

APPENDIX B

THE LONGFELLOWS AND THE BURNHAMS

WILLIAM LONGFELLOW¹

Born in Hampshire, England, 1651. Married November 10, 1676, Anne Sewell, sister of Judge Samuel Sewell and daughter of Judge Henry Sewell.

"Both father and brother," it was recorded of them, "were very remarkable men - men of great learning and great talent."

Children - William, died young
Stephen, married Abigail Thompson
Anne, married Mr. Adams
Elizabeth, married Mr. Woodman
Nathan, married Mary Greene

Children of NATHAN LONGFELLOW² and MARY GREENE

Jonathan, born May 23, 1714. Married Mercy Clark
Samuel, Ann, Jacob, Sewell, Abigail, Nathan, Greene

Children of JONATHAN LONGFELLOW³ and MERCY CLARK

Stephen (grandfather of poet Longfellow)
Mary, Jacob, Sarah, Elizabeth
Nathan, married Margaret Bigelow

Children of NATHAN LONGFELLOW⁴ and MARGARET BIGELOW

Jacob, David, Jonathan
Isaac, married Polly Boynton
Enoch, Ratchford, Peggy, Nathan, Lydia, Polly, Betsy

Children of ISAAC LONGFELLOW⁵ and POLLY BOYNTON

Eri
Mary, married George Burnham
Hannah, Addi, Cynthia, Handy, Margaret, Samuel, Gates

Children of MARY LONGFELLOW⁶ and GEORGE BURNHAM

Cyrus, died young
Sanford, married Adelaide Crane
 Children - Ella, Cyrus, Frank, Etta
Susan, married Levi B. Thaxter
 Children - George, Laura, Delia, Hattie, Fred
Caroline, married Henry Gallison
 Children - Frank, May
Mary, married Wallace Thaxter
 Children - Everett, Clara, Carrie, Henry
Margaret (1) married Cyrus Foster
 Child - Charles Foster
 (2) married J. W. Swett
 Child - George Swett
Cyrene, when about 65, married Charles McLaughlin
 No children
Harriet, married Gustavus S. Parlin
 Children - see below
Martha, married John Swett, brother of Margaret's second
 husband and went to Snohomish, Washington, to live
 Children - Fred, Actor and Burnham twins

Children of HARRIET BURNHAM and GUSTAVUS S. PARLIN⁷

Harvey, died in infancy
Clymena
Charles Coolidge, married Daisy Blackwood

Children of CHARLES COOLIDGE PARLIN⁸ and DAISY BLACKWOOD

Charles C.⁹ married Miriam Boyd
 Children - Charles Coolidge¹⁰ and Camilla¹⁰
George Steward⁹, married Dorothy Elcome
 Children - George Steward¹⁰ and Edward Elcome¹⁰
Ruth⁹, married C. Howard Sanborn
 Children - Howard Parlin Sanborn¹⁰ and John Davis
 Sanborn¹⁰
Grace Elizabeth⁹

GEORGE BURNHAM (1790-1877)

One of George Burnham's daughters several years after his death furnished your Grandfather the following description of her father:

"Your Grandfather Burnham had many excellent traits of character. Always a great reader and a deep thinker and a remarkable memory - so that whatever he read, he made his own, and in his later years would astonish those with whom he conversed by the readiness with which he could draw from that storehouse of his memory the events of history or the facts of science treasured up from the readings of years gone by.

"He possessed a very clear mind and what he understood could make very clear to others. He was argumentative and very logical in his reasoning. He was very much respected by his fellow townsman and his judgment in business matters always relied upon. He held many offices of trust, showing the confidence of his fellow associates.

"He had a bright, cheerful loving disposition, enjoyed in an unusual degree his home and wife and children. He had a deep sense of humor and would contribute many a laughable story or incident for the amusement of his children and friends."

THE BURNHAM TAVERN

At Machias, Maine, is a quaint gambrel-roofed house, owned and kept by the Daughters of the American Revolution, called the Burnham Tavern. It was built in 1770 by Job Burnham, grandfather of George Burnham, hence your great, great, great, great, great grandfather - how is that for a title?

Now it appears that the great grandfather of Job Burnham (your great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather - Oh, boy! how's that?), John Burnham, came over from England in 1635, just fifteen years after the Mayflower brought the first Pilgrim Fathers to New England.

The Rubicon, published by The Hannah Weston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution at Machias, Maine, July, 1931, gives the following account of the trip of John Burnham and of the early days of Burnham Tavern.

"The good British ship, the 'Angel Gabriel,' is gallantly starting out from the coast of England for the shores of the new continent, America.

"The ship is under the command of Captain Andrews of Norwich, Norfolk County, England; and with him and under his protection are three young lads, brothers, who are to make the voyage. They are his sister's sons and are John, Thomas and Robert Burnham. The picture we have thus is only an outline but we love to fill it in with bright and eager faces for the boys, as their young hearts beat high with hope and the spirit of adventure has fast hold on them. We are not told if their parents, Robert and Mary (Andrews) Burnham still live and they have just bidden a sad

good-bye to their boys as they sail away to the almost unknown shores of the New World. We like best to think Father and Mother have both been laid to rest before there comes the necessity of a parting like this. Then we reach no other picture till we come to the tragic scene of the wreck of 'the good ship Angel Gabriel' on the coast of Maine. And of this there is only one detail shown: that of 'the chest belonging to the three boys being thrown overboard with other freight to relieve the ship at the time of the disaster.'

"We all know what a boy's treasures mean to him when they are but his simple little everyday possessions. But in that lost chest claimed by the savage sea there were undoubtedly objects infinitely dear - things that had been father's or mother's that they had hoped would recall the old home when they had become established in the new - objects to form one material link between the happy past and an uncertain new future. Now the bond must be one only of the spirit - memory.

"Then history tells us that 'the three boys went to Chebocco in the colony of Massachusetts with their uncle, Captain Andrews, who, having lost his ship, settled there, the boys remaining with him,' that John and Thomas served in the Pequot Expedition; and that their descendants settled in New Hampshire and Maine.

"Then the next picture to interest us in connection with our Tavern is the arrival in 1765 in Machias of Job Burnham, third in line from the British sailor lad, John. He brings with him from Scarborough his bride, Mary O'Brien, daughter of the now famous Morris O'Brien. They settle in Machias and five years later they build, for their own home chiefly, the house now known as Burnham Tavern. And there, on a gentle eminence, where there had been made for the purpose a clearing in the

woods, and on a site commanding a view of the beautiful Machias River, only a few rods away, was reared this house a hundred and sixty years ago. One cannot guess how its lines and proportions are so excellent that no present-day architect would care to change them. More than one summer home has been modeled exactly upon it - notably one at Roque Bluffs and another in Mefield, Massachusetts.

"The interior is spacious and pleasingly arranged. The front door, which is on the east where the house faces, leads into a small hall or entry. The unique feature of the house is the stairway within this space. It begins as a single flight of steps and midway to the second floor it divides into two narrow flights, leading to the north and to the south chambers respectively. From the entry below stairs open to the right and the left hand the two large front rooms. Beyond them both is the great sunny kitchen, occupying nearly all of the western end of the house. One end of the space, however, is set off for a small room, now called the spinning-room; and at the other end is the pantry. This kitchen is a charming place and recalls the old days when kitchen, dining room and living-room were one and the life of the home radiated from it. One notes its roominess, its sunniness, its immense fire-place, with the old brisk oven and the long shelf above for the candle-sticks, candle-lighters and all sorts of belongings of the different members of the household.

"Here in the Tavern was born to the Burnhams a large family of children, eleven in all. And here was entertained the traveler that came 'a-riding' thru the settlement. And we may be sure this was no inn of modern days when guests are given only bed and fare for their money. Here the stranger received bounteous hospitality, was given a seat in the wide circle around the family hearth, where the Burnham boys and girls

undoubtedly listened hungrily to the guest's account of the outside world; was passed the toothsome food by the gracious hostess or her daughters; was lighted to bed by the candle held by the genial landlord himself or perhaps one of 'the boys'; and departing, was given a hearty God-speed, accompanied more often than not by a luncheon of Mary Burnham's wonderful cookery in his saddle-bags.

"In the year 1906, two prominent citizens of Machias, Mr. E. B. Curtis and Mr. A. K. Ames, conceived the idea of purchasing the property for the purpose of preserving such a valuable memorial for the town.

"The gentlemen who had thus bought the tavern considered that no better custodians of the property could be found than the Daughters of the American Revolution which represents the patriotic society in Machias. They therefore asked the regent to call a meeting of the chapter when they would put the matter before the members for their consideration. The meeting was held and upon discussion it was unanimously voted to accept the charge.

"The unsightly ell, which had the relative youth of seventy or eighty years and therefore had neither the antiquity nor the fine lines of the mother building, was torn down. This has been the only change, excepting for repairs, that has been made, the idea being to keep the building exactly as it was when built. It still has the same clapboards that were shaved and nailed on by Job Burnham. Until 1908 the window frames were the same that had always been there, but with all due regard for the antique the Daughters decided that new ones must take the place of those falling into decay. In the new ones, however, are set the same old tiny panes of glass. On renailing a loose clapboard, one of the workmen made the discovery that the house had once been painted. Examination showed

that all the covered portions of the clapboards bore paint of colonial yellow. This was a surprise to the town people, none of whom could remember the house as anything but time-darkened, unpainted wood. It was a pleasant discovery to the restorers for they could now, with a clear conscience, see their idol assume a fresh coat of the pleasing colonial yellow, the very color they would have chosen. The lawn has been graded and laid out under the supervision of a professional landscape artist.

"Two cannons that saw service in the Civil War and were sent to the tavern from Watervliet, New York, are set into the grounds with masonry and very menacing they look aimed at the passers-by in the neighboring street.

"The new swinging sign, hanging in place of the old, bears on one side the device of the punch-bowl and long-stemmed pipe; while on the reverse appears the legend:

Food for the Hungry,
Drink for the Thirsty,
Lodging for the Weary and
Good Keeping for Horses

by Job Burnham.

"And there is no doubt that this modern reproduction, when stirred by the winter winds, gives response in a 'squeak' of the same old minor key of its predecessor.

"For the interior furnishing there are mementoes of all the old families of the town. Aside from a fine mahogany table which was given by Mrs. Herbert Clark, of Minneapolis, a chapter member, and a corresponding chair, all the furniture is old, having been brought in from time to time by the townspeople, every one of whom takes an interest in the ancient landmark. Among the more notable of these things are a rare old grandfather clock from the well known Penniman family, and a piano (the first

ever brought into the county) which is loaned by Miss Mary Olive Longfellow. On the quaint old rack of the piano stands (now framed) the receipt given to Colonel Penniman, Miss Longfellow's grandfather, in acknowledgment of the sum paid for the instrument.

"A framed copy of the will of Job Burnham, the builder and proprietor of the tavern, hangs on the wall in one of the front rooms. The signature is a facsimile of the original signature attached to the will. The executors named are his wife, Mary Burnham, and her brother, Gideon O'Brien.

"The Burnham Tavern is the oldest house east of Penobscot River and is the only building in Eastern Maine that has a Revolutionary record and it bears an important part in the history of the town. In 1775 this was the meeting-place of the people where they discussed the events of the day; and in this house the band of volunteers met and laid all the plans that culminated in the capture of the British frigate, 'Margaretta.' This engagement was the first naval battle of the Revolution and Cooper has appropriately termed it 'the Lexington of the Seas.' The United States government regarded the capture of sufficient importance to name a gun-boat 'Machias,' and later a battleship 'O'Brien,' this last in honor of the man foremost in this achievement. After the battle the tavern was turned into a hospital for wounded soldiers. Here Captain Moore of the 'Margaretta' was brought, mortally wounded. He died in one of the upper rooms.

"In the northeast corner of the house was constituted the second Masonic lodge of the state, Warren Second, named in honor of General Warren of Bunker Hill fame. A hole in the partition between the lodge room and a closet mutely testifies to the fact that women up to a century and a half ago, at least, inherited the curiosity of their first mother.

The hole was made by two young daughters of the innkeeper, Job Burnham, who sought to acquire the secrets of masonry. Different stories are told as to the results of this girlish spying but none of them seem authentic. One is that having secured thus illicitly some important secrets, they were made Masons, the only women ever to have that honor. Another tradition is that both the girls that night mysteriously disappeared and no trace of them was afterward found. Still another (and it is the most probable and therefore the least interesting) has it that the mischievous misses were discovered as soon as taking their positions at the opening and their plan was frustrated. The imaginative, or the prosaic, reader may take his choice.

Some day, perhaps, you will take an automobile trip to Machias, and there you can see the Burnham Tavern and with your very own eyes you can peek through the very hole which those girls made to spy upon the Masonic lodge. Will that not be fun?