

Some Early and Important Residents of Alexandria, Grafton Co. NH

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JOHN MOORE CORLISS¹

[[John Corliss, only son of George, born March 4, 1657; married December 17, 1684 to Mary Milford]]

[[Jonathan Corliss, fourth son of John was b. July 16, 1695; m. Betsey Moore March 1717.]]

John Moore Corliss, second son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Moore) Corliss, was born in Salem, New Hampshire in 1730 and died at Alexandria, New Hampshire in 1823. In the report of the Centennial Celebration at Orford, NH, published in 1865, is found the following interesting statement, which illustrates some of the hardships of pioneer settlers: "John Moore Corliss and his brother Jonathan were the first settlers of the town of Alexandria, N.H. and at the time of his wife's death were the only men in the town. They cut a log from a pine tree and dug it out for a coffin, and buried her in the woods. In 1852 while repairing the roads, her remains were found and buried by the side of her husband's. Her hair was in a good state of preservation, only changed from black to flax color, though having been buried over eighty years. Hayward's "New England Gazetteer," published in 1839 says that Alexandria, New Hampshire, was first settled by Jonathan, John M. and William Corliss, in 1769. Who William Was, does not appear; possibly he may have been a cousin of the other two. John M. Corliss lived to be ninety-three, one year older than his father, Jonathan Corliss; and by all accounts was a man of remarkable physical strength. The Orford report, previously referred to, says that John Moore Corliss was what was called in his day, "a double-jointed man." He must have possessed great vitality, for "when young his hair was black; at eighty it was white; it then began to turn dark, and at the age of ninety-three (the time of his death) it was as black and glossy as a young person's.

John Moore Corliss had three wives and nine children. His first wife, Lydia Sanborn died in 1770. It is probable that at least five of the children belonged to her: Elihu, born March 22, 1758; Daniel, mentioned in the following paragraph; John Moore, 1765; Sampson and Lydia. John Moore Corliss's second wife was a Simons; but nothing further is known of her except that she died in 1772, probably within a year of her marriage. The third wife was Betsey Langley; and the last four children were: Olive; Dolly, born October 27, 1780; Jonathan; and one whose name has been lost.

¹ Genealogical and personal memoirs relating to the families of the state of Massachusetts, Volume 2 (Google eBook), William Richard Cutter, William Frederick Adams; Lewis historical publishing company, 1910; page 721

ELIHU CORLISS

Elihu Corliss, first son of John Moore Corliss, was born March 22, 1758. In 1775 he enlisted in a company of volunteers, and marched with all speed for Boston, and met the Americans at Chrlestown, as they retreated from Bunker Hill. He married Sarah Gordan, and first settled in Alexandria NH and moved to Orford Nh in 1792. He died September 20 1844, aged 86. They had eleven children.

DANIEL CORLISS

Daniel Corliss, second son of John Moore and Lydia (Sanborn) Corliss was born at Alexandria, New Hampshire May 20, 1762 and died there in May 1842. He married Rachel Bailey of Salem, New Hampshire, born April 2, 1766. Among their children were: David, died at the age of twenty-three; John, died at forty-five; Folsom; Ransom; and Rachel who is mentioned below.

RACHEL CORLISS

Rachel Corliss, daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Bailey) Corliss, was born January 22, 1802 at Alexandria, NH and died Januar 4, 1880 at Bristol NH. In 1821 she married to Josiah Hill, who was born in 1795 and died at Alexandria NH in 1835, at the early age of forty. The name of HILL is one of the most numerous and distinguished in this country; but owing to the imperfection of recrods, it is exceedingly hard to trace. The only Josiah Hill recorded in the vital statistics of new hampshire was the son of Jonathan Hill and was born at Candia, New Hampshire march 25, 1798. Among the children of Josiah and Rachel (Corliss) Hill was Sylvester Bradley.

GEORGE TEMPLETON CRAWFORD²

George Templeton Crawford, born in Alexandria NH December 2, 1828, died in Boston, MA December 6, 1905. He was the son of Col. William and Joanna (Sleeper) Crawford. His father was an extensive trader and farmer, at what is still known as Crawford's Corner in Alexandria, a son of William Crawford, an early settler of Plymouth, while his mother was a daughter of Capt. Moses Sleeper of Bristol. He was educated in the common schools at Hebron and Andover Academies, and at the New Hampshire Conference Seminary at Tilton. He carried on his father's farm in Alexandria until 1865 and in the following year removed to Bristol, where he was engaged in the flour and grain business until 1872, when he engaged in lumbering and land surveying in the White Mountain region. In 1880 he removed to Boston becoming the agent of the New Hampshire land Company, in which capacity he served until 1890.

² The Granite monthly: a New Hampshire magazine devoted to history, biography, literature, and state progress, Volume 38 (Google eBook); Henry Harrison Metcalf, John Norris McClintock; H.H. Metcalf, 1906 [page 29]

From 1890 until the formation of the International Paper Company in 1898 Mr. Crawford was agent for William A. Russell in the purchase and operation of timber lands for the supply of his paper mills at Bellows Falls, Franklin and Lawrence, and was Mr. Russell's confidential adviser in all land questions in the formation of the International Paper Co. he had a thorough knowledge of forest conditions in the mountain region, and an intimate acquaintance with land titles, having spent much time in surveying and plotting the immense timber tracts of that section. He was the first man to advise the application of practical forestry, and it was under his management that the paper companies adopted the plan of cutting no trees less than twelve inches in diameter. Since January 1899 he had been a member of the firm of G.T. & C. L. Crawford, 53 State Street, Boston, engaged in examining and reporting upon timber lands in all parts of the United States and Canada.

Politically Mr. Crawford was an earnest Democrat, and while a resident of New Hampshire took an active interest in party affairs. He represented the town of Alexandria in the state Legislature in 1854 and 1856 being the youngest member of that body at the time. In 1868 and 1869 he was treasurer of Grafton County, and a member of the Board of County Commissioners from 1870 to 1877. He served many years as a member of the Democratic state committee and was intimately associated with the late Hon. Harry Bingham of Littleton and Hon. Jeremiah Blodgett of Wentworth in the management of party affairs in that county.

He was affiliated with no church and was liberal and progressive in his religious views. He was a charter member of Cardigan Lodge, I.O.O.F., of Bristol and its oldest member at the time of his death. He was a member of the United States and Massachusetts Forestry Associations.

June 29, 1851, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage with Hannah S. Simonds who survived him, with six children, one son having died in infancy. The surviving children were: William G., Mary Emma, Charles Louis, with whom he was associated in business, Alice Isabel and Helen G., all of Boston, and Mrs. Caroline M. Trask of Rochester VT.

TIMOTHY HAYNES, M.D.³

Timothy Haynes, M.D. was born in Alexandria NH September 5, 1808, and was the son of David and Rebecca Haynes. His preliminary education was received in the common schools and academies of New Hampshire. He commenced his professional education under the direction of Dr. R.D. Muzzey of Hanover (NH) and while a student of medicine he was demonstrator of anatomy for some time at Dartmouth Medical College. Afterward he attended medical lectures at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, at which institution he was graduated in 1836. Immediately after receiving his degree, he located for the practice of his profession in Concord NH. Dr. Haynes made a specialty of surgery,

³ History of the New Hampshire surgeons in the war of rebellion (Google eBook); Granville Priest Conn, New Hampshire Association of Military Surgeons; Ira C. Evans, Co., printers, 1906 - 558 pages (page 268)

in the practice of which he attained quite a reputation for skill and success. For many years previous to the great fire of 1851 he had an anatomical museum in the Stickney block, next north of the Eagle Hotel, consisting of a valuable collection, which was totally destroyed by that fire. He had many students during his early professional life, who shared the advantages of his museum and his demonstration of anatomy.

October 7, 1861 he was appointed surgeon in the United States Volunteers and served in that capacity until November 6, 1862 [HAYNES, TIMOTHY, U.S.V.; b. Alexandria, age 53; res. Concord; app. Major and surg. Oct 7, '61; resigned Nov 6, '62. Died June 28, '83 Concord. (Record, Aylings Register, 1895, p. 1054.)

Married in 1843, Miss Laura Bracket of Littleton. Children: Three daughters, Mrs. William H. Stevens, formerly of Littleton NH; Nellie S. and Lizzie B. Haynes.

He died June 28, 1883. He was a successful business man and left his native town a substantial endowment for a free library.

ELIJAH LOCKE⁴

[Elijah Locke son of Elijah & Huldah (Perkins) Locke, was b. 15 Dec 1754 in Rye NH and d. 1 Aug 1838 in Chichester NH. He married 1st) 21 Nov 1776 to Elisabeth Brown dau of Jonathan & Mary (Garland) Brown. He married 2nd) after 1805 to Nancy Watts.

Elijah Locke, son of Elijah & Elizabeth (Brown) Locke, was b. 28 June 1781 in Rye, NH and d. 12 Aug 1864 in Alexandria NH. He resided at Alexandria, NH. He married Hannah Saunders on 21 January 1802. She was b. 4 Jan 1780 in Alexandria and d. 12 Aug 1865 in Alexandria. Their children were: Betsey Locke, b. 11 Dec 1802 in Epsom NH and d. 1860 who m. William M. Aikens; Samuel Locke, b. 22 June 1805 in Alexandria NH and d. 25 Apr 1885 Concord NH who m. Mary E. Wallace; Reuben Locke b. 29 Jan 1809 in Epsom NH and d. 1 Sep 1860 in Alexandria NH who m. 15 Feb 1832 Irene G. Healey; Nancy Locke, b. 15 Dec 1811 in Alexandria NH and d. 1887 Hyde Parke MA who m. Martin W. Whicher; Benjamin Locke b. 15 Aug 1817 in Epsom NH who m. abt 1834 to Effie wallace; and George Locke b 18 oct 1820 Epsom NH who d. 29 Feb 1883 in Alexandria NH who m. 7 March 1844 to Elizabeth Cheney

[ELijah Locke house in Rye NH] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ElijahLockeHouse.jpg>

⁴ Book of the Lockes:A Genealogical and Historical Record of the Descendants of William Locke, of Woburn. With an Appendix Containing a History of the Lockes in England, Also of the Family of John Locke, of Hampton, N. H., and Kindred Families and Individuals (Google eBook); John Goodwin Locke; J. Munroe & Company, 1853 - 406 pages

LUKE SUMNER⁵

Luke Sumer, b. at Deering NH 5 March 1805; m. 18 Nov 1827 Sarah Ross; lived at Alexandria NH; d. 10 Feb 1872; she d. 15 August 1860. Children all born at Alexandria:

1) Lydia J. Sumner, b. 24 Apr 1829; m. J.H.K. Dickenson of Boston

2) George W. Sumner, b. 31 Aug 1833 at Alexandria NH; m. Eva Haselton; child, Francis R. Sumner, b. 22 Dec 1858.

3) John R. Sumner, b. 15 January 1837 at Alexandria NH; m. Harriet A. Cunningham. After his wife's death he m2) 16 Dec 1875 Lucy a. Hawthorn, dau of Aaron of Cushing ME. Children all born at East Weymouth now Boston MA: Edith H., b 9 Oct 1866; Clara D., b. 13 Aug 1868; Walter D., b. 31 July 1870, d. 11 Feb 1875 in Boston MA; and Herbert R., b. 9 Dec 1873.

⁵ Record of the descendants of William Sumner, of Dorchester, Mass., 1636; (Google eBook); William Sumner Appleton; D. Clapp & Son, 1879 - Real property - 204 pages (page 123, 156)