

Artoe Collection
2012-08

Scanning and Finding Aid by GFO Manuscripts Committee Volunteers



Manuscripts Committee
Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.

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Summary

Title: Artoe Collection

Accession Number: 2012-08

Creator: Ethelma (Edwards) Artoe (1908-1979)

Extent: 3 boxes consisting of 55 files

Language: English

Abstract: The Artoe Collection is a compilation of family history research focused on the Wyatt and associated families collected before the creator's death in 1979. The collection includes correspondence with extended family members and repositories. There are also copies of military records, pension records, Bible pages, and newspaper clippings. A few photos and biographical sketches can be found. Some of the files are organized by surname and include pedigree charts to help the researcher. However, many are organized by family groups in a particular location. These include Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri.

In addition to the papers in this collection, Mrs. Artoe compiled the book *The Wyatt Lineage*, available at the GFO library (call number 929.2 Wyatt Arto).

Administrative Information

Provenance: The Artoe Collection was acquired by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon before 2012. The collection was originally labeled with the name Wyatt; however, there is evidence throughout the collection that it was compiled by Ethelma Artoe.

Retention and Access: Scanned images of the collection are currently retained by the GFO Manuscripts Committee in three separate digital storage locations and can be accessed at the GFO library or by contacting manuscripts@gfo.org.

Copyright Status: The status of copyright in the unpublished writings and research papers of Ethelma Artoe is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Biographical Note

Lenora Ethelma Edwards was born on 22 May 1908 in Baker, Baker County, Oregon. Her parents, Nora Ethel Wyatt and Henry C. Edwards, divorced when she was young. She grew up around her Wyatt family members, including her grandfather Daniel Lee Wyatt, who was born in a covered wagon on the way to Oregon. She later moved to Tacoma, Washington, where she met John Artoe, whom she married in 1940. Around this time, she became interested in genealogy, and began a decades long search for family, including a connection to the legendary Kit Carson. A few years after the death of her husband, Ethelma moved to Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Oregon, where she died in 1979. A complete biography found in the introduction to *The Wyatt Lineage* is attached to the end of this finding aid.

Finding Aid

Box	File	Description	Surnames	Locations	Pages
1	1	A Wyatt study of many compiled sources for Francis Wyatt (1755-1824) and his wife, Elizabeth Hayden, includes correspondence, family groups, DAR application, miscellaneous research notes	Wyatt, Hayden, Gentry, Collins	Wales, North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Oregon	84
1	2	Research notes, sorted by surname and location			
1	3	Compiled family information submitted to the Wyatt Newsletter, edited by Mrs. Caramette M. Jackson	Wyatt, Vose, Hull, Cary, Arnold, Tillinghast, Simmons, Sands, Savage	Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Ohio	71
1	4	Research notes, sorted by name			
1	5	Correspondence and research notes, as taken from Wyatt family newsletters, reunions. Includes marriages, deeds, bible records, wills and estate abstracts, military, mostly from the Virginia and South Carolina lines	Wyatt, Andrea, Seawright, Pennington	Virginia, South Carolina	207
1	6	Correspondence and research, abstracts taken from the Wyatt Newsletter, edited by Louis Wyatt, mostly Virginia Valley and Shenandoah Valley areas of Virginia	Wyatt	Virginia	101

1	7	Correspondence and research notes, abstracts following the lines of Mayflower Brewsters and Allerton and their allied families, includes marriages, wills and estates, bible, other records .	Brewster, Allerton, Newton, Steptoe, Willoughby, Cushman, Dale, Deal, Daley, Lee, Taylor	Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kentucky	117
1	8	Photos, research notes, correspondence, narratives from the Lincoln-Hanks and allied families, copies of pages taken from "The Lincoln Kinsman"	Boone, Lincoln, Hanks, Todd, Bennett, Wyatt, Wright, Bush, Rhoads, Berry	Kentucky, Virginia, Oregon	128
1	9	Correspondence, research notes mainly for records in West Virginia and Virginia, includes Land grants, indentures, wills, pensions, vital records, tax lists.	Wyatt, Wiatt, Wielt, Ballah	West Virginia, Virginia	184
1	10	Correspondence, research notes mainly for Kentucky and Tennessee, includes pension, land, probate, tax, lineage, vital records, family group sheets, pedigrees	Wyatt, Brown, Cox, Harralson, Majors, Garrett, Adkins, Brittain, Cleghorn	Kentucky, Tennessee	195
1	11	Research notes for Tennessee includes bible, tombstone, tax, vital records, deeds, probate, pedigree records	Wyatt, Bond, Bailey	Tennessee	65
1	12	Correspondence, research in Kentucky records, including vital records, probate, wills & inventories, military, bounty lands, deed books, indentures, family group sheets, descendant reports.	Wyatt, Whitehouse, Tadlock, Martin, Clay, Bedford	Kentucky	191

1	13	Correspondence, research notes relating to Tennessee, pension affidavits, copies of bible pages, military records relating to War of 1812 and Civil War, pedigrees, obits, other descendant records	Wyatt, Tomlin, McLaughlin	Tennessee	123
2	1	Correspondence, miscellaneous records for families in Georgia, includes bible, church, wills, land lottery and deeds, historical collections, obit, pedigree chart, vital records	Wyatt, Delamar, Turner, Cox, Bonner	Georgia	132
2	2	Correspondence, research notes for Arkansas families, service records and pension affidavits, census, wills, family group sheet	Wyatt, McInturff	Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia	92
2	3	Correspondence, research notes for Ohio families, info on French and Indian War, service records and pension affidavits, census, cemetery, and family group	Wyatt, Wiat	Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia	163
2	4	Correspondence, research notes mostly military from all Wyatts and all eastern states, includes pensions, bounty lands, regiments, marriage records, descendants. Also includes stories of Kit Carson, Daniel Boone, Wyatt Earp	Wyatt, Carson, Boone, Earp	Mostly all eastern states	176
2	5	Correspondence, research notes mainly excerpts from Virginia records taken from periodicals and other resources	Wyatt, Brewster, Allerton, Newton, Lee, Taylor, Tadlock, Dunbar	Virginia, Kentucky	110

2	6	Research notes mainly from extracted sources of North Carolina records, including birth, marriage, death, land, pension, other info	Wyatt, Haiden, Haden, Jouett, Pennington	North Carolina, Kentucky	94
2	7	Correspondence, research notes from extracted specific counties of North Carolina, pedigree chart, family group sheets, several abstracts of deeds in Halifax County.	Wyatt, Dunkins, Brewer, Wood	North Carolina	118
2	8	Correspondence, research notes from Missouri records, family group sheets	Wyatt, Peyton, Trimble, Williams, Thompson, Davis	Missouri, Kentucky	99
2	9	Correspondence, photos, newspaper items, family group sheets, pedigree, misc. research notes for Missouri	Wyatt, Bowen, Boone, Lincoln	Missouri	129
2	10	Research notes, correspondence, tax lists, census, deeds, vital records, family groups, pedigree charts, all records mainly for the counties: Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, Washington, Whitley, and Wolfe.	Wyatt, Barnett, Gibson, Anderson, Lambert	Kentucky	173
2	11	Research notes, mortality schedules, wills, military, bible records	Wyatt, Wiatt, Witt, Wallace, Calloway, Morrow, Barnes, Brewer	Kentucky, Virginia	66
2	12	Research notes, mainly for counties: Livingston, Logan, Lyon, McCracken, Madison, Marshall, Mason, Menifee, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery. Includes tax and land records, courthouse records. Some correspondence.	Wyatt, Trimble, Maupin, Robinson	Kentucky	109

2	13	Correspondence, research notes for counties: Jackson, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson, Kenton, Knox, Lawrence, Letcher, Lincoln. Includes obits, records from the Filson Club, pedigree charts	Wyatt, Coffelt, Johnson	Kentucky	193
2	14	Correspondence, research notes for counties: Muhlenburg, Nelson, Nicholas, Owsley, Pendleton, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Simpson. Includes vital records, pension, census, newspaper obit	Wyatt, Jasper	Kentucky	51
2	15	Wyatt Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 2 June 1973	Wyatt	Kentucky	1
	16	Correspondence, research notes for counties: Christian, Clark, Clay, Crittenson, Cumberland, Davies, Estill, Fayette. Includes vital records, land, other miscellaneous items	Wyatt, Hodges, Rogers, Clarke, Craig, Hawkins	Kentucky, Virginia	147
2	17	Correspondence, research notes for counties: Fleming, Floyd, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Garrard, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Harlan, Harrison, Hart, Henderson, Henry. Includes miscellaneous vital records, will and estate, census, pedigree.	Wyatt, Moss, Williams, Trimble	Kentucky, Virginia	174
2	18	Correspondence, research notes mainly for Illinois, includes vital records, news items, obit, pensions, deeds, bible records, photos	Wyatt, Morray, Lawrence, Grisson		203

2	19	Correspondence, research notes mainly for Virginia, includes land and tax records, court records, bible	Wyatt, Richardson, Thomasson, Campbell	Virginia	84
2	20	Alphabetical list of given names A-I			200
2	21	Alphabetical list of given names J-N			213
2	22	Alphabetical list of given names P-Z			181
3	1	Miscellaneous research notes for Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma	Wyatt		13
3	2	Correspondence, research notes for California	Wyatt, Bonds	California	23
3	3	Correspondence, research notes for Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, included vital records, family groups, news items, census	Wyatt	Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi	69
3	4	Correspondence, research notes for Texas includes wills and probate, military, census, family groups, vital records, mostly marriages, but some birth and death	Wyatt, James, Lathrop, Jones, Kuykendall, Grant	Texas, Virginia	155
3	5	Correspondence, research notes for Indiana, some Ohio. Includes vital records, affidavits, census, wills, probate, one DAR lineage for Thomas Wyatt	Wyatt, Proffit, Dedman, Willis	Indiana, Ohio	229
3	6	Correspondence, research notes for North Carolina, includes census, land deeds, wills and probate, tax lists, vital records, mostly marriage but some birth and death, military	Wyatt, Calloway, Eivens, Oates, Arrenton, Long	North Carolina	134

3	7	Correspondence, research notes for Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Includes bible records, vital records, military, pension, census, family groups	Wyatt, Gable	Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska	70
3	8	Correspondence, research notes for Alabama, includes family groups, vital records, wills and probate, census, newspaper extracts	Wyatt, Bibb, Scott, Carter, Johnston	Alabama, Virginia	121
3	9	Correspondence, research notes for South Carolina, includes list of Loyalists, land grants, probate and will extracts, church records, cemetery records	Wyatt, Gregory, Smith, Jenkins, Thompson	South Carolina	147
3	10	Correspondence, research notes for Virginia includes family groups, pedigrees, church records, land, wills, court records, vital records	Wyatt, Wiatt, Barnett, Bennett, Haden, Jordan, Mayfield, Tarver	Virginia	140
3	11	Correspondence, research notes for Virginia, includes vital records, deeds, court records, wills, military, family groups, pedigrees, lineages	Wyatt, Owens, Coleman, Bennett, New, Starks, Harris, Redd, Taylor, Garrett, Dorsey, Randolph	Virginia	124
3	12	Research notes for Maryland, includes church and parish records, wills, pensions, family groups.	Wyatt, Wiatt, Barnett, Barret, Craig	Maryland	74
3	13	Correspondence, research notes for Indiana, includes several published histories of Wyatts, photos, pedigree, vital records, land, military pensions	Wyatt, Rozell, Ballard, Jordan, Ferguson, Townsend, Hanes, Inman	Indiana	209

3	14	Correspondence, research notes for Virginia, includes tax lists, muster rolls, pensions, vestry books, DAR lineage, wills, land, vital records	Wyatt, Wiatt, Dudley, Smith, Tankard, Keene	Virginia, North Carolina	86
3	15	Research notes for Virginia, includes vital records, wills, land, parish records, pension affidavits	Wyatt, Ballard, Anderson, Carter, Winston, Kindell, Morris	Virginia	99
3	16	Correspondence, research notes for Virginia, includes military, land and tax, vita records, parish registers, bible, obituary notices, probate	Wyatt, Cocke, Wood, Jones	Virginia	85
3	17	Correspondence, photos, research notes for Illinois, DAR lineage, pedigree, family groups, biographical sketches, vital records, cemetery, will and probate records, land	Wyatt, Bergen, Hinrichsen, Tunnell	Illinois	241
3	18	Correspondence, research notes for Arkansas, includes vital and bible records, obit, will, lineages, family group pedigrees, estate inventories.	Wyatt, McInturff, Waters, Alexander	Arkansas	93
3	19	Research notes for Virginia, includes miscellaneous references to Wyatt surname, lineages, vital records, vestry, military.	Wyatt, Ballard, Smith, Bush, McDowell, Taylor, Strother	Virginia	67
3	20	Correspondence, research notes for Virginia, includes, tax and land, parish order book entries, photos, Quaker MM notes, family group, miscellaneous biographical.	Wyatt, Hixon, Hale	Virginia	128

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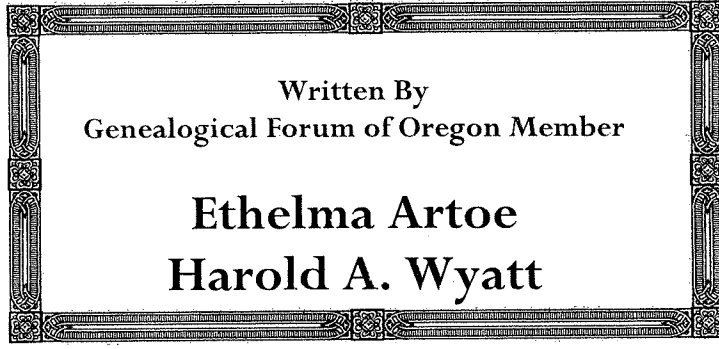
Genealogical Forum
Portland, OR

INTRODUCTION AND BIOGRAPHY OF ETHELMA ARTOE

By Harold A. Wyatt

THE WYATT LINEAGE

By Ethelma Artoe



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Lenora Ethelma Artøe (1908-1979)

Lenora Ethelma Edwards was born May 22, 1908, in Baker, Oregon, the elder child of Nora Ethel Wyatt (1889-1974) and Henry C. Edwards (1886-1945). They married in Baker in 1907. The marriage was short-lived and with divorce Ethelma stayed with her Mother, while her younger brother remained with his Father. The Mother never remarried, and Ethelma had little contact with her Father and brother thereafter.

Ethelma's school years were divided between Baker and Salem where her Mother operated a small restaurant, and Ethelma spent her free time in the restaurant at the various tasks involved (waiting on tables, washing dishes, cooking, etc.). However, these early associations with here Mother's family were a molding and lasting influence on her life. Her uncle, Dr. Thomas Daniel Wyatt (1899-1973), who graduated from the University of Oregon, Eugene, undoubtedly encouraged her to attend the University which she did for two years. Later she stated that she had wanted to become a doctor, but that there were too many obstacles at that time standing in the way of a woman interested in a medical career.

Her grandfather, Daniel Lee Wyatt (1864-1929) who was born on the way to Oregon in a covered wagon, was well known in the Baker area as an avid sportsman and a mighty hunter, took her on hunting and camping trips. She learned to shoot a gun and became a good shot. She learned to ride a horse, something which gave her pleasure in later years. She loved all animals and kept dogs as family pets. While young she had a pet fowl or animal which was killed by her grandmother or grandfather, and this was such a traumatic experience that she was unable to eat meat for many years afterwards.

After a short and unsuccessful marriage, Ethelma moved to Tacoma, Washington in 1938-39 where a cousin resided. She initially worked as a waitress. She met John Artoe (1910-1972) there and they were married in Spokane in November, 1940. After marriage, Ethelma continued to work for most of her adult life as a bookkeeper, for the US Forestry Service, for restaurants, for construction companies. During the war years 1941-45 she gave freely of her spare time as a Red Cross volunteer in the Tacoma General Hospital.

Sometime during the 1940's she became interested in genealogy, and this became a consuming avocation for the rest of her life. Although we do not know what prompted her interest in this field we can surmise that some events were significant. It was common knowledge in her family that they were related to Kit Carson, and her grandfather dressed as Kit Carson and represented him in an Old Oregon Trail Pageant parade in Meacham in 1927. It was reported at that time that Ethelma's grandmother, Flora Semira Moore Wyatt (1870-1934) was a third cousin of Kit Carson. Ethelma later stated that she wanted to determine the exact relationship and how it came about. Also, it is very likely that Minnie Elizabeth Leake (1868-1947), daughter of Sarah Jane Wyatt (1848-1907) and William Thompson Morrow (1843-1888) was catalyst, for she corresponded with Ethelma in the 1940's. Minne had done a great deal of research on the Wyatt family, knew its illustrious history in England and in early Virginia, and had compiled information on the family from the 1300's in England down to the 1940's. Some of this material was given to Ethelma, and undoubtedly influenced her to learn more about her own ancestors.

It is impossible to calculate the amount of time Ethelma spent in amassing the documentary evidence contained in box after box of voluminous correspondence, records,

and notebooks. But some thirty years of single-mindedness, dedication, and persistence permitted her to build a wide range of correspondents who supplied her with a wealth of material. In addition to her ability to pursue and research a subject until she satisfied she had the facts and documentary evidence she needed, she had the unusual talent of getting other people to do, willingly, many things for her, such as culling and sending her copies of pertinent census data, government records, bible records, cemetery records, information from tombstones, local historical articles, local library material, excerpts from published documents of all kinds, newspaper records, etc. They supplied birth and death certificates, marriage records land exchange deeds, they checked correctness of names, etc. all of the multitude of tasks and the tedious research and follow-up necessary to obtain this kind of information. Not least of importance was the leads to other persons she received from correspondents, and then she proceeded to enlist the new leads in procuring information for her. Probably one of the keys to her success was that in addition to collecting information, she also dispensed it after refining it. She was able to provide helpful data to her correspondents which as of great importance to them, and they unselfishly reciprocated. Undoubtedly she was helped by the fact that many of the old-timers were still alive at the time and could provide information first-hand. Also, public agencies were much more willing to check their records and provide the information. This was before the publication of "Roots" and the deluge of inquiries which these agencies now have from members of the public trying to trace their own individual roots.

In collecting information on the Wyatt, Platter, Morrow, Sweetin, Dunbar, Kirk, Sawyer and related families, she relied heavily on correspondents such as Mrs. Cindy Sawyer, Rolla, Missouri; Lynn Bedford, Mesa Arizona; Paul H. Sawyer, Toronto,

Missouri; and other too numerous to mention, plus some who were somewhat special, such as Miss Quantrille D. McClung, Denver, Colorado, for 26 years a staff member of Denver public library. She wrote Ethelma in April, 1964:

“ The postman just brought me the bonanza of records from you and I hasten to let you know they have been received.”

“ Now that I have so much from you I may be able to fill in some of the gaps in the excellent Genealogical Division of our Public Library.”

Ethelma was a taskmaster, and as much as permissible, a perfectionist. She wanted facts, evidence, proof. And she was persistent. One of her correspondents, James G. Payton, Historian-Secretary of the Payton-Peyon Genealogy Association of America Clearing House, Hutchinson, Kansas wrote her in January 1976:

“..... I enjoyed your most funny expression with delight- then I tossed your letter up on my pessimism shelf....”

“ I am well pleased though, that you must ‘ disregard most of the conjectures made’”

“ ‘ Can you prove it’ ? Again that makes me laugh....”

“ I like people who are skeptical and I enjoy being around people who are pessimists, for I like to needle them...”

Needless to say, Ethelma was unable to reform Mr. Payton, somewhat her senior in years and whose role was to catalogue and pass on all information given to him, as is. He left it up to persons like Thelma to sift chaff and weed out the exaggerated stories, and then zero in on the documentary evidence.

After Ethelma's husband died in 1972 she sold her home in Tacoma, bought a trailer home and lot in Puyallup, Washington, and lived there until August, 1976, when ill health caused here to moved to Milwaukee, Oregon, where she lived with Mr. and Mrs.

Emil Smolich until she died February 2, 1979. She is buried in Baker, Oregon. At various times in her life Ethelma had serious health problem, including cancer in the 1940's but surgery and treatment were successful. Some years later, she has serious health problems of a different nature, was not expected to live, and had a long recovery period. Prior to her move to Milwaukee she had been in declining health, and at the time she moved she moved she knew that she would not recover. In spite of this, she continued her genealogical work until the final hospitalization.

One aspect of this unusual woman's life related to her relationship with Emil Smolich, who was 22 years her junior and only a boy delivering newspapers in Baker. Having no children of her own, she immediately took a liking to the boy, and later related that she should have kidnapped him then and there. Anyway, in later years she would invite Emil to visit her in Tacoma during the summer months, and would find employment for him. Eventually he moved to Tacoma for full employment and at various times in his life lived at the Artoe home. He paid her a great tribute when he said " She was the greatest woman I ever knew.". Emil was the administrator of her estate.

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