

## THE JAMES & ANNA SCOTT WEBB FAMILY

Search by Wilford J. Webb – 1951 to 1954, Inc.

Compiled in July 1961 for Iowa cousins.

In 1951, I became interested in the genealogy of the Webb family after receiving a record from my brother Harland who had spent considerable time in compiling vital statistics of the Webb and Van Ness families. This had been amplified by Loretta Van Ness of Sioux City, Iowa as to the Van Ness family.

Harland's record as to the Webb family went back to my great-great grandfather, James Webb, about whom there was very little known, although his wife Anna (1781-1865) lived with her son Isaac at Perry (my great grandfather) and is buried in Perry Cemetery. My father (Delbert) remembered her since she died when he was nearly six, on April 15, 1865.

My brother also had an account book of Isaac & Wilford (Wilford was my grandfather, for whom I was named) and some old letters which my father had given to Winton Webb (Harland's son) many years ago. In the account book was the names of William, David and Robert Webb, brothers of Isaac and a memo of their age, but not even stating that they were Isaac's brothers. On the last page of the book, which is partly torn out is the address of William & Robert as Albany, Wisconsin.

There was also a letter from Charles Webb (Isaac's brother) written in Mexico, dated June 22, 1846. Charles was a private in the U. S. Army of General Taylor. The letter is very interesting in its description of battles in which he had taken part. He says the Mexicans had many more soldiers in these engagements but still U. S. won. I find that my encyclopedia makes a similar comment in an article on the Mexican War. Charles did not survive the war, dying in camp at Monterey, Mexico, Oct. 22, 1846.

From these records, Harland had listed five sons as the family of James & Anna Webb. On my vacation in June, 1951, I determined to go to Albany, Wisc. and try to find something about the William and Robert Webb families.

After arriving in this small town in southern Wisconsin, I was directed to a Mrs. Archie Francis, who is a granddaughter of William Webb. Upon telling her the purpose of my visit she at once showed me a letter, dated in 1939, from a cousin, Mrs. Jessie Weirich, also a granddaughter of William, in which she had traced the Webb family in America back to about 1640 and then in England to a Sir Henry Webb born in 1350. The letter says she had traced the family back, however I believe her source was from a book written by a certain Dr. George F. Webb of Cleveland, Ohio who wrote a book of some 600 pages about the Webb family. Some two years later (in 1953) I was told of this book and have a 13 page summary which is substantially the same as Mrs. Weirich's story. One library suggests that this book might have been in manuscript form and never published. At least various libraries have reported that they do not have such a book.

Mrs. Weirich was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and wrote the 1939 letter to advise other members of the family that they could also join the D. A. R. since she had the necessary facts to prove ancestry. However she had ten other ancestors who entitled her to membership not counting the Webb's and proof of these had been accepted some years before her application as to the Webb's.

Her Webb application was based on the statement that our James Webb was the son of a certain William Webb born in 1758 at Windham, Conn., who moved to Perch River, N. Y. which is near to Watertown, N. Y. So the next year, 1952, I went to Watertown and checked the records there and then to Hartford, Conn. for further verification. New England vital statistics are very complete even back to the 1600's. That is not true of New York and Ohio where such records are very sketchy prior to 1900. I checked at the State Library in Hartford as to William Webb, born in Windham.

In 1953, I went to the Newberry Library, Chicago, which specializes in Historical Genealogy, as reference was made in various D.A.R. applications to books in that library. I also visited Helen Brown Nichols of Hebron, Ill., another Granddaughter of our Wm. Webb of Albany, Wisc. and went to Albany again to see Mrs. Francis and to Janesville, Wisc. which is the County Seat of Rock County, Wisc. where William & Robert Webb owned property. Also at Janesville I visited a Mrs. Lola Webb, widow of Marc Webb, a grandson of William Webb. At that time I did not know that Raymond Kitson was located there and thus missed a chance to call on him.

From these various sources, I am certain that our James Webb cannot be a son of the Conn. & NY William Webb who fought in the Revolution and whose ancestry was traced back to England. The facts as found are that William married May 16, 1782 and his first child was a daughter Polly, born May 17, 1783. The DAR acceptance of Mrs. Weirich's claim as to Wm. Webb was apparently in error. Also, I found in a Wisconsin local history of five southern counties of the State an article on William Webb of Albany which states that his paternal grandfather was James Webb, a native of New York, of English descent, who followed a sea-faring life and at death left one son and one daughter. This was published in 1901 and the information was surely furnished by our Wm. Webb, brother of Isaac.

Mrs. Nichols said that the Scotts were also sea-faring men<sup>1</sup>. Our James Webb married Anna Scott (date and place unknown) daughter of David Scott and granddaughter of Enos Scott<sup>2</sup> of Black River, near Perch River, N. Y.<sup>3</sup> Anna was born March 12, 1781 and died April 15, 1865 and is buried in Perry. Her first child, our Isaac, was born Nov. 3, 1802. These dates are fully substantiated.<sup>4</sup>

The fact that our James Webb married a person who lived near the William Webb, Revolution War Veteran, may explain why James was assumed to be a son of that William.

The Wisconsin history states that William's father James died in 1841, aged 61 years. This makes his birth date as 1780.<sup>5</sup> My father told me that James was buried in Mayfield, Ohio. If this is correct no monument or head stone is now in existence. I checked a complete list of the marked graves in Mayfield cemeteries at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library at Cleveland and found no mention of James Webb.

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<sup>1</sup> The statement that the Scott's were seafaring men does not appear to be true. Note that our David Scott family is of Ridgefield, Conn. Nativity. See web site for more information.

<sup>2</sup> This assertion that Anna's grandfather was Enos Scott is incorrect. Anna's brother was Enos Scott.

<sup>3</sup> While there is a Black River, NY, the statement is correctly "Black River country." This refers largely to the Lewis and Jefferson county area. Enos Scott was of Lowville, NY, in Lewis county. David Scott, his father, also died in Lowville, Lewis county.

<sup>4</sup> Substantiated by Bible Record of Isaac Webb and grave marker.

<sup>5</sup> The birth date of James Webb is questionable, as the affidavit of his wife Anna states he died in 1835.

The writer also found in Chardon, Ohio Court House that a James Webb purchased two acres of land in Perry just south of the Webb farm property. This was purchased by deed of Apr. 11, 1834 for \$25.00 and sold by deed of Feb 14, 1834 for \$30.00. Although this indicates it was sold before it was purchased, both deeds were recorded in Chardon on the same day in Dec., 1834.

This land was probably bought and sold by our Great-Gr. Grandfather. In the Wisconsin history of Wm. Webb it says that at the age of fifteen William accompanied his father James to Ohio, where the latter settled on a good farm in Geauga County. Perry is now in Lake County, but was not separated from Geauga until 1840.

William, born in March, 1819, would have been 15 years old in 1834. Thus I believe that this 2 acres was purchased by or for James by Isaac and then James decided to live in another place. Where this could have been I do not know except it probably was in the western part of Geauga County near Mayfield which is just over the line into Cuyahoga Co. where Cleveland is located.

The Wisconsin history states further about William, son of James and Anna, as follows:

“The mother of our subject survived him some ten years, being 72 years old at death. She had all her life been a devoted member of the Methodist Church, while Mr. Webb (James) had accepted the Universalist faith. During the War of 1812 he had been a teamster, and during his residence in Oneida County served a time as supervisor of his town, and was a well-known and respected citizen.” (Note Anna actually died in 1865 at the age of 84.).

The town in which James was supervisor is not known.<sup>6</sup> The James Webb family lived in various places in New York state. Their first son was born in 1802, our Isaac, in Montgomery Co., David was born in 1811 in Cazenovia, Madison Co., and William in 1819 in Oneida Co. My search in 1954 of court house records in five different New York counties disclosed that a James Webb of Brookfield, Madison Co. signed a deed in 1804 and also in 1808 as a resident of Manheim, Montgomery Co. These places are all from 60 to 100 miles apart in the central part of the state.

Robert Webb was the youngest child of James and Anna, born Sept. 25, 1825. His youngest daughter, Mrs. Cora Webb Barto, nearly 75 in 1953, was living with her husband in Madison, Wisc. I spent some two hours with them. She had her father Robert's family bible and I copied all records therefrom.

This visit to Mrs. Barto at Madison, Wisc. was quite unusual since she was of the same generation as my grandfather, Wilford, who died in December of the year I was born. This happened since Robert was 23 years younger than Isaac and Mrs. Barto was his last child born when he was 53 years old.

Mrs. Barto quoted her father as saying that he was put out on his own when he was nine and one-half years old and that he was brought up by some man where he worked for his living. Mrs. Barto did not know where this was. I assume it was in Ohio since, as stated, I believe the family moved there in 1834. Robert, however, had enough schooling so that he was Justice of the Peace in his town of Aiken, Richland Co., Wisc. and was many years on the school board. Mrs. B. remembers of his holding Court at their home in connection with his duties as Justice of the Peace.

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<sup>6</sup> 1820 and 1830 census shows a James Webb in Westmoreland, Oneida, NY. This is likely our James. No James Webb ever served as supervisor of this town.

There are two Wisc. histories about William Webb, one of five counties as quoted from herein before, and another of Green Co. only where Albany is located. Putting the articles from the two books together, the facts are: William spent two years with his older brother Isaac at Perry then two years in lumbering in Wisc. then to Walworth Co. and thence to Rock Co., where he married in 1841. He acquired his first land in Rock Co. from the Government in July 1839. He was born in 1819, and in 1834 at the age of 15 came to Ohio, left for Wisc., in 1836, and came to Walworth Co. in 1838 and stayed only one year before buying land in Rock Co. and in 1841 was married.

William and Robert purchased a quarter section on 160 acres in Johnstown, Rock Co. from the Government. The first 80 acres were taken in 1839, 40 more in 1842 and Robert acquired the other 40 in 1845. In July 1846 William sold his Rock Co. land for \$1,200.00, which the history says was advantageously sold. The next month he bought 160 acres near Albany, Green Co. from the Government. Later he increased this to 312 acres. The entire 312 acres were sold to his sons in 1882, when he moved near to Albany and retired, purchasing 12 acres there. He lived at Albany on this place till 1901 and with his children thereafter till his death in 1914 at the age of 95.

Robert appears to have sold his Rock Co. land and lived near Albany until his first wife died in 1864, since she is buried there. He had three children by her. Probably none of them are now living and Mrs. Barto had no record of them or their descendants.

Robert married his second wife, Mrs. Barto's mother, in 1866 and lived the latter part of his life in Richland Co., Wisc. This is two counties north and two counties farther west than Green Co. A son was killed accidentally at the age of 16. Mrs. [Barto] was the only other child. She has five children but only two daughters of these have children.

Now as to David Webb, also named in the record set up by Harland, the writer found a Cone family history in the Cleveland library which gives a complete history of David born July 11, 1811 who married Julia Cone in 1833. This was a sister of Isaac's wife Emeline. By the way their family lived on the River Road in Perry near our farm and their father, Salmon Cone was instrumental in founding the Methodist Church in Perry, the first meetings having been held at his home in 1815.

The Cone history was printed in 1903 and shows that they (David's family) lived in Akron for at least 20 years, their children being all born there. However they died in Rockford, Ill. Where their oldest daughter married Lorenzo Shannon. There were seven children. A son Anderson, was a farmer at Paw Paw, Mich. And had 4 children, all living at that place in 1903. Another child Harriet married Henry Hinckley and resided at Hastings, Mich. Most of their children were in Mich. in 1903.

Thus I have accounted for the four brothers of Isaac and their families quite fully, these being David, William, Charles and Robert. Now a few facts about Isaac which are not in Harland's record.

Isaac came to Perry to work in the foundry at the bottom of the road down to Grand River from the Perry side which road was close to our farm. It was called the Railroad Furnace to the tracks built down the bank to haul material and supplies up and down the bank. Isaac worked as a "puddler" or the maker of wrought iron. He had probably worked in other foundries in New York state before coming to Ohio. There were numerous such furnace in New York where the family had lived.

At that time, the land in the central part of Perry and adjacent townships was a swamp in which iron ore, called bog iron, had formed over the centuries and this was dug out and smelted in furnaces at Perry and Madison and other places. Madison had the largest furnace at Arcole in North Madison, employing as many as 2,00 men and producing more iron than Pittsburgh. This iron from the swamps oxidized quickly when taken out of the water. When the railroad was built through these sections of the townships and the swamps were drained thereby the bog iron disappeared and now only is present in the red colored land.

Coke to use in the furnaces was burned from logs cut in the nearby woods. I remember seeing some black ground on our farm caused by making coke many years before. Also the remains of the old furnace, bricks, slag, etc. was at the site when I was home. The foundry was abandoned in 1838 owing to increase in costs and the drainage of the swamps.

The Perry foundry was built in 1825, so I assume Isaac came to Ohio in that year or shortly thereafter. He married in Feb. 1828 and my grandfather was born in Feb 1829 on the Perry farm which was deeded to Isaac in March, 1830. He was probably in the process of buying the farm at the time of his marriage. The part of the farm south of the River Road composing 52.3 acres was deeded in 1830 and the north part in 1856, being 47.7 acres, making a total of 100 acres.

My father told me that Isaac was a tall man, being over six foot. He was a cooper as well as a foundry worker and farmer. The special tools for making barrels were still on the farm in my time. I believe he worked as a cooper during the fall and winter when there was a lull in farm work.

Isaac was a member of the School Board for District #7, River Road School, on the corner of our farm where I went to school and I also taught two years. He was Clerk, Treasurer, or Chairman of this Board for the most of the time from 1838 to 1856. I have the Clerk's book for this entire period and to 1893. Your mother, Ida Webb, was a teacher here for two years – 1881 to 1883.

This completes the record of the five sons of James and Anna Webb as known by recent Ohio members of the Webb family, but I found in the five county Wisc. history that they had eight sons and 5 daughters. This was written in 1901 and says:

“William, the subject of this sketch, then had only two living sisters: namely Lois, who married Harrison Chase, residing near Utica, NY and Anna who married a gentleman from Vernon, N Y.”<sup>7</sup> (Vernon is near Utica.)

His brothers had all died at that time.

Mrs. Barto also told me that her father always said that he was the youngest of 13 children, which verifies the statement in the Wisc. history, as to the number of children in the family.

From the various sources mentioned before, I have determined the additional eight children were as follows:

1. Polly                      Remembered by Mrs. Nichols, Hebron, Ill.
2. Josiah                      Remembered by Mrs. Nichols and also Mrs. Barto and in Mrs. Weirich's list

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<sup>7</sup> In 1830 census for Westmoreland, Oneida, NY, a Harrison Chase is enumerated after James Webb. There is no evidence a Lois married Harrison Chase, but a Genealogy of the Milk/Milks Family states that an Anna Webb married a Harrison Chase.

- of James and Anna's children.
3. James In Mrs. Weirich's list. Madison Co. N Y shows many property transfers to or from James and Eliza Ann during 1832 to 1841. One deed is signed James, Joiner – which means that he was a carpenter. Might be our James!
  4. Anna Mentioned in Wisc. history, no other record.
  5. Lois Mentioned in Wisc. history, no other record.
  6. Betsy In Mrs. Weirich's list and remembered by Mrs. Nichols.
  7. Daughter to make five daughters. Name unknown.
  8. Reuben In Mrs. Weirich's list. A Reuben Webb was a Wisc. soldier buried in Adams, Jefferson Co., N Y cemetery. Born 1817, died 1893. He might have been in Wisc. during the Civil War period with his brothers.

The writer has quite a complete data on the William Webb family of Albany, Wisc. to the fourth generation. He had six children, who had some nineteen offspring. Of their children I have knowledge of 34, with no record of four or more families.

There is also a possibility that we are tied with the Webb's who came to Massachusetts in the early 1600's. A book in the Chicago library (Giles Memorial) lists the following from the Boston records and states that it is believed that they were of the family of Thomas Webb, who was a son of Christopher<sup>8</sup> who came to America in 1629 per Dr. Geo. Webb's book:

Isaac Webb, m. Abigail Clark, Nov. 20, 1705.  
 Daniel, son of Isaac & Abigail, b. July 4, 1707.  
 Michael, son of Isaac & Abigail, b. Aug 31, 1708.  
 Isaac Webb died Dec. 20, 1709.  
 Isaac, son of Isaac & Abigail Webb, b. June 15, 1710.

It is possible that our Isaac's great-grandfather was the Isaac born in 1710, then the next two generations were named James and then they reverted back to the name of Isaac.

When in Jefferson Co., N.Y. in 1951 I did not have time to check on the family of Anna Scott Webb, although I found and noted many items in the Watertown libraries about the Scott's.

Finally, if any of you wish to join the D.A.R. you are not stopped by not being able to trace the Webb's back to the Revolutionary War. You can still claim through Grandma Webb who was a Champion. I have a copy of the Champion genealogy which goes back to 1647 and states that her great grand-father, Joel, served in the Rev. War.

Information herein has been taken in part from the following publications:

Commemorative Biographical Record of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties of Wisconsin.

By J. H. Beers & Co., Phila., Pa. – 1901.

Green County, Wisc. History

By Union Publishing Co., Springfield, Ill. – 1884.

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<sup>8</sup> Y-DNA testing for the David Webb descendants suggests no relationship to the Christopher Webb (Braintree, MA/Windham, CT) family.

The Giles Memorial

By John Adams Vinton, Printed in 1864.

Re: His mother's family and other families connected thereto. Has 36 pages of Webb's.

The Western Reserve by Harriet T. Upton – 3 Vols. 1910.

My volumes from Osa. He parents written up therein.

History of Geauga & Lake Co., Ohio. (1798-1878)

Williams Brothers, Phila., Pa. Pub 1878.

Cone Family in America

Crane & Co., Topeka, Kansas. Pub 1903.

*Transcribed May 2004 by Mark H. Webb. Corrections made to spelling and obvious date problems. Pagination, font and other characteristics have not been retained. Original manuscript was seven (7) pages. Corrections and footnotes to transcription 14 November 2006 by Mark Webb.*