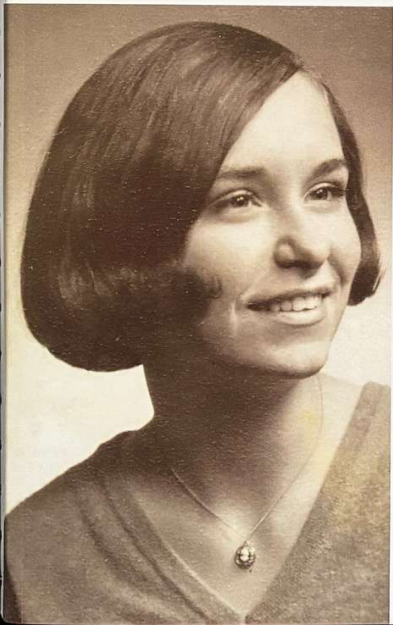




**Blazing the Trail...
Women in Our Family Tree**

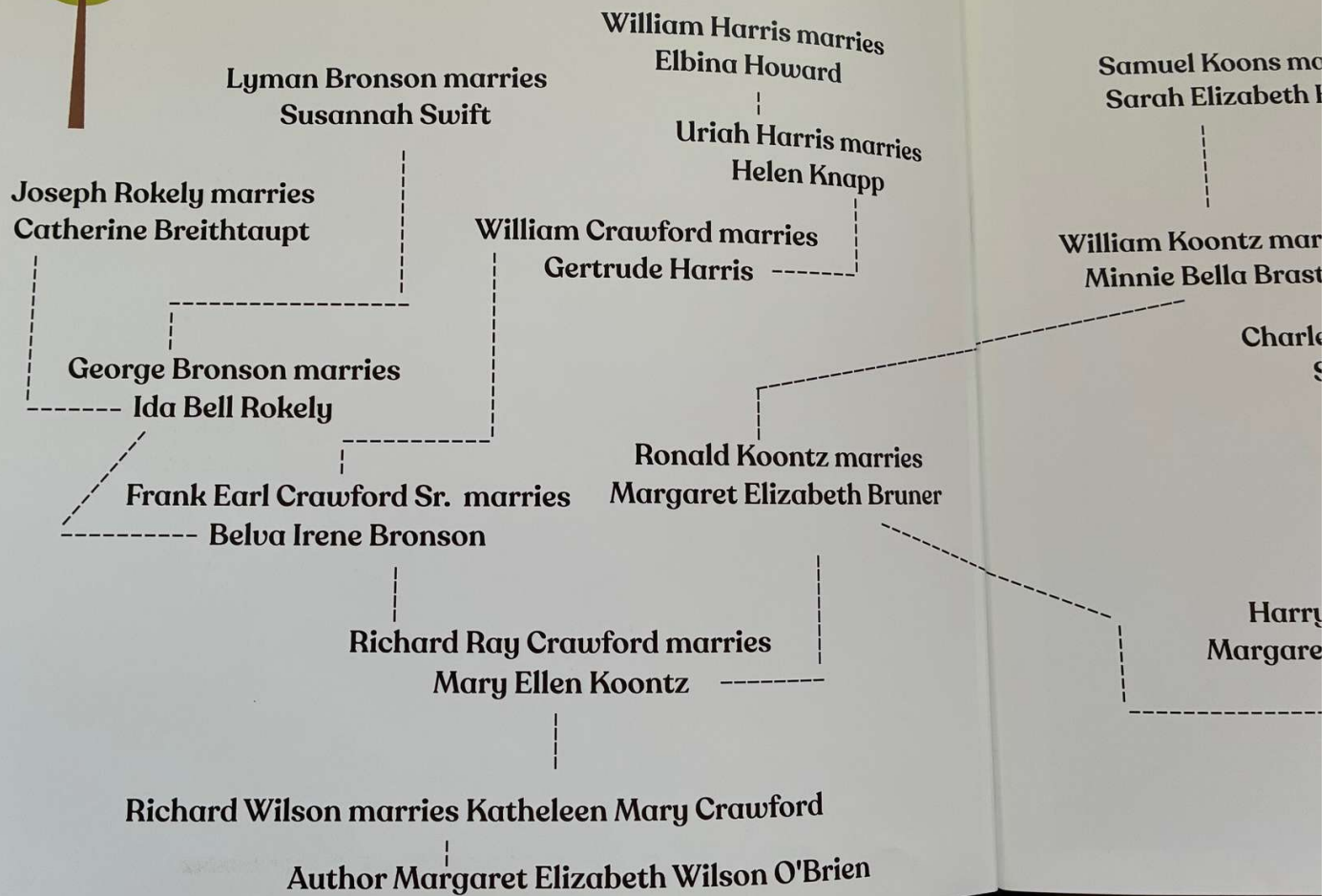


**To the women who came
before me;
To the women who walk
with me now;
To the women of the
future.**





Overview Family Tree



Family Tree



William Harris marries
Elbina Howard

Uriah Harris marries
Helen Knapp

Wm. Crawford marries
Elbina Harris

Ronald Koontz marries
Margaret Elizabeth Bruner

Wm. Koontz marries
Elbina Harris

Mary Crawford

Wilson O'Brien

Samuel Koons marries
Sarah Elizabeth Hulst

William Koontz marries
Minnie Bella Brasted

Charles Bruner marries
Susan Auxter

Harry Bruner marries
Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty

Christian Auxter marries
Maria Anna Siegenthaler

Johannes Ried marries
Mary Elizabeth

George Michael Reed marries
Elizabeth Overmyer

Felix Rafferty marries
Mary Elizabeth Reed

man?





Nickname:
Birth: Born
Parents: Ric
Siblings: Ri
Married: Ri
Children: K
full term d:
Death: Jan
Buried: Mt
Occupatio



Katheleen Mary Crawford Wilson

Nickname: Kathy (called Kathy below)

Birth: Born at Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo, MI June 14, 1948

Parents: Richard and Mary Ellen (Koontz) Crawford

Siblings: Richard Ray, Thomas, Shirley, Eileen

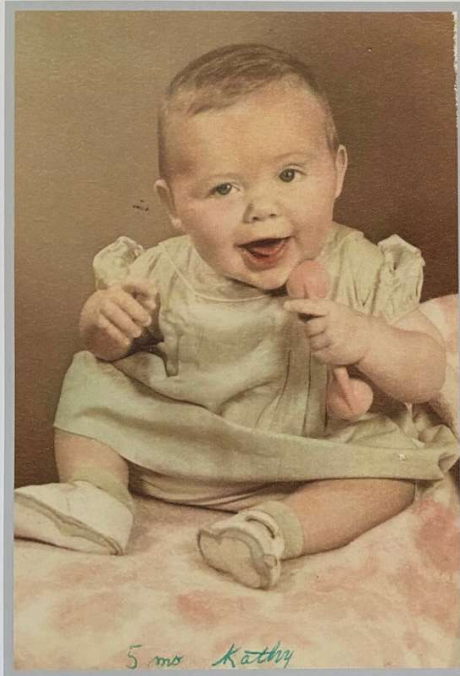
Married: Richard Allen Wilson

Children: Keith Allen, Michael David, Margaret Elizabeth, Aaron Paul; several miscarriages including almost full term daughter, Shirleen

Death: January 14, 1993 at home (1728 Quaker Ave), Portage MI

Buried: Mt. Hope Cemetery, Texas Township, MI

Occupations: variety including homemaker, seamstress



Katheleen Mary Crawford was born on Flag Day, June 14, 1948, to Richard and Mary Ellen (Koontz) Crawford in Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The oldest of four surviving children (Thomas, Shirley and Eileen), she mothered them during their lives especially after her parents divorced. They looked to her as their mother figure. Kathy considered herself to be a daddy's girl despite his absence in her life. Her childhood would be scarred by abuse, neglect, and low self-esteem.

Regret was an emotion Kathy often spoke about. Regret at not taking risks. Regret at life passing her by. Regret about life burdening her. However, her goals were fairly simple: motherhood and travel.

On Thursday, June 9th, 1966, Katheleen graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. The One Hundred Twenty-Fourth Commencement, held at Western Michigan University's

Fiedlhouse, honored 529 graduates who were listed in the graduation program. Katheleen's dream to travel was derailed by her mother's aneurysm, Kathy set her sights on marriage. She and Richard (Dick) Allen Wilson would marry August 28, 1970. Dick, a divorced father of two boys, would bring his son Keith Allen to the marriage. A cute towhead, Kathy would adopt him. While she had many pregnancies, only three children would be born alive: Michael David, Margaret Elizabeth, and Aaron Paul.



y k Bolton - Salonia



Clockwise starting with upper left photo, people left to right
-Kathy, Shirley, Tom, Eileen; -Eileen, Kathy, Shirley
-Tom, Kathy; -Kathy, Keith (back), Mike (front) Dick,
Margaret; -Kathy with her Grandma Margaret
-Kathy with her mom, Mary -Kathy



Kathy most enjoyed cooking, and baking. Kathy largely gave t

Life was again not e mostly worked as a The family moved fr Township. Kathy ju work came in lower could make anything

Her children were h who was often over strong. While these was a pride that he

During her adult ye talents came to the She was a gifted st attendee, she relied marked with notes c

In 1990, she and Dic Portage after living stomach cancer aft



Kathy most enjoyed being a homemaker on the farm. Sewing, gardening, canning, cooking, and baking were all passions she enjoyed. Cousins loved visiting as Aunt Kathy largely gave the kids freedom to play on the farm unsupervised.

Life was again not easy. Dick worked several different jobs, all lower paying. He mostly worked as a farmhand that provided a low pay and a house in which to live. The family moved from the Briggs' dairy farm to the Hiestand Dairy Farm in Texas Township. Kathy juggled motherhood and working outside the home. Most of her work came in lower wage jobs like being a seamstress. She was very talented and could make anything in a pretty quick timeline.

Her children were her pride, even when she did not understand their choices. As a child who was often overlooked, Kathy raised her only daughter to be outspoken and strong. While these talents were often used against her in normal teenager wars, there was a pride that her daughter would not be trampled.

During her adult years, she took some college courses where she excelled. Her artistic talents came to the forefront especially in engineering or architectural type classes. She was a gifted student whose talents were never fully realized. A faithful church attendee, she relied on her faith to endure life's battles. Kathy's Bible was heavily marked with notes and references.

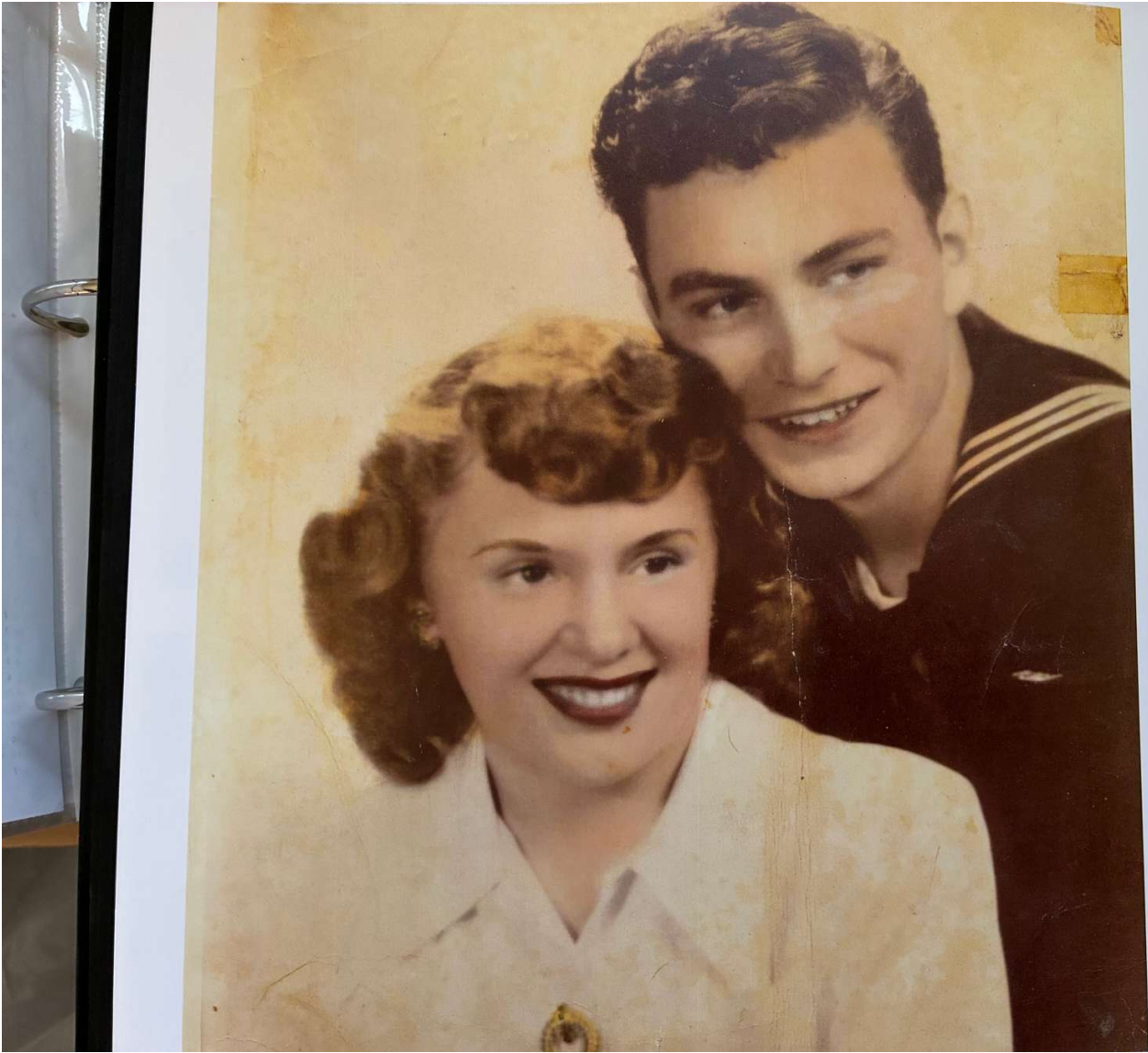
In 1990, she and Dick bought their very first home on a land contract. They moved to Portage after living on a farm for over 18 years. Sadly, Kathy would pass away from stomach cancer after a brief battle.

Left: Dick and Kathy with clockwise, Mike, Keith, Peg, Aaron

Below: Dick and Kathy with clockwise, Mike, Peg, Keith- note the stuffed animals Grandma Mary made

Far Bottom: Keith's graduation: Dick and Kathy with clockwise, Mike, Keith, Peg and Aaron





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Freedom was unclear if this lines up with daughter Kat Son Thomas

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Mary Ellen fi scarves, blan

Losing her o after a battl

Mary Ellen Koontz Crawford Malmgren

Nickname: Mary (called Mary Ellen below)
Birth: December 14, 1928 in Antwerp, Paulding County, Ohio
Parents: Ronald and Margaret (Bruner) Koontz
Siblings: only child
Married: Richard Ray Crawford; Neill Malmgren
Children: Katheleen Mary, Richard Ray (stillborn), Thomas Wesley, Shirley Ann, Eileen Kay
Death: October 31, 2000 at Rose Arbor Hospice, Kalamazoo, MI
Buried: cremated and sprinkled at her Bruner grandparents' grave
Occupations: various including homemaker, waitress, seamstress

Mary Ellen Koontz was born December 14, 1928 to Ronald and Margaret (Bruner) Koontz in Antwerp, Ohio. Her life would be filled with family and with many struggles.

When she was four years old, her father was convicted and sentenced to twenty to thirty years in prison for kidnapping. The newspaper articles describe the female victim (a young mother) as being "brutally assaulted by her assailant". Ronald also robbed her male companion. Rape was not a word commonly used, and family stories refer to it as a rape. Mary Ellen did not speak much of her father's family but did share how hard it was growing up with the Koontz name. It was a branding of shame. Another seven years would pass before her mother was granted a divorce for extreme cruelty. This added more shame as divorces were not common.

Mary Ellen lived most of her early life with her Grandma Bruner who she loved dearly. A handwritten note shares "no other woman had more love in her heart and was always there for me in all ways". The Bruner family farm played a large role in many of the stories Mary Ellen would fondly tell. When her mom re-married to Fred shortly after the divorce was granted, Mary Ellen returned to live with her mother. She also took on the task of teaching her new 12 year old step-brother, Jack, how to take care of various personal hygiene tasks. He had never been taught these things due to his disabilities. While proud of the role she played in improving his life, sometimes resentment came in for being the caretaker for her developmentally disabled step-brother. These competing feelings would be exhibited at various times in her life.

Freedom was what Mary Ellen most desired. It is a common family story that she saw marriage as a way of obtaining freedom. It is unclear if this is true. She married Richard (Dick) Crawford at the San Francisco, CA courthouse on May 5, 1947. The courthouse wedding lines up with stories of her "running away". Dick was stationed there during his service in the Navy (1946-1948). Thirteen months later, daughter Katheleen was born. Fifteen months after that, she gave birth to Richard Ray Jr. who was either stillborn or died shortly after. Son Thomas (Tom) was born in 1950, Shirley in 1952 and Eileen in 1953. Within six years, she had given birth to five children.

The marriage was rocky at best, and Mary Ellen shared stories of the physical and verbal abuse she endured. She told one story about when Dick said he only liked her for her hair. Quickly, she cut off her hair and gave it to him. After they divorced, she remarried several times and largely connected with abusive men. The children were also abused and deeply affected. Being a divorcee with four children in the 50's was hard. Divorce was still a scarlet letter. When Mary Ellen could not make rent, the family would move to the next house in the middle of the night. Survival was the focus. The photo to the left was taken early in their marriage while he was still in the Navy.

Mary Ellen finally found true love with Neill Malmgren who she married later in life. A gifted seamstress, Mary Ellen made many mittens, scarves, blankets, quilts and dolls for her grandkids and great grandkids. Also a gifted artist, some of her drawings and paintings survive.

Losing her oldest daughter in 1993 was an emotional blow for her that weighed heavily on her. Preceded in death by Neill in 1997, she died after a battle of cancer that ultimately spread to various organs.



Pregnant but didn't know





nt but didn't know



Top Left: Mary Ellen with grandchildren (l-r) Heather and Carrie Jackson, Margaret, Mike and Keith Wilson

Middle Left: Mary Ellen and Richard with daughter Kathy around 1949.

Bottom Left: Shirley, Kathy, Mary Ellen and Eileen

Bottom Middle: Kathy (back), Eileen (front), Thomas, Shirley

Bottom Right The quilt, dolls and duck were made by Mary Ellen. The dolls were Mar Ellen's response to the Cabbage Patch craze of the 80's. The dark purple and green afghan was started by Kathy, Mary Ellen's oldest daughter, and completed by Mary Ellen after Kathy's death. The white afghan was made by Eileen, Mary Ellen's youngest daughter. Artistic talents were strong in the women of the family.

Middle Right: Mary Ellen and Neill Malmgren



Bruner



This family photo was taken in Ohio, and is a gathering of the Bruner side of the family. This is Margaret's mom's mom's family. Many generations are in this photo including Margaret Elizabeth Bruner (great-great grandma of author) 2nd row 3rd from right; Margaret Elizabeth Koontz Uithoven (great grandma) 2nd row far right with husband Fred Uithoven sitting in front of her; and Mary Ellen Koontz Crawford Malmgren (grandma) last row 3rd from right standing next to husband Richard (Dick) Crawford. Family stories share that Katheleen Mary Crawford (mom) is asleep in the house on the other side of the window.

M

Nickname: M
Born: June 2
Parents: Har
Siblings: Flo
Married: Ro
Children: M
Death: Dec
Buried: Mt.
Occupation

Margaret Elizabeth
her nickname was M
possibly drinking wh
age of twenty-four, s

Eleven months later
Divorce during this t
committed for whic
have been violent w

Later in 1939, Magg
developmental disa

Her daughter, Mary
violent husband an
World War II. Add in
old Mary Ellen's she

Maggie worked in c
is also possible that
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World War II, she w
home from those to

Mary Ellen's grand
often hosted sleepc
the kids swim in he
Great because her c

Margaret Elizabeth Bruner Koontz Uithoven

Nickname: Maggie (called Maggie below)
Born: June 22, 1903 in Antwerp, Paulding County, Ohio
Parents: Harry and Margaret Elizabeth (Rafferty) Bruner
Siblings: Floyd, Verna, Laura, Elmer, Roy
Married: Ronald Clyde Koontz; Frederick Uithoven
Children: Mary Ellen Koontz
Death: December 24, 1989, nursing home in Galesburg, MI
Buried: Mt. EverRest, Kalamazoo, MI
Occupation: various including homemaker, cook at psychiatric hospital, seamstress

Margaret Elizabeth was born June 22, 1903 to Harry and Margaret Elizabeth (Rafferty) Bruner in Antwerp, Ohio. The youngest of six kids, her nickname was Maggie, and she was known for having an independent streak. Family stories speak of her working in a factory and possibly drinking when it was more common to marry young and have children. She eventually met Ronald Koontz, and in 1928, at the age of twenty-four, she married. It is believed she was Ronald's third wife, and he was 23 when they married.

Eleven months later, Maggie gave birth to their only child, Mary Ellen. In March of 1939 she was granted a divorce due to "extreme cruelty". Divorce during this time was uncommon and a bit of a scarlet letter. There are newspaper reports about the violent crimes Ronald committed for which he was ultimately sentenced to 20-30 years in prison. Anecdotal stories have been handed down that Ronald may have been violent with Margaret prior to their marriage, including possible rape. One can only imagine what she endured during this time.

Later in 1939, Maggie married Fred Uithoven, a widowed father of two boys ages 16 and 12. His youngest son, Jack, had significant developmental disabilities. He required constant care, and it take a lot of training for him to live some sort of quasi-independent life.

Her daughter, Mary Ellen, described her relationship with her mother strained at times and her mother as a disciplinarian. The trauma of a violent husband and the depression surely played into whatever tensions existed. It was also a time before the United States entered into World War II. Add in a new marriage and two step-sons, one of whom required great care, and it is likely a burden was placed upon 11 year old Mary Ellen's shoulders.

Maggie worked in a variety of jobs when it was uncommon for women to work. While survival and economic events likely played into it, it is also possible that she enjoyed the freedom that working provided. She served in a number of roles including as a cook. Documents handed down in the family and the 1940 census record show that she worked as a cook at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. During World War II, she volunteered in many capacities. Additionally, she was a gifted seamstress so it is likely that she brought income into the home from those talents.

Mary Ellen's grandchildren remember Maggie as "Grandma Great". She showered her great-grandchildren with individual attention and often hosted sleepovers. While Grandpa Uithoven could be seen as strict, Grandma Great was always willing to play cards or to watch the kids swim in her neighbor's pool. A common caution was "Don't drown. I can't swim." It is believed she got her nickname of Grandma Great because her great-grandchildren thought she was great, and they also confused the concept of Great Grandma.



ly. This is
aret Elizabeth
Koontz Uithoven
and Mary Ellen
and Richard (Dick)
house on the other

The origins of sit down meals and a kid's table at holiday gatherings started at Grandma Great's house. Adults sat at a long table that extended out into the dining and living room areas while the children sat in the kitchen at a round table. It was great fun, and the kids did not feel left out. After all, Grandma Great was a fabulous cook. Her kitchen was interesting in that Grandpa Uithoven custom made it for her short stature when he built the house. Standing barely (or less than) five feet tall, he lowered the counters and cabinets so she could easily prepare food. Maggie's short stature was an inside family joke where she was often described as short and full of boobs.

Maggie blazed many a trail as a working mother, divorcee, and outspoken woman. When she passed after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, her family was grateful that she was reunited with her husband, Fred, on Christmas Eve 1989.



Margaret with her brother, li



Top left: Maggie with an unknown man. Top right: Margaret on the bridge over Maumee River. Bottom left: Maggie with Ronald Koontz to the right most likely. Bottom middle: Maggie. Unknown year. Bottom right: with daughter Mary Ellen around 1929.

house. Adults sat at a long table that extended
was great fun, and the kids did not feel left out.
even custom made it for her short stature when
is so she could easily prepare food. Maggie's
sed after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease,



Margaret with her brother, likely Roy



Margaret with a classmate



Ronald Koontz to the right most likely. Bottom



Below: Margaret with her daughter Mary Ellen





Top Left: Maggie with friend Lee Ann whom she vacationed annually with up north before marrying Fred.



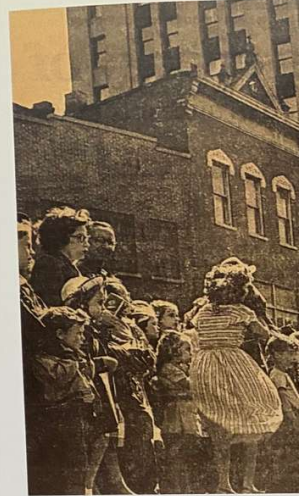
Top Right: Wedding photo of Maggie and Fred, likely with their witnesses.



Bottom Left: Maggie and Fred taken on August 5, 1981, their 42nd anniversary.



Back row: Joe Jackson (husband of Shirley), Mary Ellen, Kathy, Dick Wilson, Ruth Crawford (wife of Tom), Tom, Eileen, Al Borette (husband of Eileen);
Front row: Carrie, Annette (back), Liz (front), Shirley, Kristin, Margaret Uithoven holding Andrea, Mike, Margaret, Keith.



Top: Maggie is carrying the flag in the front.



Bottom Left: Maggie with the "Gray Ladies"

Bottom Right: At a booth for the Red Arrow.



g), Mary Ellen, Kathy, Dick Wilson, Ruth
rette (husband of Eileen);
d), Shirley, Kristin, Margaret Uithoven



**LOOKING
BACK
Past
parade**

Patriotic pride shows in the faces of the members of this color guard marching down Kalamazoo's Michigan Avenue in a 1955 Memorial Day parade. This Gazette photo was taken by Rick Campbell. The camera looks west from Portage Street. The American National Bank Building is in the background and the Olympia Cafe, Bell's Shoes and the Michigan Theater can be just made out behind the marchers.



Top: Maggie is carrying the flag in the front. In the striped dress is Mary Ellen holding her daughter, Eileen who is 2. The other kids are hidden from view.



Bottom Left: Maggie with the "Gray Ladies" serving refreshments at Fort Custer. Year unknown. She is the short lady facing the camera with her face down serving food.

Bottom Right: At a booth for the Red Arrow Auxiliary VFW 1527. Year Unknown. She is on the right.

The Margaret

The Margaret Cup was a gift to Bruner in 1905 when she was t Unfortunately, information has gave the gift to her or why. As Elizabeth Wilson was told by h (Margaret Bruner Koontz Uithv to the person named Margare Margaret have possessed this when Kathleen Crawford Wil after her grandmother whom

Grandma Great (Margaret Br shared that both the Elizabeth transcend down the female li can be found later in the book not known as there could be named Elizabeth or Margaret for Grandma Great to know u cups to take. While her own d initials ironically) was her only four children. Mary Ellen did n either cup. The cups were tra care when Grandma Great n to Alzheimer's Disease. Upon 1993, her daughter Margaret

Currently, there is no one in t Margaret or Elizabeth. There same generation as the curru the path the cups will travel. expressed interest in possess the same generation as the Elizabeth Wilson O'Brien.



Top Left: in back (l-r) Kathy, Mary Ellen, Thomas Crawford; front Maggie holding Michael David Wilson and Michael James Crawford. Photo likely taken in 1971.

Top Right: picture taken shortly after marriage to Fred Uithoven.

Bottom Left: with Fred Uithoven in the custom kitchen he made for her.

Bottom Right: with great grandson Michael Wilson after his performance in Lil Abner.



The Margaret Cup

The Margaret Cup was a gift to Margaret Elizabeth Bruner in 1905 when she was two years old. Unfortunately, information has been lost about who gave the gift to her or why. As a young child, Margaret Elizabeth Wilson was told by her Great Grandma (Margaret Bruner Koontz Uithoven) that the cup goes to the person named Margaret. Only two people named Margaret have possessed this cup. The line was chosen when Katheleen Crawford Wilson named her daughter after her grandmother whom she dearly loved.

Grandma Great (Margaret Bruner Koontz Uithoven) shared that both the Elizabeth and Margaret cups transcend down the female line. (Story on Elizabeth cup can be found later in the book.) Often, the future line is not known as there could be generations before one is named Elizabeth or Margaret. It took a great grandchild for Grandma Great to know which path the treasured cups to take. While her own daughter, Mary Ellen (same initials ironically) was her only child, Mary Ellen had four children. Mary Ellen did not physically possess either cup. The cups were transferred to Katheleen for care when Grandma Great moved out of her home due to Alzheimer's Disease. Upon Katheleen's death in 1993, her daughter Margaret received the cups.

Currently, there is no one in the next generations named Margaret or Elizabeth. There is one Elisabeth in the same generation as the current cup holder. It is unclear the path the cups will travel. While many have expressed interest in possessing the cups, they are all the same generation as the current cupholder, Margaret Elizabeth Wilson O'Brien.



Left: (l-r) Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty Bruner; Aunt Marie, Aunt Laura; front: Margaret Elizabeth Bruner Koontz Uithoven. Photo taken in 1918.

Right: (l-r) Mary Ellen, Margaret Elizabeth Wilson O'Brien (front), Maggie (back), Kathy. Photo taken around 1987.



and Michael James Crawford. Photo

corn bread

1c flour
 1c corn meal
 3 tsp Bak. Pow.
 1 egg
 1c milk
 3 tbsen shortening melted

Mix dry ingredients
 add egg & milk beat
 well add melted
 shortening Bake in
 hot oven 425° F. 40 min

Biscuits

2c flour
 4 tsp B.P.
 4 tbs shortening
 3/4 tsp salt
 1 1/2 tsp sugar
 3/4 c milk

Sift flour, salt, sugar
 & B.P., add shortening,
 add milk & mix well.

Gingerbread

10c flour
 10 tsp Baking Powder
 1/4 " soda
 60 " ginger
 5 " cinnamon
 2 1/2 tsp salt
 2c shortening
 2 1/2 c sugar
 5 eggs
 3c molasses
 3 3/4 c sour milk

Open B...
 Elevator
 Kitchen
 Kitchen
 Elevator
 Kitchen
 Elevator
 2 large

Prize Devil's food cake

2c sifted S.D. cake flour
 2 3/4 tsp cal Bak. Pow.
 1/4 tsp salt
 3c butter
 1 1/2 c sugar
 3 eggs well beaten
 3 square unsweetened choc.
 melted
 3/4 c milk
 1 tsp vanilla

Measure sifted flour add
 bak. pow. & salt sift 3 times
 cream butter add sugar
 cream until light & fluffy,
 add egg and beat well,
 then chocolate, add flour &
 milk alternately, add vanilla
 beat well, Bake at 350°
 35 min.

R
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Lemon Pudding

1c sugar
 1 tbs butter
 2 tbs flour
 Juice & rind of one lemon
 yolk of 3 eggs
 1c milk
 Hold in stiffly beaten
 egg whites

Put in baking
 dish set in pan of
 hot water, bake on
 slow oven for 30 min.

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Gingerbread

flour
Baking Powder
soda
ginger
cinnamon
salt
shortening
sugar
molasses
sour milk

min Pudding

sugar
butter
flour
juice of one lemon
3 eggs
beaten
in stiffly beaten
white

in baking
set in pan of
water, bake in
oven for 30 min.

Edwards

Open	6:00
Breakfast	
Elevator	6:30
Kitchen	6:45
Dinner	
Kitchen	10:45
Elevator	11:30
Supper	
Kitchen	3:45
Elevator	4:30
Knives	
2 large 6 paring	

Morris

Open	5:00
Kitchen patients	5:30
Dining room	6:15
Dinner	
Kitchen & Din Room	11:00
Dining room	11:45
Supper	
Kitchen & Din Room	4:00
Din Room	4:45
Knives	
3 large 7 1/3 paring	
2 " forks	
1/2 butter cut in cubes	

Apple Sauce Cake

2 c sugar
1 c shortening
orange
sift together
4 c flour
3 tsp soda
1 1/2 " Bak Pow
2 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp cloves
2 1/2 c hot applesauce
1 lb raisins
add hot applesauce
to sugar & shortening
then flour & last
raisins & one tsp
lemon salt
Bake 350°

Van Deusen

109 - 40 patients
2nd floor inward 24 patients
Open at 5:00

Breakfast	
Kit patients	5:45
109	6:15
Ward	
Din Room	6:30
Dinner	
109 & Ward	10:45
Kit pat.	10:45
Din Room	11:45
Supper	
Kit pat.	3:45
109 & Ward	4:15
Din Room	4:45
Breakfast	
In addition to kit pati.	
Cook for 3 Din Room girls	
who eat at 6:20	

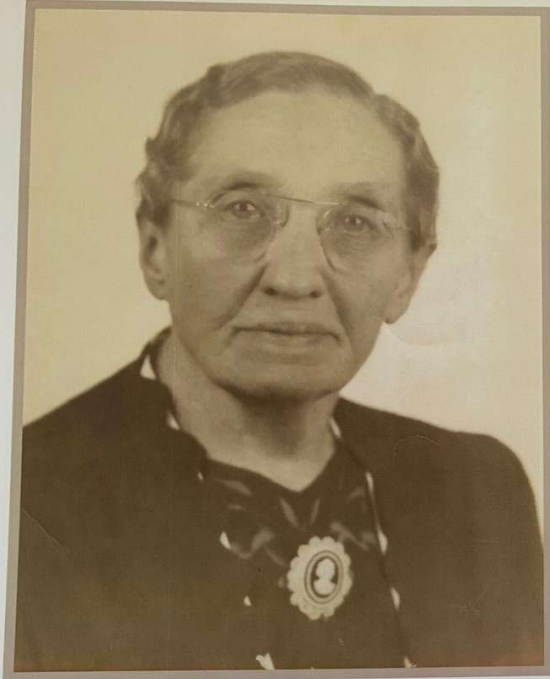
Excerpts from a note pad about Margaret's routines working at the State Psychiatric Hospital and some of her recipes.

Potter

Open at	5:00
1st Breakfast	5:30
Kit	5:30
Night nurses	6:10
2nd breakfast	6:50
Dinner	
1st	11:15
2nd	12:20
Supper	
1st	4:45
2nd	5:30
Knives	
7 large 7 1/3 large 2 small	
forks 6 paring knives	

Brook farm

Open	5:15
Breakfast	
Patients & employees	6:50
Barn boys	6:30
Dinner	
Everyone	12:00
Supper	
Everyone	5:30



The rocking chair below was Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty Bruner's chair. It is designed for a shorter person. A short person, likely a woman, can sit comfortably with their feet on the floor without a need for a foot stool. The chair passed down to Margaret Uithoven to Kathy Wilson to Margaret O'Brien.



Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty Bruner

Nickname: Elizabeth (called Elizabeth below)

Born: October 9, 1866 in Ohio

Parents: Felix and Mary Elizabeth (Reed) Rafferty

Siblings: Ellen, Sarah, Emma, Hannah, Mary, James, Clarence, George, Oliver, unnamed Infant

Married: Harry Bruner

Children: Floyd, Verna, Laura, Elmer, Roy, Margaret

Died: February 6, 1956 in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Buried: Maumee Cemetery, Antwerp, Paulding County Ohio

Occupation: homemaker, farming



Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty was born in Ohio (likely near the Four Mile Home) and had eleven children. In her mother's cup does appear to be Margaret so it is likely that this

Elizabeth married Harry Bruner and three were girls. The youngest of her life in Ohio, it appears he passed away. Later, she married Margaret, lived. A sister, Ellen, passed away, and she was buried in Maumee. Her tombstone reads M. Elizabeth the name she commonly went

The photo above is of Elizabeth

...Elizabeth Rafferty
 it is designed for a shorter person. A short
 woman, can sit comfortably with their
 feet without a need for a foot stool. The chair
 was given by Margaret Uithoven to Kathy Wilson to
 use.



...runer

...d Infant



Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty was born October, 9 1866 to Felix and Mary Elizabeth (Reed) Rafferty in Ohio (likely near the City of Fremont/Sandusky Township area). She was one of eleven children. In her mother's (Mary Elizabeth) obituary, it is stated that the family lived two miles north of the Four Mile House. Much of the family is buried in the Four Mile Cemetery. It is unclear when the names Margaret or Elizabeth became traditional in the family, but the Elizabeth cup does appear to come from Mary's mother, Elizabeth. Felix's mother was named Margaret so it is likely that this Margaret Elizabeth was named after both grandmothers.

Elizabeth married Harry Bruner in 1887, and they had six children of which three were boys and three were girls. The youngest girl was named after her mother. While Elizabeth spent most of her life in Ohio, it appears she and her husband moved to Indiana at some point where he passed away. Later, she moved to Kalamazoo where two of her daughters, Verna and Margaret, lived. A sister, Ellen, lived in Detroit. While living with Margaret, Elizabeth passed away, and she was buried in Maumee Cemetery in Antwerp, Ohio with her husband. Some websites and family trees incorrectly identify her under her mother's name, Mary Elizabeth. Her tombstone reads M. Elizabeth, and census records cite her as Elizabeth. It appears that is the name she commonly went by.



The photo above is of Elizabeth, Maggie, Mary Ellen, and Kathy.



This is believed to be the family farm in Antwerp (Corryall Township in Paulding County), Ohio. As of 2023, the farm and barns do not appear to be standing, and the 80 acre farm appears to be all crop fields with two lots on the corners split from the property. A 1960's house and a storage unit occupy these spots. The county map is below, and circled in yellow are the two 40 acre lots that were originally owned by Harry and Elizabeth and Harry's mother, Susan, respectively.



Fond memories in Antwerp were often shared by Elizabeth Bruner's granddaughter, Mary Ellen Koontz. The Bruner's time in the area was relatively short lived in comparison to the time other generations have lived in one location. At some point, both moved here after having lived in Sandusky since birth. Today, it appears the land is owned by descendants of a Bruner family friend. The ancestor signed the funeral book of Margaret Elizabeth Bruner.



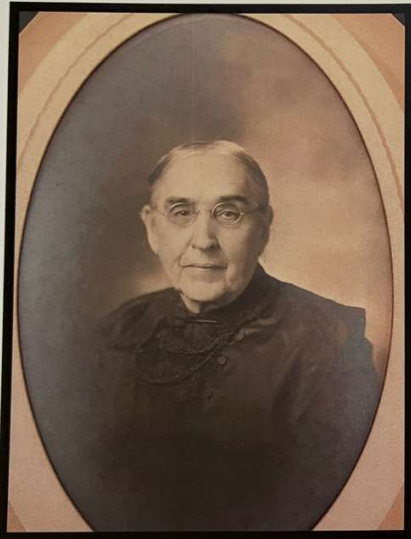
Taken in 1918:
 Back Row (l-r): unknown female, Elizabeth Bruner (age 52), Uncle Chester, Aunt Laura (age 25), Harry Bruner (age 56)
 Front Row: (l-r): unknown female, cousin Ruth (age 4), Uncle Roy (age 18), cousin Marie (age 2)
 Opposite Page: mom refers to Maggie Bruner Koontz Liithoven





... Bruner (age 52), Uncle Chester, Aunt Laura (age 25).

Mary Elizabeth Reed Rafferty



Nickname: Mary
 Born: June 2, 1842 in Sandusky, Ohio
 Parents: George Michael and Elizabeth (Overmyer) Reed
 Siblings: Catherine, John, Caroline and May
 Married: Felix Rafferty on August 2, 1859
 Children: Ellen, Sarah, Emma, Hannah, Margaret, Mary, James, Clarence, George, Oliver, Infant
 Died: January 16, 1918 in Fremont, Ohio
 Buried: Four Mile Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio
 Occupation: homemaker, farming

*It's my Great Grandmother,
 Mary Elizabeth Reed Rafferty, your
 3rd Great Grandmother, she
 died before I was born, my mom
 said she was a very sweet lady
 and always called her Maggie.
 A very devout Christian and
 active in the Lutheran Church
 I love you, Grandma Mary M.*

Mary Elizabeth Reed was one of six children born to George and Elizabeth (Overmyer) Reed. She was born June 2, 1842 in Sandusky, Ohio. A lifelong native of Sandusky County, she married Felix Rafferty August 2, 1859. Felix was relatively new to the area, and it is unclear what brought him to Sandusky or how they met. Her new husband came from a large family of at least nine children. During their marriage, she gave birth to eleven children. Currently found records find 10 children including George R. who died at 11 days old in 1880. The 11th child and his identity has not yet been found. Felix's obituary notes he had five sons and six daughters. Since census records have only identified three sons and six daughters, it appears the unnamed son also died young like infant George.

When her husband, Felix, passed away, the headline in the paper was "Another Pioneer Answers Last Call". Mary's obituary also described her as "an old and respected pioneer". She and her family lived in Sandusky prior to Felix arriving when he was 23 years of age. Felix's obituary also noted that he was one of the builders of Salem Lutheran Church at Four-Mile House which was only two miles from her childhood home. Faith and church were clearly important to both Mary and Felix. Farming was the family occupation, and Mary and Felix took over the family farm and then handed it down to son James, and then son Oliver after James' death.

It appears their family was very close, especially as Mary was greatly impacted by the death of her adult son, James, nearly two and a half years before her own death. Tragically, James died in a farming accident on the family homestead. The Fremont Daily News reported he "was killed shortly before noon on Wednesday, when he fell from a mowing machine and suffered a broken neck." According to the paper, the mower snagged causing James to fall backwards. This caused the reins to be pulled, thus guiding the horses to back up. The machine backed up over him. He was found later by his brother-in-law. From all appearances, James died immediately. In the article, the newspaper notes that the death was a "severe blow" to his mother. Further, her obituary credits James' death to Mary's decline in health.

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Was Born and Always

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth F
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Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty
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Obituary from Fre



Rafferty

Sandusky, Ohio
George and Elizabeth (Overmyer) Reed
Caroline and May
August 2, 1859
Hannah, Hannah, Margaret, Mary, James,
Infant
Fremont, Ohio
Mary, Sandusky, Ohio
Farming

[Handwritten signature]

*Grandmother,
Reed Rafferty, your
grandmother, she
was born. my mom
a very sweet lady
and her Maggie.
at Christen and
Lutheran Church
you, Grandma Mary M*

born June 2, 1842 in Sandusky, Ohio. A lifelong farmer and it is unclear what brought him to Fremont. After their marriage, she gave birth to eleven children. The identity of the unnamed son has not yet been found. Felix's obituary listed six daughters, it appears the unnamed son

Mary's obituary also described her as "an old woman" of age. Felix's obituary also noted that he was a farmer. Faith and church were clearly important to the family farm and then handed it down to son

son, James, nearly two and a half years before his death. News reported he "was killed shortly before his death" by a mowing machine. The paper, the mower snagged causing James to fall up over him. He was found later by his mother. His death was a "severe blow" to his mother.

**MANY RELATIVES SURVIVE PIONEER
MRS. MARY RAFFERTY PASSED AWAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT HOME OF SON**

Was Born and Always Resided in Sandusky County- Mother Of Eleven Children- Funeral Saturday Morning

MANY RELATIVES SURVIVE PIONEER
MRS. MARY RAFFERTY PASSED AWAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT HOME OF SON

Was Born and Always Resided in Sandusky County- Mother Of Eleven Children- Funeral Saturday Morning

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Rafferty, an old and highly respected pioneer of Sandusky county passed away at her home on Hamlin street Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock.

Her death came unexpectedly as she was confined to her bed only a week. Mrs. Rafferty had reached the age of 75 years, 7 months and 14 days having been born June 2nd, 1842, in Sandusky Township, two miles north of the Four-mile House, at the home of her parents, George and Elizabeth Reed. It was here that she grew to womanhood. On August 2, 1859, she was united in marriage to Felix Rafferty by Rev. Heller. For several years after her marriage, she lived in her parental home and after that time Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty lived for 21 years in Rice township, west of Kingsway. Having purchased the homestead from her parents Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty moved back to the old house and lived there for another twenty-five years when they retired from active life and moved to Fremont locating at 1203 Hamlin street. Mr. Rafferty died January 5, 1914.

The deceased was the mother of eleven children, four of them preceding her to eternity, one of them being a son, James Rafferty, whose tragic death occurred in 1915. The mother never fully recovered from the shock of the son's death and from that time her health declined. The surviving children are: Mrs. Jacob Bauman, of Fremont; Mrs. Shively, of Washington township; Mrs. Wm. Coe, Green Creek, W.P.; Mrs. H.E. Bruner, of Antwerp, O.; Mrs. L.O. Eisenhour, of Sandusky township; Clarence B. Rafferty, of this city, with whom the mother made her home, and O.C. Rafferty residing on the homestead. Her death is further mourned by twenty-five grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and many other relatives and a host of friends.

Throughout her long life the deceased was a faithful and consistent member of the Salem Lutheran church, being confirmed there by Rev. Lang. She was also a member of the Ladies' Aid society and was present at the last meeting.

The funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at Salem Lutheran Church conducted by the pastor, Rev. N.S. Lux and assisted by her former pastor, Rev. W.A. Bowman. Interment will be made in the Four-Mile cemetery.

Obituary from Fremont Daily News, January 17, 1918 (retyped for this project)



Four-Mile House is a name that exists today in a cemetery and road. Its origins come from an 1842 mile marker that was "four miles" from the Sandusky River. Other similar names appear in Ohio where miles from an important landmark became the name of a location. It is unclear if Four-Mile House was a residence or a business. The photo above of Four Mile House Cash Grocery (taken around 1920) suggests that it was the location of a business or a small town. This community was obviously important to the Reed and Rafferty families as Four-Mile House Cemetery is the resting place for many including Mary Elizabeth and her mother, Elizabeth. Additionally, Auxter and Bruner family members lived nearby "Four Mile House".



Elizabeth Overmyer Reed

Name: Elizabeth Overmyer
Born: November 28, 1813 in Somerset, Perry County, Ohio
Parents: Jacob Overmyer and Catherine Binckly
Siblings: Peter, Jeremiah, David, John, Benjamin, Mary, Martin
Married: George Michael Reed on December 18, 1834
Children: Catherine, John, Caroline, Mary Elizabeth, and May
Died: February 14, 1883 in Sandusky Ohio
Burial: Four Mile Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio
Occupation: assumed homemaker, farming

There is a lot of confusion surrounding Elizabeth's birth. While her birth year of 1813 appears to be unchallenged, her parentage is definitely cloudy. Family records, including a book written about the Overmyer family, name Jacob Overmyer and Catharine Binckly as her parents. Divorce and marriage documents show that it is likely that Jacob and Catharine were not married at the time of Elizabeth's conception.

Born November 28 of 1813 in Ohio, Elizabeth was the oldest of nine children. Her closest in age sibling, Peter, was born two years later in 1815 on August 4th. Parents Jacob and Catharine were married on April 5th of that same year. It is unclear if the years somehow were recorded wrong or if some couples lived together as married partners until they could be legally married.

In April of 1813, court documents show a petition for dissolution of Jacob's first marriage to Barbara. The petition asserts that Barbara left the marriage on April 13, 1812. During their marriage, the petition reads, "Barbara at the time of her marriage aforesaid, was through a natural defect or imperfection altogether incompetent to render him the expected society and comforts of the married state and condition." It appears she did not return to the home. No mention was made of Barbara expecting a child. Given she supposedly abandoned him the previous year, it is reasonable to conclude that Jacob started to cohabit with Catharine. Perhaps the impending birth of Elizabeth spurred Jacob to seek a dissolution of his marriage. Final dissolution documents have not yet been found nor has any further information been found on Barbara. Given the date of marriage between Jacob and Catharine, it may have taken quite a time to dissolve the marriage. It appears Catharine was about 5-6 months pregnant with Peter when they finally married.

The current confusion surrounding Elizabeth's parentage extends into her own family. On December 18 of 1834, she was united into marriage with George Reed who arrived in Sandusky Township in 1829. Various census documents point to five children, but other documentation suggests six. Some entries suggest their first born was a daughter named Sarah who was born in 1833. Furthermore, George's obituary in the Democratic Messenger (Fremont) states that he and his wife had five daughters and one son and that one daughter predeceased him. However, the five daughters listed in find a grave and the four daughters cited in ancestry all lived past his death date. This suggests that he and his wife likely lost a young daughter during a period between census years. Sarah never shows up on a census which seems odd when all other children are accounted for in the records. Perhaps she lived with a relative, but that would not explain why all of the supposed daughters were living at the time of George's death.

Despite this confusion, it appears the family shared a strong bond. While no obituary has yet been found for Elizabeth, George's obituary states, "Mr. Reed was the possessor of a robust constitution and shared with his spouse the hardships of pioneer life." His obituary further states he was "a faithful husband and father, good and respected neighbor, and church member."

Name: Mary Elizabeth
Born: June 23, 1779
Parents: Unknown
Siblings: Unknown
Husband: Johannes
Children: Solomon, Sarah, Christina, G. (website)
Died: January 4, 18
Buried: Four Mile
Occupation: Unkn

There is not much information about her death dates come from records are yet available.

The mother of George appears she was widowed away in 1827. As was spelled various ways in

It appears that Mary County, Pennsylvania sometime between 18 died so perhaps the first starting in 1840 should with George and his would shed light on t

Upon her death, she many descendants t

Mary E. Reed

Name: Mary Elizabeth per Find A Grave website.
Born: June 23, 1779 in Pennsylvania
Parents: Unknown
Siblings: Unknown
Husband: Johannes Ried
Children: Solomon, Susan, Michael Richard, Elizabeth, Sarah, Christina, George Michael (per Find A Grave website)
Died: January 4, 1848
Buried: Four Mile House Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio
Occupation: Unknown

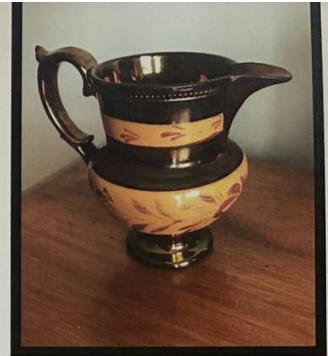
There is not much information about Mary Elizabeth. Her birth and death dates come from her tombstone found on find a grave. No other records are yet available or attributed to her.

The mother of George Michael (who married Elizabeth Overmyer), it appears she was widowed at the age of 47 when her husband passed away in 1827. As was the custom of the times, his name has been spelled various ways including Johannes Ried and John Reed.

It appears that Mary Elizabeth traveled from Rebeck, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania to Sandusky, Ohio to be with her son George sometime between 1827 and 1840. George was only 20 when Johannes died so perhaps the family already had family in Ohio. Census records starting in 1840 show a person of Mary Elizabeth's age and sex living with George and his family. Records have not yet been found that would shed light on whether any of other children also went to Ohio.

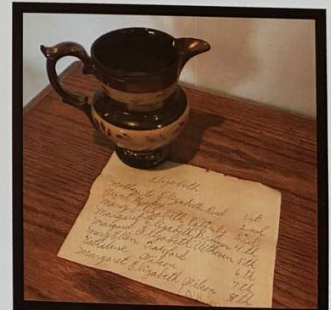
Upon her death, she was buried in Four Mile House Cemetery where many descendants would also go on to be buried.

family



The "Elizabeth Cup" was a gift from Mother to Elizabeth (Overmyer) Reed. It is assumed that Catharine Binckley Overmyer gave her the cup or it could have been her mother-in-law, Mary E. Reed. It is very possible her middle name was Elizabeth which Find A Grave website states.

The cup passed to "Aunt Becky" which could have been a nickname for Elizabeth. Given the number of Elizabeths in the family, it is unclear who she is. Eventually, Elizabeth's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Reed Rafferty, obtained the cup. It then went to daughter Margaret Elizabeth Rafferty Bruner, Margaret Elizabeth Bruner Koontz Uithoven, Mary Ellen Koontz Crawford Malmgren, Katheleen Mary Crawford Wilson, and is currently held by Margaret Elizabeth Wilson O'Brien. The date of the cup is unclear, but it likely originates between 1850-1880.



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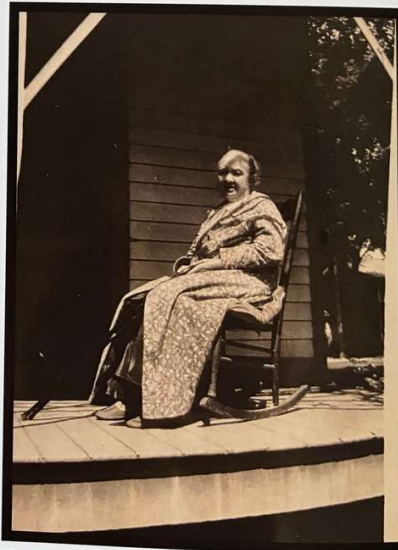
Elizabeth, George's obituary
er life." His obituary further

Susan Auxter Bruner Kuns

Nickname: Susan
Born: October 28, 1843 in Lindsey, Sandusky, Ohio
Parents: Christian Auxter and Maria Anna Siegenthaler
Siblings: William, Henry, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, David, Daniel, Caroline, John
Husband: Charles Bruner; Samuel Kuns
Children: Honoria, Harry, Charles, Carrie, Daniel
Died: August 28, 1928 in Fremont, Sandusky, Ohio
Buried: Harris-Elmore Cemetery, Elmore, Ohio
Occupation: homemaker, farmer



Susan Auxter Bruner Kuns is on the porch in back.
Granddaughter Maggie is front left.



Born the fifth of ten children of Lindsey, Ohio, Susan lived in Lindsey her entire life. At some point she owned 40 acres outside of the village of Paulding Township next to her son and daughter-in-law and Margaret Bruner. (Carry Paulding County which is in Van Wert County now.) Her 40 acres was eventually sold. Her 40 acres, perhaps after her death, states she lived in Sandusky, Ohio. It is unclear how often she visited her daughter-in-law. The picture is of her granddaughter who lives in Elmore, Ohio. It is unknown where this picture

When she was 30, her husband died, leaving her a widow with 5 children. Life must have been quite difficult for her years after being widowed. She remarried Samuel Kuns who had two children. It is unclear if this was a marriage of convenience or survival which sometimes occurs. Or it could have been a marriage of love. Interestingly, her second husband was John Overmyer which is found in the obituary although no biological relationship is mentioned. The author could be distantly related.

In her mother's obituary it is mentioned that "Susanna" was in her care. It is unclear how long she lived in her care. As was customary for the time, Susan's legal name was Susan Kuns. Her obituary is the only reference to her name.

When Susan passed, her obituary was being "one of the oldest and most respected" in the county whose death was a loss to the community. She appears she made a positive impact on her community.



Born the fifth of ten children on October 28, 1843 in Lindsey, Ohio, Susan lived in Sandusky County, Ohio her entire life. At some point later in life, she owned 40 acres outside of the village of Antwerp in Carryall Township next to her son and daughter-in-law, Harry and Margaret Bruner. (Carryall Township is located in Paulding County which is in West Ohio quite a distance away.) Her 40 acres was eventually combined with their 40 acres, perhaps after her death. Her obituary states she lived in Sandusky County her entire life. It is unclear how often she visited with her son and daughter-in-law. The picture to the left shows her with her granddaughter who lived in Carryall Township. It's unknown where this picture was taken.

When she was 30, her husband Charles passed away leaving her a widow with 5 children, the oldest being 12. Life must have been quite the challenge, and a few years after being widowed, she was remarried to Samuel Kuns who had two children of his own. It is unclear if this was a marriage of convenience and survival which sometimes occurred during those times. Or it could have been a match of friends and love. Interestingly, her second husband's mother was an Overmyer which is found elsewhere in the family tree although no biological relation to Susan. It appears the author could be distantly related to Samuel Kuns.

In her mother's obituary on the following pages, it is mentioned that "Susanna" provided diligent and loving care. It is unclear how long Susan cared for her mother. As was customary for the times, it is unknown if Susan's legal name was Susanna or Susan. The obituary is the only reference to the former.

When Susan passed, her obituary referenced her as being "one of the oldest and best known residents of the county whose death will be widely mourned". It appears she made a positive impression on her community.



FREMONT WOMAN DIES OF OLD AGE

Mrs. Susan Kuns, 84, widow of Samuel Kuns, died Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. S. E. Lantz, 903 Ewing street, of old age complications.

The funeral will be held at Grace Lutheran church Thursday afternoon at 1:30, conducted by the Rev. W. E. Tressel, D. D., with burial following in the cemetery at Elmore.

Susan Auxter was born in Lindsey on October 28, 1843, a daughter of Christian Auxter, early pioneers of Sandusky county. She was married the first time to Charles Bruner, who died while they resided at Elmore, and several years following she was married to Charles Kuns, who died 17 years ago.

Mrs. Kuns is survived by five children, Mrs. S. E. Lantz, Mrs. Ivan Fought, Mrs. W. Woonacott of Fremont; Harry Bruner of Antwerp; Daniel Bruner of Elmore; and two step-children, Samuel Kuns and Mrs. John Reed of Fremont. There are 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Kuns was the last of ten children.

Fremont Daily News
8/29/1928
pg. 1 col. 2

PIONEER WOMAN ANSWERED CALL

Mrs. Susan Kuns Was Born And Always Resided In County

Funeral services for Mrs. Susan Kuns, 84, will be held in Grace Lutheran church at 1:30 p. m., Thursday, with Dr. W. E. Tressel officiating. Burial will be in the Elmore cemetery.

Mrs. Kuns, a lifelong resident of Sandusky county, died in the home of her daughter, Mrs. S. E. Lantz, 903 Ewing street, at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday. For the last three years she had been bedfast, suffering from the complications of her advanced age.

Children who survive are: Mrs. Lantz, Mrs. Ivan Fought, Mrs. W. Woonacott, all of Fremont; Harry Bruner, of Antwerp, and Daniel Bruner of Delta, O. There are two step-children, Samuel Kuns, Jr., and Mrs. John Reed.

Susan Auxter was born near Lindsey on Oct. 18, 1843. She was (Turn To No. 7, Page Two)

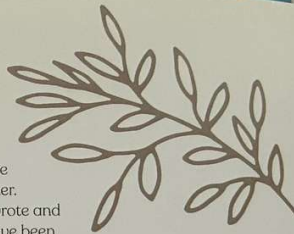
No. 7 Continued from Page One.

twice married, first to Charles Bruner. Five children were born to this union, one of whom, Chas. F. Bruner, died in 1919. Following Mr. Bruner's death, she married Samuel Kuns, who also preceded her in death. Mrs. Kuns lived for many years near the Four Mile House, but about 20 years ago came to Fremont, where she has since resided with her daughter.

She was a faithful member of Grace Lutheran church, having been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith when she was a young girl. Mrs. Kuns was one of the oldest and best known residents of the county, whose death will be widely mourned.



The Auxter Family



The first member of the Auxter family line to come to America was Christian Agster. He came from Ilsefeld, Germany at 18 years of age. (It was said he came to avoid serving in the German Army. Also land was hard to acquire in Germany. He then changed his name to Auxter. Christian's sister, Regine, came to America in 1832. She settled in California. At one time she wrote and asked the family in Ohio to send money back to Ilsefeld to help the family there. There may have been other children of the family, but the record shows only Christian and Regine.

We do not know how Christian traveled, but he stopped at the home of the Siegenthaler family in Pennsylvania to ask for food. Perhaps he stayed with them or nearby - as he later married Mary Siegenthaler. He taught school in Allentown, PA and then he and Mary came with the Siegenthaler family to Ohio.

Christian and Mary bought some of the first land available for sale in the Sandusky County area. (The record of the sale of land was signed by President John Quincy Adams and it was said that the price of the land was \$1.25 per acre.) They cleared this land and built their log house and barn.

Mary was a little woman, only weighing about 100 pounds. When there was produce to sell, she would walk Hessville road to the Pike to Fremont, 9-10 miles each way, carrying her shoes. When she reached the edge of town, she would put on her shoes and go on to sell her vegetables, removing the shoes again on the way home.

The original log house was torn down for the building of the New York Central Railroad. A frame home was subsequently built and is still standing. As of 1985, this homestead was still occupied by a member of the Auxter family. Christian and Mary's oldest son, William, lived in a brick farmhouse west of the homestead. The second son, Henry, homesteaded and lived in the Mud Creek area. Christian was said to have acquired eight 80 acre farms in his lifetime to pass on to his family.

The Auxters were known as serious-minded people. Most were of short stature. Blue eyes were predominant - from grey blue to deep blue. Eyes are almond shape with full upper eyelid to area under eyebrow. Most of Christian and Mary's children lived into their 80s.

~The above information was provided by Katherine Hathaway, the Hayes Museum in Fremont and the Main Library in Fremont~

Mary was also referred to as Maria as seen in her obituary. She and Christian had 10 children, 9 of whom were living at the time of her death. One daughter preceded her in death. To correct an above statement, it appears most of their children lived into their 70's, not 80's.

Nickname: Mary

Born: May 8, 1810 in Ruppertsweiler, Rheinhagen, Germany

Parents: Heinrich Siegenthaler and Catharina Siegenthaler (maiden name unknown)

Siblings:

Husband: Christian Auxter

Children: William, Henry, Elizabeth, Margaret, Susan, Sarah, David, Daniel, Caroline, John

Died: August 31, 1896

Buried: Lindsey Cemetery, Lindsey, Sandusky County, Ohio

Occupation: assumed homemaker, farmer

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About

Maria Anna Siegenthaler Auxter

On Monday, 31st of August in the evening, died Maria Auxter who was a daughter of Heinrich and Catharina Siegenthaler and who was born on May, 8, 1810 at Ruppertsweiler, Rheinhagen. She was baptized on May, 10 and her godparents were Peter Ehr Gott and Anna M. Siegenthaler. In the year 1824 she was confirmed and taken into the Lutheran church to which she was faithful until her death.

In the year 1830, she came to America along with her parents, siblings and other relatives. The family left the old country in April and stayed in Havre in France for the summer. In November they went on board the ship to New York and after a very stormy passage they arrived in New York between Christmas and New Year. After a short stay in Allentown, Pa., the family came to Hessville in this county in which the various members of the family completed their course of their lives.

On September, 15, 1833 she married Christian Auxter. She gave him ten children, five sons and five daughters. The husband died on November, 9, 1881 at Lindsen and a daughter, Mrs. Caroline Webster, who later became Mrs. Johannes Krelich, died on November, 30, 1884 near Oak Harbor.

Father and mother Auxter lived for about forty years in the old home between Elmore and Lindsey; but in the year 1875 they moved to Lindsey where they lived until father Auxter died in 1881. Because all of the children were grown up and had founded families of their own, mother Auxter was all alone and lived with her children taking turns. During the last years mother Auxter stayed mainly with her daughter Mrs. Susanna Kuns, where she received the most diligent and most lovingly care. She reached an age of 86 years, 3 months and 23 days and leaves behind 5 sons, 4 daughters, 63 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

The burial service took place Wednesday mid-morning at the Lutheran Selam's church at the four miles house, where pastor W. A. Bowman was preaching in English and pastor Althoff from Hessville in German. The burial was at the cemetery of Lindsey. Mother Auxter was an honest and righteous woman who enjoyed the respect of all who knew her. May she rest in peace!

Die am Montag, 31. August, Nachmittags verstorbene Maria Auxter, war eine Tochter von Heinrich und Catharina Siegenthaler und wurde am 8. Mai, 1810, in Ruppertsweiler, Rheinbateren, geboren. Sie wurde am 10. Mai getauft und ihre Taufpaten waren Peter Ehr Gott und Anna M. Siegenthaler. Im Jahre 1824 wurde sie confirmirt und in die luth. Kirche aufgenommen, und blieb derselben treu bis in den Tod. Im Jahre 1830 kam sie mit ihren Eltern, Geschwistern und anderen Verwandten nach Amerika. Die Familie verließ die Alte Heimath im April und brachte den Sommer bei Havre in Frankreich zu. Im November schifften sie sich nach New York ein und erreichten nach einer sehr stürmischen Fahrt zwischen Weihnachten und Neujahr New York. Nach kurzem Aufenthalt in Allentown, Pa., kam die Familie nach Hessville, diesem County, in welcher Gegend die verschiedenen Mitglieder der Familie ihren Lebenslauf vollendet haben. Am 15. Sept., 1833, trat sie mit Christian Auxter in den Ehestand. Sie gebar ihm zehn Kinder, fünf Söhne und fünf Töchter. Der Gatte ist am 9. November, 1881, zu Lindey und eine Tochter Caroline Webster, nachherige Frau Johannes Krelich, am 30. November, 1884, nahe Oak Harbor verstorben. Vater und Mutter Auxter trachten etwa vierzig Jahre in der alten Heimath zwischen Elmore und Lindsey zu leben, wo sie letzten bis Vater Auxter im Jahre 1881 starb. Da die Kinder alle erwachsen waren und Familien gebildet hatten, so hand die Mutter allein bei und wohnte abwach-

sels bei ihren Kindern. Während den letzten Jahren hielt sich Mutter Auxter meistens bei ihrer Tochter Frau Susanna Kuns, auf, welcher sie die sorgfältigste und liebevollste Pflege zu Theil wurde. Sie erreichte ein Alter von 86 Jahren, 3 Monaten und 23 Tagen und hinterläßt 5 Söhne, 4 Töchter, 63 Enkel, 38 Urenkel und andere Verwandte und Freunde. Der Leihengottesdienst fand am Mittwoch Vormittag in der luth. Selam's Kirche, am vier Meilen Haus, statt, bei welcher Gelegenheit Pastor W. A. Bowman in englischer und Pastor Althoff, von Hessville, in deutscher Sprache predigten. Die Beerdigung erfolgte auf dem Friedhofe zu Lindsey. Mutter Auxter war eine brave und rechtschaffenste Frau, welche sich der höchsten Achtung aller errenkte, die sie kannten. Sie ruhe in Frieden!

Fremont Courier 9/3/1896

Above is a copy of Maria's original obituary in German and the English translation.

Minnie Belle Brasted Koontz



Born 1868 Died 1949 at 81 yrs.



Love
Grandma

Minni Bell Bales-Koontz.
75 yrs when picture was taken

Nickname: Minnie
Born: July 25, 1855 in Whitley County, Indiana
Parents: Charles and Lora Brasted
Siblings: Benjamin, Effie May, Bertha B, Arthur, Harry,
Unknown daughter,
Married: William Koontz in 1888
Children: Wayne, Roy, Ethel, Ruth, Jessie, Ronald
Died: August 10, 1949 in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Buried: Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Minnie Bell Brasted was born in 1866 in Whitley County, Indiana. Census documents list her parents as Charles and Lora Brasted. The second of 7 children (3 brother, 3 sisters), she grew up on her family's farm in adjacent Kosciusko County in Washington Township. It is likely she met her future husband, William Koontz, in Whitley County where he grew up. Even today, this is a very rural area and must have been much more in 1855.

William moved to Fort Wayne to work in the railroad industry. Originally a brakeman, he became a conductor. During their marriage, they had six children. Tragically, William died at the age of 41 in a railroad accident when youngest child, Ronald, was only three years old. With six children between the ages of 3 and 18, it must have been a struggle to adapt to a life without her husband. It appears that Minnie was well off compared to some in similar situations; the 1910 census shows her as a widow who owns her home without a mortgage. The same census lists Minnie having no occupation and her second oldest son, Roy, working as a Caller for the railroads. Oldest son, Wayne, appeared to be living elsewhere, and he retired later in life as a conductor for the railroads.

Family notes written by Mary Ellen Malmgren show Minnie's birth name was Minnie Bell Bales. (Note: all government records show Minnie's maiden name as Brasted.) Furthermore, Mary Ellen wrote that Uncle Wayne Koontz shared that Ronald is not Minnie's biological son. The story is that William wanted another child, and Minnie did not. When he impregnated the farm maid, Minnie went off with the farm maid for the birth of the baby. Minnie returned with the baby,



Far Right: tombstone
Koontz Compton (next page)
Right: tombstone c



ndiana
 Arthur, Harry,
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When traveling around Fort Wayne, it is unclear where Minnie may have lived. The censuses from that time provide addresses; however, it is uncertain if the addresses remain the same. Additionally, there have been significant floods in Fort Wayne which may have caused changes in street numbering and or naming.

Minnie's parents, Charles and Lora, appear to have moved to Colorado at some point. Their daughter Berta appeared to also have moved there. Documents are fuzzy on the details.

Far Right: tombstone of Sarah Elizabeth Koontz Compton (more information on next page)

Right: tombstone of her mother, Amelia.



Sarah Elizabeth Hults Koontz

Nickname: Sarah or Elizabeth or Lizzie
Born: September 9, 1844 in Burlington County, New Jersey
Parents: Brewer Hultz and Amelia Pramer
Siblings: Mary, Theodore, Franklin, Isaac, half siblings Tabitha and John
Husband: Samuel Koons and Isaac Compton
Children: William and Frank
Died: September 14, 1900 in Richland Township, Whitley County, Indiana
Buried: Booneville Cemetery, Whitley County, Indiana
Occupation: homemaker, farming



Sarah Elizabeth Hults was born September 9, 1844 in New Jersey, the oldest child of what would be 7 children. It is unclear what brought her family to Indiana and when they came although it appears they arrived in Indiana sometime between 1850 and 1864. While in Indiana, the 1870 census listed her father, Brewer, as a farmer. But in the 1850 New Jersey census, he was listed as a laborer while in the Kansas censuses, he was listed a painter. He eventually died in Kansas where he had lived with his second wife. Sarah's mother, Amelia, died at age 44 or 45 in March of 1969 when Sarah was 24.

On July 28, 1864 at the age of 19, Sarah Elizabeth married Samuel Koons who was born 39 years before her. (Interestingly, Sarah's step-mother was over 30 years younger than Sarah's father.) Shortly after on September 1, 1864, she gave birth to her son, William. Given the timeline of events and the age gap, it is likely that this was not a "courtin

From the 1860 census records, it appears Samuel was still living with his adult siblings in the family home in Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana, and worked as a carpenter. It is unclear what brought him to Whitley County where he married Sarah.

The 1870 census shows them living in Whitley County and lists Sarah as "Elizabeth". It also lists five year old William as illegitimate. It is unclear why he was listed that way as Sarah Elizabeth and Samuel were married at the time of the birth. Maybe the census taker had a distinct impression of the situation or Samuel was unhappy. The 1880 census shows her as a widow and lists her as Sarah. No mention is made of William's illegitimacy.



Sarah died September 14, 1900 and is buried in Booneville Cemetery near her mother, Amelia. Online records have incorrectly stated her burial as Richland Center Cemetery. Most of the area's smaller cemeteries lack signs.

Note: these photos were found on ancestry in another member's file (Klage Family Tree) and attributed to Sarah.

The photo at the immediate left is believed to be Sarah with her 2nd husband Isaac.

Belva Irene Bronson was born April 9, 18 (Rokely) Bronson in Stevensville, Michigan. She married Frank Crawford Sr. They would have 12 children with Richard being number six. She was born in 1878. Her parents, husband and she are buried in Texas Township. In fact, no one is buried in the Crawford, and Harris family members



Belva Irene Bronson

It is believed the older woman is the mother to Richard

...through it appears they arrived
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Note: these photos were
found on ancestry in
another member's file
(Klage Family Tree) and
attributed to Sarah.

The photo at the
immediate left is believed
to be Sarah with her 2nd
husband Isaac.

Belva Irene Bronson was born April 9, 1893 to George and Ida
(Rokely) Bronson in Stevensville, Michigan. In 1911, she would
marry Frank Crawford Sr. They would have eight children
with Richard being number six. She would pass on June 20,
1978. Her parents, husband and she are all buried at Hope
Cemetery in Texas Township. In fact, many Bronson,
Crawford, and Harris family members are buried there.



Belva Irene Bronson Crawford

It is believed the older woman is a picture of Belva Irene,
the mother to Richard Crawford

Ida Bell Rokely Bronson

Born May 17, 1869 in Berrien County, Ida Bell spent the first part
of her life in this area. Based upon an oral history of her mother,
it appears that her early life was very difficult. The fourth of five
children to Joseph Rokely and Catherine Brightup, it is unclear
who raised her although a reference was made that the
younger children lived with whomever would take them. There
was also a mention of abuse including being treated as
servants.

Married to George Bronson July 25, 1890 at the age of 21, it
appears they lived in Berrien County. The 1910 census shows
them living in Kalamazoo County's Texas Township where they
both would ultimately be buried. It is believed they are the first
Bronsons and Rokelys buried there. When George passed
away, his death certificate shows him living in Schoolcraft
Township while Ida's death certificate shows her living in Brady
Township.

It is believed that Ida and George had four children. Only
daughter Belva is easily found in genealogy documents.

Catherine Sophie Breithaupt Rokely

From an unknown source on Ancestry:

Catherine Sophie Breithaupt was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in 1839. She married Joseph Rokely in about 1858. Life on their farm near Millburg, Michigan was not easy for Catherine. Joseph would see that the annual crops were planted and harvested, and then he would travel around the country leaving Catherine to take care of the farm and family.

When Joseph Jr. was fourteen years old and Alvin, the youngest, was two, Catherine died. A copy of the letter John Breithaupt wrote his brother, Charles, about Catherine's death is included.

Following Catherine's death, Joseph abandoned his family. The two older boys made their own way the best they could while the younger children lived with any family who would take them. Some were mistreated and used as servants in households. The five brothers and sisters became separated and had no contact with each other until they became adults and eventually located each other.

Most of the descendants of this family remained living in Michigan, as of the late 1960's.

Editor's note: it is hard to find information on Catherine and her husband, Joseph. Believed to have immigrated from Germany, it appears he remarried shortly after her death. Also, Catherine's last name has had multiple spellings including Brightup.



Susannah Swift Bronson

Death of Mrs. Susanah Bronson.

Mrs. Susanah Bronson died Friday night, Jan. 8, of paralysis and gripe after an illness of about two days, at her home in Lincoln township, aged 69 years. Mrs. Bronson, whose maiden name was Swift, was born in Ohio on July 4, 1834, and was married to Lyman Bronson Sept. 26, 1852. She was the mother of seven children, three of whom are living, as follows: Geo. A. Bronson of Lincoln, Mrs. Cecelia I. Bunker of Buchanan and Cory O. Bronson of Royalton. The funeral was held Monday, at 10 a. m. from the M. E. church at Stevensville, with burial in Stevensville cemetery.

Born July 4, of 1834 to James and Elnor (Deloymp) Swift in Ohio, she married Lyman Bronson on September 26, 1852. It is unclear when she moved to Michigan, but census records indicate a stop in Van Buren County before moving to Lincoln Township in Berrien County, Michigan. But once she moved to Lincoln, all government records suggest she lived here for the remainder of her life. The 1900 census shows her and her husband living with son Cory. Susannah's parents came from New York (father) and New Jersey (mother) while her husband's family came from Connecticut. It is believed she had seven siblings. There is little information on her family.

The name Bronson has been spelled Brunson, Brownson and Bronson. There are likely other spelling variations. Bronsons were proliferate in southwest Michigan at this time and figured prominently in Berrien, Branch and Kalamazoo counties. Her son, George, who married Ida Rokely, moved to Kalamazoo County at some point and was buried there. Likewise, Susannah's name has many variations including Susan, Susana, Susanah, and Susannah. Common spelling had not yet taken hold, and often, record keepers spelled the name as they saw fit. Additionally, descendants often did not know how to spell names. It is likely that Susannah's mother's name has a different spelling.

While Susanah's obituary mentions seven children, census and other government records have only identified five children. It is possible that her other two children died at very young ages.

Left: Gertrude at 86 years old, shortly



Gertrude Harris Liberty Hub



Gertrude and 3rd husband, B

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Left: Gertrude at 86 years old, shortly before her death



Gertrude Harris Crawford
Liberty Hubbard



Gertrude and 3rd husband, Bert Hubbard



Gertrude Harris, William James Crawford, Irene Crawford-Miley, Lanny, Paris

Born December 22, 1867 in St. Joseph, Michigan to Uriah and Helen (Knapp) Harris, she was one of twelve children. It appears she lived her entire life in Michigan, mostly in the Kalamazoo area including Texas Township, City of Kalamazoo and Schoolcraft Township. A newspaper clipping of her first marriage calls her "Gertie".

At the age of 16, she married William. It is unclear if they had their oldest son, William, prior to their marriage or shortly after. Census records show William as the oldest child although his birth date in other records have various dates ranging over a 5 year period. It is possible that the birth dates for William and second child Walter are wrong. There is a five year and 3 month gap from marriage until birth of 3rd child Nellie allowing for the birth of two sons.

While the marriage of Gertrude and William appeared rocky, they had 8 kids: 2 daughters, 6 sons. One daughter, Mabel, died relatively young at the age of 26. Below is a newspaper clipping about the abuse that William heaped upon his family. He literally whipped his

KALAMAZOO EVENING TELEGRAPH: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1906.

COULDN'T PUT HIM ON THE PAN

Poor Old Man Did Up the Whole Family.

USES WHIP ON DAUGHTER

Because He Didn't Like Her Friends—Unable to Pay a Fine.

William Crawford, a farmer living in Texas township, appeared before Justice W. W. Peck this morning, charged with assaulting his wife and fifteen-year-old daughter. Crawford pleaded "guilty" and was fined \$100, taxed at \$11.00, or given an alternative of spending 30 days in the county jail.

It is alleged that Crawford, in attempting to discipline his daughter, who has been "keeping company" with a young man, of whom her father did not approve, used a horse whip upon

the young girl, giving her a terrific beating. When the mother took the girl's part, Crawford also gave her a taste of the whip. When the two men, they took took sides with the weaker combatants, but the combined force was unable to "do up" the "poor old man."

Crawford stated that he is unable to pay the costs because of poor crops and hard luck. He will be given 10 days to produce the money.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Miss Charlotte DeW. Hertzog of the Kansas Delta, also recently, will welcome the members at her house for their regular meeting Saturday night. The pledge chapter will be entertained by Miss Ruth McCallister tonight.

The K. I. G. fraternity will meet Saturday night instead of Friday as previously stated.

Judge Severe on Improving Block.

The block at 123 south Burdick street owned by Judge H. F. Stevens, is being thoroughly overhauled and repaired and put in first class condition. All the rooms on the second and third floors are being partitioned off and made into office suites and hot and cold water and steam heat installed. The interior will also be decorated. It is the intention later on to finish off the fourth floor and put in an elevator.

Helen Lucy James.

Helen Lucy, the 2 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry James of Comstock, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon. Burial was private at the Comstock cemetery.

Kalamazoo Public Library
file:///C:/Users/josep/Downloads/K%20Telegraph%209-14-1906.pdf

family over daughter Nellie hanging out with a boy. Regardless if it was true or not, Gertrude and two of their sons attempted to defend Nellie as she was severely beaten. When Gertrude filed for divorce 8 years later in 1914, she cited non-support and cruelty as the reasons. Seven months later, the divorce was granted. When filling out an Indiana application for her next marriage, she stated her first husband had died in 1906, the same year as the whipping incident. Her signature on the marriage application is a mark in the form of X.

Shortly after her divorce was granted, she married Lewis Liberty who died twenty eight years later leaving her a widow. At the age of 75, she married (Albert) Bert Hubbard, and they spent 8 years together before his death. Gertrude died at the age of 86 on October 3, 1954.

Helen Knapp Harris

Born September 14, 1842 in New York to Lyons and Samatha (Graham) Knapp. At some point, she moved to Michigan and married Uriah Harris January 4, 1865 at the age of 22. By 1870, they were living in Texas Township, Michigan where she remained for the rest of her life.

Ancestry results have only identified 6 children, but Helen's death certificate indicates she had twelve children, with 4 still living at the time of her death July 14, 1903 at the age of 60. Her husband lived almost 9 more years dying May 18, 1912.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANDING
VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH

County: Washtenaw City: Ann Arbor
 Township: Texas City: Ann Arbor
 Name: Helen Harris Sex: Female Race: White
 Date of Birth: Sept 14 1842 Age: 60
 Date of Death: July 14 1903 Time of Death: 11:30 AM
 Cause of Death: Senescence
 Name of Physician: Dr. J. W. Graham Name of Coroner: John H. Harris
 Name of Burial Place: Hope Cemetery Name of Minister: Wm. H. Harris
 Name of Undertaker: Wm. H. Harris Name of Burial Place: Hope Cemetery
 Name of Burial Place: Hope Cemetery Name of Minister: Wm. H. Harris
 Name of Undertaker: Wm. H. Harris Name of Burial Place: Hope Cemetery

Several of the family lines have resided in Bronson. Ironically, this book has been...

The Harris Family was amongst the earliest arriving early in the county's formation. Their stories share we descend from a brother all over southwest Michigan. Both of them...

Later to arrive was the Crawford line. It appears he came over with the...

Genealogy of Will

1. David Crawford
 - Born in...
 - was born...
 - Telegraph...
 - Riversid...
 - County...

Marriage: ...
Cemetery, K...
history found

Known Chi...

- 1-1. Richa...
- 1-2. Elean...
- 1-3. Willia...
- 1-4. Fanni...
- 1-5. Mary...
- 1-6. Elizab...
- 1-7. Susa...

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Needless to say, more research needed. There are many family members found here who have all purchased lots there so...

Elbina Howard Harris

"Elbine" (aka Albina, Elbina, and others) Howard was born around 1817 somewhere in Ohio per the death certificate of her son, Uriah. She was married to William Harris. Although Elbina is not mentioned, William is recorded as having the first family in Kalamazoo that he brought with him, and is among the early settlers of Kalamazoo County as recorded "History of Kalamazoo County, Michigan: with illustrations and biographical sketches of its prominent men and pioneers". Philadelphia: Everts & Abbott, 1880. William Harris credited as a founder of Texas Twp. William Harris is buried in Brattleboro, Vermont and is not the William Harris Sr buried in Block 49.

It appears that nine children were born to this union. Her husband William apparently died at an insane asylum in Brattleboro, Vermont. While it is unclear why he was there and when he went there, he was born in Vermont per his son's, Uriah, death certificate. Three years earlier, he had been living with his family in Texas Township per the 1860 census.

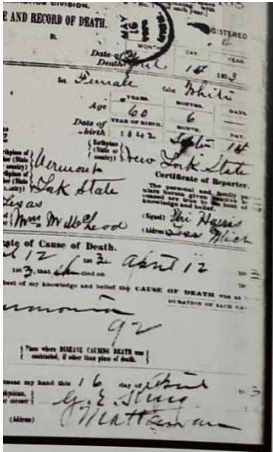
On April 19, 1896, Elbina passed away in Portage Township. She was buried in Hope Cemetery on 8th Street in Texas Township. There are a number of Harris descendants buried there (Harris, Bronson, Crawford, Wilson, Barette amongst many others). Elbina appears to be the family's first member to be buried there. Approximately 8 generations have their final resting place here.

Hope Cemetery, Texas Township, Kalamazoo County Michigan

Section	Row	Column	Name	Birth	Death
01	01	01	Harris, William Sr	1817	1896
01	02	01	Harris, Edward	1818	1897
01	03	01	Harris, Elbina	1817	1896
01	04	01	Harris, Robert	1819	1898
01	05	01	Harris, Mary	1820	1899
01	06	01	Harris, Lillah	1821	1900
01	07	01	Harris, Helen	1822	1901
01	08	01	Harris, Charles	1823	1902
01	09	01	Harris, George	1824	1903
01	10	01	Harris, Joseph	1825	1904
01	11	01	Harris, Malinda	1826	1905
01	12	01	Harris, Fred	1827	1906
01	13	01	Harris, Mary Ann	1828	1907

Section 0	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
01 Harris, William Sr	02 Harris, George	03 Harris, Elbina	04 Harris, Robert	05 Harris, Mary
06 Harris, Lillah	07 Harris, Helen	08 Harris, Charles	09 Harris, George	10 Harris, Joseph
11 Harris, Malinda	12 Harris, Fred	13 Harris, Mary Ann	14 Harris, William Jr	15 Harris, Edward
16 Harris, Elbina	17 Harris, Robert	18 Harris, Mary	19 Harris, Lillah	20 Harris, Helen
21 Harris, Charles	22 Harris, George	23 Harris, Joseph	24 Harris, Malinda	25 Harris, Fred
26 Harris, Mary Ann	27 Harris, William Jr	28 Harris, Edward	29 Harris, Elbina	30 Harris, Robert
31 Harris, Mary	32 Harris, Lillah	33 Harris, Helen	34 Harris, Charles	35 Harris, George
36 Harris, Joseph	37 Harris, Malinda	38 Harris, Fred	39 Harris, Mary Ann	40 Harris, William Jr
41 Harris, Edward	42 Harris, Elbina	43 Harris, Robert	44 Harris, Mary	45 Harris, Lillah
46 Harris, Helen	47 Harris, Charles	48 Harris, George	49 Harris, Joseph	50 Harris, Malinda
51 Harris, Fred	52 Harris, Mary Ann	53 Harris, William Jr	54 Harris, Edward	55 Harris, Elbina
56 Harris, Robert	57 Harris, Mary	58 Harris, Lillah	59 Harris, Helen	60 Harris, Charles
61 Harris, George	62 Harris, Joseph	63 Harris, Malinda	64 Harris, Fred	65 Harris, Mary Ann
66 Harris, William Jr	67 Harris, Edward	68 Harris, Elbina	69 Harris, Robert	70 Harris, Mary
71 Harris, Lillah	72 Harris, Helen	73 Harris, Charles	74 Harris, George	75 Harris, Joseph
76 Harris, Malinda	77 Harris, Fred	78 Harris, Mary Ann	79 Harris, William Jr	80 Harris, Edward
81 Harris, Elbina	82 Harris, Robert	83 Harris, Mary	84 Harris, Lillah	85 Harris, Helen
86 Harris, Charles	87 Harris, George	88 Harris, Joseph	89 Harris, Malinda	90 Harris, Fred
91 Harris, Mary Ann	92 Harris, William Jr	93 Harris, Edward	94 Harris, Elbina	95 Harris, Robert
96 Harris, Mary	97 Harris, Lillah	98 Harris, Helen	99 Harris, Charles	100 Harris, George
101 Harris, Joseph	102 Harris, Malinda	103 Harris, Fred	104 Harris, Mary Ann	105 Harris, William Jr
106 Harris, Edward	107 Harris, Elbina	108 Harris, Robert	109 Harris, Mary	110 Harris, Lillah
111 Harris, Helen	112 Harris, Charles	113 Harris, George	114 Harris, Joseph	115 Harris, Malinda
116 Harris, Fred	117 Harris, Mary Ann	118 Harris, William Jr	119 Harris, Edward	120 Harris, Elbina
121 Harris, Robert	122 Harris, Mary	123 Harris, Lillah	124 Harris, Helen	125 Harris, Charles
126 Harris, George	127 Harris, Joseph	128 Harris, Malinda	129 Harris, Fred	130 Harris, Mary Ann
131 Harris, William Jr	132 Harris, Edward	133 Harris, Elbina	134 Harris, Robert	135 Harris, Mary
136 Harris, Lillah	137 Harris, Helen	138 Harris, Charles	139 Harris, George	140 Harris, Joseph
141 Harris, Malinda	142 Harris, Fred	143 Harris, Mary Ann	144 Harris, William Jr	145 Harris, Edward
146 Harris, Elbina	147 Harris, Robert	148 Harris, Mary	149 Harris, Lillah	150 Harris, Helen
151 Harris, Charles	152 Harris, George	153 Harris, Joseph	154 Harris, Malinda	155 Harris, Fred
156 Harris, Mary Ann	157 Harris, William Jr	158 Harris, Edward	159 Harris, Elbina	160 Harris, Robert
161 Harris, Mary	162 Harris, Lillah	163 Harris, Helen	164 Harris, Charles	165 Harris, George
166 Harris, Joseph	167 Harris, Malinda	168 Harris, Fred	169 Harris, Mary Ann	170 Harris, William Jr
171 Harris, Edward	172 Harris, Elbina	173 Harris, Robert	174 Harris, Mary	175 Harris, Lillah
176 Harris, Helen	177 Harris, Charles	178 Harris, George	179 Harris, Joseph	180 Harris, Malinda
181 Harris, Fred	182 Harris, Mary Ann	183 Harris, William Jr	184 Harris, Edward	185 Harris, Elbina
186 Harris, Robert	187 Harris, Mary	188 Harris, Lillah	189 Harris, Helen	190 Harris, Charles
191 Harris, George	192 Harris, Joseph	193 Harris, Malinda	194 Harris, Fred	195 Harris, Mary Ann
196 Harris, William Jr	197 Harris, Edward	198 Harris, Elbina	199 Harris, Robert	200 Harris, Mary

http://www.texas-township.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/HopeCemetery_36x48_L_12192017.pdf
 Texas Township Cemetery Burial Information:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Jhagwv6v6L1KXm0m1B8L5m5H9_0iD9eeCa09XU8/e/ditpid:1247891346



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Several of the family lines have resided in Kalamazoo County, Michigan for many generations including Harris, Crawford, and Bronson. Ironically, this book has been more focused on those family lines that started elsewhere.

The Harris Family was amongst the earliest settlers of Kalamazoo County and helped found Schoolcraft and Texas Townships. Also arriving early in the county's formation, the Bronson Family has a large name but very fuzzy details. While news articles and family stories share we descend from a brother of Titus Bronson, finding the actual "facts" have been elusive. The Bronsons seemed to live all over southwest Michigan. Both of these families arrive in the mid to late 1820's.

Later to arrive was the Crawford line. Supposedly, David Crawford, an Irishman, immigrated here while serving the the English Army. It appears he came over with his wife and children. Below is a brief excerpt of what a family cousin researched:

Genealogy of William James Crawford

1. David Crawford b. 1777 Scotland, died January 1863 Kalamazoo County Michigan.

- **Born in Scotland.** Resided in Ballymahon, Longford County, Ireland. Dau. Mary Crawford-Wallace's obituary states she was born in Longford 1822. David was born in Scotland and "Mary Turner" in England (cit. *Kalamazoo Evening Telegraph*, March 14, 1908). Her headstone inscription reads "Born Feb. 4, 1827 Ballymahon Longford Ireland", Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dau. Elizabeth Crawford-Gildea's obituary states she was born in Longford County 1932, one of 18 children. (cit. *Kalamazoo Telegraph*, May 4, 1901).

Marriage: Mary Francis Turner, b 1776 England, died August 1863, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, buried in Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Children's death certificates and obituaries record Mary Turner as born in England. No other history found on Mary. Buried alongside David, Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo. Gravestone inscription died Aug. 15, 1863.

Known Children of David Crawford and Mary Francis Crawford:

- 1-1. **Richard Crawford** b. 1808-1820? Ireland. Died 1886, possibly Texas, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 1-2. **Eleanor Crawford** b. 1819, Longford County, Ireland. Died 1887, Quebec, Canada.
- 1-3. **William Crawford** b. abt. 1826, Longford County, Ireland. Died 1912, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 1-4. **Fannie Crawford** b. abt. 1832, Longford County, Ireland. Died February 1916, Cooper, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 1-5. **Mary Ann Crawford** b. 1827, Ballymahon, Longford, Ireland. Died 1908, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 1-6. **Elizabeth Crawford** b. abt. 1884, Longford County, Ireland. Died 1901, Texas, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 1-7. **Susannah Crawford** b. abt. 1837, Longford, Ireland. Died 1918, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

History of David Crawford and Mary Francis Turner

- **Recorded by great-granddaughter Frederica Britton as passed down by her grandmother, Fannie Crawford:** Served in the English Army in Ireland, Longford County. Episcopalian and member of the Orangemen. Family land at The Callows, six miles from Ballymahon, Longford County, Ireland. Nine surviving children out of 18. Married to **Mary Francis Turner**, born in England. Born around 1777.
- **March 13, 1850 arrived at port of New York, NY on the Aberdeen,** leaving Liverpool, England. Passenger list: David 60 laborer, Mary 60, William 25, Elizabeth 16, Susanna 11, last residence Longford.
- **1850 US Census Elmira, Chemung County, New York,** family no. 262 enumerated, David 60, Mary Ann 60, William 24, and Susannah 12 attended school. Dau. Elizabeth not listed (marries George Gildea in Elmira, 1853).
- **April 8, 1853 Kalamazoo Gazette:** Mail at post (Cit. KPL, Host Item Entry: KG 04/08/1853_003:1 NEWS). No other David Crawford found on 1850 or 1860 US Census.
- **1860 US Census Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan:** David 82 laborer, Mary 82, William 25 Engineer Steam Ship, Anne 26 (assumed William's wife Anne Muldurry), and widow Emiline Briggs and her children (Dr. Joseph Briggs was killed in 1854, practicing physician in Schoolcraft). None marked as "Cannot Read".
- **January 1863,** David is buried in Riverside Cemetery. Family Plot: Mary, dau. Fannie, grandchildren Susa and William James Ryder.
- **August 1863,** Mary is buried in Riverside Cemetery alongside David.

Needless to say, more research needs to be done to include our "local" family lines. More information will be added as time allows. There are many family members from these lines buried in Hope Cemetery in Texas Township, Michigan. I and two of my brothers have all purchased lots there so we can be close to our family. It is believed we will be the 7th generation buried there.

Author Disclaimer

This photo book likely has inaccuracies, and new information will emerge over time that will hopefully correct this record. Most information is sourced at least a couple times. Assumptions from the author or other people are cited as such. A lot of oral history has been captured in this book.

A less traditional book of family history than most, this book is meant to focus on the women of the family and understanding their perspective. Most women do not have the same paper trail as men do, and many questions are left unanswered. There was not an attempt to make this a history style book. Rather, it is meant to stitch together the family stories, newspaper articles where they exist, and miscellaneous facts that were found. The full stories of these women will likely never be known.

Inspired by my mom's love of genealogy and the women in my family, this book captures a lot of information and pictures that may not be found in most family histories. Unsure who in the next generation may pick up this "hobby", this book is less history and more photo album in the hopes the stories will live on. It is my hope that various updates will be printed as I learn more information, and as a great coupon becomes available. It is obvious that more research needs to be done on various women, but if I wait to print, I worry that nothing will ever be printed.

You are reading the version printed in August of 2024. My sincere apologies for typos, misspellings, errors, and exclusion of any information my family wishes had been involved. I wanted to get a fresh copy into my Aunt Shirley Crawford's hands who is my mom's lone surviving sibling. By the time this is read, I will have updated a new book and added even more pictures!

Please remember that oral history can be inaccurate, but I chose to capture those stories instead of excluding them. For those who remember Grandma Mary's stories, you can likely recall some of the "facts" that turned out not to be true. I hope you enjoy.

~Margaret Elizabeth Wilson O'Brien
(also known as Peg/Peggy, but I prefer Margaret unless you are close family)

Sources that have been helpful to this book:

Ancestry.com and the related historical documents found there
Newspapers.com

A Genealogical History of the Hunsicker Family, Henry A. Hunsiker, H.M Hunsicker

Overmyer History and Genealogy From 1680 to 1905, Barnhart B. Overmyer

One Immigrant's Legacy, The Overmyer Family In America 1751-2009, Laurence Overmire

Various documents found by the author, and documents handed down to author from past generations



FAMILY