

"A short history of the Harlow Family, written by the Rev. Samuel Harlow, 1851 -

My paternal grandfather was Stephen Harlow. He was of pure English descent - attached to England previous to the revolution & an Episcopalian in religion. He was of a very social disposition & a lover of good cheer. He died, however, before my recollection. He had two brothers - Benjamin and William. Uncle Ben (as we used to call the former) I have often seen. He was a very robust, sprightly old man of about 80 when I first remember to have seen him. He lived to be very old. He left a few children. William Harlow, the older brother, early went West - his descendants are scattered over the Western States.

My paternal grand-father lived on a farm in Orange County, 6 miles North of Goshen & about one-half mile North of Camel-Hall Bridge. The farm is now owned, I believe, by John McBride. My grandfather, being of a social disposition & like the English, a lover of good cheer, became at times (as I learn from a journal or diary left by my father) & especially in his latter days, excited, or intemperate. I do not learn, however, that this was a daily occurrence, but only the result of occasionally social meetings with his friends & neighbors. The practice of treating friends with wine and strong drink was general in those days, & often what was first practiced from the influence of custom, or a feeling of friendship, became after a while a constitutional want. And many persons were thus led into intemperance, who when they first began the practice of using intoxicating drinks had not the most distant idea of any such result. But I fear the practice by my Grandfather has been injurious on his descendants. My father's constitution was probably tainted with the influence, for he, too, loved the excitement of the cup. Still, this may have arisen from other causes, besides inherited constitutional taint.

My father, like my grand-father, was of a very feeling, sympathizing & social nature - he loved company dearly - especially the company of his friends & his early acquaintances and he was ever ready to spend his last penny to treat them well. It mattered not how busy he was - how pressing his work, if friends came to visit him, he would drop all to wait upon them. From the time of my recollection, he made an almost daily use of ardent spirits, as was the custom with most people in those days. And although I never saw him intoxicated - & although he lived to a good old age & enjoyed general good health - still I fear the practice was injurious. But in those days no one thought the custom wrong, but I fear it may have injured either him, or the condition of his children. And whether the taste he had for ardent spirits was constitutional & inherited; or whether it arose from his social nature & was acquired, is more than I know. My father loved society - he loved his friends & delighted to promote their happiness when they visited him. Hence, it was that the bottle was often brought out, & the company. If strangers called, the bottle (in those days) was a kind of introduction - if conversation flagged, the bottle would enliven it - if the company were sorrowful, the bottle would cheer them - & if any were not well, the bottle, it was in general thought, would prove a remedy. Thus, then the custom of society requiring the use of the bottle on every occasion, who can be surprised at the general prevalence of a taste for ardent spirits. Rather should we be surprised that anyone escaped a drunkard's grave; & yet, so far as I remember, drinking then was perhaps no more frequent than now. Though ardent spirits were generally used, they were used with prudence - that is, carefully - & the drunkard was despised.

My Grand-mother, on my father's side, was named Curtice - Elizabeth Curtice. I never saw her, for she died before my recollection. My sister Eliza, whose name is Phebe Elizabeth - was named after her & my mother. Concerning my Grand-mother Harlow, I never heard much. All I remember to have heard about her was that she was a tall, spare, peaceable and quiet woman.

My Grand-mother Vail - my maternal grand-mother, I knew well. She was of French or German descent. Probably she was a French Huguenot. Her maiden name was Arnot. My brother Selah Arnot was named after her family. She was a very energetic woman. She had six girls and two boys. Her husband, Joseph Vail, was a weaver by trade, and was killed in the battle

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at Minisink in the Revolution. He was a Lieutenant in one of the Militia Companies of Goshen. I never saw him. When he was killed, my Grand-mother was left with a family of eight small children. Difficult and trying as her situation was, she was equal to the task. She taught her oldest son (Uncle Sam) to weave on his father's loom, and as her daughters grew up, she married them off, & mostly very well. Aunt Julia, her oldest daughter, married a man by the name of Smith - a very rich man for those days. But he continually became intemperate & in old age were quite poor. Their children, however, did very well in the world. They lived near Mount Hope in Orange County. Several of their children reside there now.

My Aunt Julia outlived her husband & lived to a very old age. She had but one son. His name was Caleb. He married and moved West. The last I heard of him, he was doing well. Some 2 or 3 of Aunt Julia's daughters lived to be old maids, & supported themselves and their mother with the needle. Grand-mother Vail's second daughter (Aunt Nauche) married Joshua Roe, a farmer, and they lived many years on a farm about a mile North of Goshen. They had several children. Their eldest son, Hull, was educated for the sea. He went to sea, made several voyages & died with the yellow fever in New Orleans. Aunt Nauche out-lived her husband & after his death, the widow and children moved to the West.

Aunt Sally, Grandmother Vail's third daughter, married Benjamin Webb, a blacksmith and farmer. They lived all their days on a farm a mile South of Middletown, Orange County. Uncle Ben became general of the Militia & an Assemblyman. He was a very large man - six feet or more - religious & very much respected. Lived to a very old age & left several children, both boys and girls. His wife died many years before him.

Aunt Ester, my Grand-mother's fourth daughter, married a man by the name of Finch, by whom she had three children, two boys and a girl. One of the boys went to sea and was lost. After the death of her husband, my Aunt Ester married Christjohn Schouts, a farmer. They became quite wealthy, but in after-years he spent most of his property by intemperance. They had several children.

* My mother was my Grandma's fifth daughter. Her name was Phebe. She married my Father when only about 15 years of age - my father being 25. *see 14-1-3-1*

Aunt Polly was my Grandma's sixth daughter. She was a very pretty woman. She married David Sweezy, a farmer. They had a large family of children - the daughters being all remarkable for their beauty. Uncle David & his wife lived near Mount Hope in Orange County. Sometime in 1830 to 1835 they sold & moved into the vicinity of Pan Yan, in this State. I believe my Aunt is now dead.

My Grandmother Vail was a very energetic woman. Her word was law to her family & long after they were married & settled in life, they seldom presumed to go contrary to her wishes. The respect her children had for her showed clearly the benefit of parental authority, early established & constantly continued. The evils flowing from parental weakness are great indeed, while on the other hand the benefits of strict obedience in children to both parents & children are unspeakably great. The children of my Grandmother were all like herself - active, energetic, resolute, prudent, laborious & mostly pious. The oldest son, my Uncle Samuel, was remarkable for piety, activity & usefulness. He lived to a very old age and died greatly respected. The daughters all married well and were all faithful wives & intelligent housekeepers. They all prospered greatly in this world - each the mother of many children. They were all like their mother, remarkable for fixedness of purpose & determined resolution; & sooner than be defeated in their undertakings, they would work themselves almost to death. They were all great workers. After the marriage of her youngest daughter, the Old Lady (my Grandmother) gave up house-keeping & took up her abode with her children, staying awhile with one & then a season with another. When I first recollect to have seen her, she was about 75 years of age. She was then quite spry & spent most of her time in knitting. She often amused us grand-

children with stories of the olden time - of the dangers & hardships she had seen & endured. She said she had once spent a night seated upon the branch of a tree in the woods, with her horse tied at its foot, while the wolves were howling around her. This was caused by the scarcity of mills & the sparseness of the population. When her children were quite young, she would sometimes go to mill herself, mounted on a horse. On one occasion, having started from the mill late in the afternoon, she got benighted in the woods, as a large part of the country was at that time in an uncultivated state. The night being dark and the road difficult, she was compelled to stay all night in the woods. So tying her horse to a tree & hanging the meal on a branch of a tree, she mounted another & remained all night sitting on a branch of the same. During the long night she heard the wolves howling at a distance & the big owl hooting not far off. But eventually the morning dawned in safety & descending from her seat on the tree, she continued her journey home.

Many were the stories she told us of Indians & Tories & wild beasts, but we children had to be very good & obedient, or in vain would we apply to her to amuse us with a story. If we had been noisy or disobedient, she would utterly refuse & if we tempted her too far, she would make us pay dearly with a thorough chastisement.

* * *

My earliest recollection of curious existence -

I was young, very young - about four years old. My dress was such as was customary in that day for all children, both male and female - a frock & petticoat.

A span of horses were standing before my father's door, hitched to a wood shod slay, on which was a barrel containing corn for planting, & several small tubs, baskets, hoes etc. My father took the lines, my brothers & sisters older than myself jumped upon the slay & I, seeing that they were about to drive off, ran and tumbled on to the slay with the others. Noticing this, my father said, "Sam, you must not go with us, you are too small to go so far." Whereupon, I began to cry & said I wanted to go to & begged hard to be permitted to do so. My mother, who was standing in the door, said, "Let him go, only take care that he does not get hurt." My father consented & so I was permitted to ride to the field. My delight was great & I longed to be a man, that I might ride about at my pleasure. We arrived at the field. The horses were detached from the slay & tied to a tree & the party all set to work.

The smaller children dropping the corn & my father and brothers covering it with the hoe. I was bid to set down on the slay & watch operations & amuse myself, as well as I could. After sitting sometime, watching the party, I was all at once seized with an unconquerable desire to plant corn myself. So noticing that the party were at a distant part of the field, I jumped down from the slay, grabbed a handful of corn, dropped it in a furrow without regard to the proper places, or the number of kernals in a place & then commenced covering them with my hand.

But, unfortunately my father arrived before I had quite completed operations & after having inquired into my employment, he ~~stopped~~ stripped up my petticoats & gave me a few slaps with the flat of his hand. And these occurrences are among the earliest recollections of conscious existence & you will furthermore observe that they are connected with a chastisement!

Stephen Harlow, a soldier of the Revolution, was wounded at the taking of Ft. Montgomery in New York. He was of English descent, and had children - Samuel, Stephen, Sarah (wife of Daniel Bull) and Mary (wife of Abimel Youngs).

Joseph Vail was a soldier in the Revolution, killed in the battle between the Americans, and the British & Indians under Chief Brant (or Brandt) at Minisink, (now Port Jervis, N.Y.). His children - Samuel, Joseph, Phebe.

Samuel Harlow & Phebe Vail's children - Nathan, Selah Arnot, John, Jonathan Tuthill, Samuel, Mary (m. Elias Jenkins), Fanny (m. Henry Tuthill), Julia (m. Dr. James McMillan), Sarah (m. Benj. Sears Booker) & Phebe Elizabeth (m. Gen. Watkins). Only John & Phebe liv-