THE TURNER FAMILY MAGAZINE : GENEALOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

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The Turner family magazine : genealogical, historical and biographical by William Montgomery Clemens

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WILLIAM MONTGOMERY CLEMENS

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Trieste

Turner Family Magazine

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Genealogical, Historical

Biographical

EDITED BY WILLIAM MONTGOMERY CLEMENS

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The Turner Family

JANUARY, 1916

THE FAMILY OF TURNER

An ancient house of Norman-French origin, the Turners appear in England at the time of the Conquest. In the thirty-five different branches of the British family there are as many varied coats-of-arms. The distinguishing feature of a majority of these is the mill rind in which the center of the millstone is set, indicating that the early Turners were millwrights or millers.

In America perhaps the earliest arrival was Humphrey Turner, who settled in Plymouth, Mass., in 1628. He became prominent in Scituate and conducted a tannery there as early as 1636. The Turners became a numerous family in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and in Maine.

During King Phillip's War, Captain William Turner gained a great victory in the Connecticut Valley, where Turner's Falls, near Greenfield, Mass., was afterward named for him.

In Maine the town of Turner was named for Rev. Charles Turner, one of the descendants of the first Humphrey. In Pennsylvania and Virginia, there were early arrivals who established large and prosperous communities. As early as 1672, Henry Turner was living in Northampton Parish, Va. In 1750 the Turners were firmly settled in North Carolina.

The Turner Family Magazine will endeavor to present in each issue, new and heretofore unpublished records of the Turners in America, and private data and records from family bibles are solicited for publication. In future

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numbers we purpose to print nearly complete lists of the early Turner marriages from all the United States, from 1630 to 1875. These alone will be well worth the price asked for the magazine. W. M. C.

EARLY SETTLERS IN CONNECTICUT

In 1760, the first permanent settlers came to Northfield. Conn., in the Litchfield hills. These came from North Haven by ox team, one, Titus Turner, building a log house. The well dug by Turner is still in use, though the house has disappeared. Others followed these first settlers, and in 1762, the first child. James Marsh, was born in the new settlement, then called Litchfield Southeast farms. In 1778 the woods were still thick so that little Rhoda Turner, daughter of the first settler, when sent with dinner to workmen cutting timber. lost her way and the whole settlement was roused to find her. There is a tradition of a battle between the Litchfield Indians, or "Bunkers" and the New Haven Indians, who had come up the valley in quest of certain shiny stones for traders, which resulted in victory for the former.

There were several taverns in Northfield, as the stage route between Albany and Hartford ran through the village. One was on the top of the hill where the churches which have succeeded "the church and the meetin' house" are still located. Three taverns were built in 1782, it is said. About 1800, Jacob Turner, a descendant of the first Titus, established a tavern, whose sign is still in existence, which was a half-way house, where travelers were refreshed and horses changed in the old stage coach days. In 1791, when the first post-office was established in Litchfield, a post rider left it once a week, on Monday morning, carrying with him the mail for "South East Farms," when on his way to Hartford. South East Farms was incorporated by the legislature as a winter parish, from November to April of each year, in 1789, and the first meeting is said to have been held October 15 of that year. At this meeting it was voted to hire a minister to preach the gospel for six months, and on November 2, it was voted to lay a tax of £25, one-third to be raised in money, the remaining twothirds in wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat or oats. In 1794 it was voted to build a meeting house west of Titus Turner's, if that worthy consented to let the society have a convenient spot for a green. In 1794 Northfield petitioned the general assembly to be set off as a parish and it was incorporated in the fall of that year.

The Rev. Joseph E. Camp was pastor from 1795 to 1837, and was known as "Priest Camp." He married Rhoda Turner, daughter of Titus Turner, already referred to as the little girl lost in the woods in 1778. He made brick in the brickyard of Chauncey Warner in the first years of his ministry and later taught school in his house. One of his sons was for many years a physician at Northfield, Dr. David Bushrod Washington Camp-usually known as "Dr. Bushrod"—another was Dr. Joseph W. Camp, of Bristol, one was a clergyman. another a judge.

PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS

Among the office holders in the three original counties of Pennsylvania were the following:

Cornelius Turner, justice of the peace in Sussex Co., in 1767.

Robert Turner, one of the five provincial governors held office from 9 February, 1688, to 18 December, 1888. He was also a member of the Governor's Council from 1693 to 1700. He was appointed by William Penn. He was Recorder General from 5 May, 1686 to 4 March, 1690, and in 1686 was Deputy Surveyor.

Joseph Turner was a member of the Governor's Council from 1747 to 1776. He died in 1783.

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