

Transcription

Subject: Bartlett family history
Forum: In-person interview
Date: 7 July 2005
Location: John Bartlett's mobile home, El Mirage, Arizona
Speakers:
JS James "Jamie" Schutze (husband of Cheryl [nee Bartlett] Schutze)
JB John Bartlett (son of Lyle and Florence [nee Brown] Bartlett)
EB Emily [nee Bartlett] Brown (sister of John Bartlett)
CS Cheryl "Cherie" Schutze (niece of John and Emily)
BB Bill Brown (husband of Emily)



From left to right, Emily Brown, John Bartlett, Cherie Schutze

Jacob Heist

JS Tell us about Jacob Heist.

JB Well, Cherie's great-great grandfather. He was in the Michigan 6th Cavalry, in the Civil War. He lost the leg below the knee ... cannonball. Tshoo.

JS Wow.

JB So they chopped it off.

JS Her great-great grandfather, so that's on who's side, on Florence Bartlett's side? Her ...?

EB Lyle.

JS Lyle's side?

EB Yeah.

JS Okay. Jacob Heist. And is he buried in the same area as ...

JB Not too far over.

EB Same cemetery.

JB Yeah, same cemetery as, well, if you're facing my folk's grave, to your left and back a little.

JS Okay. And did he die of his wound, or did he survive it and ...

JB He was a nasty old creature.

JS Yeah?

JB Well, that's what my dad always said.

EB Well, did Dad remember him?

JB Yeah.

EB That was James ... oh no, that was Grandma Bartlett's [*Mary Louise (nee Heist) Bartlett*] dad.

JB Yeah, Jacob Heist.

EB Yeah, because Grandpa's dad was Bartlett, of course.

JB Yeah.

EB Whatever happened to him?

JB Who?

EB Grandpa Bartlett's dad, I never hear anybody mention him.

Bartlett burial sites

JB Oh, I don't know. See, there's some of them buried there in Owosso [garbled], what that Oak Hill, I don't know.

EB Oak Hill Cemetery.

JB Some of them are buried in the Colony. [*The Duplain Cemetery on E. Colony Road in Saint Johns, Michigan, is also known as the Colony Cemetery according to FindAGrave.com*]

EB Colony?

JB Yeah, John Bartlett, James Bartlett ...

EB Where's the Colony?

JB Out by Elsie. [*Elsie, Michigan, is close to Ovid, Michigan, where John Harrington Bartlett farmed*]

EB Oh.

JB Somewhere. I've been there a couple of times, but shit I can't remember ...

James Harvey Bartlett and his son Lyle

EB Who was James Bartlett? Well, that was Grandpa Bartlett.

JB Well, yeah, but this was another Jim ... James Bartlett.

EB Did Grandpa have brothers?

JB Yeah.

EB I'm talking about Grandpa, not our dad, his father. Did his father have brothers?

JB Yeah. Frank ... Frank, and what the hell were the other ones?

EB Did they live around Owosso?

JB Yeah.

EB Well, you [*addressing me*] never met my dad, did you?

JS No.

EB He was gone before you met Cherie.

JS Yeah.

JB Yeah, I don't have any pictures, I don't [*garbled*]. You got those old pictures, yet?

EB Yeah, I want to get some of those out and let them [*me and Cherie*] go through them, because I don't know who some of those people are.

JB Well I don't either.

EB Pamela was looking at a picture and I said, "God, I don't even know who these people are." I don't know if it was Grandpa Bartlett and Grandma or not.

JB Well, there's Grandpa Bartlett back there. That wooden picture frame.

EB This is Grandma's husband?

JB Yeah.

EB Oh, Dad looked like him.

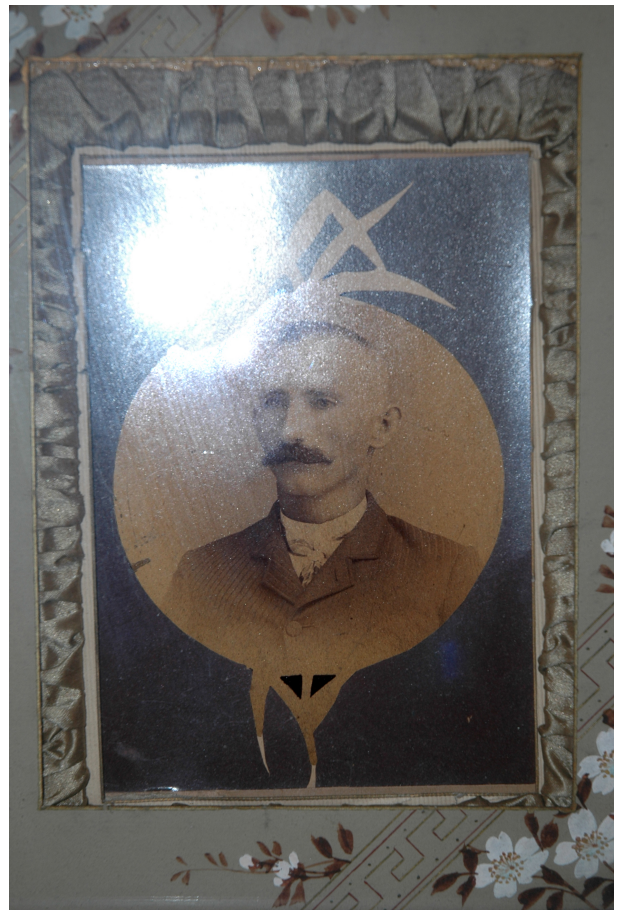
JB Yeah.

EB [*Addressing me*] My dad looked like him.

JS Huhm.

JB Well, he was pretty near bald so he shaved his head.

JS Why don't you hold that for a second, I'll get a picture of that.



The mentioned photo of James Harvey Bartlett

EB He kicked my dad out, when my dad was 16.
 JB Yeah.
 EB And I don't know why he did, do you?
 JB Oh, they got into it for some reason. God knows.
 EB Anyway, he kicked him out of the house, and my dad went to live with my aunt and her husband. They had just gotten married. *[This was either Marie (nee Bartlett) and Merritt Perky, who were married in Owosso in November 1821, or Gladys (nee Bartlett) and William Wilson, who were married in Owosso in September 1816. Lyle Bartlett–John and Emily's father–was born in April 1908 and would have left home in around 1924.]*
 JB Yeah
 EB And they took him in. He was 16 years old when that happened. He never went back I guess.
 JB I guess not. Well, he did when the old man died.

John Brown and his wife Sadie (née Grow)

EB Now there was my grandmother Brown, my mother's mother and dad.
 JS Oh, okay, they look pretty young in that photo.
 EB Yeah, that was their wedding picture.
 JB Yeah.
 EB Yeah, that was their wedding picture. Yep, he was a good looking guy.
 JB Yeah, he was.
 JS Do you mind if I take a photo of that photo?
 JB Yeah, well, have at it.
 EB I don't know if I have any of those left.



The mentioned photo of Sadie (nee Grow) and John Brown

JB Well you should have one.
 EB Well I've got one that I have, but I don't know. I should get those ...
 CS Is that Grandma and Grandpa Brown?
 EB Yeah.
 JB Uh huh.
 CS I think I might have that photo.

EB You've got a new picture, John.
 JB Yeah, Julie got that, somewhere.
 CS *[To me]* Did you get a good one?
 JS Ah, decent, I can play with it.
 BB That's the beauty of digital cameras if you know what you're doing.

EB Oh, I should have him take a picture of my baby.
JS Your baby?
EB Pamela wants you to take a picture of my baby, to send it to ‘em.
JS What is your baby?
EB I have a baby, and her name is Emily.
CS Oh, one of those dolls?
EB I have a baby doll called Emily. Pamela says, “Mom, I wouldn’t tell that to everybody, if I were you.” I said, “well, why not, it’s a collectible.” I don’t play with it. I’ve gotta find a bed or something for it. It’s just like a real ...

Bartlett brothers John and James (Jim)

JS Since I do still have the recorder going, why don’t you tell me about your days in the Navy, and did you and your brother serve on the same ship?
JB Yeah. Yeah those two statuettes over there, by the end of the TV, one’s me and one’s my brother.
JS And what ship were you on?
JB The USS Caloosahatchee.
JS Caloosahatchee. Based out of the west coast?
JB No, they were on the Atlantic. Newport, Rhode Island.
JS Ah, okay. Did you ever see any combat?
JB No.
JS Was that during Korea?
JB Yeah.
JS How about early childhood memories. Like what’s the first time that you can recall a strong memory from Owosso, is that where you guys grew up?
JB Yeah. Mowin’ the lawn.
EB You had to be old to mow the lawn.
CS Tell him about the outhouse.
JB Oh yeah, we had the old outhouse.
JS Yeah? Oh ... because you were born on the wrong side of the tracks. *[Florence Bartlett had used that expression a few times about their house in Owosso.]*
EB Yep, we sure were.
JB Yeah.
EB Well, we had that outhouse ‘til, God, after you and Helen *[John’s wife]* were married. *[John and Helen (nee Van Noy) were married in November 1952.]*
JB Oh, yeah.
JS Really?
EB Ach, yes, embarrassing, embarrassing.
JB So, old back house. Cold in the winter, hot in the summer.
EB Oh, don’t you remember when Ma used to fill that old, galvanized tub with water, and that was our swimming pool?

JB Yeah. Well Dad was afraid for us to go to the park to the pool because of polio.
EB It was about this big around, and of course she'd fill it with water early morning, and we couldn't get in it 'til the water warmed up.
JB We'd be jumping in and out and get it full of grass.
EB [Laughing] That was our swimming pool. Well I went sometimes to that pool up there ...
JB Well finally he let us go.
EB Yeah, I went sometimes.
JB Cherie, there's those statuettes the other end of the TV, one's your dad and one's me.
EB Grandma had those made when they were in the Navy.
CS Um huh, I remember those.
JB Those are over 50 years old.
CS I've got a photograph on one of my walls in the house, I've got Matthew's photograph, I've got my dad's photograph from the Navy, Matthew's from the Army, and then I've got my dad's flag right underneath it.
JB Oh, great. Yeah, that's nice.

Jim Bartlett and his wife Billie (née Ehrlich)

EB Yeah, I remember when your dad met your mom.
JS You do? What's the story about that?
EB He came home on leave, well you *[addressing John]* both were home at Christmas time, weren't you?
JB Probably.
EB Yeah, and he went to a party somewhere and met her.
CS And she was engaged to someone else at the time.
EB Yes. That ended the engagement, and she was all ...
CS All aflutter.
EB Aflutter over Jim.
JB Yeah.
CS And they got married ...
EB Oh, I don't know ...
CS six months later, three months later?
JB I don't know, but in the summer time it was hotter than hell.
EB Well he was in the service when he met her.
CS Uh huh.
JB I had one of those knit ties, blue, dark blue, white shirt, sweat ... the dye ran from the tie into the shirt.
EB And I wore my graduation dress. And I had it pressed *[garbled]* and wrinkled from sittin' at graduation, and I burned it. So I wasn't gonna go to the wedding, I wasn't going to go ...
CS I remember this story too.

EB So I think my mother stitched it up. Anyway, I went. And when he and I and, oh, your mother's niece, I think, I don't know who that would have been, they let us drink, and she got sick, and I can see her coming down the steps and [caw sound].

CS Oh, gosh.

EB [Laughter] Spittin' all over. *[To John]* Do you remember that?

JB No.

EB Oh I do. I didn't get sick, and one of the guys, ah, Jerry somebody, wanted me to go with him, and Jim wouldn't let me. What was his name ...

JB Hell, I don't know.

EB Slinger, Singerland, ...

JB Naw, not Jerry Slinger. He was married then.

EB Oh, was is Bodge(?)? I don't know who it was, but Jim said "No, you're not going with him." So, I don't know, I can't remember who it was.

JB Me neither.

Bartlett sibling (John, Jim, Emily) dynamics

CS So he did look out for you then. They both did.

EB Yeah ... yeah ... more or less. Except him [John] when I had to go to school first time I had to go to kindergarten, he was supposed to take my, carry my blanket, we got outside of the way of the house, he said "here, you can carry it yourself." Do you remember that?

JB No.

EB [Laughing] Well, I do.

JS Did you do a lot together as kids?

EB They did, John and Jim did, but I don't know ...

CS How many years younger are you than my dad?

EB Um,

JB You're five years younger than I am.

EB I'm five years younger than you?

JB Well, give or take.

EB Yeah, I am. Yeah.

CS And you [addressing John] are 18 months apart, I believe, 15 months, something like that?

JB Well, somewhere, yeah, 'cause I ... he was born ... I was born in January, he was born in August.

EB You were born January 30th, he was born August of 31.

JB 19th, same day as Kathy [Cherie is referring to John being born on January 19th, not the 30th]

EB No, January of the year 30th.

JB Oh, 1930, yeah.

EB And he [Jim] was born August of [19]31.

CS Yes.

JB Yeah.

EB So I was born in [19]34
JB Yeah
EB So he would have been ...
CS About 3 years older than you.
EB About 3 years old, yeah, when I was born.
JB Trying to think ... I'm 76.
EB But you kids, you did more things together. I, she, didn't let me go with you guys.
JB Well, no.
EB You and Jim did a lot together.
JB Yeah. Got on the back of the ice truck one day and decided to take a ride. Sat down and went around the corner on Railroad Avenue, was gravel then, I ... he was moving right along, so I decided to get off. Goddammit, I got skinned up.
EB Was Jim with you then?
JB Can't remember if he was or not.
JS The ice truck.
EB See, I don't rem ... oh, I remember the ice truck.
JS Do ya?
EB Oh, yah.
JB Well, you had to step on the back so you could step up.
EB And we used to get our milk delivered with a horse and wagon ... I remember that.
JB Oh, yeah.
EB Morganstad.
JB Yeah, and he, one day he fell some way, and the horse took off and the wagon wheel rolled over his chest.
EB Oh, I don't remember that.
JB Yeah, didn't kill him, but took him a long time to get back on his feet.
EB Oh, I don't remember that.
JB Yeah.
JS So what was the address of the house that you grew up in in Owosso, do you remember that?
EB 609 Woodlawn Avenue.
JB Yeah
JS Is it still there, or is it gone?
EB Yes ...
JB Oh yeah
EB But it's all different.
CS See, we couldn't find it. Shelley thought she knew where it was, the last time we were home ...
EB Well, you wouldn't recognize it ...
CS and we couldn't find it.
EB Yeah, it's all been ...

JB [garbled]
EB We went by it when we went back for Ma's funeral.
JB Still got that great big spruce tree in the front yard.
EB Yeah, but the ... it's all been ...
JB Well, remodeled, yeah
EB Yeah
CS What color is it?
EB It's white.
JB White.
EB Did we take pictures of it Bill? I think we did.
BB I don't know.
EB Well somebody went back, was it you went back?
CS It might have been us. We may have found it and taken pictures of it.
EB Well somebody took pictures of Grandma Brown's house. Was that us?
CS I don't know. That could have been Shelley. That could have been one time when I ... that might have been when I went back to see my Mom before she ...
[garbled]
EB Yeah, did we take it? Well, where is it?
BB Well, somewhere, I don't know, in one of those pictures, I guess.
EB 'Cause Lucille Williams called me ... did I already tell you Celia Lundy died?
JB Yeah.
EB Oh, okay, so Lucille called me to tell me, and so, I was going to send a check in memory of her, and Lucille's address is 622 Clark Avenue and it used to be 622 Woodlawn. Isn't that funny, I remember that and I remember ours, 609 Woodlawn Avenue.
JS So did you live there until you left Owosso?
EB Yep. I ... they left first ...
CS You left before you got married, too, didn't you?
EB Yeah, I left, ah, well were you [John] in Owosso when I left?
JB Well, I ah, you were working at Saginaw.
EB Yeah, well, were you still in Owosso then?
JB Oh yeah.
EB 'Cause Jim was over in East Lansing, then.
CS Um uh.
EB And then the folks didn't stay there too long, 'cause Dad got that job down in Detroit.
JB Yeah.
EB And did they sell the house? Guess they did.
JB Yeah.
CS They must have.
EB And the bathroom hadn't been in very long. [Laughing]

JB Well it wasn't much of a bathroom, when it was inside, anyway.
EB No, it wasn't much of a bathroom, that's for sure.
JB Served the purpose.
EB Yeah, that was awful.

Lyle and Florence (née Brown)

JS So, did they move to Royal Oak when they went down to Detroit? Was that the only house they lived in?
EB No. They lived in an apartment.
JB Oh that's right.
EB A duplex, wasn't it?
JB Oh Christ, I don't remember.
CS We just drove by the house in Royal Oak, Jamie and I did. When we went back in April.
JB They had a room down there for a while.
EB That's right.
CS That window that she had in front, by the front door, that's now a bay window.
EB And they lived in an apartment for a while. It was kind of a duplex, like. And then, they bought that house.
CS I think, too, they's taken the upstairs, the attic, and turned it into a room, from what I could tell when we went and looked at it. 'Cause you took pictures of it. We have pictures of it on the web site.
EB That room was, that house was small. Big back yard.
CS That's a pristine neighborhood right now.
EB Is it really?
CS Oh yes it is. That whole area has gone up in cost tremendously from what we were told. That is the place to live.
EB Well, see, she could have probably stayed there, but the taxes went up so high. She couldn't afford to pay them. That's why she sold.
CS Oh, that woman was so dirt poor, I don't know how she managed.
EB [Sighs] I don't know, but she did. She moved into that apartment in Owosso, there.
CS Yeah, she lived there for a while before she came out here.
EB Yeah, she lived there until your dad died.
CS Yes
EB And after he died she thought ... comin' out here.

Emily (née Bartlett) Brown stories

JS What did you do in Saginaw?
EB I worked for the state of Michigan, bureau of social aid, in the stenographic department. I worked for them for about almost four years I think.

JB Yeah, quite a while.

EB Then I went to work for a lawyer, R. James Harvey. He was later ... Bill, what was he, a senator or house of representatives?

[Russell "James" Harvey, born 4 July 1922, was Saginaw's assistant attorney from 1949 to 1953, a city councilman from 1955 to 1957, and mayor from 1957 to 1959. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served from 1961 to 1974. He served on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan from 1974 to 1992.]

CS I think he went outside.

EB Oh. Smith, Brooker, and Harvey. I worked for him for about six months. And then married Bill. But you [John] were in California by then.

JB Yeah.

CS And what made you move out to California?

JB Oh, I got sick of the winter, for one thing. Shovelin' snow and all that good stuff. I had enough.

EB Well, Helen, I think, wanted to go back to California, too.

JB Yeah.

CS Is that where she's from?

JB Well, really, Kansas City, Missouri area. They moved to California when she was a teenager, I guess. Or twelve or something, I don't know. Somewhere in that neighborhood.

CS Okay.

JB Well, when I first went to southern California I liked it. It was nice. Of course, it didn't have all the hubbub you got when I left. I got sick of that, too. Well, the cost of living over there was higher than it is here. Course they're catching up here.

CS Um hum.

JB Shit.

CS Because all those people from California are coming out here.

Emily (née Bartlett) and Bill's romance

JS So Aunt Emily, how did you and Uncle Bill meet?

EB Well, I lived with his [laughs] girlfriend.

CS I remember that story too.

JS In Saginaw?

EB Yeah. I lived in a ... I moved into a house, um, there were 11 of us girls lived there. And we shared a bedroom. We had the run of the kitchen and the living room, and we had two bathrooms, and his girlfriend was living there. And um, that's how I first met him, he'd be sittin' waitin' for her to get ready, and I'd sit and talk to him.

BB Yeah, they had a little living room where we all sat and waited for the girls to come down stairs.

CS Oh, you cad, you.

EB And then one time you took me to ... I rode down to Royal Oak to visit the folks, with you guys, you were going down there for the weekend. And then, um, well, you became engaged, and he wanted her to go back to California, but she didn't want to go. So ...

JS So you said "I'd go"? [Laughter]

EB No, he went back ...

BB I went back

EB And then you [Bill] found out from somebody that she's running around on you. So you came back and had it out with her.

BB And ended that.

EB And then he called me ... well, she told me he was going to call me to go out, and I said, "Well, hey, you know, I don't want to get mixed up in this. And she said, "Oh, I don't care, go." So he did call me at work and wanted me to go, and I said "Well, I was going to Detroit that weekend to visit my folks, and it was winter time, so I was going to take the bus. And he said "Well, I have to leave from Detroit," so he said "if you don't mind, I'll drive you down there." So, we went to dinner, and ...

CS The rest is history, huh?

EB The rest is history.

BB Took you home, and I took the plane back to California.

CS And then how long was it after that before you saw each other again?

EB That was in ... oh, you came back in May ... you came back on vacation in May ... that was in February ... you came back on vacation in May for two weeks, and we decided ... you asked me to marry you and I said yes ...

CS Woa

EB And then we got married that ... I went out to California in August ... we got married [chuckles] ... [They were married on 29 August 1959 in Inglewood]

BB In California

EB In California, yeah.

JS Well, what were you [addressing Bill] doing in Saginaw, was that ...

BB Company sent me there, to the Air Force base ...

EB Oscoda

BB in Oscoda. Ah, what was it, I can't think of the name of the Air Force base now. Doesn't exist anymore.

EB I can't think of it either.

JB They still have that one down by Detroit?

JS Selfridge?

JB Yeah

JS Selfridge is still there.

BB Oh, it's a National Guard base now, isn't it?

JS Ah, yea, Air National Guard, um uh.

BB Wurtsmith.

EB Wurtsmith, that's right.

BB Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan.

EB And you were working for Hughes Aircraft?

BB I was a tech rep.

The rest of the original interview has been deleted from this version as it didn't pertain to family history.

End of recording (23 minutes, 8 seconds)