BARKHAMSTED REMINSCENCES

THE HUMPHREY CASE FAMILY

Humphrey Case was born at Meadow Plain, Simsbury, Conn., August 29, 1762, and was a son of Jedediah Case. He had four brothers and two sisters. Jedediah Case was a son of Deacon Joseph Case of Simsbury. He was born March 30, 1733, and married Mary Hart. He had five brothers and three sisters. Deacon Joseph Case was a son of Joseph Case, Sen., of Meadow Plain, he being born Feb. 2, 1700. He married Hannah Humphrey. He had seven brothers. Joseph Case, Sen., was a son of John Case, Sen. of Weatogue Simsbury, and he was born April 6, 1674. He had five brothers and four sisters. He married Anna Eno. I am unable to state whether John Case, Sen., came from England or not, but the subject is being investigated. He came from Windsor to Weatogue and died before West Simsbury was settled.

Humphrey Case married Miss Freelove Harrington, of Simsbury, she being born Feb. 1, 1767. Previous to their marriage a brother of Humphrey had bought a tract of land lying on Center Hill, in an unbroken state, but had at that time made no advance in putting it in a state of cultivation, and when Humphrey had taken unto himself a wife and was thinking of a home, his brother proposed that he should buy his Barkhamsted land. Accordingly the two brothers started on a tour of inspection, crossing the hills, passing through the valley slowly traversing the distance that lay between Simsbury and the yet uncultivated mountainous land. Humphrey was so favorably impressed with the location that he decided to take it, paying the same amount that his brother had given, and immediately made preparations for their removal here. He selected a site for their house and built a log cabin upon the same ground where the present house now stands. He cut away the trees and cleared a small piece of land for a garden and then went to Simsbury for his wife and their effects. A man by the name of Pettibone moved them out with an ox team. He was not favorably impressed with the surroundings, and on his return to Simsbury told his friends “he had left Humphrey and Freelove among the rocks out in Barkhamsted, but they would be called upon to go and move them back, as they could not get a living in such a place. Humphrey and his wife, being young and full of hope and ambition, bravely told them they should try their fortune in pioneer life five years.

“For stern the time, they dwelt with care,

And fear was oft a comer,

A sober April ushered in

The pilgrim’s toilsome summer.

And stern their creed; they tarried here,

Mere desert-land sojourners;

They must not dream of mirth or rest,

God’s humble lesson-learners.

The saddest theme has something sweet,

The gravest something tender.

While with slow steps they wander on

Mid summer’s fading spendor.”

At the time they came to town there were but three families on Center Hill, John Ives being one, and two families by the name of Allen. The day they moved out they saw little on the road but rocks and trees without number, and then they reached the little clearing which was to be their future home it did not present a very inviting or home-like appearance.

As they slowly wended their way across Center Hill, Mrs. Ives came out, gladness and joy lighting up her face, and reaching out her hand warmly welcomed the new comers. Previous to this Mrs. Ives had fallen into the fire and burned her hands so badly they were hardly in the shape of hands, and Mrs. Case never forgot the first hand-shake given by her new neighbor and friend. As might be conjectured they both met many trials and discouragements, chief among which was the necessary oven wherewith Mrs. Case could bake her bread. At first she was obliged to ask the loan of neighbor Allen’s oven for the purpose, and in order to reach them, she had to cross Beaver Brook on a log, carrying her bread on her arm. Mr. Case, perceiving he great inconvenience, and length of time required, to provide their table with bread, resolved (as every good and considerate husband did at that time and has ever since), that his wife should have an oven of her own at whatever cost, and immediately commenced making the needful preparations. Finding some clay he of this made the mortar, and taking a large flat stone he placed it against the end of a log which lay but a short distance from the cabin. Necessity being the mother of invention he placed flat stones for the sides, and held them in place while his wife applied the mortar. When it was dry, she found on the first trial of baking it was as good as her neighbor’s, and with admiring eyes surveyed what she was convinced was a most wonderful achievement of ingenuity and perfection.

When Mr. Case built their log house he had no glass to put in for windows, so Mrs. Case took a piece of paper and after saturating thoroughly with grease, tacked it across the windows, and through this the sunlight shone in with its cheerful presence, and she found her home was where her heart was and she became contented.

Mr. Case had to go to Simsbury and Hartford after flour and groceries whenever their supply was nearly exhausted. One night while he was away a fearful thunder shower arose. Mrs. Case was very timid in a shower, and at this time being alone, she felt unusually so. The wind blew a gale breaking trees around their house, some doing much damage. One tree hit the log against which their highly prized oven stood, and it came to a sad and lamentable end. Branches from trees hit the house and roof was broken in over their bed, the chimney was knocked off, the rain poured in torrents, putting out the fire, leaving her the rest of the night without fire or light. In the morning the first thing she did was to cross the log and get some fire of neighbor Allen, before she could get herself anything to eat. When her husband came home she told him that unless he cut away the trees and made the clearing larger she would not stay there another night. He, well knowing she would keep her word, complied with her wishes and cut the trees until he knew no more could trouble their house even if the wind blew.

On another occasion, when her husband had gone to Simsbury, Mrs. Case heard the deep-toned thunder reverberate in pealing echoes along the dark corridors of heaven. Quickly taking her two little children she started for her neighbor’s, thinking she could not stay alone. Reaching Beaver Brook she carried one child across then went back after the other. A thought of what she was doing came to her. She knew God’s presence was with her at home as well as elsewhere and quickly recrossing the log she brought back the child and returned home and never left it again when she saw a shower approaching.

They had a cow which they kept in a hovel a little distance from their house. Mr. Case was away, and with milking pail in hand Mrs. Case was walking towards the hovel when what was her astonishment and fear to see a large bear walking away from it. She sprang into the bushes and waited until it was out of sight. When Mr. Case returned she told him of their unwelcome visitor. He made an examination of the tracks and then tried to persuade his wife that it was only a wild cat, but she was not easily convinced. The bear was traced and trapped, but I am told that a tree still stands on Center Hill, which has always been known as “bear trees,” so called from the fact that this bear climbed up this tree.

Mrs. Case was a very energetic, preserving woman, and in her home her word was law. She did not say to her children, please do this or that, but it was always a command, “do this,” and it was done. She was a very strong Democrat, and on one occasion she hired a man, Abner Taylor by name, whose political views were the opposite of her own, she promising to pay him ten pounds of pork if he would come and work for her while the rest of the men went to the polls. He was a poor man and thought more of the promised pork than he did of depositing his vote, so he worked on their farm all day and when night came carried home his pork. Mrs. Case was a very social woman, kind and sympathetic. In religious belief she was an Episcopalian, firm and unwavering. She was often found at the beds of sickness, comforting the weary ones, or smoothing the pillow of those who had heard the still, small voice.

Humphrey did not probably live many years in the log house. He built a house which is now standing, and in which he died. He died April 17th, 1835, aged 73. Freelove, his wife, died April 30th, 1839, aged 72.

Of their thirteen children I will speak in our next number.

Manna, oldest son of Humphrey and Freelove Case, was born Nov. 9, 1786, and married Abigail Philps, Nov. 4, 1806, and like their parents their children numbered thirteen: Altha, Riley, Phebe, Mary, Austin, Urania, Miranda, Eliza, Phelps, Dan, Manna, Abigail and Henry.

Altha married Sanuel Warn; Riley married Maria Comstock; Phebe married Emmons Tabor and she is now a practicing physician in California; Mary married William B. Haynes and had three children. He died young and she then became the wife of Dr. Whipple. Urania married Charles Munson, a son of Asabel Munson, who was a son of Medad. Eliza married George Vincent and lives in California. I am unable to trace out the whereabouts of this family without much time and trouble. Manna Case and his wife, Abigail, both died in Minnesota. Rufus, second son of Humphrey, was born May 18, 1788. In June 1813 he married Susan Adkins. They had five daughters but no sons: Correlia, Sophronia, Beulah, Ada, and Jane. Correlia never married but makes her home with a sister at Riverton, Connecticut. Sophronia married James Tiffany, son of Deacon Joel Tiffany, their marriage taking place May 1, 1839. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. The history of this family will appear in the sketch I shall subsequently give of the Tiffany family.

Beulah married Hiram Bushnell of West Hartland, Feb. 8th, 1837 and lived there until 1840 when they moved to Barkhamsted, living on the Squire Allyn farm until 1853, when they moved to the house in Pleasant Valley built by Dr. Snow of Waterburn, and from there moved to Berlin in the fall of ’56, living in a house now owned by Bryan Atwater, in which tradition has it, that the Father of our Country once remained overnight. In ’59 Mr. Bushnell moved to Rocky Hill, and in ’62 to Plainville, where they now reside. Mr. Bushnell is deaf, not hearing even the loudest thunder. Mrs. Bushnell has been sadly afflicted for thirteen years by rheumatism, and for the past three years has been unable to walk. They had seven children. The first child, born in Hartland, died when seven hours old, Ellen M., Hiram, Wilbert, Huber, Frances A., Levings B., and Charles T. Ellen M. was a school teacher until 1861, when she became the wife of Hiram A. Clark of Berlin. The following year her husband enlisted in Co. K. 16th Regt. Coun. Vol. He was captured with his regiment at Plymouth, N.C., and died after five months of terrible suffering in Andersonville Prison. In 1865 his widow became the wife of George A. Wright of Hartford, Conn., which city she has since made her home. For many years Mr. Wright was in the store of Talcott & Post, but of late has been with Wm. H. Post & Co. They have three children, all boys.

In 1865 Hiram Wilbert Bushnell left his native state for Wisconsin, and the following year joined the West Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his first appointment being Eau Claire, then numbering about one thousand inhabitants. In 1867 he married Mrs. Mary Hiller, and by her had five children, two sons and three daughters, all of whom, except the eldest daughter, have passed to the spirit-life. In 1871 he returned to Connecticut with his family and visited the familiar scenes of his boyhood. In 1876 he came to the Centennial. In 1875 he was returned to his first appointment, Eau Claire, where he remained three years. While there he was appointed Temperance Agent and city missionary, residing in the city two years longer, giving him a residence of seven years out of the seventeen of hi ministry. He is now stationed at Prescott on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Huber Bushnell married Mrs. Angeline N. Arnold in 1866, a daughter of the late Lucius Atwater of Berling. In 1862 he enlisted in the 16th Reg. Coun. Vols., G.K., Newton, Manrose of Forestville, Captain, and was killed three weeks after leaving home, at the battle of Antietam. Huber was captured with is regiment at Plymouth, and was treated to a full dose of the horrors of Andersonville Prison, all of which he survived, and he cam home with no more scars than he carried away.

James H. Arnold has been his tent-mate and constant companion during his army life. When these brave soldier boys were given their liberty they were both sick, but Mr. Arnold was so feeble he was unable to accept his freedom, so they separated, and when Mr. Arnold made a last effort to reach is home in the northern clime, his weariness was too great and his spirit was freed from its frail tenement while on the homeward bound train. His friend Huber went to see the sorrowing wife where he looked upon the loved faces of his own kin, to carry the last message from the husband’s lips, little thinking the lady would ever become his wife, but in time she became Mrs. Bushnell. His avocation is farming, lives in Berlin and has one son.

Frances Amelia died at twelve years of age and Levings B. at four years. The March preceeding his death he remarked to his mother that he should die before the summer had past, and when questioned as to why he thought so he answered “Because Alice is dead.” Alice was a grand-daughter of Lemuel Richardson, Alice Dempsey y name. He died the last day of summer, at the “setting of the sun.” The little bodies of Levings and Alice are crumbling to dust in the quiet little cemetery at Pleasant Valley, resting side by side.

Charles F. Bushnell is unmarried and now lives at New Britain. Adah, the fourth daughter of Rufus Case, was married to Samuel W. Pine, July 4, 1838, and had three children: John E., Charles H., and Jennie A. John Edgar married Ellen E., and adopted daughter of Lucius Griswold of Winsted, Nov. 29, 1865. Charles H. married Genie A. Downs of Ansonia, Sept. 20, 1870, who died May 12, 1881. Charles lived in Riverton, Conn., until he was fifteen years and attended the district school.. He enlisted in the 19th Coun. Vol. (afterwards the 2nd C.V. Artillery) and served three years, after which he was clerk and bookkeeper for Mr. Lathrop of Welcottville, and subsequently was appointed teller of the Ansonia National Bank. After a service of two years as teller he was chosen cashier, a position which he now holds. He was elected Representative from the town of Derby for the sessions of 1881 and 1882, and was again reelected for the session of 1883, and by a handsome majority was elected Speaker of the House. He was an enterprising aspiring boy and has developed into a strong, reliable man, holding the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he dwells.

Samuel W. Pine left Riverton in August 1858, where he had had a marble yard, and moved to Winsted, Connecticut here he engaged in the same business, doing here a much better class of work than had been seen in the cemeteries in the county, and the standard has been maintained to this day – as many elegant and artistically chiseled monuments in these many cemeteries will give convincing evidence. There are but few families far and near but what have had business relations with this man, and to whom his face is most familiar. In 1872 he associated with himself his eldest son, John Edgar, and what is true of the father is true of the son. They are intelligent, honest and entirely worthy of the public trust and confidence. At their marble works at Winsted they are today conducting their business successfully furnishing good work, artistic in design and of better workmanship than any of their competitors in the state, delivering their work at current, or even lower rates through all the widening ranges of territory over which their business extends. The daughter, Jennie Pine is unmarried.

Jane, the fifth and youngest daughter of Rufus Case, married Sept. 10, 1848, Seth K. Priest, son of Anson Priest of Barkhamsted and lived in New Hartfor, where he engaged in mercantile business and died there Nov. 21, 1880, aged 56. They had no children, and his widow alone retains the name of Priest.

Rufus Case died April 9, 1843, aged 55. Susanna Adkins, his widow died October 3, 1874, aged 74.

Sarah, third child of Humphrey and Freelove, was born July 15, 1790. She married Marquis Rose and had ten children. She died April 23, 1880, aged 88 years. The history of this family will appear in its proper place with the Rose name.

Truman Case was born June 25, 1792, and married Annis Wilder, a daughter of Thomas Wilder, their marriage occurring March 5, 1815. They had six children: Annis Charlotte, Truman Austin, Elsie Abigail, Miner Martin, James Sheldon, and Calvin Wilder.

Annis C. married Orsemus Ransom, son of Peletish Ransom of Riverton, July 31, 1839. He died March 2, 1845, aged 29 years. April 5, 1864 she married Henry B. Lee of Pleasant Valley. He died Sept. 17, 1865, leaving her a second time widow.

Truman A. Case married Julia A. Higley of Oswego, N.Y., October 226, 1852, and settled in Erie, Penn., where he remained until 1862, when he moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where he still lives. They had four children, two whom are still living.

Elsie A. Case married John McCurdy of Dansville, N.Y. in 1850. They have had five children, two of whom are living – John Truman and Sallie Annis. John married Henrietta B. Reno, of Youngstown, Ohio. Sallie Annis married Thomas E. Gallagher of Dansville, N.Y.

Miner M. Case married Jane Catlin of Harwinton and had five children. For the past eleven years he has resided at Lone Rock, Wis.

James Sheldon Case married Sarah Brewster of Erie, Penn., in 1853. His wife was removed by the beckoning of the Death Visitant in1864. He lived until August 20, 1879, when he died at Racine, Wisconsin. They had three children.

Truman Case lived at the foot of West Street, Center Hill, and from there his children left the paternal roof and went out into the world. In religious belief he was an Episcopalian. He died May 22, 1857, aged 65. After his death Annis Ransom lived at the old home with her mother until her marriage with Mr. Lee, when the place was sold, and after the death of Mr. Lee, Annis and her mother went to Dansville, N.Y., where the mother died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. McCurdy, Feb. 1868. Mrs. Annis Lee still resides with sister at Dansville. Charlotte, the second daughter of Humphrey Case was born Sept. 3, 1794, and married Roman Alford, whose birthplace was Canton, their marriage taking place February 19, 1817. They both died at Pleasant Valley, Mr. Alford dying Feb. 19, 1875, Charlotte, his wife, Nov. 22, 1876. They had eleven children, the history of which will appear in the Alford family chapter.

Phebe, third daughter, was born Sept. 18, 1796, and died May 20, 1813.

Freelove, fourth daughter was born Dec. 20, 1796, and married Jabin Ford, an account of whose life was given in the Ford history, some months since. Freelove died in Toledo, Ohio, August 22, 1880.

Abigail Case was born May 12, 1800 and married Otis Taylor of Hartland. They had three children, all dying in infancy, and the little mounds which lie over their ashes can be seen in the Old Cemetery, where the mother was laid by their side, she dying Sept. 22, 1861. Her husband went to the state of New York and died there.

Harlo, fourth son of Humphrey Case, was born July 5, 1803, and married Loly B. Adams, of Hartford, Jan. 7, 1824. They had six children: Diana M., Edwin E., Milo H., Marcia G., Melissa L., and Granville D.

Diana M. married William Slade, Sept. 26, 1847, and had three children. This family has already been spoken of in the Slade history. Edwin E. Case was born March 20, 1829, and married Rhoda Adeline Talmadge, Oct. 25, 1852. She was a daughter of Deacon Elliott Talmadge of Center Hill. They had six children: Angie E., Emma L., Walter S., Elliott T., Herman D., and George E., Emma L. was born in 1857 and was transplanted to the Higher Life, June 1858. Edwin E. Case is a resident of this town, living on Center Hill, and is engaged in farming. Milo H. was born June 27, 1831, and married Miss Harriett M. Rose, daughter of Philo Rose, of Clinton, Jones, Co., Ga. Their marriage dated Jan. 19, 1836, the ceremony being performed by Rev. L.H. Barber in this town. They had two children: Mary A., and Arthur G. The daughter, Mary, married Burton A. Nichols of Naugatuck, Conn. June 15, 1880, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Mr. Bugbee of Hartland. They have one child, Bertha. Milo Case was by avocation a blacksmith, and has worked at his trade in a number of different towns. Marcia C. was born August 24, 1833, and married Luman Pease July 4, 1854. They had three children: Wilbur M., Byron D., and Adelia M. Wilbur M. is a physician, graduating at Burlington, Vt.., July 1, 1882, and is at present located at Otis, Mass. Melissa L. was born Jan. 16, 1836, and in 1859 married Charles L. Calhoun. They have had five children, four now lining. Granville D., youngest child of Marlo Case, lives at the old homestead and is unmarried.

The wife of Harlo died July 2, 1872. He died Jan. 24, 1882. He lived at Center Hill at the old home of his father, and the same house now stands which Humphrey Case built when he and family “moving out of the old home into the new” leaving the little log cabin in which they first commenced their married life, for a framed house, and one much larger, and furnishing more conveniences and room for the thirteen little ones which “kept a comin’, so cunnin’, and fat and small’.

Harriet Case was born April 23, 1805, and married Thomas Dimock of Otis, Mass. They had no children. Her husband took unto himself and is still living at Otis.

Amerette was born July 25, 1807, and married Asa Benton of Braham, Mass. They had two children, only one now living.

Giles Humphrey was born July 27, 1809, and died in 1838, unmarried. Elihu, the youngest son and child of Humphrey and Freelove Case was born Sept. 17, 1811, and married Jennett Mack, daughter of John Mack. They have two children, Helen and Samuel. Helen is unmarried and lives at home. Samuel, the son, married Georgie E. Tuttle of Cold Springs, Mass. They have had three children, only one now living.

Elihu Case lived on the Hollow Road, in a brick house built by John Mack. After a long illness he passed away March 29, 1882, was buried in the Universalist Cemetery. He had a long avowed his belief in the universality of God’s love, and in the final restoration of all things unto the Father.

Four of the children of Humphrey Case died sitting in their chairs: Elihu, Manna, Freelove and Sally.

Amerette is the only surviving child of Humphrey Case. The father and mother, with all the sons and daughters but one, have paid the last debt to nature, and their spirits have passed into the land of the “great departed.”

Since writing this sketch of Humphrey Case and family of his grandsons, Milo Case, has been suddenly called home. He was fatally injured on the afternoon of Nov. 7, while making preparations for the building of a blacksmith shop, near where Noah Carter once lived. He died the following morning. Life is indeed full of changes. Today we live and are full of joy and happiness, rays of sunlight lie across our pathway and we give little thought to change, or shade, or death, but when tomorrow brings us tears instead of smilies, shadow in place of sunshine, and death in place of life, we question as to what human life is, what death means, and what hidden future is to be? We stand awed by the mighty mystery which no philosophy can solve. Who but the dying – the one who is changing mortality for immortality – who is already crossing the ferry with the Boatman pale, can know what it is to die? But thank God – Faith with her silvery key unlocks the shadowy door, and we catch bright visions, and golden gleams of life everlasting fall upon us, and we cease our questionings, and rest secure in the great Father heart, which is ever pulsating for each child of earth, and one by one we meet the great change, at each eventide we are one step nearer death, life, and our progressive march towards home, heaven and perfection.

**Notes on the Humphrey Case Family**

**This is a copy of “Barkhamsted Reminicenses” – written prior to 1900 and given to Fannie B. Culver by Laura Hodges.**

Melissa L. Case (see page 7) was born Jan. 16, 1836, and died in 1923 in New Preston, Conn. She married Charles Lemmon Calhoun, the son of David and Fannie Lemmon Calhoun of Calhoun St., Washington, Conn. He was born in 1839 and died in 1897 in New Preston, Connecticut.

Charles and Melissa Calhoun had two sons and three daughters. George Case, born 1867, died at age seven. Ellen Augusta, born on Sept. 3, 1868, died in 1947. Evelyn Lemmon, born April 4, 1870, died in 1924. Fannie Belle, born Aug. 22, 1872, died March 12, 1942, and Henry Edwin, born March 14, 1875, died Jan. 29, 1938.

Fannie B. Calhoun married Samuel Murphy, the fourth son of Mrs. Nancy D. Murphy of New Preston, Conn. July 12, 1898. He was born Sept. 29, 1872 in Antrim, Ireland, and died July 2, 1957. They had eight sons and three daughters.

Laura May – July 11, 1899

Walter Raymond – Jan. 29, 1901

Leonard Calhoun – April 20, 1902

Howard Francis – Jan. 13, 1904

Arthur Maurice – Aug. 29, 1905

Ralph Alton – April 7, 1907

Mildred Gladys – July 12, 1908

Fannie Belle – May 18, 1910

Daniel Jean – Jan. 3, 1913

Robert Duncan – Nov. 26, 1914

Richard – stillborn, 1915 or 1916

The Murphy family moved from Warren, Conn. To Oneonta, New York in May 1919, and all the children were born in Connecticut.