



Montgomery Historical Society

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Joshua Clapp b. Feb 11, 1751, Sudbury, MA d. Nov 5, 1810, Montgomery, VT,
m. Naby Barnard, xx Dec, 1792, b. Aug 23, 1771, Deerfield, MA d. Jan 20, 1844. Montgomery, VT

Joshua and Naby (Barnard) Clapp were married in Deerfield MA on Dec xx, 1792. It was a triple wedding and included two of Naby's younger sisters in the family home that is now part of Deerfield Academy. The following March (1793) Naby and Joshua moved to Montgomery after Joshua obtained land in exchange for his service in the Revolutionary War. Joshua was 40 and Naby was 21.

The couple lived here alone for nearly two years, according to their family history. They also preceded settlement in every neighboring town according to early county histories. It's probably hard to imagine the isolation and hardship they endured.

Their first child, Joel, and Montgomery's first native, was born in the fall of 1793. Naby would give birth to 9 more children before her husband's death in 1810 (by suicide, possibly a self-inflicted knife wound in Cambridge, VT. He was an identical twin to Caleb in Greenfield, MA who also committed suicide in 1812. Both reportedly suffered from severe depression according to the family history).

Naby would re-marry, Jokton Goodspeed Jul 15, 1815 and give birth to at least one more child.

The following is excerpted from "the Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Vol 2

By A.M. Hemenway

1871

Article by the Rev. John A. Hicks D.D.

In the month of March, A. D. 1793, Joshua Clapp removed into the town of Montgomery, from Worcester county, Massachusetts. He had served with honor as a Captain in the war of the Revolution. His wife was the daughter of Samuel Barnard, Esq., of Deerfield, Mass.—formerly a lawyer of that place.

The Hon. Stephen Royce describes Capt. Clapp as "a man, though subject to occasional turns of severe depression of spirits, yet in the main of buoyant social temperament, well informed, of good sense and judgment—thoroughly conversant with polished society, and in all respects an agreeable and interesting gentleman of the *old school*. These qualities, well supported by those of his wife, attracted to their hospitable mansion a wide circle of friends and visitors, possessing, in some measure, similar tastes and accomplishments. Being, from the first, a considerable land-owner in the town, he sold lands to most of the early settlers; and, prompted by his native kindness and benevolence, assisted them in every way in their struggles for comfort and independence. For 12 years or more he was the representative of the town in the State legislature, and the only one ever elected in the town while he lived."

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There, in the heart of the primitive forest. Sept. 14, 1793, Mrs. Clapp gave birth to a son, her first child, the first white child born within the town. The loneliness of that solitary family, for 2 years the only one within the town secluded in the wilderness from civilized society, it will require no effort of imagination to conceive, when it is known that the adjoining towns of Richford, Westfield, Lowell and Enosburgh, were during that period of 2 years, entirely destitute of white inhabitants.

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