
Chapter 4

More About Crabtree Relatives & Friends

by Cal Bivens

This information will, hopefully, clarify some of the people and their relationships that have been mentioned in Part V. I don't have a lot on the Fillmores and the Dobsons. But they appear to have been part of that migration from Canada in the 1840s and 1850s. Their links to the family go back to New Brunswick days.—Cal Bivens

The names that are bolded are either descendants of Richard Arnold and Mary Crabtree through their youngest son George W. Crabtree, or people mentioned in Dora Fillmore Crabtree Sheldon's letters in Part V Chapter 3.—Louise Smith

George W. Crabtree(1830–1893)

George W. Crabtree, married Sarah Jane Fillmore, in 1851, in Chicago, Illinois. George and Sarah had eight children. There is more on George in Part IV, Chapter 2. Some of his descendants wrote letters or are mentioned in the letters of Dora.

Children of George and Sarah Crabtree:

Jemima Elizabeth (1852–1929) married Thomas Henry Smith.

Silas Judson (1865–1878) married his cousin, Dora Louise Dobson, and they had two children. When Silas died at age 23, Dora married Newton Sheldon and had four more children.

John (Cephas) Herman (1856–1920) married Emma Richards. Their children: Phil (P.J.), Cora, John, and Cephas Henry.

Charles Herbert L. Crabtree (1859–1893).

George (Henry) Alonzo (1862–1927).

Byron Colby Crabtree (1864–1960) married Mary Handy. Their children: Arthur Roland, Harry, May, Henry, and Katherine.

William Haden Crabtree (1868–1945).

Anna May Crabtree (1870–1938).

The Dobsons

Abraham or Abram Dobson was born September 1833, in New Brunswick, Canada. His parents were George John Dobson and Lavinia Polley.

Abram married Rebecca “Becky” E. Fillmore June 1854, in Lodi, Kane, Illinois. She was the daughter of John Fillmore and Sarah Reed.

Abram served as a private in Co. I 16th MO Inf., which was organized at St. Louis; and as a private in Co. D 6th US Veteran Vol. Inf. He was discharged as a corporal.

Becky died around 1865/66 in Illinois. After Becky's death, Abram Dobson married Ellen Williams in July 1866, in Winnebago County, Illinois. They had three children. Abram died October 2, 1894, in San Jose, California.

Children of Abram and Rebecca Dobson:

Dora Louise Dobson (1856) married Silas Crabtree and moved to Iowa. Dora married Newton Sheldon after Silas died. Her letters are in Chapter 3.

Julien Dobson (1858)

Frank Dobson (1860)

The Fillmores

John William Fillmore was born in 1796, in New Brunswick. His parents were: John Fillmore and Sarah (or Jemima?) Tingley. John William was a farmer and married Sarah Reed September 1822, in New Brunswick.

John and Sarah Fillmore came to Illinois and settled in Virgil, Kane County. John bought land there in 1845 and '46: 242 acres at \$1.25 per acre. The Fillmores appear in the census records for Illinois 1850 through 1880. John died in 1893, in Lodi, now known as Maple Park, Illinois.

Children of John W. and Sarah Fillmore:

- Charlotte Fillmore (1823) married Charles William Crabtree, a son of Richard A. Crabtree.
- William Fillmore (1825) married Isabelle and moved to Cono, Buchanan, Iowa, by 1880.
- Sarah Jane Fillmore (1831) married George W. Crabtree. She died June 1872, and was buried in Alden, Iowa.
- Benjamin J. Fillmore married and remained in Virgil Township in 1880.
- Jeremiah Fillmore (1835) of whom I know nothing.
- Rebecca “Becky” Fillmore (1837) married Abraham Dobson. She died in Illinois about 1865/66. (Their daughter Dora’s letters were in Chapter 3.)
- David Horace Fillmore (1839) married Mary Ann Dobson. David served in Co. A, 8th Illinois Cavalry from Virgil Twp. He enlisted September 18, 1861, and served until September 17, 1864. This is the same outfit as Arnold B. Wallace. By 1880, he owned a Boot and Shoe store in Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois.
- Cynthia Matilda Fillmore (1842) married Arnold B. Wallace and later George Palmer. She eventually moved to Oregon. (There is a letter Cynthia wrote for Mary Higginson in Part III, Chapter 4.)

The Tingley Family

Josiah Tingley was married to Sarah (Jemima?) Crabtree, daughter of Benjamin Crabtree and Jemima Briggs, on November 1759, in Attleboro, Bristol County, Massachusetts. Jemima Crabtree Tingley was the sister of the notorious privateer, Agreeen Crabtree, that is written about in Part VII.

Josiah Tingley died June 1817, age 86 years. Jemima, wife of Josiah Tingley, died April 1807, age 69 yrs. Both were buried in Upper Sackville, Westmorland County, New Brunswick, Canada.

Note: A possible motive for the Crabtree name change would be to differentiate them from other families with the same or similar name: (I have seen this done before.) The “pirate” Agreeen Crabtree and his family and/or the Irish John Crabtree and his family (who were Loyalists also), or to disassociate them from Loyalists when they came back to the US.

There is an implication that our family may have been aware of one or both of these others, by location and by the Tingley/Fillmore link.

—Cal Bivens

The Reed/Read Family

Eliphalet Read was a native of Massachusetts. He was a New England volunteer soldier who organized an expedition northward, and, in 1758, wrested from the French, the fortified town of Louisbourg, Cape Breton. In the following year, he assisted the British forces in the memorable capture of Quebec from the French. After this war (1754–1760), the Reads relocated to New Brunswick.

Eliphalet’s son, Joshua Read, was probably born in New Brunswick. Joshua married Percilla (Priscilla) Chappell of New Brunswick.

Joshua, Percilla, and 11 of their 12 children arrived in Kane County, October 1838, from Sackville, Westmoreland County, New Brunswick. They were the first generation of Reads/Reeds in Virgil Township, Illinois.

In February of 1843, he bought three tracts of land equaling 240 acres at \$1.25 or \$300. He is said to have built the first frame house in Virgil Township.

All the timbers in the framework were hewn with the broadaxe. Before 1850, the frames of buildings were of solid hewn timbers, mortised and tenoned, and held in place by hardwood pins. They were framed into firmly fastened “bents” that were raised to a perpendicular position by hand, using ropes and “pike poles”.

Joshua and Priscilla Read are remembered for hosting the first dancing party in the area, as well as the first religious services in their own home. Joshua was responsible for helping found the first church, a Baptist congregation, in Lodi.

Joshua died by 1850. His family remained in Virgil Township.

Some of Joshua and Priscilla’s 12 children:

- Charles Reed married Adaline Baxter.
- Richmond Read married Maranda Sweet.
- Otho B. Reed married Laura Graham.
- Albert Reed married Katherine.
- Eliphalet Reed married his second wife, Margaret Crabtree, in Kane County. Margaret was the daughter of Richard and Mary Crabtree. Eliphalet bought nearly 300 acres between 1842 and 1848 at \$1.25 per acre. ❀

A Song, A Poem, A Letter

Wait for the Wagon

A traveling song.

Where the river runs like silver
And the birds they sing so sweet
I have a cabin, Phyllis,
And something good to eat;
Come listen to my story,
It will relieve my heart;
So jump into the wagon,
And off we will start.

Chorus:

Wait for the wagon,
Wait for the wagon
Wait for the Wagon
And we'll all take a ride.

Together, on life's journey,
We'll travel till we stop,
And if we have no trouble,
We'll reach the happy top;
Then come with me, sweet Phyllis,
My dear, my lovely bride,
We'll jump into the wagon,
And all take a ride.

*The words and music by R. Bishop
Buckley and George P. Knauff.
Published in Baltimore in 1851.*

The St. John River

The St. John River in New Brunswick.

It flows in majestic beauty
Through forest, field and town,
For more than four hundred miles
From Maine to the city of St. John.

In its crystal waters clear
The speckled beauty lurks;
Shad and salmon do abound
Also pickerel, chub and perch.

Along its wooded banks
Great trees are centuries old,
Oak, butternut and elms great
Such scenes the memory hold.

Among the trees the roses bloom;
The grapes in clusters grow;
Grand scenes of nature; thus
God's handiwork to show.

On the flats fair lilies grow;
Their fragrance fill the air;
In nature's beauty grand and true,
With us no river can compare.

Found in the 1907 Press Newspaper

Writing of Illinois in 1818, Samuel Crabtree said in a letter to his brother:

"This is a country for a man to enjoy himself, where you may see prairie sixty miles long and ten broad at two dollars an acre, that will produce from seventy to a hundred bushels of Indian corn per acre. I measured Indian corn more than fifteen feet high and some of the ears had from four to seven hundred grains. I believe I saw more peaches and apples rotting on the ground than would sink the British fleet, and they have such flocks of turkeys, geese ducks and hens as would surprise you. The poorest family has a cow or two and some sheep. Good rye whiskey, apple and peach brandy, at forty cents per gallon, which I think equals the rum, excellent cider at three dollars per barrel of thirty-three gallons, barrel included."—*A Treasury of American Song*, by Olin Downes and Elie Siegmeister, 1943

Note: I don't think this Samuel is a relative. He may be from the Virginia-Tennessee Crabtrees; possibly from a branch of that family for whom Crabtree, Oregon is named.—Cal Bivens