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LYON MEMORIAL

1571
3922

FAMILIES OF CONNECTICUT AND NEW JERSEY

INCLUDING RECORDS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE IMMIGRANTS

RICHARD LYON, OF FAIRFIELD
HENRY LYON, OF FAIRFIELD

WITH A SKETCH "LYONS FARMS" BY

S. R. WINANS, JR.

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS

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By SIDNEY ELIZABETH LYON, JEFFERSONVILLE, IND.

REVEREND JAMES LYON.

OF MACHIAS, MAINE.

2172. (187a). V. 66. REV. JAMES^s LYON [Zopher^t, Capt. Henry^t, Samuel², Henry¹] was born in Newark, N. J., July 1, 1735. He was a graduate of Princeton College, B. A. 1759; A. M. 1762. On the occasion of taking his Master's degree he made an address which was commented on very favorably in the public press. He was licensed to preach in 1762 by the Presbytery of New Brunswick and ordained by the same body in 1764. He preached several years in Nova Scotia, in Onslow (1764) and other places, but he became discouraged and determined to return to New Jersey. Just at this time, in 1771, the people in the new settlement at Machias, Me., were in search of a minister. They engaged James Lyon at a salary of eighty pounds a year, to take charge of the new parish, preaching on alternate Sabbaths at the West Falls and the East Falls settlements. Thus began the relationship maintained with mutual profit and satisfaction until terminated by his death June 12, 1794.

During the Revolutionary war he was a leader in the movement to achieve independence. In 1775 he submitted to General Washington for the patriots of Maine, plans for the conquest of Nova Scotia. His name appears on the roster of a detachment raised in December 1776 to operate against the British at Cumberland, service 25 days. Again in 1777 he has a record of service of three months at Machias, for defense. During these trying years he did not receive one dollar on account of salary, although eventually the whole amount due him as "back pay" was made up.

When the supply of salt was cut off by the interruption of commerce during the war, he established a plant for extracting salt from the sea water, the little island on which it was located retaining to this day the name "Salt Island." He was a man of forceful personality, energetic in secular as well as in religious affairs. He was color blind and once purchased a piece of scarlet cloth for a coat, supposing that it was black.

The church over which he presided was organized September 12, 1782. Meetings had been held at first in Stephen Jones' barn. In 1774 the first meeting house had been built, by private subscriptions, at a cost of \$220. The Machias town records contain a number of items like the following: "Aug. 10, 1784, a town meeting was held,

at which it was voted that eighty-six pounds be assessed and raised for one year's salary of the Rev. James Lyon. Also it was voted that the Rev. James Lyon have the use of the public marsh lots three ensuing years."§

Rev. James Lyon as a young man showed some talent as a facile writer of verse. In the *New American Magazine*, published at Woodbridge, N. J., there appeared in September 1759, an original ode, "Louisburg Taken," signed Nassovian, written by him while yet in college. At the Commencement when he was graduated, Sept. 26, 1759, the concluding number on the program was an "Ode" of his composition, set to original music—either his own, or that of his friend Francis Hopkinson. In the light of subsequent history, the refrain of this composition is interesting:

"We sing great George upon the Throne,
And Amherst brave in arms,
Amherst brave in arms."

and again,

"Happy, happy, happy still,
Safe from all the alarms of ill
While George, the friend of man, adorns the throne
And Amherst shines in arms."

At the Commencement in May 1761, it is recorded that "there was performed an elegant Anthem, composed by James Lyon of New Jersey College." There was also given on that occasion "an Ode, sacred to the memory of our late gracious Sovereign, George II, written and set to music in a very grand and masterly taste by Francis Hopkinson, Esq., A. M." There has been recently published an "appreciation" of these two early cultivators of the art of musical expression, by O. G. Sonneck of Washington, D. C. James Lyon published several collections of sacred music, notably one first issued in 1762, entitled *Urania*. A new edition of this was advertised in the *Pennsylvania Journal* in November 1767, as "a choice collection of psalm tunes, anthems and hymns, some of them entirely new." Price, ten shillings.

James Lyon married first, Feb. 18, 1768, Martha Holden, of Cape May, W. N. J. (born Dec. 24, 1749), who was the mother of his children. He married second, Nov. 24, 1793, only a few months before his death, Sarah Skillen (Boston Record). She was born 1744 and died Oct. 18, 1827 (G. R. Middleboro cemetery, Acushnet).

§It is stated that at one time he supplied the pulpit of Newtown, L. I., 1782-1785, but this does not seem probable. Another statement found in the *New Jersey Archives* (XX. p. 383) is that "he is said to have been of Irish birth." Both statements no doubt arose from confounding Rev. James Lyon of Machias with a Rev. James Lyon of about the same age who came from Ireland about 1747 and preached at Brookhaven, L. I. (d. 1786).

Children of James and Martha (Holden) Lyon, the first two born in Nova Scotia, the others in Machias, Me. (dates mostly from Bangor Hist. Magazine):

- 2201. I. Ludlum;† b. Jan. 1, 1769.
- *2202. II. Phebe; b. Sept. 26, 1770; d. about 1792; m. John Kelly.
- 2203. III. James; b. Sept. 1 (or Jan. 20), 1772.
- 2204. V. Jeremiah; b. Jan. 26, 1775; d. Dec. 13, 1783.
- 2205. IV. Martha; b. May 1, 1777; d. June 12, 1788.
- *2206. VI. Hannah; b. Nov. 15, 1779; m. William E. Smith.
- *2207. VII. Henry; b. May 20, 1782; m. Betsey Crocker.
- 2208. VIII. Sarah Shannon [Sally]; b. June 28 (or Nov. 24), 1784.
- 2209. IX. Amelia; b. Oct. 17, 1786; m. William Mellus.‡

2202. VI. 2172. PHEBE⁵ LYON (KELLY) [James⁵, Zopher⁴, Henry³, Samuel², Henry¹] was born Sept. 26, 1770. She married John Kelly.

Children of John and Phebe (Lyon) Kelly:

- 2210. I. John S. ["Deacon"]; m. Sarah Seavy; children: 1, Olive; 2, John; 3, Sarah.
- 2211. II. Martha.
- 2212. III. Elizabeth; m. Josiah Noyes of Jonesboro; children: 1, David; 2, John; 3, Martha; 4, Maria; 5, Newman; 6, Ira; 7, Julia; 8, George; 9, Sarah.

2206. VI. 2172. HANNAH⁵ LYON (SMITH) [James⁵, Zopher⁴, Henry³, Samuel², Henry¹] married William Ellis Smith, son of Samuel and Deborah (Ellis) Smith.

Children of William E. and Hannah (Lyon) Smith:

- 2213. I. Stephen.
- 2214. II. Maria.
- 2215. III. James.
- 2216. IV. H. Thacher; m. his cousin, Judith Clark; dau. of Samuel³ [Parker¹] and Lydia (Smith) Clark; ch.: 1, Edward M. (m. Ida P. Smith and had: (a) Henry, m. Alma Sears [ch. Dorothy and Hope], (b) Perley, m. N. Lucretia Hooper. (c) Dwight R.; (d) Winslow G.; (e) Harold B.).

2217. V. William Frederick; m. Deborah Clark; dau. of Samuel and Lydia Smith Clark; ch. 1. Frank E. (m. Amelia Robinson; one ch., Frederic, d. ae. 7.); 2, Tena.

- 2218. VI. Charles.
- 2219. VII. Henry L.
- 2220. VIII. Caroline.

2207. VI. 2172. HENRY⁵ LYON [James⁵, Zopher⁴, Henry³, Samuel², Henry¹] married Betsey Crocker.

Children of Henry and Betsey (Crocker) Lyon:

- 2221. I. Albert; m. Caroline Clark; no ch.
- *2222. II. James; b. 1812; d. Oct. 23, 1847; m. Susan Longfellow.

†Nehemiah Ludlum was a graduate of Princeton, 1762.

‡A Martha Lyon of Machias is said to have married as second wife Joseph, son of Aaron and Sally (Seavy) Hanscom (before 1800?). A John Lyon and wife Sarah had a daughter Sally, born Jan. 21, 1792; m. Feb. 11, 1810, John Dennison.