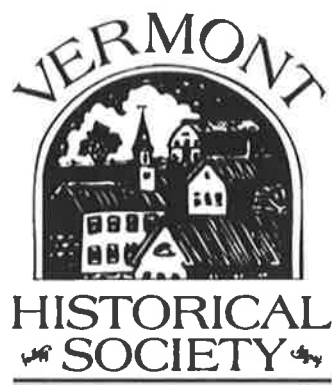


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W E L L S

This surname is of local origin, 'at the well,' from residence thereby. It is variously spelled Well, Wells and Welles. The final 's' is added in common with other monosyllabic local surnames, as Brooks, Bridges, etc.

Hugh Wells, who founded our line in America, was an early settler in the New England colonies and is said to have come from Colchester, County Essex, England, probably a descendant of Adam de Welles, who died in County Essex in 1345. The latter held the Manor of Theydon-Gernon in Ongar Hundred by the service of seven shillings per annum. He also had Madles, in Epping. His son John had a son, also called John, who was knighted.

(Bardsley-"Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames." Philip Morant-"History and Antiquities of the County of Essex.")

off of Revue Wells, Montpelier, Jan. 1935

## I

*See also biography of  
H-m. Wells 1713*

HUGH WELLS, progenitor of the family in America, was born in Colchester, County Essex, England, and probably came to New England in the "Globe" in 1635. His brother, Richard, came with him. Hugh Wells was of Hatfield, Massachusetts, in 1636, and is on record in Wethersfield, Connecticut, about 1645, where he is understood to have died about 1645.

Hugh Wells married, about 1619, Frances, who married (second) Thomas Colman, of Hartford, Connecticut, and removed to Hadley. She died in 1678.

## Children:

1. Thomas, of whom further.
2. Hugh, born in 1625, died December 22, 1678; married, August 19, 1647, Mary Rusco, or Roscoe.
3. Mary, born about 1626, died July 3, 1700; married, in 1650, Jonathan Gilbert.
4. John, born about 1628; was of Stratford, Connecticut, and Hadley, Massachusetts.

(Daniel W. Wells and Reuben F. Wells-"A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts," p. 447. H.R. Stiles-"The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut," Vol. II, pp. 780, 781. George Sheldon-"History of Deerfield, Massachusetts," Vol. II, p. 350.)

## II

THOMAS WELLS, son of Hugh and Frances Wells, was

born in Colchester, England, about 1620, and died between September 30th and December 14th, 1676. He was one of the first settlers in Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1659. He came from Wethersfield, Connecticut, where he had been a house and land owner since 1650. He left a good estate in Wethersfield, and also a house and lands in England. His cattle ear mark is recorded in Wethersfield, and he is listed in the fence tax in 1647. He was a surveyor in 1665.

Thomas Wells married, in May, 1651, Mary Beardsley, who was born in 1636 and died in 1691, daughter of William Beardsley. She married (second), June 25, 1678, Samuel Belden, of Hatfield.

Children (born in Wethersfield, Connecticut):

1. Lieutenant Thomas, born January or June 10, 1651-52, died in 1691; married, January 12, 1672-73, Hepzibah Buel, who married (second) Daniel Belding.
2. Mary, born October 1, 1653, died young.
3. Sarah, born May 5, 1655; married David Hoyt or Jeremiah Judson.
4. John, born January 14, 1657, died in infancy.
5. Jonathan, born about 1658-59, died January 3, 1738-39; married (first), in 1682, Hepzibah Colton; married (second), in 1698, Sarah Strong.

(Born at Hadley, Massachusetts):

6. John, born April 3, 1660, drowned January 20, 1679-80.
7. Samuel, born in 1662; married, December 11, 1684,

Sarah Clark.

8. Mary, born September 8, 1664; married (first), August 16, 1682, Stephen Belding; married (second), January 2, 1723, Captain Joseph Field.
9. Noah, of whom further.
10. Hannah, born July 4, 1668, died December 17, 1733; married, July 7, 1687, John White.
11. Ebenezer, born July 20, 1669; married (first), December 4, 1690, Mary Waite; married (second), August 15, 1705, Sarah Lawrence.
12. Daniel, born December 11, 1669, died June 11, 1670.
13. Ephraim, born in April, 1671; married, January 23, 1696, Abigail Allis.
14. Joshua, born February 18, 1673.

(Daniel W. Wells and Reuben F. Wells-"A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts," p. 447. H.R. Stiles-"The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut," Vol. II, pp. 780-782. George Sheldon-"History of Deerfield, Massachusetts," Vol. II, pp. 356, 357. "New England Register," Vol. XLIII, p. 359.)

### III

NOAH WELLS, son of Thomas and Mary (Beardsley) Wells, was born July 26, 1666, and died in Colchester, Connecticut, in 1712. He was of Hatfield, Massachusetts, in 1693, and of Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1694. In 1697, he was of New

London, Connecticut, and about 1709 he settled in Colchester, Connecticut, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Noah Wells married Mary, who was probably the daughter of Daniel White, of Hadley, Massachusetts.

Children:

1. Noah, born in August, 1686, died August 19, 1753; married, April 15, 1714, Sarah Pratt.
2. Mary, born in December, 1687.
3. Sarah, born October 6, 1692.
4. John, married September 8, 1715, Elizabeth Chamberlin.
5. Jonathan, of whom further.
6. Samuel.
7. Hannah, married July 11, 1717, Isaac Jones.

(H.R. Stiles-"The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut," Vol. II, p. 780.  
George Sheldon-"History of Deerfield, Massachusetts," Vol. II, p. 357. "New England Register," Vol. XLIII, pp. 358-360.)

IV

JONATHAN WELLS, son of Noah and Mary (probably White) Wells, was born in 1695, and died January 25, 1756 at the age of sixty-one years according to the inscription on his grave in the old burying ground, Colchester, Connecticut. His will was dated November 13, 1753 and proved August 3, 1756. In it he mentioned his wife, Mary, sons Jonathan, Reuben, Hubbel,

James, Levi, Judah and Asabel, and daughters Mary and Martha, and brother Noah Wells.

Jonathan Wells married, July 11, 1717, Mary Newton, who died January 10, 1754, aged fifty-five years, daughter of James and Mary (Hubbel) Newton.

Children (exact order not known):

1. Jonathan, born April 13, 1718.
2. Simeon, born June 17, 1720; married, June 27, 1751, Lydia Knight.
3. Reuben, born May 23, 1722.
4. Hubbel.
5. James, married on March 28, 1754 (wife's name not recorded.)
6. Levi, of whom further.
7. Judah, born in 1738; married, January 31, 1760, Ann Bigelow.
8. Asabel, born in 1740, died December 19, 1762, aged twenty-two years.
9. Mary, born September 14, 1724.
10. Martha, married April 24, 1752, Stephen Kellogg.
11. Irene, born May 4, 1729.

("New England Register," Vol. XLIII, pp. 358, 359. C.A. Newton-"The Colchester, Connecticut, Newton Family," pp. 10-12. C.M. Taintor-"Extracts from the Records of Colchester, Connecticut," p. 92. Bailey-"Connecticut Marriages," pp. 101-103.)

## V

LEVI WELLS, son of Jonathan and Mary (Newton) Wells, was born in Colchester, Connecticut, in 1734, and died in Ellington, Connecticut, in 1803-04. During the Revolutionary War he was a resident in Colchester, and served from that town. The record of his service is as follows: Commissioned Captain, May 1, 1775, Eighth Company, Continental Line, Second Regiment, commanded by Colonel Joseph Spencer; received his discharge December 10, 1775, and re-enlisted in 1776. He was a Major in 1776 in Colonel Samuel Wylly's Twenty-second Regiment, Continental Line. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Long Island on August 27th, and exchanged early in 1777, his parole being granted so that he might collect funds for the relief of prisoners in New York. Connecticut voted him the sum of five hundred pounds. In the spring of 1780, detachments of Militia were raised for service along the western coast, and Levi Wells was put in command of one as Colonel. On December 9, 1780, Colonel Wells was attacked by the enemy at Horseneck and taken prisoner.

Colonel Levi Wells married, about 1759, Jerusha Clark, who was born February 28, 1724, daughter of Noah and Sarah (Taintor) Clark, of Colchester.

## Children:

1. Jerusha.
2. Charlotte.
3. Levi.
4. Rowena.

5. Charles.
6. Paoli.
7. Asa, of whom further. .

(D.A.R. Lineage Book #35741, Vol. XXXVI, p. 272. F.W. Bailey-"Early Connecticut Marriages," Vol. III, p. 103. D.H. Hurd-"History of New London County, Connecticut," Vol. I, pp. 386, 387, 391-394. "Connecticut Men in the Revolution," pp. 50, 107, 615. C.J. Hoadley-"Public Records of the State of Connecticut," Vol. II, pp. 55, 240, 284, 400, 406, 447, 459.)

## VI

ASA WELLS, son of Colonel Levi and Jerusha (Clark) Wells, was born in Colchester, Connecticut, August 6, 1774, and died in February, 1859. He came to Pompey, New York, in the spring of 1803, and built a log cabin at Pompey Hill, the location being that formerly occupied by the late Daniel March. In 1807, Asa Wells settled east of Pompey Hill on a farm adjoining that of Daniel Wood. He was an excellent mathematician and practical surveyor, and, with a corps of assistants, laid out the road running north from the Academy to Manlius. He also assisted the Senior Geddes in surveying for the Oswego Canal.

He was an officer in the Militia for many years. When he was Captain of the Militia, he had his whole company to Sacket's Harbor at the time it was threatened by the British. Afterwards he was Colonel of the Militia for several years, and also held various important trusts in the civil service. For some time he was a Justice of the Peace, and represented his

town on the Board of Supervisors. He was also a member of the State Assembly, and Judge of the County Court.

Asa Wells married Chloe Hyde, who was born in Ellington, Connecticut, June 30, 1778 and died in January, 1872, daughter of Matthew and Roxalana (Stoughton) Hyde, of Norwich, Connecticut.

Children:

1. Levi, died March 31, 1872; was a surveyor in Pompey; served as Justice of the Peace for thirty-two years; represented Pompey on the Board of Supervisors for eighteen years.
2. Amelia, married Morris Beard.
3. Louisa, born about 1800.
4. Rowena, of whom further.
5. Lucien, a physician of Utica, New York.

(R.H. Walworth-"Descendants of William Hyde of Norwich, Connecticut," Vol. I, pp. 96, 412, 413. Reunion of the Sons and Daughters of the Old Town of Pompey, New York, pp. 390, 391. Family data.)

VII

ROWENA WELLS, daughter of Asa and Chloe (Hyde) Wells, was born in Ellington, Connecticut, March 7, 1802, and died in 1889. She was an enthusiastic worker in the temperance cause, and served as president of the Women's State Temperance Convention, presiding at this convention at Delevan, Wisconsin.

Rowena Wells married, at Pompey Hill, New York, July

7, 1834, Jared F. Ostrander, who was baptized at the Reformed Church in New Hurley, New York, September 13, 1805, and died at Mantorville, Minnesota, November 19, 1874, son of Peter and Clarissa (Fordham) Ostrander. Jared F. Ostrander accompanied his parents to Pompey, New York, when a boy, and became a member of the Congregational Church there on March 1, 1827. He was educated for the ministry and later removed to Wisconsin. In a letter written at the reunion of the residents of the town of Pompey, he mentions his preaching the first sermon in Madison, Wisconsin. He describes himself as "standing behind a dry goods box covered with an Indian blanket, in the upper part of a store, the best meeting house the place could afford." He also preached at Aztalan, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, where he resided, and was an independent in his theological views. He was regarded as the only person who would perform a marriage and be satisfied with a bushel of potatoes as a fee.

He taught the first school in the town of Aztalan, and during the summer his wife instructed a class of younger pupils. He attempted to establish what was to have been called a "labor school" on a hill west of the village and a section of land was reserved for that purpose. Although some funds were collected, the project failed and the money was used for the first school house, a frame building in the western part of the town.

Jared Ostrander was a candidate for State Senator, and was a member of the Wisconsin Legislature. He subsequently

removed to Mantorville, Minnesota, and was elected Judge of the Probate Court, which office he held until his death.

(Ibid. Records of the New Hurley Reformed Church. Records of the Congregational Church at Pompey. Reunion of the Sons and Daughters of the Old Town of Pompey, p. 112. "History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin," p. 558.)