

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF DONALD LINES JACOBUS

Regarding the
CASTLE FAMILY

Prepared by Irene Tuttle Bunnell



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Mrs. Lois Shaffer
Sharon, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Shaffer:

I am sorry you left Utah before receiving my last letter, in which I explained the peculiar circumstances which concealed the money order, and its eventual discovery. I am also very sorry this happened and that it occasioned you any worry.

The report from Vermont vital records adds a little information, not all I had hoped. There are the following records:

Daniel Castle, age 66, died 1809, buried East Cemetery, Shelburne, vt. (Shelburne is a small place near Burlington.)

Jeremiah Castle, age 25, son of Daniel, died (no date given), buried East Cemetery, Shelburne.

Peter Castle of Burlington married at Burlington, 15 Oct. 1809, married by Joshua Isham, J.P.

Peter Castle, age 76-9-5, died 21 Nov. 1857 of old age (Burlington Town Record). BUT from Burlington Cemetery records: Peter Castle, husband of Hannah, died 15 July 1857 aged 76-7-26; and Hannah his wife died 28 May 1849 aged 64-4-19.

The records of Peter Castle are welcome, and I cannot explain the discrepancies of date and age except that the copies of Vermont vital statistics in Montpelier contain many inaccuracies; the copies were mostly made by the town clerks in the different towns, and some of them were careless or not very capable.

The stones in the Shelburne cemetery were perhaps hard to read, as the date of Jeremiah son of Daniel was omitted. I don't feel confident that the stone of Daniel was correctly read. It gives only year date, not full date, of death. The age would make him born 1743, and I know of no Daniel Castle born near that year. As Shelburne is very close to Burlington, this is probably the Daniel who married Lydia Pitcher. If the age was 56 instead of 66, or if he died

1819 instead of 1809, the age at death would bring him close enough to the Daniel born in Waterbury.

If he had probate, it would be in Burlington, and the year of probate would show whether the year 1809 is correct or not. The probate might also show whether his wife survived, and the names of the surviving children. Births of the children were not found in Montpelier. I could write to Burlington and inquire if there is a will and cost of a copy. Some of the judges and clerks there (in Vermont) are very high in price, and the price should be asked before anything is ordered.

Sincerely yours,

Donald L. Jacobs

I hope your daughter's illness is not serious

Castle Family of Waterbury-Watertown

The vital records of Waterbury, Conn., give many entries relating to the family of Isaac Castle, which are conveniently given in Anderson's History of Waterbury, vol. 1 Appendix, p 34. The family settled in the section which later was set off as the town of Watertown and in Northbury Parish, which in the 1790's was set off from Watertown of Plymouth. The following vital entries are from Watertown as the town of Plymouth. The following vital entries are from Waterbury records except when otherwise indicated.

ISAAC Castle, son of Isaac of Woodbury, married first, 21 Jan. 1723/4 Tapher Warner, who died 20 July 1740; married second, 21 Dec. 1740, Lydia Scott, daughter of Richard of Sunderland.

Isaac is undoubtedly the "old Sergt. Castle" who died 27 April 1783, aged 81 or 82 (Records of Northbury, now Plymouth, Church). He was probably living there at the home of his son Amasa, whom he made his chief heir in his will, which will be quoted shortly, and which was proved 6 May 1783 (just nine days after the recorded death of "old Sergt. Castle").

Children by first wife:

- i. Asahel, b. 28 Aug. 1726; m. 12 May 1745, Deborah Allen, dau. of Gideon. They had five children recorded in Waterbury.
- ii. Sarah, b. 5 Nov. 1727; m. 22 Mar. 1750 Samuel Brown.
- iii. Mary, b. 25 Oct. 1730; m. 2 Nov. 1752, William Judd.
- iv. Lydia, b. 25 Feb. 1734/5; m. 13 Aug. 1752, John Parker.
- v. Abishai, b. 26 Jan. 1737/8; m. 14 Mar. 1760, Miriam Bradley, dau. of Ebenezer. They had the following children recorded in Waterbury:
 1. Bradley, b. 5 Dec. 1761; d. 19 July 1777, (Plymouth Church records state that he died 22 July 1778 in the Army.)
 2. Asher, b. 10 May 1763. He married at Watertown, 28 Dec. 1784, Phebe Merriman.) Living in 1790 Census at Burlington, Chittenden Co., vt., with Daniel Castle, here shown to have been his half uncle.)
 3. Sarah, b. 29 Apr. 1765. She m. (Plymouth church records) 8 Aug. 1782,-----Judd. I think, from a deed quoted below, that he was Hervey Judd.)
 4. Philo, b. 16 Feb. 1768

5. Molly, b. 16 July 1770
6. Rosanna, b. 17 July 1775. (She is proved by deed quoted below to have m. Levi Bartholomew)
7. Samuel, b. 24 Apr. 1777. (Living in Plymouth in 1800)

Children by second wife:

- vi. Tapher, b. 3 Oct. 1741; m. 9 July 1711, Abijah wilmot.
- vii. Elizabeth, b. 20 Apr. 1743. (Plymouth Church records; she m. 20 Apr. 1769, Abel Cook.
- viii. Isaac, b. 5 Feb. 1744/5; d. 26 Sept. 1760.
- ix. Mehitabel, b. 5 Sept. 1747; m. 12 Aug. 1765
Ebenezer Bradley Jr.
- x. Richard, b. 5 Dec. 1749. (Plymouth Church records: he m. 27 Aug. 1772, Thankful Parker.)
- xi. DANIEL, b. 16 Feb. 1751/2
- xii. Amasa, b. 6 Apr. 1755. (Plymouth Church records:
- xiii. Jedidah (dau.) 2 July 1757

It will be noticed that Isaac Castle, Jr., son of Isaac of Woodbury, married a Waterbury girl in 1723/4, and very likely settled there around that time on land of his mother, Johannah (Richardson) Castle. Waterbury Land Records, vol. 3, p. 36, I found a distribution of the estate of Nathaniel Richason, made by the heirs 18 March 1718/19; they were named as John Richason, Thomas Richason, Israel Richason, Ebenezer Richason, Sarah Williams, Rebeckah Warner, Ruth Castle and Johannah Castle. And I saw also a deed, 17 March 1721/2, from Henry Castle and Ruth his wife of Woodbury, conveying to Samuel Scott a right in land "from our Father Thomas Richardson" (vol. 2, p. 284). In vol. 6 p. 127, there is a deed indexed from Isaac Castle to Asahel Castle (who was his eldest son, see above), but the microfilm skips two pages where this should be, and probably two leaves at this point were turned over by accident, so this deed can only be seen in the original book in Waterbury.

Waterbury Probate Records, vol. 1 pg. 215. The will of Isaac Castle of Waterbury, dated 26 Aug. 1774, proved 6 May 1785, names :

Wife Lydia;

to son Asahel, my Gun;

sons Abisha, Richard and DANIEL Castle, and daughters Sarah Brown, Mary Judd and Lydia Parker, to have 5 acres from south-west part of Land by River which belonged to their Mother Tapher Castle Dec'd; remainder to my Son "Amisa," he to pay legacies to the others. Wife Lydia, executrix, and Capt. David Blakslee executor. Isaac signed by making his mark. witnesses: Wm. Southmayd, Mehitabel Blakslee, Irene (?) Southmayd. The will was proved; Lydia was the surviving executrix, David Blakeslee having died.

It will be noted that the son Daniel when the will was made (1774) was still living; he was then 22 years old. There is nothing to indicate that he had died before the will was proved in 1783. He has no deeds indexed in Waterbury, Watertown, or Plymouth. His death is not recorded in the vital records, nor in the Plymouth Church records. Except for the youngest son, Amasa, who doubtless remained home with his aging parents and took care of them, and received the home farm by will, the other children who were cut off in the will with little except the nominal legacy of five shillings each, had doubtless received an advancement of portion from their father Isaac in his lifetime. There is evidence, mentioned above, that the eldest son, Asahel, had a deed of land from his father. Daniel received no land from his father, but as the will proves that he survived, and no further records of him are found in Connecticut, the implication is that 1774 his father had aided him to what extent he could, and that Daniel had removed to a new home.

The 1790 Census shows living at Burlington, Chittenden Co., Vt., four heads of families in this order:

- Isaac Fitcher, 1 male over 16; 2 males under 16
4 females.
- Daniel Castle 2 male over 16; 2 males under 16
5 females
- Josiah Averill 1 male over 16; 0 males under 16
4 females
- Asher Castle 1 male over 16; 1 male under 16;
2 females

These names appear in that order, one under the other, indicating that they lived near neighbors, as the census enumerator passed from one house to the next. It was probably just chance that Averill was a neighbor. But Isaac Fitcher was brother of Daniel Castle's wife. And two houses from Daniel was Asher Castle. Now Daniel Castle of Waterbury had an older half-brother, Abishai Castle, who had a son Asher born 1763. This nephew was only 11 years younger than Daniel, and may have followed Daniel to this locality. This is the only Asher I have found in the Castle family around this date. Hence the appearance of Daniel and Asher living close together in this town in Vermont is important. If it can be shown that Asher, son of Abishai did move to Vermont, it will constitute strong circumstantial evidence that it was Asher's uncle Daniel who lived near-by. For that reason, I made a study of the family of Abishai Castle, since there are no deed in these Connecticut towns to prove that Isaac's son Daniel moved to Vermont. Watertown Land Records show.

1:232. 13 Jan. 1784. Abisha Castle of watertown for £ 30 conveyed to Asher Castle of the same, 35 acres with dwelling house in Northbury (now Plymouth).

2:242. 29 Nov. 1784. Asher Castle of watertown to David Shelton of same, 3 acres 20 rods butted all sides on Asher's land.

2: 296. 25 April 1785. Abisha and Asher Castle "of Litchfield County" to David Shelton of Watertown, 10 acres 10 rods.

3: 228. 25 Oct. 1785. Abishai and Asher Castle of watertown, for £5, to Giles Curtis of Berlin, Conn., 6 acres 40 rods in Northbury.

3: 353. 19 Feb. 1788. Deed of Amasa Castle. (He had many deeds in Plymouth.)

Plymouth Land Records show, after it was set off from watertown:

2: 73. 11 Jan. 1800. Abishai Castle of Plymouth and ASHER CASTLE of " WILISION, BURLINGTON CO., VT., for 10 to Ransom Shelton of Plymouth 1 acre 70 rods.

2:494. 11 Jan. 1800. Abishai Castle, Asher Castle, Philo Castle, and Rosanna and Levi Bartholomew (residences not stated), along with Samuel Castle, "heirs at law of Bradley Castle deceast," sell for 100 to Hervy Judd of Watertown.

2:84. 28 Feb. 1800. Friend Garnsey and Sarah Garnsey and Mary Castle of Watertown sell land that lies in common with Samuel Castle. (Sarah and Molly Castle were the only known children of Abishai not named in the previous deed, so I thought at first that Hervey Judd might have been the husband of Sarah; but it appears from this deed that Sarah Castle was in 1800 wife of Friend Garnsey, and " Mary" Castle is undoubtedly identical with " Molly" , since Molly was a nickname for Mary.)

The important thing is, these deeds prove that in 1785, Asher Castle, son of Abishai and nephew of Daniel, was still in watertown (Plymouth), while in 1800 he was in williston, Burlington Co., vt. I think there is no question that he was the Asher listed in 1790 at Burlington, Vt.

I should like to write to Vermont to see if we can get death dates of Daniel Castle and his wife Lydia, also births of their children, unless you have tried that. The cost would be low. The age at death of Daniel, if

we can get it, would be important in making sure of the identity as set forth above. Isaac's son Daniel was the eleventh child in a family of thirteen, of whom all but one lived to grow up. With such a family, his father would not have been able to do much for him. But Daniel's uncle, Daniel " Esq." who moved from Roxbury to Amenia. N.Y., seems to have done well. Isaac's son may have gone to Amenia to visit his uncle or even to live with him for a time. It was while in Amenia that he met Lydia Pitcher, then living there with her mother and step-father. He was not too young to marry her, though only 20. The sons of Isaac all married quite young. Asahel married at 18 years 9 months; Abishai at 22; Richard between 22 and 23; Amasa at 18 years 9 months. So Daniel's marriage at 19 need not surprise us.

After my study of the Roxbury-Amenia family, I concluded it was not Daniel, son of Daniel "Esq." and Elizabeth who married Lydia Pitcher. As already pointed out, that Daniel Jr. was baptized 1761. He could not marry in 1772 when only 11. You will note that the older children were christened at different dates in Woodbury; then younger ones at Roxbury, after that was made a separate parish, all evidently as infants. Hence it is hard to believe that the parents would have postponed baptizing the son Daniel until he was ten years old, with the other children christened at birth. Furthermore, the will of Daniel " Esq." calls Daniel his youngest son. And after the death of Daniel Sr., his three sons including Daniel, are all listed in the 1790 Census at Amenia, although your Daniel was listed that year in Vermont. And finally we have gravestone inscription of a Daniel Castle in Dutchess Co., N.Y. with age at death which would make him born 1761, thus agreeing with the recorded baptism of Daniel son of Daniel Esq.

All these considerations make it impossible for that Daniel (bapt. in Amenia 1761 to be the Daniel who married Lydia Pitcher. The only other Daniel I can find of right age was the son of Isaac, born in Waterbury. I have now given you an account of this branch of the family so far as shown in Connecticut records, and I think we are well on the way to establishing him as the Daniel who married Lydia Pitcher and moved to Vermont.

Your Daniel had a daughter Mehitable. Notice that Daniel son of Isaac had a sister Mehitable. She was the

next sister older than himself and may have had a good deal of the care of him when he was little, there being so many children.

CASTLE NOTES

There does not seem to be very much in print of records of Chittenden County, Vermont. However, in the Genealogical Quarterly Magazine, Vol. 1 (1900), pages 150-154, the earliest probate of that county is given. I find no references to Castle, except that on page 153 Abal Castle and Nathan Castle Esq. are mentioned in connection with the estate of Thompson Woodworth of Essex.

I think they belong to a different branch of the family, because in the 1790 census, I find listed at Essex, Chittenden County, David Castle, David Jr., Abel and Nathan.

On pages 279 to 281 of the same volume, the earliest marriages recorded in Burlington, Vermont, are given. In these I find two Castle marriages, one being that of Peter, which we already have from the Montpelier copy:

Peter Castle to Hannah Wilson of Shelburn, 15
Oct. 1809
Samuel Taylor of Milton to Abigail Castle, 9
Sept. 1798.

Since Burlington was the home of Daniel Castle in the 1790 Census, and since you know Peter was his son, it seems very possible that Abigail was a daughter of Daniel. Daniel's young Nephew, Asher Castle, was also living in Burlington in 1790, but he was not old enough to have a daughter of age to marry so early as 1798. You will note that Peter's wife was of Shelburn and died there, so it fits in that Peter's wife was of that town.

Donald L. Jacobs.

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