

**SKETCH OF THE  
INGERSOLL FAMILY  
of  
PHILADELPHIA**

*By*

**R. STURGIS INGERSOLL**

**FEBRUARY, 1966**



FIRST EDITION  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CARD NO. 66-23327



## SKETCH OF THE INGERSOLL FAMILY

A grandson has asked me to give him some account of his Ingersoll ancestry.

The name "Ingersoll" would appear to be a development from the name "Ingebar" borne by a Scandinavian chieftain who came into England with the invading Danes in the ninth century. During the succeeding centuries there are several references to Ingersolls or Inkersalls in English County records.

Richard Ingersoll with his wife Agnes Langley migrated from Bedfordshire to Salem in 1629. They were accompanied by at least four children, the eldest being eleven years of age and also by a young brother, our ancestor, John, age fourteen. Their leader was John Endicott who, in the year 1629, brought a group of Puritans to the practically uninhabited Salem on Massachusetts Bay, followed in 1630 by a much larger group under Sir John Winthrop. The Endicott group and the Winthrop group joined forces. A fascinating study of the mechanics of organization on arrival and thereafter is found in the book of my friend, George L. Haskins, "Law and Authority in Early Massachusetts".

One's imagination can run riot in attempting to envisage the actual experiences of Richard, his wife, their four young children and the fourteen year old John in the endless trip across the North Atlantic and their arrival and settling in at Salem. The best description of such adventure is contained in Bradford's "History of the Plymouth Plantation" definitely worth reading.

These immigrant Ingersolls were Puritans motivated to migrate by hard times and religious convictions, — more by their convictions than the times. Family tradition main-

tains that Richard was a carpenter and undertaker,—through the centuries a frequent combination, the carpenter made the coffins. Our close friend at Penllyn, Walter Shaeff, was the local builder and undertaker. His son carries on the latter profession,—has dropped the other.

Descendants of Richard Ingersoll continued in Salem for a number of generations. For a period, I believe, they owned the House of the Seven Gables in which Hawthorne placed his romance. One of his sons, Nathaniel, a nephew of our ancestor, holds a poor part in American history. He was an Indian fighter, a pillar of the church and a tavern keeper with a license to sell “beer and syder by the quart on the Lord’s day”. Unfortunately, in 1692 in his tavern were the first witch trials held and he appears as the accuser in at least seven cases. Years ago I read pretty much all that had been written about that curious delusion resulting in the hanging in Salem in the summer of 1692 of nineteen innocent “witches”.

Our ancestor John, a great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather of Beth, Archer, etc., had an adventurous life. I wish we knew more of the details. We know more about the conquest of the west than we know about the seventeenth century conquest of New England. We can imagine ourselves in a covered Conestoga wagon trekking westward but it is hard to place ourselves in a flat boat creeping up the Connecticut River.

John, although but a boy on arrival at Salem, did not long remain there. In the late 1630’s and 40’s there was a considerable migration from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the Connecticut River Valley via Rhode Island and the north coast of Long Island Sound. In 1657 we find John in Hartford, Connecticut, which several decades before had been settled by a few Dutch pioneers from New Amsterdam (New York). The Dutch by the middle of the century were far outnumbered by the migrants from Massachusetts Bay

and the entire river valley became an English settlement stretching from the Sound into Southern Massachusetts.

Ancestor John married his first of three wives in 1651. In 1655 he moved his family to Northampton, Massachusetts, many miles up the river. This first wife died in Northampton in 1656 giving birth to her third daughter. The next year John married Abigail Bascom, the daughter of one of the first settlers. She stood the rigors of life for nine years and died in Westfield, Massachusetts leaving John four more daughters. The following year he married Mary Hunt, our ancestor. Mary was the granddaughter of John Webster, the fifth governor of Connecticut. Mary bore John eight children making a total of fifteen. It was a rugged world,—eventually two of John and Mary's children were killed by Indians.

John, one of the "seven pillars of the church", in his seventieth year died in Westfield in 1684. His widow survived him but two years. It seems extraordinary that in those days of widespread infant mortality fourteen of John's children survived him. The one who died before him had lived to adulthood. I wonder how many of the fourteen surviving children surrounded his deathbed?

The land in Westfield granted to John has always been known as Ingersoll Place. It is said that his grave may be found in the old Westfield cemetery.

Twenty-five years ago Marion and I visited the Westfield graveyard. We were in a hurry and did not find the stone. I would hope that one of my descendants might visit the place and do a little research in the library, graveyard and town records as John has always particularly interested me. (See Ingersolls of Hampshire).

It is fortunate that John was a prolific sire or else none of us would be inhabitants of this planet. Our ancestor Jonathan was the last born of John's fifteen children. John was sixty-six years old at the time of Jonathan's arrival. He was left an orphan at the age of nine. We know nothing

of his upbringing. We assume that he lived with an older brother or sister who were in their late thirties when he became an orphan.

At an early age Jonathan moved to Milford, Connecticut and became a carpenter or builder, a trade combined with farming which was probably the activity of his father. He married but once, Sarah Newton, a widow of David Miles, and had two sons and a daughter. Sarah was the granddaughter of Thomas Hooker, a celebrated clergyman, the founder of the Connecticut colony. Jonathan accumulated property and at the age of eighty died with an estate valued at over 1200 pounds, a large sum in the 18th century. His property included three slaves,—the slaves were inventoried at 115 pounds to be compared with the value of his house, barn and house lot at 158 pounds. In passing it may be said that his son Jared was at some stage of his life the owner of three slaves.

Jared was Jonathan's younger son. He was born June 3, 1722 in Milford, Connecticut. He followed his brother to Yale and was graduated in 1742.

Immediately following his graduation from college Jared married Hannah Whiting of a distinguished New Haven family. He promptly became the leading lawyer in the Colony. The citizens of Connecticut were more litigious than most and his practice was extensive. In 1751 he was named King's Attorney for New Haven, a post akin to our District Attorney or Attorney General. The Colony was particularly of a Puritan cast. A duty of the King's Attorney,—I hope a disagreeable duty,—was the bringing of proceedings against married folk who were brought to confess they had sexual relations before their marriage. The court calendar was crowded with such cases.

In 1758 the Colony sent Jared to London to secure for the Colony reimbursement for funds expended in the late war with France. He lived comfortably in London for three



years,—dined with Lord Chatham and was in close intimacy with Benjamin Franklin and important leaders in the British Government. He was successful in his mission and returned to New Haven a man of importance politically and professionally. When in London he obtained from the Admiralty a contract to supply 80 masts for the King's Navy. The masts came from the great white pine belt on the upper Connecticut River. He was opposed by the New Hampshire Wentworth interests who, by royal grant, had close to a monopoly on the masting business. It was an important business for both England and New England as there was no such timber in England and its supplies of masts if not from the colonies were purchased in Scandinavia. He finally obtained 80 masts, loaded them at New London on what was known as a mast-ship and as a passenger thereon in October, 1764 began the slow run of a ten weeks' voyage to London.

Shortly after his arrival in London he received a communication from the Government of Connecticut again appointing him as its London agent with special instructions to oppose the passage of the Stamp Act which the Grenville Ministry was proposing.

As of that time Jared was probably the most popular and influential resident of the Colony. He had been markedly successful in the law, in the mast business, in diplomacy in securing on his first trip to London reimbursement for war expenses. He was the leader of the Conservative Party and highly regarded by the leaders in the English government. The Conservative Party in Connecticut was warmly attached to the British Crown. He was an "empire" man without a drop of anti-colonialism in his veins. He suffered for his loyalty to the Crown.

He knew that the stamp duties would be most objectionable to the colonists and the Act probably unenforceable. The group of agents representing the various colonies elected Ben-

jamin Franklin and Jared Ingersoll to wait upon Lord Grenville, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to express their views. Numerous interviews followed. The Americans were successful in mitigating some of the provisions of the Act and postponing its effective date, but they were basically unsuccessful in their main purpose,—i.e., the withdrawal of the measure.

Ingersoll, surprisingly, was finally convinced of the propriety, fairness and necessity of the measure. He was offered the position of what was expected to be a very lucrative employment,—that of distributor of the stamps in Connecticut. Benjamin Franklin and his other American associates urged him to accept and he did. Little did he, or Franklin, or the other Colonial agents in London or in fact did the British Ministry, realize the extent of the storm brewing in America. When Ingersoll returned to Connecticut with his commission,—of which he was proud,—he was met with derision, threats and riots. During his absence the radical leaders had taken control in Connecticut as against the empire leaders of whom Ingersoll was somewhat the chief. Finally, when surrounded by 500 armed rioters he renounced his appointment. Jared became a dead duck politically. The rage of the impending revolution was sweeping the colonies, particularly the New England colonies. Jared had no sympathy with these radicals,—he was a King's man as were many of his propertied friends although the group formed but a small fraction of the whole.

His biographer, Lawrence Henry Gipson said of him: "Jared Ingersoll's attachment to Great Britain was not limited, by any means, to a formal and official loyalty to the Crown; it was something deep and sincere." This feeling was reciprocated by the London Government. In 1768 it appointed him Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty with residence in Philadelphia and jurisdiction embracing Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and the lower counties of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, at what would appear to be a large salary,—600 pounds per annum, to be compared to 200 pounds paid

to the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. For some unknown reason he did not move to Philadelphia until the Spring of 1771. He then settled himself comfortably there, — as we have been settled for the ensuing 200 years. He was the first Ingersoll lawyer in Philadelphia to be followed by six in direct descent.

The Revolutionary War was coming on. Ingersoll was suspect. In August 1777 he was arrested,—he was not jailed but the next month he was paroled to his old home in New Haven. He and his wife lived there with happy social relationships with some of their old friends until his death in October, 1779. His widow died in August, 1781.

Jared Ingersoll had an exciting life through a most interesting period in the development of America. He had his ups and downs but in all matters he seemed able and sincere. Those interested should read “Jared Ingersoll, a Study of an American Loyalist” by the distinguished historian of the 18th century British Empire Lawrence Henry Gipson published in 1920 by the Yale University Press. I have just reread the 400 page biography, — it is most readable. Also see a two column condensed biography in Volume IX of Scribner’s Dictionary of American Biography; see “Jared Ingersoll Papers” published in 1918 by the New Haven Colonial Historical Society; there is a large body of manuscript letters, etc. written to and from Jared in the archives of that Society. My brother Jared has a full length portrait of our ancestor. For many years it had been regarded as by Copley and was exhibited for years as such at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The accepted conclusion today is that it is not a Copley. Probably the source of the tradition arose from the fact that Elizabeth Wilcocks Ingersoll, the daughter of my great uncle Charles, married an Arthur Amory of Boston who was a descendant of Copley and the Amory family always believed that the painting was of an Ingersoll ancestor by a Copley ancestor. Jared is buried in one of the Congregational Churches on the Yale campus.

Jared Ingersoll, Sr., called by our family the Stamp Master, had but one child to survive him, our ancestor, Jared, Jr. Jared, Jr. was born in New Haven October 24, 1749. He was graduated from Yale in 1766. He practiced law in New Haven and on his father's removal to Philadelphia took care of his father's unfinished business. In 1773 his father, doubtless concerned with the developing political complexities in America, sent him to England to follow the study of the law. Before leaving he was admitted to the Bar in Philadelphia. On July 16, 1773 he was admitted to the Middle Temple. I examined the record in the Temple some ten years ago. In 1776 he settled in France and two years later on the urging of his father's friend, Joseph Reed, returned to Philadelphia to practice law. His stay in London and the continent weaned him from his father's empire views and on his return to Philadelphia he was a burning patriot. I have a number of immense and interesting law books which he purchased during his years in London. In 1781 he married Elizabeth Petit, the daughter of Charles Petit of New Jersey. Before the Revolution Petit was a prominent figure in the government of New Jersey but with the revolution joined the patriots' cause and entered the army. He was a close friend of George Washington who offered him the Quartermaster-generalship of the army which offer for some reason he declined. He married Sarah Reed who was the neice of Joseph Reed, the close friend of Jared, Sr.

Jared, Jr. was the executor of Joseph Reed's estate and this family connection of blood and friendship prompted Jared, Jr. to name one of his sons, Joseph Reed Ingersoll and thus came the name borne by my grandson and his son. Colonel Charles Petit, as he was known, was one of the founders and an early President of the Insurance Company of North America. He and his wife are buried close to the graves of Jared, Jr. and his wife in the churchyard of the Presbyterian Church at 4th and Pine. (see biography of

Charles Petit in 1885 History of the Insurance Company of North America.)

Jared, Jr. from the start, at age 29, became preeminent at the Philadelphia Bar,—a Bar famous in legal history as consisting of the most distinguished lawyers in the United States,—Sergeant, Lewis, Rawle, Duponceau, etc. The early reports of the Supreme Court of the United States and of Pennsylvania are replete with cases in which Jared, Jr. was engaged. He did all that could be expected of any lawyer; member of the Continental Congress in 1780 (age 31); signer of the Constitution of the United States; City Solicitor; member of Common Council; Attorney General of Pennsylvania; United States District Attorney for the eastern district of Pennsylvania; Federalist party nominee for Vice President of the United States against Madison's second term, attorney for the great merchant, Stephen Girard. At his death in 1822, as an old man, he was completing his first year as President Judge of the District Court for the City and County of Philadelphia.

Although much in public life politics did not interest him. Law was his passion. He was a conservative in all matters. He is said to have been the last lawyer to appear in the local and the United States courts in kneebritches and silk stockings,—the 18th century garb. Anna has his portrait by ~~James~~<sup>CHARLES</sup> Willson Peale.

He was survived by three sons,—Charles Jared, Joseph Reed and Edward, all lawyers.

Charles Jared Ingersoll, our ancestor, and Joseph Reed Ingersoll provided an interesting subject of contemplation. They were both leaders of the Bar,—Charles Jared distrusted by all conservatives; Joseph Reed worshipped by all conservatives,—Charles Jared wrote plays; Joseph Reed learned treatise on legal subjects.

Charles Jared, a fiery democrat served in Congress from 1813 to 1815 and 1841 to 1847. Joseph Reed a conserv-

ative Whig served from 1835 to 1837 and again from 1843 to 1849. Joseph was president of almost all the conservative cultural institutions in town; Charles Jared was something of a maverick. Joseph trained most of the important lawyers of the next generation including Horace Binney. I doubt if any young lawyer ever sat at the feet of Charles Jared.

Joseph died at the age of 82. Charles Jared at the age of 80 in 1862. They were an extraordinary pair of men. They married sisters, were rivals in practicing law; opponents in Congress and yet they seemed to get along well. Joseph died without issue; Charles Jared was survived by six of his nine children. Charles Jared entered Princeton at the age of 14; he parted company with Old Nassau in his third year. I gave to the Princeton Library the manuscript documents pertaining to the incident of his withdrawal from Princeton and also a file of letters his father, Jared, Sr. wrote him while in college. The letters are in French, the last Ingersoll who wrote a son at Princeton in French. These manuscripts indicated to me that the severance in college was due to Charles Jared's brash and riotous conduct. He suffered no trauma. At the age of 19 he wrote and had produced a play "Edwyn and Elgiva" and found time to study law, being admitted to the Bar before he was 20. Then he spent a year in Europe where he became infatuated with French culture and became markedly anti-British,—characteristics he maintained throughout his life. At 22 he married Mary Wilcocks the granddaughter of Chief Justice Benjamin Chew. By his 29th year he had written "View of the Rights and Wrongs; Power and Policy of the United States of America" and the "Inchiquin Letters". Both were widely read and commented upon in America and England. At 30 he was elected to Congress on the Republican ticket,—the Jeffersonian party. It was the same year that his father was the federalist candidate for the Vice Presidency. He was a member of the War Hawks

who fomented the War of 1812. Military reverses in that war swung Philadelphia from the Republican party and he was defeated in standing for re-election.

He then devoted himself for 25 years to an active law practice but always, however, remaining in the public eye as a speech-maker, pamphleteer, author and for 14 years the United States Attorney for Pennsylvania.

He represented a labor union in one of the earliest cases on labor. He joined President Jackson on his attack on the bank of the United States. His attack made the propertied interests of Philadelphia fearful and distrustful. The people, however, were with him and the Jacksonian Democrats, the heirs of the Jeffersonian Republicans, returned him to Congress in 1840 to serve for four terms. In Congress he incurred the bitter enmity of his old friend, John Quincy Adams; on the floor of Congress he attacked Daniel Webster for misuse of public funds and in return when President Polk named Ingersoll as our Minister to France, a post he dearly desired, Webster, on the floor of the Senate, castigated him and the Senate refused to confirm the appointment. Family tradition is that Webster was quite drunk while making the speech of castigation. On leaving Congress at the age of 67 he devoted himself to writing two volumes of recollections,—hardly readable as Carlisle had destroyed his style,—and his four volume History of the War of 1812. His Biographer in Scribner's Dictionary of American Biography says of him: "In politics as in literature he had considerable talent, but he viewed both of these fields as avocations and never acquired the mastery of technique and the persistence required for a commanding position either as author or statesman. He was a man of vivid personality and outstanding ability as a lawyer, and fascinating gifts as an orator."

He left a huge correspondence and certain short diaries. These papers include many letters from James Madison,

James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, etc. and hundreds of letters from his closest friend, Richard Rush, have been given to the Pennsylvania Historical Society (See the Life of Charles Jared Ingersoll by William M. Meigs, Lippincott 1897). Of all my ancestors I think I would like most to have known Charles Jared Ingersoll. I have a very fine miniature of him by Malborne. My sister Anna has Sully portraits of him and his wife.

Charles Jared Ingersoll left seven children:

1. Charles, an important lawyer, author of "Fears for Democracy" of which Frank Polk said there were more fears than democracy. As was his brother, our ancestor, Edward, he was a copperhead and lampooned as such. At the age of 77 he died on a French liner. He was buried at sea with no word until months afterwards to his family. For two generations thereafter no Ingersoll traveled on a French ship. Among his grandchildren were the Hutchinsons. Jared has a splendid Sully portrait of Uncle Charles.

2. Harry for whom my brother was named married the rich Aunt Sally Roberts who gave my parents their first home, 124 S. 19th Street, where my brothers and sister Susy were born. He died without issue. He was also a copperhead, and removed himself to London during the Civil War.

3. John migrated to Mississippi. We have lost touch with his descendants. One of his sons fought in the Confederate Army and we have a photograph of him in his Confederate uniform.

4. Alexander Wilcocks spent most of his long life in an asylum.

5. Benjamin, a successful business man, died in Rome without issue in 1846. I have in his father's handwriting an account of bringing his body home and burial in Woodlands.



6. Elizabeth married Sydney George Fisher, the Diarist.

7. Edward, my grandfather, see below.

8. Anne Wilcocks married Dr. John Meigs, the leading obstetrician in town. Her grandson Arthur Meigs, the architect, was one of my closest friends.

My grandfather Edward was born in 1817 and died in 1893. He was a lawyer but never practiced very actively. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. He married Anna Warren of Troy, who was a lady of some means from a substantial Hudson Valley family. He wrote and edited a number of books on the law, including the History and Law of Habeas Corpus, which I was delighted to see referred to as authority by the Supreme Court of the United States a few years ago. He was a violent copperhead. After making anti-administration speeches immediately following Lincoln's assassination he was rescued by the police of Philadelphia from a mob and put in prison. He was released the next day. When I was a young man I had a chat with the ancient Stan Henkels, the book auctioneer. He told me that his father and Edward were great friends. As a boy he remembered his father taking him to the prison to see Edward. Stan's last words to me were: "you and I know that Lincoln was nothing but a political Montebank". Under the stress of public opinion Edward resigned from the Philadelphia Club, gave up the practice of law and retired to his home in Germantown and devoted himself to his large family, a few friends, wide reading and editing ancient legal treatises. He apparently was a charmer. He had not a commercial nerve in his body. This irritated my father and my father's reaction was to spur his own ambition for success. His photographs and portrait mark him as particularly handsome. I do not remember him. His seven children adored him though my father had reservations. The bitterness of Civil War days were such that the war, reconstruction, etc., could never be mentioned in the

family circle. (See his biography in Scribner's Dictionary of American Biography.)

His wife's sister Phebe married the rich merchant, Henry McKean. This Aunt Phebe and Uncle Henry played a very important, affectionate part in the lives of Edward and all his seven children. The McKean place, Fernhill, Germantown, was a showplace. Uncle Henry died probably the richest man in Philadelphia. He left \$125,000 each to my father and my uncle Henry McKean Ingersoll, a very substantial sum in the early 1890's with servants at \$3 a week, etc.

Edward's house adjoined Fernhill and I believe was given to him by his brother-in-law Henry McKean.

In referring to my grandfather, Edward and his two brothers as copperheads, i.e., opposed to the national attitude to the Civil War, a word of explanation is necessary. Both Edward and Charles were marked intellectuals; to a lesser degree was Harry. The Constitution of which their grandfather was the Signer was their bible. On constitutional grounds they believed that the South had the right to secede. They suffered for their beliefs. Moreover, it must be remembered that Philadelphia had always been the commercial gateway to the South. There was a deep emotional feeling for the South among the old Philadelphia families.

Edward and his wife Anna are buried at St. James the Less. They had seven children.

1. STEPHEN WARREN INGERSOLL, born 1851, died 1884. He was named after his grandfather Stephen Warren of Troy, whose portrait is at Hill Field. He married the beautiful and charming Josephine Bond, our Aunt Do. He died of typhoid fever in January of 1884, leaving her a widow with the ten months' old Edward. Aunt Do was a great favorite of my brothers and sisters. She dressed in black or white during 60 years of widowhood. From about 1899 to 1909 she lived with her son Edward in the house by the

Forest Hill barn. We were constantly in and out of her house. She taught us Sunday School and was a constant churchgoer but there was no touch of the "unco gude" in her makeup. In 1909 she built her house at Spring House and lived there until her death in 1947. Edward, to us, was our closest cousin. He was a charming, social man, devoted to horses, loved by all and markedly attentive to his aunts, uncles and cousins. In 1907 he married his neighbor Emily Vaux. They lived at Spring House, given them by his Uncle, Frank Bond. Edward was a stock broker with offices in the old Drexel Building on 5th Street. Before World War I, I worked for J. B. Lippincott, close to the Drexel Building. One of the warmest memories of my years just out of college is that of my frequent lunches with Edward. The greatest tragedy affecting all members of the family was his death in December, 1918. He had received his discharge in Washington from the Air Force. On the train home to his wife and four children he had a violent headache. He died at home within three days of the then influenza plague. None of my generation will ever forget Edward. He and Emily left four children: Wad, Yan, Mary and Dippy, all of strong personality and charm.

2. MARY WILCOCKS, born 1852. At the age of 38 she married James Logan Fisher. Aunt Mary was always delicate. They lived at Fernrock on the 400-acre Fisher Farm. We all spent many holidays and week ends with them. She died in 1905 following an operation for appendicitis. Uncle Jim until his death in 1925 remained our close and affectionate friend. His Christmas presents to all generations ranging from donkeys, ponies, sleds, and bronzes, were fabulous.

3. PHEBE WARREN, born 1854. She married in 1878 Harry Wilcocks McCall. About ten years later he was killed by a railroad train at Wayne Junction station. Aunt Phebe died in 1937. She was an invalid for the last 40 years of her life, a combination of asthma and back diffi-

culties arising from a fall from a horse. Pages and pages would be necessary to express the spiritual contribution she made to us all.

4. ANNA WARREN, born 1855, died at the age of 90 in 1945. Aunt ~~Mamie~~<sup>NANNIE</sup> married Charles ~~Wharton~~<sup>MORTON</sup> Smith in 1876. He died in 1914. A markedly chirpy midget of a lady devoted to us all. Lived the last 40 years of her life at 1718 Locust. Also had a house at Bar Harbor.

5. CHARLES EDWARD, born 1860, see below.

6. HENRY MCKEAN, born 1862, died 1943, Uncle Henry.

7. JANE HOBART, Aunt Jennie, born 1865, died 1951.

Uncle Henry and Aunt Jennie lived from about 1893, following the death of their parents, at Annandale Farm, Horsham Township, Penllyn. As a young man Uncle Henry was frail and after graduation from Penn he never worked. He was talented in music and had a light touch on all matters of companionship. He spent his winters in Paris and loved that city. At home he devoted himself to his farm, garden, church choir, Philadelphia Orchestra and the Penllyn Club as its devoted Secretary and Treasurer. He was a gentle, educated man of great charm and loved by both sexes. Aunt Jennie took wonderful care of Uncle Henry. She was a woman of staunch character, religious and duty doing to neighbors, family and friends. She inherited Annandale Farm from Uncle Henry and left it to her greatniece, Mary Claytor.

My father, Charles Edward Ingersoll, was born on June 17, 1860. He went to St. Paul's School and was graduated from Penn in 1882. I was too close to him to write more than a sketch of his career. In 1886 he married Henrietta Auchmuty Sturgis of the Sturgis-Perkins-Parkman-Brimmer clans of Boston. Her father, Robert Shaw Sturgis, lived in China from the age of about 18 to 34. He was the youngest of 14 children of Nathaniel Russell Sturgis and Susan Parkman. His oldest brother Russell became Senior Partner of Baring & Company with the result that we have many

English Sturgis cousins. My grandfather, Robert Sturgis, married Susan Inches on his return from China. He had weak lungs and after his marriage moved to 1815 Walnut Street with his family. He died when my mother was 14 years old. Following my grandmother's death my father bought 1815 Walnut Street and we lived there until my mother's death in 1944. (See genealogical books: Descendants of Nathaniel Russell Sturgis and descendants of Robert Shaw Sturgis and Susan Brimmer.)

Our parents were the most perfect parents. I would like to tell you of their character but this is not the place for it. There are available bound copies of their letters one to the other through their courtship and entire married life; also bound copies to a considerable degree of their letters to and from their children; and of a diary intermittently left by Charles Edward Ingersoll. After college he studied law under Francis Rawle and was admitted to the Bar and became a law partner of Francis I. Gowen and James Hood. As far as I can make out they had little practice. He was exceedingly well read in American history and was a steady reader throughout his life, but the law as law never particularly interested him.

He became active in politics and was an aide to Mr. Harrity, the Chairman of the National Democratic Party in the successful 1892 campaign of Grover Cleveland. He ran for election as City Solicitor, lost and the President named him Appraiser of the Port of Philadelphia and his effective services in that position made him favorably known to the merchants, industrial and financial interests in town. He attended the 1896 Democratic Convention and sat under Bryan's feet on delivery of the Cross of Gold speech. He walked out of the convention with the other Gold democrats.

In the late 1890's he, Mr. Gowen and other Philadelphians joined in the reorganization of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. They sold the road to the Rock

Island at a handsome profit in 1901. For two years Charles Edward Ingersoll felt very rich, added to Forest Hill (built in 1894), built the driveway to the Pike, ran for Congress, defeated, but almost won, and took most of the family to Europe where, in 1902, we saw the coronation parade of Edward VII and Queen Alexandria.

If he had stayed in politics and forgotten railroads his life would have been a different one, but railroading was in his blood. He built the Midland Valley in Oklahoma. Most of his fortune went into the Midland Valley from which he received no return whatsoever for a period of 20 years. He became director of most of the important corporations in town but by and large from 1905 until the early 1920's he had continuing and acute financial anxiety. He never revealed this anxiety in the family circle. He constantly made trips summer and winter to Oklahoma. He loved the work but except for short intermittent periods he had a sense of failure disclosed to no one. Oil shipments immediately after the first world war and the skill of Worley Lefeber, the general manager of the road, saved the Midland and for a period of ten years it made inordinate profits. He bought the KO&G in 1925; it immediately prospered. He paid all his debts and had no further financial worries until his death in June, 1932. In 1920 he became President of Central National Bank. Jared then took over the active responsibilities of running the railroads and performed extraordinarily well. We sold the roads in 1962 to the Texas & Pacific. Until then one cannot envisage the part the railroads played in the lives of our family. Charles Edward's greatest pleasures were his family, his farm and work, particularly the railroads. He made heavy commitments in the stock market but always in companies of which he was a director, such as the Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia Electric, General Asphalt and the old PRT.

The only break in the family during our parents' married life was the death of my older brother Harry. Mowed down by machine gun fire on September 26, 1918 leading his infantry company on the first day of the Argonne offensive. The tower of the Church of the Messiah is a memorial to him. There were six of us,—Anna, Harry, myself, Jared, Susy and John Hobart. I wish I could express the happiness of our lives at Forest Hill and 1815 Walnut Street.

February 1966

R. STURGIS INGERSOLL

# DIGEST

## FIRST GENERATION

John Ingersoll, arrived Salem, age 14, in 1629. Died 1684 at Westfield, Massachusetts. He was survived by 14 of his 15 children by his three wives. Our ancestor Jonathan was the 15th child from his mother, Mary Hunt, who was the granddaughter of John Webster, the fifth Governor of Connecticut.

## SECOND GENERATION

Jonathan, born in Westfield in 1681; left an orphan at age 9; moved to Milford, Connecticut; married Sarah Newton, the widow of David Miles, the granddaughter of Thomas Hooker, an American theologian, the Founder of Connecticut. Died in Milford, 1760.

## THIRD GENERATION

Jared, born in Milford in 1722; the "Stamp Master"; a loyal subject of the British Crown; married Hannah Whiting of a prominent New Haven family; moved to Philadelphia 1771, died in New Haven 1781. His older brother Jonathan was a Clergyman who remained in Connecticut and was the ancestor of many important men of that state. Both Jared and Jonathan were Yale men.

## FOURTH GENERATION

Jared, Jr., born in New Haven, 1749; Yale, class of 1766; signer of the Constitution of the United States; eminent Philadelphia lawyer; married Elizabeth Petit, daughter of Colonel Charles Petit; died in Philadelphia 1822.

## FIFTH GENERATION

Charles Jared, born in Philadelphia 1782; Princeton for a time; author, politician, Congressman, distinguished



lawyer; married Mary Wilcocks, the granddaughter of Chief Justice Benjamin Chew; died Philadelphia, 1862.

#### SIXTH GENERATION

Edward, born Philadelphia 1817; died in Germantown 1893; Penn graduate; lawyer and author of legal treatises, violently pro-south in Civil War; married Anna Warren of Troy.

#### SEVENTH GENERATION

Charles Edward, born Philadelphia 1860; died Penllyn 1932; lawyer, politician, railroad builder, banker; Penn graduate; married 1886 Henrietta Auchmuty Sturgis of Boston, a descendant of the Sturgis, Perkins, Parkman, Boit and Brimmer clans.

*(See genealogy of Ingersoll Family by Lillian Avery)*

