



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

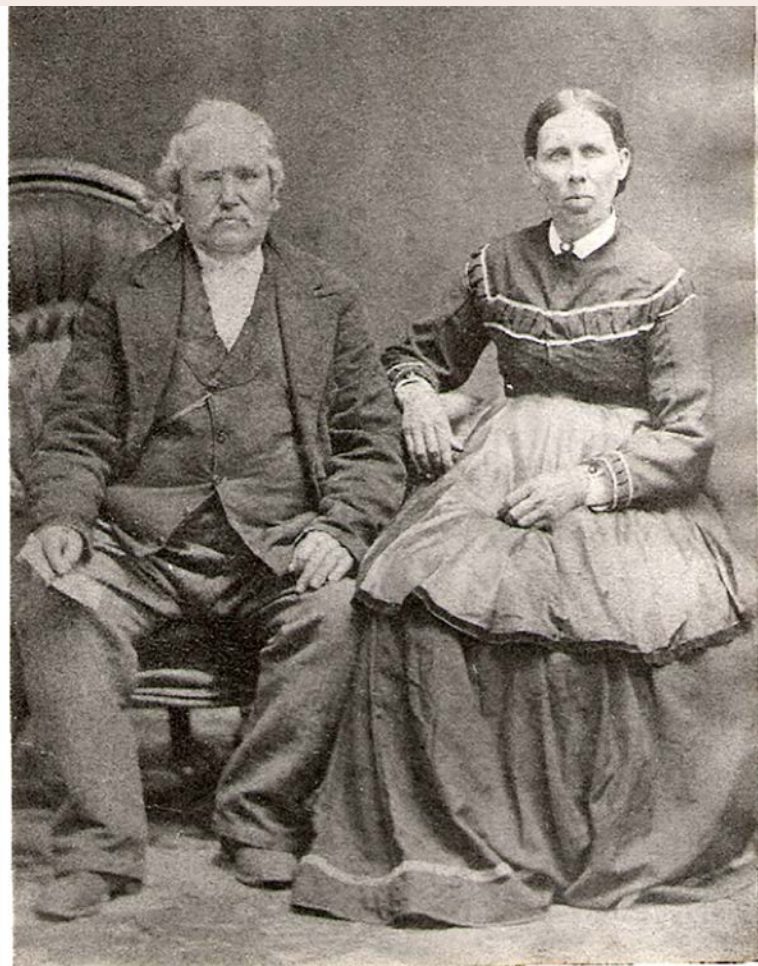
Volume 70, Number 2

December, 2020

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- Book Reviews
- Calendar & More!

The Life of Donald McLeod (1813–1873): From the Isle of Lewis in Scotland to the Willamette Valley in Oregon



by Bonnie Randolph

The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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The Forum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts and contributions may be tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID# 93-6026015 • ISSN 2374-2453 (print) • ISSN 2374-2461 (online)

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This periodical has been submitted to Allen County Public Library to be indexed in PERSI.

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>.

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Photo note: Cover image courtesy of Bonnie Randolph.

Letter from the Editor

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity ...” Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

The year 2020 will be remembered as a watershed moment in history. During a global pandemic, political, social, and climate change came to the forefront of the peoples’ thoughts and guided their day-to-day lives.

As a genealogist, I often look back in time researching my ancestors and learn more about history than I ever did in school. Knowing how people weathered the trials and tribulations of the past gives today’s challenges perspective and provides hope for the future. As an example, two years ago *The Bulletin* ran a series of articles related to the 1918 flu epidemic. As devastating as that event was, it was shortly followed by the Roaring Twenties. Other recent articles have shown how poverty, wars, and natural disasters played a role in the migration patterns of our ancestors.

This issue of *The Bulletin* does not begin to address the evolving social issues of today. But it does shed a little light on those of the past. It includes articles that explain how individuals traced their roots and solved puzzles that were part of their personal history.

Two articles make family connections with a traditional source, the family Bible. The notes in the Bible of Isaac N. Patton and Anna Boyd Porter span 100 years of family births, marriages, and deaths. The Bible itself is a treasured artifact that has been passed down through several generations. The Adams Bible transcript describes only two families, both with a wife/mother whose surname was Adams, but it does not indicate how these women were related. The challenge was to find that connection.

Two of the articles rely on the more difficult task of combing through archives, one in Canada and the other in England, to search for obscure documents. A family story about Oregon pioneer Donald McLeod’s background as an employee of the Hudson’s Bay Company led to a trove of resources at the Archives of Manitoba. And sifting through archival records from two English



Nanci and one of her descendants.

counties dating back hundreds of years led to the parents of William Levett and Jane Skinner.

“Finding the Father of my Grandmother Dolores ‘Dorothy’ May Coberly” and “Letter to the Descendants of Alston William Radcliffe” use DNA to make family connections. In addition, the authors create a sense of time and place for the lives of their ancestors.

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021. That means 75 years of helping people learn their place in history. Throughout that time, the GFO has evolved to become a leader in teaching people the best ways to research their roots. From paper pedigree charts to classes on using the internet to DNA technology, the GFO continues to focus on supporting our community. Help us celebrate that tradition by submitting your family history, research challenges, or success stories. We look forward to reading them.

—*Nanci Remington*

The Life of Donald McLeod (1813–1873): From the Isle of Lewis in Scotland to the Willamette Valley in Oregon

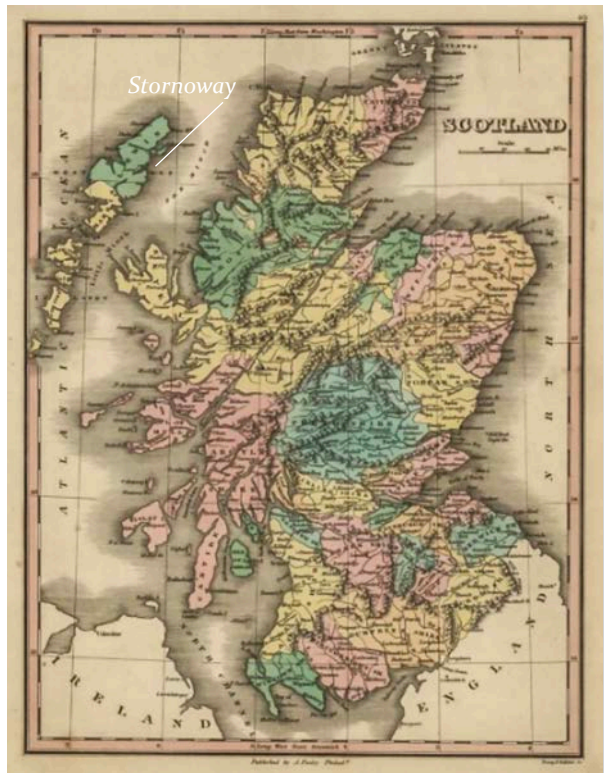
Bonnie Randolph

Donald McLeod, an early Oregonian, filed a Provisional Land Claim in 1846 near present-day Gaston, Washington County, Oregon. Was this the same Donald McLeod whose life was documented in the records of the Hudson's Bay Company?

DONALD MCLEOD OF STORNOWAY

The Donald McLeod from Stornoway, Scotland, probably born there in 1813, is a good candidate for the man who later settled in the Oregon Territory. Stornoway is on the Isle of Lewis, the largest and most northern island of the Outer Hebrides.¹ Donald most likely spoke both Gaelic and English on an island exceptionally vulnerable to famine but rich in Gaelic poetry, song, and folklore about the sea.

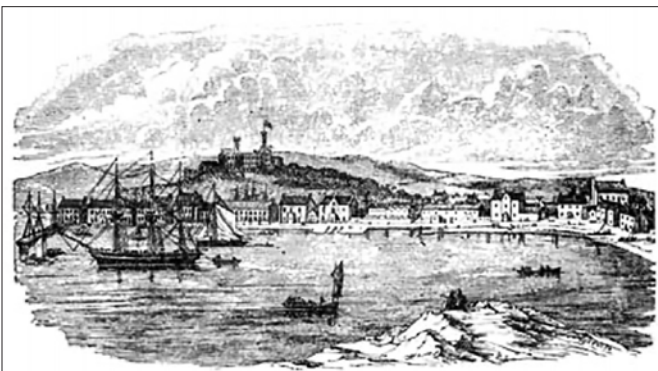
Being named Donald McLeod in Scotland is like being named John Smith in the United States. With so many Donald McLeods, it is very difficult to discover the identity of Donald's parents, brothers and sisters, and grandparents. We can guess, however, a bit about Donald's early life. He might have spent hours dodging around boats in the harbor, fishing from the rocks, gathering mussels for bait, weeding the potato patch, or watching the family's sheep. He would have known what it was to be hungry and to work outside in bad weather,



Scotland, 1827. *National Library of Scotland.*

and he was probably an experienced seaman by his early twenties. It is likely his family were crofters (tenant farmers). They would have lived on a small rented farm averaging two to five acres with a plot of arable land for potatoes and turnips, a primitive stone and turf house with the right of pasture in common fields to raise barley, oats, and meadow hay.²

In the nineteenth century, the Highland Clearances forced displacement of crofters from traditional land tenancies in the Scottish Highlands and the Western Isles. These laws, a sad chapter in Scottish history, had a devastating effect on communities. Hereditary aristocratic landowners wanted to change from the traditional farming of small individual plots to large open fields in order to raise sheep. So, they forced the removal of entire villages of crofters from where they had lived for generations. There are stories of villagers trudging away, still within sight of their village, while the authorities were already busy setting the crofts on fire. There was no work on the estates, the cutting of peat was prohibited, and cattle may have been confiscated. With the traditional villages gone, whole kinship groups were torn apart. There remained the options of starving or emigrating.³ Or, in Donald's case, signing a contract with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).



Stornoway, early 1800s. From *The Great Company* by Beckles Willson, illustrated by Arthur Heming, 1900. *Project Gutenberg.*

1. Modern spelling is Stornoway. Period maps and books sometimes show the spelling as Stornaway.
2. "Stornoway, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland," FamilySearch Research Wiki, citing *New Statistical Account of Scotland for Stornoway*, FHL book 941 B4sa, series 2, vol. 14; *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Stornoway,_Ross_and_Cromarty,_Scotland).
3. Katie Forbes, *Identity, Migration, and Settlement; the Isle of Lewis and Quebec, c. 1800–1914* (2011).



The Company's Ships in 1812. From The Great Company.

Donald traveled to London in his early twenties where he signed a five-year contract with the Hudson's Bay Company on 13 February 1836 to be a seaman aboard the barque *Nereide*, a ship of 253 tons and 10 guns (she had been launched in 1821 and purchased by the HBC in 1833).⁴ He was destined for the Columbia District, a fur trading region in what became the Oregon Territory. The company established forts and posts around James Bay and Hudson Bay in eastern Canada and then expanded to the Pacific Northwest. Natives brought furs to barter for manufactured goods such as knives, beads, needles, and blankets.

Donald's papers list his parish as Stornoway.⁵ At least three other men signed contracts about the same time as Donald, earning the standard rate of 24 pounds per year, and all shipped out on the *Nereide* the same day.⁶ Two of them would drown crossing the Columbia River Bar in January of 1838, the third would die in November of 1845, but Donald survived. Only one-third of men finished their HBC five-year contracts.

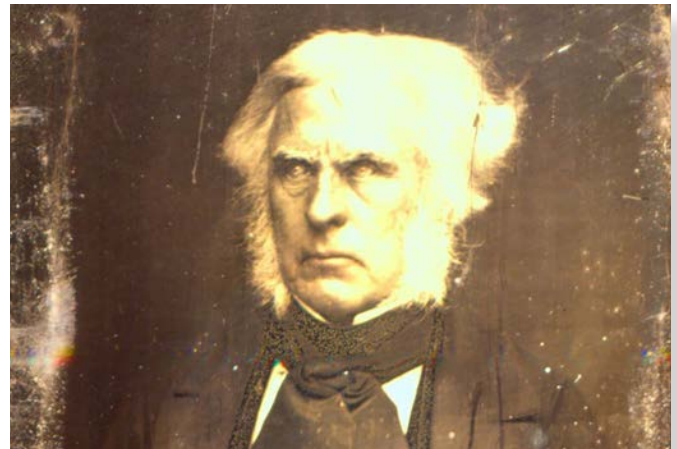
Stornoway men like Donald were popular employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. The Scots were used to a life of hardship, so they adjusted well to conditions in the Columbia District. They could often read and write, which made them even more valuable employees.

Life on board the ship was hard work for the average seaman. Donald would have worked sixteen-hour days, spending time at the helm, standing watch, caulking seams, rigging sails, and doing countless other tasks. Sunday was a so-called day of rest, which seamen used to wash and mend clothes after divine services and a four-hour watch. Above-deck duty was always preferable to below deck where it was dark, damp, and smelly. Seamen slept, ate, and used the privy (on the days they couldn't hang over the side) in an area 25 by 16 by 5.5 feet.⁷

Still, Donald would have fared better on a Hudson's Bay Company ship than on the average British ship. He would have been fed better. On the coastal run from California to Alaska, HBC ships traded not only for furs but also fresh fish and game. The Company also preferred to avoid corporal punishment, so men were typically kept in irons in the cargo hold rather than flogged. However, those who were tempted to desert or defy orders could be given a dozen lashes for refusing to return to duty.

On 31 May 1837, just as the *Nereide* was ready to sail to Fort Simpson with trading goods, the entire crew (probably including Donald) went to Chief Factor John McLoughlin, the highest authority on the West Coast, to demand that their captain, David Home, be replaced. Chief Trader James Douglas, who worked under McLoughlin, wrote, "At this urgent moment we were informed of a lawless combination of the crew, who, almost, to a man, refused to serve under Captain Home, on the ground of alleged severity & excessive duty, a circumstance which occasioned a vexatious delay of 17 days."⁸ McLoughlin ordered the crew put on prisoner rations of bread and water and a dozen lashes be given to the two ringleaders. He returned the next day and threatened the two leaders with more lashes. The threat seemed to work because the crew returned to their duties.

The *Nereide*, with its crew of 26 men, arrived at the Columbia River 26 August 1836 after a six-and-one-half month trip around Cape Horn. The arrival of a



This daguerreotype photograph of Dr. John McLoughlin is in the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site museum collection. [National Park Service](#).

4. A barque (barc, bark) is a sailing vessel with three or more masts.

5. Hudson's Bay Company Archives - Biographical Sheets, entry for M'Leod, Donald 'A' (1836-1841), *Archives of Manitoba* (http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/mc/mcleod_donald-a1836-1841.pdf).

6. Helen M Buss and Judith Hudson Beattie, *Undelivered letters to Hudson's Bay Company Men on the Northwest Coast of America, 1830-57* (UBC Press, 2011), 433. The men were John Wilmot, William Ridler, and Quinton Hooten.

7. *Ibid.*, 15.

8. *Ibid.*, 115.

supply ship from London, like the *Nereide*, would have been hailed as the event of the year when she arrived in the Columbia River. Onboard would be new goods for the Fort Vancouver store, including fresh supplies of clothing, (including coarse woolens, calicos, cotton handkerchiefs, and blankets), the annual mail, the London Times newspaper for the preceding year, tea, sugar, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, soap, rum, playing cards, boots and shoes, machinery and tools, sea stores of canvas, cordage, chains, and anchors, articles of trade like beads for the natives, and sometimes even passengers.⁹ The ship would unload at Fort Vancouver, the depot for an extensive and profitable inland fur trade of the Hudson's Bay Company.¹⁰ Supplies destined for the posts and fur brigades would head inland in the early spring.

After arriving in the Pacific Northwest, Donald would have helped unload the *Nereide* and then waited at Fort Vancouver for the return of the brigades loaded with furs in the fall, or perhaps spent a few months aboard a schooner supplying the HBC's coastal forts and the Russians in Sitka. The collected furs would have been brought back to Fort Vancouver, the Hudson's Bay Company Columbia District's headquarters. The ships of the Hudson's Bay Company sailed in a rough triangle from the northern shores of the Pacific to Hawaii to Fort Vancouver, except for those ships that made a long trip around Cape Horn to London.



From an 1838 map of the Oregon Territory, including the area covered by the Hudson's Bay Company ships. *Boston Public Library*.



Arms of the Hudson's Bay Company. From The Great Company.

Donald was assigned as a seaman aboard the schooner *Cadboro* the next spring and promoted to second mate. For three years, from 1 June 1837 to 31 May 1841, he served on the *Cadboro* as a seaman, second mate, and boatswain. He spent the most time as the boatswain. The boatswain (considered approximate to third mate) would have been a demotion from second mate, but as boatswain, he would have been responsible for the deck crew and all the ship's equipment. The *Cadboro* was smaller than the *Nereide* at 71 tons, with four guns and 12 men, and it primarily made trading trips between Nootka Sound and Fort Vancouver.¹¹ Over the years, the *Cadboro* was a big moneymaker for the Hudson's Bay Company, crossing the Columbia River bar many times.¹² What must Donald have thought of the timber that stretched as far as he could see along the coastline in contrast to his memory of the treeless Isle of Lewis?

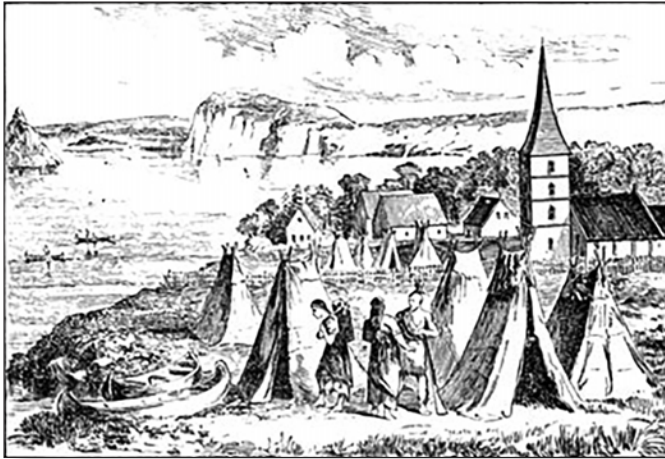
Ships from the Hudson's Bay Company, including the schooner *Cadboro* and the barque *Vancouver*, would travel north in the summer toward Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island, sailing along the coast to Fort Simpson (Port Simpson, British Columbia), Fort McLoughlin (near Bella Bella, British Columbia), Fort Nisqually (near

9. Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress, at the commencement of the third session of the 25th Congress, 897.

10. Richard Somerset Mackie, *Trading Beyond the Mountains: British Fur Trade on the Pacific, 1793-1843* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1997), 102.

11. "Cadboro (1824 schooner)," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cadboro_\(schooner\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cadboro_(schooner))).

12. William Barraclough, "Presentation to the Nanaimo Historical Society November 17, 1970: Hudson's Bay Company's S.S. Beaver," Series 2, Sound Recordings, Tape 19, *Nanaimo Archives*, (http://www.nanaimoarchives.ca/transcripts-recordings/historical-transcripts/legacy?p=1_18).



Fort Simpson circa 1838. From *The Great Company*.

Tacoma, Washington), and areas around Puget Sound to deliver supplies and trade goods. The guns of the ships were used to protect the HBC outposts and probably served as a deterrent against American and Russian ships competing in the lucrative fur trade.

The HBC was always exploring ways to increase commerce. Exports of butter, lumber sawn at Fort Vancouver, and salmon purchased from Columbia River Indians were shipped to Oahu during the winter when little could be done on the coast. For example, in February of 1838, Donald's former ship the *Nereide* sailed to Oahu from Fort Vancouver with 147,785 feet of lumber. Salt, sugar, rice, and molasses were brought back in trade from Hawaii. Salt was especially important to Fort Vancouver because it was needed for the preservation of salmon, beef, pork, and butter. Wheat was shipped from the Fort Vancouver grist mills to the Russians in Alaska. Sheep were brought from California to establish a sheep farm in a successful attempt to increase the company's income. If a ship to London stopped in Oahu with empty space, it was filled with whalebones (purchased from American whalers) and mother of pearl shells. The HBC store in Oahu sent 27,514 pounds of mother of pearl shells, furs, tallow, and bullock hides and horns on the ship *Columbia* to London in 1838.¹³ The annual ship to London made trading calls at such places as Yerba Buena (San Francisco) and Monterey in California, Honolulu in Hawaii, and Valparaiso in Chile. Anything that could be traded to make a profit.

Donald finished out his five-year contract in February 1841 but continued to work for the Hudson's Bay Company during the summer, when he was a boatswain on the barque *Vancouver*, a slightly larger ship than the *Cadboro*. Donald was discharged in the fall of 1841 but returned to work for HBC again, serving as boatswain aboard the *Vancouver* for four months in 1843. The ship's list of personnel noted that Donald McLeod, Boatswain, "settled in the Wiallametts."¹⁴

DONALD MCLEOD: PIONEER OF OREGON

Sources suggest that Donald McLeod of the Hudson's Bay Company, described above, is the same Donald McLeod who settled near present-day Gaston, Washington County, Oregon. According to his Donation Land Claim application, pioneer Donald McLeod was born in 1813 in Scotland. His son Job later stated that his father was born in Glasgow, Scotland.¹⁵ The History of Oregon states:

Donald McLeod, born about 1811, in one of the western isles of the county of Ross, Scotland, came to Oregon in the company's [Hudson's Bay Company] service in 1835 by sea. He was leading trapping parties in the Snake country with Thomas McKay in 1836, and remained in this occupation ten years, when he settled on a farm in the Tualatin Plains, where he died February 26, 1873, leaving a large family.¹⁶

In the spring of 1846, about the time he would have left off trapping with McKay, Donald McLeod was at Fort George at the mouth of the Columbia River near



Fort Vancouver, circa 1855. *Library of Congress*.

13. Mackie, *Trading Beyond the Mountains*, 165.

14. Barque *Vancouver* list of personnel, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba.

15. This could be true as many young island girls went south to Glasgow to find employment in domestic service. Some of these young women may have given birth in Glasgow, then returned home with their baby, so Donald could have been born there. When he entered service with HBC, he gave his parish as Stornoway, which may have meant his parish at the time of his birth or his parish when he entered the service of HBC. If his family were removed to Stornoway during the Highland Displacements, then Stornoway was his parish at the time of his signing of the HBC contract.

16. Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, Volume 1 (San Francisco: History Co., 1886), 41.

the present-day town of Astoria, Oregon. Alexander Lattie, who was the Hudson's Bay Company's clerk at Fort George, wrote in his journal on 4 May 1846 that the "Schooner Calipoya arrived from Clatsip having been very nearly seized there for a debt of 75\$ Dollars. Tibbets and Donald McLeod stood security for the Payment."¹⁷ Lattie, a fellow Scot, had sailed on many of the same ships as McLeod, mostly on the coastal schooner *Cadboro*.

Instead of settling on the Clatsop Plain near Astoria, Donald partnered with Jacob Doran who had arrived in the Oregon Territory in 1843. Jacob was about the same age as Donald and may have originally settled in what was then the Tuality District as he was listed as living alone in 1845.¹⁸ Donald and Jacob filed an Oregon Provisional Land Claim on 31 July 1846 for 640 acres in the Tuality District, near present-day Gaston. The branding iron of their farm was D.D.¹⁹ Their claim sat just east of the Oregon Coast Range and a bit north of Wapato Lake. Native Americans used the lake for winter settlement, establishing 23 permanent villages.²⁰ The plant wapato grew in the swampy lake. According to the writings of Lewis and Clark, its roots "nearly equaled the flavor to the Irish potato and affords a very good substitute for bread." Natives roasted the edible tubers in the embers of a fire or pounded the dried roots to make meal cakes. Did Donald or Jacob ever dine on wapato?

The first election of county and territorial offices took place in 1846, although the provisional government was established in 1843. Donald and Jacob went to the house of John Mills in the Western Precinct in the Tuality district on 1 June 1846 to vote for candidates for the House of Representatives, sheriff, treasurer, assessor, militia leader, and Justice of the Peace.²¹

Donald McLeod married Lucinda Burden on 7 July 1847 at her parents' home in Yamhill County, Oregon Territory.²² Donald was 34 and Lucinda 25. Lucinda had crossed the plains in 1845 with her parents, nine younger brothers and sisters, her older sister Sarah, and her husband and his family—all part of Joel Palmer's wagon train from Independence, Missouri. They rafted down the Columbia River from The Dalles and arrived at Oregon City on 20 October 1845. Lucinda's father, Job Burden, wrote letters describing Oregon that were



Territory of Oregon. Library of Congress.

printed in newspapers back in the States. He served as Justice of the Peace in Illinois and later in the Oregon Territory.

In 1849, Donald was listed in the Provisional and Territorial Census.²³ Jacob Doran left his partnership with Donald sometime during the fall of 1850 to file a Donation Land Claim in Polk County.

In March 1849, the United States Congress established a territorial government for Oregon, making the provisional land laws null and void. It was now important for Donald to make a declaration of intention to become a U.S. citizen so he could refile for his land claim under the new rules. Donald became a naturalized citizen, finalizing the process in 1856 at Oregon City (Notification No. 2759). As a married man, Donald was now entitled to 640 acres under the Donation Land Claim Act.

In the Washington County court in 1851, Donald made a complaint before the grand jury that a band of Klickitats had trespassed against his property by destroying timber he had prepared for his house. The Klickitats, represented by Indian Agent Parrish, claimed their right to destroy their own timber; that it grew on their land; that they had acquired the land by conquest; that they had warned McLeod against settling there; and

17. "Alexander Lattie's Fort George Journal, 1846." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 64, no. 3 (1963): 197-245. JSTOR. Accessed 1 July 2020 through Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/research-tools>).

18. 1845 Provisional and Territorial Census, Tuality County, Jacob Doran, Oregon State Archives, microfilm #12193.

19. Land Claim, Provisional and Territorial, McLeod, Donald, Volume 3, page 15, Oregon State Archives.

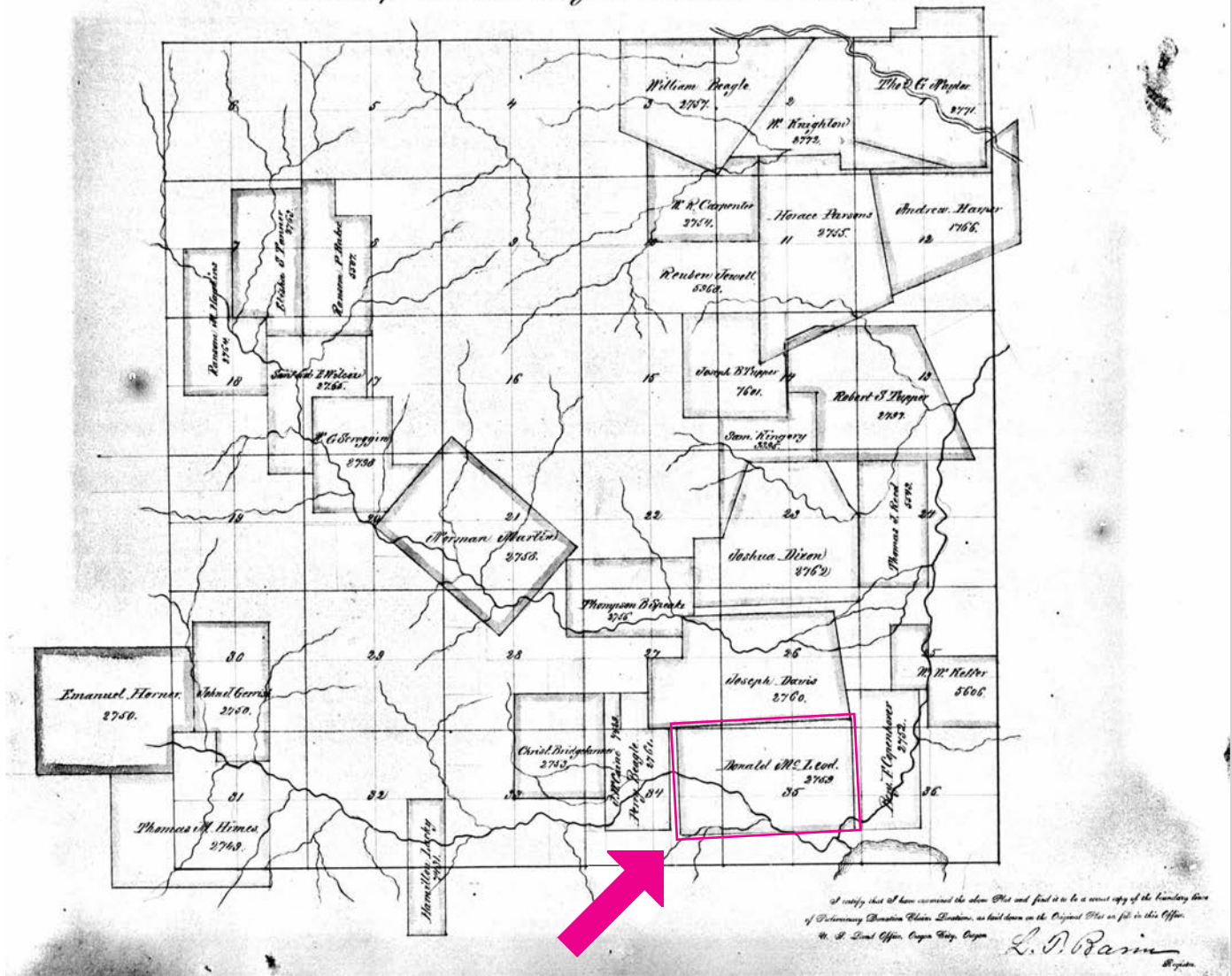
20. Carolyn M. Buan, *This Far-Off Sunset Land: A Pictorial History of Washington County Oregon* (Virginia Beach: Donning, Co., 1999).

21. Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/28566/>), "Miscellaneous pages from the Oregon Genealogical Society newsletter" > Browse this collection > p. 615, "Report of the Election Board," image 78 of 105.

22. Oregon and Washington Donation Land Claims, claim # 2300 for Donald McLeod & wife, digital images available at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

23. 1849 Provisional and Territorial Census, Donald McLeod, Oregon State Archives, microfilm #3451.

Township N^o 1 South Range W^o 4 West Will Mer.



The land claim of Donald and Lucinda McLeod, Township 1S, Range 4W, parts of sections 26, 27, 34, and 35. Present-day Gaston is in the southeast corner of section 35. University of Oregon.

furthermore the land had never been purchased from them. The judge ruled that the Klickitats had possessory title not extinguished by the government and refused judgment for trespass.²⁴ The loss of timber destined for Donald’s house would have represented hours of labor.

Donald was assessed a poll tax of \$1 in 1857. Settlers could work on the roads in lieu of payment, and such work was badly needed. At the time, most people traveled by river or horse and wagon. Five years earlier, a stagecoach road was constructed to connect Portland and Lafayette, 27 miles to the southwest. In summer the dirt roads, such as they were, were rough and

unbelievably dusty, but in winter impassable. During the rainy season, the mud was hub deep and the traveler could only make a few miles a day with a loaded wagon. A Hillsboro resident described the road situation: “Hauling can only be done during the dry weather in summer and light loads can be taken at best.”²⁵

Most Washington County residents went to Portland for supplies once or twice a year. If all went well, it was a three-day trip—one day to get there, a day to trade, and the third day to return. In groups of three to five wagons, they carried crosscut saws and axes to clear trees and shovels to dig themselves out. The main ferry crossing

24. Charles H. Carey, *General History of Oregon* (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1971), 553.

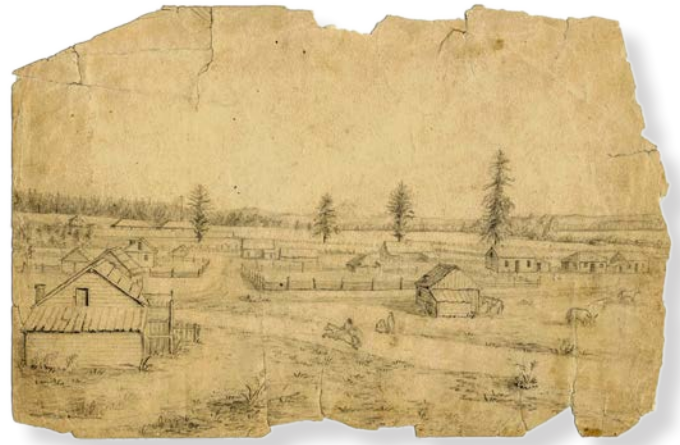
25. Margaret Putnam Hesse, *Scholls Ferry Tales*, (Scholls: Gorner Women’s Club, 1976), 2.

across the Willamette River between Portland and Polk, Yamhill, and the upper Willamette Valley counties was Scholls Ferry, originally a raft made of cedar logs and pulled across the river by rope and muscle.

In 1852, a farmer was murdered, and his gold watch stolen while plowing. The posse chased four men toward the California gold fields, riding 60 hard miles a day, where the four were arrested and brought back to Yamhill County to face trial. One man was acquitted; the second sentenced to three years hard labor in the penitentiary (but as the Oregon Territory lacked a penitentiary he was sold at a public auction to the highest bidder to work for three years); the third man, Enoch Smith, was tried as an accessory and sentenced to death, and the fourth, Return Everman, was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to hang. Donald was one of many citizens who signed petitions for leniency for Enoch Smith, a 30-year-old overweight man with blond hair and blue eyes. Before his execution, Everman led authorities to the banks of the Rickreall River and dug up the farmer's gold watch. He also wrote a full confession, published in the *Oregon Statesman* on 25 May 1852, stating that Smith didn't invite him to murder but asked for the intervention of neighbors. The governor of the Oregon Territory ended up pardoning Smith. Regrettably, the hangman for Yamhill County did such a poor job of hanging Everman that he strangled slowly until he died.²⁶

Donald signed another petition, this time in opposition to a plan to create a new county carved from Washington County. The petition was addressed to the Honorable Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Oregon in 1853. Under consideration was land from the head of Sauvie Island to the summit of Scappoose Mountain. Opposed to the new county were David Bridgewater, Ulysses Jackson, Donald McLeod, and other residents of the southern part of Washington County. Proponents seemed to be citizens living along the Columbia River. The Petition was referred to the Committee on Counties on 3 January 1854.²⁷

The population of Washington County had grown to 2,652 white settlers by the end of 1850. To make their settlement a home, Donald and his neighbors would have cleared the land of burnt and fallen trees as well as standing timber of fir, cedar, maple, and witch hazel brush, vine maple, and ferns. In their rough log houses, they covered window holes with greased paper because no glass was available. Then, at night, they covered the



This sketch, drawn by A.B. Roberts in the 1850s, shows Fort Vancouver Village with the fort in the background. *National Park Service*

holes with “night boards” to keep out the cold and critters. Fireplaces provided heat, light, and cooking, which made a cabin stuffy, smoky, and dim. Residents used candles sparingly; instead, burning a rag wick placed in a dish of rendered animal fat gave off light. It wasn't until 1880 that kerosene-type lamps with glass chimneys were commonly used.

Sunday was set aside to visit with neighbors. Bad roads kept visiting confined to a ten-mile radius. People played games like Pedro (a card game) and chess, then everyone ate a huge chicken dinner. To butcher a cow or pig made more fresh meat than could be eaten before it spoiled so beef and pork were salted down or smoked to preserve for winter. A family could eat a chicken in one meal. After dinner, everyone enjoyed a little banjo-picking or fiddle playing and singing.

Donald and Lucinda's family increased as other changes swirled around them. Henry was born in 1848, Flora in 1851. On 14 July 1853, a post office opened at Wapato, a small town on the south side of the lake where the McLeods got their mail.²⁸ Daughter Mary came along in 1854, Sarah in 1856, and son Job in 1859, the year Oregon became a state. The McLeods' last child, Albert, was born in 1862 at the beginning of the War Between the States. The slave question even affected Washington County farmers where a Confederate flag was raised and then found ripped to shreds the next day. The 1857 election results had shown the voters of Washington and Multnomah County against slavery—but also against “free Negroes”—by a wide margin.²⁹

26. Diane L Goeres-Gardner, *Necktie Parties: A History of Legal Executions in Oregon 1851-1905*, (Caldwell: Caxton Press, 2005), 14.

27. Signer of petition for new county set off from Washington County, #5718, Oregon State Archives.

28. Birgetta Nixon and Mabel Tupper, *Cherry Grove, A History from 1852 to the Present* (Gaston: Nixon, 1977).

29. “Election Returns,” *The Oregon Argus*, 14 November 1857, page 2. Digital image, *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn83025129/1857-11-14/ed-1/seq-2/>). Partial Results for Washington County: For Slavery, 40; Against 227; For Free Negroes, 32; Against, 225.

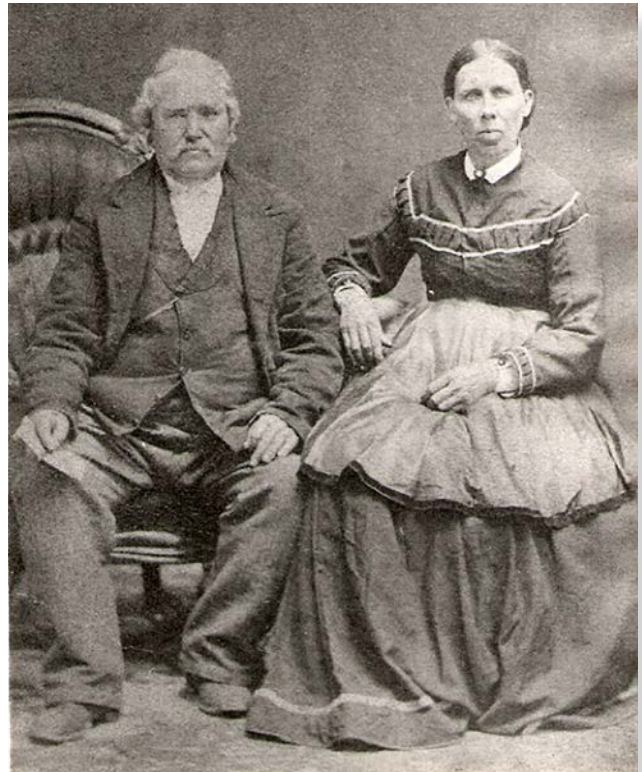
In 1860, Donald's real estate was valued at \$3,000 with personal property valued at \$1,701. Lucinda also had real estate valued at \$3,000.³⁰ Half of the Donation Land Claim, after all, did belong to Lucinda. Pains were taken in the 1860 census to make this distinction. Compared to the estimated land value of their neighbors, the McLeods were not the wealthiest but were well-off. Seventy people resided to the northwest in Patton Valley or at its eastern entrance where Donald's farm lay. These included twelve married couples and their children, one widower, and three or four bachelors. Patton Valley had sixteen cabins or houses.³¹

The McLeod children probably attended school for only three to six months of the year and used horses as transportation. A teachers' salary was \$20.00 for three months. Later, class time was increased to four months in the fall, five months in the spring.

In 1861, Donald decided to become a sheep farmer and bought 150 Vermont type Merino sheep.³² Merinos were known for their wool, rather than their meat, and were reputed to be excellent foragers and very adaptable. Twelve years later, however, he only had 39 head of sheep.

He also began selling off land. Donald and Lucinda sold 127 acres of their Donation Land Claim to William Riley Davis for \$850.50 on 26 December 1863.³³ William Davis was only 19, the son of neighbor Joseph Davis, who had vouched for Donald on his Donation Land Claim. Two and a half years later, on 30 July 1866, Donald and Lucinda sold more of their Donation Land Claim to David Baker, who paid \$900 for 147 acres from the west end of their claim.³⁴

Flora was the first McLeod daughter to marry. She married Francis Marion Lewis on 30 May 1869 at her parents' home.³⁵ David Baker and George T. Ledford were witnesses. George was newly divorced and would marry Flora's sister, Mary, eight years later. The groom was a son of David Lewis, who had been a part of the 1845 wagon train with Lucinda's family. David Lewis and his wife took up a claim on the Luckiamute River in



Donald and Lucinda McLeod. In the only photograph we have of Donald and Lucinda, Donald appears to be a short stocky Scot with curly, unruly hair perched on the edge of his chair, payment in hand for the photographer.

southern Polk County and went on to found the town of Lewisville, where they lived the rest of their lives.

In the 1870 U.S. census for Washington County, Donald was 60; Lucinda, 47; Henry, 21; Mary, 16; Sarah, 14; Job, 11; and Albert, 8 years old. The farm was valued at \$3,700 with personal property valued at \$950. Sarah and Job attended school while their little brother, Albert, and older sister Mary stayed at home, although Mary had attended school earlier in the year. Henry helped his father with the farm.³⁶ Donald and Henry signed a note 12 October 1872 that "twelve months after Date we or either of us promises to pay to Norman Martin or bearer forty-one dollars in United States Gold Coin bearing interest at 12 percent per annum for value received."³⁷

30. 1860 U.S. census, Washington County, Oregon, population schedule, Hillsboro, p. 41 dwelling 330, Danl Mc Cloud; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BS6-9TVZ> : accessed 3 June 2020).

31. Nixon and Tupper, *Cherry Grove*.

32. John Minto, "Sheep Husbandry in Oregon. The Pioneer Era of Domestic Sheep Husbandry," *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, no. 3 (1902), 243; digital image, *JSTOR* (www.jstor.org/stable/20609532 : accessed 6 June 2020).

33. Washington County Oregon Deeds, Public Service Building, Hillsboro, Oregon.

34. Washington County Oregon Deeds, Public Service Building, Hillsboro, Oregon.

35. Washington County, Oregon Records, Volume 1, Marriages 1842-1880, 32.

36. 1870 U.S. census, Washington County, Oregon, population schedule, Forest Grove, dwelling 826, family 758, Donald McLeod; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-XHLQ-VJM> : accessed 6 June 2020).

37. "Oregon, Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963," database with images, *Ancestry.com*, probate record for Donald McLeod (indexed as D W Lead); citing Washington County (Oregon) County Clerk.

By 1870, plans were underway that would impact Donald's world. The West Side Stage line was carrying mail and passengers daily from Hillsboro to Forest Grove and other towns, but construction soon began on a rail line to follow much of this same route. By December 1871, trains were running from Portland to Hillsboro. The line was extended west to Forest Grove and south to the Yamhill River near Lafayette a year later.³⁸ One stop grew from a tiny station into the town of Gaston. Their post office and the first church opened in 1873. Trains brought in equipment to construct a sawmill in Patton Valley, increasing the population dramatically.

Donald continued to farm for the next three years, but his health was declining. One day, while in the mountains, Donald suffered so severely from piles (hemorrhoids) that he could neither sit nor ride a horse. He had to be carried home on a litter slung between two horses. The Native American wife of an American trapper named Ebberts gave him a tea made from pounded roots she gathered near Fort Vancouver, which cured him in a few days. Donald presented her with some gay dresses and other trifles; and to Ebberts, who was in need of a saw and two augers, he sent a whole chest of tools.³⁹

Despite his recovery from piles, Donald was in bad shape and it was harder and harder to get the farming done, even with Henry's help. Moreover, he had unpaid promissory notes to neighbors and there was still the mortgage on the home place. Lucinda felt his death was imminent, so the day before he died she purchased from George Brock's store in Gaston eight yards of muslin, eight yards of black velvet for \$6.00, and \$1.25 worth of silk braid to stitch up a mourning dress and its underskirt. A dress of plain bombazine or wool would have sufficed but it was important to Lucinda McLeod that her man had been one of substance and her family could afford to mourn in style.

Lucinda McLeod also purchased that same day a \$4 pair of pants, a pair of socks for 37 cents, a coat for \$12, and lumber for a coffin costing \$1.50. Lucinda wanted her husband looking dignified in a fine new coat and pants when he was laid out and the neighbors came to pay their respects.

When Donald died on 26 February 1873, his wife, Lucinda, was left with five children at home: Henry, Mary, Sarah, Job, and Albert.

Their oldest daughter, Flora, had given birth to a little girl who was the only grandchild born before Donald's death.

Donald's estate was estimated at \$2,300: real estate of 120 acres from the original donation land claim valued at \$1,500; and personal property valued at \$800.40 The probate of his estate began in March, a month after his death. Lucinda McLeod gave her right of administration to her son Henry on 5 March 1873. Two days later, Henry was appointed executor. The same day, William Adcock, R. B. Baker, and Joseph Davis, all long-time neighbors, were appointed appraisers. In April, Henry petitioned the court to set off property for his mother, explaining "that it will be necessary to sell all the personal property belonging to said estate, except what belongs to the widow and minor children." Inventoried for sale were livestock, tools, and household items including 120 acres of land, (part of the original DLC at \$16.66 per acre), one eight-year-old bay mare appraised at \$60, a wheelbarrow for \$2, and two looking glasses for \$1.50.

Against these assets, many debts were presented for payment. There were promissory notes ranging from \$41 to \$600. There was a bill for three days of work with a team at \$4 per day for \$12. There was a \$160 mortgage with 10% interest made 11 August 1864 payable to W. B. Chatfield, treasurer of Washington County. The McLeods had paid the \$16 annual interest in one or two payments for 15 years on the mortgage but never paid on the principal of \$172.22. Donald and Lucinda had two

Portland, Oregon, Nov. 8 1873

Mr. Donald McLeod deceased

Bought of A. MEIER,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

Front Street, bet. Taylor and Yamhill.

THE HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR PRODUCE, FURS, &c. ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

1873	Jan'y 1	\$0	Acct. due on account as per Bill rec'd	30 46
1873	Dec. 14		Merch. on file	28 31
				58 77

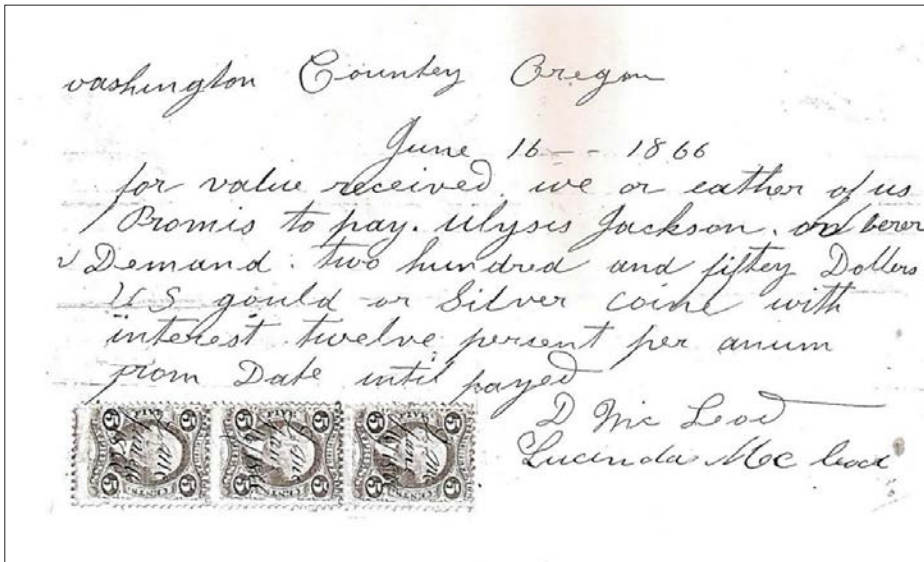
State of Oregon 2nd J. A. Meier, being first duly sworn, say that the Estate of Donald McLeod deceased, is justly indebted to me in the sum of \$58.77 as shown and set forth in the foregoing statement. That said statement is true, and correct, and that there are no offsets or counter claims against the same to the best of my knowledge.

Subscribed & sworn to, A. Meier

38. Nixon and Tupper, *Cherry Grove*.

39. Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, volume 1, 41.

40. "Oregon, Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963," database with images, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), probate record for Donald McLeod (indexed as D W Lead); citing Washington County (Oregon) County Clerk.



promissory notes with neighbor Ulysses Jackson that had passed on to his son, John Wesley Jackson. The first note was partially paid but still had a balance of \$51.12 with interest of 12% per annum. The second note of \$100, dated 24 November 1871, was unpaid. There were loans from neighbors for amounts usually under \$50 dated during the years 1871 to 1873 owing to David Baker, Job Campbell, J. L. Chamberlain, Norman Martin, and W. G. Scoggin. Some notes were carefully signed by Donald and Lucinda; some by Donald and Henry, and some by just Donald, but most were carefully written out in Donald's hand. Obviously, his neighbors knew Donald needed a little help and were willing to loan him money. Donald was the one who insisted on writing formal promissory notes.

Besides the burying clothes for George, the velvet for Lucinda's dress, and the lumber for his coffin, the McLeods had purchased on account from George Brock in Gaston items ranging from 2½ yards of table linen to coal oil and tea during January and February 1873. Brock's bill grew to a substantial \$33.62. Lucinda paid Mr. Brock a little cash and some eggs, reducing the bill slightly to \$31.43. Henry paid George Brock's bill in full by 6 November 1873.

At another store, the McLeods owed \$6.37 on account for such things as a pair of boots, sugar, coffee, pie pans, a cream pitcher, cloves, four pounds of rice for 50 cents, and some bacon. The account was credited by two pairs of socks (did Lucinda knit them?) and cash. In July of 1872, Donald had placed a lumber order with John Butte Company Milling for \$26.16. Seventeen dollars had been paid in produce at sundry times but \$9.16 was still owed. There was even a bill from the Meier store in Portland.

Responsibility for all these debts fell to Henry McLeod, executor of his father's estate. To pay off the notes, mortgage, and outstanding bills, Henry ran an advertisement in the newspaper announcing a public auction at the residence of the deceased on 10 May 1873 at 10 a.m. Included in the sale was one span of workhorses, one three-year-old colt, three cows, four calves, 29 head of sheep, ten head of hogs, one-fourth interest in a grain harvester called a header, one-half interest in a mower, one revolving hay rake, one gang plow, and, as the ad said, farming utensils too numerous to mention. Items under \$10 were to be paid in cash; all other

sums would be payable in six months at 12 percent interest with good security. All cash was to be paid in U.S. coin. Records were kept of the auction sales, listing the buyer's name, the item, and the price paid.⁴¹

The auction was successful. Many of the men purchasing farm equipment, livestock, and household goods were the neighbors who had been appraisers of the estate. Henry informed the court that he received \$55.29 in cash and \$540 in promissory notes from auction sales. George Davis, a neighbor who had witnessed Donald's citizenship papers twenty years earlier and whose son had bought land from the McLeods, signed a note for \$66.90, buying a bull and one-fourth interest in the header. That may have given Davis a half interest in the header, as he may have owned a quarter interest already. Neighbors who trusted each other pooled their money to buy pieces of expensive farm equipment.

Henry continued with the settlement of his father's estate and helped his mother run the farm. Taxes were paid for 1873, 1874, and 1875, as well as the fees involved in handling the estate. The estate received \$75.00 rent per year on 25 acres of land. Not until 1881, eight years after his father's death, was Henry able to make his final report to the court that all debts were paid.

The little community of Wapato (also spelled Wapatoo) that the McLeods identified as their address was fading and being replaced by Gaston. In 1874, Lucinda sold one acre of land from her 248 acres (the remaining portion of her Donation Land Claim) for \$1 to the trustees of School District #11 of Washington County and School District #55 of Yamhill County for a school. She granted permission for the land to be under the control of the districts for such purposes as the trustees

41. Ibid.

saw proper—but if the premises ceased to be used by the school districts for the purpose of a public school, then the acre would become the property of “said grantor or her heirs and assigns.”⁴² Lucinda died of malaria 21 April 1880. She still owned 248 acres of the original Donation Land Claim valued at \$4,500. Included in the inventory of her estate were a clock, table, chairs, one bedstead, and a surprising 13 bed quilts.

A vote was taken on 14 April 1914 to incorporate the town of Gaston, Oregon. It comprised part of the Donation Land Claim of Donald and Lucinda McLeod. The southern line of the McLeod claim became Main Street. The historic Bates House at Third and Oak, built in 1890, was formerly the site of Donald McLeod’s orchard.⁴³

CONCLUSION

Donald McLeod, a man of the Oregon Territory, identified himself as a former Hudson’s Bay employee his entire life, but Donald McLeod was a common name on the employee lists of the HBC and it is not certain how Donald McLeod of Oregon was employed by the Hudson’s Bay Company.⁴⁴ However Donald’s life began, it is likely that he was a man who worked hard all his life, whether as a boy in Scotland, working for the HBC, or settling a Donation Land Claim through the infancy of the Oregon Territory through statehood.

Bonnie Randolph is retired from Portland Public Schools and has enjoyed genealogy since the 1970s. Donald McLeod was her husband’s great-great-grandfather.



Donald and Lucinda McLeod were buried at Oak Knoll Cemetery. This pioneer cemetery was established in 1863 on the Horace Parsons donation land claim. The townsite was called Dilley and is now part of the city of Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon. Today, the property is owned by the Hines Nurseries Company. There are 15 visible graves, including five unknowns. There are several other graves whose markers have been lost or are out of place. There is a granite monument listing 25 names, and another dedicated “in memory of infants and children buried in this area.” The monuments were placed by the Friends of Oak Knoll Cemetery, family members, and the Hines Nurseries Company on 11 March 2000. Courtesy of Jean Edwards.

42. Lucinda McLeod estate, Washington County, Oregon State Archives.

43. Nixon and Tupper, *Cherry Grove*, 40–41.

44. In a biographical sketch published in 1903, Donald McLeod, was engaged on the Columbia River for Hudson’s Bay Company (*Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon*, Chapman Publishing Company, 1903, p. 1308.) This could mean he sailed on the Columbia River or he was an employee of the Columbia River District for HBC and did a variety of jobs.

The Family Bible of Isaac N. Patton (1802–1842) and Anna Boyd Porter (1803–1890)

Vince Patton

My uncle Perkins L. Patton saved a treasure trove of family records, letters, and artifacts from his grandparents and before. After he died in 2013 at the age of 74, my aunt generously gave me his collection.

A battered metal box appeared especially unimpressive. Until I opened it.

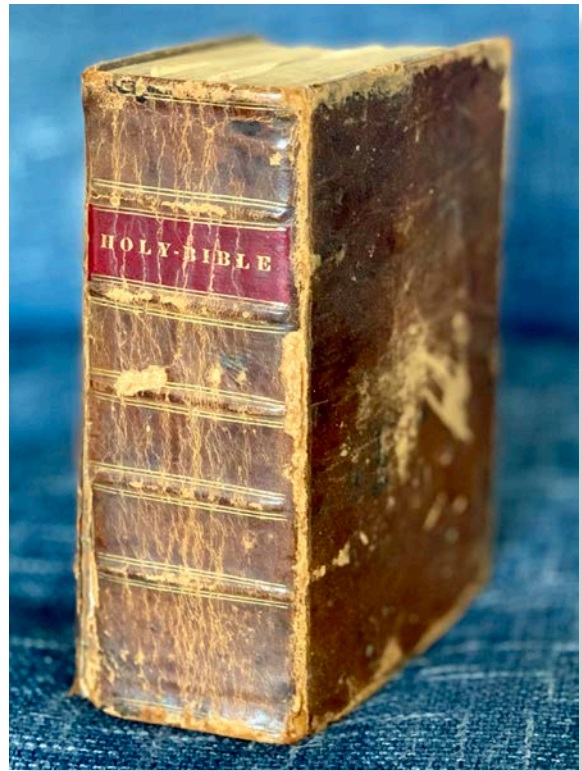
What sat inside has to be the most valuable item of all the Patton memorabilia—the family Bible of my great-great-great-grandfather Isaac N. Patton and his wife Anna Boyd (Porter) Patton, published 186 years ago in 1834. Both are said to have been born in Virginia. Isaac died in Sevier County, Tennessee. Anna passed away half a century later in Pea Ridge, Benton County, Arkansas.

The Bible contains handwritten family notes of births, marriages, and deaths for three generations of Pattons and Porters starting in 1802 and ending in 1903.

It came to me water damaged, with a decaying spine. Yet its pages are generally legible. On top rested an index card on which Uncle Perkins had typed, “Old and fragile! Please do not open. Just look at pictures.”

He also enclosed 8”x 10” black and white photos of the family record pages.

I still felt compelled to open the Bible to photograph it, this time with a digital camera. Viewing the photos on a computer rather than in prints made for a huge improvement. The computer could drastically alter the



contrast, darkening long-faded handwriting, enabling far better magnification, and making everything truly readable.

The Bible helped to solve a mystery for distant Patton cousins whom I have met during my genealogy research. They were related to James M. Patton, one of Isaac Patton’s sons. Family lore said his middle name was Monroe, though some had heard it might have been Madison. Thankfully, this birth record sets us all straight without relying merely on middle initials. His full name was James Madison Patton.

As with many Bibles, handwriting and ink colors change over time. It is clear that different people recorded information at different times, some of whom had trouble with spelling.



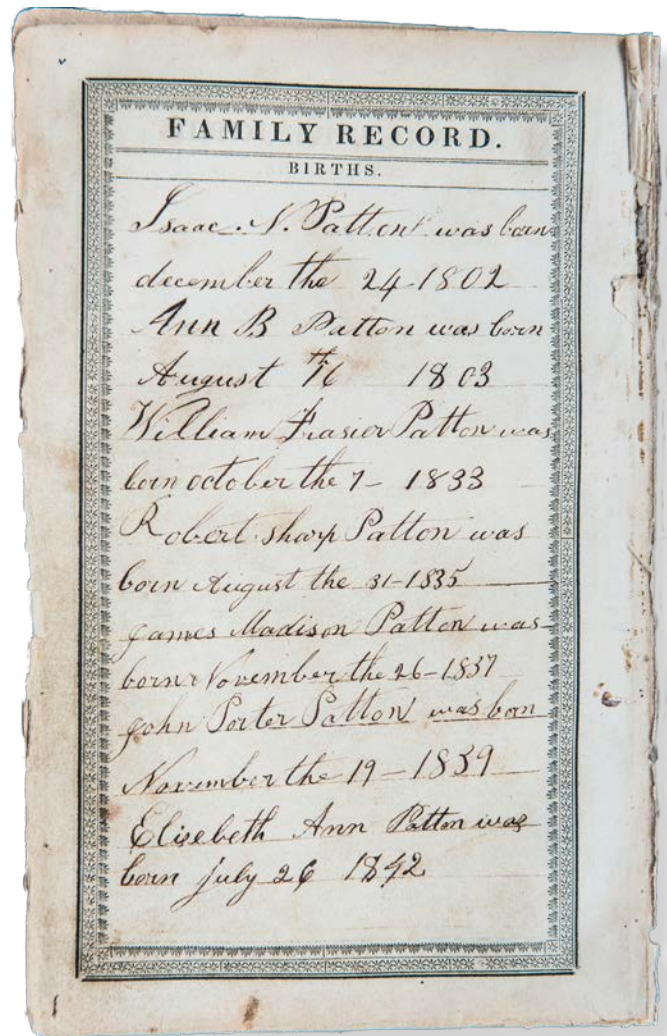
Below is a transcript with spellings and capitalization preserved.

The Holy Bible,
Containing the
Old and New Testaments:
Translated out of
The Original Tongues:
And with the Former Translations
Diligently Compared and Revised

Cincinnati:
N. and G. Guilford and Co.
1834

FAMILY RECORD
MARRIAGES

January 1833
Isac N Patton was
married to Ann B Porter
January 3 1833



FAMILY RECORD
BIRTHS

Isaac N. Patton was born
december the 24 1802

Ann B Patton was born
August 16th 1803

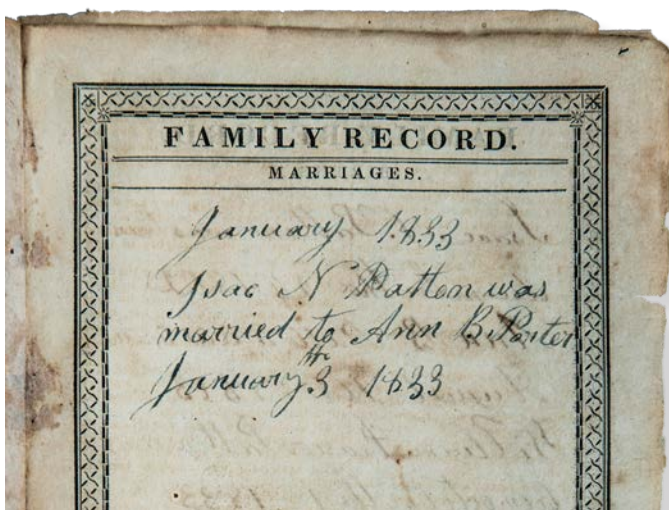
William Frasier Patton was
Born october the 7 - 1833

Robert Sharp Patton was
Born August the 31 - 1835

James Madison Patton was
born November the 26-1837

John Porter Patton was born
November the 19- 1839

Elisabeth Ann Patton was
Born July 26 1842



FAMILY RECORD

DEATHS

Isaac N Patton departed
This life August the 17
on wednesday 1842

Fanny Porter Departed
This life July 22 1848

William Porter Died
August the 21st 1852

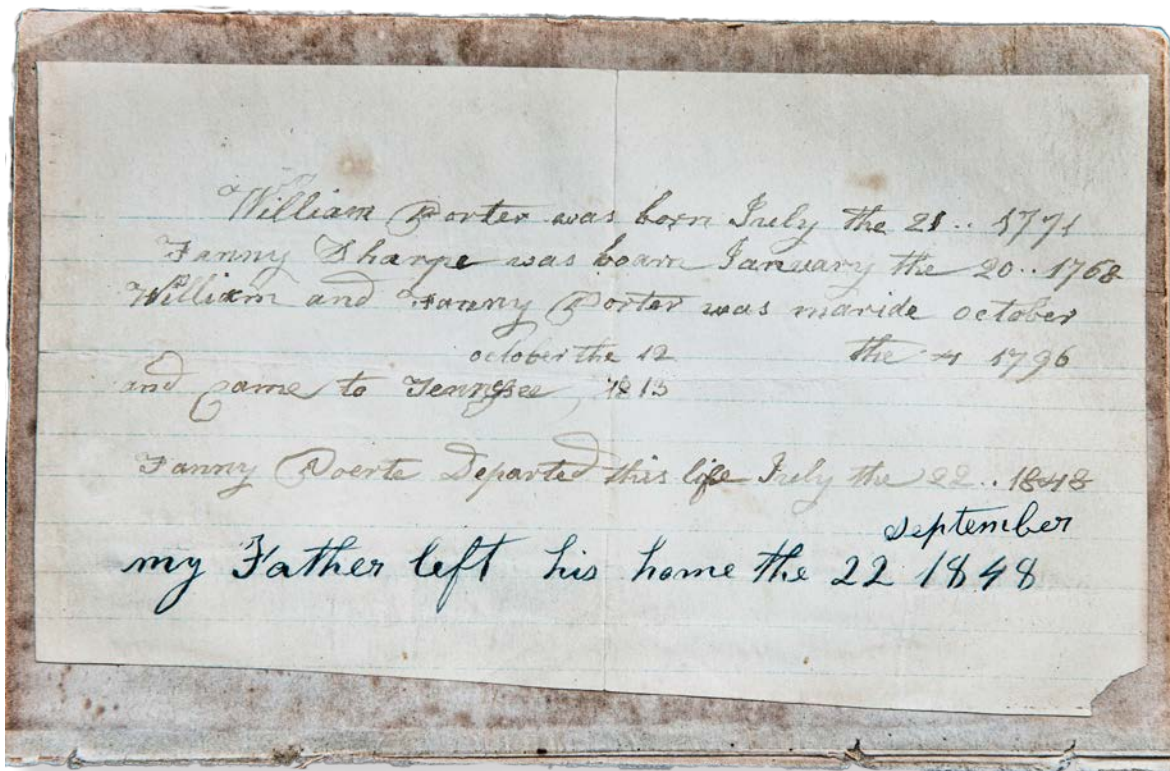
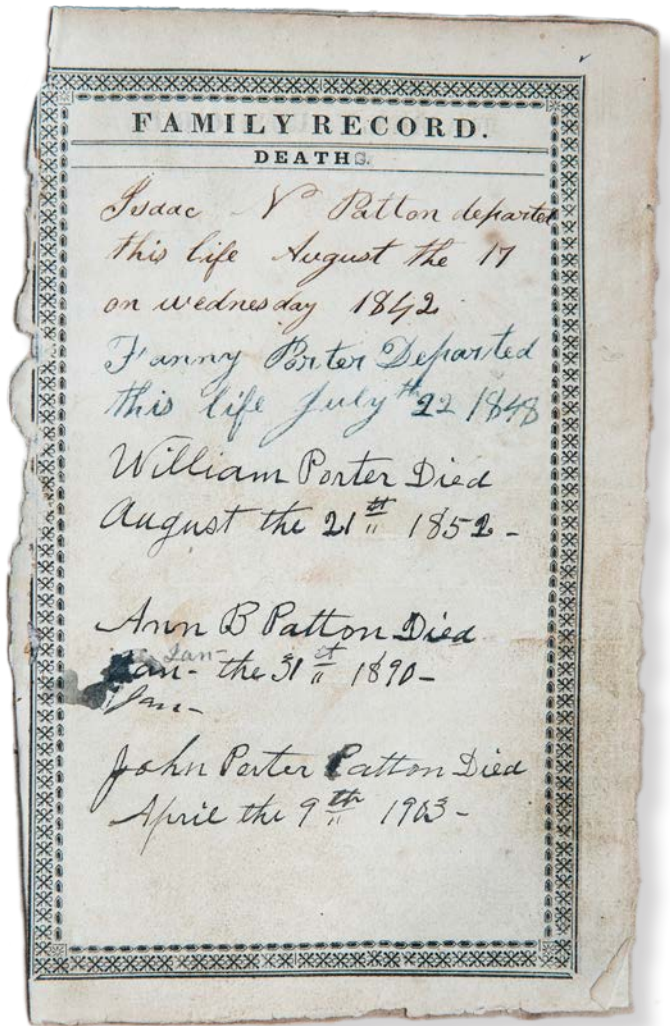
Ann B Patton Died
Jan the 31st 1890

John Porter Patton Died
April the 9th 1903

[Note included on separate page]

William Porter was born July the 21.. 1771
Fanny Sharpe was born January the 20.. 1768
William and Fanny Porter was maride october
the ? 1796
and came to Tennessee october the 12, 1813

Fanny Poerte Departed this life July the 22.. 1848
my Father left his home the 22 September 1848



TOOLS FOR GENEALOGY

Mindful Transcription: Adapting Methodology from my Television Career to Genealogy

Debra Koehler

T rue confession time: my background is not in genealogy. It's in television. I have only been doing genealogy for about ten years, but I have been writing and producing television my entire adult life, first in news and then for cable networks that feature things like homes, gardens, food, travel, history, and pets. Happily, many of the skills I've developed in television have served me well in genealogy. And the latest skill to make that jump is transcription.

When I say transcription, you probably think I mean transcribing an old and fragile document that cannot be copied in any other way. But that has no application in television. What I mean by transcription in this context is sitting down and transcribing a television show, scene by scene, word by word, to discover its format, structure, pacing, voice, cadence, vocabulary, verb tense, sentence structure, and even the average length of sentences. Television is a freelance business. Everything I write is by the contract, and transcription is how I learn to write for a new show. I continue to survive as a freelancer because of transcription. It is an incredibly powerful tool.

So, when I was confronted with writing my first genealogical proof argument in my *ProGen* study group earlier this year (www.progenstudy.org), I naturally turned to transcription. *ProGen* is a peer-review study program that bases its assignments on chapters from the book *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. The most challenging assignment in the program, at least for me, was the proof argument. Borrowing from *Professional Genealogy*, a proof argument is “a documented narrative that explains why a genealogist’s answer to a complex genealogical problem should be considered acceptable.”¹ For example, if you claim you are a descendant of Queen Elizabeth I or George Washington, a proof argument would be the fully-sourced write-up of your research that proves your contention. You would write your evidence to build your case, much the way a lawyer builds a case in court.



I had never written in this style before. So, to prepare for this rather daunting assignment, I transcribed proof arguments. I went through back issues of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and transcribed, or typed out, word-for-word, a couple of articles that were similar to the type of proof I planned to write. Before I finished the second transcription, I had it! I could *hear* the way a proof argument is written in my head, and I was able to use that little voice to guide me as I wrote my own. And if I got stuck, I had a blueprint to work from. As I said, transcription is a powerful tool.

While discussing this transcribing technique with my *ProGen* study group, our mentor became intrigued. Could transcription be used to discover not only the voice and structure of a proof argument but also its methodologies? In other words, could transcription bring into focus how the proof was proved?

I had never transcribed with methodology in mind, so I gave it a try. And you know what? It works for that too. The article I transcribed relied heavily on negative evidence. Transcribing revealed to me how such arguments are structured and where the holes can appear. It also revealed some statements of fact that can slip into even the most accomplished writing without citation. And it made me see that transcribing my own writing would be a very effective way of proofreading it.

1. Thomas W. Jones, PH.D., CG, CGL, FASG, “Proof Arguments & Case Studies,” in Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, editor, *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018), chapter 20, p. 477; citing *Genealogy Standards*, Second Edition (Washington D.C.: Board for Certification of Genealogists, 2019), p. 83, proof argument.

Transcription works because it is active, whereas just reading an article is passive. The key is to be mindful of whatever it is about the work you want to discover. The more mindful the transcriber, the deeper the discoveries.

My *ProGen* group is now on its final assignment—the family narrative. One of my classmates is using what we now call Mindful Transcription to figure out how to write a narrative involving a man with multiple wives. She says transcription has been tremendously helpful. I am using it to crack how a narrative is formatted and what voice works best for this style of writing. Virtually anything you want to understand about a written work can be discovered through Mindful Transcription.

Am I nuts? Does anyone else do this? Is anyone else inspired to try? I'd love to hear your thoughts. Send me an email at TVDebra@gmail.com if you'd like to discuss it. Maybe Mindful Transcription can help you past your next bout of writer's block.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Debra Koehler is an avid writer and genealogist and proud member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. She earned a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2018 and will complete the *ProGen* 45 study group in December 2020. She is also pursuing certificates in both American and Eastern European Records through The National Institute for Genealogical Studies.

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Finding the Father of my Grandmother Dolores “Dorothy” May Coberly (1893–1970)

David Doerner



Dorothy Coberly with her three children in 1962.

In researching my father’s ancestors, I was able to trace several branches back to the 1600s in Colonial America. However, my biggest brick wall was my great-grandfather, my paternal grandmother’s father. This is the story of how I eventually identified him through the help of autosomal DNA.

My paternal grandmother is Dorothy May Coberly/Coverly.¹ Dorothy was born in 1893 in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), a few miles south of Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas. She had a younger sister, Lillian, who was born in 1895 and died a few months later. Dorothy’s mother was Myrtle Hugaboom. Dorothy told my dad (her son) that her father was Mark Coverly and that he was a carpenter from New York. She also said he had two sisters. Unfortunately, both of Dorothy’s parents died before she reached the age of three. So, she was an orphan with little direct knowledge of her parents.

After her parents died, she was raised by her maternal grandfather, Lewis Hugaboom, until she was eight years old. Lewis and his wife Lorinda were originally from Sanford, Broome County, New York, where their seven children were born, but they later moved to Kansas and settled near Coffeyville in the late 1880s. Their children were:

1. Alice Hugaboom – married and divorced three men. Lived in Washington and California. She had one child who was raised by her parents.
2. George Hugaboom – married Laura Wood. Lived in Burlingame, Kansas. No children.
3. Ellen Hugaboom – accidental death at age 11.
4. Arthur Hugaboom – married Ruth Hauser. Lived in Coffeyville, Kansas. Had five children.
5. Symantha “Mattie” Hugaboom – married Henry Radcliffe. Lived in Coffeyville, Kansas. Had three children.

6. James Hugaboom - was a deaf-mute. Married Martha Jane. Lived near Coffeyville, Kansas. No children.

7. Myrtle Hugaboom – mother of two children, Dorothy May and Lillian, who both died in infancy. Lived near Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1902, Lewis Hugaboom took Dorothy to Spokane, Washington, to be raised by his oldest daughter, Alice. This has always perplexed me. Dorothy had three sets of aunts and uncles who lived nearby in Coffeyville and who presumably knew her well. So why did Lewis travel 1500 miles to take his granddaughter to be raised by his only child who did not live in Kansas, who had already been married twice, who had given up her only child to be raised by others, and who did not know Dorothy? A mystery!

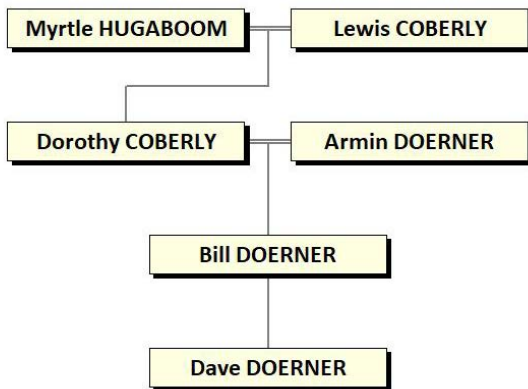
This is the information with which I started my quest to learn more about my grandmother’s father, Mark Coverly. I soon learned that most of what my grandmother knew about her father was incorrect.

After searching through records on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch, the only pertinent record I could find was a marriage license for my great-grandmother Myrtle Hugaboom to a Lewis J. Coberly.² They obtained a marriage license in Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas, the county seat, on 30 November 1893, six months after Dorothy was born. In searching the 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. censuses, I could not find any Mark Coverly/Coverley/Coberly/Coberley living anywhere in the United States. There were several Lewis Coberlys. Since Dorothy was mostly raised by an aunt who never knew Dorothy’s father, I assume the memory of her dad’s name changed from Lewis Coberly to Mark Coverly at some point.

1. Later in her life when she went to live with her Aunt Alice, Alice renamed her Dorothy Harrison, although probably not legally. Dorothy used Harrison as her maiden name the rest of her life.

2. “Kansas Marriages, 1840-1935”, database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FW2T-ZVC> : 9 September 2020), Myrtle I Hugaboom in entry for Lewis J Coberly, 1893.

THE PAPER TRAIL LED TO LEWIS COBERLY AS DOROTHY'S FATHER



In 1900, when Dorothy was still living with her grandfather in Coffeyville, the June census enumerated Dorothy Coble as born in Indian Territory in May 1892, age eight, living with her grandfather, Lewis Hugaboom.³ Dorothy thought she was born 19 May 1893, so either the census was wrong or she was really a year older than she thought. The census also stated that her father was born in Indiana.

I spent years trying to learn more about Lewis J. Coberly. I did extensive record searches on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch as well as other genealogical online databases, eventually extending my searches to Lewis Coberly (and name variations) living anywhere in the United States. I also searched historical newspapers at Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank, Chronicling America, and other web sites. I found an obituary for Lorinda (Croft) Hugaboom, Dorothy Coberly's grandmother, and some newspaper articles about Lewis Hugaboom, but none for Dorothy, her mother Myrtle Hugaboom, or Lewis Coberly. I eventually compiled a list of eight possible Lewis Coberlys who might be Dorothy's father, many of whom were from Indiana. Some were better possibilities than others, but I could not link any of them to Myrtle Hugaboom and had no evidence that any of them had lived near Coffeyville. Unfortunately, the loss of the 1890 U.S. census was a major obstacle in my search for Lewis J. Coberly.

In the fall of 2018, I traveled to Kansas and spent a week looking for information about Lewis, Myrtle, and Dorothy. Since some family members had lived in Coffeyville and some a few miles south across the border in Indian Territory at different times, I searched for records in both places. I searched at the local level in

Coffeyville and Montgomery County. I also visited the Nowata County Historical Society Museum in Oklahoma and then spent three days at the Kansas state archives in Topeka. But ultimately, I found very little.

I think the problem was that Dorothy was born in Indian Territory and her parents died there, and few if any records were kept in the 1890s (Oklahoma became a state in 1908). There were no birth, death, probate records, guardianship court proceedings, etc. that I could find. And I could not find Lewis Coberly or Myrtle Hugaboom in any cemetery near Coffeyville.

After the trip to Kansas, I was beginning to think I might never find out more about Lewis J. Coberly. So, I turned to my father's (Dorothy's son) DNA matches, hoping there might be clues to identifying Dorothy's father.

My father, Bill Doerner, took the Ancestry DNA test in 2015. Periodically I would study dad's DNA matches, and over the years I was able to match a number of people who shared larger DNA matches (as measured by total centimorgans) to various branches of our family tree. But there were no Coberly DNA matches that I could find. Since Lewis Coberly would be my dad's grandfather, I would expect a significant number of dad's 55,000 DNA matches would be for descendants of Lewis's ancestors. So, it was suspicious that I wasn't able to identify at least some matches.

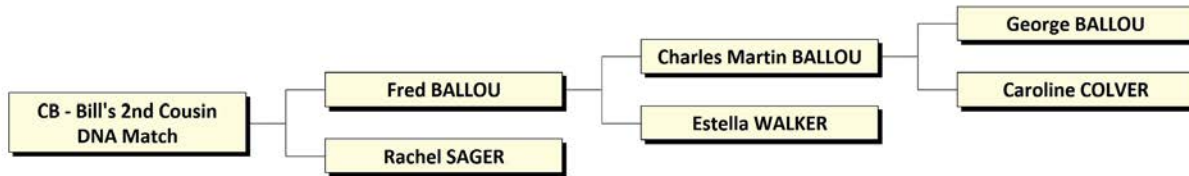
In late 2015, Ancestry.com introduced a feature called New Ancestor Discoveries. Ancestry compared pedigree charts, and if you matched a number of people who all descended from a common ancestor, they suggested that you did too. For dad, they listed six potential new ancestors. The two people with whom dad had the most and largest DNA matches were descendants of Daniel Wiswell and Calista Colver.

I spent a lot of time researching the family tree of Daniel and Calista, mapping various DNA matches to their family tree, and trying to find the link to Lewis J. Coberly (given their birth and death dates I thought Lewis J. Coberly was the most likely connection between our family and their family). I exchanged emails with several Daniel and Calista descendants but could not find a link.

It is sometimes the case with New Ancestor Discoveries that the common ancestor is a generation further back. So, I looked at Daniel Wiswell's parents and siblings as well as Calista Colver's parents and siblings but again could not find a connection. I set it aside and went on to other things.

3. 1900 U.S. census, Montgomery County, Kansas, population schedule, Parker Township, ED 142, sheet 4A, family 69, Lewis R. Hugaboom; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-6Q39-C6F?i=6&cc=1325221&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A%3AMMY4-NTZ> : accessed 9 September 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T623.

THE PATH FROM DNA MATCH C. BALLOU TO THE COLVER FAMILY



In December 2017, a new DNA match showed up for dad that was fairly large. In fact, it was dad's largest DNA match other than his children and nieces. His name was C. Ballou and, based on the size of the match, it was likely that he was dad's second cousin or possibly second cousin once removed.⁴ But there was no family tree associated with C. Ballou. I sent him messages several times over six months, but he never responded. This was very frustrating (!) because I thought he might be the key to learning more about Lewis Coberly and his ancestors.

In the spring of 2019, I went back to do a more systematic study of dad's DNA matches. I filtered out dad's known matches on other family branches and created a document that listed all of dad's larger DNA matches that might be related to Lewis Coberly ancestors (note that dad had over 1000 DNA matches that Ancestry estimated could be fourth cousins or closer).

Interestingly, there were only a few very small DNA matches with people that had Coberly/Coberley/Cubberleys in their family trees. If Lewis Coberly was dad's grandfather, dad received roughly 25 percent of his DNA from him. So, there should be a number of good-sized DNA matches with descendants of Lewis Coberly's parents and/or grandparents. And yet I could

not find any! I began to wonder if Lewis J. Coberly had changed his name at some point, or if he was really Dorothy's father.

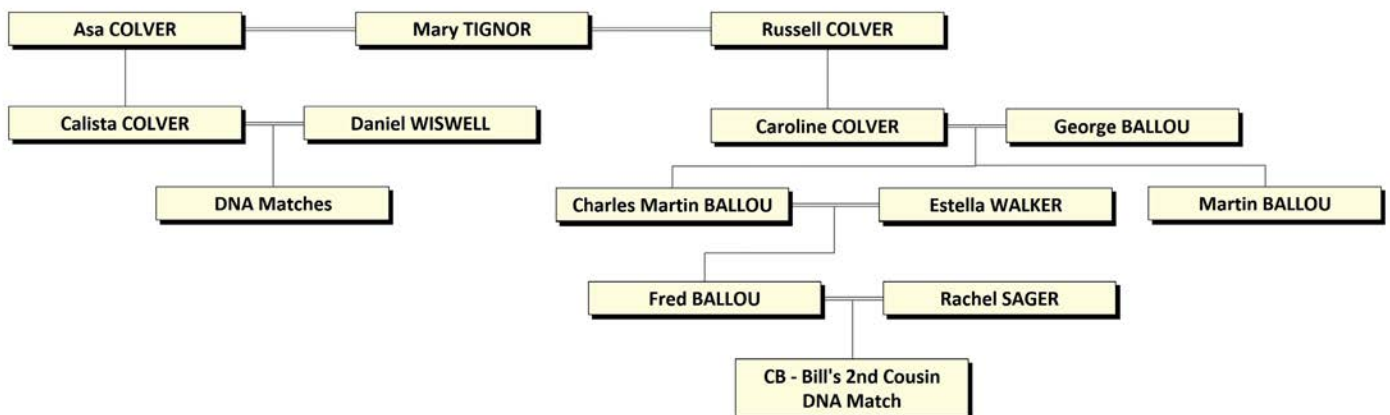
But there were over 40 good-sized Wiswell and Colver DNA matches, including some new ones since the last time I looked. And then I found two matches who had small trees with the name Ballou in them. Both matches were descended from Fred Ballou and Rachael Sager. I wondered if they could be related to C. Ballou.

So, I researched Fred and Rachael Ballou and soon found that they had four children, one of whom was C. Ballou, dad's likely second cousin! I then researched Fred Ballou's parents who turned out to be Charles Martin Ballou and Estella Walker. Further research revealed that Charles Martin Ballou's parents were George Ballou and Caroline V. Colver.

Bingo! Caroline Colver was the younger sister of Calista Colver. Both women were the daughters of Mary Tignor, but they had different fathers. Calista's father was Asa Colver, Mary's first husband. Caroline's father was Russell Colver, Mary's second husband and the brother of Asa.

Now we had tied all of dad's previous DNA matches who were descendants of Calista Colver and Daniel Wiswell to DNA matches of descendants of Caroline Colver and George Ballou.

CONNECTIONS OF VARIOUS DNA MATCHES GOING BACK TO MARY TIGNOR



4. Initials are used for living people.

Suddenly, a bunch of puzzle pieces started fitting together. Dad had several good-sized DNA matches to descendants of Mary Tignor and her husbands Asa and Russell Colver. Mary had two children with Asa, including Calista. When Asa died, Mary married Asa's younger brother Russell and had five more children, including Caroline and a son named William T. Colver. Subsequently, I found dad also had DNA matches to descendants of William. It was becoming clear that Asa or Russell Colver and Mary Tignor were ancestors of ours. But which of their children was our ancestor?

I went back to C. Ballou. If he was dad's second cousin, then that meant that he and dad shared great-grandparents, who, based on all the Colver DNA matches, had to be George Ballou and Caroline Colver. George and Caroline had seven children (males in bold):

1. **Charles Martin Ballou** (1858–1928)
—grandfather of C. Ballou.
2. **Franklin Tignor Ballou** (1860–1882)
3. Clara Ballou (1863–1931)
4. **Martin Ballou** (1868–1944)
5. Emily Emma Olive Ballou (1872–1910)
6. Katie Ballou (1874–)
7. **George W. Ballou** (1882–1882)

If C. Ballou was dad's second cousin, then Dorothy's father was a brother of Charles Martin Ballou. And since Franklin and George Ballou both died in 1882, ten years before Dorothy was conceived, that left only Martin Ballou as the possible father of Dorothy.

Was Martin Ballou in the Coffeyville area in 1892 when Dorothy was conceived? If he lived his life in Ohio or New York, then we had a problem. I began to research Martin Ballou. I soon found a marriage record for Martin Ballou and Addie Thompson, a woman who lived in Coffeyville, Kansas! Their marriage license was recorded 24 May 1892 in nearby Independence. The 1895 Kansas state census shows Martin and Addie Ballou living in Coffeyville with children Luther (born in 1893) and Leota (born in 1895).

The Oklahoma Land Rush took place in 1889. Our Hugaboom ancestors together with 50,000 other people rushed in to stake their claim to free land. Although the 1890 U.S. census burned, the Cherokee Census of 1890 survived. Lewis Hugaboom and family (including Myrtle Hugaboom), as well as Symantha Hugaboom and husband Henry Radcliffe, are listed toward the bottom of page 62 of the census (their land was six miles southwest of Coffeyville).⁵ I checked to see if there were any Ballous living nearby, and sure enough, Charles Martin Ballou was near the top of the following page of the census, i.e., he was a neighbor of the Hugabooms!

So, both brothers, Charles Martin Ballou and Martin Ballou were likely living in Coffeyville or near Coffeyville when Dorothy was conceived, in August 1891 or August 1892. Based on the size of dad's DNA match with C. Ballou, it was much more likely that Martin Ballou was Dorothy's father. If Charles Martin Ballou was her father, dad and C. Ballou would be half-first cousins, and we would expect the DNA match to be larger than it was.



Martin Ballou with two of his sisters.

5. "Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Indian Censuses and Rolls, 1851-1959," database and image, 1890 census, Coowees Coowees District, Cherokee Nation, page 34; *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8810/images/42369_329829-00061?usePUB=true&phsrc=OaT3239&phstart=successSource&pId=945 : accessed 9 September 2020), image 62.

To gather more evidence that Martin Ballou was Dorothy's father, it would be helpful if we could locate descendants of Martin Ballou and have them take the Ancestry DNA test. If they had a large DNA match with dad, that would help prove that Martin Ballou was Dorothy's father.

Martin Ballou and Addie Thompson had three children:

1. Luther Ballou (1893–1939)—had several wives but only one known child.
 - a. Lawrence Wilburn Ballou (1916–2000). He had three children.
2. Leota Ballou (1895–1905)—died young, no children.
3. Gladys Vella Ballou (1907–1992) married Ralph Alonzo Carter. Had four children and 19 grandchildren.
 - a. J. E. Carter (born 1931) married J. W. Smith and had seven children.
 - b. Ralph Jerald Carter (1935–2012)—had children.
 - c. J. A. Carter (born 1936)—had children
 - d. Mary Jane Carter (1942–2008)—had children.

But finding contact information for living descendants of Martin Ballou and then trying to find one or more willing to take a DNA test is not an easy undertaking. In addition, I wanted one of the two living grandchildren

of Martin Ballou to take the DNA test. They would be half first cousins of my father and should have large DNA matches with him.

While I was trying to locate contact information for members of this family, I looked at dad's DNA matches on GEDmatch, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA), and MyHeritage. I had taken dad's raw DNA test results and uploaded them to these three other DNA databases. I didn't find much on GEDmatch and FTDNA, but on MyHeritage, dad had a new large DNA match with a J. Smith and with her daughter, Chris D. I sent messages to J. Smith and Chris D. to find out more about this match because there was no family tree, but I received no response. Frustrating!

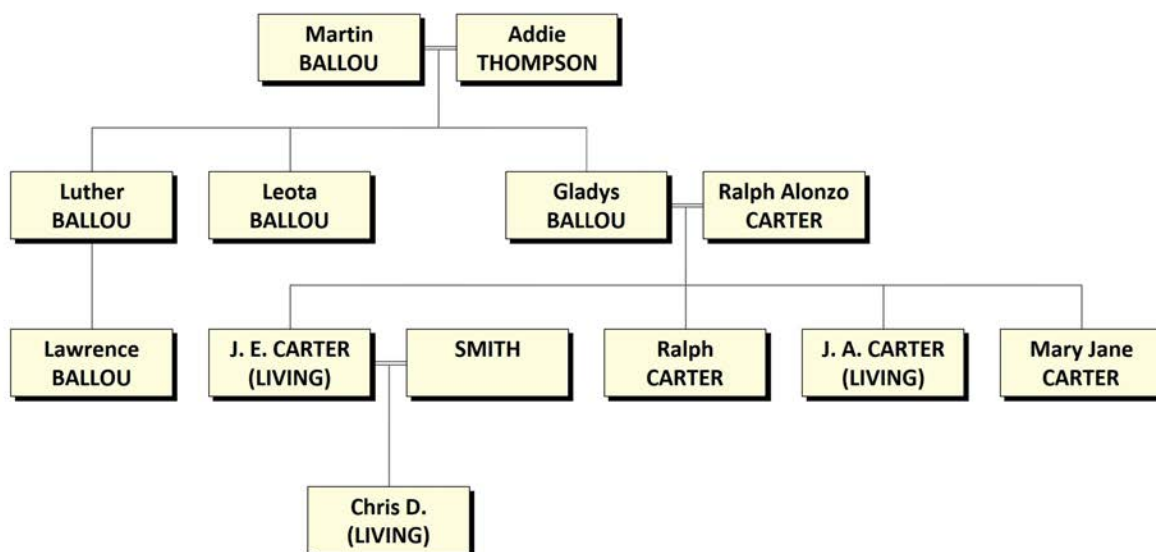
As I studied the descendants of Martin Ballou, I found that his granddaughter, J. E. Carter, had married J. W. Smith. I wondered if the J. Smith DNA match on MyHeritage could be J. E. Carter, the daughter of Gladys Ballou. I found a likely Chris D. on Facebook and messaged her, and she responded that yes indeed, the J. Smith DNA match on MyHeritage was her mother and that Gladys Ballou was her grandmother. I had my DNA match with a grandchild of Martin Ballou!

Dad's DNA match with C. Ballou is 211 centimorgans across 10 DNA segments (most likely a second cousin).

Dad's DNA match with J. Carter Smith is 352 centimorgans across 13 DNA segments (most likely a half first cousin).

So, there is strong DNA evidence that Martin Ballou is Dorothy Coberly's father.

PAPER TRAIL—DESCENDANTS OF MARTIN BALLOU



As previously stated, Dorothy was either born 19 May 1893, as she believes, or if the 1900 census is to be believed, 19 May 1892. Dates and ages in censuses are sometimes incorrect. On the other hand, in the old days, parents sometimes lied about the date of birth of their oldest child in situations where the child was born before a marriage took place or was born too soon after the parents were married, to make things look more respectable. Myrtle Hugaboom did not marry Lewis Coberly until 30 November 1893, either six months or 18 months after Dorothy Coberly, my Grandma Doerner, was born.

It looks like Martin Ballou and Myrtle Hugaboom had a dalliance that conceived Dorothy Coberly. This either happened before Martin Ballou married Addie Thompson or three months after they were married. Myrtle Hugaboom gave birth to Dorothy and then, either six or 18 months later, married Lewis J. Coberly. Because she was an illegitimate child, there must have been a stigma surrounding Dorothy, through no fault of her own. I wonder if this could have been a reason that she was taken 1500 miles away to live with her Aunt Alice instead of staying in

Coffeyville to be raised by her Uncle Arthur Hugaboom's family or her Aunt Symantha's family, where it was more likely that she would have eventually discovered that Lewis Coberly was not her biological father.

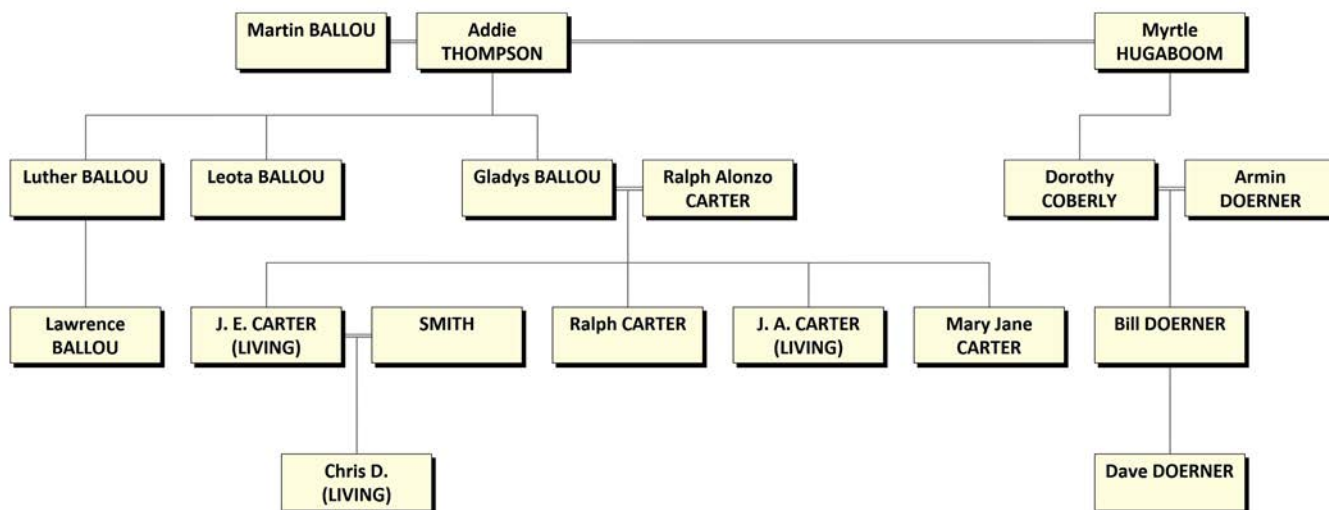
POSTSCRIPT

A few days after making this discovery, I phoned Martin Ballou's granddaughter J. Carter Smith and talked to her for quite a while. She told me some interesting things about her grandfather (Martin Ballou). But one thing she told me: "My grandfather was a philanderer."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Doerner began researching his family history the summer he lived with his maternal grandmother in 1973. His passion for genealogy was put on hold while he worked as a software engineering manager at Intel and raised a family. Now that he is retired, he enjoys researching his family history and is especially interested in genetic genealogy. He is a life member of GFO and enjoys volunteering at GFO in different roles. Dorothy May Coberly is his paternal grandmother.

DNA TRAIL—DESCENDANTS OF MARTIN BALLOU



Letter to the Descendants of Alston William Radcliffe (1810–1898)

Mark Grafe

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This was part of a letter sent to family members, hoping to get them interested in using DNA tests to solve genealogical puzzles.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

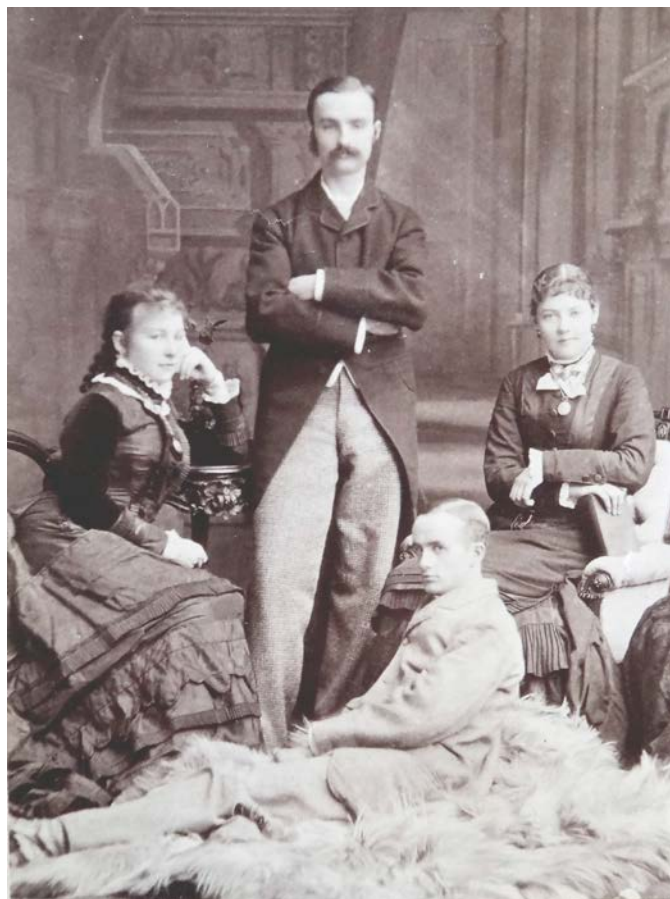
In 1872, troubled by the economic situation in Wiltshire, England, Reverend Alston William Radcliffe sent his sons Douglas Awdry Radcliffe (known as DAR) and his younger brother Reginald “Regi” Shield Radcliffe, to Canada; their brother Elwyn arrived a few years later. After a season of farm work, the boys attended the University of Toronto. Unlike some of his restless siblings, Douglas settled down and raised a family, twice. The three immigrant brothers were all active in the Anglican church.

Regi and Elwyn became priests. Regi kept on the move helping communities build new churches. In 1890, at the age of thirty-four, and by then working in Denver, Colorado, he traveled back to Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada, to marry twenty-six-year-old Isabella Ruth Smith. Elwyn assisted in the service.

Regi and Ruth Radcliffe’s first child was my grandfather, born 18 November 1892 in Mount Forest, Canada. Ruth wrote to Regi, living in Denver, telling him how calm their child was at the church service when he was baptized, and that his name was Reginald Heber. She also mentioned that, “she burned Elwyn’s letter.”

SCHEDULE A.—BIRTHS	
County of Wellington	Division of Mount Forest
When Born. 18 th Nov. 1892 Sex. Reginald Heber Age, Sex or Rank. Male Name and Surname of Father. Reginald Shield Radcliff Name and Surname of Mother. Isabella Ruth Smith Rank or Profession of Father. Clergyman Name and Surname of Minister. G. Bennett When Registered. 10 th Jan. 1893 Name of Assessor. M. McPhedden, M.D. Signature of Registrar. W. Bonny	034938 12 th December 1892 George Russell M. George L. Smith Maggie Bertha Lopham Woodworker Gerbie Lopham Mt. Forest 11 th January 1893 A. J. Reynolds, M.D. W. Bonny

Heber's 1893 Birth Registration, FamilySearch.



Jenny Penny, Douglas Awdry Radcliffe (standing), Jessie Reid, and Reginald Shield Radcliffe, circa 1878. Photo courtesy of the Radcliffe family.

Heber’s birth was registered a couple of months later by his grandfather, Thomas Grogan Smith. I wonder why the letter was so troubling that it was burned.

At a very young age, Heber was farmed out to a Mr. Galloway near Garo, Colorado. Heber also recalled how his Uncle Tom Parke instilled a good work ethic and a love for math while he lived with his Aunt Amy and Uncle Tom in Birmingham, Alabama. As a young man, Heber realized that for his father, church came before family.

My father who had never had any hunting or fishing experiences, offered to go with me fishing. This was around Selinsgrove, where I used to fish around Schnoerr’s Dam. Dad and I started fishing, and I baited his rod and we waited for the fish to bite. But the fish weren’t very cooperative and Dad got tired. So he decided he would call on the mill owner’s wife, Mrs. Snower. And after he left, I caught a nice big fish, which I took in to tell him.¹

My grandfather was a good student, got his degree in forestry from Penn State. He loved being out in the woods. Heber raised a nice family, four kids, lots of grandkids.

1. Heber Radcliffe, “Life Stories of Ruth and Heber Radcliffe,” 1985.

DAR's only son, Charles Alston Radcliffe, wrote several letters to Heber. Heber and family visited Alston and his wife Nan in Toronto in 1939. Alston's request for information on family was instrumental in developing Heber's interest in genealogy. Alston and Heber added notes to the Radcliffe family tree.² There's no telling how many trees were killed so Heber could fill notebooks with genealogy. However, it was DAR's daughter, Kathleen Atherton Radcliffe, who really got Heber interested in his family.

Atherton served in the Canadian military during WW II; her fiancé never made it home. She moved west, and worked with the church in Saskatchewan. Atherton was a prolific letter writer. She also visited DAR's siblings in England, and since they had no descendants, inherited many artifacts. Atherton shared stories and visited my grandparents, Heber and Ruth Radcliffe, on many occasions. She was there for their 50th wedding anniversary, birthdays, and other happy occasions.

CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES?

There is a photo from one of those happy, sunny days in Klamath Falls, of my grandpa with his brother, Tom Drew Radcliffe. Heber is the shorter person on the left. My only thought for the longest time was how dark their eyes seemed. Then I read one too many stories about DNA revealing unknown ancestry. Babies went home from the hospital with the wrong parents, and one grew up smaller than the siblings.³ Holy cow! Look at Heber. His parents had a long-distance relationship. His father seemed distant. Is my maternal grandfather, Reginald Heber Radcliffe, born 18 November 1892 in Mount Forest, Canada, the son of Reginald Shield Radcliffe, born 27 October 1854 in Hilcott, Wiltshire, England?

DNA FAMILY TREES

So, remember high school biology? We inherit about half our father's DNA and half our mother's DNA, but even siblings can inherit different DNA from the same parents. As descendants have their own children, recombination or mutations change some of the DNA.

There is a chart with numbers for expected unchanged DNA that could show up in different relationships.⁴ However, errors or chance could mean a DNA "cousin" is not real. Best practices, just a few years ago, recommended triangulating data, which was described as a method in which three or more people, all sharing a common overlapping segment of DNA, compare genealogical trees to identify a common ancestral couple. So, who are the potential DNA matches for descendants of Heber Radcliffe?

- Two of Heber's biological great-grandchildren have tested their DNA.⁵
- Four out of Heber's 14 grandchildren have tested. One tested with the now defunct Oxford Ancestors,⁶ three match DNA on Ancestry.⁷
- Heber's children have passed away, there is no known DNA.



Heber and Tom Drew Radcliffe, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 1968.

2. Charles Henry Radcliffe and Francis R. Y. Radcliffe, *Pedigree of the Radcliffe Family of New Sarum, co. Wilts., etc.* (Exeter & London: William Pollard & Co. Printers, 1905); <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/192628-pedigree-of-the-radcliffe-family-of-new-sarum-co-wilts-etc?viewer=1&offset=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=o&q=:> accessed 10 September 2020).

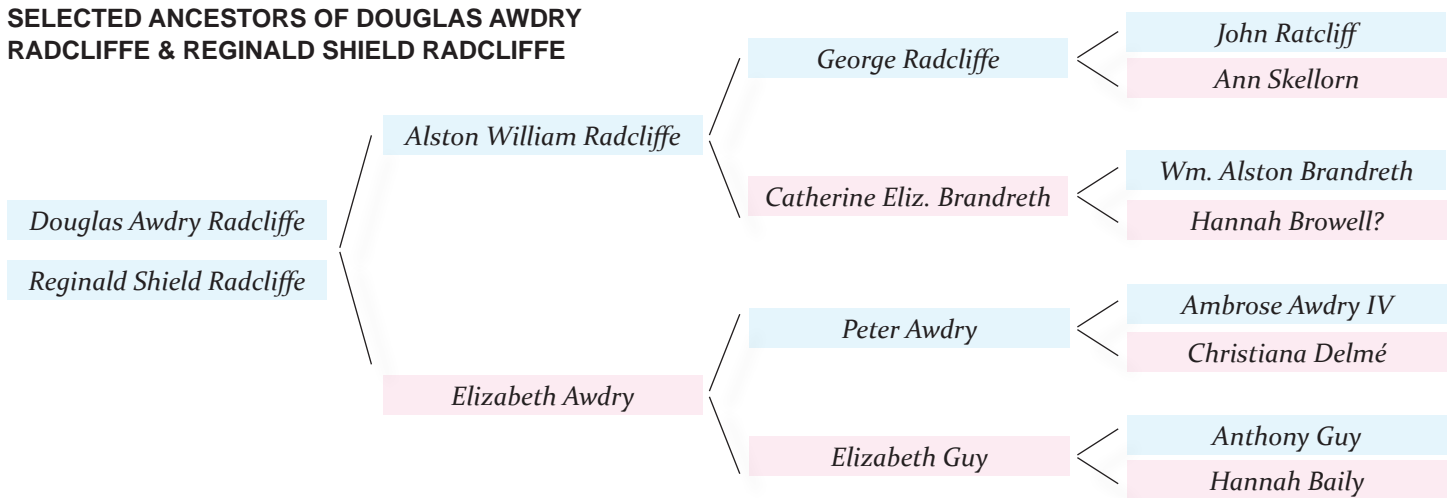
3. "Who was She? A DNA Test only opened New Mysteries," *The Washington Post*, 27 July 2017; (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/lifestyle/she-thought-she-was-irish-until-a-dna-test-opened-a-100-year-old-mystery/> : accessed 10 September 2020).

4. Blaine T. Bettinger, "The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4" (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : accessed 10 September 2020).

5. Mark Grafe and children have tested on 23 and Me.

6. The 2014 Y-DNA test from Oxford Ancestors (England) examined 15 markers, and was matched with Ratcliff family. However, the results do not match well with any of the participants in the Ratliff/Ratcliffe surname group on Family Tree DNA.

7. Mark Grafe and two first cousins (1c) have tested on Ancestry as of November 2019. One has uploaded to GEDmatch.

**SELECTED ANCESTORS OF DOUGLAS AWDRY
RADCLIFFE & REGINALD SHIELD RADCLIFFE**


- Heber's two brothers and one sister had no children.
- Of Heber's nine Radcliffe aunt and uncles only one had children. Four known third cousins once removed (3C1R) could share 48 centimorgans (cM), their children 3C2R could share 35 cM.⁸
- Heber's paternal grandfather had no full siblings, but several with different mothers (Newman, Niven). A half third-cousin to Heber's grandchildren, could share 61 cM, a Half 3C2R could share 34 cM.⁹
- Heber's paternal grandmother (Awdry) had one brother and one sister (Everett). Known fourth cousins could share 35 cM, one does not appear to match on LivingDNA.¹⁰
- Heber's paternal great-grandparents' descendants might share DNA.
 - * George (Ratcliff) Radcliffe had two sisters, who married (Hewitt, Hares).¹¹
 - * Catherine Elizabeth (Brandreth) had a sister who married (Silver).¹²

- * Peter Awdry had a sister who married (Arnold).
- * Elizabeth (Guy), sister had no children.

- Heber's paternal second great-grandparents might share DNA. (Skellorn, Browell, Wilson, Gill, Alston,¹³ Baily¹⁴).
- Surnames from known descendants of above include various spellings of: Alston, Arnold, Ash, Atkinson, Awdry, Baily, Bastin,¹⁵ Bateson, Beale, Blyth, Brandreth, Cancellor,¹⁶ Cayley, Champernowne, Clark, Cordes, Daily, Flickinger, Forrester, Gill, Goulden, Gorell, Grafe, Guy, Hall, Hanbury, Hares, Hepworth, Hewitt, Heyman, Hobart-Hampden, Hoiland, Honisett, Huyshe, Irving, Jacquemin, Jaqueth, Kirk, Kirton,¹⁷ Kemp, Kulhanek, Lermite, Marsh, Marshall, Martineau, McNiven, Milman, Mitchell, Murray, Newman, Niven, Ogilvy, Oldfield,¹⁸ Parson, Pease, Pile, Pollack, Radcliffe, Ratcliff, Ricardo, Rorie, Ross, Sealy, Seymour-Conway, Shadwell, Simeon, Somers-Smith, Tyndale, Turner, Van Straubenzee, Walford, Williams, Wilson, and Yonge.

8. No DNA from any of four known, living, 3c1R was found in 23 and Me, Ancestry, FamilyTreeDNA, GEDmatch, LivingDNA, or MyHeritage.

9. F. R. Y. Radcliffe > Beatrice C. Y. (Radcliffe) Kirk > Katherine H. (Kirk) Young > Private (half 4th cousin), Ancestry Family Tree, message read, "tested through My Heritage," but no match.

10. DNA from any of four known 4c does not appear in Ancestry, 23 and Me, FamilyTreeDNA, or MyHeritage. However, two DNA matches in Ancestry, "WC" and "DO."

11. Several DNA matches to the Ratcliffe family do not include trees.

12. DNA match to Brandreth family in tree.

13. 10 cM match to Alston family of Pavenham, possible 7c.

14. Message sent to Ancestry match, "SB," requested GEDmatch upload. A match on trees, 6th cousin.

15. "MB" (Ancestry, GEDmatch), descendant of Amy Sarah Awdry (New Zealand), Ancestry tree, 6th cousin to Mark Grafe, but no DNA match.

16. Tree match for "CM," confused response to my confusing (?) message.

17. New Zealand match from tree, but not DNA.

18. Two DNA matches, "DM" (ENG) and "NC" (NZ), possible tree matches.

Tracking down potential matches and finding connections to my family tree took months. There are several places to look for family trees and DNA test results. 23 and Me, Ancestry, FamilySearch, FamilyTreeDNA, GEDmatch, LivingDNA, and MyHeritage have become familiar. Heber's genealogy includes over 10,000 names.

THE CHALLENGES

Before asking living "cousins" to take a DNA test, six DNA testing companies were searched. Using different surname search tools helped match to some extent. Many corresponding family trees were found, thousands of DNA tests match my DNA. Finding DNA matches first, then looking for their public family trees resulted in a few matches.

Some of those matches were asked to download their DNA file and upload it to GEDmatch for a free comparison. GEDmatch offers software that can compare DNA files from different testing companies. Getting people together on GEDmatch is challenging.

Many family trees remain private, correspondence can be slow or awkward, and some people, who do DNA testing, do not know their family history. DNA testing also raises privacy concerns. Genealogists have addressed these challenges with a set of genealogy standards at <https://www.geneticgenealogystandards.com>.

Autosomal DNA tests are the standard for comparing centimorgans on specific segments. Testing must be done with consent and genealogists believe the results belong to the tester. Testing companies may offer storage options for DNA samples, terms of service should also be read. Regarding privacy, complete anonymity cannot



Map illustrating the long-distance relationship of Heber Radcliffe's parents in 1892.

be guaranteed. DNA test results published on a website can be analyzed by others, including law enforcement, without permission. Genealogists do not share personal information beyond DNA test results without permission. Results may have health implications.

Besides unexpected health information, DNA tests may reveal unknown family members (bad family planning, sperm donations), adoption, mis-attributed parentage (including rape or incest), and errors in family trees. Other DNA tests of the Y chromosome, mitochondria DNA, or X chromosome tests can supplement autosomal DNA testing, but tests will not identify most recent common ancestors beyond parent/child or sibling relationships.

Ethnicity estimates, or our DNA admixture, is related to each testing company's referenced database and refer to locations at various times. Genealogy documenting relationships may explain more than one interpretation of DNA results. Standards for establishing genealogical proof can be found at <https://www.bcgcertification.org> and should include current best practices for citations.

Genetic genealogy, like science in general, will continue to evolve. One challenge is presenting this in an understandable format. The *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* followed triangulation of lineages from family trees with a table triangulating specific DNA segments. There is not currently enough data for me to do this with the Radcliffe line.

Heber Radcliffe's career was based on science. He helped perfect the use of kilns in the forest products industry. He had no secrets to hide and I believe he would have embraced the use of DNA for genealogy.

Was Reginald Shield Radcliffe the biological father of Heber Radcliffe? Probably. Can DNA show if another brother was Heber's father? No, but my father had an enlightening response to an old and seemingly related question—What is more important, your time or money? Relationships. And I would love to hear from long lost relatives!

Learning more about DNA connections on this line opens the door for more research on my Radcliffe family, where a "brick wall" follows Douglas and Regi's paternal great-grandfather (see ancestor chart of previous page). It may help answer the question—Who was the father of John Ratcliff, buried 13 November 1798 behind St. Mary's Church in Acton, Cheshire, England?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Grafe is the current layout editor for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's *Bulletin*. He and his wife have visited second to fourth cousins in Canada and England. If you are related, feel free to contact Mark through any of the various DNA or genealogical websites.

The Adams Bible Challenge: Finding the Connection Between Sarah Elizabeth Adams(1847–1881) and Bertha Lenora Adams(1883–1915)

Nanci Remington

While reviewing Bible records from the manuscripts collection at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, I noticed one with only a few entries. These were copied from an “ancient Bible” found by Elaine Lionberger in 1975 at a Salvation Army thrift shop on Grand Avenue in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Elaine wrote that the Bible was published in 1872. The surnames on the entries were Adams, Allsman, and Barker. They centered on two women, Sarah and Bertha Adams, born 35 years apart. The record gave the birth date and location for both women as well as the men they married.

Thomas Tyler ALLSMAN, b. 8 October 1841, Carlisle, Sullivan Co., Indiana
 Sarah Elizabeth ADAMS, b. 8 December 1847, Clifton Springs, Ontario Co., New York
 Clifford Clarence BARKER, b. 2 July 1888, Carmel, Hamilton Co., Indiana.
 Bertha Lenora ADAMS, b. 14 March 1883, Moweaqua, Shelby Co., Indiana.

It also gave the marriage dates and locations of the marriages.

18 April 1867 at the Roscoe House, Decatur, Illinois
 Thomas Tyler ALLSMAN and Sarah Elizabeth ADAMS were married by Rev. D. P. Bunn.
 Wit. W. H. Craddock.
 Clifford Clarence BARKER to Bertha Lenora ADAMS, 15 March 1905, Decatur, Illinois,
 Rev. S. H. Bowyer, officiating.

Each couple had one child listed in the Bible.

BIRTHS
 Joseph Hallie Marion ALLSMAN b. 14 October 1868, Woequa, Illinois
 Lois Virginia BARKER, b. 31 May 1907, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

There were two deaths mentioned, those of Sarah and her husband Thomas.

Sarah Elizabeth ALLSMAN wife of T. T. ALLSMAN died Tuesday 29 September,
 7:30 P.M. at Kansas, Missouri 1881
 Thomas Tyler ALLSMAN died 15 December 1881, Kansas City, Missouri.

Sarah died in 1881, two years before Bertha was born. Therefore, the women would not have known each other. The few events in the Bible took place in five different states. The challenge became finding out how the women were related.

SARAH ELIZABETH ADAMS

According to the Bible, Sarah Elizabeth Adams was born on 8 December 1847 in Clifton Springs, Ontario County, New York. Clifton Springs is a village midway between Manchester and Phelps, New York, in the western half of the state, southeast of Rochester. The 1850 U.S. census lists a blacksmith named Joseph Adams, age 23, living in Clifton Springs (enumerated as Manchester) with his wife Mary C., age 21, and their two children, Sarah E., age two, and Reuben, age six months.¹ Joseph was born in Maryland, the others in New York.

The 1855 New York state census shows Joseph Q. Adams, blacksmith, age 28, living in Manchester with his wife Amanda, age 20, daughter Sarah E., age seven, and daughter Mary A., age one.² A lucky discovery on Find A Grave shows a marriage certificate for Joseph Quincy Adams and Amanda Van Vorhees, both of Clifton Springs, who were married on 9 September 1852.³ Because Joseph remarried, it could be presumed that Mary and perhaps Reuben (who was not on the 1855 census) died sometime between the 1850 census and this second marriage for Joseph.

1. 1850 U.S. census, Ontario, New York, population schedule, Manchester, p. 318A, family 248, Sarah E Adams; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4202540_00088?; accessed 26 July 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm M432, roll 572.

2. 1855 State census, Ontario, New York, population schedule, Manchester, p. 25, family 209, line 2, Sarah E Adams; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7181/images/005207108_00362?; accessed 26 July 2020).

3. Find A Grave, database and images, (<https://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 26 July 2020), memorial 53285348, Pvt. Joseph Q. Adams.



The Find A Grave memorial showed that Joseph died in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee in 1863. In addition to the marriage certificate, there were images of two pages taken from a Civil War pension file. The papers state that Joseph, then living in Moweaqua, Shelby County, Illinois, enlisted as a private with Company E of the 115th Illinois volunteers, mustered out on 18 September 1862, and died of chronic diarrhea on 15 March 1863. Amanda, who married Andrew Allsman in 1866, was filing a claim for support of dependent children, specifically Mary A. Adams, born 8 September 1853, and Eddy H., born 27 July 1858. There is mention of a son named Joseph Q. who died in 1864, and Sarah E., who was “20 years of age.” The paper was dated 21 March 1868.

Name and date of birth of children.	born	who will be 10 years old	
Mary A	Sept 8 1853	Sept 7	1868
Eddy H	July 27 1858	July 25	1874
(Ultimate of Sarah E. - Joseph Q. - Adams) one child born of age on the other died in 1864.			

The Bible indicates that Sarah married Thomas Tyler Allsman on 18 April 1867 in Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. Moweaqua, the home of Amanda Allsman, is just a few miles south of Decatur. Though not relevant to the research question, it is interesting to note that Thomas and Andrew Allsman were brothers.⁴ Moweaqua is also the stated birthplace of Sarah’s son Joseph, commonly called Halley.⁵ The indirect evidence that ties our Sarah Elizabeth Adams to John Q. Adams and his first wife Mary includes records of proximity and family connections. By July of 1870, Sarah’s young family was living in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Illinois.⁶ Thomas was a “traveling agent.” In 1880, the family was living in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Thomas was still a traveling agent and 11-year-old son Halley was a “cash boy.”⁷ Both Thomas and Halley are listed in the 1880 and 1881 city directories for Kansas City.⁸ Neither appears in the 1882 city directory.

Allsman Halley, wks BULLENE, MOORES & EMERY, r. 411 Oak.
Allsman, Thomas T., coml. trav., r. 411 Oak.

Bullene, Moores & Emery was a dry goods store.

Sarah Elizabeth Adams Allsman died in September 1881 at the age of 30. This is noted in the Bible and corroborated by the “Missouri Birth and Death Records Database” which states she died of congestion.⁹ The Bible indicates that her husband, Thomas, died three months later on 15 December 1881, which would have left Halley an orphan at the age of 13. The only other record I found for Halley was a U.S. Passport Application that was completed on 16 October 1895.¹⁰ On it, Halley states that he left Kansas City on 22 October 1889. The application was issued in France and Halley’s destination was Retalhuleu, Guatemala.¹¹

In her short life, Sarah lost her mother, father, and two brothers. She died a long way from her family in Illinois. If the Bible belonged to her, it is hard to imagine how it found its way to Bertha, who was born 18 months after Sarah’s death.

4. Sarah’s stepmother became her sister-in-law.

5. Spelling of name on records differs from spelling on transcript.

6. 1870 U.S. census, Tippecanoe, Indiana, population schedule, Lafayette Ward 4, p. 162A, dwelling 680, family 706, Sara E. Alsman; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/7163/images/4263249_00327?; accessed 26 July 2020); citing NARA microfilm M593, roll 362.

7. 1880 U.S. census, Jackson, Missouri, population schedule, Kansas City, enumeration district (ED) 002, p. 49B, dwelling 154, family 247, Elizabeth Allsman; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4241893-00102?>; accessed 26 July 2020); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 692.

8. Hoye’s Kansas City Directory, digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2469/images/10613585?>; accessed 26 July 2020); entries for Allsman, Halley and Allsman, Thomas T., page 26. A cash boy was employed to carry money from the sales person to the cashier and return with the change (<https://www.wordnik.com/words/cash-boy>).

9. “Missouri Birth and Death Records Database, pre-1910,” database, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (<https://si.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/birthdeath/Detail.aspx?id=90640&type=Death>; accessed 26 July 2020), Allsman, Mrs.

10. “U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925,” database and images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1174/images/USM1834_11-1091?; accessed 26 July 2020); Joseph Halley Allsman; citing NARA, Washington D.C., Roll # 11, Volume 18, France to Guatemala.

11. Originally, I misread the town in Guatemala as Retalhulen. When I searched with that spelling, quite a few references were found, including reports of a new railroad line and several patent applications.

SARAH ELIZABETH ADAMS TIMELINE

Event	Location	Date	Source
Birth	Clifton Springs, Ontario, NY	8 December 1847	Bible transcript
Residence	Clifton Springs, NY	August 1850	US census
Second marriage of father	Clifton Springs, NY	9 September 1852	Marriage certificate
Residence	Manchester, Ontario, NY	June 1855	NY state census
Death of father		15 March 1863	Civil War pension file
Marriage to Thomas Tyler Allsman	Decatur, Macon County, IL	18 April 1867	Bible transcript; Illinois marriage index
Birth of son	Moweaqua, Shelby and Christian Counties, IL	14 October 1868	Bible transcript
Residence	Lafayette, Tippecanoe, IN	July 1870	US Census
Residence	Kansas City, Jackson, MO	June 1880	US Census
Death	Kansas City, MO	September 1881	Bible transcript; Missouri death records



The location of Moweaqua in Christian and Shelby Counties, Illinois. Wikipedia.

BERTHA LENORA ADAMS

Bertha Lenora Adams, the second woman listed in the Bible entries, was born 14 March 1883 in Moweaqua, Shelby County, Illinois. This is the same place that Sarah likely lived when her father died in 1863. Sarah was there when her son Halley was born in 1868, so we know Bertha and Sarah were from the same area. A Bible entry notes that Bertha married Clifford Clarence Barker on 15 March 1905 in Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. It does not give the name of her parents. A search of the 1900 U.S. census finds a Bertha Adams, born in March 1883 living in Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois.¹² The household includes Edward Adams, age 41 (born about 1859), a night watchman; his wife Caroline, 42; Bertha, 17; Orville, 14; Adelaide, 12; Walter, 9; and Eddy, 5. All were born in Illinois, and Edward's parents were born in New York. Edward and Caroline had been married for 19 years.

A search of Illinois marriage records finds Eddy H. Adams marrying Callie M. Radford in Christian County, Illinois, in 1882.¹³ Other records from their children give Caroline's maiden name as Radford, so it can be presumed that Caroline on the 1900 census and Callie are the same person and that the Edward on the census went by Eddy when he married.

The previously mentioned Moweaqua extends from Shelby County into Christian County. So, the location matches the residence of Sarah's stepmother and the two half-siblings who were named in the pension file, including Eddy H. who was born in 1858. Finally, the marriage index gives the names of Eddy's parents: Joseph Q. Adams, previously shown to be Sarah's father, and Amanda Van Vorhees.



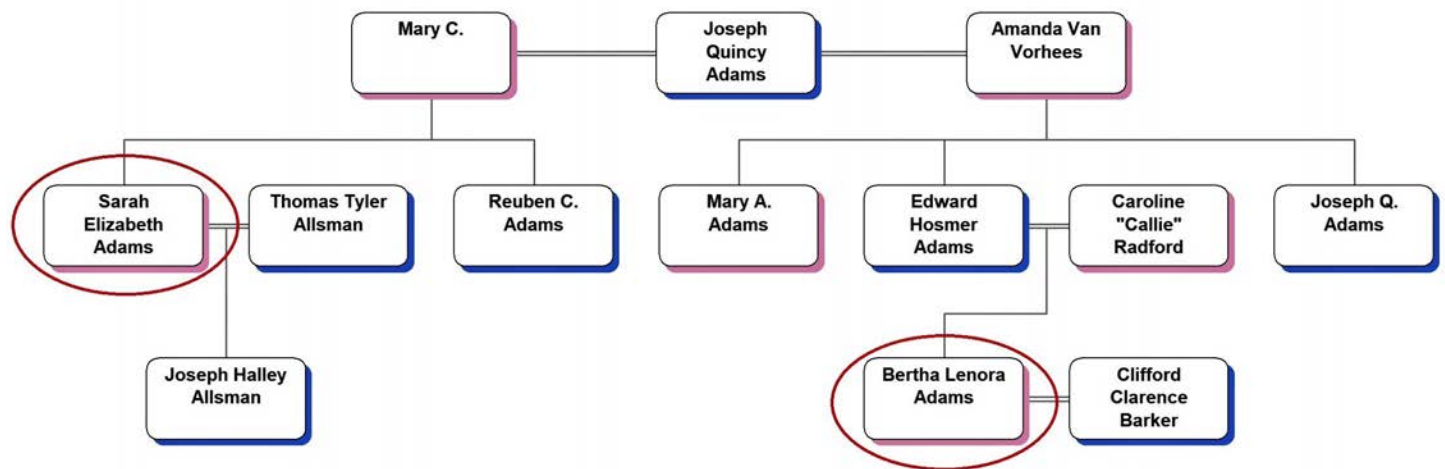
So now I have the answer to my question. Bertha was the daughter of Sarah's half-brother Eddy. After his marriage to Caroline, Eddy and Caroline remained in Moweaqua until after the birth of their last son, also named Eddy, in 1894. They were in Jacksonville in 1900. Edward died on 22 July 1902 and is buried in Decatur. After her husband's death, Caroline remained for some time in Illinois, where she was living with two of her children in 1910. She then followed her daughter Bertha to Oregon. She died there on 13 February 1915 and her obituary was printed in the Herald and Review (Decatur, Illinois).¹⁴

Bertha and Clifford Barker had three daughters, the first born in Oklahoma in 1907, the other two in Oregon. Clifford spent most of his career working for the railroad. Bertha died in 1967 and Clifford two years later in 1969.

It is likely the Bible came west with either Bertha or her mother. Somehow it ended up in a thrift store in Portland where it was found by a genealogist.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nanci Remington is the current editor of *The Bulletin* and works with the GFO manuscripts collection. She loves trying to solve the puzzles in the records she finds.



12. 1900 U.S. census, Morgan, Illinois, population schedule, Jacksonville Ward 2, ED 91, sheet 13, p. 13, dwelling 372, family 291, Bertha Adams; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4113790_01006? : accessed 26 July 2020); citing NARA microfilm T623.

13. "Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-Y89G-QQ?> : accessed 29 September 2020), 0986722 (004539322) > image 96 of 597; county offices, Illinois.

14. "Caroline Mary Adams Dies in Oregon Home," *Herald and Review*, 2 March 1915, p. 3, col. 6; digital images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 26 July 2020).

ELAINE (WITCRAFT) LIONBERGER

Elaine Lionberger, the donor of the Adams family Bible transcript, researched her family history before the days of computers and smartphones. The Lionberger Collection at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) contains handwritten and typed family group sheets, pedigree charts, and research notes.¹⁵ There is an abundance of correspondence, and Elaine kept copies of both her queries and the replies.

Elaine's daughter, Beverly Lionberger Hodgins, says her mother "created a multi-layered system of coding to organize ancestors and their descendants. Once we kids had grown and left the home, one bedroom became her genealogy office.

The walls were lined with shelves filled with research books and three-ring binders whose spines were carefully labeled to show which family name information each held. She also filled many file cabinets. This room is where she created her coding system and where she typed letters to mail around the world in search of answers about our ancestors." Beverly and her brother, Daniel, have continued Elaine's research. And both developed a love of writing about their ancestors, especially those who settled in Oregon.

Born Roberta Elaine Witcraft on 2 November 1924 in Falls City, Polk County, Oregon, she was the only child of Clyde Monroe Witcraft and Charity Idora Archerd. Her mother died shortly before Elaine's ninth birthday.



Fortunately, Elaine had several aunts who took turns as they could to give her a home when she was a child. She grew up in the state, moving frequently because of her father's job as a logger, sometimes living in logging camps with him. She overcame this sometimes rough upbringing. In 1945, when she was 20 years old, Elaine joined the Navy and served as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II. Her initial training took place at the Naval Training School, Hunter College, in New York City. After that, she was stationed in Balboa Park in San Diego. Following the war, she married Jerrold Dean Lionberger. Together they raised four children: Charity, Beverly, Cathy, and Daniel, in Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Oregon.¹⁶

Elaine joined the GFO in 1972 and remained a member until her death on 7 November 2001. Besides the Bible transcript, she contributed several pedigree charts that list the ancestors of herself and her husband. Surnames include Archerd, Hooton, Hovey, Moore, Lionberger, Stapleton, Thornton, and Witcraft, with some lines going back to the 1600s.¹⁷ Following her death, the family donated her personal papers and several boxes filled with her research books to the GFO.

Elaine was a valued member of the GFO. She personified someone curious about her own family history who also contributed to the research of others.

15. Elaine Lionberger Collection. Acc. 2012-10. Digital Manuscripts Collection, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland, OR.

16. "Roberta Elaine Lionberger", *The Bulletin*, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, March 2003, Volume 52, Number 3, page 94.

17. Member Ancestor Charts, L-76, Mrs. J. D. Lionberger. Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland, OR.

William Levett (1781–1855) and Jane Skinner (1786–1853) of Sevenoaks, Kent, England

Duane H. Funk

In genealogy the further back you go in time the harder and more complicated the search becomes. A typical example was the search for the ancestors of my great-great-grandmother Jane Levett who was born in 1822 and married Joseph Prosser in 1846. With the help of some more experienced researchers, locating her parents, William Levett and Jane Skinner, was fairly straightforward. Finding the next generation was much more involved. That search required combing through records in two English counties, in some cases line by line, only to find the answers right next door.

WILLIAM AND JANE (SKINNER) LEVETT

William Levett and Jane Skinner married on 21 Oct 1810 at the Saint Edmund’s parish church in Kingsdown with Mappiscombe, Kent, England.¹ They baptized three children at the Saint Nicholas Church in Sevenoaks, Kent, England—Eliza in 1816, Thomas in 1818, and Jane in 1822.²

The 1841 Census of England enumerated the family in Sevenoaks, William as Wm Levett and Jane with the surname “ditto.”³ Both were said to be born in Kent and 55 years old, giving an estimated birth year of 1781 to 1786. In the 1841 census, the ages of people over 15 years old were usually rounded down to the nearest five years.⁴



Historical counties of southern England. The Public Schools Historical Atlas by Charles Colbeck. Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection. University of Texas Libraries

City or Borough of		Parish or Township of		AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born	
PLACES	HOUSES	NAMES	of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	Males	Females		Where Born in some County	Year
Town		William Levett		55				
		Jane Levett		35				
		Jane Skinner		35				

1841 England census entries for Wm and Jane Levett.

Parish or Township of		Name of Person		AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born	
PLACES	HOUSES	NAMES	of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	Males	Females		Where Born in some County	Year
		William Levett		55				
		Jane Levett		35				
		Jane Skinner		35				

1851 England census entries for William and Jane Levett.

1. Society of Genealogists, compiler, *Ash, Kingsdown, Ridley, Seal Registers* (Manuscript, 1904), Kingsdown, p. 27.
2. “Bishop’s Transcript Sevenoaks,” (Kent Archives Office no.: DRB/RT2/330/1-10), baptismal entry for Eliza Levett, 28 January 1816, no. 200; baptismal entry for Thomas Levett, 16 August 1818, no. 550; baptismal entry for Jane Levett, 8 September 1822, no. 996.
3. 1841 England census, Kent, Sevenoaks, book 3, folio 16, p. 24, Wm Levett; digital image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8978/images/KENHO107_484_485-0627? : accessed 4 October 2020); citing The National Archives of the UK (TNA).
4. TNA, “How to look for records of ... Census Records” > “5. People in the census” (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/census-records/> : accessed 4 October 2020). The 1841 census age was rounded down to the nearest five years for those aged 15 or over.
5. 1851 England census, Kent, Sevenoaks, folio 258, p. 44, William Levett; digital image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8860/images/KENHO107_1613_1613-0501? : accessed 10 September 2020); citing TNA.

WILLIAM LEVETT'S BIRTHPLACE AND DATE

A page by page search of the Sevenoaks parish records found no baptism entry for a William Levett within a reasonable time frame on either side of 1782. Expanding the search to neighboring parishes turned up several William Levetts, including William the son of Edward and Mary Levett of the parish of Chiddingstone, Kent. This William was born 6 February 1781 and baptized 18 February.⁶ Chiddingstone is only six miles from Sevenoaks.⁷

Further scrutiny of the Chiddingstone records uncovered the marriage of William's parents, Edward Levett and Mary Glover.⁸ The couple went on to have seven children baptized in Chiddingstone, including daughter Sarah who later married John Simmons.⁹

While Edward and Mary are good candidates for the parents of William Levett of Sevenoaks, there were William Levetts in other parishes who could conceivably



Saint Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. Duane Funk, 2019.

be the correct ancestor. The breakthrough clue was the graveyard monument inscription for William's wife, Jane.

Jane (Skinner) Levett died 27 October 1853 in Sevenoaks and was buried in the Saint Nicholas churchyard.¹⁰ Her name and birth and death dates are inscribed on the same tombstone as a Thomas Glover who died in 1838. On the tombstone, she is identified as the wife of William Levett, 70 years old, which would give her a birth year of 1783.¹¹ Thomas Glover was born circa 1753, making him a good candidate to be a brother of Mary Glover, the mother of the William Levett of Chiddingstone.¹² Operating on the supposition that a man who could afford a tombstone may well have had a will, it made sense to check the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills held by the British National Archives. That turned up the will of Thomas Glover of Sevenoaks, dated 28 July 1829. He named his nephew, William Levett of Sevenoaks as his executor and made a bequest to niece Sarah Simmons of Chiddingstone.¹³ Clearly, the William Levett of Chiddingstone was the same William Levett of Sevenoaks.

JANE SKINNER'S BIRTHPLACE AND DATE

Having found William's parents, I turned to his wife Jane Skinner. FamilySearch and Ancestry both have indexes that include Sevenoaks parish in the late 18th century. No Jane Skinner appears. FindMyPast has images of the parish baptism and burial registers from 1783 to 1812. A page by page search from 1783 to 1789 found no Jane Skinner. The closest match was Mary Skinner, daughter of William and Hannah born 30 January 1787.¹⁴ She was likely the Mary Skinner who married Benjamin Filpot 28 November 1803 at Saint Nicholas parish Church in Sevenoaks.¹⁵

6. "Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," Family History Library (FHL), baptismal entry for William Levett, 18 February 1781; FHL microfilm 1,473,701.

7. "English Parish Maps," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/#search> : accessed 4 July 2020).

8. "Parish Registers for Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/362866?availability=Family%20History%20Library> : accessed 14 September 2020), entry for Levett, Edward and Glover, Mary, marriage, 29 May 1769, item 8, p.15, no.57; FHL microfilm 2,228,361.

9. "Parish Registers for Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," Sarah Levett entry, 25 June 1769. Also, Colonel F. Wall C.M.G., Compiler, *Chiddingstone: CM 1558-98, 1631-1836; banns 1755-1823* [Typescript.] (Typeset, 1940), p. 162.

10. "England, Kent, Parish Registers, 1538-1911," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJD2-FTMS> : accessed 14 September 2020) entry of Jane Levett, death, 1 November 1853, number 706. Also, Parish Church of Sevenoaks, (Kent, England), *Burials (Affidavits), 1727-1754. Burials, 1813-1887* (Salt Lake City: filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 2003), p. 79.

11. Colonel F. Wall, C.M.G., Compiler, *Sevenoaks Mis & plan of churchyard; list of rectors 1217-1929, list of vicars 1257-1750, list of chaplains 1309-1537/8* [Typescript.] (Typeset, 1937), p. 332.

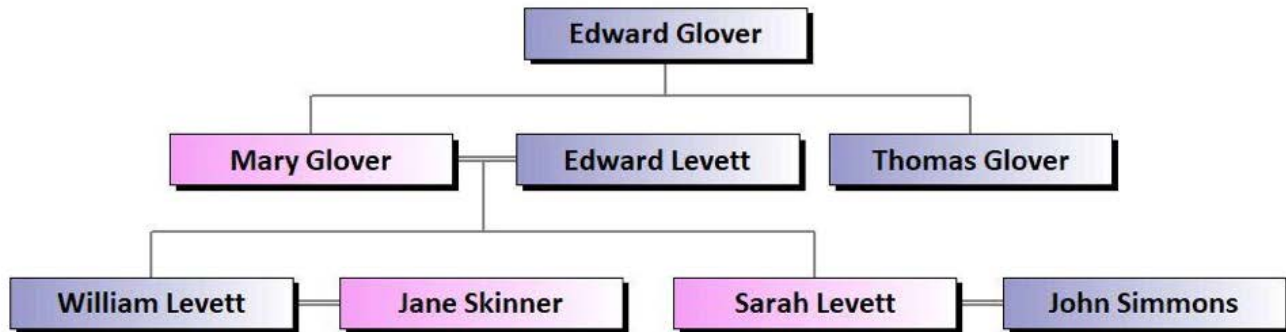
12. Ibid.

13. Thomas Glover, will, 28 July 1829; Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), Prob 11/1890/323; *TNA* (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D289640> : accessed 4 October 2020).

14. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), St Nicholas christenings, Sevenoaks, Kent, England, 1787; citing Kent History & Library Centre.

15. "Kent Marriages and Banns," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com> : accessed 10 June 2020), St Nicholas marriages, Sevenoaks Kent, England, 1803.

SELECTED FAMILY MEMBERS OF WILLIAM LEVETT



The only source to list Jane's birthplace as Sevenoaks was the 1851 census. As noted above, that same census recorded Jane's husband, William, also as being born in Sevenoaks when in fact he was from the neighboring parish of Chiddingstone.¹⁶ Clearly, the census could not be taken as gospel, and a wider search was necessary. Searches using the indexes on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch turned up no matches in Kent. Two possibilities appeared in the neighboring county of Sussex some twenty miles away. However, further research of the Sussex parish records eliminated them. Turning to FindMyPast, a search limited to a ten-mile radius around Sevenoaks found two possibilities: Jane Skinner daughter of William and Elizabeth christened 7 March 1784 in Hever,¹⁷ and Jane Skinner daughter of Thomas and Jane christened 4 December 1785 in Seal.¹⁸

Some parents use family names for their children. In this case, the given names of both possible sets of parents show up among the names of the children of William and Jane Levett; no help there. A check of Kent marriage records for a nuptial of a Jane Skinner within the likely time frame and inside of five miles of Hever turned up a marriage in the nearby parish of Leigh of a Jane Skinner to John Aynscomb on 11 May 1809.¹⁹ As a check, an Ancestry search for Jane Skinner married

in 1809 in Leigh found a family tree for a Jane Skinner married to John Aynscombe whose birthplace was Hever *circa* 1783; the cited source for birth date and place was the 1851 census.²⁰ That ruled her out as the Jane Skinner who married William Levett in 1810.

Another check of Kent marriage records, this time within five miles of Seal, found only one pertinent record, the marriage of Jane and William Levett in Kingsdown.²¹

The local geography also points to the Jane of Seal as the Jane of Sevenoaks. Seal is located adjacent to Sevenoaks parish, less than two miles away, roughly six miles closer than Hever, and Seal is between Sevenoaks and Kingsdown, with Kingsdown being less than two miles away.²²

The records of Seal turned up a marriage of Thomas Skinner and Jane Wells on 12 October 1779,²³ close in time to the baptism of their first child on 27 August 1780 in Seal.²⁴ Going back even further revealed a baptism of a Jane Wells, 31 December 1749 in Seal.²⁵ A baptism for Thomas Skinner has not yet been found.

A search of burial records within five miles of Seal located a Thomas Skinner of Seal buried in Sevenoaks, 20 April 1814, aged 64,²⁶ and Jane Skinner buried 15 June 1823 in Sevenoaks, aged 70,²⁷ an age that corresponds to the baptism date of Jane Wells. Seal had its own burial

16. 1851 England census, Kent, Sevenoaks, folio 258, p. 44, William Levett. Also, "Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," FHL, baptismal entry for William Levett, 18 February 1781.

17. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Skinner, 1784, image 8.

18. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Skinner, 1785.

19. "Kent Marriages and Banns," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Skinner to John Aynscomb, 1809.

20. "oakleydj," KEO's Jeffery Family, public member tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7179031/person/31130155/facts?> : accessed 4 October 2020), Jane Skinner.

21. "Kent Marriages and Banns," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane and William Levett, image 28.

22. "English Parish Maps," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/#search> : accessed 4 July 2020).

23. "Kent Marriages and Banns," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Thomas Skinner and Jane Wells, 1779, image 25.

24. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Elizabeth Skinner, 1780, image 5.

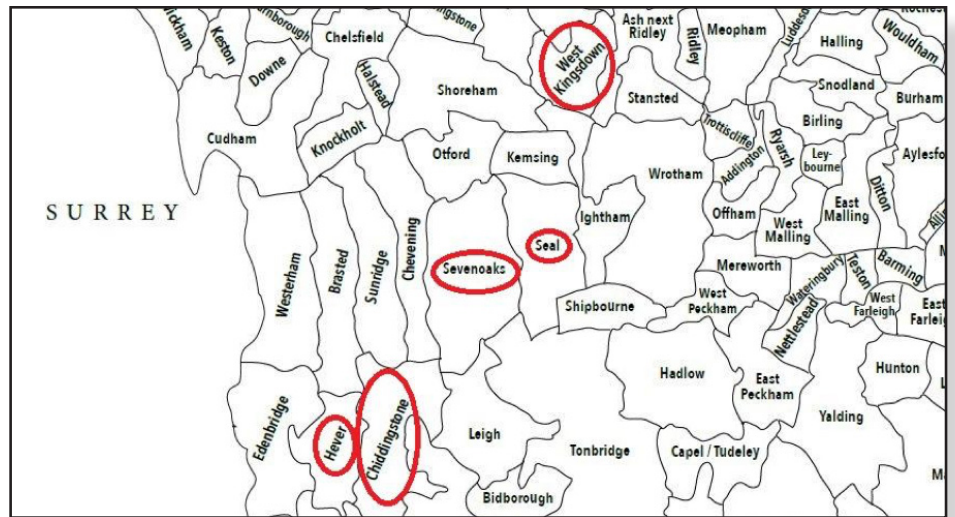
25. *Ibid.*, *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Wells, 1749, image 11.

26. "Kent Burials," *FindMyPast*, (<https://www.findmypast.com> : accessed 15 June 2020), Thomas Skinner, 1814, image 9; citing Kent History & Library Centre.

27. "Kent Burials," *FindMyPast*, (<https://www.findmypast.com> : accessed 15 June 2020), Jane Skinner, 1823.

ground and was conducting burials during this period, yet there is no record of the burial of Jane's parents in Seal. This leads to the conclusion they were buried in Sevenoaks.²⁸

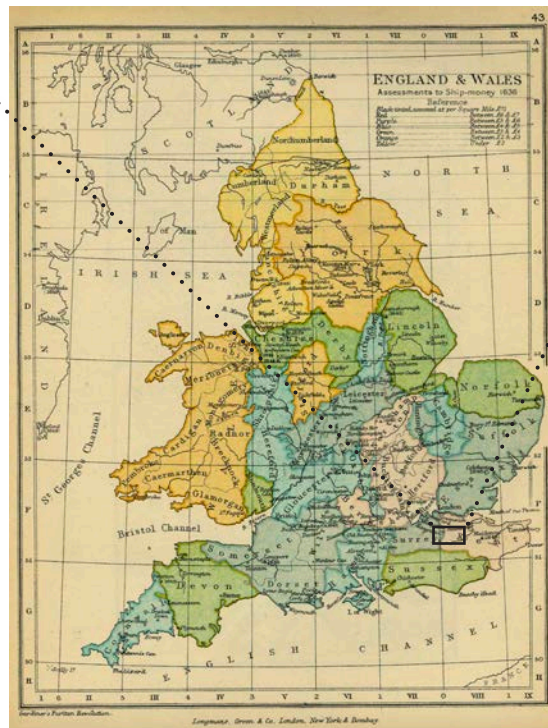
Jane Skinner of Seal is the only Jane Skinner baptized in close proximity to Sevenoaks and Kingsdown, in fact, the closest of any who could not be linked to a later marriage or death. That evidence, as well as the probable connection of her parents to Sevenoaks, makes her the hands-on favorite to be the Jane Skinner who married William Levett.



GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. **Jane LEVETT** was christened on 8 September 1822 in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.²⁹ She died on 5 January 1895 in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, U.K.,³⁰ and was buried on 9 January 1895 in the Southam Road Cemetery in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, U.K.³¹ She married Joseph Prosser on 28 December 1846, in Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent, England, U.K.³²

2. **William LEVETT** was born on 6 February 1781³³ and christened on 18 February 1781 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.³⁴ He died on 27 November 1855 at the age of 74 in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, U.K.³⁵ He was buried on 29 November 1855 in Saint Mary's Churchyard in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, U.K.³⁶ Jane SKINNER and William LEVETT were married on 21 October 1810 at Saint Edmunds Church in Kingsdown, Kent, England, U.K.³⁷



England & Wales, 1636, and Kent County parishes that are mentioned in the article.

28. Ibid.

29. "Bishop's Transcript Sevenoaks," baptismal entry for Jane Levett, 1822, p. 125, number 996.

30. Jane Prosser, certified copy of an Entry of Death, PAS 879759, 7 January 1895.

31. Banbury Council Office to Duane Funk, information from burial records, 7 October 2011.

32. Kent Studies Centre (Maidstone, Kent, England), marriages, p. 44, Joseph Prosser and Jane Levett, 28 December 1846; citing Minister-in-Sheppey Parish, Kent, P254/1/7-13.

33. "Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," entry for William Levett, 18 February 1781, FHL microfilm 1,473,701.

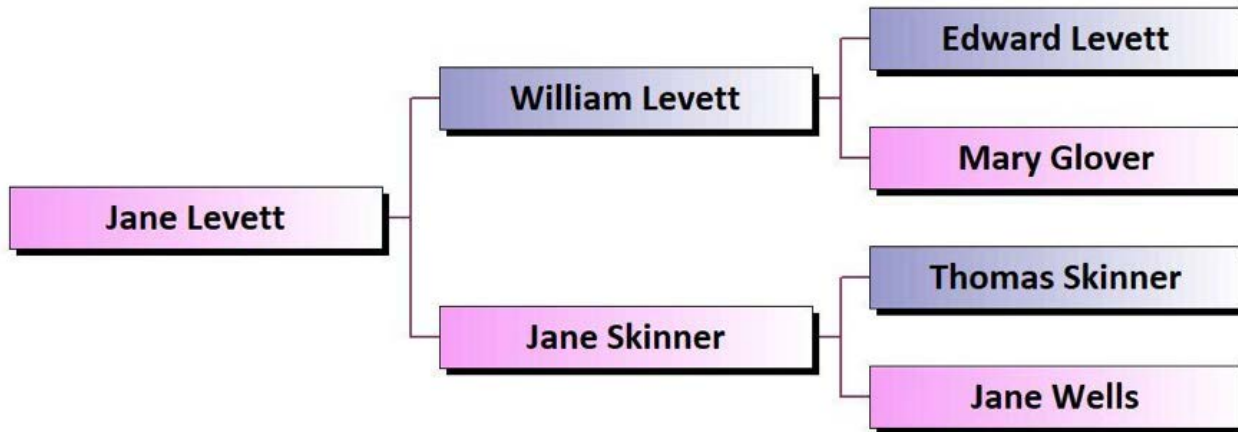
34. Wall, *Chiddingstone: CM 1558-98*, baptisms, p. 88. Also, "Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942," entry for William Levett, 18 February 1781. FHL microfilm 1,473,701.

35. William Levett, Entry of Death, nr 49, 27 November 1855.

36. Oxfordshire Family History Society (England), *Banbury Parish Registers*, "Burials 1839-1920," Fiche 1 of 4.

37. Society of Genealogists, *Ash, Kingsdown, Ridley, Seal Registers*, p. 27. Also, Sharee Walker to Duane H. Funk, email, 27 April 2002.

ANCESTORS OF JANE LEVETT PROSSER.



3. **Jane SKINNER** was christened on 4 December 1785 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.³⁸ Jane died on 27 October 1853 at the age of 65 in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.³⁹ She was buried on 7 November 1853 in Saint Nicholas Churchyard in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.⁴⁰

William LEVETT and Jane SKINNER had the following children:

- i. Thomas LEVETT was christened on 16 August 1818 in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.⁴¹ He was buried on 28 November 1819 in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.⁴²
- 1 ii. Jane LEVETT, see above.
- iii. Eliza LEVETT was christened on 28 January 1816 in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K. Her death was registered in the January Quarter of 1839 in Sevenoaks Registration District, Kent, England, U.K.⁴³

4. **Edward LEVETT** was born on 24 August 1738 and christened on 10 September 1738 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, UK.⁴⁴ He was buried on 15 Oct 1811 also in Chiddingstone, Kent, England. Mary and Edward were married on 29 May 1769 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁴⁵



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38. “Kent Baptisms,” *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Skinner, 1785, image 8.

39. Jane Levett, Entry of Death, ICO.

40. Parish Church of Sevenoaks, (Kent, England), *Burials (Affidavits), 1727-1754. Burials, 1813-1887*, p. 79. Also, Wall, *Sevenoaks Mis & plan of churchyard*, p. 332.

41. “Bishop’s Transcript Sevenoaks,” entry for Thomas Levett, 16 August 1818.

42. “Bishop’s Transcript Sevenoaks,” burial entry for Thomas Levett, 28 November 1819, number 406.

43. “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915,” digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8914/> : accessed 14 September 2020), Eliza Legett, 1839.

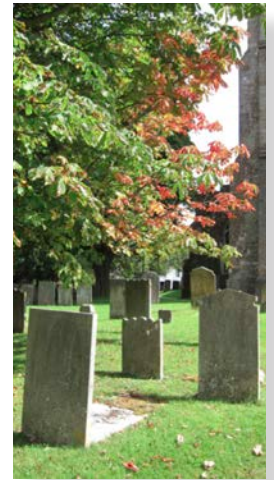
44. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for Edward Levett, 24 August 1738, FHL microfilm 2,228,361.

45. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for Edward Levett and Mary Glover, marriage, 29 May 1769, item 8, p. 15, no.57, FHL microfilm 2,228,361.

5. **Mary GLOVER** was christened on 13 July 1745 in Penshurst, Kent, England, U.K.⁴⁶ She was buried on 20 May 1788 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, UK.⁴⁷

Edward LEVETT and Mary GLOVER had the following children:

- i. Sarah LEVETT was born on 10 June 1769⁴⁸ and christened on 25 June 1769 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁴⁹ Her married name became Sarah Simmons on 1 March 1790.⁵⁰ Thomas GLOVER named her in his will of 28 July 1829.⁵¹
- ii. John LEVETT was born on 23 March 1771⁵² and christened on 7 April 1771 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁵³ He was buried on 29 December 1771 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁵⁴
- iii. Thomas LEVETT was born on 9 January 1773.⁵⁵ He was christened on 24 January 1773 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁵⁶ He was buried on 24 February 1805 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁵⁷
- iv. Elizabeth LEVETT was born on 10 January 1776.⁵⁸ She was christened on 4 February 1776 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁵⁹ She married Edward Carden in Chiddingstone on 19 April 1802.⁶⁰
- v. Richard LEVETT was born on 27 March 1778.⁶¹ He was christened on 12 April 1778 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁶² He was buried on 7 April 1816 in Leigh, Kent, England, U.K.⁶³
- 2 vi. William LEVETT, see above
- vii. Edward LEVETT was born on 17 December 1783.⁶⁴ He was christened on 18 January 1784 in Chiddingstone, Kent, England, U.K.⁶⁵



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46. “England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NYZF-V95> : accessed 14 September 2020), p 14. Also, *Parish registers for Penshurst, 1558-1901*; FHL microfilm 1,473,705, item 2.

47. Mary Levett, Burial, 20 May 1788.

48. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1671-1812,” Sarah Levett, born 25 June 1769; FHL microfilm 395,079, item 2.

49. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, p. 82. Also, “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1671-1812,” entry for Sarah Levett, 25 June 1769, FHL microfilm 395,079, item 2.

50. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for John Simmons and Sarah Levett, marriage, 1 March 1790, item 8, p. 46, no. 128; FHL microfilm 2,228,361.

51. Thomas Glover, will, Prob 11/1890, Image Reference 323.

52. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for John Levett, 7 April 1771.

53. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, p. 83.

54. John Levett, burial, 29 December 1771.

55. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for Thomas Levett, born 24 January 1773.

56. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, Thomas Levett, p. 83.

57. Thomas Levett, burial, 24 February 1805.

58. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” Elizabeth Levett, born 4 February 1776.

59. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, Elizabeth Levett, p. 85.

60. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” entry for Edward Carden and Elizabeth Levett, marriage, 19 April 1802, item 8, p. 63, no. 196. FHL microfilm 2,228,361.

61. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” Richard Levett, 12 April 1778.

62. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, Richard Levett, p. 86.

63. “England, Kent, Parish Registers, 1538-1911,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJD2-H2Q9> : accessed 4 October 2020), entry for Richard Levett.

64. “Parish Register of Chiddingstone, 1631-1942,” Edward Levett, 18 January 1784.

65. Wall, *Chiddingstone Reg*, Baptisms, Edward Levett, p. 90.

6. **Thomas SKINNER** was born in 1749.⁶⁶ He was buried on 20 April 1814 in Saint Nicholas Churchyard in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.⁶⁷ Jane WELLS and Thomas SKINNER were married on 12 October 1779 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.⁶⁸

7. **Jane WELLS** was christened on 31 December 1749 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.⁶⁹ Jane was buried on 15 June 1823 in Saint Nicholas Churchyard in Sevenoaks, Kent, England, U.K.⁷⁰

Thomas SKINNER and Jane WELLS had the following children:

- i. Elizabeth SKINNER was christened on 27 August 1780 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.⁷¹
- 3 ii. Jane SKINNER, see above.
- iii. William SKINNER was christened on 16 February 1783 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.⁷²
- iv. Thomas SKINNER was christened on 1 June 1788 in Seal, Kent, England, U.K.⁷³

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Duane H. Funk, a retired Naval Officer, has been researching his family genealogy since 1997. He has written several articles for both the *The Insider* and *The Bulletin* and has given presentations to genealogical groups throughout the Willamette Valley. A life member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, he is the current leader of the British Special Interest Group. An avid traveler, he has traveled around the U.S. and Europe, following up clues about his ancestors.



Jane Levett's Tombstone in St Nicholas Churchyard, Courtesy Duane Funk.

66. "Kent Burials," *FindMyPast*, (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Thomas Skinner, image 9.

67. *Ibid.*

68. "Kent Marriages and Banns," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Thomas Skinner and Jane Wells, 1779, image 25.

69. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Jane Wells, image 11.

70. *Ibid.*, image 44.

71. "Kent Baptisms," *Findmypast* (<https://www.findmypast.com>), Elizabeth Skinner, image 5.

72. *Ibid.*, William Skinner, image 7.

73. *Ibid.*, Thomas Skinner, image 9.

Book Review

Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond

Reviewed by Nanci Remington

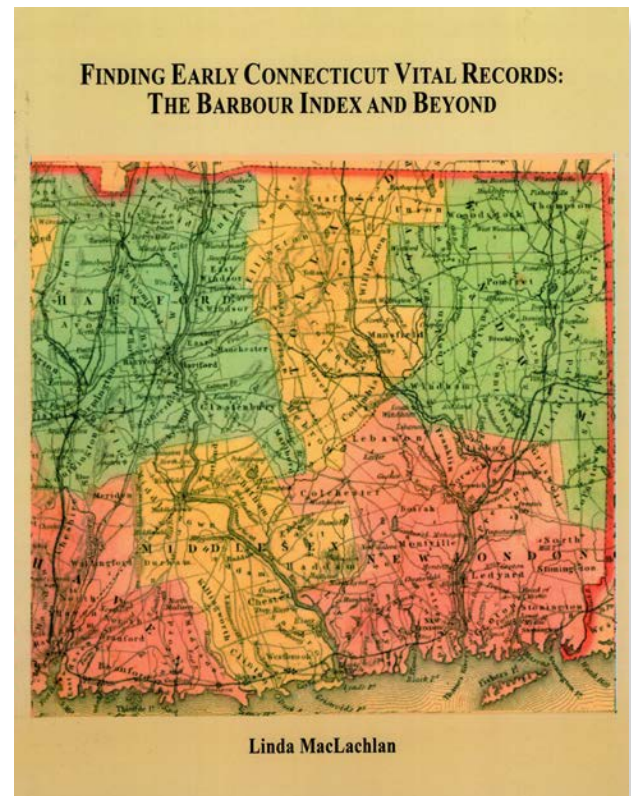
Author: Linda MacLachlan
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2019
 Pages: xvi + 346
 Price: \$49.95 plus shipping
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call No.: 977.46 .How-To VR MacL 2019

“Every genealogist’s search for pre-Civil War Connecticut vital records should begin with the Barbour Index.”

Thus begins the introduction to this recent book that not only gives the backstory to the Barbour Collection but also expands on the collection with new information and additional towns. For those who, like me, have heard of the Barbour Collection but never used it, *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records* explains how the index was compiled and different ways to access it.

According to the Connecticut State Library, “The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records is an index to and transcription of most towns’ vital (birth, marriage, death) records from the inception of the town to about the year 1850. There are two parts to the collection; a statewide surname index and a bound volume for each town.” This task was completed between 1922-1934 by Lucius B. Barbour who was the State Examiner of Public Records. He sent genealogists to Connecticut towns to abstract the vital records or collect abstractions already in existence. The index and the full set of books are available on microfilm and in print at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) library and online at American Ancestors (the website of the New England Historic Genealogical Society) which can be accessed with a GFO membership.

In this book, Linda MacLachlan began with the Barbour Index and added six more towns to include all 149 towns incorporated before 1850. The book is arranged alphabetically by town and does not include a name index. MacLachlan reviews the original documents used to compile the index for each town. In many cases, she adds sources that were not used by the compilers of the Barbour Collection. These might include records in private collections or volumes that were missed in



Barbour’s original survey. By creating a bibliography of the sources, the author creates a path for a researcher to verify the information in the Index and look for records that may be missing from the Index.

A search for records in Suffield, Connecticut, illustrates the usefulness of the book. First, MacLachlan quotes a disclaimer that was included in Barbour’s original volume but not in later editions. It notes that the entries for Suffield were copied from three books located at the town clerk’s office and that “these copies have not been compared with the original and doubtless errors exist.” Following that are three headings with a list of sources: Vital Records, Church Records, and Cemetery Transcriptions. Under Vital Records, MacLachlan gives complete citations to the books used to create the Barbour Index and gives four additional sources. There are five sources added under Church Records and four under Cemetery Transcriptions. Knowing that there could be errors and omissions in the published indexes opens new doors for researchers.

Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records is sure to become a vital resource for those with Connecticut ancestors. It highlights the amazing undertaking and thoroughness of the original Barbour Collection and increases its usefulness by reminding researchers of the need to return to the original sources. It is a welcome addition to Connecticut reference books.

Book Review

The Eastons: Five Generations of Human Rights Activism 1748–1935

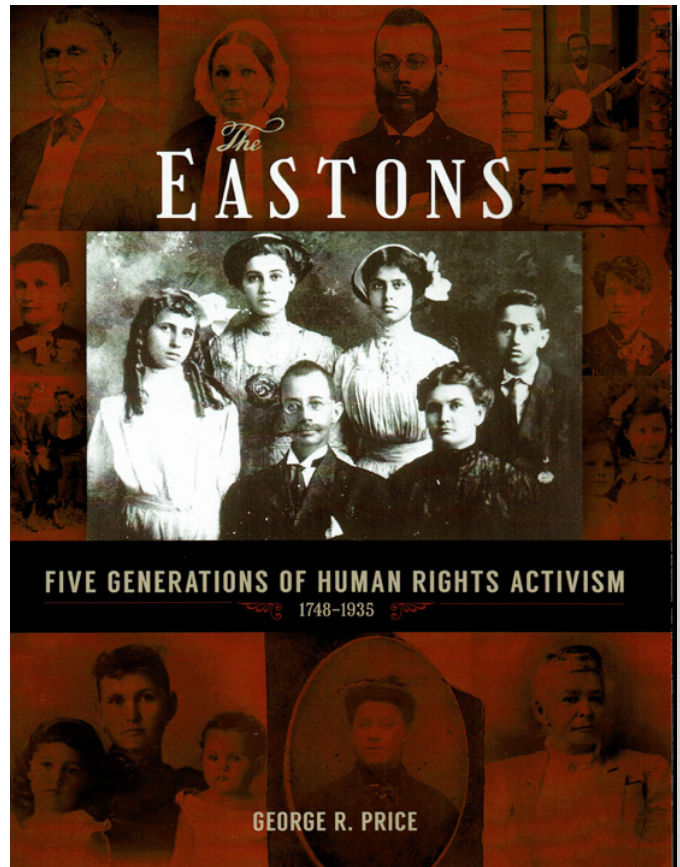
Reviewed by Margaret McCrea

Author: George R. Price
Publisher: Self-Published
Publication Date: 2020
Pages: 254
Price: \$24 plus shipping
Order From: george.price@mso.umt.edu
GFO call number: TBD

George R. Price is a history professor who retired after thirty-five years of teaching at the University of Montana. This book is an expansion of his Ph.D. dissertation.¹ While researching my own family, the descendants of Samuel and Elizabeth Packard, I came across Dr. Price's dissertation and relied on it considerably for my own research. I found it so useful that I printed it, put it in a three-ring binder, and marked it up with a yellow highlighter, pencil markings, comments, check-marks, circled text, post-it notes, and even exclamation points. It was so useful that I took it with me on one of my trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and used it as a springboard for deeper research.

During the 2020 coronavirus shutdown, I tried to locate Dr. Price to tell him that I appreciated his work and to see if he would be willing to point the way for me to continue down some of my research paths. I Googled his name, found him through the University of Montana, sent him an email, and waited. I got an immediate and warm response and learned that his dissertation was being published as a book that very week. I ordered a copy for myself, one each for my two sisters, and one to donate to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

The Eastons: Five Generations of Human Rights Activism describes a remarkable family.² Their history is part of New England's tangled involvement with slavery and racism. The surname of the family comes from their slaveholders, the Quaker Eastons, who were among the founders and early administrators of what was to become the state of Rhode Island. The first of the lineage who is the subject of this book is James Easton (1754–1830),



a manumitted slave of the Easton family. He was the father of Caesar Easton, who was the father of James Easton, the father of Caleb Easton, who my relative Chloe (Packard) Easton married. The Eastons were not only of African descent but also of Wampanoag Native American descent. The picture that emerges is that of a small community of mixed-race families who lived and worked together, but whose members with African/Native American ancestry had to constantly confront the imposition of bounds, injustices, obligations, and inequalities. That heritage of resistance is the focus of the book.

From the time they were freed, the Eastons went to court, engaged in protest, organized schools, founded newspapers and abolitionist organizations, traveled the lecture circuit, and even wrote plays in favor of the equality and justice that their ancestors fought for in the Revolutionary War and to which they were entitled. They were capable and educated people with successful businesses and active professions including the ministry and publishing. It is a powerful story, one that will leave the reader rather breathless.

1. Price, George R., "The Easton family of southeast Massachusetts: The dynamics surrounding five generations of human rights activism 1753-1935" (2006) *Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers*, 9598. [ScholarWorks](#), University of Montana.

2. Price. *The Eastons: Five Generations of Human Rights Activism, 1748-1935*, author notes. [Learning Earthways](#).

The book adds interest to my own family connections. One of Chloe Packard's brothers-in-law was Robert Roberts, a man of some substance. He had married Caleb Easton's sister Sarah. The book tells the story of his son, and Chloe and Caleb's nephew, Benjamin Franklin Roberts, who sued the city of Boston to allow his five-year-old daughter Sarah to attend a nearby elementary school rather than travel across town to attend a segregated school. That case went to the state Supreme Court where Judge Lemuel Shaw first promulgated the doctrine of "separate but equal" in 1849. Not giving up, Benjamin Roberts organized, petitioned, and continued his advocacy until the state of Massachusetts, in 1855, became the first state to

explicitly abolish segregated schools. It was not an easy task and not without controversy. One of the debates of the era was among Black Americans as to whether they wanted their children to attend schools with White children or whether they would rather go to schools where they were welcome. It is an ongoing debate in our national discourse.

This book continues the research of this family and its amazing dedication to human rights right down to the author's mother in 1935. It would be fair to say that through the massive research and twenty years of writing, Dr. Price has continued the family legacy of activism by keeping the story of this family alive. He has not let this family be forgotten.

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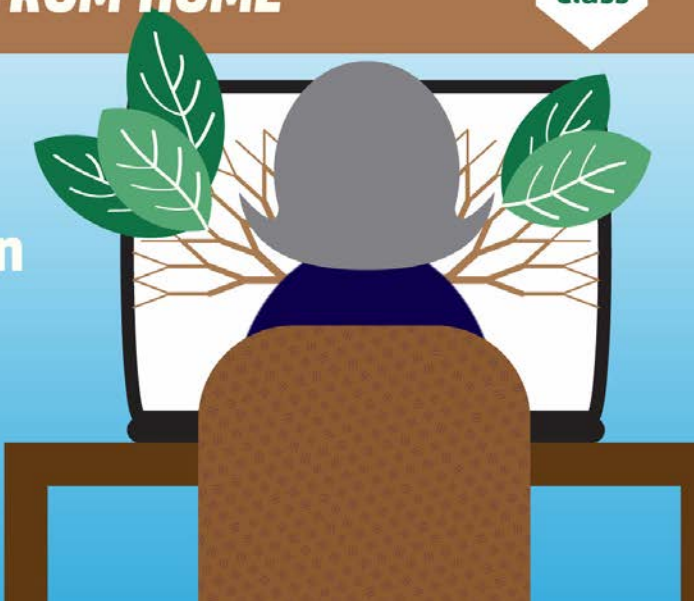
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Book Review

“Stiles himself a Prize Fighter” New-York Runaways, 1706-1768

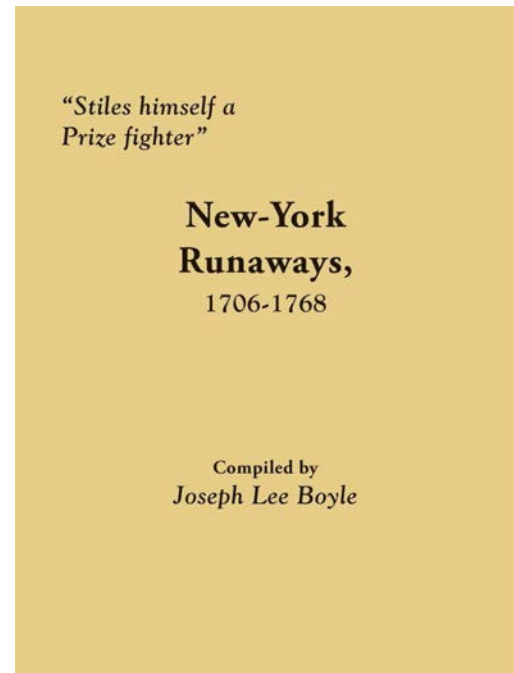
Reviewed by Shannon Moon Leonetti

Compiled By: Joseph Lee Boyle
Publisher: Clearfield Company
Publishing Date: 2020
Pages: 398
Price: \$47.50 plus shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: TBD

N*ew-York Runaways, 1706-1768*, compiled by Joseph Lee Boyle, is another in his series of want ads posted during the years prior to the Revolutionary War and drawn from newspapers from Massachusetts to New York and Pennsylvania. The majority of the individuals are runaway servants and slaves. Others are apprentices, military deserters, horse thieves, rapists, and other lowlifes. More difficult to get back were women and other persons with multiple names and skills that enabled them to find work along their escape route. It is a fascinating read regardless of whether you are researching your family, New York history, or writing a novel.

Boyle accumulated about 1500 ads for missing slaves and runaways and referenced over 3000 persons with a New York connection. He acknowledged that it was possible there were many more runaways, but it would be impossible to know just how many. They moved from state to state, changed their names, or found shelter with family or people who willingly helped people escaping bonds. Complicating a more accurate count was that not all states were publishing newspapers as early as 1706. For example, New York's first newspaper started publishing in 1726. Many owners did not want to pay for the ads, so instead printed up handbills posting rewards. Skilled laborers were most valuable and came with the highest bounties. Others who posted ads were especially eager to get back stolen tools or horses. Both were worth more than the runaways and more difficult to replace.

The text of the ads reminds the reader that the subjects of the ads are not commodities but human beings. The personal characteristics, glimpses of motivation, and financial worth are the social and economic fabric of the time and era.



There are scandalous stories such as that of the “runaway Negro Robin who is supposed to have gone off with a likely young White Girl, by whom it is reported she is with Child and Tis thought she will protect him under the Character of being her Servant.” One of the women Boyle highlights is a fifteen-year-old “Indian Servant Wench” named Kate who had runaway before and had an iron collar about her neck. Her master said that in “all Probability will equip herself in Men’s cloths and inlist for a Soldier as she did once before.”

A Welsh man named Francis Jones was six feet three inches (very tall for the era) and “by trade a Tanner, and Stiles himself a Prize fighter.” One man was “much given to swearing and drinking.” When he got drunk, he was “a talkative, searing, rude and quarrelsome Fellow.” There are ads from men whose spouses have “eloped” but no women advertising for the return of their husbands.

Like all of Boyle’s books, *New-York Runaways* is accessible by any user, from the beginner searching for family ties to the novelist or historian writing about early 18th-century history. The most experienced genealogist will not find it too elementary or trivial but a great, useful tool. The book is organized by year and easy to use. Boyle lists the newspapers that were used and a name index at the back of the book.

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. He has several books available at the library of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

Book Review

Saving the Oregon Trail: Ezra Meeker's Last Grand Quest

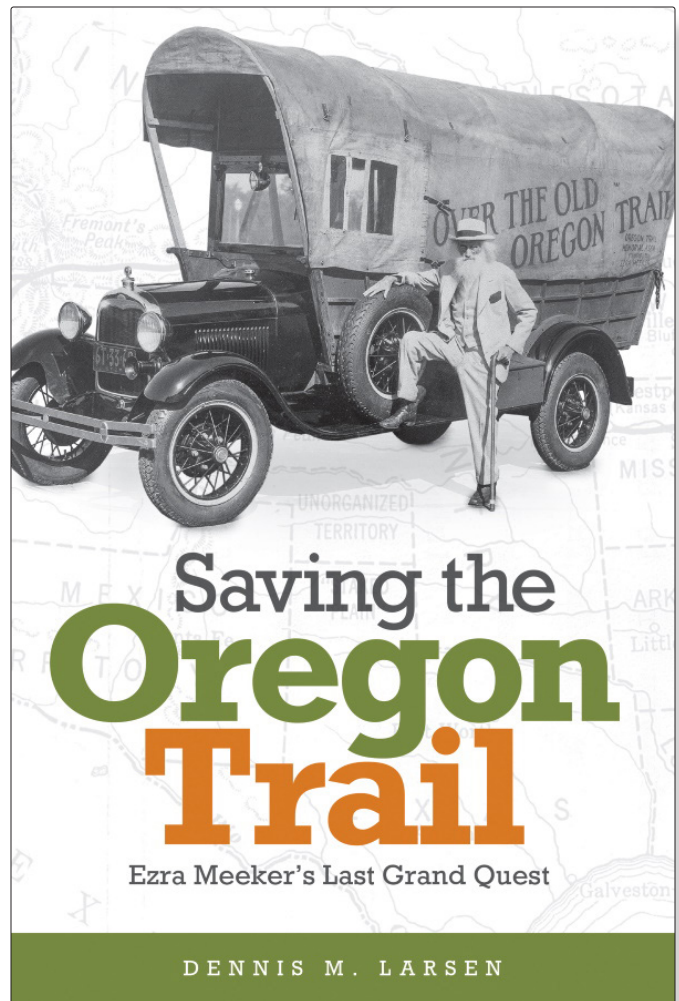
Reviewed by Debra Koehler

Author: Dennis M. Larsen
 Publisher: Washington State University Press
 Publication date: April 2020
 Pages: 223 (plus notes and index)
 Price: \$28.95 (paperback)
 Order From: www.wsupress.wsu.edu
 GFO Call Number: TBD

S*aving the Oregon Trail: Ezra Meeker's Last Grand Quest* is the fourth and final book in Dennis M. Larsen's tetralogy on the life of Ezra Meeker. He was a pioneer who first arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 1852. Meeker would go on to become a hop farmer, merchant, author, political lobbyist, and filmmaker. He was a tireless advocate for the commemoration and preservation of the Oregon Trail. Genealogists owe Ezra Meeker a debt of gratitude. Without his maps and markers, books, letters, papers, and films, the exact path of the Trail could have vanished, and along with it, the stories of many of those like Meeker who traveled it.

Saving the Oregon Trail picks up Meeker's story in April 1901, when Meeker, then 70 years of age, returned to Washington State after several years in the Klondike during the Yukon Gold Rush. It concludes with Meeker's death in December 1928 at the age of 97. The pages between detail in near-chronological order Meeker's many trips crisscrossing the nation—first by ox-drawn wagon and later in an automobile designed to look like a covered wagon—to map and mark the Oregon Trail and to lobby for its preservation.

Like Meeker, the book attempts to cover a lot of ground quickly, and so it reads more like a well-written research report than it does a biography (in the style of David McCollough or Douglas Brinkley). This results in short, crisp chapters that need not be read in one sitting. The book is also thoroughly sourced with nearly twenty-nine pages of endnote citations. Many of them reference Meeker's own writings, such as letters between Meeker and his wife, children, lawyers, publishers, collaborators, creditors, business associates, and politicians. The genealogist will find it easy work to track down Larsen's sources. However, this is not to say the book is a dry read. Larsen masterfully weaves together



his statements-of-fact into a compelling portrait of the elder Ezra Meeker. Readers will come to know a man who was an unwavering believer in his own vision and who was undaunted by bankruptcy, debts, weather, derision, adversaries, discomfort, impracticality, poor health, a sick ox, loneliness, the word “no,” or his advanced age. In other words, a true pioneer.

Another strength of the book is its photographs. While not a picture book, the text is supported by nearly three dozen photos, maps, and illustrations. Many of these depict Meeker himself; a wiry old man with matching shocks of white hair and beard who might pass for a skinny Santa if not for his penetrating gaze. In 1910, the camera captured Meeker and his ox-drawn wagon at an air show in California. In 1911, he and his oxen appeared at the Alamo. In 1924, he shook hands with President Calvin Coolidge. In another photo from 1926, he is seen hawking commemorative coins out of the back of a covered wagon to raise money for the Oregon Trail Memorial Association (an organization Meeker founded). To his dying day, Ezra Meeker was a man on the move, and the book does an excellent job of capturing in words and photos the unrelenting pace of his daily life.

Where *Saving the Oregon Trail* falls short is that the reader is left craving more. The book, while thorough, can only hint at Meeker's exploits. The three chapters on his Pathfinder Expedition, in which he traveled in a motor car designed to look like a covered wagon, cover just twenty-nine pages. That story alone could fill its own book. *Saving the Oregon Trail* might best be approached as an engaging finding aid in narrative form to stories about Meeker that warrant further reading, including the many books written by Meeker himself. If that was the author's purpose, the book succeeds brilliantly.

Dennis M. Larsen is a retired history teacher living in Olympia, Washington. His other books include:

- *The Missing Chapters: The Untold Story of Ezra Meeker's Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition*
- *Our Faces are Westward: The 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward Jay Allen**

- *Hop King: Ezra Meeker's Boom Years*
- *Slick as a Mitten: Ezra Meeker's Klondike Enterprise*

Selected titles by Ezra Meeker:

- *Stories of the Lost Oregon Trail**
- *Ox Team Days on the Oregon Trail**
- *The Ox Team (also the Old Oregon Trail)**
- *Story of the Lost Trail to Oregon**
- *Personal Experiences on the Oregon Trail Sixty Years Ago*
- *The Busy Life of Eighty-Five Years of Ezra Meeker*
- *Ventures and Adventures of Ezra Meeker*
- *Puget Sound Pioneers*

*These books are available at the GFO Library



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In Memoriam

Mollie (McCaleb) Currie

(1928–2020)

Mollie Currie, a former member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO), died on 7 August 2020 at the home of her daughter Anne Verhoeven in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Mollie was 92 years old.

Mollie Ann McCaleb was born on 18 June 1928 in Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. Her parents were Lorenzo and Myrtle (Fairley) McCaleb. After her marriage to Barton Currie in 1950, the family moved around the country but eventually settled in Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, Oregon. Mollie worked at United Sales Associates until she was 70. She was an avid hiker who backpacked almost every summer from 1968 to 2009. She was appointed by three Oregon governors to serve on the Recreation Trails Advisory Council. Mollie was involved with the Girl Scouts for many years where she was the organizer of a day camp.

Mollie and her daughter Anne joined the GFO in 1980 and shared a love for genealogy. According to Anne:

Mom started her genealogy search back in the days of no computers or digital files. She interviewed relatives, photocopied whatever papers they had, wrote letters, contacted places to get copies of birth and death records, went to libraries, cemeteries, and of course, when she found out about it, the GFO. We joined when the library was at the Scottish temple. She didn't like to drive downtown. So, I went along, and she got me hooked. Eventually, she went back to work and I had kids, so genealogy took a back seat, but we shared whatever we had time to do.



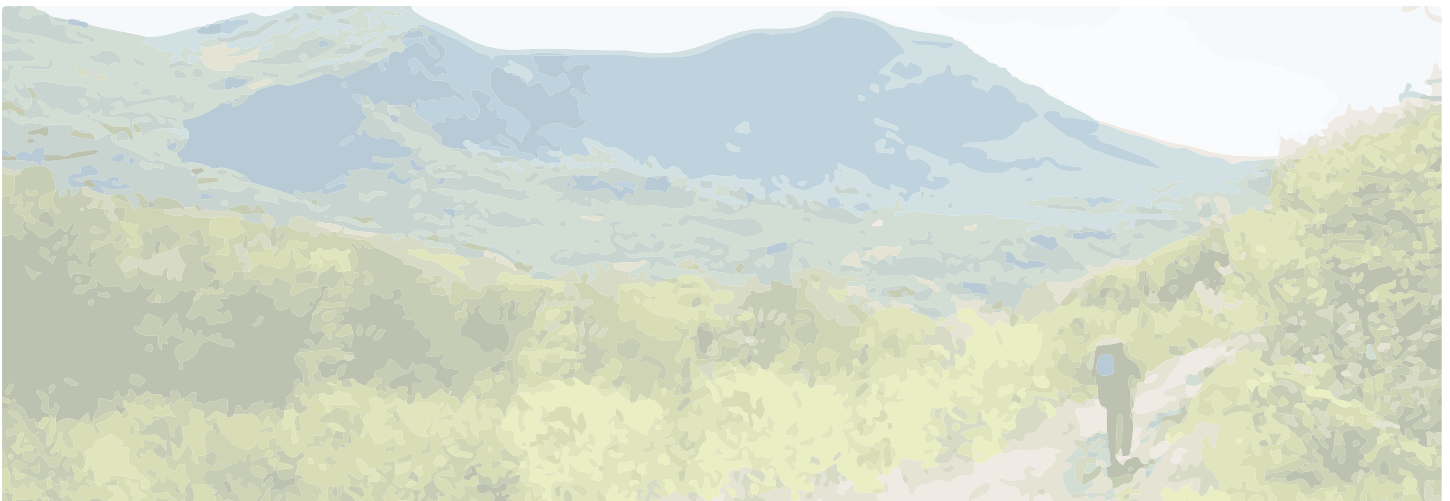
Mom never got into computers, but I did and would print out everything I could find. She got so excited and thought it was almost a miracle that I could get information from all over the world. When mom moved to my house this past April, she would read and reread genealogy books. Because of her dementia, every day they were new and fascinating.

We did take one major genealogy adventure together. For her birthday about eight years ago, we went to Salt Lake City and spent an amazing week at the library. It was so much fun. We did nothing but eat, sleep, and research.

I do miss her, but she was 92, had a full life and was ready to go. Each night in her last few weeks she would have conversations in her sleep with her mom, sisters, my dad, and old friends. She told me that they wanted her to come to them. We laughed that she needed to find a way to let me know if we had gone up a wrong tree when she got to see all those people from the past.

When I find a new tidbit about one of our lines, I want to be able to share it with her. When it is safe to travel again, my husband and I are going to take a road trip and spread a little of her ashes in places that were important to her. She will be in my heart forever.

Mollie was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Barton, who died in 1993; and her sisters Doris McCaleb and Laura McGee. She is remembered and loved by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



In Memoriam

Barbara Jane (Cole) Fazzolari (1931–2020)

Former member Barbara June (Cole) Fazzolari passed away on 19 August 2020 at the age of 89. Barbara first joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1966. Several members recall her passion for research and friendly conversations at the library and special events. Barbara spent many years studying the history of both her and her husband's families.

Barbara was born on 10 June 1931 in the small town of Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon. Her parents were Herbert E. and Velma (Fell) Cole. She had five sisters and one brother who all preceded her in death. Barbara married Nicodemo "Nick" Fazzolari on 18 June 1949. They were together for 65 years until his death in 2015. They raised their three children in Multnomah, a small community in southwest Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

Family and friends were most important to Barbara. She was an excellent cook and her door was always open to anybody looking for a great meal. Pets were also very important. The family was especially fond of "Doxies" and raised many over the years.

Besides her parents, siblings, and husband, Barbara was preceded in death by her son David who died in 1996. She is survived by a son and daughter; one granddaughter; two great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and many friends.



2019–2020 Annual Report of Donors

You make our hearts glad. In a year like none other in living history, you have helped the GFO remain viable. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to keep us apart, but with your support, we have been able to provide our services in all new ways. Your donations of books and research papers are available now through Lookup Services for members, and once it is safe to reopen, they will be at your fingertips. In the meantime, your financial gifts help us to safely preserve our heritage and to make the many unbudgeted modifications that will be necessary to make the library a safe place to research and meet.

From the entire GFO Board, we are deeply grateful.

Vince Patton, President

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Tue Dec 1	10:00 am	ONLINE Italian Group	Thur Dec 10	6:00 pm	ONLINE Q Review
Wed Dec 2	10:00 am	ONLINE Learn & Chat	Sat Dec 12	9:30 am	ONLINE Writers Forum
	1:00 pm	ONLINE DNA Q & A: The Basics	Wed Dec 16	10:00 am	ONLINE Learn & Chat
Thu Dec 3	1:00 pm	ONLINE GFO Access to Resources	Sat Dec 19	9:30 am	ONLINE Genealogy Problem Solvers
	7:00 pm	ONLINE GFO Access to Resources		12:00 pm	ONLINE African American Ancestry
Sat Dec 5	10:00 am	ONLINE Virginia Group	Sun Dec 20	3:30pm	ONLINE French Canada Group
	1:00 pm	ONLINE German Group			
Tue Dec 8	6:10 pm	ONLINE Board Meeting			

The GFO Library remains closed.
All SIGS, classes, seminars, and workshops are online!
Please verify at <https://gfo.org/calendar>