



# Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Spring 2023 Vol. 48, No.1



*Keepsakes*

## Second Look

Hidden in Plain Sight

The Mysteries of Willie Murphy

From the *Fortune* to a Fortune



## Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

[www.sbgen.org](http://www.sbgen.org)

E-mail: [info@sbgen.org](mailto:info@sbgen.org)

### Sahyun Genealogy Library

(SBCGS facility)

316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara 93101

Phone: (805) 884-9909

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Sunday 1:00–4:00 PM

Third Saturday 1:00–4:00 PM (Except August)

**Membership:** Benefits include *Tree Tips* monthly newsletter and *Ancestors West* (quarterly publication).

**Active** (individual)–\$40; **Family** (2 same household)–\$60; **Friend**–\$50; **Donor**–\$75; **Patron**–\$150; **Life**–\$1000 (one-time donation)

**Meetings:** Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. at State Street in Santa Barbara. At 9:30, special interest groups (SIGs) meet that include the following: Writers, JewishGen, DNA, German Ancestry Research, Genealogy and Technology, Italian Roots, French Canadian Genealogy, Civil War, New Member and Beginning Genealogy, and Scandinavian Roots.

#### The Mission Statement of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Established in 1972, the mission of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society is to foster an interest in the study of family history through educational programs, the operation of a genealogical research library, and the preservation of local genealogical records to enhance our understanding of ourselves and our heritage.

*Ancestors West* is currently published quarterly in February, May, August, November. Articles of family history or of historical nature are welcomed and used as space permits (see inside back cover for submission details). As available, current and back issues are \$6.00 each including postage. Library subscription to *Ancestors West* is \$20.00 per year. *Ancestors West* is indexed in the **PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)** published by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

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### **Land Acknowledgment Statement:**

“The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish.”





## FROM THE EDITOR

Kristin Ingalls  
antkap@cox.net

### Dear Friends

As usual, our members did not disappoint when it came to researching, writing and sharing their family stories. As I look back over the past three years of editing *Ancestors West*, I am impressed by the quality of submissions that we receive. How could we not be inspired to go through all those documents we have compiled over the years and write up the fascinating stories we have found in our research?

I would like to encourage everyone to go to the on-line version of *Ancestors West* on our website to see the photos our authors have shared IN COLOR!

Last issue's theme of "Threads" continues in this issue with memories, treasures and family stories shared by Jean Foster and Melinda Crawford. Gretchen Murray's piece has her aunt Catherine's beautiful collection of antique valentines. You really must see these in color.

I am especially delighted when I find a story that relates to one of my family stories. Sharon Summer, just wanting to find out more about what a "hod carrier" is, discovered that her ancestor was one of the original separatists (which we now call Pilgrims), who came on the second ship to Plymouth – the *Fortune*. You will see on the page from *Settlers of the Commonwealth*, her ancestor, William Bassett, and just below him, my ancestor, Jonathan Brewster, son of Elder William Brewster who came on the *Mayflower*. Here, 400 years later, these people's descendants strike up a friendship 3,000 miles away! You can't make this stuff up.

I felt another connection when I read Len Everson's story about his family's home in Cambria, California. I know I am not the only one who loves that little town, and I have many memories of times spent there. My family once had property there with a plan to build a second home. Unfortunately, that dream did not come true. Only recently, while doing research on his family, did Len discover his connection to the house – although he and his wife disagree on the exact details! I cannot wait until my next trip to that area to visit the "Blue House."

In a fascinating historical romance, Ann Fox shares the love story between her distant cousin, Mary Philipse, and George Washington. An insurmountable problem: her family were staunch Loyalists, so the romance was doomed. Here again, distant paths intersected. Frederick Philipse, who came to New Netherland (now New York) from the Netherlands about 1653

was a contemporary of all my Dutch, Huguenot and Walloon ancestors who also settled there beginning in 1623.

Undaunted by Brick Walls, Laurie Hannah, Mel Sahyun and Winston Dutton kept chipping away at their hard-to-find family members' lives. And, just as we were going to print, Winston found even more revelations about his mysterious relation, Willie Murphy. Willy may just be our most written-about person. Be sure to catch up on this mystery story in our next edition of *Ancestors West*.

Some of the tools these determined researchers used are outlined in the excellent submission by Elizabeth O'Neal. So read carefully – your brick wall may become a pile of rubble.

We would like to encourage all our members to share research methods, tools and books that might be of help to others. We will happily publish them.

Our upcoming issue, with a **May 1 deadline?**

We were so moved by Gretchen's valentines and Ann's love story, why not expand those ideas:

#### Do you have love stories about your family to share?

Engagements? Heartbreaks? Huge elaborate weddings? Hasty elopements? Secret marriages? Polygamist marriages? Surprise marriages? Maybe-it-never-happened marriages? Arranged marriages? Marriages discouraged by family members? Happy-ever-after marriages? Bigamists? Forbidden Loves?

With all that to choose from, I expect a deluge of fun, happy, sad, poignant stories to fill my inbox.

#### We would also invite members to share their "Old Car" stories.

Inspired by the Model A Club's treasures parked in the parking lot at our last meeting, we have heard that some of YOU also have stories and PHOTOS to share with us of old cars – they do not need to be Model A Fords.

A prize will go to anyone writing a story of a wedding or love theme featuring a Model A or any other vintage auto.

#### Upcoming Issues and deadlines:

**August 1 – Birth stories and naming traditions**

**October 15 – Witches, graveyards, spooky stories**

See the inside back cover for submission guidelines.

AND...may we suggest that after you write your story and before you submit it, to let it sit for a few days, re-read, make any changes, share it with any family member who might be part of the story and THEN submit it to us.

If you have ideas for subjects and themes for *Ancestors West*, please let me know!

We enthusiastically await your stories...

Your *Ancestors West* Editorial Committee

# 10 Tried and True Strategies for Researching Your “Brick-Wall” Ancestors

By Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal

**W**HETHER WE REALIZE IT OR NOT, we sometimes find ourselves doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. This can happen with our genealogical research, too: we keep looking at the same sources in the same places, wondering why we are keep getting the same results. And that may lead us to conclude that we have hit a “brick wall” in our family history research.

If this sounds like you, it is time to start thinking creatively about your family history research. Take a look at these strategies to see if one (or more) of them can help you break through your genealogy brick wall!

## Who or What is a “Brick Wall” Ancestor?

The term “brick wall” is used to describe an ancestor who, for lack of evidence, brings our genealogy research to a dead end. They often involve a difficult research question, and after hours and hours of research, an answer still cannot be found.

Brick wall ancestors come in a variety shapes and sizes, including:

- The family who moved from a known area to an unknown area, leaving no trace behind.
- The SMITH (or other common surname) family, with given names of John, James, Mary, and Sarah.
- The ancestor who changed his name and pretended to be dead after military service, creating a brand-new life and family.
- The ancestor who mysteriously vanished whenever the census taker arrived.
- The ancestor who used a different name on every single document.
- Women with unknown maiden names.
- Adoptees, especially those who were informally “absorbed” into other families.
- Orphans.
- Law breakers (multiple aliases, anyone?).

While it is true that some brick-wall ancestors simply cannot be found, many of the ancestors we have labeled as “brick walls” can be found if we know where – and how – to search.

## Start With a Plan

Before you begin researching your brick-wall ancestor, you should create a research plan. This will help you stay focused while you research, and less likely to follow “bright shiny objects” or distractions that may lead you in the wrong direction.

Your plan should include a research question that is specific enough to describe exactly who you are looking for. Include the pertinent details of your brick-wall ancestor’s life as identifiers.

## Examples of Research Questions

- Who were the parents of John W. Smith, born 1872 at Portsmouth, Scioto, Ohio, died 1927 at San Francisco, California, and married to Susan Jones?
- Was James Q. Jones, born 15 March 1853, at Campbell, Tennessee, the same man as James Q. Jones who died 30 September 1902, at Monroe, Tennessee?
- When and where did Polly Smith, born 12 December 1867, at Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, daughter of John and Mary (Jones) Smith, die?

## Strategies for Finding Brick Wall Ancestors

After crafting your research question, you will want to make a list of potential resources to search. The following strategies should help guide you in creating your list.

## Review What You Know

This may sound simple, but it is a very important first step that should not be skipped. Gather up all the evidence that you have accumulated for your brick-wall ancestor, lay it out in front of you, and look it over. Carefully.

Why? Well, you have probably attended genealogy classes or read a few methodology books, and you may have gained experience and knowledge that you did not have the last time you reviewed the documents. You could already have the answers tucked away in your notes, or on your computer, but you previously lacked the expertise to pull it all together. In other words, you might see something now that you missed before.

You may also want to begin writing a family history narrative about your brick-wall ancestor to look for “holes.” These are the places where information is missing, undocumented, or simply does not make sense. Those “Where did I get THAT from?” moments are very powerful research tools!

## Explore Name Variations

When you are searching in genealogy databases, you need to explore a variety of different spellings of your ancestor’s name. Getting hooked on a particular spelling is probably the Number One thing that trips up

genealogists who are researching brick-wall ancestors.

Keep in mind that our ancestors may have been illiterate and unable to spell their own names. They were at the mercy of whoever was creating and writing documents for them. Also, try to think phonetically. Names were often spelled as they sounded to whom ever was writing them down.

In addition to researching variant spellings, look for:

- Given names – sometimes these alone can yield results
- Initials instead of given names
- Middle names
- Nicknames
- “Mrs. Husband’s Name” for married women (i.e., Mrs. John Smith instead of Susan Smith)

Additionally, be sure to note if the database you are searching allows wildcard searches. Substituting a letter or part of a word with a question mark or asterisk may produce different results.

Keep a list of the variant spellings you have researched. Yes, it can be tedious, but it will save you from repeating those same searches again in the future.

## Read the Papers

Old newspapers are a window into the past and put things into a social context. They may even reveal the smallest details of a person’s life. Remember, back in the day, everybody’s business was everybody’s business, and it often wound up in the newspaper!

Items to look for include:

- Obituaries, death, and funeral notices
- Marriage and engagement announcements
- Birth announcements
- Social columns
- Arrivals and departures (who is visiting and who left town)

Do not overlook the advertisements. Important clues to an ancestor’s business or occupation may be found in ads, giving you one more clue to research.

## 4. Get Bookish

You might think of books as old-school research tools, but they are a tremendous resource for finding clues about brick-wall ancestors. Millions of genealogy books have already been digitized and are available in digital libraries online. Some books can even be downloaded to your computer.

What to search for:

- Ancestor names (including spelling variants)
- Immediate and collateral family members
- State, county, and local histories
- Family histories
- Biographies

## 5. Diversify

Like your financial investments, you also need to diversify your family history research. You must look at many different types of records to do reasonably exhaustive research. Even the poorest ancestors may have left records where we do not expect to find them.

A few types of records to search for include (but are not limited to):

- **Court records** - wills, probates, guardianships, minutes, lawsuits
- **Land Records** – deeds, homesteads, auctions, cadastral maps
- **Military records** - pensions, enlistments, unit rosters
- **Religious records** - baptisms, deaths, marriages, church membership rolls, newsletters, histories
- **School records** - report cards, yearbooks, diplomas, school censuses
- **Directories** – city, business, school, telephone

## 6. Join Your Ancestor’s FAN Club

Sometimes called cluster research, FAN stands for **Family + Associates + Neighbors**. In other words, who were the people in your ancestor’s life?

Start by identifying everyone in your ancestor’s immediate family, even those who are not in your direct line. This includes your ancestor’s children, spouse(s)/partner(s), parents, stepparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, etc. A source pertaining to a family member may yield important clues about your ancestor.

Then try to find your ancestor’s associates and neighbors. Who did your ancestor work, worship, shop, and/or go to school with? Who lived on the properties next door? Be sure to research those named as witnesses to marriages, unknown names in wills, and guardians of women and minor children, as they may have been collateral ancestors or close family friends.

Finally, if your ancestor’s family gets lost between censuses, try following their neighbors and business associates. People often moved to new locations in family, business, and/or neighborhood groups. If the neighbors or an employer relocated, your ancestor may have gone along with them.

## 7. Map It Out

Maps are incredibly useful tools for family history research. Sometimes a map can help us visualize a situation and reveal clues that we otherwise might not see.

Map out your ancestor’s neighborhood. Other family members may have lived close by. Take note of known migration routes. Travel was difficult, so our ancestors kept to roads and trails that were previously blazed. Perhaps they chose to relocate somewhere along the trail.

Learn about the history of the location(s) you are researching. Find out when the state, county, or town boundaries changed. Your ancestor may not have moved his residence, but the boundaries around him may have changed over time. If you cannot find records in your ancestor’s home county, try looking in the neighboring towns and counties.

## 8. Create a Timeline

A timeline is the map of a person’s life. They are extremely helpful for sorting out confusing events and for finding “holes” in your research.



To create a timeline, make a list of all known events in your ancestor's life. Take note of any gaps where you have little or no information. Compare your ancestor's timeline with a historical timeline; understanding what was happening in the world around your ancestor may provide clues for where to search.

Look for inconsistencies. For instance, could your great-grandmother who was born in Ohio, married in Ohio, gave birth to six children in Ohio, and died in Ohio really have traveled to North Carolina to give birth to ONE child who remained in North Carolina for the rest of his life? Not likely.

## 9. Test the DNA

DNA does not lie... but sometimes our ancestors did. In that case, the only way to find an answer to your research question may be to connect with a DNA cousin.

The type of DNA test you should take depends on your research question.

- **Y-DNA** is for males only and follows the male surname.
- **mtDNA** (mitochondrial) is for males and females and follows the "umbilical" (maternal) line.
- **atDNA** (autosomal) is for males and females and crosses both male and female lines.
- **X-DNA** is inherited from the X chromosome and is usually included with atDNA tests. The inheritance pattern is different in males and females and only includes some of our ancestral lines.

You may want to upload your raw DNA data to additional DNA databases. This will allow you to "fish in more ponds" for even more cousin connections.

NOTE: Do not try to solve your brick wall research question with DNA alone. For the best results, you will need to combine your DNA research with traditional "paper" genealogy research.

## 10. Get Social

If you have not already done so, try sharing your family history online. Add your ancestors to a one-world tree at *FamilySearch* or *WikiTree* (but keep your primary tree safe on your computer at home in case someone decides to make changes). Share your family history on social media. Join a genealogy group or surname group on Facebook. Tweet or "Insta" your family stories using the hashtags #genealogy and #FamilyHistory.

You may also want to share your family stories and photos on a genealogy blog or website. Your site will be indexed by Google and other search engines, making it a wonderful form of "cousin bait" for others who are researching your ancestors.

Finally, join a genealogy society. Look for societies to join in your local area, as well as in the locations where your ancestors lived. In today's Zoom world, genealogy society meetings are often hybrid – held simultaneously in-person and online – and some societies are completely virtual. You may never need to leave the comfort of home to participate!

## Wrap Up

We all have brick-wall ancestors, in one form or another. And the further back in time we research, the more brick-wall ancestors we accumulate. Though it is possible to run out of records, making some ancestors impossible to trace, many of the ancestors we have labeled as "brick walls" can be found with a focused research plan and the right strategies.

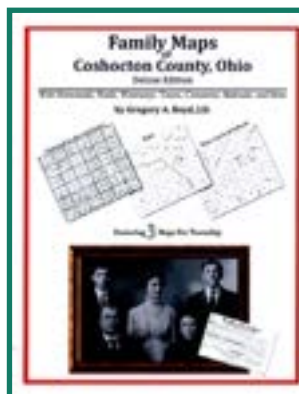
Stop doing the same things over and over again, expecting different results. Start thinking creatively so you can finally locate your brick-wall ancestors!

*Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal is a professional genealogist, writer, educator, and national genealogical speaker, as well as the Education and Programs Director for the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. Her specialties include methodology, technology, and online research resources. Since 1987, Elizabeth has made it her goal to research, share, and preserve her family stories. For more articles like this one, visit Elizabeth's website, Heart of the Family™ (<https://www.thefamilyheart.com>), where her mission is to help others make the past part of their present.*



The Domesday Book from Andrews, William: "Historic Byways and Highways of Old England" (1900)

Cadastral surveys document the boundaries of land ownership, by the production of documents, diagrams, sketches, plans (plats in the U.S.), charts, and maps. They were originally used to ensure reliable facts for land valuation and taxation. An example from early England is the **Domesday Book** in 1086.



Our library has a growing collection of map books showing where our ancestors owned land. Visit our card catalog and search under Title: "Family Maps of..." and you will find a list of the books we currently have in the library.

If you wish us to add one of the areas you are interested in, let our Acquisitions Chair, Chris Klukkert, know and she will see if it is available. If it is available, you could of course be a Book Angel and make a donation for the book's acquisition.

# A TOUCH OF OLD SANTA BARBARA

The Great House Detective *By Betsy J. Green*

## A Home With a Secret Garden

**S**TANDING ON THE SIDEWALK in front of the charming white picket fence at the 317 W. Micheltorena Street house, there is little indication of the lush foliage that inhabits much of the backyard. The yard had been bare when Grace and Woodie Wilde (pronounced WILL-dee) bought the house in the mid-1980s. Little by little, and on a tight budget, they have filled the backyard with the many species of plants that thrive in our climate. Sitting on a small bench in the midst of the greenery, it's possible to imagine you are in a tropical forest. (Another small home – a former carriage house – is located at the back of the 200-foot-deep property, and is accessed by an alley that extends to Castillo Street.)

### THE HOME'S ORIGIN

It's always amusing to find the cost of building a home in Santa Barbara way back when. This one-story frame home was built in 1906 for \$1,800. The 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows that it was the first house built on the south side of the 300 block of West Micheltorena Street. The home is a simple Italianate style with wide eaves supported by decorative brackets. This style was most popular from 1840 to 1885, although other examples were built in the years beyond that. (As you know, there are no such things as architecture police. Oops! Well, I guess maybe there are in Santa Barbara.)

An easy-to-miss feature is the decorative fish-scale shingles surrounding the louver under the tiny front gable. These shingles are reminiscent of the Victorian styles of the 1800s.



Garden, Betsy J. Green image



Living room, Betsy J. Green image

### A HOME FOR A MINISTER

For more than two decades, this was the home of a German Lutheran minister, Rev. David LeBahn. He was born in Germany, lived in the American Midwest for a number of years, and moved to Orange County for health reasons. In 1912, he began traveling to Santa Barbara twice a month to conduct services in German at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, located at De la Vina and Anapamu Streets. In 1913, he bought this home. When the space at the Adventist Church became unavailable, LeBahn held services in the home's living room. As the congregation grew, it was necessary to knock out the wall between the living room and dining room. By 1916, however, the congregation had grown to 60 people, and it was time to look for larger quarters.





Rev. David LeBahn - courtesy Emanuel Lutheran Church.

The congregation purchased a lot around the corner at 326 W. Sola Street, and built a one-room frame church for \$2,120.50. The local paper wrote, "The new German Lutheran Church, on West Sola Street between Bath and Castillo, was dedicated yesterday with a morning and an afternoon service, both of which were attended to the full capacity of the church. Occupation of the church marks the fourth year the congregation has been established in Santa Barbara." The paper noted that it was "a small, but attractive structure"

that was "very handsomely appointed." Services were held in German and English.



326 West Sola Street - courtesy Emanuel Lutheran Church

It's interesting to note that even though the chapel was built well past the Victorian era, it also has some fish-scale shingles. Perhaps this was done as an homage to the Rev. LeBahn's home. Obviously, the little church was well built because that building still stands, although the original congregation moved a couple of times as their numbers continued to increase. (The congregation grew to be called the Emanuel Lutheran Church, now located at 3721 Modoc Road.)

The Wildes are very fond of their home, and enjoy their proximity to State Street. Woodie served in the Army, and they lived in 20 places around the world. One of their favorite spots was southern Spain, and they say that Santa Barbara has a similar climate.

Grace told me that the neighborhood had a lot of problems when they first moved here. There were abandoned shopping carts, shoes hung on utility lines to indicate drug sales, etc. Grace was very active in efforts to clean up the neighborhood, and even received an achievement award for making the neighborhood a pleasant place to live.

Please do not disturb the residents of 317 W. Michel-torena Street.



Owners, Grace and Woodie Wilde, Betsy J. Green image



**THE GREAT HOUSE DETECTIVE**

is looking for more homes to write about in her column in The Santa Barbara Independent. Ideally, the home should be built 1920 or earlier, and located in the central area of Santa Barbara. If you have a home that fits these guidelines, you can reach Betsy at: [author@betsyjgreen.com](mailto:author@betsyjgreen.com)

You can see her previous columns here: [https://www.independent.com/?s=&category\\_name=the-great-house-detective](https://www.independent.com/?s=&category_name=the-great-house-detective)

# Keepsakes

By Gretchen Murray

IN INHERITING SOME of the family treasures, I have kept a few items from my relatives that have been stored. Why they were kept in some cases is not clear.

My dad's parents, Charles William Mentzer and Phebe Catherine Williams, were born in Iowa, but moved to Washington state, looking to make money in the timber boom in the Pacific Northwest. My grandfather was a merchant, lumberman and rancher. In the 1910 census he and his wife were living in Granger, Washington, with their four children and his wife's two maiden sisters. My dad was the youngest of their four children. There were two daughters, Mary Catherine (known as Catherine) and Josephine who were born two years apart, and two sons, Charles and William. Catherine was nine when my dad, William, was born. My dad was the only one to have children, of which I am the youngest.



My aunt Catherine kept childhood valentines given to her by her aunts (there were five aunts on her mother's side) and some school friends. Catherine was often sickly during her childhood, which continued into her adult life as well. She stayed home from school, sometimes two to three weeks at a time.

Her education suffered because of her illnesses. She entertained herself by collecting pretty images from magazines and made scrapbooks of the pictures as well as stylized advertising. She completed high school a year later than her early classmates and was not able to keep long-term employment as an adult. She kept a daily journal during her adulthood, a learned behavior from her childhood. She did not marry, and her sister, my aunt Josephine, worked and married well enough to be able to support her sister.

Over the years, my sisters and I made three-way splits of family heirlooms and memorabilia. Aunt Catherine and Uncle Charles were collectors of books, bells,



Catherine (left) age 10, Josephine age 8, taken in 1906.

postcards and some artworks. The women would make scrapbooks of magazine cuttings of fashion pictures and advertisements that were inviting. Aunt Josephine collected antiques, curios, and icons including netsukes.

When Aunt Josephine passed away, among the items I selected were from Aunt Catherine's collection of old valentines. There are more than 30 valentines in very good condition. These were curiosities to me as valentines of today are much less ornate and often contain only trite sayings. These valentines date back to the first decade of 1900, when Catherine and Josephine were between four and fourteen years old. Some valentines were clearly from classmates and occasionally duplicated.

I continue to cherish her collection, and I hope you enjoy this glimpse of the early 1900s lifestyle.

*I am a native Californian, with roots back across the country to colonial Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. I am a novice genealogist, following a career in drug and medical device testing. I am the youngest of three girls, who are the only descendants of both sets of grandparents. My husband and I have a son and three grandchildren.*







Valentine Greeting

**THE DUDE.**

FROM top to toe a perfect beau,  
In looks and style complete;  
My little man, with hat and cane,  
And clothes that are so neat,—

While you may smile on all the world,  
O, let your heart be mine;  
If you are only true to me  
I'll be your Valentine.



With Loving Wishes to  
my little Sweetheart

How shall I greet my dear to day?  
Nothing's sweet enough to say,  
When I fain would move her  
To vouchsafe to me some sign  
That her little heart is mine—  
O! let she know I love her!

H. M. Burridge



Loving GREETINGS  
to my  
Valentine

One only face, one only voice  
Can make my ever  
constant heart rejoice,  
'Tis only in one  
—no pair of eyes  
I find my earthly Paradise.

H. M. Burridge



# Hawaiian Threads

By Melinda Yamane Crawford

**M**Y MOM, JULIETTE, grew up in Kula, Maui. She graduated from Maui High School on June 7, 1949. After high school, she wanted to attend business school. My grandmother, however, preferred that she attend sewing school instead and, according to my sister, “prepare to be a good housewife.” On June 23, 1950, Juliette received her diploma from the Maui School of Fashion, Territory of Hawaii, after completing the prescribed “Courses in Dressmaking, Tailoring, Pattern Draping, Fitting, Cutting, Trimming Technique, Fashion Styling, Shirts and Trousers.”

Equipped with her newly acquired skills, she moved to Waikiki where she worked as a seamstress in a boutique shop that specialized in Hawaiian wear. There’s a photo of my mom, dad and brother from December 1957 that I love, as it showcases my parents in wonderful matching Hawaiian outfits. It wasn’t until I saw this photo that I realized that my mom didn’t sew matching outfits for only my sister and me.

My maternal “obachan” (grandmother), Hisae, was also skilled with the sewing machine. For my parents she made a traditional Japanese futon that would adorn their bed when the weather was cool enough in Los Angeles, California. Obachan also made a beautiful diagonal strip quilt using VHY Hawaiian Textiles fabrics from the 1950s-1960s.

My oldest brother, Michael, also shared that he had especially asked Obachan to make a quilt for him. He said that he always called it Obachan’s “Dream Quilt” for good dreams because that is what it did. He said that it was a colorful quilt and that after sleeping under it for many years, they used it next for his son, Ben. While he didn’t have a photo of the quilt to share because it got worn out and became unusable and unsalvageable, just learning about Obachan’s “Dream Quilt” for good dreams brought me joy.



Melinda with her older siblings.

because it got worn out and became unusable and unsalvageable, just learning about Obachan’s “Dream Quilt” for good dreams brought me joy.

My older sister, Rae, also has a quilt that she said Obachan made for her after the birth of her first daughter which I’m calling “Sunset Beach.” The Oahu beach is famous



Juliette and Richard Yamane with son Michael 1956

for its big winter surf and endless beautiful sunsets.

As I prepared to write the closing words for my article and to check on the accuracy of my recollections with my siblings, I chanced upon one more story that I heard for the first time from my sister. When I had asked her if she recalled how our mom had worked in a boutique shop that specialized in Hawaiian wear, she



Obachan's Futon





Melinda, Rae and Dad

instead surprised with her response that our mom had “made clothes for sumo wrestlers, the big ones.” What an amazing experience that must have been for our mom as a young, unmarried woman. And, how I wish to know more of those stories of long ago and to follow their many colorful threads.



Hawaiian Diagonal Strip Quilt



Sunset Beach Quilt



VHY Hawaiian Textiles Imprint



Hawaiian Quilt Square

*Melinda Yamane Crawford is a Southern California native and a UC Santa Barbara Human Resources manager for the last 22 years. Melinda currently serves as a co-leader for the upcoming Asian American Exhibit in May 2023 and as a volunteer librarian at the SaHyun Library. She has been conducting family history research since 2002. SBCGS classes and general membership meetings have played an important role in developing and supporting her passion for genealogy research and also served as an inspiration that eventually led to her co-founding the Nikkei Genealogical Society in 2014.*





# Miles of Thread

By Jean Foster

**T**HERE ARE MANY MILES of crochet thread and yarn that tie me to my maternal grandmother, Emma Caroline Hanson Holloway.

Emma was born on March 9, 1884, in a sod house in rural Hamilton County, Nebraska. Her parents were John C. Hanson, born on November 1, 1847, in Asserbally, Als, Denmark, and died July 19, 1901, in Aurora, Hamilton County, Nebraska. John was married on May 5, 1872, in Lysabillskov Als, Denmark to Annie Margaret Nielsen. Annie was born on June 2, 1848, in Tandslet Als, Denmark, and died February 12, 1929, in Aurora, Hamilton County, Nebraska. John came to the U.S. in 1873 and settled in Dwight, Livingston County, Illinois, where Annie and their son, Peter, joined him in 1877. The family moved to Hamilton County, Nebraska, in 1879 staying one winter and then homesteaded in Red Willow County, Nebraska. The homestead didn't work for them, and the family moved back to Hamilton County, Nebraska, in 1882, where they purchased a farm seven miles northwest of Aurora. They had five children: Peter, Mary, Annie Marie, Emma, and Celia.

Emma attended country schools and Aurora College, where she received her teaching credentials. She taught in a country school in Hamilton County, where she stayed with the McCoy family, who lived across the road from the school. It was there that she met their grandson, William Orville Holloway, who was born July 10, 1885, in Saybrook, McLean County, Illinois.

Emma and William Orville were married on April 28, 1909, in Aurora, Nebraska. They had five children: Russell, Roy, Mae, Eunice (my mother), and William Maurice. They farmed in Hamilton County and in 1938 moved into Aurora, Nebraska. Orville died on June 12, 1938. Emma, during WWII, worked in the sewing room in Grand Island, Nebraska, making uniforms for the troops.

Emma's hobby was crocheting, at which she was very talented. I remember her looking at a doily pattern at someone's home and going home and making one just like it. I must have a pattern in front of me for a lot of



Grandmother's crocheted doily



Maternal grandmother, Emma Caroline Hanson Holloway.

items. She made all sorts of items to use in the home, besides doilies, which were popular until the 1980s. I have a drawer full of them!

The item I cherish the most is a lace tablecloth. She won the Best of Fair Crochet Award, by the National Needlecraft Bureau at the Hamilton County, Nebraska, Fair in 1950.

Grandma taught me to crochet when I was about ten years old. She was visiting my family in California to escape the winter in Nebraska. I didn't do a lot of crocheting until I was older and then started crocheting some things for my family. The last couple of years I have made afghans for all nine of my grandchildren and supplied them with potholders, dishcloths, and coasters, and now they are all getting beanies.

So, the threads that bind are miles and miles of crochet thread and yarn. I have her rocking chair that she would sit and crochet in the afternoons and now I do the same thing after a day of family history research.

*I started searching my family history in 1978, before the computer age, and have been actively searching for my ancestors since. I joined the SB Genealogy Society in 1985, but had to stop some of my activities in 1997, and joined again in 2013. I have been doing the Beginning Genealogy SIG with Norma Johnson and coaching for society members. I am retired from a 35-year banking career and now spend my time with my family history research and crocheting. I have two daughters and nine grandchildren and will be a great-grandmother in August.*





# Thomas Parker, Updated

By Melville R. V. Sahyun, Ph.D.  
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**I**N 2020 I PUBLISHED a biographical essay on the life of Thomas Parker (1799-1889), my wife Irene's 2nd great-grandfather (*Ancestors West*, 2020, vol. 45(1), pp. 9-14). At this point, I thought my research was complete, but "it paid to look again." Subsequently I focused on his father, whose name we know also to have been Thomas Parker. In the course of this more recent work, I discovered I had made serious errors in the earlier research. Specifically, the "meticulously researched" (words of the Editor of *Ancestors West*) background of Thomas Parker's early years in Ireland and the British Army referred to another Thomas Parker entirely. The background of the correct Thomas Parker may not have been as colorful, but had its intriguing aspects nonetheless, and allowed the family to be traced back for five more generations. I am writing this summary of my continuing research, both to correct the published record, as well as to shine a light on some of the pitfalls which led to earlier errors.

One source which I had not used in creating my prose portrait of Thomas Parker, primarily because I did not trust it, was *A History of Simcoe County*, authored by A. F. Hunter, published by the Barrie County Council in 1909, vol.2, p. 23. (*Our Roots/Nos Racines*, <https://web.archive.org/web/20070311044744/http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=2856>, accessed 22 July 2022). The township of West Gwillimbury, where Thomas had settled, is located in Simcoe County, about 40 miles north of Toronto, Canada.



West Gwillimbury in Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada

The pages of this book have been shared among family members and the text understood as an authentic account of how Thomas Parker came to Canada. Here I will quote from that publication; the quoted section is referenced in the book to an article in *Canadian Methodist Magazine* from 1902.

"At this place it will be proper to mention a small group of Irish Palatines from County Limerick...

Robert Parker and his brother Thomas settled on lot 10, con. B, in 1826. Thomas was captain of the company raised in that neighbourhood at the time of the Rebellion of 1837; he was for some years reeve of the township (Chair of the Town Council-Ed.), and was a local preacher in the Methodist denomination, a church of which was in his neighbourhood from 1835 onward. He lived in this township until 1887, when he moved to High Bluff, Manitoba, where he died, Sept. 29th, 1889, aged 90 years.

Robert Parker had two sons, both of whom became well-known men. Thomas Sutherland Parker was a Member of Parliament from 1863 till 1872. He was one of the Fathers of Confederation."



Methodist Church, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Ontario, Canada

Before I incorporated any of this material in my biography of Thomas Parker, I decided to try and corroborate it with primary sources. The Palatines were Protestant refugees from the Rhineland who became displaced as a result of the War of Spanish Succession at the beginning of the 18th century. They were rescued by the Duke of Marlborough's army and brought to England.

Queen Anne dispatched some to the New World colonies and settled others in Ireland, primarily in the vicinity of Limerick. The Irish Palatine Society, based in Limerick, Ireland, maintains a database of Palatine surnames. Parker is not included among them.



John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722)

I originally discounted, incorrectly it turned out, the report that Thomas and Robert were brothers. According to my research, the only Thomas Parker, whose primary records appeared on the Irish genealogical websites, of the right age, who emigrated to Canada at the right time, and whose father was also Thomas, was born in Dublin and had no siblings. It turns out that one can be misled by primary sources (or more specifically the negative evidence in primary sources) as well as by unreliable secondary ones, as we shall see.

Other problems with the Hunter book may be summarized as follows. The 1861 census, along with the 1867 *Simcoe County Directory and Gazetteer*, shows Thomas and Robert living about two miles apart: Thomas in West Gwillimbury and Robert in Bradford, which were then separate townships, not the merged community of today. Thomas Parker is buried at High Bluff, Manitoba, though his death certificate from 1889 shows that he actually died in Portage-la-Prairie, Manitoba, where the 1881 census shows that he was already a resident! There is no record that he ever lived in High Bluff, nor could he have remained in West Gwillimbury until 1887.

With respect to Thomas Sutherland Parker, it would have been difficult for him to have served in Parliament until 1872, since his death certificate is dated 1868. (I have heard of some back-benchers being characterized as moribund, however). Library and Archives Canada maintains the official listing of Fathers of the Confederation, an elite group akin to the Founding Fathers of the United States. Their records show no one of surname Parker among the Fathers of Confederation. The piece by Hunter thus appears to be based on hearsay and fabrication, though some family members continue to cite it as "family history." After all, it appears in a printed book, the early 20th century equivalent of being on the internet today! In response I can only quote *Sportin' Life* from George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, "Tain't necessarily so."

When I turned to Thomas Parker the elder, I had a surprise in store. Using *Ancestry.ca* I found a Thomas Parker (1755-1840) from Limerick, Ireland, who did apparently have two sons, Robert and Thomas, who fit the requirements for the Parker brothers of West Gwillimbury. Why hadn't my previous Irish research turned them up? My answer came in part from some very rigorous research done by Beth Ane Dorst of Dallas, Texas, who has published a family tree on *Ancestry*, appropriately entitled "The Crooked Tree." I verified the primary resources she had drawn upon before accepting the results, however. The elder Thomas, it seems, was a bigamist. He was Roman Catholic, though not to the extent of accepting Mother Church's teaching on marriage. As a land owner, he was most likely Anglo-Irish. He had

two families: a Catholic family with spouse Hannah Myles (1773-1852), and a Protestant family with spouse Anne Sarah Corneille (1765-1840). Both wives were originally from the Limerick area. Each family comprised five children, with children in both families born more or less concurrently.

Thomas apparently "hid" his Protestant family by marrying Anne Sarah in London and having the children baptized in England. We have baptismal records for the last three: Ann (1801- ?); Charlotte (1802-1868); and John (1803-1876), but not for Thomas and Robert. Ann and Charlotte were baptized in London, while John was baptized in Liverpool, on the route between Ireland and London. In subsequent self-reported documentation (censuses, marriage certificates, etc.), all except Charlotte report their birthplaces as Limerick; Charlotte tellingly reports hers as Lambeth, a district of London. Was it practical for Thomas and Anne Sarah to have brought their Limerick-born children all the way to London to be baptized? This journey was not a trivial undertaking in 1800; unlike the 10-hour trip of today, it



London to Limerick

was an arduous journey by coach and sailing ship that would take at least a week. More likely, Thomas kept his Protestant family in England, the London area to be specific, and all the children in this family were most likely born there. Self-reported birth places may not be accurate, as most of us do not remember being born!

It appears that all of this family except Charlotte, who lived her whole life in England, returned to Ireland before 1818. Both Ann and John were married in Limerick. None of these children remained in Ireland however; all emigrated, Robert and Thomas in the mid-1820s, and John not until 1840, to Australia. Ann and her husband, Patrick Murphy, did not emigrate until the time of the potato famine (1848), taking up land near Perth, Ontario, Canada (between Ottawa and Kingston). The economic status of the Murphy family and the fact that none of the others remained in Ireland suggests that the children of the Protestant family would not inherit any of their father's wealth; his estate, if any, apparently went to the Catholic family, who all remained in Ireland. Of course, this scenario explains the difficulties in my original research: the only records which would



place Thomas and Robert in Ireland would have been baptismal records; the churches kept the primary records, and civil records, if any, were lost in the burning of the Dublin Customs House by the IRA in 1921. However, since Thomas and Robert were most likely born in England, my search of Irish genealogical sites turned up no records of them.

Thomas the elder was the son of John Parker (1726-1780), also of Limerick, and Eleanora McGannon. John's first wife, however, was Mary Jane Coate (or Cote, 1730-1753), from Somerset, England. (This report of her place of birth is however questionable; the source cited in "The Crooked Tree" turns out to be the baptismal record for a Jane Coate born exactly 100 years later). That John married an Englishwoman supports the contention that the Parkers were Anglo-Irish. Thomas reputedly had two siblings, Edward (1747-1826) and Craven (1760 or 1753-1840) Parker. Ms. Dorst's research assigns both of these offspring to Mary Jane Coate, though I can find no primary source to document this assignment. Rather, it seems unclear from the historical record whether they are Thomas' brothers or half-brothers. An alternative scenario, however, presents itself using the 1753 date for birth of Craven Parker (Clavin Family Tree, available on *Ancestry.ca*), namely that Mary Jane died in childbirth with Craven, a common occurrence at the time, and John subsequently married Eleanora. Their marriage record in Ireland, *Catholic Parish Registers, 1665-1915* for 1754 supports this contention. From the Ireland Tithe Applotment Books, 1814-1855 for 1832 (available from the Public Record Office, Dublin, and on *Familysearch.org*) it appears that Craven, though not the elder son, was John's principal heir, making it likely that he was a legitimate child from John's first wife, and favoring the earlier date for his birth.

The ancestry of Thomas the younger's mother, Anne Sarah Corneille, can be traced to 17th century Netherlands and to the Rheinland (Palatine). Adam Johannes Cornelius (1680-1743), the son of Arissen van den Bergh Cornelius (1660-1720) and Jannighen (Joanna) Sanders (1660-1695), emigrated to Ireland at the beginning of the 18th century. Given that Arissen van den Bergh died in Dutch Guyana, his involvement with the Dutch East India Company (VOC) might be inferred. Various sources cite different places of birth for Adam Johannes; some of these may be pure speculation. Given that Arissen and Jannighen, along with Adam Johannes' sister, Joanna van den Bergh (1682-?) all were born in Utrecht, Netherlands, and the latter two lived out their lives there, it is most reasonable to assume that Adam Johannes was born there also.

There are two "oral history" stories of how Adam Johannes came to emigrate to Ireland, which have been compiled recently by Bill Holtby of Port Perry, Ontario, Canada, another Corneille family researcher, which is



The Netherlands today; Utrecht is at the center of the map

available online at *Ancestry.ca*. According to one story, Adam was a French Huguenot (!) who was rescued from the Catholics during the War of Spanish Succession by the Duke of Marlborough's forces and brought to England as a refugee. Many of these refugees were given land in Ireland by Queen Anne over the period 1709-1713. It is not clear in this story, dramatic as it may be, how someone born in Utrecht was a French Huguenot, or why a Protestant living in the Protestant town of Utrecht needed to be rescued from the Catholics. (Maybe Adam Johannes, as a good Protestant, had volunteered to go fight with his French counterparts in the War?) In any event Adam Johannes is documented in his marriage record as already being in Limerick by the time the Duke of Marlborough's contingent of refugees-turned-colonists had arrived there (1710-1711).

In the second story, Adam had embarked for the New World. Although Nieuw Amsterdam had been lost to the British four decades earlier, Dutch settlers were still making their way there and being welcomed in the British colonies. In this tale, the ship is wrecked off the coast of Ireland, near the mouth of the Shannon River. Lord Southwell, owner of Castlemares in County Limerick, was involved in the emigrants' rescue, and decided that they would be better farmers than his Irish tenants so settled them on his land at Rathkeale in Limerick County. This story is at least plausible; according to maps from *National Geographic*, emigrant ships from Northern Europe reached the Atlantic by sailing to the north of Scotland and down the west coast of the British Isles. VOC merchantmen bound for Africa or Southeast Asia would reach the Atlantic by way of the English Channel. Should Adam have followed in his father's footsteps and sailed with the Dutch East India Company, it is not unreasonable for his ship to have found itself off the west coast of Ireland, diverted from the Channel by the War of Spanish Succession which involved both England and the Netherlands. Karsten Becker's database of VOC shipwrecks (*maarer.com*, accessed 17 December 2022) identifies at least two off the west coast of Ireland in the early 18th century. In any event Adam Johannes reached Rathkeale.





Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland

Adam Johannes Cornelius was married in Rathkeale in 1709 to Elizabeth Nazareth (1690-1751) according to one source, the *American Genealogical-Biographical Index* (1931). Nazareth is common as a surname among French Huguenots, and her heritage may be, in part, the source of the Huguenot refugee story. The same source, however, reports her birthplace as County Limerick, Ireland, so the arrival of her family in Ireland clearly predates the arrival of the Duke of Marlborough's refugees. The Huguenots of Limerick, for the most part, are likely to be descendants of the members of the Huguenot mercenary regiments that fought on the side of King William at the infamous Battle of the Boyne (<http://www.gaubertgenealogy.freeola.org/TheBattleofTheBoyne.html>). Adam and Elizabeth's firstborn, Adam (1710-1766), was the first of three generations leading to Anne Sarah. Over the course of these generations the name evolved from Cornelius to Corneille, and each generation involved intermarriage with either the Dolmage or Benner families, both Palatines, which had likely originally arrived in Limerick with the Duke of Marlborough's refugees. More research is needed on these families, however. The Dolmage family name had evolved from the German, Dolmetsch (from the occupational name, Dolmetscher, meaning translator or interpreter). Anne Sarah's mother, Ann Dolmage, died giving birth to Anne Sarah at age 18. The contention

of members of the Canadian Parker family that they are Irish Palatines is thus not entirely misplaced, as there are three generations of intermarriage with Palatine families on the Corneille line, and Thomas Parker (the younger) married Maria Cole (1815-1853?), also a Palatine, after his arrival in Canada, and the characterization in the Hunter book of the Parker brothers as Irish Palatines can be judged to be at least a "quarter-truth."

In summary, my research into the Parker family of West Gwillimbury had many pitfalls. Not the least of which was the deliberate attempt of a bigamist ancestor to hide one of his families, both from his contemporaries as well as from posterity. A badly flawed, published "history" further confused

matters. I learned not to trust self-reported places and dates of birth, and to recognize that family stories may be just that. At the same time, by looking again, I found some unexpectedly interesting persons and stories, as well as an opportunity to take a family history back another five generations.



*Melville R. V. "Mel" Sahyun grew up in Santa Barbara, where family history was an essential part of the family culture. His Ph.D. is in physical chemistry from UCLA. He was instrumental in the family's process of donating the Sahyun Library property to SB-CGS, and is a Life Member of the Society.*

*Mel has been researching his wife, Irene's, Irish roots and is working on a Sahyun Family History.*

# William Bassett: From the *Fortune* to a Fortune

By Sharon Summer

**W**ILLIAM BASSETT (c 1595-1667) was my 10th great-grandfather. He, and most probably his wife Elizabeth (c 1595-1650), were two of the thirty-five people to arrive at Plymouth colony on November 9, 1621, aboard the ship *Fortune*. They had set sail from London. The *Fortune* was the second ship to arrive in Plymouth after the *Mayflower*.

The *Fortune* was only one-third the size of the *Mayflower*, displacing a mere 55 tons. William was one of twelve Separatists aboard, having spent time in Leiden, in the Netherlands. Others aboard were artisans and craftsmen sent over to make Plymouth colony productive enough to send fur and timber back to England for the profit of the sponsoring company, the Merchant Adventurers.

William Bassett was reportedly born in Sandwich, Kent, England, sometime between 1595 and 1600. Other sources said he was from Bethnal Green, Middlesex, England, which is now a suburb of London. He was still in his twenties when he sailed to Plymouth.

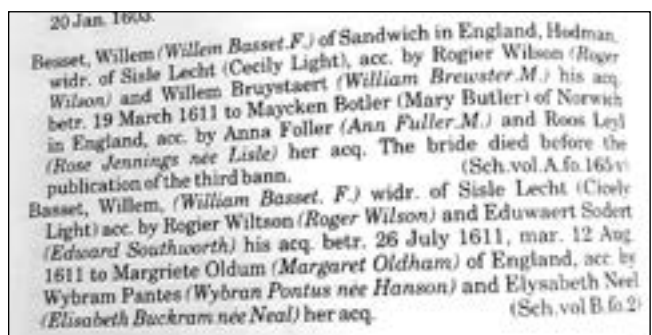
Passengers and Ships		Passengers and Ships		St
HENRY FLEMING	of Sandwich, Kent	CLEMENT BREWSTER	of Southwark, county Surrey; full moulder	
JOHN GOODMAN		EDWARD DORRINGS		
THOMAS WILLIAMS	of Yarmouth, county Norfolk	JOHN GANNON (or Gamm)		
JOSEPH PROSE	of London	WILLIAM COOPER		
EDMUND MARGHERON		ROBERT TUNNICLIFFE	of Rolvenden, Kent; wood-carver	
PETER BROWNE	probably of Great Bristead, Essex	THOMAS COLEMAN		
EDWARD BUTTERIDGE		HENRY BEAN	probably from Southwark; mixer	
EDWARD CLARKE		PHILIPPE DULANNE	of Leyden, Holland	
EDWARD GARDNER	of Harwich, county Essex	THOMAS FLETCHER	of London	
THOMAS HINSLAN		..... FORD	probably from Southwark; leather-dresser	
GILBERT WINDLOW	brother of Edward Windlow	..... Mrs. Martha Ford		
JOHN ALDEN	of Harwich, county Essex; cooper	William Ford		
JOHN ALBERTSON		..... Ford		
		WILLIAM HILTON	of Northwich, county Cheshire; smith	
1621		ROBERT HICKS	of Southwark, county Surrey; full moulder	
FORTUNE of London, Thomas Barton, Master. She left London about August and arrived at Cape Cod November 9, "with thirty-five passengers," but only thirty-two are known by name. They all came from London or its suburbs. The entire company settled at Plymouth. =		ROBERT MORRAN	of Saint James, Cloisterswell, London;	
JOHN ADAMS		THOMAS NORTON	of Austerfield, Yorkshire	
WILLIAM BASSETT	of Bethnal Green, Middlesex; iron-worker	ALEXANDER BRIDMAN	probably from Leyden	
WILLIAM BURGESS		WILLIAM PALMER	of Stepney, London; tailor	
JOHNATHAN BRADWICK	son of Elder Brewster	..... CROFTWELL		
		WILLIAM PITT THOMAS	of Saint Peter, London; minister of	
		FRANCIS SIMON-SIMPSON	All Saints, Barbican, London of	
		HUGH STACE	Leyden	
				JAMES STEWARD

From the book *Planters of the Commonwealth* by C.E. Banks.

William and Elizabeth arrived in Cape Cod in 1621 on the ship *Fortune*. In this accounting he is listed as an iron worker. Later records in Plymouth show him as a gunmaker, blacksmith, Captain, Deputy, and Military man. He received three lots (two acres in total) of land beyond the fort in the 1623 Plymouth land division.

## Occupation

A Facebook entry shows a section of a book, title unknown, saying that in Sandwich, England, "Willem Besset" or "Willem Basset" was a "hodman." A hodman is a worker who carries bricks or stones in a hod, a three-sided box made of wood or metal which is attached to a long wooden pole. It is carried on the worker's shoulder to deliver bricks to a bricklayer or stones to a mason. Perhaps William began his work life as a hodman in England and then progressed to being noted as a "master mason" by the time he was in Leiden.



This is a page from a book pictured on Facebook, with permission to use. It shows William Bassett's profession in England at age 24 as a Hodman. In records from Leiden, the Netherlands, William Basset from Sandwich, Kent, England, is shown as a master mason.

Once in Plymouth, William's profession is given variously as a mason, an ironworker, a gunsmith, a mechanic, and one who works with metals. Of particular usefulness to the early colonists was that William was said to be the only colonist that knew how to build a house!

William was a volunteer fighter in the Pequot War in 1637, then was a member of Captain Miles Standish's Militia Company, and in 1652 a constable.

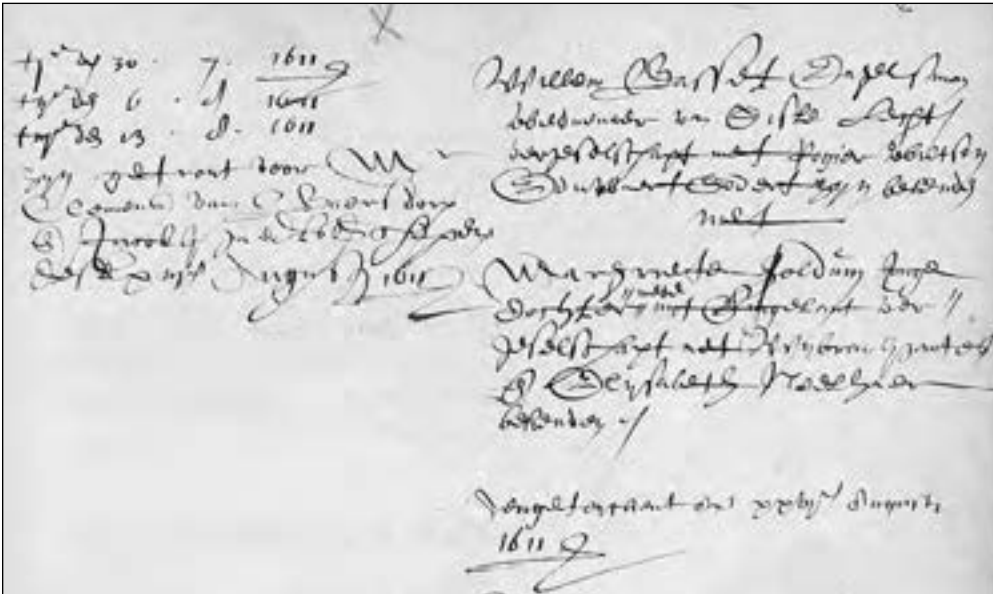
He was also known as a "planter" or a settler. Over time William became a substantial land owner, wealthy from amassing a fortune in land. In the Land Division of 1623 in Plymouth, he was allotted two acres indicating he had taken a wife before that date. His wife Elizabeth and his first two children, William and Elizabeth, were mentioned in the 1627 land division. By 1632, eleven years after he arrived, only four people in Plymouth paid a higher tax than William, indicating wealth.

## Residences

### Plymouth

William Bassett first resided in Plymouth Colony. Governor William Bradford's *Letter Book* lists William as a land "Purchaser," part of a group that paid off debts owed by the *Mayflower*. His was one of the 55 Plymouth names in





Banns for the marriage of William Bassett and Cecily Light in Leiden, Holland 1611. William Bassett is written at the top of the upper right column."

an October 25, 1626, list of purchasers who paid £1,800 for "said stock, shares, lands, merchandise, and chattles." In today's dollars £1,800 would be about \$421,500.00, a considerable amount of money!

### Duxbury

Between 1637 and 1650 William and wife Elizabeth moved five miles across the bay from Plymouth to the settlement of Duxbury. He had helped lay out the town. There he was granted 100 acres of land, an award given to early settlers. In Duxbury William served on a number of juries and committees and was a deputy for Duxbury to a Plymouth court, a legislative body.

### Bridgewater

In 1655 he moved once more to become one of the first settlers of Bridgewater, nearly 20 miles inland. His wife Elizabeth died, date unknown, but before 1651 when William married Mary Tilden Lapham. Mary was still living in Bridgewater in 1690. When William died in 1667 in Bridgewater his will was proved. The will has survived and provides a long list of all his belongings and assets.

He was likely an educated man since over time William had accumulated one of the largest libraries in the colonies. After his death his books were valued at almost 10 pounds, a significant portion of his estate.

### Family

It is unknown exactly when Elizabeth Bassett died. She was the mother of William's six children. Their oldest child was a son also named William, born about 1624. A daughter, also named Elizabeth, was born about 1626. Four more children followed, all born in Plymouth. Their names were Nathaniel, Sarah, Ruth, and Joseph.

William and Elizabeth's eldest son William married Mary Rainsford about 1652 in Sandwich, Barnstable County. They had three children. He died on June 10, 1670, in Sandwich, Plymouth Colony, and wife Mary died on April 12, 1694, in Falmouth, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

William, Sr. and Elizabeth's first daughter, also named Elizabeth, married Thomas Burgess on November 8, 1648. She was divorced from him on June 10, 1661, the

first divorce in Plymouth Colony. Thomas was brought to court for "an act of uncleanness" with Lydia Gaunt and the court allowed Elizabeth to keep small things "that are in William Bassett's hands." In 1661 Elizabeth married her second husband, William Hatch of Plymouth.

### Descendents

I descend from the first William and Elizabeth's son, also named William, my ninth great-grandfather, and his wife Mary Rainsford who was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He was one of the early settlers of Sandwich on Cape Cod. Seven generations later there was yet another William Bassett (1770-1842) in this line

and his wife Olivia Tilton. They had several children, one of whom was my third great-grandmother, Anna Bassett (1803-1866), born in Chilmark, Dukes County, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod.

Anna Bassett married George Hillman about 1826, though no marriage record or marriage location has been found, despite much looking. Colonial expert and author, Charles E. Banks, says that George Hillman was born in 1791 in Chilmark, Dukes, Massachusetts, one of many Hillmans on Cape Cod, but no birth record has been located, even by a local genealogist. George seems to have been a private in the First Regiment of Binney's Massachusetts Militia in the War of 1812, when he was 21. An index of the 1835 New York State Census lists a George Hillman in Lewis County. An 1842 Tax Assessment Roll shows George Hillman paid taxes on twenty acres of land in nearby Martinsburg, Lewis, New York. The 1850 US Census and 1855 New York Census list Anna (Bassett) and George Hillman and their children in Greig, Lewis County, New York. By 1865 the family was back on a farm in Martinsburg, Lewis, New York. Anna died in 1866, but George's date of death is unknown. The oldest of George and Anna's seven children was William Hillman (1826-1891) my 2nd great-grandfather. Though I have traced this family down to myself, I have found no more information about George Hillman.

At least two people in the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, of which I am pleased to be a member, are descendants of the first William and Elizabeth Bassett.



*Sharon Diane Knickrehm Summer enjoys multiple aspects of genealogy. Among them she likes doing research, writing articles and vignettes for her memoir, creating pages for her family history books, and learning more about the history of the world in the process.*

*If you are also a Bassett descendent you can contact Sharon at: [summerssharon2@gmail.com](mailto:summerssharon2@gmail.com)*

If you happened to read my article *Horizontal Tombstone* in last quarter's issue, some names and events will sound familiar as this is about the Murphy family in San Francisco but this story also stands on its own.



The Four Murphy Kids

# The Mysteries of Willie Murphy

By Winston Dutton

**A** YEAR OR TWO AFTER this picture was taken, 15-year-old Willie Murphy was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. On August 14, 1903, according to newspaper accounts, a shot went off inside the elevator at Shreve & Co., a renowned San Francisco jewelry factory whose retail operation continues to this day. Twenty-year-old jeweler's apprentice Eugene Marcacci had asked elevator boy Willie, his longtime friend, to take him up to his job on the third floor. Here things get hazy. Eugene claims Willie intentionally shot him in the face. Willie says Eugene shot himself with a small-caliber handgun that he had recently purchased. He had pulled it out of his pocket to show Willie, tried to remove the barrel, and it went off. Either way, a bullet lodged in Eugene's left cheek, inflicting mostly cosmetic damage (his WWII draft registration card makes note of his scar almost 40 years later).

As you may have guessed, that's Willie on the right in an undated photo from my collection. My maternal grandmother Loretta is the pipsqueak on the left. If we figure that she is about four, her sisters Gertrude and Grace would be about 7 and 10 respectively and Willie about 14. That would place the photo between 1900 and 1902. When I found three brief newspaper blurbs about the shooting incident on *newspapers.com* and CDNC a few years ago, I re-examined this photo, the only one I had of my mom's uncle Willie.

The jaunty angle of his hat covers most of what looks like a bad haircut. Does the frown belong to a teenage boy annoyed at having to pose with his little sisters

against a flowery background? Or is it a sign of deeper inner turmoil? Of course, smiling in photographic portraits wouldn't become a thing for another few decades, but he's the only one of the four who's actively frowning. The bow tie livens up his otherwise sour puss. I now notice a mysterious number "290" inscribed on the end of the shortened placket typical of the then-popular "negligee shirt." Willie is holding something by his side – a rifle?



Closeup of the number 290 on Willie's shirt

The shooting incident was reported to the company superintendent who decided to send the wounded Eugene home and Willie back to work. When Eugene's father saw his son's sorry state and heard his story, he went

to see Willie's father, Daniel C. Murphy, whom he presumably knew, given their sons' longtime friendship. He proposed to take no action if Murphy would pay the doctor's bills. Murphy said no. He was "too poor and it took all his salary as an engineer to provide for three other children." Eugene's father then went to the police and Willie was arrested that evening.

The three short articles came out the next day and then...nothing. I haven't yet found any evidence that this went to court. A few notes:

– Willie's version goes into some detail about the gun: that Eugene had purchased it "only a few minutes before," but the articles do not state whose gun it was or where it came from.

– Two of the articles give credence to Willie's version: "The accused claims the shooting was accidental and the circumstances seem to bear out his version of the story" and "from the story of the shooting as told by young Murphy it appears that it was entirely accidental." The third article remains neutral. Nowhere is Eugene's version explained beyond the assertion that Willie shot Eugene on purpose.

– Only one article includes the detail: "both of the boys have been close friends for some time." Because a different article relates that the dads pow-wowed, I tend to believe that they were indeed friends but that raises the thorny question of the age difference. Five years can seem like a lifetime at that age.

Let's face it - if the dads had settled, there would be no news articles and therefore no story.

I have three theories, several of which may have been at play, as to why Daniel refused what seems like a fair offer from his counterpart:

First, he was telling the truth. I'm sure finances were tight despite Daniel's decent job.

Or, he was calling his counterpart's bluff. He believed Willie's version of the incident. Additionally, would



Willie's employer really have kept him on the job if they thought he had just deliberately shot his friend/co-worker?

Or could it be, Willie was not his son?

Growing up, I never heard of Willie. Neither did my brother. My first cousins were pretty close to my grandma Loretta, Willie's supposed kid sister, and they never heard of him either. It's perplexing because Willie went on to do some admirable things in his short life.

He was born on November 14, 1887, in San Francisco. Or so he claims in his 1917 WWI draft registration and elsewhere. The birthyear does jibe with his apparent age in our photo. The problem is that this is almost three years prior to his "parents" Daniel C. Murphy and Maria A. Foss's well-documented wedding in 1890. That is unusual, but not unheard of. Where were Daniel and Maria in 1887? Good question! Maria had been a single seamstress and dressmaker in San Francisco but appears to have moved to New York City from 1884 to 1888 and then moved back to San Francisco. Daniel is a complete mystery to me between his arrival in the U.S. around 1875 and his 1890 wedding - his name is just too common.



Studio Portrait from Flaglor Studios, San Francisco. Inscribed 'Wm Murphy - 3 Years Old' on the back

around 1890. The destroyed 1890 U.S. Census might have been very informative in this case and of that of Daniel and Maria's wedding.

I now have a total of three photos of Willie. Regarding the earlier photo with the four children together. I have half a dozen other equally fanciful photos of the trio of Murphy girls - some earlier and some later than this one - and Willie is nowhere to be seen in any of them. I am sure they were all taken by their father Daniel, an avid amateur photographer, so Willie's absence may have been for aesthetic reasons but there it is.

A 13-year-old Willie is also absent from the Murphy household in the 1900 census. There is, however, a William Murphy born in the very same November 1887 at a boys' orphanage south of San Francisco. It could be him or it could be another William Murphy, but it

The next signs of Willie are these two remarkable photographs sent to me a few years ago by a maternal cousin.

I'm not sure I've ever seen such a pensive and self-possessed three-year-old as this little boy. Someone has gone to some trouble and expense to have these fancy portraits taken



Also from Flaglor Studios. Inscribed 'William Patrick Murphy' on the back

makes me wonder about the number 290 written on Willie's shirt in the photo taken about the same time. Could that be an orphanage-issued piece of clothing?

As far as I have found, he makes his first officially-recorded appearance in the 1910 U.S. Census as a 22-year-old marine engineer who is indeed living with the Murphy's in San Francisco. It appears that Daniel the engineer passed on some of his skills and know-how to Willie.

A couple of years later, Daniel had re-established communications with his two sisters in Dalkey, Ireland, after a mysterious decades-long silence. I have a series of postcards that Rosanna and Elizabeth wrote to Maria, Daniel and two of their daughters. In the very first one from May, 1912, Rosanna writes to Daniel, "Give our love to your dear wife & children - Willie [named] after his Grandfather & the girls with such pretty names." Daniel's father was indeed named William. Rosanna certainly seems to believe that Willie is Daniel's son but she never mentions Willie in her postcards to Maria. A month later, Daniel had sent some photos. Rosanna writes, "Many thanks...for lovely photos. The three little girls together are like angels! [later] we are looking forward to up-to-date photos of Willie." And then a few months later: "Willie at 14 very like yourself at that age & also like poor Martin." By now, Willie is 25 and probably out at sea a lot but the only photos Daniel can send are 11 years old!? When we know that Willie had been living with them recently and that Daniel was an able photographer? Also, I have yet to figure out who Martin might be, but the way Rosanna worded her remark makes me wonder if Daniel had a brother who passed away and left him with Willie?

Thanks to DNA, I am fairly certain that Willie was a Murphy. I ran a search for the surname Murphy among my *Ancestry* matches about a year ago and 'Nora' popped up. We share 65cM across 3 segments and all of our shared matches (at least the ones I recognized) were descendants of Daniel and Maria. She had a tree posted and there was her great-grandfather, William Murphy! That branch of her tree was hastily put together and full of errors, but she did have him married to Alice Moir Somerville - a pairing *Ancestry* had suggested before, but one I couldn't confidently tie to "my" William Murphy. Once I slotted Alice into my tree, I found a death notice for Willie that listed her and their daughter Margaret as well as his Murphy family. Interestingly, she has Willie born in New York City (without any sources), which is where Maria might have been in 1887. I reached out to "Nora" twice with no response. Based on her tree, I expect I know a lot more about Willie than she does, but you never know.

When you're attempting to re-construct someone's life from scratch, you're lucky if you get one episode as vivid as the shooting incident. With Willie, there is also his short, but brilliant and often heroic career as a marine engineer. For all the unknowns and shadows of his childhood and adolescence, he really hit his stride in his mid- to late-twenties as the go-to guy for installing and running semi-diesel engines in schooners on the West Coast. He emerges as a sort of McGyver - capable of writing a 2,800 word technical essay entitled "Wrinkles on Hot-Bulb Installation" for *Motorship Magazine* while doing this kind of stuff:

W. P. Murphy, engineer of the pilot schooner *Gracie S.*, saved the lives of the crew of the schooner yesterday morning and brought the vessel through almost without damage what seemed certain a disastrous fire.

About 8 o'clock in the morning leaking gasoline from the carburetor of the auxiliary electric light engine caught fire. In a second the entire engine room was in a blaze.

Benny Scribner, the famous old Chinese cook of the vessel, was standing at the galley stove at the time. This is athwartships and is just forward of the entrance to the engine-room.

The explosion sent out a burst of flame that literally licked the hair from Benny's head and set his clothing afire. Murphy was eating breakfast. He leaped from his seat at the table, which is alongside the engine-room on the port side, smothered the flames from Benny's clothing and then dived through the flames to the seacock.

Murphy opened this and the water poured in, covered the flames and doused them. Then Murphy calmly reached down through the water and closed the cocks. The only damage was a fire-scarred engine-room bulk-head. The *Gracie S.* was at mooring in the yacht harbor at the time. An alarm was sent in and an engine company responded. By the time the fire department arrived, quick as was their response, the fire was practically out.



The Schooner *Gracie S*

Murphy has already made a record for cool-headed work. He was chief engineer of the yacht *Great Bear* when she ran on a rock in Alaskan waters. He rigged up a wireless from the ignition coil of the launch and brought help to the marooned explorers.

There is more like that. Unfortunately, a second fire aboard the *Gracie S* got the better of him a few months later:

While undergoing repairs at the Union Iron Works yard in Alameda, the engine-room took fire yet again. Murphy went below to try to douse it but was driven back with his clothes burning. He leapt overboard and was pulled out with serious burns.

He died a few days later of his burns, one day after his 30th birthday.

There are a lot of loose ends here but if I were guessing, I'd say that Willie was Daniel's son from a different mother or Daniel's unknown deceased brother's son. If *Ancestry* had chromosome painting or if "Nora" was on a different platform, I could probably figure out if she has any (Maria) Foss DNA.

Did he intentionally shoot his friend Eugene in the face? Heck no! But I might be biased. It's conceivable that they were both playing around with the gun when it went off.

Eugene Marcacci became a career jeweler and engraver at Shreve & Co. Some of his pieces are undoubtedly still in use and on display in fine homes. He never married or had any kids. He lived with his parents most of his life. I hope that choice was his and not a result of the scar on his left cheek.

<sup>i</sup> Many of the facts and dates cited can be found on my public tree on *Ancestry: Dutton/Yerby/Murphy/Bennett*. My username is winowen1.

<sup>ii</sup> As a researcher, I am very grateful for this one sentence where Daniel C Murphy is an engineer with three other children because it is those details that assure me that Willie is indeed 'my' Willie and not one of the many other William Patrick Murphys in San Francisco at the time. Willie's age also matches.



*Winston Dutton retired in 2019. He and Karen, his wife of 32 years, have two sons in their mid-twenties and a grandson. He has called Santa Barbara home for about 34 years. He enjoys historical/biographical research, music making and photography.*

**THIS JUST IN...Willie's paternity, twin birth, untimely deaths, tragedy... Read it in the next issue of *Ancestors West*!!**

*In days past, all young children – boys and girls – wore dresses to make nappy changing and toilet training easier. Dresses were economical and practical, and had plenty of room for growing children, which pants did not.*

*Breeching was the occasion when a small boy was first dressed in breeches or trousers, and when he received his first haircut. At that time, the boy was old enough to manage buttons and fasteners on his breeches.*



# Washington and Mary Philipse: The Romantic Legend Persists

By Ann Fox

**H**E WAS 24, a brash and promising young military officer, although his career had already been marked by setbacks and frustrations. When the opportunity arose, he enjoyed indulging himself in fine clothes, cards and the companionship of women. He longed to settle into the life of a gentleman.

She was 26, a strong-willed and lovely Yonkers maiden, literally to the manor born. Mary was born at the Philipse Manor Hall on the third of July, 1730. She was beautiful, fascinating, and accomplished.

Already she had won and wounded the hearts of 38 suitors, although that did not deter others from falling prey to her charm. It was perhaps inevitable that the two would meet and that he, too, would be smitten and rebuffed by her. However, he never pursued the matter and she married another. They say he never forgot her.

A not uncommon and very human story - except that he was George Washington, then a colonel in the Virginia Militia. And she, Mary Philipse, known to her many friends as Polly, was the daughter of Frederick Philipse, the second Lord of Philipse Manor, which included 90,000 acres, approximately one-third of Westchester County. Miss Philipse herself could lay claim to 51,000 of those acres, all of which, under law, would pass to her husband upon marriage, a fact that considerably enhanced her eligibility.

But whether Washington was ever a serious contender for her hand and, by extension, her land; whether he visited her at Philipse Manor Hall, her Yonkers home, as numerous traditions hold; and whether the course of American history might have been altered had he wed this fierce Loyalist, who was branded a traitor during the American Revolution, has been a matter of considerable debate almost since the time of their first meeting in 1756.

Fact or legend, the story of a romantic relationship has not been confined to the county. William Schweickert of Scarsdale first heard of it during the late 1930s while visiting Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

*"The guide took us through and pointed to pictures of George and Martha Washington and said, as an aside, that Martha was not George's first love but rather that it was a girl from Westchester County," Mr. Schweickert said. "Since I came from Westchester, my ears perked up."*

The remark stayed with Mr. Schweickert, an avid history buff, who later researched and included the encounter in a slide show he now presents on the Philipse family.

*"My feeling is that Washington came to New York and was attracted to her," he said. "After all, she was an heiress. But because of the distance, the romance came to no fruition."*



Mary Philipse, New York, ca. 1750, by John Wollaston. Oil on canvas.



Capt. Roger Morris

Indeed, that distance from Philadelphia to New York may have proved too great in 1757 for Washington to heed the advice sent in a letter from a friend, Joseph Chew, who noted that another man, Roger Morris, was pressing his suit with Miss Philipse. Mr. Chew urged Washington to hasten back and set matters straight. There is no evidence that his counsel was taken, although, among the descendants of Mary Philipse in Britain, tradition holds that Washington did return one evening and pleaded

long and late with her to marry him, only to be told that she had already promised herself to Mr. Morris. Washington supposedly left in a huff, not bothering to even spend the night in the Manor Hall bedroom that, according to yet another tradition, he often used while visiting the family.

They probably would have talked in the east parlor, the most elaborate room of the house. At that time, the windows overlooked broad expanses of green.

If historians, who are supposedly neutral with regard to facts, can't agree, what about those who have a more emotional interest - such as the men and women participating recently in a re-creation of a Revolutionary War encampment at the John Jay (my second cousin, seven times removed) homestead in Katonah?

The matter of Mary Philipse's affection was finally settled on January 19, 1758, when she married Capt. Roger Morris in the east parlor of the Hall in a ceremony hailed as one of the most elaborate ever held in the county. On January 6, 1759, George Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, a wealthy widow, and assumed full control of

her property. So ended the relationship between the young colonel and the Yonkers beauty. Or did it?

At the end of the war, Mary went to England and settled in York. Washington went on to become the father of the new nation. But today, they live on at the Manor Hall. A portrait of Mary hangs in the east parlor; one of Washington is across the hallway in what is believed to be the oldest room in the house, each occupying different territories, as they did so many years ago. But, at last, indisputably together in Yonkers.

### Who was Washington's first love?

In a debut novel, *Dear George, Dear Mary*, author Mary Calvi writes of George Washington's first love, Mary Eliza Philipse, one of the wealthiest women in the colonies. Her family [originally] owned a quarter-million acres of land along the Hudson River.

I wonder often what the world would be like today if they had married. Mary Elizabeth "Charming Polly" Philipse Morris is my 3rd cousin, six times removed.



Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site is a historic house museum located in the Getty Square neighborhood of Yonkers, New York. Originally the family seat of Philipse Manor, it is Westchester County's second oldest standing building after the Timothy Knapp House.



*I have a great passion for gardening and animals and now genealogy is in my top three. I graduated from the American Academy of Fine Art Chicago and went on to be a professional artist, licensing my work, designing products from tableware to dolls including the Princess Diana Dolls for Ashton Drake Galleries, unaware until recently she*

*is in my pedigree. For two years I have mostly researched the paternal side of my father's family, finding signers of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, founders of Princeton and other universities, and the House of Plantagenet and Bohemian Royalty. It is fabulous and fascinating. I have recently helped a few people find Patriots and given written will information to Historical Societies that have been studying my family members for years.*

*I am having a ball and loving finding my people.*

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# Hidden in Plain Sight

## Using Indirect Evidence to Build a Family for My Great-Great Grandmother

By Laurie Hannah

**T**HE SEARCH FOR THE PARENTS of my 2nd great-grandmother, Eliza P. Kelly DeGuire Fox (1814?-1882), of Fredericktown, Missouri, has proved elusive and challenging. A very clear paper trail exists from her to me. However, for most people with her in their family trees she appears to be the end of the line. Over several years I worked hard to break through that wall and was able to move back three more generations into the 1700s, based on a hypothesis I think I have proven and backed by indirect evidence. What remains a mystery is her birth date and direct proof that she really is the daughter of the couple I believe her to be. While I still look for new records, I find that looking at the same old records with new eyes has helped unlock what I believe is the answer.

### Background and Known Facts

My great-great-grandmother, along with her presumed parents and numerous cousins, were part of a group of 13 pioneering French Creole families who came from the villages of Ste. Genevieve and New Bourbon, on the Mississippi River in Upper Louisiana, and who founded the village of St. Michael around 1800. St. Michael was the kernel of the future city of Fredericktown, the county seat of Madison County, after Missouri became a state in 1821.

Eliza Fox's headstone in St. Michaels' Catholic Church cemetery in Fredericktown states that she died June 16, 1882, at age sixty-nine.<sup>1</sup> That would put her birth around 1813. The 1850, 1860, and 1880 US Censuses for Madison County, Missouri, list her age as thirty-five, forty-five, and sixty-five, respectively, so more likely she was born around 1815. However, the 1870 census lists her as fifty-two, extending her birth date to 1818.<sup>2</sup>

On January 13, 1829, Eliza married Michael DeGuire, the son of one of the founding families. If she were born between 1813 and 1815,

she would have been between 14 and 16 years of age when she married. No parents of the couple were listed in the county civil record, and no church record has been located yet.<sup>3</sup>

Michael died in 1839, leaving Eliza and two sons behind. Eliza married a second time on January 25, 1841, to David M. Fox. He is listed as "son of James and Mary Fox native of Ireland, and now resident in this County." She is listed as "Eliza Kelly, widow of Michael Deguire of this county."<sup>4</sup> Again, her parents aren't named. They were married by the parish priest Francis Cellini. Eliza and David, a lawyer, had three children and were well enough off that they participated in land purchases and sales, leaving easy-to-find records for family historians. None of these records give any information on Eliza's birth or parents.

### The Search For Parents

An exhaustive search of all men named Kelly in Madison County censuses has turned up no one named David Kelly. However, there was a large community of Kelly families in another township in the county. Could they be related to Eliza? Through cluster research of the Kelly families and their neighbors, many of whom migrated together from North Carolina, I determined that no one in their families had a daughter named Eliza who was MY Eliza. Additionally, county marriage records indicate that many of these families intermarried and usually stayed in their local community. Similarly, Eliza was strongly associated throughout her life with the small number of families who settled St. Michael, and she never moved.

A possible candidate for Eliza's mother is a woman named Odile Isom who appeared on the 1850 and 1860 US Censuses at the Fox residence. An 1821 petition for divorce in the Madison County circuit court revealed she was the former Odile Chevalier, who



Eliza P. Fox grave

married a man named David Kelly in 1812.<sup>5</sup> The reason for divorce was desertion, as Kelly had disappeared by 1818. No reliable records have been found for him after that date. Odile Kelly's second husband was William Isom, whom she married in 1825.<sup>6</sup>

Odile and David Kelly had two daughters—Pelagie, born in 1814 and Odile, born in 1816. They are listed in the church baptismal records from the Ste. Genevieve district parish church. On June 6, 1816, Father Pratte, who was known to visit neighboring villages within his Ste. Genevieve parish, baptized at least seven children from St. Michael, including children of local slaves. Odile's niece, Pelagie Chevalier, age 3, was also baptized that day. Pelagie Kaley [Kelly] was listed as 1 year, 11 months, 9 days, and Odile Kaley was 15 days old. Pelagie was probably named after her maternal grandmother, Pelagie Lachance, and Odile was most likely named after her mother.

### Original baptism record in French<sup>7</sup>

Transcribed and translated baptism record<sup>8</sup>

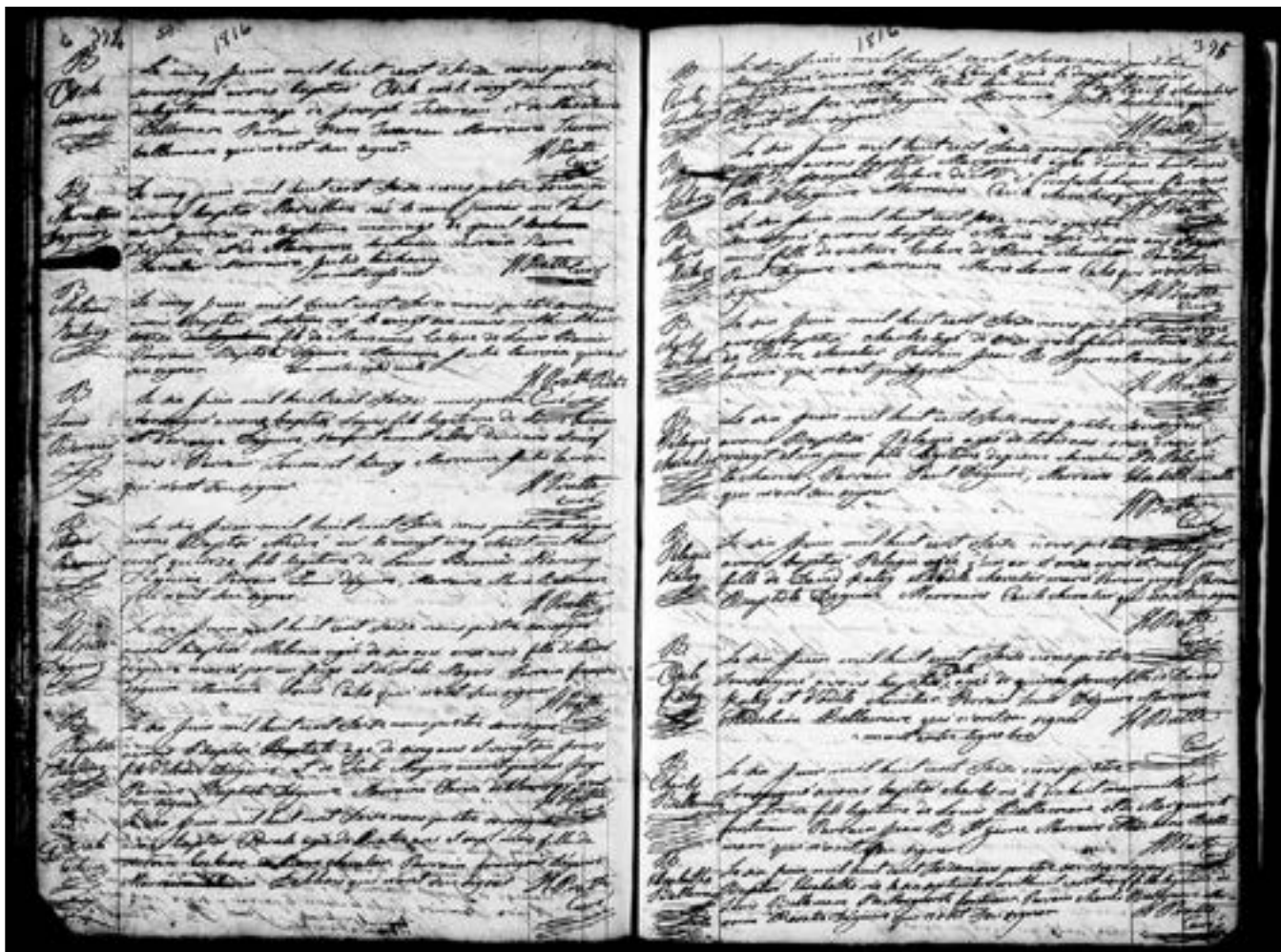
If Odile Chevalier and David Kelly were indeed Eliza's parents, my current hypothesis, I should be able to find an additional baptism record for her. However, an exhaustive search of the baptismal records of the Catholic Church in Ste. Genevieve from 1810 through 1820 revealed no such record for Eliza Kelly. If Eliza

was born between 1813 and 1816, why wasn't she baptized that day, along with her likely siblings and neighbors? Why didn't she appear in the register at all? This negative evidence could suggest that the answer is actually in plain sight, although it took me several years to see it this way.

No marriage, census, or death records have been found for Odile Kelly or Pelagie Kelly. Like their father, they seemingly disappeared, something that is not entirely unusual for women, especially if they changed their name through marriage. But I kept staring at that baptism record and wondered if "Eliza" might have been a nickname or a middle name for either Odile or Pelagie, although neither of those girls were given a middle name in their baptism records. Many records for Eliza as an adult list her name as Eliza P. Kelly or Eliza P. Fox. I have never seen the middle initial spelled out in any record, although various researchers have guessed it stands for "Priscilla," possibly based on other unrelated local Kelly families. Could it stand for Pelagie instead?

### Are Eliza and Pelagie Kelly One and the Same Person?

A clue came from a land sale record dated April 12, 1814, between Pierre Chevalier and Pelagie Lachance, his wife (Odile's mother, mentioned above), and Samuel Carruthers. The record lists Pelagie's name as



Chevallier Kelly baptisms 1816



“Paliza” and “Peliza” four times in the document. In other documents it has also appeared as “Pelagia,” and “Pelisha,” indicating that English speakers’ attempts to write her name were based on the sound of the French name, not necessarily knowledge of how to spell it. Further queries in *Ancestry.com* of the number of women with the name “Peliza” retrieved many records from Southeast Missouri, indicating this is a valid variant of the name “Pelagia,” a very common name in French families in Missouri. Pelagie Kelly conceivably might have dropped the “P” from “Peliza” and become “Eliza.” Or, the name “Eliza” might have distinguished her from her presumed grandmother also named Pelagie.

Assuming the above hypothesis is true, one last fact adds more weight to my conclusion. Pelagie Kelly was born on June 27, 1814, according to her baptism record. Eliza’s headstone lists her age as 69 years and a death date of June 16, 1882. If she were really Pelagie and born

on June 27, 1814, she would have been 68 years and 354 days old on June 16, 1882, very close to 69 years old!

In conclusion, no vital records or other documents directly link Eliza Kelly to possible parents Odile Chevalier and David Kelly, but strong indirect evidence points to them as likely parents. Additional DNA research I have undertaken also confirms this hypothesis, as multiple matches to me also show Odile Chevalier as a direct ancestor. No DNA matches or family trees have been helpful yet in linking to David Kelly.

#### Endnotes

1 Memorial for Eliza P. Kelley Fox; database, *Find A Grave* ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)): accessed 29 Jan 2023), record 118211743.

2 “1850 US Census,” Madison County, Missouri, 16 Sept 1850, dwelling 56, family 58, David M. Fox household “ 1860 U.S. Census,” Madison County, Missouri, St. Michael, dwelling 1, family 1, David M. Fox household.” 1870 U.S. Census,” Madison County, Missouri, Saint Michael, 2 June 1870, dwelling 28, family 28, David M. Fox household.” 1880 U.S. Census,” Madison County, Missouri, Saint Michael, 29 June 1880, dwelling 6, family 7, Jas. D. Fox household.

3 “Missouri, US, Marriage Records, 1805–2002,” entry for Eliza Kelly, Madison County, 13 Jan 1829; database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>): accessed 27 Jan 2023) image 29 of 98; citing Missouri Marriage Records. Jefferson City, MO, USA: Missouri State Archives. Microfilm.

4 “Missouri, US, Marriage Records, 1805–2002,” entry for Eliza Kelly, Madison County, 25 January 1841, database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>): accessed 27 Jan 2023) image 51 of 486; citing Missouri Marriage Records. Jefferson City, MO, USA: Missouri State Archives. Microfilm.

5 “Divorce records, 1821–1887,” Missouri, Circuit Court (Madison County), Petition for Divorce, Odeal Kelly, 10 March 1821; database, *Family Search* (<http://familysearch.org>): accessed 29 Jan 2023), film #2027292, images 289–293.

6 Research of other records has linked the surname “Isom” to Eliza Kelly Fox. The death certificates of two of her children list her maiden name as “Isom,” possibly indicating that Eliza took the surname of her presumed step-father while she was still a minor, and the informants on the death certificates, her grandchildren, were unaware of David Kelly.

7 “Catholic Records 1759–1993,” baptism records, entries for Odile Kaley and Pelagie Kaley, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, 16 June 1816; database, *Family Search* (<http://familysearch.org>), accessed 27 Jan 2023) Film #1939897, image 910.

8 “Catholic Records 1759–1993,” transcribed (typed) baptism records, entries for Odile Kaley and Pelagie Kaley, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, 16 June 1816; database, *Family Search* (<http://familysearch.org>), accessed 27 Jan 2023) Film #1939901, image 544.

1861 June 6	Charles, slave of Pierre Chevalier
1816 June 6	Chevalier, Pelagie, aged 2 years and 11 months and 21 days daughter of Pierre Chevalier and Pelagie Lachance. Godparents-- Pierre Leguire and Elizabeth Peille
1816 June 6	Kaley (perhaps Kelly), Pelagie, aged 1 yr Elizabeth and O Kay, daughter of David Kaley and Odile Chevalier Godparents-- Auguste Leguire and Cecilia Chevalier (These two married by a Judge)
1816 June 6	Kaley, Odile, aged fifteen days, daughter of David Kaley and Odile Chevalier. Godparents-- Louis Leguire and Anastasia Bellmare
1816 June 6	Bellemeur, Charles, born March 10th, 1813, son of Louis Bellemeur and Marguerite Fontaineur. Godparents-- Jean Baptiste St. Come and Adelaide Bellemeur
1816 June 6	Bellemeur, Elizabeth, born Sept 6th, 1809, daughter of Louis Bellemeur and Marguerite Fontaineur. Godparents-- Charles Bellemeur and Cecile Leguire
	Page 376
1816 June 6	Bellemeur, Nestisse, born Oct 12th, 1815, son of Louis Bellemeur and Marguerite Fontaineur. Godparents-- Michel Lachance and Therese Bellemeur
1816 June 7	Charles, illegitimate, aged two years. Godparents-- Charles Bellemeur and Julie Lachance (no parents given)
1816 June 7	Leis, illegitimate, aged about four years. Godparents Louis Leguire and Marie Bellemeur (no parents given)
1816 June 7	Julie, illegitimate, aged 8 months (no parents given) Godparents-- Baptiste Vessouren and Marie Louise Thourne
1816 June 7	Smith, Marguerite, born Jan 25, daughter of Jean Smith and Marie Louise Lachance (married by a Judge) Godparents-- Baptiste Leguire and Julie Lachance
1816 June 7	Lachance, Charles, born June 25th, 1815, son of Michel Lachance and Elizabeth Rousselet. Godparents-- Jean Ste St. Come and Elizabeth Leffard.
	(while the records do not so state, it is very probable that between the 2nd and the 9th of June Father Peille went on a journey to some distant point and, while there, baptized many children. Possibly, Old Mine and French Village (Petite Canada), which also accounts for the entries of June 5th, 6th and 7th, coming after and between entries of June 20th)
	Transcribed's note
1816 June 17th	Lepage, Joseph, born April 16th, 1812, son of Augustin Lepage and Marie Louise Robi. Godparents-- Pierre Desile and Susanne Rodier
1816 June 17	Lepage, Marie, born March 6th, 1812, daughter of Augustin Lepage and Marie Louise Robi. Godparents-- Pierre Desile and Phillie Denis
	Page 377
1816 June 20	Koiso daughter of Ross, slave of Mr. Brown
1816 June 20	Terry son of Fessé slave of Jean Ste Vallé
1816 June 20	Marie, daughter of Genevieve, slave of Mr. Wilkerson Godparents-- of all three Carpentier Vallé and Elizabeth

Chevalier Kelly baptisms typed transcription image 544

*Laurie Hannah has been researching her paternal Missouri ancestors since 2015. A retired librarian, she is currently serving as Library Director of the Society's Sahyun Library.*



# The Maggetti House

## Cambria, California

By Len Galbraith Everson

**C**AMBRIA IS A CHARMING little community just south of San Simeon on the California coast, near Hearst Castle.

The Maggetti house was built by James Erdman in the early 1870s. In 1878 it became the home of one of Cambria's first physicians, Dr. Russell Parkhurst and his wife Mary.

Louis and Candelara "Lala" Galbraith Maggetti bought the house in 1894 and raised six children there, building a second story in 1900 for their four daughters. Louis Maggetti operated a leather goods and shoe repair shop in Cambria for 40 years, and three generations of the Maggetti family owned the home for 81 years. Marjorie Meacham Delyser, the owner in 1978, rescued it from deterioration, and subsequently rented it to several businesses. In 2014, the Cambria Historical Society purchased the house for future use as an annex to the adjacent museum.

The Cambria Historical Society, which sits on the corner of Burton and Center Street in Cambria, opened the Maggetti House to the public as the Nancy Moure Research Center. The Maggetti House is often referred to as the "Blue House" and serves as a research center for those interested in Cambria's colorful history.

My great-grandaunt, Candelara (Galbraith) Maggetti (1868-1901), was affectionately known as "Lala" and was one of 14 children of my 2nd great-grandparents,



Mary Jane Galbraith and Candelara Galbraith

John Galbraith and Maria Antonia Teofila Mendoza. Only half their children lived to see the turn of the century. Candelara, herself, died of tuberculosis in 1901, leaving a husband and seven children. The eldest daughter, Agnes Irene "Aggie" Maggetti, helped raise her siblings.

John Galbraith (1830-1890), my 2nd great-grandfather, was born in Ohio and immigrated to California about 1850, when California

became a state. His wife Antonia (1833-1903), was born near Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Río Carmelo in what is now Carmel, when Alta California was under



The Maggetti house was owned by my great-grand-aunt and her family. I only became aware of it recently, and have visited the house.



Mexican jurisdiction.

She was of Rumsen

or Esselen descent, two Indian tribes local to Monterey, California.\*

John Galbraith is my current "brick wall," though I am fairly certain that I know his lineage. Based on my research, and with the help of the Clan Galbraith Society and Ancestry Pro Genealogists, I believe that my lineage can be traced back as far as James Galbraith (b. 1666, Ireland) who brought his family to Pennsylvania in 1718.

*I'm a Southern California native. Born Galbraith, I was raised by my mother and stepfather from age two. I was adopted by my stepfather when I was 12. I have lived in the Santa Barbara area for nearly 60 years. I became interested in genealogy after retiring in 2014. Much of that effort has been in uncovering the Galbraith side of my family history. I'm the current webmaster for the Clan Galbraith Society.*



Editors Note:\*The Rumsen (also known as Rumsien, San Carlos Costanoan, and Carmeleno) are one of eight groups of the Ohlone, an indigenous people of California. Their historical territory included coastal and inland areas within what is now Monterey County, California. Today, like other Ohlone, Rumsen do not have federal recognition but continue to sustain their culture and community presence in central California.

Historically, the Esselen Tribe is a small group of Indigenous Hokan speaking People who have inhabited the Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur coast from Carmel Mission South 40 miles to Pacific Valley for over 6,000 years. The Esselen were the smallest tribe and least known in California.



## In Memorium



*Deborah Irene Drew Kaska*  
1941 - 2022

Debbie was born in Berwyn, Illinois, to Harvey and Irene Drew (nee Genke). She enjoyed playing clarinet and oboe and spent her summers at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. After graduating from Glenbard High School, she attended the University of Michigan earning her BS/MS in Biology. As a student and Phi Mu Sorority sister Debbie earned extra money washing equipment for the Chemistry Department. It was there that she met her future husband, Bill, who was a graduate student. The couple later settled in Goleta, California and raised four children.

In 1980, Debbie earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Later she served as the Academic Coordinator at the UCSB Department of Biological Sciences overseeing the Introductory Biology lab. Debbie conducted research on a broad variety of topics, including bird songs, vision, pine roots, and the genetic diversity of the Channel Islands Ironwood trees.

After retiring from UCSB in 2002, Debbie (affectionately known as "Maka" to her grandchildren) traveled to visit her family and friends and explored the world. She played oboe with the SB Prime Time Band and volunteered with the SB County Genealogy Society, serving as the board secretary and editor of *Ancestors West*. She was also skilled in translating old German script and spoke German fluently. Debbie was involved in several organizations, including serving as VP, Patriotic Instructor, and President of Tent 22 for the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and as Chapter VP for the Colonial Dames of America SB Chapter. She was also a member of the Mission Canyon Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her community involvement and curiosity never wavered and her friends and neighbors benefitted from her many gifts.

Debbie is preceded in death by her beloved husband William C. Kaska and brother Donald E. Drew.

She is survived by her children, Serge Kaska, Kristin Woolley (Douglas), Marya Darabont (Tibor), and Kathleen Perez (James), as well as seven grandchildren. Debbie's entire family was with her in her last days celebrating life at the beach. Her children were by her side when she passed.



*Ida Rickborn*  
1937 - 2022

Ida was born in Oneonta, New York, on March 29, 1937, to Angelino Passero and formally raised by Carmela Passero and Louis Vorse in New York and California. After graduating from high school in Corona, California, she attended the University of California at Riverside.

There, she met her future husband, and in August 1955 she was united in marriage with Bruce Rickborn (future chemistry professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara). They remained blissfully married for 55 years until his passing in 2010.

Ida completed her formal education at UCSB earning a Master's degree in education. Ida selflessly dedicated her life to her family and to the health, safety and education of the students in the Goleta Union School District.

Through dedicated hard work she became a reading specialist, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent of schools for the Goleta Union School District. Her drive, dedication and focus are role model behaviors for all young people, and certainly for young women with dreams and aspirations of their own.

Ida was so much more. She was a mother, homemaker, avid reader, world traveler, gourmet cook, and simply a natural leader who could get things done. Both Ida and Bruce loved our greater Santa Barbara community and they did much to support the arts and preserve the history in this area. Ida had a special love for opera and served as a board member for Opera Santa Barbara. Both Ida and Rick were active members of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

At the end of the day, it was the company of family and friends that she valued most. She would want to encourage all of us to donate time and resources to the causes of our choice that make our community stronger.

Ida is survived by her son, Steven; daughter-in-law, Janine; and her two granddaughters, Alissa and Lanette.



*Mary Lou Hale Smitheram*  
1928 - 2022

Mary Lou Hale was born in Prescott, Arizona. Lou spent her younger years in Arizona before her family relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area. She graduated from Mills College in Oakland, California in 1950 and subsequently received a Master of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. In 1977 she accomplished a long-term goal of receiving a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Spanish Literature from the University of California Santa Barbara. This accomplishment is especially noteworthy as Lou was a full-time working mother while completing the doctorate program.

In 1952, Mary Lou Hale married Robert Crowell Smitheram. Bob and Lou made their home in Santa Barbara where they raised three children. The two were married for 35 years until Bob passed away unexpectedly in 1987. In 2007, Lou married Augusto Pravia Cerrud.

Lou worked at several schools and universities in the Santa Barbara area, including Laguna Blanca, Marymount, Westmont College, and in the University of California Santa Barbara library. After retiring from UCSB she worked in the Cottage Hospital library. Lou was a dedicated and active parishioner at Trinity Episcopal Church, a member of St. Mary's Retreat House, and a long-time volunteer at the Goleta Valley Historical Society. She sang with the Edelweiss Choir and was a member of Friendship Force. Lou spoke several languages, which aided her in her many travels. Lou loved to research family history, tap dance, paint, and write. However, most of all, she loved to read, passing this love of books on to her children and grandchildren.

Lou is survived by her second husband, Augusto Pravia Cerrud, her children Robert Smitheram (Chiyan) of Santa Barbara, Anne Laurence (Peter) of Danville, and Mary Smitheram-Sheldon (Matthew) of San Mateo.

Lou's son, Robert, generously donated much of her extensive research library to the Sahyun Library.

# Author Guidelines - *Ancestors West*

Updated October 2022

**A**RTICLES FOR *ANCESTORS WEST* focus on useful genealogy or research sources, helpful research strategies, compelling historical accounts, and interesting case studies. The items represent the mutual interests of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society membership. Each issue follows one or more themes that are meant to draw together a selection of content within the journal; submissions are not limited to the themes, however.

## Manuscripts

Suggested length is from 250 to 2500 words. Longer pieces or serial pieces are also published. Submit your document in Word format if possible. If not, please submit in text format. Endnotes are recommended, especially for books, articles and websites. Please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* and the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* for usage.

*Ancestors West* reserves the right to edit and revise submissions as necessary for clarity, substance, conciseness, style, and length prior to publication.

## Images

Any piece is enhanced by images. Please provide images if you can to support your piece. The images in general must be over **1 MB, and preferably over 2 MB, with good quality resolution (300 dpi)**—clear and sharp to the naked eye when printed at a reasonable size (e.g., 3" x 4" - plus). Please include a caption for each picture, a photo credit or source, and insert the caption in the location in the document where it should appear. **The images must be sent as separate files and not included within a Word file.**

## Author information

Provide one or two sentences about the author(s) along with author(s) photo.

## Deadlines

Submissions with images are due the **1st of the month in February, May, and August, and October 15** for the November Issue. Address submissions to Kristin Ingalls, [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net)

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Kenneth & Hazel (Yamane) Miyake (May 1951)

## *OUR NEXT ISSUE*

*Love stories, weddings, and cars!!!  
Further details in the Editorial.*

