

# **Rev. War Veteran **Gurdin Burnham** and Descendants**

## **From Connecticut, to the South, to the Midwest**

Compiled by Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter (dougshow@meganet.net)

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Corrections Welcomed

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## Gurdin Burnham (1756-1844)

**Gurdin Burnham** has been a very challenging individual to research. It has seemed as though he lived in two different spheres of life and researchers have seemed to focus on one of them without being very aware of the other one.

At this point, I have come to the conclusion that Gurdin very likely had two wives. I think the evidence points to that. His first wife was Mrs. Martha Cahoon; he was at least her second husband. Thus far, I have found no legal record of their marriage. Together they had a son, Gurdon C. Burnham, who lived in Connecticut and moved to OH by 1827, where his mother also moved.

Gurdin married his second wife in Buckingham Co., VA. That woman's identity is currently unknown, but she and Gurdin had a number of children together and lived in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, or Illinois. This document will present the evidence I am currently aware of, along with my conclusions regarding Gurdin and his family. I welcome any comments and corrections.

Doug Showalter

## Two Different Wives

I will begin by presenting the evidence for **Gurdin** having two different wives. At this point I wish to express my thanks to researchers Craig Carlile, Bill LeFevre, and Steve Button for their help with this research and question. I also thank Don Sheridan who helped me years ago with this research.

In 1869, Roderick H. Burnham of Longmeadow, Massachusetts compiled a genealogical work on the Burnham family, which he then subsequently revised. Those works identified **Gurdon Burnham** as a son of **Moses Burnham** and **Naomi Anderson**, who lived in East Hartford, CT.

Sources: *The Burnham Family; or Genealogical Records on the Descendants of The Four Emigrants of the Name, Who Were among the Early Settlers in America* by Roderick H. Burnham, 1869.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=a7JXAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

~ *Genealogical records of Thomas Burnham, the emigrant, who was among the early settlers at Hartford, Connecticut, U.S. America, and his descendants* by Roderick H. Burnham, Second Edition, 1884.

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029819699#page/n9/mode/2up>

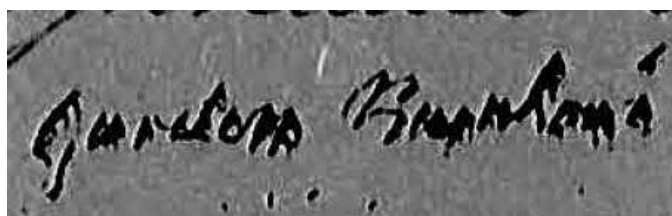
~ *Genealogical records of Thomas Burnham, the emigrant : who was among the early settlers at Hartford, Connecticut, U.S. America, and his descendants* by Roderick H. Burnham, 1884, some irregular page numbering, intended to be inserted in the first 1869 volume.

<https://archive.org/details/genealogicalreco00inburn>

In the first work above, Roderick Burnham refers to Moses' son as **Gurdon** [p. 83]. In the second and third works above he refers to him as **Gordon** and notes that he was baptized on

February 20, 1757 and that he “marched with the first troops for the relief of Boston, in Lexington alarm, April, 1775” [p. 156 in each]. Beyond that, Roderick gives no more information about Moses’ son Gurdon/Gordon.

Note: In this paper I will most often refer to Moses’ son as **Gurdin**, because that is how his name was consistently spelled in his 1833 Revolutionary War pension application made in Edgar Co., Illinois and in his subsequent request in 1835 for that pension to be transferred to him in Vigo Co., IN where he had recently moved. The following appears to be his actual signature from the latter of those pension documents.



Researcher and Burnham descendant Craig Carlile has a typewritten, loose leaf genealogical document given to his father years ago, which apparently was compiled by an unknown individual to expand upon the Burnham genealogy of 1884. That document on page 160 contains the following information.

Fifth Generation.

79 $\frac{1}{2}$ .Gurdon Burnham (son of Moses 42, gdson of Lt. Richard 19, grgdson of Richard 6, grgrgdson of Thomas 1) of Cape Cod, Mass.;

*Gordon?* born Feb.20,1757; died at sea, 1791-2.;  
 Married 1789? Mrs. Martha Cahoon;  
 born 1753; died Oct. 11, 1839, AE.86 yrs.

Child.

150 $\frac{1}{2}$ .Gurdon C.,b.Feb.10,1791, m. Nov. 7,1813 Elizabeth Amidon, d.Feb. 8,1842

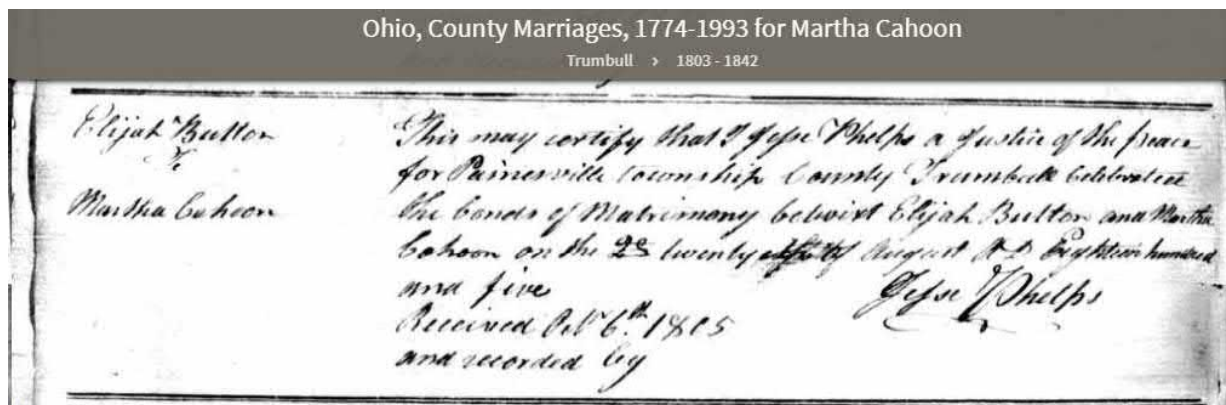
This (79 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) is probably the Burnham who sailed from Boston? to England (South Wales), there learned through London papers of an unclaimed Burnham estate, with heirs in America, and secured all the papers obtainable, bearing on the subject. On his return to America he published the discovery in a Boston paper, as referred to earlier in this work, and married. After a son, Gurdon C., was born to him, he left the papers with his wife and again sailed for England, (also previously referred to in this work), and was lost on the return voyage. After her husband's death, Mrs. Burnham lived with her daughter, Martha Button, formerly Martha Cahoon, at Concord, Lake Co., Ohio.

Three significant assertions of that document are that:

- 1.) Martha had been married prior to her marriage to Gurdin. Gurdin is listed there as having married **Mrs. Martha Cahoon**.
- 2.) Gurdin died at sea in 1791-2.
- 3.) After Gurdin's death, **Martha** went to live with her daughter, **Martha Button**, who was then living in **Concord, Lake Co., Ohio**. And, the text adds that this daughter was previously named **Martha Cahoon**, presumably then a child of Gurdin's wife's first marriage to a Cahoon.

The report of **Gurdin's** death in number 2 above was clearly in error, as it is known that Gurdin submitted his pension application in 1833 in Edgar Co., IL. Also, on the face of it, the assertions in numbers 1 and 2 above seemed unlikely, because no other researcher or credible source appeared to echo or substantiate those assertions.

Following up on those assertions, it appeared, as noted in some Ancestry.com family trees, that there really was a **Martha Button** in **Concord, Lake Co., Ohio** and that she was the wife of **Elijah Button**. That couple had married in Trumbull Co., OH in 1805, and Martha's surname at the time of her marriage, as shown in the marriage record, was **Cahoon**. A portion of Trumbull Co. later became the town of Concord in Lake Co., OH.



That was intriguing information, which caused one to ask, could that **Martha (Cahoon) Button** have had any relationship to the wife of Gurdin Burnham, as the unknown author of that Burnham typescript had asserted? That question led to the discovery of the following 1830 census record from **Concord, Geauga County, OH**—which later became part of Lake Co., OH.

1830 United States Federal Census for Martha Cahoon												
Ohio > Geauga > Concord												
Elijah Button	3	2	1	2	1							
Martha Cahoon												

In that 1830 Concord township census, a **Martha Cahoon** was living right next door to Elijah Button! She was listed as age 70-79. The oldest female in Elijah Button's household [presumably

Elijah's wife, Martha] was listed as age 40-49. **Martha Cahoon's** 70-79 age fit her 1753 birth date in the Burnham typescript and the age of Elijah's wife was appropriate for a daughter of **Martha**. All in all, the Burnham typescript seemed to be accurate in asserting that Gurdin's wife had gone out to that very town of Concord, Ohio to live with her married Button daughter. And, apparently, at that time, **Martha** had changed her surname from Burnham back to the surname of her previous husband, namely, **Cahoon**. [Either that, or possibly she and **Gurdin** never did marry—at present no record of such a marriage has been found.]

In turn, that discovery led to another one. The question was, where was **Gurdin Burnham** in 1830? In fact, he appeared about 400+ miles southwest of **Martha Cahoon**. He appeared in the 1830 census of **Vigo County, Indiana** at the age of 70-79. And, in that household with him was a woman age 60-69, who must have been Gurdin's wife at that time!

I say "must" because five years later, in 1835, Gurdin referred to his wife in explaining to authorities why he needed his Revolutionary War pension transferred from Illinois [where he had applied for it in 1833] to nearby Indiana. The record indicates that **Gurdin** told them the following: *"Having three sons and one daughter living in Indiana only five miles from his former residence in Illinois he moved with his wife, both being old and infirm so as to have the comfort and assistance of their children."*

Thus, we learn that Gurdin had a wife who was still living in 1835, that as a couple they had four children living in Vigo Co., IN then, and that those children were likely adults, old enough to give their aging parents assistance.

Note: **Gurdin** lived in Vigo Co., IN in 1830 among family members, but soon afterwards he moved to Edgar Co., Illinois, where he applied for his Revolutionary War pension. Though in two different states, the two counties are adjacent. But then, as noted above, he soon moved back to Vigo Co., IN. In fact, on 10 Sep 1835 he bought 40 acres of land in Vigo Co.—Section SENE, Sect 06, Township 11n.



Sources: 1830; Census Place: Concord, Geauga, Ohio; Series: M19; Roll: 131; Page: 244; Family History Library Film: 0337942

~ Connecticut; Burnham, Gurdin; Conn. Continental Navy; Revolutionary War Pension Number: S. 31,585; National Archives [page 4]

<https://www.fold3.com/image/12669209>

~ 1830; Census Place: Vigo, Indiana; Series: M19; Roll: 30; Page: 91; Family History Library Film: 0007719; Township : Not Stated

So, apart from its incorrect assertion about Gurdin's death, that Burnham typescript had information in it that does seem to be accurate. But, what about that assertion about Gurdin's death?

## **Gurdin Burnham's Death**

The author of that Burnham typescript apparently took care to report the exact location of Gurdin's wife in Ohio—in Concord, Lake Co. With that apparent care for accuracy, it does not seem likely that author would have knowingly mis-reported Gurdin's death, in saying that it took place in 1791-2.

But then one can ask:

~ Did **Martha (Cahoon) Burnham** herself really know that Gurdin was still alive?

~ Did she know that he had married another woman and made his life anew in the South?

~ Did she really think that Gurdin had been lost at sea? Or, was that explanation for his obvious disappearance from her life really an untruth which she and perhaps other close family members of hers used to cover up the fact that she and Gurdin had divorced or separated, or perhaps Gurdin had simply abandoned her?

The answers to these questions are not known and may never be known. But, one cannot help but note that soon after 1790, Gurdin went far away from all his Burnham relatives, whose ancestral roots went deep in New England, to begin his life anew and with a new marriage, in the South.

## **Mrs. Martha Cahoon (First Wife)**

At this writing, neither the birth surname of Martha nor the first name of her first husband [\_\_\_\_ Cahoon] are known. It does seem that Martha was from Connecticut rather than from the South—as sometimes has been said. In censuses, some of her supposed grandchildren indicate that their mother, Martha Cahoon's daughter, Martha (Cahoon) Button of Concord, Lake Co., was born in CT. The IGI indicated that Martha Cahoon was "of Wayne, KY," but I think that description, if there is any truth in it, would more likely apply to Gurdin's second wife, who very likely was from the South.

**See my document: [Who Was Mrs. Martha Cahoon?](http://dougshow.my.capecom.org/fourth-site/mrs.marthacahoon-showalter.pdf)**

<http://dougshow.my.capecom.org/fourth-site/mrs.marthacahoon-showalter.pdf>

The Burnham transcript speculates that **Martha** married **Gurdin** in 1789 ?; note the question



mark beside that date in that transcript. That transcript also indicates that **Gurdon C. Burnham**, the only child of Gurdin and Martha, was born on **10 Feb 1791**. When were Martha and Gurdin married—assuming they actually were married? Unfortunately, as of this writing, no record of their marriage has been found. However, here's a possible clue. **Martha** seems to appear in the **1790 census of East Windsor, Connecticut** in a household with two other females. None of their ages are given. But, I suspect that is Gurdin's soon-to-be wife, **Mrs. Martha Cahoon**, with her daughter **Martha Cahoon** and perhaps a second daughter in that household.

Familysearch.org indicates that the 1790 census was taken between **2 August 1790** and **1 May 1791**. By law, it was supposed to represent households as of that 2 August date. At present, I don't know exactly when the East Windsor, CT portion of that census was taken. But, if the Burnham typescript [page 160] is correct about the 10 Feb 1791 birth date of **Gurdon C. Burnham**, then it seems likely that **Martha** became pregnant with Gurdin's child before they were actually married and Martha took on the surname **Burnham**. Or, perhaps that typescript is not quite accurate about the date of **Gurdon C.**'s birth?

Source: *United States Census 1790*

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Census\\_1790](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_1790)

Why is that **Martha Cahoon** found in the 1790 East Windsor census likely to be Gurdin's soon-to-be wife? It seems very likely, because that is precisely the same community where **Gurdon C. Burnham**, the only child of **Gurdin** and **Mrs. Martha Cahoon**, married his wife **Elizabeth Amidon** in 1813. And, that is precisely the same community where Gurdon C. and wife Elizabeth were living during the **1820 census**. It is possible that **Gurdon C.** grew up in East Windsor, though I have not, at this point, found him and his mother **Martha** in the 1800 or 1810 censuses there.

1790 United States Federal Census for Matha Cahoon				
Connecticut > Hartford > East Windsor				
William Chalk	1		3	
Elijah Stoughton	2	1	4	
Abiel Gayton	1	5	5	
William Bepell	2		3	
Rewold Bepell	1	2	3	
Nathanul Bepell	1		1	
John Crum	1	4	3	
Martha Cahoon	4/11		3	

Isabel Edwirth	4/12	1	4	
Nathan Pelton		2	2	3
Nathan Pelton Jr		1		1
Luci Paxter		1	2	1
Francis Edwirth		2	1	3
Daniel Carpenter		1	2	2
Benjamin Watson Jr		2	4	2

As of this writing, I've found no evidence that Martha Cahoon was related to the families shown near her here in this **1790 East Windsor, CT** census, namely: Crane, Ellsworth, Bissell, Pelton, Gaylord, Baxter, Stoughton, Carpenter, Chalke, Watson. Though, as I noted in my "Who Was Mrs. Martha Cahoon?" document, Ebenezer Watson Jr. in that neighborhood did become the legal guardian of a seventeen year old boy named Nathan Cahoon in 1785. Possibly Martha had married some relative in that boy's extended Cahoon family, but that is not known.

In his 1833 Pension application, **Gurdin Burnham** noted that in years after the Revolutionary War, he sailed to the West Indies. Then, in sequence, he spent years in Charlestown, South Carolina; in North Carolina; and in Powhatan Co., Virginia. Then, after that, he *"returned to his fathers in East Hartford in the state of Connecticut. after 2 years and 4 months returned to Powhatan County in the State of Virginia."*

I suspect it was during that 28 month period at his father's house in East Hartford, that **Gurdin** married **Martha Cahoon** and their son **Gurdon C. Burnham** was born—in the period of about 1790-1792.

Throughout his pension application, Gurdin usually talked in broad terms about staying a certain number of years in particular locales. However, Gurdin was much more precise in describing the length of this particular stay in CT—as though that experience had particular significance to him. But then, after 28 months, Gurdin left CT and presumably Martha and son Gurdon C., apparently to live the rest of his life down South and in the Midwest.

In his 1833 pension application Gurdin doesn't speak about ever returning to CT. We can wonder, did his wife, son, and other relatives there truly believe then that he had become lost at sea? Did they hold a funeral for him?

However, **Gurdin Burnham** was quite alive then. And, a few years later, about 1794, Gurdin was marrying again, this time in **Buckingham County, Virginia**—far away from his native Connecticut. And, this was the one marriage **Gurdin** spoke of in his 1833 pension application.

## Son Gurdon C. Burnham

The following two boxes are from page 202 of the Burnham typescript:

Sixth Generation.

150 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Gurdon C. Burnham, (son of Gurdon 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ , gdson of Moses 42, grgdson of Lt. Richard 19, grgrgdson of Richard 6, grgrgrgdson of Thomas 1), of Hartford, Conn.;

born Feb. 10, 1791 ; died Feb. 8, 1842;  
 married Nov. 7, 1813 Elisabeth Amidon ;  
 born June 26, 1799 ; died Dec. 8, 1847.



Children.			
Emily E.,	b. Nov. 26, 1817, m. Jan. 24, 1836	David L. Harrison,	d. Sep. 16, 1859.
Milissa J.,	b. Jun. 27, 1819, unmarried,		d. Aug. 2, 1820.
Charlotte C.	b. Dec. 7, 1820, m. 1834	John Bending,	d. Jun. 4, 1851.
Lodigis A.,	b. Sep. 3, 1822, m. Jul. 3, 1839	Abel Belote,	d. Nov. 22, 1879.
G. Harrison,	b. May 23, 1824,		d. Jan. 29, 1885.
Mary A.,	b. Feb. 5, 1826, m. Apr. 3, 1842	Chas. E. Andrews,	d.
Diana W.,	b. Aug. 27, 1827, m.	William Daniels,	d. Jun. 25, 1851.
Hulda J.,	b. May 22, 1830, unmarried,		d. May 30, 1830.
229a. Wm. Henry II,	b. Sep. 23, 1835, m. Feb. 19, 1857	Aurelia C. Akins,	d. Jan. 1, 1879.
229b. Edwin C. M.,	b. Nov. 9, 1838, m. Mar. 28, 1862	Isabelle J. Graham,	d.

**Gurdin**'s son, **Gurdon C. Burnham**, was married in East Windsor, CT in 1813.

Families of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut	
H., 8 Sept., 1741 (Wig. Ch. Rec.), the D. Genes. says 1740.	
Gordon C., m. Elizabeth Amidon, 7 Nov. 1813 (S. B.); their ch. d. 9 Aug., 1820, æ. 14 months.—S. B.	

**Elizabeth Amidon** (21 May 1789, Willington, CT - 8 Dec 1847) likely was the daughter of Revolutionary War soldier Moses Amidon (1756 - 1833 or later) and Sarah Davis.

Sources: *Families of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*, Volume II by Henry B. Stiles, 1892, p. 132 - The code (S. B.) refers to *Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths* kept by Rev. Shubael Bartlett, of Scantic Parish, East Windsor, 1805 to 1853, No. 15, Authorities, p. 14.

<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/48654/WindsorCT-009025-10?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fsearch%2fdb.aspx%3fdbid%3d48654%26path%3d%26ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnBrowsing?#imageId=WindsorCT-009151-132>

~ *The Amidon Family: A Record of the Descendants of Roger Amadowne of Rehoboth, Mass.* by Frank E. Best, 1904, pp. 26-27. Elizabeth's birth date is from this book.

<https://archive.org/stream/amidonfamilyreco00best#page/n57/mode/2up>

**Gurdon C. Burnham** appears as follows in the **1820 census** of **Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut**: Males: 1(26-44), 1(16-25), 1(10-15) // Females: 1 (16-25), 2 (under 10)

1820 United States Federal Census for Gurdon C Burnham												
Connecticut > Hartford > East Windsor												
Elphatet Smith	1	2				1	2	1				1
Amphise Hitchcock						1	1	1				1
Levi Woodworth	1					1	1	1			1	
Paul Abby	1					1	1	1				
Wm. Button	1		1	2		1	2	1				3
Amford Kingsley	1	1			1		1	1			2	
Stephen Hall		1	1	1	2		1	1			1	
Wm. Parsons	1		1	1	1		1	1				2
Joseph B. Blaggett		2	1	1	1		2	1			4	
Gurdon C. Burnham	1						2	1				
Stephen Fish	3						1	1				
Sam. Smith	1						1	1				
Samuel Fish	3						1	1				
Wm. S. Patten	3	1				1	1	1				1
Allen Benjamin	1	1				2				2		

It may be significant that **Asa Button** is living just five households away from **Gurdon C.**, in that Gurdon's half sister, **Martha Button**, married **Elijah Button**.

Apparently, **Gurdon C.** moved out to Ohio as his mother **Martha** and his half sister, **Martha (Cahoon) Button** did. Gurdon C. appears in the **1827 Personal Tax list** of Painesville township of Geauga Co., OH. Painesville was the town where **Martha Cahoon** married Elijah Button in 1805. It also was close to the town of Concord where Gurdon C.'s mother and Elijah Button appeared in the 1830 census.

Soon after 1827, **Gurdon C.** apparently moved about 90 miles farther west, to the town of Portland, otherwise known as **Sandusky City**, in Huron Co., Ohio. The book "History of Erie County, Ohio" lists Gurdon as having a household there in **1829**. That town became part of Erie County, Ohio when that county was formed in 1838. I believe Gurdon C. also appears in the **1830** census of Sandusky, Huron Co., OH, though the transcription of the census record is inaccurate.

1830 United States Federal Census for Geo C Burnham																			
Ohio > Huron > Sandusky																			
Geo C Burnham																			
																		3	2
																		1	1
1m(20-29), 1m(30-39), 3f(under 5), 2f(5-9), 1f(10-14), 1f(30-39)																			

Source: *History of Erie County, Ohio* by Lewis Cass Aldrich, 1880, p. 293

[https://books.google.com/books?id=wNMyAQAAMAAJ&vq=burnham&source=gb\\_s\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=wNMyAQAAMAAJ&vq=burnham&source=gb_s_navlinks_s)

## The Burnham Inheritance Legend

The author of the Burnham typescript speculated that **Gurdin Burnham** probably was the Burnham who was deeply involved in a project to secure a fabulously wealthy, unclaimed Burnham inheritance in England. As the author wrote, Gurdin probably was,

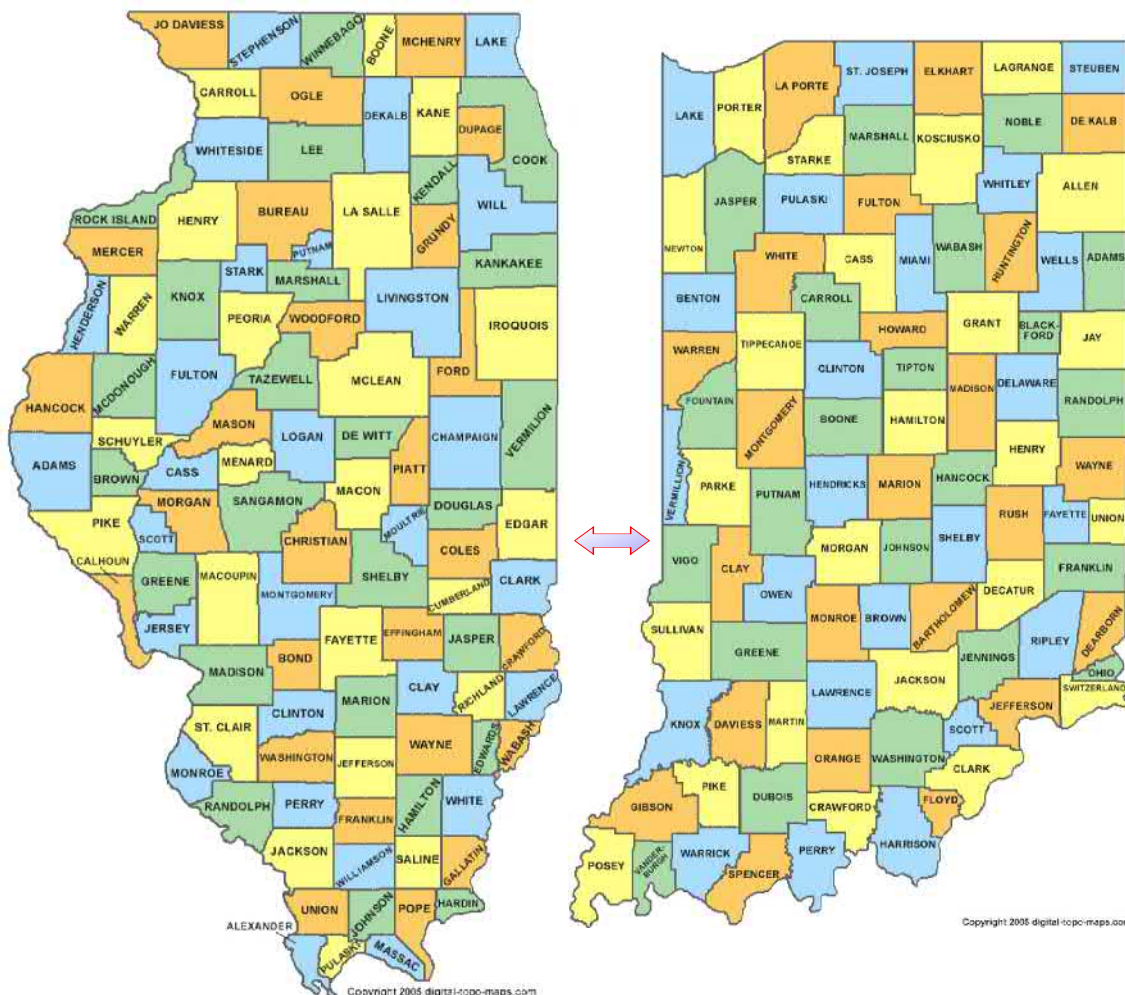
*"the Burnham who sailed from Boston? To England (South Wales), there learned through London papers of an unclaimed Burnham estate, with heirs in America, and secured all the papers obtainable, bearing on the subject. On his return to America he published the discovery in a Boston paper, as referred to earlier in this work, and married. After a son, Gurdon C., was born to him, he left the papers with his wife and again sailed for England, (also previously referred to in this work), and was lost on the return voyage."*

The fact is that there never was such an unclaimed Burnham inheritance in England. And there was no article in the London papers claiming such. The idea of there being such an unclaimed inheritance was just a legend which was talked about in the 1830's in America and considered to be false even in the 1840's. However, Roderick Burnham talked extensively about that inheritance as though it was real in his 1869 Burnham genealogy. Yet, in 1873 a researcher

actually went to England, at the behest of Burnham enthusiasts, to investigate that matter and found that it was, indeed, false.

It seems that the author of the Burnham typescript [and perhaps other Burnhams] speculated about Gurdin Burnham's connection to that Burnham inheritance story, as a way to try to give some explanation for Gurdin's disappearance from his CT relatives, including Gurdin's wife and newborn son, beginning in 1791-2. It's worth noting that in his 1833 Pension application, Burnham gives no indication that he ever went to England or Europe after the Revolutionary War. To read more about the Burnham Inheritance Legend, see **Appendix II** of this document.

## Illinois and Indiana Locations of the Burnhams



Notice [above] the proximity of Vigo Co., IN and Edgar Co., IL. Notice also that Clay Co. and Putnam Co. are near Vigo Co. Also, Coles Co. is near Edgar Co. Members of this Burnham family lived in those counties in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Notice [below] the township of Sugar Creek in Vigo Co., IN where several of these Burnhams lived.



The 1874 "Atlas Map of Vigo County, Indiana" describes Sugar Creek twp this way:

*"This township derives its name from Sugar creek, so called from the large amount of sugar maple in its vicinity. It was noted for its maple sugar at an early time, and considerable quantities of it are yet made . . . The first settler was probably Henry Kuykendall, who settled in section 22, in about 1823 . . . The township is wholly timber land, and in many portions quite rough and broken. It is good land for wheat, grass, and potatoes. It abounds in coal, large quantities of which are shipped to market."*

Sources: *Illinois and Indiana Maps*

[www.digital-topo-maps.com](http://www.digital-topo-maps.com)

~ *Vigo County, Indiana Map*

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_Vigo\\_County,\\_Indiana.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Vigo_County,_Indiana.svg)

~ "Atlas Map of Vigo County, Indiana," by A. T. Andreas, p. 24

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/44672/Sugar+Creek+Township++St++Mary+s+Macksville++Bloomtown/Vigo+County+1874/Indiana/>

**1. Gurdon C. Burnham** 10 Feb 1791 [CT?] - 8 Feb 1842 [OH?], m: Elizabeth Amidon  
Gurdon C. appears to have been Gurdin's first child. I would not have known about him, except for the Burnham typescript. Gurdon C. married Elizabeth in East Windsor, CT in 1813 and appears there in the 1820 census. He appears in a Geauga Co., OH tax list in 1827 and, as I believe, in the 1830 census of Sandusky City, Huron, OH.

*“The following are his reasons for removing from Illinois to Indiana ‘Having **three sons and one daughter** living in Indiana only five miles from his former residence in Illinois he moved with his wife, both being old and infirm so as to have the comfort and assistance of their children.’”*

Source: “*Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana*,” compiled by Mrs. Roscoe C. O’Byrne, Chairman, Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, 1938, p. 79.  
<http://bloomfield.lib.in.us/uploads/4/9/0/2/49026837/roster.pdf>

The 1830 Vigo Co., IN census shows **three** households which can be identified as very likely belonging to children of Gurdin with his second wife.

1830; Census Place: Vigo, Indiana; Series: M19; Roll: 30; Page: 91; Family History Library Film: 0007719



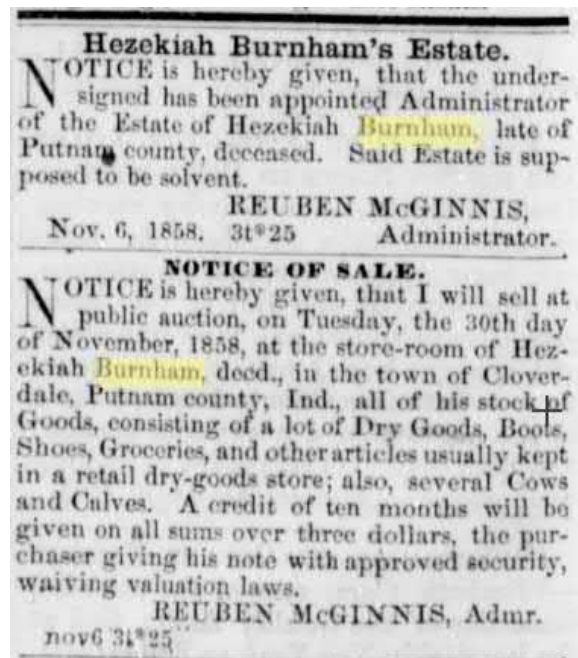
1830; Census Place: Vigo, Indiana; Series: M19; Roll: 30; Page: 90; Family History Library Film: 0007719

Those three children apparently were:

**2. Naomi (Burnham) Hussong** (b. 28 Oct 1800 - 1 Dec 1881) m: **Enoch Hussong**

**3. Orren "Orange" Burnham** (b. abt 1794-1800 - d. 1893-1899) m: **Mary "Polly" Hood**

**4. Hezekiah Burnham** (b. 1808-1858) m: **Susanna Hussong, Charlotte Ray, Sarah Rule**  
Naomi and Orren lived close by Gurdin. Hezekiah was twenty-eight households away from Gurdin in this 1830 census. Hezekiah died in 1858, apparently in Putnam Co., IN.



Source: "The Indiana Press," November 20, 1858, p. 2

<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/cgi-bin/indiana?a=d&d=TIP18581120-01&e=-1804---1865--en-20--241--txt-txIN-burnham----->

In his 1835 pension transfer document, Gurdin said that he had three sons and one daughter living nearby in IN. **Who was that third son?** I think it is likely that third son was **Alexander "Alex" Burnham**.

**5. Alexander "Alex" Burnham** (b. by 1800) m: **Unknown** (b. 1801-1810)

Alex Burnham (age 40-49) appears in the 1840 Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census. He would have been born by 1800 and close in age to Gurdin's son Orren Burnham or daughter Naomi



Burnham. In the 1840 census Alex appears with: 2m(under 5), 2m(5-9) 1m(10-14), 1f(under 5), 1f(30-39).

This Alexander "Alex" Burnham could well have moved into Vigo Co. by 1835 when Gurdin submitted his pension transfer document noting three sons. Unfortunately, I have not, at this point, been able to identify Alexander "Alex" in any other census. It's worth noting, that Gurdin's son Orren named his oldest son Alexander [likely born after Orren's marriage in 1820]. Gurdin's son Hezekiah also named one of his son's Alexanber (b. abt 1837).

This Alexander "Alex" should not be confused with Orren "Orange" Burnham's son Alexander (b. abt 1820) who married Cynthia Scurlock and died in Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN in 1866.

Seven households away from **Alex Burnham** in the 1840 Vigo Co. census is **Neze Burnham** (age 20-29) with 1f(under 5) and 1f(20-29). I have not yet been able to identify that person. That individual is probably not Hezekiah Burnham, because by 1840 Hezekiah appears to have had at least three children [according to the 1850 census], not just one female child under 5 years old.

**6. Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze** (b. 1804 - d. after 3 Jun 1880 census) m: **Robert Cruze**  
I believe that Mary Ann was a daughter of Gurdin and his second wife. She married **Robert Cruze** in Knox Co., TN in 1823. Unlike the five previously named children of Gurdin, Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze never moved to Vigo Co., IN. She remained in Knox Co., TN and raised her family there. Through his 1833 pension application, Gurdin indicated that he had lived in Knox Co., TN for a period of time. And, it was near the time when likely children of his, including Mary Ann, were married in that county.

I believe there likely was a closeness between the Crews/Cruze and Burnham families, as both had been in Buckingham Co., VA before they ever went to Knox Co., TN. And, that closeness and the likelihood that Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze was Gurdin's daughter, is suggested by an additional fact.

The 1830 Vigo Co., IN census image above shows that Gurdin's household is right beside that of **John Cruze**. John was an old brother of Mary Ann Burnham's husband **Robert Cruze**. I believe the Burnham family was close to both the Crews/Cruze and Hood families. In fact, the parents of John and Robert Cruze were **Rev. War soldier James Madison Crews** and **Lucinda Hood**, who themselves were married in Buckingham Co., VA, as were Burnham and his second wife.

**7. Sarah "Sally" (Burnham) Hood** (b. 1806 - 8 May 1874) m: **Andrew Hood**.  
I believe that Sarah was another daughter of Gurdin and his second wife. She married **Andrew Hood** in Knox Co., TN in 1823. Andrew is believed to have been a son of **Aaron Hood** who was a brother of **Lucinda (Hood) Cruze**, who was the mother-in-law of **Mary Ann Burnham**. Also, the mother of **Hezekiah's** third wife, **Sarah Rule**, was **Catherine Hood**, a daughter of that same **Aaron Hood**.

The 1830 Vigo Co., IN census image above shows that Gurdin's household was five houses away

from **Luke Hood**. He is said to have been an older brother of Sally Burnham's husband **Andrew Hood** and **Polly (Hood) Burnham**, the wife of Gurdin's son **Orren "Orange" Burnham**.

## **A Possible Son or Grandson of Gurdin Burnham**

I have found the following Burnham in Vigo Co., IN hard to identify. Thus, for the time being, I am categorizing him as a "possible" descendant of Gurdin.

### **8. ? Jordan Burnham** (b. 15 Jun 1808 - 15 Sep 1837) m: **Sarah Ann Ireland**

Jordan Burnham was born 15 Jun 1808 in TN. That date, but not the locale, is given in a family Bible record which appears on the next page. Jordan married Sarah Ann Ireland on 15 Mar 1832 in Vigo Co., IN. Jordan died in Sugar Creek on 15 Sep 1837. He is said to have been buried in Missionary Baptist Cemetery in section 6, township 12, range 9—east of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Sugar Creek township. Traces of that cemetery apparently do not exist now. After Jordan's death, Sarah married William Ray on 7 Apr 1846 in Vigo Co., IN.

The children of Jordan and Sarah, all born in Vigo Co., IN, are said to be:

~ **Alexander Marion Burnham** (29 May 1833 - 6 Jul 1882, Round Timbers, Baylor Co., TX)

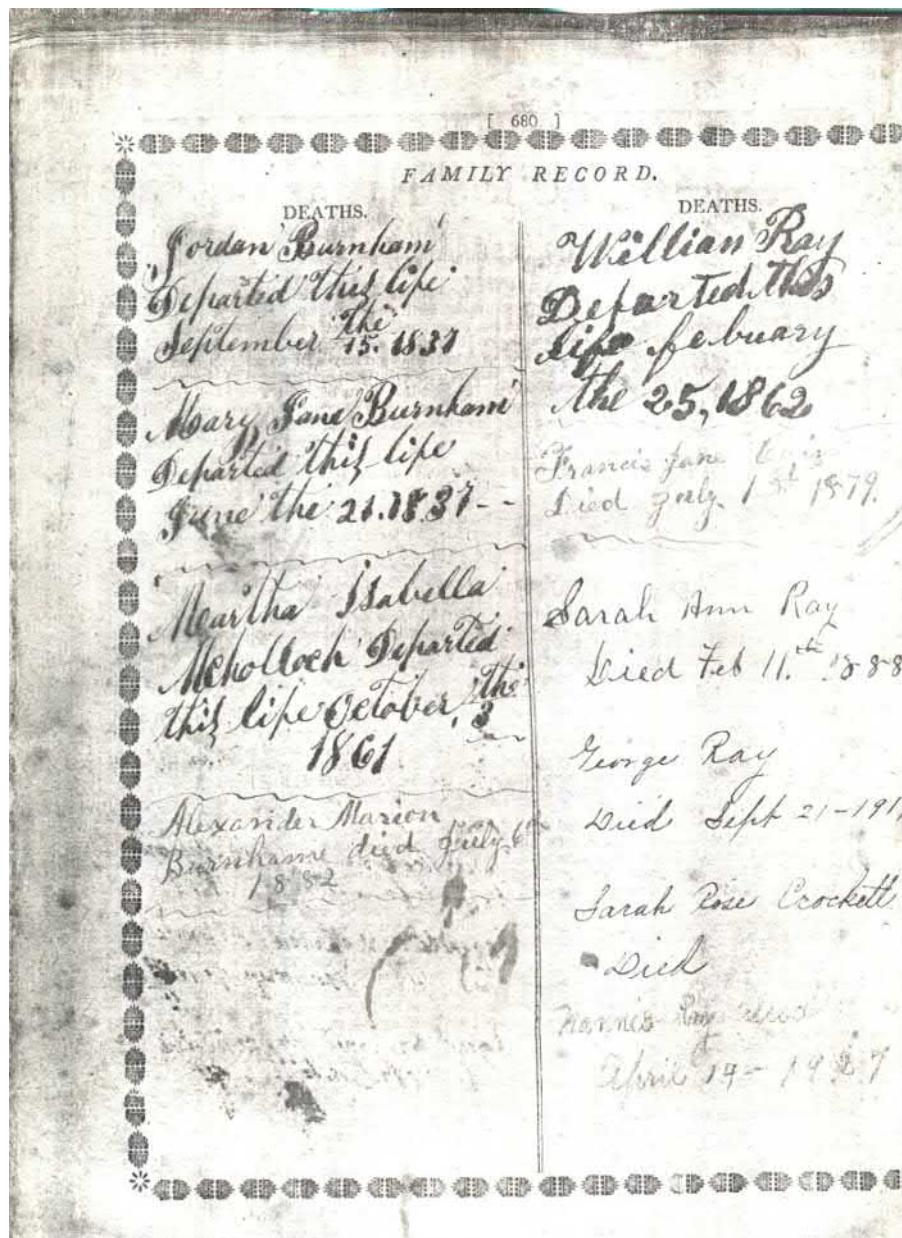
He may have been named after Sarah's father, Alexander Ireland, husband of Isabella Davis.

Alexander married Sarah Ann Brooks 15 Mar 1860 in Hidalgo, Jasper Co., IL.

~ **Mary Jane Burnham** (6 Sep 1834 - 21 Jun 1837, Vigo Co., IN)

~ **Martha Isabelle Burnham** (29 Aug 1836 - 3 Oct 1861). She is said to have married Alexander James McCulloch on 16 Feb 1854 in Vigo Co., IN.

**Jordan Burnham** appears to have been born the same year **Hezekiah Burnham** was—1808. So, one might wonder if they actually were twins. However, whereas census records indicate Hezekiah was born in KY, it has sometimes been said [without sources indicated] that Jordan was born in TN.



Source: Jordan Burnham Family Bible Record received courtesy of Margaret Otell in 1999.

However, Jordan could have had a direct family connection to Gurdin Burnham and his sons. I say that because Gurdin's son **Hezekiah** named one of his children, perhaps his oldest son, **Jordan** (b. abt 1831).

## The Apparent Children of **Gurdin Burnham** in Censuses

### 1. **Gurdon C. Burnham** (1791-1842)

1820 - East Windsor, CT census  
1830 - Sandusky City, Huron, IN census  
1840 - couldn't find

### 2. **Naomi (Burnham) Hussong** (1800 - 1881)

1830 - Vigo Co., IN census  
1840 - couldn't find  
1850 - District 19, Edgar Co., IL census, p. 152b, [18 Sep]  
    Enock Hussong 50, Farmer, value 700, b: Knox Co., TN  
    Naomi Hussong, 49, b: Wythe Co., VA  
    Susannah Hussong 17, b: Edgar Co., IL  
    Anderson Hussong 15, Laborer, b: Edgar Co., IL  
    Mary R. Hussong 12, b: Edgar Co., IL  
    Sarah A. Hussong 9, b: Edgar Co., IL  
    Cornelius Talbot 19, Laborer, b: Edgar Co., IL  
1860 - Elbridge, Edgar Co., IL census  
1870 - couldn't find  
1880 - Fayette, Vigo Co., IN census

### 3. **Orren "Orange" Burnham** (b. 1794-1800 to d. 1893-1899)

1830 - Vigo Co., IN census  
1840 - Coles Co., IL census  
1850 - couldn't find  
1860 - couldn't find  
1870 - couldn't find  
1880 - couldn't find  
*"A History of Clay County, Indiana,"* Vol. II, by William Travis, p. 45 indicated that Orren died in his 99<sup>th</sup> year and lived in Vigo Co., IN at the end of his life.

### 4. **Hezekiah Burnham** (1808-1858)

1830 - Vigo Co., IN census  
1840 - Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census  
1850 - Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census, p. 215 [13 Nov]  
    Hezekiah Burnham 42, Waggon Making, property value 800, b: KY  
    Charlotte Burnham 32, b: IL  
    Jordon Burnham 19, b: IN  
    Emily Burnham 15, b: IN  
    Alexander Burnham 13, b: IN  
    Louisa J. Burnham 10, b: IN  
    Naoma Burnham 8, b: IN  
    Lee Burnham 6, b: IN  
    Mary Burnham 3, b: IN;  
    Baby Burnham 1/12, b: IN

1860 - Cloverdale, Putnam Co., IN census - Hezekiah's widow Sarah Rule [his third wife] and two of his Burnham children were living in the household of Sarah's father, Jacob Rule. Sarah's mother was Catherine "Cathy" Hood, who was a daughter of Aaron Hood and Anna Spradling. Catherine was a sister of Sally Burnham's husband, Andrew Hood.

**5. Alexander Burnham** (b. by 1800)

1840 - Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census

1850 - couldn't find

1860 - couldn't find

1870 - couldn't find

1880 - couldn't find

**6. Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze** (b. 1804 - d. after 3 Jun 1880 census)

1830 - Knox Co., TN census

1840 - Knox Co., TN census

1850 - Subdivision 31, Knox Co., TN census, p. 47a [4 Nov] - whereabouts of husband Robert Crews at time of this census is unknown. He died about 1868.

Mary Ann Crews 46, property value 600, b: VA

Polly Crews 30, b: TN

Harvey L[eondas]. Crews 18, Farmer, b: TN

[Mary] Polly Jane 15, b: TN

William R. 14, b: TN

Sarah Ann 8, b: TN

George Demarcus 4, b: TN

1870 - District 15, Knox Co., TN census

1880 - District 21, Knox Co., TN census

**7. Sarah "Sally" (Burnham) Hood** (b. 1806 )

1840 - Knox Co., TN census

1850 - Subdivision 15, Knox Co., TN census, p. 143b [1 Oct]

Aaron Hood 50, Farmer, property value 35, b: NC

Sarah Hood 47, b: KY

Robert Hood 19, Farmer, b: TN

William Hood 17, Laborer, b: TN

Sarah Hood 15, b: TN

Naomi Hood 12, b: TN

Andrew Hood 13, b: TN

Lucinda Hood 7, b: TN

1860 - Cloverdale, Putnam Co., IN census - Living beside the household of her daughter, Naomi (Hood) Stanton, wife of Squire R. Stanton.

1870 - Cloverdale, Putnam Co., IN census - Living in the household of her daughter, Naomi (Hood) Stanton.

## **A Possible Son or Grandson of Gurdin Burnham in Censuses**

### **8. ? Jordan Burnham (1808-1837)**

1830 - couldn't find

1840 - couldn't find his widow Sarah Burnham

1850 - Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census, p. 202a [12 Nov] - Remarried in 1846, Sarah appears with second husband William Ray.

William Ray, 62, Farmer, property value 1500, b: TN

Sarah Ray, 39, b: KY

William Ray, 20, Farmer, b: IN

George Ray, 3, b: IN

Frances J. Ray, 1, b: IN

Alexander Burnham, 17, Laborer, b: IN

Martha J. Burnham 13, b: IN

1860 - Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN census - Sarah appears with husband William Ray,



## The Birth Family of **Gurdin Burnham** in East Hartford, CT

North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000

B > Burnham > Genealogical records of deacon John Burnham and his descendants

### FOURTH GENERATION.

41. **MOSES BURNHAM**, (son of Lieut. Richard, (19,) grandson of Richard (6,) great-grandson of Thomas, sen.) of  
 born 1723; died Dec. 29, 1798, æ 75 years;  
 married Naomi, dau. of John Anderson;  
 born 1723; died Jan. 7, 1800, æ 77 years.

North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000 for Gurdon Burnham

B > Burnham > Genealogical records of deacon John Burnham and his descendants

### CHILDREN.

73 Nathaniel,	bap. Oct. 20, 1745, m.	Mary Abbey, d.	1810.
Naomi,	bap. July 10, 1748, m.	Sept. 25, 1768, Recompence d.	
		[Sherill, of E. Hampton, L. I.	
Moses,	bap. Feb. 18, 1749, m.	d.	
73 Roderick,	bap. Aug. 30, 1752, m.	Eunice Abbey, d.	
Hezekiah,	bap. Feb. 9, 1755, m.	d.	
Gurdon,	bap. 1757, m.	d.	
Theodore,	bap. 1759, m.	d.	1794.
Mary A.,	bap. 1761, m.	Baker, d.	
Ward,	bap. 1763, m.	d. in infancy.	
Ward,	bap. 1765, m.	d. July 26, 1815.	
Betsey,	bap. m.	Hedges, of Long d.	
		[Island,	

1. **Gurdon C. Burnham** – Named after his father. Did his middle initial stand for Cahoon?
2. **Naomi (Burnham) Hussong** – Gurdin's mother and an older sister of his were named **Naomi**.
3. **Orren "Orange" Burnham** – [1869 Burnham Genealogy] This was a rare name, seen only twice among Gurdin's Hartford, CT ancestors and used long before he was born. It might be a name from the family of Gurdin's second wife.
4. **Hezekiah Burnham** – Gurdin had an older brother named **Hezekiah**
5. **Alexander Burnham** – [1869 Burnham Genealogy] This name was not used by Gurdin's Hartford, CT ancestors. It might be a name from the family of Gurdin's second wife.
6. **Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze** – Gurdin had a younger sister named **Mary A.**
7. **Sarah "Sally" (Burnham) Hood** – [1869 Burnham Genealogy] Sarah was a fairly common

name used by Gurdin's Hartford, CT ancestors.

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**8. ? Jordan Burnham** – [1869 Burnham Genealogy] This name was not used by Gurdin's Hartford, CT ancestors. It might be a name from the family of Gurdin's second wife, if Jordan was a son or grandson of Gurdin.

**Conclusion:** The first names of **Orren** [spelled various ways], **Alexander**, and **Jordan** might have been names from the family of Gurdin's second wife, **"Polly."**

## Other Burnhams in the 1850 Vigo Co., IN Census

**1850 Alexander Burnham** appears in Sugar Creek Township, Vigo Co., IN census, pp. 204B, 205A [13 Nov]. He was a son of Orren "Orange" Burnham.

Alexander Burnham 28, Farmer, property value 300, b: TN  
Cynthia Burnham 28, b: TN  
Mary E. Burnham 12, b: IN  
Sylvanis Burnham 9, IN  
Albert Burnham 7, b: IN  
James Burnham 5, b: IN  
Harriet Burnham 4, b: IN  
William G. Burnham 3, IN  
Charlotte Burnham 5/12, b: IN

**1850 John H. Burnham** appears in the Harrison Township, Vigo Co., IN census, pp. 235a-235b, [5 Sep]. His identity is not known. It appears he spent much of his life in KY before this time.

John Burnham 52, Magistrate, b: KY  
Jane Burnham 50, b: KY  
Samuel W. Burnham 26, Clerk, property value: 300, b: KY  
James P. Burnham 21, Clerk, b: KY  
Jane B. Burnham 18, b: KY  
Joanna Burnham 14, b: KY  
Henry C. Burnham 11, b: KY  
Lesley C. Burnham 9, b: KY  
George Spencer 17, Clerk, b: IN  
George Mark 19, Clerk, b: PA

**1850 Amelia F. (Burnham) Junior** appears in Honey Creek Township, Vigo Co., IN census, p. 131a, [14 Oct]. Amelia's identity is not known. She is the Milly M. Burnham who married James Junior in Vigo Co. on September 10, 1846.

James Junior 28, Farmer, b: KY  
Amelia F. 23, b: TN  
Sarah E. 3, b: IN

## Revolutionary War Service of **Gurdin Burnham**

[BT = Burnham Transcript] [P = Burnham 1833 Pension]

[CT= The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service During the War of the Revolution 1775-1783. Vol. I-III. Hartford, CT, USA: 1889]

[CHS= Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society Vol 8 Naval Record Capt Coit's Men]

[AW = American War of Independence at Sea, Vessel: Sally]

[http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20\(Eliakim%20Jones\).html](http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20(Eliakim%20Jones).html)

**1775** [April] Following skirmishes with the British at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, Gurdin Burnham marched, along with thousands of other militia men, “for the relief of Boston in the Lexington Alarm.” Gurdin served as a drummer for ten days. [CT]

**1775** [12 or 15 May] Gurdin Burnham enlisted for 8 months, served as a Drummer under Captain George Pitkin. Gurdin’s military record indicated that he served from 19 May until 10 December of 1775. His duty took him to the vicinity of Boston in Roxbury, Brooklyn, Squantum farms, Hingham, and Cohasset. [P] [CT - image below, p. 59]

| 2d COMPANY.                                         |                |                      |                                   |                |                             |                                                                                                     |                |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| [This Company served at the Siege of Boston.]       |                |                      |                                   |                |                             |                                                                                                     |                |                      |
| George Pitkin, . . . . . Captain, . . .             |                |                      | Hartford, . . . . .               |                |                             | Also Lieut.-Colonel. See above.                                                                     |                |                      |
| Ozias Bissell, . . . . . Captain, . . .             |                |                      | Hartford, . . . . .               |                |                             | Com. 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut. May 1; prom. Capt. Sept. 1; disc. Dec. 10, '75; re-ent. service in '76. |                |                      |
| David Johnson, . . . . . Lieutenant, . . .          |                |                      | —, . . . . .                      |                |                             | Com. May 1; disc. Dec. 20, '75.                                                                     |                |                      |
| Silvanus Martin, . . . . . Lieutenant, . . .        |                |                      | —, . . . . .                      |                |                             | Com. Ensign May 1; prom. 2 <sup>d</sup> Lieut. Sept. 1; disc. Dec. 6, '75.                          |                |                      |
| Daniel Call, . . . . . Ensign, . . .                |                |                      | Hartford, . . . . .               |                |                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sergt. May 23; prom. Ensign, Sept. 1; disc. Dec. 20, '75.                           |                |                      |
| Aaron Olmsted, <sup>1</sup> . . . . . Adjutant, . . |                |                      | Hartford, . . . . .               |                |                             |                                                                                                     |                |                      |
| MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.                               | Time Enlisted. | When Discharged, &c. | MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.             | Time Enlisted. | When Discharged, &c.        | MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.                                                                               | Time Enlisted. | When Discharged, &c. |
| <i>Sergeants.</i>                                   |                |                      | <i>Corporals.</i>                 |                |                             |                                                                                                     |                |                      |
| Selah Norton, . . . . .                             | May 24         | Dec. 20              | Tho <sup>s</sup> Bryne, . . . . . | May 19         | Serjt. from Sept. 1 Dec. 10 | Eenz <sup>s</sup> Wright, . . . . .                                                                 | May 23         | Dec. 20              |
| Alexander Keney, . . .                              | " 23           | " 20                 |                                   |                |                             | Sam <sup>l</sup> Pember, . . . . .                                                                  | " 23           | " 20                 |
| Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith, . . . . .                   | " 19           | " 20                 |                                   |                |                             | <i>Drummers.</i>                                                                                    |                |                      |
| Hoseah Chapman, . . .                               | " 22           | " 20                 | Moses Bissell, . . . . .          | " 21           | " 20                        | Gurdin Burnham, . . .                                                                               | " 19           | " 10                 |

<sup>1</sup> Aaron Olmsted is entered among the Sergeants of this Co. as "Adjut. from July 10, half pay for half a regiment." He may have been Adjutant of the four Co's of Wooster's and Hinman's Regts. serving at the Boston Camps, under Lt.-Col. Pitkin.

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**1776** [Jan] Gurdin immediately re-enlisted for 12 months, serving under Captain Holdridge and marching again to Roxbury, MA. [P]

**1776** [17 Mar] Under the command of Colonel Thomas Willis, Gurdin marched into Boston after the British had left it and stayed there about 8 days before returning to the barracks in Roxbury [P]

**1776** [12 Apr] Marched to New London, CT and there embarked on a vessel to New York. [P]

**1776** [4 May] Arrived in New York and about three weeks later marched about 9 miles from New York to build Fort Washington, then returned to New York in about 7 days where they pitched their tents at the “Jews burying yard.” [P]



The above image by Oneam in Wikimedia Commons shows the location of Fort Washington on upper Manhattan Island. Unfortunately, that fort was captured by the British on 16 Nov 1776. That has been called one of the worst Patriot defeats in the Revolutionary War.

Sources: *Battles on Manhattan Island 1776*, Wikimedia Commons, by Oneam  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Battles\\_on\\_Manhattan\\_island\\_1776.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Battles_on_Manhattan_island_1776.svg)  
 ~ *Battle of Fort Washington*, Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Fort\\_Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Fort_Washington)

**1776** [Jun-Aug] Here is what Gurdin reported to authorities regarding this period of his service.

*“ . . .while remaining there [in New York] proclamation was repeatedly made & read to the lines that any men who would undertake to burn the following Brittish vessels viz The Phoenix a 40 gun ship, the Rose a 20 gun ship, the Thunderbomb & two Tenders there lying in Tappan bay should receive \$1000 each & be discharged from service if requested. That pursuant to said proclamation he joined in said enterprise & went on board of a fireship commanded by captain ---- Thomas which in company with another fireship commanded by Captain Halbert moored off from Albany pier in East river & steered up the North River & anchored just above St. Pauls Church.*

*Next day we sailed up near the Chevaux defries [note: an anti-calvary measure with portable frame and many long, projecting spikes of wood or iron] & anchored again. Next day there came on a heavy thunder gust & wetted us so much that himself & 4 men were sent back to New York to get new [preining?] & some provision especially a semi John full of rum for Cap. Thomas.*

*By his order on our return to the fireships he (this applicant) & one Harris cleared &*

*primed the fireships anew except two barrels of powder in the hinder part of the ships which prevented our setting fire to the matches in the after part of the ships, but fired them before Captain Thomas got intoxicated & went over board & was afterwards found dead, suppose to have been killed by a cannon while in the act of swimming to the shore.*

*In firing the ships this applicant was so situated that the boats provided to take the ones to shore left him naked & severely & powerfully burnt by the flash of power in the explosion to swim to shore a distance of two miles. That he was taken up in his awfully burnt situation & carried to GenL Washingtons quarters to whom he gave a statement of the transaction in burning the ships & by whom he was ordered to be conveyed to his father's house at East Hartford where he remained till recovered of his wounds which was about the first of November following, during which time he made application to Ralph Pomeroy Paymaster General for his part of the fireship money & received for answer that the fireship money had not come to hand nor did this applicant ever receive all or any part of said fireship money.” [P]*

Another account of that fireship experience was published in 1813:

*“In August [1776] a daring attempt was made by two American fire ships, the one commanded by captain Fosdick, the other by captain Thomas, against the Phoenix and Rose. The night being very dark, they passed the Phoenix without observing her. Captain Thomas fell foul of his own tender, and set fire to her. The light directed captain Fosdick to the Phoenix. he grappled her. But the Phoenix by the dexterity of her crew, and the lowness of the fire ship, got clear of and sunk her. This exploit, though unsuccessful in its execution, inspired the British with so much apprehension, as to make them abandon their station, and come down the river, while exposed to a continual fire from the forts, which considerably damaged them.”*

**American Fire Ships on the Hudson, 16 August 1776  
Dominic Serres (1722-1793)**

See this painting of the Fire Ship battle Gurdin Burnham was in. This painting is in Melford Hall in East Anglia under the auspices of Great Britain’s National Trust.

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/american-fire-ships-on-the-hudson-16-august-1776-171756>

Source: *Sketches of the Naval History of the United States: From the Commencement of the Revolutionary War to the Present Time* by Thomas Clark, 1813, p. 20

[https://books.google.com/books?id=iwE\\_AAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=iwE_AAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false)

~ Fire Ship, Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire\\_ship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_ship)

**1776** [26 Sep] In his Pension application, Gurdin said that he remained in East Hartford until he recovered from his wound, “*about the first of November following.*” However, records show that by late September of that year, Gurdin was enlisted by Capt. Elipt Robarts for the ship Oliver Cromwell, serving as a drummer. Nowhere in his Pension application does Gurdin mention his service on the Oliver Cromwell. [CHS, p. 244]

**1777** [Feb] Gurdin is listed on the ship Oliver Cromwell under Capt. Coit’s command as a “**runaway.**” Perhaps that is why he declined to mention the Oliver Cromwell in his Pension application? It should be noted, however, that there were significant problems with that ship’s entry into service and crew. [CHS, p. 245, 248]

The following website noted that the Oliver Cromwell was built and launched in Saybrook, CT on 13 Jun 1776. On 1 August it was struck by lightning and time was spent further outfitting the ship for war. All officers and men were ordered on board on 28 Jan 1777. However,

*“desertions and trouble amongst the crew made further delay and almost mutiny, due to lack of pay and apparent inability, on account of hurried calls upon the sources of supply for war material and provisions from every quarter of the State, to provide the many needs so urgent at the same time.”*

Source: *History of Maritime Connecticut During the American Revolution, 1773-1783*, by Louis F. Middlebrook, Volume I, Salem, Massachusetts, 1925, Oliver Cromwell, pp. 80-87, 98-103, 116-117.  
<http://www.langeonline.com/Heritage/Maritimehistory.htm>

**1777** [abt 12 Jun] Gurdin began to serve on the ship "Alfred" "of 28 guns" under Elisha Hinman. About the last of August they sailed from Boston to Portsmouth, NH. In about ten days the “Alfred” and the “Raleigh” set sail for France. On the way they captured two British ships bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. They took their crews on board their own ship and burned those British vessels along with four reams of Continental paper money [struck and unsigned by Rivington, the King’s printer in New York], which they had found on them. Eight or nine days later they captured a large Barque bound from Jamaica to London and redirected her, with their “prizemaster” on board to North America. After arriving in France they stayed about four months while their ship was repaired, then sailed through the Bay of Biscay to the Wine Islands, the Barbary coasts, Senegal town, Gurah, Cape Verde Islands, and the Isle of May. On the last they took on upwards of 200 goats for the ship’s crew, watered at Yaga, then sailed to the West Indies. Windward of the Barbadoes they battled a 28 gun and an 18 gun British warships. The powder chest on Gurdin’s vessel was blown up killing 12 crewmen and burning Gurdin “almost to death.”

He could not walk. He and the remaining crew members were then imprisoned at Bridgetown, Barbadoes. Gurdin remained there 62 days, then he was taken to Martinico where he was part of a prisoner exchange, then about two weeks later placed on a Continental ship which arrived in Boston about two months later.[P]



Wikipedia notes that originally this merchant ship, built in 1774, was called the Black Prince. The Continental Navy acquired it in 1775, renamed it the U.S.S. Alfred and outfitted it as a war ship. As Wikipedia further notes:

*“Captain Elisha Hinman became Alfred's commanding officer in May 1777. She did not get underway until August 22 when she sailed for France with Raleigh to obtain military supplies. En route, they captured four small prizes. They reached L'Orient on October 6, and on December 29 sailed for America. They proceeded via the coast of Africa, where they took a small sloop, and then headed for the West Indies, hoping to add to their score before turning northward for home.*

*On March 9, 1778, near Barbados, they encountered British warships HMS Ariadne and HMS Ceres. When the American ships attempted to flee, Alfred fell behind her faster consort. Shortly after noon the British men-of-war caught up with Alfred and forced her to surrender after a half an hour's battle.*

*Her captors took Alfred to Barbados where she was condemned and sold. The Royal Navy purchased her and took her into service as HMS Alfred, a sloop of 20 guns. The Admiralty sold her in 1782.”*

Source: *The Publishing House of Rivington, by Septimus Rivington, 1894, p. 9-11 [James Rivington]*  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=JecXAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>  
~ “USS Alfred”  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Alfred\\_\(1774\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Alfred_(1774))

**1778** [Last of Aug or 1 Sep] Gurdin returned to his father's home in East Hartford, Hartford, CT to recuperate from his wounds.[P]

**1779** [4 Jun] Gurdin served as a privateer [as distinguished from the Continental Navy] seeking to capture British ships. Some thought of privateering as “legalized piracy.” Serving as the Commander of the Connecticut Privateer Schooner *Independence*, Gurdin's ship along with the Connecticut Privateer Schooner *Arnold* captured the 50 ton sloop *Sally* which was carrying a cargo of lumber, wool, and coffee. That ship was sent to Hartford, CT. The *Independence* had been built in Kingston, MA in Jul 1776. Gurdin does not mention this in his pension application.

Sources: *American War of Independence at Sea*; Vessel: Sally  
[http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20\(Eliakim%20Jones\).html](http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20(Eliakim%20Jones).html)  
~ *Catalogue of Manuscripts and Relics in Washington's Head-Quarters, Newburgh, N.Y., with Historical Sketch* by E. M. Ruttenber, 1882, Miller Papers, Privateering, p. 33.  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=qfZMAQAAMAAJ&dq=inauthor:%22Washington%27s+head-quarters,+Newburgh,+N.Y.+Trustees%22&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=qfZMAQAAMAAJ&dq=inauthor:%22Washington%27s+head-quarters,+Newburgh,+N.Y.+Trustees%22&source=gbs_navlinks_s)  
~ *The Sailing Navy, 1775-1854* by Paul H. Silverstone, 2006, p. 18  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=fyk6ocYiVvwC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**1779** [Summer] According to his pension application Gurdin re-entered service on the brig

"Nancy" commanded by William Burke to pilot the French fleet under Count d'Estaing from Newport, RI to Boston, during which time their ship was captured by the British ship [Orialé?], commanded by O'Brian. At that point he and the others in his ship were put in irons, taken to Lord Howe's fleet, placed in various vessels, then taken to New York to be held on the British prison ship "Felicity." After about another forty days Gurdin was taken on a Cartel [according to International law then, a ship used for humanitarian purposes, not subject to capture] to Boston and released in an exchange of prisoners. Apparently, that was the conclusion of Gurdin's military service. [P]

So far, I've been unable to verify the above account, at least time-wise. Apparently, the French fleet under Admiral Comte d'Estaing began their retreat from Newport, RI to Boston on August 22, 1778, not in 1779 as Gurdin indicated. In the summer of 1779, d'Estaing and his fleet apparently were in the West Indies, not on their way to Boston.

Regarding British prison ships in New York Harbor, the Wikipedia article entitled "Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument" noted the following:

*"During the Revolutionary War, the British maintained a series of prison ships in the New York Harbor and jails on the shore for captured prisoners of war. Due to brutal conditions, more Americans died in British jails and prison ships in New York Harbor than in all the battles of the American Revolutionary War. The British quickly disposed of the bodies of the dead from the jails and ships by quick interment or throwing the bodies overboard. Following the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783, the remains of those who died on the 16 prison ships were neglected, left to lie along the Brooklyn shore on Wallabout Bay, a rural area little visited by New Yorkers. . . Nathaniel Scudder Prime reported that the 'skulls and feet, arms and legs [were] sticking out of the crumbling bank in the wildest disorder.' Edwin G. Burrows described the skulls on the coast 'as thick as pumpkins in an autumn cornfield.'"*

Source: "Battle of Rhode Island"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Rhode\\_Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Rhode_Island)

~ "Battle of Grenada"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Grenada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Grenada)

~ "Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison\\_Ship\\_Martyrs%27\\_Monument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison_Ship_Martyrs%27_Monument)

~ "Cartel (ship)"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartel\\_\(ship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartel_(ship))

**1781** [24 Oct] The Society connected with the First Congregational Church of East Hartford voted a rate abatement for Gurdin. Apparently he was living in East Hartford at the time.

Source: *Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920*, Volume 028 Part 1 East Hartford, p. 151

[Society Vol. 1, p. 154]

[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3032/41107\\_620303988\\_0316-00001?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.h.ancestry.com%2fsearch%2fdb.aspx%3fdbid%3d3032%26path%3d&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnBrowsing](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3032/41107_620303988_0316-00001?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.h.ancestry.com%2fsearch%2fdb.aspx%3fdbid%3d3032%26path%3d&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnBrowsing)

## Time Line of **Gurdin Burnham** and Family

**Note: Many of the following dates are not exact, but rather estimates based on Gurdin's 1833 pension information.**

[BT = Burnam Transcript] [P = Burnham 1833 Pension Application]  
 [CT= *The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service During the War of the Revolution* 1775-1783. Vol. I-III. Hartford, CT, USA: 1889]  
 [CHS= *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society* Vol 8 Naval Record Capt Coit's Men]  
 [AW = *American War of Independence at Sea*, Vessel: Sally  
[http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20\(Eliakim%20Jones\).html](http://www.awiatsea.com/pl/Am/American%20Prizes%20June%201779/Sally%20Sloop%20(Eliakim%20Jones).html)]

**1753** - **Mrs. Martha ( ) Cahoon** born. [BT]

**1756** [13 Feb] **Gurdin Burnham** was born in East Hartford, Hartford, CT. [P]

**1757** [20 Feb] Gurdin Burnham, son of Moses, baptized in East Hartford, CT church.

| Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920 for Gurdon Burnham |        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Volume 028 Part 1 East Hartford                                    |        |     |
| Gurdon, s. Moses, bp. Feb. 20, 1757                                | 1      | 25  |
| Gurdon, allowed rate abatement in vote of Oct. 24, 1781            | 1 Soc. | 154 |

**1768** [abt] This could be the birth year of Gurdin's second wife, "**Polly.**" And she could have been "of Wayne, KY."

An IGI record connects those facts to Martha Cahoon, but they seem more likely connected to Gurdin's second wife. Wayne Co., KY was formed in 1800 from parts of Pulaski and Cumberland counties. Part of present day Clinton Co. was included in Wayne, until formed from Wayne and Cumberland in 1835.

**1783** After the Revolutionary War ended, Gurdin sailed to the West Indies [P]

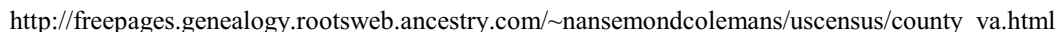
**1784-1786** [abt] Gurdin lived in Charleston, SC about 3 years [P]

**1786-1787** [abt] Gurdin lived in NC 2-3 years [P].

**1788-1790** [abt] Gurdin lived in Powhatan Co., VA about 3 years [P].

**1790-1792** [abt] Gurdin lived in East Hartford, CT at his father's house for 2 years and 4 months

**1793** [abt] Gurdin lived in Powhatan Co., VA about 1 year. [P]



*"[Albert] was born October 17, 1843, in Sugar Creek township, Vigo county, in the log house built by his father in pioneer days. His grandfather, Orange Burnham, served in the war of 1812, after which he became one of the early settlers of Tennessee, and at a*

*later day was a pioneer of Vigo county, Indiana, where he spent the closing years of his long life, passing away in the ninety-ninth year of his age.*

*Born in the Short Mountain district of Tennessee, Alexander Burnham lived in his native state until after his marriage. Starting westwa'rd then with his bride, he came to Vigo county, Indiana, making the entire journey on horseback, the one horse doing for both of them. Entering government land in Sugar Creek township he built a log cabin for a dwelling place, began the improvement of his land and by dint of sturdy industry and persistent energy established a good homestead and was there employed in tilling the soil until his death, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, whose maiden name was Cythia Skerlock, was born in Tennessee, not far from his birthplace, a daughter of Thomas Skerlock. She died in Sugar Creek township at the early age of forty-five years. She was the mother of ten children all of whom grew to years of maturity, namely: Mary, Sylvanus, Albert Caldwell James, Harriet, William S., Lottie, John, Ann and Callie.*

*Albert C. Burnham obtained his early education in the typical log school house of pioneer times, with slab benches and no desks, the board placed against one side of the cabin serving as a place upon which the pupils could write. Deer and wild turkeys were very plentiful when he was a boy, and timber wolves were destructive to the young stock, which had to be carefully guarded from their attacks."*

Source: "A History of Clay County, Indiana," Vol. II, by William Travis, p. 45  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=cdsyAQAAIAAJ&q=burnham#v=snippet&q=burnham&f=false>  
[go to Vol. II- PDF p.45]

**1797** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Campbell Courthouse, VA about 1 year [P].

**1798** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Fincastle, Botetourt Co., VA about 2 years [P].

**1800** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Preston's Ironworks on Cripple Creek in Wythe Co., VA about 3 years [P]. Here is a reference to the charcoal iron furnace Gurdin lived near and likely worked at:

*"Speedwell furnace, located just west of the small town of Speedwell on the waters of Cripple Creek, was established some time prior to December 10, 1799, the date a road to the Speedwell iron works is mentioned. In November of that year, Jehu Stephens sold the right to use iron ore on his property to Francis Preston, and in 1801 a tract of 200 acres was conveyed to Preston. In 1804 a road order mentions Preston's iron works."*

The astericks in the image below indicates that Speedwell furnace, as rebuilt, still stands today.

## PRODUCTION OF NEW RIVER CHARCOAL IRON FURNACES

| FURNACE<br>NAME | TONS<br>DAILY | TONS<br>ANNUALLY | MEASUREMENTS<br>(in feet) | BUILT  | RE-<br>BUILT | EMPLOYEES<br>1880's | TO PRODUCE<br>ONE TON OF<br>IRON |                     |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|                 |               |                  |                           |        |              |                     | TONS<br>ORE                      | BUSHELS<br>CHARCOAL |
| SPEEDWELL*      | 5             | 1,400            | 32 x 9                    | 1790's | 1870's       | 50-60               | 2.4                              | 147.8               |

**The Speedwell Iron Furnace on Cripple Creek as it Appears Today**

<http://www.newriversnotes.com/photos/displayimage.php?pid=3676&fullsize=1>

Source: *Charcoal Iron Furnaces of Wythe County, Virginia* by Mary B. Kegley, Wytheville, Virginia

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/symposia/newriver-84/sec11.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/symposia/newriver-84/sec11.htm)

~ Above image: Prepared by Mary B. Kegley from Whitman, *"Iron Industry, The Virginias, 1880-1884,"* and selected deeds and records

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/symposia/newriver-84/sec11.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/symposia/newriver-84/sec11.htm)

**1800** [28 Oct] **NAOMI BURNHAM**, likely a daughter of Gurdin and his second wife, was born in Wythe Co., VA. Likely she was named after Gurdin's mother and older sister.

Source: Naomi (Burnham) Hussong - Pisgah Cemetery, Sandford, Vigo Co., IN - Ou Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=13615554>

**1804** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Rye Valley at the head of the Holston river in Wythe Co., VA about 2 years [P].

**1804** [abt] **MARY ANN BURNHAM**, likely a daughter of Gurdin and his second wife, was born in VA. [IGI]

**1806** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Wayne Co., KY about 10-12 years [P]

**1806** [abt] **SALLY BURNHAM**, likely a daughter of Gurdin and his second wife, was born in KY. [IGI]

**1808** [15 June] **JORDAN BURNHAM**, likely a son of Gurdin and his second wife, was born [Bible Record] in TN. Jordan died 15 Sept 1837 [Bible Record] in Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN.

**1808** [abt] **HEZEKIAH BURNHAM**, likely a son of Gurdin and second wife, was born in Wayne, KY [IGI].

Note: 1808-1810 [in this period and perhaps earlier] a G. George Burnham appears on several tax lists of Wayne Co., KY, according to a researcher there. Although there are no Burnham deeds in



Wayne Co. Deed books of this period, there are a couple of references in later books to "Burnham's corner," and "Daugherty's and Burnham's line" in transactions involving the north side of the Cumberland River.

**1814** [10 Nov] - **1815** [May] **ORREN BURNHAM** served in **Captain Adam Vickery's Company, Slaughter's Regiment, Kentucky Detached Militia** commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Slaughter for a period of six months, during which they were combatants in the **Battle of New Orleans**. Apparently Orren and his family of birth were still residents of Wayne Co., KY at this time. The following text is from "Kentucky in the War of 1812" by Anderson Chenault Quisenberry, 1915. It describes, in part, the brutal battle Orren Burnham's Regiment had with British troops in New Orleans on 8 Jan 1815.

*"... the citizens of New Orleans contributed enough of their own private and personal guns and rifles to arm Slaughter's regiment, about seven hundred men fit for duty, and the three hundred and five men of Major Reuben Harrison's battalion of Mitchusson's regiment. These one thousand and five armed Kentuckians were marched at once to the firing line [142] . . . Opposed to them, altogether, stood about eighteen thousand men, nearly all of whom were regulars of the British army, or marines of the British navy—the best trained troops then on the globe. [143] . . . This was one of the most remarkable battles known to history. In the brief space of twenty-five minutes the enemy lost seven hundred killed, fourteen hundred wounded and five hundred prisoners—a total loss of twenty-six hundred men; the American loss being only seven killed and six wounded. [146] . . . The Kentuckians who bore so distinguished a part in this brilliant victory were Colonel Gabriel Slaughter's regiment of seven hundred men, and Major Reuben Harrison's battalion of three hundred and five men from Mitchusson's regiment, all under the command of Brigadier-General John Adair. [147]"*

Sources: *Orran Burnham*, Pvt, 15 (Slaughter's) Kentucky Militia, NARA M602. Alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the War of 1812; Roll: M602\_0030; Kentucky

[https://www.fold3.com/search/#s\\_surname=Burnham&s\\_place=Kentucky&ocr=1&offset=15&preview=1&t=761,851,891,875](https://www.fold3.com/search/#s_surname=Burnham&s_place=Kentucky&ocr=1&offset=15&preview=1&t=761,851,891,875)

~ "Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, *Soldiers of the War of 1812*," 1891, p. 291 [His first name is given as "Owen."]

<https://archive.org/stream/kentuckysoldier00reporich#page/n5/mode/2up>

~ "Kentucky in the War of 1812" by Anderson Chenault Quisenberry, 1915 [see pp. 132-149]

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89062290143;view=1up;seq=9>

**1817** [abt] Gurdin Burnham lived in Knox Co., TN for 3 years and 6 months [P]

**1820** A George G. Burnham household appears in the census of Wayne Co., KY [p. 92] as follows--Males: 1 (45+up), 2 (10-16), 1 (under 10); Females: 1 (45+up), 2 (16-26), 1 (10-16). This individual may not be Gurdin.

**1820** [13 Apr] **ORREN BURNHAM** [spelled "Burnem"] married **POLLY HOOD** in Knox Co.,

TN. [IGI]

**1821** [19 Dec] **NAOMI BURNHAM** married **ENOCH HUSSONG** in Wayne Co., KY. [IGI]

**1821** [abt] Gurdin Burnham moved to Vigo Co., IN [P].

**1821** [abt] [8 March] **Alexander Burnham**, a son of Orren Burnham, is said to have been born in the Short Mountain District of Tennessee. Today, Short Mountain is in Cannon Co., TN, about 120+ miles west of Knoxville. An IGI record indicates Alexander married Cynthi Scurlock and died 9 Jan 1866 in Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN. Alexander is buried there in New Hope Cemetery. IGI records are incorrect in saying he was a son of Gurdin Burnham or Jordan Burnham and very likely incorrect in saying he was born in 1817, years before his father Orren's marriage.

Source: "*A History of Clay County, Indiana*," Vol. II, by William Travis, p. 45  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=cdsyAQAAAJ&q=burnham#v=snippet&q=burnham&f=false>  
[go to Vol. II- PDF p. 45]

**1823** [16 April] **MARY ANN BURNHAM** married **ROBERT CRUZE** in Knox Co., TN. My lineage is traced through this couple. [IGI]

**1823** [10 May] **SARAH "SALLY" BURNHAM** married **ANDREW HOOD** in Knox Co., TN. Sally was born in KY. [IGI] This couple appears in the "History of Parke & Vigo Counties" by H. W. Beckwith as the parents of Sarah Malone Hood who on 3 Dec 1872 married Lemuel Longhead a noted farmer, whose family had been in Vigo Co. since 1835.

Source: "History of Parke & Vigo Counties" by H. W. Beckwith, 1880, p. 450  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=19947&path=>

**1826** [9 Feb] **HEZEKIAH BURNHAM** married **SUSANNA HUSSONG** in Knox Co., TN. [IGI]

**1830** **GURDIN BURNHAM** appears in Vigo Co., IN census, p. 91  
John Cruze appears in this census right beside Gurdin Burnham. John was a brother of Robert Cruze who married Mary Ann Burnham in 1823 in Knox Co., TN

**1830** **Enoch Hussong** appears in Vigo Co., IN census, p. 91

**1830** **Orren Burnham** appears in Vigo Co., IN census, p. 91.

**1830** **Hezekiah Burnham** appears in Vigo Co., IN census, p. 90.

**1832** [15 Mar] **JORDAN BURNHAM** married **SARAH "SALLY" ANN IRELAND** in Vigo Co., IN. She was the daughter of Alexander Ireland and Isabella Davis. Family tradition says Sarah [b: 28 Oct 1810] came from Shelby Co., KY, near Louisville.

**1832** [May] **Gurdin Burnham** moved to Edgar Co., IL. [P]

**1833** [3 June] **Gurdin Burnham** testified for his Pension Application in Edgar Co., IL. [adjacent

to Vigo Co., IN] [P]

**1833** [29 July] Widower **HEZEKIAH BURNHAM** married, as his second wife, **CHARLOTTE RAY** in Vigo Co., IN.

**1834** [4 Jun] **Gurdin Burnham** was put on the Pension Roll for Revolutionary War Soldiers

U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835 for Gurdin Burnham

The Pension Roll of 1835, Vol. IV > J Illinois

| NAMES AND COUNTIES. | Rank.          | Annual allowance. | Sums received. | Description of service. | When placed on the pension roll. | Commencement of pension. | Ages. | Laws under which they were formerly incriminated on the pension roll; and remarks. |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COLES.              |                |                   |                |                         |                                  |                          |       |                                                                                    |
| John Hart           | - Private      | 80 00             | 196 89         | Va. continental         | Jan. 6, 1834                     | Mar. 4, 1831             | 75    | Died November 19, 1833.                                                            |
| John Parker         | - do           | 80 00             | 240 00         | do                      | Oct. 22, 1833                    | do                       | 75    |                                                                                    |
| Joseph Painter      | - do           | 53 33             | 159 99         | N. C. continental       | Jan. 31, 1834                    | do                       | 90    |                                                                                    |
| EDGAR.              |                |                   |                |                         |                                  |                          |       |                                                                                    |
| Gurdin Burnham      | - Pri. dr. sea | 85 77             | -              | Connecticut cont'l      | June 4, 1834                     | do                       | 78    |                                                                                    |

Source: U.S. The Pension Roll of 1835

<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60514/pensionroll1835iv-004402>

**1835** **Gurdin Burnham** and his wife moved to Vigo Co., Indiana *"in which State they had three sons and a daughter living...nor is his residence in 1840 stated."*

Source: 1927 letter to Mrs. Joseph T. Hanna, Fort Wayne, IN from Commissioner Winfield Scott re:

Gurdin Burnham Pension claim

**1835** [10 Sept] **Hezekiah Burnham** purchased 40 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--SWNE, Sect 34/, Township 12-N, Range 10-W.

**1835** [2 Nov] **Orren Burnham** purchased 3,989 acres of land in IL [Coles Co.?]--Section SENE, Sect 06, Township 11N.

**1837** [18 Mar] **Gurdin Burnham** purchased 40 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--NESE, Sec 34/, Township 12-N, Range 10-W. [See next page.]

**1837** [18 Mar] **Orren Burnham** purchased 40 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--SWNW, Sec 34/, Township 12-N, Range 10-W.

**1837** [15 Sept] **Jordan Burnham** died [Bible Record] and is buried in Sugar Creek, Vigo Co., IN.

**1837** [10 Oct] **Orren Burnham** purchased 4,000 acres of land in IL [Coles Co.?]--Section NENE, Sect 32, Township 13N.

**1837** [7 Nov] **Orren Burnham** purchased 160 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--SW, Sec 34/, Township 12-N, Range 10-W.

Certificate  
No. 7970

# The United States of America.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

**Whereas** Gurdin Burnham, of Vigo County, Indiana, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Vincennes whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Gurdin Burnham according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 25th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North East quarter of the South East quarter of Section thirty four, in Township twelve North, of Range ten West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Vincennes Indiana containing forty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said Gurdin Burnham

**NOW KNOW YE**, That the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said Gurdin Burnham and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatever nature, therunto belonging, unto the said Gurdin Burnham and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Martin Van Buren

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the eighteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty second and of the Independence of the United States the Sixty first.

By the President:

Adanson M. Gurland

Recorded By

Martin Van Buren

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Source: Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records; Washington D.C., USA; Federal Land Patents, State Volumes, Vigo County, Ancestry.com

[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1246/RHUSA2007B\\_IN0160-00407/656029](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1246/RHUSA2007B_IN0160-00407/656029)

1839 [1 Feb] **Hezekiah Burnham** purchased 40 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--SESE, Sec 35/, Township 12-N, Range 10-W.

1839 [11 Oct] Gurdin's first wife, **Mrs. Martha Cahoon**, is said to have died, location unknown.

1840 **Alexander Burnham** appears in the Sugar Creek Twp, Vigo Co., IN census, p. 436.

1840 **Neze Burnham** appears in the Sugar Creek Twp, Vigo Co., IN census, p. 436.

1840 **Orren Burnham** appears in the census of Coles Co., IL [p. 191] as follows--Males: 1 (40-50), 1 (15-20), 1 (10-15), 1 (5-10); Females: 1 (40-50), 1 (15-20), 1 (10-15), 1 (5-10). This family appears to be living in the section of Coles Co. which is now Cumberland Co. The family does not appear in the 1850 Coles Co. census, nor are there Burnham marriages in that county in that early

period.

**1840** [1 Jun] As part of the 1840 Federal Census, census takers were to list those in each household as of June 1 who were receiving a Revolutionary War pension. Unfortunately, Gurdin Burnham was not listed in this census, thus he was not included in the Revolutionary War Veterans list derived from this census. In his three Burnham genealogy books, in 1869 and 1884, Roderick Burnham listed all the Burnhams in this 1840 Veterans census list. His list included fifteen Burnhams from New England and New York, but he thus missed learning about Gurdin who likely was in Indiana at that time.

Source: "A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services. Washington, USA: Blair and Rives, 1841."

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7678>

**1841** [25 May] **Hezekiah Burnham** purchased 37.45 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--NENW, Sec 3/, Township 11-N, Range 10-N. [Township 11: Honey Creek]

**1842** [8 Feb] **Gurdon C. Burnham** died, location unknown.

**1843** [10 Mar] **Orren Burnham** purchased 40 acres of land in Cumberland Co., IL--NWNW, Sec 26/, Township 10-N, Range 9-E. [Township 10: ]

**1844** [16 Oct] **Gurdin Burnham** said to have died--location unknown.

**1846** [7 Apr] **SARAH ANN (IRELAND) BURNHAM** married **WILLIAM RAY** in Vigo Co., IN. Sarah was the widow of **Jordan Burnham**.

**1849** [10 Apr] **Alexander Burnham** purchased 37.36 acres of land in Vigo Co., IN--SWNE, Sec 3/, Township 11-N, Range 10-W. [Township 11: Honey Creek]

**1858** [Oct] **Hezekiah Burnham** died in Putnam Co., IN.

**1874** [8 May] **Sarah "Sally" (Burnham) Hood** died, likely in Putnam Co., IN.

**1879** The following sketch of **Jacob H. Hussong**, a son of **Naomi (Burnham) Hussong**, appeared in the book "*The History of Edgar Co., Illinois*":

*JACOB H. HUSSONG, Sandford, Vigo Co., Ind.; the subject of this sketch, is one of the most prominent men of Sandford; was born in Knox Co., Tenn, Nov. 22, 1826, and is the son of Enoch and Naomi (Burnham) Hussong. Mr. Hussong, when he was about 4 years old, with his parents moved to Indiana, and settled on a farm in Sugar Creek Tp., Vigo Co.; here they remained until about 1834, then moved to Illinois and settled in Elbridge Tp., Edgar Co.; here his father, Enoch Hussong, died. Mr. Hussong learned the cooper trade, and was engaged in this business in Vigo Co. and Greencastle, Ind.*



*In 1858, he commenced the mercantile business in Sandford, and ever since he has been a resident of the place. He has been constantly improving the village. He built the large grist-mill at this point at a cost of \$8,000; the mill is 50x35, three and a half stories high, four runs of stone, steam power. He has erected a good warehouse with a capacity of 8,000 bushels of grain. To-day he is engaged in erecting a first-class saw-mill. Mr. Hussong ranks as the most enterprising man of Sandford.*

*Was a soldier of the late war; in 1862, he first enlisted in the 71st Ind. V. I.; then in the 6th Ind. Cav., Co. B, as private; he participated in some of the prominent battles during the war— Richmond, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., etc., etc. He served until the close of the war, and was honorably mustered out at Indianapolis as First Lieutenant, this office he had filled about eighteen months; at the close of the war, he returned home to Sandford, Vigo Co., Ind.; here he has remained ever since.*

*Mr. Hussong married Margaret Smith, daughter of Henry Smith, who was an early settler of Vigo Co., Ind; seven children, six living; his son Albert B., is engaged in the mercantile business in Sandford, and ranks as one of the leading merchants of the place.*

Source: The History of Edgar County, Illinois, Containing a History of the County--its Cities, Towns, &c, by W. Le Baron, Jr., 1879, pp. 699-700  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_History\\_of\\_Edgar\\_County\\_Illinois\\_Con.html?id=3XQUAAAYAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_History_of_Edgar_County_Illinois_Con.html?id=3XQUAAAYAAJ)

**1880** [3 Jun] **Mary Ann (Burnham) Cruze** died at some point after her 1880 census informaton was taken on this day in Knox Co., TN.

**1881** [1 Dec] **Naomi (Burnham) Hussong** died in Vigo Co., IN.

Source: Naomi (Burnham) Hussong - Pisgah Cemetery, Sandford, Vigo Co., IN - Ou Find a Grave  
<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=13615554>

**1893-1899 Orren "Orange" Burnham** died in Vigo Co., IN.

**1909** The following sketch of **Albert Caldwell Burnham**, a grandson of **Orren "Orange" Burnham**, appeared in the book "*A History of Clay County, Indiana*":

*ALBERT CALDWELL BURNHAM.—An Indiana man by birth and breeding, Albert C. Burnham has been identified with many of the industries of the state and is now numbered among the much respected and highly esteemed residents of Clay City. A son of Alexander Burnham, he was born October 17, 1843, in Sugar Creek township, Vigo county, in the log house built by his father in pioneer days. His grandfather, Orange Burnham, served in the war of 1812, after which he became one of the early settlers of Tennessee, and at a later day was a pioneer of Vigo county, Indiana, where he spent the closing years of his long life, passing away in the ninety-ninth year of his age.*



*Born in the Short Mountain district of Tennessee, Alexander Burnham lived in his native state until after his marriage. Starting westward then with his bride, he came to Vigo county, Indiana, making the entire journey on horseback, the one horse doing for both of them. Entering government land in Sugar Creek township, he built a log cabin for a dwelling place, began the improvement of his land, and by dint of sturdy industry and persistent energy established a good homestead and was there employed in tilling the soil until his death, at the age of fifty six years. His wife, whose maiden name was Cynthia Skerlock, was born in Tennessee, not far from his birthplace, a daughter of Thomas Skerlock. She died in Sugar Creek township at the early age of forty five years. She was the mother of ten children, all of whom grew to years of maturity, namely: Mary, Sylvanus, Albert Caldwell, James, Harriet, William S., Lottie, John, Ann and Callie.*

*Albert C. Burnham obtained his early education in the typical log school house of pioneer times, with slab benches and no desks, the board placed against one side of the cabin serving as a place upon which the pupils could write. Deer and wild turkeys were very plentiful when he was a boy, and timber wolves were destructive to the young stock, which had to be carefully guarded from their attacks. Reared to agricultural pursuits, he selected farming as his early occupation, and at the death of his father bought the interest of the other heirs in the parental homestead, and continued its management for nine years. Selling the old farm, he then went to Terre Haute, where he was engaged in the wood and coal business for some time.*

*In 1884, having disposed of interests in that locality, Mr. Burnham located in Clay City, and, in partnership with his brother James, was for five years engaged in the manufacture of tile. He subsequently spent two years in Indianapolis and two years in Jasonville, from the latter place coming back to Clay City, where he has since resided.*

*On January 14, 1883. Mr. Burnham married Ellen Kilmer, who was born in Holmes county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Kilmer, of whom a brief sketch appears on another page of this volume.*

Source: "A History of Clay County, Indiana," Vol. II, by William Travis, pp. 45-46  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=cdsyAQAAMAAJ&q=burnham#v=snippet&q=burnham&f=false>  
 [go to Vol. II- PDF p. 45]

## Appendix I

### Revolutionary War Pension Documents of **Gurdin Burnham**

#### Transcription of PENSION APPLICATION for GURDIN BURNHAM

Pension Claim S. 31585

Transcription by Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter

[ ? ] = words hard to decipher--Some punctuation added for clarity

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS, EDGAR COUNTY

#### ----PAGE ONE----

On this Third day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court being a court of records: To wit: "The county Commissioners [court?] in & for the said county of Edgar, GURDIN BURNHAM a resident of the county of Edgar & That aforesaid aged 77 years on the 13th day of February last who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

He states that he was born in East Hartford in the State of Connecticut on the 13 day of February 1756, this his age he gives from the family register kept by his father. That in the last mentioned town & State about the 12th or 15th of May 1775 he enlisted for 8 months as Drummer under Captain George Pitkin & was marched to Roxbury in the State of Massachusetts.

Thence to Brooklyn in said last mentioned State, sd Captain Pitkin now commanded as Colonel. In June was marched in sd Colonel George Pitkins Regiment to a certain high hill near Roxbury & in about three weeks to the south of Boston in sd last named State to a place called Squantum farms & a certain Captain Parsons belonging to sd regiment with his company was stationed at a place called Hingum. This applicant under the command of Lieutenant Holdridges (or Holdrick) commanding as captain was stationed at Cohasset where he continued till the expiration of his said 8 months service on continental establishment [? Cert 6.20]. When & where he instantly again enlisted under the said captain Holdridge for the term of 12 months on continental establishment & marched to Roxbury placed under the command of Colonel Thomas Willis & remained at Roxbury until 17th March 1776 about which time the Brittish left Boston & we marched into it; & about 8 days after returned to our barracks at Roxbury & about 12th April marched to New London in the State of Connecticut & there embarked on vessels & sailed for New York where we arrived on the 4th May 1776 & in about 3 weeks we marched & began to build Fort Washington about 9 miles from New York.

In about 7 days returned to New York & pitched our tents at the Jews burying yard while remaining there proclamation was repeatedly made & read to the lines that any men who would undertake to burn the following Brittish vessels viz The Phoenix a 40 gun ship, the Rose a 20 gun ship, the

Thunderbomb & two Tenders there lying in Tappan bay should receive \$1000 each & be discharged from service if requested. That pursuant to said proclamation he joined in said enterprise & went on board of a fireship commanded by captain ---- Thomas which in company with another fireship commanded by Captain Halbert moved off from Albany pier in East river & steered up the North River & anchored just above St. Pauls Church. Next day we sailed up near the Chevaux defries & anchored again. Next day there came on a heavy thunder gust & wetted us so much that himself & 4 men were sent back to New York to get new [pr--- ssing?] & some provision especially a semi John full of rum for Cap. Thomas.

---PAGE TWO---

By his order on our return to the fireships he (this applicant) & one Harris cleared & primed the fireships anew except two barrels of powder in the hinder part of the ships which prevented our setting fire to the matches in the after part of the ships, but fired them before. Captain Thomas got intoxicated & went over board & was afterwards found dead, suppose to have been killed by a cannon while in the act of swimming to the shore. In firing the ships this applicant was so situated that the boats provided to take the ones to shore left him naked & severely & powerfully burnt by the flash of power in the explosion to swim to shore a distance of two miles. That he was taken up in his awfully burnt situation & carried to GenR Washingtons quarters to whom he gave a statement of the transaction in burning the ships & by whom he was ordered to be conveyed to his father's house at East Hartford where he remained till recovered of his wounds which was about the first of November following, during which time he made application to Ralph Pomeroy Paymaster General for his part of the fireship money & received for answer that the fireship money had not come to hand nor did this applicant ever receive all or any part of said fireship money/

That about the 12th of June 1777 he entered on board the ship Alfred of 28 guns, Elisha Hinman commander. Peter Richards/ Lieutenant, -- Deval 2nd Lieutenant, — Buckley 3rd Lieutenant, -- Hamilton Captain of marine, ---Cockrell Boatswain, and about the last of August sailed from Boston to Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire & fell in with the ship Raleigh commanded by Commodore Thompson & in about 10 days both ships set sail on a cruse for France, on our outward bound passage fell in with & captured two Brittish vessels bound for Halifax in Novia Scotia, plundered them of 4 reams of continental paper money struck by Rivington the Kings printer in New York not signed, the prisoners we took on board & burnt the vessels & paper money. In 8 or 9 days fell in with a large Barque bound from Jamaica to London, captured her put a prize master on board & sent her to North America.

After some time we arrive in France where we were detained about 4 months repairing our vessels thence sailed thro the Bay of Biscay & the wine islands thence to the Barbary coasts to Senegal town, to [? Gurah], to the Cape de Verd Islands & to the isle of May, there took in upwards of 200 goats for the use of the ships crew, watered at L. [?Zago] or Yago, sailed to the West indies & about 3.30 [*0 crossed out over 3, 1 over 30*] to the windward of Barbadoes fell in with two Brittish ships of war, one a 28 & the other an 18 gun ship & an engagement ensued in which the powder chest of the vessel on which this applicant was blown up killed 12 men & burnt this applicant almost to death. We were all made prisoners & carried to Bridgetown in Barbadoes & there put in jail 81 in

number I think. This applicant was so badly wounded and burned that he could not walk one step & after being in prison 62 days was put on board a Carteil & carried to Martinico & there exchanged & in about two weeks put on board of a continental vessel which had been repaired by our agent there & sailed for Boston in the State of Massachusetts where we arrived in about two months.

---PAGE THREE---

In the last of August of 1st of September 1778 he then returned home to his fathers & remained there till the summer of 1779 when he again entered into the service on board the brig Nancy commanded by William Burke & sailed to pilot the French fleet under Count D'Estaing from Newport to Boston in which service the brig Nancy was captured by the Brittish ship Oraile commanded by O Brian. We were all ironed, put on board a Brittish ship carred to Lord Hows fleet & distributed among the vessels & after awhile sent to New York & all put on board the Brittish prison ship Felicity & in about 40 days was put on board a Carteil & sent to Boston & there parolled for 40 days in which time we were exchanged. That he received regular discharges for his services which are all lost.

--- He states that after the close of the Revolutionary war he sailed on a voyage to the West Indies returned to Charleston in South Carolina after about 3 years went to North Carolina 2 or 3 years after went to Powhatan county in the State of Virginia after about 3 years returned to his fathers in East Hartford in the state of Connecticut. After 2 years and 4 months returned to Powhatan county in the State of Virginia. In about a year moved to Buckingham county in said State, there married and staid about 3 years. Then moved to Campbell Courthous in said state. In about a year moved to Fincastle in Botetourt county in said State. In about 2 years moved to Prestons Ironworks on Cripple creek in Wythe county in said State. About 3 years after moved to the Rye valley at the head of the Holston River in sd county & State.

In about 2 years moved to Wayne county in the State of Kentucky. In about 10 or 12 years moved to Knox county in the State of Tennessee. After about 3 years & 6 months moved to Vigo county in the state of Indiana & finally in May 1832 moved into Edgar county in the State of Illinois where he now resides. He states that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He states that John Burns Clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal church and John Knight labourer are persons to whom he is known in his neighbourhood who can testify to his veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a Pension , or an annuity except the present. He declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State. Gurdin Burnham

We John Burns a Clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church residing in the county of Edgar and State of Illinois and John Knight labourer residing in said county and State hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Gurdin Burnham who has subscribed & sworn to the above & foregoing declaration, that we believe him to be 77 years of age, that he is respected & believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that

opinion.

----PAGE FOUR----

Sworn and Subscribed the day & year aforesaid  
{signed} John Burns, John Knight

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter & after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier & served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that John Burns who has signed the preceeding certificate is a Clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church resident in the said county & State last named above, that John Knight who also has signed the same is a resident of the said last named county & state and is a credible person & that their statement is entitled to credit.

{signed} Henry G. Smith, Joseph [M/W?]atkins, Hall Sims

I, Milton K. Alexander, clerk of the county Commissioners court for Edgar county in the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Gurdin Burnham for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & private (no judicial seal being yet provided) this third --- day of June

----Anno Domini 1833  
{signed} M. K. Alexander Clerk

The above named M. K. Alexander is known to me to be Clerk of the County Commissioners in Court of Edgar County. — his certificate and attestation is in due form according to the laws of this state.

{signed} John M. Robinson, [Commi?] Ill June 18, 1833

**Some additional pages in the National Archive file for Revolutionary War soldier Gurdin Burnham are shown in Appendix III of this document.**

## Appendix II

### The Burnham Inheritance Legend

The author of the Burnham typescript suggested that Gurdin Burnham probably was,

*“the Burnham who sailed from Boston? To England (South Wales), there learned through London papers of an unclaimed Burnham estate, with heirs in America, and secured all the papers obtainable, bearing on the subject. On his return to America he published the discovery in a Boston paper, as referred to earlier in this work, and married. After a son, Gurdon C., was born to him, he left the papers with his wife and again sailed for England, (also previously referred to in this work), and was lost on the return voyage.”*

Here is an account of that unclaimed Burnham estate, as published in the *“The Burnham Family; or Genealogical Records on the Descendants of The Four Emigrants of the Name, Who Were among the Early Settlers in America,”* 1869, by Roderick Burnham on pp. 30-31.

#### THE BURNHAM ESTATE.

1694. Benjamin Burnham died in London, England, and left property, situated and valued, at that time, as follows, viz: real estate, (150 acres), including a part of Burnham Road, (now Regent street, London), Burnham Beach Cottage, and Burnham Wood, valued at over \$7,000,000, and rated at £4,500.

More recently, (1860), the property is described as follows, viz: real estate, situated in London, in and near Regent street Lambeth, Lambeth Walk, Carlton street, Dons street, etc. etc. etc., and is valued at about \$22,000,000, yielding an annual rental of about \$880,000; personal property invested in the East India Company, and in the Public Fund, or National Debt of Great Britain, to the amount of £9,000,000, or \$43,200,000, yielding an annual income at 3½ per centum of £315,000, or \$1,512,000.

Total value of real and personal property, \$65,200,000, giving an annual income of \$2,392,000.

This property awaits the heirs at law, supposed to be at present in this country. The heirs of Edward Burnham, Benjamin's elder brother, for more than sixty years, contested for possession.

#### THE BURNHAM ESTATE.

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The real estate has been held by other persons for more than sixty years, which would give a clear title at common law, but they might possibly be thrown out of it by an equity process.

This statement of the situation and amount of the immense Burnham estate, is condensed from the information, from all sources, in the hands of the compiler. He does not hold himself responsible for its accuracy, although he believes in the existence of the “estate,” but has not the least faith that any one in this country will be in the slightest degree benefited by it.



That text on p. 31 of Burnham's 1869 genealogy continues with the following 1830 letter, said to be from a John Burnham. I include just a portion of it here.

This letter, which explains itself, has been preserved in the family of Michael Burnham, Esq., of New York, and was kindly furnished me for publication by his daughter, Mrs. Russ.

"State of Vermont, Rutland county, Middletown, Feb. 22, 1830.  
To the Hon. OLIVER BURNHAM, of Cornwall, Ct.

Dear Sir—It has been rumoured in this section, among the people of the name of Burnham, for some time past, that there was in the "*National Bank of England*," a sum of *money* belonging to all the people of the name of Burnham, in North America. It is stated as high as *thirty six millions of pounds sterling, about one hundred and sixty millions of dollars*. It is said that a man of the name of Burnham, went from Boston to "South Wales," in England, about three years ago, and there saw in a London newspaper, an advertisement to that effect; and when he returned to Boston, he caused the same to be published in a Boston paper, and that the said Burnham was now gone to England for inquiry on the subject. I should be pleased to see such a publication, or information to that effect. I am directed by letter from Col. Wm. B. Sumner, of Middlebury, to write you on the subject of information. He writes, there is no doubt about there being a large property in England, belonging to the *descendants of the Burnham family*, and all that is wanting is to prove the lineage.

This book contains more information on that supposed Burnham estate on pages 32-34, 438, and 507-519. Page 438 contains a letter which tells of New England Burnhams in the 1860's who raised money to employ people to go to England to investigate the supposed unclaimed Burnham estate there and the lack of any success in those ventures. As stated, one of those paid individuals went to England and apparently "found nothing."

Source: *The Burnham Family; or Genealogical Records on the Descendants of The Four Emigrants of the Name, Who Were among the Early Settlers in America* by Roderick H. Burnham, 1869.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=a7JXAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

It is interesting that an 1870 review of that 1869 Burnham genealogy refers to that unclaimed Burnham inheritance in England as "the 'estate' fable . . . the old nauseating trash so familiar to us in a score of other family histories. That review follows:

*The Burnham Family: or Genealogical Records of the Descendants of the four Emigrants of the name, who were among the early settlers in America.* By RODERICK H. BURNHAM, Longmeadow, Mass. Hartford: press of Case, Lockwood & Co. 1869. 8vo. pp. 545.

In quite strong contrast to the Stickney genealogy above noticed will be found this record of the Burnhams. Containing about as many pages of print, this genealogy is however defective in the points for which the former deserves praise. It does not seem thorough, and the plan is extremely cumbrous. There is a great collection of valuable material, but the author seems embarrassed by his stores, and to show a lack of power to assort and arrange them properly.

Pages 57-180 are given to the descendants of Thomas Burnham, of Hartford; 181-304 those of John B., of Ipswich; 305-432 those of Thomas B., of Ipswich; 433-448 those of Robert B., of Ipswich; 449-506 to miscellaneous records; 507-519

New-England Historical and Genealogical Register and Antiquarian Journal, 1870, Joseph Barlow Felt  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=X2sFAAAAQAAJ&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=X2sFAAAAQAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s)

1870.]

Book-Notices.

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to the Burnham Estate; and a number of indices complete the volume. The author without any evidence terms these three Ipswich settlers, brothers; he may be right, but the chances are against him. The Connecticut family seems to be clearly distinct.

A noticeable peculiarity of this volume is the extent to which it is pervaded by the "estate" fable. At brief intervals throughout the book the reader lights upon paragraphs relating to a vast estate in England belonging to the American Burnhams. It is the old nauseating trash so familiar to us in a score of other family histories. From thirty to forty millions of pounds sterling await the claimants, and only one little link wanting. The family, however, seems to lack the easy credulity of the Ingraham heirs, and as yet have not obtained so thrilling an account of the efforts made to suppress the all-important evidence. If, however, they are fools enough to provide the money, no doubt agents can be found to spend it for them. We have to notice a decline in this form of mania, but we must still tell any intending author of genealogies that such nonsense is out of date and out of place, and subjects the book in which it is published to the suspicion of inaccuracy throughout.

We regret that we cannot give a better account of this genealogy, but the standard is now so high that something more than industry and zeal are required to make as good a history as some now extant.

W. H. W.

A Burnham Association was formed in Massachusetts and money was raised to send an attorney named Edward Payson to England to investigate the supposed unclaimed Burnham inheritance there. Here are Edward Payson's conclusions following his investigation in England. He reported them to that Burnham Association in 1873 and they subsequently published them as follows:

*"First. — That it is absolutely impossible, in the very nature of the case, that any Will of Benjamin Burnham could ever have been found in the manner as represented by a former agent.*

*Second. — That no Will of the said Burnham is now in existence.*

*Third. — That there is not now, nor ever could have been, any Real Estate answering to the description heretofore given of this property.*

*Fourth. — That from the very nature of the tenure by which the lands in question have been held both in London and in Lambeth, it is simply impossible that Benjamin Burnham ever could have been the owner of them.*

*Fifth. — That a very strong presumption is created, that said Benjamin Burnham did not die possessed of the Personal Property which has been attributed to him."*

As Edward Payson added, even if such a Will of Benjamin Burnham, yet unproved, had turned up during his trip to England,

*"... the difficulties in the way of making out such proof as any legal tribunal would accept, both as to the execution of the instrument and as to the relationship and identity of parties claiming under it, would be found nearly or quite insurmountable ... if there still remain those who believe in the existence somewhere of such a Will, it may relieve their disappointment at its not having been found, to reflect, that the finding of it would only have removed out of the way one of the obstacles, — and that by no means a slight one, — that separates them from the recovery and enjoyment of the property in question."*

Source: *Report of the Board of Trustees of the Burnham Association of America: including the report of Edward Payson, esq., as agent and attorney*, 1873, by Burnham Association of America, Payson, Edward, 1814-1890, pages 11-13.

<https://archive.org/details/reportofboardoft00burn>

In the 1884 second edition of his Burnham genealogy, Roderick H. Burnham stated the following prior to repeating some of the information on the supposed Burnham Estate which he had published previously in his 1869 Burnham genealogy book.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

*The Burnham Estate.*

For many years the family in this country has been interested in the Burnham estate in England, said to be awaiting the heirs-at-law in America. Unavailing efforts to secure said estate have been made, dating as far back, at least, as 1829, and culminating in a united and energetic effort in 1872-3 by the descendants of the Massachusetts families, which conclusively proved its non-existence. As it may still be of interest, as a specimen of the many estates in a similar situation, there is given below the report of an English lawyer employed in 1860. Also a specimen letter bearing on the same subject. As stated in the first edition there was never a possibility of success attending these efforts.

Source ~ *Genealogical records of Thomas Burnham, the emigrant, who was among the early settlers at Hartford, Connecticut, U.S. America, and his descendants* by Roderick H. Burnham, Second Edition, 1884, p.

86.

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924029819699#page/n9/mode/2up>

I will note that the front page of the 22 Jan 1847 edition of the “Indiana American” newspaper of Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana had a column which spoke of that supposed Burnham estate. Apparently quoting the “*New York Spirit of the Times*,” that article stated in part:

*“... seven years since a person by the name of Burnham died in London without a will, leaving an immense property behind him, estimated at some millions sterling in value. The news reached this country, and the Burnhams were consequently in high feather in reference to their property! An agent was chosen to look after the property in Europe, the story went the rounds of the press, and a variety of genealogies and pedigrees were forwarded to London. It all ended in smoke however; no satisfactory legal proof having been found that the Burnhams in England ever ‘belonged’ to any body this side the water. A few days ago an eminent legal gentleman of this city, (who had been engaged by some of the parties interested to ferret the matter out,) addressed letters again to the supposed heirs, thus renewing the old story about the “Burnham fortune . . .”*

*“[copy] New York, Nov. 4, 1846*

*Dear Sir, –*

*I am desirous of ascertaining whether you are in any wise related to Mr. John G. Burnham, (of England) who was lost at sea, some fifty or sixty years ago? Or are you of the family of Orrin Burnham, an Englishman, who came to this country somewhere from 1785 to 1788? Be good enough at your earliest leisure to inform me, if you are so connected, and at the same time send me the names and residences of your father, grandfather, and uncles on the father’s side. A large landed property, (some three millions sterling in value) has been left by a descendant of the Burnham family in England, and it may be of pecuniary advantage to you to establish your pedigree. Le me hear from you as soon as convenient.*

*Very resp’y, your obed’t, serv’t,*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Att’y for the Heirs”*

Source: “*Indiana America*,” Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana, Friday, January 22, 1847


<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/cgi-bin/indiana?a=d&d=IA18470122.1.1&srpos=1&e=22-01-1847-----en-20-IA-1--txt-txIN-Burnham----->

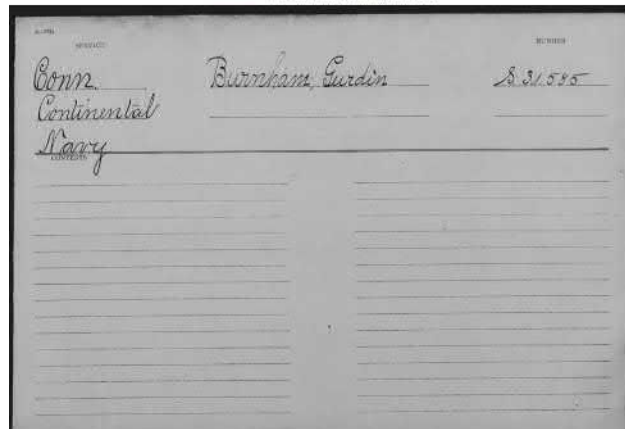
## Appendix III

### National Archives File for Gurdin Burnham ~ fold3 ~ Ancestry.com ~ D.A.R.



#### SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/12669205>  
**Publication Number:** M804  
**Publication Title:** Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files  
**Publisher:** NARA  
**National Archives Catalog ID:** 300022  
**National Archives Catalog Title:** Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, compiled ca. 1800 - ca. 1912, documenting the period ca. 1775 - ca. 1900  
**Record Group:** 15  
**Short Description:** NARA M804. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files.  
**Roll:** 0420  
**State:** Connecticut  
**Veteran Surname:** Burnham  
**Veteran Given Name:** Gurdin  
**Pensioner Surname:** [Blank]  
**Pensioner Given Name:** [Blank]  
**Service:** Conn. Continental Navy  
**Pension Number:** S. 31,585  
**Veteran Surname Starts With:** B  
**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)





State of Illinois, Edgar County, St. Charles Third day of June 1833 personally appeared  
 in open court being a record of record to wit "the county Commissioners <sup>court</sup> in & for the said  
 county of Edgar, Gideon Brownham a resident of the county of Edgar & State of said  
 aged 77 years on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February last who being first duly sworn according to  
 law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the  
 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. He states that he was born in East  
 Hartford in the State of Connecticut on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 1756. that his age he gets from  
 the family register kept by his father. that in the last mentioned town & State about the 12<sup>th</sup> or  
 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1775 he enlisted for 8 months as a drummer under Captain George Pitkin & was  
 marched to Roxbury in the State of Massachusetts thence to Brooklyn in said East  
 mentioned State & Captain Pitkin then commanded as Colonel in June was marched in  
 & Colonel George Pitkin's Regiment to a certain high hill near Roxbury & in about three  
 weeks to the south of Boston in said named State to a place called Squantum formerly  
 & a certain Captain Parsons belonging to said Regiment with his company was stationed  
 at a place called Hingham this applicant under the command of Lieutenant Holdeage  
 (or Holdrich) commanding as captain was stationed at Cohasset where he continued  
 till the expiration of his said 8 months service on continental establishment when he then  
 he instantly again enlisted under the said captain Holdeage for the term of 12 months  
 on continental establishment & marched to Roxbury placed under the command of Colonel  
 Thomas Willard & remained at Roxbury until 17<sup>th</sup> March 1776 about which time the  
 British left Boston & we marched into it & about 8 days after returned to our barracks  
 at Roxbury & about 12<sup>th</sup> April we marched to New London in the State of Connecticut & there  
 embarked on vessels & sailed for New York where we arrived on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1776 & in  
 about 5 weeks we marched & began to build Fort Mifflin about 9 miles from New  
 York in about 7 days returned to New York & pitched our tents at the Fort burying  
 ground while remaining there proclamation was repeatedly made & read to the effect  
 that any man who would undertake to burn the following British vessels viz The Phoenix  
 a 40 gun ship the Rose a 20 gun ship the Lancaster & two tenders then lying in Capps  
 bay should receive \$1000 each & be discharged from service if requested. that pursuant  
 to said proclamation he joined in said enter prize & went on board of a fireship commanded  
 by captain — Thomas which in company with another fireship commanded by  
 Captain Holbert moved off from Albany pier in East river & moved up the North  
 River & anchored just above St. Pauls Church next day we sailed up near the  
 Charana defies & anchored again next day there came on a heavy thunder storm  
 & wind so much that himself & his men were sent back to New York to get new  
 provisions & some provision especially a demi John full of rum for Capt. Thomas



By his order on our return to the fire ships he this applicant & one Thomas & private  
the fire ships anew except two barrels of powder in the hinder part of the ships, which  
prevented our setting fire to the matches in the after part of the ships, but found them  
before. Captain Thomas got intoxicated & went over board & was afterwards found dead  
supposed to have been killed by a cannon shot in the act of swimming to the shore. In  
firing the ships this applicant was so situated that the boat, provided to take them  
to shore left him naked & severely & dangerously hurt by the flash of powder in the captain  
to swim to shore a distance of two miles, that he was taken up in his anguished, burnt  
situation & carried to Gen<sup>l</sup> Washingtons quarters to whom he gave a statement of the  
transaction in burning the ships & by whom he was ordered to be <sup>carried</sup> taken to  
his fathers house at East Hartford where he remained till recovered of his wounds  
which was about the first of November following, during which time he made application  
to Ralph Bomeroy Paymaster General, for his part of the fire ship money & received for  
answer that the fire ship money had not come to hand, nor did this applicant ever receive  
all or any part of said fire ship money that about the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1777 he entered on board  
the ship Alfred of 28 guns Elisha Wrennan commander, Peter Richards 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant  
— David 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant — Bickley 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant — Hamiston Captain of marine  
— Cockrell Boatwain, and about the last of August sailed from Boston to Portsmouth  
in the State of New Hampshire & fell in with the ship Raleigh commanded by Commodore  
Thompson's in about 10 days both ships set sail on a cruise for France, on our arrival  
besides papage fell in with & captured two British vessels bound for Halifax in Nova Scotia  
plundered them of 4 Keans of Continental paper money, struck by Livingston the  
Kings printer in New York not signed the prisoners we took on board burnt the vessels  
& paper money. In 5 or 6 days fell in with a large Barques bound from France to London  
captured her put a prize master on board & sent her to North America after some time  
we arrived in France where we were detained about 4 months repairing our vessels  
thence sailed thro the bay of Biscay & the wine islands thence to the Barbary coasts to the gulf of  
Tunisia, to the Cape de Verde Islands & the side of May there took in upwards of 200 goats for the  
use of the ships crew watered at St. Jago or Yago & sailed to the West Indies & about 3. 30 to  
the windward of Barbadoes fell in with two British ships of war one with the other an 18 gun ship  
& an engagement ensued in which the powder chest of the vessel on which this applicant was down  
up killed 12 men & hurt this applicant almost to death we were all made prisoners & carried to  
Springtown in Barbadoes & there put in jail 81 in number I think this applicant was so badly  
wounded and lamed that he could not walk on step. After being in prison 62 days was put on  
board a barquent & carried to Martinico where exchanged & in about two weeks  
put on board of a continental vessel which had been repaired by our agents there  
& sailed for Boston in the State of Massachusetts where we arrived in about two months

On the first of August of 1778 he then returned home to his father's plantation there till the summer of 1779 when he again entered into the service on board the ship Nancy commanded by William Burke & sailed to pilot the French fleet under Count D'Estaing from Newport to Boston in which service the ship Nancy was captured by the British ship Oracle commanded by O'Brien we were all irons, put on board a British ship carried to Lord Howe's fleet & distributed among the vessels & after a while sent to New York & put on board the British prison ship Felicity & in about 40 days was exchanged on board a British vessel & sent to Boston & there paroled for 60 days in which time we were exchanged & that the records regular discharges for his services, which are all lost. — He states that after the close of the revolutionary war he sailed on a voyage to the West Indies returned to Charleston South Carolina after about 3 years & went to North Carolina 2 or 3 years after went to Rockham county in the State of Virginia after about 3 years returned to his father's in East Hartford in the State of Connecticut, after 2 years & 10 months returned to Rockham county in the State of Virginia. In about a year moved to Buckingham county in said State there married and resided about 3 years then moved to Campbell County in said State in about a year moved to Fincastle in Botetown county in said State in about 2 years moved to Preston townships on Quipps creek in the county in said State about 3 years after moved to the Roanoke valley at the head of Roanoke river in 3 counties & Shenandoah. In about 2 years moved to Wayne county in the State of Kentucky in about 10 or 12 years moved to Knox county in the State of Tennessee after about 3 years & 6 months moved to Vigo county in the State of Indiana & finally in May 1832 moved into Edgar county in the State of Illinois where he now resides. He states that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He states that John Burns, Clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church and John Knight labourer are persons to whom he is known in his neighbourhood who can testify to his veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier in the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension, or an annuity except the present. He declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Gurdon Burdham

We John Burns a Clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church residing in the county of Edgar and State of Illinois, and John Knight labourer residing in said county and State, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Gurdon Burdham who has subscribed & sworn to the above foregoing declaration, that we believe him to be 77 years of age that he is reported to be a soldier in the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Given

Verona and I subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

John Burns

John H. Knight

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, & after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier & served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that John Burns who has signed the preceding certificate is a Congressman in the Methodist Episcopal Church, president in the said county & State last named above that John Knight who also has signed the same is a resident of said last named county & State and <sup>is a</sup> credible persons & that their statement is entitled to credit.

Henry Smith

Joseph Mathews

Hall Sims

I Mitton H. Alexander clerk of the county Commissioners court for Edgar county in the State of Illinois; do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Gaudin Burnham for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & private seal (no judicial seal being yet provided) this third day of June Anno Domini 1833.

M. H. Alexander, Clerk

The above named M. H. Alexander is known to me to be clerk of the county commissioners court of Edgar county - his certificate and attestation is in due form according to the laws of this State.

John M. Robinson

Gave Ill June 18, 1833

fold3

ancestry https://www.fold3.com/image/12669299

War Department  
Pension Office  
25<sup>th</sup> March 1834.

Sir

The claim of Gordin Buchanan has been again examined and the papers are herewith enclosed. The claimant is advised to apply to Elisha Phelps Comptroller of Accounts, Hartford Connecticut where he may obtain evidence in relation to his claim.

I am Sir,  
Very Respectfully  
Yours Obedt Servt  
J. L. Edwards

6 Mo, 20<sup>th</sup> 40.  
12<sup>th</sup> 40.  
5<sup>th</sup> 10, Decem

William J. May Esq  
Paris  
Edgar County  
Illinois

5.10

6.70

2.30



Comptroller's Office  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1834

I Ebenezer Phelps Comptroller of Public Accounts of the State of Connecticut do certify that it appears by the copy of the pay roll of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> of troops raised by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut May 1775 that Gardon Burnham served therein as a drummer from the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1775, being six months, & twenty one days. This company was commanded by Lt. Col. Geo. Pitkin - Orin Wipell 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. & Capt. after the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, & regiment by Col. B. Hinman.

It appears by the books of the Pay Table that in January 1776 four regiments were raised, & to serve one year. One of which was commanded by Col. Samuel Nyllys. No roll of this regiment has been

found, or list of its subordinate officers. The only evidence regarding this regiment & its service is, a charge to the United States of the incidental expenses of it, & a memorandum at the heading of the account in the ledger, that this regiment was raised Jan. 1776, & for one year. Col Samuel Hyllys belonged to Hartford, was a Lt. Col in Genl Joseph Spencer's Regt & served at Roxbury in 1775.

And that there is no evidence in this office of the character or existence of the armed ship Alfred, or of its officers or crew, or of the Brig Nancy.

C. H. Hays





by ancestry <https://www.fold3.com/image/12669205>

Gordon Burnham

Ill  
to  
Indiana

## Application for a Transfer

County of Vigo

State of Ind. a. J. P.

On this first day of May 1835, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the said County of Vigo, personally appeared Gardin Burnham who, on his oath, declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Captain Holdreider in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Pickin in the service of the United States that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of Illinois from whence he has lately removed that he now resides in the State of Indiana where he intends to remain, and wishes his pension to be there payable, in future. The following are his reasons for removing from Illinois to Indiana "Having three sons and one daughter living in Indiana, only five miles from his former residence in Illinois removed with his wife, both being old and infirm, so as to have the comfort and assistance of their children."

Gardin Burnham

Sworn and subscribed to, before me

the day and year aforesaid

J. P. 1835

County of Vigo

State of Indiana J. P.

On this first day of May 1835 before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the said County of Vigo, personally appeared Samuel Crawford who on his oath declares that Gardin Burnham, who has taken the above oath, is the person described in the affidavit.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me, Samuel Crawford,

the day and year aforesaid.

J. P. 1835

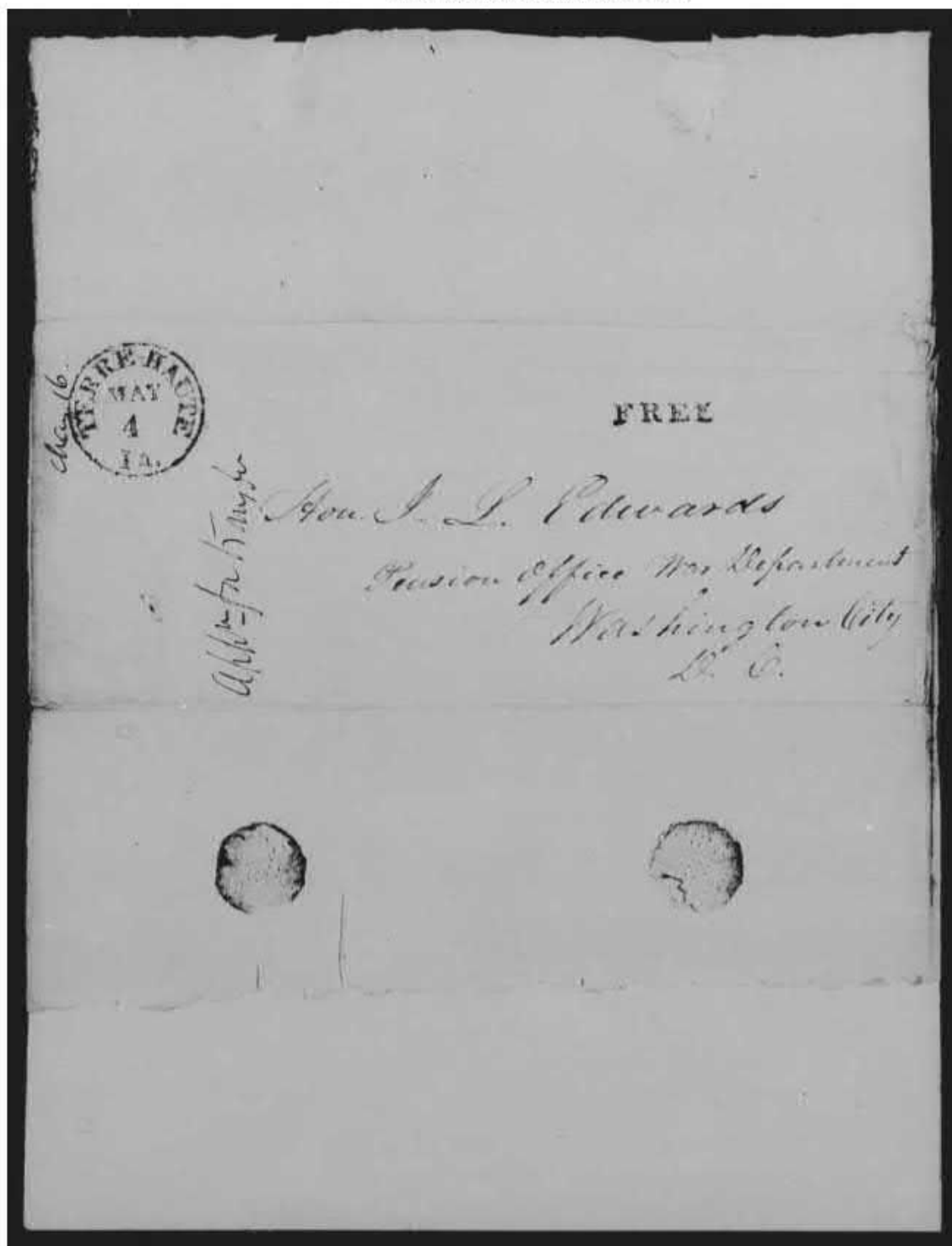
I do hereby certify that Samuel Crawford is a person of veracity given under my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

J. P. 1835

State of Indiana County of Tippecanoe  
 I Charles Gilbert clerk of the said county of  
 said county do hereby certify that Robertas Apocor before whom the  
 within affidavit was made is a justice of the peace in and  
 for said county duly commissioned and qualified and that  
 full faith and credit are due to his official acts.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set  
 my hand and affixed the seal of said  
 court at Terra Haute the first day of  
 May 1888.

C. Gilbert



Seneca 2<sup>d</sup> May 1855

Sir

In February last at the request of George Burnham I applied through Mr Ewing Representative from this District for the transfer of Burnham's name from the Pension office rolls of Illinois to Indiana and agreeable to the printed instructions furnished by you for the guidance of a Pensioner in such a case. I am with you the applicant &c - if this is correct and no other objections to the transfer it would enable him to get his money - at a less expense besides saving the travel - should his name be placed on the rolls at Indianapolis. he could effect it by power of attorney - There is so little communication between here and Carmi - he has to send specially for it - at an expense of several dollars every payment - if at Indianapolis facilities are offered every week by addressing Burnham or myself of the result of the applications you will confer a favor on a feeble old soldier.

Yours S. L. Edwards  
Pension office Mt. Vernon, Mo.

I am very respectfully  
Yours  
Saml. Edwards, Secy



REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS SECTION.

8-525

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

## BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

Washington, D. C., 19.....

In reply to your request of....., received.....  
 for a statement of the military history of Garden Burnham  
 a soldier of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, you will find below the desired  
 information as contained in his (or his widow's) application for pen-  
 sion on file in this Bureau.

| DATES OF<br>ENLISTMENT OR<br>APPOINTMENT.                                                                                                                                                        | LENGTH OF<br>SERVICE. | RANK.   | OFFICERS UNDER WHOM SERVICE WAS RENDERED. |                                          | STATE. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |         | CAPTAIN.                                  | COLONEL.                                 |        |
| Nov. 19, 1775                                                                                                                                                                                    | Dec. 10, 1775         | Drummer | George Pitkin                             | B. Thompson                              | Conn.  |
| Immediate after 1st Nov.                                                                                                                                                                         |                       |         | Joseph Holden                             | Thomas Kelly                             |        |
| June 12, 1776                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |         | captured on board ship off Cape Hatteras  |                                          |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |         | captured in engagement off Barbados       |                                          |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                       |         | 62 days imprisonment                      |                                          |        |
| Summer 1779                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |         | in brig Nancy com. by Wm Burke            | again captured & exchanged after 50 days |        |
| Battles engaged in, See above                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |
| Residence of soldier at enlistment, enlisted at East Hartford, Conn.                                                                                                                             |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |
| Date of application for pension, June 3, 1853, His wife                                                                                                                                          |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |
| Residence at date of application, Cedar Co. Ill. is since May 11, 1832                                                                                                                           |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |
| Age at date of application, 73, July 13, 1756 at East Hartford, Conn.                                                                                                                            |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |
| Remarks: Soldier was married in Buckingham Co. Va. in 1785. He and his wife moved from Cedar Co. Ill. to Indiana where their three sons and one daughter were living, there are no names stated. |                       |         |                                           |                                          |        |

Respectfully,

Commissioner.

|                                                     |                                 |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>See Civ. M.<br/>in Indiana<br/>June 20, 1835</p> | <p>6: 1835<br/>4 March 1835</p> | <p>Indiana 3 330<br/>in the State of<br/>in the<br/>of the<br/>in the<br/>commanded<br/>commanded</p> <p>3 330 = 35.77</p> |
|                                                     |                                 | <p>Entered on the Roll of<br/>the rate of 35 Dollars<br/>commence on the 1st day of March, 1835.</p>                       |
|                                                     |                                 | <p>Signature of Person paid the<br/>and<br/>113 17 3/4<br/>to the 1st of<br/>forward allowance ending<br/>3 3 1/4</p>      |
|                                                     |                                 | <p>Recorded by<br/>Vol. 5 - Page 14</p> <p>Receivable Claim<br/>16 June 7, 1835<br/>Clerk</p>                              |

Robinson and Mayo

Proper Certificate

of 20. Jay Loomer

1st Private

To No 10 2d Major

in the 1st Regt

a Continental Army

Recd —

$$\begin{array}{r}
 44 \\
 12 \\
 24 \\
 \hline
 24
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{r}
 14 \\
 24 \\
 44 \\
 \hline
 24
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{r}
 66 \\
 32 \\
 12 \\
 \hline
 21
 \end{array}$$

## U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872 for Garden Burnham

T718: 1818 - 1872 &gt; 05: Revolutionary War, 1833-1849

*Illinois Act of 7 June 1832.*

| NAME.                    | RANK.        | 6<br>Monthly<br>Allowance. | COMMENCEMENT.                                    | 1833  | 1834      | 1835  | 1836      | 1837  | 1838      | 1839  | 1840      | 1841  | 1842      | 1843  | 1844      | 1845  | 1846      | 1847  | 1848      | 1849  | 1850      | 1851  | 1852      |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
|                          |              |                            |                                                  | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September |
| <i>Daniel Ashcraft</i>   | <i>pr</i>    | <i>15.</i>                 | <i>fr. Kentucky fr 4 Sept 1834</i>               |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>George Bryan</i>      |              | <i>15.00</i>               | <i>fr. Kentucky fr 1<sup>st</sup> March 1845</i> |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Joshua Burnett</i>    | <i>Pri</i>   | <i>10.</i>                 | <i>fr. Indiana fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1841</i>  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Daniel Burroughs</i>  | <i>Pri</i>   | <i>20.</i>                 | <i>fr. Kentucky fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1842</i> |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>John Burns</i>        | <i>pr</i>    | <i>35.</i>                 | <i>fr. W. Tenn. fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1839</i>  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Thomas Dault</i>      | <i>pr</i>    | <i>40.</i>                 | <i>fr. Mass. fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1807</i>     |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Nathan Druver</i>     |              | <i>40.</i>                 | <i>fr. Tenn. fr 1<sup>st</sup> March 1839</i>    |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Ebenezer Bartlett</i> | <i>Drum</i>  | <i>50.</i>                 | <i>fr. Albany fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1838</i>    |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Nathaniel Bell</i>    | <i>pr</i>    | <i>20.00</i>               | <i>fr. N. H. fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1835</i>     |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Allen J. Bridges</i>  |              | <i>11.00</i>               |                                                  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Nicholas Dean</i>     | <i>of Co</i> | <i>50.</i>                 |                                                  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Daniel Darn</i>       |              | <i>20.00</i>               |                                                  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>John Ruston</i>       |              | <i>50.</i>                 |                                                  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Alas Beckwith</i>     |              | <i>15.</i>                 |                                                  |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |
| <i>Garden Burnham</i>    | <i>drum</i>  | <i>42.</i>                 | <i>fr. Tenn. fr 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1832</i>     |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |       |           |

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## U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872 for Garden Burnham

T718: 1818 - 1872 &gt; 07: Revolutionary War, 1831-1848

Indiana.

359

| NAME                      | RANK | Monthly Allowance | COMMENCEMENT | 1831  | 1832      | 1833  | 1834      | 1835  | 1836      | 1837  | 1838      | 1839  | 1840      | 1841  | 1842      | 1843  | 1844      | 1845  | 1846      | 1847  | 1848      | 1849  | 1850      |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------|--------------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
|                           |      |                   |              | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September | March | September |
| Leeward, Packenbaugh, Jr. |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Matthew, Brown            |      | 30                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| James, Dolan              |      | 30                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Herman or Thomas, Calvech |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| William, Banks            |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Baker               |      | 20                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Davis               |      | 35                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Benjamin, Bishop          |      | 20                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Charles, Brown            |      | 30                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| William, Baker            |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| William, Bateman          |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Boyd                |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Alexander, Bailey         |      | 14                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Daniel, Baumgardner       |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| James, Ball               |      | 14                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| William, Bayliff          |      | 30                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| James, Blevins            |      | 14                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Drake               |      | 24                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Charles, Brown            |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| James, Bryant             |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Henry, Bolton             |      | 30                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Richard, Biddlecomb       |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Buechick            |      | 20                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| William, B. Bryant        |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Buechick            |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| John, Buechick            |      | 15                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Joseph, Buechick          |      | 25                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |
| Garden, Burnham           |      | 40                | 100          | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         | 1     | 1         |







by Ancestry <https://www.fold3.com/image/22084373>

June 1, 1914.

Mr. George W. Brown, Supt.  
Edgar County Public Schools,  
Paris, Illinois.

Sir:

In response to your letter dated the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo,  
you are herewith forwarded the records of Gurdin Burnham,  
John Conrey, Elijah Clay and William Cannon Sr. Revolutionary  
War pensioners who resided in Edgar County, Illinois, and  
you are advised that owing to lack of a clerical force avail-  
able for the purpose, only four such records are furnished  
to any person or organization.

Very respectfully,

  
Commissioner.

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ancestry https://www.fold3.com/image/12669305

Fanna's Ford.  
Route 2  
Low Wingfield Cott.  
Covington

F. Wayne Lud  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1927

Dear Sir:-

You have been so kind and asking will you please give  
me the <sup>Revolutionary</sup> war record of Laydon Brankham, died Oct 1. 1818  
Allen Co Ind, and all data pertaining thereto, in interests  
of N.A.R. I thank you so much -

Sincerely

Mrs Joseph H. Fanna  
Fanna's Ford  
Route 2 -

F. Wayne Lud

Chairman Research N.A.R.

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by ancestry https://www.fold3.com/image/12669311

Chairman of Research,  
Mrs Joseph J. Hanna  
Hanna's Ford  
Route 2  
Fort Wayne Ind



Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter

of the

Daughters of the American Revolution

Fort Wayne, Indiana Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 1927.

I am faithfully for  
the American Flag and  
National Defense, against  
the enemy within or  
without our gates!!  
S. V. D.

(Rev. Records.)

Winfield Scott, Comm'r

My Dear Mr Scott,

Will you please send me the military Revolutionary record and all data pertaining to himself of Gaydon Barnham Sgt. The name was given to me as of the Rev Pension List of 1840 and having died in Allen Co Ind. If I can secure this record and data it will make sure which I have proven up for our Chapter, and rescued from oblivion - This will complete my work I feel pretty sure, and thanks to your wonderful and kindly assistance.

We expect soon to erect a permanent Boulder marker, bearing the bronze tablet of our D. A. R. Chapter, and names of these seven men to forever perpetuate their memory and honor them for the great work they did, and the legacy they bequeathed to us in American Independence. Sincerely, with thanks - Mrs Joseph J. Hanna  
Chairman of Research. (The name may not be quite correct.)



by Ancestry <https://www.fold3.com/image/12669246>

Rev. & 812 Wars Section

October 3, 1827

Mrs. Joseph T. Hanna  
Hanna's Ford, Route #2  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Madam:

I have to advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S. 31585 it appears that Gurdon Burnham was born February 13, 1756 in East Hartford, Connecticut.

He enlisted May 18, 1775 and served until December 10, 1775 as drummer in Captain George Pitkins' Company (also served under him as Lieutenant Colonel) and Captain Orlan Eissell's Company, Colonel B. Hinman's Connecticut Regiment.

Immediately after, he enlisted and served twelve months in Captain Holdridge's Company, Colonel Sylls' Connecticut Regiment, during which service he volunteered to go on a ship under Captain Thomas and assist in burning a number of British vessels up the North River, and in the execution of this service was severely burned by an explosion of powder and was taken to his father's home in East Hartford, Connecticut. The name of his father is not given.

On June 12, 1777 he engaged on board the ship "Alfred", Eliza Hinman, Commander, captured several British vessels,





ancestry <https://www.fold3.com/image/12669253>

was captured in an engagement off Barbadoes, in which engagement he was again very severely burned and wounded, and after sixty-two days imprisonment was exchanged and returned home in August or September 1778.

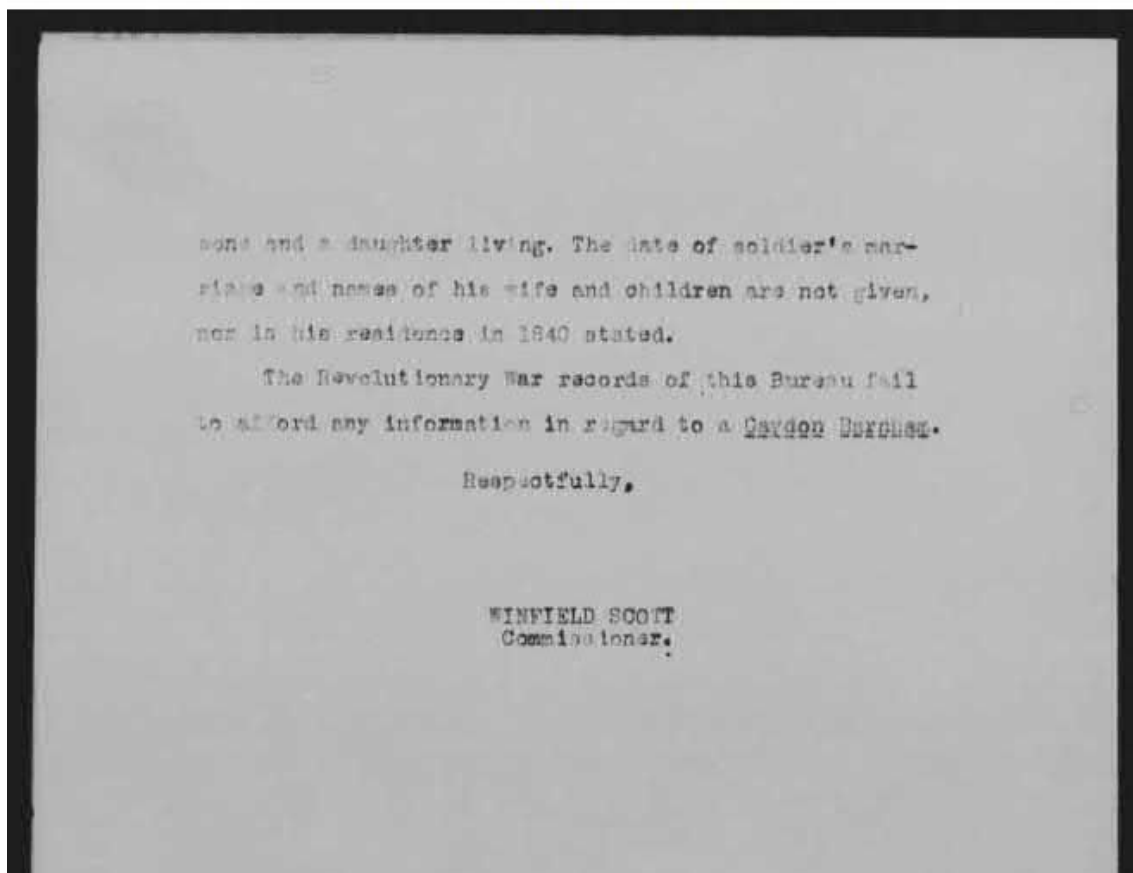
He remained at home until in the summer of 1779 then entered the service on the brig "Nancy", commanded by William Burke, was again captured and exchanged after eighty days.

After the close of the Revolution he went on a voyage to the West Indies, thence to Charleston, South Carolina, after three years to North Carolina, in two or three years to Powhatan County, Virginia, in about three years more returned to his father's home in East Hartford, Connecticut, remained about two years and returned to Powhatan County, Virginia, after two years moved to Buckingham County, Virginia where he married and lived about three years, after which he lived in Campbell County, Virginia, Fincastle, Virginia, Preston's Iron Works and Rye Valley, both in Wythe County, Virginia, Wayne County, Kentucky, Knox County, Tennessee, Vigo County, Indiana, and in 1832 to Edgar County, Illinois in which last named place he was allowed pension on his application executed June 3, 1833.

In 1835 he and his wife moved from Edgar County, Illinois to Vigo County, Indiana in which State they had three



by ancestry <https://www.fold3.com/image/12669259>



After receiving a response to her inquiry, Mrs. Hanna provided the following information on Gurdin Burnham for publication in the *"Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana,"* a publication of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution. It is not known, however, where she got the idea that **Gurdin's** wife was named **Polly**. Also, based on Gurdin's pension documents, she only knew of four children of his. It is not currently believed that Gurdin was buried in Allen County, IN.

|                                                                                                                                                                                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| BURNHAM, GURDIN                                                                                                                                                                | Allen County |
| Born—Feb. 13, 1756, East Hartford, Connecticut.                                                                                                                                |              |
| Service—Enlisted May 19, 1775, served to Dec. 10, 1775, as drummer in Capt. Pitkin's CO. Also served under him as Lieut. in Capt. Ozias Bissela CO., Col. Hinman's Conn. Regt. |              |
| Proof—Pension claim S. 31585.                                                                                                                                                  |              |
| Died Oct. 16, 1844. Name placed in bronze tablet by Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter D. A. R.                                                                                        |              |
| Married—Polly. Had four children.                                                                                                                                              |              |
| Collected by Mrs. Sue Vesta Hanna (deceased), Fort Wayne, Indiana.                                                                                                             |              |

Source: *"Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana,"* Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Byrne, p. 79  
<http://bloomfield.lib.in.us/uploads/4/9/0/2/49026837/roster.pdf>

## Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
Fort Wayne, Indiana



### Dar Markers

#### *Revolutionary War Soldiers*

A bronze plaque on boulder and flag pole in yard at Swinney Homestead, West Jefferson Boulevard commemorating the Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Allen County. Erected September 22, 1928. This marker was moved to the Veterans' National Memorial Shrine at 2122 O'Day Road on August 20, 2000. The Betsy Ross Flag and Flagpole were dedicated there on November 11, 2000. Research on soldiers done by Sue Vesta Hanna. The plaque reads:



*Dedicated to the Memory of the Following  
Revolutionary Soldiers  
Buried in Allen County*

*Michael Crofts, James Ball, Charles Weeks Sr.,  
William Berry, Samuel Bird Sgt., James Saunders  
Gurdin Burnham Sgt., David Blair, David Bryant  
Dedicated September 22, 1928*

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inmpwcd/markers.htm>

The “*Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*” of July 1916 contained an article on the “Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Illinois” by Harriet J. Walker. That article listed Gurdin Burnham as one of those soldiers, as follows on p. 174:

Gurdin Burnham enlisted in Connecticut in 1775; he was on board the ship Alfred as a drummer, was captured in an engagement off Barbadoes and was exchanged in 1778. He came to Edgar county, but the place of burial is not known.

Source: “*Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, “ vol. 8, No. 2, Jul 1916, p. 174.  
[https://www.jstor.org/stable/40194379?seq=3#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/40194379?seq=3#page_scan_tab_contents)

Here is a 1921 Daughters of the American Revolution plaque in Edgar Co., IL which honors **Gurdin Burnham** as one of their Revolutionary War soldiers buried in their county.

Paris in Edgar County, Illinois — *The American Midwest (Great Lakes)*

## American Revolution War Memorial - Edgar County Illinois

### Inscription.

*First Plaque - Front of Boulder*

1775 - D. A. R. (Crest) - 1783

To the Honor and Glory  
of the Soldiers of the

- **American Revolution** -  
who are buried in Edgar Co.

*Row One*

Elijah Austin • Hugh Barr • James Benson • Gurdin Burnham • Elijah Clay • John  
Conrey • William Gannon, Sr. • Ferrel Hester • William Hurst • William James

*Row Two*

James Knight, Sr. • William Meadows • William Means • Asa Moore • Stephen Ogden •  
George Redmon • Daniel Rhodes • Daniel Rowell • Wilson Tharp • John Tutwiler •  
Abraham Wood

This Tablet is Dedicated  
with Grateful Reverence  
by the  
Madam Rachel Edgar Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
1921



By Al Wolf, October 11, 2009

1. 1921 Plaque -- American Revolution War  
Memorial - Edgar County Illinois Marker  
(Click any of these photos to see the details.)

Source: *American Revolution War Memorial - Edgar County Illinois*, Hmdb.org - The Historical Marker Database  
<https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=23460>

Two different counties in two different states honored **Gurdin Burnham** as one of their Revolutionary War soldiers. The irony is that it seems likely that Gurdin Burnham was living in Vigo Co., IN at the time of his death in 1844, and very likely he was buried in that county, not in either Allen Co. IN or Edgar Co., IL.

~~~~~

My own genetic connection to **Gurdin Burnham** is through his likely daughter, **Mary Ann Burnham**, who married **Robert Cruze** in Knox Co., TN in 1823.

*Tew. Dr. Douglas K. Shavalter*