

Tribute to Lemuel and Priscilla Thomson Sturtevant
Barton, Vermont Cemetery, Wednesday, September 22, 2004

In this nation, the title of “Founding Father” is a noble title. A lineage descending from these heroic men and women is counted as a noble lineage. Lemuel and Priscilla Thomson Sturtevant were of a noble lineage. Both their families, for several generations, were early colonizers of this nation.

The American Sturtevant families descend from immigrants, Samuel Sturtevant and Ann Lee, parents and grandparents of several Samuels and two Lemuels, including the Lemuel we honor here. They settled in the Plymouth Colony, among those earliest colonists to the New World.

John Thomson and Lydia Wood, Priscilla’s parents, were both born in Plymouth, descendants of the “Old Pilgrims”¹, who were also part of the inspired founding of this nation.

From these hardy folk descended Lemuel and Priscilla Thomson Sturtevant, parents of Sarah Sturtevant, a strong seeker of truth, who became the wife of Jeremiah Leavitt II.

Lemuel and Priscilla Thomson Sturtevant were married in Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 24, 1778. Lemuel was a young man when the struggle for independence began. He fought for freedom in the Revolutionary War, serving as a private in the Massachusetts Continental Line.

Together, Lemuel and Priscilla became parents of an upright posterity.

After the war the couple moved to Lyme, Grafton County, New Hampshire, where the Thomsons held vast lands along the Connecticut River. Ten of their thirteen children are recorded as having been born in Lyme.

Eventually, Lemuel Sturtevant was awarded land in Barton, Vermont, as a reward for his service in the Continental Army. The family moved there in 1798. In Barton, Lemuel established a mercantile business. In 1831, eight

¹ Sarah Sturtevant Leavitt says of her parents that they were descendants of the old Pilgrims. I believe they were English immigrants, but were nonetheless, strict in obedience to religious principles.

years before his death, he received a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War.

Sarah Sturtevant Leavitt's history says of her father's home, " My parents were very strict with their children, being descendants of the old pilgrims. They taught us every principle of honor and truth as they understood it for themselves. They taught them to pray and read the Bible for themselves. My father had many books that treated on the principle of man's salvation. I took great pleasure in reading from them. He was Dean of the Presbyterian Church. For years his house was open to all denominations, so his children had the privilege of hearing religious conversations." ²

Of thirteen children, twelve grew to maturity, married and had children. The posterity of Lemuel and Priscilla Thomson Sturtevant is very large. No group more extensive than those descended through their daughter Sarah and her husband Jeremiah Leavitt II.

We, members of their posterity, centered mostly in the western United States, honor them now, as noble progenitors. We declare our gratitude for their lives, dedicated to the cause of liberty and upright character.

To make this expression we place this monument to their honor, this 22nd day of September, 2004. May their memory live on in the hearts of their descendants. May all who read this memorial pause to honor them, with heartfelt appreciation for freedoms earned by their sacrifice. May the way of many be lighted by their example.

Thank you.

² Sarah Sturtevant autobiography.