

HISTORY OF THE WOODWORTH FAMILY CEMETERY

From the DAR Collection on file with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

In the year 1630 a young man from Kent, England, named Walter Woodworth, came to America in one of the vessels of the Winthrop Fleet, and in 1633 he is of record as a resident of Scituate, Massachusetts.

His son, Isaac, was born about 1659. He moved to Norwich, Connecticut about 1697, married a lady named Lydia, and died there in 1714.

Daniel Woodworth, son of Isaac, married in 1720, Mehitable Brown.

Their son, William Woodworth, born in Norwich in 1732, moved to Lebanon, Conn. where he was living with his wife, Sarah, and their children, when the proclamation inviting New Englanders to Nova Scotia was issued. It was a very attractive proposition, and many families from Connecticut and Rhode Island, known as "the New England Planters", emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1760, among them William Woodworth and his family.

He had a little son, also named William, of about 5 years of age when he went to Nova Scotia. William Jr., in 1776, married Marcy Pineo, a granddaughter of Jacques Penneau, a Huguenot who fled to America in 1685 after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

The father of Marcy Pineo Woodworth was Peter Pineo. Her mother was Elizabeth Sampson Pineo, great-granddaughter of Henry Sampson, who came to America in the Mayflower when he was a little boy of six. Henry Sampson of the Mayflower married Ann Plummer. Their son, Caleb, married Mercy Standish, daughter of Alexander Standish (son of Miles) and his wife Sarah Alden Standish (daughter of John and Priscilla). David Sampson, son of Caleb and Mercy Standish Sampson, married Mary Chaffin of Marshfield, and they were the parents of Elizabeth Sampson Pineo. Thus she was a direct descendant of four Mayflower ancestors: Captain Miles Standish, Henry Sampson, John Alden, and Priscilla Mullins.

William Woodworth and Marcy Pineo Woodworth had a son, Peter Pineo Woodworth, born Dec. 23, 1784, in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. On Dec. 20, 1810, he married Mary Kinsman.

Their son, James William Woodworth, was born in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, Nov. 9, 1813.

On the 27th of March, 1835, James W. Woodworth and his brother took passage for Boston, Mass., on the brig, Johan, and "after a rough voyage of three weeks" arrived in Boston. From there they went by stage coach "over the mountains of Vermont" to Albany. From Albany they "footed it" to Schenectady where they engaged passage on a canal boat for Buffalo. At Buffalo they took a steamer to Huron, Ohio, and walked from there 40 miles to G. Bigelow's home in Richland County. After a few days rest they went with a company to look at land in Lenawe Co., Mich., and "entered" 120 acres at the land office in Monroe. This claim was later disposed of and they took land in Wisconsin.

They returned to Nova Scotia, after some interesting adventures, and made plans to emigrate to the United States. In the spring of 1837 the two Woodworth boys

and their father, Peter Pineo Woodworth, chartered a vessel, loaded her with wood (probably to help pay their passage), and on the 19th of May, sailed out of the Pereau River on the schooner, Beaumon. They arrived in Boston on the 26th, and on June 7th, got to Buffalo, State of New York. On the next day they took passage on a steamer for Milwaukee, Wis.. On June 14th, they "passed Milwaukee and came to Chicago" on the morning of the 15th. On the 16th they were back to the "Village of Milwaukee". They got on shore at 4 P.M., hired a boat and went up to the town, a distance of 1 1/2 miles.

The next day at about 2 P.M. they started on an Indian trail in search of their friend, Isaac Bigelow. There were two "shanties" on the trail, viz. Taylor Heverlin's and Isham Day's. They inquired at these shanties for directions as to how to reach Isaac Bigelow's, and then passed on, watching for a tree on the right side of the trail which Bigelow had blazed. Before they reached their destination, it had become so dark that they had to feel out the trail with their feet, but they arrived safely and found their friends well and glad to see them "away off here in the wilds of Wisconsin Territory".

On June 19, 1837, James Woodworth and his brother took up claims of land in Ozaukee Co., Wis., (then Washington County) about 20 miles north of Milwaukee, that of James bordering on the Milwaukee River. He got the deed March 3, 1843, signed by Pres. John Tyler and son.

On Mar. 1, 1838, James William Woodworth and Mary Cerena Loomer (daughter of Jonathan Loomer) were married.

The first death in the family of James W. Woodworth was that of an infant son, little Hezekiah Wooster Woodworth. He was born July 27, 1842, and died April 7, 1844. His father chose a little plot of ground on the highest part of his farm and dedicated it as a family burial ground. He enclosed the plot with a low wall of stones picked up on the farm, and covered the wall with earth. Outside of the wall he planted evergreen trees and for almost 100 years the little cemetery had the appearance from the highway of a small grove of evergreen trees growing on a hill overlooking the Milwaukee River. Recently the evergreen trees have died and the plot is now shaded by tall, graceful locust trees.

In 1844 Isaac Bigelow died and was buried in the Woodworth Cemetery. He was born in Nova Scotia in 1799 and moved to Mequon, Ozaukee Co., in 1836. His daughter, Lavinia Bigelow, born in 1835, is also buried there. Her death occurred in 1851.

The second death in the family of James W. Woodworth was that of Baby Josiah Wesley Woodworth, born June 29, 1852, and who died Aug. 13, 1853.

.....In 1857 an epidemic of typhoid fever ran through the ranks of the Woodworth family and took as its toll 13-year old Mary Julietta and the wife and mother, Mary Cerena.

In 1868 a married daughter, Sophia Woodworth Fish, was carried to the little cemetery and as she was laid to rest, her father read the service over her coffin. The following spring, Sophia's baby daughter, Lillian, died and was buried in the same grave with her mother.

Lewis Clement Woodworth, the 19-year old son of James W. Woodworth, died in 1873, and was buried in the family plot.

The next death was that of Peter Pineo Woodworth, born in Nova Scotia in 1784, who died in Wisconsin on the family farm in 1874.