

Transcription by Mark H. Webb on May 30, 2004, of pages numbered 1 through 8, field notes made by Wilford J. Webb, dated June 1952. Donald Webb of Lakewood, Ohio provided these notes to transcriber, on or about August 28th, 2003. Information is in form of copies of what appear to be pages from legal sized note pad. Subsequent pages following these pages, some numbered, are not transcribed due to significant revision and annotation. It is the transcriber's intent to provide computerized images of these pages. What is clear from these notes is that Wilford J. Webb found no evidence to support the claim that "our" James Webb was a son of William Webb of Perch River, New York. This conclusion is echoed in Wilford Webb's "The James and Anna Scott Webb Family", compiled in July 1961, and in Donald Webb's "James Webb Family", 1979. To the date of this transcription, no compelling information has been brought forward to establish the paternity of James Webb.

Written in Jun 1952 subject to revision by information received later

Memorandum of Research in Jefferson County, N.Y. by Wilford J. Webb in June, 1952, as to the families of William Webb of the Revolutionary War and Anna Scott Webb of N.Y. and Perry, Ohio.

In June 1951, the writer visited the town of Albany, Wisc. to find whether any relatives of his was still living there. From family records compiled some years before by his brother, Harland A. Webb of Perry, Ohio, the address of William & Robert Webb was given as Albany, Wisc. Harland recorded that these were brothers of our great-grandfather, Isaac.

The writer was only in the town of Albany, Wisc. about 2 hours, from 4 to 6 PM, June 20th, but secured considerable data as to the family of William Webb. No information was found as to Robert Webb. He first contacted Mrs. Ray Webb, who said her husband was not a descendant of Wm. Webb but referred him to Mrs. Altha Webb Francis, who is a great grand daughter of William.

Mrs. Francis gave the writer a letter from a cousin of hers, Mrs. Weirich, which traced the Webb genealogy back to 1640 in Connecticut, copy herewith. Later Mrs. Francis sent a copy of the D.A.R. application of Helen Brown Nichols, another cousin and descendant of Wm. Webb.

Both of the above mentioned Wisc. records traced the ancestry back to William Webb of Windham Conn. and Perch River, N.Y., soldier in the Revolutionary War. To verify these facts, the writer went to Watertown, Jefferson County, N.Y. and spent three days there in June 1952.

Jefferson County is adjacent to the east end of Lake Ontario and its outlet the St. Lawrence River, with the 1000 Islands to the north of the county. See map herewith, which gives the various townships mostly involved in the search were Brownville, Watertown, Rutland, Adams and Henderson. The early town of Perch River is in the north part of Brownville Twp. In the 1930 census it had only 122 inhabitants and has about the same now. It has lost its post office, being RD4 from Watertown. Both churches, Baptist and Union, have been torn down, but a fairly well kept cemetery tells of its lost glory. The writer is indebted to Mr. Frank J. Allen, farmer at Perch River, for important information given herein. He still resides on the land which was acquired by his family in 1811. He and his sister, who keeps house for him, since the recent death of his wife, appear to be the last of the old residents of the town.

Much information was secured from Watertown, largest city and county seat of Jefferson County, situated in the center part of the county, between Brownville and Rutland Twp. in which the Webb and Scott families resided. Various Jeff. Co. histories are in the library and the Historical Soc. building. These buildings are across the street from each other on Washington St. about a block from the center of the city. The Historical Society is operated by the county, with a full-time curator, Mrs. J.R. Price, who was very cooperative in suggesting sources of information.

The Historical Society has alphabetical lists of all recorded burials prior to 1931 in all of the cemeteries in Jeff. Co. Before knowing of these lists, the writer copied considerable data from the Wm. Webb monuments in Perch River Cemetery and the next day found that it was all in the Hist. Soc. list in Watertown together with various other Webb burial records which he had overlooked. Thus it was very easy to get a complete list of any Webbs and Scotts buried in Jeff. Co. One example of the time saved by use of these lists was relative to Reuben Webb's grave in Union Cemetery, Adams Center. This was the only Webb buried in that cemetery about as large as Perry Cemetery and after searching about an hour the writer found it but then only because he Reuben was a war veteran and a flag should be flying on the grave. As to the Joseph Webb's graves, in another cemetery, he could not find them until the clerk went with him and then they searched a long time. You easily overlook the name on these old grave stones. A black moss often covers a part or all of the name.

Jefferson. Co. New York was opened to settlement in the last few years of 1800, being surveyed about 1797. The early proprietors were from New England, Henry Champion, West Chester (Colchester) Conn. being one of them. Note one

township is named for him. This is the Genl. Henry Champion, 4332 in Champion Genealogy, Page 280-3, who was largely interested in lands in western New York and in Ohio, being a large share holder in the Connecticut Land Co.

William Webb, with his wife and family of eight or more children, came to Perch River, Jeff Co. in 1800. (from Windham, Conn. in 1784. From Rome N.Y. to Perch River per Mr. Allen). Also three children were born to him by his first wife Lois Strong Webb in Jeff Co., New York before her death in 1810. Twins born in 1789 died shortly after birth. This makes a total of 13 children, not counting a Walter Webb who is included in Mrs. Weirich's application to the D.A.R. A write-up of the Medical Soc. of Jeff. Co. N.Y. shows that a Dr. Walter Webb was president in 1827. The writer would guess that if he is a son of William & Lois Webb he was born about 1794 and was 33 in 1827, which would make it believable that he was a doctor at that time.

The first settler of Brownsville Twp. was Jacob Brown, later a General. Perch River is in the northern part of Brownsville Twp. The present large town in this twp. in Brownsville is the southern part. Brown came in 1799 and in 1800 built a saw mill and a grist mill in Black River, thus providing means for building houses and grinding grains for the consumption of settlers and their stock.

Lands along Perch River were regarded as the most desirable then offered to settlers. This Perch River is now only about 15 feet wide at the site where Wm. Webb settled, along the Clayton Road, now Rt. 12, north west from Watertown about 6 miles. It runs through a valley about 1/8th of a mile wide with low hills on each side. Crops in the land near the river looked good, but the soil in this section is not equal to that of Lake & Ashta. Co. of Ohio (in the writer's opinion).

In many places the land is filled with cobblestones, the larger of which have been used for fences. On the hills there is an outcropping of sandstone in yellow & white which is used for building. Wm. Webb's house and the school house are of this stone.

By the articles of purchase, each settler was required to clear a certain amount of land annually and also erect a log house. Wm. erected his log house and some 15 or 20 years later a large stone house which is still standing. Imagine the hardships of his wife Lois with her large family moving into this absolute wilderness in 1800, with wild animals of all kinds in abundance, including bears and of course there were also Indians, who might not have been too happy about giving up their land to the whites.

At Lois Webb's death in 1810, Wm. had three or four children 12 years old or younger (David b. 1809 not authenticated). To care for these, he naturally married again. His second wife was Mrs. Hannah Eaton Clapp, who died Aug. 20, 1817 at the age of 55 years, leaving no children. Then he married Esther Curtis, who outlived him by 37 years, dying Jan. 16, 1861, aged 83 years. Esther bore him four children, born 1818 to 1822, all girls, two being twins.

The land for the cemetery at Perch River was donated in 1826 by Lewis Webb, born 1806 or 1808, son of Wm. Webb. Since Wm. died Apr. 6, 1824, he was not buried there although the monument with his record is at the cemetery. His remains have never been moved from the old family burial ground along the Clayton Road (Rt. 12). Mr. Frank J. Allen, whose family has been in Perch River since 1811, tells me that the sandstone markers of some 20 graves in this old burial place were removed recently by the present owners of the property and the land is being cultivated. Mr. Allen showed the writer where this old cemetery was. It is part way down the hill, just beyond the old school house, on the left side as you go out from Watertown on Rt. 12, back of a present road sign. Probably his wife Lois and their daughter Harriet, dying before 1825 are also buried there, although properly recorded on the monument in the Perch River cemetery. This cemetery is on the road from Rt. 12 to Brownsville, about one mile from Rt. 12. Next to the cemetery was the Union Church. Now only the foundation is left. The last minister was a Methodist, and money received in sale of the church was given to the Meth. Church, however members were Baptist, Cong., Presb., etc.

The Baptist Church was on Rt. 12, to the east of the schoolhouse and farther from road (Rt. 12). The Baptist Church, Perch River, was organized Sept. 7, 1806. They first built a log church, which was replaced in 1827 by a stone building at a total cost of \$2,800.00. The church was legally organized as a society in 1825. Five trustees were chosen of which William Webb, son of the settler, was one. Seventeen ministers are listed as serving this church of which the 12th one was Abner Webb, son of Wm. the settler. It is also recorded that Abner Webb was sent as a missionary to Burmah, India. This church is now torn down. The information given was from histories published in 1878 and 1890, at which times it was still active. (see Dr. George Webb's genealogy). The date of abandonment was not found, however the building was not torn down until recently. Possibly for many years it had not been used or since formation of the Union Church some 2 miles away.

The buildings now in existence relating to Wm. Webb are the schoolhouse and his stone home on opposite sides of Rt. 12 out of Watertown. The school is now used as a house is near the road on the left and the old house is directly across the road some one eighth of a mile at the end of a dirt road. Also directly across from the former school house is a large old frame house now

in bad repair (the Cole house), which was built in 1816 by Mr. Allen's grandfather together with another man for the total sum of \$283.00. This is a two story house, about 35' by 25'. See picture herewith. This was the home of Rebecca Cole who married Wm.'s son Jonathan.

The Webb stone house is down the private road back of the Cole house and not readily discernable from the main road. Both of these houses are minus the porches, which were originally part of them as will be seen from the pictures.

Mr. Allen said the Webb's attended the old stone schoolhouse built in 1812. It is now being used as a residence.

All of these old places are along the second line of hills east or nearer Watertown from the road to Perch River. Mr. Allen said there were two "swales" between the Perch River road and the houses. The Perch River is in the first "swale".

The Webb house and property was occupied by at least three generations of Webb's, Wm. Webb the settler, his son Jonathan Webb (called "Deacon" on monument), and his wife Rebecca Cole and possibly their son Rev. J.N. Webb and wife.

After returning from Watertown, NY, the writer spent nearly a day searching the D.A.R. records in Ashta. Library and found the following about William Webb's service in the Revolution on Pages 598-9 of Connecticut in the Revolution relating to the Continental Frigate Trumbull.

(copy 2 items)

Also the Ashta. Library has D.A.R. lineage books of memberships issued from 1898 to 1922, these start with member no. 25,000 and go to about 160,000. Since the writer had Mrs. Weirich's No. 149302, and this record refers to previous members, he found eight descendants of Wm. Webb. This was very valuable information.