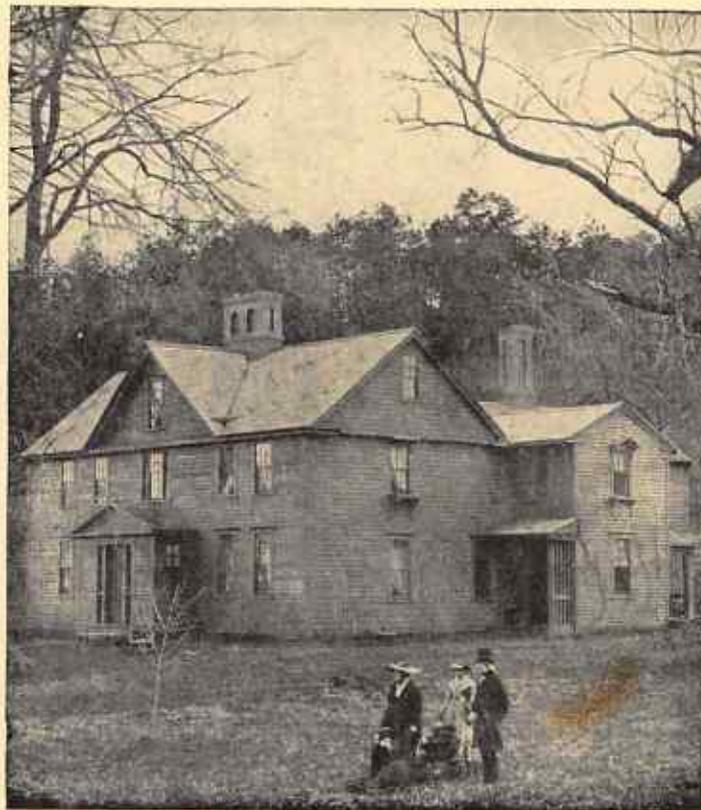


ALCOTT FAMILY

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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*The Story of*  
**THE ALCOTTS**



THE ALCOTT HOMESTEAD, "ORCHARD HOUSE"  
CONCORD

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

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"'Little Women'—The early plays and experiences; Beth's death; Jo's literary and Amy's artistic experiences; Meg's happy home; John Brooke and his death; Demi's character. Mr. March did not go to the war, but Jo did. Mrs. March is all true, only not half good enough. Laurie is not an American boy, though every lad I ever knew claims the character. He was a Polish boy, met abroad in 1865. Mr. Lawrence is my grandfather, Colonel Joseph May. Aunt March is no one."

At thirty-six Miss Alcott found herself famous, but with rather poor health.

"Paid up all the debts—thank the Lord!—every penny that money can pay,—and now I feel as if I could die in peace," she wrote in her journal.

In the autumn of '69 the whole family went to Boston, Louisa and her sister May occupying rooms at 10 Pinckney Street. The following year she wrote "An Old Fashioned Girl," in which many of the adventures of the heroine, Polly, were drawn from the author's own experiences. In 1870 the success of "Hospital Sketches," re-published by Roberts Brothers, and the continued receipts from "Little Women" enabled her to enjoy a long-cherished independent journey to Europe with her younger sister. She has given an account—somewhat travestied, but very true to the general facts—in "Shawl Straps."

While in Rome Miss Alcott received the sad news of the death of her brother-in-law, Mr. Pratt. She at once turned to the support of her widowed sister, Anna, and her two nephews, Frederic and John, by writing "Little



ANNA BRONSON ALCOTT ("Meg")  
From a daguerreotype

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*THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS*

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ABBA MAY ALCOTT ("Amy")  
From a photograph

In 1865 she made her eventful first trip to Europe where among others she met the young Polish lad who was the original of the charming Laurie in "Little Women."

After her return the Boston book publishing firm of Roberts Brothers asked her to write a girls' book and the old idea of "The Pathetic Family" recurred to her mind. She set herself to describe early home life. The book was finished during the summer of 1868, after the first twelve chapters had been pronounced dull. "Little Women" was the title selected and it was promptly accepted by the publishers, who made Miss Alcott an outright offer for the copyright, but at the same time advised her not to part with it. She accepted a royalty on all copies sold, and in her journal, in 1885, she wrote this comment:

"An honest publisher and a lucky author, for the copyright made her fortune and the 'dull book' was the first golden egg of the ugly duckling."

Published in October, the book was an immediate success. It faithfully presented New England family life and touched the heart. She rapidly finished a sequel (now published with the first part in a single volume) which was brought out the following year.

The author's own statement in regard to the originals of the characters in "Little Women" is as follows:

"Facts in the stories that are true, though often changed as to time and place:—

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 THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS
 

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Mr. Alcott had his library and was always happy there; but Louisa's heart never clung to it. Her sister Anna's engagement was an exciting event to Louisa, who subsequently refused all offers of marriage, as she had no inclination towards matrimony. Her heart was bound up in her family and her work. The year 1860, she called a year of Good Luck, for the appointment of Mr. Alcott as superintendent of schools in Concord brought great happiness to the family, while Louisa was writing for "The Atlantic Monthly" and receiving better pay for her work. With the outbreak of the Civil War the Alcotts were alive with patriotic enthusiasm. That year, 1861, Louisa began to write her first novel, "Moods," which proved—when published years later—the least successful of her books.

In 1862 after an unsuccessful attempt to conduct a kindergarten school, she gave her services as a nurse and for about six weeks served her country in the small Union Hospital at Georgetown. The severe attack of fever which drove her from her post left her, at thirty, with shattered nerves and weakened constitution and she never again knew the fulness of life and health which she had before. Her letters home, were first published in the "Commonwealth" newspaper and afterwards in book form, for which she received two thousand dollars. Her first novel, "Moods," came out in December, 1864, and sold rapidly at first, for "Hospital Sketches" had created an interest in the author.

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 THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS
 

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Men." On her return home she chose to rest and work in Boston, while her youngest sister remained at home.

At forty years of age, Louisa had accomplished the task she set for herself in youth. By unceasing toil she had made herself and her family independent; debts were all paid, and enough was invested to preserve them from want. And yet wants seemed to increase with their satisfaction, and she felt impelled to work enough to give to all the enjoyments and luxuries which were fitted to them, after the necessaries were provided for.

In 1872 she completed "Work" which presents her own personal experiences more than any other book. Subsequently she became an ardent worker in behalf of woman suffrage when the subject was very unpopular, wrote "Eight Cousins" and its sequel "Rose in Bloom," and in 1877 during her mother's continued illness, completed one of her brightest and sweetest stories, "Under the Lilacs," in which she displays her love for animals. In November her mother died, and was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord.

During the same year she wrote a novel "A Modern Mephistopheles" for Roberts Brothers' No Name Series, which was of course published anonymously; also "My Girls" in the Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag Series.

Two years later, in December, 1879, her youngest sister, May, died in Paris, leaving an infant child who exercised a great influence over the last ten years of Miss Alcott's life. May was the artist of the family, who, while resid-

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THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

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ing in London, March, 1878, married a young Swiss gentleman, Ernest Nieriker. The child, Louisa May Nieriker, became a source of great comfort to Miss Alcott. After her death, Mr. Nieriker came to America and in June, 1889, took his daughter to his home in Zurich, Switzerland; she now lives in Reutlingen, Württemberg, Germany, the widow of Emil Rasim.

After May's marriage and death, Louisa remained a while in Concord trying to forget her grief in care for others. She wrote short stories, including "Jimmy's Cruise on the Pinafore," suggested by the acting of the popular opera of that name, by a juvenile troupe. Later she wrote her popular story "Jack and Jill," now the eighth and final volume in the Little Women Series, the scenes of which are laid in Concord or "Harmony" as she calls it. At that period also, the long-dreamed School of Philosophy was established beside the Orchard House. The opening of the school was a great event to Mr. Alcott, as it was the realization of the dream of years.

After her sister's death, Louisa endeavored to take on new interests, but her principal concern was the care of her little niece. She was now truly a "marmee" and little "Lulu" absorbed her time and thoughts. In the autumn of 1882 Mr. Alcott had a stroke of paralysis from which he never fully recovered; and for the rest of his life his daughters shared in the duty of tending and caring for him in his enfeebled state. It had been the reward of Louisa's years of hard work that she

*Sixteen*

*Moved 23 times in 21 years*

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THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

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for such work as either Mr. or Mrs. Alcott could do, so when the despairing mother found employment in Boston, the family, in 1848, again moved to that city.

At the age of fifteen Louisa entered her romantic period, when she fell to writing poetry, keeping a heart journal and wandering in the moonlight. During this time she had a mania for the stage and devoted her leisure time to writing and enacting dramas. Her older sister, Anna, assisted her in carrying out all her plans. While her mother conducted an intelligence office, Louisa sold her first story (written when she was sixteen) for five dollars.

The seven years, from Louisa's sixteenth to her twenty-third year, may be called an apprenticeship to life, when she tried various paths. At twenty-two, her first book of short stories, "Flower Fables," was published and this netted her thirty-two dollars. A year later, in June, 1855, she went to Walpole, N. H., for a few months, and a month later the family followed. Back in the city for the winter, she continued to write stories and to sew.

In 1857 the family moved again to Concord, and lived a few months in part of a house they had hired, until the Orchard House, which they had bought, was ready for them. There Louisa's younger sister, Elizabeth, the "Beth" of "Little Women," died. It was the first break in the household. In July the Alcotts took possession of the Orchard House, which was thereafter the permanent residence of the family.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
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ABIGAIL MAY, MRS. A. BRONSON ALCOTT  
From a daguerreotype

could surround her mother with every comfort that could make her happy in her last declining years. Not less had she delighted in gratifying every wish of her father.

The Orchard House, which had been the family home for twenty-five years, was sold, and her sister's, Mrs. Pratt's, house, the so-called Thoreau House on Main Street, was the home of all. It was Mrs. Pratt's younger son, John Sewall, whom Louisa adopted before her death, and whose name was changed to John Sewall Pratt Alcott.

In the autumn of 1885, Miss Alcott moved to a furnished house at No. 10 Louisburg Square, Boston. Although in failing health, she prepared the three volumes of stories, "Lulu's Library," for publication and completed "Jo's Boys," the sequel to "Little Men." The latter is full of biographical interest.

During her last years also, Miss Alcott wrote "A Garland for Girls," the fourth volume in the Spinning Wheel Series, one of the most fanciful and pleasing of her books. These stories were suggested by the flowers sent to her by her different friends.

Early in March, 1888, Mr. Alcott failed rapidly, and Louisa drove in from Dunreath Place, Roxbury, where she was under treatment, to the Louisburg Square house to see him, conscious that it was for the last time. The next morning she was in a serious condition, and on March 6 she passed quietly on to the rest which she so much needed. She did not know that her father had already preceded her by two days.

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THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

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Miss Alcott had made every arrangement for her death; and by her own wish the funeral service was very simple, in her father's rooms at Louisburg Square. Her body was carried to Concord, and placed in the beautiful cemetery of Sleepy Hollow where her dearest ones were already laid to rest.

### THE ORCHARD HOUSE

The Orchard House is one of the oldest houses in Concord, having been built about 1650. In 1857 it became the property of the Alcotts, who modernized it. After the family moved to Anna Pratt's house it was occupied by the late Dr. William T. Harris until he went to Washington to become Commissioner of Education. He subsequently purchased it. He sold it to Mrs. Daniel Lothrop (Margaret Sidney) who lived next door in Hawthorne's old home, "Wayside," and in 1911, the Concord Woman's Club decided to purchase and restore the house as a permanent Louisa M. Alcott memorial.

The Club had no money for this purpose, but its members believed that friends of Miss Alcott and lovers of her books would gladly contribute toward the saving of the property if they knew its needs. A circular was sent out, and gifts began to come in. The first received, outside of Concord, was five cents from a little girl, who saved it from her weekly allowance of two cents. The contributions ranged from a few pennies to five hundred

*Eighteen*

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A. BRONSON ALCOTT AT THE AGE OF 53  
From the portrait by Mrs. Hildreth

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THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

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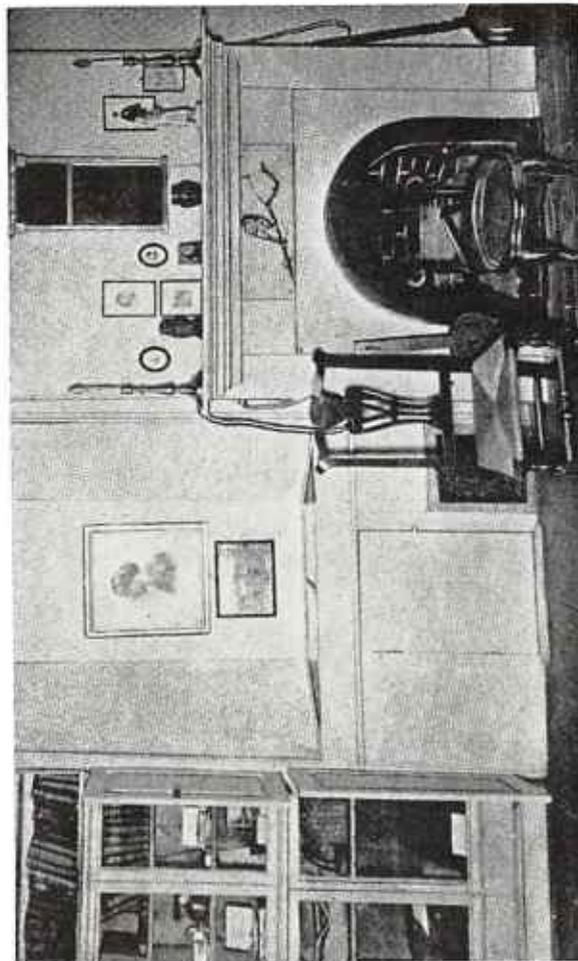
under the direction of her intellectual father and her practical mother. Here is her first poem, "To the First Robin," written at the age of eight:

"Welcome, welcome, little stranger,  
Fear no harm, and fear no danger;  
We are glad to see you here,  
For you sing 'Sweet Spring is near.'

"Now the white snow melts away;  
Now the flowers blossom gay;  
Come dear bird and build your nest,  
For we love our robin best."

In 1843, after a trip to England, Mr. Alcott joined a company of enthusiasts in the establishment of an ideal social colony on a farm in the town of Harvard, near Concord, which they called Fruitlands. The experiment was an utter failure, Mr. Alcott collapsed, and the family returned to Concord where Mrs. Alcott in 1845 purchased, with the small amount of money left her by her father, and the addition of five hundred dollars from Ralph Waldo Emerson, the place known as Hillside on the road to Lexington, about one-third of a mile from Mr. Emerson's home. There it was that Louisa and her sisters, Anna, Beth and May, lived so happily the life she so fully presents in "Little Women." Yet with this roof over their head there were six to be provided for and the ambitious Louisa assisted to the best of her ability. Concord, however, offered very little opportunity

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LOUISA M. ALCOTT'S ROOM, ORCHARD HOUSE



FREDERIC AND JOHN PRATT ("Demi" and "Daisy")  
Sons of Anna Bronson (Alcott) Pratt ("Meg")  
From "*Louisa May Alcott: Her Life, Letters and Journals*"

## THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS

(Condensed from Ednah D. Cheney's authoritative  
• "*Louisa May Alcott: Her Life, Letters and Journals*")

The restoration and preservation of the Orchard House where "Little Women" was written is the most fitting memorial to Louisa May Alcott that could be devised. Under this roof the Alcott family made its home for twenty-five years. From the Orchard House Miss Alcott went forth to her duties as a Civil War nurse in 1862 and here she slowly convalesced from the hospital fever she had contracted. Here too she began her writings, which, with the publication of "Little Women," marked the turning point in the family fortunes.

Louisa was born November 29, 1832, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where her father, Amos Bronson Alcott, a man of unusual culture but an unpractical dreamer, had moved from his native state of Connecticut to take charge of a school. She was the second daughter of the four who lived to maturity. When Louisa was but two years old the family moved to Boston, where Mr. Alcott opened his famous school for children in Masonic Temple.

In 1840, Mr. Alcott's school having proved unsuccessful, the family went out to Concord and occupied a cottage, which is described in "Little Women" as Meg's first home, although Anna never lived there after her marriage. During this period Louisa developed rapidly

\* Copyright, 1889, J. S. P. Alcott

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*THE STORY OF THE ALCOTTS*

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dollars. Not only did financial aid come in response, but many were the expressions of delight that such a plan was undertaken. The Louisa M. Alcott Memorial Association was organized to assume the title, the place was renovated, and no debt remains.

The great number of visitors is assurance of widespread interest. Relatives and friends of the Alcotts contributed priceless gifts—the piano the girls used, mementoes of their childhood, a very beautiful bust of Miss Alcott, and pieces of furniture. The scheme of color in paper and paint is as near like that of the time of the Alcotts as possible. Miss Alcott's own room has been furnished by relatives, who remembered it as it was when that brave, courageous woman occupied it. The painting by May Alcott on the window panel and the one under the mantel, are in perfect condition and are exceedingly interesting with the stories they bring to mind. "May's room" ("Amy," in "Little Women") has the sketches on doors and walls as she left them. They must have been considered precious, or they would not have been kept in such good condition, through all the changes that have come to the house. They are now covered with glass to insure their future preservation.



## THE ALCOTTS\* (1)

*Originals of the Principal Characters in "Little Women"*

- Amos Bronson Alcott (Born, Wolcott, Connecticut, 1799; died Boston, Massachusetts, 1888) — "Mr. March"
- Abigail May (Born, Boston, Massachusetts, 1800; died, Concord, Massachusetts, 1877) — "Mrs. March" "Marmee"
- I. Anna Bronson Alcott (Born, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1831; died, Concord, Massachusetts, 1893) — "Meg" (Sister)  
Married, 1860, John Bridge Pratt of Concord, Massachusetts—"John Brooke"
- A. Frederic Alcott Pratt (1863-1910) — "Demi" (Nephew)  
Married, 1888, Jessica L. Cate (1862-1934)
1. Bronson Alcott Pratt (1889-1943) (Great Nephew)  
Married, 1913, Louise DeRevere Grant (b. 1892 — )
    - a. Ann Alcott Pratt (b. 1924 — ) (Great, Great Niece)  
Married, 1949, John Wadsworth Lummus (b. 1921 — )
      - Susan Alcott (b. 1949 — ) (Great, Great, Great Niece)
      - Ellen Hutchison (b. 1952 — )
      - Anne Wadsworth (b. 1954 — )
      - Louise Westlake (b. 1963 — )
    - b. Louise DeRevere Pratt (b. 1927 — ) (Great, Great Niece)  
Married, 1948, Ronald Mills (b. 1927 — )
      - David Lawrence (b. 1949 — ) (Great, Great, Great Nephew)
      - Jared Barbour (b. 1953 — )
  2. Elizabeth Sewell Pratt (1891-1920) (Great Niece)  
Married, 1913, Alfred C. Redfield. No children.
  3. Frederic Alcott Pratt (Born and died 1895)
  4. Louisa Alcott Pratt (b. 1900 — ) (Great Niece)  
Married, 1926, William F. Kussin (b. 1897-1970)
    - a. Louisa Alcott (b. 1927 — )
    - b. Jessica Pratt (1931-1932)
    - c. William Frederick, Jr. (b. 1933 — ) (Great, Great Nephew)  
Married Georgine Spencer Lord (b. 1935 — )
      - Karl Frederick (b. 1959 — ) (Great, Great, Great Nephew)
      - Karen Elizabeth (b. 1961 — ) (Great, Great, Great Niece)
      - Louisa Alcott (b. 1965 — )
  5. Frederic Wolsey Pratt (1903-1957) (Great Nephew)  
Married, 1929, Theresa Winsor (b. 1904 — )
    - a. John Winsor (b. 1931 — ) (Great, Great Nephew)  
Married Joy Arlene Wilminen (b. 1928 — )



LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

From a daguerreotype

From "Louisa May Alcott: Her Life, Letters and Journals"

- Maria Theresa (b. 1965 — ) (Great, Great, Great Niece)  
 Samuel Frederick Wolsey (b. 1967 — ) (Great, Great,  
 Great Nephew)
- b. Frederick Alcott (b. 1933 — )  
 Married Eleanor Christine Bisbee (b. 1935 — )  
 John Bisbee (b. 1959 — )  
 Theresa Winsor (b. 1962 — )
- c. Charles Wolsey (b. 1935 — )  
 Married Joan Callaway (b. 1939 — )  
 Sarah Harding (b. 1964 — )  
 Timothy Wolsey (b. 1966 — )
- B. John Sewell Pratt (Alcott) (1865–1923) — “*Dairy*” (Nephew)  
 Legally adopted by Louisa May Alcott, 1888, and his name changed  
 to John Sewell Pratt Alcott.  
 Married, 1909, Mrs. Eunice Hunting, and adopted his wife's son.  
 No other children.
- II. Louisa May Alcott (Born, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1832; Died, Roxbury,  
 Massachusetts, 1888) — “*Jo*” (Author of “*Little Women*”)
- III. Elizabeth Sewell Alcott (Born, Boston, Massachusetts, 1835; Died, Concord,  
 Massachusetts, 1858) — “*Beth*” (Sister)
- IV. Son (Born and died, Boston, Massachusetts, 1839)
- V. Abba May Alcott (Born, Concord, Massachusetts, 1840; Died, Paris, France,  
 1879) — “*Amy*” (Sister)  
 Married, 1878, Ernest Nieriker (b. 1856 — ), A Swiss
- A. Louisa May Nieriker (b. 1879 — ) — “*Lulu*” (Niece)  
 Married, 1903, Emil Rasim
1. Ernestine May Rasim (b. 1904) (Great Niece)  
 Married, 1923, Charles Nieriker
- a. Rolf (b. 1927) (Great, Great Nephew)  
 Divorced, Married Ernest Ammer, 1934.
- b. Jurgen (b. 1934)  
 Married, 1961, Berit Munsson  
 Rebecca (b. 1962 — )  
 Kristina (b. 1965 — )  
 Barbro (b. 1966 — )
- c. Sigrid (b. 1936 — )
- d. Eckhard (b. 1940 — )  
 Married, 1967, Helga Ehni  
 Tanya (b. 1968 — )
- e. Heike (b. 1943)
- f. Ursula (b. 1948)

\* As of January, 1971  
 ( ) Relationship to Louisa May Alcott



ELIZABETH SEWALL ALCOTT (*Beth*)

of West Springfield was entered the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and published the 11<sup>th</sup> 1793.

The Intention of Marriage between Doct' Timothy Horton Jun' of West Springfield and Miss Betsy Hammer of Weathersfield was entered Octo' 12<sup>th</sup> and published the 13. 1793.

The Intention of Marriage between Ezekiel Remington and Sally Bliss both of West Springfield was entered October 22<sup>d</sup>.

The Intention of Marriage between Mr Thomas Hutchins and Miss Lucy Bedortha both of West Springfield was entered and published Octo' 27<sup>th</sup> 1793.

The Intention of Marriage between ———— dmind Day and Bede Hitchcock both of West Springfield was entered November 23d and published the 24<sup>th</sup> 1793.

Edward Stebbins son of Edward Stebbins and Anna Stebbins was born Octo' 26, 1793.

Sophronia Wilson Daughter of John Wilson Jun' and Mary Wilson was born 22d July 1793.

[To be continued.]

### THE ALCOCK FAMILY OF MAINE.

By Dr. CHARLES E. BANKS, Assistant Surgeon U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

AS early as 1643, and probably before, Mr. JOHN ALCOCK came to Gorgeana (York), Maine, presumably from England. Contemporaneous with him and his descendants there lived in Roxbury, Mass., a family of the same name, of considerable note, but there is not known to be any family connection existing between them. Our settler is always mentioned in the records with a prefix or suffix of respect, from which it is customary to infer that his social position was above the average of emigrants. His name first appears as a purchaser of land at Gorgeana, 16 June, 1643, when he bought a homestead of William Hooke, of Salisbury, formerly a resident of Gorgeana (York Deeds, i. 99). It is thought from certain facts that he lived at the boundary line of Gorgeana and Kittery, owning lands on both sides of the line. He had town grants in the latter settlement in 1659 and 1669, besides his original purchase at Gorgeana. He was on the grand jury 1649, signed the submission to Massachusetts in 1652, and was chosen sergeant of the train band of York in 1659. In 1656 he had granted to him a parcel of land in Gorgeana adjoining his other property, and in 1671, just before his death, 210 acres "in full of his dividend" (Town Records), showing that he was one of the early settlers.

His thirty years residence in the town must have been devoted to his own private affairs, as he does not appear in the political arena during the exciting years from 1650 to 1680, and the large estate left by him confirms this view. Only once does he appear in court, and then as a defendant, 30 June, 1647, being sued by Edward Godfrey, in behalf of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, for a debt of £50, which he acknowledged, and the complaint was dismissed. Between 1671 and July 6, 1675, he died, as on the latter date administration of his estate was granted to Joseph Alcock, Rev. Shubael Dummer and Richard Banks. A portion of his estate was divided by Edward Rishworth, John Twisden and Abraham Preble, a committee agreed

upon 29 October, 1675, with whose award Joseph and Job Alcock and Richard Banks gave bonds in £200 to "rest satisfied." The following division was then agreed upon the same day: Joseph Alcock, "eldest son," double portion, £62 4 0; Mary Twisden, Job Alcock, Elizabeth Banks, Hannah Snell, Sarah Giddings, Mrs. Lydia Dummer, each £31 2 0; and ministers' rate for M' Dummer, £1 13 0; Total, £250 9 0. (York Court Records, folio 36.) His widow Elizabeth was alive at this division of the estate, but it is not known how long after. Their children, according to this settlement, are as follows:

2. i. JOSEPH, of whom presently.
- ii. MARY, m. John Twisden, of York.
3. iii. JOB, of whom presently.
- iv. ELIZABETH, m. Richard Banks, of York, whom she survived (1692) for several years.
- v. HANNAH, m. (George?) Snell.
- vi. SARAH, m. (George?) Giddings.
- vii. LYDIA, m. Rev. Shubael Dummer.\*
- viii. [SAMUEL, a person of this name signed the submission to Massachusetts at York in 1652, and may have been a brother or son of John the emigrant. If the latter, he died before 1675, as he does not appear to take part in the division of the estate. If he was a brother, he may be the Samuel of Portsmouth, a sea captain who "Died of a fever after ten Days sickness occasioned by striking in a malignant itch with y<sup>e</sup> bathing of Rum," 13 Oct. 1708. (Pike's Journal, 36.) This Samuel probably married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Lucy (Treworgie) Wells (REO. xxvii. 267), and was master of the "Richard and Margaret" 1697-1700, and juror in 1707.]

2. JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> ALCOCK (*John*<sup>1</sup>), the "eldest son," signed the submission at York, 1652, with his father and "Sam Alcocke," which may be taken as good evidence that he had arrived at his majority, and was born as early as 1630. He was a sergeant of militia in 1659, and died before Oct. 2, 1678, leaving a widow (11) Abigail, and an estate which was administered by his brother-in-law John Twisden. His widow became Abigail Rowsley, of Portsmouth, before August 10, 1681 (York Deeds, v. 249), and but one child appears:

- i. JOHN, a sea-captain.

3. JOB<sup>2</sup> ALCOCK (*John*<sup>1</sup>), reported by Savage as of York in 1666, was born either in this country just after emigration, or shortly before in Eng-

\* This fact is of special interest to historians in view of the long accepted statements that the Rev. Shubael Dummer, H. C. 1636, married Mary, daughter of Edward Rishworth. Its repetition by Sibley (Harvard Graduates, I. 474) is taken as a text by the late Hon. Nathaniel G. Marshall, of York, for a full discussion of the claim and an ingenious presentation of theories to controvert it (REO. xxxi. 219). Afterwards Mr. Marshall discovered the Dummer-Alcock alliance, which discovery he communicated to the writer of this article. The division of the Alcock estate is certainly conclusive as to the marriage of the Rev. Shubael Dummer to Lydia, daughter of John and Elizabeth Alcock. John her father dying without a will, she, with the prefix of distinction due to a minister's wife, as "Mrs. Lydia Dummer," last named, being youngest, probably, received her equal share with the rest. Parson Dummer as an interested person, with Joseph Alcock and Richard Banks his brothers-in-law, was an administrator of the estate with them. Probably there was some disagreement about the division, as the full records show that some of the children had portions of money and valuables before their father's death, and a new set of administrators was chosen consisting of one heir, John Twisden, and two disinterested persons (Edward Rishworth being one), who settled the matter as above. Further evidence of the Dummer-Alcock marriage may be found in the York Registry (Deeds, iii. 573). This does not disprove, however, the alleged Dummer-Rishworth alliance, but it does show that in October, 1675, the wife of Shubael Dummer was Lydia Alcock, and as Mr. Marshall has proven conclusively that Mary Rishworth, daughter of Edward, was the wife of John Sayward from 1681 to 1690, it rests upon those interested to prove that between 1675 and 1681, Rev. Shubael Dummer married a second wife whose maiden or married name was Rishworth.

JOHN ALCOCK

*John Alcock*

This settler was here as early as 1639 (*Deeds iv, 20*), and became one of the largest landholders in town, and in other ways attained a prominence in local affairs. His name was always written in the records as "Mr." or even "Esq.," showing his social standing in the estimation of his neighbors, and is frequently mentioned as "Farmer" Alcock. This last title denoted a person who advanced money to the town for the taxes, or "farmed" them, as was the old English term for this transaction. It indicates that he was a man of wealth, as reckoned in that period, and kept a servant. He took no part in the political affairs of the province, and only held a few offices in the town. He was Selectman 1652-9, 1669-73, as well as Alderman of Gorgeana in 1648. In the county he was a Sergeant of Militia, 1659, and in 1668 a Commissioner, "to end small causes." His home was near Eastern Point, and that section came to be known as "Alcock's Neck." He had acquired this large tract by purchase from William Hooke (*Deeds i, 98*), and he also owned ten acres adjoining the Ministerial Lot, bought of Godfrey (*Ibid. ii, 177*), which he sold later to Peter Weare. One of his shares in the divisions of town lands amounted to two hundred ten acres. Besides these he held smaller parcels in various sections.

Of his English origin, nothing definite has been ascertained, but it is probable that he was a resident of Kent before emigration to this town, and connected with the Alcock family of Mersham in that county. The recurrence of the same family names indicates this probability, although the name is fairly common in England. He was married when he came here, and his first five children were brought with him across the Atlantic.

He was living as late as June 21, 1673, but shortly after "he was suddenly surprised with death, and had no opportunity to make his will or settle his estate" (*Mass. Arch. iii, 149*). The distribution of his property was made by arbitration on March 11, 1675, and approved by the Court that date. His eldest son Joseph had been dissatisfied with the usual division as made officially. The

inventory was returned at £256-09-0, and each heir was awarded £31-02, the eldest son having a double portion. He was required to pay the widow an annuity. She survived until the Massacre of 1692, and it was testified that her will was destroyed in the house of Mr. Dummer, her son-in-law (*Deeds [v] i, 96*). The name has been extinct in the town for over two centuries, and it is doubtful if any descendants of his name exist elsewhere. By his wife Elizabeth (maiden name unknown), he had issue, as follows:

- i. Samuel, b. about 1630 (if a son); submitted 1652; witness same year; land grant 1653; mentioned 1659; prob. d.s.p. before 1675; may have been a brother of John.
- ii. Mary, b. 1632, m. Peter Twisden.
- iii. Joseph, b. 1634, removed to Kittery, where he m. Abigail, daughter of Daniel Paul; was shipwright and mariner; d. 30 July 1678 intestate, left a son Capt. John of Portsmouth.
- iv. Elizabeth, b. (1636), m. Richard Bankes, ancestor of the family of that name in Maine.
- v. Job, b. 1638. Submitted 1652; Selectman 1676; Lieutenant of Militia 1677; Magistrate 1678; Captain 1681; Councillor 1691; removed to Portsmouth, after the Massacre, and became Judge of Superior Court of Pleas for N. H. m. Dorothy, daughter of Rev. John Rayner of Dover, but had no issue; will dated Dec. 2, 1712 and proved in 1716.
- vi. Hannah, b. (1640), m. George Snell.
- vii. Sarah, b. (1642), m. (1) John Giddings; (2) Henry Herrick of Beverly.
- viii. Lydia, b. (1644), m. Rev. Shubael Dummer.

STEPHEN CRAWFORD

He had a lot of land at or near Brave Boat Harbor in 1638, but there is no record of the grant or later disposal of it. Doubtless he was only a transient fisherman. He is found later at the Isles of Shoals where he died.

THOMAS FOOTMAN

This person was another transient early settler. He had a grant of two acres near the mouth of Meeting House Creek about 1639 (*Deeds iii, 85*) which was referred to the next year, as adjoining George Puddington in that section. He was indebted to a Boston tailor in 1646 (*Aspinwall, 124*), but had removed in 1648 to Dover, where a "brother Benjamin Matthews" lived. He died there about 1668, leaving children.

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Job Alcock

born either in this country first after emigration, or shortly before in England.  
will dated 2 December 1712, probated 1716.

mentions Joseph Banks and John Banks, sons of Richard & Elizabeth (Alcock) Banks, his sister.

He left a widow, Dorothy, who may have been a Walter

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