

CHAPTER VIII.

The descendants of Maj. Henry Axtell, through the line of his son COL. SILAS AXTELL.

6th Generation.

Silas, second child and first son of Maj. Henry Axtell and his second wife, Phebe C. Day, was born on the homestead in the eastern part of Mendham township, Morris Co., N. J., April 5th, 1769. He worked on the farm until he was old enough to go to a trade, when he learned the trade of a carpenter in all its branches. On the 9th of Jan., 1791, when nearly 22 years of age, he married Miss Elizabeth Loree, the only child of Samuel and Mary Reeve Loree. She was born in the same neighborhood in the year 1771. Her mother was the daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Reeve, of Morristown, N. J. She was born Oct. 1753, and was married to Samuel Loree, of Mendham township, by the Rev. Timothy Johnes, Jan. 25th, 1770. Samuel Loree died of hemorrhage of the lungs Oct. 30th, 1772, leaving Mary a widow 19 years old, with a daughter one year old.

As the disease of which he died had rendered Maj. Henry incapable of managing the farm alone, it was concluded best for Silas to remain with his parents, therefore he built an addition to his father's residence and moved his young wife on to the old homestead. In after years when his family became too large to be accommodated in the old fashioned one-story house, he tore down the original dwelling built by his father about the year 1760, and erected a large, two-story building in its place, calculated to accommodate his own and his father's families. In order to carry on his trade to the best advantage, he built a large shop convenient to his house, where he and his apprentices spent the winter months doing the joiner work for dwellings to be erected during the summer season. In those days doors, sashes, blinds and mouldings had to be made by hand, and the construction of a well finished dwelling required a great deal of time and hard work. Among the young men who learned their trade in his shop was Jacob Tuttle, who, at the end of his apprenticeship, in 1807, became a Presbyterian minister, and whose son, Rev. Joseph F. Tuttle, D.D., is President of Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind.

As Silas was seven years old at the beginning of the Revolutionary war, and as his father took an active part throughout the struggle for independence, he early imbibed a passion for military display and parade, and joined a Militia Company as soon as he was old enough to do so, and passed through all the grades of office from a private to the Colonelcy of his regiment, when such positions were considered an honor, and were sought after by the wealthy and influential. He was commissioned Major of the Sec-