



# The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 75, Number 4

June 2026

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

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

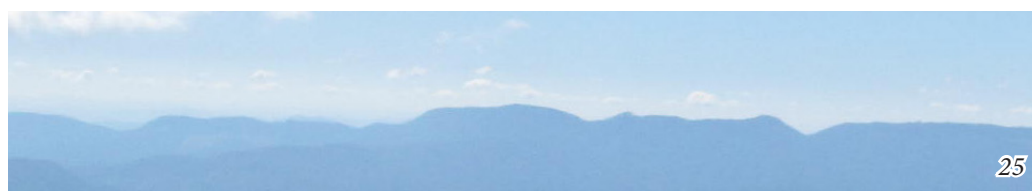
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We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs and other graphics. Send submissions to [bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org). You may request 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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Cover image, Amy Littlehale Walker, from *History of the Columbia River Valley*.

# Letter from an Editor

“Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.” —Booker T. Washington

I found Harold through his volunteer work with the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s special interest groups, first with the Genealogy Problem Solvers, and then through the African American group. After COVID closed everything, we volunteered together in the GFO’s library as research assistants for almost a year. His deal was that he liked to help people with their research but did not want to answer the phone. I answered the phone and only once received a complaint about the GFO. Specifically, the statement that we read before a GenTalk, possibly the [Land Acknowledgement](#), or something about making everyone feel welcome.

Harold was good at greeting people when they entered the library. He was always curious about what they were researching. I had fun talking to him. My wife would laugh because she knows we were both probably talking too loud in a library. He responded to my many dog stories with a dog story from when his family lived in Texas. Harold, his wife, and their daughter took one of many vacations to Mexico. They thought they had hired someone to look after their dog but returned to find it dead. The neighbor said, “It wouldn’t stop barking, so I shot it!”

Harold had many stories and wrote hundreds of articles and books. His knowledge of genealogical sources was vast, but he was more than an experienced researcher and avid reader. I think one of the things that helped make a difference was writing book reviews. He brought his work into the library and wrote when there was nobody researching. He submitted reviews on a variety of subjects to different publications. *The Bulletin* has examples from [June 2024](#) when he reviewed *Mastering Spanish Handwriting and Documents: 1520–1820* and a reprint in this issue. I believe taking notes and writing something up improved his memory on the topic. His knowledge of New York and of Latin American genealogical records was remarkable.

Harold asked me to help layout the last couple of books he wrote. His request motivated me to finish two volumes of *The Family History of Heber Radcliffe*. Harold wrote his genealogy books by hand! Now, we know that peer-reviewed studies support the cognitive benefits of handwriting over typing.<sup>1</sup> [Harold would want a footnote.]



Mark Grafe and Harold Hinds Jr., 20 June 2022. Yes, we did look better with masks on! Image courtesy of the author.

He was fortunate to have married an editor, because it is challenging to edit our own work. Harold and his wife, Liz, worked very well together. We sent documents back and forth as he mailed chapters to be transcribed and laid out, then he and Liz edited the PDFs.

Five months ago, Harold wrote that he had quit driving and no longer got into the GFO library. His kidney disease had progressed.

I’ve brought to conclusion & publication all the projects on my genealogy desk & now am turning to one set aside some time ago. The research is essentially finished. It’s somewhat similar in concept to the essay on the Webbs published in GFO’s *Bulletin* some time ago.

It traces the research I’ve done on the paternal grandparents of Elizabeth Ludwick of Illinois, ending up in the 1700s in Pennsylvania. Has a number of nice examples of solving tricky genealogical problems & avoiding fallacies.

If you & the GFO *Bulletin* are interested, I’ll begin to draft. For publication I’d need the same sort of assistance as before.

Let me know.

Best,

Harold

So, step up, volunteer, and stay busy writing. There is more to learn by helping others; we will never finish with our genealogy, and something is wrong if you do not like helping other people.

Harold passed away on 25 February 2026 (see page 43). It was nice to know that Harold chose when to depart.

—Mark Grafe

<sup>1</sup> F. R. (Ruud) Van der Weel and Audrey L. H. Van der Meer, “Handwriting but not typewriting leads to widespread brain connectivity: a high-density EEG study with implications for the classroom,” *Frontiers in Psychology*, vol. 14, 2023; *Frontiers* (<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1219945/full?>).

## Letters to the Editor

Hi Mark,

My guess at the answer to your question in your [March *Bulletin*] Letter from an Editor - Laughter!

Kristy

Hi Mark,

On your Letter from an Editor. Is laughter the eight-letter answer? What is the last word that is blacked out?

April

[bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org)

I have to say, I have particularly enjoyed this quarter's Bulletin.

To the editor and all the team of volunteers, as well as your authors, BRAVO!

Especially as a member at a distance, I appreciate the hard work on a "tangible" for those away from the library itself.

And now I need to dig on some of the [stories] on Hillsboro and the scandals of the 1890s...

Cheers!

Dr. David McDonald

Wisconsin

[bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org)

Wow! This is a stunning issue with incredible, detailed articles! Thanks very much for all that you folks do.

Bill Greer

Hello,

I'm still in the middle of reading the latest Bulletin but wanted to make a comment after just finishing Nanci's article. I very much enjoyed reading her history of James Leo Ferguson, which included all the strings/stories attached to his life. Through it the reader was enlightened both about Ferguson's life and about the history of the area. What family historian/genealogist isn't interested in the surrounding life events of an ancestor, and in this case a prominent man from our area of the world?

One life can affect many and the way Nanci went back in time to connect dots to the potential family connection to the mayor of New York/president of the U.S., and forward through James' family history in politics, the murder and marriage, as well as the capture of the murderers, was extremely well written, in my opinion. Nanci demonstrated how to write up someone's life history in an interesting way. I like how she addressed questions that cropped up along the way like the question I had on what happened to the murderers and the widows and their families. And about where Cascades was and what happened to it. She served up a complete tale with James Ferguson at the center.

In addition, I admire her contribution because I've been reluctant to write up a family history myself. I have not attended any classes on how to go about doing this task as it appears too daunting of an endeavor. I will use her example as a guide and a push as the first step is always the hardest. She has provided a leg-up. :)

--Twila Petrie

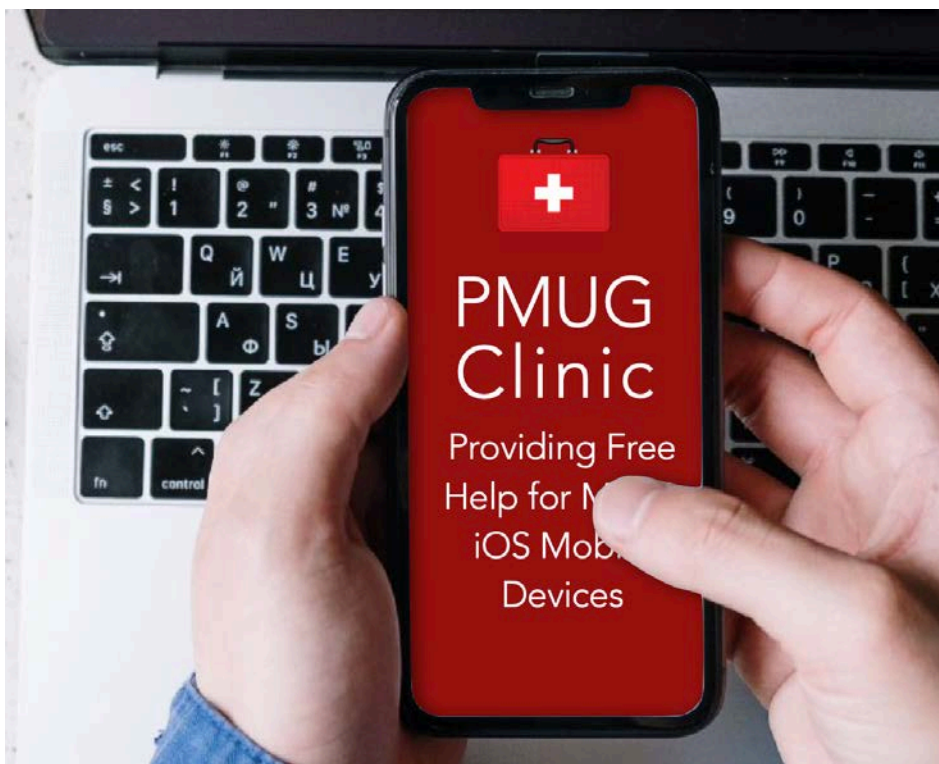


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*with Katherine  
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## From the Manuscripts

## Finding Connections

Nanci Remington

In the nooks and crannies of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) library, one can find small boxes and folders of items donated over the past seven decades. Some have a note that gives the provenance of the contents. Others have no source or explanation about what the file holds. One such folder contained just a few items:

- A cabinet card with a photo of a young woman taken in Boston, Massachusetts. A note on the back reads “Amy at 14—graduating Mary Hemenway Grammar School June 1901—”.
- Two typed letters addressed to Amy, one dated 1943 and the other 1953. One was signed Leslie, the other L W K. Both had the address of the writer - Santa Barbara, California. One gave a street address - 2024 Garden Street.<sup>1</sup>
- A typed paper titled “Information about members of the Willapa Chapter” that included death dates of members who died between 1941 and 1960.
- Two photographs. One of a car with unnamed people labeled “May 1922 to S.F.” The other was of a woman on the porch of a house labeled “Residence of Mrs. R. C. Kinney - Salem, Ore - after 1875.”
- A roster of the Technology Association of Northern California dated 3 February 1909. The group was open to persons who “studied or taught for at least one year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.”



Mary Hemenway School, *Dorchester Atheneum*.



On the back: “Amy at 14—graduating Mary Hemenway Grammar School June 1901—”.

The letters and the cabinet card both refer to Amy, suggesting that at least some of the items were connected and may have come from the same source. The research questions:

- Who was Amy?
- Who was Leslie?
- Did either have a connection to Oregon, where the items were found?

#### THE CABINET CARD

The photo on the cabinet card was taken in Boston. An internet search found that the Mary Hemenway Grammar School was in Dorchester, now a neighborhood in Boston.<sup>2</sup> If Amy was 14 in June 1901, she would have been born circa 1886-1887. A search of the 1900 census for Boston found eight girls named Amy who were born those years.

1. Images of the letters may be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/37mey5ya>. The original letters and photos have been returned to a descendant.

2. *Annual Report of the School Committee of the City of Boston 1898*, p. 331; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/annualreport1898bost/page/n387/mode/2up?q=hemenway>).

## LETTERS

No surname was given for Amy or Leslie in either letter. Both letters refer to somebody named Jim. In the 1943 letter, Leslie, the writer, makes references to a “catalogue” from San Francisco that stirred memories of friends of Jim. She writes that “This catalogue would have been issued in the late spring of 1896—he was not yet 14.” She also mentions a trip to Oregon and the time they “all lived at Uncle Alfred’s old cottage at Gearhart.”

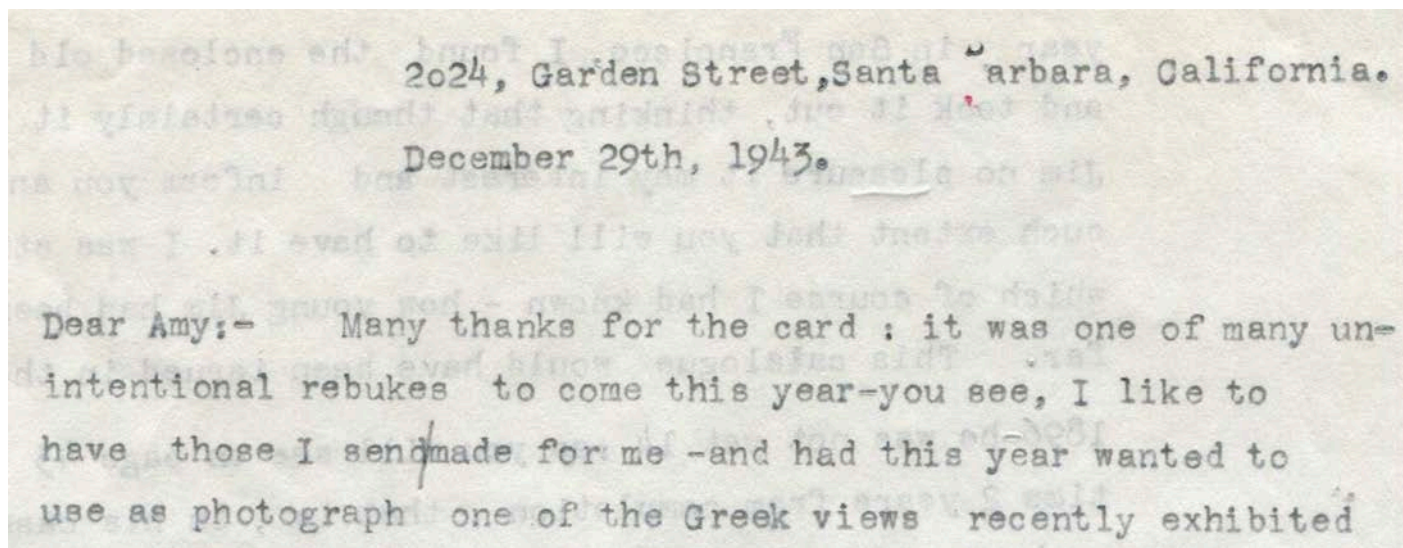
In the letter dated 1953, Leslie suggests that Amy accompany Jim to a meeting. The location of the meeting is not given, but she states the “return to the place where one’s childhood has been spent is bound to be something of an experience ...” She adds that she is enclosing a picture of “ELK” which shows her “old house in Salem where she lived after Grandfather Kinney had died ... there were many years of widowhood — 1874–1891.” She later writes that “Grandmother gave up her house and went to live at Drain with the Paytons.” She mentions Uncle John and Aunt Eliza.

The takeaway from the letters is that Leslie knew Jim and his friends when he was a child, so he could be her brother. Amy was associated with Jim in 1943 and 1953, so she could be his wife. Jim may have gone to school in San Francisco. Leslie had family who lived in Oregon.



The old house in Salem.

City directories for Santa Barbara for the 1940s–1950s are online and can be searched by address using the Keyword field. In 1945, the residents of 2024 Garden Street were George A. and Leslie W. Kosmopoulos.<sup>3</sup> This result led to a plethora of information about Leslie, whose full maiden name was Alice Leslie Walker. Leslie turned out to be a distinguished archeologist who has her own Wikipedia page.<sup>4</sup> She was born 26 June 1885 in San Francisco. Her parents were James and Josephine (Kinney) Walker.



Snippet of 1943 Letter.

3. “U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995,” *Ancestry*. Search for Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California>2024 Garden>1945.

4. “Alice Leslie Walker,” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice\\_Leslie\\_Walker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Leslie_Walker)). See also, An Unconventional Union: “Mr. and Mrs. George Kosmopoulos” by Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, *From the Archivist’s Notebook* (<https://nataliavogeikoff.com/2020/03/14/an-unconventional-union-mr-and-mrs-george-kosmopoulos/> : accessed 30 November 2025).

The family tree on FamilySearch has profiles for the Walkers.<sup>5</sup> Leslie had a brother named James Greig Walker, Jr., and James' wife was Amy Gertrude Littlehale, born 18 November 1886 in Boston. James and Amy married on 19 January 1916 in Dorchester.<sup>6</sup> They lived in Portland for 11 years.<sup>7</sup> In fact, three of their children were born in Oregon.<sup>8</sup> That was in the 1920s. They later moved to Washington. James Walker died in 1960 and Amy in 1970. Both are buried in Ilwaco, Pacific County, Washington.<sup>9</sup>

### LUCY AND AMY LITTLEHALE

The paper with the list of deceased members of the Willapa Chapter included Lucy Brown Littlehale who died 29 August 1950. She was Amy's mother and is also buried in Ilwaco. Willapa is a community in Pacific County, where James, Amy, and Lucy lived for many years.

Lucy's obituary elaborates on her connection to the Willapa Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).<sup>10</sup> Over the course of her 32 years living in Pacific County, Lucy was historian of the chapter. She was also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Oregon and other civic and church organizations.

**Walker** — Mrs. Amy G. L., 83 of Seaview, died March 20 in an Ilwaco hospital. Born Nov. 18, 1886 in Boston, Mass., she attended the University of Boston, was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Ilwaco, the Ilwaco Order of Eastern Star, the DAR, Willapa Chapter, the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Colonial Dames, a life member of the Washington State Historical Society, the Pacific County Historical Society, Curtom-is Club, BPW and was a state regent for the DAR in 1951.

Excerpt from Amy's obituary. Longview Daily News, 23 March 1970. Newspapers.com.

Amy Littlehale Walker was associated with the DAR from a young age. She hosted an event in Boston in 1913.<sup>11</sup> Her 1916 marriage announcement stated that she was active in the organization.<sup>12</sup> In 1927, in Portland, Amy received a patriotic service medal for "meritorious service rendered the flag," specifically her work with the Multnomah Chapter of the DAR in forming living flags.<sup>13</sup> In 1964, she was "honorary State Regent of Washington."<sup>14</sup> In 1965, she was honored as the founder of the Portland chapter of the DAR.<sup>15</sup>



Photo of Amy published in 1928. History of the Columbia River Valley, Volume III, page 919.

5. James Greig Walker, Jr., *FamilySearch*, Family Tree ID LV5N-FTZ (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/LV5N-FTZ>).
6. "Massachusetts, State Vital Records 1638-1927," record of James G. Walker, Jr., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KBZR-KD7?lang=en>).
7. "J. G. Walker Rites Held," *Oregon Daily Journal*, 3 May 1960; *Newspapers.com*.
8. Census and other records state that sons Curtis and Robert and daughter Olive were born in Oregon. Daughter Edna was born in Washington.
9. "Ilwaco Cemetery," *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1866123/ilwaco-cemetery>).
10. "Lucy Brown Littlehale," *The Daily Astorian*, 31 August 1950; *Newspapers.com*.
11. "Christmas in the Different Colonies," *Boston Evening Transcript*, 10 December 1913; *Newspapers.com*.
12. "It Completes Romance," *Boston Globe*, 20 January 1916; *Newspapers.com*.
13. "City Observes Flag Day; 150 Years of Life," *Oregon Daily Journal*, 14 June 1927; *Newspapers.com*.
14. "Report is Given on Visit of DAR Nat. President," *The Daily Astorian*, 5 October 1964; *Newspapers.com*.
15. "Mrs. Walker Honor Guest for Fete," *The Daily Astorian*, 17 March 1965; *Newspapers.com*. See also, "Our Chapter, 130 Years of Service," *DAR Multnomah-Portland Chapter* (<https://multnomahchaptersdar.org/our-chapter/>: accessed 30 November 2025) which states that Mrs. James G. Walker organized the chapter on 5 March 1930.



**EPHEMERA**

Photo labeled “May 1922 to S. F.”: This photo shows two women and two children in a car with the top folded down. One of the women bears a strong resemblance to the earlier photo of Amy. News articles about James’ and Amy’s wedding trip reported that Amy was an “enthusiastic autoist” and that both she and her husband “had crossed the continent several times by automobile, and it was while on one of these trips that they became acquainted.”<sup>16</sup> James’ wedding gift to Amy was a “roadster type with disappearing sedan top.” In 1922, Amy would have been 36 years old and living in Portland. An automobile trip to San Francisco would have been right up her alley.

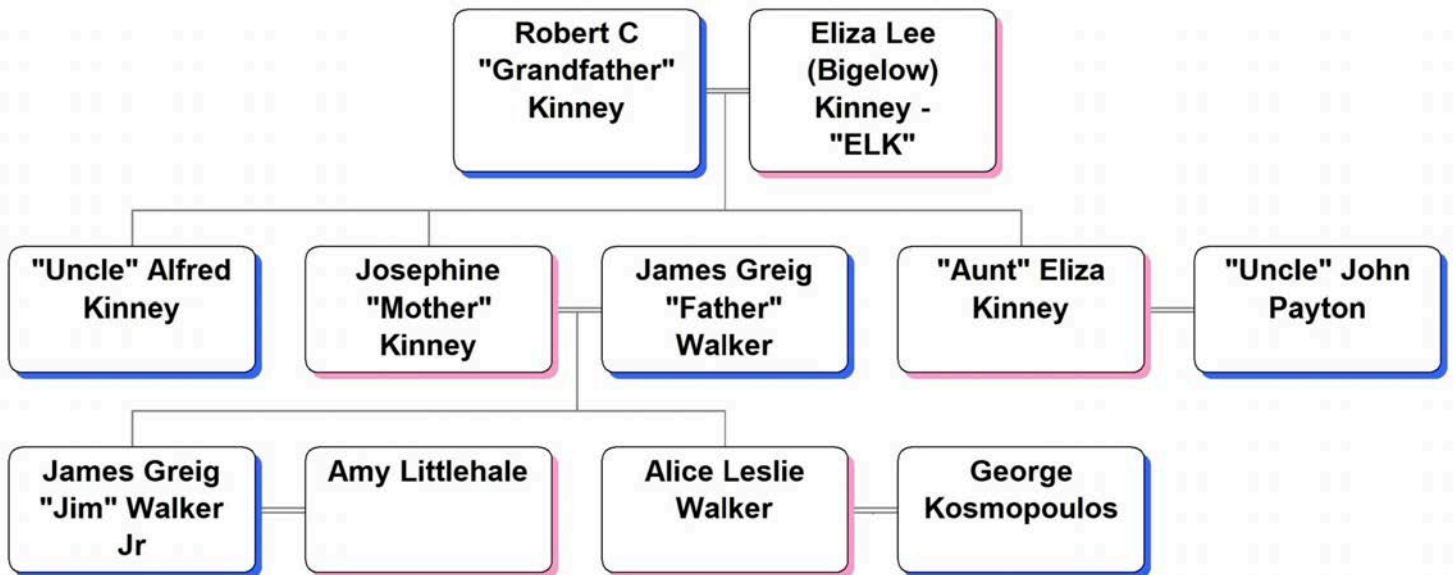
Photo labeled “Residence of Mrs. R. C. Kinney, Salem Ore. after 1875”: James and Leslie Walker’s mother was Josephine Kinney. Josephine’s mother was Eliza Bigelow, who married Robert Crouch Kinney. Robert died in 1875 and Eliza in 1890. At the time of Robert’s death, the couple was living in Salem, Marion County, Oregon. Eliza was still there in 1880.<sup>17</sup> Sometime before her death, she moved to Drain, Douglas County, Oregon, to live with her daughter Eliza (Kinney) Payton.

Roster of the Technology Association of Northern California: An obituary for James G. Walker reported that he attended Portland Academy, MIT, and Boston University law school.<sup>18</sup> Though his name is not included in the roster for the Technology Association, he would have been eligible for membership.

**CONCLUSION**

Both Amy and Leslie had connections to Oregon. Amy was interested in family history and a member of the DAR. GFO members are interested in family history, and some are members of the DAR. That being said, how the papers appeared on our shelf is still a mystery.

**FAMILY MEMBERS AND RELATIONSHIPS AS DESCRIBED IN THE LETTERS FROM LESLIE TO AMY.**



16. “Bridal Tour is On,” *The Sunday Oregonian*, 30 January 1916. Also, “It Completes Romance,” *The Boston Globe*, 20 January 1916; *Newspapers.com*.  
 17. “1880 United States Federal Census,” East Salem, Marion, Oregon, entry for Eliza L. Kinney; *Ancestry*.  
 18. “J. G. Walker Rites Held,” *Oregon Daily Journal*, 3 May 1960 *Newspapers.com*.

# Helen Grafe's Letter, 13 February 1952

Mark Grafe

A few months before my father, Reverend "Bob" Grafe, died in 2012, I found many letters at his house that my mother had written. The following letter from my mother to her parents (Heber and Ruth Radcliffe), written a few weeks after my birth, brought back memories.

My father graduated from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in 1951, and the Episcopal Church assigned him to a congregation in southwest Portland that met in the American Legion Hall in Multnomah. This congregation then created St. Barnabas Church at 2021 S.W. Vermont Street. The parish hall was dedicated shortly after my mother wrote her letter. It documents one of the many visits my father made to a local hospital. After emergencies, my father also received calls from the local Red Cross chapter, because his blood type was O-, which is compatible with all other types.

Wednesday, 13 February 1952

Dear Mother & Dad,

We enjoyed your good letter received this morning. ... Everything is back to normal size and place with me—as far as the inside of me is concerned. And I'm really feeling much more ambitious—even actually almost finished [sewed] one valance last night.



*The American Legion Hall in Multnomah, 1951.  
Courtesy of the author.*

We were low on sleep last night as a couple from Lebanon [Linn County, Oregon] came to bring their little five-year-old girl to Doernbecher Hospital [in Portland]. She had been badly burned. Dave [CDSP classmate] called Bob about eleven p.m., so he was at the hospital when they came about one a.m. They were here at the house between two and three, then went back, but the doctors didn't finish till five-thirty. About six, they came back and got a few hours' sleep and breakfast. They left just about noon, and the hospital called shortly after. Bob went up but couldn't find them, and the little girl died just before one p.m. They had called the hospital about eleven, and the report then was very encouraging.



*Uncle Tom and Betty Radcliffe, Grandma Radcliffe, Mark, and Helen Grafe, by Heber Radcliffe, 1952.  
Courtesy of the author*



*St. Barnabas Church parish hall on Vermont Street, Portland, Oregon, by Heber Radcliffe, 1952.  
Courtesy of the author.*

We get the prepared oatmeal for Mark —all we do is add milk. I took him off of it Sunday as he seemed awfully restless in his sleep and fretful but am going to try it again tonight. ...

Where will Tom & Betty be staying in Corvallis? The dedication of our building will probably be the 24th, so we probably wouldn't be able to get down there the 23rd. Maybe they could come on up. ...

We had nice weather most of last week, too. ...

Love, Helen & Bob

The sad death of five-year-old Allyn Barker appeared in *The Lebanon Express* on Friday, 15 February 1952. My father's friend from CDSP, Reverend Dave Gordon, was the Barker's pastor at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Lebanon. Dave also spoke at my father's funeral.

My mother's letters are more descriptive than the diary entries recorded by my grandparents. That paragraph about the little girl contrasts with the "back to normal" life and my Uncle Tom and Aunt Betty's visit later that month. Accidents happen quickly. One day, a little girl was playing, the next day she was gone, but heartache can hang around for years. Writing about this tragedy may have helped my mother process this experience of one family losing a child just as she has welcomed a child into her family.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, Oregon, 2025.

## Burning Gown Fatal to Child

Burns received when her night-gown caught fire Tuesday evening proved fatal Wednesday noon for 5-year-old Allyn Barker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Barker of route 1. The burns covered more than 90 per cent of her body.

The child was home with her brother, Robert, 9, and her grandfather at the time of the accident. Her parents were in Lebanon attending choir practice at St. Martin's Episcopal church. The grandfather said the children had been playing with matches.

He applied first aid and rushed the child to her parents. They accompanied Rev. David W. Gordon to the hospital with the child. She was given emergency treatment and taken immediately by Huston ambulance to the Portland hospital.

The girl was born April 20, 1946. Besides her parents, brother, and grandfather, she is survived by a grandmother, Mrs. Pyle in Gilroy, Calif.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock in St. Martin's Episcopal church with Rev. David W. Gordon officiating. Interment will be in the Lebanon Odd Fellows cemetery.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be given to a memorial at St. Martin's church.

The Lebanon Express, 15 February 1952.

# The Brother Who Went West to Oregon?

Jean Cottrell Jennings

**W**e had a family story about one of three brothers who had gone “west to Oregon” and was never heard from again. When I came to live in Oregon I wondered if I could discover how this story originated. My early research uncovered a great-grandfather and his three brothers who immigrated to Indiana from England in the mid-1800s and the fact that one of them had moved on. I found that he had gone only across the Ohio River to Kentucky, so I considered the story, while based in truth, inaccurate as to the number of brothers and where the missing one had ended up. Many years later, while looking at a Portland City Directory for 1907,<sup>1</sup> I noticed the names Ida May and Clarice Cottrell. Were not those the names of the wife and daughter of one of my grandfather’s brothers, John Edward Cottrell? Had this been the family that had gone to Oregon?

According to my Aunt Eleanor (Cottrell) Eagan, her father was not close to any of his brothers or sisters. She described her Uncle John as “a charmer,” who stopped by the farm on “rare occasions.” He had “four or five wives” and was both a “drinker and gambler.”<sup>2</sup> I found scant evidence placing John in Oregon. Though records show John remained in Indiana, I found unequivocal evidence that his first wife and children moved to Oregon.



*Grandpa Cottrell's Family, standing left to right: Richard Daniel Cottrell, John Edward Cottrell & George Nokes Cottrell. Courtesy of the author.*

John married Ida May Taylor on 27 March 1887.<sup>3</sup> Recorded in the 1900 U.S. census, Owen Township, Warrick County, Indiana, were farmer John Cottrell, age 36, born November 1864; with wife Ida, age 33, born October 1866; daughter Clarice, age 11, born 18 March 1889;<sup>4</sup> son Curtis, age eight, born 19 November 1891;<sup>5</sup> and son Carl, age four, born October 1895.<sup>6</sup> All three children were living.<sup>7</sup> Two more daughters were born in Indiana: May Ida on 4 February 1901,<sup>8</sup> and Cora on 26 June 1902,<sup>9</sup> who was recorded as Jessie.

1. “U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995,” *Ancestry*; citing Portland City Directory.

2. Eleanor was born in 1916 and left Indiana in 1933. So, John’s occasional appearances at the Poseyville farm that she recalled would have occurred during those years.

3. Sharon Patmore & Kristine Manley, *Warrick County, Indiana Marriages 1860-1940* (Chrisney, Indiana : S. Patmore, K. Manley, 1998), p. 323. Also, “Warrick County, Indiana, Supplemental WPA Marriage Records, 1882-1900”; *USGenWeb* (<http://us-gen.org/in/warrick/marriages>) “Cottrell, John: John/Elnor Tarplee, M W 23, 3/27/1887, H-24, 83” “Taylor, Ida May: George M./Mary Eskew, F W 17, 3/27/1887, H-24, 83.”

4. WPA Index to Birth Records, Indiana: Indiana Works Progress Administration, 1938-1940, Father: Cottrell, John E; Mother: Ida M. Taylor; Warrick County; female; birth date: 18 March 1889; Warrick County, Indiana, Index to Birth Records 1882-1920 Inclusive, volume I, letters A-F inclusive, book: H-3, p. 17.

5. *Ibid.*, Father: Cottrell, Jno; Mother: Taylor; Warrick County; Male; Birth Date: 19 November 1891; Warrick County, Indiana, Index to Birth Records 1882-1920 inclusive, volume I, letters A-F inclusive, book: H-4, p. 21.

6. Carl’s birth was not recorded in the WPA Index and the information on his death certificate, provided by his father, did not give his day or year of birth, so we only have the information from the 1900 census for his birth date.

7. 1900 U.S. census, Owen County, Indiana, Warrick, Enumeration District (ED) 153, p. 4B, John Cottrell; citing National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) T623-411.

8. WPA Index to Birth Records, Indiana: Indiana Works Progress Administration, 1938-1940, Father: Cottrell, John E; Mother: Taylor; Warrick County; female; birth date: 4 February 1901; Warrick County, Indiana, Index to Birth Records 1882-1920 inclusive, volume I, Letters A-F inclusive, book: H-7, p. 25.

9. *Ibid.*, Name: Jessie Cottrell; Father: John; Mother: Taylor; Warrick County; female; birth date: 26 June 1902; Warrick County, Indiana, Index to Birth Records 1882-1920 inclusive, volume I, Letters A-F inclusive, book: H-7, p. 48.



Google Map, © 2026, showing Boonville (Curtis Cottrell's 1907 letter), Evansville (John E. Cottrell's 1907 letters), & Poseyville, Indiana, where George Nokes Cottrell had a farm in 1907.

Evidently their marriage was turbulent and at some point Ida packed up and moved to Oregon. Possibly John even briefly followed her there. On 19 April 1907, Mrs. Ida Cottrell, “through her attorney, W. Z. Bennett, filed an affidavit against her husband, John Cottrell, to make him keep the peace.”<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Cottrell alleged in her complaint that her husband had threatened the life and property of herself and her children. At the jury trial on 25 April, after testimony by “a large number of witnesses on both sides,” the defendant was found not guilty.<sup>11</sup> Soon after, Ida sued John for divorce, but a few days later, her suit was dismissed.<sup>12</sup> Then in October, John sued Ida for divorce.<sup>13</sup> I have found no evidence that a divorced was granted.

During the summer of 1907, the Cottrell sons were living with their uncle George Nokes Cottrell on his farm outside Poseyville, Indiana.<sup>14</sup> George’s bank account book entries show that in October, he paid Curtis for work

on the farm and received money for board and school expenses for Carl.<sup>15</sup>

Clarice was a high school graduate in Boon Township, Indiana, in 1906, but she soon joined her mother, who had moved to Oregon.<sup>16</sup> Ida Cottrell is listed in the 1907–1908 Portland city directory as the proprietor of the Albina Ferry Hotel,<sup>17</sup> with a residence at 24 Albina Avenue.<sup>18</sup> Her daughter, Clarice Cottrell, is also listed at that address. In June of 1908, a John Cottrell, though a resident of the “City” was listed as a guest at the St. Charles Hotel.<sup>19</sup> Was John in Portland regarding the divorce? In 1909, Mrs. Ida M. Cottrell offered furnished rooms at 121½ Russell.<sup>20</sup> Did she move? One of her roomers, Charles H. Knapp,<sup>21</sup> who worked for the PC Elevator Company, would marry Ida. Confusingly, in the 1909 city directory for Evansville, Indiana, John E. Cottrell, with Mrs. Ida, was listed as a grocer at 22 Lower 3rd. Their residence was at the same address, and J. Curtis Cottrell also resided there.

10. *The Evansville Courier* (Indiana), 20 April 1909, p. 3; and 26 April 1909, p. 3.

11. *Ibid.*

12. *The Boonville Standard* (Indiana), 17 May 1907, p. 1; and 24 May 1907, p. 5.

13. *The Boonville Standard* (Indiana), 11 October 1907, p. 1.

14. “The First Month of School,” *The Poseyville News* (Indiana), vol. 25, no. 49, 1 November 1907. Carl Cottrell was among a list of primary school students who were “neither absent nor tardy for the first four weeks.” George Nokes Cottrell moved his family to a Posey County farm in 1906. This is the first mention I found of the Cottrell surname in the Poseyville newspaper. Carl would have been about 11 years old. Also, *The Boonville Standard* (Indiana), 9 August 1907, p. 2. Letter held for Curtis Cottrell. Also, List of Unclaimed Letters, *The Evansville Standard* (Indiana), 26 October, 2 November 1907, 1 February, and 2 February 1908. Letters for John E. Cottrell.

15. Bank account book in possession of the author.

16. *The Boonville Standard* (Indiana), 30 March 1906, page 5.

17. Ida’s death certificate, April 1942, states that she had been in the community of Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon, for 35 years. This also places her arrival in 1907.

18. The address for the Albina Ferry Hotel no longer exists. The location is probably under the railroad yards adjacent to the Willamette River or Portland’s Light Rail on Interstate Avenue. The property was later described in a classified advertisement in *The Oregonian* (Portland, Oregon) on 6 August 1918, “ON account of draft, will sacrifice my 14-room hotel, with restaurant, close to shipyard, 24 Albina ave.”

19. “At the Hotels,” *The Oregonian*, 21 June 1908, volume XXVII, issue 25, p. 4. The St. Charles was located at Front and Morrison Streets, on the waterfront on the West side of the Willamette River. Another record in *The Oregonian*, 7 January 1908, vol. XLVI, issue 14690, p. 4, lists a “J. Cottrell” at the Lenox Hotel, located at 3rd and Main, on part of the block now occupied by the Justice Center.

20. The building at 121½ Russell Street was offered for sale in increasingly desperate sounding advertisements beginning in 1927. It appears to have been torn down, for used lumber was sold at the address in June of 1932. In the street renumbering that occurred in Portland beginning in 1931, no odd numbered addresses are shown between 115 and 127 Russell Street. Evidence from *The Oregonian* shows at various time a Japanese laundry on the ground floor, a restaurant, and a tailor shop. Ida advertised several times over the years for a woman to work at her boarding house in exchange for room and board for her and her husband, specifying either a lady, a middle-aged lady, an Eastern lady, or preferring Scandinavians.

21. Among the variations found for the name of this gentleman in records were Charles H. Knapp, Chas H. Knapp, C. H. Knapp, Harry C. Knapp, Harry Comfort Knapp and Comfort H. Knapp.



*Cora, Ida May, and May Ida Cottrell. Courtesy of the author.*

In the census taken on 18 April 1910, for Evansville City, Pigeon Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, John E. Cottrell, age 45, was recorded as the proprietor of a grocery store, residing at 22 Lower Third Street with his wife Mary, age 46, daughter Clarice, 20, and son Curtis, 18. It was their first marriage: it had lasted 23 years (John and Ida May married in 1887), and their five children were all living. All were born in Indiana.<sup>22</sup>

Oddly enough, also taken on 18 April in 1910, John's wife, Ida Cottrell, now age 39, was recorded in the census as living at 121 ½ Russell Street in Portland, Oregon, with her daughters Clarice, age 21, May Ida, age nine, and Cora,

age seven. She was married, her first, and had been for 23 years, and reported that her five children were all living. She ran a rooming house with eight boarders, one of whom was Charles Knapp, a 25-year-old longshoreman who worked on the docks.<sup>23</sup>

The Evansville directory for 1910 lists Jno E. Cottrell, grocer; and Curtis Cottrell, farmer, both at 22 L 3d, with no mention of Ida. However, she was listed with John in the 1911 directory, "Cottrell, Jno E. grocer 22 L 3d, r same, Ida; Carl Cottrell, baker, New Vendome b 22 L 3d; and Curtis Cottrell, cl[er]k, b 22 L 3d."<sup>24</sup>

Ida was also listed as the widow of John in the Portland directory and on 17 October 1911, she married C. H. Knapp, just across the Columbia River in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington.<sup>25</sup>

Ida's wedding was not in time to prevent a final listing for her as the widow of John E. Cottrell in the 1912 Portland directory, and that same year, in the Evansville directory, John was also listed as a widower.

John remained in Indiana. If he was ever in Oregon, that stay must have been very brief. He continued to be listed in Evansville city directories where he appears to have acquired two more wives and created two more widows. John himself was a widower (1912)—with wife Mary (1914, 1916, 1917, 1918)—and with wife Lillian (1922, 1924, 1926), who was listed as the widow of John (1927).<sup>26</sup>

In 1930, John E. lived with his brother, Richard D. Cottrell, a farmer, and Richard's wife, Mary A., in Hart Township, Warrick County, Indiana, where he reported himself as divorced.<sup>27</sup> After Richard and his wife died in an automobile accident in 1936, John returned to Evansville and resided as a boarder at several different addresses before he died on 1 January 1947. The informant for his death certificate was his sixteen years younger half-sister, Malinda May Cottrell Leslie.<sup>28</sup> His obituary lists as his survivors three sisters and one brother. Evidently, whoever gave that information did not know that John Edward had children and a grandson out west who survived him. He was buried at Crossroads Cemetery in Warrick County.<sup>29</sup>

22. 1910 U.S. census, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, Evansville, Ward 3, ED 104, p. 4B, John E. Cottrell; Family History Library (FHL) no. 1374396, image 389; citing NARA T624\_383. The number of years since his marriage to Ida May was correct, so "Mary" is probably Ida May.

23. 1910 U.S. census, Multnomah, Oregon, Portland, Ward 9, ED 219, p. 4B, Ida M. Cottrell; FHL microfilm: 1375302; citing NARA T624\_1289.

24. The New Vendome was a European Plan Hotel, located in Evansville, Indiana.

25. "Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004," *Ancestry*, record 5189, bridegroom, C. H. Knapp, age 31, white, 1st marriage, single, residence Portland, Ore, b. Washington, Warehouseman, father L. Knapp; Bride, Ida M. Cottrell age 41, white, 2d marriage, divorced, Portland, Ore., b. Indiana, Housewife, father, Geo. Taylor.

26. "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," *Ancestry*; Portland City Directories & Evansville City Directories. Some are available online at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Digital Archive.

27. 1930 U.S. census, Warrick County, Indiana, Hart, ED 13, p. 8A, Richard D. Cottrell; citing roll 637, image 239.

28. "Indiana, U.S. Death Certificates, 1899 to 2011," *Ancestry*, roll 2, John E. Cottrell, 1947.

29. Browning Genealogy, Evansville, Indiana, online obituary search, John Edward Cottrell, ID #110488.

In Portland, when the 1920 census was taken, Ida's family was still at 121½ Russell in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Harry C. Knapp, age 35, and his wife, Ida M., 49, were recorded with his stepdaughters, Cora Cottrell, 17, and May Beleski, 19, along with her husband, Arthur Beleski, 23. Harry was a grain handler on the waterfront, Cora was a waitress at a restaurant, Arthur was a machinist for the railroad, and May was a clerk in a candy store. Harry was born in Idaho, Arthur in Minnesota, and Ida and the girls in Indiana.<sup>30</sup> Listed in the 1920 directory were, "Cottrell Cora r 121½ Russell, Cottrell Curtis pntr r 121 ½ Russell, Knapp C Harry (Ida M) lab h 121 ½ Russell."

In 1930, Comfort H. (a.k.a. Charles Harry) Knapp, age 44, and his wife, Ida M., age 59, lived at the house they owned at 1297 Burrage in Portland, Oregon. Comfort, born in Idaho, was an electric motorman at the grain docks. Next door at 1301 Burrage, Ida's daughter May and her husband Arthur B. Bellis, with their son Arthur L., age 9, also lived in a house they owned. They had been married twelve years. Arthur was a machinist at a brass works, and May was a saleswoman at a bakery. Their lodgers were her sister Cora, age 27, and Cora's husband of one year, Dorrance M. Newton, age 25, who was a radio repairman.<sup>31</sup>

In 1940, Harry C. Knapp, age 54, and his wife, Ida M., age 69, lived at 2104 N. Winchell Street in Portland. Harry was a longshoreman at the docks, and had worked thirty-six hours during the week March 24–30th. She reported her birthplace as Indiana, his as Washington. She had completed two years of high school, and he had completed three.<sup>32</sup>

Ida May Knapp died on 13 April 1942. Her death certificate states she was born in Boonville, Indiana, on 8 October 1869, and her father's name was George Taylor. She had resided in the state of Oregon for 35 years.<sup>33</sup>

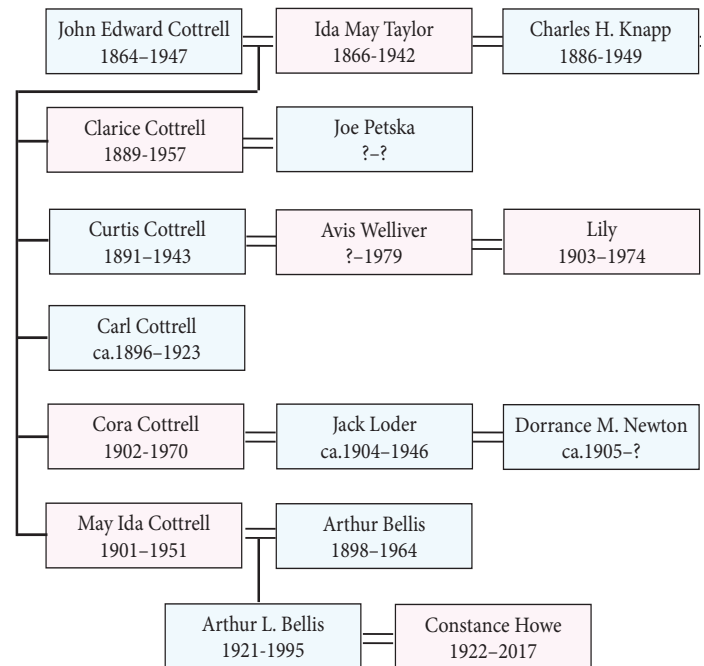
Comfort married again on 27 November to Marie M. Herning.<sup>34</sup> Sadly, he died in 1949 in a tragic accident.

**4-Story Fall Kills Worker.** A fall four stories down an elevator shaft Saturday night resulted in the death of Comfort H. Knapp, 63, 3441 N.E. Rodney Street, a dock worker at the Irving dock 800 N. River Street. A.C. Stoutenberg, who was working on the fourth floor, reported he heard a rattling of the cables in the elevator shaft. On looking around, he saw a body fall from one of the upper floors to the third floor. Stoutenberg descended, found Knapp, and called an ambulance. Knapp was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was dead on arrival. According to the dock superintendent, Knapp was working on the seventh floor. The fatal fall occurred at about 6 p.m.<sup>35</sup>

**Funeral Notices.** KNAPP – June 11, Comfort H., late of 3441 NE Rodney; husband of Marie, brother of Sam and Jennie. Services Friday 3 pm. At the Lundberg & Bruning Chapel, 1521 SW Salmon, Interment Greenwood Hill.<sup>36</sup>

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHILDREN?**

**Selected Descendants of John Edward Cottrell & Ida May Taylor**



30. 1920 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED 147, p. 5B, Harry C. Knapp; citing NARA T625\_1502, image 507.  
 31. 1930 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED 454, p. 1A, Comfort H. Knapp; citing NARA roll 1953, image 806.  
 32. 1940 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED: 37-488, p. 7B, Harry C. Knapp; citing NARA roll T627\_3394, p. 7B.  
 33. State of Oregon, Multnomah County, Portland, Certificate of Death, No. 1404, Ida May Knapp, born 8 October 1869 in Boonville, Indiana, died 13 April 1942, at 72 years, 6 months, 5 days, resided at 2104 N. Winchell, length of stay in this community: 35 years, length of stay in the state: 35 years. Sex: F, Race: W, Married. Name of Husband: C. H. Knapp, age 56 years. Father's Name: George Taylor, born in Indiana, Informant: C. H. Knapp, Vault Entombment, Portland Mausoleum, 16 April 1942. Cause of death: Chronic cardiac decompensation due to auricular fibrillation. Her arrival in Oregon was in 1907.  
 34. State of Washington, Clark County, Vancouver, Marriage Certificate A21986 C19232, Comfort H. Knapp and Marie M. Herning, 27 November 1942. Witnesses K. Clancy, Eldon J. Parke, and Paul Elwell, Justice of the Peace.  
 35. *The Oregonian*, 13 June 1949, p. 13.  
 36. *The Oregonian*, 16 June 1949, p. 30.

**CLARICE**

In November of 1911, just weeks after Comfort and Ida's wedding, a fire broke out in the building where the family was living. The event was covered in the local paper:

**RUSSELL STREET IS SCENE** – Two-Story Frame Building Guttled by Flames – Cause Believed to Be Lantern Explosion – Girl Descends Ladder.

Mrs. Ida Knapp, who leased the second floor of the building as a rooming-house and restaurant, says her damage is \$2000, with about \$1200 insurance, being equally divided between the furniture of the place and the personal effects of her family and eight boarders.

Just as Mrs. Knapp had set her supper table and had placed chairs for her boarders, the first alarm of the fire came in. All the boarders succeeded in making their escape to the street without injury.

Penned into a front room by the flames, which were fiercest in the rear, Miss Clarice Cottrell, daughter of Mrs. Knapp, was the only one in the second story of the building who was forced to use the ladders raised by the firemen.

Four engine companies were summoned on two box calls to the fire. Wooden buildings on both sides of the burned structure were thoroughly drenched, but beyond being slightly scorched, suffered no damage.<sup>37</sup>

On 16 April 1913, Clarice married Joe Petska in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A resident of Portland, Oregon, her marriage certificate identifies her place of birth as Indiana, her father as John Edward Cottrell, grocer, and her mother's maiden name as Ida May Taylor.<sup>38</sup> Evidently, the relationship soon deteriorated, for a classified ad appeared in the Portland newspaper stating, "After March 2, 1914, I will not be responsible for bills contracted by my wife Clarice Petska (Signed) Joe Petska."<sup>39</sup>

Clarice resumed her maiden name and moved across the street from her mother, "Cottrell Clarice Mrs furn rms 126½ Russell."<sup>40</sup> In October, Clarice was charged with "assaulting her mother." Ida testified that "her daughter started the fight." The trouble was with a woman roomer who "talked of Mrs. Knapp," and during the episode, a

son of Mrs. Knapp assaulted the roomer, "whereupon a warrant was issued for his arrest, but he has not been found."<sup>41</sup> The judge asked, "mother and daughter to remain away from each other for a month."<sup>42</sup>

Later, the *Sacramento Star* noted Clarice's bizarre behavior in California.

**PROBE SANITY OF MYSTERY HORSE THIEF.**

After a 24-hour search, which ended at Dutch Flat, 1:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, Deputy Sheriff William Cook located a horse belonging to C.A. Ringbum, 14th and A-Sts, and incidentally arrested Clarice Cottrell, 30, who said that she was riding bareback to Portland, Oregon. Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Ringbum said that she saw a woman enter the yard, climb on the horse, and ride away with only a halter. Thinking it was one of the neighbors, who wanted to have a little fun, she said nothing, but when the horse was not returned Sunday afternoon, she notified the sheriff's office, and the chase started. Trailing the woman through practically all the towns in the northeastern section of the county, Cook at last discovered her at Dutch Flat. Miss Cottrell says she has a mother in Portland, Ore., and was on her way to her. An investigation as to her sanity will be held by the county jail attendants.<sup>43</sup>

The same day's edition of the *Sacramento Bee* published,

**Arrest Woman for Horse Stealing** – A woman giving the name of Clarice Cottrell was arrested last night at Dutch Flat, Placer County, on a charge of stealing a horse from C.A. Ringlom, of Fourteenth and A Streets. The officer had a long chase before he made the arrest. The woman begged for food and lodging at different places along the road. Officer Cooks thinks she is somewhat demented.<sup>44</sup>

Thereafter, she evidently spent many decades in California as a resident, first at the Napa State Hospital for the Insane, and later at the Mendocino State Hospital for the Insane in Ukiah, where she ultimately died on 7 May 1957.<sup>45</sup>

37. *The Oregonian*, 18 November 1911, page 12.

38. "British Columbia Marriage Registrations, 1859-1932," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JDZV-XT7>; accessed 28 June 2013); citing St. Andrews Church, Vancouver, BC, Canada, marriage certificate, license 42134, Joseph Mike Petsha and Clarice Cottrell, 16 April 1913.

39. *The Oregonian*, 5 March 1914, p. 17; 6 March 1914, p. 19; 7 March 1914, p. 13; and 8 March 1914, p. 35, 1914.

40. "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," *Ancestry*; Portland City Directory 1915, p. 342, Clarice Cottrell.

41. Was this Curtis or Carl? Both seem to have soon removed themselves from Oregon.

42. *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Oregon), 22 October 1914, p. 12.

43. *The Sacramento Star* (California), 6 May 1919, p. 3.

44. *The Sacramento Bee* (California), 6 May 1919, p. 5.

45. 1920 U.S. census, Napa County, California, Napa, ED 56, p. 17B, Clarice Cottrell; citing NARA T625\_122, image 301. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Mendocino, California, Ukiah, ED 27, p. 3B, Clarice Cottrell; citing FHL microfilm: 2339912. Also, 1940 U.S. census, Mendocino, California, Ukiah, ED 23-7, p. 31B, Clarice Cottrell; citing NARA T627\_263.



Boehne Camp Hospital, by Paul Mueller. *Historic Evansville.*

The California Death Index identifies her birthplace as Indiana and birthdate as 18 March 1889, which matches the birthdate of John and Ida's daughter.<sup>46</sup> Why she was in California and whether the authorities who incarcerated her ever made contact with her family in Oregon are unknown.

#### CARL

According to the newspaper, Carl was in Evansville in 1914 and working at a dairy lunch counter when a customer "found fault with a dish of cream." An altercation ensued, and both men were arrested, but the charges against Carl were dismissed.<sup>47</sup>

After the charges against Carl in Evansville were discharged, he had joined his mom and younger sisters, as the 1915 Portland Directory shows: "Cottrell Carl

cook r 121 ½ Russell, Knapp Chas H. (Ida M.) propr The Newcastle h 121½ Russell."<sup>48</sup> The fire hadn't prevented Ida from reopening her boarding house.<sup>49</sup> At some point, Carl returned to Indiana and remained there with his father until 5 August 1923, when he died at Boehne Camp, a tuberculosis sanitarium, after suffering for two years from pulmonary tuberculosis. His father did not know his date of birth but reported his age as 27 years.<sup>50</sup>

#### CURTIS

The older brother, Curtis, became a transient worker, but he registered for the draft on 5 June 1917. Curtis J. Cottrell, age 25, stated he was born on 21 November 1891 in Boonville, Indiana. He had no previous military service and resided in Worland, Wyoming. A painter employed by H. C. Witmore, he was Caucasian, single, tall and slender, with blue eyes, and light brown hair. Mail would always reach "party at 121½ Russell St., Portland, OR."<sup>51</sup> World War I military records for Curtis were lost to fire,<sup>52</sup> but the application to the War Department for his grave marker states that he enlisted on 17 May 1918 and was discharged on 2 December 1918, having served as a private in 60th Company 164th D.B.<sup>53</sup> He had returned to the family in Portland according to the 1920 directory, but was also recorded in that year's census in Kennewick, Washington, as a 28-year old house painter, one of several roomers in the large household of a blacksmith.<sup>54</sup> In 1921, Curtis married Avis Welliver in Power County, Idaho.<sup>55</sup> Directory entries show him alone in Billings, Montana, in 1925. In July of that year, when he was 29 years old and recently divorced (?) from his wife, who lived in Cody, Wyoming,

46. WPA Index to Birth Records, Indiana: Indiana Works Progress Administration, 1938-1940. Father: Cottrell, John E.; Mother: Ida M. Taylor; Warrick County; female; Birth Date: 18 Mar 1889; Warrick County, Indiana, Index to Birth Records 1882-1920 inclusive, volume I, Letters A-F Inclusive, Book: H-3, p. 17. Also "California, Death Index, 1940-1997," *Ancestry*.

47. "Carl Cottrell, 18 years old, 327 Upper Third street," *The Evansville Journal*, 22 July 1914.

48. "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," *Ancestry*; Portland City Directory 1915, p. 342, Carl Cottrell.

49. Historical permits for the building at 126½ Russell (now, 818 N. Russell St), describe it as an "old 2-story brick restaurant" (1943) and a "2-story old pool hall" (1951). Now it houses several small businesses and a restaurant. The building next door (836 N. Russell) is the still operating White Eagle Saloon and Hotel, "built in Portland's rough working-class Albina district in 1905. It was opened by two Polish immigrants, Barney Soboleski and William Hryszko, to offer other Polish immigrants a place of after-work recreation: pool, cigars, poker, liquor, beer, etc." Now it is a McMenamins pub.

50. "Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1900-2017," *Ancestry*, George Carl Cottrell.

51. "United States, World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K68Q-VTQ> : accessed 29 June 2013), Curtis J. Cottrell, 1917-1918.

52. *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/fire-1973>). "On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files."

53. "US, Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," *Fold3*; Curtis J. Cottrell, verified on 26 January 1946, bronze marker shipped on 1 July 1946. The 164th Depot Brigade was at Camp Funston, Kansas. A Depot Brigade was tasked with receiving recruits, outfitting and training them before they were shipped to France. They also received and processed returning soldiers.

54. 1920 U.S. census, Benton County, Washington, Kennewick, ED 27, p. 15A, Curtis Cottrell; citing NARA T625\_1920, image 378.

55. "Idaho, Marriage Index, 1842-1996," *Ancestry*; citing Upper Snake River Family History Center and Ricks College (Rexburg, Idaho), Curtis Cottrell, spouse Avis Welliver, 4 October 1921, at American Falls, Power County, Idaho; citing marriage book, County Courthouse, Power County, Idaho, vol. 2, p. 111.

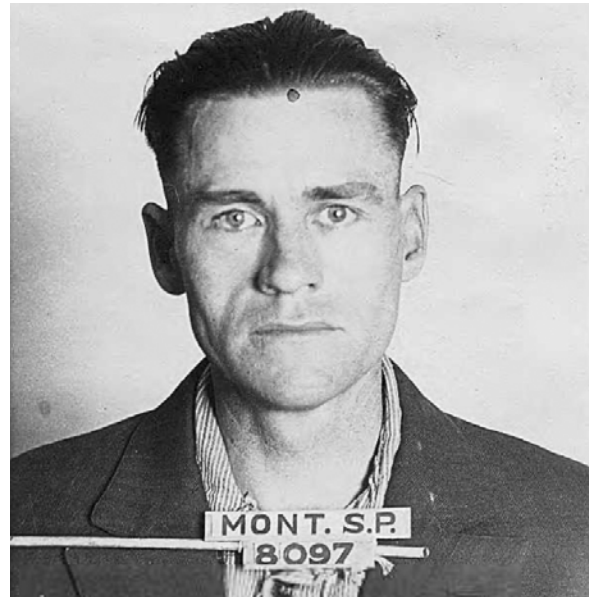
Curtis was arrested on a “statutory charge” in Billings, Montana.<sup>56</sup> He pled guilty to a charge of criminal assault against a 16-year-old girl who had been taken to the room at the hotel where he was staying in Miles City. A woman was also accused of procuring the girl for immoral purposes. One paper reported that the courtroom was “filled with curious women. ... There were few men in the audience.” The county attorney recommended leniency and recounted some of the instances in the case for the court, stating he might charge the girl with juvenile delinquency and wondering whether the parents were negligent. Nevertheless, the judge, stating that Curtis was “of an age when you should have known better,” sentenced him to three to six years at hard labor in the state prison.<sup>57</sup> He was immediately transported there.

The Descriptive List of Prisoner #8097 at Deer Lodge, Montana, records the following information. Curtis Cottrell was sentenced for a crime committed in Miles City, Custer County, Montana, on 13 July 1925 for a term of three to six years. He had pled guilty to a charge of rape. He was 29 and born in Evansville, Indiana. He was a painter-decorator, of medium complexion, five feet nine  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches tall, weighed 133 pounds, and was in good health. He had no previous convictions in this or any other state, was employed by L. J. McIntee Company, of Pendleton, Oregon, before coming to Montana. He had arrived in Montana in June of 1924 and had been employed by Billings Decorating Company at Billings and Benniby’s in Bozeman. His mother was Mrs. C. H. Knapp, of Portland, Oregon. Warden’s remarks:

Mail, Yes. Shoes, 8. Color of Hair, D. Brown. Color of Eyes, D Blue. Teeth, Good. Features, Tall. Tob. Yes. Read, Yes. Write, Yes. Religion, Prot. Marks and Scars: Vacc. Round of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” at 7  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” above left Elbow. Scar of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” x  $\frac{1}{8}$ ” on left side point of Chin. Nature of Crime: Raped REDACTED at Miles City Mont.

An attached photo shows a handsome young man with a high forehead, even features and a sad expression.<sup>58</sup>

He evidently only served two years, as directories for 1927 show him in Great Falls, Montana, with his wife Avis.



Curtis Cottrell, *Montana Prison Record. Ancestry.*

In 1928, he was listed in Great Falls alone, and late that year he was charged with “possession of liquor and maintaining a nuisance, at 17  $\frac{1}{2}$  Second Street south,” fined \$50, and given a 2-year suspended sentence.<sup>59</sup> Curtis charged Avis with “wilful desertion” “without cause” on 1 April 1928 in his suit for divorce, which he filed the next year.<sup>60</sup> Great Falls directories for 1929 and 1930 show Curtis with “Josephine” and the 1930 Billings directory lists Mrs. Avis Cottrell alone. When Avis married on 27 October 1931 at Roundup, Musselshell, Montana, she gave her marital status as divorced. In fact, Avis married three more times by 1947, in each instance stating she was divorced. She died on 2 September 1979, and her fifth husband died on 30 November in the same year.<sup>61</sup>

The 1930 U.S. census records painter Curtis Cottrell in Great Falls, Montana, with Lily his wife of two years.<sup>62</sup> His reported birthplace was the United States of America. Lily was born in Pennsylvania to parents who had been born in Czechoslovakia.<sup>63</sup> Directory entries show that they (Curtis and Lillian or Lillie) were frequently on the move, in 1932 and 1933 in Billings, in 1935 in Logan, Utah, and in 1936 in Boise, Idaho.

56. *Miles City Star* (Miles City, Montana), 9 July 1925 through 5 August 1925, eight articles about this incident.

57. *Ibid.*, 14 July 1925, p. 2.

58. “Montana, U.S., Prison Records, 1861-1968,” *Ancestry*.

59. *The Great Falls Leader* (Montana), Monday, 8 October 1929, p. 8.

60. *Ibid.*, 1 July 1929, p. 12 and 12 September 1929, p. 6.

61. “Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950,” index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F3QC-F2Q> : accessed 29 June 2013); citing Roundup, Musselshell, Montana, marriage, Samuel W. Blake and Avis Cottrell, 27 October 1931. Avis Cottrell, born 1901 Los Angeles, parents: Roy Welliver, Lucy Holmes, spouse: Samuel W. Blake, husbands 3, 4, and 5 were Milton C. Lane, Charles Everett Maddox, and John Paul Cornils.

62. No marriage record was found for this couple.

63. 1930 U.S. census, Cascade County, Montana, Great Falls, ED 12, p. 1A, Curtis Cottrell; citing NARA roll 1253, image 648.

In the 1940 census, Curtis was listed as a decorator in private homes in Whitney, Ada County, Idaho, having worked 48 hours the previous week, and 30 weeks the previous year. His wife, Lily, was 36, and five years previously they had also lived in the house they owned on Story Road. Curtis was born in Indiana, and Lily in Pennsylvania. Both had completed eight years of elementary school.<sup>64</sup>

In 1942, he registered for the World War II old man's draft. His draft card included:

Name: *Curtis John Cottrell*; Place of residence: *118 Elm Street, Apt # 5, Reno, Washoe, Nevada*; Phone: none; Age in years: *50*; Place of birth: *Evansville, Indiana*; Date of birth: *November 21, 1891*; Name and address of person who will always know your address: *Mrs. Lilly Cottrell, same address*; Employer's name and address: *Painter - Union Oil Company - 4th Street, Reno, Nevada*. I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true, *Curtis John Cottrell*.<sup>65</sup>

Curtis J. Cottrell died on 15 August 1943 at 7:45 p.m. at the Washoe General Hospital after a three-day stay. He had lived in the community for four and a half years. The immediate cause was "acute ulcerative colitis with peritonitis" and "terminal broncho pneumonia." Born on 21 November 1892, his age was 50 years, eight months, and 24 days, and his wife, Lily, was 40 years old. Born in Evansville, Indiana, he was a painter in the construction industry. There was no record of his father's birthplace, nor his mother's maiden name or birthplace. The informant was Mrs. Lily Cottrell, 418 Flint Street, Reno. He was a veteran of World War II, with Social Security Number 519-01-2398.<sup>66</sup>



*Memorial for Curtis Cottrell, Washoe County, Nevada.  
Courtesy Alexandra Montgomery.*

An application dated 5 December 1945, completed by Dan Drummond of 1111 W. 7th St., Reno, Nevada, for a headstone marker for Curtis gives the following information:

Enlistment date: May 17, 1918; Discharge date: December 2, 1918 [Hon]; Serial number: 2,848,804; Name: Curtis J. Cottrell; Rank: Private [1 cl]; Company: 60th; US Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel: 164 D.B.; If World War veteran: Division: [none] State: [Oregon].<sup>67</sup>

A Social Security Death Index entry for Lily Cottrell, whose death occurred in April 1974 in Washoe County, Nevada, lists her birthdate as 4 December 1903, and the issuing state was Idaho.

#### **CORA**

On 5 December 1922, Cora married a young man named Jack Loder.<sup>68</sup> Cora was six months short of her 21st birthday, and Jack may have been only 18 years old when they married.<sup>69</sup> An accomplished musician, he would have been only 16 when the "Jack Loder orchestra played several numbers" at a political rally in Oregon City, Oregon.<sup>70</sup> He must have left Cora and their marriage soon after, for Jack Loder, musician, was listed in the San Francisco city directory at a different address for each of the years 1924, 1925, and 1927. He might have also become a bigamist, for while working as an orchestra saxophonist in that city, the wife he had met when she was a coed at Berkeley, divorced

64. 1940 U.S. census, Ada County, Idaho, Whitney, ED 1-54B, p. 6B, Curtis Cottrell; citing NARA roll T627\_736.

65. "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," *Ancestry*.

66. "Nevada, U.S. Death Certificates, 1911-1965," *Ancestry*.

67. "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963," *Ancestry*; citing "Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941," NARA publication M1916, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. The 60th Company of the 164th Depot Brigade (DB) was a U.S. Army training and processing unit stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas, during World War I. It did not see combat overseas but played a crucial role in preparing soldiers for the front lines.

68. "Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004," *Ancestry*; citing Walla Walla, Washington, marriage, Jack Loder, 20, and Cora Cottrell, 21, 5 December 1922. Witnesses R. G. Kieffer, H. B. Noland, and Rev. Ben A. Powell.

69. State of Oregon, Delayed Birth Certificate, 9 October 1940, John W. Loder, Jr. Based on "entry in baby-book record date of birth March 22, 1904."

70. *The Oregonian*, 21 October 1920, p. 8.

him after three years of marriage.<sup>71</sup> In 1928, Cora Loder, a waitress, is listed in the Portland directory residing at her mother's address. I did not find Jack in the 1930 census, but he may have been out of the country. Calling himself a 27-year-old single man, Jack appears on a passenger list from Le Havre, France, in 1931.<sup>72</sup> He appears to have taken to the seafaring life, as in 1932 he became a shipboard musician.<sup>73</sup> As a young child, Jack Loder had been injured when he played with a dynamite cap that was left on his front porch by men who were improving a nearby street. It was reported that the explosion might cause him "to lose the sight of his right eye and become disfigured for life."<sup>74</sup> He must have healed well enough, for years later, on the crew list for a cruise ship where he worked, he is described as 5' 11" tall with no "physical marks, peculiarities, or disease."<sup>75</sup> However, another crew list reports Jack with a "Right Eye Missing."<sup>76</sup> The 1940 census found Jack living again with his parents in Oregon City, where he reported being a divorced musician employed in the Merchant Marine industry, who had lived in San Francisco five years before.<sup>77</sup> He was still there when he registered for the WWII draft,<sup>78</sup> and when he died "Mysteriously" on 28 December 1946 while "on his way home from a Portland shipyard." He "was apparently either struck by a car or fell from a 25-foot cliff near his home."<sup>79</sup> I do not know whether they were legally divorced or if Jack had just sailed out of her life, but Cora married again in 1928.<sup>80</sup>

In Portland, on the 1930 census, Cora, age 27, and her husband of one year, Dorrance M. Newton, age 25, who was a radio repairman, were lodgers at the residence of her sister May and her husband.<sup>81</sup> Voter registration rolls show Cora and Dorrance Newton residing in the 1930s in San Francisco.<sup>82</sup> By 1940, they had moved to 754 Shotwell Street in San Francisco to a house they rented for \$35 a month. It may have been a duplex or a house they shared with another couple. She was the Manager of Housekeeping for an apartment house, and he was an electrician for a motor company. They both had worked 40 hours during the week of March 24–30th, 1940. He was born in Minnesota, and she in Indiana.<sup>83</sup>

When Dorrance Milton Newton registered for the WWII draft, he still lived at 754 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, with his wife, Mrs. Cora Newton. He reports his age as 36, having been born on 16 February 1904 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was employed by Van Ness Motors, Inc. He was 5' 11½", weighing 178 pounds with blue eyes, blonde hair, and a ruddy complexion. He was missing the first distal joint of the index finger of his right hand.<sup>84</sup>

71. *The San Francisco Call Bulletin* (San Francisco, California), 19 June 1925, p. 1; and *San Francisco Examiner* (San Francisco, California), 20 June 1925, p. 3.

72. "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957," Ancestry; Microfilm Serial or NAID: T715; RG 85 Title: Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004; RG: 85 Ship Name: *France*; Departure Port: Le Havre, France, Arrival Date: 15 June 1932.

73. "Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, August 1912-November 1954," NARA Publication A3569, roll 76, "Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787 - 2004," Record Group number 85; citing *Pres Coolidge*, arriving at Honolulu, 29 March 1932 from the port of Yokohama, Japan, Jack W. Loder, length of service at sea, two months; position in ship's company, musician, other locations, San Francisco, Mazatlan, Mexico, and Auckland, New Zealand.

74. *The Oregonian*, 29 January 1911, page 3. In Oregon City school photos, his right eye does appear to be missing.

75. "Lists of Vessels Arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, August 1912-November 1954," NARA A3569, roll 97; "Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787 - 2004," Record Group 85, Jack Loder, 31, port of departure, San Francisco, ship, *Monterey*, port of arrival, Auckland, New Zealand, 12 July 1935.

76. *Ibid.*, roll: 134; Jack Loder, 37, length of service at sea, 8 years, position in ship's company, musician, Port of Departure, Sydney, ship, *Mariposa*, port of Arrival, Honolulu, Hawaii, 19 October 1941.

77. 1940 U.S. census, Oregon City, Clackamas, Oregon, ED 3-55, p. 61A, Jack Loder; citing NARA T627-03355.

78. "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," *Ancestry*.

79. *The Oregonian*, 2 January 1946. "Before the war he directed orchestras on excursion ships making overseas journeys." His death certificate states he was divorced and gives his occupation as Expediter at a Shipyard.

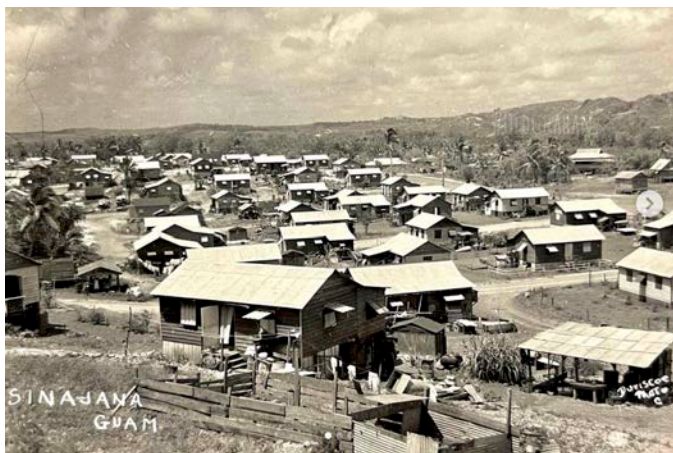
80. "Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004," *Ancestry*; citing Clark County, Vancouver, marriage certificate A14529, Dorrance M. Newton and Cora Loder, 8 September 1928. Witnesses Irene Hauser, Ray DeMeritt, and Herbert F. Jones, Minister.

81. 1930 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED 454, p. 1A, Dorrance M. Newton; FHL microfilm: 2341687, image 806; citing NARA roll 1953.

82. "California, Voter Registrations, 1900-1968," *Ancestry*.

83. 1940 U.S. census, San Francisco County, California, San Francisco, ED 38-243, p. 21B, Dorrance M. Newton; citing NARA roll T627\_307.

84. "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," *Ancestry*, Dorrance Milton Newton.



Sinajana, Guam, postcard, circa 1940s. Duriscoe Photo. [oldguahana](#)

In 1950, they resided in Chalas Batanga Afame Conga, Sinajana, Guam, U.S., where Dorrance was employed as an electrician and Cora as a bookkeeper.<sup>85</sup> They left the next year aboard the *M. S. Idaho* as cabin class passengers, from Guam, Marshall Islands, departing 20 January 1951 and arriving at Portland on 5 February 1951.<sup>86</sup> Their arrival was two days after her sister May died, so she must have been disappointed. Cora died in California on 15 September 1970.<sup>87</sup>

#### MAY IDA

While Cora and her mother Ida only achieved marital stability with their second husbands, daughter May Ida remained with her first and only spouse.

In 1919, just across the Columbia River, May married Arthur Beletski,<sup>88</sup> and they were boarding with her parents in 1920.<sup>89</sup> In 1925, while still working as a machinist, Arthur B. Belitski [*sic*] was the only one of six defendants in a “hijacking” trial to be acquitted in the U.S. District Court in Tacoma.

The jury considered the case for two hours. All of the defendants were charged with conspiracy to violate the Volstead Act.<sup>90</sup> They were convicted chiefly on the evidence of John Brodala, Vancouver farmer, who was indicted by the grand jury on the same charge and pleaded guilty.

Two of the five convicted were ex-members of the Portland police force. They were caught near Vancouver, Washington,

after they had gone there with the other convicted men for the purpose of obtaining, through trickery, a large amount of liquor. Chief of Police Jenkins, who was in the arresting party, immediately stripped their stars from them and dismissed them from the police force.<sup>91</sup>

The two policemen and their bootlegger partners got into trouble when they attempted to induce two federal agents to join the scheme. In police circles it was felt, “They were nice boys. Too bad they got tangled up in a deal like that. I feel sorry for their wives.” One old-time policeman commented,

They are affable, likeable fellows, even if they are bootleggers ... These fellows make it their business to get acquainted with a cop. When a policeman is a little hard up, they’re the first to rush to his aid. They’re always wanting him to have a drink with them or to take home a little bottle of wine for the wife ... They were good, clean men when they joined the force five years ago. They fell in with fellows like ... Belliski, who are always trying to get acquainted, unofficially, with policemen, and now they’re facing a term in the stir.<sup>92</sup>

Records in the sheriff’s office showed that “Alex Belitsky, said to be an uncle of Arthur, was fined this last spring on his plea of guilty to a charge of making liquor. His jail sentence of six months was suspended.”<sup>93</sup>

85. 1950 U.S. census, Sinajana, Guam, ED 10-10D, p. 72A, Dorrance M. Newton; *Ancestry*.

86. “Oregon, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1888-1957,” *Ancestry*; citing “Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Astoria, Portland, and Other Oregon Ports, Apr. 1888-Oct. 1956, and Passenger Lists of Airplanes Arriving at Portland, Oregon, Nov. 1948-Oct. 1952,” NARA M1777, rolls, 1–46.

87. “California, Death Index, 1940-1997,” *Ancestry*, Cora C Newton, born 26 June 1902 in Indiana, died 15 September 1970 at Santa Clara.

88. “Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004,” *Ancestry*; citing Washington, Clark County, Vancouver, marriage certificate 21030, Arthur Beletski and May Cottrell, 3 October 1919. Witnesses E. M. Derr, Edward L Beletski, and Cedric Miller, Justice of the Peace.

89. 1920 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED 147, p 5B; NARA roll T625\_1502, image 507.

90. The Volstead Act was enacted to carry out the intent of the Eighteenth Amendment, which established prohibition in the U.S. It was in effect from 1920 to 1933.

91. *The Oregonian*, 10 July 1925, p. 5.

92. *Ibid.* 4 April 1925, pp. 1 & 2; 5 April 1925, p. 21.

93. *Ibid.*

After this incident, Arthur changed his surname. In the city directory for 1926, it was Beletski, in 1927, it was Bellis. May Ida and Arthur B. are found at 864 Montana Avenue in Portland directories from 1923 through 1929. More than ten years after his prohibition era escapade, May Ida's husband, Arthur Bellis, joined the staff of Multnomah County Sheriff Martin T. Pratt on 30 May 1936 as a uniformed officer.<sup>94</sup> His family had not moved, but their house was renumbered from 1301 Burrage to 6205 North Burrage before the 1940 census. Arthur B. Bellis, age 42, owned their dwelling, which was worth \$3,500. A deputy for the county sheriff's department, he had worked 48 hours the previous week. May, age 39, had worked 45 hours that same week as a clerk at a retail bakery, and Arthur L., age 19, was recorded as a "new looker," having been unemployed for 12 days. The parents had completed one year of high school, and their son had completed four. Arthur was born in Minnesota, May in Indiana, and Arthur L. in Oregon.<sup>95</sup> Arthur was promoted to Lieutenant on 31 October 1946 and placed in charge of the second night shift at the Vanport branch. In January of 1949, he was made a detective and transferred to the criminal division.<sup>96</sup>

May Ida Bellis died on 3 February 1951. Her obituary states she was "born February 4, 1901, at Boonville, Ind., coming to Portland 45 years ago."<sup>97</sup> Surviving besides the widower Arthur B. Bellis, of the Sheriff's Criminal Division, were a son, "Arthur L. Bellis, Phoenix, Ariz., and a sister, Cora Newton, Portland."<sup>98</sup> Arthur B. retired March 31, 1962, after 32 years of service in the Sheriff's Office and died in 1964.<sup>99</sup>

May's son, Arthur L. Bellis, married Constance 'Connie' Howe on 13 June 1942, a month before he had to report to San Diego for basic training with the Navy.<sup>100</sup> After the war, he began a career in the mortgage loan business with Prudential Insurance Company, living in California and



*Arthur Bellis and May Ida. Courtesy of the author.*

Arizona before returning to Portland. He retired as a vice president of the Portland branch of the Bank of California in 1978, and died 28 February 1995 in Wheeler, Oregon.<sup>101</sup> Arthur, my second cousin, was the only second generation descendant of John Edward Cottrell. His obituary listed survivors as his wife, a son, and a daughter. In 2013, I located and contacted my newly found cousins and was warmly received.

94. *Ibid.*, 23 July 1964, p. 48.

95. 1940 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, ED 37-482, p. 5B, Arthur B. Bellis; citing NARA T627\_3393.

96. *The Oregonian*, 23 July 1964, p. 2 and p. 48.

97. Her obituary would place her coming to Oregon in 1906.

98. *The Oregonian*, 7 February 1951, p. 17.

99. *Ibid.*, 23 July 1964, p. 48.

100. *Ibid.*, 14 July 1942, p. 11.

101. *Ibid.*, 2 March 1995, p. 52.

# Elmer Edgar Upton (1888–1985)

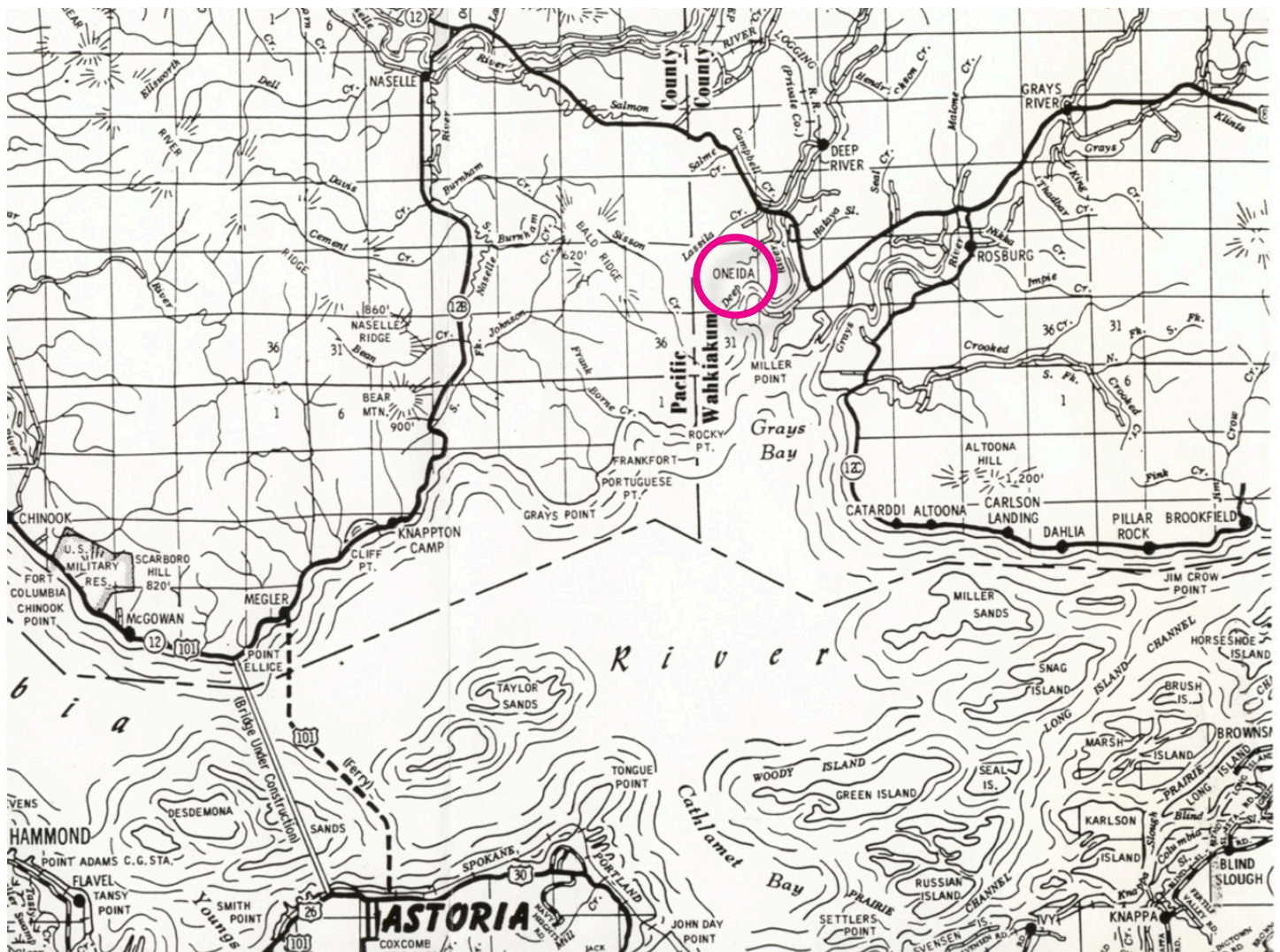
Bonnie LaDoe

If asked, Elmer would proudly announce that he was born in Oneida, Washington, and be completely puzzled by the blank look on your face. How could you not know where Oneida is?

Elmer was the youngest child of David Upton and Edna Smalley Upton, born 26 January 1888. In 1876, Elmer's oldest brother, William, (my grandfather on my maternal side), was born slightly north of Oneida in the town of Deep River. The little village of Oneida sits on Deep River, Washington, near where it meets Grays Bay. Then in 1882, the family moved to Hudson, Oregon, where sister Grace was born, but they were back in Oneida for the birth of brother Benjamin in 1884.



Upton family, circa 1892, David, Edna, William, Grace, Ben, and Elmer. Courtesy of the author.



The little village of Oneida (circled) sits on Deep River, Washington, near where it meets Grays Bay.



*Eva and Elmer with children, Harold, Nellie and Clifford.  
Courtesy of the author.*

Fortunately for his descendants, Elmer's granddaughter did a recorded interview with Elmer in 1980. He told many stories of his childhood near Deep River, including one of their house burning down. Elmer and his mom were picking blackberries behind the house when they looked back to see the roof on fire. In no time, the whole house was gone. Apparently, it must have been insured, because the next story Elmer tells is of leaving the area with his family headed for Hood River, Oregon, and his dad having a bag full of gold coins. As was common in this era, the family took a boat to Astoria and then on to Portland. They stayed at the Esmond Hotel in Portland before heading up the Columbia River. Elmer remembers that, while his parents were gone from the room, the kids emptied the sack of gold coins on the bed and played with them. The next morning as the family was leaving, David Upton suddenly realized he had left the bag of gold in their room. With a mad dash back to the hotel, they arrived at the room just as the maid was about to enter. With the bag of gold retrieved, they headed to Hood River, where David and Edna spent the rest of their lives.

Oldest brother William (my grandfather) married Ethel Kessell 12 December 1901 in Astoria, Oregon. Ethel lived in Grays River, Washington, with her parents, six sisters, and three brothers. Elmer married Una Eva Kessell, one of Ethel's sisters, 17 February 1906, when he was 18; and she was 16 years old (and seven months pregnant). According to family lore, when Elmer asked Eva's father for permission to marry her, her father replied, "I hope someone does." Their first child, Clifford, was born 19 April 1906. Daughter Nellie was born 15 January 1908, and son Harold on 20 November 1912.

Brother Benjamin wed Lena Blair 1 July 1908 in Portland, Oregon. This union produced seven children. Sadly, Ben died in a logging accident 21 July 1920, leaving behind his pregnant widow and six children. They were living on the lower Columbia River at Rosburg, Washington, and Ben was buried in the Eden Valley Cemetery.



*Lena Blair, engagement photo. Courtesy of the author.*

When Elmer learned of his brother's death, he went to Lena and the children, offering assistance. This must have put a strain on his marriage to Eva, as in the 1930 census, they are shown as divorced. Lena, in 1930, is living with the children in a home she owns in Vancouver, Washington, and Elmer was living alone in Portland.

On 24 December 1941, Elmer and Lena wed and moved to a home in North Portland, where they lived out their lives.

I knew and loved my great uncle Elmer. His voice and mannerisms were so like my grandfather's. And Lena was charming and talkative, having learned all about the Upton history and ready to enlighten you with her knowledge, often without you having to ask.



*Elmer and Lena at home in North Portland.  
Courtesy of the author.*



*1941 wedding of Elmer and Lena with Lena's son Walt, his wife Laura, and their children. Courtesy of the author.*

Remember the Hatfields and the McCoys? We, descendants of the Kessells and Uptons, found ourselves in a similar situation, but not so violent, of course. But if you were having a dinner party, best not to invite an Upton if a Kessell was invited. And vice versa. Elmer and Eva's bitter divorce trickled down into the family for over 50 years. Fortunately, that era is over and most likely forgotten by most descendants now.

On 25 January 1981, Elmer's family celebrated his 93rd birthday with a big party. The guest list included family from both his and Ben's children and descendants. A long life so deserving of a celebration.



Lena passed away in 1974, but Elmer lived on in their little house in North Portland until 23 February 1985, when he died at age 97.

# The Untimely Death of Florence M. Ziebold (1895–1919)

Barbara Coakley

The world was devastated by the deaths of an estimated fifty million people from the “Spanish Flu” between 1918 and 1920. In New York City, there were four waves of the disease. Despite the initiatives put in place to combat the disease, the third wave, December 1918 to March 1919, took the lives of 9,172 people, the majority of whom were ages twenty to twenty-nine.<sup>1</sup> One of these was Florence Marie Ziebold.<sup>2</sup>

## EARLY LIFE

Florence was born on 5 July 1895 in Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois.<sup>3</sup> She was the sixth of eight children born to George Washington Ziebold and Wilhelmina (Minnie) Emelia Hoffmeister.<sup>4</sup> Florence’s education included Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Grade School and Waterloo High School. She was an above-average student, maintaining an average of 90 or above from sixth through tenth grade.<sup>5</sup> Health issues forced her to discontinue schooling after her sophomore year of high school.<sup>6</sup>



*Florence M. Ziebold. Courtesy of the author.*

In February 1913, Florence and her parents traveled to Indian Springs, Georgia, where Minnie and Florence spent the winter at the Hotel Elder, a large mineral springs resort.<sup>7</sup> The owners rebuilt the Elder in 1903 after a fire; it was a popular health and vacation destination in 1913. The waters were said to provide relief for many ailments, including kidney disease, which plagued Florence.<sup>8</sup> Despite her frail health, Florence was talented and active in her community.

1. “The 1918 influenza pandemic in New York City: age-specific timing, mortality, and transmission dynamics,” *Wiley Online Library* (<https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.12217> : accessed 26 January 2026).

2. 1900 U.S. census, Monroe County, Illinois, population schedule, Waterloo, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 45, p. 363 B (stamped), dwelling 278, family 311, George W Ziebold; digital image *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4113789\\_00731?pId=15422283](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4113789_00731?pId=15422283) : accessed 18 January 2024); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 330.

3. Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois, Birth Certificate, Florence M. Ziebold, 1895; image, *FamilySearch*, “Birth Records, 1868-1915” (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9V3-9SZ5?i=213&cat=271428&lang=en> : accessed 22 October 2023).

4. 1910 U.S. census, Monroe County, Illinois, population schedule, Waterloo, Ward 3, enumeration district (ED) 81, p. 165 (stamped), dwelling not filled in, family not filled in, George Ziebold; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/31111\\_4328207-00945?pId=5741184](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/31111_4328207-00945?pId=5741184) : accessed 18 January 2024); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 312.

5. “School Notes,” *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 4 March 1908, p. 1, col. 4; 17 November 1909, p. 1, col. 2; 19 January 1910, p. 1, col. 4; 4 December 1910, p. 1, col. 2; 10 May 1911, p. 1, col. 4; 8 November 1911, p. 1, col. 2; 13 December 1911, p. 4, col. 2; 6 March 1912, p. 1, col. 4; 10 April 1912, p. 1, col. 4; and 8 May 1912, p. 1, col. 4; images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/> : accessed 30 January 2026).

6. “School Notes,” *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois) reviewed the newspapers from 1913 and 1914 when Florence would have completed her Junior and Senior years, and she is not mentioned as a student; and *Wahischo*, 1942. (The yearbook of Waterloo High School) Alumni from 1895 to 1941 are listed by year. Florence is not included in the list, and “Ziebold,” *The Waterloo Times* (Waterloo, Illinois), 28 March 1919, p. 1, cols. 1–2; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752956993/?article=321b84f5-667d-4dee-8ba7-ca1dd23c50fd&focus=0.036197938,0.60896784,0.19066449,0.752591&xid=3355> : accessed 23 June 2022).

7. “Local Items,” *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 12 February 1913, p. 5, col. 3; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752799987/> : accessed 19 February 2026), and “Indian Spring Social News,” *The Jackson Argus* (Jackson, Georgia), 14 February 1913, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053021/1913-02-14/ed-1/seq-1/#words=Ziebold> : accessed 19 February 2026).

8. Martha Norwood, *Indian Springs Hotel: A 19th Century Watering Place* (Georgia: University of Georgia, 1978), p. 200–201; images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/indianspringshot00norw> : accessed 19 February 2026).

Florence, a student of Miss May Murphy, performed in recitals at Memorial Opera House in Waterloo, highlighting her musical talents.<sup>9</sup> She, like her sisters, played card games such as Euchre, Bridge, and Five Hundred; she won the prize on more than one occasion.<sup>10</sup> Her activities included the Domestic Science Club, registration of women by the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense in 1917, and attending and hosting numerous dances.<sup>11</sup> Florence liked to travel; her last trip was to New York City to visit her sister, Adina, and her family.

### TRIP TO NEW YORK

On 15 January 1919, Florence boarded a train, probably one of the luxury passenger trains such as the New Yorker or the Southwestern Limited, headed for New York City.<sup>12</sup> Her trip probably took her through Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Pennsylvania to New York City's Grand Central Station.<sup>13</sup> The hustle and bustle of the city would have been very different from Waterloo. Adina, her husband, Nazmy, and their daughter, Loretta, lived in an apartment at 1925 Ave. G in Brooklyn. In less than two months, the sisters' time together ended when tragedy befell the family.

### THE SPANISH FLU

Florence contracted influenza in late February or early March. Her symptoms, fever, chills, fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, and runny nose, began about 7 March.<sup>14</sup> The flu

progressed to pneumonia, which was concerning because Florence had chronic kidney disease.<sup>15</sup> Adina messaged her parents that Florence was sick. Minnie wasn't strong enough to travel to New York, so her father, George, and Florence's sister, Evelyn, left by train.<sup>16</sup> When they arrived in New York, Florence felt better. A few days later, complications set in, pneumonia aggravated her already damaged kidneys, and her health deteriorated. Florence's kidneys stopped functioning, and toxins built up in her bloodstream. She died on 21 March, the first day of Spring.<sup>17</sup> George and Evelyn accompanied Florence's remains on the train back to Waterloo for burial.



Florence, her sisters, and mother. Courtesy of the author.

9. "The Recital," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 22 May 1907, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752911355/>; accessed 15 February 2026).

10. "List of Prizes Won at Euchre," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 21 October 1914, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752854079/>; accessed 30 January 2026).

11. "Domestic Science Club Hold Meeting," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois) 30 June 1915, p. 1, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752858224/>; accessed 30 January 2026), and "Registration of Women," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 26 December 1917, p. 4, col. 1; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752911765/>; accessed 30 January 2026), and "Holiday Doings In Paragraphs," *Waterloo Republican*, (Waterloo, Illinois), 5 January 1916, p. 5, col. 4–5; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752861833/>; accessed 30 January 2026), and "A Bull-Frog Sat ON A ---," *Belleville News-Democrat* (Bellville, Illinois) 6 September 1915, p. 3, col. 5; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/769065848/>; accessed 30 January 2026).

12. "Ziebold," *The Waterloo Times* (Waterloo, IL), 28 March 1919, p. 1, cols. 1–2, image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752956993/?article=321b84f5-667d-4dee-8ba7-ca1dd23c50fd&focus=0.036197938,0.60896784,0.19066449,0.752591&xid=3355>; accessed 23 June 2022).

13. "Personals," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 19 March 1919, p. 5, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752809725/>; accessed 30 January 2026).

14. "1918 Influenza Pandemic (Spanish Flu)," *Cleveland Clinic* (<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/21777-spanish-flu>; accessed 1 March 2026).

15. Brooklyn, New York City, New York, Death Certificate No 8373, Florance M. Ziebold, 1919; image, MyHeritage, "New York City Deaths, 1866-1948" (<https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-20808-1016311/florence-m-ziebold-in-new-york-city-deaths?s=OYYV6WPSEIFGCM3QBLLAH4GFTEA2JFQ>; accessed 28 January 2026).

16. "Florence Is Sick," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 19 March 1919, p. 5, col. 4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752809725/>; accessed 30 January 2026).

17. Brooklyn, New York City, New York, Death Certificate No 8373, Florance M. Ziebold, 1919; image, MyHeritage, "New York City Deaths, 1866-1948" (<https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-20808-1016311/florence-m-ziebold-in-new-york-city-deaths?s=OYYV6WPSEIFGCM3QBLLAH4GFTEA2JFQ>; accessed 28 January 2026).

The train arrived in Waterloo on Saturday evening, and Florence was taken to the Ziebold family home. "She appeared as if in natural sleep, clasping a bunch of violets which she loved so well, while roses and carnations were beautifully grouped in profusion."<sup>18</sup> The family gathered in Waterloo; Florence's sister, Clara, and her husband, Harry Sennott, traveled from their home in Paris, Illinois. Minnie's brother, Charles Hoffmeister, and his family, and her sisters-in-law, Mrs. Christian Hoffmeister, Mrs. Charles Hoffmeister, and Mrs. Fred Hoffmeister came from St. Louis. Her grandfather, Gottlieb Ziebold, and stepsister, Mrs. John Helber, came from Red Bud. Nelson Rickert, her nephew, came from East St. Louis.<sup>19</sup> On Monday, 24 March, Father Krewit said a requiem mass at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.<sup>20</sup> George purchased a family plot in the church cemetery, and Florence was the first family member buried there.<sup>21</sup>

The entire community felt Florence's death.

I can see her, as she was not long ago, although the years are rapid in their silent flight, the days are nothing in the estimate, so short are they. We hasten from the light into the darkness, ruled by unseen fate, and life is short; yet she is dear to us and ever more through endless time shall be.<sup>22</sup>

Her father expressed his grief in the entry in his Family Book, "The grief and heartache cannot be described on losing [*sic*] such a good child only our Creator and time can tide one over such great sorrow."<sup>23</sup>

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
Borough of **Brooklyn**

STATE OF NEW YORK  
Department of Health of The City of New York  
BUREAU OF RECORDS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

No. **1925 Av. G.**

Character of premises  
Whether tenement, private,  
hotel, hospital or other place, etc. **Tenement**

Registered No. **8373**

\*FULL NAME **Florence M. Ziebold**

3 SEX **Female** 4 COLOR OR RACE **White** 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED **Single** (If raise the word)

15 DATE OF DEATH **March 21, 1919**  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

6 DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE **23** yrs. mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work **H.W.**  
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) **U.S.**

10 NAME OF FATHER **George Ziebold**

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) **U.S.**

12 MARRIED NAME OF MOTHER **Minnie Hoffmeister**

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) **U.S.**

14 Special INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.

Former or usual Residence

16 I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars (Nos. 1 to 14 inclusive) are correct as near as the same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I attended the deceased from **March 20, 1919** to **March 21, 1919**, that I last saw her alive on the **20** day of **March** 1919, and that the cause of death was as follows:  
**Uremia**

duration yrs. mos. ds. **10** ds.  
Contributory **Angerona pneumonia**  
(Secondary) **chronic nephritis**

duration yrs. mos. ds. **14** ds.  
Witness my hand this **21** day of **March** 1919.

Signature **Geo. Amurich** M. D.  
Address **931 Flatbush Ave.**

FILED **MAR 21 1919**

17 PLACE OF BURIAL **St. Peter & Paul**

18 UNDERTAKER **Frank J. Williams**

DATE OF BURIAL **March 21, 1919**

ADDRESS **St. Peter & Paul**

Death Certificate for Florence M. Ziebold.  
Courtesy of the author.

18. "Visits of the Grim Reaper, Ziebold," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 26 March 1919 p. 1, col. 2; image, *Newspapers.com* ([https://www.newspapers.com/image/752809774/?clipping\\_id=190111414](https://www.newspapers.com/image/752809774/?clipping_id=190111414) : accessed 29 January 2026).

19. "Local Items," *Waterloo Republican* (Waterloo, Illinois), 26 March 1919, p. 5 col., 3-4; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752809829/> : accessed 11 February 2026).

20. Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Waterloo, Illinois, Deaths 1899-1947 p. 78; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-671Q-XXZ?wc=M659-MMW%3A13746701%2C14307101%2C14307102%2C14461701%2C6cc%3D1388122&cc=1388122&lang=en&i=39> : accessed 26 January 2026).

21. S. S. Peter and Paul's Cemetery License of Burial, Waterloo, Illinois, citing lot ownership by George W. Ziebold, 19 April 1919; Ziebold Family Papers privately held by Barbara Coakley, [address for private use,] Dallas, Texas. This printed document, 8 1/2 x 11", was passed from Noreen Ziebold, widow of George P. Ziebold (1926-2020), grandson of George W. Ziebold (1860-1934), to the current owner in 2023.

22. "Ziebold," (Waterloo, IL) *The Waterloo Times*, 28 March 1919, p. 1, col. 1-2; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/752956993/?article=321b84f5-667d-4dee-8ba7-ca1dd23c50fd&focus=0.036197938,0.60896784,0.19066449,0.752591&xid=3355> : accessed 23 June 2022).

23. Lizzie K. Harlow, *Family Record*, Boston, MA: L. Prang & Co., p. 15, Original book in possession of Barbara Coakley [address for private use] given to her by her aunt, Mina Sennott, who received the book from her mother, Clara Ziebold Sennott. Mina believed the book was started by her grandfather, George W. Ziebold. Mina continued to record family events.

# Andrew Martin Gillen (1875–1939) of Brooklyn, New York

Mary Nelson

Andrew Martin Gillen was born on the 15th of August in 1875 to Thomas W. Gillen and his wife, Bridget Martin, in Brooklyn, New York. Both Thomas and Bridget were immigrants from Ireland. Thomas worked as a carman or delivery driver according to the 1880 U.S. census. Bridget did not work according to the same census.

Andrew was the youngest of their eight children. He attended the local parish school and then graduated from St. Francis College with a Bachelor of Science degree. At age 18, he went to Long Island College Hospital, graduating with a medical degree at age 21, one of its youngest graduates. Both of his parents died in 1897, and he moved in with his sister, Catherine, and her husband and their seven children, according to the 1900 U.S. census.

Dr. Gillen started his practice as the house surgeon at the Reception Hospital at Coney Island. He later became a member of the hospital staff of St John's Hospital in Long Island City.

In 1902, he became involved in politics. He ran and won the office of alderman for the Ninth Assembly district. According to a newspaper article of the time, it was one of the poorest districts in the city. So, in addition to his alderman duties combined with his medical practice, he would have hours where he would treat people from the district at no charge. He could not give them medicine for free, but he would treat them.

On the 15th of October 1902, he married Anita Quinn, who was the daughter of the former Deputy Street Cleaning Commissioner. I could not find a marriage license, but did find newspaper articles regarding the wedding, including one on the day of the wedding.



Coney Island Hospital, Coney, Island, N.Y., postcard.



Dr. Andrew M. Gillen. *Brooklyn Newspapers*

In 1905, he ran as the Democratic candidate for the Coroner for the Western District of Brooklyn. He did not win but came in second place. There is no record of him running for any other elected office.

Before the summer of 1928, Dr. Gillen was Chairman of the Medical Board of Coney Island Hospital for 12 years. While he was Chairman, the conditions at the hospital got so bad that he recommended the hospital be closed. The problems must have been solved because the hospital exists today.

He was part of the staff that started Shore Road Hospital. He was chairman of the Medical Board and the chief obstetrician at the time of his death. He campaigned to have women come to the hospital to deliver their babies instead of home births. According to his obituary in the newspaper, he was said to have delivered about 8,000 babies.

He and his wife had two daughters, Anita and Shirley. Both were married, but neither of them had children.

Dr. Andrew Martin Gillen died on his birthday, August 15, 1939, at Long Island College Hospital. He died from cancer of the spine and pelvis. He was diagnosed with the condition in March of that year.

When his obituary was printed in the *Brooklyn Eagle* newspaper on August 17th, a regular news article was printed about him as well as the short notice. There were also notices printed by groups stating their sorrow at his death. The groups included the Medical Board of Shore Road Hospital regarding the loss of their chairman and the Medical Society of Kings County mentioning the loss of a member. Brother Jerome and the Franciscan Brothers also had a notice listing their sorrow, but their connection is unknown.

Dr. Gillen was the author's great-granduncle.

# Kawetzky Canyon

## A Place Almost Forgotten

Bonnie Randolph

Oregon is full of places named after early settlers or geographic features. I grew up next to Kawetzky Canyon, on the western flank of Marys Peak in the Oregon Coast Range, and never once wondered how it got its name. It was just a canyon, accessed by a spur road between our property and my uncle's. I thought Kawetzky Canyon was pronounced the same as the Quetschkes, who lived on the main road to Harlan. Then I saw the name Kawetzky in print.

Acres of land were offered to homesteaders under the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909. Someone in Washington, D.C., forgot to consult a topographic map when choosing available land. Potential homesteaders flocked to the Harlan area, claiming farmland on some of the steepest timberland in the county. Most abandoned their claims before they starved. The sun never penetrated the tall firs to warm their gardens or grow grass for their milk cow.

Martin Kawetzky was one of these homesteaders who filed a homestead claim in 1915. He published a notice in the *Lincoln County Leader* stating that a previous applicant, Gustav Thorsen, had abandoned his claim, never built a house, nor cultivated any ground. Kawetzky was granted Homestead Entry #04561 for NE ¼ Section 10, Township 12 South, Range 8 West. His 40 acres were located on steep ground covered with Douglas fir, except for a narrow strip of flat ground near a creek. He built a small house on the north side, an orchard on the south, and a simple sawmill downstream. He sold cedar-shake bolts and raised cabbage for kraut, storing it in the cellar he dug.

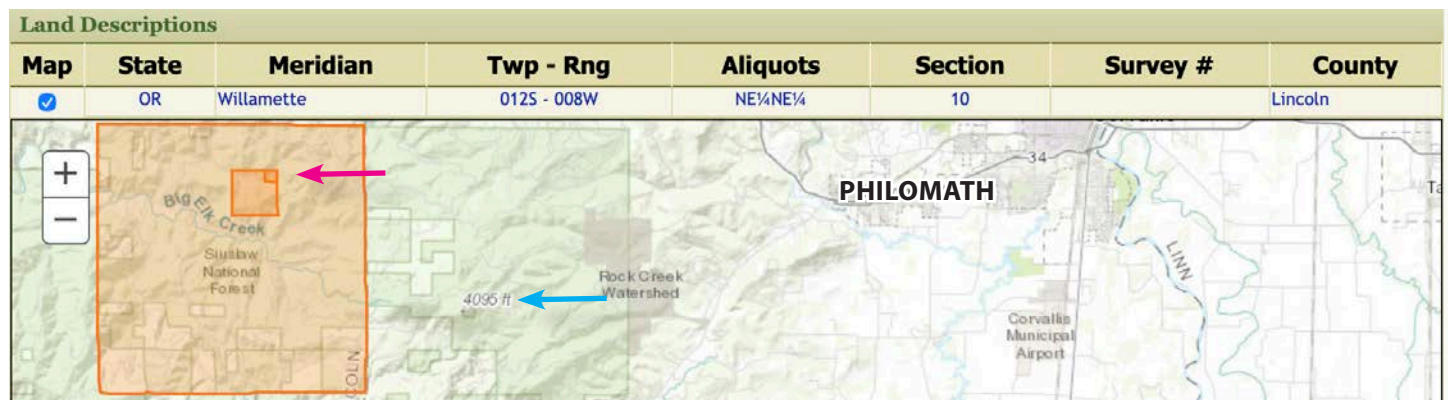
In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6910, authorizing the government to acquire land for conservation. The order aimed to protect watersheds, forests, and wildlife by transferring private land in the western states to federal ownership. The government included Martin Kawetzky's 40 acres. Martin was 77 years old, blind in one eye after running into a vine maple limb, and wanted to move in with his married daughter. Martin began writing letters, asking for compensation and expressing his increasing frustration with the U.S. government.



*Marys Peak by Dougtone, 2013. CC BY-SA 2.0*

More than 50 years later, a second cousin of mine received a Passport in Time newsletter, a U.S. Forest Service program that connected volunteers with professional archaeologists. He called me, knowing I would be interested in an archaeological dig in the Harlan area. It was the ruins of Martin Kawetzky's house. My uncle and I met the Passport in Time volunteers where the gravel road forked, one branch leading to my uncle's place and the other to Kawetzky Canyon. The Forest Service historian spread copies of Martin's letters to the government across the tailgate of my uncle's pickup. My uncle was amazed to learn the letters still existed. The volunteers were amazed that my uncle remembered Mr. Kawetzky as an old man with a thick accent. My uncle, as a young boy, could not understand him, but his dad could.

The group invited my uncle to the dig, but he just waved with a slow grin and said he'd just as soon go home. I was eager to go. I rarely went back into the canyon as a kid. A cattle guard at the beginning of the spur road deterred our milk cow, so I never had to go into Kawetzky's Canyon to drive her to the barn for milking.



Martin Kawetzky Land (red arrow), Marys Peak (blue arrow), west of Philomath, Oregon. Bureau of Land Management.

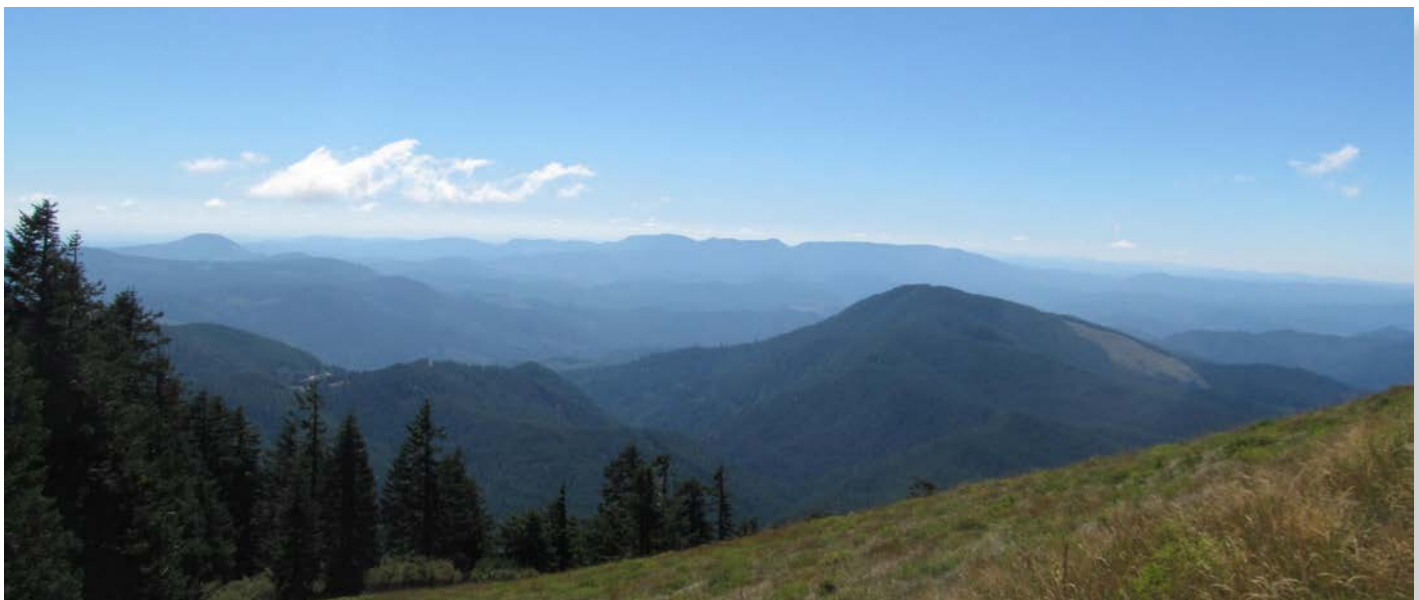
The Forest Service volunteers easily located where Martin’s house once stood. The boards had rotted away, but some nails and foundation stones remained. Abandoned houses didn’t last long in the heavy rain and damp climate of the Coast Range. The volunteers invited me to dig where the cellar once was. I dug right in, scattering dirt everywhere. Looking up, I saw the volunteer archaeologists with their mouths hanging open. One woman gently took the tool from my hand and kindly explained that removing the soil must be done carefully.

Martin Kawetzky was born in Germany in 1857. He immigrated to the United States in 1886 and married in Montgomery, Illinois, where he worked as a coal miner. His wife, Lillie, died in 1906 at age 36, leaving Martin with four daughters: Freda, Ethel, Dora, and Esther. Freda married Jim Zib in 1911. Ethel taught school in Elk City, Lincoln County, in 1911, where they lived before claiming the homestead in the canyon. Esther and Dora lived in Corvallis in 1917; Dora was working at the Corvallis

Telephone Exchange. Jim Zib and Martin Kawetzky filed proof of their adjoining homesteads in Toledo, Oregon, on the same day in 1919.

Next to their house, Jim and Freda built a small two-room shack with a wood stove for the aging Martin. It had cedar shakes, two windows, and a single door, and sat between an Italian plum tree and a pear tree. Martin died in 1947 and was buried in Corvallis. My parents bought the “Zib Place” in 1948. My dad stored poisons, traps, and feed sacks in Martin’s little house. We were told not to enter it under any circumstances, but I found it irresistible.

I do not know whether Martin Kawetzky ever received compensation from the U.S. government for his home-site in Kawetzky Canyon, which is partially covered with brush; the road blocked by a fallen tree. A few walnut and apple trees remain from his orchard. The land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, and less than half of its 40 acres has ever been logged.



View from Marys Peak, image cropped, by Dougtone, 2013. CC BY-SA 2.0

# Delma May Holenbeck (1904–1982) A Prairie Life Across a Changing Century

Pamela Robert

The weather had been unusually mild in January 1904 in Fall River County, South Dakota. Some residents complained that the lakes had not yet frozen solid enough for skating, disappointing the children who looked forward to winter afternoons on the ice. Then, during the last week of January, winter arrived in earnest. A sharp cold wave swept across the prairie, and by Monday morning the temperature had dropped to twelve degrees below zero. Although I have not been able to find an exact temperature reading for Sunday, January 31, I imagine it must have been bitterly cold in the sod house on the family ranch outside of Ardmore when my grandmother was born. Her mother, Bertha Melissa (Ball) Holenbeck, was giving birth to her third child—Delma May Holenbeck. Delma, who would later become Delma Petro and many years afterward Delma Clark, entered a small but loving family that already included an older sister, Alma, and an older brother, Delbert.

Both sides of Delma's family were shaped by the hardships and the opportunities of pioneer life. Bertha was born on August 12, 1881, in Arapahoe, Furnas County, Nebraska and made the journey to Fall River County, South Dakota, with her family and others in their group. Family stories say the group traveled by wagon train, though many people walked much of the way. She grew up in Fall River County and was the eldest of ten children.



*Holenbeck sod ranch house where Delma was born.  
Courtesy of the author.*



*Holenbeck Family: Bertha, James, Alma, Delbert and Delma.  
Courtesy of the author.*

Her family was among the early settlers in the region, and her father became a well-known figure in the local community.

Delma's father, James Sylvester Holenbeck, also came from a very large family. He was the eighth of seventeen children born in Iowa. The Holenbeck family included three sets of twins, although in each case only one twin survived into adulthood. Some of the other children also died in infancy—a reminder of how uncertain life could be in the nineteenth century.

James, born on January 21, 1861, in Iowa, also experienced tragedy as he was about to enter adulthood. In February and March of 1880, his parents—Parilla (Hume) and Egbert Otis Holenbeck—died within days of each other in Missouri. The children were left largely to fend for themselves. James and some of his younger siblings traveled together, moving westward through Missouri, Nebraska and some to North Dakota. James and his brother John ended up in Fall River County. John married, but his wife died in childbirth in 1898 and he, taking his son to be raised by his sister Viola, moved to North Dakota.

On January 2, 1900, James and Bertha were married. At the time of their marriage, James was thirty-eight years old; Bertha was eighteen. Newspaper accounts suggest they were devoted to one another. James was a successful rancher and served as a county commissioner, and his name appears frequently in local newspapers.

But life on the prairie was never without hardship. In 1906 the couple lost a baby boy during childbirth. Then tragedy struck again the following year. On August 2, 1907, James Holenbeck died from appendicitis. Today appendicitis is usually treatable, but before modern surgery and antibiotics it was frequently fatal. In fact, I have identified three relatives in Fall River County who died from appendicitis during those years. James had been given the nickname of "Honest Jim" by his fellow Commissioners, a name that appeared repeatedly in newspaper accounts following his death.

The local newspaper reported:

James S. Holenbeck, of Ardmore died at Sisters Hospital Friday evening, Aug 2, 1907, about 5:40. He was operated on for appendicitis Sunday, July 21st, he rallied somewhat, but about 3:30 Friday afternoon... he sent for his wife. She had been with him almost constantly the first week, and then gone home to her father's ranch, to see the children and get a rest. Mr. Holenbeck was one of the old settlers in this county having resided on his ranch on Hat Creek near Ardmore for the past 18 years, doing well in the cattle business. The county honored him with a second term as county commissioner last fall and he acquired the name "Honest Jim". Rev Gilmore, of Edgemont conducted the services at Ardmore at 2 PM Sunday, which drew an immense crowd, the procession to the graveyard some 3 1/2 miles away had twenty-six teams in line and a large number on horseback. He was about 46 years old.  
—Hot Springs Star, Hot Springs, South Dakota



Delma was only three years old when her father died. Two years later, in 1909, Bertha married Jay Walker. Together they had five children. For Delma and her siblings, family life undoubtedly changed in many ways, though I do not recall hearing detailed stories about those years.

Delma was part of a basketball team as the picture on the next page shows.

As she grew older, Delma began building a life of her own. On October 6, 1923, she married Lawrence Milo Petro. The young couple attempted to establish themselves through homesteading in Fall River County. Like many families trying to wrest a living from the prairie land, they eventually found it too difficult to secure the homestead. They had three children: Lawrence Richard "Dicky," born in 1924; Phyllis Jean, born in 1926 (my mother); and Donald Eugene, born in 1933.

Life on the prairie could be unpredictable and dangerous. In 1936 tragedy struck the family when my uncle Dicky was thrown from a horse. He struck a concrete block and suffered severe internal injuries that led to a burst appendix.

"Son Passes Away" The eleven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Petro, was brought to Edgemont last Friday, in a serious condition from appendicitis. An emergency operation was performed by Dr. Thornton and Dr. Manning of Custer, but his condition gradually became worse and he passed at four o'clock Tuesday morning."  
—Edgemont Tribune, Edgemont, South Dakota, Wednesday, June 24, 1936.

After leaving the homestead, the family moved to the town of Ardmore. There Delma ran a small restaurant. My mother told me the restaurant occasionally showed movies on weekends. It was there she first watched *Gone with the Wind*. Delma also cooked for one of the ranchers when his crews were haying during the harvest season—long days of preparing large meals for workers laboring in the fields.

Bertha Melissa Ball and James Sylvester Holenbeck.

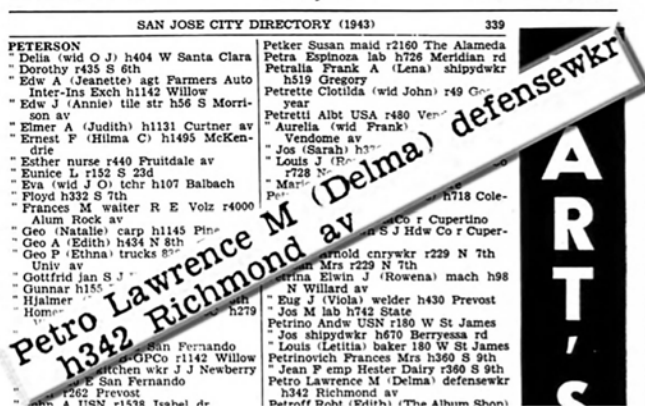


*Basketball Team on the Prairie, Delma is the one with a dark blouse. Courtesy of the author.*

Although she worked hard, there was also time for community life and enjoyment. My mother remembered going to dances at her parents' friends' houses when she was a young girl. The children would sleep on hay in the back of a wagon or pickup truck while the adults danced late into the night. I believe these were all night outings so that people would not have to travel on the dark roads to get home.

My grandmother —whom I called Nana—told me stories about her early life:

- One story described riding in a wagon as a child to the nearest fort during what she remembered as an Indian uprising. I have never been able to find documentation to support that event, but it remained a vivid family story.
- Another memory involved electricity in Ardmore. According to her, electricity was available only during the daytime on three days each week—one day for washing clothes, one day for ironing, and another day whose purpose she could no longer remember.



*1943 San Jose City Directory*

- She also recalled the first automobile she ever saw, when a wealthy relative came to town to show off the strange new machine.

By 1940, like many families in the region, Delma and Lawrence realized that opportunities in the area were limited. They decided to move west. They briefly lived in Portland, Oregon, where Delma's sister Alma lived, but Lawrence was unable to find steady work there.

Eventually the family relocated to San Jose, California, where Lawrence found employment as a mechanic. With the arrival of World War II, work became plentiful. Both my grandmother and mother worked in local canneries, joining thousands of women whose work kept the wartime economy running.



*Delma, my stepdad Russ, Lawrence, and that's me as a little girl. Courtesy of the author.*

Eventually Delma became a nurse's aide at the tuberculosis (TB) sanatorium in San Jose. In those years tuberculosis was a serious and often deadly disease. When I was a child, I remember being told that I had to stay back from my grandmother—rather than running to hug her—until she changed out of her work clothes after coming home from the sanatorium. There was no cure then, and everyone treated the disease with great caution. Delma always loved cooking. One of my fondest memories is the time she made potato chips. I only got to have them once, but they were delicious. I think she had purchased a new machine and was trying it out. They were paper thin and perfectly crisp.

Holiday dinners were large family gatherings. Often two families—originally from the Black Hills—celebrated together. With the two matriarchs cooking the table overflowed with food and many people to enjoy it.

During the war years, I was told my grandfather would swing by the USO and bring home two or three soldiers to holiday dinners. It was a small gesture of hospitality that I'm sure meant a great deal to young servicemen.

On February 25, 1961, tragedy struck again when my grandfather suffered a fatal heart attack. We had just returned from San Francisco Airport after putting my grandmother and step-grandfather (Russ Moritz) on a plane following the death of Russ' father.

When we arrived at my grandfather's home, the house was dark. My mother and uncle sat quietly in the car, both sensing something was wrong. My uncle finally went inside and found my grandfather. I was thirteen years old at that time.

Because the family already owned a burial plot in South Dakota, we transported his body there by train. In those years train travel was still the standard way to transport the deceased long distances. They family also made the long journey from Oakland, California, to South Dakota.



Lawrence Petro Grave. Courtesy of the author.



Delma Holenbeck with granddaughter Pamela, circa 1948. Courtesy of the author.

The return trip included its own strange adventure. My mother wanted to eat dinner separately from the younger children, so Delma and I went to the later dining service with her. Delma had pneumonia and Mom was being protective of her. As we were about to leave the dining car, we were told the dining car we were in was being moved to another train. Our original train began pulling away with our family still aboard. I remember seeing my younger brother crying as the train rolled past. We were in the Denver station and when we stepped outside there was snow on the ground—and we had no coats. We eventually made our way across the snowy platform and rejoined our train, but the incident became a story the family retold for years.

After my grandfather's death, Delma continued working for several more years. Eventually she retired and spent time living with various relatives. She cared for her mother in South Dakota when her mother developed dementia. Later she lived in an apartment in San Jose, and for a time she even bought a house next door to my parents. She also spent time in Carson City, Nevada, helping my uncle run a feed store before eventually moving to Spokane, Washington, to live with her sister.

In 1972, I was planning my own wedding. I had found a beautiful dress pattern in a crochet book and showed it to my grandmother. Without hesitation she said she would make it for me. My grandmother had crocheted all her life. There were stories that she could crochet in a darkened theater. She was still living in Spokane, but was planning to move to San Jose. That winter severe weather delayed her move to California, and because she did not want to begin the dress until she arrived, we even postponed the wedding once. But when the day finally came, she had crocheted a beautiful wedding dress for me.

After moving back to San Jose, Delma lived in a trailer park across the street from my parents' home. The community hosted dances and social activities, and there she met someone she had known many years earlier—John Clark. They had attended school together in South Dakota, though he was three years younger. That difference might have seemed large in grammar school, it meant little in their sixties.

I still remember how she was glowing when she announced their engagement. Both were widowed and they married in 1973. John was a retired mechanic from United Airlines, and together they enjoyed traveling to visit old friends. On their honeymoon flight the airline stewardesses celebrated their marriage with champagne. It was a kind of life she had never lived and I'm so happy she got the chance to do that for a few years.

She passed away in 1983 after a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer. My mother moved her into her home when caring for her became too much for John to handle on his own. As had happened before, we returned her to South Dakota for burial.



*Delma (Holenbeck) Petro Clark Grave.  
Courtesy of the author.*

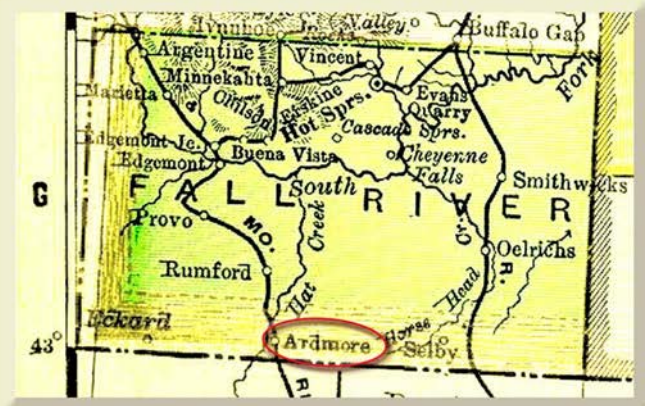
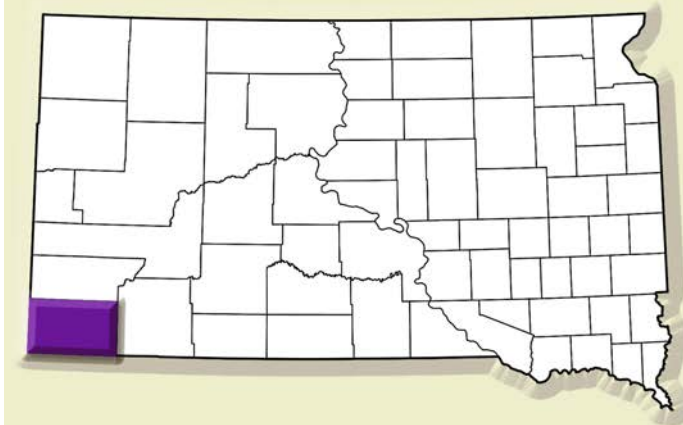
When I was growing up, we traveled back to South Dakota nearly every summer. Many relatives still lived there, and the extended family remained closely connected. They visited us in California, and we visited them in South Dakota. Through those visits—and through the stories she shared—Delma kept the past alive for all of us. Her life stretched from the era of sod houses and wagon travel to the age of jet airplanes—an extraordinary journey that mirrored the transformation of America itself.

#### ***Additional Historical Information about Fall River County and Ardmore, South Dakota***

Fall River County lies along the southern edge of the Black Hills in the southwestern corner of South Dakota. The county was created in 1883 and attracted settlers drawn by ranching opportunities, open land, and proximity to the expanding railroad network.

The town of Ardmore, located near the Nebraska border, developed as a small ranching and agricultural community in the early twentieth century. Like many towns on the prairie, Ardmore served as a local center for trade, supplies, and social life.

## Fall River County in South Dakota



# Pearl Leona (Rutan) Nordby (1889–1929) of Kadoka, South Dakota

Lola Weber

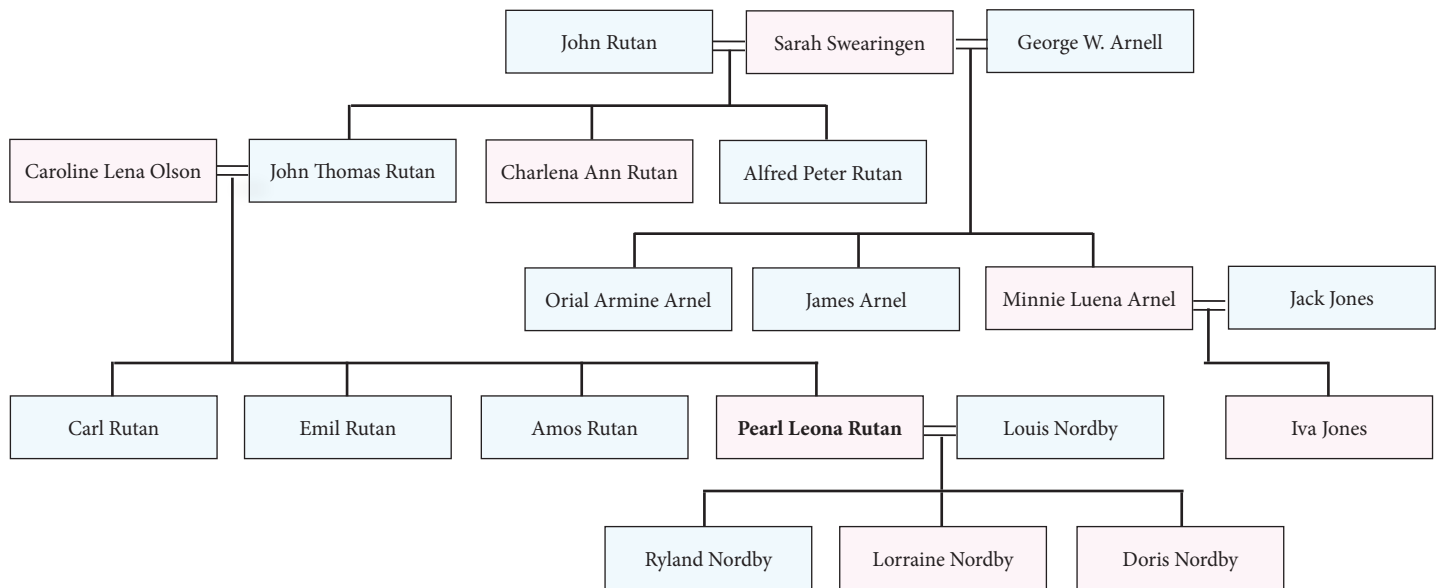
Three events happened in 1889 for the combined Arnel/Rutan family. Land on the Sioux Indian Reservation was thrown open in what was called the west river country of Dakota Territory. The train tracks opened travel even farther west, and a daughter, Pearl Leona Rutan, was born in the cold, hard winter when the mighty Missouri River froze over.

All ferry travel was halted until the spring thaw. Celebrations went on in the town of Chamberlain because Dakota Territory was split into North Dakota and South Dakota. John Thomas Rutan and his brother Peter Rutan were among the early settlers living across the Missouri River in Lyman County. They fished the Missouri, sold fish, and did some farming. The children of John Thomas Rutan and Caroline Lena Olson were Carl, Emil, Amos, and Pearl. Pearl Rutan’s brothers were not old enough to be of much help on the river at first.



*Pearl Leona Rutan, courtesy of the author.*

### SELECTED FAMILY OF PEARL RUTAN



Two half-brothers, James and Oriol (a.k.a. Orie), and a half-sister, Minnie Rutan, were in the combined Rutan/Arnel family before Pearl was born. Minnie was married by the time tragedy struck in 1906, when Pearl's mother died at age 46. Pearl was seven years old. It is difficult to imagine for a child of Pearl's age. Her father, John Thomas Rutan, was not taking very good care of himself and was said to be "pretty heavy on the jug."<sup>1</sup> The boys took good care of Pearl, but soon realized that she needed a female's hand. Carl, the eldest brother, loaded his younger sister, Pearl, and brother, Amos, in a rowboat; rowed across the Missouri River to Chamberlain, and got any job or as many jobs as he could get. He quit school and took care of his little brother and sister.

Their grandmother, Sarah, had remarried after John Rutan Sr. died, to a man named George W. Arnel (a.k.a. Arnold), and they had four children. Daughter Minnie Luena Arnel was their married daughter, living with her husband, Jack Jones, and daughter, Iva, "out west." Iva was three years older than Pearl. Minnie and Jack's home was west of the Missouri River at Kadoka, Jackson County, a travel distance of 114 miles. The family story says that the eldest brother, Carl, took Pearl to Minnie, who was called "Ma Jones" in town, a wonderful woman and teacher.<sup>2</sup> Travel could have been by horse and buggy or the train. Pearl had all that a girl and young lady needed. She would also have Iva as a playmate, workmate, and sister. Her brothers would visit when they could and sent postcards when they could not. Her father probably visited from time to time. Iva and Pearl formed a solid bond that would last throughout their lives.

The Milwaukee Railroad reached the east bank of the Missouri River about 1880 and was halted for the next 20 years. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 set aside land west of the Missouri River for the Great Sioux Indian Reservation. No white man was to intrude; however, the clamor for additional land to homestead influenced the establishment of reservations, opening up surplus land for settlement. The railroad reached Kadoka in 1906, bringing land seekers and businessmen to the unsettled plains of western South Dakota.<sup>3</sup>

Jack Jones, Minnie's husband, liked to gamble and the time he returned with a fair amount of cash, he asked Minnie if she and the girls could run a hotel. In true pioneer spirit, they agreed wholeheartedly that they wanted to do it.

According to Jackson County history, the Jack Jones business was the first in town. It was later moved closer to the train stop. Jack and Minnie named it the "Hotel Pearl" after both girls, Pearl L. Rutan and Iva Pearl Jones. It must have been fun having Pearl's name in large letters on the building. Supper was served in the evening while the small hotel was still on moving timbers.<sup>4</sup> The Hotel Pearl (a.k.a. Pearl Hotel) began as a shack, tent restaurant, and then a hotel.<sup>5</sup> It is said that the train would notify the Pearl ahead of time, with the number of people to expect for a meal. The hotel had only twenty minutes to feed the passengers and crew. One of the waitresses recalled watching for the train's smoke from the balcony of the hotel, then running down the stairs to tell the cook and dining room staff that the train was coming. There were no menus. One meal was prepared, usually roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, vegetables, and pie. The only choice was what the customer wanted to drink: coffee, tea or milk.<sup>6</sup> Kadoka was one of the main stops between Mitchell (to the east) and Rapid City (to the west). As the town grew, business increased.



*Hotel Pearl, courtesy of the author.*

1. Robert Rutan, audio tapes, 1966-1967, Chamberlain, South Dakota.

2. Ibid.

3. Joyce Hicks, *The Hotel Pearl 1906-2006* (Kadoka, South Dakota, 2006).

4. Ibid.

5. Jackson-Washabaugh County Historical Society, *The Jackson-Washabaugh Counties 1916-1965* [South Dakota].

6. Ibid.



*Louis and Pearl Nordby, circa 1918. Courtesy of the author.*

The girls were trained by Minnie “Ma Jones” to help in the restaurant and clean in the hotel. Ma made it fun for the girls and hired other girls to help when needed. Washing the bedding was a big job; it was done by hand on a large washboard. Hanging bedding to dry outside was always a concern. The wind helped them dry, but could whip up the dry earth and make the sheets dirty again. Ma taught the girls to set the long tables in the café area, and when it became a game, she reminded them not to break any of the plates. Cleaning the outhouse was the worst job of all.

Pearl loved to dance, and her dance card was almost always full. When a fellow (who ranched down south by the name of Louis Nordby, a Norwegian, four years older than Pearl) became interested, it was not long until they married. Louis, 23, and Pearl, 19, were married by a minister of the Presbyterian Church on July 8, 1918, in Kadoka.<sup>7</sup>

In 1917, World War I started, and the people of Kadoka responded. Liberty bonds sold at three percent interest. All men between the ages of 21 and 31 were first registered, and very few begged exemptions. Housewives were told to save meat, milk, fats, sugar, and fuel. The local Red Cross was organized on July 3rd. Women and children busied themselves with sewing and knitting. Sales were held for Red Cross funds, and scrap material was gathered.<sup>8</sup> While Carl did not go into service during WWI, his brother, Amos, did. And Pearl had a scrapbook full of postcards from both brothers. In September of 1918, Pearl’s new husband enlisted in the Marines.

Pearl stayed in town at Minnie and Jack’s place and she continued working in the hotel. There were always fun plans. Her “sister” Iva married in 1913, so she was away from the hotel.

After Louis returned from the war in February 1920, the couple had three children in Kadoka: Ryland (1920), Lorraine (1921), and Doris (1923). Louis bought land in 1920 when he built their home. He and Pearl moved to the place on the hill above the school, and it is still called the Nordby place.

Louis’ mother remarried and was in Rapid City, South Dakota, 96 miles from Kadoka.<sup>9</sup> Pearl and Louis may have moved to Rapid City as well. Then, in May of 1929, at age 30, Pearl died. It seems like such a young age. Louis may have turned to his mother, Harriett Nordby Hitchcox, to help raise his three small children. He was working for the police department and later served for 17 years as Chief of Police in Rapid City.

The Pearl Hotel touched the lives of many of Kadoka’s citizens: junior/senior banquet, wedding receptions, future couples met there, 16th birthday parties, playing cards, and bridal showers. Today, efforts are underway to restore the hotel to its original beauty.

7. South Dakota, Circuit Court, Jackson County, 1918.

8. The Jackson-Washabaugh Counties, 1916–1965.

9. Ibid.

# Gordon LeRoy Coyle (1912–1963) of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

Ann Rowland

“Daddy could do anything. If he saw something, he could make it. Sometimes he drew plans or had them drawn. He had an amazing ability.”<sup>1</sup>

Gordon LeRoy Coyle was born 22 October 1912 in Waterloo (near Lebanon), Linn County, Oregon. His parents were Elmer Coyle and Dollie Mae (Graham) Coyle. He had three older sisters: Olive (1906–1994), Naomi (1909–1993), Linnie/Ruby (1910–2006), and one younger sister, Goldie/Golda (1921–2008).

Gordon met his future wife, Ada Alberta Hickox (6 June 1913–16 February 1975), at the home of his sister Olive and her husband Clyde. They were married for 30 years before his passing on 4 December 1963. Gordon and Ada were married on 26 November 1933 in Dallas, Polk County, Oregon, and were the parents of three children: Ronald Lee (1935–2023) and two living daughters.



*Alaska cruise ship North Sea.  
Courtesy of the author.*

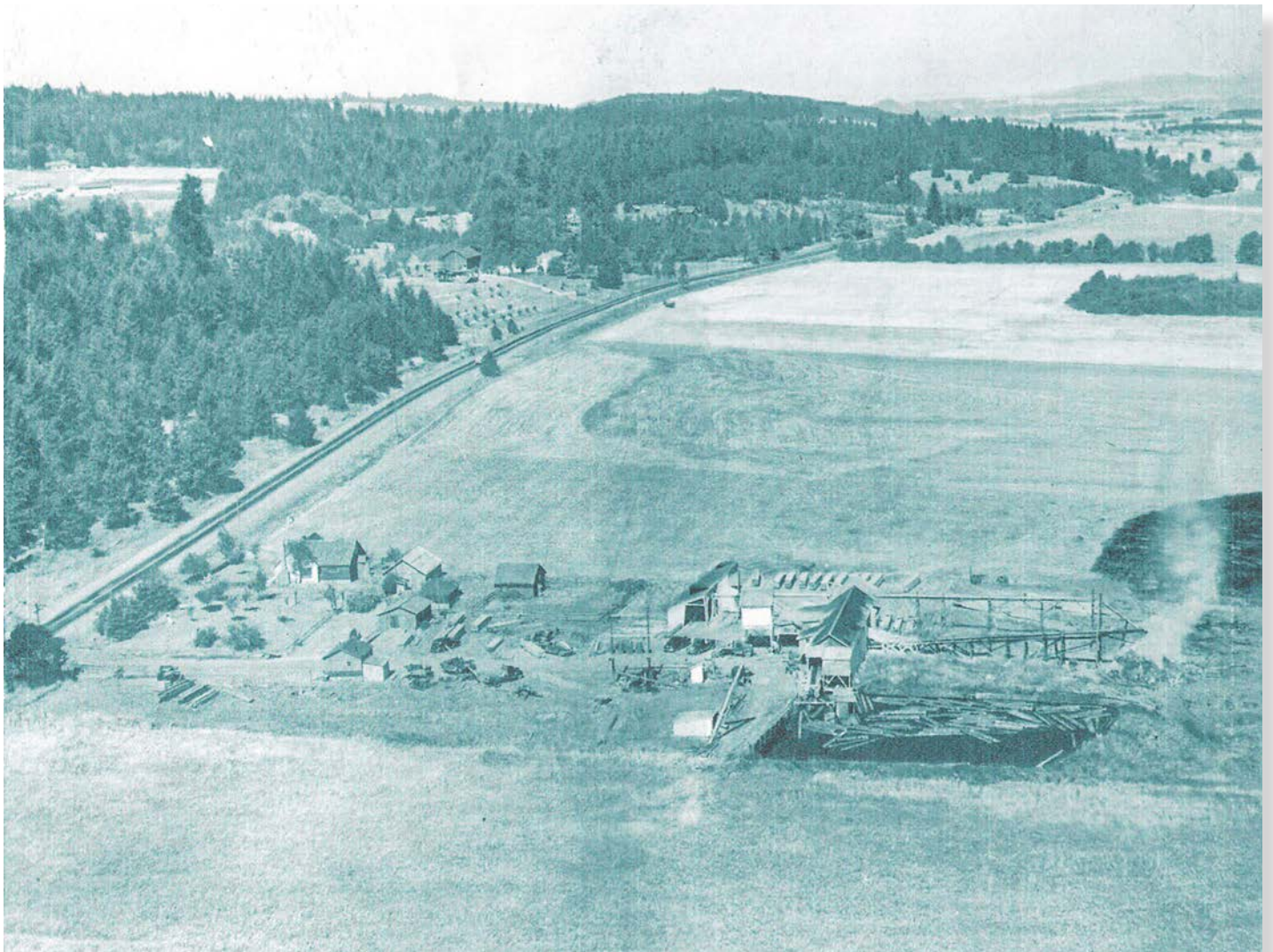


*Gordon L. Coyle, courtesy of the author.*

When my mom was three or four years old, Gordon went to Alaska looking for work, as the Depression was ending. Ada and the two children met Gordon in Ketchikan on the Alaskan cruise ship *S.S. North Sea*. The family then went up North to Sitka on the same ship. While there, Gordon and Ada were known to skate on a frozen lake and even build a fire on that same lake. When World War II broke out, they went back to Oregon.

Gordon bought a Taylor Craft (T-Craft) two-seater airplane from Joe, who owned the airport in Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon, and had taught him how to fly. In June 1948, when my mom was 12 years old, she had an opportunity to fly with Gordon from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine, in that T-craft with no radio. They were part of a group of 50 Oregon pilots who had bigger airplanes and probably even radios; it was a goodwill tour.

1. As told by author's mother.



*Aerial shot of the sawmill built by Gordon Coyle. Courtesy of the author.*

While in Nebraska, Grandpa would fly six feet above the ground, while my mom would wave to the train engine crew. Grandpa also would wave the wings at the same crew. The trip took 10–12 days, totaling 2,536 air miles.<sup>2</sup>

Their first stop was in Boise, Idaho, for lunch and their first night was spent in Salt Lake City, Utah. At the end of the trip in Portland, Maine, there was a “big woop de do,”<sup>3</sup> where their meal included lobster, oysters, and clams.

Gordon and my mom were walking through Chinatown and saw his lumber in the bay in New York City. The lumber had been planed, cut, and picked up by train and

taken across the United States from the sawmill back in Oregon. Gordon knew it was his lumber by the markings on it.

In the fall of my mom’s third grade, the family moved from Corvallis to Lewisburg, Benton County, Oregon, to the property and sawmill that Gordon had built from the ground up.<sup>4</sup> Gordon remodeled the building that was already on the property, from a four-room house to a two-story 11-room home with a fireplace. The family lived for a few months in a temporary tent house while Gordon continued to log in the woods.

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2. Google search 5 March 2026.

3. As told by author’s mother.

4. Aerial shot of remodeled home and sawmill.

When my mom was in eighth grade, Gordon started building from the ground up The Fly In Grocery Store, named by Gordon and Ada. The ground around the area was flat, so he used the space to the side of the store as a landing strip for the T-craft. During initial construction, Gordon built a cabin that had a living room, bedroom, and bathroom. When the attic of the store was built, the family stayed there. This was not your standard slow construction project. Gordon was not one to dawdle around. He was a member of more than one local carpenter's union throughout his working career.



*The Coyle family lived here while in Alaska before WWII broke out. Courtesy of the author.*



*Left to right: Elmer Coyle (the father of Gordon Coyle); Gordon Coyle; and Gordon's children, Ronald & my mom (still living). Image courtesy of the author.*

Along with other projects, Gordon built a home in Newport, Oregon, and used to fly from Corvallis, Oregon, to Newport, Oregon, while Ada drove herself and their children there.



*Gordon Coyle gravestone, IOOF Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn, Oregon. Courtesy of the author.*

5. IOOF Cemetery, Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon.

## Book Review

# A History of the Grandparents I Never Had

Reviewed by Harold Hinds

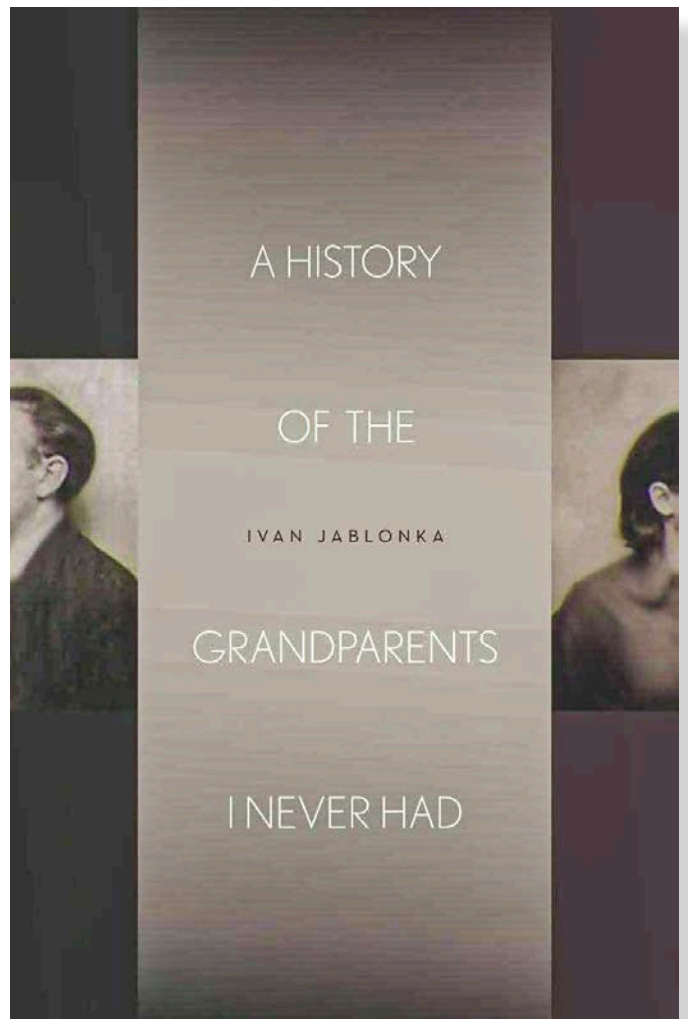
Author:	Ivan Jablonka
Publisher:	Stanford University Press
Publication date:	2016
Pages:	352
Price:	\$30.00, hardcover
Order from:	Your favorite bookseller

Reprinted from the March 2017 *Bulletin*.

If you read only one personal family history this year, make it the brilliant but painful story of Ivan Jablonka's discovery of his grandparents, Matès and Idesa Jablonka, who died as prisoners at Auschwitz during the Second World War. *A History of the Grandparents I Never Had* (Stanford University Press, 2016; translation from the original 2012 French edition) ably combines exhaustive scholarly research, searing personal reflection, masterful storytelling, and careful parsing of the limits of primary and secondary historical sources.

French historian Ivan Jablonka began his quest to discover his grandparents with almost no clues or information, just a few letters and a passport, as well as the recollections of their two surviving children, his father and his aunt.

The story he uncovered began in a central Polish *shtetl*, Parzew, where young Matès and Idesa were Communist militants, at odds with both Jewish Zionists and Polish authorities. Both were jailed, and upon their release they married. Then in 1937 they fled rampant anti-Semitism for the supposed safety of France. America and Argentina were beyond their financial means, and Palestine would not have been welcoming for anti-Zionists. Yet in France they were stateless, without the necessary documents to secure either legal residency or citizenship. As a result, both were investigated by the Parisian police. Matès was ordered to leave France within five days, then imprisoned, and subsequently released. When Germany invaded France, Matès joined the French Foreign Legion, and despite rough treatment, served honorably.



Upon Matès's demobilization 28 September 1940, he barely missed being interred in a concentration camp or labor camp. Indeed, life in Vichy France became increasingly intolerable for the young couple and their two children, both born in France. Avoiding the police, attempting to earn enough to survive, and hiding out became full-time activities. Finally, on 25 February 1943, Matès and Idesa were arrested and sent to Auschwitz.

Their children, Marcel, the author's father, and Susanne—through the timely assistance of a Pole whose name no one remembers, as well as help from friends of the family, and the Amelot Committee—obtained forged documents, gained financial support, and were sent to the countryside to live with an elderly couple for the duration of the war. Matès and Idesa did not survive Auschwitz. Idesa probably died shortly after arrival. Matès could have been part of the notorious Sonderkommando, prisoners assigned to empty gas chambers and burn corpses. If so, he may have perished when the men of Krematoriums II and IV rebelled on 7 October 1944.

Jablonka's study is well worth reading just for its exceptionally well-told story. But his search for his grandparents is also valuable because it is told as a process of discovery. Within the text he shares his search for evidence and his evaluation of that evidence; and he clearly distinguishes between solid fact-based evidence, iffy evidence, and varying degrees of conjecture. Therefore, it is a model study, especially valuable for genealogists and personal family historians who likewise search for any available scraps of evidence, and who often must grapple with questionable evidence or even a complete lack of evidence.

The story of the Jablonkas is divided into three phases: life in Parzew, life in exile in France, and survival and death at Auschwitz. Following are a few examples of the author's diligence in finding and piecing together sources of historical information.

The *Yizkor Bukh*, or book of remembrance, of Matès's ancestral village, written by World War II survivors, is a key resource for life in Parzew. It is written in Yiddish, which the author neither reads nor speaks, so he hired a translator. He visited central Poland and especially the central Polish State Archives where he discovered court files and confidential police reports for Matès and Idesa. For these rich sources also, he was dependent on Polish interpreters and guides.

Sources for the French years are particularly diverse. In the course of his investigation into his grandparents' sojourn in France, the author used more than twenty archives; met all sorts of witnesses in Poland, Israel, Argentina, and the United States; and read original and translated texts in French, Yiddish, Polish, Spanish, English, and German. One especially impressive example of historical sleuthing and reconstruction for the

French years was when Jablonka sought to reconstruct life at Passage d'Eupatoria where Matès and family tried to avoid the Parisian authorities. The author examined the 1936 and 1946 censuses at the archives of the City of Paris and recorded the names of everyone who lived at Numbers 15, 17, and 19 at Passage d'Eupatoria. Then he phoned about 100 total strangers who lived in the region of the Île-de-France and whose surnames matched those of wartime tenants. By this means, Jablonka managed to locate five "reliable witnesses." Their recollections were then meshed with those National Security files at the French National Archives which described tenants who were illegal aliens living at the Passage. Finally, he traveled to Argentina where he interviewed cousins and obtained key family documents. Combining these, as well as numerous other primary and secondary sources, he masterfully reconstructed the Passage's community, Matès and Idesa's arrest, and Marcel and Susanne's avoidance of arrest (see in particular pp. 182–210).

Auschwitz presents an especially difficult task of historical reconstruction. Most Auschwitz archives were destroyed. The author locates three clues: Matès was transported to Auschwitz in "convoy no. 49." So was Chaim Herman, who when at the camp buried a letter dated 6 November 1944 which was later discovered near a crematorium. Two leaders of the 7 October 1944 revolt of the Sonderkommando were also part of convoy no. 49. None of these mention Matès. However, a survivor of Auschwitz stated that he saw Matès at the camp, and that Matès was an "undertaker." So Matès might have been in the Sonderkommando; but, ultimately the author can only "conjecture." For Idesa, he can only state, "I'll formulate a conjecture within a conjecture." (p. 264).

## Book Review

# Ultimate Guide to Mastering FamilySearch

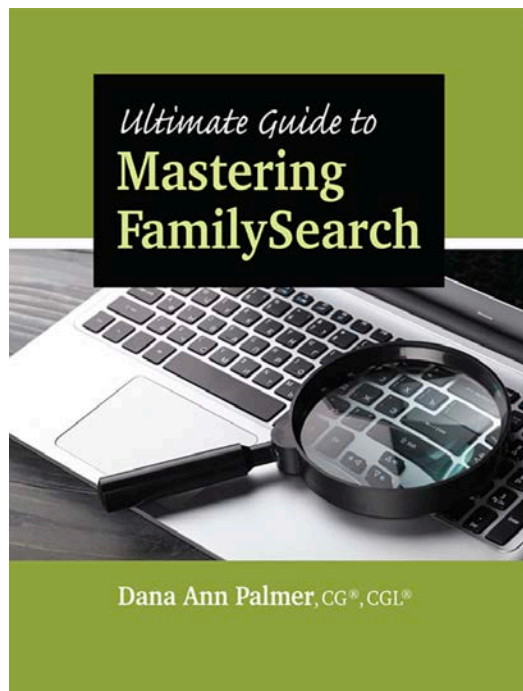
Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Dana Ann Palmer  
Publisher: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
Publication Date: 2025  
Pages: 226  
Price: Paperback \$59.95  
Bookshelf eBook \$29.95  
GFO call number: 004.6 FamS Palm 2025

Author Dana Ann Palmer (CG, CGL) wrote, “There is always more to do and discover.” In her book, *Ultimate Guide to Mastering FamilySearch*, she teaches readers how to use the FamilySearch program to reach their genealogy goals. Mrs. Palmer began using computerized family data collection with a precursor to FamilySearch when she was only nine years old and has followed its advancements for decades. Now she shares how to most fully use the features of the free online genealogy organization.

After a brief overview of FamilySearch, the author jumps straight into how to find one’s ancestors in the over one billion records that FamilySearch and its affiliates have gathered together. She uses large, full-color screenshots to show what the reader will find at each step of the discovery process. Each choice for continuing is clearly marked. She follows this chapter with one filled with hints and tricks to best use the resources. FamilySearch eases the learner along with help available throughout the program. As an inexperienced FamilySearch user, I took her advice to click on the “learn how” buttons several times.

It is important to note that not all records have been indexed. Mrs. Palmer teaches how to find sources for records without images. She also recommends searching unindexed images much as one would in a repository. Another suggestion shows how to access records that are locked by agreement with the organizations that shared the records.



Rather belatedly, Mrs. Palmer explains the difference between genealogies and the tree in FamilySearch. A genealogy is a personal tree. The family trees in genealogies are personal ones, which are owned by an individual, while the tree is a collaborative database with the goal of a “global, unified family tree for mankind.” Others can change the information that a user enters. Mrs. Palmer recommends that the more documentation one adds, the less likely another relative will make a change. A new feature now being tested is for user-owned trees that collaborators can only change with permission. In the FamilySearch Labs section, users can sign up to test proposed improvements and new features.

Dana Ann Palmer explains how to search the catalog of over 500,000 books, use the Research Wiki, and explore the new full-text search. She shows the reader how to find webinars and classes, collaborate with other researchers, print charts and books, get help translating an old, foreign document, and even play games based on one’s family history. All these features and more can be found in the detailed table of contents or the index.

Indeed, “there is always more to do and discover” on FamilySearch with help from the *Ultimate Guide to Mastering FamilySearch*.

*In Memoriam*

## Janis “Jan” (Fraim) Bailey (1937–2024)

Former GFO member Janis Bailey passed away on 5 September 2024 at the age of 87. She will be remembered by many as an active member who was the editor of the *Insider* in 2010.

Janis was born on 18 January 1937 in Providence, Rhode Island. Janis’ parents were Freeman and Barbara (Lyon) Fraim. Both had strong New England roots stretching back to the 1600s.

The family moved to Connecticut when she was young, and she later went to school in Massachusetts. She married Robert Wesley Porter with whom she had three children. She later married Ronald Bailey.

Janis called many places home during her life, first as the wife of a Naval Aviator, and again after retirement, eventually coming to Oregon. Janis was a licensed social worker. She enjoyed reading, writing, travelling, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends. She is survived by three brothers, her three children, and ten grandchildren.



*In Memoriam*

## Gail Elizabeth (Howard) Getz (1937–2026)

Gail Getz was just weeks shy of her 89th birthday when she passed away on 1 January 2026, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. She was a donor and a 14-year member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.

On 8 February 1937, Gail was born to Ray and Grace (Donohue) Howard in Hornbrook, Siskiyou County, California. The family moved to San Francisco, where she graduated from Balboa High School. She moved to Carson City, Nevada, where she met and married Roy Getz in 1956. The couple then moved to Boise, Ada County, Idaho, where Roy completed his long career with the Army National Guard. In the meantime, the couple had two children and eventually divorced in 1972. Gail soon found a calling through her work with clients in Vocational Rehabilitation.

By 1984, Gail had moved to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where she obtained her master's degree in social work (MSW) from Portland State University. She initially worked with patients in home health and then built her own private practice, which continued until a few years ago. She was a pioneer and advocate for using EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) in therapy, especially for patients with a history of trauma or PTSD.

In Portland, Gail discovered a love for dance, including folk, waltz, ballroom, swing, and, in particular, Irish dancing, which stemmed from her Irish heritage. She bonded with members of her local dancing venue, who held a memorial class in her honor on May 17th. Gail, meanwhile, had joined the GFO in 2011 to further explore her Irish ancestry, including her mother's Donohue line. She travelled around the world for leisure and for dancing tours, including to Ireland, and ultimately reached five continents. Family and friends noted they will miss her love of life and sense of humor.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents and brother Donald. Survivors include her daughter Deanna and her son David.



*In Memoriam*

## Harold Earl Hinds, Jr.

(1941–2026)

**H**arold Hinds passed away on 25 February 2026, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. Born on 21 January 1941, he was the oldest child of Harold Earl Hinds, Sr. and June Oletta LeMuiex.

Harold left Portland to pursue his academic career. He received his B.A. in History from the University of Oregon in 1965 with a minor in Latin American Studies. He completed graduate studies in Latin American History at Vanderbilt, earning an M.A. in 1967 and his Ph.D. in 1976. He taught history at the University of Minnesota, Morris, from 1970 until his retirement in 2011.

Harold's interest in family history started as a child and spanned his career. He wove genealogy into the courses he taught. He was the author of essays and articles, compiled books of records, spoke at genealogy conferences, and served on the board of genealogy societies.

Harold and wife Liz returned to Portland after his retirement. He soon was active at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO), becoming a Life Member in 2013. He volunteered as a research assistant, helped start the Genealogy Problem Solvers group, worked on the Library Committee, and served on the Board of Directors. He was the go-to person if someone was researching in Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, or Latin America. He always stressed the importance of historical context when looking for family.

During retirement, Harold focused on telling the stories of his ancestors. He published several books and articles in the GFO *Bulletin*. These publications can be found in the GFO library. He also mentored others who were writing their own family histories. He was a great asset to the GFO community and will be missed.



*In Memoriam*

## Irma Jean (Luethi) Markel (1933–2025)

Irma Jean Markel passed away on 15 March 2025 at the age of 91. She and her husband Jim first joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1972, and Irma maintained her membership until her death. Jim died in 2019.

Irma was born in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, on 6 June 1933. She was the younger of two daughters of Fred Ezra Luethi, Jr., and Adora (Alspaugh) Luethi. Her sister Evelyn Norman passed away in 2008.

Irma attended Rose City Grade School and Grant High School, and she spent a year at Lewis and Clark College. She married James Irvin Markel in 1953. While raising her children, she was active in the PTA and Campfire. She later worked for the Powell Valley Water District until her retirement in 1995. Besides genealogy, her interests included gardening, camping, sewing, and caring for her pets. She was always involved in activities with her church.

Irma is survived by daughters Sue (Tom) Hickman and Kris Akin (Chuck Beck decd.), and son Dan (Liz) Markel; six grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; three great great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.





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## GFO JUNE 2026 EVENTS

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

### Monday, June 1

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Roots Magic

### Wednesday, June 3

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Learn and Chat

### Saturday, June 6

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

### Sunday, June 7

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

### Tuesday, June 9

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

### Wednesday, June 10

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Great Lakes Group

### Thursday, June 11

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Q Review

### Tuesday, June 16

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. AI in Genealogy

### Wednesday, June 17

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. DNA Q&A  
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. New Home Committee  
6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Irish Group Online

### Saturday, June 20

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Genealogy Problem  
Solvers  
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. African American  
Ancestry  
2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. GFO Annual  
Membership Meeting

### Sunday, June 21

2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Writers' Room

### Sunday, June 28

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. GFO Work Party