

A Genealogical and
Family Survey of the
Ancestors and Descendants of
Alfred Waldo Driggs
and
Alice May Williams
both of
East Hartford, Connecticut

INCLUDING

Historical Notes • Mayflower Lines
Indian and Revolutionary War Items

400 CONNECTING FAMILIES

Then and Now

(PRINTED 1966)

INTRODUCTION

At the time the genealogy of Alfred W. Driggs and Alice May Williams was compiled, many biographical and autobiographical sketches of persons listed were not printed. It was realized that these would be considerable, would be of much added interest and could be added within the next few years. In the interval, marriages and births have been recorded; there has been a grouping of families with some genealogical results not mentioned before.

It has been possible to insert a few old photographs and time gave opportunity to take a few pictures while the work was being assembled.

Various families have contributed a share and the children have been most helpful, especially as they expect to see their writing efforts in print.

State Library, Hartford. Many of his descendants migrated far west; some married as Mormons at Salt Lake City, Utah; others continued on to Oregon; others are numerous in the expanding cities of the southwest region of the United States. Although he signed his will with his "mark", I do not judge he was illiterate.

The following names refer to the John Driggs line of Middletown and the Millington Society of East Haddam. The first meeting house was built in 1743. According to land deeds, John owned land and removed to Bolton, was a resident there with a family. He later moved to Rome, N.Y., where he died in 1818 ae. 75. The Driggs boys were somewhat roaming and adventurous and cared little for community life among themselves. The early families were large but, at the present, the name is not a familiar one in parts of the United States.



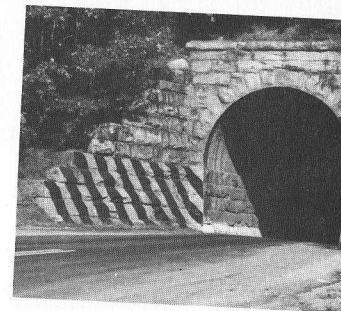
Abel Driggs, Sr., son Abel and son Alfred were of Vernon. Abel lived in a small Cape Cod like house at the foot of the hill near the Tunnel Road Brook. Later a more commodious house was built higher up on the sunny slope of Box Mountain and before the railroad embankment was built, had a beautiful view of the Connecticut Valley and the western hills.

The farm consisted of some 300 acres, some of which paralleled the railroad as it climbed the grades to Bolton Notch.



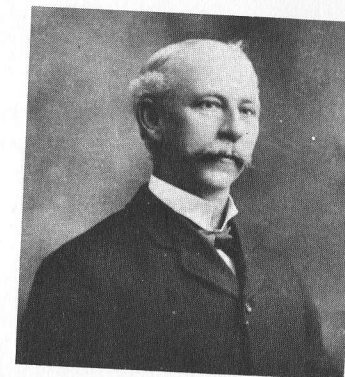
The first passenger train from New Haven to Hartford arrived in December 1839. Other railroad lines eastward were established between 1840-50.

Leaving Hartford the rail lines follow somewhat the course of the Hockanum River. At Vernon depot they are at an elevation of some 300 feet above sea level. They now follow the course of the Tanekahoosen River, climbing steadily using a grade of sixty feet to the mile and pass the Driggs' farm over the Tunnel Road at about 400 feet elevation and still climbing.

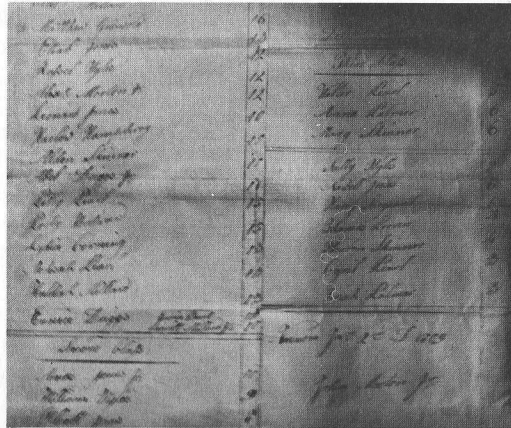


At Valley Falls it is high above the river at 500 feet, climbing to 600 feet at Bolton Notch.

Waldo John Driggs
of East Hartford

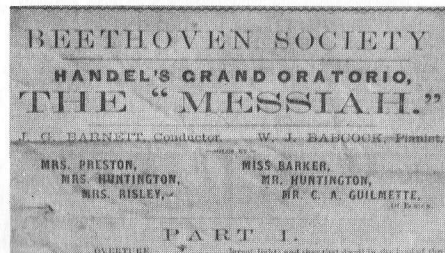


1860-1875



From the homestead farm of 300 acres on the northwest slope of Box Mountain, east of the railroad tracks, Waldo went to the district school at Vernon Center, a mile or more distant. It was the same school to which his grandfather, Abel, went in 1809 at the age of ten years.

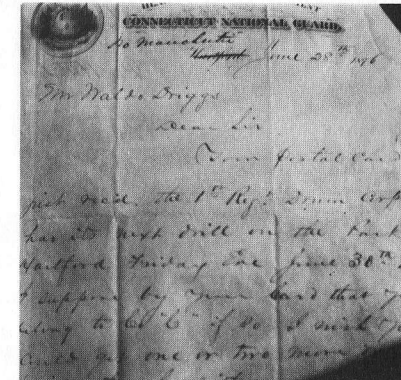
He was married in 1874 to Sarah E. Keeney of Manchester and living in Hartford in 1875, he apprenticed out to be a carpenter.



He was interested in music and became a member of the Beethoven Society. He had an excellent ear for intervals of musical pitch. Libretto and dramatic expression were not practiced but he could sing the bass score of the chorus part of the Messiah, Elijah and others from memory so that all he had to do was watch the conductor.

He was a drummer and member of Company C First Regiment, Connecticut National Guard. On June 30, 1876 he was notified to appear for drill on the park at Hartford, by order of B. W. Hudson, Col. 1st. Regiment, in preparation for its appearance at the Philadelphia Exposition

soon to be held. Friends of his from Vernon and Rockville were also there in this musical squad of Company C of Manchester.



1880-1883

He was a wheelwright at Smith Talcott's paper mill at Talcottville and later lived with his family in Manchester on the high banks of the Hockanum River in what was known as the Salter Place, now 610 North Main Street. This was purchased at that time and other holdings in Manchester were added later. He walked to Buckland Station to take the train to work for Barrett Brothers of Hartford, possibly as foreman, in their woodworking shop.



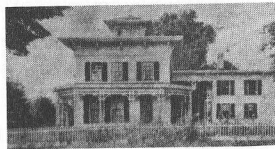
610 North Main Street



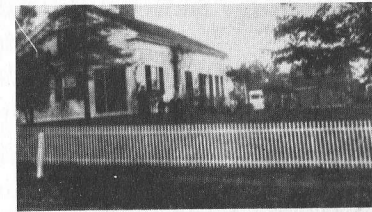
A Quiet Pastime in Georgia, U.S.A.

Mrs. Edna Hazzard, a colored maid, entered our employment (Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Driggs) October 2, 1957, as a day worker. Before this she had been employed for sometime by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fuller. He was for several years a probate judge of East Hartford. Mr. and Mrs. Hazzard live on Clark Street in Hartford.

Keeney Family



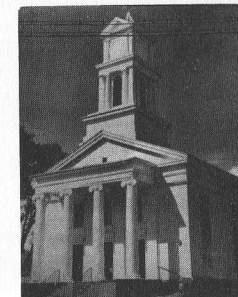
Timothy Keeney, proprietor owner in the Keeney-Woods paper mill at North Manchester on the Hockanum River. There has never been found any record of his birth; he has been listed as the son of Alexander but this has not been accepted by the National Society D.A.R. He may have been an adopted son. He died July 30, 1832 and has a monument in the Buckland Cemetery.



The Alfred Keeney place as it appeared in 1890, being built about 1832. It replaced the one that burned and was probably a gift from Timothy Keeney, owner of the paper mill, to his son Alfred. Alfred was a shoe maker and had a family of seven children, some of whom worked in the mill.



Sarah E. Keeney, born April 13, 1847, daughter of Alfred, married Waldo J. Driggs of Vernon. They started housekeeping on Madison Street in Hartford and son Alfred W. was born there December 4, 1875.



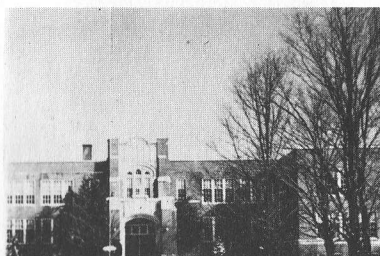
Both sang in the choir of the North Methodist Church which was dedicated October 15, 1851; the congregation had recently separated on

friendly terms from the Methodist Society that worshiped in the center of Manchester. This Society moved to South Manchester and her son, Alfred, was organist there for a short time in 1899.



By working in the mill, she was able to improve her education in a private school in New York State and before marriage was appointed to teach in the Oakland School District of Manchester.

Lee Family



Daryl Gene Lee, daughter of Emil Russell and Margaret Marie (Kadelski) Lee of Rockville, Connecticut was born July 4, 1943, graduated from Rockville High School and attended Annhurst College of Liberal

Art, South Woodstock, Connecticut. This college, chartered by the State Legislature and conducted by the Daughters of the Holy Ghost, was opened in 1941 and confers degrees in Arts and Sciences. It is associated with other high Catholic Educational Institutions.

On May 5, 1962 she married Woodruff C. Driggs of Vernon. She is now continuing her studies and attending classes in psychology and philosophy at the University of Hartford.

Levitsky Family

Wilhimina Levitsky is the daughter of William and Minnie (Karkut) Levitsky of Germany. She was born in Nanticote, Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna River below Wilkes-Barre. She married Frank Richardson on November 2, 1905 in East Hartford. She has been Past Noble Grand of Welcome Rebekah Lodge of East Hartford and Past District Deputy President of the 19th Connecticut District. For many years she has been an active worker in St. John's Episcopal Church, East Hartford.

Mayflower Lines



Bradford House at Duxbury, Massachusetts, home of Major William Bradford, son of the Governor who was historian of the group for some