

# The 1921 Family History Document

## Chapter #7a

One thing has become very clear during the research for this project; individual lineages can be “lost” in the blink of an eye, especially in the New York frontier of the early 1800s. As with the documentation of the crossing on the “Planter” (Chapter #x), some events and/or circumstances require special attention and treatment. As a result, a document that bridges several generations and allows us to maintain the direct line of descent in an era of “lost” lineages is worthy of further discussion.

When a lineage is lost, we instinctively seem to search for natural cause explanations; i.e. disease, disaster, calamity or the lack of children. However, more likely in colonial America, it is a researcher’s inability to track a line of descent from one generation to the next rather than the actual physical demise of an individual that “ends” a family line.

Most lineages are “lost” when a daughter takes the surname of her husband. This tradition was almost always followed in colonial America and, as a result, daughters are often “lost”. However, the use of “pet” names, particularly for women, is also a serious problem.

While the tracking of daughters is a constant struggle, gaps in the availability of records, in general, is a broader and only slightly less predictable problem. The newly developing frontier communities seldom kept public records and when they did, recording that information was optional. Early churches were usually administered by travelling ministers who may, or may not, have kept records of baptisms and marriages. Even when such records were maintained, they were almost always regarded as the property of the minister, treated as personal affects upon his death, and often lost in time. As a result of the general paucity of records on the frontier, researchers looking back in time are often stymied by individuals who cannot be located at all or the record links are too ambiguous to confirm association of an individual to a known family line with any degree of certainty.

Such difficulties are often encountered when searching out the early settlers of the wilderness of New York in the 1790s and early 1800s. Public vital statistics records of births, marriages, and deaths were not

required until the 1880s in Greene County, New York, the next stop for our line of the Tuttle family.

Fortunately, a written family history transcribed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century links four generations across the records abyss and plays an important role in maintaining an unbroken line of descent in our direct line of Tuttle ancestors. While it is “healthy” to initially view a document such as the family history that follows with a degree of scepticism, authoritative supporting records and circumstance will show that the original authors had intimate access to, and knowledge of, the information presented.

An exact transcription of the James H. Tuttle and Mary J. (née Tuttle) (Iveson) Westgate family history document, hereafter referred to as the “Family History”, follows on the next page.

The original version of the Family History was dictated to Iva J. Tuttle in late 1921 by her aunt, Mary J. (née Tuttle) (Iveson) Westgate, and her father, James H. Tuttle. Iva J. Tuttle typed the original document, but no examples of it remain. In the late 1950s and using the original 1921 document, Iva J. (née Tuttle) Green typed a second generation document which included post-1921 information which she added.

The following transcription is EXACTLY (including spelling and layout) as retyped by her in the late 1950s.

James P. Tuttle  
June 16, 2007

## RECORD OF THE TUTTLE FAMILY

Samuel Tuttle was married to Thankful Piersons. There was born to them Bostwick, Ezkiel, Truman, Samuel, Polly, Sally and Diane.

Ezkiel Tuttle was born March 4, 1772. Married to Lovina Bruster (Who was born June 23, 1776.)

## CHILDREN BORN TO THEM WERE:

Garwood Tuttle	Born	Oct 1795	Died	
Truman	"	Jun 6 1797	"	Feb 2, 1881
Betsey	"	Jul17 1801	"	1835
Mary	"	Apr12 1803		Jun15 1825
David B	"	Aug25 1808		Dec 6 1868
Norman	"	Aug11 1811		Jun 1833
Harriet	"	Apr25 1815		
Jerry	"	Jun19 1818		
Alvina	"	Feb23 1822	"	1891
Ezekiel	"	"		Mar 1840
Lovina	"	"		Dec6 1868 (age 92)

David B Tuttle was married to Lucy Wing Oct 8, 1834 (Who was born Apr 3 1816)

## CHILDREN BORN TO THEM WERE:

Lydia A Tuttle	Born	Feb 20, 1836	Died	1836
Mary J	"	Jun 15, 1838		Jun 24, 1934
Elvil S	"	Apr17 1841		
Lydia A	"	Apr 5 1843		Mar 11 1921
Lovina L	"	May 30 1845		Feb 11 1877
James H	"	Apr 16 1847		Dec 26 1941
Edwin G	"	Nov 12 1849		Feb 12 1919
David Spencer	"	Jun 21 1852		Jul 6 1875
Hattie A	"	Mar 10 1859		Mar 6 1921
Lucy	"	"		May 27 1883

James H Tuttle was married to Hattie E Wood Mar 10, 1867 (Who was born Aug 8, 1847)

## CHILDREN BORN TO THEM WERE:

William G Tuttle	Born	Jun 24 1868	Died	
Bruce D	"	May 3 1872	"	Jul 6 1932
Paul F	"	Aug 15 1890		
Hattie E	"	"	"	Sep 11 1891

James H Tuttle was remarried to Hattie (German) Hooper Mar 5, 1895  
( " Died Aug 1950)

## CHILDREN BORN TO THEM WERE:

A daughter		March 23, 1868	
Iva June Tuttle		June 1 1904	

Paul F Tuttle was married to Erma E Sauerwein July 31, 1915 (Born Oct 27, 1892)

## CHILDREN BORN TO THEM WERE:

Grace E Claire Tuttle		Jan 18, 1918	
Geryl Dene	"	Mar 12, 1919	

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## Discussion of the Family History Document

On May 16, 1983, I interviewed my great aunt, Iva J. (née Tuttle) Green, at her home in Hudson, Michigan. Also present was Marion E. (née Anderson) Tuttle, my paternal grandmother and sister-in-law of the interviewee. Iva Green was 78 yoa and Marion Tuttle was 76 yoa at the time of the interview and both were very alert – both remained so well into their 90's.

Iva indicated that her father, James H. Tuttle, was very interested in family history. Her father had inherited the family bible which contained the family history but that the bible had since been lost. She had no idea as to how many generations were represented in the bible.

Iva clearly remembered that as a 17 yoa student in December, 1921, her father and her aunt Mary J. Westgate, dictated the above family history to her. She does not remember if they used a family bible, but they provided specific dates and were, as she remembers it, not working exclusively from memory. James H. Tuttle was 74 yoa and Mary Westgate was 83 yoa at the time, both extremely aware, and both remained so into their 90's.

Clearly the most significant entry is the marriage of **Thankful Piersons** to **Samuel Tuttle**. To my knowledge, no additional source has ever been found which identifies the wife of Samuel Tuttle or completely records all of the children of the succeeding generations.

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Samuel Tuttle was born in Woodbury, Connecticut on February 22, 1742/43 <sup>67v</sup> and baptized on February 27, 1742/43 in the Woodbury First Congregational Church. <sup>69c</sup> Samuel was still in Woodbury for the 1790 census with 4 males [almost certainly including his son Ezekiel] and 4 females in the household. <sup>29</sup> In the 1800 census, Samuel Tuttle was in Bethlehem, Connecticut near Woodbury. <sup>44</sup>

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There are compelling reasons to believe the information in the Family History, as it relates to Thankful Piersons, is reliable. The first is common sense, but not a whimsical variety of “common sense”. The

circumstances strongly suggest James H. Tuttle and Mary J. (née Tuttle) (Iveson) Westgate were in a position in 1921 to accurately make the Thankful Piersons - Samuel Tuttle connection. The facts include:

- Lovina (née Bruster) Tuttle married Ezekiel Tuttle prior to the mid-1790s when their son Garwood was born. [601](#)
- Ezekiel owned property in Bethlehem, Connecticut in 1799 confirming that his new family was in close proximity to his parents [Samuel and Thankful]. [409b, 44](#)
- By the early 1800s Ezekiel and Lovina Tuttle were in Windham, Greene County, New York [85a](#) and Samuel Tuttle and his wife almost certainly accompanied them because the 1810 USC indicates that their households were in immediate proximity to each other in Windham. [66](#)
- It is not clear when Samuel Tuttle or Thankful Tuttle died but it is likely that it was within the next decade because Samuel did not appear on the 1813 Windham tax role. [85d](#) In addition, the 1820 USC showed 5 of the 7 children in Windham (two are unaccounted) and none of the households had an unexplained female of an appropriate age to accommodate their mother's presence in their household. [73, 74](#)
- In the early 1830s, Ezekiel and Lovina Tuttle moved to Cohocton, Steuben County, New York. The 1835 NYSC for Cohocton indicates that Ezekiel Tuttle and his wife Lovina were living in the immediate proximity of their son David B. Tuttle and his wife Lucy (née Wing) Tuttle who were just starting their family. [93, 94](#)
- The Family History indicates that Ezekiel died in March, 1840, and later that same summer Lovina Tuttle moved into the household of David B. and Lucy Tuttle. [100](#) Lovina lived in their household for the next 28 years until her death in 1868 at the age of 92. [110, 131, 132](#)
- Mary J. Tuttle, daughter of David and Lucy Tuttle, was born in 1838 and lived in the household with her grandmother, Lovina Tuttle, for almost 20 years.
- James H. Tuttle, son of David and Lucy Tuttle, was born in 1847 and lived in the household with his grandmother, Lovina Tuttle, for almost 20 years.
- It is impossible to believe that Lovina Tuttle, who lived in close proximity to her in-laws in Connecticut and then New York for a number of years, would not have known the name of her mother-in-law, Samuel Tuttle's wife.

- Over the course of living in the same household with her son (David B.), daughter-in-law (Lucy Tuttle), and her grandchildren (James H. and Mary J. Tuttle among them), Lovina Tuttle communicated Samuel Tuttle's wife's name (her mother-in-law) as Thankful Piersons.
- And finally, it is worthwhile to note that the Family History, because of the detail was almost certainly created with the aid of a previously written document(s) and was the product of collaboration between three generations of informed persons, not the efforts of a single person.

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To date, there is no single piece of independent evidence that can establish the attribution of Thankful Piersons as the wife of Samuel Tuttle beyond all doubt. However, there are several additional factors which strongly support the reliability of the overall family history and therefore, by strong inference, the attribution of Thankful Piersons as the wife of Samuel Tuttle beyond a *reasonable* doubt.

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The third generation on the Family History (children of David B. and Lucy (née Wing) Tuttle) is the sibling generation of the authors, Mary (née Tuttle) (Iveson) Westgate and James H. Tuttle, so one would expect that information to be correct; a proposition that is supported by the emergence of vital public records. The ages of all members of the third generation siblings appear in the USC for 1850 <sup>110</sup> and 1860 <sup>131</sup> and correspond perfectly with the date of births presented in the Family History. As a result, I focus on the first two generations of children on the Family History.

Unfortunately, no public records were kept in Greene County, New York in the first half of the 1800s and no relevant Windham church records have been found on this line of the Tuttle family as of this writing. Were it not for a brief mention of the family of Ezekiel Tuttle in the regional treatment “The History of Greene County, New York, with Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men” <sup>553</sup> (hereafter referred to as “The History of Greene County”), nothing would exist regarding family membership in the known public record.

## ***First Generation - Children of Samuel and Thankful (née Piersons) Tuttle***

The Family History offers the names of 4 sons (Bostwick, Ezekiel, Truman, and Samuel) and 3 daughters (Polly, Sally, and Diane). “The History of Greene County” indicates that Ezekiel Tuttle had 3 brothers (Bostwick, Truman, and Samuel) and 2 sisters but identifies them only by their husband’s names (i.e., Mrs. Joseph Atwood and Mrs. Asa Richmond). 553

With respect to the first generation sons:

- The accounting of the sons match exactly, in name and number, in both the Family History and “The History of Greene County” accounts.

With respect to the first generation daughters:

- The 1790 USC is consistent with the accounting of the number of daughters presented in the Family History (3) (see below), rather than the number of daughters discussed in “The History of Greene County” (2). 29
- With respect to the given names, it would be ideal if both accounts matched identically. However, as mentioned earlier, “pet” names for women often complicate such issues.
  1. Polly from the Family History is believed to be the Mrs. Joseph Atwood of page 201 of “The History of Greene County” but page 398 of the same text identifies her as Currance (Tuttle) Atwood. 553 To further complicate matters, the records at the East Jewett Cemetery identify “Mary, wife of Joseph Atwood”. 7 At this point in time the lack of records makes it impossible to sort out these three names, however, it is believed that Polly = Concurrance (Currance) = Mary.
  2. Sally from the Family History is believed to be the Mrs. Asa Richmond of “The History of Greene County”. The 1850 USC shows Sarah (64 yoa) and Asa (72 yoa) Richmond in Ashland, Greene County, New York. 118 Her age is consistent with that of Sally Tuttle, and it is reasonable to believe that Sally and Sarah is one-in-the-same person.
  3. It is extremely important to note that the addition of a third daughter, Diane, to the Family History is consistent with the 1790 USC which lists 4 females in the household of Samuel Tuttle. 29

Common sense suggests Lovina Tuttle would have known how many aunts she had by marriage (3) and their names (including Diane), and the above evidence supports her numerical account of the *First Generation* referenced above.

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### ***Second Generation - Children of Ezekiel and Lovina (née Bruster) Tuttle***

The Family History offers the names of 5 sons (Garwood, Truman, David B., Norman, and Jerry) and 4 daughters (Betsy, Harriett, Mary, and Alvina). “The History of Greene County” identifies only 4 sons (Garwood, Truman, David, and Jerry) and 4 daughters (Betsy, Harriett, Polly, and Aloisa). <sup>553</sup>

The Family History accounting of this generation is *extremely* important because it offers detailed dates with respect to births and deaths that could not have simply been pulled out of the air. And as the following analysis will show, these dates accurately correspond with subsequent authoritative documents. It would have been virtually impossible to make up such dates and have them accurately correspond to those documents. Given the reliability of those dates, it seems appropriate to afford the related names similar credibility; especially since the male names, in particular, exactly match those in “The History of Greene County.”

With respect to the second generation sons:

- Among the names of the 4 sons provided in “The History of Greene County”, they match those of the Family History.
- Regarding the fifth son (Norman) presented in the Family History, the census reports of the early 1800s confirm the existence of a fifth subordinate male in the household of Ezekiel Tuttle which once again supports the Family History account rather than the “The History of Greene County” account.

1. The 1820 USC for Windham, New York indicates 5 subordinate males in the household of Ezekiel Tuttle. Based upon the birth dates set forth in the Family History, the breakdown of the census is consistent with the ages offered in the Family History. <sup>74</sup>



2. The 1830 USC for Windham, New York indicates 3 subordinate males in the household of Ezekiel Tuttle. Eldest sons Garwood and Truman have established their own households. Based upon the birth dates set forth in the Family History, the breakdown of the census is once again consistent with the ages offered in the Family History. <sup>83</sup>
  3. The 1835 NYSC for Cohocton, New York indicates 1 subordinate male (presumably Jerry) in Ezekiel's household. By now, David had also established his own household. And more importantly, Norman cannot be accounted for, and the census indicates that a male in the household died within the previous year. <sup>94</sup> While one year off, the Family History indicates that Norman died in 1833.
- James B. Tuttle of Metomen, Wisconsin, was the son of Truman Tuttle (brother of second generation Norman who died in 1833). James B. Tuttle had a son called Norman. Prior to the second generation, the name Norman does not appear in the family. It is therefore reasonable that James B. Tuttle named his son after his uncle (Norman of the second generation). <sup>121, 144, 155</sup>

With respect to the second generation daughters:

While the numerical account of daughters (4) is consistent to both lists, once again, the use of “pet” names makes the identification of some individuals difficult.

1. Betsy and Harriett appear on both lists
2. The Polly of “The History of Greene County” cannot be specifically associated with the Mary of the Family History, but Polly and Mary are commonly interchanged “pet” names during this time period.
3. The facts set forth below strongly suggest that Aloisa and Alvina are one-in-the-same person. Analysis of the Family History's Alvina, born February 23, 1822 and died in 1891, provides evidence for a third time that James H. and Mary J. Tuttle had access to information which was not available to anyone else when they created the 1921 Family History document:

- The 1850 USC shows a William B. Briggs, Alvina Emeline Briggs, and their two young children in Wayne, Kennebec, Maine. <sup>122</sup> The Alvina Emeline Briggs in the 1850 USC has an age of 28, which means that she was born in approximately 1822 (the same year indicated for Alvina Tuttle in the Family History). While it cannot be determined how they would have met, there were several Briggs families in Steuben County, New York, during the 1840s, including a William B. Briggs. <sup>105</sup>
- The 1860 USC and 1870 USC have the same William and Alvina Briggs in Leroy, Dodge County, Wisconsin <sup>143, 154</sup>, the county adjacent to Fond du Lac County where Truman Tuttle was now living. <sup>144, 156</sup> The 1880 USC has both families in Fond du Lac County. <sup>168, 169</sup>
- It is also extremely significant that both Truman Tuttle and Garwood Tuttle, older brothers of Alvina Tuttle, had daughters named Emelissa <sup>110</sup> and Emaline <sup>601</sup> respectively. And finally, the most significant factor of all, Alvina E. Briggs died on October 21, 1891 <sup>99v</sup>; the same year as the year indicated for the death of Alvina Tuttle on the Family History.
- To choose a name (Alvina) which appears nowhere else in the known family genealogy, randomly select a specific birth date and death year for that person, have those years be supported by census records and a death record, have that person relocate to another state and coincidentally end up in the same county as a possible older brother (Truman), and have two possible nieces with essentially the same given name (Emeline) far exceeds the realm of chance. The only reasonable conclusion is that Alvina Briggs is Alvina Tuttle.

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Once again as a matter of common sense when considering the *Second Generation* referenced above, Lovina Tuttle would certainly have known the number of children born to her, their names, and almost certainly would have stayed in communication with them. In no small

part because Lovina was living in her household for 28 years, Lucy Tuttle and her children (including James H. and Mary J. Tuttle) would have known their extended family too, not just in abstract terms but as real people whose lives they followed with familial interest.

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As promised, I will not analyse the third generation but it is important to note the overall family history interest in the Tuttle household where James H. and Mary J. Tuttle were growing up. Not only were they interested in genealogy, but their mother, Lucy (née Wing) Tuttle clearly had an interest in preserving the family history.

In the September, 1904, issue of “The Owl”, a genealogical magazine on the Wing family, the children of Lucy (née Wing) Tuttle and David B. Tuttle of Rollin, Michigan [the third generation on the Family History] are identified. <sup>600</sup> The information regarding the names and birth dates of the nine children are identical to the information in the Family History above with one very minor, and explainable, exception. The “Owl” article lists the birth date of the third daughter, Lydia A., as Aug 6, 1843, whereas the Family History lists her birthday as Apr 5, 1843. This could clearly have been a misinterpretation of a handwritten entry and, in fact, strongly suggests a prior written record [bible?] was used.

The author of the article in the “Owl”, Clarence Oscar Wing, is the son of Walden Wing of Rollin, Michigan and the nephew of Lucy (née Wing) Tuttle, the mother of James H. Tuttle and Mary Westgate. Lucy Tuttle, almost certainly, was the source of that very specific information in the “Owl” article. And it is worth repeating that her mother-in-law, Lovina Tuttle, who was the ultimate source of the attribution of Samuel Tuttle’s wife as Thankful Piersons, spent the final 28 years of her life in Lucy Tuttle’s household.

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Several other bits of information are worth noting. A Thomas Pierson and his wife Ruth joined the First Congregational Church of Woodbury, Connecticut in 1728, the same church in which Samuel Tuttle was baptized in 1742/43. <sup>69c</sup> In addition, Thomas and Ruth [as Pearson] purchased land in Woodbury in 1731. <sup>xx, pp. 127</sup> Although there is no subsequent record of them, the spelling “Pierson” is seldom used, and it does indicate that at least one family with that surname was living in Woodbury in the general time frame that Samuel was alive.

Secondly, and most importantly, an official death record indicates that Bostwick Tuttle (Samuel and Thankful Tuttle's eldest son) had a daughter, Thankful (née Tuttle) Donahue. <sup>103v</sup> Given all of the circumstances, it is only reasonable to believe that she was named after her paternal grandmother, Thankful Tuttle. In addition, it is worth noting that independent family lore in another line of descent from Bostwick Tuttle passed on by Dorothy (née Johnson) Burgraff indicates that "many great grannies ago we had a grandma named Thankfully" (Sharon Scott, pers. comm., January 22, 2008).

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The Family History generally agrees with "The History of Greene County" but when discrepancies occur ("pet" name variances aside), the existing documentary evidence, *in every case*, supports the Family History account. It is beyond the realm of reason to imagine that the very existence of two persons (Diane and Norman), the name of a third person (Alvina), and all of the dates with respect to births and deaths in the Family History could have been plucked out of the air and then miraculously correspond, *without a single significant discrepancy*, to the independent census reports and official death records. And the specificity of the dates of the second generation, in particular, strongly suggests that an older document(s) (no longer extant) was available to James H. Tuttle and Mary J. Westgate prior to the creation of the Family History document in 1921. The Family History is the product of a collaborative three generation effort, each succeeding generation having extended direct contact with the previous generation(s). All things considered, the only *reasonable* conclusion is that the content of the above Family History is reliable.

James P. Tuttle, June 16, 2007

## Chapter xx - End Notes

### Census Records

- 29 1790 USC, Connecticut, Litchfield Co., Woodbury, Roll M637\_1, image 0292
- 44 1800 USC, Connecticut, Litchfield Co., Bethlehem, Roll 2, pp 651
- 66 1810 USC, New York, Greene County, Windham, Roll 27, pp 325
- 73 1820 USC, New York, Greene County, Windham, Roll M33\_64, pp 92b
- 74 1820 USC, New York, Greene County, Windham, Roll M33\_64, pp 93
- 83 1830 USC, New York, Greene Co., Windham, Roll 110, pp 106
- 93 1835 New York State Census, Steuben Co., Cohocton, pp 013
- 94 1835 New York State Census, Steuben Co., Cohocton, pp 014
- 100 1840 USC, Michigan, Lenawee Co., Rollin, Roll 207, pp 128
- 105 1840 USC, New York, Steuben Co., Painted Post, Roll 340, pp 90
- 110 1850 USC, Michigan, Lenawee Co., Rollin, M432\_355, pp 258
- 120 1850 USC, New York, Greene Co., Ashland, M432\_509, pp 56
- 121 1850 USC, New York, Steuben Co., Wayland, M432\_600, pp 161
- 122 1850 USC, Maine, Kennebec Co., Wayne, M432\_257, pp 13
- 131 1860 USC, Michigan, Lenawee Co., Rollin, M653\_551, pp 0, image 561
- 132 1860 USC, Michigan, Lenawee Co., Rollin, M653\_551, pp 0, image 562
- 143 1860 USC, Wisconsin, Dodge Co., Leroy, Roll M653\_1406, pp 623
- 144 1860 USC, Wisconsin, Fond du Lac Co., Ripon, Roll M653\_1408, pp 888
- 154 1870 USC, Wisconsin, Dodge Co., Leroy, M593\_1711, pp 330
- 155 1870 USC, Wisconsin, Fond du Lac Co., Metomen, M593\_1714, pp 434
- 156 1870 USC, Wisconsin, Fond du Lac Co., Ripon, M593\_1714, pp 529
- 168 1880 USC, Wisconsin, Fond du Lac County, Oakfield, T9\_1426, Family History Film 1255426, pp 385.4000

- 169 1880 USC, Wisconsin, Fond du Lac County, Ripon, T9\_1426, Family History Film 1255426, pp 448.4000

### **Church Records**

- 69c Woodbury, Connecticut First Congregational Church

### **Property Records**

- xx Woodbury Land Grantee Book, Vol. IV. Town Hall, Woodbury, Connecticut
- 409b Bethlehem Land Grantee Book, Vol. II., pp. 366. Town Hall, Bethlehem, Connecticut

### **Public Records**

- 67v Woodbury, Connecticut Vital Records (Barbour Collection "Slip Index")
- 85a Windham Town Records, Vol. 1
- 85d Windham 1813 Tax Records .....
- 99v Wisconsin Vital Records Death Index, Vol. 2, pp 0091
- 103v Clark County, Wisconsin Vital Records, Death Record Book #1, #7, Courthouse, Neillsville, Wisconsin

### **Regional Treatments**

- 553 "The History of Greene County, New York, with Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men". 1884. J.B. Beers, New York.

### **Miscellaneous**

- 600 "Elijah, son of Stephen Allen Wing". The Owl – Genealogical Quarterly Magazine. 1904. G.D. Wing (Ed.). September, pp. 327-329. The Wing Family of America. Kewaunee, Wisconsin.
- 601 Garwood Tuttle Bible, in the possession of Mildred Hoyt Tuttle, Ashland, Greene County, New York. Transcription by Alexis Park Scheuerman.