



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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In This Issue

- Questions and Suggestions
- Mountain Musings
- Three Weeks on Ice
Then Smiles One Monday
Morning at GFO's Library
- The Buck Family in Athens
County, Ohio, Part II
- Hannah Carroll Coyle
of Linn County, Oregon
- Grandmother May Bell
Was One in a Hundred
- Anna Charlotta
(Johansdotter) Almquist
of Brunn, Sweden
- Sarepta (Michael) Upton,
Oregon Pioneer, 1860
- Maria Magdalena "Mary"
(Ziebold) Bonnet, Illinois's
Soprano Voice
- Maria (Biloveszky) Madera
of the Austro-Hungarian
Empire
- Louise Schede Fieser's
Diary, Part III
- Book Reviews and More!

Who are These People? A Letter from Siblings Supports My Assumption about Portrait Captions for Awdry, Guy, & Radcliffe Ancestors from England



by Mark Grafe

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to *The Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

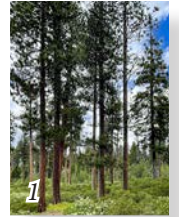
- memoirs and personal essays
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- how-to articles
- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
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We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and 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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Contents

<i>Letter from an Editor</i>	iv
<i>Questions and Suggestions</i>	
<i>Anne Sharp</i>	vi
Mountain Musings	
<i>Kristy Musalo</i>	1
Three Weeks on Ice, Then Smiles One Monday Morning at Genealogical Forum of Oregon's Library	
<i>Elaine Meis and April Ober.</i>	4
The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio, Part II	
<i>Christina Buck Armstrong</i>	5
Who are These People? A Letter from Siblings Supports My Assumption about Portrait Captions for Awdry, Guy, & Radcliffe Ancestors from England	
<i>Mark Grafe</i>	13
Hannah Carroll Coyle (1824–1870) of Linn County, Oregon	
<i>Ann Rowland</i>	16
Grandmother May Bell Was One in a Hundred	
<i>Roberta Meyer Bear.</i>	17
Anna Charlotta (Johansdotter) Almquist (1831–1917) of Brunn, Älmsborg County, Sweden	
<i>Wendy Negley</i>	19
Sarepta (Michael) Upton (1823–unknown), Oregon Pioneer, 1860	
<i>Bonnie LaDoe</i>	21
Maria Magdalena “Mary” (Ziebold) Bonnet (1863–1959), Illinois’s Soprano Voice	
<i>Barbara Coakley</i>	23
Maria (Biloveszky) Madera (1859–1937?) of the Austro-Hungarian Empire	
<i>Mary Nelson.</i>	26
<i>Transcriptions</i>	
Louise Schede Fieser’s Diary	
Translated from German into English, Part III	
<i>Christina Buck Armstrong</i>	27
<i>Book Reviews</i>	
Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places	
<i>Reviewed by Anne Sharp.</i>	39
Scottish Baronial Families 1250–1750	
<i>Reviewed by Wendy Negley.</i>	40
<i>In Memoriam</i>	
Joyce Ann Grant-Worley	41
Richard Marvin Palmer	42
2024–2025 Annual Report of Donors	43



Cover image—Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy. Courtesy of Mark Grafe.

Letter from an Editor

“You are more likely to learn something from surprises in your own behavior than by hearing surprising facts about people in general.”

Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking Fast & Slow*, page 174.

Happy holidays? This winter issue of *The Bulletin* joyfully mixes a variety of articles. On page vi, you will find a new feature, “Questions and Suggestions,” which was well-received by the Bulletin Editorial Group. Then note the ad for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s “Virtual Holiday Party,” which was fun and well-attended last year.

Kristy Musalo’s “Mountain Musings” has a reflective tone, stemming from her vacation in Oregon’s Ochoco Mountains, where she pondered what possessions her ancestors brought to America. “Three Weeks on Ice,” by Elaine Meis and April Ober, shares a research case at the GFO Library in which volunteers helped document relationships that hopefully enable a family burial in Rainier Cemetery District, Columbia County, Oregon.

Part two of Christina Armstrong’s “Buck Family,” which analyzes mid-19th-century probate documents, is followed by my article, “Who Are These People?” We postponed my article for a few years while my research focused on my paternal ancestors, but the three pages now fit.

Several months ago, Geri Auerbach asked me to save *Bulletin* space for the GFO’s special interest group, The Writers’ Room, and we received seven articles with the suggested topic being women. Ann Rowland wrote about a family that came over the Oregon Trail in 1847, and Roberta Meyer Bear discusses her “one in a hundred” grandmother. I was also pleased to get a submission from Wendy Negley, who has written book reviews for *The Bulletin*. Wendy submitted an article on her Swedish ancestors. Bonnie LaDoe surprisingly submitted a survival story about an Oregon pioneer. After the 2024 “Virtual Holiday Party,” I thought she might submit an article on her collection of old holiday cards, but maybe she is saving that for December 2026. Barbara Coakley’s well-cited, lovely article on Illinois’s Soprano Voice includes beautiful images of “Mary” (Ziebold) Bonnet. It takes us to Italy and a fountain that almost made it onto our cover. I was thrilled to receive a submission from Mary Nelson, as I have seen her smiling face at many of the GFO’s online Special Interest Groups. Mary’s article follows her ancestors from Austria-Hungary to possibly Idaho. Christina



Old knees, new dog. Mark and Bébe at home, Fall 2025.

Armstrong (who has Part 2 of “The Buck Family” and Part 3 of “Louise Schede Fieser’s Diary” in this issue) wrote about an ancestor who used “needle and thread to tell a story.” Her article will be in the March *Bulletin*.

Following book reviews, we end with brief memorials. Someone may be surprised by our obituary for Richard Palmer (1924–2011). We just became aware of Richard’s death when, for the first time, USPS returned mail addressed to him. Remembering Richard years after his death reminded me of the surprise of not finding an obituary for my paternal grandfather. My response was to write one up and publish it in a *Bulletin* article in March 2023.

While reading letters my mother wrote to her parents, I remembered that an older letter helped identify portraits of ancestors, and I decided not to shelve “Who Are These People?” and to put my ancestors on the cover rather than a fountain, trees, or other people. Those hidden notes in intimate letters surprised me. I think I have learned that I should hurry up and finish my genealogy. Thanks for the writing, editing, layout, and social skills practice.

Mark Grafe



Research in the US Northwest

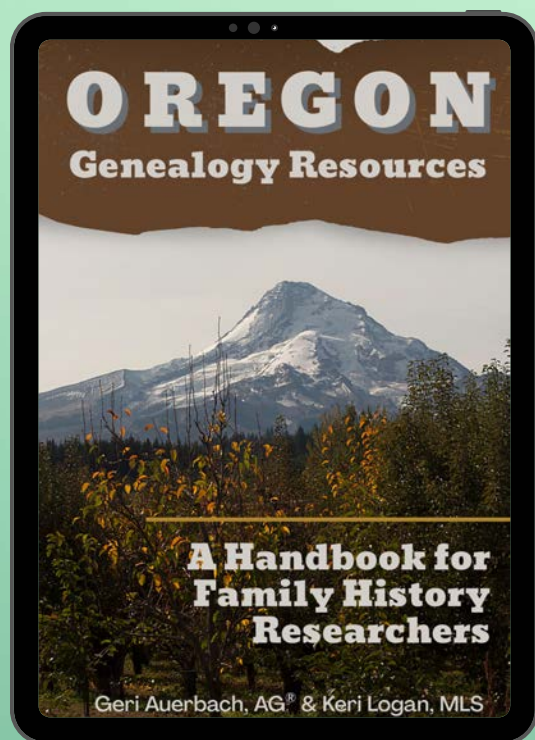
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Questions and Suggestions

A new, occasional feature where readers can share hints or information: Can You Identify This Uniform?

Anne Sharpe

This picture is labeled Arnold Weld, but has no date, age, or location.

Arnold was born in Guildford, Windham, Vermont, in 1805, was living in Cohocton, Steuben, New York, by 1833, then farmed in Seward, Winnebago, Illinois, until his death in 1868. He was too young to have fought in the War of 1812, and he would have been much older than in this photo if he had been in the Civil War. Perhaps he was a member of a state militia or a fraternal organization.

Please send your questions, suggestions, or answers to bulletin@gfo.org.



Arnold Weld, undated. Courtesy of Catherine Lockhart.

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Mountain Musings

Kristy Musalo

“We will be known by the tracks we leave.” Dakota Tribe

I am sitting in the mountains of the Ochocho National Forest, in Central Oregon, in a sometimes-uncomfortable red camp chair under a clear bright blue sky, the kind of sky that happens only in the mountains. My husband and I are encamped in Central Oregon for two weeks in our RV, with all the comforts of home. I am surrounded by the sights, sounds, and smells of high mountain woodlands and meadows at a small, but picturesque lake which we visited to escape the high desert heat. This area always brings me peace and joy, soothing chaotic city life challenges and providing fresh air to just simply breath.

To call this place beautiful is an understatement. Ponderosa pine trees surround the lake, their warm vanilla perfume intoxicating. Wildflowers crowd the meadow with purple spired alpine lupine, yellow and orange wild columbine with their tiny fairy slippers dancing in the breeze, little delicate blue flowers that remind me of lace, and pink pillowy flowers resembling the night caps folks wore many years ago. Birds are plentiful and quite vocal. The jays busily argue which picnic is the best to steal while a woodpecker makes his presence known with a rap-tap-tap on a nearby tree. A mama duck keeps her brood in line while teaching them the tastiest places to forage a meal.



*Alpine Lupine in Ochoco Mountains, Oregon.
Courtesy of author.*



*Ponderosa Pines in Ochoco Mountains, Oregon.
Courtesy of author.*

There's not much for a human to do here besides fish, paddle board, observe nature, or relax and think. While my husband paddles around the lake, I, sitting in my slightly uncomfortable camp chair, decide to relax and think. I wonder who first found this little lake and what impression they received. I then realize indigenous people likely found this little lake long before any white person set eyes upon it. I like to imagine they spent warm summer afternoons at this cozy place fishing, swimming, and I hope, gathering a small wildflower bouquet for their grandmothers.

Maybe it is the intoxicating Ponderosa pine scent and the vivid blue sky, but I begin to wonder what possessions people immigrate with. When the first white man found my favorite little lake what might he have traveled with? A warm coat? Boots? A horse or mule? A rifle, musket, or knife? Maybe a bed roll and a cookpot too? Obviously, there would be challenges he must face and hopefully plan for.

As far as I know, none of my ancestors found a picturesque alpine lake. In fact, none migrated west from the east coast until the 1950s. But what about those immigrants who came from foreign lands such as England, Germany, France, and Italy? What did they travel with? What possessions were so important to them that they hefted them across an ocean in a ship with limited storage and personal space to an unfamiliar land?

In 1882, my second great-grandfather George Frederick Nieberlein immigrated from Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, sailing into New York via Hamburg, Germany, enroute to Baltimore, Maryland.¹ The ship record does not state how many pieces of luggage or trunks he traveled with. In Flensburg he was a baker and in Baltimore too. Did he bring recipes, an apron, or just simply his clothing and personal items? He most certainly did not travel with the luxury of two checked bags, one carry-on bag, and one personal item such as I might take while jetting through the sky.

In 1905, my grandfather Thomaso Sassorossi immigrated from Pievepelago, Modena, Emilia Romagna, Italy, via Genoa, Italy, to New York enroute to Barre, Vermont.² He traveled with his mother and two older brothers to meet up with his father, Angelo Sassorossi, who was already in Vermont working in the granite mines. The ship record states my great-grandmother Teresa traveled with \$15 and one piece of luggage. Did she bring a pasta roller, a jar of olive oil? My great-grandfather Angelo already lived in a thriving Italian community so perhaps my great-grandmother saw no need to bring a lot of possessions. It seems to me a woman and three young boys would need more luggage, but times were different then and possessions may have been not as important as some folks make them today.

In 1895, my husband's great-grandmother Louise Augusta Bach immigrated from Mosbach, Baden, Prussia, to New York via Bremen, Germany.³ She traveled alone with one piece of luggage and planned to meet up with her brother Emil Herman Bach. While I don't know what all she carried with her, I do know she brought a German made clock that dates from around 1890. The clock hangs in my home's entry way. Family heirlooms could be important to many immigrants for various reasons.

In 1671, my 8th great-grandmother Jeanne Marguerite Chevalier immigrated from France to Quebec, Canada.⁴ She was one of 768 young unmarried French women known as the King's Daughters (France's King Louis XIV), Les Filles du Roi. She may have been orphaned and sought a new life and new opportunities in Canada. Imagine



German clock, circa 1890, authors home.

relocating to Quebec and the truly untamed wilderness. How did a young woman pack for that? Her possessions were likely minimal, perhaps some clothing and a few personal items. Reportedly the King paid for his “daughter’s” transportation and settlement in the colony. Some received a small dowry for their marriage to an unmarried colonist.⁵

1. “New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957,” Year 1882, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/records/12026001?tid=16046812&pid=433372161&ssrc=pt> : accessed 8 August 2025), entry for George Nieberlein.

2. “New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957,” Year 1907, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/records/4036115582?tid=16046812&pid=339940080&ssrc=pt> : accessed 8 August 2025), entry for Teresa Pasquesi.

3. “New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957,” Year 1895, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/records/4000991529?tid=16046812&pid=339731041&ssrc=pt> : accessed 8 August 2025), entry for Louise Bach.

4. “U.S. and Canada Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s,” Year 1671, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7486/records/3671072?tid=16046812&pid=122260463285&ssrc=pt> : accessed 8 August 2025), entry for Jeanne Chevalier.

5. “The King’s Daughters,” *La Societe Des Filles Du Roi* (<https://fillesduroi.org/Kings-Daughters> : accessed 8 August 2025).



Steamer Trunk. Photo from Wikipedia Commons.

In 1750, my 8th great-grandfather Johann Christian Adam Koller immigrated to Pennsylvania from Ortenberg, Bayern, Germany.⁶ Given the year, Johann probably traveled with basic survival items such as some clothing, maybe tools for building his future, weapons, and household goods. What courage and curiosity would propel him forward on the adventure of a lifetime? I wonder if such courage might be encoded in his DNA and passed to me. I certainly hope so.

In 1696, my 8th great-grandfather Robert Love immigrated from Craigateman, Antrim, Ireland, to Somerset, Pennsylvania.⁷ According to the Pilgrim Hall Museum, Robert likely traveled with food, tools, weapons, clothing, and household goods. The New World had few established

towns and he would need items required to shelter, feed, and protect himself. Imagine telling your family that you want to go to some new continent across a vast ocean and live in the woods with nearly nothing.

A 1675 provision list for immigrating to the New World suggests transporting amounts of specific foods like beef, bread, and cheese as well as certain spices and medicinal type foods for maladies such as sea sickness.⁸ Alcohol was allowed. The list recommends oatmeal, sugar, and vinegar too. Clothing and a mending kit were important as were tools and household implements. The list is quite extensive and probably made up the bulk of an immigrant's possessions prior to traveling. In the 1800s when big waves of immigration began, many new arrivals relocated to established towns and communities. Therefore, immigrants did not need to bring as many possessions. Most brought clothing, craft tools, religious items such as the family bible, and important documents.⁹ Imagine packing your entire life into a three-foot-long steamer trunk. Today, it would be challenging, but just maybe we don't need as much as we think we do.

As an amateur genealogist, I find it useful and worthwhile to understand my ancestors' times. For me, it's not just about the family tree. Learning about their times and history makes my research much more meaningful and provides me with a strong sense of connection to my people. It increases my empathy for them and they become more than a name, dates, and locations. It helps me know where they came from, which in turn helps me know where I come from.



6. Crawford Neal Smith, "Immigrants from the Principality of Hesse-Hanau, Germany, 1742-1767," *Genealogical Journal* (Salt Lake City), vol. 6:1 (March 1997) pp. 19-23.

7. "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s," Year 1696, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7486/records/4273562?tid=16046812&pid=19266802746&ssrc=pt> : accessed 8 August 2025), entry for Robert Love.

8. Provision List 1675, Provision list from *An Account of Two Voyages to New England* by John Josselyn, Pilgrim Hall Museum Provisions_List_1675.pdf.

9. "Packing for America," Pilgrim Hall Museum (Pilgrim Hall Museum - Collections & Exhibitions - Packing for America : accessed 8 August 2025).

Three Weeks on Ice Then Smiles One Monday Morning at Genealogical Forum of Oregon's Library

Elaine Meis and April Ober

On a recent Monday, visitors to the GFO library came in search of a birth certificate to prove a woman's relationship so she could be buried with her parents and brother in a cemetery in Rainier, Columbia County, Oregon. The woman looking for the birth certificate was the step daughter-in-law, therefore not a direct relative and not able to get a birth certificate. The woman with her was her husband's mother. There were no children nor living relatives to request the certificate. The body of the woman had been in the morgue on ice for three weeks while these two women tried to find the proof that was needed to get her buried in the family plot.

Trying to assist these ladies in their dilemma, research assistants April Ober and Elaine Meis started asking questions to ascertain what information was available that could be used to find information that could prove this

woman's relationship to her family, and what internet sites might yield this information. Soon we had this woman connected to her family on the 1950 census and were then able to find her on the California Birth Index. As they were working, Adele Pelletier came in for her afternoon shift. She immediately went to Newspapers.com and found an obituary for the father which listed the woman as his daughter. She found more information on Find a Grave.

In a matter of less than half an hour, information was located and printed that we hope helped these two women prove birth and relationship of the deceased so that she can finally be laid to rest with her family.

April, with a smile, told the two women that if the cemetery wasn't happy with the paperwork that they provided, perhaps the cemetery could test the DNA. Of course they would have to exhume the bodies already buried there.



Rainier Cemetery District, Columbia County, Oregon.

The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio Part II

Christina Buck Armstrong

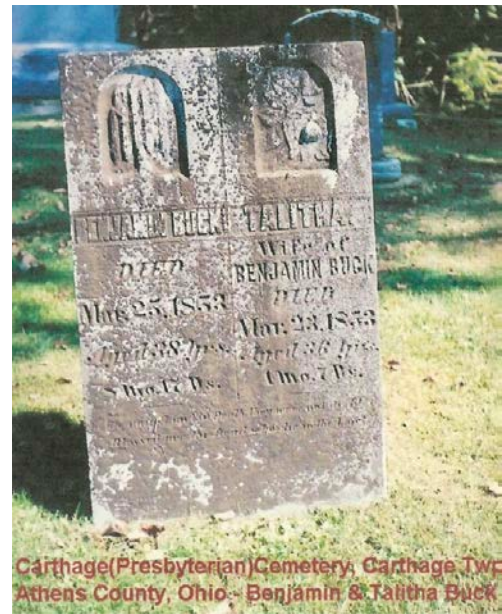
This is the second part of a presentation I gave at a Buck family reunion in 2023. In Part I, I described the route the Buck family took to Ohio—from the immigrant ancestor Isaac¹ Buck in Scituate, Plymouth Colony, to Matthew⁶ Buck, who came to Athens County, Ohio, in 1816—and told about their experiences as pioneers during the first half of the 19th century.¹ In Part II, I examine documents related to the death of Matthew Buck's son, Benjamin, in order to provide details about the lives of the Bucks during the decade before the Civil War. I also include material from the *Matthew Buck Record*, a family history compiled by Waldo Buck (1887–1964) and distributed within the family in 1959.

Benjamin Buck was two years old when he came to Athens County from New York with his parents. At the age of 23, he married Talitha Charlotte Secoy from one of the families that came to Ohio with the Bucks. Over the next 15 years, he bought property in Carthage, farmed the land, and with his wife Talitha, had four children (possibly more).

The tragic circumstance of Benjamin's and Talitha's deaths was recorded by Waldo Buck in his *Matthew Buck Record*:

Benjamin Buck, son of Matthew Buck. Born July 8, 1814; died March 25, 1853; (born in New York). Wife: Talitha Charlotte Secoy. Born Feb. 16, 1817; died March 23, 1853. It is told that when Benjamin was very sick, he called his wife to his bedside and put his arms around her and held her so tight that it caused her death. They died two days apart and were buried in one grave in the Carthage Presbyterian Cemetery. An unusual type monument marks the grave. They were married on April 1, 1838 (Vo. 2, P. 41) by Justice of the Peace Moses Elliot. Children: Mary; Orpha; Esther E.; Warren.

	Mary Delina Buck 1840–1881
	Orpha Jane Buck 1843–1899
	Warren S. Buck 1847–1926
	Esther Elizabeth Buck 1850–1914



Benjamin and Talitha Buck's "unusual type monument," as described by Waldo Buck.
Courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk, 2004.

With Benjamin and Talitha Buck's deaths, their children were left without parents at the ages of 12, nine, five, and two. We don't know where the four orphans lived immediately following their parents' deaths, but by the time of the 1860 census the two youngest, Warren and Esther, were living with their uncle Simeon⁷ Buck and his wife Sarah. Waldo tells us that Simeon and Sarah raised Clementine and Ollie Woodworth (possibly from a branch of the Woodworth family that Benjamin's daughter Orpha lived with as a servant in 1860). Waldo makes no mention of the role Simeon and Sarah played in the lives of Simeon's nephew and niece Warren and Esther. That detail appears to have been lost from the family history when Waldo began his research some 80 years later:

Simeon Buck, a son of Matthew Buck. Born June 12, 1827; died Dec. 15, 1907, at Garden, Ohio. He lived at Hull, Ohio, where he was Postmaster. He was also a blacksmith. He was a great church worker, as were many of the other Bucks. Inscription on his monument: "Come Ye Blessed." Wife: Sarah Brown, who came from New Hampshire at age nine. Born Oct. 3, 1828; died at Hull, Lodi Twpl., Athens Co., Ohio, April 3, 1899, and was interred in the cemetery by Presbyterian Church, Carthage Twp., April 5, 1899. Married Spet. [sic] 17, 1850. Simeon and his wife donated \$10.00 to help build a children's home at Athens, Ohio. Children: Newell Ela; Elba. They also reared Clementine and Ollie Woodworth. Clementine never married.

1. Generation numbers added as recommended in Curran, Crane, and Wray's, *Numbering Your Genealogy* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2008), 6.

Benjamin's possessions were appraised by Messrs. Merwin, Millsand, and Caldwell, for which they were paid \$1.50 each (Pages 111–113). The appraisal was presented to the court on April 20, 1853, 26 days after Benjamin's death.

In addition to farming equipment, unharvested fields, animals, and food, the list includes household goods and equipment (one Quilt Frame, one Shoe Hammer), bedding (including quilts), clothing, and materials for the construction of clothing.

[illegible]

113

Bay's Book's 1st Edition? *Sale Bill.*
 Cash presented, as belonging to the estate amounting to three dollars \$ 3.00

J. S. Morris } Appraisers
 Geo. Mills }
 Wm. & Caldwell }

The State of this, *Albion County, N.Y.*
 We the undersigned, do make solemn oath that we will truly, honestly, and impartially appraise the estate and property, that may be submitted to us belonging to the estate of Benjamin Bush, deceased, and perform the other duties imposed by law of us in the premises, as appraisers according to the best of our knowledge and ability.

J. S. Morris
 Geo. Mills
 Wm. & Caldwell

Given & subscribed by us on this 21st day of April 1833. *Sevinth day of April* 1833

List of the Titles of the goods and chattels belonging to the estate of Benjamin Bush, late of Smiths Township, Albion County, deceased, sold at public's vendue by the undersigned Commissioner of said estate on the 21st day of April 1833.

	Property	Amount
Dunbar's, No. 10	1 Plough	3.85
J. S. Morris	1 Hagg	26.00
Geo. Mills	Duck's Traces	1.00
J. S. Morris	1 Hoe	1.00
J. S. Caldwell	1 Do	37.50
W. Bush	1 Pop. hatchet	10
J. S. Morris	1 Knight's Saddle	1.00
J. Bush	1 Do	50
J. S. Morris	1 Horse & plow	125.00
W. Bush	1 Do	50
John R. Morris	1 Do	25
Thomas Morris	1 Hand Mill & 12. (Vanauy & P)	20
W. Bush	Old Harrow	1.00
Wm. Bush		1.00
J. Bush	Boxed <u>Case</u>	1.00
Thomas Morris	1 Basket	1.00
R. H. Wilson	1 Hoe	6.00

December 2025

I found two items on the list particularly intriguing: *Clark's Commentaries* [sic] and "Singing Books & Prison Discipline," listed near the bottom of the second column on page 112 (See image on previous page). These are the only books I found on the inventory. *Clark's Commentaries* would have been the work of Adam Clarke who wrote a four-volume commentary on the Bible which (per Wikipedia) "was a primary Methodist theological resource for two centuries." I do not know how common it was for a farm family to own a copy of this, but it suggests Benjamin may have had a level of education beyond the average farmer at the time. In any case, it gives us additional data showing that the Bucks were religious and devout Methodists.

Considering the 19th century Methodist disapproval of frivolity, I suppose the "Singing Books" were probably hymnals, but as I already wrote, I am not a scholar. Internet research did not answer the question of what *Prison Discipline* might be. In 1848, Francis Calley Gray wrote a book entitled *Prison Discipline in America*, in which he argued against the harsh conditions of prison at the time. Clarke became a Methodist and was acquainted

with John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism; that association may explain why the book was one of the small number of volumes in Benjamin's collection. The book was widely distributed at the time it was written.

On April 21, 1853, Benjamin's "goods and chattels" were sold "at public vendue" (auction) in order to pay his debts and provide support for his children. The purchasers and the amounts paid for each item are shown on pages 113–117 of the probate record. About two thirds of the way through page 116, a new clerk—one with a less elegant hand—appears to have begun the work of transcribing the information. The penmanship of both clerks is quite readable and the reproductions of the pages are clearer than one sometimes finds with old documents. Some interesting items were sold that were not included in the original inventory, including a dinner horn. Dinner horns, common in farming households at the time, were used to call the farmers in from the field for meals.

Many purchases were made by Bucks—probably about one quarter of the sales. There are also a number of sales to members of allied families.

112	Benj ⁿ Buck's Est. Auction ²	
100	1 Way Fork	37
100	Old Hammer & Kettle	1 50
100	1 Auger	15
100	1 Saw	30
100	1 Repeater	30
100	1 Bell	20
100	1 Milk Pail	25
100	1 Fire Pail	25
100	1 " "	10
100	1 Fire Pail	20
100	1 Head Pail	20
100	1 Head Bowl	30
100	1 Kip	15
100	2 Spoon Bows	25
100	2 Bone Jars	20
100	1 Copper Mill	10
100	2 Plates	40
100	2 Shovels	30
100	1 Tea Kettle	15
100	1 Bake Kettle	30
100	1 Spade	15
100	1 Iron Hammer, Key, & Fork	40
100	1 Iron Fork, Spade	60
100	1 Little Iron Pan	30
100	1 Broochery	10
100	4 Barrels	30
100	3 Plates	25
100	1 Broochery	15
100	1 Salt Plate	20
100	2 Plates	30
100	1 Bottle	10
100	1 " "	05
100	1 " "	05
100	1 Coffee Pot & Tin Can	15
100	1 Bunch	10
100	1 Basket	05
100	1 Paper Leather	10
100	2 Bags	10
100	2 Bags, Lard & Honey	60

113	Sale Bill	
100	1 Bunch	25
100	1 Bunch	1 30
100	1 Bunch	1 55
100	1 Bunch	15
100	1 Bunch	16
100	1 Bunch	5 00
100	1 Bunch	1 00
100	1 Bunch	45
100	1 Bunch	50
100	1 Bunch	15
100	1 Bunch	1 20
100	1 Bunch	1 00
100	1 Bunch	45
100	1 Bunch	4 00
100	1 Bunch	01
100	1 Bunch	30
100	1 Bunch	05
100	1 Bunch	4 71
100	1 Bunch	3 00
100	1 Bunch	1 50
100	1 Bunch	20
100	1 Bunch	2 05
100	1 Bunch	30
100	1 Bunch	50
100	1 Bunch	20
100	1 Bunch	60
100	1 Bunch	35
100	1 Bunch	15
100	1 Bunch	75
100	1 Bunch	75
100	1 Bunch	1 20
100	1 Bunch	1 15
100	1 Bunch	50
100	1 Bunch	90
100	1 Bunch	50
100	1 Bunch	30
100	1 Bunch	2 55
100	1 Bunch	2 50
100	1 Bunch	30
100	1 Bunch	30
100	1 Bunch	75
100	1 Bunch	10

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 23 March 2025), pp. 114-115, Sylvester Buck.

Sale		Price
Jackson, Henry	1 Horse	77.25
Thomas, S. Ball	1 "	15.00
Smith, Oliver	1 Cow	17.17
Jr. E. Ball	1 Cow & Calf	24.75
Geo. Benton	1 Hogs	18.50
James Morrison	1 Bull	6.00
John Frost	1 Cow	12.00
James Little	1 Huffer	14.60
James Morrison	1 "	9.35
John Frost	1 Fat Station 1st tier	5.15
James Little	1 Cow	6.00
James Morrison	1 Hogs	24.60
"	"	12.00
Jackson, Henry	9 Sheep & Lambs 1st tier	20.25
J. H. Martin	1 Pig	10
"	1 set of Rails	25
Jr. Tomlinson	1 Small Horse	1.10
J. H. Martin	1 Fat Cow	8.00
John Thompson	1 - Potatoes 80.	1.26 10.00
J. H. Martin	15 Chickens	1.50
J. Little	1 Wheat Field	10.75
J. Little	1 "	22.75
John to last	1 Half-Bush Measure	06
"	1 Light Stand	05
J. J. Martin	Box 45 Shells	25
Wm. Barker	1 Fan Mill	30
J. J. Martin	1 Shed	25
Wm. Barker	1 Table	25
J. Barker	1 Cold Water House	05
	Wm ⁵	\$450 11

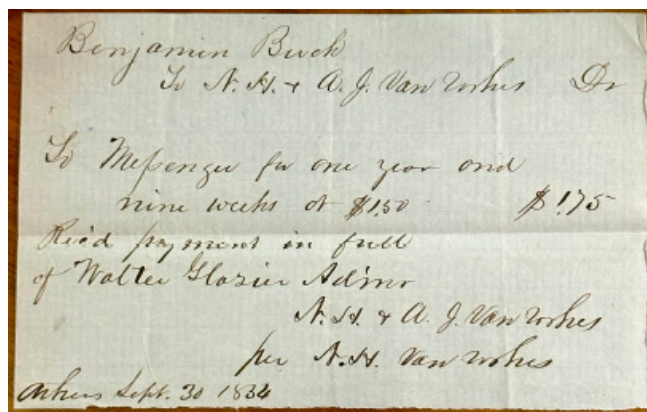
¹⁰Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 March 2025), pp. 116-117, Sylvester Buck.

At the bottom of the sworn testimony by R. M. Wilson, shown at right, the “18,” “February,” and Lottridge’s signature appear very faintly, suggesting that a different ink was used. Probably the statement was prepared before Wilson came before Lottridge to testify to the accuracy of the bill.

*In the Spring of 1852. The Estate of Benjamin Buck Dcdsd
To R M Wilson for a No 3 plow longs pattent \$5.00
State of Ohio Athens County Ss:
I R M Wilson the owner of the above account against the
Estate of Benj Buck deceased do make solemn oath that the
Sum is justly due that there has been no payment made thereon
and there is no offsets against the same.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of February 1854
S W Lottridge J P*

In the Spring of 1842 The Estate of Benjamin Buck, Deceased
To A. M. Wilson for a No 3 plow Long's patent \$5.00
State of Ohio & Athens County ss:
J. R. M. Wilson the owner of the above account against the
Estate of Benj^r Buck deposed & made solemn oath that the
sum is justly due that there has been no payment made thereon,
and there is no offset against the same.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of February 1854
J. M. [illegible]

At right is a receipt signed by N. H. Vorhes, one of the proprietors of the *Athens County Messenger*, acknowledging that he received payment from Walter Glazier, the administrator, for Benjamin's debt. The Dr (or sometimes D~) following the proprietor's name or names is something I saw frequently. I can only guess what it stands for—perhaps Dealer? I found a wonderful explanation on the internet: "I think it was the abbreviation for drayer and meant the commercial provider of goods or services in the second half of the 19th century." But commenters challenged this statement and I could not find evidence in support of it elsewhere.

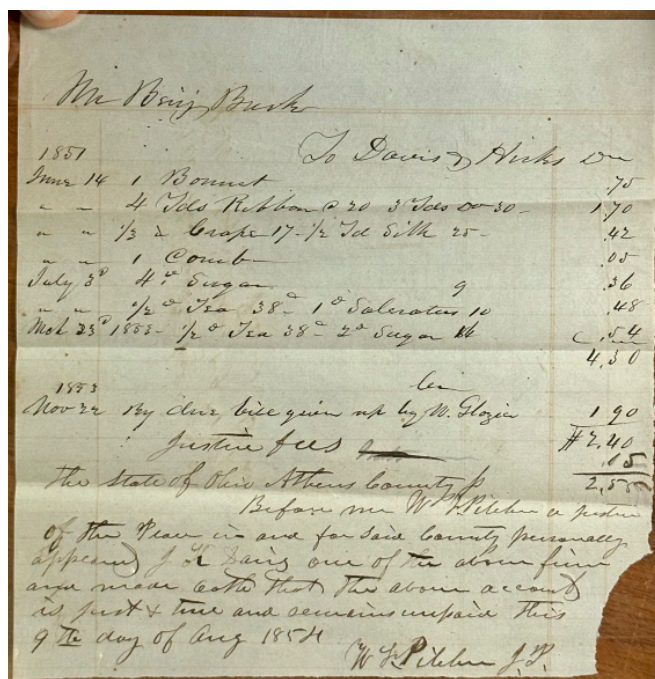


TRANSCRIPTION

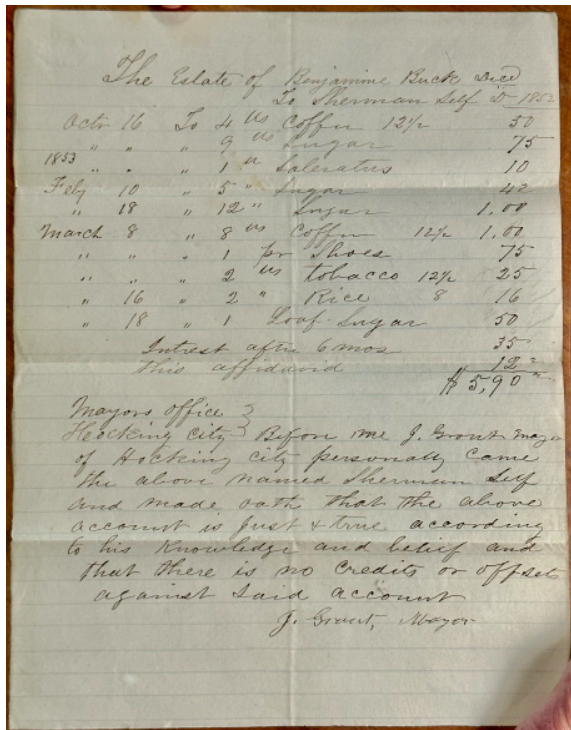
Benjamin Buck
 To N. H. + A. J. Van Vorhes Dr
 To Messenger for one year and
 nine weeks at \$1.50 \$1.75
 Rec'd payment in full
 of Walter Glazier Admin
 N. H. + A. J. Van Vorhes
 per N. H. Van Vorhes
 Athens Sept. 30 1854

TRANSCRIPTION

Mr. Benj Buck
 1851 To Davis & Hicks D~
 June 141 Bonnet .75
 " " 4 Yds Ribbon @ 203 Yds Do @ 30 1.70
 " " 1/3 [?] Crape 17 1/2 Yd Silk 25 .42
 " " 1 Comb .05
 July 3d 4 lb Sugar 9 .36
 " " 1/2 lb Tea 38¢ 1 lb Saleratus 10 .48
 Mch 23d 1853 1/2 lb Tea 38¢ 2 lb Sugar 16 .54
 4.50
 1853 [?]
 Nov 22 By due bill given [?] by W. Glazier. 1.90
 #2.40
 Justice fees .15
 The State of Ohio Athens County ss 2.55
 Before me W[?] Pilcher a Justice
 of the Peace in and for said County personally
 appeared J [?] Davis one of the above firm
 and made oath that the above account
 is just + true and remains unpaid this
 9th day of Aug 1854
 W [?] Pilcher J.P.



The list of debts to Sherman Self is below with a transcription to the right. The 12¢ charge for "this affidavit" is something I did not see on any of the other notes. Perhaps Mr. Self was billing for his time spent collecting on the debt. It looks as though he was able to take care of his business through the mayor of Hocking City rather than testifying before a justice of the peace. (I do not know where Hocking City was located; it does not seem to be on the map any longer.)



TRANSCRIPTION OF SHERMAN SELF'S BILL

The Estate of Benjamin Buck Decd			
To Sherman Self D 1852			
Oct 16	To 4 lbs Coffee	12 1/2	50
" "	" 9 lbs Sugar		75
1853 " "	" 1 lb Saleratus		10
Feby 10.	" 5 " Sugar		42
" 18	" 12 " Sugar		1.00
March 8	" 8 lbs Coffee.	12 1/2.	1.00
" "	" 1 pr Shoes		75
" "	" 2 lbs tobacco	12 1/2.	25
" 16	" 2 " Rice.	8	16
" 8	" 1 Loaf Sugar		50
Interest after 6 mos			35
this affidavit			12
			<u>\$5.90</u>

Mayors office}
Hocking City} Before me J. Grant Mayor
of Hocking City personally came
the above named Sherman Self
and made oath that the above
account is Just + true according
to his Knowledge and belief and
that there is no credits or offsets
against said account.

J. Grant, Mayor

James Morrison's sworn statement that Benjamin Buck owed him \$3.12 1/2 for thrashing 125 bushels of wheat at two and a half cents per bushel is below left.

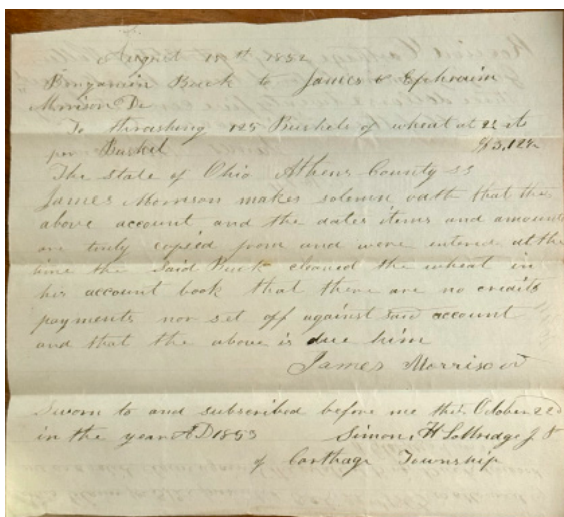
TRANSCRIPTION

August 15th 1852
Benjamin Buck to James + Ephraim
Morrison Dr
To thrashing 125 Bushels of wheat at 2 1/2 cts
per Bushel \$3.12 1/2
The state of Ohio Athens County SS
James Morrison makes solemn oath that the
above account and the dates and amounts
are truly copied from and were entered at the
time the Said Buck cleaned the wheat in
his account book that there are no credits
payments nor set off against said amount
and that the above is due him

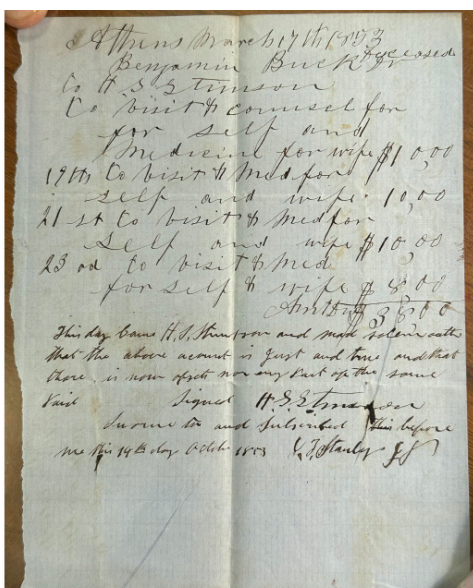
James Morrison

Sworn to and subscribed before me this October 22d In
the year A D 1853

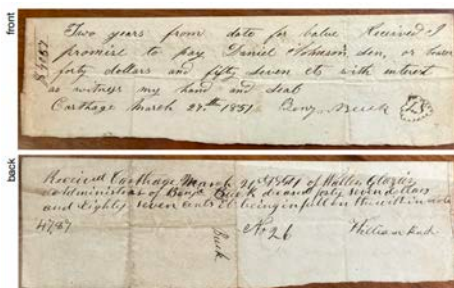
Simon H Lothridge J.P.
Of Carthage Township



Below is Dr. Stimson's bill for visits to Benjamin and Talitha during the last weeks of their lives, sworn before Justice of the Peace Stanley on October 14, 1853.



The statements below and lower right are less faded and more legible than most of the papers in the probate packet, so I spared myself the task of transcribing them. If they were actually written by Simeon, Benjamin, and William Buck, as seems likely, our ancestors were probably fairly well educated.



The common practice during the 19th century was for farmers to keep account books that provided a record of purchases and sales and loans made. (See note at right.) It seems that a few weeks before Benjamin's death, his brother Simeon had gone over his books and concluded that Benjamin owed him \$6.19. Benjamin had agreed to the calculation and both had signed a statement. A year later, Simeon showed the book to Walter Glazier, the administrator of the estate, or else testified to its accuracy, and collected \$6.55—the original debt plus 36¢ interest. I had some difficulty deciding who wrote the note but came to the conclusion that, except for "Walter Glazier, Admin," which appears twice, it may have been written by Simeon. He added a nice flourish to the B in Buck when he signed the bottom of the note.

TRANSCRIPTION OF DR. STIMSON'S BILL

Athens March 17th 1853

Benjamin Buck Deceased Dr

To H S Stimson

To visit to counsel for
for self and

medicine for wife \$10,00

19th to visit + med for
self and wife 10,00

21st to visit + med for
self and wife \$10,00

23rd to visit + med
for self + wife \$8,00

Amt due \$38,00

This day came H. S. Stimson and made solemn oath
that the above amount is just and true and that
there is now offsets nor any part of the same
paid

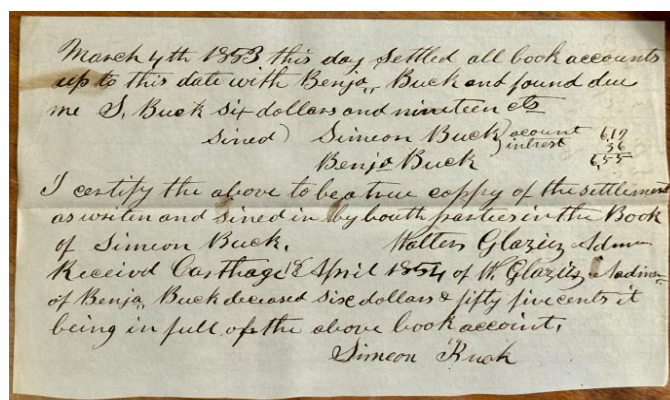
Signed H. S. Stimson

Sworn to and Subscribed before

me this 14th day of October 1853 [?] Stanly JP

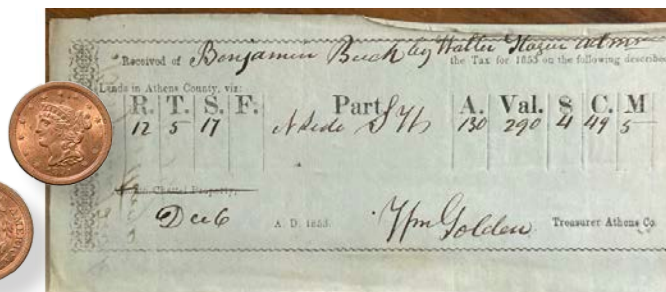
[It is not clear to me why Dr. Stimson used commas instead of periods when writing his bill.]

It was not unusual during the 19th century for someone to exchange a promissory note from a third party for a cash loan or bartered goods or services. On the left is a statement signed by Benjamin Buck on March 27, 1851 in which he promised to pay Daniel Johnson \$40.57 two years after the date signed. It seems that Daniel later gave the note to William Buck (or possibly someone else who then traded it with William), probably for a loan or to buy something from William. On the back of the note William wrote that he received \$47.87—the original \$40.57 plus interest—from Benjamin's estate "being in full on the within note." IOUs such as these would be worded as shown here, with the borrower promising to pay either the identified lender or bearer of the note.

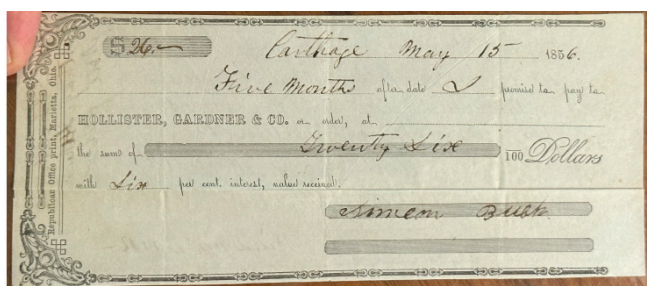


On the right is a receipt for payment of Benjamin's property taxes by Walter Glazier, administrator of the estate. Benjamin owned 130 acres in range 12, township 5, section 17, valued at \$290. The tax was four dollars, 49 cents, and five mills. A mill was one tenth of a cent. Half-cent (or 5 mill) coins were minted in the U.S. from 1792 until 1857.

Simeon Buck ordered the gravestone for his brother Benjamin and Benjamin's wife from Hollister, Gardner & Co. and presented the statement (front and back sides shown below) to the administrator of the estate in order to collect the \$26 he needed to pay for the stone. Although Simeon agreed to pay six percent interest, the payment was for only \$26, perhaps because he paid the bill after only one and 1/2 months rather than six months.

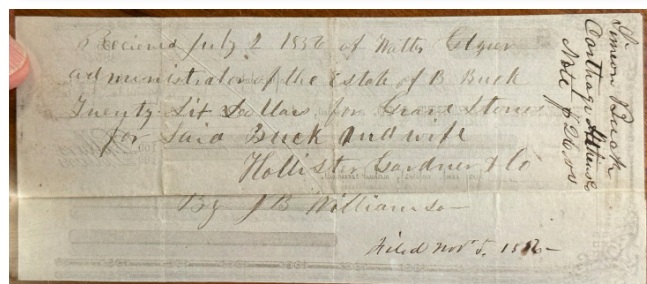


Half-cent coins and Benjamin Buck's 1853 property tax receipt.



TRANSCRIPTION OF FRONT SIDE

\$26.— Carthage May 15 1856.
Five months after date I promise to pay to
Hollister, Gardner & Co. or order,
at _____
the sum of Twenty Six Dollars
with Six per cent interest, value received.
Simeon Buck



TRANSCRIPTION OF REVERSE SIDE:

Received July 2 1856 of Walter Glazier
administrator of the Estate of B Buck
Twenty-six Dollars for Grave Stone
for Said Buck and wife
Hollister Gardner + Co
By J B William Sr
Filed Nov. 5 1856

Simeon Buck
Carthage Athens Co
Note \$26.00

Benjamin and Talitha's children seem to have done well despite their tragic loss at such young ages. They all grew up in Ohio, married there, and had children to add to the growing population of Athens County Bucks. The two oldest, Mary Delina and Orpha Jane, eventually moved to Missouri with others of the Buck clan. The two youngest, Warren and Esther, remained in Athens County until their deaths.

In 1860 Mary Delina lived with her recently widowed uncle, Benjamin⁷ Buck's brother, William⁷ Buck, and his three young daughters. She was likely helping William care for the recently bereaved little girls. The following year she married James Windsor, and in 1867 the Windsors were part of the Buck group that immigrated to Macon County, Missouri.

In 1860 Orpha Jane Buck lived in Gallia, Ohio, with the Nathaniel Woodworth family. On the census she is listed as a servant; it is also noted that she attended school during the previous year. In 1861 she married James Patterson in Gallia. The 1870 census shows her back in Athens County. Sometime after that she moved to Missouri.

In 1860, the census shows that Warren lived with his father's brother Simeon⁷ Buck and Simeon's wife Sarah. He married Mary Jane Pierce in 1868. Their only son died in infancy, but they then had five daughters, three of them marrying, bearing children and living into old age in Athens County. Warren died in Carthage Township in 1926.

In 1860, Esther, like her brother, lived with her uncle Simeon and his wife. Ten years later she married William Hawk in Athens County and the couple raised four children together before her death in Athens County on January 6, 1914.

Who are These People? A Letter from Siblings Supports My Assumption about Portrait Captions for Awdry, Guy, & Radcliffe Ancestors from England

Mark Grafe

The Radcliffe Family Archives, currently at my house, has copies of portraits, old photo albums, letters, and other artifacts. In 2018, a portrait of my third great-grandmother Elizabeth Guy was found at my uncle's house. This renewed a discussion about the identity of other portraits, including a set my grandfather, Heber Radcliffe, had identified as his grandparents, Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry. Were these the portraits of his great-grandparents, Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy?

PORTRAIT OF ELIZABETH GUY

The ownership of Elizabeth Guy's portrait, that was at my Uncle Bob Stutz's house, can be traced from my Aunt Mary Awdry (Radcliffe) Stutz to her father Heber Radcliffe, to his cousin K. Atherton Radcliffe, and to her father, Douglas Awdry Radcliffe, as Atherton wrote on an envelope glued to the back of the frame. The parents of Douglas were Reverend Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry. They had a large family, yet only their two children who emigrated to Canada (Douglas and Reginald) had descendants. Atherton stayed in touch with family in England and collected pictures, letters, and other artifacts from a second cousin, an aunt, four uncles, a brother, and her father. Because Atherton had no children, she shared genealogical artifacts with her cousin Heber, his children, and a half-sister. Heber divided things amongst his four children and some of their descendants. Many of his photo albums, letters, and books are in the archives at my house. The provenance of this portrait is well documented.

PORTRAIT OF ELIZABETH AWDRY

My Aunt Betty had a reframed portrait of Elizabeth Awdry that Atherton brought to Canada from England. Atherton also attached a letter to this frame explaining who was in the picture.



Elizabeth Guy, undated. Portrait held by the Stutz family, 2018.

Elizabeth Awdry's portrait is one of three that were previously owned by Peter Awdry's daughter, Ellen, and his granddaughter, Gertrude (Everett) McNiven. After I posted a copy on Find a Grave, I got a response from a fourth cousin in England. She remembered seeing it at her grandmother's house when she was a child and "always wondered what happened to it." My wife and I visited my English cousin and took photos of the portraits of Elizabeth's siblings, Ambrose and Ellen.



Elizabeth Awdry, portrait held by the Radcliffe family, 2020.



Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy's children: Ambrose, Elizabeth, and Ellen. Portraits held by the Radcliffe and Atkinson families.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

Two portraits were displayed at my Aunt Betty's house for many years before her death. When she asked me to type up a note to keep with the pictures, I assumed they were Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy. No other known portrait is identified as Peter Awdry. The two portraits probably came from Heber's father.



The portraits assumed to be Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy.

Later in 2018, I found another set of these portraits at a cousin's home in the original frames. The matching pair in original frames were misidentified by Heber as his maternal grandparents, Rev. Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry. Yes, my grandfather wrote on many artifacts.



The misidentified portraits of Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy.

My great-aunt Atherton probably wrote a letter a day. I was surprised how many my grandfather kept, then discovered more at my cousin's house. Atherton also kept her correspondence with family in England.

A letter from Rev. A. W. Radcliffe's son to another sibling states they are having copies made of the portraits of their grandparents, Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy, prior to the originals being sent to Douglas Awdry Radcliffe in Canada.

Atherton let it be known that she was interested in genealogical artifacts. Heber then inherited both sets of Awdry portraits, one from his father and one through Atherton, who had no descendants.

The artist is unknown, but it is possible this pair of portraits relate to a wedding. Peter Awdry remarried in 1813 when he was 47 and Elizabeth Guy was 37. So, the two images of Elizabeth Guy are probably between age 37 and 76.

PHOTOS OF REV. ALSTON WILLIAM RADCLIFFE

There are four known photographs of Rev. Alston William Radcliffe. Alston was a priest in the Church of England, as were his father, three brothers, and three sons. In the four photographs of Rev. Alston William Radcliffe, he appears to wear a collar that identifies him as a priest and has a beard.

Alston wrote disapprovingly of spending money on photographs. It is unlikely there were many more photos of him. There is only one family image, taken shortly after the death of his twelve-year-old son Rowland in 1861. The early pictures of Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry were probably a few years after their marriage. Alston married in 1846 when he was thirty-six and Elizabeth Awdry was thirty-two years old.

The letter from one Radcliffe sibling to another confirms that portraits of Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy existed. It also states the original was being sent to Canada and that copies were being made. Douglas Awdry Radcliffe inherited his grandfather's surname (Awdry) and it follows that he would have received the original portraits. Because Heber had two sons, Atherton gave Heber the second pair of portraits of Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy. Of course, there is a strong mother-daughter resemblance in the portraits, and some similarities in Peter Awdry's portrait and Rev. Alston William Radcliffe's photo. However, there was no need to duplicate portraits of Rev. Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry because their children had photographs. The old portraits are rare images of Peter Awdry and Elizabeth Guy.



Early photos of Rev. Alston William Radcliffe and Elizabeth Awdry, undated, Radcliffe Family Archives.

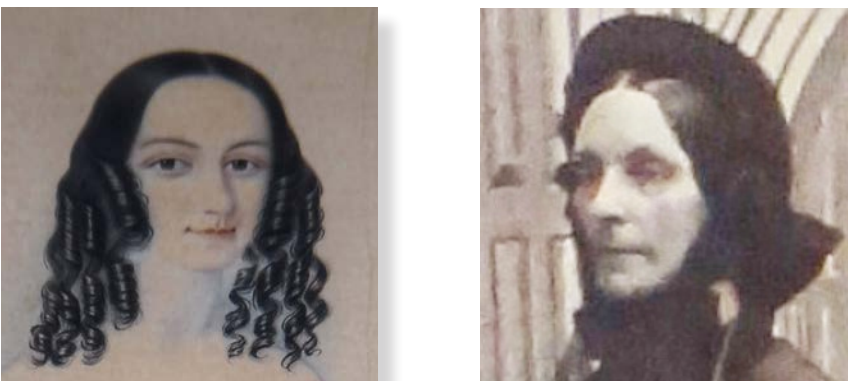
SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISONS



Peter Awdry's portrait (left) and Rev. Alston William Radcliffe's photograph (flipped horizontally).



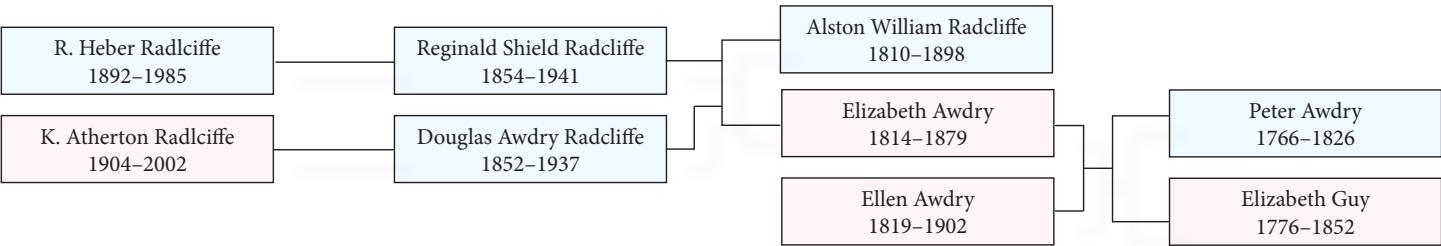
Elizabeth Guy's portrait and an earlier Elizabeth Guy portrait.



Elizabeth Awdry's portrait and Elizabeth Awdry's photograph.



SELECTED FAMILY OF R. HEBER RADCLIFFE



Citing: R. Heber Radcliffe, Ruth H. (Ball) Radcliffe, and Mark Grafe, *The Family History of Heber Radcliffe and Ruth Ball of Klamath Falls, Oregon*, volume 1 (Portland, Oregon: 2019).

Hannah Carroll Coyle (1824–1870) of Linn County, Oregon

Ann Rowland

Hannah Carroll was born in Maryland or Illinois on 20 September 1824, one of six siblings, two boys and four girls. I have a copy of a postcard with three girls that lists all four sisters' names on the back. For some odd reason, Hannah is not in the picture. Looking at the postcard, you can see that all three girls do share the dark complexion and high cheekbones. I am also in possession of two pictures of who I thought was Hannah, with the same dark complexion and high cheek bones. A woman who did some research for me wondered "is the younger-looking picture actually Hannah or one of her sisters?" A puzzle to be researched.

I have heard and seen written down more than once that Hannah is related to Charles Carroll, a signer of The Declaration of Independence. Through my many years of the Coyle family research, I have not come across any such proof. Another puzzle for research.

Hannah was married on 16 May 1844 to Reuben Stringer Coyle in Peoria County, Illinois. They came over the Oregon Trail in 1847 and settled in Linn County, Oregon. Reuben founded the town of Sodaville, Linn, Oregon, while looking for stray oxen.

The journey over the trail included their oldest son, Thomas Jefferson, who was born in 1845. He was accompanied by his little brother, the second-oldest child, John Henry Coyle. At the time, Thomas was about two years old, and John was just a baby. To travel over 2,000 miles to an unknown country was a feat in and of itself. Adding a toddler and a baby to the journey was even more adventurous and dangerous.

Traveling began in a handmade wagon called a Prairie Schooner, also known as a covered wagon. It stood 10 feet high and 23 feet long, and weighed approximately 1,290 pounds. And that was before any household foods or goods were added! Food alone could weigh up to 1,365 pounds. Then one would add in the weight of bedding, tent supplies, blankets, pillows, ropes, and water barrels. All of this does not include the extra supplies that would or could be needed along the trail.

Immediate family members that came with Reuben and Hannah included his mother, Elizabeth (Stringer) Coyle; his two brothers, William, with his wife Mary Ann (Jones)



Coyle Family Memorial, Sand Ridge Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon. Photo by [Find a Grave](#) contributor Sandra Bessent, 2009.

Coyle; and James Coyle, with his wife Maria (Boswell) Coyle, and their daughter Elizabeth M. Coyle.

As Hannah and Reuben settled into their new surroundings, Hannah gave birth to Stephen, Samuel, Sara, Jerome, Olive, Martha, and Francis/Frances between 1848 and 1861. Stephen, Samuel, and Jerome were born in Linn County, Oregon. Sara, Olive, Martha, and Francis were born in Sodaville, Linn County, Oregon.

Reuben went on to have quite a career in politics, but he stayed local in his tenure. He was a member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Oregon Constitutional Convention. He was a Linn County Commissioner in 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1858. He was also a signer of the Oregon Constitution, and his signature is very legible.

Hannah died on 30 March 1870 and is buried at the Sandridge Cemetery on Sandridge Road, six miles southwest of Lebanon, Linn, Oregon. Her tombstone is a tall obelisk mounted on a solid square of cement. Her daughter, Sarah Coyle Parrish, is listed on the same gravestone as is her son, Thomas Jefferson Coyle. Reuben outlived Hannah by 18 years and died in Hills Ferry, Stanislaus, California, on 5 January 1888.

Grandmother May Bell Was One in a Hundred

Roberta Meyer Bear

In 1910, my late father's mother, May Bell Meyer, was a divorced woman. The U.S. divorce rate that year was less than one per hundred of ever-married women; Grandma May was literally one woman in a hundred.

According to the Multnomah County Marriage Register, May was 18 when she married my grandfather, Frederick C. Stienkemeier, in December 1900. Fred was 21. They were married by a Methodist minister in Gresham, Oregon. At that time, Gresham was a settlement that later became a suburb, located directly east of Portland, in Multnomah County, Oregon.

My father's birth certificate documents May's birthplace as Wisconsin. Her origins—who her parents were, when she or her family moved from Wisconsin to Oregon—are the subject of my ongoing research, over a decade of seeking an elusive May Bell. My father always said she was born in Ireland, but that she had “Danish blood” as well, and that she sang and danced in vaudeville on the Pantages circuit (mostly western states, U.S. venues). He also said that she was a redhead who looked like me and that she disappeared when he was still an infant.

My grandfather was born Friedrich Carl Stienkemeier in Germany in 1879, the youngest son of Christian Stienkemeier and Marie Anna Koelling-Siekmeier. The family, including Fred and his older brother Heinrich, and older sister Marie Anna, came to the U.S. in 1884. They first settled in Merrick County, Nebraska, where Fred's younger sister Wilhelmina was born in 1885. By 1896, the family had relocated to Washington County, Oregon. On the marriage certificate, when May married Fred, he used the original family name, Stienkemeier. Over the years, he would be listed in various ways and with different spellings of both his surname and his first name, e.g., Steinkemeyer, Meier, Frederick, F C, Frank, but it was most frequently Fred Meyer.

Within five years, May and Fred Meyer's marriage was in trouble. In 1905, May reportedly ran away from their home in Portland to Gresham for two weeks with an unnamed man. According to newspaper reports, she and the other man were arrested, but her sentence was suspended on the condition that she go home and live with Fred again. It appears they reconciled: my father Lawrence Frederick Meyer was born in September 1907 in Portland.



Oregon Daily Journal, 16 July 1909.

Historic Oregon Newspapers.

Their reunion was not destined to last very long. May left again sometime in early 1908, when baby “Larry” was around six months old. This time, May reportedly attempted to divorce Fred.

Not to be outdone by May's action, Fred offered her \$1,000 to drop the divorce suit and come back to live with him. One possible motive: he didn't know how to take care of a baby. More likely: he did not want to pay for sufficient domestic help to do all the household tasks that May had been doing. He must have realized that he would be getting a bargain for as little as \$1,000. However, I knew my grandfather's pattern of dominating others, and the most likely motive was his determination to prevail. He wasn't going to let her divorce him.

Fred later reported that May agreed to his offer and once again returned home in the spring of 1908. According to both their accounts, Fred gave her \$700. He couldn't raise the full \$1,000 all at once, so she demanded his note for the remaining \$300.

If only we had some records about their daily life, we might better understand what happened next and, more importantly, why? Without them, one can only conjecture.



Oregon Daily Journal, 31 May 1910.

Historic Oregon Newspapers

Late in 1908, May left again when my father was about a year old. Predictably, this time Fred filed for a divorce. He accused her of a “statutory crime,” naming the man she was supposed to have committed it with. Fred reportedly declared that May had “deserted him and gone back to live a life of shame from which he had once rescued her.” Newspapers also reported that he told the judge that “she left him again. . . , telling him that she was tired of married life.”

In July 1909, the judge granted Fred the divorce and custody of their son, who by then was almost two years old. The divorce records show that May did not appear at the hearing, nor was she represented by legal counsel. Fred’s mother and a brother-in-law testified on his behalf.

That is not the end of the story. According to my father, his father placed him in a foster home until he was a teenager and old enough to work for Fred as an apprentice carpenter. The 1910 U.S. census does indeed list Fred as a divorced man living alone as a boarder and working as a lumberjack in Clackamas County, Oregon. Through exhaustive research over many years, I finally found “Lorance Meier” in the 1910 census, a two-year-old boy listed as a “boarder” with the family of Cassius Jones. There is no way of knowing why or how my grandfather came to place his son with this family, but it is interesting, that for a time, Mr. Jones was in lumber sales and Fred C. Meyer was a roofer, both in business in Portland.

Fred remarried in 1914, and Larry’s half-sister was born in Portland in 1915. Around 1916, when Larry was eight or nine years old, Fred moved with his new wife and both children to Oakland, California, where Larry continued to live with the family until he left in 1925, in his senior year of high school.

There was another courtroom encounter between Fred and May, apparently the final one. At the end of May in 1910, nearly a year after the divorce, she sued him for the \$300 balance on the \$1,000 he had offered in 1908. Fred acknowledged that he had tried to get May to give up on their contract, but he also testified that he had already paid her the disputed \$300. Furthermore, it appeared that Fred had added a decimal point and changed the note to \$3.00 instead of \$300. The court, however, ruled that he did not owe her any money.

What became of May is buried—along with where and who she came from—in records somewhere that I am determined to unearth. I want to restore her to my family history, this feisty redhead who was capable of shameful behavior; I imagine she must have had her reasons.

This account of my paternal grandparents’ marriage and divorce is based largely on newspaper articles accessed through [Ancestry](#), [Newspapers.com](#), [GenealogyBank](#), and [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#):

- *Morning Oregonian* (Portland), 17 July 1909, page 10
- *Oregon Daily Journal*, (Portland), Friday Evening, 16 July 1909, page 5
- *Oregon Daily Journal*, (Portland), 31 May 1910, page 20

Anna Charlotta (Johansdotter) Almquist (1831–1917) of Brunn, Älmsborg County, Sweden

Wendy Negley

My grandfather told me many stories about his Swedish family. One of his favorites was about his maternal grandfather, Nils Johan Almquist. The story was that Nils wanted to emigrate to America, but his wife, Anna Charlotta, refused. Determined to go anyway, he took their four children and went to the port in Göteborg, Sweden. Anna Charlotta sent the police after him. They found him and the children about to board and told him he could go, but the children had to stay. He left, and the police took the children back to their mother. On the ship to America, he married another woman. My grandfather told me this last fact with some gusto, a little surprising as he was a Presbyterian minister.

Once I was researching this branch of my tree, I did find Nils on a ship to America by himself and his children, home with Anna Charlotta. He left Sweden in May 1864, left the city state of Hamburg in June 1864, and arrived in New York in August 1864. However, there was no evidence that he married on the ship. I found a marriage record dated 29 March 1869 in Minnesota. The bride's name was not on the ship's register, so I dismissed the part about his marrying on the ship as family legend. His sons, Johan and Anders, joined him in 1865. This left Anna Charlotta at home with her two daughters.

As I continued to research this family, I next found Anna Charlotta in another farm in Brunn, Älmsborg County, Sweden, called Remma. This is where she was born, and her mother was still living there as a widow. The *husförhör* or household record showed her with her daughters Hulda and Emilia, but also a third daughter, Agda Cecilia Levinsdotter, *oäkta*, which I translated as illegitimate. What? On the same page, I found the *drang* (farmhand) Levin Johansson. Two pages earlier, I found Anna Charlotta's mother, Greta Forman, living with her *fosterdotter* Agda. Actually, Agda was her granddaughter. The record said that Agda was born in Allingsås, Västra



Anna Charlotta (Johansdotter) Almquist, approximately 1870, Sweden. Courtesy of the author.

Götaland County, Sweden, and sure enough, I found her birth record, which said she was the daughter of Nils Almquist and Anna Charlotta. It also says that Anna Charlotta is living in Ulricehamn, a city near Brunn. Then there was a marriage record for Anna Charlotta and Levin Johansson on 23 July 1876 in Brunn. This said that Anna Charlotta was divorced. Finally, there was a lengthy note on the side of the record, which I asked my Swedish cousin to translate for me. It seems in 1876 that they were taken to court for having married when she was not divorced, and the marriage was annulled. After this, Levin left Brunn for another town. In 1879, Anna Charlotta also left town and moved to Vankiva in Kristianstad, Skane County, at the southern tip of Sweden. Her daughters, Emilia and Agda, moved with her. Her daughter, Hulda, moved to Ulricehamn, Älvsborg County, Sweden, and in 1881 went to America to join her father and brothers.

So, this is my interpretation of these facts in the records. First of all, I should mention that Anna Charlotta was a midwife. This was a respected profession in Sweden. Midwives were employed in hospitals, and there were schools to train them. Family stories said she was a doctor, but I found that she was a midwife. The 1872–1887 household record says that she was working. I assume that she supported herself and her children this way. Her husband left in 1864, and her sons in 1865. She is alone with her daughters. Levin Johansson becomes a farmhand on her farm. He was 17 years younger than she, probably a good-looking young man. The winter nights in Sweden are long, dark, and cold. One can easily see a man and a woman finding comfort in each other during such a winter. In 1871, she was 40, thought to be a woman's sexual peak, and he was 24, a man's sexual peak. One can understand their actions. However, they lived in a small town. To obscure the result of their liaison, she moved to Ulricehamn and had the baby in another town entirely. She listed her husband as the father even though he had been gone for 8 years. But Levin wanted to marry her and be a father to his daughter. She agreed, and on the marriage record, said that she was divorced.

She probably thought she was divorced. She had likely heard of Nils' marriage in America as he or her brothers would have written to her daughter, Hulda. Undoubtedly, she assumed that he must have gotten a divorce in order to marry again. Unfortunately, Minnesota in 1869 was still frontier country, and no one checked up on someone's marital status. Levin and Anna even did banns before the

wedding, but no one brought it up. However, it was a small community strictly based on Christian moral codes. Thus, someone probably brought this to the attention of the local minister, and he called for the legal proceedings. This must have been extremely upsetting to Anna Charlotta, and she was publicly shamed, as was Levin. They both left the area.

Anna Charlotta and Agda lived the rest of their lives in Vankiva, where Anna worked as a midwife. She died there on 23 March 1917. Agda died there on 11 June 1931. Her daughter, Emilia, married and moved to Väsa, Göteborg, and Bohus, Sweden (northwest of Vankiva). Her daughter, Hulda, moved to America, married Adolph Peterson, and became the mother of my grandfather, Walter. Hulda knew all about this as she was living with her mother when it happened. But I do not think she told her son the story. In fact, he put Agda on his tree, but as the daughter of Nils. The story had been lost in time until I stumbled on it while researching the family tree.

My question is, why did Anna Charlotta not get a divorce in the first place? Divorce was possible in Sweden, although discouraged, and only a few reasons were valid. But one of these was abandonment, which she certainly could have proven. I suspect that divorce had a social stigma, and she was a proud woman, a professional woman. Unfortunately, she ended with a much worse stigma, a "fallen woman."

I have one picture of Anna Charlotta. She is not dressed as a farmwife but in a fashionable way, holding her little lapdog. One can have sympathy for her and restore her full story to the history of the family.



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Sarepta (Michael) Upton (1823–unknown) Oregon Pioneer 1860

Bonnie LaDoe

Imagine coming over the Oregon Trail in 1860 with your husband and five young children. After traveling 1,200 miles, your husband dies at Fort Hall, Idaho, and you come on to The Dalles, Oregon, with your husband's family, but seemingly estranged from them. The Dalles in 1860, according to Fred Lockley of the *Oregon Journal*, was "thronged with pack trains" outfitting for the nearby placer mines. It was a wide-open town with gambling houses and saloons. How can a young 37-year-old widow survive in such a place?

Born in Ohio about 1823, Sarepta Michael lived in Shelby County, Missouri, when she married John L. Upton on June 25, 1840.¹ Their life centered around John's father, Philip Upton, who lived nearby with his wife Mary and their seven daughters. Philip was working in his corn field when he shot and killed Daniel Thomas on Christmas Day 1842.² Two of Philip's daughters were coming to the field when they encountered Daniel. Philip, knowing Daniel had been saying unkind words about one of his daughters felt the girls were threatened, so he shot and killed him. Daniel was coming from the home of Johnathan Michael, perhaps a relative of Sarepta. Although arrested, Philip was later released when the shooting was ruled self-defense.

By 1843, Philip Upton, his wife, Mary, and their seven girls (John's sisters) moved to Adair County, Missouri. Sarepta and John went with them living next door.

In February 1844, Philip was re-arrested for the murder of Daniel Thomas and sentenced to three years in prison. He served two years and was then pardoned by the governor. In 1846, Philip was released from prison, came home and was murdered by Josiah Cain, husband of one of John Upton's sisters, Nancy.

Perhaps to put all the tragedy behind them, in 1846, John and Sarepta, along with John's widowed mother, Mary, all moved to Putnam County, Missouri, again living next door to each other. In 1847, John and Sarepta's first child, Philip, was born and named after his grandfather.



Wedding photo for Edna Smalley and David Upton, the author's great-grandparents, May 8, 1873.
Courtesy of the author.

John and Sarepta were blessed with twin boys, David and George, on April 26, 1849. (David was destined to be my great grandfather). And in 1850, a girl named Mary, was born and named after her grandmother.

On February 16, 1852, Nancy Upton Cain, John's sister, was declared insane with John appointed her guardian.

John and Sarepta had their last child, a girl named Sarah but known to the family as Sadie, on August 8, 1858.

In 1860, John and Sarepta left Missouri and headed over the Oregon Trail. With them was their son Philip, 13; twins David and George, 11; Mary, 10; and Sarah aged two. Also, with them was John's mother, Mary, and his youngest sister, Margaret, with her husband John Price, and their three children.

1. "Missouri, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1754-1850," database, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2094/records/44164?](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2094/records/44164?i=1): accessed 6 October 2025), entry for Serepta Michael.

2. "History of the County from 1840 to 1850," *Shelby County, Missouri, 1884* (Shelby County Historical Society); *Shelby County MoGenWeb* (<https://shelby.mogenweb.org/shelby1884chapter4.pdf>: accessed 6 October 2025).

According to family lore, when the party reached Fort Hall, Idaho, John Upton was caught in a storm while out hunting. Although he made it back to his family, he was ill and died there. An 1862 Oregon Trail journal by T. J. Stites revealed he saw the “grave of John L. Upton of Putnam Co. MO. near the Portneuf River in Idaho.”

It is assumed that Margaret and John Price stayed in The Dalles area as three more of their children were born in Oregon. Mary Upton also stayed with Margaret and moved on with them to Clarke County, Washington Territory, in about 1867, but Sarepta was not with them.

A History of Wasco County, Oregon, written by William H. McNeal shows Sarepta in Dufer, Oregon, which lies 15 miles south of The Dalles.³ This history relates that in the fall of 1861, Edward Mahn married “the widow Upton, who lost her husband in the emigration of 1860 at Fort Hall. She has three boys and two girls. They later separated in 1865.” Also, in Dufer at that time, was the Walker School listing George and David Upton as students.

Sometime before Sarepta left Wasco County, two of her children, Mary and Philip, died. Family lore says they may be buried across the Columbia River from The Dalles in Goldendale, Washington. No records have been found.

For unknown reasons, Sarepta, who took back the Upton name, is found in the 1870 U.S. census in Astoria, Oregon.⁴ With her are twins David and George, then 21 years of age and her 12-year-old daughter, Sarah. Next door is George B. McEwan with his elderly parents.

On September 9, 1875, 52-year-old Sarepta married George McEwan in Clark County, Washington.⁵ What happened to Sarepta after this is unknown. By 1880, George McEwan had remarried and was back in Astoria.

The twins, George and David Upton, crossed the Columbia River to a place called Rocky Point where the Smalley family lived. David married Edna, the eldest Smalley girl, at 16, in 1873.

In December 1876, George Upton married Edna’s sister, 14-year-old Mary Smalley in Astoria, Oregon. Unfortunately, she died in February 1877.⁶ Daughter Sarah Upton also stayed in the Astoria area and married there.

Without a death record, the end of Sarepta’s life remains a mystery. And the fragments found of her life do not show how she was affected by the many adversities she encountered. But she must have been strong-willed, or she could not have survived all the challenges life threw her way. She was indeed “pioneer stock.”



Twins George (left) and David (right) Upton, on their birthday in 1922. Courtesy of the author.

3. Wm. H. McNeal, “Post Offices within Wasco County and Places,” *History of Wasco County, Oregon* (The Dalles, Oregon, s.p, 1926), p. 306; *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/28699/images/dvm_LocHist012467-00338-0?usePUB=true&phsrc=Ojj1049&pId=326 : accessed 6 October 2025).

4. 1870 U.S. census, Clatsop County, Astoria, p. 186, dwelling 90, family 90, Sarepta Upton family; *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4278483_00376?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2229&phstart=successSource&pId=7025364 : accessed 6 October 2025).

5. “Western States Marriage Records, database, entry for Saraeta Upton; *BYU-Idaho Special Collections* (https://archives.byui.edu/family-history/wsmri/show?searchType=bride&first_name=sarepta&last_name=upton&state=all&county=all : accessed 6 October 2025).

6. “Oregon, Biographical and Other Index Card File, 1700s-1900s,” database and image, entry for Mary Upton; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9056/records/61393?tid=&pid=&queryId=84afe12d-6a6d-45f2-b7bd-43df4fd5187c&phsrc=Ojj1064&phstart=successSource> : accessed 6 October 2025).

Maria Magdalena “Mary” (Ziebold) Bonnet (1863–1959), Illinois’s Soprano Voice

Barbara Coakley

Maria Magdalena Ziebold, known to her family and friends as Mary, had a beautiful soprano voice. She received accolades for her singing at the age of eleven.¹ Her talent improved over the years, and when she was twenty-nine, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Milan accepted her as their first female American student.²

Mary was born on 15 September 1863, in California, Moniteau County, Missouri, the fifth child of Gottlieb Ziebold and Maria Magdalena Schnaiter.³ Her mother died when she was eight years old.⁴ Mary went to live with her older sister, Wilhelmina Ziebold Rickert, and her husband, Joseph W. Rickert, after they were married in 1873.⁵

EARLY SINGING CAREER

Mary sang and acted “Little Old Woman” at a school exhibition at the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1874 to resounding applause.⁶ She continued her musical education, studying in St. Louis under Mrs. Broadus and performing concerts. Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, composer and bandmaster, advised Mary “that she was finished in voice culture so far as this country can aid her, and that if she desired to further pursue her studies she had best go to the masters in classic study.”⁷



Mary Ziebold at graduation from the Royal Conservatory in Milan. Rickert Family Photo Collection, PH 43, Series 1, Box 3, Southern Illinois University Special Collections, Carbondale, Illinois.

1. “School Exhibition,” *Waterloo (Illinois) Dollar Advocate*, 25 June 1874, p. 3, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752916659/>; accessed 1 September 2025).

2. *Diploma di Licenza e Magistero*, Conservatorio Di Musica in Milano, Mary M. Ziebold, 1892; Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois.

3. Gottlieb Ziebold Family Record, 1822–1866, *Christian II for the promotion of public and private devotion by the Evangelical Protestant Church* (Karlsruhe, Baden: Charles Theodore Groos, 1842), birth and baptism, Maria Magdalena Ziebold; privately held by Nanora Ziebold Sweet, [Address for private use] St. Louis, Missouri, 2025.

4. California, Missouri, UCC Church, Burial Register, p. 174, item 17, Maria Magdalena Ziebold, 1872.

5. “Missouri Marriage Records, 1805–2002,” image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1171/images/vrmmo1833_c6137-0748?pid=510169314; accessed 28 September 2025); Marriage Record, Joseph Rickert and Wilhelmina Ziebold, 1873, p. 613. Also, 1880 U.S. census, Monroe County, Illinois, population schedule, Waterloo City, enumeration district (ED) 65, p. 37 B (penned), dwelling 289, family 297, Joseph W Rickert; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4240544-00104?pid=46910173>; accessed 31 August 2025); citing National Archives microfilm publication T9, roll 237.

6. “School Exhibition,” *Waterloo (Illinois) Dollar Advocate*, 25 June 1874, p. 3, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752916659/>; accessed 1 September 2025).

7. “Concert,” *The Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 12 November 1891, p. 3, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752817313/>; accessed 1 September 2025).



Mary Ziebold as the Queen in Ruy Blas. Rickert Family Photo Collection, PH 43, Series 1, Box 3, Southern Illinois University Special Collections, Carbondale, Illinois.

THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, MILAN, ITALY

Mary left Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois, on 7 June 1892, for New York, where she sailed on the SS *Servia*, a Cunard Line ship, at six a.m. on Saturday, 11 June.⁸ Even though the “ocean was as smooth as a river,” Mary was “deathly sick” for the first four days of the voyage. The day after landing in Liverpool on Sunday, 19 June at 5:00 p.m., Mary traveled to London, where she spent four days sightseeing. She traveled through Switzerland to Milan, Italy, arriving on the evening of 24 June.⁹

She was the first American woman approved by Royal Decree to attend the Royal Conservatory of Music in Milan. The requirements for admittance were to speak at least three languages, including Italian, have made extensive studies in voice culture, and foreigners had to be recommended to the President of the Conservatory, Seigneur Comte Ludovico Melzi. The American Consulate in Milan wrote a letter of recommendation for Mary that included information about her music studies in St. Louis and her character.¹⁰ She was approved on 20 March 1892.¹¹

After two years of study, she graduated with a license and teaching diploma on 12 May 1894. She passed her examination by singing “Zinda di Chamonix” and “Le Nozze di Figaro” with a very high percentage, far above the required score.¹²



The Royal Conservatory of Music is the building to the right in “Veduta di Santa Maria della Passione in Milano,” circa 1870.

8. “Left for Europe,” *Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 9 June 1892, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752819572/>; accessed 1 September 2025), and “Outgoing Steamships,” *The (New York) Sun*, 10 June 1892, p. 12, col. 7; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/206948113/>; accessed 1 September 2025).

9. Mary Ziebold letter to Henry, Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois.

10. “Miss Mary Ziebold,” clipping from *The Presto Yearbook 1896-7*, p. 34; Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois.

11. *Diploma di Licenza e Magistero*, Conservatorio Di Musica in Milano, Mary M. Ziebold, 1892; Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois.

12. *Diploma di Licenza e Magistero*, Conservatorio Di Musica in Milano, Mary M. Ziebold, 1892; Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois. Also, Letter to Rickerts, *The Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 31 May 1894, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752801305/>; accessed 1 September 2025).

RENOWNED OPERA SINGER

Mary “made her debut at the Sociale Theater at Stradella, taking the part of the Queen in the opera *Ruy Blas*, by Marchetti.¹³ In this very difficult part she excelled all previous efforts of debutantes, and by the richness and sweet cadence of her beautiful voice the debutante made a most favorable impression upon her critical musical audience, and by her correct and true interpretations of the part did much honor to herself and her illustrious master.”¹⁴ She continued to perform in Europe and the United States while living in Geneva, Switzerland.¹⁵

On 4 November 1895, Mary married Francois Bonnet in Geneva, Switzerland. They traveled to South Africa and South America on their wedding tour. Mary and Francois made their home in Geneva.¹⁶ She kept in touch with her family in Illinois and visited there on occasion.

CONCERT IN HER HOMETOWN

In October 1897, Mary returned to the United States, and on a visit to Waterloo, she performed a concert to raise funds for a public fountain. Professor George C. Vieh, a skilled pianist from St. Louis, accompanied her. A standing-room-only crowd filled the hall on Wednesday evening, 6 October 1897. Potted plants with flowers interspersed surrounded statues of Beethoven and Wagner on the stage.

The Enterprise Orchestra, followed by Miss Minnie Rickert, Mary’s niece, who performed “DeBeriot’s 6th Air” on her violin, began the concert. Professor Vieh played the “13th Hungarian Rhapsody.” Mary took the stage and performed pieces from *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini and *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. “Her faultless rendition of difficult pieces proved her excellence in vocalization and staccato. The musical shower of melody came from the throat with ease, now imitating the warbling of one of nature’s songsters, now deep and strong, now soft and sweet, such as would prompt a nightingale to pause and admire.”¹⁷



Ziebold Fountain, Waterloo, Illinois. Courtesy of the author.

The cast iron fountain included a basin for horses to drink from and smaller troughs that hung on the side for dogs. The fountain was initially placed at the end of the streetcar line at the intersection of Main and Third streets. Automobile traffic caused it to be moved to the courthouse lawn.¹⁸ Thanks to multiple restorations over the years, water still flows from the fountain.

Mary retired from performing and lived in Geneva until her death, probably in 1959.

13. “Her Triumph,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 2 November 1894, p. 1, col. 7; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/137668692/> : accessed 8 September 2025).

14. Ibid.

15. “Geneva Telegraph,” *The Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 5 November 1896, p. 5, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752818251/> : accessed 22 January 2024).

16. Wedding Announcement, Ziebold to Bonnet, 1895; Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Joseph Rickert Family Papers, Collection MSS144, Series 8, Box 45, Southern Illinois University Special Collections Research Center, Carbondale, Illinois. Also, “Engagement,” *Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 24 October 1895, p. 1, col. 5; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752811449/> : accessed 31 August, 2025).

17. “Miss Mary Ziebold,” *The Waterloo (Illinois) Republican*, 7 October 1897, p. 1, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752787331/> : accessed 16 January 2024).

18. “Memorial,” *The Waterloo (Illinois) Republic-Times*, 12 April 2006, p. 2, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752992319/> : accessed 16 January 2024).

Maria (Biloveszky) Madera (1859–1937?) of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

Mary Nelson

My great-grandmother, Maria Biloveszky was born on September 22, 1859, in Bardejov, Presov, Slovakia. At the time this was Bártfa, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Her parents were Andreas Bilvoveszky and Maria Holipit.

She married Jozef Madera on the 16th of October 1877 in Bártfa, Austria-Hungary. There is proof that they had three children: Ludovit Madera, born February 1, 1878; Helena Madera, born June 29, 1886; and Maria Madera, born April 4, 1890.

According to census records, Maria and one daughter, Helena, arrived in the United States in 1890. There is also a possible listing for Helena in the New York Foundling Hospital and Children's Aid Society in 1890. No record was found for Jozef Madera and the other two children. Maria listed herself on all future records as a widow.

The next record that was found for them is the 1900 census. It shows that she and Helena lived in Gilmanton, Belknap County, New Hampshire. Maria worked as a servant for Enos True Gilman and Helena was going to school. No other information was found regarding Maria.

Next, they were found in the 1910 census living in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Helena was a school teacher, and her mother was not working. On December 10, 1910, Helena married Thomas Joseph Gillen and started her family. Maria disappears again.

On January 3, 1920, Helena died due to complications connected with the birth of her fifth child. Maria was not found in any 1920 census records and disappears from records again.

On January 2, 1921, Maria placed a notice in the *Brooklyn Eagle* newspaper in memory of her daughter.

In sad and everlasting memory of dearly beloved daughter Helen Madera Gillen who departed this life on Jan. 3, 1920, Anniversary Requiem Mass will be celebrated (place and time was given). May her soul rest in peace.



Helena Madera Gillen and Thomas Gillen, undated. Courtesy of the author.

My darling daughter Helen
Lonely am I without you
No one knows how I mourn you
From early morn till evening's close:
I mourn the loss of you, my dear;
You are not forgotten, nor will you be
For as long as life and memory last
I will remember thee.
Upright and just in all your ways,
Honest and faithful to the end of your days,
Forgotten to the world by some you may be,
But dear to my memory, you will ever will be
HEARTBROKEN MOTHER

Maria then disappeared again.

The last record that could be found that may be her is a death certificate for a Mary Madera in Boise, Ada County, Idaho, on January 28, 1937. The death certificate does not give enough information to guarantee it is Maria (Biloveszky) Madera. The death certificate states that she had only been at the address for less than a year. No other information was found.

Louise Schede Fieser's Diary

Translated from German into English

Part III

Christina Buck Armstrong

Louise Schede and her husband, Friedrich Fieser, both immigrated to the United States from Germany around 1834, Louise with her father and Friedrich probably by himself. They met in Ohio, married in 1845, and were prominent members of the German immigrant community in Columbus, Ohio, until Friedrich's death in 1891 and Louise's in 1900.

Parts I and II include diary entries by Louise and Friedrich, with translations from German, that chronicle the births of their seven children, only two of whom survived early childhood. They write about some of their tragic losses, family travels, and the marriages of their children, Bertha and Louis, and the births of their nine grandchildren. Part II also includes Friedrich and Louise's obituaries, the obituaries of three of their grandchildren, and Louise's sister's obituary, pasted onto the journal pages.

Part III consists of newspaper clippings, family letters, and mementos. It includes a newspaper clipping of Friedrich Fieser's memoir, published in Columbus's German-language newspaper *Der Westbote* on December 25, 1890, along with a translation. Fieser was the editor of *Der Westbote* from its 1843 inception until his retirement in 1884. In his memoir, he recounts his experiences in the newspaper business, highlighting the challenges faced by early German newspaper pioneers in America. He describes the difficulties of obtaining printing supplies and the hardships of running a newspaper in the 1840s.

Fieser moved from Columbus to Missouri and then to Louisville, where he worked with George Walker before relocating to Cincinnati. The memoir also touches on the political factions among German immigrants, known as the "Greys" and the "Greens," and their affiliations with the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively.

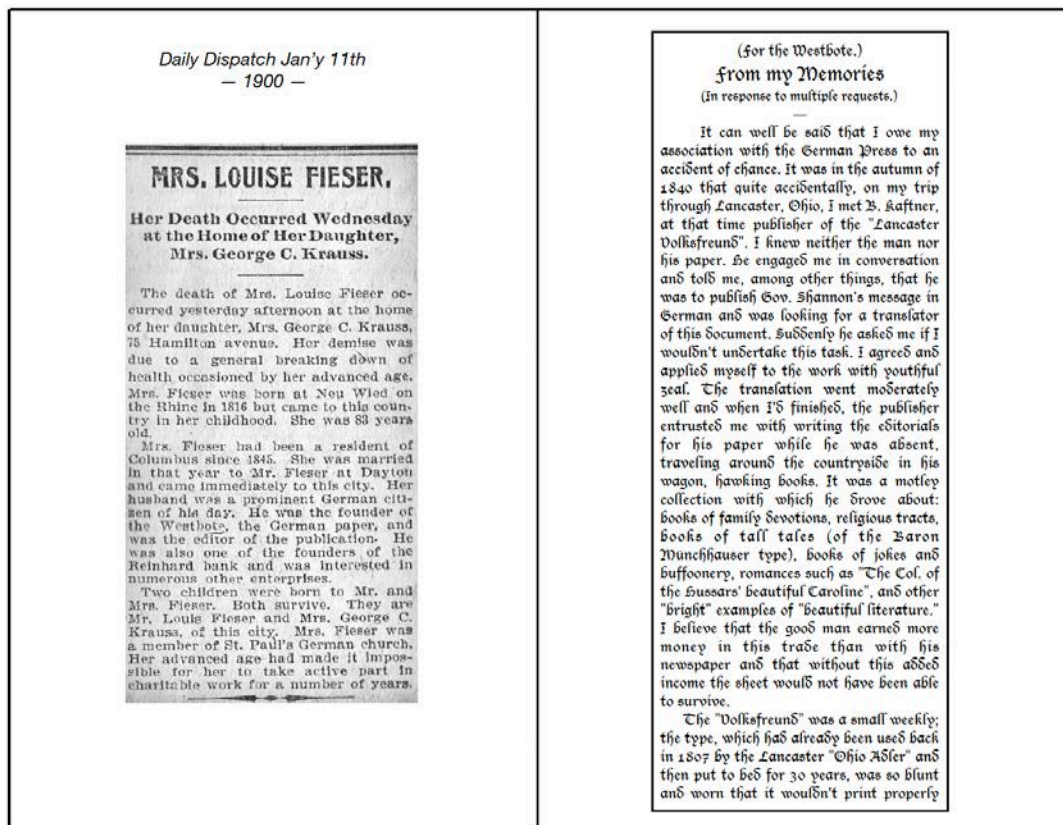
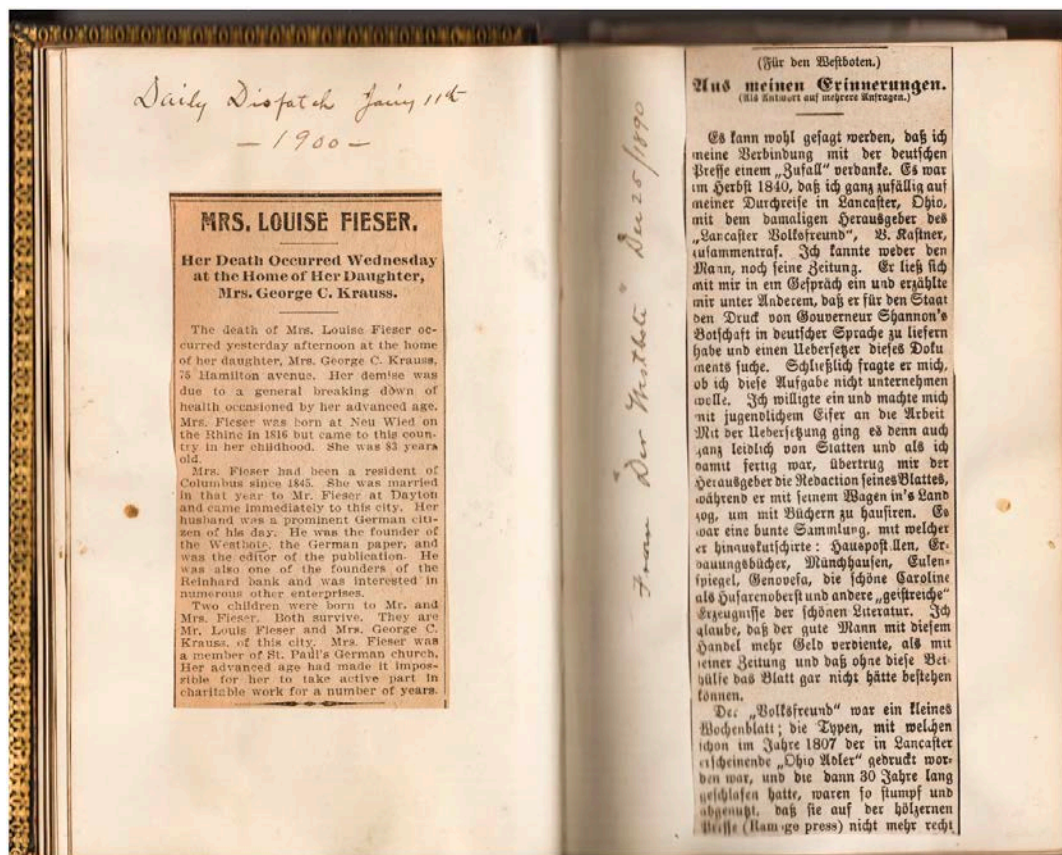


"Residence of the late Frederick Fieser," photograph by Baker in History of the City of Columbus, Capitol of Ohio, by Alfred E. Lee, 1892; *FamilySearch*.

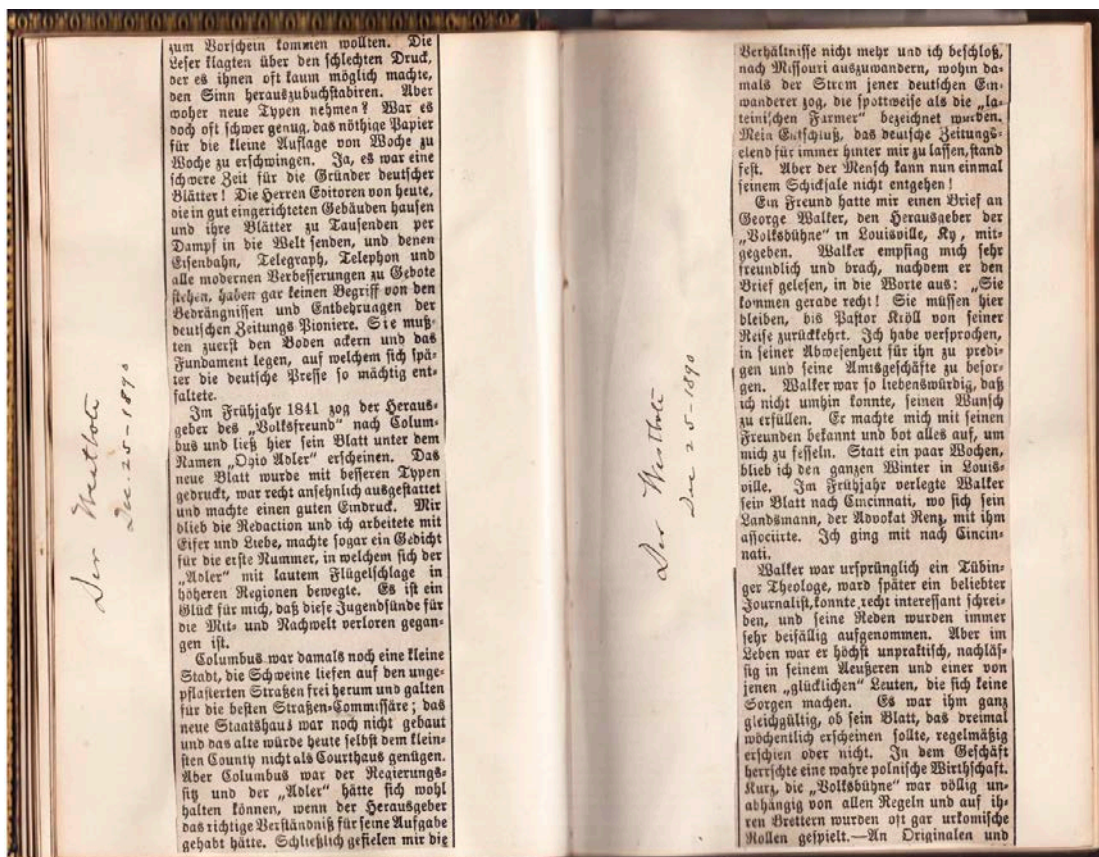
Part III also includes two obituaries for Louise Fieser as well as two obituaries for Louise and Friedrich's son, Louis Frederick Fieser, who died in 1917. Louis was a lifelong resident of Columbus, a civil engineer, and a businessman involved in various enterprises. He was one of the first students at Ohio State University and later completed his studies in Vienna. The obituary notes his contributions to the community and his involvement in several business ventures.

The final pages of the diary contain personal letters of the Fiesers and childhood mementos of Louis Fieser, providing a glimpse into the personal lives and relationships of the Fieser family.





"From my Memories," Friedrich Fieser's interesting and entertaining story of his career in the newspaper business, was published in *Der Westbote* on December 25, 1890. Unfortunately I cannot adequately credit the author of this 1974 translation. Her first name was Mildred (surname unknown, monogram MSM) and she was a friend of Louise Shedd Hinman, Fieser's great-granddaughter through his daughter Bertha Krauss.



in the wooden press (Ramage Press). The readers complained about the printing which was often so bad that they could hardly make any sense out of it. But where to get new type? It was often difficult enough to afford, from week to week, the necessary paper for the little newspaper. Yes, these were hard times for the founders of German papers! Today's editors, who live in well-equipped buildings and send thousands of copies throughout the world by steamer and have at their disposal railroad, telegraph, telephone and all the modern improvements, have no conception of the tribulations and privations of the German newspaper pioneers. They first had to break the ground and lay the foundations from which later the German press would expand so powerfully.

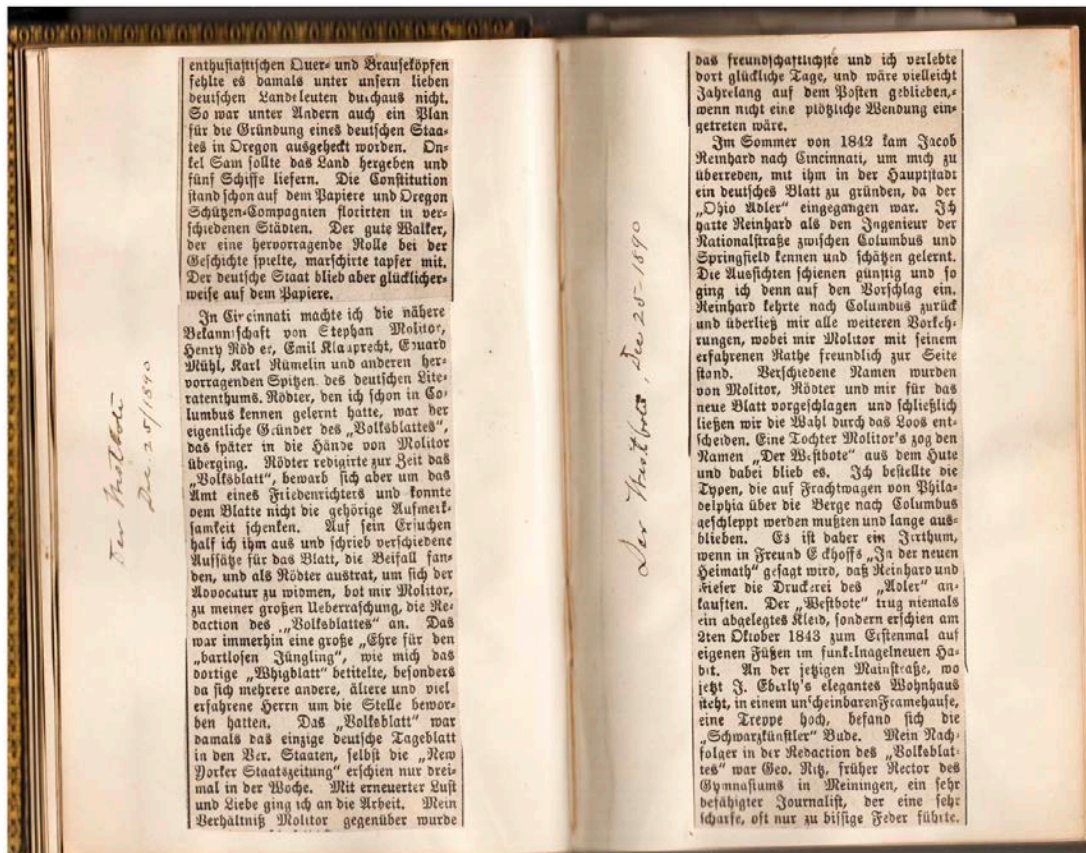
In the spring of 1841 the publisher of the "Volksfreund" moved to Columbus and let his paper be published here under the name of "Ohio Adler". The new paper was set with new type, quite handsomely bound, and presented a good appearance. The editing remained mine and I worked with love and zeal, even going so far for the first issue as to write a poem in which the "Adler" went soaring to the skies with a loud flapping of wings. It is lucky for me that this youthful offense has been lost for my contemporaries and for posterity.

Columbus in those days was still only a small town, with pigs running free on the unpaved streets, and still had a reputation for the best Commissioner of Roads; the new capital building had not yet been built and the old one wouldn't today even be used as a court house in the smallest county. But Columbus was the seat of government and the "Adler" could well have held out if the publisher had rightly understood its problems. Finally, I didn't

like the job anymore and quit in order to wander on to Missouri which in those days attracted a stream of those German immigrants who were mockingly known as the "latin farmers". I was determined to leave the miseries of the German newspaper behind me forever. Man, however, cannot go against his destiny.

A friend had sent with me a letter to George Walker, the publisher of the "Volksbühne" in Louisville, Ky. Walker received me in very friendly fashion and after reading the letter broke into these words: "You come at just the right moment! You must stay here until Pastor Kroll returns from his trip. I have promised in his absence to preach for him and to look after his professional duties." Walker was so kind that I couldn't help but grant his wish. He introduced me to his friends and asked them all to keep an eye on me. Instead of a couple of weeks I stayed the whole winter in Louisville. In February Walker moved his newspaper to Cincinnati where his fellow countryman, the lawyer Kenz, became his associate. I went with him to Cincinnati.

Walker, originally a theologian of the Tübingen School, became later a beloved journalist, could write interestingly, and his conversation was always entertaining. But in life he was highly impractical, careless about his statements, and was one of those lucky people who never worry about anything. It was quite immaterial to him whether his paper, which was supposed to come out three times a week, made it regularly or not. A very haphazard management of the business prevailed. In short, the "Volksbühne" was completely independent of all rules and as a result very comical things often happened. In



those days an eccentric, enthusiastic, and perversely hot-headed fellow was never missing from among our beloved German compatriots. So it came about that, among others, a plan was hatched to found a German state in Oregon. The constitution was already on paper and the Oregon Riflemen's Company flourished in several cities. The good Walker, who played a prominent role in the story, marched bravely with them. The German state, however, remained fortunately on paper.

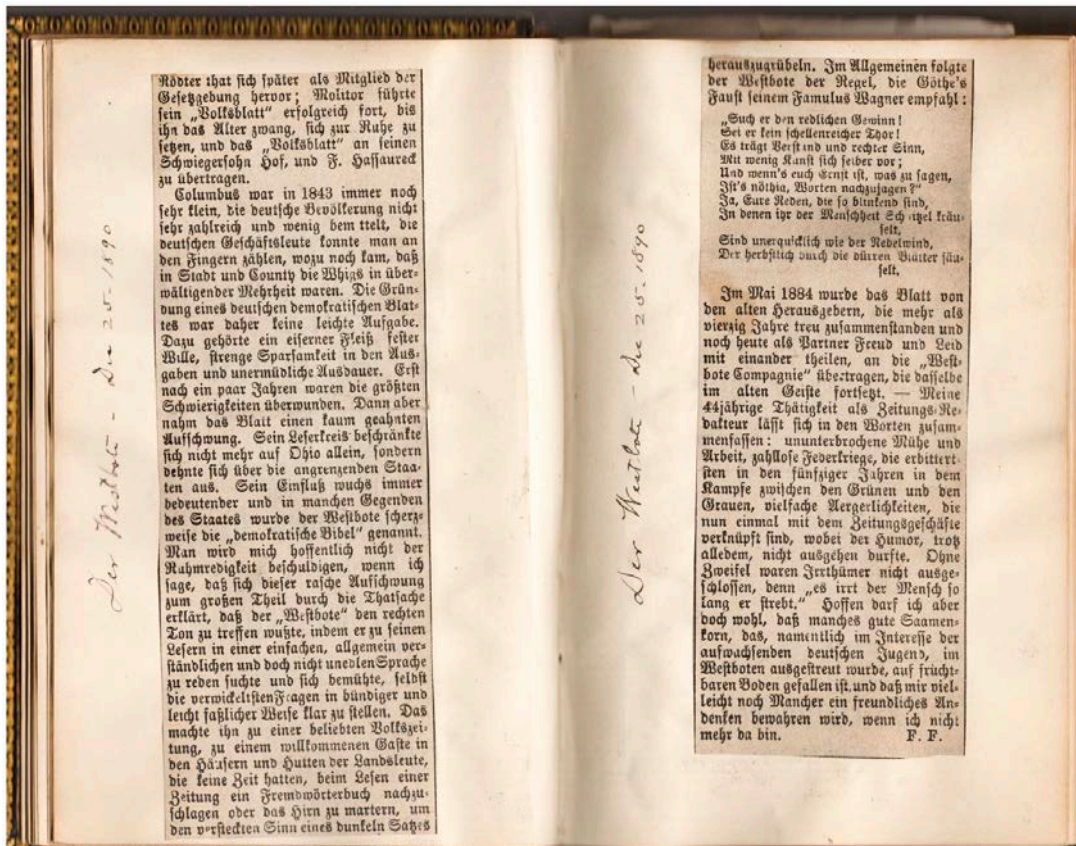
In Cincinnati I became more closely acquainted with Stephan Molitor, Henry Köster, Emil Klauprecht, Eduard Muhl, Karl Kummelin, and other prominent luminaries of the German literary circle. Köster, whom I had already met in Columbus, was the real founder of the "Volksblatt" which later passed into Molitor's hands. Köster edited the "Volksblatt" at the time but he was running for the office of justice of the peace and couldn't give the paper the proper attention. At his request I helped him out and wrote a variety of pieces for the paper which met with approval, and when Köster left, to devote himself to the law, Molitor, to my great surprise, offered me the editorship of the paper. That was in any case a great honour for the "beardless youth", as the "Whigblatt" dubbed me, especially as many other, older, and far more experienced men had applied for the job. The "Volksblatt" was at the time the only German daily in the U. S., even the "New Yorker Staatszeitung" appeared only three times a week. With renewed vim and vigor I went to work. My relationship with Molitor was the friendliest and I spent happy days there, and would probably have remained for

years in the job if something new hadn't suddenly stepped in.

In the summer of 1842, Jacob Reinhard came to Cincinnati to persuade me to found with him a German newspaper in the capital since the "Ohio Adler" had ceased to exist. I had met, and held in esteem, Reinhard who was the engineer for the national highway between Columbus and Springfield. The prospects looked favorable and so I gave notice of my resignation. Reinhard returned to Columbus and left to me all further arrangements in connection with which Molitor "stood friendly" at my side with his experienced advice. A variety of names for the new paper were suggested by Molitor, Köster, and me, and finally we decided to draw lots for it. One of Molitor's daughters drew the name "Der Westbote" from the hat and so it was called. I ordered the type, which had to be shipped from Philadelphia by wagon over the mountains to Columbus and was a long time on the way, so that it took over a year for the first issue to appear. Therefore it was a mistake when Ekhoff stated in "In Der neuen Heimath" that Reinhard and Fieser started up the "Adler" printing house. The "Westbote" never wore faded clothes but appeared in its own sparkling new dress when it was first published on October 2nd 1843. The "magician's" shop was located on the present Main Street in a plain, insignificant-looking, one-storey, frame building where J. Eberly's elegant house now stands.

My successor as editor of the "Volksblatt" was Geo. Ritz, former principal of the Grammar School in Weiningen, a very able journalist, who

The sentence about Ekhoff's book and a portion of the sentence following it are missing from Mildred's translation. I did the best I could with Google Translate. My understanding of this passage is that Ekhoff's book about Germans in their new country must have wrongly reported that Reinhard and Fieser used the print shop that had formerly been used by the publishers of Der Adler.



wießes a very sharp and often too bitter pen. Köster later became a member of the legislature; Molitor carried his "Volkblatt" on successfully until old age forced him to retire and hand over the "Volkblatt" to his son-in-law.

In 1843 Columbus was still very small and the German population not very numerous nor very well off; the German business men could be counted on one's fingers from which it followed that the Whigs were in the overwhelming majority in city and county. Consequently, the founding of a Democratic, German newspaper was no light undertaking.

An iron constitution, firm determination, strictest economy in spending, and indefatigable tenacity were all necessary. It took a couple of years to overcome the biggest obstacles. But then the paper took an upswing which was hardly foreseen. Its circle of readers was no longer restricted just to Ohio but spread to the neighboring states. Its influence grew ever more important and in many regions of the states the "Westbote" was jokingly called the "Democratic Bible". I hope one will not blame me for boasting if I say that this rapid growth can in large part be explained by the fact that the "Westbote" knew how to strike the right note in that it talked to its readers in a simple, clear style without, however, using the vulgar idiom and always took pains to present the most complicated questions in a concise and easily understood manner. This made it a paper beloved by the people, a welcome guest in the houses and cottages of the country folk who didn't have time, while reading a newspaper, to look up words in a foreign dictionary or rack their brains to dig out the meaning of some obscure composition. The "Westbote"

followed the rule which Goethe's Faust recommended to his assistant, Wagner:

"Scorn such success! Play thou an honest game!

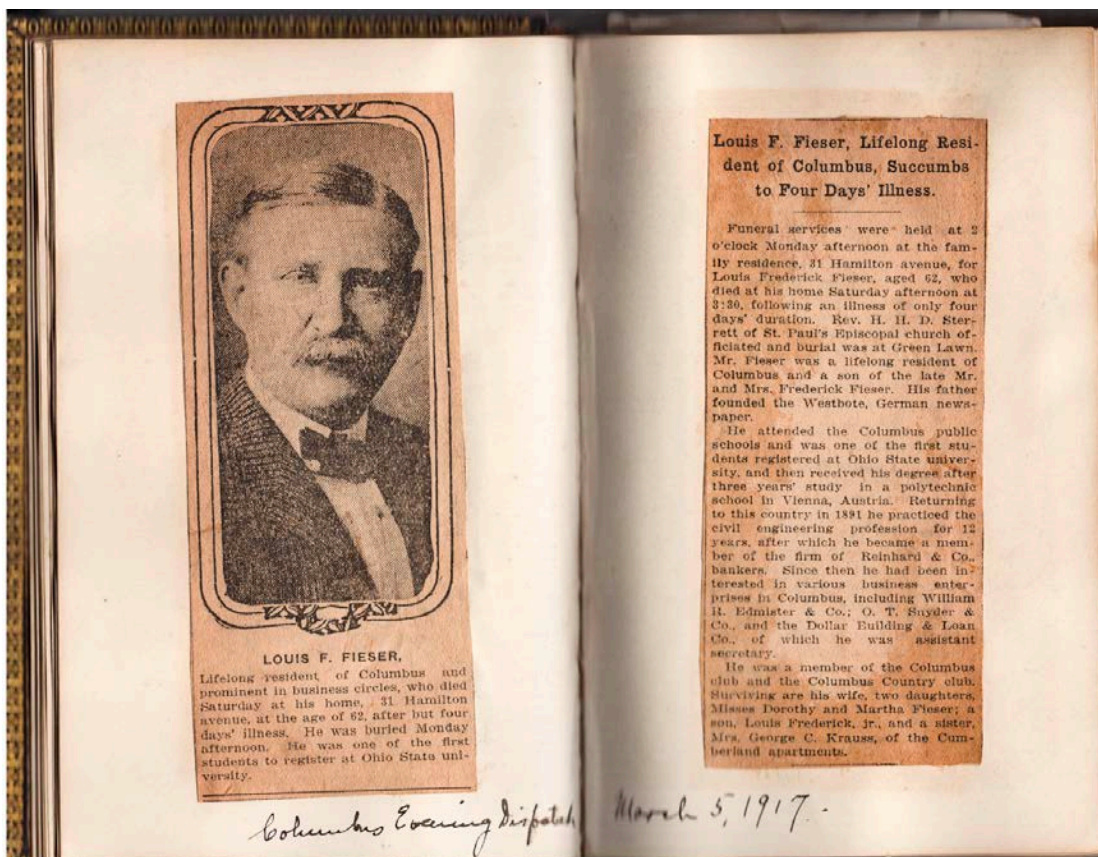
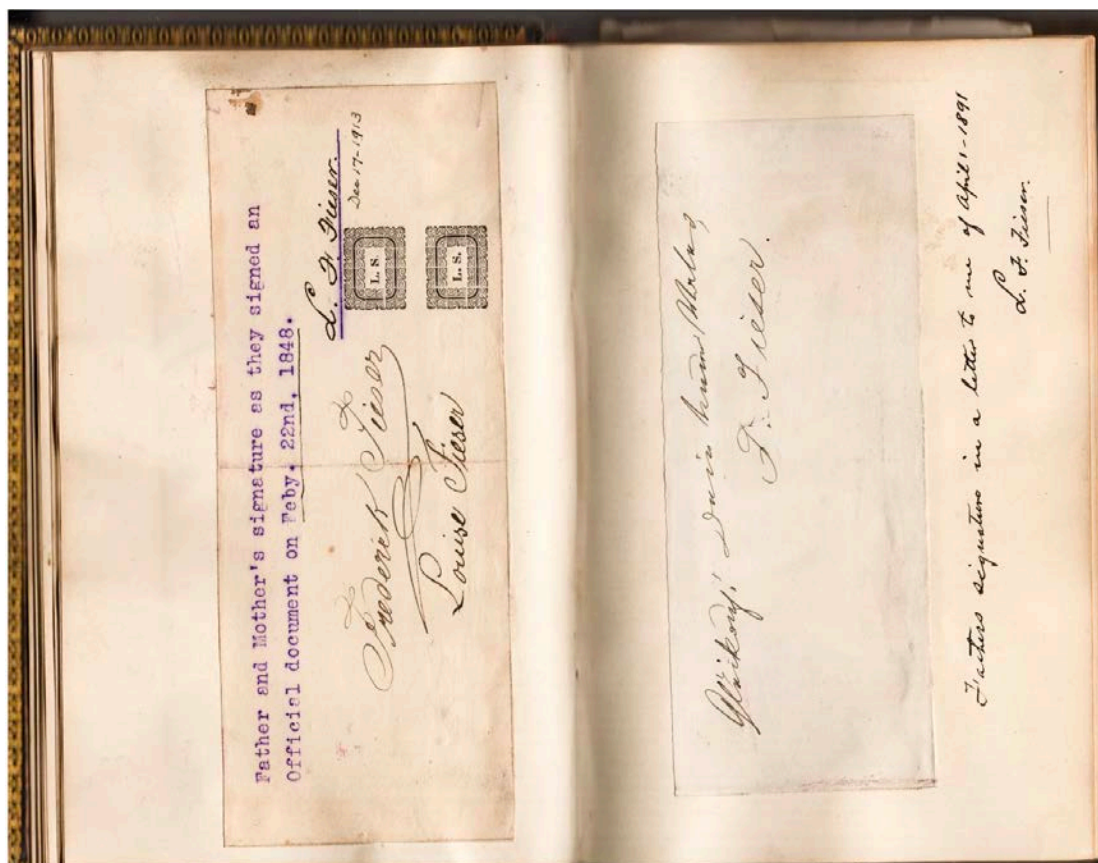
Be no mere empty tinkling fool!
True sense and reason reach their aim
With little help from art or rule.
Be earnest! Then what need to seek
The words that best your meaning
speak?

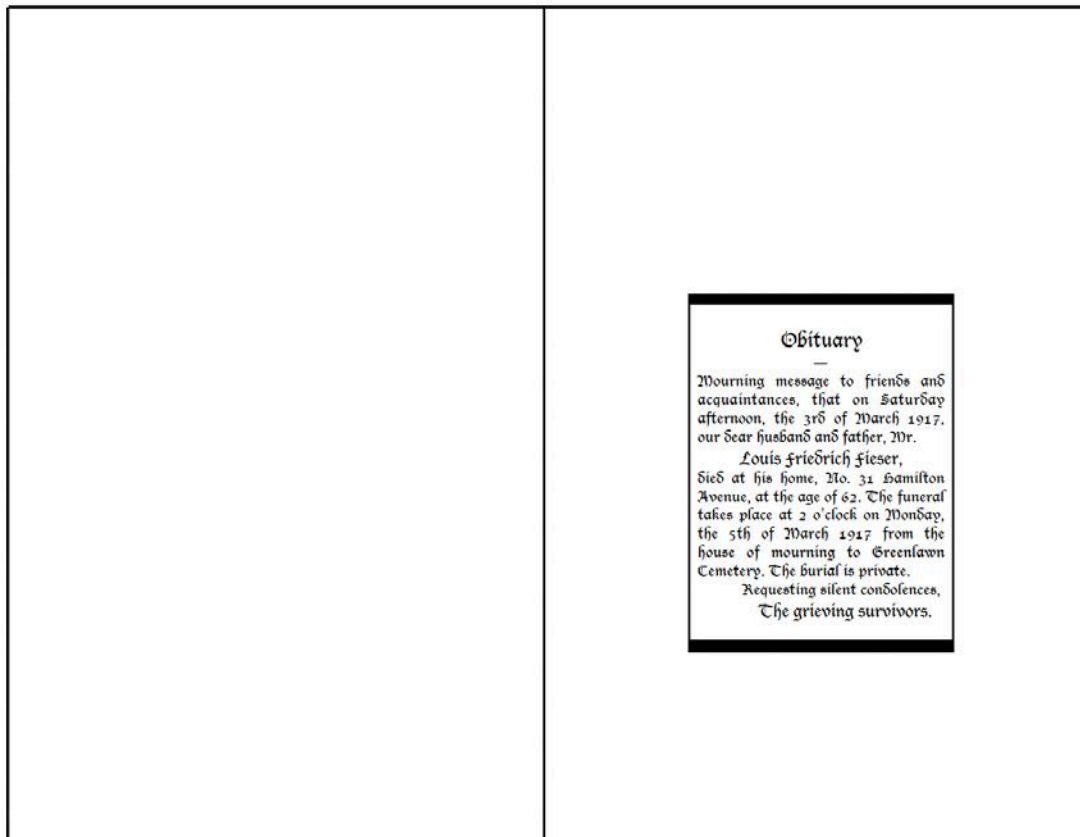
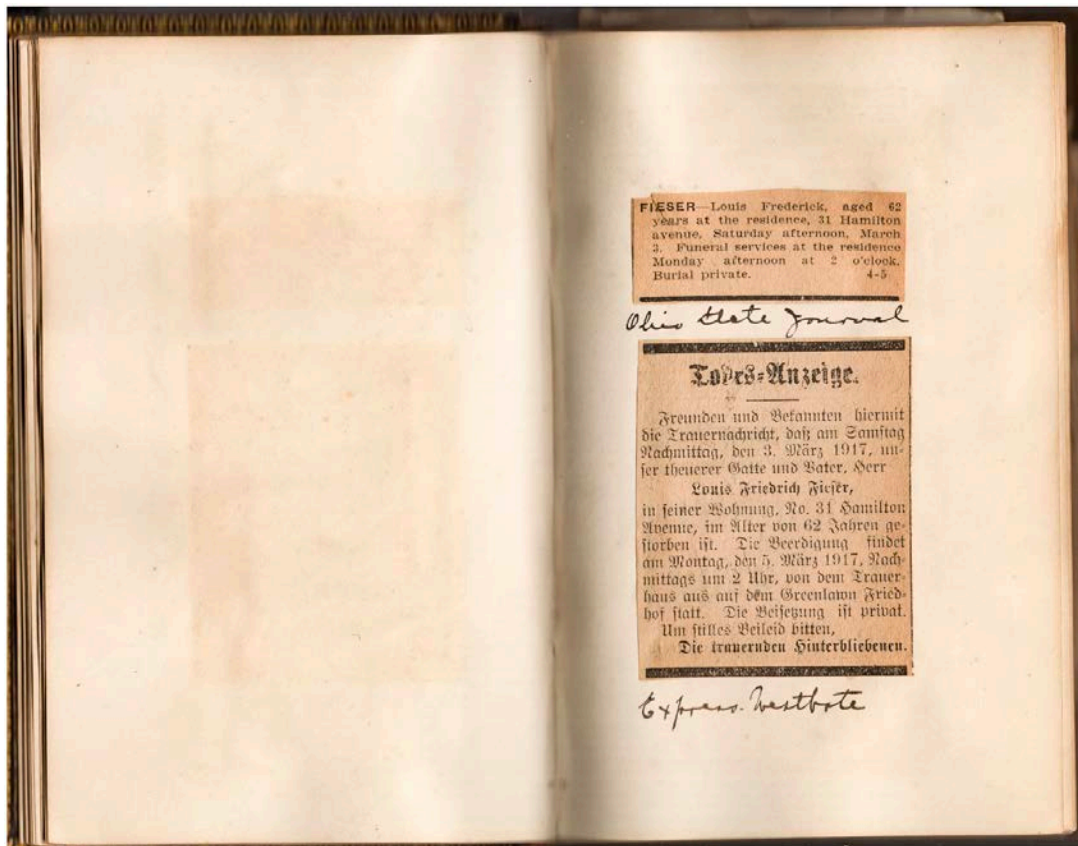
Oh, your orations, garnished, trimmed,
refined,

Tickling men's fancies where they're
chiefly weak,
Are unrefreshing as the drizzling wind,
That through the autumn's sere leaves
whistles bleak."

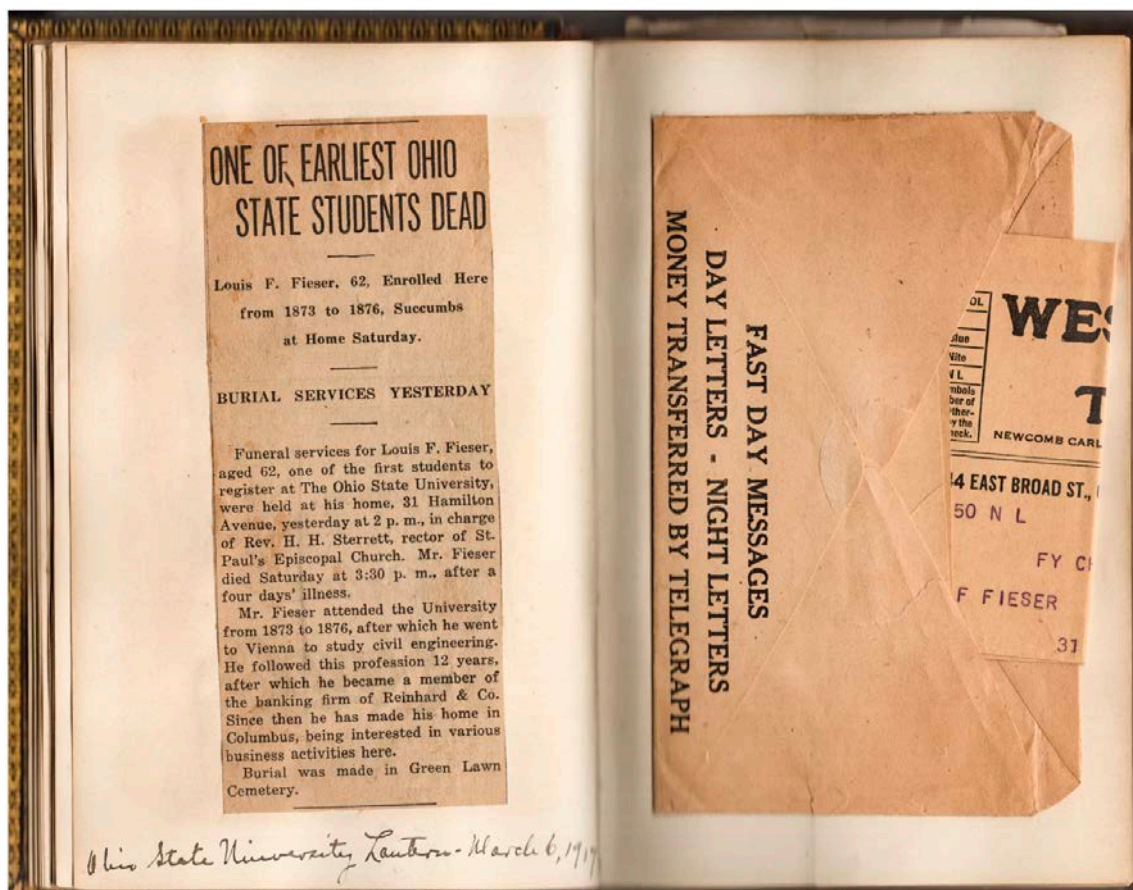
In May 1884 the paper was transferred from the old publishers, who had been loyal to each other for more than forty years and still share joy and sorrow as partners, to the "Westbote Co." which still continues to carry on in the old spirit. My 44 year occupation as newspaper editor can be summed up in these words: uninterrupted toil and trouble, countless polemics (or "paper-wars"), the most bitter in the 50's during the fight between the "Greens" and the "Greys", many aggravations which only once were actually concerned with the newspaper business, and even then humor was not allowed to fail. Undoubtedly, mistakes were not ruled out for "man errs as long as he lives." I dare hope, however, in spite of this, that many good seeds were sown by the "Westbote", especially in the interests of the awakening German youth, falling on fertile ground, and that many, perhaps, will have a friendly memory of me when I'm no longer here. f. f.

In her 1974 translation, Mildred provided this helpful note. The "Greys and the Greens" were two factions, political and otherwise, of the German immigrants of the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Most of the "Greys" adhered to the Democratic Party, the "Greens" to the Republican.





It seems that early 20th century obituaries were sometimes addressed to the reader and signed by the bereaved. In this case, the family may have been requesting privacy or minimal contact from friends wishing to offer sympathy. The literal translation for the next to last line is, "Ask for silent condolences." (Google Translate) What I came up with instead is only a little less awkward, but I could not find samples of old obituaries that offered alternative wording.



Form 1201

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT NO. 44 EAST BROAD ST., COLUMBUS
403CH WH 50 N L

FY CHICAGO ILLS MAR 6 1917

MRS. LOUIS F FIESER
31 HAMILTON AVE COLUMBUS O

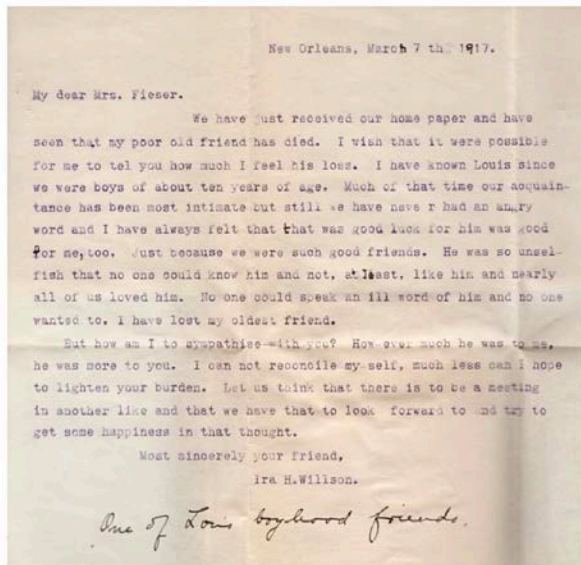
IT IS WITH SORROW THAT I LEARNED OF THE PASSING AWAY OF MR FIESER
LAST SATURDAY I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE LOST MY MOST SINCERE FRIEND
AND THE PERSON WHOM I HELD NEXT TO MY FATHER IN RESPECT YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY HAVE MY DEEP SYMPATHY AT THIS MOURNFUL TIME

JAMES O LAWRENCE

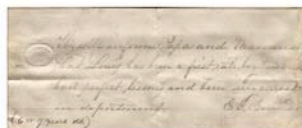
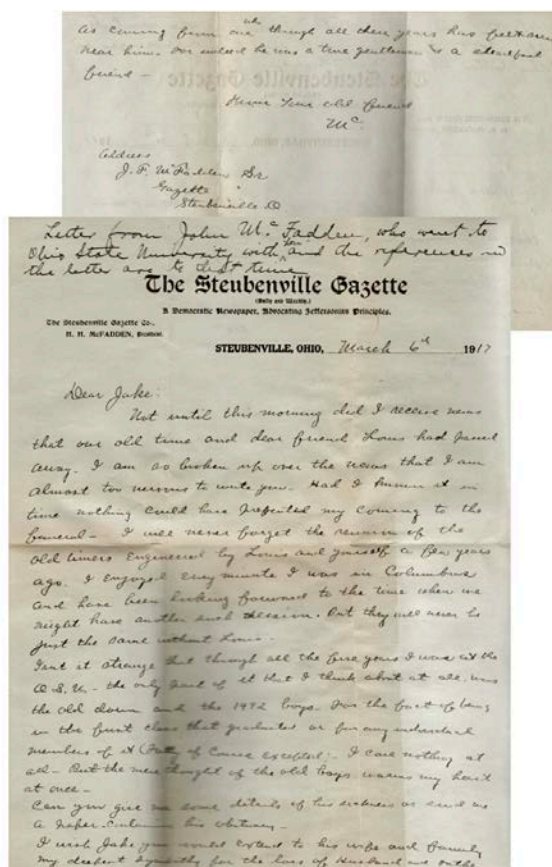
1123P

Telegram offering condolences to Martha Victoria Kershaw Fieser following the death of her husband Louis Friedrich Fieser on March 3, 1917. The telegram is in an envelope pasted onto a page in the diary.

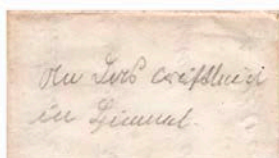
Following the telegram, letters of condolence to Martha Victoria Fieser are attached to the next two pages.



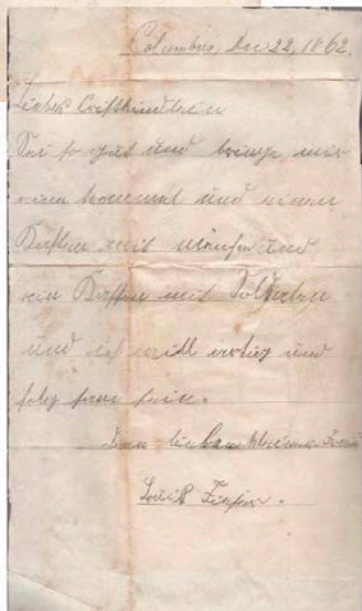
Souvenirs from Louis Fieser's childhood are pasted onto the next two pages of the diary.



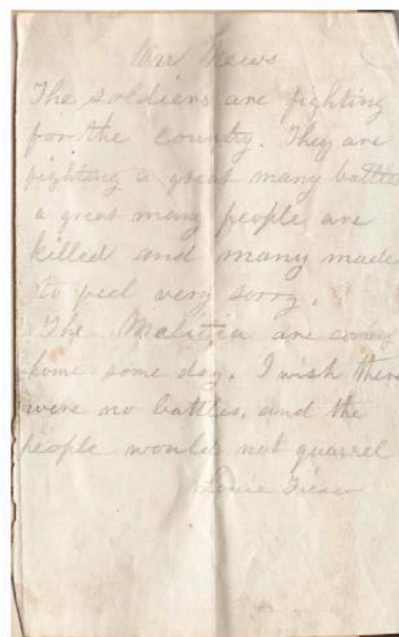
This will inform Papa and Mamma that Louis has been a first rate boy this week, had perfect lessons and been very correct in deportment. E. G. Brandt



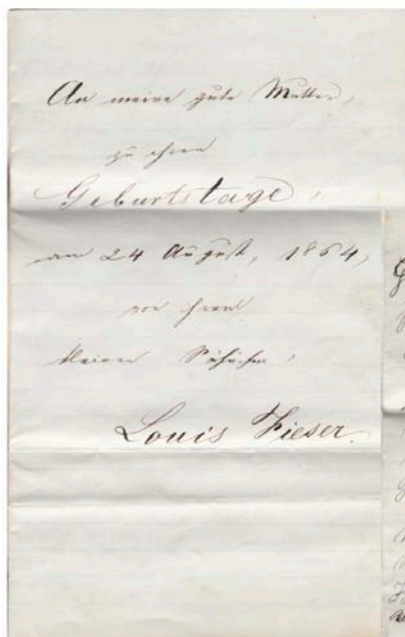
To the Christ Child
in heaven.



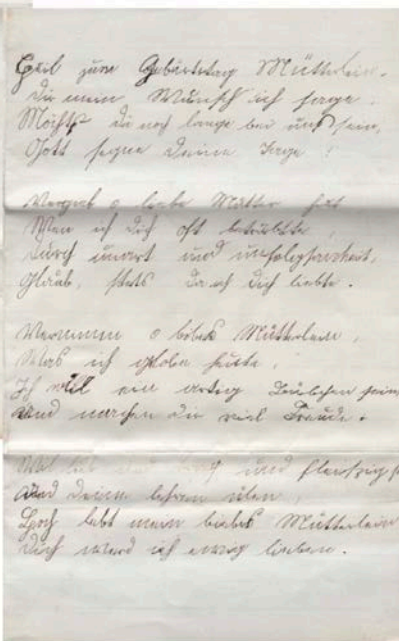
Columbus, Dec. 22, 1862
Dearest Christ Child!
Be so kind and bring
me a drum and a box
with little men and a
box with soldiers.
I promise to be
good and obedient.
Your dear little friend
Louis Fieser.



War News (above) probably concerns the Civil War. Louis would have been six 1/2 years old when the Civil War began and 10 1/2 when it ended. Louis's cousin, Gustavus Selbach, served in the 9th Ohio Infantry, a unit made up almost entirely of German immigrants.



To my kind mother
on her
birthday
on the 24th of August, 1864
from her little son
Louis Fieser

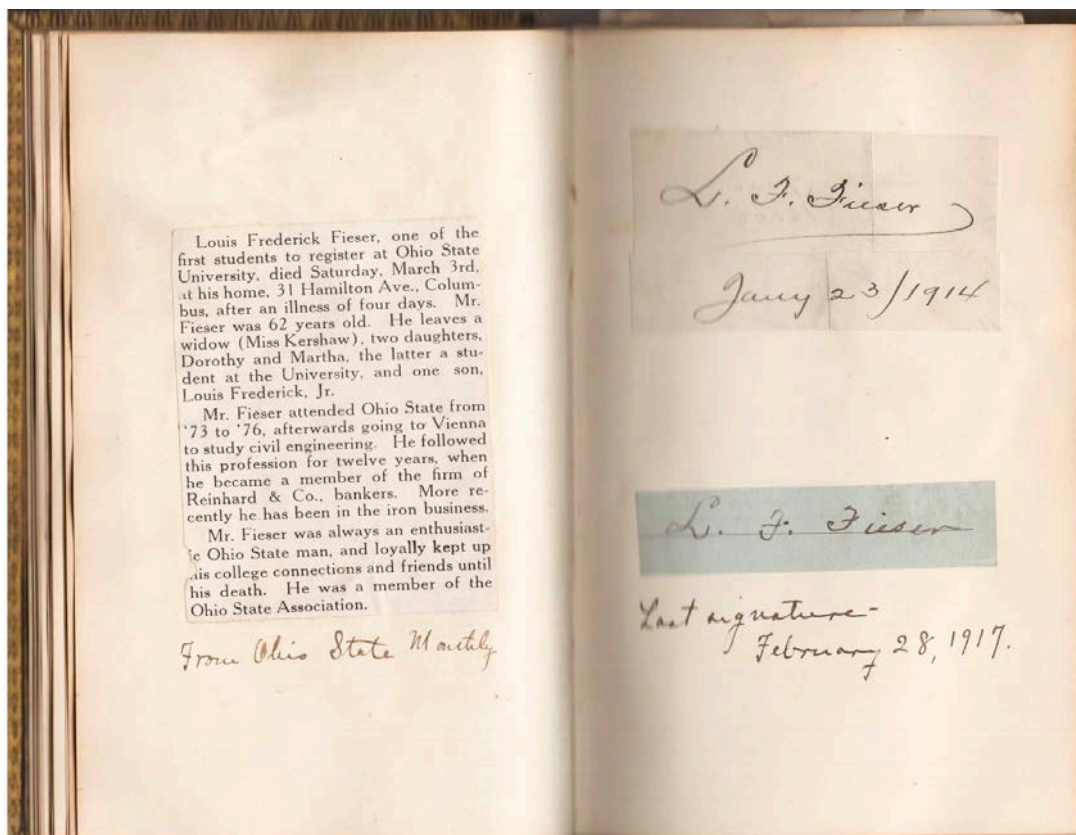


On your birthday, mother dear,
I am asking for your wish
Hope you can be with us for a long time
And God bless you many more days

Forgive me, oh my dear mother
If I sometimes sadden you
By being naughty or disobedient
Believe me I always love you.

Why, oh dear mother
Was I praised today.
I want to be a good boy
And give you a lot of joy.

I want to be kind and good and diligent
And listen to your teachings.
My mother dear is still alive
I shall always love you.



Louis Frederick Fieser, one of the first students to register at Ohio State University, died Saturday, March 3rd, at his home, 31 Hamilton Ave., Columbus, after an illness of four days. Mr. Fieser was 62 years old. He leaves a widow (Miss Kershaw), two daughters, Dorothy and Martha, the latter a student at the University, and one son, Louis Frederick, Jr.

Mr. Fieser attended Ohio State from '73 to '76, afterwards going to Vienna to study civil engineering. He followed this profession for twelve years, when he became a member of the firm of Reinhard & Co., bankers. More recently he has been in the iron business.

Mr. Fieser was always an enthusiastic Ohio State man, and loyally kept up his college connections and friends until his death. He was a member of the Ohio State Association.

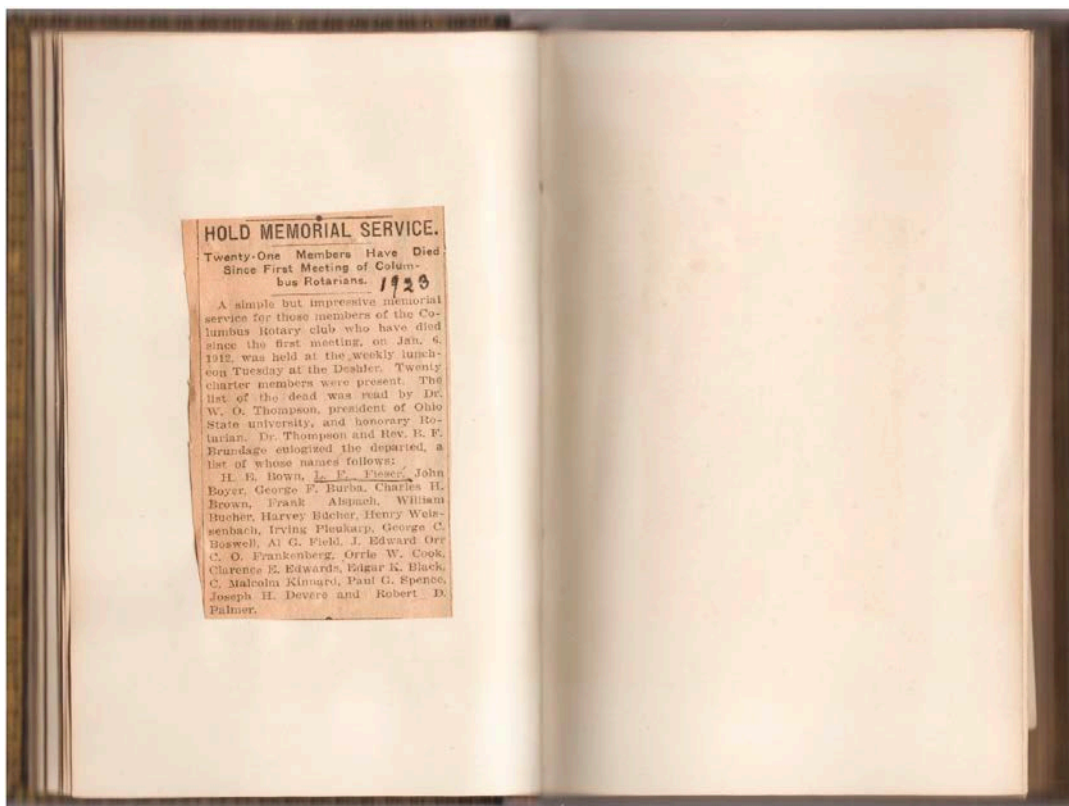
From Ohio State Monthly

L. F. Fieser

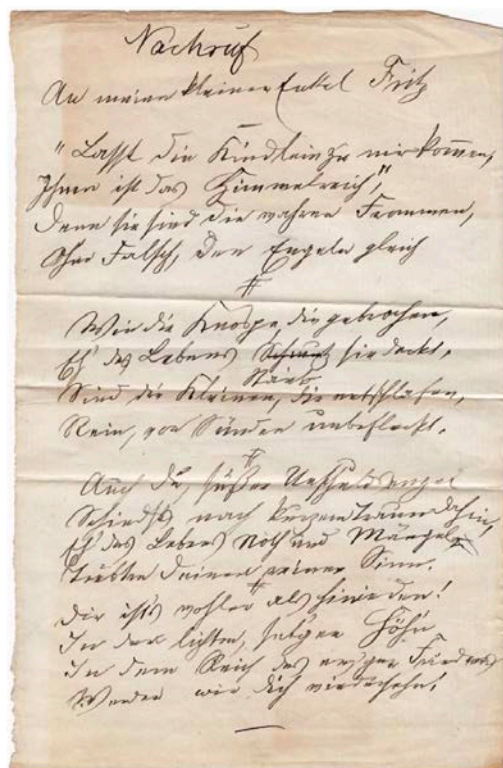
January 23/1914

L. F. Fieser

Last signature -
February 28, 1917.



Tucked into the journal, but not attached, are family mementoes photographed on the following pages, including an "Obituary" written by Friedrich Fieser for his grandson Friedrich Fieser Krauss, or "Fritz," who died at the age of seven months and six days on April 29, 1888.



Obituary

To my little grandson Fritz

"Let the dear children come to me
For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."
They are the true devout,
Without wrong, and like angels.

#

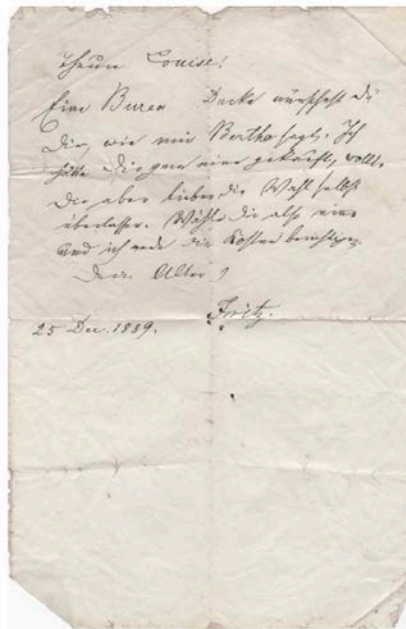
Like young blossoms,
Untouched by the dust of life,
Are the little ones,
Pure, unspoiled and without sin.

#

Come you sweet innocent angel,
Depart from the short dream.
It is life's wants and needs
That trouble your dear consciousness.

#

You are better off than most,
In the light and high sky.
In the realm of eternal peace,
We shall meet you again.



Dearest Louise!
Bertha tells me you are wishing
For a Burea blanket, I would have
loved to buy you one, however,
wanted to give you the chance to
select one yourself. Go ahead and
choose one, and I will bear the costs.

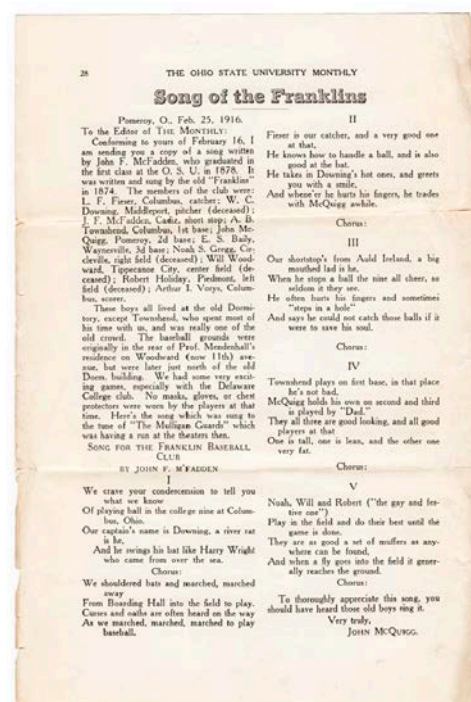
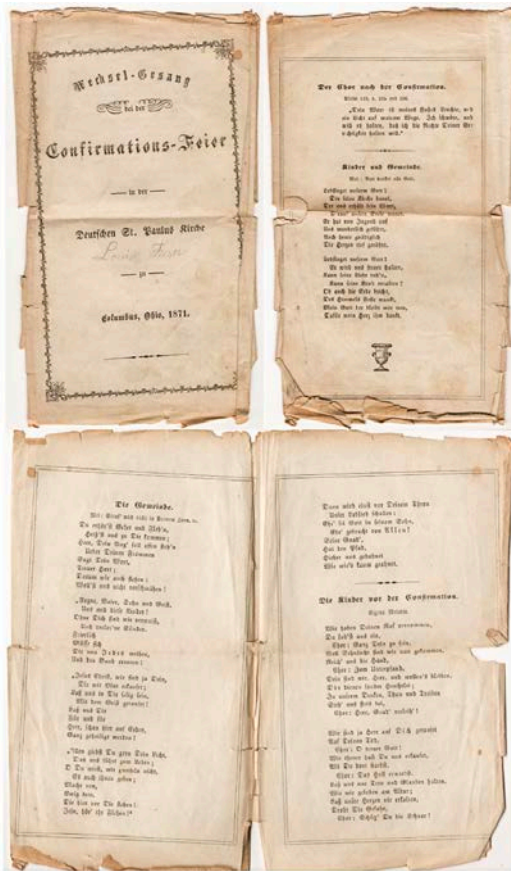
Your old

Fritz

25 Dec. 1889.



(Right) Louis Fieser was a student in the first class to attend Ohio State University, originally named Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College. This paper could be the flyleaf of a small book or a page torn from a notebook. "April 11, '74" is written in pencil in the upper right corner; Louis was 19 years old at the time.



An article about Ohio State Univeristy's student baseball club; Louis Fieser is the subject of the second verse of a song written by one of the teammates. Louis played catcher without any protective gear!

Program for Louis Friedrich Fieser's confirmation,
St. Paul's German Church, Columbus, Ohio, 1871.

Book Review

Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places

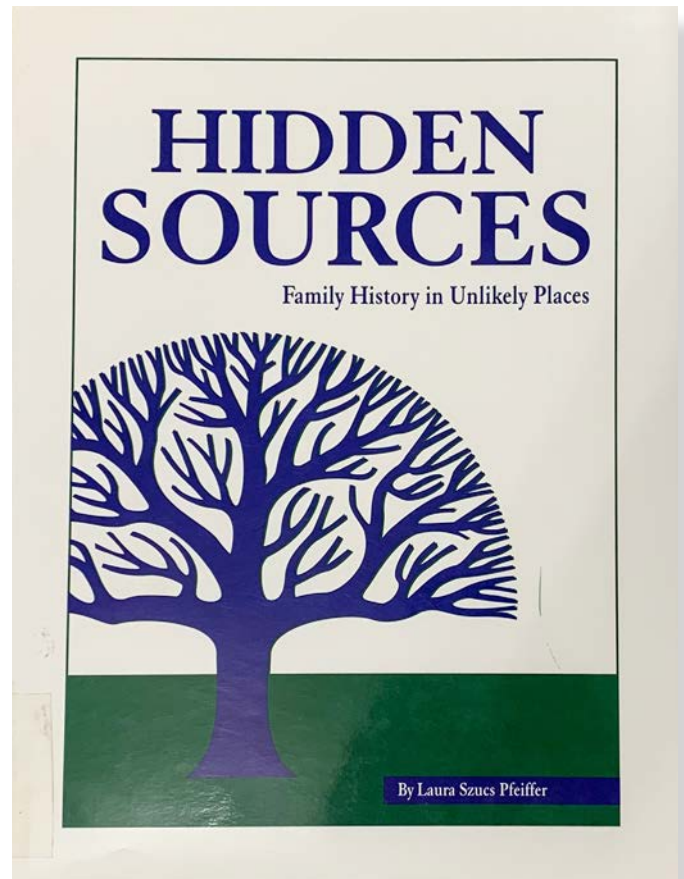
Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Laura Szucs Pfeiffer
 Publisher: Ancestry
 Publication Date: 2000
 Pages: 296
 GFO Call No.: 973.How-To Sour Pfei 2000

Online record collections have made learning about one's family history much more accessible for researchers from the casually curious to professional genealogists. But where does one begin to dig deeper?

In the introduction to her book, *Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places*, author Laura Szucs Pfeiffer, encourages us that "if we know where to look, we may ... get a glimpse of [our ancestors'] everyday lives, to capture their personalities, and to comprehend the traits and values they have handed down to us ..."

Hidden Sources provides an overview of where one can find more obscure information. The Table of Contents presents a quick scan of what records are included. In the book, Ms. Pfeiffer lists over one hundred types of resources and describes the facts that can be found. She adds Selected Readings and sometimes Internet Sites of Interest or lists of repositories for each topic. For example, in Admiralty Court Records, one can find expected information about seamen, ships, and cargo. In addition, records for people who lived along navigable waterways could be found. It was interesting to read that the Works Progress Administration paid unemployed persons to organize government information into records such as bibliographies, inventories, and the Soundex system that lists certain census information by the sound of surnames. Other interesting topics include apprenticeship agreements, records of the Freedmen's Bureau and Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, and orphan train records among many others.



Appendixes at the end of the book contain lists of State Archives, National Archives and Records Administration, Historical Societies, The Family History Library and Centers, Genealogical Societies, and major U.S. genealogical libraries, plus an index.

Hidden Resources provides a list of record sources with concise descriptions to help family history researchers access new information about ancestors and the times in which they lived. The author leads to resources that can add life and color to our family heritage.

Book Review

Scottish Baronial Families 1250–1750

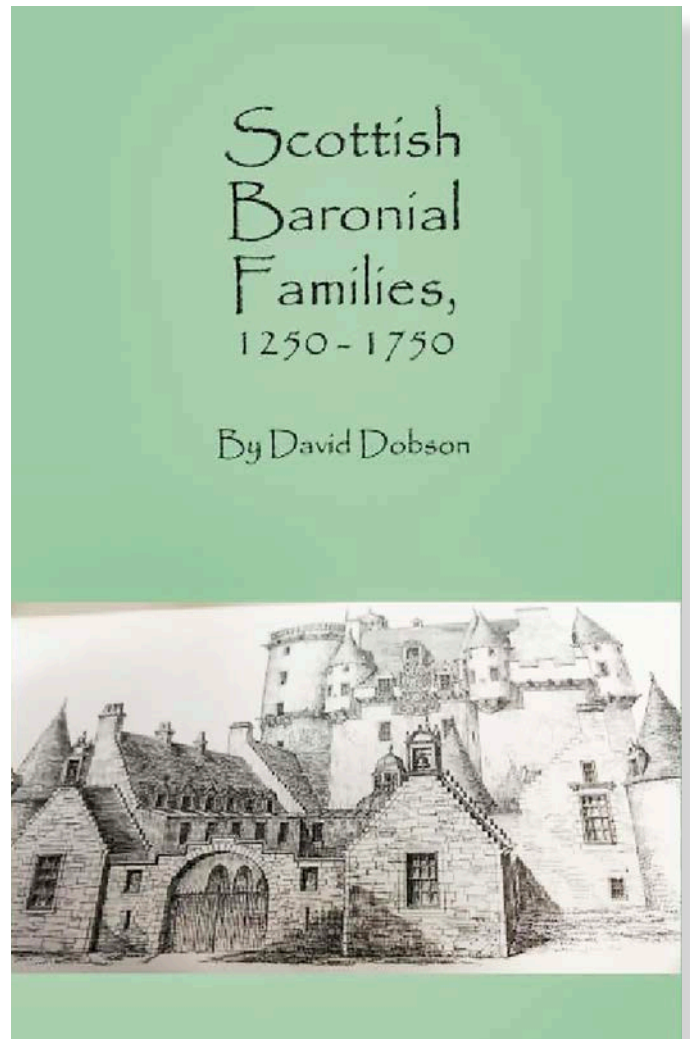
Reviewed by Wendy Negley

Author: David Dobson
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2024
Pages: 199
Price: \$35.00 plus shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 941.6.GeneaDobs1250-1750

As its title suggests, this book is a compendium of the Scottish Baronial Families from the years 1250 to 1750. It was written by David Dobson, a genealogist who is well known for his many volumes covering Scottish genealogy and immigration to America as well as Scots in Ireland (Ulster) and even Nova Scotia. This work is essentially a list of all the Scottish Baronies. It starts with an introduction that gives the reader the history of the Baronies in Scotland, the types of records involved, with the Baronial Courts being of most interest, and where these records can be found today. He also gives a bibliography that would be useful to the researcher.

The rest of the book lists each baronial family in alphabetical order by family name. He gives the date the barony was granted by which ruler, its location, who inherited it, and often some family history. The author also often tells the origin of the family name. In addition, he names one or two people of the name who are recorded in the Americas. This is all very helpful if this is your family, but also it could offer insight into your clan or the area where your ancestors lived. Knowing about the Baronial Court records could also add to one's possible sources of family data.

Unfortunately, there is no index, so you must rely on the alphabetical list of names. Nonetheless, if you have traced your Scottish family back to the years between 1250 and 1750, this book could be very helpful. Personally, I plan to look up one of the books he mentions in the Bibliography to see if I can find more information on any of my Scottish families.



IN MEMORIUM

Joyce Ann Grant-Worley

1950–2025

Joyce Grant-Worley died at the age of 74, in Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon, on 14 June 2025. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 2015–2024, where she volunteered in key roles, including with the Board of Directors.

On 17 July 1950 Joyce was born to Joseph and Jean (Gillette) Grant in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. The family lived briefly in Idaho and Washington State before returning to Portland, where Joyce graduated from Parkrose High School in 1968. She continued her education at Oregon State University in Corvallis, obtaining a bachelor's degree in Home Economics in 1973. For the next six years she worked as the fabric and crafts manager of a Fred Meyer store back in Portland.

In 1977 Joyce married Bruce Lowell Worley, whom she met in Corvallis. Moving briefly to Ithaca, New York, she completed a master's degree at Cornell University in 1979. The couple then bought a home in the Overlook area of North Portland where they raised their two children.

In 1981 Joyce embarked on a 35-year career as manager for Oregon's Health Statistics and Vital Records Unit. Along with contributing to the Center for Health Statistics newsletter she co-authored over six CDC research publications and co-edited numerous other health publications. Additionally, Joyce was co-creator of Oregon's Benchmark project, establishing 272 goals for 1995, 2000, and 2010, while using data-tracking for health and non-health issues across the state. In 2015 she co-founded the Online Birth and Death Data Mapping project and was a presenter on this topic for that year's Oregon Public Health Association's annual meeting.

In retirement Joyce enjoyed travel cruises, photography, scrapbooking, musical theater, and more time with her family members. She continued activities with her Native American community and included her children and grandson, notably at Salmon Camp. Joyce was passionate about her ancestry which included the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, the Metis Nation, and immigrant ancestors from Scotland.

Joyce's volunteer work with the Genealogical Forum began with special interest groups and research assistant projects. By 2019 she was leading the Family Tree Maker Users Group and was appointed to GFO's Board of Directors. By 2020 Joyce was liaison to GFO's Special Interest Groups, assisting leaders with the transition to online meetings and related documentation amidst COVID restrictions. One leader noted, "I could not have functioned in that role without her concise how-to emails and reminders." By 2023 her activities were curtailed by breast cancer treatments.

In 1992 Joyce was preceded in death by her spouse Bruce after his seven-year battle with cancer. Survivors include her sister Lisa, daughter Jean, and son Brian, along with their spouses, and one grandchild.



In Memoriam

Richard Marvin Palmer (1924–2011)

Richard Palmer died in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, on 12 December 2011 at the age of 87. He was a life member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon starting in 1978; his wife Helen was added in 1986, as she was the primary family genealogist.

Richard was born on 5 October 1924 in Ford's Prairie, Lewis County, Washington. He was the fourth of five children born to Roy and Mary (St. John) Palmer, and the family survived living in tents or partly in their car, as Roy was an itinerant worker traveling around both Washington and Oregon. Young Richard attended various schools including Centralia (Washington) and Hermiston (Oregon) High Schools, graduating from the latter in 1942. The following year, amidst WWII, he was drafted and served in the U.S. Fifth Army, seeing combat in the Apennines of Northern Italy. He was discharged in 1946 and studied engineering for two years at Oregon State University, Corvallis. By then his father had a construction business, where he took work until he started his own concrete contracting company. Some years later he was hired by the City of Portland as a public works inspector.

Richard was very involved in Boy Scouts of America and continued a leadership role through his adult years, earning a Silver Beaver Award for his volunteer work. It was in this capacity that he met Helen Heath whom he married in 1960 at the First Congregational Church, which became their lifelong parish. Helen was a widow with two sons, whom Richard helped to raise.



Upon retiring in late 1982, Richard and Helen travelled in a motor home, crossing the U.S. to New England and back to Portland at least three times. Their travels included visiting and researching the ancestral sites of Helen's family. She was an avid family genealogist who worked on her tree for over 20 years, with one branch that included Richard's family. Helen showed early signs of Alzheimer's disease starting in 1978 but continued to work on the family tree. Richard assisted her with this and other needs, and for her remaining 12 years became her full time caregiver until her death in 2008, earning the family nickname "Saint Richard." They had been married for 48 years.

Richard's survivors include his brother Dale and family, stepsons Stephen and Robert Enna, their spouses, plus four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



2024–2025 Annual Report of Donors

We are thankful to everyone who supported the Genealogical Forum of Oregon this past membership year ending June 30! Your generous support for the Annual Appeal and other donations through the year has made it possible to keep our organization as healthy as ever. Further, continued support for the exciting New Home initiative establishes a solid foundation for our future.

In this past year, we were able to do everything we had planned. We purchased new computers, and conducted a full program of GenTalks and the popular Fall seminar. We were able to add a Summer Seminar, too, and added two new SIGs. We have kept our collection up to date, the largest in the Pacific Northwest. As we enter the Annual Appeal season for 2025–2026, please know that your contributions, whether cash, securities, used vehicles, or books, are well appreciated and help keep GFO going.

Sincerely,
Geoff Smith, President

Heritage Level (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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David & Wendy Doerner
Cheri A. Emahiser
in memory of Grandma Della Dodi

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*in honor of ancestors
yet to be found*
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Thank You!



GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK



INTRODUCTION TO ONE-PLACE STUDIES

January 17, 2026

1:30 pm



with Jane Harris

**FREE registration at
gfo.org/gentalk**

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

GFO DECEMBER 2025 EVENTS

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

Wednesday, December 3

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn and Chat
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Saturday, December 6

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

Sunday, December 7

5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Pacific NW Genealogy
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Monday, December 8

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Roots Magic
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Tuesday, December 9

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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Wednesday, December 10

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Great Lakes SIG
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Thursday, December 11

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Q Review
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Saturday, December 13

2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Virtual Holiday Party
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Tuesday, December 16

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	AI in Genealogy SIG
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Wednesday, December 17

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, December 20

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Genealogy Problem Solvers
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	African American Ancestry

Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	GFO Work Party
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