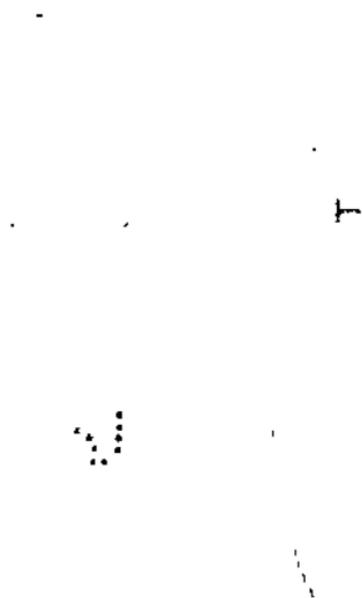


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F. C. Burnham

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
THE BARBER  
FAMILY.

**I**N CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT MY FATHER'S large family, of thirteen children, is rapidly passing away, I being the only male survivor, and also, as I am in possession of some facts of which others may not have knowledge, but in which our posterity, even many generations hence, may be interested, I have been impelled to make this record, assisted by my brother Chandler's youngest daughter, Amy. In case I should not respond to this impulse, the knowledge of some things, which I shall hereafter mention, in relation to our family history, would pass, at my death, into the cold shades of oblivion.

I realize, perfectly, that this brief history will be of no interest to the public at large, but, judging from the eagerness which is manifested by most people at the present time, in collecting ancient relicts and heirlooms, as well as historical facts pertaining to their ancestors, I have little doubt that, at least some things here recorded, will prove to be interesting to some members of the Barber family.

**A**S near as we can learn, about two hundred and forty years ago, three brothers named Barber, came from England. Their immediate descendants settled respectively in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The Connecticut family spelled the name B-a-r-b-o-u-r. My grandfather, a descendant of the Rhode Island family, was named Joseph Barber, and not only for two generations preceding him did the name Joseph Barber, and trade of shoemaker belong to the family, but also the same name with that occupation has been handed down continuously to the present time. Grandfather was born June 3, 1744, and about 1765 he moved from Rehoboth, R. I., to Warwick, Franklin County, Mass. There he married Lydia Miller, who was born March 15, 1742.

Unto them were born eight children, the first child Benjamin, died when only two weeks old. Next was Huldah, who married Adam Streeter. Mary, who married Benjamin Watts. The next was Lydia, who married Ephraim Goodell. Judah, who married Palmer Whitney. Joseph, my father, who married Betsey Conant. Rebecca, who married John Whitmore a Revolutionary soldier, who belonged to General Morgan's famous regiment of riflemen. Next was Parley, who married George Le Row.

Grandfather's second wife's maiden name was Cushman. Aunt Mary Watts, and my father, died in 1839. Probably all are dead now, but the dates of their deaths are unknown to me. Mother died July 12, 1847, aged sixty years and eight months. Father, at his death, was fifty-nine years and four months old.

My grandfather Conant's name was Benjamin. He was born about the year 1765, and died in 1837. His wife's maiden name was Gale; her given name I cannot learn. He had a second wife, and three children by her, named Clárk, Charles and Amanda.

Names of my mother's brothers and sisters; Benjamin, married Philena Conant; Betsey, married Joseph Barber; Polly, married Rufus Wheelock; Mercy, who died at the age of fourteen years; Jerusha, married Joel Greely; Luthera, married William Lord; Myra, died at the age of eighteen years.

Of the half brothers and sisters, Clark Conant married Samantha Grand; Charles married Fannie Watts; and Amanda married Harry Stearns.

#### HISTORY OF THE POWDER HORN.

Now let us go back to the day of my mother's birth. During the progress of Shay's Rebellion in 1786, a company of soldiers stopped one night at my grandfather's house. The next morning they were suddenly

alarmed by news that the enemy were close at hand and the soldiers, hastily departing, left a powder horn which had accidentally fallen over behind a large chest, which is now in the possession of my brother Chandler's family. The horn is large and clear, about twenty inches long, and holds a pound of powder.

We consider it quite probable that this horn has been through the French and Indian War, as well as through the Revolution. On the day that the soldiers left grandfather's, my father was seven years old, and as he found the horn behind the chest, he claimed it as his own. He kept it as long as he lived and at his death he gave it to his son Joseph.

He had no direct descendants, and so a few days before he died, he gave the name Joseph, and the powder horn to my brother Amory's baby, then only a few days old. It is still owned by this same Joseph Barber, who lives in Marengo, Illinois, and its next possessor will be his son, Joseph Eugene.

For over a century and a half, this horn has done faithful duty for the hunter and soldier, and it is hoped that it, in connection with the name Joseph Barber, may remain an heirloom in the Barber family.

The two points which render this most interesting to us, are, that my father found it on his seventh birthday and also on the day that my mother was born.

My father and mother were married in Warwick, Massachusetts, in 1804.

Brother Amory, their oldest child, was born June 29, 1805. At the age of twenty-three he married Alzina Potter. Of this union were born six children, two of whom are still living. He died in 1890. The names of Amory's children are Betsey Maria, Elliott, Myron, Emily, Infant, Joseph. The two surviving members of the family are Elliott and Joseph.

Brother Humphrey was born November 11, 1806. He married Maria Potter in 1834. They had nine children, viz: Lester, Lucinda, Lucius, Amanda, Alzina, Mernilva, Rosalie, Amory and Humphrey. Of these children, Lester, Amanda, Rosalie, and Amory are living. Brother Humphrey died in 1874.

Sister Asenath was born October 8, 1808. She married Reckard Reed in 1829. They had four children, namely, Eliza, Lucena, Juliette, and Charles. Only Lucena is now living. Asenath now lives in Thomson, Illinois.

Sister Diana was born December 8, 1810. She married Alonzo Taylor in 1831. They had ten children, viz: Laura, Melissa, Katharine, Joseph, Susannah, Fred, Almon, Infant, Alonzo, Ida. Of these, Melissa, Susannah, Fred, Almon and Ida, are living. Diana died about the year 1871.

Brother Benjamin was born December 9, 1812. He married Eliza Carroll, in 1834. They had seven children, viz: Infant, James, Elon, Edson, Ruth, Judson, and Irene. Of these all are living excepting the infant and James. Benjamin died December 31, 1893.

Sister Tryphena was born October 5, 1814. She married Alonzo Willey, in 1836. They had eight children, viz: Edwin, Caroline, Mary, Ellen, Edgar, two Infants, Jane. Of these Caroline, Ellen and Jane are living. Tryphena died in June 1857.

Sister Philana was born September 28, 1816. She married Thomas Burnham in 1842. They had six children, viz: Maria, Luthera, Emily, Betsey, Dwight and Charles. Of these, Maria, Emily, and Betsey are living. Sister Philana died in 1882.

Brother Joseph was born February 11, 1819, and died of consumption June 26, 1841.

Sister Jerusha was born March 28, 1821. She married Van Ransalaer J. Lowe in 1846. They had seven children, viz: George, Emorette, Lydia, Betsey, Infant, Vesper, Clara. All are living excepting Emorette, and infant. Jerusha died in April, 1895.

Brother Chandler was born April 17, 1823. He married Alma Bolckcom, October 20, 1844. They had five children, viz; Mary, Alice, Willard, Ellis, and Amy. Of these, Mary, Willard, and Amy are

iving. Chandler died June 14, 1895.

These ten of my father's children just mentioned, were born in Warwick, Massachusetts. On the day Chandler was five months old, father having sold his property in Warwick, packed a load of thirty-five hundred pounds on a stout, heavy wagon, drawn by two good yoke of oxen, and, with his wife and family of ten children, the powder horn full of powder, two guns, and eleven hundred dollars, in fifty-cent pieces, in the old cast iron tea-kettle, commenced the slow journey toward—what was then considered—the far west.

The wagon was covered with sole leather which cost forty dollars, and which, after we got to our destination, father made into boots and shoes, which he sold. We also had with us one horse, drawing a wagon, in which rode grandfather Barber, who was then seventy-nine years old and totally blind. He died in three months after we reached Java, and was buried in the old cemetery at Strykersville, where his bones now lie.

Father's plan was to settle in China, Genesee County, New York, (now Java, Wyoming County,) a distance of four hundred miles from Warwick. His chief incentive in going there was, that Uncle Palmer Whitney who had moved there from Warwick six years previously, repeatedly wrote to him to come to this new country, in order that more land might be secured for

father's growing boys to cultivate. As has already been mentioned, on September 17, 1823, the family with the household goods, etc., left Warwick, but as some unfinished business had to be attended to, a man named Templeton was hired to drive the oxen, while father and Humphrey remained behind to complete this business, which delayed them three days after the family started. On the morning of the fourth day father and Humphrey started on foot from Warwick, and walked forty miles in that one day, overtaking the family at night, thus it will be seen that the family with the oxen traveled only ten miles a day during the first four days of the journey. The rate at which they traveled, however, gradually increased, until they were able to make twenty-five miles a day. The entire journey was accomplished in twenty-one days.

The first few nights the beds were unpacked, but after a time, as it was so much work to unpack the goods at night, and pack them in the morning, father hired beds at twenty-five cents each, per night, and in order to be economical the children were packed in crosswise and lengthwise to the number of five or six in a bed. Amory and Humphrey slept in the wagon to guard things, after we ceased to unload the goods at night. One night before this time, father and mother, each supposing that the other had attended to the

money in the old tea-kettle, left it in the wagon all night. In the morning, very much to his surprise, father saw the old tea-kettle there in the wagon. Of course he feared for its contents, but upon investigation, he found the valuable treasure undisturbed.

In going down the Green Mountains, where the inclination was very great, sometimes they would unhitch one yoke of oxen and hitch them behind the wagon to help hold back. At other times they would cut a pine tree, trim it, sharpen the knots, and then hitch the top of it to the wagon so as they went down the mountain, the knots would plough into the ground and hold the wagon back.

We crossed the Hudson River at Albany, then quite a village, and so pursuing our way, we finally, on the eighth day of October, reached Uncle Whitney's house which stood on the present site of Java Village, but at that time there were not more than a half dozen families living there—the place being occupied by woods, mud, bears, deer, Indians, etc.

Father traded one yoke of oxen for sixty acres of land, which still remains in the family, its present owner being a great grandson of my father.

Father also bought one hundred and twenty acres more, on, and near the present site of Java Village, also a half interest in a grist mill, and a half interest in

a tannery. He also opened the first shoe shop in Java Village, in which he and brother Amory worked, while Humphrey worked in the tannery, and Benjamin in the grist mill. Besides this they worked in the woods, great numbers of forest trees falling before their axes, until the forests filled with wild animals have given place to rich meadows, orchards, etc.

On the sixth day of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-six, Charles Barber, writer of this history, was born, being the eleventh child in his father's family, and the first one born since their arrival in Java. He married Fidelia Stockwell, August 8, 1847. They had seven children, namely: George, William, Alta, Frankie, Joseph, Charles, and Dora. Of these, George, Frankie, Charles, and Dora, are living.

I, the only survivor of seven brothers, now live near Java Village, N. Y. My only surviving sisters are Asenath B. Reed, now eighty-seven years old, and living in Thomson, Illinois., and Lydia E. Smith, the youngest of the family, living in Stewartville, Minn.

My only surviving aunt, Luthera Lord, now ninety-eight years old, lives with my sister Asenath. All of my uncles, so far as I know, have departed from this world.

On August 18, 1827, Brother William was born, and at the age of two years and nine months, he died.

Sister Lydia was born March 21, 1830. She married William Smith. They had eight children, viz: Olive, Minnehaha, Ella, Vernon, Cora, Eldred, Merton, and a little boy. Of these Olive, Ella, Vernon, Cora, Eldred and Merton are living.

There are no less than two hundred forty families who have descended from my grandfather's two children, Father and Aunt Judah Whitney, who settled in Java Village. Their descendants, known to the writer, have settled in ten or twelve states, and no doubt many unknown to the writer, are living in other states.

I am proud to know that the sons of my brothers and sisters, did their whole duty to the government during the late war of the Rebellion. The writer, also was over three years in active service, in the 104th N. Y. Volunteers, Company A. He was in thirteen battles, marched over eight thousand miles, was wounded severely, in the battle of the Wilderness, and now, at the age of seventy, is a cripple from the effects of the service and is drawing a liberal pension.

One of our distant relatives, who is something of a historian, claims that every battle field of the late war was stained with Barber blood.

It is with a good degree of satisfaction that we are able to say, in looking backward from my grandfather's time, as far as we have any history,

or forward from that time, even to the sixth generation from him, some of whom are now living in Java Village and its vicinity, that the high moral and religious element running throughout the entire line, is a family characteristic.

CHARLES BARBER.

1895

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