

# The Society of the Hawley Family

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March 24, 1984

Mr. Robert Lewis Hawley  
6843 Sunrise S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Mr. Hawley:-

Following our telephone conversation of 3/22 I searched my files for your father's letter and found nothing. Then it dawned on me that the letters might be in a file I had on a Delaware County family separate from the rest. Voila! There it was. However I did not find a letter dated 1966.

The first letter is from your father dated February 27, 1968 inquiring about his branch of the Hawley family and contained a history of Lewis Hawley, Sr. who came to Delaware County and to the town of Colchester, N.Y. when a young man. There are four pages here.

It seems that correspondence with various members of the family began in 1966 and I must have written to your father then. In May of 1966 we interviewed a member of our Executive committee of the Society at a board meeting. He was Alton Johnson Hawley and the tales he told us inspired us to take a trip to Fishes Eddy, N.Y. to find out more about the family because he had a grandfather Johnson who came from there. Well, we looked up the grave and found it was in the Partridge Island Cem. Civil War marker. The interesting thing was when we sent for the Civil War Record he was registered under the name of Holloway. We interviewed a number of people at the time in the area. Since then we have corresponded with Mrs. Franklin P. (Geraldine Hawley) Rowe of Johnson City, N.Y., a Mrs. Max (Edna Hawley) Hilley of Cocoa Beach, Fla. and as a result including your father's correspondence have compiled quite a bit of information.

I cannot find the earliest Hawley your family stems from in the Hawley Record by Elias Sill Hawley 1890. Nor do I believe that Mrs. Rowe was successful in tracing back either. She sent me copies of some letters which have helped us to make a chart of the family and according to a letter (photocopy of a letter sent to her by a granddaughter of Nathan Hawley) written by James M. Chaffee of Harvard, N.Y. A Harvey Hawley, a resident of L.I., N.Y., served in the Rev. War, moved to Delaware Co., N.Y. and settled on a farm near Harvard, N.Y. about 1783. He m. a widow named Sprague whose husband had been massacred by Indians. He had a son Harvey Hawley, Jr. born April 18, 1785.

Then there's another old letter, this one not dated but the other one was dated 1938 by Mr. Chaffee, from Catherine E. Hawley living in Walton, N.Y. Total of these pages are about 13 pages including your father's compilation. We have a place in a Univ. where we can get good copies for about 10¢ per. It would help if you could send a few \$\$\$ to cover cost and postage.

In addition there is a Newspaper photocopy of an article regarding a Civil War Letter of George E. Falling including listing of soldiers & John Hawley and Lewis Hawley cousins are listed- Lewis being wounded July 2, 1863. 2 more pages!

I have a copy of the pension papers from the General Services Adm. and am enclosing an order form so you can send for a set of your own. They contain a great deal of information.

I'd appreciate your telling me what papers you have of your father's so nothing is duplicated. It is apparent that he did correspond with Mrs. Geraldine Rowe on May 19, 1964 as I have his letter to her.

Another thing. Do you have either book "Holt T'other Way" by Leslie C. Wood, 1950: page 84 mentions Hawley's of Downsville. or "Rafting on the Delaware" by the same author?? I have some photocopies from 'Rafting' mentioning Lewis M. Hawley, Jr. 5 pgs.

Lastly, am sending a chart of the branches stemming from the first Harvey Hawley, L.I. that my husband made yesterday. 3/23/84.

If your were confused before your read this letter you should be now! Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy M. Hawley*  
Dorothy M. Hawley  
(Mrs. Charles W. Hawley)  
Recorder-Historian

*P.S. also incl. Copy of our write-up May 1966  
and Membership Appl. card - pls return signed etc -*

EPHRAIM HAWLEY, b. Aug 7, 1659 and resided at New Stratford (now Trumbull) Connecticut. Died Apr 18, 1690. He married Sara Welles on Dec 4, 1683. She was born on Sept 29, 1664 and died Jun 29, 1694.

Their children are:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Danial, b. Sept. 20, 1684; d. Jul 28, 1750 | 63 years |
| 2. Gideon, b. Jan 30, 1687; d. Feb 16, 1730   | 43 years |
| 3. Abiah, b. Sept 18, 1690; d. Jun 16, 1716   | 25 years |

GIDEON HAWLEY, b. Jan 30, 1687 and resided in Bridgeport, Connecticut and died Feb 16, 1730. He married Anna Bennett, daughter of Lieut. James Bennett of Bridgeport on Feb 4, 1711. Anna was born in 1691 and died Nov 14, 1727.

Their children are:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. James, b. Jan 29, 1713; d. Oct 7, 1746  | 33 years |
| 2. Zechariah, b. Sept 2, 1717; d. 1775     | 57 years |
| 3. Gideon, b. 1719.                        |          |
| 4. Sarah, b. Oct 11, 1721.                 |          |
| 5. Abiah, b. 1723.                         |          |
| 6. Anna, b. 1724.                          |          |
| 7. Gideon, b. Nov 11, 1727; d. Oct 3, 1807 | 78 years |

JAMES HAWLEY, b. Jan 29, 1713, resided at Bridgeport, Conn and died Oct 7, 1746. James was a farmer, a sergeant of a military company and a prosperous citizen. He married July 18, 1733, Eunice, daughter of Henry Jackson, who was born in 1714 and who died Sept 6, 1796.

Their children are:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Benajah, b. 1734; d. Mar 10, 1822        | 87 years |
| 2. Anna, b. Nov 16, 1735; d. Sept 26, 1736  | 8 mos    |
| 3. Wolcott, b. Nov 16, 1735; d. Jan 9, 1799 | 63 years |
| 4. Aaron, b. 1739; d. July 21, 1803         | 63 years |
| 5. David, b. 1741; d. 1807                  | 66 years |
| 6. Elijah, b. Dec 30, 1744; d. Aug 11, 1835 | 90 years |

AARON HAWLEY, born in 1739, and resided at Bridgeport, Conn and died July 21, 1803. He was a farmer and in the War for Independence was a Brigade Major to General Silliman. He married Nov 24, 1759, Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Ezra and Abigail (Hall) Hawley of Bridgeport, who was born in 1737 and died July 8, 1776. Some believe that Aaron Hawley resided during his later years in Ferrisburg, Vermont. Whether this is true or not, land records prove that he bought large tracts of land at Ferrisburg, portions of which he deeded to his son Gideon.

Lewis Hawley and his wife Phebe are both buried in the Downsville cemetery on the high point overlooking the river and the covered bridge in the village. On the same plot are also buried their son Warner and his wife Hattie.

Their children are:

1. Oscar
2. Warner
3. Adelia
4. Julia
5. **Lewis M. Jr.**
6. Johnson

Oscar m. M. Crawford; 2 children; Pauline & Harvey

Warner m. Hattie Gregory (George Gregory's sister); 2 sons; Lanfield & Edward

Johnson m. Sarah ?; They settled in Fishes Eddy. 3 children; Ulysses, Harry, & Nettie. Sarah died young, Johnson remarried, a widow Holloway whose husband, a sailor, was lost at sea. She had a daughter by previous marriage who married Lanfield Hawley, son of Warner.

**LEWIS MORTIMER HAWLEY** was born Jan 29th, 1842. He married Elizabeth W. Vernold on July 1, 1866, in Downsville. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Ransom Hunt. She was born in 1850.

Their children are:

1. Charles Oscar, b. Mar 11, 1868. m. Belle Day; 4 children; Lewis, Belle, Edna, & Albert
2. **William Miller**, b. Feb 10, 1870. m. Catherine Gregory; 2 children; William & Chester L.
3. Anna G., b. Jan 29, 1872; m. John Mills; 4 children; James, Raymond, Clara, & Gertrude
4. Henry, b. Mar 22, 1876; d. Spanish American War
5. Arthur G., b. Sept 30, 1878, d. Nov 14, 1957. m. Naomi Miricle who was b. Mar 31, 1902, d. Mar 12, 1976; 2 sons, Clayton & Henry. Henry m. Virginia Gray; 1 son-Gary, who m. Donna Muhlig; they have 1 daughter Tammi. Clayton m. May Ambrone; 1 dau. Deloris. Deloris m. Glen Sanford; 5 children: Glen, Wendy, Andrew, Jennifer, Reed.
6. George G., b. Nov 2, 1883
7. Maggie P., b. May 24, 1883, m. Raymond Hammond, 2 sons who died young with no wives or children.
8. Grace E., b. Apr 5, 1886; m. Hosa Mason; 1 son, Burdett

9. Keziah Frances, b. July 21, 1888, d. Aug 14, 1982. m. Lowell Signor; 2 children: Elizabeth Agatha m. Michael Joseph Larken; & Steven Lowell m. Joyce Edith Schineller.

#### VERNOLD

HENRY VERNOLD, b. Nov 23, 1798; m. Angalina Fuller, b. Aug 26, 1804. They were married on June 25, 1820. Henry was born in Holland.

Their children are:

1. Mary Maria Vernold, b. Aug 19, 1822;
2. Juliaelt, b. Dec 2, 1824; m. Bill Johnson
3. Philena, b. Jun 9, 1827; m. Jim Tyler
4. William H, b. Aug 22, 1829; m. Elizabeth Gavett
5. Susan, b. Dec 23, 1831
6. Elizabeth, b. 1850

The following account of the family history is provided by Chester L. Hawley.

Lewis Hawley, Sr. came to Delaware County and to the Town of Colchester when he was a young man. He soon married Phoebe Lanfield, the daughter of one of the first settlers of the Town of Colchester.

Lewis Hawley settled just north of the Village of Downsville and entered into the lumber business. At that time the area was heavily timbered with large virgin pine forests. One such tree survived on the family homestead and neither Lewis Sr. or later his son Warner, who lived at the original homestead until his death, would allow it to be cut. As I remember it, it must have been some 5 or 6 feet in diameter. The present dam on the Delaware River north of Downsville is on the site of the original Hawley homestead referred to above.

My father told me many stories of those early days as told to him by my grandfather Lewis Mortimer Hawley, known as "Peg Leg Lew" who was the second son of Lewis Hawley, Sr.

In those early days most law and order was maintained by those with the courage and will to see that right prevailed over wrong. Lewis Hawley, Sr., my great grandfather was such a man. He employed local farmers in the winter to cut the large pine trees, build rafts near the river and in the spring during high water, he with his crew would float the rafts of timber down the river to Philadelphia for sale to the shipyards. They would then return home by stage and on foot.

Lewis Hawley was not the only raftsman on the river during this period as this was a lucrative business and competition was keen for the choicest timber. During the trips down the river, there were favored spots to tie up the rafts and again competition for these spots was keen.

According to the author of the book "**Rafting on the Delaware**", Lewis Hawley, Sr. was known as the "King" of the river. He evidently gained this reputation by being able to demand and win the respect of his peers and thus enjoyed a long and profitable career on the river.

Lewis Sr. had four sons, Johnson, Lewis Jr., Oscar, and Warner. All of the boys grew up on the lumber business, and there are all kinds of local stories told about the terrible Hawley's.

In one instance, a Mr. Hulbert in Downsville wanted to install a set of scales next to his coal shed to weigh wagons of coal. His next door neighbor was the town mayor at the time and didn't want the scales next to his property so when

Mr.. Hulbert had a hole dug to put in the scales, Mr. O'Dwell, the mayor had some local men fill it back in. After this experience, Mr. Hulbert employed the Hawley's to put in the scales and there was no more trouble from R. O'Dwell.

In another case, Lewis Sr. heard about a local girl who was "in trouble". He went to the family of the boy to blame and suggested that the boy marry the girl (or else). The boy married the girl!

Both Lewis Jr. and his brother Johnson served in the Civil War. Lewis' records are available but we don't know what company Johnson served in, only that he served according to my mother.

Lewis Jr. served with Company I, 71st Regiment, New York Volunteers. Mother recalls that he and her father, George W. Gregory left Downsville on June 14th, 1861. There were 100 men in the company under the command of William H. Elwood.

Lewis Hawley, Jr. served throughout the Peninsula campaign under MacLellen and was severely wounded at Gettysburg, Pa on July 2, 1863. Company I, and the 71st Regt. under Sickles command was involved in very heavy fighting in the area known as the wheat field and the peach orchard. As a result of his wounds, Lewis Jr. lost the lower half of his right leg. There is a monument in that area of the battlefield that mentions Company I and the 71st.

After the war Lewis Jr. took up the lumber business with his father, becoming a very skilled steersman, guiding the rafts down the river. This was a tricky business if you were to avoid running aground, hitting rocks, sand bars, etc. He was known up and down the river as "Peg Leg Lew". Both Warner and Oscar also continued to work with their father and Lewis in the lumber business.

Johnson moved away from Downsville to Fishes Eddy where he married Sarah (mother couldn't remember her last name). Sarah died young, leaving Johnson with three small children; Ulysses, Harry and Nettie. Ulysses is the father of Alton J. Hawley. Johnson soon married a widow, a Mrs. Holloway who's husband was a sailor who was lost at sea. Mrs. Holloway had one daughter and my mother believes she married a Lanfield Hawley, a son of Warner Hawley, Lewis' brother.