



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 74, Number 4

June 2025

Louise Schede Fieser's Diary

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- Occupations of Selected Ancestors from Berleburg, Germany, beginning with Johann Daniel Kessler
- Who was Oliver Porter of Lansingburgh, New York?
- Connecting the Docs: The Barger, Dixon, and Thiffeault Families of the Western U.S., Connecticut, and Quebec
- The Family Bible of James Kershaw and Martha Hall Kershaw of Ashton-under-Lyne, England, and Columbus, Ohio
- The Bible of Amanda Ellen (Sexton) Jerelaman of Multnomah County, Oregon
- Book Reviews and More!



by Christina Armstrong

The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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- memoirs and personal essays
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We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs and other graphics. Send submissions to bulletin@gfo.org. You may request the current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at <https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html>.

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Cover image—Louise Philippine Schede Fieser photographed on Christmas Day 1898 with three of her nine grandchildren. Courtesy of Christina Armstrong.

Letter from the Editor

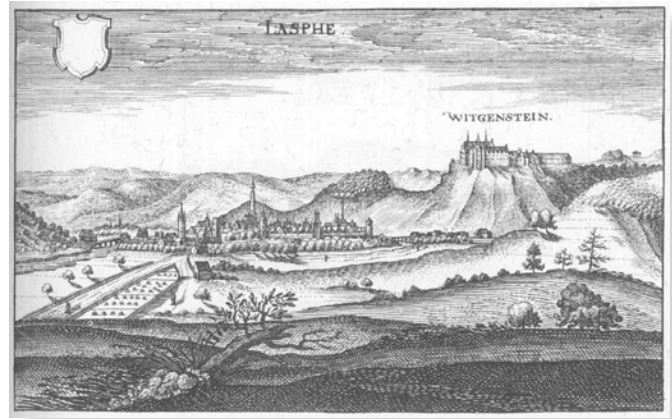
“I think you won the lottery on Archion.”
—Kristy Musalo (GFO volunteer)

I am using this space to share some of the basics from my German research. For my article in this issue, I relied on a German book, Ancestry databases, original documents on the German website Archion, data from a German archive, and the German version of Wikipedia.

Proving the data in my ancestral lines using images of church records on Archion resulted in my “Occupations of Selected Ancestors from Berleburg, Germany.” Instead of Kristy’s quote, I could have begun with the idiom, “Don’t reinvent the wheel,” because I did not waste time constructing another family tree for Frederike Louise Kessler. I took clues from databases and then found images of original documents. Dan Bodenheimer, a third cousin, did most of the initial research on our Kessler ancestors using Ancestry databases. Then Michael Zollenkopf, a German researcher, posted the “Wittgenstein Family File,” with data for 150,000 people from the old Wittgenstein district of North Rhine-Westphalia, to an Ancestry public member tree.

The background for the “Wittgenstein Family File” may help someone find similar records elsewhere in Germany. Jochen Karl Mehldau (1934–2022) was a German historian. His “Wittgenstein Family File” is a GEDCOM database available at the North Rhine Westphalia State Archives (<https://www.archive.nrw.de/landesarchiv-nrw/geschichte-erfahren/familienforschung/die-wittgensteiner-familiendatei>) under the “CC BY-SA” license.¹ He supplemented extensive research in Altkreis Wittgenstein church records with *The Berleberg Chronicles*, *Wittgensteiner Weinkaufbriefe* (wine purchase letters), and other sources. Mehldau began decades ago with index cards, transferred the information to a computer database, and gave this data from the early 1600s through 1875 to the archive in 2018.

Of course, there are date and location variations and punctuation errors. One challenging detail was the use of nicknames (usually middle names) that appear as first names. The North Rhine Westphalia State Archives provides a list of Mehldau’s abbreviations, the type of collection information, and a link for source information.²



Laasphe with the Wittgenstein Castle by Matthäus Merian, Public domain, [Wikimedia Commons](#).

When researching German ancestors, you might find more information on German websites. On German websites, to the right of the web address and before the refresh arrow, there is a symbol to click on that translates foreign text into English. When researching for background on Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, you want the German web address (.de) because it will have more information than the American counterpart. An example is the German village of Rösa, where my second great-grandfather lived. The English version of “Rösa” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rösa>) has one paragraph with links to the larger municipality and the district in Germany, one footnote, and a simple map with data outlined below. The German version of “Rösa” (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rösa>) includes eight subheads with paragraphs, bulleted lists, 13 footnotes, four photographs, a poem, no map, but some different outlined data.

In addition to the databases, I had a research buddy—artificial intelligence (AI). In this case, “two heads are better than one.” Google recognized my location and suggested the English Wikipedia page “Rösa.” Inquiries using ChatGPT drew information from the German Wikipedia site and Archion, which does not yet have church records for Rösa. Given a detailed prompt, AI created a timeline for the village with books as source citations.

Are you curious about how AI can help with your research? Explore the use of AI with a new Special Interest Group at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, [AI in Genealogy](#).

—Mark Grafe

1. “Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International CC BY-SA 4.0 Deed,” *Creative Commons* (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/> : accessed 30 April 2025).

2. *North Rhine Westphalia State Archives* (<https://www.archive.nrw.de/landesarchiv-nrw/geschichte-erfahren/familienforschung/die-wittgensteiner-familiendatei> : accessed 29 April 2025).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In Volume 72, Number 4, June 2023, you reproduce a letter on SIAIDA stationary, from the author of "What does your Hand Reveal". The letter is addressed to a student, Ruth Helen Radcliffe, who had apparently submitted an image of the palm of her hand.

The letter you shared is related to a column published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in the early months of 1935. In this column, the author presents the rudiments of the art of palmistry and invites readers to send in palm prints to perform a remote hand analysis, called "psycho-palmistry," for the price of 10 cents.

It may interest you to learn that the author of this letter (and the author of the book), given as SIAIDA here, is Almuth Dold. In the copyright entry at the Library of Congress it is given as "Almuth C B Dold." I do have in my possession a letter by her dated 1928, written in German, addressed to my grandmother in Frankfurt, Germany. She is also the same Almuth Dold (or later Seabeck) who worked for Ripley Believe it or Not between 1938 and 1942. On her gravestone her maiden name is given as Almuth Elegeti, but other records spell this name Elgeti.

I am very glad to add the letter you reproduced to my collection. Most likely, the portrait on the stationary is actually her portrait, and the reproduced hand may reveal her own palm.

Thanks again for sharing this letter.

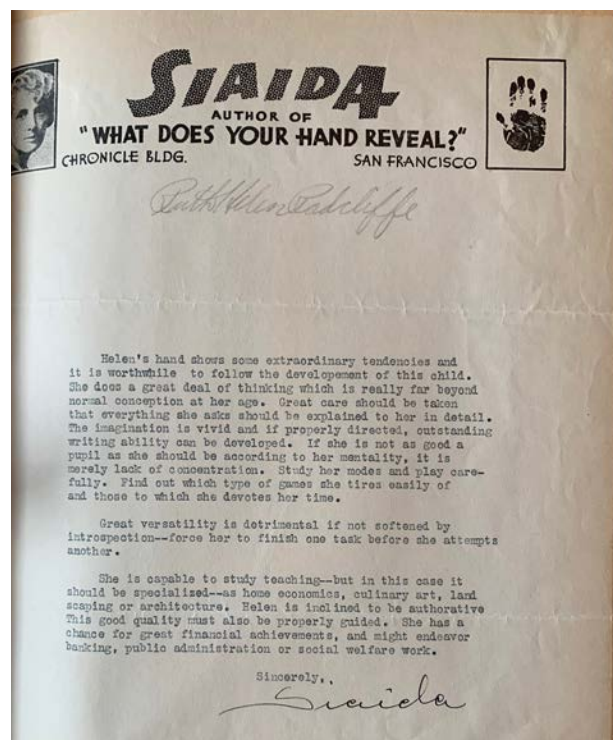
Dr Michael Cahn
Santa Monica CA

Hello to all,

I just started reading *The Bulletin* and got as far as the "Letter from an Editor." Mark wrote that article very well. I got a kick out of his cheekiness tying the beginning and the end very smoothly. He gave me a chuckle.

Thanks, Mark, for all that you do! And thanks to the other volunteer workers who work hard to put this great *Bulletin* together. Now, I'm off to read the rest of *The Bulletin*!

Twila Petrie



Hi Mark,

I have enjoyed reading Nanci Remington's two-part article "Nathan B. Jones and Jones Pioneer Cemetery," (December 2024 and March 2025 *Bulletin*). I appreciate her curiosity and writing about people that are not her ancestors. I think curiosity is what keeps most genealogists actively involved in family history, their own or others. I recognize the amount of time Nanci put into her work in memorializing someone else's ancestors, an unselfish act of kindness. Her work has caused me to notice cemeteries a little differently.

I recently noticed a sign for a Pioneer Cemetery, not too far from my house, in a location I regularly drive through. The Straight Pioneer Cemetery is a little slip of land wedged between a round-about and an Excavation Company. There is no official parking area, just a weather-beaten sign and a fence surrounding the headstones. The funny thing with this cemetery is that about the same time I noticed it you also pointed it out to me on a Google map that was included with another article in the March *Bulletin*. Obviously, I need to visit the cemetery.

Regards,
Kristy Musalo



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Louise Schede Fieser's Diary

Translated from German into English

Part I

Christina Buck Armstrong

LOUISE AND FRIEDRICH FIESER

Louise Philippine Schede was born in Neuwied, Rheinland-Pfalz, on August 24, 1816. She immigrated to the United States with her father, Heinrich Ludwig Schede, a hat maker, in 1834. Louise's mother was Philippine Wilhilmine Steinman, birth and death dates unknown. It is likely Philippine Wilhilmine died before Louise and her father came to the United States, and possibly when Louise was quite young. Although Louise records her father's death on the first page of her journal, there is no mention of her mother, nor is her mother mentioned in Ludwig's will.

Louise had one sibling, a sister six years older, Mathilde Schede Selbach, who married Friedrich Wilhelm Selbach in Germany and had several sons and at least two daughters before immigrating with her children to Columbus, Ohio, where Louise was then living, sometime after 1850. Mathilde may have been widowed before she left Germany.

Ludwig and Louise Schede are listed in the 1840 census, living in Dayton, Ohio, where (per his will) Ludwig Schede owned property. He died on February 27, 1842. Three years later, on June 21, 1845, his daughter Louise married Friedrich Fieser in Dayton.

Fieser was also a German immigrant, born in Wolfenbüttel, Braunschweig, in 1815 (per his birth certificate). He came to the United States, probably by himself, in 1836 and sold pianos briefly before working in the newspaper business. There is a great deal of information about him in the diary, mostly from his lengthy obituary and an article he wrote for *Der Westbote* (*The Western Messenger*), Columbus's German language newspaper.



Louise Philippine Schede Fieser photographed on Christmas Day 1898 with three of her nine grandchildren: from left, Dorothy Fieser, Georgie Krauss, and Martha Fieser.

Friedrich was the editor and cofounder of *Der Westbote*. The Fiesers lived in Columbus where they were active members of the large German immigrant community. German was the language spoken in their home; Louise never learned English. They had seven children: three were stillborn, two died very young (a son at five months, a daughter at 15 months). In addition to these losses, Louise had a late miscarriage between the births of her fourth and fifth children. Only daughter Berthe Mathilde and son Louis Friedrich survived and grew to adulthood.



The family pronounced Louise's name in the German way: "Louisa." Louis's name was pronounced as the French would say it, Louie. In their later years, Louise and Friedrich lived with their daughter Berthe Krauss and her family. Their son Louis and his family lived down the street. Louis's daughters Dorothy and Martha loved to play with Berthe's son Georgie. The photograph at the top of the page suggests that Louise Fieser enjoyed the company of her grandchildren. In the last years of her life, she saw her husband and three of her nine grandchildren die. Her diary documents the comfort she felt from her religious faith when faced with these losses. She died on January 10, 1900.



75 Hamilton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, where Louise and Friedrich Fieser lived with their daughter Berthe Krauss and her family from about 1885 until their deaths.

THE DIARY

On the first page of her diary, Louise Fieser recorded the birth and death dates of her father. The second page is written in a different hand, undoubtedly that of Louise's husband Friedrich. It begins with the title *Familien Chronik*, and records Louise and Friedrich's marriage on June 21, 1845, and the births of their first two children. After the first few pages, the events are dated but not entered chronologically. They are sometimes written in Louise's fine hand and sometimes by Friedrich, whose handwriting became a messy scrawl as he grew older. Pasted onto later diary pages are obituaries, letters of condolence, newspaper articles, and childhood writings by Louis Fieser, Sr. There are other mementoes tucked into the empty pages at the back of the diary—a treasure trove for the family historian.

When Louise died in 1900, the diary probably went to her son Louis. After Louis's death in 1917, or the death of his wife in 1929, it was passed on to Louis Fieser, Jr. More than 40 years later, Louis Fieser, Jr.'s wife, Mary Peters Fieser, gave the book to Martha (Marty) Rankin Meade, Louis and Mary's niece and a great-granddaughter of Louise and Friedrich Fieser.

I had the good fortune to learn of the diary, and then to see it, after finding Marty through an internet search. My mother had told me, before her death in 1992, that her cousin Marty had gone to Germany in the 1970s to research our German branch of the family. When I became interested in genealogy myself, I was thrilled to locate Marty and then travel from Oregon to Virginia in June 2017 to visit her and learn about her family research. To see my great-great-grandmother's diary was the icing on the cake.

THE TRANSLATION

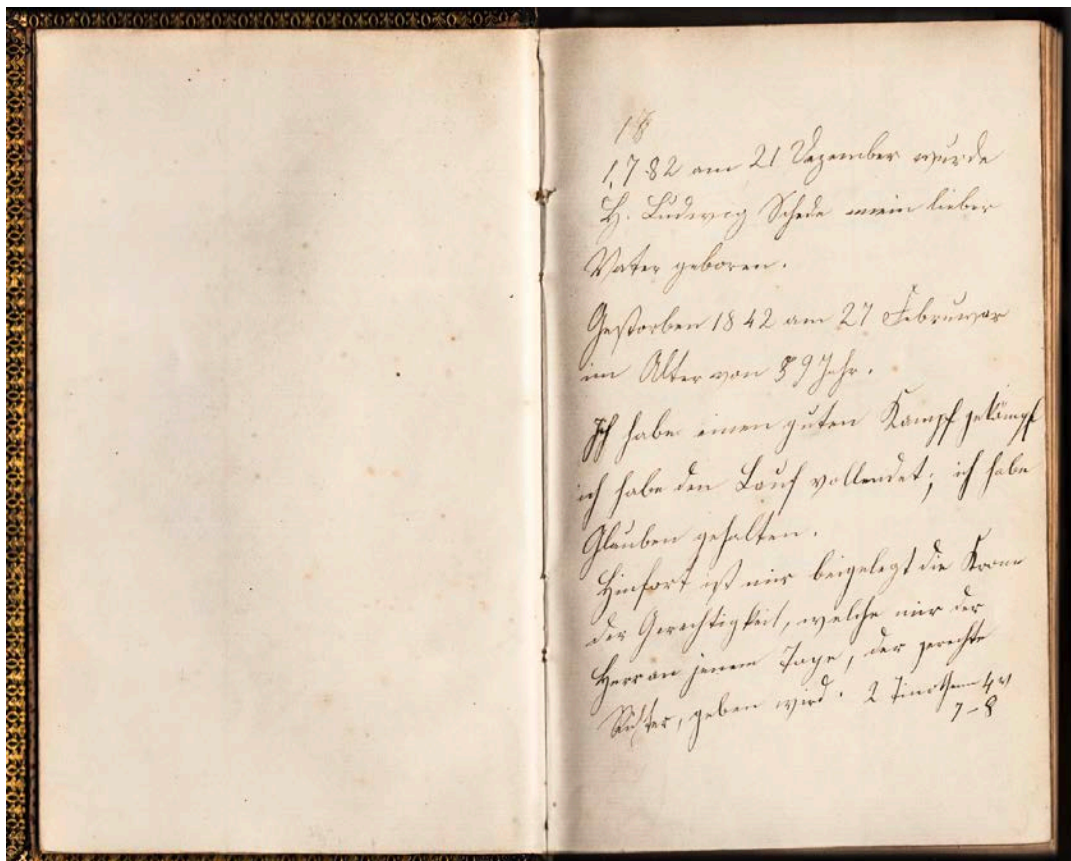
After Marty acquired the diary, she had portions of it translated. Heide Briggs translated the first six pages in August 1974. Later portions, including the family letters, were translated by employees of Berlitz language school. When I saw the diary and scanned it, fifteen pages in the middle plus the German obituaries remained to be translated. Professor Helmut Plant at the University of Oregon translated three pages and eventually I was able to locate a translator in Berlin, Germany, who could read the old German script, Valeska Nygren. Valeska translated the twelve pages that remained. With the help of *Google Translate* and a chart of old German typeface letters, I translated the obituaries myself.

Among Marty's family records was a translation of Friedrich Fieser's article *From My Memories*, translated in 1974 by Mildred (monogram MSM, surname not recorded), a friend of Fieser's great-granddaughter Louise Shedd Hinman. I used an old-style font and formatted her translation to fit the columns as they appear in the diary. For presentation of the handwritten material, I chose different fonts for Louise's and Friedrich's diary entries so that the reader would be able to know who wrote each passage. Louise's font has the feminine curl.

When the translation and formatting were finished, the COVID-19 global pandemic delayed completion of the project. Because of the requirement that everyone stay at home to slow the spread of the virus, I could not immediately take the manuscript to the printer to be bound, and so I engaged Valeska Nygren, to check it for errors. She found a number of "creative translations," as she described them, including several sentences that had been omitted. We spent a few hours talking on the phone while Valeska went over the corrections and provided background information. The translation is considerably improved by her suggestions.

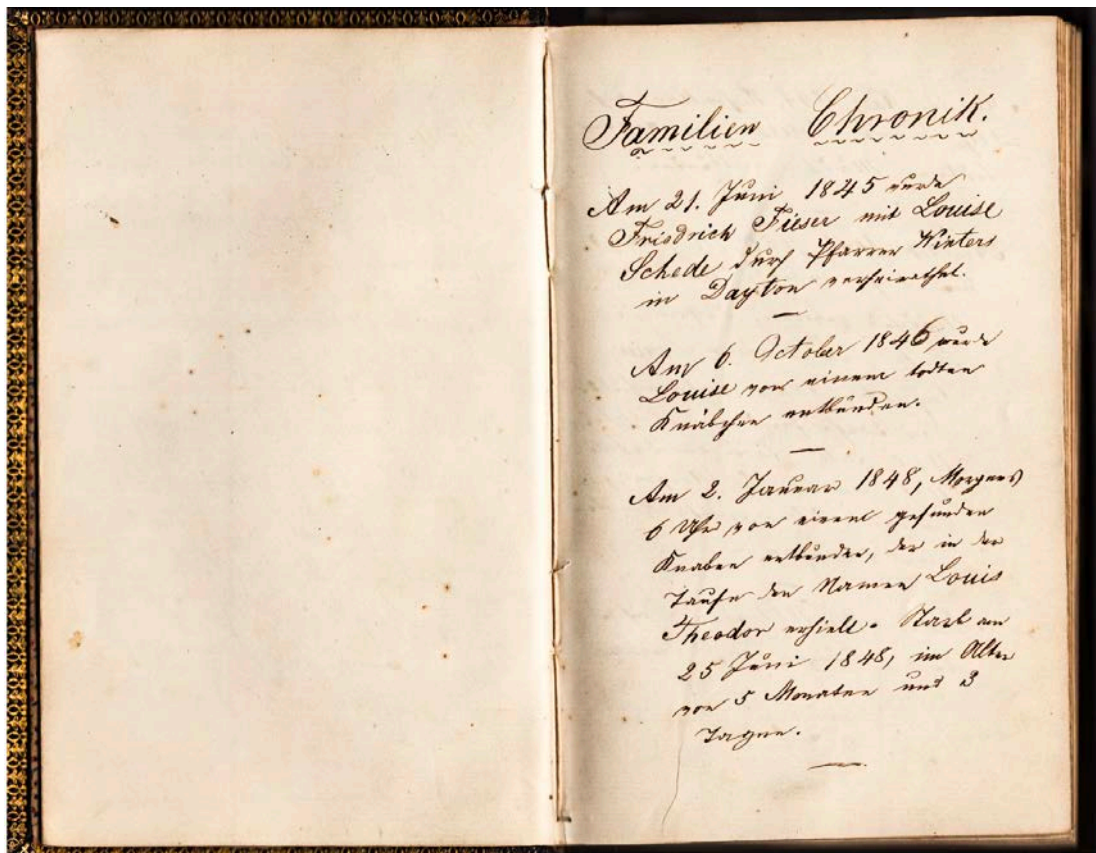
Like me, Valeska descends from a journalist, in her case, her father. I was gratified by her interest in the material and her enthusiastic participation in the project. During that strange time of isolation and increasing awareness of the need for people around the world to work together, it was a rewarding pleasure to connect with a stranger who lived in the country my ancestors left over 180 years ago, in Berlin, where I lived myself 34 years ago.

I hope that readers will enjoy this representation of a family heirloom, but I doubt anyone will have more fun reading it than I had putting it together.



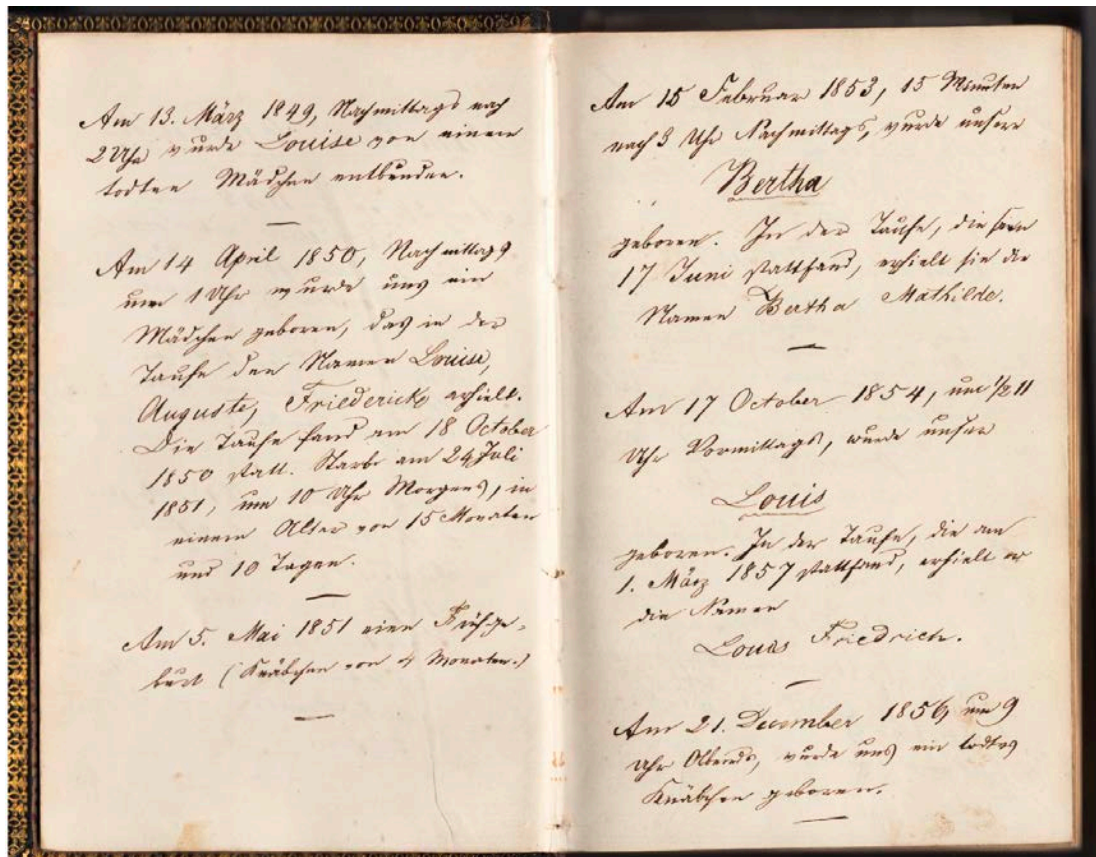
1782 on December 21st
 H. Ludwig Schede my dear
 father was born.
 He died on February 27,
 1842 at the age of 59.
 I have fought the good fight, I have
 finished the race, I have kept the faith.
 Henceforth there is laid up for me the
 crown of righteousness, which the
 Lord, the righteous judge, will award
 to me on that Day, and not only to me
 but to all who have loved his appearing.
 2 Timothy, 47, 7-8

Louise's diary entries are printed in Snell Roundhand font (above).



	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Family History</u></p> <p>On June 21, 1845 Friedrich Fieser was married to Louise Schede by the Reverend Winters in Dayton.</p> <p>—</p> <p>On October 6, 1846 Louise gave birth to a stillborn son.</p> <p>—</p> <p>On January 2, 1848 at 6 o'clock in the morning she gave birth to a second son. His name was Louis Theodor. He died on June 25, 1848, at the age of 5 months and 3 days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p>
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Friedrich Fieser's diary entries are printed in Bodoni 72 Oldstyle Book Italic (above).



On March 13, 1849 at 2 o'clock
in the afternoon Louise gave
birth to a stillborn daughter.

On April 14, 1850 at
1 o'clock in the afternoon
our baby girl was born, she
was baptized Louise
Auguste, Friedericke
on October 18, 1850.
She died on July 24, 1851
at 10 o'clock in the morning
at the age of 15 months
and 10 days.

On May 5, 1851 a miscarriage
in the 4th or 5th month.

On February 15, 1853, at 15 minutes
after 3 in the afternoon, our

Bertha

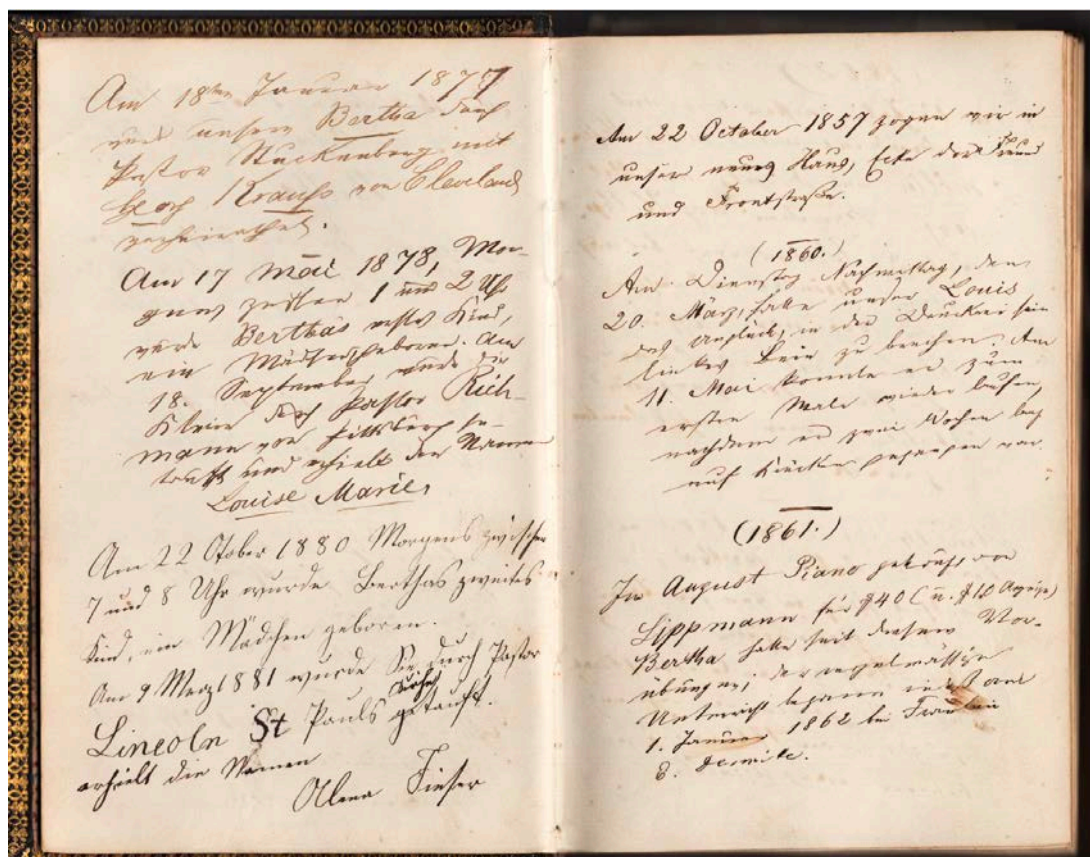
was born. On the 17th of
June she was baptized
Bertha Mathilde.

On October 17, 1854 at half past
10 o'clock in the morning our

Louis

was born. On March 1, 1857
he was baptized
Louis Friedrich.

On December 21, 1856
at 9 o'clock in the evening
our stillborn son was born.



On January 18, 1877
our Bertha was married to
George Krauss of Cleveland
by the Reverend
Stuckenborg.

On May 17, 1878, between
1 and 2 in the morning,
Bertha gave birth to a girl.
She was baptized
Louise Marie
on September 18
by Pastor Richmann
of Pittsburg.

On October 22, 1880 between
7 and 8 o'clock in the morning
Bertha gave birth to her second
girl. On March 9, 1881 she was
baptized Alma Fieser
by Pastor Lincoln
at St. Paul's Church.

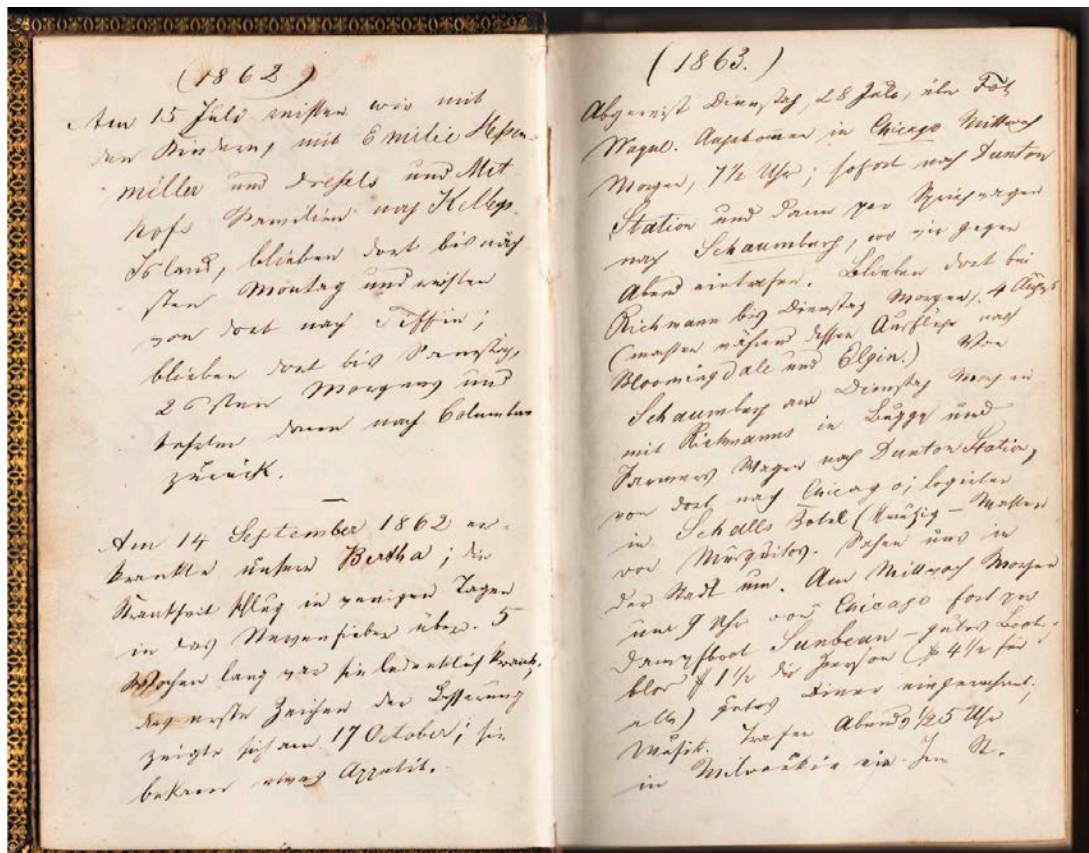
On October 22, 1857 we moved
to our new house which was on
Front Street.

(1860.)

On Tuesday afternoon,
March 20th, our Louis
broke his left leg in the
printing room and had to
stay in bed for six weeks
and, prior to the 11th of
May, walked on crutches
for two weeks.

(1861.)

in August bought a piano from
Lippmann for \$40. (a[n]d \$10
announcement/advertisement)
Bertha had since this last Nov.
practiced; the regular
lessons began however on
1 January 1862 with Miss
E. Dermile



(1862)

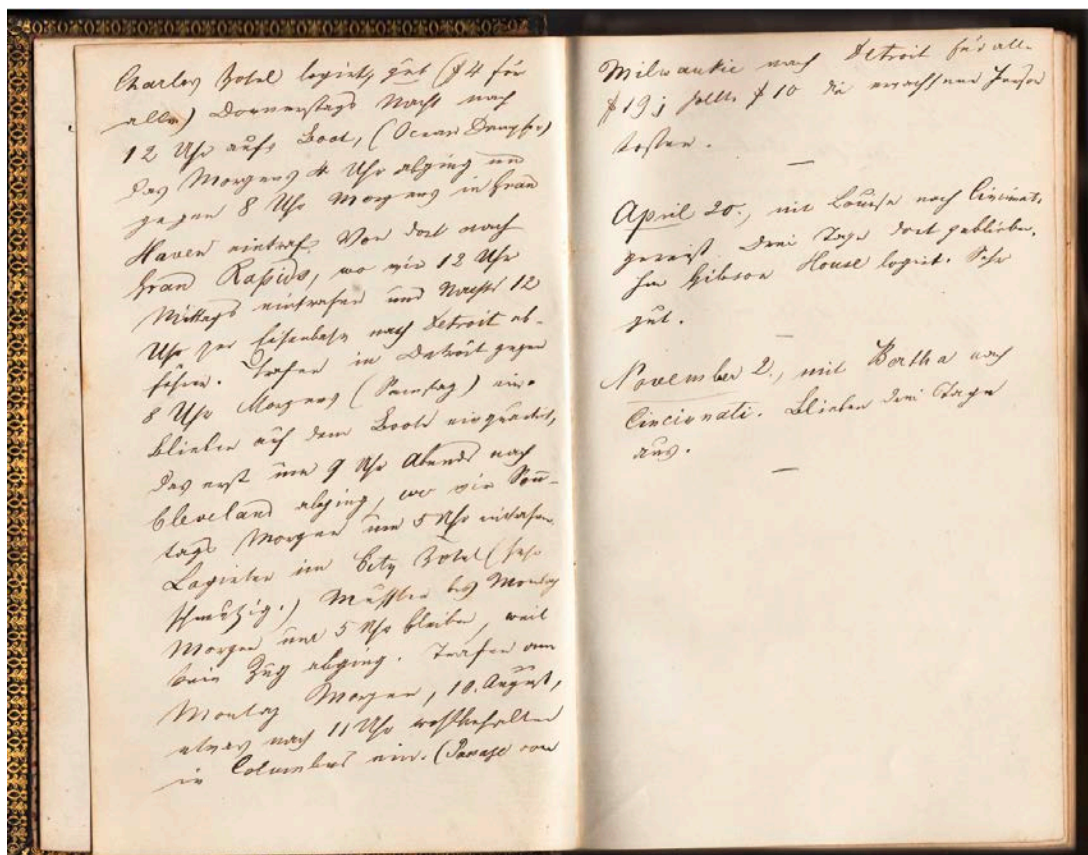
On July 15 we travelled to Kelleys Island, with the children, with Emily Hefenmiller and Dresels and Mithoff families, stayed there till the following Monday and travelled from there to Tiffin; remained there till Saturday, 26th in the morning and then went back to Columbus.

On September 14, 1862 our Bertha fell sick; after a few days the sickness turned into a nerve fever. She was seriously ill for 5 weeks. The first signs of improvement showed up on October 17; she regained some appetite.

(1863.)

Left Tuesday, 28 July, via Fort Wayne. Arrived in Chicago on Wednesday in the morning, half past 7; immediately to Dunton Station and then per coach to Schaumburg, where we arrived in the evening. Stayed there with the Rickmanns until Tuesday morning, 4 August (while there did excursions to Bloomingdale and Elgin) From Schaumburg on Tuesday morning with Rickmanns in a buggy and ... coach to Dunton Station, from there to Chicago; stayed at Schalls Hotel (ninety - masses of mosquitos). Looked around the city. On Wednesday morning left from Chicago per steamship Sunbeam - good boat, only \$1 1/2 per person (\$4 1/2 for all of us) good dinner included; music. Arrived half past 4 in the evening in Milwaukee. Stayed

Dunton Station is now called Arlington Heights. I did not understand what was meant by "ninety - masses of mosquitos" but the translator, Valeska Nygren, suggested that ninety probably referred to the temperature.



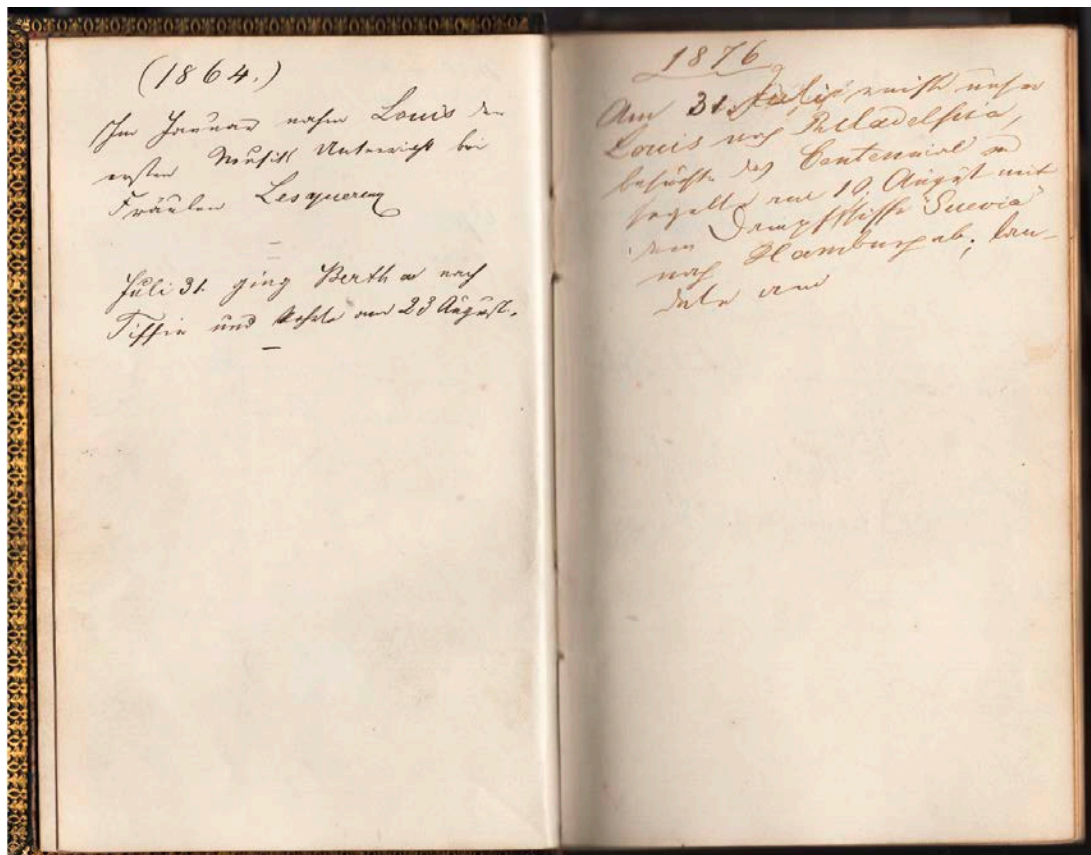
at the Charles Hotel; good (\$4 for all of us) Thursday night after 12 o'clock onto the boat (ocean steamer) which left at 4 o'clock in the morning and arrived around 8 o'clock in Gran Haven. From there to Gran Rapids, where we arrived 12 noon and left at night 12 o'clock per train to Detroit. Arrived in Detroit around 8 o'clock in the morning (Sunday) and stayed in quarters on the boat that only left for Cleveland at 9 o'clock in the evening, where we arrived on Sunday morning at 5 o'clock. Stayed at the City Hotel (very dirty). Had to stay until Monday morning at 5 o'clock, because there was no train leaving. Arrived safely in Columbus on Monday morning, 10th of August some time after 11 o'clock. (passage from

Milwaukee to Detroit for all \$19; so costs \$10 for an adult person.

April 20th, travelled with Louise to Cincinnati. Stayed there for three days. Stayed at the Gibson House. Very Good.

November 2nd, with Bertha to Cincinnati. Stayed there [?] for three days

These entries were written by Friedrich, but it's not clear who accompanied him on the first trip he describes. On the previous page, he reports paying \$4.50, or \$1.50 each, for passage on the steamer from Chicago to Milwaukee, which suggests there were three people. On the right-hand page above he writes that passage from Milwaukee to Detroit cost \$19 for all and \$10 for an adult. He may have travelled with his children, Bertha and Louis, who would have been ten and eight years old at the time.



(1864.)

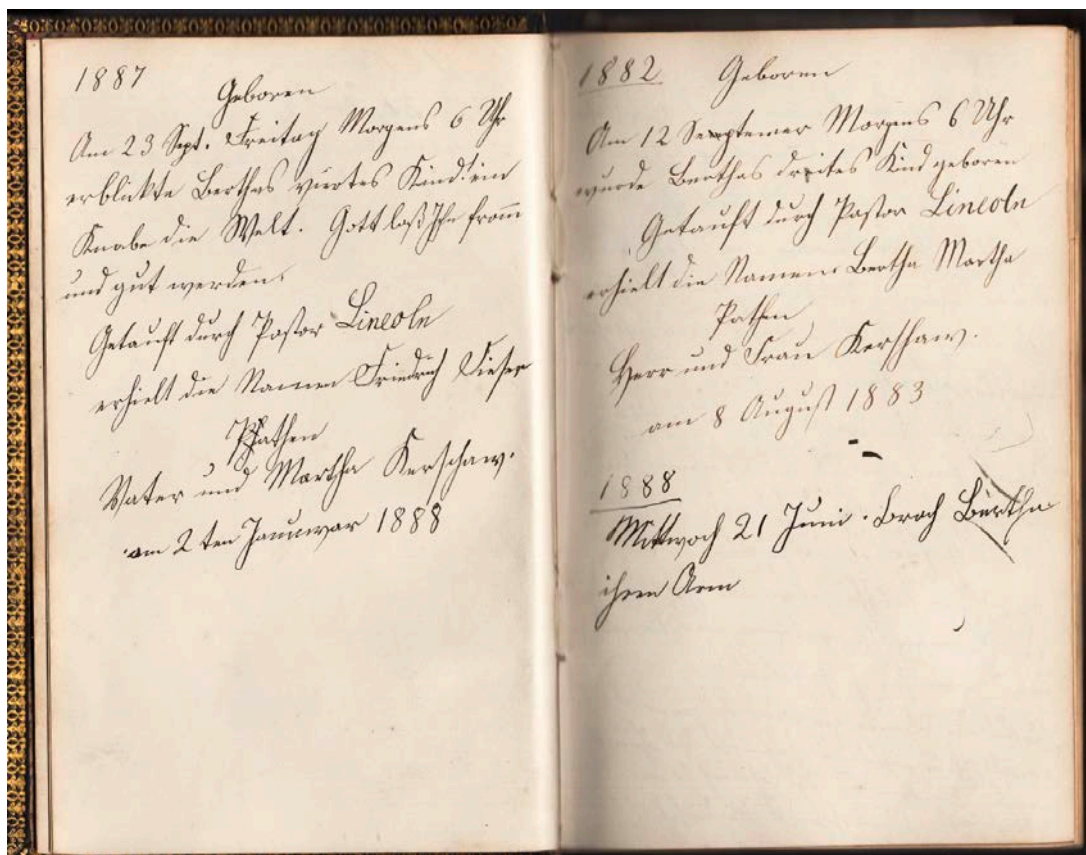
In January Louis had
his first music lessons with
Miss Lesquereux

July 31st Bertha went to
Tiffin and returned on 23 August.

1876

On 31 July our Louis travelled
to Philadelphia
visited the Centennial and
sailed on 19 August with
the steam boat "Suevia"
to Hamburg land-
ed on

The entry on the right-hand page describes Louis Fieser's departure for study in Vienna. German was the language spoken in his home, and it's likely that he had attended German public schools, where the quality of education was so high that even non-German residents of Columbus sometimes sent their children there. In this entry, as in a few others, Friedrich probably intended to fill in the arrival date at a later time and then neglected to do so.



1887

Born

On 23 September Friday morning 6 o'clock
Bertha's fourth child a boy arrived
in this world. May God let him become
godly and good.

Baptized by Pastor Lincoln
was given the name Friedrich Fieser

God parents

Father and Martha Kerschaw
on 2nd of January 1888

1882

Born

On 12th September at 6 o'clock in the
morning Bertha's third child was born

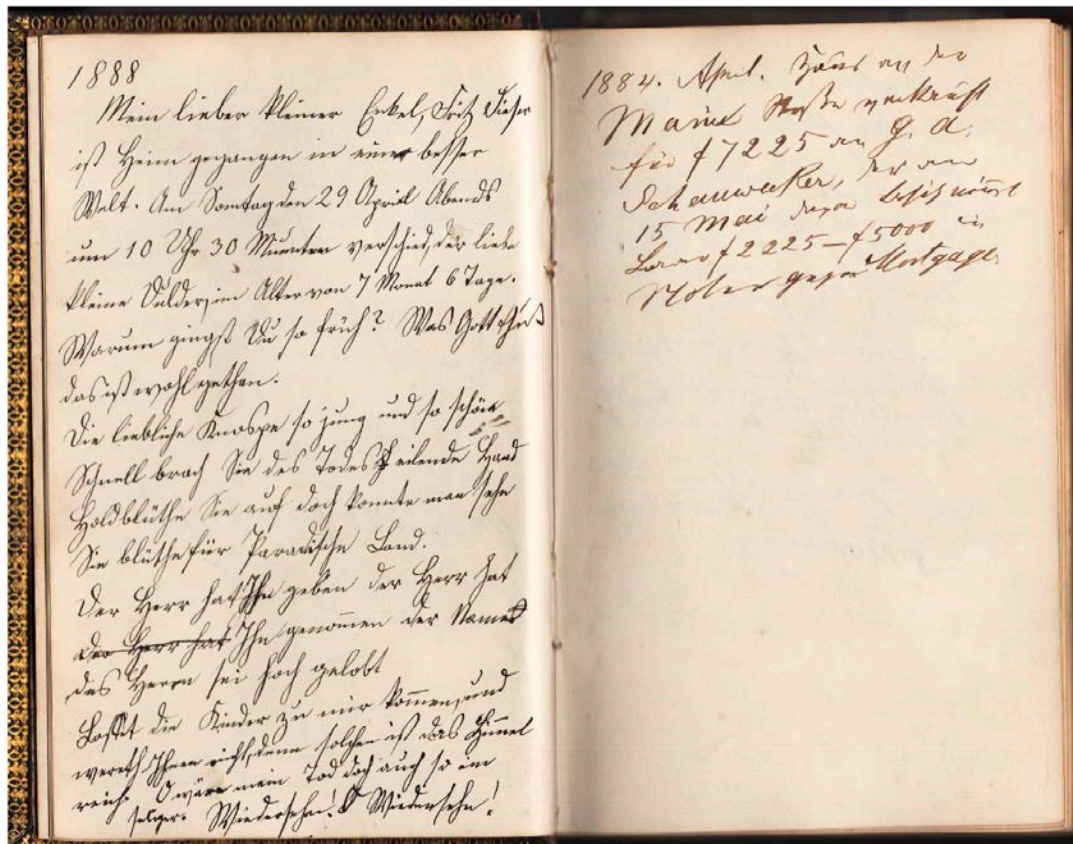
Baptized by Pastor Lincoln
was given the name Bertha Martha

God parents

Mr. and Mrs. Kerschaw.
on 8 August 1883

1888

Wednesday 21 June. Berthe broke
her arm



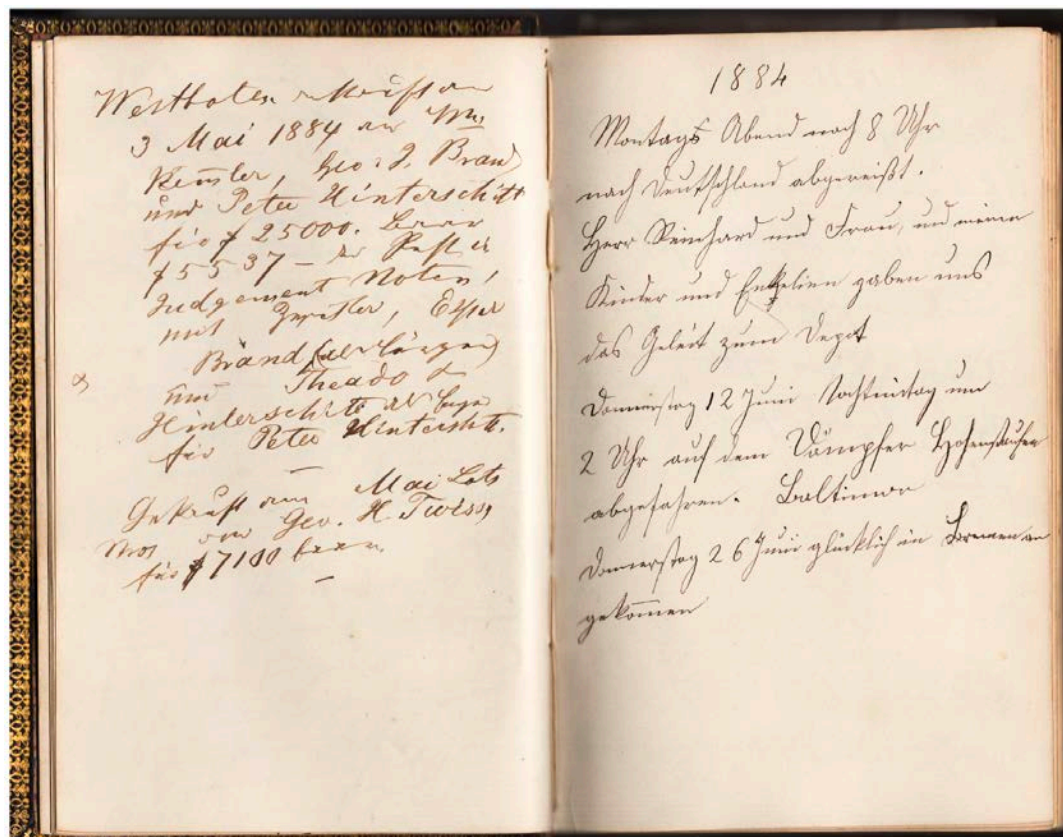
1888

My dear little grand-son, Fritz Fieser
went home to a better world.
On Sunday the 29 April in the evening
at 10 hours 30 minutes he passed, the dear
little sufferer at the age of 7 months 6 days.
Why did you go so early? What God has done
has been done well.
The sweet bud so young and so beautiful.
The swift hand of death broke it quickly
It did blossom but one could see
it blossomed for the Land of Paradise.
The Lord has given him the Lord has
taken him the name
of the Lord be praised on high.
Let the little children come to me and
do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these. O if
my death were also such a blessed one.
Good-bye! Good-bye!

1884. April. Haus an der
Main Street verkauft
für \$7225 an G. A.
Schauweker, der am
15 Mai das Haus in
Lohn \$2225 - \$5000 in
Holen gegen Mortgage.

1884. April. House on
Main Street sold
for \$7225 to G. A.
Schauweker, who on
15 May took possession of it
cash \$2225 - 5000 in
bills against mortgage.

The house on Main Street is the same house referred to in an earlier diary entry as "our new house on Front Street" that the family moved into on October 22, 1857. During the 26 1/2 years the Fiesers lived there, Front Street was renamed Main Street.



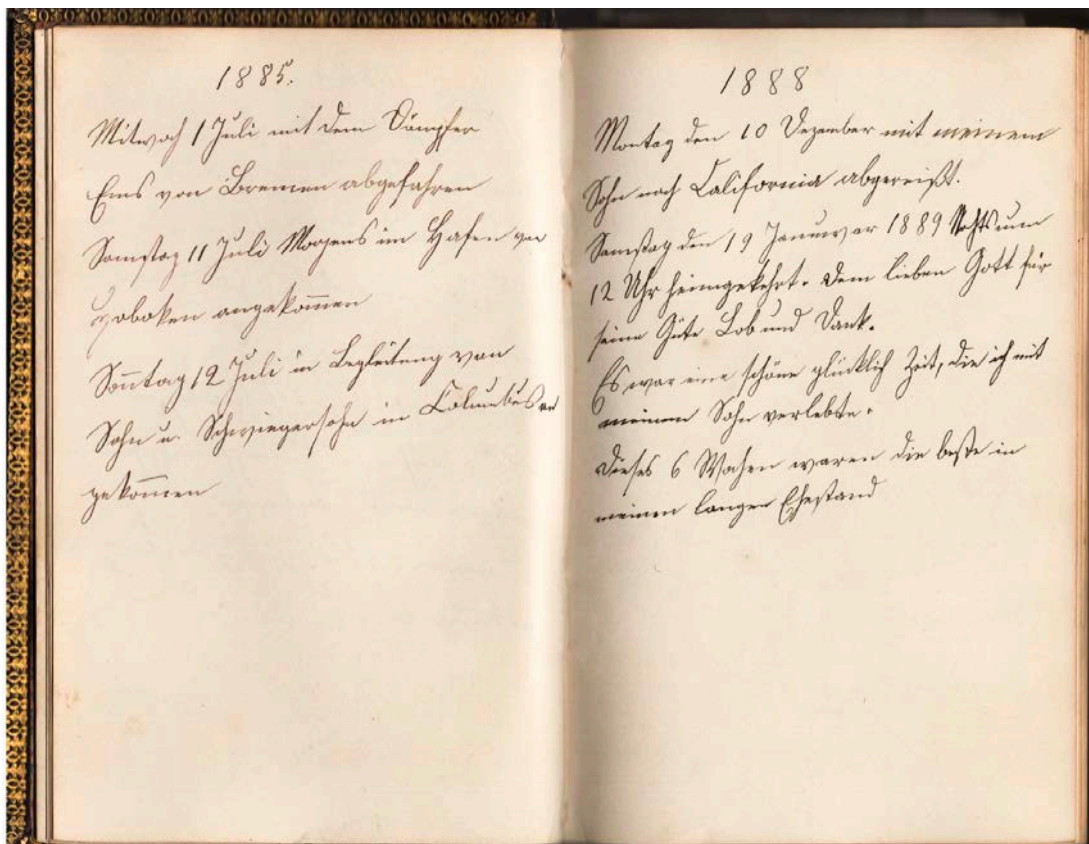
Westboten sold on
3 May 1884 to Mr.
Kemmler, George Brandt
and Peter Hinterschiitt
for \$25000. cash
\$5537 - the rest in
judgment notes,
with \ second[?], first [?]
Brand (extend)
and Theodor
Hinterschiitt as guarantor
for Peter Hinterschiitt

Bought on May Lots
Nos[?] from Geo. H. Twiss,
for \$7100 cash.

1884

Departed for Germany
Monday evening after 8.
Mr. Reinhard and his wife and
my children and grandchildren
went with us to the depot.
Departed Thursday afternoon
June 12 at 2 on the steamer
Kohlenstaufen. Baltimore[?]
Arrived safely Thursday,
June 26, in Bremen.

The notes about the purchase of property from George Twiss are incomplete. Mr. Twiss lived on Hamilton Avenue, it is possible that the sale above was for property on Hamilton Avenue, where Friedrich and Louise lived in 1888 (per Columbus directory) and probably earlier, after their 1885 return from European travels. After Friedrich retired from journalism and sold his share of the newspaper in May 1884 and the family home in April 1884, Friedrich and Louise went to Germany and toured their homeland and other places in Europe for just over a year.



1885.

Left on Wednesday 1st of July
from Bremen with the steamer Ems.
Arrived at Hoboken harbor on
Sunday 11 July in the morning.
Arrived in Columbus on Sunday 12
July
accompanied by son and son-
in-law.

1888

Left for California with my
son on Monday, December 10.
Returned Saturday,
January 19, 1889, at
midnight. Praise and thanks
be to the dear Lord
for his kindness.
These 6 weeks were the best
in my long marriage.

The journal entry on the left-hand page documents Friedrich and Louise's trip home after their year-long European tour.

The Far Reach of The Bulletin

Bulletin Editors

As a genealogical writer, you may have many reasons for submitting an article to *The Bulletin*. Perhaps you want to create a cohesive manuscript based on months or years of research. You might want to share an interesting story or research path with other genealogists and historians. You may want to draw attention to a helpful resource. Whatever your reason for writing, we know your articles have lives beyond publication dates. In early December 2024, researchers in two countries contacted the Genealogical Forum of Oregon about articles from *The Bulletin*. Nanci Remington got a message on Ancestry about a third article included in a podcast. That led her to go through some emails to find other articles that generated responses.

Articles from *The Bulletin* have been found by researchers around the world. Some of these connections happen years after publication. Here are some examples. Do you have others?



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 70, Number 2 December, 2020

In This Issue

- The Family Bible of Isaac N. Patton and Anna Boyd Porter
- Mindful Transcription: Adapting Methodology from my Television Career to Genealogy
- Finding the Father of my Grandmother Dolores "Dorothy" May Coberly
- Letter to the Descendants of Abies William Radcliffe
- The Adams Bible Challenge: Finding the Connection Between Sarah Elizabeth Adams and Bertha Lenora Adams
- William Levett and Jane Skinner of Sevenoaks, Kent, England
- Book Reviews
- Calendar & More!

**The Life of Donald McLeod (1813–1873):
From the Isle of Lewis in Scotland to the
Willamette Valley in Oregon**



by Bonnie Randolph

- Bonnie Randolph recently received an email from Scotland about her Donald McLeod article. She is going to Scotland in the spring and has a new contact there.



- Arlene Green and her daughter Chelsee were invited to a quilt exhibition in North Carolina after the curator found her family through an article in *The Bulletin* (below). Photo courtesy of Arlene Green.

Searching for the Ancestors of Mary Ellen Cheatham (1869–unknown) of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana

Nanci Remington

A few years ago, Arlene Green came to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) looking for help finding her ancestors. She was just beginning her search but had accumulated a collection of funeral notices, obituaries, and oral histories going back at least two generations. She was in touch with many of her living relatives from all over the United States. Arlene was open to suggestions and soon began learning the ins and outs of putting together an online tree. Along the way she learned the lessons we all learn about not copying from other people's family trees and discerning the good hints from the ones that lead us astray. She learned to document her findings. She did not hesitate to call repositories for information not found online.

Her tree grew. She found new cousins. She made the acquaintance of librarians in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Kansas. She had her DNA tested.

Then she started hitting roadblocks that have so far proven insurmountable. That is because Arlene's family

(b) ENTER YOUR WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME OR YOUR HUSBAND'S NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (If Unknown, give age)	DATE OF MARRIAGE
Bertha B. Dunaway	26/00	9/29/12

Marriage date of William B. Turner and Bertha Dunaway from William's railroad board pension file.



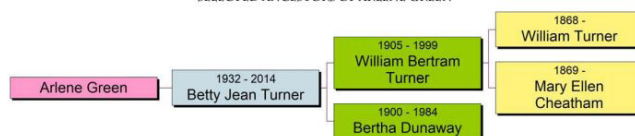
Betty J. Turner Green and her father William B. Turner. Photo courtesy of Arlene Green.

is African American. And once she tried to search earlier than 1870, records became scarce. To illustrate some of the challenges, we will follow the search for the parents and grandparents of Mary Ellen Cheatham, Arlene's great-grandmother.

THE GRANDPARENTS— WILLIAM B. TURNER AND BERTHA DUNAWAY

Arlene knew her grandfather William "Poppa" Bertram Turner and grandmother Bertha "Annie" Dunaway. William B. was born in Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, on 26 July 1905. Bertha was born 8 February 1900 in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas. They lived in Kansas City, where William worked for the railroad. No marriage record has been found, but William's railroad board pension file, ordered from the National Archives in Georgia, gave the marriage date as 9 September 1929.

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF ARLENE GREEN



In Memoriam

Carol Diane (Huebner) Castleman
1940–2023

Carol Castleman died 16 November 2023 in Portland, Washington County, Oregon, at the age of 82. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum from 1978 to 2020, where she served as a volunteer at the front desk, library, and on other projects, notably in the 1990s.

Carol was born on 24 December 1940 in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, as the third daughter of William and Jeanette (Horton) Huebner. The family soon moved to North Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where she attended Kenton Elementary School (closed 2006) with her friend and later fellow genealogist Jan Fenter. But as a teenager she moved to California with her father and attended Eureka High School. By 1960 she was back in North Portland working as an office secretary.

In 1964 she married John "Larry" Castleman and settled on the west side of Portland. They raised two children and Carol returned to school, after which she became a librarian at nearby Woodrow Wilson High School.

A family genealogist from childhood, Carol kept notes on her many family interviews. In retirement, she traced some of their history to Canada, Germany, Poland, and Russia, adapting to the use of computers in her work and helping others with the same. In 1998 she encountered her childhood friend Jan Fenter while volunteering at the front desk for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, where they both became research assistants, working on projects and attending seminars together. Carol later took over facilitation of a small beginner's genealogy group at the Lake Oswego Library where she helped members with their research, as she'd previously done with GFO. Her friend Jan notes, "she always went out of her way to help her friends, going the extra mile."

Carol was preceded in death by her beloved older sisters Bonita and Beverly. Survivors include spouse Larry Castleman, son Blaine, daughter Kim, several grandchildren, and longtime friend Jan Fenter.



- Jan Fenter recently received an email from a researcher in Denmark because she was mentioned as a friend of Carol Castleman in the latter's obituary in *The Bulletin*.

English Wedding
Rose: the Picture
Puzzle of an Awdry
Wedding

By: Mark Grafe

My grandfather, R. Heber Radcliffe, inherited photo albums of family from England. These albums included a loose wedding picture with captions in two different scripts. Above the photo, written in ink, was: "Marriage at Monkton of Miss Awdry at the residence of her father, West Awdry Esq." Someone added "Rose?" after "Miss Awdry" in pencil. Below the photo, also in pencil, is "Sir John Awdry, K. C. B."

(Chief Judge of India) & Lady Awdry – grandparents of Bride – (Centre white waistcoat). Then the pencil continued with "West Awdry & Mrs. W. Awdry (son of Sir John) against (right) wall. Bridegroom's parents are unknown." The photo appears glued to cardboard and a different wedding picture with Radcliffe ancestors is on the back. West Awdry was Heber Radcliffe's third cousin and their most recent common ancestors were Ambrose Awdry IV and Christina Delmé.

I decided to delve further into the relationships



Awdry family marriage, Monkton, Chippingham, Wiltshire, England.

Original photo owned by R. Heber Radcliffe, only digital copy in the possession of the author.

between all of the listed parties on the photo, to see if I could find the proper connections and try to prove or disprove the information written in pencil.

I was able to confirm that the West Awdry family lived at Monkton House, Chippingham, Wiltshire, England, in 1861 when West was approximately 54 years old. A Google Maps search for "Monkton, England" shows Monkton in Ramsgate, Kent, England. However, my grandfather knew that third great-grandparents, Peter Awdry and Elizabeth (Guy) Awdry, were married in Chippingham, Wiltshire, England. A fourth cousin in England sent me a link to an old map showing where Elizabeth Guy's father lived in Chippingham. Monkton appears as a suburb northeast of Chippingham, confirmed on Google Maps as Monkton Cottage. "Monkton" can refer to a building or a location and is also a street and a park in Chippingham. The comments on the photos appear to use the two spellings interchangeably.

I then decided to review the albums more closely. The information in pencil may have come from other information in Heber's inherited photo albums. For instance, Sir John Awdry, Lady Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. West Awdry, and Rose Awdry might be identified in other pictures in the albums. I found a photo captioned "Rose Awdry" of a young girl about twelve years old. Another picture titled "Sir John Awdry's family 1872" has "Rose"

Rose Awdry
Original photo owned by R. Heber Radcliffe, only digital copy in the possession of the author.

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VALENTINE WALTER TOMKINS

Excerpted from History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea, Volume III, a local history by Fred Lockley, which is available at the GFO library.

Val W. Tomkins, who for nearly fifty years has been engaged in government work in Washington and Oregon, and for over twenty years has served as superintendent of the Cascade locks, is regarded as one of the most competent men connected with the government public works in the Pacific northwest. Mr. Tomkins was born in Cork, Ireland, on the 25th of June, 1864, a son of Valentine and Fanny Ann Louisa (Carnegie) Tomkins, the former born in Lancashire, England, and the latter in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Val W. Tomkins attended private schools in his native city and in 1889, when twenty-five years old, came to the United States. He went first to Portland, Oregon, and thence to Newport, that state, where he worked for the United States government, being employed for about a year in the construction of a jetty. Returning to Portland, he was engaged in making survey maps of the Columbia river from Portland to Astoria. In February, 1890, he was sent to Cascade Locks, and was there employed at office work until the fall of that year, when he was returned to the Portland office. In 1891 he was placed in charge of the construction of a dyke at Hayden island, on the Columbia river, remaining there until 1893, when he was sent back to Cascade Locks. He was employed in the office of the engineering staff until June, 1898, when he was sent to Lafayette, Yamhill county, as inspector of the lock and dam built there on the Yamhill river. In the fall of that year he returned to Portland and held an assignment in the government office there until July, 1907, when he was transferred back to Cascade Locks as superintendent, in charge of maintenance and construction, and has held that position continuously since.

Val W. Tomkins, who gave me [Fred Lockley] much of the information contained in this article, has been in charge of the locks since 1907 and is a perfect mine of information and statistics. A trip from Portland to the cascades on the Columbia is one of the most picturesque and enjoyable trips of its kind in America and it is one whose recollections of beauty and majesty will haunt one's memory ever after.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Val W. Tomkins was married in 1895 to Miss Aulda Brunker, who was born in Scio, Linn county, Oregon, and is a daughter of Edward W. and Emmaline (Trotter) Brunker, the former born on Narragansett island, Massachusetts, and now living in California, at the age of eighty-six years, while the mother, who was a native of Virginia, died in January, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Tomkins are the parents of four children.

Mr. Tomkins is a member of Bridal Veil Lodge, No. 177, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master; the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Woodmen of the World, of which he is camp clerk. He and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Tomkins is also president of the Hood River County Pioneer Association. His career has been marked by faithful and effective performance of duty under varied conditions and his record as superintendent of the Cascade locks is one of which he has just reason for pride. A man of thorough technical knowledge, sound judgment and quick decision, he is held in high regard by all who have been associated with him and commands the unqualified respect of his fellowmen throughout this district.

Tomkins's obituary reported that he retired in July 1934. He died on 5 June 1937 in Jackson County, Oregon. According to his funeral notice, services were held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland, and he was to be buried at Lincoln Memorial Park.



Val Tomkins. Courtesy of Jim Emmons.

- An article about Val Tomkins led to a contact from the Jackson Valley (Oregon) Genealogical Society with more information.

Linnemann Adventures:
Johann Gerhard Dietrich
Linnemann (1827-1892) and
Catherine Elizabeth Von Felde
(1828-1926)

Carole Linneman

Imagine my surprise upon moving to Gresham, Oregon, and finding that the dead can speak and tell their stories. These stories reveal the people who dedicated their lives to their dreams and so developed this community.

One of the early pioneers to share his past is Mr. Johann Gerhard Dietrich Linnemann, born in 1827, telling of his decision when he was 18 years old to leave his family, friends, and country. His journey begins as he departs from Quakenbrück in northern Germany. He boards the ship *Louise* in Bremen and makes the long trip across the Atlantic to America, equipped with tools of his tailor trade—a thimble, needles, scissors, and determination. He arrives in New York in 1845.

Mr. Linnemann soon begins practicing his tailor trade in Chester, Illinois, south of St. Louis, Missouri, and right on the bluffs of the Mississippi. He settles into this area, which is the starting point of many pioneers heading west. He dreams of owning his own land. Rooming at a boarding house and saving his money, he learns that Donation Land Claims—160 acres for a single man and 320 for a married man—are available in Oregon.

In 1851, Mr. Linnemann meets a young lady, Catherine Elizabeth Von Felde, born in 1828 in Gerde, Germany, as she arrives in New Orleans. He brings her up the Mississippi to Illinois and marries her in November of that year. He shares his dream with her, and together they prepare for a journey and join a group heading west in the spring of 1852.

After many grueling miles and difficult challenges, the Linnemanns strike out on their own. The oxen die, and they pull their own cart carrying a sick friend the last 800 miles. Mrs. Linnemann's skirt is tattered from the brush and brambles, and her feet are dusty and sore. Both of them have hands rough and splintered from the handle of the wagon. At last the Columbia River is in



Johann Gerhard Dietrich Linnemann. Photos courtesy the author.

sight, and boarding a barge they float to Portland in September of 1852, ending their four-month journey.

Mr. Linnemann sets up a tailor shop with living quarters on Third Street in downtown Portland. In 1852 there are only 400 inhabitants in Portland, and Mr. Linnemann is the first tailor. Their land claim is filed in 1853 after they search and choose 320.43 acres 12 miles east of Portland. Land claim number 4186 is a dense forest that needs clearing. Cultivating and developing the land for four years is their part of the contract to own that land.

The land clearing starts on the weekends, and a small cabin is built. Mrs. Linnemann soon moves to the land and scratches out a garden. She spends lonely weekdays by herself as Mr. Linnemann travels the 12 miles to town by foot and ferry to make suits for the people of Portland. He carries supplies on his back on the weekend trips home.

A man approaches Mr. Linnemann around 1857 with the request of caring for his daughter, whose mother has died. The Linnemanns have no children of their own. They welcome the small child, Iona McLaughlin, born in 1855, into their home when she is about two years of

- In 2019, Mark Grafe was contacted about an image by a museum in the United Kingdom after an article about an English wedding.

- Carole Linneman was contacted by a distant cousin after her Linneman article appeared in 2017.

The Bulletin

Why Gueriot?

How an Unusual Middle Name
Unlocked More Than Four Centuries
of Lost Family History—The
Connection Between Louis Gueriot
(1799–1888) of England and Felicité
Gueriot (1767–Abt. 1823) of France

David Butt

AUTHOR'S NOTE

A word of caution to my reader: This is not a biography; it is a detective story, but a detective story with a wrinkle. Hercule Poirot always convinces me that he has uncovered the true course of events; I make no such claim. I have spent two decades stumbling on fresh evidence, and I have altered my hypotheses about the basic relationships among the principal actors as often as I changed the configuration of my vegetable garden. Read on! Draw your own conclusions. New evidence may contradict my present theory. The only claim I make is that, given what I know today, my current hypothesis, presented at the end of this article is at least plausible.

A RESEARCH PROJECT OF SOME DURATION

My cousin, Roger Gueriot Butt and I occasionally wondered why he and his father (my uncle) shared an



unusual middle name—Gueriot. Not a typical English family name. Possibly French? But why would my Uncle Wally and Cousin Roger have a French middle name? As children, my cousin and I both asked our respective parents, “Why Gueriot?” My father’s answer was typically terse: “Frog in the family.” Roger got an equally unhelpful response: “Don’t know, don’t care, possibly Huguenot.” So, the subject lay dormant for about fifty years. Then, in 1995, I took up the challenge.

Shortly before my Mum died in 1994, she gave me family photos dating back to the 1880s, but she gave me no clues about whether they were from her side of the family or from my Dad’s. This sparked an interest in genealogy: who were these people? I knew my grandparents were Walter Louis Butt and Edith Florence Bland, and William Henry Selby and Sarah Needham, but I had no birthdates, no places of birth, no marriage records, nothing further back. I made a lot of progress during that first decade but, as of November 2004, the Butt side of the family was still a problem.



Shepton Mallet, Cheshire, and London. From Atlas to Crutwell’s Gazetteer, 1799.



- David Butt’s “fascinating and informative article” about the Gueriot and Landragin families caught the attention of the Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries in S.E. London, England. The story was added to their guided walks.

Abducted!

The story of Willhelmina
“Minnie” (Tjaden) Tannler
(1874–1946)

Carole Linneman

March 30, 1902, Gresham, Oregon
Dear Mother

I received your letter and you don’t know how happy I was to hear from you. But in all those years my father made me tell everybody that my mother was dead. But I can still remember how he took me away from Iowa. Took me to have such an unhappy and lonely life many a thousand times have I thought of my mother and I guess mother has thought of me too. I will write you some of my past life. For I think you would like to know after we left Iowa he took me away in a buggy to a place called Marshalltown and from there to Denver. I went by the name of Minnie Miller. He worked in a brickyard for a while at Denver. I was at some boarding house first in one place and then in another always strangers and from there we next went to Kansas for a short time and then he got married and then we went back to Colorado again. We lived there a short time and then he left this woman and came to Portland and then changed my name to Minnie Smith which name I always went by. I was about 8 years old when we came to Portland and then I had to keep house for him. He told I’d ought to keep house as good as a woman. I never had any one to show me or learn me how to cook. What a merry time did I cry and wished



Headline from The Des Moines Register (Des Moines, Iowa), 1 June 1904.

per and would get mad at almost nothing. The last time he got married that woman spent all his money and after that he drove an express wagon and at that he could not enough to buy his horse feed and then I had to go make a living for him. I then got a place in a minister family and got \$20. I worked there two years and on pay day he would come and get my money. To take a woman to the Theater with.

When I was 19 I got married to a Swiss man who is now a very good and kind husband. It will be 10 years the 22 of next Sept that I got married and have five children 3 girls and 2 boys their names are Ida, Minnie, Rosa, Bennie and Henry. The oldest is 8 years and the youngest is 10 months. It will be 8 years the 7 of April that my father died of heart disease very suddenly only sick 8 hours. When I was first married we lived on a farm 5 miles out of

Stories of Early Oregon:

Clara Elizabeth (Rands) Worden (1902–1998)
and the Oregon Pioneer Ancestors of Her Husband,
Oliver Raymond Worden (1896–1954)

Debra Koehler

To discover stories about Oregon pioneers prior to statehood, one of the better places to look is the library of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). A quick search of the library’s online catalog turns up more than 200 sources including the papers of the provisional and territorial government of Oregon, an immigrant’s guide to the Oregon Territory published in 1845, and abstracts of Oregon newspapers from 1846–1895.

But one resource that is often overlooked is the Bafick Personal Papers, which is found within the GFO’s manuscript collection. Included in the Bafick papers is a life entitled *Stories of Early Oregon* that contains more than a dozen personal reminiscences from descendants of some of Oregon’s earliest pioneers. Among them is an unsorted reminiscence by Clara E. Worden (1902–1998) in which she claims her husband descended from the Carmi and Peggy Goodrich family that came to the Oregon Territory via the Oregon Trail in 1845. Clara goes on to say that Lydia Ann Goodrich, Carmi and Peggy’s daughter, was her husband’s grandmother; and that another Goodrich daughter, Nancy, later married Reuben Gant, who looms large in Oregon history as the driver of the first wagon over the famed Barlow Road.

If true, Clara’s story would place her husband’s ancestors at the center of one of the more dramatic and significant stories in early Oregon history: The Oregon Trail was a wagon road that stretched for 2,000 miles from various points in Missouri to Oregon City, the gateway to the rich farmland in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Among those who came west via the Trail, according to Clara, were members of the Carmi and Peggy Goodrich family.



Carmi Goodrich, credited
Courtesy of descendants
Julie Caldwell



The Barlow Cutoff by William Henry Jackson. Oregon’s Mt. Hood can be seen in the distance. Courtesy Sears-Roebuck National Monument.

Carmi and Peggy Goodrich... were real pioneers of Oregon who came in the Welch Barlow wagon train in 1845. They left Ripley County, Indiana, with eleven of their 13 children, ages 1 to 20. After many days and much hardship, they arrived at the Dalles. Here, a decision had to be made...

The Dalles (rhymes with gals and then called Wascopam after the Methodist mission there) sits at the eastern mouth of the Columbia River Gorge in northern Oregon, and in 1845, it was the end of the line for overland travel on the Oregon Trail. The gorge’s cliffs were too steep and its rapids too deep to be navigated in an ox-drawn wagon. Pioneers either had to abandon their loaded wagons and continue through the Cascade Mountains on horseback and foot, or dismantle their wagons and load the contents and parts onto flat-bottomed boats to “shoot the rapids” of the Columbia River for 80-plus miles through the gorge.²

© 2005, Debra Koehler, Elston, Oregon (vickidk@gmail.com). Online sources last accessed 23 June 2020.

1. “Oregon Trail,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Oregon-Trail>).

2. Clara E. Worden, “The Barlow Trail to Oregon: An Account of Life in the 1840s,” undated, Bafick Personal Papers, Acc. 2019.12, Digital Manuscript Collection, Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library (Portland), File 30, *Stories of Early Oregon*, pp. 31–35.

3. “Land of the Overland Oregon Trail,” *Historic The Dalles* (<http://historicthedalles.org/history/overland-oregon-trail/>). Also, Kit Lookinga, “The Oregon Trail,” *Pioneer Trails West* (The Canyon Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1983), p. 198. Also, “Wascopam Mission,” The Oregon Encyclopedia (<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/>).

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- This article about early Oregonians was read by the members of the Champoe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution who were looking for descendants.

These responses demonstrate that while genealogical writing is for preserving your own history and sharing it with your family, your stories may help other researchers in their quest for information. Please consider writing up your research and submitting an article to *The Bulletin*! Though you may not think your topic is of interest outside of your own family, the above responses illustrate that it may be. *The Bulletin* readers will appreciate your work!

WRITING TIPS AND RESOURCES

Remember to write with your readers in mind. You likely have been working on your family history for some time, but your readers have not. Clear introductory statements outlining the purpose of the article combined with a step-by-step guide to your research path and well-cited sources will help your readers in their own work (even if your reader is you in the future!). Genealogical Forum of Oregon offers a writers interest group (*The Writers’ Room*) and *The Bulletin* (bulletin@gfo.org) has editors who can help shape your drafts into articles.

- Another story by Carole Linneman found its way to the podcast *Shadows from the Tree* that focuses on “uncovering the hidden stories of our ancestors’ pasts through the exploration of newspaper archives and historical research.” The episode was called “Abducted and Abandoned.”

Occupations of Selected Ancestors from Berleburg, Germany, beginning with Johann Daniel Kessler (1805–1889)

Mark Grafe

While riding the train through remote areas of Germany, my wife asked, “What do these people do for work?” Well—there are students, small business employees, government workers, teachers, and volunteers. Occupational information can be helpful to genealogists—to track ancestors, differentiate them, provide insight into their lives, and explain names. While certain people had multiple occupations over the course of their lives, other ancestors did not have anything recorded. And though various people had a title referring to their business or position in society, some German words, such as *Herr*, do not translate well to current English. Today’s job descriptions may not describe work done years ago, but this is what I found for my ancestors in one German town.



Norbert Schmitzler, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikipedia

Berleburg, Germany, 2004.

DIE SCHNEIDER (THE TAILORS)

My third great-grandfather, Johan Daniel Kessler (1805–1889), born in Berleburg, Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, died in Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa. He was described as a *Bürger zu Berleburg und Schneider* (citizen of Berleburg and tailor).¹ Daniel was listed as an *Inwohner und Schneidermeister* (resident and master tailor) on his wife’s 1863 death record.²

Muscatine was known for manufacturing buttons from clam shells harvested from the Mississippi River, and sewing machines were mass-produced by 1860. It is unknown if someone else employed Daniel. When Daniel immigrated in 1864, he probably worked by hand at home.

Daniel’s father, my fourth great-grandfather Johann Wilhelm Kessler (1764–1820), was also a *Bürger* and *Schneidermeister*.³ Citizenship was mandatory when inheriting, buying, or building a house, which may have been necessary for a craftsman.⁴



Wikipedia, Daniel Chodowiecki, public domain.

The Tailor with his Assistants, 1774.

1. Alfred Bruns, editor, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch* (Münster: Westphalia Archives Office, Germany, 1985), 239, 281. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, Muscatine (July 1870), p. 43, stamped, 229, dwelling 318, family 318, Daniel Kessler, tailor, in the household of John Grafe; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/records/35632128> : accessed 30 April 2025).

2. “Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971,” digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61229/images/0923185-00060?pid=5116915> : accessed 18 October 2024); citing Berleburg, Germany, death register, Florentine Christiane (Kemper) Kessler, 2 April 1863, burial 5 April 1863.

3. “Konfirmation 1795-1805 (die Prinzen betreffend), Taufen 1795-1807, Konfirmationen 1798-1804, Trauungen 1798-1807,” *Archion* (*Archion.de* : accessed 4 April 2024), image 99; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johann Daniel Kessler, 28 March 1805.

4. “Bürger,” *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bürger> : accessed 24 February 2025).



A Tailor's Coat of Arms. *Wikipedia*, image by Chris, CC BY 3.0.

A citizen was entitled to

... share in all city benefits, justice, freedoms, such as wood justice, water supply, pasture, shed, protection, - let us add brewing beer, entry into city offices and honors - although not without dutiful compensation in form of personal services for public buildings, paths and the *Beede*, i.e. the taxpayer.⁵

A tailor would have used scissors, needles, thread, and irons to process textiles into clothing. A German *Schneidermeister* during this time may have had assistants and belonged to a guild. This fourth great-grandfather may have hung a sign outside his home advertising his craft or guild. A large old type of scissors was the logo for a *Schneidermeister*.⁶

Both of Daniel's grandfathers were tailors. Daniel's paternal grandfather, my fifth great-grandfather Christian Philip Keßler (1717–1780), was a *Bürger*, *Hofschneider* (Court tailor), and *Handelsmann* (merchant).⁷ Daniel's maternal grandfather, my fifth great-grandfather Johann Philip Fuchs (1739–1805), was a *Bürger* and *Schneidermeister*,⁸ and Daniel's maternal great-grandfather, my sixth great-grandfather Johann Heinrich Dreissbach

(1720–1795), was a *Bürger*, *Kirchenältester* (church elder), and *Schneidermeister*.⁹ Daniel also had a great-grandfather on his father's side, my sixth great-grandfather Johann Georg Emmert (ca.1711–?), who was described as a *Bürger*, *Schneider*, *Schneidermeister*, and *Hofschneider*,¹⁰ a Court tailor who made a specific type of clothing worn by the ruling class. My fifth and sixth great-grandfathers were preceded by my seventh great-grandfather, Leopold Fuchs (1686–1757), a *Bürger*, *Kirchenältester*, and *Schneidermeister*.¹¹

The surname Schneider appears in this generation of my German ancestors. The occupation of seventh great-grandpa Matthias Schneider (ca.1666–1730) was not identified, but seventh great-grandpa Johann Georg Schneider (1668–1740) appeared as a *Bürger* or *Gemeindsleute* (citizen or community member).¹² Eighth



Image by Kuerschner, *Wikipedia*, public domain.

Tailor's oven.

5. Johann Georg Hinsberg, *Berleburgs Alten Kirchenbüchen* (Berleburg's Old Church Books), 1909, p. 63.

6. "Schneider," *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schneider> : accessed 13 February 2025).

7. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 176, 182, 281. Also, "Taufen 1754-1780, Konfirmationen 1754-1779, Trauungen 1754-1779, Beerdigungen 1754-1780," *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 22 March 2024), image 316; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage proclamation, page 21, Christian Philip Kessler, *Hofschneider und Bürger allhier Witwer*, and Johanna Louisa Winter, *Witwer*, 4 January 1760.

8. "Taufen 1780-1792, Konfirmationen 1780-1798, Taufen 1792-1793, Trauungen 1780-1797, Taufen 1794-1795, Beerdigungen 1780-1804," *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 22 March 2024), image 370; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, funeral, Catherina Elisabeth Fuchs, wife of Johan Philip Fuchs, *Bürger und Schneidermeister*, 4 June 1798.

9. *Ibid.*, image 358; citing Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, Johann Heinrich Dreissbach, *Schneidermeister und Kirchenältester*, 4 April 1795.

10. "Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753" *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 23 March 2024), image 64; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johanna Louisa Emmert, daughter of Johann Görg Emmert, *Hofschneider*, and Anna Elisabeth, 1 November 1739.

11. "Taufen 1754-1780, Konfirmationen 1754-1779, Trauungen 1754-1779, Beerdigungen 1754-1780" *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 7 November 2024), image 381; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, funeral, Leopold Fuchs, *Kirchenältester und Schneider*, 2 October 1757. Also, Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 134, 270.

12. "Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728" *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 23 March 2024), image 37; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Maria Elisabeth Schneider daughter of Johann George Schneider and Anna Barb, 1703. Also, Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 124, 130.

great-grandfather Johannes Schneider (1640–1708) was a *Bürger* also identified as a *Kirchenältester* “auf der Struth,”¹³ the old name for a developing Berleburg suburb.

Ninth great-grandfather Hayrich Schneider (ca.1607–1666) became a *Bürger* in 1637.¹⁴ Tenth great-grandfather Hans Frank (ca.1583–ca.1636), said to have been a *Hofschneider*, tops the Schneider list as a *Bürger*, *Ratsgenossen* (councilman),¹⁵ and *Gerichtsschöffe* (magistrate).¹⁶ A magistrate should have acquired some respect.

Prior to the invention of sewing machines, *Schneiders* were ridiculed because the job was seen as women’s work. Sewing servants were described as thin and possibly disabled, thus unable to do hard physical labor. As early as 12th century France, because there were no guilds for tailors, this job was done by Jewish people who were denied access to guilds. This continued until 1789 when guilds were abolished in France.¹⁷

DIE KIRCHENMEISTER (THE CHURCH MASTERS)

The *Kirchenmeister* (church master) position was entrusted to a respected and possibly well-off person. He was not paid and reported to the city council, not religious authorities. The *Kirchenmeister* managed the buildings, equipment, and funds. He may have supervised construction and building repairs. The term *Kirchenmeister* is still used today but the position may have other duties.

My eighth great-grandpa Johann Jörgen Fuchs (ca.1645–1703) was a *Kirchenmeister*, *Bürger*, and *Senator* (councilman).¹⁸ My eighth great-grandpa Leopold Hartenrath (ca.1612–1690), *Bürger*, *Scabini* (judge), *Senator*, and *Bürgermeister* (mayor) in 1678 and 1686,¹⁹ was a *Kastenmeister* (administrator of a church office) in 1652.²⁰ My seventh great-grandpa Johan Philip Schnell (ca.1670–?) was a *Bürger*, *Kirchmeister*,²¹ and *Hofschmied* (Court blacksmith).²² I wonder how long they held the *Kirchenmeister* position.



Jost Amman and Hans Sachs, *Wikipedia*, public domain.

“Schmidt” (blacksmith), 1568.

13. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 101. Also, “Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 12 November 2024), image 197; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, Johannes Schneider, *Ältester auf der Struth*, August 1708.

14. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 82.

15. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 85, 269.

16. “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 10 November 2024), image 153; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Johann Daniel, son of Daniel Fuchs and Gertrude, daughter of Hans Francken, *Bürger und Gerichtsschöffe*, 8 February 1643.

17. “Schneider,” *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schneider> : accessed 13 February 2025).

18. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 124, 270. Also, “Taufen, Trauungen, Beerdigungen für 1664–1692” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 4 March 2025), image 41 of 227; citing Nordrhein-Westfalen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen, Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Anna Elisabeth, daughter of Johan Jorgen Fuchs, Kirchenmeister, und Anna Maria, 13 August 1676.

19. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 87, 107, 276, 327.

20. “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 4 March 2025), image 100; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johan Leopold, son of Barthol Stremmel and Magdalene, 13 February 1652. Sponsor was Leopold Hartenrath, *Kaßmeister* (Kastenmeister).

21. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 3 November 2024), image 171; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Johan Heinrich Schnell, son of Philip Schnell, Burger and Kirchmeister, and Maria Elisabeth Schneider, daughter of Johann Görg Schneider, Burger und beder, 30 January 1733.

22. “Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 11 November 2024), image 133; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Philip Schnell, Hofschmied, son of Mathias Schnell and Anna Catharina Fuchs, daughter of H. Secretarii Andrea Fuchs, 1 October 1702.

My ninth great-grandfather Jacob Althaus (ca.1607–ca.1656) studied at the university in Marburg and by 1646 was a *Pfarrer* (pastor) or *Pastoris zu Girkhausen* (pastor at Girkhausen), about six miles north of Berleburg, and possibly in 1652 at Siegen, thirty miles southeast of Berleburg.²³ Jacob Althaus married in the Evangelical church and had a child in Berleburg.

GERICHTSSCHÖFFE (MAGISTRATES)

Besides Hans Frank, seventh great-grandpa Johann Daniel Dreissbach (1665–1732) was a *Gerichtsschöffe* and *Kirchenältester*,²⁴ and Hans Heinrich Stremmel was a *Bürger*, *Ratsherr*, *Baumeister*, *Bürgermeister*, and *Gerichtsschöffe*, (citizen, councilman, master builder, mayor, and judge).²⁵ Councilman terms varied, and some spanned several years.

OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

In Germany, the *Bürgermeister* was the head of the town council. Small villages do not have mayors and are part of a larger district. Large cities may have more than one mayor. Berleburg's council either elected or appointed their mayors. The *Bürgermeister* was chairman of the town council, head of administration, responsible for the budget, had some legal responsibilities, supervised employees, and may have been responsible for building, trade, or other inspections or registrations.²⁶

- Tenth great-grandfather Johannes Plesch (ca.1563–?) was said to have been a *Bürgermeister* and *Landschultheiß* (mayor and district tax collector).²⁷ Ninth great-grandfather Johann Conrad Grimmel (ca.1622–?) was the *Inspektor über das Bergwerk zu Frankenberg* (Inspector over the Frankenberg mine).²⁸
- Ninth great-grandfather Georg Kämpfer, a.k.a. Georg Kemper Senior (?–1667), was said to have been a *Schultheiß*, *Kirchenältester*, und *Schmidt* (tax collector, church elder, and blacksmith).²⁹



Image of a Zinn Schüssel (tin bowl) from the Schalmey church of St. George baptismal font. Tin bowls were often cited as part of the tax paid in Berleburg. *Wikipedia*, author of the image unknown, image is older than 100 years.

23. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 90, 102, 254, citing *Die Berleburger Chroniken* (1964), 124.

24. “Taufen 1658-1710 (dazwischen ältere Taufeintragungen), Trauungen 1711-1744, Trauungen 1660-1761, Beerdigungen 1660-1761, Taufen 1697-1714 (Kindr des Pastors)” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 4 March 2025), image 157 of 516; citing Raumland, baptism, Johannes, son of Johann Daniel Dreisbach, *Gerichtsschöffe*, of Balde, 1 January 1718. Ibid., image 435 of 516; citing Raumland, burial, Johann Daniel Dreisbach of Balde, Kirchen Ältester, 18 September 1732, died 16 September 1732.

25. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 122, 127–135, 327. Also, “Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 7 November 2024), image 151; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, wedding, Leopold Fuchs, son of Georg Fuchs, and Christine Elisabeth Stremmel, daughter of Hans Heinrich Stremmel, *Gerichtsschöffe*, 14 June 1714.

26. “Bürgermeister,” *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bürgermeister> : accessed 13 February 2025).

27. “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 13 November 2024), image 149; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Jacob, son of Johannes Althaus and Elisabeth, daughter of Johannes Plesch, *Landschultheiß*, 8 November 1637. Also, “Bürgermeister,” *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bürgermeister> : accessed 13 February 2025). Command F for “*Schultheiß*,” tax collector. Also, image 12; citing, Berleburg, baptism, Anna Agatha, daughter of Ludwig Pletsch and Margreta, 6 June 1625. *Gevatter* (Godfather) was *Großvater* (grandfather) Johannes Pletsch, *Bürgermeister*.

28. “Taufen, Trauungen, Beerdigungen für 1664–1692” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 11 November 2024), image 130; citing Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, wedding Bann, Andrea Fuchs, son of Johan Daniel Fuchs, and Martha Elisabeth, daughter of Johan Conrad Grimmel, 15 October 1671.

29. “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 5 March 2025), image 19; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Margreta, daughter of Georg Kämpfer, *Schmidt*, of Wemlinghausen and Elisabeth, 2 April 1627. Also, “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 5 March 2025), image 13; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Georg, son of Johann Baldt of Wemlinghausen and Elisabeth, 4 December 1625. Godfather was Georg Kämpfer *Schultheiß* of Wemlinghausen. Also, Jochen Karl Mehldau, “The Wittgenstein Family File,” GEDCOM file database, *North Rhine Westphalia State Archives* (<https://www.archive.nrw.de/landesarchiv-nrw/geschichte-erfahren/familienforschung/die-wittgensteiner-familiendatei> : accessed 9 March 2025).



Woodcut by Peter Flötner, Wikipedia, public domain.

"Schultheiß" (tax collector), 1550.

- Eighth great-grandfather Johann Valentin Böttger (ca.1645–1718) was described as a *Bürger und Münzmeister* (mint master) responsible for minting coins.³⁰
- Eighth great-grandfather Andreas Fuchs (1643–1718), a *Bürger*, was Berleburg's *Stadtschreiber* (town clerk) and *Kanzleirat und Sekretär* (Chancery Council Secretary) for the county.³¹
- Eighth great-grandfather Johann Daniel Fuchs (ca.1620–1684) was a *Bürger*, *Ratsherr*, *Stadt und Landschultheiß* (city and district mayor), and a *Handelsmann* (merchant).³²

- Eighth great-grandfather Johann Philip Bilgen Sr. (ca.1636–1674) was identified as a *Studius Juris* (law student) when he married, and then a *Rentmeister* (rent collector), a *Bürger*, and a *Ratsherr* or *Senator* in Berleburg.³³ He died the same year his son Johan Philip Bilgen Jr. (1674-?) was born,³⁴ and his son was associated with a university when junior's daughter married in 1726.³⁵
- Eighth great-grandfather Johann Ludwig Stremmel (1646–1684) died young as a *Bürger* and *Hospitalmeister* (hospital master).³⁶
- Seventh great-grandfather Johann Friedrich Emmert (ca.1681–?) was a *Bauinspektor* (building inspector) whose son married in Berleburg.³⁷
- Seventh great-grandfather Johann Heinrich Fuchs (1652–1712) was active as a *Bürger*, *Stadtschreiber*, *Ratsherr*, *Bürgermeister*, *Feldaufseher*, *Braumeister*, *Brandmeister*, (citizen, town clerk, councilor, mayor, field overseer, brewmaster, fire chief),³⁸ and apparently as a *Handelsmann* (merchant).³⁹



Photo by Palauenc05, Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 4.0.

Albus from 1713, common German currency cited in Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch. Coins show Peter with the city key, and the coat of arms of Karl of Lorraine, Elector of Trier.

30. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 109, 123, 124, 262.

31. "Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 12 November 2024), image 206; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, Andreas Fuchs, *Secretar*, 19 October 1718. Also, Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 104, 108-137, 269.

32. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 87, 93, 104, 107, 124, 270.

33. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 101, 106, 108, 262.

34. "Taufen, Trauungen, Beerdigungen für 1664–1692" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 9 November 2024), image 32; citing Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johann Philip, son of Johann Philip Bilgen, *Senator*, and Dorothea, 4 January 1674.

35. "Taufen 1693-1714, Konfirmation 1702-1710 + 1714-1728, Taufen 1714-1722, Taufen 1665 + 1669 + 1673 (Grafentaufen), Trauungen 1693-1729, Taufen 1728, Beerdigungen 1693-1728, Taufen 1722-1728" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 23 March 2024), image 164; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Görg Ludwig Fuchs and Maria Gertrud Magdalena Bilgen, 16 March 1726.

36. "Taufen, Trauungen, Beerdigungen für 1664–1692" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 7 November 2024), image 215; citing Kirche von Westfalen, Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, Johann Ludwig Stremmel, *Hospitalmeister*, 22 August 1684. Also, Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 109, 125, 311.

37. "Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 23 March 2024), image 176; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Johann Georg Emmert, son of Johann Friedrich Emmert and [An]na Elisabeth Stremmel, daughter of Johann Jost Stremmel, 6 September 1735.

38. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 127-173, 270.

39. Jochen Karl Mehldau, "The Wittgenstein Family File," GEDCOM file database, *North Rhine Westphalia State Archives* (<https://www.archive.nrw.de/landesarchiv-nrw/geschichte-erfahren/familienforschung/die-wittgensteiner-familiendatei> : accessed 9 March 2025).



Wikipedia, image by Nisauer27, public domain.

Shoemaker's Workshop, Heimatstube Beselich-Obertiefenbach, local history museum, Beselich, Hesse, Germany.

DIE SCHUMACHER (THE SHOEMAKERS)

Schumacher and *Schuster* are names for craftsmen who make or repair shoes by hand. The craft is a state-recognized training profession for apprentices in Germany. Until World War II, the craft was widespread and included wooden shoes. Tools for a *Schumacher* included hammers, pliers, knives, sharpening stones, tack lifters, crack openers, crossbars, needles, nails, etc.⁴⁰

My fourth great-grandfather, Fredrich Wilhelm Kemper (1768–1834), identified as a *Bürger* and *Schumacher*.⁴¹ Fredrich Wilhelm's father-in-law, my fifth great-grandpa Johan Jonas Jeckel (1729–1800), was a *Hofschumacher* (Court shoemaker) and went from *Beisasse zu Bürger* (resident to citizen) at Berleburg in 1777. The father of Johan Jonas, my sixth great-grandpa Andreas Jöckel (1703–1762), was a *Schuster* (cobbler).⁴² My seventh great-grandfather Johann Jost Stremmel (ca.1675–?) was also a *Bürger* und *Schuhmacher* in Berleburg.⁴³

ANDERE BÜRGER (OTHER CITIZENS)

- Sixth great-grandfather Georg Ludwig Fuchs (1687–1752) was described as a *Bürger* and *Handelsmann*,⁴⁴ and a *Kramer* (small shopkeeper) *auf der Struth*.⁴⁵
- Sixth great-grandfather Johann Henrich Schnell (1704–1772) identified as a *Bürger* and *Schlosser* (locksmith). This trade developed out of that of *Schlossschmieds* (castle blacksmiths). They developed skills beyond forging, and *Schlosser* guilds appeared around 1550. Locksmiths made keys, locks, artistic fencing, bolts, chimney covers, kitchenware, watch wheels, etc.⁴⁶



Jost Amman and Hans Sachs, Wikipedia, public domain.

“Schlosser” (locksmith), 1568.

40. “Schuhmacher,” Wikipedia (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schuhmacher> : accessed 14 February 2025).

41. “Beerdigungen 1808-1842 + 1804-1807” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 25 March 2024), image 260; citing Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, death register, page 369, Friedrich Kemper, born 11 June 1768, died 15 May 1834, buried 18 May 1834.

42. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 23 March 2024), image 7; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johannes Jonas, son of Andreas Jöckel, *Schuster*, and Susanna Catharina, baptized 20 November 1729. Also, Mark Grafe, “Johann Jonas Jeckel and Martha Elisabetha Schmol of Kassel and Berleburg, Germany,” *The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, volume 74, number 3, p. 28–32; *Genealogical Forum of Oregon* (https://gfo.org/file_download/inline/6ffcdd8b-eccc-44ff-8673-50c23898c37b : accessed 16 February 2025).

43. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 23 March 2024), image 176; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Johann Georg Emmert, son of Johann Friedrich Emmert and [An]na Elisabeth Stremmel, daughter of Johann Jost Stremmel, *Bürger* und *Schulmeister*, 6 September 1735.

44. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 141, 144, 270.

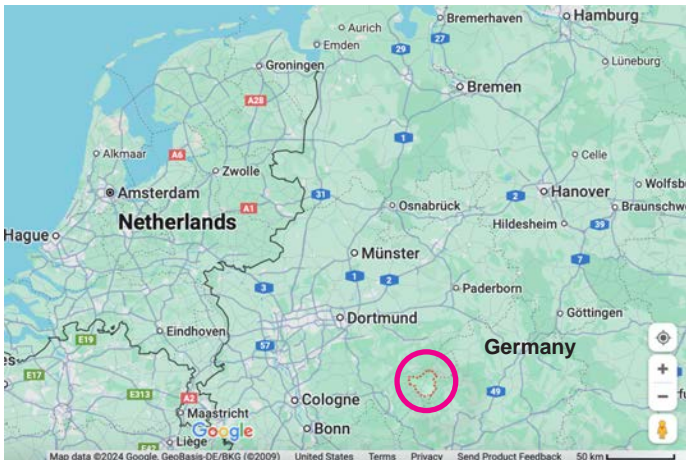
45. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753” *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://www.archion.de) : accessed 9 November 2024), image 263; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, Georg Ludwig Fuchs, *Bürger* und *Krämer*, 11 July 1752.

46. “Schlosserei (Locksmith shop),” Wikipedia (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schlosserei> : assessed 20 February 2025).

- Ninth great-grandfather Johannes Stemmle (ca.1612–?) was listed as a *Bürger* and *Schulmeister* (schoolmaster) or *Statpraeceptoris* (state teacher) in Berleburg from 1642–1691.⁴⁷
- Tenth great-grandfather Ludwig Stremmel (ca. 1582–?), identified as a *Bürger* who restored a silver cup in 1621.⁴⁸ He was a *Schöffler* (bowl maker).⁴⁹
- Ninth great-grandfather Weigandt Bald (ca.1607–?) was identified as an early Berleburg *Bürger* from Wemlinghausen (two miles north of Berleburg) in 1637.⁵⁰
- Eighth great-grandfather Johann Lotz Schwarzenbecher (1624–1679) and his father, ninth great-grandfather Conrad Schwarzenbecher (ca.1582–?), were only identified as *Bürger* from Berleburg.⁵¹

FINAL THOUGHTS

When writing about my ancestors, it helps to spell individual names the same way consistently. Appropriately citing facts while writing about these ancestors helped me notice details written in German, like locations, occupations, and titles, that I previously missed.



Berleburg, Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.



Book of States by Christoph Weigel der Ältere, Deutsche Fotothek, Wikipedia, public domain.

“Der Schulmeister” (schoolmaster), 1698.

There are various spellings for my German ancestors’ names. In some records, I see Hans instead of Johann or Jörgen instead of Georg, and I may use that to distinguish individuals. Not everyone was known by their birth name. Ancestors’ names may not be consistent, but their occupations can help identify them. Sometimes, I use the name from the death record, and if I find an ancestor’s signature, I spell it that way. The website Geogen Surname Mapping (version 4 is at <https://geogen.stoepel.net>) illustrates which surnames prevail in present day Germany.⁵²

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark is a life-long learner, he worked in restaurants when young, is a retired government employee, was previously a teacher and coach, and is now a volunteer editor with the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

47. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 86, 101, 113, 121, 310.

48. *Ibid.*, 22, 311.

49. “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” Archion (Archion.de : accessed 6 March 2024, image 152; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Johannes, son of Ludwig Stremmel, Bürger and Schöffler, and Anna Katarina, daughter of Hans Becker, Bürger, 26 December 1641, married 19 January 1642. Also, Ernest Thode, *German-English Genealogical Dictionary* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992), 226.

50. Bruns, *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch*, 82, 101, 111, 256.

51. *Ibid.*, 106, 110, 111, 113, 306. Also, “Taufen 1621-1655 (mit Lücken), Trauungen 1621-1645, Beerdigungen 1657-1662,” Archion (Archion.de : accessed 12 November 2024), image 9; citing Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johan Ludwig, son of Conrad Schwarzenbecher Bürger alhir und Catarin, 1 February 1624.

52. If old German death records use an outdated name for the deceased, check the following list created by Daniel Stieger, (<http://www.daniel-stieger.ch/krankheiten.htm> : accessed 16 November 2024), updated 20 September 2024.

Who was Oliver Porter (1823–1852) of Lansingburgh, New York?

Duane Funk

I have written before about my research on the inter-related Porter and Smith families of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.¹ Briefly, they are my third great-grandfather, Ishmael G. Smith, and his sister Ann, who married George B. Porter. They all first appeared in the 1820s at Lansingburgh. With the help of my colleague Barb, a descendant of the Porter family, I was able to find the vital statistics of both families.

It was on a visit to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City a few years ago that I got a surprise. It was the last day of my research week, and I was shelf browsing on the third floor for U.S./Canada books. I happened to see a volume on Rensselaer probate records.² I pulled it from the shelf and checked the index, and there was the name of my ancestor, Ishmael. He was named as the executor in the will of Oliver Porter in 1852. Who was Oliver? Neither Barb nor I had ever heard of him before.

The 1850 U.S. census gave me Oliver Porter's age, birthplace, profession, wife's name, and a child's name.³ He was born about 1823 in New York and was a blacksmith. He was married to Susan Marie, and they had a young child, George Porter, born about 1848. A check of the 1830 and 1840 U.S. censuses for a matching Porter family came up empty.

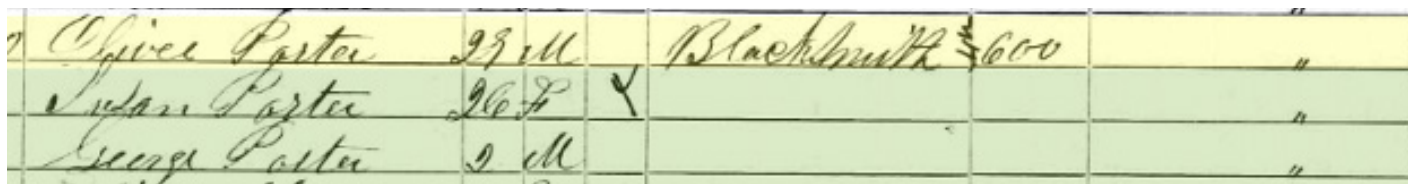
Where did he fit in? Judging by both his surname and his naming Ishmael Smith as his executor, he was somehow connected to the family. Yet he did not fit into the following Lansingburgh Porter family:

1. George B. Porter, born 31 January 1800, died 8 September 1837. He married circa 1825, +Anna Smith, born 22 September 1799, died 31 December 1868. The children of George and Anna were:

- i. George Porter (1825–?)
- ii. Susanna Porter (22 December 1828–25 July 1853)
- iii. Joseph S. Porter (18 February 1832–25 August 1860)
- iv. Ann Porter (1834–?)
- v. Ishmael G. Porter (14 September 1836–13 July 1880)
- vi. Ellen Porter (1838–?)

Further research found Oliver Porter's probate records.⁴ In his will, signed 7 August 1852 and proven 31 August 1852, he named his wife and son Egbert, but there was no mention of a son George. Nor did he elaborate on his relation to Ishmael Smith.

Barb later found his birthdate to be 4 March 1823.⁵ He first appeared in public records in 1844, the year he turned twenty-one, as a volunteer fireman with Engine Co. 4.⁶ He married Susan Marie in about 1847.⁷



Oliver Porter	23 M	Blacksmith	\$600	"
Susan Porter	26 F			"
George Porter	2 M			"

1850 U.S. census, Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.

1. Duane H. Funk and Barbara Zehner, "The Smith and Porter Families of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York," *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, Vol. 69 Nr. 4 (June 2020): pp. 29–35.

2. Maryellen Wells, compiler, *List of Surnames Appearing in the General Index to the Rensselaer County, New York, Surrogate Records, 1794–1873: Including a Statistical Reference Map of Rensselaer County (in centerfold) and Some Non-white Population Statistics* (Averill Park, New York: Clover Homestead Publications, circa 1994), Oliver Porter entry.

3. 1850 U.S. census, Rensselaer County, New York, Lansingburgh, page 122, dwelling 192, family 260, Oliver Porter; *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4203139_00041?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth1989&phstart=successSource&pId=8193443 : accessed 4 May 2025), image 37.

4. "New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8800/images/005121349_00779?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth1992&phstart=successSource&pId=2277320 : accessed 4 May 2025), Book 41 p. 473, Oliver Porter.

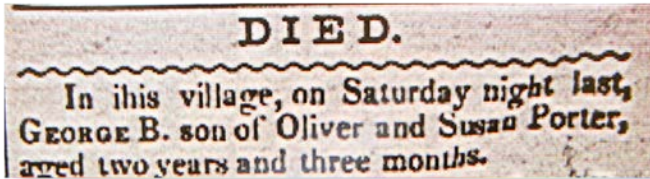
5. Barbara Zehner to Duane Funk, email. subject line "Thanks," 10 December 2023.

6. Sylvester Nathaniel Bartlett, *History of Rensselaer Co., New York : with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1880), p. 307.

7. 1850 U.S. census, Rensselaer County, New York, Lansingburgh, page 122, dwelling 192, family 260, Oliver Porter.

It seemed very likely that Oliver was part of the George B. Porter family, but there was no way to fit him in between George and Anne's marriage and the birth of a son, George. Only when I took another look at the marriage date, did I realize we were assuming a date based on the birth of a son. What if they were married earlier?

Barb found a marriage date of 22 March 1821.⁸ Now he fits in! Further confirmation came on research of Troy, New York (Lansingburgh is now part of Troy). I found a death notice for Oliver's son, George. It gave his name, George B. Porter, the same as Oliver's probable father.⁹



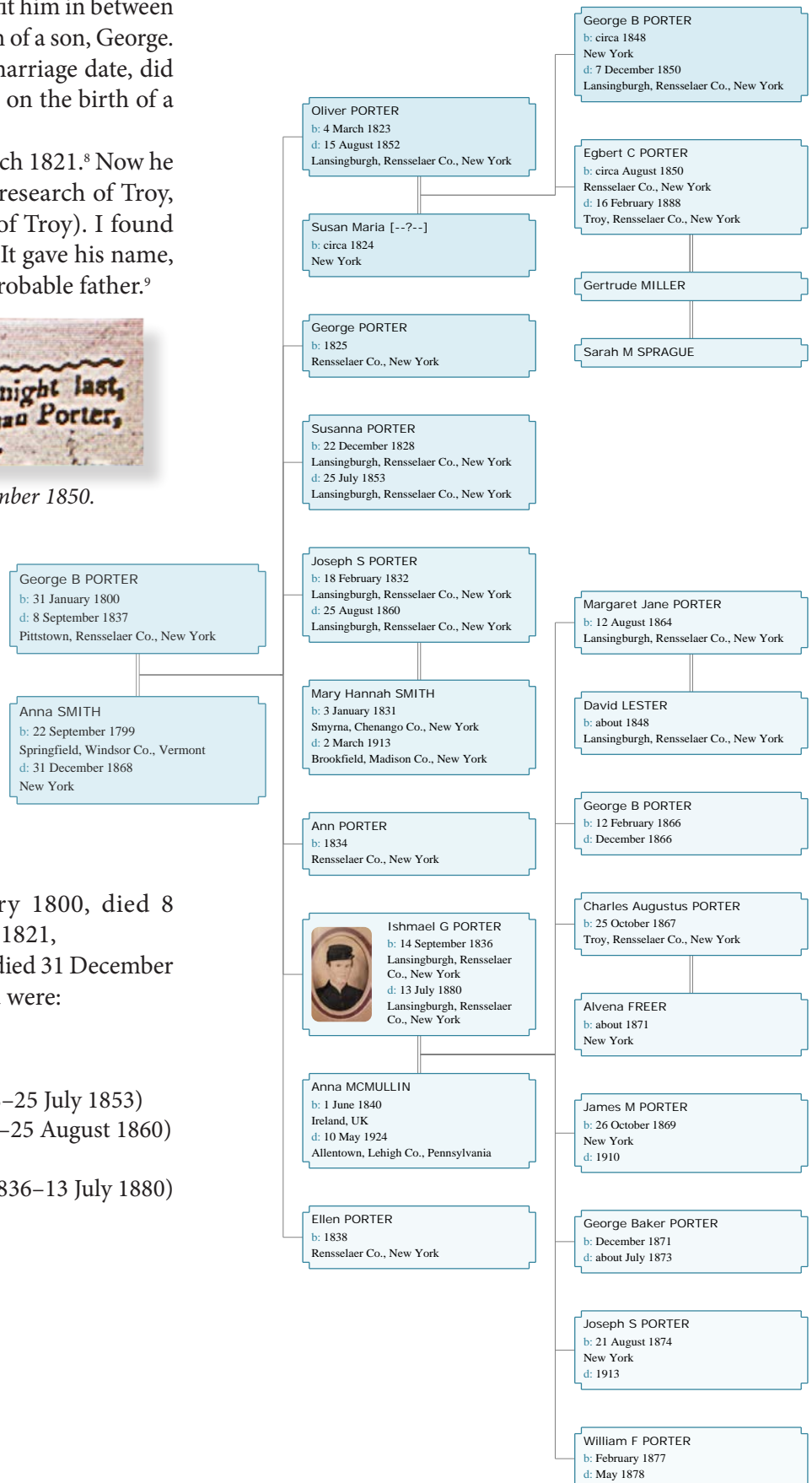
Lansingburgh Gazette, New York, 13 December 1850.

The fact that his birthdate fit naturally into the George B. Porter family, the fact that he named his son George B., and named Ishmael G. Smith, who would have been his uncle and nearest adult male relative, as an executor of his will, makes a strong case for his being the eldest son of George B. and Anne (Smith) Porter.

1. George B. Porter, born 31 January 1800, died 8 September 1837. He married 22 March 1821, +Anna Smith, born 22 September 1799, died 31 December 1868. The children of George and Anna were:

- i. Oliver Porter (4 March 1823–1852)
- ii. George Porter (1825–?)
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- iv. Joseph S. Porter (18 February 1832–25 August 1860)
- v. Ann Porter (1834–?)
- vi. Ishmael G. Porter (14 September 1836–13 July 1880)
- vii. Ellen Porter (1838–?)

ANCESTOR CHART FOR GEORGE B. PORTER



8. Barbara Zehner to Duane Funk, email.

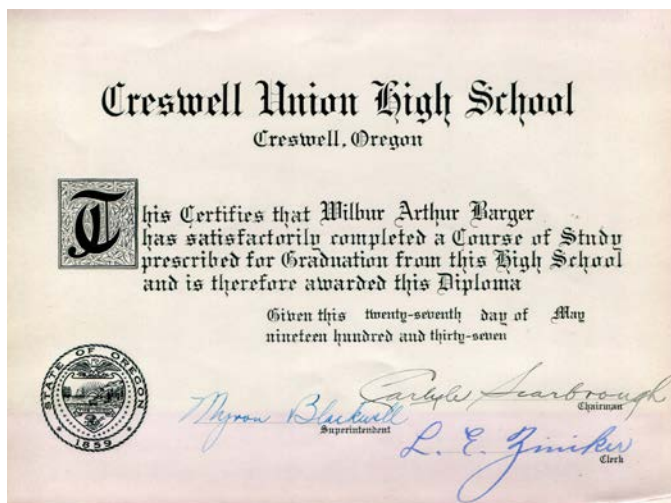
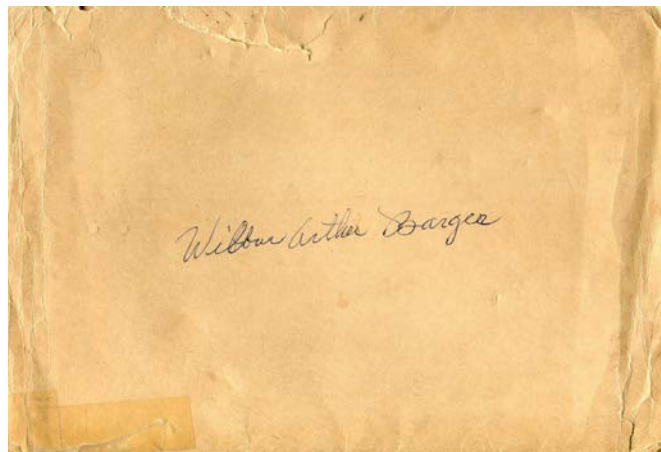
9. "Died," death notice, *Lansingburgh* (New York) *Gazette*, 13 December 1850, p. 2 col. 6.

From the Manuscripts

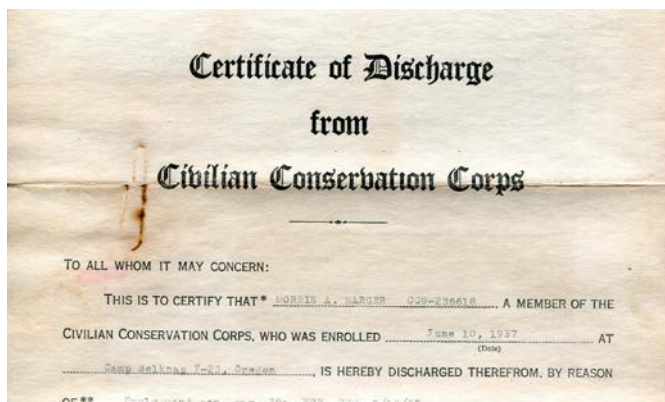
Connecting the Docs: The Barger, Dixon, and Thiffeault Families of the Western U.S., Connecticut, and Quebec

Nanci Remington

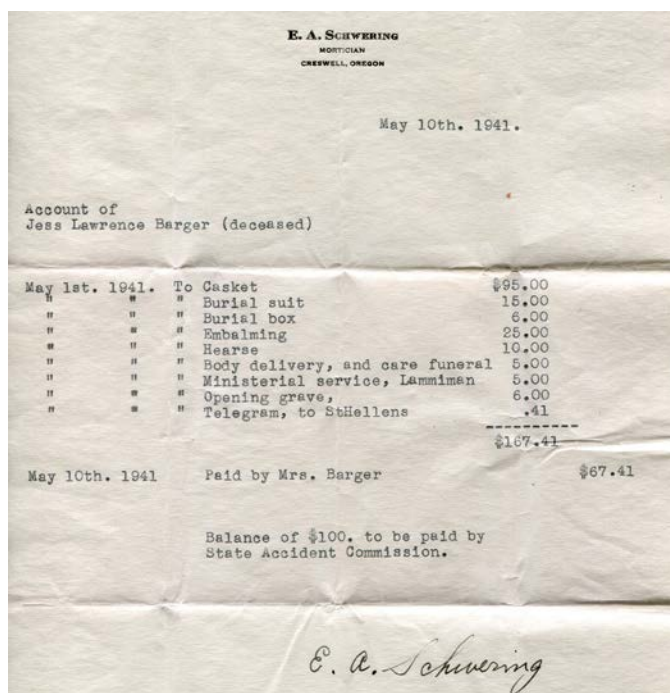
Among the loose files in the manuscripts collection at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) was a brown envelope inscribed with the name Wilbur Arthur Barger. Inside was a 1937 high school diploma for Wilbur from Creswell Union High School in Creswell, Lane County, Oregon, and a program for the commencement, showing that Wilbur was one of 19 students graduating that year.



There was also a Certificate of Discharge from the Civilian Conservation Corps dated 10 June 1937 for Morris A. Barger. It stated that he was born in St. Helens, Columbia County, Oregon, enrolled when he was 17, and worked as a woodsman.



There was a thin piece of paper recording the account of Jess Lawrence Barger (deceased) dated 10 May 1941 from E. A. Schwering in Creswell. It listed the expenses for Jess' funeral, which came to \$167.50. Mrs. Barger paid \$67.41, and the remainder was to be paid by the State Accident Commission. Several receipts were made out to Mrs. Gladys Barger.



Seemingly unrelated to the Barger family were two marriage certificates. One was for the marriage of Harold Foley and Leah Wright, who resided in Garfield, Washington, and were married on 25 August 1919 in Lewiston County, Idaho. The second was for the marriage of H. F. Foley and Rose Alma Thompson, both of Whittier, California. They married on 15 July 1939 in Yuma County, Arizona.

MORE RESEARCH

When items are added to the [Digital Archive](#) at the GFO, information is included to help researchers discover them through internet searches or links from other sites. The archive includes Bibles, manuscripts, and vertical files. The information on the cover sheet has a description of what is in the file, the name of the person who collected the information, surnames, locations, and a date range. If women were identified by their married name, some effort is made to learn their surname prior to marriage so it can be included.

There was no indication of when the papers in the Barger envelope were donated to the GFO or who the donor was. The women were identified by married names. Research was done to find the surnames of the women named in the documents.

The marriage certificates provided a place to start because, in each case, the couple married in a state where they did not live. The families were found on census and vital records using [FamilySearch](#) and [Ancestry](#). Newspapers filled in the gaps not found in records. For this article, results were found using the databases [Newspapers.com](#) and [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#).

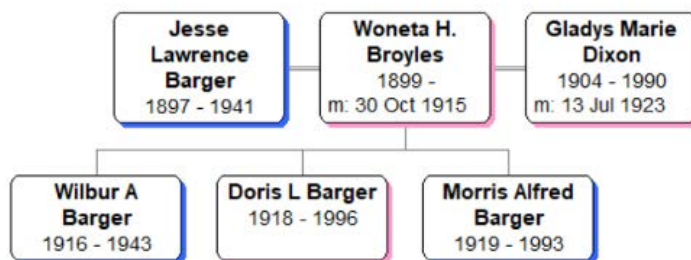
THE BARGER FAMILY

Jesse Lawrence Barger was the father of Wilbur and Morris Barger. His second wife was Gladys Marie (Dixon) Barger, who paid the funeral expenses. They married on 13 July 1923 in Marion County, Oregon; this was a second marriage for Jesse. He had three children from his first marriage including Wilbur and Morris, all born in St. Helens. In 1920, 22-year-old Jesse, a laborer for a lumber company, was living in St. Helens with his first wife, Woneta, and their children. Jesse and Woneta Broyles married on 30 October 1915. They must have divorced prior to 1923 when Jesse married Gladys.

After his marriage to Gladys, Jesse settled in rural Lane County, where he continued working in the logging

industry. In 1930 and 1940, the children were living with Jesse and Gladys. Jesse was killed in a logging accident on 1 May 1941. His son Wilbur, whom we know graduated from Creswell High School, died in 1943 during World War II when his transport ship was hit and sunk by a Japanese torpedo. Morris also served in the war and then returned to Oregon. He later moved to Washington, where he died in 1993. The third child, Doris Lucille Barger, married in 1940 and lived in Oregon, California, and Washington, where she died in 1996. At first, no more information was found about Gladys Dixon Barger.

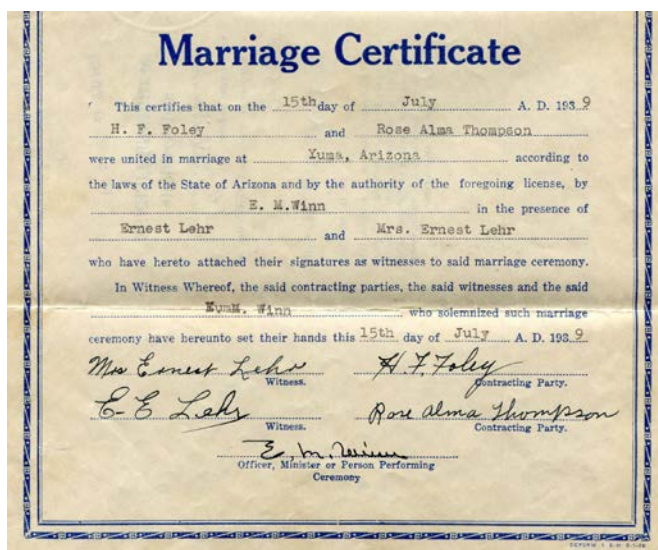
Jesse Lawrence Barger, Spouses, and Children



THE FOLEY FAMILY

The groom on the two marriage certificates in the envelope was Harold Francis Foley. He married Grace Leah Wright in 1919 in Nez Perce County, Idaho. In 1920, the couple was living in Garfield County, Washington. By 1930, they had moved to Orange County, California. They likely divorced because both remarried in 1939. Harold's wife was recorded as Rose Alma Thompson. Harold and Rose divorced in 1944. Neither marriage provided a connection to the Barger family.





The profile for Harold on the FamilySearch Family Tree showed a third wife – Gladys Marie. The birth and location information for Gladys (Dixon) Barger matched the information for Gladys Marie Foley. Gladys and Harold were living in California in 1950, then returned to Oregon. Harold died in Douglas County in 1971. Gladys died there on 11 December 1990. Gladys' two marriages connected the Barger and Foley families.

Harold Francis Foley and Spouses



THE THIFFEAULT FAMILY

Harold Foley's second marriage to Rose Alma Thompson was short-lived. Though they lived in Whittier, Los Angeles County, California, they married in Yuma County, Arizona, on 15 July 1939. They divorced on 19 September 1944 in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. Harold returned to California; Rose stayed in Eugene.

After her divorce, Rose married at least four more times. Each marriage yielded a little more information about her. She was born about 1904, was 36 when she married

Harold, and 35 on the 1940 census, which recorded that she was born in Canada. When she married Edward Neff in 1945, she gave her birth date as 4 April 1904 and said she was born in Willimantic, Connecticut, that both parents were born in Canada, and her father was a "moulder." It was recorded as her third marriage, which implied that Thompson was not her maiden name. Rose and Edward divorced in January 1946. Newspapers reported that Rose married Thomas Beardon in July 1946 and divorced in April 1948. At the end of that year, on 30 December, Rose married George Pierce in Eugene. The marriage return confirms her birthdate and states she and her parents were born in Canada but does not name them. However, a short newspaper article reported that Rose was the "daughter of Mrs. Ardina Thifeault of Willimantic, Conn." Finally, maybe, a maiden name.

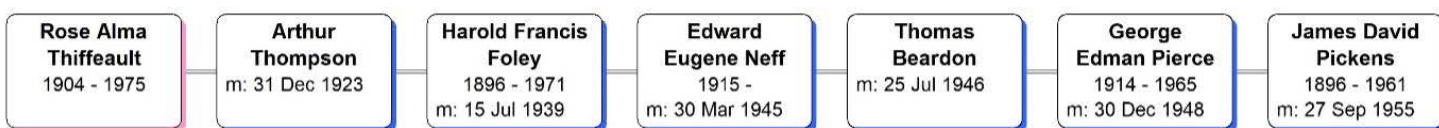
COUPLE IS MARRIED AT SALVATION ARMY OFFICE IN EUGENE

Mrs. Rose Alma Beardon, daughter of Mrs. Ardina Thifeault of Willimantic, Conn., and George E. Pierce, son of Mrs. Grace Metz of Eugene were married Thursday morning at eight - thirty o'clock in the Salvation Army office. Major Jan Hoogstad officiated.

The bride wore a rose-colored suit and hat and was attended by the bridegroom's mother, Mrs. Metz. Curtis Pierce, brother of the bridegroom was best man. The couple is living at the Hampton Hotel for the present.

Eugene Register-Guard (Eugene, OR), 9 January 1949.
Newspapers.com.

Rose Alma Thiffeault and Spouses



Rose's marriage to George did not last. In September 1955, she married James David Pickens. This time, the record of marriage gave her birthplace as St. Paul, Canada, and named her parents as Joseph Armand Thiffault and Ardina Garceau.

The names Ardina, Garceau, and Thiffault (the most common spelling) were unusual enough that the family was traceable to Connecticut and then back to Canada. Joseph and Ardina married in Quebec in 1902. They moved to Connecticut in about 1906. They had nine children, some born in Canada, including Rose Alma, whose birth and baptism are recorded in church books. A Connecticut marriage index records a marriage on 31 December 1923 between Arthur Thompson and Thiffault (no given name in the index).

Rose's last husband, James Pickens, died in 1961, and Rose is listed as his spouse on his death certificate. At that time, she was still living in Eugene. Rose was mentioned in the obituary for her brother Anthony in 1966, where she was Mrs. Rose Pickens, and for her brother Emile, who died in March 1967, where she was Rose Pearson of Oregon. Rose Alma Pickens died in Lane County on 7 May 1975.

A FINAL NOTE

The most interesting person to research was Rose. Finding her maiden name by following her marriages was like lining up dominoes and hoping they did not fall. Unfortunately, the research also revealed a history of trauma and abuse that played out in the Eugene newspapers. The more I learned about her, the more I wanted to find her family.

After discovering her mother's name, there was a big jump from the West Coast to Connecticut and Quebec. If you have researched in Quebec, you are no doubt familiar with the Drouin Collection. Genealogy Quebec describes it as "a collection of images of parish registers (baptisms, burials, and marriages) as well as other documents of historical and genealogical significance. It covers all of Quebec and French Acadia and parts of Ontario,

New Brunswick, and the North-Eastern United States. This massive collection contains the entirety of Quebec's civil registry from 1621 to the 1940s (under the Fonds Drouin folder), which encompasses the vast majority of individuals who lived in the province during that period, making it an invaluable tool for genealogical research in the province." I accessed the records for Rose's family using Ancestry's database "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968." The records were in French but indexed in English. They confirmed the information about Rose that was found in Oregon.

Marie Rose Alma Thiffault

Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968

Saved To

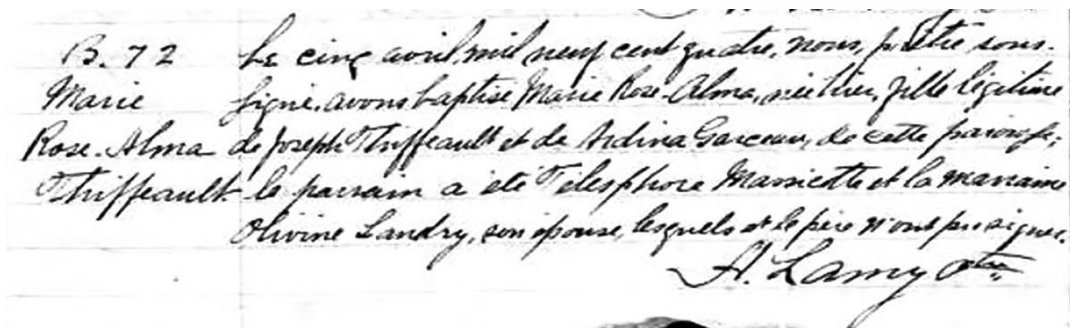
Rose Alma Thiffault

Detail	Related	Source
Name	Marie Rose Alma Thiffault	
Gender	Femme (Female)	
Baptism Age	0	
Record Type	Baptême (Baptism)	
Birth Date	4 avr. 1904 (4 Apr 1904)	
Baptism Date	5 avr. 1904 (5 Apr 1904)	
Baptism Place	Granby, Québec (Quebec), Canada	
Baptism Church	St-Paul; Grand-Mère	
Place of Worship or Institution	St-Paul	
Father	Thiffault	
Mother	Ardina Garceau	
Legitimate	Y	

[Add Additional Information](#)

Others in Record

Thiffault Ardina Garceau



The baptism record for Rose Alma Thiffault, Quebec, Canada, 1885. Ancestry.

Transcription

The Family Bible of James Kershaw and Martha Hall Kershaw of Ashton-under-Lyne, England, and Columbus, Ohio

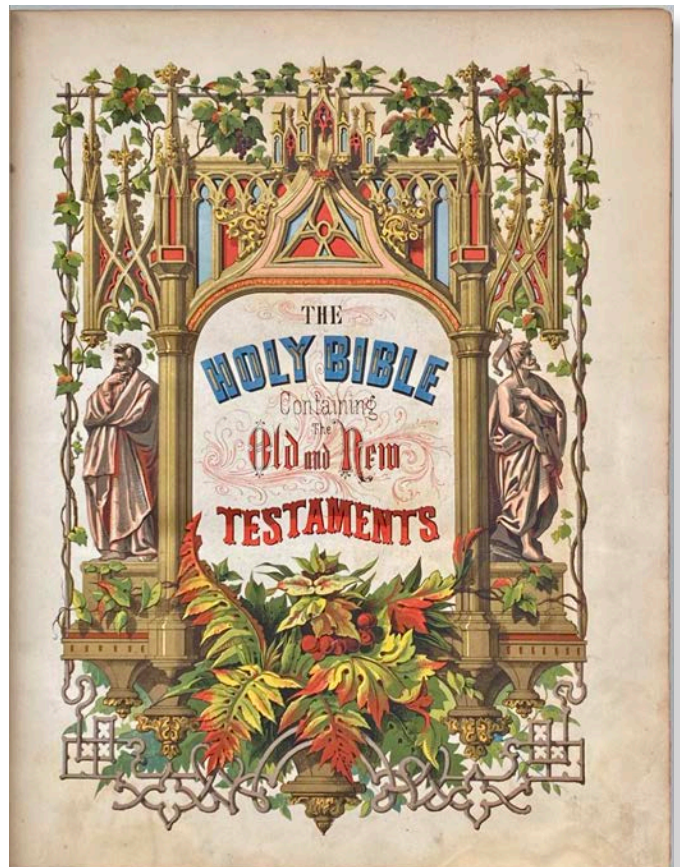
Christina Buck Armstrong

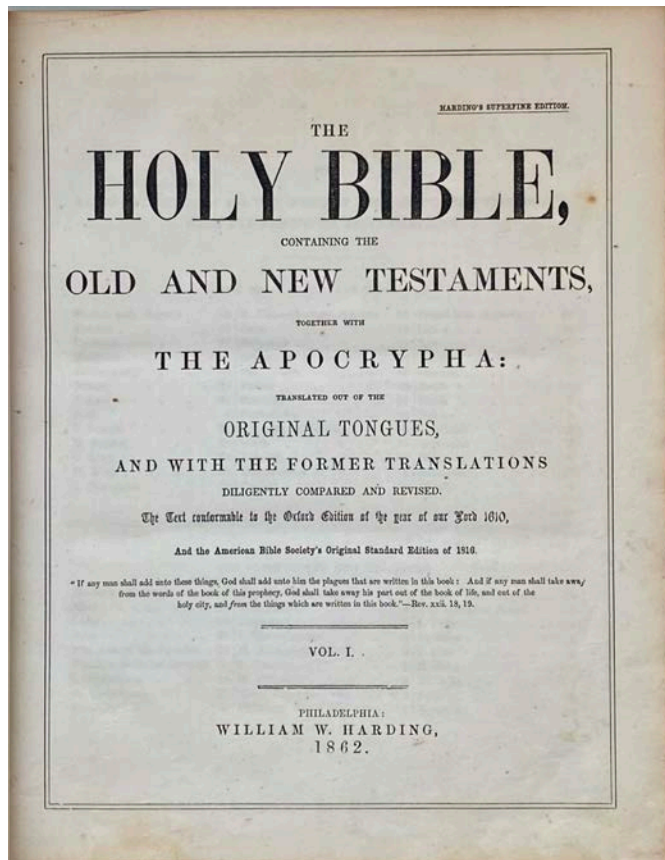
James Kershaw and Martha Hall of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, England, were married on August 29, 1853 at St. Luke's Church, parish of Almondbury, County of York. Soon after their marriage, they immigrated to the United States, traveling on the S.S. *William Tapscott*, departing from Liverpool and arriving in New York on November 9, 1853. They settled in Columbus, Ohio, where James worked in a dry goods store. Eventually he was a co-owner of Osborn & Kershaw and then Kershaw, Krauss & Putnam Carpets.

James and Martha Kershaw had eight children and eight grandchildren, all documented in their family Bible. Some (but by no means all) of their great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and third-great-grandchildren are also listed in the Bible.

For a number of decades, the book was in the possession of Louis F. Fieser, Jr. (a Kershaw grandchild) and his wife. They did not have children. The Bible was passed to Daniel Carmack, the son of Louis' sister Dorothy. It currently resides in the home of Christina Buck Armstrong, the daughter of Daniel Carmack's sister, Justine Carmack Buck.

This Bible was transcribed October 5, 2024.





THE
HOLY BIBLE,
CONTAINING THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS,
TOGETHER WITH
THE APOCRYPHA:
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE
ORIGINAL TONGUES,
AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS
DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED.
The Text conformable in the Oxford Edition of the year
of our Lord 1610,
And the American Bible Society's Original Standard
Edition of 1810.

"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the
plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away
from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his
part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things
which are written in this book,"—Rev. xxii. 18, 19.

VOL. I.
PHILADELPHIA:
WILLIAM W. HARDING,
1862

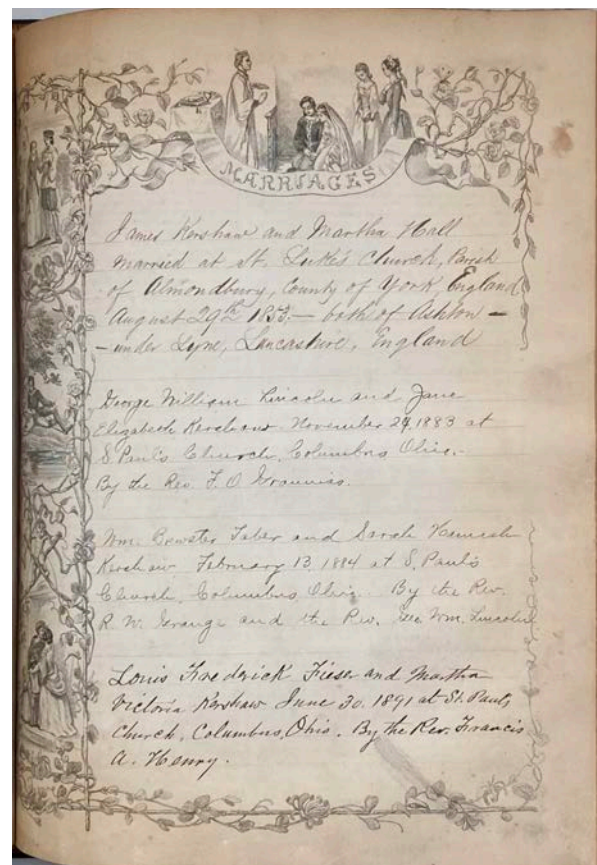
MARRIAGES

James Kershaw and Martha Hall
Married at St. Luke's Church, Parish
of Almondbury, County of York, England
August 29th 1853; — both of Ashton—
— under Lyne, Lancashire, England

George William Lincoln and Jane
Elizabeth Kershaw - November 2?, 1883 at
S. Paul's Church, Columbus, Ohio.
- By the Rev. F.O. Granniss.

Wm. Brewster Taber and Sarah Hannah
Kershaw, February 13, 1884 at S. Paul's
Church, Columbus, Ohio. By the Rev.
R.W. Grange and the Rev. Geo. Wm. Lincoln.

Louis Frederick Fieser and Martha
Victoria Kershaw June 30, 1891 at St. Paul's
Church, Columbus, Ohio. By the Rev. Francis
A. Henry.



[Marriages continued]

Francis Stewart Kershaw and Justine Frances Houghton, married 23 September, 1901 at the Church of the Holy Name, Swampscott, Massachusetts, by the Rev. James Chalmers (assisting) and the Rev. Prescott Evants.

Louis Frederick Fieser jr. and Mary Augusta Peters, married June 21, 1932 at the Chapel of St. Francis-Among-The-Trees, "Merrywood," Marlboro, New Hampshire, by Father F. Fitts.

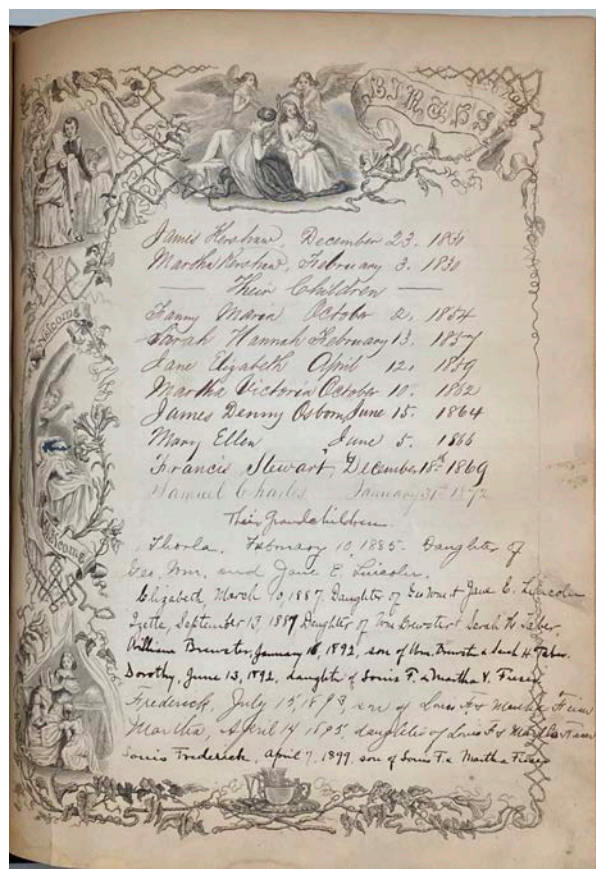
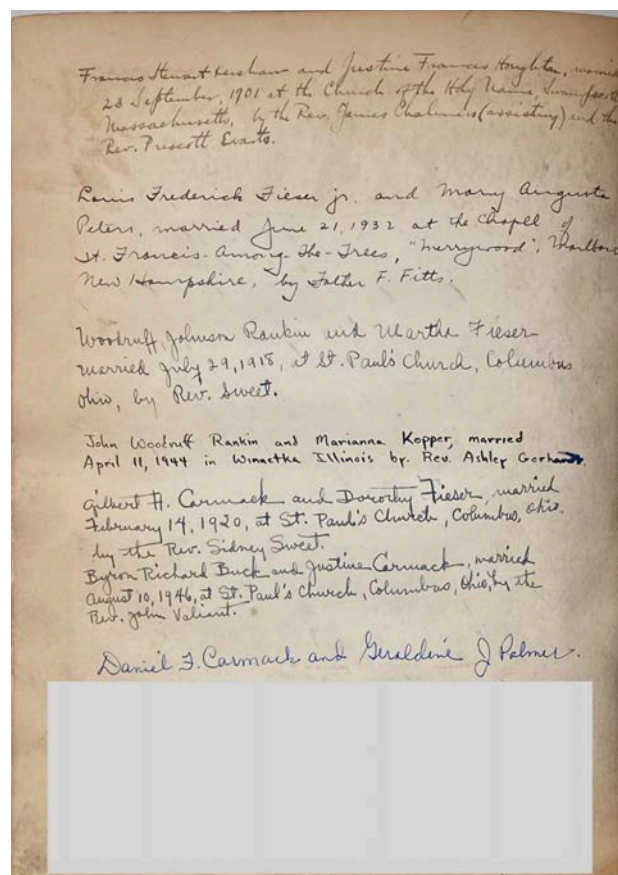
Woodruff Johnson Rankin and Martha Fieser Married July 29, 1918, at St. Paul's Church, Columbus Ohio, by Rev. Sweet

John Woodruff Rankin and Marianna Kopper, married April 11, 1944 in Winnetka Illinois by Rev. Ashley Gerhardt.

Gilbert H. Carmack and Dorothy Fieser, married February 14, 1920, at St. Paul's Church, Columbus, Ohio, by the Rev. Sidney Sweet.

Byron Richard Buck and Justine Carmack, married August 10, 1946, at St. Paul's Church, Columbus, Ohio by the Rev. John Valiant.

Daniel F. Carmack and Geraldine J. Palmer



BIRTHS

James Kershaw, December 23, 1830

Martha Kershaw, February 3, 1830

— Their Children —

Fanny Maria October 2, 1854

Sarah Hannah February 13, 1857

Jane Elizabeth April 12, 1859

Martha Victoria October 10, 1862

James Denny Osborn, June 15, 1864

Mary Ellen June 5, 1866

Francis Stewart, December 18th 1869

Samuel Charles January 31st 1872

Their Grandchildren

Thorla, February 10, 1885. Daughter of Geo. Wm. and Jane E. Lincoln

Elizabeth, March 10, 1887, Daughter of Geo. Wm. + Jane E. Lincoln

Izette, September 13, 1887, Daughter of Wm. Brewster + Sarah H. Taber.

William Brewster, January 16, 1892, son of Wm. Brewster + Sarah H. Taber.

[Births continued]

Dorothy, June 13, 1892, daughter of Louis F. Martha V. Fieser

Frederick, July 15, 1893, son of Louis F. + Martha V. Fieser

Martha, April 14, 1895, daughter of Louis F. + Martha V. Fieser

Louis Frederick, April 7, 1899, son of of Louis F. + Martha V. Fieser



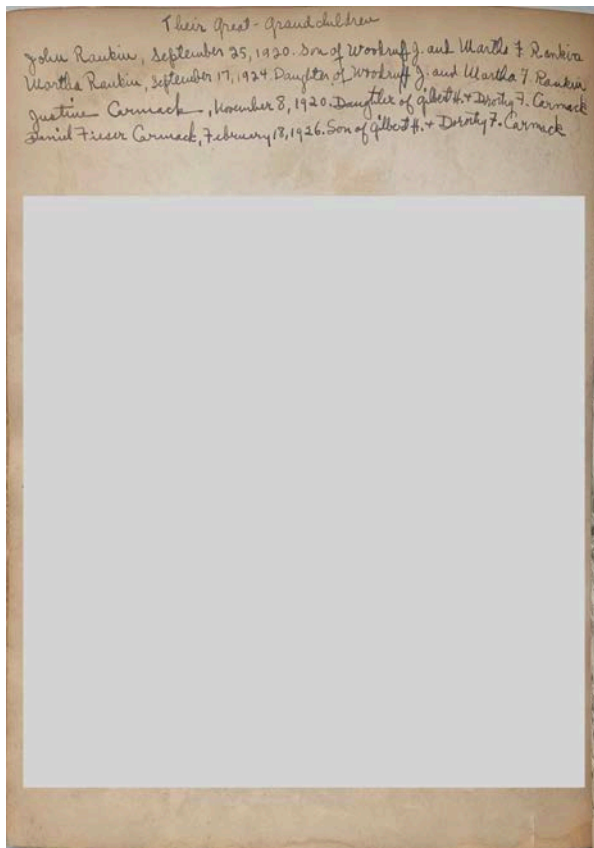
Their Great-Grandchildren

John Rankin, September 25, 1920. Son of Woodruff and Martha F. Rankin

Martha Rankin, September 17, 1924. Daughter of Woodruff and Martha F. Rankin

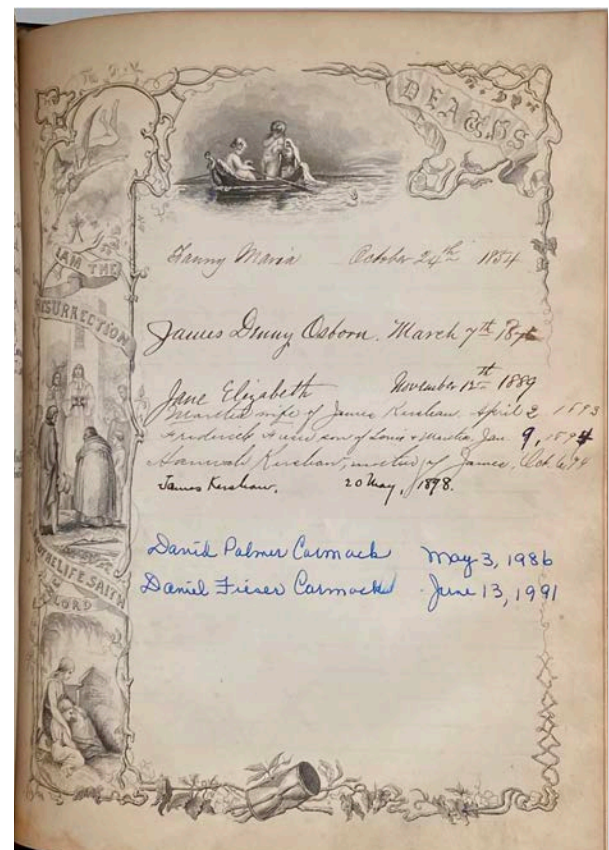
Justine Carmack, November 8, 1920. Daughter of Gilbert H. + Dorothy F. Carmack

Daniel Fieser Carmack, February 18, 1926. Son of Gilbert H. + Dorothy F. Carmack



DEATHS

Fanny Maria	October 24th 1854
James Denny Osborn.	March 7th 1876
Jane Elizabeth	November 12th 1889
Martha wife of James Kershaw.	April 2, 1893
Frederick Fieser, son of Louis + Martha,	Jan. 9, 1894
Hannah Kershaw, mother of James,	Oct. 6, 94
James Kershaw,	20 May, 1898
David Palmer Carmack	May 3, 1986
Daniel Fieser Carmack	June 13, 1991



The Bible of Amanda Ellen (Sexton) Jerelaman (1853–1885) of Multnomah County, Oregon

Nanci Remington

Information from this old family Bible was copied by Mary Cook in February 1941 at the Goodwill store-room, probably in Multnomah County, Oregon. It is noted on the fly leaf that the Bible belonged to Mrs. A. E. Jerelaman. Although the publication date was not recorded, other Bibles by the publisher were printed in the mid-1800s.

Two family groups were recorded. The first is that of Edward Sexton and India Stephens who were married on 20 March 1850.¹ Their birthdates and those of their seven children were listed. One of those children was Amanda Ellen Sexton, born (in Oregon) on 18 August 1853.²



Jerden Jerelaman, 1867.
Oregon Historical Society Digital Collection,
reference ba000471.



Amanda (Sexton) Jerelaman, 1868.
Oregon Historical Society Digital Collection,
reference OrgLot500_A_60.

The second family is that of Amanda's daughter India A. Jerelaman and Louis Leander Simmons, who married on 13 February 1889. India's three children were listed, along with their birth dates and the death dates for two of them. The other deaths recorded in the Bible are for William Edward Sexton, one of Amanda's brothers, and James B. Stephens, Amanda's maternal grandfather. Amanda's marriage is not included on the transcript. She married Jerden Jerelaman on 30 May 1868 in Multnomah County, Oregon.³

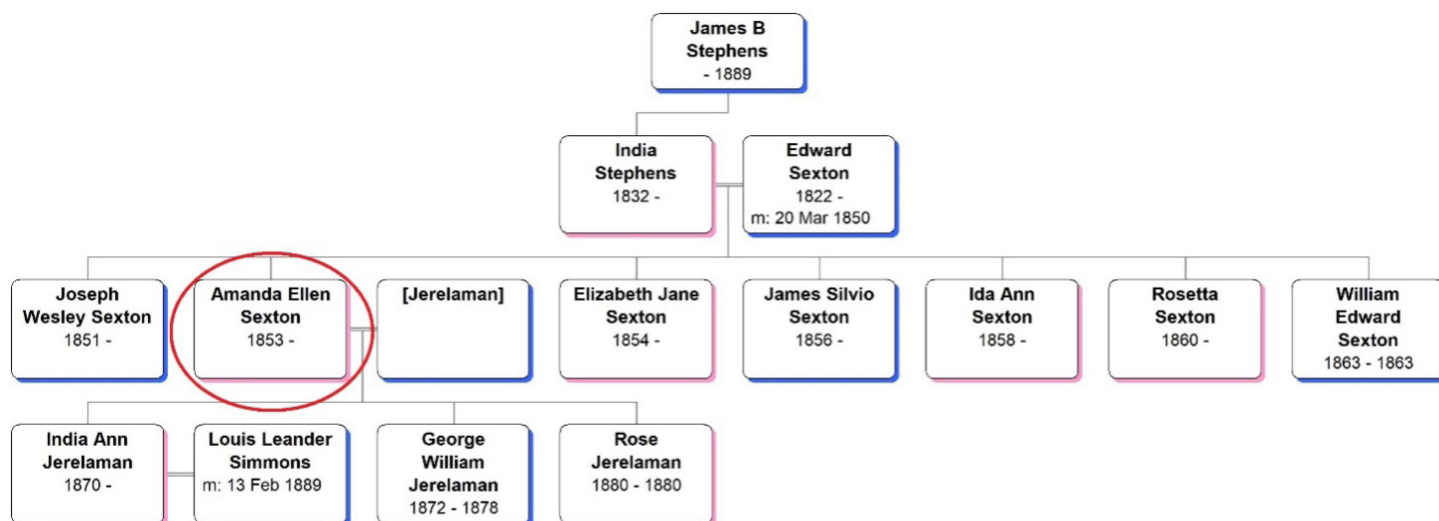
There are two people named in the transcript who were not found when researching the family, George Baker and Margaret Smith.

1. The papers filed with Edward Sexton's land claim state that he arrived in Oregon in October 1850 and married India on 20 March 1851 in Clackamas County, Oregon.

2. Locations and relationships are not in the Bible transcript.

3. "Multnomah County Marriages," Genealogical Forum of Oregon, marriage books, Volume 2, page 148. Indexed as Jeralman, J and Sexton, Amanda.

SELECTED DESCENDANTS OF JAMES B. STEPHENS



The names and dates as recorded in the Bible transcript.

TRANSCRIPT

[The transcript at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon is typewritten.]

SEXTON

Cincinnati:

Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin
25 West Fourth Street

Inside of cover - To Netta from Papa 1896.

On fly leaf - Mrs. A. E. Jerelamans Book
East Portland
Oregon.

Births.

Edward Sexton was born June 18th 1822
George Baker born March 29, 1843
India Stephens was Born November 19th 1832
(1834 seems to have been written over the 1832)
Margaret Smith born Apr. 15, 1860.
Joseph Wesley Sexton was Born June 22, 1851
James Silvio Sexton was Born December 11, 1856
William Edward Sexton Born June 17th 1863
Amanda Ellen Sexton was Born August 18th 1853
Elizabeth Jane Sexton was Born December 28, 1854
Ida Ann Sexton was Born March 20, 1858
Rosetta Sexton was Born November 1, 1860

Marriages.

Edward Sexton Married to India Stephens
March 20 1850

Louis Leander Simmons was married to India A.
Jerelaman, Feb. 13th, 1889.

Deaths.

William Edward Sexton Died November 26th 1863
James B. Stephens died Friday evening at nine oclock
at his home in East Portland
March 22nd 1889.

Births.

Born February the 22 1870 India Ann J___laman
(Spot torn from page.)
Born January the 29 1872 George William ___elaman
Died March the 29, 1878 George William Jerelaman
Born Nov. 27th 1880 Rose Jerelaman
died Nov.27th 1880 Rose Jerelaman

Copied February 1941 by Mary Cook from an old
Bible at the Goodwill Industries storeroom.



Elizabeth Stephens and her children, Elizabeth, India, and James, undated.
Oregon Historical Society Digital Collection,
reference OrgLot1414_0246S059.

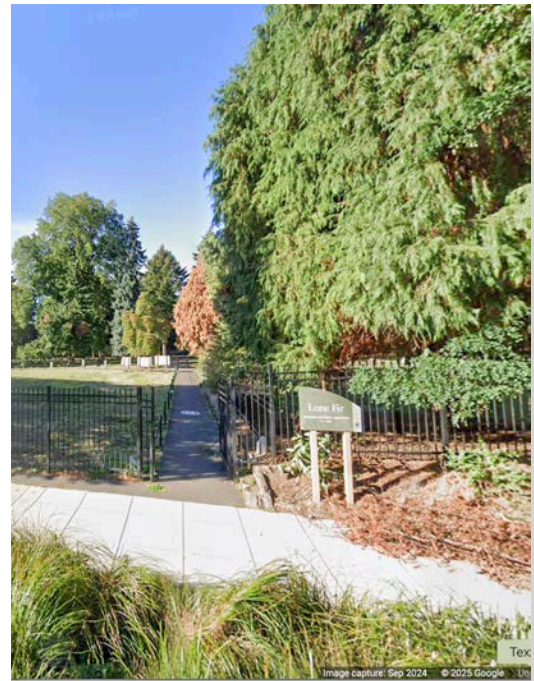
MORE OF THE STORY

Most of the people recorded in the Bible transcript were born in Oregon. The exceptions are Edward Sexton, his wife India (Stephens), and her father James B. Stephens.

James B. and Elizabeth (Walker) Stephens are well documented, having arrived in Oregon in 1844. They were married in Indiana in 1830. Of their seven children, four died before they reached Oregon. James was a prominent man of his times and directly responsible for the growth of East Portland through what was known as Stephens Addition. His father, Emmor Stephens, died in 1846 and was buried on James' farm in what became the first burial of the Lone Fir Cemetery. Elizabeth died 1887 and James in 1889.⁴

James and Elizabeth's daughter India was born in Indiana and would have been 12 years old when she arrived in Oregon with her parents. Her husband, Edward Sexton, was born in Ohio and came to Oregon from Illinois in 1850. After their marriage, they settled on their land claim in Washington County where they had seven children (including Amanda). Edward died on 8 December 1870. India then married Samuel Rolfe in 1873.⁵ She died five years later, on 30 August 1878.⁶

Neither Edward Sexton nor his father-in-law James B. Stephens, who died in 1889, had a will. Both men had large estates that were contested. Both cases made headlines in the local newspapers and detailed family secrets that otherwise might have remained buried.

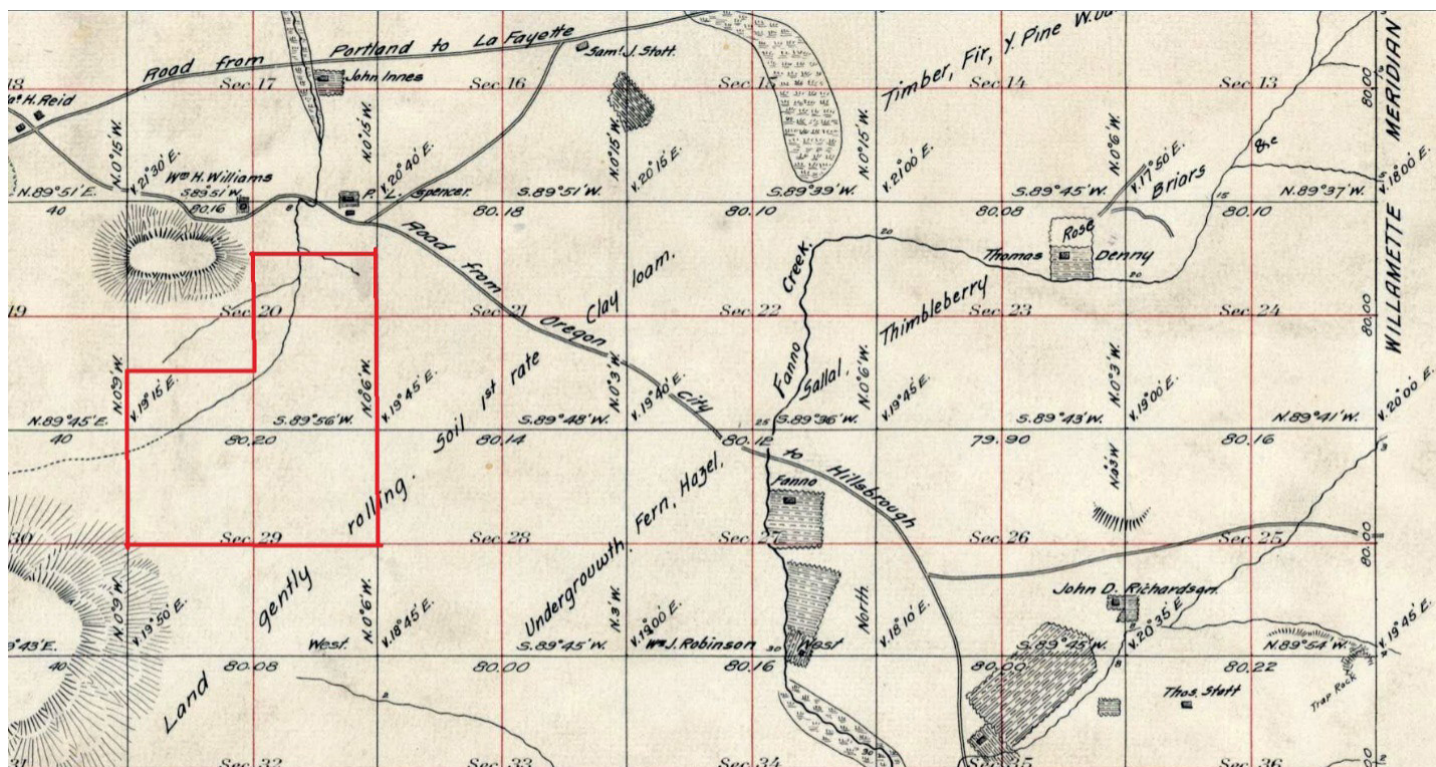


Lone Fir Cemetery, 2115 S.E. Morrison Street,
Portland, Oregon.

4. Hines, H. K., "James B. Stephens," in *An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon* (Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1893), 400–401.

5. "Multnomah County Marriages," Genealogical Forum of Oregon, marriage books, Volume 3, page 19. Indexed as Rolfe, Samuel and Sexton, Judie.

6. *Find a Grave*, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114634245/india_ann-rolfe : accessed January 14, 2025), memorial page for India Ann Stephens Rolfe (19 November 1832–30 August 1878), Find a Grave Memorial ID 114634245, citing Crescent Grove Cemetery, Tigard, Washington County, Oregon, USA; Maintained by EGF (contributor 47271774).

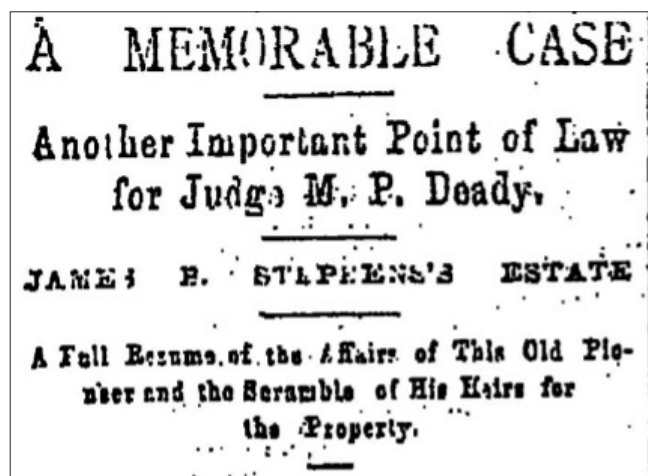


Part of an 1852 survey map of Washington County Township 1 South, Range 1 West, highlighting the claim of Edward Sexton. Bureau of Land Management – Oregon State Office. The rise to the northwest of the claim is now called Sexton Mountain. The land is about three miles south of downtown Beaverton off Murray Road.

EDWARD SEXTON

As noted above, India's husband Edward Sexton came to Oregon in 1850, and they soon married. He filed a donation land claim, and as a married man he and his wife received 640 acres. The certificate, dated 31 January 1868, described the land as the "South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the South East $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20. The South $\frac{1}{2}$, - the North East $\frac{1}{4}$, and the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the North West $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 all in T 1 S R1 W. Containing 640 acres. The south half to Edward S Sexton, and the north half to India Sexton his wife."⁷

It was this last phrase that was the basis for litigation. It seemed that before coming to Oregon, Edward Sexton married and had children with a wife named Angeline. That made future title to the land problematic. The controversy played out for at least nine years after his death. In one court decision, it was claimed that "James B. Stephens [India's father] is now and for more than six years has been the owner of the interest of said Angeline and children in the premises and entitled to the possession thereof..."⁸



The Morning Oregonian, 10 November 1890.

7. Bureau of Land Management, "General Land Office Records," database and images (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=OROCOA%20000321&docClass=SER&sid=psb0xyxj.b3a> : accessed 14 January 2025). Patent of Edward S. and India Sexton.

8. "Decision in the U. S. Circuit Court, Deady, J.," *The Daily Oregonian*, 27 August 1879. *The Historical Oregonian* (1861–1987), database with images. Accessed through the Multnomah County Library Research Tools.

A later court affirmed that Angeline was legally entitled to the land and that Stephens purchased interest in the property. The decision included the statement that “said India informed him [Stephens] that she had known for years of the existence of said Angeline, and that she had no doubt that she was the lawful wife of Sexton, whereupon he purchased the interest of said Angeline...”⁹

Shortly before his death in 1899, James Stephens deeded his properties to several individuals, some of whom were family and some friends. The Sexton property went to his business manager, Henry Hunt, who was married to James’ granddaughter Rosetta Sexton. Rosetta received the family home in East Portland and her sister Elizabeth (Sexton) McAyeal’s widower received property. The recipients of the deeds did not include James’ daughter Elizabeth McCalla, grandson Joseph W. Sexton, nor Amanda Sexton’s daughter India (Jerelaman) Simmons. Daughter Elizabeth challenged the transfer of the deeds in court and lost. Joseph and India then filed suit against the estate and in 1900, more than 10 years after James’ death, they also lost. The court believed that James Stephens purposely excluded the three and stated the reasons. Those included opium addiction, mortgaging gifted property to open a saloon, and a poor choice of husband.¹⁰

ADDENDA

Although many of the homes built on Stephens’ land in East Portland were torn down when the railroad came through and the area became industrial, his house was moved from its place near the Willamette River to its current location on



The Morning Oregonian, 9 February 1900.

Southeast 12th Avenue near the intersection with Stephens Street. It is said to be the oldest house in Portland. There was a school named for him, but it was torn down decades ago. Known as “Uncle Jimmy,” all reports say he was well-liked with many friends.

Sexton Mountain in Washington County was named for Edward Sexton, and there is now a Sexton Mountain Park, school, and neighborhood.

Amanda, owner of the Bible, daughter of Edward and India Sexton, died in 1885 at the age of 31. She would have known about her father’s other family in Illinois. She likely had her own struggles in life after marrying young and losing her two youngest children within two years. At the time of her death, she and her husband lived near her grandfather in Stephens Addition.



9. “Decision in the U. S. Circuit Court, Deady, J.,” *The Daily Oregonian*, 25 November 1879. *The Historical Oregonian* (1861–1987), database with images. Accessed through the Multnomah County Library Research Tools.

10. “In the Several Courts,” *The Morning Oregonian*, 9 February 1900. *The Historical Oregonian* (1861–1987), database with images. Accessed through the Multnomah County Library Research Tools.

Book Review

The Deserter's Tale: A Genealogical Crime Mystery (The Forensic Genealogist Series #10)

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Nathan Dylan Goodwin
 Publisher: Independently published
 Publication Date: 2023
 Pages: 161
 Price: Hardcover \$19.95
 Paperback \$9.95
 Kindle \$3.99
 Audible Audiobook \$13.08
 GFO call number: Not in GFO collection

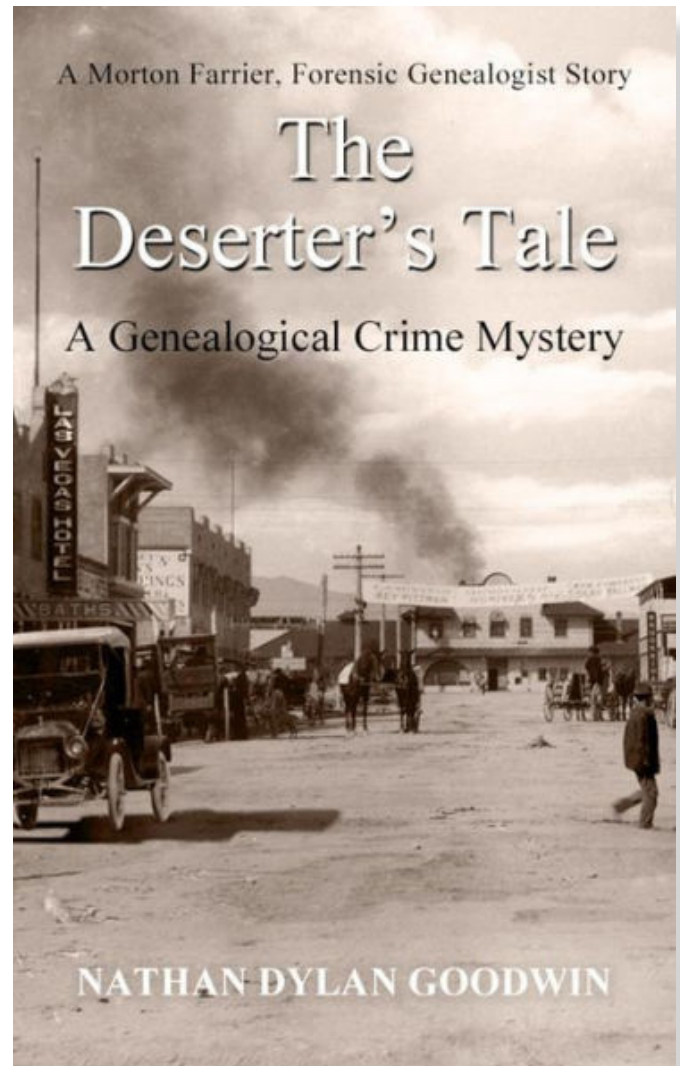
The Deserter's Tale, the tenth book in Nathan Dylan Goodwin's *The Forensic Genealogist Series*, is set in Las Vegas, Nevada. A historian as well as a genealogist and writer, Mr. Goodwin describes Las Vegas in the 1920s and current times authentically as he investigates his mystery.

There is a side trip to a RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in which the author inserts real-life genealogists (with their permission) and introduces research concepts which his protagonist (and we) can use in genealogical research. One technique, advocated by Dr. Sophie Kay, focuses on the "negative space" of a subject's timeline.

Using a concept from visual art, Dr. Sophie Kay teaches a method for illuminating blank periods of an ancestor's life. Mr. Goodwin uses this focus to help genealogist Morton Farrier discover lost periods in the life of his wife's great-grandfather. This character is loosely based on an actual relative in Mr. Goodwin's own family tree, with the negative space filled in with wild imagination that matches the incredibility of the true story and the culture of 1920s Las Vegas.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin ends the book with a surprising finding that will surely be more fully explored in a future book.

Readers can enjoy a gentle mystery along with research ideas that can inspire them to flesh out the lives of their ancestors.



Book Review

So You Think You Know George Washington? Stories They Didn't Tell You in School!

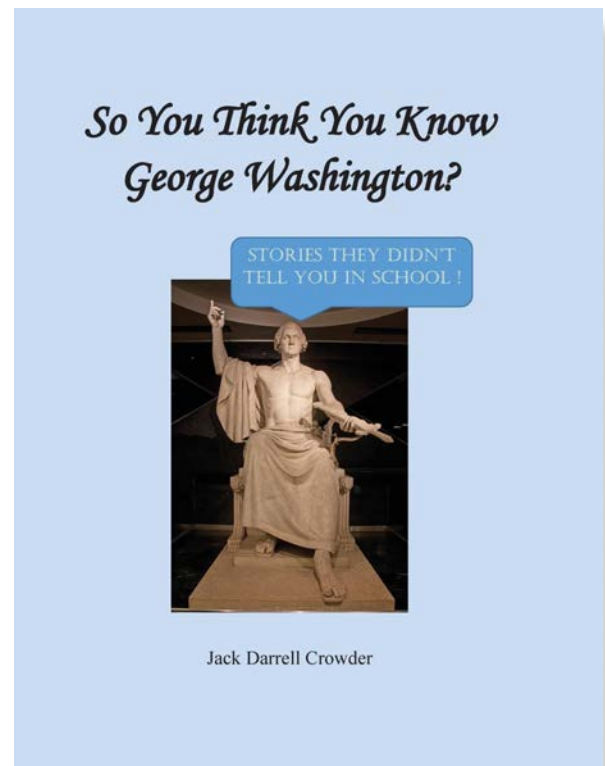
Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Jack Darrell Crowder
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2023
Pages: 228
Price: \$30 eBook, \$45 plus shipping paperback
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 922 Washingto Geor Crow

Author Jack Darrell Crowder's goal in writing *So You Think You Know George Washington?* was to illuminate the man and his times. Washington's reputation has waxed and waned over nearly three centuries. Mr. Crowder works to dispel myths and balance criticisms; to neither put him on a pedestal nor tear him down.

The book is organized by topic and supported by direct quotes from original sources. The author liberally quotes from personal letters to, from, and about Washington. One chapter details Washington's romantic aspirations. In those times, young teenage girls were considered of marriageable age. He proposed to several pretty, young women from wealthy families. Money was important in marriage with newspapers regularly printing the amount of a bride's net worth. Although young George was handsome, healthy, muscular, and tall, he was not yet wealthy. He was a shy young man who seemed more confident when writing love poems and letters.

There is an entire chapter about his false teeth. One pair of dentures is on display at Mount Vernon. Teeth made from filed animal teeth and ivory were fastened into a lead frame. A few human teeth, possibly his own, were included. Springs caused the top row of teeth to push upward when a person opened their mouth. To close one's mouth with these dentures, one had to bite down hard. Letters to and from his dentist are quoted. One may have even helped the colonists win a battle. Mr. Crowder also discusses myths surrounding Washington's teeth.



During his eight years leading the Revolutionary Army, there were so many wins and losses, intrigues and rumors, admirers and detractors. Washington did not take pay for his service, so he depended on others to manage his farms. In one letter, he instructed his cousin, "Let the hospitality of the House, with respect to the Poor, be kept up; Let no one go hungry away." The daily work was mainly done by enslaved people of African descent, but also by convict and indentured servant labor. Washington's beliefs and behaviors around slavery were shaped by current culture, influences such as the Marquis de Lafayette, and the perceived need to keep the colonies united. The author also writes about beliefs and history around the practice of using Black soldiers.

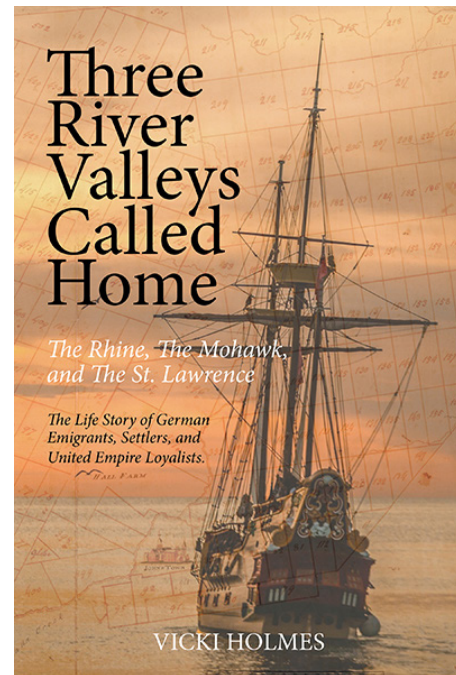
These topics, and more, offer a well-rounded view of George Washington. Jack Darrell Crowder gathered these facts while researching the twelve books he has written about the American Revolution. He dedicated this book to his fourth great-grandfather who fought under General George Washington at Valley Forge. His extensive research of original sources is documented in footnotes and in the bibliography. An index of referenced people in Washington's circle will be valuable to the descendants researching their lives and times.

Book Review

Three River Valleys Called Home The Rhine, The Mohawk, and The St. Lawrence. The Life Story of German Emigrants, Settlers, and United Empire Loyalists

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Vicki Holmes
 Publisher: FriesenPress
 Publication Date: 2019
 Pages: 684
 Price: \$12.99 e \$27.99 paper
 \$36.99 hardcover plus shipping
 GFO Call No.: Not in GFO library



Vicki Holmes researched her family history for 25 years. She spent more years studying the history and geography of the locations where they lived. In *Three River Valleys Called Home*, she added dialogue to these facts to bring her ancestors and their neighbors to life.

The author begins with the history of the region in the Rhine Valley where this branch of her family originated. She explains how the geography, wars, taxes, and land shortages would push a family to emigrate. The pull of the shipping companies' descriptions of America and selective reading of earlier emigrants' letters sounded enticing.

The journey began in 1755 when the family left their home in the Rhine Valley. After landing in Pennsylvania, the family weighed their options and decided to farm in the Mohawk Valley in the English Colony of New York. The American Revolution drove them farther north to the St. Lawrence River Valley. Along the way, there are American and English neighbors to meet, weddings to attend, and baptisms to sponsor. All the events are detailed and documented.

The story weaves through events that are both specific to this time and still familiar to modern readers: the struggle to raise a family and make a living, distrust and violence over political differences, intranational war, international refugee camps, and lonely deaths due to isolation during an epidemic.

Illustrations and maps accompany the text. Appendices include descendant charts and tenant lists; 756 endnotes thoroughly document sources, mysteries, and thought processes. A complete index of names listing the characters is organized by first name and includes more than a full page of people named Johannes and equally many named John.

Vicki Holmes has written an engaging story that will be helpful to descendants of this family and of the hundreds of other characters in her book that brings to life hundreds of documented facts. In addition, it will be interesting for those who want to better understand this time in history. It may even inspire family researchers to dig deep into the world of their ancestors and perhaps help others by writing part of their family history.

Book Review

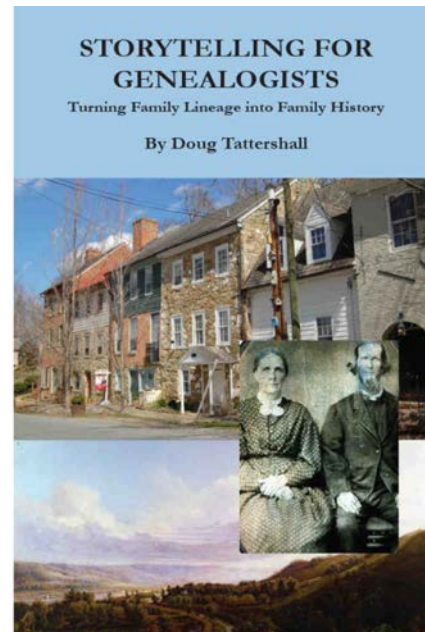
Storytelling for Genealogists Turning Family Lineage into Family History

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Doug Tattershall
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2024
Pages: 84
Price: \$12.50 ebook
\$18.95 plus shipping for paperback
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 070 Tatt 2024

In *Storytelling for Genealogists*, author Doug Tattershall teaches the reader how to craft an engaging story to illustrate one's family history. He encourages researchers to deepen their family history beyond a list of vital statistics. He asserts, "We work hard to discover our family tree. But what we really want to know is our family story" (p. 3).

The essential elements of a good story are interesting characters, a plot, and a theme. One's story "needs relevance to present and future members of the family" (p. 15). For the plot, he suggests introducing a conflict to resolve. One example is his great-grandfather's stable family life versus his risk-taking adventure of gold mining. For the theme, he asks: "What of their lives, if anything, became a part of your character or the character of your more immediate family?" Perhaps your family has a history of a particular occupation, a sense of adventure, or a love of learning. Perhaps your family demonstrates resilience or defeat in the face of adversity. Do we continue the theme, rise above it, or change direction?



To deepen the narrative, the author recommends setting the scene in history; this is especially important if the writer wants to write a story relevant beyond one's family. Research the history of the time and place. Dive into the realities of the lives one describes. Consider reenactment like an experimental archeologist or an actor studying for a part to add authenticity. He offers numerous resources for discovering facts, analyzing photographs, or adding color.

There are many formats by which to share one's family history research. The author provides examples and resources for sharing by text (informal, published, or blog), by audio forms, or audio-visual design.

There are many reasons for writing your family story: to understand your history better, to improve your research, or to share the story with your family and community. Mr. Tattershall writes, "Your family history is a story worth telling and, therefore, a story worth telling well" (p. 79). His book will help us become skilled storytellers.

In Memoriam

Michael Haw Graham, MD

(1938–2025)

Dr. Michael Graham died 21 February 2025 at the age of 86, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. He was a joint member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 1997 to 2003 with his spouse Nancy, continuing individually until 2009.

Born 18 March 1938 in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, Michael was the second child of newspaper editor William 'Walter' Graham and Elizabeth 'Betty' (Haw) Graham. In high school he was an All-American swimmer and scholastic achiever. In 1964 he graduated from the State University of Iowa Medical College with four significant honors including the MacEwan Memorial Prize.

In 1962 he met and married Nancy Kramer, and after graduation they moved west for Michael's medical internship in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. He next completed his Orthopedics residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. The Vietnam War drew him away for two years of active (medical) duty at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, where he served as a USAF Major and Chair of the Orthopedics Department. The Grahams returned to Portland in 1971, where Michael entered private practice with the Oregon Orthopedic Clinic, performing surgeries mainly at Good Samaritan Hospital. He additionally held an assistant professorship with OHSU and took on other leadership roles within the medical community while still maintaining his private surgical practice. Michael retired from the latter in 2002 and embarked on a forensic medical practice until 2018.



Michael's hobbies included a running routine, playing golf with Nancy, and climbing the peaks of the Northwest, the California Sierras, and the Andes of South America.

In 1976 he purchased an old cabin along the Metolius River of Central Oregon, hosting enjoyable gatherings of family and friends. He and Nancy also did walking tours around the world for many years, discovering fine food, lodging and new friends. Starting in 2004, Michael had more time for reading, especially books on history, averaging 13,000 pages per year.

Genealogy became another great interest. He wrote and published four books over a 15-year period, three of which are in the GFO library. The first (2004) pertains to his father's Corkhill family originating on the Isle of Man. The second (2007) is a narrative of his mother's Haw family of Dishforth, England. The third (2016) follows his Graham family line from Scotland to Ireland to the US. His fourth book, 'Getting to Counselman' (2019) is available at the Family Search Library. In it, Michael explores the complexity of his maternal grandmother's family lines thanks to various spellings of her surname.

Michael, per his family, had a wonderful sense of humor and an abundant life. He will be remembered as an honest, ethical, diligent, compassionate, approachable, witty and thoughtful man who led by integrity and example.

Survivors include spouse Nancy, sons Christopher and Kevin, and six grandchildren.



Metolius River, Oregon, 2001, by Frosken. Image cropped, CC license at [Wikimedia](#).

In Memoriam

Frances Ellen (Hooper) Hillesland (1924–2025)

Frances Hillesland died on 28 February 2025, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, at the age of 100. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon starting in 1984 and by 1986 was a life member and volunteer.

Frances lived her entire life in Portland. She was born to Howard and Winifred (Krebs) Hooper on 13 December 1924. They originated in Elgin, Oregon, and Sheldon, Minnesota, respectively, which became areas of research for Frances in later life.

Frances grew up during the Great Depression, graduated from Roosevelt High School, and was accepted to Reed College but could not attend. At age 19, she married U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Carl Miles, who died during the Normandy Invasion and never got the chance to meet his daughter Carol.

Frances, per family, rose past grief and single motherhood with intelligence, grit, and remarkable organizational skills, rising to office management positions with attorney and CPA firms. Additionally, on 4 November 1945, she married Kenneth Currie Hillesland, a U.S. Navy veteran, and (eventual) contract administrator for the Bonneville Power Administration. Together, they had two more children, Gordon and Sylvia. During those years, Frances sewed her children's clothes and became a volunteer and PTA president at their schools.

In retirement, Frances and Ken became avid golfers and snowbirds in the Palm Springs area of California. Frances, who excelled at the sport, is remembered for an exceptional hole-in-one. She also volunteered at the Portland International Airport.



Genealogy became an important pastime for Frances. During the late 1980s through 1990s, she frequently visited the GFO library to research her Hooper and Krebs family lines. Additionally, she joined her husband on a visit with his Hillesland family members to their Kansas ancestral homeland. As a volunteer with GFO, she worked on several projects, notably the 1993 book—*A Partial List of Military Casualties and MIAs From the State of Oregon During World War II*. She assisted its author, Spencer Leonard, with his materials and sources, which included grave registration cards, illustrations, photographs, and articles that she organized, photocopied, supplemented, and indexed.

Frances and Ken were married for 63 years until he died in 2009. Frances eventually moved to Cherrywood Village where she made new friends and enjoyed music and dance events. She then moved to assisted care before her death.

Family and friends remember Frances as a highly intelligent, very organized, funny, and beautiful woman who excelled at many things and was very devoted to her cats. She is buried at Riverview Cemetery in Portland with her spouse Ken.

Survivors include her sister Geraldine of California, her children, Carol and Gordon of Oregon, Sylvia, of California, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Genealogical Forum of Oregon & German American Society of Portland



**Beginning Genealogy
for German Heritage**

May 10 • June 28 • July 12
3 sessions • 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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at the German American Society
of Portland, 5626 NE Alameda St.

Visit gfo.org/seminar to learn more



German American Society of Portland &
Genealogical Forum of Oregon present

Researching Your German Roots



Seminar August 16, 2025 at 10:30am
with Katherine Schober, founder of Germanology Unlocked

...plus meet Katherine on August 15 during Stammtisch, the monthly
Happy Hour for German American Society of Portland

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GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON INC
Offices & Library
2505 S.E. 11th Ave. Suite B018
Portland OR 97202-1093

GFO JUNE 2025 EVENTS

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: gfo.org/calendar.

Monday, June 2

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Roots Magic
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Wednesday, June 4

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn and Chat
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Saturday, June 7

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Virginia Roots & Vines
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	German Group

Tuesday, June 10

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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Wednesday, June 11

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Great Lakes SIG
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Thursday, June 12

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Q Review
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Sunday, June 15

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	The Writers' Room
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Tuesday, June 17

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	AI in Genealogy
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Wednesday, June 18

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	DNA Q&A
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	New Home Committee
6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Irish Group

Saturday, June 21

2:00–4:00	GFO Annual Membership Meeting
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Sunday, June 22

1:00–3:00 p.m.	Family Tree Maker SIG
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Sunday, June 29

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	GFO Work Party
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