

**AN ACCOUNT OF JOHN BURBEEN, WHO  
CAME FROM SCOTLAND AND SETTLED  
AT WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, ABOUT  
1660, AND OF SUCH OF DESCENDANTS  
AS HAVE BORNE THE SURNAME OF  
BURBEEN. [1892]**

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An Account of John Burbeen, Who Came from Scotland and Settled at Woburn, Massachusetts, About 1660, and of Such of Descendants as Have Borne the Surname of Burbeen. [1892] by Joseph Burbeen Walker

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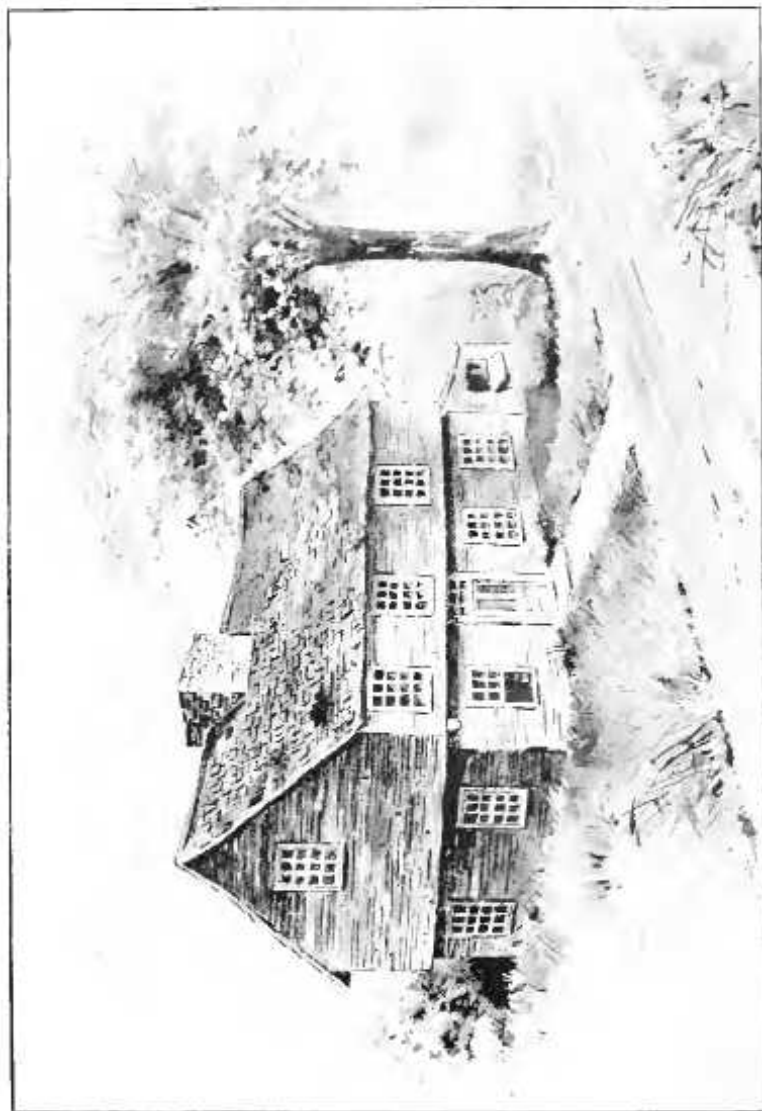
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# **JOSEPH BURBEEN WALKER**

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THE OLD BURBEEN HOUSE,  
WOBURN, MASS.

1660-1799.

AN ACCOUNT OF  
JOHN BURBEEN,

WHO CAME FROM SCOTLAND AND SETTLED

AT WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, ABOUT 1660,

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

BURBEEN,

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

BY JOSEPH BURBEEN WALKER.

CONCORD, N. H.:

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1892.

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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.

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,<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> born July 2, 1661. She was married February 15, 1681, to Jonah Houghton, of Lancaster, Mass., and died July 20, 1733.

3-2. JOHN,<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>t</sup> is gone to sea and I am satisfied is lost, if he returne againe alive, or any that legally represent him, my excecutor shall pay him or them fifty pounds ” etc.

4-3. JAMES,<sup>2</sup> born May 15, 1668. (2) 11.



## SECOND GENERATION.

(2) II. JAMES BURBEEN<sup>2</sup> (4-3) (JOHN<sup>1</sup>),  
born May 15, 1668. He married Mary ———,  
who died October 14, 1724. He married a second  
time, but whom it does not appear.\* He  
lived in Woburn, and was a business man of  
much enterprise. He was engaged more or  
less in shipping, as appears by charter parties  
still in existence. His estate was appraised at  
£2,038-16-5.†

\* His shop was in that part of the old Burbeen house  
which adjoined south, on the old castle, and stood on  
the ground where Leonard Fowle has lately built a new  
house."—*C. Walker MS.*, p. 6.

He died September 4, 1729, aged 61 years.  
His children were,—

5-1. MARY,<sup>3</sup> born March 6, 1694, and died  
July 20, 1733.‡

\* 1748, Oct. 27. Mr. Walker attended the funeral of his aged  
mother-in-law.—*Diary of Rev. T. Walker.*

† The real estate of James Burbeen, at his decease, consisted of  
sixteen different parcels of land, situated in six different towns,  
and appraised at £1,970. See Appendix, pp. 32-37.

‡ Mary Burbeen left a respectable estate, as appears by her will  
dated April 12, 1733, and proved Sept. 3, 1733.