

REMINISCENCE OF THE JOSEPH and SARAH HILL FAMILY.

Grandfather Joseph Hill and Grandmother Sarah Barcroft Hill were married at Flemington, N. J., Nov. 30, 1809. They started for Dryden the same season. Two teams brought their goods, and they drove two cows.

The Hill and Barcroft ancestry were of good repute. Our Grandfather Hill's father was Isaac Hill, a highly esteemed elder of the Presbyterian Church at Flemington, N. J., and his Grandfather was Samuel Hill, who was one of the founders of a Presbyterian Church in Anwell Township, Hunterdon County, N. J. Grandfather Hill's Mother's maiden name was Mary Hunt. Our Great Great Grandfather Samuel and our Great Grandfather Isaac and Great Grandmother Mary Hunt Hill are buried in the cemetery at Flemington, N. J.

The children of Isaac and Mary Hunt Hill were Joseph, Joakin, Thomas, William, Hannah, Ann, Sarah, and Elisabeth. The married names of the sisters were as follows: Hannah Hart, Ann Maxwell, Sarah Griggs and Elisabeth or Betsey Young. Miss Emma Runk, of Lambertville, N. J., is writing a history of the Barcroft family, her mother whose maiden name was Fannie Barcroft, a daughter of Ambrose Barcroft, brother of Grandmother Hill and is still living. Miss Emma Runk has traced the history of the Barcroft family back to the time of the Tudors in England, where they held high position and possessed great wealth at that time.

Our Great Great Great Grandfather Ambrose Barcroft came to Bucks County, Pennsylvania from Talbot County, Maryland, in 1723 on Dec. 20th. He was drowned by the stumbling of his horse when crossing the Delaware River. He left three sons, William, John and Ambrose. Our Great Grandfather Ambrose Barcroft of Kingwood, N. J., was the son of this man's son Ambrose. Our Great Grandfather Ambrose Barcroft was married three times. First to Miss Waterhouse child Jonathon who went to Tennessee, married and lived there. Second, to Sarah Davis, children,

Aaron, Samuel and Elias. Third to Mrs. Francena Opdyke Hoagland, who had children by her first marriage as follows: Henry, Joshua, Agnes and John. Ambrose and Francena Barcroft had the following children: Alice, Sarah, Francena, Martha, Ambrose, Stacy B. James, Richard, and John. The married names of the sisters were as follows: Alice Little, Sarah Hill, Francina Little and Martha Hill.

Of special mention, Elias Barcroft born 1778 died at Jefferson City, Mo. Aug. 26th, 1851, aged 73 years, was the son of Ambrose and his second wife, Sarah Davis Barcroft. Elias Barcroft surveyed and laid out Jefferson City, the Capital of Missouri. He was State Senator 1821-1823, and State Auditor from 1824-1833. He dies of cholera and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery at Jefferson City, Mo. Stacy B. Barcroft, born Jan. 29, 1795. was the son of Ambrose Barcroft and his third wife, Francena Hoagland Barcroft. He left a country store in New Jersey, and with a companion walked to Philadelphia to get a position in a store. At the time of his death, he was the senior partner of a wholesale dry-goods store on Market Street, Philadelphia. He accumulated a large fortune for that time, nearly one million dollars. He died in 1871. His former home is nearly as it was at the time of his death, which is on Vine Street, Philadelphia, fronting on Logan square.

It being quite likely that some of Grandfather Hill's family would make a visit back to New Jersey, I wrote and obtained a sketch from two different persons, one belonging to the Hill family and another belonging to the Barcroft family.

My first is the experience of Miss Martha Barcroft Hill, who lives in Newark, New Jersey, and is the only surviving child of Joakin Hill and Martha Barcroft Hill. The following experience:

My father Joakin and my mother Martha Barcroft were married at the home of my Mother's father, Ambrose Barcroft, at

Kingwood, New Jersey, Sept. 4, 1813. My father spent part of his life on his farm, where Uncle Jo. as we children used to call him, used to visit us. Our cousins, his sons, also visited us. I remember Ambrose, Stacy, Elias and Thomas. One of the daughters also visited us. I think it was Sarah. Cousin Ambrose visited us twice as I remember. The last time he came I think in company with Cousin Elias, when we were living at Flemington, N. J.

I think Uncle Jo was a more sociable man than Father, and enjoyed having a little fun once in a while. Father, as I remember, used to ride a horse very nicely, and on one occasion when Uncle Jo. saw him come riding home at a lively gait, he called to Mother, Pattie, I think you had better be looking after Akie, he goes riding around so smartly.

My Mother was a woman of superior mind, and I will repeat a remark Uncle Jo. once made to her, though not complimentary to us children.

He said, "Pattie, where's the use giving your children so much education? They'll never be as smart as you are".

The following experience of Mrs. Fannie Runk, whose maiden name was Fannie Barcroft, a daughter of Ambrose Barcroft, who was a brother of our Grandmother Hill.

The Experience of Fanny Barcroft.

Some time prior to 1840 Mr. Isaac Hill, the third child of Joseph Hill, came to New Jersey. His father brought droves of cattle to New Jersey at stated intervals, perhaps every Autumn, making the trip on horse-back, driving the herds, and disposing of them at several places in Hunterdon, and other Counties, where he found profitable sale for them.

On one of these Autumn trips his son Isaac came with him, to assist in the care and business of the trip.

On reaching New Jersey, a stop was usually made with Ambrose Barcroft, at Rosemont. Ambrose was the Brother of Joseph Hill's wife, and thus it was a family visit, with much interchange of news.

But this certain Fall, Isaac Hill found a situation awaiting him in the place of School teacher of a District School at Sergeantsville, a town two miles distant from Rosemont. It proved very acceptable, and Isaac Hill remained and taught the school for one year, walking daily the two miles to Rosemont and back again, and living in his Uncle's family.

The eldest son of Ambrose Barcroft, named John, went with Isaac, and was one of the pupils. Presumably, he found other things to occupy his attention than the straight road, for it is related that one day he returned with a sprained ankle. This was painful, and after consultation the school teacher took it in hand and prescribed that the ankle be wrapped up in paper saturated with molasses. And the ankle soon regained its normal power and usefulness.

The ambition to get the best there was to be had in the way of education had long been uppermost in the mind of Fannie Barcroft, the eldest daughter of Ambrose Barcroft. Isaac Hill returned to his home, and two important events took place in his life in 1840, he took to wife Elizabeth Moore on August 21, and that Autumn opened a Select School in Dryden. That Fall, when Joseph Hill came to New Jersey he told about the new venture, and invited his Niece Fanny Barcroft to return with him and enter the "Dryden Select School".

One year later this invitation was accepted, being repeatedly urged, and the opportunity and advantages being set forth in glowing colors.

Fanny Barcroft had no trunk of her own, and walked over to her Grandmother's home, a mile or so distant, and found one

ready for the asking- it was covered with hair, a skin of spotted black and white, and much prized.

In this trunk was packed the general wardrobe. The special, choice things such as a best bonnet, the night-cap, the collars and handkerchiefs were carefully put in a Band-box, and the preparations were complete and the travellers started. It was the 17th of November, 1841, when Joseph Hill and his niece started down the hill from Rosemont. To this day Fanny Barcroft can recall the last sight of the familiar neighbors, and how the men were husking the corn in the field below her Father's house.

The first stage of the journey brought the travellers to New York, where they went on board the night-boat for Albany. Joseph Hill was rather a deliberate man, and the consequence was all the Berths were engaged when he applied for a place for the night. But with the feeling that all the baggage was "listed" for Albany, there was nothing to do but to find chairs and sit up all the night.

On reaching Albany at daylight, when search was made for the baggage, the trunk could not be found, much to the distress of Fanny Barcroft. And there was nothing for the travellers to do but to go on without it. They took a train at Albany for Rome. With the day came a snow-storm, and all day it snowed, and they travelled on toward Rome. This was a very unexpected cold and storm, as they found that farmers in that locality had not yet dug their potatoes.

It was some time after night-fall that the train brought them into Rome. There the family sled was waiting, and the remaining miles were safely passed, the party reaching their destination at 1 o'clock in the morning. But a warm welcome was ready for them, and a supper was served to the party.

One of the things that memory has preserved of this meal was a pie, baked in a long cake-tin, and cut down the middle,

but served with a very generous hand, and enjoyed with a relish.

But the awful truth that the hair-trunk was not to be found, and only the few little things in the Band-Box were all that Fanny Barcroft had to make her neat and comfortable, this was indeed a grief!

The family of Joseph Hill at this date was composed of seven children still at home, unmarried. The three eldest had gone with their chosen mates and made homes elsewhere. But seven children and their parents gave this stranger-girl a royal, and always generous welcome.

Mrs. Joseph Hill was accustomed to buy goods by the piece for this numerous family. And "Aunt Sarah" at once began to plan to make some dresses, and clothing for the niece. She had a piece each of cotton goods, and of woolen material, and Lucinda cut out, and the girls all helped to sew on the garments, so that school-days need not be lost.

In the meantime, two or more messages had been despatched in search of the trunk. There was no system of baggage checks, and it could only be described and waited for. The days were anxious ones for the young girl, and her delight can be imagined, when during the Christmas holidays, the trunk finally reached Rome, and was found to be safe and sound.

In the meantime other strangers arrived, relatives of Joseph Hill, i.e. his sister Hannah Hill, and his Nephew Isaac Young. Isaac was also to go to the Dryden "Select School", but Hannah was to be the bride of Mr. Amos Hart. The wedding was a "grand occasion", it meant a vacation from school work and a six-mile sleigh ride, and all the novelty and mystery of a wedding party.

The young people of this family, all attending the Dryden School at this time were, Harrison alternating with Stacy as the farm work would permit, and Lucinda taking turns with

scholars lived at Mr. Isaac Hill's at Dryden, and quite filled the house. They took turns helping with the family work, rising often before daylight, either to study or to work.

On Mr. Joseph Hill's farm was a herd of forty milch-cows. The churning was done by a dog and machinery. Maple sugar was made annually, and in great quantities. The cake was always in the Pantry, for any one to enjoy who desired. Plenty and generosity were written large in all the ways of this family.

So the school-year passed. Much of joy, now and then a trouble, but a time to recall with great interest and gratitude and pleasure/

When School closed the pupils departed, and Mr. Isaac Hill's wife desired to keep the visitor, Fanny Barcroft. Then the lonely days followed when home seemed desirable.

One day, looking out, a traveller was seen coming, and later he came to the yard-fence and tied his horse. Mrs. Hill, looking out said, "Who can this man be?" Then the glad cry of Fanny Barcroft- "Oh! that is my Brother". He had come in a carriage for her. Again the hair-covered trunk was lifted in, and the girl with many precious memories, and some never-to-be-forgotten experiences started on her home-ward journey.

Three years later Fanny Barcroft became the wife of Peter Ten Broeck Runk. She is still living, and recalls with much pleasure these days long past, and the advantages of the finishing touches to her education received in 1842 at the "Select School of Dryden".

In the early morning of the 15th of November, 1833, before five o'clock in the morning Fanny Barcroft, ambitious to get to work at some spinning, rose and dressed herself, and on going to the door saw the stars falling. Presently, hearing her

Sarah as their Mother could spare the one or the other. The scholars lived at Mr. Isaac Hill's at Dryden, and quite filled the house. They took turns helping with the family work, rising often before daylight, either to study or to work.

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Father, she said- "I never saw the stars fall before". Her Father answered: "I guess you do not see more than one". "Oh! yes I do, I see more than I can count".

This roused the family, and a farm-hand, living with the family, was literally almost frightened to death. Many thought the world had surely come to an end.

The sky was clear and cloudless, meteors began to shoot in all directions, and for two hours, until hidden by the daylight, it lasted.

It was estimated that a thousand meteors a minute crossed the sky. And many persons were troubled and startled beyond any power to quiet them.