



# The Bulletin

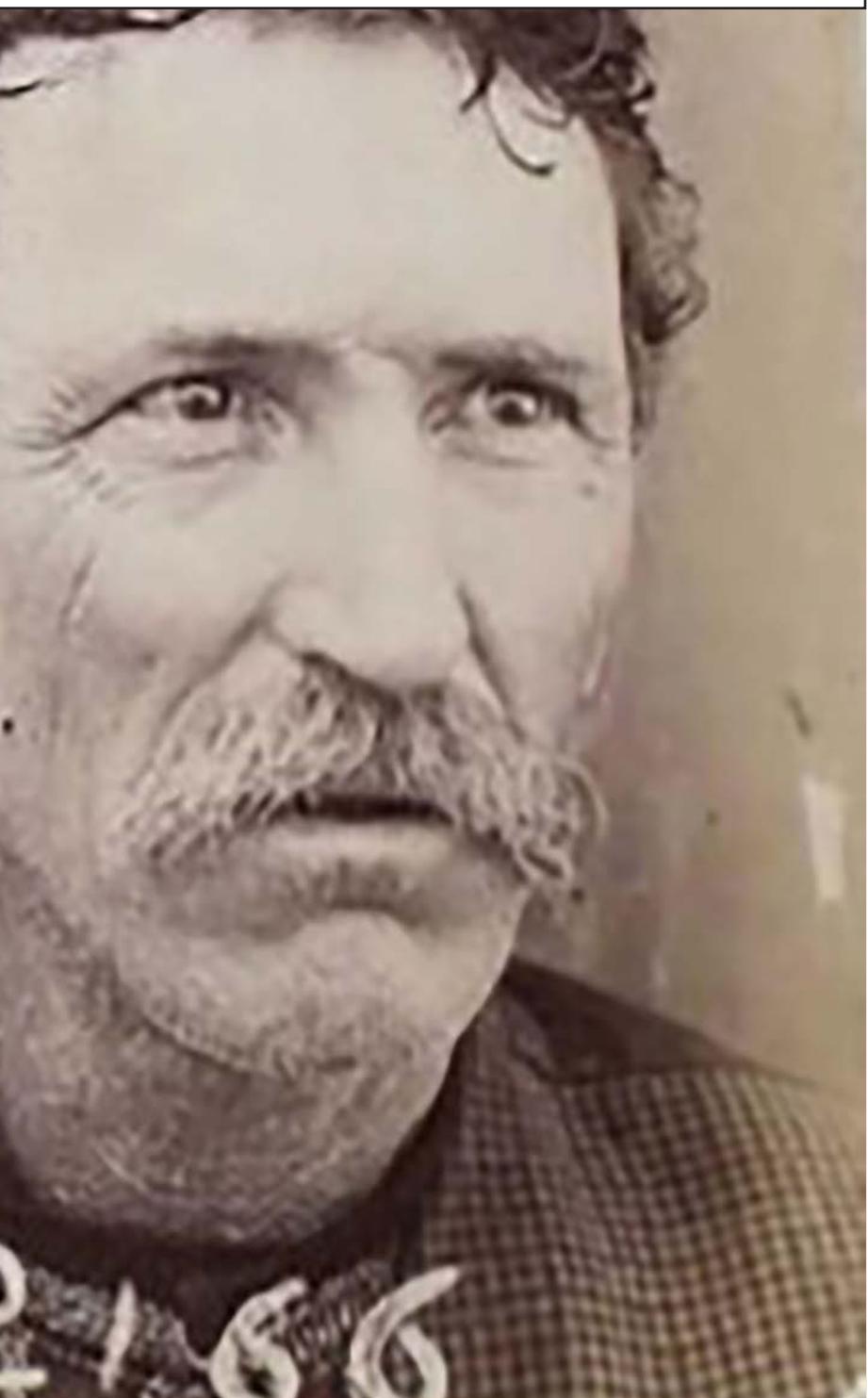
Quarterly Magazine of the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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## In This Issue

- Was Fanny Porter (1808–1879), wife of Ishmael Garner Smith, from Lansingburgh or Halfmoon, New York?
- Chapters Added to a Story Stitched on a Sampler: Hannah Butterworth Kershaw
- Adam Dennis Culp's Civil War Pension Quest
- Who were Uncle Charlie and Mabel, who visited Bob and Helen Grawe in 1949?
- A Man of Accomplishment: James Leo Ferguson
- The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio, Part III
- Book Reviews and More!



# The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

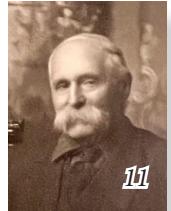
The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to *The Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

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Above, Buck Family Reunion.

Cover image, J. J. Bush, from "Inmate Photographs and Mug Books, San Quentin State Prison," *Ancestry*.

## Letter from an Editor

I WAS HAPPY TO SEE GOOD NEWS, for a change, the day after the December *Bulletin* came out. Even if it was just quick responses regarding Arnold Weld's uniform. If you have an image with a genealogical question, we would love to see it submitted. Unfortunately, we do not have a Question and Suggestion column for the March 2026 issue. It always makes my day to receive any feedback or questions about *The Bulletin*. Please submit them to [bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org).

We do have another article in this issue from Duane Funk. His genealogical question concerned the original location of an ancestor. Was it Lansingburgh or Halfmoon, New York?

The December *Bulletin* had several articles from the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's Writers' Room special interest group. We hope to see more for the June issue. We carried forward a Writers' Room article by Christina Buck Armstrong to this issue. She discusses unique artifacts that helped tell a story. We also have Part III of her article, "The Buck Family from Athens, Ohio." Christina, thank you for the many pages submitted last year, keep up the good work.

Ralph Thonstad wrote about an ancestor trying to qualify for a Civil War pension. It may be helpful to other researchers to see his documents, made available by the federal government. Not everyone gets the opportunity to access old family records while visiting the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



"Cheryl just found this photo, most likely from about 1875—it says 'Charles Grafe' on the back at the top. Charles Grafe Jr. was born in 1859 in Muscatine. If the photo was taken about 1875, he would be 16 in the photo, which is 'about right.' Email from Cousin Detective."



My youngest grandchild, [REDACTED] eating ice cream between two truckers, Cascade Locks, Oregon, 2014. Courtesy of the author.

I have been going through letters that my mother wrote to her parents, and I have finally arrived in the 1950s. I was excited to read about Uncle Charley visiting my parents while they lived in California, but I did not know who he was. Shortly after finishing my short article, I received an email from my favorite fourth cousin, known as "Cousin Detective." He attached an image from Muscatine, Iowa, that I had not seen, of someone who might possibly be Uncle Charley.

Nanci Remington wrote about "A Man of Accomplishment: James Leo Ferguson." After the War with Mexico in the mid-1800s, Ferguson moved to the Pacific Northwest, specifically the small community of Cascades. Nanci provided a map that brought back memories of walking along one of the few trails in the Columbia River Gorge that does not lead up a steep hill to a waterfall or beautiful viewpoint.

Whether it was with a friend, neighbor, co-worker, child, or grandchild, I got in the habit of stopping in Cascade Locks for ice cream every time I drove up to the Gorge. Whoops! Please excuse me when my mind wanders. Memories can be distracting and amusing. Which reminds me of the eight-letter crossword puzzle answer I did not know—"Strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from damaging effects of stress," \_ a \_ \_ \_ e \_ !

Anyhow, Nanci's article leads to a sidebar, "Tragedy at Cascades," and the image of a mug shot from San Quentin State Prison. Perhaps placing that photograph on the cover can briefly distract us from [REDACTED].

STAY SAFE OUT THERE!

—Mark Grafe

## Letters to the Editor

Arnold Weld prompted four members to respond.

**16 November 2025**

*The uniform is that of Knights Templer, Masonic order. Probably ceremonial.*  
Georga Foster

*Arnold looks like he is a proud new member of the Knights Templar. He is wearing probably seven crosses, and they might have been made from ribbon. One glove is missing its cross. I found Arnold and wife's headstones. No obvious hints there.*

*Thank you for including Arnold's photo!*  
Linda Wolfe Kelley

*I would say that, given the six crosses on his various clothing parts, that he was more likely a member of a religious organization. There was such a profusion of religious movements and revivals in that (~mid-1800s) era. Interesting photo.*

Jackie



*I sent a screenshot to a long-time military friend (my husband and I were in the 364 Brigade with him) to see if he had any knowledge of this uniform. Then I thought of the military museum here in Oregon. Has this type of uniform been found in any of the military history you have? Thanks for any help,*  
Loretta Welsh

*Hi Loretta,*  
*I showed the image you sent to a few of our volunteers who all thought the uniform was of the Knights of Columbus. A quick web search in different 1800s decades showed some nearly identical sash, sword, and headgear design. Hope that helps.*

*Happy Thanksgiving,*  
Katrina

**6 December 2025**

*Hi Mark,*  
*I swear we need to get GFO members to write their own obits with fave photos. It would be a really good genealogical exercise and would save many an awkward tracking down of families after the fact!*  
*Is your pup on Santa's good list for treats? Do keep us "posted"!*  
Fran

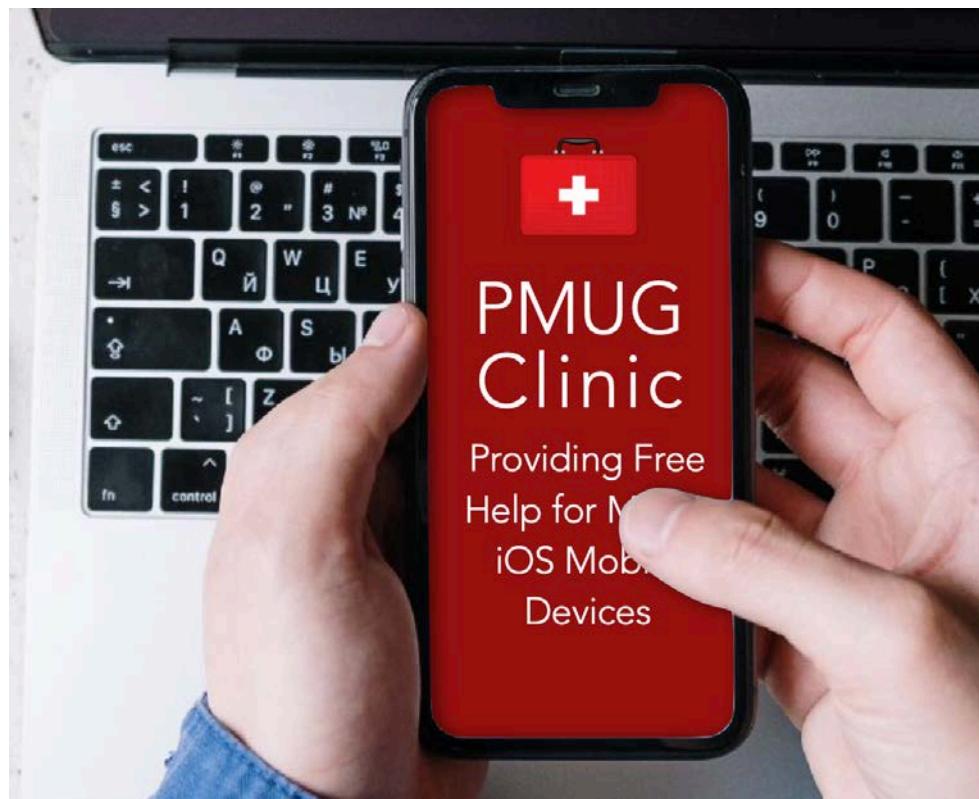


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# Was Fanny Porter (1808–1879), wife of Ishmael Garner Smith, from Lansingburgh or Halfmoon, New York?

Duane Funk

When looking for our ancestors we need to deal with the fact that they moved around. Just because they appear in one place, that does not mean they have always been there. If they do not show up when or where expected, we need to expand the search and avoid “tunnel vision.” A case in point was my third great grandmother.

Fanny Porter, my third-great-grandmother, was born on 18 June 1808 in New York,<sup>1</sup> according to her tombstone and census data. That made her my youngest brick wall. She married Ishmael Garner Smith on 18 October 1829 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.<sup>2</sup> They appeared in the 1850 census on 31 August 1850 in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer



Gravestone for Fanny Smith, Princeville Cemetery, Aurora, Cloud County, Kansas. Courtesy of the author.

County, New York,<sup>3</sup> and they later moved to Illinois and Kansas. She died of apoplexy on 14 December 1879 at the age of 71 at her home in Aurora Township, Cloud County, Kansas,<sup>4</sup> and was buried in the Princeville Cemetery in Aurora Township, Cloud County, Kansas.<sup>5</sup>

Fanny and Ishmael had the following children:

- i Lydia Smith, born October 1831 in New York,<sup>6</sup> married William Brown, 2 November 1878, in Princeville, Cloud County, Kansas,<sup>7</sup> and died 24 July 1907 in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan.<sup>8</sup>

1. 1860 U.S. census, population schedule, Grundy County, Illinois, Morris, p. 145, Fanny in the household of Ishmael Smith; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4213642\\_00145?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=Uth2008&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=37363286](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4213642_00145?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Uth2008&_phstart=successSource&pId=37363286) : accessed 27 June 2025). Also, “U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850–1885,” digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8756/images/KST1130\\_42-0270?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=Uth2014&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=1835676](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8756/images/KST1130_42-0270?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Uth2014&_phstart=successSource&pId=1835676) : accessed 27 June 2025), image 2 of 32; 1880 Schedule 5, Cloud County, Kansas, Aurora, Enumeration District (ED) 47, p. 1, Fanny Smith. Also, Duane H. Funk, digital image of Fanny Smith headstone, Princeville Cemetery, Aurora, Cloud County, Kansas, 12 May 2004.

2. Wedding Notice, *Lansingburgh Gazette* (New York), 20 October 1829.

3. 1850 U.S. census, population schedule, Rensselaer County, New York, Lansingburgh, p. 111, Fanny, in the household of Ishmael Smith; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4203139\\_00019?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=Uth2011&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=8192517](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4203139_00019?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Uth2011&_phstart=successSource&pId=8192517) : accessed 27 June 2025).

4. Marilyn Johnston, Early Deaths Cloud County Kansas (Concordia, Kansas: Cloud County Genealogical Society), vol 1: p. 72. Also, Duane H. Funk, digital image of Fanny Smith headstone. Also, “U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850–1885,” image 2 of 32; 1880, Fanny Smith.

5. Duane H. Funk, digital image of Fanny Smith headstone.

6. 1900 U.S. census, population schedule, Kent County, Michigan, Wyoming, ED 112, sheet 14B, Lydia, in the household of William Brown; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120235\\_01110?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=Uth2017&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=25002807](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120235_01110?usePUB=true&_phsrc=Uth2017&_phstart=successSource&pId=25002807) : accessed 27 June 2025).

7. National Archives, State of Kansas, “Civil War Pension Applications,” can 51328, bundle 17, William Brown File, Cloud County Marriage License, certificate 621032.

8. Michigan, Certificate of Death number 188, Lydia Brown, 25 July 1907.

- ii Harriet Smith, born 30 August 1832, in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York,<sup>9</sup> married Henry Pendleton, 19 October 1853, in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York,<sup>10</sup> and died in Blackwell, Kay County, Oklahoma. She was buried 10 January 1917, in Willow Grove Cemetery, Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois.<sup>11</sup>
- iii Jane Ann Smith, born in 1836, died 3 July 1839 at the age of three, was buried in the Village Cemetery in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.<sup>12</sup>
- iv Joseph Smith, born 15 August 1838, died 19 April 1839 as an infant, was buried in the Village Cemetery in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.<sup>13</sup>
- v Sarah E. Smith, born in 1839, in New York,<sup>14</sup> married Jacob Rosekrans, 30 September 1856, in Will County, Illinois.<sup>15</sup> No death place or date has been found. She is my 2nd great-grandmother.
- vi Fannie Smith, born November 1840, in New York,<sup>16</sup> married William T. Dubridge, 8 September 1864, in Grundy County, Illinois,<sup>17</sup> and died 26 May 1903, in Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois.<sup>18</sup> She is buried in the Bloomvale Cemetery, Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois.<sup>19</sup>

For over twenty years I searched the records in Lansingburgh and Rensselaer County, even at one point hiring a professional genealogist to check the local archives, with little success. One Porter family, that of George B., born 31 January 1800 and Anna (Smith) Porter, born 22 September 1799, did turn up with a connection to Fanny's husband, Ishmael. Anna Smith being his sister,<sup>20</sup> but nothing more on Fanny.

As it turned out, I was hampered by a classic case of tunnel vision. The first break came when I found a land transaction in the Rensselaer records in which a Fanny and a Harriet Porter jointly purchased land from James McMurray on 17 March 1829 in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York.<sup>21</sup> Fanny was a few months shy of her twenty-first birthday and may have needed an adult on the deed with her, making Harriet an older sister or cousin. The fact that Fanny named her second child Harriet certainly suggested such a connection.

9. Everett Hall Pendleton, compiler, *Brian Pendleton and his Descendants 1599-1910* (: Everett Pendleton, 1911), p. 496.

10. "Married," *Lansingburgh Gazette*, Troy Public Library, 25 October 1853, p. 2, col. 7.

11. "Funeral of Mrs. Pendleton Held in Minooka Today," *Morris Daily Herald* (Morris, Illinois), 10 January 1917, p. 2, col. 2.

12. Frances Dotter Broderick, compiler, *The Burial Grounds of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York* (: Typescript (photocopy), 1965), p. 73.

13. *Ibid.*

14. 1860 U.S. census, Grundy County, Illinois, Morris, p. 145, Sarah in the household of Ishmael Smith; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4213642\\_00145?pid=37363289](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4213642_00145?pid=37363289) : accessed 28 June 2025).

15. Will County, Illinois, Marriage License #2864, 30 September 1856, Jacob Rosekrans and Sarah E. Smith.

16. 1900 U.S. census, population schedule, Vigo County, Indiana, Harrison, ED 108, p. 193, sheet 8, Fanny Du Bridge in the household of Frederick A. Du Bridge; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118673\\_00262?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2034&phstart=successSource&pid=13889471](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118673_00262?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2034&phstart=successSource&pid=13889471) : accessed 27 June 2025).

17. "Illinois Statewide Marriage index, 1763-1900," database, *Illinois State Archives* (<https://apps.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriageSearch.do> : accessed 27 June 2025), entry for William T. Dubridge and Fannie A. Smith.

18. "Mrs. Dubridge's Sudden Death," *Terre Haute Evening Gazette* (Terre Haute, IN), 26 May 1903, p. 2.

19. *Find a Grave*, database (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7560549/fannie-a-dubridge> : accessed 27 June 2025), memorial 7560549, Fannie A. Smith Dubridge (1840-1903), Bloomvale Cemetery, Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois; created by Scott McManimen.

20. Duane Funk and Barbara Zehner, "The Smith Porter Families of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, New York," *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, vol. 69 no. 4 (June 2020), p. 29.

21. "New York, Land Records, 1630-1975," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-32685-9493-7?cc=2078654&w=c=M9M4-D12:1013591116> : accessed 27 June 2025), image 60 of 578; Rensselaer Deeds 1829-1830, vol. 21-22, vol. 21 p. 52, James McMurray, Harriet Porter, and Fanny Porter.

On the FamilySearch Family Tree there was an unsourced entry that included a Harriet Porter, of Lansingburgh at about the right age who married a Henry Curran.<sup>22</sup> In the 1850 U.S. census for Lansingburgh, there was a Henry and Harriet Curran. Harriet was born circa 1804 in New York and had a daughter Fanny.<sup>23</sup> New York took a census in 1855, and that census included a column for county of birth. In Harriet's case that was Saratoga County,<sup>24</sup> just the other side of the Hudson River from Rensselaer County. A quick check of the census records for Saratoga County showed a lot of Porters. I had been looking in the wrong county!

A Google search for Harriet Curran in Saratoga County turned up a burial record for both Henry and Harriet in the Oakwood Cemetery in Lansingburgh. The burial record included her death date, 2 April 1858, and her age at death, fifty-four, which gave a birth year of circa 1804. The burial record shows she is about four years older than Fanny, with a birthplace of Waterford, Saratoga County, New York. This matches the census data and gives the names of her parents, Jeremiah, and Sarah Porter.<sup>25</sup> If Fanny was a sister of Harriet, I now had the names of her parents.

A map check showed that Waterford was just across the Hudson River from Lansingburgh. On a recent visit I was in Waterford and needed a cup of coffee. Google sent me to a shop in Lansingburgh. They were that close. A family in Waterford could easily end up in Lansingburgh. Another clue was the marriage of Ishmael G. Porter, a resident of Lansingburgh, and son of George B. and Anna (Smith) Porter, to Anna McMullin that took place in Waterford in 1860.<sup>26</sup>

Next was a search for the birth of a Jeremiah Porter of the right age to be Harriet's father. That produced a baptismal record from the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Saratoga, Schuylerville, Albany County, (now Saratoga County, New York, Saratoga did not become a

county until 1791) for a Jeremiah Porter, the son of Amos Porter and Lidia Andrews in Halfmoon, Albany County (now Saratoga County), New York, and three siblings on 13 January 1790. Jeremiah was denoted as having been born 11 October 1778, giving him an age at baptism of twelve,<sup>27</sup> and twenty-six at the birth of Harriet, about what would be expected. Further, the town of Waterford was formed from Halfmoon in 1816.<sup>28</sup>



City of Troy, New York, showing Lansingburgh neighborhood. Map by ZooFari, [Wikipedia](#). CC BY-SA 3.0

22. Family Tree, "Harriet Porter Tree," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KC5G-76V> : accessed 27 June 2025).

23. 1850 U.S. census, population schedule, Rensselaer County, New York, Lansingburgh, p. 232, Henry Curran household; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4203139\\_00030?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2037&phstart=successSource&pid=8192966](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4203139_00030?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2037&phstart=successSource&pid=8192966) : accessed 27 June 2025).

24. "New York, U.S., State Census 1850," population schedule, Rensselaer County, Lansingburgh, ED 2, dwelling 262, Harriet Curran household; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7181/images/005207102\\_00059?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2040&phstart=successSource&pid=1653440735](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7181/images/005207102_00059?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2040&phstart=successSource&pid=1653440735) : accessed 27 June 2025).

25. "Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, New York, 1851-1872 Interments," database, *Rootsweb* (<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nyrensse/ceomoak1851.htm> : accessed 27 June 2025; citing Family History Library microfilm 1434122.

26. Waterford, New York, marriage certificate, Ishmael G Porter and Annie McMullin, 21 February 1861; certificate held by Barb Zehner.

27. *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Saratoga* (Schuylerville, Saratoga, New York), p. 29, Baptisms; citing FHL microfilm 533504, image 59, Jeremiah Porter.

28. "Waterford, New York," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterford,\\_New\\_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterford,_New_York) : accessed 27 June 2025), "History."

Amos Porter and Lidia Andrews had the following children, all baptized on 13 June 1790 at the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Saratoga in Halfmoon, Albany, (now Saratoga County), New York.<sup>29</sup>

- i Medad Porter, born 21 September 1776 in Albany County (now Saratoga County), New York, died before 1813.<sup>30</sup>
- ii Jeremiah Porter, born 11 October 1778 in Albany County, (now Saratoga County), New York, likely died before 6 August 1810.<sup>31</sup>
- iii Elisabeth Porter was born 18 December 1780 in Albany County (now Saratoga County), New York.
- iv Lydia Porter was born November 1783 in Albany County (now Saratoga County), New York.

Amos Porter was in the 1790 census living in Halfmoon, Albany County, New York, with age and sex matching the above family members. In the 1800 census he is still in Halfmoon, with more children.<sup>32</sup> Two of his sons, Medad and Jeremiah, have their own listing on the same page. Amos and Jeremiah both appear in the Saratoga County Tax lists in 1801, 1802, and 1803.<sup>33</sup>

After 1803, Jeremiah vanishes from the records. Amos appears to have died circa 1805.<sup>34</sup> A probate document of 1807 that appointed a guardian for Amos's minor children revealed a different wife and children.<sup>35</sup> While this could have been from another Amos Porter, the available records seemed to be consistent with only one adult Amos Porter in Saratoga County before 1810. Further, the 1800 census entry for Amos Porter reflected the sex and age

distribution for a blend of the family from before the 1790 census, and the probate file.<sup>36</sup> There were online trees that matched the names in the probate file and indicated the possible second wife as a Sarah Gregory. Following up that lead led to a book on the history of a Gregory family that contained a Sarah Gregory, of the right age, who married an Amos Porter of Waterford, Saratoga County, New York, and then married second an Ezra Pickett.<sup>37</sup> While Amos and Jeremiah, were not in the 1810 U.S. census, Halfmoon did contain entries for a both a Sarah, and a Sally Porter.<sup>38</sup> The Sarah Porter entry had a sex and age distribution of household members matching the family of Amos. Further there was an Ezra Pickett two lines above Sarah of the right age to be her second husband.

29. *Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Saratoga*, Jeremiah Porter.

30. Steve Spicer, "Medad Porter Sr." *Spicerweb.org*, database, (<https://spicerweb.org/Genealogy/LegacyFiles/3069.htm> : online 4 December 2023), Medad Porter d. 1802-1812.

31. 1810 U.S. census, population schedule, Saratoga County, New York, Halfmoon, p. 712, Sally Porter; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7613/records/324073?tid=&pid=&queryId=a831f6ef-9e92-4416-afad-d65a9ace355f&phsrc=Uth2042&phstart=successSource> : accessed 27 June 2025).

32. 1800 U.S. census, population schedule, Saratoga County, New York, Halfmoon, Amos Porter household, ; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7590/images/4440844\\_00019?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2046&phstart=successSource&pId=284516](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7590/images/4440844_00019?usePUB=true&phsrc=Uth2046&phstart=successSource&pId=284516) : accessed 27 June 2025).

33. "New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804," *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6771/?name=Amos\\_Porter&count=50](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6771/?name=Amos_Porter&count=50) : accessed 27 June 2025); citing 1801, Halfmoon, Saratoga County, New York, entries for Amos and Jeremiah Porter.

34. Family Tree, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/L5LY-4JZ> : online 29 November 2023), entry for Amos Porter death date.

35. "New York Abstracts of Wills, Administrations, and Guardianships," New England Historic Genealogical Society, *American Ancestors* (<https://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 23 November 2023), New York, p. 171.

36. 1800 U.S. census, population schedule, Saratoga County, New York, Halfmoon, Amos Porter household.

37. Grant Gregory, *Ancestors and Descendants of Henry Gregory* (Provincetown, MA: The Compiler, 1938), no. 532 p. 111.

38. 1810 U.S. census, population schedule, Saratoga, New York, Halfmoon, p. 712, Sarah Porter.

Sally Porter	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
John David Elliman	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Isaac Porter	3	2	1	1	0	1	10	0	1	9	0	0
Samuel Elliman	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
John Elliman	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
John Rice	1	1	3	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	0	0
Isaac Coffey	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
David Elliman	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Robert Anderson	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Enrique Meloney	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mc C. Porter	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Robert Livingston	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Dan McGuire	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
John Whalen	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
John Pickett	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stephen Pickett	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sarah Porter	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0

1810 U.S. census, Halfmoon, Saratoga County, New York.

With Jeremiah Porter missing from the records, the Sally Porter in the 1810 census could be his widow. Sally and Sarah Porter were both on the same census page, as were Amos and Jeremiah in the 1800 census. Sally, and one other adult female, had three children, one boy and two girls, under ten.<sup>39</sup> The daughters fit the age expected for Harriet and Fanny. The son was the right age to be the son in the 1800 census and was a strong match for Ishmael Smith's brother-in-law George B. Porter. It is also worth noting that Fanny named her first daughter Lydia, the name of her probable grandmother, as noted above, her second daughter Harriet, and her fourth daughter Sarah, the name of her probable mother. Thus, four of her five daughters were given names from Jeremiah Porter's family. Jane Ann, her third daughter, was given a name from her husband Ishmael's family. Further, as noted above, Harriet named her daughter Fanny. A check on Ancestry found one partial tree for Henry Curran,<sup>40</sup> Harriet's husband. While that tree that did not have all the names of his siblings, none of his family were named Fanny suggesting that the name may have come from Harriet.

Sally is not in the 1820 census. Possibly she died, or more likely she remarried. Being a single mother at that time and place was not easy. As the 1820 census only recorded head of household names, she would be invisible in the census if remarried. A search of available records in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties during an onsite visit turned up nothing new, even with the help of the city and county historians.

Going over all the available evidence, the first thing that struck me was the absence of any other Fanny or Harriet Porter in either Saratoga or Rensselaer County. Sometimes what you do not find can be significant.

What I did have was a clearly defined family for a Harriet Porter, born about 1804, daughter of Jeremiah and Sarah, granddaughter of Amos and Lidia. And, who named a daughter Fanny, and likely was the Harriet Porter on the 1829 land transaction with Fanny Porter, who named a daughter Harriet. Further, not only did Fanny name a child Harriet, but also used names from the family of Jeremiah and Sarah Porter, Harriet's parents, for three other daughters.

Finally, the Sally Porter in the 1810 U.S. census of Halfmoon, who was in the right place to be the widow of Jeremiah, had two daughters of the right age to be Fanny and Harriet, not to mention a son whose age matched George B. Porter, husband of Anna (Smith) Porter of Lansingburgh.

While I was trying to decide if the above was enough to prove my case, Ancestry came up with a DNA link that connected me to another descendent of Amos Porter.<sup>41</sup> While the family tree of the match was private, and I was unable to contact them, the most logical way for me to be descended from Amos Porter was through Fanny, his granddaughter.

I concluded that even such a small genetic match, combined with the paper trail, was enough to make the case that Amos was the grandfather of Fanny Porter, and she was from Halfmoon. My long search was over.

Isaacel Smith	43 M
Fanny Smith	41 F
Sylvia Smith	20 F
Lydia Smith	18 F
Harriet Smith	12 F
Fanny Smith	10 F

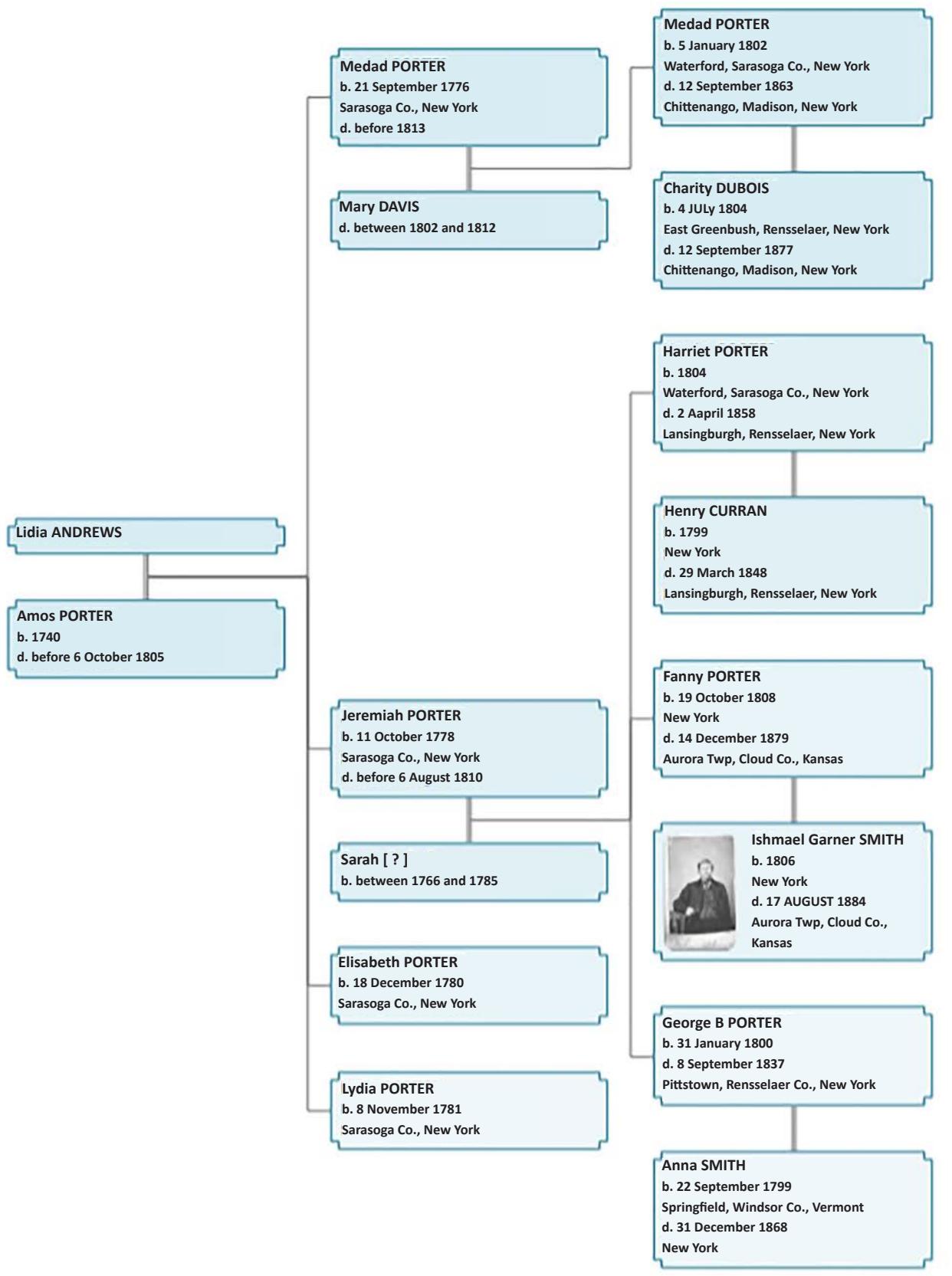
1850 U.S. census, Rensselaer County, New York.

39. 1810 U.S. census, population schedule, Saratoga County, New York, Halfmoon, p. 712, Sally Porter.

40. Cathee58, "Naylor/Hughes Family Historians" public member tree, database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/18539320/person/28875800407/facts/100> : accessed 30 April 2025), profile for Henry Curren.

41. Duane Funk, *Ancestry Thru Lines* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-matches/compare/3d920394-7464-4b4e-9c20-5bb1134ad3a6/with/98b4be57-92a7-4340-a7d7-8b96ea65aa1d?returnurl=https%3A%2Fwww.ancestry.com%2Fdiscoveryui-matches%2Fmatch-list%2F3d920394-7464-4b4e-9c20-5bb1134ad3a6>).

## DESCENDANT CHART FOR AMOS PORTER



# Chapters Added to a Story Stitched on a Sampler: Hannah Butterworth Kershaw (1809–1894)

Christina Buck Armstrong

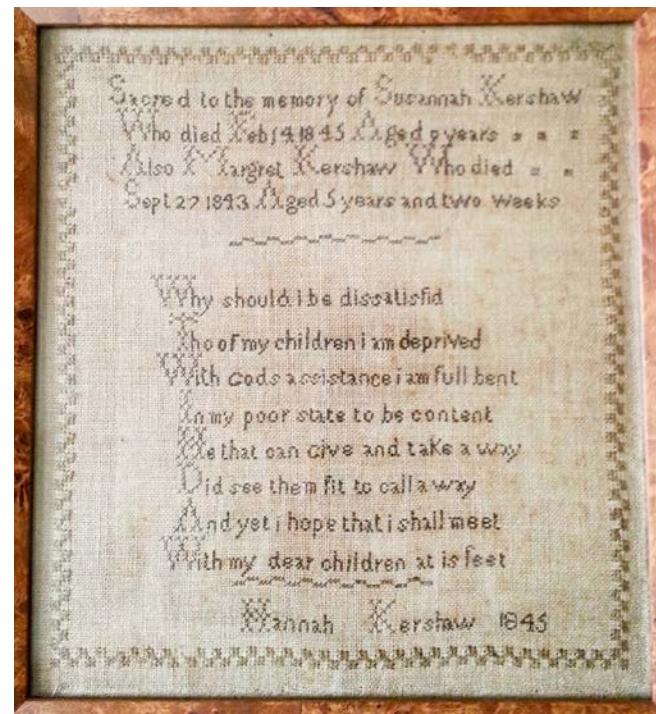
A number of family heirlooms arrived at my house in 1966, after my grandfather died and my grandmother was moved to a nursing home. My favorite of these was a framed piece of cross-stitched embroidery, signed Hannah Kershaw 1845, that recorded the deaths of Hannah's two daughters. My mother told me that Hannah was my grandmother's great-grandmother, whose son James left Ashton-under-Lyne, England, and came with his wife to Columbus, Ohio, where my great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother were born.

I was a teenager in 1966. Like Hannah, I was a needlewoman, had even tried my hand at embroidery. I was intrigued by the idea of using a needle and thread to tell a story. I liked it that Hannah did not want her daughters to be forgotten and that her grief was acknowledged in a tangible and beautiful way.

I felt fortunate to know something about a third great-grandmother who had lived on another continent over a century ago. I never expected to learn more, but five decades later, on a visit to my mother's cousin Marty, another chapter of Hannah's story emerged. Marty showed me a second mourning sampler made by Hannah, and from this I learned of the death of yet another of Hannah's daughters. And I learned that Hannah's husband, John, died in 1839 at the age of 40.

My curiosity about Hannah was again piqued. And since the age of the internet had arrived, there were more roads to find Hannah than I ever dreamed of when I first saw her needlework.

Hannah Butterworth was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, England, in 1809. Lancashire was the heart of the British textile industry due, at least in part, to its damp climate and access to water power. The late 18th–early 19th century was the era of mechanization of a craft that had, for centuries, been a cottage industry. Hannah's father was James Butterworth, a wool stapler—a skilled specialist who bought raw wool from farmers, graded the “staple” (cluster of fibers) according to quality, then cleaned, packaged, and sold it. Wool staplers were independent operators whose work was considered to be a trade rather than manual labor such as was performed at lower levels of the wool industry.



Mourning sampler made in 1845 by Hannah Butterworth Kershaw. Courtesy of the author.

## MOURNING SAMPLER TRANSCRIPTION

*Sacred to the memory of Susannah Kershaw  
Who died Feb 14 1845 Aged 9 years  
Also Margaret Kershaw Who died  
Sept 27 1843 Aged 5 years and two weeks*

*Why should i be dissatisfid  
Tho of my children i am deprived  
With Gods assistance i am full bent  
In my poor state to be content  
He that can give and take away  
Did see them fit to call away  
And yet i hope that i shall meet  
With my dear children at is feet*

*Hannah Kershaw 1845*

Hannah married John Kershaw, a cotton rover of nearby Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, probably in 1827. The job of the cotton rover was to take care of the roving frames that drew out carded cotton into rovings and wound them onto bobbins to be spun into thread. Mill workers typically worked six days a week for 12-15 hours a day in hot, humid conditions. Cotton rovers came in contact with a great deal of cotton lint, a definite health hazard.

The couple's first child, Jane, was born in 1828 and baptized the following year at St. Michael's, the parish church of Ashton-under-Lyne, where Jane's father had been baptized 30 years previously. Jane died at the age of two in July 1830, while Hannah was pregnant with her second child, James, born the following December.

More births followed: a second son, Charles, in 1832 and a second daughter, Maria, in 1834. All three of the couple's then living children were baptized at St. Michael's parish church in November 1834.

Two more daughters were born to Hannah and John: Susannah in 1836 and Margaret two years later. These girls were baptized at the Stamford Street Methodist New Connexion Chapel rather than at the parish church, indicating that the family had switched their religious affiliation from the Church of England to a nonconformist denomination. It was not unusual for working class families in Lancashire to make such a change. The Methodist New Connexion Chapel offered a more participatory, emotionally engaging, and socially supportive religious life. Many members of Lancashire's industrial working class considered the Anglican establishment to be elitist and politically conservative, in contrast to the democratic and reformist values that were common among the mill workers. The Methodists were leaders in Sunday schooling, teaching reading and scripture to children who had little other access to education; this was likely a powerful motivator for Hannah, as there is evidence that she had aspirations that her oldest living child, at least, would have opportunities to advance.

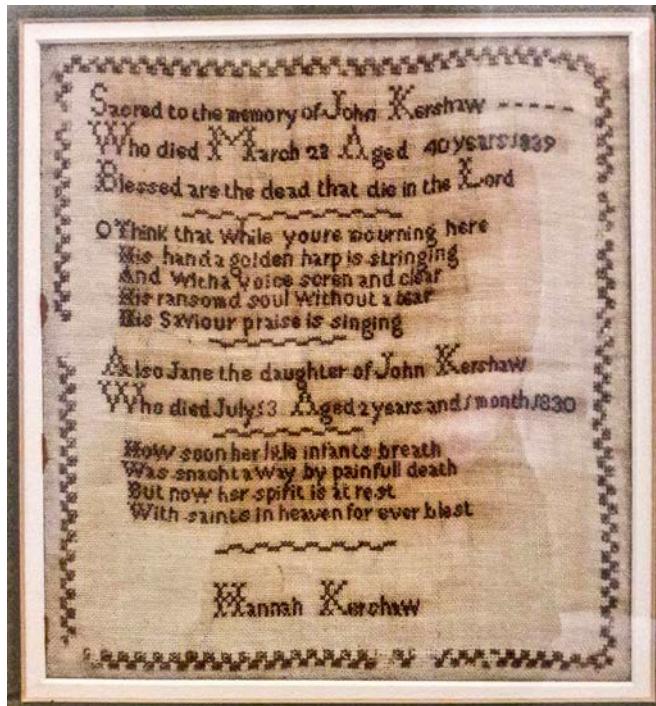
In March 1839, when the youngest of their five living children was only six months old and the oldest not yet nine, Hannah's husband John died. Hannah was only 30 years old.



*St. Michael's parish church, Ashton-under-Lyne, England, where Hannah's husband and four oldest children were baptized. Photographed by the author, November 29, 2018.*

The first British census, taken in 1841, tells something about how Hannah and her five children were doing two years after John's death. They lived on Park Street in Ashton-under-Lyne. Hannah's employment was "Cotton Weaver." Her five children ranged in age from two to ten. Three adults, apparently unrelated to Hannah, lived with the family; it's likely that Hannah shared her home with others in order to be able to pay the rent. The 60-year-old washerwoman who lived with the family worked at home, which would have allowed her to watch Hannah's children while Hannah worked long hours at the factory. Although child labor was common at the time and children as young as nine were permitted to work in the textile mills, James, age 10, was listed without employment, suggesting that Hannah hoped he might follow a different occupational path than had been available to her or her husband. The fact that he was not designated "Scholar" indicates he was not regularly attending school, but he was likely attending Sunday school classes, at a minimum, and possibly receiving other instruction when Hannah could afford it.

As recorded on Hannah's 1845 mourning sampler, daughter Margaret died in 1843, followed by Susannah in 1845. The poem stitched by Hannah to memorialize the girls and the poems on the piece she made earlier were probably copied from Religious Tract Society pamphlets or Sunday school leaflets. Such items were cheaply printed and widely distributed to members of the working class during the mid-19th century.



Mourning sampler made circa 1839–1843 by Hannah Butterworth Kershaw. Courtesy of the author.

#### MOURNING SAMPLER TRANSCRIPTION

*Sacred to the memory of John Kershaw  
Who died March 23 Aged 40 years 1839  
Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord*

*O Think that while you're mourning here  
His hand a golden harp is stringing  
And with a voice soren and clear  
His ransomed soul without a tear  
His Saviour praise is singing*

*Also Jane the daughter of John Kershaw  
Who died July 13 Aged 2 years and 1 month  
1830*

*How soon her little infants breath  
Was snacht away by painfull death  
But now her spirit is at rest  
With saints in heaven for ever blest*

*Hannah Kershaw*

Six years after Susannah's death, Hannah lived with her three surviving children at 55 Cotton Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. She was listed on the 1851 census as a widow, age 42, occupation: "Roller Coverer in Cotton." Her children's names, ages, and occupations: James, 20, "Draper's Assistant;" Charles, 18, "Roller Coverer;" Maria, 16, "Roller Coverer." Roller coverers prepared, fitted, and finished the leather or cloth covers for carding machine cylinders. Hannah may have made the change from weaving to roller cover-making for economic security. Weaving wages fluctuated while roller covering was steadier, and roller coverers were paid somewhat better than weavers. By shifting into a skilled auxiliary trade, she had a position where she could train her children, who could then work alongside her and contribute to the family's support.

James' work as a draper's assistant indicates a step up from the family's history of work in the textile mills. Drapers were the main high-street retailers of cloth, ready-made garments, and household textiles. A draper's assistant stood at the counter, measured out cloth by the yard, cut it, wrapped it, and handled money. He also helped with unpacking deliveries, keeping records of stock, arranging displays, and sweeping the shop floor. Assistants were trained through apprenticeships or, more informally, on the job, but some previous schooling was required as math skills were prerequisite. Widows with children often sought opportunities to place their older sons in trades. Hannah may have had to procure a recommendation from her minister, employer, or family-member to access this opportunity for James. Although the job reflected social and economic advancement, it did not mean that James escaped long work hours, as drapers often required their assistants to work 14-16-hour days.

In December 1851, Hannah's son Charles died at the age of 19. He was buried at the Stamford Street Methodist New Connexion burial ground, as his father and two of his sisters had been. One can imagine that there may have been a mourning sampler documenting this loss; possibly a piece of needlework that is now treasured by another of Hannah's third or fourth great-grandchildren, who number over 100.

In August 1853, Hannah's son James married Martha Hall. Within weeks of their marriage, the couple departed Liverpool on the S.S. *William Tapscott*, arriving in New York in November 1853. For the 44-year-old widow to see one of her two surviving children move so far away, at a time when one could realistically consider they might never see each other again, must have been heart-wrenching. One can hope that the pain of parting was balanced by the promise that her son, who had already achieved employment beyond the hard labor of the mills, might prosper in his new home.

A year after James and Martha's move to the United States, Hannah's daughter Maria married William Crawshaw. Typical of the time, although Maria's father had been dead for 15 years and her mother had supported her through mill work as a cotton roller coverer during most of those years, only Maria's father was named in the marriage record: "John Kershaw, Cotton Rover."

Four days after Maria's marriage, Hannah's first grandchild, Fanny Maria Kershaw, was born in Columbus, Ohio. Hannah would not know of this immediately, of course. And Fanny Maria died only 22 days later, so there was little time to rejoice before it was time to mourn. More grandchildren followed, with births on both sides of the Atlantic, so that, by 1877, eight Kershaw grandchildren and at least seven Crawshaw grandchildren had been born.

A few years after their marriage, Maria and William moved to Mirfield, Yorkshire, about 30 miles northeast of Ashton-under-Lyne. Hannah remained in Ashton, and in the 1861 census she was listed as "Lodger, Widow" living at 34 Fleet Street, age: 52, occupation: "Cott. Roller Coverer."

By 1871, Hannah, no longer working in the mills, had moved to Mirfield. The census listed her living with Maria and William and their six children, the youngest only three years old. William was a machine maker with employees, and three of the children were designated "Scholar," factors that suggest William made a good living. Hannah may have moved to Mirfield to help her daughter with the younger children, or perhaps she was there because, at 62 years old, mill work was difficult for her, and the family's economic situation meant she no longer needed to work to support herself.

Ten years later, Hannah still lived with her daughter, who by then was also widowed. Maria apparently took over her husband's work; her employment as listed in the 1881 census was "Machine Maker, employing 4 persons." Four children were in the home, the youngest, Edward, only four years old. It's likely Hannah cared for him while the others in the household worked or attended school.

In 1882, Edward Crawshaw died at the age of five, which would have ended Hannah's role as a care provider in the Crawshaw household. Whether for that reason, or in order to spend the final chapter of her life with her American family, or for some other reason entirely, in late 1884, Hannah crossed the Atlantic and moved to Columbus, Ohio, to live with her son James' family. Around the same time, James sold his share in Kershaw and Krauss, Carpets and Curtains, and retired from his successful business career.

The family moved to a large brick house at 603 East Town Street in 1887. During the ten years Hannah lived in Columbus, she saw two grandsons graduate from Ohio State University, a granddaughter married, and the births of six American great-grandchildren. She also experienced the deaths of her daughter Maria (far away in England), a granddaughter, her daughter-in-law, and a great-grandson.

Hannah died at the age of 85 on October 7, 1894. She was buried in the Kershaw family plot at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio. The cause of death, as listed on her interment card, was Old Age.



603 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio, where Hannah lived with her son James Kershaw's family. The building is currently home to an organization providing services for LGBT youth. Photographed by the author on May 29, 2017.

**R**esearch concerning the textile industry and working-class life in Great Britain during the 19th century was assisted by ChatGPT, with sources provided. Butterworth and Kershaw family data came from a family Bible, Green Lawn Cemetery (Columbus, Ohio) records, and Ancestry.

# Adam Dennis Culp's Civil War Pension Quest

Ralph Thonstad

In 1863, my 19-year-old great-great-grandfather Adam D. Culp enlisted in the Missouri Cavalry. Though he lived in a community deeply divided by the war, he believed in the Union cause and freely enlisted to serve his country. Culp enlisted for a three-year stint, but his service was interrupted after four months when he was arrested for murder while on furlough. He was released and left military service, but the terms of his discharge are unclear. His personal documents were destroyed by fire in 1887. The questions surrounding his discharge impacted his case for a Civil War pension.

In 2018, I visited the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., in hopes of learning more about the Civil War service of Adam D. Culp. I was successful in requesting his pension file and had the experience of handling documents over one hundred years old.<sup>1</sup> The file was rich with information and told the story of Adam's persistent quest to receive a Civil War pension. Below is my accounting of that quest.

## EARLY LIFE

Adam Dennis Culp was born 1 June 1844, in Braxton, Virginia, to John R. Culp and Catherine Reip Culp.<sup>2</sup> He was the fifth of nine children. He had four older sisters and four younger brothers.<sup>3</sup>

Around 1857, when Adam was thirteen, the Culp family joined the westward migration, seeking cheap



Adam Dennis Culp circa 1915. Courtesy of the author.

farmland.<sup>4</sup> Leaving behind their eldest married daughter, John and Catherine loaded their remaining family and belongings into a wagon and trekked more than 600 miles from Virginia to Caldwell County, Missouri.<sup>5</sup> There, John acquired a 40-acre homestead in 1858.<sup>6</sup> The farm likely would have produced crops typical for the time of corn and other grains and livestock of pigs, cows, and horses. Adam, as the oldest son, would have shouldered significant responsibilities. His days, in all likelihood, would have been filled with chores like tending livestock, plowing, planting fields, and assisting with harvests. Unlike wealthier landowners in Missouri, the Culps were not enslavers.<sup>7</sup> They were part of a growing influx of non-enslaver migrants from the East seeking cheap land and new opportunities.

1. Adam Culp, Invalid Pension Application no. 1,405,085 (Invalid, Rejected claim), Pvt., Co. B, 11th Missouri Cavalry Volunteers, Civil War; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington D.C.

2. Washington State Archives, Department of Health, Death Certificates, Adam Culp Death Record; *Digital Archives* (<http://digitalarchives.wa.gov>) : accessed 30 October 2025). Also, Adam D. Culp, Declaration for Pension, 26 June 1912, Culp Pension File, NARA.

3. 1850 U.S. census, Braxton County, Virginia, District 4, population schedule, p. 212 (stamped), dwelling 531, family 531, John Cutlip; *Ancestry* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-XK57-HXS?view=index&lang=en&groupId=M9CH-N7K>) : accessed 26 December 2025), image 83 of 104. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Caldwell County, Missouri, Davis Township, population schedule, page 89, line 31, Adam Culp in the household of Jno Culp; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4233394\\_00162?pid=40003976](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4233394_00162?pid=40003976)) : accessed 25 December 2025).

4. 1900 U.S. census, Whitman County, Washington, Farmington, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 100, sheet 3, Allen O. Culp; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118882\\_00896?pid=73337068](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4118882_00896?pid=73337068)) : accessed 25 December 2025). Allen Oaster Culp birthdate is listed as Jun 1857 in Missouri, indicating John R. Culp family migrated to Missouri by then.

5. 1860 U.S. census, Braxton County, Virginia, population schedule, p. 89, Mary [Ann Culp] McCoy; *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4297365\\_00439?pid=33659500](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4297365_00439?pid=33659500)) : accessed 25 December 2025).

6. "United States Patent Records May 1859–June 1859," digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3SK-XQ9L-V?view=fullText>) : accessed 25 December 2025), image 390 of 500. U.S. Bureau of Land Management Image Group Number: 105721769, Land Patent for John Culp of Caldwell County.

7. 1860 U.S. census, Caldwell County, Missouri; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7668/> : accessed 25 December 2025). John Culp was not found as an enslaver.

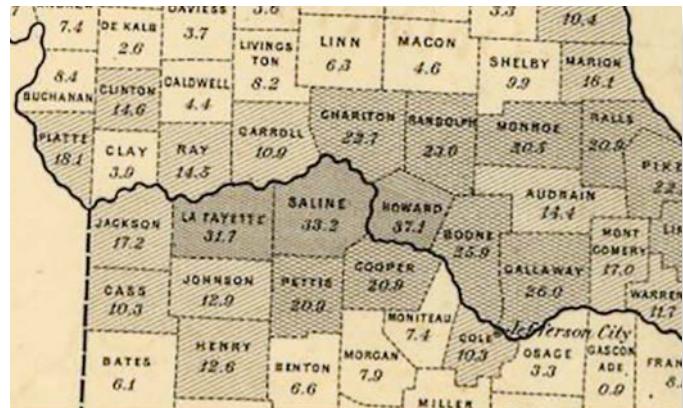
Many of these settlers, including the Culp family, sympathized with the Union, a stance that would later deepen the divide in this border state and shape Missouri's complex Unionist stance on the eve of war.<sup>8</sup> This was the environment where the teenage Adam grew up, assisted on the farm, went to school, and formed his character and beliefs.

## THE 1860S: A STATE DIVIDED

By the early 1860s, when Adam was in his late teens, Caldwell County was bursting with tension. Missouri, though officially a Union state, was deeply divided. Both Confederate and Union flags flew within its borders, and the state supplied troops to both sides. The population in Lafayette, Saline, and Howard counties along the Missouri River was over 30 percent enslaved.<sup>9</sup> The northern regions, including Caldwell and Livingston Counties were under 10 percent enslaved and leaned more toward Union support, but this loyalty came at a cost. Guerrilla warfare erupted as bands of pro-Confederate bushwhackers, such as Quantrill's Raiders, targeted Union sympathizers, looting and burning farms and terrorizing communities.<sup>10</sup> Pro-Union forces, including Jayhawkers and local militias, retaliated in kind, perpetuating a cycle of violence and fear.<sup>11</sup>

## ENLISTMENT AND SERVICE

For Adam, the turbulent social climate of Caldwell County would have been impossible to ignore. As the war crept closer, everyday life would have become increasingly dangerous. Farms were raided, neighbors turned against one another, and families were torn apart by conflicting loyalties.



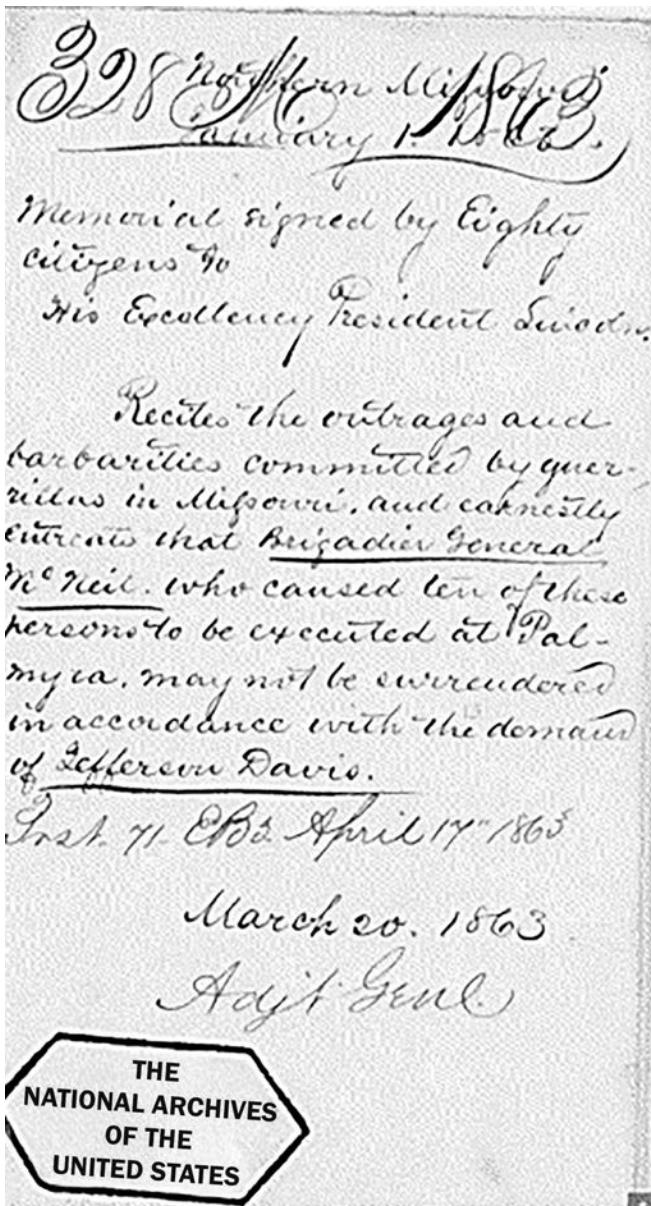


Figure 3. Letter from the “loyal citizens” of Chillicothe, Livingston County, Missouri, to President Lincoln, 1863. *Fold 3.* While serving in the EMM on 1 January 1863, Adam joined a group of 79 other “loyal citizens” of Chillicothe, Livingston County, Missouri, in sending a letter to President Lincoln. The letter describes “the outrages and barbarities committed by the confederate guerrillas” and entreats Lincoln not to surrender Brigadier General McNeil in accordance to the demands of Jefferson Davis. His signature appears above those of his Captain, and Lieutenant in the EMM.

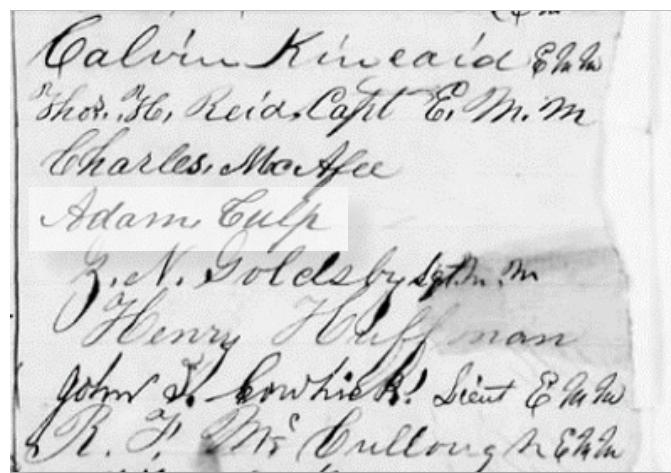


Figure 4. Page with Adam Culp's signature, highlighted. *fold3.*

On 7 March 1863, the day of his detachment from the militia, Adam, with his horse and military equipment, immediately enlisted in the Union Army at Chillicothe for a period of three years. He was assigned to Company B of the 11th Regiment of the Missouri Cavalry along with Charles McAfee who had enlisted on 3 March 1863.<sup>15</sup> The 11th Regiment was attached to the District of St. Louis, Missouri. The commanding officer was Captain John T. Ross. The records for the 11th Regiment of the Missouri Cavalry indicate that they were on duty in the District of St. Louis until December 1863. There are no engagements listed during this time.<sup>16</sup>

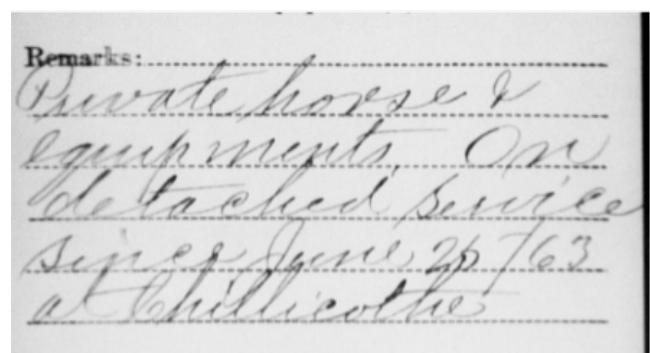


Figure 5. Page 19, May June 1863, Company Muster Roll CMSR for Adam Culp.

15. “Culp, Adam” (Pages 1–25, Eleventh Cavalry, Con-Em, 1865), “US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Missouri, 1861–1865,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/221055122/culp-adam-page-25-us-civil-war-service-records-cmsr-union-missouri-1861-1865> : accessed 13 November 2025); citing Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890–1912 (NARA microfilm publication M405, roll 0237), Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94, The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

16. “Battle Unit Details: 11th Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, Union Missouri Volunteers,” The Civil War; U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. National Park Service (<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UMO0011RC> : accessed 16 November 2025).

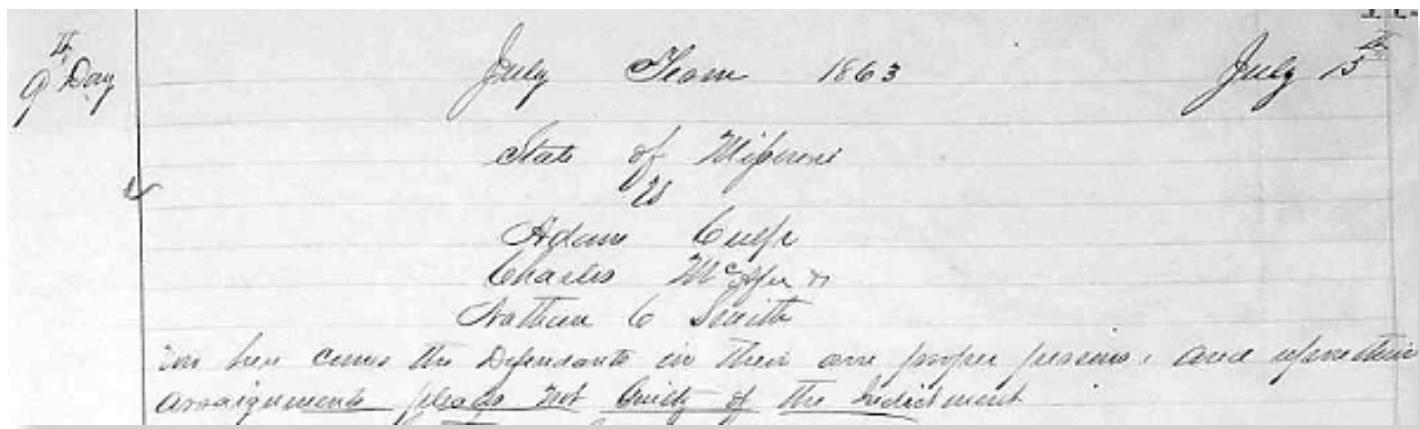


Figure 6. Livingston, Missouri, court record. FamilySearch.

### ACCUSED OF MURDER

After about four months in the calvary, Adam Culp, Charles McAfee, and Nathan C. Smith returned home from their deployment in St. Louis, Missouri, to Utica, Missouri, a small community near Chillicothe, Missouri.<sup>17</sup> This was confirmed by the May June 1863 company muster roll, where Adam is listed as absent “on detached service since June 25, 1863 at Chillicothe.”<sup>18</sup> According to Adam’s pension letter, during this time, “Bailey Fraizer, a southern sympathizer, was killed by being shot by unknown parties.” Adam, Nathan, and Charles were arrested, charged with murder, and on 15 July 1863, arraigned and pleaded not guilty to murder.<sup>19</sup>

Further court records show that on 17 July 1863, Adam’s lawyer asked for a continuance of the case, “which application is overruled by the court.” On the same day, their lawyer filed a second motion to move the venue, claiming they would be unable to obtain a fair trial in Livingston County. The motion was sustained, and the venue was changed to the County of Daviess. The court further stated that,

there being no sufficient Jail in this County and in the absence of a Military force at Gallatin in Daviess County it is deemed unsafe to commit said prisoners to the Jail of Daviess County, and said prisoners being volunteers in the service of the United States and Subject to trial by the Military authorities, it is ordered that they be taken by the Military authority to Macon City in Macon County and delivered to the military authorities at that post to be tried by Military Authority or held until the next regular term of the Daviess County Circuit Court to be begun and held on the first Monday in November next, at the option of said Military Authorities.<sup>20</sup>

Unfortunately, the death of a “southern sympathizer” was not big news. The big news of the day in Chillicothe was that on 7 July 1863, Livingston County Circuit Court Judge McFerran was burned in effigy by local citizens. The judge, afraid to hold court, called in the local Union troops to restore order and allow court to be in session. In addition, on the same day the Mayor of Chillicothe and the editor of the local paper were arrested.<sup>21</sup>

17. Adam D. Culp, Culp Pension File, NARA.”

18. Culp, Adam” (Pages 1-25), “US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Missouri, 1861-1865,” Fold3.

19. “Livingston Court Records 1863–1866,” digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMQ-VXQQ?view=explore> : accessed 25 December 2025), image 63 of 413.

20. “Livingston Court Records 1863–1866,” digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMQ-VDGM?view=explore> : accessed 25 December 2025), images 78-79 of 413.

21. “Arrests in Chillicothe,” *Louisiana Journal*, 25 July 1863, p. 2; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/article/louisiana-journal-arrests-in-chillicothe/185003248/> : accessed 2 December 2025).

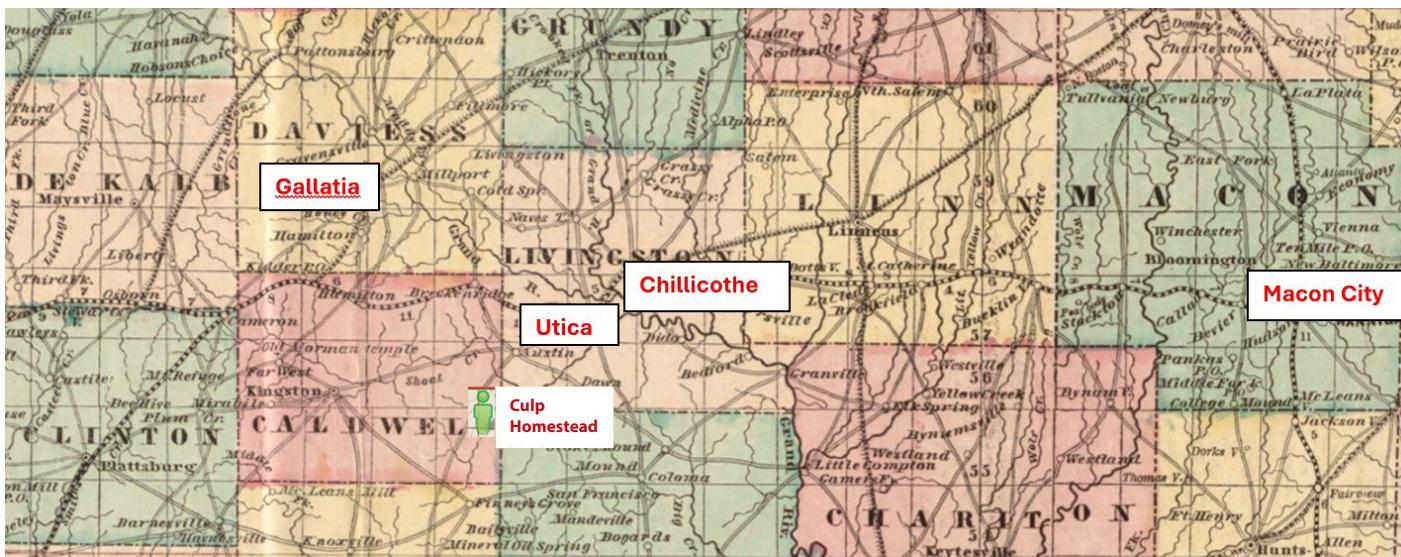


Figure 7. Lloyd's Official Map of Missouri by James T. Lloyd (New York: J. T. Lloyd, 1861); Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center Collection. Culp Homestead in Caldwell County and significant locations identified.

On 18 July 1863, court records indicate George S. Heinkel and John W. Blann, witnesses in the case, were required to post a recognizance bond of \$200 each, a sizable sum in 1863, to guarantee their appearance at the next term of the Daviess County Court to be held on the 1st Monday in November. However, both men failed to secure the bond, so the court ordered, “*that in default of the recognizance the said Witnesses are placed under the charge of the Commandant of this Post Subject to the order of General Guitar.*”<sup>22</sup>

To make things more interesting, John W. Blann was a member of Company J of the 11th Regiment of the Missouri Cavalry, the same regiment as Adam, Charles, and Nathan, and according to company muster records is “*absent without leave*” in July of 1863.<sup>23</sup> One can only speculate as to the unwillingness of John to testify. Was it because of his absence without leave, the reluctance to testify against a fellow soldier, or the turbulent times? Whatever the reason, the lack of witnesses led to the release of Adam, Charles, and Nathan.

In Adam's pension dispositions of 1912 and 1932 he relates his understanding of what transpired.

... that on trial being had, affiant [Adam] and said others were acquitted and exonerated from all liability and suspicion; that thereupon affiant [Adam] returned to the service, ...” [1912 disposition].

*The second day of his furlough home a rebel sympathizer was found murdered and as the town was strongly pro-Confederate, Adam Culp, as a Union soldier, was arrested and placed in jail. His commander was notified and the civil authorities took charge of him, and he was removed to Macon City, Missouri, where he remained some two or three months. While there his commander, Captain Ross, came to see him and advised him that there was no evidence and he would be released shortly. A few days later the charges were dropped and Adam Culp returned to his Company, which was then at St. Louis, Missouri [1932 disposition].*

22. “Livingston Court Records 1863–1866,” images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMQ-V6RK?view=explore> : accessed 25 December 2025), image 82 of 413.

23. “Blane, John W” (Pages 1–3, Eleventh Cavalry A–L), “US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Missouri, 1861–1865,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/237039196/blane-john-w-page-2-us-civil-war-service-records-cmsr-union-missouri-1861-1865> : accessed 13 November 2025); citing Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890–1912 (NARA microfilm publication M405, roll 0237), Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94, The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

There is one more court record regarding this case, found in the District Court for Daviess, Missouri, from 11 November 1865. Noting in the case of the State of Missouri versus Adam Culp and others, the case was “continued generally to pass off Dockett.”<sup>24</sup> Which, in simple terms, means that the case against “Culp and others” was indefinitely postponed and removed from the court’s active trial calendar. It also means that the case was not dismissed, and the defendants were not exonerated, nor were they acquitted.

What happened after his release is the center of the dispute between Adam and the War Department.

What we can document:

1. Adam’s company muster roll documents for the rest of 1863 to the end of the war record him as absent and being held by civil authorities in Chillicothe.<sup>25</sup>
2. Charles McAfee returned to the 11th Cavalry and served out the rest of the war with his unit.<sup>26</sup>
3. Livingston County records document Adam’s marriage to Mary Ann Stone on 12 September 1863.<sup>27</sup>
4. His first child, Ruth P Culp, was born at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on 27 February 1865, as Adam, his pregnant wife, mother and father, sister and husband, and brothers were on their way to Colorado via wagon train.<sup>28</sup>

5. Robert E. Lee surrendered 9 April 1865.

6. The 11th Missouri Cavalry was mustered out in August 1865.<sup>29</sup>

## APPLYING FOR HIS PENSION

By 1910, over 90 percent of living Union veterans were receiving some form of government assistance. On 11 May 1912, Congress passed the Sherwood Act, expanding pensions to all Union veterans of the Civil War aged 62 and older.<sup>30</sup> Seeing this as an opportunity, Adam felt it was time to claim his due. Previous pension laws required that soldiers must be injured or disabled, served at least 90 days, and have been honorably discharged. The Sherwood Act allowed that any person who has served sixty days or more in the military or naval service of the United States in the War with Mexico and has been honorably discharged therefrom, shall, upon making like proof of such service, be entitled to receive a pension of thirty dollars per month. Based on the Sherwood Act and his three months of service, Adam was entitled to at least \$13 per month, equivalent to about \$400 in today’s dollars.<sup>31</sup>

On 26 June 1912, just six weeks after the passage of the Sherwood Act and at the age of 67, Adam Culp submitted his “Declaration for Pension.” In this document, he outlined his service, provided a brief physical description, and listed his residences since leaving the service. He mentioned that he had applied for a pension 20 years earlier. The document was officially filed on 3 July 1912.<sup>32</sup>

24. “Daviess Court Records 1864–1872,” digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39Y-29B7-Z?view=explore> : accessed 25 December 2025), image 90 of 647.

25. “Culp, Adam” (Pages 1–25), “US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Missouri, 1861–1865,” *Fold3*.

26. “McAfee, Charles” (Pages 1–22, Eleventh Cavalry, Con-Em, 1865), “US, Civil War Service Records (CMSR) - Union - Missouri, 1861–1865,” database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/223213790/mcafee-charles-page-1-us-civil-war-service-records-cmsr-union-missouri-1861-1865> : accessed 13 November 2025); citing Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890–1912 (NARA microfilm publication M405, roll 0237), Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, 1780s–1917, Record Group 94, The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

27. “Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805–2002,” *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1171/images/vrmmo1833\\_c43035-0225](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1171/images/vrmmo1833_c43035-0225) : accessed 3 November 2025; Livingston County, Missouri, marriage register, Adam Culp to Mary Ann Stone, 12 September 1863; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri.

28. *Find a Grave*, database and image (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/28349049/ruth-nessly> : accessed 25 December 2025), Ruth Culp Nessly (1865–unknown), Mountain View Cemetery, Farmington, Whitman County, Washington; photo by Khat.

29. “Missouri 11th Volunteer Cavalry (Union) – Regiment,” *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/unit/138536/missouri-11th-volunteer-cavalry-union-civil-war-stories> : accessed 3 December 2025).

30. Kathleen L. Gorman, “Civil War Pensions,” *Essential Civil War Curriculum* (<https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/news.html?page=10> : accessed 25 December 2025); Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, 2012. Also, U.S. Congress. U.S. Statutes at Large, Volume 37 -1913, 62nd Congress; *Library of Congress* ([https://www.loc.gov/resource/llsalvol.llsal\\_037/?sp=135&st=image&r=-0.875,-0.178,2.749,1.704,0](https://www.loc.gov/resource/llsalvol.llsal_037/?sp=135&st=image&r=-0.875,-0.178,2.749,1.704,0) : accessed 25 December 2025).

31. Cost of Living Calculator, *American Institute for Economic Research* (<https://aier.org/cost-of-living-calculator/> : accessed in 2023).

32. Note: Documents and images shared regarding Adam’s pension request are from Adam’s Pension file obtained from the National Archives. Adam Culp’s Invalid Pension Application no. 1,405,085.

In a letter received by the War Department on 8 September 1912, Adam provided further clarification of his service in the Union Army. He detailed his incarceration at Chillicothe by civilian authorities for murder and explained how he lost his papers in a fire at his home in Pendleton in May 1887.

An excerpt from his letter states:

*Upon trial, I and the others were acquitted and exonerated from all liability and suspicion. I then returned to the service and was informed by Captain Ross that I might go home and that I was free to do as I pleased regarding my enlistment. The judge gave me papers showing our discharge from custody, and Captain Ross provided a paper indicating my right to go home. I believed this was my discharge. Unfortunately, all these papers and all others related to my former pension claim were destroyed in the fire at my residence near Pendleton, Oregon, over twenty years ago. I now have no papers or other memoranda relating to my service or former claim.<sup>33</sup>*

Adam's house really did burn to the ground as reported in a newspaper article dated 19 May 1887, in the *Statesman Journal*, Salem, Oregon.<sup>34</sup>

To further his case, Adam's lawyer submitted a document from the state of Missouri outlining his service and stating, "Discharge given." There was also a discharge certificate in Adam's file, as well as Adam's "Muster-out Roll" of Company C that stated a discharge was on file.<sup>35</sup>

On Thursday night last the residence of A. D. Culp, in Comb's canyon, about five miles from Pilot Rock, Umatilla county, was burned to the ground with all its contents. A crew of sheep shearers were domiciled on Mr. Culp's premises, and in order to make sleeping room for them a number of articles were taken out of a shed and placed in the house. These were also consumed. Mr. Culp estimates his loss at about \$800. He was insured in the State Insurance Company for \$300.

Figure 8. *Statesman Journal*, 1887.

## PENSION DENIAL

Nevertheless, in a letter dated 2 December 1912, from J. L. Davenport, United States Commissioner of Pensions, informed Adam that his claim was rejected,

*on the ground that you have never been discharged from Co. B, 11 Missouri Cavalry and that such as organization as Co. G, 65 enrolled Missouri Militia was never mustered into the service of the United States, as shown by a report from the records of the War Department.*

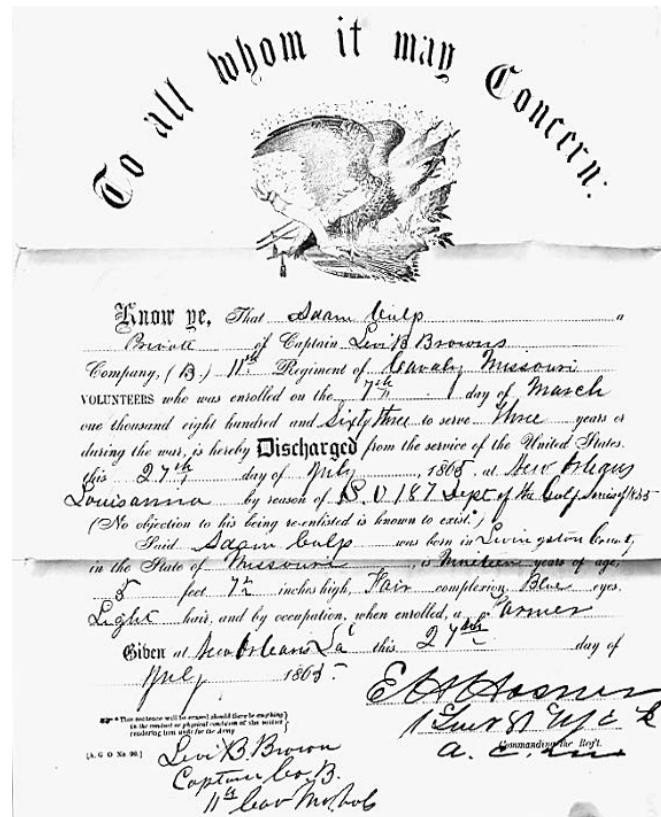


Figure 9. Discharge record form, State of Missouri.

33. Adam Culp Invalid Pension Application no. 1405085.

34. "Adam Culp's house near Pilot Rock burns down," *Statesman Journal* (Salem, Oregon), 19 May 1887, p. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/article/statesman-journal-adam-culps-house-near/45352811/> : accessed 21 February 2020).

35. Adam Culp, Invalid Pension Application no. 1,405,085.

190

11 Reg't Cav. Vols.

Culp. Adam Age 33  
Rank Pvt. Co. B  
Captain Brown

Enlisted Mar. 7, 1863  
Where Chillicothe Mo

Mustered in May 28, 1863  
Where St. Joseph Mo

Remarks In confinement at Chillicothe Mo since July 30, 1863 Discharge Given

Mustered out 186

Where

Form No. 242, A. G. O., Mo., 11-3-11-8M

C. 11 Cav. Mo.

Adam Culp  
Co. B, 11 Reg't Missouri Cavalry.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated New Orleans, La. July 27, 1865.

Mustered out to date 186 .

Last paid to 186 .

Clothing account:

Last settled 186 ; drawn since \$ 100

Due soldier \$ 100; due U. S. \$ 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ 100

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100

Valuation of horse, \$ 100

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks: Formed at Orgill  
Over. In confinement  
Chillicothe Mo. by 1863

Book mark: A. Discharge given

(861) (over) Culp

The key to the denial was the comments on the back of the Muster Out Card, "have not received any official intelligence," and the Discharge Certificate, "No ... out roll on file."

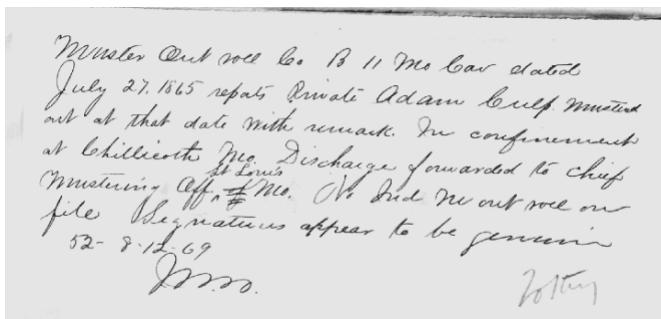


Figure 13. Muster Out Roll. "Muster out roll Co. B 11 Mo Cavalry dated July 27, 1865 repats Private Adam Culp mustered out at that date with remark, In confinement at Chillicothe, Mo. Discharge forwarded to Chief Mustering Off., St Louis, Mo. No Ind. M. out roll on file. Signatures appear to be genuine 52-8-12-69."

Figures 10 & 11. Pension Denial card (left), Company Muster Out Roll (right).

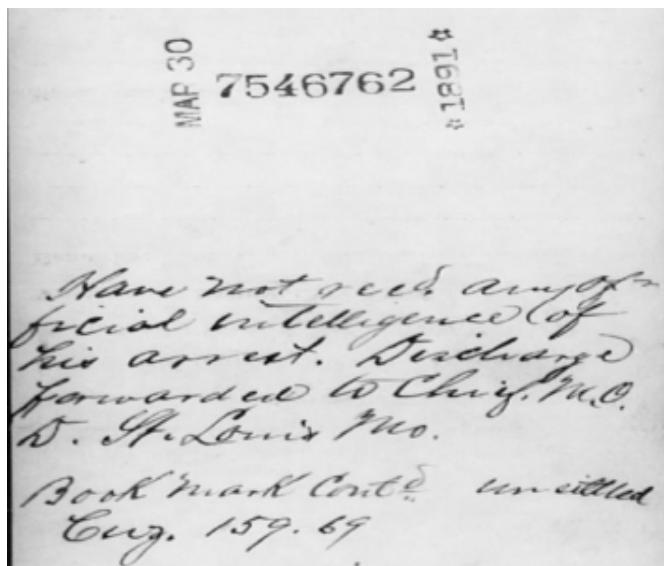


Figure 12. Back of Muster Out Roll card, 30 March 1891. "Have not received any official intelligence of his arrest. Discharge forwarded to Chief M.O.D. St. Louis, Mo. Bookmark Contd. Unsettled ... 159.69."

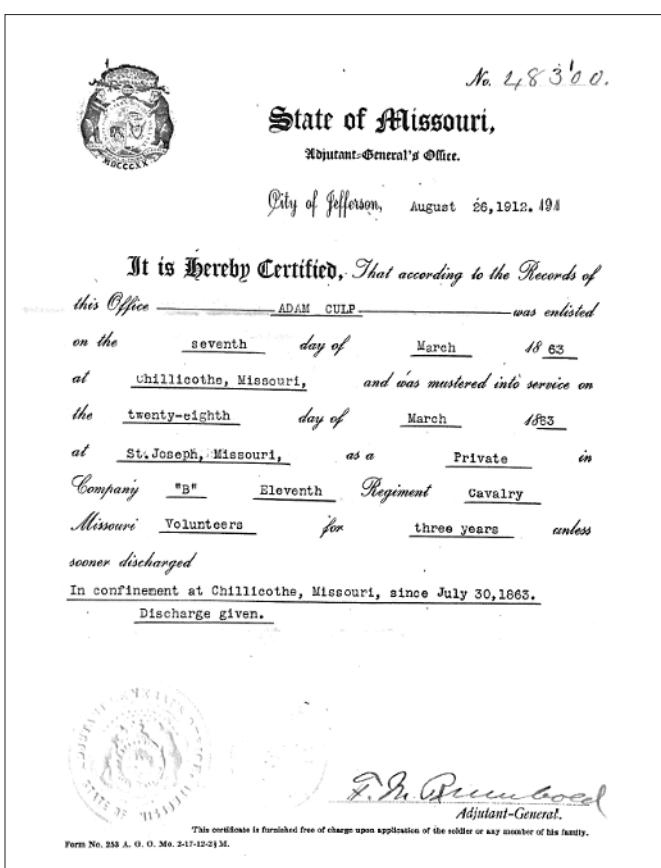


Figure 14. Missouri document stating "discharge given" to Adam Culp.

## ENLISTING HELP

As an engaged citizen and a determined veteran in 1914, Adam reached out to his Senator, Wesley Jones. Wesley Jones, a Republican, had been an attorney in Yakima, Washington, about 200 miles from Tekoa, Washington, where Adam was a successful businessman. Senator Jones had previously served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Adam's Washington district. On 14 April 1914, Senator Jones introduced Senate Bill 5441 in Congress on Adam's behalf.<sup>36</sup>

Senate Bill 5441 stated,

*Adam Culp shall hereafter be held and considered to have been honorably discharged from the military service of the United States as a private of Company B, Eleventh Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Cavalry on August 11, 1865.*

Unfortunately, the bill never passed the Senate.

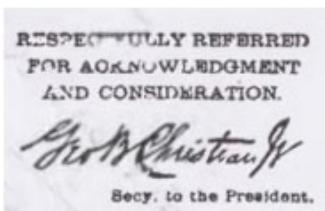
Senator Jones presented two more bills "for the relief of Adam Culp": Senate Bill 1275 on 10 December 1915 and Senate Bill 1106 on 6 April 1917. Both bills were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs but appear not to have made it out of committee.<sup>37</sup>

## PERSISTENCE

Still, Adam did not give up, and on 1 June 1921, he wrote a letter to President Harding.

*Dear Sir,*

*I'm taking the privilege on my 77th birthday to ask a favor of you. I served in the Civil War in the 11th Mo. Co. B, Calvary. I have not received my pension as yet while I'm strong and healthy at my age, it is harder to make a living for me and my family than it use to be. If it is not too much trouble for you, it would be a great favor to me if you would use your influence regarding my pension. Thanking you in advance, I remain, Adam Culp, Tekoa, Wash.*



*The letter has these stamps.*

In reply, Adam received the following letter from the Invalid Division, signed by Washington Gardner, Commissioner of Pensions, on 18 June 1921.<sup>38</sup>

*Mr. Adam Culp,  
Tekoa, Washington*

*Sir:*

*Referring to your letter of the 1st instant addressed to the President, forwarded to this bureau for consideration and filed in the claim under the act of May 11, 1912. I have to advise you that the said claim was rejected December 2, 1912, on the grounds of which you were informed on that date. Until the records of the War Departments shall be changed to show your honorable discharge from Co. B, 11th Missouri Cavalry, the bureau can grant you no relief. Any application for such discharge should be addressed to the Adjutant General, USA, War Department, this city.*

*Very truly yours,*

*Washington Gardner  
Commissioner*

Three months later, on 6 September 1921, Mrs. Perry Culp, Adam's daughter-in-law, sent a letter to the Pension Department.

*Dear Sirs,*

*Please inform me how I can obtain a pension for a Civil War veteran. The veteran, Adam D. Culp of Company B, 11th Missouri Cavalry, lost his discharge paper in a fire. However, provisions were made by a special act of Congress several years ago for such cases. A local attorney has been handling the case but has not gotten results. Please reply at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance.*

*Mrs. Perry Culp, Box 355, Tekoa, Washington.*

36. "Congressional Record." 30 April 1914, Vol. 51, Part 8 — Bound Edition, 63rd Congress - 2nd Session; Congress.gov (<https://www.congress.gov/bound-congressional-record/1914/04/30/51/senate-section/article/7467-7494> : accessed 17 November 17 November 2025).

37. "Congressional Record." 10 December 1915, Vol. 53, Part 1 — Bound Edition 64th Congress - 1st Session, Congress.gov (<https://www.congress.gov/bound-congressional-record/1915/12/10/53/senate-section/article/113-176> : accessed 17 November 2025). Also, "Congressional Record." 6 April 1917, Vol. 55, Part 1 — Bound Edition 65th Congress - 1st Session, Congress.gov (<https://www.congress.gov/bound-congressional-record/1917/04/06/55/senate-section/article/419-447> : accessed 17 November 2025).

38. Adam Culp, Invalid Pension Application no. 1,405,085.

Not hearing back, Mrs. Perry Culp sent another letter 15 days later, on 21 September 1921.

Dear Sirs,

*Some time ago, I wrote asking how to proceed to obtain a pension for a Civil War veteran, but to date, I have received no reply. The veteran is Adam Culp of the 11th Missouri Cavalry, Company B, who lost his discharge papers in a fire. Has Congress not made special provisions for such cases? Thank you in advance and hoping for an early reply.*

*Mrs. Perry Culp, Box 355, Tekoa, Washington.<sup>39</sup>*

Finally, in November, a response reiterated that Adam had never been discharged from service.

Nov 12, 1921

Madam:

*In response to your communication dated September 6, 1921, for information as to how you can obtain a pension for the Civil War soldier, Adam Culp, I have to advise you that unless it were shown he was discharged from the service, he would have no title to pension under any existing law.*

*He filed a claim under the act of May 11, 1912 on July 3, which was rejected December 2, 1912, on the ground that the reports from the records of the War Department showed that he had never been discharged from Company B, 11 Missouri Cavalry, and, that such an organization as Company G 65 Missouri Militia was ever mustered into the United States service.*

*You are further advised that a service of at least ninety days and an honorable discharge are prerequisite conditions to title to pension under the act of May 11, 1912.*

*Very respectfully, Commissioner.<sup>40</sup>*

## NEVER GIVE UP

In 1927 at age 82, Adam once again contacted his Senator to intervene on his behalf. Senator C. C. Dill, Democrat, placed a personal call to the Pension Office, which generated a familiar response.

Jan 21, 1927

My dear Senator Dill

*In response to your personal call when you referred to a letter signed by J. D. McMannis, herewith returned,*

*relative to a pension claim, I.O. 1405035, Adam Culp, Company B, 11 Mo. Cavalry. I have the honor to advise you that this claim under the act of May 11, 1912, filed on May 11, 1912, stands rejected on the ground that the claimant has never been discharged. Company B, 11 Mo. Cavalry, and, that such an organization as Co. G, 65 Missouri Militia was never mustered into the service of the United States as shown by a report from the records of the War Department. In view of the statement contained in your correspondent's letter, it is proper to add that pension has never been allowed in this case.*

*Very truly yours,*

*E. W. Morgan, Deputy Commissioner.<sup>41</sup>*

## ONE LAST ATTEMPT

Adam, at age 88, tried one last time in March 1932, during the Great Depression, providing further clarification and again enlisting Senator C. C. Dill to write a letter to Director Morgan.

March 31, 1932

My dear Director Morgan:

*Enclosed herewith is an affidavit in support of the claim of Adam Culp, of Tekoa, Washington, and I will appreciate any information you can give me as to his eligibility for a pension.*

*Mr. Culp is very deeply indebted and in failing health, and I am anxious to do anything I can to help him.*

*Thanking you, I am*

*Sincerely yours, CC Dill.<sup>42</sup>*

Senator Dill received a letter from E. W. Morgan in April 1932, again stating that Adam Culp's pension request had been rejected on 12 December 1912, because he had never been discharged. It went on to say that "It does not appear that Mr. Culp has title to pension under any existing law on account of his alleged service."

So ended Adam's 20-year quest for a pension. Adam Culp died 21 September 1936, having never received a pension or acknowledgement for his service in the Civil War.

39. Ibid.

40. Ibid.

41. Ibid.

42. Ibid.

**TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN ADAM CULP'S LIFE AND QUEST FOR A PENSION**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1 December 1862	Adam Culp joined the Enrolled Missouri Militia.
1 January 1863	Adam Culp signed a letter to President Lincoln with other "loyal citizens" of Chillicothe, Missouri.
7 March 1863	Adam Culp officially enlisted in the Union Army, joining Company B of the 11th regiment of the Missouri Cavalry.
1 July 1863	Adam Culp and two buddies returned home on furlough.
5 July 1863	Adam and his two buddies were arrested for murder and incarcerated in Chillicothe.
September 1863	Adam Culp was released from incarceration.
12 September 1863	Adam married Mary Ann Stone in Livingston County, Missouri.
1865	Leavenworth, Kansas.
27 February 1865	Birth of daughter Ruth P Culp in Leavenworth, Kansas.
9, April 1865	General Robert E. Lee surrendered.
11 August 1865	11th Missouri Cavalry discharged at Benton Barracks, Missouri.
1866	Pueblo, Colorado.
25 November 1866	Birth of daughter Katherine A Culp in Pueblo, Colorado.
20 February 1870	Birth of daughter Mary Lorrina Culp in Pueblo, Colorado.
1870	Territory of New Mexico.
6 August 1870	Homestead Application, Land office Sante Fe, Territory of New Mexico.
23 September 1870	Census record - Fort Stanton, Lincoln County, Territory of New Mexico.
1871	Birth of daughter Barbara Culp in New Mexico – death of wife Mary Ann.
1873	Oregon.
1877-78	Served as a scout for General Howard in the Blue mountains and was in all engagements.
23 February 1879	Married Ellen Elzora Palmer, they had 7 children, 5 in Oregon, 2 in Washington.
19 May 1887	Adam Culp's house burned to the ground.
1895	Tekoa, Washington.
11 May 1912	Congress passed the Sherwood Act, expanding pensions to all Union veterans aged 62 and older.
26 June 1912	Adam Culp submitted his "Declaration for Pension."
3 July 912	Adam Culp's pension document was officially filed.
18 September 1912	Adam Culp sent a letter to the War Department providing further clarification of his service.
2 December 1912	Adam Culp's pension claim was rejected by J. L. Davenport, United States Commissioner of Pensions.
14 April 1914	Senator Jones entered Senate Bill 5441 on Adam's behalf – Bill did not pass Congress.
1 June 1921	Adam Culp wrote a letter to President Harding requesting assistance with his pension claim.
18 June 1921	Adam received a response from the Invalid Division, stating his claim was rejected.
6 September 1921	Mrs. Perry Culp, Adam's daughter-in-law, sent a letter to The Pension Department.
21 September 1921	Mrs. Perry Culp sent another letter to The Pension Department.
12 November 1921	The Pension Department reiterated that Adam had never been discharged from service.
21 January 1927	Senator C. C. Dill placed a personal call to the Pension Office on Adam's behalf.
31 March 1932	Adam Culp sent a further clarification letter to Senator C. C. Dill, who forwarded it to the Pension Office
April 1932	Senator Dill received a letter reiterating that Adam Culp's pension request had been denied.
21 September 1936	Adam Culp died without ever receiving a pension for his service in the Civil War.

# Who were Uncle Charlie and Mabel, who visited Bob and Helen Grafe in 1949?

Mark Grafe

**A**fter their marriage in 1947, my parents (Bob and Helen Grafe) lived in Berkeley, California, for three years while my father attended seminary school. My mother's typed letter, postmarked 12 January 1950, began with notes on the weather, finances, the mail, her sister and newborn niece, the vestment she started sewing, and her busy schedule. Following her usual closing were two calculations and a comment on "Bob's Uncle Charlie."

Dear Mother and Dad,

It's raining—and has been raining hard again today; we should be fairly well caught up to normal pretty soon. It must be wonderful for the kids to have so much snow around everywhere. Reminds me of that one grand winter when we had snow for skiing on the [Klamath Falls] hills for so long when I was in grade school. That was the only real heavy winter I remember. Glad you did get through on Monday; from the reports I didn't know if you would have made it or not.

We got our radio back and the hum is gone, but it ought to be for nearly \$8. Of course, the labor costs more than the parts.

The check I'm enclosing, hope it's right, doesn't have a date on it for a reason. You can fill that in whenever you want to cash it, but if it doesn't make any difference with you, we would appreciate you not cashing it until the end of the month as it will be one check over the amount we are allowed with our balance so would cost us about \$0.60 for both this month and next. They have ours running from the 26th to the 26th so our lowest for one month is the lowest for the next month too as we can never get our checks in till the first. If you need to anyway—the money is there, it's just their charging system.

As to your mentioning the letter Mary Awdry [Helen's sister] wrote to us, I'm glad you did mention Delme's weight, etc., as we haven't had any mail from M.A. [Mary Awdry] as of yet. Maybe the mailman couldn't read her writing again. Not too long ago she had the right address and everything, but it had been sent all over the state evidently they just couldn't read it.



Heber Radcliffe with his daughters, Helen (left), and Mary Awdry (right), 1943. Courtesy of the author.

I've actually started work on Bob's [religious] stole, believe it or not. It just must turn out ok, wish I were naturally more particular.

We had a nice letter from Betty [sister-in-law].

They didn't get our package until they got back home after New Year's weekend, so the mail must have been awfully slow that week right after Christmas. We sent it the Tuesday before Christmas. With the dinner meeting tonight, wives meeting tomorrow night, then my sewing class Wednesday night, the first of the week is pretty well filled out for us. All for now.

Love, Helen and Bob

\$7.19	hat
1.77	
\$5.42	
\$1.00	
\$0.77	Hankies
\$1.77	

Looking over letters, I find it wasn't Bob's Uncle Charlie that died but his wife—Aunt Mabel—she was up last summer, too.

I value the letters my maternal grandpa saved and returned to my mother prior to his death. Other genealogical clues from letters helped identify ancestors in photographs. However, the above clues did not lead to an uncle on my maternal side. I knew Charles was a common given name on my paternal side and thought this letter corrected an error or introduced a new relative to my database.

From this letter, I inferred the following:

- Bob had a living uncle in the summer of 1949.
- Bob's uncle was identified as Charlie.
- Charlie's wife was identified as Mabel.
- Mabel's year of death was 1949.
- Charlie and Mabel "came up."

Although initially I wondered if I had unknown cousins, my first question would address Charlie's surname. My parents were probably in Berkeley, California, when Uncle Charlie and Mabel visited, and I guessed they "came up" from further south in California.

To determine Charlie's surname, I considered the following relationships:

- (1) Was Uncle Charlie a sibling to Bob's father, (2) the husband of a paternal aunt, (3) a sibling to Bob's mother, (4) the husband of a maternal aunt, (5) a granduncle, or (6) someone else?

I checked Bob and Helen Gafe's wedding gift list and found no Charlie and no Mabel. There are gifts from Bob's maternal side, the Facks family: Edward, Fred, William, Anna (Richter), Anna Harrington. There are gifts from the paternal Gafe family: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gafe, Miss Bernice Gafe, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Benhagel.

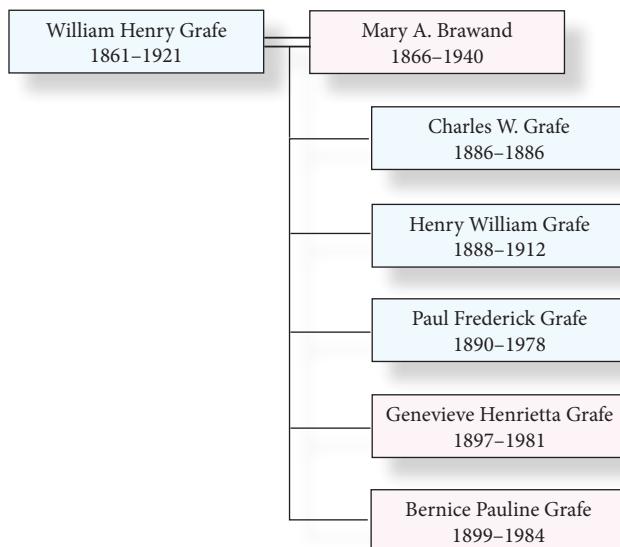
### **1. Was Uncle Charlie a sibling to Bob Gafe's father?**

No. Charles W. Gafe, brother of Bob's father, born 9 August 1886, in Muscatine, Iowa, probably died 21 August 1886.

My research on Charles W. found the following:

- He was not enumerated in the 1895 Iowa state census.
- He was not enumerated in the 1900 U.S. census.
- He was not enumerated in the 1910 U.S. census.
- He is probably the Chas. W. Graf who died 21 August 1886, re Musser Public Library Obituary Collection.

### **SIBLINGS OF BOB'S FATHER, PAUL F. GAFE**



### **2. Was Uncle Charlie the spouse of one of Bob Gafe's paternal aunts?**

No. Charles was not a spouse of Bob's Aunt Genevieve. She was married to Henry John Sylvester, Fred C. Miller, and by 28 December 1947 to Albert Banhagel. A WW II draft registration shows Fred's middle name was Christ, not Charles. Bob's other paternal aunt, Bernice Pauline Gafe, never married.

### **3. Was Uncle Charlie from Bob Gafe's maternal side?**

Possibly. Charles Facks, brother of Bob's mother, identified as the twin of Fred Henry Facks, with a 10 September 1894 date of birth in Muscatine, Iowa, probably died young.

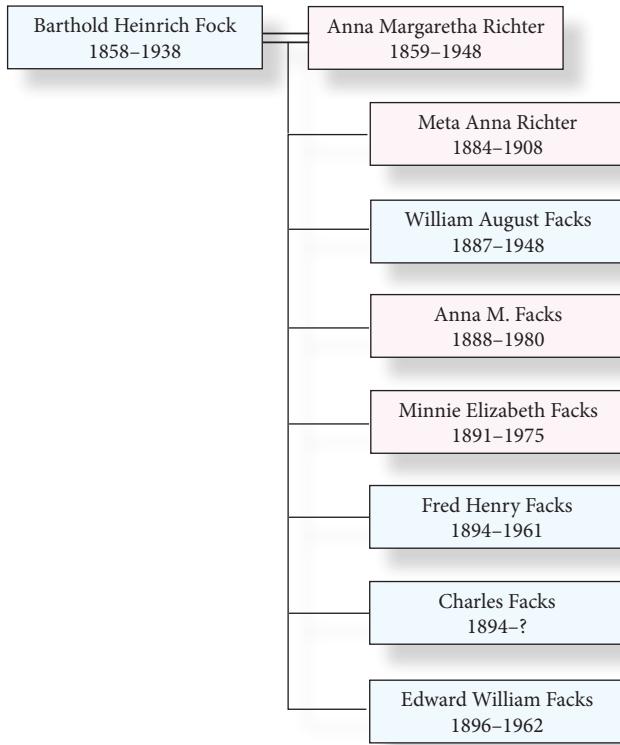
My research on Charles Facks found the following:

- The Facks family was not found in IAGenWeb birth index, and Charles Facks is not in the IAGenWeb newspaper obituary index.
- Charles Facks, his parents and siblings, were not enumerated in the 1895 Iowa census.
- Charles Facks may be identified as Fritz in the 1900 U.S. census, but Fred Henry Facks was also not listed.
- Charles Facks was not enumerated in 1905 Iowa state census (only Eddie, Freddie, William).
- Charles was not enumerated in the 1910 U.S. census (Eddie, Freddie, & William).
- Charles Facks was not enumerated in 1920 U.S. census.
- Charles Facks was not enumerated in 1930 U.S. census.
- Charles Facks was not enumerated in 1940 U.S. census.
- Charles Facks was not enumerated in 1950 U.S. census.
- Charles Facks was not in the "Newspapers.com Marriage Index for Iowa," nor the Newspapers.com index for California.

#### 4. Was Uncle Charlie the spouse of one of Bob Grafe's maternal aunts?

No. Bob Grafe's mother, Minnie Elisabeth Facks, had two sisters. Meta Anna Richter, born before her parents married, died shortly after her marriage to Ernst Metz in Chicago, Illinois, in 1908. Minnie's sister, Anna M. Facks, married Foster "Doc" Harrington in 1909 and was still married to him in 1950. None of Bob's maternal aunts married someone named Charles.

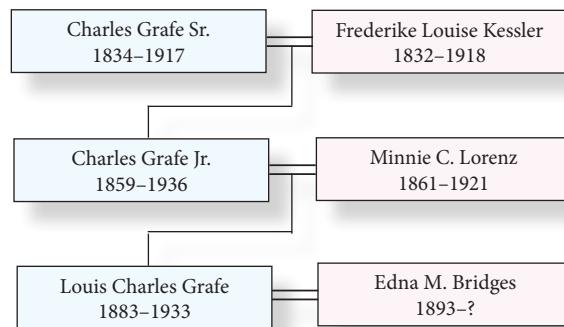
#### SIBLINGS OF BOB'S MOTHER, MINNIE E. FACKS



#### 5. Was Uncle Charlie a granduncle?

Possibly. There is one known granduncle, Charles Grafe (1859-1936), who had a son, Louis Charles Grafe (1883-1933), who also died before 1949. It is possible that family groups for my second great-grandparents are incomplete.

#### LINEAGE FOR LOUIS CHARLES GRAFE



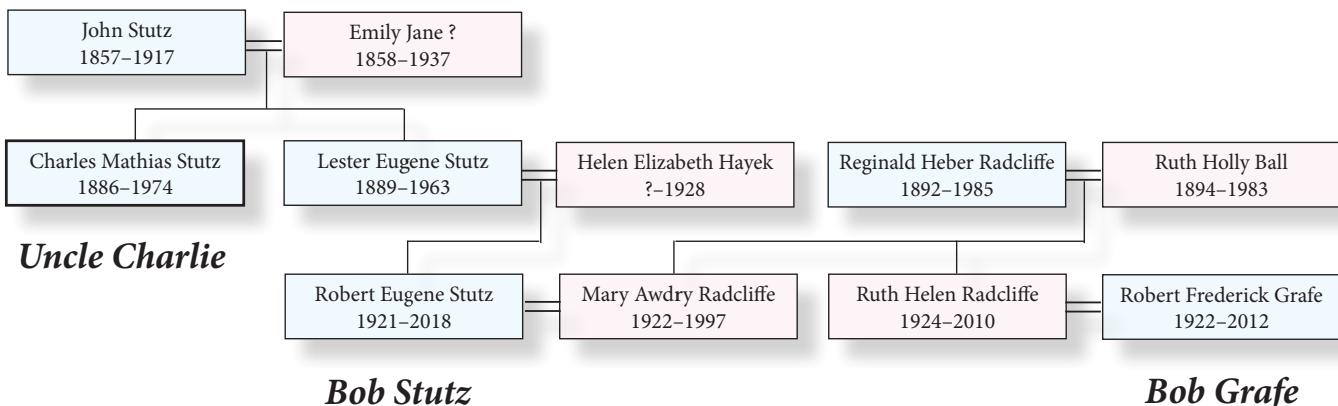
#### 6. Was Uncle Charlie someone else?

I found Uncle Charlie in Ancestry's "U.S. Newspaper.com Obituary Index, 1800s to Current." A search for Mabel, wife of Charles, who died in 1949 in California, uncovered what only a family member might notice. Mabel Grace Stutz, spouse of Charlie M. Stutz, had her obituary in *The Modesta Bee* and *News-Herald* (California), on 17 November 1949.

#### CONCLUSION

Charlie was not the uncle of Bob Grafe, he was the uncle of Bob Stutz, who married Helen's sister, Mary Awdry, in 1945, see chart below. A good reminder not to take family relationship descriptions at face value!

#### SELECTED RELATIONSHIPS FOR BOB STUTZ



# A Man of Accomplishment: James Leo Ferguson (1821–1901)

Nanci Remington

J. L. Ferguson's obituary was published in *The Morning Oregonian* on 22 October 1901.<sup>1</sup> It listed the many accomplishments of this prominent pioneer. He was a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy before arriving in the Northwest in 1851. He helped build the portages along the Columbia River and the blockhouse at Fort Cascades. He was elected to the Washington House of Representatives and chosen as Speaker. After moving to Portland, he was Superintendent of Construction for Oregon & California Railway and a Marine Inspector.

He was said to have prominent connections, including a grandfather who was mayor of New York City in 1817, and a father who was a Commander in the Navy. It was noted that President McKinley attended the funeral of his sister, Mrs. Susan Watson. He was survived by a wife, whom he married in Cascades. Six children were named.

Missing from the account was J. L.'s given name, his date of birth (his age was 81), as well as any information about his wife. The research goal was to fill in the missing pieces and to verify the statements in the obituary. And where exactly was Cascades?

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As recorded on his death certificate,<sup>2</sup> James L. Ferguson was born 28 March 1821 in Norfolk [Norfolk County], Virginia.<sup>3</sup> The location matches the obituary, and the date of birth is a close match to his age at death.

Military records support the claim that James was in the Navy. He is listed as a Midshipman in an index of officers



J. L. Ferguson, circa 1873. *Oregon Historical Society*.

published by the Navy.<sup>4</sup> A date of 9 September 1841 is shown but not identified, probably the date of enlistment. A Navy Registry lists James L. Ferguson assigned to the ship *Columbus* in 1843,<sup>5</sup> the year it sailed to Brazil. This Registry tells us that he was 5'10" tall with blue eyes and black hair. He resigned on 5 March 1847. On 20 March of that year, James enlisted in the Army during the War with Mexico.<sup>6</sup> James, and later his widow, received a pension related to his service.<sup>7</sup>

After the war, James relocated first to Oregon, then to the Washington Territory. In August 1856, he was listed as a citizen employee at Fort Cascades.<sup>8</sup> By 1860, the small community of Cascades had grown around Fort Cascades. James was there; his occupation was teamster.<sup>9</sup> Building a rail line was a priority at the time, so James could have been employed by the railroad, as was stated in his obituary.

1. "Death of J. L. Ferguson," *The Morning Oregonian* (Portland, OR), 22 October 1901, p. 7. *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>) : accessed 7 August 2025.
2. "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61675/>), entry for James L. Ferguson.
3. Many sources, including military records, state that James was born in Massachusetts.
4. Edward W. Callahan (ed.), *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps from 1775-1900*, Navy Department, 1901, p. 191; *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/>).
5. *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Navy of the United States*, printed by Order of the Secretary of the Navy, p. 41; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60656/>).
6. *Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army 1798-1914*, The National Archives, 1956, p. 82; *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/>).
7. "United States, Mexican War Pension Index, 1887-1926," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1979390>), entry for James L Ferguson and Eliza Ferguson, 1901.
8. "U.S., Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1571/>). Fort Cascades was a military post built to safeguard the portage route along the north shore of the Columbia River.
9. "United States, Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>), entry for Jas L Ferguson.

By January 1861, James, running as an independent, was elected to the House of Representatives for the Washington Territory as a joint representative for Klickitat and Skamania counties.<sup>10</sup> Before the end of the year, he was elected Speaker. While Speaker, he signed his name Jas. Leo Ferguson.<sup>11</sup> Not mentioned in the obituary was the fact that in January 1863, the House passed a bill to create the county of Ferguson in his honor.

Ferguson County existed on the statute books until 18 January 1865, when the act was repealed. The county was never organized. The northern part of Ferguson was annexed to Stevens and the southern part made into Yakima County by act approved 21 January 1865. What may have been the reason for this change in name from Yakima to Ferguson and from Ferguson back to Yakima, the writer has been unable to ascertain.<sup>12</sup>

Also living in Cascades in 1860 were Edmund and Eliza Sullivan and their two young children. Edmund was a ship carpenter,<sup>13</sup> likely working on the steamships that plied the river below the portage. Four years later, in 1864, Edmund was the sheriff of Skamania County. On 5 June, he was murdered while breaking up a disturbance.<sup>14</sup> Locals believed he had been set up and that the murder was premeditated.<sup>15</sup> The killers were acquitted.<sup>16</sup> On 9 February 1865, James married Edmund's widow Eliza, who now had four children.<sup>17</sup> They did not stay long in Washington. In 1867, James was listed on a tax list in East Portland.<sup>18</sup>



Carleton E. Watkins, "Rapids Indian Blockhouse, Cascades," 1867. Detail from larger image. From *"This Place is Romantic and Wild"* by Dr. Beckham, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Courtesy Oregon Historical Society.

On the 1870 census, James and Eliza are living in St. Johns, Multnomah County, Oregon.<sup>19</sup> James' occupation is "Foreman on RR." In addition to his four stepchildren, there are two daughters, both born in Oregon. By 1873, James was working as an inspector for U.S. Customs.<sup>20</sup> He continued in that role until 1883 when he was appointed U.S. Inspector of Hulls.<sup>21</sup> He remained in that position until March 1889 when it was reported that "J. L. Ferguson has tendered his resignation as inspector of hulls. Several attempts had been made to get him to do so, but he didn't resign till he got ready to and goes out with flying colors."<sup>22</sup>

10. "The Upper Columbia Gold Region," *The Washington Standard* (Olympia, WA), 12 January 1861, p.1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/>).

11. "Session Laws of the Territory of Washington," *Washington State Legislature* (<https://leg.wa.gov/media/oahpukdw/1861pam1.pdf>).

12. Charles W. Smith, *The Naming of Counties in the State of Washington* (Bulletin of the University of Washington, 1913), p. 10; *Google Books* (<https://tinyurl.com/7b9dcnsm>).

13. "United States, Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>), entry for Edmund Sullivan.

14. "Tragedy at the Cascades," *Morning Oregonian*, 8 June 1864, p. 3; *The Historical Oregonian*, 1861–1987, Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/resources>).

15. Turner F. Leavens, "An Early Feud in Oregon," *The History of the Cascades*, by Donald A. Brown (Stevenson, WA: Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum, n.d.), p. 91; copy at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library.

16. "Acquitted," *Morning Oregonian*, 4 November 1864, p. 4; *The Historical Oregonian*, 1861–1987, Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/resources>).

17. Daphne M. Ramsay, *First Marriage Records of Skamania County, Washington* (n. p., Stevenson, WA, 1966). Copy at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library.

18. "U. S., IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862–1918," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1264/>), entry for Jas L Ferguson.

19. 1870 United States census, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>), entry for Jas Furgerson.

20. *Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval in the Service of the United States*, Volume 1 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1874), p. 180; *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

21. *The Daily Astorian* (Astoria, OR), 1 March 1883, p. 3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 7 August 2025).

22. "Personal Notes," *The Daily Morning Astorian* (Astoria, OR), 30 March 1889, p. 3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 7 August 2025).

In 1900, James and Eliza were living in their home on East Davis Street in Portland. James died on 21 March 1901 in Portland. Eliza, whose maiden surname was given as Welch, died on 21 March 1904.<sup>23</sup> They are buried in Lone Fir Cemetery.

## PROMINENT CONNECTIONS

James' obituary stated that his father was a Naval Commander in the Mexican War and then a tea merchant in South America; his grandfather was Mayor of New York; his brother John was superintendent of the Naval commissary; and that President McKinley attended the funeral of his sister, Mrs. Susan Watson, who had married a prominent citizen of Washington, DC.

Though lacking details, James' death certificate named his father as Wm Ferguson. However, Susan's obituary states "Mrs. Watson's father was James Ferguson, who was born in New York City, served on board Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, became a master in the United States Navy, and served through the War of 1812."<sup>24</sup> It says that her uncle, John Ferguson, was mayor of New York during the War of 1812. Her baptism record gives her father's name as James and her mother's name as Susan Tre[?].<sup>25</sup>

**JOHN FERGUSON  
DIED TODAY**

**Prominent Relic of the  
Old U S Navy.**

**Paymaster's Clerk for Nearly  
70 Years of Service.**

**Was Much-Marked Figure  
on Boston Streets.**

John F. Ferguson, who had the honor of having been the first person ever born at the Charlestown navy yard, and who for a period of nearly 70 years was connected with the U S navy in one position or another, having been the paymaster of the USS Minnesota at the time of the battle with the Merrimac at Hampton roads, died this morning at his home, 30 High st, corner of Cordia st, Charlestown, after a short illness, from heart failure brought about by a complication of diseases. John F. Ferguson, "Capt Jack," as



THE LATE JOHN F. FERGUSON.  
Connected with the Navy for Nearly 70 Years,  
and First Person Born in the Charlestown  
Navy Yard.

*Excerpt from obituary of John F. Ferguson, brother of James. The Boston Globe, 3 April 1906. [Newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com).*

Susan married Adolphus Eugene Watson, a career Navy man, who died in 1876 with the title of Pay Director. An account of her funeral was published in Oregon and states that "Mrs. McKinley, wife of the president, sent a magnificent wreath for the casket ... and, as it was raining at the time, President McKinley gave the order for the erection of a canopy over the grave."<sup>26</sup> Both Susan and her husband are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The obituary of John Francis Ferguson, James' brother, also named his father as James Ferguson, "who had been sailing master of the *Constitution* and other ships of the old navy, and who was the storekeeper ... of the Charleston [MA] Navy Yard."<sup>27</sup>

The same sources that recorded James Leo Ferguson's time in the Navy support the participation of both his brother and father. One entry states that James Ferguson, Master, died at Rio de Janeiro on 4 December 1858.<sup>28</sup>

Finally, was James' grandfather a mayor of New York? According to several sources, John Ferguson (c. 1777–1832) served as mayor of New York from March to June 1815.<sup>29</sup> There is quite a bit of information about a daughter Louisa, wife of artist Robert Walter Weir.<sup>30</sup> It would take more research to find if there was a son or brother that connected Mayor Ferguson to our Ferguson family.

23. "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864–1971." *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61675/>), entry for Eliza Ferguson.
24. "Recent Deaths," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, MA), 20 April 1900; *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com)).
25. "Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920," entry for Susan Lenox Ferguson; *American Ancestors* (<https://www.americanancestors.org/>) : accessed 11 August 2025 through MemberSpace at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon).
26. "Honored by President McKinley," *The Sunday Oregonian*, 29 April 1900, *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>) : accessed 7 August 2025).
27. "John Ferguson Died Today," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, MA), 3 April 1906. *Newspapers.com* ([www.newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com)).
28. Edward W. Callahan (ed.), *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States* (L. R. Hamersly & Co. : New York), 1901. *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/>).
29. "John Ferguson (New York politician)," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Ferguson\\_\(New\\_York\\_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Ferguson_(New_York_politician)) : accessed 22 August 2025).
30. "Robert Walter Weir," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Walter\\_Weir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Walter_Weir) : accessed 22 August 2025).



Location of Cascades Historic Site, Google Maps.

## WHERE WAS CASCADES?

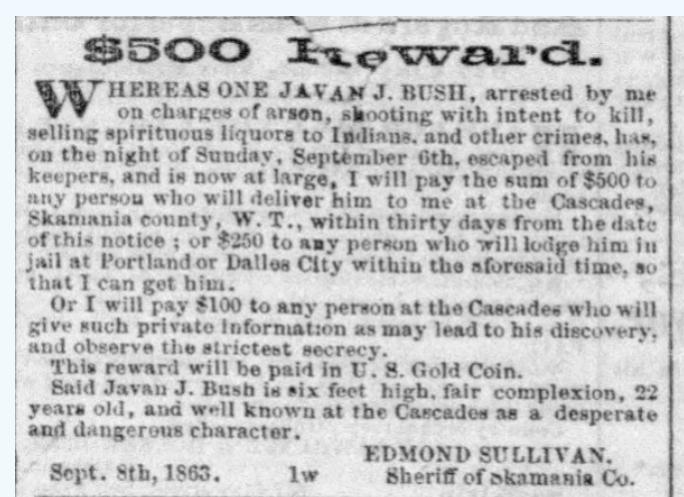
The community of Cascades, Skamania County, Washington, grew around Fort Cascades, one of three forts developed by the U.S. Army on the north side of the Columbia River to protect the portage around rapids. The fort was built in 1855 and abandoned in 1861 at the start of the Civil War.

Residents turned the fort buildings into a jail, a school, and a courthouse. Cascades was the county seat until 1893. In 1894, the town was destroyed by a flood. Today, the area is a National Historic Site maintained by The Army Corps of Engineers and includes an interpretive trail.<sup>31</sup>

## TRAGEDY AT CASCADES

Sunday, 5 June 1864, was election day. A small crowd had gathered that evening while the vote was being counted. Outside, shots were fired. The sheriff, Edmund Sullivan, went to investigate. Among the crowd were three brothers, Ed, George, and Javan Bush. Ed Bush attacked the sheriff with a knife. The sheriff fought back. George shot the sheriff but only wounded him. J. P. Denison tackled George. The sheriff took off after Ed. At this point, Javan Bush shot Denison, then followed the sheriff, who was in pursuit of Ed, and shot and killed him. Denison died two days later in Portland.<sup>a</sup>

This account came from Turner F. Leavens, who would have been 13 when the incident happened. He knew everybody involved. His father was the former sheriff and the local doctor. He wrote that Edmund Sullivan was a master shipbuilder, and that he was a “noble and fearless man.” He and his wife Eliza were born in Ireland. Their four children were born in California and in Oregon.



Reward offered for information about Javan J. Bush, a year prior to the murders at Cascades. The Daily Oregonian, 8 September 1863, [Newspapers.com](https://newspapers.com).

a. Leavens, “An Early Feud in Oregon,” 91.

31. “Fort Cascades Trail Guide,” Portland District, 2016, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Digital Library (<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll11/id/3054/> : accessed 26 August 2025).

John P. Denison (commonly referred to as J. P. Denison or Dennison) was born in Massachusetts in 1830. By 1859, he was living in Portland, where he married Susan Gill on 30 May 1860. They soon had two daughters. Denison was a musician who played in local bands, including the Fire Department's Brass Band. He was proprietor of the Willamette Theater and promoted local shows and dances. The family moved to Cascades in 1864 to operate a hotel. Turner Leavens described him as "a fearless, law-abiding man, who had never been in trouble." He was only 33 when he was killed. The Portland entertainment community showed their respect for Denison by organizing a benefit concert for the widow and children.

The Isaac Bush family arrived in Skamania County about 1851 by way of Illinois and Iowa. According to Turner Leavens, the Bush sons, especially Javan (J. J.), were frequently in trouble with the law. Their father,

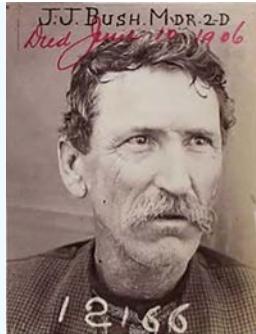


Daily Oregonian, 25 June 1864, [Newspapers.com](https://newspapers.com).

b. "California, U.S., Prison and Correctional Records, 1851-1950," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8833/>), entry for J J Bush, 10 June 1906, San Quentin, Marin, California, Prisoner Number 12,166.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**A**lthough I have no ancestors who lived in Oregon, my interest in local history and pioneers grew while researching the Jones Pioneer Cemetery (*The Bulletin*, December 2024). The newspapers at the turn of the twentieth century often reported on the deaths of pioneers and sometimes included images of the settlers. I have been adding that information to various genealogy sites. I also enjoy exploring some of the places that are found when doing research, including a visit to the Fort Cascades National Historic Site and the nearby Columbia Gorge Museum.



J. J. Bush, from "Inmate Photographs and Mug Books, San Quentin State Prison," *Ancestry*.

Isaac, "was blustery with a very bad temper and would fight at the drop of a hat."

After the killings, the Bush brothers were arrested in Washington and charged with the murder of Edmund Sullivan. A week later, they were indicted in Oregon for the murder of J. P. Denison. In November 1864, Javan was acquitted in Washington. Before he could be tried in Oregon, he disappeared. He returned in November 1865, was recognized and arrested. In February of 1866, he escaped and fled south. He was never tried in Oregon. However, in June 1881, J. J. Bush was arrested in San Diego County, California, for the murder of John Ivy. The trial was extensively covered in newspapers. J. J. was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. There were several appeals, but in the end Javan Bush spent the rest of his life at San Quentin State Prison, where he died 10 June 1906.<sup>b</sup>



Reward offered for information about J. J. Bush.  
Morning Oregonian, 30 May 1866, [Newspapers.com](https://newspapers.com).



# The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio

## Part III

Christina Buck Armstrong

This is the third and final section 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 Isaac<sup>1</sup> Buck in Scituate, Plymouth Colony, to Matthew<sup>6</sup> Buck, who came to Athens County, Ohio, in 1816—and told about the Bucks' experiences as Ohio Valley pioneers during the first half of the 19th century.<sup>1</sup> In Part II, I examined the probate records of Matthew Buck's son, Benjamin<sup>7</sup>, who died in March 1853, two days after the death of his wife Talitha, leaving four children orphaned.

On September 11, 1853, five months after Benjamin and Talitha's deaths, Benjamin's uncle, Sylvester<sup>6</sup> Buck, died at the age of 61.

Sylvester married Mary Eliza Polly Barton Ginn, a widow with seven children under the age of 15, on November 2, 1843. He and Mary had three children together before his death a decade later.

When Sylvester died, Mary was left with their three children to raise. Mary's daughter Rosannah was still under Mary's care as well. Sylvester's son Nathan Sylvester was not yet ten years old, William was six, and Olive only five.

Sylvester's probate record is on pages 175–177 of Volume 6 of the "Athens County Record of Wills." On the first page is the inventory of goods to be sold at auction. Much of the farming equipment is similar to that in Benjamin's inventory, although it seems Sylvester owned a buggy in addition to his wagon. A buggy was a two-seated horse-drawn passenger vehicle.

	<b>Nathan Sylvester Buck</b>
	1844–1918
	<b>William B. Buck</b>
	1847–1859
	<b>Olivia "Olive" Buck</b>
	1848–



Buck descendants gathered for a genealogical presentation at a Buck reunion in Shade, Athens County, Ohio, in 2019.

Sylvester Buck Estate Inventory		
The State of Ohio, We the undersigned do make solemn oath that we will truly, honestly and Athens County do impartially appraise the estate and property, that may be exhibited to us, be- longing to the estate of Sylvester Buck deceased; and perform the other duties required by law of us as appraisers according to law and the best of our knowledge and ability.		
R. A. Wilson		
W. H. Miller		
Thos. S. Morrison		
Show to and subscribed before me this 1 <sup>st</sup> day of March in the year 1854		
S. L. Lewis	Notary Public	
We the undersigned Appraisers of the estate and property of Sylvester Buck deceased, after de- aling duly sworn have made an inventory and appraisement thereof as follows.		
3 Chais 17. 1 Shovel 800	1 47 1 Hord Mill	18 00
1 Shovel Plow	1 10 1 Mann S. W. 2 Pitch Forks	75-
1 Plow 18. 1 Obris 75.	2 25 1 Shovel 75. 1 Hana S. tail 12	87-
1 Shovel and Single Plow	75 00 1 Star Double Plow	7 00
1 Axle	2 00 1 Hord Mill 50. 1 Chain 100	1 50
5 Mattocks	1 60 1 Hord S. ana 1 Shovel Plow	25-
1 Plow 6. 1 Dan 75	1 67 1 Hagon	45 00
1 Axle and S. Cart	1 50 1 Ganda Stone	70-
3 Sledges	80 2 Star Cabots	10 00
1 Pickle and Obris	37 2 Heifer Cabots	10 00
1 Canner and Corn Canner	25 1 Guy Bolt	70 00
3 Singers 11 Martins	17 1 Bay Mare	65 00
2 Shovels 37. 1 Drawing Knives 57	75 1 Cen 18.00. 1 Red Sufur 19.00	37 00
box of old iron	1 Red Sufur 17.00. 1 Box of Wheat 10.00	27 00
1 Axle and S. Cart	50 00 12 25 Miles delivered in p. basket	10 00
2 Single Plow. 1000 at over Lot of old iron	1 Chest	1 00
Wagon and S. Cart	50 00 Lot of oats supposed to be 30 Bush	4 50
1 Buggy and S. Cart	1 Mattock	25-
1 Buggy	50 00 1 Red Sufur 18.00	37 00
	R. W. Wilson Appraisers	
	W. H. Miller	
The deceased having left a Widow and minor children we set off to turn the following property without appraising the same as directed by Statute		
1 Hearing Corn. 2 Spinning Wheels 1 Bul. 1 Family Bible. Family School Books		
1 Corn. 13 Sheep. Seventy unspun flax. 3 Beds. Breakfasts, an 0. Boarding		
1 Cooking Stove. Pots and Pannes and cooking utensils of the deceased. 1 Table. 6 Chairs and four. 6 Plates. 6 Cups and Saucers. 1 Sugar Dish. 1 Milk Coup. 1 Tea Pot. 12 Spoons. Hearing apparel of the Widow. 1 Parlor Stove. Not S. & Morrison		
	R. W. Wilson Appraisers	
	W. H. Miller	
The following is a Schedule of property belonging to the estate of Sylvester Buck deceased set off by the undersigned for the support of Mary Buck his Widow, Rosannah Ginn, Nathan Buck, Wm Henry Buck, and Olivia Buck, his minor children.		

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

## FOLLOWING THE INVENTORY IS THIS STATEMENT BY THE APPRAISERS:

The deceased having left a Widow and minor Children we set off to them the following property without appraising the same as directed by Statute

1 Weaving loom. 2 Spinning Wheels. 1 Reel.  
1 Family Bible. Family School Books. 1 Cow.  
12 Sheep. Quantity [unreadable] flax. 2 Beds, Bedsteads, and Bedding. 1 Cooking Stove.  
Pots and Kettles and cooking utensils of the deceased. 1 Table. 6 Knives and forks. 6 Chairs. 6 Plates. 6 Cups and Saucers. 1 Sugar Dish. 1 Milk Cup. 1 Tea Pot. 12 Spoons. Wearing apparel of the Widow. 1 Parlor Stove.

Although fabrics were sold by merchants such as Stone & Cather and Davis & Hicks in Athens County in 1853, it seems Mary Buck was still spinning wool or flax and weaving fabric. We did not see evidence in Benjamin's estate sale that Talitha did this. I wonder if Mary wove fabrics to barter for other household items; if so, the loom and spinning wheels would have been particularly important possessions for her to keep. In both households, of course, quilts were made from sewing scraps and worn out clothing during this time in history when nothing went to waste. It is likely that much of the clothing was hand sewn by the women and girls.

In addition to the items designated for Mary and her children listed at the bottom of page 175, on the top of page 176 is a list of Sylvester's property set off by the appraisers "for the support of Mary Buck his Widow, Rosanna Ginn, Nathan Buck, Wm. Henry Buck, and Olive Buck, his minor Children."

176

*Sylvester Buck's Estate Inventory cont'd*

24 Bush Corn @ 40¢	19.60	19 Sheep \$2.00	37.72
200 lbs Pork	12.00	3 Steers	16.00
100 lbs Flour	3.00	1 Cow	15.00
16 Bush Wheat 110¢	17.60	4 Shoots	7.72
Cask and Salt	1.00	1 Side Saddle	1.00
4 Bush Potatoes 20¢			8.00
			113.72
			\$133.72
		A. J. Munroe	
		R. M. Nelson	Appraisers
		H. W. Mills	
The State of Ohio, I, A. Calandrell, Administrator of the estate of the within named in Athens County of want, makes solemn oath that the inventory of the estate of said deceased hereto annexed is, in all respects, just and true, and contains a true statement of all the estate and property of said deceased, which has come to the knowledge of the affiant, being apud me, and particularly all Money, Bank Bills, or other circulating medium belonging to the said deceased, and of all just claims, against this affiant or other person, according to the best of this affiant's knowledge.			
I, A. Calandrell Subscribed before me this 7 <sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1852. At Public Sale Day.			
I. A. Calandrell			
		Sale Bill	
A Bill of the property sold by James A. Calandrell, Administrator of the Estate of Sylvester Buck deceased, at Public's vendue, March 24 <sup>th</sup> 1852.			
3 Chairs	Art. Sold		
1 Saddle	George Buck	8.35	
1 Shovel Plan	Isaac Cole	1.15	
1 Spoon	Francis Cornell	60	
1 Cellois	Wm. Davis	61	
Double & Single Pins	Francis Cornell	53	
1 Hamon	Francis Cornell	1.00	
2 Mattacks	1 to Abram Buck	1.00	
	1 not Sold	1.00	
	Cornelius M. Dale	70	
1 Sack	Leviathan Hammon	1.05	
1 Cradle and Scythe	Wm. Buck	1.50	
	1 to James Buck	34	
3 Scythes	1 to Abram Buck	21	
	1 to George Buck	21	
1 Cellois	George Buck	30	
Hammer and Cow Knife	George Buck	10	
	Irish Auger A. Saunders	26	
3 Augers	" " A. Saunders	10	
2 Knifles	" " Nathan Lonis	38	
1 Drawing Knif	Richard Nelson	48	
	Art. Sold		

24 Bush[els] Corn @ 40¢

200 lbs Pork

100 lbs Flour

16 Bush[els] Wheat

Cask and Salt

4 Bush Potatoes 20¢

19 Sheep @2.00

2 Steers

1 Cow

4 Shoots

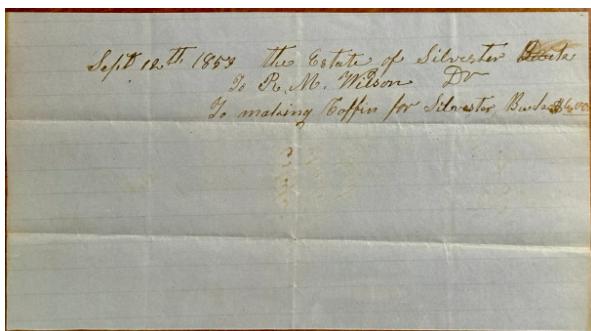
1 Side Saddle

The total value of the portion of the inventory set aside for Mary and her children listed on page 176 was \$130.00, as appraised by Merwin, Wilson, and Mills.

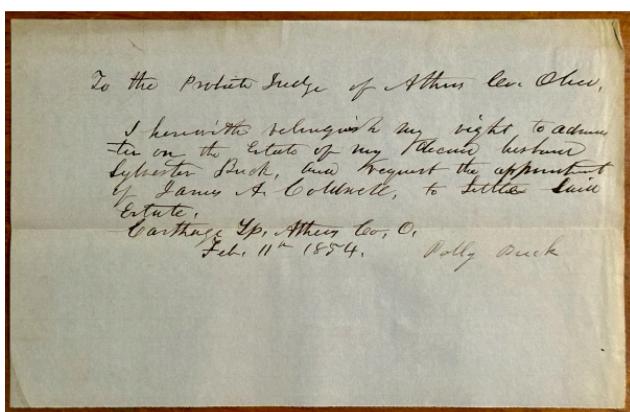
Among the purchasers listed on pages 176 and 177 are the names of the deceased's nephews George Nelson Buck (son of William<sup>6</sup>) and Abram Buck, James Buck, Simeon Buck, and William Buck (sons of Matthew<sup>6</sup>). Another nephew, Mary Buck Saunders' son Amasa, bought two augers and two heifer calves.

In addition to the probate record available online, the probate packet for Sylvester's heirs in the Genealogy Center and Library at the Southeast Ohio History Center in Athens provides interesting information about our Bucks.

Below is R. M. Wilson's bill to the estate for Sylvester's coffin (\$6.00), dated the day after he died.



As the note below shows, Mary (Polly) relinquished her right to administer her husband's estate on February 11, 1854. I do not know whether this was commonly done by widows at the time. It is unlikely this note was actually written by Mary because on another receipt she signed with her mark rather than writing her name. If she was illiterate, it would certainly have been difficult for her to administer the estate.



177

Sylvester Buck's Estate Sale Bill cont'd	
Bar of old iron	James Buck
2 Single Drus 44	44 to George F. Colwell
and lot of old Hamps	Simeon Buck
Buggy Hamps	James Buck
Buggy	John Lawrence
Wind Mill	Parker Henry
1 Manner Fork +	Taken by the Widow
2 Hay Forks	1 to F. Connell 25, other to Bobb 20
1 Shovel	Taken by the Widow
1 Hand Drill	Not sold
1st Double Hamps	Jameson to F. Connell
	To George Buck
	Art. Sola
	F. Connell
Wood Sola and Shovel Pile	Abram Buck
1 Wagon	Erkell Weston
1 Wind Stove	F. Connell
2 Pew Calves	John Poston
2 Sheep "	A. Lawrence
1 Gray Colt	George Buck
1 Bay Mare	Taken by the Widow
1 Cow	Taken by the Widow
1 Red Sheep	F. Connell
1 Red Sheep	Wm. Mills
2 Sickle	George Buck
Bkt and Lime	Francis Connell
1 Chisel	A. Troyer
Lot of oats	Taken by the Widow
1 Mallet	" "
1 Pail of Wheat	" "
1/2 of 2 Fields of Wheat	" "
	F. Connell Bkt of Sale
	In the State of Ohio, Athens County, } A. Colwell Administrator of the estate of the within named decedent, } makes solemn oath that the aforesaid Sale Bill is, in all respects, correct, } to the best of his affiant's knowledge and belief. } Signed to and subscribed before me this } 7 <sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1854 } J. C. Frost, Probate Judge } A. Colwell

Less than a month after the death of her second husband, Mary Barton Ginn Buck ordered marble head and footstones to mark her deceased husband's grave. The stones were to be delivered at Hockingport on the Ohio River, about 12 miles from the cemetery.

### TRANSCRIPTION OF MARY'S ORDER FOR SYLVESTER'S GRAVESTONE

Carthage TP Athens County Ohio Oct. 8th 1858

I have this day bought of McBride & Bedwell

One sett of fine white marble grave stone

Headstone to be 3 1/2 feet high + 15 inches wide

Foot stone in proportion Headstone Inscribed

As follows Sylvester Buck

Died Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1853 Aged 61 yrs 2 ms + 25

With a willow on top & Verse below

Go home my friends dry up your tears

I will arise when christ appears

These stones to be delivered at Hocking port

Next spring for which I promise to pay soon after

They are delivered Sixteen dollars

Mary buck

Carthage TP Athens County Ohio Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1858  
I have this day bought of McBride & Bedwell  
One sett of fine white marble grave stone  
Headstone to be 3 1/2 feet high + 15 inches wide  
Foot stone in proportion Headstone Inscribed  
As follows Sylvester Buck  
Died Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1853 Aged 61 yrs 2 ms + 25  
With a willow on top & Verse below  
Go home my friends dry up your tears  
I will arise when christ appears  
These stones to be delivered at Hocking port  
Next spring for which I promise to pay soon after  
They are delivered Sixteen dollars  
Mary buck



Sylvester Buck gravestone. Courtesy Ralph Hawk, 2004.



Left, Sylvester Buck's gravestone in 2017. Far right, a section had been on the ground behind the stone in 2023.  
Courtesy of the author.

Sylvester and Mary had been running up a bill with Stone and Cather, as shown on the store's two-page record of amounts due and the sworn statement by John Cather of Sylvester's credit to be counted against his debt.

The list of purchases gives us an idea of what the Bucks were buying that they were not making for themselves in 1853: tea, coffee, rice, sugar and molasses, candles, tobacco, fabrics, and saleratus. Drill is a type of durable cotton twill fabric. Wadding could be filler for quilts or material used for gun cartridges; perhaps it was also used for bandaging or something else. My guess is that "Summer Stuff" could be light weight fabric for making summer clothing. The amount of fabric purchased by Mary makes me wonder if she bartered some of what she sewed.

The list of credits shown at the bottom of the next page suggests that Sylvester and Mary may have been churning butter from their cow's milk to use for bartering. Or, more likely, their children churned the butter. Another credit is for a pair of shoes that were purchased (probably on August 10) and returned on the 16th. For some reason, Sylvester does not seem to have received credit for the load of wood at the top of the list.

#### TRANSCRIPTION OF THE FIRST PAGE

Silvester Buck to Stone and Cather D~  
Feb 11 1853

Silvester Buck to Stone and Cather D~		
Feb 11 1853		
	To 4 yd Muslin 10	40
	Wadding	15
March 7	1 gallon Molasses	.50
	3 pkgs Tobacco	12
16	1/4 Tea	19
	1 lb Rice	7
1	1 lb Rice	7
	1 lb Candles	15
29	1 " Salaratus	10
	1 " Sugar	9
	1 " Coffee	12
	2 pkgs Tobacco	10
April 13	1/2 lb Tea	.37
14	1 gallon Molasses	50
	2 lb Sugar	16
May 3	1 pail	15
7	2 lb Sugar	.16
11	1 oz indigo	10
18	2 lb Coffee	25
	1/4 lb Tea	37
	1 gallon Molasses	50
May 8	2 lb Sugar	16
7	1 pail	15
11	2 lb Sugar	.16
18	1 oz indigo	10
	2 lb Coffee	25
	1/4 lb Tea	37
	1/2 lb Tea	37
	2 lb Sugar	16
June 2	3 [?] [S.?] Hats	55
13	1/2 lb Tea	37
14	10 yd Blue Drill	1,25
	1 fan	8
27	1 lb Salts	10
July 2	1/2 lb Tea	38
	2. " Coffee	.25
		7.69

To 4 yd Muslin 10	40	
Wading	15	
March 7 " 1 gallon Molasses	.50	
" 3 pkgs Tobacco	12	
16 " 1/4 Tea	19	
" 1 lb Rice	7	
" 1 lb Candles	15	
29 1 " Salaratus	10	
" 1 " Sugar	9	
" 1 " Coffee	12	
" 2 pkgs Tobacco	10	
April 13 " 1/2 lb Tea	.37	
14 1 gallon Molasses	50	
" 2 lb Sugar	16	
May 3 1 pail	15	
7 2 lb Sugar	.16	
11 1 oz indigo	10	
18 2 lb Coffee	25	
	1/2 " [Spice?]	5
	1/2 " pepper	5
	4 " Sugar	32
	2 Mackerel	12
23 1/2 lb Tea	37	
	2 " Rice	14
June 2 3 [?] [S.?] Hats	55	
13 1/2 lb Tea	37	
14 10 yd Blue Drill	1,25	
	1 fan	8
27 1 lb Salts	10	
July 2 1/2 lb Tea	38	
	2. " Coffee	.25
		7.69

## TRANSCRIPTION OF THE SECOND PAGE

July 9th 1853	Amt Brot forward	769
	6 yd Calico	.75
	3 " "	42
	1 gallon Molasses	.45
	3 yd Muslin	30
	1 lb tobacco	25
	1/2 [Spice?]	6
	1 oz Cloves	5
July 26. "	1/2 lb Tea	.38
	5 yd Summer Stuff	.93
	7 yd Calico	.88
	1 Spool thread	5
	Buttons	5
Aug 3.	To fine Comb	10
10	1 gallon Molasses	.45
10.	9 yd Muslin	.90
	Velvet	6
	2 pair Shoes	100
16.	1/4 pepper	5
16.	Vest pat + trimmings	84
	8 yd Calico	100
	3 " Summer Stuff	.56
	2 fish	12
	3 yd Muslin	27
22	To tin pan	50
Sept 9	1/2 lb Tea	38
	2 lb Rice	26
	2 lb Candles	30
		18.95
	Amt of Credits	2 95
		16.00

## TRANSCRIPTION OF THE STATEMENT AT RIGHT

### *Credit*

Apr 11 1853		
	By 1 load wood	
May 18 "	By 3 1/2 lb Butter 15	52
Aug 10 "	By 9 1/2 lb Butter 12	118
16	By 7 1/2 lb Butter-	90
	By 1 pair Shoes Returned	35
		2.95

*I John Cather of the firm of Stone and Cather*

*Do Solemnly Swear that the above act*

*Is just + true as he verily Believes*

*And there is no more offsets against*

*Said claim as Known to him*

John Cather

*State of Ohio Athens County SS*

Sworn to + Subscribed Before me this

13th Day of June 1855

[Below are then six lines of writing which are too faint to read, except for the last which is "by John Cather." Likely this portion of the note is the statement by the court representative that he has witnessed Mr. Cather's testimony.]

Credit

Ap 11 1853

	By 1 load wood	
May 18 ..	By 52 lb Butter	15
Aug 10 ..	By 92 lb Butter	18
16 ..	By 72 lb Butter	10
	By 1 pair Shoes Returned	85
		295

I John Cather of the firm of Stans & Cather  
do Solemnly swear that the above act  
is just & true as he verily believes  
and there is no more offsets against  
said claim as known to him

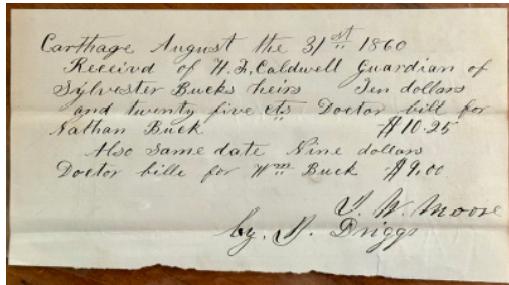
John Cather

State of Ohio & Athens County 88  
Sworn to & Subscribed before me this  
13<sup>th</sup> day of June 1853

A. Marcell J.P. Commissioner  
age 21 years. 555 1/2

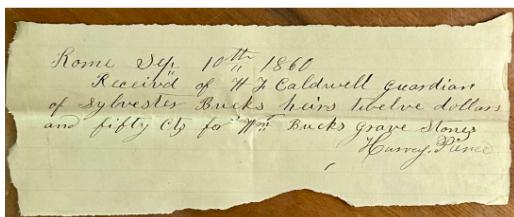
I do solemnly swear that I have read the above instrument and  
know the signature of the subscriber to be genuine and  
by his hand written this day of June 1853

Sylvester and Mary's son William died on January 20, 1859. He was only 11 or 12 years old. Three receipts acknowledging payment by William's guardian, H. J. Caldwell, are shown below with transcriptions: the doctor's bill, the bill for the grave marker, and the bill for hauling the gravestone.



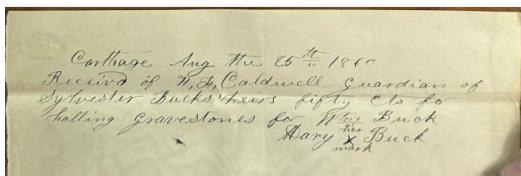
#### TRANSCRIPTION

Carthage August 31st 1860  
Received of H. J. Caldwell Guardian of  
Sylvester Bucks heirs Ten dollars  
and twenty-five cts Doctor bill for  
Nathan Buck \$10.25  
Also same date Nine dollars  
Doctor bill for Wm Buck \$9.00  
T. W. Moore  
By T. Briggs



#### TRANSCRIPTION

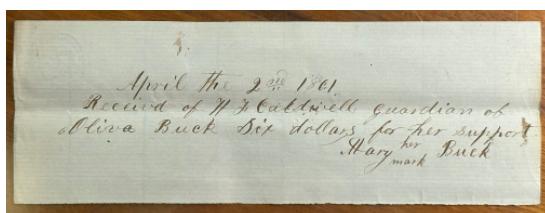
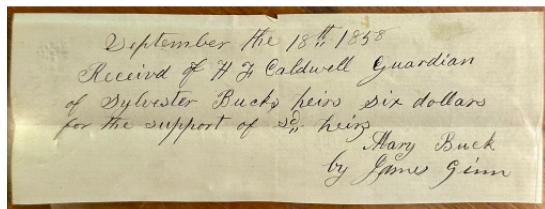
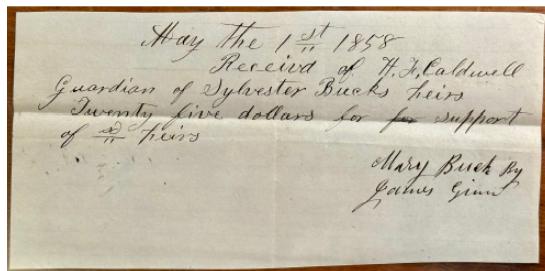
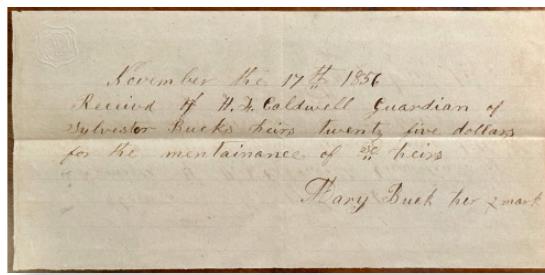
Rome Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 1860  
Received of H. J. Caldwell guardian  
of Sylvester Bucks heirs twelve dollars  
and fifty cts for Wm Bucks grave stones  
Harry Pierce



#### TRANSCRIPTION

Carthage Aug the 25<sup>th</sup> 1860  
Received of H. J. Caldwell Guardian of  
Sylvester Bucks heirs fifty cts for  
hauling gravestones for Wm Buck  
her  
Mary X Buck  
mark

The probate packet includes numerous statements from Mary acknowledging her receipt of payments for the care of Sylvester's heirs, her children. Four are shown here: two signed by Mary with her mark, and two signed for her by her son, James Ginn.



Sylvester's son, Nathan Sylvester Buck, and daughter, Olive Buck, grew into adulthood in Athens County. Nathan served in the Civil War and as a result of his service was granted land in Athens County. He married Emily Wyatt. She gave birth to a daughter, then died. Nathan then married Julia Green and had five more children. He died in West Virginia and has descendants living today.

Olive married Morris Newhouse in Sandusky, Ohio, and together they had four children who lived into the middle of the 20th century. I was not able to find out when and where Olive died or whether any of her children had children of their own.

Sylvester probably named his daughter Olive after his twin sister, Olive<sup>6</sup> Buck Cummins. We do not have a lot of information about Olive Cummins. It appears that she did not leave descendants, and the public records are sparse. But I was able to find enough material to construct a plausible story of a diligent, caring person who made a positive contribution to her community.

Olive may have lived with Sylvester in Howard, New York, and then come to Athens County with him, probably around 1836. She is not listed under her own name or with Sylvester in the 1840 census; it is possible she had married Mr. Cummins by then. I have not found a record of Olive's marriage or her husband's death or first name. If Olive married Mr. Cummins in Athens County, she would have been past childbearing age at the time of her marriage.

I could not find Olive in the 1850 census, but there is an Athens County deed showing that she purchased property in Coolville on June 21, 1859. In the 1860 census she was listed in Coolville as head of household, living with a child named Ann Floid, age 10. Ann may have been an orphan in Olive's care; her surname does not appear on my family tree so I can only guess at their relationship and why Ann was living with Olive. The record suggests that Olive was self-supporting through work as a nurse. At the time, the nursing profession was new and nurses did not receive medical training.



Civil War nurse, courtesy [Library of Congress](#)

## PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION OF THE WILL OF OLIVE BUCK CUMMINS

*First, after my Funeral charges and all my just and lawful debts are paid, the balance of my property to be appropriated as follows: all my moneys and credits to be given to the following named Institutions, in equal proportions. viz The American Bible Union, the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the Hamburg Mission. 2nd I give and bequeath all my household goods to the benefit of the soldiers in the Union Army to be appropriated in such a manner as my Executor shall see fit; and if the war should be over at the time of my decease, then the property to be sold and the money added to the first three mentioned bequests.*

Olive sold her Coolville property on January 25, 1864. The following December she wrote a will in which she left a portion of her personal estate to the wounded soldiers of the Union Army. Since there is no record of her buying property to replace what was sold in 1864, it seems possible that she may have gone to work in one of the hospitals set up to serve the Union soldiers.

She wrote her will on December 2, 1864, more than three and a half years into the war. Whether or not she worked as a nurse during the war, the sacrifices made by the soldiers were clearly on her mind when she wrote her will. She died May 12, 1866. The bequests made in her will, a portion of which is shown below, show her commitment to her religion and to the soldiers who suffer the hardships of battle. A transcription of this portion of her will is shown next to the image.

My thoughts about Olive are speculative, but we know for certain that at least five of Matthew and Magdalene's grandsons fought for the Union during the Civil War—Abram's three oldest sons, Alden, Alonzo, and Wesley;

Elizabeth's son, William Nelson Wilmarth; and Benjamin's son, Warren, who was only 16 when he enlisted.

Sylvester<sup>6</sup> Buck's son Nathan Sylvester Buck also fought for the Union. I have not checked the records to see whether descendants of Mary<sup>6</sup> Buck Saunders and William<sup>6</sup> Buck served during the war, but both of them had sons and/or grandsons who were of age to be soldiers at the time, so it's very likely some of them did.

*"First after my Funeral charges and all my just and lawful debts are paid, the balance of my property to be appropriated as follows: all my moneys and credits to be given to the following named Institutions, in equal proportions. viz The American Bible Union, the American Baptist Missionary Union, and the Hamburg Mission. 2nd I give and bequeath all my household goods to the benefit of the soldiers in the Union Army to be appropriated in such a manner as my Executor shall see fit; and if the war should be over at the time of my decease, then the property to be sold and the money added to the first three mentioned bequests."*

"Ohio, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 March 2025), Record of Wills, Vol. 8, 1856-1859, p. 47, Olive Cummings.

Of the Buck descendants named on the previous page, both Alden Buck and William Wilmarth lost their lives during the war.

Alden died October 22, 1863, in a hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from injuries suffered July 2, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg. He was buried in the soldiers' plot at Harrisburg Cemetery.

Alden left a wife and four children. His widow Celia Weatherby Buck died eight years later. Her death left Eliza, John Henry, Edward Wesley, and Alden Alonzo Buck orphans at the ages of 14, 12, 10, and eight. Waldo writes that William Buck, Matthew's brother, "reared John, Edward and Alden 'Alt' sons of Alden." Waldo makes no mention of Eliza, but she died three years after her mother's death and may have been lost to the family record sixty years later when Waldo was collecting family data.

For nearly four decades, Matthew and Magdalene Buck, their children, and grandchildren built homes, raised families, and farmed their land in Athens County. Eventually many of their children and grandchildren joined the great westward migration. Sometime between 1854 and 1856, newly-wed Phoebe<sup>7</sup> Buck Wilson and her husband left Ohio and went to Iowa and then Nebraska. They eventually settled in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Others



*Alden Buck's gravemarker, left. This stone was made in 2012 to replace the original which had become illegible with age. Courtesy Donald Coho, Find a Grave.*

left Athens County after the Civil War, which was a time of major migration west. In 1867, Elizabeth<sup>7</sup> Buck Wilmarth, her husband and her only surviving child moved to Eau Galle, Wisconsin. In 1868, James<sup>7</sup> Buck, his wife and his surviving children (except Alanson and his family, who followed later) left Athens County, accompanied by the wife and children of James' deceased son Lewis. They settled in Macon County, Missouri. Other family members (indicated below by a green dot) also moved to Missouri, possibly at the same time.

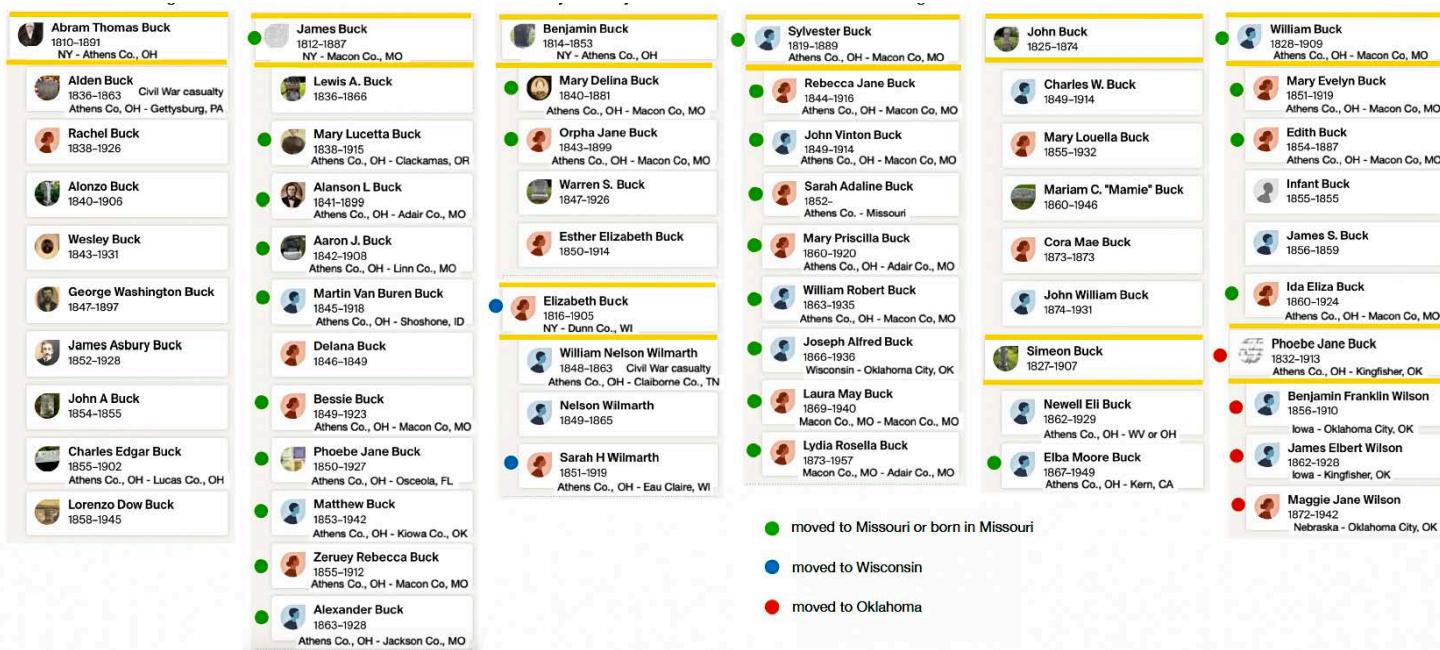
Two decades after the Buck exodus began, more of our Bucks had left Ohio than remained. But the close family ties continued for several generations. We have evidence of this from correspondence and records of visits between

Athens County Bucks and their western cousins.

Like Matthew, the siblings who followed him to Ohio remained in Ohio, except for William<sup>6</sup> who moved to Wisconsin with his second wife and some of his children.

The only method I could think of to help me get an idea of the movement of the Bucks out of Athens County was to make the graphic below. Unfortunately, it only includes Matthew's descendants. Adding William<sup>6</sup> and his children and the children of Mary<sup>6</sup> and Sylvester<sup>6</sup> was more than I could manage.

#### SELECTED DESCENDANTS OF MATTHEW AND MAGDALENE BUCK



As late as 1928, three sons of Abram Thomas Buck were still alive and living in Athens County (See undated photograph below). At the time of this writing, there are still Buck descendants living in Athens County.



Wes Buck, Jim Buck, and Dow Buck.  
From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

During the 1940s and 50s, Buck's Lake was a popular resource for the community. Hubert and Maggie Buck welcomed neighbors and visitors from all over the region to swim and fish in their lakes on the land that was settled by Matthew and Magdalene (see article at right). This land is currently owned by descendants of Matthew's son John. In the welcoming spirit of Hubert and Maggie, they invited Buck descendants to celebrate on Buck's Lake Farm during Buck reunions in 2019 and 2023. The photographs below were taken at both reunions.



## BUCK FAMILY REUNIONS



—Messenger Photo by Julie Kramer

## Last of Her Kind in Area

SHADE — A little girl walked in the back door and into the mini-grocery store. As the genial, gray-haired woman got up from the dining room table to go to the store in the back of her home, the girl carefully counted out her change and laid it on the counter. Maggie Buck handed her the bottle of pop and chuckled.

"Somebody's dropping in all the time to visit, buy a pop or eat a bar of candy," Mrs. Buck said. "Even though I hardly ever go away from home, I never get lonesome here."

She said the store was the only one of its kind left within five miles of Guyville. Passing by the front of the 239-acre Guyville farm though, one would never know the store was there.

In what she called a pantry in the back of her house, the 77-year-old shopkeeper sells tobacco, candy, soft drinks and several varieties of canned goods to neighbors. She has been running the store by herself since her husband's death 10 years ago.

Mrs. Buck said a busy time of the day is when the neighborhood children stop in on their way home from school.

"I told the school bus driver he'll have to keep driving the route in the summer or I won't know when it's 4 o'clock," she said.

Originally, the store was opened to feed the hungry fishermen who came to fish at "Buck's lakes." The lakes were not always there though, Mrs. Buck said. In 1932, her

husband Hubert dug out the first two small lakes on a hill behind the house.

"My husband was crazy about fishing," she said. "He wanted to build them (the lakes) to fish and pretty soon there were seven."

The Bucks stocked the lakes with fish and charged \$1 to fish for the day.

"People used to come from as far away as Parkersburg and Columbus to use our lakes," Maggie said.

"We used to have swimming too," she said. "A car load of students came by once and said it was perfect. From that my husband got the idea to put up a sign on the bulletin at the university. A lot of students came."

The Bucks had to close the lakes to the public 10 years later. When the lakes became too popular, they could not afford to pay the required insurance coverage, Mrs. Buck explained. Their stores were open though, serving snacks to the neighbors and occasional fishermen.

She was born and raised in Jeffers, a small town near Guyville. At the age of seventeen, she married Hubert Buck and moved into the house on Route 44, where she lives today. There she reared four sons, one of whom lives in the house next door. Since her husband's death, Mrs. Buck has lived with her grandson, Rocky.

Would Maggie consider closing up shop?

"My sister's after me all the time to close it," she said.

"But I like people, you know, young and old. They all come in and sit down for a pop or candy. I love to visit with them."

Newspaper clipping from the Athens Messenger.

*In Memoriam*

## Waldo Walter Buck

### (1887–1964) Buck Family Historian

During the 1930s and 40s, Waldo<sup>9</sup> (Wesley<sup>8</sup>, Abram<sup>7</sup>, Matthew<sup>6</sup>) Buck spent many hours interviewing family and visiting Athens County cemeteries to collect information about his Buck ancestors. He compiled his research in 1951 and distributed it within the family. But a great deal of information was missing because so many Bucks had left the area and been lost to collective local memory. In 1953, Ernest<sup>9</sup> (James<sup>8</sup>, Martin Van Buren<sup>7</sup>, Matthew<sup>6</sup>) Buck, who had been researching his branch of the family, came to Athens County. He met up with Waldo and supplied many of the missing pieces. Waldo added the information from Ernest and in 1959 produced the final manuscript of his *Matthew Buck Record*.

Many Buck cousins have contributed pieces to the shared story that has helped us build the community we have today. But Waldo may have been the first, and without his work much of our history would have been lost. Waldo's autobiography (below right) is included in his *Matthew Buck Record*, so we know what was important to him—in addition to family history. It also tells us something about what life in Athens County was like at the turn of the 20th century and during its first six decades.



Waldo Buck, top left, with his brother Jimmie and parents Wesley and Clara, c. 1905–1910. Photograph courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk.



Front and back views of Waldo and Edna Buck's gravemarker, Asbury Church Cemetery, Athens County, Ohio, May 2017. Courtesy of the author.

Waldo Walter Buck, son of Wesley Buck. Born July 16, 1887. Joined the Asbury M. E. Church Dec. 16, 1897; Rev. L. L. Cherrington was the pastor. Was Sunday School Superintendent at Asbury for several years and serves as Sunday School Superintendent at Guysville Methodist Church now. Graduated from Guysville High School April 29, 1908 (there were no girls in the class and only four boys: Harry Hulbert, Everett Hayes, Guy Pierce and Waldo W. Buck. Guy Pierce died June 19, 1952 in Charleston, S. C. Buried in West Union St. Cemetery, Athens Ohio. Taught one term of school (1909-10) at Millfield, Ohio. Farmer for several years. Appointed rural mail carrier April 2, 1917; retired July 31, 1957, with 40 years, 4 months service. Soldier during World War I, Co. A. 361 Inf. 91 Div. Served in England, France and Belgium July 22, 1918, to April 30, 1919. Moved family and parents from the farm to Guysville, Ohio, October 23, 1923. Waldo and family attended the Century of Progress (World's Fair) at Chicago, Ill., the week of August 22, 1934. Wife: Edna Florence Burleigh, daughter of Delano F. and Carrie (Wood) Burleigh. Born Feb. 7, 1894. Baptized Sept. 16, 1956, by Rev. Edward Miller. Died Nov. 18, 1958, (2:25 PM Tuesday). Services Friday 2:00 P. M. in Guysville Methodist Church. Interred in Asbury Cemetery, Lot No. 62. Children: Wayne Ervin; Berneta Lurene; Thelma Eleanor.

Above, entry for Waldo Walter Buck in Matthew Buck Record.

## Book Review

# Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living, A Practical Guide for All Genealogists

Reviewed by Wendy Negley

Author: Cheri Hudson Passey  
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company  
 Publication Date: 2025  
 Pages: 54  
 Price: \$13.50 e-book,  
       \$19.95 plus shipping, paperback  
 Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
 GFO Call No.: 973.How-To Pass 2025

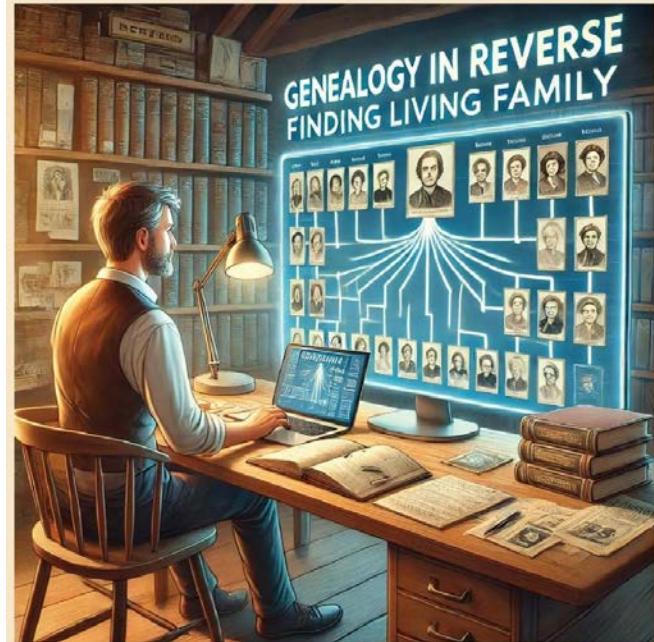
Genealogists are accustomed to researching dead ancestors or at least people earlier than themselves on their tree. In this book, Cheri Passey presents methods on how to research downward for living descendants of their ancestors. Although it incorporates many of the skills used in researching preceding generations, it does call for some different techniques and knowledge. The author clearly presents these to make the process easier. I found the book easy to read and understand. It was helpful to me as I have tried to find living descendants of my forbears as part of publishing family history books. I wanted to ensure that as many people as possible were included, hoping it would help future researchers determine if the book was about their family or not. There are many reasons one might want to do such research, such as to locate cousins. I recommend this book to help you do that.

Part of what is covered in this book is a subject that I had not considered for finding living relatives. That is the use of DNA. In Cheri's case, she was tracing living relatives of deceased World War II soldiers so that their remains could be returned to the families. If you are involved in any such process, then this is definitely the book for you. But even for more ordinary genealogy pursuits in locating living family, this is an area that could be useful. Again, Cheri has mapped it out for you.

Whatever your reason for researching downward, I recommend this book as a very useful tool.

## Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living A Practical Guide for All Genealogists

By  
Cheri Hudson Passey



## Book Review

# Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Elizabeth Shown Mills  
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company  
Publication Date: 2025  
Pages: 142  
Price: \$19.50-\$27.50  
Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
GFO Call No.: RR070.0 Mill2025

Many of us consider citations too academic, too formal, or too detailed for our personal research. After all, to whom do we need to give proof of our research? Author Elizabeth Shown Mills contends that the primary purpose of citing sources is not to show people where we obtained the information, but rather is to help the writer “reach the most reliable conclusions.” Citing sources is a benefit to the researcher, she writes. It’s “not a chore that hobgoblins of history require us to do for others.”

In Part One of her book, the author describes how to analyze separately the source, information, evidence, and proof. Her 13 Basic Guidelines for Analyzing Evidence and 13 Guidelines for Documentation to identify sources are clearly displayed in charts before being discussed in detail. There are also concise charts for abbreviations, stylistic tips, and bibliographic tips.

Part Two of the book describes five steps of constructing citations. She then provides 14 “game-changing universal templates.” These templates are patterns that a writer can use to mix and match layers and building blocks of information. Citations have become increasingly complicated because of many new types of sources, but Ms. Mills has methods for any possible resource.

# Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources



Elizabeth Shown Mills

A long and detailed glossary is provided in the first appendix. The second appendix lists other guides for further study. Finally, there is a full index to the book.

Elizabeth Shown Mills is a renowned genealogist and historian with decades of experience in research, writing, and teaching. Her definitive book, *Evidence Explained: History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, is a trusted resource. But realizing that at 739 pages, the length and detail of this book may feel overwhelming, the author now offers *Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Resources*, which covers the basics of citing sources. She provides the why and how to give the researcher the confidence to improve this skill.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Stanley Richard Clarke

(1942–2025)

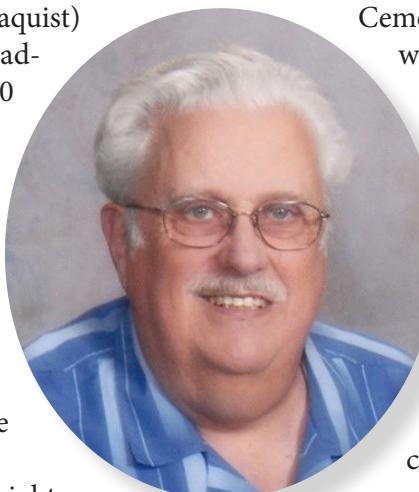
**S**tanley Clarke died on 28 August 2025 at the age of 83. He first joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1977 and became a life member in 1986. In addition to years of volunteer work at GFO, he served on the board and as president from 1991 to 1993.

Stanley, born 28 March 1942, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, to Jack and Florence (Seaquist) Clarke, was the second of two sons. He graduated from Franklin High School in 1960 and from Lewis & Clark College in 1964, where he majored in Library Sciences.

Initially, Stanley worked as a sound technician at Rose City Sound. He was a pipe organ enthusiast, and his other hobbies included stamp collecting and photography. In 1989, he was hired by Columbia Helicopters as their historian/archivist, making use of his library science skills until he retired in 2014.

Stanley was a member of the Tabor Heights Methodist Church and in 2003, directed its earth-friendly remodel. He had always cared about conservation, having recycled tin cans and newspapers as a boy in post-World War II Portland. “It’s our responsibility to help the Earth and everything God put there for us,” he told the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* that year, which covered the church’s rebuild.

Genealogy, cemetery history, and the conservation of graves, meanwhile, had become a major focus in Stanley’s life. In the 1970s, he traveled to Cornwall, United Kingdom, to visit ancestral lands and an ancestral home still standing. He began working on a family tree that also included his Seaquist (Swedish) maternal ancestors.



By the 1980s, Stanley was documenting and photographing Oregon graves and their cemeteries. He and fellow GFO volunteer Janice Healy supported Dean Byrd in creating the 1,180-page “Oregon Burial Site Guide,” completed in 2002. It was a thorough, detailed follow-up to the Oregon Department of Transportation’s “Oregon Cemetery Survey” of 1978. Stanley helped Dean write each section while Janice typed them all. Additionally, Stanley and Janice drove throughout Clackamas County, tracking down and documenting all of the cemeteries and graves that would be included in the book. Through this period, Stanley created his own website, which provided updates on his projects, along with the Clarke-Seaquist family tree he spent years working on.

While a volunteer at GFO, Stanley contributed material to *The Bulletin* and used his sound technology skills to provide the organization with an up-to-date sound system. While serving on its board, he established GFO’s Endowment Fund, which continues to grow. While president of GFO, Stanley served as co-host for the 1991 National Genealogy Conference held jointly by GFO and the National Genealogical Society at the Red Lion in Portland. This event attracted 3,000 attendees and resulted in two articles in *The Oregonian*, along with increased membership for both organizations.

Stanley was predeceased by his father Jack C. Clarke in 1983, his mother Florence in 1996, and his brother Jack F. Clarke in 2017. Survivors include his nephew Scott Clarke, nieces Kerry Clarke Berry and Kristin Clarke Batoy, and all of their children.



*In Memoriam*

## Charlotte “Anne” (Nelson) Leptich (1944–2025)

Anne Leptich passed away on 1 December 2025 in Logan, Cache County, Utah, at the age of 81. She was a member and volunteer for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon starting in 1993 and by 2002 served on the board of directors, becoming vice president and president during a time of great changes in genealogical research.

Anne was born to Charles and Norma (Kinghorn) Nelson on 2 September 1944 in Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho, where she and her three siblings spent their childhood. The family moved to Bellevue, King County, Washington, where Anne met and later married Ron Leptich in 1966.

The couple set up home life in the Clackamas and Washington County suburbs of Portland, Oregon, where they raised two sons, with a four year stint in Dublin, Ireland, for Ron’s work. During those years Anne enjoyed many trips around Europe.

Anne was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served in particular with the LDS Youth and Relief Society. She also became a calligrapher and authored two books, “Calligraphy for Fun and Profit” and “Calligrapher’s Reference Book,” both published in 1981.



Anne’s adult life also focused on family history, involving regular trips to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, for her research. She was an early advocate of digitizing records for online research and served on related national boards. Anne also focused on helping frustrated researchers find hard-to-locate ancestors with considerable success. By 1992 she was giving presentations on topics such as general research, the value of collections, family migrations, and German genealogy. These were carried out for the GFO, the LDS Family History Centers, the DAR and other venues in the Portland-Vancouver area. While vice president of GFO in October of 2002, she was interviewed by *The Oregonian* newspaper regarding the 1880 census going online. “It’s an amazing tool,” she told them. “It’s totally searchable and indexed—that’s significant.” In June of 2011, she authored an article for *The Bulletin* on the invaluable *Meyers Gazetteer* of the German Empire as a tool for finding German ancestral settlements and place names.

Anne and spouse Ron eventually relocated to Logan, Cache County, Utah, to be near their grandchildren. She remained healthy and active with her family until the summer of her passing when she was diagnosed with cancer. Survivors include her spouse Ron of 59 years, her sons Brian and Matthew, and three grandchildren.





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**OPEN HOUSE**  
MARCH 15-21, 2026  
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[gfo.org/openhouse](http://gfo.org/openhouse)



## The Benefits and Pitfalls of Oral History

Feb 21, 2026  
2:30 pm  
Pacific time

**GFO.ORG/GENTALK  
WITH SHEILA BENEDICT**

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON INC  
Offices & Library  
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Portland OR 97202-1093

## GFO MARCH 2026 EVENTS

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: [gfo.org/calendar](http://gfo.org/calendar).

### Sunday, March 1

5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Pacific NW Genealogy

### Monday, March 2

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Roots Magic

### Wednesday, March 4

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Learn and Chat

### Saturday, March 7

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

### Tuesday, March 10

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

### Thursday, March 12

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Q Review

### Saturday, March 14

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Access GFO Resources

### Sunday, March 15–21

OPEN HOUSE

### Sunday, March 15

2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Writers' Room

### Wednesday, March 18

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. DNA Q&A  
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. New Home Committee

### Saturday, March 21

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

### Sunday, March 29

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. GFO Work Party