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Turn-of-the-century German Immigrant Home

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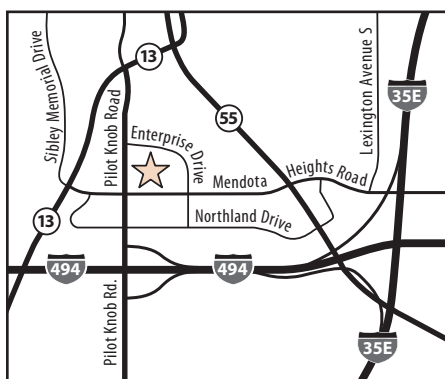
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Minnesota Genealogist

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Table of Contents

4 From the Editors

5 Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

by Nancy Grey Etwiler

13 The Socialist Who Tried to Live Like a Saint

Jerome B. Savage, 1871-1965

by Zoe von Ende Lappin

19 The True Halvor Olsen

by Jean Cammon Findlay

23 The Dog Tag that Returned Home

by Jim Rosati

25 Writing Our Family Stories

by Jean Atkinson Andrews, CG

30 Minnesota Genealogist Challenge

by The Editors

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WINNER OF THE NORTH STAR COVER PHOTO CONTEST

Submitted by Mark Ladwig

Turn-of-the-century German immigrant home on the Crow River, near Rockford

August Giese (center), daughter Anna, and son Wilhelm, along with the rest of their family, left an eastern region of Germany in 1901 to make a new home along the Crow River north of Rockford, Minnesota, where they cleared land and farmed dairy. Their log house had been built some years earlier by another German settler. August's family ended a wave of ten family group immigrations to Minnesota that began in the 1860s. August is the great-grandfather of MGS member Mark Ladwig, of Savage, Minnesota, who received the photo from the late Norma Esterly Olson.

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From the Editors...

Family history is so much more than BMDs. Records of births, marriages, and death establish only the boundaries of a life in time and space. They tell little of a life. Just like us, our ancestors lived full lives – replete with challenges and opportunities, failure and successes. But they lived in different times – times that shaped their lives and times they helped to shape.

Jerome Savage lived a long and colorful life, with the colors perhaps intensified a bit by family lore. He said he wanted to live to be 100 because he needed all those years “to work and pray to save my soul.” The labor turmoil that shook Butte, Montana, colored his life and the stories about it. Zoe Lappin’s article illustrates the need to research both the person and the times to bring an ancestor to life.

One of the joys of family history research is helping families restore memories. Jim Rosati tells the story of how a World War II American soldier’s dog tag was found in an English garden more than 15 years after the war and returned to the soldier’s family in America nearly 60 years later. His article is a nice example of how genealogical research can help a family connect with its past.

Authored works, such as a published family history written in the home country language – in this case Norwegian – can accelerate research. But, if the first author took a wrong turn, the next researcher can be led far astray. Published farm histories (*bygdeboks*) and information-rich parish registers and censuses (accessible free at the Norwegian Digital Archives) grease the skids for Norwegian research. Farm names and patronymic

names can both help and confuse research. Jean Findlay’s article demonstrates how attention to detail in original records helped her correct an error in a published Norwegian resource.

Sometimes the most familiar ancestor can be a total enigma. Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey was born in Scotland in 1862, married in Chicago in 1886, and died there in 1911. Yet, no likely candidate for him had been found in Scottish or English records. Nancy Etwiler’s meticulous analysis of family photographs and good old-fashioned sleuthing in historical records narrowed in on a likely solution to Charles’ identity.

Since this issue honors the winners of the 2019 MGS Writing Contest, it is a good time for some tips on writing. Jean Andrews, CG, an experienced writer herself, offers tips on how to plan a family history writing project and keep it on track. After reading her article, you might be ready to tackle a project and enter the 2020 MGS Writing Contest.

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Minnesota Genealogist

Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

Nancy Grey Etwiler

Much seems to be known about Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey. He was born 11 November 1862 in Scotland and he immigrated to the United States about 1883.¹ In 1886 he married Catherine Craigie in Chicago, Illinois.² Charles and Catherine had two children: Douglas James Grey and Mary Frances (Grey) Grassby, who was known as Frances.³ Douglas and Frances each presented Charles with a granddaughter who survived to adulthood: Jean Grey and Marion Frances (Grassby) Etwiler.⁴ Charles lived in Chicago from the time of his immigration until he died there 26 February 1911.⁵

However, a search of emigration and immigration records, including ship manifests, and Scottish and English birth and census records, did not identify a likely candidate for Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey or even a Charles Grey of his approximate age having been born in or a resident of either of those countries prior to his self-reported arrival in the United States.

In an effort to identify Charles Grey's parents and his pre-immigration life, a collection of letters in the possession of his daughter until her death were examined. Of particular interest were several letters:

- **Letter 1:** A June 1926 letter from Barnard Lucas to “my dear niece,” Frances Grey Grassby, refers to the death of his sister and Frances’ grandmother, Fanny Thomson, at the Scottish Home in Chicago.
- **Letter 2:** A post-January 1927 letter from “Uncle Barnard” Lucas to “my great-niece” or “niece,” recognizes

his sister Fanny as the Frances Grassby’s “grannie”, and names the eleven children of Charles Lucas and Fanny Short, and denotes whether they are living, including Adeline, Stanley, Radnor, Franny, Zoe, Kellow, Edith, Ida, Barnard, Jessie, and another sibling whose name is not clearly written.

- **Letter 3:** Correspondence postmarked January 1929 from Uncle Barnard Lucas to “My dear Great or Grand Niece” references his sole surviving sibling, Zoe, and asks for news about Frances’ family and “the Douglas family”. He added that he had run into an old cricket friend of “Charles Gray.”
- **Letter 4:** Letter from an Ida Marr to Cousin Frances, signed by Cousin Ida or Ida Marr, refers to Aunt Zoe, Aunt Fanny, Aunt Edith, cousins Trissie and Eva Lucas and their brothers, Alec and Charlie, and Gracie Milford.
- **Letter 5:** A 15 June 1924 letter to “my dear Fanny” from “your affectionate sister Zoe Tergellas” references Ida, “your Uncle Barnard, Mary, Francis Whethrace and Polly.”⁶
- A small obituary notice torn from an unidentified newspaper reads “THOMSON – Mrs. Fanny Thomson, age 88 years at Scottish Old People’s Home, Riverside, May 28, 1926. Funeral Tuesday a.m. in Rosehill Cemetery.”⁷

1 “U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992,” Charles Grey, in Court District of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa; digital image, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm, roll G-600 through G-616.

2 Cook County, Illinois, marriage license no. 100525, 27 February 1886 Grey–Craigie; FHL microfilm 4226446.

3 Cook County, Illinois, birth register book 15, December 1886–May 1887, no. 3018, 4 January 1887, Douglas J. Grey; FHL microfilm 1287731. Cook County, Illinois, delayed birth certificate 200500, registered 6 May 1954, Mary F. Grey, born 4 August 1890; FHL microfilm 100856446. 1900 U.S. census, Cook County, Illinois, pop. sched., Hyde Park Township, ward 32, Enumeration District 1004, sheet, 13 A, dwelling unclear, family 258, Charles Grey; *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 285.

4 1930 U.S. census, St. Joseph County, Michigan, pop. sched., White Pigeon Township, Enumeration District 75-30, sheet 2 A, dwelling 32, family 33, Douglas

G. Grey family; *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm T626, roll 1026. Cook County, Illinois, birth certificate 29210 (1922), Jean Grey, Cook County Clerk, Chicago, Illinois. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Chicago, baptismal certificate, Marion Frances Grassby, born 21 December 1928, baptized 29 June 1930; privately held by author.

5 1900 U.S. census, Cook County, Illinois, pop. sch., Hyde Park Twp, ward 32, ED 1004, sheet, 13 B, dwell. unclear, fam. 258, Charles Grey; *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 285. Kankakee County, Illinois, death certificate, Charles Grey, 26 February 1911; Kankakee County Clerks Office.

6 Grey/Craigie letter collection; privately held by author.

7 Unidentified obituary of Mrs. Fanny Thomson; privately held by author. Obituary matches the *Chicago Tribune* obituary, 26 May 1926, p.18.

Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

There are many names in these letters, but none of them, other than the addressee Frances Grassby, were familiar to living family members. Copies of photographs in the possession of Charles Grey's granddaughter Jean or the author offered some of the same names.

- **Photographs 1, 2, and 3:** Three photographs show an older woman celebrating her birthday. In two she holds Jean Grey, then about age one. The woman was identified as "Fanny Thomson, your great-grandmother."
- **Photograph 4:** A photograph identifies its subject as "Zoe Lucas – my father's aunt."
- **Photograph 5:** A photograph identifies its subjects as Francie, Rona, Zoe, Francie's son Stephen, and in a different color of ink, Great Grandma Thomson.
- **Photograph 6:** A photograph whose subjects are identified as Mrs. Zoe Tergellas, Mr. Radnor Lucas, Mrs. Radnor Lucas, and daughter Mary.⁸

To assess whether these letters and photographs offered any help to identify the parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey in Chicago in the early 1900s, the following approach was pursued. An analysis was made of the photographs identifying "Jean Grey and great-grandmother" Fanny Thomson to assess their content and test their internal consistency between photos and any known information. An attempt was then made to eliminate the possibility that "Fanny Thomson" was a collateral great-grandmother in a family line unrelated to Charles Grey. The contents of the letters and photos were then analyzed to determine the relationship between Fanny Thomson, Barnard Lucas, Zoe Tregellas and Ida Marr and others, including Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey. This analysis is detailed below.

1. Photographs' Analysis and Trustworthiness

Photograph 1 in the possession of Charles Grey's granddaughter Jean Grey depicts an elderly woman wearing a

nice top, pearls and a corsage, and holding a baby who appears to be about one year old. The front of the picture is annotated: "1922 great grandmother Thompson 86" The back of the picture bears annotations in what appear to be the handwriting of two different people: "Great-grandmother Thompson 86 years old, Jean Grey 1 yrs old" and "Baby Jean Grey and her Great-grandmother Mrs. Thomson in her 86th year, Jean 1 year old 1922."



Photograph 1: Jean Grey and Fanny Thomson, probably taken 1923

The baby, Jean Grey, was still living in 2019 at age 97, and confirmed that she believes she is the infant in the photo. Other pictures of Jean at that age match her appearance. Jean recalls, from when she was only a little older, visiting several, older, female relatives on many occasions at the *Scottish Old People's Home* in Chicago, whom the family collectively called "the aunties". The reference to "aunties" might have arisen from the fact that at least one great aunt on Jean's father's mother's line ("Craigie"), born in Scotland, lived there. **Photograph 1** was taken in the United States as Jean Grey did not leave the country while she was a young child.⁹

⁸ Photographs 1 and 3 are held in the private collection of Jean Grey, Saginaw, Michigan; the other photographs are held in the private collection of the author, Stillwater Minnesota.

⁹ Jean Grey, Saginaw, Michigan, interviews by author, February 2019, transcript privately held by author, Stillwater, Minnesota.

Jean Grey is not sure whose printed handwriting is on the front of the photo, though she thinks it could be that of her mother, Alice Wilmot Gilbert-Grey, who knew the elderly relatives at the *Scottish Home*. Jean has positively identified the second annotation in cursive on the top back of the picture as in her mother's handwriting. Jean Grey could not identify independently the handwriting, apparently from a fountain pen, of the second annotation that refers to "Great-grandmother Thomson...in her 86th year."

Photograph 2 appears to be of the same woman and taken on the same day as **Photograph 1** as she is wearing the same dress, hairstyle, and corsage. It is annotated in what could be



Photograph 2: Fanny Thomson

the same handwriting and fountain pen as the first photograph: "Taken on my 85th birthday, September 4, 1923, Fanny Thomson (or "Thomsen"— as the writing is cramped).¹⁰ Jean Grey does not recognize the handwriting, though it closely resembles the signature of Fanny Thomson on a 1923 Easter card sent to her granddaughter and her signature on the back of another photograph.

Photograph 3 depicts the same woman, dress, pearls, corsage, and child, with an adult man and adult woman on a step or bench outside of an ivy-covered brick building with an open window and lace curtains. The backdrop of the ivy-covered walls and window structure is consistent with those in the contemporaneous letterhead photograph of the *Scottish Old People's Home in Chicago* in the 1920s and 2019 photographs of the still-operating *Scottish Home*, where Fanny Thomson's obituary states she lived at the time of her death in 1926.¹¹ **Photograph 3** is not annotated, but Jean Grey confirms that she is the baby and that the middle-aged adults are her parents, Douglas James Grey and Alice Wilmot-Gilbert Grey.



Photograph 3: Jean Grey, her parents Douglas James Grey and Alice Wilmot-Gilbert Grey, and Fanny Thomson, probably taken 1923

¹⁰ Jean Grey, interview, February 2019.

¹¹ Scottish Old People's Home letterhead, family papers collection of author, Stillwater, Minnesota.

Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

Examined collectively, the most reliable information and conclusions are that all three photos were taken on the same day, based on the identical hairstyle, clothing, corsage, and pearls worn by the older woman and the same clothes worn by the child. Both appear to be the same age in all the photographs.

The photographs were probably taken on a 4 September 1923. The reference in two places to 1922 as the year the photograph was taken is unreliable. Jean's Grey's date of birth of 1 June 1922 is confirmed not only by her, but also by her birth certificate.¹² As the child appearing in the photograph is not a three-month old newborn, but rather at least one year old, the more reliable date of the photograph is 1923.

The likely date error could be the result of one's labeling the photo many years later. In the alternative, the woman in **Photograph 1** is observed in the third person to be "*in her 86th year*" – which one starts upon one's 85th birthday. Similarly, the year "1922" next to Jean Grey's name might be a reference to Jean's year of birth. Consequently, while the dates across photographs may not be reconcilable on their face, it is most likely that the great-grandmother in the photographs was 85 on 4 September 1923, and thus born on 4 September 1838. Her obituary cites her as age 88 in May of 1926 when she died, placing her birth year as 1837 (as she had not yet attained her birthday that year in September), though the obituary writer might not have known or closely noted her birth month in calculating her age. Considering all this, the woman Fanny Thomson is most likely the great-grandmother of Jean Grey.

Of note is the variation in spelling on the back of the photographs of "Thomson" and "Thompson." Alice Grey in her annotation on the back of **Photograph 1** and some unconfirmed person on the its front, spelled the name "Thompson", while the person annotating the photograph in the first person, presumably Fanny Thomson, spelled "Thomson" (or possibly

"Thomsen"). Another annotator may not be as close a relative or friend or may not have known the woman long enough to know the correct spelling. Or the older woman's family might have used alternating spellings of "Thomson". The spelling of "Thomson" provided by Fanny describing herself is much more reliable and seems confirmed by the spelling of her name in her obituary three years later and in the letters from Barnard.

From this analysis of these photographs, a search ensued for information about "Fanny Thomson", "Fanny Thomsen", and "Fanny Thompson", born on 4 September, in either 1837 or 1838, whose great-grandchild is Jean Grey, born 1 June 1922.

2. Could Fanny Thomson be a great-grandmother of Jean Grey's other than through her father's "Grey" line?

The non-Grey great-grandmother and the step-great-grandmother of Jean Grey's father's mother's line ("Craigie") are well-documented. In addition, the great-grandmother on her mother's father's line (Wilmot-Gilbert) is well-documented. None of these three women was living at the purported time the three photographs of Fanny Thomson were taken in either 1922 or 1923. The paternal grandmother of Jean Grey's mother is Henrietta Gilbert (nee Cowmeadow), who died on 30 December 1917.¹³ The maternal grandmother of Jean Grey's father, Douglas James Grey, is Maria Charlotte Craigie (nee Cantrell), who died 22 January 1870 in Cook County.¹⁴ Jean Grey's maternal grandfather on her father's side was remarried in 1870 to Louisa Miller Craigie, who died in 1914.¹⁵

Jean Grey has one grandmother who could not be positively identified. She is the mother of Jean's maternal grandmother Agnes Norman, who self-reports in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses that she was born in England in September of 1867 and immigrated to the United States in 1893 (at approximately age 24).¹⁶ Agnes married William Wilmot-Gilbert in Cuyahoga County, Pennsylvania on 27 June 1893.¹⁷ To date,

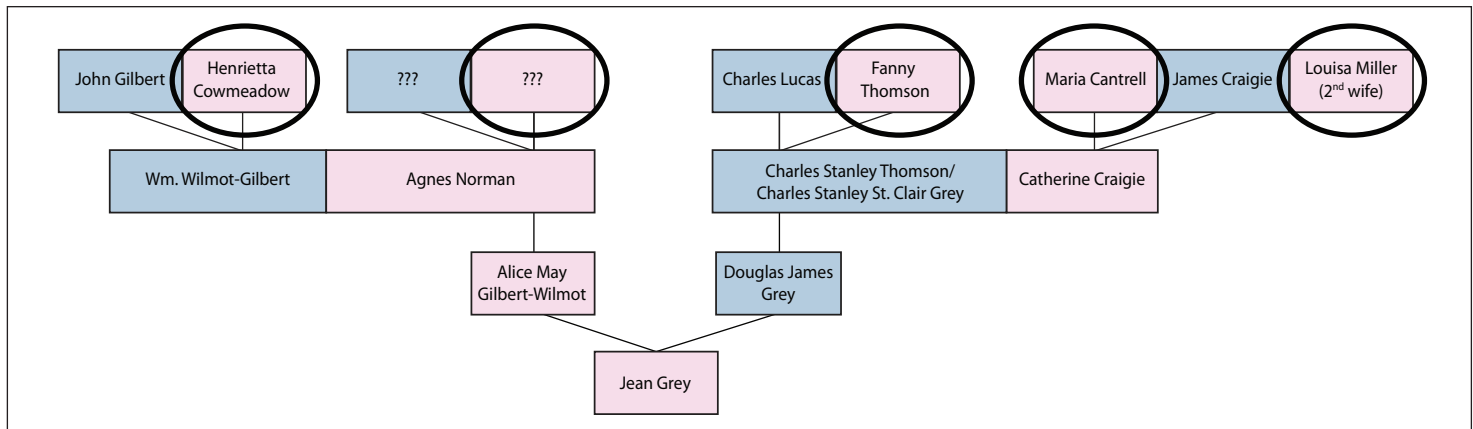
12 Jean Grey, interview, February 2019; Cook Co., Ill., birth certificate no. 29210, (1922) Jean Grey.

13 Cook County, Illinois, death record, 30 September 1917, Henrietta Gilbert; FHL microfilm 1308647.

14 Ibid., January 1870, Maria Charlotta Craigie.

15 Ibid., 17 February 1914, Louisa M. Craigie; FHL microfilm 1287717.

16 1900 U.S. census, Dauphin Co., Pennsylvania, pop. sch., Steelton Borough, ward 2, ED 100, sheet 17 A, dwell. 326, fam. 336, Williams Gilbert family; digital image, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 1403. 1910 U.S. census, Cook Co., Ill. pop. sch., Chicago Heights City, ward 1, ED 11, sheet 26 B, dwell. 448, fam. 548, William J. Gilbert family; digital image, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing NARA microfilm T624, roll 237.



Pedigree chart of Jean Grey with her great-grandmothers circled

research has not revealed a likely candidate for Agnes Norman fitting her approximate age or the names of her parents.

In the absence of any records of Agnes Norman’s mother, it is not unreasonable to assume that Agnes Norman’s mother was between 18-40 years old when she gave birth to Agnes in 1867, making her at least age 64-96 in 1923 when the photograph was taken. This presumptive age range does not rule out the chance that the women in the photo identified as Fanny Thomson could be Agnes Norman’s mother and a great-grandmother of Jean Grey’s. In addition, it remains unknown whether Agnes’ mother immigrated to the United States.

3. Who Is “Fanny Thomson” Mentioned in the Photographs’ Annotations, Family Letters, and Obituary?

The most trustworthy information from the photographs, obituary, and letters identifies Fanny Thomson’s birth date as 4 September 1837 or 1838. Also there is a significant amount of information that can be extracted from the photographs and letters to Charles Grey’s daughter Frances Grassby. Barnard Lucas’ 1926 letter references the recent death of his sister (and Frances’ grandmother) Fanny Thomson. Lucas’ 1929 letter lists his ten siblings including Zoe, Radnor, Ida and Fanny, whether they were then-deceased, and states the names of his parents as “Charles Lucas” and “Frances Short.” Zoe Tregellas’ letter references “Cousin Ida,” “Aunt Zoe” and

“Aunt Fanny.” The 1924 letter to “Fanny” is signed from “your sister Zoe Tregellas.” The string of names Ida, Edith, Zoe, Barnard, Radnor, Fanny, Jessie, is repeated in various letters from several authors. A photograph of what appears to be a family is labeled with the names of “Zoe” and others and - in different ink, “Great Grandma Thomson.” And finally, a photograph of a “Zoe Lucas” is labeled “My Father’s Aunt” and is believed to be in the handwriting of Charles Grey’s daughter, Frances Grassby.

In an attempt to triangulate all of these names and connect them to Fanny Thomson, searches were made in *Ancestry* members’ public family trees for a “Fanny Thomson” or a Frances Thomson” who was born within 2 years of 1838 that had some connection to the names “Lucas,” “Barnard,” “Radnor,” “Ida,” or “Zoe.” These searches were largely unfruitful, yielding persons who had died before 1922, or who appeared to live outside of the United States by the 1920s. Most of the remaining Fanny Thomsons had no obvious link to the other names. The sole and revealing exception was the Anderson Family tree that identified a Fanny (Frances) Lucas who was born on 4 September 1838 – a date exactly matching the self-identified birthday of the great-grandmother Thomson in the photographs.¹⁸ This public family tree noted that Fanny had a brother “Barnard” and sister “Ida” and linked to documentation indicating Fanny Lucas was the daughter

17 Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage Records, vol. 39 (1892-1893), 409; Gilbert – Norman; *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019; citing Cuyahoga County Archive, Cleveland, Ohio.

18 The Anderson Family tree; database, *Ancestry*.

Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

of Charles Lucas and Frances Short. Further it showed that Fanny married James Thomson of Glasgow on 30 December 1857 in Marylebone, London, England.¹⁹ Thus her married name would have been “Fanny Thomson,” matching the name on the 1923 photographs.

Further analysis of this family revealed an 1841 English census that shows the family of Charles and Frances Lucas living in Marylebone, Middlesex, England with children Fanny (age 2) and siblings Stanley, Adeline and Zoe.²⁰ These names align with those listed by Barnard Lucas in his 1929 letter to his niece Frances, and “Zoe” matches two of the family photographs. The 1851 English census contains the Charles and Frances Lucas family with Francis, now age 11, and Zoe (age 10) joined by additional siblings, including “Barnas” (age 6 months), “Hadnor” (age 15), and Ida (age 2).²¹ Charles Lucas was apparently a well-known musician and held a post at the Royal Academy of Music in London.²²

The birth and baptismal records from St. Marylebone, Middlesex, England support - with only slight spelling variations - the 1841 and 1851 census records and indicate the following births: Adeline born 14 December 1832, Stanley born 6 May 1834, Radnor born 15 February 1836, Marrietta baptized 28 August 1837, Fanny born 4 September 1838, Zoe born 28 October 1840, Dorothy born 20 September 1842, Kellow born 14 September 1845, Edith born 14 February 1847, and Ida born 13 November 1847.²³

In 1861, Fanny Thomson’s sister Zoe Lucas married Walter Tregellas.²⁴ These names also align with those in Barnard Lucas’ 1929 letter, and the “Zoe Tregellas” identified in one photograph.

The 1861 census shows James and Fanny Thomson living in Glasgow where he is listed as “Professor and teacher Pianoforte”, born in Glasgow, and she is noted as having been born in England.²⁵ Most important, Scottish birth records reflect that they had a son Charles Stanley Thomson born on 11 November 1858 and another son, Douglas Scott Thomson born in 1867.²⁶ As Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey and Charles Stanley Thomson share the same first and middle names and birth day (though not the same reported birth year) and Charles Grey’s body in 1911 is presented for internment at Oak Wood Cemetery in Chicago by “Douglas, brother”, the working theory emerged for further research that Charles Stanley Thomson in Scotland in the 1860s and 1870s was the same person as Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey who appeared in the United States in the 1890s and later, and whose mother is Fanny Lucas Thomson.²⁷

Finally, Jean Grey’s recollection of visiting “aunties” at the *Scottish Old People’s Home* in Chicago led to an inquiry of the Scottish Home, which is still operated by the *Chicago Scots* a hundred years later at the same location in what is now North Riverside, Illinois. The *Chicago Scots* historian reviewed the

19 “London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932,” marriage record for Westminster, St Marylebone, 1847-1875, p. 122, James Thomson – Fanny Lucas, married 26 December 1857; database *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing London Metropolitan Archives, London, England.

20 “1841 England Census,” All Souls and Trinity, St. Marylebone, Middlesex, England, Enumeration District 1, line 14, p. 13, folio 10, Charles Lucas family; digital image, *Ancestry* accessed 15 November 2019.

21 “1851 England Census,” Charles Lucas family, p. 8, folio 695, ED 13, All Souls, St Marylebone, Middlesex, England; database and images, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019.

22 “Charles Lucas, Musician,” *Wikipedia*, accessed 15 November 2019.

23 “England, Select Births and Christening, 1538-1975,” Adeline, baptized 11 June 1833, Stanley, baptized 7 June 1834, Radnor, baptized 22 June 1836, Marrietta, baptized 28 August 1837, Fanny, baptized 31 March 1843, Zoe, baptized 31 March 1843, Dorothy, baptized 31 March 1843, Kellow, baptized 22 November 1845; database, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing Trinity Church Baptisms, FHL 580884. “England, Select Births and Christening, 1538-1975,” Edith, baptized 3 December 1847, Ida, baptized 9 December 1848; database,

Ancestry accessed 15 November 2019, citing All Souls Church Baptisms, FHL microfilm 580896.

24 “London and Surrey, England, Marriage Bonds and Allegations, 1597-1921,” 1861 Oct-Dec, 30 October 1831, Walter Hawken Tregellas – Zoe Lucas; digital images, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019.

25 “1861 Scotland Census,” Fanny Thomson family (b. circa 1839 England), County Lanarkshire, Glasgow Barony Civil Parish, Anderston Registration District, ED 70, Household schedule no. 32, p. 4, line 4; database, *Ancestry* accessed 15 November 2019, citing General Register Office for Scotland, 1861 Scotland census, roll 109.

26 “Scotland Select Birth and Baptisms, 1564-1950,” database, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, entry for Charles Stanley Thomson (11 November 1858) Blythswood, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland; citing FHL microfilm 6035516; “Scotland Select Birth and Baptisms, 1564-1950,” Douglas Scott Thomson (b. 21 September 1867) Peebles, Scotland; database, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing FHL microfilm 6035516.

27 Oak Wood Cemetery Office (Chicago, Illinois), Burial Ledger, 28 February 1911, burial of Charles S. Thomson, noted “Douglas (brother), son” cross-out and addition of “son” in different hand.

records and confirmed that Fanny Thomson self-reported, upon entering the residence, that her father's surname and her maiden name were "Lucas" and her mother's maiden name was "Short."²⁸ She was born in London, England on 4 September 1838. Fanny was widowed and her last residence had been in Chicago. The records also reflect that she died on 28 May 1926 and was interred at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

4. What Information links Fanny Thomson to Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey Residing in Chicago in 1900?

Documentation from Scotland and the United States supports the theory that Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey, prior to his immigration to the United States was Charles Stanley Thomson and the son of Fanny Lucas Thomson and James Thomson.

Fanny Lucas Thomson and James Thomson's family appears in Scottish census records for 1861, 1871, and 1881.²⁹ In the 1881 census, Charles Grey is listed as a "Law Student". This is consistent with Album of Session at The University of Glasgow showing him, at age 15 in 1875, enrolled in Arts classes in 1875-76, 1876-77, 1877-1878 and 1878-79. Then in 1880-81 and 1881-1882 he was enrolled in law classes.³⁰ He did not graduate from the university and by 1883 he was no longer enrolled. In 1883, sequestrations papers were filed against James Thomson, Charles' father, and the bankruptcy proceedings continued until 1884.

No death records were located for Charles Stanley Grey in Scotland or England and he does not appear in any census of Scotland or England for 1891. It is likely he emigrated sometime between 1882 and 1891. This is consistent with

the naturalization card completed by Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey in the U.S. listing 1883 as his date of immigration to the United States. As Charles Stanley Thomson dropped out of the University of Glasgow in 1883 – the same year in which sequestration proceedings were filed against his father – he may have decided to emigrate because no family funds remained for his education. Interestingly, there are no shipping records from England or Scotland bearing the either name and none reflects anyone by either name entering the United States. However, a certified genealogist-researcher in Scotland advised that more reliable emigration records from Scotland did not begin until about 1890.

In assessing how Fanny Thomson in England might have arrived in Chicago, Scottish records report the death of her husband, James, in 1886 and newspaper articles report sequestration proceedings were commenced against her in 1890.³¹ These proceedings began in 1890 and were concluded in 1895. However, she and her son Douglas do not appear in the 1891 Scotland census and they self-report in the 1900 U.S. census that they immigrated to the U.S. in 1890.³² It is likely they emigrated sometime around 1890 before sequestration hearings were completed (and perhaps to avoid them).

According to the 1900 census Fanny and her son Douglas S. Thomson reside about 20 blocks from Charles Grey. Fanny and Douglas are recorded in the census as "Mother" and "Head" respectively. The country of birth listed for Fanny and James' parents (England) is consistent with the birth country of Fanny and her parents. They self-report in the census that they immigrated to the U.S. in 1890. Finally, newspaper articles in 1897 report that Mrs. Fanny Thomson delivered papers at the

28 Jackie Torrance (*Chicago Scots* historian), interview by author, 19 November 2019; transcript held privately by author.

29 "1861 Scotland Census," County Lanarkshire, Glasgow Barony Civil Parish, Anderston Registration District, Fanny Thomson family (circa 1839 England); database, *Ancestry*. "1871 Scotland Census," County Lanarkshire, Glasgow Barony Civil Parish, Anderston Registration District, ED 101, p. 26, line 10, household schedule 82, Fanny Thomson family (circa 1829 England); database, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing General Register Office for Scotland, 1871 Scotland Census, roll 138. "1881 Scotland Census," County Lanarkshire, Glasgow Barony Civil Parish, Kelvin Registration District, ED 48, household schedule no. 79, p. 23, line 11, Fanny Thomson family (circa 1839 Middlesex, London); database, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019, citing General Register Office for Scotland, 1881 Scotland Census, roll 236.

30 Chas Stanley Thomson, University Album and Matriculation Slip (The Glasgow University Albums of Session 1875-76, 1876-77, 1877-78, 1878-79, 1880-81, and 1881-82), located and photographed by Scottish, Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers certified genealogist, Val Wilson.

31 "Sequestration Notice," *The Courier and Argus* (Dundee, Tayside, Scotland), "Mrs. Fanny Lucas or Thomson, widow, teacher of music residing at No. 10 Colebrooke Street, Hillhead, Glasgow," 4 June 1890, p. 4, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com*, accessed 15 November 2019.

32 1900 U.S. census, Cook Co., Illinois, pop. sch., Hyde Park Township, ward 34, ED 1084, sheet 7 A, dwell. 27, family 156, Douglas S. Thomson family; *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019 citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 289.

Finding the Parents of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey

Woodhill Women's Club in Chicago on "The Royal Academy of Music" that Douglas S. Thomson provided musical illustrations at the Club.³³ Before her death in 1926, Fanny Thomson was living in the Scottish Old People's Home in Chicago.³⁴

Documentation of Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey in Chicago around this same time largely aligns with documentation of Fanny Lucas Thomson. The 1900 U.S census reports that Charles Grey was born in November of 1862, consistent with the birth date he claimed on his naturalization record. While Scottish birth records record Charles Stanley Thomson's birth year as 1858, the self-reported birth date of the 11th and month of November is consistent across the records.

The 1900 U.S census and his death certificate state that Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey was born in Scotland, which is the birth location of Charles Thomson. The census also reports that his father was born in Scotland and his mother was born in England – which are the birth locations of James Thomson and Fanny Thomson. Charles Grey self-reported in the 1900 census that he immigrated in 1884, one year different from what he reported on his naturalization record, listing 1883, but either is within a year of James Thomson's sequestration hearings in Scotland and Charles Stanley Thomson's dropping out of The University of Glasgow.

Conclusion

Supporting the proposition that Charles Thomson and Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey are the same person and that Fanny Lucas Thomson and James Thomson are his parents are their shared names and those of many of their relatives:

- Both "Charles" share the first two names, "Charles Stanley."
- Charles is the name of Fanny Thomson's father, Charles Lucas.
- Charles Stanley Thomson in Scotland had a brother Douglas Scott Thomson; cemetery records in 1911 show Charles' body presented for internment by "Douglas, brother."

- Charles Grey's son was named "Douglas James" – names of the brother and father of Charles Stanley Thomson in Scotland.
- Charles Grey named his daughter "Mary Frances" and she is known as "Frances" – the formal name of his wife, Fanny Thomson and her mother, Frances Short. The name "Frances" was further passed down as a middle name to both Charles Grey's daughter's children: Mary Frances Grassby (who was stillborn) and to Marion Frances Grassby.

By far the strongest evidence of Fanny Lucas Thomson's relationship to Charles Grey is the fact that all the letters written by Fanny Thomson's siblings and niece were addressed and mailed directly to Fanny Thomson and Charles Grey's daughter, Frances Grassby and were found in the possession of her daughter after her death, including one that shares an anecdote about "Charles Gray." Additionally, in the possession of Jean Grey and Marion Etwiler, Charles Grey's granddaughters, were the photographs identifying "Zoe Lucas," "great grandma Thomson," and "Zoe Tergellas" – all relatives of Charles Stanley Thomson. The very possession by Charles Grey's descendants of the numerous photographs of and letters from many of the Lucas family members, each identifying their familial relationship with the recipients, undergirds the conclusion that Charles Stanley St. Clair Grey's parents were probably Fanny Lucas Thomson and James Thomson.

Nancy Grey Etwiler is a native of Minnesota and a retired lawyer, having worked in the 3M Company's Office of General Counsel. She lives in Stillwater, Minnesota, and has been researching, interviewing relatives, and archiving her family's history for more than 35 years. Her interest in Charles Grey was piqued by the decades' old family mystery as to his pre-U.S. origins despite research on two continents, and reignited by letters discovered upon her mother's death.

33 "Amateur Musical Club Bill," *Chicago (Illinois) Tribune*, 14 November 1897, p. 40, cols. 2 & 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com*, accessed 15 November 2019.

34 "Death Notices – Thomson," *Chicago (Illinois) Tribune*, 31 May 1926, p. 18, col. 8; digital image, *Newspapers.com*, accessed 15 November 2019.



The Socialist Who Tried to Live Like a Saint

Jerome B. Savage, 1871-1965

Zoe von Ende Lappin

In his old age, Jerome B. Savage had become a melancholy, reflective man, writing to a brother at age 79 in 1950:

“I would like to live to be a hundred as I have much unfinished business to take care of. It will take all that time to work and pray to save my soul. As I grow older I am unhappy because I am not a saint but I am trying to behave like one.”¹

Savage was a son of John Patrick Savage, a Great Famine immigrant from Ireland, and Zoe Arbour, a native of Quebec. He was born in Mulligan Township, Brown County, Minnesota – on his parents’ homestead – on 27 May 1871, and died a very old man – nearly 94 – in 1965, in San Diego.² His father was a textile worker, a farmer, and a librarian. His mother died when he was 13, leaving eight children, three of them under 10. Jerome was the seventh of their ten children.

Jerome married Nellie Beatrice Harrington in Butte, Montana, in 1905.³ By profession, he was a barber; by temperament he was poetic and melancholy. He was a striver, somewhat of a wanderer – he lived in at least six states – and he was true to his Catholic faith. In his early years, he was a railroad man, a union man, and an active Socialist. In Butte, he ran for public office twice on the Socialist Party ticket. Neither time was he elected, but he came close in 1906. Later, he served in city government under Butte’s Socialist mayor, Lewis Duncan.

A family story says he was close to Eugene Victor Debs, an early American Socialist leader, but research doesn’t support it. However, it’s clear that he admired Debs.

The socialism that Jerome B. Savage embraced in the early 20th century may be described as a theory that places the ownership and operation of the means of production in the hands of society rather than private individuals – in this case,



Nellie Beatrice and Jerome B. Savage on their wedding day, 27 June 1905

1 Jerome B. Savage (Chicago, Illinois) to brother Peter J. Savage (Iron River, Wisconsin), letter 10 May 1950; privately held by the author.

2 Jerome B. Savage death certificate, California State Department of Public Health, District and Certificate number 8009. John Patrick Savage Family Bible, *The Holy Bible, translated from the Latin Vulgate...*, (New York, Boston and Montreal: D.

& J. Sadlier & Co., 1852) privately held by the author. See also, Brown County, Minnesota, Birth Record, vol. A, 1870-1885, p. 12; FHL microfilm 1870146.

3 Silver Bow County, Montana, marriage license 9122, Jerome Savage–Nellie Harrington, filed 17 May 1906; FHL microfilm 1906800.

The Socialist Who Tried to Live Like a Saint

the capitalists – with people in the community sharing in the work and the products. In practice, it has taken many forms, and the Socialist Party whose banner Savage carried in general advocated political action – change through the democratic process – not radical “direct action” of physical destruction. However, elements of both existed in Butte and elsewhere in America during Savage’s time.

Jerome and Nellie Savage lived long and fruitful lives, but with a measure of tragedy. They had five children, two of whom died as infants. Jerome was the last of his birth family to die, and none of his brothers or sisters came close to him in longevity.

From Railroading to Barbering

Jerome started his working life as a railroad man. In the 1890s, Savage was in northern Wisconsin, working on local railroads and on the Omaha Road out of Spooner, Washburn County. But the 1900 census listed him as a barber in Ortonville, Big Stone County, Minnesota.⁴ Why the switch from railroading?

A family story says he helped organize the Great Northern Railroad strike of 1894, became close to labor leader Debs – founder of the American Railway Union in 1893 – and after the strike failed, he was among thousands blacklisted by the railroad companies, never to work in the industry again. Hence, he became a barber.

However, the facts don’t fit – Savage never worked for the Great Northern, and that strike in the spring of 1894, which started after the railroad cut wages, ended in a spectacular victory for the union. In April 1894, American Railway Union workers voted to strike the Great Northern, shutting it down for 18 days, but the conflict went to arbitration and

wages were restored, an unusual solution. It’s doubtful that anyone was blacklisted.

In fact, Savage was with his family in Washburn, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, at the time of the strike.⁵ There is another possibility: Blacklisting could have occurred after another strike in 1894 that ended in failure for the union. In June and July, after the Great Northern conflict, Debs led the American Railway Union in a nationwide strike known as the Chicago Railroad Strike or the Pullman Strike. Its initial setting was at the Pullman Palace Company town of Pullman in Chicago where Pullman cars – sleepers – were manufactured. It spread and involved an estimated quarter-million strikers over its three-week duration.

The calamitous end occurred in July when the U.S. government called out the regular Army in Chicago and elsewhere to break the strike. Some strikers were killed and Debs went to jail.⁶

Savage may have been one of the men who walked off their jobs on the Omaha Road, where he worked in 1893 and 1894, though it was only modestly disrupted by the strike.⁷ He may have read news stories about Debs or heard him speak, and joined the strike. There’s no evidence that the two were close, although there’s no doubt that Savage admired Debs. He named two sons after him, but neither survived.

On to the Great Copper Country

Whatever happened, Savage left railroading for good, and he showed up in the great copper-producing city, Butte, as a barber in 1902.⁸ He was one of three Savage brothers to make their way to the region. Francis “Frank” and Louis Savage worked as conductors on the Butte Anaconda and Pacific Railway in Anaconda.⁹

4 1900 U.S. census, Ortonville, Big Stone County, Minnesota, Enumeration District 27, sheet 8A, John Hosch household, line 45, dwelling 161, family 163, Jerome Savage; digital image, *Ancestry*, accessed 15 November 2019; citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 757.

5 News items, *Washburn (Wisconsin) News*, 21 January 1893; 14 May 1894 and 7 September 1894.

6 Edward H. Howes, “Three Weeks That Shook the National and California’s Capital,” *California Historian*; accessed by subscription, (<http://www.california-historian.com/articles/pullman-strike.html> : accessed June 2010).

7 H. Roger Grant, “Minnesota’s Good Railroad, the Omaha Road,” *Minnesota History*, Winter 2000-2001, vol. 57, no. 4, pp. 198-217.

8 R. L. Polk, compiler, *Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana, Directory*, (Butte: R. L. Polk, 1902), entry for Jerome B. Savage; digital image, *Ancestry*, accessed 1 April 2019.

9 Zoe von Ende Lappin, *The Savages of County Louth and America, Four Generations of an Irish Catholic Family*, (Denver : self-published, 2013), p. 217.

Savage may have been drawn by Butte's unions, its politics and the fight for economic and social justice, though he later was a capitalist himself, owning barber shops. Debs had made the first of his five runs for U.S. president as a Socialist in 1900 and campaigned in Butte several times during his career. It's likely that Savage heard Debs' 1902 speech there entitled, "We Must Gain Possession of the Tools of the Trade," and responded to the labor leader's admonition. "The capitalists have you absolutely at their mercy," he said. "They do not consider you at all. I am not finding fault with them. I am finding fault with you because the system cannot continue a day longer than you wish it."¹⁰

Savage's sentiments for the workingman had been stoked by Debs and his theories, as well as his own experiences. By 1905, he was active in the Butte Barbers Union No. 21, serving as a trustee, and his devotion to the workingman's cause would take political form a few years later.¹¹

But first, Savage fell in love with a teenager, Nellie Beatrice Harrington. He was nearly twice her age – she was 18 and he was 34 when they wed in a Catholic ceremony in Butte on 27 June 1905.¹² She was born in Chicago on 27 January 1887, a daughter of John Peter Harrington and Jennie Gonia, and sometimes was called Nellie Bell or Nellie Belle.¹³ Nellie's family moved to Butte, and by 1906 Harrington had become boilermaker foreman at Butte Reduction Works, one of two smelters owned by Montana's first copper king, William A. Clark.¹⁴ In 1904, Nellie was a milliner and Savage was a barber in Butte.

Butte and Anaconda were rough towns at the turn of the 20th century, but there also was a genteel social life. Nellie's 16th birthday party was reported in the *Anaconda Standard* on 6 March 1904.¹⁵ Friends gathered at her home, danced until

midnight when "an elegant and delicate supper was served." Her birthday cake was huge – its 16 layers, each representing a year of her life, were strewn with roses and topped by 16 candles. It actually was Nellie's 17th birthday, but for some reason she wanted to be 16. Nevertheless, Savage was there and the sentimental touches must have pleased this romantic man. They were married a year later.

Unions vs. Anaconda Company

In April 1906, Savage's political career began when he ran for alderman in Butte's Seventh Ward on the Socialist Party ticket. The mines were rife with political and labor turmoil, often portrayed as the Capitalists – the "Copper Kings," notably Marcus Daly and the Anaconda Copper Mining Company – vs. the workingman. In Montana, the Western Federation of Miners and the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies) were making inroads but the unions were fighting among themselves. Butte, both a company and a union town, was notoriously corrupt.

Socialism as a political movement was at its peak in the United States. Savage's hero, Debs, ran for president on the Socialist Party of America ticket four times – 1904, 1908, 1912 and 1920, the last time from prison. His first run, as noted, was in 1900 as the candidate of the Social Democratic Party. He garnered 8.9 percent of the vote in Montana in 1904, with one-third of his total coming from Silver Bow County (Butte).¹⁶ His 1912 national showing, 6 percent of the vote, remains the record for a Socialist Party candidate.¹⁷

After several years of poor election results, 1906 saw a turnaround in Butte with the party stirring to life, and Savage making a good showing. He lost the election for alderman by only 14 votes – 220 to 234 – to John Connor.¹⁸

10 Eugene V. Debs "We Must Gain Possession of the tools of Trade," speech, 16 June 1902, Butte Auditorium, Butte, Montana; excerpts, *Scottspeak*, (<https://scott-speak.wordpress.com> : accessed 23 July 2018).

11 "Barbers Elect Officers for Ensuing Six Months," *Butte Miner*, Butte, Montana, 27 June 1905, p. 7.

12 Silver Bow County, Montana, marriage license 9122, Jerome Savage–Nellie Harrington, filed 17 May 1906; FHL microfilm 1906800.

13 Cook County, Illinois, birth certificate 3017, Nellie Harrington; *FamilySearch*, accessed 15 June 2010.

14 Robert E. Jenkins, II and Jerry A. Lorengo, "Butte, Montana: Minerals, Mines and History," *The Mineralogical Record*, vol. 33, no. 1, January 2002, pp. 5-69.

15 "Social Gatherings that Brightened the Week for Young and Old in the Smoky City," *Anaconda (Montana) Standard*, 6 March 1904, p. 7.

16 Jerry W. Calvert, *The Gibraltar, Socialism and Labor in Butte, Montana, 1895-1920*, (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1988), pp. 30, 31.

17 "Eugene V. Debs," *Wikipedia*, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_V._Debs : accessed 18 January 2008.)

18 Calvert, p. 31.

The Socialist Who Tried to Live Like a Saint

An editorial comment pointed out that if it hadn't been for a second Socialist candidate who siphoned off 112 votes, Savage would have won. Under the headline "CAPITALIST FUSION," an unknown writer commented:

"It is truly a marvel to see the depths of perjury to which the capitalist class will go to put the men they want in power. In the Seventh Ward in Butte, Connor, the alderman elected, was elected by a combination of four tickets – democratic, labor, anti-trust and anti-trust republican. And even then he only beat Savage, the socialist candidate, by 14 votes. [Silas Wainscott], the Judas Iscariot of the Socialist party, received 112 votes. Had he not been running, Savage would have had an easy victory. In some wards, the labor party combined with the republicans and in others with the democrats, but always against the socialists, of course."¹⁹

Savage's showing was remarkable, so much so that 82 years later it rated mention in a history of socialism in Butte written by a political scientist at Montana State University.

"The Socialists (had) made no headway (in four previous political campaigns) in Butte," wrote Jerry W. Calvert. "In the 1906 Butte aldermanic elections, the Socialists elected no one, although their candidate in the Seventh Ward, Jerome Savage, lost by only 14 votes."²⁰

Run Again, Perhaps?

"I may try again some time," Savage wrote his brother Peter J. Savage in April 1906, shortly after losing the election.²¹ The Socialists made headway over the next few years, and it became one of the largest U.S. cities ever governed by members of the party, but never a controlling majority.

It elected a Unitarian minister, Socialist Lewis Duncan, as mayor in 1911 and 1913, and Savage stayed active.²² In May 1911, he got a spoils job: the barber became city employment officer, responsible for helping the unemployed find work.²³

Savage kept up his political activities, and in 1912, he was elected to the central committee of Silver Bow County Socialist Party.²⁴ In 1914, the county commissioners named him an election judge representing the Socialist Party.²⁵

By 1914, however, Butte Socialists were beginning their downslide. Radical unionism, factionalism, disagreement about strategy, tactics of the mine owners and other issues drained the party. The Miners' Union Hall was dynamited in June 1914, leading to seven years of martial law, and Duncan, the Socialist mayor, was impeached and removed in October 1914. He had been accused of dereliction of duties for failing to protect property and tolerating lawless behavior, particularly during events surrounding the union hall debacle.²⁶ Also, impeachment occurred a few months after Duncan had shot and killed an inebriated man who had stabbed him. He was succeeded by Clarence A. Smith, a Socialist and the City Council chairman, who was then defeated by a Democrat, Charles Lane, in the 1915 election. Women voted for the first time that year and turned their backs on the Socialists.²⁷ Savage's political appointment ended with the Lane administration and he returned to barbering.²⁸

But Savage, and Butte's Socialists, had one last breath: The party produced a slate of candidates for state and local office in the 1916 election, and Savage ran for the state House of Representatives. He garnered 765 votes, but Democrats won all 12 seats of Silver Bow's legislative delegation.²⁹

19 The author owns this clipping, with no identifying date or publication, which Jerome Savage sent to his brother Peter J. Savage in Wisconsin in a letter dated 23 April 1906.

20 Calvert, p. 31.

21 Jerome B. Savage (Butte, Montana) to Peter J. Savage (Iron River, Wisconsin), letter, 23 April 1906; privately held by the author.

22 Calvert, p. 10.

23 "Appointments Confirmed by Council Last Night," *The Anaconda (Montana) Standard*, 1 May 1911.

24 "Socialists Meet," *Butte (Montana) Daily Post*, 28 September 1912, p. 3.

25 "Judges for Primary Election Are Chosen by Commissioners," *Butte (Montana) Miner*, 26 July 1914, p. 6.

26 Calvert, p. 88.

27 Calvert, p. 99.

28 1915 Butte city directory lists no occupation for Jerome Savage. He was listed as Manager, City Free Employment Bureau, in preceding directories. In the 1916 directory, he's again listed as a barber.

29 "The Legislative Ticket," *Butte (Montana) Miner*, 9 November 1916, p. 9.

By then, conditions in Butte were deplorable. Martial law, open shops (no unions recognized) in the mines and the lynching of an organizer for the radical Industrial Workers of the World in 1917 exacerbated conditions. The worst hard-rock mining disaster in American history, the Speculator Mine Fire, occurred in Butte in 1917, killing 164 miners. By 1920, socialism was dead as a political movement in Butte.

Only the bravest of the civic-minded could endure such conditions, and as Butte Socialists dispersed, the Savage family moved on. He went 65 miles south to Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana, and in 1918 Nellie and the children went to Arizona to look after her recently widowed father. Savage resumed barbering and, the story goes, owned several shops. But his political views got him in trouble in Dillon in 1920 and he lost his position as barber at the Andrus Hotel. The Democratic Party candidate for governor, Burton K. Wheeler, had a reputation as a champion of labor against the Anaconda Copper Company. Campaigning in Dillon that July, he was accosted by a mob believed to have been stirred up by the company, which had called him a Bolshevik. Wheeler was forced to take refuge in a boxcar.³⁰ Savage was outraged, and he spoke out about the dangers of “mob rule.” Hotel owners took exception to his remarks and discharged him.

The Butte Daily Bulletin, found a bright side. “Dillon Mob’s Attention Helps Barber’s Business,” said its headline of 16 July 1920. Savage’s “discharge came as the result of a visit to the management of the hotel by members of the local ‘white guards,’” the paper said. “The demands of the thugs were granted by the management,” and Savage started a shop of his own. He “is said to be doing a good business, enjoying

the patronage of the farmers and many other liberty-loving citizens of the vicinity.”³¹

Wheeler was defeated by the Republican, Joseph M. Dixon, but went on to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1922 and served four terms.

Farewell Montana

Savage’s public role in Montana Socialist politics – from 1906 to 1920 when he was 49 – ended with the Dillon incident, though he maintained a life-long interest in politics. Throughout their days in Butte, personal tribulations had crossed his and Nellie’s path. Their first child, Olive Zoe, was born in Butte on 24 March 1906.³² They lost the first of two baby sons, a stillbirth on 4 November 1907.³³ He’s known among the family as Sylvester Debs Savage, the first of two babies named for Eugene V. Debs. Their second son, John Jerome “Jack”, was born in Butte on 28 February 1909.³⁴

On 27 December 1910, their fourth child, Margaret Elizabeth, was born.³⁵ Their fifth and last child, Victor Debs Savage, was born on 14 July 1912.³⁶ He died 16 months later on 25 November 1913 of peritonitis and pneumonia.³⁷

Years later, Savage put his thoughts about Victor into a poem based on a dream. He was in heaven watching billions of children marching and carrying candles. He spied his son marching with an unlighted candle. “I sprang to his side and walked along with him,” Savage wrote. “‘Why isn’t your candle lighted, Sweetheart?’ I enquired. His baby face looked up with a trace of pity in it and he replied, ‘I lighted it several times, Papa, but your tears kept putting it out.’”³⁸

30 Clemens P. Work, *Darkest Before Dawn: Sedition and Free Speech in the American West*, (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006), p. 227.

31 “Dillon Mob’s Attention Helps Barber’s Business,” *Butte (Montana) Daily Bulletin*, 16 July 1920, p. 2.

32 Silver Bow County, Montana, birth certificate no. 7216 (1906), Olive Zoa Savage; FHL microfilm 2385745.

33 Silver Bow County, Montana, birth certificate no. 8227 (1907), [Unnamed] Savage; FHL microfilm 2385745, and Silver Bow County, Montana, death register no. 11265 (1907), [Unnamed] Savage; FHL microfilm 2311708.

34 Silver Bow County, Montana, birth certificate no. 3436 (1909), John J. Savage; FHL microfilm 2385745.

35 Montana State Board of Health, Silver Bow County, delayed birth certificate, state file 71215 filed August 25, 1970, Margaret Elizabeth Savage; FHL microfilm 2311901.

36 Silver Bow County, Montana, birth certificate no. 3496 (1912) for Victor Savage; FHL microfilm 2385745.

37 Silver Bow County, Montana, death certificate no. 17,752 (1913) for Victor Debs Savage; FHL microfilm 2311711.

38 “Victor,” undated poem by Jerome B. Savage was among items passed to author by granddaughter Judith Savage, 2013.

The Socialist Who Tried to Live Like a Saint

After their Montana days, Jerome and Nellie lived in Arizona, Chicago, Florida and California. He worked as a barber, a traveling salesman and a night watchman and wrote melancholy letters to his brother Peter J. Savage. Besides the loss of his two babies, his children and his wife had health problems, and his marriage was apparently not smooth. He and Nellie were separated for a time but never divorced.³⁹

Still, he kept sorrow at bay. Writing to Peter in 1919, at age 48: “I have not been an unhappy man for some time. The most valuable asset I have in this world is my health. With all my troubles, I am thankful for that much anyway. I have not much of anything else to make me happy.”

In 1929-1930, at age 58, he returned to Minnesota for medical treatment.⁴⁰ He was inspired to compose a seven-verse poem *Minnesota*. Its opening:

Back once again to the land of my birth,
To the spot that to me is the dearest on earth,
Always it beckons though far I am roam,
Fair Minnesota, my love land, my home.

Savage visited his brother Peter in Wisconsin in 1930 for the first time in 30 years, and several times later. In 1950, at age 79, he wrote to Peter about his frustrating attempts to live like a saint. He complained about his health and told of passing out on a streetcar going to work as watchman.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Jerome and Nellie lived first in Florida, then moved to San Diego in 1963, where both died.⁴¹ Jerome died 14 May 1965, two weeks short of his 94th birthday, and Nellie on 18 May 1967, at 80.⁴² Both are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery.⁴³ They were survived by their three children, Olive Zoe Strouce, John Jerome “Jack” Savage and Margaret Elizabeth “Mardy” Buckner; and four grandchildren.

By the time of his death, 1965, the socialism that Jerome B. Savage once espoused had faded into the ranks of the ignored and irrelevant in America. But many causes it espoused – government efficiency and honesty, planning, modern management techniques and such necessities as mine safety, sewers, parks plus decent public health facilities and policies – are basic amenities today, if not always in practice always as ideals.

Zoe von Ende Lappin is a retired journalist and Savage family historian living in Denver. She won the Wisconsin Historical Society's Hesseltine Award for her 2017 article in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, “Pioneer Editor, Pete Savage and the Iron River Pioneer,” about her grandfather, Peter J. Savage. He was a longtime Wisconsin country newspaper editor and brother of Jerome B. Savage, the subject of this article. She thanks Jerome's granddaughter Judy A. Savage and their cousin Denise Buchner for sharing family photos and stories.

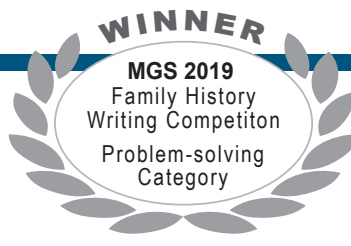
39 See Lappin for details of their lives after leaving Montana.

40 “J.B. Savage has returned...” *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, 15 May 1930, p. 32.

41 Addresses listed in address book belonging to Edith Savage, owned by author.

42 California State Department of Public Health, District and Certificate death certificate 8009, Jerome B. Savage.

43 San Diego County, California, death certificate 3259 (1967), Nellie Beatrice Savage.



The True Halvor Olsen

Jean Cammon Findlay

In 1868 my great-grandmother, Bertha Hansdatter, emigrated from Sør-Aurdal parish in the Valdres region of Oppland, Norway, to Northfield, Minnesota, where she married my great-grandfather in 1871.¹ Her older brother, Halvor Hanson, had arrived two years before and settled in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, where he and his wife raised their eight children.² Brother Ole Hansen joined Bertha in 1874, and then her mother, Kari Halvorsdatter, came to Northfield with Bertha's brothers Anders and Anton Hansen in 1875.³ Last, sister Inger Hansen arrived in Northfield in 1876.⁴ Brother Even Hansen had made two trips, once with Bertha, then again accompanying his mother and brothers.⁵ Now the whole family was in America.

Who Was Kari Halvorsdatter's Father?

Tracing my great-great-great-grandfather in Valdres should have been easy with two major resources: parish registers online at Norway's *Digital Archives* (www.digitalarkivet.ne/en/) and *bygdeboks*.⁶ *Bygdeboks* are histories of the farms in a community that include names and dates for who owned each farm, who they married, and the children they had while living there. Often included are the names of the people the children married, with a cross-reference to the wife's home farm and/or which farm this couple lived on next. The information comes from painstaking research in the parish registers. While *bygdeboks* are not genealogies, they are a gold mine of information.

For the Hanson family in particular, there was also a published (in Norwegian) family history, *Oddefolket fra Begnadalen – Valdres*. Here the major research work had been done; it only remained to verify the information. O. J. Braaten's *Oddefolket* details both the ancestors and descendants of my great-great-grandparents, Halvor Olsen's daughter, Kari Halvorsdatter Piltingsrud, and her husband, Hans Evensen Odden.⁷

In Norwegian naming customs, given names were generally guided by birth order. The first son and first daughter were named after their paternal grandparents. The second son and second daughter were named after their maternal grandparents. When the names reflect this pattern, it is often a clue to whether one is looking at the right families. There are exceptions. For instance, if a child or other close relative died, the next child might be named after the deceased one. The second name is a patronymic: the son of Ole was called Olsen, and Ole's daughter was Olsdatter. The third name is a farm name, which could change depending where the people were living. If the family moved, they took the name of the new farm. This means not everyone with the same farm name was related to each other.

For a translation of *Oddefolket* I relied on a family history written by my third cousin, Kathryn Irene Smith Thalacker, who is descended from Halvor Hanson, the first-born child of

1 Bertha's arrival: "Passenger List 1868, SS *Oder*," Christiania to Hull, dep. 24 April 1868, #51 Berte Hansen [sic]; database, *Norway Heritage* (www.norwayheritage.com). Bertha's marriage: U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969, Christiania Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minnesota, 1871, Bertha Hanson-Hans Olsen Kammen, p. 129; digital image, *Ancestry*, image 969.

2 Thalacker, Kathryn Irene Smith, *River Bend Farm: The Story of Halvor Hanson and His Progeny: The Genealogy of the Hansons from the Town of Pigeon, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin*, Chronotype Publishing Co., Rice Lake, Wisconsin, 1989, pp 60-65.

3 Ole's arrival: Emigrants from Oslo 1867-1930, person 18740158, Ole Hansen Odden; database, *Digital Archives*, (www.digitalarkiver.no). Kari and three children's arrival: "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1850-1957," SS *California*, Glasgow to New York, 3 June 187, Kari Halvorsdatter, Andreas Hansen, Anton Hansen; digital image, *Ancestry*, citing NARA film M237, 1820-1897, Roll 398, image 634.

4 Emigrants from Oslo 1867-1930, person 18761302, Inger Hansen Odden; database, *Digital Archives*.

5 Even's first trip: "Passenger List 1868, SS *Oder*," Christiania to Hull, dep. 10 April 1868, #25 Even Hansen; database, *Norway Heritage*. Even's second trip: "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1850-1957," SS *City of New York*, Havana to New York, dep. 3 June 1875, Even Hansen; digital image, *Ancestry*, citing NARA microfilm M237, 1820-1897, Roll 398, image 634.

6 Gjermundsen, Jon Ola, *Gard og Bygd I Sør-Aurdal* (Binds A, B, C, D), Sør-Aurdal kommune, Valdres Bygdeboks forlag, 1987.

7 Braaten, O. J., *Oddefolket fra Begnadalen – Valdres*, Arne Qvist Trykkeri A. S., Hønefoss [Norway], 1954.

The True Halvor Olsen

Hans Evensen and Kari Halvorsdatter.⁸ (I descend from their second-born child, Bertha Hansdatter.)

Braaten names Kari's parents as Halvor O[lsen] Piltingsrud, born 1780 at Tollefsrud, and Marit, born at Stensrud. "You get the impression he is of the Piltingsrud family because of his name, therefore I will give you an account of his descent," says Braaten. He started with Kari's third-great-grandparent, Gulbrand Olsen Høgsrud (1584-1670), then his son Ole Gulbrandsen Høgsrud (1635-1709), followed by Hans Olsen Høgsrud ([1697]-1744) who is named at Tollefsrud, then his son Ole Hansen (1734-?) who became the next owner of Tollefsrud. Ole Hansen's son was Kari's father, Halvor Olsen.⁹

It seemed odd that Braaten began his explanation of Kari's family line by starting with her 3x-great-grandparent, rather than with Kari herself and working back through parents, then grandparents, etc. When Braaten arrived at Kari's father, Halvor Olsen, he remarked, "Halvor was born at Tollefsrud. When he wasn't using his grandfather's name, Høgsrud, he should have been using the Tollefsrud name rather than calling himself Piltingsrud...."¹⁰ This is confusing, and it was the first clue that something was amiss with Braaten's information for Halvor Olsen. One could ask, for instance, why didn't Braaten look to see who was living at Piltingsrud?

One can easily check Braaten's statements using the *Oddefolket* book, the four volumes (A, B, C, and D) of the Valdres *bygdeboks*, and the Norwegian *Digital Archives* website. The logical starting point in the *bygdeboks* was to find the farm where Kari Halvorsdatter was born to parents named Halvor Olsen, born at Tollefsrud, and Marit, born at Stensrud.

On Kristiansmoen, a farm holding on Vestre Piltingsrud, was an entry for "Halvor Olsen, Eidseie, born 1774 probably died 1835, married his second time to Marit Arnesdatter Sveinsbrøtin, born 1785, died 1832. [Daughter] Kari was

born in 1824 and married Hans Evensen Odden."¹¹ On the farm Sveinsbrøtin, it says Marit [Arnesdatter] was born in 1785, married Hallvor [sic] Olsen Piltingsrud, and they had a daughter, Kari, in 1824.¹² This information dovetails neatly, though it is not clear where Braaten got Stensrud instead of Sveinsbrøtin. There is a Steinsrud farm, but no Marit was born there to an Arne in 1785.¹³ Halvor Olsen and Marit were living on a Piltingsrud holding and not at Tollefsrud in 1824, because that is where daughter Kari's birthplace was listed. I did not check the statement that Halvor was from Eidseie, which I assumed was a farm he lived on before coming to Kristiansmoen on Vestre Piltingsrud.

Focusing on the fact that Halvor was married a second time in 1823, one can browse the 1823 parish marriage records on *Digital Archives* to find marriage number 27. The first column says, "Widower Halvord Olsen Piltingsrud 50 years," the second column lists the bride, "Girl Marit Arnesdatter Aasenseige 40 years." The third column names the bondsmen, Ole Halvorsen Piltingsrud and Ole Knudsen Grimsrud (the relationship of these men to Halvor and Marit is not identified), and the fourth column gives the date of the marriage, "17th November."¹⁴

If Halvor was 50 years old at his marriage in 1823, his birth year was more likely 1774 than 1780, as stated by Braaten. One proof of his actual birth year is an absence of information: examination of 1780 births in the parish birth records showed no Halvor born in the Aurdal parish in that year. There was a Haldor born to Gulbrand and a Haaverd born to Knudt, but besides being different first names, these would make Halvor's patronymic name either Gulbrandsen or Knudtsen, not Olsen.¹⁵

There were three candidates to be Halvor in the 1774 Aurdal parish birth records:

8 Kathryn Thalacker had help translating the *Oddefolket* from her uncle Sverre Aasen who was fluent in Norwegian. Kathryn sometimes abridged or summarized but retained essential information.

9 Thalacker, p. 20; Braaten, p. 38.

10 Thalacker, p. 21; Braaten, p. 39.

11 Gjermundsen, Book C, p. 169.

12 Gjermundsen, Book B, p. 676.

13 Gjermundsen, Book C, pp. 86-110.

14 SAH, Sør-Aurdal, Oppland, Norway, *prestekontor*, (parish register), copy, no. 1, 1815-1826, p. 410-411.

15 SAH, Aurdal *prestekontor*, official, no. 5, 1763-1781, p. 300-312.

| Name | Date | Introduced | Father | Mother |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Halvord [Olsen] | 12 June 1774 | 28 Jun 1774 | Ole Olmhus | Pige [female] |
| Halvord [Olsen] | [No date given] | [No date given] | Ole Jonsen Eid | Pige |
| Halvord [Juelsen] | 24 July 1774 | | Juel Olsen Sundvold | Pige |

Rural residence 0032 TOLLESRUD, Household #1¹⁶

| Number | Name | Age | Notes |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 001 | Halvor Olsen | 27 | Husband, both in 1st marriage, farmer |
| 002 | Sigri Gulbrandsdatter | 27 | Wife, both in 1st marriage |
| 003 | Ole Halvorsen | 2 | Son, with parents |
| 004 | Kari Halvorsdatter | 5 | Daughter, with parents |
| 005 | Taran Halvorsdatter | 3 | Daughter, with parents |

Rural Residence 0019 LIE, Household #3¹⁷

| Number | Name | Age | Notes |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 001 | Halvor Olsen | 27 | Husband, both in 1st marriage, farmer |
| 002 | Sigri Gulbrandsdatter | 27 | Wife, both in 1st marriage |
| 003 | Ole Halvorsen | 2 | Son, with parents |

Rural residence 0036 SØRUM Household #9¹⁸

| Number | Name | Age | Notes |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 001 | Halvor Olsen | 27 | Husband, both in 1st marriage, farmer |
| 002 | Sigri Gulbrandsdatter | 27 | Wife, both in 1st marriage |
| 003 | Ole Halvorsen | 2 | Son, with parents |
| 004 | Kari Halvorsdatter | 5 | Daughter, with parents |

One could discount the third child named Halvor because his father's given name was Juel, not Ole. It is unfortunate the mothers are not named, and a patronymic was not recorded for Ole Olmhus, but this search narrowed Halvor's paternal possibilities to Ole Olmhus and Ole Jonsen.

Halvor's first marriage in the parish records could yield a clue. Though one might browse the years when Halvor was between 20 and 30 years old (1794 to 1804), there are no digitized marriage records prior to 1799, and a marriage record was not found in the extant records after 1798.

Searching the 1801 Norwegian census with the terms Halvor, Oppland, and Aurdal returned 103 hits, only three of which seemed plausible based on age and name.

All three of these Halvors were born in 1774, and there are three possibilities for wives: Sigri Gulbrandsdatter, Kari Thorsdatter, and Kari Tollefsdatter. Cross-referencing with the *bygdeboks*, the Halvor that lived at Tollefsrud in 1801 was the same as the one in the parish birth records born 12 June 1774. The bygdebok recorded parents as Ole Olsen Olmhus and Kari Sjugurdsdatter Bøen, and Halvor married Si[g]ri Gudbrandsdatter Strømmen in 1795.¹⁹ Sigri died in 1844.²⁰ This cannot be "my" Halvor since this one only married once, and his wife was still alive in 1823.

16 1801 Norway census, 0542P Aurdal parish, 0032 Tollesrud, *Digital Archives*, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/census>).

17 Ibid., 0019 Lie.

18 Ibid., 0036 Sør dal.

19 Gjermundsen, Book B, p. 545.

20 Gjermundsen, Book C, p. 233.

The True Halvor Olsen

Though the second record shows a Halvor Olsen of the correct age, his birth record was not found in the 1774 parish records nor in the 1773 or 1775. He was still single in 1801, but if and when he had children and followed the naming pattern, his first daughter would have been named Kari after his mother, so that makes this man a possibility. However, this particular family could not be located in the *bygdeboks* on any of the farms named Lie. Unless additional information was found, this record was discounted.

Browsing the Sørum holdings in the *bygdeboks* revealed no Halvor Olsen and Kari Thorsdatter. Perhaps he was a renter or lived there only a short time. With that avenue a dead end, parish death records were the next option, starting in 1823 and working backward to 1801, when Kari Thorsdatter was still living and recorded in the census. Kari died at Piltingsrud at the age of 67 on 30 October 1821.²¹ This made Halvor a widower who could marry again in 1823.

Who were Halvor's parents?

Looking back at the parish birth records, the Halvor born to Juel Olsen and the Halvor born to Ole Olmhus had both been ruled out. That left Halvor born to Ole Jonsen Eid. However, at his entry on Kristiansmoen, Halvor Olsen was identified as coming from Eidseie.²² It was time to check this farm, something that should have been done when this reference was first noted. On Eidseie, Halvor Olsen was born to Ole Tøstensen Grimsrud and Rannei Olsdatter Bakken in 1774, their seventh of eight children.²³

Turning back to the birth records at the *Digital Archives* and minutely comparing the letters of the word I had transcribed as "Jonsen" with others on the page in that same handwriting, I realized it was not a J, but a T. Eventually I understood the patronymic was indeed "Tostensen."²⁴ Here was "my" Halvor Olsen with the correct parents, Ole Tøstensen and Rannei Olsdatter. At last, I was able to give him his true antecedents.

The first time I read through the information on the farm Steinsrud, I only looked for a Marit born to an Arne in the year 1785. Since revisiting those pages I found "my" Halvor Olsen Eidseie, born 1774, had bought a holding called Hesjabakken in 1811, which he sold in 1812. He was first married in 1794 to Kari Tordsdatter [Thorsdatter] Iljanstad. "They are named at Haugsrud/Haugsrudeie in 1795-1797, and at Sørumseie (Sørumshaugen) from 1799... Halvor Olsen was married second to Marit Arnesdatter Sveinsbrøtin," this followed by a reference to Kristiansmoen.²⁵

It is uncertain how O. J. Braaten identified the wrong line for Halvor Olsen, that of Ole Olsen Olmhus instead of following the clues to Ole Tostensen Eid, but there were two Halvor Olsens born in 1774 and it would be very easy to mistake one for the other. I found Braaten often confused the two Halvors, particularly with respect to which one owned which piece of property. My search was made easier by the ability to use the internet for the parish records and *bygdeboks* for property records and vital statistics. For Braaten, the internet was nonexistent, and the *bygdeboks* were not published until thirty years after he wrote his genealogy. If nothing else, my experience underscores that a genealogist should not rely on the research of another without checking the sources.

Jean Cammon Findlay is the co-author of two *Arcadia* books, *Mosquito Fleet of South Puget Sound (about steamboats)* and *Vashon-Maury Island*, as well as having written several genealogical articles about the Norwegian side of her family. She was born in Seattle, lived thirty-four years in Colorado where she was an upper-elementary teacher, and now lives in retirement with her husband on Vashon Island in Washington. Jean is a member of the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association where she is chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Collection Committee.

21 South Aurdal, Oppland, Norway, 1 Priesthood Office, Ministerial Book No. 2, 1815-1840, pp. 212-213, *Digital Archive*, www.digitalarkivet.no/kb20070603950357.

22 Gjermundsen, Book C, p. 169.

23 Gjermundsen, Book B, p. 724.

24 I received confirmation from the Valdres Samband genealogist, Tom Standal. "Re: Question about Halvor Olsen Piltingsrud. It is definitely Ole Tostensen/Torsteinsen Eid," Email to Jean Findlay, 20 March 2019.

25 Gjermundsen, Book C, pp. 100-101.

The Dog Tag that Returned Home

Jim Rosati

An American soldier stationed at Fowlmere Airfield near Cambridge, England, lost his dog tag during World War II. In the 1960s, after most of the airfield buildings had been torn down and the land sold-off, a man working in his garden found a dog tag for Wilbur F. Head, serial no. 39906169.

Fast-forward more than 60 years. The director of the Fowlmere Airfield Museum emailed me in January 2019 with the following:

“Jim, hope you can help. Someone came into the museum last Sunday and told us about this dog tag he had. It was found back in the 60s near the living quarters and the person has had it on his keys for years. The people who have it have tried to find out if there are any of the family still around so it can be returned.”



Wilbur Head dog tag

The museum director enlisted my help because I am the editor of the 339th Fighter Group legacy newsletter, *The Lads from Fowlmere*.

With a name and serial number, identifying the serviceman was straight-forward. Wilbur Frank Head enlisted 4 January 1943 in Salt Lake City, Utah.¹ Born 4 June 1923, he was the son of Wilbur John Head and Edith Harding of Salt Lake City.² Five foot, 11 inches, with gray eyes and brown hair, he worked for Remington Arms when he registered for the draft in 1942.³ He served in the 503rd Squadron of the 339th Fighter Group.

Sadly, Wilbur Head died in Salt Lake City in 1957. His death certificate identified his wife, “Mrs. Wilbur Head,” as his next of kin.⁴ A 1952 city directory listed Wilbur F. Head, and

NO DECORATIONS 12A 6077151131 ORIGINAL

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. NAME OF DECEASED—LAST—FIRST—MIDDLE (Print or Type) HEAD, WILBUR FRANK | | APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (See attached instructions. Complete and submit original and duplicate) | |
| 2. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, Day, Year) 4 Jan 1943 | 3. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, Day, Year) 25 Sept. 1945 | 11. EPHEMERA (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN (Latin Cross) <input type="checkbox"/> HEBREW (Star of David) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE | 12. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER |
| 4. SERVICE NO. 39 906 169 | 5. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NO. | 14. SHIP TO (Name and address of person who will transport stone or marker to cemetery) THADDEUS M. SWANS, Sexton City Cemetery 200 N St., Salt Lake City, Utah | |
| 6. STATE Utah | 7. GRADE Sgt. | 8. MEDALS U.S. ARMY | 15. FREIGHT STATION Salt Lake City, Utah |
| 9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, AND DIVISION OR SHIP 503 Fighter Sqdn. - Army Air Corps World War 2 | | 16. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) City Cemetery, Salt Lake City, Utah | |
| 10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) June 4, 1923 | 11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) October 30, 1957 | 13. I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE OR MARKER HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT SAME TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 1/28/58 | |
| DO NOT WRITE HERE RECEIVED JAN 31 1958 VERIFIED S.I. WY 7491440 FEB 20 1958 | | 14. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) ROBERT W. INSCORE, C/O Utah State Historical Society 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City 2, Utah | |
| 13. I certify this application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, soldiers of Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for properly placing the stone or marker at the grave at no expense to the Government. | | SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: [Signature] DATE: 1/27/58 | |
| GMC FORM 646 REPLACES DD FORM 628, 9 FEB 49 WHICH MAY BE USED | | IMPORTANT—Reverse Side Must Be Completed | |

Wilbur Frank Head, Headstone Application for Military Veterans

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NAME | Head | Wilbur | Frank | Local Board No. | 10 |
| Last | First | Middle | Rank or Grade | Sgt. | |
| Serial No. | 39 906 169 | Army <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Navy <input type="checkbox"/> | Marines <input type="checkbox"/> | Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enlisted | <input type="checkbox"/> | Inducted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commissioned | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Date | 1/4/43, Salt Lake City, Utah | | | | |
| Place | Salt Lake City, Utah | | | | |
| Termination of Service | 9/25/45, Ft. Douglas, Utah | | | | |
| Date of Birth | 6/4/23 | | Place | Salt Lake City, Utah | |
| Parents | Edith Harding Head | | Address | 254 I Street | |
| Nearest Kin | father or mother | | Address | Salt Lake City, Ut. | |
| MARITAL STATUS: Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |
| Wife | Name | | Address | | |
| Military History: | li 10/30/57 | | | | |
| (Over) | | | | | |

Military Service Card, Wilbur Frank Head

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

232

MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS

Applying for Admission to the United States Under the Act of December 28, 1945, and of Accompanying United States Citizen Children

S. S. Queen Mary Arriving at port of New York

| LINE No. | NAME (I) | AGE (I) | APPLICATION NO. (I) | (I) | This column for use of United States Immigration Inspector (I) |
|----------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | HAYNIE, Beatrice | 21 | W 20547 | A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | HEAD, Gertrude R. | 22 | W 20578 | A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | HEATLEY, Irene M. | 34 | W 20917 | A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Queen Mary manifest, New York, 4 April 1946

1 “World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946,” National Archives and Records Administration, Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 1938-1946, World War II army Enlistment Records, Record Group 64; online database, *Ancestry*.

2 “Military Service Cards, ca. 1898-1975,” Department of Administrative Services, Division of Archives and Records Service, series 85268; reel 74, Utah, Military

Records, 1861-1970; online database, *Ancestry*, citing Utah State Archives and Records Service.

3 “World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-47,” National Archives, St. Louis, Records of the Selective Service System, Record Group 147, Box 49; online database, *Ancestry*.

4 Salt Lake City, Utah, death certificate, Wilbur F. Head; image not printed to protect privacy.

The Dog Tag that Returned Home



Alan Baker



Granddaughter Shondra, 339th veteran Bill Moore and daughter Charlene

wife Gertrude, living in Salt Lake City. A search of English marriage records found a marriage of a “William” F. Head and Gertrude R. Pryor in Cambridge in January 1945.⁵ Wilbur was discharged 25 September 1945 at Ft. Douglas, Utah.⁶ Gertrude R. Head of Hertfordshire sailed from Southampton 30 March 1846 on the *Queen Mary*.⁷ She stated that she was a “dependent” of Sgt. Wilbur F. Head of Salt Lake City.⁸

A search at *FamilySearch* found the information extracted from a Wilcox, Arizona, obituary identifying three sons of Wilbur and Rosemary Pryor Head: Terry, Larry, and Michael. Wilbur, son of Wilbur Frank Head, had died in July 2010. An online white pages search located a Travis Head in Phoenix, but with no phone number. A snail mail letter to Mr. Head produced a return phone call. The family said “yes,” they would like to receive the dog tag of their World War II father and grandfather.

The man who found the dog tag was Alan G. Baker of Fowlmere, England. After finding the tag while gardening, he had kept it on his keychain until last year. We are grateful that Mr. Baker wanted to return the dog tag to the family. A copy has been made for the Fowlmere Airfield Museum for an exhibit at the Museum, and the original has been shipped to Linda Moore whose dad was a pilot with the 339th and lives in Phoenix. She and her dad, veteran Bill Moore, shared the honor of presenting the tag to the Head family.

Jim Rosati lives in Crystal, Minnesota, with his wife of 29 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Jim caught the genealogy bug in 2011 while researching his mother's side of the family. He is a military history buff and is editor of the 339th Fighter Group legacy newsletter.

5 “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005,” United Kingdom General Register Office, vol. 3a, p. 1251; online database *Ancestry*.

6 “U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963,” Wilbur Frank Head, *Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941*, microfilm publication M1916, ARC ID: 596118, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives, Washington, D.C.; online database, *Ancestry*.

7 “New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957,” *Queen Mary* passenger manifest, New York, 4 April 1946, p. 232, line 2; digital image, *Ancestry*.

8 “UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960,” *Queen Mary* passenger list, Southampton, 30 March 1846, p. 114; digital image, *Ancestry*.

Writing Our Family Stories

Jean Atkinson Andrews, CG

Nearly two years ago, my son-in-law asked me to write the story of his immigrant ancestor as a present for his father. I had researched this man, a German immigrant who came to southern Ohio in 1860. He had a minor presence in the Cincinnati brewing industry from 1870 to 1900 and his life deserved further exploration.

From this experience, I set a longer-term goal of writing the stories of each of the family's known immigrant ancestors, most of whom were nineteenth century arrivals from German soil into Ohio and Minnesota. I enjoy researching and writing these biographical sketches along with adding color and detail. This article explains how I plan, organize, and write them. I hope it will inspire you to do likewise.

Planning

My biographical sketches average 20 to 25 pages, including source citations, images, and sometimes an appendix for things like church records. Yours may be shorter or longer, but one to thirty pages can be a manageable size, adequate for a rich account of a subject's life.

There are some obvious benefits to writing family stories. Writing organizes and presents your research in a structured, understandable way. A written story can engage family members who have no interest in charts and graphs. And, a written story can be preserved and shared forward to later generations.

Successful writing projects begin with a plan. Advance planning makes projects more enjoyable and likely to be completed. To illustrate, I'll use a Minnesota immigrant ancestor of mine. My mother's third great-grandfather, Karl Ludwig Sens, was born between 1825 and 1827 in the Kingdom of Prussia. Today that area is in Poland. Karl immigrated in 1868 to Winona County, Minnesota. My sketch covers his life in Minnesota. My planning process for this project includes three steps.

1. Pick an Ancestor. Decide on a clear direction by picking an ancestor you already know well. Don't pick a brick wall or

someone otherwise fraught with problems. Those can be great writing projects, but the idea is to complete a first project.

Karl Sens is my third project. Having done two previous sketches, I've got a good idea of how to proceed. He has some gaps – his birth year and birthplace aren't really documented (yet). The area he perhaps originated from was in Germany, but it is now in Poland. His emigration to Minnesota will be my starting point.

2. Consider the Reader. Next, think about who will read your finished work. If your family is like mine, they are not interested in my research process or where sources were located. They want an interesting story and maybe a few surprising facts previously not known.

Karl is my mother's immigrant ancestor, the starting point of the family in the United States. My two siblings and I are my mother's only surviving descendants, but there are many cousins who would be interested. Most of them do not have an active interest in genealogy. My goal is to leave a record of this man's life that informs his descendants and future researchers.

3. Set a Realistic Schedule. How much time can you spend writing? My first biographical sketch took twelve months amid other projects, volunteer work, and household responsibilities. Set aside time for writing and work in consistent small steps. Build in extra time. This type of project can be as flexible as you need it to be.

A realistic schedule for me to write Karl's Minnesota story is six to nine months. I will include a list of his children at the end of the sketch, and a brief genealogical summary of their births, marriages, and deaths. I will not expand any of the children into a larger story. That can be a future project.

Organization, Style and Format

Once you have a subject, a reader in mind, and an idea of your writing capacity, it's time to get organized.

Pull out every bit of information about the target ancestor. Organize it in a loosely chronological order. Note if you have

Writing Our Family Stories

any significant gaps that need to be filled. Add those tasks to your research log to be completed while the writing proceeds. If you haven't done so already, plan to research the area where the subject lived, the occupation they had, the industry they were employed in, or other aspects of social history that will add interest to the story.

Pull everything together before you start writing. Include photos and copies of documents – everything! If you don't have a lot of photos you can later look for historical images, maps, or copyright-free photos online. Keep reference material you find in an *Evernote* writing file folder or on your computer, along with copies of photos and images. If you don't organize your research by individual, it might be worth copying just the subject's documents into a separate writing project folder.

Source citations. These are not optional, but they don't have to be a source of difficulty. Write down Who (creator), What (title), When (created or published), Where In (volume, page, etc.), and Where Is (location of the source). You'll be covered for 90 percent of the sources you use, and your writing will have credibility with family members and the grateful thanks of succeeding generations who find your work.

Style. Set up a style guide of commonly used citation forms (census, death certificates) along with your preferred standard usage of abbreviations, capitalization, locations, and dates. For a great one, see Julie Miller's guide in the list of resources at the end of this article.

Format. Topic headings break up text on the page and help guide you through the writing and the reader through the story.

Productivity tools. Tools, forms, and checklists can help you organize your writing project and keep you on track. They also help you capture your search results and organize them. Create or search online for them as you need them.

Organizing Karl Sens Project

Using a folder already created on my computer for Karl, I added material to his life using three steps.

1. Research online records such as censuses, passenger lists, and area histories. Build an outline of Karl and his family in Minnesota from these sources.
2. Identify useful off-line sources to obtain. For Karl, these included his homestead file from the National Archives and the 1880 federal agricultural census from the Minnesota Historical Society.
3. Make a list of the open issues about Karl's life that still need work. For example, Karl's exact death date is not known; the usual sources such as death registers or certificates have not been found. Other records, such as probate, might help.

Organizing the information. There are several ways to organize the story. Your choice depends on your purpose and your reader.

Chronological – Easy to organize, the writing is simple to divide into manageable chunks, and most readers understand a chronological progression of events.

Location – A subject about whom interesting facts are known for a specific location might lend itself to writing about the location or setting in which the ancestor played a role.

Family – Many subjects can only be understood in the context of their family. Information about the family needs to be included to understand the subject's situation, actions, and decisions.

Problem Solving – If you are writing to resolve a problem of identity or kinship, the evidence may suggest an arrangement based on a clearly stated research question and the evidence that points toward an answer.

I will use a chronological format for my story of Karl's Minnesota life.

Keyword Outlining. Once you have your research and documents collected and organized, keyword-outline the story. Outlining has several benefits. It helps you see exactly what you have and will be writing about. It can help you get started and feel less pressured. It gives you a structure to follow, or change as needed.

The rules of traditional outlining that we all learned in high school don't apply here. This is about getting ideas on paper in as few words as possible – think bullet points, not sentences. Let's keyword-outline Karl's story to see how easy this can be.

1. 1825–1828, Karl Ludwig Sens born, probably in Seegenfelde, Kingdom of Prussia.
2. About 1855 – Marriage to Wilhelmine Ernestine Schuler, probably in Prussia.
3. 21 March 1868 – Emigration permission granted; left Hamburg 15 April 1868.
4. 26 May 1868 – Arrival on *Shakespeare*, port of Quebec, Canada.
5. Before September 1868 – Travel to Winona County, Minnesota – How did he get there?
6. Background on Winona County – Why did he settle there?
7. 1875 – Minnesota land patent, 80 acres. Homestead Act of 1862.
8. 1875 – Minnesota territorial and state census, “Edward” Sens, age 49.
9. 1880 – U.S. census, “Charles” Sens, farmer.
10. 1880 – Agricultural census (image copies from Minnesota Historical Society), “Charles” Sens.
11. 1905 – Minnesota state census – Ludvig Sens, age 78, lives in household of son Edward.

The basic outline of Karl's known life events become the topics of his story. I can rearrange, add, or remove items as I write, and each event is a manageable amount of writing.

Report, Reflect, and Discuss

Write about facts and actions taken along with why it is interesting or important. Because we're writing about the past, we can't know exactly what the subject's emotions or motivations might have been. Events such as war, migration, loss, marriage, and land acquisition likely had emotions and concerns attached.

Here's what I wrote about Karl's emigration from Germany (No. 3 in keyword outline above).

“Karl Ludwig Sens, age 43, Ziegler (bricklayer), was apparently born in Seegenfelde, Friedeberg, and received permission to emigrate to “Nord-Amerika” on 21 March 1868.¹ He was accompanied by his wife, Wilhemine Ernestine, age 38, and children, Berta Emilie, age twelve, Albert Eduard, age ten, Minna Ernestine, age six, and Hulda Helene Charlotte, age one.

Three weeks later the family left Germany on 15 April 1868 from the port of Hamburg on the ship *Shakespeare*.² They were bound for the port of Quebec, Canada. Listed as “C L” Sens, farmer, in the Canadian passenger list, the family arrived in Quebec on 26 May 1868.³ The ship carried a total of 517 passengers – 349 adults and 168 children and infants. Their sea journey had taken just over five weeks.

His homestead file strongly suggests that Karl's leaving Germany and emigrating to America was motivated by obtaining land, for he filed the preliminary application for his land in 3 September 1868, less than four months after arriving at the Quebec port.⁴ He was not yet a citizen, but his actions indicate he came to Minnesota to own land and be a citizen of the United States.”⁵

1 Auswanderungskartei, Karl Ludwig Sens, Reference “Rep. 3B I (or 1) St., Nr. 734 Bl. 6; FHL microfiche 6109219, Pt. 19 of 22, Surnames Se-Ta, International, FHL citing Auswanderungskartei (emigration cards) located at Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv in Potsdam, Germany .

2 “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934,” database and images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 21 October 2018) for Carl L Sens, p. 225[?], l. 367–372, 15 April 1868; from original records of Staatsarchiv Hamburg, Germany, V.373-7 I, VIII A 1, Band 022, microfilm roll K_1713.

3 “Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935,” database and images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 01 September 2018) for C L and Ernestine Sens, Prussia,

ship *Shakespeare*, May 1868; citing Library & Archives Canada RG 76–C Department of Employment and Immigration fonds., roll C–4522. The manifest is unpaginated and contains no line numbers.

4 Carl Ludewick Sens (Winona County) homestead file, final certificate no. 2522, New Ulm, Minnesota, Land Office; Land Entry Papers, 1800–1908; Record Group 49; Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

5 Andrews, Jean Atkinson, CG, unpublished personal research, Karl Ludvig Sens (c. 1825–c. 1910), author's files, 2019.

Writing Our Family Stories

This account of the family's passage to America hints at Karl's motivations. Historical information can add color and interest. You might write about conditions on board ships, events shaping migration in the late 1860s, or even the weather in Quebec in September 1868. An image of the passenger list or the ship itself might enhance reader interest. While images of records can be interesting to readers, avoid lengthy transcriptions of documents such as deeds or other legal documents unless they are helpful to the story – legalese can quickly become dense and confusing to readers.

Conclusion

Writing your family stories is a deeply satisfying undertaking that makes more of your research accessible to others. Pick a story you care about and set realistic goals – better a smaller finished project than an ambitious unfinished one.

If you have planned and organized your writing, you can stop and restart at any time and know exactly where you left off. If you do have to stop, write a few bullets of your thoughts about the next section you intend to work on. When you come back, you'll remember what you were thinking of writing next.

Above all, enjoy the process. Sharing the stories of ancestors with family members and others is enriching and satisfying.

Resources

Websites

Lisa Alzo: Writer, Lecturer, Genealogist (www.lisaalzo.com). Alzo's website has a variety of resources. Her "Research, Write, Connect" webinar courses have helped me move my writing style from less "Research Report" to more "Interesting Family Story."

JPM Genealogy Research (<http://www.jpmpresearch.com/jpm/downloadsStyleGuide.html>). Julie Miller's style guides for family history writing can be downloaded and modified to fit your purposes.

NGS 2019 Lectures (purchase at www.playbackngs.com)

Julie Miller, *Four Essential Building Blocks to Organizing Your Genealogy*

Cari Taplin, *Family History Piecework: An Approach to Writing*

General Resources

Jon Acuff, *Finish: Give Yourself the Gift of Done* (New York: Penguin, 2018). If you have trouble with perfectionist tendencies and setting unrealistic goals, you'll enjoy this frank and funny book about a reformed "serial starter."

Anne H. Janzer, *The Writer's Process: Getting Your Brain in Gear*, (Mountain View, Calif.: Cuesta Park Consulting, 2016). Janzer makes sense of the writing process and how to be more productive. Her website (<https://annejanzer.com/book/writers-process/>) overflows with resources for the nonfiction writer.

Jean Atkinson Andrews, CG, holds degrees in accounting and finance and has served on the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Board since 2010. She received her Certified Genealogist credential in 2014, and has written for APG Quarterly, National Genealogical Society Quarterly, NGS magazine, and other publications. She also authored "Structuring a Business" in the 2018 revised edition of *Professional Genealogy*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Jean lives with her husband and rescue dogs in southwest Ohio.

Minnesota Genealogist Challenge

Situation: St. Louis, Missouri, officials protested that the June 1880 federal census of St. Louis under-counted the city's population. A second enumeration was undertaken in November. The November census enumerated John Sanders, age 24, on Charles Street.

1880 November: John Sanders, age 24, tinner, 612 St. Charles St., born in Iowa, parents born in Iowa

Challenge: Can you find him in the June 1880 census and the 1870 census?

Hint: You may have to use the free *FamilySearch* 1880 census index to find John Saunders in the November enumeration, which reported only his occupation and birthplace correctly.

Send your solutions – *with source citations* – to journal@mngs.org. The names of those who submit correct answers will be printed in the next issue and entered in a drawing to win an MGS water bottle.

Solution to the Fall Challenge

Clues: Find A Grave memorial #82193034 shows Peter F. Tseufis was born in 1896 and died in 1958. He is buried in Alexandria Bay, Jefferson County, New York. In 1942, Pete J. Tseufis registered for the U.S. military draft from that same place.

Challenge: What year did he arrive in the United States and from where did he emigrate?

Hint: Consider name variations.

Solution: A passenger manifest for the SS *Patris*, which sailed from Piraeus, Greece, for New York on 22 August 1912, includes an 18-year-old worker from the town of Tsioti. His name is indexed on *Ancestry* as Petros Tsiougfis but it appears in the record as Petros Tsioufis.¹ If you *Google* “Tsioti,” you will find several websites that inform it was renamed Farkadona in 1955.²

| LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----|--------------|------------------------|-----------|------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S. S. | | PATRIS | | sailing from | | | | PIRAEUS | | AUG 22 1912 | | 190 | | |
| No. on List | NAME IN FULL | | Age | Sex | *Calling or Occupation | Able to— | | Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject.) | Race or People | Last Permanent Residence | | The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came. | Final Destination | |
| | Family Name | Given Name | | | | Yrs. Mos. | Read | | | Write | Country | | City or Town | State |
| 1 | Olssaris | Evangelos | 29 | M | Farmer | yes | yes | Greece | Greek | Greece | Argos | His mother Angeliki Argos Greece | Ill | Irma Valley Junction |
| 2 | Avanibakis | Stavros | 25 | M | Workman | yes | yes | Greece | Greek | Greece | Halohoronia | His mother Evdokia Halohoronia Greece | Ill | Chicago |
| 3 | Tsioufis | Petros | 18 | M | Workman | yes | yes | Greece | Greek | Greece | Tsioti | His mother Vasiliki Tsioti Greece His father Antonou | N. H. | Manchester |

Passenger list

1 “New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957,” database, *Ancestry*, entry for Petros Tsiougfis [sic], aboard SS *Patris*, Piraeus to New York, leaving 22 August 1912; citing NARA microfilm T715, 1897-1957, roll 1930, p. 40.

2 *GeoNames Search* (<http://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/>), database, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, search for Greece, Tsioti.

| Name (Type) | Geopolitical Entity Name (Code) | First-Order Administrative Division Name (Code) | Latitude, Longitude DMS (DD) | MGRS | Feature Designation (Code) | Display Location Using |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Farkadóna (Approved - N) Φαρκαδόνα (Non-Roman Script - NS) Farkadhón (Variant - V) Tsiótion (Variant - V) | Greece (GR) | Thessalia (GR64) | 39° 35' 29" N, 022° 04' 07" E (39.59133, 22.068624) | 34SEJ9176082946 | seat of a second-order administrative division (PPLA2) | Google Maps MapQuest |

GeoSearch

Helps: This man's surname had numerous spelling variations. Use of the * wildcard made for more productive searches: Pet* for Peter and the Greek form, Petros, and Ts*fis for Tseufis.

The challenge question should have been more specific about Peter's place of emigration. Several readers suggested Piraeus, the port from which he sailed, but this was not where he had recently lived. Some U.S. census records indicate his year of immigration was 1912. This happens to be correct, but immigration dates in censuses are frequently off by one or more years.

A record such as a passenger list, created nearer the time of the event, is more credible.

A few readers responded that Peter's WWII draft registration cites Tseoteon as his birthplace.³ No such place ever existed, so this is probably Tsiotion, a variant of Tsiotis. Imagine the American draft registrar who recorded Peter's information on the card trying to understand a Greek accent spelling out "T-S-I-O-T-I-O-N." Peter's "I"s probably sounded like "E"s.) When dealing with an unlikely place name, look for corroborating records or consider phonetic spelling.

Registration card

Participants: Six readers submitted the correct answer – although all needed a bit of assistance to get there. The best answer to the Fall 2019 *Minnesota Genealogist* Challenge came from Tim Fewer. Well done, Tim! Honorable mention goes to Jean Findlay, K.H. Lyon, Kathy Newman, Barb O'Brien, and Sally Olson.

3 U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," digital images, *Ancestry*, card for Pete J. Tseufis, no. 1493, Alexandria Bay, Draft Board 420; citing *World War II*

Draft Cards (Fourth Registration) for the State of New York; NARA Record Group 147; Roll 622.

MGS Learning Opportunities

2020 MGS CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS

All classes 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Saturdays at Minnesota Genealogy Center

18 January

Minnesota Historical Society Digital Newspaper Collection, Jillian Odland

21 March

Military Records and Fold3, Cathi Weber

16 May

Documents + DNA + FANS + Luck, Combining Tools to Find Biological Family, Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG

20 June

Beyond Ethnicity: Using DNA to Prove Genealogical Relationships, J. H. Fonkert

18 July

Can Facebook Find my Family? Social Media and Genealogy, Jeanne Bielke-Rodenbiler

15 August

Fire, Water, and the 1890 U.S. Census: Researching Beyond the Ashes and Mold, Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG

19 September

Death Records and Cemetery Research, Tom Rice, CG

21 November

Swedish Historical Maps, Bob Johnson, JD, CG

12 December

Naturalization Records for Genealogists, Cathi Weber

2020 MGS SPRING CONFERENCE

Saturday, 18 April, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“Pilgrims to Patriots: Researching Colonial America to the United States Revolution, a Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower”

Focusing on genealogical research from colonial settlement through the Revolution.

Please visit www.mnsgs.org for more information and registration.

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Admission is free to MGS members and members of MGS branches and affiliate organizations. MGS requests a \$10 admission donation from non-members. Free WiFi is available for laptop users. Check the MGS website (www.mnsgs.org) for library hours and any scheduling updates. The library will be closed during severe weather.

Research Policy

MGS Research Committee volunteers conduct research using the collections of the MGS William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center, and make occasional research trips to area repositories. The MGS collection includes Minnesota city directories, Hennepin and Ramsey County marriage records, some Minnesota Catholic church records, other library resources (see the MGS Library Catalog), and online databases. A research fee of \$25 per hour supports operations of the Library and Research Center. Send research requests to MGS Research Committee, Suite 100, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367, or research@mnsgs.org.



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