

A BRANCH OF THE LEMMON TREE

BY REV. CHARLES HARVEY LEMMON (written ca. 1923)

The first Lemmon of our tribe left Ireland between the light of two days - left to escape hanging by the English for joining with other young men in hamstringing the cattle of an English lord. All but two were caught and hanged. These two, one of whom was young Lemmon, escaped to some seaport and found refuge as stowaways on a vessel sailing for America.

They landed at Boston, and this ancestor of ours watched around the dock until the ship sailed, hoping to catch the captain on shore when he hoped to repay him for his treatment on shipboard. But he did not find him off his ship alone.

Tradition has it that he remained in Boston, married and raised a large family who emigrated to New York state and Pennsylvania.

The family from New York were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Our ancestor - **James Lemmon** - was born in Genesee County, New York and married there. There were four sons - **Uriah, James, Matthew, Eli** and one daughter, **Ann**.

They came to Ohio in 1827 and bought the farm where **Pearl Ensign** now lives. The log house stood on the hill opposite where the present house stands. They occupied this until it was blown down by a cyclone. One evening while eating supper, a storm came and took the house down to the square clean off. The old man swore very hard because it had spoiled his supper. Soon the present house was built, and has stood as it is now for more than a hundred years. He and his wife died about 1853, the farm going to **Matthew** - my father - for caring for them.

My grandfather - **James Lemmon** - was a large, rough, drinking man. He was in the War of 1812. My father was born (1812) while he was in the army. My grandfather liked to hunt and was the best shot with a rifle in his regiment. Many stories are related of his feats with the gun - most of which sound very fishy.

James Lemmon, with the help of his boys, cleared the farm and it was hard work, being so heavily wooded. While he was rough, his wife was a devoted church member. She was an active member of the M.E. Church all of her life. He gave liberally for the erection of the church near their home. The story is told that at one time she desired to attend the Quarterly Meeting held there. Following their custom during their Love Feast the doors were locked and no one admitted without a token (ticket). It was winter and my grandfather drove his wife down there only to find the door locked. He made some noise and the doorkeeper - a stranger - began to ask questions. It was cold and his patience, not long at best, got away with him. He took his wife in his arms, put his shoulders against the door and they went in over the door, doorkeeper and all and he said some things that would have to be arranged to sound well at their Love Feast. It is said that the Presiding Elders had hard work to pacify the old man.

The sons, **Uriah** and **James**, learned the carpenter trade and built many of the barns still standing there.

Uriah married **Emily McIntyre**, my mother's sister, and bought a farm a mile east of the old home. He added farm to farm and became wealthy for a man of his day. He had four sons and three daughters. The sons were **Henry, John, Cyrus** and **Burton**. The daughters were **Sarah, Rebecca** and **Elizabeth**.

Henry married and went to Indiana. He had quite a family.

John studied law and became the most prominent attorney of Sandusky County. Lived in Clyde and died there. He was in the war of 1861 and came out a captain. He married and had one son. His wife and son were ruined by too much money. Both went bad. I think she is still living in Clyde (1923). Once he offered me a place in his office and urged my acceptance, but I decided for the ministry. Afterward he said to me that he was sure I had chosen wisely. I have often wondered if I did.

Cyrus went west, married and raised a nice family. One son is in the M.E. ministry, and one daughter - **May** - visited us while we were living on Becker Ave. In Cleveland. A fine young woman. He is still living in Kansas.

Burton tried to be a carpenter, - lawyer, - and failed at each of them. He married, had a family, and I guess

went to the bad. Is now dead, and the last I knew his family were in Toledo.

Sarah married **Monroe Thorp** and went to Iowa. I do not know anything of their family.

Rebecca married **Charles Gardiner** of (near) Bellvue. Had two children, John and Leliah. The father and son are dead. Son committed suicide over some love affair. The mother lives with her daughter in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Elizabeth married **Howard Hoch** of Bellevue. Had quite a nice family. The father, mother, and all the children except one daughter (a teacher in Toledo) are dead.

James Lemmon owned a large farm just south of our old place. Married and had three children, - **Josephine, James and Emeline.**

Josephine married **Doctor Everett** and settled in Chicago. Parents are dead. There were two sons. I do not know of them.

James married a **Titchner** girl and settled on the farm. Had three sons, **Roy, Charles and Everett.** In some way he lost all his property and died poor in Clyde. Roy is in Cleveland, Charles is dead, and Everett is a railroad man.

Emeline married a **Mr. Mitchell** and went to Pittsburg. He is dead and I do not know of her.

Matthew (my father) married **Sarah McIntyre** and they lived on the old farm. About 1860 he bought the fifty acres north by the railroad. There were four sons, - **Frank, Eddie, Charles and George,** and one daughter, **Ella.**

Eddie died in 1853.

Frank married **Hanna Keller.** No children were born. They adopted Pearl Stark and she inherited all the property.

Charles Harvey learned (?) The carpenter trade and worked at it about ten years. (Of his life you know).

George married **Sarah Foreman,** have one son, **John M.** Lives in Royalton, Ohio.

Ella married **Luther Wilt** - five daughters and two sons were born. The sons died of diphtheria when quite young. Luther Wilt died while the children were small. After Father's death, Mother lived with Ella. The girls, **Mattie, Sadie, Ina, Anna,** and **Bessie** you know. **Ella** later married **Charles Dunning.**

Eli Lemmon while quite young, went to Indiana and lived there all his life. I know nothing of him or his family.

Ann Lemmon married a **Mr. Bullard** and they went to Indiana. They had two children, **Ralph and Helen.** Were well to do, but I did not know them.

More might be said, but the story of my life and of our Golden Wedding will give you about all there is to know. You are of a tribe of which you need not be ashamed. By the way

Uncle **Uriah** had five wives - three living at the same time. No trouble, just separated by mutual agreement. His first and fourth died while living with him. The fifth outlived him.

Grandfather **James Lemmon** was a drinker. He rode an old sorrel horse. He would go up to Clyde, get full, get on the old horse and it would bring him home without any guiding. He had the first team of horses and wagon in the community and for years was in demand at all funerals to convey the corpse. The walnut tree in front of the old home - now two feet in diameter - was planted by my father when no larger than his finger. He pulled it up over near Milan and used it as a whip on his way home from mill where he ridden with wheat for flour. The had the first orchard in that community. The young trees were brought from New York State.

My father used to say, "I have never had any trouble with anyone, was never sued or sued anyone; never bailed anyone or asked anyone to bail me. I always paid my debts when due and never wronged anyone." He was very proud of this record.

One day a surveyor came along and asked for his dinner. Grandfather said, "If you will make me a noon mark in the front door you shall have your dinner." The mark furnished the correct time for many years for the

whole community. It was there when I was a boy and was only destroyed when the old house was repaired in 1867.

In the old house were four fireplaces, two up and two downstairs. The one in the west room below extended entirely across the room. On one end was a smoke room for smoking meat and in the other end a bake oven, though in my day neither was used. My mother did all her own cooking, baking and so forth at this fireplace until I was about ten years old when she got her first cookstove.

My mother had a hard life. All the water was carried from a spring several rods back of the house and all the way uphill. She did her washing with this hard water and many times I remember seeing her hands bleeding from too much lye which was put in the water to soften it. I helped dig and brick up their first cistern and a well near the house was dug about the same time.

In 1870 I bought of father two and a half acres of land which the railroad cut off the southeast corner of the north farm, paying him two hundred and fifty dollars for it. Nights and rainy days I put up a small house (18x24), two stories high, containing five rooms. I did not get it finished until 1873, the spring after we were married. We lived there until 1876 when we moved to Fremont and I entered the auditor's office, and then again in 1878 - 1879 when we moved to Dayton, Ohio. **Will** was born there. After we came to Union Church, Cleveland, I sold it for six hundred dollars, losing four hundred.

About 1850 my father fell from a scaffold in the barn and injured his back so that he was never able to do heavy work without great suffering. This hindered him in his farm work and accounts for his not getting along better financially.

My mother suffered from weak lungs. All her family died of tuberculosis. She did her work under great suffering much of the time.

Her stepmother died leaving three sons and one daughter, - **William, David, Major** and **Ann**. Mother cared for these in addition to her own family. **William** and **David** enlisted in 1861. David died at Memphis, Tennessee of Typhoid fever and William was killed on the [Steamer Sultana](#)¹ on the Mississippi River on his way home after eighteen months in rebel prison.

Major went to Indiana and when fifty years old married. He died there. **Ann** lived with us until she was thirty years of age, then went to Missouri to visit her half-brothers and married there. I do not know more of her.

Subject: Lemmon Tree

Date: Sat, 18 Apr 1998 16:38:56 -0700

From: "Peter C. Guins" <pguins@voyager.net>

To: jjcrowl@c3net.net

CC: MDBarton@aol.com, thorpe@skep.com, ssteve55@gorge.net

Hi Guys.

I have transcribed the family history written by Charles Harvey Lemmon, and will attach it to this e-mail. Most of it is quite interesting, but there are some references in it that may offend or hurt feelings. I guess, just remember that he was an old man he wrote this, and the elderly have the liberty to say what they please. Also, people spoke plainly in his young days. Anyway, hope you find this useful.

Ruth Guins

1. For more information on the Steamer Sultana visit the website at: <http://sultana.org/>

Index

B

Bullard, Ann Lemmon	2
Bullard, Helen	2
Bullard, Ralph	2

D

Dunning, Charles	2
Dunning, Ella Lemmon	2

E

Emily McIntyre	1
Ensign, Pearl	1
Everett, Doctor	2
Everett, Josephine Lemmon	2

F

Foreman, Sarah	2
----------------------	---

G

Gardiner, Charles	2
Gardiner, Rebecca Lemmon	2

H

Hoch, Elizabeth Lemmon	2
Hoch, Howard	2

K

Keller, Hanna	2
---------------------	---

L

Lemmon, Ann	1, 2
Lemmon, Burton	1
Lemmon, Charles	2
Lemmon, Charles Harvey	2
Lemmon, Cyrus	1
Lemmon, Eddie	2
Lemmon, Eli	1, 2
Lemmon, Elizabeth	1, 2
Lemmon, Ella	2
Lemmon, Emeline	2
Lemmon, Everett	2
Lemmon, Frank	2
Lemmon, George	2
Lemmon, Henry	1
Lemmon, James	1, 2
Lemmon, James III	2
Lemmon, James Jr	2
Lemmon, John	1
Lemmon, John M. II	2
Lemmon, Josephine	2
Lemmon, Matthew	1, 2
Lemmon, May	1

Lemmon, Rebecca	1, 2
Lemmon, Roy	2
Lemmon, Sarah	1, 2
Lemmon, Uriah	1, 2
Lemmon, Will	3

M

McIntyre, Sarah	2
Mitchell, Emeline Lemmon	2

T

Thorp, Monroe	2
Thorp, Sarah Lemmon	2

W

Wilt, Anna	2
Wilt, Bessie	2
Wilt, Ella Lemmon	2
Wilt, Ina	2
Wilt, Luther	2
Wilt, Mattie	2
Wilt, Sadie	2

“A Branch of the Lemmon Tree” was written by Rev. Charles Harvey Lemmon (1853-1932) who was the grandfather of my mother-in-law, Katherine Lemmon Guins. The manuscript was given to Katherine's father, Waldo Biddle Lemmon (1885-1925), around 1923, by his father. In a separate letter to his son, Waldo, Rev. Lemmon refers to the typed copies of the Lemmon history that he made for "all the children". The document, itself, is a carbon-copy on onionskin paper, and has been in the possession of my mother-in-law's family since it was received by Waldo from his father.