

## Roots

*Information in italics is anecdotal and has not been researched or proven by me.*

**History** (Source #1 and Halbert's): Suspected Norman surname 1st located in Kent County, England (frequently but mistakenly assumed to be of French origin) where they were granted lands by Duke William of Normandy, their liege Lord, for their distinguished assistance at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D. It is more likely of Viking origin. The Vikings landed in the Orkneys and Northern Scotland about 870 A.D. under their King, Stirgud the Stout. His descendant, Thorfinn Rollo, landed in northern France about 910 A.D. The French King, Charles the Simple, after Rollo laid siege to Paris, finally conceded defeat and granted northern France to Rollo. Rollo became the first Duke of Normandy, the territory of the north men. Rollo married Charles' daughter and became a convert to Christianity. Duke William who invaded and defeated England in 1066, was descended from the first Duke Rollo of Normandy.

By 1086, the Roots had established other estates in Bedfordshire, England where they were recorded as Rot in the Domesday Book (census taken by King William). They were originally from Routtes in the arrondissement of Yvetot in Normandy. They flourished in both Kent and Bedfordshire and branched north into Scotland intermarrying with the White-Melvilles of Bennoch. Prominent amongst the family at this time was Root of Kent.

**American settlers:** Josia Root Salem 1630 along with Thomas and Richard (brothers)  
Mary and Ralph Root Boston 1635 (cousins?)  
Mary Roote New England 1635 (cousins or grandsons to Waverley Root?)  
Nicholas Roote Virginia 1623  
Joseph Rootes New England 1634

Other possible spellings: **Roots, Rouets, Routs, Rootes, Rootes, Rots, Routtes.** (\*Source of all above info: Halbert's, 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 44210)

This is known as the Salem line:

**11. Josiah ROOTES** of Beverly, MA (*bapt on 24 Sept. 1648 in Beverly Parish, Great chart, Ashford, Kent, Eng?* - 29 May 1683), wife **Susanna** (? - ? in Beverly, MA) (had **2 brothers, Richard and Thomas** [wife **Katherine**, had son **Thomas Jr.**], and **maybe two more brothers, Joseph and Joshua; Joseph and Nicholas**, though, were either cousins or grandsons to **Waverley ROOT** [see letters from Bethel Root]; **Mary and Ralph ROOT** are said to be cousins of Josiah and his brothers, Richard and Thomas [re letters from Bethel ROOT] Bethel also says that the 3 brothers had a sister, **Elizabeth**). He appears to be a native of Great Chart, Kent, a parish in England, about fifty miles southeast from London (The population of Canterbury in 1841 was 714.). He immigrated in 1634 in the ship "Hercules" of Sandwich, England (**John WITHERLY**, Master) in a fleet known as the *White Sails* and the brothers settled in Salem, MA (*possibly landing in Salem, but likely anywhere in MA*). Josiah ROOTES brought with him the certificate from the minister where he last dwelt of their conversation and conformity to the orders and discipline of the church signed by Robert Gorsham, curate of the Great Chart, signed on 20 Mar. 1634 (Source #1). He settled on the Beverly side of Salem, joining the Salem church in 1648. His wife's name was Susanna, as appears by the will made by him 15 May 1683, just 19 days before he died. Josiah gave his personal estate to Susanna until his youngest son, Jonathan, came of age. He was one of the founders of the Beverly Church (petition to start signed 23rd April 1667). Not long after being widowed, Susanna was accused of witchcraft, the complaint entered by Thomas PUTNAM, clerk of the parish in Salem village on 21 May 1692 for her accusers: **Mary WALCUT, Abigail WILLIAMS, Mary LEWIS, Ann PUTNAM** and others. The only evidence against her was that she was accustomed to absent herself from prayers while living in Andrew ELLIOTT's house, and that said Elliott and wife heard her rise in the night and talk in the room below, also "flying in ye chamber over said roome as if there were 5 or 6 persons with her." She had her trial before Justices HAWTHORNE and CORWIN on the 21st of May, and was sent to jail along with other prisoners in Boston May 23, 1692, but there is no record of her appearance before the

Court of Oyer and Terminer, which had jurisdiction in cases of witchcraft. Her main accuser, **Ann PUTNAM Jr.**, later made a humble apology for the folly of her conduct, and blamed her accusation on the devil. Susanna was probably discharged due to insufficient evidence. Documents in possession: Josiah's last will and testament on 26 June 1683. children:

- .....a. **Josiah ROOTES** (ca.1642, f. - ca. 1685)
- .....b. **Bethiah ROOTES** (ca. 1644 - ?) m. **John LOVETT** (1636 - 1727). *Bethiah Rootes Lovett was arrested for witchcraft May 20, 1692. She was held and later acquitted. She was lodged in Boston gaol where grandson John Lovett testified he visited her. (She was manifestly a person of independent character who would not conform her opinions to those of some of her more illiberal neighbors, hence the false accusations against her.)* Source: *Essex County Biographies 1888.*
- .....c. **John ROOTES** (ca. 1646 in Beverly, MA, bap. 24 Sept. 1648, f. - 25 May 1723)
- .....d. **Susanna ROOTES** (? - ?) m. **HASKINS** and had a child baptized in 1668, 2 yrs. 6 mo. (no name given)
- .....e. **Thomas ROOTES** (bap. 16 Feb. 1651, f. - 1683/4) m. **Elizabeth GALE**.
- .....f. **Jonathan ROOTES** (ca. 1666, f. - d. before 1729)

**10. John ROOTES** (ca. 1646 in Beverly, MA, bap. 24 Sept. 1648 - 25 May 1723 in Woodbury CT) of Woodbury, CT, m. **Dorcus ABBOTT** (? - 15 May 1720). He moved, probably with his uncle Richard, to Fairfield, CT, where he had lands granted to him 2 Mar. 1676, by his kinsman Michael Try, who married the widow of his uncle Richard ROOTES. From there he went to Woodbury ~1681-2. He purchased a house and lot of Samuel Hull on 22 Feb. 1686. He also purchased lands of Nicholas CAMP, town attorney on 8 Nov. 1687, and various other parcels of land at later periods. Surname spelling changes in their children's generation.

children: born mostly in Woodbury, CT

- .....a. **John ROOTS** (bap. Apr. 1685 in Woodbury, CT; died young)
- .....b. **Susanna ROOTS**, (bap. Apr. 1685 in Woodbury, CT, f. - 26 Apr.1738)
- .....c. **Mary ROOTS** (bap. Apr. 1685 in Woodbury, CT - ?) m. **Robert WARNER**.
- .....d. **Josiah ROOTS** (bap. Mar. 1688, f. - 1727) m. **Elizabeth HUTHWITT** (1698 - ?)
- .....e. **Bethia ROOTS** (Dec. 1691 - 23 July 1700)
- .....f. **John ROOTS** (9 June 1693 in Woodbury, CT, f. - 3 Aug. 1757 in Woodbury, CT)
- .....g. **Joseph ROOTS** (June 1698 in Woodbury CT, f. - 1761 in Woodbury CT) m. **Susanna** \_\_\_\_\_.
- .....h. **Bethia ROOTS** (7 Feb. 1703 - ?) m. **Joshua ROOT** (5 Dec. 1741 in Great Barrington, MA - June 1809).
- .....i. **Thomas ROOTS** (? , f. - 1727) m. **Sarah Hickock**.

**9. John ROOTS** (6 or 9 June 1693 in Woodbury, CT - 3 Aug. 1757 in Woodbury, CT) m. 1) **Ruth HICKOK** (1700 - 23 Apr. 1741) on 4 Sept. 1717, 2) **Elizabeth (last name unknown)**. He lived in Woodbury, CT.

children by first marriage:

- .....a. **Dorcus ROOTS** (15 Apr. 1718 - ?) m. ----- **ROYCE**
- .....b. **Sarah ROOTS** (25 June 1722 - ?)
- .....c. **Benajah ROOTS** (5 May 1725, f. - 15 Mar. 1787, æ. 61)
- .....d. **Roger ROOTS** (ca. 1727 - ?)
- .....e. **Adonijah ROOTS** ( 30 Dec. 1730, f.- ca. 1800) m. **Ruth LAKE**.

**8. Rev. Benajah ROOTS** (5 May 1725 at Woodbury CT- 15 Mar. 1787) m. **Elizabeth GUERNSEY** (4 May 1736 - 13 Aug. 1813 in New Haven VT) (daughter of **Peter GAUNSEY, GARNSEY or GUERNSEY**) on 26 Sept. 1757. He was united with the Congregational church on 23 Mar. 1740. He graduated at New Jersey College in 1754, and *Princeton*. He studied theology with Rev. Dr. Joseph BELLAMY of Bethlehem, CT, and was licensed by the Litchfield South Association in 1754. Fall 1756 he was employed on probation by the First Congregational society in Simsbury, CT, and afterwards became pastor, being ordained and installed over the church, 10 Aug. 1757. He gained considerable reputation as a theologian of the strictest Puritan school, and published a pamphlet at Hartford entitled *Remarks on an Ecclesiastical Council convened at the First Society in Simsbury in 1770*. Another was *The Church of Christ described*. In the last 3-4 years he had difficulty with his church and congregation, and he was dismissed in summer 1772. He moved to Rutland, VT, and bought a farm with 3 log houses in March 1773. He

continued to preach for Rutland for about 7 years. He received his A. M. from his Alma Mater, also from Yale College, also from Dartmouth in 1784. *It was at his house the Rev. William EMERSON, chaplain at Ticonderoga, died.*

Children (born in Simsbury, CT)

.....a. **Benajah Guernsey ROOTS** (13 Nov. 1758, f. - 11 Sept. 1842, æ. 83) m. **Louisa HIGLEY** (? - ?). *Benaja was a Private in the Vermont militia in Capt. John SMITH's company in 1779. He served as a scout in 1780-81 in defense of the frontier. children ([info on children from this link](#)):*

.....1) **Alanson ROOTS** (ca. 1784 - ca. 1844 in Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH?) m. **Sylvia YALE** (ca. 1787 - 1847) ca. 1804. children:

.....a) **Philander ROOTS** (? - ?) m. **Susan BROWN** (? - ?). children:

.....1. **Sylvia J. ROOTS** (? in Fayette, IN - ?) m. **Dr. Eugene C. THOMPSON** (? - ?).

.....2) **Esther ROOTS** (ca. 1785 - ca. 1800). Single.

.....3) **Zeruah ROOTS** (ca. 1786 - ca. 1846) m. **John JORDON** (ca. 1783 - ca. 1743) 25 Sept. 1806 in Charlotte or Underhill VT and had a farm in North Underhill, VT. Children ([Info on children from Joel Jordan](#)):

.....a) **Lydia JORDON** (20 Dec. 1806 - 1 Dec 1889) m. **James HENRY** on 25 Oct. 1827.

.....b) **Alonzo JORDAN** (1 July 1808 - ?) m. **Clarinda HALE** on 13 Nov. 1833.

.....c) **Louisa JORDAN** (25 Feb. 1811? - ?) m. **Edwin TILLEY** on 21 Nov. 1830.

.....d) *Infant* (25 Jan. 1813 - ?)

.....e) **William JORDAN** (6 Feb. 1814 - ?) m. **Eliza C. SHAW** on 22 Oct. 1840.

.....r) **John JORDON Jr.** (10 Nov. 1819 - ?) m. **Martha FRENCH** in January or June 1843. Stayed in Underhill, VT.

.....g) **Zeruah M. JORDON** (11 Jan. 1817 - ?) m. **Philander HALL** on 7 Dec. 1843 and moved to Wisconsin.

.....h) **Mary Ester JORDAN** (1 Sept. 1822 - ?) m. **Daniel N. SHAW** on 10 Mar. 1842?

.....i) **Sarah Ann JORDAN** (31 July 1825 - ?) m. **Harman HOLMES** on 28 Aug? 1846.

.....j) **Edwin JORDAN** (27 July 1828 - ?)

.....k) **Julietta JORDON** (18 or 25 Feb. 1831 - 12 Dec. 1912) m. **Zenas M. SUMNER** on 31 Dec. 1854 in Wisconsin and lived near Zeruah & Philander.

.....4) **Polly ROOTS** (ca. 1787 - ca. 1847 in Michigan) m. **Bryant BARTLETT** (ca. 1783 - ca. 1843) ca. 1803.

.....5) **Betsey ROOTS** (ca. 1788 - ca. 1800). Single.

.....6) **Louisa ROOTS** (ca. 1789 - ?)

.....7) **Caroline ROOTS** (ca. 1790 - ca. 1850 in Michigan) m. **Rev PRINCE** (ca. 1787 - ca. 1847) ca. 1807.

.....b. **Amelia ROOTS** (11 Mar. 1760 - June 1800) m. **Abner MEAD** (? - Feb. 1813).

.....c. **Sophia Leonora ROOTS** (12 Jan. 1762 - ?) m. **Nathan PERRY** (? - 1813) They lived in Cleveland OH.

.....d. **Peter Philanthropos ROOTS** (27 Mar. 1766, f. - 26 Dec. 1828, æ. 62).

.....e. **Elizabeth ROOTS** (16 Oct. 1771 in Rutland, VT - 6 Feb. 1833 in New Haven, VT) m. **Rev. Silas Long BINGHAM** of New Haven, VT.

.....f. **Anna ROOTS** (2 Oct. 1774 - ?) m. **Robert GILMORE**. They lived in W. Rutland, VT.

**7. Peter Philanthropos ROOTS, A. M.** (27 Mar. 1766 in Simsbury, CT - 26 Dec. 1828 in Mendon, NY) m. **Elizabeth KEEP** (12 Dec. 1776 - 17 Dec. 1861) on 2 Jan. 1797 at Monson, MA. (daughter of **Jabez KEEP** of Winfield NY. He moved to Rutland when he was 8 years old; joined the West Rutland church in 1785, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1789. He went immediately to Taunton, MA, and studied divinity with Rev. Ephraim JUDSON, and was licensed to preach as a Congregational minister in March, 1790 by Bristol Association in MA. He preached in destitute places not far away. He traveled and was troubled in his mind on the subject of baptism. At length he connected himself with the Baptist denomination. In May 1792, he went to Boston and was baptized by Dr. Samuel STILLMAN. On 4 Sept. 1792 he was ordained in the ancient Baptist meeting-house founded by Roger WILLIAMS in Providence, RI, as an evangelist. He traveled to Savannah, GA, and performed an extensive missionary tour there, then went back to New England to preach. He then visited Virginia, and became instrumental in leading some to emancipate their slaves. In 1794 he published a book on baptism at Hartford, CT. For many years after he was employed as an itinerant preacher by various missionary societies, locating for a short time only at one place. After he married, he made his home in Hamilton, NY and preached for the Baptist church there for most of 2 years. In April 1803, he moved to Pompey, and in March 1805 to Fabius NY. Again in March 1825 they moved to Mendon, Monroe Co., NY.

children (born at Hamilton NY):

.....a. **Elizabeth ROOTS** (2 Jan. 1799, f. - ?) m. **Josiah MOORE** (? - 4 Nov. 1860 in Fredonia, NY).

.....b. **Lura ROOTS** (15 Aug. 1800, f. - ?) m. **Hiram BLANCHARD** (? - bef. 1870) on 25 Sept. 1825.

.....c. **Amanda ROOTS** (3 Dec. 1802 in Hamilton, NY, f. - 30 July 1886 in Tamaroa, IL) m. **Ephraim Stiles**

**WALKER** (? - 31 May 1852).

.....d. **Peter Philanthropos ROOTS** (23 Jan. 1807 in Fabius, NY, f. - after 1870) m. **Anna B. JOHNSON** (? - after 1870) on 15 May 1839.

.....e. **Benajah Guernsey ROOTS** (20 Apr. 1811 in Fabius, NY, f. - 1888).

**6. Benajah "B.G." Guernsey ROOTS** (20 Apr. 1811 in Fabius NY - 1888 in *Perry Co., IL*) m. **Martha Sibley HOLT** (1810 - 18 July 1864 in Tamaroa, IL) of Willington, Tolland Co., CT, on 20 Oct. 1834. B. G. was a pioneer educator and abolitionist who came to Perry Co. early in 1839. He had spent some time in Shawneetown awaiting subsidence of swollen streams and drier weather as he picked his way along the old Shawneetown to St. Louis trail, looking for a spot to build a home. He found 1200 acres, about a mile south of the present village of Tamaroa. He built a log cabin and went back to CT for his family.

His cabin provided room for a student that first winter. College level courses were taught and the cabin was the site of the first institution of higher learning in Southern Illinois.

A later clapboard home had an L-shaped addition which housed a classroom and boarding services for several students. Finally, between 1854 and 1856, Locust Hill Academy was built, a home that is still standing south of Tamaroa. It is now the Calvin IBENDAHL home. The house, a one-room school and a log cabin are open for tours by appointment. **John A. LOGAN\*** was a student at the academy. (\*It is believed that John LOGAN had such an influence on Benajah that the latter named one of his children after him.)

Benajah was an avid abolitionist and aided many run-away slaves as they escaped to the North. His "underground railway" station was probably in his basement. There was a secret passageway discovered in the back kitchen wall when the house was remodeled in 1956. There was a fake cistern in the basement beneath the wall. There was never any water in the cistern and earthen seats were carved inside the brick wall.

He remarried on Dec. 2, 1864 to **Mrs. E. R. SAUNDERS** of Tolland Co., CT, and they moved to Illinois in 1838 for him to take a position as civil engineer on one of the many railroads that were being built. When the Illinois Central Railroad came to Southern Illinois, it was B.G. who did the surveying from Centralia to Carbondale. The story is told that B.G. put the curve in the railroad north of Du Quoin so the tracks would cross his property and he would have train service, which was provided free of charge by the Illinois Central because ROOTS did not charge for the use of his land. He was engaged most of the time in civil engineering or teaching.

ROOTS was known as "Father ROOTS" in the early years of the Illinois educational system. He was a pioneer in using the graded school system. Prior to his time, students progressed from "reader to reader" as their ability increased. ROOTS was also on the Board of Higher Education and helped J. B. TURNER establish the University of Illinois. He rode horseback to attend meetings in Chicago and Springfield. When he was young he read law books and was prepared for admission to the bar, and found it desirable to have an attorney's license, he was admitted to practice both in the Illinois State courts, and in the United States courts, and was officially with the Bible, Sabbath School, and Agricultural Societies from their organization.

ROOTS is credited with taking six teachers from Du Quoin to Arkansas where they established the first public school system for that state. He also taught at the Sparta Seminary from 1846 to 1851. He lobbied for the passage of the Normal School Act which brought the Normal School, now Southern Illinois University, to Carbondale. The school was planned for Tamaroa, but lost by one vote in the General Assembly.

Locust Hill was a stock farm where purebred horses, registered cattle, mules, and hogs were raised. Wheat, corn and hay were the main crops. There were lots of fruit trees. The yard was landscaped with 40 kinds of trees, all native to Southern Illinois. Peacocks strutted in the four-acre yard. B.G. and his children were members of the Episcopal church, and were "advocates of the equality of all men before the law."

After the Civil War, some of the run-away slaves returned to the ROOTS farm where they lived and worked until they died. Many of them are buried in the woods on the farm. A hired hand named Goode was given employment in Springfield after the farm was sold in 1905.

B.G. passed away in 1887. He is buried in Tamaroa with the rest of his family. It is a fitting location since Mrs. ROOTS (unsure if this was his 1st or 2nd wife) and her sister named the village of Tamaroa.

A book published by his grandson, John Roots, entitled "A Warrior's Testament," states that P.K. was a banker.

Documents in possession: 6 diaries written by P.K., death certificate.

(-- much of this text was submitted by Jean Ibendahl, source #6).

children by first marriage:

.....a. **Oliver Guernsey ROOTS** (11 Apr. 1836 at Willington, CT - 3 Nov. 1856 at New Orleans, LA). He taught in

New Orleans.

....b. **Philander Keep ROOTS** (4 June 1838 at Willington, CT f. - 16 Oct. 1921).

....c. **Logan Holt ROOTS I** (26 Mar. 1841 in Perry Co., IL, f. - ?) m. **Emily Margaret BLAKESLEE** (? - ?) on 9 Aug. 1871. Emily was the daughter of **Lyman C. BLAKESLEE** and **Maria (Angell) BLAKESLEE**. Logan, of Little Rock, AK, graduated at the Illinois State Normal University, with the first honors of the class of 1862, immediately after graduating he joined the Federal army, and serving therein to the close of the war, made a most creditable military record. He had the proud distinction of winning special notice from Gen. LOGAN, Gen. McPHERSON, Gen. SHERMAN and Gen. GRANT, with each of whom he enjoyed esteemed friendship till they respectively answered answered to the final muster out. He was with Gen. SHERMAN on the March to the Sea, and after participating as an officer on Gen. SHERMAN's staff in the grand review at Washington in May, 1865, he came West with Gen. SHERMAN and was ordered on duty in Arkansas.

He formed an attachment for the State, and bought a cotton plantation before the acceptance of his resignation as an officer of the army. Though never an office seeker, he has both held and declined many important official positions. He was a progressive liberal Republican member of the Fortieth and Forty-first U.S. Congresses, and though at the time the youngest member of Congress, he did not fail to accomplish practical beneficial results. He induced liberal grants and aids to his section of country. He introduced the first bill for the creation of the Texas Pacific Railway Co. He introduced the bill that resulted in the establishment of the U.S. water gauges upon our rivers, which system has been so beneficial during the recent floods. The thrift of his youth has attended his manhood, and since his peremptory refusal to accept any political position, his success in accumulating wealth has been both rapid and continuous. He is always engaged in enterprises of development. After falling under his energetic management, the telephone was introduced more rapidly in the Southwest than in any other part of the nation. He was active in promoting the building of railroads in the south, and devoted both time and money liberally for them. He had extensive investments in cottonseed oil, lumbering and other active manufactories, and was the president of the Lumbermen's Association of the State of Arkansas, was the president of the Arkansas Loan and Trust Co., and was a director and president of the First National Bank of Little Rock. His ability and reputation made this bank unexcelled and unquestionably the leading bank of this section of the country.

He was unanimously elected a delegate to the National Convention and president of the Arkansas State Bureau of Immigration. He took interest in the Chautauqua movement, and was president of the 1892 class. He kept up the course of the C.L.S.C. readings and prepared the regular review papers, he was the first president of the Arkansas State Bankers Assoc. The Masonic fraternity exalted him to its highest honors, having been made grand master of Free Masons of Arkansas, grand high priest of the Grand Chapter, illustrious grand master of the Grand Council, and grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arkansas. He was president of the executive committee of the State Young Men's Christian Assoc., president of the State Sunday-school Union, and was for years Treasurer of the Diocese of the Episcopal church of Arkansas, and one of the deputies chosen by the Diocese of Arkansas to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

He was the honored head of many of the most important movements for furnishing aid to the needy and advancement and improvement for all. He was Chairman of the committee of arrangements when Gen. GRANT visited Arkansas, and the Republican orator of the occasion when the community in full accord with a mourning National held memorial services on Gen. GRANT's death.

He grew up on a stock farm, and at the age of 17, entered Illinois Normal University, the youngest male student at the time. After graduating as valedictorian in the class of 1862, he enlisted in the Union Army and was made an officer in the 81st Regiment Illinois Volunteers. During his military career, he participated in the Civil War seige of Vicksburg, and accompanied Gen. William T. Sherman on his march through Georgia to the sea. As a staff officer of Gen. Sherman, he was present at the grand review of the troops by the President in May 1865. The following August, he was commissioned Brevet Lieut. Col. for his meritorious service during the war. He was honorably mustered out of the service on May 31, 1866. During the last year of service, he was stationed in Arkansas. After buying a cotton plantation, he remained in the state to make it his home.

In 1867, he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Arkansas. As a progressive liberal Republican, he represented Arkansas in the 40th Congress, from 1868-1871, as its youngest member. During his two terms in Congress, he sponsored several bills of great importance and beneficence to

his constituents. In later years, he served as vice-president of the National League of Republican Clubs. He was the first president and director. One contemporary source stated that "his ability and reputation make this bank unexcelled and unquestionably the leading bank of this section of the country." At the time of his death, Logan was recognized as the wealthiest man and leading financier in Arkansas.

Became Col. Logan Holt Roots in Civil War. Big businessman in Arkansas. One of 6 men on cornerstone inside the lobby of the Cornerstone Hotel in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Death from the book "History of Ft. Roots Old to New", published by the Veterans Administration sometime during or after 1983. The Fort is located on a 600-ft. high promontory overlooking the Arkansas River. In August, 1890, word came from Washington that the arsenal at Little Rock was to be closed; this was followed by a series of meetings by city leaders to decide what should be done with the property. The citizens selected Col. Logan H. Roots to serve as their spokesman in Washington. He began looking for property for a new military post. The Board of Improvements for City Park District was formed to oversee the details of establishing the fort. Col. Roots was chairman of the board and a commissioner.

The decision was made in Feb. 1893 to use Big Rock Mountain as the new site. In April 1897, 4 years after his death, an order from the War Department was published: "By direction of the President of the United States and by order of the Secretary of War, Russell A. Roots, a prominent Arkansas citizen-soldier of the time, the military post near the city of Little Rock, in Pulaski County, Arkansas, will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Logan H. Roots, United States Volunteers." Documents in possession: Journal 1855-1856.

.....d. **Martha Elizabeth ROOTS** (2 Sept. 1844 in Perry Co., IL f. - ?) m. **James C. KIMZEY** of Perry Co., IL.

**5. Philander Keep ROOTS** (4 June 1838 at Willington, CT - 16 Oct. 1921) m. **Frances Maria BLAKESLEE** (1843 - 1905) of Du Quoin, IL on 23 May 1866 in San Francisco, CA. He was a student at the Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL. At age 14, he began practice as a civil engineer in a corps under the direction of his father. He contracted malaria and was ill until around age 17. At age 20, he became engineer of the New Orleans and Ohio railroad, the Kentucky portion of which was constructed and put in operation under his supervision. He was in the employment of the United States as civil engineer during the latter part of the war of the rebellion. He received his A. M. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1862. He resided in Oreana, Nevada, and in 1870 was living in Humboldt City, NV. After that he lived in Ft. Smith, Ark., from 1873 - 1880; from 1880 he lived in Little Rock, Ark., where he helped found Ft. Logan ROOTS. Documents in possession: 6 journals written by P.K., and P.K.'s death certificate.

children:

.....a. **Willard Holt ROOTS** (25 Feb. 1867 at Oreana, NV. - Mar. 1946 in Mansfield, MA)

.....b. **Logan Herbert ROOTS** ( 27 July 1870 on Locust Hill, Tamaroa, Perry Co., IL - 23 Sept. 1945 on Mackinac Island, MI). Documents in possession: 1 journal written by Logan.

.....c. **Mary Emily ROOTS** (10 July 1873 - ?) m. **Walter Graham HALL**(son of **Milton Grey HALL**).

**4. Rt. Rev. Bishop Logan Herbert ROOTS I** (27 July 1870 in Tamaroa, IL - 23 Sept. 1945 on Mackinac Island, MI) m. **Eliza Lydia McCOOK** (22 Oct. 1869 - 4 Aug. 1934 in Lushan, China) of Hartford, CT in Hankow, China on 17 April 1902. He was the Bishop of the Episcopal church in Hankow, China. Documents in possession: wedding invitation.

children:

.....a. **Logan Holt ROOTS** (2 Oct. 1905 in Hankow, China - 14 Aug. 1964).

.....b. **John McCook ROOTS** (27 Oct. 1903 in Hankow (Wuhan) Hopeh, China - 26 July 1988 in St. Ignace, MI). He graduated from the Kent School, CT, in 1921, and from Harvard University in 1925 with an A. B., cum laude. He was an early pioneer of the Moral Re-Armament (MRA), foreign correspondent and author specializing in East Asian affairs. He was the first foreign correspondent to interview Chiang KAI-SHEK and Michael BORODIN in 1926. From 1929 through the 1940s, he was director of MRA teams as traveling representative, and he served the MRA in South Africa, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands,

Germany, Italy, and Canada. In 1978 he wrote a biography of Chou ENLAI published by Doubleday. Died of a heart attack after prolonged illness æ 84. No children.

- .....c. **Sheldon ROOTS** (no middle name) (27 July 1908 in Hankow, China - 20 Apr. 1986). He was a poet, musician and humanitarian. He attended the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, MA. He was a volunteer for many years for the MRA. He left China at age 13 and went to school in Kent, CT. He then went on to Trinity College in Hartford, CT, where he learned to box. He traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad. In 1945 he began traveling with theatrical and musical productions. He returned to Mackinac Island, MI, in 1965 and was an exhibitor for the historical Stuart House, and remained there until he died unmarried on Mackinac Island, MI, due to an explosion æ 76. No children.
- .....d. **Frances Blakeslee ROOTS** (24 Aug. 1910 –15 May 2000) m. **Richard Moulton\* HADDEN** (20 Nov. 1910 in East Orange, NJ – 9 July 2003) on 23 Aug. 1947 in Caux, Switzerland. World-renowned duo concert pianists; they played all over the world by invitation, including several tours of China. They have 2 CD recordings published by Cambria: 1989 (cassette)/1996 (CD) *Frances Roots HADDEN: Lu Shan suite for 2 Pianos*, and in 1992 one entitled *Adventures in Music-Making* (classical). No children. (\* The name Moulton was not a family name for Richard HADDEN. He was named after the doctor who delivered him, Dr. MOULTON.) Documents in possession: Richard's birth cert., Richard/Frannie's marriage certificate.
- .....e. **Elizabeth Butler ROOTS** (23 June 1912 in Lu Shan, China - 20 April 1986 on Mackinac Island, MI). Beth was slow mentally, though never officially diagnosed (not Down's Syndrome). She attended American boarding school, and in 1941 refugeed with her brother, Logan's, family from Shanghai to Rangoon, then up the Burma Road Rangoon to the southwest China province of Yunan, whose capitol in Qunming. She also lived in southwest China in a Buddhist Temple for 3 years with her brother, Logan Holt ROOTS, during the Japanese war . At the time of her death, she had been the organist for a number of years at Trinity Episcopal Church on Mackinac Island. Died unmarried due to an explosion æ 73. No children.

**3. Dr. Logan Holt ROOTS** (2 Oct. 1905 in Hankow, China - 14 Aug. 1964 in hospital, White Plains, NY) m. **Mamie-Louretta "Mayla" BERRY** (9 Dec. 1903 in Midway, PA - 1 Dec. 1988 in Wooster, OH) in Kuling, Kiangoi, China on 15 Aug. 1933. Logan graduated from the Kent School, in Kent, CT in 1922, then obtained his medical degree from Harvard in 1926/1930. He had a surgical fellowship with the famous Oliver COPE, M.D. in 1931-1932. Logan went to China in 1933 where he met his fiancee in language school in Peking. Both were medical missionaries. When the Cultural Revolution started in China, the family went to West China where Japanese presence was minimal to a town called Hsichow (pronounced "Shidzow"), near the city of Dali in Yunan Province. They lived in a Buddhist temple while practicing rural medicine, doing his rounds on a bicycle. The Japanese never bothered the family. He brought his family and Beth home to Dellwood, Mt. Kisco, NY in 1951. He moved his family to White Plains, NY, in 1953. Logan had an acute myocardial infarction in 1960, and a second in 1964. He died of coronary artery disease. She died of kidney failure. Documents in possession: Logan's Certificate of Identity, granted by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for medical service as "Regional Medical Officer," issued 25 Jan. 1946.

children:

- .....a. **Eleanor Frances ROOTS** (1934 - present) m. **Reinhard SCHUMANN** (1932– present) in Germany in 1962.
- .....b. **Loretta Rea ROOTS** (1936 - 1988) m. **Donald Emery LIBBY** (1926 - present) in 1967. Don m. 2) **Barbara T. BEAL** (1930 – present) in 1990.
- .....c. **Dr. Logan Herbert ROOTS, II M.D.** (1939 - present).

**2. Dr. Logan Herbert ROOTS II M.D.** (1939 - present) m. **J.E.W.** (1942 - present) in 1962. Logan and J.E.W. divorced in 1976.

children:

- .....a. **April ROOTS** (1963 - present) m. **W. E. PREWITT IV** (1963 – present) in 1990.
  - 1) W. E Prewitt V (1995 – present)
  - 2) L. A. Prewitt (2001 – present)
- .....b. **Logan ROOTS** (1965 - present) m. **L. A. OSMAN** (1966 - present) in 1996.
  - 1) L. ROOTS (2001 – present)

2) M. L. ROOTS (2005 – present).  
....c. **Ellen Holt ROOTS** (1968 - present).

1. **Ellen H. ROOTS** (1968 in Africa - present) m. **T. J. McBRIDE** (1970 - present) in 2001.
  - 1) C. J. McBRIDE (2005 – present)
  - 2) J. K. McBRIDE (2008 – present)

#### **Sources:**

1. Root, James Pierce. Root Genealogy 1600-1870. Copyright 1870. Albany, New York: R. C. Root, Anthony & Co., 62 Liberty St. 533 pp. It consists of information from 1600 to 1870, comprising the general history of the Root and Roots families.
2. Newspaper: *The St. Ignace News*. Volume 106 (51). Thursday, April 24, 1986. (Elizabeth Butler Roots and Sheldon Roots).
3. Newspaper: *The New York Times*, obituaries. Friday, July 29, 1988. (John McCook Roots).
4. Newspaper: *The Mackinac Island Town Crier*. Week of July 30 to August 5, 1988. (John McCook Roots).
5. Newspaper: *The St. Ignace News*. Volume 109 (14). Thursday, August 4, 1988. (John McCook Roots).
6. The History of Perry County, Illinois: 1827-1988. Volume I, 1988. Publishers of America's History, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah KY 42001. 496 pp. (on p. 292). on Benajah Guernsey who m. Martha Sibley Holt.
7. The Daily Record obit. of Wooster, OH on Friday, 2 Dec. 1988 (Mamie-Lou (Berry) Roots).

#### **Coat of Arms**

Translation of the Arms: "Gold; three red diamond shapes"

Above the shield and helmet is the Crest which is described as: "A tree ppr."

Translation of the Crest is: "A naturally colored tree"

Motto: "Reviresco" (translation: "I shall grow green again.")

\*Source: Halbert's, 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 44210

**Statistical info:** in 1971 there were approx. 250 heads of households in the U.S. with the Roots name.

(Halbert's, 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 44210)

U.S. Census Bureau in 1970 estimated 775 people with the Roots name.

Last date of modification: 17 December 2012

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