

# *The Livermore Roots Tracer*



*Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society*

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://twitter.com/lagsociety>

## Membership News

### *Welcome New Members:*

**Rob Drew - Pleasanton, CA, Jim Rubiales - Stockton, CA, Vikki Rubiales - Stockton, CA,  
Judy L. Shovah - Livermore, CA**

*We are grateful for the generosity of the following L-AGS Members:*

#### *Patrons*

**Anonymous, Cheryl Kay Speaks, David E. Steffes, Duncan Tanner**

#### *Individual Benefactors*

**Sandra Caulder, Marilyn A. Cutting, Sharon Garrison, Patricia R. Hansen,  
Cindy McKenna, Patricia Moore, Madelon Palma, Ileen J. Peterson, Peggy Weber**

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**Kristina & Jahuja Ahuja, Ralph & Jack Crouse, Gail & Ted Fairfield,  
Wanda & Richard Finn, Leslie & Raymond Hutchings, Jean & Dick Lerche,  
Wendy & Carl Rosenkilde, Marlene & William Silver, Ruth & Rhett Williamson**

Total L-AGS Memberships as of July 16, 2011: 218 Members

## Meeting News

**General Meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map:

<http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

**The Study Group** meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December at 7:30 p.m., at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore.

Map: <http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Liv-FHC.html>

**Study Group Chair** (Kay Speaks)

[study.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:study.chair@L-AGS.org)

**Study Group Forum** [study.group@L-AGS.org](mailto:study.group@L-AGS.org)

**The Master Genealogist Group** meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at 7077 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 110, Pleasanton. <http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Pls-KollCenter.html>

**TV-TMG Chair** (Kay Speaks) [tytmg.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:tytmg.chair@L-AGS.org)

## L-AGS Leadership for 2011

**President**

[president@L-AGS.org](mailto:president@L-AGS.org)

**First VP and Program Chair**

[program@L-AGS.org](mailto:program@L-AGS.org)

**Second VP and Membership Chair**

[membership@L-AGS.org](mailto:membership@L-AGS.org)

**Corresponding Secretary**

[corresponding@L-AGS.org](mailto:corresponding@L-AGS.org)

**Recording Secretary**

[recording@L-AGS.org](mailto:recording@L-AGS.org)

**Business Manager**

[business@L-AGS.org](mailto:business@L-AGS.org)

**Mary Dillon**

**Richard Finn**

**Teresa Fraser**

**Anne Les**

**Patricia Northam**

**Duncan Tanner**

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## A Message from our President

Happy Summer! At least that's what they tell me it is. Sometimes it's hard to tell from the weather, isn't it? Just when it turns cold, then it goes back to the high 90's, then back down. I guess we can at least be happy it isn't raining – today.

Anyways, I hope this summer has been a good one for you. Perhaps a trip to visit family, with a chance to collect old pictures or visit a repository? Or maybe just time to work on what you've collected already. It's all a fun way to spend your summer.

I want to give a big THANK YOU! to all our **volunteers** who labor so diligently all year at the library, on special projects and also helping L-AGS as committee leaders, snack providers, newsletter workers, etc. Since L-AGS is an all volunteer organization we depend on you to make it the best genealogy society going. We hope some of you who haven't volunteered before will talk to Jane Southwick (email [volunteer.chair@l-ags.org](mailto:volunteer.chair@l-ags.org)) about sharing some of your time with us. Thank you all for everything you do.

A reminder, too, that the board has presented a **change to the By-Laws** that we hope you will accept. It was read and explained at the July and August meetings and will be voted on at the September meeting. **In order for it to pass, we need to have at least 40 members at the September meeting**, so please come – not just for the great program, but to vote for (or against) the By-Law change. If you have any questions on the By-Law change ask any board member (email [board@l-ags.org](mailto:board@l-ags.org)), they'll be happy to explain the reasons behind it.

Please plan to donate a few hours to the **Tri-Valley Heritage Happenings** during October. The Happenings are a project by all the museums, historic sites, libraries, and genealogy societies in the Tri-Valley to make the public aware of the great history – and historic groups – that are in the Tri-Valley. L-AGS will have genealogy sessions like we used to have at the fair, but this time the sessions will be at the Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton libraries and one session at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Patrick Lofft has done a wonderful job of coordinating the dates and hours with the libraries - now all we need are volunteers! We need people to help with greeting and talking with visitors as well as some to search Ancestry.com, etc. on the computers helping people find a bit of information on their families in the 1920 & 1930 censuses. This is a great way to get people interested in starting their genealogy and a fun way for us to practice our genealogy skills. I'll be taking part and I hope to see many of you there, too. Patrick will let us know how to sign up on-line or if you're not "connected" just talk to Patrick (email [docents.chair@l-ags.org](mailto:docents.chair@l-ags.org)) and he'll put you to work.

It must be time to sign off as I realize it's already August 9 – Fall isn't far away! I hope you enjoy L-AGS' programs and can use the information to bring more to your own genealogy.

Happy Hunting!

*Mary*

### *The Livermore Roots Tracer*

*The Roots Tracer* is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Roots Tracer is:

**“Instruct. Inspire. Inform.”**

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to: [managing.editor@l-ags.org](mailto:managing.editor@l-ags.org) or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

### *The Roots Tracer Staff*

**Editor** ..... Patrick Lofft  
**Reporters** ..... George Anderson, Lois Barber,  
 ..... Katherine Bridgman, Marie Ross,  
 ..... Jane Southwick, Kay Speaks  
**Web Editor** ..... Vicki Renz  
**Composer** ..... Andi Winters  
**Printing and Distribution** ..... Sandra Caulder  
**G.R.O.W. Columnist** ..... Kay Speaks

## Rhoda Maria (Bunker) Fernald Abbott, 1803-1897

By Betty Courtney



The Piscataqua River<sup>1</sup> defines part of the boundary between New Hampshire and Maine. In the area where the river empties into the Atlantic Ocean, settlements began being established about 1623. My roots run deep in that area both in Maine and New Hampshire.

York County was the original county of Maine, established in 1652. My 3G Grandmother, Rhoda Maria (Bunker) Fernald, lived there all her life. She was born in Kittery on 23 August 1803<sup>2</sup> but most of her life was spent in York where she married John Fernald in 1825. Their daughter, Nancy Maria was born there also. John died of consumption 6 June 1835<sup>3</sup>.

Rhoda wasted no time in marrying a second time. Henry Abbott and Mrs. Rhoda Maria Fernald were issued a certificate of marriage on 8 Nov 1835. Henry was the jail keeper in York. They had 6 children.

Today, York has several historic museum buildings, seven of which are in the National Register of Historic Places. One of them, the "Old Gaol," was built in 1719. It served as a prison from 1719

-1860. It is recognized as one of the oldest British public buildings in the United States. Henry was jail keeper in the "Old Gaol" and what is more, Rhoda succeeded him in the job.

"For several years Mrs. Henry Abbott was the resident in charge of the old building, having been appointed deputy jailer in 1859 to succeed her husband in the office. Besides her returns for feeding prisoners she derived some income from fees she charged 'to view the dungeons<sup>4</sup>.'"

Emma L. Coleman, a photographer, was active in the York area in the 1880's. The Old York Historical Society has preserved many of her pictures. One of them is entitled "The Jailress" and it is regarded as a picture of Rhoda Maria Abbott.

I inherited from my Grandmother, a stickler of detail if there ever was one, a hand painted plate. She had put tape on the back and written "Great Grandmother Abbott's." While it is uncertain that the picture is of her, I am very certain that the plate belonged to her!

She certainly was no beauty but she was a survivor and had New England ingenuity. She and Henry are buried in the First Church Cemetery across the street from the "Old Gaol."



<sup>1</sup>The precise modern spelling "Piscataqua" first appeared in English writing in 1623, according to Portsmouth historian, Ralph May. The word eventually appeared as "Pascattaway" and "Pascataquack" and another thirty variations in an era when consistent spelling was of no special value.

<sup>2</sup>Joseph Crook Anderson II and Lois Ware Thurston, editors, *Vital Records of Kittery, Maine, to the Year 1892* (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 1991) 321.

<sup>3</sup>Lester MacKenzie Bragdon and John Eldridge Frost, transcribers, *Vital Records of York, Maine* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992) 224.

<sup>4</sup>George Ernst, *New England Miniature, A History of York, Maine* (Freeport, Maine: The Bond Wheelwright Company, 1961)161.

## Coal Miner's (Third Great Grand) Daughter

By Debbie Mascot

Exactly one week after the 1861 marriage of my great, great, great grandparents, the Glasgow Herald, a newspaper of the locale from which they emigrated, sported the following from America:

*Latest News*

*Herald Office, Friday Morning.*

*By Electric Telegraphy.*

**AMERICA.**

*Per Steamer New York via Southampton*

*It is reported from Washington that the Confederates have erected a long line of batteries on the lower Potomac- Several Federal steamers passing up and down have been fired into...*

(Source: *Glasgow Herald*, Glasgow Scotland, 11 Oct 1861, p. 5, col. 4.)

The article continued, discussing the troubles in America with regards to the steamers. In Scotland, the worry was with trade. Cotton was imported from America and processed in and around Glasgow. Textile work from bleaching to dying to printing and weaving was a major industry in this area of Scotland. With the American Civil War, the supply of raw cotton was reduced drastically, helping to lead to the end of the Scotland textile industry.

But while Scotland worried about its textiles, I sincerely doubt that my great, great, great grandparents, Thomas Connor and his new bride, Janet Mason Connor, paid much

attention to the news coming from America; or to the Scotland textile industry.

In addition to not being able to read or write, Thomas and Janet had just married and were expecting their first child, William, who would be born the next month on 10 November 1861 in Barony, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Thomas was a coal miner, born on 22 June 1842 to an iron-stone miner. His wife came from an iron-stone mining family as well. They led lives of the poor, in the miner rows of Scotland. As the demand grew with the Industrial Revolution, so did the coal mines, getting deeper and deeper and

more and more dangerous. The miners were breathing damp, musty coal dust and exposed to poisonous and explosive gasses. They worked 12 hour shifts weekdays and slightly shorter hours on Saturdays. The mine owners built rows of houses for the miners and their families to rent. These were small one or two room dwellings and were pretty primitive, with outdoor toilets and external water. The women and children also worked the mines, although not underground.

I try to imagine their lives at the time- a growing family in a small home with unhealthy work environments. I have two children with an extra room for them to



***Five Generations of the Conner Family:***

*Standing: Pierre William Conner (my grandfather)  
Left to Right: Thomas Orville Conner (my great grandfather), Deborah Conner Mascot (me!), William Mason Conner (my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather-son of the Thomas and Janet mentioned in this article), Harry James Conner (my father).*

just play in. I go to work for a mere eight hours a day and get breaks and a special chair so that I'm extra comfortable. I imagine that they didn't have ENOUGH, much less extra. While I plan my next vacation, I realize that they likely didn't get vacations at all. I imagine they just tried to survive the days, giving little if any thought to the new outbreak of war in America. Or did they?

Just a little less than 10 years later, Thomas and Janet and their children came to Illinois. Perhaps the Civil War made them postpone this journey across the Atlantic. Perhaps many of their children would have been born in America were it not for the War Between the States. Perhaps they gave a lot of thought to America during these tumultuous times.

NAMES.	AGE		SEX
	Years	Months	
Janet Conner	28		F
Mr.	9		M
Miss	6		F
John	4		M
John	2		M
John	1		M

(Source: *New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957*. Aboard the *Iowa*, Departed Glasgow, arrived New York 9 July 1872. Accessed at *Ancestry.com*)

Regardless of when they came, I am just really glad that they did. Although my Connors turned into Conners and remained coal miners for another generation, they quickly turned their hand to farming and then exploring and now...

Well, now, here I sit here writing about my coal mining 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather while I sit in a comfy chair in a nice house in sunny California while my children frolic and play. None of my living family has ever even set foot in a coal mine, much less slaved in one. We have healthy wonderful lives, jobs, and families. And we owe it all to the hard work that our grandfathers and grandmothers did in those coal mines of Scotland, Illinois, and Iowa. They gave me my life and they don't even know me.

My thanks to them. Eternally.

Here is the lineage chart from Thomas and Janet to me:

#### Generation 6

**Thomas Conner** b. 22 June 1842, d. 4 May 1920 in Madrid, Boone Co., IA

m. Janet Mason b. 27 Mar 1842 in Corstorphine, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, d. 28 Apr 1880 in Chillicothe, Wapello Co., IA

#### Generation 5

**William Mason Conner** b. 29 Jan 1872 in Carlisle, Lanarkshire, Scotland, d. 15 Mar 1970 in Russell, Lucas Co., IA

m. Harriet Orvilla Price b. 12 Oct 1868 in Macomb, McDonough Co., IL, d. 25 Aug 1959 in Russell, Lucas Co., IA

#### Generation 4

**Thomas Orville Conner** b. 21 Jan 1895 in Zero, Lucas Co., d. 23 Dec 1988 in Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., CA

m. Anna Ellen Konst b. 20 Mar 1894 in North Washington, Chickasaw Co., IA, d. 20 Feb 1978 in Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., CA

#### Generation 3

**Pierre William Conner**

m. **Signa Viola Felt** b. 20 Aug 1917 in Nemo, Lawrence Co., SD d. 4 Mar 1976 in Mobridge, Walworth Co., SD

#### Generation 2

**Harry James Conner**

m. **Marilyn Luella Badgley**

#### Generation 1

**Deborah Elaine Conner**

m. **Marc Stephen Mascot**

\*\*\*\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*\*\*\*

*Muriel Carmozzi,*

a longtime member of L-AGS, died June 16, 2011. Muriel was a charter member of L-AGS, joining in 1977. While she was not very active in the organization recently, some remember that she attended the L-AGS 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in December 2007 and that she was always a very pleasant person.

## CIVIL WAR Ancestors of Margaret Anne Newman Les

By Anne Les

The following is extracted from a book "PAST & PRESENT OF CLINTON COUNTY" by Milton Furey, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, published by Pennsylvania Grit Printing House, Williamsport PA. 1892

George Arnold Emery was the Great Great Grandfather of Margaret Anne Newman Les. The four sons that served in the Civil War would be her Great Grand Uncles.

George Arnold Emery, born in Vasselboro, Maine in 1810 married Mary Libby, born in 1816, on December 2, 1832. They moved to Pennsylvania in 1850 and settled in Lock Haven in 1853. They had seven sons and one daughter. Four of the sons served in the Civil War as follows:

*George Melvin Emery was mustered into the US Service in Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry in August 1861; promoted to Sergeant September 26, 1862 and mustered out of service September 1864.*

*Benjamin L. Emery was a corporal in Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was wounded at Cedar Mountain, VA in 1861 and discharged at Alexandria four months later.*

*Orlando H. Emery enlisted in the same company, was promoted sergeant in 1863, took part in both battles of Bull Run, served through the whole of Pennsylvania and the battle of Gettysburg. He was wounded in the last named battle while serving as a message carrier for General Meade. He was a brave and daring soldier, and at one time was tendered a captaincy, but refused it on account of ill health. He died in 1882. The O.H. Emery Camp Sons of Veterans was named in his honor.*

*Another son, Colonel James M. Emery was also a soldier in Company D, Pennsylvania Cavalry and Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania artillery. He served on various gunboats and was captured at Smithfield, VA, Feb. 1, 1864 and confined in Libby, Andersonville and Belle Isle prisons. He was exchanged March 25 1865 and discharged as corporal the following June.*

*The only daughter Thankful B. Emery died at the age of one month.*

*Silas W. was accidentally killed in a saw mill when he was 13 years of age.*

*Mr. & Mrs. George Arnold Emery lived to celebrate their 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1898. They reared a family to be proud of. When the war cloud of the late Rebellion hung low over a divided nation, there went forth from their doorway five brave and loyal sons to fight beneath the stars and stripes.*

Another son John C. born in 1836 is not mentioned.

Joseph L. Emery, b 1848, is not listed as being in the war, due to his young age. (He was said to be a prominent lumberman of Clinton County, PA. He married Jane Chadwick Freeman and their son Reuel Freeman Emery married my grandmother Alice Maude Gibb.) Joseph L. Emery is my great grandfather.

### **Descendants of George Arnold Emery**

1 George Arnold Emery, b. 1810 Vassalboro, Kennebec, Maine, d. 1901 in Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

m. Mary Libby, b. 1816 Gardiner, Kennebec, Maine, d. 1903 Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

2 George Melville Emery, b. 1834 Maine, d. 1904 Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

2 John Cleveland Emery, b. 1836

2 Thankful B. Emery, b. 1838 Fairfield, Somerset, Maine, d. 1838 Fairfield, Somerset, Maine

2 Benjamin Libby Emery, b. 1840, d. 1891 in Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

m. Anne C. Freeman, b. 1847, d. 1884 in Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

\*2nd Wife of Benjamin Libby Emery

m. Jennie McGhee, b. 1848, d. 1932 in Lock Haven, Clinton, Pennsylvania

2 Orlando H. Emery, b. 1842, d. 1882 Potter, Pennsylvania

m. Mary E. Pearsall, b. 1846 Caledonia, Elk, Pennsylvania

2 James Manley Emery, b. 1845

2 Silas Wright Emery, b. 1846 Fairfield, Somerset, Maine, d. 1859 Tangascootack, Clinton, Pennsylvania

2 Joseph Libby Emery, b. 1848 Fairfield, Somerset, Maine, d. 1901 Noyes Township, Westport, Pennsylvania

m. Jane (Jennie) Chadwick Freeman, b. 1851 Newbury, Emporium, Pennsylvania, d. 1905 Westport, Clinton, Pennsylvania



## G. R. O. W.

### Genealogy Resources On the Web — The Page That Helps Genealogy Grow!

Compiled by Kay Speaks

LancasterHistory.org announced on July 19 the completion of Phase 2 of their historic city and county directories of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Phase 1: 1843-1900; Phase 2: 1901-1914. Phase 3: 1914-1923 to be completed in 2012.

<http://tinyurl.com/lancasterNewspapers-CityDir>

*Calisphere* is the University of California's free public gateway to a world of primary sources. It is a public service project of the California Digital Library (CDL). You can spend hours just browsing!

<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

This new online tool uses current day Google Maps and overlays a historical county map from the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*. Enter the present day county location and the historical year to see an image of the boundaries then in affect with today's places, roads, etc. Mr. Majors is currently adding Historical World Boundary Map capability.

<http://randymajors.com>

<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp> (atlas referenced)

RootsWeb User-Contributed Databases. These databases are searchable by country, state/region and source type. Another link provides a link to contributors to help you identify original sources. As with all databases, verification of data is always advised.

<http://userdb.rootsweb.ancestry.com/regional.html>

RootsWeb User-Contributed Databases--Military.

<http://tinyurl.com/rootswebUserDB-military>

RootsWeb Archives Search Engine. Read the search tips if you need help for better results.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/search>

Books with Genealogy Theme List. Looking for genealogy fiction books for adults and juveniles? Use WorldCat.org to create a list of pertinent books and find the closest library with availabil-

ity. List compiled by Pam Cooper, Indian River County Main Library, Vero Beach, Florida.

<http://www.irclibrary.org/genealogy/genealogybooks.pdf> (Note: You may receive a PDF warning asking OK?)

WorldCat library resource. Use to locate library resource topics by specific location. Remember inter-library loan. Use resource name or title in a Google general search. Amazing things can be found! Suggest you use Advanced Search with "Keyword" and "Year" options. Remember, many libraries have information outside your research location!

<http://www.worldcat.org/>

DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). The DAR has combined several of their databases collected since its inception in 1890. You don't have to be a DAR member to use this online GRS resource. [Resource courtesy of L-AGS and DAR member Kristina Ahuja.]

[http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm)

Google Search Tips:

Try using Google's vertical search. Instead of searching across all pages on the internet, Google has a number of specific searches.

Blog: <http://blogsearch.google.com/>

Book: <http://books.google.com/>

Scholar: <http://scholar.google.com/>

Catalogs: <http://googleguide.com/catalogs.html>

Code Search:

<http://www.google.com/codesearch>

Finance: <http://finance.google.com/finance/>

Images: <http://images.google.com/>

Local/Maps: <http://maps.google.com/maps/>

News: <http://news.google.com/>

Patent Search: <http://www.google.com/patents/>

Product Search:

<http://www.google.com/products/>

Video: <http://video.google.com/>

Note: Google images now has sort by subject.



# I Walked & Walked & Walked From Council Bluffs to the Sacramento Valley

May through September 1861, a sesquicentennial anniversary article

By Patricia R. Hansen

The following are excerpts from an "oral history" of Edgar Eugene Hulbert taken down by his daughter Eva Eugenia (née Hulbert) Rollin in about 1930. Edgar is my great grandfather.

Edgar Eugene Hulbert was born in Columbus, Columbia Co. Wisconsin on March 14, 1847. He was the second son of Joseph Warren Hulbert and Betsy Webb Hulbert.

His father Joseph Warren Hulbert was born in Erie Co. Pennsylvania January 18, 1818 and died at Auburn, Placer Co. California April 22, 1908, aged 90 years. When Joseph was a small boy his father Asahel Hulbert moved with his family to Bradford, Ontario, Canada, where he had a hotel and he later moved back to the States.

Betsy Webb was born in Seneca Co. Ohio July 12, 1822. She was married to Joseph Warren Hulbert in Joliet, Illinois about 1843. They then moved to Wisconsin where seven children were born to them: Horace Warren, Frances Adelia, Edgar Eugene, Herman, James Worster, Lucetta and Alfred Newton. While in Wisconsin Joseph Warren Hulbert was engaged in farming and in the dairy business.

When Edgar was still a small boy the family moved to Manchester, [Delaware County] Iowa where his father was engaged in wholesale general merchandise with branch stores in other towns - Strawberry Point [Clayton County] and Edes' Grove [Delaware County]. Edgar loved to tell of his boyhood in Iowa, of the beautiful woods and streams where he gathered wild nuts and berries and fruit, and where he went fishing and swimming and learned the wonders of nature. Here he developed a passionate love for nature that lasted through his entire life.

He was very athletic, alert and quick. He told of

climbing trees and swinging on wild grapevines. He remembered the old Mill in the neighborhood where the community took their own corn, wheat and rye to be ground into flour and meal. In those days tomatoes were called "love apples" and were put upon the mantel over the fireplace as ornaments to look at and the children were warned not to eat them because they were poison. His mother made all of their candles for lighting from tallow and knitted their sox and stockings, caps, scarfs and mittens.

His father, Joseph, at this time was considered quite a wealthy man so they kept a maid or "hired girl" to help with the work. Edgar remembered one girl in particular who was English and told the ghost stories that frightened the children.

Edgar was a great favorite with his mother and she relied on him for errands because he was so truthful and trustworthy. He looked like his mother who was a small wiry type with very dark brown eyes and long black hair. He always described her as very beautiful and a real aristocrat. His father was fair with blue eyes and light brown hair, and about 5 ft. 11 in. tall.

In 1861 his father became discouraged over a large shipment or boatload of bacon and hams that he sent down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. War was declared between the

North and South and the whole cargo and boat was confiscated by the Rebels. Afraid that greater losses might come to him, he sold all of his property and left for the new land of California with his family.

In May 1861 he outfitted for his family at Council Bluffs, Iowa with three covered wagons drawn by

Name		Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, and ability, over 16 years of age	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Mother
420	J. W. Hulbert	M	42	W	Merchant	5400	350	Pennsylvania	Ohio
	Betsy	F	37	W				Ohio	Wisconsin
	Horace	M	16	W					
	Edgar	M	13	W					
	Herman	M	11	W					
	Lucetta	F	7	W					
	Alfred	M	4	W					

horses. The Hulberts were well prepared with a wood stove and oven in which his mother baked bread at night. They brought 2 cows that supplied them with milk throughout the journey. The train had 100 or more wagons headed or led by a Captain Richardson of Omaha. They went 10 to 13 miles a day. Everyone walked unless they were ill. The wagons were used to carry provisions. This train had all horses. The trains that drove oxen were much slower.

They came by way of the northern route called Sublettes Cutoff by way south of the North Platte River crossed at Loup Fork ferry, NB; Fort Laramie, WY; Independence Rock, WY; and the Sweetwater River country, Green River, Bear River, Fort Hall, ID; American Falls, ID; Snake River, Granite Rock, Humboldt River through the Nevada desert, Deep Hole Hot Springs, Susanville, Big Meadows, Dog Town (now Magalia), Chico - camped two weeks at the Buttes, then two miles to the Sacramento River between Colusa and Funks Ferry (now Meridian) where Joseph bought 350 acres from a man named Perkins.

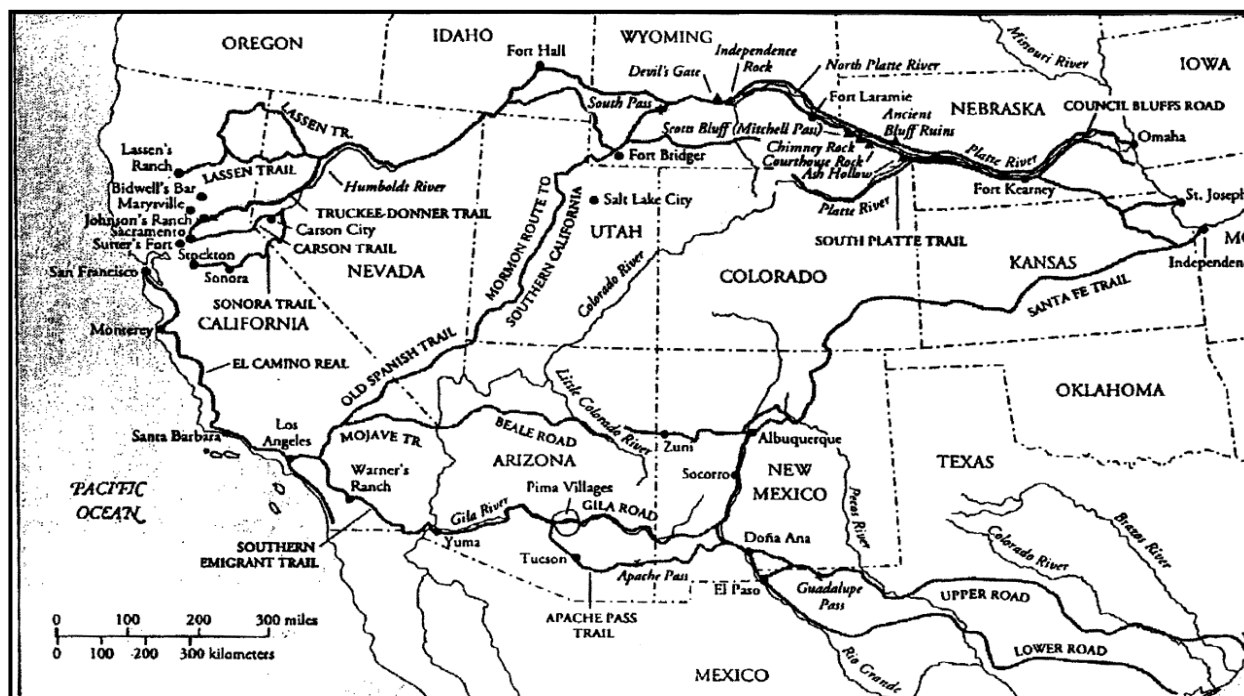
Edgar was thirteen years old when they crossed the plains and told tales of meeting the Pony Express along the way and of crews of men putting in the first telegraph lines. It was finished by the

time they arrived in California in September.

Only one death occurred on the trip. A man by the name of Springstead, with a wife and one child, was drowned in an attempt to swim the Platte River. When the train reached the river Springstead he and another man said they would swim across and have things prepared when the train arrived. It would take a whole day for the train to cross the river. Springstead became exhausted in the whirling waters and drowned. His wife and child continued with the train and later his wife taught school near Meridian.



One day they saw a great cloud of dust in the distance and they prepared for battle, but as they came nearer they discovered there were women and children with them and Captain Richardson assured them that there was no danger. They proved to be very friendly. Some of the emigrants



gave the chief five shirts and he put them all on, one on top of the other as they were given him. Then another one gave him a silk plug hat, and he rode away as proud as a king with nothing on but five shirts and a tall silk hat. All the Indians that came into camp would ask for biscuits, one word that they seemed to know.

Edgar's mother made light bread all the way across. She would mix it up in the morning and bake it at night when they camped. They had a cook stove with them, wood burner, with an oven. They also brought two cows with them and milked both of them all the way across. They were shod for the journey. They went ten to thirteen miles a day. Everyone walked unless they were ill. They needed all the room in the wagons for provisions. They lost one wagon on the way which wore out. Often they would see wagons, stoves and other things along the way, things that had been abandoned.

The wagon train was so large they were never attacked by Indians, but were always prepared for battle. At night they formed the wagons in a circle



by placing the tongue of one on the hind axle of the one ahead, all staying inside the circle except the armed sentries who were placed outside to watch and guard the horses and cattle.

On the plains where there was no timber, the emigrants burned buffalo chips. When they camped, women would go out and pick them up in their aprons and build their fires to prepare the evening meal. He quotes Captain Richardson as saying:

"For all those fond of buffalo chips  
Take those that's newly born,  
If I had known that which I know,  
I would have gone around the Horn."

There were people in the train from Canada, New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and other states. They left Council Bluffs in May 1861 and arrived in California five months later in September 1861. Many of them settled in Sutter County where the land was fertile and wild game was plentiful. Unfortunately, Malaria carrying mosquitoes were also plentiful and many people including Edgar became sick.

*To be continued in the November Roots Tracer.*

## A Revered Ancestor: Clark Wilcox Decker

By Virginia Decker Loewe

As a youngster, my brother, Clarke Crawford Decker, had been fascinated by the fact that he had a great grandfather who had fought in the War Between the States. About 15 years ago Clarke had the opportunity to visit the State Archives in Lansing, Michigan, where the original daily records written by officers were kept. He told me that it was a remarkable experience to hold in his hands such documents; in our great grandfather's handwriting. He said that he spent hours pouring over them while time seemed to stand still for him.

This great-grandfather was born in Adrian Township, Lenawee, Michigan, in 1838 to Uriah Decker and Experience Baker, who were described as founding pioneers of Lenawee County, arriving

in the Michigan Territory in 1833, before Michigan had become a state. When the war broke out Clark had been a sailor on the Great Lakes and was now a carpenter. Like many of the young men of this area, he volunteered for service. Clark had two brothers-in-law in arms and he lost three of his cousins to the risks of participating in that conflict.

The following information is pulled from state records in Lansing, Michigan, and the Chicago Public Library and was sent to me in a letter from my brother, dated March 14, 1996:

"I thought I'd put together what I have about [great] Grampa Clark's military record in the Civil War. [Al]though I can't seem to find the records of his first entry into the military, I do know that

in May 1861 he entered as a Pvt. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Voluntary Infantry Division. This group of men was drawn from towns along the Michigan/Ohio border.

"The division was sent to Washington, D. C. in time to take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Bull Run. The division was mustered out of existence when Lincoln realized the war could go on much longer than 3 months, which was how long the volunteers had signed up for.

"Clark went back to Adrian until November 8, 1863, when he re-entered as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Company H, 11<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Clark was the executive officer of Company H. He was finally discharged from Company B, 8th Michigan on September 22, 1864 in Nashville, Tenn."

My brother Clarke writes..."the primary responsibility of the 11th was to ride herd on cattle driven from Kansas along the Kentucky border to the east to feed the [Union] Army in [the] eastern battle zone.

"Twice the 11<sup>th</sup> Michigan went on a raid into Western Virginia to destroy the Salt Works in Saltville, Va. The first raid in the Fall of 1864 was not successful; later in the spring of 1865 under Major-General George Stoneman, a famous cavalry officer, they went back to Saltville and destroyed it. The salt mines in Virginia were the only ones in



the South; therefore very important to the southern cause."

(I have since read that during the Civil War salt was rationed in the South and households were issued ration cards for it.)

Since many of us like to know how a story ends, I have this to add. Clark went back to being a carpenter, later becoming a builder of houses. There are many that he built still occupied in Adrian, Michigan. He married his sweetheart, Emeline Finch, in 1865 and continued to enjoy a quiet life. He sat on the school board and was a Justice of the Peace. He and Emeline had two children, Zoe and Leon Elwood, and upon the untimely death of Leon from typhoid fever, Clark raised his only grandson, Leon Adrian, my father, who had been born the month before his own father died. With the help of his daughter, Zoe, who taught school in Adrian for many years, he provided a loving home for his grandson who idolized him. Young Leon's mother was part of the household as well.

For 45 years after the Civil War, Clark continued to attend annual encampments of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). When he attended he was hailed as "Chief" by the men he had fought with. Even when questioned, he never talked about his war experiences to my father or anyone else, as far as we know. Clark Wilcox Decker had been a widower for 16 years when he died in 1924, at the age of 86.

## Members Helping Members

After a slow start Rob came in. He has genealogy done by several family members and he had a list of "how-to" questions that I answered.

At 1 pm, Melanie came in and had a family she wanted to research and had been having problems searching in Ancestry.com.

I had to leave at 2, but I spent some extra time showing the options on search terms, and she did find the family in the 1930 census. When we looked, her father was 17 and she had thought had

only one brother. However, looking closer at the dates of the parents' marriage and the family members listed, I pointed out that this was a second marriage for her grandfather, there were half-siblings, and pointed out how to read the places of birth—all Mississippi. This was all a surprise to her as her father had said he had only 1 brother. Melanie then worked back through to the 1900 census looking for her father's mother. I believe she was excited and into the 1880 records when I packed up to leave.

## A Grief History in Northwest Pennsylvania: 1860s

By Wendy Ellison Rosenkilde, Ph.D.

Today we can hardly fathom the worry and grief that descended on families and communities throughout the North and the South. The issues and actions attendant to that War, whether considered a *Rebellion* or the *War of Northern Aggression*, echo across America today. Remembering the price that was paid by the young soldiers, sometimes brothers, neighbors, or cousins, should call us to responsible politics and commitment to the concept that, if we disagree, we must agree to maintain civility in our discourse and restraint in our actions. Terrible wounds and tragic deaths demand no less of us.

In 1815, in Whitehall, Washington, New York, Benjamin Delamater died with honors accruing from his contributions to the War of 1812. As far as our family knew, his widow lived a while longer in Whitehall and then joined her children in Randolph Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. The Erie Canal enhanced travel to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and the Delamaters, traveled easily between the Ticonderoga region of New York and northwest Pennsylvania.

Around 2006, as a descendant of Benjamin Delamater, I learned that his widow, Anna Barnes Delamater, had a second marriage to Reuben



Smalley, Revolutionary War Pensioner. Their names appeared together on a land distribution document in Washington County, New York. Nowhere had the family history included Reuben Smalley! Upon his death in 1845, Anna moved to Pennsylvania, where she was remembered on a tombstone in Lyona Cemetery at Saegertown, Crawford, Pennsylvania. The tombstone reads only: Anna Barnes Delamater, with no mention of Smalley.

When I heard about the marriage to Reuben

Smalley, my memory clicked and I thought to myself, I've heard that name somewhere before. Indeed, Anna Barnes Delamater Smalley had a grandson named Reuben Smalley Delamater, born 1838 in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. This young Reuben died in the second day of the battle (which Confederate General D. H. Hill called murder not war), 02 Jul 1862, at Malvern Hill, Henrico County, Virginia. While the naming of Reuben Smalley Delamater, the younger, was only circumstantial evidence of Anna's marriage to the Patriot Reuben, I thought that, along with the land document, there was sufficient support for our family's acceptance and welcoming of this new Revolutionary War hero to the family tree. The 1840 Fed Census for Whitehall, NY, lists a female 60-69, residing with Reuben Smalley. Anna would have been 65 that year.



To date, those in my family who pay attention to matters genealogical have remained with the name on the tombstone where there is no mention of Smalley. Perhaps the Delamater Family discounted Anna's second marriage, even though Anna's children are named as heirs in a property distribution in Whitehall, New York. In my family, widows were obliged to live out their days unwed and carrying the deceased father's heritage. (As children, my sister and I debated which husband a woman who remarried would hold hands with and decided in favor of one on either side of her casket, reaching through holes in the sides.)

From <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Dela mater&GSfn=Anna&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=40&GScl=2260&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=67057347&df=all&>

Because the grandson was named Reuben Smalley Delamater, I believe that Anna and Reuben may well have married and Anna would have been glad to remember both her husbands on her tombstone. As it was, her second husband came to be remembered in Pennsylvania only through the untimely death of her grandson, one of my ancestral casualties of the Civil War. In New York and Vermont history, the Smalley name is well remembered.

While my Delamater ancestors and my ancestors named Hunt lived together in Randolph and Lyona townships in Crawford, Pennsylvania, their intermarriage did not occur until after the Civil War. The Hunts had been grieving, too, for Jonathan Hunt did not come home either. Recently, I asked for help to add his grave to *Find-A-Grave* and a picture was posted from Baker Cemetery in Townville, Crawford, PA. His tombstone reads: *John B. Hunt Company B 12<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry 21 Mar 1865* (government records indicate 1866).

Another Civil War-related casualty was the famous/infamous John Brown who married Mary Day, sister-in-law of Thomas Delamater, son of Anna Barnes Delamater Smalley, and brother of my 4<sup>th</sup> ggmo, Rosena Delamater Ellison.

Recently a very elderly Hunt descendant asked me to find out what happened to Desdemona Gleason. (This elderly cousin of mine assumed I would know Desdemona!) I learned that she was the widow of Samuel H. Hunt, who died at age 35 on 18 Sep 1862, a Civil War casualty. Desdemona raised their six children and she lived to 1900. Desdemona's brother was Matthias G. Gleason, *Private, 150<sup>th</sup> Infantry*, who mustered out with his company on June 23, 1865, and was married to Phoebe A. Southwick.

My great-grandmother, Emma Hofford Prather, welcomed home her only brother, Nimrod Burwell Hofford. "Uncle" N.B., as he was known, became the Assistant Postmaster of Meadville,

Crawford, Pennsylvania.

Throughout the remainder of his life, he was active in Civil War veterans' activities.

When I drive through downtown Meadville, I think of

him when I see the large Civil War statue in Diamond Park, a statue in memory of a flag bearer killed at Gettysburg.

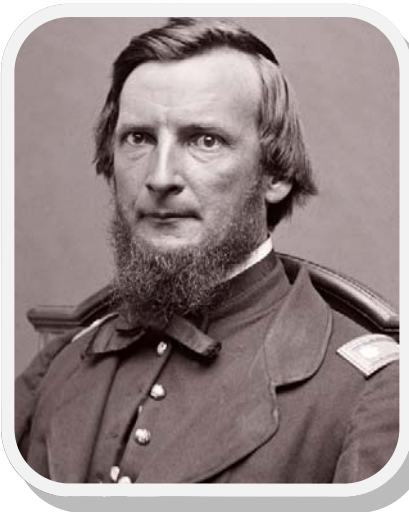
Despite the Quaker heritage in the family and because of the strong abolitionist convictions, the ancestors of both my parents "joined up." My great-great grandmother, Mary Ann McCalmont Prather, was a first cousin of General Alfred Brunson McCalmont. The cousins were born in Venango County, Pennsylvania, on land acquired by their grandfather, John McCalmont, of the Revolutionary War. Alfred's published letters record him as Lt. Col. 142d Regt., Col. 208<sup>th</sup> Regt., and Brev. Brig. Gen.

By the time I was born, the Civil War was a faint memory in the Northwest Pennsylvania region. The World Wars pushed the Civil

War into the background, although I knew it was still lingering in the feelings and memory of my grandparents. A few years ago, I visited the John Brown tannery museum near where both my grandmothers were born and where Anna Barnes Delamater Smalley is buried. The little bookstore on the property helps keep alive discussion of the issues that led to the Civil War, at least as the Union saw those issues.



From <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSI=Delamater&GSfn=Anna&GSbyrel=all&GSDyrel=all&GSst=40&GScty=2260&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=67057347&cdf=all&>



*John B. Hunt, Company B, 12<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania*

## Nancy Ann Cooley Fees: A GGGrandmother With Whom We Would Have Wanted To Talk

By Eleanor Bullock Keller and Joseph Keller

We appreciate learning about our family ancestors and trying to put them into context with their time and residence. And, there are many with whom we would have liked to have a conversation. Nancy Ann COOLEY Fees, born November 3, 1818 near Columbia, Adair, Kentucky, died May 8, 1912 in Lakeport, Lake County, California, is one person who quickly comes to mind. Her picture, probably taken around 1900, shows strength to us.

Her father was John Cooley, born about 1796 in Kentucky, died June 7, 1880 in Lakeport and her mother was Annis Hardin, born between 1797 and 1800 probably in Kentucky, died after 1880 probably in Lakeport. Nancy was the eldest of five siblings that survived into adulthood. Her father, John Cooley, was among the Kentucky military detachment to whom Henry Clay orated prior to their leaving for Michigan in the War of 1812. John was captured at the Battle of the River Raisin or Frenchtown<sup>1</sup> apparently due to a huge failure on the U.S. leadership's part because the leaders were captured while the Kentuckians were primarily doing just fine. John's group of POWs was marched through snow and freezing weather, some days without provision, to Fort George on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, about 260 miles in 16 days. On two occasions they



marched 30 miles a day. Wounded POWs were massacred near the battle site. John was paroled, and later hospitalized in Kentucky. Upon John Cooley's release he became a farmer.

Nancy Ann Cooley married Jacob Fees on 9 February 1836 in Adair County, Kentucky. Shortly after her marriage she and Jacob moved to Iowa, probably in 1836 as people in their age brackets are listed as living with Jacob's father in Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa in the 1836 Iowa Territorial Census. Jacob followed an older brother who came to Iowa in 1834 and settled in Des Moines County. We do not know when Jacob's parents came to Iowa.

Jacob was reportedly quiet and timid. Nancy was small, perky and attractive. Their first child was born in February 1837. Nancy would carry

the child across fields to meet her husband coming home at night because he was afraid of wolves while walking alone.

Indians were not too friendly, and there was still unrest when Nancy moved to Iowa. Once, when Nancy was at a well; an Indian Chief saw her and patted her red hair. Nancy was frightened. He also patted the baby. Before leaving he gave Nancy a bracelet off his arm.

Nancy's parents, the Cooley's, were in Des Moines County in 1840, but were not listed in the 1838 Territorial Census for Iowa.

Nancy and Jacob had 11 children, all born in Iowa. In the 1850 Census Jacob and Nancy lived next to her parents and a brother John Cooley, Jr. in Flint River Township, Des Moines County, Iowa. Jacob and Nancy moved to Iconium, Chairton Township, Appanoose County after 1854, and lived there until moving to Scott's Valley, Lake County, California. At various times Jacob was a farmer, a merchant clerk and a physician. He reportedly was a cancer doctor.

<sup>1</sup>The battle of Frenchtown was a crushing British victory during the War of 1812. The battle became most notorious for its aftermath. Colonel Proctor, the British commander in the area, withdrew to Fort Maldon with the unwounded prisoners, leaving the wounded at Frenchtown. On the day after the battle some of the Indians went on a drunken rampage, killing between 30 and 60 prisoners in what became known as the Raisin River Massacre. "Remember the River Raisin" would become a valuable recruiting call in Kentucky for the rest of the war. [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles\\_frenchtown.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_frenchtown.html)

In 1875, Jacob and Nancy, reportedly with daughter Nancy and her husband John Hazlewood, and probably with Nancy's parents came to California, probably by train, to live near Lakeport, Lake County. Here Jacob and Nancy joined two sons who had arrived earlier. Her father John Cooley was in Lakeport in October 1875. Eventually 8 of her children at one time during her life claimed a residence in Lake County as an adult.

Nancy became a member of the Christian Church when she was 12. She and Jacob were members of the Christian Church in Iowa, and continued their membership in California. She was a devoted member for 82 years. She was known as a woman of upright Christian character.

Nancy Fees was a pioneer, moving from Kentucky to Iowa to California. Her obituary in the *Lake County Bee* is titled, "Pioneer Woman Crosses Over Great Divide."

There are many items we would have liked to discuss with her, including:

- Nancy's picture is very compelling to us.
  - ~ When was the picture taken and what were the circumstances?
- What were her thoughts when the Indian patted her hair and then her child?
- Nancy grew up in Kentucky, moved to Iowa after her marriage at 18 when it was a territory, and then to California.
  - ~ What were the motivations for the moves?
  - ~ The moves involved other family members, e. g. parents and siblings. What were the discussions leading to the moves?
  - ~ What were the differences between the 3 states as far as food, farming, terrain, elementary school education, and weather? Was there anything unique in any of the states?
  - ~ How did she view the trips to these 3 areas? How would she describe the scenery?
- We would like to find out more information about Nancy's parents and grandparents, and if she was aware of other red heads in her family. (We know that at least one of Nancy's daughters had red hair)
  - ~ Did her father ever talk about his POW experi-

ences?

- Lakeport had a Union Christmas party on Christmas Eve in 1909. About 600 people attended at the Grand Opera House. Shortly after the conclusion, four wagons filled with gifts for public distribution left the site. The sentiment among the local churches and fraternal orders was that sharing was the best way to express the true Christmas spirit.

- ~ Did she or any members of her family attend? Could she describe the affair? What were Christmases like in Kentucky and Iowa?

- Transportation: Nancy probably traveled by horse, mule or oxen drawn wagons to Iowa, and then by train to California.

- ~ Machines (cars) came to Lakeport by 1910. Did she ever ride in one?

- ~ In 1903 the Wright brothers flew a plane lifting off without balloons, as reported in the *San Francisco Call*. Did she have any opinions of this?

- Female right to vote. Newspapers in Lakeport had few mentions of the suffragette movement. California held an election October 10, 1911 to allow women voting rights.

- ~ Did she have any position on this?

- ~ The election narrowly enabled women the right to vote in California. Results in the *San Francisco Call* showed that in San Francisco County, there was a large "no" vote, but in Lake County the vote was favorable. Did she have any thoughts about this?

- Haley's comet was clearly visible from Lakeport on May 23, 1910, and not in San Francisco.

- ~ Did she view it? If so, what impression did she have?

- Iowa became a state on December 28, 1846.

- ~ Was there much discussion leading to becoming a state?

- ~ Was there a celebration on becoming a state? If so, describe it.

- When Nancy moved to California in 1875, *The Lake Democrat* carried a banner on its front page, "Lake County is the Sanitarium of California."

- ~ Did Nancy find the environment to be especially salubrious?



*Acknowledgements: In preparing this note we gained some information from: Shirley Langdon Wilcox, Ancestry of Sophia May (Fees) Starkey, Mother's Day, 1975, Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991, Microfilm # 1764672, Item 23. And Arthur L. Knox, The Life History of Franklin and Sarah Annis (Fees) Knox, February 2002. We are especially indebted to Art for providing the picture of Nancy Fees. These reports and emails by these two other GGGrandchildren of Nancy Fees provided leads that were most helpful, and recounted stories about the wolves, red hair and bracelet.*

Johann Jacob Fees b. 1778 – d. 1856  
 m. Sarah Grimes b. ~1787 – d. ?  
 Jacob Fees, b. 1816 – d. 1822  
 John Cooley, b. ~1796 – d. 1880  
 m. Annis Hardin, b. ~1797 – d. > 1880  
 Nancy Ann Cooley, b. 1818 – d. 1912  
 Jacob Fees, b. 1816 – d. 1882  
 m. Nancy Ann Cooley, b. 1818 – d. 1912  
 George Washington Fees, b. 1848 – d. 1906  
 m. Esther Mullinix, b. 1850 – d. 1912  
 Nancy Fees, b. 1892 – d. 1961

## My 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather never faced my husband's 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, but their opposing units did meet at least four times

By Deborah McMenamin

### **Robert McMenamin, private, Company H, California Infantry**

My husband, Sean, is the third great-grandson of Robert McMenamin, an Irish immigrant who settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and became a citizen in 1856. Robert met Mary Dunnecliff who was born in Philadelphia and married her in 1854. They were blessed with two children, Anna (1856) and Robert (1858). In 1860, a third child, a male, was delivered stillborn. Mary died thirteen days later of puerperal fever aka childbed fever. Robert, who had no listed occupation in the 1860 Philadelphia census, was left to rear his two young children with the assistance of his widowed mother, Hester.

In early April 1861, Senator Edward D. Baker<sup>1</sup> of Oregon, with the support of President Lincoln, began to organize the formation of a regiment comprised primarily of Philadelphia citizens to represent California in the war; Sen. Baker, later Colonel Baker, had immigrated to Philadelphia as a child.

Robert enlisted as a private in Company H, California Infantry (later known as Company H, 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers) for a period of 3 years on July 1, 1861. Interestingly, the regiment had paraded through Philadelphia that day on its way to Fortress Monroe. His unit was in-

involved in a number of skirmishes in September, their grey uniforms, confiscated from a Confederate shipment, making it difficult for their compatriots to distinguish them from the opposing side. Before the disastrous Battle of Ball's Bluff<sup>2</sup> on October, 21, 1861, no means of retreat had been planned. Subsequently when trying to escape overwhelming forces, Company H's surviving soldiers found themselves trapped between the Potomac River and the enemy. They were forced to choose between taking their chances swimming or surrendering. Robert was captured and imprisoned at the Tobacco Warehouse in Richmond, Virginia. His company's muster roll listed him as missing in action. In total, sixty-two percent of the regiment's soldiers who fought in this battle, including its commander Col. Baker, were lost. At this point, the remainder of the regiment was justifiably reassigned to Pennsylvania to help meet its state quota.

Sadly, a mere two months into his imprisonment, Robert died of typhoid fever. His character and his death, however, were immortalized in the

<sup>1</sup>Edward D. Baker (1811-1861) was killed at the Battle of Ball's Bluff <http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/inside.asp?ID=152&subjectID=2>

<sup>2</sup>The Battle of Ball's Bluff, also known as the Battle of Harrison's Island or the Battle of Leesburg, was fought on October 21, 1861, in Loudoun County, Virginia,

book *Prison Life in the Tobacco Warehouse in Richmond* written by his commanding officer, Lieutenant William C. Harris, who was released in a prisoner exchange a few months after Robert's death. The following is an excerpt from Lt. Harris' book:

“On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, the writer was informed of the serious illness of a private in his company, Robert McMennamin<sup>3</sup>, of Philadelphia, then in the hospital. Desirous of visiting him application was made to the roll-sergeant of the prison, and through him to the officer of the day, who presented the request to the commandant of the post. In a few hours the reply came that the request could not be granted.”

“Later in the day, information was received that the poor fellow was very low, and could not possibly live through the night.

“Resolved to see him, and ignoring prison-rules and persons, the writer watched the street and hailed the commandant through the bars: he came, listened, and granted the urgent demand.

“Placed in charge of the guard, we entered the hospital, and found McMennamin on the third floor, lying upon a cot, in the last stages of typhoid fever. As the writer bent over him and received his dying words, - “Lieutenant, see to my mother and little children,” - and looked upon his haggard and wasted features, his shadow-like form, sunken yet burning eye, he realized the unutterable horror of war.

“That man dying in this lonely hospital, without a mother's gentle nursing or wife's thrilling tenderness to mellow the agony of death, - ah! it was a scene to touch the strong heart. No bolder spirit than his ever braved the bullet or bayonet, no truer heart beat round our campfires, no gayer voice rang with the wild notes of the bivouac-song. Loved, honored, the boast and pride of his companions, he died far from home and friends, and we know not where “he sleeps his last sleep.”

Robert was buried at Shockoe Hill<sup>4</sup> as “RM McMonan” on December 19, 1861. Research completed by Jeffrey Burden<sup>5</sup> indicates Robert and other P.O.W.s were disinterred after the war and buried as unknowns in the Richmond Nation-



M MANNEN  
MARTIN  
JAMES H McCLURG  
R M McMONAN  
M MILSLER  
CHARLES W MORGAN  
JOSHUA E NICHOLS  
J NICOTS  
R NIPIS

al Cemetery.

Lt. Harris kept his promise to Robert, returning to Philadelphia and assisting Hester to successfully file for an orphan's pension for her grandchildren. Family legend has it that Robert Jr. was sent to the Boy's Industrial School and Anna to an orphanage upon Hester's death. However, Hester did not die until 1880 (after her grandchildren would have reached adulthood) and the 1870 Philadelphia census shows Anna alone residing with Hester. What is known is that once they were separated, Anna and Robert Jr. lost all contact with one another.

#### **Hiram Gaines Mobley, private, Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Georgia Infantry**

In 1850, my maternal 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, Hiram Gaines Mobley (aged 19), the great-grandson of a Revolutionary War corporal, was laboring on a farm owned by his parents in Jasper County, Georgia. His mother's brother, a known slave holder, owned the neighboring property. By 1860, the family, including Hiram's older brother, Thomas Brassfield Mobley, had relocated to a farm of lesser value in Calhoun, Gordon County, Georgia. His sister, Margaret (aged 17 years, if living) was not listed as residing with the family

<sup>3</sup>The spelling variations of McMenamin are as was spelt in the quoted book.

<sup>4</sup>The City of Richmond established Shockoe Hill Cemetery in 1822 reflecting a developing nationwide trend at the time to have cities provide safe, sanitary places for burials in suburban settings.

<sup>5</sup>The web site of Jeffrey Burden “*The Soldiers of Shockoe Hill*” is at [http://soldiersofshockoehill.com/shockoe3\\_001.htm](http://soldiersofshockoehill.com/shockoe3_001.htm)

on the 1860 census.

On April 25, 1861, the Albany Patriot advertised the forming of Confederate units, including one in Gordon County. Hiram enlisted as a private for a period of one year in Company F, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry aka the Toombs Volunteers on April 29, 1861. His brother served a private and later as a sergeant in Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Georgia Infantry. Hiram was hospitalized for over a month in the Fall with an intermittent fever and again for a few days in the Spring with neuralgia. He re-enlisted for another year in April, 1862.

Hiram fought in the skirmish near Seven Pines (6/15/62) and was wounded at Seven Days Battles (6/25-7/1/62). In September, 1862, his unit fought at South Mountain and Antietam. He next saw action at Fredericksburg (12/13/62), Chancellorsville (5/11-14/63), Gettysburg (7/1-3/63), the Bristoe Campaign (10/63), the Mine Run Campaign (Nov-Dec '63), and the Wilderness (5/5-6/64). Hiram was captured on May 10, 1864, the second day of the battle at the Spotsylvania Courthouse. Family legend has it that he did not want to surrender but when cornered; his friend convinced him he would otherwise be killed.

Hiram was imprisoned at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in the middle of the Delaware River in Maryland, notorious for its overcrowded conditions. At its peak, 9,318 prisoners were held on the fort's 75 acres. Though sheltered in wooden barracks, food and clean water were scarce. Disease was prevalent, including a smallpox epidemic in October 1864 that killed 200 prisoners and guards. Hiram was paroled as part of a prisoner exchange two months prior to General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865. No further record of service was found for Hiram.

There was apparently significant racial unrest in Calhoun, Georgia after the war. In 1867, 24 African-American citizens signed a petition requesting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District send troops to protect them until after the Fall elections. Their community was suffering harassment, personal injury, and property damage with little or no interference from local authorities.

Prior to the taking of the 1870 census, Hiram

and his parents moved to Mulberry Township in Franklin County, Arkansas and were sharecropping. His brother Thomas and his young family were farming on the adjacent property.

Hiram did not wed until the age of 37, marrying Angeline Macomb, a possible relation of his sister-in-law. Together, they raised six children.

My grandmother's eldest brother, Loyal, was old enough to remember stories shared by Hiram prior to his death in December 1919. Loyal passed one story on to my grandmother and to his daughter in which Hiram had gone down to a creek in the dark of night to obtain water with which to make coffee. When he returned to the same location in the morning, he found bodies of dead soldiers lying in the water. Unfortunately, I was not aware of the existence of this information nor was I particularly interested in genealogy prior to Loyal's death; he did not document any further stories. My grandmother recalls her mother, Hiram's daughter, complaining of carpetbaggers she encountered in her youth.

In conclusion, I find it interesting that while Robert McMenamin and Hiram Gaines Mobley never faced each other during Robert's lifetime; their units did meet at least four times. These encounters included the Battles of Gettysburg and Spotsylvania Courthouse.

#### Lineage tables:

Robert McMenamin, b. c. 1835, d. 1861

m. 1854 - Mary Dunnecliff

Robert McMenamin b. 1858, d. 1938

m. Ruth Anna Woodcock

Harry Daniker McMenamin b. 1884, d. 1938

m. Harriet Beatrice Fitzgerald

Robert James McMenamin b. 1906, d. 1982

m. Lorraine Boehn

m. Eleanor Welsh

Living McMenamin (son of Eleanor)

Living Sean McMenamin

Hiram Gaines Mobley b. 1839, d. 1920

m. Angeline Macomb

Jennie Neal Mobley b. 1883, d. 1946

m. Christopher Columbus Mason

Living (née Mason) Walls

Living (née Walls) Howard

Living Deborah (née Howard)

McMenamin

## Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566

*Visitors are always welcome*

September 13, 7:30 p.m.

*Grant Din*

*Angel Island Immigration Station*

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October 11, 7:30 p.m.

*Bev Lane*

*Remember the Ladies - Woman Suffrage 1911-2011*

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November 8, 7:30 p.m.

*Deborah Ratto Dash*

*Find-A-Grave, what it is and how to use it  
to its fullest*

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The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3)(public charity) of the Internal Revenue Code and California Taxation Code 2301g.

*Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society*

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