

**1660-1799. AN ACCOUNT OF
JOHN BURBEEN, WHO CAME
FROM SCOTLAND AND SETTLED
AT WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS,
ABOUT 1660**

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1660-1799. An Account of John Burbeen, who Came from Scotland and Settled at Woburn, Massachusetts, about 1660 by Joseph Burbeen Walker

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JOSEPH BURBEEN WALKER

**1660-1799. AN ACCOUNT OF
JOHN BURBEEN, WHO CAME
FROM SCOTLAND AND SETTLED
AT WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS,
ABOUT 1660**



THE OLD BURBEEN HOUSE,
WOBBURN, MASS.

1660-1799.

AN ACCOUNT OF
JOHN BURBEEN,

WHO CAME FROM SCOTLAND AND SETTLED

AT WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, ABOUT 1660,

AND OF SUCH OF HIS DESCENDANTS AS HAVE BORNE
THE SURNAME OF

BURBEEN,

COMPILED FROM THE TOWN RECORDS OF WOBURN, EPITAPHS OF ITS FIRST AND
SECOND BURIAL-GROUNDS, MANUSCRIPT RECORDS OF CHARLES WALKER,
ESQ., OF CONCORD, N. H., AND SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES.

BY JOSEPH BURBEEN WALKER.

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TO

THE DESCENDANTS OF

John Burbeen,

A SCOTCHMAN, AND AN EARLY SETTLER OF

WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS.

THIS RECORD OF THOSE WHO HAVE BORNE HIS SURNAME

IN AMERICA IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR FELLOW-KINSMAN,

JOSEPH BURBEEN WALKER.

PREFACE.

The surname Burbeen has been spelled variously. In an old deed, bearing date 1696, of John Burbeen to his son James, it appears as "Berbeene;" it is found elsewhere as "Berbeane;" in the probate records of Middlesex county of 1730 as "Burbeen;"—and by most members of the family this last spelling has been adopted.

The whole number of persons in this country who have borne the surname of Burbeen has been, so far as I have been able to discover, only nineteen. In about one hundred and forty years from the time of its introduction it had become extinct. Two reasons for this will be likely to occur to persons perusing the following pages, viz. :

1st. The phrase "never married," so often appearing upon them, suggests one. Of the whole nineteen members of the family who have borne the name, but five of its male members are known to have married.

2d. All of John Burbeen's descendants, born since 1746, have come from female scions of the original stock. The blood is still in the country, but is found only under names other than that of Burbeen.

The following Genealogy has been largely compiled from,—

1. The Woburn Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, edited and arranged by Hon. Edward F. Johnson; and the Epitaphs of the First and Second Burying Grounds, transcribed by William F. Cutter and Nathan Wyman, Esquires.

2. Manuscript notes of Charles Walker, Esq., of Concord, N. H., made about 1830. Mr. Walker was the son of Susannah Burbeen Walker and grandson of Rev. Joseph Burbeen, and had been familiar with the history of the Burbeen family all his life.

3. Sewell's History of Woburn, old Burbeen papers in the possession of the compiler, and sundry other sources of information to which he has had access.

4. For a sketch of the old Burbeen house, or "castle" as it was sometimes called, the compiler is indebted to Leonard Thompson, Esq., of Woburn. His letter describing the same may be found in the Appendix, page 28.

J. B. W.

Concord, N. H., March 15, 1892.

THE BURBEEN FAMILY.

FIRST GENERATION.

(1) I. JOHN BURBEEN,¹ the first Anglo-American ancestor of the family, was born in Scotland about 1627, and came to Woburn, Mass., as early as 1660* certainly, and perhaps earlier. He was a proprietor of the township, possessed some property, was a tailor by occupation, and seems to have been a devout man.† He married Sarah Gould, April 16, 1660. She died May 14, 1670. He died January 8, 1713-'14, aged about 86 years, and was buried in the

* He "first settled in Woburn, on the easterly side of the hill, a little to the north of Mr. Lawrence's. The remains of his cellar, and also some old apple-trees near by, planted by him, are now to be seen."—*C. Walker MS.*, p. 3.

† This remark has been suggested by items in his will as follows: "To each and every of my daughter, Mary Houghton's children, a good new bible" etc.

"And further my will is that, my son James shall give his two sons James and John, each of them, a bible out of what I have given him."

old Woburn burying-ground, where his grave-stones may now be seen. Their children were,—

2-1. MARY,² born July 2, 1661. She was married February 15, 1681, to Jonah Houghton, of Lancaster, Mass., and died July 20, 1733.

3-2. JOHN,² born August 9, 1663. Little is known of him. In his will, dated November 15, 1701, his father says of him,—

“That my son, John Berbeene, y^t is gone to sea and I am satisfied is lost, if he returne again alive, or any that legally represent him, my executor shall pay him or them fifty pounds ” etc.

4-3. JAMES,² born May 15, 1668. (2) II.

