



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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Tony Sassorossi (1905–1979): Recipe for Love



By Kristy Musalo

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:

- memoirs and personal essays
- research articles and source guides
- how-to articles
- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
- using technology

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

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Cover photo: Image of Tony Sassorossi and family member courtesy of Kristy Musalo.



Visit Us

Location and Hours

HOURS

The GFO Library is open

Sunday: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Monday: 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Thursday masks optional

Friday: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Masks required on other days.

Instructions for the Ford building call box.

As always, our website, special interest groups, and classes remain online so we may continue service to our members and visitors.

LOCATION

GFO Library (within the Ford Building)

2505 S.E. 11th Ave., Suite B-18

Portland, OR 97202-1061

— We're in the basement!

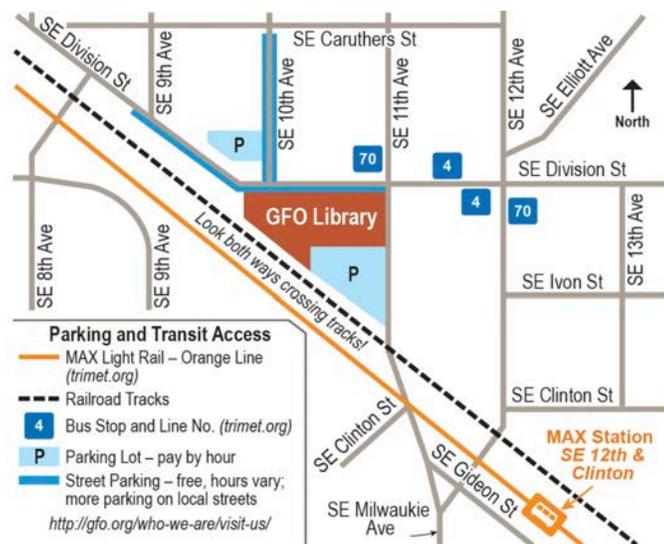
GFO Phone: 503-963-1932

Use a [Google map](#) to get directions.



PARKING LOTS

All parking lots around the building are pay to park. Reef Parking now manages the lots behind the GFO Library



(Ford Building Lot #369) and on 10th Street across from the GFO Library (Ford Building Lot #368).

Reef Parking no longer accepts cash or credit card onsite, you must pay for parking via the Reef Parking mobile app. It is recommended you download the Reef Parking app and supply a payment method prior to your visit to the GFO. Rates start at \$1.50 for both lots nearest the GFO.

The Reef Parking app can be obtained from both the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

STREET PARKING

Street parking directly adjacent to the building has various restrictions, so be sure to read the signs! Most side streets south and west of our location also have time restrictions. Side streets east of S.E. 11th and north of Division (including S.E. 12th) have few if any restrictions. Parking can typically be found there within three to four blocks of the GFO.

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The lot behind the Ford building has one designated ADA spot. It has a two-hour limit and is also pay to park. Portland has specific rules addressing parking on the street. They are copied below.

Time Zone Parking Privileges in Portland: No Time Limit at over 30 minutes. Observe the time limit in zones 30 minutes or less.

Parking Prohibited: Disabled person plates or permits do not allow parking privileges except as described above. Disabled person plates or permits do not extend time limits in areas designated for special use and do not allow vehicle storage over 24 hours on the public right-of-way.

LIMITATIONS

Parking privileges for all types of disabled person parking permits do not apply to a zone where:

Parking is permitted for only 30 minutes or less.

Stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited. Late evening or overnight parking is prohibited.

Parking is reserved for special types of vehicles or activities.

Letter from an Editor

WRITING PROMPT

“Death is Always a Surprise.”

A good friend died. It appeared he woke up and took a couple of steps toward the door before collapsing. Surprisingly, his obituary said he died in his sleep. A doctor then commented, “that could mean there was no one there to help him.” I had not thought of that.

My father had many good habits; he prepared, stayed organized, and knew when to ask for help. In one of his last sermons, he advised a congregation to get their affairs in order: Get rid of clutter, fix up the house, have a will, etc. He had a good sense of humor and left some surprises for us after he died.

One surprise had to do with my mother’s cremation; Dad never said anything about her ashes. While cleaning their house, I heard, “I found Mom!” Her ashes had been riding around in the backseat of Dad’s car for two years.

Another surprise was not discovered for some time. After my paternal grandmother died, grandpa lived with my parents. Later, my parents took grandpa’s ashes to Muscatine, Iowa, to add to grandma’s grave. My wife and I visited that large cemetery. The office clerk sent me a map with the locations of many relatives’ memorials, but I could not find my grandparents’ grave. After the office opened, the clerk told me it was an unmarked grave with only grandma. I told the clerk that my parents brought Grandpa’s ashes to Muscatine and, with a garden trowel, my Dad added Grandpa’s ashes.

“You are not supposed to do that!” replied the clerk as she made a notation in her book.

“Yeah, you would think an Episcopal priest would know that.” Good one, Dad.

My maternal grandmother almost died of breast cancer in a hospital but was resuscitated. She got angry! She described seeing “the light at the end of the tunnel” and was ready to go. Surprise Grandma! Sorry, but people wanted to say goodbye. We published many of grandma’s stories.

I hope you write stories down. Our “Everyone has a Story” prompt led me to write about my great-grandmother, Mary A. Brawand (1866–1940). I chose Mary to highlight the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s “Digital Surname Vertical Files.”

I was fortunate to obtain many original Iowa probate files relating to Mary’s family; her story relates to those probate records. I transcribed and wrote about those



Free advertising! The Bulletin Editorial Group meets monthly.
<https://gfo.org/who-we-are/calendar.html>

documents, but an editor responded, “I think this is interesting and people would learn, but ...” with readable images it was way too long. I wondered how I could share them with others.

I found my 60-page story with images could be shared through the GFO’s online library catalog. Simply enter “Brawand” in the “Search Terms,” click to open the catalog record and then, click on “Digital Surname Vertical File” below the big green arrow to view the file. Others have shared images without a story (see Frewen), and you can too by contacting library@gfo.org. There are currently 178 freely available vertical files in GFO’s library catalog, and indexes of the content can be found on the GFO website. I feel a little more prepared, knowing that my family stories and images can be shared online with family and friends through the GFO.

I hope you enjoy the short articles on grandparents or great-grandparents submitted with our “Everyone has a Story” prompt. Surprise me with your submission or comments at bulletin@gfo.org.

Mark Grafe
Layout Editor

Letters

“Genealogical Light in the Darkest of Places”

I am a member of GFO and just read the article by Anne Sharp in the *Bulletin* on her institutionalized grandmother Bertha Sharp.

I have a very similar story about my grandmother, Mayme Kennedy, who was admitted to Eastern Oregon State Hospital in 1943. She was eventually transferred to Columbia Park State Hospital, then Dammasch State Hospital, then finally to Columbia Basin Nursing Home in The Dalles in 1966, and she died there in 1977.

When I first started researching my father’s side of the family 3 years ago, I innocently wrote the Oregon Dept. of Public Health and they ended up sending me a huge dossier on my grandmother’s institutional care. I, like Anne Sharp, had never met my grandmother, and had never seen a picture of her! I am a retired RN, and after reading the notes from the psychiatric institutions, I believe she suffered from severe post-partum psychosis after the birth of my father and then his sister. This diagnosis was completely unknown at that time.

Sincerely,
Ann Kennedy Storms

Editor’s Notes

Ann, thanks for sharing. We can thank Lola Weber for a related story in this issue; see “Charlena’s Story.” The following comments are from proofreaders of this issue’s stories.

“Charlena’s Story”

So sad as to how her mother was committed ... definition of mental illness was vast in those days ... Thanks. Marceen

“Iowa Probate Papers”

What a complicated story (and series of estates)! What spelling to use for the surname is problematic when it is spelled several different ways within the same document ... I was surprised at how quickly Maria appeared in court after her husband’s death (just two or three days).

Elsie

“Forebearance”

Fun article! Hope to meet Murr.

Helen

I think the article is great as is. It is very entertaining, Elsie

I really like the Brewster article. It’s a great lead into asking folks to submit their stories.

Kristy



Open House
Save the date!
March 11–March 19, 2023

Tony Sassorossi (1905–1979): Recipe for Love

Kristy Musalo

I love lasagna. I especially loved my grandfather's lasagna. Take me to any Italian restaurant and I will inevitably order the lasagna. Doesn't matter if it's vegetarian, full meat, or whatever, I will try it. You see, to me, lasagna invokes memories of my kind and loving Italian grandfather.

Tommaso Amedeo Sassorossi was born 25 September 1905, in Pievepelago, Modena, Italy, to Angelo Sassorossi and Teresa Pasquesi Sassorossi. On 28 October 1907, at the tender age of two, he arrived in New York harbor with his mother and two older brothers. His father Angelo was waiting for his family to take them home to Barre, Vermont, where Tony spent his childhood and some of his adult life. Tommaso, Thomas in English, used the nickname Tony and is my maternal grandfather.

Vermont is well known for its granite quarries and Barre is no exception. It's those quarries that brought my great-grandfather and his family to America. Angelo was a skilled stone cutter, learning his craft in the marble quarries of Northern Italy. He spent the remainder of his life in Barre working for the granite industry and eventually owned his own business, the Barre Hicky Mill, which cut and polished Vermont's greatest natural resource. As a teenager and young adult, Tony worked at the mill alongside his father and brothers. But he was a restless soul and yearned to live his dream of becoming a chef. With his father's blessing and his mother's recipes, he did just that.

My grandfather was an excellent chef, and lasagna was his signature dish. His lasagna was artwork, beautiful to look at and wonderful to eat. The process took at least two days, one for making sauce and another for assembling his edible masterpiece. Tony's lasagna was no simple layering of ingredients. His lasagna was an intricate display of carefully chosen fresh ingredients that he personally picked out. Each layer was thick with the richness of cheeses, herbs, and sausage. The noodles, not just placed in a baking dish, but artfully interwoven like a reed mat into a tapestry of goodness that supported the rest of his



Tony Sassorossi and family member.

creation. His was no sloppy comingling of stuff. A piece could be cut and placed on a plate intact, firmly standing, with no slippery mess. It tasted absolutely sublime, a bit of heaven on a plate. It set a high bar for my lasagna love whereby I judge the merits of all lasagna I try.

On 9 July 1979, Tony left this world. I was just a teenager and too young to understand what he had left me. I now understand how an immigrant's homeland food can bridge the gap between cultures. It can show us where we come from by connecting us to places we may never visit and cultures we may never fully experience. It can become a link that reminds us of our ancestors and their stories as well as giving us a bit of tolerance or curiosity for cultures we may not fully understand. While I have some of my grandfather's recipes, I sadly don't have the patience to even attempt to emulate his creation. However, my love affair with lasagna and memories of my grandfather's cooking help keep me connected to my Italian heritage. That was his gift to me!

Amelia:

Amelia Schutzler Brateres Wilskey Quigley (1869–1953) from Volhynia, Russia, to Castle Rock, Washington

Jacqueline Y. Wilson

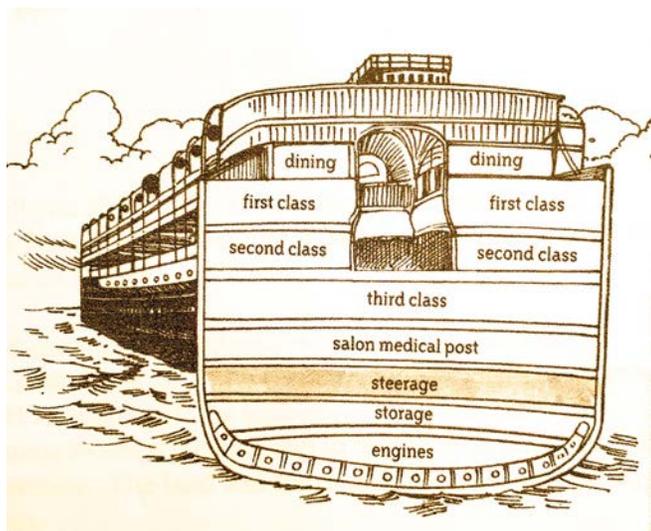
I am going to tell you about my great-grandmother Amelia, born in 1869, a German from Russia, what that means, and her immigration from Russia to the United States.

First, a little background on the Germans from Russia. In 1763, Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia at that time (who was German), and later in 1804, Alexander II, the Emperor at that time, invited foreigners to Russia to settle the land and to bring western culture and industry to the empire. The land was free and the people were promised religious freedom.

Twenty-seven thousand German-speaking immigrants settled in Russia between 1763 and 1790, and another group of 50,000 came between 1804 and 1862.

My great-grandmother, Amelia, was from the Russian province of Volhynia which was settled between 1830 and 1860. So, her ancestors most likely would have been in the second group. Although I have some information on her parents in the United States, I only know her father was born in Russia, and her mother was born in Poland.

Most immigrants were given land to live on to farm or had farmland next to a village they lived in. In Volhynia, the farmers had their own land. But many of the immigrants were not farmers, and the land in Russia was different than the land in Germany.



Steerage was just rows of bunk beds. Courtesy of the author.



Amelia Schutzler Brateres Wilskey Quigley, born 20 March 1869, died 15 February 1953.

The immigrants were promised that they and their descendants would not have to serve in the Russian army, but that changed. The Germans had kept their own language, but then, the Russian language became mandatory in schools in 1892. The Russians took more and more control of the German's lives, leading to discontent.

The Germans who chose to emigrate from Russia weren't stopped. Most took trains to port cities in Germany.

My great-grandmother Amelia, with her two children, eight-year-old Ophelia (my grandmother) and four-year-old Alfred, sailed from Hamburg, Germany, on 17 May 1899 to New York City on the Steamship *Pisa* under the German flag, in steerage—the cheapest tickets. They arrived on 31 May 1899 (a 15-day trip). I know nothing of what happened to her husband and father of the two children; oral history is not always to be trusted.

Steerage was just rows of bunk beds. A thousand or more men, women, and children were crammed together, below sea level, so no port holes, no fresh air. Food was dished



SS Pisa, capacity 1,240 passengers, 40 first-class, 1200 third-class. [Wikipedia](#).

from pails, and cold salt water was for washing. A government report said most people just remained in their bunks.

When my great-grandmother and her children landed in New York, they were processed at the Barge Office at the Battery, which is at the southeast tip of Manhattan.

Before 1890, the states regulated immigration, and New York's station was Castle Garden. But later, the Federal Government regulated immigration, and the station on Ellis Island was built. It burned to the ground in 1897, was re-built—fireproofed—and opened in December of 1900. So, my great-grandmother was processed through the Barge Office at the Battery.

From the “List or Manifest of Alien Immigrants for the Commissioner of Immigration,” we have the following questions that immigrants had to answer before boarding a ship: name, age, sex, married or single, calling or occupation, able to read or write, nationality, last residence, seaport for landing in U.S., final destination in U.S., whether [the immigrant] has a ticket to that destination, by whom was passage paid, whether in possession of money, if so whether more than \$30 and how much if \$30 or less, whether had ever been in U.S. and if so when and where, whether going to join a relative and if so their name and address, whether ever in a prison or almshouse supported by a charity and if yes, which, whether a polygamist, whether under contract express or implied to labor in the U.S., condition of health—mental and physical, deformed or crippled—nature and cause.

The ships did not want to transport people whom they thought might be excluded and sent back, because the ship company would have to pay for the transport. Passengers in first and second class had quick exams done on the ship when they arrived at their destination, but the steerage passengers had more thorough exams done.

Amelia said she had \$7 and a ticket to Bruce's Crossing, Michigan, where she said her husband was—but it was really her father. Because she was pregnant, I am sure she would not say she was single, as I'm sure the U.S. did



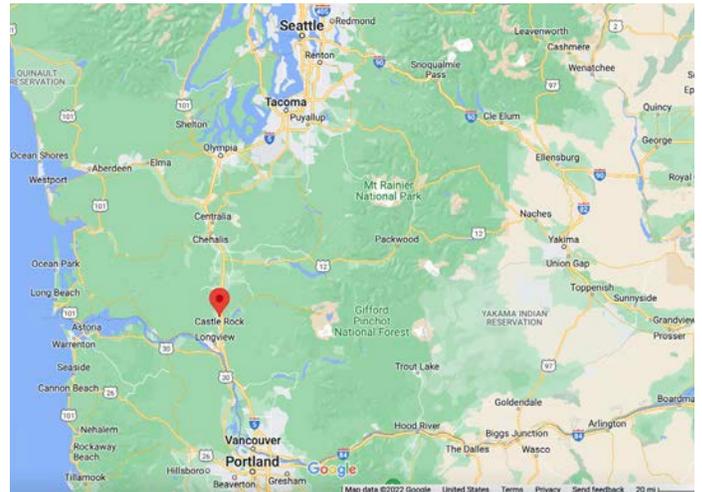
Volhynia (yellow) in northwest Ukraine, around Lutsk and Rivne. [Wikipedia](#).

not want an unmarried, pregnant woman with two small children who most likely would not have been able to support herself.

There were many relatives in the county of Ontonagon, Michigan, where Bruce's Crossing is located, these included her father and mother and several sisters and brothers, and also some relatives on her mother's side who had immigrated to Canada and then to Michigan. Amelia was then probably two months pregnant, as best we can determine. She married her second husband a month-and-a-half before her child was born. He later abandoned her after three more children were born.

Amelia and her family moved to Castle Rock, Washington, along with most of her relatives and their families, although her parents moved to Algona in King County, Washington. Oral history says that the weather in the northwest was more inviting than that in Northern Michigan. Many of those relatives were responsible for the forming of the Lutheran Church that was eventually built in Castle Rock. Amelia lived in Castle Rock, Washington, for the rest of her life, except for the last two years when in a nursing home in Chehalis.

In researching Amelia, I was directed to the weekly Castle Rock newspapers, where I found a story of her house burning down with most possessions lost. She was described as a poor, hard-working woman with four small children. And, a later article said that she was recovering



Castle Rock, Washington. *Google Maps.*

at home from bruises and exposure after spending half the night in a hole in her yard, before her calls for help were heard by her neighbors.

It was frustrating to me when I began to do some family research to learn she had lived in Castle Rock when I lived in Tacoma, only a few hours away. I would have been fourteen when she died, and I never met her or any relatives who lived in Castle Rock, except for my grandmother Ophelia. Of course, as a teenager I probably would not have cared much, and I was told by people in one of her son's lines that she never did learn English.



<https://gfo.org/learn/member-access-to-resources.html>

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GFO DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE

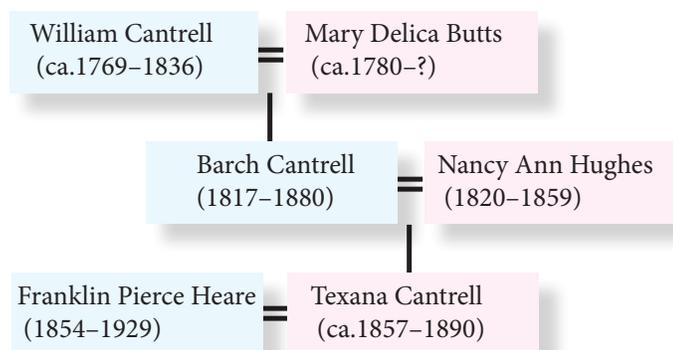
Texana Cantrell Heare (ca. 1857–1890) My Great-Grandmother's Life in Texas

Bonnie Randolph

My great-grandmother, Texana, was a girl of the Texas frontier, her life shrouded in the fog of 19th-century history. She was probably a scrappy little girl, able to load and fire a gun, and raised to hide from irate Kiowas and Comanches. She was my great-grandmother I never heard mentioned. Even her daughter, my grandmother, never talked about her except to say of the only picture she had, “Oh, my poor little mama.”

The daughter of Barch Cantrell and Nancy Ann Hughes, Texana was born about 1857 in Texas; the exact date and place unknown. A cousin of my grandmother, a retired judge, wrote that Texana was born in 1853 in Illinois. Another researcher assumed her date of birth as 1861, based on the 1870 Henderson County, Texas, census where she was recorded as nine years old—the only time she was ever listed in a census. But as her mother died in 1859,¹ 1861 seems an unlikely date for Texana to make an appearance. She left no letters or diaries to tell where or when she was born—she may not have known for certain herself.

SELECTED FAMILY OF TEXANA CANTRELL



The only known photo of Texana Cantrell Heare with her husband and children, circa 1888.

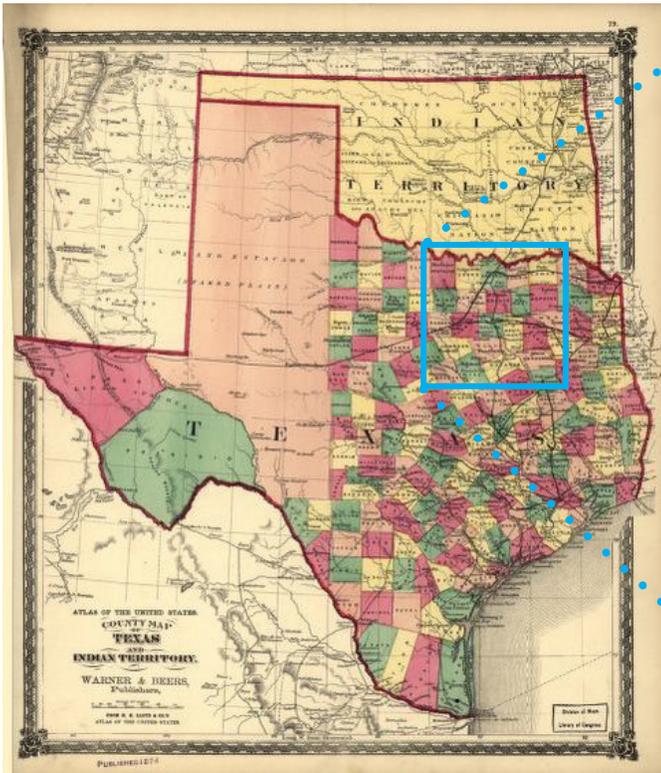
This is our only picture of Texana, seated with her husband, F. P. Heare, and their children. Their oldest child, my grandmother, peers at the photographer, seemingly unsure of the mysterious process of being photographed. Her mother, Texana, dressed in a tightly buttoned jacket with a little nosegay of flowers at her throat, sits quietly, eyes downcast, long tapered fingers at rest, her dark hair stylishly curled, perhaps by a Victorian curling iron. Her clear alabaster skin looks like that of a porcelain doll.

Despite her name, Texana’s family did not originate in Texas. Her ancestors left Philadelphia for the Carolinas by 1754. Her grandfather William was born in Orange County, North Carolina, in 1769 and moved to Tennessee in 1806.² William fathered fourteen children in two marriages. His ninth son was Barch Cantrell, Texana’s father. Barch married Nancy Ann Hughes, a girl he may have known in Tennessee, 9 June 1844. They were wed in Jerseyville, Jersey County, an Illinois county located north of St. Louis, alongside the Mississippi River. After the birth of their first child, Barch and Nancy headed to Texas; as did countless land speculators, slave-owning planters, merchants, blacksmiths, millers, lawless adventurers, luckless debtors one jump ahead of the sheriff, and salt-of-the-earth farmers with Texas fever and high expectations. Many who came scrawled G.T.T. on their cabin doors before they left to let their neighbors know they had “gone to Texas.”³

1. Find a Grave, database (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110845326/nancy-a-cantrell> : accessed 3 October 2022), memorial 110845326, Nancy A. *Hughes* Cantrell (1820–1859); citing Veal Station Cemetery, Springtown, Parker County, Texas, created by Imagraver, 2013.

2. Susan Cantrill Christie, *The Cantrill-Cantrell Genealogy: a Record of the Descendants of Richard Cantrill, Who was a Resident of Philadelphia Prior to 1689, and of Earlier Cantrills in England and America* (Grafton Press: New York, 1908).

3. *Texas State Historical Association* (<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/gtt>).



County Map of Texas and Indian Territory, 1874.
Library of Congress.

Texana was born sometime around 1857 somewhere on the Texas frontier. By then, Texana’s parents had been living in Texas since November 1846. Her father, as a married man, was granted 640 acres in Peters Colony, a vast reservation of land contracted by English and American investors from the Republic of Texas. The Cantrell grant consisted of two surveys, one for 83 acres and the second for 557 acres about thirteen miles north-east of the settlement of Dallas.⁴ Barch paid the minimum tax for 1850 and 1851 in Dallas County. He sold his Peters Colony grant to purchase land along Brushy Creek, a tributary of the Neches River in Anderson County.⁵ There he joined at least two brothers and three nephews who had paid a poll tax as early as 1846.⁶ Barch sold his property in Anderson County soon after purchasing it.⁷ He bought 160 acres in Parker County for \$150 from Thomas Riley on 2 February 1858, probably after Texana was born.



Texas Counties, showing Dallas, Anderson, Parker, Collin, and Henderson Counties. *Texas Association of Counties.*

Texana joined an older sister Mary Jane, born in 1846 in Illinois; two brothers born in 1850 and 1852 perhaps in Dallas County; and her sister Charles Elizabeth born in 1855. Texana and her siblings welcomed a baby brother, George Washington Cantrell, 15 April 1859 in Parker County. Their mother, Nancy, died nine days later, most likely from complications from childbirth. Barch and the children buried her in Veal Station Cemetery, Parker County, Texas. She was 39 years old.

Nancy’s death left Texana and her siblings in the sole care of their widowed father on the eve of the American Civil War. Mary Jane was 14, Tillman 10, William 8, Elizabeth about six years old, Texana was somewhere between three and four, and George Washington a baby. Where and with whom Texana and the other children lived after their mother died is not known. If Barch, then in his mid-forties, chose to raise his children alone, he likely left the brunt of the housekeeping and child rearing to Mary Jane, Texana’s eldest sister.

4. Peters Colony Contract, volume 2, Texas Land Abstracts: grantee Baurch Cantrell, certificate #443, patentee James Thomas, patent date 5 July 1854, 557 acres, Dallas County; grantee Baurch Cantrell, certificate #443, patentee Abraham Hart, 5 July 1854, 83 acres; Colony Certificate No. 433, volume 2, filed 20 April 1850; *Dallas Quarterly*, volume 33, #2, June 1987, *Portal to Texas History*; and *Dallas Quarterly*, volume 33, #3, September 1987, *Portal to Texas History*.

5. Baurch Cantrell purchased land August 26, 1854 from John R. Payne. Anderson County Texas Land Sales, Book “E,” page 364.

6. Brothers Elisha Cantrell and Hazel Green Cantrell and nephews James Elisha and John Calvin “Jack,” sons of Stephen, and William C., son of Elisha Cantrell. Marion Day Mullins, complier, Republic of Texas: Poll List for 1846. Genealogical Publishing Company Inc., 1974, page 26.

7. Anderson County Texas Land Sales, Book “E,” page 537.

Barch may have sold his land in outlaw-plagued Parker County during the Civil War to relocate to the relative safety of central Texas. However, since the Parker County Courthouse burned in 1873, many of its records were lost. Therefore, no record of a property transaction has been found. They may have moved to Collin County where, in 1866, Texana's eldest sister married James Blackburn, a former Confederate soldier.

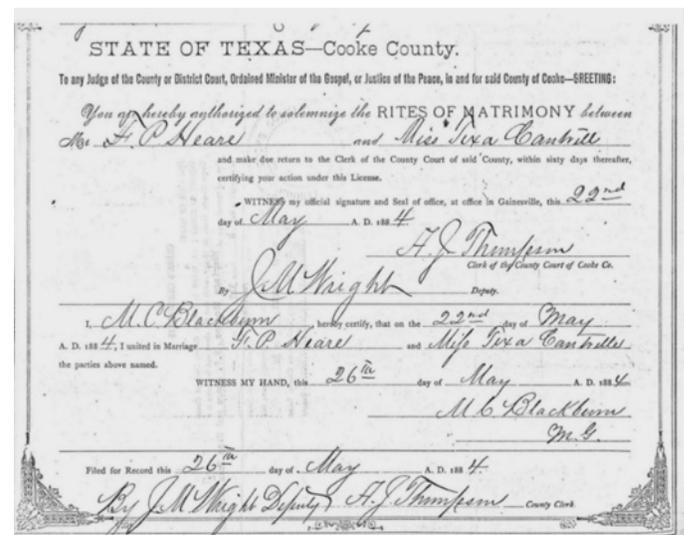
By 1870 Barch, along with Texana and her brother William, lived in Henderson County in East Texas. He traded a piece of unspecified land for a hundred-acre parcel 8 February 1870. He sold that parcel five months later for \$200.⁸ Barch neglected to pay taxes in Henderson County; taxes based on the value of animals and acreage and allotted to the state, county, roads and bridges, and schools. Most men paid the minimum of no more than 25 cents a year in taxes—apparently Barch paid nothing.

Somehow, Texana and her family avoided the United States censuses in 1850, 1860, and 1880. To conduct the censuses, U.S. Marshalls or their assistants were ordered to visit each household to record the name, age, and place of birth of each member of the household as well as other information. If the family was not home, the officials were to return three times and then ask the neighbors for information. In the 1870 Henderson County census, the only census in which Barch, William, and Texana Cantrell were enumerated, they were listed on the bottom of the very last page—perhaps indicating the census taker had spoken to a neighbor and added the family after exhausting unanswered visits to the Cantrells. Texana was recorded as nine years old, suggesting she was born in 1861. In the same census, her brother, William was recorded as 17 when he likely was 21 years old.⁹ The 1870 census also recorded Texana's other siblings: Elizabeth, age 14, lived with her sister Mary Jane and her husband James Blackburn and their children in Dallas County; and her brother Tillman worked as a farm laborer in Plano, Collins County, Texas.¹⁰

Texana lost her father (Barch) in 1880. He died at age 63, close to his original land grant and near people to

whom he was related by history and kinship. It is believed he was buried in the Plano Cemetery, a graveyard originally part of a Peters Colony land grant and adjacent to the Methodist Church. On 30 April 1880, the church was destroyed by a tornado which may explain why no record of Barch's burial survives. He also apparently left no property.

During his years spent in Texas, Barch left just four land transaction records, one census record, and paid taxes twice in Dallas County. Maybe he moved his family too often; from Dallas County southeast to Anderson County, to Parker County west of Dallas, followed by a probable move to Collin County to Henderson County and back to Collin County where he died, apparently never improving his economic condition. His patch of ground in Henderson County was valued at \$250 in 1870 while the land of a Peter Colonist who stayed in Plano was valued at \$10,000. His four eldest children were illiterate as was he. Only Texana and her younger brother George learned to read and write.



Marriage record for F. P. Heare and Texa Cantrell, 1884. Photocopy from Cooke County, Texas, volume 4, page 312, held by the author, 1976.

8. "Henderson, Texas, United States Records," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-1W9V-6:3September2020>), image 105 of 941; Texas. County Court (Henderson County), Deeds, Book P, page 192 and 193.

9. 1870 U.S. census, Henderson County, Texas, population schedule, Athens Precinct, page 14, dwelling 91, family 91, Texana and William in the household of Barch Cantrell; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6DQS-HYQ?i=13&cc=1438024&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMXLB-131> : accessed 4 October 2021)..

10. 1870 U.S. census, Dallas County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 4, page 173, Elizabeth Cantrell in the household of James Blackburn; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QN7-1Y4?i=60&cc=1438024&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMXG5-X3L> : accessed 4 October 2022).

With the death of her father, Texana may have become dependent on the charity of her family. She had an uncle who had lived near them in Parker County. In 1881 he got in a gun fight with a neighbor resulting in his death and the death of his eldest son, and the wounding of a younger son who died months later. Her sister Charles Elizabeth lived in Plano and had four children while her oldest sister Mary Jane had six children in Cooke County; her brother Tillman was 29 and herded cattle in Stephens County; William was 27 and married with three stepdaughters and a daughter of his own in Dallas County. Her youngest brother, George Washington, may have spent his childhood in Parker County as he lived his entire adult life there. Perhaps Texana stayed in Plano with Elizabeth or took the train to Gainesville, Cooke County, to visit her oldest sister and happened to meet the man she would marry.

Texana, who now called herself Texa and was approaching 30 years of age, married Franklin Pierce Heare in Cooke County, Texas, on 22 May 1884. Franklin Pierce (Frank or F. P.), was a 30-year-old importer and breeder of Norman horses. He had a farm six miles south of Gainesville. Frank would have been quite a catch for Texana, who would have been considered an old maid “on the shelf,” with little hope of marrying.

Frank and Texana settled on their 100 acres south of Gainesville. The farm was valued at \$400 in 1886 and doubled in value six years later according to Cooke County Tax Assessments. In 1885 F. P. Heare paid \$3.64 in state, county, and poll taxes for one wagon valued at \$40 and five horses assessed at \$200. The next year he had eight horses and two cows and a wagon valued at half the value as before at \$20. In 1897 he had four horses assessed at \$60, a \$10 cow, and a mule worth \$50, but the old wagon had decreased to \$10.

Their first child was a daughter they named Bonnie Nell, (my grandmother), born on 3 March 1885, followed by a son Isaac Wesley, born 24 August 1886. Another daughter was born 31 October 1889 and named Texana after her mother. Months later the elder Texana (my great-grandmother) was ill. Bonnie, who was nearly five years old, remembered her mother lying in a high bed covered with quilts because she was so cold.

Texana Cantrell Heare passed away 7 February 1890 and was buried in Spring Creek Cemetery. She, like her mother

Nancy, died leaving young children. Her obituary omits mention of the younger Texana, her three-month old baby. “Mrs. Frank Heare, died at her home, six miles south of Gainesville, last Friday of pneumonia, superinduced by La Grippe. The deceased leaves a devoted husband and two small children.”¹¹

Researching Texana’s story has been hampered by a lack of documentation. She is only mentioned by name in three known documents: the 1870 Henderson County census as nine-year-old Texana; her 1884 marriage certificate as Texa, and in her youngest daughter’s delayed 1889 birth certificate as Texas Anna, age 30. Yet, she existed and gave birth to three children. My research has given me little clue into her childhood and her young adult years. Looking for ancestors in cemeteries, deeds, and church registers, and in the DNA of people sitting across the dinner table for people whose ancestral blood mingles with mine motivates me to continue.



Bonnie Nell Heare, Texana’s daughter and the author’s grandmother. Courtesy of the author.

11. *Gainesville Daily Hesperian*, Gainesville, Texas, Sunday 16 February 1890.

Charlena Ann (Rutan) Swearingen (1859–1922) of South Dakota

—Her Story

Lola Swearingen Weber

Oh, how I wish that I had known her. Charlena was the second of three children born to Sarah Swearingen and John Rutan. At this time, we don't know much about her father, but her mother's family line is well documented back to the 1600s. Charlena was born 31 March 1859, probably in Ohio or Iowa according to federal census records. By 1865 her mother Sarah had married George W. Arnel in Western Missouri. This leads us to believe that Charlena's father may have been a soldier in the Civil War and subsequently died. More research to be done.

The combined families also see her with three Arnel half siblings. The family lived in and then traveled from Iowa to Nebraska before arriving in Dakota Territory. Charlena, at age 16, entered into a common-law marriage with her mother's brother (her uncle) in 1875. Her spouse, Parker Swearingen, age 26 in 1875, had just been discharged from the U.S. Army in Montana and went to Yankton, Dakota

Territory. His sister and family lived in the area across the Missouri River from Niobrara, Nebraska. The evidence of their marriage only exists in Parker Swearingen's military pension papers. They had a "wedding photo" taken, probably in Yankton, Dakota Territory.



Parker J. Swearingen and Charlena Ann Rutan, 1875. Courtesy of the author.



*Charlena Ann Rutan.
Courtesy of the author.*

Eventually, she would be the mother of 11 known children with the last child dying at birth in 1900. She would live to see grasshoppers come in dark clouds and eat all the corn, oats, gardens, and any clothes hung on the line in 1876. The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad line would come to the Yankton area, as well as a diphtheria epidemic which wiped out entire families in 1879. Charlena's children attended a country school but none were listed in the Blizzard of '81. Then in 1888 the School Children's Blizzard hit, and many school children died trying to walk home.



Parker and Charlena's home near Scotland, Bon Homme County, South Dakota. Courtesy of the author.



The school in Nelles, Bon Homme County, South Dakota. Unidentified newspaper clipping, courtesy of the author.

Charlena's life as a wife and mother would have had many challenges in a farming community. A large black book entitled *The People's Home Library* that she had might have been her "how to" guide for raising children, fighting disease, applying first aid, maintaining livestock, gardening, cooking, and storing food.

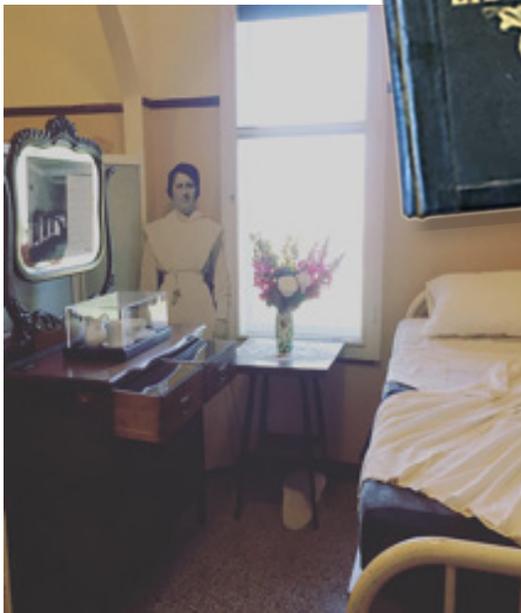


Image of typical state hospital room during Charlena's stay. Courtesy of Mead Cultural Education Center, Yankton, South Dakota, <https://www.meadbuilding.org/yankton-state-hospital-exhibit>.



Charlena Ann Rutan with her granddaughter Fern Reimer. Courtesy of the author.

Then her life changed drastically in October 1913, at age 54, when her husband delivered her to the Yankton Insane Hospital after she had been found "to be insane and a fit subject for custody and treatment."¹

Notes from her records indicate "since her admission here has been very quiet, pleasant and agreeable. Seems well oriented but memory not accurate. Has many delusions of which she speaks freely."



Postcard, "Administrations Building State Hospital Yankton, S. Dak. X2768." AsylumProjects.org

1. Bon Homme County, South Dakota, Court Records, Charlena Swearington, 1913; South Dakota Public Records, copies received circa 1989.



Charlena Ann Rutan. Courtesy of the author.

Occupations of the residents were many, and I don't know the specifics of the reason for Charlena's admission. Hospital records from December 1880 to December 1882 show a variety of grounds for admission: financial trouble, domestic trouble, convulsions in infancy, disappointment in life, exposure to heat, hereditary, injury to head, religious excitement, intemperance, jealousy, scarlatina, change of life, softening of the brain, menstrual derangement, over work, child bearing, epilepsy, masturbation, loss of friends, spinal disease, or no cause alleged.²



Burial Wreath. Courtesy of the author.

In 1915 she apparently answered the census taker's questions saying that her ancestry was German, that she had an eighth-grade education, married in 1875, had Methodist Church affiliation, and she could read and write.³ In 1916 her husband Parker died, and Bon Homme County petitioned for guardianship because of the property Charlena's husband owned prior to his death.⁴

Charlena would remain at the hospital for nine years until her death at age 63. All of her children were adults by the time that "Mrs. Swearingen ... one of the earlier settlers" died, and an obituary was published in South Dakota's *Scotland Journal*.⁵

She was buried beside her husband in the plot at the Rose Hill Cemetery at Scotland, Bon Homme County, South Dakota. The headstone reads "Swearingen" but there is no separate stone to mark her name. A burial wreath was given, possibly by her children.

What I know now leaves me with so many questions about Charlena. Oh, how I wish I had known her.



*Rose Hill Cemetery, Scotland, South Dakota.
Courtesy of the author.*

2. *American Spirit Magazine*, September/October 2009; "100-Year Survey of Patient Census," *The Humanist* v. 2: 4, April 1979, p 15.

3. 1915 South Dakota state census, Bon Homme County, Yankton, Uticaa townshp, card 1043, Charlena Swearingen; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-68LW-WHZ?i=463&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMMH5-GKC> : accessed 23 September 2022).

4. County of Bon Homme, South Dakota, County Court, "Petition for Letters of Guardianship," 15 March 1917, Charlena Swearington.

5. "Deaths," *Scotland Journal* (Bon Homme County, South Dakota) 14 September 1922, vol xxvi, no. 48, page 3, "to this union 12 children were born."

The Tragedy of the Dash

Darrell D. Gulstrom

You may have heard people say that on a headstone you have the date of birth, and you have the date of death, with a dash in between. Our research should focus on the dash. We know that if you have a death date, there was a tragedy. Whether the death was natural or accidental, it is a tragedy just the same. This I call the “Tragedy of the Dash.”

We often discover tragedies that cause the death of loved ones. I will concentrate on two of my favorite relatives, my grandmother Bernice Augustus Robison (1898–1971) and her twin sister, Beunice Pearl Robison (1898–1981). When these two were born, their father, Price Robison (1858–1937), told the local paper, “A bed full of babies is not something to dream of. But, at our house it is a reality!” These two ladies both dealt with tragedies in their lives.

I will start with my great-aunt and her first husband, Harry Clyde Lillie. He was born on 4 April 1892 in Missouri. He died on 9 July 1920 in Arago, Coos County, Oregon. And this is where the tragedy began.

Harry had a younger brother named Albert E. Lillie (1890–1954). Albert had come over to go deer hunting with Harry ... mind you this was outside hunting season. Harry’s 160 acres was plenty of property to hunt on. The story goes that Harry had found some deer antlers in the bushes and started rattling them together. Albert thought it was a deer and raised his rifle and shot. Unfortunately, the bullet met its mark and Harry died instantly.

And did I tell you that my great-aunt at the time was eight months pregnant with their first child? When she found out about the death of her husband, my great-grandfather said that his daughter was under great distress, which would be an understatement.

During the following week, a grand jury was called to investigate the incident. During the investigation, Albert indicated that he had considered suicide because of the remorse he felt. In the end, the jury decided it was an accidental shooting and no charges would be brought against Albert.

Now, here is the interesting twist to this story. Harry had a double indemnity insurance policy. Aunt Beunice received \$10,000 from the insurance company. Three years later Albert married Beunice and they had three children together. I just report the story; I don’t try to understand it.

Now on to my grandmother Bernice. She married my grandfather, Albert L. Gulstrom (1887–1945) on 17 March 1920. My grandfather was born on 26 December 1887 in



My grandmother Bernice Robison and her twin sister Beunice. My grandmother holding her finger up indicating she was born first. Grandma and her twin sister later in years. These two would always show up at events wearing identical outfits. Courtesy of the author.

Tillamook, Tillamook County, Oregon. His parents Olof (1854–1931) and Anna (1854–1924) came from Sweden in early March 1887. Albert was born nine months later in late December 1887. I’m convinced he was conceived on the boat on the way over. Just saying.

My great-grandfather owned a dairy farm just south of the current cheese factory in Tillamook County. In 1915, my grandfather moved to Langlois in Curry County, Oregon, to work at the Dairyville cheese factory. A couple of years later he moved to Arago and was the manager of the Arago Cheese Factory. Both my dad and uncle were born in Arago. In 1934, my grandparents bought a dairy just outside Arago.

Fast forward to 17 April 1945. My grandfather decided to go shoot a hawk that had been taking chickens. He grabbed his shotgun and was crossing a fence when the gun slipped out of his hand, allowing the butt of the gun to hit the ground. When it did, the gun went off, hitting him in the neck, killing him instantly. Grandma happened to be watching out the kitchen window. She ran out to help him, but he was already dead. Because they did not have a phone, she had to run a quarter mile to the neighbors to get help.

My dad was fourteen at the time. I know this was a personal tragedy in his life.

Editor’s Note: You can read more about Albert Leonard Gulstrom in the June 2019 issue of *The Bulletin*.

Christopher Maes (1831–1895) of Sülml, Prussia, and Ellsworth County, Kansas

Antoinette Maes Krummenacker

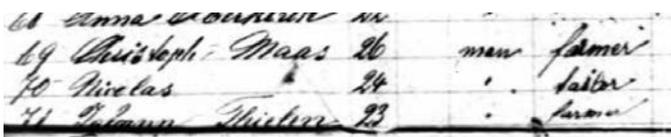
Christopher Maes (Mees) was born on 27 June 1831 in Sülml, Rhine Province, Prussia, to Joannis Mees and Anna Maria Borscheidt. He died on 27 January 1895 in Holyrood, Ellsworth County, Kansas, of unspecified causes. He married first Magdalena Breier in 1866 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. After her death, he married Anna Marie Schreiber on 23 October 1881 in Ellinwood, Barton County, Kansas.

PRUSSIA

Sülml, now in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, is roughly six miles southeast of Bitburg, in the area previously called Rhenish Prussia. Two German records tie Christopher to Sülml. There is a discharge paper from the Prussian army, signed in Bitburg on 27 April 1853, that explains that Christopher did not have to report to duty anymore. The translation reads:

Kingdom of Prussia, Governmental District Trier, Province Niederrhein, Kreis Bitburg ... Mees, Christopher 22 years old and in Sülml born is medically discharged (unfit to serve) due to a condition [abbreviated as "M. M." perhaps something muscular, and then something about his arm.]¹

A Heiratsregister, or marriage register, shows that Christopher Maes had a sister named Mariam, later called Mary. She wed Bernard Lauterbach in November 1855 at Sülml. The marriage document names Mariam's parents as Joannis Mees and Anna Maria Borscheidt. Mary and Bernard Lauterbach moved to the United States in April of 1857 and always lived near Christopher and his family.



Entry for Christoph Maes on the passenger list for David Hoadly, arriving in New York on 18 November 1857.



Magdalena Breier and Christopher Maes.
Courtesy of the author.

ILLINOIS

Christopher Maes arrived in the United States on 18 November 1857, sailing out of the port of Antwerp, Belgium, on the ship *David Hoadly*.

He was 26 years old when he arrived in the port of New York. He settled in the Chicago area near his sister Mary and her husband Ben Lauterbach. On 13 August 1862, at age 31, Christopher joined the Union Army in Sublette, Lee County, Illinois. He mustered in on 2 September 1862 as a private and was on the rolls of E Company, 75th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, under the command of Captain William Frost from 2 September to 31 October 1862.

The 75th Illinois was to become part of the Army of the Ohio under General Don Carlos Buell. They were engaged in battle on 8 October 1862 near Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky. This major battle helped save Kentucky from becoming part of the Confederacy. The Confederate Army was greatly outnumbered and eventually retreated. The 75th Illinois, in the thick of the battle, took heavy losses and had many wounded. The battlefield is still there, with a museum and monuments. There is a large monument to the Confederate soldiers that fought there, but none to the Union soldiers.

Christopher Maes was wounded on 8 October 1862 in the battle at Perryville, which is also known as the "Battle at Chaplin Hills" in Kentucky. He was

...wounded in the left leg below and near the knee. The bullet passed through the leg at the junc-

1. Translation provided by Mrs. Louis Zink (Bushton, Rice County, Kansas) from a lightly printed, hard-to-read photocopy. Louis Zink was the son of Margaret Maes and Anton Zink; Margaret Maes was a daughter of Christopher Maes from his second marriage to Anna Schreiber.

tion of the upper and middle posterior tibial region, injuring the posterior tibial nerve, impairing the sensation, motion and nutrition of the limb, so as to render it almost useless.

Signed by Dr. Phillips, military records.

A musket ball below the knee near the joint caused the injury. Descriptions of Civil War weaponry show that the musket was a powerful rifle, and balls usually shattered the bone when they hit a leg or an arm. That led to many limbs being amputated. Surgeons had no choice, because the bones were literally destroyed, and the arm or leg just dangled and, therefore, had to be removed. Christopher Maes did not lose his leg. He was hospitalized at New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana, and was absent from E Company until 12 March 1863. He was in a hospital for approximately five months. Christopher then returned to his regiment but still suffered from the gunshot wound. He was discharged from the Union Army at age 32 on either 30 April 1863 or 2 May 1863 at Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee, by order of General Rosecrans.

Military records describe Christopher Maes as five feet four and a half inches tall, with a light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He applied for a Civil War pension on 25 January 1876 at the age of 41 while residing in Chicago, working as a lumberman, and living at W 69 Henry Street. The pension application gives much information about Christopher, including his birth date of 27 June 1831. He became a naturalized citizen on 1 November 1876.

While in Chicago, Christopher married Magdalena Breier, a widow, who had a child named Hubert Kramer from a previous marriage. No records of this marriage have been found. According to cemetery records, Hubert Kramer is buried at the Old Cain City Cemetery in Rice County, Kansas. Christopher Maes and Magdalena Breier had five children, all born in Chicago:

- i. Mathias, born 19 January 1867, died 6 May 1960.
- ii. Bernard, born 16 May 1869, died 14 March 1943.
- iii. Christopher, born 17 September 1872, died 25 March 1938.
- iv. Catherine, born 29 January 1877, died 6 December 1952.
- v. Leonard, born 28 September 1878, died 2 March 1952.



Christopher Maes' land grant. Copyrighted materials from HistoryGeo.com and reprinted with permission from Arphax Publishing Co.

KANSAS

In 1879 Christopher and Magdalena moved to Kansas with their five children. They settled on a farm in Ellsworth County, one-half mile north and one-half mile west of Bushton, Rice County, Kansas. This homestead became known as the “Maes Farm.”

Magdalena died on 7 August 1880, leaving Christopher with their five children. Family stories relate that his sister Mary Maes Lauterbach and her husband Ben Lauterbach lived near the Maes Farm and helped take care of the children. Magdalena is buried in Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, near Ellinwood. It was a very cold and windy day when the author visited Magdalena’s grave, and there was nothing around except farms and a few cows. A rubbing of Magdalena’s tombstone was attempted, but the wind was so cold, the author finally just copied it in long hand:

Hier ruhet im Frieden Magdalena Breier, Frau von Christopher Maes, Gestorben den 8. August 1880, alt 38 Jahr, gott gibt ihr die ewige ruh.

[Here rests in peace Magdalena Breier, wife of Christopher Maes, died August 8, 1880, 38 years old, May God give her eternal rest.]

On 23 October 1881, at the age of 50, Christopher Maes married Anna Marie Schreiber, of Hoisington, Barton County, Kansas. Anna Marie was the daughter of Marie Anna and Joseph Schreiber. Anna Marie was born on 10 February 1849 and died on 5 November 1928. Her father, Joseph, had a farm northwest of Hoisington. The Schreiber family (four girls and one boy) had immigrated to Kansas in 1880 from Caltenhautsch, Mähren. Family

oral history tells that this was in Austria, and another account has the spelling as Marien. The author was told by a distant German relative on her mother's side of the family that it is spelled Mähren and was in what is now Czech Republic. Perhaps this was the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of their immigration. One may need an old map of that area with the names in German rather than Czech to find this location.

The marriage record at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ellinwood states that Christopher Maes was from Suelm (Sülm) and that his father's name was Joannis. It also states that the witnesses for this marriage were Peter Klein and Gertrude Klein. Anna Marie and Christopher made their home at the Maes Farm. They had three children:

- i. Casper Maes, born 20 August 1882, died on 18 January 1950.
- ii. Margaret Maes, born 12 June 1884, died 7 June 1928.
- iii. Anna Maes, born 11 July 1886, died 28 May 1958.

The pension records show that Christopher Maes lived in Ellsworth County, Kansas, in 1880. By 19 April 1890, at age 58, he resided in Cain City, Rice County, Kansas, and on 1 June 1892, at the age of 60, he lived near Holyrood, Ellsworth County, Kansas, where he received his pension at the rate of \$6.00 a month. His pension records show that he died on 27 January 1895 at the age of 64. Christopher's granddaughter Clara Maes Sturn, daughter of Casper Maes, told the author that he had been running after some cows on his farm, and he died from a heart attack, but his death certificate lists the cause of his death as pneumonia. When Christopher Maes

died, his children were the following ages: Mathias 28, Bernard 25, Christopher 23, Catherine 18, Leonard 17, Casper 13, Margarita "Margaret" 11, and Anna 9. Anna Schreiber Maes lived on the Maes farm until 1919 when she moved to Claflin, Barton County, Kansas, where she lived with her daughter Anna and her step-granddaughter Rose Maes (Clark). Her widow's pension records show that as of 4 March 1927 Anna Schreiber Maes received \$40.00 per month. Anna died on 5 November 1928 when she was 79 years old.

RESOURCES

Antoinette "Toni" Maes Kruppenacker, *History of the Maes Family As I Know It; Familypedia* ([https://familypedia.fandom.com/wiki/Christopher_Maes_\(1831-1895\)](https://familypedia.fandom.com/wiki/Christopher_Maes_(1831-1895))): accessed 14 October 2022), compiled from a composite of research in February 1996, revised 2009.

IMAGE SOURCES:

Excerpt from passenger list: "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/>): accessed 7 October 2022), entry for Christoph Maas; citing "Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897," Microfilm Publication M237, 675 rolls. NAI: 6256867, Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Record Group 36, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Map of Christopher Maes' land grant: Copyrighted materials from *HistoryGeo.com* were used with permission from Arphax Publishing Co., 11450 U.S. Hwy. 380, Ste. 130-296, Cross Roads, Texas, 76227; accessed through GFO MemberSpace.



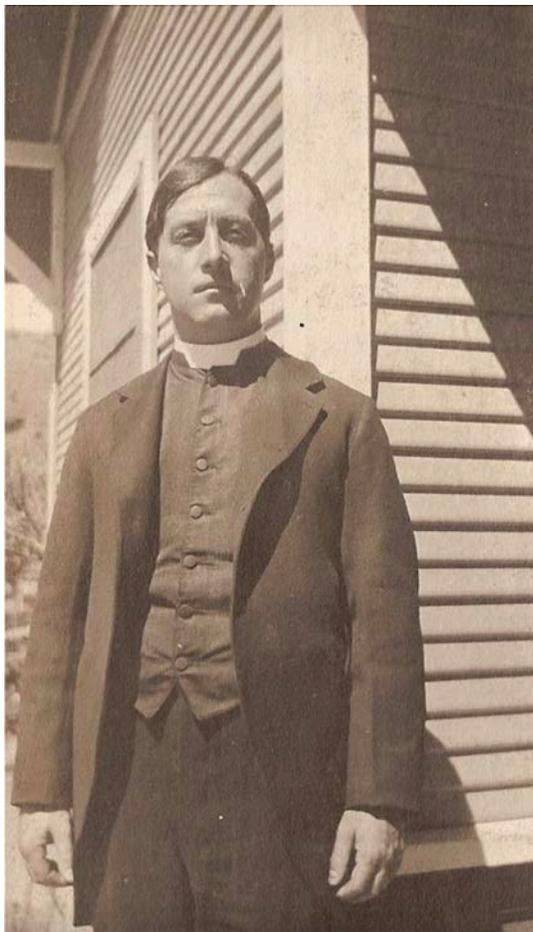
A Forbearance of Brewsters:

A Tenth-Generation Mayflower Descendant Hopes She Got a Sunnier Temperament From Her Mother's Side

Murr Brewster

Reprinted with permission from Murr Brewster's blog, Murrmurrs (<https://www.murrbrewster.com/uncategorized/forbearance-of-brewsters/> : August 2011).

When Elder William Brewster herded his flock into the bowels of the *Mayflower* to come to America, he was a man of vision. Nowhere was his vision more in evidence than when he looked into the possibility of a world filled with Brewsters and concluded there was no reason to rush into things.



Grandfather Brewster. Courtesy of the author.



Great-Grandfather Brewster. Courtesy of the author.

My ancestors have been deliberate to the point of sludginess when it comes to passing on the family genes. Only ten generations separate me from the *Mayflower*. Brewsters have been parceled out on an average of once every forty or fifty years, or only as often as necessary. Decades go by, and then someone finally points out that there should be someone to hand down the pewter tea set to; and if that didn't sway, the suggestion is made that without a renewal of Brewster blood, the world will edge into a soul-corrupting sunniness. "All right," the elder says. "Just this once."

They approached child production with the same gusto with which I respond to the frequent pleading emails from the Democratic Party. I know I must deliver; I give them what I have to and not a dime more, and there's no joy in it.

My forepilgrims were a dour, gloomy and sober bunch, much afflicted with piety. The entire prospect of renewing the family line filled them with humiliation and distaste. One imagines that the Elder William Brewster would have been relieved to hand the job over to a solitary sperm with a winch and a work ethic. As it is, he and his progeny through the years managed to eke out a knob on the skinny family tree two or three times a century. One doesn't sense enthusiasm.

He himself got the whole ball rolling with a starter set of five children of his own, each one representing a single horrifying episode of fleeting desire. Only because he sacrificed his body to produce the five originals do we have Brewsters to this day. Fewer lines and the venture would surely have fizzled out. He named his children Patience, Love, Jonathan, Fear, and Wrestling. I am, of course, a child of Love.

"Wrestling" was, according to my father, short for "Wrestling With God," a losing proposition if I ever heard one. Talk about setting a kid up for failure. I'd like to think that if I had had children, I would have chosen less daunting monikers.

It's a reproductive rate barely adequate to maintain a line in the phone book up till now, and then I slammed the lid on the whole undertaking. It's a shame, too. I would have enjoyed meeting my children, Sloth, Elasticity, Flatulence, Torpor, and Twiddling. Twiddling would have been such a well-adjusted child.



Father Brewster, clearly thrilled. Courtesy of the author.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

To inspire genealogical writing, the GFO Special Interest Group, [Writers' Forum](#), has used the technique of a writing prompt. The Bulletin Editorial Group would like to do just that and invite you to submit a "Genealogy & Family History of One of Your Grandparents or Great-Grandparents."

If we are lucky enough, we may get to speak directly with our grandparents or our great-grandparents. But even if we never got the chance to meet them, we can discover so much about them through our genealogical research.

Everyone has a story. Please consider sharing one of theirs and send articles and images to bulletin@gfo.org.

The Bulletin welcomes articles from GFO members and non-members alike. We should add that multiple formats are acceptable, we welcome suggestions for articles, and editorial assistance is available.

The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Mary Brawand (1866–1940) of the Muscatine (Iowa) Brewery

Mark Grafe

My great-grandmother, Mary Brawand, was raised in a brewery managed by her mother, the widow of Peter Brawand and Joseph Eigermann. Mary's daughter commented that Mary was a strong woman who single-handedly raised four good children.¹ This article shares images from Mary's childhood and links to original probate documents acquired from the Muscatine Genealogical Society. The Iowa probate documents are viewable online through the [Genealogical Forum of Oregon library catalog](#); enter the search term "Brawand."

Mary A. Brawand, the daughter of Maria Louise (Kirchhofer) and Peter Brawand, born 1 December 1866, died 10 July 1940 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa.² She married William Henry Grafe, in Muscatine, on 6 November 1885.³

Mary's mother emigrated from Switzerland in 1862.⁴ Mary's paternal ancestry came from Grindelwald, Bern, Switzerland.⁵ Her parents probably spoke German; think of them as English language learners when viewing the probate documents.

At Mary's birth, her father owned a farm in the rolling hills of Keokuk County, Iowa; that location is still farmland, accessible by driving up wide gravel roads. Mary's mother was the second wife of Peter Brawand. Mary had three older half-siblings (Peter, Ana, and John from Peter's marriage to Anna Bohren) born in 1858, 1859, and



Mary Brawand. Courtesy of the author.

1861. A couple of weeks after Mary's first birthday, on 16 December 1867, her father died of typhoid fever.⁶ In 1868, Mary's brother, (another) Peter, was born.

Mary Brawand was born just after America's Civil War. Her Uncle Hans "John" Brawand served with Union troops and later had children born in California after 1867. Mary did not know Uncle John or those cousins.

Peter Boss, the husband of Mary's Aunt Elizabeth Brawand, signed the probate records. Their children, cousins to Mary, lived about 70 miles east of Muscatine near Sigourney, Keokuk County. Mary would have grown up close to this family if her father had lived. Mary did not have any known cousins on her maternal side.

Mary's life might have been very different had she grown up in a small farm community in Keokuk County. Probate documents give a precise location for the 152-acre farm about ninety miles west of Muscatine. The long list

1. Helen Grafe spoke with her husband's "Aunt Gen" and "Aunt Bernice," saved Grafe family artifacts, and was interviewed by the author prior to her death in 2010. Mary had help from her mother, Maria Lang.

2. Muscatine County, Iowa, probate file 154; List of Heirs, 16 December 1867. Also, "Mrs. Mary Grafe, Lifelong County Resident, Dies," newspaper clipping, *The Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 10 July 1940, page 1. Probate documents correctly identify Mary's father as Peter, whose brother John was named as her father in the obituary. Also, *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119579530/mary-grafe>; accessed 19 September 2022), Mary A. Grafe (1866–1940), memorial 119579530, Muscatine County, Iowa, Muscatine, Greenwood Cemetery; gravestone image by Mark Grafe, 2014.

3. Muscatine County, Iowa, Marriage Record Book D, page 401, Grafe-Brawand marriage, 3 November, 1885.

4. "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (Including Castle Garden and Ellis Island) 1820-1957," Maria Kirchhofer, 27, Swiss female, departed LeHavre, France, on the *Trumbull*, arrived in New York on 9 June 1862; digital image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYM237_220-0044?; accessed 18 September 2022).

5. Nicky Cunningham, Nicky's Roots, "Public Member Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/55966/family?cfpid=25577610528&selnode=1>; accessed 3 January 2020).

6. Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, Muscatine, Iowa, negative image, 28 November 1911, Paul Grafe; held by the Grafe family.

of property left for the family helped visualize the farm: horses, cows, hogs, a wagon, a set of double harnesses, single- and double-shovel plow, fork, hoe, shovel, spade, cultivator, hay ladder, axe, household and kitchen furniture, beds and bedding, and weaving apparel. The estate also included a saddle and bridle, a set of fry nets, a skiff, a bobsled, and an old plow. But Peter Brawand died, and her mother, Maria, sold the farm. Her mother was not part of the Grindelwald immigrant community in Keokuk County, and she quickly moved the family to downtown Muscatine with a growing population of around 20,000.

The Grafe family inherited an old black and white picture of a young lady, Mary Brawand, who sat in front of a piano. The camera was on her right side; the piano was a studio prop. The wall or curtain in the background drew attention to the child. She stared at a large white book open on top of the piano. Her long hair was pulled into a braid with curls at the end and fell onto her back. An earring was in Mary's visible ear. Her complexion was clear, and her small hands lay on the keys as she posed for the camera. She was not playing. Her long dress appears to be a light color with white stripes down the back and white trim around the lower section. There was possibly a white collar and decorative front. Her belt gathered the bulky material around her waist as the costume hid the stool or bench on which she sat. She may have been wearing boots. The piano was almost as narrow as the open book and had many ornamental carvings, including a dragon followed by clouds. A bearded head supported the keyboard; the support curved down to a ball that led to carved flowers and leaves. The prop sat unevenly on the floor. On the side, there may have been four small drawers. The photograph is unique among photos of my ancestors due to the set prop and her acting, but I wonder how many little girls posed just like Mary.

In 1869, Mary's mother, "Mrs. M. Browant widow," resided on Iowa Street between Front and Second.⁷ The following year, Mary and her brother Peter lived with their mother Maria and her second husband at the brewery at 7th and Mulberry.⁸ Maria wed three times in Iowa. On 26 May 1870, after the 1867 death of 33-year-old Peter



Mary Brawand poses at a piano. Courtesy of the author.

Brawand, Maria married Joseph Eigerman (various spellings) in Muscatine; Mary would have been three years old. Eigerman owned the Muscatine Brewery, of which Maria was the proprietor after he died at age 45 in 1872.⁹ Joseph and Maria had one child, Henry Eigerman, a half-brother about five years younger than Mary. She probably helped care for infant Henry.

Mary's mother had a short write-up in the local history book when Mary was thirteen years old. Two lines identify household members and hint at social activities: "Mrs. Eigenmann's children are Mary, Peter, and Henry. Mrs. Eigenmann is an estimable lady, is very social, abounding in hospitality, and is a thorough business manager."¹⁰

7. *Hollands Muscatine City Directory 1869*, page 44, entry for "Browant, Mrs M. (wid) res w s Iowa ave bet. Front and 2d."; *Musser Public Library* (<http://musserpl.newspaperarchive.com> : accessed 2013).

8. 1870 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine, Ward 2, dwelling 279, family 272, Mary Eigerman in the household of Joseph Eigerman; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6319-BQS?i=47&cc=1438024&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMDVG-G58> : accessed 26 January 2022).

9. "Died," Joseph Eigermann, *Muscatine Evening Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), (day unknown) December 1872, page 4. "In this city, at 1 o'clock p.m. Dec 19th, 1872, Joseph Eigermann, aged 45 years. Funeral at 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow, from his late residence, corner of 7th and Mulberry streets. All friends of the family are invited."

10. *The History of Muscatine County, Iowa, Containing a History of the County, Its Cities, Town, etc.* (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879), page 602; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyofmuscati00west> : accessed 19 September 2022).

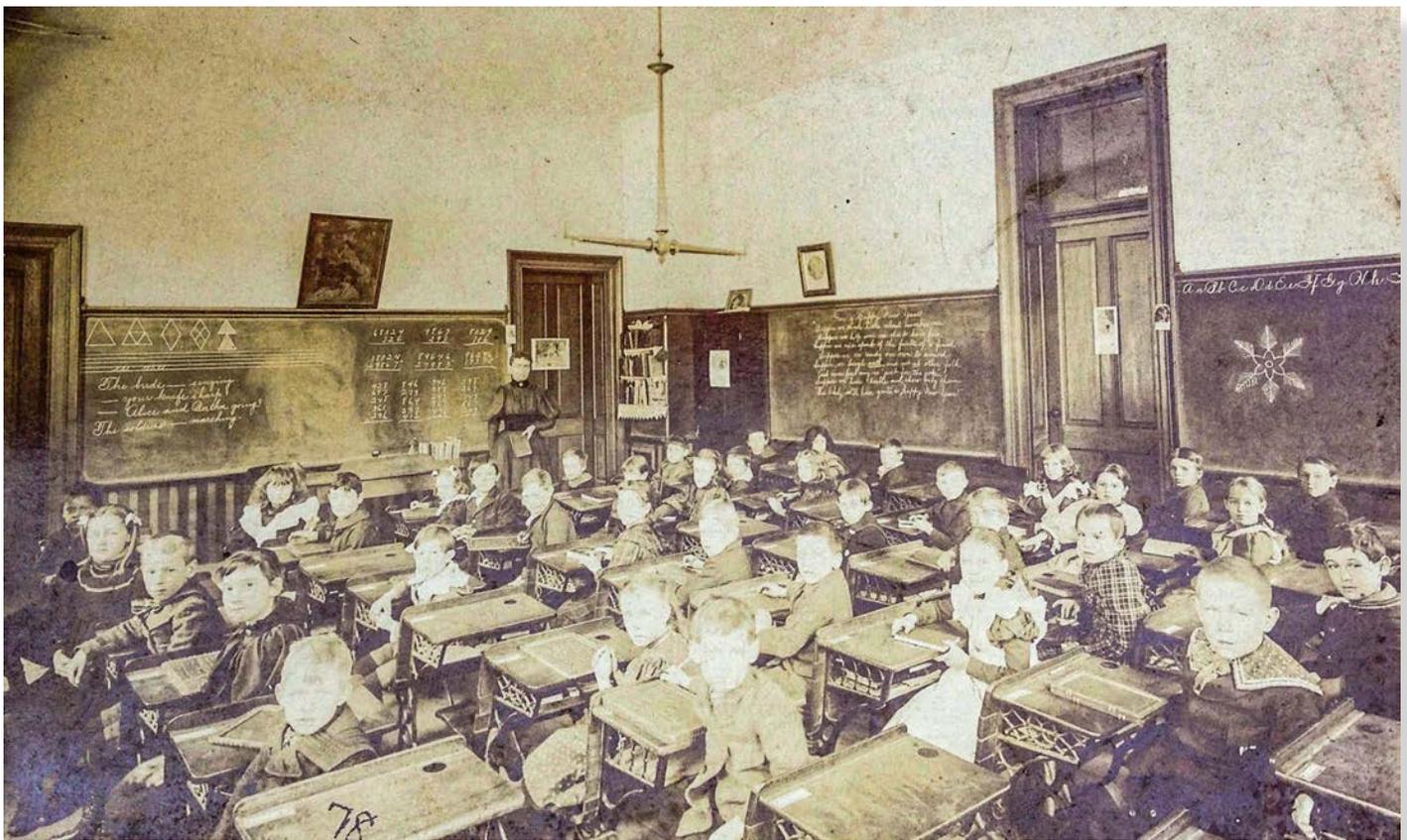
Probate files related to Mary Brawand begin with her mother's petition to be appointed administratrix for her father's estate. Files include bonds, a list of heirs, appraisal reports, and objections. The court later appointed Mary's mother to be administratrix for the estate of Henry Eigerman, who was Mary's stepfather for two years. Legal challenges required that Mary and her brother Peter have court-appointed guardians. The will for her grandfather, Jacob Brawand, is included in the probate files.

Jacob, Mary's paternal grandfather, died on 12 October 1870 when she was not yet four years old;¹¹ he is the only grandparent Mary could have known. Jacob's will, signed with an "X," not only favored a grandson from Peter's first marriage but unfortunately named a neighbor, John Blauer, as administrator. Blauer married a relative of Jacob's wife, also from Grindelwald.¹² Finally, when Mary

was eleven, the probate files closed. She may have been too young to know about court dates, but her mother's confidence in business and legal knowledge set a good example.

Maria Brawand's court challenges began with a document penned by someone more familiar with legal English; her Swiss-German signature does not match the handwritten probate text. Mary learned to read and speak English at school. Twice, Mary brought school photos home that illustrate Muscatine's First Ward School. On the left chalkboard in the image below:

The birds _____ singing.
_____ you knife sharp.
_____ Alice and Bertha going?
The soldiers _____ marching.



First Ward School, Muscatine, Iowa, 1878. Courtesy of the author.

11. Louisa County, Iowa, Administrator & Guardians Letters-Bonds vol. 1, 1864–1876, page 197, "Letters Testamentary," "Jacob Brawand died on or about ... 12 October 1871 [sic]," documents signed in April 1871; FHL microfilm 2,070,968; DGS 7,598,224; *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 19 September 2022). Jacob died 12 October 1870.

12. 1870 U.S. census, Louisa County, Iowa, Grandview Township, page 7, dwelling 221, family 215, Jacob Brown [Brawand] in the household of Fred Blauer; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 September 2022).

The teacher stood in front of the class by a door. “Have a Happy New Year” is the title of the long poem on the center-right chalkboard, and on the far-right chalkboard is the beginning of the cursive alphabet above a snowflake. The class included around 35 students, some were called up front to do the math.

Mary Brawand probably attended First Ward School in Muscatine as Mary Eigerman or Eigenmann, then possibly as Mary Lang, for in 1881, when Mary was fourteen years

old, her mother married Charles Lang, a school teacher. The Muscatine Brewery hired both Charles Lang and the man Mary would wed.¹³ In 1885, the brewery employed several people and housed eight people, including the Lang family.¹⁴ Mary Brawand married at age eighteen in 1885.

Only a few photographs exist of Mary as a child, and eighteen is a sensible age to stop her story because the tenor of this article demands a happy ending.



“First Ward School, second year,” on the chalkboard. The teacher wrote some given names on the back chalkboard, but no one identified Mary Eigerman. Mina and Nellie Grafe may also be in this large class (45 students?) at 10:20 a.m. in 1875. Courtesy of the author.

MUSCATINE SCHOOLS AND SEGREGATION

In 1867, 12-year-old Susan Clark was refused entry to “Grammar School No. 2” in Muscatine, Iowa, because of her race. Her father, Alexander Clark, filed a lawsuit

and won. The Iowa Supreme Court affirmed the District Court’s decision.^a Do you see a child in either of the school photos able to attend due to the court’s ruling?

a. “Teaching with Primary Sources,” *State Historical Society of Iowa* (<https://iowaculture.gov/sites/default/files/history-education-pss-desegregation-alexclark-transcription.pdf> : accessed 18 October 2022); Bill Selig, Susan Kock Bridgford, and Hal Chase, *Outside-In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000* (State Historical Society of Iowa, 2001), 72–73.

13. *Charles I. Barker’s Muscatine City Directory: 1886–1887* (Iowa), entries for “Graff, Wm, clk Lang’s brewery, bds same”; and “Lang, Charles, propr Muscatine Brewery, 700 Mulberry res same, tel 23”: *Musser Public Library* (<http://musserpl.newspaperarchive.com> : accessed 2013).

14. 1885 Iowa State census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine, dwelling 148, family 199, Charles Lang family, a brewer and two laborers, 700 Mulberry, brewery; digital image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1084/images/IA1885_239-0869?usePUB=true&pId=6345940 : accessed 18 October 2022).

Transcription

Iowa Probate Papers for Maria, Administratrix: Including the Estate of Peter Brawand (1834–1867), and the Marriage Certificate of Joseph Eigerman & Maria Brawand, Part 1

Mark Grafe



Maria Lang.
Item held by the author.

INTRODUCTION

A chart from Otto P. Schinnerer's 1935 text, *Beginning German*, helped me decipher names and signatures in probate records from Muscatine County, Iowa. I sorted the documents by date (year.month.day) and assigned document and page numbers such as 1867.12.19d1p1. The original legal-size documents, folded when filed, often had a cover page sideways on the back of the first page. The cover page is usually shown first online. Twenty-three items, are viewable through the [Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library Catalog](#); for the search term, enter "Brawand."

My grandfather, Paul Frederick Grafe, was born in Muscatine, Iowa, as was his mother, Mary A. Brawand. Paul knew his maternal grandfather Peter Brawand died young of typhoid fever.¹ Paul lived with his maternal grandmother, **Maria**, for several years.

The court-assigned administratrix of Peter's estate was his widow Maria. Maria, whose maiden name was Kirchhofer, was sometimes called Mary. She remarried twice after Peter's death, and some probate records use the surnames Eigerman or Lang. Swiss-born Maria stepped up as administratrix and demonstrated self-confidence, some previous education, business skills, and some knowledge of the English language.

SUMMARIES AND TRANSCRIPTIONS

No. 154, Probate ... Estate of Peter Brewend

Documents from the estate of Peter Brawand begin with a pre-printed cover page for probate file 154 from the Muscatine, Iowa, Circuit Court in 1867. Henry Jayne was Maria Brawand's attorney, and clerks probably wrote "Closed" and "Fee Book A-29."

Highlight: These probate documents proved relationships. But, before acquiring these documents, Maria's husband was identified, by an obituary and my mother, as John Brawand. At first glance, the Cover Folder (above) showed Maria's husband's name as Pelū Brewind.

[1867.00.00CP]
No. 154 Probate
Term, 187_
Muscatine Circuit Court
Estate of
Peter Brewend
vs. Deceased
Docket Fee, \$
Filed, 187_
- Closed - Clerk.
Disposed of ___ Term,
A. D. 187_
Attorneys
Henry Jayne Plaintiff
for admx
Defendant.

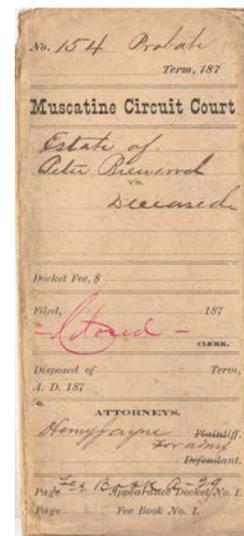
Fee Book A-29
Page---Appearance Docket No. 1
Page---Fee Book No. 1

Petition for Administration

Maria Brawand signed a two-page letter possibly written by Henry Jayne. The "Petition for Administration" states that her husband, Peter Brawand, died on or about 16 December 1867. Maria asked the court that she be appointed administratrix. H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the document.

Highlight: By 1867, for over 20 years, Iowa had allowed women to own property. By 1869, Iowa was known for being progressive in legal rights for women and minorities.

[1867.12.19d1p2]
Estate of Peter Beowont Decd.
Petition for
Administration
Filed Dec 19th
1867
H H Benson
Co Judge
Recorded Book P Page 521



1867.00.00CP

1. Paul F. Grafe insurance application, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, dated 28 November 1911, at Muscatine, Iowa; held by Mark Grafe. The application identifies Paul's mother and gives his grandparent's ages.

[1867.12.19d1p1]

State of Iowa Muscatine County }ss
 In the County Court of said County
 Estate of Peter Brawont Deceased
 Petition for Administration

Lone petitionee Mary Brawant represents to this court that her husband Peter Beowant departed this life intestate on or about the 16th day of Dec. 1867. That he has personal property in Said County which requires the care and attention of an Administrator.

Your petitione therefore asks that she may be appointed Administratrix of Said Estate by this court.

Maria Brawand

I Mary Brawant being first duly sworn on oath say that the matter and things set forth in the foregoing petition are true as I verily believe.

Maria Brawand



Subscribed and sworn in-by
 Mary Browont before me this 19th
 day of Dec 1867
 H H Benson Co Judge

Highlight: Happy to see Maria Brawand's German-written signature, but at first glance, I saw Marvin Laundro-

mat. See letters M, B, L, r, and a in Schinnerer's chart. Maria was in court three days after Peter died.

Administrator's Bond

Maria Brawand and her sister-in-law's husband, Peter Boss, posted a \$600.00 bond. Maria Brawand and Peter Boss signed the two-page "Administrator's Bond." H. H. Benson, County Judge, appointed Maria as administratrix; recorded on page 300 of Book O.

Highlight: Administratrix indicates Peter died intestate, without a will. If Peter wrote a will, Maria might have been Executrix and a bond would not have been mandated.

[1867.12.19d2p2]

ADMINISTRATORS BOND.

Given By
 Mary Browant
 Administrators of Estate of
 Petie Browant Decd
 Approved and Filed,
 Dec 19 1867
 H H Benson
 County Judge
 Recorded O
 300_p
 Paid 8 1

Old German Type and Handwriting

ROMAN TYPE	GERMAN TYPE	GERMAN SCRIPT	ROMAN TYPE	GERMAN TYPE	GERMAN SCRIPT
A a	ꝺ Ꝼ		N n	Ꝥ ꝥ	
B b	ꝼ Ᵹ		O o	ꝷ ꝸ	
C c	Ꝿ ꝿ		P p	Ꝼ ꝼ	
D d	ꝿ ꝺ		Q q	Ᵹ Ꝿ	
E e	ꝺ Ꝼ		R r	ꝿ ꝺ	
F f	ꝼ Ᵹ		S s	ꝿ ꝺ	
G g	Ꝿ ꝿ		T t	Ꝼ ꝼ	
H h	ꝼ Ᵹ		U u	Ꝼ ꝼ	
I i	ꝺ Ꝼ		V v	ꝼ Ᵹ	
J j	ꝺ Ꝼ		W w	ꝼ Ᵹ	
K k	ꝼ Ᵹ		X x	ꝼ Ᵹ	
L l	ꝼ Ᵹ		Y y	ꝼ Ᵹ	
M m	ꝼ Ᵹ		Z z	ꝼ Ᵹ	

Modified Vowels (Umlaute)

Ä ä Ǟ ǟ Ö ö Ȫ ȫ Ü ü Ȭ ȭ

Compound Consonants

ch ʧ ʤ ss ʃ ʒ tz ʦ ʧ
 sch ʃʧ ʒʒ ʃʒ ʒʃ
 ck ʧʧ ʒʒ ʃʒ ʒʃ

Distinguish carefully between ꝼ and Ᵹ, Ꝿ and ꝿ, Ꝼ and ꝼ, ꝼ and Ᵹ, ꝼ and Ᵹ, ꝼ and Ᵹ, ꝼ and Ᵹ.

The German capital form ꝺ stands for both I and J. When followed by a vowel it is read as J; when followed by a consonant, as I: der Jull, der Junge; die Jbee, die Insel.

The so-called final ꝺ is used only at the end of words or syllables.

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Adapted from Beginning German by Schinnerer, Otto P., 1935

[1867.12.19d2p1]

ADMINISTRATOR'S BOND

Estate of *Petie Brawont* Deceased.

Know all Men by these Presents: That *Mary Brawand* as principal and *Peter Loß* as sureties, all of the County of Muscatine in the State of Iowa, are held and firmly bound unto the County aforesaid, for the use of all persons herein concerned in the penal sum of *Six Hundred Dollars*, for the payment of which, well and truly made, we do jointly and severly bind ourselves, and our lawful representatives. Witness our hands this *18th* day of *December* A. D. 1867.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas the above named *Mary Browont*, is on this day appointed by the County Court of said County, sitting as a Court of Probate, Administratrix of the estate of *Peter Browont*, deceased late of said County, who died intestate on or about the *16th* day of *December* 1867 to administer all and singular *his* goods and chattels, monies, rights, and credits according to law.

Now if the aforesaid *Mary Browant* shall discharge all of the duties which are now or may be hereafter required of *her* by law, as such Administratrix, then these presents to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect of law.

Witness, our hands and seals the date above written.

Attest: *Maria Brawand* SEAL
Peter Boß SEAL

[J]udge SEAL
SEAL

[Missing text] and filed by me, this *19th* day of *December* A.D. 1867 [7 written over 8]

H H Benson

County Judge of Muscatine County, Iowa

State of Iowa, Muscatine County, SS:

I Mary Beowant, do solemnly swear that as administratrix of the above named estate *I* will to the best of *my* knowledge and ability, faithfully discharge and perform the several duties of *my* trust according to law and the conditions of the foregoing Bond.

Maria Brawand

Sworn and subscribed by the said *Mary Brawand* before me and in my presence this *19th* day of *December* A. D. 1867

H H Benson

COUNTY JUDGE.

Notice of Administration

The "Notice of Administration" stated *Maria Brawand* was the administratrix of *Peter Brawand's* estate. Those indebted to the estate were to pay her. Those with claims against the estate were to file in Muscatine County. *H. H. Benson's* signature appeared with the filing information.

Highlight: These documents suggest multiple ways of spelling *Brawand*: *Brewend*, *Brawont*, *Beowant*, *Brawant*, *Browant*, *Beowant*, *Browart*, *Browant*, *Beowat*, *Beownt*, and *Browurt*. Remembering this task helped me research other surnames.

[1867.12.19d3p2]

Estate of
Petie Browart

Decd

Proof of
Posting

Filed Aug 27
1868

HH Benson

Co Judge
Recorded Book P

Page 521

[1867.12.19d3p1]

Notice of Administration.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned was, on the *19th* day of *Dec* A. D., 1867, appointed administrator of the estate of *Petie Beowant*, deceased, late of Muscatine County, State of Iowa, by the County Court of Said County.

All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned in *Muscatine*

All persons holding claims against said estate are required to file them in the office of said Court.

Dated *Dec 19th* 1867.

Mary Brawant Administrator

Of the Estate of

Petie Beowart Deceased.

List of Heirs

The two-page "List of Heirs" in *Peter Brawand's* probate documents named *Mary [Maria] Brawand* as his widow, *John Brawand* as a six-year-old son, and *Mary* as a one-year-old daughter. Muscatine County Judge *H. H. Benson* and *Maria Brawand* signed the document.

Highlight: Six-year-old *John* was my first clue that *Peter* had a previous marriage.

[1867.12.19d4p2]

Estate of Petie Browant

Decd

List of Heirs

Filed Dec 19 1867

H H Benson

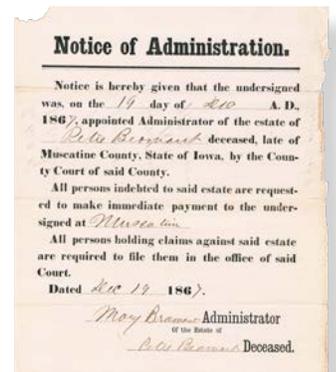
Co Judge

Recorded Page 26

[1867.12.19d4p1]

To the County Court of Muscatine County:

The undersigned, *Admx* of the Estate of *Petie Browant* deceased, would respectfully report to your Honor in compliance with Chapter 71, Acts of the 9th General Assembly of Iowa, as follows, to wit:



1867.12.19d3p1

Name of Decedent.	Name of Widow, and Heirs.	Ages.	Residence.
<i>Petie Browant</i>	<i>May Beowat</i>		<i>Muscatine</i>
	<i>John Beowart</i>	Son	6 yrs "
	<i>Mary</i>	D	1 year "

STATE OF IOWA,
MUSCATINE COUNTY }SS. I, *Mary Beownt* do solemnly swear that the foregoing is a true and correct list of the names, ages and residence of the heirs of the Estate of *Peter Browant* late of said County, deceased, required by order of the County Court of said County, pursuant to section 3, chapter 71, of the Acts of the 9th General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,
this '19 day of *Dec* A.D. 1867 }

Maria Brawand
H H Benson
Co Judge

Warrant of Appraisalment--Personal Estate

The two-page "Warrant of Appraisalment" appointed Peter Boss and James Clark to appraise Peter Brawand's property. H. H. Benson, County Judge, and Harvey Gregory, a Justice of the Peace, also signed this document. The court clerk wrote "Peter Boss" before Boss signed his name. The paper quotes Iowa law stating which assets are exempt from estate claims.

Highlight: At first, the surname Boss was hard to transcribe. When two people wrote that name on the same page, Boss became clearer.

[1867.12.21d5p2]

Estate of
Petie Beowant
Decd
Warrant of
Appraisalment
1867
HH Benson
Co Judge
Recorded Book P Page 522.

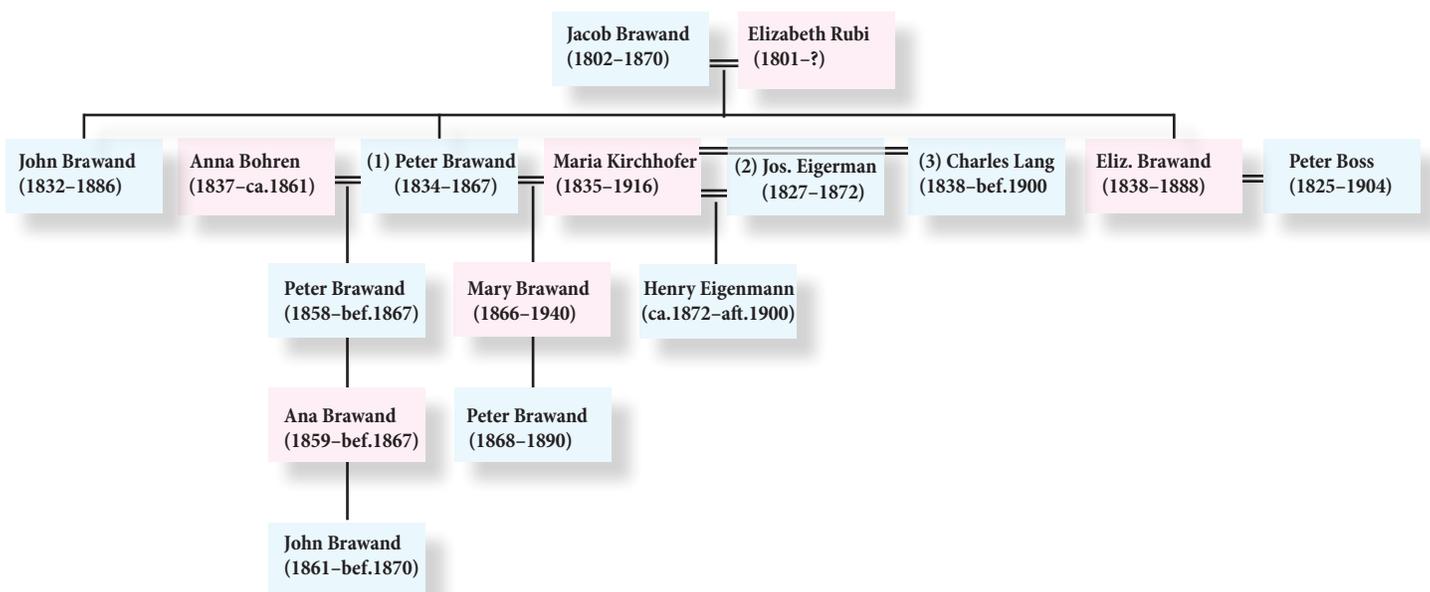
[1867.12.21d5p1]

WARRANT OF APPRAISEMENT-PERSONAL ESTATE
STATE OF IOWA
MUSCATINE COUNTY }
In the County Court of Said County
To *Petie Boß*
and *James Clark*

You are hereby appointed to appraise, after being duly sworn, all the personal property of *Petie Browant*, late of Said County, deceased, so far as the same shall come to your knowledge, except so much thereof as would by law be exempt to the head of a family, which last mentioned property is to be inventoried without appraisalment. For a list of which, see Schedule "A".

You will also make an allowance for the support of the widow and family of said decedent, in accordance with the law as contained in Schedule "B".

Selected Children, Husbands (3), and In-laws of Maria Kirchhofer



You will therefore proceed to make such appraisal and allowance as above required, and deliver your report thereof to the Administrator, that he may return the same to this Court.

Witness my signature and Seal of the Count Court hereto affixed, at Muscatine, this 19th day of December 1867.

H H Benson County Judge

OATH OF APPRAISERS

STATE OF IOWA,
MUSCATINE COUNTY, } ss:

We, Peter Boß

and James Clark do solemnly swear that we will to the best of our ability perform the duties required of us by the foregoing commission.

Subscribed and sworn by the above named
Peter Boss and Peter Boß
James Clark before me this 21st James Clark
day of December A. D. 1867
Harvey Gregory
Justice of the Peace

Schedule A --- Revision of Iowa

Sec. 3304. The following property of private individuals is exempt from execution:

All wearing apparel kept for actual use, and suitable to the condition of the party, and trunks and other receptacles to contain the same; one musket or rifle; the proper tools, instruments, or books, of any farmer, mechanic, surveyor, clergyman, lawyer, physician, teacher or professor; the horse, of the team, consisting of not more than two horses or mules, or two yoke of cattle, and the wagon, or other vehicle, with the proper harness or tackle. by the use of which any physician, public officer, framer, teamster, or other laborer, habitually earns his living; all private libraries, family Bibles, portraits, pictures and paintings, not kept for the purpose of sale; a seat or pew, occupied by the debtor or his family, in any house of public worship; and an interest in a public or private burying ground, not exceeding one acre for any one defendant.

Sec. 3305. If the debtor is the head of a family, there is further exempt, his homestead, as provided by law; one cow and calf; one horse, unless a horse has been exempted for him under the last section; fifty sheep, and the wool therefrom; five hogs, and all pigs under six months; the necessary food for all animals exempt from execution, of sixty days; all flax raised by the defendant, and the manufactures therefrom; one bedstead and the necessary bedding, for every two in the family; all cloth manufactured by the defendant, not exceeding on hundred yards in quantity; household and kitchen furniture, not exceeding one hundred dollars in value; all spinning wheels and looms, and other instruments of domestic labor, kept for actual use; and the necessary provisions and fuel for the use of the family for six months.

Schedule B --- Laws of '62 Chapter 22

Sec. 1. The appraisers, appointed to appraise the personal property belonging to the estate of any decedent, shall set off and allow to the widow and children under the age of fifteen years of such decedent, if any there be, or if there be no widow, then to such children, sufficient provisions, or other property, to support

them for twelve months from the death of the decedent; and if the widow or such children have, since the death of the deceased, and previous to such allowance, consumed for their support any portion of the estate, the appraisers shall take the same into consideration in determining the amount of the allowance.

Sec. 2. When there is not sufficient personal property of a suitable kind to set off to the widow and children as provided in the preceding section, the appraisers shall certify what sum or further sum in money is necessary for the support of such widow or children.

Sec. 3. The appraisers shall not include in the appraisal the provisions, property or money set off and allowed by them to the widow or children, but the same shall be stated in a separate schedule, signed by them and returned to the office of the County Judge.

Highlight: These documents made the 1867 Iowa law easy to find. I was unable to determine how much Iowa law set aside for a widow.

Inventory and Appraisalment

The four-page “Inventory and Appraisalment” of Peter Brawand’s estate included the following property for the widow and family: one team of horses, one cow, two hogs, one wagon, a set of double harness, plow, harness, single and double shovel plow, fork, hoe, shovel, spade, cultivator, hay ladder, axe, household and kitchen furniture, beds and bedding, and weaving apparel. The assets of the estate included: one bay mare, one brown mare, one grey mare, one bay suckling colt, one brown suckling colt, five milk cows, one wagon, one saddle and bridle, one set of plow harness, one set of fry nets, one skiff, one pair of bob sled, and an old plow with a total value of \$341.00.

S. R. “Gates” and John White owed the estate \$50.00. There was also a list including court fees, a stamp deed, a \$700.00 mortgage, \$1,115.53 in cash, and a “Com” of \$760.22. The appraisers, James Clark and Peter Boss, allowed \$600.00 for the widow and two minor children, then signed the document. Maria Brawand swore with her signature (before Harvey Gregory, Justice of the Peace) that she listed all of Peter Brawand’s assets in this document. H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the inventory, and it is recorded in Book P, on pages 522 and 523, on 1 January 1868.

Highlight: I do not know how much money Maria got from the estate. This first \$600 in 1867 would be equivalent to just over \$12,000 in 2022.

[1867.12.21d6p1]

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT
Of the Personal Estate of Petie Brfewart
late of Muscatine County, Iowa, deceased.

*I. EXEMPT PROPERTY LEFT WITH THE WIDOW AND FAMILY OF SAID DECEDENT.

One team of Horses, One Cow, Two hogs
One Wagon

“Set of Double Harness

“Plow, Harness, Single & Double shovel Plow, Fork

Hoe, Shovel, spade, cultivator, Hay ladder, axe.
Household and Kitchen furniture.
Beds and bedding,
Weaving apparel,

*NOTE.-Name the articles under this head, BUT DO NOT VALUE THEM. See page 605, sections 3,304 and 3,305, of Revision of 1860, as to what is exempt.

II. ASSETS OF THE ESTATE---CHATTEL PROPERTY

NAMES OF ARTICLES	VALUE	
	DOLLARS	CENTS
One Bay Mare	50	00
One Brown Mare	40	00
" Grey Mare	10	00
" Bay Suckling Colt	30	00
" Brown Suckling Colt	25	00
Five Milch Cows	125	00
One Wagon	30	00
" Saddle and Bridle	10	00
" Sett of Plow Harness	4	00
" Sett of Fry Netts	4	00
" Skiff	2	00
" Pair of Bob Sled	10	00
" Old Plow	1	00
	\$341.	00

[1867.12.21d6p2]

Chattel Property---Continued.

NAMES OF ARTICLES.	VALUE	
	DOLLARS	CENTS

[No entries]

[1867.12.21d6p3]

III. ASSETS OF THE ESTATE---CASH ON HAND AND NOTES AND ACCOUNTS

Good

Note of S. R. Gates and John White due Sept. 10 1868 \$50.00

*NOTE.-Under this head mark the notes and accounts according to their character, as "good", "doubtful", or "worthless."

The undersigned appraisers, hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct list and valuation of the Personal Estate of the said decedent, according to the best of our knowledge and judgement.

Dated December 21st 1867

James Clark
Peter Loß } Appraisers.

[1867.12.21d6p4]

Allowance to Widows, &c.

The undersigned, Appraisers of the Estate of Peter Brawand deceased, hereby allow, for the support of the widow, and 2 minor children under the age of fifteen years, and of said decedent, for one year from his death the sum of Six Hundred dollars.

Witness our hands, this 21st day of December, 1867.

James Clark Appraisers
Peter Boß

[Cover Page written sideways after documents were folded]

Estate of
Peter Brawand
Decd
Inventory and
Appraisalment
Filed Jan 1st, 1868
H H Benson
Co Judge
Recorded Book P
Pages 522 & 523.

Fees C[illegible] 11-75
Stamp [illegible]. 2.00
Mort 700.00
Cash 1115.53
Com 760.22

STATE OF IOWA,
MUSCATINE COUNTY,} ss.

I, Mary Browand

Administrator of the Estate of Peter Brawand deceased, being duly sworn, do say that the foregoing list of exempt property and assets of said Estate comprise and embrace all the Personal Estate of said decedent, which has come to my sight or knowledge.

Maria Brawand

Sworn to and subscribed to me this 21st day of December 1867

Harvey Gregory
Justice of the Peace

Signature of
Peter Boss

1867.12.21d6p4

Proof of Posting

A short flyer, "Proof of Posting," stated that Maria Brawand posted three notices in Muscatine County on 19 December 1867. Maria and H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the document on 27 August 1868.

[1868.8.27d7]

(PROOF OF POSTING)

STATE OF IOWA, MUSCATINE COUNTY,--SS:

I, *Mary Browant* being duly sworn on oath do say that I posted up 3 Notices, of which the annexed is a true copy, in 3 public places in Muscatine County, State of Iowa, on the 19th day of Dec

A. D. 1867. *Maria Brawand*

Sworn and subscribed to by the said *Muy Browit* before me and in my presence this 27th day of August

A. D. 1868 *H H Benson County Judge*

Application to Sell Real Estate

The personal property of Peter Brawand's estate was inadequate to pay the debts, so Maria Brawand presented to the Muscatine County Court a three-page letter titled, "Application to Sell Real Estate." She showed personal property worth \$341.00 and debts of \$1,461.00. She asked permission to sell real estate so she could pay a mortgage, the application defined property in Keokuk County.

Maria's signature is on the letter that was penned by someone else. J. R. Nisley, Notary Public, signed the document and H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the document on 5 October 1868. It was filed in Book Q, on page 180.

Highlight: Maria owed her father-in-law almost \$800, the equivalent in 2022 would be about \$16,700.

[1868.10.5d8p3]

Estate of Peter Brawand Desc

Application to Sell Real Estate

Filed Oct 5th

1868

H H Benson

County Judge

Recorded in Book

"Q" Page 180

[1868.9.30d8p1]

The state of Iowa

Muscatine County }ss

To the County Court

within the said County

From Petitionee Administratrix

of the Estate of Peter Brawand Late of said County deceased would present that the personal property of said Estate is found inadequate to pay the debts of the Estate

The Inventory of personal property being three Hundred and forty one Dollars and are [illegible] of Fifty-Dollars

the allowances for one year for your Petitionee and minor children for one year being too hundred Dollars

The debts of the Estate being as follows
Mortgage due on Land held after December about

\$440.00

Note due Jacob Brawand

700.00

with interest at 5% from Dec 6/65 about

96.00

Claim H Funk about

25.00

Widow and minor allowance

200.00

Total

\$1461.00

Said mortgage is due and there is no money on hand to pay it and claims

Your petitionee would therefore ask an order to sell the following Real Estate

Viz the West fraction is half of the North West quarter of section Seven (7) Except ten acres of even width of the East side thereof and the North West fraction is quarter of the south west quarter of said section seven (7) except

[1868.9.30d8p2]

five acres of even width of the East side thereof all in Township seventy Six (76), north of Range ten west-also the East half of the South thirty acres off of the South East quarter of the south west quarter of section Eleven (11) in Township seventy six (76) North of Range Eleven (110 West The whole number of acres in all tracts being 152 44/100 and being all the Real Estate which the said Peter Brawand heirs seized and possessed of all lying and being situated in the County of Keokuk State of Iowa and that said order be to sell said Real Estate at Public or private-sale as can best be done for the interests of said Estate

Maria Brawand

Administratrix of the Estate of Peter

Brawand Decd

Subscribed and sworn before me

this 30th day of September A.D. 1868

Witness my hand & seal notarized the date last above written

J R Nisley

Notary Public

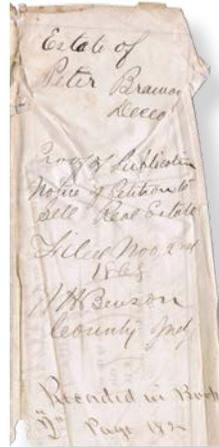
Proof of Publication Notice of Petition to Sell Real Estate

The crumpled "Proof of Publication Notice of Petition to Sell Real Estate" had a printed notice attached from the *Muscatine Weekly Journal*. It began with "To John Brawand, Mary Brawand, Peter Brawand, and all persons interested." This notice, dated October 1868, was about ten months after Peter Brawand died in December 1867. After his death, Maria gave birth to a son named Peter, who was not named in the "List of Heirs" from December 1867.

James Mahin from the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* signed the document. H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the document on 6 November 1868. It was recorded in Book Q, page 182, and filed on 2 November 1868.

Highlight: The legibility of this printed notice contrasts nicely with the handwritten documents. The date of birth for Peter Brawand Jr. is unknown and Maria may not have known she was pregnant when Peter Brawand Sr. died.

[1868.11.2d9p3]
Estate of
Peter Brawand
Decd
Proof of Publication
Notice of Petition to
Sell Real Estate
Filed Nov 2nd
1868
HH Benson
County Judge
Recorded in Book
"Q" Page 182



1868.11.2d9p3

[1868.10.9d9p1]

STATE OF IOWA,
Muscatine County} ss.

To John Brawand, Mary Brawand, Peter Brawand, and all persons interested-
Notice is hereby given, That I have made application to sell the real estate of the estate of Peter Brawand, deceased, late of Muscatine county, State of Iowa, to pay the debts and claims against the said estate, the personal effects being found inadequate to satisfy said charges; and that a hearing will be had on said application on the first Monday in November, A. D. 1868 at the County Judge's office, before the County Court of said Muscatine county, Iowa, and an order obtained unless some good cause is shown why such order of sale should not be granted,
MARY BRAWAND

Administratrix of the Estate of Peter Brawand, decd.

Oct9 w2w

[1868.10.16d9p2]

STATE OF IOWA,
MUSCATINE COUNTY,} ss

I, James Mahin
of the office of the MUSCATINE WEEKLY JOURNAL, a newspaper published at the City of Muscatine, County and State named above, being duly sworn, depose and say that the Original *admins* notice in the case of *Peter Brawand* of which the annexed printed slip is a true and correct copy, was published in the MUSCATINE WEEKLY JOURNAL for and during four two consecutive weeks the first insertion being 9th day of October A.D. 1868 and the last being on the 16th day of October 1868.

James Mahin

Sworn to and subscribed before me by the said this day A.D. 186 . Witness my hand and notarial seal.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of Nov 1868
H H Benson
Co Judge

1st Report of Mary Brawand, Administratrix

The three-page "1st Report of Mary Brawand, Administratrix" to the Muscatine County Court included statements for funds received and expenses. Expenses included the coffin, printing, taxes, a note and mortgage, court fees, and real estate fees. Maria and H. H. Benson, County Judge, signed the document, recorded in Book Q, page 210, on 28 December 1868.

Highlight: Peter's coffin cost \$15, equivalent to around \$300 in 2022. Currently, the cheapest coffin quickly found online is \$900.

[1868.12.23d10p3]

Estate of
Peter Brawand
1st Report of
Mary Brawand
Admx,
Filed Dec 28-1868
HH Benson
Co Judge
Recorded in book
"Q" Page 210

[1868.12.23d10p1]

State of Iowa
Muscatine County} In the county
Court of Said County

Estate of Peter Browont Decd
1st Report of Mary Beowont
Admrx of Estate of Said Decedent

The above named Admx Shows to the Court that She has taken the personal property of the Said Estate at the appraisement to wit \$341.00 which includes all that she has received as such Admx She herewith Submits her account which She asks may be approved and allowed Admx, ni aßc with Said Estate

	Dr	
To Amt of Inventory		\$341.00
Admx ni aßc with Said Estate		
	Cr	
To allowance for Support of widow		200.00
Amt Paid Funck [illegible] claim		28.00
Carried fwd		\$228.00

[1868.12.23d10p2]

Amt Brot Fwd	\$228.00
To Paid Kegel and Wittich for coffin	15.00
" " Journal Office Printing	5.00
" " Taxes of 67,	18.79
" " Taxes of 67 Keokuk Co	19.00
" " Cox note and Mortgage	449.00
" " HH Benson Probate Fees	6.80

" " Fees on Sale of Realty and for this Report 7.20
743.79

Recapitulation
Total Receipts \$341.00
Credits 743.79

Leaving a balance due this Admx
which she has advanced of \$402.79
I Mary Browont having duly
Sworn an oath Say that the
foregoing Report is correct and true
as I verily believe.

Maria Brawand

Subscribed and Sworn to by
Moly Beowont before me this
23rd day of Dec 1868

HH Benson
Co Judge

341-00
1270.33
1611.33

Appraisalment of Real Estate

The four-page "Appraisalment of Real Estate" appointed S. McCoy, J. Q. Howard, and J. A. Donnell to determine the value of Peter Brawand's land in Keokuk County. Page three contains the legal description.

This paper contained the signatures of S. McCoy, J. Q. Howard, and J. A. Donnell; those appraisers delivered the warrant to Thos. D. Smith. J. D. Walker, Clerk of the Court, affixed the Muscatine Circuit Court seal and signed the document with Henry Jayne, Deputy, on 26 June 1869. S. A. James notarized and signed the document in Keokuk County; Walker and Jayne filed it on 2 July 1869. The total value of the property was \$1,736.84.

Highlight: In 2015, we drove close to the described location; construction blocked the road.

[1869.7.2d11p4]

No. 154

ESTATE OF

Peter Brawand

Minors

APPRAISEMENT OF

REAL ESTATE

Filed, July 2 1869

JD Walker

Clerk Circuit Court

By Henry Jayne Deputy [1869.6.26d11p1]

THE STATE OF IOWA,

MUSCATINE COUNTY, }ss To S. McCoy

JQ Howard and JA Donnell

Gentleman: You have been, by the Circuit Court

of said County, appointed
Appraisers to appraise the interest of
The Estate of Peter

Brewand

minor heir of deceased, in and to the following
described Real Estate situated in the County of Keokuk,
and State of Iowa, to-wit: The west fractional half of the
NW/4 of Sec 7, 76. 10. west. Except the E 10
acres thereof. The N. W. fractional 1/4 of the S. W 1/4
Section 7. 76. 10.. w Except. E. 5. acres.
and E/2 of S.30. a. S.E/4 of SW/4 Sec.11. Twp.
76 Range.11. West. Containing in all. 152 44/100
acres according to Government Survey

the interest of said Estate said minor being an absolute title in
fee to the whole of said premises.of said premises. And
when you have performed that service you will deliver
this Warrant of Appraisalment, together with a report of
your doings in pursuance thereof, to Thos D Smith that
the same may be returned to this Court.

WITNESS, Jno D Walker Clerk

of said Court, with the seal thereof hereunto affixed, at
Muscatine, this 26 day of June
A. D. 1869.

J D Walker

Clerk Circuit Court, Muscatine County, Iowa.

β Henry Jayne

Deputy

[1869.6.30d11p2]

(OATH OF APPRAISERS)

STATE OF IOWA.

Muscatine Keokuk COUNTY }ss

We and each of us, do solemnly swear that we will
well and truly, and without prejudice or partiality, value
and appraise the foregoing described Real Estate, and
that we will in every respect perform our duty as ap-
praisers to the best of our knowledge and judgment.

Sworn to by the said

S. McCoy S. McCoy

J. Q. Howard, Ed [County Treasurer] J Q Howard

J.A. Donnell J.A. Donnell

before me, and by each of them subscribed, in my
presence, this 30th day of June.

A. D. 1869:

S. A. James

Notary Public in

Keokuk Co Iowa.

Appraiser fee \$1 each= \$3.00

Notarial fee S.A James .25

\$3.25

[1869.6.30d11p3]

(REPORT OF APPRAISERS.)

Transcription

Grandmother Nancy

Memories from Oregon by Edith “Edie” F. (Crisell) Torgeson (1920–2018)

Submitted by Margaret Torgeson

Editor’s note: Edie recorded the following before her death in 2018 at the age of 97. Her grandmother was Nancy Prudence (Bird) Crisell. “Edie was very proud of her Oregon Pioneer roots. Her father was a descendent of Robert and Rachel Bird, (arrived 1847), buried at the Robert Bird Cemetery in Stafford, Oregon. Her mother was a descendent of William and Elizabeth Whitney (arrived 1847), buried at Butteville Cemetery, and also of Amos Hovenden (arrived 1853), also buried at Butteville.”¹ All are listed on the [Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s Pioneers and Early Oregonian Indexes](#).

Evidently my Grandmother Nancy (Bird) Crisell was not particularly fond of cooking or housekeeping. For several years she had a “hired girl” come to help her. Perhaps she began this after the large six bedroom house was built about 1903. The Crisells had lots of company and overnight guests. After all, that was in the time when horses and buggies were the method of transportation. Grandmother had

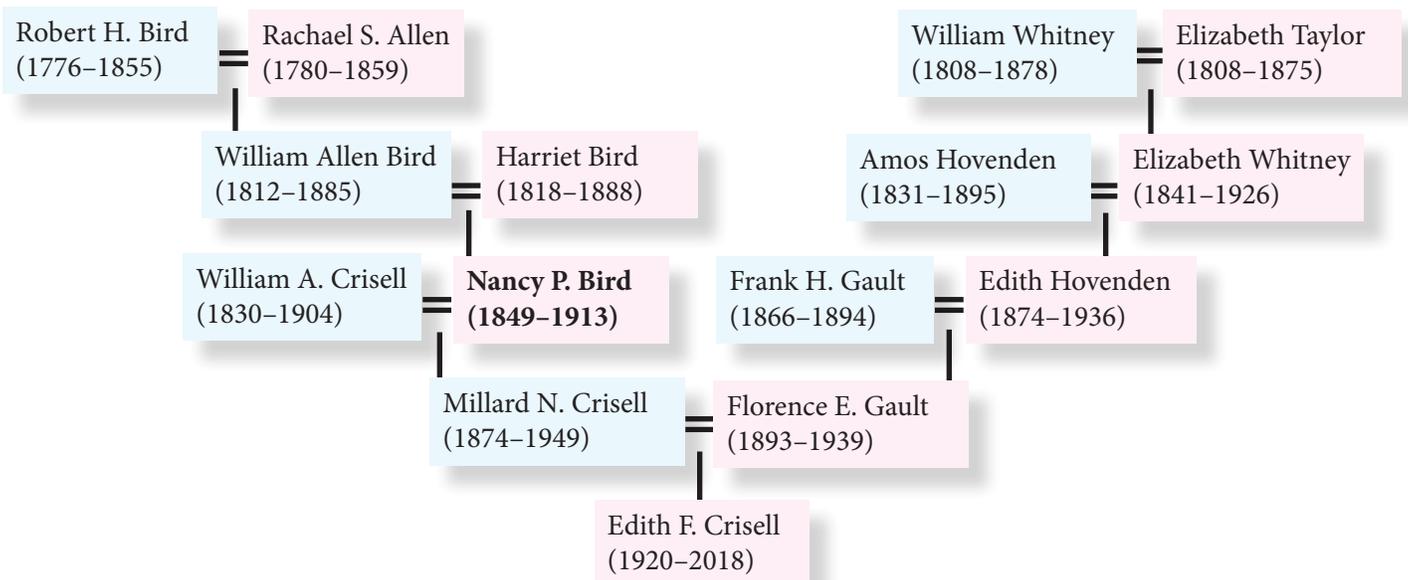


Memorials for Robert and Rachael Bird. Courtesy Mark Grafe.

many Bird relatives who were welcome visitors. In one photo I recognize the Cimino family who were cousins of her husband [William A. Crisell].

Mama [Florence E. (Gault) Crisell] told about her first Sunday in what was to become her home from 1912 to January 1939 during her short lifetime. The George Yergen family (they lived on adjoining farm then; I presume Norma and Ray came) were invited for dinner. According to Mama the menu was to be fried chicken, mashed potatoes and baking powder biscuits. Mama noted the lack of any other vegetable.

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF EDITH F. CRISELL



1. “In Memory of Edith C. Torgeson,” *Crown Memorial Centers* (<https://crowncremationburial.com/tribute/details/6444/Edith-Torgeson/obituary.html> : accessed 6 October 2022).



Memorials for Hovenden and Whitney families, Butteville Cemetery. Courtesy Mark Grafe.

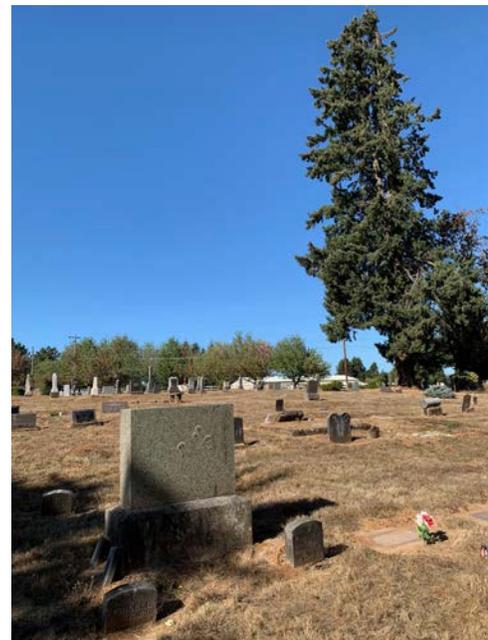
On her own initiative she went to the garden at the side of the house and cut a head of cabbage. She made a big bowl of coleslaw, using the old standby dressing of cream, vinegar, and sugar. I don't know what they had for dessert.

Mama and her mother-in-law [Nancy] had their differences. Shortly before Mama died [1939], Laverne [Edie's sister] discovered a paper pastel on the back of our parents' wedding picture. There in Nancy's handwriting was "Dear Florence and Millard [Edie's parents], I wish you the greatest happiness ever. I love you both." I remember my mother wept. She had never seen or received such a message before. From her photos I have always perceived Nancy as a stern no-nonsense type person. Perhaps she didn't express her affection openly, more like my father. At times when she and Florence had a disagreement, Nancy would get the Bible to prove her point. At some time, Grandmother associated with the Spiritualist religion, quite prevalent in those days. I became aware of that from numerous obituaries she placed in her scrapbook. She also pasted many poems which indicate to me she did have an extremely sensitive and religious nature. I believe she long mourned the death of nine-year-old Benjamin Vetel [Crisell], and Delia Mable [Crisell] her only baby girl. She [Nancy] was

in the home when my parent's first baby died a few weeks after his birth. Unlike many women in her generation and before, she bore only five whereas many women had twice that many births. Papa (middle of three surviving sons) said he was born prematurely, weighing about four pounds. He said he was told his head would fit in a tea cup. A miracle he lived!

Funny how I always thought Grandmother Nancy was somewhat masculine looking, although very good looking. Now I realize that was because my father [Millard] was the one who resembled her more closely. I believe his reserved manner also was similar to hers. However, folks liked and respected them. Papa was very intelligent and most likely his parents were too!

In 1986 I [Edie] began learning more about the Tualatin community [through the Tualatin Historical Society]. The John and Maria Sweek [pioneer] home has been lovingly restored by Althea Pratt Broome. That [Sweek] couple also left Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, in 1852, the same year Grandfather W. A. Crisell did with his first cousin, Vetel Cimino [b. 1828, son of Francis Simoneau]. John Sweek was here earlier and returned east when he learned his father was ill. He married Maria and brought his bride to Oregon. I wonder if his enthusiasm for Oregon inspired W. A. to head this way after his mining experience elsewhere in the west. I like to think he was among the Sweek's guests at dances and their house building "bees". Could it be that is where he became enamored with Nancy Prudence Bird. I have no way of knowing but it's nice to think so.



Memorials for William and Nancy Crisell, near Robert and Rachael Bird grave markers. Courtesy Mark Grafe.

An Oregon Bible from Myrna Lois Beaty (1942–2004)

Nanci Remington

This small Bible contains only a few entries plus an obituary clipped from a newspaper. There is no publication date.

The Bible probably belonged to Myrna Lois Beaty. Her name appears on the title page and at the back of the Bible. Her marriage is the only one listed. Her mother's name and address are written in different handwriting—the Bible may have passed down from her. One of Myrna's entries gives her age as 13. Two entries may refer to boys she had crushes on, but the names are not those of the man she married.

Myrna was born on 7 January 1942 in McClennan County, Texas. At the time of the 1950 census, she and her parents Clarence and Estel (Gibson) Beaty were living in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where her father worked for a railroad and her mother was a cook. Myrna was 16 when she married LeRoy Olson on 7 May 1958. She died on 26 June 2004 in Clackamas County, Oregon.

The obituary in the Bible is for Judson Bogard Beatty who died on 14 March 1945 in Waco, McClennan County, Texas. He was the brother of Myrna's father Clarence.

TRANSCRIPT

[Inside cover]

*Estel Beaty
9019 S.E. Ash
Portland oreg*

[Title page]

Myrna

Self-Pronouncing Edition

The

Holy Bible

Containing the

Old and New Testaments

Translated Out Of The Original Tongues

And With The Former Translations

Diligently Compared

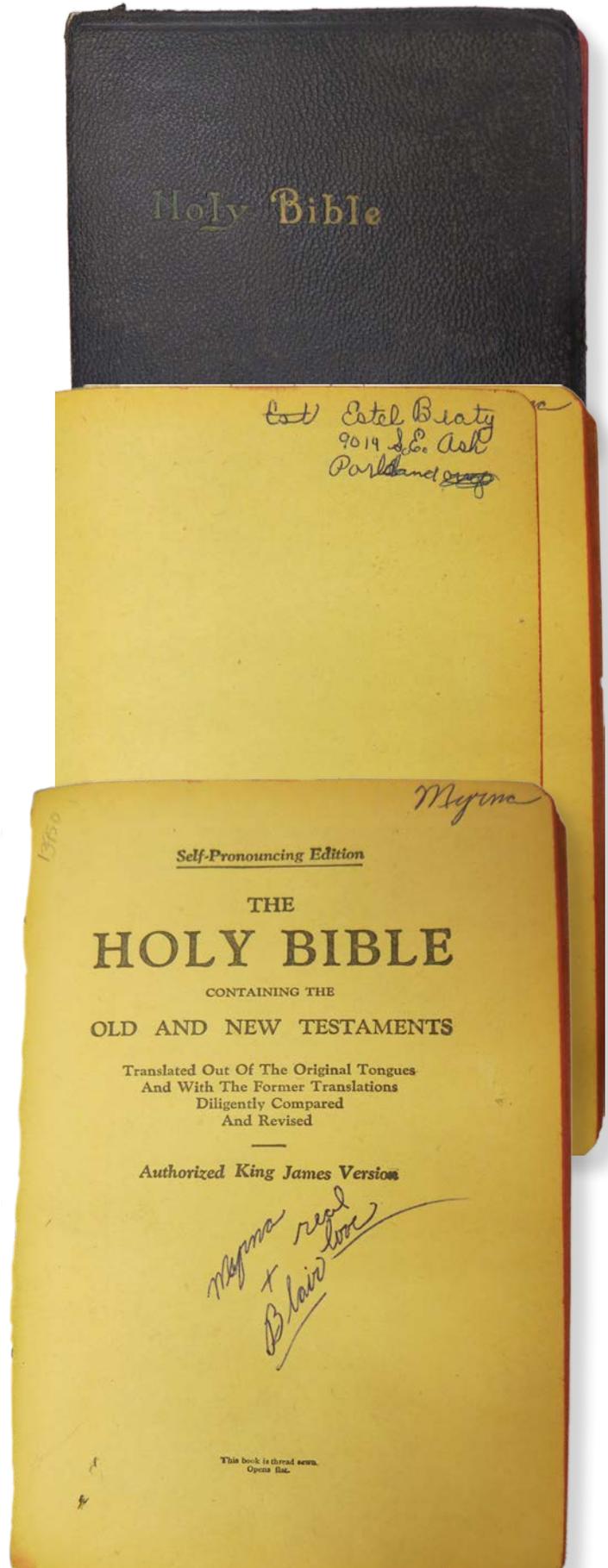
And Revised

Authorized King James Version

Myrna + Blair real love

This book is thread sewn.

Open flat.



Marriages

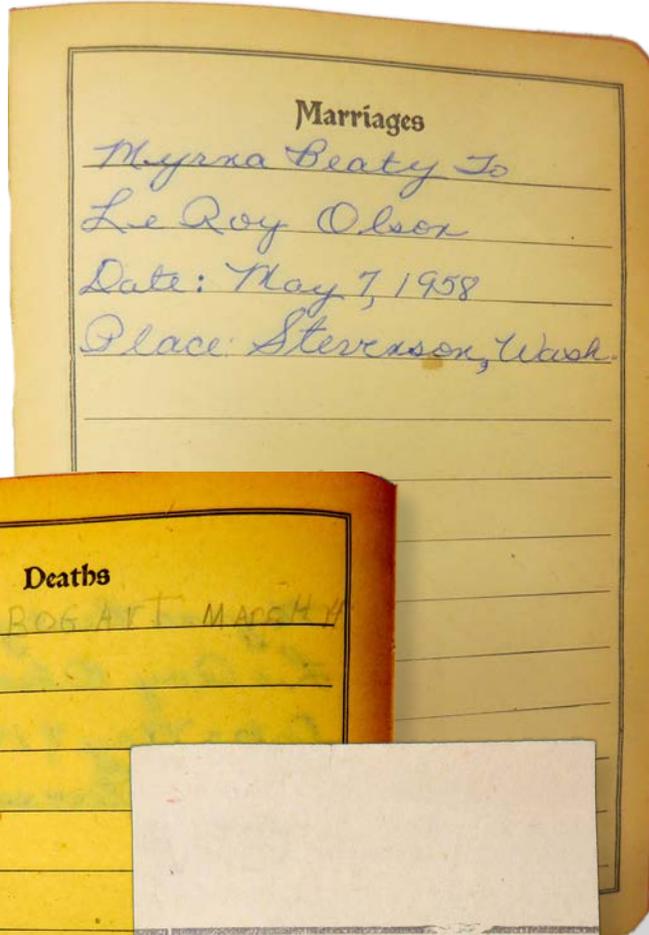
Myrna Beaty To
LeRoy Olson

Date: May 7, 1958

Place: Stevenson, Wash.

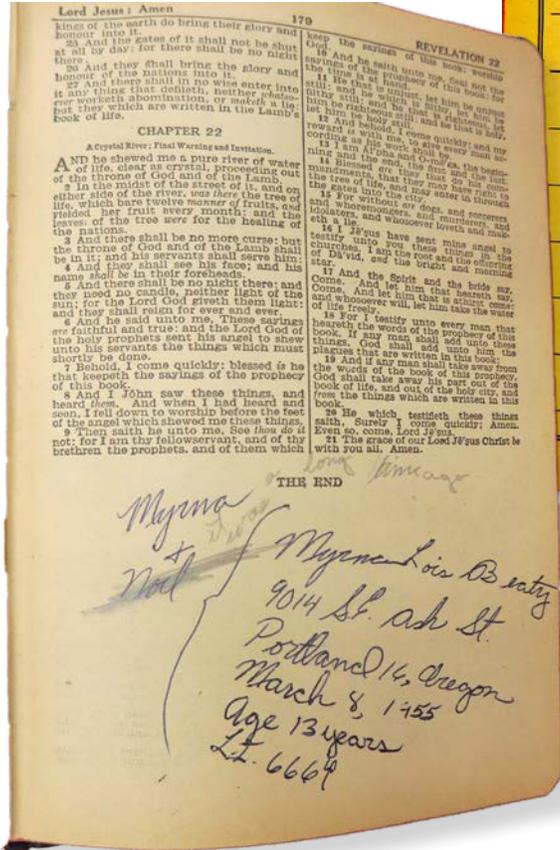
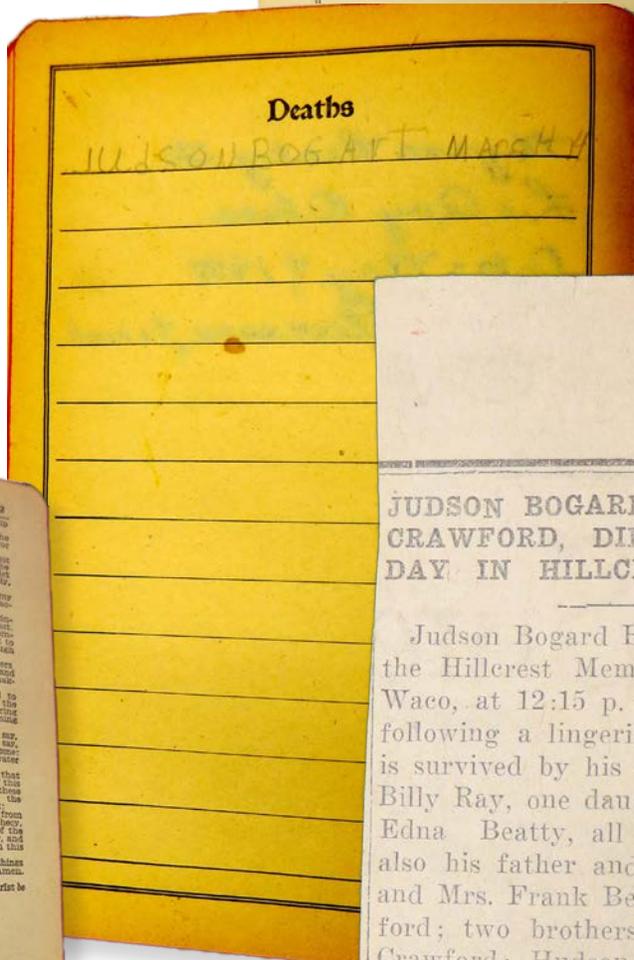
Deaths

Judson Bogart March 14



[Back page]

Myrna Lois Beaty
9014 S.E. Ash St.
Portland 16, Oregon
March 8, 1955
Age 13 years
L.I. 6664
Myrna & Noel
it was a long time ago [in pencil]



JUDSON BOGARD BEATTY, CRAWFORD, DIED WEDNESDAY IN HILLCREST, WACO

Judson Bogard Beatty, died in the Hillcrest Memorial hospital, Waco, at 12:15 p. m. March 14, following a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife, one son, Billy Ray, one daughter, Pauline Edna Beatty, all of Crawford; also his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beatty of Crawford; two brothers, Clarence & Crawford; Hudson, with the U. S. armed forces; a sister, Mrs. Hattie Fitzhugh, of Crawford.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist church, Crawford, at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, Revs. A. Loper and F. M. DuBose, officiating. Interment was made in Crawford cemetery, Lee's of McGregor in charge.

Book Review

“can tell an ample story” New-England Runaways, 1769–1773

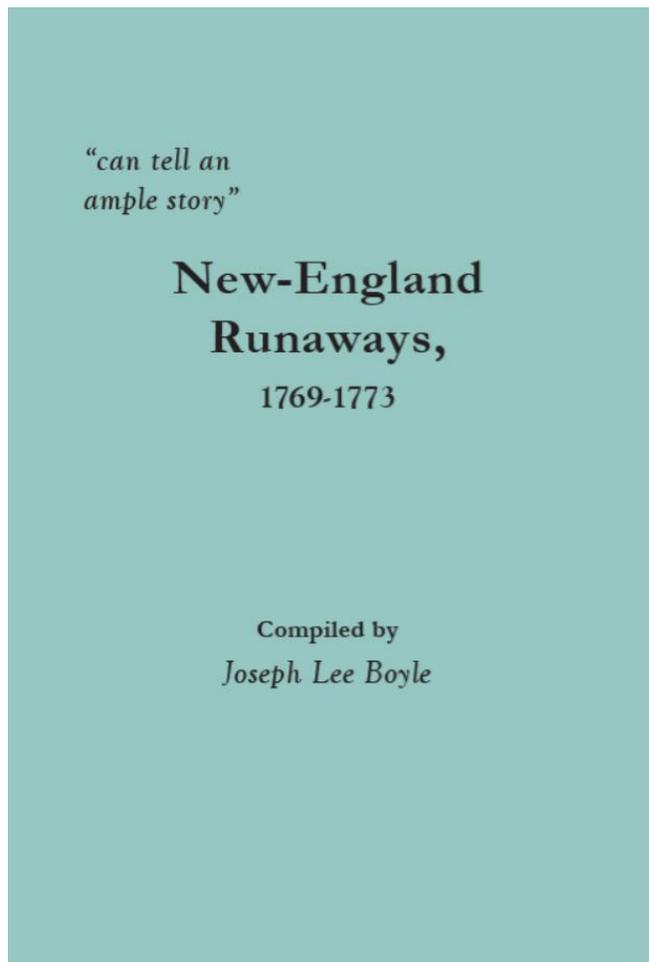
Reviewed by Lu Ann M. Pillar

Author: Joseph Lee Boyle
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2021
Pages: 328
Price: \$45.00 + \$7.50 shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 974 .News Runa 1769-1773

“**C**an tell an ample story”: *New England Runaways, 1769–1773*, in the fashion of all the “Runaway” books by Boyle, is a collection of advertisements. This book includes those posted in the colonies of Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. The ads appear in chronological order and names of each “runaway,” as well as each of the advertisers, are indexed for quick reference. The compilation includes submissions for runaway conscripts, servants, enslaved persons, accused thieves, and even murderers.

Also included are advertisements from husbands announcing no further responsibility for their wives, and occasionally, wives who wrote to defend their reputation in response to their husband’s ad. Robert Gardner announced in 1769, in two newspapers on three different occasions, that he would never pay any debt on his wife’s behalf as she “eloped from bed and board.” His wife, Hannah, replied in both of the newspapers within days of Robert’s ad that he had been so abusive she feared for her life and that the community would not loan him “Twenty Shillings Old Taylor” for the previous 12 months.

The book includes a series of articles decrying a man who goes by the name of Robert Steel/Steele for stealing. The saga began in April of 1770 in Hartford, Connecticut, where Steele reportedly stole 20 shillings and various sundries from a man who allowed him to rest on the man’s property. Later that month, apparently having been found and branded for the burglary, the *Connecticut Current*



offered a reward for the escaped prisoner. By the end of the year, a third advertisement in *Connecticut Journal* offered a reward for the escaped Richard Steele who has had “both ears lopt off for burglary.” In April 1771, Steele was caught yet again, and escaped yet again, prompting “the notorious Burglaria, that called himself Richard Steele, confined in irons for his appearance at March Court...” The final article about Steele was from the Fairfield “Goal” (jail) in July 1771, where he would be tried for burglary. He was reported to have written a letter beseeching “a woman belonging to Milford, named Alling,” who was to be a witness against Steele, to be “out of the Way” before the trial. The letter was intercepted, and Alling was subsequently jailed because she could not make bail.

New England Runaways, 1769–1773 provides a helpful genealogical resource for anyone with ancestry in the New England colonies during the years covered. It is also a revealing insight into family life, slavery, crime and punishment, and the social structure of society during that timeframe.

Book Review

Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records, Second Edition

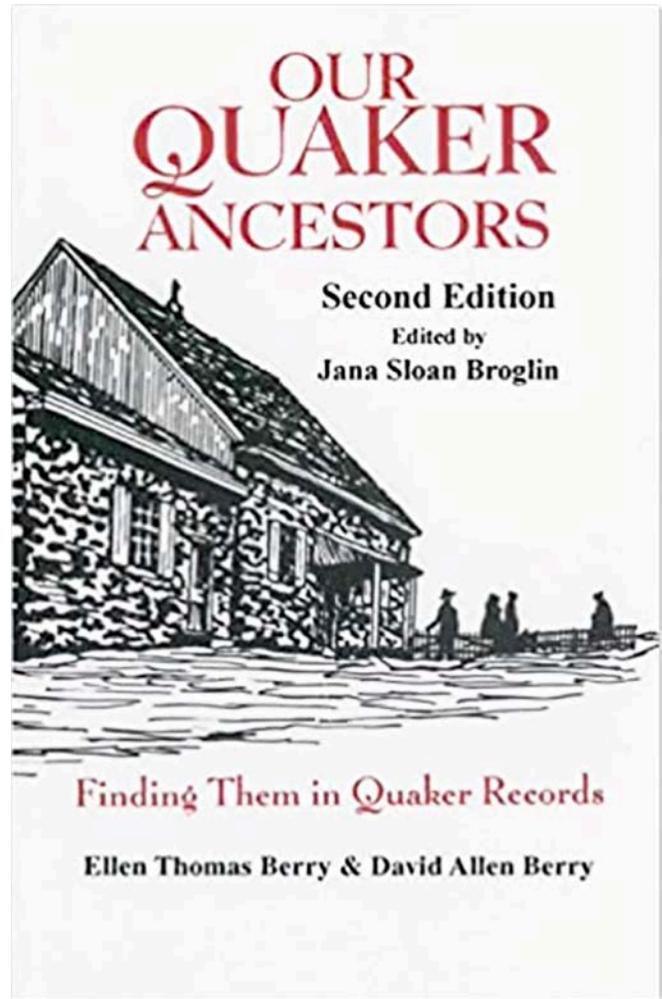
Reviewed by Harold E. Hinds Jr.

Authors: Ellen Thomas Berry, M.A., C.G. and
David Allen Berry, B.A., C.G.
Editor: Jana Sloan Broglin
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Co.
Publication Date: 2022
Pages: 152
Price: \$28.50
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 973.Church Quak Genea How-To
Berr 2022

Jana Sloan Broglin, a prominent Ohio genealogist, has edited and updated the Berrys' 1987 basic introduction to Quaker history, records, and record repositories; as well as methods for searching for and analyzing Quaker records. The 1987 edition also included several Appendices intended as further aids for the beginning researcher. Ms. Broglin primarily has added a bibliography of online Quaker resources, incorporated relevant websites within the original text, and added "information that has come to light since 1986" (p. 9). Given the book's brevity (152 pp.), Broglin did not substantially expand the original text. However, aside from internet sites, Broglin accurately states "whereas the original edition focused primarily on American resources, we have expanded the book's coverage of Quaker records and repositories outside of the United States" (p. 9). Material on Canada and England has been added.

Unfortunately, the Second Edition evidently substantially reduced several maps, charts, and excerpts from *Hindshaw's Encyclopedia*, making them difficult, or even impossible, to decipher.

If you have discovered that you have Quaker ancestors, Broglin's edition of the Berrys' classic introduction to history, records, and methodologies will provide a good beginning for your quest for those ancestors in Quaker records.



Book Review

“very apt to speak one side of the truth”

New-England Runaways, 1774–1777

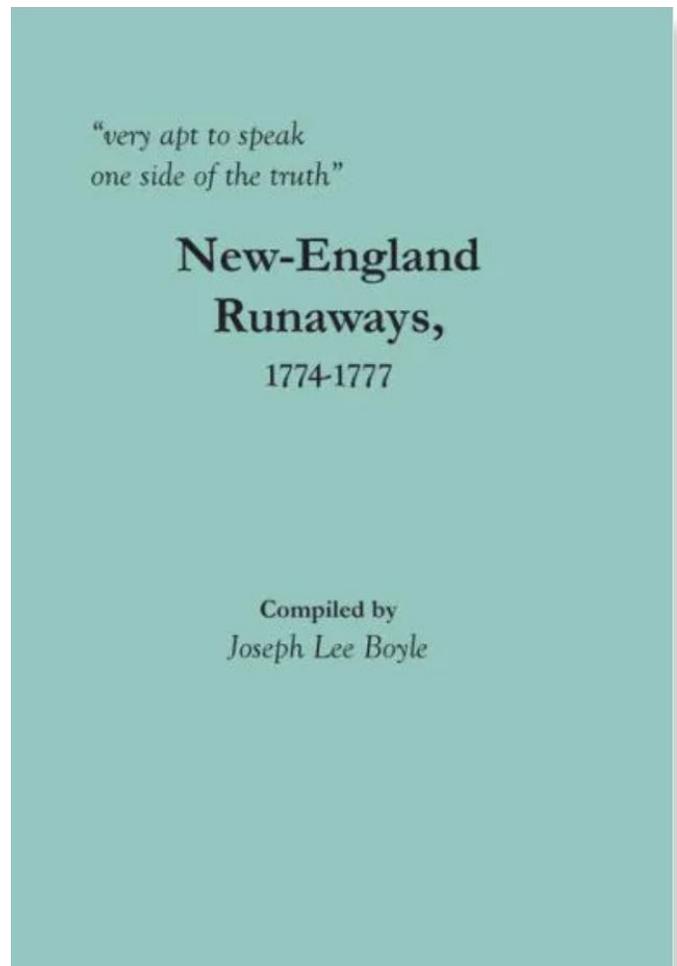
Reviewed by Shannon Moon Leonetti

Author: Joseph Lee Boyle
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publishing Date: 2022
Pages: 324
Price: \$45.00 + \$7.50 shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No: 974 .News Runa 1774-1777

“*Very apt to speak one side of the truth*”: *New-England Runaways, 1774–1777* is Joseph Lee Boyle’s fourth compilation of newspaper ads offering bounties for the return of runaways in the New England colonies. The ads include runaway men, women, and children. While the majority of ads seek missing servants and enslaved persons, they include military deserters, criminals, jail breakers and wives. Not all runaways came from New England. Some originated in England, Scotland, Ireland, and throughout all the colonies.

The ads are fascinating. They describe the runaways’ personal appearance including their clothing, their speech, and behaviors, and details about any tools or personal items they took with them. These glimpses of the runaway and the “owner” are miniature chronicles of social and economic life in colonial America and serve to remind us that the slaves, servants, and wives were considered property rather than human beings. Rewards might range from “three Spanish potatoes” to one penny or ten dollars. Sometimes a horse taken by the runaway was worth more than the slave or indentured servant.

The reader is introduced to people like Peletiah Pierce who posted a \$10 reward for Rose, a Negro girl about 18 years of age. Rose was “full breasted, short of stature, large full eyes and born in Rhode Island.” And Jacob Smith offered five dollars for “a Mollato Slave named Toney. Five foot nine with a scar under his chin, and very large Corns on his toes ... he is well-made with short negroish hair.” Colonist James Howd didn’t appear to care about getting his wife back but definitely wanted his furniture. “Whereas my wife Elizabeth, hath eloped from me and is run off with another man, and has robbed me of all my household furniture ... I promise a reward of twenty dollars to any person who shall recover and return the goods.”



Many of the runaways were skilled in trades that were in demand. They were butchers, bakers, coopers, farriers, shoemakers, and tailors. These skills made them the most valuable and came with the highest bounties. Boyle acknowledges that there were probably many more runaways who weren’t subject to want ads.

Each *New-England Runaways* volume is a gold mine of information for novelists, historians, or genealogists. All of Boyle’s books are indexed, but he cautions his readers to be prepared for a variety of spellings.

Joseph Lee Boyle was educated at Towson University, University of South Carolina, and Saint Joseph’s University. His 32 years as a historian at Valley Forge give him a unique perspective on the lives of the people who lived around the time of the American Revolution.

Book Review

Clan Callaghan: The O Callaghan Family of Cork County

Reviewed by Shannon Moon Leonetti

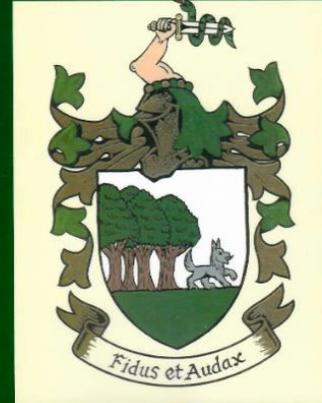
Author: Joseph F. O Callaghan
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2020
 Pages: 281
 Price: \$42.45 + shipping
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call No.: 929.2 Callahan

The O Callaghan family is an ancient one, tracing its descent from tenth-century king Cellachan of Cashel. It is probably as much legend as historic fact. *Clan Callaghan: The O Callaghan Family of Cork County* is the outcome of Joseph F. O Callaghan's attempt to make sense of their story and is like very few other genealogical reference books. Clan Callaghan is a fascinating history of Ireland, with narratives about the author's ancestors and no genealogical tables until the end of the book.

It is obvious that *Clan Callaghan* represents a lifetime of personal research. The results are one of the most comprehensive genealogy books of a family's history this reviewer has encountered. O Callaghan begins in the Middle Ages with information about the politics, religious influences, and the evolution of Irish surnames. Chapters are divided into periods of war, poverty, and religious persecution. Some of these are "Legends and History," the "Confederation of Kilkenny," and "Catholic Emancipation, the Famine, and the Land League."

The genius of this chronicle is that it does not rely solely on the heads of the families or success stories, but on what the author calls the "silent majority." These are the yeomen, laborers, and commoners who helped keep the family name from generation to generation. There were O's and Mac's attached then dropped throughout the centuries, but they were always Callaghans.

CLAN CALLAGHAN THE O CALLAGHAN FAMILY OF COUNTY CORK



JOSEPH F. O CALLAGHAN

Clan Callaghan is written with a sense of place in history and one of belonging to a large family called "Irish." This book is a "must read" for anyone with a strong Irish bloodline. The content is relevant for all levels of genealogists, historians, or readers interested in learning more about Ireland and how the Gaelic coped with the momentous changes from century to century.

The 2020 volume is the second edition, updated from 2005. The revision was sparked by a family reunion in 1988 which endowed the author with more stories and more family names. It is a reminder for family historians that their histories are never finished.

The *Clan Callaghan* journey sparked an interest in my own Irish roots. My father's family came from Tipperary, where the Callaghans lived for 200 years, and they were still there when the Callaghans were evicted in the 12th Century. With such a great story, I would be proud to include Callaghan in my family tree of names.

Book Review

Genealogy at a Glance: Ontario, Canada, Genealogy Research

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Lorine McGinnis Schulze
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2021
Pages: 4
Price: \$6.95 ebook
\$10.95 laminated pamphlet + shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: RR 971.20 .How-To Schu 2021

Genealogy at a Glance: Ontario, Canada, Genealogy Research is a recent addition to the Genealogy at a Glance series of research guides from the Genealogical Publishing Company. It is a concise listing of resources and hints for researching immigrants and their descendants. The guide is available as an ebook or as a laminated pamphlet. The use of color, choice of fonts, and well-defined sections give clear direction to the reader.

The Key Dates and Name Changes section bullets by date the many decisions and name changes for the region which can sometimes be confusing. The Immigration and Settlement column gives an overview of the history and patterns of immigration, but without mention of pre-colonial inhabitants. There are sections that list resources for finding ships' passenger lists, naturalization records, census records, vital records, land records, and information on United Empire Loyalists. Resources include books, online databases and digitalized records, sites with links to more sites, and the author's genealogical website. Helpful hints are included in each of these sections.



This guide will be helpful for all levels of researchers of Ontario immigrants. It provides the background and resources for a beginner. It is also a good checklist for more experienced researchers. In four concise pages, it provides the background and resources for jumping into productive research.

Lorine McGinnis Schulze is an experienced author of genealogical research as well as the creator of a fictional genealogist heroine. Her website is www.olivetreegenealogy.com.



2021–2022 Annual Report of Donors

Compiled by Ana Tangum

I want to thank to everyone who supported the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) with a monetary donation in the 2021–22 membership year. This was especially commendable as you, our donors, stuck with us even into the second year of closure of the physical library.

GFO is fortunate in weathering the storm of the pandemic, while many societies are still struggling. It feels almost back to normal now that we have opened the library five days a week. Moreover, we are committed to keeping the popular online services going to keep the GFO connected, engaged, and relevant. Your donations make this possible!

Geoff Smith, President

Legacy

(\$10,000 and up)

Anonymous (2)
Nedra Dickman Brill, CG
David & Wendy Doerner

Heritage

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

Anonymous
Nancy Lematta

Lineage

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

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*in memory of Hugh & Phyllis Currie
& COVID Losses*
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Joann & Greg Taylor

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*in memory of
Elizabeth Ann Wendlandt*

Judith Whipple,
*in honor of lookup volunteers keep-
ing me sane while stuck at home*
Gerald Zimmer

Pedigree

(\$500 to \$999)

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*in memory of George & Marion
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in memory of Robert L. Betcher Jr.
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*in memory of Mary &
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(\$100 to \$499)

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in honor of Cathy Lauer
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for remailing the Bulletin*
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Also, thank you to our corporate donors: Oregon Beverage Recycling, Fred Meyer, Intel, and Amazon for matching programs. And to major book donors Emily D. Aulicino, John Christy, Adell Goggins, Michelle Hilgiel, Harold Hines Jr., Doris Lundahl, Judith Whipple, Sue Whipple, the Family History Library, Linn County Genealogical Society, Washington State University, Yamhill County Genealogical Society, and the Knofler Estate.

In Memoriam

Harry Dietrich Meyer

(1945–2022)

Harry Dietrich Meyer passed away on June 23, 2022, at the age of 76. He and his wife Linda became members of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 2010.

Born in New York City, New York, he grew up in the borough of Queens with his parents Harry and Vera (McKeon) Meyer. After completing a degree in history at Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving in Kodiak, Alaska, and Bodega Bay, California. In 1978 he married Linda Maclean with whom he had two children. Back in New York, he began a career as a claims adjuster and made time to volunteer with youth sports and religious education for the children of his parish. He was also a lifelong Yankees fan.

Harry's genealogical research began in earnest after moving west. He soon discovered that he had living German relatives and made two trips to Germany to meet them at family reunions, visiting shared ancestral sites while he was there. During this period Harry and Linda attended conferences and the German Special Interest Group at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon and was last seen at its Spring Seminar in 2019. Both became very active on the board of the Genealogical Society of Washington County where Harry served as its president for six years.

Nanci Remington, volunteer at Genealogical Forum of Oregon, noted that Harry "had a smile for everyone—he will be missed." He is survived by his wife Linda, children Harry and Robin, and two grandchildren.



In Memoriam

Billie Jean Bartz Gelhar

(1932–2022)

Billie Jean Bartz Gelhar died in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, on September 2, 2022, at the age of 89. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 1980 to 2013 where she researched family history and eventually served as a volunteer with the Periodicals Committee. She also joined the Fayette County Historical Society and the Genealogical Society of Memphis while researching her Tennessee ancestors. Additionally, she became a member of the Fort Worth Genealogical Society of Texas.

Billie Jean was the second of seven children born to Vern and Mamie Bartz of Bowman, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. She worked as a secretary in Oklahoma City into her twenties before moving west to California. There she met and married Robert J. Gelhar, a Korean War veteran and agricultural auditor. The couple had three sons and raised their family in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon. Survivors include sons James, Richard, and Steven. Husband Robert predeceased her in 2020.

David Butt

(1936–2022)

David Butt died on September 21, 2022 at the age of 86 in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon. He was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from July 2014 until his death.

Born and raised in Derby, Derbyshire, United Kingdom, David graduated from Cambridge University and became a geophysicist, leading oil explorations around the world. He met his wife Ursula in California and had one child. His second career as a computer software manager took place in Oregon.

David's interest in genealogy peaked in 1995, while trying to solve a family mystery. His research is documented in "Why Gueriot? How an Unusual Middle Name Unlocked More Than Four Centuries of Lost Family History." It was published in two parts for the September and December 2019 issues of *The Bulletin*.

David is survived by his son Michael and three grandchildren. His wife predeceased him in 2013.



GFO DECEMBER 2022 EVENTS

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

Saturday, December 3

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

Monday, December 5

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	RootsMagic Group
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Wednesday, December 7

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn & Chat
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Thursday, December 8

6:00 p.m. –7:00 p.m.	The Q Review
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Saturday, December 10

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Access to GFO Resources
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Writers' Forum
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	Bulletin Editorial Group

Tuesday, December 13

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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Wednesday, December 14

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Great Lakes Group
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Saturday, December 17

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Genealogical Problem Solvers
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	African American Ancestry
2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	GenTalk
Search and Research: Finding the Right Details to Tell Compelling Stories	

Wednesday, December 21

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn & Chat
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	DNA Q & A

Saturday, December 24

Library Closed

Sunday, December 25

Library Closed

Saturday, December 31

Library Closed