

found in her accustomed seat at the church, ready to do her whole duty. Of Puritan ancestry she inherited many of those traits of character for which the early settlers of New England were famed,, notable among which were self-reliance, the moral courage to do what she believed to be right, and an unswerving faith in an over-ruling Providence. She was the acknowledged head of the little band of pioneer women, who shared in the toil and privation incident to the settlement of Milwaukee.

(Extract from historical sketch by James S. Buck, Milwaukee Historian, and information furnished by descend- and of Mrs. Brown.)

ANNE ELIZABETH VAN DYKE HARRIS

Author—Mrs. Frank S. Kent

Beloit

Anne Elizabeth Van Dyke Harris was born at Lewisburgh, Pa., May 23, 1831. She was the daughter of Lambert Van Dyke and Anne Dale Chamberlain. They came West, arriving at Freeport, Illinois, July 4, 1843. She joined the National Society of the D. A. R. at Freeport, receiving Certificate No. 6,758, dated December 4, 1894. She was a charter member of the Beloit D. A. R., Beloit, Wisconsin, organized in 1896. January, 1917, she died at Beloit at the age of 86 years.

She was a descendant of Charles Dale, of Scottish origin, and who was a member of troops who were sent by King William from England in 1690 to quell the rebellion in Ireland. Samuel Dale, the grandson of Charles Dale came to America in 1763, and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1769 he married Anne, daughter of Samuel and Ruth Steele Futhy. In 1770, when the call was made for "Minute Men", he raised a company of volunteers for the defense of the country against the Indians. He

resigned his Captain's commission thereof in 1776 for a seat in the State Supreme Executive Council assembled in Philadelphia. The same year he was elected to a seat in the first assembly held under the State Constitution of Pennsylvania, which he retained through the year 1801. His daughter, Elizabeth Dale, married Aaron Chamberlain, a Colonel in the War of 1812, and who is buried at Freeport, Ill. He was a son of Colonel William Chamberlain who enlisted in the Continental Army at the beginning of the Revolutionary struggle. His Colonel's commission bore the date September 9, 1777. He was entrusted with many important commissions, as the yellow, time-stained documents in possession of his descendants testify, some signed by General Washington, some by General Wayne, and some by Governor Livingston of New Jersey. These commissions were executed so successfully that the British commander swore that the head of the Rebel who could plan and execute such daring schemes was worth one hundred pounds to King George and the man who would bring him dead or alive should have the money on the spot. Three of his sons served in the war of 1812, and more than a score of his grandsons and great-grandsons laid down their lives on southern battlefields or died from poison in prison, in defense of the principles he fought so bravely to establish

His son, Aaron Chamberlain, mentioned above, married Elizabeth Dale, daughter of Samuel Dale and Elizabeth Futhey Dale. Their daughter, Annie Dale Chamberlain, born in 1813, married Lambert Van Dyke in 1830 at Lewisburgh, Pa. One daughter, Anne Elizabeth, (subject of this sketch) was born to them in 1831. In the spring of 1838 this Colonel Aaron Chamberlain came west on horseback to explore the "far off wilderness of Illinois", and to choose a new home. Prior to the Blackhawk War little was known of the "Great West" by people east of the Alleghanies. The western counties of Pennsylvania were "the west" and Ohio was called "the far west". Dr. Van Valzah who accompanied him on this journey bought a tract of land and built the first flour mill near the present village of Cedarville, which later

passed into the hands of John H. Adams, father of our Miss Jane Adams. Aaron Chamberlain purchased, or made his claim, (the land was not yet in market) about two miles north of the village, then, of Freeport. He built what was then considered a fine log cabin, and then made their return journey to Lewisburgh for the purpose of getting rid of their property there and bringing their families west.

Early in the spring of 1840 they again set their faces westward, this time joined by several other families, each family having two well equipped wagons and fine teams. They reached Freeport, August 17, 1840. Freeport, or Winneshiek as it was then called, was, at that time, little more than an Indian village, with perhaps a few dozen white settlers. In 1843 Lambert Van Dyke, his father, John, and family, including the subject of this sketch, set out for the west to join their relatives already settled there. They arrived at Freeport July 4th, 1843, in time to hear the oration being delivered by Thomas J. Turner at this patriotic celebration of the day. As the Galena Gazette announced, in praise of the celebration, "The immense crowd numbered 300 persons". This was the only newspaper in the Northwest outside of Chicago. That Fourth of July was an important day in the history of Freeport for 74 new citizens were added to its population. The journey from Lewisburgh, Pennsylvania to Freeport, Illinois, occupied six weeks of steady driving, covering by actual count 1,469 miles. Not an unpleasant event occurred to mar the enjoyment or the harmony of the trip. Little Anne Elizabeth Van Dyke went with her Grandfather Aaron Chamberlain to live in the log cabin in one of the most beautiful spots in northern Illinois. Here she lived and went to school, walking three miles through the woods each day until cold weather and snow compelled the school to close as there was no way of providing heat. The school was built of rough logs and the room was ten by twelve feet in size, with a bench around the walls for the scholars and accommodated twenty if well crowded. Here also during the summer the first Sunday School in the County was con-

ducted, and about a dozen children attended. The services and lessons were principally in German, and the English scholars learned to read in that language and to sing "Kum Kinder Kume to Suntag Schule". This because the new settlers had not yet had time to get an English preacher. In 1845 a new log school house was built which was an improvement over the first. Through all this time the little girl herself made, or dipped all the candles for all the artificial light they needed, and made them also for many too indolent to do it for themselves. She was present with her father and grandfather at the organization of the First Presbyterian Church at Freeport, and was also present at the Fiftieth anniversary or "Golden Jubilee" of said Church in 1892, and was at that anniversary celebration the only remaining living person who was then present, with one exception, and was also the only one left of the eleven children who organized and attended the first Sunday School of that Church.

In the year 1850 she was married to Samuel B. Harris of Freeport, a descendant of the famous John Harris of Revolutionary fame and who is buried at Harrisburg, Pa., in the State House yard.

Anne Van Dyke Harris and Caroline Harris, (Mrs. William Weirick) became charter members of Beloit D. A. R. in 1896.

HANNAH COLBOURN PRIEST

Author—Lillian B. Rossman

Appleton

Hannah Colbourn was born March 8th, 1811, in Essex County, New York. She married Henry Priest, June 11th, 1830. Their home was in Essex County, New York until 1846. Seven children were born there.

To make a new home, they started on a canal boat going to Buffalo. From there on a Packet boat, to Chi-