



# The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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## German Churches for the Ancestors of Grandma Minnie Elizabeth (Facks) Grafe



by Mark Grafe

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

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

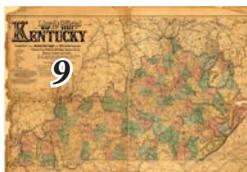
The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to *The Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

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

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

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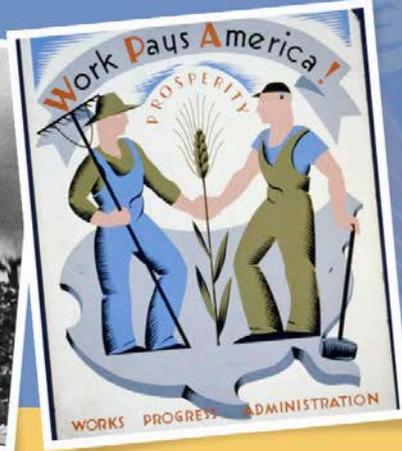
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Cover images of Minnie Elizabeth (Facks) Grafe and family courtesy of Mark Grafe.

GFO General Meeting ▲ March 9 ▲ 2 p.m. PT

followed at 2:15 p.m. by

# THE NEW DEAL PROGRAMS OF THE 1930S



Presented by Katherine Willson

● FREE REGISTRATION: [GFO.ORG/GENTALK](https://www.gfo.org/gentalk) ●



Saturday, March 23, 2024  
at 10:00 a.m. (Pacific)

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< 1 / 1 >

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

# Open House



*March 16–24*

*Free Classes*

*Schedule on page 45*



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# Letter from an Editor

*“According to a Sioux elder, it is said, the meaning of life is to address everything that we encounter with a song.”*

—Carlo Rovelli

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY

Well, even my dog tells me not to sing, so I am trying to address things by writing. I am pleased that Harold Hinds has contributed an essay related to his wife’s family. Harold shares some outstanding knowledge of available resources, though he longs to sift through archival records. At first, my concern was that his article would include a disturbing song about war in Kentucky during the early 1820s.

The GFO’s Historic Columbian Cemetery Project led to Laurel Smith’s latest genealogical adventure. It reminded me of a friend saying, “Mark, read all the words!”

Margaret McCrea submitted an informative article on the 1740 distemper epidemic in Massachusetts. She wondered about revising her work. I should tell her that a copy editor kicked my first submission back eleven times!

Nanci Remington shares images and a memoir from the GFO’s Manuscripts collection that provide a nice snapshot of two people who married in Oregon in the early 1900s.

Courtney Clements enjoyed working on a World War I diary. The document transcription follows her article, which describes how she determined who wrote the diary.

And I have been trying to honor my paternal grandmother, who died when I was 23 years old. Photos taken by my mother prompt most of my memories of her. The collage on the cover and my “German Churches for the Ancestors of Grandma Minnie” articles illustrate a song for her. It feels good to have discovered her ancestors, and with that in mind, my wife and I were able to follow up on my parents’ vacation plans.

When my father was in his 80s, he went back to school to brush up on the German language before a planned trip. However, Dad’s cardiologist said not to go. I do not know where in Germany my parents were planning to visit. When he was in Germany at the end of World War II, he was in Rüsselsheim. My sister did not think he would have wanted to go back there. The obituary for Dad’s paternal great-grandfather, Charles Grafe, stated he was from Saxony, Germany, so I doubt Dad had a specific location in mind for Grafe ancestors. His other paternal great-grandparents were Swiss; maybe Switzerland was part of a tour.



*Christmas market in Hanover, Germany, 2023. Image by the author.*

My father lived with his maternal grandparents as a teenager and may have known they were from the Freiburg (Elbe) area west of Hamburg, Germany. Freiburg was the location my great-grandfather and second great-grandfather named for documentation on ship manifests. My great-grandpa’s sister had an address in Isensee, so my ancestors came from Freiburg (Elbe) in northern Germany and not the larger Freiburg im Breisgau in southern Germany. Since my father was an Episcopalian minister, he would have attended church on a Sunday in Germany. Maybe he planned to visit St. Wulphardi Church in Freiburg, Niedersachsen, Germany.

People at a German genealogical society and at Germany’s state archives in Stade helped me locate ancestors in records. My great-grandparents civil marriage record, recorded in Oederquart, gave the full names of second great-grandparents and more locations. After seeing that record, I knew where I wanted to go in Germany.

My wife and I quickly visited Germany just before Christmas in 2023. We spent two nights in Oederquart, had a lovely tour of the St. Petri Church in Osten, visited Freiburg, Hamelwörden, a Christmas market in Hanover, and delivered two small boxes of chocolates to those who helped with my genealogical research. We got soaking wet, but it stayed above freezing. I compare my wife’s comment about feeling good to be home with feeling good about Germany being home to my ancestors. I wonder what Grandma Minnie knew of her parents’ homeland.

—Mark Grafe

# German Churches for the Ancestors of Grandma Minnie Elizabeth (Facks) Grafe (1891–1975), Part 1

Mark Grafe

**M**y Grandma Minnie grew up in a German-speaking household. Her immigrant parents attended German language services in the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa. German church records hold the names of Grandma Minnie's ancestors. My goal was to match photographs of their churches with their genealogical data.

Ship manifests and probate documents provided three locations in Germany: (1) Freiburg, Hanover; (2) Hollerdeich, Hanover; and (3) 101 Kranenweide, Isensee, Hanover. As I wrote up my ancestors' data in the format recommended by Curran, Crane, and Wray's *Numbering Your Genealogy*, my project evolved from research to travel plans. What specific locations would I want to visit?

After Minnie's death in 1975, my parents flew back to Iowa. My mother interviewed family, collected artifacts, and recorded genealogy. A doctor would cancel their travel plans to Germany. Did my father know where his ancestors lived in Germany?

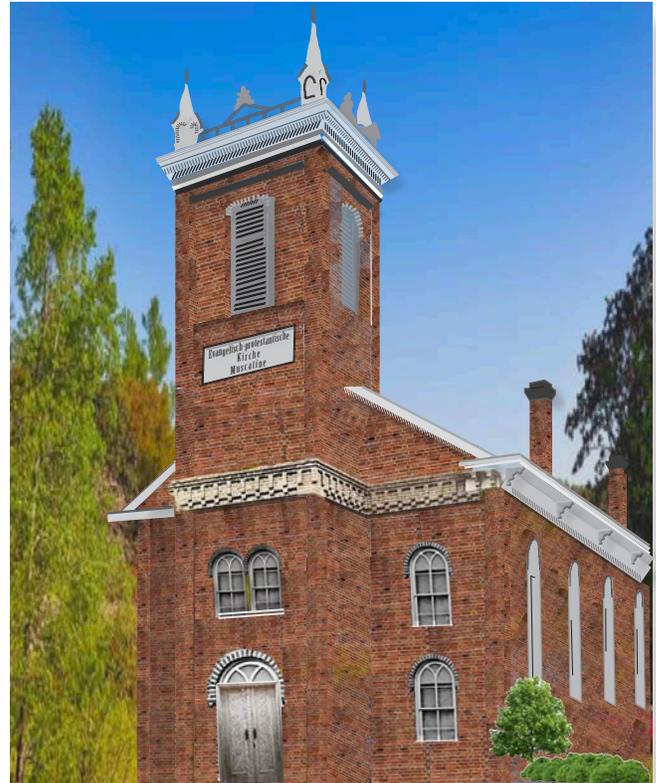


Image by the author based on photograph at Faith United Church of Christ.

*Evangelisch Protestantische Kirche, Muscatine, Iowa.*

## REVIEW OF U.S. RECORDS

### GENERATION ONE

**1. Minnie Elizabeth Facks**, born 7 June 1891 in Muscatine, Iowa, died 6 March 1975 in Muscatine. She married Paul Frederick Grafe 29 January 1919 in Muscatine.<sup>1</sup>

Minnie and Paul had two children.

- 1 i. Sherwood Paul Grafe, born 3 October 1919, died 17 October 1919.<sup>2</sup>
- ii. Robert Frederick Grafe, born 1 April 1922 in Muscatine, Iowa, died 4 July 2012 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. He married 28 December 1947, Ruth Helen Radcliffe.<sup>3</sup>

1. "Mrs. Paul Grafe," obituary, newspaper clipping, *Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 7 March 1975, page 5. Also, "Grandpa Paul Frederick Grafe (1890-1978) of Muscatine, Iowa: All I remember is that he always seemed grumpy," *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon* (March 2023) volume 72, number 3, pages 1–7.

2. State of Iowa, Department of Vital Statistics, death certificate 70-03318, Muscatine, Sherwood Paul Grafe, 17 October 1919; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS68-ZQS8-V?cc=2531337&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8K-7D22> : accessed 27 December 2021).

3. Robert Frederick Grafe, obituary, *The Oregonian* (Portland, Oregon), 14 July 2012; *OregonLive* (<https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/robert-grafe-obituary?id=25341248> : accessed 10 August 2023). Also, "Robert Frederick Grafe (1922–2012): War Years, 'I saw a lot of people that I didn't want to be like,'" *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon* (September 2023) volume 73, number 1, pages 19–26.

### *The Facks Church in Muscatine.*

The year after her parents arrived in Iowa, Minnie Facks' 1891 baptismal certificate was signed by pastor G. E. Heidel; this matches the database on IAGenWeb for the German Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>4</sup> However, her younger siblings are not in that database, suggesting they were baptized elsewhere. Her son Robert remembered a two-story German-speaking church behind the YMCA building around 1936. Minnie's father's (Henry Facks) 1938 obituary named the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Anna (Richter) Facks' (Minnie's mother) 1948 obituary has, "She was a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church." St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Muscatine merged with The First Congregational Church in 1957 as Faith United Church of Christ; they had shared a building.<sup>5</sup>

### GENERATION TWO

**2. Heinrich "Henry" Facks**, born 11 October 1858 in the Kingdom of Hanover,<sup>6</sup> died 14 March 1938 in Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa.<sup>7</sup> Henry married on 27 September 1886 in the Province of Hanover, Prussia.<sup>8</sup>

**3. Anna Richter**, the daughter of Claus Richter and Marie Tiedeman, born 23 January 1859 in Hanover, Germany,<sup>9</sup> died 12 March 1948 in Muscatine.<sup>10</sup>

Henry, his wife Anna, and three children left Hamburg, Germany, on 22 June 1890 for Muscatine, Iowa,<sup>11</sup> where his parents and brothers had lived since 1882–1886.<sup>12</sup> The ship manifest states the occupation for 31-year-old "Heinr



Courtesy of the author.

*Heinrich Facks family, 1907. Left to right: William August Facks, Anna Gretchen (Richter) Facks, Fred Henry Facks, Anna M. (Facks) Harrington, Minnie Elisabeth (Facks) Grafe, Heinrich Facks, Edward William Facks.*

Fock" was "Arb [Arbeiter]" or laborer. His family of five were from "Freiburg, Hannover."

The Facks family may have emigrated for economic reasons. Henry and Anna's 1890 emigration date, after his parents and brothers, may have been linked to a daughter's birth in 1884. Henry and Anna did not marry until 1886. At first, I wondered if there was a previous marriage.

4. German Methodist Episcopal Church, Muscatine, Iowa, baptismal certificate in German, Minna Elisa Facks, 11 October 1891; held by the Grafe family, 2023.

5. "Our History." *Faith United Church of Christ*, (<https://www.faithuccmuscatine.com/history> : accessed 15 August 2023), database and images.

6. Heinrich Facks obit, "Henry Facks, 79, dies Following Extended Illness," *Muscatine Journal and News Tribune* (Muscatine, Iowa) 14 March 1938, page 1.

7. Ibid. Also, *Iowa Gravestone Photo Project* ([https://iowagravestones.org/gs\\_view.php?id=992471](https://iowagravestones.org/gs_view.php?id=992471) : accessed 12 August 2023), "Heinrich Bass [sic] 'Henry' Facks," Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine, Iowa; uploaded by b.witmer, 2014.

8. "Henry Facks Rites Will Be Conducted Wednesday Afternoon," *Muscatine Journal and News Tribune* (Muscatine, Iowa), 15 March 1938, page 10. Anna's middle name was given in the 1925 Iowa census. The Kingdom of Hanover became a province of Prussia in 1866. "Dinner Party Honors Facks, Wed 50 Years," *The Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 28 September 1936, page 5.

9. "Death Summons Mrs. Facks," *Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 12 March 1948, page 2.

10. Ibid.

11. "Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1068/images/K\\_1741\\_080500-0528?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=OaT8057&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=214207](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1068/images/K_1741_080500-0528?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=OaT8057&_phstart=successSource&pId=214207) : accessed 9 August 2023), image 394 of 428; steamship *Rhaetia* departed Hamburg 22 June 1890, arrived in New York; Heinr Fock (31), Anna Fock (30), Meta Fock (6), August Fock (4), and Ann Fock (2) had resided in Freiburg, Hannover.

12. "Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1068&h=3123669&tid=&pid=&queryId=b6230f1b5c442db251eaac88fe0c5d4b&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=OaT3065&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1068&h=3123669&tid=&pid=&queryId=b6230f1b5c442db251eaac88fe0c5d4b&usePUB=true&_phsrc=OaT3065&_phstart=successSource) : accessed 10 August 2023), entry for Otto, Anna, and Joh Focks of Freiburg, Hannover, the ship *Rhaetia*, departed 30 May 1886 from Hannover and arrived in New York. Also, Otto Henry Facks obituary, *Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 1907. "They came directly to this city."

On 24 October 1891, “Heinrich Faks, a free man and native of Germany” applied for U.S. citizenship and renounced his allegiance to the “Emperor William.”<sup>13</sup> William II (1859–1941) was the German emperor and King of Prussia from 1888 to 1918.

Henry had five siblings. His brother William immigrated to Muscatine, Iowa, eight years before Henry in 1882, then his brother John and and their parents arrived in 1886.<sup>14</sup> Muscatine’s location next to the Mississippi River compares nicely to Freiburg on the Elbe River. The slight weather variations of North Sea coastal Lower Saxony would contrast with Muscatine County’s corn-growing hot summers and icy-cold winters. When William arrived, the population of Muscatine was around 10,000; in 2022, there were around 22,000 residents. Freiburg had under 2,000 people in 2021.



Courtesy of the author.

Anna (left) and Minnie were the only children of Henry Faks with descendants.



Courtesy of the author.

St. Wulphardi Kirche, Freiburg, Stade, Lower Saxony, Germany, 1948 postcard. The church I thought my great-grandparents attended also hid behind trees on Google Maps. I wanted better photographs.

At first, Henry worked in the Muscatine, Iowa, lumber yard, and then he labored in a button factory as a cutter.<sup>15</sup> Henry was middle-class; he had \$2,000 in the bank, owned his house, and lent money to Paul and Minnie.<sup>16</sup>

Henry died at home, 502 Grover Street, Muscatine, Iowa, after an extended illness in 1938; he was 79 years old. The Reverend F. C. Schmidt of the Evangelical and Reformed Church officiated at the funeral.<sup>17</sup> In 1948, 89-year-old Anna died at home of a heart attack. Her funeral service was given by Rev. Donald Koelling, pastor of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.<sup>18</sup> “Most people in America—and on the planet, for that matter—saw their entire lives through the lens of faith.”<sup>19</sup> Henry and Anna Faks may have been like that; their daughter Minnie was not known to attend church.

13. United States of America, Iowa, Muscatine County, District Court, naturalization certificate, Heinrich Faks, 1891; held by the author.

14. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, Enumeration District (ED) 109, sheet 12, 1204 Fifth Street, dwelling 251, family 257, William in the household of Otto H. Faks; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SJQ-4MC?i=23&cc=1325221&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9LS-MV2> : accessed 11 January 2022), image 24 of 40; citing NARA T623.

15. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 108, sheet 12, 502 Grover, dwelling 224, family 240, Henry Faks (Jacks); digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SJQ-4F2?i=22&cc=1325221&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9LS-PPN> : accessed 12 August 2023, image 23 of 32; citing NARA T623.

16. Muscatine County, Iowa, Probate packet for Henry Faks, 1938; held by the Grafe family in 2023. Among Henry’s “Inventory of Personal Property” was a “Note and Mortgage given by Paul and Minnie Grafe, dated May 27th, 1920, now long past due, of questionable and doubtful value. Amount \$700.” \$2,000 equals about \$43,000 in 2023 dollars.

17. “Henry Faks Rites Will Be Conducted Wednesday Afternoon,” *Muscatine Journal and News Tribune*, 1938.

18. “Death Summons Mrs. Faks, 89, At Home Here,” *Muscatine Journal*, 1948.

19. Dan Harris, *10% Happier* (New York: Harper Collins, 2014), page 35.

Henry and Anna had one child prior to their 1886 marriage.<sup>20</sup>

- i. Meta “Mary” Facks, born 14 July 1884 in Germany,<sup>21</sup> emigrated with family from Freiburg, Hanover, in 1890.<sup>22</sup> She married Ernst Metz on 21 February 1908 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.<sup>23</sup> Less than six months later, Mary died childless on 30 July 1908.<sup>24</sup>

Six more children are known.

- ii. Wilhelm “William” August Facks, born 17 May 1887, in Germany,<sup>25</sup> died 23 February 1948 in Muscatine, Iowa.<sup>26</sup> William had a physical disability, lived with his parents and did not marry.
- iii. Anna M. Facks, born 30 August 1888 in Germany, died 8 November 1980 at Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma. She married Foster “Doc” Harrington 13 June 1909, they had two children.<sup>27</sup>
1. iv. Minnie Elizabeth Facks, born 7 June 1891, died 6 March 1975.
- v. Fred Henry Facks, born 10 September 1894 in Muscatine, Iowa, died 24 July 1961 in Muscatine, Iowa. Fred was a veteran of World War I. He married Lillian Loga 2 June 1924, they had no children.<sup>28</sup>
- vi. Charles Facks, born 10 September 1894 in Muscatine, Iowa, a twin to Fred, died young.<sup>29</sup>
- vii. Edward Facks, born 7 March 1896 in Muscatine, Iowa, died 22 January 1962. Edward was a WW I veteran. He married Genevieve “Neva G” Brody on 27 May 1925 in Muscatine, they had no children.<sup>30</sup>



Minnie and Anna.  
Courtesy of the author

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20. Henry’s daughter Mary Facks (1884-1908) was born prior to his marriage to Anna Richter in 1886. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 108, Henry Facks. The enumerator recorded that Anna had eight children.

21. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 108, sheet 12, 502 Grover, dwelling 224, family 240, Mary Facks (15 years old, born in 1884 not 1894) in the household of Henry Facks (transcribed as Jacks); digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SJQ-4F2?i=22&cc=1325221&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9LS-PPN> : accessed 11 January 2022, image 23 of 32; citing NARA T623.

22. “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,” *Ancestry*; steamship *Rhaetia* departed Hamburg 22 June 1890, arrived in New York with Heindr Fock (31), Anna Fock (30), Meta Fock (6), August Fock (4), and Ann Fock (2).

23. “Cook County, Illinois, U.S. Marriage Index, 1871-1968,” *FamilySearch*, database, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, Mary Facks and Ernst Metz, 21 February 1908; citing FHL microfilm 1,030,437.

24. “Former Resident Dead,” *Muscatine News-Tribune* (Muscatine, Iowa), page 8, column 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com* > “Mary Metz,” 1908-1911, Muscatine County, Iowa.

25. “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,” *Ancestry*; the steamship *Rhaetia* departed Hamburg 22 June 1890 with Heindr Fock (31), Anna Fock (30), Meta Fock (6), August Fock (4), and Ann Fock (2), who had resided in Freiburg, Hannover.

26. “Eastern Iowa Deaths and Funeral Notices,” William A. Facks, *Quad-City Times* (Davenport, Iowa), page 2, column 5.

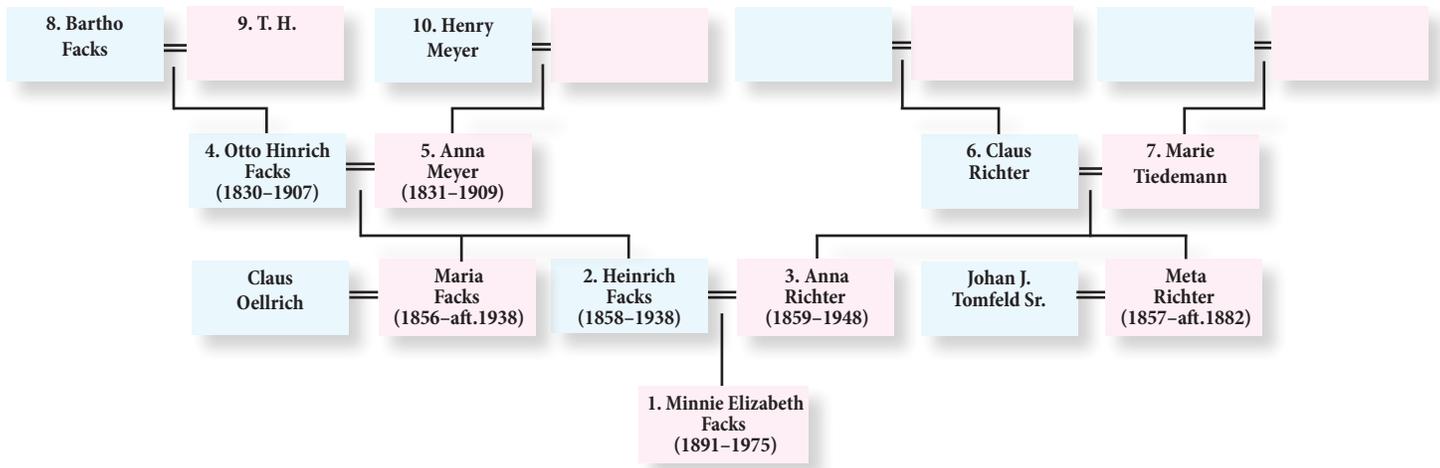
27. *Find a Grave*, database and image (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134087181/anna-m-harrington> : accessed 11 August 2023), memorial 134087181, Anna Harrington (1888-1980), gravestone, Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma; created by David Schram. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 108, sheet 12, 502 Grover, dwelling 224, family 240, Anna in the household of Henry Facks (Jacks), born in Germany; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SJQ-4F2?i=22&cc=1325221&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9LS-PPN> : accessed 11 August 2023, image 23 of 32; citing NARA T623.

28. “Fred Facks Succumbs,” *The Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 24 July 1961, page 2, column 6. Fred was a member of the Zion Lutheran church. Also, “U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1961,” digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2657962:60722> : accessed 12 August 2023), Muscatine, Iowa, Fred Henry Facks and Lillian Loga, 2 June 1924.

29. Helen Grafe, interview, after 1975 when Minnie died, Helen visited Muscatine and talked to family.

30. Edward W. Facks obituary, *Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 23 January 1962, page 10.

*Ancestors of Minnie Elizabeth Facks with German Locations in U.S. Records*



In 1882, Meta (Richter) Tomfeld's family stated they were from "Hollerdiech" (near Hamelwörden, Wischhafen, Lower Saxony), Germany. A few years later, Facks family stated they were from Freiburg, Hannover (Freiburg/Elbe, Stade, Lower Saxony, Germany). Maria (Facks) Oellrich lived about 13 kilometers south of Freiburg at Isensee, Osten, Germany, in 1938.

### GENERATION THREE

**4. Otto Hinrich "Henry" Facks**, born 28 January 1830 in the Kingdom of Hanover, died 20 May 1907 in Muscatine, Iowa. He married in 1856.<sup>31</sup>

**5. Anna Meier**, born 7 February 1831 in the Kingdom of Hanover, died 1 March 1909 in Muscatine.<sup>32</sup>

"Otto Focks," a 55-year-old "landman" or farmer of "Freiburg, Hannover," immigrated to Muscatine, Iowa, on the ship *Rhaetia* which departed Hamburg on 30 May 1886 and arrived in New York City. His wife Anna and son "Joh" accompanied him as they went straight to Muscatine, where his son William lived.<sup>33</sup>

In May 1889, "Hinrich Facks" stated his intention to become a U.S. citizen. Otto's handwriting is not as legible

as his sons, but the clerk clearly wrote Facks.<sup>34</sup> Otto did not close the "a," and his "h" and "k" are similar in appearance.

In Muscatine, Otto worked at Kaiser's lumber yard. He also worked as a day laborer.<sup>35</sup> Otto had cancer but was in good spirits the day before his son William found his lifeless body in bed. At the time of his death, Otto owed money to William Boerger, an undertaker,<sup>36</sup> possibly for the burial of his son John. In 1909, Anna died of pneumonia at home, 1204 Wisconsin Street; she was 78. Their obituaries did not mention a religious preference. Otto's probate packet, stored in a flood-prone building near the Mississippi River and acquired from the Muscatine Genealogical Society, mentions a daughter who remained in Germany.

31. Otto Heinrich Facks obit, "Henry Facks Found Dead in Bed Today," *Muscatine Journal* (Muscatine, Iowa), 20 May 1907, page 4. Father and son both went by Henry Facks. Otto was used in the 1900 census and on the *Rhaetia* passenger list.

32. "Iowa Deaths and Burials, 1850-1990", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XV7M-D3N> : 12 August 2023), Anna Facks, 1909.

33. "Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934," digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1068/images/K\\_1735\\_080494-0027?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=Uth245&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=3123669](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1068/images/K_1735_080494-0027?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=Uth245&_phstart=successSource&pId=3123669) : accessed 10 August 2023), Otto Focks. Also, "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYM237\\_450-0407?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=OaT8101&\\_phstart=successSource&pId=11951745](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYM237_450-0407?treeid=&personid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=OaT8101&_phstart=successSource&pId=11951745) : accessed 12 August 2023), *Prissia*, Wihl. Fick, 16, male farmer, and Joh. Fick, 21, male, farmer, both arrived from Prussia 1 May 1882.

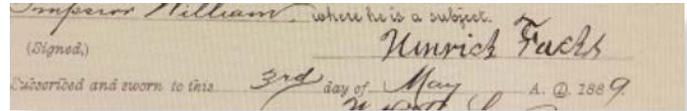
34. United States of America, Iowa, Muscatine County, District Court, naturalization certificate, Hinrich Facks, 1889; held by the author.

35. "U.S. City directories, 1822-1995," digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2469/images/13028493?usePUB=true&pId=773385567> : accessed 25 October 2022); *Chas. I. Barker's Muscatine City Directory, 1897-8*, Henry Fack, pages 68. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 109, sheet 12, 1204 Fifth Street, dwelling 251, family 257, Otto H. Facks.

36. Muscatine County, Iowa, Estate of Henry Facks, probate packet, Henry Facks, 1909; held by Mark Grafe, 2023.

Otto and Anna had six children.<sup>37</sup>

- i. Maria Facks, born circa 1856, married Claus Oellrich and resided at 101 Kranenweide, Isensee, Hanover, Germany, in 1909.<sup>38</sup> She died after 1938.<sup>39</sup>
2. ii. Heinrich “Henry” Facks, born 11 October 1858, died 14 March 1938.
- iii. Unknown
- iv. Unknown
- v. Wilhelm “William” Facks, born in March 1867, immigrated in 1882.<sup>40</sup> He died after 1909.<sup>41</sup>
- vi. Johan “John” Facks, born 1 June 1870 in Germany, died 1 May 1897 in Muscatine, Iowa.<sup>42</sup>



Signature of Otto Hinrich Facks, District Court naturalization certificate, Muscatine, Iowa, 1889. Courtesy of the author. There are no known images of Minnie’s ancestors in Generation Three or beyond. Goals included discovering where they were baptised, married, or buried, and illustrating their data with photographs of those locations.

## 6. Klaus “Herman” Richter and

7. Marie Tiedemann were identified as the parents of Henry’s wife, Anna (Richter) Facks, in 1925.<sup>43</sup> They had at least two children.

- i. Meta Richter, born circa 1857 in Germany, died after emigrating from Hollerdeich, Hanover, in 1882.<sup>44</sup> She married John J. Tomfelde Sr. in Germany, and had one child, Henry Claus Tomfelde (1880–1959), born in Germany.<sup>45</sup>
3. ii. Anna Gretchen Richter, born 23 January 1859, died 12 March 1948. She married Henry Facks. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Richter were named as her parents in her obituary.<sup>46</sup>

37. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 109, sheet 12, 1204 Fifth Street, dwelling 251, family 257, Otto H. Facks. Anna had six children, three were living.

38. Muscatine County, Iowa, Estate of Henry Facks, probate packet, Henry Facks, 1907; held by Mark Grafe, 2023. In 1909, Maria was 53 years old.

39. “Henry Facks Rites Will Be Conducted Wednesday Afternoon,” *Muscatine Journal and News Tribune*, 1938.

40. 1900 U.S. census, Muscatine County, Iowa, population schedule, Muscatine Ward 4, ED 109, sheet 12, 1204 Fifth Street, dwelling 251, family 257, William in the household of Otto H. Facks.

41. Muscatine County, Iowa, Estate of Henry Facks, probate packet, Henry Facks, 1909; held by Mark Grafe, 2023.

42. *Find a Grave*, database and image (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119667779/johann-facks#view-photo=174800484> : accessed 13 August 2023), memorial 119667778, Johan Facks (1870–1897), gravestone, Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa; image by Rick, 2018.

43. 1925 Iowa state census, Muscatine County, population schedule, Muscatine, Ward 4, 502 Grove Street, Anna Facks daughter of Klaus Richter and Marie Teideman; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9XG-CPJX?i=95&cc=2224537> : accessed 13 August 2023), image 96; Iowa State Historical Department, Des Moines.

44. “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934,” database and image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/16817945/person/252209583001/facts> : accessed 2 August 2020), image 318 of 442, entry for Meta Tomfelde (25), Johan Tomfelde (26), and Claus Tomfelde from Hollerdeich, Hannover, who left Hamburg 4 June 1882 on the ship *Bohemia*.

45. “John Tomfeld, 79, Succumbs,” *Quad-City Times* (Davenport, Iowa), 11 July 1933, page 18, column 7. John’s funeral was at his daughter’s house and Wittich Funeral Home. Also, Craig Tomfeld, “Tomfeld Family Tree,” public member tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/158792225/person/292088755888/facts> : accessed 13 August 2023). Craig is a DNA match to the author.

46. “Death Summons Mrs. Facks, 89, At Home Here,” *Muscatine Journal*, Muscatine, Iowa, 12 March 1948, page 2.

## GENERATION FOUR

8. **Barthol Facks** and 9. **T(illegible) H(illegible)** were named by their grandson, William Facks, on the death certificate for their son.<sup>47</sup> Their known child was

4. i. Otto Heinrich Facks, born 28 January 1830, died 20 May 1907.

10. **Henry Meyer** was named as the father of Anna Facks (1831–1909), spouse of Otto Henry Facks, by their son William in 1909.<sup>48</sup> William did not know his maternal grandmother's name.

5. i. Joanna Meyer, born 7 February 1831, died 1 March 1909.

## REQUESTING A LOOKUP

Grandma Minnie's ancestors lived near the town of Freiburg/Elbe, near Hollerdeich (now just a road), and in a community called Isensee. Several family members were born and/or married in Germany. I thought the following data from U.S. records for German events might identify specific towns.

- 28 January 1830 birth of Otto Hinrich Facks, son of Barthol Facks
- 7 February 1831 birth of Anna Meyer, daughter of Henry Meyer
- 1856 marriage of Otto Hinrich Facks and Anna Meyer
- 1857 (?) birth of Maria Facks, daughter of Otto Hinrich Facks and Anna Meyer
- 11 October 1858 birth of Heinrich Facks, son of Otto Hinrich Facks & Anna Meyer
- 23 January 1859 birth of Anna Richter, daughter of Claus Richter & Marie Tiedemann
- March 1867 birth of William Facks, son of Otto Hinrich Facks & Anna Meyer
- 1 June 1870 birth of John Facks, son of Otto Hinrich Facks & Anna Meyer
- 1876 (?) marriage of Marie (Facks) Oellrich, the sister of Heinrich Facks, to Claus Oellrich.
- 14 July 1884 birth of Meta "Mary" Facks, daughter of Heinrich Facks & Anna Richter



Hollerdeich (circles) appears near Freiburg on the map at Meyers Gazetteer.

- 27 September 1886 marriage of Heinrich Facks & Anna Richter
- 17 May 1887 birth of William Facks, son of Heinrich Facks & Anna Richter
- 30 August 1888 birth of Anna Facks, daughter of Heinrich Facks & Anna Richter

Initially, I thought Facks family would be in Freiburg/Elbe Evangelical church records. On FamilySearch, digital images for Freiburg/Elbe only go up to around the year 1820, and no entries fit. More current Freiburg/Elbe records were not at the German website, Archion, which stated they are held at the Lower Saxony State Association for Family Studies or Niedersächsischer Landesverein für Familienkunde (NLF) at Rückertstraße 1, 30169 Hannover, Germany. I would visit the NLF library.

11. NAME OF FATHER	Barthol Facks
12. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country)	Germany
13. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	Joan Recon

William Facks wrote his grandparents' names in 1907 on his father's death certificate. FamilySearch.  
How would you transcribe "Maiden Name of Mother"?

47. "Iowa, Death Records," digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS68-Z3V2-R?cc=2531337&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8K-6RRE> : accessed 9 February 2023), image 865 of 5699; Iowa, Muscatine County, Department of Vital Statistics, death certificate, Otto Henry Facks, father Barthol Facks, mother Trine Henn (guessing, see image above), died 19 May 1907, born 28 January 1830, Germany, informant Wm Facks; citing FHL microfilm 102,869,874.

48. Iowa, Department of Vital Statistics, Muscatine, death certificate 906 70 1542, Anna Facks, 1 March 1909; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS68-Z3KD-X?i=1463&cc=2531337> : accessed 15 August 2023), image 1464 of 5699. William Facks named his mother's father as Henry Meyer and her mother's name was unknown.

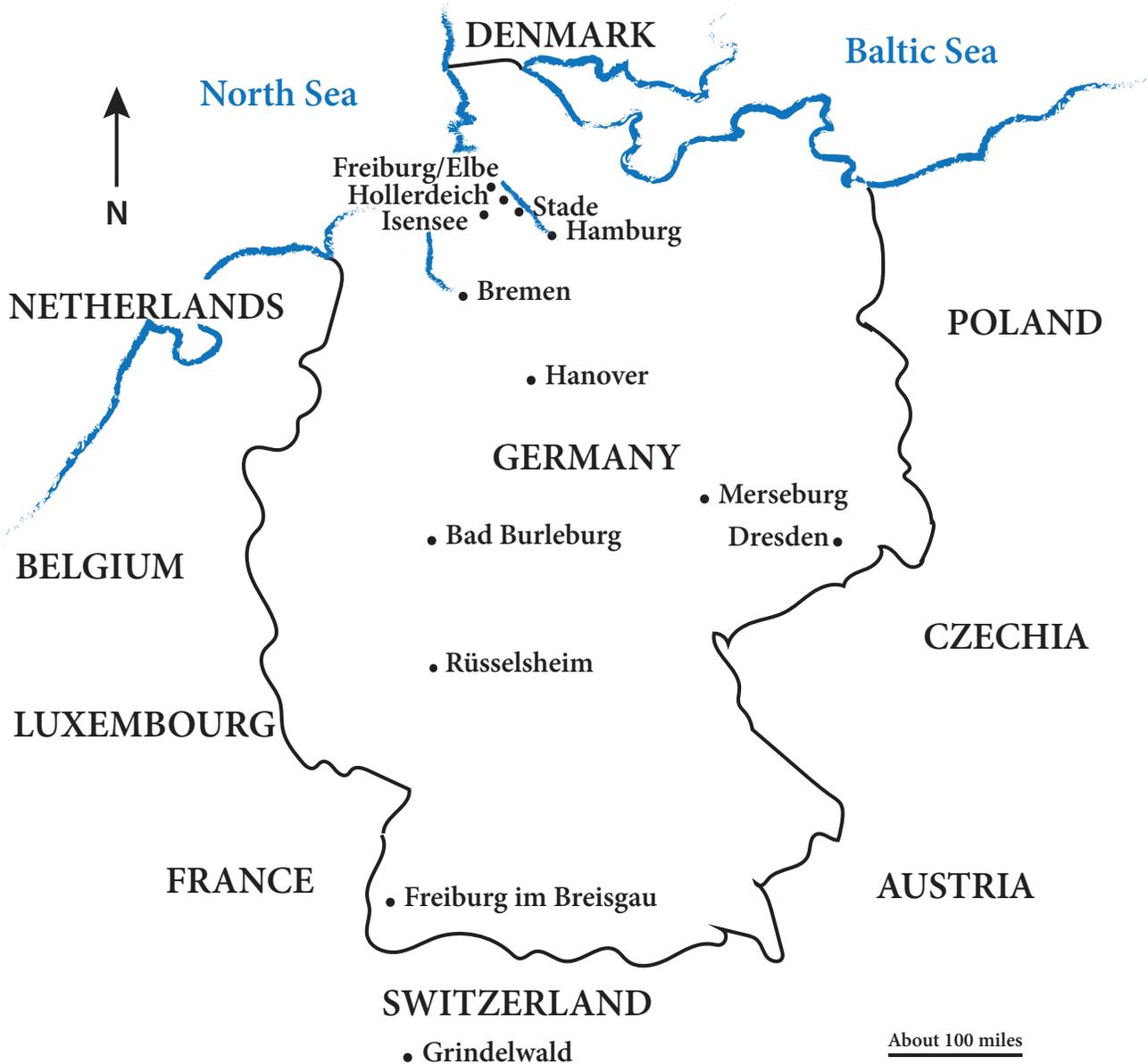
Joining the German genealogical society lit a fire under my research. My registration to NLF requested a look-up in Freiburg and Hamelwörden micro fiche for the 27 September 1886 marriage of Heinrich and Joanna (Richter) Facks, which they celebrated 50 years later in 1936 in Muscatine, Iowa. The marriage entry was not available, but an email response hit the nail on the head with three thoughts. (1) I needed to find the correct town. (2) “Facks” just sounded wrong (as the name does not

appear in German phone books). (3) Civil marriages began in 1875.

NLF connected me to the State Archives in Stade, Lower Saxony, Germany, which would have a civil registration document for the marriage of my great-grandparents that correctly spelled names and identified locations.

In a future issue, Part 2 summarizes my trip to Germany. Part 3 reviews German correspondence, expands Minnie’s pedigree chart, and illustrates the data with my photographs.

### SELECTED LOCATIONS IN EUROPE FOR MY FAMILY



*Approximate Locations of Selected European Cities and Countries. Map by the author. Brawand family was from Grindelwald; Bulletin Vol. 72 No. 2, Vol. 73 No. 2. Mark’s first-cousin-once-removed lived in Freiburg im Breisgau in 2023. Mark’s father was stationed in Rüsselsheim circa 1945, Bulletin Vol. 73 No. 1. Second great-grandparents Carl Graeve and Louise Kessler married in Bad Berleburg, lived in Merseburg and Dresden, then emigrated from Bremen. Some Evangelical Church records for Lower Saxony are on microfiche in Hanover. Facks, Meyer, Richter, Tiedeman, and Tomfelde families, emigrated from Hamburg.*

# A Process of Discovery Essay: Who Were the Parents of Rachel Webb (1809–1881), the Wife of John Thomas Wood (1808–1864), of Mason County, Kentucky, and Boone County, Missouri?

Harold E. Hinds Jr.

Published case studies of successful genealogical projects can be useful learning devices. But I am often left wondering how they got from point A to B. Whatever possessed the researcher to choose that obscure document which harbored the key to unraveling a family genealogical mystery?

I have also often wished that failed searches were more frequently published. When knowledgeable researchers fail, a record of that search can offer many lessons.<sup>1</sup>

For some time now, the dominant paradigm for genealogical research has switched from prioritizing print materials and microfilmed records to online digitized records.<sup>2</sup> The numerous projects of digitizing print materials and, perhaps most significantly, the Family History Library's completion of digitizing most of its microfilm collection, were essential in that transition. This essay depended more on these digitized records, particularly at Ancestry and FamilySearch, than any previous research project. Nonetheless, in many cases archival records not yet digitized, and many likely never will be, can be important for solving difficult genealogical problems.

The following search for Rachel (Webb) Wood's parents was a process of discovery which produced successes and failures. Hopefully, both will offer valuable insights into the hows, whys, and outcomes of contemporary genealogical research.

Know all men by these presents that we James Gorman and Ann Shottville are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the penal sum of fifty pounds, current money, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, firmly, by these presents; sealed with our seals, and dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1802. The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is intended to be had and solemnized between the said James Gorman and Ann Shottville, Now, if there be no legal cause to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

James Gorman  
Ann Shottville

Witnes my hand and seal this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1802.  
John Shottville

Know all Men by these Presents, That we David Coffey and Ann Webb are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the penal sum of fifty pounds, current money, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, firmly, by these presents; sealed with our seals, and dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1802. The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is intended to be had and solemnized between the said David Coffey and Ann Webb, Now, if there be no legal cause to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

David Coffey  
Ann Webb

Know all men by these Presents, That we Andrew Wood and David Coffey are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the penal sum of fifty pounds, current money, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, jointly and severally, firmly, by these presents; sealed with our seals, and dated the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1823. The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is intended to be had and solemnized between the said Andrew Wood and David Coffey, Now, if there be no legal cause to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Andrew Wood  
David Coffey

Know all Men by these Presents, That we John Wood and David Coffey are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the penal sum of fifty pounds, current money, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors or administrators, jointly and severally, firmly, by these presents; sealed with our seals, and dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 1826. The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is intended to be had and solemnized between the said John Wood and David Coffey, Now, if there be no legal cause to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

John Wood  
David Coffey

Marriage bonds, 1802, 1823, 1826, 1832.  
FamilySearch and Ancestry

1. On the importance of negative results in research see Stephen Jay Gould, *Dinosaur in a Haystack* (New York: Harmony Books, 1995), Ch. 10 "Cordelia's Dilemma." The reporting of negative results should not be confused with errors that are discovered in subsequent research. Regarding the latter see David Hacker Fischer, *Historians Fallacies: Towards Logic of Historical Thought* (New York: Harper and Row, 1970).

2. For an excellent essay on this transformation of historical research see Ian Milligan, "The Transformation of Historical Research in the Digital Age," *Cambridge University Press* (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/transformation-of-historical-research-in-the-digital-age/30DFBEAA3B753370946B7A98045CFEF4>; accessed 4 January 2024).

## STEP 1

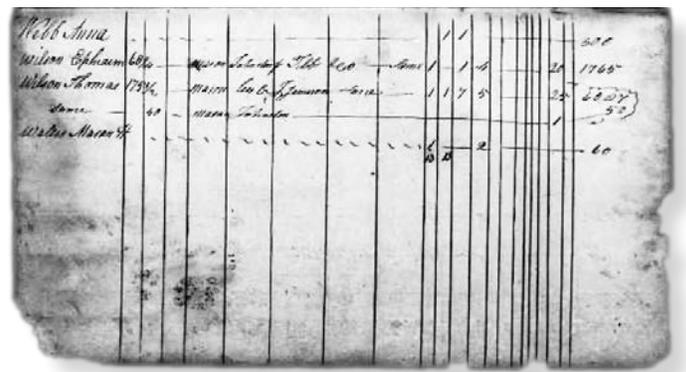
I began with two “facts.” John Thomas Wood married Rachel Webb about 27 August 1832, likely at Mason County, Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> “About” because that’s the date on the marriage bond issued at Mason County. Evidently no Minister’s Return has survived,<sup>4</sup> which would record the date and place of the marriage. The bond’s sureties were the prospective groom, John Thomas, and a David Roff, probably a relative of the future bride, as would have been traditional. We can be reasonably certain that the marriage did take place because there is no record that the bondsmen paid a fine of 50 pounds in current money to the state of Kentucky, the sum owed if the marriage did not occur.

Secondly, Gertrude Marshall, the Wood family historian, in her indispensable 1892 genealogical notes on Reverend William Wood (1748–1819), and the Reverend’s children which included Jesse Wood, stated that two of Jesse’s sons had married two sisters: i.e. Andrew Wood married Amanda Webb and John Thomas Wood married Rachel Webb.<sup>5</sup>

## STEP 2

The 1826 marriage bond for Amanda Webb and Andrew Wood suggested an important lead. The bond’s sureties were Andrew and David Roff!<sup>6</sup> And among Mason County marriage bonds available online at Ancestry and FamilySearch was an Elizabeth Webb who married a James McMillen in 1840 with sureties of James McMillen and David Roff!<sup>7</sup>

But who was Roff? Clearly, he was not a Webb, and therefore the girls’ father. How might he be related? Two



Anna Webb on the 1821 Mason County tax list. *FamilySearch*.

additional marriage bonds provided key information: a Mrs. Webb (widow) had married David Roff in 1823 at Mason County,<sup>8</sup> and a Thomas Webb had married an Ann Shotwell in 1802, also at Mason County.<sup>9</sup> A search of annual Mason County, Kentucky, tax records, for both Thomas Webb and David Roff at FamilySearch logically followed. As expected, despite the tax records often being incomplete, illegible, or difficult to decipher, Thomas disappeared in 1819, Anna Webb was recorded in 1821, and David Roff was present in 1823.<sup>10</sup> 1820 tax records were missing; and Thomas Webb was missing from the 1820 census.

It appeared that Thomas Webb and Anna (Shotwell) Webb were Rachel’s parents. David Roff would have been Rachel’s stepfather, who assumed the role of her father as a marriage bond surety. Was that correct?

3. “Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783–1965,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 9 October 2023), digital image, Rachel Webb-John Wood, 27 August 1832 (date of marriage bond), Mason County, Kentucky. The bond sureties were John Wood and David Roff.

4. Lula Reed Boss, “Returns of Ministers’ Marriages,” *Kentucky Ancestors* 3: 4 (Apr. 1968), 149–153; 4: 1 (Jul. 1968), 10–15; 4: 2 (Oct. 1968), 62–67; 4: 3 (Jan. 1969), 115–123; 5: 2 (Oct. 1969), 63–69; 5: 3 (Jan. 1970), 122–127.

5. “Two Histories of Rev. William Wood 1749—by Laurie Brandt, 11 December 2000,” *Genealogy.com* (<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/wood/6727/>; accessed 5 January 2024); Brandt retyped, reformatted, and digitized the original typescript of Marie Dryden, “Wood Family Record Compiled by Gertrude Marshall—1892.” For an obituary for Gertrude Marshall see “Marshall,” *Chattanooga Daily Times* (Chattanooga, Tennessee), 30 May 1947, p. 15, col. 2.

6. “Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783–1965,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 9 October 2023), digital image, Andrew T. Wood-Amanda Webb, 17 October 1826 (date of marriage bond), Mason County, Kentucky. The bond sureties were Andrew T. Wood and David Roff.

7. “Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783–1965,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 18 November 2023), digital image, James McMillen-Elizabeth Webb, 29 January 1840 (date of marriage bond), Mason County, Kentucky. The bond sureties were James McMillen and David Roff.

8. “Kentucky, U.S. County Marriage Records, 1783–1965,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 30 October 2023), digital image, David Roff [Ancestry read as Ross!]-Ann Webb (widow), 7 March 1823 (date of marriage bond), Mason County, Kentucky. The sureties were David Roff and Levi Vancamp, Anna’s brother-in-law.

9. “Kentucky County Marriages, 1797–1954,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>; accessed 21 December 2023), digital image, Thomas Webb-Ann Shotwell, 6 April 1802 (date of marriage bond), Mason County, Kentucky. The sureties were Thomas Webb and John Shotwell, Anna’s father.

10. “Mason County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1794–1901,” Family History Library (FHL) microfilms 2111489 and 2111491; Thomas Webb entries 1802–1818, missing 1819 and after; Anna Webb only for 1821; David Roff 1814, 1816, 1818, and after.



Roff family memorials, Mays Lick Cemetery, Kentucky.  
Image courtesy Jean Clayton Charles, Find a Grave.

### STEP 3

Extensive searches at Ancestry and FamilySearch for additional information on David Roff and Anna (Shotwell) Webb Roff produced additional key facts.

The couple was enumerated in the 1850 and 1860 censuses in Mason County, and they had a presumed son, Nathaniel, born circa 1827 in Kentucky.<sup>11</sup>

Both David and Anna died in 1861 at Mason County, Anna shortly after David. Both are buried side-by-side with the same style of tombstones at Mays Lick Cemetery in Mason County.<sup>12</sup> Since Anna died after David, I searched for her probate records, hoping they would list her heirs, including Amanda and Rachel, and probably Elizabeth as well.

Searching for probate records in Kentucky can be tricky. In a 1999 lecture on Kentucky research by the late Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck, he pointed out that probate was expensive in 19th-century Kentucky. It was cheaper to handle

estate matters through deeds rather than probate court.<sup>13</sup> Thus, I initiated my search in Grantor and Grantee Indexes to Deeds for Mason County Kentucky, at FamilySearch for both Roffs and Webbs. Perhaps there would be relevant deeds for Thomas Webb or Anna Roff. Only one was apparently relevant.

A Milton R. Webb, of Boone County, Missouri, sold a 46-acre tract in Mayslick, Mason County, Kentucky, and a 52-acre tract in Mason County, to John T. Wood of Boone County, Missouri, in 1863. Milton had inherited these tracts from his grandmother, Anna Roff!<sup>14</sup> John and Rachel had moved from Mason County to Boone County about 1858.<sup>15</sup> Milton proved elusive. At this point, only his registration for the Civil War draft in Boone County, 1 July 1863, was discovered. He was 23 and born in Ohio.<sup>16</sup> Searching for every record can be critical. Both facts for Milton eventually would prove important.

A search of Mason County probate records was more productive. There was nothing for Thomas Webb, but for Anna Roff there were records at FamilySearch. Here, also, a lecture proved important. I maintain three binders, labeled “Kentucky Basic Sources,” which includes conference syllabi, lecture outlines, genealogical articles, etc. Kentucky can be difficult. My notes on the syllabus of Shirley Wilson’s 1995 NGS Conference presentation, “Tennessee & Kentucky: Sister States!” read “advice just do all possibilities for court records.”<sup>17</sup> I followed her advice.

A very unexpected discovery was the 1838 will of Jonathan Roff. His heirs included Elizabeth, Peter, John, William, David, James, Mary, and Ann Roff. His estate was to be divided among them. So, I had a probable father for David Roff.<sup>18</sup>

11. 1850 U.S. census, Mason County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 2, dwelling 1025, family 1025, p. 128 (penned), David Roff 61 (b. NJ), Anna Ruff 65 (b. NJ), Nathaniel Roff 22 (b. KY). Also, 1860 U.S. census, Mason County, Kentucky, population schedule, Mays Lick, dwelling 427, family 416, p. 62 (penned), David Roff 72 (b. NJ), Anna Roff 75 (b. NJ); both *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 October 2023).

12. *Find a Grave*, digital image of gravestones and text (<https://www.findagrave.com/>; accessed 31 October 2023), David Roff (7 February 1788–23 August 1861) and Anna Roff (12 January 1785–18 September 1861), burial for both Mays Lick Cemetery, Mays Lick, Mason County, Kentucky, memorials 114197043 (David) and 114197070 (Anna).

13. Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, “Westward Ho: Kentucky,” *Meet Me in St. Louis: the People of America*, program syllabus, Federal Genealogical Societies 1999 Conference (St. Louis, Missouri: FGS, 1999), 375–379. My xerox copy of Bockstruck’s syllabus has the following annotation: “land records the KEY.”

14. Mason County, Kentucky Deed Book 69: 618–619, Milton R. Webb sold to John T. Wood, both of Boone County, Missouri, 22 December 1863, several tracts near Mays Lick, Mason County, Kentucky; FHL microfilm 281809.

15. In October 1858, John T. Wood purchased land in Boone County, Missouri: Boone County, Missouri Deed Book 29: 413, Montgomery P. Lientz to John T. Wood, a plot in Sec. 30 & 32, T49, R14, FHL microfilm 909115.

16. “U.S., Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863–1865,” digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 October 2023), Milton R. Webb, 23 (b. OH), Missouri, Boone County, Missouri.

17. I maintain three binders of “Kentucky Records: Basic Sources.” These include a xerox copy of Shirley Wilson’s 1995 NGS Conference lecture syllabus, “Tennessee & Kentucky: Sister States!”

18. Mason County, Kentucky, Wills, Book L: 451, Jonathan Roff, 16 January 1838 will, presented to May Court 1839 and recorded. The will provided that after his wife’s death his estate was to be divided equally among Elizabeth Craig; Peter, John, William, David, James, Mary, and Ann Roff; FHL microfilm 281826.

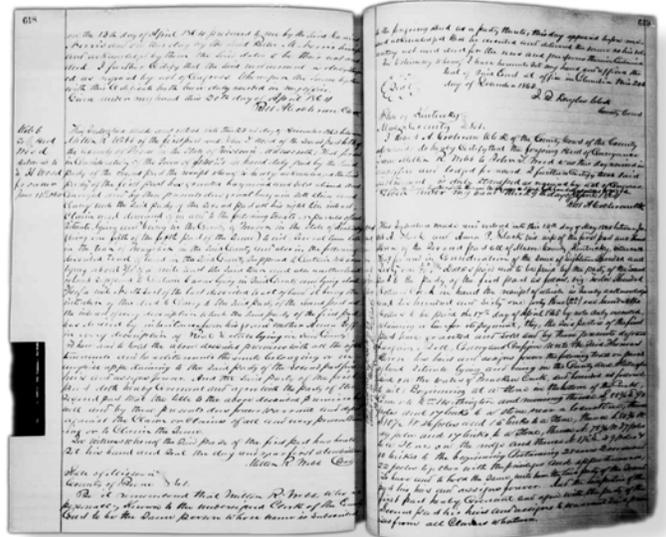
Anna Webb Roff left no will. Her intestate probate record included an inventory of her estate, and the sale of her personal property. A Mrs. E. McMillen purchased more items than any other bidder.<sup>19</sup> The final settlement as required by law included a list of her heirs: Elizabeth McMillen, Amanda Wood, and Nathaniel Roff.<sup>20</sup> Amanda and Elizabeth were sisters. But there was no Rachel! Thomas and Anna (Shotwell) Webb almost certainly could not be Rachel's parents.

**STEP 4**

Back to square one. Well, not exactly. There was Milton R. Webb, a grandson of Anna Roff.

At this point I recalled from earlier research on John Thomas and Rachel (Webb) Wood that they had four children, two of whom might be relevant: Ann S. [Shotwell?] Wood and Lewis Webb Wood.<sup>21</sup>

I searched the Mason County, Kentucky, tax lists for a Lewis Webb. There was a Louis Webb, present 1825–1826, with one White male over 21 (evidently Louis).<sup>22</sup> Because the Kentucky tax was a property and a poll tax, and residents when they turned 21 would be initially listed, it was possible that Louis (Lewis) was born circa 1804.<sup>23</sup> He could not be Rachel's father—recall Rachel was born circa 1809. Might Lewis be related to Rachel? A search for a Louis (Lewis) Webb born circa 1804 on the 1850 census at Ancestry in either Kentucky or Ohio—Ohio because Milton R. Webb, Anna Roff's grandson was reportedly born in Ohio—produced gold. A Lewis D. Webb, born circa 1805 in Kentucky, with a presumed son Milton, born circa 1839 in Ohio, resided in Miami County, Ohio.<sup>24</sup> In Miami County, and nearby Mercer County, were a number of Webbs, perhaps they were related. And of course, Milton may have resided in Lewis' household, and not have been a son, because the 1850 census does not record the relationship to head of household.



Deed book from 1863. *FamilySearch*.

**STEP 5**

I researched all those Webbs in Miami County—and nearby counties—in Ohio. A combined Ancestry, FamilySearch, Find a Grave, Fold3, Google, and Kentucky Secretary of State's Kentucky Land Office records search produced a partially documented family tree and lots of documents for a Lt. Col. John Webb (1739–1811), with a wife Rachel Catherine Davis (1749–1834). John had moved from Virginia to Mason County, Kentucky, prior to 1793, settled in the Mays Lick region of Mason County, then in 1797, relocated to Montgomery County, Ohio. He was buried at Lost Creek, Miami County. Over several days, I eventually narrowed my search to three known sons of the Lt. Col.: Elisha Webb (1793–1873), Joseph D.

19. Mason County, Kentucky, Probate Records, Will Books, vol. 5: 272–274, Inventory and Sale, Anna Roff Estate, Inventory 17 October 1861, Sale 21 November 1861, Nathaniel Roff administrator; FHL microfilm 281829.

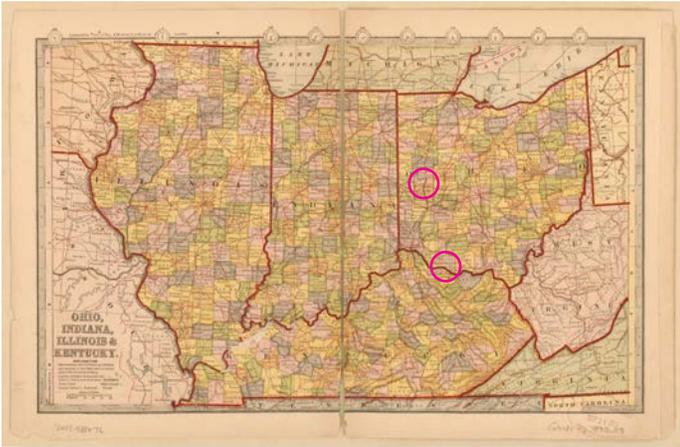
20. Mason County, Kentucky, Probate Records, Will Books, vol. T: 93–94, in account of Anna Roff estate, Nathaniel Roff administrator, 7 October 1863, heirs at law (Elizabeth McMillen, Amanda Wood, & Nathaniel Roff); FHL microfilm 281830.

21. For Ann S. Wood and Lewis Webb Wood see E. E. Evans and J. F. Thompson, *Wills and Administrations of Boone County, Missouri 1821–1870* (1932: Columbia, MO: Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, 1992), 86. Also, *Find a Grave*, digital image of gravestone and text (<https://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 30 December 2014), L. Webb Wood (20 October 1848–30 November 1911), Walnut Grove Cemetery, Rocheport, Boone County, Missouri; memorial 9101869.

22. “Mason County, Kentucky, Tax Lists 1794–1901,” Lewis Webb 1825–1826; FHL microfilm 2111491.

23. Gail Jackson Miller, “Kentucky Tax Lists: A Valuable Resource for Pre-1850s Research,” *Kentucky Ancestors* 39: 1 (Jan.–Mar. 2013), 25–27. “All men over 21 were required to pay the poll tax,” p. 26.

24. 1850 U.S. census, Miami County, Ohio, population schedule, Washington, dwelling 591, family 591, p. 355 (stamped), Lewis D. Webb 45 (b. ca. 1805 KY), hatter, Milton 11 (b. ca. 1839 OH); *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 5 December 2023).



Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky, 1877, with Miami County, Ohio, and Mason County, Kentucky, circled.

*Library of Congress.*

Webb (1784–1831), and John A. Webb (1793–1883).<sup>25</sup> Could Rachel Webb have been named for Rachel Davis, and be a daughter of Elisha, Joseph D., or John A. Webb? John A. Webb did not marry until 1815,<sup>26</sup> so he could not be Rachel Webb's father. Probate records for both Elisha,<sup>27</sup> and Joseph D.,<sup>28</sup> eliminated both. Neither Joseph D. in 1831 nor Elisha Webb in 1873 had an heir named Rachel Wood—recall Rachel (Webb) Wood died in 1881.

### STEP 6

If Rachel (Webb) Wood was not the daughter of Thomas Webb who married Anna Shotwell, or any of the known sons of Lt. Col. John Webb, who was her father? Thomas

Webb turned out almost certainly to be an unknown son of Lt. Col. Webb. Lewis Webb would be Thomas Webb's son, and Milton Webb would be Thomas and Anna Webb's grandson.

With Thomas, Elisha, Joseph D., and John A. Webb eliminated, might there be yet another unknown or at least undocumented, son of Lt. Col. John Webb? There certainly are enough gaps in the birth dates of his known children to accommodate other children. A reexamination of Mason County, Kentucky, tax records did produce a couple possibilities: a William Webb, present only in 1802–1803 (or 4), and a Nathan Webb, present only in 1829.<sup>29</sup> William would be more likely to have been the father of a child born circa 1809. Perhaps only archival research in Kentucky will resolve this issue.

### STEP 7

Finally, two broad conclusions appear warranted by the research to date.

Rachael (Webb) Wood must be related somehow to Amanda Webb and the kindred of Lt. Col. John Webb. There is just too much circumstantial evidence to suggest otherwise. Gertrude Marshall believed Amanda (Webb) Wood and Rachel (Webb) Wood were sisters. David Roff was the brides-to-be marriage bond surety for Amanda and Elizabeth Webb, who were sisters, as well as for Rachel. John Thomas and Rachel Wood named two of their children, Anna S. [Shotwell?] Wood and Lewis Webb Wood. Andrew T. and Amanda (Webb) Wood named two children William Thomas Wood and Anna S. [Shotwell?]

25. Basically, my research began with Ancestry's census records and appended Suggested Records; followed by FamilySearch's catalog entries under Mason Co., KY (particularly tax records); then to Find a Grave entries for Webbs discovered in census and tax records, and eventually to the page for Lt. Col. Webb with an undocumented text, basically a biographical sketch; then I used Google to locate print sources not cited, but mentioned, in the bio sketch; and finally to military records at the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office, which I had explored years ago, and to Fold3. I have limited the following citations to just the key documents; a full trail of discovery and accompanying citations would constitute another lengthy article. (a) 1850 census cited in note 24 above. (b) Miami Co., OH, tax records at FamilySearch for 1828–29 were especially important: "Ohio Tax Records, 1800–1850," digital images, 1828, Lost Creek Township, Miami Co., KY, Joseph D., John, and Elisha Webb; 1829 Lost Creek Township, Miami Co., KY, Lewis D., John, Jose Jr., John Sr., and Elisha Webb; FHL microfilm 4849378. (c) Find a Grave, initially via links at Ancestry, for several Ohio Webbs: Lt. John Webb (1739–1811), memorial 18877713, and links to his wife, Rachel (Davis) Webb, and to his children Elisha, Joseph D., and John A. Webb. (d) Undocumented text at Find a Grave for Lt. Webb, then via a Google search: "Gen. John Webb's Narrative," *History of Miami County, Ohio* (Chicago: W. H. Beers & Co., 1888), 397–399. (e) Kentucky Secretary of State, Revolutionary War Warrants, Lt. Col. John Webb, Virginia State Line—6,000 acres, 8 February 1783. (f) Fold3, combined with FamilySearch, the Lt. Col.'s "bounty Warrants, 1779–1860," digital images, warrants, Box 162, Lt. Col. John Webb.

26. "Gen. John Webb's Narrative."

27. Ohio, Probate Court (Miami County), Settlement of Accounts: 1871–1968, Executors, Administrators & Guardian Settlement, vol. 10, 1876–1882, "Estate of Elisha Webb," 3 March 1879, heirs: John II Webb, James T. Webb, Hannah Martin, Nancy Jones, Pamela Young, Rachel Creager, Jesse T. Webb, Samuel Webb, Joseph D. Webb; FHL microfilm 556527.

28. "Ohio, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1786–1998," Mercer County, Joseph D. Webb, probate date 16 November 1831, heirs: Margaret Webb (wife), John Webb, Rezin Webb, William Webb, Thomas Webb, Elisha Webb, Elizabeth Webb, Sally Ann Webb, Tirzah Webb, Amanda Webb; Ancestry, digital image (<https://www.ancestry.com>); accessed 8 December 2023).

29. "Mason County, Kentucky, Tax Lists, 1794–1901," William Webb 1802–1803 (or 4), Nathan Webb 1829; FHL microfilms 2111489 and 2111491.

Wood.<sup>30</sup> Elizabeth (Webb) and James McMillen named a child Thomas W. Wood.<sup>31</sup> Lewis D. Webb, a son of Thomas and Anna (Shotwell) Webb, sold land he inherited from Anna (Shotwell) Webb Roff to John Thomas Wood, and both resided in Boone County, Missouri, at the time of the sale. Thomas Webb is almost certainly a son of Lt. Col. John and Rachel (Davis) Webb, and Rachel Webb is likely to have been named for Thomas' mother, Rachel Davis.

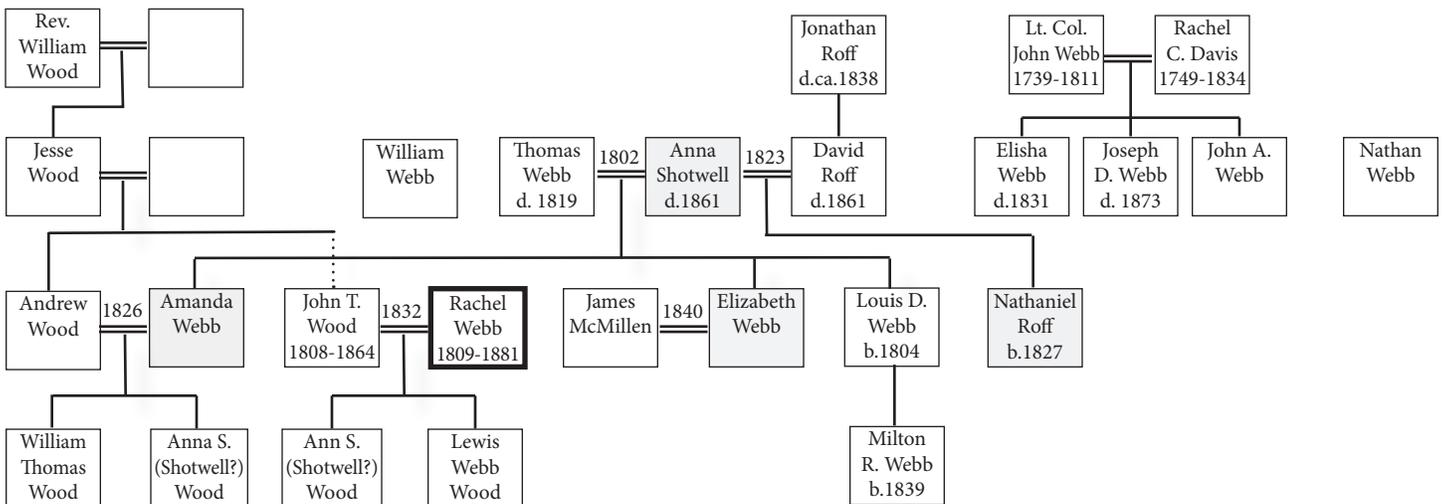
Secondly, if there is in fact a genealogical connection, what might it be? The following hypothesis seems plausible: Rachel Webb was most likely the daughter of an unknown son of Lt. Col. John Webb and Rachel (Davis) Webb. There are sufficient gaps in the birth years of the known children of the Lt. Col. to accommodate another undocumented son other than Thomas. Rachel's father probably, like Thomas Webb, resided in Mason County, or nearby. He also must have died young, and his daughter, Rachel, was likely raised by Thomas and Anna, and then by Anna and David. Logically, then, it would be her stepfather, David Roff, who would be the bride-to-be's marriage

bond surety. Perhaps, only extensive archival research in Mason County, or adjacent and nearby counties in both Kentucky and Ohio, will validate this probable conclusion.

The 1830 census for the David Roff household in Mason County, Kentucky, may support the above tentative conclusion, albeit, with several assumptions that could be incorrect.

The 1830 household could contain children from Anna's previous marriage: the free White female 10–14 must be Elizabeth Webb born circa 1817, and an unknown one free White female 10–15. It also could contain Rachel Webb, who would be the free White female 20–29. There were also two free White males under five, one of which would be Nathan Roff, born circa 1827; the other is unknown. Some of the unknown children could be from Anna's previous marriage; or could be Anna and David's children who died young; or could be orphan Webbs, if Rachel indeed is the 20–29-year-old female, and other orphans were taken in.<sup>32</sup> Do note that Amanda Webb who married in 1826,<sup>33</sup> and Lewis D. Webb who married in 1828,<sup>34</sup> were not in David Roff's household.

**SELECTED WOOD AND WEBB FAMILY**



*Amanda Webb, Elizabeth Webb, and Nathaniel Roff appeared in probate papers for Anna (Shotwell) Webb; their boxes are shaded.*

30. 1850 U.S. census, Mason County, Kentucky, population schedule, Maysville, dwelling 94, family 98, p. 37B (stamped), Andrew T. Wood 47 (b. OH), Amanda Wood 44 (b. KY), Ann S. Avery 21 (b. KY); *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 18 April 2021). Also, "Amanda Webb" (9 November 1805–16 December 1866), son William Thomas Wood (b. 1826), daughter Anna S. Wood (1829–1912), public member tree "KY Sullivan Family" by mes10912, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/3596133/person/25331861303/facts>; accessed 5 January 2024).

31. 1850 U.S. census, Mason County, Kentucky, population schedule, Maysville, dwelling 122, family 135, p. 40 (stamped), James McMillen 44 (b. PA), Elizabeth McMillen 34 (b. KY), Thomas W. McMillen 9 (b. KY); *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 19 December 2023). Note James had been previously married. James and Elizabeth were married in 1840, and Thomas W. would be their first child.

32. 1830 U.S. census, Mason County, Kentucky, population schedule, Eastern Division, p. 33 (penned), p. 210 (penned), line 2 David Roff (Ancestry misread as Ross); *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; accessed 31 October 2023).

33. See note 6 above.

34. "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789–2016," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>; accessed 6 December 2023), Lewis D. Webb-Elizabeth Webb, 1828, at Miami town, Whitewater Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

# Read the Record!

## Ada Gertrude (Meinyer) Beach (1882–1967)

### was NOT born in Oregon!

Laurel Holifer Kaufmann Smith

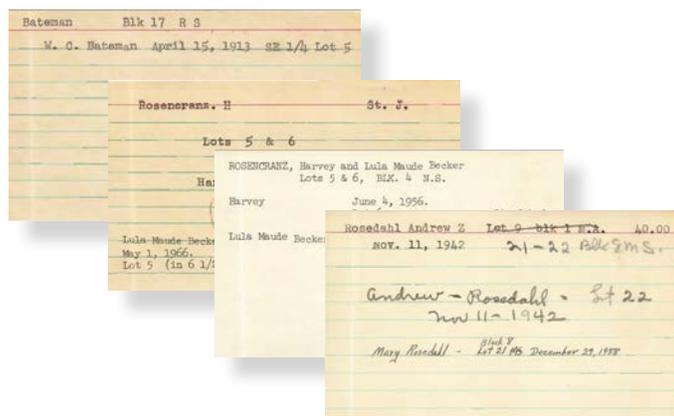
**W**hy do so many people who have Ada Gertrude (Meinyer) Beach (later married names include Maxfield, Lindsay, and Trafton) in their family tree say that Ada was born in Oregon? To learn why, please join me as I share some background and explain how the question arose.

This little adventure began, as have several before, with the Historic Columbian Cemetery (HCC) Project. In 2014, the HCC management was going through many changes. They didn't have an office or a place to store their historic documents. The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) was selected as the repository for the collection. The collection includes maps, files, and financial records.



Photo courtesy Mark Grafe, 2024.

*Historic Columbian Cemetery,  
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.*



*HCC burial cards courtesy Genealogical Forum of Oregon.*

Over the years, records were not well kept. Prior cemetery managers tried to rectify the situation, creating duplicate records, which has made interpreting the records more challenging. The burial cards (a three-by-five-inch card with the decedent's name, one or more dates, and the burial location) arrived in a jumbled mess. There are multiple copies of most cards. Volunteers scanned the cards and indexed some of the information into a spreadsheet. When we sorted the spreadsheet, it revealed conflicting and missing data. GFO volunteers worked with the spreadsheet, attempting to resolve the conflicts; however, many inconsistencies could not be explained.

The project sat idle for a few years. Recently, GFO volunteer Gerald "Mac" McGarvin scanned many of the additional records including small maps of cemetery blocks and payment ledgers. Volunteer Barbara Schrag took on database management, and several volunteers are helping with the project. The shared goal is to create a spreadsheet, with accurate information about those buried at the historic cemetery, which we can post in the DigitalArchive on the GFO website.

The GFO has a Find a Grave (FG) account, and we are adding pertinent documents to memorials, creating memorials for those who don't have one, and suggesting edits to the managers of existing memorials. We are also attempting to link families together. Estimates show that about 25 percent of the burials in HCC are not on FG. This is an enormous project, and the goal is to post a portion (A through C surnames) of the spreadsheet and some of the scanned materials prior to Memorial Day 2024.

#### RETURNING TO ADA

This brings you, our reader, up to date with how and why Ada came to our attention. Note that Ada's surname begins with "B."

Barb located an image of Ada's death certificate and posted it to the FG memorial. Based on the information on the death certificate, Barb suggested edits to the memorial that the manager declined, stating that the suggested changes did not agree with the information they had. The manager followed this up with a message to the GFO via FG asking that we remove the death certificate from the memorial. Barb immediately removed the image as requested.

Death certificate for Ada Gertrude Beach.

But it was puzzling to me why the memorial manager declined the edit to the birth location. The death certificate states that Ada was born in Nebraska. The informant for the death certificate was Ada's son Raymond Beach. Birth information on the death record is obviously not always reliable, but as is my nature, I was already down the rabbit hole. The FamilySearch family tree and most entries for Ada in family trees on Ancestry show Ada as born in Oregon.

I began locating more records for Ada, working my way back in time. The 1950 United States census was first, in which (presumably) Ada stated she was born in Nebraska. Next were her 1938 and 1932 Oregon voter registrations where she gave her location of birth as Omaha, Nebraska. In the 1930 U.S. census and the 1900 U.S. census (when Ada was enumerated with her parents) Nebraska is the birthplace given. Additionally, two of her marriage affidavits (1918 and 1926) gave Nebraska as her birthplace.

If you are wondering, as I was, how so many people got the location of birth incorrect. It is because Ada was issued an Oregon birth certificate.

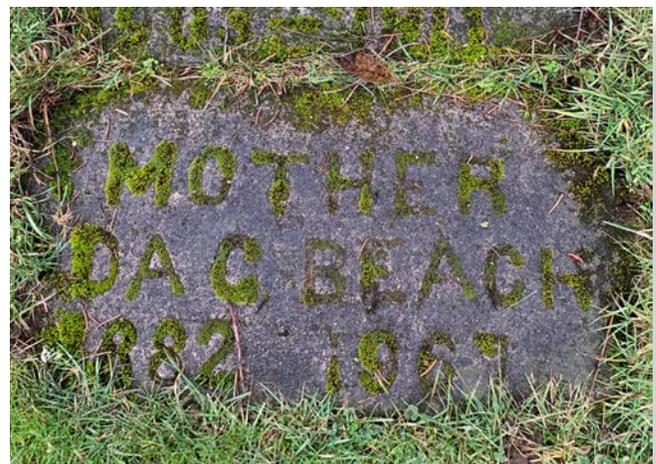
The document is, in fact, a Decree for Registration of Birth, issued by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Multnomah on 14 May 1947. Ada herself is the petitioner, and she stated that she was born on 30 September 1882 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Decree for Registration of Birth, Ada Gertrude Beach.

Yes, Ada has an Oregon birth record—but the record itself states Ada was born in Omaha. That, with the information likely provided by one of her parents in the 1900 census, is enough to quell my curiosity.

The lesson is, always look at the document! For any piece of evidence, it is important to seek information about when it was created and why, who provided the information, and to question your conclusions.

I'm ready to crawl out of the rabbit warren for now, but that compelling little hole is always there beckoning me and the next HCC conundrum.



"Mother Ada G. Beach 1882-1967," Historic Columbian Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

Photo courtesy Mark Grafe, 2024.

# Benjamin, Joseph, and John Hudson: Survivors of the Distemper Epidemic of 1740, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts

Margaret McCrea

## I: THE DISTEMPER

When the distemper got to the home of my six-times great-grandparents William and Mary Hudson in Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on Christmas Day, 1740, the illness had already taken nine children in that year alone from a town of perhaps 400. This disease was both serious and baffling. Local folks sometimes said it was scarlet fever without the rash. There was fever, yes. There was a sore throat, yes. But instead of a rash, a thick, putrid, tough mucus formed in the back of the throat, choking off the ability to swallow or even to breathe. Sometimes the throat and neck swelled up grotesquely. Within three days, most victims were strangled to death by mucus. But then there was that puzzling thing, that many of the sufferers did not seem to be all that sick. Some lasted as long as ten days. They could be up and walking around and die an hour later. More than once, children went outside to play and came inside to collapse and die. Over and over again, a sudden paralysis grabbed the arms of the patient, they would go stiff, their head would drop forward, and they would be gone. Just like that.<sup>1</sup>

This disease was so new it did not have a name. They called it “throat distemper,” more of a description than a name. More grim news developed as it made its way through the colonies. For one thing, it targeted children; for another, it had a very high fatality rate. Noah Webster said it “stripped the countryside of children.” The numbers were appalling.

Christmas Day, 1740 was a Sunday. What a bitter blow it must have been to a devout family to lose twelve-year-old Mary on that day. What should have been a holy day, spent in church and then in celebration, became a day of sorrow and distress. The burying ground was not far from



A Map of 100 Miles Round Boston, 1775, with Oxford, Massachusetts, circled. *Library of Congress.*

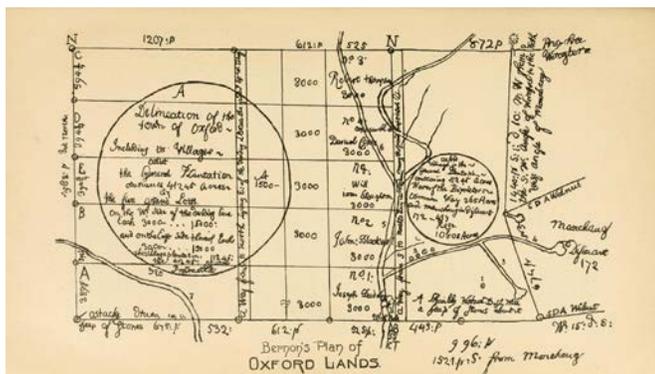
the Hudson homestead. Families knew in 1740 that they would very likely bury some of their children.

Four days later, five-year-old Samuel died. Another loss, another burial, another blow to the family. William and Mary had ten children on Christmas Eve, 1740. On New Year's Eve, they had eight. The next day, January 1, 1741, Sarah, age seven, died. On January 2, Hosea, age just short of one year, died. On January 3, Ebenezer, age three, died. On January 4, Marcy, age eight, died. Finally, eight days later, on January 12, seventeen-year-old Elizabeth died. Seven children in less than three weeks died in that household, leaving only three children still alive: Benjamin, Joseph, and John.

## II: THE TOLLS

Between 1735 and 1741, thirty children in Oxford died of what was recognized throughout the region as an epidemic. The Hudsons lost the most, but other families suffered similar tragedies. The Town family lost five children; the Davis family lost three; the Gleason, Phillips, Whitney, and Willson families lost two each. Seven other families lost one child each. In the nearby town of Dudley, the Conant family lost four children in four days and one a week previously. Deaths of more than one child on the same day were also recorded. Deaths were happening so fast that many times more than one child was buried in the same grave.

1. The most thorough review of this epidemic is Ernest Caulfield's 1939 *A History of the Terrible Epidemic* (see Bibliography) from which the numerical data used here has been drawn. Information specifically regarding Oxford, MA, has been corroborated through Daniels' *History of the Town of Oxford, MA*, and the *Vital Records of Oxford, MA to 1849*. The population estimate is derived from Daniels' work. Also, William Hudson, the father of this family, was one of the original thirty colonial settlers and founders of Oxford, obtaining Lot 28 in 1713. See map on p. 19.



“Bernan’s Plan of Oxford Lands,” George F. Daniels, *History of the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts, with Genealogies and Notes on Persons and Estates (Worcester, Massachusetts: Press of Chas. Hamilton, 1892); Library of Congress.*

The epidemic began in Kingston, New Hampshire, and traveled both north and south/southeast. The disease did not appear west of Worcester County, making Oxford and its neighboring town of Dudley the last two towns afflicted. The Hudson and Conant families were among the final victims of the outbreak.

Newspapers followed the track of the disease as it moved north as far as Maine and south into Massachusetts. The epicenter was Kingston, New Hampshire, a town about fifty miles north of Boston. Kingston is not a port city, where diseases often gain entry to a population. It was an inland agricultural town. Reports circulated that a farmer had killed a pig that seemed to be sick and cut it open. About three days later, the farmer died. There were also reports that Kingston had suffered an invasion of caterpillars over the spring which had died off, leaving a slime of dead bodies that slowly dried out and by autumn turned into dust, which was blamed for the disease. Newspapers kept up a litany of deaths, reported on the geographic progress of the distemper, and published long sad eulogies and lamenting poems over the carnage. Estimates for the final tally of the disease vary based on the states included and the years covered, but they run from as low as five-thousand to as high as twenty-thousand between 1735 and 1741. (See Caulfield and Karol-Chik).

That tally, however, is only an estimate of deaths among colonial settlers and their children. It overlooks the presence of the Native population and their experience of epidemics. The indigenous people of this region were the Nipmuc. They were among the peoples who moved into “praying towns,” meaning they converted to Christianity

and settled in towns allotted to them. As uncertain as the colonial records are, the recording of Native experience is both tenuous and overlooked. If the distemper swept through their towns, it would have had equally devastating effects. The grueling toll on children to Nipmuc parents is as tragic as the death of children anywhere. That’s universal.<sup>2</sup>

### III: THE TREATMENT

The medical community generally agreed that this disease was not contagious. Contagion was a somewhat controversial new concept at the time; men of science had argued about its validity for decades. The problem was that no one could determine what the carrier was or how it moved from place to place. This plague of childhood deaths raged through New Hampshire, but a small town six miles to the west of Kingston, its epicenter, was not hit with the distemper until almost five years after it started. Who could explain that? Additionally, why would the disease appear in one town, then take the lives of children in a town ten miles away when the children had not had contact between them? Many learned men, including Noah Webster who wrote a two-volume encyclopedia on epidemics, argued for the bad air hypothesis. (“Bad air” is the literal meaning of the word “malaria.”) There is a certain logic to the bad air thesis. Our recent experience with Covid-19 certainly strengthens the concept that breathing bad air can lead to disease. Filtering the air and wearing masks is logical, but it is not the air that causes the disease. It is the bacteria or viruses that no one could imagine in 1740. Doctors in the colonies had very little training at that time, with the exception of those with a European education. The first medical school in colonial New England would not be established until 1765. The most common treatment for this new disease was the old practice of bleeding the patient, no doubt hastening the patient’s death. Many people went completely untreated and simply died. Being the most educated persons in town, ministers were often called not only for prayers and burials, but also for what treatment they could offer. Their efforts were also in vain. The disease did not spare the ministers’ families either.

Preachers had a lot to say about the epidemic. Their general call was for “early piety,” by which they meant that even children should come to Jesus before it was too late. Sermons were preached and printed, calling the

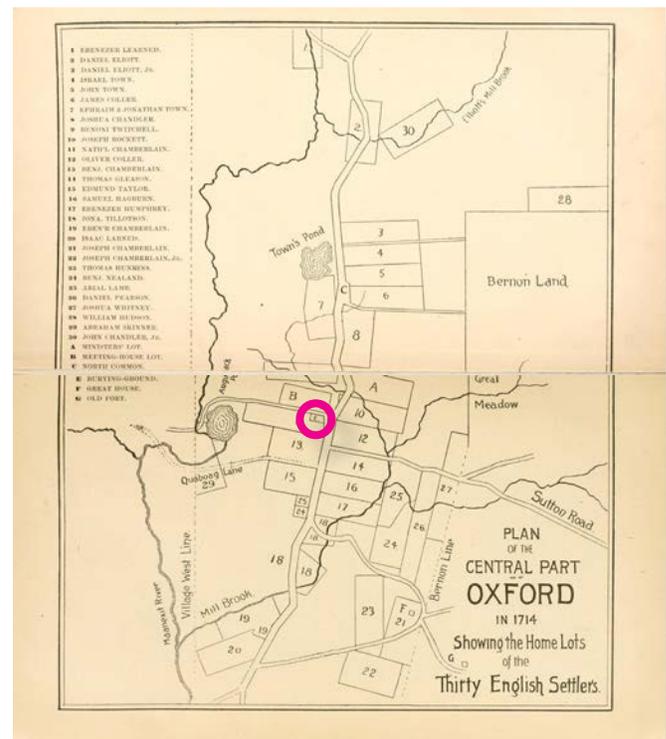
2. The study of the toll that European diseases took on Native populations during the colonial era is a specialty field outside the scope of this article. The modern-day headquarters of the Nipmuc peoples is Grafton, MA, some fifteen miles from Oxford. The Nipmuc are currently [digitizing early manuscripts](#) from the colonial era, which may contain notes and reports that are of interest on this topic. See Adams in the Bibliography.

population to salvation through repentance. At the same time that the disease was spreading, a religious movement, now known as the Great Awakening, was also spreading over New England. Was this a coincidence? Families were losing children, losing siblings, watching helplessly as God took their little ones. Many of the staid traditional preachers took a dim view of the outdoor religious circuses popping up around the countryside. But perhaps the shouting and singing allowed grieving people to vent their sorrow, their confusion, their fears, and helplessness, as well as perhaps find a reason for their suffering. Ironically, these rallies must have been super-spreader events.

#### IV: THE SURVIVORS

The fatality rate of this disease was 80 percent for those under the age of twenty. For those under twelve, the rate was 90 percent, and for those under five, the rate was virtually 100 percent. Elizabeth, the oldest girl and last of the Hudson children to die, was a bit on the older side of this demographic. Mary Farrington Hudson, the mother of this family, had to care for several ill children while also carrying a full household's worth of work. There was only one person she could call on for help: her oldest daughter, seventeen-year-old Elizabeth. That meant two people bore the load. Everyone needed meals, and burial required preparing the body for laying in the ground. Doing laundry was a grueling, back-breaking task, and they were on a farm, so even in winter there was work to do: feed, clean, bake, brew, gather, mend, and tend. The stress of six deaths in the family and the extra work Elizabeth was no doubt pressed into doing, along with her constant exposure to disease, may have built a combination of illness, stress, and exhaustion that contributed to her death. The three sons who survived were John D., age 18; Joseph, age 15; and Benjamin, age 13.

Noah Webster, in his work on epidemics, recounts that he met people who had had the illness as children. They told him they never fully regained their health. He noticed that they tended to die earlier than others in their age group. He quotes a man who had survived the distemper in 1741 as saying that for the rest of his life he was subject to "quinsies" (i.e., sort throats) and that he felt his body had never recovered from the shock to his health. That may explain why the oldest surviving son John died at the age of forty-three. His younger brother Joseph lived to the age of fifty-five. The youngest surviving son, Benjamin, seems to have triumphed over the distemper. He lived to 1821, dying in New Hampshire at the age of 94.



"Plan Showing Locations of Settler's Lots," George F. Daniels, *History of the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts, with Genealogies and Notes on Persons and Estates* (Worcester, Massachusetts: Press of Chas. Hamilton, 1892); *Library of Congress*. The Hudson's lot was number 28, upper right. The burial ground is circled.

#### V: RECOVERY

On February 19, 1742, Mary Farrington Hudson gave birth to a son, Samuel. She was thirty-six and had been through the most harrowing experience possible. The birth of this child could have been a sign of hope for better things. Unfortunately, there is no further record about Samuel. A search of the *Vital Records* turns up nothing beyond the birth record for this Samuel. No baptism, no marriage, no death. When a record is silent like that, it looks likely that this child died early.

George Daniels, in his *History of the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts*, reports that a twelfth child, a girl, was born to this family and she married a Mr. Boyce from Mendon, Massachusetts, a neighboring town. Daniels does not record her name. The *Vital Records* shows no daughter born to William and Mary after 1741. A search of the marriage records for both Oxford and Mendon turns up nothing. If this child existed, she did not make it into the uncertain records of the day.

Benjamin, Joseph, and John each married and had many children.

- Five years after the tragedy began, in 1745, John Hudson married Tamzin Ellis. They had nine children.

- More than a decade later, in 1756, the youngest surviving brother, Benjamin, married Sarah Holman. They had seven children in Oxford and three more after they moved out of town.
- Finally, in 1759, the middle surviving son, Joseph, married Mehitabel Thompson. They had six children.

That is a total of twenty-five children born to the surviving sons, and a healthy load of grandchildren for William and Mary who had lost so many of their own. If the unnamed last daughter had any children, there would be even more descendants to help heal the tragedy in this family.

## VI: THE RETURN

Twenty-seven years later, it happened again, without mercy. From 1768 to 1769, the distemper mowed down the next generation of children of Massachusetts.

- John D., the eldest surviving son, died in 1765. His widow Tamzin lost two daughters in 1768, ages three and five. Tragically, two other children had been born and died in infancy before the epidemic even got to town again, and her oldest child, Mary, had married in 1768 and died in 1769, shortly after giving birth.
- The middle surviving son Joseph, and his wife Mehitabel, lost their first four children to the distemper in 1768, on July 10th and 18th, and August 4th and 5th.
- Finally, Benjamin and Sarah also witnessed the death of four children in 1768, losing one in July, one in September, one in October and one in November.

Mary Farrington Hudson, the mother of the children lost in 1740 and the grandmother of the children lost in 1768, also died in 1769 at the age of 62. We cannot know if she died of the epidemic.

## VII: THE RESPONSE

After such a shattering blow to one's family, do you stay or do you go? The Hudson family did both.

Tamzin Hudson, widow of John Hudson, remarried in 1768, three years after the passing of her husband. She married Isaac Blood from Charlton, a nearby town, and moved there. She died two years later, in 1770, at the age of forty-five.

Benjamin and Sarah relocated to Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, where they had three more children. That gave them five surviving children. All of them married and had lots of children.

Back in Oxford, the 1790 U.S. census records several members of the Hudson family still in town, including two women who made it to serious old age. Mehitabel Hudson, widow of Joseph Hudson, stayed in Oxford but never remarried. She lived to the age of eighty-eight and died in 1821, the same year her brother-in-law Benjamin died in New Hampshire. Her niece Bathsheba stayed in town, outlived her husband John Mayo Jr., and lived to the age of ninety-six. She died just before the Civil War.

## VIII: THE RESEARCH

When Benjamin and his sister-in-law Mehitabel died in 1821, the name of the disease that took so many of their siblings and children was still five years into the future.

In 1826, Pierre Bretonneau finally described the disease scientifically, distinguished it from scarlet fever and named it *diphthérie* in French, diphtheria in English. By the 1820s, there was some treatment available for this condition that could strangle a person with mucus or cause them to seize and their heart to fail. However, the treatment was rather severe. It was to force a tube into the throat to attempt to drain out the thick, leathery gray pus that was choking the patient to death or perform a tracheotomy for the same purpose.

Sixty years after Bretonneau's work, in 1883, Swiss researcher Edwin Klebs found and described the elusive bacterium. Its scientific name is *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*; it is also called the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus, giving credit to Friedrich Loeffler, the German bacteriologist who a few years later isolated the bacteria and proved that it did indeed cause diphtheria.

The next step was to determine if a small administration of the bacillus could create a protection against the disease. In 1890, Emil von Behring and Shiba Saburo Kitasato were able to show that a dose of an antitoxin serum containing very small amounts of diphtheria toxin given to animals rendered them immune to the disease. This gained von Behring the first Nobel Prize ever granted for Physiology or Medicine. His student Kitasato was nominated along with him, but only Behring won it. Kitasato should have shared the prize. Kitasato was and is recognized for his work regarding bubonic plague and tetanus, but he has been overlooked for his contributions regarding diphtheria.

By the 1920s, Gaston Ramon, a French biologist, was able to create a vaccine that was cheaper and safer than earlier ones. The campaign against diphtheria on a global scale ramped up just about exactly a century ago. In the U.S., Abraham Jacobi was a pioneering pediatrician who became a well-known advocate for the treatment of diphtheria. He

produced his extensive *Treatise on Diphtheria* as early as 1880, in which he wrote that diphtheria can be prevented, treated, and survived. The fight against it has been amazingly successful. Citing Wikipedia, which cites the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “In the United States alone, the number of cases fell from [between] 100,000 to 200,000 per year in the 1920s to 19,000 in 1945 and 14 in the period 1996–2018.”<sup>3</sup>

### IX: THE RELAY

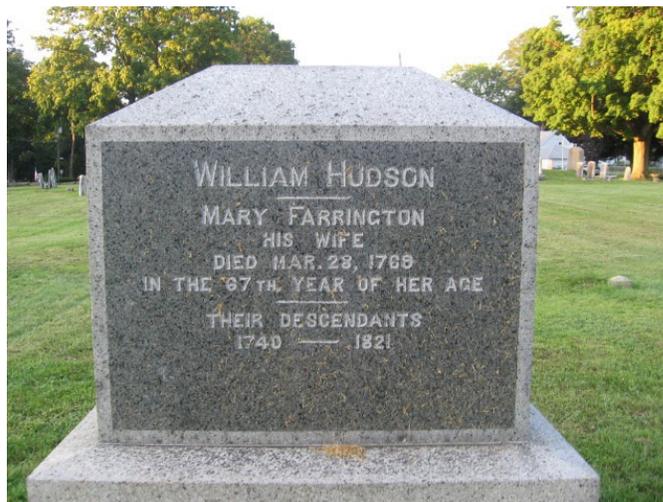
In 1925, in Nome, Alaska, Dr. Curtis Welch discovered that his serum against diphtheria had become outdated. He placed an order for more, but by December, winter ice had blocked the port. That is when the outbreak began. By mid-January, there were at least twenty confirmed cases of diphtheria in Nome, fifty more probable cases, and a handful of children had already died. Dr. Welch put out a call for serum. On January 26, 1925, 300,000 units were discovered in Anchorage, and there began one of the most stirring stories of rescue possible. Today’s Iditarod Dog Sled Race is an annual re-enactment of the 1925 Serum Run. The lead dog on the final section of the run, Balto, is still a national hero. A bronze statue honors him in Central Park, New York, and his body is preserved in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The effort succeeded in keeping the number of deaths down among children in Nome, but once again, the data for the Native Alaskans is sparse.

### X: THE REMEMBRANCE

Diphtheria is not gone. Outbreaks occur every year where vaccination rates are low. The campaign against the disease has been so successful that when I was telling someone about my research, he said “What’s diphtheria?” It took so long to find it and so little time to forget it. By coincidence, in 1768 while the second diphtheria outbreak was ravaging New England, the people of Norfolk, Virginia, were rioting against smallpox vaccinations. Virginians were convinced that the inoculation actually spread the disease and they did not trust the government (the British Crown) which was promoting it. Fear, doubt, and distrust seem to accompany epidemics wherever and whenever they occur.

But not everyone forgot. The stone memorial shown above stands in the South Cemetery of Oxford.

The dates for “Their Descendants 1740–1821” are significant. 1740 was the year the disaster began; 1821 is



*Hudson family memorial, South Cemetery of Oxford, Massachusetts. Image by Dianne, 2009. [Find a Grave](#).*

the year that Benjamin, the youngest surviving son, who lived to age 94, finally died. As another tribute, the Hudson House, the oldest original building of the town of Oxford, Massachusetts, was admitted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. In spite of the family’s trauma, this house is also a survivor.

### XI: THE REST OF THE STORY

I am a descendant of the descendants. John D. Hudson, the eldest surviving son, and his wife Tamzin had a daughter, Elizabeth Mary, born 1757, the sixth of their nine children. She married Robert Packard on February 11, 1782, in Westmoreland, Cheshire, New Hampshire, where her uncle Benjamin had moved sometime after the illnesses. Elizabeth and Robert are my four-times great-grandparents. Packard is my birth family name. Robert and Elizabeth settled in Vermont and had seven children. Remarkably, all of them survived into adulthood. One of their sons, Nathan Hudson Packard, is my grandfather’s great-grandfather. William and Mary, my six-times great-grandparents, whose marker is shown in the picture above, survived more or less by random good fortune. I exist because someone cared enough to track down the cause of that deadly disease and has come close to eradicating it. That, I suppose, is my random good fortune. When I get a chance to visit this grave marker, I plan to lay three wreaths: one for the Hudson family, one for the scientists, and one for the Nipmuc peoples.

3. “Diphtheria vaccine,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Diphtheria\\_vaccine&oldid=1193317285](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Diphtheria_vaccine&oldid=1193317285) : accessed 26 January 2024), updated 3 January 2024.

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, Nehemiah. *The Life of John Eliot, with an account of the early missionary efforts among the Indians of New England*. Massachusetts Sabbath School Society, Boston. 1847. <https://archive.org/details/lifeofjohneliotw00adamuoft/page/n323/mode/2up?q=epidemic>.

John Eliot (1604–1690) is known to this day as the “apostle to the Indians.” In spite of its clear Eurocentric perspective, this is an interesting account of the contact between Native peoples and European settlers in Massachusetts in the 1600s. There are bits of information that shed light on the subject of epidemics or plagues among the people that Eliot and other missionaries were working among. Most references do not name the illness itself and the Nipmuc are not mentioned by name. Nevertheless, there are revealing passages. On page 221 is a touching description of Indian parents attempting to alleviate a sick child’s pain by putting some of the child’s favorite playthings nearby as it lay dying. Though research is catching up, there is still a great deal to be learned about Native experiences of epidemics.

Benoit, Matthew. Superintendent of Cemetery Grounds, Oxford (MA) Public Works Dept. Telephone conversation regarding the Hudson memorial. Friday, 19 January 2024.

Blanchard, B. Wayne. *Deadliest American Disasters and Large-Loss-of-Life Events Project*, 2017. Data regarding epidemic of 1767–1769: <https://www.usdeadlyevents.com/1767-70-diphtheria-epidemic-12-of-population-mostly-children-oxford-ma-96-144/>.

This website contains data on thousands of U.S. disasters of various types since 1492 and is still adding more events. Most of the information about the 1767–1769 return of the distemper just in Oxford is based on this source. This site contains not only data sources from original records but also references to other historical sources that are included in this bibliography.

Botting, Jack H. “Chapter 7: Diphtheria: Understanding, Treatment and Prevention” in *Animals and Medicine*, Open Book Publishers, 2015. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt15m7ng5.12>.

A search for information about whether a pig in Kingston, New Hampshire, really was the source of diphtheria turned up this extremely useful article. In spite of the title of the book it is found in, it says very little about zoonotic transmission of diphtheria but it has a good deal of information regarding the scientific quest for the cause, cure, and prevention of diphtheria.

Cassedy, James H., “Church Record-Keeping and Public Health in Early New England,” *Medicine in Colonial Massachusetts, 1620–1820*. Colonial Massachusetts Society, 2017. <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/1213#ch14>.

This is a source for information on the role that ministers played in their towns as founts of knowledge, as spiritual guides and for this paper most importantly, as keepers of the public records and accounts. Caulfield (see below) discusses how hard the disease was on the families of ministers who were going from house to house, exposing themselves to the disease, then bringing it home to their families.

Caulfield, Ernest. “A History of the Terrible Epidemic, Vulgarly Called the Throat Distemper, as It Occurred in His Majesty’s New England Colonies Between 1735 and 1740.” *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, January 1939; 11(3): 219-72.

This is a massive and masterful work. Dr. Caulfield, a Yale historian, wrote the definitive work on this epidemic and as acknowledged in Lloyd G. Stevenson’s “The Historical Writings of Ernest Caulfield,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, vol. 20, no. 1, 1965, pp. 38–42; *JSTOR* (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/24621478> : accessed 2 January 2024). “Nothing has replaced, nothing is likely to replace, the *Throat Distemper* or the modestly titled ‘Some Common Diseases of Colonial Children.’ These, with other contributions in the same vein, will hold a small but permanent and important place in medical historiography. There is

nothing quite like them in medical literature.” Dr. Caulfield did what most genealogists would love to do: visit all the graveyards and read all the town histories, and town records and vital statistics of all of New England. In addition, he scoured the newspapers for public responses and suggested a connection between the epidemic and the first wave of the Great Awakening. Most of the numbers cited in this article come from Dr. Caulfield’s extensive work. He also proposed a theory that diphtheria had been endemic in the general population. When it tipped over into an epidemic, most of the adults had already been exposed to some extent, so the disease targeted children. He even has a theory about what kicked the disease into an epidemic.

Caulfield, Ernest. “Some Common Diseases of Colonial Children.” *Transactions of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, Vol. 35, April 1942, pp. 4–65. <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/865>.

This is a much smaller article and only part of it is dedicated to diphtheria, but once again it is an excellent overview of the extent and toll of the distemper.

Centers for Disease Control. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid>.

The CDC’s Emerging Infectious Diseases site is a global reporting location for many different diseases in different locations. Most of what is here are recent research reports. It is primarily a source for medical professionals.

Daniels, George. *History of the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts*. Oxford, MA, 1892.

George Daniels’ 900-page work is typical of local histories written at the end of the 19th Century. It is an extensive review of the town’s history and genealogy. It includes most of the town’s vital records and recounts the historical development but does not discuss the epidemics except tangentially.

Jacobi, Abraham. *A Treatise on Diphtheria*. William Wood & Co., N.Y., 1880.

This is a medical treatise. It is not written for the casual public. It is included here because of its historic importance. Dr. Jacobi was not just a research scientist but also a pediatrician and a professor of childhood diseases. He was also outspoken about the health and welfare of children. He established the first Department of Pediatrics at a general hospital.

Karol-Chik, Shellie. *Diseases and Epidemics of Colonial New England*, Handout from online workshop by the Mayflower Society, <https://themayflowersociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Diseases-and-Epidemics-in-Colonial-New-England-Handout.pdf>.

A timeline of colonial epidemics, advice for research, and historical vocabulary for diseases.

Klass, Perri. “How Science Conquered Diphtheria, the Plague Among Children.” *Smithsonian Magazine*, October 2021. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/science-diphtheria-plague-among-children-180978572/>.

This article from a popular magazine is surprisingly informative of the major players in the scientific quest to conquer diphtheria, including a segment giving Abraham Jacobi his due. Dr. Jacobi lost two of his own children to diphtheria.

Rice, Franklin D. *Vital Records of Oxford, Massachusetts to 1849*. Stanhope Press, Boston, MA. 1905.

Tribal Government of the Nipmuc Nation, <https://www.nipmucnation.org/>.

U.S. census, 1790, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Webster, Noah. *A brief history of epidemic and pestilential diseases*; Vol. I–II. Hudson & Goodwin, 1799. Early American Imprint Collection. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?>

Webster's ambitious, rambling work is a bit of homework to sort through, but it is excellent at describing how the disease affected those unfortunate enough to get it. His work is close to an eyewitness account of the impact that the epidemics had. It reads like a journalist's first-hand account, even though he was born a little too late to have experienced it personally.

#### TABLE OF THE HUDSON FAMILY

##### FIRST GENERATION: FAMILY OF WILLIAM AND MARY HUDSON

William Hudson (1697? –1750?) married Mary Farrington (1706–1769)

Married 17 May 1721

Children (**bold** = survivors; \* = succumbed to diphtheria)

1. **John D. Hudson** (1722–1765)
- \*2. Elizabeth Hudson (1723–1741)
3. **Joseph** (1725–1780)
4. **Benjamin** (1727–1821)
- \*5. Mary (1728–1740)
- \*6. Marcy (1730–1741)
- \*7. Sarah (1733–1741)
- \*8. Samuel (1735–1740)
- \*9. Ebenezer (1737–1741)
- \*10. Hosea (1740–1741)
11. Samuel (1741–?) Born one year after the last death of the epidemic.
12. Unknown daughter, mentioned by Daniels, and is said to have married, but her name is not given. Neither birth nor death dates are given.

##### SECOND GENERATION: FAMILIES OF THE THREE SURVIVING SONS

1. John D. Hudson (1722–1765) married Tamzin Ellis (1725–1770).

Two children lost in infancy, before the second round of the epidemic: Ezekiel Jones and Elizabeth. Three children lost to the return of diphtheria in 1768–69: Mary, Dorcas, and Phebe. Four children survived to adulthood: William, Tamzin, Elizabeth Mary (my four-times great-grandmother), and Bathsheba.

3. Joseph (1725–1780) married Mehitabel Thompson (1733–1821).

Four children lost to the return of diphtheria in 1768–69: Joseph, Mercy, David, and John. They were eight, seven, five and three years old, and the first four children born in this family. Two children survived childhood: John and Mehitabel. They were born in 1768 and 1770; it appears they missed the epidemic.

4. Benjamin (1727–1821) married Sarah Holman (1738–1794).

Four children lost to the return of diphtheria in 1768–69: Mercy, Hannah, Benjamin, and Mary. Five children survived to adulthood: Sarah, Lucy, Solomon, Elizabeth, Rhoda. Their last child, Hannah, appears not to have survived childhood. This is the family that moved to New Hampshire. The last three children were born there (Elizabeth, Rhoda, and Hannah). Also, Lucy and Solomon were born after the second wave of the disease in Oxford.

## From the Manuscripts

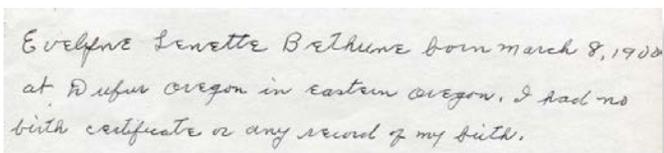
# Excerpts from the Memoir of Evelyne Lenette (Boals) Boehlke (1900–1989) of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

Nanci Remington

A memoir has been described as “a narrative, written from the perspective of the author, about an important part of their life.”<sup>1</sup> Memoirs are frequently found in family history manuscript collections, though they may not be labeled as such. It is common for researchers to write to family members and ask about their lives or the experiences of family members. Or perhaps a family member wants to pass on their story to their descendants. These narratives take the form of letters (correspondence) or short autobiographies. There are also journals and diaries that record day-to-day happenings. These terms are noted in the finding aids that accompany the collections.

An example is the memoir of Evelyne Lenette (Boals) Boehlke.<sup>2</sup> Apparently written for her grandson Bill Boelke, it was accompanied by two photos and a shorter memoir (more like a resume) written by her husband Lewis (Louis) Boehlke. All were sent to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon after a probate case closed in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.<sup>3</sup> Most of the items pertained to Lewis or son Robert Boehlke. There were certificates, pension records, and funeral records. There was a 1941 student directory for Albany College (now Lewis and Clark University) that included Robert Boehlke. However, Evelyne’s handwritten pages stood out.

Her story begins:



Evelyne Lenette Bethune born March 8, 1900 at Dufur Oregon in eastern Oregon. I had no birth certificate or any record of my birth.

Sample of the handwritten memoir.

Evelyne Lenette Bethune born March 8, 1900 at Dufur Oregon in Eastern Oregon. I had no birth certificate or any record of my birth.



*Evelyne and Robert Boehlke*

My mother was Adelaide Ynez Aranna (called Ida) was born in Santa Cruz Ca. Her parents were French and Spanish.... My mother was orphaned very young she had a sister Isabelle & a half brother who was much older. She & her sister were raised by both Grandmothers. They attended a Catholic School that was part of an orphanage. When she was 10 or 11 Isabelle died and soon after both Grandmothers died. She was placed in the orphanage until she was 16 years old...

Evelyne’s mother Adelaide grew up in California but moved to Oregon soon after her marriage.

She met my Father who was working on the Oakland street cars. He had attended Oregon State Agriculture College (did not graduate) he had a teaching Certificate but never used it. He was Joseph Youngman Bethune of Dufur Oregon....He & my mother were married in Oakland Ca. & went to Dufur to his folks where I was born. Eventually they moved to Portland Ore. Where they separated & divorced. He left us for another woman...

1. Jessica Dukes, “What is a Memoir?” *Celedon Books* (<https://celadonbooks.com/what-is-a-memoir/> : accessed 26 January 2024).

2. “Boehlke,” personal papers, Digital Surname Vertical File, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland ([gfo.org](http://gfo.org) : accessed 28 January 2024), recorded 18 November 2023.

3. The items received by the GFO were personal papers not wanted by the family. They did not include any probate documents and it is not known whose probate it was.

Divorce proceedings have been filed in the Circuit Court against Joseph B. Bethune, by his wife, Mrs. Adelaide A. Bethune. She alleges that they were married in Oakland, and that he has deserted her, and left her to provide her own livelihood, and that of their little girl.

Court notes.

The family was recorded on the June 1900 U.S. census living in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where Joseph was a machinist in a railroad shop.<sup>4</sup> As reported in the newspaper, Adelaide asserted that Joseph abandoned her and his daughter in January 1902.<sup>5</sup> She filed for divorce in January 1903, and it was granted in March of that year.<sup>6</sup> Left without resources, Adelaide answered an ad looking for somebody to keep house and care for a “bedfast lady” in rural Columbia County.

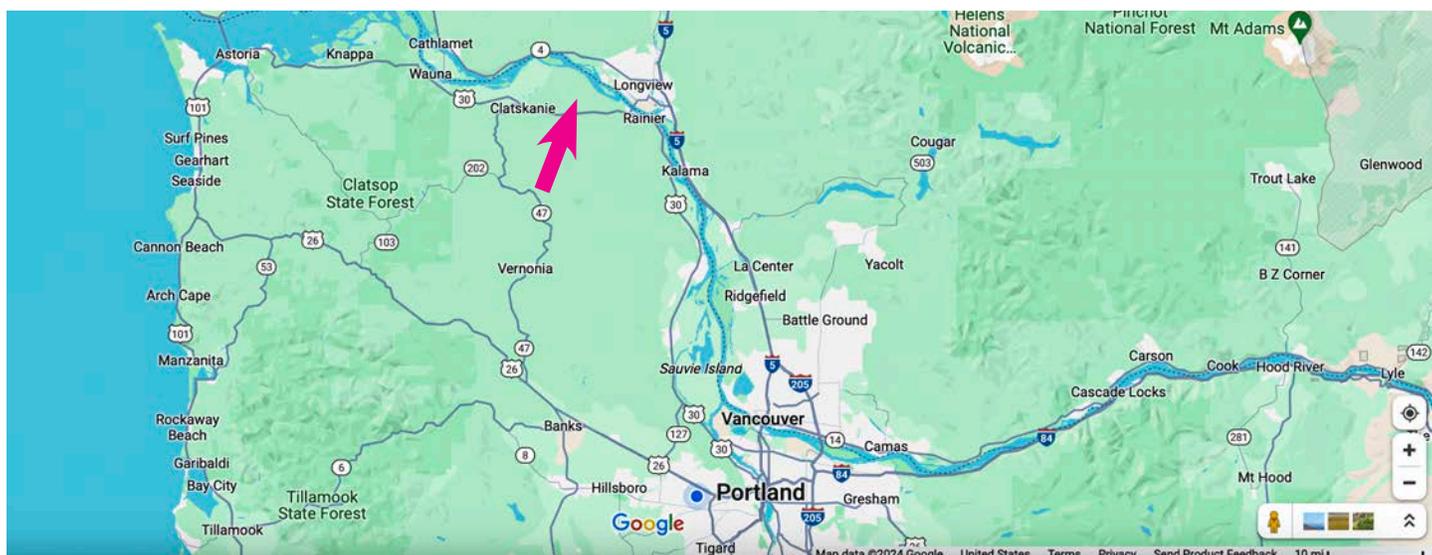
She took the boat from Portland, Ore. to Maygur Ore. which is about 50+ miles from Portland towards the ocean. It was just a boat landing at a long wharf built out over the Columbia

River.... The man who met her was Sylvester Mark Boals & his place was 3 1/2 miles back in the hills. It was his mother Mary Boals who was ill. The house was a large two story home with lots of warmth & food & kindness....

He [Boals] spent his life working in logging camps & saw mills he loved the woods. We were there about a year when Grandma Boals died. My mother stayed on a number of months after her death. Then they decided to get married. They got married in Portland.<sup>7</sup>

I was legally adopted by S. M. Boals ... they had two daughters Ynez Winona who married Ray Benson first she died in 1927.<sup>8</sup> Alpha Madeline who is married to Ray now. I always called him [Boals] Dad as I knew no other Father, he was very good to me.

He died in 1946 & his urn of ashes along with your Grandfather Bodhlkes' are in the same niche (Daphne) at Lincoln Memorial Mausoleum in Portland. They both loved the outdoors and the woods. Mother died Christmas Day 1936 [1935] at Alpha's in Richmond Ca....<sup>9</sup>



Location of the property of Sylvester Mark Boals. Google Maps.

4. 1900 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, population schedule, Portland, enumeration district 80, sheet 12, 230 Tillamook, entry for Joseph Bethune and Adelaide Bethune; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 26 January 2024).

5. “Court Notes,” *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 29 January 1903, p. 5, col. 1; digital image *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 26 January 2024).

6. “Four More Free,” *The Morning Oregonian*, 28 March 1903, p. 14, col. 4; digital image, *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 26 January 2024).

7. “Multnomah County Marriages 1900-1924 Index,” *Genealogical Forum of Oregon* (<https://gfo.org> : accessed 26 January 2024); citing Multnomah County Marriage record books, vol. 15, p. 441, 27 September 1903, Sylvester M. Boals and Adelaide I. Bethune.

8. “California, U.S. Death Index, 1905-1939,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 January 2024); citing Alameda County, 29 January 1929, Ynez W Benson.

9. “California, U.S. Death Index, 1905-1939,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 January 2024); citing Contra Costa County, 25 December 1935, Adelaide I Boals. Also, “Oregon Visitor Dies in Richmond,” *Oakland Tribune*, 26 December 1935, p. 14; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/article/oakland-tribune/90043394/> : accessed 26 January 2024).

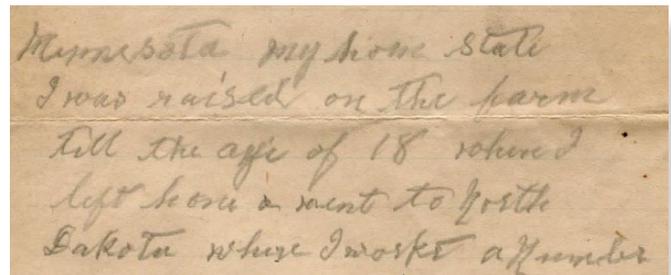
I attended a one room school with grade from one to eighth probably 20-30 pupils all together with a wood stove for heat & a bucket and dipper for drinking water ... We had a girls baseball team our ball was a rock wrapped in a man's heavy sock.... The school was named Sanborn. When I was in the 5th or 6th grade they built a two room school with a full basement & furnace down the hill on the main road. It was named Downing School... When I graduated from the 8th grade you took a State exam ... you had to pass it to go to High School.... My first year in high school I went to Ranier Ore. I stayed with a lady & helped her for my room & board. The next 3 yrs I went to St. Helens & did the same. I graduated in June 1918.



Home at 4820 SE Boise Street, Portland.

I worked for a lady who had a boarding house. I was supposed to go in training at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland to be a nurse. Instead I met your Grandfather Boehlke & we were married in Vancouver Wa. March 1 – 1919. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad & we lived in Portland where your Father was born. We bot the place at 4820 S. E. Boise when your father was a year old so he spent all his childhood in that neighborhood. I lived in the house 42 years. Your grandfather died July 9 – 1950.

Lewis Boehlke was born on 7 December 1870 in Greifswald, Pomerania, Prussia.<sup>10</sup> The 1900 census records that he immigrated in 1883 when he would have been about 13 years old.<sup>11</sup> Lewis wrote:



Sample of the handwritten memoir.

Minnesota, my home state. I was raised on the farm till the age of 18 when I left home & went to North Dakota where I worked a number of years on a farm. I left Dakota in the fall of 1896 ...and came to Portland, Oregon.... In the Spring of 1904 I went to work for the SP railroad Company.

Lewis and Evelyne's son Robert was born on 9 December 1919. As noted above, the family lived in Southeast Portland. Lewis retired from the railroad in 1940. His retirement certificate was included in the personal papers and used the German spelling of his name—Ludwig Wilhelm Theodor Boehlke. In 1952, two years after Lewis died, Evelyne married Sarkis Simonian, a tailor who was born in Armenia. They later moved to Tacoma, possibly to be near Robert who had moved to Washington. Evelyne died on 18 January 1989 at the age of 88.<sup>12</sup>

Without the memoirs, the group of documents give a bare-bones overview of two people who married in Oregon in the early 1900s.

Research results add to that picture. But the memoirs provide the context for their lives and a hint of the personalities of two people who came from challenging circumstances and succeeded in building successful and fulfilling lives.



Lewis Boehlke

10. "Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records, 1544-1966," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-859G-GM?i=339&cc=3665083> : accessed 26 January 2024); citing the Evangelical Church in Groß Bünzow, Germany, baptism January 1871, Ludwig Wilhelm Theodor Böhlke, born 7 December 1870.

11. 1900 U.S. census, Whitman County, Washington, Garfield, ED 701, sheet 290, line 7, Lewis F. Boehlke in the household of Albert B. Stump; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 January 2024).

12. "Washington, U.S. Death Records, 1907-2017," digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 January 2024), citing Pierce County, Washington, certificate of death, 1898, Evelyn Simonian.

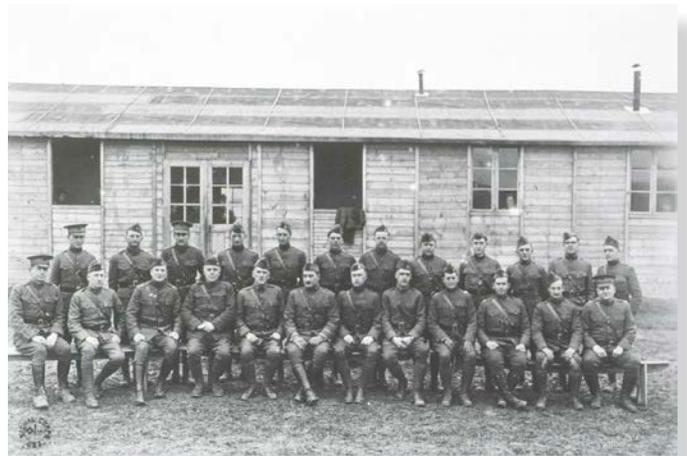
# Who Wrote the World War I Diary in the Lake Oswego Public Library's Historic Documents Collection?

Courtney A. Clements

Last Halloween, as I was indexing the Lake Oswego Public Library's (LOPL) collection of historic documents and photos, I discovered a real treat! I discovered a diary written by a U.S. Army surgeon who sailed from New York to France in September 1918 to serve at a base hospital during the last months of World War I.<sup>1</sup> Steve Turner, the LOPL director, received the diary in a donation of books to the library's annual book sale in May 1978.<sup>2</sup> It had been transcribed, but no one on the LOPL staff had been able to determine the author. "Well," I thought, "there's my November project!"

I began my research by reading the transcript and highlighting all the names, places, and events—anything that could provide a clue to authorship. The writer identified the ship on which he traveled, USS *Siboney*, as well as some of his fellow passengers. Several entries indicated that he was an officer. On 6 September, he wrote that he "went to dinner [with] Col. Keen, Major Peacock and Capt. Ewing." After arriving in France, he wrote that he "had a first-class compartment with Major Peacock and Capt. West" on the train that transported the medical unit from the coast to their hospital at Allerey-sur-Saône. From those entries, I inferred that he must have been an officer.

To obtain more information about the USS *Siboney*, I consulted Fold3, which is available to Genealogical Forum of Oregon members. In Fold3, I found the Medical



Unidentified men at Base Hospital 70, Allerey, France. U.S. National Library of Medicine. <https://www.history.navy.mil/>

Corps, Base Hospital #70 passenger list for 4 September 1918 departure from New York.<sup>3</sup> Fourteen officers on the manifest ranked as a captain or higher. Eight of these men were mentioned in the diary, so it is likely that none of them was the writer. In his 6 October entry, the writer stated, "I'd like to get back to the wee wife, that's waitin' and the 'bairn.'" From that entry, I ascertained that the writer was married and a father of one child, since the word "bairn" was singular. Of the remaining six officers on the manifest not named in the diary, four listed wives as emergency contacts. Finally, the words "wee" and "bairn" suggested that there might be a connection to Scotland that I should consider.

The four contenders and their wives were:

- Captain George J. Hurley and Blanche M. Hurley, Hoquiam, Washington
- Captain Levi L. Riggin and Eva L. Riggin, Pasadena, California
- Captain John M. Sherman and Calmer Sherman, Samuels, Kentucky
- Captain Hugh S. Willson and Mary R. Willson, Minneapolis, Minnesota

1. World War I Diary, 1918, LOPL.2023.HD.1.244, Lake Oswego Public Library Historic Documents Collection, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

2. "Fragment of Local History Found at Sale," *Lake Oswego Review*, 31 May 1978, p. 20.

3. "U.S. Army WWI Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1918-1919," NARA records, Headquarters Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, New Jersey, USS *Siboney*, list of officers for Base Hospital #70, sheet 1; digital image, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/604095261/604095281> : accessed 1 November 2023), image 21.

Since both the diary and the manifest were dated 1918, I looked for each of the couples in the 1920 U.S. census. George and Blanche Hurley lived in Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, Washington, in 1920 with their four children: Muriel, 13; Margaret, 11; Donald, 8; and Susan, 6.<sup>4</sup> George was born in Nebraska and Blanche in Iowa. There is no indication from the census record that either of them had recent Scottish ancestry. Given that the diarist used the singular “bairn” and that there was no connection to Scotland, it seemed unlikely that George Hurley was the author.



View of docks and harbor at Base Section No. 1, St. Nazaire, France, 31 May 1918. <https://www.history.navy.mil/>

The remaining three candidates proved a bit more challenging.

Levi and Eva Riggin are enumerated in the 1920 census in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California (he is indexed as L. Lore Riggin).<sup>5</sup> There were no children in their household. The 1910 census shows no children born and no children living for Levi and Eva.<sup>6</sup> They were both born in New Jersey, his parents were born in Virginia and New Jersey, and hers were born in New Jersey.

I had a difficult time tracking down John M. and Calmer Sherman, because their actual names were John Norvel and Mary Palmer Sherman. Mrs. Sherman’s first name is recorded as “Palmer” in the 1930 census.<sup>7</sup> Though the Shermans had three children, John, Jr. was the only one who would have been the “bairn” mentioned in the diary. He was born 30 October 1918. Daughter Eunice C. died in 1914 and second son Marvin H. was born in 1924.<sup>8</sup> Though the “bairn” might have been John, neither John, Sr. nor Mary Palmer had recent Scottish ancestry.

In 1920, H. S. Willson and his wife Mary were enumerated in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota.<sup>9</sup> There were no children listed with them. I looked them up in the 1910 and 1930 censuses and found them, again with no children.<sup>10</sup> Obituaries for both Hugh and Mary also do not mention children.<sup>11</sup> Mary, however, was a native of Scotland.

Captains Riggin, Sherman, and Willson were all potential authors. Each was a doctor, an officer, and a husband. I could only verify that Captain Sherman was a father at the time the diary was written. Further exploration on

4. 1920 U.S. census, Grays Harbor County, Washington, Hoquiam, Ward 3, Enumeration District (ED) 88, p.13B, dwelling 295, family 344, George Hurley; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 1 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 1923.

5. 1920 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, Pasadena, ED 535, p.5B, dwelling 104, family 113, L. Lore Riggin; digital image *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 13 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 117.

6. 1910 U.S. census, Alameda County, California, Oakland, Ward 1, ED 81, p.14B, dwelling 202, family 227, Lore Riggin; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 13 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 69.

7. 1930 U.S. census, Neosho County, Kansas, Chanute, ED 9, p.9B, dwelling 249, family 261, John N. Sherman; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 1 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T626.

8. John, Jr.’s obituary listed Eunice’s death date. John Norvel Sherman, Jr. obituary, *The Chanute (Kansas) Tribune*, 7 March 2011; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 13 November 2023). Marvin’s birth date is listed on his gravestone. *Find a Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 November 2023), memorial 84467807, Marvin Henry Sherman (1924-1948) Elmwood Cemetery, Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas; gravestone photo by VJS.

9. 1920 U.S. census, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Minneapolis, Ward 4, ED 81, p.8B, dwelling 64, family 246, H.S. Wilson; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 1 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 833.

10. 1910 U.S. census, Pembina County, North Dakota, Crystal, ED 48, p.10B, dwelling 48, family 48, Hugh S. Willson; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 1 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1145.

1930 U.S. census, San Diego County, California, San Diego, ED 142, p.3A, dwelling 298, family 298, Hugh S. Wilson; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition* (available through participating libraries : accessed 1 November 2023), from National Archives microfilm publication T626.

11. “Dr. Hugh Willson Called by Death,” *San Diego Union and Daily Bee*, 13 December 1931, p.11, col.1; digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 7 November 2023). “San Diego Obituaries,” *San Diego Union and Daily Bee*, 24 December 1966, p.20, col.5; digital images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 7 November 2023).

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org as well as Minnesota, North Dakota, and California state vital records turned up no children for the Riggins or Willsons. Perhaps Eva and/or Mary had a child between 1910 and 1920 who did not survive. The final clue—the writer’s use of Scottish terms—was, I believe, the key to solving the question of authorship.

“Bairn” and “wee” are specifically Scottish words. Though “wee” is used commonly in British and American English to modify “hours,” it is not commonly used to modify a person. Only one of the likely writers—Captain Hugh Willson—had a significant connection to Scotland, and it was through his wife.

The evidence suggests that Hugh Spaulding Willson was the writer of the diary. He was born in North Dakota in 1877. His wife, Mary Richmond was born in Scotland circa 1888 and emigrated to the United States in 1894/95. She moved to North Dakota where she married Hugh in 1907.<sup>12</sup> He attended the University of Minnesota medical school and became a gastroenterologist. In 1918, he joined the military and shipped out to France where he served at a base hospital in Allerey-sur-Saône, France.

After the war, Hugh returned to Minnesota. He and Mary relocated to San Diego, California, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Hugh is buried in Bathgate Cemetery, Pembina County, North Dakota. Mary is buried in El Camino Memorial Park, San Diego, San Diego County, California.<sup>13</sup> I found no evidence that

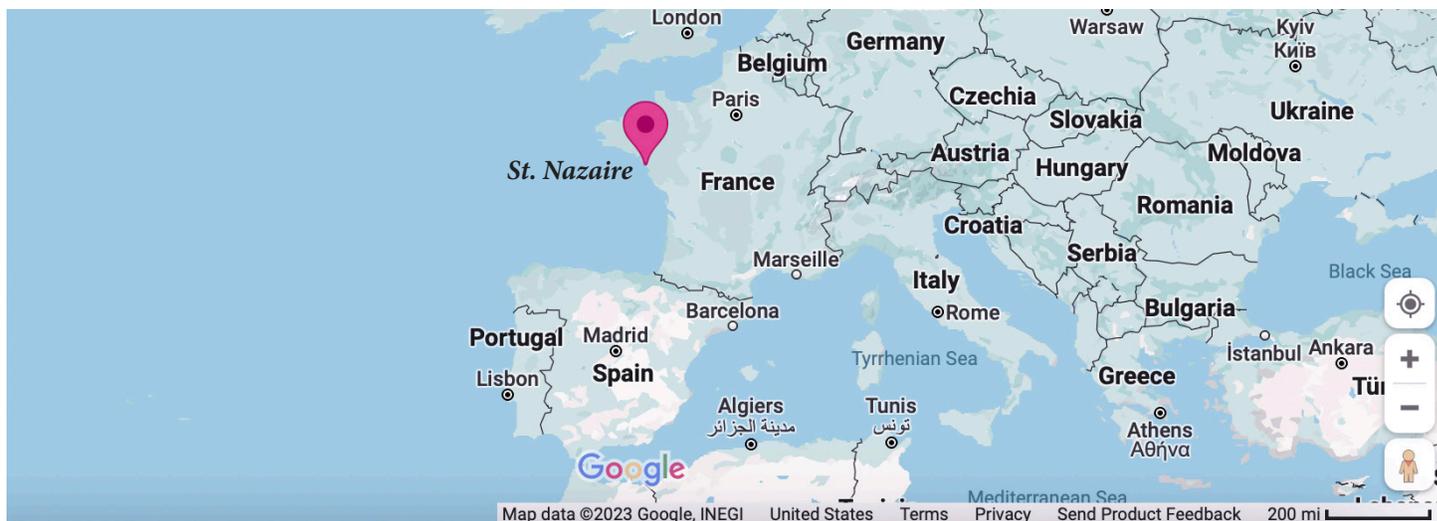


USS Sierra at St. Nazaire, France, 1919.

<https://www.history.navy.mil/>

either Mary or Hugh spent time in Oregon, so how the diary ended up in Lake Oswego is still a mystery.

I enjoy working on diaries. They provide details into lives that help flesh out the vital records that genealogists initially use. They also provide a good challenge for those research skills that we as genealogists must master to identify people, places, and events that are recorded in diaries. Since diaries are almost always written for private use, it can be difficult to tease out details that the writer had no need to record (e.g., full names or relationships). I have found though, that the reward is worth the effort.



12. *The Pioneer Express* (Pembina, ND), 6 September 1907, p.5, col.4; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 7 November 2023).

13. *Find a Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 November 2023), memorial 139794160, Hugh Spaulding Willson (1877–1931) Bathgate Cemetery, Bathgate, Pembina County, North Dakota; gravestone photo by Sherry. *Find a Grave*, database (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 November 2023), memorial 235031559, Mary Richmond Willson (1887–1966) El Camino Memorial Park, San Diego, San Diego County, California; no gravestone photo.

# The World War I Diary of Captain Hugh Spaulding Willson (4 September–26 November 1918)

Transcribed and annotated by Courtney A. Clements

## INTRODUCTION

Captain Hugh Spaulding Willson, a gastroenterologist from Minneapolis, Minnesota, was the likely author of the following diary. During World War I, he served in the United States Army Medical Corps. His unit, Base Hospital #70, left New York 4 September 1918 and arrived at Allerey-sur-Saône, France, three weeks later. In his diary, Captain Willson detailed his journeys—by ship, train, and on foot—across France. He marveled at the beauty and history of the countryside while mourning the effects that the various wars waged throughout history in this region. His description of the life at the hospital is not detailed, but he does allude to the suffering he tried to help ease and the constant lack of supplies that often necessitated theft from other hospital sites.

My annotation of this diary is not exhaustive. I attempted to give readers enough detail and source material to aid in further exploration of the story of Captain Willson and his colleagues who worked valiantly to alleviate the misery wrought by the conflict.

## LEAVING THE USA

Sept. 4, 1918

*We had been aboard ship one day, at the pier, when at 5 p.m. the big cables were loosened, the gang planks pulled in and the big ship began to move out to the big ocean. As the ship—The Siboney—passed out past the Statue of Liberty and the battery front of New York, the colors flying, and the band playing; I cannot describe the emotions we had—but one's chest felt pretty full. We were leaving our homes and families, wives and children, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and our country where we were from and raised. Our country that had always protected us. As yet we knew no other kind of country. We were surrounded by destroyers and one battleship. Above us were airplanes for scouting and two dirigible balloons for the same purpose. Ahead of us was the great ocean and we could scarcely think of it, but as the grave of many ships and their cargo of humans, like we were.*



USS Siboney. [Wikimedia Commons](#).

*In spite of the danger which seem to be ahead of us, we were not sad or sober. The great mission we had ahead of us and the great cause we had to defend inspired us with the feeling of approaching exaltation. Our dear ones at home were never so dear and life never seemed better—but the band was playing or national hymns, and duty and love for one's country seemed such a sacred thing. Many of us do not pray in church. The man who did not secretly pray for the best, God might give him, as we left our shores was hard enough and I believe few such were on the ship. I saw more than one man of high rank who may have been thought to be unfeeling and hard, who as he faced the vanishing shores, and at "attention", was hardly conscious of the fact that the dimness of the shores was partly due to his own eyes.*

*So it is hard to describe these conflicting emotions, when all dear to life was being left behind, and the great duty to our country ahead and the danger between. But I believe such emotions are apt to make of us, perhaps, a little better men, and more appreciative of the great nation to which we belong; more considerate of human beings everywhere. I shall never forget September 4, 1918. I have been marked by it.*



American Expeditionary Forces, warehouses, St. Nazaire, France, 5 March 1918. <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/>

Sept. 5, 1918

Had a fine sea, but did not sleep very well. We had “abandon ship” – drill the night before, I couldn’t exactly forget it. Anyway, I got to thinking of a lot of things about home. At 5 p.m., I felt sort of dizzy.

Sept. 6, 1918

Sea a great deal rougher. Saw some whales spouting water high in the air. Also some strange looking birds—something like a plover. Our convoy has gone back to U.S.A. At 12 p.m. I was going to hiccup, but I was mistaken—it was my breakfast—stomach was confused. Washed and appeared at my best and went to dinner. I found at our table Col. Keene, Major Peacock and Capt. Ewing. Capt. Benedict and Capt. Cunningham were absent. Ate a light dinner but that was too much. It stayed under my blouse, about one hour. At 4 p.m. I went to bed.<sup>1</sup>

Sept. 7, 1918

It has been a wild sea all night. I started to go to the washroom, but didn’t know whether I was walking on the floor or the walls. Went back to my cabin for the day. Sea continued rough. It is all true—those things they saw [sic] about sea sickness. About 36 hours of pitching sea, I wasn’t afraid of submarines. I nearly came to the point where I was afraid they’d miss us with a torpedo.

Sept. 8, 1918

Gone out for dinner. Col. Keene and Major Peacock were the only ones who had showed up for every meal. “Standing to” was pretty hard yet.

Saw more whales, and great schools of swordfish. Enjoyed the 56th Infantry band who were together again.<sup>2</sup>

Sept. 9, 1918

Got news by ship wireless of the world series baseball—Boston was winning.<sup>3</sup>

Our whole crew were getting on the decks again and the weather was fine. Capt. Meserve, of Boston, was still in the ship hospital.<sup>4</sup>

Sept. 10, 1918 <https://www.fold3.com/image/604170947>

Spent the day speculating when we’d get our convoy from the European side.

Sept. 11, 1918

Read “To Have and To Hold”. Enjoyed the book. Was O.D. not very much work.<sup>5</sup>

Sept. 12, 1918

Met our convoy—five destroyers. Everybody considerably relieved. All on deck now and looking out for “subs”—in zone of danger.

1. Thomas Victor Keene (1881–1961), Alexander Hamilton Peacock (1880–1951), DeForrest Willard Ewing (1890–1961), Archibald K. Benedict (1892–1963), John J. Cunningham (1891–1965). All birth and death dates are from FindaGrave.com.

2. For the list of units that sailed on U.S.S. *Siboney*, see U.S., Army WWI Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1918–1919, NARA records, Headquarters Port of Embarkation, Hoboken, New Jersey, USS *Siboney*; digital images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/604170947>: accessed 25 November 2023).

3. The Boston Red Sox defeated the Chicago Cubs, 3-2, in Game 4 and went on to win the series, 4-2. The 1918 season was shortened due to the war and this series remains the only one played completely in September. See “1918 World Series Recap,” 22 September 1918, *MLB.com* (<https://www.mlb.com/news/1918-world-series-recap> : accessed 20 November 2023).

4. Edwin Alonzo Meserve (1884–1930).

5. *To Have and To Hold*, by Mary Johnston, published 1900, was a novel about colonial Virginia (See “To Have and To Hold,” *Encyclopedia Virginia* (<https://encyclopedia.virginia.org/entries/hold-to-have-and-to-1900/> : accessed 20 November 2023)). O.D. is Officer of the Day.

Sept. 13, 1918 [and] Sept. 14, 1918

Didn't write yesterday. Am not superstitious, but it was Friday, as well as the 13th. This is the big day we sighted land about 3 p.m. Belle Isle (Belle-Ile-en-Mer) off the coast of France. There was some rejoicing. Landed at St. Nazaire about 8 p.m. Stayed aboard.<sup>6</sup>

Sept. 15, 1918

Went to rest camp—marched about three miles. Everybody tired.

Sept. 16-21, 1918

Stayed at rest camp. Food and sleeping arrangements quite unsatisfactory so we'll say little about.

St. Nazaire is very interesting. Was formerly a part of Brittany. It was a stronghold of Catholicism before and during the French Revolution. It is still strongly Catholic. We were down the old city twice. Saw a ship that was submarined and mostly sunk the week before. The people all drink wine, instead of water. We tried the wine with fair success.

Sept. 22, 1918

Started to Allery to our hospital. The officers travelled first and second class—"premiere et deuxieme classe". I had a first class compartment with Major Peacock and Capt. West (a good bunch. I saw more of them later.)



U.S. marine acting as traffic policeman, St. Nazaire, France during World War I. <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/>

The trip through the French country is worth taking. The fields—very small tracts—are beautiful. The means to care for the crops are crude simplicity itself. You will see a woman driving one or two oxen to a two-wheel cart with a small load of produce, and going, oh so slow, but going. Perhaps, as you near some of our lines of communications-supplies, the cart will be passed by a half dozen of our big five ton trucks going 25 miles an hour and carrying more than she can in a week. We can, but note the difference.

On our trip we followed the U.S.A. line of communications. I was not only surprised, but nearly astounded at the vast amount of material we have over here, railroads, freight trains, and great big warehouses covering areas and acres of ground. The Kaiser, if he should see them, must have a chill.

The little villages are very beautiful. The walls of the buildings are white concrete, and the roofs red tile. There are the finest vineyards imaginable—real gardens. The landscaping is fine along a cliff for miles and miles. Wine cellars were built in the Natural Walls. Also many families lived in these walls like the cliff dwellers of old in U.S.

The cities we passed through were: Nantes, Angers, Tours, Blois, Bourges, Auxerre and Chaumont. All had many American soldiers. We passed through a very large British and Canadian aviation field, also a large American gun manufacturing concern.

The country over which we travelled, is marked many places by the scars of many wars. Through this country came the Huns of old under the savage Attila, hordes that devastated the fields and villages.<sup>7</sup> Caesar with his warriors, crossed a part of this land to war with the Britons. Hannibal crossed the Alps with his army and invaded this land. The Crimean War was carried into this territory. Napoleon made the whole world gape with his brilliant victories travelled with his army across France. Then came the terrible French Revolution—perhaps the most bloody of modern time, and then the war with Germany when France lost Alsace and Lorraine.<sup>8</sup>

Now the land is fairly laid waste by the Germans in the present Great War.

When one looks at the beautiful little farms, the quiet little village and the peaceful looking people, it is hard to realize that this land has been the scene of so much turmoil and human suffering.

6. Belle-Île-en-Mer is an island off of the south coast of Brittany, western France. Saint-Nazaire is a port city in the Pays de la Loire region of western France.

7. The Huns were defeated by a mixed Roman and Visigothic force in the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains (CE 451), located in Champagne, eastern France. See "Battle of the Catalaunian Plains," 4 October 2023, *Britannica* (<https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-the-Catalaunian-Plains> : accessed 20 November 2023).

8. The Crimean War reference is unclear—French forces joined the war, but the battles were fought in Central Asia. France ceded Alsace-Lorraine to Germany after the Franco-Prussian War which ended in 1871.

Sept. 23, 1918

We had frequent stops and the 56th Regular Infantry Pioneers had some sickness among their men, one man died. Our ration began to grow somewhat stale from its continued sameness. Baked beans, bully beef, bread and jam. A warm meal would seem pretty good. One had a hard time to get drinking water. Only part of the water at the stations could be used as drinking water. The U.S. sanitary inspections okayed only part of it.

Sept. 24, 1918

Baked beans and bully beef didn't taste very good today. No coffee, but had one cup yesterday. Country still beautiful. Made several detours so progress was slow. Slept pretty good on floor of compartment.

Sept. 25, 1918

Arrived at Allery. About 9 a.m., went to our barracks. They were not quite finished. But we unpacked our impediments and got ready for dinner. It was "some feast". Three days of travel ration prepared our appetites for a warm dinner. Rained a bit.

Sept. 26, 1918

Rained a bit more—some of the finest mud in the world. It sticks well.

Sept. 27, 1918

Looked over our property. Consists of about 60 buildings. We have no equipment.

Sept. 28, 1918

Col. Keene discovered some medical property belonging to Base Hospital #4, Crilles unit of Cleveland, Ohio, which he proceeded to take over.<sup>9</sup>

Sept. 29, 1918

Major Peacock and I looked over the operating room equipment. Looked pretty good to us. We began to assemble it. Base Hospital #49, Nebraska unit, got wise and inasmuch as our nurses had not arrived yet, grabbed our battery of sterilizers and some other stuff—operating tables.<sup>10</sup>

Sept. 30, 1918

Had some of our corps men assigned to us and we began building our outfit. Had to collate almost everything. Went to St. Loup with Capt. West. It is a small village about four and one-half miles away. Walked, of course.<sup>11</sup>

Oct. 1, 1918

Great excitement—rumor that we are to receive 800 patients from the front. Didn't get 'em; we're not ready anyway. Glad we didn't.



St. Nazaire, France, World War I.  
<https://www.history.navy.mil/>

9. Base Hospital 4, headed by Dr. George Crile, was located in Rouen approximately 450 km/280 miles northwest of Allerey. For more on Base Hospital 4 see *Album de la Guerre: Five Hundred Photographs, Seventy Drawings and Thirteen Articles by Members of Base Hospital 4, U.S.A.*, (Cleveland, Ohio: Scientific Illustrating Series); digital image, *National Library of Medicine* (<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/bookviewer?PID.nlm:nlmuid-14230550R-bk> : accessed 25 November 2023).

10. The Base Hospital 49 unit arrived in Allerey 5 August 1918 and began receiving patients 26 August. (See Colonel Joseph H. Ford, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War*, Chapter 24, Base Hospitals, p. 675, Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1927); digital version, *AMEDD Center of History & Heritage* (<https://achh.army.mil/history/book-wwi-adminamerexp-chapter24> : accessed 20 November 2023).

11. Arthur D. West (1873–1959).



USS Tiger leaving St. Nazaire, France, 1919.  
<https://www.history.navy.mil/>

Oct. 2, 1918

Major Peacock and I went to Verdun and bought some nick-knacks. Got a few things for the operating room.

Oct. 3, 1918

We did get some patients, over 400 in a bunch. About one-half were surgical. No one had his ward complete—couldn't get the necessary supplies. We made much of it ourselves with our corps men.

Oct. 4, 1918

Oh! The surgical dressings. There were plenty, and some minor operations. Is cold. Have no ward stoves, nor any in our rooms. We succeeded in getting two stoves in our operating rooms. Helped some. Also got some instruments from Base Hospital #26, Minnesota unit, through Col. Ford, the K.O.<sup>12</sup>

Oct. 5, 1918

Very busy. Too busy. Capt. Reese took sick and I had his ward.<sup>13</sup>

Oct. 6, 1918

Have spent the whole day at the operating room. And the surgical ward. Have removed many missiles, bullets and shrapnel from all parts of the boys. They are a game bunch of fellows. I'll have some souvenirs to take home. One poor fellow died of pneumonia. The church bells toll quite frequently—too many times a day. A telegram came to the C.O. saying Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey, had agreed to talk peace on Wilson's plan of peace—14 points in his speech.<sup>14</sup> Sounds good, hope it will materialize. It would be the best thing for the whole world. When I see our good American boys so badly injured—and we don't see the worst cases—one can't help being impressed with the fact that war is a horrible, barbarous institution. And if there is a real place, I'd like to get back to the wee wife, that's waitin' and the "bairn". Am tired enough.<sup>15</sup>

Nov. 26, 1918

A long, long lapse in this story. Many days of hard work, some of them long hours. We were on the ground here and on the job at the finish of the Great War. It has been some days since the Armistice was signed.<sup>16</sup> We have cleared up our work remarkably. I have yet a bunch of poor chaps who are anxious to go home, but who do not feel very glad—a row of beds of boys who have lost a leg. They can't quite be reconciled to it.



Base Hospital 26, Allerey, France, 1918. Minnesota Digital Library. <https://collection.mndigital.org/>

12. Joseph Herbert Ford (1873–1931).

13. Forrest Leslie Reese (1885–1959).

14. C.O. is commanding officer. In January 1918, President Woodrow Wilson proposed a set of principles upon which peace would be established. He was obliged to compromise on his plan at the peace conference in Paris one year later. (Palmer & Colton 687–688).

15. Bairn is Scottish for child.

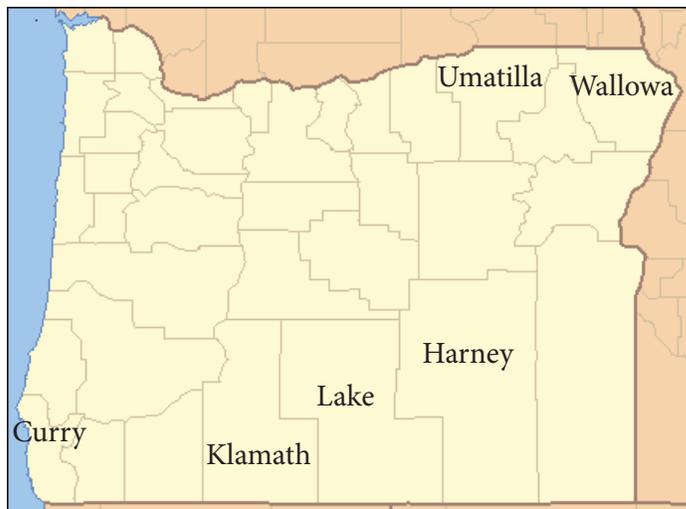
16. The Armistice was signed 11 November 1918.

# World War II Military Aircraft Accidents in Oregon

Indexed by Loretta Welsh

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) has 12,877 death certificates for people who died in Oregon. The death certificates have all been donated by GFO members and have been scanned. As one of our volunteers was indexing the collection, she observed that 47 of the certificates were for men who died in World War II military aircraft accidents in Oregon. Most of these men were not from Oregon. She created the following lists of the accidents and the men who perished.

Note: These lists reflect neither all the military accidents in Oregon nor all the soldiers who died. Certificate copies from the GFO's online index, "[Death Certificates - Oregon and Other States](#)," may be ordered.



Selected Oregon Counties. U.S. census map.

## DATES AND LOCATIONS OF THE ACCIDENTS

10 September 1942	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Wallowa County
3 July 1944	U.S. Navy	Lake County
25 July 1944	U.S. Navy	Lake County
9 August 1944	U.S. Navy	Klamath County
14 September 1944	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Umatilla County
14 September 1944	U.S. Navy	Umatilla County
17 October 1944	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Umatilla County
31 December 1944	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Klamath County
30 January 1945	U.S. Navy	Curry County
9 February 1945	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Harney County
12 February 1945	U.S. Army/Air Corps	Wallowa County



Oregon World War II Memorial, Salem.  
[Wikimedia Commons](#).

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## THE 47 MEN

Surname	Given Name	Death Year	Comments	Location
Walstrom	Robert A.	1942	age 27, pilot, "info from military records"	Pendleton Field
DiMenna	Anthony F.	1942	age 21, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Knudsen	Peter (Jr.)	1942	age 21, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Pinneo	Richard E.	1942	age 21, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Schaffer	George L.	1942	age 21, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Zurich	John W.	1942	age 28, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Holinka	George	1944	age 22, U.S. Navy	Klamath County
Vaughan	Harold M.	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Klamath County
Casterot	Joseph Peter	1944	age 20, U.S. Navy	Lake County

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Given Name</i>	<i>Death Year</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Location</i>
Goehring	Valentine Jacob	1944	age 22, U.S. Navy	Lake County
Warnick	Stephen	1944	age 23, U.S. Navy	Lake County
Baker	Robert	1944	age 30, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Balter	Robert D.	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Feese	Edwin D.	1944	age 19, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Horner	Robert Cowdrey (Jr.)	1944	age 26, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Huset	Maurice J.	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Keene	Herbert R.	1944	age 19, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Knaus	Harold E.	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Meyer	Mark A.	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Sheldon	Alfred Silver	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Smith	Otis Randolph	1944	age 20, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Szucs	Michael H.	1944	age 26, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Walker	Gerald Ashford	1944	age 24, U.S. Army	Umatilla County
Roberts	Morgan Alexander	1944	age 30, U.S. Navy	Umatilla County
Beck	Benno Clair	1945	age 21, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Courtis	Lawrence Mansfield	1945	age 29, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Ellis	Alvin Dallas	1945	age 23, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Freeman	Benjamin Jefferson	1945	age 21, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Sylvester	Earl Delbert	1945	age 19, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Wilcomb	Leon Albert (Jr.)	1945	age 23, U.S. Navy	Curry County
Davis	Sidney Meyer	1945	age 28, U.S. Army	Harney County
Green	Edmund J.	1945	age 25, U.S. Army	Harney County
Kampinen	Ernest Edwin	1945	age 27, U.S. Army	Harney County
McDaniel	Carl Edward	1945	age 25, U.S. Army	Harney County
Pecnik	Anton	1945	age 26, U.S. Army	Harney County
Pierson	Roy Ludwig	1945	age 22, U.S. Army	Harney County
Wilkins	George Barnum (Jr)	1945	age 24, U.S. Army	Harney County
Brouski	Francis A.	1945	age 22, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Glover	Alan P.	1945	age 26, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Heermann	Arnold R.	1945	age 19, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Ibaig	Martin E.	1945	age 27, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Ormond	John V.	1945	age 22, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Peery	Haynes E.	1945	age 21, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Peterson	Maurice C.	1945	age 29, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Roberts	Clair E.	1945	age 26, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Ross	James A.	1945	age 20, U.S. Army	Wallowa County
Wren	Lawrence L.	1945	age 20, U.S. Army	Wallowa County

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is pleased to announce the award of a grant from

*THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS  
FOUNDATION*

for the enhancement of GFO's collection of manuscripts and other archival materials.

Our heartfelt thanks for this generous support.

## Book Review

# Memories of Newburyport, Massachusetts, by Henry Bailey Little, 1859–1957

Reviewed by Shannon Moon Leonetti

Compiled by: Margaret Peckham Motes  
Published by: Clearfield Company  
Publication Date: 2019, reprinted in 2022  
Pages: 116  
Price: \$19.95  
Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
GFO Call No: 974.45 Esse Newb .Hist-Au Litt

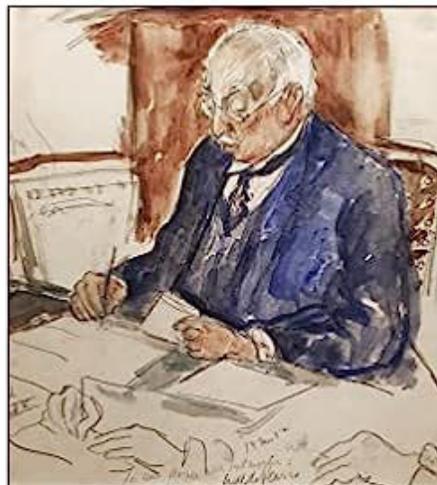
I don't know anyone in Henry Bailey Little's family. I have never been to Newburyport, Massachusetts. But, I really enjoyed *Memories of Newburyport, Massachusetts, by Henry Bailey Little, 1859–1957*. This charming little collection of his memories was both entertaining and a great lesson in how to write a person's story.

Little's notes were originally compiled by his daughters and published in the town's local newspaper in 1959. In 2019, Margaret Peckham Motes reedited the stories. In the 2022 reprint, she illustrated them with sketches by an artist named Waldo Pierce.

Born on a nearby farm, Mr. Little was a prominent banker in Newburyport for five decades. He experienced and watched extraordinary changes in his town's business community, its fishing community, transportation, communication, and styles of dress. He saw enormous changes in how the fishing, shipyards, and local mills operated. These were similar major milestones to those experienced all across the country.

For the genealogist, this collection is more than a picturesque little snippet of life in the mid-nineteen to mid-twentieth century. It is a great way to write about a person's life, especially a family member. Little's daughters were fortunate that he wrote down his memories and his observations. For researchers, genealogists, and historians who are not so lucky, readily available are the small-town newspapers where a person grew up or spent their life. The environment where a person spends most of their lives can tell as much about who they will become as their DNA.

The book's chapters are arranged in such a way that they are easy to research. They begin with Little's personal biography and his memories. Then, the bigger picture emerges of the changes in industry and banking. Bailey



**MEMORIES**  
of  
Newburyport, Massachusetts  
by  
Henry Bailey Little  
1851-1957  
Compiled by Margaret Peckham Motes

lived through four wars. He wrote about citizens, his friends, and his peers. A life's context is so important.

It is difficult to critique a book that is a collection of a man's memories. His daughters and Ms. Motes did a great job in selecting those stories and putting them in an order that provided their own narrative. The reader can almost hear him talking when he writes about the hanging of John Brown, the presidential election of 1860, and the disappearing shipyards. Reading these little stories, brief as they are, makes them come alive.

"The first thing I can remember is when I was three years old, I attended my aunt and uncle's wedding." "What impressed me the most was that I rode in a hack ... it was the first time I had been in a closed carriage."

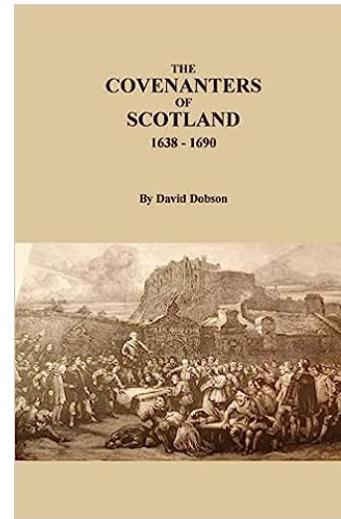
To introduce readers to a man, his town, and almost a century of American history in less than one hundred pages is a wonderful skill and Motes shows us how.

## Book Review

# The Covenanters of Scotland 1638–1690

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: David Dobson  
 Publisher: Clearfield  
 Publication Date: 2023  
 Pages: 263  
 Price: \$43.00 + shipping  
 Order from: [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com)  
 GFO Call No.: 941.6 .Mil-Yr 1638-1690



In 1638, thousands of Scots joined together to sign the National Covenant pledging to resist English royal control over Scottish government institutions and subsequent changes to the Church of Scotland. From 1638 until the 1690 Settlement, the Covenanters lived through a tumultuous time involving changing governmental forms, shifting international and intranational alliances, and disputed religious authority. In *The Covenanters of Scotland 1638–1690*, Dr. David Dobson, a noted expert on Scottish genealogy, presents information about individual Covenanters from his vast research of original records.

Dr. Dobson introduces this collection with a few pages explaining the history of the Scottish Covenanters, several illustrations, a list of abbreviations for the cited references and a small glossary. The main section of the book is an alphabetical list of each person for whom he has found information. Each entry is a single sentence of varying length. While there isn't as much information as he has given for entries in some previous books such as *The People of Perth and Kinross, 1800–1850*, there are details which would be helpful for people researching their ancestors or studying this period of history. For instance, he is able to find separate histories for seven different Duncan Campbells and fourteen different John Campbells. Sources for accessing the original records are listed for each entry.

The information for each person varies according to what Dr. Dobson has found in the original sources. Many records list the battle in which a person was killed or captured. If the punishment for a captive was “transportation to the plantations”, the name of the ship and destination is often recorded. Some prisoners were shipwrecked and drowned. Other times the punishment could be imprisonment, torture, or a fine. A person could be punished for aiding a rebel or even seeing one without reporting the sighting.

In addition to combatants and sympathizers, other people were punished for religious non-conformity. Attending clandestine meetings, aiding a vagrant preacher, and “disorderly baptism” are examples of illegal activities. Punishments included being imprisoned, fined, “outlawed,” “stigmatized,” or made to stand in the village square.

The short glossary is helpful to explain some of the legal terms. For example, the entry “GREIG, JOHN, minister in Carstairs, Lankanshire, was warded in Edinburgh Tolbooth on 15 October 1685.” (p. 88) means that he was put into custody at the burgh jail in Edinburgh. “ARBUTHNOTT, JOHN, of Cairngall, and his deceased wife Anna Farquharson, had attended conventicles in 1683, for which he was fined on 7 October 1684.” (p. 7) describes a punishment for participating in clandestine, often outdoor, non-conformist religious meetings.

Most of the entries are for men, but there are also quite a few for women who seemed to be punished equally. Yet other entries list when a man was imprisoned “and released after guaranteeing his wife’s future attitude towards bishops, the Church and the State”.

While the format of the book is straightforward and generally easy to use, there are a couple of areas to double-check. The entries are alphabetized by last name, but the people mentioned within the listings are not cross-referenced. Occasionally, there are some mis-alphabetizations such as a couple of Milligans in the middle of the Millers.

Dr. David Dobson brings over 50 years of research to help family historians identify ancestors and flesh out the stories of their lives. The book is a valuable resource for those researching their Scottish ancestors. In addition, it would be worth one’s time to read through other entries to soak up the culture and history of the times of the Scottish Covenanters.

## Book Review

# African American News in the Baltimore Sun, 1870–1927

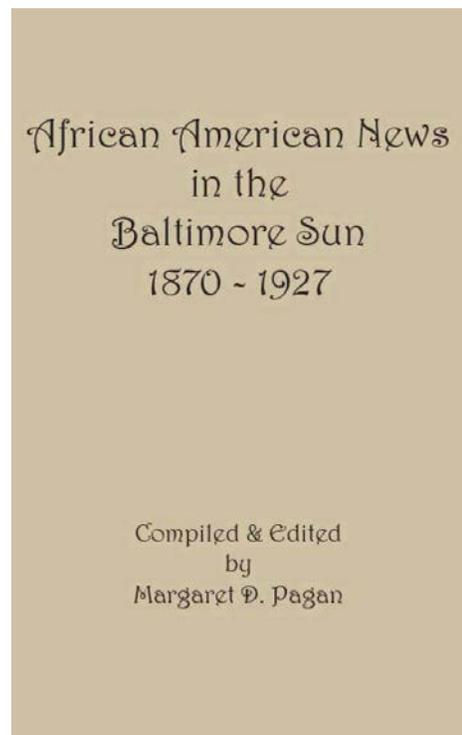
Reviewed by: Anne Voegtlin

Author: Margaret D. Pagan  
Publisher: Clearfield  
Pages: 98  
Price: \$14.95 for the ebook,  
\$21.95 + shipping for a paper copy  
Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
GFO Call #: 975/.Ethnic/Black/News/BaltSun/1870-1927

Today, as American society continues to grapple with the insidious and long-standing stain of racism, this slender volume offers a look back to a time when Black Americans, newly freed from slavery, fought an uphill battle for human rights. It was a critical time in history, the era of Reconstruction ushered in by constitutional amendments. It was also the era of the Ku Klux Klan, “Black Codes,” and the terrorization of African Americans. Baltimore was a city with a deep African-American heritage. At the beginning of the 19th century, Maryland had the largest free Black population in the country. The Great Migration (beginning in about 1910) brought more Blacks to the northern city.

Author Margaret D. Pagan mined *Baltimore Sun* newspapers from 1870 to 1927 for stories characterizing events relating to and impacting people of color. This collection of newspaper accounts can be difficult to read as the author includes published accounts of the brutal treatment of Black Americans. She also, however, includes uplifting stories that detail the slow, often painful fight for justice and equality. Important figures in that fight include Frederick Douglass (a Maryland native), Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington, and Charles Sumner.

The book, published in 2021, is organized in chronological charts with publication dates followed by brief news accounts. It has an index, making it easy to pinpoint names and topics contained in the news items. The chronology is a reminder of historical events, but it also names average African Americans who suffered discrimination, torture, and death. Many of these people may have remained unknown without Pagan’s efforts:



*Five colored men were taken out of jail and killed in Huntington, Carroll County, Tennessee. One was named Mac Brown, another Allen Robinson.*  
(February 1, 1870)

*The University of Harvard baseball team had a colored shortstop named Matthew. He was described as a good fellow, having brains and unusual ability as a ball player. However, knowing the prejudice that existed in Southern States against his race, it was decided not to play him in States below the Mason Dixon Line. Therefore, when the Harvard team played in Annapolis against the naval cadets, Matthew did not play.*  
(April 18, 1902)

*James Reed was charged with the murder of a police officer and lynched in Somerset County. Photographs of the lynching were made into souvenir postal cards for townspeople to send to relatives and friends across the country. The rope with which he was hanged was cut into small pieces and sold as souvenirs. Angry citizens later dug his body from his grave, made a large bonfire, riddled the body with bullets, and tossed it into a fire.*  
(July 30, 1907)

Some entries record progress in the struggle for African-American recognition and advancement:

*George L. Pendleton was the first of his race to be admitted to the bar to practice law in Hagerstown, Maryland.*  
(November 24, 1900)

*At the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Frederick Douglass received a vote in nomination for President of the United States.*  
(June 21, 1888)

*Repeal of the Jim Crow law, enacted in 1904 by the Legislature to require transportation companies to provide separate places for white and colored passengers, was recommended by the Maryland Interracial Commission in its report to Governor Ritchie and the General Assembly. They further asked that the school code be amended to provide the same minimum rate of pay in all public schools of the State....*  
(January 15, 1927)

Readers contemplating today's politically-charged landscape may ruminate on these entries:

*Republicans in Georgia received a circular containing threats to everyone who intends to vote "illegall" by command of the Grand Cyclops. "X Q Z Wizard of Chickamauga." At the top of the circular was the picture of a train with the word "blood" on a baggage car and "K.K.K." on a station house.*  
(December 26, 1870)

*The imperial wizard of the KKK said that it was up to the Klan "to preserve the nation in keeping with the spirit of the white race and in seeing that it remains supreme.*  
(November 29, 1922)

*The decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in holding unconstitutional the Texas statute which bars Negroes from voting in Democratic primaries may have far-reaching effects. For example, the State constitution of Mississippi stipulates who shall be eligible to vote by numerous limitations such as payment of poll tax, ability to read and write, understanding of constitutional provisions, etc. It applies to Negroes but does not name them.*  
(March 8, 1927)

Pagan grew up in a tight-knit Black community, which led to her interest in African-American history. She is the author of two previous books, *More than a Slave* and *The Fulani Girls*. Readers of her latest effort will enjoy the primary sources she highlights, particularly her selection of articles that emphasize the importance of education access to African Americans.

*African American News in the Baltimore Sun, 1870–1927* is an interesting, easy-to-read book detailing an important slice of African-American history. Because of copyright restrictions, the author was unable to include news stories beyond 1927. Still, as the author writes in her introduction, "It will hopefully serve as a primary resource for genealogists, researchers, scholars and historians for years to come and excite interest in heroes previously unknown."




**Genealogical Forum of Oregon GenTalk**  
**HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY**  
**April 20, 2024 ◆ 2:30 pm PT**

**WITH**  
**Dr. Michelle Roberts**



**FREE REGISTRATION**  
[gfo.org/gentalk](http://gfo.org/gentalk)

*In Memoriam*

## Susan Charlotte (Baker) Campbell (1935–2023)

Susan Campbell died on 13 November 2023. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 1976 to 1993 and was an avid family genealogist and philanthropist supporting historical sites and civic organizations in Oregon and beyond.

She was the eldest daughter of George and Kathryn Baker, and was born on 27 December 1935 in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Her family home in nearby Mission Hills was built by Kansas Senator Charles Ridgway, her maternal grandfather. She graduated from Sunset Hill School for Girls and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1957, after which she obtained a teaching degree. There was a gap of three years before she worked as a teacher, filled with an advertising job in New York City at Elizabeth Arden, Inc. By 1960 she was back in Kansas City teaching Art and English at Sunset Hill School where she also served as Alumnae Association President.

In 1962, Susan married John ‘Jack’ Campbell, MD, and the couple moved to Virginia for Jack’s Naval service and then to Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania for his pediatric residency. By this point the couple had two children and Susan enjoyed the proximity of American historical sites around her, including the 200 year-old house where they lived.

Jack accepted new positions with University of Oregon Medical School and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, bringing the young family to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, in 1967. Through the years here Susan served on many boards and committees related to Jack’s work, their neighborhood and local church.

Among many hobbies she enjoyed home decorating, gardening, painting, collecting fine antiques, spending time with her dogs and visiting the Oregon Coast.

Susan meticulously researched her family genealogy. She was a Member-at-Large of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The National Society of Colonial Dames of America, and was co-chairwoman of the Hoover-Minthorn House Museum, the boyhood home of President Hoover. She also served on the board of the Oregon Historical Society.

Survivors include her daughter Kathryn Campbell, sons John Campbell Jr. and George Campbell, and four grandchildren.



*In Memoriam***Carol Diane (Huebner) Castleman****1940–2023**

**C**arol Castleman died 16 November 2023 in Portland, Washington County, Oregon, at the age of 82. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum from 1978 to 2020, where she served as a volunteer at the front desk, library, and on other projects, notably in the 1990s.

Carol was born on 24 December 1940 in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, as the third daughter of William and Jeanette (Horton) Huebner. The family soon moved to North Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where she attended Kenton Elementary School (closed 2006) with her friend and later fellow genealogist Jan Fenter. But as a teenager she moved to California with her father and attended Eureka High School. By 1960 she was back in North Portland working as an office secretary.

In 1964 she married John “Larry” Castleman and settled on the west side of Portland. They raised two children and Carol returned to school, after which she became a librarian at nearby Woodrow Wilson High School.

A family genealogist from childhood, Carol kept notes on her many family interviews. In retirement, she traced some of their history to Canada, Germany, Poland, and Russia, adapting to the use of computers in her work and helping others with the same. In 1998 she encountered her childhood friend Jan Fenter while volunteering at the front desk for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, where they both became research assistants, working on projects and attending seminars together. Carol later took over facilitation of a small beginner’s genealogy group at the Lake Oswego Library where she helped members with their research, as she’d previously done with GFO. Her friend Jan notes, “she always went out of her way to help her friends, going the extra mile.”

Carol was preceded in death by her beloved older sisters Bonita and Beverly. Survivors include spouse Larry Castleman, son Blaine, daughter Kim, several grandchildren, and longtime friend Jan Fenter.



*In Memoriam*

# Lorraine Margaret (Murphy) Purnell

(1925–2023)

Lorraine Purnell died on 31 March 2023 in Salem, Marion County, Oregon, at the age of 97. She was a life member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 1997 until her death.

Lorraine was born 10 June 1925 in Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island, to Leo Murphy, an airplane mechanic, and Margaret (Mueller) Murphy, as the second of two children. Her parents were of Irish and German ancestry, a subject of family research which continues to the present day.

In 1936 her parents relocated the family to San Diego County, California, when Lorraine was 11. Here she graduated from high school in 1943 and from St. Mary's College in Los Angeles in 1947. She then entered a one-year internship in medical technology at Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Boston, where she met her future husband, William E. Purnell, a fourth year medical student. After completing their programs, they were married in San Diego in 1949, but established their home in Burlington, Chittenden County, Vermont, for nearly two decades, where she had five children within ten years.

By the 1960s the family had moved to Salem, Marion County, Oregon. In 1969 Lorraine graduated from the University of Oregon with a master's degree in library sciences and also took part in that university's 1976 Centennial Cookbook project. She and William celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2019.

Survivors include her 99-year-old spouse Dr. William E. Purnell Sr., their children Dr. William Purnell Jr., Dr. Mark L. Purnell, Cathleen Purnell-Farrell, Brian L. Purnell, and Dr. Jonathan Q. Purnell.



# GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON OPEN HOUSE

## March 16-24, 2024 ♦ Online Classes

*Also in-person events every day • Visit [gfo.org/openhouse](http://gfo.org/openhouse)*

### ▶ Saturday, March 16

**GFO African American SIG**  
12-1:30 pm PT Janice Sellers

**Getting Started with Your Genealogy**  
1:30-3:30 pm @ GFO Library Geoff Smith

### ▶ Sunday, March 17

**RootsMagic: The Swiss Army Knife of Personal Genealogy Software**  
1-2:30 pm PT Barry Wolff

**Getting Started with Family Tree Maker**  
4-5 pm PT Johnna Waldon

### ▶ Monday, March 18

**Germans in America**  
10-11 am PT Jalyse Ortiz

**Lineage Society Panel**  
1-2:30 pm PT DAR, SAR, Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

**Using the FamilySearch Catalog**  
4-5 pm PT Janalee McBride

### ▶ Tuesday, March 19

**Find a Grave: Fabulous or Frustrating?**  
10-11 am PT Laurel Smith

### ▶ Wednesday, March 20

**Military Bounty Land: 1776-1855**  
10-11 am PT Judi Scott

**Getting Started with Ancestry DNA**  
1-2 pm PT Lisa McCullough

**Getting Started with Latin American Research**  
6-7 pm PT Maren Burgess

### ▶ Thursday, March 21

**Finding German Church Records at Archion and Matricula**  
10-11 am PT Gina Palmer

**Following Your Ancestor Through Swedish Church Records**  
1-2 pm PT Colette Hokanson

**English Civil Records**  
4-5 pm PT Lori Montague

**Research in New York State, 18th-19th Centuries: Looking Beyond Vital Records**  
6-7 pm PT Amy Rose Ward

### ▶ Friday, March 22

**Introduction to the Great Lakes Special Interest Group**  
1-2 pm PT Kim Thurman

**Learning about Enslaved Individuals: Research for the 10 Million Names Project**  
4-5 pm @ GFO Library Chris Knutson

### ▶ Saturday, March 23

**Genealogy Problem Solvers**  
10-11 am PT GFO Brick Wall Team

**Introduction to British Records, and Where to Find Them**  
1-2 pm PT Duane Funk

**Discover the History of Your House**  
4-5 pm @ GFO Library Michael Schmeer

### ▶ Sunday, March 24

**Access to GFO Resources from Home**  
11 am-1 pm PT Laurel Smith

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON INC  
Offices & Library  
2505 S.E. 11th Ave. Suite B-18  
Portland OR 97202

## GFO MARCH 2024 EVENTS

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

### Saturday, March 2

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

### Monday, March 4

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	RootsMagic
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### Wednesday, March 6

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn and Chat
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### Saturday, March 9

2:00-2:15 p.m.	General Meeting
2:15 p.m.	GenTalk

### Sunday, March 10

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	The Writers' Room
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### Tuesday, March 12

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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### Thursday, March 14

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Q Review
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### Saturday, March 16

<b>Open House</b>	<b>March 16–24</b>
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9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Genealogical Problem Solvers
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	African American Ancestry

### Wednesday, March 20

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

### Saturday, March 23

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	British Group
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