

BACKUS FAMILY

Samuel Backus (1693-1740)

Elizabeth Tracey

m. 1716

Samuel (1717-1796)
Ann Backus Abel (1718-1756)
Elizabeth Backus Huntington (1721-1745)
Isaac (1724-1806)
Elijah (1726-1798) *see next chart
Simon (1729-1764)
Eunice (1731-1753)
Andrew (1733-1796)
Asa (1736-1788)
Lucy Backus Leffingwell (1738-)
John (1740-1814)

Elijah Backus (1726-1798)

Lucy Griswold

m. 1753

Elijah (1754-1755)
Lucy Backus Woodbridge (1757-1817)
Elijah (1759-)
James (1761-1762)
James (1764-1816) *see next chart
Matthew (1766-)
Clarina (1769-1831)

James Backus

Dorothy Church Chandler

m. 1793

Mary (1794-1847)
Lucy (1796-1827)
Sarah (1798-1843)
Jane (1800-1873)
Nancy (1801-1802)
William Woodbridge (1803-1892)
Frances (1806-1890)
Henry T. (1809-1877) *see next chart

Henry T. Backus (1809-1877)

Juliana Trumbull Woodbridge

m. 1835

James H. (1851-1889)
William Woodbridge (-1877)

For more information on the Backus Family genealogy consult: William W. Backus, A Genealogical Memoir of the Backus Family, 1889.

BACKUS, James, pioneer, was born at Norwich, Conn, July 14, 1764; son of Elijah and Lucy (Griswold) Backus. At the age of twenty-four he joined the colony which, under General Rufus Putnam, founded Marietta, and thus was one of the first settlers of Ohio. As agent of the Ohio company he made the first surveys in Marietta, and he is said to have built, at the junction of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, the first frame house that was erected in Ohio, then the Northwest Territory. He was both a civil and military officer in the new settlement, as his journal shows. He was a man of means, and devoted his money without stint to the benefit of the settlement. He erected the first saw and grist-mill at Marietta, and had driven from New England the first yoke of oxen that ever trod the soil of Marietta, Ohio. The mill crank and saw, the grist-mill spindle, and the other irons were made by his father at the Backus iron works, Norwich, Conn. He remained at Marietta about three years, and in March, 1791, he returned to Yantic, to succeed his father in the management of the Backus iron works, which had been established by his grandfather, and carried on by his father, both prior and subsequent to the war of the revolution. He was widely known as a man of character, great energy and executive ability. In 1793 he was married to Dorothy Church, daughter of Charles Church Chandler, of Woodstock, Conn. He died Sept. 29, 1816.

WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE BACKUS, 1803-1892

BACKUS, William Woodbridge, philanthropist, was born in Norwich, Conn., Oct. 22, 1803; son of James Backus. He successfully conducted a large grain and stock farm in Norwich, and amassed a fortune. He gave \$75,000 to endow the W. W. Backus hospital at Norwich, and bequeathed about \$85,000 to Norwich institutions, the rest of the estate going to the Backus hospital. He died in Norwich, Conn., July 13, 1892.

(Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary
of Notable Americans, volume 1)