
Chapter 4

Children of Elijah and Priscilla Crabtree

Joseph, John, Rachel, William, Sarah, Jonathan



Joseph Sutton Crabb

Joseph was born September 1821, in New Brunswick. He married Sarah Giggey in 1846, in St. John, New Brunswick.

Joseph and Sarah had a son, James, born about 1849, in New Brunswick. By 1850, Joseph was a farmer in Kane County, Illinois, where he, his wife, Sarah, and son, James shared a house with his brother Billy and his wife, Margaret.

John Crabb

John was born in April 1823, in New Brunswick.

Rachel Crabb

Rachel was also born in New Brunswick, and at some point she lived and worked in England for at least a year. She did not want to work on Sunday, so her employer sent her home. She married her first cousin, Richard Arnold Bassett Crabtree. Part III tells a bit more information on Great Great Grandma Rachel.

Sarah, Rachel and Billy sat for a photo together in their later years. I don't know just when or where this reunion occurred.—Cal Bivens

William Henry Crabb

Uncle Billy, as he was called, was born in New Brunswick. He married Margaret about 1849. Billy, the family stories say, lived to be 101–103 years old, and was still riding his horse at age 96–98.

Uncle Billy worked at farming, shingle making, labor, and was a truckman or seller of produce. He moved to Chicago after living in Kane County, and by 1880, was living on West Congress Street.

Billy appears in census records as both “G.W.” and “W.H.” I (Louise) have not been able to locate a birth or death record for Uncle Billy. Census records for 1850, 1860, indicate Billy was born about 1815. But he is 53 in the 1880 census, which would mean his birth was around 1827.

Billy and Margaret had three daughters: Amanda P., Rachel H., and Lilly, all born in Illinois.

Sarah Miranda Crabb

Sarah was born in New Brunswick, in 1833. There is more information on “Aunt Sarah” and her family after the information that follows on Jonathan, the youngest child of Elijah and Priscilla.

Jonathan Crabtree

Jonathan was born about 1839, in Canada. In 1860, Jonathan arrived in Lodi, Illinois, from Maine, with his parents and worked as a farmhand for A. Terry. He is perhaps the John A. Crabtree who married Clara L. Keck, September 9, 1872, in Kane Co, Illinois. ❀

Children and Grandchildren of Elijah and Priscilla Crabtree



Rachel Crabtree (Great Great Grandma).



William Henry Crabtree (Uncle Billy).



Sarah Crabtree Gill (Aunt Sarah).



Sarah and Len Gill's daughter, Lorinda.



Back left: Laura and Bob Grainger. Center: Rachel Crabtree (?), Billy Crabtree, Sarah Crabtree Gill. Front right: William Wallace Grainger. Photos from Cal Bivens.

Len and Sarah Crabtree Gill and Family



Sarah Crabtree Gill and children: Lorinda (Laura), Daniel Louis, and Francis Harris. The photos on this page were restored by Cal Bivens.



Leonard Francis Gill, husband of Sarah Crabtree. Photo from Cal Bivens.



Victualing business of Daniel Gill, Leonard's father, in Portland, Maine. Photo from Cal Bivens.

Sarah Miranda Crabtree

Sarah married Leonard Francis Gill of Portland, Maine, October 1854, in Portland. Rev. J. R. French performed the wedding ceremony.

Leonard, born in Maine, in 1830, was the son of Daniel Gill and Lorinda Emily Leland. Leonard, or Len as our family has called him, was apprenticed to Moses Allen, a joiner in Portland, Maine. A joiner being a carpenter or cabinet maker.

Leonard Gill in the Civil War

Leonard F. Gill enlisted as a private in Co. F 13th Maine Infantry at Portland, Maine, October of 1861. He mustered in the following December on the 10th. Company F was under the command of Capt. Mark V. Jordan.

Pleasant Hill was the last major battle, in terms of numbers of men involved, of the Louisiana phase of the Red River Campaign. Casualties for the Mansfield-Pleasant Hill fights were reported by Gen. Franklin of IX Corps. Killed: 5; Wounded: 30; Captured or missing: 20. Private Leonard Gill was among those killed in action

at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, April 9, 1864. Sarah was left with three young children.—*Cal Bivens*

Sarah Crabtree Gill, War Widow

Sarah was 31 years old when she filed for a Widow's Pension in May of 1864. At the time she lived at No. 10 Mechanic St., Portland, Maine.

On August 16, 1864, notice was sent of the authorization of an \$8 per month pension which included back payments back to April 9, 1864.

An act of July 1866, provided for an increase in pensions and Sarah filed for the increase on September 5, 1866.

The claim was still pending in May 1867, when she provided another affidavit attesting that she had not abandoned support of her children nor permitted any of them to be adopted. She received an increase of \$2 per child effective May 24, 1867, which brought the total pension to \$14 per month. (See the Appendix, page 234 for more complete information.)



Leonard Gill in his Civil War uniform. Photo from Cal Bivens.

Sarah Crabtree Gill in Chicago



Sarah Crabtree Gill 91 years old.



Sarah Crabtree Gill.

Sarah moves to Chicago

In the summer of 1868, Sarah moved to Chicago. Her claim was transferred effective September 4, 1868.

Sarah moved about Chicago and lived at several different places but seems to have stayed in the area south of what is presently Lincoln Park and west of the harbor. From directories of the time I (Cal) find Sarah M. Gill at the following addresses:

1869: 148 S. Sangamon St.
 1873: S. Peoria St.
 1874–75: boarding; 144 Egan Ave.
 1876–77: 563 Warren Ave.
 1877–78: 1814 Wilkins Ave.
 1878–79: 1004 Wilcox St.
 1880: 803 Fulton St.
 1881: 662 (?) Walnut (directory was difficult to read) perhaps the home of her daughter, Laura.

When Sarah moved from the house on Fulton St., my great grandpa John Crabtree, her nephew, occupied it.

By September 1916, Sarah, then 83, was living at 4518 Wilcox Ave., in Chicago, with her daughter, Lorinda (Laura). She requested an

increase in her pension, authorized by Congress that year. Her pension was raised to \$20 per month on October 2, 1916. In May 1920, Sarah got another raise to \$30 per month. Her pension was increased to \$50 per month in October of 1926.

Sarah Gill died at home on Wilcox Avenue in Chicago in March 1930. Her daughter, Lorinda, wrote and notified the Pension Office.

—*Cal Bivens*

Children of Sarah and Len Gill:

Lorinda Leland (Laura) Gill was born in Portland, Maine, in 1855. She married Robert Grainger in Illinois, 1877. Children of Laura and Robert: Sarah, Robert, Laura, Margaret, and William. Daniel Louis Gill was born in Portland, Maine, in February 1858. He worked as a printer for Bob Grainger in Chicago. He married Carolina (Carrie) Louise Nathan. Daniel and Carrie Gill had seven children: Dorothy Laura, Leonard Louis, Sarah Minnie, Daniel Leland, Robert Nathan, Louise Margaret, and Frances Harris. Francis Harris Gill 1860–1873. ❀



Dan Brady.

Dan Brady, Relative of Sarah

Dan Brady, from Chicago, is related to Sarah Minnie Gill, daughter of Daniel Louis Gill, the son of Sarah Crabtree Gill (p. 159). Dan shared his family photos, including John Crabtree/John Higginson and the Crabtree mystery soldier.

Grandma Myrtie mentioned “Aunt Sarah” in several family stories that she told me, so it was very exciting to meet one of Sarah’s descendants, Dan Brady and his wife, when they visited us in Cave Creek. —*Louise Smith* ❀

Robert and Lorinda (Laura) Gill Grainger



Laura Gill Grainger.



Robert Grainger.



The Graingers by Cal Bivens

Lorinda Leland Gill, or Laura as she was called, was the daughter of Sarah and Len Gill. She was born in Portland, Maine, August 1855.

Robert Grainger was born in Scotland in December 1840. The story told in the family notes relates that Robert owned a print shop in Chicago. I found Robert Grainger first in 1873, living at 761 Wabash Ave., where he worked as a pressman. In 1874, he had moved to 70 N. LaSalle where he boarded and worked still as a pressman. In 1876/77, Bob lived at 186 Clark St. and worked as a printer.

Lorinda L. Gill and Robert Grainger were married in Du Page County, Illinois, July 1877. That year I find him at the same address as Sarah and her family, 1814 Wilkins Avenue. By 1878–79, Grainger had acquired the print shop in which he worked, and which became R. Grainger & Company, at 196 Clark St. He also remained with Sarah, Laura, and family on Wilcox St.

They prospered, expanded the business, and bought several houses, according to the family

story. In 1880, they had an Irish servant girl named Rosie O'Toole.

Reportedly, Bob took a trip home to Scotland to visit his mother. After he came back he took to drinking heavily. It got out of control and he squandered away money, sold off the printing presses and all but one of the houses. On an attorney's advice, Laura kept one house in her name.

I don't know any more about Bob. Laura and her mother lived in the house for many years. There are photos of the place and them in the family album. Robert died November 1933, in Chicago. Laura died in February 1952, in Chicago.

Children of Robert and Laura:

Sarah "Sadie" married John Brimer. Robert Jr. married Lillian Rosenow. Laura Ellen. Margaret L.

Margaret and Laura Grainger worked at W.W. Grainger. My (Louise) grandma Myrtie named her oldest daughter Laura Margaret in honor of her cousins Laura and Margaret Grainger. William W. Grainger married Hallie Ward and founded W. W. Grainger Inc. ❀

4518 Wilcox St., Chicago, Illinois

The Grainger home at 1004 Wilcox Avenue in Chicago, I think. That is an address they lived at for some time. Laura's letter to the pension office in 1930, reporting the death of her mother, gave the address as 4518 Wilcox St. I believe this may be the same house as addresses occasionally change over time with new construction. In one of them you can see Sarah Crabtree Gill sitting in the back yard. Photos and information: Cal Bivens.



Sara sitting in the back yard of the Wilcox St. home.

Grainger Children and Relatives



1918: William and Robert Grainger served in World War I.



William W. Grainger, President.

W. W. Grainger, Inc.

William W. (Bill) Grainger founded a wholesale electric motor sales and distribution business in Chicago in 1927. The business was incorporated in 1928. The original eight-page Motor Book, was the basis for today's Grainger catalog of 3700+ pages. Bill served as President and CEO of the W.W. Grainger Company for 40 years until his retirement in 1968. He then served on the Board of Directors until his death in 1982.
www.grainger.com ❁



Sarah Crabtree Gill on right with granddaughters, (from the left) Sarah Minnie Gill (daughter of Daniel and Carrie Gill), Laura and Margaret Grainger.



My grandma Myrtie Crabtree with Laura Gill Grainger. Margaret and Laura Grainger who were Laura's daughters and Aunt Sarah's granddaughters, were such favorite cousins, that Myrtie named her oldest daughter Laura Margaret.

Back of photo reads: "Isn't this funny? It would make a good cartoon. This is Margaret's and Laura's mother and myself, of course. I suppose it hasn't been so long since you saw me you wouldn't recognize me I suppose. I'd better send some pictures once in a while so you'll know me when you come back. This woman is papa's cousin. She is one of the nicest women I ever knew. Does she make you think of any one you know? Maybe she won't in this crazy picture."