

# Time Travel



A History of the Bartlett and  
Ehrlich Families

Jamie Schutze  
Sierra Vista, Arizona  
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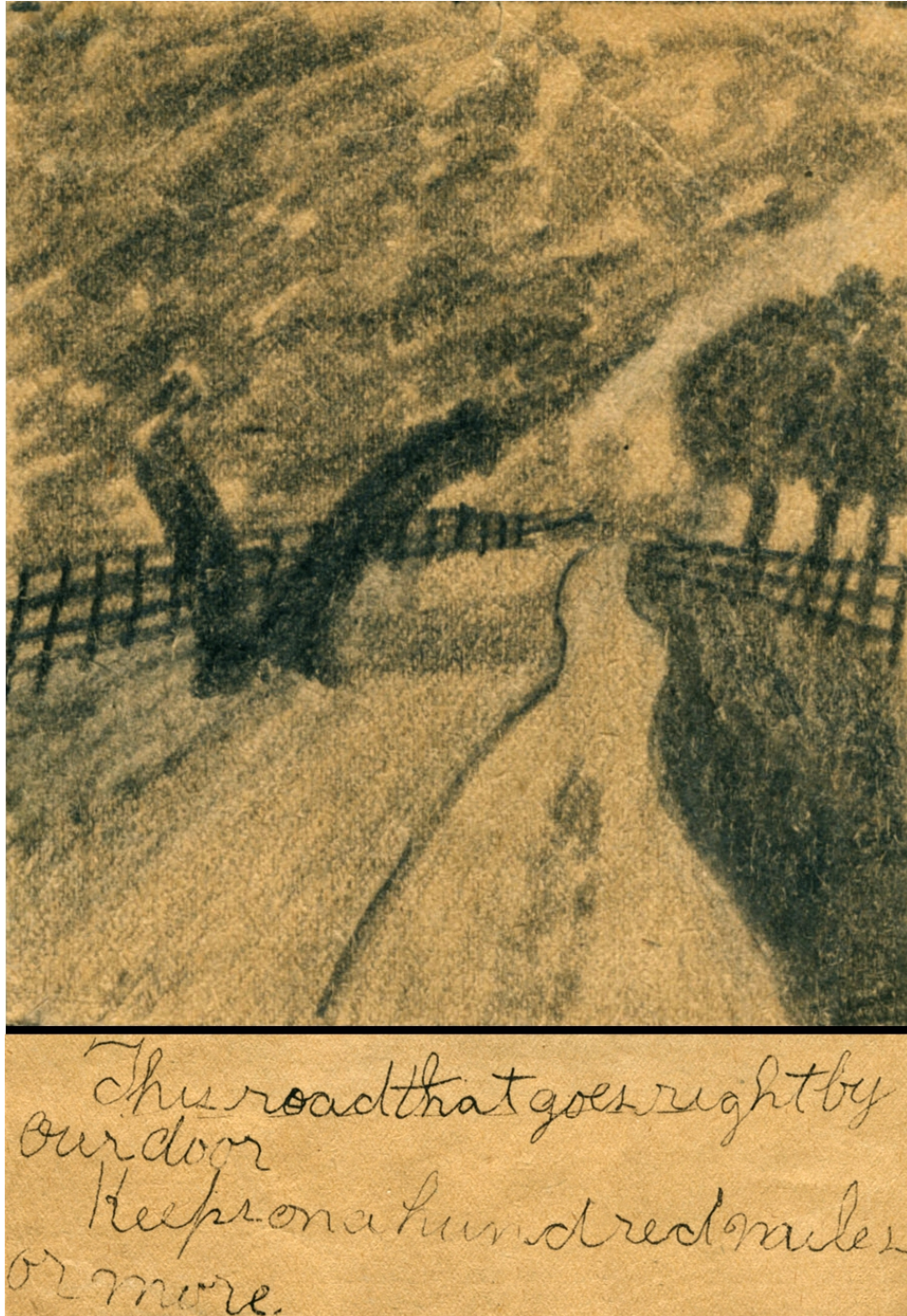


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# The Road



A drawing from Florence (nee Brown) Bartlett's scrapbook, probably done by her in grade school, is an apt introduction to the family history. We are connected to family by roads that run by our homes, including those roads that travel back through time, "a hundred *years* or more."

# Introduction

Medical and behavioral studies confirm that from fifty to eighty percent of our physical, mental, and behavioral traits are determined by genetics. The rest of our traits are environmentally shaped through the effects of family, food, location, education, experiences, and other factors.

One could argue that family history – the confluence of genealogy (read genetics) and family events – goes a long way toward explaining who we are.

When we add the dimensions of time and place, and draw our family lines on a map, we find other meaningful confluences, or intersections – those places where people meet, fall in love, and raise families. And when we do that for the Bartlett and Ehrlich families, we find the nexus of those intersections is in central Michigan. The Owosso and Lowell areas in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were the crossroads where genetics met environment at the intersection of family migrations. They were the great melting pot, or more aptly, the great gene pool, from which we drew our physical and emotional traits.

In this history, we'll look at the roads taken to arrive in Michigan, and the experiences and influences the families brought with them. And we'll look at their lives once they arrived and began meeting their fates and their mates in the upper mid-west.

Ireland figured prominently on the Bartlett side of the family, and interestingly enough, the two Irish families—the Browns and the Rourkes—came from opposite sides of the Irish political and geographic divide: the Browns being from the Protestant north and the Rourkes from the Catholic south. But they both came to North America within ten years of each other to escape famine and try for a better life in the United States...and ended up farming just a few miles apart in the Owosso area.

Switzerland, Germany, and Volga Russia were the homelands for much of the Ehrlich side of the family. Those ancestors brought their German language and traditions to this side of the Atlantic. However, one branch, the Dotys, came from England on the *Mayflower* and were among the earliest American settlers.

Here's hoping you enjoy the journey as we travel with them across the ocean and through the ages. Bon voyage!

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*A note on the notes: most citations and comments are at the end of the paper in the End Notes section. Those notes are marked with a numeric superscript. Some more relevant notes are put at the end of the pages as footnotes. Footnotes are marked with Roman numeric superscripts.*

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This is an on-going project. Additional families and updates are frequently added.

Comments, questions, suggestions, submissions, and corrections are encouraged. Please send them via email to [jamie@thundermoon.us](mailto:jamie@thundermoon.us)

# The Bartlett/Brown Family Tree

Parents	Grandparents	G-Grandparents	G2-Grandparents	G3-Grandparents	G4-Grandparents	G5-Grandparents	
James Peter Bartlett 31 Aug 1931 – 11 Feb 1988	Lyle Harvey Bartlett 7 Apr 1908 – 23 Dec 1968	James Harvey Bartlett 3 Oct 1858 – 9 Feb 1927	John Harrington Bartlett 26 Jul 1821 – 15 Jan 1904	Josiah Bartlett 18 Nov 1792 – 1 Jan 1841	Josiah Bartlett		
				Elizabeth Harrington 20 Sep 1793-18 Feb 1825	Zeriah (unknown surname)		
				Nancy Ann Boise 25 Apr 1827 – 17 Dec 1881	Jonathin Boise 1800 – ?		
		Mary Louise Heist 15 Jul 1874 – 11 May 1958	Jacob A. Heist 2 Dec 1844 – 14 Jul 1930	Jacob Friedrich Heist 19 Nov 1821 – 28 Feb 1897			
				Christina Byerly Abt 1822 – Bef 1897			
			Ellen Rourke Abt 1852 – Nov 1876	Michael Rourke Oct 1817 – 21 Jun 1898	Martin Rourke		
					Margaret Griffin		
				Mary Connor 1821(?) – Dec 1867(?)			
	Florence Elmira Brown 13 Jul 1909 – 23 May 2000	John J. Brown 2 Feb 1873 – 14 Oct 1956	John L. Brown 1827 – 20 Dec 1909	George Brown			
					Mary(?) Montgomery		
			Susan Rutledge 18 Mar 1835 – 5 Mar 1906	Thomas Rutledge			
				Susan Paisley			
		Sadie Jane Grow 2 Feb 1877 – 27 Jun 1951	Edgar Delos Grow 25 Oct 1853 – 13 Nov 1937	Alburtus Grow 22 Aug 1829 – 5 Dec 1909	Stillman T. Grow (15 Apr 1807-25 Apr 1888)		
					Derinda Graham (24 Oct 1808-10 Dec 1842)		
					Eliza J. Hosler 2 May 1830 – 9 May 1901		
			Almyra A. Fox 11 Jul 1858 – 29 Sep 1931	William J. Fox 13 Jan 1834 – 13 Oct 1876	Crawford Fox (Abt 1808 – 1855)	John Dawson	
					Samantha Dawson (27 Jun 1811-21 Feb 1906)	Thankful Warren	
					Sarah J. Pope 20 Oct 1839 – 16 May 1869	John Pope (Abt 1810 – ?)	
		Mary Ann (unk surname) (Abt 1815 – ?)					

The names in black on the chart have been confirmed through family notes, census records, birth and marriage records, or other positive documentary chains of evidence as belonging in the family lineage.

The names and dates in gray cannot be positively confirmed but have been sufficiently researched to be considered most likely ancestors and/or dates.

In cases where there are multiple candidates for parentage, where there are no candidates in the same geographic area, where records do not exist, or the research hasn't been completed yet, the boxes have been left blank.

People in yellow highlighted boxes have biographical sketches in this document. More are to come.



# ‘B’ as in Bartlett

*“For the world’s more full of weeping than you can understand.”*

*The Stolen Child, W. B. Yeats*



James Peter Bartlett led a dysphoric life. The son of an emotionally distant mother, in his adult years he often appeared ill at ease. He was an aloof father, a disciplinarian who frequently berated his children. In his mid forties he lost his job in a prestigious accounting firm in Detroit. In his early fifties his memory started to slip, his coordination got clumsy, and he was depressed and argumentative. He lost his next job as a CPA at a utility company. A haunted, vacant look came into his eyes, giving the impression that wherever he was, he wasn’t really there. By his mid fifties his legs no longer supported him and he was confined to a wheel chair. By his death at age 56 he was helplessly curled into a fetal position.<sup>1</sup>



*Jim Bartlett in 1949*

Yet Jim tried his best, and early in life was successful. Born in 1932 in Owosso, Michigan,<sup>2</sup> he was the middle child of Lyle and Florence (nee Brown) Bartlett, with an older brother, John, and a younger sister, Emily. In school he was mostly a “B” student, serving as a safety patrol boy in his elementary years.<sup>3</sup> He attended Owosso High School and earned a letter for playing center on the school football team, a position also held by his older brother.<sup>4</sup> He was active in baseball, track, and intramural sports as well.<sup>5</sup>



*USS Caloosahatche*

A month after graduation in 1949, Jim followed his brother’s lead in joining the Navy, and at the Naval Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois, he was appointed a Recruit Squad Leader<sup>6</sup> while attending the Enginemen’s School.<sup>7</sup> After completing his training, he joined his brother’s ship, the USS Caloosahatche,<sup>8</sup> a refueling tanker with the Atlantic fleet. His naval years took him as far east as the Mediterranean and north as the arctic, but ironically, he had a great fear of water. He left the Navy as an Engineman Second Class (EN2) after a four-year enlistment. He stood 6’1” and weighed 180 pounds when he left the service and returned to Michigan.<sup>9</sup>



*Al and Irene Ehrlich, Billie and Jim, Flo and Lyle Bartlett*

Three months after getting out, and following a whirlwind romance, he wed Billie Elaine Ehrlich in Owosso in June of 1953.<sup>10</sup> Billie was engaged to another man when Jim met her, but his good looks and perhaps his air of worldly experience swept her off her feet.<sup>11</sup>

A year later they were living in East Lansing, Michigan, where Jim was enrolled at Michigan State University, majoring in accounting. (He started out in engineering, but a professor advised him that he wasn’t academically cut out for it).<sup>12</sup> Their first two children, daughters, were

born while he was a student. After graduation in 1958, the family moved to Battle Creek, Michigan,<sup>13</sup> where their son and third daughter were born;<sup>14</sup> Jim was working as an accountant at the city's newspaper, *The Enquirer and News*. Around 1960 they moved to Fraser, Michigan, where their last two daughters were born.<sup>15</sup> They now had six children, ranging in age from newborn to sixteen years old.

While living in Fraser, Jim worked as a CPA with Arthur Young and Company, an accounting firm in downtown Detroit.<sup>16</sup> He traveled some, and was expected to socialize with his clients, but Jim was uneasy in social situations. He felt stressed on the job – frequently bringing his frustration and anger home with him. Perhaps not fitting in well with his peers and superiors, he was let go in 1976 at age 45.<sup>17</sup>

He subsequently found work in Alpena, Michigan, 250 miles to the north, as a CPA at the Alpena Power Company. The family bought a home on Grand Lake north of town. Jim bought a small power boat and occasionally went for rides in it, but was still nervous around the water. Neither his parenting skills<sup>i</sup> nor his job satisfaction improved in northern Michigan, and there was continued tension in the home, with his wife and children walking on egg shells for fear of igniting his anger.<sup>18</sup>



*Jim Bartlett before Worshipful Master installation in 1981*

He joined the local Masonic Lodge in Alpena (he had become a Mason, like his father, in Owosso after he got out of the Navy) and was elected to the position of worshipful master.<sup>19</sup> A picture of him reveals either his solemnity or his continuing discomfort in social situations.

It's difficult to know exactly when his health began to deteriorate, but it was noticeable by 1980,<sup>20</sup> and by 1982 (age 51) it was bad enough that he lost his job with the power company.<sup>21</sup> At that time he sought medical evaluations, partly to support his application for disability insurance, and partly to understand what was happening to him. The issues were both physical and psychological, with the root being a generalized neurological disorder, similar to, but not confirmed to be multiple sclerosis, and the associated anxiety and depression that accompanied it.

The medical reports are disturbing. They list his medical, mental, and psychological conditions as<sup>22</sup>

- Heavy smoker (1-1/2 packs a day) resulting in 87% lung capacity; heavy coffee drinker (10 cups a day)
- No exercise; no hobbies
- Bowel and bladder urgency
- Poor self-concept
- **Memory impairment**
- Uncomfortable in unfamiliar social situations
- **Severely depressed, worrying, and pessimistic**
- Low energy, difficult to motivate, apathetic
- **Immature, egocentric, suggestible and demanding**
- **Impaired brain functioning** resulting in intellectual impairment
- Fine motor coordination impairment; **impaired motor control**
- Rigid, moralistic outlook upon life
- **Quivering legs** after standing 10-45 minutes on his feet and sitting required for at least 20 minutes thereafter
- **Taking out his frustrations on his wife, friends, and work associates**

After losing his job with the power company, Jim, along with Billie and their youngest child, moved from their lakeside home to one in town, where Billie was increasingly required to care for him. Shortly thereafter they moved to Owosso – their childhood home town – where Jim was confined to a

i Although family films he took in the 1960s suggest he was as interested in his children as other film-making fathers of his generation, his son and daughters tell a different story. They remember how they ate hamburger while their parents had steak and how the daughters wore hand-me-down clothes from their grandmother while Jim wore expensive suits. And the children all knew that they were to be seen and not heard, or better yet, not seen much either.

wheel chair. Once when Billie took him for a walk in the chair, they reached a heavily trafficked road and she accidentally dumped him onto the street. She struggled to get him back in his chair while the traffic steered around them, and fortunately no one was hurt. She told the story with a smile, and even he had a bit of a grin when she'd relay it.<sup>23</sup>



*Jim with his family in 1983, clockwise from left: Jane, Barry, Matt, Cherie, Kathy, Jamie, Shelley, Brenda, Billie, Jim, Flo Bartlett, Mike, Al Ehrlich*

With his body and his mind disintegrating rapidly, it was no wonder that a photograph from Christmas of 1983 shows he had by then developed a rather vacant stare. It would not be a stretch to speculate that the seeds of his condition were growing years earlier and may have contributed to his seeming life-long inability to relax and truly enjoy life and the people around him.

James Peter Bartlett led a dysphoric life. It ended in a nursing home in Corunna, Michigan, in February, 1988, when he was 56. He had been unresponsive and curled into a spastic fetal position for a few days,<sup>24</sup> and the end was likely a relief. His autopsy identified broncho-pneumonia as the cause of death, with cerebral cortical atrophy being the contributing cause.<sup>25</sup> His body was buried in Owosso's Oak Hill Cemetery.

*This author first met Jim Bartlett in 1976 when I was dating his eldest daughter, Cherie. She brought me home to meet the family and her father took her aside and asked "What the h\*\*\* are you bringing a g\*\* d\*\*\* hippie here for?" A fair question, perhaps, as I had a pony tail and beard at the time.*

*But we got along well and he never showed me the bullying side that he showed his wife and children. He could be nice when he tried, and he was always nice to me.*

## **Billie Elaine Ehrlich (1933-2001)**

Billie was the older daughter of Alfred and Irene (nee Parker) Ehrlich, born less than eight months after their marriage.<sup>ii</sup> She was raised in Owosso during the Great Depression, her father working as a barber and occasionally a co-owner of a barbershop along with his brother Ted.<sup>26</sup>

At Owosso High School Billie was the president of the Girls Athletic Association;<sup>27</sup> after graduation in 1952 she worked as a clerk at Universal Electric Company, where her father was then working as a foreman.<sup>28</sup> A year after graduation she married Jim Bartlett, and a year after that gave birth to the first of their six children.<sup>29</sup>

ii Billie's parents were married July 25, 1932; Billie was born March 15, 1933, about 7½ months after their marriage.



Billie was an attractive, fun-loving, sociable gal; quick to smile, quick to laugh, quick to make friends. She enjoyed coffee klatches with the neighbors and gatherings of friends and family. She was as light hearted as Jim was heavy hearted – the yin to his yang. The daughter of a good cook and fastidious housewife, she was neither, happy to leave most of the domestic chores to her daughters. She was a member of the Eagles (no, not the rock band), and she dabbled at reading and cross stitching when relaxing. An expert at living in the moment, she was the quintessential “love the one you’re with” person, enjoying the company of those she was around, and often forgetting those who were out of sight.<sup>30</sup>



*Billie Ehrlich, 1952*

When Jim became disabled, Billie took up cosmetology, working in Owosso beauty shops, including the shop in the medical care facility that Jim was admitted to when his disabilities progressed.<sup>31</sup>

A year-and-a-half after Jim’s passing in 1988, she married William Irish in Owosso when she was 56 years old.<sup>32</sup> Bill was the husband of one of Billie’s friends, Pat Irish, who was killed in a hit-and-run accident in early 1989.<sup>iii</sup> Bill was an auto factory worker who loved Billie and who loved his beer. Whereas Jim was somber and introverted, Bill was outgoing and boisterous and some might even say crude. They were both controlling men, each in their own way, and Billie was content to let them set her agenda. Bill died in 1998 of liver failure.<sup>33</sup>



*Billie and Bill Irish*

In 2000 Billie moved to Sierra Vista, Arizona to live near her eldest daughter, but her health began to fail, and she was diagnosed with lung cancer caused by a lifetime of smoking. When her daughter temporarily relocated to San Diego, Billie returned to the Owosso area. Shortly thereafter, in November, 2001, she died of respiratory failure.<sup>34</sup> She was buried next to her first husband, Jim, in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso.

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iii Bill’s wife, Pat, was in a bar on Main Street in Owosso with her friends, including Billie. When it was time to leave, Billie went out the back door while Pat went out the front and attempted to cross the street to get to her car. Pat was struck by a car heading east, then another one heading west. One driver stopped; the other sped away and was later arrested for hit and run. (see Owosso Argus-Press article of February 25, 1989, page 8.) Bill won a settlement from the accident, then was subsequently sued by his children, who wanted a share of the financial agreement.

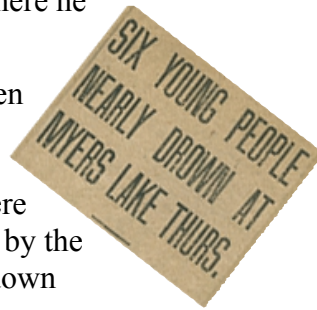
## Chief Firewater

### Lyle Bartlett (1908-1968) and Florence Brown (1909-2000)

James Peter Bartlett's parents were Lyle and Florence (nee Brown) Bartlett.

Lyle was born in 1908 in the town of Vernon,<sup>35</sup> nine miles southeast of Owosso, Michigan. He was the youngest of four children born to farmer and laborer James Harvey Bartlett and his wife Mary Louise (nee Heist). By the time Lyle was two his family moved to a farm near the village of Lennon, 14 miles east of Owosso. At age nine his family moved to Owosso where Lyle's dad got a job as a machine operator, and later as a boilermaker at the Ann Arbor Railroad shop on South Washington Street. At the age of eleven Lyle was living with his family at 609 Woodlawn Avenue, the home where he would mostly stay until he was fifty.<sup>36</sup>

If Lyle wasn't looking for trouble, it seemed to find him anyway. He nearly drowned when he was sixteen. He and a friend were rowing a boat in Myers Lake when four girls swimming nearby asked to be towed. When one of the girls tried to climb into the boat it capsized, and one of the terror-stricken gals "grasped Bartlett about the neck and both were sinking" when an on-looker arrived in another rowboat. The on-looker "clutched Bartlett by the hair, but a girl, struggling to reach the boat, pushed it away." Lyle "is said to have gone down twice," but was finally rescued and brought to shore.<sup>37</sup>



A bit later in life – in his late 20s and early 30s – he accidentally set fire to his house ... no less than three times. The Owosso fire department responded in 1936, 1939, and 1941 to roof fires at Lyle's home. In the last instance, firemen "faced both fire and disease" when they were called to the house, as they also had to pass a chicken pox quarantine sign posted on the door (Lyle's daughter Emily was home-bound with the illness).<sup>38</sup>

Lyle's misadventures with fire and water earn my sobriquet for him – Chief Firewater – a name that proved apt in his later years.

He left school after the eighth grade<sup>39</sup> and his father got him a job with the Ann Arbor Railroad shop, where Lyle worked as a boilermaker's helper.<sup>40</sup> His father died when Lyle was 18, and Lyle moved in with his older sister Gladys and her husband for a short spell.<sup>41</sup>



Florence (nee Brown) and Lyle

Lyle met his future wife, Florence Brown, by at least her senior year in high school.<sup>42</sup> They were married on Easter Sunday in 1929, at the Christ Episcopal Church in Owosso, with the church decked out in holiday flowers and the smell of Easter lilies strong in the air. Outside, however, it was cold and gray, with heavy rain and winds knocking out telephone lines that evening.<sup>43</sup> Reverend Alexander had earlier delivered the day's sermon, "*Eternity in the Midst of Time*,"<sup>44</sup> (ironically, a condition some married folks experience). Flo was one year out of high school; Lyle was a year older. They moved in with her parents and had their first child, John, while living there.<sup>45</sup> In 1931, however, their second child, James, was born while they were living at Lyle's boyhood home on Woodlawn Avenue,<sup>46</sup> still owned by Lyle's mother, though she was living elsewhere as a live-in maid.<sup>47</sup>

Flo often said that the Bartlett family lived on the wrong side of the tracks in Owosso.<sup>48</sup> That would have been on the south side of Owosso; the north side was where the wealthier and middle class lived. The Bartletts and Browns were working class. What I didn't realize until I drove by their house on Woodlawn was that they were *literally* by the side of the tracks, only a couple of hundred feet away. Many in Flo's and Lyle's families worked for the railroad, including Lyle and his father, and Flo's



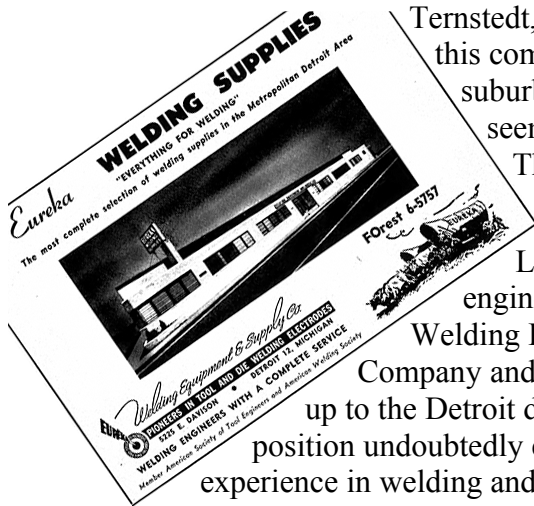
brother Howard. The sounds of the engines and whistles would have sung in their ears by day, and hummed in their dreams by night.

Lyle and Flo had three children: John, born in 1930; James, born in 1931; and Emily, born in 1934. As sometimes happens, the sons frequently didn't get along with their father, and there were the occasional family dinners that became loud and argumentative, with the upshot being shouting matches and broken furniture or windows.<sup>49</sup> It's safe to say that the idyllic radio and television series "Father Knows Best" wasn't modeled on hot-tempered Lyle's household.

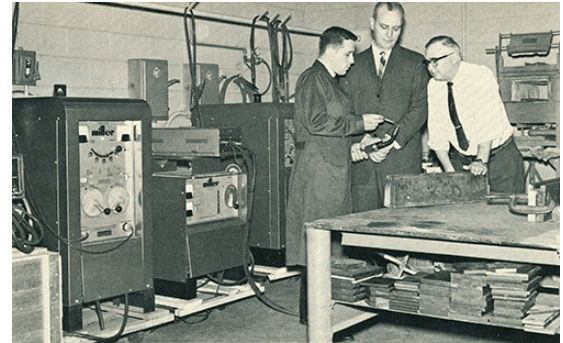


*Florence, Jim, John, Emily, and Lyle Bartlett*

By 1940 Lyle left the railroad shop and supported his family through a series of welding jobs he held in the Owosso and Flint areas. He worked at Auto-Lite Battery, Fisher & Wright Construction, Ternstedt, and finally at the Welding Equipment and Supply Company.<sup>50</sup> It was for this company that he relocated in 1957 at age 49 from Owosso to Royal Oak, a suburb of Detroit. Lyle and Flo were now empty-nesters, and perhaps it seemed an appropriate time to try a new job and a new life in the big city. This was to mark the pinnacle of his career, but also the beginning of his downward spiral into the neck of a whisky bottle.



Lyle became a service engineer with the 'Eureka' Welding Equipment and Supply Company and eventually worked his way up to the Detroit district sales manager,<sup>51</sup> a position undoubtedly earned by his years of varied experience in welding and welding equipment.



*Lyle, right, at Eureka with welding equipment*

The company owner, however, was a man who had a taste for alcohol, and after work (and maybe during) the bottles came out. As a salesman, Lyle needed to schmooze and booze with the clients. Between liquid lunches and office libations, at some point Lyle, too, developed a taste for John Barleycorn and was hooked. His increasingly heavy drinking became a problem for his emotional, psychological, and physical health.<sup>52</sup> He retired from his job in 1967; it seems likely alcohol contributed to his early retirement at age 59.



*Lyle in happier days*

Flo once tried to have him committed for a prolonged drying out, but Lyle talked his way out of it with the doctor. Successfully avoiding treatment, he was furious with his wife for her attempt to get him hospitalized and he permanently moved into the spare bedroom at their home.<sup>53</sup>

He fell deeper into alcohol dependence, became querulous while drinking, bloated up, damaged his liver, and ultimately died eleven years after they'd moved to Royal Oak, with a bottle of whisky in his arms. He was 60 years old when he passed away two days before Christmas in 1968.<sup>54</sup> His body was interred in Oak Hill cemetery in Owosso in weather that started out icy but turned rainy as it warmed.<sup>55</sup> Typical for

Michigan in December. And apropos for Chief Firewater.

**FLORENCE, LYLE'S WIFE, WAS BORN IN 1909** to John and Sadie Brown in Owosso, the youngest of their three children.<sup>iv</sup> She was better educated than her husband, graduating Owosso High School in 1928. Highly organized, she documented her life and that of her family's in many albums of newspaper clippings; photographs; and birth, marriage, and death announcements. [These were a lasting gift to her family; the basis of much of the history of her and her husband's families.]



*Florence Brown*

She was intelligent and had a good sense of humor, but outwardly she maintained a somber countenance.<sup>56</sup> Her daughter remembers her as cold, feeling more maternal love from her grandmothers than from her own mother.<sup>57</sup> Flo could be dour and snippy, a disciplinarian toward her children. But she could also be generous and thoughtful, remembering loved ones with small gifts and greeting cards. In effect she was multifaceted; difficult to portray in only one shade or color.



*From left, Howard, Sadie, Flo (center), John, and Marjorie Brown*

*[To me she was extraordinarily kind and loving. She adored our children and helped us out when they were born, preparing meals and doing laundry. We looked forward to our visits to her house on Sundays, where she would have a meal ready and the living room would soon be scattered with empty pill bottles she saved for our children to play with. Serious by nature, her humor and occasional smiles were all that more charming. Her hallway was a gallery of family portraits. She would bring out her coin and stamp albums; our mutually favorite coin was a 1909 S-VDB penny, minted in her birth year and rare to find.]*

Flo was a strong woman, capable of supporting her husband even in the dark years, and then living independently after his death. After the children were grown, she got a job in Owosso as a clerk at Bob Rourke Motor Sales;<sup>58</sup> when they moved to Royal Oak she got a job as an office clerk at a Montgomery-Ward department store, staying there until her retirement in 1974. By necessity she lived frugally,<sup>59</sup> but was always willing to share what little she had.

She was an active member of the Owosso Masonic Eastern Star, keeping a scrapbook of the chapter's activities and keeping in touch with the sisters after she moved to Royal Oak. She kept a diary in her later years that shows she remained active, visiting the bank, post office, cemetery, church, or a friend – or all of them – on a daily basis.



*John and Sadie Brown (front) with their children Marjorie, Howard, and Florence (right)*

In her senior years, she opened her home to two of her granddaughters [including my wife] who needed a place to stay in the Detroit area. But eventually, none of her family remained in greater Detroit, and she moved back to Owosso to an apartment situated – at last – on the north side of town.

<sup>iv</sup> John and Sadie Brown actually had four children, but their first, Beatrice, was born with spina bifida and died about a month after birth.

Her declining health led her to move to Phoenix in her 80s to be near her older son, John, and daughter Emily.

She passed away in 2000 at the age of 90. Her body was returned to Owosso for burial next to her husband Lyle. She hadn't abandoned him in life; and she wasn't about to abandon him in death. They finally found their *Eternity, in the Absence of Time*.



Lyle and Florence: together forever



# A History of the Brown Family

## John Brown (1827-1909) and Susan Rutledge (1835-1906)

### Irish Beginnings: Up in smoke

On monthly Fair days in the town of Trillick, in the north of Ireland, fights between Catholics and Protestants were a regular feature. Being a farming area, the weapons of choice were scythes, spades and pitchforks. The harvest was blood-stained injuries, and in 1822, several deaths.<sup>60</sup>

The downtrodden condition of the Catholics eventually sparked a war of independence from British rule in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the unfortunate casualties was the Irish Public Records Office, which burned down in the Battle of Dublin in 1922, destroying most of the country's public records, including censuses going back to the early 1800s.<sup>61</sup> Sadly, it can be said that much of the history of the Brown and Rutledge families went up in smoke.



*A bombardment and resulting fire at The Four Courts in Dublin resulted in the destruction of the Public Records Office\**



*Brown family location at red marker*

Nevertheless, some parish records remain, and fortunately the register recording John Brown and Susan Rutledge's marriage in April of 1856 survives.<sup>62</sup> It shows their families lived in the northern part of Ireland, in County Tyrone, near Enniskillen (see map at left). With a lack of records, it's difficult to say how far back the families went, but being as they were protestant, it's safe to say that they were offshoots of the English and Scottish settlement – better known as 'plantation' – of Ulster that began in 1609<sup>63</sup> and that they were not native to the country before then.<sup>v</sup>

### An Irish Farmer's Life

The Brown and Rutledge families farmed the steeply hilly, fertile, and partly boggy rural land in the parish of Kilskeery. Along with their neighbors they raised cattle and grew oats, barley, corn, flax and potatoes. They lived in one-story, two-room stone thatched cottages with piles of turf near the door to use as fuel for the fireplace. According to a 1834 Ordnance Survey of the parish, "very little attention is paid to comfort or cleanliness either in the

habitations or persons of the families. Their food consists of potatoes or oaten bread, and sometimes

<sup>v</sup> The Brown-Rutledge marriage was performed in a Presbyterian Meeting House. Presuming the bride selected the church, it's reasonable to conclude the Rutledge family was of Scottish extraction, given that the Presbyterian religion was most widely practiced in that country. The Rutledge name is also typically found in Scotland along its border with England according to the Rutledge Family Association, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rutledge/origins.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rutledge/origins.htm).

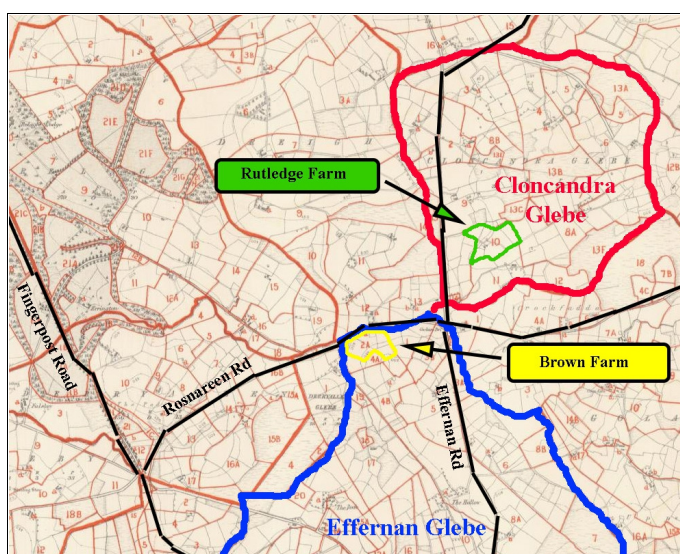
meat and broth. ... The usual number in each family is five or six. They have very little amusement or recreation except attending the fairs in the neighbouring towns.”<sup>64</sup>

In other words, they led a simple farming life. Their nearest town, a little under two miles away, was Trillick [mentioned at the start of this article], which had a population of about 400 in 1841 and held a weekly market – where the Browns and Rutledges may have sold their farm produce – and a Fair on the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month.<sup>65</sup> All of their basic needs could be met in the village as there were six grocers, five pubs, two blacksmiths, two leather dealers, a shoemaker, nailer, carpenter, butcher, tailor, cooper, and doctor.<sup>66</sup>

As simple as their lifestyle was, they were nevertheless Irish, and it’s reasonable to expect they enjoyed the ceilidhs (pronounced kay-lees: parties or gatherings) held in the cottages of the local merrymakers or in commemoration of special occasions. Those nights of song and dance, however, were followed by the crowing of roosters come morning and the inevitable tasks of milking cows and gathering eggs afore the morning meal.<sup>67</sup>

**JOHN BROWN AND SUSAN RUTLEDGE** were living in the townlands of Effernan Glebe and Cloncandra Glebe respectively at the time of their marriage.<sup>68</sup>

Their families’ farms, being in glebe, or church-owned townlands, were leased from the rector of the parish. The Brown farm encompassed about 8 acres; the Rutledge family was a half-mile away near the intersection of Effernan and Rosnareen Roads (see map at right). Effernan Road was noted in the 1834 Ordnance Survey as “very hilly and in bad repair.”<sup>69</sup> It would be the road upon which John and Susan would make their four-mile trip south on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1856 to the town of Tempo to get married at the Presbyterian Meeting House. Their marriage was witnessed by Ralph Brown and George Montgomery, likely relatives of John’s.<sup>70</sup>



John Brown, 29 at the time, and his father, George, were both farmers, as was Susan’s father, Thomas Rutledge. Susan, at age 21, signed her name with an ‘x,’ indicating she may have had little or no formal education.

The births of Susan and her siblings in Cloncandra to Thomas and Susan Rutledge were recorded in the Church of Ireland registers.<sup>71</sup> Their oldest offspring were twins, John and George, born in 1826. John apparently didn’t survive, and the next child, born the following year, was given the same name, a common practice. Archibald was born in 1828. (We’ll see him again.) Susan was born on March 18, 1835.

It would appear that Susan Rutledge’s father, Thomas, had passed away by the time of her marriage. The Church of Ireland register shows him dying in 1845, when Susan was only ten. Susan, without father and just entering her twenties, apparently subscribed to the old Irish adage that “it’s a lonesome washing that hasn’t a man’s shirt in it”<sup>72</sup> so she married John Brown and did his laundry for the next fifty years.

John Brown’s family picture is not as clear, owing to the commonness of the surname and the spottiness of the records. There were several George Browns in the parish.<sup>73</sup> Five of them were having

### Dotting the Irish I’s

Ireland consists of 4 **provinces**, including **Ulster** in the north.

The provinces are subdivided into **counties**. County **Tyrone** is one of 32 in Ireland and one of 9 in Ulster.

The counties are subdivided into **parishes**. **Kilskeery** parish is one of 43 in Tyrone.

The parishes are subdivided into **townlands**, of which Kilskeery has 65, including **Effernan Glebe** and **Cloncandra Glebe**.



children between 1820 and 1840 – yet at the same time only one George Brown marriage is recorded. And marriage records rarely had mother’s names on them. So without benefit of a census, it’s difficult to sort out family lines.

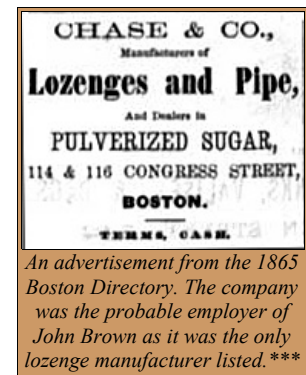


*Intersection of Rosnareen (l) and Effernan (r) Roads, Kilskeery\*\**

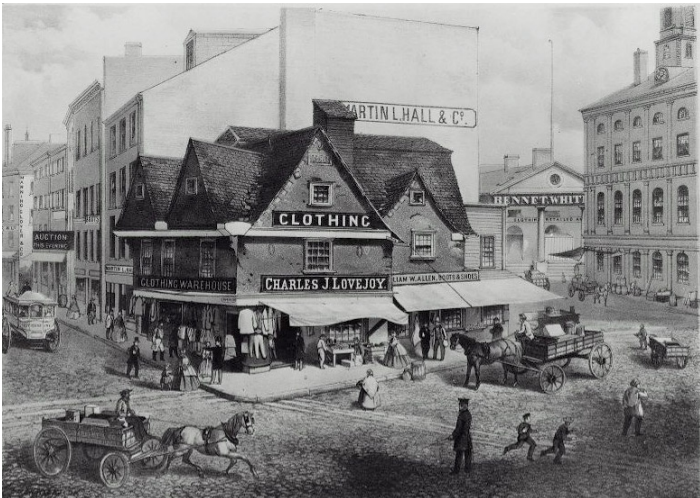
There is another marriage that took place in Kilskeery at the same time as John Brown’s that is worth noting. It was the marriage between Robert Brown (son of a George Brown) and Eliza Armstrong. Robert was living at a farm across the road and about a hundred yards distant from the George Brown farm in Effernan Glebe. This would make Robert Brown a neighbor of John’s, and quite possibly his kin. It turned out they would be neighbors in America as well.

**SOME TIME BETWEEN THEIR MARRIAGE IN 1856** and the birth of their first child, John and Susan Brown left Ireland for America. Many Irish emigrants before them struck out for the new world, particularly during the Great Famine (also known as the Irish Potato Famine) of 1845-1852. By 1854 between 1½ and 2 million of the Irish left their country, reducing the island’s population by one quarter. Evictions, starvation, and harsh living conditions encouraged a flood of emigration.<sup>74</sup> There is no record of why John Brown and his wife left, nor exactly when, but they ended up in Boston, Massachusetts, where they had their first child, Mary, in 1859.<sup>vi</sup>

They were not alone there: the Irish made up a quarter of the population in Boston.<sup>75</sup> And more significantly, in 1865, at the time of the Massachusetts census, they were living next door to their former Kilskeery neighbor and possible relative, Robert Brown and his wife Eliza. The census showed John working as a lozenge maker and Robert working as a laborer. John



*An advertisement from the 1865 Boston Directory. The company was the probable employer of John Brown as it was the only lozenge manufacturer listed.\*\*\**



*“Old Warehouse, Dock Square, Boston” by Alfred K. Kipps circa 1860*

and Susan had three children at the time, all noted as being born in Massachusetts.<sup>76</sup>

City life would have been a big adjustment for the Browns, who hailed from a very rural, sparsely populated area. John would later move to Michigan to resume farming; Robert remained as a laborer in Boston until his death in 1908.<sup>77</sup> The 1900 census showed that Robert came to America in 1858. It seems reasonable that John came about the same time.

vi There is conflicting evidence of the birthplaces of John and Susan’s first four children. The obituary of their eldest child, Mary, says she was born in Boston. That agrees with the 1865 Massachusetts census which shows her and her two siblings as having been born in that state. However, later censuses taken in Michigan show some of the children as having been born in New York, and the obituary of one of the children, Susie, born in 1862, goes so far as to cite Pine Plains in Dutchess County, New York, as her birthplace. However, contemporary records of any sort can’t be found to corroborate New York births. For purposes of this article, we’re assuming the 1865 Massachusetts census was correct.

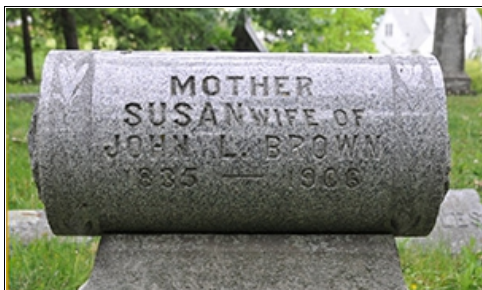
## Farming in Michigan: Irish Potatoes

By 1870 John and Susan had moved to Owosso, Michigan, with their four children Mary, George, Susan, and Elizabeth. The census from that year also shows Susan's brother Archie (Archibald) Rutledge living with them. John Brown was working as a farm laborer while Susan was raising the children, aged three to twelve. Archie's occupation is difficult to decipher, but it looks like he may have been a railroad section hand.

**By 1880, JOHN AND SUSAN** had two more sons, both born in Owosso. John had bought 80 acres of land and was now working his own farm. He tilled 35 acres and left 45 as woodland. He had two horses; four cows (two of them milch cows) and two calves; 10 pigs; and 20 chickens. He grew wheat, corn, and oats. He had an acre of apple trees and produced a hundred cords of wood from his woodlands. And notably ... he planted two acres of Irish potatoes.

By 1900, life was winding down for John and Susan. He was in his seventies, she in her sixties, with four of their children still living with them at their home on Huron Street in Owosso in June of that year. (In November, however, two of those four children married and moved out.) Their son John J. Brown was living next door with his wife and daughter. John and Susan's eldest daughter, Mary, wed Charles Owen in 1888 and was living a few blocks away on Main Street.

Susan (Rutledge) Brown died in 1906 of La Grippe (influenza) and bronchitis at age 70. On her death certificate her father is listed as Thomas Rutledge and her mother as Susan Payley. [Her maiden name was more likely Paisley, as there were no Payleys recorded in the parish.] Funeral services were held in the family home at 423 Huron Street and burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso.



John Brown followed her in death three years later at the age of 82, having succumbed to cancer of the face. Funeral services were at the family home on Huron Street and he was buried next to his wife in Oak Hill Cemetery.



**THEIR LIFE'S JOURNEY** took them 3,400 miles – spanning eight decades and two continents. They brought six children into the world, planting those seeds in America from stock rooted in Ireland. And although their voices are stilled now, the echoes remain.

PROPERTY BY AN AFFIRMATIVE MARK, AS FOLLOWS:

**SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in City of Owosso, Ward in the County of Michigan, enumerated by me on the 15 day of July, 1870.**  
**Post Office: Owosso**

1	2	3	ENUMERATION			7	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED		10	PLANTINGS	
			4	5	6		8	9		11	12
Family name of head of household, or person, or institution, as in Enumeration of 1870.		The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age last birthday, or in Emancipation, etc.	Sex	Color, or race, as in Enumeration of 1870.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Value of Foreign Birth.	Value of Foreign Birth.
61	57	Brown John	34	M	A	farmlaborer		200	Ireland		
		— Susan	24	F	W	housewife			Ireland		
		— Mary	10	F	W	at home			New York		
		— Geo	10	M	W				New York		
		— Susan	7	F	W				New York		
		— Elizabeth	3	F	W				Massachusetts		
		Rutledge Archie	40	M	W	See above			Ireland		

The 1870 U.S. Census for Owosso, Michigan

## The Spudniks

**JOHN AND SUSAN'S CHILDREN**, second generation Irish immigrants, had interesting stories of their own. The following section provides highlights of their lives.



## John Brown and Susan Rutledge's Children

**Mary 1859-1941.** Born in Boston, and possibly named for her paternal grandmother. She moved with her family to Owosso, Michigan, in about 1869. In 1888, at the age of 29, she married **Charles Owen**. Charles was a horse fancier, and in 1900 was a hearse driver. By 1910 he was employed at the Elk's Temple in Owosso, working his way up from clerk to lodge manager. He died in 1933, leaving Mary a widow at age 74. A grand niece recalled that "Aunt Mary used to come visit us by taxi. As I remember, she always wore a long black dress. My mother was not always so glad to see her. She was kind of cranky."

Mary met her maker in a blaze of glory on the same day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. According to newspaper accounts, her home on Main Street burned down around her. The fire burned for two or three hours before the firemen broke in and found her badly charred body sitting atop a badly burned chair seat. An investigation noted that "she was sitting in a chair beside the heating stove in the living room. ... There was very little fire in the stove and the door of the stove was not opened." The fire chief theorized "that she may have sat down in the chair, with some papers, intending to build a fire, and lighted the papers before opening the stove door, and that the flames ignited her clothing before she could put the burning papers in the stove." She was 82 at the time of her death. She's buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso.

**George "Buck" 1862-1935.** Also born in Boston and likely named for his paternal grandfather. He lived with his parents until the age of 38, when, in 1900, he married a 21-year-old German Mädchen working as a servant by the name of **Emma Bartels** in Owosso. They had three children between 1902 and 1913. Buck was a railway freight house foreman. He died of a heart attack in 1935 at the age of 73.

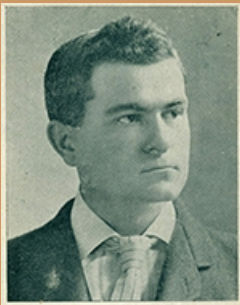
**Susan "Susie" 1862-1914.** Born in Boston and likely named for her maternal grandmother. Married **Orrison Bartlett "Ora B" Estey** in 1884 at age 20 in Flint, Michigan. Ora was the general manager of his father's manufacturing company in Owosso. Together they had three daughters and raised them in Owosso. Susan died at age 52, succumbing to a protracted illness in 1914. Her obituary reported "her first concern in life was her family and home, and here she found her greatest satisfaction." She's buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

**Elizabeth "Lizzie" 1867-193?** Probably born in Boston. Married **Ashley "A.P." Holliday** in Owosso in 1900 at age 33. Ashley was a brakeman and conductor on the railroad and they spent most of their married lives in Jamestown, North Dakota, where they raised two children. They are last seen in the 1930 census and both probably passed away by 1940.

**John J. "Buck" 1873-1956.** Born in Owosso and likely named for his father. Married **Sadie Grow** in 1895 at the age of 22. He moved into a house next door to his parents on Huron Street, where he remained until his death at age 83 in 1956. He started work at Estey Furniture Company as a common laborer, but his brother-in-law Ora Estey talked him into becoming a hand carver and he soon became the foreman of that operation. He served 12 years as a city councilman and another 13 years as a Shiawassee county supervisor. As a staunch Republican councilman he earned the sobriquet "Buck the Picturesque" for his use of "expletives in a very fluent and forceful manner." He and Sadie had four children, the first, Beatrice, dying within a month of her birth from spina bifida. The other three children, Marjorie, Howard, and Florence, were close to their parents throughout their lives. Sadie passed away in 1951 after a serious illness.

Buck continued working as a furniture hand carver until his death five years later from "complications of old age." He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

**James "Jim" 1874-1967.** Born in Owosso, he married **Jessie Green** in 1906 at age 31. He was the first professional chief of Owosso's fire department, and later moved to Lansing to become an electrician with, and eventually to head, that city's fire department signal system. He and Jessie had no children. Jessie died in 1964 and James three years later, with an honor guard from the Lansing Fire Department escorting his remains to Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso.





## The Rourkes

# A Tale of an Irish Family's Emigration

It may be said that the Rourke men were Irish charmers, loquacious enough to charm the pants off a woman. To wit, **Martin** Rourke was married in Waterford, Ireland, in June of 1815<sup>78</sup> and had his first child five months later.<sup>79</sup> His son **Michael** went one better, having his first daughter, Bridget, out of wedlock.<sup>80</sup> In fact, a family story goes that “when her [the daughter’s] mother learned that **Michael** was planning to emigrate to America, she brought Bridget to his doorstep and told him that he could take care of the child himself. ‘She is yours, take care of her.’”<sup>81</sup> Apparently charm only went so far.

But the men weren’t just hard loving – **Michael** had fourteen children by four women<sup>82</sup> – they were hard working besides, with **Michael** clearing 185 acres and converting virgin Michigan forest to farm land in the 1850s-1880s. And they were devout as well, with **Michael** Rourke and his brother Patrick being among the founding members of St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Owosso, Michigan in 1871.



Reginald's Tower on River Suir, Waterford, ca 1840

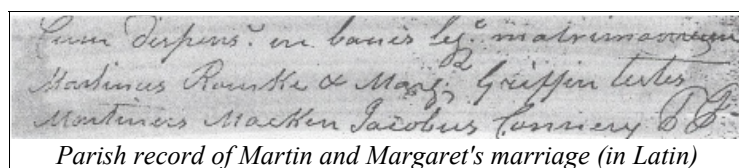


Ballybricken Market Day, circa 1900

## ROURKE FAMILY IRISH ROOTS

But we’ve jumped ahead of ourselves. Let’s back up and begin with the Rourke family in Ireland at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here we find **Martin** Rourke and **Margaret** Griffin living along Ballybricken Green in Waterford, Ireland.<sup>83</sup> The area they lived in was the center of Waterford’s livestock and bacon-curing industry<sup>84</sup>, possibly providing a trade for young **Martin**. Their home was in the Trinity Without parish, so named because it was located just without the medieval walls of the city, where town buildings soon gave way to open farmland. Living along Ballybricken Green, they would have enjoyed the colorful and noisy monthly fairs held there, with nearby farmers selling their cattle, horses, pigs, poultry and vegetables from dawn to dusk.<sup>85</sup>

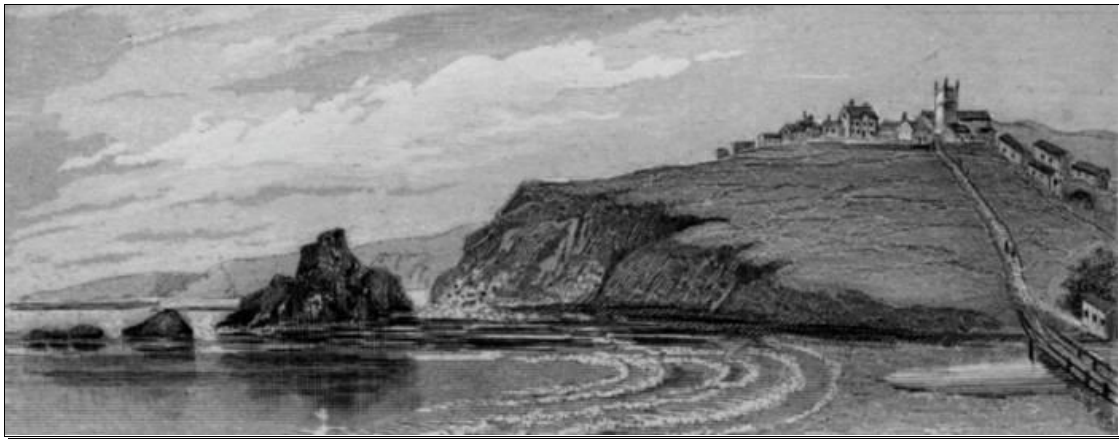
**Martin** and **Margaret** married in June of 1815 at the newly constructed<sup>86</sup> Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity Without, a few blocks from their homes on Ballybricken. The couple required a dispensation from the church; the reason was not noted, but possibly was due to the bride’s pregnancy before marriage.



Parish record of Martin and Margaret's marriage (in Latin)

Their first child, Catherine, was born in November and baptized at the same church in Ballybricken. Four more children followed—**Michael** in 1818, Patrick in 1823, Mary in 1834, and Bridget in 1838—but according to family genealogists, the later four were born about twelve miles southeast of Waterford in the coastal village of Annestown.<sup>87</sup> [See bottom of article for a partial family tree.]

Annestown was small, with only thirty-one houses and just over 200 people. According to *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* of 1837, “Its situation and appearance are highly picturesque; the vicinity presents an extensive line of coast, consisting of stupendous rocks rising abruptly from the sea.”<sup>88</sup> It is located in the parish of Dunhill, where parish records recorded the marriages of two of the Rourke children, Catherine and Patrick, in 1837 and 1845 respectively.<sup>89</sup>



*Sketch of Annestown dating to around 1849<sup>90</sup>*

It’s difficult to speculate what the family’s occupations were, and whether they lived in the village or the surrounding farmland. They may have worked on a farm, or they may have worked in the copper and lead mines dotting the “Copper Coast” and concentrated in the area of Bunmahon five miles to the west.<sup>91</sup>

The oldest three children were married and started their families in the area, though in **Michael’s** case, not necessarily in that order. If **Michael** was first married at age 23, as his death certificate says, he would have married **Margaret** Fitzpatrick in 1841, the same year as his first child’s, Bridget’s, birth – to another woman, Ellen Coony.<sup>92</sup>

## EMIGRATION TO AMERICA



*Irish emigrants depart Liverpool for North America*

for North America during the crisis frequently crossed the ocean in “coffin ships”—poorly constructed,

The reason the family left for America is easier to surmise. A devastating “Great Famine” consumed Ireland when potato crops were lost to blight between 1845 and 1847. Since potatoes were the country’s food staple, mass starvation and disease ensued, with the resulting deaths of over a million people. Another million emigrated from the country between 1845 and 1852 to escape the dire conditions<sup>93</sup> or because they’d been evicted from their homes. In the process, Ireland lost about 20% of its population, including the Rourkes. The emigrants heading





overcrowded, under-provisioned, disease-riddled ships, where conditions were so bad that up to 20% of the passengers were lost to disease or malnutrition over the course of the 40-plus day voyage.<sup>94</sup>

Given that **Martin** Rourke, the family patriarch, doesn't show up with his family in the American 1850 census may mean he died before the family left Ireland or on the voyage. To my knowledge, no record of his death has been found.

At any rate, the Rourke family left Ireland between 1846 and 1848 and settled temporarily in West Springfield, Massachusetts, along the Connecticut River. **Margaret**, the matriarch, was in her early 60s, with her children ranging in age from their teens to their early 30s. **Michael** Rourke, the second oldest child, was 29 years old in 1847.

## WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

**Michael** and his wife **Margaret** (nee Fitzgerald)<sup>95</sup> had a daughter, Catherine, their third together, in West Springfield in January, 1849.<sup>96</sup> By August of 1850 he was living in the northernmost parish of West Springfield, the "Ireland Parish," in the area of Holyoke, Massachusetts. His wife Margaret had apparently died, and Michael was living with his four daughters, his mother, and one of his younger sisters, Mary, with the 1850 census recording him as a "laborer."



Clark's Carriage Manufactory, West Springfield, Massachusetts, ca. 1879

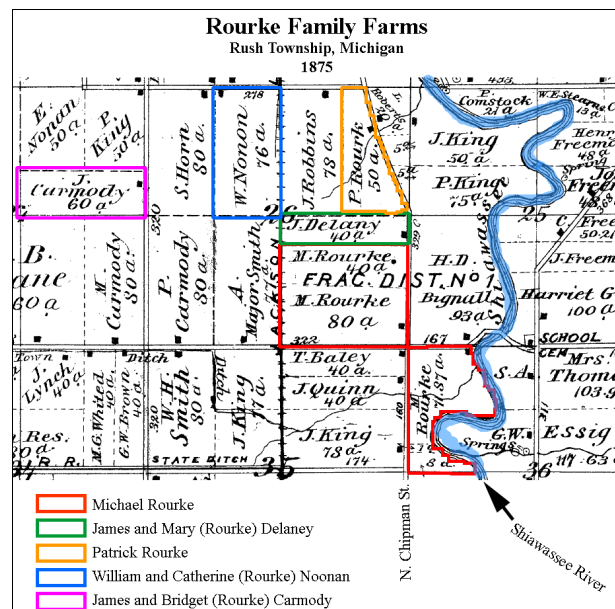
The 1850 census found **Michael** Rourke's siblings also living in West Springfield. Patrick Rourke, age 30—whose wife had joined him from Ireland with their two sons in January 1850<sup>97</sup>—and Catherine (nee Rourke), 38, with her husband William Noonan with their four children. Patrick Rourke and William Noonan were both listed as laborers; none of the Rourke family or the in-laws were able to read or write.

West Springfield, located in the Connecticut River valley, used the power of nearby rivers and falls to facilitate manufacturing, including grist, saw, and paper mills. Iron works, carriage works, tanneries and a cotton factory were also in the area, providing jobs to the large number of Irish immigrants.<sup>98</sup>

## THE 'RUSH' TO MICHIGAN

But the family's time in Massachusetts was limited. Within five years of their arrival, the family began to move west, into the untamed land of central Michigan a few miles north of Owosso. They bought acreage, cleared forests, built their houses and farmed their clearings in Rush Township, just west of the Shiawassee River. The Rourke brothers and sisters' farms lined up side by side along present-day North Chipman Street [across from the present-day Owosso Country Club] and west along the intersecting Riley Road.<sup>99</sup> The family, by all appearances, was tight-knit throughout their lives.

In those days the land was still wild. When **Michael** Rourke bought his first forty acres in 1851, "Indians frequently chose Mr. Rourke's land for their camping-ground. Deer were abundant, wolves made night



hideous with their howling, and bears would, under cover of the darkness, visit the sheepfold in search of a victim.”<sup>100</sup> By the end of the first year he cleared and partially improved eight acres. His oldest daughter, Bridget, reminisced that “I helped my father clear his farm, as he had no boys old enough to help.”<sup>101</sup> [His first son wasn’t born until 1853.]

**Michael** married again—this time to a **Mary** Connor,<sup>102</sup> also an Ireland native. Together the couple had three children between 1852 and 1855: Ellen, Martin, and Catherine. **Michael** expanded his farm to 185 acres over the following years. **Mary** (Connor) Rourke, after having borne three children shortly after their marriage, had no additional children and apparently died in or before 1867.<sup>vii</sup>

**Michael** was not one to suffer grief for long, and he married his last wife, the widow **Mary** (nee Connelly) Coleman, in February, 1867.<sup>103</sup> She brought two sons to the marriage, and then had six children together with Michael between 1868 and 1877.



*Mary (Connor) Rourke's gravestone in St. Mary's Cemetery, Corunna?  
Photo courtesy of Shelley Walworth*

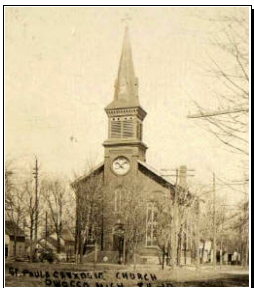
## PASSAGES

The passage of years inevitably brought the passage of other family members as well. **Michael's** oldest sister, Catherine (nee Rourke) Noonan, died at the age of 43 in 1858, leaving William Noonan a widower with three young sons aged five to thirteen.

**Michael's** second youngest sister, Mary (nee Rourke) Delaney, died in 1865 at the age of 31, leaving her husband, James, with four young children.

**Michael's** fifth daughter, Ellen, who had married an injured civil war veteran and moved to the Chesaning area, died at the age of 24 in 1876, leaving three young daughters.

**Michael's** mother, **Margaret**, who had lived with him in Massachusetts and undoubtedly helped with his children in the transitions between wives, was living with him in Michigan in the 1860 census, where she is noted as a “domestic.” Ten years later, in 1870 at around age 85, she was living just down the road, presumably as a live-in domestic, on the Jonas Robbins farm. She died some time before the 1880 census, possibly as early as 1872.<sup>104</sup>



*Old St. Paul's, Owosso*

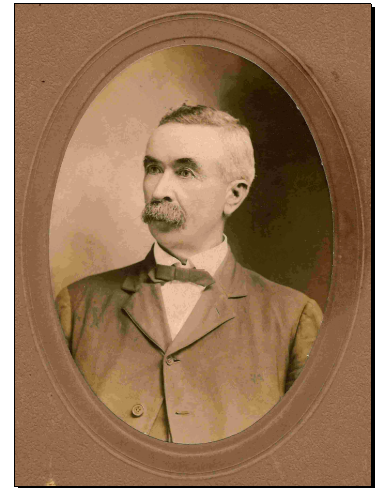
## A DRIVEN MAN

**Michael** Rourke was a driven man. Driven to start a new life in America, driven to become more than a laborer despite his lack of education, driven to hew a farm of his own in the Michigan wilderness, driven to have fourteen children by four women through the age of sixty, driven to expand his farm to the point that he was the second wealthiest man in Rush Township,<sup>105</sup> and driven to serve his God and honor his Irish Catholic roots by

vii Mary (nee Connor) Rourke is a problematic character in this narrative. The 1860 Rush Township census records her nativity as Ireland and her age as 39, which would place her birth year around 1819. It's unclear when and with whom she immigrated to America, where she settled, when and where (Massachusetts or Michigan) she married Michael Rourke, and when she died. Although a gravestone found in Corunna, Michigan, looks like it may be hers [i.e., ‘Wife of M. Rourke’ and ‘Born in Co. Waterford, Ireland’ and birth year approximately 1814] her death would have occurred 10 months after Michael Rourke married Mary (nee Connelly) Coleman. Although not inconceivable, it would mean that Michael had divorced her and gotten remarried with a dispensation from the church.

becoming one of the founding members, in 1871, of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Owosso.<sup>106</sup>

Although no portraits or descriptions of **Michael** are known, perhaps some of his features can be seen in the portrait of his first son, **Martin**, born in 1853.<sup>107</sup> Presuming **Martin** got some of his looks from his father, one could imagine that **Michael** was a fairly handsome man. His son **Martin's** Irish charm—the expressive arch of his brow, the proud thatch of mustache, the finely carved features, the erect bearing—likely echo at least some of his father's characteristics.



*Martin Rourke, son of Michael*

**Michael** Rourke died in 1898, aged 80, of heart failure, a little over a year after the passing of his last wife, **Mary Coleman**.<sup>108</sup> Apparently still hale, he'd been in Owosso the day before. An article in the Owosso newspaper noted that “the funeral of **Michael** Rourke at St. Paul's Catholic church this morning [July 1, 1898] was attended by a large crowd of relatives and friends. Mr. Rourke was one of the most widely known farmers in the northern part of the county.”<sup>109</sup>

## O'ROURKE

Most of the Rourke family is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Owosso. Perhaps as a reflection on his Irish roots, or as a nod to his father, or perhaps simply through the mistake of the gravestone carver, his headstone reads “**Michael O'Rourke** 1818-1898.”<sup>110</sup> Passersby will never wonder where this man came from; O' yes, he was Irish born and apparently Irish to the end.

### Bridget Rourke

## Pioneer Woman

Michael Rourke's first daughter, **Bridget**, was a trail blazer of her own. Her autobiography, written the day before she died in 1925, at age 84, is the story of a pioneer in the wilds of Michigan.

*“I was born in Waterford, Ireland, Feb. 15, 1841, and came to this country with my parents at the age of five years. We lived in Massachusetts three years, then immigrated to Michigan, and settled in Rush township, Shiawassee county, four miles from what is now Owosso, which at that time was a forest. I helped my father clear his farm, as he had no boys old enough to help.*

*“I lived there until the age of 22, when I was united in marriage to Jerome Secord of Owosso, Mich., May 30, 1863. Mr. Secord was a veteran of the Civil war. After his return, we decided to move north with his father, Marvil Secord, and settled at the place called Dick's Fork's, which was a forest of beautiful waving pine. We went as far as Midland by stage and from there we canoed up the Tittabawassee river. We were several days going, as we had our furniture, making a heavy load. We landed at Dick's Forks (now known as Secord township) Oct. 3, 1863. There were no roads, not even a footpath, as Marvil Secord was the only settler there.*

*“The first winter Mr. Secord trapped furs to the value of \$1,800 and in the spring took them to Saginaw. Later we moved on to a 60 acre homestead which we bought from his father. We then started clearing it, cutting down the long waving pine and rolled it into heaps and burned it, as there was not much sale for lumber at that time. ... The location was a very healthful place, and for several years we had no sickness. There was no doctor within 30 miles and when one was needed, it took him two days to reach bedside of the sick.*

*“More settlers began to move in and roads and footpaths became numerous. My husband has carried 50 pounds of flour from Sterling, 20 miles away, to our home. We spent many happy days, along with our hardships, during our married life. Mr. Secord was a blacksmith by trade and later when lumbering commenced in that locality he worked at his trade in the winter and worked his farm in the summer. With all difficulties and hardships to encounter, we raised our seven children, three of whom are still living and four have passed to the better world beyond. We worked together until the year 1886, June 14, when the Lord saw fit to take him home to glory [at age 45]. I was then left alone to care for my family, but with the help of the Lord and very kind friends, I managed to raise and educate the children. ...”*



*Bridget (Rourke) Secord*

*See endnotes for source.*



## Descendents of **Martin Rourke** and **Margaret Griffin** A Partial List

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place	
Martin Rourke	Margaret Griffin	Catherine	29 Nov 1815	Ballybricken	29 Aug 1837	Dunhill Parish	William Noonan	1858	Michigan	
		Michael	Abt Oct 1818	Annestown		Ireland	Margaret Fitzgerald	21 Jun 1898	Rush	
		Patrick	Abt 1823	Annestown	27 May 1845	Dunhill Parish	Catherine Whalen	23 Feb 1896	Rush	
		Mary	Abt 1834	Annestown	1856	Massachusetts	James Delaney	1865	Rush	
		Bridget	Abt 1838	Annestown		Michigan	James Carmody	Unknown	Unknown	
William Noonan	Catherine Rourke	Margaret	1840	Ireland						
		Mary	1841	Ireland						
		Thomas	1844	Ireland						
		Martin	1849	Mass						
		Stephen	1853							
Michael Rourke	Ellen Cooney	Bridget	15 Feb 1841	Ireland	30 May 1863	Owosso	Jerome Secord	5 Dec 1925		
		Margaret Fitzgerald	Mary	1844	Ireland			John King	20 Oct 1903	Owosso
		Margaret Fitzgerald	Margaret	1846	Ireland			Charles Allen	27 Nov 1906	Chicago, IL
		Margaret Fitzgerald	Catherine	Jan 1849	West Springfd				Abt 1850?	
		Mary Connor	Ellen	Abt 1852	Rush	5 Mar 1869	Oakley, Saginaw	Jacob Heist	'Nov 1876	Saginaw Co.
		Mary Connor	Martin	10 Apr 1853	Rush			Mary Coleman	22 Aug 1926	Rush
		Mary Connor	Catherine	About 1855	Rush	About 1903		Peter L. Edholm	21 Aug 1913	Deadwood, SD
		Mary Conley	Alice Agnes	4 Jan 1868	Rush	5 Jun 1894	Owosso	James King	2 Jun 1932	Rush
		Mary Conley	Michael Henry	22 Oct 1870	Rush	22 Apr 1893*	Flushing	Margaret King	4 Dec 1928	Owosso
		Mary Conley	Richard Patrick	12 Apr 1871	Rush			Unmarried	2 Dec 1906	Rush
		Mary Conley	Jane Francis	1874	Rush	About 1893		William J. Carlton	9 Sep 1951	Owosso
		Mary Conley	Patrick	31 Mar 1876	Rush				7 Apr 1876	Rush
		Mary Conley	William	10 Nov 1877	Rush	About 1900		Rosa H. Carmody	17 Nov 1963	Owosso
Patrick Rourke	Catherine Whalen	Martin	20 Mar 1846	Ireland						
		Michael	Abt 1847	Ireland						
		Edward	1852							
		Johanna	1854							
		Richard	1856							
James Delaney	Mary Rourke	Julia	1856							
		Mary	1859							
		Lucy	1860							
		James	1861							
James Carmody	Bridget Rourke	Thomas	1868							
		Mary	1871							
		Margaret	1873							

\* Michael Henry Rourke divorced Margaret King in 1908 and married Margaret Young in 1907 or 1914. Long story, probably involving children out of wedlock.

# Jacob A. Heist: A Michigan Wolverine

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*Come on, you Wolverines!*

General George Custer, rallying the Michigan Cavalry at Gettysburg, 3 July 1863



Gen. George Custer



Capt. James Kidd

*As we passed into the field a shell exploded directly in front of us. It took a leg off a man in troop H which preceded us and had dismounted to fight on foot, and I saw him hopping around on his one remaining limb and heard him shriek with pain.*

Captain James Kidd, Michigan Cavalry, recalling the battle at Williamsport, 6 July 1863

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“Dammit! Dammit! Dammit! Dammit!”

After the searing physical pain and shock, the mental desperation kicked in. Looking at the bloody mass of flesh and bone where a whistling shell fragment had severed his leg, he knew his life was forever changed.

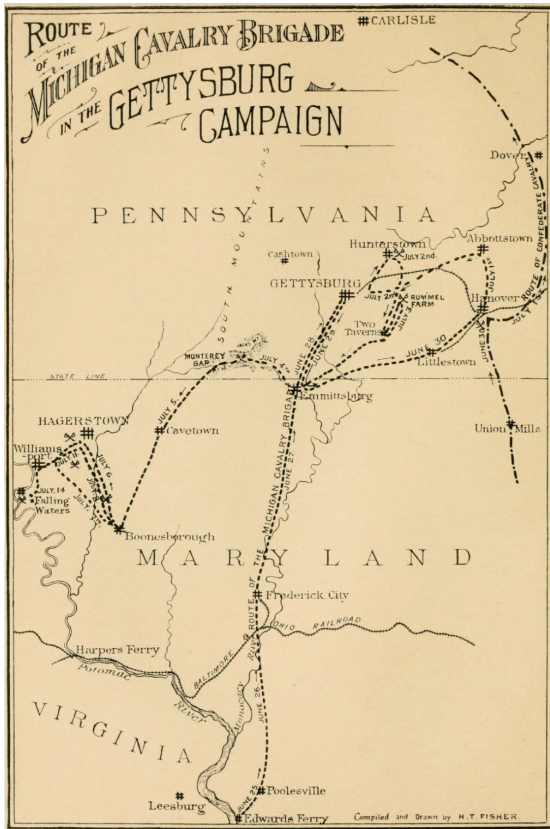
Jacob A. Heist was an eighteen year old farm boy, a volunteer in the 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry Regiment, soldiering on through an extraordinary week of fatigue, fear, excitement, and danger. His brigade had battled J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry on horse and foot around Gettysburg just days ago. He’d slept astride his horse through night marches ... watched in awe and dread as the roar, smoke, and iron of cannon fire tore through large swathes of men and horses at Gettysburg ... struggled blindly uphill at Monterey Pass against a rain of enemy fire while covered by nothing but the dark of night and six inches of mud. The bright sense of adventure and gallantry was fading quickly as war’s dark realities bore down on his body and mind.

He’d enlisted as a private in September 1862<sup>111</sup> after hearing a rousing recruitment speech at a war meeting in a schoolhouse<sup>112</sup> in St. Charles Township near his family’s farm in Saginaw County, Michigan. Newly-minted Lieutenant Throop of Owosso handed Jacob the pen to sign up for Company G of the nascent Michigan Sixth Cavalry Regiment.<sup>113</sup> By October, the unit was assembled and mustered into service at Camp Kellogg in Grand Rapids.<sup>114</sup> In December the regiment went by train to Washington, D.C., where they slept the first night under the dome of the Capitol building.<sup>115</sup> From December through February they were stationed on Meridian Hill on the outskirts of Washington, where they could see the President’s House one mile directly to the south. They trained at least six hours a day<sup>116</sup> with their horses, sabers, pistols, and newly issued Spenser repeating rifles. On down days, they walked the capitol’s muddy roads to look at the President’s house, treasury building, Smithsonian building and Robert E. Lee’s former home in Arlington across the Potomac River. It was a time of excitement and anticipation for the young lad from rural Michigan.

In February 1863 his regiment moved to the grounds around Fairfax Court House in northern Virginia and spread out on picket duty in defense of the Union’s capitol. Over the next four months they made three forays as far south as Frederick and as far west as the Blue Ridge Mountains on reconnaissance missions, but saw very few enemy troops.<sup>117</sup>

## The March North

That changed in June 1863 when Confederate General Robert E. Lee moved his Army of Northern Virginia along the west side of the Blue Ridge Mountains into Pennsylvania to take the fight to the north. The Union's Army of the Potomac headed north in pursuit – along the eastern side of the mountains – to stand between Lee and his presumed destination of Baltimore or Washington.



At first light on Thursday morning, June 25, Jacob's regiment moved out of their camp at Fairfax, Virginia.<sup>118</sup> After days of hearing the cannons' booms along the Blue Ridge, Jacob was undoubtedly excited to be moving toward the fight. The Sixth Cavalry Regiment was assigned rear guard to protect the end of the hours-long line of Union troops and supplies heading north. He crossed the Potomac at Edward's Ferry, near Leesburg, after nightfall, with the strong, rain swollen, mile-wide river reaching nearly to the top of his horse's saddle. After straining up the slippery bank on the Maryland shore, his regiment continued through the rain until two a.m., when they bivouacked in the woods near Pooleville. They stayed the next night near Frederick, Maryland and the night of the 27th near Emmitsburg, Maryland, close to the Pennsylvania border.

On Sunday morning, June 28, the Fifth and Sixth Michigan Cavalry Regiments were sent along the Emmitsburg Pike on a scouting mission to the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. As it happened, they were the first Union troops to enter the town.

The townspeople greeted the regiments in their Sunday best. It was a proud day for Jacob when he saw the turnout for the troops. Captain Kidd of the Sixth Regiment writes, "The church bells rang out a joyous peal, and dense masses of beaming faces filled the streets as the narrow column of fours threaded its way through their midst. Lines of men stood on either side, with pails of water or apple-butter, and passed a sandwich to each soldier as he passed. At intervals of a few feet were bebies of women and girls, who handed up bouquets and wreaths of flowers. By the time the center of the town was reached, every man had a bunch of flowers in his hand, or a wreath around his neck."

Within a couple of days, however, the glory of war gave way to the gore.

## First Combat

The Sixth Cavalry spent all day on Monday, the 29th of June scouting to the south and east of Gettysburg, and continued into the night, the troops dozing by turns in their saddles. They knew Lee's army was nearby, as were J.E.B. Stuart's cavaliers. They were ten miles southeast of Gettysburg on the morning of the 30th when a local citizen told them of the Confederate cavalry's presence near Hanover, a few miles to the northeast. The bugler played "To Horse" and the troop mounted and set off to face their first combat of the war.

Just short of Hanover the regiment turned into a wheat field and came upon Confederate cavalry,



whose artillery opened up on the Sixth Regiment, wounding several men and horses. The regiment withdrew to join its parent division in Hanover, where a battle ensued within and south of the town. It was at Hanover that Jacob and his fellow soldiers first saw their new brigade commander, the flamboyant George Custer, who'd just been promoted to General at the age of 23 and assigned command of the First, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Michigan Cavalry regiments as well as Lieutenant Pennington's horse artillery battery. Fighting that day forced the Confederate cavalry to detour to the northeast and delayed Stuart's reunion with Lee's army to the west by a couple of critical days.



In *Custer at Hanover*, artist Dale Gallon depicts the June 30, 1863 clash between elements of the Union's Third Cavalry Division and J.E.B. Stuart's "Invincibles." Here, troopers of the 6th Michigan cavalry are being deployed as skirmishers by their new, twenty-three year old commander George Armstrong Custer.<sup>8a</sup>

The mass of the Union and Confederate armies met in Gettysburg on Wednesday, July 1st, beginning three days of unprecedented deadly combat.

Jacob's regiment remained east of Gettysburg on the 1st, traveling north to Abbottstown and then west towards Gettysburg via Hunterstown on the 2nd, where they met Confederate cavalry blocking the road to Gettysburg. A two hour battle ensued. Jacob and his fellow troopers dismounted, entered the woods at the side of the road, and fired upon the charging Confederate cavaliers, driving them back. The battle was a stalemate, with no clear victor or loser. At the end of the day, the Sixth headed south to bivouac near the hamlet of Two Taverns southeast of Gettysburg.

## Gettysburg Battle

On Friday, July 3rd, the Union cavalry – including the Sixth Regiment in Custer's brigade – was ordered to protect the Union's far right flank from attack by J.E.B. Stuart, who in turn had intentions of skirting their flank and attacking the Union's rear from the east while Lee attacked its front from the west. The Union cavalry intercepted Stuart's path about three miles east of Gettysburg on fields surrounding John Rummel's farm, setting up a cavalry battle among seven to eight thousand troops<sup>119</sup> and their supporting artillery. The Sixth Regiment was positioned toward the rear to guard the intersection of Hanover and Low Dutch roads and to repel any Confederate attempt to capture Pennington's battery.

The Confederate field guns opened on Custer's brigade around noon, raining iron on Custer's troops and horses. Pennington returned fire, knocking out two of the rebel field guns. Confederate forces advanced as far as the farm and paused. Around one in the afternoon a furious roar shook the earth and sent clouds of smoke rolling over the fields from Gettysburg three miles west, where Lee's army began bombarding union lines with a 150 cannon fusillade that could be heard 140 miles away. He was trying to soften up the main Union line in advance of an infantry charge.<sup>120</sup>

Shortly thereafter the battle between the cavalries in the east began in earnest, with roaring cannons belching shrieking shells, and yelling troops falling upon each other in bloody charges, hasty retreats, and fierce countercharges. Horses were shot out from under cavaliers. Formations of grey-clad men came out of the woods beyond the farm. Charges were made on horse with sabers and pistols; dismounted troops used rifles as they advanced. The combatant forces ebbed and flowed like a red tide, channeled by farm fences, woods, and creeks. One side gained ascendancy, only to lose it with an opposing counter-assault. Captain Kidd of the Sixth Cavalry recalled one of the Union assaults:



*Hampton's Duel* by artist Don Troiani depicts action at the East Cavalry Battlefield of Gettysburg<sup>9a</sup>

*Just then, a column of mounted [Union] men was seen advancing from the right and rear of the union line. Squadron succeeded squadron until an entire regiment [roughly 1200 men] came into view, with sabers gleaming and colors gaily fluttering in the breeze. It was the Seventh Michigan, commanded by Colonel Mann. ... As the regiment moved forward, and cleared the battery, Custer drew his saber, placed himself in front and shouted: "Come on, you Wolverines!" The Seventh dashed into the open field and rode straight at the [Confederate] dismounted line which, staggered by the appearance of this new foe, broke to the rear and ran for its reserves.<sup>121</sup>*



The attacks and close-contact fighting lasted about three hours, with a few skirmishes continuing until nightfall. Casualties totaled about 700 between both sides,<sup>122</sup> or roughly one out of every ten soldiers. However, the Union successfully stopped the Confederate cavalry from flanking its right side. The result was that the Union artillery and infantry back in Gettysburg were able to concentrate on Lee's assault from the west, with disastrous consequences for the Confederacy.

After the failed Confederate assault at Gettysburg, the Confederate army began a retreat back to Virginia. Jacob Heist was among the Union soldiers in pursuit.

### Jacob's Sacrifice

The rain came down steadily and hard for the next couple of days as the Union Cavalry began its pursuit of Lee's retreating army on Saturday, July 4th.<sup>123</sup> The men were wet and exhausted from days on end of marching, reconnaissance, lost sleep, and combat. Nevertheless, the Michigan men were proud to have matched the far more experienced Confederate cavalry in their first encounters of war and they were jelling as a force.

All day long they "plodded and plashed along the muddy roads towards the passes in the Catoctin and South mountains."<sup>124</sup> At night they caught up to a Confederate wagon train in the Blue Ridge Mountains of southern Pennsylvania at Monterey Pass. The Michigan Fifth and Sixth Cavalry were the lead troops in climbing the road to the pass, where they were met by artillery and infantry fire in the dark of a muddy, rain soaked night. A confused battle ensued, in which the soldiers sometimes could only tell where the enemy was by the flashes of their guns and cannon. Nevertheless, Custer's troops were able to rout the Rebels for a while, burning and plundering their wagons until Confederate

reserves arrived. At morning, the Sixth withdrew and headed south toward the Potomac River, which Lee's army would have to cross on its way back to Virginia.

The 5th of July Jacob's regiment rode down along the spine of the Blue Ridge to Boonsboro, Maryland, southeast of Hagerstown, engaging in occasional skirmishes with rebel troops along the way.

On the afternoon of Monday, July 6, 1863, the Fifth and Sixth Regiments arrived in Hagerstown, and started south down the pike to Williamsport,<sup>125</sup> where General Lee's reserve wagon trains were gathered at the Potomac shore, unable to cross due to the rain-swollen river. To the Sixth's front were the forces of the Confederate General Imboden; to their rear was the rest of Lee's Army. They began to fear they were going to get trapped on the road, but pressed on toward Williamsport, five miles south.



On a bluff about a mile from Williamsport they were met by General Imboden's artillery which poured shells in on the position where the brigade was trying to form. The Sixth was sent into a field on the right of the road.

Continuing with Captain Kidd's narrative:

*As we passed into the field a shell exploded directly in front of us. It took a leg off a man in troop H which preceded us and had dismounted to fight on foot, and I saw him hopping around on his one remaining limb and heard him shriek with pain. A fragment of the same shell took a piece off the rim of Lieutenant E. L. Craw's hat. He was riding at my side. I believe it was the same shell that killed Jewett...a fragment of one of these shells struck him in the throat and killed him instantly.<sup>126</sup>*

It was here that Jacob A. Heist was hit by a shell that "shot away his left leg below the knee."<sup>127</sup> It is possible that the soldier Captain Kidd saw hopping in pain on the battlefield was Jacob, though Jacob was with Company G. At any rate, Jacob's combat days ended at Williamsport, Maryland on July 6th when he sacrificed a leg to the cause of the American union on a Civil War battlefield.

## Pre Civil War Years

Jacob was born on a farm near Buffalo, New York, in December 1844, the second child and first son of a German immigrant family. His father, also a Jacob, was from the Baden-Württemberg area of Germany<sup>128</sup> and had emigrated at age 11 with his family in 1832 to America.<sup>129</sup>

Around 1860 Jacob's family moved to St. Charles Township in Saginaw County, near the town of Chesaning. They settled near Byerly families in the area, undoubtedly kin of Jacob's mother Christina Byerly.<sup>130</sup> Jacob, sixteen years old, would have been working the 115-acre Heist farm with his dad, learning about horses and farm equipment, and perhaps cooling his feet during the summer in Bear Creek which ran through the farm.<sup>131</sup>

When the War of 1861 started, he was a cavalry recruiter's dream: a lad in the prime of life, familiar with horses, patriotic (no recruitment bonuses were offered, or needed, at the time<sup>132</sup>), and eager for adventure. Standing 5 feet, 10 inches, with dark complexion, dark hair and blue eyes,<sup>133</sup> his departure for war in 1862 may have broken a few hearts in St. Charles, particularly his mother's.



## Post Civil War Years

The war was unkind to Jacob. After the leg wound received at Williamsport in July 1863 his left leg was amputated six inches below the knee<sup>134</sup> and he was fitted with an artificial limb. He spent nine months at military hospitals in Annapolis, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was medically discharged in May 1864 with a disability pension.<sup>135</sup>

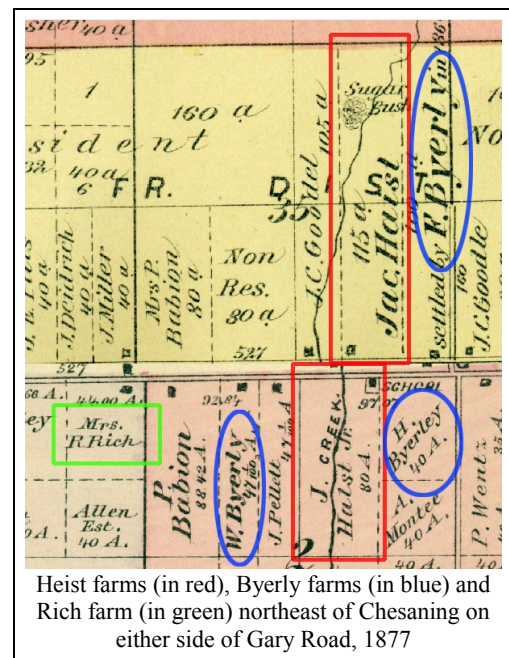
He returned to his father's farm in St. Charles where he worked as a day laborer, but his employment opportunities were limited by the loss of his leg and his lack of an education – he was unable to read or write.<sup>136</sup> Fortunately the pension appears to have supported him financially throughout life, running parallel with or somewhat above the average wage earned at the time.<sup>137</sup>

The artificial limb rubbed annoyingly against the stump of his leg, but his limp was apparently not off-putting, as Jacob had no lack of wives or children in life.

He married Ellen Rourke, a 17-year-old farm girl from an Irish Catholic family in nearby Rush Township when he was 24 years old.<sup>138</sup> They raised three daughters, including the youngest, Mary Louise Heist, who we see at the end of this article. Unfortunately the marriage lasted only seven years, as Ellen died at the age of 24 in 1876.<sup>139</sup>

By 1877 Jacob owned 80 acres across the road from his father's farm northeast of Chesaning.<sup>140</sup> In 1878, at age 33, he married Mary Rich, the 27-year-old daughter of an English-born farmer living four farms down the road.<sup>141</sup> Together they raised Jacob's previous three children and five of their own.

In 1880, at the height of his productive years, the 35-year-old Jacob had two horses, was raising 13 head of cattle and 15 chickens, and producing 500 bushels of corn, 100 of oats, 40 of wheat, 150 of potatoes, and 25 cords of wood on his farm,<sup>142</sup> undoubtedly with the assistance of his four unmarried brothers.



Fifteen years later the 50-year-old Jacob moved to Owosso. His prime years behind him, physical ailments – some of them related to his military service – began to incapacitate him. In an affidavit dated December 1895, two local witnesses observed that “he is in very poor health from his wounded leg and suffers at times from it so he is not able to leave the house and [is] under the care of his wife and sun [sic] who take care of him and wate [sic] on him.”<sup>143</sup> Unfortunately, that son, William, died suddenly of unknown causes in 1899 at 19 years of age.<sup>144</sup>

In 1900 Jacob told the census worker that he was working as a common laborer, while living in a rented house with his wife and three teenage children. Ten years later he was an empty nest pesioner living with his wife Mary. In 1915 Mary died from kidney disease,<sup>145</sup> leaving him a widower for the second time. He moved in with his sister Caroline, a widow living on Owosso's Main Street.<sup>146</sup>

Jacob was nothing if not a survivor. Despite his age and increasing debility, he married once again, this time in 1921 at age 76 to Louisa Braun,<sup>147</sup> a 53-year-old German divorcee working as a “varnish rubber” at a furniture factory.<sup>148</sup> He moved into her house on Adams Street, and she became his caretaker for the balance of his life.

By 1922, “on account of tenderness and soreness of [his] leg stump” he was unable to wear his artificial leg much of the time, and because of rheumatism in his shoulders and legs he was unable to use crutches. He had severe deafness in both ears, only able to hear very loud conversation six inches away. He was prone to falling. Because of these conditions, he required “regular aid and attendance ... in dressing and undressing and in attending to the calls of nature” and could not go out alone.<sup>149</sup>

“He was a nasty old creature ... well, that’s what my dad always said.” That was the recollection of John Bartlett in 2005, when he recounted the story of Jacob Heist, his great-grandfather.<sup>150</sup> One

surmises some nastiness might be expected of a war veteran who was in chronic pain, relied on the assistance of others, and was losing many of his faculties. Wolverines, after all, are not known for their friendly personalities.



Jacob passed away in 1930 at age 85 after a stroke.<sup>151</sup> He was buried in Owosso’s Oak Hill Cemetery beneath a War Veteran’s headstone.<sup>152</sup> He left behind 19 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren,<sup>153</sup> a remarkable testament to his life force.

His was but a small part in the grand saga of the American Civil War, but his story provides a poignant vignette of the war’s impact on an individual, his family, and his community.

To the end, Jacob Heist was a Wolverine.

## Coda

Jacob’s daughter, Mary Louise Heist, was born in 1874 in Chesaning Township. She married James Harvey Bartlett in 1894. James Bartlett was born in 1858 in eastern New York State to a farming family which moved to Michigan when James was ten. He worked as a farmer in Ovid and in other areas around Owosso, and later in life as a railroad shop boilermaker helper in Owosso.

James Bartlett and Mary Louise Heist raised four children in and around Owosso, including their youngest, Lyle Harvey Bartlett, born in 1908.

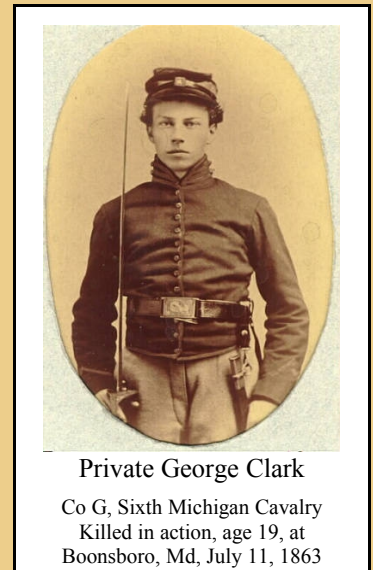
Lyle Bartlett followed in his father’s footsteps, starting out as a boilermaker helper for the railroad and working later as a welder. He married Florence Brown in 1929 and they lived with his widowed mother in her house on Woodlawn Avenue in Owosso, where they raised three children: John, James, and Emily Bartlett.

## In Memoriam

Private George Clark of Lansing was the same age and in the same Company as Private Heist. It's likely they knew each other well. Their lives ran in parallel: enlisting at the same time, training together, riding together, fighting together. They even suffered combat casualties within a week of each other, Clark's unfortunately being fatal.

Looking at Clark's picture<sup>154</sup> is like getting a glimpse of Jacob Heist – the youthfulness, the cavalry uniform, and the military pride and determination written on his face.

Though Private Clark has no progeny to honor his memory, he is not forgotten.



## Notes

An invaluable source of information on Jacob A. Heist was his Civil War pension file from the National Archives – Soldier's Certificate No. 36338, listed in the bibliography below – which I've posted on line. It provides details about his Civil War service and injury, his wives and children, and his physical disabilities as he aged.

Another valuable resource was the James Kidd book, *Personal Recollections Of A Cavalryman With Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade In The Civil War*, also listed below. Kidd was captain of Company E of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry Regiment. As such, he was in the same regiment and even the same battalion as Private Heist of Company G, so their deployments would have been the same and their experiences similar.

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# A History of the Brown-Kerr Family of Ohio


Though not in the direct line of Bartlett ancestors, this Brown family married in to the Bartlett family in 1959 and is included in the family history project.

A clash of East and West occurred in a small Ohio town in 1929. In the same year that America's economy crashed after an exhilarating stock run-up, a young girl's heart broke after an exciting courtship and marriage ended in desertion – and single motherhood – when her western beau was run out of town by her family. It's a story as old as Romeo and Juliet, but played out on the farms, oil fields, and towns of the American Midwest. It's the story of Pauline Kerr and Sanford Brown, the last act of which was a young lad abandoned by this father and neglected by his mother. Fortunately for the lad, however, the drama was not a tragedy but a life lesson in family dynamics and values.

We begin the story in 1906 at the birth of Pauline Kerr and travel forward a bit, though we'll primarily look back at the roots of her family in Ohio.

Her beau, Sanford Brown, was born in New Mexico three years previous to 1906, but since the territory was not yet a state, birth records were not centralized and maintained and his family roots are lost to the desert winds of the American southwest. Hence, we regretfully must take a pass on that side of the family.

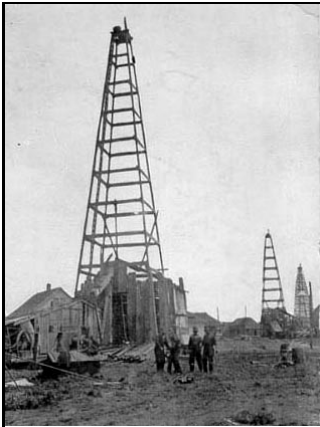
By way of orientation, a family chart, whose foundation on the left is that young lad, William Brown, shows his lineage, below.

	Parents	Grandparents	G-Grandparents	G2-Grandparents	
 <p><b>William Brown</b> 1930-</p>	Pauline Kerr 1906-1983	Elmer Kerr 1866-1942	James Kerr Abt 1826-1887	<i>Born in Ireland</i>	
				<i>Born in New Jersey</i>	
		Hettie Knowles 1827-1918	James Knowles Abt 1805-?		
			Susan Vangelder Abt 1804-?		
		Gertrude White 1880-1944	Albert White 1853-1937	John White	
		Jennie Beal 1854-1932	Mary Mitchell		
	Sanford Brown 1903-?	Thomas Brown			
		Anna Burke			



## Pauline Irene Kerr, 1906-1983

Pauline was born March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1906, in tiny Hoytville, Ohio, to Elmer Kerr – a man with oil in his veins – and his wife Gertrude. Pauline was their oldest daughter, and the second of their five children.



Oil derricks in nearby Robinson, Ill  
Source: Illinois Oil Field Museum, "Penny Postcards from Crawford County"

By the time Pauline was two years old the family was living in Stoy, Illinois, a boom town where oil was discovered in 1906. According to legend, three men from Pennsylvania had leased considerable land in the Stoy area, but didn't know where to drill. With a couple of female companions and a bottle of whiskey, they set off on a buckboard, determined that when the bottle was empty, they would throw it over their shoulders and drill where it landed.<sup>viii</sup> Remarkably, fourteen feet down from the spot, they hit a gusher, and Stoy became a tent and frame house boom town almost overnight, with its county becoming the largest oil producing area in the world between 1908 and 1910.<sup>ix</sup>

According to the 1910 census Earl worked as a laborer in oil leasing in Stoy, where most of his neighbors were working the oil fields. The last three Kerr children, a son and two daughters, were born in the area between 1908 and 1919.

By the 1920 census the family was back in Ohio, living in a rented home on South Maple Street in Bowling Green where Pauline's father was listed as an oil producer. Now fourteen years old,



Pauline (center) and her brother in 1920

Pauline was living with her parents and her brothers Ivan (15) and Elmer (Wattie) (12) and sisters Hettie (8) and Virginia (16 months).

After school, Pauline started working as a milliner, and at the age of 23, in June of 1929, she married a 26 year old salesman, Sanford

Brown, in the village of McClure, a few miles west of Bowling Green. The marriage was short lived. Family legend has it that Sanford was run out of town by Pauline's family – but not before he sired a child. Their son, William Brown, was born in March, 1930, at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Toledo, Ohio, nine months after the wedding. Sanford was out of the picture by then.



*Although there is no basis for the speculation, one wonders if the dissolution of her own marriage in 1928 fueled some of the antipathy felt by Pauline's mother Gertrude toward Sanford Brown and his marriage to her daughter.*

viii American Oil and Gas Historical Society, "Illinois Oil Field Museum," <http://aoghs.org/petroleum-industry-pioneers/illinois-oil-field-museum/>

ix Wikipedia, "Stoy, Illinois," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoy,\\_Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoy,_Illinois)

## The Traveling Salesman

Sanford J. Brown was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico Territory, on April Fool's Day of 1903. His parents, according to his marriage license, were Thomas J. Brown and Anna L. Burke.

Since New Mexico was only a territory, birth records were not centralized, and no record of his birth can be found. Nor can his family be found in the censuses prior to or after his birth. As a result, his lineage can't be traced further back.

Nor can Sanford be found in censuses or other records after his marriage in 1929.

Sanford is like an elusive ghost whose image can only be seen in his son's visage.

In the 1930 census Pauline, a single mother, was living with her divorced mother, Gertrude, in Bowling Green. Her siblings Wattie (Elmer), Hettie, and Virginia were also in the household.

Pauline, who had only one child, apparently was not well suited to motherhood, whether by nature or by circumstance. After she moved to Toledo, her son was picked up, at eight years of age, as a truant and placed in the Lucas County Children's Home where he remained until about age 12 when his grandmother retrieved him. He lived a couple of years with his grandmother in Bowling Green until her death in 1944, when he returned to his mother in Toledo.



*Pauline Kerr*

At age 38, in 1944, nine months after her mother's passing, Pauline married William Rapelje in Toledo, Ohio. William was a mechanical engineer whose family was from Chicago. According to Pauline's son, she married Rapelje so he would have a father. Rapelje brought a daughter to the marriage and the four of them lived together, but the marriage soon failed.

Pauline moved to Akron, Ohio, where a nearby cousin – Paul Dennis, and his wife Mary – took in



*Pauline*

Pauline's teenaged son, William. Thus freed, Pauline married a third time, this time to a younger divorced man, Andy Laszlo, a machinist living in Cleveland. They lived in the East Cleveland suburb of Euclid, Pauline working as a bookkeeper at the White Motor Company which was headquartered in the city. Laszlo died of a stroke at age 68 in 1982.



*Andrew Laszlo*

Upon Laszlo's death, the retired Pauline moved from Cleveland to Sarasota, Florida, to spend her final years in the sun. She died in November of 1983 at age 77. Her remains were transported back to her native Ohio and were interred next to her father's and grandfather's graves in the Bethel Cemetery in Rudolph, Ohio.

Pauline's family had deep roots in Ohio, going back several generations. We'll look at some of them, starting with her parents.

## John James Elmer Kerr, 1866-1942

Pauline's father, John James Elmer Kerr, went by each of those various given names on different documents throughout his life, but he seemed to favor Elmer. He was born in Rudolph, Wood County, Ohio, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866, the fifth and final child, and only son, of the carpenter and farmer James Kerr and his wife Hettie Knowles. His father died when Elmer was 21, and Elmer supported his widowed mother, sister, and niece by working as a day laborer. In the 1900 census one of his neighbors is recorded as an oil field driller, and as there was an oil boom going on in Wood County and

northwestern Ohio, Elmer was most likely in that industry by at least his early 30s.

Elmer, a dapper man with a square face and hair stylishly parted down the middle, married rather late in life, at age 37, to the 23-year-old Gertrude White in Kenton, east of Lima, Ohio, in September, 1903. His marriage license listed him as an oil man. They had two children shortly thereafter, Ivan and Pauline, in Hoytville, Ohio, but with his experience in the oil industry, it was natural for Elmer to move his family 335 miles southwest to the new boom town of Stoy, Illinois, when oil was discovered there in 1906.

After moving back to Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1920, Elmer's life appears to have become unsettled. He seems to have dropped out of the oil industry, as a 1927 Toledo directory lists him as a confectioner working in that city but living in Bowling Green. A year after that his marriage to Gertrude broke up. America's Great Depression of 1929 and the early 1930s wiped out his oil earnings. By the time of his second marriage, to Mary Wannemacher in 1938 at age 71, he listed his occupation as a clerk. He and Mary were residing in Toledo, Ohio, when Elmer died in April of 1942 of broncho pneumonia at the age of 75. His occupation was listed as a retired oil man. After they drained the oil from his veins, he was buried in the Bethel Cemetery in Rudolph, Ohio.



*John James Elmer Kerr*

## Gertrude Alice White, 1880-1944



*Gertrude (White) Kerr*

Pauline's mother, Gertrude, or Gerty as she was known, was born 22 Apr 1880 in Crestline, Ohio, the second of four daughters of Albert and Jennie (nee Beal) White. She was working as a milliner at the time of her marriage to John Elmer Kerr at the age of 23. She followed her oil man husband to live in the undoubtedly primitive conditions of the boom town of Stoy, Illinois, raising five children there until their move back to Bowling Green. After their marriage of 25 years ended in 1928, she continued to raise the family in Bowling Green. Her grandson, William, remembers her as the nurturer in the family. He was living with her when he found her unconscious one morning after she had gone to bed the night before complaining of an ear ache. She died shortly thereafter, in February, 1944, at age 63. She is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in North Baltimore, Ohio, near her parents.

## PAULINE'S GRANDPARENTS ON HER FATHER'S SIDE

### James Kerr, 1826-1887

Carpentry would have been in great demand in the fast-growing Midwest, and James Kerr trained himself to fill that need. He was born in 1826 in Akron, Ohio,<sup>x</sup> to a father who immigrated from Ireland and a mother born in New Jersey.<sup>xi</sup> As such, he was the first native born male we can find as we travel back through the Kerr family line. Unfortunately, we don't know what impelled his father to leave Ireland in the early 1800s, well before the potato famine of the mid-century and its resulting flood of Irish immigrants to America. Nor do we know where or when his father met and married his bride from New Jersey.

x Per his death certificate.

xi According to information he provided the 1880 census enumerator in Hoytville, Ohio.



What we know about James Kerr is that that he moved west from Akron and married Hettie Ann Knowles on Independence Day (a bit of an irony) in 1849 in Pleasant Township [see map at right]. The township was on the eastern cusp of the Great Black Swamp that engulfed much of northwestern Ohio.

And their marriage in 1849 was on the cusp of the time when a determined effort would begin to drain the swamp and settle the previously uninhabitable, impassable, and pest-infested area. In 1850 they started out farming in Pleasant Township; by 1860 James identified himself as a master carpenter there. But by 1866 they were living near Rudolph, Ohio, within the former Great Black Swamp. The early years would have been fraught with clouds of mosquitoes and black flies, ankle-deep mud, and predators. James may have carried a smudge pot around, enveloping himself with smoke to keep the mosquitoes – and malaria – at bay. He continued his carpentry trade, undoubtedly enhanced by a limitless supply of timber from the draining and clearing of the swamp. By 1880 he was living in Hoytville, before the village's official founding. The census shows him as having palsy. He died in 1887 at age 61. His remains are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Rudolph.



## Hettie Ann Knowles, 1827-1918

Hettie (variously spelled Hetty) Knowles, Pauline's grandmother, was born in Pleasant Township, Seneca County, Ohio, in 1827 to James Knowles and Susan Vangelder.<sup>xii</sup> She was raised on her father's farm in Pleasant Twp and married a farmer, James Kerr, at age 21 to begin a family with him there.

In many clans, women are the glue that holds the family together. In 1860 we see Hettie and James living next door to Hettie's parents in Pleasant Township, and ten years later they are living next door to them in Liberty Township, the next county over. Hettie may have been the living embodiment of the expression “a daughter's a daughter the rest of her life.”

Hettie had four daughters, Eveline, Rose, Elisa (Allie), and Nellie Matillie (an almost lyrical name that rolls off the tongue), before finally having a son. Perhaps since she only had one son, she and her husband gave him the handful of names that they'd been hoping to use: John James Elmer Kerr. By the time John was born in 1866 they were living in Liberty Township, Wood County.

Her husband died before Hettie turned 60, but her son stayed on with her until her mid-70s, when he married in 1903. She lived through her 80s with her daughter Allie staying in her house, finally succumbing to “senility” in 1918 at age 91. She was buried in Rudolph's cemetery in December, shortly after the guns of World War I were silenced.

<sup>xii</sup> Information on Hettie's parents' history is scant. Her father James Knowles was born in Ohio in 1805 and married Susan (or Susanne) Valgelder in Muskingum, Ohio in 1822. Susan was born in New Jersey around 1804.

### Albert Mitchell White, 1853-1937

“First came the railroad, then came the town.” The town was Crestline, Ohio, and it was established in 1850 when a rail station was constructed on the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Railroad, or Bee Line, and the town grew up around it.<sup>xiii</sup> Albert was born in Crestline three years later. To this day, Crestline is considered a railroad community.

Albert was the last of five children, and only son, of John White and Mary Mitchell.<sup>xiv</sup> He grew up on his father's farm where he helped with the chores. At 20 years of age, in 1873, he married Jennie Beal

in Crestline and left the farm, raising a family of his own in rented rooms on Scott Street and supporting them as a laborer. Three of his four children were born in Crestline between 1874 and 1880: Lillie, Nettie, and Gertrude (or Abby, as she was reported in the 1880 census). His fourth daughter, Susie, was born in South Dakota and later married a man from that state, indicating the family may have been there a while. But by the 1900 census the family was living in Hoytville, Ohio, a small village near a maintenance siding along the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) arterial rail line. Albert worked for the next twenty or so years on the railroad as a section hand, laborer, and track worker. One could say that his early years in the railroad town of Crestline set him firmly on life's track.



Crestline, Ohio  
Source: *Old Time Crestline, Ohio, "Old Time Crestline Businesses"*

Albert passed away in Hoytville in 1937 at age 83. He is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in nearby North Baltimore, Ohio.

### Jennie A. Beal, 1854-1932

Jennie was born in 1854 in Crawford County, Ohio (home of Crestline) and at age 19 married Albert White. She raised the family while Albert worked the rail lines in Crawford and Wood Counties in Ohio, and for a time – maybe as long as 20 years – in South Dakota.

She raised four daughters, and they dutifully stayed close to mom. In the 1910 census of Hoytville, when Jennie was in her mid-50s, Jennie's daughter Susie, with her husband Carl Jimison and their daughter, lived with Jennie and Albert. And Jennie's daughter Nettie [see inset below] lived next door with her husband Porter Dennis and their three children, including son Paul, who later raised William Brown. As small as Hoytville was – everyone lived within a couple of blocks of each other – the White family was a particularly close-knit unit in the community.

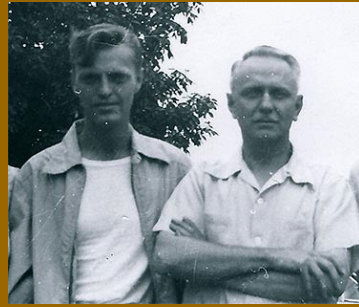
Jennie passed away in Hoytville in 1932, predeceasing her husband by five years. She's buried in Maplewood Cemetery in North Baltimore, Ohio.

<sup>xiii</sup> Wikipedia, “Crestline, Ohio,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crestline,\\_Ohio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crestline,_Ohio).

<sup>xiv</sup> John White was born about 1819 in Pennsylvania. Mary Mitchell was born in Pennsylvania around 1814. They were married in 1839 in Richland County, Ohio, adjacent to but predating Crestline, when she was 25 and he was 20.



Nettie, born in 1877, married Porter Dennis in 1899 and the couple raised their family next door to her parents in Hoytville. Nettie's son Paul Dennis married Mary Crawford and they took in the teenage William Brown, son of Pauline (nee Kerr) Brown. In effect, Paul Dennis was both William Brown's guardian and his first cousin once removed. Paul and Mary settled in the Cuyahoga Falls area north of Akron.



*Bill Brown with his guardian  
Paul Dennis in 1951*

# The Ehrlich/Parker Family Tree

Parents	Grandparents	G-Grandparents	G2-Grandparents	G3-Grandparents	G4-Grandparents	G5-Grandparents	
Billie Elaine Ehrlich 15 Mar 1933 – 29 Nov 2001	Alfred William Ehrlich 6 Sep 1912 – 28 Jun 1992	Carl Ehrlich 19 Apr 1868 – 9 Oct 1927	Henry Ehrlich				
			Eva Krant				
			Heinrich Bitter				
			Catharina Herman ? – 1876-81				
			Elizabeth Bitter 24 Apr 1874 – 7 Aug 1953				
		Irene Ermina Parker 16 Apr 1912 – 9 Oct 1973	Claude William Parker 4 Mar 1890 – ?	George Madison Parker 2 Oct 1858 – 16 Jun 1934	William H. Parker 4 Aug 1819 – 7 Mar 1905	George Parker (27 May 1791 – 27 Dec 1848) Amy Hicks (31 Jul 1801 – ?)	John Hicks & Elizabeth Doty
					Sarah Ann McWilliams 24 Apr 1826 – 24 May 1870	William McWilliams (1788 – 16 Jun 1847) Alasjor Van Wormer (1790 – 9 Sep 1861)	
				Harriett Bell Miller 1866 – 1950	Abraham Miller		
				Emily Lull			
				Frieda R. Bieri 15 Sep 1890 – 25 Oct 1991	Christian Bieri 6 Dec 1863 – 11 Aug 1957	Johannes Bieri 27 Mar 1836 – 16 May 1910	Peter Bieri (12 Oct 1794 – 25 Oct 1849) Magdalena Burki (22 Aug 1799 – 18 Aug 1874)
	Elizabeth Roth 18 Oct 1838 – 25 May 1913						
	Bertha Roth 26 Mar 1864 – 17 Feb 1914		Christian Roth				
			Verona Cerber				

## Carl Ehrlich and Elizabeth Bitter

# The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!

An interesting branch of the Bartlett-Ehrlich family tree is one that grew along the Volga River in Russia.



The word “Russia” raises all kinds of images: nested Matryoshka dolls, autocratic tsars, stout women in babushkas, onion-domed churches, and the кириллица (Cyrillic) alphabet that looks like it was scrawled backwards with a leaky pen. Not much of it, with the possible exception of the stout women, applies to our relations in the old country.

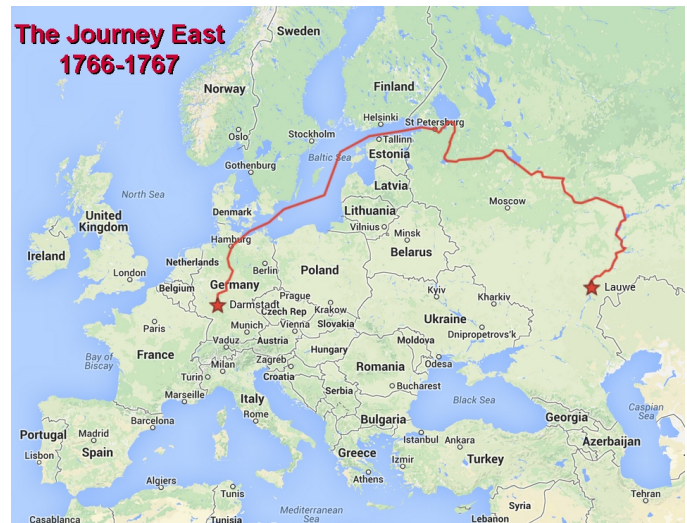
**Carl and Elizabeth (nee Bitter) Ehrlich**, who immigrated to America in 1903, were Volga Germans. Though they lived in Russia along the Volga River they spoke German,<sup>155</sup> worshiped in a Lutheran church, and farmed in a small, tight-knit German community within the Russian Empire.<sup>156</sup>

The story of the family’s arrival – and departure from – Russia is an interesting one.

**GERMANY IN THE MID-1700s** was racked by war, high taxes, economic strife, and routine conscription into military service.<sup>157</sup> Farmers could only rent, rather than own their land, putting them under the thumbs of the landlords.<sup>158</sup> And central Europe was a patchwork of small feuding kingdoms, hardly a place that offered freedom or a stable, peaceful, and economically optimistic future.

To be sure, Russia had problems of her own, with roving tribes ravaging the lower Volga River basin, driving off anyone who attempted to settle there.<sup>159</sup> But Tsarina Catherine the Great had an idea on how to settle her sprawling country and tame the lawless Volga: invite foreigners, particularly Germans, to settle and farm the area.

In 1763 Catherine issued an invitation to resettle in Russia, offering free transportation, no taxes for 30 years, religious freedom, interest-free loans, and no military conscription.<sup>160</sup> Over the next four years, about 30,000 Germans accepted the offer, and almost all of them were steered to the lower



Volga area. The Bitter family moved from Darmstadt, Germany to help establish the town of Lauwe on the east bank of the Volga River.



**ACCORDING TO** a family historian, all of the Bitter families in Lauwe (now known as Yablonovka) are descendants of Peter and Anna Bitter, born in 1706 and 1717 respectively, who were married in Arheilgen near Darmstadt, Germany. Peter and Anna were persuaded by a recruiter to take – along with their four children – a year-long, 2,700 mile journey by land, sea, and river from Germany to St. Petersburg and southeast to the Volga in 1766.<sup>161</sup>





America to join her sister Mary Deiss, who had emigrated the previous year and was living with her husband and children in Wausau, Wisconsin. At various stages of the journey Carl identified his occupation as joiner, laborer, and farmer.

Carl and Elizabeth had three more children in Wausau between 1904 and 1910 while Carl worked as a laborer at a veneer factory. They originally lived with Elizabeth's sister Mary Deiss and her family; later moved into their own home; and subsequently shared their house with Elizabeth's step-mother Christina and Elizabeth's sister Anna Johannes and her family – for a multi-generation household of twelve.

Carl and Elizabeth moved to Michigan in 1911 to try their hand at farming, and in 1912, at the birth of their fifth child, Alfred, were living in Bennington Township, just south of Owosso.<sup>167</sup>

Three years later their sixth and last child, Theodore, was born in Owosso, where Carl was now working at a furniture factory. In the 1920 census he was a gluer at a factory, and by the time of his death in 1927 he had worked at various furniture factories in town.<sup>168</sup> He died at age 59 of cancer, from which he'd suffered for five months. All of his children were still living at home. He was buried in Owosso's Oak Hill Cemetery.

Elizabeth Bitter lived another twenty-six years, raising the last of the children to adulthood. She passed away in 1953 at the age of 79 after having suffered strokes that left her blind and partially paralyzed. She was also buried in Oak Hill Cemetery after a Lutheran service.



The Ehrlich family circa 1904 in Wisconsin (from left): Carl, Rose, Edward, Elizabeth \*\*

*A genetic trait Carl and Elizabeth seem to have left their progeny is hair loss. The photograph above shows that neither of them had much hair. At least three of their four sons went bald. Occurrences of baldness also appear widely in their grandsons and great-grandsons. One of life's ironies is that Carl's youngest two sons became barbers by profession.*

It's estimated that by 1920 over 115,000 Volga Germans were living in the United States.<sup>169</sup> Carl and Elizabeth's family were part of a wave of immigrants looking to restore their freedom and Germanic way of life. Most of the Volga Germans settled in the mid-western plains states, finding familiarity there with their farms in the Russian steppes. Some settled in the towns and cities of the mid-west. The Ehrlichs established a presence in the Owosso area, and their descendents are now spread throughout the United States.

## The Russian Families<sup>170</sup>

<u>Parents</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>
Heinrich EHRlich & Eva Krant	Carl	1868	Elizabeth Bitter
Heinrich BITTER & Katharina Hermann	Anna Heinrich Elizabeth	1864 1866 1874	Johann Johannes Paulina Reifschneider Carl Ehrlich
& Christina (nee unknown)	Maria August Elizabeth	1876 1882 1885	Carl Deiss Catharina Markus Konrad Bitter

## The Next Generation

<u>Parents</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Married</u>
Carl EHRlich & Elizabeth BITTER	Theresa (Rose) Edward Robert Bertha Alfred Theodore	1902 1904 1907 1910 1912 1915	Lauwe, Russia Wausau, Wisconsin Wausau, Wisconsin Wausau, Wisconsin Bennington, Mich. Owosso, Michigan	Henry Dudley Eula Watson  Kenneth Schultz Irene Parker Ruth Noe

## Pilgrim's Progress:

# Edward Doty the Opportunist

Edward Doty knew what he wanted, and he wasn't afraid to fight for it. Whether you thought that was an admirable quality depended on which side of the sword or property line you stood on.

Being a passenger on the *Mayflower* in 1620 and one of the ten to first to set foot on Plymouth shore makes him one of the original European settlers of New England. He boarded the ship as

**Four** religious groups in early 17<sup>th</sup> century England

- **Catholic**
- **English Church**
- **Puritans** – members of the English Church who were opposed to certain formal ceremonies and services
- **Pilgrims** (or Separatists) – wanted to organize a separate Church, wishing to break away entirely from the Roman Church or the English Church headed by the King. The Separatist movement gained traction in northern England, but some of them fled England for Holland in 1609 under persecution by English authorities.

establish a colony in the New World. The *Speedwell* wasn't seaworthy, however, and her passengers boarded the *Mayflower* to continue the journey west from the port of Plymouth, England in September.



Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930) "The Mayflower Compact, 1620"



The *Mayflower* Exploratory Party included Edward Doty

a young man of about 21 years, one of two indentured servants working for the "merchant adventurer" Steven Hopkins, a tanner and tavern keep.<sup>171</sup> The *Mayflower's* 102 passengers were primarily Pilgrims or Pilgrim sympathizers, those looking to practice Christianity independent of the Pope and of the English throne. By all evidence, however, Edward Doty wasn't a keen practitioner of the faith.

The *Mayflower* set off from London in July of 1620, intending to meet up at Southhampton, England, with a smaller ship, the *Speedwell*, from Holland carrying 20 Pilgrims who had been living in exile from England and were looking to

### The Mayflower Compact

*...We whose names are under-written, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James ... Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine our selves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.*

The ocean journey took 65 days: two months of cramped quarters and privation that weakened her passengers through malnourishment and disease. By the time the ship dropped anchor near Cape Cod in November, there were rumblings of discontent, motivating the party's leaders to draft a covenant for binding and governing the colony. Edward Doty was among the 41 signers of the

Mayflower Compact, one of America's historic self-governance documents.

Edward was also among the ten men who set out from the ship in December under Captain Myles Standish to explore the coast to look for a suitable place to establish a settlement and to secure the party from hostile Indians. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, they settled on Plymouth, the site of an abandoned Indian village with nearby corn fields.

The first winter was disastrous for the colony. Over half of the people died, including most of its leaders. Landing as they did in December, it wasn't until the following summer before fruits and



J. W. Smith, "Landing of the Pilgrims in the Year 1620," engraving, ca. 1823  
(<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/settlement/text1/BradfordPlymouthPlantation.pdf>)

vegetables were widely available for nourishment. Furthermore, the community was isolated from manufactured goods, such as clothing, until it could be replenished by ships from England, the first arriving in November of the following year.<sup>172</sup>

A communal property arrangement was initially established, something that was abandoned three years later when every adult male was granted land according to the size of his family – Edward only getting one acre since he was then unmarried and living in the employ of Steven Hopkins.<sup>xv</sup> In 1635 he married the 16-year-old Faith Clarke, whose family had come to Plymouth in 1634 on the *Francis*.

Edward, apparently hot blooded and contentious, had the distinction of committing the second criminal act in New England, a duel he fought with sword and dagger against his fellow servant, Edward Leister in 1621. They wounded each other in the hand and thigh – their punishment was set as binding their heads and feet together and going 24 hours without food or drink. Their master, Steven Hopkins, interceded on their behalf and they were released after an hour.<sup>xvi</sup>

That was not to be the end of Edward Doty's legal problems. Over the twenty years from 1632 to 1651, he appeared before the General Court 28 times concerning issues of assault and battery, theft, trespass, and fraudulent land and property deals, occasionally as the plaintiff but more often as the defendant.<sup>173</sup>

Either despite or because of his litigious nature, he accumulated considerable land and possessions, passing four land parcels, his 'dwelling house', livestock, and tools to his survivors after his death in 1655.<sup>174</sup> He was buried in Plymouth's first cemetery on Burial Hill after about 56 years of life.

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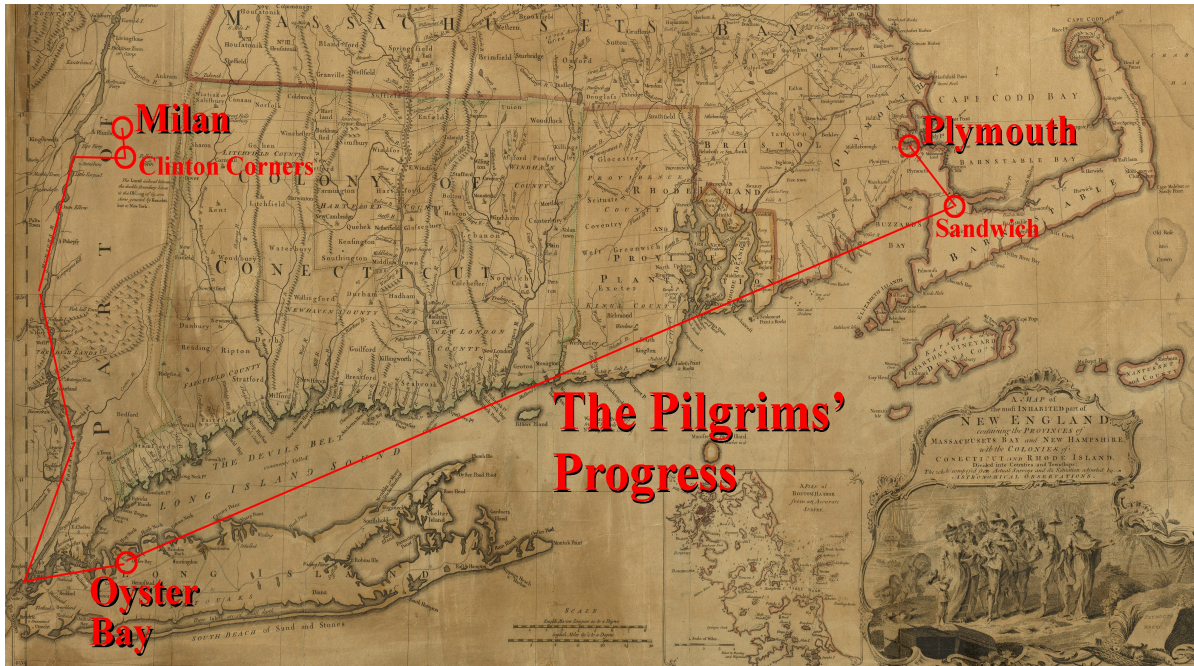
xv Steven Hopkins was a colorful and hot-blooded character himself. Born in 1581 in Hampshire, England, he had earlier sailed to the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, been shipwrecked in Bermuda and charged with mutiny, and served under Captain James Smith in Jamestown, Virginia, from 1610-1614. (Wikipedia, "Stephen Hopkins," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Hopkins\\_%28Mayflower\\_passenger%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Hopkins_%28Mayflower_passenger%29))

xvi The ill-fated Edward Leister left Plymouth in the spring of 1621 on board the *Elizabeth* after having fought his duel with Edward Doty. He was murdered by Indians on March 22, 1622 in the vicinity of Jamestown, Virginia. (*Cape Cod Series Vol. II: History and Genealogy of the Mayflower Planters and First Comers to Ye Olde Colonie*, p157)





It's believed he died around 1728, at or after the age of 79.<sup>177</sup> He was likely buried in the Episcopal Cemetery at Oyster Bay, though no stone identifies his grave.



“A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of New England, 1755” Boston Public Library

### **Samuel Doty (1695-1740) and Charity Mudge (ca. 1695-ca. 1740)**

Isaac and Elizabeth Doty's last son, **Samuel**, was born around 1695 at Oyster Bay, Long Island.<sup>178</sup> As mentioned in the footnote of the previous page, his father deeded him a farm next to his brothers' in Littleworth in 1723 when he was 28 years old. By then he was married to Charity Mudge, also an Oyster Bay native, and starting a family of eight children, first four daughters, then four sons.<sup>179</sup>

Samuel and his wife were members of the Friend's Meeting,<sup>180</sup> or Quakers. The Quakers were another dissenting Christian group who broke off from the Church of England, starting their movement in the mid seventeenth century, with a number of them emigrating to New England in the early 1680s.<sup>181</sup>

### **Elias Doty (ca. 1732-1806) and Amy Dean (1735-1782)**

Samuel and Charity Doty's last child, **Elias**, was born on the farm at Littleworth, Oyster Bay. Ethan Allen Doty, in his book *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, believes Elias married Amy Dean in the Oyster Bay area around 1755, being about 23 years of age, with the bride being about three years younger.<sup>182</sup>

Upon or shortly after marriage they moved a hundred miles up the Hudson River with Elias's brother Charles, settling in Clinton Township, Dutchess County, New York.<sup>183</sup> The area was seven miles to the east of the Hudson River. As Clinton was first settled in 1755,<sup>184</sup> Elias was among the original settlers in the area. According to the preface to *The History of Dutchess County, New York*, “the Quakers, forming a large element in the settlement of the eastern [which includes Clinton] and northeastern bounds of the county, were among those who came from New England, seeking to escape the intolerance of their narrow minded neighbors, and to secure freedom for religious opinion and expression and practice...”<sup>185</sup> There is no known record of Elias's reason for moving here, but given

that Elias “was an active member of the Quaker Meeting at the Stone Meeting House, [and] a friend of Elias Hicks,<sup>xviii</sup> the preacher, who was a frequent visitor at his house,”<sup>186</sup> it seems conceivable that the family moved for the same reason as many of their Quaker neighbors.

### Reminiscence of a Young Girl at a Clinton Corner’s Sunday Meeting, circa 1870



*Clinton Corners's Meeting House, built 1782*

“Most of the villagers were Quakers. ...

“Thither we would wend every “First Day” [Sunday] morning at eleven, and sit with folded hands through a long silent hour waiting till two old men in the “Amen corner” furtively exchanged inquiring and assenting glances, whereupon they would shake hands, which was a signal that Meeting was ‘out;’ and there ensued a spontaneous rising, a general hand-shaking and exchanges of civilities among the small assembly...

“I once asked Aunt Sally what good there could be in going to church when there was no service. She answered, ‘Thee can just sit still and think good thoughts.’ ”

*(The Creek Meeting House, by George Greenwood)*

Dutchess County, like all of New England, was caught up in the events of the Revolutionary War. In 1776 the British massed 35,000 troops and 500 ships off of New York, forcing General Washington and the patriots in New York to abandon the city. The New York Provincial Congress moved north to White Plains, then to Kingston, along the Hudson River. Kingston, ten miles from Clinton Corners, became the New York state capitol, and the British set out to destroy it in 1777, coming up the Hudson with force. The British raid and Revolutionary War set back the completion of the Clinton Corners’s Meeting house, begun in 1777, until 1782.

Some Doty family genealogists believe Elias Doty served in the Revolutionary War, which, if you consider the time (he would have been in his mid-to-late 40s) and his location in New York State would make sense. But if you are thinking of putting in an application to the Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution, I’d suggest you save the cost of the stamp. Most of the family genealogists base his participation in the war on New York muster rolls, which don’t specify the age or residence of the soldier. Or they cite the Revolutionary War pension application of an Elias Doty of Dutchess County, New York. That application cannot be our Elias’s because the applicant’s birth year is 28 years later, his birth place is different, was supported by his brother Samuel’s statements (our Elias didn’t have a brother with that name), and most tellingly, was submitted after our Elias’s death.<sup>187</sup> Besides which, Quakers were noted pacifists and would have avoided serving in war.

Elias was, however, “an extensive and greatly respected farmer.”<sup>188</sup> He and his wife Amy had ten children before her death in 1782. He then married Hannah (nee Palmer) Aiken, a widow, and had four more children with her. Elias died in 1806, aged 74, and was buried near the Stone Meeting House in Clinton Corners next to his first wife Amy.<sup>189</sup>

### Elizabeth Doty (1763-1824) and John Hicks (1761-1834)

Elias and Amy Doty’s middle child, their fifth, **Elizabeth**, was born in Clinton, New York, in October of 1763. She married John Hicks in Clinton in March 1780 at the age of 16. John was only two years older and had also been born in Clinton, of Joseph and Catherine (nee Filkins) Hicks. Together John

<sup>xviii</sup>Elias Hicks was a traveling Quaker preacher from Jericho on Long Island, adjacent to Oyster Bay. It is possible Elias Doty and Hicks knew each other from before Doty’s move north. Hicks was a major figure in the church and caused a rift in the Society of Friends between the liberal Hicksite and conservative Orthodox members. Hicks discounted the virgin birth of Christ, and dismissed the concepts of original sin and the Devil. He was a believer in the quietist tradition, which focused on the individual’s quiet contemplation of the Inner Light.



and Elizabeth had nine children between 1781 and 1806, many or all of them born in Milan, New York, where they had settled eleven miles north of Clinton Corners.

In the 1820 Federal census Elizabeth and John, then in their late 50s, were listed as living next to their grown children Martin, John Jr., and Amy, who was by then married to George Parker. Also in the area were John's brother and a nephew.

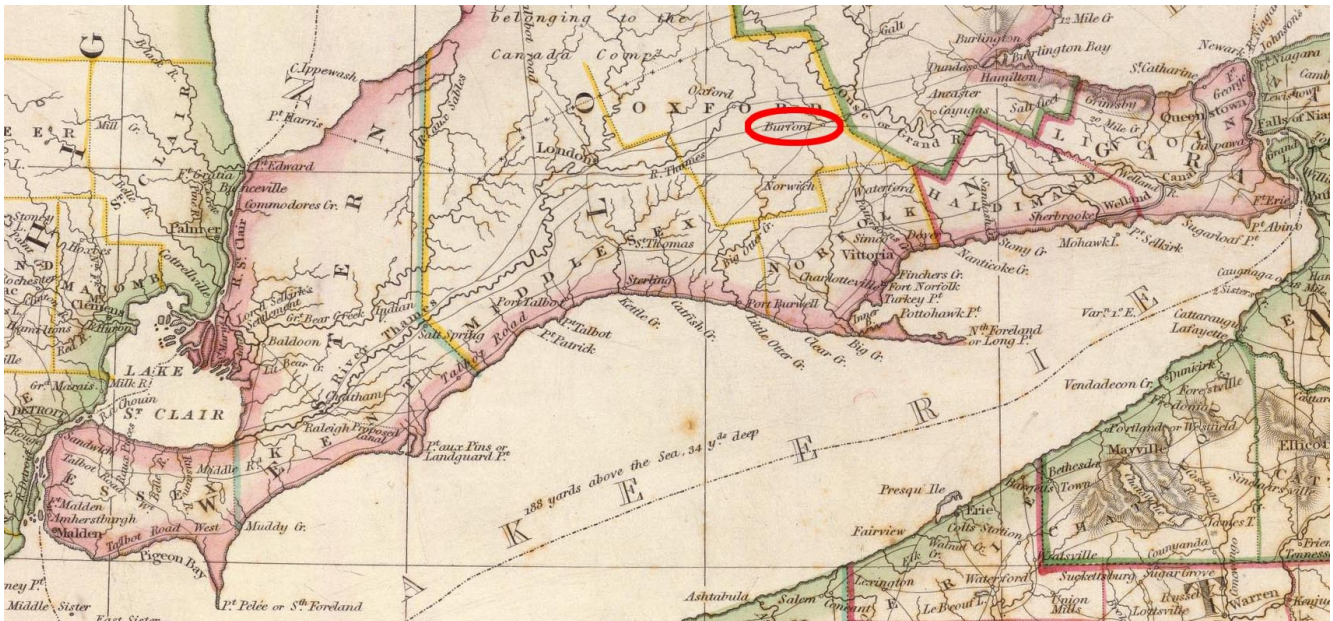
It seem the Doty and Hicks families were close. Two of Elizabeth's sisters married two of John's brothers.

Elizabeth died in 1824 at age 60; John died ten years later. They are both buried in the nearly abandoned, overgrown Yeoman's Cemetery just outside of Milan near Lafayetteville.

## Amy Hicks (1801-1896) and George Parker (1791-1848)

Elias and Amy (nee Doty) Hicks's third daughter and seventh child was Amy Hicks, born in July of 1801 in Milan. In August, 1818, at seventeen years of age, she married George Parker, ten years her senior, also from New York. As recorded by the August, 1820 census they were living next door to her parents with their year-old son William.

Some time between 1831 and 1834<sup>190</sup> George and Amy moved with their five children to Burford Township in present-day Ontario, Canada, and had three more children there, the last being born in 1841.



Burford (circled), from 1832 map of Upper Canada (Ontario), from the David Rumsey Map Collection (<http://www.davidrumsey.com>)

Burford Township was located along the military highway (variously known as Governor's Road or Dundas Street) – a route constructed in the last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that ran through southern Ontario from Lake Ontario west to Detroit. The first land grant in Burford was awarded in 1794.<sup>xix</sup>

xix The deed was to Abraham Dayton, a New York resident and member “of a religious sect of free thinkers, undecided characters, and disgruntled members of other Christian bodies,” who were seen by their neighbors as religious fanatics. The sect wanted to establish a ‘New Canaan’ in Canada’s interior and Dayton was selected amongst them to find a place to set up their new colony. He found “beautiful open park like plains” in Burford Township and liked it so much he took up the land himself and abandoned the sect. (Major R. Cuthbertson Muir, *The Early Political and Military History of Burford, La Cie D'imprimerie Commerciale, Quebec, 1913, p 28*)

The Parker family lived near the William and Alice (nee Van Wormer) McWilliams family – in an area just southeast of the small village of Burford<sup>191</sup> – as evidenced by three of the Parker children marrying three of the McWilliams children between 1839 and 1845.<sup>xx</sup>



*Old Mill Dam at Stuart's Flats on Whiteman's Creek, Burford*

The McWilliams family had also come from New York State, but twenty years previously, some time between 1814 and 1817.<sup>192</sup> At that time the township only contained about 100 dwellings and had a population of 100, and William McWilliam was the original purchaser of the land he settled on.<sup>193</sup> There's no indication George Parker bought any land himself.

After about a decade's stay in Canada, the Parker family moved farther west – to western Michigan – in the mid 1840s.

The Parker family and four of the McWilliams family settled in the Lowell/Vergennes area of Michigan just northeast of Grand Rapids, Michigan. At that time, "The roads were blazed trees and bridle paths, Indian trails, and the dugouts, or canoe, of the Indians on the old Owashtenong ... the Grand [River]. The cowbells and the sound and ring of the woodsman and pioneers ax was familiar music in those early 40's."<sup>194</sup>

George passed away in 1848 at age 57 and is buried in the Fox's Corner Cemetery in Vergennes. Amy remarried between 1850 and 1860 to the widower farmer Lyman Lull, living in Lowell, who in turn passed away in 1873. Amy remained in Lowell and passed away herself in 1896 at age 95. She is buried next to her first husband, George, in the Fox's Corner Cemetery.

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**The story of the Doty/Hicks/Parker family continues in the next chapter.**

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xx As confirmed in records found on Ancestry.com, Elizabeth Parker married William McWilliams (junior) in 1839, William Parker married Sarah Ann McWilliams in 1840, and Eunich Parker married John McWilliams in 1845.

## William Parker (1819-1905) and Sarah Ann McWilliams (1826-1870)

William Parker was the first-born of George Parker and Amy Hicks. He was born in Milan, New York, in August of 1819,<sup>195</sup> a year after his parents' marriage. Until he was a teenager he lived in Milan, but moved with his family in the early 1830s to Burford, Canada, where he met Sarah Ann McWilliams, a farmer's daughter, and married the 14-year-old when he was 21.

Sarah was the ninth of William and Alice McWilliams's twelve children, born in Burford in 1826.<sup>196</sup>

William and Sarah were married in the village's newly built Congregational Church by the Reverend James Nall a week before Christmas in 1840.<sup>197</sup> Reverend Nall could preach for hours if the topic inspired him. He once spent four and a half hours denouncing the Book of Mormon as a forgery; when a Mormon preacher stood to defend the book, Nall spent another two hours hammering his points home to the audience.<sup>198</sup>



*Congregational Church, Burford, Ont.  
Erected 1839*

In the mid 1840s William and his wife Sarah and their two small daughters joined William's parents, the rest of the Parker family, and a couple of the McWilliams sons on a move to western Michigan, settling in Vergennes Township and the neighboring town of Lowell, about 20 miles east of Grand Rapids. Settlement of this area only began ten years previously, with one family noted as having arrived at Detroit from New York and setting out on a small vessel to travel up Lake Huron to Mackinaw, and then down Lake Michigan to the Grand River, where they poled and canoed their household goods on rafts until they reached the Lowell area.<sup>199</sup>

William farmed 80 acres in Vergennes Township along the west side of present day Parnell Avenue between Vergennes and Bennett Streets.<sup>200</sup> He developed the farm over the years, at first only cultivating 18 of the acres and raising 5 cattle, 9 sheep, and 5 swine.<sup>201</sup> By 1880 he had all the acreage under production, 66 of them tilled, 13 in pasture or orchard, and one in woods. He was growing corn, oats, wheat, and potatoes; had 15 cows, 8 swine, 28 chickens; harvested 80 apple trees; and was producing 30 cords of wood.<sup>202</sup>



He and Sarah raised their family of nine children (three more apparently died at childbirth or infancy) until Sarah's passing in 1870 at age 44 of apoplexy (stroke).<sup>203</sup> Sarah left a husband and six children still at home, ages six to nineteen, all but one of them daughters. Sarah was buried half a mile down Vergennes Street at the Krum Cemetery, under her maiden name.

With a house full of children and a farm to care for, it's not surprising that William remarried the next year, in the Congregational Church of Lowell, to Anna (nee Baker) Warwick, a widow about his own age. When she died, in 1899, she was buried in the Krum Cemetery under the Warwick surname.

William himself died at age 85 of 'senility' in 1905,<sup>204</sup> having outlived both of his wives. He remained on his farm in Vergennes to the end, his son George having taken over the farm's operations.<sup>205</sup> He was buried next to his first wife, Sarah McWilliams, in Krum Cemetery.

One of William's brothers died that same year, 1905, in Lowell. This brother George was a merchant



in town, a purveyor of “dry goods, clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes, etc.,”<sup>206</sup> the ‘etc’ perhaps including snake oil. For in an obituary for both brothers, delivered at the Old Settlers Association of Ada, the narrative went:

*Their father was born in England and belonged to the royal family. The royal blood of England coursed their veins, and they could trace their generations back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century – a member of the family who was knighted in the reign of Cour De Leon the Lion Hearted (the 1<sup>st</sup>) [King Richard I of England, 1157-1199].*<sup>207</sup>

The cow poop may have been pretty deep on William Parker’s farm in Vergennes, but I suspect not near as deep as it was in the shop of his brother George, who I’m guessing was an unabashed self promoter. Both of their death certificates confirmed that their father was born in New York state. Although that doesn’t exclude the possibility of royalty somewhere in their bloodlines, it seems unlikely that sons of former privilege ended up in such moderate circumstances in the relative wilderness of Michigan. The only evidence of royalty I’ve witnessed in the family is the kind of pain sometimes felt in the nether regions.

## George M. Parker (1858-1934) and Harriet Miller (1867-1950)

William and Sarah Parker’s second-youngest child, George Madison Parker, was born in October 1858 in Vergennes Township,<sup>208</sup> twelve years before his mother’s death. He was one of their two sons. George was to live a life of boom and bust.

George worked as a farm laborer on his father’s farm through at least the age of 21.<sup>209</sup> Some time thereafter, though, he was enticed by the Great Dakota Boom of 1878-1887 to try his hand at a living, probably in farming, in Groton, South Dakota.



The Great Dakota Boom was sparked by the enticement of free land granted under the Homestead Act of 1862. It was aided by abundant precipitation during the boom years in this semiarid region, as well as high crop yields due to the weather and improvements to agricultural technology. Furthermore, railroad companies built a network of lines that made immigration easier and facilitated the movement of crops to market. The population of South Dakota increased from eleven thousand to a whopping 329 thousand between 1870 and 1890.<sup>210</sup> George Parker was among them.

Just before Christmas in 1888, George returned temporarily to Vergennes to marry Harriet (Hattie) Miller, the daughter of Abraham Miller and Emily Lull.<sup>xxi</sup>

George moved his bride to South Dakota, where they had two sons, Claude and Don, in 1890 and 1895 respectively. But high times in the Dakotas were not to last. The plains were good primarily for a single crop, wheat; and with the influx of farmers during the boom, overproduction caused wheat

xxi If the Lull name sounds familiar, that’s because we mentioned earlier that George M. Parker’s grandmother, Amy (nee Hicks) Parker married widower Lyman Lull after the passing of her first husband, George Parker. One of Lyman’s children from his previous marriage, Emily (born 1835 in Vermont), married Abraham Miller, and their daughter was Harriet. In effect, George M. Parker and his new wife Harriet Miller had common step-grandparents.

prices to decline. Mother nature added more woe, as the plains entered a drought that lasted from 1887 through the mid 1890s. As a consequence, the area experienced the Great Dakota Bust from 1887-1900,<sup>211</sup> and George, like many of his neighbors, threw in the towel and left the area. George returned to Vergennes by at least 1900, when he was back on his father's farm, this time running it for his elderly father.<sup>212</sup>

Unlike his parents and grandparents, who had large families and many hands to help with cultivation and livestock, George only had two children, and in 1900 was trying to maintain an 80-acre farm with an 80-year-old father and two sons just five and ten years old. He held on to the farm until at least 1907, but within the next three years, in his early 50s, he moved into the town of Lowell and went to work in a real estate office.<sup>213</sup> In his early 60s he was working as a laborer in real estate;<sup>214</sup> by his early 70s, in 1930, he was a real estate salesman.<sup>215</sup> These were undoubtedly tough times – the country was in a Great Depression – not good conditions for a real estate career, or perhaps many others. But he and Harriet were fortunate to own a small house on Riverside Drive, with a beautiful view of the Flat River, that sustained them as they aged.<sup>216</sup> He passed away in 1934 at the age of 75.<sup>217</sup> She followed in 1950 at age 83.<sup>218</sup> They are buried side-by-side in Lowell's Oakwood Cemetery.

## **Claude Parker (1890-1956) and Freida Bieri (1890-1991)**

Claude is a transitional figure, segueing from the agricultural to the industrial age. He was also a man of personal transitions, holding different jobs and living in different houses at every turn of the decade when the census takers came around.

Born in South Dakota where his father George M. Parker had moved during the Great Dakota Boom, his family was back to its roots in Vergennes by the time George was ten, where he was living with his parents and brother on his grandfather's farm and attending school. He made it through the ninth grade,<sup>219</sup> an average schooling for his generation, and went to work by age 20<sup>220</sup> as a barber in Lowell.

He married Freida Bieri on her twentieth birthday, September 15, 1910.<sup>221</sup>

In 1912 they had their first child, Irene, in Lowell.<sup>222</sup> In 1916 they moved to Owosso, 60 miles east, where they had their second and last child, George.<sup>223</sup>

In 1917 Claude was working as a press man at the J. F. Fields Manufacturing Company;<sup>224</sup> in 1919 he was a blacksmith; in 1920 a railroad striker (track layer); in 1921 a blacksmith again; in 1924 a bakery truck driver; in 1928 "police;" in 1930 a woodworker at the Owosso Planing Mill and the same year a laborer in a plumbing shop.<sup>225</sup>

Why he hopped jobs so frequently isn't known, but it could indicate he was an unreliable or otherwise problematic worker. It likely put considerable stress on his marriage, because in 1933 his wife Freida divorced him for "non support", an action he didn't contest and for which no alimony was paid.

In 1936 Claude married Ivah (nee Countryman) Boles, who divorced her previous husband in 1935 for "extreme and repeated cruelty and non-support."<sup>226</sup> Claude and Iva didn't have children together. Claude continued to job hop, working in 1940 as a laborer on road construction; in 1941 a factory worker at W. R. Roach & Co.<sup>xxii</sup>; in 1942 as an employee in a water softener company; and in 1945 with the Renown Stove Company. He passed away in 1956, at age 66. His passing wasn't noted in the newspaper; his grave site isn't known. It's almost as if he was a ghost even before his death.

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xxii The W. R. Roach Canning Company sorted, cooked, and canned corn, peas, and tomatoes. The company hired prisoners from Camp Owosso – the WWII German POW camp five miles west of town – in 1944/45.

Claude Parker's first wife, **Freida Bieri**, was born in 1890 in Grattan Center, in the township just north of Vergennes, to Christian and Bertha (nee Roth) Bieri [see next chapter on the Bieri family]. She lived with her parents on various farms until her late teens, when she moved into the town of Lowell and worked as a servant in the household of Anton Hill, noted in the 1910 census as a man of his "own means."

In Lowell she met Claude Parker, who was living with his parents and working as a barber. They married in 1910 and later moved to Owosso, where they raised their two children. She worked as a clerk in the C. H. Gorte Grocery store in 1921<sup>227</sup> but seemed to stay home after that.<sup>228</sup> In the 1930 census the children were 18 and 13 years old, and Freida was working as a seamstress out of their rented house, perhaps to supplement Claude's unsteady income (the census indicated he was presently not at work). In 1932 she was a maid, and apparently not living with Claude.<sup>229</sup> The next year she divorced him, and the year after that was remarried.

She wed Milton Growe, the Owosso city assessor, in 1934, when she was 44 and he was 59. Milton was born in Vernon (just south of Owosso), Michigan, in 1875 and had married his first wife, Lena Mehlenbacher in 1899. They had one daughter, Beatrice. Lena passed away in 1933. Milton was the Owosso city assessor for 17 years, and its treasurer for three. He was the second Michigan president of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of which he remained a member until death. He was also a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Knights of Pythias, as well as a member of the First Methodist Church.<sup>230</sup> In short, he was as stable as Claude had been mercurial.



Milton died in 1952 after his 18 year marriage with Freida. Three years later Freida, aged 64, married George Stanton, a widower two years her senior. George was Owosso's first Buick and Dodge dealer, and was associated with the Owosso Savings and State Savings banks. He was another stable figure in the community and her life, but sadly enough, died seven years after their marriage, in 1961, of a heart condition while they were living in retirement in Cortez, Florida.<sup>231</sup>

Freida at 71 years was once a divorcee and twice a widow. She alternated time in Florida with a home in Owosso and family in Michigan for a number of years before succumbing to death in 1991 at the age of 101.

I had the pleasure of meeting her once, in the early 1980s, when she stayed with my wife, children, and me for a week in Michigan. She was mentally sharp and physically active, and with her sunny personality, a pleasure to be around. Photographs of her show her to be warm and happy to be with family. She was socially active throughout her life, founding the Eagles Auxiliary in Owosso in 1947, and was an active member of the Owosso Masonic Auxiliary, Owosso Pythian Sisters, and the Sunny Shores Garden Club in Bradenton, Florida, as reflected in the society pages of those towns' newspapers.<sup>232</sup>



*Freida, center, in 1969  
with daughter Irene and Al Ehrlich*

Her body was buried in Lowell's Oakwood Cemetery, next to her parents and a brother who died in the Second World War. Her Bieri family's story is given in the next chapter.



### **Post Script**

Freida's daughter Irene married Alfred (Al) Ehrlich in 1932. Freida and Al's first daughter, **Billie Ehrlich**, married **James (Jim) Bartlett** in 1953. The children of James and Billie Bartlett are therefore eleventh generation descendents of Edward Doty, Mayflower passenger of 1620.

# The Bieri Family of Switzerland

The Bieri family has deep roots in the mountainous Berne Canton of central Switzerland. Genealogists have traced the family line back to 1569—with all of the Bieri men, and many of their spouses, having been born in or around the village of Schangnau.<sup>233</sup>



*Schangnau Church in Summer*

The Schangnau area, nestled in the Emme River valley, is rural, mountainous, and agricultural: crops were raised on the valley floor and mountain pastures were used for seasonal cattle-grazing. The Schangnau population of roughly one thousand were Swiss German<sup>xxiii</sup> speaking and Protestant. Just to the east was the Canton of Lucerne, where Catholicism was practiced. Berne made Protestant Schangnau into a market town in the mid-1600s to offset the nearby Catholic market town of Escholzmatt.<sup>234</sup>

The Bieri families were large, ranging from eight to fourteen children and averaging ten over the generations.<sup>235</sup> Based on family sizes, one can

speculate that the Bieri clan consisted of families of farmers over the years.

Our story starts with the Bieri emigrants who left their homeland to seek opportunities in the New World. Therefore we start with **Johannes** Bieri, born in Schangnau in 1836, and his wife **Elizabeth** Roth, who was born in the village of Eriz, nine miles southwest of Schangnau, in 1838.

**Johannes'** parents were Peter Bieri and Magdalena Burki, both born near the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>236</sup>

Johannes was the eighth of eleven children. His wife, **Elizabeth**, was the second of thirteen. Her parents were Johannes Roth and Anna Gerber.<sup>237</sup> Both of **Elizabeth's** parents' surnames were strongly associated with the Eriz area; both reappear in the Bieri family history.

**Johannes** and **Elizabeth** had ten children, eight of whom show up in this photograph (at right) taken of the family in Switzerland around 1878.<sup>238</sup>



*Johannes and Elizabeth (nee Roth) Bieri Family. Back and standing: Elizabeth, Susanna, John, Christian; Middle: Anna, parents Johannes and Elizabeth, Karl; Front: Fanny and Rosa.*

xxiiiSwiss German is a dialect so distinct, when it is broadcast in Germany it requires German sub-titles. Most Swiss can also read and write straight German, which they learn in school, but prefer to speak Swiss German. (Wikipedia, "Swiss German.")

Although large families would be advantageous for farming, the ever-increasing population in Switzerland put a strain on the limited agricultural land, and the country had a continual stream of emigration during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with peaks coming after famines or during economic adversity. The 1880s produced a particularly heavy outpouring of emigrants.<sup>xxiv</sup> The government encouraged this migration, with local councils offering financial incentives of up to six month's worth of wages.<sup>239</sup> Apart from the financial incentives—and it's unknown whether the Bieri family received any—a rail station erected in 1875 a few miles to the north of Schangnau would make the trip to the port of Le Harve on the coast fairly convenient for the family, and by 1880 steamship passages across the Atlantic considerably reduced transit times. The Bieri family rode the wave of Swiss emigration in 1883<sup>240</sup> and established a new family farm in central Michigan, in Vergennes Township near the town of Lowell. **Johannes** was 47 years old when he moved his wife, children, their spouses, and his grandchildren to America.



*The Bieri home in Schangnau, a typical chalet*

He was not alone, however. He emigrated with his younger brother Samuel's family. Samuel had married Susanne Roth, **Elizabeth** Roth's sister. Also in the emigration party were **Elizabeth's** 17-year-old brother, Carl Roth,<sup>xxv</sup>. In effect, the Bieri's and Roth's established a small Swiss colony in Vergennes.<sup>241</sup>

Between 1883 and 1890, there were many other Swiss relatives who settled in Vergennes. Gottlieb Roth<sup>xxvi</sup> (**Elizabeth's** brother) and his family and in-laws (the Kropf's) came in 1887/1888. In about 1890 Carl Roth's in-laws (the Althaus family) came from the village of Swarzenegg, Canton Berne, Switzerland.<sup>242</sup>



*The Bieri home in Vergennes, with Johannes standing on the porch at left and Elizabeth outside the door at right*

**Johannes** bought 60 acres and pursued dairy farming.<sup>243</sup> His three youngest children, Carl, Fanny, and Rosa, aged nine to 12, were still living with him and **Elizabeth** in 1884.<sup>244</sup> The children would have attended a one-room school



*Johannes Bieri*

in the area. According to a family historian, school was difficult for the Swiss children since they couldn't speak English when they began to attend. Most, however, learned to speak it without an accent. The children spoke English, and the parents understood it, so the families became bi-lingual. "Our parents spoke to us in Swiss and we answered in English. That was true in most families and didn't seem to cause any problems."<sup>245</sup>

Undoubtedly the family visited nearby kinfolk, and on Sundays attended one of the German-speaking churches in the township. As a Vergennes historian noted, the farmers were hard workers and relatively isolated in the wooded rural area.

xxiv Some 82,000 Swiss emigrated during the 1880s, a rate that was higher than the previous seven decades combined.

(Source: <http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/when-the-swiss-made-america/6784658>)

xxv "After working for about four years he [Carl] returned to Switzerland. In 1888 he married Marie Althaus, but he was very discontented there after having become used to the flat, open spaces here. Soon after their marriage, [they] came to Vergennes and rented a farm in the western part of the township." From *The Swiss in Vergennes* by Marion Roth Yates.

xxvi "It seems he [Gottlieb Roth] wanted a pair of long underwear and there was none that spoke English to get them for him. He was not to be denied. He went to Coons Clothing and got what he wanted. When he got home, [his wife] asked how he managed when he couldn't speak English. His answer was, "Eh! Pants!" (The Swiss word for pants was "hussy" and he had discovered its English meaning.)" From *The Swiss in Vergennes* by Marion Roth Yates.

“Sundays provided a welcome break from a long week of farming and was often the only time many people saw their neighbors. Going to church was both a social and a religious event.”<sup>246</sup>

**Johannes** lived to the age of 74, passing away in 1910 from an abdominal tumor.<sup>247</sup> Not much is known of his personality, though one can assume he had a modicum of courage and initiative to leave the Swiss family home and re-invent himself in America. From his photographs, he was heavily bearded, was a cigar smoker, was short in height, and had an almost gnome-like face. Yet he won the heart of an attractive woman and held on to her for life.



Elizabeth (nee Roth) Bieri

**Elizabeth**, a dress designer,<sup>248</sup> mother, and home maker, also lived to the age of 74,<sup>249</sup> but being younger, survived her husband by a couple of years. She was diabetic, had problems with circulation in her legs, and developed gangrene, so spent her last couple of years with her daughter, a nurse, in Croton. She was remembered by a niece who wrote, “*I have a very vivid picture in my memory of her sitting on the ... porch at our house and patching overalls for my father and brothers. I was trying to learn to sew at the time and was fascinated by the dainty stitches she used on the patches. I'm sure they never were so carefully done after she was gone.*”<sup>250</sup>

Both Elizabeth and Johannes were buried in Bailey Cemetery adjacent to the Vergennes United Methodist Church.

## Christian Bieri (1863-1957) and Bertha Roth (1864-1914)

**Christian** emigrated with his parents, **Johanna** and **Elizabeth**, in 1883, at age 20, from Switzerland to America. (He shows up in the family photograph from Switzerland—at the beginning of this article—as the 15-year-old son in the upper right corner.)



### Bertha Roth

**Bertha** was born in Switzerland in 1864 to Christian and Verona (nee Gerber) Roth.

Her brother, John, married **Christian's** sister, Anna Bieri, in Switzerland and emigrated with the Bieri family to Michigan in 1883, settling in Lowell.



Bertha Roth

**Bertha** emigrated in 1886 at age 22 and married **Christian** Bieri three years later in Grand Rapids. Her brother Albert emigrated in

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He wasn't living with his parents in the 1884 census, so seems to have struck out on his own upon arriving in Michigan. He married **Bertha** Roth in January of 1890, at age 26, in Grand Rapids, Michigan,<sup>251</sup> and they had their first child, Frieda, that September in Grattan Center,<sup>252</sup> about nine miles north of the **Johannes** Bieri farm. The 1894 census found them farming back in Vergennes Township,<sup>253</sup> six years later they were farming thirty miles north in Pine Township. In 1907 they were renting a 40-acre farm a mile northwest of his father's<sup>254</sup>, where they remained at least through the 1910 census.<sup>255</sup> **Christian** and **Bertha** had a total of nine children between 1890 and 1908.

By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Michigan was transitioning into the industrial age, powered considerably by electricity, and **Christian** left farming to work in the hydroelectric industry by 1914.<sup>256</sup> Although there is no



1890 and settled in Lowell.

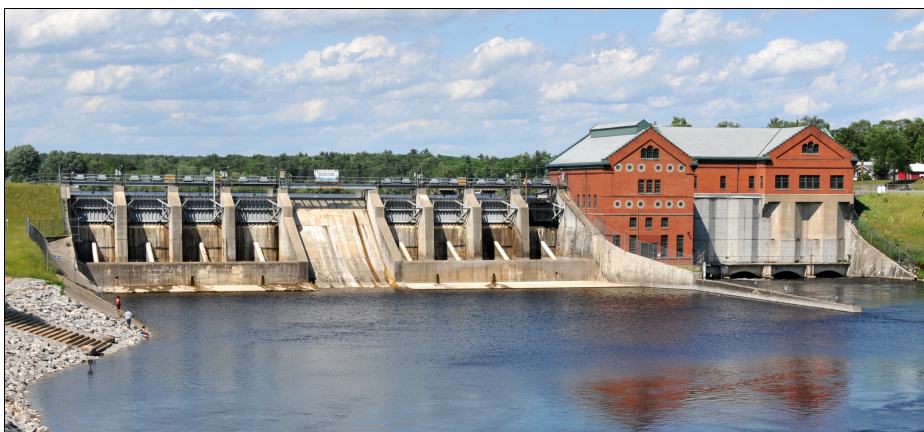
**Bertha's** parents had the same surnames (Roth and Gerber) as her husband's mother, leading to the possibility that her mother and **Christian's** mother also married brothers.

After bearing the last of her nine children in 1908, **Bertha** concentrated on raising the family until her death, at age 49, in 1914 of chronic bronchitis at the family home near Fallasburg.

direct evidence, I believe he was helped in this decision and provided job opportunities by his brother-in-law Alfred Wyss, a fellow Swiss immigrant who married **Christian's** sister, Fanny, in 1891, and his sister Susanna in 1899, after Fanny's passing. Alfred worked at the Flat River hydroelectric plant prior to **Christian's** start there, and he was the supervisor at the Croton Dam plant when **Christian** was later hired in at that plant on the Muskegon River.<sup>257</sup>

**Christian's** wife Bertha passed away in 1914 at age 49 while they were living near Fallasburg, a couple of miles north of Lowell and the location of the Flat River hydro plant. Three years later he

married the widow Edith (nee Holloway) James,<sup>258</sup> a mother of four. Christian, or **Chris**, as he was sometimes called, was 53 years old; Edith was 34.<sup>259</sup> They had a blended family of six children, including two of **Bertha's** still living at home, ranging in age from five to 13. The family moved to Croton in 1918 where **Chris** began work as a turbine



*Croton Dam, May 2014, taken by author*

operator and, later, an electrician, at the hydroelectric Croton Dam.<sup>260</sup> [The dam was built in 1907 to supply electricity to Grand Rapids, 50 miles away, using the highest-voltage transmission line in the world at the time.<sup>261</sup>] Although the dam was large, the village of Croton was small, and the 1920 census found the Bieri family among 29 other village residents.

**Christian's** time would have been filled with working the turbines and generators, perhaps as many as six or seven days a week,<sup>262</sup> but his new wife may have had too much time on her hands in tiny Croton.

The family moved to the nearby town of Newaygo—population of over 1,000—in 1927.<sup>263</sup> It would have only been a couple of mile's commute to work for **Christian** to the dam by automobile. **Christian** retired from Consumer's Power in 1938 at age 75.<sup>264</sup> He and Edith were still living in Newaygo at the time of the 1940 census.



*Newaygo, Michigan circa 1910s*

went off to World War II in Europe. He served in the 319th Infantry Regiment, 180th Infantry Division, and lost his life in October 1944. He's buried in the Lorriane American Cemetery, the largest WWII American cemetery in Europe, in St. Avold, France. He won a Purple Heart, but likely also broke his 81-year-old father's heart.

In 1942 his son, Gerald, a farm laborer living in Lowell, enlisted in the US Army as a private and

On Halloween of 1954, **Christian** posed for a five-generation family photograph in Owosso with his oldest daughter Frieda, his granddaughter Irene Ehrlich, great-granddaughter Billie Bartlett, and great-great-granddaughter Cheryl Bartlett. At the time **Chris** was living with his daughter Louise in Lowell. His second wife, Edith, dropped off the paper trail after the 1940 census.

**Christian** died in 1957, at age 93, in Vergennes Township, where he'd been living with his son Lawrence.<sup>265</sup> He lived the longest lifespan of his siblings, and apparently passed on his longevity to many of his children. His eldest daughter Frieda lived to the age of 101; his second daughter Louise survived to 99. Son Oswald lived to 93, Lawrence to 88, Matilda to 85. **Christian's** obituary notes that he left 124 descendents, including two great-great grandchildren. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, next to his first wife **Betha** Roth.



*Clockwise from left: baby Cheryl Bartlett, mother Billie Bartlett, grandmother Irene Ehrlich, great-grandmother Frieda Stanton, great-great-grandfather Christian Bieri*

It's a significant accomplishment to live a long life; it's a greater accomplishment to live a good one. By all appearances, Christian did both.

#### Photo credits

- Schangnau Church: Kirchgemeinde Schangnau, <http://www.kirche-schangnau.ch/>
- Bieri family in Switzerland: Attachment to an email from Richard Rhode to Jamie Schutze dated August 19, 2014.
- The Bieri home in Schangnau: Genealogy of a Bieri Family, "Descendents of Stephen Bieri of Schangnau," <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rudged/gen/bieri.html#ten>
- The Bieri home in Vergennes: *ibid.*
- Johannes Bieri: *ibid.*
- Elizabeth (nee Roth) Bieri: *ibid.*
- Vergennes United Methodist Church: photograph by author taken May 2012
- Bertha Roth: photograph in possession of Teri Andrews, Bertha's great-great granddaughter, and originally in the possession of Bertha Roth's daughter Frieda Bieri
- Croton Dam: photograph by author taken May 2012
- Newaygo: Genealogy Trails, <http://genealogytrails.com/mich/newaygo/newaygo.html>
- Five generation Bieri family: photograph in possession of Cheryl Bartlett, taken October 31, 1954, and used in a local newspaper.

## A Partial Bieri / Roth Family Accounting

### Parents/Siblings of **Johannes Bieri**

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place
Peter Bieri	Magdalena Burki	Elisabeth	1821	Schangnau					
		Christian	1823	Schangnau				1888	
		Anna	1826	Schangnau					
		Peter	1827	Schangnau				1894	
		Friedrich	1828	Schangnau				1901	
		Magdalena	1831	Schangnau					
		Maria	1834	Schangnau					
		<b>Johannes</b>	1836	Schangnau	30 Sep 1859	Schwarzenegg	Elizabetha Roth	1910	Vergennes
		Verena	1838	Schangnau					
		<b>Samuel</b>	1840	Schangnau			Susanna Roth	1892	
		Gottfried	1843	Schangnau				1895	

### Parents/Siblings of **Elizabeth (nee Roth) Bieri**

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place
Johannes Roth	Anna Gerber	Anna	23 Jul 1837	Eriz				15 Feb 1860	
		<b>Elizabetha</b>	1838-10-01	Eriz	30 Sep 1859	Schwarzenegg	<b>Johannes Bieri</b>	25 May 1913	Croton
		Johannes	20 Jul 1840	Eriz			Elizabetha Finger	29 Nov 1891	
		Magdalena	25 Mar 1842	Schwarzenegg	1863-06-01	Schwarzenegg	Christian Wittenbach		
		Christian	28 Sep 1844	Eriz	1872		Marianna Stegmann		
		Rosette	4 Oct 1846	Eriz	23 Apr 1870		Sameul Ruesser		
		<b>Susanna</b>	23 Feb 1849	Eriz			<b>Samuel Bieri*</b>		
		Friedrich	21 Sep 1850	Eriz	22 May 1884		Marianna Althaus		
		Gottlieb	1853	Eriz	18 Feb 1884		Susanna Kropf	3 Feb 1921	S. Boston, MI
		Marianna	16 Oct 1858	Eriz			Gottlieb Althaus	29 Nov 1929	
		Karl**	13 Apr 1865	Eriz	1888	Switzerland	Mary Althaus		

### Parents/Siblings of **Christian Bieri**

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place
<b>Johannes Bieri</b>	<b>Elizabetha Roth</b>	Anna	b 23 Aug 1860	Schangnau	1881	Switzerland	John Roth	18 Mar 1900	Lowell
		Friedrich	b 4 Jul 1861	Schangnau			None	1862	Schangnau
		Elizabeth	b 6 Jul 1862	Schangnau	28 Mar 1898	Lowell	Gottlieb Althaus	1933	Vergennes
		<b>Christian</b>	6 Dec 1863	Schangnau			<b>Bertha Roth</b>	11 Aug 1957	Vergennes
		Johannes	b 26 Oct 1865	Schangnau			None	1889	
		Susanna	21 Jan 1867	Schangnau	2 Dec 1899	Grand Rapids	Alfred Wyss	22 Oct 1915	Croton
		Rosina	b 12 Apr 1872	Schangnau			George Kerr	7 Jun 1961	
		Karl	b 28 Sep 1874	Schangnau			Pearl Mallory	1952	
		Fanny	b 14 Sep 1875	Schangnau	10 Oct 1891	Grand Rapids	Alfred Wyss	16 Apr 1897	Croton

### Parents/Siblings of **Bertha (nee Roth) Bieri**

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place
Christian Roth	Louise Gerber	Louise	1858	Walperswil					
		John	1859	Walperswil	1881	Switzerland	Anna Bieri	1920	
		Albrecht	18 Dec 1860	Walperswil	20 Nov 1900	Grand Rapids	Magdalena Wittenbach		
		<b>Bertha</b>	26 Mar 1864	Switzerland	21 Sep 1883	Schwarzenegg	Maria Engel	1932	
					28 Jan 1890	Grand Rapids	<b>Christian Bieri</b>	17 Feb 1914	Fallasburg

### Children of **Christian and Bertha (nee Roth) Bieri**

Father	Mother	Child	Birth	Place	Marriage	Location	Spouse	Death	Place
Christian Bieri	Bertha Roth	Frieda	15 Sep 1890	Grattan Center	15 Sep 1910	Grand Rapids	Claude Parker	25 Oct 1991	Lowell
		Louise	23 Apr 1892	Lowell	6 Oct 1916	Lowell	Arthur Schneider	9 Jan 1992	Grand Rapids
		Matilda	28 Oct 1893	Vergennes	23 Sep 1919	Owosso	Christian Gorte	23 Apr 1979	Owosso
		Johannes	8 Jul 1895	Lowell	19 Apr 1920	Michigan	Pauline Bradshaw	1963	Caseville, MI
		Oswald	2 Mar 1897	Lowell	8 Sep 1925	Cascade, MI	Addie Clark	29 Dec 1990	Lowell
		Lawrence	19 Mar 1899	Lowell	About 1923	Michigan	Olive Lee	19 Jan 1988	Lowell
		Marie	11 Apr 1901	Pine Twp	26 Aug 1922	Grand Rapids	Grayson Newark	6 Apr 1973	
		Fanny	1905	Michigan			Ronald Mallory	20 Dec 1972	
		Gerald	1908	Michigan			None	8 Oct 1944	Europe



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Much of the information and many of the subjective observations of James Bartlett's character are based on recollections of his eldest daughter Cheryl.
- <sup>2</sup> "Certified Copy of Record of Birth" from State of Michigan, County of Shiawassee, City of Owosso, with birth date recorded as August 31, 1931.
- <sup>3</sup> Grades based on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade report card and safety patrol service based on certificates dated 1944-45.
- <sup>4</sup> The Owosso Argus-Press, "Owosso Football Letter Winners Are Announced," December 3, 1947, page 14.
- <sup>5</sup> Ancestry.com, "Owosso High School Yearbook, 1949," page 51. He was also the vice president of the "O" Club, varsity lettermen who were raising funds to purchase an electric scoreboard for the school field. (page 101 of the yearbook.)
- <sup>6</sup> Certificate from the Recruit Training Command, United States Naval Training Center, Great Lakes Illinois, signed by F. L. Moger, Battalion Commander, appoints James P. Bartlett as a Recruit Squad Leader Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class.
- <sup>7</sup> Navy Department, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Service Schools certificate documents his completion of Enginemen Class "A" at the U.S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois on 10 March 1950. His final mark was 83.8, with his standing being 5<sup>th</sup> in a class of 16.
- <sup>8</sup> James's assignment to the USS Caloosahatchee is documented on several service forms, including his DD Form 214, Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States, dated 30 March 1953. That his brother John also served on the ship was the topic of an item in the "Personal Mention" column of the Owosso Argus-Press dated July 23, 1952, page 5, which reports that "John Bartlett MM-2 and James Bartlett EN-2, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bartlett, Woodlawn Avenue, left Sunday for Newport, Rhode Island to resume their duties aboard the tanker U.S.S. Caloosahatchee. They spent a twenty day leave with their parents here."
- <sup>9</sup> DD Form 214, Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States, dated 30 March 1953.
- <sup>10</sup> Copy of Marriage License and Certificate of Marriage issued by Shiawassee County, Michigan. License was issued 11 June 1953 and marriage was performed on 20 June 1953 at the Salem Ev. Lutheran Church of Owosso.
- <sup>11</sup> The information that Billie was engaged when she met Jim Bartlett is from their eldest daughter. The reasons why Billie fell in love with Jim are speculation on my part.
- <sup>12</sup> Per Jim Bartlett's eldest daughter Cheryl.
- <sup>13</sup> Ancestry.com, "City Directory, Battle Creek, Michigan, 1958," which shows James and Billie Bartlett were living in Urbandale, in Battle Creek, at 200 Taylor Avenue, and that James was an "acct Enquirer & News"
- <sup>14</sup> Per family tree on Ancestry.com built by Jim Bartlett's son.
- <sup>15</sup> Per Jim Bartlett's eldest daughter Cheryl.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Jim moved his family to Alpena in 1976, so the supposition is that he lost his job earlier that year.
- <sup>18</sup> Per Jim Bartlett's eldest daughter Cheryl, for all information in paragraph.
- <sup>19</sup> Florence Bartlett scrapbook, which includes a copy of the 1982 program for Installation of Officers for Alpena Lodge No. 199, F and A.M.
- <sup>20</sup> Footprints: A Family History/Genealogy Resource, "Medical history of James Peter Bartlett, "Bartlett James Sr Med History," accessed November 13, 2014, <http://genealogy.thundermoon.us/shoebox/bartlett%20james%20sr%20med%20history.pdf>.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid
- <sup>23</sup> As related to the author and his wife
- <sup>24</sup> Per Jim Bartlett's eldest daughter Cheryl and witnessed by the author.
- <sup>25</sup> State of Michigan Department of Public Health Certificate of Death for James Peter Bartlett. Date of death was February 11, 1988 at the Pleasant View facility in Corunna. Copy of certificate is in possession of the author.
- <sup>26</sup> The 1936 and 1939 City Directories for Owosso, Michigan, show Alfred and Theodore Ehrlich as barbers at Ehrlich's Barber Shop at 315 N. Washington Street. The 1930 and 1932 directories show Al working as a barber at the George A. Rose barber shop.
- <sup>27</sup> The Owosso Argus-Press, "Outstanding OHS Students Are Given Awards Last Night," June 11, 1952, page 10.
- <sup>28</sup> The Owosso City Directory, 1953.
- <sup>29</sup> Their first child, Cheryl, was born September 15, 1954.
- <sup>30</sup> Most of the information in this paragraph is from the recollection of Billie's eldest child, Cheryl. The comment about "love the one you're with" is my

## End Notes

own observation.

<sup>31</sup>The Owosso Argus-Press, "Shop Moves, Grows," May 27, 1983, page 3: "A resident of Detroit and Alpena for 23 years, Billie Ehrlich Bartlett has been a licensed cosmetologist for six years and an instructor of cosmetology for three years. She is experienced in all phases of cosmetology and hair styling." Her working in the beauty shop at the Pleasant View facility is the author's recollection.

<sup>32</sup>State of Michigan Marriage License and Certificate of Marriage records their marriage on October 28, 1989 in Grand Blanc. Copy in possession of the author.

<sup>33</sup>State of Michigan Department of Community Health Certificate of Death for William E. Irish shows his date of death as November 9, 1998 due to liver failure. Copy in possession of author. Observations on the character of Bill Irish are the author's.

<sup>34</sup>State of Michigan Department of Community Health Certificate of Death for Billie Elaine Irish shows her date of death as November 29, 2001 due to respiratory failure with sepsis. Other conditions contributing to death are noted as bronchial veolar lung cancer state IV, tobacco use for 40 years, and acute myocardial infarction. Copy in possession of author.

<sup>35</sup>Lyle's obituary says he was born in Vernon, and the 1907-1908 Owosso City and Shiawassee County Directory lists his family as living on State Street in Vernon.

<sup>36</sup>The 1910 federal census puts the family on a farm in Venice Township near the intersection of Lytle and S. Byron roads southwest of Lennon where James Harvey Bartlett was farming as a renter. The 1915-1916 Owosso City and Shiawassee County Directory shows the family still living in Venice. The 1917-1918 directory shows the family living on E. Mason in Owosso where James was working as a machine operator. The 1919-1920 directory places the family at 609 Woodlawn and James working as a helper.

<sup>37</sup>The Owosso Argus-Press, "Six Young People Nearly Drown at Myers Lake Thurs.," August 1, 1924, page 4.

<sup>38</sup>Items clipped from The Owosso Argus-Press and pasted into the scrapbook for Florence Bartlett. Original in possession of Florence's daughter.

<sup>39</sup>The 1940 federal census shows education levels and Lyle's was reported at 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

<sup>40</sup>The 1926 Owosso City Directory lists both James and Lyle Bartlett as boilermakers. The 1930 federal census also lists Lyle as a boilermaker.

<sup>41</sup>The 1928 City Directory for Owosso places Lyle at 629 N. Park, the address of the home owned by William Wilson and his wife Gladys, Lyle's eldest sister.

<sup>42</sup>A picture of Lyle and Florence together in June, 1928, shows that they were dating at least a year before they married in 1929.

<sup>43</sup>The Owosso Argus-Press, April 1, 1929: "Owosso Churches Filled by Devout on Easter Sunday," pages 1 and 2; and "Wind, Rain, Snow Hit Phone Lines," page 1.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

<sup>45</sup>The Owosso Argus-Press, "Miss Brown Wedded to Lyle Bartlett in Easter Church Rites," March 31, 1929. The article states that "The couple will make their home temporarily with the bride's parents. This was confirmed by the 1930 federal census which found the couple at Florence's parents' house along with their new son John.

<sup>46</sup>An item in The Owosso Argus-Press, August 31, 1931, states that "A son [James] was born last night at Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bartlett, 609 Woodlawn avenue."

<sup>47</sup>Per Lyle and Flo's daughter in a conversation with this author in the summer of 2014. Confirmed by the 1930 census and Owosso city directories.

<sup>48</sup>A comment Florence made to me on a few occasions.

<sup>49</sup>As related to me by Lyle and Flo's daughter in 2014. Lyle's granddaughter Cheryl also said that her father and Lyle never got along.

<sup>50</sup>In the **Owosso** City Directories he was working as a welder for Auto-Lite Battery in 1948 and 1950; a welder at Fisher & Wright Construction Company in Flint in 1953; a welder at Ternstedt in Flint in 1955; and a welder engineer at Welding Equipment Supply Company in 1957. In the 1958 **Royal Oak** directory he was a service engineer at Welding Equipment & Supply Company.

<sup>51</sup>In the 1958 and 1960 Royal Oak directories he was listed as a service engineer. In a 1964 clipping from Florence Bartlett's family album (the article looks like an advertising pamphlet from the Welding Equipment and Supply Company) Lyle is identified as the "District Manager for Welding Equipment and Supply Co." Lyle's obituary notes "he was Detroit district sales manager of the Welding Equipment a Supply Co., Detroit, until his retirement in 1967."

<sup>52</sup>Per conversations between this author and Lyle's daughter in 2014.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid.

<sup>54</sup>A page in Florence Bartlett's family scrapbook has two newspaper obituaries and a funeral home pamphlet which provide his death date and short bios.

<sup>55</sup>Owosso Argus-Press, "Weather," December 27, 1968, page 1.

## End Notes

<sup>56</sup>The author's personal observation.

<sup>57</sup>Per conversation between this author and Lyle and Flo's daughter in 2014.

<sup>58</sup>The Owosso City Directory of 1957.

<sup>59</sup>The author did her taxes for a couple of years and discovered her pension with Montgomery Ward was minuscule.

<sup>60</sup>Michael McCaughey, *Come Listen Awhile*, cited by Trillick, Co. Tyrone, "History," accessed March 2, 2014, at <http://www.trillick.org/history.htm>. See also Bernard O'Daly, "Material for a History of the Parish of Kilskeery," *Clogher Record*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (1955), pp. 100-102, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27695416>, accessed March 4, 2014.

<sup>61</sup>Wikipedia, Battle of Dublin, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Dublin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Dublin)

<sup>62</sup>Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898, Family History Library microfilm number 101376, page 767. Copy made on February 18, 2014 by James Schutze; viewable at <http://genealogy.thundermoon.us/shoebox/brown-rutledge%20marr%20reg%201856%20img.jpg>

<sup>63</sup>Wikipedia, Plantations of Ireland, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plantations\\_of\\_Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plantations_of_Ireland)

<sup>64</sup>J. R. Ward, *Ordnance Survey Memoir of County Tyrone*, "Parish of Kilskeery," 1834, viewable at [http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/kilskeery\\_summ.html](http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/kilskeery_summ.html)

<sup>65</sup>Ibid.

<sup>66</sup>McCaughey, *Come Listen Awhile*.

<sup>67</sup>Michael McCaughey, *Around Trillick Way*, cited by Ross Beattie, "Customs and Way of Life," accessed February 27, 2014, [http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/around\\_trillick\\_way\\_c7\\_customs.html#mccaughey](http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/around_trillick_way_c7_customs.html#mccaughey)

<sup>68</sup>Richard Griffith, *Valuation of Tenements, County of Tyrone. Barony of East Omagh. Union of Enniskillen. Parish of Kilskeery*, Alex. Thom & Sons, Dublin: 1860. Fortunately, the 1860 tax valuation rolls still exist, and are keyed to their contemporary Ordnance Survey maps, allowing us to pinpoint the Brown and Rutledge farms. See <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=nameSearch> for link to maps.

<sup>69</sup>J.R. Ward, *Ordnance Survey of County Tyrone, Parish of Kilskeery*, 1834, cited by Ross Beattie, *Parish of Kilskeery*, accessed February 27, 2014, [http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/kilskeery\\_summ.html](http://magni.webcity.com.au/~rnb47409/projects/kilskeery/kilskeery_summ.html)

<sup>70</sup>Ralph Brown, by virtue of his name, could be a brother or cousin of John's. George Montgomery was likely a cousin, as on John Brown's death certificate the maiden name of his mother is recorded as Montgomery.

<sup>71</sup>Fermanagh Gold Members Genealogy Pages, "1796-1897 Kilskeery C of I Burials (George Armstrong)," accessed February 27, 2014, <http://www.fermanagh-gold.com/>

<sup>72</sup>McCaughey, *Around Trillick Way*, "Customs and Way of Life."

<sup>73</sup>Griffith, *Valuation of Tenements*, pp 2, 3, and 5, shows four George Browns living in four townlands. Viewable at <http://genealogy.thundermoon.us/library/histories/Griffith%27s%20Valuation%201860%20for%20Kilskeery%20Parish.pdf>

<sup>74</sup>Wikipedia, "Great Famine (Ireland)," accessed February 27, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Famine\\_%28Ireland%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_%28Ireland%29)

<sup>75</sup>Ibid.

<sup>76</sup>FamilySearch.org, "Massachusetts, State Census, 1865," accessed February 27, 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-12047-13316-94?cc=1410399&wc=M99Y-17J:n1207235033>

<sup>77</sup>Robert died in 1908 of arteriosclerosis. On his death certificate, <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11109-29943-33?cc=1463156&wc=M9HZ-YPP:n745063377>, his parents are identified as George Brown and Bessie Brown. Unfortunately, this information doesn't help determine the nature of the relationship between Robert and John Brown. John Brown's death certificate shows his father as George Brown, but says his mother's maiden name was Montgomery with no first name given. Thus we can't conclude Robert and John were related, nor can we eliminate the possibility.

Robert's wife Eliza died in Boston in 1886 of pulmonary congestion and asthma. Her death register, at <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-266-11816-39909-78?cc=1463156&wc=M9HZ-YK8:n1475680626>, lists her parents as George Armstrong and Margaret Brown. This information confirms that Robert and Eliza were indeed the Robert Brown and Eliza Armstrong who married in Kilskeery the same month that John Brown and Susan Rutledge were wed.

\* Image from Wikipedia, Battle of Dublin, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Dublin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Dublin)

\*\* Image from street view of Google Maps.

\*\*\*Image from Adams, Sampson & Co., *The Boston directory, embracing the city record, a general directory of the citizens, and a business directory for the year commencing July 1, 1865*, Boston, Massachusetts, 1865, digital collection of Tufts University, accessed February 27, 2014, [http://bcd.lib.tufts.edu/view\\_text.jsp?url=tufts:central:dca:ua069:ua069.005.do.00021&chapter=fig.26](http://bcd.lib.tufts.edu/view_text.jsp?url=tufts:central:dca:ua069:ua069.005.do.00021&chapter=fig.26).



## End Notes

- <sup>78</sup>Email, Kathy Kulpinski to Jamie Schutze dated 10 July 2014, subject: Re: Rourke Family. The email has attachments that include a photo copy and transcription of the parish record recording the marriage of Martin Rourke and Margaret Griffin on 4 June 1815. Being a Roman Catholic parish, the record is in Latin. A translation of it would roughly read “With Dispensation. In bans of matrimony, Martin Rourke and Margaret Griffin, witnesses Martin Macken and James Connery.”
- <sup>79</sup>Ibid. One of the attachments to above email is a transcription of the birth record at Parish of Holy Trinity (without) or Ballybricken, Waterford city, for Catherine Rourke, daughter of Martin and Margaret Griffin, born 29 November 1815.
- <sup>80</sup>Email, Kathy Kulpinski to Jamie Schutze, dated 2 August 2014, subject: Re: Rourke Family History. The email has an attachment with a transcription of a professional genealogist stating: “I located an illegitimate child of Michael Rourke as follows: ‘Rourke, Brigid, 20 Jan 1841, Father: Michael, Mother: Coony Ellen. Sponsors: Rourke Martin, Griffith, Anastasia. Parish: Dunhill & Fenor.’ This accords with Find A Grave, “Bridget Ann Rourke Secord,” accessed 3 August 2014, <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=2496244>, which states that “Bridget was born out of wedlock.”
- <sup>81</sup>Ancestry.com, “Bridget Ann Rourke,” on the Secord Family Tree (SECORD-JAJ). Comment posted by ‘JAJFCF’ on 12 Dec 2009. Page accessed 21 July 2014, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/7396493/person/-1101752944/comments?pg=32768&pgpl=pid>
- <sup>82</sup>The number of children is from the death certificate of Michael Rourke, available on line at Seeking Michigan, accessed 30 July 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/631027/rec/1>
- <sup>83</sup>Ask About Ireland, “Griffith’s Valuation,” accessed 30 July 2014, <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=doNameSearch&Submit.x=14&Submit.y=9&familyname=rourke&firstname=&baronynome=&countynome=WATERFORD&unionname=&parishname=TRINITY+%28WITHOUT%29>. Though there are five Rourke families living in the Trinity Without parish, the only one within a few houses of a Griffin family, and within a block (on Grace’s Lane) of surnames of the witnesses to the Rourke-Griffin wedding, is the Rourke family living on Ballybricken Green.
- <sup>84</sup>Ask About Ireland, “Ballybricken Fair,” accessed 20 July 2014, <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/history-of-ireland/waterford-businesses-of-t/fairs-and-markets/ballybricken-fair/>. The Ballybricken fair drawing is from the same web site, and shows the Ballybricken Fair circa 1900.
- <sup>85</sup>Ibid. The Ballybricken fair drawing is from the same web site, and shows the Ballybricken Fair circa 1900.
- <sup>86</sup>Buildings of Ireland, “Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity Without, Ballybricken Green,” gives the construction date as circa 1810. Accessed 30 July 2014, <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah/search.jsp?type=record&county=WA&regno=22502069>
- <sup>87</sup>Two of the more extensive Rourke family trees found on Ancestry.com are the Alling - Allen Family Tree maintained by Kathy Kulpinski, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/13435916/person/-67616849>; and the SECORD-JAJ Family Tree maintained by “JAJFCF,” [http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/7396493/person/-1101752943?ssrc=&ml\\_rpos=50](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/7396493/person/-1101752943?ssrc=&ml_rpos=50).
- <sup>88</sup>Library Ireland, “Annestown, A Village,” from *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837*, accessed 22 July 2014, <http://www.libraryireland.com/topog/A/Annestown-Middlethird-Waterford.php>
- <sup>89</sup>Email, Kathy Kulpinski to Jamie Schutze dated 10 July 2014, subject: Re: Rourke Family. An attachment to this email has a transcription of the Dunhill & Fenor parish records for the marriages of Catherine Rourke to William Noonan on 29 August 1837, and Patrick Rourke to Catherine Whelan on 27 May 1845.
- <sup>90</sup>Drawing is from Waterford County Museum, Annestown Village, accessed 31 July 2014, [http://www.waterfordmuseum.ie/exhibit/web/DisplayImage/KOMpevNSGltVc/1/Annestown\\_Village.html](http://www.waterfordmuseum.ie/exhibit/web/DisplayImage/KOMpevNSGltVc/1/Annestown_Village.html)
- <sup>91</sup>Without benefit of contemporary censuses we may never know, but it’s interesting to note that a tax valuation dated in 1850—shortly after the family left for America—had families in the Bunmahon area with surnames consistent with Rourke family spouses (Cooney, Whalen, Fitzgerald) and even an O’Rourke.
- <sup>92</sup>The names of Michael’s first partner, Ellen Coony, and first wife, Margaret Fitzgerald, are from the Alling - Allen Family Tree of Kathy Kulpinski. Although Ellen Coony has been corroborated, I haven’t been able to find corroborating documentation on Margaret Fitzgerald.
- <sup>93</sup>Wikipedia, “Great Famine (Ireland),” accessed 27 July 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Famine\\_%28Ireland%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_%28Ireland%29)
- <sup>94</sup>Multiple sources, including Wikipedia (“Coffin ship,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coffin\\_ship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coffin_ship)), Irish Genealogy Toolkit (Coffin ships: death and pestilence on the Atlantic,” <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/coffin-ships.html>), and The History Place (“Irish Potato Famine: Coffin Ships,” <http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/famine/coffin.htm>)
- <sup>95</sup>Rourke family genealogists claim her maiden name was Fitzgerald, and that she was the mother of three of Michael’s children: Mary and Margaret, born in Ireland, and Catherine, born in Massachusetts.
- <sup>96</sup>FamilySearch, “Massachusetts, Births, 1841-1915,” accessed 27 July 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11053-224785-0?cc=1536925>
- <sup>97</sup>FamilySearch.org, “New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891,” accessed 31 July 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-1-16941-72986-4?cc=1849782&wc=MX62-8T5:165754601>

## End Notes

- <sup>98</sup> Everts, Louis H., *History of the The Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, Vol. II*, Philadelphia, 1879, available on line at <https://archive.org/stream/historyofconnect02lhev#page/n7/mode/2up>.
- <sup>99</sup> Beers, Frederick W., *County Atlas of Shiawassee Co., Michigan: From Recent and Actual Surveys and Records*, F.W. Beers & Co., New York, 1875, p 21. Available on line at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3928007.0001.001/23?q1=Shiawassee+County++Mich.+-+Maps&view=image&size=100>
- <sup>100</sup> *History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties, Michigan, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of their Prominent Men and Pioneers*, Philadelphia: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1880, available on line at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/BAD1049.0001.001?view=toc>. Information on Michael and Patrick Rourke and on William Noonan is on page 275.
- <sup>101</sup> *Gladwin County Record*, 17 December 1925, Page 1, Column 3: "Life of Mrs. Jerome Secord," transcript from the Alling - Allen Family Tree, maintained by Kathy Kulpinski on Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2014, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/13435916/person/-67596873/mediax/2?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid>
- <sup>102</sup> The surname for Mary Connor is from the notation below Martin Rourke's photograph on FindAGrave.com. Martin was the son of Michael and Mary Rourke. The photograph is at <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=34108201>. The surname is also found on the Alling - Allen Family Tree on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>103</sup> Email, Annette Reed-Beaudoin (Parish/Cemetery Secretary of St. Paul Catholic Church, Owosso, Michigan) to Shelley Walworth, dated 24 July 2014, no subject, which had fourteen attachments containing St. Paul's parish records on the Rourke family dating from 1858 to 1925. Also included a list of the original members of St. Paul's. The marriage date for Michael Rourke and Mary Coleman was given as Feb. 11, 1867.
- <sup>104</sup> To date, neither her death certificate nor her grave have been found. However, St. Paul's Church in Owosso has a record of a Bridget Rourke, a widow of age 90, who died in 1872. Given that such a person can't be found in county censuses prior to that year, it seems feasible that Margaret Rourke's name may have been mis-recorded by the Church and she was the 90-year old widow who died in 1872.
- <sup>105</sup> The 1870 census of Rush Township recorded the real estate value of each head of family. Michael Rourke's valuation was \$9,000, second only to the \$12,000 estate of Richard Fruman.
- <sup>106</sup> *History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties*, p 157.
- <sup>107</sup> Photograph of Martin Rourke from Find A Grave, "Martin Rourke, Sr.," accessed 31 July 2014, <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=34108201>
- <sup>108</sup> Email, Chicaro Hoffman (info SDL[Shiawassee District Library]), to Jamie Schutze, dated 9 April 2014, subject: Re: Obituary Copies, which included obituaries from the Owosso Argus Press newspaper dated 24 and 25 March 1897.
- <sup>109</sup> Ibid, which included an obituary from the Owosso Argus Press newspaper dated 24 June 1898 and a recap of his funeral dated 1 July 1898.
- <sup>110</sup> Email, Shelley Walworth to Jamie Schutze, no subject, dated 1 July 2014, which included as an attachment a photograph of Michael Rourke's gravestone in St. Paul's Cemetery in Owosso.
- \* Autobiography of Bridget Rourke from Find A Grave, "Bridget Ann Rourke Secord," accessed 3 August 2014, <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=24962444>. Her photograph is from Ancestry.com, SECORD-JAJ Tree, "Bridget Ann Rourke," accessed 5 August 2014, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/7396493/person/-1101752944>
- <sup>111</sup> Soldier's Certificate No. 36338: Jacob A. Heist, *Federal Military Pension Application – Civil War and Later Complete File*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Archives), 62. (Army of the United States Certificate of Disability for Discharge, May 21, 1864.)
- <sup>112</sup> J. H. Kidd, *Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman with Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade in the Civil War*, (Ionia, Michigan: Sentinel Printing Company, 1908), 40.
- <sup>113</sup> "Sixth Michigan Cavalry: Muster-Out Rolls, Cos. F-M," Seeking Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p4006coll15/id/41816/rec/16>.
- <sup>114</sup> "Sixth Michigan Cavalry: List of Officers and Men," Seeking Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p4006coll15/id/33324/rec/9>, documents 15 and 16.
- <sup>115</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 71-73. The balance of information in this paragraph is from Kidd, except for endnote no. 6, below.
- <sup>116</sup> Edward G. Longacre, *Custer and His Wolverines: The Michigan Cavalry Brigade, 1861-1865*, (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1993), 106.
- <sup>117</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 87-112.
- <sup>118</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 113-160. The Gettysburg campaign information is primarily from this source, except where noted by other endnotes. The "Route of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign" map is found between pages 112 and 113 of the book.
- <sup>8a</sup> Image and caption from "Battle of Hanover Historical Marker," ExplorePAhistory.com., accessed October 21, 2013, <http://explorepahistory.com/displayimage.php?imgId=1-2-769>

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- <sup>119</sup> “*East Cavalry Field: July 3, 1863*,” Echoes of Gettysburg, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://theechoesofgettysburg.com/id44.html>
- <sup>120</sup> Edward G. Longacre, *The Cavalry at Gettysburg: A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations During Civil War’s Pivotal Campaign, 9 June-14 July 1863*, (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1993), 225.
- <sup>9a</sup> Image from “*East Cavalry Field*.”
- <sup>121</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 148-149.
- <sup>122</sup> “*East Cavalry Field*.”
- <sup>123</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 160-172. The pursuit of General Lee after Gettysburg and through the Battle of Monterey Pass are largely from this source.
- <sup>124</sup> *Ibid*, 167.
- <sup>125</sup> *Ibid*, 172-177. The Battle at Williamsport is related in these pages.
- <sup>126</sup> *Ibid*, 175-176.
- <sup>127</sup> Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 55. (Application for Increase of Invalid Pension, October 12, 1867.)
- <sup>128</sup> U.S. Federal Censuses, 1850 and 1860 for Erie County, New York.
- <sup>129</sup> “Fuzi/Moon Family Tree,” Ancestry.com, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/22222871/person/1237641529>. The site includes images of passenger lists from the *John Hale* ship in 1832 that shows members of Jacob Heist’s family.
- <sup>130</sup> Michigan, Death Certificates, 1921-1952,” FamilySearch, accessed October 27, 2013. Jacob A. Heist’s mother’s maiden name is from the death certificates of two of his siblings, Louisa Kramp, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/KF7Z-FT3>, and Caroline Wortenberg, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/KF78-73Y>.
- <sup>131</sup> “Michigan County Histories and Atlases: Atlas of Saginaw Co., Michigan / from recent and actual surveys and records under the superintendence of F. W. Beers, 1877” University of Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013. <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927949.0001.001/95?rgn=subject;view=image;q1=Saginaw+County++Mich.+-+Maps>. Year of move to Michigan from New York based on notation on map and age of first Michigan-born child in the U.S. Federal Census of 1870 for Saginaw County, Michigan.
- <sup>132</sup> Kidd, *Personal Recollections*, 23.
- <sup>133</sup> Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 62. (Army of the United States Certificate of Disability for Discharge, May 21, 1864.) Note that his reported height and complexion vary from document to document within his pension file. At times he was reported as 5’6”, 5’10”, and 5’11” so I used 5’10” in the narrative as an average height. He was also reported as fair and dark complexioned, but at his discharge in 1864 it was dark, so that is what I used.
- <sup>134</sup> Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 14 (Certificate of Medical Examination, June 21, 1922)
- <sup>135</sup> *Ibid*, various pages.
- <sup>136</sup> U.S. Federal Census, 1870, St. Charles, Saginaw, Michigan.
- <sup>137</sup> Author’s calculations comparing Jacob Heist’s pension amounts to the average annual wages in the United States for unskilled labor and manufacturing workers at multiple points (1866, 1896, 1903, 1920, 1922, and 1928) over the life of the pension. Pension amounts were from Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338 pension file. Average wages were from “*Annual Wages in the United States, 1774-Present*,” MeasuringWorth, Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://www.measuringworth.com/datasets/uswage/>.
- <sup>138</sup> “Michigan Marriages, 1822-1995,” FamilySearch, accessed October 21, 2013, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FCJJ-HZT>
- <sup>139</sup> Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 8 (Circular dated June 3, 1898)
- <sup>140</sup> “Michigan County Histories and Atlases: Atlas of Saginaw Co., Michigan / from recent and actual surveys and records under the superintendence of F. W. Beers, 1877” University of Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013. <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927949.0001.001/115?q1=Saginaw+County++Mich.+-+Maps&view=image&size=200>
- <sup>141</sup> *Ibid*, and Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 9 (Questionnaire dated March 12, 1915.)
- <sup>142</sup> U.S. Federal Census, 1880, Non-Population Schedule (Agriculture) for Saint Charles Township, Saginaw, Michigan.
- <sup>143</sup> Soldier’s Certificate No. 36338, 45 (General Affidavit, December 12, 1895)
- <sup>144</sup> “Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920,” William Heist, January 5, 1899, Seeking Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/761365/rec/4>
- <sup>145</sup> “Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920,” Mary Heist, November 25, 1915, Seeking Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/81554/rec/10>

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- <sup>146</sup> U.S. Federal Census, 1920, Owosso, Michigan.
- <sup>147</sup> Soldier's Certificate No. 36338, 11 (Declaration for Pension, April 8, 1922)
- <sup>148</sup> U.S. Federal Census, 1920, Owosso, Michigan.
- <sup>149</sup> Soldier's Certificate No. 36338, 14 (Certificate of Medical Examination, June 21, 1922)
- <sup>150</sup> In a July 7, 2005, recorded conversation among John Bartlett, Jamie Schutze, Cherie Schutze, Emily Brown, and Bill Brown in John Bartlett's residence in Surprise, Arizona.
- <sup>151</sup> Soldier's Certificate No. 36338, 5 (Death Certificate, July 14, 1930).
- <sup>152</sup> "Pvt Jacob A Heist," Find A Grave, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=80754213>. Headstone image is from this site.
- <sup>153</sup> "Michigan Online Historical Newspapers: Shiawassee – Owosso: Owosso Argus-Press, 1917-1972," Google News Archive, accessed October 21, 2013. Issue of July 14, 1930, page 2. [http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=OWf\\_fnsf0g4C&dat=19300714&printsec=frontpage&hl=en](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=OWf_fnsf0g4C&dat=19300714&printsec=frontpage&hl=en)
- <sup>154</sup> Image and caption information from "Michigan and the Civil War," Seeking Michigan, accessed October 21, 2013, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p4006coll3/id/484/rec/36>
- <sup>155</sup> 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Owosso, Michigan.
- <sup>156</sup> "Lauwe, a German Village on the Volga River." Germans from Russia Heritage Society, accessed November 25, 2013, <http://www.grhs.org/korners/heinle/lauwe/lauwe.html>
- <sup>157</sup> "Why Did the Germans Move to Russia?" The Center for Volga German Studies, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/history/why\\_to\\_russia.cfm](http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/history/why_to_russia.cfm)
- <sup>158</sup> "Peasants and Rural Life: 18th-Century History of Germany," Wikipedia, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th\\_century\\_history\\_of\\_Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th_century_history_of_Germany)
- <sup>159</sup> "Why Did the Germans Move to Russia?"
- <sup>160</sup> "Lauwe, a German Village on the Volga River."
- <sup>161</sup> "Descendants of Peter Bitter," attached to email from Jack Saunders to Jamie Schutze, October 9, 2013, subject: Elizabeth Bitter.
- <sup>162</sup> "Lauwe." The Center for Volga German Studies, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/settlements/mother\\_colonies/colony\\_lauwe.cfm](http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/settlements/mother_colonies/colony_lauwe.cfm)
- <sup>163</sup> Fred C. Koch, *The Volga Germans: In Russia and the Americas, from 1763 to the Present*, Penn State University Press (University Park, Pennsylvania: 1999) 46.
- <sup>164</sup> Ibid, 50.
- <sup>165</sup> "Yablonovka, Saratov Oblast." Wikipedia, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yablonovka,\\_Saratov\\_Oblast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yablonovka,_Saratov_Oblast)
- <sup>166</sup> It is possible, and even likely, that Theresa (Rose) was not actually their firstborn child. The 1910 U.S. Census reports that Elizabeth was the mother of five children, of whom three were alive at the time. That indicates that there were two children who died prior to the family's sailing from Liverpool to Quebec in 1903 (since only Carl, Elizabeth, and Theresa boarded the ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.) One of Carl's great-granddaughters recalls hearing that one or two children "made the trip over but didn't survive." [Email, January 8, 2014, from Tamara Osborne to Jamie Schutze, subject: Carl and Elizabeth Ehrlich.] That wasn't the case, but one or two may have died in Russia or in transit from Russia to Liverpool. Certainly, with Theresa not being born until the Ehrlich couple had been married five years, there was time for two older siblings to have been born.
- <sup>167</sup> "Alfred Ehrlich Birth Certificate." Footprints, accessed November 25, 2013, <http://genealogy.thundermoon.us/shoebox/ehrich%20alfred%20bth%20cert.jpg>
- <sup>168</sup> 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Owosso, Michigan; and Carl Ehrlich's obituary in the Owosso Argus Press of October 10, 1927.
- <sup>169</sup> "A Brief History of the Germans from Russia." Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history\\_culture/history/history2.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history_culture/history/history2.html)
- <sup>170</sup> A helpful source for Bitter family genealogy is "Volga German Colonies - Kanton Kukkus," RootsWeb, accessed November 26, 2013, [http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=volga\\_stier&id=I59733](http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=volga_stier&id=I59733)
- \* Photo source was "Germans from Russia Now Second Largest Immigrant Group." North Dakota Studies, accessed November 25, 2013, [http://www.ndstudies.org/articles/germans\\_from\\_russia\\_now\\_second\\_largest\\_immigrant\\_group](http://www.ndstudies.org/articles/germans_from_russia_now_second_largest_immigrant_group)
- \*\* Photo courtesy of Tammy Osborne, granddaughter of Theodore (Ted) Ehrlich.



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- <sup>171</sup> Wikipedia, "Steven Hopkins (Mayflower passenger)," accessed September 27, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Hopkins\\_%28Mayflower\\_passenger%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Hopkins_%28Mayflower_passenger%29).
- <sup>172</sup> Wikipedia, "Fortune (Plymouth Colony ship)," accessed September 27, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune\\_%28Plymouth\\_Colony\\_ship%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune_%28Plymouth_Colony_ship%29)
- <sup>173</sup> Pilgrim Hall Museum, "Edward Dotey: Mayflower Passenger," accessed October 4, 2014, [http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/Edward\\_Dotey\\_17th\\_Century\\_Documents.pdf](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/Edward_Dotey_17th_Century_Documents.pdf)
- <sup>174</sup> A complete inventory is listed at [http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/Edward\\_Doteys\\_Will\\_Inventory.pdf](http://www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org/pdf/Edward_Doteys_Will_Inventory.pdf), accessed October 12, 2014.
- <sup>175</sup> Ethan Allen Doty, *The Doty-Doten Family in America, Descendants of Edward Doty, An Emigrant by the Mayflower, 1620*, published by the author, Brooklyn, NY, 1897, p 498, <https://archive.org/details/dotydotenfamilyi00doty>
- <sup>176</sup> *Ibid*, p 500.
- <sup>177</sup> *Ibid*, p 499.
- <sup>178</sup> *Ibid*, p 503.
- <sup>179</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>180</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>181</sup> Wikipedia, "Quakers," accessed September 30, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakers#Emigration\\_to\\_North\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakers#Emigration_to_North_America)
- <sup>182</sup> *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, p 509.
- <sup>183</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>184</sup> Wikipedia, "Clinton, Dutchess County, New York," accessed September 30, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinton,\\_Dutchess\\_County,\\_New\\_York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinton,_Dutchess_County,_New_York)
- <sup>185</sup> *The History of Clinton County, New York*, edited by Frank Hasbrouck, 1909: S. A. Matthieu, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., available at <https://archive.org/stream/cu31924028853327#page/8/mode/2up>
- <sup>186</sup> *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, p 509.
- <sup>187</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, for Elias Doty," accessed September 30, 2014, [http://interactive.ancestry.com/1995/MIUSA1775D\\_135417-00323/17884?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fegi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dRevWarPBountyLandGrants%26rank%3d1%26new%3d1%26so%3d3%26MSAV%3d1%26msT%3d1%26gss%3dms\\_db%26gsfn%3delias%26gsln%3ddoty%26uidh%3dnw4&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnSearchResults#?imageId=MIUSA1775D\\_135417-00323](http://interactive.ancestry.com/1995/MIUSA1775D_135417-00323/17884?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fegi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dRevWarPBountyLandGrants%26rank%3d1%26new%3d1%26so%3d3%26MSAV%3d1%26msT%3d1%26gss%3dms_db%26gsfn%3delias%26gsln%3ddoty%26uidh%3dnw4&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnSearchResults#?imageId=MIUSA1775D_135417-00323)
- <sup>188</sup> *The Doty-Doten Family in America*, p 509.
- <sup>189</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>190</sup> Time of emigration to Canada is based on the birthplaces of their children. Daughter Eunice was born in New York in May 1831, and son George was born in Canada in April 1834 per their death certificates and censuses.
- <sup>191</sup> Locations of the McWilliams land can be found at the "Canadian County Atlas Digital Project" search page, <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/SearchPeople.php>, using "McWilliams" in the Last Name and "Brant" in the County boxes. The lands in Concessions 7 and 8 in Burford North and Burford South belonged to William McWilliams and were passed on to his sons.
- <sup>192</sup> Laura Jane McWilliams, "Ancestral Offerings" newsletter, Issue #1, as provided in her email to Jamie Schutze of April 12, 2012, subject: newsletter.
- <sup>193</sup> The Early Political and Military History of Burford, pages 38 and 67.
- <sup>194</sup> Kent County Michigan Genweb Project, "Ada Pioneer Association and Adjoining Towns (a.k.a. Old Settlers Association of Ada,)" accessed October 5, 2014, [http://kent.migenweb.net/pioneers/adapioneerassn.htm#William\\_and\\_George\\_W.\\_Parker\\_](http://kent.migenweb.net/pioneers/adapioneerassn.htm#William_and_George_W._Parker_)
- <sup>195</sup> Seeking Michigan, "Death Records, 1897-1920," accessed October 6, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/575869/rec/1>
- <sup>196</sup> "Ancestral Offerings."
- <sup>197</sup> Ancestry.com, "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801-1928," accessed October 6, 2014, for Sarah McWilliams
- <sup>198</sup> County of Brant Public Library, "Burford Congregational Church," <http://images.ourontario.ca/brant/2711207/data?n=43>
- <sup>199</sup> Dillenback & Leavitt, *History and Directory of Kent County, Michigan, 1870*: Daily Eagle Steam Printing House, Grand Rapids, Mich., p 65, available on line at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/bad0957.0001.001/7?page=root;size=100;view=image;q1=Kent+County++Mich.+-+History>
- <sup>200</sup> *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Kent, Michigan*, H. Belden & Co., Chicago, 1876, p 11, available on line at

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<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927864.0001.001/15?q1=Kent+County++Mich.+++Maps&view=image&size=100>

<sup>201</sup> Ancestry.com, "Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880," Vergennes, Kent, Michigan: 1850.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid, for 1880.

<sup>203</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885," for Sarah Parker.

<sup>204</sup> Seeking Michigan, "Death Records, 1897-1920," accessed October 6, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/575869/rec/1>

<sup>205</sup> Ancestry.com, "1900 United States Federal Census," for Vergennes, Michigan.

<sup>206</sup> *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Ottawa & Kent, Michigan*, "Patrons' Directory of Kent County," Chicago: H. Belden & Co., 1876, p 90. Available on line at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927947.0001.001/134?rgn=full+text;view=image;q1=parker>

<sup>207</sup> Kent County Michigan Genweb Project, "Ada Pioneer Association and Adjoining Towns (a.k.a. Old Settlers Association of Ada)," see above.

<sup>208</sup> FamilySearch.org, "Michigan, Death Certificates, 1921-1952," accessed September 25, 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/KF3N-L93>.

<sup>209</sup> Ancestry.com, "1880 United States Federal Census," for Vergennes, Michigan.

<sup>210</sup> South Dakota State Historical Society Press, "Railroads and the Settlement of South Dakota During the Great Dakota Boom, 1878-1887," James F. Hamburg, *South Dakota History*, Vol. 5, No. 2: Spring 1975. Available at <http://www.sdshspress.com/index.php?id=555&action=950>.

<sup>211</sup> South Dakota State Historical Society, "South Dakota's Railroads: An Historic Context," p 16, accessed October 9, 2014, [history.sd.gov/preservation/OtherServices/SDRailroad.pdf](http://history.sd.gov/preservation/OtherServices/SDRailroad.pdf)

<sup>212</sup> Ancestry.com, "1900 United States Federal Census," for Vergennes, Michigan.

<sup>213</sup> The Standard Atlas of Kent County, Michigan published in 1907 (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927870.0001.001/76?page=root;size=200;view=image;q1=Kent+County++Mich.+++Maps>) shows him as owning his father's former 80-acre farm. The 1910 U.S. Federal Census shows him living in Lowell and working in a real estate office.

<sup>214</sup> Ancestry.com, "1920 United States Federal Census," for Lowell, Michigan.

<sup>215</sup> Ancestry.com, "1930 United States Federal Census," for Lowell, Michigan.

<sup>216</sup> Address is from the 1930 U.S. Federal Census for Lowell, and the description of the house and its view is from Google Maps street view, accessed October 6, 2014.

<sup>217</sup> FamilySearch.org, "Michigan, Death Certificates, 1921-1952," accessed September 25, 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/KF3N-L93>.

<sup>218</sup> Kent County Michigan GenWeb Project, "Master Cemetery List," <http://kent.migenweb.net/cemeteries/lowell/oakwood/97pq.html>

<sup>219</sup> Ancestry.com, "1940 United States Federal Census," for Owosso, Michigan.

<sup>220</sup> Ancestry.com, "1910 United States Federal Census," for Lowell, Michigan.

<sup>221</sup> FamilySearch.org, "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11833-42433-16?cc=1452395>

<sup>222</sup> Ancestry.com, "Michigan Deaths, 1971-1996 about Irene E Ehrlich," provides birth date and her obituary (a clipping from the Owosso Argus-Press, presumably) provides her birth place.

<sup>223</sup> Ancestry.com, "California Death Index, 1940-1997 about George W Parker," provides his birth date and the 1940 U.S. Federal Census for San Gabriel, California provides his birth place.

<sup>224</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for Claude W Parker."

<sup>225</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S. City Directories [Owosso, Michigan], 1821-1989 for Claude Parker," and the 1920 and 1930 United States Federal Censuses for Owosso, Michigan.

<sup>226</sup> Ancestry.com, "Michigan Divorce Records, 1897-1952 for Ivah Boles."

<sup>227</sup> Ancestry.com, "U.S. City Directories [Owosso, Michigan], 1821-1989 for Freida Parker."

<sup>228</sup> Subsequent listings for Freida only note her as Claude's wife, without reference to an occupation outside the home.

<sup>229</sup> The 1932 directory Freida Parker but doesn't list Claude, and the home was on a different street than their joint residence in 1930.

<sup>230</sup> *The Owosso Argus-Press*, "M. F. Growe Dies Today," December 22, 1952, p13.

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- <sup>231</sup>The Owosso Argus-Press, "George A. Stanton Is Dead at 73," December 21, 1961, p1.
- <sup>232</sup>Freida Bieri's social activities were frequently reported in the Owosso Argus-Press and Sarasota Herald-Tribune. For links to some of those articles, type "freida stanton site:news.google.com/newspapers" in a Google search prompt window.
- <sup>233</sup>An extensive Bieri family line is documented by Dave Rudge, "Genealogy of a Bieri Family," at <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rudged/gen/bieri.html>. The site is well sourced and appears to be reliable, though I have not independently verified the Schangnau church records which are stored at the Morman Library. Though I'd be happy to review the church records, it would require the purchase of electronic compact discs for the sum of about \$800.
- <sup>234</sup>Wikipedia, "Schangnau," accessed August 19, 2014, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schangnau>
- <sup>235</sup>"Genealogy of a Bieri Family"
- <sup>236</sup>Ibid
- <sup>237</sup>"Genealogy of a Roth Family," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rudged/gen/roth.html>
- <sup>238</sup>Per "Genealogy of a Bieri Family"
- <sup>239</sup>Angloswiss.net, "Swiss Emigration," accessed August 19, 2014, <http://www.angloswiss.net/documents/39.html>
- <sup>240</sup>The reported year on all censuses that captured that data, including the 1884 census, one year after their immigration.
- <sup>241</sup>Beebe, Joan, *Vergennes Township Living History*, 1984. Chapter 8: "The Swiss in Vergennes," by Marion Roth Yates and Louise Bieri Schneider, p 38. Available on line at <http://www.vergennestwp.org/Adobe/THE%20VERGENNES%20TOWNSHIP%20LIVING%20HISTORY.pdf>
- <sup>242</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>243</sup>His acreage is shown on R.L. Polk & Co.'s Illustrated Historical Atlas of Kent County, Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan: 1894, accessed August 27, 2014, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927849.0001.001/30?q1=Kent+County++Mich.+-+Maps&view=image&size=400>. His occupation is shown on the Michigan 1884 Census at Seeking Michigan, "Michigan State Census Records, 1884-1894," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16317coll3/id/7396/rec/1>
- <sup>244</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>245</sup>*Vergennes Township Living History*
- <sup>246</sup>Gerard, Kevin, *The First One Hundred Years of Vergennes Township History*, available on-line at <http://www.vergennestwp.org/Adobe/Vergennes%20Township.pdf>.
- <sup>247</sup>Seeking Michigan, "Death Records, 1897-1920," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/354859/rec/4>
- <sup>248</sup>Dave Rudge, "Descendants of Hans Roth of Eriz, Switzerland," accessed August 20, 2014, <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rudged/gen/roth.html>.
- <sup>249</sup>Seeking Michigan, "Death Records, 1897-1920," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p129401coll7/id/37099/rec/9>
- <sup>250</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>251</sup>FamilySearch.org, "Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925," accessed August 27, 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-266-11602-135945-94?cc=1452395>
- <sup>252</sup>FamilySearch.org, "Michigan Marriages, 186801925," accessed August 27, 2014, <https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-267-11833-42433-16?cc=1452395>
- <sup>253</sup>Seeking Michigan, "Michigan State Census Records, 1884-1894," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://seekingmichigan.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p16317coll3/id/75651/rec/2>
- <sup>254</sup>Michigan County Histories and Atlases, "Standard atlas of Kent County, Michigan," Geo. A. Ogle & Co., Chicago, 1907, accessed August 27, 2014, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/3927870.0001.001/76?q1=Kent+County++Mich.+-+Maps&view=image&size=400>
- <sup>255</sup>Ancestry.com, "1900 United States Federal Census," accessed August 27, 2014, [http://interactive.ancestry.com/7602/004120245\\_00859/25236953?backuri=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fse.dll%3fdb%3d1900usfedcen%26h%3d25236953%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt\\_t30988832\\_p12384390990\\_kpidz0q3d12384390990z0q26aidz0q3d19376656396z0q26pgz0q3d32771z0q26pgplz0q3dpdz0q257caid&ssrc=pt\\_t30988832\\_p12384390990\\_kpidz0q3d12384390990z0q26aidz0q3d19376656396z0q26pgz0q3d32771z0q26pgplz0q3dpdz0q257caid&backlabel=ReturnRecord](http://interactive.ancestry.com/7602/004120245_00859/25236953?backuri=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fse.dll%3fdb%3d1900usfedcen%26h%3d25236953%26ti%3d0%26indiv%3dtry%26gss%3dpt%26ssrc%3dpt_t30988832_p12384390990_kpidz0q3d12384390990z0q26aidz0q3d19376656396z0q26pgz0q3d32771z0q26pgplz0q3dpdz0q257caid&ssrc=pt_t30988832_p12384390990_kpidz0q3d12384390990z0q26aidz0q3d19376656396z0q26pgz0q3d32771z0q26pgplz0q3dpdz0q257caid&backlabel=ReturnRecord)
- <sup>256</sup>Bertha (nee Roth) Bieri's obituary states "Mrs. Chris Bieri died at her home near Fallasburg, Tuesday night, aged about fifty years. Mr. Bieri is employed at the new Ed son plant; and Mrs. Bieri was a sister of John and Albert Roth of Lowell." *The Lowell Ledger*, February 19, 1914, p. 4, accessed

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August 27, 2014, [http://lowellledger.kdl.org/The%20Lowell%20Ledger/1914/02\\_February/02-19-1914.pdf](http://lowellledger.kdl.org/The%20Lowell%20Ledger/1914/02_February/02-19-1914.pdf)

<sup>257</sup> Genealogy of a Wyss Family, accessed August 27, 2014, <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rugged/gen/wyss.html>

<sup>258</sup> *The Lowell Ledger*, May 17, 1917, p. 8, accessed August 27, 2014, [http://lowellledger.kdl.org/The%20Lowell%20Ledger/1917/05\\_May/05-17-1917.pdf](http://lowellledger.kdl.org/The%20Lowell%20Ledger/1917/05_May/05-17-1917.pdf)

<sup>259</sup> Ancestry.com, "1900 United States Federal Census," accessed August 27, 2014, [http://interactive.ancestry.com/7602/004120234\\_00057/64524001?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fse.dll%3frank%3d1%26new%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gss%3dangsg%26gsfn%3dedwin%26gsln%3dholloway%26gsln\\_x%3dNS\\_NP\\_NN%26msbdy%3d1840%26msbpn\\_\\_ftp%3dengland%26msrpn\\_\\_ftp%3dGrand%2bRapids%252c%2bKent%252c%2bMichigan%252c%2bUSA%26msrpn%3d44343%26msrpn\\_PInfo%3d8-%257c0%257c1652393%257c0%257c2%257c3247%257c25%257c0%257c1587%257c44343%257c0%257c%26cpxt%3d0%26catBucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dnw4%26cp%3d0%26msrpn\\_\\_ftp\\_x%3d1%26msrpn\\_x%3dXO%26pcat%3dROOT\\_CATEGORY%26h%3d443960999%26db%3dUSDirectories%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d2&ssrc=pt\\_t18004791\\_p18072518674\\_kpidz0q3d18072518674z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord](http://interactive.ancestry.com/7602/004120234_00057/64524001?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fse.dll%3frank%3d1%26new%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gss%3dangsg%26gsfn%3dedwin%26gsln%3dholloway%26gsln_x%3dNS_NP_NN%26msbdy%3d1840%26msbpn__ftp%3dengland%26msrpn__ftp%3dGrand%2bRapids%252c%2bKent%252c%2bMichigan%252c%2bUSA%26msrpn%3d44343%26msrpn_PInfo%3d8-%257c0%257c1652393%257c0%257c2%257c3247%257c25%257c0%257c1587%257c44343%257c0%257c%26cpxt%3d0%26catBucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dnw4%26cp%3d0%26msrpn__ftp_x%3d1%26msrpn_x%3dXO%26pcat%3dROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3d443960999%26db%3dUSDirectories%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&ssrc=pt_t18004791_p18072518674_kpidz0q3d18072518674z0q26pgz0q3d32768z0q26pgplz0q3dpid&backlabel=ReturnRecord)

<sup>260</sup> Genealogy of a Bieri Family.

<sup>261</sup> Wikipedia, "Croton Dam (Michigan)," accessed August 23, 2014, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croton\\_Dam\\_%28Michigan%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croton_Dam_%28Michigan%29)

<sup>262</sup> Wyss, Alfred, "Some Early Days As I Recall Them," accessed August 27, 2014, <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rugged/gen/AWrec.html>

<sup>263</sup> Genealogy of a Bieri Family.

<sup>264</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>265</sup> *Ibid.*