

John Retchless at the age of 23 married Esther Smith at the age of 19 at Cambershire, England, on July 7, 1841 in which they lived until 1849 because their first child George Retchless was born in Wisbech, Cambershire, England. June 4, 1842 then a William Retchless was born Oct. 3, 1844 In Camershire, and then a Thomas Retchless was born Sept. 19, 1847 Also in Cambridgeshire.

And then a Betsy Retchless was born in Sutton, St. James a village near wisbech. And then their family increased by John Retchless born Aug. 17, 1851 at Sutton St. James. But when John departed for America in 1853 Thomas and Betsy had passed away no dates as yet or what with.

As you know John decided to leave England and come to Ameraca. So in 1853 exact date unknown John a half brother Jonty and a good freind Bromley Spencer hired out in Wisbech, to go to America and work on the first Internatioal Bridge crossing the Niagra river at Niagra Falls. Where or when they departed is unknown but they did arive at New York, At this time there was no Ellis Island that was not established until 1875 when the Federal Government began to regulate imigration and by 1882 they had taken full control.

I assume they arrived at New York as Aliens, registered and gave a fowarding address and made arrangements to depart for Niagra Falls, Which they did except Jonty, he took off for Pennsylvania and shortly aferwards he left and went to California to join the mad rush of the 49 th gold rush. which was realy something, but from what I have read It was crime, Death, brutality, and any thing you can imagin.

John and Bromley went to Niagra Falls to accept their employment, but in a very short time Bromley Spencer fell off the bridge into the george and lost his life, his body was never recovered. The shock of this accident caused John to Quit, and head out to work at anything, Which was building crates, baskets, farm work, and etc. But the year of 1854 has arrived and Esther is leaving Wisbech, to come to America, In May 1854 Esther left England on a sail boat to come to America, but due to the bad weather, damage to the ship the vessel arived at New York in Oct. it doesent sound reasonable, but records, tell it so, Esther and her three children then proceded to go inland to Gasport, N.Y. by Packet boat, This was a boat pulled by mules, up the original barge cannal. This boat traveled from New York to Rochester New York a distance of 400 miles no tie up 24 hours a day this boat was moving and no bunks, no sleeper, just a seat travelling about 5 to 6 miles an hour. When Esther arived at Rochester, N.Y. her money run out and she and the three children walked the rest of the way, 40 miles to Gasport, George age 12 years William age 10 years John age 3 years

John showed on records Naturalization between 1860 - 1865

As this was told, Esther and the kids walked during the day and at nite the farm owners put them up, and fed them. I do not know how John knew when they arived, but they met at Millards Bridge for a joyfull reunion . Here was a family with nothing, only hope, but a party named Robinsons let them live in a log cabin that they owned, it was not in very good shape but with much help from the neighbors, it was made liveable, next the neighbors took old furniture from their attics and gave this furniture to the Retchless that was the start to this family.

John was always a farmer, and not two prosperous, after a life time of work 48 years his 60 acre farm worth \$2600. and a net worth of \$785.00 was all he had for his effort. We in our tracing seen in several cases where the girls had been farmed out to work, in the homes of other folks in the area. The boys helped on the farm and also farmed out to other farmers. The family consisted of 7 boys living 3 girls living. more explanation later. Their home was in orange port, N, Y, not Gasport,

Searched and compiled

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