

NOTES

from Genealogical and Biographical Memorials
of the Reading, Howell, Yerkes, Watts, Latham,
& Elkins Families--Josiah Granville Leach

Mary, Margaret and Susanna Howell were three sisters in a family of fifteen children. Their father was Samuel Howell, Junior, and their lineage back to the Thomas Howell who came over from England on the "Welcome", is as follows:

Thomas Howell ?- 1687

Mordecai Howell Circa 1662- Circa 1740

Thomas Howell 1693- 1753

Samuel Howell 1723-1807

Samuel Howell, Jr. 1748-1802

Thomas Howell obtained his land in Gloucester (Camden) County from the Byllinge holdings in New Jersey, through Benjamin Bartlett, a son-in-law of Edward Byllinge. According to the deed Thomas Howell became seized of one-eighth of one-hundredth part or share of West New Jersey, with a consideration or payment of twenty pounds.

"Samuel Howell, Junior, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, circa 1748; died there, 31 October, 1802. He was an iron merchant at the time of his decease, but had some time previously "Followed the sea." In a deed of 6 July, 1791, he is styled "mariner." In the newspaper mention of the marriage of his daughter Sarah, she is called "Sarah Howell, daughter of Captain Samuel Howell," and Samuel Howell, the elder, referring in his will to his son Samuel (then deceased) speaks of him as "Captain Howell." It is not, however, definitely known whether the title "Captain" was derived from service in the merchant marine or in the militia, though it is believed that it was from service in the latter, and that he is the Captain Howell mentioned in the newspapers of 1799 as the commander of a company in the McPherson Blues." He was in 1774 one of the founders of the first troop Philadelphia city cavalry (now popularly known as "The City Troop"), and served with this organization as first corporal in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown; also in the "Whiskey Insurrection," in 1794, at which time he was orderly sergeant. He continued an active member of the "Troop" until 19 June, 1798, when he was placed on the honorary roll. He became a contributor to the Pennsylvania hospital in 1772; member of the Gloucester fox-hunting club in 1773, and of the "State in Schuylkill"

NOTES

in 1784. His death is thus chronicled in the Pennsylvania Gazette of 3 November, 1802:

"Died at his seat in the county of Philadelphia, on Friday morning last, Samuel Howell, Jun^r Esquire. This Gentleman participated early in the dangers and fatigues of the American Revolution, and on a variety of occasions, showed himself ready and willing to render service to his country. The integrity of his heart and benevolence of his disposition, endeared him to a large circle of acquaintances. His remains were on Sunday morning deposited in the Friends' burying ground at Frankford."

He married at Philadelphia, 23 May, 1771, Margaret, daughter of George Emlen, an eminent merchant of Philadelphia, by his wife, Anne Reckless. Mrs. Howell was born at Philadelphia in 1750; died there, 4 May, 1822.

Children of Samuel and Margaret (Emlen) Howell, born at Philadelphia:

Samuel Emlen Howell, born 25 June, 1772; died 27 March, 1829; married Mary Whitlock Dawes.

Anne Emlen Howell, born 1773; married, 4 February, 1796, Richard Rodman Smith.

Sarah Howell, born 1775; died in 1798; married, 13 April, 1797, Honorable Walter Franklin, who became attorney-general of Pennsylvania in 1809.

George Howell, born 1 January 1777; died August, 1852; married Harriet Olmstead.

Mary Howell, born 18 November, 1778; died 3 March, 1836; married Benjamin Jones.

Elizabeth Howell, born 1 November, 1779; died 14 August, 1867; married Dr. John C. Warner.

Joseph Emlen Howell, born 1781; died in 1827; married Sarah Powel Montgomery.

James Howell, born 1783; died young

William Emlen Howell, born 1785; died March, 1823; married Abigail Smith.

Margaret Howell, born 1786; died 28 December 1856; married John Saltar.

Susanna Howell, born 1788; died 7 August, 1824; married Colonel Athanasius Fenwick.

Hannah Logan Howell, born 27 April, 1789; died 27 July, 1872; married Dr. John Burton.

Aletta Howell, born 1790; died 1795

Jane. A. Howell, died in 1852; married her cousin, Thomas Reynolds Howell

Emeline Howell, married Benjamin Blythe. " (pages 171-2).

"Samuel Howell(elder), was born at Marcus Hook, Chichester township, Chester (now Delaware) county, Pennsylvania, 11 March, 1723, and died at his seat in Tacony, Philadelphia, 9 December, 1807. It was the custom in his day for the parents of the rich, as well as of the poor, to apprentice their sons to a trade. Samuel Howell was instructed in that of hatter, but early in life abandoned this calling to engage in mercantile pursuits. He removed to Philadelphia, where

NOTES

he established himself as an importer and merchant, and rose to prominence, becoming one of the leading and wealthiest merchants of his time. Some idea of the varieties of merchandise imported and sold by him as early as 1753 is gathered from an advertisement in the Pennsylvania Gazette of 18 October of that year, which reads:

"Just imported in the London, Capt. Shirley, from London, and to be sold by Samuel Howell, at the Sign of the Beaver in Chestnut Street.

"Ozenbrigs, cotton and linen checks, 10d and 20d nails, powder and shot, Irish linen, a good assortment of silk handkerchiefs, Cumberland and Scots linen ditto, black ell wide and half yd persian, black velvet, a good assortment of cambricks and lawns in pieces and patches, long lawns, 7/8 garlix, dark and light ground colise, two colors and blue ditto stampd cottons, writing paper, French verdigrease, shalloons, Brussels, Camblits, Cloth color, blue green and black calicansoes, worsted damask black China and English toffeties, an assortment of black, flower'd and colour'd ribbons, light and cloth colour'd sewing silk, men's and women's hose, bobbin, Capes, quality binding, best hand metal buttons, an assortment of Scots thread, a good assortment of small books, Dilworth's spelling books, young man's companion, ivory combs, men's and women's gloves, best hyson, souchong tea, in qr. canisters, silver watches, stone set in silver, sleeve buttons, best brass sleeve buttons, brown buckram, women's thimbles, pocket compasses with dials, best French gun flints, pepper, nutmegs, cinnamon, cotton, and silk laces, saxon green muffatees, silk cotton and worsted caps, an assortment of women's scarlet and cloth coloured cloaks, mohair twist, ferrets, fine and coarse 6 qr muslin, blue cloth colour, and green broad clothes, nonsopretty, hat linings, buttons, and loopings, frog loops, coarse and fine bow-strings, pumice stone, seal skin razors, scissors, pistol, cap and cuttoe-knives, gingham holland, kerseys, German serges, red and embossed flannel, shoe and knee bluckles &c."

Mr. Howell early manifested his sympathy for the colonies in their opposition to the exactions and oppressions of the mother government, and when the attempt was made to enforce the Stamp Act in Pennsylvania he lined himself with those who determined to resist its demands. He was a party to the historic "Non-Importation Agreement," which he signed, and was one of the prominent merchants selected to solicit other signers and to see that the agreement was put into effect. This line of resistance exhausted the patriotism of many merchants, particularly those of Quaker proclivities, but not that of Samuel Howell, who, when when more heroic measures became necessary, was found among the foremost of those who planned to oppose and defeat the will of the Crown.

On 19 May, 1774, the famous Paul Revere rode into Philadelphia, sent here as a messenger from Boston to announce the passage by parliament of the bill closing the port of Boston and removing the custom-house to Salem, and to solicit support for the people of Boston in their troubles. News of his coming was spread throughout the city,

and a call was issued for a public meeting on the following evening, when a large company of patriotic citizens met at the City Tavern. John Dickinson, author of the "Farmer's Letters," was made chairman, and a committee of correspondence, of which Samuel Howell was a member, was appointed to write to the people of Boston, assuring them of sympathy, commending their firmness, declaring their cause that of the colonies, and promising to stand fast for the right. The committee immediately organized, with John Dickinson at its head, and forwarded the letter of sympathy to Boston, and took such other measures as the crisis in their judgment demanded.

Early in June news arrived of the passage by parliament of two additional acts intended to still further harass the people of Boston. This increased the public indignation and led the committee of correspondence to arrange for a mass-meeting at the State-House yard (Independence Square) on 18 June, 1774. On the day named some eight thousand citizens assembled at the appointed place, and Thomas Willing and John Dickinson presided. "The meeting," writes Dr. Stille, "took some bold steps, which became very important in the progress of the controversy. It not only declared the Boston Port Bill unconstitutional, but created a committee of correspondence with practical functions of great importance. This committee was to correspond and consult not merely with like committees in the other colonies, but also with similar committees to be appointed in each county of this province." Samuel Howell was chosen a member of the new committee, composed of forty-three of the leading citizens. Steps were immediately taken by this body for a convention (or conference, as it was called), to be composed of delegates elected in the several counties of the province. Mr. Howell was elected from Philadelphia, and participated in the convention which met at Carpenters' Hall, 15 July, 1774, with Thomas Willing as chairman. "The actual weight and influence of the province was here gathered, and the convention acted as if conscious of its power, asserting colonial rights, condemning parliament, favoring united action and a colonial congress, pledging Pennsylvania to co-operate with the other colonies, and requesting the provincial assembly (which was already called) to appoint deputies to the congress." By the vote of the convention, the delegates from Philadelphia were constituted a committee of correspondence for the province, and Mr. Howell remained a member of this important body until 3 July, 1775, when it was succeeded by a council of safety, of which Benjamin Franklin was the head. The council was, in fact, a board of war, and had the direction of military affairs in the province. Mr. Howell was not made a member at its creation, but in the following October the assembly reappointed the old members of the council and added several others, Mr. Howell being one of the latter. He entered actively on the business of the council, which was that of raising, arming, and equipping troops, creating a navy, building fortifications, procuring the munitions of war, etc; and not only did he vote for such measures, but he served on special committees in furtherance of these ends, some of which services are outlined in the following extracts from the proceedings of the council:

"Resolved, That Samuel Howell and Col. Cadwalader be appointed to purchase some powder."

"Resolved, That Mr. Howell & Mr. Clymer be a committee to enquire into the quantity of sulphur that is now in this city."

NOTES

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Board that Mr. Wharton, Mr. Whyte, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Howell, Mr. Robert Morris & Mr. Clymer, be a committee to contract with such persons as they may think most capable, for the immediate building and equipping a ship of war for the river service, to mount twenty eight pounders, and to provide the guns, necessary ammunition, provisions, and other articles fitting for such ship."

"Resolved, That as it appears to this Board that the providing of Fire Rafts will contribute greatly to defend this city against hostile attacks from Men-of-War; Mr. Howell, Capt. Whyte, Mr. James Biddle, & Mr. Owen Biddle, be a Committee to inquire into the construction of such Fire Rafts, and to give immediate directions for building so many of them as may be necessary, and Report thereon to this Committee."

"Resolved, That Messrs. George Clymer, James Mease, Samuel Howell, Owen Biddle, Anthony, & John Cadwalader, be a Committee, with full powers, to complete an agreement with Mr. Samuel Potts and Mr. Bustead, for casting a number of heavy canon, and that these Gentlemen be requested to take Mr. Rittenhouse with them to Mr. Pott's works, or to take any other measures for this purpose which they may think proper."

"Resolved, That for the further defence of this Province, a Floating Battery be built; That Samuel Howell, Robert Whyte, and George Clymer, be a Committee to have the said Battery completed as soon as possible, and that they purchase the Guns and other necessaries for her."* (P) Pennsylvania Colonial Records

Mr. Howell continued a member of the council until 22 July, 1776. He was then re-elected, but declined the honor. During the same year he was elected to the assembly, receiving the highest vote in the poll. He became a contributor to the Pennsylvania hospital in 1754, and was one of its managers, 1784-9, and the president of the board 1786-9; was chosen one of the signers of the provincial currency in 1772, and in 1774 he was elected a member of common councils, serving in this capacity until its sessions were interrupted by the Revolution. He was a member of the "State in Schuylkill" (now known as the "Schuylkill Fishing Company"), the oldest social organization in the world. In 1788 he was chosen one of the port wardens of Philadelphia, and 19 March, 1791, was appointed by President Washington a commissioner of the United States bank.

His decease is thus noted in the Aurora of 14 December, 1807:

"Died--at his seat, (Tacony near Frankford) on the ninth instant, in the 85th year of his age, SAMUEL HOWELL, Esq^r., for many years a Merchant of great respectability in this city."

He possessed a large landed and personal estate, the latter alone, as shown by the account of his executors, amounting to over two hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars. He married (1) at Friends' Meeting, 12 December, 1745, Sarah, daughter of Daniel Stretch, of that city. She died 28 March, 1770, aged forty-three years. He married (2) Jane G.--(maiden name not ascertained). She joined her husband in conveying land, 10 November, 1789, and died at Philadelphia, 28 March, 1806, aged sixty-four years.

NOTES

Children of Samuel and Sarah (Stretch) Howell:

Sarah Howell, born circa 1746-7; died in April, 1825; married Peter Stretch.
Samuel Howell, born Circa 1748; died 1802; married Margaret Emlen.
Elizabeth Howell, married at Philadelphia, 8 December, 1767, George Douglass. They were doubtless both dead 15 February, 1808, when their daughter Elizabeth Douglass, probably an only child, in her will, dated in the city of New York, and proved at Philadelphia (Will Book ii, 292), names "my late venerable grandfather" Samuel, "Cousin " Elizabeth Howell, "cousin" Elizabeth Stretch, of New Jersey, and gives legacies to John Barbarie, Otto Van Tuyl Barbarie, Mary Elizabeth Barbarie, of the city of New York, Mrs. Anne Simms, John Douglass Simms, Esqr, Nancy Doubllass imms, and Jane Amelia Watson Simms, of Virginia, Abraham Varick, of New York, and his wife Phoebe, "daughters" of Robert Pierson, of New Jersey, and to her "particular friend" Joshua I. R. Birch, physician of New York.
Joseph Howell, married Catharine Reynolds.
Mary Howell, married Mr. Pascoe, of Bermudas.
Rachel Howell, married Benjamin Thompson. (pages 159-163)

"Mary Howell was born at Philadelphia, 18 November, 1778, died there, 3 March, 1836; married, as second wife, 6 June, 1805, Benjamin Jones,* born at Philadelphia, 7 November, 1767; died there, 15 May, 1849; son of Joseph Jones by his wife Hannah Walter. Mr. Jones was a prominent member of the Society of Friends, and a leading merchang of Philadelphia.

Children of Benjamin and Mary (Howell) Jones:

Anne Emlen Jones, born 21 July, 1806; died 1 November, 1883; married, 13 June, 1837, Anthony Saunders Morris, born 5 December, 1803; died 25 March, 1885.
William Howell Jones, born 16 April, 1808; died 2 September, 1819.
Margaretta Howell Jones, born 19 December, 1809; died 5 May, 1874; married, 1 June, 1831, John Madison Taylor.**
Richard Jones, born 21 February, 1812; died at Philadelphia, 29 October, 1890; married (1) Susan Gibbs, by whome he had: Joseph Jones, Benjamin Jones. He married (2) June, 1841, Alice Woodmansie Davis.
Mary Beveridge Jones, born 18 February, 1814; died 26 October, 1887; married Samuel Tobey, of New Bedford, Massachusetts.
Harriet Jones, born 17 March, 1816; died 22 January, 1855.
Samuel Howell Jones, born 20 June, 1818; died at St. Lucie, Florida, 19 January, 1883; married (1) in 1848, Lydia H. Bishop, of Medford, Massachusetts, who died in 1860 without issue; married (2) Eliza Kate Jacog, of Louisville, Kentucky, who died in 1864, by whome he had: Samuel Howell Jones, born 15 December 1862, died 21 October, 1894; married, 19 October, 1886, Elizabeth Dunbar Lockwood, born at Philadelphia, 13 June, 1861, daughter of William Edward Lockwood.
Benjamin Walter Jones, born 29 June, 1821; died 15 December, 1883; married ~~married~~ Woodmansie Davis. (pages 180-81)

* Benjamin Jones married (1) 18 May, 1797, Rebecca Moore, by whome he had sons William Jones, Walter Moore Jones, and Andrew Moore Jones.

**John Madison Taylor by his wife Margaretta Jones had four children, the eldest of whom, William Johnson Taylor, born June, 1832; died 6 April, 1864; served as major in a Maryland regiment of volunteers in the late civil war, married Mary E. Beardon, of Knoxville, Tennessee, and had J. Madison Taylor, M.D., born 4 July 1855, a physician at Philadelphia; Caroline Taylor, born 5 August, 1859; William Johnson Taylor, M.D., born 13 October, 1861, also a physician at Philadelphia.

NOTES

"Margaret Howell, was born at Philadelphia, circa 1786; died at Pemberton, New Jersey, 28 December, 1856; married, 1 January, 1811, Captain John Saltar, born at Philadelphia, circa 1781; died at Pemberton, New Jersey, 9 November, 1858; son of John Saltar, Esqr, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Mary Gordon, of Philadelphia.

Children of Captain John and Margaret (Howell) Saltar, born at Tacony, Philadelphia:

James Lawrence Saltar, born 18 November, 1811; died at Maysville, Connecticut, 27 October, 1832.

John Saltar, born 23 June, 1814; married Ellen Gilmore, of Kentucky.

Margaret Ann Emlen Saltar, born 19 August, 1816; married the late Isaac Pierson Coleman, M.D., of Pemberton, New Jersey, where she now resides." (Page 183)

"Susanna Howell was born at Philadelphia, circa 1788; died there 7 August, 1824; married, 30 October, 1817, Colonel Athanasius Fenwick, who died in St. Mary's county, Maryland, 13 October, 1824; son of James Fenwick, a descendant of Guthbert Fenwick, who was prominent among the early colonists in Maryland. He was a colonel in the Maryland militia, and served in the senate of that state.

Children of Athanasius and Susanna (Howell) Fenwick:

James Athanasius Fenwick, born 2 November, 1818; died 19 July, 1862; married Mary Cashell.

Margaretta H. Fenwick, born 27 July, 1820; married, 15 May, 1854, Alexander MacLeod, who has since deceased.

Susanna E. Fenwick, born 18 September, 1822

A Daughter, not named, born and died in 1824. " (Page 183)

"Thomas Reynolds Howell, died in New Jersey; married, 25 May, 1825, Jane A., daughter of his uncle Samuel Howell. She died at Pemberton, New Jersey, in 1852. From sundry conveyances of record, it would appear that Mr. Howell was a large land-owner, and was part owner of the Hanover iron-works, in New Hanover township, Burlington county, New Jersey.* He was a member of the Burlington county board of chosen freeholders, 1822-5.

Children of Thomas Reynolds and Jane A. (Howell) Howell:

Reynolds Howell

Thomas Howell

Emma Howell

(page 184).

* By deed dated 22 March, 1811, Thomas R. Howell, of "New Hanover, Burlington county," conveyed unto Benjamin Jones, of Philadelphia, sundry estates in Burlington county. The deed recites that his "maternal grandfather Thomas Reynolds, Esqr," became entitled to one-fourth part of "Mt. Misery Mill," and land in Burlington and Monmouth counties, and by deed of 30th May, 1797, conveyed the same to said Thomas R. Howell; that Joseph Howell, the father of said Thomas R. Howell, became entitled to one-fourth part of divers tracts of land situate in the counties of Burlington and Monmouth, in conjunction with John Lacy, Clayton Earl, and Joseph Ridgway," A company to make and manufacture iron, called the Hanover Company," and that said Joseph Howell died intestate, and that the said one-fourth interest became the property of his "only son and heir, the said Thomas R. Howell." (Burlington County Deeds, X.590.)