



Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Spring 2026 Vol. 51, No. 1

Turning Points

America, 250 Years Ago

He did what? Why?

A House Fell on
William Knickrehm

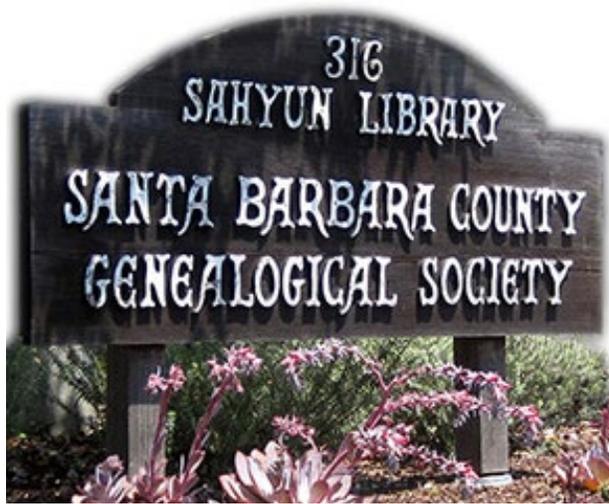
A Turning Point for the
Generations

A Turning Point for Tena

Was Polygamy a
Turning Point for the
Nightingales?



A Cherokee Love Story



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

www.sbgen.org

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Sahyun Genealogy Library

(SBCGS facility)

316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara 93101

Phone: (805) 884-9909

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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

The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society helps people, wherever they are from, discover, document, share, and preserve their family histories.

Vision Statement

We are a premier genealogical resource inspiring discovery of ancestral, cultural, and ethnic roots.

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 plus 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 Charmien Carrier

charmien2940@gmail.com

THE SUGGESTED THEME for this edition of *Ancestors West* is Turning Points.

I suspect many of our ancestors, and we, have experienced them. The Homestead Act of 1862 prompted my maternal and paternal great-grandparents to immigrate to the U.S., Germany, and Canada, making it a major turning point in their lives. The Act granted 160 acres of federal land to anyone who agreed to live on it and make it productive. As farmers, my great-grandparents did just that.

The stories in this issue show us how many ways our families experienced these changes. Two of our authors, Kate Lima in “A Cherokee Love Story” and Lynn Petersen in “Ocieto Grasshopper Jackson,” tell stories about their Cherokee ancestors’ lives. In “He Did What? Why?” Kristin Ingalls recounts how her great-great-grandfather, Curtis Inman, was affected by the Civil War. Sharon Summer tells how her great-grandfather’s life was altered when “A House Fell on William Knickrehm.” In “A Turning Point for Generations,” Larry Basham’s parents show a gradual evolution toward excellence and are part of the “greatest generation.” “A Turning Point for Tena” is about how my grandmother’s life changed when she auctioned off her farm in Minnesota and moved west to Seattle during WWII. In a story by Fran Davis, “Was Polygamy a Turning Point for the Nightingales?” she speculates whether her ancestors were influenced by their disdain for the Mormon practice of polygamy.

Other articles include “America, 250 Years Ago,” Judy Sahn’s acknowledgment of her 6th great-grandfather for his service in the Revolutionary War, and Betsy Green, *The Great House Detective*, writes about “A House for a Circus Man.”



Homestead Act stamp, by Fred Hultstrand,
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Our next issue’s suggested theme is “**Ancestors Behaving Badly**,” **due May 1**. As always, the theme is only a suggestion. We are happy to consider all stories related to family history and genealogy.

USE OF AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE) IN AW

The *Ancestors West* editorial team would like to inform authors about the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in writing their stories. The following statement addresses the use of AI in AW.

Regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in articles submitted to *Ancestors West*, the editorial board distinguishes between **assistive tools** (language editing, grammar checking, and foreign-language translation) and **generative tools** (content creation and data analysis). Authors do not need to document their use of assistive tools. If an author uses a generative AI tool to create some or all of their content, analyze data, or generate an image, they must document this use with a short statement that describes what was generated and the name of the AI tool or program used. Images created by AI should include the name of the AI program used, either in the image or in its caption.

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America, 250 Years Ago

By Judy Sahn

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO, in 1776, Private Moses Camp served with Captain Isaac Bostwick's Company in Charles Webb's 19th Continental Regiment in the Revolutionary War.

Perhaps you have heard about General George Washington crossing the Delaware on the eve of December 25th, 1776. General Washington was close to defeat and needed a "Lucky Blow" across the Delaware River in Trenton, New Jersey. He planned for his men to cross simultaneously from three separate locations. The plan was to leave at dusk and meet at dawn to attack Trenton from three directions. However, the crossing was treacherous for the 2,400 Continental Army troops with 50 horses and eighteen heavy artillery cannons, loaded onto ferry boats and cargo vessels. The river was fast flowing, filled with jagged chunks of ice. It was raining, hailing and snowing. The last boat made it to the shore at 3 a.m. Then they had nine miles of icy rutted road to travel while hauling the guns and necessities to Trenton.

The attack began at 8:00 a.m. while the town slept. The battle was over in less than forty-five minutes. Five hundred Hessians, German soldiers hired by the British, escaped, twenty-two died and nine hundred were captured. Two Americans froze to death before the battle even began and five were wounded.

Twenty-nine year old Private Moses Camp was in that battle. He fought for our freedom. As we celebrate "America 250," the 250th anniversary of the United States, I acknowledge my sixth great-grandfather Moses for his service to our country. He was born August 26, 1747, in Norfolk, Litchfield, Connecticut. He married Thankful Gaylord in 1768. They had 10 children. Three were born before the American Revolution and seven after. His first-born child, a son, Dr. Abraham Camp is my line. Moses died July 13, 1828, at the age of eighty-one. I wish I could hear the stories these soldiers must have told!

Judy Sahn is a member of Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. She volunteers assisting people with research and helping them discover all the hidden gems that the SBCGS and the Sahyun Library have to offer. She is a member of the Daughters of The American Revolution, D.A.R., Mission Canyon Chapter of Santa Barbara, California and a member of Daughters of Union Veterans of The Civil War, D.U.V., Laura Belle Stoddard Tent 22 of Santa Barbara, California serving on the Registrar/Membership Committee.



The War Department Record is from the *United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783 Continental Troops* provided by N.A.R.A. (National Archives and Records Administration) at familysearch.org containing the names of the Officers and men in Captain Bostwick's Company who crossed the river Delaware on the evening of the 25th of December 1776.

The left column names 15 officers, the right column names 15 men. Number 16 is Moses Camp. Below are the numbers of prisoners taken at Trenton, 26th December 1776. The left column lists 1 Colonel, 2 Lieutenant Colonels, 3 Majors, 4 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 12 Ensigns, 92 Sergeants. The right column tallies more men, it is difficult to read. The Engagement 1,014.

Sources:

- PBS Series *The American Revolution* Episode Three
- The American Revolution an Intimate History* by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns 2025 pp. 243-44, 245, 246-47, 248-249, 250
- United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783 Continental Troops* N.A.R.A. familysearch.org
- View Episodes of *The American Revolution* on PBS.
- Buy the book: *The American Revolution* at the Sahyun Library Book Nook at the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

A TOUCH OF OLD SANTA BARBARA

The Great House Detective

By Betsy J. Green

A Home for a Circus Man

HIDING BEHIND A FIG TREE and a distinctive David Shelton decorated gate, sits a quaint little Victorian cottage that was once home to a colorful character. (More about him in a minute.) The home was built about 1875 at 520 Chapala Street and appears on one of the earliest maps of Santa Barbara – the 1877 birds-eye view map drawn by Eli Sheldon Glover. It's unclear who built this home, but by the early 1900s, it was owned by one of the most prominent families in our fair city – Thomas Bloodgood Dibblee and his wife Francisca de la Guerra. (They did not live in the house. They lived in the biggest mansion on the Mesa called Punta del Castillo.) The modest frame home on Chapala Street sat on one of three properties on the block owned by this family.

A moving story

Dibblee had passed away in 1895, and in 1905, his widow Francisca sold this property to a successful builder named Willis W. Varney. He constructed many homes in Santa Barbara, including the home at 122 E. Mission Street that I wrote about in one of my previous columns. The local paper noted that Francisca sold the property to Varney for \$10. (Many people are fooled by the \$10 price on a deed, but in most cases, far more money changes hands. The nominal amount of \$10 was used to conceal the actual amount of money since the information on deeds is recorded in legal records.)

The same day that the property sale appeared in the paper, another article mentioned, "The Dibblee property at 520 Chapala Street has been sold ... to W.W. Varney, who will move the present cottage on the lot to the rear of the premises and erect a modern cottage



in its place." (*Santa Barbara Morning Press*, December 31, 1905) That's how the home ended up in its present location at 519 Fig Avenue.

In 1908, Varney built an apartment house on the Chapala Street side of the property and lived there with his family for a while. About 1919, the Varney family moved to the Fig Avenue home. A barn/workshop was added behind the home. That building is now the studio of architect Jeff Shelton.

An entertaining career

The Varney's son, Earl, who had been born in 1900, was the most interesting person to live in the Fig Avenue home. He was involved with the "Flying A" silent-movie studio when he was just a teenager. In 1915, the studio made a comedy that involved a group of local kids, and the paper wrote, "Earl Varney seems to be the ringleader among the 'kids' and they all romp through their stunts in interesting fashion." (*Santa Barbara Morning Press*, October 9, 1915)

Earl's interest in entertainment continued throughout his life. During the 1920s, he worked as an electrician for several Hollywood movie studios, including the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, and the Warner Brothers Studio. In the 1930s, Earl moved back to Santa Barbara



519 Fig Avenue front gate
Credit – Betsy J. Green

and started his career as a tax accountant. But when it wasn't tax season, he traveled around the West Coast with various circuses, and he was a member of the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association. He explained, "I've been interested in the circus since I was 12 years old ... It turned from a boy's infatuation to a man's sincere avocation. During the years, I've made so many friends in the various circuses that I feel right at home if I visit any of them now." (*Santa Barbara News-Press*, October 9, 1952) Several other families lived in the home after his death in 1955.

The home's present owner, Alexandra Cole, told me that she appreciates the home's location near State Street, as well as the high ceilings that give a sense of spaciousness.

Please do not disturb the residents of this home.



Homeowner Alexandra Cole
Credit – Betsy J. Green



Earl Varney and circus elephant
Santa Barbara News-Press, October 9, 1952



Betsy J. Green
*Santa Barbara author and
historian.*
Check her website for more
information -
www.betsyjgreen.com

<https://www.independent.com/2025/09/11/a-home-for-a-circus-man/>

A Cherokee Love Story By Kate Lima

EVEN THE MOST ROMANTIC of unions can face the most difficult of challenges. My first cousin from five generations back, Emily Meigs, found herself in just such a union. She made a fateful decision that completely changed the course of her life.

Born in 1809, Emily grew up in a time and place that will never be seen in America again. She lived in southeast Tennessee, in a land filled equally with white



Rhea County, Tennessee. Photo Landwatch.com

people and Indians. Her home overlooked the Hiwassee River, the dividing line between Cherokee Territory and land ceded to the United States. Her grandfather, Return Jonathan Meigs, was the area's Indian Agent and his job was to work closely with both cultures. Emily's father had died when she was very young, and she, with her mother and siblings, lived with her grandfather. Emily grew up in both worlds; her family often ate meals in mixed company; her mother acted as hostess to everyone who came to the agency. She grew to love the Cherokee; she watched men in feathered headpieces leap onto horses – no saddles. The women wore bright dresses and beads, and the children ran barefoot and free. They didn't have the constraints Emily saw in the white world. She and her siblings started to run wild, which must have certainly dismayed her mother.

In 1823, her grandfather passed away. Without the patriarch in the family, Emily's wild streak grew. If she wanted something, she got it. When she saw Jack Walker, a tall, handsome Cherokee, she knew she would have him. Her eyes must have glowed brightly for him, and he must have been smitten as well. He grew up rich and educated, and like Emily, regularly got whatever he wanted. He'd broken the heart of many a young girl, but when he saw Emily, his heart did a double flip. A spark lit between them and he knew, from that moment on, nothing would keep them apart.



Emily Stanfield Meigs Walker, Ancestry.com

Impulsively, the two decided to marry. Emily's mother was vehemently opposed to the union; I can almost hear her wails 200 years later. Emily was only 15 years old. Most concerning, though, was that she was white. A white woman marry an Indian? Never! A Cherokee woman marrying a white man was accepted, though the union was not solemnized in a white man's church, only by tribal custom. A white woman marrying a Cherokee simply didn't happen. Both societies were against it. The couple would be shunned from the white world. As for their lives within the tribe, well, their children would not be considered tribal members. The tribe was matrilineal, so without a Cherokee mother, the



Tah chee Cherokee Chief
Credit: Wikimedia Commons

children were without a clan. Also, their town's preacher refused to marry them. It seemed doomed from the start, but despite the many watching eyes, Jack rode up to Emily's home one afternoon. I can imagine him whispering slyly in her ear, a twinkle in his eye. They mounted his horse together and raced away.

Emily's brother, RJ, watched Jack pull Emily onto the horse. Fuming, he gathered a few others and took off in high pursuit across the county's rolling green hills. The men pushed their horses hard, but Jack had the fastest animal. With Emily holding tight, they were soon out of sight.

Emily and Jack raced across the countryside in search of a priest who would marry them. Marriage between a white and non-white was illegal, but Jack was very wealthy and very persuasive. He found someone, and



ChatGPT of authors impression of Jack and Emily, riding off to get married.

perhaps with his pockets newly-lined with coin, this priest got creative. He announced that he could not marry them within the sacred walls of the church, so he performed the ceremony in the front yard.

When the two returned home, Emily's family tried to have the marriage annulled. Unfazed, she moved in with Jack, and immediately became pregnant. The town had to recognize their union; they were properly married in a church. Also, by the end of the same year the Cherokee National Council passed a new law giving citizenship to the children of a Cherokee man and white woman.¹ Emily got the life she wanted. Theirs was a love story for the ages.

The realities of their life, though, created hardships for them. It wasn't merely the raising of children or even life as a mixed-race couple. Harsh, violent forces raged over the entire nation. Each year saw more white settlers, more threat upon themselves and their land. Jack was caught up in it all; he had a seat at the governing table. Then in 1829, five years and three children into Jack and Emily's marriage, Andrew Jackson was elected president. He signed the Indian Removal Act very soon after, calling for the forced migration of all Indigenous nations. Jackson's goal was to rid eastern America of all Indians. The Cherokee people were split on the subject of relocation. The majority of the Cherokee people, led by Principal Chief John Ross, planned to continue to fight for their land. A smaller faction led by Major Ridge, another high-ranking official, thought it best if they left. Jack was part of this group. They all watched as the state of Georgia and President Jackson defied multiple treaties, seized land and stripped the Cherokee of their legal rights despite congressional acts and Supreme Court rulings. The Ridge party knew, without question, that they had to leave. They believed that if they didn't relocate, whites would declare war and their people would be massacred. They also thought that if they negotiated now, they would get fair compensation.

The majority, though, wanted to remain on their ancestral lands. Principal Chief John Ross worked tirelessly in Washington and at home to get the President and congress to allow them to stay. John's brother Lewis was instrumental as well; he was Emily's uncle by marriage.

The Cherokee's division grew, with both sides equally passionate in their belief. Jack was stubborn and arrogant; when he set his sights on something, he went headlong toward his goal. He wanted to start negotiations immediately and asked his faction to go to Washington with him. No one would go. Undeterred, Jack went on his own, without any authorization from the Cherokee Nation. Nothing came of this trip except perhaps derision from the government. His actions were formally denounced, but the internal conflict ripped them to the point of civil war.

The next few years saw the government remove four tribes in the southeast: the Choctaw, Muskogee, Seminoles, and Chickasaw. These years also saw Chief John Ross and the majority of Cherokee ramp up their fight to stay in place. In 1834, Jack attended a council meeting at Red Clay. Heated arguments over removal filled the room. Tempers flared, terrible words were spoken. Threats flew around the room, including at Jack. When leaving, he was worried for his safety and decided to take the long way home, with a friend to ride along as



Chief John Ross and Major Ridge, Credit, Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress

a precaution. He came to Muskrat Springs where two men jumped out from behind a chestnut tree, guns drawn. One fired, his bullet piercing Jack's left breast. He rode the 14 miles home and lived another 16 days before dying by Emily's side. One might say that Jack's strong ego and impetuous actions gave him both his beloved Emily, but also his untimely demise.

Emily was pregnant when Jack was assassinated, and gave birth to their fourth child within months of his death. Jack died at age 34 but had written a will three years earlier, after his rash, ill-fated trip to Washington. He may have worried for his life, or perhaps there was another reason to write a will at this young age.

The will stipulated that Emily and their children should continue to live in the large house in Cherokee territory. He wrote of money and land titles which would be given over to Emily until their children reached maturity. Then another sentence, an odd sentence, followed.

"There is one branch of my family which I feel bound to provide for; that is not named but will be in a separate [document], which you may know as Will 2 B."

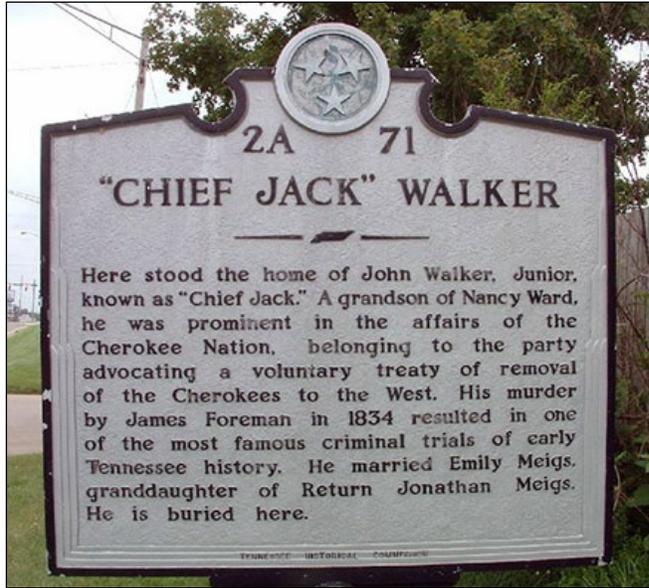
P-167 Will 2nd B This is the sepeate sheet that I have a refferance to as described in my Last Will and testament dated 31st of October 1831 as being one of my heirs this is a young woman by the name of Nancy Bushyhead who I consider as one Equally entitled to a part of my Estate from former circumstances which is well known & from the friendship that I yet bear her & from her true and faithful attachment toward me which I have been so much compelled to abuse but I hope she will yet be Rewarded for the same this woman I wish to Recive from my Estate five hundred dollars Either in money or property

Piece of Jack Walkers 2nd will.

Attached to his will was this piece of paper. It stated there was “a young woman by the name of Nancy Bushyhead (whom) I consider as one equally entitled to a part of my estate, from former circumstances which are well known.”

Well, oh my. Imagine the shock waves that ripped through Emily. Or did she know? History books say that Jack had two wives at the same time, but those were written well after his death. Many suppositions lay at our feet: Jack lived a secret life with Nancy while maintaining a home with Emily; Jack left Emily for a few years but returned; Emily knew about Nancy, and Jack maintained two households. Facts show that Jack has a child with Emily in 1829, with Nancy in '30 and '32, then in '34 Emily is pregnant again. Whatever the truth is, the one constant is Jack's impulsive and arrogant nature. He elopes with Emily, he goes to Washington without any tribal support, and he starts a new family with Nancy.

After Jack's death, Nancy remarried another tribal leader. She died on the Trail of Tears at age 28. Emily was 26 when Jack died; she stayed in Tennessee and



Historic Plaque of Jack Walker



Indian Territory until 1819, then McMinn County. Cemetery where author's ancestors are buried. Photo by author.

never remarried. Though she raised her family there, three of her four children moved to Indian Territory when they came of age. She wouldn't see them for almost 30 years.

I hope Emily's love for Jack sustained her throughout life, for she endured much heartache. Throughout the next century people told their love story in plays and around campfires, so thrilling was their early escapade. That's how I want to remember them also, defying laws and customs, riding into the sunset together.

End Notes

1. Cherokee Laws, published in the "Cherokee Phoenix," Nov. 10, 1825. New Town. Page 1, Column 1b. Resolved by the National Committee and Council, That the children of Cherokee men and white women, living in the Cherokee Nation as man and wife, be, and they are hereby acknowledged to be equally entitled to all the immunities and privileges enjoyed by the citizens descending from the Cherokee race by the mothers side.

Bibliography

McGrath, Ann. "Going Against History? Illicit Love and Intermarriage." Institute for Advanced Study, 2016. <https://www.ias.edu/ideas/2016/mcgrath-history#:~:text=Boudinot%20the%20statesman%20died%20before,prior%20residency%20of%20indigenous%20peoples>.

Yarbrough, Fay. "Legislating Women's Sexuality: Cherokee Marriage Laws in the Nineteenth Century." *Journal of Social History* 38, no. 2 (2004): 385–406. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3790444>.

Kate caught ancestor fever in 2014. She joined the society and spent hours filling in her tree. When she retired in 2019 from UCSB she started volunteering. The more she volunteered, the more friends she made and a partnership with the society solidified. She became Membership Director and is now VP of Operations. Her goal is to write her ancestors' stories... and continue to enjoy her many friendships.



Ocieto Grasshopper Jackson

By Lynn Petersen

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT my great-grandmother, Ocieto Grasshopper Jackson (her Indian name), that I write in her honor. I had the opportunity to live with her between the ages of five and thirteen. My mother was often in the hospital and unable to take care of us. Since we lived in the same town of Modesto, I would stay with Osie who told me stories about her life, some of which I share now.

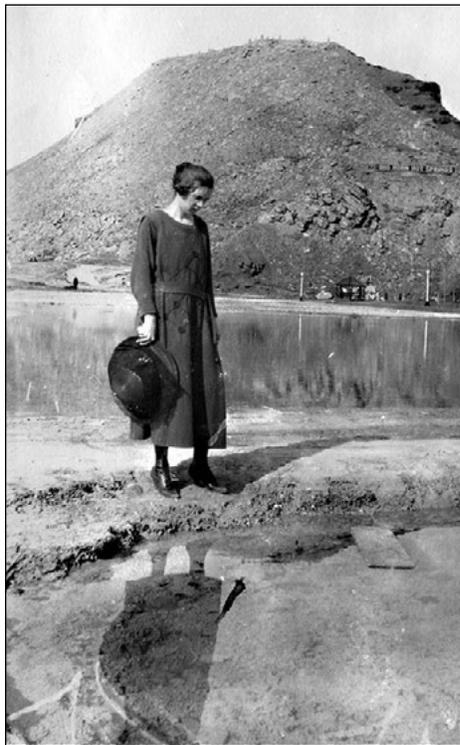
Osie was born March 4, 1889, in a small town called Afton in Indian Territory that was located in the northeast corner of what is now Oklahoma. The Territory was settled by the Cherokee Tribe. Her father, William Riley Jackson, was born in Raneyes, Coryell, Texas on March 28, 1859 and her mother, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Alvira Collins, was born September 5, 1871, in Holly Springs, Wake, North Carolina. They married on March 22, 1888, in Afton, Indian Territory, according to the Cherokee Tribal records.

Osie's father was Cherokee and her mother was Caucasian. Interracial marriages were not uncommon during this time. The Cherokees were recognized as one of the Five Civilized Tribes and were the first to develop their own language. In Vinita, Oklahoma, in 1882, the Cherokee established their weekly newspaper called *The Indian Chieftain* where they shared such information as marriages, births, deaths and other local news. By 1887 there were three newspapers in the Cherokee Nation: *The Indian Chieftain*, the only general newspaper; *The Advocate*, serving only the Cherokees; and *The Telephone*, which focused on politics.

As the community grew, it attracted more professionals. The white community with such professions as doctors, missionaries, U.S. Government employees and specialized mechanics were needed by the Cherokee communities who gave them permits provided by Cherokee law to live and work among them.

About a decade before Osie was born, the railroad entered the nation in 1871. Many non-Indian laborers entered the territory to build the railroad and settled, often without permits. The Cherokee Nation literally became a melting pot of peoples.

As Osie grew up, the eldest of four sisters (Raydo, Dee and Jessye) and one brother (Clyde), she learned the necessary skills of cooking, washing, and sewing in addition to regular farm chores. Her father worked the farm and also broke horses. Osie recalled that at the age of eleven, she watched her father who was breaking a horse. When he was slapping the horse's back flank the horse kicked him in the chest from the back. He died instantly. When they took him into the house and put him on the table, they could clearly see the imprint of



Ossi Miller 1920 Hot Springs, Wyoming.

horse hooves on his chest. This was the only story Osie shared with me about her father.

Some of the other stories Osie shared with me about her childhood are the following. One story was about the traveling tent revivals that would come through town. The family would go to the revivals and watch the preacher get excited, then people would jump up and start speaking in tongues and roll down the aisle towards the pulpit. The girls were quite shocked by this and often would try and suppress their giggles during this experience. Great-grandmother would say it was great entertainment for the family.

Another story was about Osie and her sisters riding to school on their horse. All four sisters rode on one horse, so they must have all been young. Osie said that one day as they were returning home, a rattlesnake came out from a bush and startled their horse. Her youngest sister,

Jessye, was on the back end. She took out her pistol and shot the snake dead with one shot. I suppose that was one of the life skills learned on the reservation that really came in handy! From then on, my Great Aunt Jessye was known as a sharp shooter and not to mess with her. She was the shortest of the bunch about 4'7". Feisty too!

Osie shared with me that her Indian name was Ocieto Grasshopper. As a child she taught me and my sister Jackie how to count in Cherokee from one to ten. She got a real kick out of that! The numbers are (phonetically spelled) sowo, tali, tsoi, nvgi, hisgi, sudale, galiquogi, tsunela, sonela, and sgohi.

When Osie came of age around 1907, she and a sister moved by covered wagon to Torrington, Wyoming. The rest of the family soon followed. She never told me which sister went with her, but I like to think it was Jessye, "the sharp shooter." My research has revealed that it is quite possible they joined a wagon train in Tahlequah and followed the rivers to Torrington, Wyoming. Back then, folks traveled by wagon train between places not connected by railroad, as cars were not available for the masses until 1915.

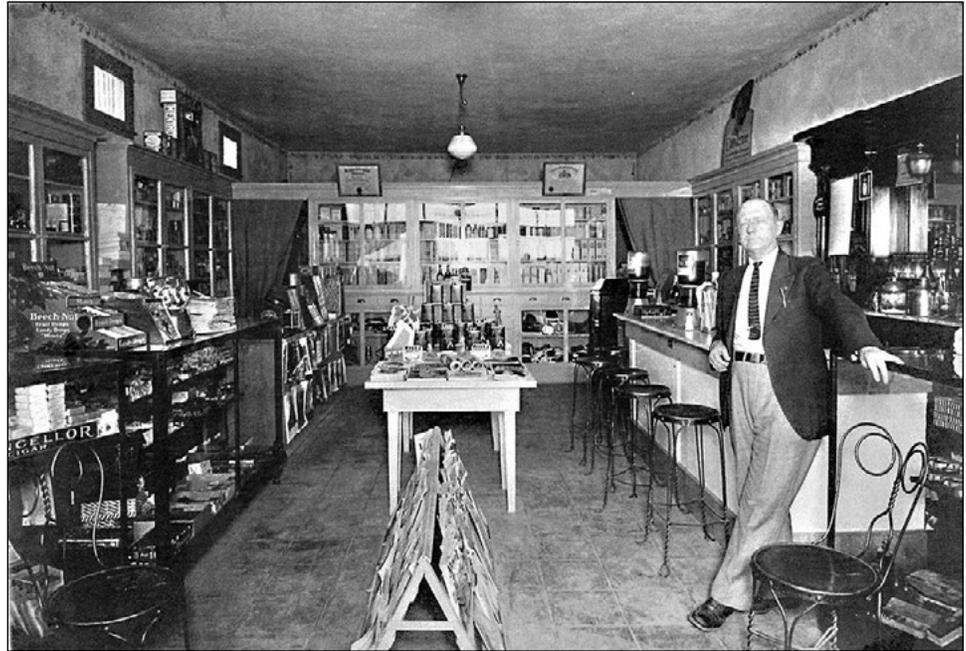
In Torrington, Osie met and married Wilson Shannon Miller who was born February 9, 1878, in Tonganoxie, Kansas. He was a pharmacist who eventually set up small drug stores in Wyoming. He was a quiet man of Quaker background. They were married in Torrington in 1909 according to the *Torrington Telegram*. Osie was an accomplished seamstress and could sew just about anything without a pattern! She was also an accomplished milliner who was listed in the *Torrington Telegram* as opening her own milliner shop with her sister, Dee. Osie was a very industrious woman who told me she had once served as a station for the Pony Express.

She had three daughters, Eldiva Dee (my grandmother), Helen Elizabeth, and Dorthy June.

I have not yet been able to document this information that Osie shared with me, but it appears that her husband, Wilson, was just as ambitious as she. He established the Miller School House on his property and built a reservoir on it as well. Osie shared that during their lives in Wyoming, they met the Dalton brothers and Jessie James when they came through the area. She and Wilson were hospitable but never became friends with any of them for obvious reasons.

By 1930 the family had relocated to Colton, California, where Wilson had previously worked as a pharmacist before going to Wyoming. He decided the drier air and warmer climate would be better for Osie who suffered from asthma. Prior to their move, Osie sought relief at the hot springs in Thermopolis, Wyoming. In Colton, the family loved to go on many camping trips in the area. Osie's children grew up and finished their schooling in Colton. When her daughter, Dorthy, was accepted into UC Berkely, the family moved up there. After Dorthy's graduation as a major in music and English, the family moved to Modesto, California where they finally settled and Dorthy started teaching. Wilson died on November 19, 1948, of a heart attack so I never got to meet him.

My great-grandmother, Osie, was my spiritual rock growing up, and I delighted in her history. She was an avid gardener and spent much of her time in nature. One day she placed a candy bar on a walnut tree to have as a snack during a break from gardening. She ate



Wilson Miller, Colton Drugstore

the candy bar before she realized it was covered with ants! She said it wasn't so bad, actually! One Halloween, when we lived in Modesto, Osie dressed up as an old bum and came to our house along with my Aunt Dorthy dressed as a gypsy and my Uncle Fred in drag. My mom answered the door with us kids in tow. As the door opened, I screamed and threw a bag of candy at Osie, not knowing who these people were. They all got a real kick out of that, and I felt bad realizing I had just thrown the bag at my great-grandmother. She was a real fun trickster!

When my mother, sister and I were living in Santa Barbara, we got the call to go see great-grandmother before she died. When my mom and I went into her room, I saw Osie take her last breath and saw her spirit-self rise above her body and leave. About a week later, she came to me in one of my classes in a spirit voice and told me not to worry about her, that she was not dead in spirit and was happy. I shall never forget that moment.

References

Cherokee Nation Marriages 1884-1901, abstracted from *Indian Chieftain* newspapers by Dixie Bogle and Dorothy Nix.

Abraham Coryell Chapter NSDAR, 819 Hope Avenue, Vinita, Oklahoma 84301

Library of Congress *Chronicling America*, <https://www.loc.gov>

Torrington Telegram, September 17, 1908

Torrington Telegram, February 4, 1909

Lynn was born in Napa, California. She grew up in Modesto until high school and moved to Santa Barbara. She went to Santa Barbara High and then onto SB City College with an AA degree in General Studies.

After retiring as a patient care tech from SB Cottage Hospital at the end of 2020, she spends time volunteering at the Sayhun Library and discovering new and interesting tidbits in her ancestry.



Osie 1920, Box Alder Creek, Fulton

(CONFEDERATE.)
S | 53 | Va.
Curtis S. Inman
 Pvt., Co. E, 53 Reg't Virginia Infantry.*
 Appears on
 Company Muster Roll
 of the organization named above,
 for *May + June*, 1862
 Enlisted:
 When *Apr. 20*, 1862
 Where *Suffolk*
 By whom *H. B. Tomlin*
 Period *3 yrs.*
 Last paid:
 By whom *no one*
 To what time *no time*, 1862
 Present or absent *Absent*
 Remarks: *Absent without leave.*
 *This company was formerly Company C, Tomlin's Battalion Virginia Infantry.
 The 53d Regiment Virginia Infantry was organized December 1, 1861, by the consolidation of Montague's and Tomlin's Battalions and Waddill's Company Virginia Infantry. It was reorganized in May, 1862, and men of the 5th Battalion Virginia Infantry, who were of conscript age, were transferred to it by S. O. No. 209, A. & I. G. O., dated September 6, 1862.
 Book mark: *no one*

(CONFEDERATE.)
S | 53 | Va.
Curtis S. Inman
 Pvt., Co. E, 53 Reg't Virginia Infantry.*
 Appears on
 Company Muster Roll
 of the organization named above,
 for *July + Aug.*, 1862
dated Aug. 31, 1862.
 Enlisted:
 When *Apr. 20*, 1862
 Where *Suffolk*
 By whom *H. B. Tomlin*
 Period *three yrs.*
 Last paid:
 By whom *no one*
 To what time *no time*, 1862
 Present or absent *Absent*
 Remarks: *Absent without leave. Assigned to this Company by order Apr. 20 never reported.*
 *This company was formerly Company C, Tomlin's Battalion Virginia Infantry.
 The 53d Regiment Virginia Infantry was organized December 1, 1861, by the consolidation of Montague's and Tomlin's Battalions and Waddill's Company Virginia Infantry. It was reorganized in May, 1862, and men of the 5th Battalion Virginia Infantry, who were of conscript age, were transferred to it by S. O. No. 209, A. & I. G. O., dated September 6, 1862.
 Book mark:

(CONFEDERATE.)
S | 53 | Va.
Curtis S. Inman
 Pvt., Co. E, 53 Reg't Virginia Infantry.*
 Appears on
 Company Muster Roll
 of the organization named above,
 for *Sept. + Oct.*, 1862
dated Nov. 6, 1862
 Enlisted:
 When *Apr. 20*, 1862
 Where *Suffolk*
 By whom *H. B. Tomlin*
 Period *three yrs.*
 Last paid:
 By whom *no one*
 To what time *no time*, 1862
 Present or absent
 Remarks: *Deserted Oct. 30 1862.*
 *This company was formerly Company C, Tomlin's Battalion Virginia Infantry.
 The 53d Regiment Virginia Infantry was organized December 1, 1861, by the consolidation of Montague's and Tomlin's Battalions and Waddill's Company Virginia Infantry. It was reorganized in May, 1862, and men of the 5th Battalion Virginia Infantry, who were of conscript age, were transferred to it by S. O. No. 209, A. & I. G. O., dated September 6, 1862.
 Book mark:

is found on the Pittsylvania County, Virginia Board of Exemption Minutes of March 17, 1862: The Rejected Applications for Discharge from Military Duty include Curtis Inman. Interesting - he tried to get an exemption from serving in the Civil War. Unfortunately, no reason is given for his request or for the rejection.

The Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865 Vol. VIII: lists Inman, C.S. VA (Virginia) 53rd Inf. Co. E. It also lists his brother, Pleasant, in the same Company. Willis A. is listed with the 38th Infantry Co. D. Their older brother, Joel, is not found among these records, however.

Now found on Fold3 are the Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890-1912, documenting the period 1861-1866. I have both a Confederate set and a Union set for Curtis Inman.

These records show that Curtis S. Inman enlisted in the Confederate Army on April 20, 1862, but he apparently never reported for duty and was finally declared a deserter in 1864.

May and June 1862 show Curtis S. Inman enlisted on April 20, 1862, at Suffolk for a period of three years. That record notes he was "Absent without leave."

July and August 1862, dated August 31, 1862, "Absent without leave. Assigned to this company by order on April 20. Never reported."

September and October 1862, dated November 6, 1862, "Deserted October 30, 1862." This is about when

my g-g-g-father was conceived! Just think if he had not gone missing again - I would not be here!

July and August 1864, "Deserted 3 Feby '64 near Newbern, N.C."

Curtis's set of Carded Records for the Union Army beginning with his Volunteer Enlistment into the Union Army's 49th Infantry, I -Missouri...

Appearing on a Register of "Descriptive list of rebel deserters and refugees received at Fort Monroe, Va" lists Curtis S. Inman. Description: Blue eyes, light hair, light complexion, 6 ft 1/8 inch. Received February 1864. Released February 1864, sent to Weakley County. Remarks: Rebel deserter - into Federal lines, Newbern, N.C.

Curtis appears on a Register of "enlisted men, rebel deserters and refugees detained at Camp Distribution awaiting orders" dated February 17, 1864, sent from Newbern (North Carolina) to Weakley, Tennessee on February 24, 1864."

A War Department document dated October 9, 1883, sent to the Commissioner of Pensions shows Curtis on rolls from enlistment (October 1864) to April 30, 1865; May and June 1865, he was absent on daily duty. He was mustered out in Montgomery, Alabama.

So, now... what was the turning point in his life that motivated him to not show up for duty for the Confederates, and then fight for the Union? Trying to understand that I researched "galvanized soldiers." It could not mean that he just did not want to fight in the war

because he sure did when he became a Union soldier.

National Archives and Records Administration. Military Service in the U.S. Volunteer Infantry, "Galvanized Yankees," 1864-1866

Galvanized Yankees, Confederate prisoners of war who secured their release from prison by enlisting in the Union Army, were organized into six regiments of U. S. Volunteers between January 1864 and May 1865. The majority of prisoners who enlisted came from Rock Island, Alton, Camp Douglas, and Camp Morton prisons in Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; and Point Lookout in Maryland. The War Department sent Galvanized Yankee regiments west for frontier duty so they would not have to fight against their former comrades. They were mustered out of service in November 1866. Records show there were about 5,600 confederates who fought for the Union, and most articles I found said soldiers galvanized to escape death from disease, starvation, and the harsh conditions of military prisons.

So, let us take a look at the Inman family after the war.

Father, Willis Inman, died in 1866, shortly after the close of the war.

Mother, Ruth Irene, was a 54-year-old widow who had lost half her family. She remained in Virginia, where she died in 1895.

Martha Jane (1831-1913) married Samuel Moore Harvey in 1848. The 1850 Slave Census shows Samuel Harvey owning five slaves. In 1860, however, Samuel Sr. was dead, and Samuel Harvey is listed on the Slave Census owning 16 slaves! This family appears to be supporting the Confederacy. The couple had 12 children, and they stayed in Virginia. Samuel may have served in the army.

The war over, how did Curtis's actions affect the family who remained Confederates?

Joel Jackson (1834-after 1900) was 27 when the war broke out, married with one child. I could find no military record of him. It appears he lived in Virginia his entire life, fathering many children with two wives, and last appeared there on the 1900 census.

Pleasant W. (1835-1862), enlisted 20 April 1862; died of typhoid 28 July 1862. He was married with three small children when he entered the war.

There is a letter in Fold 3 sent by a fellow soldier about Pleasant:

Dear cousin - I hird Friday eavning tht Pleasant Inman was dead, he died - in Started home some too weeks ago after the men that was absent without leave, and got to Richmond and the orders was counter

(Confederate.)
 91 53 1864
 Curtis S. Inman
 Ch. 50 Regt Va Inf
 Name appears as signature to an
Oath of Allegiance
 to the United States, subscribed and sworn to at
 Fort Monroe, Va., February 24, 1864.
 Place of residence *Pennsylvania Va*
 Complexion *Light*; hair *Light*
 Eyes *Blue*; height *6 ft. 18 in.*
 Remarks: *Rebel Deserter*
Came into Federal lines
New Stauberne Va.

the war started; at the end, there were only four. Sadly, the burial place of these relatives of mine is unknown. Many folks of that era buried their dead in family cemeteries on their property.

I can only imagine the emotional impact of having three young sons die in such a short time, two while serving in the army. The patriarch of the family, Willis Inman, would die in 1866. It is possible he was not in good health for some time before his death. In short order, mother Virginia had lost her husband and three

manded, and he was taken sic thare and never got bac to his company eney more, I haven't hird from Bates sense he was sent to the hospital.

The official reason for Pleasant's death was given as "Died of disease." Another record gives the cause of death as Typhoid. But worse yet- horror of horrors! Pleasant's death corresponds to the dates when his brother, Curtis, was AWOL. Did he die trying to bring his brother back?

Henry C. (1836-June 6, 1859), cause of death: typhoid fever. This was before the war.

Curtis Sampson (1838-1899)

Willis Emethia (1841-1861), cause of death: "camp fever."

Eight Inmans were living when the war started; at the end, there were only four. Sadly, the burial place of these relatives of mine is unknown. Many folks of that era buried their dead in family cemeteries on their property. I can only imagine the emotional impact of having three young sons die in such a short time, two while serving in the army. The patriarch of the family, Willis Inman, would die in 1866. It is possible he was not in good health for some time before his death. In short order, mother Virginia had lost her husband and three sons. Her surviving children were all married with farms and children of their own. How did she cope?

During the war, Curtis would have been aware of the suffering the rest of the family was enduring. Aging parents, young wives and widows with children, and no one to keep the farms going. It is certain he was with the family during his sojourns from the army, as he and Virginia had two more children conceived before the war's end, including my great-grandfather, Curtis Raleigh Inman!

The War is Over

Next, what was it like for galvanized soldiers to return home?

Excerpted from *The Museum Gazette*, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, National Park Service:

Afterward, Galvanized soldiers were shunned in the South and neglected by the Grand Army of the Republic. For most of the Galvanized Yankees, there was little left in the South to return home to, though some went back to rebuild their homes and careers, while others decided to remain in the West, with the chance to start new lives on the American frontier.

I always thought this must be the case, and so I was really surprised

49 Mo.
 Curtis S. Inman
 Appears with rank of *private* on
Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of U. S. Vols. forwarded
 for the *49* Reg't Missouri Inf. Roll dated
Mexico, Mo. Nov. 18, 1864.
 Where born *Callingsland, Va.*
 Age *25* years; occupation *Farmer*
 When enlisted *Oct. 2, 1864.*
 Where enlisted *Fulton*
 For what period enlisted *1* years
 Eyes *Blue*; hair *light*
 Complexion *fair*; height *6 ft. 1 in.*
 When mustered in *Nov. 18, 1864.*
 Where mustered in *Mexico, Mo.*
 Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*
 Where credited *Callingsland, Va.*
 Company to which assigned *Comp. Dist. 5th*
 Remarks:
Converted by A. M. Evans, Esq.
 Boot: mark
 Keaser
 (329) Opput.

to see Curtis, Virginia, and their children living in Pittsylvania, Virginia, on the 1870 U.S. Census, just a few years after the war ended. They did not stay long, it seems. In 1880, Curtis and Virginia's family had grown to seven children. The oldest, Ruth Frances, named after her grandmother, was married, and what happened next was revealed by following her life. Ruth Frances Inman married Daniel Elija Sides in 1878 in Montgomery, Illinois. Now, where did a young lady from Virginia meet someone in Illinois? Rabbit hole: Further research found that Daniel was born in Illinois; the marriage took place in Illinois...and, found on the biographical notation on Find a Grave for Daniel was this: "He was married to Ruth Frances Inman of Nokomis, Illinois, at the home of her parents, Sept. 8, 1878, by Rev. T. M. Dillion, pastor of the M. E. Church of Nokomis." Further, the 1953 obituary states that she came to Nokomis from Virginia when she was about 12. So, it seems Curtis and his family had moved from Virginia to Illinois by 1873.

By 1880, the family had moved to Grant, Dade, Missouri. In 1883, Curtis applied for an Invalid Pension from the Union Army. He claims that he had been shot in the mouth by a rebel bullet at Spanish Fork, Arkansas, in April 1865, and also had rheumatism brought on by exposure while in the army. After some persistence

(and a lot of documents), he was granted his pension. Upon his death in 1899, his widow, Virginia, received the pension.

I don't know why the family moved from Virginia to Illinois first. But I do wonder if his brief military service in Missouri prompted him to return there to live out his life. Today, Grant Township boasts a population of 95!

This was a family torn apart by war, by hardship, disease, and opposing allegiances. For all of that, I am grateful Grandpa Curtis left the South, otherwise I might be one of those swooning, eccentric, aged Southern belles you see in movies, and I never would have found our wonderful Society.

Resources:

Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Fold3, Newspapers.com, Findagrave.com, FAN or Cluster research methods, and our own Sahyun Library stacks.



Kristin has been an enthusiastic member of the Society for 25 years. Her favorite thing is helping people find their long-lost ancestors, and selling books!

A House Fell on William Knickrehm

By Sharon Summer

IN 1893 A CORNER of a house fell on my thirty-year-old great-grandfather, William Knickrehm, his injuries making him unable to keep his job. He spent the rest of his life limping on a wooden leg, lucky to have survived. Yet he went on to start a very successful business.

Arriving in Los Angeles in 1883, ten years earlier, twenty-year-old William Knickrehm (1863-1933) went to work for a local house-moving company. In those days houses were moved when people wanted to relocate. Houses were custom-built to suit a particular family. Lumber was scarce because Los Angeles had no forests. Skilled workers were scarce, so houses were moved. My great-grandfather, William, worked on a "gang," as they called it, that moved houses and other structures for a Mr. Walker, House Mover.

On June 21, 1893, the gang was moving a house to a new location when a worker on the roof mistakenly and



Great-grandfather, William Knickrehm

prematurely called for it to be lowered to the ground at its new site. A corner of the house and its chimney fell onto William.

He was taken home with injuries to his leg and internal organs and was surely in shock. Family lore says that that evening, a man who had been a doctor in Germany but was not licensed in California put William on his dining room table and amputated his left leg just below the knee. William developed a high fever but lived through the night.

After the accident, William could no longer do physical work. He was 30 years old with a wife and two young children to support.

William reportedly later told his daughter that, since he could no longer do physical work, all he could do was be the boss. So he founded his own house-moving company in 1894: the William Knickrehm House Moving Company. He began his new company during one of the worst economic panics in the United States. Yet within a few short years, the company became very successful. In 1973, his children got together to talk about their father, William. Heard on a cassette tape of that gathering, his daughter Mary said she had exchanged these words with him about starting his business:

Mary: "I said to Father, wasn't it pretty tough going? He said, "Well, did you ever watch a chicken?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "The harder the ground, the harder you scratch."

So William worked hard, bidding on many jobs and winning them against competitors. A handwritten ledger from one year of his business showed that he moved houses, hotels, sheds, schools, palm trees and other structures.

An accident which may result fatally occurred yesterday afternoon to William Kinckrehm. Kinckrehm was engaged in moving a building on Fourth and Broadway when part of the building fell on him, breaking his left leg, and seriously injuring him internally. The limb will be amputated tonight if the man's condition allows of the operation.

His daughter Mary remarked during the 1973 meeting, talking about how successful William's house-moving business was:

Mary: "As it developed, within a few years, he was in the place, at the right time, with the right thing. Los Angeles grew so fast that the houses were too good to be torn down, and so they were moved."

My family said he got a wooden leg and a Model T car to get around. He tried to walk without a limp. But even with his uneven gait, he could pace off where a house should be placed to within an inch.

He and his wife Augusta had four more children after the first two. William and Augusta became respected members of the First German Methodist Church in downtown Los Angeles. In 1910, through his church, William sponsored German artisans to come to this country to build a fine house for his family, one bedroom for each of his six children. The house still stands strong today on 35th Street near Jefferson Blvd. and Main Street.

For years, his business thrived and was eventually taken over by his son, my grandfather, Allen I. Knickrehm. William died of a heart attack in 1933 at age 69. His wife, Augusta, lived in the big house until just before she died in 1955, at age 92. Both are buried in Angeles-Rosedale Cemetery on Washington Blvd. in Los Angeles.



William Knickrehm's business card.



Using a horse to move a large house.

Sharon Summer enjoys discoveries that come from researching her family history. She is writing the stories of her ancestors so they will not be forgotten. Sharon leads the monthly Family History Writing special interest group at the Santa Barbara Genealogy Society's monthly meetings and leads a monthly online writing class. She volunteers at the Sahyun Library and serves on the Ancestors West editing committee.



A Turning Point For The Generations

By Larry Basham, DDS

EXCEPT IN THE CASE of a sudden life changing event, I think most “turning points” are subtle choices, not recognized when they occur but rather years later in retrospect, yet they can have impact on family generations to come. Such is the case in the lives of my parents. Born in 1913, they were members of what’s been termed the “greatest generation” of Americans. They weren’t world famous, didn’t invent a world-changing device or a cure for a disease. What they did was strive for excellence in their lives and contribute to their community as well as passing those values along to my brother and me.

My father’s parents were born in rural Kentucky to farming families. After marrying in 1904, my grandparents moved to California seeking a better life. It wasn’t quite that easy and they moved frequently looking for a well-paying job. My dad, the second of three sons, was born at home in the agricultural town of Delano in California’s San Joaquin Valley. About 1920 my grandfather took a job with an oil company and the family moved to an oil lease in the barren oilfields of Western Kern County. The lease was a company community with a general store, an elementary school, and wood framed houses for employees. Older students arose early to ride a bus to the town of Fellows for middle school while others rode an hour to high school in Taft.

My dad’s favorite subject in high school was English. He often was called upon to give talks in church and school and was a member of the debate team and drama club. He admired his teachers who gave the students personal attention. His mother encouraged him to become a school teacher and he saw it as a way out of the heat and dirty toil of the oilfields he grew up in. His decision to seek higher education was the turning point which started him on a path of personal and professional success which he could not have imagined.

He graduated from Taft High School in 1932 and attended Taft Junior College which at this time was housed in the high school. He joined the college debate team which won the California Central Valley Jr. College championship in 1933 and was a member of the young men’s Masonic organization, DeMolays, becoming the leader of the Taft Chapter. He was also elected student body president of Taft JC during the 1933-34 school year.

During summers between school terms, he worked as a “roustabout” in the oil fields, saving money to continue his college education at Santa Barbara State Teachers College which later became UCSB. In the summer of 1934, he began dating a former Taft High classmate, Mildred Tarwater, whose family had moved from Missouri to Bakersfield in 1920, later settling in the small farming town of Tupman not far from Taft. They had also come to California hoping to have a better life. Mildred had recently returned to Taft after graduating from Woodbury Secretarial College in Los Angeles. She had also seen education as the way out of her family’s poverty.



Garlyn and Mildred, Santa Barbara, 1934

Their romance blossomed during the summer and with his move to Santa Barbara, Garlyn was afraid Mildred would meet someone else and he didn’t want to lose her. He proposed and they eloped to Tijuana and were married Sept. 3rd 1934. (I’ve written about this in the Fall 2023 *Ancestors West*, “The Model A Proposal.”) After moving to Santa Barbara, Dad secured a part-time job working for meals at a diner called The Coffee Cup at 33 East Victoria St. and shared a house on Laguna St. with four other college students.



Garlyn Argabright and Dixie Mildred Tarwater Basham; 25 years old

Mildred moved to Santa Barbara and was secretary to the manager of the Bank of America on State St. but they had to keep their marriage a secret and live apart as during the depression years only one wage earner was allowed per family. She shared a house at 420 Anapamu St. with other women. (It wasn’t until 1936 that they announced their marriage and began a home in Taft.)

SB State Teachers College didn’t have a debate team and, when my dad asked the English Dept. head about forming one, he was told he could start one and be the coach. With the help of others students, the team was formed and competed against major California Universities and in one meet defeated Stanford, the reigning national champion. He graduated in 1936 with a BA degree in English while serving as student coach of the debate team and Student Body President 1935-36.

In 1936 at the age of 23, he was hired by Taft Union High School to teach Social Science, Public Speaking, and Radio Broadcasting. His first contract was for

\$2000/year. The broadcasting class produced weekly radio shows for the local AM radio station. He also continued his education, earning a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Southern Calif. in 1939.

He taught at TUHS until 1943 when he took a leave of absence and enlisted in the Navy and attended Officers Training School earning the rank of Lt. JG. He served in the Central & South Pacific aboard aircraft carriers Wasp and Hancock under Admiral "Bull" Halsey as a Communications Officer during the Battles of Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands and received a personal citation for meritorious service from Admiral John McCain. After his discharge from active service in 1946, he remained in the Naval Reserve until 1952, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander.

While Garlyn was away for three years, Mildred took care of the house and my young brother, Roger, while working at the Bank of Taft. During the post-war years, Mom was busy giving birth to me in 1947 and became a real estate broker having her own business. She was very involved in community affairs and was the president of two different women's organizations in Taft, the Soroptimist Club and Business and Professional Women's Club. She encouraged women to attend college and become all they wanted to be.

Dad returned to the faculty of TUHS in 1946 and continued his education, taking summer courses in School Administration at UCLA and Stanford. He was chosen as Director of Taft Jr. College in 1950 (the title was later changed to President) and became the first Superintendent of the West Kern Community College District when it was formed in 1963. He continued as President and Superintendent until his retirement in 1975.

He strived to raise Taft Community College to statewide prominence, known for its excellence in education. During his 25 year tenure as Director and President of Taft College, he oversaw the building of a new college campus (1956-57). It was one of the first community colleges to build its own dorms to house out-of-area students (1964-65).

After serving the Taft community for nearly 40 years as a teacher at Taft Union High School and President of Taft College, Garlyn and Mildred retired to their beloved Santa Barbara and had a very active retirement for the next 27 years. Mother had time to dig into our family genealogy and Dad became involved with local clubs and SB Masonic Lodge.

Upon his retirement in 1975, he was named "President Emeritus" of Taft College by the College Board of Trustees, recognizing his 25 years of "meritorious service to the college." He received the UC Santa Barbara Alumni Award for "Distinguished Achievement in Education" in 1975.

A longtime member of Masonic organizations, he received DeMolays' highest award, the Legion of Honor and the honorary Masonic 33rd degree and was also recognized as the Santa Barbara Masonic "Patriot of the Year" in 1980 for his service to country, community and Freemasonry. He has also been inducted into the Taft High School and Taft College Hall of Fames.

Education and particularly Taft College were my father's life work. His 40 years of service to TUHS and Taft College are woven into the history and culture of the community and the thousands of students he helped educate, directly and indirectly, are his legacy. It all began with his decision to seek a college education, the first in his family to do so.

My brother and I are very proud of our parents for what they accomplished in their lives, their work ethic, honesty, pride in their community, devotion to each other and other examples they set for us to live by. My brother, Roger, became a college professor at College of the Canyons in Valencia, California and a real estate broker. I became a general dentist in Santa Barbara, scoutmaster and genealogist. We have tried to pass on these ideals to our children. All seven of their grandchildren have attended college and their great-grandchildren are currently attending college. Obtaining a higher education was a turning point in their lives and continues to affect generations of their family like a pebble dropped in a pond sends out ripples. They will forever be revered in our family!



50th Anniversary



Our Family, 2002



Dr. Larry Basham joined SBCGS in 2022 and is currently the Outreach Speaker Coordinator. He began his dental practice in Santa Barbara in 1974 and retired in 2015. Since his retirement, he has served on staff and is currently Director of the Santa Barbara LDS FamilySearch Center, teaching on a variety of genealogy topics. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, an independent member of Evalogue. Life Professional Writers Network and is currently helping people save their family stories through his business, ForeverYoursLifeStories.com.

A Turning Point for Tena

By Charmien Carrier

THE DISCOVERY OF an auction poster was a learning point for me and, I see, a turning point for my Grandma Tena Rudenick. She and I were very close, yet when I was growing up with her in Seattle, she said very little about the family farm in Minnesota. She was not a talker, and neither was I, so we spent many quiet times together. I recall that when I was six, she would curl my hair with rag curlers while I pored over her little treasure box of odds and ends, things I found fascinating. As I grew, she taught me to crochet and embroider.

After she died in 1969, we came across an auction poster for her farm in Nicollet, Minnesota, listing all the livestock, machinery, and household goods for sale. I was amazed at how extensive the list was. I tried to imagine how she alone managed such a large property. The auction was held on August 26, 1943. I believe that was the turning point for Tena. She was 58, a widow, with all four of her children gone and no one left to help on the farm. Not long after she sold the farm, she did what two of her children, Walter and Vera, had done: she moved west to Seattle. There, people found work at the shipyards supporting WWII, and that's where Uncle Walter and my father were employed.



Threshing on the farm in Nicollet, Minnesota.

and William had to register as aliens. Grandpa Rudenick had immigrated in 1887 at age three and became a naturalized citizen in 1926. The Act remained on the books until 1940, so even after women won the right to vote in 1920, those married to a non-American could not exercise that right.



Mother Vera holding me, sister Priscilla, brother Bobby and Grandma Rudenick in front of Nordstrom home.

Tena herself found work after moving west. Around 1944, she was hired by businessman Elmer J. Nordstrom as the family's housekeeper. Elmer was the son of John Nordstrom, the founder of the Nordstrom department store. I have a photo of her and us in front of the Nordstrom house. And yes, she was a good housekeeper. I remember her watching me closely with pursed lips as I vacuumed with the new Kirby upright my mom had bought, always pointing out the spots I'd missed.

Perhaps another turning point in Tena's life was her 1908 marriage to my German immigrant grandfather, William Rudenick. Under the little-known Expatriation Act of 1907, she lost her American citizenship upon marrying a non-citizen (a foreigner). In 1918, both Tena

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
REGISTRATION CARD
OF ALIEN FEMALE
(Under Proclamation of the President, dated April 19, 1918.)

Issued to Tena Rudenick
Address R. F. D #5
Mankato, Minn.

*The finder of this card shall immediately restore it, if possible, to the person to whom it was issued; otherwise forward it to the United States Marshal. 7-1124

JUL 2 1918

This certifies That Tena Rudenick
(Name)

residing at R. F. D #5
(Street and number)
Mankato
(City, town) Minnesota
(County) (State)

whose photograph and signature, and / or other mark of identification, appear hereon, has registered at Minnesota BLUE EARTH
(Place) (County)
Mankato Post Office
(City, town) (Postoffice)

as a person required by law to register under the Proclamation of the President of the United States, dated April 19, 1918.

Tena Rudenick
(Signature or mark of registered person)

KMM
(Registration officer)

Postmaster, Mankato, Minn.
(Official title, police or post office)

7-1124

Mrs Tena Rudenick

KMM
Registration Officer

NOTE.—The issuance of this registration card does not relieve the registrant from full compliance with any and all laws and regulations now existing or hereafter made concerning the conduct of such alien females. 7-1124



Charmien, editor of Ancestors West, enjoys researching family stories. Her focus has been on surnames Carrier, Strehlau, Rudenick and Henning. If you have a story, send it to: charmien2940@gmail.com

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Thurs. 26 AUGUST 26

The undersigned will sell at Auction on the farm located 9 miles West of St. Peter, 8 miles South of Norseland, 8 miles N.E. of Nicollet on East shore of Middle Lake.

KAVENEY LUNCH WAGON ON THE GROUNDS

COMMENCING AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.

125 Head Livestock 11 Horses MACHINERY

- 1 Roan Mare, 1800 lbs., 6 yrs. old.
- 1 Grey Mare, 1500 lbs., 8 yrs. old.
- 1 Roan Gelding, 1800 lbs., 4 yrs. old.
- 1 Bay, 1500 lbs., 4 yrs. old.
- 1 Bay, 3 yrs. old.
- 1 Bay, 2 yrs. old.
- 2 Bays, smooth mouth, 1600 lbs. each.
- 2 Roan Colts, 1 year old.
- 1 Roan Mare, 2 years old.

77 Cattle

HIGH GRADE SHORTHORNS AND BEEF TYPE CATTLE

- 27 Milk Cows, some fresh with calf at side and others to freshen this fall.
- 7 Steers from 2 to 2½ yrs. old.
- 23 Steers and Heifers, 1 yr. old, white face.
- 18 Steers and Heifers, 6 mo. to 1 yr. old.
- 1 Bull, 3½ yrs. old.
- 1 Roan Bull, 1½ yrs. old.

37 Hogs

- 36 Head of Feeding Pigs.
- 1 Brood Sow with pigs at side.

- 1 McCormick Corn Binder.
- 2 Single Row Corn Cultivators, John Deere.
- 1 2 Row Corn Cultivator.
- 1 Corn Planter, John Deere.
- 1 McCormick-Deering 1½ H. P. Gas Engine.
- 1 Fanning Mill.
- 3 Sets of Harness and Collars.
- 2 Lumber Wagons.
- 1 Truck Wagon.
- 1 Triple Box.
- 1 Hay Rack.
- 1 John Deere Mower.
- 1 Hay Bucker, International.
- 1 Hay Stacker.
- 1 Sulky Plow.
- 1 Gang Plow.
- 1 Walking Plow.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ETC.

- 1 Kitchen Cabinet.
- 1 Kitchen Range.
- 1 Sewing Machine.
- 1 Organ.
- 1 Tank Heater.
- 1 Hog Feeder.
- 2 Shoveling Boards.
- 1 Iron Drag.
- 1 2-Section Kovar Spring Tooth.
- 1 Chevrolet Truck, 31 Model with box.
- 1 McCormick-Deering Manure Spreader.
- 2 Feed Bunks.
- 1 Truck Box, Ford.
- Some Corn Cribbing.
- 1 Brooder House, 8x10.
- 1 Brooder House, 10x12, new.
- 1 Caterpillar and 3 Bottom John Deere Plow, 5 ton.
- 1 Disc.
- A Lot of Farm Tools.
- 300 Spring Chickens.
- 75 Laying Hens.
- 1 Dining Room Table and 6 Chairs.
- 1 Shot Gun.
- Many Other Articles Too Numerous To Mention.

TERMS: Sums of \$10.00 and under, cash; over that amount time will be given on acceptable notes. All parties from outside territory to arrange with their bank for credit. No property removed until settled for with clerk.

MRS. TENA RUDENICK, Owner

CLIFFORD & CLIFFORD, Auctioneers.

NICOLLET COUNTY BANK, St. Peter, Clerk.

I noticed that there is no year printed on the poster, so to find out what year it was, I started with possible years when August 26 was on a Thursday, starting with the year 1940. When I got to 1943, it fit—bingo!

Was Polygamy a Turning Point for the Nightingales?

By Frances Davis

THE NIGHTINGALES on my mother's side of the family were tellers of tall tales. Growing up, I heard they were close relatives of the famous Florence Nightingale. A genealogy check and a bit of historical digging turned up no connection. Florence, the "Lady with the Lamp," wasn't even quite a Nightingale herself. William Shore, Florence's father, inherited the Nightingale name, along with a large estate, from his mother's uncle.

The Nightingales were emigres from the mill regions of Lancashire, England. It's likely they were lowly workers in the cotton textile industry, and no wonder the whole family fled. Conditions in the 1840s were notoriously harsh: low pay, 12-14-hour days, stifling heat, lung-clogging cotton dust, thunderous noise. Cotton mills were known to employ children as young as ten. These were the conditions that enabled the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) to recruit and convert large numbers of the working class as emigrants to the new Mormon settlement in Nauvoo, Illinois.

A manifest for the English ship *Sheffield*, which departed England February 7, 1841, listed 15 Nightingales, including my great-great-grandparents, John Nightingale (age 49) and Ellen Houghton Nightingale (age 47), along with their children and grandchildren. The "emigrant agent" was Brigham Young.

John Nightingale's occupation is listed as "sizer," which I discovered was a piece of machinery that cut the selvedge or edges of fabric. Henry, a 29-year-old son, was also listed as a sizer, and Betsy, a 15-year-old daughter, was a weaver. The ship docked at the port of New Orleans on March 1, 1841, and a steamship carried the emigrants up the Mississippi to Nauvoo.

Records show the Nightingale's eldest son, Henry, died in Nauvoo in 1842. Sometime after that, the family moved across the river to Montrose, Iowa. Another son, James, my great-grandfather, only 18 when he boarded the ship, married Jane Heaps in 1845, and they, too, settled in Montrose, where they had two daughters, Alice and Margaret.

This is the point where family legend comes into play again. Growing up, I learned that the Nightingales harbored a great deal of animosity toward Mormons. They disdained the religion and loathed the practice of polygamy. I heard at various times that Mormons had shot a family member (Henry??) in Nauvoo and that Mormons in Utah had ambushed and killed a member of the family, perhaps for refusing to share a wife or daughter. None of this is documented.

What is known is that Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon religion, sanctioned the practice of polygamy in 1843, and is rumored to have taken up to 28 wives. He was murdered by an angry mob in 1844. The



Wedding photo of Thomas and Frances Nightingale, married on June 22, 1898.

years 1846-1848 saw a mass exodus of Mormons out of Illinois and Iowa to Utah. There, in 1852, polygamy was officially sanctioned by the church. The practice was officially renounced by the church in 1890.

In 1852, my great-grandfather James and his family left Iowa for Utah, where a son, William, was born in 1854. Soon after, the small family moved to California, settling in El Dorado County. There, James and Jane raised ten children, all but William born in California. My grandfather Tom, born in 1869, was the 10th and last child born in California.

In the Sierra foothills, they were cattle farmers, moving herds from the foothills' grazing grounds to higher mountain meadows with the seasons. My mother recalled riding in the back of a buckboard wagon to a second homestead in the mountains above Placerville. No one is left to corroborate or debunk the family stories, so we will never know if polygamy was a game-changer for the Nightingales.

Frances Pettey Davis is a writer and author of the historical fiction novel Red Summer about a small California town besieged by the divisiveness and paranoia of the McCarthy era. Looking back at her own family stories with their trials and tragedies, leaps of faith, failures and recoveries provides personal context for viewing the ongoing story of humankind.



Author Guidelines - *Ancestors West*

Updated February 2026

ARTICLES 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 Charmien Carrier, charmien2940@gmail.com

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Regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in articles submitted to *Ancestors West*, the editorial board distinguishes between **assistive tools** (language editing, grammar checking, and foreign-language translation) and **generative tools** (content creation and data analysis). Authors do not need to document their use of assistive tools. If an author uses a generative AI tool to create some or all of their content, analyze data, or generate an image, they must document this use with a short statement that describes what was generated and the name of the AI tool or program used. Images created by AI should include the name of the AI program used, either in the image or in its caption.

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May 1

Ancestors Behaving Badly

August 1

Fashion Through the Ages

October 15

Then and Now

Compare the lives of ancestors with those of current generations.

**We are happy to accept any stories
related to genealogy!**

*Please send to Charmien Carrier, Editor
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