

# History of the Cahoon Family

With Especial Reference to

**Joseph Cahoon**

First Settler of Dover, Ohio  
and His Descendants



By His Youngest Grand-Daughter  
**IDA M. CAHOON**



HOSTESSES OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## HISTORY OF THE CAHOON FAMILY

On October 10, 1810, Joseph Cahoon with his wife Lydia Kenyon Cahoon and their sons Joel, Daniel, William and Benjamin and daughters Abigail and Rebecca came with a covered wagon drawn by four horses, to settle upon Lot 95, Dover township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Their daughter Mary, who had married George Sexton just before leaving the east, had been of their company until reaching the home of Judge Kingsbury east of Cleveland. They remained at that point a short time and then removed to Ridgeville, Lorain Co., Ohio.

Their son, Amos Cahoon, stopped on the way in Newburgh, with Mr. W. W. Williams, the pioneer miller, whose daughter he married shortly afterward.

Fifty years passed by, and October 10, 1860, Joseph Cahoon and his wife Lydia having long before passed to their reward, their son Joel Butler Cahoon and his wife Margaret, invited all the sons and daughters of the pioneer Joseph to

assemble at the old home to do honor to the sacred memory of their ancestor.

The day was one of those choice ones filled with warm sunshine which are frequent in Ohio in October and a very happy reunion of relatives was held. Samuel Cahoon with his family, came from Ridgeville, O. William O. and Benjamin R., came with their families from Elyria, Ohio. Mrs. Abigail Cahoon Johnson with her family came from Dover, O., making five of the family who came from Vermont in 1810 present at this fiftieth anniversary.

Mrs. Eliza Rule Cahoon, widow of Franklin, the son born to Joseph and Lydia Cahoon after making their home in Dover, was present with her son. Amos Cahoon wrote from his home in Wisconsin an affectionate letter of regret requesting his brothers and sisters, "Keep my memory green." One hundred and twenty of Joseph Cahoon's descendants joined in the festive occasion. The log house built fifty years before had disappeared but the earth was removed from the hearthstone, a fire kindled and the iron tea kettle which served the pioneers upon their journey to Ohio was hung over it to make tea for the happy company seated at tables spread in the old door yard near the lake shore.

When the feast was over tales of pioneer life were

related by those who were actors in the events recalled and old time songs were sung.

Mrs. Silicia Wright, only daughter of Rebecca Cahoon Griffith, who was a great favorite with her grandfather, Joseph Cahoon, sang very sweetly his favorite hymn

"Hear the royal proclamation  
The glad tidings of salvation,"

and Hiram M. Addison and Mrs. Wright led in the song "New England" a patriotic melody of their childhood days

"From o'er the rolling waters  
Our fathers bold and free,  
Sought for their sons and daughters,  
A home of Liberty.  
Behold that home around us bloom,  
'Tis filled with flowers and sweet perfume;  
New England's sons and daughters  
Rejoice in Liberty."

All enjoyed the day so much that it was decided to make the occasion an annual event, and as years slipped away many rare and delightful days were spent at the Rose Hill home with Joel B. and Margaret A. Cahoon as host and hostess to the Cahoon Pioneer Celebration, as the organization was named, on many succeeding tenths of October, and when they no more greeted their guests, true to their pledge to

their parents the sons and daughters of Joel B. and Margaret A. Cahoon welcomed relatives and friends in memory of the past.

On August 28th, 1909, in anticipation of the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Dover by Joseph and Lydia Kenyon Cahoon, we organized The Cahoon Pioneer Association to arrange for the suitable observance of the centennial celebration, electing the following officers and committees:

*President* .....Miss Ida M. Cahoon  
*First Vice President* .....Miss Lydia E. Cahoon  
*Second Vice President* .....Mr. Everett B. Cahoon  
*Third Vice President* .....Mr. Walter E. Wright  
*Secretary* .....Mr. Frank B. Hollenbach  
*Treasurer* .....Mr. Henry R. Daugherty  
*Historian* .....Miss Laura E. Cahoon

INVITATION COMMITTEE

Dr. F. W. Schneerer      Mr. John J. Wright  
Mrs. Susan Cahoon Jameson      Miss Silicia Wright

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Miss Ida M. Cahoon      Mrs. Helen Cahoon Bullock  
Mrs. Mary Schneerer Parker

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Jennie H. Wright      Mrs. Lillie Andrews  
Mrs. Maria B. Cahoon      Mrs. Josephine Cahoon *Ray's mistress*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hollenbach Daugherty

Much thought was given to the work in hand. The Secretary at once began collecting data, the Historian sought information from every available source, the committees consulted and perfected their plans, beautiful souvenir programmes illustrative of the old home, containing invitations, were sent out to many states, to all known relatives and many friends.

A large tent was erected upon the spacious front lawn at Rose Hill, under which long tables were placed for the one o'clock dinner, while other tents for the convenience of the efficient Committee on Entertainment were near by. Over all waved the stars and stripes and the red, white and blue bunting was festooned about the tents and balcony of the house. The day, though a little cool for a garden party, was very bright and full of sunshine.

About three hundred guests accepted their invitations and were received by the three daughters of Joel B. and Margaret A. Cahoon, who resided at the homestead—Lydia E. Cahoon, Laura E. Cahoon and Ida M. Cahoon.



Before partaking of the bountiful dinner Rev. Dr. Frances S. Hoyt, a venerable friend of many years, invoked Divine blessing.

Then the following menu was offered:

Roast Pig	Baked Ham	Fried Chicken
Sweet Potatoes	Sliced Tomatoes	Mashed Potatoes
Cabbage Salad	Apple Sauce	Olives
Pickles	White Bread	
Brown Bread	Apple Pie	Fruit Cake
Angel Cake	Sunshine Cake	Ice Cream
Fruit		Nuts
	Coffee	

Bag Pipe music delighted the descendants of the Scotch Highlanders during the dinner hour.

As soon as the feast was concluded the President called the meeting to order and said: "It is a great pleasure, and a greater honor than any it has been my fortune to receive, to be elected the President of this Centennial Celebration.

"My mind reverts to those who in other years have occupied this chair.

"They were pioneers of sacred memory—William Root, Norman Day, Clark Eldred; some of the strong men of our own households such as Leverett Hubbard Johnson, Thomas H. Cahoon, John B. Cahoon, and Leverett J. Cahoon; other friends whose names are dear to many, but the greatest of all these was Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland, who frequently presided, always delighting us with his rare genius, ability and wonderful intellect.

"Aided by that happy pioneer editor of the Cleveland Herald, Josiah A. Harris, he made us wish the October days would lengthen to those of Arctic summers.

"We recall the old-time welcome upon these anniversary occasions, and in behalf of 'The Tribe of Joseph' and 'The Tribe of Wilbur,' I extend to you with all the fervor of the days of old, our heartiest greetings."

The Liberty Bell, made of historic metal for Daughters of the American Revolution, belonging to the late Mrs. Margaret A. Cahoon, the real founder of the Cahoon Pioneer Celebrations, called attention to the programme of the afternoon.

The place cards at dinner had upon them the portrait of this lady, taken in 1833.

All joined in singing, "Auld Lang Syne," after which Miss Laura E. Cahoon was introduced as the Historian.

Mr. Walter E. Wright, a great-grandson of the pioneer, Joseph Cahoon, sang very sweetly a quaint, old-fashioned song entitled, "My Mother's Song."

At the fiftieth anniversary his mother sang her grandfather's hymn, "Hear The Royal Proclamation."

Rev. Frank W. Luce, D. D., of Cleveland, gave a very inspiring address upon the Foundation of Character, and the Conscience. Ruling the Life of Mankind.

A song, "The Old House on the Hill," which had been sung by the old-time "Cahoon Glee Club," many of whose voices are forever silent, was rendered by Miss Mary E. Liggett.

Reminiscences were given by Judge D. J. Nye, of Elyria, Mr. Reuben Hall, one of Dover's oldest and most honored citizens, and Mr. James Winsor of Berea, who paid a most loving tribute to his grandmother, Mary Williams Cahoon.

The sun was setting in glory, shedding a rich, warm glow over lake, hillsides and lawn, as the entire company sang as the parting blessing, "God be with You till We Meet Again."

A large group picture was taken late in the day, so all were not present, to our regret.

Many requests were made for the publication of the "History," and events of the day, together with an account of the incidents which led up to this celebration of our centennial.

Mr. Frank B. Hollenbach of Cleveland, who had exhibited

a very excellent and carefully prepared "Family Tree," for which he received many deserved compliments, as Secretary of the Cahoon Pioneer Association, assumed the responsibility of the publication, and the "History" as read has been revised for this book.

## HISTORY OF THE CAHOON FAMILY

Tradition has it that the Colquhoun family was founded by the Caledonian Chieftain Galgacus, who commanded the Scottish forces against the Romans under Agricola, in the Grampian Hills, in the year 80 A. D.

When this invasion into North Britain was made it was inhabited by twenty-one aboriginal clans, of which one was Clan Colquhoun.

Luss, in the county of Dumbarton, which is yet in the possession of the family, came to it through marriage in the early years of the Fourteenth Century in the reign of David II, and from that time the chief of the Colquhouns has been known as the Laird of Luss.

The principal seat of the chief of the Colquhouns is Ros-dhu, at Luss, built by Sir John Colquhoun, lord high chamberlain of Scotland under James V and ambassador to the court of Queen Elizabeth, in the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots.

It looks out on Loch Lomond, standing on a promontory, flanked by glorious woods on either hand, and facing upon Lomond.

Another possession of the family is Arrochar house, and a third Ardenceapple castle. The estates are very large and valuable, and north of the Tweed the Laird of Luss is regarded as one of the greatest personages in Scotland.

Through record the first ancestor of sir name Colquhoun is Humphrey Kilpatrick who was created a baron by Alexander II, in 1220, and granted charter of lands of Colchone or Colquhoun, by his kinsman the Earl of Lennox.

The chieftain of the clan today has still charters containing the grant of the lands of Colquhoun bearing the signature of King Robert Bruce.

In 1390, the same king ordered a house constructed for the second Sir Humphrey, while a third laird of the same name witnessed the Charter in 1390.

In 1430, Sir John Colquhoun of Dumbarton Castle was lured into an ambush by Lachlan MacLean and other Islesmen and slain, together with one hundred and twenty of his men. His grandson, Sir John, received a charter of the lands of Roseneath.

He was sheriff of Dumbarton, Comptroller of the Royal Household, 1464-6, Keeper of Dumbarton Castle in 1477, and had, in 1474, been one of an embassy to negotiate a marriage between the Scottish heir apparent and Cecelia, daughter of Edward IV, of England.

His grandson, Sir John, in 1514, was a party to the seizure of Dumbarton Castle by John, Earl of Lennox, whose daughter Margaret, became his wife.

Their son Sir Humphrey, married Katherine, daughter of William, First Earl of Montrose, and died in 1583.

Sir Humphrey, who succeeded him, and acquired the Heritable Coronorship of Dumbartonshire, fought the bloody battle of Glenfruin, against the McGregors in 1602, being defeated with the loss of two hundred men.

Later, he was killed, in his own castle, through malice.

Sir Walter Scott tells us that at Glenfruin—the Glen of Sorrow—the great part of the Colquhoun forces consisted in cavalry, which could not act in the boggy ground, though they disputed the field manfully.

The severity which the victors exercised in the pursuit was reported to King James VI. That James might understand fully the extent of the slaughter, the widows of the slain, to the number of eleven score, in deep mourning, riding upon white palfreys, and each bearing the blood-stained garment of her late husband upon a spear, appeared at Stirling, to demand vengeance.

This ruse had the desired effect upon the king, who immediately granted a commission of lieutenancy to the Laird of Luss.

He also sanctioned an act of Privy Council by which the name of MacGregor was forever abolished; the death penalty

being declared to any who gave food or shelter to one of that clan; and all who had been at Glenfruin were prohibited from carrying any weapon except a pointless knife with which to eat meat.

Not only in "Rob Roy" does Sir Walter Scott chronicle events of that day in our history.

In "The Lady of the Lake," he wrote:

"Proudly our pibroch has thrilled in Glenfruin,  
And Bannoch's groans to our slogan replied;  
Glen Luss and Ross Dhu, they are smoking in ruin,  
And the best of Loch Lomond be dead on her side.  
Widow, and Saxon maid  
Long shall lament our raid  
Think of Clan Alpin with fear and with woe."

The Laird of Luss was a member of the Union Parliament, which voted the union of England and Scotland.

He had no son, but his daughter, Anne, married James Grant, who assisted him in the Loch Lomond Expedition against Rob Roy.

This James Grant assented to assuming the arms, estates and name of Colquhoun as heir, and his son, Sir James, a Colonel in the Dutch service, is described by the novelist, Smollet, as a very polite gentleman.

He was Captain of the Forty-second Highland Regiment, called "The Black Watch," which always appeared garbed in the plaid of the clan.

He married Lady Helen, daughter of Sir George Buchanan,

for whom he founded and named the town of Helensburg on the Clyde.

Sir John, who succeeded to title in 1617, had three sons, Humphrey of Balrie, Alexander and William, born in 1610.

We presume this William Colquhoun went to Sweden, and entered the service of King Gustavus Adolphus, and his eldest son, Peter, became chamberlain to the Royal Duke Carl of Sodermanland and died in 1633. The direct descendants of Peter Colquhoun of Sweden, settled in America, the name being corrupted into Gahun and Gahn.

As the Clan Colquhoun was so widely known through their feud with the McGregors, it may be well to copy an item of Scottish history before leaving the ancestors across the sea.

"On invitation of Sir James and Lady Colquhoun, Sir John Murray McGregor and Lady McGregor, came on a visit to Rosdhu.

The two baronets visited Glenfruin. The battle field was inspected, the host and guest clasped hands in peaceful forgiveness of past crimes, and the party ascended Ben Lomond, which dominates so grandly over Loch Lomond.

Upon the summit of this lofty peak Sir John McGregor, then fully eighty years of age, danced the Highland Reel with Miss Catherine Colquhoun, and the feud was ended."

If any McGregor be our guest today, let us emulate the example of the courtly Sir James, and extend the glad hand of friendship and fidelity.

The Marquise De Fontenoy, in his "Tales of Europe's Nobility," wrote in March, 1910, "The accession of Captain Ian Colquhoun of the Scots Guards to the chieftainship of the great Clan of Colquhoun, as twenty-eighth Laird of Luss, and as chieftain of all the Colquhouns, through the death of his father, Sir Allan Colquhoun, thirteenth baronet of the line, cannot fail to excite a certain amount of attention in America, where the clan has a number of representatives."

Let us return to Sir John Colquhoun of 1617, who was made Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1625, whose brothers William and George made their homes in Sweden.

His son William, born in 1610, emigrated to America, and was in 1660, one of the sixteen original purchasers of Block Island, R. I., for four hundred pounds sterling.

John Rathbun, another of our ancestors, was another one of these original purchasers of Block Island.

In 1669, William Cahoon signed the agreement and became a citizen of Swansea, R. I. Two men vouched for his morality and he vowed he was orthodox in religion.

In "Hubbard's Narrative of Indian Wars," we find this record:

"On the 24th of June, 1675, was the alarm of war sounded in Plymouth Colony, when eight or nine of the English were slain in and about Swansea, they being the first to fall in King Philip's War."

The list of the nine burials from this savage attack, includes the name of William Cahoon, our first ancestor in Plymouth Colony.

His son Joseph Cahoon, of Swansea, Bristol, and East Greenwich, R. I., married, first, Hannah —, by whom he had Joseph, John, Hannah, and Samuel. He married, second, Elizabeth —, by whom he had William, Benjamin, Ebenezer, Judea and Barbara.

Their son, John, was Lieutenant of the war sloop, "Tartar," which went to Louisburg in the French and Indian War.

Another son, our ancestor, Ebenezer, was born in East Greenwich, R. I., October 8th, 1706. He married Mary —, and lived in southern Rhode Island towns.

In a deed to his son his occupation is given as "house carpenter."

Several deeds are recorded bearing his name, from 1735 to 1762.

The name of their children on record are Benjamin, Ebenezer, and Reynolds.

In 1755, Ebenezer Cahoon, as lieutenant, went out with four companies to join Col. Harris at Crown Point, Gen. Shirley commanding. Ebenezer, son of the above named, was a private in Capt. Samuel Sloane's Company; Col. Asa Barnes's Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Regiment. He

enlisted Oct. 11, 1781, and marched to Saratoga by order of Gen. Starke, on an alarm. His son, William, has the same war record for Revolutionary service.

Both were pensioned Jan. 29, 1814, for life, being awarded sixty dollars annually.

Our ancestor, Reynolds Cahoon, son of Ebenezer and Mary Cahoon, was born in 1735. He also was a house carpenter. He was twice married.

November 5, 1761, Reynolds Cahoon and Rebecca Rathbun were married by Elder Samuel Albro.

On Feb. 12, 1769, Elder Philip Jenkins performed the marriage ceremony for Reynolds Cahoon and Mary Rathbun.

Both ladies were daughters of Joseph Rathbun, Jr., of North Kingston, R. I., and great-granddaughters of John Rathbun, one of the sixteen original purchasers of Block Island, in 1660.

One maternal great-grandfather was William Wilbur. This fact accounts for the name of Wilbur in the Cahoon family for several generations.

Another maternal great-grandfather was Rev. Hugh Mosher, the first pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Dartmouth, Mass.

The children of Reynolds and Rebecca Rathbun Cahoon

were Joseph and Rebecca. Those of Reynolds and Mary Rathbun Cahoon were Benjamin, Wilbur, Reynolds, Abigail and Hannah.

About 1770 Reynolds Cahoon sold several parcels of land in Rhode Island, and removed to Hancock, Berkshire County, Mass. Later the family removed to New York, where the three daughters were married.

Rebecca married Asa Stiles in 1789. Abigail married Aaron Stiles.

The Asa Stiles family today is represented by Mrs. Mary Addison Oswald, daughter of the late Hiram M. Addison, who was active in promoting our Cahoon Pioneer Celebration.

The Aaron Stiles family has as its representative Mr. Lawson A. Stiles of Toledo, O. Hannah Cahoon married Belcher Johnson of Salisbury, a son of Capt. Hezekiah Johnson of Revolutionary fame, a man well and favorably known. Their grandson, Capt. S. Albert Johnson, was a prominent character in the vicinity of his grandfather's home until recently. His home is now in South Pasadena, Cal. His son, William Schuyler Johnson, resides at Lyons, N. Y., and a daughter, Mrs. Florence A. Williams, resides in San Remo, Italy.

Benjamin married Mary Auburn and resided in New York.

He had a son, Reynolds, whose family lived at Wolcott, N. Y. Mrs. Lynda Hull Larned, of literary fame, is a granddaughter of Benjamin and Mary Auburn Cahoon, having her home in Syracuse, N. Y.

Reynolds married \_\_\_\_\_ and came to Ohio, settling east of Cleveland, and resided there the remainder of his life. They had two daughters and one son. His father, Reynolds Cahoon, lived in his family the later years of his life.

Wilbur Cahoon married Priscilla Sweet in Salisbury, N. Y., in 1795. The town of Salisbury, which was the place where so much of our family history was enacted, was located in the "Royal Grant," which was made by King George III to Sir William Johnson, and which was confiscated after the Revolution.

In September, 1814, Wilbur and Priscilla Sweet Cahoon removed to Ohio, passing through Buffalo, which was still smoking from the fires of British foes, as their ox team traveled slowly along the beach of the lake. They stopped at Dover with their brother, Joseph Cahoon, and cut some of the heavy timber to make a road west to Avon, which became their home.

They built both saw mill and grist mill. Their family consisting of Susan, Jesse Sweet, Wilbur, Ora B., Orra, Huldah,



and Melissa, came with them and on December 1, that same year, their son Leonard was born.

The eldest daughter, Susan, married Harley Mason, and their numerous grandsons and daughters have homes not far from the ancestral home in Erie Co., Ohio.

Jesse Sweet married Masena Moore. Their son, Willard, lives in Saranac, Mich., and their daughter, Marian, Mrs. Menzes Moore, in Hays, Kan. Other members of the family reside in Avon, O.

Wilbur, Jr., married Tirza Moore. He died in California in 1852. Their daughter, Mrs. Huldah Nesbitt, and their son, Levi Cahoon, are residents of Baraboo, Wis., where Levi's five fine sons are an honor to the name they bear, and a long list of little Cahoons are ready for the future.

Ora B. and his wife, Jane Jameson, lived in Avon, O., where their sons Horace, of Elyria, O., Joseph, of Avon, Wilbur, Burritt and Charles, of Silenus, Cal., were born. Their daughter, Melissa, Mrs. Lent, is deceased.

Orra married Henry Titus, of Avon, where the grandchildren still reside. One son, Ora, is living at Watertown, S. D.

Melissa, Mrs. John Steel, lived in Amherst, O., having two children, Frank Steel, of California, and Priscilla Swartwood, of Amherst, O.

Leonard Cahoon married Mary Titus, a teacher in the Avon, O., schools, who was still beautiful when laid to rest in the eighty-ninth year of her age.

Their three children are Mrs. Susan Warden Jameson, of Avon, O.; Mrs. Hattie Downing Gibson, of Massillon, O., and Mr. Elbert L. Cahoon, of Waukon, Iowa.

The eldest son of Reynolds and Rebecca Rathbun Cahoon, Joseph, our grandfather, was born August twenty-eighth, seventeen hundred and sixty-two.

He married Lydia Kenyon, a very gentle, lovable daughter of an established Rhode Island family. Their children were:

Samuel, born 1787, died 1863.

Amos, born 1789, died 1860.

Mary, born 1791, died 1849.

Joel Butler, born 1793, died 1882.

Abigail, born 1796, died 1869.

Rebecca, born 1798, died 1859.

Daniel Kenyon, born 1803, died 1841.

Benjamin Reynolds, born 1805, died 1872.

William Ovington, born 1808, died 1878.

Joseph Franklin, born 1813, died 1858.

And a pair of twins who died in infancy.

Our grandfather was a miller, and when he removed from one stream was to locate beside another which would turn the wheels of his mills.

Most of their children came to them in Salisbury, Herkimer Co., N. Y.

The youngest, Joseph Franklin, was the first white baby boy born in Dover, O.

From New York they removed to Newark, N. J., where they had a tide mill, thence to Vergennes, Vt., where the Otter Creek formed the water power for the mill.

In 1799 Grandfather visited Southern Ohio with a view of settling there, writing verses to his wife telling of his impressions in the new country he found in the West.

In August, 1810, a covered wagon, drawn by four horses, with a saddle horse behind, was driven up to the village green, at Vergennes, Vt., where a religious service was held prior to the departure of Joseph and Lydia Kenyon Cahoon with their family to make their home in the unsettled wilds of Northern Ohio.

The long journey led through dense forests, over unbridged streams, before "good roads" were agitated in this country.

Blazed trees and Indian trails were to direct their way.

The saddle horse was to relieve the tedious journey for the ladies, for we have been told Grandmother was accomplished in horsemanship.

The cow was to furnish milk, while the cream, suspended

in a receptacle from the wagon reach, was churned into butter.

The iron tea kettle supplied hot water at the wayside camp fire, where meals were served.

The prayer was said, the tearful adieu was spoken, and westward they took their way, Joseph and Lydia Cahoon; with Amos, Mary, Joel, Abigail, Rebecca, Daniel, Benjamin and little William.

Mary was the bride of George Sexton, and they came to make their home near her parents, stopping for a while at Judge Kingsbury's place, east of Cleveland.

Amos stopped at William Williams in Newburgh, and July 3, 1813, married "Polly," the miller's pretty daughter.

On the morning of October 10, 1810, the wagon halted in the ravine for the location had been reached where the new home was to be founded in the unbroken wilderness.

The golden light of October fell in richest abundance upon the oaks, chestnuts, hickories and elms which stood in majesty on either side.

Soft ripples from the blue expanse of Eric broke upon the pebbly beach. Nature was at her best and the hearts of the travelers rejoiced in the attractive scene.

"I pray you hear my song of a nest,  
For it is not long."

The father and sons set about building a log house, north of the Lake Road, east of the creek, completing it in four days.

Those of us who heard the story from dear lips, now forever closed, wish to repeat the tradition that those who succeed us in these celebrations may keep it for the future.

Apple trees were planted upon a clearing north-east of the house in which we live. A peach orchard grew upon the east hillside where the grove now stands, and another peach orchard was planted in the ravine west of the creek.

Doubtless the seeds for these trees came from New England, as we know pear trees were grown from seeds brought from Connecticut, which were in bearing for over fifty years.

While Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry was fighting his famous battle upon Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813, a grist mill was being raised by Grandfather Cahoon and his neighbors upon Cahoon Creek, east of our house.

Prior to this time the nearest flour mill was at Newburgh, eighteen miles away. Miles seemed longer when no streams were bridged, no hills graded, and a horse or ox bore the burden of the grain to be ground, than they do today with modern means of transportation. The stones for grinding the grain were quarried from the creek by Joseph Cahoon and his son Joel. They are placed as stepping stones at the



ROSE HILL, DOWN AT THE LAKE

entrance to our lawn, preserved as a part of the history of the place.

In 1818 the frame house was built where it now stands, upon one of the most picturesque sites in the country, thanks to the artistic tendencies of our ancestors.

As nails had to be transported by wagon from Pittsburgh they were very costly, so wooden pins were substituted for nails whenever possible in the building, which was truly a work of the hands, so little machinery being at their command.

The laths were split timbers, chamfered and sprung into grooves.

A saw mill had been erected a few rods north of the grist mill, upon the brook, in which the giants of the forests were converted into lumber.

The eldest son of Joseph and Lydia Kenyon Cahoon was Samuel, who married Miss Lucinda Barnum, an attractive and intelligent daughter of one of the Rockport, O., pioneer families. Their home was in Ridgeville, O., a fine farm, it being awarded the blue ribbon at a Lorain County Fair, while under their care. Later when his son, John Barnum Cahoon, made his home there, nothing a modern farmer could desire was wanting. His stock was the finest; his crops abundant; he drove the finest horses in the land, as proudly at seventy-

eight as would a boy of eighteen, and when he suddenly went away at eighty years of age, he was still young.

Another son of Samuel Cahoon, was James Cahoon, who recently passed away from his home in Wakeman, O., while the only daughter, a talented woman, was Cornelia Cahoon Sheldon of Ridgeville, O.

Mary Cahoon Sexton, the bride who came from Vermont with her parents in 1810, lived in Ridgeville, O., where her son Lester Sexton lived a long and honorable lifetime, and where his descendants now reside. Two other sons were Amos and Aaron Sexton. Her daughters were Mary Sexton Haron and Abigail Sexton Becbe. Her second husband was Mr. Ebenezer Griffith of Elyria, O.

We have heard many very pleasant things of Aunt Mary from those who knew her.

Amos, the second son of Joseph and Lydia K. Cahoon, lived on the lot adjoining his father's home on the east.

He was one of Dover's most active, energetic citizens until 1842. The "Town Book," a record of those early days in Dover, records his name as township officer in various positions, while his genial disposition won many warm friends. He was very clever at his trade, carpenter and builder.

Cuyahoga County is celebrating its centennial this week. One feature of the celebration will be the dedication of the

new bridge over Rocky River, said to be the finest concrete bridge in the world. When our ancestors first crossed that river there was no bridge leading across it. In a letter, which is before me, from Amos Cahoon to his brothers Joel and Daniel in Frederick, Md., dated Dover, O., Nov. 13, 1831, he wrote:

"I have been engaged in building a bridge over Rocky River, which has kept me more confined than I could wish, but I made a finish of it last week to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, and the public in general, who pronounce it a fine piece of workmanship, from which I realized \$700." A large sum in those days. How does it appeal to you after nearly eighty years of development?

Five sons and five daughters came to them in their log cabin home, before they removed to Wisconsin.

Martha Cahoon married Henry Winsor, Ruth married S. P. Smith, Nancy married Sylvester Sanford, Mary married Zenas Burke, Lydia married Oliver Palmer.

Their sons were Joseph Cahoon, Kansas City, Kas., Hiram F. Cahoon, Minneapolis, Minn., William O. Cahoon, of Wisconsin, and two, Amos and Joel, died in childhood.

Mrs. Mary Cahoon Burke, the only one of the ten now living, sends loving greetings from Lyons, Wis. The family tree of Amos and Mary Williams Cahoon resembles the banyan, spreading from New York to California.

Joel Butler Cahoon, the third son of Joseph and Lydia K. Cahoon, was his father's assistant in clearing the farm, erecting and operating the mills, and fitting the place for a home until 1822.

When the call for men to defend the country came in 1812, he marched away with Col. Croghan to the defense of Mackinac; being mustered out of service at Warren, O., in 1814. He rode horseback through the wilds and marshes, carrying the mail from Cleveland to Maumee City at a little later day.

For twenty years he was actively engaged as a contractor, in building canals, aqueducts, viaducts and railroads in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Indiana, and southern Ohio.

He married Mrs. Margaret A. Van Allen, at Frederick, Md., July 14, 1831.

In 1842, they came to make their home ever after upon this place, driving from Cincinnati, with a covered carriage, which contained their family of six little people. Five more were added to the household here.

Thomas Havenner Cahoon was a lumber dealer in Cleveland, O., J. Joseph an engineer and inventor of Memphis, Tenn., D. Kenyon, Leverett J. and J. Marshall were residents of Dover, at the home farm. Lydia E., Laura E., Martha W. and Ida M. were all teachers, for many years in Cleveland. O. Oscar and Mary died while very young.

Abigail, the second daughter of Joseph Cahoon, a maiden of tender years gathered nuts at the foot of the hill, a hundred years ago today, when to her surprise a youth from Connecticut, came with his sister's family to settle upon the next farm west. First impressions were pleasing and before either reached majority Abigail Cahoon and Leverett Johnson were married.

Their sons were Dennis, Asahel, Leverett Hubbard and Clayton, and the daughters, Mary Rosincrans, Rebecca Sanford, Nancy—unmarried—Abigail Goss and Paulina Johnson.

Leverett Hubbard was so worthy a son of an unusually intelligent father and gentle, lovable mother, that I want to name him specially.

The Johnson descendants are numerous and widely distributed across the many states.

Rebecca Cahoon, the third daughter of Joseph and Lydia Cahoon, was twice married. Her first husband was Jacob Heath, the second Ebenezer Griffith. Silicia, her only daughter, a charming woman, a great favorite with all who knew her, married James Wright of Cleveland, who was an enthusiastic participator in our festivals as long as he lived. Their children, and their children's children join with us in revering their memory.

Daniel Kenyon, the fourth son of Joseph and Lydia K.

Cahoon, was just a lad when he came to Dover. When a young man he was a clerk in Mr. Nathan Perry's store, the largest one in Cleveland.

Later he joined his brother Joel, engaging in contracting for public work. He was unmarried, so made his home with his brother Joel, who reciprocated his unusual affection. The letters passing between them make it evident that he was a delightful gentleman, acquainted with business life and alert to the general topics of the time.

While on a business trip to Cincinnati he was taken suddenly ill, and passed away before his relatives could reach him, but attended by his Masonic brethren, was laid to rest in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati.

Benjamin Reynold, fifth son of Joseph and Lydia Cahoon, made a journey to New Orleans in 1831, returning to Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade as stone cutter, for a time, before settling in Elyria, O., his permanent home.

He married Miss Emeline Hackett, a most excellent wife and model mother. Of their family four daughters and one son grew to maturity, three daughters being present today.

Mrs. Helen Bullock resides in Elyria, Mrs. Minerva Holenbach in Cleveland, and Mrs. Abbie Schneerer in Norwalk, O. Their daughter Jeanette, died in Elyria seven years ago, and Everett Benjamin, of Akron, O., who but a year ago

greeted us at our meeting for the last time, planned much for this celebration.

Uncle Benjamin was very fond of flowers, fruits and all the beautiful objects he could have about him and was excellent company among his many friends.

William Ovington, the baby boy who came from Vermont in 1810, was a genial gentleman, whose face was always smiling.

A troop of children followed his footsteps, and when his life was ended the little ones came to drop a flower until his form was covered with their loving offerings.

He married first, Miss Nancy Eldred, who lived but a few years after her marriage. Later he married Miss Melissa Eldred who survived him. Both ladies were daughters of Judge Moses Eldred who came to Dover, in 1811, and long was an honored citizen of Ridgeville, O.

Six of their children grew to maturity.

Eugene returned from the war in 1863, broken in health and never regained it.

Erwin, for several terms Recorder of Lorain County, lived his entire life in Elyria.

Burton was also a resident of Elyria.

Wesley went West and lies alone in far away Dakota. The only daughter, Nancy Anastacia, was identified with



social and church life in Elyria all her life. The youngest son, Charles, is the only one living. His home is in Elyria.

Both Uncle Benjamin and Uncle William are remembered by the fine stone work which stands as their monuments in many of the best buildings erected in Elyria, O.

Joseph Franklin, the youngest in the family of Joseph and Lydia Cahoon, was the first baby boy born in Dover, being cradled in the log cabin, and lulled to rest by the music of the waves upon the shore. Miss Eliza Rule of Norwalk, O., became his bride. She was an attractive person beloved by all who knew her. They lost several dear little children, and are survived by one son, James Franklin, who marched with Sherman to the sea, and now lives happily in the Soldiers' Home at Sandusky, O.

Uncle Franklin's death so early in life was a great sorrow to the brothers who passed their three score years and ten.

There are so many names that come to me; so many forms we shall no more see, of whom I should *like* to speak.

Not alone in the Scottish Highlands were found those worthy the title of Lord or Baron. Among our own young, noble men were *many such*. Nor do we need to consult the records of the lasses of Rossdhu to find a Lady, for had we not our Lady Mary, Abigail, Nancy, or Jeannette?

So, as I call the name of one "lost awhile," just drop a

flower of remembrance and affection. It may be the red, red rose, or the pure white one; a lily, a bunch of violets, a forget-me-not or two, the palm branch of victory, or a wreath of evergreen—and, over *all*, above the green which covers their silent dust, let us lay our garland of amaranth and rosemary.

John and James Cahoon and their sister Cornelia Sheldon from Uncle Samuel's home.

Joseph, Hiram, William, little Joel B., and Amos Franklin, Martha, Ruth, Nancy and Lydia from Amos Cahoon's family.

Lester, Aaron, and Amos Sexton, and their sisters Mary, Lydia and Abigail.

Thomas, Joseph, Kenyon, Oscar, Martha, Leverett, Marshall and Mary Emma, from the Rose Hill home.

Dennis, Asahel, Hubbard, Clayton, Mary, Rebecca, Nancy, Abigail, and Pauline from Abigail Johnson's family.

Silicia and Franklin, daughter and son of Rebecca Griffith. Jeannette and Everett, from Benjamin Cahoon's household.

Eugene, Erwin, Burton, Wesley, and their only sister Anastacia, from Uncle William's once happy home.

There are others whose names I leave to the historian who succeeds me, for they belong to the next generation.

Let us see how the Cahoon family ranks in relation to the

world about them. Did you observe in the Colquhouns of Dumbartonshire any trace of bravery or patriotism?

Well, what about the American branch?

William Cahoon, in 1675, gave his life to Plymouth Colony.

John Cahoon defended Louisburg in 1744.

Ebenezer Cahoon, our great, great grandfather, went to Crown Point in 1755.

Ebenezer and his son, William Cahoon, fought with Gen. Stark at Saratoga.

Joel B. Cahoon marched from this place under command of brave Col. Croghan in the War of 1812.

George Sexton gave his young life to his country in 1862. His brother Porter, served three years in the Rebellion.

Eugene and Erwin, Frank Cahoon and James Winsor, enlisted and served during the same conflict.

Fred Schmeerer, Frank and Arthur Hollenbach in 1898 helped educate the Spaniards.

Arthur went out to the Orient from which there was no happy home coming for him.

"Soldier, rest! Thy warfare o'er,

Sleep the sleep that knows no waking."

Next to the soldier in bravery is the man who was pioneer in the new country, wild and savage tenanted.

Industry is another characteristic we have found developed. Ingenuity and inventive genius are others.

Our grandfather, Joseph Cahoon, invented a machine for cutting nails. His idea of suspending his harness above his horse that it might be quickly harnessed, has been adopted by the firemen in the engine houses.

Joel B. Cahoon applied for patents for machines for making shingles, and certain method of constructing plank roads.

Our Joseph invented cotton compress and tie buckle machinery.

Everett had two patents. Wesley, also, was an inventor. Marshall developed the idea of the horse hoe for grape culture.

Time is too short to tell what was wrought by our grandmothers, aunts and cousins.

Did religion enter into the Cahoon character?

William Cahoon, to become a citizen of Swansea in 1660 had to declare himself orthodox.

The church records for the eighteenth century contain the name of Cahoon in its baptisms scores of times.

The ice was broken that Lydia Kenyon Cahoon might be immersed.

Joseph Cahoon, after many years of membership in the Baptist church, espoused the cause of Alexander Campbell,

becoming an exhorter in the days when preaching was "rare in these parts," to use his own phrase.

Rev. Daniel Kenyon Sanford is a member of a California Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Do you agree with me that the Cahoons had religious tendencies?

In her grandfather's mill, beside yon winding brook, Ruth Cahoon taught school at an early day. She was one of the score or more of cousins who engaged in that profession. This fact, as well as the literary efforts of some lead us to think the family may be styled intellectual.

Fifty years ago this very day, Joel B. and Margaret A. Cahoon, received at this home all the descendants of Joseph Cahoon who could come.

They uncovered the hearthstone of the old log house, made tea in the kettle which was brought from Vermont, served dinner on long tables near the lake, sang old time songs and told tales of the long ago.

All were so happy that it was decided to hold the meetings annually.

It was expressly emphasized that from generation to generation this might be done that we should not forget the names and deeds of those who came and made it possible for us to enjoy the luxuries of today in this beautiful country.

Father in heaven, our hearts today  
O'erflow in grateful tears;  
We ask Thy blessing on this band,  
An endless round of years.  
As we happily come together  
May Time's wing in passing o'er  
Drop many a joy tipped feather.  
When age with silver coronet  
Has crowned each reverend lock  
And the gold plumed birds of memory  
Have hither come in flocks,  
And resting mid the ruins old  
Where affections tendrils cling  
Will sing a sweeter song of now  
Than we today can sing.  
And when the silver cord is loosed  
And the golden bowl is broken  
When harps are rusted  
Songs are hushed  
And farewell words all spoken  
Then in the golden palace  
Where the countless blessed throng  
And the silver light is streaming clear  
May we sing the Endless Song.

## OUR AMERICAN ANCESTORS

So many of the Cahoon family have requested copies of the papers sent us by Mr. S. Albert Johnson after his investigation that it seems wise to place it in this volume.

J. Marshall Cahoon, Postmaster at North Dover, received a letter addressed officially to him, stating that while Mr. Johnson was traveling in Scotland he met a Cleveland lady, with whom he had conversation relative to his ancestry, stating the fact that his grandmother was named Hannah Cahoon, but that he knew nothing of her family.

The Cleveland lady had met the Cahoon family in Dover and Cleveland, and referred him to the Postmaster for information. A correspondence was begun which convinced Mr. Johnson that his grandmother was a daughter of Reynolds and Mary Rathbun Cahoon.

He secured the services of Mr. James Allen Kibbe who after diligent search procured a very complete chain of events and family records. It was our pleasure to receive a copy

from Mr. Johnson in January, 1900, and we desire to express our sincere appreciation to our cousin, S. Albert Johnson, formerly of Boonville, N. Y., now a resident of South Pasadena, California, for the great assistance his records were to us in the preparation of this history.

As Mrs. Lyna Hull had been helpful to him in his research, the record is carried down to her date in the Benjamin Cahoon family; to his own date in the family of Hannah Cahoon Johnson and to the writer's date in the Joseph Cahoon branch.

Each one of us may insert our family name in the proper line and make our history complete.

I would suggest that as the families receive new members a written record be inserted in this history, and when the second centennial is celebrated at Rose Hill a family tree large enough to furnish shade for the Clan Colquhoun may be set forth.

## CAHOON.

1 WILLIAM CAHOON was a native of Scotland and was of the ancient clan "Colquhoun" whose lands lay on the west of Loch Lomond, in Dumbarton-Shire. He emigrated to America, and in 1669 signed the agreement and became a citizen of Swansea, R. I.

He was probably the William Cahoon who was buried at Swansea, R. I., together with eight others, June 24th, 1675, being the nine persons killed by the Indians. (New England Register Vol. 52 page 145.)

<sup>2</sup> JOSEPH CAHOON of Swansea, Bristol and East Greenwich, R. I. M. 1st, Hannah, by whom he had, Joseph, 1690; John, 1692; Hannah, 1696, and Samuel. M. 2nd, Elizabeth, by whom he had, William, Benjamin, Ebenezer, Judea and Barbara.

<sup>3</sup> EBENEZER CAHOON was born at East Greenwich, R. I., Oct. 8th, 1706. M. Mary. He lived at East Greenwich, North Kingston, and Exeter. On the 23rd of January, 1724-5 the Proprietors Record of East Greenwich shows that Ebenezer Cahoon was granted Lot 174 in the town, which is now on Main St. Many deeds of land, to and from Ebenezer Cahoon are recorded in the Land Records, among them the following: "Ebenezer Cahoon of East Greenwich, House Carpenter, and his wife Mary, to Rufus Green of Warwick, Taylor, 28 rods of land and my mansion house thereon standing, being Lot 174 in that part called New Town 28th March, 1735 (East Greenwich land record Vol. 5, page 147)" also "Ebenezer Cahoon of Kingston from John Tillinghast 40 acres of land in East Greenwich. Witnesses, Peter Reynolds, Philip Baker. 21st January 1740 (ditto Vol. 6 page 126)" also "Ebenezer Cahoon of Exeter, Yeoman, for and in consideration of the love, good will and affection which I bear unto my son Reynolds Cahoon of the same Town, House Carpen-

ter, one half of 32 acres of land in Exeter, 18th December 1762 (ditto book 9)"

His children, so far as known, were, Benjamin, b. August 1st, 1729; Ebenezer, February 11th, 1731-2; William, (no date); Reynolds, (no date). In several deeds he and Reynolds call each other as the case may be "Father" & "Son."

REYNOLDS CAHOON was probably born about the time his parents removed to North Kingston or in 1735. He M. 1st, 5th. November 1761, Rebecca Rathbun who must have died within a few years, He M. 2nd, 12th. February 1769, Mary Rathbun, sister to his first wife. He was an extensive land owner, as shown by the number of deeds recorded in his name. Among others we find "Reynolds Cahoon of Providence and his wife Rebecca, to Ebenezer Cahoon of Exeter, two deeds of land in Exeter, 20th. April 1764 (Exeter land Records, old book 10 page 44 and 46)" also "Reynolds Cahoon of Exeter and his wife Mary, to Elisha Clark of North Kingston, land in Exeter, Witness, George Rathbun, 23rd. March 1770." It appears that he sold all his real estate in Rhode Island about 1770. with a view of settling elsewhere. The children of Reynolds Cahoon were, Joseph, Rebecca, Benjamin, Wilber. Reynolds, Abigail, and Hannah, of whom, the first two were presumably of Rebecca, his first wife, and certainly Hannah must have been the daughter of Mary, his second wife.



ROSE HILL. OUR ANCESTRAL HOME

Joseph Cahoon m. Lydia Kenyon	Benjamin Calhoun m. Mary Auburn	Hannah Cahoon m. Belcher Johnson
Joel B. Cahoon m. Margaret A. Van Allen	Olive Cahoon m. Uriel Schermer- horn	Capt. Horace Johnson m. Eliza Pratt
Ida M. Cahoon	Mary M. Scher- merhorn m. David H. Hull	Capt. S. Albert Johnson m. Emeline Thompson of Boonville, N. Y.
	Lynda Hull m. Samuel B. Larned of Syracuse, N. Y.	

RATHBUN.

- 1 JOHN RATHBUN of New Shoreham, R. I., d. in 1702, his wife Margaret d. the same year. He came to Block Island with the first settlers, being one of the sixteen purchasers of the island, April 1601. His will, dated February 12th 1702, proved Oct. 6th 1702, mentions wife Margaret; sons John, William, Joseph, Samuel and Thomas; daughters Sarah, Margaret and Elizabeth. (Austin's Dictionary of Rhode Island, page 159.)
- 2 JOSEPH RATHBUN, Sr., lived in New Shoreham, Kingston and Exeter, R. I. He m. 19th of May 1691, Mary, daughter of Hugh and Rebecca (Harndel) Mosher, who d. in 1748. He d. in 1749. His will, dated 26th Dec. 1748, proved 8th of August 1749, mentions sons Joseph and Benjamin besides seven daughters.
- 3 JOSEPH RATHBUN, Jr., was born 4th of October, 1707, and resided at North Kingston. He m. 4th September 1734, Abigail, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Brownell) Wilbur of Little Compton, R. I., (Arnold.) His will, dated 8th of March, 1759, and proved 11th of Sept. 1759, leaves his estate to his wife Abigail and children Jeremiah (Minor) George, Joseph, Rebecca, Mary and Ann. (Exeter Probate Records Book 2 page 69.) (In Austin's Dic. the name is spelled "Rathbone".)
- 4 REBECCA RATHBUN was b. 27th of December 1736, m. 5th of Nov. 1761.  
MARY RATHBUN was b. 22nd of November 1738, m. 12th of Feb. 1769, Reynolds Caloon of Providence and Exeter, R. I.)



#### WILBUR.

- 1 WILLIAM WILBUR of Portsmouth, R. I., "Weaver" June 10th 1650, received 10 acres of land by deed from Samuel Wilbur Sen. of Taunton, Mass. His children were Mary, John, Joseph, Thomas, William, Martha, Samuel, Daniel, Joan and Benjamin.
- 2 JOSEPH WILBUR settled in Little Compton, R. I., m. Ann, daughter of Thomas and Ann Brownell, who d. April 2nd 1747. He d. May 4th 1729. Their children were Martha b. 20th of August 1684. Anna b. 8th of May 1686. William b. 8th of March 1688. Joseph b. 30th of Dec. 1689. John b. 15th of Dec. 1691. Thomas b. 14th of Jan'y 1694. Mary b. 4th of Jan. 1696. Benjamin b. 20th of June 1699. Stephen b. 22nd of March 1701. Abigail b. 21st of August 1703.  
Joseph Wilbur in his will dated 1728, mentions his daughter Abigail Wilbur, but his widow Ann, in her will dated 1730, names her daughter Abigail, wife of Joseph Rathbun, to whom she gives "Sixty Pounds." (Austin's Dic. of Rhode Island, pages 228-9.)
- 3 ABIGAIL WILBUR b. 21st August 1703. Married 4th of September 1734, Joseph Rathbun, Jr., of North Kingston, Rhode Island.

#### BROWNELL.

- 1 THOMAS BROWNELL, m. Ann
  - 2 ANN BROWNELL, m. Joseph Wilbur of Little Compton, R. I.
- #### MOSHER.
- 1 HUGH MOSHER.
  - 2 HUGH MOSHER was born in 1633 and died in 1713. He lived in Newport and Portsmouth, Rhode Island, and in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. He was the first pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dartmouth. He married Rebecca, daughter of John Harndel of Newport, R. I.
  - 3 MARY MOSHER died in 1748. m. 19th of May 1691, Joseph Rathbun of New Shoreham, Kingston and Exeter, Rhode Island.
- #### HARNDEL.
- 1 JOHN HARNDEL of Newport, Rhode Island.
  - 2 REBECCA HARNDEL m. Rev. Hugh Mosher, first pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dartmouth, Mass.