



The Bulletin

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Kidnapped: Twin Sisters Blanche Estella Fry (1882–1954) and Bertha Luella Fry (1882–1958)



by Debra Koehler
with Barbara Forster and Teresa Weber

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info@gfo.org ♦ 503-963-1932 ♦ gfo.org

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Labeling Crew: Gerald and Jane McGarvin and GFO volunteers

Post Office Delivery: Ray Ashmun or Gerald and Jane McGarvin

Bulletin Editorial Group: Marti Dell, Joan Galles, Gerry Lenzen, April Ober, Nanci Remington, Laurel Smith, Loretta Welsh

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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 or other graphics. Send submissions to bulletin@gfo.org. You may request a 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>.

Deadlines for submission to *The Bulletin*:

March issue: January 1

June issue: April 1

September issue: July 1

December issue: October 1



Deutsche & Dutch

Genealogy
on the
North Sea

with

Fritz Juengling

Saturday, October 5

10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Center for Self Enhancement

- German Phonetics
- German Names: Their Origins, Meanings and Distribution
- FamilySearch for German Research
- Beyond the Obvious Reasons: Practical and Social Reasons for Emigration to America

Sunday, October 6

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

- Beginning Dutch Research
- Dutch Names: Sorting through Patronym, *Tussenvoegsel* and More

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Fritz Juengling, PhD, AG® received his Bachelor's degrees in German Studies and Secondary Education at Western Oregon University, his Master's and Doctorate in Germanic Philology with minors in both English and Linguistics at the University of Minnesota.



Germanic Philology is a highly specialized field of study, combining languages, linguistics, paleography and history. For his graduate degrees, Dr. Juengling was required to demonstrate competence in English, German, Medieval Latin,

Dutch and Norwegian. He also took courses in ten additional old languages. He is an Accredited Genealogist® for Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Sweden through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, and certified by the Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen.

Dr. Juengling is a German, Dutch, and Scandinavian Research Consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

SATURDAY SEMINAR DETAILS

Location

Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)
3920 N. Kerby Ave.
Portland, Oregon

Time

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Saturday, October 5
Break for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Seminar Features

Book sales from Heritage Quest & the GFO
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SUNDAY PROGRAM DETAILS

Location

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library
2505 SE 11th Ave. #B-18
Portland, Oregon

Time

9:30 a.m. to noon • Sunday, October 6

– Sunday Event Limited to 60 –

Payment and Refund Details

Register and pay online at gfo.org/deutsche.

– – OR – –

Complete registration form below and mail with
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For cancellations received after Sept. 30, 2019,
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Photo note: The cover images of Blanche Estella Fry and Bertha Luella Fry as children, in 1897, and in 1950, are from the collection of Barbara Forster.

Editor's Letter

Laurel Smith



“We live in the most exciting, most dangerous, most dynamic time in human history—at least we believe so, in large part because it’s the time we are living in.”

I recently read this statement by Brian Hieggelke, and it got me thinking about perceptions; how we regard, understand, and interpret our family history.

We find information about our relations, and we try to understand it. But our understanding is based on our own lives, our values and experiences. We cannot judge our ancestors based upon our personal beliefs. Our ancestors were not living in these times, and they did not share the same experiences.

In this issue, you will find two articles about children being separated from their parents. As the Bulletin team edited these articles, we thought about the titles, “Kidnapped” and “Abducted,” as these words may not clearly, by today’s definitions, represent what happened to these children.

As editors, we strive to seek common ground; a non-judgmental place where you, the reader, can formulate your own opinion. Is the person in the story the hero or the villain? Was the child born out of wedlock a product of infidelity or violence?

As a genealogist doing your own research, you may have come across facts that challenge your beliefs, even information that shook you to your core. How do you evaluate and process what you have found?

I know that I struggle to understand the situation. Sometimes, I’ve had to dig deep to move past my perceptions, to a place of acknowledgement and acceptance without judgement.

Hieggelke ended his letter by saying, “Nobody has faced the challenges that we, collectively, are facing today. Except those who came before us.”

The Bulletin team hopes you enjoy this issue, and that it serves to educate, entertain, and inspire you.



Kidnapped!

Twin Sisters Blanche Estella Fry (1882–1954) and Bertha Luella Fry (1882–1958)

Debra Koehler
with Barbara Forster and Teresa Weber

INTRODUCTION

“The sad thing, my mother’s mother had passed away in 1903 and her dying wish was please don’t give up until you have found my daughters.”

—Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim, Amanda’s granddaughter¹

So, her descendants say, ended the anguished life of Amanda Vance Fry who, just a decade prior to her passing, had found herself critically ill and abandoned in a Colorado mining town with five young daughters to support, including Blanche and Bertha, her newborn twins.

Desperate for help, she turned to George William “Billy” Wells and his wife, Alissa Rozeen “Rosey” Wells, who were trusted family friends, but whom descendants say would snatch the twins and raise them as their own. Amanda would never see her twins again. But her three older daughters never gave up on her dying wish to find them. And thanks to some early 20th century sleuthing, and perhaps a little divine intervention, Blanche and Bertha ultimately would be found and reunited with their birth family.

Just how the twins came to be lost and later found is a remarkable and complex tale that spans more than three decades and at least eight states. Blanche’s granddaughter Barbara Forster and her great-granddaughter Teresa Weber have done an impressive job of researching and preserving the story for future generations.

Still, exactly what happened in 1882–1883, when the twins were born and subsequently



Blanche Estella (left) and Bertha Luella Fry (right).
Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

taken, is not entirely clear. This article seeks to use the tools of the genealogist to compile the extensive work of Barbara and Teresa, fill in a few gaps where possible, evaluate the evidence with a critical eye, and present as complete a narrative as possible as to how the twins not only came to be separated from the Frys but more amazingly, how they came to be reunited with them.

THE TWINS’ PARENTS: FRANK AND AMANDA FRY

What makes this story so challenging is that none of the people involved, including the twins, are documented in Colorado in the early 1880s when descendants say Blanche and Bertha were born and eventually taken. Nor were they documented any place else for that matter.

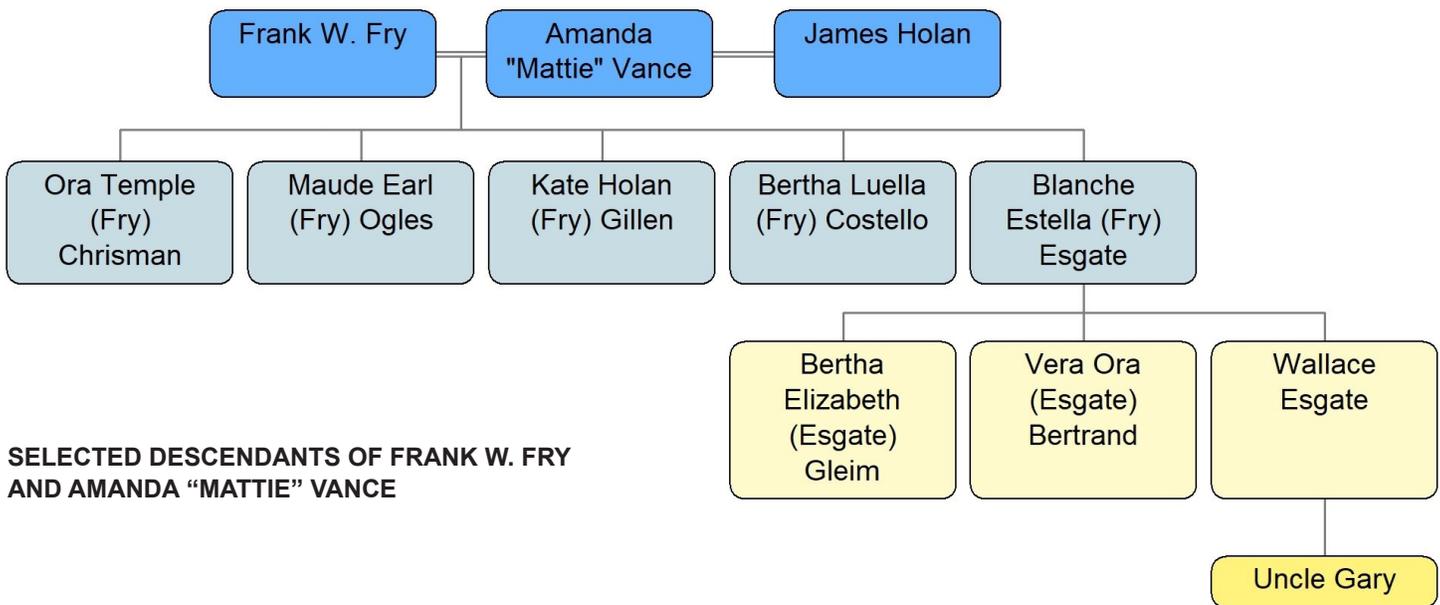
But what can be established from the record, and specifically from the 1860 federal census, is that the twins’ mother, Amanda Fry (nee Vance) was born in or around 1855 in Ohio,² and that Amanda’s future husband, Frank W. Fry, was born a few



Amanda (Vance) Fry

1. Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim, handwritten letter, location, date, and addressee unknown; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14–17 May 2019, “Blanche,” JPGs saved to author’s electronic files, p. 3.

2. 1860 U.S. census, Miller Township, Knox County, Ohio, population schedule, pg. 172 (penned), dwelling 128, family 128, John Vance; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1,438.



SELECTED DESCENDANTS OF FRANK W. FRY AND AMANDA "MATTIE" VANCE

years prior (1852 or 1853) in Iowa.³ The *Fry Storybook*, a family history written by Barbara (Blanche’s granddaughter) states that Frank came from a place known as Frytown in Johnson County, just outside Iowa City in eastern Iowa. The *Fry Storybook* says Frytown (officially Williamstown) earned its nickname because the Frys were the first European family to arrive in the vicinity and because of the large number of Frys who subsequently settled there.⁴

By the 1870 census, both the Fry family and the Vance family had moved, from Iowa and Ohio respectively, to Osage Township in Crawford County, Kansas. Frank was recorded as seventeen years of age, and Amanda was fourteen. Both were living at home with their families, and both of their fathers were farmers.⁵ Five years later, both families were recorded again in the 1875 Kansas State Census, still living in Osage.⁶ At some point, a courtship apparently ensued, because Frank Fry and

Amanda Vance were married in Crawford County on 26 March 1876.⁷ Then, for a time, the newlyweds vanish from the record. So, it is necessary to rely upon oral and written family history, along with indirect evidence, to advance the story through the birth and disappearance of the twins.

THREE DAUGHTERS BORN

According to her death certificate, Frank and Amanda’s first child, Ora Temple Fry, was born 20 December 1876 in Appleton City, St. Clair County, Missouri.⁸ The *Fry Storybook* names a second daughter, Maude Earl Fry, born 17 November 1878, also in Appleton City.⁹ A third daughter, Kate Holan Fry, followed on 28 August 1880. Her birth is critical to the story in that Kate was born, according to her death certificate, in Rosita, Custer County, Colorado,¹⁰ about 70 miles southwest of Colorado Springs, the same town where the twins, Blanche and Bertha, would be born, and whence they would subsequently be taken.¹¹

3. 1860 U.S. census, Washington Township, Johnson County, Iowa, population schedule, pg. 17 (penned), dwelling 1161, family 1085, Marshall Fry; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1,438.

4. Barbara Forster, *Fry Storybook*, (undated); digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, “Blanche,” saved as PDF to author’s electronic files, p.2.

5. 1870 U.S. census, Osage, Crawford County, Kansas, population schedule, pg. 6 (penned), dwelling 38, family 43, Marshall Fry; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019). Also, 1870 U.S. census, Osage, Crawford County, Kansas, population schedule, pg. 9 (penned), dwelling 68, family 73, John Vance; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); both citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 431.

6. 1875 census, Osage, Crawford County, Kansas, pg. 8, dwelling 5, family 5, Marshall Fry. Also pg. 26, dwelling 7, family 7, John Vance; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing microfilm reels K1–K20, Kansas City Historical Society.

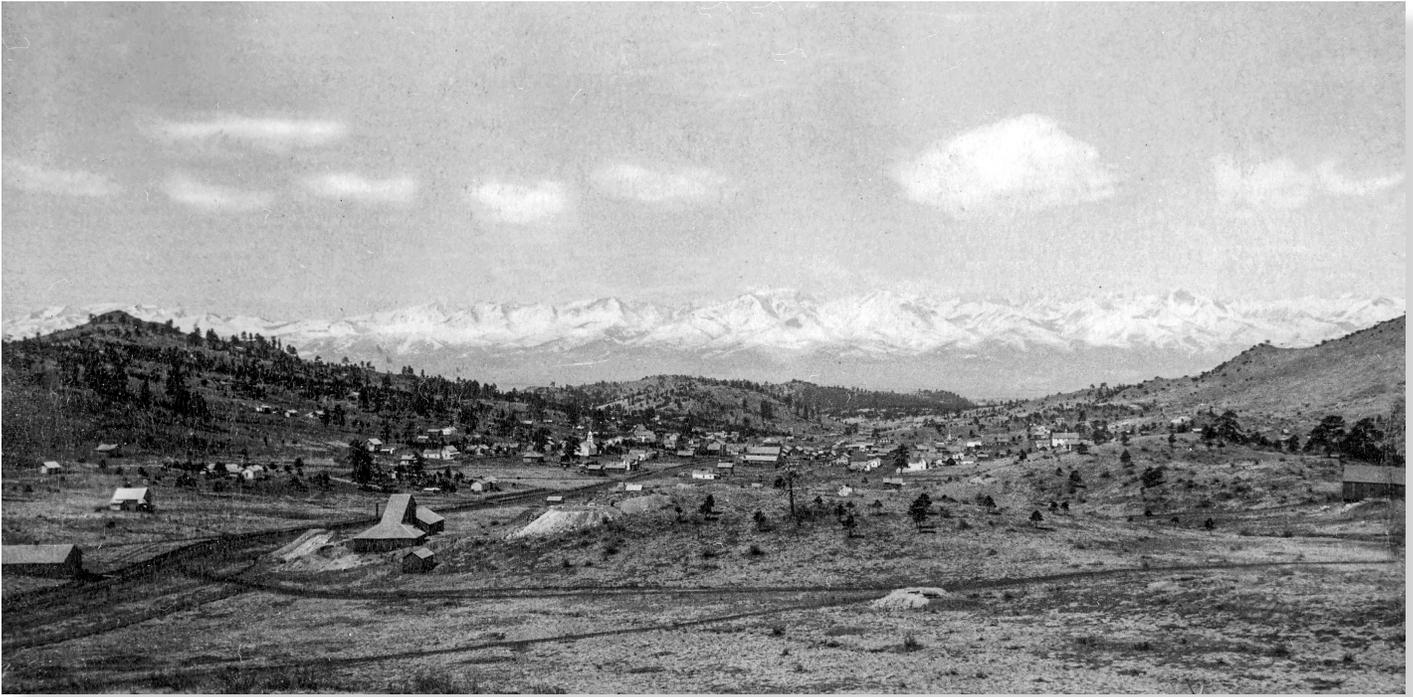
7. Crawford County, Kansas, marriage certificate (1876), Frank Fry-Miss Amanda Vance; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019), “Kansas, County Marriage Records, 1811-1911,” Amanda Vance.

8. Division of Health of Missouri, *Standard Death Certificate* no. 4687 (1955), Ora T. Chrisman; image, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (sos.mo.gov : accessed 9 June 2019).

9. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 13.

10. Division of Health of Missouri, *Standard Death Certificate* no. 1616 (1954), Kate Gillen; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 12 June 2019, “death certificates,” saved as PDF to author’s electronic files.

11. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, pp. 14–16.



Rosita, Colorado, in the 1880s. Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Photographic collections.

What brought the Frys from Missouri to Colorado is not known. But by 1878, two years before Kate was born, Rosita was at the peak of a sudden but short-lived silver boom. According to the book, *Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*:

... in the mid-1870s, Rosita was a bustling, hell-raising town of fifteen hundred inhabitants, that included three assayers, three lawyers, three ministers, six doctors, and one real estate agent, but fortunately, as noted in the *Golden Transcript* [newspaper], “no sewing machine or insurance man.”¹²

It’s possible the Frys were lured to Rosita like thousands of other prospectors to cash in on the silver boom, either in the mines or in one of the businesses that sprang up to support them. In Frank’s case, the mining bug may have bitten him, because some two decades later, on the 1900 census, his occupation would be recorded as

“Miner.”¹³ Amanda’s occupation was noted on the 1875 Kansas census as “Teacher,”¹⁴ an occupation her descendants say she would later return to in Rosita.

The other fascinating thing about the Fry’s third daughter, Kate, is her middle name, noted by Barbara in the *Fry Storybook* as Holan.¹⁵ Holan also happens to be the surname of Amanda’s second husband, James Holan, whom she would marry in 1893, thirteen years after Kate’s birth.¹⁶ According to Barbara, Kate’s middle name is no coincidence. She says James Holan, who was nearly twenty years Amanda’s senior, was a longtime family friend who eventually married Amanda so that she could inherit his property.¹⁷ And indeed, James had property worth inheriting in the form of a Civil War pension.¹⁸ He had served with the Union Army, Company B of the 2nd New Jersey Infantry, from May 1861 until April 1865, and spent time towards the end of his service in the infamous Confederate prison in Andersonville,

12. Sandra Dallas, *Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985, pp. 168–170.

13. 1900 U.S. census, Precinct 11, Gunnison County, Colorado, population schedule, sheet 2 (penned), dwelling 45, family 45, Frank Fry: image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1,854.

14. 1875 census, Osage, Crawford County, Kansas, pg. 2, dwelling 7, family 7, John Vance.

15. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 13.

16. Author unknown, notation on back of Amanda Vance portrait; digital image. obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, “genealogy stuff,” JPEG saved to author’s electronic files.

17. Barbara Forster to Debra Koehler, email, 13 May 2019, “re: Blanche Fry Article.”

18. Kansas State Historical Society, “Enrollment of Ex-Soldiers and Sailors, their Widows and Orphans, 1889”; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019), “Kansas, Enrollment of Civil War Veterans, 1889,” James Holan, image 363 of 472.

Georgia.¹⁹ James was awarded a pension of six dollars per month for rheumatism attributed to his incarceration.²⁰ Given the horrific conditions at Andersonville, it is remarkable James didn't suffer worse. Of the 45,000 Union soldiers held there in 1864 and 1865, nearly 13,000 died of disease, malnutrition, overcrowding, poor sanitation, or exposure.²¹

But James survived Andersonville. And if Kate was given Holan as her middle name at birth (rather than adopting it later in life) it would suggest James was already an established family friend by the time Kate was born. Despite this apparent tie, it seems James was nowhere near Colorado in August 1880 when Amanda gave birth. The 1880 census (enumerated 3 June) found a James Holan, age 44, more than one thousand miles away in Danville, Illinois, where he lived in a boarding house and worked as a cooper²² (barrel maker).²³ This James Holan is a very close match to the James Holan Amanda would eventually marry. According to his death certificate, our James Holan was born in 1836,²⁴ which would have made him 44 years old in 1880, as is noted on the census. And, according to his Civil War records, our James Holan worked as a cooper,²⁵ as did the James Holan recorded in the census.

While we know from the census where James Holan was in 1880, the whereabouts of the Fry family is not so easily established. Despite an exhaustive search, Frank Fry, his wife Amanda, and their daughters Ora, Maude, and Kate have not been found in the 1880 federal census. Amanda's parents, John and Sarah Vance, were enumerated in Rosita, Colorado on 22 June 1880.²⁶



James Holan

Given that her parents were in Rosita in 1880, it is possible Amanda and her family were there as well.

Likewise, no official record of Kate's birth has been found to place the Frys in Rosita. However, as noted earlier, Kate's death certificate records her place of birth as Rosita, Colorado.²⁷ And, the delayed birth record for her future daughter (Francis Anita Gillen) also identifies Kate's birthplace as Colorado (no town specified).²⁸ The lack of direct evidence of Kate's birthplace is more frustrating than it is surprising. Although Colorado required that all births and deaths be recorded as of its statehood in 1876, records prior to 1920 are spotty.²⁹ It doesn't stretch the imagination that Rosita, a mining camp on the fringe of civilization, failed to record every birth.

PREGNANCY AND ABANDONMENT

Despite the lack of official records, descendants, including Barbara and Teresa, have no doubt that in the early months of 1882, Frank and Amanda Fry were still in Rosita, Colorado, and that Amanda was once again expecting. Only this time, she was carrying the twins (Blanche and Bertha). And, before they would be born, Frank would abandon Amanda, setting in motion the series of events that would ultimately lead to their "kidnapping." As Barbara writes in a biography of Blanche:

Great-Grandmother Amanda Vance Fry was about seven months pregnant with twin girls when her husband Frank Fry deserted the family and never returned in July of 1882.³⁰

Barbara's account is based, in part, on stories told to her by her Aunt Vera (Esgate) Bertrand, who

19. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," p. 517, James Holan; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); "U.S National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," James Holan, image 55 of 3820, citing NARA microfilm publication M1749, roll 282.

20. Kansas State Historical Society, "Enrollment of Ex-Soldiers and Sailors, their Widows and Orphans, 1889." And, Department of Veterans Affairs, "Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938."

21. American Battlefield Trust, "Andersonville Prison" (battlefields.org/learn/articles/andersonville-prison : accessed 9 June 2019).

22. 1880 U.S. census, Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, population schedule, sheet 10 (penned), dwelling 75, family 81, James Holan; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1,454.

23. Dictionary.com, "cooper," ([dictionary.com/browse/cooper](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/cooper) : accessed 9 June 2019).

24. City of Kansas City, Kansas, Office of City Clerk, Death Record, James Holan; image, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," PFD saved to author's electronic files.

25. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938."

26. 1880 U.S. census, Rosita Precinct, Custer County, Colorado, population schedule, sheet 38 (penned), dwelling 17, family 13, John Vance; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1,454.

27. Division of Health of Missouri, *Standard Death Certificate* no. 1616 (1954), Kate Gillen.

28. Iowa State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, *Delayed Certificate of Birth* no. 470449 (1941), Frances Anita Gillen; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019), "Iowa, Delayed Birth Records, 1856-1940."

29. FamilySearch, "Colorado Vital Records" ([familysearch.org/wiki/en/Colorado_Vital_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Colorado_Vital_Records) : accessed 9 June 2019).

30. Barbara Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, (undated); digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, "Blanche," saved as PDF to author's electronic files, p. 19.

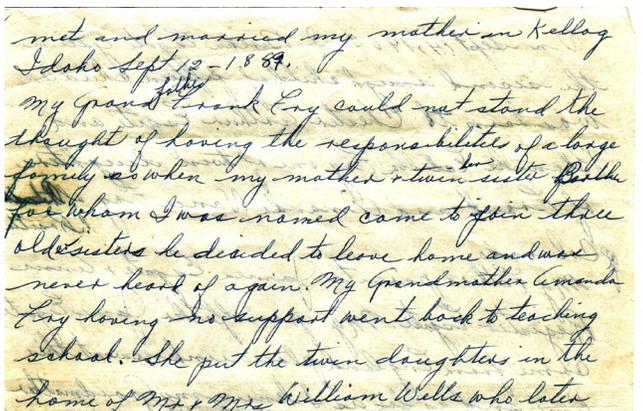
was one of Blanche's eight daughters.³¹ And it echoes a handwritten letter penned by Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim, another of Blanche's daughters, in which she suggested a motive for Frank's abandonment:

My grandfather Frank Fry could not stand the thought of having the responsibilities of a large family so when my mother and her twin sister Bertha for whom I was named came to join their three older sisters he decided to leave home and was never heard of again.³²

But Frank *would* be heard from again, nine years later, in May of 1891, when he sued Amanda for divorce. In the summons (filed with Chaffee County, Colorado), Frank accused Amanda of abandoning *him*:

... plaintiff [Frank Fry] alleges that the defendant [Amanda Fry] has willfully deserted and absented herself from him without any reasonable cause ... And has departed from this State without any intention of returning.³³

In his complaint for divorce (likewise filed with Chaffee County, Colorado), Frank also states that he and Amanda had just two daughters, Ora Temple and Maude Earl. The complaint makes no mention of Kate Holan. Nor does it mention the twins, Blanche Estella and Bertha Luella, with whom descendants say Amanda was pregnant when Frank deserted the family.³⁴ Frank's complaint goes on to say:



Excerpt from a letter written by Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim, Blanche's daughter, in which she addresses Frank's desertion of his family. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

That plaintiff during said marriage has been a dutiful and loving husband but that defendant has neglected her duty as a wife in this to wit. That about the month of February 1883 she willfully deserted/absented herself from the plaintiff ... for the space of more than eight years ...³⁵

Clearly, Frank's divorce petition completely contradicts the stories handed down to Blanche's descendants. Barbara explains the discrepancies this way:

In this document, he claims only two children—Maud[e] and Ora—his memory was not the best as he had also Kate in 1880, the twins were born after his desertion in 1882. He published the divorce pending in *The Buena Vista Register* (newspaper) in lieu of finding her. He also states he married her on March 22, 1877, when in reality it was March 26, 1876. He states he was 36 and she was 34, making it two years difference in age but it was really three years ... He states he was in Colorado since 1881 but Kate was born there in 1880. He really didn't know what he was talking about and pretty much put down whatever to get the divorce with no hassle.³⁶

THE TWINS, THE WELLSSES, AND THE SNATCH

Whether Frank abandoned Amanda in July of 1882, as Blanche's descendants say, or Amanda left Frank in February 1883, as he alleges in his divorce complaint (though she would have had to have done so with young kids in tow), one fact is perfectly clear. Twins Blanche Estella and Bertha Luella Fry were born into a family in deep turmoil. No official record has been found of their birth. But their descendants say they arrived on 2 September 1882 in Rosita, Colorado.³⁷ This information is somewhat supported by the twins' death certificates. Bertha's confirms her date of birth as 2 September 1882, but it names her place of birth as Kansas, not Colorado. The informant for Bertha's death certificate was George Costello, who was either her ex-husband or their son of the same name.³⁸ It is reasonable to conclude that George, whether the son or the ex, did not know or had forgotten in which state Bertha had been born. Blanche's death certificate names Colorado as her place of birth, but her date of birth is off by one year, 2 September 1881

31. Ibid.

32. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 2.

33. State of Colorado, *Summons*, Frank Fry versus Amanda Fry, 12 May 1891; images, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," saved as PDF to author's electronic files.

34. J. B. McCoy, Attorney for Plaintiff, *Complaint for Divorce*, F. W. Fry vs. Amanda Fry; images, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," PDF saved to author's electronic files.

35. Ibid.

36. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 9.

37. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 16. Also, Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 14.

38. State of Idaho, *Certificate of Death* No 4941 (1958), Bertha Luella Spencer; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, "Blanche," PDF saved to author's electronic files.

versus 1882. The informant listed on her death certificate is her husband, Chester Esgate.³⁹ Perhaps in his grief, he stated the wrong birth year.

Adding to the family's woes when the twins were born was Amanda's failing health. Descendants say she was battling serious illness, so Amanda's parents, John and Sarah Vance, pitched in to help her with the children. But unfortunately, as Barbara writes, that support wouldn't last long:

Amanda was in extremely poor health and desperate for assistance with her three girls and the new babies. Her dad, John Vance, and her mother, Sarah, were assisting when he [John Vance] suddenly died Oct. 10, 1882, barely a month after the twins were born.⁴⁰

Barbara has a photograph of John's headstone found in a small pioneer cemetery in Rosita.⁴¹ And an online memorial to John posted to *Find A Grave* includes a transcription of his obituary dated 12 October 1882, which says he died of pneumonia. The obituary is attributed to *The Sierra Journal*,⁴² a newspaper that was published in Rosita between 1880-1885.⁴³ Given the lack of official documentation found for the family in Rosita, John's headstone and his obituary could be the only surviving evidence they were ever there.

With the support of her father gone, and her health still failing, descendants say Amanda made a desperate choice. Bertha Elizabeth explained in her letter:

My grandmother, Amanda Fry, having no support went back to teaching school. She put the twin daughters in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Wells ...⁴⁴

Barbara adds:

William and Rosey Wells volunteered to watch the twins at their home, a few miles away, when the girls were two months old, until Amanda got well.⁴⁵

Teresa (Blanche's great-granddaughter), recalls being told by her Uncle Gary (Blanche's grandson, Wallace Gerald Esgate) that the Wellses were family friends of Amanda's, possibly going back to the Vance's time in Ohio.⁴⁶

As with the Frys, no official documentation has been found to place the Wellses in Rosita, Colorado, in 1882. Instead, William G. Wells (26) and his wife, Alissa R. (25) are found in the 1880 federal census in the Richmond precinct of Furnas County, Nebraska, along with their two sons, Arthur (4) and Elmer (2). According to the census, William Wells had been born in Ohio.⁴⁷ So it is possible the family ties between the Wellses and the Vances went as far back as Uncle Gary said. And, according to the census, William Wells worked as a blacksmith.⁴⁸ So it is also



John Vance

possible his work brought him from Nebraska to the mining town of Rosita between the 1880 census and the birth of the twins in 1882.

According to Barbara's research notes, compiled from conversations with family members, Amanda never fully recovered her health. So, to quote Barbara, "the Wells[es] kept the twins most of the time."⁴⁹ Teresa recalls her Uncle Gary saying that Amanda may have been battling tuberculosis, and she became so sick she ultimately had to leave town:

39. State of California, Department of Health, *Certification of Vital Record* No. 54 099775 (1954), Blanche Estella Esgate; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," PDF saved to author's electronic files.

40. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, pg. 19.

41. Find A Grave, database with images (findagrave.com : accessed 10 June 2019), memorial 42003428, John Vance (1829-1882), Rosita Cemetery, photograph from Adrena's Daughter.

42. Find A Grave, John Vance (1829-1882).

43. Donald E. Oehlerts, *Guide to Colorado Newspapers 1859-1963* (Denver: Bibliographical Center for Research Rocky Mountain Region, Inc., 1964), p. 25; digital image, *Denver Public Library* (denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/doc_2017_1868.pdf : accessed 14 June 2019), "Custer County, Rosita."

44. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 2.

45. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

46. Teresa Weber to author, Ancestry message, 17 May 2019, "Blanche Maybell and Blanche Estella and Blanche Luella," copy saved to author's electronic files.

47. 1880 U.S. census, Richmond Precinct, Furnas County, Nebraska, population schedule, sheet 7 (penned), dwelling 77, family 79, Wm G. Wells; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1,454.

48. Ibid.

49. Barbara Forster, "notes from all sources," circa 1994; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, "Blanche," word.doc saved to author's electronic files, p. 1.

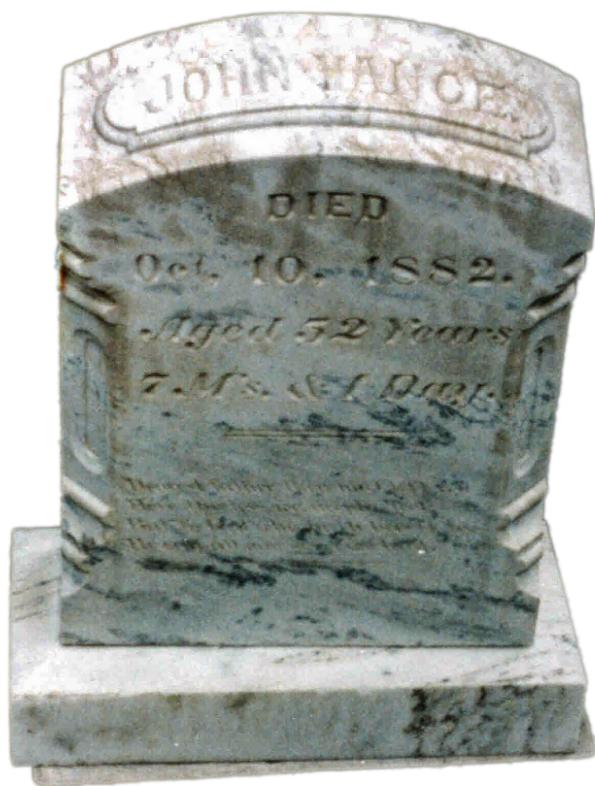
He told me that Blanche and Bertha were “given” to the Wells family to watch because their mother, Amanda Vance, had to return to Kansas City for medical treatment.⁵⁰

Sadly, Teresa’s Uncle Gary has passed on. But she recently checked with both her mother and her Aunt Judy (Blanche’s granddaughters) and they agree that “the Wells[es] raised grandma (Blanche) because her mother (Amanda) was in a TB [tuberculosis] sanitarium.”⁵¹

And it was while Amanda was seeing to her health, whether in Rosita or in Kansas City, that her descendants say the Wells family left Rosita and took Blanche and Bertha with them. Barbara writes:

The Wells family disappeared from Rosita, Colorado, with the twin girls when they were about 6–10 months old.⁵²

Based on the age of the twins at the time of the disappearance, the Wellses would have left Rosita sometime between February and June 1883. And as



Headstone for John Vance. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

Blanche’s daughter, Bertha Elizabeth made clear in her letter, Amanda had no idea they planned to take her twin girls:

Mr. and Mrs. William Wells ... later without the consent of their mother took the little girls and their own four children and came across the plains ...⁵³

Teresa has a more charitable view of what happened, based on conversations with her Uncle Gary:

When she [Amanda] eventually returned [from her medical treatments], the Wells family had left Rosita. I do not believe that they maliciously kidnapped the girls. The Vances and Wells[es] all lived in a mining boomtown. By 1885, the silver rush was over in Rosita. Because George William (known as Billy) was a blacksmith, he probably left when work slowed. And because Mr. Wells had taken the girls under his care, he had no choice but to take them with them if he had not heard from Amanda, which I assume he had not ... My Uncle Gary actually knew Blanche and Bertha’s sister, Maude Ogles. He had lunch with her often when he was a student at Northwestern University [Evanston, Illinois].⁵⁴

Teresa is correct that the mining boom in Rosita was winding down by the time the twins were born. According to the website *Undercover Colorado*, Rosita’s silver mines started to decline in the 1880s, “slowly migrating people away.”⁵⁵

Regardless of why the Wellses left Rosita, Amanda was devastated. Barbara writes in her research notes:

Amanda worried about her twin babies to the day she died ... she was heartbroken. She has spent her short life trying to find them and trace where the Wells[es] had gone.⁵⁶

6969	Pool John	W M 59		1.	James
	Fry Frank W	W M 30	Widder	1.	Labors
7070	Lucia Fanciro	W M 73		1.	"
	— Maria	W F 73	Wife	1.	Labors

Frank W. Fry enumerated in the 1885 Colorado state census. The mark in the left box of the fourth column indicates he was single.

50. Teresa Weber to author, Ancestry message, 16 May 2019, “Blanche Maybell and Blanche Estella and Blanche Luella,” copy saved to author’s electronic files, Elkton, Oregon.

51. Teresa Weber to Debra Koehler, email, 13 June 2019, “re: Wells.”

52. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 16.

53. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 2.

54. Teresa Weber to author, Ancestry message, 16 May 2019. And, Weber, Teresa, to author, email, 14 June 2019, “correction.”

55. Undercover Colorado, “Rosita, CO Ghost Town” (uncovercolorado.com/ghost-towns/rosita/ : accessed 10 June 2019).

56. Forster, “notes from all sources,” p. 1.

**WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?
A TALE OF THREE STATE CENSUSES**

Because neither the Wellses nor the Frys have been found in the federal census in 1880, it is both surprising and fortuitous that both can be found in state censuses conducted in 1885. And thanks to these records, it is possible to piece together some of what happened next.

First, there is Frank Fry, the husband and father, who descendants say abandoned Amanda when she was seven months pregnant with the twins. He shows up in

115	116	Sarah A. Vance	57	7/11	-	Housekeeper
		Amanda Frye	29	2/11	-	Daughter
		Ora Frye	9	2/11	-	
		Maude "	6	2/11	-	
		Kate "	4	2/11	-	

Amanda Fry and her children, enumerated as Freye, in the 1885 Kansas state census, along with her mother Sarah A. Vance. The dashes in the second-to-last column indicate Amanda and Sarah were widowed.

the Colorado state census in 1885 working as a laborer in Rio Grande County, less than sixty miles southwest of Rosita (although quite a ways away, considering Rosita and Rio Grande County are on opposite sides of both the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and what is now the Great Sand Dunes National Park). Frank is identified in the census by his birthplace (Iowa), his age (30, calculated against a birth year of 1852–53), and by his middle initial of W. As for his civil condition, Frank is marked on the census as being single.⁵⁷ It is not known who gave this information to the census taker, but if it was Frank, it suggests that in his own mind, he was already “divorced” from Amanda and the family he created with her.

Amanda had also moved on. She is found in the 1885 Kansas State Census living in Parsons, Labette County, with her widowed mother (Sarah Vance) and her three older daughters, Ora, Maude, and Kate. The surname is recorded as “Freye” rather than “Fry,” but otherwise, the names, ages, and birthplaces are a match. Again, we do not know who provided the information to the census taker, but Amanda is not marked as either married or single. She and her mother are both marked as widowed.⁵⁸

It is worth noting that James Holan, the Civil War veteran who would later marry Amanda, had also made his way from Illinois to Kansas by 1885. He is recorded in the Kansas state census of that year in Wyandotte County, about 150 miles north of where Amanda was living.⁵⁹ Wyandotte County is home to Kansas City, where Amanda likely would have gone if she needed ongoing medical treatment.⁶⁰ So, while the distance between Wyandotte County and Amanda’s home in Parsons is too great to suggest a courtship between her and her future husband at this time, it is possible James Holan, a longtime family friend, provided emotional and other support to Amanda if she found herself seeing doctors in Kansas City.

Conspicuously absent from Amanda’s household as enumerated in the 1885 Kansas census are the twins, Blanche and Bertha Fry, who would have been going on three. That’s because they are found in the 1885 Nebraska census, living with the Wells family.⁶¹ And if there is a “smoking gun” regarding their kidnapping, this is it.



Kate, Ora, Amanda, and Maude Fry. Parsons, Kansas. Courtesy of Teresa Weber.

57. 1885 census, Rio Grande County, Colorado, population schedule, p. 6, dwelling 69, family 69, John Poole household; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019), citing NARA microfilm publication M158, roll 8.

58. 1885 census, City of Parsons, Labette County, Kansas, population schedule, p. 46, dwelling 115, family 116, Sarah A. Vance household; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019), citing microfilm reels K1–K146, Kansas City Historical Society.

59. 1885 census, City of Wyandotte, Kansas, population schedule, pp. 14–15, dwelling 74, family 15, K. A. Edwards Household, James Holan; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019), citing microfilm reels K1–K146, Kansas City Historical Society.

60. Kansas City, Kansas, “About Kansas, KS” (visitkansascityks.com/about-kansas-city/ : accessed 10 June 2019).

61. 1885 census, Beaver City Precinct, Furnas County, Nebraska, population schedule, p. 3, dwelling 29, family 41, Wm Wells Household; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 18 May 2019), citing NARA microfilm publication M352, roll 56 (image no long available, copy downloaded and saved to author’s electronic files).

29	41	Wells Rose	Wm	m	23			1
		Rosen	Wm	F	23		Wife	
		Arthur	Wm	m	10		Son	
		Blanche	Wm	F	2		Adopted daughter	
		Bertha	Wm	F	2		Adopted daughter	

The Wells Family enumerated in the 1885 Nebraska state census, with twins Blanche and Bertha, each identified as “adopted daughter.”

The 1885 Nebraska census places The Wells family in the Beaver City precinct of Furnas County, the same county where they had been enumerated in 1880. Mr. Wells works as a blacksmith, just as he did in 1880. With him are his wife “Rosen” and their son, Arthur, who was four in 1880 and is now recorded as ten. Missing is their younger son Elmer, who would have been about seven years old (no record has been found to explain Elmer’s absence). And right there on the census, listed under Arthur, are Blanche and Bertha, both age two. The birthplace of both girls is noted as Colorado. And that’s not all. In a column titled “Relationship of each person to the head of the family,” Blanche and Bertha are each identified as the Wellses’ *adopted daughter*.⁶²

Wow. Wow. Wow. Thank you, Nebraska! Not only for conducting a census in 1885, but also for including relationship to head of household on the form. This single document not only tells us where the twins went when they vanished from Rosita, but it also offers a glimpse into the mindset of the Wellses as it relates to the twins. While it is not known who told the census taker the twins were adopted, it seems likely that information came from Mr. or Mrs. Wells, either because they informed the census taker directly, or because they informed a neighbor who then informed the census taker. Thinking about the word *adopted*, two things leap to mind. First, the Wellses did not feel the need to conceal the twins from the census taker. They were enumerated with their true given names, ages, and birthplace, suggesting the Wellses were

not afraid someone was coming to arrest them as baby snatchers and recover the twins. But at the same time, by designating the twins as adopted, the Wellses do appear to be claiming Blanche and Bertha as their own. If their intent had been otherwise, they could have presented the girls as fosters, charges, or wards, in which case, they likely would have been recorded with the surname of Fry rather than Wells. As genealogists, we live for documents like this. I still get tingles when I look at it.

But there is one more document that is even more remarkable, a family portrait of the Wells family, likely taken near the time of the 1885 Nebraska census which includes the twins, Blanche and Bertha Fry, seated on the lap of Mr. Wells. An inscription on the back of the photograph, attributed to Bertha Elizabeth (Blanche’s daughter) reads:



Wells family photo. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

This is Mr. and Mrs. Wells, their oldest son Arthur, Blanche and Bertha. I do not know Mr. Wells given name, but hers was Rosey, that is the way she signed it. He seems to have kept a blacksmith shop and sold farm implements too at Beaver City. She [Mrs. Wells] speaks at a later date of them moving to a farm east of Beaver City and also of relatives of hers living in Kearney [Nebraska].⁶³

A fourth child seen in the photograph, a baby held by Mrs. Wells, is not identified in the inscription. The baby is much too young to have been Elmer from the 1880 census, who was only two-to-three years younger than Arthur.⁶⁴ But according to the U.S. Mortality Schedule for the state of Nebraska, the Wellses had another son named Thomas, who died of a fever at the age of one sometime between 1 June 1884 and 31 May 1885.⁶⁵ The twins would have been two to three years old when Thomas perished, and Arthur Wells (the boy seated in the front) would have been about ten.⁶⁶ Given the apparent ages of the children in the photo, it’s possible the baby seated on Mrs. Wells’ lap is Thomas. But without knowing the date of the photograph, it is impossible to say for sure.

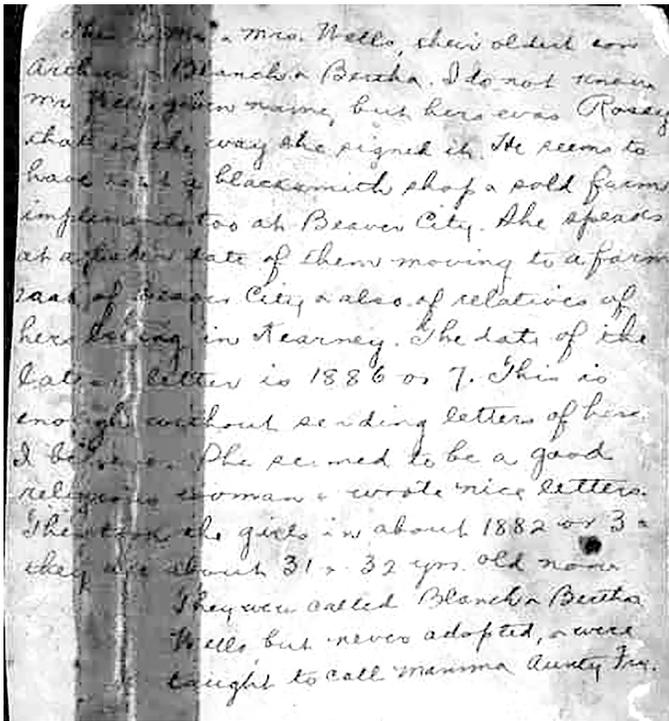
62. Ibid.

63. Wells Family Photo and inscription on back attributed to Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim; digital image. obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, “Blanche,” JPEGs saved to author’s electronic files.

64. 1880 U.S. census, Richmond Precinct, Furnas County, Nebraska, population schedule, sheet 7 (penned), dwelling 77, family 79, Wm G. Wells.

65. 1885 census, Beaver City Precinct, Furnas County, Nebraska, mortality schedule, p. 1, line 2, Thomas Wells; image, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com); accessed 10 June 2019), citing NARA microfilm publication M352, roll 20.

66. 1885 census, Beaver City Precinct, Furnas County, Nebraska, population schedule, p. 3, Wm Wells Household.



The inscription on the back of the Wells family photo. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

What is also unclear from the inscription on the back of the photograph is whether Amanda would have regarded her twins as “kidnapped” immediately after they left Rosita with the Wells family, or if she simply considered them in the extended care of a distant family friend. The question is raised by this line from Bertha Elizabeth’s inscription on the back of the photograph: “... she [Mrs. Wells] seemed to be a good religious woman and wrote nice letters.”⁶⁷

The letters between the Wellses and Amanda are explained further in Bertha Elizabeth’s letter:

Mama [Blanche] told us that Mrs. Wells used to tell them [the twins] I have a letter from Aunt Amanda and she sent her love to you girls. She [Blanche] told us as a child she wondered why “Aunt Amanda” never mentioned the other [Wells] children.⁶⁸

If Amanda and Mrs. Wells exchanged letters after the Wellses left Colorado with the twins, Amanda must have known where her girls were. And presumably, health and other factors permitting, she could have gone to retrieve them. So, it is difficult to believe Amanda initially considered the twins to be “kidnapped.” That realization may have come later, when, as Bertha Elizabeth noted in her inscription on the Wells photograph, the letters stopped

coming. According to Bertha Elizabeth, “the date of the last letter [from Mrs. Wells] is 1886 or 7.”⁶⁹

That would have been when the twins were four or five years old. Of the letters, Bertha Elizabeth said: “In reality, The Wells[es] discontinued writing because they wanted [to keep] the twins.”⁷⁰

One can only imagine the angst Amanda must have felt when the letters stopped. And she likely became all the more frantic when her letters to the twins went unanswered. Because at some point, the Wellses left Nebraska and moved more than eleven-hundred miles away, to northern Idaho. The exact date of their departure from Nebraska is not known. But as Barbara wrote in her research notes, the twins, Blanche and Bertha, were old enough to remember the move:

The girls said they could remember coming across the plains and crossing the Blue Mountains at Toll-gate [Oregon] about forty-two miles from Walla Walla. Picking up cow pies [to burn] was their



Chester Arthur Esgate and Blanche Estella “Wells” on their wedding day. Note Blanche’s wedding dress here, and Bertha’s on the next page. A shared dress or identical dresses? Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

67. Wells Family Photo and inscription on back attributed to Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim.

68. Gleim, handwritten letter pp. 2-3.

69. Wells Family Photo and inscription on back attributed to Bertha Elizabeth (Esgate) Gleim.

70. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 3.

non-favorite thing to do. They had gone to Coeur d'Alene Idaho via the Oregon Trail. The Wells family decided to come west to work in the mines.⁷¹

According to Bertha Elizabeth, the Wellses first went to Wallace, then Burke, both in Shoshone County, Idaho, before they finally settled in Coeur d'Alene.⁷² All three towns are located within sixty miles of each other in a region in northern Idaho known as the Silver Valley. The first silver discoveries were made there in 1884, and the region went on to become one of the most valuable silver districts in the world.⁷³ It is easy to imagine why William Wells, a blacksmith by trade, might have been



George Franklin Costello and Bertha Luella “Wells” on their wedding day. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

enticed to leave Nebraska for the promise of riches in yet another boomtown.

DOUBLE WEDDING

The twins, and likely the entire Wells family, were living in the little town of Gem, Idaho, located midway between the mines in Wallace and Burke, when Blanche and Bertha were married in a double wedding ceremony on 12 September 1899, just ten days after their 17th birthday. Blanche married Chester Arthur Esgate and Bertha married George Franklin Costello.⁷⁴ In her letter, Bertha Elizabeth said that Blanche and Chester (her future parents) met while Chester was working as a cook in a mining camp.⁷⁵

On their marriage certificates, the twins are named as Blanche and Bertha Wells, not Fry. And Mrs. “Rogeen” Wells is identified as “Mother” where she signed as a witness on Blanche’s certificate.⁷⁶ This, despite the fact that the twins were told, according to Bertha Elizabeth, that the Wellses were not their birth parents just prior to the double wedding:

My mother [Blanche] was never told that she and her twin sister were not children of Mr. and Mrs. Wells until they were 17 years old and had decided to marry. After Mrs. Wells told the girls that she was their foster mother, my mother became very bitter towards her own mother [Amanda].⁷⁷

Barbara elaborates on Blanche’s bitterness in her research notes:

She [Blanche] would moan and complained—never a letter, nothing from Mama. There were letters, but mother Wells always told them they were from Auntie Fry—not [their] mother.⁷⁸

The twins apparently remained close with the Wellses after they were married. The 1900 census found the Wellses, the Esgates, and the Costellos all living in separate households in the same town of Harrison, Kootenai County, Idaho, about sixty miles west of Gem where the twins had been married.⁷⁹ Blanche’s husband, Chester,

71. Forster, “notes from all sources,” p. 1.

72. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 2.

73. Western Mining History, “Wallace, Idaho” (westernmininghistory.com/towns/idaho/wallace/ : accessed 9 June 2019).

74. Shoshone County, Idaho, *Book of Marriages*, p. 278, Chester Arthur Esgate and Blanche Estella Wells (1899), also p. 279, George Franklin Costello and Bertha Luella Wells (1899); digital image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019), “Idaho ,County Marriages, 1864–1950 for Blanche Estella Wells,” or “Idaho, County Marriages, 1864–1950” for Bertha Luella Wells.”

75. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 1.

76. Shoshone County, Idaho, *Book of Marriages*, p. 278–279.

77. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 2–3.

78. Forster, “notes from all sources,” p. 2.

79. 1900 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 24 (penned), dwelling 241 (corrected), family 252 (corrected), William Wells, also population schedule, sheet 10 (penned), dwelling 226 (corrected), family 247, Chester Esgate, also population schedule, sheet 9 (penned), dwelling 182, family 192 (corrected), Frank Costello; images, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019); all citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1,854.

worked as a logger.⁸⁰ Bertha's husband, George (who went by Frank) worked in a sawmill.⁸¹ And Mr. Wells, no longer a blacksmith, was a miner.⁸²

The Wellses, along with Frank and Bertha Costello, were still in Harrison for the 1910 census.⁸³ But Blanche and Chester Esgate had moved. While they have not been found in the 1900 census, Barbara says they were living in or near Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho, about thirty miles north of Harrison.⁸⁴ By then, they had six children, including Bertha Elizabeth, whose letter is cited throughout this article. Of that time, Bertha Elizabeth wrote:

My father [Chester Esgate] bought some timber land and he cut logs and built us a log house to live in We used to ride with Dad when we were not in school on top of the cord wood that he hauled down to the docks to be loaded on a barge to be towed to Coeur d'Alene. We had so much fun picking black caps, raspberries and oh so luscious wild St.[raw]berries.⁸⁵

TWO MORE WEDDINGS, TWO FUNERALS, AND THE DYING WISH

Meanwhile, back in Kansas, the twins' mother, Amanda (Vance) Fry, had finally married James Holan, the Civil War veteran whose surname was given to her daughter Kate as a middle name. According to an inscription on



the back of Amanda's portrait, she and James were wed in November of 1893.⁸⁶ However, an article published on Sunday, October 8th, 1893, in *The Kansas City Gazette* suggests they actually got married on October 3rd of that year:

Mr. James Holan and Mrs. Mattie Fry were married last Tuesday evening at the residence of Rev. B. Q. Denham. Mr. Holan is weigh-master for the Wyandotte Coal and Lime Company ... Both Mr. and Mrs. Holan have a large number of friends whose good wishes follow them.⁸⁷

James and Amanda were wed six years before the twins' double wedding. He was 57,⁸⁸ and she was 38.⁸⁹ Their happiness would not last. The same inscription on the back of Amanda's portrait says that James Holan died 5 July 1896,⁹⁰ a date confirmed by his death certificate.⁹¹ The following February, Amanda filed to collect his Civil War pension.⁹²

Five years later, on 16 October 1902, Amanda's daughter, Kate Holan Fry, would marry James Arthur Gillen,⁹³ who Barbara describes as a member of the Mormon Church [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints].⁹⁴ Bertha Elizabeth recalled in her letter that Kate's husband was "a recognized churchman who held high office."⁹⁵ And his passport application, filed in 1920, confirms he was a minister.⁹⁶ A newspaper article published in Omaha in 1923 describes his work:

80. 1900 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 10 (penned), dwelling 226 (corrected), family 247, Chester Esgate.

81. 1900 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 9 (penned), dwelling 182, family 192 (corrected), Frank Costello.

82. 1900 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 24 (penned), dwelling 241 (corrected), family 252 (corrected), William Wells.

83. 1910 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 13 (penned), dwelling 238, family 242, William Wells, also population schedule, sheet 9 (penned), dwelling 173, family 177, Frank Costello; images, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 9 June 2019); both citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1,178.

84. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 4.

85. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 6.

86. Author unknown, notation on back of Amanda Vance portrait.

87. Untitled clipping, 8 October 1893, *The Kansas City Gazette*; image (newspapers.com : accessed 14 June 2019), search Holan Fry, Kansas City, Kansas, 1893.

88. City of Kansas City, Kansas, Office of City Clerk, *Death Record*, James Holan.

89. City of Kansas City, Kansas, Office of City Clerk, *Death Record*, Mattie Holan; image, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," PFD saved to author's electronic files.

90. Author unknown, notation on back of Amanda Vance portrait.

91. City of Kansas City, Kansas, Office of City Clerk, *Death Record*, James Holan.

92. The Pension Office, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, pension cards for Civil War veterans; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 10 June 2019), "U.S. Civil War Pension Index; General Index to Pension Files, 1863-1934," Mattie Holan, citing NARA microfilm publication T288, roll 546.

93. State of Colorado, Division of Vital Statistics, Marriage Record Report No. 30200; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 10 June 2019), "Colorado, County Marriage Records and State Index," Kate Fry.

94. Forster, "notes from all sources," p. 1.

95. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 3.

96. James A. Gillen, passport application No. 123575; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 10 June 2019), "U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925."

James Arthur Gillen, president of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles will speak at the same church at 7:30 p.m. Apostle Gillen, who was formerly a law student at the University of Nebraska, will remain in Omaha two weeks and will speak at Central church every evening except Saturday.⁹⁷

Barbara says Rev. Gillen promised Amanda he would look for the twins, and he used his pulpit as a traveling preacher to ask about Blanche and Bertha wherever he went: "At every conference he would announce that he was looking for the girls, asking anyone with information to speak with him."⁹⁸

But unfortunately, Amanda would not live to see her twins found. She died of cancer on 1 April 1903 in Kansas City, Kansas, less than a year after Kate's marriage. She was buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Kansas City, where her second husband, James, is also interred.⁹⁹ Her dying wish was, "please don't give up until you have found my daughters."¹⁰⁰

A MAN ON A MISSION

After her death, Rev. Gillen kept his promise to Amanda and continued to look for Blanche and Bertha. And more than a decade after Amanda passed away, he finally found them. In her letter, Bertha Elizabeth described how it happened:

He attended many church functions where he was speaking and always during his talks he would bring up the subject. A gentleman in the congregation whose name I cannot recall stood on his feet and said he grew up with Bertha and Blanche Wells. As soon as the meeting was over Uncle Art [Rev. Gillen] talked to the gentleman; they called his wife [Kate Holan (Fry) Gillen] and told her the good news.¹⁰¹

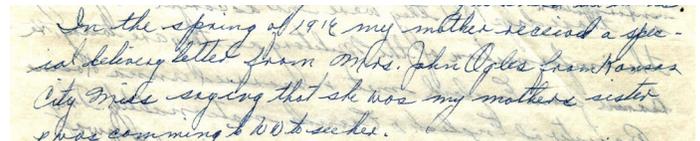
Barbara says the man was able to provide the married names of the twins. Bertha was soon located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by then divorced from George "Frank" Costello and remarried to Robert Spencer,¹⁰² who like her former husband worked in a sawmill.¹⁰³ Then, Blanche was found in Walla Walla, Washington,¹⁰⁴ where Chester



Kate Holan (Fry) Gillen and her husband, James Arthur Gillen, and children. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

had moved the family in 1913.¹⁰⁵ Bertha Elizabeth remembered in her letter how Blanche finally learned she had been found by her birth family:

In the spring of 191[?] my mother [Blanche] received a special delivery letter from Mrs. John Ogles [Maude Earl Fry] from Kansas City Miss[ouri] saying that she was my mother's sister and she was coming to WW [Walla Walla] to see her.¹⁰⁶



Excerpt from Bertha Elizabeth's letter, in which the date is unclear. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

Unfortunately, it is not clear from Bertha Elizabeth's penmanship in which year Blanche got the letter. Barbara believes it was in 1919,¹⁰⁷ perhaps because Blanche's maiden name was recorded as Wells, not Fry, on her children's birth certificates through the birth of her son, Woodrow Pershing Esgate in January 1919.¹⁰⁸

97. "Later Day Saint Head Will Speak Here Sunday," *Omaha [Nebraska] World-Herald*, 1 December 1923, p. 8, col. 3; image (GenealogyBank.com): accessed 9 June 2019).

98. Forster, "notes from all sources," p. 1.

99. City of Kansas City, Kansas, Office of City Clerk, *Death Record*, Mattie Holan.

100. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 3.

101. Ibid.

102. Forster, "notes from all sources," p. 2.

103. 1920 U.S. census, Harrison Precinct, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 4 (penned), dwelling 84, family 85, Robert Spencer; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com): accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 2,076.

104. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

105. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 8.

106. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 3.

107. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 16.

108. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, throughout but specifically p. 48, "Woodrow 'Pers' Pershing Esgate."

But Teresa recalls a memory shared by her Uncle Gary [Blanche's grandson] that suggests it could have been earlier. Gary recalled being told that his father, Wallace Esgate [Blanche's son] was crawling around on the floor in diapers when Blanche's sisters arrived to see her for the first time.¹⁰⁹ Because Wallace was born 23 February 1914,¹¹⁰ it is likely he would have been crawling the following spring, in 1915.¹¹¹

And there is evidence to suggest an even earlier date. Blanche's daughter Vera has the middle name Ora,¹¹² which is the same as the given name of Blanche's oldest sister, Ora Temple Fry.¹¹³ According to the Idaho Birth Index, Vera was born 21 November 1912.¹¹⁴ If Blanche gave Vera the middle name of Ora in honor of her oldest sister, she would had to have known about her sisters by 1912, when Vera was born. But this theory gets cloudy because Vera was born in Coeur d'Alene,¹¹⁵ Idaho, and not in Walla Walla where the family says Blanche was living when she was found.¹¹⁶ Also, Vera is listed as Vera Esgate, and not Vera Ora Esgate in the Idaho Birth Index.¹¹⁷ So it is possible Vera adopted Ora as her middle name later in life.

Regardless of the specific year, the twins would have been in their 30s when they were found.¹¹⁸ Needless to say, as Barbara writes, Blanche was stunned:

Blanche and Bertha grew up believing their last name was Wells. They were shocked at the idea another

family existed. Their marriage certificate shows they were both married under the Wells name. Blanche was devastated to think her marriage might not be legal. She insisted they go through another marriage ceremony even though she already had thirteen children ..."¹¹⁹

Barbara goes on to explain how the news made its way to the Wells[es], who by 1920, owned a farm in Carlin, Kootenai County, Idaho:¹²⁰

Mrs. Wells was notified by her son Art [Arthur] that the girls had been found by their real family ... he was not aware of what his parents had done until the 'cat came out of the bag'... Mr. Wells told Blanche that it had been Mrs. Wells idea to snatch the girls.¹²¹

In her research notes, Barbara reveals a bit more of the story:

Grandpa Wells told Blanche that it had been Mrs. Wells idea and plan to 'skip out' with the twins; he wanted to let someone know where they were going (in a covered wagon-the only way to travel in 1880). But Ma Wells had her way. Blanche described her as strong willed and determined but very loving and kind to the girls. They loved the twins as much as they did their own sons ... The Wells[es] never adopted the girls, of course, because they didn't have Amanda's permission to have them.¹²²

Sadly, Barbara also notes:

My gram [Blanche] never spoke to the Wells[es] again after she found out. Her children called them gram and grandpa never again.¹²³



Blanche [L] and Bertha [R] in 1897.
Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

109. Teresa Weber to author, Ancestry message, 16 May 2019.

110. Washington State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Birth* No. 66, Wallace Esgate; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 14 May 2019, "death certificates," saved as PDF to author's electronic files.

111. Parents.com, "When Will My Baby Start to Crawl and Walk?" ([parents.com/advice/babies/baby-development/when-will-my-baby-start-to-crawl-and-walk](https://www.parents.com/advice/babies/baby-development/when-will-my-baby-start-to-crawl-and-walk/) : accessed 10 June 2019).

112. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 34, "Vera Ora "Bill" Esgate.

113. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 10, "Ora Temple Fry."

114. Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, State Birth Index; database, Ancestry, "Idaho Birth Index, 1861-1917, Stillbirth Index, 1905-1967" ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 11 June 2019), Vera Esgate. Also, Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 34.

115. Ibid.

116. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

117. Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, State Birth Index.

118. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 16. Also, Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 14.

119. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

120. 1920 U.S. census, Carlin, Kootenai County, Idaho, population schedule, sheet 1 (penned), dwelling 26, family 22, William G. Wells; image, Ancestry ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 June 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 2,076.

121. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

122. Forster, "notes from all sources," p. 3.

123. Barbara Forster, "more notes on fry esgate.", (undated); digital copy, obtained by author via email from Barbara Forster, 14 May 2019, "Blanche," saved as PDF to author's electronic files, p. 1.

REUNITED!

The twins and their three older sisters, Ora, Maude, and Kate, enjoyed many happy reunions in the years after they were found, one of them in Walla Walla, Washington, after the older sisters hopped a train to go see Blanche for the first time in over a quarter century. The eldest sister, Ora, had married a man who worked for the railroad, and he was able to arrange for their travel.¹²⁴ Ora was six years old, Maude four, and Kate just two when the twins were taken. Yet they never forgot their missing sisters.¹²⁵

Despite being reunited with her sisters, Barbara says her grandmother Blanche could not get past the loss of her own mother, Amanda, whom she never had the chance to meet:

Blanche never really recovered from what she considered “stealing” of the twin girls. Whenever she talked of Amanda it was as the mother she and Bertha never had.¹²⁶

THE AFTERMATH

Although she lived out her life estranged from the parents that raised her, Blanche was kept very busy with a family of her own. She and Chester raised *fifteen* children, the last to be born, Betty Blanche Esgate, was Barbara’s mother. Betty Blanche was born 26 May 1923 in Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon.¹²⁷ Because of the large size of the Esgate family, Betty’s birth was celebrated in the local newspaper. The article in *The Bend Bulletin* reads:

What is believed to be the largest family in the Pacific Northwest was increased by the birth of a six-pound girl as the result of



a Caesarian operation performed today at noon at St. Charles hospital. The daughter is the fifteenth child of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Esgate, who recently arrived from Walla Walla to make their home on a farm four miles northeast of Bend.¹²⁸

Blanche did remain close to one member of the Wells family, her “brother,” Arthur Wells. He was the boy seated front and center of the Wells family photograph, and the son who told Mr. and Mrs. Wells that the twins had been found by their birth family. Barbara writes in her biography of her grandparents:

Arthur came to stay with Blanche and Chester when they were living in Alfalfa (16 miles outside of Bend) on the ranch the Esgates owned. Chester set Arthur up in a Blacksmith business in Redmond, Oregon in 1926–1927. Blanche liked her “brother” Art.¹²⁹

Blanche and Chester celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 1949 in Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon, where they then lived. Clippings Barbara has collected from a “KF [Klamath Falls] paper” depict Chester and Blanche standing in front of a four-tiered wedding cake. An article clipped from a newspaper says all fourteen of their living children were with them for the celebration along with twenty-seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.¹³⁰ (One son, Walter, had died in 1927 at the age of fifteen, of acute dilation of the heart).¹³¹

Images from top to bottom: Maude, Kate, Ora and Bertha in 1919. Blanche, Ora, Kate and Maude in 1940. Blanche [L] and Bertha [R] in 1950. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

124. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

125. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, in total.

126. Forster, “notes from all sources,” p. 2.

127. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 52.

128. “Largest Family Increased; Fifteenth Child is Born After Caesarian Operation,” undated clipping, contained in Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 23, which attributes clipping to *The Bend Bulletin*, 26 May 1923 [inferred 1923].

129. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 19.

130. “50th Anniversary,” undated clippings, contained in Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 5, which attributes clippings to “KF Paper 9-10-1949.”

131. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 29.

Blanche Estella (Fry) Esgate died of a heart attack five years after her golden wedding anniversary on 14 December 1954 at the home of her daughter Ruth in Marysville, Yuba County, California, where the family was gathering for a Christmas celebration.¹³² Barbara was eleven years old when her grandma Blanche passed away. She says at that point, the Esgate family had expanded to include thirty-two grandchildren and forty-nine great-grandchildren.¹³³ While doing her research, Barbara also discovered that Blanche and Chester actually had seventeen children, not fifteen. She noticed a notation on their eldest daughter's birth certificate (Anna Rosene) that the Esgates had lost their firstborn children, a set of twins.¹³⁴

Barbara's Aunt Vera remembered Blanche as a wonderful wife, great mother, and super grandmother. Barbara adds, "everyone in her family loved her dearly. She was kind, loving, and warm to all who met her."¹³⁵

Blanche's husband, Chester Arthur Esgate, passed away ten months after Blanche on 23 October 1955 at the home of his daughter Vera in Klamath Falls.¹³⁶ He had suffered a stroke five months earlier and never recovered.¹³⁷ Throughout his life, Chester had worked as a logger, homebuilder, butcher, grocery store owner, cabinetmaker, and, of course, as a cook in a mining camp where he met Blanche.¹³⁸ As his daughter Bertha Elizabeth wrote in her letter, "he could do almost anything he attempted."¹³⁹

AS FOR THE OTHERS

Blanche's twin sister, Bertha Luella (Fry) Costello Spencer, died in a nursing home in Coeur d'Alene on 8 December 1958.¹⁴⁰ She left behind two sons, both of whom lived in Coeur d'Alene, one grandson, and her second husband Robert. Barbara says that like

Blanche, Bertha had lost two children who did not survive infancy.¹⁴¹ One of her descendants, a great-granddaughter, told Barbara that she called Bertha "Sweetie Heart" when she was a little girl. That great-granddaughter added, "I visited her grave often as she was very special to me. I was only nine when she died so I do remember her well."¹⁴²

George William "Billy" Wells, the man who raised the twins, died in Coeur d'Alene of chronic heart disease on 23 December 1932. He was 79 years old.¹⁴³ No death record has been found for his wife, "Rosey" Wells, the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping.



The Esgate Family in 1939. Chester and Blanche center. Barbara's mother, Betty, seated next to Chester. Bertha Elizabeth, whose letter is cited, stands directly behind Chester in a checked dress. Courtesy of Barbara Forster.

132. State of California, Department of Health, *Certification of Vital Record* No. 54 099775 (1954), Blanche Estella Esgate. Also, "Longtime KF Resident Dies," undated clipping, contained in Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 17.

133. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 4.

134. Forster, "notes from all sources," p. 3.

135. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 16.

136. State of Oregon, Board of Health-Portland, *Standard Certificate of Death* No. 11697 (1955), Chester Arthur Esgate; digital copy, obtained by author via email from Teresa Weber, 21 May 2019, "more," PDF saved to author's electronic files.

137. "Esgate Funeral Services, undated clipping, contained in Forster, *Esgate Grandparents*, p. 11.

138. Forster, *Esgate Grandparents* p. 8.

139. Gleim, handwritten letter, p. 1.

140. State of Idaho, *Certificate of Death* No 4941 (1958), Bertha Luella Spencer.

141. Forster, *Fry Storybook*, p. 14.

142. Ibid.

143. State of Idaho, Department of Public Welfare, Board of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Death* No. 81799 (1932), George W. Wells; image, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 10 June 2019), "Idaho, Death Records, 1890-1967," George W. Wells.

Abducted!

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

Carole Linneman

March 30, 1902, Gresham, Oregon
Dear Mother

I received your letter and you don't know how happy I was to hear from you But in all those years my father made me tell everybody that my mother was dead But I can still remember how he took me away from Iowa Took me to have such an unhappy and lonely life many a thousand times have I thought of my mother and I guess mother has thought of me to. I will write you some of my past life For I think you would like to know after we left Iowa he took me away in a buggy to a place called Marshalltown and from their to Denver I went by the name of Minnie Miller He worked in a brick yard for a while at Denver I was at some boarding house first in one place and then in another always strangers and from their we next went to Kansas for a short time and their he got married and then we went back to Colorado again we lived their a short time and then he left this woman and came to Portland and then changed my name to Minnie Smith which name I always went by I was about 8 years old when we came to Portland and then I had to keep house for him He thot I'd oughto keep house as good as a woman I never had any one to show me or learn me how to cook What a many time did I cry and wished that I had a mother around me like other girls I kept house for a while and then we went to Salem which is 60 miles from Portland there he worked on a farm and I worked around for my board we stayed their till I was 11 years old when I had that picture taken that was sent back to Iowa 17 years ago and then we went back to Portland and he got a job in a saw mill where he worked 4 years and then I had to keep house again and go to school and on Sundays when he was home he would find some little thing to scold me about all day and O how unhappy I was then and when I was about 15 years he got married again they lived together about five weeks and then she left him and then in about a year he go married again and this woman lived 6 weeks with him and left him So he has been married 3 times out here He could not get along with any one he had such a bad tem-



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

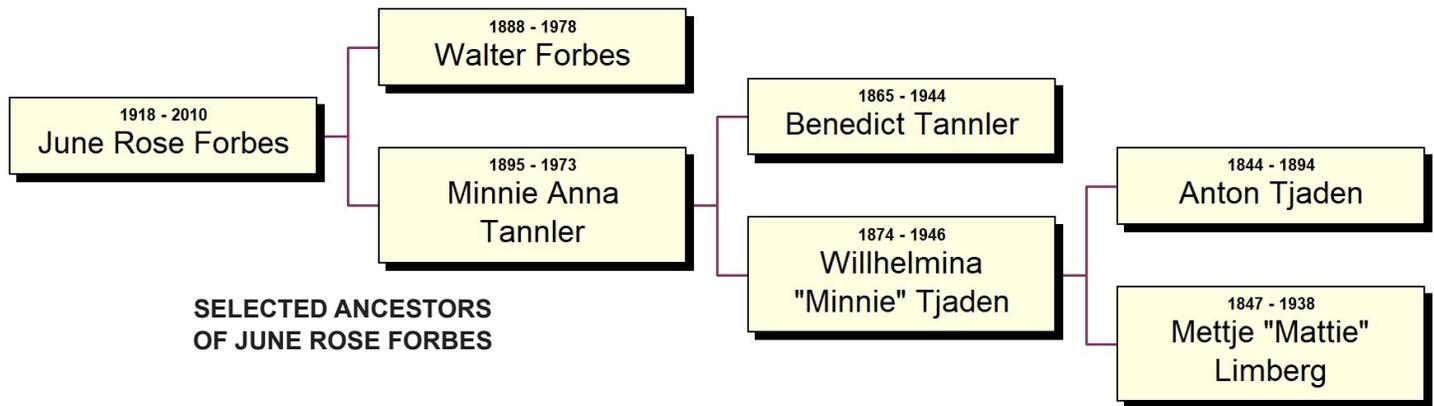
per and would get mad at almost nothing. The last time he got married that woman spent all his money and after that he drove an express wagon and at that he could not enough to buy his horse feed and then I had to go make a living for him I then got a place in a minister family and got \$20 I worked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

When I was 19 I got married to a Swiss man who is now a very good and kind husband It will be 10 years the 22 of next Sept that I got married and have five children 3 girls and 2 boys their names are Ida, Minnie, Rosa, Bennie and Henry the oldest is 8 years and the youngest is 10 months It will be 8 years the 7 of April that my father died of heart disease very suddenly only sick 8 hours When I was first married we lived on a farm 10 miles east of Portland and 1/2 miles from a little town of Gresham where my 2 girls go to school

I want my mother to send me her picture as I can not remember how she looked I will send her my picture ... I will have my husband to write her some in German I would like to know how old my mother is and my grandmother's age Maybe in a few years from now if we all keep well I may come out their on a visit which I would love to do When you see the Marshall will you please tell him that I thank him for his kindness, for finding my mother for me

Ever your loving daughter,
Willhelmina

The children all send a kiss to their grandma
Mrs. B Tannler



AUTHOR'S NOTE

When I first moved to Gresham, Oregon, I noticed a street named after Johann Gerhard Diedrich Linnemann. His history became a curiosity to me because our surnames are the same. I found that he arrived in Oregon in 1852 and filed a land claim 12 miles east of Portland the following year.

In my search for stories from people who had lived on the Linnemann land, I met June Forbes Enebo in 2000. She was the first of many people willing to share the treasures of the past. She joyfully told many stories about her life and the changes that occurred in the area during her lifetime. Early in our relationship, she shared a story about her grandmother. She told and retold it to me during the times I visited with her. We became friends as I recorded her remembrances in detail. She was never able to find the original letter you have just read. Fortunately, she had shared the text with others,



June Forbes Enebo and Tannler doll. Photo by Carole Linneman, 2001.

and it was included in the book *Gresham, Stories of Our Past, Volume II*.¹

June revealed her grandmother's story as she gazed out her window at Pleasant View Drive, facing the Springwater Trail in Gresham, Multnomah County, Oregon. "I've lived as a part of the history that has taken place here in the last 150 years," June reminisced. "One of the first schoolhouses [Hedges] west of Mount Hood stood right here, with the well that still exists, that gave the children water to drink, long before there was a trail or a railroad that ran right through the center. I was born in 1918 and raised here, and this is the story I have to tell."

WILLHELMINA'S STORY

"I'll tell your fortune for one penny," said the short, bedraggled gypsy standing at the door. "One penny and no more," she repeated as she chopped her darkly stained teeth together. My mother, young Minnie, around 14 years, hesitated for just a moment, looking at this short stranger with a dirty patch over her left eye and long skirts, with scattered pockets, that touched the ground. The gypsy clutched at a dark shawl draped over her hunched shoulders as she glared at my mother. Minnie took a step backwards before reaching into her apron pocket for a 1909 Indian Head penny she had been saving. She held it out, and the short, scary lady grabbed the penny and put it in one of her pockets. The gypsy motioned for Minnie to sit near her. She huddled close as Minnie sat down on the porch and intently gazed at the gypsy's eye while she waited for the secret the woman would reveal.

The gypsy looked deeply at my mother with a half-smile and said, "You will have something special happen in nine days, expect a visit." She hustled off to join others near the train at the Linnemann Junction. Minnie never saw her again, but nine days later in 1909, the fortune came true.

¹ *Gresham Stories of Our Past-Volume II*, Gresham Historical Society, 1996, edited by W. R. Chilton, published by Davis and Fox Printing, Inc. GFO Call Number: 979.55 Mult Gres .Hist-Au Chil v2.



*The Des Moines Register (Des Moines, Iowa), 1 June 1904.
Note the error in the headline. California should read Oregon.*

My grandmother (young Minnie's mother) Willhelmina "Minnie" Tjaden² had been abducted as a child in the late 1800s by her father. They left behind her mother, Mattie Tjaden, and their home in Iowa. Traveling all around the Midwest and Northwest like gypsies, they changed their names in each new city. Finally settling in the Portland area, they became Minnie and George Smith.

George expected his daughter to take care of him. Willhelmina worked hard to keep him happy and have food on the table. Her father hired her out to cook and clean for other families. A minister's family took her in, and she worked for them for \$20 a month. George took her money on pay day.

She met Benedict Tannler in Gresham when she was 19. They married, and five children were born including my mother, young Minnie, who was named after her mother, Willhelmina.

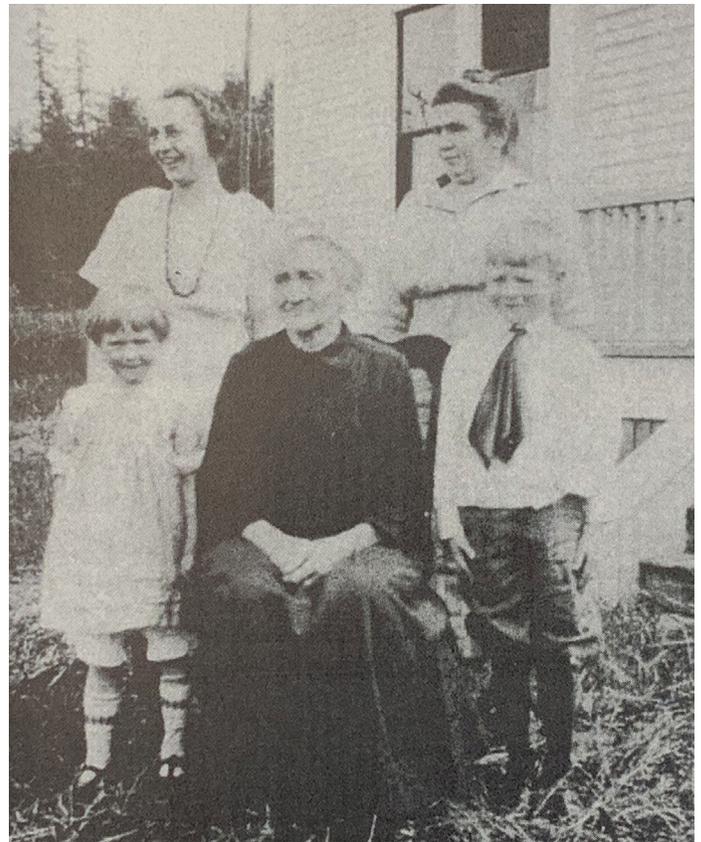
Willhelmina missed her mother, and many times she wrote to her even though she wasn't sure where to send the letters. She continued to write and spent the precious amount of two cents for the stamp, again and again, hoping to reach her lost mother. In 1902, she wrote a letter telling about her life and her family and sent it to Marshalltown, Iowa. This letter took many years to find

the right person but finally, a return letter arrived with a joyful response from Mattie, the mother who missed and longed for her daughter for 17 years.

While Willhelmina was struggling to survive, her mother had remarried. One day, a marshal realized who the letter was meant for and delivered it by horseback 25 miles to Mattie Tjaden Hayunga in Ackley, Iowa.

In 1909, Mattie made a train trip to Gresham from Iowa to reunite with her daughter Willhelmina. She brought three dolls, one for each of her granddaughters, Rose, young Minnie, and Ida. Mother and daughter joyfully fulfilled the gypsy's prediction.

This story my grandma told our family many times to announce the arrival of a long lost relative. The story and the doll were handed down from my mother, Minnie, to me. Now it's my job to see that this family story stays alive.



*Four generations, picture taken in Iowa about 1926:
Mattie (Limberg) Tjaden Hayunga (June's great-grandmother) seated, Willhelmina "Minnie" (Tjaden) Tannler (June's grandmother) on the right, Minnie (Tannler) Forbes (June's mother) on the left, June and Ben Forbes, the children. Shared by June (Forbes) Enebo in the book Gresham Stories of Our Past-Volume II. Used with permission from the Gresham Historical Society.*

² The surname Tjaden, in the telling of the story over the years, became Chalden, possibly due to a similarity in the way the names are pronounced.

THE FAMILY STORY: FACT OR FICTION?

Nanci Remington

The most common advice given to new genealogists is, "Interview your family members and collect family stories." Oral histories are important because they capture memories, provide information not available in records, and verify information from other sources.

But once the stories are collected, it is important to check as much of the information as you can. A second step is to put the information into some sort of historical context that could shed light on the decisions that people made.

In the article about Willhelmina "Minnie" Tjaden's abduction, we have a carefully recorded interview that describes the plight of June Forbes Enebo's grandmother. June knew her grandmother and heard her story many times. She had the letter that had been sent in 1902 and the doll her great-grandmother had given to her mother. The story is a wonderful example of oral history.

Although the basic facts in the story can be confirmed, there are details that do not align with the story that June recalled. The most basic variation is the family surname, Tjaden. Because this was an oral history, the name was previously recorded as Chalden. The people who put the story in writing spelled the name as they heard it. There are several records that reveal the correct spelling, Tjaden, including Minnie's marriage license.

Minnie reported that her father changed his name to George Smith. Though he likely did use different names as he covered his tracks, he was listed in 1890-1892 Portland city directories as Anthony Tjaden. He also used the name Tjaden when he married Maria Reis in Portland in 1890.

Additional information was found in newspaper accounts of the story, published in Iowa, in 1904 and again in 1909. These stories offered details not included in Minnie's letter to her mother or June's accounts—and in some cases, facts contradict the story.

The 1904 newspaper stories tell of Mattie's search for her daughter, Minnie, and report that Anton Tjaden confessed on his deathbed to Minnie about having abducted her. However, these newspaper stories have an incorrect surname (Ibnes), and one reported that Minnie lived in California, not in Oregon. The 1909 accounts are less sensationalized. Both the 1904 and the 1909 stories report that Minnie and her children

were in Ackley, Iowa, to visit Mattie. No mention was made in these articles of Mattie visiting her daughter in Oregon.

Tjaden Anton	W/M 36	1	1	Husband
Mattie	W/F 30	1	1	Wife
Minnie	W/F 7	1	1	Daughter
John	W/M 4	1	1	Son
Jacob	W/M 6	1	1	Infant Son

Tjaden family. United State Census, 1880, dated 1 June, Pleasant Valley Township, Grundy County, Iowa. FamilySearch.

Finally, a review of census records provides insight into Mattie's life. In 1880, she is listed with her husband, Anton, and their three children, Minnie (7), John (4), and Jacob (6 months), in Pleasant Valley Township, Grundy County, Iowa. We learn that Mattie and Anton were born in Prussia. On the 1885 Iowa state census, Mattie is divorced, using her maiden name, Limberg, and living alone in Ackley Township, Etna County, Iowa. No trace was found of the two sons, and we know Minnie was taken by her father. In 1900, Mattie had remarried and reported that she was the mother of five children, none living. By 1910, she had been reunited with Minnie, and the census reported five children, one living.

Mattie Limberg	62 18 41, 45 av 37 5 W 8 Mend Wife
----------------	------------------------------------

Mattie Limberg. Iowa State Census, 1885. FamilySearch.

Given the above information, it would be interesting to learn more about both Minnie's and Anton's possible reasons for immigrating when they did (about 1870). Did they marry before they came or meet in the United States? Were there economic pressures on farmers in Iowa that may have contributed to the failure of the marriage? Four children appear to have died between 1880 and 1885. This had to be devastating to both parents. Could that have impacted Anton's decision to leave?

Mattie remained in Iowa the rest of her life. Perhaps all these questions cannot be answered. But it would be worth the effort to learn more about the people and the times.

The Life Story of Joe “Josie” Birdsong Darden (1875–1969) and Her Husband John Beaufort Doggett (1873–1953)

Joe “Josie” Birdsong Darden Doggett wrote her life story the winter of 1953–1954 following the death of her husband, John Beaufort Doggett. She had records of births and deaths, but other details were written from memory. She lived alone that winter and enjoyed reliving her life through happy and sad memories.

Jane Doggett McGarvin
(granddaughter)

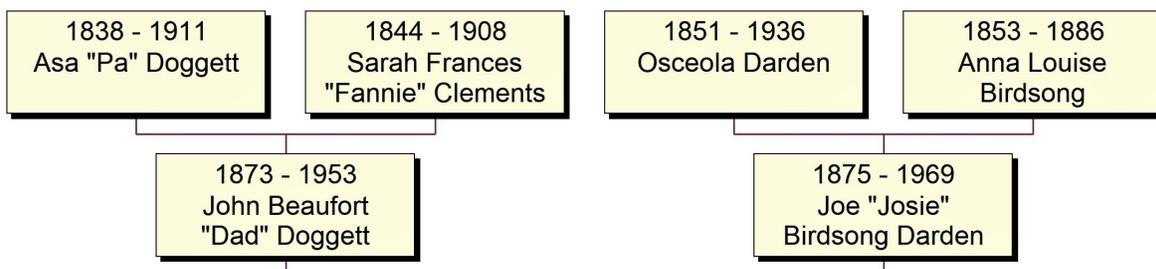
Editor’s Note: Most of the wording and punctuation remains as in the original. The story captures the memories of the author using the language of her time, including phrases we would not use today. Only a few edits have been made to improve clarity. Family photos are from the collection of Jane Doggett McGarvin.

In Part One (June 2019 Bulletin), Josie told of her early life in Mississippi. She wrote about the family’s move to Texas, the births of her siblings, her mother’s death, and her father’s second marriage. At the age of 18, Josie became a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse. Soon after, she met John Doggett, her future husband, who had been born in Arkansas. However, they were soon separated when Josie’s father decided to move to Oklahoma.



Josie Birdsong Darden, 1898

Selected Ancestors of John Beaufort “Dad” Doggett and Joe “Josie” Birdsong Darden



Our Lives - A Memoir

Josie Doggett

PART TWO

Move to Oklahoma [1897-1910]

The year that Pa [Asa Doggett, Josie's future father-in-law] decided to move to Southern Texas, my father [Osceola Darden] decided to take a look at Oklahoma so, he and Brother Walter went to Oklahoma in a wagon, and he filed on a claim while there and rented a place from a Widow Heed. That was in 1897.

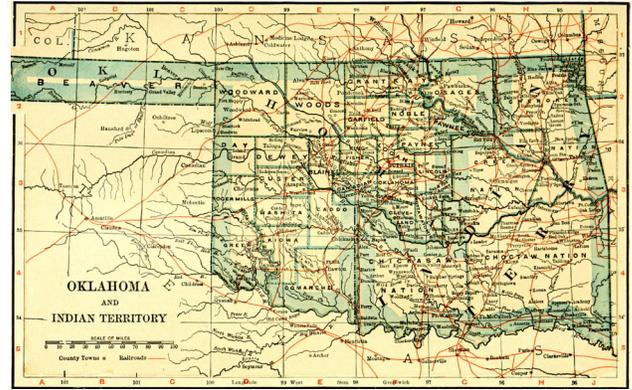
That meant an over 200 miles move in wagons. We crossed Red River near Henrietta, Texas, into Oklahoma. We had to ferry there. That part of Oklahoma hadn't been opened for settlement but there were roads, or I should say "A road." It was prairie country and you might see some Indians riding at a distance, but I don't remember meeting others. There were few camping places with water, so you had to travel until you reached one, and a prairie country doesn't have much to build a fire, so we used cow chips.

Now, I know you wouldn't know what cow chips are so will describe them. They are piles of cow manure that had lain maybe for months and were perfectly dry and no scent and would make a good fire. There was an old man that went up with us to look at the country, and he would bring them in and tell me, "Here is a big one." We were glad to get them.

We had two wagons with overjets with bows and wagon sheets. An overjet was an extension of about 6 inches on each side to fasten the bows to and that made a wider place to make the beds. We had side boards on the wagon and that added to the room. I think we had a grub box on end of wagon to put our food and cook vessels in.



Father's dugout, image provided by the author.



Oklahoma.

The New International Encyclopædia, v. 14, 1905

We made the move in March. We got to this rented place after dark and directions were never straight to me the year that we lived there. As soon as I left that place, the directions were okay. Father's [Osceola Darden's] place was about 2 miles from the rented place but was 160 acres of prairie without a building or furrow turned.

Father and Mamma [Osceola's second wife, Permilia Sarah "Sallie" Coker] had three small children (Sim, Ocie, and Willie) and Homer was born in September after we moved there. There was a dugout and one small room built above ground. The dugout wasn't very large, with one small window in the end and was covered with dirt. The door and steps were in the opposite end from the window. We had a cookstove.

Brother Walter, Sister Cornelia and I slept in the house. Not many people had a house when we first went to Oklahoma but had dugouts. Some had sod houses which were made by plowing the grass sod and it would fall over in long strips, and these were cut and used something like building a brick house and then covered with dirt.

El Reno, our nearest railroad town, was 60 miles away, and there wasn't much timber and the Indians had first choice when a country was opened for settlement, so they took the land along the rivers and got the trees. There was a canyon on Father's and my place that had a few trees on it. The country was about settled up when we went there, and a man had put in a sawmill on the Washita River and sawed cottonwood lumber. Father made a half dugout, 16 feet by 32 feet, dug down three feet, and built above ground four feet with cottonwood lumber and had cottonwood shingles. They would warp but didn't leak. We had windows in this dugout and Father made a fireplace, but it didn't keep so many people very warm and was hard to keep wood to burn. He would buy some wood from Indians and the Caddo County east of us hadn't been opened for settlement and there was more timber there. We were in Washita County.

A man could cut down (fallen) and dead timber but lots of it was “down” after it was cut down. There were officers that could arrest you if they caught you. Was a long ways to it, so the men went early and got back late.

The railroad was extended to Weatherford [Custer County], Oklahoma, soon after we went to Oklahoma, that is about 2 years, and we could get coal, so Father got a coal stove. We raised such fine corn when we went there that I remember Father burning great big ears of corn in the heater. Corn was cheap and he had to haul the coal 17 miles, so he felt it was best to burn the corn. We didn't do that very much but did some.

There were some towns when we went to Oklahoma, but all goods were brought in by wagons. There would be quite a string of wagons go together to haul in the goods. Father took the first cotton seed to our part of Oklahoma, and the market was El Reno, 60 miles away. I made a trip with a good friend, Nona Batt, who later married Tom Lovel. (They came to Oregon and were present at Beaufort's wedding.) At least they were here for our picnic after the wedding, but I am not sure they were present at the wedding.

I well remember that trip to El Reno. They took cotton as there were no gins in Washita County then. Passed through miles of country not opened for settlement and spent a very cold night in Canadian River Bottom. It snowed and was very cold when we left El Reno that Sunday morning. We made it to the Canadian River by night. The country wasn't settled up, but there was one place that had bunk houses and sheds for the teams. It must have been half way distance from El Reno and Weatherford. Nona and I slept in one of the wagons and Mr. Batt and Fenton in the other one. We had plenty of



Kaffir Corn.
Catalog for 1897:
Seeds and Plants.
Internet Archive.

bedding but got so cold in the night we got up and went to the camp fire. There was enough timber along the river to have camp fires. We made it home before the next night.

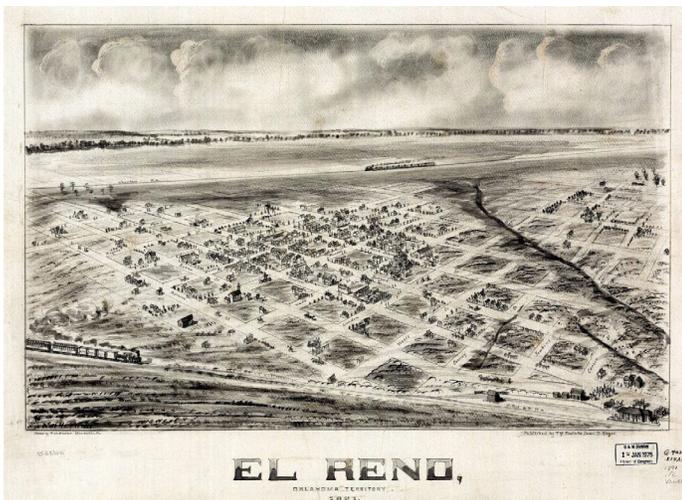
I remember a cold trip I made to Weatherford, Oklahoma with Father and Brother after the railroad had been built into Weatherford. All towns had wagon yards and bunk houses. You had to take your own bedding. There wasn't a good place for me to sleep and Father wanted me to go to a hotel, but I didn't want to be alone so the wife of the man that had the yard slept with me in the wagon, and Father and Brother slept in their house. We took coal home with us and it was a

bitter cold day. We lived about 17 miles from Weatherford and about the same distance from Mountain View. Cloud Chief was the county seat when we went to Oklahoma but was later changed to Cordell. Cloud Chief was 7 miles from us and later had gins for cotton.

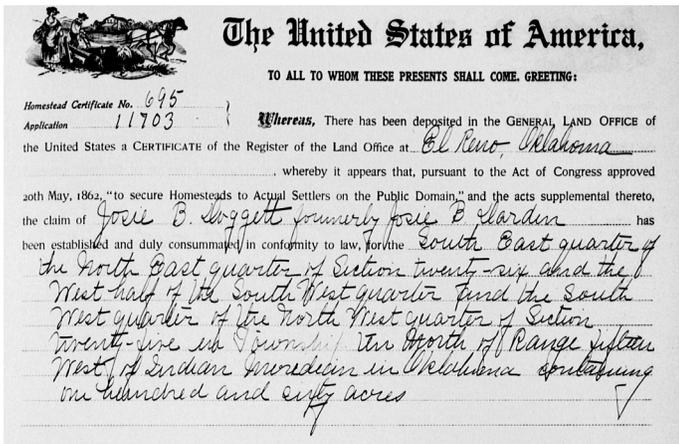
Many took up cotton raising after Father got it started. When the ground was first turned, they would plow two furrows and that sod would fall back and the third furrow could cover kaffir corn that had been dropped in the clean ditch. It would come up and grow and make nice big heads without anything else being done to it. Kaffir corn grew about as tall as Golden Bantam corn and had blades or leaves that resembled corn. The head was in the top and consisted of little limbs on the main stalk of the head that had round grains on the end about like rice but was round shaped. There is no better chicken feed and was used for other stock and hogs. The stalks were good feed for cows and horses. The next year these kaffir fields would be turned and put in other crops to be cultivated. The kaffir heads were 10 or 12 inches long composed of those little limbs on the main stem.

The water was very hard. Gypsum in the water. It was clear but couldn't be used for cooking or washing. Father had a drilled well for his stock and drew it for stock in a long pipe looking bucket that had a bottom that could be raised to let the water drain out in the trough.

We had a big black mare named Zilla that Father used to pull the bucket to the top. My brother Sim would ride her to the end of the path and turn and come back as the bucket was let back in the well. Was a cold job when the cold north wind was blowing. Zilla learned to go to end of path and come back. Was a happy day when Father had the money to buy a windmill. He dug a shallow well in the canyon and we had to draw water with a bucket for the cows. The well was about 10 feet deep and I remember once when Mamma and I went to draw water, it was frozen over. We broke the ice with a pole. We had to haul water in barrels for drinking, cooking and washing.



El Reno, Oklahoma Territory, 1891. T. M. Fowler and James B. Boyer. Library of Congress.



Josie B. Doggett's El Reno, Oklahoma, Land Patent, 1897.

A man named Miller had a spring of good water three miles north from us and another man, Gene Fowler, about the same distance south, had a good well with a windmill. Sometimes you had to wait your turn to get the water. No one charged for such things. There was a Government Indian School nine miles from us, and we could get good water there.

My sister Nenie (Cornelia) and I hauled many barrels of water. It was precious so you didn't waste it. Dried beans could be boiled all day in gypsum water and then rattle.

I filed on my homestead a few days after we got to Oklahoma. A person had to be 21 years old and it cost \$15 to file and the place had to be cultivated and a person had to live on it part of the time. The place was proved up on in 5 years, or by paying more, the claim could be proved up in 3 years.

Father's place was 160 acres in the southeast corner of the section. The country was laid out in sections of 640 acres each, and there were roads around each section like streets in a city. Every mile, there would be a crossroad. There were sections of land set aside for school purposes and they were called School Sections. One of these sections was the next section, southeast from Father's place. The man, Mr. Mowbray, who went to Oklahoma with us, and helped keep up the campfire, rented that school section. There wasn't much land left for filing when I got there but I got a place just north from the school section and across the road east of Father's place. Father's place was a square 160 and mine was three 40 acres in a strip and 40 acres across the road to the west, joining Father's place on the north. That made my place in the shape of an "L", one-fourth mile wide and three-fourths mile long and one fourth of the place was across the road from the long strip. We fenced that for pasture as the stock was fenced and the fields were not. Had what was called "Herd Law."

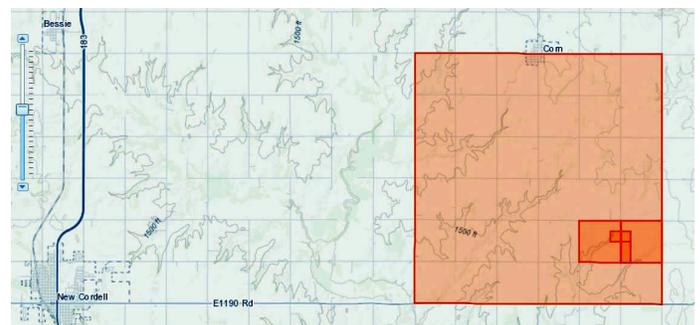
Father made me a half dugout on the north 40 acres in the long strip. It was 16 feet by 16 feet. Dug down 3 feet and built up 4 feet with cotton wood lumber. Covered with cottonwood shingles. I had a window in the east, north and west, and door was in south. We had dirt floors in our dugout at first.

Brother [Walter] wasn't 21 when we went to Oklahoma so couldn't file on land. He broke 30 acres of my place and put it in kaffir, and he got the kaffir. The next year he put the land in corn, and I got part of the corn. There was so much corn raised and not much sale for it, but he sold some to some cattle men. Some corn sold for 9 cents per bushel in the field that year. Such big ears. The cobs from feeding the stock were saved for fuel.

When John [Doggett] went to Southern Texas and I went to Oklahoma, we decided that he would go with the girls there and I would go with boys, but we let them know that we were going just as friends, for having a good time. There was nothing to go to except Sunday School and a sermon, part of the time. There was one church building, but most of the services were held in school houses. There were several couples of us that went together every Sunday. All rode horseback and we would go to the different homes for dinner. Sometimes we would be invited to a home that had no young people, but the lady would know that if she invited one, she must invite all. We would all help fix dinner when we got there and have great fun as friends and neighbors. I went with four different ones, but they all know I heard from John every week. Sometimes we had singings in some of the homes. Brother and Fronia Bewley and Tom and Nora Lovel were two of the couples that later married.

When John worked in the cotton loading of ships, he made enough money that he came to Oklahoma to see me and we discussed getting married, but I hadn't made any quilts or was not ready to go to housekeeping, so we decided to put it off another year, and his money had to be spent in taking care of his folks.

[To be continued ...]



Land Patent Map showing Josie's place in the shape of an upside down "L."

Why Gueriot?

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

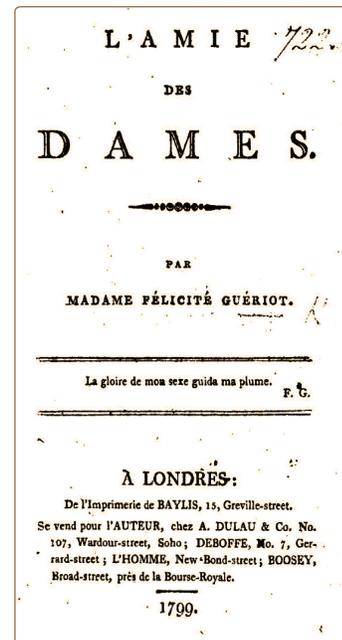
David Butt

AUTHOR'S NOTE

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

A RESEARCH PROJECT OF SOME DURATION

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



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

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



Shepton Mallet, Chesham, and London. From Atlas to Cruttwell's Gazetteer, 1799.

My first breakthrough came when I ordered the birth certificate for my great-grandfather Walter Butt, who was born in 1853 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England, about thirty miles northwest of London. As hoped, the birth certificate named his parents, Walter Butt and, to my surprise, Eliza Gueriot! There it was. Wally and Roger's middle name placed for the first time within our family tree as the maiden name of my great-great-grandmother. This was progress. But how far back could I trace the Gueriot family name?

In 2004, web resources were not quite what they are today. Nevertheless, a Google search for "Gueriot" put me in touch with a genealogist for Somerset County, England, who sent me copies of the relevant pages of the 1841 census for the town of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, about 130 miles west of Chesham. The census recorded a Gueriot family living on Leg Street in Shepton Mallet, which included then fifteen-year-old Eliza (my great-great-grandmother) and her parents, Louis and Elizabeth Gueriot.

1	Louis Gueriot	40	' Tea Dealer	Mr
	Elizabeth G	45		Ms
	Eliza G	15	' Sewer	Ms
	Josiah G	13	' Labourer	Ms
	Frederick G	11	' Servant - Boy	Ms
	Elizabeth G	9	' Milkmaid	Ms
	Louis G	5		Ms
	Frederick G	5		Ms

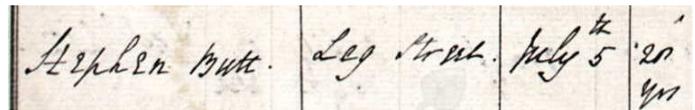
1841 England Census. Louis Gueriot family, including wife Elizabeth (Gilbert) and daughter Eliza, Shepton Mallet, County Somerset.

In the same census, I discovered Walter Butt, Eliza's future husband, then thirteen years old and living in Darshill, a village about a mile west of Shepton Mallet.

1	Walter Butt	13		
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1841 England Census. Walter Butt, Shepton Mallet, County Somerset.

Nearby, I found Walter's mother Betsy (Smith) Butt and three of Walter's siblings. But there was no mention of Walter's father. A few days cranking the microfilm reels at a nearby Family History Center enabled me to find Betsy Smith's 1823 marriage to Stephen Butt. More research showed that two girls and a boy were born of this marriage before Stephen died in 1828 at age twenty-eight. Walter (my great-grandfather) was the youngest, then only five months old.



Stephen Butt's death record. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914. Ancestry.com.

Additional records revealed that the Butts and Smiths were both long-established families in Shepton Mallet, though no one in either family had any professional qualifications. Stephen was a laborer in a brewery.

Then I got another insight. My cousin Peter (Roger's brother) remembered that he had found a British war medal from the Napoleonic War after his mother died in 1994. The medal is inscribed "L. Smith, 40th Foot," and there are clasps for three battles fought in the Peninsular War of 1807-1814. Research revealed that Luke Smith was Betsy's father, and there was an understandable gap in the children that he fathered. Betsy was born in 1804 before he went to the war, and the family growth resumed in 1814 after the war. Cousin Peter had the official delivery note that accompanied the medal, which was delivered to Luke's daughter, Betsy. This confirms the identification of "L. Smith" as my ancestor Luke.

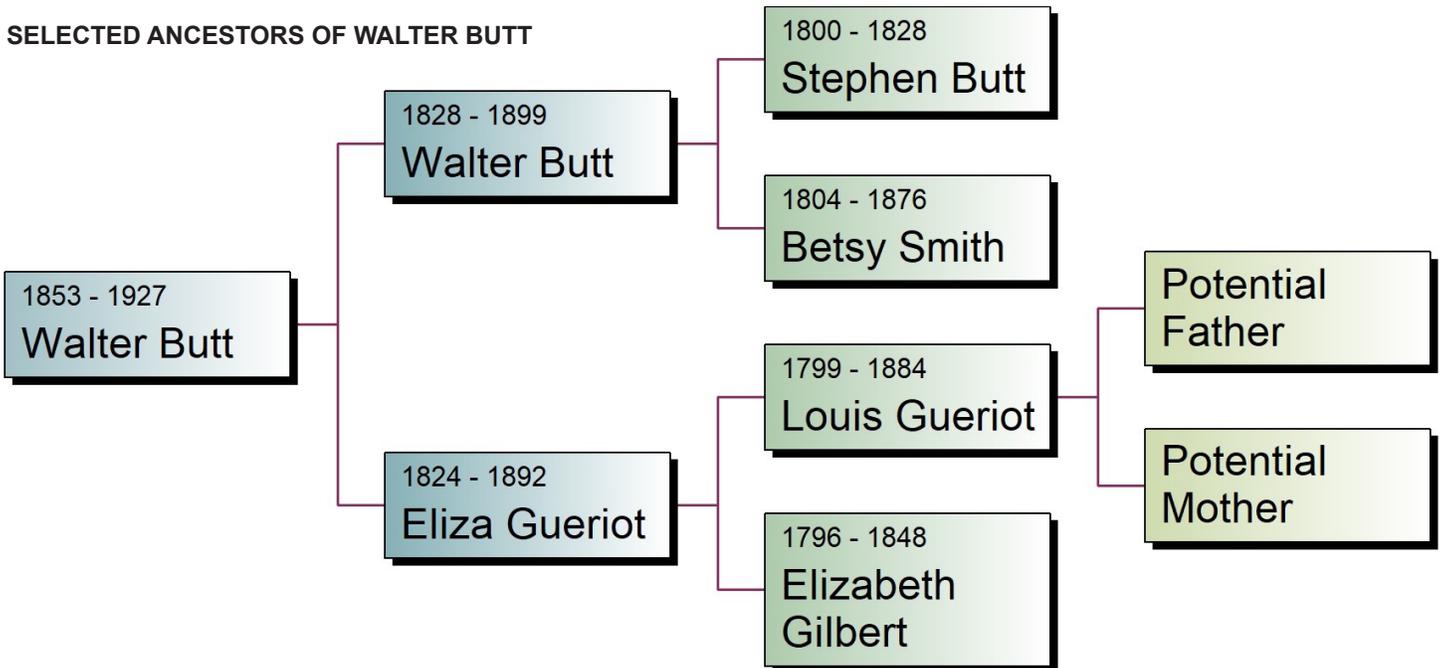
The Butt family had been neighbors of the Gueriot family on Leg Street in Shepton Mallet until 1835 when, after seven years of widowhood, Betsy (then resident in Darshill) gave birth to a son, Henry, "baseborn" (illegitimate) according to the baptismal records. Subsequent research revealed that about 1845, Betsy and her family had moved to Chesham, Buckinghamshire, a place where she had no known family connections.

In 1850, my great-great-grandfather Walter Butt married Eliza Gueriot in Watford (close to Chesham), by which time his older sisters were already married into Chesham families of a class far above what could be

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of <u>Wotton Bassett</u>	
in the County of <u>Middlesex</u> in the Year 18 <u>23</u>	
<u>Louis Gueriot</u> , Bachelor,	of this Parish
and <u>Elizabeth Gilbert</u> ,	also of this Parish
<u>Spinster</u>	
were married in this <u>Church</u> by <u>Reverend</u> with Consent of	
this <u>Twenty ninth</u> Day of	
<u>June</u> in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <u>Twenty three</u>	
By me <u>George Hodgson Thompson</u> , Curate	
This Marriage was solemnized between us { <u>Louis Gueriot</u>	
{ <u>Elizabeth Gilbert</u>	
In the Presence of { <u>The mark of Joseph Bridges</u> <u>R. Morgan</u>	
{ <u>The mark of Lydia Bridges</u>	
No. 295.	

London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932. Ancestry.com.

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF WALTER BUTT



expected for the daughters of a laborer’s widow with an illegitimate son. In 1855, Walter’s younger half-brother Henry married Charlotte Darville, the daughter of a very prosperous local businessman. At the time of his death, in 1902, Henry owned a boot and shoe manufacturing business and left an estate valued at £5886 (about a million dollars in today’s terms).

LOUIS GUERIOT (1799-1884)

Eliza’s father, Louis Gueriot, is my third-great-grandfather. I should point out that he consistently went by “Lewis” until about 1830 when he switched to “Louis.” In discussing his life history, I shall use the spelling appropriate to the event under discussion. Parts of Lewis’ life were easily traced. He was born about the turn of the century in Marylebone, London. He was a laborer in Tottenham and Stratford Bow (East London) when his three youngest children were baptized.

Lewis married Elizabeth Gilbert on 29 June 1823 in Tottenham. Elizabeth’s parents were “in service” (possibly as a butler and lady’s maid) in the Westminster area of London. Lewis and Elizabeth had seven children:

- Daughter Eliza was born and baptized in 1826 in Tottenham. She married my great-great-grandfather Walter Butt and died in 1892 in Derby.
- Daughter Louisa Marie was born in 1827 in Tottenham and baptized in Stratford Bow at age two years. She died of tuberculosis in 1842 when she was fifteen.
- Son Josiah Fanshaw was born in Stratford Bow and baptized there in 1828 at age two months, along with his two-year-old sister, Louisa Marie. Josiah moved to South Wales sometime before 1851 and

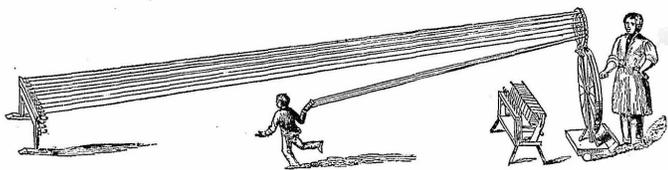
married Ann Collings in Cardiff in 1869. It was the second marriage for Ann, who was originally from South Devon. Josiah worked on the sewage farm in Pontypridd in South Wales, where he lived until his death in 1908. He left no descendants.

- Son Frederic Lewis was born and baptized in 1830 in Shepton Mallet. He departed Bristol on the Sea Breeze on 27 June 1857 and arrived in Melbourne, Australia, on 17 October. This was a sailing ship carrying fifty passengers. He died at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, on 8 August 1858, intestate, debts paid eleven shillings and sixpence. Ballarat had been a gold-rush town since 1851.
- Daughter Elizabeth Ellen was born in 1832 in Shepton Mallet and died of typhus when she was ten.
- Son Louis Joseph was born and baptized in 1834 in Shepton Mallet. He became a carpenter. Louis Joseph married a neighbour and moved to London and then to Mickleham, Surrey, where he taught woodwork in the local grammar school. They raised a family of five children but had only one grandchild (Doris Esme Edith Parker, daughter of their youngest daughter, Rosa).
- Daughter Amelia was born and baptized in 1836 in Shepton Mallet. At age 34, Amelia, a schoolmistress, married John Green, a gardener. They moved to Malmesbury, Wiltshire, where they raised a family. In 1894, Amelia was committed to the lunatic asylum in Devizes, Somerset, where she died in 1909 after fifteen years of incarceration. I am in correspondence with some of her descendants.

Louis' wife Elizabeth died in Shepton Mallet in 1848 at age 53 of "bile of a cut on the hand." Five years later, Louis married Sarah Gosney in Bethnal Green in London, listing their address as "6 Hackney Road." Sarah was the widow of a Shepton Mallet carpenter. She died in December 1855 after just two years of marriage, and Louis was a widower for about two years before marrying Betsey Pitney, a silk-throwster, born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1857. At the time, he gave his residence as Ottery Saint Mary, Devon County. Betsey was thirteen years younger than Louis, but he outlived her. She died in 1882, and Louis moved to Derby where he spent the last year of his life with his daughter Eliza and her husband, Walter Butt. He became the first occupant of a tomb purchased and subsequently occupied by his daughter and son-in-law.

It is not easy to reconcile the contradictions in Louis' career. In most official documents, he described his trade as working in the silk industry; the only exception being that at age forty-three he described himself as a tea dealer (daughter Amelia's father-in-law was also a tea dealer). At forty-eight he was a silk industry laborer; at fifty, a qualified silk-throwster; at fifty-five, an accountant; at seventy, an assistant silk-throwster. He may have taken time to work in Wesleyan chapels. His death certificate lists him as "formerly a manager of a silk factory," which may have exaggerated his professional standing. The fact that he was, however temporarily, an accountant implies that he had some education.

Louis Gueriot died on 4 February 1884 at the age of 83.



Throwing or Spinning by Hand. The Penny Magazine, Volume 12, April 1843 Supplement, p. 167. Ancestry.com.

FELICITÉ GUERIOT, ÉMIGRÉ AND INTELLECTUAL

All my research on Louis Gueriot had not led to his parents. He had given his father as Louis on two marriage records. Two of his sons were baptized "Louis." Gueriot was certainly not an English surname, but it was found in France. The Huguenot notion from my cousin was soon shown to be bogus (wrong generation).

Then, in 2009, I had an inspiration—maybe Louis' parents were refugees from the French Revolution of 1789-1799 (correct generation!). I found the book *The French Exiles* by Margery Weiner. The book told how the British public (and to a limited extent, the government) were concerned about the state of the *émigrés*,

many of whom lived in poverty. These early refugees were predominantly aristocrats. The Wilmot Relief Committee was organized, and Parliament approved relief funds. The accounts were carefully audited by both immigrant (French) and British authorities. Payments were made only to *émigrés* who were truly destitute, but the assumption was that the recipients would use the funds to maintain themselves in the style to which they were accustomed (many of them claimed extra funds to pay for their maids). A bit more research indicated that the records of the Wilmot Committee were available at the National Archives in London; so, in August 2009, my cousin Peter and I spent a few days there. We hit a treasure trove! The Wilmot Committee account books recorded payments to a Mlle Felicité Gueriot from July 1795 until February 1801. Could she be related to Louis? I decided to learn all that I could about Felicité.

The date of Felicité's arrival in London is not defined in the Wilmot Committee archives, but an Index Book from 1796 lists *émigrés* with their dates of immigration (mostly 1791 and 1792). Two entries are of special interest because of the numbers assigned to them:

#22 Gueriot - one female, (no date of immigration).

#38 Olivier Du Vivier - one male, age forty-five; and one female (immigrated 1791)

M. Augustin Henri Olivier du Vivier was the official representative of the French community to the Wilmot Committee. He signed for Felicité's pension in October and November of 1800. If our Felicité was the Gueriot female assigned a lower number (22) than Olivier (38), she arrived in London no later than 1791.

I discovered Felicité was an accomplished author, whose writings gave clues to her personal life. In 1799, she published a 185-page book, *L'Amie des Dames* (A Lady's Friend). In her introduction, Felicité indicated that she was childless: "*la nature ne m'accordé la gloire d'être mère*" (literally, "nature hasn't given me the glory of being a mother"). In context, it can be interpreted as, "I am not addressing the advice in this book to any specific person; I have no daughter; I am addressing the public in general."

More research on Felicité's literary career led me to a biographical dictionary: *Dictionnaire Historique, Littéraire et Bibliographique* by Mme Fortune Briquet (published in Paris, June 1804). A brief entry refers to Felicité Gueriot and gives her date of birth as 18 May 1767 in Champagne. The book gives the following list of her publications:

- *De l'Éducation et du Bonheur des Femmes*, Paris, reviewed in a journal published 1801 or 1802. This is a second edition of *L'Amie des Dames*, significantly revised. It repeats the disclaimer of "not being a mother."

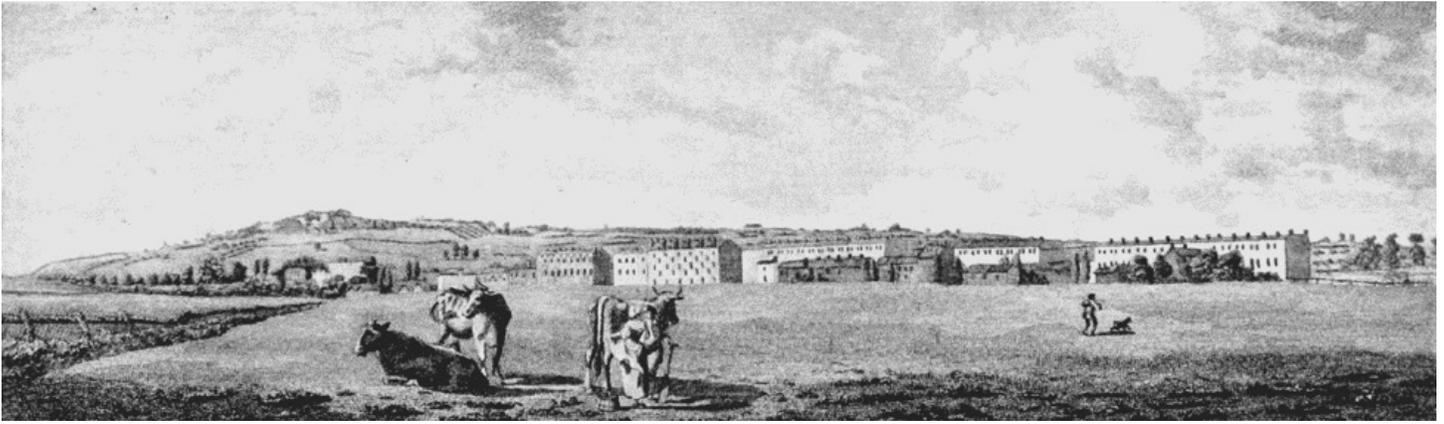


Plate 48: Marylebone Park, 1796, in *Survey of London: Volume 19*. *British History Online* (www.british-history.ac.uk).

- *La Paix* (The Peace), published in Paris, November 1801. *La Paix* is only ten pages long, a pamphlet rather than a book. The peace that Felicité celebrates relates mainly to the internal situation: the end of the Reign of Terror. The book is quite outspoken, referring to lost opportunities during the Revolution. Much is written in praise of England, its politics, institutions, rulers, and inhabitants, suggesting that the execution of the English King Charles I, the subsequent chaos, and the restoration of a new, powerful monarch provided a good parallel with the recent execution of the French King Louis XVI, the subsequent Reign of Terror, and Napoleon's accession to power. England is certainly her prototype for post-revolutionary France. In the final paragraph, she advocates a strong educational program with special emphasis on young women. She mentions that on that very day, she has delivered, to the minister responsible, a carefully-reasoned plan to accomplish this (without breaking the budget).
- *Mémoires de Mistress Robinson, célèbre actrice de Londres*, Paris (August 1802). Mary Robinson, known for her stage role as "Perdita," was a very interesting person; a famous actress and the very public mistress of the Prince of Wales. She was the subject of portraits painted by Romney, Gainsborough, and Reynolds, none of which was judged to do justice to her beauty. Her memoirs were published posthumously in London, and Felicité's translation was published soon after in Paris, which suggests that Felicité may have been well acquainted with Mary Robinson.
- *Bilivore*, a verse comedy in three acts, performed in Paris and co-authored with M Francois-Simon Aved de Loizerolles. Mme. Fortunee Bernier Briquet refers to the comedy as "*n'est point encore*

imprime" (no longer in print). Presumably, it dates from the 1801-1804 period, after Felicité's return to Paris but before the publication of Mme Briquet's *Dictionnaire* in 1804.

Felicité's early arrival in London is consistent with the political situation in Champagne at that time. In a brief note in her book, *La Paix*, she belabors two metaphors: a father's farewell to his son departing for battle, and a mother consoling her daughter after her betrothed goes off to fight. This may relate to her personal experiences. I later found that in 1791, Felicité would have been twenty-four, an age where she may have been engaged. That year was a critical time in French politics. A harsh winter followed three successive years of bad harvests. The Revolution was supposed to solve the hunger problem—it had had the opposite effect. Nobody was in charge! The French Assembly was debating the new constitution (with particular emphasis on a new decimal calendar). The moderate Girondists were still strong enough to oppose the more radical Jacobins but incapable of accomplishing anything other than gridlock. The Provinces were in a state of intermittent revolt. Everyone agreed that the stalemate was not sustainable; families were divided, and duels were fought. In June of that year, King Louis escaped from house arrest in Paris and fled towards Belgium, which was under the direct rule of the Holy Roman Emperor (Marie Antoinette's brother). King Louis was recaptured at Varennes, in Champagne, and subsequently guillotined. The situation resulted in a mass exodus of the nobility to fight with the Army of the Princes alongside the Austrian forces on the east bank of the Rhine. I hypothesize that if Felicité had a fiancé, he may have joined this emigration.

There was some anti-aristocrat rioting prior to the start of the Reign of Terror (in June 1792), but the Champagne region was not much affected. I subsequently discovered that Felicité's brother and her uncle were both high-ranking officers in the army. They both rose to the rank of

general during her absence, so she had no obvious reason to flee from the revolution. On the other hand, if her fiancé had joined the Royalist Army of the Princes, while her brother and her uncle both continued successful careers with the Revolutionary Army, there would certainly have been a major family crisis. This may have been the direct cause of her emigration to London.

London was a big city in the 1790s, but the intellectual community was very small. There was a significant feminist movement led by Mary Wollstonecraft whose *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters* was published in 1787. Her best-known publication, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, followed in 1792. In 1797, Mary Wollstonecraft was at the center of a fellowship of feminist authors who “constituted a group of sister souls who met at each other’s houses and whose children played together in the hayfields around Somers Town.” Mary Robinson was a great admirer of Mary Wollstonecraft. Felicité’s translation of Mary Robinson’s memoirs implies they knew each other. And in her *Lady’s Friend*, Felicité acknowledges Wollstonecraft and follows her emphasis on the basic issues of equality and



Mrs. Mary Robinson, 1781.
By George Romney.

education. It is plausible that Felicité Gueriot, Mary Robinson, and Mary Wollstonecraft were well acquainted.

It is important to note that England and France were at war from 1 February 1793 until 24 June 1815, except for a brief peace between February 1801 and May 1803. Margery Weiner specifically notes that the Wilmot Committee helped many *émigrés* to return to France during that period. The ledgers for the period February through July 1801 record monthly payments of £1-11-6 to Mlle Gueriot signed for by M. Vasnier, her agent. The page has extensive marginal notes, including “*Conge 6 mois du 1 fevrier 1801*,” indicating that the last six receipts were paid in advance to facilitate her return to France.

My ancestor Lewis would have been about a year old in February 1801 when Felicité left England. There is a total blank in Lewis’ life history between his estimated birth date in 1799-1800 and his marriage in 1823. I felt there had to be some family connection between him and Felicité. It is possible that she was his mother; if so, there is certainly nothing to suggest that Lewis went to France with her. I needed to learn more about Felicité Gueriot! [To be continued ...]

* * *

Does Your Family Have a Story About Women Fighting to Vote?

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of a watershed year in women’s rights in the U.S. On 18 August 1920, Congress ratified the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution, finally giving women a right to vote.

Did your ancestors play a role in the suffrage movement?

Did any of your ancestors fight against giving women a voice?

We’d like to hear from you. The Bulletin would like to publish stories next year about suffrage and we’d welcome your submissions.

Please contact bulletin@gfo.org.



Source: Library of Congress

What's in a Name?

An Interview with Anne Wheeler on Her Search for Narcisse DesMarais/Demarest (1815-unknown) of Quebec, Canada

LauraDenise White

I had the privilege of sitting down with Anne Wheeler to talk about some exciting strides she's made in her personal research at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). The following is drawn from that interview and has been edited for clarity.

LauraDenise (LD) –I understand you had a recent breakthrough in your personal research.

Anne (A) – Yes indeed! The family story was this: My father's grandmother, Mary Sophia Demarest, was a French-Canadian woman, and her son Clayton Wheeler, my grandfather, had the desire to learn French, so that he could speak to his mother in her mother-tongue. When the first World War broke out, Clayton went to Europe and picked up some French, but unfortunately for him, Mary Sophia died in the 1918 influenza pandemic very shortly before he returned home.

This French-Canadian connection was a subject of mystery. Though we knew her name as Mary Sophia Demarest Wheeler, I'd heard a variety of suggestions for different spellings. When I began digging, I learned that her father's name was Narcisse, and her mother was possibly Mary, and that Mary Sophia was born in Whitehall, New York, which is the seat of Washington County.

I contacted the Notre Dame des Victoires Catholic Church in Whitehall and got the baptismal records for Mary Sophia and her brothers and sisters. That's where I learned the French spelling of Mary's surname: DesMarais. Mary Sophia's mother, Mary, was probably born in Quebec, certainly in Canada. And her father, Narcisse, was from Quebec.

Some further investigation led to the proper pronunciation of the name DesMarais, pronounced day-mah-ray. I had been told Narcisse DesMarais might have been from the Three Rivers area of Quebec, and I'm now fairly certain that he is the Narcisse DesMarais from the Jolliet area of Quebec near



Private First Class Clayton Wheeler, ca. 1918, about age 27. In civilian life, he was a railroad engineer. Consequently, he was recruited into a special regiment of Army Engineers with expertise in the railway industry. They tended to be somewhat older than regular foot soldiers. The 16th Regiment (Railway) Engineers were among the first in and the last out because they built the transport infrastructure for the American Expeditionary Forces. Photo courtesy of Anne Wheeler.

Three Rivers or *Trois-Rivières*. I found him in the 1851 Canadian census, which is the earliest census by the British government in which I have been able to locate him. It indicated that he lived in an area called Saint Paul, or a parish called Saint Paul de La-valtrie, in Jolliet County.

LD – And when was this?

A - Maybe three years ago? I wasn't able to find anything further with the resources at hand, and so I just sat with what I had for a couple of years. But not long ago, the GFO was gifted a very large collection of French-Canada materials from long-time member George Brown. This enormous collection of books is made up of, among other things, books of parish marriages and baptisms and so much more. Taking the information I had, I went through the newly-donated books and, lo and behold, found the baptismal record for Narcisse DesMarais, his father, his grandfather, and various relations. I learned his mother's name, his grandmother's name, and on and on ...

LD – How far back?

A - I have not followed the information to the end—yet. There's more to be learned, but I have a clearly documented path to follow.

Narcisse DesMarais was born in 1815. So now, this branch goes back well into the 1700s, which is about as early as most of my Anglo-American lines. And I'm confident I might be able to follow the DesMarais line back to France. The name is heavily associated with certain areas of interior Brittany, so who knows? I might be able to get right to the village level!

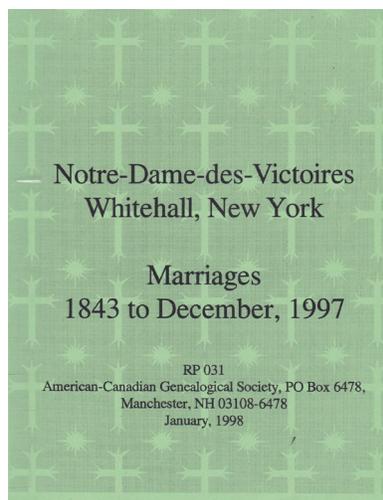
The hardest part of this is my ineptitude in French, even though I took French in high school and some in college. It's sometimes difficult for me to put together the bits of information I see in handwritten documents in French or in Latin. I'm not a Latinist either. It certainly was wonderful to find all that information on my father's side of the family, which I immediately copied and sent off to him. He was very pleased to learn about his grandmother and great-grandparents.

LD – Please tell me a little bit more about the records themselves. Are the books in French? [Anne jumped up, and moments later returned with two paper-bound volumes in hand.]

A – Yes, and they are typeset. These two books are arranged by surname with a glossary in front that gives variants of the common spelling of names.

LD – How far did these volumes take you back?

A - To 1786! So, DesMarais is the surname ... I just look alphabetically and *voilà!*



LD – And then where is Narcisse? I see here a Sophia.

A - That's actually not his family. His father is Louis and his mother is Josephite Piche. Sometimes Picher and sometimes Pichet.

You can see the family relationships as it's very characteristic of Roman Catholic records to give the woman's maiden name rather than her married name. So, this is Narcisse's birth notation and baptismal record that some Catholic parish priest wrote down.

LD – How did we get from a Catholic priest writing it down to here, to this book?

[Anne flipped to the front of one of the volumes to show me the publication information, written in French, on the title pages.]

A - My French isn't that great, but this is apparently the *Message of the Pastor of the Parish of Saint Paul of Industry*.

So, from this record, I knew Narcisse's parents' names for the first time—Louis and Josephite!

And I now know a likely cousin for Josephite from the maiden names. See, the witnesses were Pierre Piche and his wife Terresa, and they're shown as sister and brother[-in-law], and that's why they witnessed the baptism of Narcisse.

LD – So then you were able to find Louis' baptism?

A - Yes! Also, if you notice, the baptism record says Louis, Narcisse's father, was a laborer. [Anne pointed to the abbreviation *lab* next to Louis DesMarais' name.] And for other people they have *cult* for cultivator or farmer, and *ag* for agriculture. So, they had abbreviations for their various occupations.

LD – It's kind of like the Polk City Directories, which have much more information than you would at first think. They're not just names and addresses.

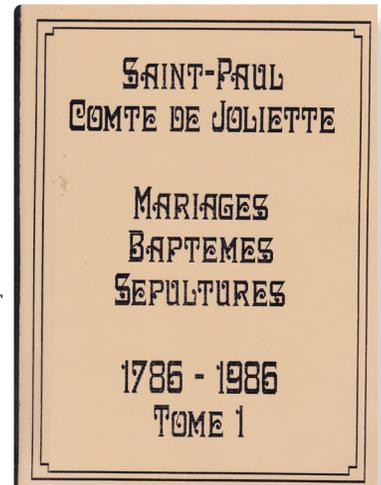
A - There are also records from Notre Dame des Victoires in New York that gives Mary Sophie's information. Do you want to see that?

LD – Sure!

[Shortly, Anne returned with the additional volumes.]

A - This affirmed what I had learned from Notre Dame des Victoires.

LD – So this spelling is d-e m-a-r-t-e-s ... is that the same family?



A - Yes, and it shows there were spelling variations even in the 1800s. Names were not a fixed thing until fairly modern times.

LD - Right. Because writing wasn't the medium that everyone used.

A - And with only 300 people in the town, everybody knew everybody. Let's see if I can find Mary Sophia's DesMarais family.

[We both leaned in again over the new pile of books.]

Here is Marie Sophia's parents' marriage, between Narcisse DesMarais and Mary Jodin. I haven't been able to find out much about her. But there are some other Jodins in this book, and it makes sense that he would marry a hometown girl, even though he was in another county. And here is Elizabeth Wheeler.

LD - Oh! Wait, where does she come in?

A - Mary Sophia had an older brother named Charles [DesMarais.] Mary Sophia married William Stephen Wheeler, and Charles married Stephen's sister Elizabeth [Wheeler], so it was a double relation between the two families.

LD - Now, you mentioned at the beginning that Clayton wanted to learn French during World War I. So, when Clayton returned, had he planned to come back and visit his mother, Mary Sophia, in Canada?

A - No, actually she was living in Michigan with the rest of the family. William Stephen Wheeler and all this bunch moved to Saginaw, Michigan. I don't know exactly when. It was after the 1870 census but before 1900. Clayton was born in Michigan in 1890 on Groundhog Day. My dad was actually the last kid in a second bunch, because Clayton had been married to somebody else before marrying my grandmother, Blanche Hunt.

LD - So I feel like you knew some of this, but then you got stuck at Mary Sophia and Narcisse. Would you explain what your brick wall was specifically, or what had created that brick wall for you?

A - Well, for quite some time I had known up through William Stephen Wheeler and Mary Sophia DesMarais's marriage, and the story about Clayton. I had learned about the marriage between Narcisse and Mary in New York. But it wasn't until I found the books at the GFO that I broke open Narcisse's family.

I've also recently found a French-Canadian website that has all the siblings of Louis and Josephthe Piche and Josephthe's family tree. The website didn't have Narcisse because he didn't get married in Canada. The rest of the family stayed in Quebec. But I'm able to match that information with what I found in the George Brown books.

LD - So Narcisse and Mary made the first move down to the U.S. from Canada?

A - Correct. And then these folks went from New York to Michigan. I have no idea what happened to Mary or Narcisse as I've not been able to find graves.

LD - Or death records? Or do you know what date they died?

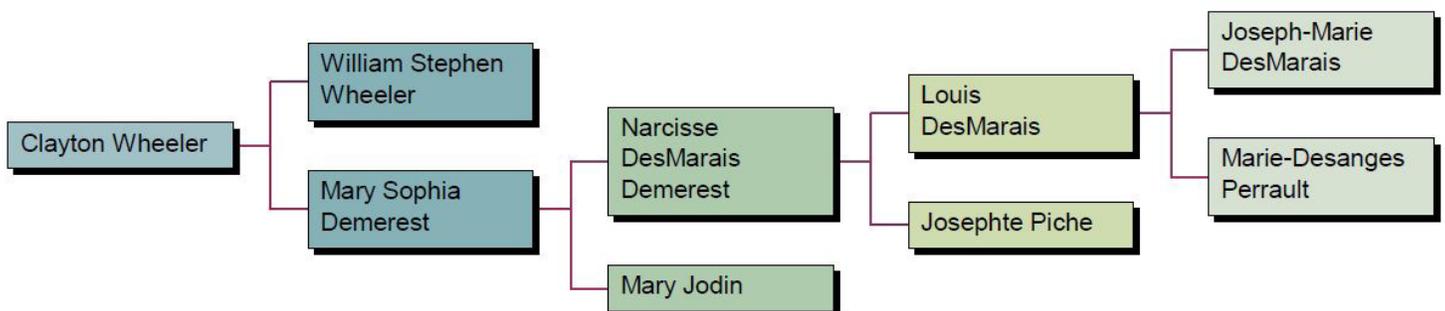
A - No. But they might have gone back to Canada. I have been to the old town graveyard in Whitehall, and I found a whole mess of Wheelers, but no DesMarais. Also, the Wheelers were Protestant and the DesMarais were Catholic.

LD - Are there any personal connections that you had or felt in relation to these people?

A - I met [my grandfather] Clayton only a couple of times. When I did, he was elderly, and I was quite young, and he died in 1972, I believe. My memories of him are few. I regret the fact that I wasn't old enough to ask him more questions and learn more things. All I remember is him singing old army songs, like "Hinky Dinky Parley Voo" and "Long Road to Tipperary."

LD - Are you planning a trip to Canada?

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF CLAYTON WHEELER



A - I would really like to someday. It's definitely a goal to go up to Jolliet in Quebec and find Saint Paul to see if I can find more about the family.

LD - When the George Brown Collection was first donated to the library, were you thinking of looking through it immediately?

A - Yes, as soon as I realized the scope of the collection. I had just begun volunteering at the GFO, and there was this fabulous collection that was donated, and it just had heaps of stuff that had to be sorted and cataloged and labeled. I actually made and put these spine title labels on the books.

LD - So you knew which ones you wanted to look at more closely.

A - Yeah! And that's one of the benefits of being a volunteer, because I get a preview of the new material which benefits my own research.

LD - Is there anything else you want to say about this story?

A - For women in a patriarchal society and for non-English speakers in an English-speaking society, it's really easy to lose the thread in your research, and I'm really glad that I recovered this piece of my personal tapestry.

LD - Do you feel like you know Mary and Narcisse more from being able to put them on a map?

A - I do feel a greater connection having a name and dates and a space to identify them. And I was able to grow their network of relations and friends, because in Catholic records you have witnesses to the baptism, and you have witnesses to the marriage.

LD - Right! As we saw in the George Brown books, you can see the family and friends' relations within the indexed information.

A - That was their network.

LD - What's your next step in your research?

A - I need to follow up on the French Piche side. And they were found in New York records, so I'll probably try to do some digging when I next visit my dad.

LD - What did your research tell you about yourself?

A - Well, doing this research has really drawn together that side of the family for me. I barely knew my grandfather because we lived in another part of the country, I didn't see him all that often, and he wasn't all that well. So, I feel more of a connection having found this new information.



PMUG College

The Portland Macintosh Users Group continues to host this series of classes at the Genealogy Forum of Oregon. These classes are free for PMUG members and GFO members who use Macintosh computers and Apple's mobile devices. Non-members can attend for \$10 per class.

September 11th / 6:00-8:00PM

Ten Crucial Questions about macOS

- ✓ How is the Apple menu used?
- ✓ How do I keep my software up to date?
- ✓ What does Auto Save do?
- ✓ Where is Keychain Access & Activity Monitor?
- ✓ What is Disk Utility for?
- ✓ Can I back up my data in case the computer fails?
- ✓ Does my computer have Emoji and other symbols?
- ✓ How can I get other language characters?
- ✓ ... And more!

September 25th / 6:00-8:00PM

Traversing the Web on Browsers & Email

- ✓ How to create and manage bookmarks
- ✓ Email on the Mail program
- ✓ Email on a web browser
- ✓ Find out how iCloud works
- ✓ Discover how iCloud synchs
- ✓ ... And more!

To register: Call 503-228-1779 or email: college@pmug.org
Bring your Mac, if you can, to participate with instruction. If you would like additional information for attending this class, please email us at college@pmug.org.

(Note, updates may be sent for interruption of services due to weather etc.)

A Grave Oversight

Debra Koehler

In my article “Early Oregon Pioneers: The Family of Bernice Chessman Turner” (*The Bulletin*, June 2019), I reported that Bernice’s little sister, Park Allene Chessman, who died *circa* 1896 at the age of six of diphtheria, was buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Springfield, Lane County, Oregon, but that “a recent visit to the cemetery ... did not locate a marker or headstone for the little girl.”

Shortly after publication, *The Bulletin* was contacted by a representative of the cemetery and not only is Park Allene buried there, her place of rest is marked by one of the most prominent headstones in the cemetery. And it’s not off in a distant corner or obscured by a large shade tree. It is right out in the open, more or less at the center of things, easy to spot, hard to miss.

After learning the headstone was in fact there, I returned to the cemetery to see it for myself. And this time, I walked right to it. I didn’t even have to hunt. As I stood at the little girl’s grave, and after singing “You Are



Headstone for (Park) Allene Chessman, Laurel Grove Cemetery, Springfield, Lane County, Oregon.



Inscription on (Park) Allene Chessman’s headstone, Laurel Grove Cemetery.

My Sunshine” (because I always sing to those I find in cemeteries) I had to ask myself, “How did I miss this?”

What I came to realize was that I had made one of the worst mistakes a genealogist can make. I fell victim to my assumptions. Because Park Allene had died as a young child, I went into the cemetery assuming she had a small grass marker or pillow stone, something simple and flat to the ground. So, as I looked, I was looking down, not up and around. I walked that whole cemetery with my eyes on the ground. Viewing the cemetery from that perspective, it’s easy to see why I missed the inscription on Park Allene’s marker.

But that was only the first self-defeating assumption I made. Because the longer I looked without success, the more I assumed I would not find her grave. If her headstone were here, I thought, surely, I would have found it by now. Maybe her headstone had succumbed to the ravages of time? Maybe she never had one to begin with? Maybe she wasn’t even there? Trapped by my own assumptions, I gave up and missed the vital clue that was literally standing right in front of me.



Markers for Arthur and Bernice Turner, Rose City Cemetery.

I am now grateful to young Park Allene, who died over a hundred years ago, for reminding me (and perhaps you) that when you go looking for something, don't assume what you will find, because if you do, you might miss it entirely.

As for Bernice Turner herself, documentation left no doubt she is buried in Rose City Cemetery in Portland, as is her husband, Arthur. But unclear at the time of publication was whether they were resting together. I am happy to report that they are.

I went to Rose City Cemetery recently to see for myself. A nice man in the office pointed at a map and said, "park here and take sixteen steps that way." I did, and I walked right up to Arthur and Bernice. Their resting places are

side-by-side and easily identified by matching grass markers that are flat and low to the ground, the opposite of what I expected to find.

I had to chuckle at myself a bit for that. And after singing "Amazing Grace" to Arthur and Bernice, I thanked them for the article and I told Bernice her little sister, Park Allene, says, "Hello." I can't prove it, but I think they appreciated the visit.

In genealogy, there is always more to find. So, go back and look again, even if you think you are done. Something you didn't find the last time could be sitting right there, waiting for you to see it.

And no, you do not want to hear me sing.



Inscription on the marker for Bernice Etta Turner, Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon



Using Subscription Newspaper Websites at the GFO Library



Half-Day Workshop
Sun., Sept. 8 • 9:30-Noon

with JANICE SELLERS

Author Profile

Joseph Lee Boyle

Shannon Leonetti

Once again, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon highlights books written by Joseph Lee Boyle. This GFO *Bulletin* includes another installment in his *White Pennsylvania Runaways* series. The GFO has a significant investment in his “Runaway” series, a compilation of published newspaper ads for runaway servants and property they may have taken.

These hands-on books are amazing resources for historians, researchers in early American history, and genealogy. They supplement the more conventional or cumbersome periodicals. Their introductions, written by Boyle, are mini-histories worth reading just for their own historical lessons. A few of the books’ highlights include demographics of the regions they are covering, including quotes from the owners describing their runaway servants and what the bounty was for their return.

Many of Boyle’s books are written from, or are rewritings of, personal journals, papers, and letters. He believes that primary sources are critical for research and clear thinking, as too many myths from the past are perpetuated, such as Martha Washington knitting for the troops at Valley Forge. Boyle’s first book was *From Redcoat to Rebel: The Thomas Sullivan Journal*. His latest book, “smooth tongued and deceitful”: *White New Jersey Runaways, 1767-1783*, was published in 2019.

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.

Apart from the books currently and previously reviewed in *The Bulletin*, the GFO library holds the titles shown below. More of Boyle’s books can be read and searched on Ancestry.com and Genealogical.com.

JOSEPH BOYLE BOOKS AT THE GFO

“Apt to get drunk at all opportunities”: *White Pennsylvania runaways, 1750 – 1762*.

974.8o .News Runa 1750 – 1782.

“Drinks hard and swears much”: *White Maryland runaways, 1770 – 1774*.

975.2o .News Runa 1770 – 1774.

“Given to drinking and whoring”: *White Maryland runaways, 1720 – 1762*.

975.2o .News Runa 1720 – 1763



“He loves a good deal of rum”: *Military desertions during the American Revolution, 1775 – 1783*.

973 .Mil-Yr 1775 – 1783 Dese v1

“Lazy, loves strong Drink, and is a Glutton”: *White Pennsylvania runaways, 1720 – 1749*.

974.8o .News Runa 1720 – 1749.

“Much addicted to strong drink and swearing”: *White Pennsylvania runaways, 1769 – 1772*.

974.8o .News Runa 1769 – 1772.

“Much given to Liquor and Chewing Tobacco”: *White Pennsylvania runaways, 1763 – 1768*.

974.8o .News Runa 1763 – 1768.

“Much given to strong liquor and low company”: *White Pennsylvania runaways, 1773– 1775*.

974.8o .News Runa 1773 – 1775.

“Our troops are in general almost naked”: *the Delaware and New York infantry at the Valley Forge encampment, 1777 – 1778*.

973 .Mil-Yr 1777 – 1778 ValF Boyl

“Sly and artful rogues”: *Maryland runaways, 1775 – 1781*.

975.2o .News Runa 1775 – 1781

“Very impudent when drunk or sober”: *Delaware runaways, 1720 – 1783*.

975.1o .News Runa 1720 – 1783

“When drunk is very bold”: *White Maryland runaways, 1763 – 1769*.

975.2o .News Runa 1763 – 1769

Book Review

“Our Troops Are In General Almost Naked”

The Delaware and New York Infantry at the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777-1778

Reviewed by Joan Galles

Author: Joseph Lee Boyle
 Publisher: Clearfield Company
 Publication Date: 2017
 Pages: 165
 Price: \$27.50 plus shipping
 Order From: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call No.: 973 .Mil-Yr 1777-1778 ValF Boyl

American history aficionados and academics will enjoy this book that explores the who and the why of Valley Forge from 1777-1778 and the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Researchers may also find this a good source of information for Revolutionary War family members and their involvement in those turbulent times.

Some 30,000 men in the Continental Army eventually found themselves at the Valley Forge encampment. Part of a series that covers troops from several states, this book reports on those from Delaware and New York and gives some of the basic information surrounding their service. The men may have come from several other states, but they are included by their state of enlistment.

Boyle begins with an amazing preface and introduction that graphically explains the situation at Valley Forge, events leading up to and away from it, and the hardships that many suffered. The men are then listed alphabetically by state, their company, and the general time frame of their service. Boyle explains how often these units were moved in and out of Valley Forge; how they often were renamed and renumbered; and how individual information could be compromised because of name spellings, inaccurate recording time frames, and lack of clarity as to whether they were in or out of service.

Kinney/Kenney, William Private	May 12, 1777, Duration of War	Moore	Dec 1777 sick absent; Jan-March 1778.
Kirby/Kerby, Griffith Private	April 14, 1778, Duration of War	Learmouth	June 22, 1778 left sick; Aug 12, 1778 died.
Kirkwood, Robert Captain	Dec 1, 1776	Kirkwood	Dec 1777-June 1778.
Knocks/Knox, George Private	Feb 4, 1778; March 4, 1778, Duration of War	Kirkwood	March 22, 1778 joined; April-June 1778.
Knotts/Knots, Hammond/	March 20, 1777, Duration of War	Moore	Dec 1777 sick present; Jan 1778; Feb 15, 1778 deserted.

“OUR TROOPS ARE IN GENERAL ALMOST NAKED”

The Delaware and New York Infantry
at the Valley Forge Encampment
1777-1778



Joseph Lee Boyle

The lists for each state are organized by surname, which may necessitate checking all possible spellings; next is information about the time of service, if known; then the company commander's name, though this could be the remaining lieutenant's name or left blank; and last is the information regarding the time of their service. The data was obtained from both muster and payroll records. The individual sources are not listed, but there is an excellent bibliography at the end of the book.

If we look at the entry for the surname Kinney in Delaware, we will find an alternate spelling of Kenney, with William the first name. He enlisted on 12 May 1777 for the duration of the war. His company commander was Moore. Under remarks, it states that he was absent from muster rolls in December of 1777 because of sickness. He apparently served then from January through March of 1778.

Although much has been written about how severe the circumstances were at Valley Forge, the book helps to humanize the tremendous sacrifice men made. Many soldiers were shoeless, sockless, and pant-less in snow and freezing weather; some were virtually naked. Their names are now etched in history as having advanced the tremendous struggle for American independence that finally forced the British to surrender.

Book Review

“smooth tongued and deceitful” White New Jersey Runaways 1767–1783

Reviewed by Shannon Leonetti

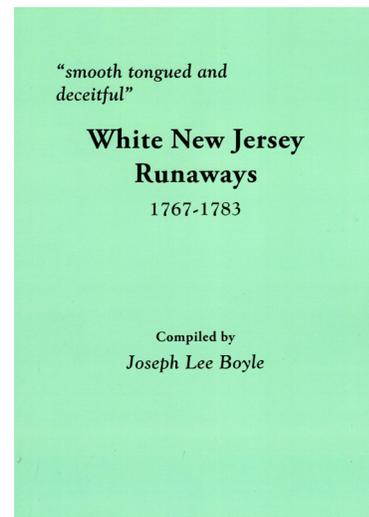
Author: Joseph Lee Boyle (compiler)
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing
Publication Date: 2019
Pages: viii + 450 pp.
Price: \$47.50 plus shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 974.90 .News Runa 1767-1783

Boyle’s list of publications detailing the white runaway slaves in pre-Revolutionary War America continues. *White New Jersey Runaways 1767–1783* is his second and concluding book on New Jersey. His first volume covered the years from 1720–1766. Both editions are made up primarily of newspaper ads about runaway slaves, but Boyle does include apprentices, deserters, horse thieves, and other criminals.

The struggle for any genealogist or historian is documenting a runaway, because when a servant was successful in getting away, he or she would hide their identity by changing their name or original residence in America. Boyle acknowledges that there is no way to know exactly how many indentured servants there were or how many ran away. Ads placed by disgruntled owners are a way to start. Boyle accumulated over 1000 ads (3000 individuals) with New Jersey connections.

Skilled servants or ones with severe physical markings or deformities were the most likely to be caught and returned for bounties. To help identify runaways, ads included descriptive phrases such as swarthy complexions, one eye, or faces covered with small-pox scars. They may describe someone who wobbled when he walked or was “given to liquor.” The ads reveal that many could read and write, and that they might have taken something of value with them. Often, they took the tools of their trade or horses.

Rewards in the \$5 to \$10 range were common for the return of the indentured servant but could run up to \$20 or more. When Peter Kyer went looking for John Dill, he didn’t care about Dill being returned. He offered twenty shillings for the return of his 9-year-old bay mare with one white foot on the near side and a small star on her forehead.



Boyle lists all the resources he used, including *The New-Jersey Gazette* and forty other papers. Some were from Boston, Connecticut, New York, and Maryland. The ads are sorted by year and surname. They focus primarily on white runaways. If an ad included both white and black runaways, it was printed as it was written. All are identified in the index.

One ad tells us of an Irish servant man named William Kearney. He was a shoemaker about 23 years of age, and he ran away with an Irish woman named Mary Hulburt, who spoke Dutch very well. Her husband “was hanged in Philadelphia, about a year ago, for murdering a boy, by cutting his throat; she is very big with child by William Throw.”

Or there was John Rees, “a Welshman, somewhat elderly, has lost one eye, and has been struck with the palsy, seeming to affect his speech a little.” He “stoops in his walk, has a down look and poorly clad, is much given to drinking and smoaking.” He took “a black horse, four years old ... natural to the pace, has one white hind foot, is somewhat goose rumped ... Four Hundred Dollars for the horse only” (that is about \$3,500 in 2019).

When George Garner left, he took with him “a new cloth-coloured ratteen coat and jacket, with broad metal buttons, a red jacket, old leather breeches ... and a leather apron...” He left with Rachel Scott, an ordinary young woman. “It is supposed they will pass for man and wife; she is a lusty strong hussey, and is apt to be light-fingered ... Forty Shillings reward, and reasonable charges.”

All of this is a historian’s or writer’s treasure trove. The ads are fascinating reading in and of themselves. A reader or storyteller can come away with clues to life stories, descriptions of peoples’ appearances, their deformities, and their talents. The rewards demonstrate the perceived value of a human life. Boyle’s compilations continue to be accessible and valuable references for both the beginning and professional genealogists.

Book Review

“she snuffs, drinks and smokes”

White Pennsylvania Runaways, 1776–1783

Reviewed by Jackie Farlinger-King and Shannon Leonetti

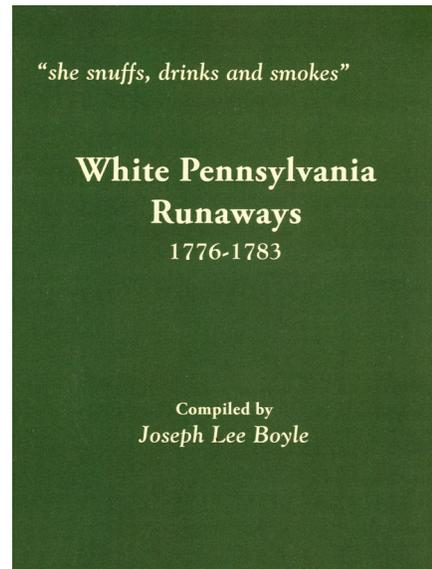
Author: Joseph Lee Boyle (compiler)
 Publisher: Clearfield Company
 Publication Date: 2017
 Pages: viii, 404
 Price: \$43.50 plus shipping
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call No.: 974.80 .News Runa 1776–1783

This edition of Joseph Lee Boyle’s *White Pennsylvania Runaways* series covers the years 1776–1783 and previews changes coming to the British colonies with the onset of the American Revolution. All imports from Britain will no longer be available, including the indentured servants who had been a source of cheap labor for the colonists. As war becomes a greater possibility, all lives will be disrupted.

In his usual inclusive style, Boyle provides an engaging introduction and lists the newspapers he consulted when he compiled this collection of advertisements. This brief history illuminates the harshness and daily concerns of the period. The ads give the reader an idea of the monetary value that was placed on human life. They include both somber and lively comments about the persons being sought and abysmal language painting a clear picture of the attitude regarding women.

In 1780, indentured servant girl Jane Latimer ran away from John Irwin. She was “about twenty-one years of age, a fresh colored Irish-looking hussy, rather low of stature for a woman and somewhat clumsily built, with a pearl or blemish on the light of one eye. She was bred in Dublin ... being an extraordinary good needle woman and writes an uncommon good hand for a woman. She ran off with a soldier who deserted ... she is an artful hussy.” A reward of \$300 dollars was offered for her return.

Around the same time, an ad was run for Andrew Carty, described as “about five feet seven or eight inches high, black hair, pitted with the smallpox, dressed in a regimental coat lined with white, a ruffled shirt, red flannel leggings and a sort of cap dressed with fur.” He stole out of the advertiser’s stable “a bay Horse, seven years old, a natural pacer, about fourteen hands high, branded with ‘I’ on the near shoulder and ‘S’ on the near buttock. Whoever takes up said horse and thief shall have a fifty dollars reward or thirty dollars for the horse only.”



Because of the disruptions to both labor and trade, the individuals in this *White Pennsylvania Runaways* compilation were not just runaway servants but included apprentices with obligations to their masters as well as persons considered “lowlives,” such as horse thieves, those accused of destroying property, and an occasional murderer. The runaways seldom had a plan; they thought that any situation would be better than the one they were in. Out of either desperation, or thinking it was a good place to hide, they sometimes enlisted in the military. One historian suggested that the Continental Army was so desperate for men that it eventually became an army of misfits—indentured servants, recently arrived immigrants, emancipated slaves, and the unemployed.

Boyle says it was impossible to know how many runaways there really were. Servants of low value or near the end of their servitude were probably not worth the expense of an ad, while servants who were useful workers with lots of time remaining were more apt to be sought. This compilation lists primarily white men and women. If there was a case where both blacks and whites ran away, the subscriber may have included them in the same ad. These blacks are listed separately in the index.

The ads are organized by year, from 1776 through 1783, and include colorful personal characteristics such as lack of teeth, scars, crippled legs and arms, means of escape, and any tools or animals they took with them. The reward for the runaway’s return varied from very minimal to very generous.

Boyle’s compilations are ready-made for researchers of family or local histories, but they are also an easy, accessible resource for anyone. Novelists will find an inexhaustible amount of information about the skills, clothing, and language of the period. All the books from Boyle’s *White Runaways* series are a captivating, informative read.

Book Review

Genealogy at a Glance: Alabama Genealogy Research Georgia Genealogy Research Kentucky Genealogy Research South Carolina Genealogy Research Tennessee Genealogy Research

Reviewed by Shannon Moon Leonetti

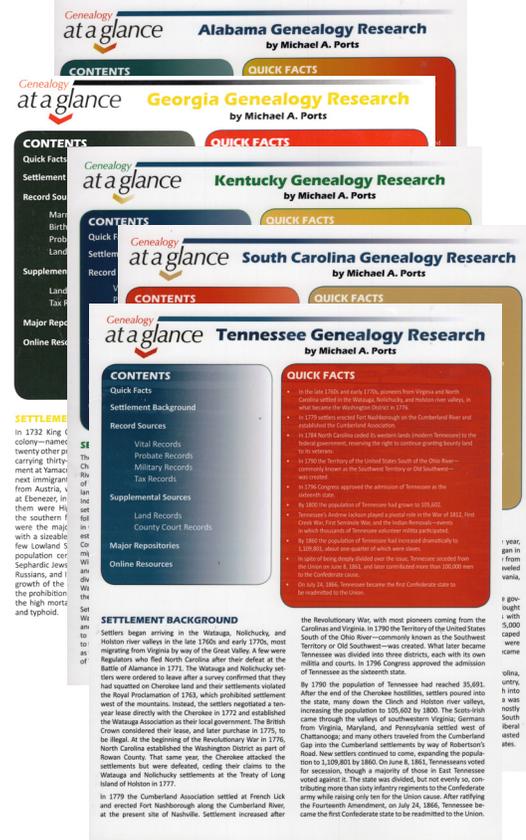
Author: Michael A. Ports
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2018
 Pages: 4 each
 Price: \$9.95 each plus shipping
 \$5.95 eBook price
 Order from: Genealogical.com

GFO CALL NUMBERS:

Alabama: RR 976.10 .How-To Port 2018
 Georgia: RR 975.80 .How-To Port 2017
 Kentucky: RR 976.90 .How-To Port 2018
 South Carolina: RR 975.70 .How-To Port 2018
 Tennessee: RR 976.80 .How-To Port 2018

Those of you who are familiar with Michael A. Ports know he is a genealogist's best friend. The Genealogical Forum of Oregon library now has his most recent *At a Glance* guides for finding records in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee. These condensed historical guides are some of the most useful shortcuts available for any level of historical and genealogical research. Whether you are a family historian, an experienced researcher, or a writer researching for either fiction or non-fiction, these guides can shorten your research time and set you off in the right direction.

Each of these compact guides is divided into five segments. "Settlement Background" covers the early explorations, the settlers coming into the territory, and the earliest communities. "Record Sources" details which records are available from the earliest dates to the present time (vital, probate, military, and property records). "Supplemental Sources" lists the other records most researchers may seek (tax, census, and county court records). The "Major Repositories" list includes notable archives, libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and other special collections. Lastly, "Online Resources" lists some of the websites available for further research.



Each *At a Glance* begins with a brief history of that state's first settlements. For these particular southern states, this is usually the 17th or 18th centuries. For example, with a quick glance, a researcher could learn that at the request of King Charles II in 1663, South Carolina was settled by eight noblemen who were instructed to rule the Province of Carolina as a "proprietary colony." Or, learn that in 1702 the French established a settlement called "Old Mobile" in what would become Alabama.

It wasn't until 1768 that a treaty allowed settlements south and east of the Ohio River, which led Daniel Boone to erect Fort Boonesborough in 1775 (in what later became Kentucky), an area slow to settle because of intermittent fighting with the Cherokee and the Shawnee. In the land that would become Tennessee, settlers learned to negotiate their own ten-year leases directly with the Cherokees because settlement had been prohibited by a royal proclamation in 1763. Settlement along the Cumberland River flourished after the Revolutionary War, and in 1790 the Territory of the United States South of the Ohio River was created (the Old Southwest).

These mini-guides are laminated, four-page documents that are easy to carry around and will survive most handling and extensive use. Researchers who want their own copies will find them very affordable. Whether you are a novice or experienced genealogist, a historian, or a novelist, you will find any of the *Genealogy at a Glance* guides a time-saver, accurate, and easy-to-use.

Book Review

Genealogy at a Glance: Evernote

Reviewed by Elsie Deatherage

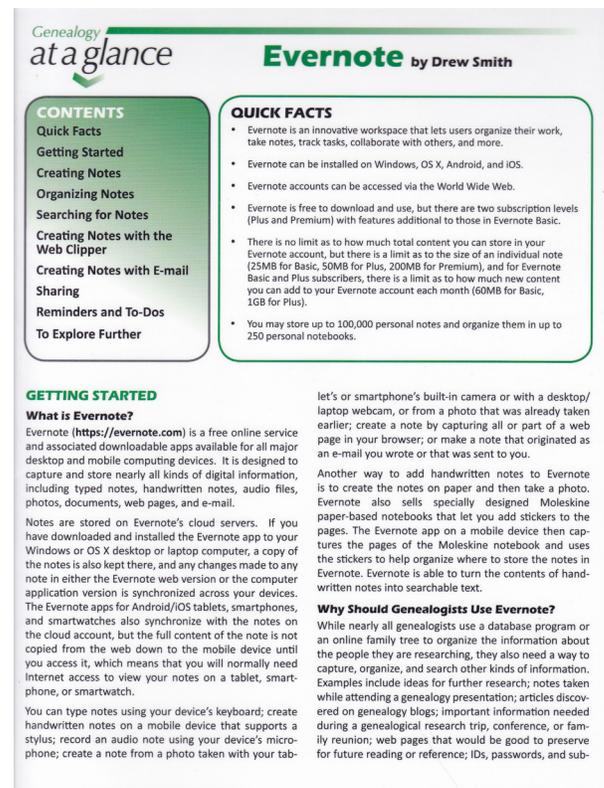
Author: Drew Smith
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2015
 Pages: 4
 Price: \$9.95 plus shipping
 \$5.95 eBook price
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call Number: RR 004.6 Evernote 2015

Drew Smith is an associate librarian with the University of South Florida Tampa library and was the 2016 winner of the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship presented by the National Genealogical Society. As the author of a few articles and books about organizing your genealogy, it is no surprise that he would author a four-page guide about Evernote.

The publication begins with “Quick Facts” providing Evernote highlights. The rest of the document is divided into eight sections: Getting Started, Creating Notes, Organizing Notes, Searching for Notes, Creating Notes with The Web Clipper, Creating Notes with E-Mail, Sharing, and Reminders and To-Dos.

Smith begins by explaining the features of Evernote and how it works. It is a cloud-based system for organizing photos, handwritten and typed notes, audio files, documents, web pages, and email. Because it is cloud-based, it allows you to share information across devices. However, as Smith points out, in order to access it, you must have internet access.

He goes on to explain how to create notes (and find them again) by using hashtags. By using multiple hashtags, you can link a single note to multiple people or locations.



In the section on “Searching for Notes,” Smith explains search techniques for content within Evernote.

In the “Sharing” section, Smith explains ways that you can share a note with others, and the option to limit others only to viewing, or viewing and editing.

With the web clipper, you can copy part of or all of a web page or just the URL.

Smith is careful to point out which features are only available with a paid subscription (Evernote Plus or Premium) and which can be accessed with a free, basic subscription.

In “Reminders and To-Dos,” the author offers suggestions for ways to use Evernote to create reminders and to-do lists, including how to create a check box.

If you are considering using Evernote, this publication will give you a good overview of its features and limitations.

Book Review

Genealogy at a Glance: Scots-Irish Genealogy Research

Reviewed by Martha D. Kennedy-Lindley

Author: Brian Mitchell
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2014
 Pages: 4
 Price: \$9.95 plus shipping
 \$5.95 eBook price
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call Number: RR 941.90 .How-To Mitc 2014



Near the beginning of this guide, Brian Mitchell notes:

Between 1717 and the beginning of the War of American Independence in 1776, 250,000 Scots-Irish immigrants (also known as Scotch-Irish or Ulster-Scots) arrived in the British Colonies in North America.

Tracing these ancestors can be a confusing, daunting, and involved process for a new researcher. Mitchell provides a four-page reference that is packed with background information, history, go-to resources, and even a case study. This is by no means a be-all and end-all resource, but it is a handy, well-organized pamphlet to get researchers started on finding their ancestors.

There is not a formal bibliography. However, Mitchell includes links to websites, titles, and authors of reference books throughout, plus the names and contact information for several record repositories in Ireland.

In addition to this pamphlet, Mitchell has written numerous books on Irish genealogy. He is a member of Accredited Genealogists of Ireland (MAGI). Much of his research focuses on County Derry, and he is currently employed as a genealogist by Derry City and Strabane District, which provide free research services through RootsIreland.ie.

GENEALOGY BOOT CAMP

25 OCT

MEMBERS FREE
 NON-MEMBERS \$20

9 A.M. - 5 P.M.



Register:
gfo.org/bootcamp

*In Memoriam***James Irvin Markel**

14 December 1923–18 April 2019

James I. Markel passed away on 18 April 2019 at the age of 95. He and his wife Irma have been long-time members of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

Jim was born 14 December 1923 in Multnomah County, Oregon, to Kenneth and Sadie (Alspaugh) Markel. He attended various grade schools, graduating from Tigard High School in 1942. He served in World War II with the Army, 97th Division, 386th Infantry Regiment, Company K. After the war, Jim joined the Portland Fire Department, retiring in 1983 after serving 32 years.



Jim was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He loved golf, painting, drawing, gardening, camping, singing in church and fire department choirs, and many activities with family and church.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Mary Moore. He is survived by Irma, his wife of 66 years; daughters Sue (Tom) Hickman and Kris Akin (Chuck Beck); son Dan (Liz) Markel; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

*In Memoriam***Louanna “Lou” (Parsons) Battams**

17 June 1936–14 June 2019

Louanna “Lou” Battams passed away on 14 June 2019 when she was hit by a car while walking in southeast Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. She was 82 years old.

Lou was born in Oregon on 17 June 1936 to Ernest and Marjorie (Shaw) Parsons. She spent her early years in Portland and Madras, Jefferson



County, Oregon, where she graduated from high school. Lou was active in neighborhood activities, including the Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association and Rose Community Development. She enjoyed pottery and watercolor painting. Lou became a life member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1997.



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GFO CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2019

SEPTEMBER

Sun September 1	9:00 am	Library Work Party
Mon September 2		Closed for Labor Day
Tue September 3	10:00 am	Italian Ancestry
Wed September 4	10:00 am	Learn & Chat
	1:00 pm	DNA Q&A
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Sat September 7	10:00 am	Virginia Group
	1:00 pm	German Group
Sun September 8	9:30 am	Workshop - Newspapers
Mon September 9	9:30 am	Free to All until 8:00 pm
Tue September 10	6:10 pm	Board Meeting
Wed September 11	6:00 pm	PMUG College
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Sat September 14	9:30 am	Great Lakes Region Group
	1:00 pm	Writers' Forum
Sun September 15	9:00 am	Library Work Party
	1:00 pm	Family Tree Maker
	3:30 pm	French Canada Group
Wed September 18	10:00 am	Learn & Chat
	1:00 pm	DNA Q&A
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Sat September 21	9:30 am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	12:00 pm	African American Ancestry Group
	2:00 pm	GenTalk: Evernote for Genealogy Part 2
Sun September 22	9:00 am	Library Work Party
Wed September 25	6:00 pm	PMUG College
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Sat September 28	1:00 pm	British Group
Sun September 29	9:00 am	Library Work Party

OCTOBER

Tue October 1	10:00 am	Italian Ancestry
Wed October 2	10:00 am	Learn and Chat
	1:00 pm	DNA Q&A
		Library open until 8:00 pm
		Library Closed - Seminar
Sat October 5		
Sun October 6	10:00 am	Fall Seminar: German
Mon October 7	9:30 am	Fall Seminar: Dutch
Tue October 8	9:30 am	Free to All until 8:00 pm
Wed October 9	6:10 pm	Board Meeting
	6:00 pm	PMUG College
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Fri October 11	11:30 am	Mexican Ancestry Group
Sat October 12	9:30 am	Great Lakes Region Group
	1:00 pm	Writers' Forum
Sun October 13	9:00 am	Library Work Party
Wed October 16	10:00 am	Learn & Chat
	1:00 pm	DNA Q&A
	6:00 pm	Irish Group, Library open until 8:00 pm
Sat October 19	9:30 am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	12:00 pm	African American Ancestry Group
	2:00 pm	GenTalk: Records of Death
Sun October 20	9:00 am	Library Work Party
	1:00 pm	Family Tree Maker for Beginners
	3:30 pm	French Canada Group
Wed October 23	6:00 pm	PMUG College
		Library open until 8:00 pm
Friday October 25	9:00 am	Genealogy Boot Camp
Sat October 26	9:00 am	DNA Advanced Group
Sun October 27	9:00 am	Library Work Party
Wed October 30		Library open until 8:00 pm