

Dr. Loren (Loring) Clark Stebbins

By Judy J. Stebbins

May 2017

Loren (Loring) Clark Stebbins was born in Chardon, Geauga County, November 1, 1818, and was the son of Rodolphus Stebbins and his first wife Polly Clark. Rodolphus Stebbins had come to Geauga County at an early day with his brother Loring (Lorenzo) Stebbins. The young men, ages 18 (about 1807) and 16 respectively, hiked to Geauga County with knapsacks on their backs from Connecticut. First, they started to clear land in Auburn and later they moved to Chardon.⁽¹⁾ In 1817 in Chardon, Rodolphus married Polly Clark ⁽²⁾, daughter of Nathaniel Clark and Sarah Curtis.⁽³⁾ Loring (Lorenzo) Stebbins married Harriet Bond in Chardon in 1819.⁽⁴⁾ Loring died young leaving his widow, Harriet, and one son, Chauncey Loring Stebbins. Chauncey married twice (1) Mary B. Merriman, June 12, 1844 (2) Elvira A. Martin, Mar. 5, 1885

The Geauga/Lake County family descends from Zadock Stebbins and Sibyl Hitchcock. These parents and remaining children later followed Rodolphus and Loring Stebbins to Chardon:

Zadock Stebbins was born April 2, 1765 in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, died between 1830-40 in Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio, and married Sibyl Hitchcock November 27, 1788 at Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Sibyl was born May 8, 1765 in Springfield, Massachusetts, daughter of Nathaniel Hitchcock and Sarah Severance. (All information for Zadok Stebbins family from Stebbins Greenlee Genealogy.)

Children of Zadock Stebbins and Sibyl Hitchcock:

1. Betsey born September 22, 1789 at Wilbraham, Massachusetts; died after 1850 and was unmarried
2. Rodolphus born September 22, 1792 at Wilbraham, Massachusetts; died April 9, 1867 in Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio. Married (1) Polly Clark Oct. 21, 1817 at Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio, who was born February 23, 1798 at Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts and died about 1825; married+ (2) Margaret Thwing on September 11, 1825 at Chardon, who was born September 12, 1796 at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, and died January 13, 1858 at Hambden. Margaret Thwing was the daughter of John Thwing and Ruth Beebe.
3. Loring (Lorenzo) born September 24, 1796 at Wilbraham, Massachusetts; died Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio ca. 1820; married Harriet Bond on November 18, 1819, in Chardon. She was born and died in Chardon. Harriet's parents were Joseph and Deborah Bond. Loring and Harriet Stebbins had one child, Chauncey Loring Stebbins, born September 28, 1820 and died November 10, 1906 in Claridon, Geauga County.

Chauncey married Mary B. Merriman who was born April 25, 1822 and died September 30, 1884. They had a daughter, Mary M. Stebbins (1853- 1879).

4. Laren (son), born December 21, 1801, Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

2. (*Rodolphus Stebbins, son of Zadock Stebbins*)

Children of Rodolphus Stebbins and Polly Clark:

1. Dr. Loring (Loren) Clark Stebbins born November 1, 1818 Chardon, Ohio; died February 12, 1880. He married (1) Emily E. Trumbull, daughter of John and Lydia M. Trumbull. Emily died young, before 1845. Loring Clark Stebbins married (2) Almosina Flavia Griffith March 6, 1846 at Painesville, Lake County, Ohio. Almosina was born February 28, 1828 at Munson, Geauga County, Ohio and died December 11, 1908 in Painesville, Lake County Ohio. Almosina was the daughter of Dr. Samuel Griffith and Emeline Roper who married March 30, 1826 in Geauga County, Ohio. Dr. Samuel Griffith was born in Washington Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1801. He died July 5, 1863 in Munson, and is buried in the Stebbins plot in Evergreen Cemetery in Painesville. Dr. Griffith's parents in Washington Township, Pennsylvania, were likely David Griffith and Elizabeth Major. Dr. Griffith's wife, Emeline Roper, was born 1805 in Sterling, Worcester County, Massachusetts. She died July 1, 1842 in Painesville, Lake County, Ohio. Emeline Roper's parents were John Roper and Flavia Stebbins. John Roper was born in 1780 in Sterling, Worcester County, Massachusetts and died in Lake County, Ohio about 1840, his wife dying a year or two later.
2. Julius Stebbins was born May 17, 1823 at Chardon Geauga County, Ohio. He died December 22, 1909 in Zearing, Story County, Iowa. ⁽⁵⁾ Julius Stebbins was a pioneer of Zearing, Iowa. He married Laura Angeline Mills, Oct 29, 1845 in Lake County, Ohio. Laura Mills was born January 31, 1824 in Walcott, New Haven County, Connecticut, the daughter of Forest Wills Mills and Sarah Churchill. She died February 8, 1917 ⁽⁵⁾ in Zearing, Story, Iowa. Julius and Laura Stebbins lived in Wisconsin after their marriage and then moved on to Iowa.+
3. Laura Losina Stebbins born in Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio, died September 26, 1900 in Hambden, Geauga County Ohio. Laura married Nathaniel Coons September 16, 1840 in Hambden. Nathaniel Coons was born April 14, 1814 in Plymouth, Chenango County, New York and died Aug. 19 1899 (Hampden Township Cemetery). Laura and Nathaniel Coons moved to Montcalm Co., Michigan, after their marriage but came back to care for Roldolphus and Margaret Stebbins. In 1857 Rodolphus Stebbins sold the house and farm to his daughter and her husband, Laura and Nathaniel Coons with a life lease, the understanding that he and his wife would always have a home there and be taken care

Dr. Loren Clark Stebbins
By Judy J. Stebbins, 5/2017

of until their deaths. Rodolphus Stebbins' house is on Williams Road in Hambden, Geauga County and has a "Heritage Home" plaque by the front door.+

The names of the children of Rodolphus Stebbins and Polly Clark are included in the will of Nathaniel Clark, of Chardon, Geauga County, Ohio.

WILL OF NATHANIEL CLARK

(Gauga County Court of Common Pleas Probate Records, Book A 1806 – 1825, p. 595, March 21, 1825; on microfilm at the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.)

At a court of Common Pleas begun and held at Chardon in and for the County of Geauga and State of Ohio on the twenty first day of March Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and twenty five, before the Honorable George Tod President and Vene [?] Stone, John W. Scott and Solomon Kingsbury Esquire associate judges, sitting as a court of probate. -- Freeman Clark and Jason Clark, executors of the last will and testament of Nathaniel Clark, late of said Chardon, deceased, bring into court the last will and testament of the said Nathaniel Clark, in the words and figures following—to wit.—

"In the name of God, amen. I Nath^l. Clark of Chardon in the County of Geauga and the State of Ohio, being weak and low in body, but of sound mind & memory, thanks be to God for the same, do make, constitute, ordain and publish this my last will and testament, that is to say,

1st I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife Sarah, all my household furniture, beds and bedding, two cows, and ten sheep & all the flax on hand.

2ndly I give and bequeath to each of my sons Freeman & Jason fifty dollars to be paid to them or their heirs respectively at the expiration of five years after my decease

3rdly I give and bequeath to Lorain [Loring] Clark Stebbins, Laura Losina Stebbins & Julius Stebbins (children of my late daughter Polly Stebbins,) ten dollars each, to be paid to them respectively when they shall come of age.

4thly I give and bequeath to Charlotte Keith (daughter of my late daughter Rachael Keith, forty dollars to be paid when she comes of age.

5thly I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha Force, five acres of land to be taken & set off of the south west corner of my homestead farm, to extend twenty-five rods on the road.

6thly I give and bequeath to my daughters, Philena & Abigail fifty dollars each, to be paid them respectively when they come of age; and, also, a home in my mansion house during their pleasure; and, also, a comfortable support & suitable schooling till they come of age respectively

Dr. Loren Clark Stebbins
By Judy J. Stebbins, 5/2017

7thly After paying all my just debts, funeral expenses and the above mentioned legacies, I give and bequeath all the remainder of my property both real and personal to my daughter Arathasa Keith & her husband Charles Keith.

8thly It is my will & direction that Freeman & Jason Clark be appointed executors to carry into effect this my last will and testament. Signed, sealed, published and declar'd at Chardon aforesaid this sixteenth day of Feby. A.D. eighteen hundred and twenty five in the presence of Joseph Felton, Elisha Foster. Nathaniel Clark {S}

[p. 596] Which said will being duly proved, is approved by the court and ordered to be recorded. And the said Freeman & Jason, executors appointed to carry said will into effect, were sworn as the law directs and letters testamentary were there upon granted to them, -- The court appointed David T. Bruce, Elisha Foster & Luther Thwing appraisers to appraise the estate_

Dr. Loren (Loring) Clark Stebbins began his study of medicine at age 19; Dr. Samuel Griffith being his mentor, and later in life his father-in-law. Dr. Stebbins attended the Philadelphia Medical College where he received a diploma. He practiced for several years in Auburn where he married his first wife Emily E. Trumbull; his second wife was Almosina Flavia Griffith.+

The book *Extinct Medical School of Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia* by Harold J. Abrahams (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1966), p. 412, lists Loring C. Stebbins from Ohio receiving an Honorary M.D. degree in 1871 from the Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia.

Dr. Stebbins' son, Francis "Frank" Everington Stebbins, attended the Medical Dept. of Wooster College from 1873-1874 and 1874-1875. His preceptor was Loring Clark Stebbins. Francis' name appears in the archives at Case Western Reserve University. From the archives at Case Western in 1978, it was learned that the prices at the time were:

\$5 – matriculation fee (registration)

\$5 – demonstrator's tickets

\$40 - lecture tickets (This was the actual cost of his courses for 20 weeks.)

\$30 graduation fee

Room and board (light, etc.) was about \$80- \$100 per term

A set of tickets was purchased for each course. The student spent one year following a doctor who was called a preceptor.

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Dr. Francis Everington Stebbins was a physician until the day he had to amputate a leg, at which point he gave up the profession. After that, he worked in the drug store of L. C. Stebbins & Son on State Street in Painesville.

THOMSONIAN AND ECLECTIC MEDICINE

In the early 1800's, a person could become a Thomsonian doctor by purchasing a book for \$20 which listed herbs and cures. Dr. Samuel Griffith was a Thomsonian doctor. He taught medicine to Dr. Loren C. Stebbins, but Dr. Stebbins continued his education and was an eclectic physician.

The following is taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclectic_medicine, downloaded February 26, 2015

Eclectic medicine appeared as an extension of early American herbal medicine traditions such as "Thomsonian medicine" in the early 19th century, and included Native American medicine. Standard medical practices at the time made extensive use of purges with calomel and other mercury-based remedies, as well as extensive bloodletting. Eclectic medicine was a direct reaction to those barbaric practices as well as a desire to restrict Thomsonian medicine innovations to medical "professionals."

Eclectic medicine expanded during the 1840s as part of a large, populist anti-regular medical movement in North America. It used many principles of Samuel Thomson's family herbal medication but chose to train doctors in physiology and more conventional principles, along with botanical medicine. The American School of Medicine (Eclectic) trained physicians in a dozen or so privately funded medical schools, principally located in the midwestern United States. . . . By the 1850s, several "regular" American medical tradespersons especially from the New York Academy of Medicine, had begun using herbal salves and other preparations.

The movement peaked in the 1880s and 1890s. The schools were not approved by the Flexner Report (1910), which was commissioned by a council within the American Medical Association.

Dr. Stebbins was very active in Painesville, Lake County, Ohio. He and his wife were part of the anti-slavery movement there. Dr. Stebbins donated the land for the Disciple Church, and he was on the board of trustees of the Y.M.C.A. in Painesville. Dr. Stebbins experimented with growing sugar cane on his farm in Painesville. The Dr. Stebbins' house on Mentor Ave. in Painesville, Ohio, is in the historic district. The windows in front were special at the time as they were French plate glass. A

painting of Dr. Stebbins is at the Lake County Historical Society. When Dr. Stebbins died, February 12, 1880, the following article was in the *Painesville Telegraph*, February 19, 1880, p. 3, col. 4:

Death of Dr. Stebbins.

Again to the living comes the startling verification in the sudden and unexpected death of Dr. Loren Clark Stebbins, that "In the midst of life we are in death." While he was apparently in the full vigor of leading a busy useful life, devoted to the calls of his profession to which the best powers of his intellect were faithfully wedded, a good citizen, kind husband and father, a faithful Christian in the church and out of the church, his work on earth was suddenly terminated by the paralyzing hand of death on his warm true heart; calling him to rest from his labors. Those who knew him best will not doubt that the angels whispered in his dying ear, "Well done good and faithful servant, welcome to the mansion prepared for you in our Father's House." Were it not for his grief-stricken family and sorrowing friends, who in mercy to him, would wish that he had lived longer to suffer more? The loss of those to whom he was most near and dear is Heavenly gain to him.

Dr. Stebbins was generally known throughout Lake and Geauga Counties as a physician of note, having an extensive practice and to many families his loss as a friend and physician will seem irreparable; to such every incident of his passing away will be a matter of deep interest. Thursday evening, February 12th, he visited the daughter of Mr. C. Patterson who was ill, prescribed for her, remaining from 15 to 20 minutes, complained of severe pain in his chest, said he would get home as soon as he could, Mrs. Patterson lives one door west of the Congregational Church. Dr. Stebbins started for home, got as far as the lamp post near Mr. Stacy's (the next house) took his medicine case from his coat pocket and took medicine; feeling that he could go no further he retraced his steps. On the porch he fell against the door bursting it open and falling across the threshold. Mrs. Patterson called Mrs. Stacy to her assistance. A pillow was placed on the floor under his head until help could be had to lift him to a lounge. Mr. Frank Stebbins was sent for and reached the house in about ten minutes. As he entered Dr. Stebbins took his hand looking anxiously at him and exclaimed, "Oh, Frank!" His son asked, "Father is it your head?" "No." "Your lungs?" "No, it is my heart." Mr. Stebbins then administered a powerful sedative asking him if he could suggest anything better, he said, "No, you are doing all that can be done for me." When he asked if another physician should be called, he answered, "No, I trust all to you." Mr. Stebbins, however, well as he knew what his father's treatment in such a case would be, thought best to have counsel and

Dr. Grauel and Dr. House were summoned, the latter not reaching the house until a few minutes after Dr. Stebbins expired. Dr. Stebbins suffered extremely with pain in the region of the heart, and was unable to lie down but a few minutes at a time. Next to the last time, his son raised him in his arms, he felt his own pulse and said, "I think I shall be better soon, I will see if I cannot lie down again"; the pain returning almost instantly he said, "I am going to have another of those terrible spells": they raised him from the lounge, his son left him for a moment to step to the near at hand for medicine, as he turned to him again found that he was struggling with death, and soon after he breathed his last. Previous to this his son asked if he should send for mother, he replied not yet, but a little time after, said "You had better send someone home to let them know I am ill." His younger son, Clarence, reached Mr. Patterson's soon after his father died. The sad intelligence was conveyed to the bereaved wife and received by her in the home which her beloved husband had left scarce an hour before, and where they had enjoyed so much happiness together.

Dr. Stebbins was born at Chardon, Ohio, his early years were passed in Geauga County. He chose the art of healing for his profession and studied medicine with Dr. S. Griffith for a time, continued his studies in the Philadelphia Medical College and graduated from that institution. Dr. Stebbins was twice married; his second wife was the daughter of Dr. S. Griffith, a former resident of Painesville. Dr. Stebbins has resided in Painesville over thirty years; of his own household his wife and two sons, Mr. Frank E. and Clarence E., are the only survivors. If the deep sympathy of those amongst whom they dwell can afford any consolation in the dark hours of the great affliction that has fallen so heavily on them, they need no assurance that it is theirs. They know, too, that "the Father loveth whom he chasteneth." Dr. Stebbins was 61 years of age in November last. He was a man of much public spirit, interested in everything pertaining to the interest of the place he had chosen for his home. He was a trustee and liberal supporter of the Disciple Church, of which he had been a member nearly forty years; he was, also, trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association in this place, and by them his memory will be reverently cherished.

The funeral service took place there from the family residence on Mentor Avenue on Sunday, Elder N. M. Bartlett of the Disciple Church officiating. A large concourse of friends were in attendance and followed his remains to Evergreen Cemetery where they were deposited in the vault.

(Loring Clark Stebbins son of Rodolphus, son of Zadock)

Children of Dr. Loren (Loring) Clark Stebbins and Almosina Flavia Griffith:

1. Franklin Eugene Stebbins born 1849 in Painesville, Lake County Ohio; died August 14, 1850 in Painesville.
2. Francis Everington Stebbins born November 22, 1853 in Painesville, Lake County, Ohio; died October 3, 1884 in Painesville. Married Jennie Delphine Hodges November 4, 1876 at Painesville. Jennie Delphine Hodges was the daughter of Osmond Samuel Hodges and Mary Ann Pettingill. (The family owned the farm near or next door to Lawnfield.) Jennie died from puerperal fever September 4, 1879 when their only child, Loring Hodges Stebbins, was 4 months old. Francis, the father, died when Loring Hodges Stebbins was 4 years old. Loring Hodges Stebbins' guardian was Osman S. Hodges, and he was raised by his grandmother, Almosina F. Griffith. (Osman Samuel Hodges was the son of Samuel Hodges and Phebe Mathews. Mary Ann Pettingill's mother was Almira Sawyer and her father was Alanson Pettingill (who later married Susan Young one of the Mormon pioneers).
3. Clarence E. Stebbins, born about 1858, died May 27, 1940 in University City, St. Louis, Missouri in a Christian Home. He is buried in the Stebbins plot in Evergreen Cemetery.
4. Three other children died in infancy.

(Julius Stebbins, son of Rodolphus Stebbins, son of Zadock Stebbins)

Children of Julius Stebbins and Laura Angeline Mills:

1. Laura Almosina Stebbins born September 22, 1846 in Lafatette, Walworth County, Wisconsin Territory, died August 2, 1880 in Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas.
2. Constatine Eugene Stebbins born April 8, 1849, Lafayette, Walworth County, Wisconsin Territory, died August 19, 1909, in Travis County, Texas.
3. Loren Theodore Stebbins was born July 14, 1853 Painesville, Lake County, Ohio, and died July 10, 1926 in Marshalltown, Marshall County, Iowa.
4. (daughter) Stebbins, born July 14, 1853, died the same day.
5. Franklin Forest Stebbins born October 14, 1858 in Liberty, Marshall County, Iowa, died March 23, 1895 in Iowa.
6. Florence Emeline Stebbins born July 6, 1865 in Iowa; died 1918 in Doyal, St. Clair County, Missouri.

(Laura L. Stebbins daughter of Rodolphus Stebbins, son of Zadock Stebbins)

Children of Laura Losina Stebbins and Nathaniel Coons (birth ages from 1850 Michigan census and 1850 Ohio census records)

1. Emily Coons born about 1841 in Michigan.
2. Emeline Coons born about 1843, Michigan; married Allen Loomis Sept 24, 1863 (Geauga Co. marriages Vol. F, p. 201 listed at Geauga Gen. Soc. Website)
3. Susan C. Coons born about 1845 in Michigan; married Chester D. Valentine Feb. 18, 1865 (Geauga Co. Marriages Vol. F. p. 75 listed at Geauga Gen. Soc. Website)
4. Orlando Coons born about 1851 in Michigan. Orlando Coons married Ellen J. Stebbins February 24, 1880 in Lake County, Ohio, Vol. F, p. 164. Nathaniel Coons died Dec. 11, 1901 in North Bend, Dodge Co., Nebraska (Findagrave.com website)
5. Ermina Coons born about 1855 in Michigan; died April 13, 1902 in Muskegon, Michigan; married Edward Franklin in 1875 (from 1900 Michigan census).
6. Julius Coons born May 13, 1848 in Michigan; married Emily Ellis Jan. 14, 1873 in Geauga Co. (Ohio, County Marriages 1174-1993 p. 138, ancestry.com). He died March 10, 1913, Geauga Co., Ohio. Newbury Center Cemetery, Geauga Co.(Findagrave.com)
7. Evageline (Eva E.) Coons born Nov. 8, 1854 in Michigan; married Austin Jacob Richards April 7, 1886, (Gauga Co. Marriages Vol. 3 p. 13 listed at Geauga Gen. Soc. Website)
8. Alta Coons born May, 1859 in Michigan (1910 Geauga Co.,Ohio Census), died March 10, 1928 (from *Geauga Republican* March 14, 1918) ancestry.com Rutherford B. Hayes Obituary Index; married Albert G. White Sept. 3, 1890 (Gauga Co. marriages Vol. 3, p. 183 listed at Geauga Gen Soc. Webstie). Albert G.White was born July 14, 1853 (findagrave.com); and died May 9, 1930 in Geauga Co., Ohio.(ancestry.com, Ohio Dept. of Heath Deaths 1908-1932)
9. Laura Coons b. 1846 died single, age 34 yrs.; September 23, 1880 in Hambden Geauga County, Ohio. Death record in Geauga Co. Archives Vol. 1-86, #1752, from Geauga Gen. Webstie

- (1) Biographical History of Northeastern Ohio, Lewis Pub. Co., 1893. Loren Clark Stebbins, M.D., p. 623
- (2) Marriage record on Geauga, Ohio Gen Web site, from microfilm of original marriage ledgers in Geauga Co., Vol. A., p. 80; Rodolphus Stebbins married Polly Clark
- (3) Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Polly Clark birth record
- (4) Marriage record on Geauga, Ohio Gen Web site, from microfilm of original marriage ledgers in Geauga Co. Vol. A. p. 118, Loring Stebbins married Harriet Bond
- (5) Julius Stebbins and Laura A. Mills Stebbins birth and death dates from their tombstone in Illinois Grove Cemetery, Marshall County, Iowa.