May. Had a very agreeable visit.

Left with brother Carman for Low Point via Hanover (Metamora), and arrived at which place at five o'clock p.m.

Thursday, May 9th- I bid goodbye to Carman at 6:30 a.m. on his return to Hudson, a distance of 28 miles. I am waiting for the stage which is expected in an hour or so for Ottawa, at which place we will arrive at 6 o'clock p.m.

The country between Low Point and Ottawa is beautiful. A description of which by an able pen would surpass anything that a person could imagine who had never seen this reality. The prairies like unbounded oceans with now and then a herd of cattle and horses, groves in the distance, deer bounding away, fearful of intruders. But it is not as well settled as the middle counties of the state. I regret we are to leave for Chicago this evening, we shall not see much of the country.

Left Ottawa at 8 o'clock p.m. for Joliet with ten passengers inside and three or four outside. Found it extremely tedious. The night was exceedingly dark and with lightning and rain. Made slow progress. Got to Joliet at 8 o'clock a.m. and left for Chicago at which place we arrived at 4 p.m. The last twelve miles was very thinly settled. It appeared that Chicago had to depend upon itself for its resources, but, I believe on over east and west it is much better peopled.

The canal is the main dependence of the place. The canal communications have recently made a loan from the U.S. Bank, Pennsylvania, of one million dollars, and Chicago calculates of having the figuring of at least three-quarters of it. In fact I heard a gentleman say that the canal was the only thing that kept the place alive.

Saturday, May 11- Looked about Chicago. Very comfortably accommodated at the City Hotel.

Sunday, May 12th- Took the steamer, Thomas Jefferson, for Buffalo at 10 a.m. Found her a good boat. The, Illinois, seems to be the brag boat. Passed Southport at 3 p.m. The first arrival from Buffalo to Chicago this spring was 30th April.

Arrived at Milwaukee about 7 p.m. and although we remained there six or more hours taking wood yet the passengers did not go ashore in consequence of the rain which poured down in torrents. The boat did not get nearer than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of shore. Passengers were set out in yawls. Wood was brought in scows and flats. I retired to my berth at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock.

Monday, May 13th- We sailed far from shore occasionally out of the sight of land. This was my first adventure that I was lost to the sight of land on all sides. We could look to the right and left and appear as if we were the whole of creation. The wind blew freshly and the air more piercing. We were getting into a more northern climate. We had quite a gale during the night accompanied with snow.

Tuesday, May 14th- This morning the wind continued to blow very fresh. Passengers staggered about the cabin as if they were all drunk. Out of twelve lady passengers we had only one to breakfast this morning.

We touched at Mackinaw about 10 a.m. 'Twas cold, the ice was falling from the rigging. Vegetation scarcely began to look green. The town contained perhaps five hundred inhabitants. Some fine buildings. The inhabitants are made up of Indians, French and half-breeds. It is remarkable for its fisheries. There is a fort situated upon it, but it is vacated at present. The island is small and barren, soil sandy, trees dwarfed.

We landed again at Presque Isle-on Michigan side in the afternoon for the purpose of taking on wood. Here we had some time to ramble about. There are but two families living there and it is accessible only from the water side. It is densely timbered with small straight and slender trees consisting of birch, hemlock, fir, cedar, tamarack and poplar. I walked a mile on a path used to get out wood. I was delighted with the scenery. Although in a cold northern climate yet the thicket was so dense that the winds could not penetrate it. This was a testimony of the works of Nature; how the All Wise had guarded against the severity of the weather and had made a natural shelter for man and beast. The wild cat inhabits these forests. This is also fishing grounds.

Wednesday, May 15th- This morning we ran down Lake Huron getting into a warmer climate. Weather fair, wind west blowing moderately.

Thursday, May 16th- Arrived at Detroit at 9 p.m.

Friday, May 17th- Left Detroit at 8 a.m. We took on wood on an island opposite Sandusky. Did not touch there. Also passed the towns of Huron and Black River before sunset. Expect to get to Cleveland tonight; passed it but did not stop.

~~Stopped at Erie,~~ Pennsylvania. From the lake it looked like a small town, but when we got up on the bank I found it exceeding our expectations. It appears to be a very flourishing town and does not want of enterprise. There are many fine buildings, the brick appear to be of a superior quality. We stopped about two hours. We left about 2 p.m. May 18th for Buffalo, distance 90 miles. We passed several small town which appeared beautiful in the distance.



Saturday, May 18th- Left Erie, Pennsylvania at 2 p.m.

When I came in sight of the state of New York I felt a sensation that I cannot describe. It reminded me when I bid adieu to the last visible part of it, and I can scarcely realize that it is almost three years--and with it what changes, friends, dear friends, have passed from time to eternity.

We arrived at Buffalo at 11 p.m. - I must here observe that we had a delightful trip, and a good boat. The officers which were very attentive, studied to have everything agreeable, set a good table, and above all, the passengers were very agreeable. Many of which I feel a friendship for, and regret that we are to part so soon. It may be thought that there could not be so very friendly existing and mutual when we were only five  $\frac{1}{2}$  days together. But let a stranger go board a ship with no acquaintance and it will seem requisite that he have someone to communicate with, and when you find one whose disposition is something like your own, or possessive of a fine mind and intelligence and a happy way of communicating it, you will soon feel yourself quite attached and feel he is a friend.

Sunday, May 19th- We took a look this morning about town, with which we were pleased, and left for Niagara Falls by R. Road. Stopped at the Cataract Hotel. Visited Falls of which I will give a description another time.

Left Niagara Falls by R. Road for Lockport. Took packet for Rochester.

Arrived Westbury (Long Island) on Wednesday, May 22nd 1839; two weeks from Hudson, and nine days from Chicago.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: The Erie Canal connected the Hudson River at Albany with Lake Erie at Buffalo, a distance of 355 miles. It was completed in 1825. This water route was the most important route for travelling to the mid-west.

Note: A description of Chicago in 1830 describes it as a settlement of fifteen houses and a fort. As the terminus of the proposed Illinois, Michigan Canal, a townsite was platted, its boundaries being State street, Madison, Desplaines and Kinzie, East of State and south of Madison in the southward bend of the river, lay Fort Dearborn Reservation. A number of choice lots were sold for as high as \$200.00, while in the distance, at Madison and La Salle they sold as low as \$1.25. In 1833 immigration set in over the mid-west and some of these settlers seeing the possibilities of Chicago becoming an important city remained there. At the close of 1833 Chicago had a population of 150, they lived in shacks near the reservation.

The Canal brought an upsurge of speculation in 1833 -'36 and land all along the canal was selling for high prices. The business center of the town was on the south bank of the river. Every store on South Water Street had its warf front on the river. Plank roads were first laid, but they soon disappeared in the sand. A bog was everywhere which bred mosquitoes and its accompanying malaria.

When Alfred Weeks arrived via stagecoach he stopped at the City hotel which was located on the present site of the Sherman House. The stage coach he rode into town on was the one operating between Chicago and Peoria. It left Chicago for Peoria every Tuesday and Saturday.

Phebe Burtis first went west with her father and family to Jacksonville, Illinois in 1836. She stayed there a short time and then her father took his family to Hudson in the fall of 1835. Shortly thereafter she returned to Long Island to Aunt Alma's (Cornelia Alma Carman). She was only twelve years old when she lived in Jacksonville.

Alfred Weeks was twenty nine years old when he went to Jacksonville, and probably didn't pay too much attention to this step-daughter of his sister Mary's. It probably was in later years after she had returned to her Aunt Alma's that he commenced to take notice. She had by that time developed into a young lady, and their courtship was while she was living with Aunt Alma. Though he was seventeen years older than she, it made no difference. They were married August 3rd, 1846.

Alfred is employed as a bookkeeper in the merchantile store of O.D. Burtis's in Brooklyn when he married Phebe. He rented rooms near the store where he took his bride to live. A year and one half later their only child, Elizabeth Arabella, arrived on January 26th, 1848. She was named after her aunt, Phebe's sister, who was the first wife of JACOB HICKS BURTIS. Belle, as she was always called, was the idol of their hearts for the remainder of their days.

Belle is two years old when she and her parents went to Illinois to make their home. Following is a letter describing the trip westward through the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes:

Hudson McLean County Illinois  
1850

(To Hannah Burtis,  
South Oysterbay, L.I.)

Dear Sister:

I expect you think it is time you heard from the emigrants. We arrived safely, had a rather long passage. The first stop we made was at Eliza's, she has got all settled and appears as happy as can be. She does not have to work very hard, the worker that he had does all of the work.

As times have been dull she has not had much baking to do. We stayed there from Tuesday until Thursday, then we started on that wretched canal. There had been a very heavy rain which had done a great deal of damage to the canal so we were obliged to make a great many stops. We were over twenty four hours going 3 miles. Had not many passengers; had one girl from Jersey and her beau. They stopped and got married on the way, a couple of greenhorns. The boat was not very heavy loaded. They slept in the cabin one night, then went in the mid-ship and made their bed on the trunks and boxes. They got out before we got to Buffalo.

We got to Buffalo in the morning. Had very good luck in finding a steamboat that was a going out that day. We left Buffalo Saturday afternoon about 3 o'clock. Near the same time today we expect to be in Detroit which is about 350 miles. The lake has been as smooth as a river. Yesterday Lake Erie was quite rough, we had a pretty stiff wind from the west and the way I was seasick in the afternoon and evening, but got better and had a good sleep at night and an excellent appetite today. As for ASW he has eaten like a wolf as for instance at tea a piece of toast and four biscuits besides other things, and today for dinner I can't give the quantity, but I assure you it was no small allowance.

Arabella enjoys herself very much, she seems perfectly at home and is a great favorite with some of the ladys. Our stateroom is No 5, fixed in first rate style.

Monday, afternoon, July 22nd- We are today in Lake Huron; arrived in Detroit about 2 this morning. We then ran through Lake St Claire, stopped at a town called China and took on coal and also at another town in the Canada side named Port Larnia, after which we soon ran into Lake Huron, and we shall pass through it by noon tomorrow.

Wednesday, July 24th- Yesterday we had another beautiful day, but little wind, water smooth. Arrived at Mackinaw about eleven o'clock, we stopped nearly two hours. Alfred went ashore to the fort and took quite a stroll. When we left there we took a course to cross Lake Michigan, and about seven o'clock this morning we stopped at the first town in Wisconsin, the name I believe is Sheboygan, or something like it, being about fifty miles north of Milwaukee at which place we expect to be in about two or three hours.

Belle is quite sick, has got some fever, but I think it procedes from her teeth. We have had a very pleasant time so far; had music and dancing every night, that is something you would like. I laid on a velvet divan talking to a young clergyman, Episcopalian, going to Robin Nest, old Bishop Chase's place. He said he thought dancing would be allowed of in our church soon; thought it very innocent amusement; did not see why ministers could not dance. There were two doctors, two ministers. We have not had one drop of rain since we left Buffalo.

We arrived in Chicago early in the morning; left there in the afternoon, took the canal to Ottawa. Stayed there all night, tool a wagon for Hudson. Got to old man Burtis's, as they call him, Sunday morning.

The first one I saw was Father and Jacob. He is a very nice young fellow. As Mrs St John says, he has got a great deal of eastern politeness. We then took breakfast, then Jacob put his saddle on Gate, he got on and I got on behind and away we went over to Edwin's. Found the squire and his folks very well; got three fine looking children. If they

were dressed in fashion, they would not disgrace Long Island. He has got a nice little place. The house is small, got two rooms, a going to build more. His wife has a bad hand what they call a felon, so she can't do anything. We are going to move to Jacob's house as soon as it is finished in 3 or 5 weeks. His house has got 6 rooms so I can get along quite well. Jacob is a going to board with us.

Mr. Weeks thinks of farming, but not sure. I have not been in Bloomington yet. I have had so many places to go that I cannot get time to do anything. I'm getting to be a first rate rider on horseback. Father and Jacob have both got good horses to ride. I wish you were here to go with me.

Father is going to have a great many peaches, but not so large as common. Tell Uncle Treadwell he had better not fetch his horse in the kitchen again or he will do as Father's did, he went into the neighbor's house, opened the closet door and drank two pans of milk. The old lady was in the garden picking beans.

Our things all arrived in good condition, dishes were safe, stove is not like Aunt Eliza's.

I would like to be there to go shopping with Aunty this fall, the fashions in Bloomington are very much like New York. The prices of goods is about double. I am going to send on for all of my things.

I have tried to make bread and had good luck. If you have any green corn just make some batter the same as you would for fritters, and cut your corn, put in butter and fry. It's good eating I tell you.

P.E.W.  
PHEBE E. WEEKS  
(Phebe Burtis Weeks)

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Hudson, Illinois  
October 1, 1850

(To Miss Hannah A. Burtis  
South Oysterbay, L.I.)

Dear Sister:

\* \* \* I went to write last night but them lamps that I got won't burn anything but good lard, I tride it with some poor grease and it left me in darkness. I have not got to keepin' house yet as Jacob has not got his done; think he will in about three weeks. He has a very nice place. I shall have four rooms, bedroom back of the citchen. Mr. Weeks does not know wether he will build next spring on his place or not. He has good a nise stand of weat in and it looks nise. \*\*\* I have bin buisy for the last two weeks drying peaches. \* \* \* Such a time as we have in eating peaches and milk. W have to dry them on boards.

I have not bin to Bloomington yet. Jacob talks of gitin a light wagon; if he does I think he will go it then.

I went a visiting the other day horseback, took Arabella on before, trotted of in good stile. Mr. James Gildersleeve and his lady was thare. She is a fine woman. She is very fat, gos a head of me by a good deal. I like her very much.

There is talk of the railroad goin' through. The bill has past in congress.

I have not seen anything that look lik the little blacksnake yet. I do not suppose he is in this part of the cuntry.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours affectionately,  
PHEBE ELIZA

- - - - -  
Hudson, June 28, 1865

(To Cornelia Alma Carman  
% John Carll, Flushing, N.Y.)

My Dear Aunty:

\* \* \* I want you to write and let me know what time in August that you will start. The train gets to Hudson at half past four in the morning and the same in the afternoon.

We have church every Sunday, Meatodes and Baptis, the Baptis are building a very nise church, going to have a dinner on the Fourth-of July to raise some funds for finishing it, 50 cents admitance. In Bloomington there is all sorts of churches that one can think of. Had we not lost, or rather Bell, her Topsy, we minte have road to church in Bloomington once in a while, but some mean scamp stole her, she was very handsome. Mr. W-- had been offered \$150.00 for her. I suppose we must take things as they come. I begin to think like King Soloman that thare is a good deal of vanity and vexation of spirit.

From your affectionat niece

Phebe E. Weeks

This is a letter ~~quoted~~ exactly as it is written. It gives an idea of the literacy of the schoolteachers in 1842.

Hempstead  
March 8, 1842

(To Alfred Weeks)

Dear Brother

After a long silence we had the pleasure of hearing from a Dear Brother I could not imagine what could be the reason that you did not write I often visited the P.O. but did not receive much satisfaction in doing so we had not heard from you since August i wrote to you the next week after receiving your letter I have been very well this weinter excepting a cold, I sprained my foot this week which prevented me from attending to my school three days Mother has been as well as usual this winter, I am still boarding to uncle Williams, I have talked of changing my boarding place but I have concluded to remain there this quarter although I have a very long walk I have had a very good school this winter I have had about 20 in number, but I now have the district school it has been about 4 weeks since I took it they give me \$40 a quarter which answers me better than my other school did. I did not like to have them inspect me, the schoolhouse is some distance from uncle's I should think it was more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile I did talk of boarding at Mr S. Rushmor's but I concluded it was more than I could pay for my board 50 cts more than I pay at present. I thought perhaps I should not teach longer than this quarter I do not think teaching school is very pleasant employment (not for me) but I shall not go into my other businefs uniefs I can better myself although I feel if I had taught school long enough I have 30 scholars. Dear Brother I thought I would tell you not to uneasy yourself thinking that I am going to have Henry for my companion for I never expect to have him I have not spoken to him in about 4 months he came one afternoon for me to take a ride with him and I refused and I have not spoken to him since I feel very thankful for all that you had said to me about it I do not know where my eyes could have been I think they must have been turned around or I was and I cannot tell which I think I should have repented before this time but I have said I would not make any engagement uniefs cousin Maria Seaman would give her consent I think you would be willing to that I trust what she is pleased with and I am pleased with that you will not have any objection I will discontinue this subject. Edmund has got to be Methodist as well as myself it is very pleasing to me perhaps it will not be to you he told me he had never enjoyed himself so well before it has been almost 6 or 8 weeks since he thinks it is the happies 6 weeks that he has ever seen he often regrets that he had not known the enjoyments that there is in this religion I think Brother has not taken one drop of the forbidden poison in 8 weeks or more I am very much pleased there is such a change in him he attend meeting very regular I do not expect you was very well pleased when you heard that I had got to be a shouting Methodist but I can say that I never enjoyed myself as well before perhaps if I had not got to be a Methodist I should have had H— and that would not have done I thought I liked my meeting better than H—;

Your affectionate sister  
C A W  
(Catherine A. Weeks)



## HANNAH ALMA BURTIS &amp; JOHN F. CARLL—

**LOVE, TRAGEDY & OIL**

Jacob and Eliza Burtis had four children, the youngest of which was Hannah, who was only two years old when her mother died in 1832. Eliza's sister, Alma, took care of these children when her sister died. Jacob married again three years later, and shortly afterwards went with his new wife and his three oldest children to Illinois. Hannah remained with her Aunt Alma in South Oysterbay, Long Island. Alma loved her niece as much as if she had been her very own child, and did everything for her that a loving mother could do.

Hannah grew into a beautiful, lovely lady, and many suitors did she have. Even some of her own cousins were fascinated with her charm and beauty. Her cousin Augustine Burtis was fascinated with her, and even cousin Oliver, who became the successful merchant of 66 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. Oliver Burtis who later built the mansion on Chinton Street, and mingled amongst the outstanding business successes of Brooklyn. Since Hannah's father was in the far west, it was Oliver who arranged for Hannah's marriage to John F. Carll in the fashionable St Ann's Church on November 15th, 1853.

John and Hannah went to Washington on their honeymoon where John wrote to Aunt Alma of their visiting the same sights that a honeymooning couple would visit today. There never could have been a man who loved a woman more devotedly than did John; she was his idol and joy, his everything. But their love was of such a short duration—only six years. Hannah was sick most of that time, and during this time she had had two babies, both of whom died. John patiently took her to many places in quest of her health, but to no avail. Hannah died September 15th, 1859.

Of all the Burtis ancestry, Hannah Burtis was probably the most beautiful, and the most attractive of them all. She probably had more suitors and was more sought after than any other Burtis girl.

With Hannah's death, two persons saw little further to live for, her husband, and her Aunt Alma. Never did they completely ever reconcile themselves to their loss. In all of John's letter he is constantly lamenting the loss of his beloved Hannah. He writes ~~that~~ he is just a wanderer, living a useless, worthless and selfish life, living just for himself.

The famous "Drake" oilwell had been dug near Titusville, Pennsylvania in August, 1859 opening up the oilfields of that territory. John went out there during the Spring of 1865 and soon becomes an important oilman. He spent many years there developing the field

In 1867 John went to Texas in quest of oil. He took a drilling rig to a prospective field near Nacadoches, Texas, stayed there long enough to get rig to working, didn't like the prospects so sold his rig and returned to Pennsylvania.

Following are many letters that have been preserved that were written about Hannah, John, and the oil fields of Pennsylvania and Texas.

- - - - -

When Hannah heard that her sister, Phebe, was contemplating going to Illinois she expressed her disapproval in the following letter. Phebe was then living in Brooklyn with her husband Alfred Weeks who was working for O.D. Burtis in his merchantile store.

February the 29th 1849

My Dear Sister

As i have not heard from you i thought you had gone to California with the throng that is going. Captain Goule has gone and two of his brothers. Edward Jones has gone to dig gold or something else.

\* \* \* \*

Cousin Benjamin has been here and said you talk of going to Ilanoys. You deserve to be whipt for thinking of it. i should think a man of Mr. Weeks' education would not go even if his wife did. i shan't hear of you a going where with Bell and bring her up on the prayres.

Your loveing sister  
H.A.B  
(Hannah A. Burtis)



You will note from the letter that the excitement of the gold strike in California had even reached Long Island. The letter tells how some people felt towards going to the prairies of the west. We wonder why Alfred and Phebe didn't join the throngs going to the more exciting California gold rush rather than to choose the less interesting mid-west prayeres.

This poem was given to Hannah by an unknown suitor sometime about 1847-48:

O! I did love you dearly;  
 And give you toys and rings,  
 And thought you ment sincerely;  
 When you took my pretty things,  
 But your heart has grown as big,  
 As a fountain in the fall:  
 And your love that was so spicy  
 It did not last at all.

I gave you once a locket;  
 It was filled with my own hair;  
 And you put it in your pocket  
 With very special care.  
 But a jeweller has got it--  
 He offered it to me,  
 And another; that is not it;  
 Around your neck I see.

Before this gets a fashion;  
 I daily bent my knee;  
 But I sought this shrine of passion,  
 And I found my idol--thee,  
 Though never love intenser,  
 Had bowed a soul before it;  
 Thine eye was on the censor  
 And not the hand that bore it.

- - - - -

And then another written about the same time:

One look of love from those bright eyes  
 To cheer this anxious breast  
 One smile from thee I'd fondly prize  
 And be forever blest;  
 Will not my sighs and pity move thee?  
 Say that thou wilt be mine  
 Then bless the heart that fondly loves thee  
 And be my Valentine.

"THE UNKNOWN"

A Song,  
 Presented to Hannah Burtis  
 By Mr. Luke Fleet, Jr.  
 February 16th, 1847

The sun has set behind the hill  
 And up you dreary moor,  
 And up the lad a lad there came  
 Up to a farmer's door;  
 Can you tell me if any there be  
 Who will give me employ  
 To plough or to sow or to reap or to mow  
 Or to be a farmer's boy? (repeat)

My father died my mother's left  
 With us five children small  
 And what is worse for mother yet  
 I'm the eldest of them all.  
 Though little I am I fear not work  
 If you will me employ,  
 To plough or to sow or to reap or to mow  
 Or to be a farmer's boy.

I'll try the lad the farmer said  
 No longer let him weep  
 Oh yes! Kind sire the daughter replied  
 While the tears rolled down her cheeks  
 For the lad who will work 'tis hard to want  
 Or to wander without employ  
 To plough - - -

But if you do not me employ  
 One favor I have to ask  
 Will you shelter me till the break of day  
 From this cold and wintry blast;  
 At the break of day I'll trudge away  
 If you don't me employ  
 To plough - - -

In the course of time he grew a man  
 The good old farmer died  
 And he left to the lad the farm that he had  
 And his daughter for a bride  
 The lad who is a farmer now  
 Oft thinks and smiles with joy,  
 On the lucky, lucky day when he came that way  
 To be a farmer's boy  
 To plough - - -

Hannah had many young men dangling from her heart strings. The following poem was from another of her lovers:

Are you then a thing of art  
Seducing all and loving none  
And have I strove to gain a heart  
Which every coxcomb thinks his own?

Tell me at once if this be true  
And I shall calm my jealous breast  
Shall learn to join the dangling crew  
And share your caresses with the rest.

- - - - -  
And then here is another: dated February 14, 1845

Thou are the first I blushing own,  
That kindled love within my breast  
For there it reigned without control,  
And still unconscious a welcome guest.

O then return my ardent love  
Now let my heart in sorrow pine  
But join with me this life to prove  
Pure hymns joys and be my Valentine.

Then haste my love and name the day  
When I can call you mine  
And we to church shall haste away  
My charming Valentine.

- - - - -  
Brooklyn 1850

(To Cornelia Alma Carman)

Dear Aunt

I went and cald on Rachel Jane this afternoon, I think she is all out for getin married. She has bin makin haf a dozen nightgowns, caps, draws, shimiss and lots of other things. She had bin to New York and got two poket handkerchiefs, quite pretty, one she paid 23 and sixpense, the other 10 shillings, and a pease of lace for her rist that was 9 shillings. I ask her wen it was coming of, she said I need not expect it before forth of July, that is if she can get anyone to have her. His business will not be in a hurry then. Her Grandmother says she thinks it will be to hot, better be done before.

\* \* \* \*

I have bin to O.D. (O.D. Burtis) once since she left. They are trying to let thare house, he has had another bilious atak and thinks it will be better for him. Phebe Ann flys around (O.D.s sister) the same as ever, says she cant find time to get married if she wanted to, \* \* \* \*

I think Hannah is to Rockaway, the girls have been sent home, as they dont think Uncle Clinton (Pettit) will live; got consumption. O.D. just sent word that Uncle Clinton died.

PHEBE

## SATIRE-

Brooklyn  
Dec 27, 1852

Dear Cousin (Hannah)

Since I last heard from you till now no leisure half hour has come to thank you for the kindness of an introduction (through Aunt Alma) to this demure, plain lady. Your motives I cannot doubt are those of purest generosity, I am truly under many obligations. Your judgment too, is much to be commended for the selection of character. A lady of such retiring and modest demeanor cannot fail to fill with great dignity ~~the~~ post assigned her. The very attitude she assumes commands profound respect, no gentleman yet having presumed even to prefs her gentle hand, save one, and he, unhappy wight, must be supposed insane, for slowly approaching as if enchanted, he extends a brawny arm, and, can you believe it? raised her by her tiny waist to near his tender point, faintly smiled, with eyes upturned and sat her down in silence. I may, I trust, long be favored by her watchful care and profit by her prudence. She saves my pains and spares my time, both of which are money. Long, long may she grace the polished corner of my sugar maple desk. As a business companion and partner I desire no better, but as a sharer of ones joys and sorrows and to unburden a troubled spirit—she is cold, repulsive, devoid of tendernefs and sympathetic feeling. In truth her waist is too small to hold a large heart. Try, try again.

Very truly,

O.  
(O.D. Burtis)

South Oysterbay  
November 26th

Dear Sister

\* \* \* \*Cousin Oliver (O.D. Burtis) has bought a very handsome house on Clinton Avenue, he has about one acre of ground, has a splendid garden, keeps a gardener, has one cow. The house is furnished elegantly, two glasses that reach almost to the floor, brussels carpet, chairs and settee is red dammask; is going to keep a horse and carriage.

\* \* \* \*

Mr Hendrickson (a cousin of O.D.) has moved on Fulton Avenue. They are going to build through to Hanover Place, then they will be in among the aristocrats. I think she will have to be a little more polished in their manners. He keeps coal yard and is doing very well. Mrs. H— has left off taking snuff, so Mr. H.— bought her the watch he promised whenever she quit taking snuff.

H.A.C.  
(Probably Hannah Alma)

Cousin Oliver (Oliver D. Burtis) was the son of Elias Burtis 2nd, and the nephew of JACOB HICKS BURTIS. Oliver is the outstandingly successful Burtis. He has the merchantile establishment at 66 Fulton, Street, Brooklyn. It is here that several other members of the Burtis family worked at different times, and it is here that Alfred Weeks worked before going West to live. It was Oliver who arranged for the marriage of Hannah Burtis and John Carll; it was Oliver who is called upon by his cousins in the West to handle many business transactions for them. Oliver appreciated his beautiful cousin Hannah.

July 7, 1851  
Brooklyn

Cousin H-- (Hannah)

In one of my recent walks down Fulton St amongst other articles, gay, grotesque, bright and beautiful, I was attracted by a fine display of human forms, divine in the case of Atkins, Daguerrian, Artist, and there in the foreground, and prettiest of them all was the picture of my country cousin. I venture this remark with scarce a thought of flattery, for truth is no fiction, and you of course, will neither be wiser nor more vain by reason of it.

Passing on from your reflected self, a thought came across me that you were my debtor, although you may have forgotten the promise, I think it never been performed. It was no less than this, and made too in conjunction with Cousin A.P. of Rockaway (Amelia Pettit), that you should make for my personal use a pin cushion of the most approved kind. Cat--has finished hers as ordered, viz with stuffing of rose leaves and kisses, at least so I suppose from its extreme tendernefs of touch, and having been several months in use with no diminution of good qualities. Circumstances now require that another post be graced with a similar article and I call upon you for the payment of the old debt with interest added in shape of extra stuffing which may be composed of any material you think most conducive to long life and happynefs. The shape most convenient is a flat back such as may be tacked to the spot required. It is never moved, but remains a permanent fixture of the office, the observed, like your portrait in the showcase.

I do not yet give up the idea of a pedethian excursion through L.I. You may possibly be surprised this summer some day at dusk by the arrival of a footman from the forest shades of the interior. Should I begin the journey and reach your place, after a few hours rest I should ask your company in a walk to the lake. Will you go?

Very truly,

O  
(O.D. Burtis)

Another of Hannah's cousins, Augustine W. Burtis, was very fond of her. He leaves an interesting description of an unusual show he had hoped to have taken Hannah to see. The letter describing the show is as follows. It has an interesting ending which you may figure out for yourself.

1852

Cousin Hannah:

I did not really think you would go on Monday or I should have come over to see you off. I am sorry we did not go to Broadway as I intended to do Monday night. \* \* \* Azariah gave me a ticket and I went to see the "Panorama of Ireland". Never having seen one before I cannot attempt to describe it accurately, however, I will do the best I can.

On a stage about fifteen feet in front of the audience is a large gilt frame 20 x 10 feet high behind which the canvases move. There is according to this a great deal of fine scenery in Ireland, not excelled by any in America. Donnybrook Fair is one of the paintings; it represents a county fair; in one tent is exhibited the fat girl from Kilkenny, who not having reached her fourteenth year has attained the weight of two hundred and twenty eight pounds. Back of the tents is the most famous race course in Ireland with several of their most favorite coursers racing on it. In another part of it is an Irishman with his shillalagh who not having had a fight all day, and being desirous of one, with his stick in one hand and trailing his coat on the ground behind him, politely desires any gentleman from the crowd to come forth and put his foot on that coat, and won't he knock his senses into his skull for the next two weeks. Another painting represents Mr. O'Leary and Mrs. O'Flannigan talking over love matters although it is no match of their own. Mrs O'F-- thinks she can give Peggy half a dozen chairs, a few tables, a feather bed and a table cloth, and a few diapers. Mr. O'L-- supposes he will have to give Larry a slice of the mountain farm. This is but an imperfect description of the Paintings.

\* \* \* \*

If you do not come down, I'll send the greatest lot of valentines to you, I know you can come if you choose.

Yours,

Augustine W. Burtis

P.S. If I see John I'll tell him you don't want him to kiss you any more. I hope you have entirely recovered the use of your limbs from last Sunday's desperate struggle.

A description of the first trains through Hudson, Illinois.

April 7, 1853  
Hudson, Illinois

Dear Sister (Hannah Alma Burtis)

\* \* \* \* I am sorry to hear that you have been so sick. You must take good care of yourself or I am afraid it will be a long time before you will get over it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Next week I shall make soap, I can't be beat in making soap, both hard and soft.

\* \* \* \* \*

Johney Carll can't come over without us knowing something about it.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is now six o'clock, time to get tea and go to milking. Have got 4 cows to milk, will have seven this summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Today I have been watchen the cars, they run down today about oposite the house, I tell you it made me think of New York once more. They had quite a long string, most of them was boarding house cars something like baggage cars fixed up with bunks so they can sleep and eat like other folks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your affectionate sister  
P.E. Weeks

AND HANNAH IS TO BE MARRIED:

Wednesday Nov. 9, '53

(To Rev. B.C. Cutler)

Dear Sir

The favour of your attendance at St Anns on Tuesday morning next 15th inst at a  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 9 o'clock is desired to join in holy wedlock Mifs Hannah Alma Burtis of Oysterbay and Mr John F. Carll of Flushing, L.I.

Please drop me a line and say if the parties need alter their arrangements.

Very Truly  
O.D.B.  
(O.D. Burtis)

## THEIR HONEYMOON

Washington, D.C.  
National, Hotel  
Nov. 18, 1853

Dear Aunt: (Cornelia Alma Carman)

We arrived safely in this city on Wednesday evening, in good health and fine spirits. The weather has been very pleasant during the whole time, although somewhat cloudy today.

We have visited the Capitol, Smithsonian Institute, Washington's Monument, White House, Etc, all of which have afforded us a great deal of gratification and delight. Today we go to the Patent Office which is perhaps the most interesting and instructive department in the city. We have not yet fully determined where to spend the coming Sappath. Shall probably be home on the following Monday or Tuesday.

We all join in love. In haste-  
Yours,

J.F. CARLL

- - - - -

Syosett, L.I.  
Sept 21, 1854

Mifs Carman (Cornelia Alma Carman)  
Dear Madam

Phil tells me you ask information in ref- to artificial teeth--I have a full set upon gutta percha and much prefer that material to any other at the same cost or regardlefs of cost-- Mine were made by D.F. Darrow, Fulton St., Brooklyn. The full set cost \$30.00. My counsel is to all, to have nothing to do with artificial teeth as long as the natural ones will do at all, and when they will not, then part with every one, good and bad, and have nothing to do with natural teeth-- have no partial set in the same jaw--

I hear that you contemplate another trip to Ill-- I should say you ought by this time to be quite satisfied with traveling, and become sober and steady--get married and settle down upon L.I.

Yours very truly,

O.D. Burtis



Alma Carman to Phebe Weeks on the death of Hannah:

Flushing  
Dec 30, 1859

My Dear Niece (Phebe Burtis Weeks)

\* \* \* \*

She had such poor health and sick babies which required so much care, but procrastination the thief of time is one cause, alas, that Dear One can write nor talk anymore. I have been putting off from day to day in hopes I should feel more like it, but I feel her loss as much today as the day of her death three months ago, for I have no one to look to now. She who would have been my prop and stay in my old age is gone. Who have I now? You are so far away. O how often has she said, Why did they go away out there where we could see them no more?

She and her dear children are gone to be with Christ, which is far better; we must go to them, they cannot come to us. If they could they would not for they are now at rest with their Savior where sicknefs and sorrow are no more. It was hard to part with her but it was the Lord's will. He does all things for the best, so we must submit, for it will be but a short time before the Lord will say, "Be ye also ready." I believe she was prepared a few hours before her death, she repeated a favorite hymn 156;

Father, what e'r of earthly bliss  
Thy sovereign will denies  
Accepted at thy throne of grace  
Let this petition rise.

Give me a calm and thankful heart  
From every murmur free  
The blessing of thy grace impart  
And let me live to Thee

We did not think she would go so soon, she did not keep her bed but two days. Friday before her death she asked me to open the window and let her look out. She said, how pleasant it looks. She died Saturday night at twelve o'clock. Fifteen minutes before her death she had been asleep, I waked her, she said, I have had such a sweet sleep, such a happy sleep, and said I might lay her head upon the pillow. She talked as well as ever, At last I was alone with her, she had insisted upon John lying down, he had had a very bad headache. He felt very bad to think he left her. She died and I hardly knew it, she went so easy. He was so good and kind to her in her sicknefs and he has always been so to me.

She often talked of coming out to see you last summer, but she was afraid of the chills and feber. She and John went to Freehold the first of July and spent a week in hopes she would feel better. When she returned she was not so well.

\* \* \* \*

Give my love to Edwin and Jacob and their families. I hear that Mr. Weeks has lost his foot, which makes me feel sad.

\* \* \* \*

Loving Aunt  
C A C  
(Cornelia Alma Carman)

John Carll accompanied Alma Carman to Hudson, Illinois in 1860, on his return East he passes through Pittsburgh; following is a description of the city:

Flushing  
Oct 25, 1860

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman)

You will see by the date of this letter that I am at home. I wrote you from Cincinnati which place I left on Saturday morning and reached Pittsburgh that night. \* \* \* \*

They have fine churches here and many of them but most of the other buildings are nothing to brag of. On Monday I took my well tried team of two and walked over to Monongahela City, visited the glass works, iron forges, etc, and then went four miles up Salmon Run, a very romantic stream, to the coal mines--took a look at them and came back to the rim cross lots, in order to get on a high mountain which commands a fine view of the city ( or would do so if it were not for the smoke)--got a good view of the whole thing.

In the afternoon took a tour in a different direction. Pittsburgh is situated on a point of land at the juncture of the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers where they meet and form the Ohio. About a mile above the point the mountains rise abrupt and high, almost like a wall from the river. On the opposite side of the Alleghany lies Alleghany City skirting along the river flanked by a steep mountain in the rear and connected to Pittsburgh by five bridges nearly half a mile long each. On the opposite side of the Monongahela river lies Monongahela City backed by mountains and joined to Pittsburgh by two bridges. The three places taken together (and they are properly speaking but one) have a population of about 120,000. It is a place of great activity. And you will perceive that as it is surrounded entirely by mountains with the exception of the three openings forced through by rivers. In a dark day with a cloud resting on the tops of these mountains for a roof, it forms one of the most complete smoke houses on a grand scale that can be imagined. It looked to me as though the houses, furniture, shrubbery, people and everything had undergone a pretty thorough curing in a manner.

I left there at two o'clock on Tuesday morning for Philadelphia. We crossed the Alleghany mountains a little after sunrise. The mountains and gorges are covered in most places with a thick growth of timber, pine, maple, hemlock and oak. The frost had clothed the trees in their most gorgeous variegated robes, while the evergreens in all their freshness formed a rich background, which made a picture of one so bright and grand had I beheld it on canvas I should have said it was too highly colored. The scenery along the whole route from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, a distance of 353 miles, is most charming, and to behold it is worth more than the expense of the trip. There is every variety of view, from the wild, romantic and thrilling, as you gracefully wind mid-air around the forest strided mountain side--cross the wild mountain gorge, shoot the dark tunnels (in some cases over half a mile in length) and as suddenly emerge on a bridge over a rock walled river. Then to the bright peaceful and lovely landscape as you pass among the highly improved farms along the fertile valley of the lovely Susquehanna. I never remember to have passed over a more interesting section of the country.

It is just thirteen months tonight since Hannah died. I have just now for the first time since my return looked into my room. I have been very sad since I left you--going home but no glad heart to welcome you, no arms stretched out for a glad embrace. I know I shall see her in dreams tonight.

JOHN F. CARLL

John Carll's brother, Nathaniel, went to eastern Texas where he established a mercantile business just before the Civil War. He says "The people there load him down with kindness. They do not pay their bills very promptly however."

Flushing  
Feb. 5, 1961

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman  
Hudson, Illinois)

\* \* \* \* \*Some evenings I have been busy--and at other times, seated in the "old arm chair", which I have in my room, and musing over the past, the bright picture of happier days which I loved so well thus mentally to gaze upon has unconsciously faded into the dim mistiness of dreamland, and I have awakened to find the evening flown with the sweet illusions of my dream--and with that sad feeling of desolation and heart vacancy which may be felt but not described. I have again hastened to find forgetfulness in nature's sweet restorer, sleep.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nathaniel has not yet returned from Texas, we expect him about the first of March. Lemah has had several letters. He was in first rate health. He says the people there load him down with kindness. They do not pay their bills very promptly however, and the business prospects is rather gloomy. They have just removed in their new store and are prepared to do a large business. But if "Uncle Abe's" friends do not show a more conciliatory spirit toward the South there is no telling what will become of the New York merchants.

Yours,  
JOHN (JOHN CARLL)

O I L

In August 1859, Edwin L. Drake sank the first oil well at Titusville, Pennsylvania, commencing the great oil industry in Pennsylvania. Only five years later John Carll became a pioneer in that same field.

Pleasantville, Pa  
March 12, 1865

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman  
Flushing, Ill)

\* \* \* \* \* I came out here a week ago last Thursday intending to stay only three or four days, but when I got here I found it necessary to remain and make arrangements for commencing operations here before the roads become impassable. I am now waiting for the engines to come which ought to have been here last week. How long I shall have to wait I do not know, but hope to get home by Saturday night.

\* \* \* \*

My experiences in this region so far lead me to conclude that it is not a very pleasant county to be in. But I suppose I shall have to try it for a while at least.

The crowds of people still continue to pour in from all directions. The hotels are overflowing--land is constantly advancing in price and where it will all end no one can tell. \* \* \*

I received your letter from Flushing, before opening it I recognized the handwriting. What sad memories and earnest longings it awakens in my heart.

Yours, Gratefully & affectionately  
JOHN

— — — — —  
Pleasantville  
August 6, 65

Dear Aunty

Since my return I have been kept pretty busy in attending to the wants of the drillers, getting tools repaired, etc.

One well is now down six hundred feet, the other about three hundred and fifty feet. No oil yet, but Mrs. Weeks had better be getting her case ready as we hope to strike the vein soon.

I found more difficulty in adapting myself to circumstances this time after my return than I ever did before. Rainy weather, muddy roads, populated hay beds, fried beef steak (all the same if made of mutton or veal), baked beans and dried apple sass, were rather hard to get used to after my three weeks of city life and feasting in New York. But I have survived it all and settled down in my usual track. I am needed here all of the time, and perhaps it is well for me to remain here away from the allurements of city life, where I can plod on in my own way uncaring and uncared for without being a source of trouble and annoyance to friends around me.

\* \* \* \* \*

You must write and let me know how you found things in Illinois. How did you like the sleeping car?

JOHN (John Carll)

Pleasantville, Pa  
 Venango County  
 August 20th, 1865

(To Miss Eliza A. Weeks  
 Hudson, McLean Co., Ill)

Dear Niece

I have not been to Titusville but once since I came through there on my way from New York, and consequently did not receive your letter of the 24th as soon as I would had it been directed to this place. Titusville is about six miles from here and the roads have been so bad and I had so much much to attend to at the wells that I have not travelled around much.

Were I to give a correct description of the road from Pit Hole City (now Oil City) to Titusville (11 miles) over which about one thousand barrels of oil are carted daily besides immense quantities of lumber, furniture, provisions, engines, drilling tools &c - you would think it an exaggeration. Sometimes on a trip from one place to the other you might see three or four dead horses in the mud holes. I have known wagons to become so firmly embedded in the mud that four horses could not draw the front wheels out after they had been unloaded and uncoupled from the back ones. But it has been dry now for some time and the roads are much better.

On the 1st of April last, Pit Hole City consisted of a farm house and stable-. It now has eight or ten large hotels, store of every kind, two banks, two telegraph offices, probably five hundred houses, and I am told that some days over three thousand strangers take dinner there. You will see from this that it is a live place.

One of our wells is about two miles from "the city", the other a short distance from Pleasantville. They are progressing very satisfactorily, but do not yield oil yet. It will be several weeks before we get down to the depth where the oil ought to be. Perhaps we will get it, perhaps not.

I regret very much my inability to visit you this fall. I know I should enjoy a trip to the prairie vastly. But I am tied down here and begin to fear that I shall not be able to go home, even, for a month to come.

\* \* \*

Wishing to be remembered in love to all.

Yours

UNCLE JOHN  
 (John Carll)

Pleasantville, Penna  
Oct 31, 1865

(To Cornelia Alma Carman  
Hudson, Illinois)  
Dear Auntie

I have been so busy since my return that I have only been to Titusville three times. I accidentally heard there was a letter advertized for me and today sent for it. My letters should be addressed to Pleasantville. \* \* \*

I am still pegging away for oil, but the immediate prospect of obtaining it does not seem very bright. Both wells are now over 700 feet deep. I have been pumping one of them today, but as yet have got no oil. It is slow work when at such a depth. My health has been very good so far although it has been very sickly here. An epidemic of bilious typhoid fever has been prevalent and quite fatal. At Pit Hole City about two miles from one of our wells they have also had the small pox and dysentery. This is not to be wondered at when we consider the manner in which that place has been shoved together. Seven months ago there was but one house there. Now There is a resident population of about five thousand and a daily floating population of at least three thousand more. Probably the growth of the place is more remarkable than any other in the United States. Ten months ago that part of Pit Hole was not producing a single barrel of oil, now it is yielding about 9000 barrels daily.

This drilling for oil is a very uncertain vexatious and laborious business. My experiences here have been by no means pleasant. I never spent a summer with so few of the comforts and necessaries (to say nothing about the luxuries) of life. But I do not mean to complain of personal matters. They are nothing to anyone only to me.

This reminds me of a letter written to my niece, Maria. She asked me last Spring if I was going to write to her, I said, I had nothing to write. She replied, "Then write me one of your nothings. Thinking you might like to know what I wrote to the school teacher, I enclose a copy of the entire letter.

JOHN (John Carll)

Sad are the memories  
Through my brain,  
Memories of loved ones  
Never again  
On earth to be greeted or cherished by me  
But what are these memories  
Nothing to thee  
Nothing to any one-  
Only to me.

Then why should I write them  
Why more complain  
Of joys that return  
Never again?-  
Better bury my sorrows in oblivious sea-  
For what are these Sorrows?-  
Nothing to thee-  
Nothing to anyone  
Only to me.

The sun of the present  
 May be bright with love,  
 Making fragrant the air  
 And clear skies above—

Such sunshine and fragrance may be grateful to thee  
 But what is the present?

Nothing to me—  
 Since She cannot share it,  
 Nothing to me.

Life's beckoning Hope Star,  
 With brilliant rays,  
 May promise in future  
 Happier days—

Bright and happy may the future prove unto thee,  
 But I fear it will bring—

Nothing to me  
 Save sorrow and sadness  
 Nothing to me.

Thus thinking and living  
 No wonder I seem—  
 A "Strange contradiction":—  
 My life's a dream,

Blending strange contrarities, and hence ~~ever~~ must be  
 In all of its phases

Nothing to thee  
 Nothing to anyone,—  
 Only to me.

Then since my lifes past  
 Is nothing to thee  
 And my present and future  
 Are nothing to me—

(Save a school to prepare me for those mansions above,  
 Where I hope for a union with those that I love.)

Past, present and future all must be

Nothing to any one  
Nothing to thee

And as far as earth's joys go

Nothing to me.

Thus, when you see as I have "nothing to write"  
 That nothing but nothing I've written upon  
 So, I here close my nothing with a kind good-night  
 And sign myself nothing but—

Old Uncle John



Pleasantville, Pa  
June 17, 1866

(To Cornelia Alma Carman  
Hudson, Illinois)

Dear Auntie

\* \* \* \*

Every man needs a home and family ties to make him a useful member of society. I know this now by my own experience. If I had known it sooner and acted accordingly I would not have been the aimless useless being I am. Time was, when the memory of the lost was mingled with a sense of personal discomfort in being deprived of home and its endearments. But now my domestic wants and habits are broken up. I am a wandered, cold, selfish, unsocial, living only in the memories of the past and satisfied to make my home wherever night may overtake me. Time only increases my disinclination to renew those obligations which I am satisfied would make me a better man and more worthy member of society, but which would involve a radical change in my present habits and mode of living much more difficult of accomplishment than it would have been several years ago.

\* \* \* \*

I am still "pegging away" for oil but with not very brilliant success, although I ought not to complain when I see so many who have done so much worse. One of our wells has been pumping since January. It only yields about ten barrels a day. We have 65 acres of ground there and as a test well proving it to be oil territory I consider it a good thing. Our other well I have been putting deeper, it is now 840 ft deep; quite a hole in the ground. The indications are very good. I am going to test it next week. Whether we get oil or not I am satisfied from the quality of the rock that it is good oil land. We have 40 acres there and it is about 3 miles from the other piece.

\* \* \* \*

I was surprised to hear of Edwin's marriage. Mr. Lamberson says he is a "sly fellow"- he didn't hear him say woman once while he was in N.Y.

JOHN

(Edwin Elias Burtis returned to New York to get his second wife, Mary Emma Weeks, who was a niece of his step-mother.)

— — — — —

Pleasantville  
Sept 16, 1866

Dear Auntie

\* \* \*

I have been busy and in constant worry and perplexity for the last month or more. We got the tools fast in one of our wells. It is 840 feet deep. I have worked constantly and hard trying everything that my ingenuity could devise, but to no purpose. They are there yet and I have about concluded to abandon the well.

\* \* \*

The well we first struck is still producing. It will pay expenses and make something over, but not enough to make any dividend for the company.

Affectionately yours

JOHN

John tries his luck for finding oil in Texas.

Melrose, Texas  
March 25, '67

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman)

\* \* \* \* \*

I started from Pleasantville on my Texas trip Jan. 1st supposing I should return by the 1st of April. But one delay has followed another and it looks now as if I should not reach home before the middle or the last of Ma y. I was detained nine days in Pittsburgh waiting for the machinery which I shipped on a steamboat. I then came on here as speedily as possible supposing the machinery would follow by the time I had looked around a little a nd decided what to do. The severity of the winter has delayed it on the way and the consequence is I have been waiting now eight weeks and it is not here yet.

It is about 100 miles to Shreveport and it takes two weeks for teams to go in and bring a load back. We have sent the teams and in about ten days I hope to be at work testing for oil. The well is about five miles from here and I am staying there most of the time getting the derrick engine house in readiness so as to lose no time when the tools come.

My faith in the oil is very weak--so weak indeed that I refuse to take any risk in the matter. The indications are entirely different from Penn. and I am apprehensive that the oil is all near the surface and so scattered that it cannot be got in paying quantities.

I have sold the machinery and shall stay to put it up and show them how to operate, when, if the oil does not spout immediately I shall leave Texas without regret. This part of Texas at least, is not all that it has been represented to be. To be sure the climate is mild and the soil good. But the crops are very uncertain. One good crop in fice is about an average. Ten days ago peach trees were in blossom and nearly leafed out, corn, potatoes, peas, etc were growing finely. In two days the thermometer went down from 86 to 22. A "Norther" came on and covered the ground with four inches of sleet and snow which lay for three days. Vegetation was entirely destroyed and many trees killed. The Spring work has all to be done over again, and then perhaps in July then everything promises well a drouth will set in and all be destroyed with the heat. I like the northern climate much the best even if it is colder.

This is the loneliest place I ever was in. I sleep in a room back of Dr. Keek's office, make my own bed, will be glad to get back where I can have more society than my pipe. It takes mail four weeks to get here from home.

Yours aff.

JOHN  
(John F. Carll)

Mobile, Ala  
May 17, '67

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman

You will see from the heading of this that I am on my way home. A delay of a few hours here gives me a chance to fulfill my promise of writing you. I left Melrose somewhat sooner than I had anticipated. The machinery arrived, I put it up, tested the well, found it would not pay at the depth then drilled (100 ft)--, concluded to let it stand still a week or two so as to buy some of the parties out-, and I took advantage of the opportunity to leave for home. I have had enough of Texas for the present. If after drilling deeper they should find large quantities of oil there, I may return at some future time. But I scarcely anticipate such a result. Consequently, I have not invested a dollar there and so far my expedition has proved to be unremunerative. If the machinery is eventually paid for as agreed, I shall not lose much however on the operation.

I left Melrose on the 8th and came through Crocket, Huntsville, Houston and Galveston, thence by steamer to New Orleans--the first sea voyage I ever took. It is 400 miles and takes 48 hours. We had a storm on the way and it was pretty rough, but I kept my berth and did not get much seasick. Last night I came from New Orleans by steamship. We had a pleasant sail of 180 miles

\* \* \* \*

Yours affectionately

JOHN  
(John F. Carll)

- - - - -

Pleasantville  
July 18, '67

Dear Auntie

\* \* \* \*

Our well is still pumping about as usual, but the low price of oil this winter (about \$1.40 per bbl) has prevented it from making us much money. Oil has gone up rapidly for several days and is now worth \$3.00 per bbl. The prospects on our land are quite flattering and we shall put down another well this fall if the price of oil will warrant it. I much prefer to operate here than Texas, and, if the machinery is paid for as agreed upon, I don't think I shall return there. Should it not be, I may go again next winter to foreclose the mortgage which I took as security.

\* \* \* \*

Yours affy,

John F. Carll

Pleasantville,  
Oct 29, 67

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Garman)

We have commenced to put down another well on one of our tracts near the old well which has been pumping constantly now nearly two years and is doing about as well still as it ever did.

There is quite an excitement in this neighborhood--last Spring our well and one other about half a mile distant were the only ones in that locality. Since then five more have been tested, all getting oil in paying quantities. This has caused operators to have great confidence in the territory and 14 new wells are being drilled with a prospect of many more being commenced in a short time. We have 65 acres in that place which I could sell now for more than five times what I paid for it. I suppose I shall have to stay here this winter to attend to affairs. With good luck we can scarcely get the new well down before the middle of January.

I am afraid I shall not find it quite as mild as Texas. I received a letter from Texas, they have done nothing about the oil since I left and want me to come down again, but I do not think I shall, I have too much at stake here to neglect it now when everything looks so encouraging.

\* \* \* \*

Yours aff.

JOHN  
(John F. Carll)

Pleasantville, Pa  
May 31, 1868

Dear Aunty

\* \* \*

I am still in this oily country as you will see--and likely to be for some time. Since I wrote you I have completed one new well and struck oil, but not in a very large quantity. Sufficient however to make it pay.

We are now pumping two wells with one engine and at present prices of oil it is a very fair business. Our old well now in its third year still holds out good. There is nore excitement now in Pleasantville than ever before. The Spirits located a well here which is flowing about 150 barrels per day. It has been running about three months, and 40 new wells are now going down in sight of our hotel. Three of them have just been tested and all are about 100 barrels each.

Land has gone up from \$200 to \$1500 per acre. The place has more than quadrupled its inhabitants. Buildings cannot be put up fast enough. We have had to sleep two in a bed and four in a room. They have put up a large addition to the hotel and I have just succeeded in getting my old room all to myself again. Being one of the old boarders and about the only one that was able to weather through the dull times, I have the pick of the house.

Forty acres of our property where I put down a well and got no oil, lies within the range of the excitement and the impression is that it is very valuable. No new wells are down on it yet, but I think it will be developed by next fall.

Yours,  
JOHN

Brooklyn, Oct 25, '68

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman, Hudson, Ill)  
 \* \* \* \* \*

I sent you a paper or two with a notice of the well I am interested in. The accounts were rather overdrawn, but still it was a large well, and it is now pumping 50 barrels a day. How long it will continue I cannot tell. I am interested in several others nearly down and have to return as soon as possible.

Yours aff  
 JOHN (John F. Carll)

Brooklyn, Oct 25, '68

Dear Aunty  
 \* \* \* \* \*

And now I must tell you what I suppose you have been expecting to hear, and what you will not be very well pleased with. Miss Tappen is to return with me. I shall stop in Newark next Wednesday on my return to Pleasantville when the ceremony will be performed as quietly as possible and we will travel on together.

Whatever you may think of this movement, dear Auntie, I trust you will not charge me with forgetfulness of the past. I feel that I have been and am still loyal to my first and only love - and Hannah's spirit (if permitted to watch and understand the workings of my heart) knows how joyfully I would fold her in my arms, if it were possible, in preference to all the world.

I am about to make this companionship then with a hope of making comfortable and useful the fragments of a broken life, and not with a desire to forget the past, or the expectation of again renewing those best and warmest feelings of my heart which lie buried with the dead. I trust we understand each other in this respect and shall be able to journey along together harmoniously. With love to all I hope you will still allow me to remain as of old.

Yours affy,  
 JOHN.

Consequently, John marries again and has a family. The last letter known from him was written in 1893 to Grace Sealey. He was then living at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. He was active only as a consultant for a large oil company.

John's heart was buried when Hannah was buried. Possibly his new life born with his marriage to Miss Tappan, and their resultant family, may have ameliorated what he believed to be a useless life into a happy ending.

The few years that John and Hannah lived together personified the perfect love.

## CHAPTER XII

## CIVIL WAR LETTERS

The Civil War was keenly felt in every city and village of the United States, and long before its end the people were war weary, even to the farthest villages from the battlefields. Probably no village contributed more fighting men for its size in the North than Hudson, Illinois. This tiny town of about 350 people, and its surrounding countryside, sent 77 boys, many of which never returned. Here in the prairies of Illinois the war was a reality as it was on the battlefields of the South. Every newspaper was keenly scanned for possible names of their own sons being listed among the casualties. Everybody took sides for and against Lincoln and those formulating the war policies. Many in the North were bitterly opposed to Lincoln. Our grandmother, Elizabeth Barsby, was a staunch Lincoln supporter, and our mother, Mattie Barsby Burtis, often related how shocked she was in hearing her uncle Enoch Gastman, Sr., say upon hearing of Lincoln's assassination "Good enough for him, good enough for him. He ought to be shot."

Recruiting agents soon were in Hudson enlisting the boys, first with patriotic appeal, and the assurance that their 90 day enlistment would stop the rebellion; then later when patriotism was more difficult to excite the boy, he offered them gold in the form of a generous bounty.

The boys were first sent to Springfield, and then from there to the various training centers of the regiments in which they had enlisted. Camp Benton at St Louis got many of them, and from there they first were among the fighting men in the Western theatre commanded by Grant. Later they were scattered to every theatre.

The two BURTIS boys to enlist were James W. and Alfred S., the sons of JACOB HICKS BURTIS Sr. Neither of them returned.

Excerpts from the following letters written during the war years give some idea of the feelings of those who stayed at home.



Flushing, L.I.  
Jan. 1, 1861

Dear Brother: (Alfred S. Weeks, Hudson, Ill)

\* \* \* \* \*

How do the troubles of the South affect the great prairies? Are you not afraid to trust "Honest Old Abe" among the fire eaters of Washington? The prospect is that he will not have a bed of roses to sleep on at the White House.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours  
John Carll

Flushing,  
Feb 5, 1861

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman, Hudson, Ill)

\* \* \* \* \*

Nathaniel has not yet returned from Texas. We expect him about the first of March. He says the people there load him down with kindness. They do not pay their bills very promptly however, and the business prospect is rather gloomy. They have just removed in their new store, and are prepared to do a large business, but if "UNCLE ABE's" friends do not show a more conciliatory spirit toward the South there is no telling what will become of the New York Merchants.

\* \* \* \* \*

Affectionately  
John (John F. Carll)

Flushing, March 14, '61

Dear Aunty

\* \* \* Business has been very dull this winter in the surveying line, more so that I have ever known it before. \* \* \*. At present business of all kinds is prostrate, and all are anxiously awaiting the breaking away of the clouds which hang so loweringly over our once happy Union. What the end may be no one can tell. I often think of the quiet happiness of the "Prairie Homes", and envy the peace of mind and rest of those so far removed from the bustle and disappointments which surround us here.

Nathaniel has not returned from Texas. His success in collections has been poor. If these times continue much longer it looks as though most of the merchants of N.Y. must go down. Mr. Boyce, whose place at Bay Side I laid out three years ago, and which cost him \$35,000 has failed forever two million dollars. He has gone South and joined the Army of the Confederacy. Many others who were rich a year ago are now bankrupt. Has the bank in which you had your money deposited one of those that failed?

I bid goodnight and seek my lonely pillow, which I have learned to love, because there in vivid dreams I often hold sweet companionship with those dear ones whom when waking I shall see here never more.

Yours ever,  
JOHN



85  
Flushing, May 9, 1861

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman, Hudson, Ill)

\* \* \* \* \*

Business is at a standstill—confidence is lost and everybody seems to have either the blues or the war fever. Our Regiment has not yet been called away and indeed it seems doubtful now whether they will be required as the state has furnished her quota called for by the government, which, I believe, is thirty thousand men. But still they are drilling every night and last week they were encamped several days at Glen Cove, Oysterbay, Hempstead, and Jamaica. I have not yet joined and don't think I shall unless they are called into active service. I don't like playing soldier. \* \* \*

Yours,  
JOHN F. CARLL

Flushing, July 28, '61

Dear Aunty

Time glides swiftly on—I can scarcely realize that nearly a year has passed since I accompanied you to Hudson. A year to me so fleeting and transient, yet fraught to us all, and to our country with such momentous occurrences. Peace has been exchanged for grim visaged war, prosperous business for bankruptcy, and happy homes made to resound with the sad echoes of the loved names of husbands, fathers, and brother who shall return no more. We are in the midst of perilous times, where the end will God only can foretell.

The news of our defeat at Bull Run on Sunday last has created a profound sensation here; especially so as most of the regiment engaged in the action were from this section. Alfred M. Wood was Colonel of the N.Y. 14th State Militia; they were in the hottest of the fight. The Colonel had his leg shattered by a ball which killed his horse, and in the retreat he was left upon the field. Whether he is dead or a prisoner cannot be ascertained. His wife went immediately to Washington, but could obtain no tidings from him. She has returned sick and brokenhearted. Mr. Prumman, my friend, was also in this regiment, but I believe escaped unhurt.

George Burtis, O.D.'s son, is in the army. He was in the Battle of Great Bethel, and was wounded slightly in the leg by a ball which killed the man next to him. I believe he is now with the troops at Fortress Monroe.

\* \* \*

I am sorry to hear that you have had so much difficulty in drawing your money from the bank—I think it would be well to keep a good eye on it. If the bank is not one of the best in the West, you had better lose fifteen percent and secure the balance than lose it all.

Ever yours,

J.F. CARLL

Note: The Battle of Bull Run was the first great defeat for the Federal troops in the Civil War. Both sides entered the battle with the idea of defeating so thoroughly the other. Both blundered through the battle, but luck was on the Confederates side.

Though the Army of the Potomac was getting nowhere in fighting Lee, General Grant having some great successes in the West, had captured Fort Donelson.

Camp Benton, St Louis, Mo  
 Marcy 9, 1862

(Mr. A.S. Weeks, Hudson, McLean County, Ill)

Friend Weeks:

It has been some time since I wrote last, I shall try and give you a few lines. It's with pleasure that I can tell you I am still in amongst the living. I have been troubled with a bad cold for some time, but am getting over it.

I suppose you have heard of the fine time we had since the Fort Donalson surrender. That was one of the devils own places. We didn't get soon enough to see any fighting, but to see the Rebels was worth a good deal. That was one of the bloodiest battles ever known to be on this campaign. We took not less than fifteen thousand prisoners, and of all the poor scalawags you ever saw. The most of them don't know enough to chew gum without a string tied to it. Any amount of them couldn't tell us what county they hailed from and they told us they were fighting for their Liberty. As soon as we got amongst them they began to tell us their pitiful tales. There was a number drafted of the Arkansaw troops. The best soldiers they have is the Texas Rangers, also the smartest appearing.

Sesesh is about gone up, for ninety days you see Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee. What they say about war now; see the surrenders there have been already. Columbus is now evacuated, one of their main stands. Murphysborough, back of Nashville, see where they are.

One great fault they have—they run too soon. They don't like the looks of our gunboats, they make them scatter.

Suppose you know all about our being to Springfield, Illinois. As for the balance of the boys, they are all well as far as I can tell. The Stuckey boys stayed in Smithland, Kentucky to burrie their brother, and I haven't saw them since. As for those that have gone to rest since I wrote last you have heard all about them. Hudson seems to have had bad luck with her soldiers.

No more at present. Excuse mistakes.

HENRY MCNELLY

Mr. Weeks, I should like to from your folks if convenient to give my best wishes to all enquiring friends.  
 Your friend and well wisher.

H. MCNELLY

Note: How wrong Henry was when he thought that the South was about done for. It took the Federals three more years of fighting to whip the SESESH boys. Henry was from Hudson.

The first Burtis casualty in the Civil War, disease carried off more than bullets.

Flushing, L.I. April 6, 1862

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman, Hudson, Ill)

\* \* \* \* \*

I was quite unprepared to hear of the death of Alfred Burtis. He seemed so strong and robust that I had no idea but that he would return from the war unless killed in battle. But, alas, how little do we know of our powers. The strongest often preceed the weakest. In this war many who feared no risk but the enemy's bullet have been brought low without having seen a battle. No doubt the deaths from disease so far have greatly exceeded those of the field. And if our troops are to be kept in the Cotton states during the coming summer I tremble to think of what the results will be.

\* \* \* \* \*

Affectionately yours,  
John Carll

- - - - -

Flushing, June 22, 1862

Dear Aunty:

\* \* \* \* \*

You inquired about Mrs. Clotts. I was surprised bhat you had not heard of her death last August. I was not invited to the funeral, and did not hear of it until several weeks later. She was in Florida at the time of the commencement of the War. They managed to get to Savannah, Ga., where through the influence of friends and in pity for her weak and sinking condition, they succeeded in chartering a vessel to bring them to New York. This was about the last boat that got out before the blockade.

Yours,  
John

- - - - -

Flushing, Sept 5, 1862

Dear Brother (Alfred S. Weeks, Hudson, Ill.)

\* \* \* \* \*

You say you hope I will not feel it my duty to enlist. I certainly do not feel that I am called upon to volunteer, but in case of a draft (and I do not see how we are to avoid one in this county), if my country needs me, and it is my lot, I think I ought to go. Few could be spared as well as I. With no one dependent upon me and no ambition to gratify, I look upon the matter with quiet indifference. My Country's call may open up the shortest road to that happy re-union I so long have been waiting for.

We have sent about 500 men to the field from this town and enlistments are still quite brisk. But as our quota of the last call is 314 men, I think we shall fall short about 100. This will make a draft of about one in ten. Those volunteering from here receive \$246.00 bounty. Our enrollment is not yet complete and the draft cannot take place sooner than the 15th.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your brother

John

Hudson, Ill, Feb. 22, 1863

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman,  
South Oysterbay, N.Y.)

\* \* \* \*

It has been the greatest winter for dances around here ever known. James Burtis has attended them all. I have had several invitations, but did not go.

The Baptists have been having their meetings. They got ten members, two of them you know, Charles and Alice Gildersleeve.

Irving Clark is dead. He was shot at the Battle of Murfreesborough. Merle went after the body. He was gone three weeks, and brought him home.

\* \* \* \*

Your affectionate niece  
Bell Weeks

- - - - -

Hudson, Ill. Oct 18, 1863

Dear Aunty

\* \* \* \*

We all regretted to learn that Brother John F. Carll was conscripted, but was very glad to learn that he chose not to go and serve under this imbecile, "blood letting" let the South slide, administration, which would willingly sacrifice every white man, woman and child South, and everyone North, who dare oppose the wicked policy of elevating "the gentlemen of African Descent", but you know how much love I bear this malignant set of "nigger" worshippers, and, but for the means they have of ruining the country, they would share little of my thoughts and none of my respect.

\* \* \* \*

Affectionately,  
Alfred S. Weeks

\* - - - -

Hudson, Illinois  
January 31, 1864

Dear Aunty

I expect you think we have forgotten you out here, but by no means. We have thought of you often, I should have written before, but I have been going to school all the time, and the days are so short that I do not get home until sundown. (Union School at Hudson) Maybe you think we all froze out, we had some very cold weather the first of the month. The thermometer on New Years day, was twenty four degrees below zero. I went to school every day. Father is teaching this winter, the school will be out next week. We are at home today, it is raining and has been all the morning. It has been warm for the last week. I expect it will freeze up and snow again.

Well Aunty, something has happened that you have not heard of yet, James Burtis (son of Jacob & Mary Weeks Burtis) has joined the army. He enlisted on the first of January and left the following Monday for Bloomington.

He is in the same company and regiment that Alfred was in. Some others from Hudson went with him. Two weeks ago they got a letter that he was sick at the hospital, with measles it did not say. They left Bloomington for Springfield the next day, so he was taken with the measles at Springfield. Uncle Jacob (his brother) went to see him. He was doing well, so he came back. Yesterday we heard that he was worse and for someone to come down. I am afraid he will not get well, he was not well all summer. It is just three years ago tomorrow since Alfred was buried. It has been lonesome since James went away. He used to take me sleighing. Now when I go to Grandfathers and he is not there it seems still more lonesome.

Mr. Collins (William Collins) is teaching school in White Oak now. He broke his leg in the Fall, and was laid up for some time. He comes to Grandfathers every Friday night and stays till Monday morning. Kate (Catherine Burtis) went to Eureka College to school in the Fall. She staid till Christmas and then came home. She was sick with lung fever last week.

They are having protracted meetings at the Methodist Church in Hudson. I do not like the preacher we have now as well as I did Mr Bower. While the sleighing was good I went most every night; the roads are most impassable now. I had a fellow come in a sleigh and took me to church. He came twice and had sleigh bells too, but a person could not hear them very far. I wish you would bring out some of those big bells I had hear you speak of. Has Aunt Betsy said anything about that saddle emigrating West?

~~Rosy Jewel~~ is married to Mr. Alderage; Mary Jones (my school teacher) is married to Mr. Barns. (my teacher last winter; Helen McCoy is engaged to a captain in the army) Dr. Conklin has sold his place in Hudson and is moving to Bloomington. Old Mr. Gastman is married again, he lives in Hudson. We have got some new neighbors, they bought the Cox place east of us; they are Pennsylvania Dutch, very nice kind of folks I guess. Moses Snavely has got two children, a boy and a girl. Lizzie Snavely and her father keep house together.

Aunty, last Tuesday was my birthday; yes, I am sweet sixteen. Now you said I would not grow any more after I was sixteen. Mary Burtis has grown very fast since you were here, she is taller than Rachel. Rachel has two or three beaux, but I don't know which she likes the best.

It is raining again, the pond south of the garden looks like a river; it is almost up to the garden. It keeps so warm. Last week it seemed as though a person ought to be to work in the garden.

Two weeks ago today we had company, Uncle Edwin, Aunt Sarah Ann and their children, Mr and Mrs Wheeler from Hudson and their children, and Mr and Mrs Heiskle from Iowa and their two children. They used to be our neighbors, she is the woman that Mother used to go blackberrying with.

We got a letter from Cousin Amelia yesterday. She told what a nice visit they had to Uncle Treadwells. She seems perfectly happy.

I have taken good care of your muff and feather bed. I have slept on your feather bed all winter. You must let me know what time you are coming this Spring so I can have it made up ready for you. Your chair is waiting for you, it looks lonesome to see your chair and no one in it, but I hope it will not be long before you will be here. I will try to have some chickens ready to fry.

Good Night, I remain your affectionate niece  
Eliza Arabella Weeks



The grimness of what lies between the lines in a letter is forcably disclosed in this letter.

Hudson, Illinois  
February 1, 1864

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman  
South Oysterbay, L.I.)

\* \* \* \* \*

I went down to the house today to hear from James, but they had not yet got back from the postoffice. Jacob went down to see him, he was very sick. It is enough to make a well person sick to be in the hospital. There were sixty-four in one room, they lay on cots. James had not been well all summer. How he ever come to go I cannot tell, there were men around coaxing the boys, and telling them they would be drafted, better go and get the bounty. 1

Kate is better and I think she is going to step off soon; I see a wool dress about being made. I expect Collins can't stand it much longer. His leg has gotten better; Doctor Luse says it will be strong but not very pretty. 2

\* \* \* \* \*

Edwin was here a few days ago, they all had bad colds; going to be an increase in their family sometime in February. \* \* \* \* \* 3

Well, I did not get a shawl for Bell this winter, I let her wear mine, and she wore your blanket shawl to school, so got along nicely. Things are so dear. I was in hopes they would stop the war. She wore her plaid dress to school. The waste is too small and it has gotten too short. Mary has got a flannel, almost a quarter of a yard, added onto hers.

When do you expect to start? You must gather all of the pretty flowers that you can find. I wish you would get a slip of some good grapes and some good strawberries.

Phebe E. Weeks

1. James (Burtis) died in the army hospital at Springfield, Illinois, February 9th, 1864, of measles.
2. Kate, Catherine Burtis, daughter of Jacob Hicks Burtis and Mary Weeks Burtis, married William Collins, March 3rd, 1864.
3. "going to be an increase in their family sometime in February." Sarah Ann Lewis Burtis died in childbirth, February 18th, 1864.

So another Burtis is added to the cauldron of the grim Civil War.

These Burtis boys are buried in the Hudson cemetery.

Hudson, Illinois  
August 28, 1964

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman,  
South Oysterbay, L.I.)

\* \* \* \* \*

This morning I went to hear the Dunkards preach in the Oneida School House. He gave us a very good sermon. They are the plainest dressed people you ever have seen.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sugar is three pounds for a dollar, cotton flannel \$1.00 a yard, calico fifty cents.

\* \* \* \* \*

What has become of Mrs. Webster, she is a great one, she has never answered my letters. She called me her one dear cousin; that looks like it. "They that got money can lick honey". But if this war holds on, money won't be of any use. It will take all the greenbacks one can carry to get a dress. Eggs have fetched 17-18¢, butter 25¢; that is not enough the way things are now. I suppose I ought not to complain, we have got plenty to eat, and I can get along with as little to wear as the rest— if they will only quit fighting.

Henry McCoy, Alice Gildersleeve's sister's beau, they were to be married soon, but he had one leg shot off above the knee, and the other badly wounded. Last week he had to have it amputated, so the poor fellow has had a hard time.

Margaret Clark is married to old David Trimmer. Old man Gastman <sup>1.</sup> has got his third wife; his son, Enoch, will be married this week.

Tomorrow there will be a big show in town, everybody is going, and I too, even if we don't get in the hay. If there is any fun to be seen I want to see it.

\* \* \* \* \*

I should like to be there once more and eat a good mess of clams. Put two or three in a bottle so we can all have a lick like the cows, or as Father says, "Tie a string to one and swallow it, pull it up and let the next one have it."

Your affectionate niece,

PHEBE

(Phebe Burtis Weeks)

<sup>1.</sup> Ann Seaman, our grandmother Barsby's sister, married Enoch Gastman Sr.



Brooklyn,  
April 17, 1864

My Dear Niece (Belle, Eliza Arabella Weeks)  
Hudson,\*Ill \* \* \* \*

For the last three months I have led a sort of migratory life--- attempting to do business in two or three places at once and sleeping wherever night overtook me. Since we were burnt out in December my partner has drawn out of the business and I am now alone. I have my wire factory at Trenton, N.J., and a store in New York.

\* \* \* \*

I am afraid my business will not permit me to visit you this summer. Nothing would afford me more gratification than a repetition of the pleasant times of the fall of 1860. But there have been many changes. \* \* \* And I should find you grown into womanhood, over six inches taller, and probably more inclined to spend your evenings with some gay Lieutenant than to play checkers with Uncld Carll. But I should not complain of this, for I know that blue coats and brass buttons have great attractions for young ladies.

\* \* \* \*

Very affectionately,  
Your Uncle Carll  
(John F. Carll)

- - - - -

South Oysterbay, N.Y.  
December 1864

Dear Belle

\* \* \* \*

I don't think you need to draft me for I have no teeth, and that will clear me, but I expect Old Abe will take them teeth or no teeth soon. So I shall come as soon as It will do to leave with my new teeth.

\* \* \* \*

You want to know if you could have that dress? I am willing, but I had rather you would wait until Spring then I can fit it. I don't think you will have much use for a silk dress this winter. I want to be there to overhaul my things to see if I can find some use for everything. Everything is so high that old things will have to take the place of new ones.

\* \* \* \*

Your Aunty,

Alma  
(Cornelia Alma Carman)

ENLISTMENTS FROM HUDSON TOWNSHIP, ILLINOIS DURING  
THE CIVIL WAR.

THREE MONTH VOLUNTEERS IN 1861

1. Thomas J. McClung
2. Shepherd Richardson
3. James Huston
4. Brazilla Huston
5. Joseph Sealey
6. Albert C. Conkling
7. Clay McClung

THREE YEARS VOLUNTEERS 1861-THROUGH 1864

	Reg	Co	years	
1. William Walter			3	
2. Henry Stillhammer	8	G	3	
3. Henry McNelly	52	B	3	
4. William Chadbourn	52	B	3	
5. G. W. Kigier	20	E	3	
6 Calvin Smith	8	K	3	
7 John B. Ripptoe			3	
8 Samuel Armstrong	52	B	3	
9 Sylvester B. Kindlespire	93	B	3	
10 Philip Johnston			3	
11 Jacob M. Roher	94	E	3	
12 Samuel Baldrige	94	E	3	
13 R. M. Benson	33	C	3	
14 Amos Seaglor				
15 Geyer				
16 L.A. Moore	33			
17 James Stuckey	52	B	3	
18 Adolphus Stuckey	52	B	3	
19 Job Stuckey	52	B-	3	
20 Walter Stuckey	52	B	3	
21 John T. Wheeler	52	B	3	
22 David Burns	94	E	3	
23 Jacob Burns	94	E	3	
24 Francis A. Gastman	33	A	3	
25 G.A. Viles				
26 Valentine Dening	4 Cav	G	3	
27 James Arbuckle	5	C	3	
28 Alfred S. Burtis	4 Cav	G	3	Enl. Jan. '62
29 Robert Ramsey	4 Cav	G	3	
30 Alfred Harvey	94	K	3	
31 William Jones	33		3	
32 John Jewell	33		3	
33 Thomas Lynch	94	E	3	
34 Jesse S. Mathias	94	E	3	
35 Alexander Cairns	14	E	3	
36 Joseph A. Sealey	20	C	3	
37 W.H. Harrison	4 Cav	G	3	
38 Thomas M. Archer	4 Cav	G	3	

	Reg	Co	years	
39	Stephen Archer	4 Cav	G	3
40	Welling R. Saunders	8 Reg	K	3
41	Thomas J. McClung	8 Reg	K	3
42	G.W. Carver	94		3
43	James W. Carver	33		3
44	Thomas Kennedy	20		3
45	Mychael Bare	20	E	3
46	Alexander Sthephens	94		3
47	Albert C. Conkling	4 Cav	G	3
48	James Richardson	94		3
49	Shepherd Richardson	20	E	3
50	George W. Burns	4 Cav	G	3
51	Robert Huston	62	K	3
52	James H. Huston	20	E	3
53	James J. Livingston	94		3
54	Adam S. Livingston	94		3
55	John Corbley	33		3
56	James Shannessey	8	K	3
57	John Frazer	8	K	3
58	E.C. Ramsey			3
59	Samuel Killin	4 Cav	H	3
60	Samuel Sherman	62	H	3
61	Thomas Haynes	94	E	3
62	John Haynes	94	E	3
63	John Williams	Cav		3
64	George W. Bean	4 Cav	G	3
65	Isaac Bean	4 Cav	G	3
66	James W. Burtis	4 Cav	G	3
67	Stephen Sealey	4 Cav	G	3
68	Stoneypher			
69	William Wheeler	52	B	3
70	Wilson VanGordon	33	G	3
71	Perry Crowell	33	G	3
72	John Stubles	14	E	3
73	James Lee	94		3
74	Leonard Elders	4 Cav	L	3
75	George Kelley	33	G	3
76	Leavitt Moore	33	G	3
77	Alonzo Ritter	51	D	3

Jan, 1864 Enl.

## REINLISTMENTS

78	Alexander Cairns	14	E	3
79	Adolphus Stuckey	52	B	3
80	James Stuckey	52	B	3
81	Job Stuckey	52	B	3
82	Henry Stillhammer	8	K	3
83	William Stillhammer	39		3
84	Thomas J. McClung	8	K	3
85	Merion Dement			3
86	Shepherd Richardson	20	C	3
87	Thomas Haynes	52	B	3
88	John Corbley	33	C	3
89	Wilson VanGordon	33	G	3
90	Henry McNelly	110	C	3
91	George Kelley	33	G	3

## CHAPTER XIII

## LETTERS OF

## EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS

When JACOB HICKS BURTIS came west to Illinois in 1835, he brought his second wife, Mary Weeks, and three of his children by his first wife ELIZABETH ARABELLA CARMAN; his youngest child, Hannah, he left with her aunt, Cornelia Alma Carman, sister of Elizabeth Arabella who was then dead. They first went to Jacksonville, Illinois, where they stayed a short time, and then went on to Hudson, Illinois in December 1836.

The following is a very interesting letter written by EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS, the oldest child of JACOB HICKS BURTIS, EDWIN then being only thirteen years of age:

January 20, 1836  
Jacksonville, Ill

Dear Aunt (Cornelia Alma Carman,  
Oysterbay, S., Long Island)

I write you these few lines from the far west to inform you that we are all well and to give you a description of the country and our situation. It is a fine country, Jacksonville has prairie on all sides with timber. I have not seen much vegetation here, but going through Pennsylvania there was fruit a plenty. We came through Pennsylvania on a canal and railroad. We would get out and walk and get a plenty of apples, but since I have been here I have not seen much fruit, it was too late in the season.

We have got a small house with four rooms and a lot. Tell Uncle that he must come out. The corn here grows eight feet high without dung. The people say it is a first rate country. Tell Hannah she must get ready and come out; tell her she must give my respects to Mary Elles. All of the goods have arrived safe and when I arrived I saw Cousin Nelson coming from church with a lady named Miss Dow who used to teach Phebe in Sunday school in Brooklyn. Our store is on the east side of Jacksonville. I am going to school in Jacksonville, the Rev. Mr. Bathetter teaches me. We just got the Episcopal church finished, we have had Rev. Bishop Kemper to consecrate it and the Rev. Mr. Johnston from Flushing, Long Island, and the Rev. Mr. Darough.

Tell Uncle Treadwell that I should like to have red Jinny, for there is not many Jinnys here; there are plenty of cows and horses. We have got a cow and calf, we paid \$15.00 for her. We have not got a horse, but we want to get one; they come toleable high, they come from \$50.00 to \$115.00.

I believe it is most time to wind up, I must go to milking, it is all but sundown. I give my respects to Grandmother, Uncle Treadwell, Aunt Eliza, Uncle Timothy, Aunt Betsy, Cousin Mary Ell, Timothy, William, Uncle Josh, Mary Elizabeth, Jim, Betsy, Old Aunt Taymour. I forgot to say Phebe grows fatter and heavier. I believe if she keeps on this way she will be up to Miss Floid. You must not forget to write.

Yours aff.  
E.E. Burtis

EDWIN's next letter is when he is twenty one years of age and he is living in Hudson. He has fallen love and wants to get married. His sister Phebe has returned to Long Island.

Hudson, Illinois  
March 29, 1843

Dear Sister (Phoebe E. Burtis, Care of O.D. Burtis,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.)

I have at last concluded to send you a letter for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not I can get my money from Uncle Treadwell. I want you to see to it as quick as this letter arrives. You must ask him if he calculates to allow interest on the money. I want it by the first of July and you must ascertain how much it is altogether. I have concluded to live in Illinoi and buy me a farm. I shall send on some kind of a form to release him from the debt and if he cannot send all of it I want him to send part. I must have 70 or 80 dollars or else sacrifice what stock I have got and also I want you to ask Alfred S. Weeks what he calculates to do with his farm? If he is willing to let me have it and allow me two or three years to pay it, if he does I want him to let me know, or how many years he will let me have to build a house upon it.

I expect you would like to come back to Illinois; if you do, I will come and fetch you provided you can get some of the friends to pay my passage on and back, and I will build a house and you may live with me, and you can lay your money out in stock and I will take care of it for you, but I must have some money from Uncle Treadwell, some 70-80 dollars before I come on, and if you can get some of your friends to find money I will come after you in the fall, if they will send money enough for me to come.

We have had a very cold winter here, it is now snowing which makes the thirty sixth snowstorm. I have not done much this winter, it has been too cold. I went to Chicago last fall but things were very low; I only got 42 cents a bushel for my wheat. After I returned I went to Lacon to work, staid there five weeks, business was very dull, wages only 50 cts per day.

The people in general are all well at present. There was some sickness last fall, but not a great deal. I occasionally go to Father Lewis's and see the folks, but if the truth was known, it is more to see SARAH ANN than any of the rest. If I was fixed for getting married, I should prefer her to anyone else. When you write you may tell me how you like my choice. Her sister, Betsy, is married to John C. Greaves, they are coming to Illinois in June. I should like for you to go and see them for the purpose of sending out some news by them, and you can give her an invitation to come over to Brooklyn to see you. You may want her to fetch out some patterns or something. They live at 118 3rd Avenue.

Things bear about the same aspect as they did when you left. I think still of farming this summer. I raised good crops last summer, but did not make much, but will try again. I could get along well enough provided the farm was mine so that I could be making improvements; you must electioneer for me towards getting it. Father has gone to Mr. Gildersleeves, they are quite well. They have been talking about going East this Spring, but the scarcity of money forbids coming.

Your affectionate br.  
EDWIN E. BURTIS

This young man nine months later, two days before Christmas in 1843, married the lady of his choice, SARAH ANN LEWIS. She was the daughter of the English immigrants, SAMUEL LEWIS and SARAH SEALEY LEWIS, and was born in England.

EDWIN'S letter written in Jacksonville says that corn grew eight feet high without dung. Yes--this virgin prairie land was exceedingly fertile, no fertilizers were necessary for many years. All the farmer needed to do was to find a way of draining the swamps, and then that black soil was unbelievably fertile.

The marketing of the farm products was a major problems with no railroads available for taking the grains to the market. The rivers and lakes were the modes of travel, and to haul the grains to the river at Pekin, or to the lake port of Chicago, over almost impossible roads was most difficult. A trip to Chicago with a load of grain would take almost two weeks, and the wagon load could not carry more than possibly 30 bushels of corn. Along from 1836 to 1840 the United States was having a bad money panic, prices had dropped to almost nothing, and money in circulation had become almost non-existent. Everything was done by barter. A few dollars in cash could buy almost anything, and for those who had to raise a few dollars, it was a near impossibility.

The money mentioned in EDWIN'S letter to his sister, Phebe, was willed by his grandfather, SILAS CARMAN, to the children of his deceased daughter ELIZABETH ARABELLA, EDWIN'S mother. Uncle Treadwell Carman was the executor, he being the brother of Elizabeth.

EDWIN and SARAH ANN married December 23, 1843. SARAH ANN's father gave them a farm which lies two miles northeast of Hudson. Here they resided for the remainder of their lives. SARAH ANN died at the age of forty and EDWIN at the age of forty seven. This farm is still in the hands of their grandchildren. Parker Burtis the son of William now owns the farm.

Hudson, McLean County, Ill  
April 28, 1850

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman,  
Oysterbay South, L.I.)

It is with a feeling of duty and love that I attempt to write this letter to you, and to enquire after your health and various other matters about Long Island, which name always associates with my mind the scenes of pleasure and enjoyment I once witnessed at my Grandfathers at South Oysterbay and sometimes the reminiscences of the past flock upon my mind when the thoughts of going to Oysterbay when I lived in New York was so pleasing, to see you all together, and I can well recollect what sport it was for me to go to the creek with Uncle Tim, William and row about the creek.

I have now been married nearly seven years and have three children, the oldest is named William Carman in memory of my associate Cousin William. The next is Mary Eliza, and the last is Edwin.

I am farming for a living and have a farm fenced and broke containing thirty acres, and have plenty of land and timebet to make a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and hope some day to get it fenced and broke. The making of a farm in Illinois is attended with a little work as any other place. But a man without money gets along very slow, where he has his living to get and make a farm at the same time.

Father and Jacob are well at present. Jacob has commenced to make a farm, and succeeds very well. He lives one mile from me. He has a house raised and is getting it finished as I think he will be looking for a wife soon.

Tell me about Uncle Treadle's farm and also Uncle Tim's. I want to know all about Sister Hannah, how she looks compared with Phebe, and whether she is handsome and everything about her. Give me an account of Uncle Benjamin and his family and what his boys are doing.

Mrs Greaves and husband think of coming to Illinois sometime this summer. She is my wife's sister and lives at 102 1st st, New York.

Yours affectionately,

EDWIN E. BURTIS



The children of

	EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS	b. 3-22-1822;	d. 3-14-1869
And	(7th gen.)	m. 12-23-1843	
	SARAH ANN LEWIS	b. 10-16-1824;	d. 2-18-1864
were			
	William Thomas Carman	b. 11-16-1844;	d. 8- 2-1864
	m'd		
	Leah Ambrose	b. 11-18-1856;	d. 3- 7-1935
	Mary Eliza	b. 11- 3-1846;	d. 12-22-1888
	m'd	m 1875	
	John Stotler		
	Edwin Lewis	b. 6-13-1849;	d. 1-23-1934
	m'd	m. 1-10-1875	
	Mattie Barsby	b. 9- 2-1854;	d. 7-17-1941
	Sarah Jane	b. 7-25-1853;	d. 9-15-1854
	Ella Augusta	b. 2-16-1856;	d. 6-17-1856
	Cornelia Alma	b. 7- 5-1858;	d. 9-13-1897
	m'd		
	Cushing Jones		
	Arthur Henry	b. 2-23-1861;	d. 1-7 -1941
	m'd	m. 4-16-1882	
	Ella Worrell		d. 4-4- 1883
	m'd (2nd)	m. 3-31-1891	
	Sadie Mack		d. 11-22-1942

— — — — —  
 In 1865 EDWIN ELIAS married Mary Emma Weeks who was the niece of his step-mother.

The children of

	EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS		
and		m. 12-25-1865	
	Mary Emma Weeks		
were			
	Carrie	b. 12- 6-1866;	d. 1949
	m'd		
	Joseph Jukes		
	Their children:		
	Robert	b. 1897	

## CHAPTER XIV

ELIZABETH ARABELLA WEEKS

THE BELLE OF THE PRAIRIE

Belle was born in Brooklyn January 26th, 1848. Her father, Alfred Weeks was employed at the time in the merchantile store of O.D. Burtis', who was the cousin of Belle's mother, Phebe Burtis.

Phebe's father and brothers had gone to Illinois to live, and she had gone there with them. After a short stay in Illinois she returned to Long Island. Alfred's father, Richard Weeks, had bought a share in the Hudson colony, and Alfred had been to Illinois, so there is little wonder that they decided to leave Brooklyn and to try their future in that new frontier. When Belle was only a year and one half old she went with her parents to Illinois. They travelled via the Erie canal and the Great Lakes, an account of which was told in a letter Phebe wrote to her sister Hannah.

Belle attended the Union country school located three miles north-east of Hudson, and was the school where many of the Burtis' attended. Alfred Weeks taught there once, also did Edwin Elias Burtis, William Collins, and in later years Howard Stotler.

At the age of fifteen during Belles last year at Union, Belle wrote a long article about the Union school which is still preserved. It is called THE UNION GAZETTE, and it having been written July 1st, 1864, she chooses the Latin phrase Cedant arma toga (Let arms yield to eloquence) as their motto. It is a remarkable sixteen page booklet she has written in a beautiful flowing handwriting. It starts with a history of Union school, then it goes into philosophy and poetry. A gem of poetry is as follows: THE SMOKER

May never lady press the lips,  
His proffered love returning,  
Who makes a furnace of his mouth,  
And keeps his chimney burning,  
May each true woman shun his sight  
For fear his fumes might choke her,  
And none but those who smoke themselves,  
Have kisses for a smoker.

Belle was witty, beautiful and vivacious. She was loved by all of the boys. Those black eyes of hers, and her saucy manner captivated everybody. Her parents said that she was the image of her beautiful Aunt Hannah. She was the real "belle" of Union school.

One of Belle's most ardent lovers at Union was Charlie Jones; he adored her and told her so. Belle enjoyed his attention, but preferred playing the field of all the boys. Belle probably felt superior to any of the boys at Union, and probably had her eyes upon a more lucrative catch. Charlie wrote many letters to Belle which are all preserved.

When Charlie graduated at Union he then went to "Wrighting" school in Bloomington, and then for a while to Wesleyan college. He left Illinois and went to Kansas to try his fortune. At Troy, Kansas, he went into the nursery business. All of these years he is continually writing to Belle, and he often went back to Hudson to see her. He told her of his love for her, but Belle never did take him seriously. Very probably her parents thought that this country boy didn't come from a high enough stock for their daughter. Shortly after he left Union school he wrote a long poem about the school and his darling Belle; it is founded later on in these pages.

Kansas is a new frontier, the Santa Fe railruad is building its lines across the state. Charlie got the contract from them to feed their construction crews. He saw the possibilities for cities going up along the line, and became interested in the locating of a town at which is now Garden City, Kansas. He is considered the "Daddy" of that town to this day.

While Charlie is feeding the Santa Fe construction crews, he wrote to Arthur Burtis who is then attending Illinois State Normal University, and asked him if he wouldn't like to come out to Kansas and help him kill buffalo to feed the construction crews? Arthur once told me (Edwin S. Burtis), "Now, what young man could turn down an offer like that?"

The covered wagons were travelling westward through Garden City. Many of the emigrants were settling there. Once a covered wagon upon arrival was met by Charlie. The driver was Colonel Worrell who knew him. After a brief moment of greetings, the colonel said to Charlie, "Charlie, can you loan me \$20.00." Arthur was standing by, Charlie turned to him and said, "Art, don't you have \$20.00 on you?" The young boy hesitatingly said, "Yes I guess I do have." He took off his hat and removed the last dollar that he had in this world, a \$20.00 bill from the hat band, and handed it to Charlie, who in turn handed it to the colonel.

In the covered wagon with Colonel Worrell and his wife, was their young daughter, Ella. Little did Arthur realize that there would come the day when she would be his wife.

Charlie's fame rapidly grew in the West. He laid out the town of Garden City, and made Arthur at the age of twenty two, one of the first County Clerks.(possibly the first). Charlie is an expert with the lariat, and can lasso any wild animal. Zane Grey's novel THE LAST of the PLAINSMAN is a story about Charlie. In two other of Grey's novels Charlie is an important character. He later went to Africa to lasso the wild animals there. Upon his return he became a popular lecturer throughout the United States.

Yes! Charlie did marry, but not until he had despaired of ever winning his beautiful Belle.

About 1864 Charlie wrote a poem about his beautiful Arabella:

Not far from here near Hudson city,  
There lives a lady that appears very witty,  
She is a lady that you all know well,  
For she goes by the name of Arabell.

Not far lived a lad, you surely know,  
Who with this young lady did often go;  
The son of a farmer that raised oats and barley,  
For the sake of convenience they called him Charlie.

Now Charlie one evening, with Cook at his side,  
Went sleigh riding, and invited this lady to ride.  
She kindly accepted, but he was startled to find  
That the other young lady respectfully declined.

At this time Charlie stayed at Kappa town,  
Where he and Cook did ride around.  
To the city of Hudson they would proceed,  
Charlie and Bell at a rapid speed.

It became such a habit I know not why,  
That they even went sleighriding on the fourth of July.  
They took a good ride, for they started on Sunday,  
And didn't return till the evening of Monday.

Charlie and Bell both went to one school,  
To make love at this place was against the rule.  
Yet Charlie did love and the teacher knew well,  
And he had the same opinion of his Miss Arabell.

Charlie one day while writing on a slate,  
Thought it a good time to decide his fate.  
So on the old slate without a seal  
Did all his love to her reveal.

She paused for a moment but made no reply,  
Then covered her face and pretended to cry,  
By this time the teacher had rung the bell,  
She got the pail and they went to the well.

They must have some water this was their cry,  
For they both appeared to be thirsty and dry.  
They went to the well where the frogs were croaking  
And there she told him she had only been joking.

Then Charlie thought it would break his heart,  
For he had never before felt such a cruel dart.  
A bachelor he declared he would live for life  
She said she would never be any mans wife.

She says they built castles so high that they fell  
He says he never built any since they went to the well;  
But the castle he built by her was rent,  
If any one is to blame, she is the one to repent.

\* - - - - -

Then the poem led to a lovers quarrel:

Bloomington, Illinois  
December 20, 1864

Friend Bell,

I would like to see what is the contents of that letter, so I  
will send you mine. Perhaps it will need explanation. It will almost  
need to be criticized.

In the last verse (He never built castles since they went to the well.) means that I never made plans as I did before; I never had the confidence in you that I had before for fear you would bring it out as a joke again. But still I never thought the less of you, and I have that same feeling yet. Yet I never would tell you so since until now. I do love you as I never loved anyone else, and I am not ashamed to confess it, for there is no disgrace in so doing.

I was struck very forceably the other night when you said you was unhappy. Can I make you happy in this world? If I have been the means of your not being happy, I beg your pardon. And if I can add anything to your happiness I would do it with pleasure. I hope you feel free to express yourself.

I hope you will have a pleasant time during Christmas time. My compliments to all the friends at Hudson. I expect to go to Urbana during vacation on business.

From your sincere friend.

C.J. JONES

-----  
Then there is a cooling off between Belle and Charlie:

Troy, Kansas  
January 19, 1867

Friend Belle:

Another year is past and gone  
Time swiftly speeds along—  
It seems like a distant dream to me,  
Since we sung this melancholy song.

I received a letter from you last, and neglected my duty just as you did. I haven't any apology to offer, except negligence as usual. I have been having good health since I returned to bleeding Kansas. I think this is a very healthy country. I think of returning to Illinois in a few weeks. Perhaps I will look up some poor invalid with the heart disease, and bring her to this beautiful state.

I shall not have time to stay but a few days, for business will soon be very pressing. I have about twenty miles of hedging to make. Besides we are starting a nursery at this place we have purchased, and will move to it in the Spring. We are grafting this month, and will finish about the middle of next. We grafted about one thousand per day. We have two girls to help, I am bossing the job, and womans rights doesn't receive attention with me. If you get out of employment just give me a call. Our girls make \$6.00 per week.

If I have time I will make Hudson a short call, and stop and see you if it is agreeable all around.

Yours as ever,

CHARLIE

The business card of Charlie Jones:

Chas J. Jones

George D. Baker

KANSAS NURSERY

Jones & Baker  
Have Established a  
NURSERY AT TROY  
And will have on hand to  
Supply the Spring setting of  
1867, a full supply of  
KANSAS GROWN

APPLE

PEACH

CHERRY

QUINCE and

PEAR TREES

Also a full assortment of  
SMALL FRUITS

FLOWERS, and

SHRUBBERY

GRAPES

Jones & Baker

Between 1864 and 1868 Charlie exchanged many letters with Belle, she kept them all. It appears that she never did consider him very seriously. Charlie finally got tired of fooling with her any longer, and, too, met another girl. The following is his announcement to Belle that he is going to marry another.

Troy, Doniphan Co., Kansas  
Sept. 25th, 1868

Remembered Friend,

'Tis in honor of my Sacred word that Prompts me to write this. You remember that I promised you I would tell you when I became "engaged". And behold the time has fully come. I was not engaged when I was home as I told you. Mifs Mattie J. Walton is the intended. I would attempt to describe her to you but it would take too much time just now, I will be at home soon after we are married and perhaps you will have a chance to see her.

Now Belle, I am not under any other obligation to you, am I? If I am Please inform me and if possible will remove it. But let not our friendship cease to exist. I was always a true friend of yours, always trying to be agreeable. If I failed you are the judge. I can look back to times of childhood, when in your company as the pleasantest times of life.



But those days can never return, but hope happier days may come, if not in this world, in the world to come. I hope to hear from you occasionally, especially when it comes your turn to do as I have done in this. My best wishes are for you and may happynefs, prosperity, and everything that is good be with you

Respectfully your friend

C.J. JONES

The love flame in Charlie's heart never did completely die out for his sweetheart of his youth. To his last days he still did not forget his Belle of the Prairie. On January 7th, 1908 he wrote:

NEW MARLBORO HOTEL  
BOSTON Jan 7, 1908

My Dear Old Friend of Long Ago,

It is with a heavy heart I address you. To all things there is an end, and it appears mine is near at hand. So I take this oportunity of lett- ing you know my friendship for you has not worn out.

You no doubt are aware I lost my wife last Oct., and it bore heavily upon me. My heart was never too strong and the shock has been against me. I have been fighting for life the past month or so, but it looks as if I must surrender.

I have been lecturing, but am obliged to cancel dates. My 4th call to Yale is for Saturday night, but I must cancel it.

I hope your health is all right and that you may have many happy days yet to live. I am perfectly resigned to give up this life believing the world is no worse for my short stay here. I leave for New Grand Hotel, N.Y. tomorrow, and if relief is not promised in my behalf I shall leave there for Kansas next week where I can be with my dear children. My kindest regards to Miss Grace, and believe me as ever.

Your true friend  
C.J. JONES

Charlie evidently improves in health. He sends Belle an invi- tation to attend an annual dinner of the CANADIAN CAMP at the Hotel Astor, New York, on March 2nd, 1909. Charlie is the guest speaker, his subject being "Man the Master of all Animals". Tickets \$4.00. "You all know 'Buffalo Jones', the man who uses the lasso instead of the gun---who ropes lions and captures them alive. Zane Grey has immortalized him in the 'Last of the Plainsmen', and he will probably be ranked as the greatest wild animal expert in the country."

In 1911 Charlie sent Belle a pamphlet printed by the Pond Lyceum Bureau advertizing BUFFALO JONES the lecturer, who will talk on "LASSOING WILD ANIMALS IN AFRICA" and illustrated with motion pictures taken in the field at great hazard."

"Col Jones certainly demonstrated that man was the master of every living animal. The Wild Boar, the Hartebeest, and the Eland were all easily captured. Not until the Giraffes were encountered did difficulties begin. But man always conquered in the end, as a record that included even Rhinoceros and a Lioness. Having captured the animals, Col Jones would set them free."

"Col Roosevelt said: "To tackle those beasts with a rifle with a rifle is one thing, but to tackle them with a rope is a perfectly marvelous feat."

Belle and Charlie are gone, but in July, 1928 the city of Garden City, Kansas honored him by erecting a monument in the city park for being its founder. The Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, Illinois, printed a long article about him because Charlie was born in Normal. A short quotation from this article is as follows:

"Pioneer, Indian fighter, buffalo hunter, prospector, personal friend of President Roosevelt and crowned heads of Europe, warden of Yellowstone National park and wrangler of wild animals in the jungles of Africa at an age when most men have taken to their easy chairs, Charles J. Jones former Bloomington and Normal resident, is to be honored by Garden City, Kansas of which he is the founder.

The life of "Buffalo Jones reads like that of some hero of fiction, and as a matter of record, he is even that, for Zane Grey, the famous western novelist, has used him as the hero of "The Last of the Plainsmen," "Lassoing Lions Alive in the Rockies", and other books."

After Belle finished the Union school at Hudson she went to the Illinois State Normal University. Here her horizons change and also her romances. Belle joined the music club and in every musical concert she was always in it. It was while in the music club that she met Will Cathcart. Will is a different type of fellow from Charlie, he can write a beautiful

hand. Even though Charlie did go to "Wrighting school", it did not make him a beautiful penman. Will was most eloquent as a poet. Surely Charlie did write some poetry, but his masterpiece of poetry only led to a misunderstanding between him and his Belle. Will's poetry was more finished and more acceptable to Belle. Will became a school teacher and while teaching wrote Belle many letters all of which she kept.

"You ask if I remember the time we sat in Wrightonian Hall and looked out on the splendor of the prairie moonlight?"

"I do remember it and count it one of the fairest pictures on memory's tablet. I like to speak and think of those scenes of the past and especially to visit them for as a poet--"

"---To a soul enamoured  
There is a sort of local sympathy,  
Which, when we view the scenes of early passion,  
Paints the bright image of the object loved  
In stronger colors than remoter scenes  
Could ever be painted."

In some of Will's letters he makes violent love to Belle in a much more fervent and finished manner than Charlie ever had words to do. The following are a few of Will's letters:

Marissa, Ill  
April 30, 1867

Dear Belle

\* \* \* \*

And you are going to teaching again. I expect to go at it again this winter if I have not forgotten how. Think likely I can get a good chance in Egypt (Southern Illinois). I want to find a good place somewhere and settle down. When I find it then I may get in a hurry, but as for trying to find a partner other than the one I have chosen, I certainly shall do no such thing. But as long as Belle continues to regard me as I sincerely trust, with other feelings than those of mere friendship, I shall wait in hope.

I shall avail myself to call and see you as soon as possible. We can then talk about the necessity for your teaching any more, and perhaps of attending Normal.

\* \* \* \*

As ever yours,

WILL  
(Will Cathcart)

Will also goes to Kansas:

Leavenworth, Kansas  
August 6, 1867

Dear Belle

\* \* \* \*

I hope you succeeded in finding a suitable boarding house, one with better regulations than where you were last year. (Normal) It seems more like a decade than a year since those pleasant, never to be recalled, hours spent with Belle. I cannot compare them to cases in a desert for my six months at Normal was anything but a dreary waste of time. They are rather bright green spots in a charming meadow, as so they will remain in my memory. I have not been at Normal since that week I spent there last fall.

If I escape the cholera and Indians and return once more to civilization I shall certainly do as you requested. I have joined a Government train soon to leave for Fort Harker. If anything would induce me to return to Normal it would be your being there.

You may not have a chance to get a letter to me for a long time. Will you not please write at once directing as before, and if I leave I will give orders to have it sent on.

As ever yours,  
WILL

Georgetown, Ill's  
Jan. 1st 1868

Dear Belle:

\* \* \* \*

You ask if I remember the time we sat in Wrightonian Hall and looked out on the splendours of a prairie moonlight. I do remember it and count it one of the fairest pictures on memory's tablet. I like to speak and think of those scenes of the past and especially to visit them for as the poet:

-----"To a soul enamoured  
There is a sort of local sympathy,  
Which, when we view the scenes of early passion,  
Paints the bright image of the object loved  
In stronger colors than remoter scenes  
Could ever paint it."

May the fairy web of fond anticipation there silently worm in the wasps of Luna's pale beams, form a brilliant lining for the firmer fabric of realized hopes.

You speak in rather desponding tones of your return to Normal. You cannot but have friends there. It would be pleasant to be able to think my efforts to please and entertain were so successful that their want is so felt; not that I by any means delight in anything giving you the least pain, but rather that my efforts were appreciated by you.

\* \* \* \*

Yours,  
WILL



Belle married neither Charlie Jones nor Will Cathcart. In the following letter she announces her engagement to Aunty Carman:

Hudson, Illinois  
May 26th, 1872

Dear Aunty (Cornelia Alma Carman  
South Oysterbay, L.I.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Heard through Mary Emma ( Mary Emma Weeks Burtis) that you were coming when Carrie (Carrie Burtis, daughter of M.E. & E.E. Burtis) comes. I have not seen Mary Emma but hear of her through Grandfather's folks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mollie Burtis is still keeping house for Will (Will Burtis). I wish Alma (Alma Burtis) could be put under someone's care. She is not being brought up right, and is placed in poor company; her whole hobby is dress.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am going to be married quite soon to Stephen Sealey. We are going to live in St Louis, he has been doing business there for two years. He is in the book business. We are going to board for a while. Uncle Jake, Aunt Nan and myself, were in St Louis last Fall. I like the place as well as any large city. We are going to be married very quietly without wedding and are going direct to St Louis. I should have written to you before, but expected you to be here before I was married. I have not done very much sewing for myself, for the milking, cleaning house and other work, Mother and I have both kept going.

Father has made himself a new leg; guess it's going to do nicely.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your affectionate niece

E. Arabella Weeks

Belle married Stephen Sealey as she said she was going to in her letter to Aunty Carman. Stephen had been in the Civil War having joined at the same time and the same regiment as did James Burtis. Why she chose Steve instead of Charlie or Will we do not know. Edwin Lewis Burtis said that Steve was an attractive fellow, suave in his manners and always nattily dressed. Anyway, Belle fell for him and they were married. They immediately went to St Louis to live. Dark stories have told of the conditions in which she was forced to live. It was said that she was forced to live in the same house as was living one of Steve's mistresses. The marriage lasted but a short time, and Belle came back home, never again to live with him.

They had one child, Grace Arabella. Stephen disappeared from their lives. Belle never married again. This unhappy marriage had its unpleasant effects upon both Belle and her daughter Grace for the remainder of their lives.

Stephen is last heard of during the World Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893; he is the operator of one of Chicago's most famous gambling houses. Edwin Lewis Burtis while visiting the Exposition had heard that Steve was operating this gambling house, and he went to see him. Steve at first would not admit his identity, but finally did, and said, "Hello, Ed, How are you." He was asked all about Belle and Grace seeming very interested in them. He made Edwin promise that he would not tell them where he was, probably because he didn't want them to know that he was engaged in such a notorious business as a gambling house operator. Long afterwards Belle learned that Edwin had seen Steve and had not told her about him, and because she was never told, she never did forgive Edwin.

Belle was an exceptionally attractive lady; she had her choice of many eligible men. As it happens so often today--the girl with the most opportunities often chooses the worst of the lot. Belle lived until 1918; whether she lived in regrets of marrying the wrong man she never did say.

They said that Stephen would sit incognito on the Normal University campus watching just for a glimpse of his daughter, Grace, who never once did meet her father.



## CHAPTER XV

## BURTIS' IN THE PRESENT GENERATION

When Arthur Burtis died on January seventh, 1941, the curtain fell upon another generation of the BURTIS family; the children of EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS and SARAH ANN LEWIS BURTIS. This was the eighth generation of Burtis's in America, and from it descends five branches. For the first two hundred years, 1635 to 1835, the family remained on Long Island. For the next one hundred years the family is in Hudson, Illinois; thereafter, the branches spread scattering the descendants to the four winds. Some of the William T.C. Burtis's family remain in Hudson residing on their grandfather's original land grant, others of this family live in Chicago. The Mary Burtis Stotler family are widely scattered, Hudson, Chicago, Kankakee and Champaign. The Edwin Lewis Burtis family reside mostly in the Chicago area, others are in California, Texas and Florida. The Alma Burtis Jones's mostly live in Kansas. The Arthur Burtis families having first being reared in Garden City, then scatter to Tennessee, Colorado, and some remain in Garden City; one is in Chicago.

Generally speaking, the living generation are making their livelihood by their heads rather than by their brawn; most of them have left the rural districts and are now in the urban communities. They probably have crawled up the economic ladder a notch or two from the previous generation.

We have heard of PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO because from him our name originated, but in order to really know from whence we came we must examine the maternal branches of our ancestral tree, each branch being just as important as the paternal branch. The Italian blood has been much heralded but little is heard of the more important English, Dutch and French blood.

The following chapters are a study of the maternal branches.

The children of

	WILLIAM T.C. BURTIS	b. 11-16-1844; d. 8 -2 -1902	
and	LEAH AMBROSE	b. 11-18-1856; d. 3 -7 -1935	
were	<u>Carman</u>	b. 9- 5-1880; d. 5 -22-1888	
	<u>Altha</u> m'd Fred Musgrove	b. 3-10-1884 m. 6-25-1919 d. 3-21-1953	
	<u>Cecel</u> m'd Edwin Meyer	b. 8- 7-1888; d. 8-23-1927 m. 2- 8-1917	1
	<u>Ralph</u> m'd Matilda Leech	b. 12- 4-1890 m. 9-16-1920	2
	<u>Floss</u> m'd Frank Wood m'd Raymond Grove	b. 4-23-1893 m. 11-22-1927 d. 8-26-1932 m. 6-23-1950	
	<u>Gordon</u>	b. 3-10-1896 d. 2- 13-1911	
	<u>Parker</u>	b. 11-21-1898	

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<sup>1</sup>The children of Cecil Burtis  
and

Edwin Meyer  
are

<u>Mary Ellen</u> m'd	b. 1-19-1919 m. 7- 5-1941	
George Lawrence Their children:		
George R. m'd	b. 9- 6-1943	d. 1945
Alfred Byron Reed,	m. 9- 1-1950	

<sup>2</sup> The children of Ralph Burtis  
and

Matilda Leech  
are

<u>Joanna Lou</u> m'd	b. 11-1 -1921 m. 1-1-1946	
U.D. Miller Their children are		
Stephen Burtis	b. 12-23-1947	
Gregg Burtis	b. 2-29-1952	
<u>Carman Jane</u> m'd	b. 7-31-1930 m. 11-23-1952	
Donald Earl Gresham		

The children of

	MARY ELIZA BURTIS	b. 11- 3-1846;	d. 12-22-1888	
and		m.		
	JOHN STOTLER			
are				
	<u>Howard</u> Arthur	b. 10-13-1876;	d. 4-13-1939	
	m'd	m. 8-10-1904		
	Susan Wagner	b. 3-10-1883		1
	<u>Oscar</u>	b. 4-17-1878	d. 1954	2
	m'd	m. 6-30-1904		
	Hattie Hitch			
	<u>Myron</u>	b. 9-30-1880	d.	
	m'd (1st)	m. 1-23-1907	.	
	Nora Eaton		d.	
	m'd (2nd)			
	Clara Faragher	m. 10-25-1912		3

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1 The children of

	<u>Howard</u> Stotler			
a nd				
	Susan Wagner			
are				
	<u>Kenneth</u>	b. 7 -4 -1907		
	M'd	m. 2 -22-1941		
	Mary Oderbrecht			
	Their children:			
	Edith Ann	b. 10-11-1946		
	Robert Wagner	b. 5- 3-1949		
	Susan Wagner	b. 2- 4-1951		
	<u>Virginia</u>	b. 3-15-1911		
	m'd	m. 6- 1935		
	Wilbur Payne			
	Their children:			
	Howard Burtis	b. 6-20-1938		
	Bruce Wagner	b. 5-27-1941		
	<u>Howard</u> Arthur	b. 2-28-1914		
	m'd			
	Jamie Heise			

3 The children of

	Myron Stotler			
and				
	Clara Faragher			
are				
	<u>Lorraine</u>	b. 3-13-1918		
	m'd	m. 8-22-1942		
	Charles Diecken			
	Their children:			
	Robert Stotler	b. 9-11-1946		
	Douglas Heye	b. 2-12-1949		

<sup>2</sup>The children of

Oscar Stotler	
and	
Hattie Hitch	
are	
<u>Lloyd</u>	b. 2- 4-1906; d. 1- 6-1929
<u>Maxine</u>	b. 11-9-1907
<u>Hazel</u>	b. 2-5-1909
m'd	m. 12-28-1938
Jess Emerick	
Their children:	
David Stotler	b. 5-13-1940
Jacqueline Diane	b. 7-17-1945
<u>Dorothy</u>	b. 3-10-1911
m'd	m. 5-10-1931
Howard Hileman	
Their children:	
Shirley Ann	b. 4- 9-1934
Norman Louis	b. 5-23-1935
<u>Wendell</u>	
m'd	m. 2- 8-1939
Dorothy Gildersleeve	
Their children:	
Lloyd Myron	b. 2-19-1939
Wayne Arthur	b. 10-11-1941
Karen Kay	b. 12- 4-1946
<u>Ruth</u>	b. 9- 5-1914
m'd	m. 6-15-1940
Harvey T. Roland	
<u>Charlotte</u>	b. 9-29-1917
m'd	m. 7-18-1937
Fred Radakovich	
Their children:	
Brian Fred	b. 7- 6-1938
Sharyl Lynn	b. 9-29-1944
<u>Margaret</u>	b. 7-26-1922
m'd	m. 3-16-1947
Paul Hustedt	
Their children:	
Cynthia Joyce	b. 6-28-1951
<u>Frances</u>	b. 11-18-1923
m'd	m. 2-14-1946
Lawrence G. Mayes	d. 1- 4-1950
Their children:	
Robert Lawrence	b. 5-16-1949
<u>Mary</u>	b. 11-14-1925

The children of

and	<u>EDWIN LEWIS BURTIS</u>	b. 6-13-1849; d. 1-23-1934	
are	<u>MATTIE BARSBY</u>	b. 9- 2-1854; d. 7-16-1941	
	<u>Guy Seaman</u>	b. 12-19-1875	
	m'd	m. 2- 8-1905	
	Daisy Skinner (1st)	d. 2-20-1913	1
	m'd (2nd)	m. 6-3 -1914	
	Iris O'Brien		
	<u>Clyde Lewis</u>	b. 8-12-1877	
	m'd	m. 10-11-1908	
	Nellie Haaff	b. 3-29-1877 d. 7-17-1923	2
	<u>Edna</u>	b. 8-14-1879	
	m'd	m. 6-2-1910	
	Marcus Francis Brown	d. 8-26-1916	
	<u>Ira Everett</u>	b. 8-19-1881; d. 11-7-1949	3
	m'd	m. 3-15-1911	
	Myrtha Beule (1st)	b. 4- 6-1884; d. 2-25-1915	
	m'd	m. 12- 5-1918	
	Florence Baker	d. 1953	
	<u>Cleo Frances</u>	b. 9-23-1884	
	m'd	m. 12- 5-1914; d.	
	Winfred Kallasch (1)	d. 6- 6-1937	
	m'd	m. 1-28-1939	
	Harry G. Hempstead(2)		
	<u>Harry</u>	b. 9-10-1886; d. 8-14-1889	
	<u>Verne Webster</u>	b. 8- 8-1889; d. 12-25-1954	4
	m'd	m. 8-20-1913	
	Mildred Patton		
	<u>Carrie (Karee)Maleta</u>	b. 11-11-1891	
	m'd	m. 3-16-1925	
	George C. Davis		
	<u>Edwin Samuel</u>	b. 3-26-1894	
	m'd	m. 9-18-1919	
	Emma Gillespie		5
	<u>Royal Vistor</u>	b. 4-23-1896	
	m'd	m. 9- 8-1923	
	Frances Dorr		6

1 The children of  
 GUY SEAMAN BURTIS  
 AND  
 DAISY SKINNER  
 are

<u>Lawrence Skinner</u>	b. 12- 9-1909
m'd	m. 1-20-1946
Bernice Edlund	
Their children:	
Andrew Edlund	b. 11-29-1949 *
John Spencer	b. 1-14-1951 *
Joy Bell	b. 10-10-1954 *
<u>Guy Seaman</u>	b. 2-14-1913
m'd	m. 1- 1-1938
Their children:	
Guy Seaman	b. 1-15-1951 *
James Cameron	b. 6-21-1952*

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2 The children of  
 CLYDE LEWIS BURTIS b. 8-12-1877  
 and  
 NELLIE M. HAAFF  
 are

<u>Edgar Lewis</u>	b. 11-6-1908
m'd	m. 8-25-1939
Eleanor Ballentine	
Their children:	
David Edwin	b. 10-3--1941
Charlotte	b. 6-10-1913

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3 The children of  
 IRA EVERETT BURTIS  
 and  
 MYRTHA BEULE  
 are

<u>Caroline</u>	b. 4- 5-1912
m'd	m. 7-14-1941
Shelton Beatty	
Their children:	
Barbara Rachel	b. 3- 7-1946
John Lee	b. 4- 4-1948
<u>Gretchen</u>	b. 1- 9-1914
m'd	m. 9- 4-1937
William H. Chapman	
Their children:	
William H.	b. 11- 2-1942
John Benjamin	b. 12-30-1947
<u>Peter Beule</u>	b. 2-10-1915
m'd	m. 1952
Marguerite Hatcher	
Their children:	
James Michael	b. 3- 1953

\* Adopted

4 The children of

VERNE WEBSTER BURTIS b

and

MILDRED PATTON

are

Lewis Patton b. 10-1 -1919

m'd m. 6-26-1943

Emily Grove

Their children:

Charles Grove b. 2- 9-1946

Karee Lyn b. 6-25-1948

5 The children of

EDWIN SAMUEL BURTIS

AND

EMMA GILLESPIE

are

Eloise b. 10-14-1926

m'd m. 4-3 -1947

George Davis Crow

Their children:

George Davis b. 5-23-1948

Jonathan Samuel b. 2-10-1951

Julia Fairfax b. 12-2 -1952

6 The children of

ROYAL VICTOR BURTIS

and

FRANCES DORR

are

Cynthia b. 3-22-1925

m'd m. 9- 6-1948

Hilliard Fjord

Their children

Linda Frances b. 11-15-1949

Carol Laurie b. 2-12-1951

Carol b. 10-16-1926

m'd m. 11- 3-1951

Edwin H. Watkins

Their children:

Frank Burtis b. 9-19-1952

Cynthia 1954

Edwin Sawyer b. 4-23-1930

m'd m. 6-20-1953

Carolyn Foster

Their children:

Cleo Frances b. 3-28-1954



The children of

CORNELIA ALMA BURTIS

and

CUSHING JONES

ARE

Mildred

b. 7-16-1884; d.

1935

m'd

Louis Smith

Their children:

Thelma

Louis (Named changed to LEE BURTIS)

The children of

ARTHUR HENRY BURTIS

and

ELLA WORREL (1st wife)

are

Gertrude Ella

b. 3-27-1883

m'd

m. 10-25-1905; .

Roy S. Cone

b. 1878; d.

1920

Their children:

Cecely

b. 9-10-1907

m'd

m. 8-18-1936

Leonard Beach

Their children:

Beatrice Aurel b. 1-11-1940

Caroline Burtis, b. 3-14-1942

Ann Spencer, b. 2-24-1951

Spencer Burtis

b. 1-11-1910

m'd

m. 7-31-1946

Nancy Howard

Their children:

Katherine Howard Kinney, b. 10-1-1943

(by prior marriage)

John Spencer b. 9-29-1952 \*

The children of

ARTHUR HENRY BURTIS

and

SADIE MACK (2nd wife)

are

Preston Arthur b. 1-10-1892  
m'd m. 6-20-1914

Elizabeth Hopkins

Their children:

Robert Hopkins b. 10-10-1915

m'd m. 8-17-1940

Elizabeth Larue

Their children:

Preston Arthur b. 6-10-1919

m'd m. 11-11-1942

Dorothy Craig (1)

Their children:

Barbara b. 10-10-1945

m'd m. 2-26-1949

Mary Louise Hauber(2)

Their children:

Spencer Hauber b. 1-29-1950

Rebecca b. 8-12-1951

Guy Spencer b. 11-17-1921

m'd m. 1-17-1942

Margaret Scholes

Their children:

Susan b. 10-29-1944

Kathleen b. 12-29-1945

Elizabeth b. 5-20-1950

Aurel b. 11-25-1893; d. 3-14-1948

m'd m. 7-18-1925

Fred Kuhn

Lucien b. 2-24-1899; d. 4-19-1903

Maxine b. 7- 7-1901

m'd m. 12-25-1929

Edward Smaage

Aleyn Henry b. 3-29-1904

m'd m. 11- 2-1929

Elizabeth Evenson

Their children:

Mack Evenson b. 5-24-1933

Betty Alden b. 7- 2-1937

## CHAPTER XVI

## EARLY MATERNAL ANTECEDENTS,

## THE VAN NOSTRANDS.

When PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO married JUDITH JANS MAINJE their children became one-half French and one-half Italian. JUDITH was the daughter of JAN MAINJE, an immigrant, who had settled in the Wallabought Bay district of Brooklyn; Which district was settled primarily by the Walloons who came to America from Holland early in the seventeenth century. They had previously fled to Holland from France to escape their Catholic persecutors.

JAN MAINJE was killed shortly after settling in America while fighting Indians in 1644. JUDITH'S mother, MARTHA CHAMBART, was also a Walloon emigrant from Holland. She remained in the Wallabought district after her husband's death, and later married Pieter Linde. He is mentioned in the records of "The Minutes of the Orphanmasters" when he is appointed guardian of PIETRO CAESAR ALBERTO'S children after he and his wife, JUDITH, were killed by the Indians.

The children of PIETRO ALBERTO do not grow to maturity in the Dutch domain, for they are soon found after their parents' deaths, in the English community of Newtown. Here PIETRO'S sons and daughters marry into English families.

ARTHUR ALBERTO married ELIZABETH WAY, the daughter of JAMES WAY, an English Quaker, who was one of the original settlers of Newtown. It is recorded that JAMES WAY was a just man, a loyal Englishman, and an orthodox Quaker. He was one of the most prominent men of Newtown, and is often mentioned in the records of that town. He died in 1685 at a very old age.

ARTHUR ALBERTO (Now ALBURTUS) and ELIZABETH WAY'S son JAMES married JANNETJE VAN NOSTRAND who was of Dutch descent. Her ancestry dates back to the earliest Dutch (Walloon) emigrants, and are as follows:

The emigrant was:

JACOB JANSEN NOORSTRANDT  
(emigrated in 1639)

who married

JANNETJE JACOBSE  
(daughter of AARON JACOBSE)

their son was

AARON VAN NOORSTRANDT  
(born near Albany)

Aaron married

AELTJE VAN STEINWYCK  
(M. 9-4-1687, daughter of ALBERT)

Aaron's and Aeltje's daughter was:

JANNETJE VAN NOORSTRAND  
(died before 1729)

Jannetje married

JAMES ALBURTUS,  
(B, 1682; d. 1770)

1

Aaron, father of Jannetje is mentioned in many records, a few of which are as follows: Aaron Van Nostrand married Aeltje Van Steinwyck, Sept. 4, 1687, in the Kingston Reformed Dutch Church.

2

In 1693, his name is on the assessment rolls of Flatbush, L.I.

In 1698 he is on the census rolls as having five children.

In 1707 he and wife witness the baptism of their grand daughter, Elizabeth Alburtus in Jamaica.

In 1708, he witnesses the baptism of JACOB ALBURTUS, 8-12.

In 1715, on Sept 17th, he is mentioned as being a member of Capt. Treadwell's train band in Hempstead.

In 1731, on April 14th, he subscribes 3 pounds ten shillings towards the building of a church at Success.

In his will dated June 12, 1745, he names his second wife, Geerty, his sons, Jacob, ALBERT, John, Aaron, Moses, Isaac, William, Everet, and David; his daughters, Ann, Aelche, Geerty, Mary Elizabeth and Jannaca; also his grand children, the children of his daughter, JANE (JANNETJE) ALBURTUS, deceased, they have such part divided unto them as their mother should have had. 3

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1 American Families of Historical Lineage, Vol. 1, by Pelletreau.

2 Documentary History of the Dutch Congregation of Oyster Bay, by Stoutenburgh.

3 Ibid.

## CHAPTER XVII

## THE DORLANDS AND THEIR MATERNAL ANTECEDENTS,

## THE REMSENS AND THE RAPALIES.

JAMES BURTIS, born in 1708, married MIRIAM DORLAND, and their son, ELIAS BURTIS, born in 1746, married MIRIAM'S niece, HANNAH DORLAND. By these marriages the BURTIS family is twice tied to the DORLAND family, which was of a near pure Dutch ancestry; an ancestry which dates back nearly as far as there are Dutch in America. By referring to the BURTIS lineage table at the end of this book the DORLAND antecedents can be visualized with ease.

JORIS JANSEN de RAPALIE and his French wife, CATALIN TRICO, were Walloon emigrants from Holland, coming in 1623. They first lived in Fort Orange (Albany) and in 1626 moved to New Amsterdam. CATALYN TRICO was the daughter of JEREMIAH TRICO of Paris. JORIS de RAPALIE was one of the "Twelve Men" to devise means of defense against the Indians of New Amsterdam. He had bought land in Wallabout about 1637 and moved to it in 1657. It consisted of about 335 acres in the vicinity of the present location of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The daughter of JORIS and CATALYN was JANNETJE who married REM JANESE VANDERBEECK. Prior to 1643 REM had acquired a plantation at Wallabout from his father-in-law and settled on it about 1660. He married JANNETJE on December 12th, 1642. They had seventeen children. REM JANSEN VANDERBEECK is the progenitor of the REMSENS in America. A common custom with the Dutch was to designate a son or a daughter by adding "son" or "sen" to the given name. This accounts partially for the changing of the name to REMSEN, the other reason being the Anglicizing of the name to the easier handled one.

REM and JANNETJE'S daughter, ANNA REMSEN, born on August 18th, 1629, in New Amsterdam, married JAN GERRETSE DORLAND. He was an emigrant from Holland in 1652, settling on a farm of forty acres located near the Fulton Street Ferry in Brooklyn. He was appointed commissioner of

Brooklyn in 1687, and its collector in 1699. ANNA and JAN married in 1667.

JAN and ANNA DORLAND'S son, ELIAS, born in 1656, and died in 1692, married Mrs. MIRIAM WILLIAMS (widow). ELIAS and MIRIAM'S son, ELIAS, born in 1682, married MIRIAM \_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_.

ELIAS and MIRIAM (2nd) DORLAND'S daughter MIRIAM, born April 22, 1715, died Dec. 18, 1785, married JAMES ALBURTIS who was born in 1708. This DORLAND family lived in Hempstead. <sup>1&2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> History of Brooklyn, by Stiles, p. 63

<sup>2</sup> The Dorlandt Family in America, by John Dorland Gremer

## CHAPTER XVIII

## THE COLORFUL CARMAN FAMILY

Through ELIZABETH ARABELLA CARMAN, wife of JACOB HICKS BURTIS, we are connected with the CARMANS, a most colorful and important family in Americas development. Their English ancestry is traced back for several hundred years before they came to America, the earliest mention being in the Domesday Book, that census of people and property ordered taken by William the Conqueror in 1086.

The Carmans in America trace their ancestry to JOHN CARMAN and FLORENCE FORDHAM, daughter of Reverend ROBERT FORDHAM, who came from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England.

Early in the seventeenth century there was a great unrest among the members of the Church of England, one division known as Puritans demanded reforms in doctrine and worship and greater strictness in discipline. From this group came the American immigrants who are known as Puritans. A company of them received a grant of land on Massachusetts Bay and came in 1628; in 1630 large concessions were received through the influence of John Winthrop, an English Puritan, who founded the Massachusetts Bay Company.

On November 4th, 1631, JOHN CARMAN, his wife, FLORENCE, and her father, Reverend ROBERT FORDHAM, arrived in Massachusetts on the ship "Lyon".

The Massachusetts Bay Colony together with the Plymouth Colony (founded in 1620 by the Pilgrims) thrived side by side. The distinguishing difference between them was that the Pilgrims were separatists from the Church of England, while the Puritans tho not wishing to separate from the Church, did not conform to the many ceremonies of the Church. Though the Puritans came to America for religious freedom, soon found themselves disagreeing upon many ecclesiastical doctrines, the chief of which was whether the civil government should have jurisdiction over religious worship. Among



the more prominent of those who believed in absolute freedom of the church was Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island.

Religious doctrine was the chief cause of dissent among the members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and the reason many left the colony and settled elsewhere. Undoubtedly this is the reason we later find JOHN CARMAN and Reverend FORDHAM settling in Stamford, Connecticut in 1640, and then later on Long Island. Religion was the most important thing in life to these earliest settlers, and they continually were separating and forming new colonies where they believed they could worship the "right" way.

In quest of a location for forming a new colony where they could follow the dictates of their own consciences, JOHN CARMAN and Reverend FORDHAM came to Long Island, and on December 13th, 1643, as agents for the colony in Stamford, Connecticut, purchased from the Indians 64,000 acres of the island. They and the remainder of their group at Stamford immediately moved to this new location and founded the town of Hempstead. Shortly thereafter they bought additional land which made a tract of about 120,000 acres. Though they had bought the land from the Indians, Long Island was then under the jurisdiction of the Dutch, and a patent from them was obtained on November 16th, 1644.

JOHN CARMAN was prominent in the development of Hempstead, and his descendants were prominent in its growth for many generations to come. He died in 1653 and his wife died in 1661. A brief summary of the last will of JOHN CARMAN (second generation) dated September 14th, 1684, is as follows:

1. In the name of God amen \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Instructs to pay all debts \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I do give to my two oldest sons, JOHN and Caleb -----.
4. I do give to my son, Benjamin-----.
5. It is my desire that my two sons JOHN and Caleb take my brother Joshua's estate---that they should provide for him.-----.
6. I give to my two youngest sons, Joshua and Joseph my part of the two mills, only JOHN and Caleb shall have the use and benefit of the mill.
7. I do give to my daughter Abigail one bed-----.
8. I do give to my sons, Samuel and Thomas-----.

1

1

The children of

	JOHN CARMAN	b. 1606; d. 1653
and		
	FLORENCE FORDHAM	d. 1661
are		
	JOHN	b. 1633; d. 1664
	m'd	
	HANNAH----- <sup>2</sup> -----	
	Abigail	b. 1635
	m'd	
	Benjamin Coe	
	Caleb	b. 1639; d. 1643
	Caleb	b.
	m'd	
	Elizabeth Smith	
	Joseph	b. 1649

The children of

	JOHN CARMAN	b. 1633; d. 1684
	(2nd gen)	
and	HANNAH-----	
are		
	John	
	m'd	
	Hannah Seaman, (daughter of Capt John Seaman)	
	CALEB	b. 1660
	m'd	
	ANN SEAMAN, (daughter of Capt John Seaman)	
	Benjamin	d. 1694
	Thomas	
	Samuel	
	Abigail	
	Joseph	b. 1684
	Joshua	b. 1684

1 & 3

In 1673 in the official muster roll of Captain Hicks company of colonial militia of Queens County we find CALEB THOMAS CARMAN.<sup>2</sup> This CALEB is identified as the second son of JOHN (2nd gen.)

<sup>1</sup> American Families of Historical Lineage, by Pelletreau

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Carman Genealogy, Wm. S. Carman, N.Y. Library, V. 5, P. 42.

May 23, 1682, Hempstead,—engages to pay Jerimy Hobart yearly during the time we live under his ministry, and pay in cattle and corn. Signed, JOHN CARMAN Sr., John Carman, Jr., CALEB CARMAN.<sup>1</sup>

The children of

CALEB CARMAN                      b. 1660

and

ANN SEAMAN

are

CALEB                                      b. 1682

m'd

MARGARET-----.

Benjamin

Samuel

(daughters)

In "Documentary History of the New Yourk" are the names of taxable inhabitants of Hempstead in 1685, to liquidate the price of the last patent assessment of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pence per acre. Among those names listed are:

John Carman,	180 acres
Caleb Carman	180 "
Benjamin Carman	70 "
Elias Dorlon	100 "

The following is the last will of CALEB CARMAN, Sr., of Hempstead, dated September 29, 1720. It is written fully to show the style in which all wills were made at that time. The sanctimonious form of the first paragraph is very similar in all wills of that time. The eldest son always gets the lions share, the wife and daughters generally fare badly.

In the name of God, Amen, on the twenty ninth day of September on the year of our Lord 1720, I CALEB CARMAN, Senior, of Hempstead in Queens County, being sich and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God. Therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die. Do make and order this my last will and testament. I recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it to my body. I recommend to the Earth to be buried in a Christian-like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the grand resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as to touching such worldly estate wherewith it has blessed God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath to ANN my dearly beloved wife all my movable estate during her widowhood.

- Item: Provided my said wife shall see cause to marry again after my decease, that then my aforesaid estate shall be equally divided amongst my daughters in equal proportions to be and remain to them and their heirs forever.
- Item: I give to my well beloved son CALEB CARMAN, the land which he now lives on and lying by the plainage near the great meadow, and the meadow lying at the east meadow which land, meadow to stand and remain to him, his heirs forever-----.
- Item: I give to my son Benjamin, my house and home lot of land lying in the town of Hempstead bounded north by brother John's land, east of the highway, south of Samuel Emery's and west of the highway-----.
- Item: I give to my well beloved son Samuel-----.
- Item: I give to my well beloved youngest sons, Benjamin and Samuel, all my meadow at Cold Neck-----.
- Item: I give to my three sons CALEB, Benjamin, and Samuel, all my rights of divided and undivided land which I have in the town of Hempstead-----.

1

In comparing the will of JOHN CARMAN (2nd gen.) and the will of CALEB CARMAN Sr. (third gen.) shows this is CALEB son of JOHN. CALEB says in his will: "I give to son Benjamin land bound on the north by my brother John's land."

The children of

CALEB CARMAN	b. 1682
and (4th gen.)	
MARGARET-----?	
are	
Caleb	
John	
SILAS	b. 3-14-1709; d. 4-12-1784
m'd	m. 5-18-1786
HANNAH SMITH	b. 1-12-1718; d. 1797
Hannah	
Margaret	
Joseph	
Phebe	
Mary	

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<sup>1</sup> Carman Genealogy, by Wm. Stillwell Carman, Bk 25, p. 45, N.Y. Library.

Wills made in the past are ever interesting revealing incidents and relationships otherwise unknown. In this will is mentioned the negro slaves owned by these Long Islanders who descended from such sanctimonious forefathers. Slavery, therefore, was not a distinct institution of the South, but thrived as well in the North.

The last will of CALEB CARMAN (fourth gen.), of Hempstead, dated March 3, 1744, proved April 1, 1746.

In the name of God, Amen - - - - - .

First: I give to my beloved wife Margaret one negro wench called Lib to dispose of as she thall think fit. I give likewise to my wife the one-half of my lands and house to her only proper use during her natural life. I give likewise to my said Margaret my negro boy Ned during her life for her use as she shall have occasion.

1

The children of SILAS CARMAN	b. 3-14-1709; d. 3-17-1784
and (5th gen.)	m. 6-15-1736
HANNAH SMITH	b. 1-12-1818; d. 1797
are	
Elizabeth	bpt. 10-11-1737
m'd John Seaman	
Margaret	bpt. 3-27-1740
m'd Thomas Hendrickson	
Samuel	bpt. 7-29-1743
Sarah	bpt. 10-20-1743
m'd Obidiah Seaman	
Mary	bpt. 2-17-1747
m'd William Terry	
Hannah	bpt. 7-20-1751
m'd Stephen Hendrickson	
Abigail	bpt. 9-15-1753
m'd John Day	
Gloranna	bpt. 5-10-1756
Phebe	bpt. 6-3-1758
SILAS	bpt. 7-21-1761; d. 8-15-1834
m'd	m. 2-11-1782
ABIGAIL FLEET	b. 5-2-1766; d. 1-16-1839
Joshua	bpt. 7-25-1763

2

<sup>1</sup> Abstract of Wills, Surrugate Court, N.Y. Liber 15, p.529

<sup>2</sup> Records of St. George's Church, Hempstead, L.I.

The mother of ABIGAIL FLEET was named SAMIS, a family that is still prominent in Hempstead. This is attested to by Grace Sealey Smith.

In the following will of SILAS CARMAN (5th gen.) is related the "generosity" he shows towards his wife. (probably where some of us have inherited our great generosity. It was also common practice for a husband to limit any bequest only for the duration of the time the wife remains a widow.

The last will of SILAS CARMAN of Hempstead dated May 21, 1763 at Oyster Bay, Queens County, proved in Hempstead, February 12th, 1787.

\* \* \* \* \*

I will unto my well and beloved wife HANNAH CARMAN all the remainder of my movable estate of whichsoever be at her disposal. I also will and bequeath unto my said wife the best room in my dwelling house and the leanto adjoining for her use together with the rents issues and profits of my grist mill, and timber to repair said mill, and firewood, and land for a garden, and to have the privilege of keeping on my farm one horse, two cows, six sheep and two hogs, and the privilege of cutting hay for said creatures so long as she remains a widow. 1

The children of

	SILAS CARMAN	b. 7-21-1761; d. 8-15-1834
and		m. 3-18-1782
	ABIGAIL FLEET	b. 5- 2-1766; d. 1-16-1839
are	Joshua	b. 3-23-1783
	m'd Ann Christholm	
	Phoebe	b. 8-30-1785; d. 1805
	Timothy	b. 5-16-1787 d. 1872
	Benjamin	b. 11- 9-1789
	Deborah	b. 11- 9-1797; d. 1819
	ELIZABETH ARABELLA	b. 5-26-1800; d. 1-27-1832
	m'd JACOB HICKS BURTIS,	m 2- 5-1821
	Isabella	b. 5-1-1803
	m'd Miles Wood	
	Cornelia Alma	b. 1805; d. 1-22-1891
	Treadwell	b. 5-27-1807; d. 8-15-1880
	m'd Elizabeth Hendrickson	

2

<sup>1</sup> Recorded at Court of Appeals, Albany, Book 1, p.44.

<sup>2</sup> Carman History, by Wm. S. Carman, N.Y. Lib. Also Liber G. p. 432, Jamaica Library.

The old homestead of SILAS CARMAN still remains in the Carman family at South Oysterbay (Amityville), and is occupied by one of the descendants.

The oldest family letter we have preserved is the following:

Oysterbay South  
21st of 11th, 1824

(To Alma Carman,  
Oysterbay South., L.I.

Dear Girl

I now resume the pleasing task of devoting a few lines to (I believe I may say) a best friend. I hope the tie of friendship is not broken that has been so long prevailed. If I have offended tell me of my error for I believe through ignorance error springs.

Almy I have nothing that is interesting to tell the for I have scarcely stird since the was here. I have been expecting a letter from the every day for a month but I have not received any, nor believe I shall. But I can ashure the that the esteem which I have ever retained for the is ever day increasing. By thy indifference I receive I fear my letters are uninteresting, if they are commit it to the flames.

O Almy I hope the will not refuse to communicate a few lines to me as soon as the receives this for I am very anxious to hear the cause of thy long silence.

Please give my best respects to Arabella

MARTHA WHITSON

HOP SYRUP FOR COUGH

1859

Put a double handful of hops in a pipkin.  
Add a quart of water;  
Boil it down to a pint,  
Then strain it.  
Add a pint of molasses,  
A small cup of vinegar  
Boil 30 minutes.

Take a tablespoonful six times a day.

If cough is troublesome take more often.



Here is another very old letter, part of which is here written to show the style of letter writing in yester years.

Huntington  
March 25, 1827

(To Deborah Carman, sister of Eliza  
Carman)

My dear Mifs C

I have felt a very deep interest for you ever since I saw you, and therefore take this early opportunity to write you a few lines sympathizing with you in your present affliction, and at the same time hoping you may be again restored to your former health.

I might have prescribed many things perhaps that would be beneficial. But I feared to knowing that which might prove beneficial to one would injure another, as no two constitutions are alike. I would not recommend much inward medicine, especially heating, such as herb teas, as they tend rather to turn the complaint to a tropical nature. But outward applications are inofencive and if they do not help yourself they do not injure. When I was in much the same way as yourself I made free use of alkoholl or the spirits of wine bitters, such as cloves, orange peal, alspace, cinimon and other spices. I steeped and preserved in brandy and made palatable with loaf sugar and a little water.

But my dear friend I may exprefs in those beautiful lines of the poet:

How vain are all the drugs and skill,  
Of great physicians here;  
If God denies a blefsing; still  
I languish in thie care.

It is then of the most momentous importance to be ready to enter in the dark valley and shadow of death. O how vain and transitory is everything in this present life. Nothing indeed is worth living for but to prepare for that existence which must last through the never ending ages of eternity. What is this world to be compared to but a picture of elegant painting which attracts the eye and enlivens the imagination; yet when thrned is but a blank leaf. (There follows a long desertation of the same nature) \* \* \* \* \*

Jane C. Carman

## CHAPTER XIX

## CAPTAIN JOHN SEAMAN AND HIS FAMILY

The writer has deliberately confined himself to the families from the time the emigrant came to America, leaving earlier ancestry alone. In a number of cases there is recorded family histories for several generations prior to their arrival in America. In some cases the family's have Coats of Arms, but it was thought best to make this entire narrative American, consequently, the Coats of Arms must be eliminated. For those who must have a Coat of Arms decorating their threshold he can obtain one through the SEAMANS or the CARMANS. In fact this SEAMAN family traces their ancestry back to the year 1042.

Captain JOHN SEAMAN was the father of ANN SEAMAN, wife of CALEB CARMAN (3rd gen.). He was born in Essex, England, between 1603 and 1610. He came to America with the Winthrop fleet and their cargo of Puritans, he being one of that religious body. Shortly after his arrival in America he disagreed with the main Puritan body and broke off from it. He with others who disagreed first went to Watertown, Massachusetts and then on to Stamford, Connecticut. In 1646 there came the Pequod Indian wars, in which wars he had command of a company, whence came his title of Captain. He was one of the sixty-two original signers (in Connecticut) of the Hempstead compact, and in 1647 he settled on that tract of land on Long Island. He was very prominent in that vicinity for the following half century. He married Elizabeth Strickland by whom he had four sons and one daughter. He married the second time MARTHA MOORE, who was born in England, the daughter of THOMAS and MARTHA YOUNG. By this wife he had eleven children, among whom was ANN, the wife of CALEB CARMAN (3rd gen.).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Seaman Family in America, by Mary Thomas Seaman. Congressional Library.

## CHAPTER XX

## SAMUEL LEWIS, THE ENGLISHMAN, SETTLES IN ILLINOIS

SAMUEL LEWIS, of Cheltenham, England, came with his wife, SARAH SEALEY, and their five children, to America in 1835. Shortly after their arrival in America, agents of the Hudson Colony sold him shares entitling him to land in that colony in Illinois. He immediately went West and joined the colony in 1836. He was a plumber by trade and found much use for his trade in this new land. A few years after he settled in Illinois the Illinois Central railroad was built through central Illinois, and this gave him much work because of his trade. He and his wife were thrifty and they prospered, acquiring a considerable property in the vicinity of Hudson.

The oldest son, William, we hear of in an amusing way through a letter written by JACOB HICKS BURTIS: "Tell Phebe, Bill Lewis like to got married, he had the wedding cake and everything in English stile and asked everybody he saw to the wedding, but when the day came Miss McCully said she did not promise to have him, and so it ended." This letter was dated 1842. Bill shortly thereafter joined the U.S. Army and became a bugler; whether Miss McCully's jilting had anything to do with it we do not know. He died while in the army, and is buried at Fort Gibson in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

In a letter dated March 29th, 1843, written by EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS to his sister, Phebe, we hear of SARAH ANN LEWIS: "I occasionally go to Father Lewis's and see the folks, but if the truth was known, it is more to see SARAH ANN than any of the rest. If I was fixed for getting married I should prefer her to anyone else. When you write you may tell how you like my choice." His visits were not in vain and he evidently was fixed for getting married, because on December 23rd, 1843, that is what happens. SARAH ANN'S father gave them a 160 acre farm where they live the remainder of their days.

Another son, Samuel H. Lewis, lived in Hudson most of his life. When a young man he went to Texas to buy cattle and drove them north to better markets. He was<sup>a</sup> shrewd business man and acquired many farms about Hudson. In later years he moved to Prescott, Wisconsin for a while, where he could get a higher interest on his money which he had to loan. Sam married Irene Smith, who died when Sam's only child, Mae, was a young girl. Mae married a Captain Doughty who was the master of a river boat on the Mississippi and they lived in Prescott, Wisconsin. Mae died a very short time after she had married. Sam had died leaving his estate to Mae for her lifetime, and then the estate was divided between his two sister's Jane and Sarah Ann. Since Sarah Ann was dead, that one-half of his estate was divided among Sarah Ann's children. Thanks to Sam's frugal living and shrewd business acumen, his heirs fell into a tidy sum of money. All of his real estate was sold at auction on the court house steps at Bloomington. It is needless to say that the heirs were highly excited in watching this sale.

Sam's mother, Sarah Sealey, had two brothers, Joe and Stephen, who also lived near Hudson. Both of them were in the Union army during the Civil war. It was Joe that EDWIN LEWIS BURTIS went with to Springfield to enlist, but EDWIN being so young, only fourteen, was sent back home.

Stephen Sealey married Arabella (Belle) Weeks; their story is told elsewhere.

The following chain letter is saved which was written by Joe and others:

Saint Paul,  
Feb 14, 1877

Dear Sam (Hudson, Ill)

Yours of the 12 inst rec'd this morning and I am going to tell you all I know, which is not much, and refer this to the others for their remarks. I am plodding along the same old sort, waiting for ducks and snipe, and hope to see you up here once or twice before deer shooting season. And, by the way, don't pass those fellows a bit on the deer question—I mean anybody outside of our ring, for there are

men in Bloomington and Chicago that would be only too glad to know where they could make a good thing killing deer. Zimmerman is all right, and so is Harris. I should think that if Val (Valentine Wheeler) could sell his place at so high a figure, mine ought to be worth three or four hundred. I wish you would find out whether the taxes are paid up.

JOE

\* \* \* \*

Respectfully referred to Mr. Charles Harris who will please tell Mr Lewis how things are in General. His opinion of real estate investments, Building Associations, etc.

SEALEY

\* \* \* \*

Friend Sam,

Joe says "come"---well so do I, and the sooner the better. I think I can manage my part of the Building Association if I remain here, and do not get a splinter. Sam---I'll never forgive you for that you laughed so hard. I'll get even with you (if I can) when you come here again.

Do you think of buying real estate in this country? It is not falling any, and the rise is inappreciable (How is that for a high toned dictionary word?).

What are you doing? Why don't you tell me something. Joe gets your letters and he puts himself in a corner to read it, and all I get out of it is "Sam sends regards." I'll take a letter, too, if you please. I'll tell you why, Joe wants you up here, Sam, he is thinking of making another move and he will need the assistance of a chap of about your weight and dimensions to help bureaus etc down and up stairs, but don't tell Joe.

Harris

\* \* \* \*

Respectfully referred to Matt who will tell our Sam how she gets along looking after "we uns". Tell the truth now and don't make us out worse than we are.

Joe

\* \* \* \*

Dear Cousin Sam

As Joe has referred this to me I will add a line, not many as it takes most of my time to look after the family, they eat up everything I cook. I wish you was here to assist me. We were all disappointed that you did not come up this winter. Hope you will come in the Spring and bring the wife and little ones. We'll take care of you if you come.

We are living in real farmer style this winter, keep a horse and cow. The horse is splendid, but the cow---oh my! She gives us a

free entertainment every day. There is only three actors, Joe, Charley and the cow. I think the cow must be the best performer as she is the only one that gets applauded, as it may be they favor her as she is a female. I will send you the first scene down by EWB. if it don't get out of the envelope before it reaches you.

Mattie

\* \* \* \*

Respectfully referred to F.V. Bevan, who will please tell Sam what he knows about everything, or, at least about something—

Joe

\* \* \* \*

Uncle Sam

Talk about hard times when the Frenchman nade soup for his family out of one onion and a pail of water, we with all our farm and prosperity, have to be content with soup made from a little-"P"-. I am ashamed to say it, but such is the case in this degenerate family.

Harris says in another reference that real estate is slightly on the improve, that is where he and I differ, in my opinion, real estate is going down, and will continue to do so, you can draw a pretty good conclusion of the state of affairs when half the vacant lots in town are being sold for taxes, but don't let this frighten you. Wnen you get ready to pay us another visit, we will find a place for you to sleep, and trust to Providence for something to eat. I am on the highway to fortune, Charley and myself are going out peddling tea, coffee and spices around town. Come up and we will give you a ride.

Your peddling  
T.V. Bevan

\* \* \* \*

Sam:

I intended to refer this to Charley, but he says he will write you a letter all by himself. About deer--Charley says somedays he could start twenty, and, he thinks that on the average he could get three or four shots a day; but I will let him tell you about his hunting experiences. But I don't want to wait for snow this year, but get up here in November when the deer lay in the long grass and marshes.

When you write, tell us how Bell is getting along, and if she ever hears from Steve.

I hope Will Burtis will get along all right.

Joe.

The children of SAMUEL LEWIS Sr b. 1800; d. 1871  
 and SARAH SEALEY d.  
 are

William d. 1844

SARAH ANN b. 10-16-1824 d. 2-18- 1864  
 m'd EDWIN ELIAS BURTIS

Samuel H. b. 1828

m'd Irene Smith

Their children:

Mae

m'd Capt Doughty (of Prescott, Wis)

Jane

m'd Valentine Wheeler

Their children:

Alice

m'd Frank Young

Their children:

Edith

Arthur

Alonzo

m'd Ella Nichols

Their children:

Glenn

m'd

Their children:

Earl

m'd Maud

Their children:

Lloyd

d.

Josie

m'd Dave Weatherin

Betsy

m'd John C. Greaves



CHAPTER XXI

MORE ENGLISH BLOOD -

THE BARSBYS AND THE SEAMANS

In 1853 SAMUEL BARSBY with his wife, ELIZABETH SEAMAN, and their three children left England and came by sailing vessel to America. The vessel left England in May and did not arrive in America until August.

They first settled in Ashtabula, Ohio, living in that part of town called Bunker Hill. Henry Seaman, Elizabeth's brother, had come here a few year previously. On September 2nd, 1854, about one year after their arrival, a daughter, MARTHA, (MATTIE), was born. After a short residence there, they moved to Kappa, Illinois; here two more children were born, Rose and their only son, Ira.

They had lived a very short time in Kappa when the father died in 1863, leaving the widow and six children. The heroic English mother in this strange land managed to keep the family together and reared a very fine family.

ELIZABETH SEAMAN was of that sturdy, determined English stock that did not know the meaning of the word "failure"; that stock which has pioneered successfully throughout the world. Even though her task of providing for those six children was herculean she was one of the best informed persons in the town. She was always interested in politics (a Republican) and a tireless worker in the Methodist church. On the corner of the small piece of land which she owned, she donated for building the first Methodist church in Kappa, Illinois.

The children of SAMUEL BARSBY B. 1-14-1809; d. 10-27-1863  
 are ELIZABETH SEAMAN m.12- 7-1843 b.10-23-1819; d. 9- 8-1900  
 Samuel b. 9-14-1845; d. infancy  
 Hannah b.12-27-1846; d. 1917  
 (born in Walsoken, Norfolk County, England)  
 m'd Francis Montgomery, m. 1862  
 Their children:  
 Maude  
 Edith  
 m'd Little  
 m'd George Sample in 1875  
 Their children:  
 Roy  
 Bessie (m'd Short)  
 Carrie ( m'd Walter Zimmerman)  
 Myrtle (m'd Frank Evans)  
 Samuel b. 12-21-1848; d. infancy  
 Elizabeth b. 4-4-1850; d. 1930  
 Frances b. 1-27-1850; d.  
 (buried in Pawhuska, Okla)  
 m'd Montgomery  
 Their children:  
 Alice (m'd Walters)  
 Fern (m'd Tibbett)  
 Roy  
 Fred  
 MARTHA (MATTIE) b. 9- 2-1854; d- 7-16-1941  
 m'd EDWIN LEWIS BURTIS  
 Their children: (SEE BURTIS)  
 Margaret Rozena (Rose) b. 10-30-1858; d. 1941  
 m'd Harry Monehan m. 1-13-1880  
 Their children:  
 Florence (m'd Wallace McNutt)  
 Their children:  
 Rose Mary d.  
 Eleanor  
 Betty  
 Carl  
 John Ira b. 7-22-1861; d.  
 m'd Jennie Ackley  
 Their children:  
 Stanley d.  
 Carrol (m'd  
 Their children:  
 Dorris and Iris  
 Lester d.

JOHN BARSBY and his wife, \_\_\_\_\_, lived in Alliton, LeicesterShire, England. Their children were: Allan, SAMUEL, Elizabeth, Frances, Susan, All, Abraham, John, Thomas, Jonathan and William. Of these the following were believed to have been soldiers in the British army: Allan, SAMUEL, John and Jonathan.

SAMUEL BARSBY was born January 13th, 1809 in Alliton Leicester Shire England. He married ELIZABETH SEAMAN december 7th, 1843, at Walsoken, Norfolk Shire, England. He enlisted in the Royal Sect Fusilliers at the age of sixteen and remained therein for nineteen years, serving under the reign of George IV, William IV, and Queen Victoria.

In a letter written to the War Department of England by Ira J. Barsby requesting information pertaining to Samuel Barsby, the following reply was received:

38/B.4944.(R. Records A)

THE WAR OFFICE  
LONDON, S.W.I.  
August 11, 1934

Sir:

The department has a record of a No 473, Private Samuel Barsby, who enlisted for the 3rd Sects Fusillier Guards on 27th October, 1820, and joined the Regiment at the Horse Guards, London. This soldier served in Portugal in the years 1827 and 1828. He was discharged at the Tower of London on 16th December 1839.

I am  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant  
V. Bovenizer

If this is the same Samuel Barsby as our Grandfather, then he must have been born about 1804. He was one of Victoria's Queen's Guards and was on duty when she was crowned Queen, also when Edward VII was born. His service in Victoria's service was his most cherished memory. He married ELIZABETH SEAMAN December 7th, 1843. He died October 27th, 1863 at Kappa.

SAMUEL SEAMAN and his wife ANN HUDSON, lived in 1819 at Massingham, Norfolk Shire, England. He was a merchant and also a professional gardener.

SAMUEL SEAMAN

m'd

ANN HUDSON

Their children:

Ann

m'd John Hitch, who was an uncle of Will Hitch of Hudson.

m'd (2nd time) Enoch Gastman who was the father of George  
Gastman of Hudson.

She had no children; she was born in England.

Martha

m'd Goslin

This is where Mattie (Martha) Barsby Burtis got her name.

William

Thomas

George

Henry

m'd Susanna

He came sometime before his sister, Elizabeth to America;  
settled first at Ashtabula, Ohio; later lived at Clifford,  
Michigan. He was a Methodist minister and well known in  
that part of Michigan.

Their children were:

George

Priscilla

m'd Swales

William

Susanna

**ELIZABETH,**

m'd SAMUEL BARSBY

b. 10-23-1819; d. 9-8-1900

m. 12- 7-1843

**1.**

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<sup>1</sup> The information regarding the SEAMANS and the BARSBYS was gathered by the author from Rose Barsby Monehan, Mattie Barsby Burtis and Ira Barsby.



## CHAPTER XXII

## SUMMING UP

These one hundred and fifty pages tell of the ancestry of an average American family. None of our ancestors were particularly spectacular in the annals of American history; you find no presidents, governors or generals listed. In fact, lots of the material listed was rather dull reading, and you exclaim, "Why waste my time wading through all of that tripe?" But you have overlooked the fact that most of America is made up of just "average Americans". Those who settled on the frontiers and cleared the wildernesses and fought the Indians; those who carried the muskets and fought the battles and won the wars, they are the ones who made America. However it was always the generals who received the credit for the victories. Nothing ever is mentioned in the history books of the part the "average American" took in making America, so we being "average Americans" should not be too disappointed in not finding our names listed among the great.

Through our cousin Belle Weeks Sealey, her parents and her daughter, Grace, there has been preserved a large lot of family letters dating back as far as 1824. Most of these letters had little interest, but some did; and they are being preserved in this book. Wouldn't it have been a shame to have relegated these letters to the fire after they having been preserved for so many years? There is a tremendous lot of historical information contained in these letters, and now their contents are being preserved for the historian of the future. Possibly some descendant may be that historian.

From such information our historical novels have been written, and in passing over the three hundred years that the Burtises have been in America, there appear some outstandingly interesting characters which would make lively reading for historical novels, some of which cover periods of history that have been little touched upon.

Where could you find a more perfect ANTHONY ADVERSE than Pietro Caesar Alberto? This young Venetian fell in love with Judith, the daughter of the Protestant soldier stationed in the Dutch garrison then in Venice. Venice then was a principality of its own, and the Dutch had established a military garrison there to bolster the Venetians resistance to the Papal controlled Spanish monarchy. The Dutch garrison became weakened through deaths from the black death, and being no longer able to cope with the Spaniards, they returned to Holland.

Pietro follows them back to Holland only to find that Judith and her family have gone to America. Mistakingly, he went to Dutch Guiana, South America, and after a long search could not find her, but does learn that she went to New Netherlands, North America. Pietro again hires as a seaman on a sailing vessel and went to New Netherlands where he finds his beloved Judith. They are immediately married, settle in the Wallabout Bay district of Brooklyn and there raise a family of six children.

The Indians raided New Amsterdam in 1654, killing many of the Dutch settlers among whom were Pietro Alberto and his wife, Judith.

- - - - -

The second novel similar to OLIVER WISWELL could be based on the life of Elias Burtis who lived through the Revolutionary days in Hempstead, Long Island.

All during the war English soldiers were billeted in the Americans homes at Hempstead. The Americans being mostly from England, didn't mind too much their presence, and many of their American daughters fell in love with them and married them. After the close of the war, some stayed on in Long Island while others went with their brides to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Resistance against the English was impossible for the Long Islanders, for if they did, meant one sure punishment--confinement to the English



prison ships lying in East River. James and Elias Burtis had signed the Continental declaration that they would never take up arms against the Continental army, but they were too closely watched for them ever to take an active part in the rebellion. Passive coexistence was the only workable policy of the time.

- - - - -

Around the life of our great-aunt, Hannah Burtis, a delightful novel could be written. She was the flirt who had many of the boys dangling from her heartstrings. She knew that she was beautiful, and she delighted in tormenting the boys who wooed her. Even her cousins, Oliver and Augustine, were cognizant of her charm. Of all the Burtis' Hannah was the most charming.

Hannah finally married John Carll in society's most select edifice, St Ann's Church. Society turn out enmass for the wedding and the reception which followed at Cousin Oliver's mansion on Clinton Street.

There is no lover in fiction that ever loved a woman more than did John Carll. His beautiful Hannah was his pride, his joy, his everything.

Tragedy fell upon the ideally married couple and Hannah died. John is a broken hearted, disillusioned man. He becomes a wanderer, living reckless and aimless, doing anything to drown the sorrow of him losing his darling Hannah.

John went to the Pennsylvania oilfield in its beginning, he plunges into a multitude of ventures recklessly--doing anything to forget the past. He lives entirely to himself, almost becoming a recluse--mentally he is. He finally strikes oil in many places and becomes very wealthy. He finds that hard work, and the excitement of the oilfields finally is his only solution for forgetting his darling Hannah.

The fourth and best novel of them all could be written around the life of our cousin Belle; the beautiful and talented girl who could have had her choice of men but picked the "rotten apple" of the lot. Even in Belle's country school days at Union, she had her devoted lover who she jilted and would never consider seriously. Charlie gains great fame but in his youth Belle considered him not good enough for her to consider. She could have had Will, that polished, genteel school teacher, but no--she would not have him. Then finally, she picks that suave, beau brummel fellow, Steve, and lives the rest of her life to regret it. Steve is the notorious gambler who leaves his wife and child for wine, women and song.

- - - - -

The origin of the Burtis blood in America was Italian, which soon becomes intermingled with French, Dutch and English. Finally it becomes predominantly English, leaving the original Italian streak run very thin. We are of a polyglot origin whose blood has been mixed and remixed with the major nationalities of Europe for the past three hundred years in that vast mixing bowl making a new race known as **AMERICAN**.

There have been eleven generations of Burtis' in America. Judge Berne A. Pyrke<sup>1</sup>, one of Pietro's descendants, estimates that there are now three thousand Burtis'. The writer believes this estimate to be fairly accurate. Wherever in America you may travel you will hear of, or meet, someone of the Burtis name. Wherever you meet him you can bet that he is one of your long lost cousins.

What kind of people has this American mixing bowl turned out by the name of Burtis?

Our earliest grand-fathers were godly men. The Protestant Wall-  
oons gave up everything in their French homeland over the principle of

<sup>1</sup> Long Islands First Italian, by Byrne A. Pyrke

worshiping God as their consciences dictated. We are familiar with the Puritan movement from England to America, all in quest of worshiping God as their consciences dictated. Our English Carman ancestors are a part of this movement.

Our New Netherlands grand-fathers first associated themselves with the Dutch Reformed Church. Those who married into English families joined the English churches. Many of their remains today may be found in the churchyard of St George's Episcopal church at Hempstead. Others were buried in Presbyterian burial grounds at Hempstead and now a city park. When Jacob Hicks Burtis went west to Illinois there is recorded in a letter written by his son, Edwin, his part in the dedication of the new Episcopal church in Jacksonville.

In the following generations the religious side of the Burtis families is not so conspicuous. Not that you would say they are irreligious, but it develops into more a form without any deep religious convictions which come from the heart as was personified by our first grand-fathers. We are living in a different age from the years of the Reformation. At least we are here in America unrestricted by any state influence forcing us to believe as they believe rather than what we believe. In the years of the Reformation an expression of religious belief was the most important thing in life, and many would endure any hardship and give up all worldly goods, even life itself, to worship as they believed right. During the Reformation the Papal controlled Spanish monarchs, and the French monarchs said "You worship as the Pope says, or you die." No heretics were tolerated. The earliest Americans theology of "hell damnation if you don't" regulated his thinking. The church was the center of all life in early America. Today the multitude of other attractions had detracted the church from being the center of all social intercourse.

We are living in an age where the standards of a mans success

are measured in dollars. Not but what the dollar always has marked mans success in the eyes of the world, but today this measurement is more so. Our family is no exception in laying too much stress on this yardstick of success.

Differing from our grand-fathers, it is doubtful if there is a single one of us who would give up all of his worldly goods, and even life if necessary, for a religious principle. We have wandered a long way from the precepts of our grand-fathers in this respect. Probably our deepest convictions are expressed in our political views. However, how far we would fight for even a political conviction is a moted question. With communism infiltrating our nation, we may sooner than we realize, have to test our stand on a personal conviction.

In our present generation there are a few of our cousins who stand out from the crowd for various reasons. Those whom I may mention are:

**Myron Stotler:** Here was a man who probably had the best head in our generation. He had that capacity to see into the future. Though he had the least education of any of his cousins, he has probably accumulated more than any of them. He foresaw the depression of 1930 and capitolized on it.

**Guy S. Burtis(b.1875):** An example to any young American showing what energy and determination can do. He started with nothing, made a fortune to lose it, started anew at age 60 and became one of the greatest insurance men in America; now in his 79th year he is still going as strong as ever.

**Gertrude Burtis Cone:** A lady with the refinement and genteelity of a dutchess. She has the capacity to be able to walk among the lowliest and make them feel at ease, or to walk with dignity among the most cultured.

**Lewis P. Burtis:** Here is a boy who probably saw more desperate battles than any of his cousins. He was the captain of a bomber in the most desperate days flying over Germany, and encountered enemy bullets on every mission.

Summing up what all of these generations has evolved us into may be expressed in these words: **WE ARE JUST THE COMMON GARDEN VARIETY OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS.** Now in closing with the words our Puritan grand-fathers used in every will they ever wrote: **"IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN"**

## CHAPTER XXIII

## ANCESTRAL CHART

The following chart shows the ancestral lineage of the living generation. It not only shows the paternal lineage but also the maternal. This chart shows thirteen maternal and eleven paternal generations, all of whom were in America. It spans a period of American history commencing with 1623 to the present year of 1955, a period of 332 years. It is most singular to be able to tie so many families of the past to our lineage.

If there is such a thing as "pure" American blood (excluding the Indians) the Burtis blood would be so considered.

Some of these families listed can be traced farther back prior to their coming to America, but this account is interested only in them after their arrival on these shores.









Do you think we dare go back further than, say — 1800?

