

Genealogy of the Cahoon family by Jean Fischer

Sir John Colquhoun (Cahoon or Calhoun in America) was born in Scotland in 1595. He was the sixteenth chief of the Clan Colquhoun, eighteenth Laird of the Land of Luss. He was the first Baronet of Nova Scotia, Canada. He died there in 1647.

Sir John's youngest son, William was born in Dunbartonshire, Scotland in 1635. William emigrated from Scotland to America possibly before 1651. He learned the brick making trade from James Leonard. In 1660, with sixteen others, he purchased Block Island, Rhode Island.

William married Deliverance Peck and had two sons: Joseph born 1665, Block Island, and James born 15 February 1671, Swansea, R.I.

In "Hubbard's Narrative of Indian Wars" we find this record: "On the 24th of June, 1675, the alarm was sounded in Plymouth Colony, when eight or nine of the English were slain in and about Swansea, they being the first to fall in King Philip's War." William Cahoon was one of these nine. We now find the Americanized spelling of the name.

William's son, Joseph married first, Hannah Kent, by whom he had Joseph Jr, John, Hannah and Samuel. He married second, Elizabeth Scranton, by whom he had William, Benjamin, Ebenezer, Judith and Barbara. It is through Ebenezer that the Avon Line continues.

Ebenezer Cahoon (son of Joseph and Elizabeth) was born 8 October 1706 in East Greenwich Rhode Island. He served in the British Army as a lieutenant in the French and Indian War. He had married Mary Reynolds in 1728. Ebenezer's occupation is listed as a house carpenter. Ebenezer and Mary had five children, Benjamin, Ebenezer, John, William and Reynolds.

Reynolds Cahoon (son of Ebenezer and Mary) was born in 1735. He died in East Cleveland, Ohio in 1815. He had gone west to live with his son, Reynolds.

Reynolds (senior) was also a house carpenter. He was married twice. First married in 1761 to Rebecca Rathbun. Rebecca and Reynolds had two children. Joseph born 28 August 1762 in North Kingston, R.I. and Rebecca born 1765. It is through Joseph that the Bay Village, Ohio line of Cahoons carries on.

Rebecca died sometime before 1769, and in February 1769 Reynolds married Rebecca's younger sister, Mary. Reynolds and Mary had Benjamin, Wilbur, Reynolds, Abigail and Hannah.

Wilbur Cahoon, son of Reynolds (senior) and Mary, was born 27 December 1772 in Hancock, Berkshire County Mass. He died in Avon, Ohio of a stroke on 27 September 1826. He had married Priscilla Sweet of Rhode Island in 1795. They lived in Salisbury, Herkimer Co. New York. Wilbur's first name was for his mother's maternal great-grandfather, Joseph Wilbur.

Wilbur and Priscilla had seven children all born in Salisbury. They were Susan, Jesse, Wilbur, Ora, Orra, Huldah and Melissa. In 1814, Wilbur traded his 100 acres in N.Y. for 800 acres in Avon to Orrin Ensign who had surveyed the township of Avon in the Ohio Territory.

In 1814, Wilbur and his family arrived in the township that was eventually named Avon. Wilbur and Priscilla were Avon's first permanent settlers. Wilbur built the first saw and grist mills in the village. Their eighth child, Leonard, was born on 1 December 1814. He was the first white child born in Avon.

That Wilbur had learned his carpentry skills from his father is proven by the fact that the home he built still stands today on the banks of French Creek in Avon. He built the home in 1825, and only lived one year after its completion.

Ora Cahoon (son of Wilbur and Priscilla) was born in Salisbury on 25 May 1804. He died on 17 March 1881. Ora married Jane T. Jameson on 10 December, 1834, in Avon. Ora built a fine home in 1843. He and Jane reared seven children there. He was a farmer. Their children were Horace, Melissa, Joseph, Wilbur, Ora, Burritt and Charles.

Joseph B. Cahoon (son of Ora and Jane Cahoon) was born in Avon Twp. in 1844, and died there in 1923. He married Josephine Whipple in 1878. They lived in the homestead built by his father. With his father and brothers, he farmed the land. We believe he served in the Civil War.

In 1875, with his brother Wilbur, Joseph built the "French Creek Cheese Factory." At one time there were 200 cows supplying milk to the cheese factory. When the railroads came in 1882, the milk could be shipped to other markets quickly. This meant the decline of the cheese factory, and it closed.

"Josie" and Joseph had Ora, Guy, Leveritt, Iva, Harriet, Roy and Wilbur, all born in Avon.

Roy Cahoon (son of Joseph and Josie) was the last living descendent of William Cahoon (1635-1675) to live in Avon, Ohio. Roy was born in 1893. He married Grace Peak and farmed his 71 acres his entire life. He was a veteran of WW1. He was a "truck farmer" taking his produce in his truck to the Cleveland market.

This concludes the history of the Avon Cahoons.

Research: History of the Cahoon Family, by Ida M. Cahoon

Jeff Sigsworth, Elyria, Ohio

Jean Fischer, Avon, Ohio



*Roy Cahoon, last of the
Cahoon family in Avon*