

**A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE
HUTCHINSON FAMILY: SIXTEEN
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE
"TRIBE OF JESSE"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760573799

A Brief Narrative of the Hutchinson Family: Sixteen Sons and Daughters of the "tribe of Jesse"
by Joshua

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSHUA

**A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE
HUTCHINSON FAMILY: SIXTEEN
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE
"TRIBE OF JESSE"**

A BRIEF NARRATIVE
OF THE
HUTCHINSON FAMILY.
SIXTEEN SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE
"TRIBE OF JESSE."

BY
"JOSHUA."

"Tis sweet to be remembered."



BOSTON:
LEE AND SHEPARD, PUBLISHERS,
CORNER FRANKLIN AND HAWLEY STS., BOSTON,
1874.

~~1635-2144~~

18 42128.13

1874-1875
copy of
the Publishers

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1874, by
JOSHUA HUTCHINSON,
in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

REVERSED, CAMBRIDGE:
STEREOTYPED AND PRINTED BY
H. O. HOUGHTON AND COMPANY.

Dedicated
TO MY VENERATED FRIEND
ADIN BALLOU.

[From Rev. Adin Ballou, Hopedale, Mass.]

HOPEDALE, MASS., March 2, 1874.

Dear Brother Joshua,— Your few lines of the 26th ult., with the printed slips, came duly to hand per mail. I am glad you are to publish the Narrative of your father's family, which has rendered itself illustrious by elevating musical services throughout our land; and surely you have done me much more honor than I could claim, by the Dedication. Accept my cordial thanks. You might easily have chosen a more conspicuous and popular name; but I hope it will do you no harm in the sale. Probably the matter of dedication will have no great effect either way in that respect. You will, of course, not fail to give our Hopedalians a chance to buy and read. I shall await the promised copy expectantly.

Heartily, your brother,

ADIN BALLOU.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

BOSTON, April 3, 1874.

DEAR MR. HUTCHINSON :— I am glad to hear that you are preparing, for publication, a sketch of the very musical family with which you are so creditably identified ; for it cannot fail to be read with interest and pleasure by those (and they constitute a vast multitude) who have been delighted and thrilled by the soul-stirring performances of “ the tribe of Jesse,” singly or in combination, in various parts of the country, for more than a quarter of a century. Sixteen children, of the same parents, constitute an exceptionally large number, especially in these less fruitful times ; and on this ground alone the case is a notable one. But that they all should have been endowed with a decided musical talent, in some instances amounting to inspirational genius, is, indeed, extraordinary, and probably unparalleled. The most widely known to the public, by their singing in concert as a quartette, are Judson, John, Asa, and Abby, occasionally assisted by Jesse, the gifted *improvisatore* — comprehensively bearing the title of “ THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY ;” and to these I desire to make special reference, not forgetful of what is due to the others, particularly to yourself, who have done such good service to the

cause of humanity and progress, both by the matter and the manner of your singing.

If I mistake not, they made their first appearance in Boston, at the anniversary of the New England Anti-Slavery Convention, in 1843, taking that body by surprise, and carrying it to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Starting out as inexperienced minstrels on an untried experiment as to what their success might be, even under favorable auspices, they had every conceivable worldly and professional inducement either wholly to stand aloof from the maligned "abolition agitation," and give themselves exclusively to the singing of sentimental and mirth-provoking songs, or else to cater to the overwhelming pro-slavery sentiment that everywhere prevailed; but they were proof against all temptations. Whether they should sing to thin or to crowded houses, to approving or deriding listeners, or whether they should evoke a hospitable or a mobocratic reception, as they travelled from "down East" to the "far West," they never stopped to calculate consequences, but unflinchingly espoused the cause of a despised and down-trodden race, — nobly remembering those in bonds as bound with them. Yes, it shall ever redound to their credit, that, at a most trying and convulsive period, they gave themselves to that cause with a zeal, an enthusiasm, an unselfishness, and a sympathetic and enrapturing melody surpassing all power of prosaic speech, which

LETTER FROM WM. LLOYD GARRISON. 7

most effectively contributed to the regeneration of a corrupt public sentiment, and ultimately to the total abolition of slavery. By the softening of prejudices and the melting of hearts under their pathetic strains for the poor fettered bondmen, they did their full part toward making it possible for Abraham Lincoln to issue his grand Proclamation of Emancipation on the first of January, 1863.

At all times singing "with the spirit and the understanding," as well as with their marvelously sweet voices, how charming to the ear, how quickening to the soul, was their every performance, with its unique and varied programme! But they sang not only for freedom and equal rights, but with equal zest in behalf of peace, temperance, moral reform, woman's enfranchisement, and other kindred movements, making thousands of converts, and exerting a most salutary influence far and wide.

Never before has the singing of ballads been made directly and purposely subservient to the freedom, welfare, happiness, and moral elevation of the people. Let the example become contagious!

I could willingly add much more, but my sheet is full.

Yours, to hasten the millennium,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

JOSHUA HUTCHINSON.