



## George B. Wright and Family Papers

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## GENEALOGY OF LIEUT. ABEL WRIGHT, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

By REV. STEPHEN WRIGHT, of Glen's Falls, N. Y.

1. Lieut. ABEL WRIGHT<sup>1</sup> was found among the early settlers of Springfield, Massachusetts, in the Connecticut Valley, who spent a mature life of seventy years there, from 1655 to 1725, when he died at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Where he came from or who were his parents, I have been unable to ascertain. There were other Wright settlers in the colonies before him in Eastern Massachusetts,—as Capt. *Richard Wright*, at Lynn, in 1630; *John Wright*, at Woburn, in 1641; *Robert Wright*, at Boston, in 1643, according to Dr. Savage, in his *Genealogical Dictionary*, besides others in various places of a later date than the above named. And at Wethersfield, Conn., below Hartford, there was a *Thomas Wright* as early as 1639, who had quite a family. Also Dea. *Samuel Wright* was an early settler at Springfield about the same year, 1639-40, who had a family of eight children, all named; but no *Abel* among either of these families is given in their records.

It is possible, if not most probable, that these last two settlers, so near each other, were brothers, and from the date of their family records, uncles to *Abel Wright*, who might naturally have followed in the wake of his kinsman to Springfield, at the age of twenty-four years, where he is found in January, 1655. Hence I can safely begin his record at that date, and shall endeavor to follow his line of posterity for several generations, according to authentic information obtained by much labor, from both town and family records.

Although the town had been settled in 1636, it was still in its infancy when our *Abel* appeared on the stage, to claim a place among his fellow men. I give two or three extracts from the town records of Springfield, which I made in November, 1863, that read as follows: "Jan. 2, 1655,—There is granted to *Abell Wright*, a home lot containing three acres in the land next ye Round Hill." And Feb. 13, 1656, again: "It is granted to *Abell Wright* an amount of Twenty (20) acres which had formerly Come into the hand of Rowland Thomas, lying in ye great plain over ye great river, called Chickuppy plain, provided he continues five years in town." And it seems in the sequel that *he came to stay*, as he did for seventy years.

Again says the record: "March 13, 1660,—There is granted to Thomas Bancroft *Abell Wright*, John Lumbard and Richard Sikes, a parcel of land lying on the west side of y<sup>e</sup> great river over against y<sup>e</sup> long meadow below George Colton's, which land hereby granted, lyeth between two brooks, and it is to run westward from y<sup>e</sup> river to a hill about 40 rods westward;—Thos. Bancroft to lie next to the Southermost brook, *Abell Wright* next toward the north, John Lumbard next to him, and Richard Sikes next to him:—They four sharing thereof equally in three-score acres of land, if there be so much there;—or if there be not so much they are to divide the piece equally amongst them, lying as above expressed."—See *Record of Deeds*, vol. i. p. 203. Various other grants of land, to the number of sixteen in all, from 1655 to 1695, as well as several to his sons Joseph and Abel, Jr., are on the town records also. In those primitive times the farming was on a smaller scale than we see now, and hence the few acres allotted to each



settler in these grants. Contemporary with Abel Wright were such men as Col. John Pyncheon, Samuel Terry, John Bliss, Thomas Root, Robert Ashley, Hugh Dudley, Thomas Sewall, Obadiah Miller, Eliezer Holyoke, John Holyoke, James Osborne, Nathaniel Pritchard and Thomas Gilbert; with Deacons Samuel Chapin, Samuel Wright (until 1657, when he removed to Northampton, and died there Oct. 17, 1665, when asleep in his chair), Jonathan Burt, Benjamin Parsons, John Hitchcock and James Wariner, and Rev. PELATIAH GLOVER from 1659 to 1692, and Rev. SAMUEL BREWER from 1694 to 1725, and onwards to 1733, when the last pastor died; all these in the First Congregational Church.

"Feb. 23, 1662. In the order of Seating persons in church, *Abell Wright* is put in the 'eighth seat' with Mr. — Horton, John Bag, Joshua Riley and Lyman Beaman. And Samuel Terry in the 9th seat with four others." According to the Springfield Records that I saw and handled in 1863, the following facts are shown:

ABEL<sup>1</sup> WRIGHT married Dec. 1, 1659, Martha Kitcherel, daughter of Samuel K. of Hartford, Conn., and had a family of thirteen children, of whom ten married (see names below). He was a citizen of some note, both in the civil and military service of the town. In 1695 he was elected to the "General Court," and in May, 1696, Dea. Burt and Lieut. Abel Wright were chosen to answer a petition of the people on the west side of the river asking to become a separate parish and procure a minister of their own. In 1708, July 26th, Indians came upon the town and despoiled his family, scalping his wife, who died in consequence on the 19th of October following. They also killed an infant of his son Henry, and captured his wife, who died soon after. But this venerable ancestor lived until 1725, for his tombstone record says: "Lieut. ABEL WRIGHT died October 29th, 1725, aged 94 years." His children were as follows:

2. i. JOSEPH, b. Sept. 1, 1660, and m. Sarah Osborne.
- ii. MARTHA, b. Nov. 29, 1662; m. Thomas Marlow.
3. iii. ABEL, b. Sept. 25, 1664; m. Rebecca Terry, Sept. 16, 1691, and had thirteen children.
4. iv. BENJAMIN, b. March 14, 1667; m. Mary Chapin in 1694; had three children.
- v. HANNAH, b. July 28, 1669; m. Joseph Saxton, Nov. 20, 1690, and had seven children: — *Gershom*,<sup>3</sup> b. 1691; *Hannah*,<sup>3</sup> 1692; *Joseph*,<sup>3</sup> 1694; *Mindwell*,<sup>3</sup> 1696; *David*,<sup>3</sup> 1700; *Ezekiel*,<sup>3</sup> 1704; and *Charles*,<sup>3</sup> 1708, at Enfield.
- vi. HENRY, b. May 23, 1671, and d. young.
- vii. SARAH, b. May 8, 1673; m. Thomas Chapin, Feb. 15, 1694, and had eleven children. She died July 26, 1770, aged nearly 98.
- viii. MARY, b. March 9, 1675; m. Nathaniel Bliss in 1698.
5. ix. HENRY, 2d, b. June 8, 1677; m. Hannah Bliss, May 24, 1705.
6. x. SAMUEL, b. June 17, 1679; m. Mary Case, of Lebanon, Nov. 27, 1710.
- xi. ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 18, 1682, and d. June 17, 1683.
- xii. JOHN, b. April 21, 1685, and d. soon.
- xiii. ELIZABETH, 2d, b. Aug. 22, 1687; m. Ebenezer Dewey, of Lebanon, Nov. 8, 1709, and had *Elizabeth*,<sup>3</sup> b. Oct. 7, 1710, and *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> Jr., b. Jan. 24, 1712.

2. JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. Sept. 1, 1660, at Springfield; m. Sarah Osborne, Dec. 29, 1687, and had eight children, born in S., as below. He must have followed his younger brother Abel to Lebanon, Conn., about 1708, as a petition of his to the town authorities is on record there, dated Dec. 13, 1708, asking for a grant of land near Abel Wright's first division, "because the enemy had spoiled and carried away much of his estate" at Springfield; which was granted him Dec. 17th, 1708. How long he continued at L. we are unable to say. His children, born at S., were:

- i. MINDWELL, b. Sept. 24, 1688, and d. young.
- ii. JOSEPH, Jr., b. Oct. 14, 1690.
- iii. SARAH, b. Nov. 20, 1692, and m. probably June 20, 1719, Hezekiah Porter, of Hartford, Conn.
- iv. BENJAMIN, b. Nov. 11, 1694, and slain by the Indians in 1712.
- v. MINDWELL, 2d, b. March 4, 1697.
- vi. MARTHA, b. June 16, 1699; m. probably, Jonathan Old, Feb. 18, 1720.
- vii. MARY, b. Sept. 24, 1702.
- viii. RACHEL, b. Dec. 4, 1706. Can give no more of this family now.

3. Ensign ABEL<sup>2</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. Sept. 25, 1664; m. Sept. 16, 1691, Rebecca Terry, b. Dec. 5, 1673, daughter of Samuel and Anna (Lobdell) Terry, of S., and had thirteen children, like his father before him, of whom nine married. Of these, four were born in Springfield, when he removed to Lebanon about 1700, where the other nine are on record. He spent forty-five years of his life there, and became quite a landholder and business man among his fellows. In 1702 he bought ninety acres of land of Josiah Dewey and William Clarke "for Seven Pounds, Silver, Current money of New England;" and January 24, 1703, twenty-one acres more of Philip Smith; and in 1711, June 6, nine acres more of Dewey and Clarke; making one hundred and twenty acres in all. But his greatest purchase was, May 30, 1717, of Rev. Samuel Whiting, minister of Windham, of eight hundred and twenty-nine acres, partly in W. and partly in Lebanon, for 250 pounds, as the deed on record at Windham says. From these lands he afterwards deeds one hundred and forty acres to his daughter Rebecca and her husband Jacob Ordway, in 1718 and 1720; to his son Abel, Jr., one hundred and eighty acres, Oct. 22, 1718; and to his loving son Ebenezer, one hundred and eighty acres, Aug. 24, 1722; being part of the tract bought of Rev. Samuel Whiting, and sold still to several others as late as the year 1739. His last will is dated Jan. 10, 1744, in which he names four sons and four daughters, making his "Beloved wife Rebecca and son Ebenezer Wright the Executrix and Executor of his last will and Testament," &c. This will was probated before Judge Jonathan Trumbull, at Windham, Sept. 18, 1747, and certified in due form on the records by Ichabod Robinson, clerk of said court. He had died June 2, 1745, and was buried in Lebanon near the graves of the Trumbull, Fitch and Terry families. The names of his thirteen children are as follows:

- i. REBECCA, b. Sept. 7, 1692; m. Jacob Ordway, of L., about 1711, who had four children: — 1. *Mary*,<sup>4</sup> b. Aug. 16, 1712. 2. *Rebecca*,<sup>4</sup> b. Jan. 16, 1714. 3. *Jemima*,<sup>4</sup> b. Dec. 11, 1715. 4. *Rachel*,<sup>4</sup> b. Nov. 28, 1717. (See Leb. Rec.)
- ii. SAMUEL, b. July 4, 1694, and d. July 10, 1694.
- iii. ABEL, b. Aug. 22, 1695; m. Mary Calkins, at L., Nov. 7, 1717, and had: — 1. *Sarah*,<sup>4</sup> b. Aug. 25, 1718. 2. *Samuel*,<sup>4</sup> b. May 14, 1720. 3. *Abel, Jr.*,<sup>4</sup> b. Feb. 23, 1722. All at Windham.
- iv. SAMUEL, 2d, b. Dec. 2, 1698, and no more of him. *d. June 12, 1718, ast. 20.*
7. v. EBENEZER, b. Feb. 22, 1701, at Lebanon; m. Elizabeth Newcomb.
- vi. MARY, b. Nov. 22, 1702, and no more of her.
8. vii. EPHRAIM, b. Feb. 29, 1704; m. Hannah Wood, June 29, 1724.
- viii. MARTHA, b. April 12, 1705; m. — Holbrook, as named in her father's will.
- ix. JEMIMA, b. Sept. 24, 1707; m. — Hutchinson, as in the will.
- x. ANN, b. June 4, 1709; m. — Buell, as named in will.
- xi. MIRIAM, b. Nov. 14, 1710, and no more of her.
- xii. BENJAMIN, b. July 29, 1712, and d. Aug. 1712.
9. xiii. BENJAMIN, 2d, b. March 3, 1714; m. in 1734, Rachel —.



4. BENJAMIN<sup>2</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. March 14, 1667; m. Mary Chapin in 1694, dau. of Henry C. of Springfield, likely, and had three children, and died Dec. 25, 1704, and his widow died Jan. 13, 1708. Their children are as follows:

- i. BENJAMIN, b. May 22, 1697.
- ii. HENRY, b. May 19, 1700.
- iii. MARY, b. May 1, 1705; posthumous.

5. HENRY<sup>2</sup> WRIGHT, 2d (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. June 8, 1677; m. Hannah Bliss, dau. of John Bliss, May 24, 1705, and had two children. His wife was captured by the Indians July 26, 1708, and with her infant son was killed soon after, at the calamity already named. He then married, March 15, 1711, Sarah Root, daughter of Thomas Root, of Westfield, probably, who bore him six more children. He also must have followed his older brother Abel to Lebanon, and lived awhile, as it is there recorded that Henry Wright deeded thirty acres of land to his brother Abel, Nov. 23, 1705. And again May 5, 1707, Henry Wright and Hannah deeded a piece of land to Abel Wright, as Josiah Dewey had deeded twenty-one acres to Henry Wright, Feb. 1, 1703. The presumption is that he sold out his interest at Lebanon and returned to Springfield, where the great calamity mentioned above fell upon him in 1708; when he married second wife, Sarah Root, raised up his family, lost Sarah, and married a third wife Elizabeth —, who, as the Springfield records say, died June, 1738. His own death is there recorded as transpiring in 1768, at the age of 91. His eight children are given as follows:

- i. HANNAH, b. May 18, 1706.
- ii. HENRY, Jr., b. Jan. 9, 1708, and killed July 26, 1708.
- iii. MOSES, by second wife, b. about 1713; date not given exactly.
- iv. STEPHEN, b. 1716.
- v. CALEB, b. 1718.
- vi. ELISHA, b. 1720.
- vii. SARAH, b. 1723.
- viii. DEBORAH, b. —. No date at all.

6. SAMUEL<sup>2</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. June 17, 1679, at S.; m. Mary Case, of Lebanon. Nov. 27, 1710, and had three children recorded there, as given below. He must have followed his brother Abel to Lebanon, as the records show a deed of two hundred acres of land from Josiah Dewey and William Clarke to Samuel Wright, dated January 30, 1702. (See Old Records, pp. 84, 85.) Little more can be said of him than to give the names of his children, and that he married, Dec. 13, 1727, Anna Loomis, of L., and that he lived at Norwich awhile. His children were:

- i. AARON, b. March 29, 1713.
- ii. JOHN, b. Sept. 23, 1716.
- iii. MARY, b. May 10, 1721.

By second wife:

- iv. REBECCA, b. Sept. 24, 1728.
- v. ELIJAH, b. Aug. 14, 1730.
- vi. ANNA, b. Oct. 7, 1732.
- vii. SAMUEL, b. Feb. 17, 1735.
- viii. ELEAZER born Aug. 3, 1739.

7. EBENEZER<sup>3</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. Feb. 22, 1701, at Lebanon; m. April 20, 1721, Elizabeth, b. 1701-2, dau. of Simon and Deborah (—) Newcomb, of L., who bore him three children, and died Jan. 13, 1727. He married second, March 28, 1728, Sarah Huntington, b. May 25, 1705,

dau. of Dea. Joseph and Rebecca (Adgate) Huntington, and sister to Gov. Samuel Huntington's father, by whom eight children, when she died Oct. 19, 1775. He married third, Feb. 15, 1776, Mrs. Mary (Mason) Huntington, the widow of David H., a brother of his wife Sarah, with whom he lived ten years, and died April 22, 1786, at Mansfield, aged 85. He was a farmer and quite a land owner, like his father Abel. He removed to Mansfield about 1740, where he became a baptist, as several of his children did also. His last will, dated Dec. 2, 1768, at M., names all his eleven children, and makes his wife Sarah, and his son Capt. Amaziah W., the executors of his estate. The following are his children:

- i. ZERVIAH, b. March 12, 1722, at Windham; m. Jan. 8, 1741, John Upton, and had Sarah,<sup>5</sup> b. Oct. 17, 1741, and others we presume, as he mentions the heirs of his beloved daughter Zerviah Upton in his will.
- ii. DEBORAH, b. Jan. 29, 1725; m. Paul Davison, May 7, 1747, and had Abiah,<sup>5</sup> b. March 7, 1748, and Deborah,<sup>5</sup> b. May 11, 1750. Mr. D. died Aug. 20, 1751, at Newtown, N. J., when she married, second, Aaron Younglove, Jan. 17, 1753.
10. iii. EBENEZER, b. Jan. 2, 1727; m. Mercy Leach, who had ten children.
11. iv. Rev. ELIPHALET, b. Feb. 27, 1729; m. Hannah Marsh.
- v. ELIZABETH, b. Nov. 30, 1730; m. Eleazer Baldwin, April 8, 1751, and had nine children, from whom a large posterity have come.
- vi. SARAH, b. Sept. 22, 1732; m. Dea. Jeremiah Leffingwell, of Pomfret, Ct., about 1755; had nine children and a large posterity.
12. vii. ELISHA, b. Sept. 18, 1734; m. Hannah Baldwin, Oct. 28, 1756.
- viii. MARY, b. Jan. 15, 1737; m. John Turner about 1763, and had ten children, from whom a large posterity.
13. ix. Capt. AMAZIAH, b. Feb. 11, 1739; m. Zerviah Fitch, dau. of Capt. and Dea. Eleazer F., of Windham, and had ten children.
14. x. ELEAZER, b. April 12, 1741; m. Anna Marsh, dau. of Joseph M., of Windham, April 25, 1765, and had twelve children.
- xi. REBECCA, b. about 1744 or 45 (date wanting); m. — Marsh, of Killingly, Ct., and as tradition in the family says, had one son, James,<sup>5</sup> who married and went into central New York, had four or five children, and was despoiled or killed by the Indians, and his family lost to the knowledge of their kindred.

8. EPHRAIM<sup>3</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. Feb. 29, 1704, at Lebanon; m. June 29, 1724, Hannah Wood, and had six children at Lebanon. He was a farmer, and deeded lands to several persons from Sept. 30, 1737, to June 14, 1751, according to the records of L. and Windham. His wife died March 18, 1737, and he married again and raised a second family of several children, as an extant letter in my possession from his youngest son, Gen. Daniel Wright, testifies, dated May 2, 1809, at Westport, Essex Co., N. Y. He says he was born in Hebron, Conn., in 1756, and that he was the son of Ephraim W., and after the death of his brother, Lieut. Beriah W., and his father also in the French war, about 1758-9, his mother put him in the care of his uncle Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> W., at Mansfield, at the age of five, as she had several small children, so he was brought up among his kindred there. So far as known his children were:

- i. JOHN, b. March 18, 1726.
- ii. HANNAH, b. Feb. 24, 1731.
- iii. MARTHA, b. Jan. 14, 1733.
- iv. EPHRAIM, Jr. } twins; b. March 16, { Ann m. March 11, 1756, John  
v. ANN, } 1735. { Huntington, of Windham, and  
had a daughter Wealthan,<sup>5</sup> b. Jan. 6, 1757, and the mother died May 6, 1758.
- vi. Lieut. BERIAH, b. Feb. 22, 1737, and died at Albany in 1759, returning from his military campaign, and his father Ephraim only reached his home at H. to die very soon.



vii.—ix. Several, whose names are wanting.

x. Gen. DANIEL, b. in 1756 at Hebron; m. Patience —, and had several children—the oldest, *Jerusha*,<sup>5</sup> b. about 1778, m. Elias Startevant, b. 1769; had son Dea. George W.,<sup>6</sup> and died June 20, 1856, aged 87 years, as his son did Feb. 23, 1863, aged 61, at Westport, N. Y., leaving several children. Gen. Wright was in the war of the revolution some years after 1775, and afterwards removed to New Hampshire for a time, but in 1798 located at Westport, where he died, Oct. 1, 1822, and his wife Patience April 17, 1829, aged 71 years.

9. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> WRIGHT (*Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. March 3, 1714, at Lebanon; m. Rachel — in 1734, and had nine children, as recorded in L. I have only an imperfect knowledge of him and his posterity, but can give the names and birth-dates of his children, as below. In 1865 Rev. Jehiel Kellogg Wright, an aged baptist minister at West Cornwall, Vt., gave me some account of this family in the line of his son *Benjamin*,<sup>4</sup> b. July 5, 1737, and his son *Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> b. Aug. 15, 1776, who died at Cornwall, Jan. 5, 1837. Rev. J. K.<sup>6</sup> Wright was b. Aug. 15, 1801, and d. Aug. 25, 1875. By him I learned there was a large posterity from his grandfather *Benjamin*<sup>4</sup> of 1737, of whom I hope to gather fuller records. About the same year I gathered from Mr. *Elijah Wright*, of Westport, N. Y., some account of ABEL,<sup>4</sup> born Aug. 8, 1742 (*Benjamin*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), who m. Elizabeth Baldwin, had three children at Hartford, Vt., where he died Feb. 1828, aged 85½ years. This *Elijah*,<sup>5</sup> b. Dec. 28, 1799, was at his grandfather's funeral, being a son of *Abel*<sup>5</sup> and Alice (Page) *Wright*, who had six children, and died July, 1827, at Hartford, Vt. He reports quite a posterity from *Abel*,<sup>4</sup> of 1742, more of whom I hope to reach in due time. The children of BENJAMIN and *Rachel* were:

- i. LUCY, b. May 15, 1735.
15. ii. BENJAMIN, b. July 5, 1737; m. Ann Redington.
- iii. MERCY, b. July 26, 1739.
- iv. ABEL, b. Aug. 8, 1742; m. Elizabeth Baldwin, and three children, *Abel*,<sup>5</sup> *Irene*<sup>5</sup> and *Mary*,<sup>5</sup> and died as given above, Feb. 1828.
- v. MARY, b. Oct. 2, 1744.
- vi. RACHEL, b. Feb. 13, 1747; m. Whiting Strong.
- vii. Major DAVID, b. March 14, 1749; m. — Bailey, as reported, and had five children in Hartford, Vt., viz.: *David*,<sup>5</sup> b. about 1775-6; *Hannah*,<sup>5</sup> b. 1778, m. Milo Marsh, and six children; *Daniel*,<sup>5</sup> M.D., b. about 1780; *William*,<sup>5</sup> b. about 1783-4; and *Wealthy*,<sup>5</sup> b. about 1786-7, and m. — Pinneo.
- viii. REBECCA, b. April 2, 1752; m. Christopher Pease, and had six children or more.
- ix. JONATHAN, b. March 31, 1754; m. — Ryder, as reported, and died in Lebanon, N. H., or in that vicinity. I have 175-200 of the posterity of BENJAMIN W.,<sup>3</sup> of 1714, more or less correctly named and dated.

10. EBENEZER<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>), b. Jan. 2, 1727, at Windham; m. March 11, 1751, *Mercy*, dau. of Amos and — Leach, and had ten children, and has had a posterity of over twelve hundred to the tenth generation already attained. He was a farmer, lived in Mansfield a few years, then in New Fairfield, Conn., then in Newtown, Sussex Co., N. J., and about 1765-6 removed to Shaftsbury, Vt. The events of the war of the revolution sent him to Canada West, where he spent the evening of his life, with his companion and five children near him, at Cornwall and Johnstown, where he died July 18, 1809, as his wife had done May 13, 1801, aged 67½ years. Their children were:

16. i. Dea. ABRAHAM, b. July 13, 1752 (N. Style); m. Sarah Babcock, and had nine children, and second, Phebe Burt, and three more.
17. ii. Capt. ASAH, b. Aug. 18, 1754; m. Eve Haynes, and nine children.
- iii. ZERVIAH, b. Dec. 4, 1756; m. March 3, 1775, Charles Spencer (b. Mar. 10, 1749), of Shaftsbury, and had eight children, and died April 29, 1793. Mr. S. was a soldier in the revolutionary war, a farmer, and died Nov. 18, 1843, aged 94 years and eight months. A posterity of about 200 have come from *Zerviah W. Spencer*.
18. iv. EBENEZER, b. Oct. 15, 1758; m. about 1780-81, Rachel Marsh.
19. v. AMOS, b. June 22, 1761, at Newtown, N. J., and m. Sabra Wilcox, of —, about 1785, and had four children. He died July 18, 1796.
20. vi. DAVID, b. Nov. 16, 1763, at Newtown; m. Tamar Burritt about 1796; had eight children, and died Oct. 25, 1819, at Cornwall, a farmer.
- vii. MERCY, b. March 26, 1766, at Shaftsbury, Vt.; m. Nov. 12, 1783, George McEwen, a farmer of Hinesburg, Vt.; had nine children, and died at H., Dec. 26, 1847, leaving a good posterity. Her children were—Dea. *James*,<sup>6</sup> b. Jan. 23, 1786, and five children; *Charles*,<sup>6</sup> b. July 19, 1787, four children; *Augustus*,<sup>6</sup> b. Dec. 17, 1788, had twelve children; Capt. *Carlton*,<sup>6</sup> b. March 25, 1791, and seven children; *Ransom*,<sup>6</sup> b. Dec. 26, 1792, m. but no children; Dea. *George*,<sup>6</sup> b. Dec. 19, 1794, and ten children; *Caroline*,<sup>6</sup> b. Jan. 29, 1798, and one child; *Rebecca*,<sup>6</sup> b. July 11, 1800, m. and died soon; and *Mercy Morinda*,<sup>6</sup> b. May 31, 1802, and had six children. A large posterity came from *Mercy W. McEwen*.
- viii. SARAH, b. Sept. 3, 1768; m. Peleg Spencer, a brother of Charles, above, and had seven children, and died Jan. 2, 1844, at Johnstown, C. W.
- ix. ELIZABETH, b. April 24, 1773, and d. Oct. 9, 1777.
- x. REBECCA, b. April 24, 1776; m. — Mace, and one child, *Sybil*,<sup>6</sup> born 1795; m. second, Henry Barnhart, Sept. 2, 1800, and had nine children and over fifty grandchildren. A farmer's wife, and d. Sept. 1, 1847, at Cornwall, C. West.

11. Rev. ELIPHALET<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born Feb. 27, 1729, at Windham, Conn. He married, May 22, 1751, Hannah, dau. of Thomas Marsh, of W., and had nine children born at W. and South Killingly, Ct. He was a tanner and currier and shoemaker by trade in early life, but became pastor of the Congregational church at South Killingly in 1764, where he continued until his lamented death, Aug. 4, 1784. His widow lived to a great age, and died Jan. 2, 1815, at Hinsdale, Mass., at the home of her son, Capt. Samuel<sup>5</sup> Wright, who cared for her in the decline of life. Though not liberally educated, Rev. Eliphalet Wright was an acceptable preacher, and published a sermon preached on Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 5, 1776, of which I now possess a copy, that has the ring of true patriotism in it, for those "times that tried men's souls." It was printed by J. Trumbull, of Norwich, Conn. His children were:

- i. HANNAH, b. Jan. 9, 1752, at M.; d. April 6, 1753.
- ii. HANNAH, 2d, b. July 9, 1754; m. Jan. 1772, Barnabas Davis, and had seven children. She died at Killingly, Sept. 24, 1844, aged 90.
- iii. ELIPHALET, Jr., b. Dec. 16, 1756; d. 1760.
- iv. EUNICE, b. May 3, 1759; d. Aug. 11, 1760.
21. v. Capt. SAMUEL, b. April 12, 1761; m. Keziah Stearns, had eight children; by second wife, Betsey Watkins, had four more.
- vi. EUNICE, 2d, b. March 1, 1764; m. — Day.
- vii. SARAH, b. March 7, 1766, at Killingly; m. Isaac Sprague and had seven children, among them Rev. *Ezra Sprague*,<sup>6</sup> of the M. E. order.
- viii. REBECCA, b. Dec. 1, 1767; m. James Parkis, and had five children.
- ix. OLIVE, b. Jan. 6, 1770; m. Capt. Abraham Washburn, of Hinsdale, Mass., in April, 1806, as second wife, and had three children—*Abraham*,<sup>6</sup> d. young; *Mary Northrop*,<sup>6</sup> b. May 9, 1808, m. Elijah H. Goodrich of H. (had seven sons, of whom two are college gradu-

## Wright Genealogy.

ates, Rev. John E.<sup>7</sup> of the University of Vermont, class of 1853, and Rev. Chauncy,<sup>7</sup> of Wms. College, class of 1861; and *Olive*,<sup>6</sup> b. June 4, 1810. Mrs. Washburn died June 22, 1842, and her husband Aug. 23, 1851, aged nearly 98 years, having been born Dec. 20, 1753.

12. ELISHA<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Windham, Sept. 18, 1734. He married, first, Hannah, daughter of John Baldwin, of Norwich, Oct. 28, 1756, and had ten children, when his wife died June 6, 1777, and five of his children also, of an epidemic, in five months of time. He married, second, Chloe Spafford, April 14, 1778, who bore him three more children. He was a tanner and small farmer at Mansfield, where he died, Oct. 23, 1785, being crushed under a cart wheel. His widow outlived him fifty-four years, dying April 10, 1844, aged 95. Their children were:

- i. ARAUNAH, b. Nov. 15, 1757; d. May 6, 1777.
22. ii. ELISHA, b. Nov. 9, 1759; m. Asenath Brigham about 1792, and had four children.
- iii. HANNAH, } twins; b. Feb. 4, { Hannah d. Aug. 27, 1777.
- iv. ELIZABETH, } 1762. { m. Paul Clark, a soldier of the revolution, and a farmer, in 1785, and had eight children, all born in Hartford, Vt., of whom seven married and had about fifty children in their families. Mrs. Clark died Sept. 24, 1843, at Williston, Vt.
- v. MARY, b. Feb. 22, 1764; d. Aug. 10, 1777.
- vi. LUCY, b. Sept. 30, 1766; m. Amasa Watkins, of Reading, Vt., and had eight children.
- vii. OLIVE, b. March 7, 1769; d. Aug. 13, 1777.
23. viii. ABRAHAM SPAFFORD, b. Jan. 19, 1772; m. first, Hannah Dunham, and second, Polly Shaw, and had eleven children in all. He died March 4, 1826, at Royalton, Vt.
- ix. PARTHENA, b. May 23, 1774; d. Aug. 6, 1777.
24. x. JOHN HYDE, b. April 19, 1777; m. Lorinda Royce, of Mansfield, Oct. 7, 1802; had four children. He was a farmer, and d. in Willington, Ct., Feb. 1866, aged 89, as his wife did the same month.

By second wife:

- xi. HANNAH, 2d, b. Feb. 16, 1780; died at Lebanon, August 29, 1810.
- xii. OLIVE, b. Jan. 1, 1782; m. Timothy Williams, of Lebanon, Sept. 28, 1809, and had eight children. Mr. Williams had been a school teacher in early life, and was a member of the Connecticut legislature several terms in his maturer years.
- xiii. PARTHENA, 2d, b. July 23, 1784; m. 1805. Dea. Jesse Gurley, of Mansfield (b. May 1, 1785), and had three daughters who each became the second wife of Baptist ministers—*Sophia Sybil*,<sup>6</sup> m. Rev. Leonard Slater, missionary to the Indians; *Sophronia Spafford*,<sup>6</sup> m. Rev. Bela Hicks; *Mary*,<sup>6</sup> m. Rev. Miner G. Clarke, and has an only son, William Cary,<sup>7</sup> in business at Chicago. Mrs. Mary G. Clarke has done good work with her pen.

13. Capt. AMAZIAH<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born Feb. 11, 1739, at Windham. He married, April 1, 1762, Zerviah, dau. of Capt. and Dea. Eleazer Fitch, of W., and had five sons and five daughters. He served in the war, was a farmer in Mansfield, and the executor of his father's last will, dated Dec. 2, 1768, and probated in 1787-8. About 1793-4, he removed to Salisbury, in the north-west corner of Connecticut, where he and his wife (who were both baptists) died not long after. But definite information is lacking. Their children were:

- i. SARAH, b. Tues. 2 o'clock P.M., March 29, 1763.
25. ii. EBENEZER, b. Wednes. 1 A.M., April 10, 1765; m. Anna Galusha, a sister of Gov. Jonas G., of Shaftsbury, Vt., about 1787-8, and had eight children and a large posterity widely scattered.



- iii. ZERVIAH, b. Nov. 21, 1767; d. unmarried.
- iv. ELEAZER FITCH, b. March 22, 1770; m. but lost to kindred.
- v. DEBORAH, b. Feb. 6, 1773; m. — Nichols, in Salisbury, had three children, all dead, and she died Dec. 18, 1849, at Canfield, Ohio.
- vi. Dr. AMAZIAH, b. Jan. 5, 1776; m. Maria A. Lane, of New Milford, Ct., Jan. 10, 1809; had a son *George William*,<sup>6</sup> b. March 22, 1813, and one daughter. He died at N. Milford, Dec. 11, 1838, after a successful practice in New York city.
- vii. ELIPHALET, b. Dec. 28, 1777, and d. at Salisbury, unm.
- 26. viii. THOMAS, b. March 1, 1779; m. Clarissa Hollenbeck, and second, Eliza Pryor, and had ten children; was a farmer; d. August 21, 1854, at Hudson, O.
- ix. MARY, b. Feb. 23, 1782; m. Augustus Hammett, at Jewett City, Ct., and had one son, *Samuel Adams*,<sup>6</sup> b. Feb. 4, 1816, who was a captain in the Mexican war, an author, and a merchant in New York city. Mrs. H. died in New York city April 5, 1826.
- x. JERUSHA, b. Aug. 29, 1784; m. Ensign Church, in Salisbury, Ct., and had two children, when Mr. C. died in 1813. She m. second, Eli T. Boughton, May 22, 1814, and had four more children. One, *Mary Sophia*<sup>6</sup> Church, b. Feb. 20, 1807, is the wife of Judge Ebenezer Newton, of Canfield, Ohio, where the mother died about 1870, leaving quite a posterity.

14. ELEAZER<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born at Mansfield, April 12, 1741, and m. Anna Marsh, April 25, 1765, dau. of Joseph M., of Windham, b. Nov. 3, 1745, and had twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, all born in M., where the parents lived and both died—the father Jan. 1, 1825, and the mother April 10, 1825. They were baptists, as many of their children and posterity are. Their children were as follows:

- i. ANNA, b. Oct. 2, 1766; m. Capt. Daniel Dimock, of Coventry, Ct., Nov. 16, 1786, a farmer, and had nine children. She died June 20, 1832, and he died Aug. 1, 1833.
- ii. PARTHENA, b. Dec. 20, 1767, and died Sept. 2, 1769.
- iii. ELIZABETH, b. July 21, 1769; m. Capt. Shubael Dimock (cousin of Daniel), Jan. 23, 1789, and had eight children. She died August 1, 1837, at Mansfield.
- iv. ELEAZER, Jr. b. Feb. 23, 1771, and d. Sept. 21, 1802, unm.
- v. MARVIN, b. June 8, 1772; d. Dec. 27, 1773.
- vi. ELIPHALET, b. Nov. 30, 1774; d. Nov. 3, 1775.
- vii. CLARA, b. Aug. 19, 1776; m. Robert Barrowes, a farmer of M., Nov. 25, 1799, and had ten children, and d. March 3, 1836, at M., as her husband did March 24, 1850.
- viii. MARY, b. May 19, 1778, and d. unm. Aug. 23, 1851.
- ix. JEMIMA, b. Aug. 25, 1780; m. Abram Parrish, March 15, 1801, and had ten children, and d. Jan. 11, 1823, at Wilkesbarre, Pa.
- x. SOPHIA, b. Sept. 28, 1782; m. Horace Hanks, of M., March 11, 1801, and had eight children—one, Rev. *Stedman Wright*,<sup>6</sup> now of Boston, b. Sept. 6, 1811, was a graduate of Amherst College in the class of 1837. She died Jan. 1, 1850, at Mansfield.
- 27. xi. STEDMAN HUNTINGTON, b. July 4, 1784; m. Polly Barrowes, of M.; had ten children, and died at South Weymouth, Mass., Nov. 3, 1857. Two of his daughters were the wives of Rev. Sylvester Barrowes, a baptist pastor.
- xii. ORRILLA, b. May 3, 1786; m. Ralph Storrs, of Mansfield, a farmer, Jan. 14, 1810, and had five children, and died March 8, 1864.

15. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> WRIGHT (~~*Benjamin*~~<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born July 5, 1737, at Lebanon, Ct. He married, April 29, 1762, Ann Redington, and had two children, when she died about 1764. He married, second, Abigail Kellogg, in 1765, and had eight children, as our informant, Rev. J. K. Wright,<sup>6</sup> says, alluded to in number 9. Their children were:

- i. BENJAMIN, Jr., b. about 1763, and d. at New Lebanon, N. Y.
- ii. JACOB, b. about 1764.
- iii. ABNER, b. about 1766; m. Jennie —, and had eight children.
- iv. GEORGE, b. about 1768; m. Hannah —, and had sixteen children.
- v. SARAH, b. about 1770; m. Isaac Mead, and had five children. Lived at Potsdam, N. Y.
- vi. LYDIA, b. about 1772; m. Ezekiel Pratt, and had three children. Lived in Addison, Vt.
- vii. RHODA, b. about 1774; m. Solomon Smedley; no children.
- viii. DANIEL, b. Aug. 15, 1776, at New Lebanon, N. Y., and m. Feb. 1, 1798, at Cornwall, Vt., Azubah Jones, and had ten children—Dea. *Erastus*,<sup>6</sup> Rev. *Jehiel Kellogg*,<sup>6</sup> b. Aug. 15, 1801, *George*,<sup>6</sup> *Reuben Randall*,<sup>6</sup> *Merinda*,<sup>6</sup> *Belinda*,<sup>6</sup> *William Daniel*<sup>6</sup> (drowned at 17), *Betsey*,<sup>6</sup> *Victor*,<sup>6</sup> b. July 29, 1819, and *Wealthy Azubah*.<sup>6</sup>
- ix. ANNA, b. about 1778; m. Samuel Robinson, and had five children, at Lockport, N. Y.
- x. WILLIAM, b. about 1780, m. Polly Squires, and had 4 children. In all 51 grandchildren<sup>6</sup> of Benjamin<sup>4</sup> W. and many of the next generation.

16. Dea. ABRAHAM<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Mansfield, July 13, 1752 (N. S.), and married Sarah Babcock, May 19, 1773, dau. of James B., of Exeter, Rhode Island, who bore him 9 children, and died April 27, 1787, at Cambridge, N. Y. He married, second, Phebe Burt, Dec. 13, 1787, who bore him three children more. He was a farmer, a decided Baptist, and wrote some in mature life in defence of their principles. He settled in Cambridge, Washington Co., N. Y., after marriage, where his children were all born, but removed in 1798, and spent the evening of his life in Kingsbury (same Co.), where he died Feb. 14, 1814, as his wife had the 9th of January preceding. The children were:

- i. AN INFANT SON, b. May 21, 1774, and d. same day.
- ii. ESTHER, b. Nov. 29, 1775, and d. Sept. 18, 1777; a very bright child.
- iii. ZERVIAH, b. Jan. 26, 1777; married in 1795, Peter Powers, who became a Baptist minister in W. New York. She died March 20, 1841. No children.
- iv. EBENEZER (Lieut.), b. Dec. 15, 1778; m. March 1, 1798, Mary Tiffany, only dau. of Lieut. Benjamin T. of C., and had eleven children (among them *Benjamin Tiffany*,<sup>7</sup> M.D., and *Gilbert*,<sup>7</sup> M.D., and Rev. *Stephen*,<sup>7</sup> the compiler of these Records), when she died Feb. 12, 1824. He married second, Clarissa Curtis, of White Creek, June 19, 1824, and had three children more. He died Jan. 8, 1863; was a farmer and Baptist.
- v. SARAH, b. Sept. 26, 1780; m. Stephen Dwinelle, of Sennett, N. Y., and had twelve children—one, *William*,<sup>7</sup> a graduate of Madison University, class of 1842. She died June 15, 1855.
- vi. JAMES, b. May 9, 1782; married, —, 1806, Eunice Hoard, had twelve children, and died Aug. 17, 1844, at Cambridge, Ohio.
- vii. MERCY, b. Feb. 7, 1784; m. Daniel Stevens and had 7 children. They removed from Genoa, Cayuga Co., N. Y., about 1839, to Michigan, and are lost to kindred.
- viii. AMOS, b. Sept. 5, 1785; m. Mary Hodgson, had eight children, and d. June 13, 1870, at Davis, Stephenson Co., Ill.
- ix. PHEBE, b. April 7, 1787; m. Russell Mattison, May 5, 1811, had ten sons and a dau., and died March 8, 1869, at Randolph, Pa.
- x. ABRAHAM, Jr., b. Dec. 20, 1788; m. Lydia Guy, March 23, 1815, and had four children, two sons in the Union Army. He died July 26, 1879, at Humphrey, N. Y.
- xi. ESTHER, 2d, b. Nov. 21, 1790; m. Ebenezer Willoughby, Aug. 11, 1811, son of Rev. Ebenezer W., of Kingsbury, and had three children; died —, 1825, at Great Valley, N. Y.
- xii. RICHARD (Col.), b. Oct. 26, 1792; m. Polly McCuller, Jan. 22, 1819, and had nine children. A farmer, Sheriff, and Judge of Cattaraugus Co., N. Y. He died Oct. 15, 1857, at Great Valley.

17. Capt. ASAHEL<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Mansfield, Aug. 18, 1754, and married Eve Haynes, dau. of Joseph H., in 1788, and had nine children. He lived awhile in Cornwall, C. W., but located about 1791 at Augusta, on a good farm where he spent his days, and died Jan. 1, 1813. Children:

- i. JOSEPH (Capt.), b. May 10, 1789; m. Elizabeth Bissell, and had five children.
- ii. JOHN, b. May 10, 1790; m. Mary McLean, no children; d. March, 1876.
- iii. ABEL, b. May 8, 1791; m. Sarah Landon, and had ten children; d. —, 1872.
- iv. ELIZABETH, b. Dec. 7, 1792; m. Samuel Brown, and had three children; d. Oct. 13, 1815.
- v. ASAHEL (Capt.), b. May 27, 1794; m. Eleanor Carpenter, and had nine children; was a farmer at North Augusta, and d. June 18, 1874.
- vi. MICHAEL (Dea.), b. Jan. 1, 1796; m. Susanna Wright, and had five children; a farmer and Baptist deacon, and d. April 11, 1869.
- vii. AMOS (Capt.), b. Dec. 23, 1797; m. Minerva Wing, had seven children, and d. Oct. —, 1875.
- viii. CATHARINE, b. Dec. 6, 1800; m. William Wood, and had eight children; d. Aug. 5, 1869.
- ix. MARK, b. Nov. 28, 1802; m. Mary McNish, and Amy Holden; nine children, yet living.

18. EBENEZER<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Mansfield, Ct., Oct. 15, 1758, and settled in Pompey, N. Y., about 1795. He was a farmer and a Baptist, and died there June 14, 1840. He married Rachel Marsh, about 1781, and had nine children. Their children were as follows, though the birth dates are not fully known:

- i. ELIHU, b. about 1781-2; had three wives and seven children or more. A farmer at Sycamore, DeKalb Co., Ill., where he died years ago.
- ii. NATHAN, b. —, 1783; m. Hannah Palmer, and had five or six children; went to Ohio.
- iii. POLLY, b. Jan. 21, 1786; m. Charles Thomas, and had eight children—one, Hon. *Eron Noble*,<sup>7</sup> b. May 9, 1809; was two years in the N. Y. Assembly. She died June 14, 1863, at Rose, N. Y.
- iv. LYMAN, b. —, 1788, and died Dec. 26, 1813, unmarried.
- v. JOEL, b. April 20; 1790, had two wives and six children; d. June 5, 1832.
- vi. LEVI, b. 1793; m. —, went to Indiana, and had six or seven children.
- vii. HIRAM MUNSON, b. Dec. 6, 1796; m. Deneey Phinney, Jan. 27, 1818, had twelve children, and d. Dec. 1878, with a daughter, Mrs. Dr. J. A. Reynolds in Rochester, N. Y.
- viii. ADIN, b. July 2, 1798; m. Betsy Phillips, Oct. 25, 1823, had five children, a farmer and melted himself cradling grain, July 26, 1834.
- ix. JULIA MALINDA, b. 1804; and d. Feb. 6, 1828, at Pompey.

19. Capt. AMOS<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born June 22, 1761, at Newtown, Sussex Co., N. Jersey. He married Sabrah Wilcox, about 1785, at New Haven, Vt., and located near his older brother Asahel, at Augusta, Canada West, about 1790-1, on a fine tract of 500 acres of new land, while his wife drew 800 acres more on her father's account, making a domain of 1300 acres of valuable land, which he soon left to his young family of four children and their mother, for he died July 19, 1796, in his early manhood.

- i. ABRAHAM, b. Oct. 27, 1786, at N. Haven, Vt.; m. Elizabeth Purdy, Nov. 16, 1808, at Augusta, and had eight children. A farmer, he finally located at Richmond Hill, north of Toronto; d. Mar. 10, 1863. His eldest son, Hon. *Amos*<sup>7</sup> W. b. Nov. 24, 1809, was twenty years in



the Provincial Parliament from the Toronto District, from 1850-1870, and is now in government employ at Prince Arthur's Landing, near Thunder Bay, above Lake Superior.

- ii. SARAH, b. 1788, at Johnstown; m. John Mallery, had seven children.
- iii. WILLIAM, b. about 1790; had two wives, and five children.
- iv. DAVID, b. 1793-4, and d. about 1811.

20. DAVID<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Ebenezer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born Nov. 16, 1763, at Newtown, also, and married Tamar Burritt, of —, in Vermont, I think, about 1796, and located at Cornwall, near the St. Lawrence, on a farm, where he died Oct. 25, 1819, where some of their posterity continue to reside. His wife died the next February. Their children were:

- i. ESTHER, b. July, 1797; m. Charles Carpenter, and had two children.
- ii. JOHN, b. Aug. 18, 1799, at Cornwall; m. Prudentia Raymond, Feb. 3, 1831, and had eleven children; one son in our Union army for a time.
- iii. AMOS, b. May 4, 1801; m. Margaret Sherrieff, had five children, was a farmer, and d. Oct. 24, 1836.
- iv. DAVID, b. Feb. 1803; m. Mary Herrick, and had four children.
- v. DIANA, b. Nov. 1805, and d. Nov. 1809.
- vi. AUGUSTUS, b. Nov. 1807, d. June, 1810.
- vii. PAULINA, b. 1809; m. — Dolman, and had two children.
- viii. ELIZA ANN, b. 1811; m. John Mollmoil, and had one child.

21. Capt. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (Rev. *Eliphalet*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born at Mansfield, April 2, 1761, and like his father, was a tanner and currier at South Killingly; and after his removal to Hinsdale, Berkshire Co., Mass., about 1795, he was also a farmer. He married Keziah Stearns about 1791, and had 8 children, when she died July 10, 1810. Then he married, second, Betsey Watkins, who bore him 4 children. He was a Congregationalist, and died Jan. 8, 1835, aged 74 years. His children were:

- i. ELIPHALET, b. Feb. 21, 1792, and d. Oct. 5, 1809, at Hinsdale.
- ii. ELIZABETH, b. Oct. 2, 1794; d. March 17, 1795.
- iii. MILLER AMES, b. Dec. 1, 1796; m. Abigail Charles, of H., and 2d, Mary Tompkins, and had four children. He moved to Georgia.
- iv. REBECCA, b. Aug. 28, 1799; m. Rufus Herrick, and had four children.
- v. MARIA, b. Feb. 1, 1802; m. Nathaniel Hudson Hinckley, and had one child.
- vi. RUFUS MARSH, b. April 1, 1804; m. Salina Parish, and had one child.
- vii. SAMUEL STEARNS, b. Sept. 25, 1806; m. Orinda E. Owen, and had three children.
- viii. ELIZABETH, 2nd, b. Jan. 2, 1809; m. R. Herrick, as 2nd wife, and had seven children.
- ix. KEZIAH, b. May 29, 1812; m. Israel Drown, and had one child, *Louisa B.*<sup>7</sup>
- x. INFANT, b. March 28, 1814, d. same day.
- xi. ABIGAIL, b. March 1, 1815; m. Warren Pierce, and had one son, *Wyatt W.*<sup>7</sup>
- xii. ELIPHALET, M.D., b. April 21, 1817; m. — Hulbert. In large practice at Lee, Mass., for many years.

22. Dea. ELISHA<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Elisha*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born Nov. 9, 1759, at Mansfield, and married, 1792, Asenath Brigham, at Shaftsbury, and had 4 children. He was a Baptist, a carpenter and farmer, and removed to Williston, Vt., about 1795, and died there June 20, 1832. His wife died Jan. 7, 1855. Children were:

- i. BRIGHAM C., b. July 1, 1793, at Shaftsbury; m. Urania Murray, March 17, 1817, and had six children, and d. Jan. 18, 1862, at W. Milton, Vt.
- ii. EUNICE, b. Oct. 8, 1794; m. John Firman, had one child, and both dead.

- iii. JOHN, b. Oct. 8, 1797, at Williston; m. Polly Holt, had seven sons. One of these, Hon. *Smith<sup>7</sup> Wright*, has sat several years in the Vt. Legislature.

- iv. HANNAH, b. May 8, 1804; m. Hon. *Chas. Russell*, a farmer of Bombay, N. Y., and had eight children. One of these is now Judge *Horace<sup>7</sup> Russell*, of the Superior Court of N. Y. City; b. June 19, 1843, a graduate of Dartmouth College in 1865.

23. ABRAHAM SPAFFORD<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Elisha*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born at Mansfield, Jan. 19, 1772, and married Hannah Dunham, about 1792, at Shaftsbury, and had 11 children born in Shaftsbury, Royalton and Williston, Vt. He was a mechanic and farmer, and died March 4, 1826.

- i. ELISHA (Dea.), b. Oct. 23, 1793; m. Semele Smith, and had eight children.
- ii. HANNAH, b. Feb. 4, 1795; m. Rufus Walston, and had four children.
- iii. PRISCILLA, b. Feb. 17, 1797; m. Wright Clark, and had eight children.
- iv. ELECTA, b. Dec. 10, 1798; m. Aaron Merrill, and had eight children.
- v. OLIVE, b. May, 1800; m. George Lilly, and had two children, and died 1832.
- vi. ORINDA, b. May 23, 1802; m. *Osmin Norton*, and had one child; d. Feb. 25, 1878.
- vii. AURILL, b. April 20, 1804; m. Hiram H. Allen, and had three children.
- viii. JOHN DUNHAM, b. Feb. 8, 1807; m. Emily Robinson, who died soon; m. second, Celia Hanks, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln, who bore him seven children; m. third, Eveline Simmons, who had seven children; a farmer in the west.
- ix. MARVIN, b. Oct. 24, 1809; never married, and a rover in the West.
- x. CHARLES, b. Nov. 11, 1811; m. Matilda Porter, and had seven children. Farmer in Iowa.
- xi. MARY LUCY, b. Dec. 22, 1814; m. Geo. A. Chapman, a farmer at Jericho, Vt., had two children; *Olive Maria<sup>7</sup>* and *Marvin Wright<sup>7</sup>*.

24. JOHN HYDE<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Elisha*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born April 19, 1777, at Mansfield, and married Oct. 7, 1802, Lorinda Royce, of M., with whom he lived in happy wedlock for over 63 years, both dying in February, 1866, at Willington, Ct., he being nearly 89 years old. He was a farmer in Mansfield and in W., passing the evening of life in total blindness for several years. Their 4 children were:

- i. SOPHRONIA, b. Aug. 26, 1804; m. Lucien Holt, and had two sons.
- ii. SPAFFORD, b. Nov. 21, 1808; m. Julia Ann Russ, and had five children.
- iii. ELISHA (Lieut.), b. Nov. 24, 1815; studied law; was in the Mexican war, and d. July 27, 1848, at Clinton, Mich.
- iv. SARAH, b. March 9, 1819; and died Feb. 12, 1844, unmarried.

25. EBENEZER<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (Capt. *Amaziah*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Mansfield, April 10, 1765, and married, about 1788, Anna Galusha (born May 6, 1764), a sister of Gov. Jonas Galusha, of Vermont, and had 8 children. He was a farmer and removed, about 1798, to Salina, N. Y., thence to Oswego Falls, and to Wadsworth, Medina Co., Ohio, in 1813, as his son Orris C. wrote me in 1864, from Johnson's Corners, Ohio. He died at Hudson, O., Dec. 9, 1844, and has a large posterity in Ohio and the states further west. His children were:

- i. LUCINDA, b. 1789, at M.; and d. in 1800, aged eleven.
- ii. WILLIAM HENRY (Rev.), b. May 1, 1791; m. Almira Dunham, and had five children; m. second, Emily Miller, and had six more children. He was an M. E. Pastor; and d. Jan. 13, 1880. Among these eleven children are Rev. *Charles<sup>7</sup> W.*, b. 1814, an M. E. minister, now dead; and Rev. *John<sup>7</sup> W.*, b. Feb. 23, 1819, who has had twelve children.
- iii. JOHN MILTON, b. Nov. 22, 1794; m. Abigail Emory, and had seven children; d. Feb. 5, 1871.



- iv. CHARLES, b. 1796; m. ———, had six children or more, and is lost to the family.
- v. SOPHIA, b. 1799; m. Luman Woodward, had four children. And lived in Canada West, where she died.
- vi. ORRIS C., b. March 4, 1802, at Salina; m. Elizabeth Reese, had ten children, two infants died young, and he d. Aug. 5, 1869. One son, Lieut. Col. Myron Thomas, b. Jan. 1, 1839, served over three years in the Union army, and d. Jan. 7, 1865, before Savannah, from a shell wound, in Gen. Sherman's army.
- vii. ANNA LUCINDA, b. July 4, 1805; m. Parker Tyer, had eight children.
- viii. MARY, b. Feb. 6, 1810; m. Richard Riley, and had seven children.

26. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Amaziah*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born Wednesday, March 1, 1779, at Mansfield; had two wives. Clarissa Hollenbeck, first wife, bore him 10 children; by second wife, Eliza Pryor, he had one. He was a farmer in Hudson, Ohio, a Congregationalist, and died Aug. 21, 1854. Only seven children lived to maturity.

- i. WILLIAM FITCH, b. Oct. 1, 1809, at Canaan, Ct; m. ———, Feb. 25, 1836, has no children. A farmer in Hudson, O.—held various offices.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. Jan. 23, 1812, in Conn.: a farmer in H., unmarried.
- iii. SARAH ANN, b. May 8, 1814; m. Lora Case, and had four children.
- iv. MARY ELIZABETH, b. Feb. 14, 1817; m. Geo. Munson, had one child.
- v. GEORGE, b. Feb. 7, 1819; m. ———, no children; a farmer in Hudson.
- vi. SUSAN JERUSA, b. June 6, 1825; m. R. F. Humiston, had four children.
- vii. JULIA FRANCES, b. 1840; m. Dr. John E. Darby, an army surgeon in the war for a time. She died in 1867, childless.

27. STEDMAN HUNTINGTON<sup>5</sup> WRIGHT (*Eleazer*,<sup>4</sup> *Ebenezer*,<sup>3</sup> *Abel*,<sup>2</sup> *Abel*<sup>1</sup>) was born at Mansfield, July 4, 1784; married Polly Barrows, of M., March 27, 1806, and had 10 children. He was a mechanic and lived in several places, hence his children were born some in Mansfield and three in Vermont. He died Nov. 3, 1857, at So. Weymouth, Mass., his wife having died Dec. 31, 1839, at Mansfield. His children were:

- i. CHARLES AUSTIN, b. Jan. 8, 1807, at M.; and had two wives, and four children; was a merchant in S. Weymouth, where he d. June 6, 1874.
- ii. MELINDA BARROWS, b. April 12, 1808; m. Geo. Mowry, and had three children.
- iii. MARY B., b. April 11, 1810; m. E. Burlingham, had three children.
- iv. ANNA MARSH, b. March 27, 1812; m. Rev. S. Barrows, Jan. 31, 1866.
- v. ORRILLA, b. April 19, 1814, and d. young.
- vi. AMANDA MARSH, b. Aug. 10, 1815; m. Rev. Sylvester Barrows, Sept. 18, 1850, had two children (a son John<sup>7</sup> Wright, b. March 10, 1854), and d. Dec. 3, 1861.
- vii. NANCY STORRS, b. Oct. 14, 1817; and d. Oct. 4, 1843, unmarried.
- viii. ELEAZER STEDMAN, b. May 9, 1820; m. Mary L. Reed April 14, 1845, had four sons, was a merchant of S. Weymouth, and d. Nov. 18, 1870.
- ix. JULIETT FRANCES, b. June 13, 1824; m. M. H. Treusdell, and had two children.
- x. JANE ADELIA, b. July 14, 1826; m. Ezra Reed, and had two children.

NOTICE. This is only a summary of the first *six* generations, coming down to some now living. If the book on this WRIGHT GENEALOGY shall be completed, as we hope it may be during the year 1881, it will show how the next *three* generations have increased since Abel W., of 1631, was born, or in 250 years.

Criticisms, corrections and additions are requested from any who can aid the subscriber to more exact Records, in names, dates, and places of *births, marriages and deaths*. We shall hope to enumerate not less than 4,000 or 5,000 names of this Wright lineage and blood. Send on your Records and orders for the book, that we may know how many to print, as the edition will be limited to about the number subscribed for. Address—Rev. STEPHEN WRIGHT, P. O. Box 385, at Glen's Falls, N. Y. About 500 copies are hoped for, at \$3.00 per copy. S. W.

# IN MEMORIAM MAJORUM;—OF THE WRIGHT FAMILY.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it EBENEZER (the stone of help), saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!"—1 Sam. 7: 12.

1. Let me sing you a lay of my own father, dear;  
Whose memory his children should always revere,  
Tho' absent from earth, for some eighteen years,  
We still here lament him in sorrow and tears,  
For, of this he was worthy, as the sequel appears.
2. Born in December, seventeen seventy-eight,  
In Cambridge, New York, the great Empire State,  
The fifteenth of that month, his nativity came,  
And from his grandsire he received a good name,  
Called EBENEZER;—let us give it to fame.
3. The stock whence he sprung was of Puritan blood,  
We cannot say surely when it came o'er the flood;  
But this we know well, by Records most true,  
That from the Old World they came to the New,  
For how many generations, my story will show.
4. In the valley of Connecticut, where peaceful waters flow,  
Our ancestor once lived, two hundred years ago,  
Among the early settlers at Springfield was his home,  
And from his fruitful loins, a large family has come.  
His name was ABEL WRIGHT,—of English stock he sprung,  
According to best knowledge that we have thus far wrung,  
From Records we have found—most hopeful of the truth,  
Which place him in this valley, in the early days of youth.
5. From whence he came, we know not—his parentage is hid,  
Nor can we trace his ancestry, nor what they ever did;  
Suffice it for us now:—he was an *honest* man,  
And lived there seventy years upon the Christian plan.  
Of *wealth*, he little had;—of worth he had the more,  
True worth of *character*, he held an ample store;  
For from his fellow-men, rich honors crowned his brow,  
In church and state, to him—fair homage all did show.
6. Lieutenant ABEL WRIGHT, was first in the line;  
Born in sixteen thirty-one—where—we cannot divine;  
And of Martha, his wife, we have no ancient trace,  
But *thirteen* dear children, their home did well grace,  
Of whom *ten* married—increasing the race.
7. Ensign ABEL WRIGHT, next comes in our way,  
Born in September, on its twenty-fifth day,  
In the year sixteen hundred, sixty and four;  
And with Rebecca Terry, he gained an ample store,  
Yes:—*thirteen* fine children:—did they need any more?



8. EBENEZER comes next, in the lineage so strait,  
Born February twenty-second, in Connecticut state,  
In seventeen hundred one, as the Records will show,  
Who was married three times, and had children also;  
*Eleven* are named in his *will*,—and this, sure, may do.
9. Then EBENEZER again comes up in our way,  
Born seventeen twenty-seven—January—the second day,  
Who took Mercy Leach, as his beloved wife,  
And had *ten* children; then shared a long life,  
Ere they ended their days, and closed up the strife.
10. Next Abraham came, of a new generation,  
Who lived in the time of the "great taxation;"  
Born, July thirteenth, seventeen fifty-two,  
And married Sarah Babcock;—and then Phebe Burt,  
By whom came *twelve* children, of most sterling worth.
11. Then our *Ebenezer*, as given above,  
Born one-hundred-two years this December, will prove,  
In Cambridge, New York, as already we said—  
Who had *eleven* children by Mary Tiffany, long dead;  
And *three* by a wife whom he later did wed.
12. Of this large family, *ten* mated ere long,  
Who had *thirty-nine* children their households among;  
Which from *Abel* the *first* make the eighth generation;  
And from these now come others to increase the nation,  
Which may need their help in the next tribulation.

To all my Wright kindred everywhere,  
With best regards,

STEPHEN WRIGHT.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.  
*Forefathers' Day*, Dec. 22, 1880.

WRIGHT.—Can any one help me in reference to the following dates and persons of the Capt. Amaziah<sup>4</sup> Wright family? Capt. Amaziah W., son of Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> and Sarah (Huntington) Wright, of Mansfield, born Feb. 11, 1739; m. Zerviah Fitch, April 1, 1762, a daughter of Captain and Deacon Eleazer F., of Windham, Conn. He lived in Mansfield most of his life, where his *ten* children were born from 1763 to 1785. He settled the estate of his father, who died April 22, 1786, in M., and removed soon afterwards to Salisbury near the northwest corner of the state, where he and his wife died, and also son Eliphalet<sup>5</sup> born Dec. 28, 1777.

Who can give the *dates* of these three deaths? or *any* of them from tombstone inscriptions or authentic records? Or the *date* of their settlement in Salisbury?

Again: he had a son Eleazer Fitch<sup>5</sup> W., born March 22, 1770; m. — (can any one say to whom?), removed to central or western New York, and had sons and daughters—Walter,<sup>6</sup> Maria,<sup>6</sup> Caroline,<sup>6</sup> and Electa.<sup>6</sup> Caroline married Mr. Richard Morris and went to Cedar Lake, Waushara Co., Wis.; and Maria lived with them unmarried, years ago. Who can give any knowledge of this family, or any of them? or their P. O. address, so I may try to reach them?

Glen's Falls, N. Y., Dec. 1880.

S. WRIGHT.

Geo. Benedict Wright

+  
Serena Marie Ames  
at Bloomington Ills.

April 28<sup>th</sup> 1860

by Res. Chas. G. Ames

V.A.W. + G.C.W.

at Newtunk, Mass.

vi. 21. 1899

by C. G. A.

Marriages

G. B. W.

+  
Carrie Amelia Whit-  
comb \*

at Sacramento, Cal.

ii. 27. 1870

by C. G. A.

\* Daughter of  
David A. & Amelia  
(Robt) Murray.

Births

G. B. W.

vi. 21. 1835 at

Williston, Vt.

The 6<sup>th</sup> + youngest child of  
Brigham C. & Maria  
(Murray) Wright

Serena Marie Ames

formerly

(Miriam)  
Serena Maria Huntley

b. viii. 6<sup>th</sup> 1840

at Wesley, Maine

Only child of Abram  
& Belinda (Gray) Huntley  
who died - the former  
during her infancy +  
the latter 9 yrs. later.

Adopted child of Chas. G. +

Sarah Jane Ames, Minn.

Act of Legislature, A.D. 1856

Mary (Serena) W.

b. Bloomington, Ills.

vi. 12. 1861

V. A. W.

b. Wtts.

iv. 23. 1863

C. G. W.

b. Wtts.

viii. 8. 1866

d. Wtts.

vii. 21. 1867

b. S. W.

d. Wilmington  
Del.

ii. 11. 1882

aged near 21 yrs.

G. B. W.

died at - 7. 7.

iv. 28. 1882



Land owners & Farmers primarily. Elisha<sup>4</sup> was a tanner; Elisha<sup>5</sup> Carpenter

# Wright

Abel<sup>1</sup> Wright - Martha Kitcherell  
(1659) (Springfield, Mass) [ Samuel Kitcherell ? ]

Abel<sup>2</sup> Wright - Rebecca Terry  
(1691) (Springfield & Lebanon, N.H.) [ Samuel Terry Anna Lobdell ]

Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> Wright - Elizabeth Newcomb  
(1721) (Lebanon & Mansfield) [ Simon Newcomb Deborah ? ]

Elisha<sup>4</sup> Wright - Hannah Baldwin  
(1756) (Mansfield) [ John Baldwin ? ]

Elisha<sup>5</sup> Wright - Asenath Brigham  
(1792) (Mansfield & Williston, Vt)

Brigham<sup>6</sup> C. Wright - Urania Murray  
(1817) (Milton, Vt) [ Calvin Murray Bariah Murray Rhoda Allen Mary ? ]

George<sup>7</sup> B. Wright - Serena Huntly  
(1860 ?)

Vernon<sup>8</sup> A. Wright - Grace T. Clarke  
vi. 21 (1899) [ b. Aug. 23, 1874 ]

Lucy ANN  
Thomas<sup>9</sup> C. Wright - Catharine Wilson  
iii. 31. (1928)

Cyrus Gordon Wright - Louise  
vi. 24. 1930  
by Hannah Hannah

Date is date of marriage.

Jeanne McClellan Wright  
xii. 18. 1928

Barbara Wright  
vi. 21. 1930.

Robert G. Wright  
Alice V. "  
Mahcoln C. "  
Margaret J. "

VERNON AMES WRIGHT





VERNON AMES WRIGHT

IV—23, 1863

X—29, 1938

BORN in Minneapolis of New England parents, Vernon Wright's life exemplified many of the traits of character that Maine, Vermont, and Minnesota seem to engender.

Coupled with courage and perseverance, with an unswerving sense of duty and an entire honesty of word and deed, was an extreme reticence and absence of self-assertion. A quiet and direct clarity of thought admitted of no subterfuges, but proceeded evenly and reasonably, analyzing, accepting, or rejecting, each



problem—head-on—without fear or evasion. With confidence, with persistence, even with stubbornness; with vision and with high idealism, tempered with a broad comprehension of practical affairs; with cautious balancing of methods, he attacked each new problem, mapped out each new plan for the future.

All of this was done on a slender margin of endurance and, of necessity, with an inner serenity, and with no waste effort. A friend spoke of him as working "with easy control, moving under his own steam."

A will to do, to do the best possible sort of job, asking nothing but that it be well done, battled with a natural desire for a quiet, retired life. Always expecting

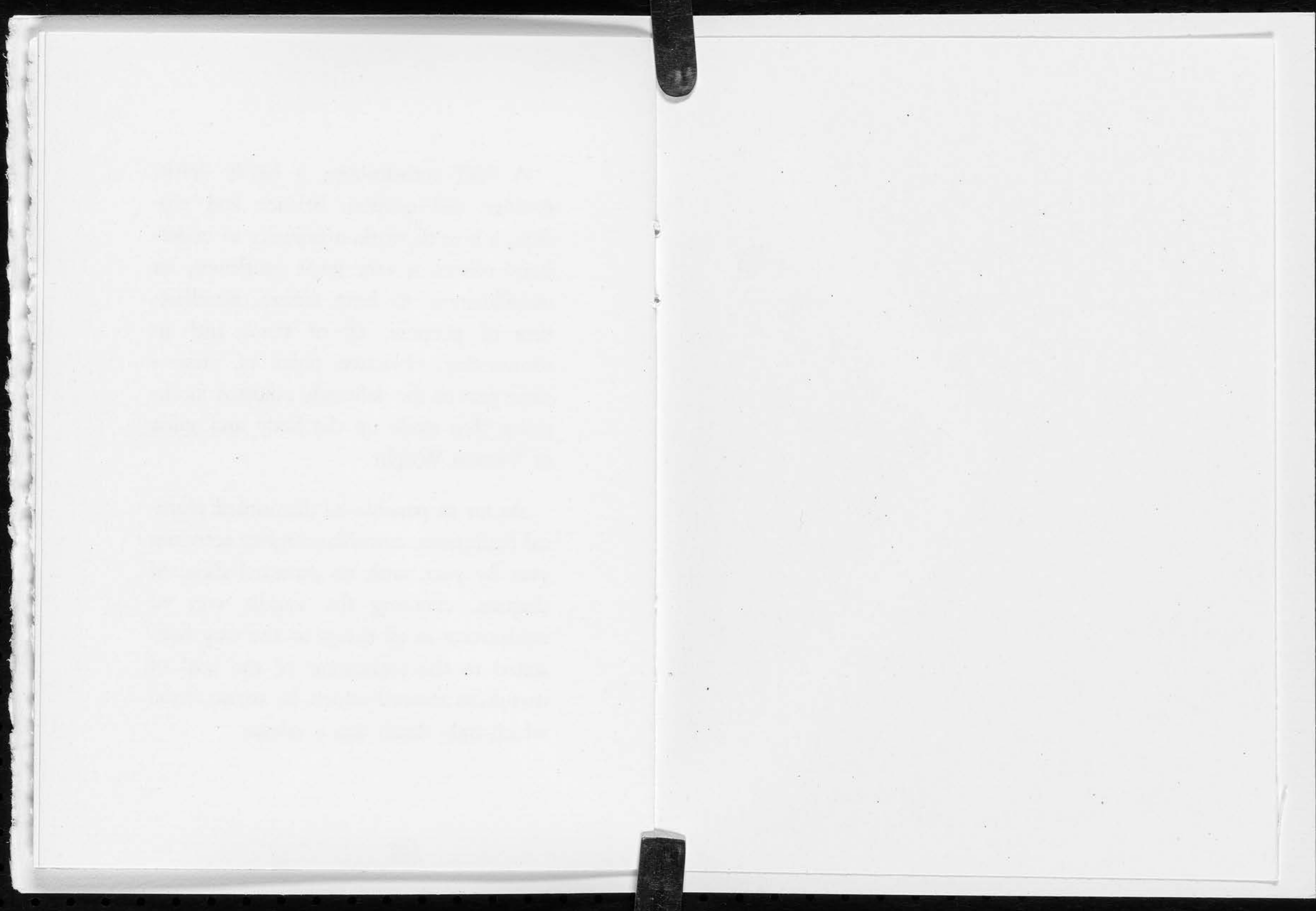
the best of people; he was seldom disappointed.

Architecture is an exacting and confining profession. A change of occupation was recommended. The Otter Tail Power company started as a solution to a problem of ill health. With no hesitation or complaint, but with an immediate acceptance of the verdict, he turned to the possibilities of development, latent in the estate of his father, George Burdick Wright. To develop an hydro-electric power business from a real estate project of the eighties, provided a sufficiently imaginative and constructive problem. To supply electric power to country towns and villages and eventually to farmers was an ideal requiring common sense, ability and vision.

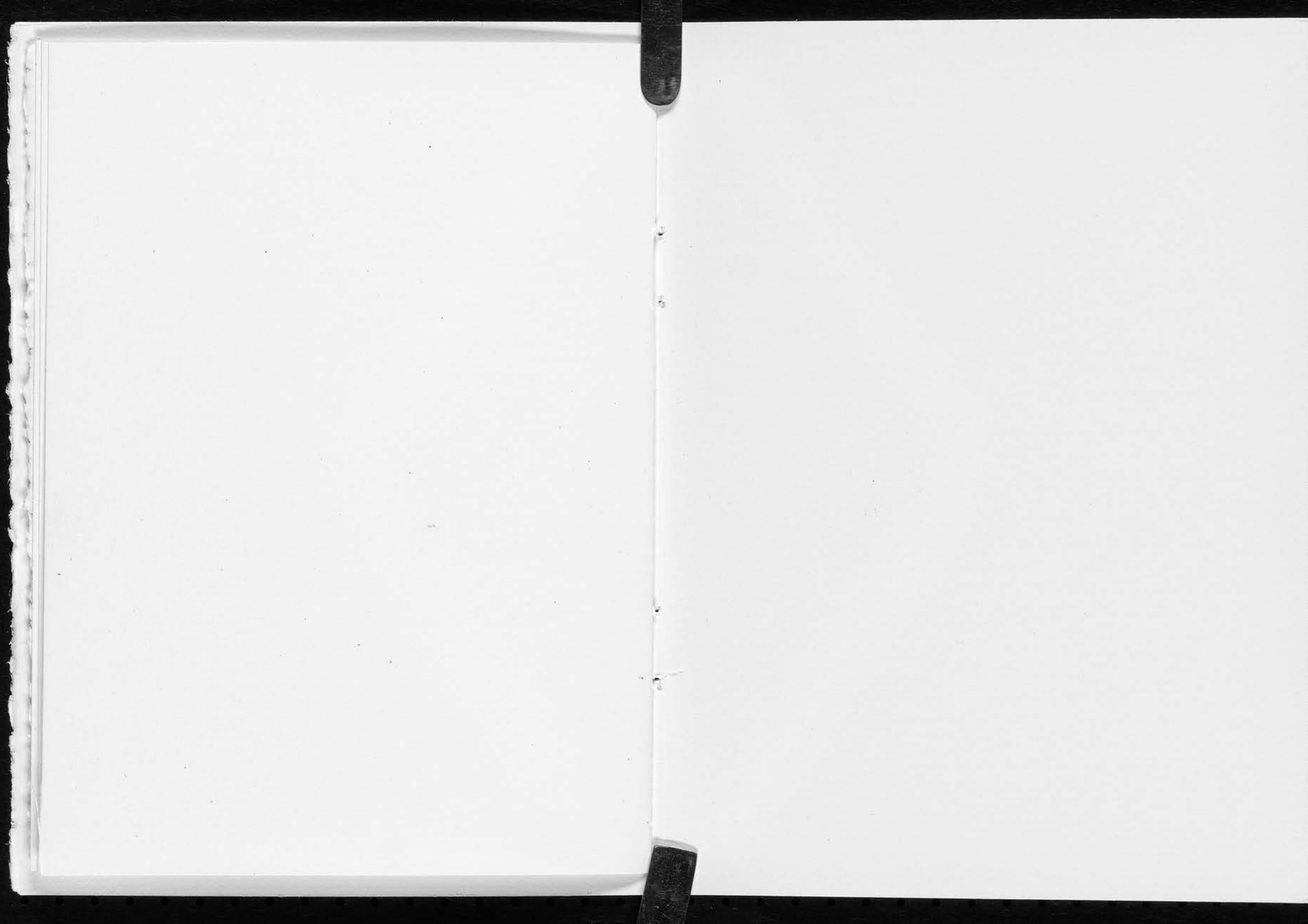


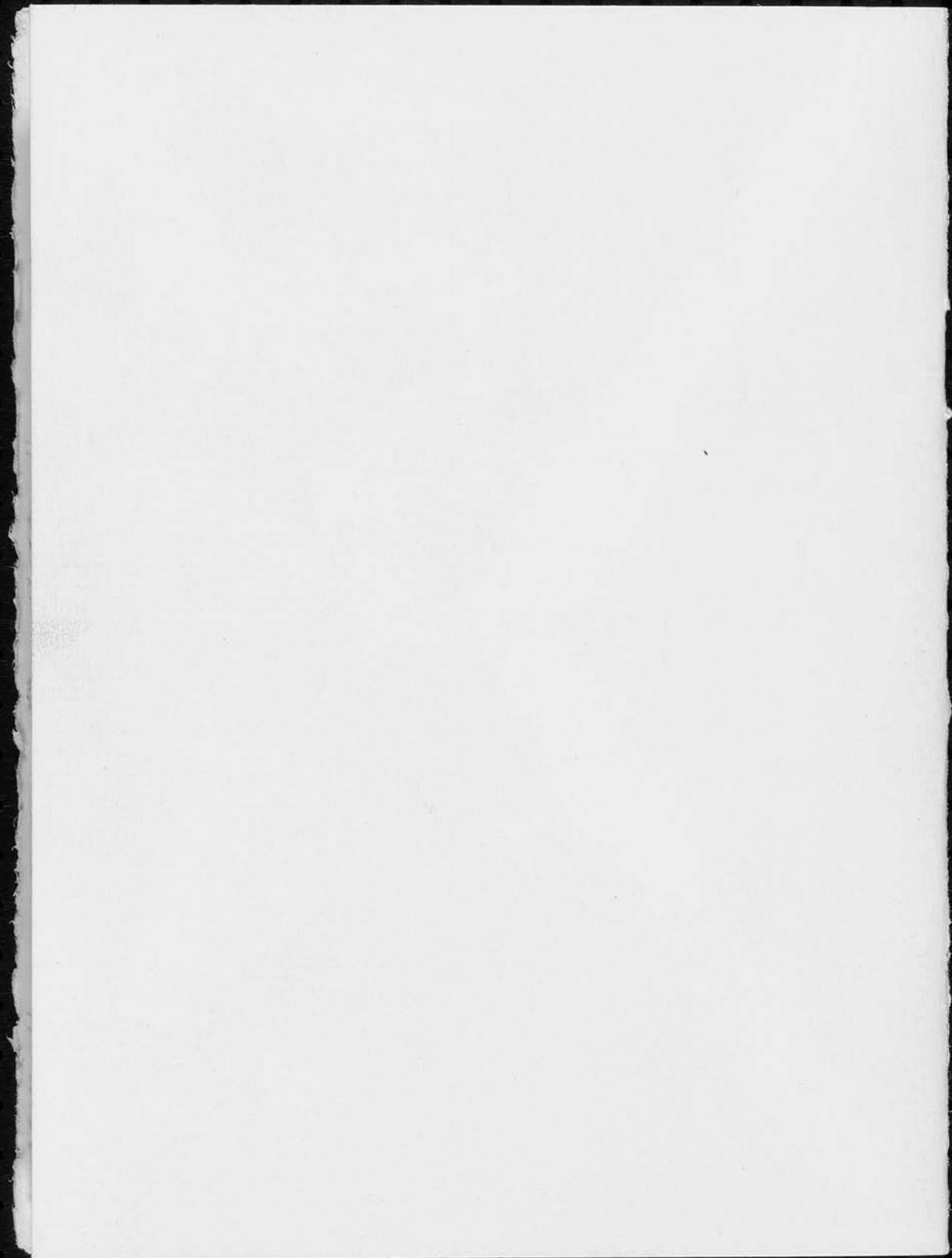
A frail constitution, a hardy spirit, courage and caution, balance and wisdom, a love of work, a capacity to understand others, a very great gentleness, an unwillingness to hurt others, steadfastness of purpose, all of these and an unswerving, objective point of view—were part of the delicately adjusted mechanism that made up the body and spirit of Vernon Wright.

As far as possible he discounted physical limitations, curtailing various activities year by year, with no outward show of disquiet, choosing the middle way of moderation in all things as the way best suited to the attainment of the goal of usefulness toward which he strove, from which only death was a release.











of char. that baird, vt  
& him are supposed to  
engender,

Complex with courage &  
perseverance  
And an unswerving sense  
of duty, & unimpeachable honesty  
of duty, was extreme  
reticence, ~~shyness~~, absence of  
self-assertion. A quiet &  
open quality of mind, direct  
& crystal clear, admitted of  
no subterfuges, but ~~proceeded~~  
~~throughly~~ ~~analyzing~~ ~~reasonably~~ ~~analyzing~~  
every ~~problem~~ ~~head on~~  
without fear or evasion

It is <sup>a</sup> year since Verum Ames  
Wright died.

It is that time some of  
the literal facts of his  
~~Verum Ames Wright~~  
career appeared in the  
local papers. To-day it is  
~~something further may~~  
~~be fitting that something~~  
further be added con-  
cerning one whose ~~days~~  
were lived at once so  
modestly & w. Such distinct  
Born in Nfld. of N.E.  
parents, Verum W.C. life  
exemplifies ~~all~~ <sup>many</sup> of the traits

with confidence, persistence, even stubbornness, with vision & high idealism tempered w. a ~~broad~~ ~~practical~~ grasp of practical affairs w. cautious balancing of the various ways & means he attacked each new problem, or mapped <sup>each new</sup> ~~out~~ plans for the future, ~~or increasing or bettering the work to which he gave his~~

~~There was no hurry~~  
 And all of this was <sup>such</sup> slender <sup>margin</sup> ~~done on~~ endurance that it must be done serenely & w. no waste of any sort. As one wrote he worked w. ~~effort~~ ~~physically~~ A will, ~~everybody would~~ ~~under his~~ clear to do, to do the best possible sort of job, asking no ~~thing~~ ~~precise~~ ~~nothing~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~no fault~~ ~~except~~ that it be well done, content with the natural desire for ~~the~~ ~~quite~~ ~~stiff~~ ~~to do~~ ~~quality~~



3. vision, idealism were  
tempered w. a practical  
grasp of practical affairs  
there was sense of humor  
grit gentleness, consideration  
of others, of the lesser  
man, to desire for  
publicity for fame for  
fortune only a burning  
spirit to do a first class  
job — was betw. natural  
reticence & a strong  
sense of duty.

All accomplished w.  
a very slender man  
of strength w. no waste

motion, no waste effort.  
There was a got him  
serenity an inner stillness  
dignity wanted almost  
nothing for himself only  
the chance to do

The Power Co. came as a  
solution of a problem & ill  
health. Architecture was  
exactness & conforming.  
A change of occupation  
was recommended. There  
was no complaint, no  
hesitation, but an immediate  
acceptance of a fact & a

2. extreme reticence,  
shyness, sensitiveness,  
sens. to beauty, pain,  
tragedy of others, to music.  
There was an entirely  
simple open quality  
direct & crystal clear  
that admitted of no  
subterfuges. There was  
ability to do straight  
clear, analytical thinking  
without fear or evasion  
to meet a problem  
head on & solve it if  
poss. to. There was  
persistence, even at setbacks  
times near

11  
It is a yr. since ~~he died~~  
At that time <sup>Some of the</sup> lateral  
facts of his career appeared  
to-day in the local  
papers. <sup>in</sup> Something further  
may well be written  
of one whose life was  
carried out at once such  
modesty & <sup>w. such</sup> distinctness  
Born in Nfld of New  
England parents, his life  
it simplified all that  
leaving Vermont, & Minn.  
one popularly supposed to  
supply. There was



6. of every, seldom being  
disappointed.

He chose the middle  
~~course~~  
~~way~~ of moderation in  
all things. He remained  
an ~~often~~ most fundamentally  
honest in word & deed  
never letting down his  
standards of high ideals  
& ~~simple~~ ~~plain~~ tastes

The Power Co <sup>started</sup> ~~came~~ as  
the solution of a problem  
of ill health. Rich. was  
expecting, confirming, a change  
of occupat<sup>n</sup>. was recommended  
w. no complaint or hesi-  
tation, w. an immediate  
acceptance of the ~~need~~  
of a new mode of life,  
he began to consider  
the devel. of hydro-elec.  
power, & the <sup>most</sup> improve an  
estate that left alone  
might become static

The Real estate business did  
not seem ~~interesting~~ suff.  
stimulating, left for the  
80s, as a problem to  
devel., but to supply  
educ. power to small  
country towns & villages  
eventually to the farmer.  
was a new idea requiring  
constructive imagination & ~~a well~~  
~~trained~~ common  
sense & ~~the~~  
~~sort of~~ a sensitively adjusted  
A frail constitution, a  
hardy spirit & caution  
~~and~~ yet ~~unusually~~ ~~small~~  
balance & wisdom  
a willingness to see

a different pt. of view,  
a willingness to act  
alone, an unwillingness  
to hurt others, <sup>a very soft shell</sup> ~~but~~  
~~great~~ all these ~~helped~~  
to ~~make~~ were part  
of the delicately adjusted  
mechanism that  
made up the body  
& spirit of Vernon Briggs.  
Always he discounted  
as far as poss. his  
physical limitations, curtail<sup>g</sup>  
yr. by yr. activities  
always expecting the best



7 As soon as physical strength accumulated he was ready & in time was once long ago threatened

W. blindness from >  
sorts of trouble he was asked  
if he was ~~alarmed~~ <sup>alarmed</sup> or frightened  
to — it w'd be an inconvenience  
every year has been a  
readjustment of habits  
as ~~increasing~~ delicacy  
made necessary a curtail-  
ment of activities. Less  
phys. act., less use of  
eyes. Always expected

8 best of every man's  
~~generally~~ seldom disappointed.  
Chose the Greek middle  
way of moderation & seldom  
allowed he to be swayed  
fr. that path.

great honesty of thought & deed  
High ideals & standards

creative } policy  
Constructive }

severe luxuries

Liked to live quietly simply

easy control

Moving under his own steam

✓

6 power, to bring cheap  
power to far places, to  
help the small town,  
the farmer, were some  
of the early hopes  
that eminently antedated  
the Rural Elec. Prog.  
Coupled w. a frail  
constitution was a kindly  
spirit, yet balanced  
conservative, caution  
always <sup>gave</sup> ~~fighting~~ a lack of  
endurance, a delicately  
adjusted constitution, there was  
never a seldm. & never a  
lasting invalid's viewpoint

5 new mode of life  
began w. the wish  
to further devel. the  
property left by G.B.W.  
Hence ~~became~~ came into being  
a constructive problem  
that has grown & burgeoned  
essentially a construction  
mind. The problem of  
the '80's wh. had aborted  
G.B.W. had altered ~~so~~  
since his death  
Real estate vs. what  
Chase what. To devel.  
1st Hrs from the elec.

vj. 17. 1936.

Dear Mr. Adams, -

You will not mind, I hope, if I correct some of the errors in your article on Vernon's father. I shall try to take them as they appear.

George Benedict Wright was born at Williston, Vermont on June 21, 1935. George Wright Miles was an own cousin of Vernon's, not Mrs. Miles.

George B. Wright went first to Bloomington, Illinois. I believe it was there that he met Charles Gordon Swes, & his first wife



Sarah Jane - , & it was there that George B. Wright met Serena Maria Huntley and her mother. When Mr. Ames came to Minneapolis Mrs. Huntley and Serena Maria followed. Mrs. Huntley ~~did~~ made a not too happy second marriage. When she was ill and knew that she could not get well, she asked Mr. Ames if he and his Sarah Jane would take Serena Maria to live with them adopt her legally. Mr. & Mrs. Ames were young <sup>living</sup> & on a meagre salary. So they hesitated.

Mrs. Huntley died & for a year or two the young Serena Maria lived with friends, very little of at well with her step-father & his daughters by a former marriage.

Finally when Serena Maria Huntley was 10 years old, Mr. & Mrs. Ames took her, legally adopted her & gave her a happy though far from luxurious home. She lived with Mr. & Mrs. Ames from that time, until they were married - in Bloomington Illinois, in

The house where the Ames home now stands, was as I under-

stand it, the agent's house,  
& Mr. Wright stayed there  
often when he was in Fergus  
Falls. His residence was on  
Bloomington Avenue, Minnea-  
polis — the house known as  
the Concrete house on the  
prairie. Mr. Wright begged to  
be taken to the C. S. Wright  
house on Mt. Fair Avenue,  
after he had been ill long  
enough to find the noise  
of the mill across the  
street very wearying.

George B. Wright was almost  
47 yrs. old, when he died.  
He was within two months  
of that age.

Dec - 4 - 50  
SAN FERNANDO  
CALIF.

My Dear Thomas -

Thank you for your nice and most unexpected letter of 10/3/50. It would have been answered much sooner, but was just received as I have been on the desert at Banning Calif. endeavoring to recuperate from a rather serious sinus and respiratory illness occasioned by the smog and fog of Los Angeles, from which community I moved several months ago, so kindly note and use my new address.

The news of the death of your kind and dear Mother comes as a most unpleasant shock. I was not aware it had occurred or that she had even been ill. We corresponded most pleasantly for many years then suddenly her letters to me ceased and I presumed the pressure of family and social affairs, plus advancing years made unnecessary writing rather prohibitive. My deepest, heartfelt sympathies are extended to you and all members of her immediate family. Being cousins by marriage and having known each other



rather well back in the good old  
1909 South Lincoln days, when I  
was most fortunate to be a  
temporary member of your family,  
through the kindness of your Mother,  
in your parents grand home, it is  
not necessary for you to observe the  
formality of referring to me as  
MR. HARDY! You called me Bob or  
Robert then and that will do very  
nicely now Thomas, if you care to.

Do you and Cyres remember those  
wonderful days we had together? The  
motorcycle trips to Walden Pond and  
White Pond and the swimming and  
in the winter the skating? At first,  
while your Mother was on a short  
vacation, we made the motorcycle  
trips to the "ole swimming hole" rather  
surreptitiously, for fear she would  
strenuously object, but later how  
delighted she was when she learned  
both you boys had learned to do  
a little swimming! Those were grand  
days for me and it would have been  
much to my physical and mental  
benefit had I continued them, an  
option which your wonderful  
parents offered me but which, in  
my restless youth, I foolishly  
declined.

I think it is grand of you to anticipate a family record or album of precious family letters and I would be delighted to be the recipient of one and wish to be of assistance to the best of my ability, which however I fear is rather limited. I have been so very ill the past few years and moved around so much that many of my family letters have been lost or destroyed. I think I have some letters from Carrie A. Wright and if you care to have them I will continue to try and find some, but so far have been unsuccessful.

Regarding the letters which you mention, I personally do not know about any, nor have I ever seen any of them, but am writing various relatives and friends who were rather close to Grandma and may know of or have some of the letters you desire.

In the last few years both Mother and Margo - (Marquerite to you) were with and very close to Grandma and may know of some of these letters.

As you probably know Mother died in 1944, but Margo may have many of her cherished possessions. Margo has two lovely girls, both married and with children, but she herself has recently suffered a bad upset and is confined in a sanatorium in Newtown, Conn. She became a "C.H.I.R.O." too late in life and the mental and physical strain was too great. She has recovered her mental equilibrium but is resting now. I am writing her.

Maure has been very happily and successfully married and lives in Chicago where her husband is prominent and influential. She has two lovely girls both married but only one grandchild. Maure recently suffered two bad brain hemorrhages and is really in a bad way now but still trying to carry on. I am writing her.

Boyd has been very happily married for 30 years but unfortunately no children. He lives at Newtown Tower Falls - Mass. Not too far from Lincoln and covers several states for a large manufacturing firm. I will write him. Edgar died in 1930 and left a wife, also boy and girl - all living.

My very best regards to you and Cyrus and your loved ones and Xmas and New Year's greetings to all. Will forward any letters I find and would love to hear from you - Sincerely  
Bob Hardy



Home, Sunday, May 11, 1879.

My dear little girl:

You are wondering no doubt if anybody will remember that tomorrow is your birthday.

Eighteen years old, a full grown woman with all the rights and responsibilities of such. Can it be possible that my girl-baby is a woman? Eighteen years that seem no doubt to you very, very long. To me they are a dream. And there is plenty of pain too in the reflections that crowd upon "the old ones" on "occasions like these." We don't realize how the world is passing and leaving us behind - How time is wrinkling us like withered fruit - How sense dulls - How our hair bleaches out like old driftwood on the shore - until one of these things brings us to a sharp realization that we are fast growing old and the world is forgetting us for the newcomers. Then we think how for endless ages on ages the innumerable swarms of the children of men have lived their brief day, passed away and been forgotten. It has been so with all - it is so with us. How precious life seems to us, how worthless in the great movements of Nature. She bids millions live and labor, hope, suffer and love, and she sweeps them away just as inexorably as she brings them forth. A million human lives are to her worth no more and no less than a million blades of grass. Can we extract any philosophy from this? The lesson it seems to me is whether we live or die really matters little to us. To live worthily and be content with whatever comes is about all. We

are however much to each other, and all have nerves of suffering which - for the sake each of the other - should be played upon little as possible. That is what we would perhaps do or withhold the doing of - so far as we personally are affected or care for, we may not so do or abstain from, if it touches others.

Eighteen years. I well remember a little, dark, hairy, singed-monkey of a baby you were at first. You were born in an old sharp-gabled wooden house. It seems to me now that it was a dull cream color - the paint well gone - story and a half high - the first gable facing north upon the main street which runs along the S. side of the Courthouse square, one block west, if I remember rightly, of the square; the house being on the N.E. corner of the block - in a green but much neglected yard - old trees - silver poplars and fruit such as apple and cherry standing around. A Methodist Church across the street East and another church on the opposite corner north side of the E & W street. In Bloomington, Ill., then a town of 8,000 people - that I have not seen since '63 - 16 years ago. You don't remember any of it - nor hardly even her who in that house gave you introduction to this world- and of whose life you are. The south and rear room - a window looking south toward the back yard out of the sharp gable and over the roof of the kitchen 1 story part of the house. That was our room and there you were born. Mr. Ames, Charlie and I you somewhat know. Your mother and Grandma Daniels you faintly remember. Mrs. Ames you know nothing of; but she was a suffering - but wonderfully bright and most lovely woman. She had

bright sparkling eyes and regular yellow sunshine hair - no red in it. }  
Mattie Rowley was the help - a nice American girl, and that made up  
the family.

Phoenix used to come in and sit long Sunday afternoons  
puzzling and worrying himself and the others with his everlasting  
problems of good and evil, sin and sickness and all that - a queer  
stick and contradiction then as now.

And other people who had ideas used to drop in. Your  
mother had been miserable and despondent and she afterward blamed  
herself and often spoke to me of the wrong she had done you in giving  
you certain morbid tendencies of mind which she purposed to help you  
outgrow and which you must always regard as a duty to combat. It  
was different later with her. Vernon is more equable and serene,  
and Cyrus who died was joy personated - the happiest child I ever  
saw. I have no doubt much of those differences were due to the  
mental condition of your mother transmitted. You are in many things  
much like her but you have not her strong ardent up-looking hope and  
enthusiasm, and I have indicated why perhaps that you have not.

Yet I see her in you so much - that now - you are older  
now than she was when I first met her - I am carried back to those  
days - such a little while ago to me - so very long (for it is more  
than your whole life time) to you. She was born August 6, 1840,  
I June 21, 1835, and I first saw her in the winter of 1856-7 I think.  
In the winter and spring of the following year we had become quite  
well acquainted and I liked her. -3- She seemed different from most



girls. She had more dignity and more sense, less gabble and small-talk (none at all in fact). She liked to talk of books, authors and heroes of both sexes, and she worshipped the human Gods. She wrote in the Registers office and one of the great books there yet is in her handwriting.

She went to Wolfboro, N.H., in late summer 1858 - just past 18 then - and we passed letters afterward - my first from her coming late that fall in camp in Iowa. Not many letters passed before the friendship warmed and when spring came I knew that I loved her. In August I went East and on her 19th birthday I surprised the Ames family by dropping in on them at Somerville, Mass. It was Saturday night. A week passed - we saw the various sights of Boston. In an old park (Norton's Grove) where long paths strewn with spines of pine, wind among the trees, on Sunday afternoon, August 14, 1859, I told her that I loved her and asked her love in return. We were very happy and the love then pledged never died, though she stayed here less than nine years afterward. Especially you are to me her representative. Do you wonder that I love my little girl and wish and hope all blessings for her and all worthy things of her.

The house is pretty considerably much torn to pieces. It will be no more the house you have known. I dread and hate change even if it is improvement. The partition between library and sitting room now torn out. Side stairs gone and space put into the parlor. Folding doors between parlor and dining room and also between parlor and sitting room. Chimney torn out and to go into west wall. New

approach to celler under kitchen porch. Conservatory built over old hatchway and new hatchway cut on west side where cellar window was. Upstairs the middle chamber enlarged by the width of the stairway torn out. Door into little SE corner room from the hall and old door stopped up and various other Bulgarian Atrocities done all over the house. Have got new strawberry patch and will have garden out S of house.

We have had a letter from Charlie Ames and what do you think! He is going to Yarrup with Archie Randolph to be gone some months - walking over Germany and Switzerland mostly. Says his health not very good and thinks the sea and mountains will help him out. And something else matter with him too. He and Louisa Head. Both got it bad! and he says he never never will make any more fun about that Head since now he has found out that it is his own head. Red head and sandy head - both one or gwine to be !!!

Clarence Layman hurt the other day getting along nicely. We are all pretty well I guess and if not happy it's nobody else's business.

Do you ever hear from Jennie or Eddie. Eddie writes home often but Jennie not.

Don't try to write if it hurts you - but we shall all be very glad to hear from you whenever you can write without injury.

And I am - Your Father and old grizzly-headed Lover.

Geo. B. Wright.

*[original letter is in the Correspondence]*

# FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS

FIFTH STREET at MARQUETTE AVENUE

MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
TRUST DEPARTMENT

October 2, 1950

Mr. Thomas A. Wright  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wright:

After our visit this morning, I got out our closed files on the Carrie A. Wright Trust and I am listing below the names and addresses of not only the Hardy but also the Murray groups who were interested in that trust. The following are the names and addresses as we had them about two years ago when the final distribution was made:

Robert Ernest Hardy	1534 West 52nd Street Los Angeles 37, California
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<i>Miss</i> Marguerite L. Hardy	c/o Chase Reed 16823 Ilene Detroit 21, Michigan
---------------------------------	---

Leon Allen Hardy	102 Griswold Drive West Hartford 7, Connecticut
------------------	--

<i>Miss</i> Laura A. Hardy Mitchell	180 East Delaware Place Chicago, Illinois
-------------------------------------	--

---

David Allen Murray	120 Percival Avenue Montreal West, Canada
--------------------	--

Eva Murray	4110 West Adams Boulevard Los Angeles 16, California
------------	---

Lester Noble Murray	4110 West Adams Boulevard Los Angeles 16, California
---------------------	---

Mattie Murray Vanetta	930 East Burnside Street Portland 14, Oregon
-----------------------	---

Clifford Murray	1141 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Sydney Drive East Los Angeles 22, Calif.
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Walter Murray	Wilsonville, Oregon
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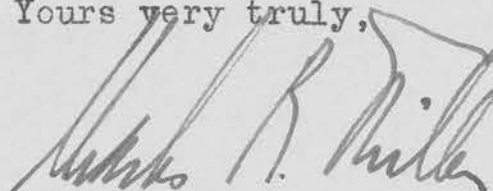


FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS

Mr. Thomas A. Wright  
October 2, 1950  
Page 2

It occurred to me that if you have not already done so, C. R. Wright has always come up with some information of historical value and he might have something in his files which would be of interest to you in your search for old data.

Yours very truly,



Charles R. Miller  
Vice President

CRM/f  
5102

LANCASTER BOND

100% COTTON FIBRE

U.S.A.

GEORGE B. WRIGHT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Fergus Falls, Minnesota

July 25, 1940

To those of you who have watched the Hospital grow, in the last thirty-five years, from its small beginnings, its first outward form,-- to its present useful and efficient bulk,--this moment, to-night, brings added assurance, if that is necessary, that a small, general hospital does inspire in the community which it serves, a constant and continuing desire for hospital progress, a state of mind vital to its future expansion and welfare.

In these years of activity and usefulness, the Hospital has more than fulfilled Vernon Ames Wright's hopes for its solid and healthy growth.

Of the signers of the original Articles of Incorporation (forty-seven in number), ten can testify today to the persistent efforts which they and many others have made to have the Hospital measure up to the requirements of modern hospital methods, equipment, and procedure, and to satisfy the ideals and practical plans upon which the future of a hospital must rest.

Of the Hospital's first Board of Trustees, the first Superintendent, Eliza H. McLean (with her long and stiff training and years of nursing experience), used to say: "Never was there such a Hospital Board!" They knew little about hospitals, but they were intelligent. They devoted themselves to the varied needs of the Hospital, (and these were beyond counting) with patience and persistence. The Hospital must survive!

Before speaking of the more recent changes in the arrangement and uses of part of the East Wing of the Hospital, changes which we are here to-night to see and to enjoy, it may interest you to know something about the reasons for the Hospital's existence.



Like so many things that Vernon Wright did, the decision to build a hospital was the answer to a challenge, a challenge resulting from illness and death, the two tragedies which overtook so many families.

The George B. Wright family, living in Minneapolis in the 1860's, were poor in worldly goods, rich in spirit, in belief in the goodness of life.

There was George Burdict Wright, his wife Serena Maria, and their three children: Mary Serena, Vernon Ames, Cyrus Gordon, and a fourth child, yet unborn.

As a surveyor for the United States government, George B. Wright was often far away, and often for weeks at a time. Communication was slow, difficult, sometimes impossible.

An epidemic of dysentery broke out in Minneapolis--in one square block some thirty cases appeared. The twenty-seven year old mother, Serena Maria, was at home alone with her children. The little year and a half old boy, Cyrus Gordon, was a victim of the epidemic. With limited knowledge of disease or its care, with unscientific skill, the frightened young mother tried to cope with this fearsome illness. She used the remedy of the day--tea and dry toast. The child's condition soon became very grave. In a few days the little boy died. Worn by his illness, not too well herself, with her husband beyond immediate reach, this sad and silent Serena Maria herself became ill. She had a miscarriage. Soon she developed pleurisy. She died not long after her little boy, Cyrus Gordon, and the loss of the fourth child.

About fifteen years after this series of catastrophes Vernon Wright had diptheria. He became partly paralyzed. He went on crutches for a while, and his father was sure that he would never be well again, that he would not live long. During his slow recovery, his sister, Mary, never very strong, showed signs of increasing ill health. At that time water cures were popular.



They would cure anything. So Mary Wright was sent to a water cure at Wilmington, Delaware, where she died, probably of tuberculosis.

Meanwhile, at Fergus Falls, George B. Wright was taken ill. Typhoid was, like measles, or whooping cough, or scarlet fever, one of the expected, unavoidable diseases, an all but inescapable probability--for a large number of people, year by year. When past the crisis and well on the road to convalescence, George B. Wright died. From what? The wrong diet? Too much of it? No one knows. So perished the last but one of a family, victims all of a lack of the sorts of knowledge which are almost common knowledge today. Skill in nursing has improved immensely, understanding of the causes and cure of diseases has increased enormously, preventive measures are common practice.

There was left one young man to carry on. He believed (I quote from a short article in the July Atlantic Monthly called "We the Living"): that a "pre-occupation with construction" was "an effective answer to" tragedy. He believed that "an active faith in living" was an important part of his duty as a citizen. He believed that performance was better than promise.

Practical idealism, a constructive sense of duty: - these can bring to pass many things. These can help to prevent tragedies, these can help to preserve, to conserve, much that is precious treasure.

The building of a hospital was a practical statement of Faith in Life.

There are two other people to whom we shall always turn in memory with deep affection and gratitude; two who have left to their children and friends ideals and practices which are well worth observing and following.

Fergus Falls was fortunate in having as citizens these two who contributed to her development a quality of distinction, dignity, and graciousness that is rare in any community. The fine art of living was theirs in full measure. It was an innate way of life. Their influence was quiet, steady, constant, wise. All that is best in present day life in America was theirs to give. It was

given freely, easily, beautifully.

Mrs. William L. Parsons in her many activities was so gentle, so unobtrusive, so selfless, that some times people failed to sense her real ability, <sup>the force of her spirit</sup> the breadth of her consideration and her concern for others, the measure of her love and kindness. Hers was both an inner and an outer grace.

William L. Parsons, an able lawyer, a wise judge, embodied all that we hold highest in the practice of his profession.

During many years, and in many ways Mr. Parsons was my husband's friend-- a well-loved and cherished friend. Mr. Parson's advice was sought, his counsel heeded, his co-operation welcomed. A consistent and understanding friendship, needing few words, enduring easily and serenely to the end. This was the quality of friendship shared by these two men.

In the founding of the Hospital, Mr. Parson's various capacities were evident. The Articles of Incorporation were drawn up in the offices of Parsons & Brown. For many years Mr. Parsons was on the Board of Trustees of the Hospital, and for a short time he was its President, bringing to this service as to all else that he did the best of his advice and consideration.

The Hospital Board and its friends hoped that some tribute to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Parsons might become a part of the hospital which, for so long a time they helped and encouraged.

Tonight, the four daughters of Mr. & Mrs. William L. Parsons--Mrs. George B. Wright of Orwell, Vermont; Mrs. C. Charles Burlingame of Hartford, Connecticut; Miss Katherine Parsons; and Mrs. James Cowin, both of Minneapolis, join with me in making the former Ward A, the former Women's Ward, available as a waiting room and small lecture room.

It is a pleasure for us to give this room, in its renewed and more useful and convenient arrangement, to the Hospital, its Board of Trustees and its



friends, in memory of those very dear friends who helped to make and keep the Hospital an active evidence of their Faith in Life.

Grace Clarke Wright.



October 3, 1950

Miss Marguerite L. Hardy  
c/o Chase Reed  
16823 Ilene  
Detroit 21, Michigan

Dear Miss Hardy:

Following Mother's death last January, we found in her house a series of letters from George B. Wright to his first wife, Serena. The letters cease shortly before her death in 1868, and so do not extend into the period when George was actively promoting Fergus Falls.

This letter is to enquire if any letters from George B. Wright to Carrie A. Wright have been preserved; and if so, if I could obtain copies of them. I propose some time in the next year or two to print George's letters (along with other family letters) for distribution to members of the Family and their friends. Would you consent to the inclusion of letters to Carrie A. Wright in such a volume? You would, of course, receive a copy.

Yours very truly

Thomas C. Wright

TCW:gaj



October 3, 1950

Mrs. Laura A. Hardy Mitchell  
180 East Delaware Place  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Mitchell:

Following Mother's death last January, we found in her house a series of letters from George B. Wright to his first wife, Serena. The letters cease shortly before her death in 1868, and so do not extend into the period when George was actively promoting Fergus Falls.

This letter is to enquire if any letters from George B. Wright to Carrie A. Wright have been preserved; and if so, if I could obtain copies of them. I propose some time in the next year or two to print George's letters (along with other family letters) for distribution to members of the Family and their friends. Would you consent to the inclusion of letters to Carrie A. Wright in such a volume? You would, of course, receive a copy.

Yours very truly

Thomas C. Wright

TCW:gaj



October 3, 1950

Mr. Robert Ernest Hardy  
1534 West 52nd Street  
Los Angeles 37, California

Dear Mr. Hardy:

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This letter is to enquire if any letters from George B. Wright to Carrie A. Wright have been preserved; and if so, if I could obtain copies of them. I propose some time in the next year or two to print George's letters (along with other family letters) for distribution to members of the Family and their friends. Would you consent to the inclusion of letters to Carrie A. Wright in such a volume? You would, of course, receive a copy.

Yours very truly

Thomas C. Wright

TCW:gaj



October 3, 1950

Mr. Leon Allen Hardy  
102 Griswold Drive  
West Hartford 7, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Hardy:

Following Mother's death last January, we found in her house a series of letters from George B. Wright to his first wife, Serena. The letters cease shortly before her death in 1868, and so do not extend into the period when George was actively promoting Fergus Falls.

This letter is to enquire if any letters from George B. Wright to Carrie A. Wright have been preserved; and if so, if I could obtain copies of them. I propose some time in the next year or two to print George's letters (along with other family letters) for distribution to members of the Family and their friends. Would you consent to the inclusion of letters to Carrie A. Wright in such a volume? You would, of course, receive a copy.

Yours very truly

Thomas C. Wright

TCW:gaj

October 19, 1950

Mr. Harry T. Mitchell  
J. Walter Thompson Company  
410 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 16th. I have been over the letters in my possession with representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society and they regard the series which we have as an important historical document. Any additions which can be made to it will, of course, increase its value.

Yours very truly

Thomas C. Wright

TCW:gaj



# J. WALTER THOMPSON COMPANY

CHICAGO

410 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE

October 16, 1950

Mr. Thomas C. Wright  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wright:

I am answering your letter of October 3rd addressed to Mrs. Mitchell because Mrs. Mitchell has been an invalid for the last eight months and is not up to correspondence. So far as I know she does not possess any letters from George B. Wright to Carrie A. Wright which you could reproduce and distribute to members of the family by including them in your book on the family history. However, I will make a more thorough examination of the old-time family correspondence and send you copies of any and all letters that may turn up, but I doubt if any will.

You have, I assume, addressed the same letter to Leon, Robert and Marguerite, and I hope that one or more of the three of them will come up with the letters you are seeking.

Sincerely,

*Harry T. Mitchell*

Harry T. Mitchell:mm





# *The Black Manufacturing Co.*

100 DAIRY ROAD

*Parkton, Maryland*

33 Crehore Drive,  
Newton Lower Falls, Mass.

Octo. 22, 1950.

Mr. Thomas C. Wright,  
c/o Otter Tail Power Co.,  
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Dear Thomas:-

It's true that we haven't had the pleasure of seeing one another in many years, but still feel that I was sufficiently acquainted with you and your brother to be privileged to call you by your first name and in future trust you will feel the same way.

I was indeed surprised and sorry to hear of your Mother's death last January and would certainly have acknowledged same sooner had I been advised.

Sorry to say that I do not believe I can be of any assistance to you in the matter of letters you inquire about and do not know of any being among Mother's possessions. Both Marguerite and Laure have been thru' severe ordeals in the matter of health in the past year or so, but I will try and find if they have any knowledge of any such letters being preserved.

As for me, I would have absolutely no objection whatsoever of inclusion of letters to Carrie A. Wright for the purpose you mention and would indeed be most happy to receive such a copy.

Wishing you and yours the best of health and continued success, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Leon A. Hardy*  
Leon A. Hardy.



ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	CHICAGO	CLEVELAND	DENVER	DETROIT	FORT WORTH	HARTFORD
KANSAS CITY	LOS ANGELES	MINNEAPOLIS	NEW YORK	PHILADELPHIA	SEATTLE	TORONTO	

1 MERRYALL, R.F.D. 1 NEW MILFORD, CONN.  
To MR. GEORGE DIVINE, MARCH 29, 1951

MY DEAR THOMAS;

HAVE YOU BEEN APPRIZED OF THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED SISTER LAURE MITCHELL ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO? THE END CAME QUIETLY AND PEACEFULLY AFTER A YEAR OF SEMI-INVALIDISM FOLLOWING A SECOND SEVERE CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE EARLY IN 1950. THE FIRST SERIOUS EPISODE TOOK PLACE IN THE SPRING OF 1947 WHEN SIS WAS ONLY 47 YEARS OLD. THE DOCTOR HAD HELD NO EXPECTATION OF RECOVERY THOUGH SHE HAD MANAGED TO GET ABOUT WITH A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF COMFORT. IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO RETAIN A PRACTICAL NURSE IN CONSTANT ATTENDANCE FOR OVER A YEAR. FORTUNATELY, HER YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, CAROLYN, WAS MARRIED LAST OCTOBER AND SHE HAD BEEN ENJOYING THE COMPANY OF HER FIRST GRANDCHILD DURING THE

2  
PAST THREE YEARS. KAREN IS THE DAUGHTER OF LAURE'S AND HARRY'S ELDEST, JOANNE MITCHELL GUNN. THE GUNN FAMILY'S PICTURES GRACED ONE OF THE 7Up ADVERTISEMENTS IN A LATE DECEMBER SAT. EVE. POST; EARLY LIFE AND SEVERAL OTHER MAGAZINES EARLY IN 1951. (HARRY HANDLES THE 7Up ACCOUNT).

LAURE'S PASSING LEAVES A VOID THAT MUST <sup>ALWAYS</sup> ACHIE IN THE HEARTS OF THE FEW WHO REALLY UNDERSTOOD HER AND THEREFOR LOVED HER DEARLY. TEN DAYS BEFORE THE END SHE HAD FOUND THE STRENGTH TO WRITE ME A LETTER AFTER A SILENCE OF MANY MONTHS! THIS GAVE ME SOMETHING AKIN TO FALSE HOPE AS TO HER PROGRESS; BUT THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SHE IS NOW BEYOND EARTHLY MISERY KOMFORTS MY SENSE OF DESOLATION AT LOSING AN ADORED SISTER.

MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS MUCH DELAYED RESPONSE <sup>TO</sup> YOUR REQUEST FOR



3 INFORMATION OR LETTERS ANEW  
OTTER TAIL COUNTY WHICH MIGHT  
BE FOUND IN "AUNT CARRIE'S" TRUNK.  
AT THE TIME OF YOUR INQUIRY  
IT WAS MY MISFORTUNE TO REQUIRE  
HOSPITALIZATION FOR A PERIOD OF  
SOME MONTHS AND I WAS ABLE  
ONLY LAST WEEK-END TO REACH  
THE VICINITY OF THE POSSIBLE  
RECORDS YOU MENTIONED IN  
YOUR LETTER TO THE MEMBERS  
OF GRANDMA'S DESCENDANTS.  
THERE APPEARS TO BE AN ENTIRE  
LACK OF LETTERS BETWEEN YOUR  
GRANDFATHER AND MY GRANDMA;  
THOUGH SOME FEW <sup>INTIMATE</sup> LETTERS HAVE  
BEEN PRESERVED. I WONDER IF  
YOU HAVE A PAGE FROM AN OLD NEWS-  
PAPER CELEBRATING A FIFTIETH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FER-  
GUS FALLS. IT CAME TO MY ATTENTION  
LAST SPRING BUT IT EVADES MY SEARCH

4 JUST NOW. THERE WAS MENTION OF ONE OTHER MAN WHOSE INTEREST WAS FIRED THROUGH THE AMAZINGLY VITAL IMAGINATION OF YOUR GRANDFATHER AND THE INFERENCE WAS THAT TOGETHER THEY REALIZED HIS DREAM EVENTUALLY CREATING THE CITY, ITSELF.

MY PRESENT HOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONVALESCENCE IS IDEAL FOR MY PLANS AND IS SITUATED ABOUT FIFTY MILES FROM MY ELDEST DAUGHTER'S HOME IN ROWAYTON, CONN. MY YOUNGER DAUGHTER IS LIVING IN ORANGE, N.J. AND WORKS FOR THE CHAS. BRUNING CO., MAKERS OF PRECISION INSTRUMENTS.

PLEASE DROP ME A LINE REGARDING YOUR PROGRESS WITH THE MEMORIAL BOOK PLANNED AND PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT YOUR WONDERFUL MOTHER WAS ALWAYS AN INSPIRATION TO ME. SINCERELY,  
MARGUERITE HARDY

April 6, 1951

Dear Marguerite,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 29, and especially for the enclosed clipping. It seems, then, that the letters of George B. Wright will come to an end in the middle of 1868, a few weeks before Serena's death. Thereafter there are only newspaper clippings from the Minneapolis Tribune and the Fergus Falls Journal. Many of them can best be described as salty, and are signed variously "Old Settler", "United States Bank" and "P. Green." George kept an extensive scrap book, in which he has identified those that he wrote himself. It's too bad, though, that none of his later letters have been preserved, because the early ones make very interesting reading. All that we have are three or four letters to his children written between 1870 and 1878.

I had not indeed heard of Laure's passing. My sympathy, therefore, to all of you. Such events always leave a void, and those who remain must fill it with any resources that they have.

The fiftieth anniversary material has all been put in a scrap book in the Fergus Falls library. I remember the event rather vividly because I took his part in the pageant that was staged at that time. There were other people involved in the promotion of the Town of Fergus Falls, but George seems to have been the prime mover that got the others started.

Every once in a while I have to go East on company business. The next time this happens I shall try to allow time to look up some of the Hardyies. It seems to me that the last time I saw any of them was in Lincoln, some years before the house there was sold in 1914. But just when it was I have neither recollection nor memory. Any how, it strikes me as a good idea to renew the acquaintance.

Sincerely Yours,