

OUR CRIPPEN FAMILY

Thomas Crippen (1) and his wife, Frances Bray Crippen came to America from England sometime between 1665 and 1666. We can be certain of that because their second child, Mary, was born in Massachusetts in 1667 and the records are not clear if their first child, Catherine, was born in England or Massachusetts in 1665 however, Plymouth Colony Court Records state that Thomas Crippen (in 1665-1666) was brought to court in Plymouth, Mass. and fined because his wife Frances was too "giddy". Thomas and Francis apparently had seven children. Most of the children were born in Massachusetts. Records indicate the seventh child, a girl, (name unknown) was married to a Thomas Robinson however, Thomas Crippen's will refers to only four daughters. Sometime prior to his death in 1709, Thomas Crippen moved from Mass. to Connecticut. His will, dated 5/10/1705 is listed below.

Thomas Crippen's Will Taken from Probate Records of East Haddam, p185:

I. Thomas Crippen, Sen., of East Haddam, commonly called Machamoodus, in the county of Hartford, do make this my last will and testament. I give by deed to my son Thomas Crippen, one half my land at Machamoodus, and to my son Jabez Crippen the other half, reserving only the dwelling house and one third part of the above said land, for the use of my wife, Frances Crippen if she outlive me, and after her decease to be to my son Jabez Crippen and his heirs forever. After the decease of my wife, Frances Crippen, all my movable estate left to be equally divided between my four daughters, Catherine Rowley, Mary Corbee, Mercy and Experience Crippen.

Thomas (X) Crippen
Wit: William Spencer, Samuel Arnold

Note: The inventory of his assets was taken on 1/24/1709 by John Fuller, Thomas Robinson (Son In Law?) and Samuel Rowley (Catherine's Husband?).

Jabez Crippen (2) was born in Falmouth, Mass. on 7/9/1680. Jabez moved to Colchester, Ct. prior to 1700. Married 7/9/1707 to Thankful Fuller of Colchester, daughter of John Fuller and Mehitable Rowley Fuller of Barnstable, Mass. John's grandfather Edward came on the Mayflower. Mehitable R. Fuller's great-grandfather, William Palmer came with the Pilgrims on the ship Fortune.

Jabez and Thankful had ten children, all born in Colchester, Ct. and were all baptized in the First Congo. church in East Haddam, Ct. In about 1740 Jabez moved to Sharon, Litchfield County, Ct. There are conflicting reports of when and where Jabez died, one says he died in Manchester, Vt. in 1785, another says he died around 1760 after moving with most of his sons to Amenia, NY. to live in a hamlet called Crippentown

Crippentown, USA

The following is from a short bio contained in Charles F. Sedgwick's 1842 "History of Sharon" (CT)

"CRIPPEN, JABEZ was from Colchester, and was an original proprietor of the township. He drew the twenty-first home-lot, and his house stood on the ground now occupied by the Grosvenor house, so called, nearly opposite Governor Smith's. He was the first selectman ever chosen in the town. He had sons, Jabez, John, Samuel, Thomas and Joseph. His son Thomas lived where Russel B. Calkin now lives. About the year 1752, the father removed with several of his sons, into Amenia, N. Y. near where the late Jonathan Pennoyer lived; and that neighborhood was formerly called Crippentown. Mr. Crippen died at Manchester, Vermont, about 1785."

William and Content (Standish) Crippen

This story of William and Content Crippen begins in Herkimer County 9 December 1808 when the couple along with Levi and Sally Crippen sold their land in Fairfield. A few years previously in 1805 Ezra and Tabatha Crippen also sold their land in Fairfield.

Census records, tax records, land records, and local histories clearly place Ezra, Tabatha and their children in Penfield, NY. Tax records also place a William, Levi and John Crippen in Penfield, NY for various years from 1813 to 1818. Levi appears in the 1813 records, William in the 1818 records, and John in the 1813, 1817, and 1818 records. What proof is there that this William and Levi and the same as those that sold their land in 1808 in Fairfield?

Recently a document was found in Naples, NY that it was thought to be written in the mid 1900's by Mrs. Russell Warner of Eaton Rapids, Michigan. There was no author on the document but it was with letters written by Mrs. Warner. The letters and the document appear to be written using the same typewriter. The title is "Some notes about the William Crippen Family."

According to this document William Crippen was born 8 May 1773 probably in Alford, Mass and died 1 Aug 1823 in Orleans County, NY. He married Content Standish on 8 Mar 1796. She, in turn, was born 24 Oct 1776 and died 25 Jan 1836. After William died she married William's cousin, Nathan Rowley Crippen of Grandville, Washington County, NY. Mrs. Warner states, I have their nuptial agreement dated 17 May 1828."

She also states, "We have no record of them before 1801 when they were in Herkimer County, NY. Around 1806 they removed to Boyle, Ontario County. in 1810 the name of the place was changed to Penfield, Monroe County. Other Crippens came here about the same time: his brother John; his Uncle Ezra and several of his sons."

She goes on to say that William and Content had ten children:

Stephen 1791-1856
Isaac 1799-1861
Laura 1801-1900
Calvin 1803-1869
Lucinda 1805-1860

Ansei 1808-1884
Lebbeus 1810-1845
Betsey 1813-
Lavisa 1816-
Seth 1819