

4th November 2015

# Introduction

This book was originally privately published by Mrs Jared Sidney Torrance , Los Angeles in 1923 after the death of its author, her husband Jared Sidney Torrance.

This edition has been scanned from the original and re-laid out by Richard John Torrens.

Jared Sidney Torrence and myself both trace back to a common ancestor Hugh Torrens of Mayoughill in the Bann Valley, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

There is a sequel to Jared's book: Torrence and Allied Families, by Robert McIlvane Torrence. A significant section of this book has been scanned and is presented on the WWW at <http://www.4qd.org>

This electronic version has been relaid and therefore page numbers do not coincide with those of the original. The page ends of the original are therefore identified thus **vi**.

In the original, blanks are present where the author did not have a name. These blanks have been left and are indicated thus                     .

# FOREWORD

It is with the deepest sense of gratitude, and appreciation of a friend, that I respond to the request to prefix a few lines on the character and personality of the man whose life history follows - Jared Sidney Torrance.

Sidney, as he was familiarly called, was well known throughout Southern California, as well as many other sections of the United States, and always made close and intimate friendships. Not especially social by nature, or seeking social atmosphere, he, nevertheless, in a strange and peculiar way imparted sociability at every contact. He was an excellent sportsman in all his club associations, a man whose presence was eagerly sought because it radiated life at its very best. He was a true philanthropist in every way, and gave his time, counsel, and financial assistance through all his years among us. To know him and be in his presence was always a privilege and an inspiration to good works, either in the uplifting of our community, or in philanthropic and charitable undertakings. He was a man of great force and personal charm, one who could always grasp large affairs, and showed unusual wisdom and optimism. A fair criticism of him might be that he burdened himself too heavily with great responsibilities, but this was due to the fact that he was happiest in producing, developing, and working out new schemes for progress. Many examples of this may be seen throughout his career, noticeably his idealistic, industrial plan consummated in the town which bears his name - Torrance.

In any history of the tremendous growth of Los Angeles, his name must always be prominent in financial development. With his days so filled, he nevertheless had time for the small v matters that would help the other man; and where investments with others were concerned, he would sacrifice himself rather than have the other injured, and was ever ready to give freely of his time and strength to those who made the right appeal.

A strong personality was Sidney, with a spirit of optimism and cheerfulness, great personal magnetism and charm.

W. JARVIS BARLOW,  
Los Angeles, California.

April Twelfth, 1922.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE TO PREFACE

The compiler of this genealogical record had practically completed his notes and was about to have the results of some five years of research and study placed in book form for distribution among his relatives, when he was suddenly called by death on March 29, 1921.

The assembling of the data contained herein had been a matter very close to his heart, especially since the winter of 1915-16, when he came into possession of a packet of old family letters, given to him by his mother. With his customary enthusiasm he eagerly attacked the problem of piecing together the little data that was contained therein, and tracing the fortunes of the writers of same, and their descendants. Working practically only a few hours each evening, he persevered until he had worked out complete genealogical records of the seven families which are covered herein.

It was felt by his immediate family, and some of those with whom he had been corresponding, that his notes should be assembled, completed, indexed and printed. But so carefully had he developed the family trees and so complete were his notes, that it was found that practically all that was necessary to be done was to check the same for typographical errors and to work out the index. To Miss Edith Gowan, of San Francisco, is due the credit for this completion of detail.

The book as printed is essentially as he had planned it. The title page, preface, introductory histories and genealogical facts are all as he had prepared them.

# PREFACE

This book is a departure from the usual genealogical publication in that it gives, as far as possible, all of the descendants, both male and female, of certain ancestors, instead of confining itself to complete data of the male descendants only.

It is intended to give information which will be valuable particularly to those now living, as well as to generations unborn.

The compilation of genealogical data is quite impossible without the assistance and cooperation of many individuals. Acknowledgment is hereby made to all who have contributed to this work.

Especial acknowledgment, however, is due Mrs. James T. Rider of Tontogany, Ohio, for data concerning the Warner and McColley families, and to Miss Alice D. Depew of Waterbury, Conn. , for her valuable cooperation in securing data of the Hart, Curtiss and Torrance families.

THE COMPILER.





# HART FAMILY

While still a young man, but possessed with the courage of many thousands who had preceded him, and fired doubtless with the ambition to gain a greater success in life than was possible in the homeland, LEWIS HART, born in Devizes, England, March 26, 1757, sailed for America. shortly prior to the outbreak of the War of the Revolution and settled at Stonington, Conn. He enlisted for military service against the country from which he had so recently migrated, and battled for six years for the freedom of the country of his adoption.

He was a Trumpet Major in the 3rd Troop of Col. Sheldon's Dragoons and the date of his enlistment was April 8, 1777. He served his full term and was honorably discharged in 1783. He is described as having been five feet seven inches in height, of light eyes and hair and a light complexion. He was later a seafaring man, a ship owner and a ship's Captain, a vocation which was later followed by several of his descendants. In 1811, he, with Martin Warner, Sr., built a schooner of 170 tons burden, naming it after his eldest daughter "Nancy." During the war of 1812, it was fired upon by the British off Bridgeport, Conn., and badly damaged and set on fire. The flames were extinguished, however, and the vessel saved. Later it was partly wrecked off the coast of Nantucket Island, but was again saved and repaired.

On Oct. 3, 1784, at Stonington, Conn., he was married to Anne, dau. of Asa and Mrs. Mary (Beebe) Elliott and granddaughter of Joseph and Johannah Elliott, the Rev. Nathaniel Eells officiating. She was b. Derby, Conn., Feb. 23, 1758, and d. Derby, Conn., Mar. 4, 1827. She was **xiii** buried in the Long Hill Burying Ground, Shelton, Conn., and her grave is marked by a stone with the following inscription:

*"This is erected by George L. Hart in sacred remembrance of his Mother, Anne Hart, who departed this life March 4, 1827, aged 69 years, 9 days."*

He d. Huntington, Conn., July 15, 1817, and was buried in the same Burying Ground. His grave is marked by a stone inscribed as follows:

*"In memory of Captain Lewis Hart, who died July 15, 1817, aged 61 years."*

Joseph and Johannah Elliott had a family of ten children, recorded in the Church Records of Stonington, Conn., as follows :

- i. John, bapt. Aug. 18, 1723,
- ii. Anna, bapt. Aug. 18, 1723,
- iii. Dorothy, bapt. July 18, 1725,
- iv. Asa, bapt. Oct. 22, 1727,
- v. Zebulon, bapt. Mar. 5, 1730,
- vi. Joseph, bapt. Aug. 6, 1732,
- vii. Deborah, bapt. May 11, 1740,
- viii. William, bapt. Nov. 22, 1741 (m. Dec. 9, 1772, Honor Dempsey),
- ix. Johannah, bapt. June 3, 1774 (m. Mar. 12, 1784, Michael Ash),
- x. Desire, bapt. Feb. 6, 1776 (m. March 8, 1767, Samuel Beebe).



The parents and all of the eight eldest children were baptized by the Rev. Ebenezer Rossiter. The remaining two were baptized by the Rev. Nathaniel Eells.

ASA ELLIOTT and MARY BEEBE were married June 21, 1753, and had children, all born at Derby, Conn., as follows : xiv

- i. Joseph, b. Mar. 28, 1754,
- ii. Mary, b. Oct. 17, 1755,
- iii. Anne, b. Feb. 23, 1758,
- iv. Asa, Jr., b. July 7, 1760,
- v. John, b. Jan. 23, 1763,
- vi. John 2nd, b. July 12, 1765,
- vii. Clark, b. Sept. 2, 1768.

LEWIS HART lived at Stonington, Conn., until about 1790, when he moved to Huntington, Conn., where his four youngest children were born. The records of Stonington disclose the purchase and sale of several pieces of real estate, and the following is the copy of a deed to the property which he acquired at Huntington, Conn., which is probably the same property of which he died possessed :

*Know ye that we, Abijah Beardsley and Elizabeth Ann Beardsley, his wife, of Huntington in Fairfield Co., State of Connecticut, for the consideration of one hundred and thirty Pounds lawful money Received to my Satisfaction of Lewis Hart of Stonington and State aforesaid. Do Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell and Confirm unto said Lewis Hart and his heirs and assigns forever One certain piece of Land with a House and Barn on the same situate in Huntington in a place called Ferry Quarter and is bounded as follows beginning at Daniel Bennits Northeast corner at the Highway and Barns. Northeasterly six roods and a half to the corner of the Barn that stands on the land then East Northeast Fourteen Roods to the Highway and is bounded on the West and North by land belonging to Elnathan Curtiss and runs Southeasterly on Highway to place begun at.*

*March 2, 1801.*

*ABIJAH BEARDSLEY,  
ELIZABETH ANN BEARDSLEY.*

*(Witnesses)*

*BETTY CURTISS*

*AGUR JUDSON*

*Received for record April 13, 1801.*

*AGUR JUDSON, Justice of the Peace,  
ELISHA MILLS, Town Clerk.*

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The following, having reference to the estates of Lewis Hart and his eldest son, John, are taken from the records of Stratford, Conn.

**Oct., 1817. Stratford Records, Vol. 6.**

*“Anne Hart was appointed Admx. on the Estate of Lewis Hart late of Huntington, deceased, and gave bonds according to Law. Seven months were Limited for creditors to exhibit their claims and said Adminisratrix published notice according to law.”*

**Dec. 2, 1817. Stratford Records, Vol. 6.**

*“The Administratrix of the Estate of Lewis Hart, deceased, presented an inventory of the Estate of the deceased and made oath thereof according to law.”*

*“The following is a true and perfect inventory of the Estate both real and personal of Lewis Hart late of Huntington, deceased, taken as presented to us the subscribers qualified as the law directs, viz.*

<i>Account of personal Estate as per Inventory on file</i>	<i>\$577.03</i>
<i>3/4 of an Acre of Land one House and Barn thereon</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>
	<hr/> <i>\$927.03</i>

*The foregoing inventory completed this 29th day of November, A. D. 1817 by us.*  
*JOSEPH TOMLINSON*  
*LEMUEL JUDSON ”*  
*appraisers under oath.*

**Oct. 22, 1821. Stratford Records.** <sup>xvi</sup>

*“The Administratrix on the Estate of Lewis Hart deceased, presented an additional inventory of the Estate of said deceased, amounting to \$6 a list of debts amounting to \$370.40 an account of ~sales amounting to \$320.10 and her Administration amounting to \$27.42 which was allowed.*

*D. PLANT, Judge.*

**Feb. 26, 1829. Bridgeport Records.**

*“At a Court of probate held in Bridgeport within and for the district of Stratford Feb. 26, 1829 Hannah M. Hart and Benjamine Smith both of the town of Bridgeport were appointed administrators on the Estate of John E. Hart of Bridgeport deceased (he having last dwelt at said Bridgeport). The said Hannah M. and Benjamine S. gave bonds with Samuel C. Kirtland on the sum of \$5000.00. Six months are limited and allowed for the creditors of the Estate of the said John E. Hart late of Bridgeport deceased to exhibit their claims of which notice is ordered to be given in a newspaper printed in Bridgeport and on the sign post in Bridgeport.*

*THOMAS WATSON*

*ROSWELL LEWIS*

*are appointed appraisers and one year is allowed for the settlement thereof.*  
*FITCH WHEELER, Judge.”*

**Feb. 20, 1830. Bridgeport Records.**

*"An inventory of the Estate of John E. Hart deceased presented to the court sworn to and accepted.*

*To the Hon. Court of Probate of the district of Stratford the following is an inventory of the Estate of John E. Hart deceased made out and appraised by the subscribers amount of Per. Estate as per inventory on file \$199.33.*

ROSWELL LEWIS

THOMAS WATSON

*Appraisers under oath.*"<sup>xvii</sup>

"At a Court of Probate holden at Bridgeport Oct. 26, 1830 the settling of the accounts of the administrators of the Estate of John E. Hart\* postponed to the 15th day of June, 1832.

Lewis and Anne (Elliott) Hart had children:

- i. Nancy, b. Stonington, Conn., May 18, 1785; m. New Milford, Conn., Nov. 20, 1803, Martin, son of Martin W. and Mary (Ruggles) Warner. He was b. New Milford, Conn., Apr. 27, 1771; d. Washington Township, Wood County, Ohio, Nov. 14, 1854. She d. Washington Township, Wood County, Ohio, Oct. 15, 1864.  
For record of her descendants see (3).
- ii. Sarah, b. Stonington, Conn., Sept. 19, 1787; m. Huntington, Conn., Aug. 1, 1816, Enos, son of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Bradley. He was b. [REDACTED] d. [REDACTED]. She d. Derby, Conn., May 5, 1822, and was buried in Long Hill Burying Ground. The grave is marked by stone with inscription. They had two children; both d. y.
- iii. Mary (Polly), b. Huntington, Conn., Feb. 17, 1791; m. Huntington, Conn., June 23, 1809, Joseph, son of Stiles and Clara (Adams) Curtiss. He was b. Huntington, Conn., 1788; d. Leon, N. Y., Apr. 4, 1840. She d. Leon, N. Y., Jan. 19, 1837.  
For additional data and record of her descendants see (♣47).
- iv. John Elliott, b. Huntington, Conn., Apr. 9, 1793; m. Derby, Conn., Dec. 14, 1826, Hannah Maria, dau. of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Kirtland. She was b. Huntington, Conn., [REDACTED], 1796. He was drowned near <sup>xviii</sup> Cork, Ireland, Dec. 6, 1828. She m. (ii) [REDACTED] Churchill, and d. Huntington, Conn., Dec. 11, 1859. She was buried in Long Hill Burying Ground, and her grave is marked by stone with inscription.
- v. Betsy, b. Huntington, Conn., Jan. 8, 1796; m. Derby, Conn., Dec. 27, 1818, John, son of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] McColley. He was b. Kinderhook, N. Y., Apr. 27, 1793; d. Washington Township, Wood County, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1877. She d.

*"As he was supposed to be drowned extra time given to see if he might have been saved.*

Providence, Ohio, June 27, 1886.

For additional data and record of her descendants see (✚91).

- vi. George Lewis, b. Huntington, Conn., Jan. 27, 1799; m. , Conn., Aug. 29, 1825, Hannah, dau. of and Lothridge. She was b. 1796; d. Huntington, Conn., Dec. 11, 1859. He d. Huntington, Conn., Oct. 10, 1829. They had a daughter, Ann Augusta, b. Huntington, Conn., 1829; d. Feb. 7, 1857.

The gravestone of Captain George Lewis Hart in Long Hill Burying Ground, Shelton, Conn., in addition to date of death, bears the following epitaph :

*“Mourn not for me, my wife and children dear,  
Think me not dead but sleeping here,  
For from sweet sleep which I take  
I trust in Jesus to awake.”*

The graves of Hannah and her daughter, Ann Augusta, are each marked by stone with inscription.

- (✚1) vii Robert, b. Huntington, Conn., May 9, 1801.

- (✚2) viii. Asa Elliott, b. Huntington, Conn., Aug. 25, 1803.

