

A HISTORY OF THE SAPP FAMILY

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A History of the Sapp Family by J. Gooden Sapp

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J. GOODEN SAPP

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WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
J. GOODEN SAPP AND
H. W. STANLEY
1910

'If, as Seneca says 'Virtue is the only nobility,' he is doubly a nobleman who is not only descended from a virtuous ancestry, but is himself virtuous.'

—GREVILLE

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PREFACE



REFACE is included in this book not alone because it is customary, but because certain things should be explained. This book is issued, not as a work of art or literary merit, nor as a result of any overmastering desire to break into the book business, but as a record in which to preserve the salient points of the Sapp genealogy.

In the pursuit of knowledge concerning their individual ancestry the editors collected a vast amount of fact and became interested in the broader lines of the history of a family. For almost ten years this process of collection has been going on, some who contributed being still alive while others have passed to the Great Beyond. On account of these deaths among us some of the dates and facts we have are unreplaceable and we have felt it a duty devolving upon us to get it all into permanent form lest some material might be lost. Such a work as this, where the principal sources of information have been traditions and memories collected by correspondence, is bound to contain some errors, omissions and contradictions, but we have endeavored, as far as possible, to rectify and harmonize them. We offer what we have with only the thought in mind that we will thus preserve these facts until another shall come and build upon this foundation a completed structure.

We are including some extra blanks and ask that you shall supplement and continue the information in the book. Where we have made mistakes, correct us; where we have made omissions, supply the deficiency and where you can continue a line, do so on these extra sheets. These sheets will be carefully preserved and at some future date, perhaps, a fuller and more complete history can be gotten out, and the material you send in can be incorporated.

The time is coming in America when the blood of our people will be so mixed with all nationalities, that he who can look back to an ancestry reaching to the foundation of our government will have reason to be proud, and this book will be proof in future generations where otherwise there would be no word.

Thanks are due all contributors for what they have done, but especially to Mr. Francis Sapp, Danville, Ohio; Dr. J. A. Sapp, Salineville, Ohio, and Miss Bernice A. Sapp, Olympia, Washington, for the cheerful and long continued work which they did.

And so with this somewhat extended word we leave the work in your hands trusting that later the whole matter may be worked out with more completeness.

J. GOODEN SAPP, Wyand, Ill.
H. W. STANLEY, Wichita, Kansas.



INTRODUCTION



O record has yet been found of the time the Sapp family came to this country, where they landed, or whence they came. Search has been made but nothing revealed. There has been no dearth of tradition and positive statements on these points however, different branches of the same line advocating widely divergent theories. An oft recurring statement is that the Sapps are of Scotch-Irish origin, another brings them from England, and others are equally positive that Holland is the soil from which they spring. It is, however, rather generally recognized that there is a great physical resemblance between the members of the different branches and doubtless more extended search, through the county records of all the states in which they appear, will confirm in time the ideas of the editors of this work that all are descended from a single ancestor who appeared in the early history of America.

However, while we have found nothing definite as to the country from which the Sapps came, a study of the names leads to a strong conclusion that they came from England. The names, without exception, are of English origin and do not show even a trace of the Dutch and but a very little of the Scotch-Irish. It may be that originally the family came from Holland to England during the religious persecutions and that a few generations in England sufficed to remove all the Dutch characteristics. Likewise it is barely possible that they may have been originally English and during the Dissenter troubles in England have moved to Scotland and Ireland and thence to America. Some who claim to have investigated the matter thoroughly seem to find satisfaction in one origin, others in another. We say, frankly, we do not know.

But whatever their origin the Sapps have been and are a people respected for their absolute honesty and uprightness. They are not well educated, as a rule, and not mentally brilliant. Very few of them have ever attained prominence in the councils of the state or nation, although there are some notable exceptions, but they are men and women who bear the responsibilities of good citizenship as nobly as the best.

They are, however, quite religious, although their creeds vary in the different lines. Certain lines are Catholic, others Baptist, still others Methodist, but very seldom do we find one who prides himself on irreligion or disbelief.

In the matter of politics reports indicate that they hang together better here than any where else. They may have come from

different countries or they may belong to different churches but with a few exceptions, they are all Democrats.

The definite verifiable history of the Sapp family in its different branches begins about 1765 to 1775. From that time down the lines are definitely traceable and errors that appear are due to a failure of memory or a date entered wrongly. Previous to this time, however, all the connected history of the family is assumed. Facts on record such as wills, deeds, land grants, marriage licenses, etc., stand out alone and serve only to guide the searcher after truth in breaking new paths from one to another, and who shall say these paths are not correctly laid out? Given certain facts as premises, if we follow them logically who shall say our conclusion is wrong until he has facts that shall contradict it?

It is purely tradition as yet, that John Sapp came over from England with Lord Calvert in his second or third ship load of immigrants in 1650, but we have seen fit to assume it as a fact as it fits in well with what we know of the family. We must account for Sapps in different sections of the country as early as 1776 and we must account for two Sapps appearing on records as early as 1743. We stand willing to be corrected, but until some one can adduce proof against us or offer a more feasible theory, we are willing to accept this one we have assumed.

John Sapp then came to this country from England about 1650 and settled in Maryland. We hear of three sons of John—Frederick and William and John. Frederick, industrious, went to New York to engage in the trade of a cooper. William being more restless, went across the mountains and drifted down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, where he settled. Of the descendants of William we have no knowledge. John, third son of John, remained in eastern Maryland and from him is sprung most of the Sapps in this volume.

Frederick has a son, Charles, who went to North Carolina and from him are doubtless sprung most of the southern Sapps. His immediate family does not appear, however, and this line we shall drop until it reappears about 1800.

John Jr., youngest son of John, the immigrant, had several children, doubtless. From the records of Delaware we find Henry Sapp and John Sapp in that vicinity about 1733 and we assume a brother George to connect the Maryland lines with the original immigrant.

The remainder of this Introduction will be taken up with records of deeds, wills, etc., as collected from Delaware and Maryland. In most instances the subjects are unidentified with the lines we have and they must be considered as descendants of the lines we cannot trace.

The first record of the name of Sapp in America is that of Henry Sapp in the following deed:

GRANT BY PROPRIETORS.

To Henry Sapp Warrant Book page 189
 Pennsylvania and Counties on Delaware. SS. By the Proprietors.
 (SEAL). Whereas, Henry Sapp of the County of Kent hath requested of
 us that we would be pleased to grant him a survey on Two hundred acres of
 land situated on the west side of the Black Swamp in the forest of Murther
 Creek Hundred in the said county, for which he agrees to pay to our use, from
 the date hereof, the yearly quit rent of one penny Sterling for every acre of
 the same, and one whole year's rent on every alienation: These are there-
 fore to authorize and require you to survey, or cause to be surveyed, to the
 said Henry Sapp at the place aforesaid, continuous to surveys already made,
 the said quantity of Two Hundred acres, if not already surveyed or appropri-
 ated and make return thereof unto the Secretary's office, for confirmation:
 for which this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand and
 the Seal of the Land Office by virtue of certain powers from the said pro-
 prietors, at Philadelphia, this twenty-first day of February, Seventeen Hun-
 dred and Forty Three-Four.

GEO. THOMAS.

To William Parsons, (Surveyor General)
 Endorsed as Follows:

1743 Kent: Feb. 21.

Henry Sapp, 200 Acres.

There was also a further warrant for One Hundred Acres to
 Henry Sapp on Dec. 29, 1739, situated on the south side of a small
 branch of the Murther Creek, adjoining the plantation of Thomas
 Barker in the forest of Mispillion Hundred, in the County of Kent
 on the Delaware.

(Signed) THOS. PENN.

Then follows a warrant of 60 acres to Henry Sapp, Jr., worded
 precisely as above except that warrant signed by Tho. Penn, land
 described as follows:—"About sixty acres of land situated on the
 north side of the Main Branch of Motherkile Creek, adjoining to
 land of John Pierce and Mark Monlove in the said County of Kent
 & C."

BENJAMIN EASTBURN,
 Surveyor General.

April 27, 737.

Also a further warrant for 60 acres to Henry Sapp, Jr., situated
 in the forest of Mispillion Hundred adjoining lands called (Tar)
 Ridge and James Thistlewood's in the said County."

Signed by Thos. Penn.

BENJAMIN EASTBURN,
 Surveyor General.

Dec. 29, 739.

Also a further warrant for 50 acres to John Sapp in the forest
 of Mispillion Hundred whereon he has begun to make small im-
 provements in the said County.

Signed by Tho Penn.

November 22, 1739.