

BY THE NAME OF

SIKES

OR

SYKES

A FAMILY "TREE"

Compiled from letters written to George P. Sikes, Sr., by his aunt Electa W. Lawrence, a sister of William Wirt Sikes.

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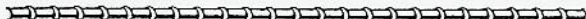
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Booklet made by George P. Sikes, Sr., in his
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1927

GEORGIA ROOM



BY THE NAME OF SIKES—OR SYKES

This is only to show the origin of the family.

"Sykes is a word formerly used in the North of England and in Scotland, signifying a small rill, without sand or gravel.

"The surname of Sykes, derived from Syke-Dyke, a locality near Carlisle, the Shiretown Cumberland, Eng., is varied in its orthography, both in England and the United States, by the synonymical use of the vowels "i" and "y." This family was originally from Saxony. Among the gentry of Cumberland Shire we find Walter de Sykes returned about the commencement of the 15th Century. The name was eminent in time of Richard the Third—when we learn that a writ of mesne was served by Robert de Sikes against Daniel Helwitch to acquit him of services demanded by the King, the said Robert de Sikes holding of the Crown as mesne lord. It appears also that Robert and Henrie de Sikes were partners or witnesses to the deed of extension transfer early in the reign of Elizabeth. A curious portrait of Henrie is now among others of less antiquity at the "Chauntry House," County Nottingham. The Chauntry House family descended from Richard, Rector of Kirkheaton, County York." (Omit now to the)—NEW ENGLAND FAMILY, 1630-5 to 1897.

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1st Generation: *Richard Sykes* and Phebe, his wife, came from in or near London, Eng., about 1830-35. With Geo. Winthrop and others he settled in Roxbury, Mass. About 1841 he went to Springfield, Mass., was one of its first settlers, and one of the men chosen to divide into lots this land, which had been known as "the plantation of Agawam," purchased of the Indians by Wm. Pynchon and fully paid for in their own coin, i.e., "*Wampum*," or strings of beads made from clam and mussel shells. The chart made of this town shows that Richard Sykes had two lots on the Connecticut River, showing 8 rods front, each, and one lot of 9 rods front on the opposite side of the river running to what is now Main St.

Richard and Phebe had six children: Nathaniel (1st), INCREASE, Victory, James, Rebecca and Experience.

2nd—INCREASE, our ancestor, married Abigail Fowler.

3rd—NATHANIEL (2nd) married Elizabeth Ball.

4th—JOHN (1st) married Thankful Warren.

5th—NATHANIEL (3rd) married Lois Cooley-Mass.

He was the Revolutionary soldier.

6th—JOHN, born Aug. 16, 1770; married Sally Eaton, Brimfield, Mass., Sept. 7, 1794; died Feb. 27, 1813, Watertown, N. Y.

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Eaton also had children. One daughter married Wm. B. Sprague, D. D. We have a book of his writing in the house.

Nathaniel (3rd) after the Revolutionary War removed to Springfield, N. Y. His son Francis inherited the homestead there after his father's death. Nathaniel *remarried* in Springfield—widow Anne Taft (or Crafts?) nee Shattuck. She died 1813; he, in 1819. The children were all the *first* wife's—and were Nathaniel, Lois, Hannah, Francis, Elizabeth ("Eliza"), Lucene, John, Candace and Willard. Francis married Rose Bishop and their children were Alanson, Nathaniel, Richard, Lorenzo, Betsy, Rachael, Cynthia and Lucy. Richard died on the farm at Springfield—some of them went to Michigan. I *think* Prof. F. R. in——California is Richard's son—he might be your father's age.

Your great grandparents, John and Sally (Eaton) Sikes, lived a few years at Greenwich, Mass., where a daughter Almira (Mrs. Fay) and a son, John Eaton, were born. Then they came to Clinton, N. Y., where your grandfather was born, Dec. 18, 1799. In 1801, they journeyed almost on foot—with their household goods on an oxcart—to the then almost unbroken wilderness of this "Black River Country." They settled near Burrville in the vicinity of "Dry Hill," and built a log house. Grandfather, who was quite ingenious, made several necessary www.genealogy-books.com "very comfortable"! Wild beasts prowled around and if Grandfather were out after dark, Grandmother would light a torch and look him up, for fear the wolves would attack him. (We had one of the cupboards he made—with upper shelves and small sliding panels—in our house till we began to rent the wing after Father died—then it disappeared.) Your great grandparents, Sikes and Redfield, were chosen first trustees of the Presbyterian Society of Watertown in 1812. Deacon Sikes was taken sick in that year in December and before having quite recovered he drove 10 miles with a load of logs to a saw mill to have them prepared for building the next season. He took cold and had a slight relapse. Again in February, he drove 30 miles to help move a family—but was brought home in two days a very sick man. He died Feb. 27th, 1813. "Uncle Eaton," his eldest son, was then about 16. Father, the second son, was 13. They managed the farm, attended school in winters. Father chose the profession of medicine—studied diligently—taught school when 19—and earned money to take him through college, "boarding himself," he and other students together. He left Fairfield with his license to practice and commenced about 1824, in Watertown. In 1826, he and Deacon Redfield's daughter Meroe joined hands, and commenced housekeeping. About 1831 he bought the lot on Franklin St. (then called Woodruff St.) and built the house where your father was born—where "William and Meroe" died at a good old age.

From the "Mayflower" to 1927:

1st Generation: JOHN ALDEN and PRISCILLA MULLINS. Mayflower Pilgrims—1620 (The hero and heroine of Longfellow's poem, "The Courtship of Myles Standish.")

2nd—*Elizabeth*, eldest daughter of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, married Wm. Peabody (or Paybody). Their daughter,

3rd—*Lydia*, married Daniel Grinnell. Three of their children were George, Paybody and

4th—*Priscilla*. She married Theophilus Redfield. They had thirteen children. The youngest,

5th—*James*, married his cousin, Sarah Grinnell (daughter of Paybody and Sarah B. Grinnell.)

6th—*Theophilus Redfield*, second son of James and Sarah, married Ruth M. Tuttle, Chatham, N. H.

7th—*Meroe*, their daughter, married Wm. J. Sikes, M. D.

8th—*Wm. Wirt Sikes*, their son, married Jeannette Amine Wilcox, Watertown, N. Y.

9th—*George Preston Sikes*, their son, married Jennie M. Lawrence, Watertown, N. Y.

10th—*George Preston Sikes, Jr.*, married Hettie Rouland, San Diego, California. Hettie died 1907. George, Jr., married Ruby Lee Maxey.

11th—*Thelma Sikes*, their daughter, married Robert Neyenesch.

This entitles any of the descendants of the above "ancestors" to join the "Mayflower Society," if they want to, the female descendants anyway; not so sure whether males are admitted.

Following is the record of the "branch" of the "tree" beginning with

Clara Jeannette Sikes, daughter of Wirt Sikes and Jeannette Amine Wilcox; born Sept. 12, 1858, Watertown, N. Y.; married Charles E. Lang, July 14, 1883. Their children:

Harold Wilcox Lang, born July 24, 1884; married Janet Loch.

Lucy Grace Lang, born Nov. 11, 1885; married Stewart MacKenzie Read.

Raymond John Lang, born Aug. 10, 1889; married Florence Musclon.

Charles Frederick Lang, born July 3, 1898; married Marie Alice Wooll.

Grandchildren:

Harold MacKenzie Read, born May 3, 1918, Vancouver, B. C.

Dorothy Priscilla Read, born Sept. 19, 1919.

Marvin Charles Ray Lang, born March 21, 1927.