

Nettie Maria Smith Abbey: Her Brothers, Sisters, and Ancestors

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Nettie and Pitt Abbey

Nettie was orphaned at two, married at 18, saw her husband paralyzed when she was 43, and was left a widow at 51. In this article I explore her grandparents and their descendants and her brothers and sisters, who were also orphaned. These stories are mainly in McKean County, Pennsylvania, but also extend to neighboring Potter County and to parts of New York State. I have already written about Nettie's descendants in my article **Descendants of Timothy Abbey and Betsey Jacox**.

A. Ebenezer Parker (~1794-1842) and Elizabeth Moore (1805-1881), grandparents of Nettie

Ebenezer Parker was born ~1794 and died in 1842 on his farm near Coryville, on the north side of Potato Creek, in both Eldred and Keating Townships, McKean County. He had two wives. The first was **Rebecca**. She is a bit of a mystery figure, inasmuch as she died before 1850, when censuses started naming individuals in a household. We know her name from a marriage record of his son Lewis, which states Lewis' parents as Ebenezer and Rebecca, and from New

118	115	Isaac Parker	23	m		Thames
		Lewis	22	m		
119	119	Elizabeth Moore	111	f		
		Franklin Cobb	24	m		Luton
		Phebe	16	f		
		Job Gifford	25	m		Luton
		Emeline	19	f		
1	119	Paulina Cobb	16	f		
2		Jackson Parker	13	m		
3		Eliza	11	f		
4		Harriet	5	f		

York Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War, which names the parents of her son Isaac Reed Parker as Ebenezer and Rebecca. It is tempting to equate Ebenezer and Rebecca with the Ebenezer Parker who married Rebecca Fletcher Reed in 1816 in Rindge, New Hampshire, in part because their son Isaac's middle name was Reed. She was from Rindge and he from Ashburnham, Massachusetts. Rebecca, whatever her surname, probably died about

1834.

The above 1850 census for Keating Township is critical. Isaac Parker, son of Ebenezer and Rebecca, was living with his brother Lewis. They were stepsons of Elizabeth Moore. In the adjacent dwelling was Elizabeth Moore and her children with Elihue Cobb: Franklin (and his wife Phebe), Paulina, and Emeline with her husband Job Gifford; and her children with Ebenezer Parker: Jackson, Eliza, and Harriet.



Elizabeth Moore

Ebenezer's second wife was **Elizabeth Moore**. All censuses indicate that she was born in New York State. Elizabeth had a husband before Ebenezer, **Elihue Cobb** (~1806-~1835). Based on the census record above, Gary Glaser suggested this prior marriage to me. Moreover, the death certificate of her son (with Ebenezer) A J Parker lists his mother as "Elizabeth Cob." Elihue Cobb was born and died in the Town of Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County, New York, which is across the state line from McKean County, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth appears as Elizabeth Moore in 1835 in Yorkshire, after Elihue died.

Elizabeth married Ebenezer ~1836. Her last Cobb child, Paulina, was born ~1836, and her first Parker child, Jackson, was born in 1836. That is also about the time that Ebenezer was established in McKean County. He did not live in

Pennsylvania in 1830 but did in 1840. He is recorded as a taxpayer in Keating Township in 1836-1837. He certainly moved to Pennsylvania from New York. His son Lewis was born in Steuben County and his son Isaac Reed in Chenango County.

A \$1000 bond was paid on April 2, 1842 by the executors of Ebenezer's will: Joel Parker, Joseph Otto, and Ebenezer Larrabee. On that date and for a number of times after that, the

Administrators of his estate, Joseph Otto and Joel Parker, put out newspaper announcements for the sale on May 13 of all his possessions, horses, cows, etc. On January 14, 1843, in McKean County Orphans Court, Elias J Cook and David Cornelius were appointed guardians of Andrew Jackson Parker, Eliza Jane Parker, and Harriet Amelia Parker, all minor children of the late Ebenezer Parker. His children with Rebecca were addressed in a document filed in 1848, in McKean County Court: Mary Ann Parker Spencer, Charles Parker, Isaac R Parker, Lewis Parker, Joel Parker, and Julianne Parker were named as heirs to the property of Ebenezer Parker on the north side of Potato Creek, Eldred and Keating Townships. The property was subsequently divided among them by seven men appointed by the court.



Ebenezer is buried in the Goodwin Cemetery, which is just off Route 46 in Farmers Valley, not too far south of the

location of Ebenezer's farm. His tombstone reads "died March 24, 1842 In the 48th yr of his Age. Friend nor Physicians could save this mortal body from the grave."

In 1860 and 1870 Elizabeth Moore lived with her daughter Harriet and Harriet's husband William Irons and in 1880 with her son Jackson and his wife Esther. She died at Jackson's home. In 1860-1880 her daughter Eliza Jane Smith was with her. Only once, in the 1880 census, was she enumerated as Elizabeth Parker. Otherwise, in censuses and records, she is Elizabeth Moore

and, on her tombstone, Mrs. Elizabeth Moore. Her tombstone is in Rosehill Cemetery in Smethport between Freddy Irons and Frank J Irons, her grandsons, and near the monument of her daughter Emeline Gifford.



A1. Charles Parker and Joel Parker, sons of Ebenezer and Rebecca, were named in the 1848 document as heirs of Ebenezer Parker. Joel Parker was also an Administrator of his estate. I have been unable to find out more about them.

A2. Mary Ann Parker (~1818-1884), daughter of Ebenezer and Rebecca, was named, as Mary Ann Parker Spencer, in the 1848 document. Laura Baumeister has researched Mary Ann extensively. She sent me photos, taken at the McKean County Courthouse, of some of the documents that I have referenced. Mary Ann married **Daniel D Spencer** (1808-1895) in 1837 in Eldred, McKean County. They lived mostly in Hinsdale, Cattaraugus County, New York, and Genesee, Allegany County, New York. They are buried in the West Genesee Cemetery. Their children include Isaac Reed Spencer.

A3. Lewis Parker (~1826-), son of Ebenezer and Rebeca, on 26 May 1845 petitioned the McKean County Court for Rensalaeer Wright to be appointed his guardian, after the death of his father. He was one of those named in the 1848 document dividing his father's land among the children. In 1850 he was living with his brother Isaac next to his step-mother Elizabeth Moore (see above). In 1852 he married **Hannah A Kidder** (~1832-1914) in Eldred, McKean County. She had previously been married, for about four years, to Edwin Sylvester Greene and had two children from that marriage. The record of his marriage to Hannah names his parents as Ebenezer and Rebecca and also says, curiously, that "Lewis thought his wife worth one dollar (cheap)."

In 1858 there was a Treasurers Sale of land of Lewis Parker for taxes in arrears (McKean Citizen 27 Mar 1858). In 1860 Lewis, a farmer, was living in Eldred with Hannah, two step-children, and three children of their own. In 1865 he was living in Ellicottville, Cattaraugus, New York, a farmer. That census lists his birthplace as Steuben County. In 1875 Hannah Oyer, apparently remarried, lived in Ellicottville with a son from her first marriage and a daughter Ida from her marriage to Lewis.

Children of Lewis and Hannah were Margaret A Parker (~1854-), Ellen M Parker (~1858-), Ada A Parker (1860-), and Ida Lorie Parker (~1862-).

A4. Isaac Reed Parker (~1827-1864), son of Ebenezer and Rebecca, was living in 1850 with his brother Lewis next to the house of his



Isaac Reed Parker

step-mother Elizabeth Moore. In 1852, in Clarksville, Allegany, New York, he married **Mary E Lucas** (~1836-1862). In 1855 and 1860 they lived in Genesee, Allegany, New York; he was a farmer. Mary died there in 1862. On January 3, 1864, he joined Company I, 85th Regiment NY Volunteers during the Civil War. He was captured during the Battle of Plymouth and taken to the infamous prison at Andersonville, Sumter, Georgia. He died there on June 17, 1864, of "maltreatment and exposure."

Their children were all born in Allegany County. All became orphans when both parents died, but an adoptive family has been identified only for Ephraim and Ida. The children were Sylvester F Parker (1853-), Ephraim Parker (1855-1915, Isabella Horton), Harriet E Parker (1858-1932, Darius Knapp), and Ida Adelle Parker (1861-1921, Elery Nelson Gavitt).

A6. Juliann Parker (~1834-), daughter of Ebenezer and Rebecca, was named in the 1848 document dividing the lands of Ebenezer Parker). In 1851 Timothy Robbins was appointed guardian for Juliann Parker because she was a minor between the ages of 14 and 20.



Benjamin and Phoebe Cobb

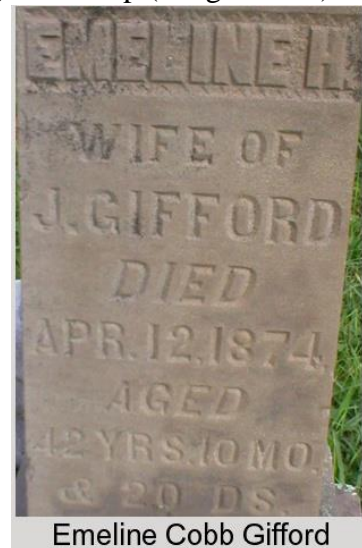
A7. Benjamin Franklin Cobb (1826-1877), son of Elihue Cobb and Elizabeth Moore, married **Phoebe Ann Sturdevant** (1834-1925) in 1849 in Smethport, a year before they were enumerated in Keating Township (image above).

Franklin left Smethport between 1850 and 1860 for Middleville, Barry, Michigan. On Dec. 14, 1861 he enlisted as a wagoner in Company A, 13th

Infantry, for three years. He was discharged in January 1865 in Savannah, Georgia

Their children, both born in Michigan, were Orsenus Elehue Cobb (1858-1934, Flora Alice Weed), and Lavern M Cobb (1875-1931, Annie Scott and Vagolda Miller).

A8. Emeline Cobb (1831-1874), daughter of Elihue Cobb and Elizabeth Moore, married Job Gifford (1824-1894), who had been born in Norwich Township, in ~1849. He was a veterinarian and butcher in Smethport. Their children were Florence Adele Gifford (1843-1921, John Grigsby) and Alice Emetia Gifford (1862-1862).



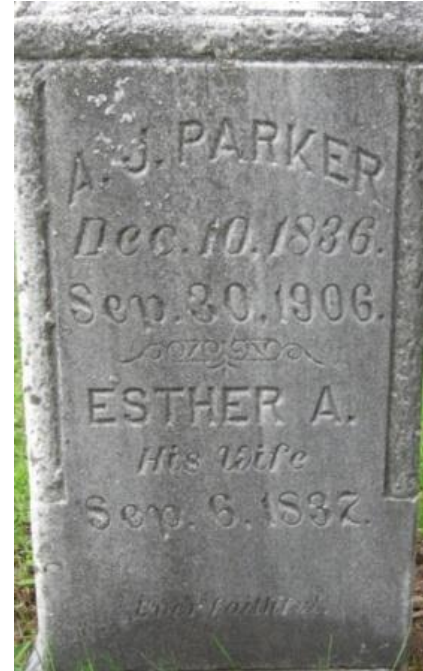
Emeline Cobb Gifford

A9. Paulina Cobb (~1836-), daughter of Elihue and Elizabeth Moore, was living with her mother in 1850.

A10. Andrew Jackson Parker (1836-1906), son of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Moore, was born on the Ebenezer Parker farm near Coryville and died in Smethport. In 1865 he married **Esther A Talbot** (1837-1912), who had been born in Hartford, Connecticut and came to McKean County with her parents in 1846. His obituary says that "Jack" Parker at 21 started to carry mail to Olean, New York, which he continued until the rail came to Smethport. He then started freight hauling, which he continued until eight years before his death. His death certificate identifies his parents as E Parker and Elizabeth Cob.

Jackson and Esther had no children. After his death, Esther shared her home with two boys, George William Hackett and Almeron Jackson Hackett, and she made bequests to them in her will. They were great-grandnephews of Job Gifford, the husband of Esther's half-sister Emeline Cobb.

Jackson and Esther are buried in Rosehill Cemetery.



A11. Eliza Jane Parker will be covered as a parent of Nettie Maria Smith Abbey.

A11. Harriet Amelia Parker (1841-1897), daughter of Ebenezer and Elizabeth Moore, was born on the Ebenezer Parker farm near Coryville. In 1859 she married **William Irons**, the son of Gideon Irons, Jr. and Jemima Stark. Gideon had come to McKean County with his parents Gideon and Lydia Page Irons. They were part of the famous group that in 1815 came by boat, up Potato Creek, from Chenango County, New York to the wilds of Norwich Township (then Sergeant)¹. I have discussed that journey in my article **Descendants of Timothy Abbey and Betsey Jacox**.

William Irons was a farmer in Keating Township. In 1870 the household of William and Harriet included their children, her mother Elizabeth Moore, and her sister Eliza Smith. By 1880 the marriage to William was in trouble. Harriet lived without him in Smethport, next to the N W Abbey residence, with her children Frank, Alice, Clinton, and Clayton. The only one with a job was Frank, a laborer. In November 1884 she filed for divorce, which was granted in February 1885. Harriet died at home on East Main Street in Smethport from heart failure caused by chronic bronchitis. She was buried in Rosehill next to the grave of her son Frank. Her estate was left to her son Clayton to be handled.

A11a. Freddy William H Irons (1859-1865) was the first child of William and Harriet. His photo is the most touching of those in the photo album of Pitt Eben Abbey.

A11b. Frank J Irons (1863-1896) died a year before his mother. Cause of death was typhoid fever, after a long illness.

A11c. Alice Elizabeth Irons (1865-1949), the only daughter of William and Harriet, married Judson Hackett (1858-1936) in 1890 in Smethport. He was a farmer in Keating Township. Their only child was Frank J Hackett (1891-1949). An oil lease pumper, Frank married



Abigail S 'Abbie' Rockefeller.

A11d. Clinton Lee Irons (1868-1948), son of William and Harriet, married **Sevrena Swanson** (1870-1920), a native of Sweden, in 1891 in Smethport. Clinton was a glass factory worker. Their daughter was Alice Elizabeth Irons (1893-1976), a dress shop salesperson in Buffalo, New York. Alice died at the Hannum Rest Home in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

A11e. Clayton 'Clate' E Irons (1871-1946), son of William and Harriet, was a farmer in Irons Hollow in Keating Township. He had two wives. The first, whom he married ~1894, was **Carrie Allen**. They were divorced in 1913 because of, in her words, "jealousy and desertion." Carrie subsequently married Edward S Patterson, who also abandoned her. I talk about the sad and surprising death of Carrie in my article **Solomon Patterson Descendants in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Iowa**. After his divorce, Clate married **Sarah Gertrude Ellen Wall** (1879-1937) in 1919.

B. Eseck Smith (~1805-1882) and Clara Graves Brewer (~1805-1846), grandparents of Nettie

William Smith, with his son Eseck, was part of the 1815 group that emigrated from Chenango County, New York to Norwich Township (then Sergeant) in McKean County, Pennsylvania. Eseck was born in New York, probably Chenango County. According to the 1880 census for Eseck, both his parents were born in Rhode Island. His mother was Rhoda, whose surname may have been Matherson².

Rhoda's tombstone in Norwich Township Cemetery says "died July 26, 1840 in her 61st year, wife of William Smith." After Rhoda's death William married Urania Holiday (1789-1869), whose first husband was James Wright. William has no tombstone but is probably in the Norwich cemetery.



Eseck Smith

Eseck Smith, a farmer, married Clara Graves Brewer. Her parents were William Brewer (1785-1854) and Polly Curtis (1787-1848), who were from Rhode Island. William was part of the 1815 migration along with his brothers Nathaniel and Isaac. Clara was very young at the time of the migration. There is a Brewer monument in Norwich Township Cemetery that lists birth and death years for a number of Brewers including William, Polly, and Clara's brother Alanson Perry Brewer (1821-1898). Presumably they are buried near the monument.

The Eseck Smith farm was a short distance below Crosby on the west side of Potato Creek. His son Anson Perry Smith took over the farm after Anson returned from Minnesota.

Eseck and Clara had six children. After Clara's death but before 1850, Eseck married Alma Gallup (1830-1880) and had one more son. Alma was the daughter of Wheeler Gallup, Jr. and his second wife Edith Arnold. Wheeler's sister Elizabeth Gallup was the wife of Jonathan Colegrove, Jr., who led the 1815 migration from

Chenango County, New York to Norwich Township. A newspaper obituary for Alma says that she died at her residence at the foot of Main Street in Smethport, due to poor health accelerated by the death of her son Fred.

There is a prominent granite monument in Norwich cemetery for Anson Perry Smith, the son of Eseck and Clara. Nearby is a row of footstones, one lettered "ES," one



E S = Eseck Smith



CGS = Clara Graves Smith

lettered “CGS,” and one lettered “AGS” (Alma). Lettering on these footstones grows more dim with each passing year.

B1. Polly Viletta Smith (1828-1895), daughter of Eseck and Clara, was born on the family farm in Norwich Township. In 1847 she married **David Darling Comes** (1824-1894), the son of David Comes and Hannah Marvin. The Comes parents came to McKean County even before the 1815 group from Chenango County and married there in 1813, the first couple to be married in McKean County. The brother of David Darling Comes, Calvin Comes, was the first white child born in McKean County, on the family farm on Bunker Hill in Sergeant (now Norwich) County.



David D Comes & Polly V Smith Comes

David Darling Comes was a lumberman and farmer on Marvin Creek in Keating Township, west of Smethport. He and Polly are buried in the Norwich Township Cemetery.

B1a. Clara Jane Comes (1849-1918) married **John Bard** (1846-~1875), a printer in Smethport. After his death, she married **John B Kelly** (1856-1929). Clara died when she fell from the porch in front of her home.

B1b. Almira E Comes (1850-1927) married **Daniel M Wright** (1845-1923), a Civil War veteran and a lumberman in Eldred Township.

B1c. Harriet L Comes (1853-1859) is buried in Norwich Township Cemetery.

B1d. Clinton D Comes (1855-1934) married **Eva Marie Frost** (1860-1936), her second husband, in 1892. After living in Digel (Crosby, Norwich Township), he made a fortune in lumber and built a mansion at the northeast corner of West King Street and Washington Street in Smethport.

B1e. Charles O Comes (1856-1857)

B1f. Marvin Smith Comes, Sr. (1859-1926) married **Flora ‘Mandana’ Wright** (1856-1918), the daughter of Pardon Wright and Clarissa Hall, in 1891. He was a farmer and oil well owner on Marvin Creek, Keating Township. They had four children.

B1g. Hattie L Comes (1862-~1941) was a school teacher in 1880 but then moved to Rochester, New York, where she was an office clerk. In 1901, in Rochester, she married **Daniel P Slocum** (~1902-1932), at the time a wagon builder but later a worker in automobile and refrigerator factories. They had one child, Harold.

B1h. Millie R Comes (1864-1923) married **Amos D Smith** (1859-), a farmer in Seelyville, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

B1i. Benjamin F Comes (1866-1869) is buried in Norwich Township Cemetery.

B1j. Eseck David Comes (1870-1946) married **Mary Elizabeth Eilingsfield** (1873-1963) in 1892. He was a farmer on the West Potato Creek Road in Keating Township. They had six children. They are buried in Rosehill Cemetery.

B2. Stephen Phillip Smith (~1830--~1890), son of Eseck and Clara Smith, married **Caroline Ford** (~1830-). From before 1860 to at least 1870 he lived in Dunkirk, Chautauqua, New York. He was a clerk in a liquor store and then had his own store. By 1880 he had relocated to Red Rock Township, Mower, Minnesota, where he was a farmer. Mower County is south of Minneapolis. He arrived in Red Rock County a little before or a little after his brother William Fayette Smith (**B5**), but by 1880 William had moved on west to Canby County. His brother Anson Perry Smith (**B6**) apparently arrived in Mower County before either Stephen or William. After Stephen's death Caroline lived in Minneapolis.

B2a. Cora L Smith (1858-1939), born in Fredonia, Chautauqua, New York, married **Clarence Warren** (1846-1931), who was in the Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War and came to Red Rock, Mower County, in 1865. Clarence and Cora had four children.

B3. Harriet Teressa Smith (~1832-), daughter of Eseck and Clara Smith, married **Lewis Leroy Dennis** (1828-1884), a grocer in Eldred Township and the son of Nathan Dennis and Tirzah Knapp. Harriet and Lewis divorced in 1867, a year after he returned from the Civil War. Their children were dispersed to various households. Lewis then married Florence Gary.

B3a. Eldred S Dennis (1851-1925) married **Mary Elmira Kauffman** (1849-1903). They lived in Mt Morris, Livingston, New York, where he was a bottler. After Mary's death, he married Nellie O'Leary. He had three children with Mary and two with Nellie.

B3b. Lewis McKean Dennis (1851-1921) married **Ida Louise Lofsvold** (1868-1948). He was a barber in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

B3c. Putnam George Dennis (1855-1942) lived in his later years in Long Beach, California, but died in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

B3d. Clara Dennis (1858-1862) is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Eldred, McKean County.

B3e. Violetta 'Lettie' Dennis (1860-1920) married **Tibbit Calvin Rixford** (1854-1935). He was a farmer in Wellsville, Allegany, New York. They are both buried in Stannards Cemetery, Willing, Allegany, New York. T C Rixford was the brother of Edna Rixford, the second wife of Lettie's uncle William Fayette Smith (**B5**). Parents of T C and Lettie were Simon Rixford and Maria Shaw. Simon at one time lived near Rixford and owned producing oil wells there. The village of Rixford, in Otto Township, McKean County, was named in honor of Simon.

B3f. Hattie S Dennis (1862-1930) married **George D Gill** (1864-1943), a woodsman and farmer in Eldred.

B4. Herman Riley Smith, son of Eseck and Clara Smith, will be discussed as a parent of Nettie Maria Smith Abbey.

B5. William Fayette Smith (1839-1924), son of Eseck and Clara Smith, enlisted in the 5th Minnesota Infantry as a Corporal on 31 March 1862 at Austin, Mower, Minnesota. He was wounded at Nashville, Tennessee on 16 December 1864. He subsequently mustered out at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, as a Sergeant, on 6 September 1865. By 1872 he had established himself as a farmer in Red Rock, Mower, Minnesota, had married **Nellie** (~1855--~1897), and had a son Frank. Mower County is near Rochester, south of Minneapolis. By 1880 he was still a farmer but in Burton Township, Yellow Medicine, Minnesota. Burton is immediately east of the town of Canby in far western Minnesota. A few years later the family, which now included daughter

Pearl, moved into Canby and ran a hotel. When they were old enough, Frank and Pearl participated in the hotel keeping.

William married **Edna Rixford** (1870-1923) in 1899, so sometime between 1895 and 1899, Nellie must have died. Edna was the sister of Tibbit Calvin Rixford, the husband of William's niece Lettie Smith (**B3e**).

William and Edna died within a year of each other in Canby and are buried in Canby City Cemetery. Canby is of interest to me because several of my ancestors and relatives on my mother's side of my family, named Hewitt, lived in or near Canby. My beloved "Aunt" Ada Hewitt was born in Canby.

B5a. Frank E Smith (1872-1937), son of William and Nellie, was born in Brownsdale, Mower, Minnesota. In ~1898 married **Jeanette May** (1882-1972, surname not known). They lived in Minneapolis, where he was a district manager for Fiske Rubber Company. He and Jeanette were divorced, and in 1922 in Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, South Dakota he married **Hilda Mae Bakken** (1892-1979), a widow. She died years after he did in Hollywood, California. Frank and Hilda are buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

B5b. Pearl E Smith (~1877-1944), daughter of William and Nellie, married **John Harold Regal** (1875-1926) in 1896 in Canby, Minnesota. He had been a clerk in the hotel kept by Pearl's parents. In 1910 he was president of an insurance company in Fort Worth, Texas. During WWI he relocated to Portland, Oregon as agent for troop movements. After the war he stayed in Portland and was a railroad baggage agent. Meanwhile, Pearl became a Christian Science practitioner and a librarian in the Christian Science Reading Room.

B5c. William Fayette Smith, Jr. (1885-1967), son of William and Nellie Smith, born in Canby, married **Helena C Probst** (1886-) in 1905 in Minneapolis. She was born in Cologne, Germany. He was president of a retail tire and battery company in Minneapolis. Their sons were Francis Joseph Smith (1906-1996, Harriet Rae Clendening) and Ralph W Smith (1913-1999).

B5d. Ralph P Smith (1887-1909), son of William and Nellie, was born, died, and is buried in Canby, Minnesota.

B5e. Nellie Smith (1894-), daughter of William and Nellie, was born in Canby.

B6. Anson Perry Smith (1841-1912), son of Eseck and Clara, enlisted in August 1861 in Company I, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, the famed Bucktail Regiment. After returning from the War, by 1865 he had moved west to Red Rock, Mower, Minnesota, which is south of Minneapolis. Anson's brothers William Fayette Smith (**B5**) and Stephen Phillip Smith (**B2**) also had farms in Mower County, Both apparently arrived there after Anson, but Stephen's son-in-law Clarence Warren (B2a) arrived about the same time as Anson. In 1875 the farms of Anson and William were near each other.

In~1864 he married **Diana M Rugg** (1840-1892). She was born in Perrysburg, Cattaraugus, New York, the daughter of John R Rugg and Diana Dawley. Diana's sister Patience with her husband Leander Kirkland had a farm in Red Rock, Mower County.

Between 1875 and 1880 Anson returned to Norwich Township, with Diana, probably to take over the family farm on the west side of



Anson and Diana Smith

Potato Creek, below Crosby, inasmuch as his father Eseck had moved to Smethport. In 1880 his niece Nettie Maria Smith was living with them. Anson continued as a farmer there after Diana died. His death came from Brights Disease (nephritis).

Anson and Diana have a quite large and handsome monument in the Norwich Township cemetery.

B7. Fred E Smith (1858-1879), son of Eseck Smith and Alma Gallup, married **Carrie Gallup** (1857-1926) in 1878. A year later he was killed when his team of horses ran away.

Carrie Gallup was the daughter of Ebenezer Gallup and Phoebe King Windsor. Carrie was the first cousin once removed of Alma Gallup, her mother-in-law, and the second cousin of her husband.

After Fred Smith died, Carrie started teaching school in Keating Township. She married again in 1907, in Marion, Marion, Ohio, to Uriah D Fischer (1851-1925). She had been teaching school in Marion, and Uriah was a salesman based in Columbus, Ohio. It was also his second marriage. After marriage, they lived in Smethport. He was a traveling publishers representative for a leading line of school textbooks. Carrie and U D Fischer have tombstones in Rosehill Cemetery in Smethport.



C. Herman Riley Smith (~1834-1865) and Eliza Jane Parker (1840-1895), parents of Nettie

Herman Riley Smith, son of Eseck Smith and Clara Graves Brewer, grew up on the family farm in Norwich Township. He must also have been a tinkerer, because he ran a series of ads in the McKean County Democrat for a washing machine patented on Sept. 9, 1856. It "combines a washboard and beater to a progressive lever..." It was manufactured and sold in Mechanicsburg (Smethport south of Marvin Creek, near the present-day dam), by A. Wolters. The ads ran from before Jan. 1859 to Feb. 21, 1861.

The first children of Riley and Eliza, the twins **Elmer** and **Genie**, were born in McKean County in 1855. Eliza would then have been fifteen. The next child was **Clara**, born in 1858 in Wisconsin. The family was in Wisconsin because they went west to settle on a government section of land in Otsego, Columbia County, which is a short distance north of Madison. **Mary** and **Nettie** were also born in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, in June 1863 H R Smith, farmer b. PA, was listed on the Draft Registration Records for Otsego, Columbia, Wisconsin. He served as a private in Company M of the Wisconsin First Heavy Artillery Regiment. When he returned from service, broken in health, it was necessary to bring his family back to McKean County. He lived only a short time after returning to Pennsylvania. The obituary of Nettie Smith Abbey says he died in 1865. The History of McKean County (Beers, 1895, p. 425), under an entry for Asa R Cory, says he died about two years after the close of the war, which would have been after 1865.

Eliza must have felt unable to take care of the five children, who then ranged in age from one to ten. They were dispersed to various relatives and non-relatives³. In 1870 Eliza was living in Smethport with her mother, Elizabeth Moore, and her brother-in-law William Irons and his wife Harriet. In 1880 she and her mother were living with her brother Jackson Parker and his wife. Her obituary in the McKean County Democrat, 11-8-1895 reads: "Mrs. Eliza J. Smith, relict of the late Riley Smith, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clara Shaw, near Corning, New York, on Saturday last, of heart disease. Mrs. Smith was in her 56th year, having been born March 29, 1840. She spent the greater part of her life in this section, having gone to Corning last spring to make her home with her daughter. The deceased leaves five children...."

Riley Smith is buried in the Norwich Township cemetery, his grave marked only by a tombstone marked "RS," in a row with other tombstones that I have already discussed.



C1. Elmer Marcine Miller (1855-1935), son of Riley Smith and Eliza Jane Parker

When the children were dispersed after the death of Riley Smith, Elmer was adopted by Rev. Waterbury Miller and Laura Moody Miller of Stulltown, near Eldred. His surname became Miller; on his death certificate parents are named as Waterbury Miller and Laura Moody. He had been born in McKean County before the family left for Wisconsin. In 1875, in Eldred, he married Emma Melissa Foster (1859-1932). He became a farmer in Andrews Settlement, Allegany Township, Potter County, and died in Coudersport, Allegany County.

Elmer and Emma are buried in the Andrews Settlement Cemetery.



Elmer Miller family. Back Row: Evva, Grace, Merville, Herbert, Louisa and Edith. Front Row: Foster, Emma, Emily, Elmer and John.

C1a. Sperry Melville Miller (1877-1908) was born in Eldred. In ~1901 he married **Susan Jeanette 'Nettie' Vanderhoof (1885-1939)**. He was a locomotive fireman. He died in the wreck of a runaway train in Medix Run, Benezette Township, Elk County. He is buried in the Andrews Settlement Cemetery. Nettie Vanderhoof married three times after Melville and died in Canisteo, Steuben, New York.

Melville and Nettie had two daughters: Neva Miller (1902-1974, Otis Weston Norton and James Ernest Heckart) and Margaret Myrtle Miller (1907-1979, Nathan Urial Broughton, a locomotive fireman).

C1b. Evva Mae Miller (1879-1965) was born in Eldred. She married **Clarence Henry Neefe (1870-1938)**, in 1901 in Wellsville, Allegany, New York. He was a farmer in Sweden Township, Potter County. They are both buried in the Sweden Hill Cemetery, Bingham Center, Potter County. Their children were Florence Adelia (1903-1995, Robert Langdon), Gertrude Alice (1910-1986, Addison H Clark), Marian Emily (1905-1995, Everett Blass), and Howard Clarence (1912-1990, Viola Margaret Gunn). Gertrude attended Mansfield State Teachers College and

taught before her marriage. Florence was a teacher in Olean.

C1c. Herbert Lewis Miller (1882-1962) was born in Eldred. He married **Amy Frances Weber** (1888-1914) in Hornell, Steuben, New York, which is where Amy was born and died. He was a Hornell city fireman, and they had a daughter Gwendolyn 'Gwen' Marguerite Miller (1910-2003, Joseph John Calvocoli and Ferris Ward Schnedler).

In 1916, after Amy died, Herbert married **Minnie Louise Wurth** (1896-1983) in Painted Post, Steuben, New York. By 1920 he was a telephone company chief lineman in Owego, Tioga, New York, and held that job for a number of years. Herbert and Minnie had a son Frederick Charles Miller (1925-2001, Jean Lingl).

Herbert and Minnie are buried in Nondaga Cemetery, Bath, Steuben, New York.

C1d. Grace Elizabeth Miller (1884-1914), born in Andrews Settlement, married **Juna John Stevens** (1854-1947), a gas and oil well driller in Shinglehouse, Potter County. It was his second marriage. Their children were Elmer L (1907-1910), Paul Robert (1909-1976, May Augusta Weyhrauch), and Lucie Eloise (1911-1994, Robert Francis Greene, Sr.). Grace died of Brights Disease. After Grace's death, Juna became a farmer in Santa Cruz County, California.

C1e. Edith Leona Miller (1890-1961) was born in Andrews Settlement. In 1913 she married **Park Ewing Gibson** (1883-1946). He was a clerk for Union Switch and Signal Company in Edgewood, Allegheny County. Their children, all born in Allegheny County, were Irene M (1914-1985, William R Porter), Grace Elizabeth (1916-1990, Edward Frederick Stemp), Robert Park Gibson (1922-1995, Frances Belle Lear), Edith Virginia (1926-1985, Stuart Mather Brown), and Herbert Aiken (1928-1998, Sara Afton Ensor).

C1f. Laura Ann Miller (1892-1989) was born in Andrews Settlement and is buried there. She never married.

C1g. Foster Waterbury Miller (1894-1951) was born in Andrews Settlement. He served in France in WWI. Upon returning, in 1918 he married **Gladys Mae Kent** (1901-1934). He was a farm laborer and farmer in Allegany County, New York but by 1935 had returned to Potter County. By then Gladys had died, in Blossburg State Hospital, of eclampsia. In 1940 he was a milk truck driver. Foster and Gladys are buried in the Mills Cemetery, Mills, Potter County.

Children of Foster and Gladys were Charles Kent (1919-1993), Kenneth Leroy (1921-2009, Lois Eugenia Steadman), Thelma (1924-1948, Harold H Steadman), and Raymond Foster (1927-2010).

C1h. John Franklin Miller (1900-1958) was born in Andrews Settlement. In 1921, in Portville, Cattaraugus, New York, he married **Vesta Pearl Knight** (1902-1990). He left the family farm to be a roofing mill foreman in Tonawanda, Niagara, New York, but by 1940 had returned to the Roulette, Potter County, area on his own farm. Their two children were born in Tonawanda: Laura Marie Miller (1923-1994, Norman Tauscher) and Merritt Marcine Miller (1924-2003, Shirley Ruth Burdick).

C1i. Emily Aurelia Miller (1904-1991) was born in Andrews Settlement. In 1928 she married **Jay Loring Kibbe** (1876-1930), a newspaper printer in Roulette. In 1950 she married **Edward Craig Tennant**, who was from Buffalo, New York, and in 1977 she married **Kenneth J Crider** (1911-1986) in Mahoning County, Ohio, where she died.

C2. Elsie Emogene 'Genie' Smith (1855-1931), daughter of Riley Smith and Eliza Jane Parker

Elsie was the twin of Elmer Marcine Miller and, like him, was born in McKean County before her family left for Wisconsin. In 1872 she married **Asa Reese Cory** (1845-1914). He was the son of Azro B Cory and Hannah Rees. He was a lumberman, operator of a steam sawmill, and a farmer in Perce Brook, near Farmers Valley, Keating Township. He also had terms as County Commissioner and Auditor. The village of Coryville, on Route 446 between Smethport and Eldred, was named for its postmaster, Asa Howe Cory, the uncle of Asa Reese Cory.

Asa and Elsie are buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Farmers Valley with their daughter Lytta. **C2a. Emogene ‘Ella’ May Cory** (~1874-1899) married **Luman ‘Lewis’ Hamilton Galpin** (1854-1930) in 1889. Lewis was a farmer in Keating Township. His farm was near that of his Cory parents-in-law, who took the two daughters in after his wife died. He remained a widower, eventually living next to his daughter Mable. The children of Lewis and Ella were Mabel Emogene Galpin (1892-1988) and Edna May Galpin (1899-1902). Mabel married Albert George Sebring in 1913 in Port Allegany. For a time in the 1920s Mabel and Albert lived in Converse County, Wyoming, where four of their six children were born, but returned to McKean County, where he was an oil field driller, and then moved to Erie, Pennsylvania, where Albert was a machinist for General Electric.

Ella and Lewis are buried in Fairmount Cemetery, but the graves are unmarked.

C2b. Orlo Delano Cory (1878-1931) married **Carrie Angeline Washburn** (1833-1941) in 1899. He was a farmer in Perce Brook, Keating Township. In 1920 he sold his farm to his brother-in-law Albert Sebring and moved to Kane, McKean County. He died in Kane at age 53 from effects of heat stroke. Orlo and Carrie are buried at Forest Lawn in Kane. Their children were Edith (1901-1932, Almond Thomas), Frances Emogene (1902-1981, Theodore Cleveland), Esther (1906-1997, Joseph Vincent Chiramonte), Hazel Onalee (1909-1996), Ernest Asa (1911-1999, Jean Celesta King and Marion Charlotte Lawson), Burdette Franklin (1913-1991, Ruth Mae Reigel), Alvin Ronald (1915-1974, Josephine Silvia Merski), Daphne (1918-2015, Paul J Miller), and Wayne Leroy (1924-2009, Leah Sowers).

C2c. Lytta A Cory (1883-1885)

C3. Clara E ‘Carrie’ Smith (1858-1922), daughter of Riley Smith and Eliza Jane Parker

Clara was the first child of Riley and Eliza born in Columbia County, Wisconsin. For a long while I did not know what happened to Clara between the time of the family’s return to Pennsylvania about 1864 and of Eliza’s death in 1895, when Eliza’s obituary (C above) says that she died at the home of her daughter Clara Shaw near Corning, New York. A breakthrough came when Jim Wescott posted Clara’s obituary on ancestry.com: “*Corning Evening Tribune 14 Feb 1922, page 12. Mrs. Clara Shaw, widow of James Shaw, and for many years a resident of Painted Post, died Monday afternoon at 4 PM at the Corning Hospital. She had been ill since December. She went to the hospital for an operation. Mrs. Shaw for 27 years had been the housekeeper in the Charles Brunner [actually William Brunner] home on East Water Street in Painted Post. She was born in Kilbourn City [today Wisconsin Dells, in Columbia County], Wisconsin on 10 January 1858 and is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Edna Straight of Olean and two granddaughters – Mrs. Clara*



Wescott of Hornell and Mrs. Hazel Borden of Painted Post. The funeral will be held at 2:30 PM at the Brunner home and will be buried in Erwin Cemetery [Townsend-Erwin Cemetery in Erwin, Steuben County].”

With those clues, we now know that her husband was **James E Shaw** (1847-1898), who was born and died in Erwin, Steuben County. The Town of Erwin is adjacent to the city of Corning. His parents were Eastman T and Elizabeth Shaw. He served in the Civil War 1864-1865, 188th New York Voluntary Infantry. He later received disability payments because of rheumatism. He appears in the 1891 and 1892 Erwin City Directories as a laborer. He is buried in the Hope Cemetery in Corning, Steuben County.

James appeared in the 1875 census as a farm laborer with his brother-in-law, and his daughter Edna, with Clara, was born in 1878, so presumably James and Clara were married between those two dates, meaning that Clara was 17-20 years old.

From 1895 until her death in 1922, Clara was a housekeeper for William Brunner, a carpenter, on Main Street in Centreville, which is an area of Corning. For much of that time her granddaughter Clara Hoelzer lived with her. After Clara’s death, in 1925, William Brunner lived with Clara Hoelzer Wescott and is listed in the census as an uncle, although he was not a relative.

C3a. Edna May Shaw (1878-1957) was born in Painted Post, a village in the Town of Erwin. Edna lived with her parents James and Clara in the Town of Erwin in 1892, by 1900 she had acquired one marriage, one relationship, and two children, neither of whom (nor her mother) lived with her. Much of that tangled history has been untangled by Jim Wescott and posted on ancestry.com. The marriage was to **Harry M Stuart**. We know little of him except his name; Edna is listed in the 1914 Hornell, Steuben County, City Directory as Edna Stuart, widow of Harry M. In 1910 Edna Stuart, widow, lived in Hornell, doing housework by the day. She is listed as having two children, but no children were enumerated with her. Their listings below show with whom they were living.

The record for her marriage, in 1920, to **Lee Merrill Straight** (1889-1980), lists her as Edna May Stuart, widow, second marriage. At the time of that second marriage, Edna was living in Olean, Cattaraugus County, where the marriage occurred. By 1930 Edna and Lee had relocated to neighboring Allegany County, New York, where Lee was from, and where he was an oil field teamster. In 1940, still living in Allegany County, he was a farm laborer. Edna died in 1957 in Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, Allegany County, and Lee in 1980, also in Allegany County. Edna and Lee are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in the Town of Friendship, Allegany County.

Edna’s obituary in the Friendship Register, Friendship, New York, Jan 24, 1957: "*Mrs. Lee Straight of Belvidere passed away in Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville Tuesday night, January 21. Mrs. Edna Straight was born at Painted Post on February 17, 1878, the daughter of Jake and Clara Shaw. Her husband and two daughters, Mrs. Clair Wescott of Hornell and Mrs. Albert Borden of Corning, survive.*"



Every relevant record for those two daughters Clara and Hazel indicates that their father was not named Stuart or Straight but rather **Llewellyn Lloyd Hoelzer** (1874-1955). Born in Erwin,

he appears to have had a brief relationship with Edna. The relationship must have started between 1892, when Edna was living with her parents, and 1896, when the first child of Edna and Llewellyn was born. Llewellyn left Pennsylvania by 1900, at which time the census lists him as single, a teamster, living in Superior, Douglas, Wisconsin. A bit later he met Myrtle Emmons, a native American, and had a daughter Lauren with her in 1904. He and Myrtle were married in 1915 in Missoula, Montana. (Lauren appears as Lawrence in the 1920 census for Missoula, age 16, parents L L Hoelzer 41 born in New York, day laborer, and wife Myrtle Hoelzer 39 born in Iowa.) By 1925 Llewellyn had returned to Steuben County, where he married Pearl Lena Rouse Allen, who worked at the Corning Hospital; he was a trucker. He died in Corning. Llewellyn and Pearl are buried together in the Hope Cemetery in South Corning.

Clara Louisa Hoelzer (1896-1990) was born in Painted Post. She lived with her grandmother Clara Smith Shaw from before 1900 until at least 1910. In 1914 she married **Clair Milton Wescott** (1894-1989). Her marriage record lists her parents as Llewellyn Hoelzer and Edna Shaw.

Hazel Helen Hoelzer (1898-1978), the second daughter of Llewellyn Hoelzer and Edna Shaw, was also born in Painted Post. From 1900 to at least 1915 she lived in the Town of Erwin with her grandparents George and Mary Hoelzer. In 1916, in Gang Mills, Steuben County, she married **Albert Rufus Borden** (1897-1959).

C4. Mary Violetta Smith (1861-1918), daughter of Riley Smith and Eliza Jane Parker

Mary was born in Columbia County, Wisconsin. After her family returned to McKean County about 1864 and after her father died and her mother decided not to take in her children, Mary lived with her grandfather Eseck Smith in Smethport. In



Mary & Wm McCamman

1882, probably in Smethport, she married **William Elmer McCamman** (1863-1944), the son of Joseph

McCamman and Sarah Brandon, who was born in Oil City in Venango County.

In 1900 and 1910 William and Mary lived in Smethport, where he was a sawmill engineer. By 1920 they had relocated to Olean, Cattaraugus, New York, and he was a Vacuum Oil station engineer. After Mary died in 1918, William and daughter Ora continued to live in Olean, where he was an oil lease

pumper. In 1923 he married **Jessie May Robbins** (1875-1967), whose husband Earl Smith had died. By 1935 William and Jessie were living in Roulette, Potter, Pennsylvania. William died in Rochester, New York. Jessie attended the funeral of Hazel Abbey in Smethport in 1950.



Nettie Smith Abbey & Mary Smith McCamman



William & Jessie McCamman



Mary & William McCamman and daughters

Both William and Mary are buried in the Oatka Cemetery, Scottsville, Monroe, New York.

C4a. Genie M McCamman (1884-1973) was born in Smethport. In ~1903 she married **Glenn Mead**. Glenn, born in Coudersport, Potter County, at one time lived in Smethport, employed at the Barney Bond Glass Factory, but by 1910 he and Genie had relocated to Rochester, Monroe, New York. He was a glass factory packer. In 1920, 1930, and 1940 Glenn was employed

at a lithographic company as a truck driver.

Daughters of Genie and Glenn were Pearl May (1903-1983, George W Smith), Marie Leona (1905-1952, Frederick G Ideman), Isabelle Lucile (1911-1994, Ralph Leo Beikirch), and Jean E (1924-2011, Alton MacNeill).

Both Genie and Glenn are buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester.

C4b. Rena Belle McCamman (1887-1983) was born in Smethport. She still lived in Smethport in 1910, a hotel dining room waitress. In 1913, in Rochester, New York, she married **William Garfield Muir**. They lived in Scottsville, Monroe, New York, where he worked in a paper mill and was a cemetery caretaker.

Rena had a daughter Margaret M in 1908 in Smethport. The father, per the birth certificate, was Bert (Burdette) Abbey (1888-1966), who was then unmarried. Margaret was evidently adopted by William Muir and was raised with the other children. She married Charles Henry Van Loan (1895-1965) in 1946 in New York City.

Children of Rena and William were Edwin William (1914-1985, Marion Estelle Losee), Eldridge Romaine (1915-1975, Geraldine Clarabel Seaward), Vivian Angelyn (1917-1987, Harold William Hills), William Willard (1920-1948, Virginia Lucille Herrick), Norman Elmer (1924-2019, Joyce Leece and Nancy Benke), and Marion Elizabeth (1931-1969, Robert Lord Thompson).

Rena and William are buried in the Oatka Cemetery, Wheatland, Monroe, New York.

C4c. Ora V McCammon (1890-1925) was born in Smethport. In 1907, in Olean, New York, she married **Lynn Elmer Burdick** (1888-1951), the son of Charles Burdick and Frances Peaters from Norwich Township. Ora and Lynn had a daughter **Lucinda Minnie Burdick** in 1908 in Norwich Township. In 1910 Lucinda was living with her father and his Burdick parents in Norwich Township, but Ora was a servant in a private home in Shinglehouse, Potter County. Lynn married someone else in 1912⁴ and



Lucinda & Ora Burdick

went to Emporium. By 1920 Lucinda was still living with her Burdick grandparents, and Ora was living with her father William McCamman in Olean, New York; in the Olean City Directory she is listed as Ora Burdick, widow of Lynn. Ora died in New York City in 1925 after a brief illness. She is buried in the Oatka Cemetery in Scottsville with her parents.

Ora's daughter Lucinda (1908-) married Roy Walter Potter in 1924 in Limestone, Cattaraugus County. At the time of her mother's death in 1925 she was living in Lewis Run, McKean County. In 1932 Roy married Mary Ann Rathburn, her second marriage. By 1935 Lucinda, divorced, was living in Addison, Steuben, New York, and doing private family housework.

C4d. Ruth Leona McCamman (1893-1978) was born in Smethport. In 1914, in Rochester, Monroe, New York, she married **Albert George Stockslader** (1895-1967), a Rochester native. He was an instrument factory foreman in Rochester. Ruth and Albert are buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Children of Ruth and Albert were Albert Bernard (1914-1985, Frances Herbst), Ruth Ida (1915-1987, Franklin W Risser), Edna Mae (1917-2007, Arthur R Keller and Robert Hunt Morgan), Herman Joseph (1918-2005, Marion Ruth Auburger), Marian Julia (1920-1996, Edward John Ross), and Edmund William (1922-2002, Pearl Constance Prentice.)

C4e. Pearl Elydia McCamman (1896-1975) was born in Smethport. In 1917 she married **Leo Joseph Ostrom** in Olean, Cattaraugus, New York. He was born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, New York, the son of Jacob Joseph Ostrom and Katharine O'Brian, but grew up in Olean. He



was a WWI veteran. At the time of their marriage he was a blower in a glass factory in Olean, but by 1930 they had relocated to Roulette, Potter, Pennsylvania. There he was a unit operator for the Hardwood Chemical Company. I have written about the hardwood chemical industry in my article **Descendants of Timothy Abbey and Betsey Jacox** (section **E5**).

"Aunt" Pearl Ostrom and her son Robert were occasional visitors to the Kenton Abbey residence in Smethport, and she and Robert attended most of the Abbey family funerals in Smethport. Kenton's mother was, of course, a sister of Pearl's mother Mary.

Pearl and Leo are buried in the John Lyman Cemetery in Roulette.

Children of Pearl and Leo were Eugene Lester Ostrom (1919-2007, Marie Siebert), Robert Louis Ostrom (1921-1996, Mary L Dugan), and Catherine Valetta Ostrom (1923-1994, Richard Joe Bloomer, Sr.).

C4f. Herman Wesley McCamman (1898-1982) was born in Smethport. In 1922, in Rochester, New York, he married **Rose F Wahl** (1902-1962). He was a WWI veteran. He was a bookkeeper for the Eastman Kodak Company. Herman and Rose are buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Their children were William Westley McCamman (1923-1989) and Robert Herman McCamman (1924-1999, Betty Schult).



Herman W McCamman

C4. Nettie Maria Smith (1864-1951), daughter of Riley Smith and Eliza Jane Parker



Nettie Smith Abbey 1950

Nettie was the youngest child of Riley and Eliza, born in Columbia County, Wisconsin. When her father died and her mother decided not to keep the children, Nettie became the foster child of the George Otto Tyler family at Cole Creek, about half a mile from Farmers Valley on the Bradford road, and attended the Lower Cole Creek School. In the 1870 Federal Census Nettie is listed in the household of Richard and Lydia Housler of Keating Township; In the 1880 Federal Census she is listed in the household of Dina and Anson Smith, her aunt and uncle, and

also of Helen and Perry Brewer, her granduncle and aunt.

Nettie's children with **Pitt Eben Abbey** were Earl, Hazel, and Kenton. I have discussed the descendants of Nettie in my article **Descendants of Timothy Abbey and Betsey Jacox**.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS”

Photographs in the article are from the 1879 photo album of Pitt Eben Abbey and, in addition: photo of Benjamin and Phoebe Cobb posted on ancestry.com by lindagoodair; tombstone of Polly Smith Comes posted on findagrave.com by Nancy Thomas; photo of Miller family sent to me by Barb Hyde and Becky Spike; photos of Lucinda and Ora Burdick, Herman Wesley McCamman, and William and Jessie McCamman posted on ancestry.com by Judy Emler.

Many have contributed to this article. I have cited, in the text, Laura Baumeister (**A2**), Gary Glaser (**A**), and Jim Wescott (**C3a**). In addition, I have received various emails over the years that became part of the story, but I have failed to document who sent them.

I have not, with a few exceptions, noted sources in this article. Those can be seen in my tree Nearly All Our Ancestors 2 at ancestry.com and its equivalent at WorldConnect (wc.rootsweb.com).

Kenton Abbey, the son of Nettie, was a fantastic source of family information. Unfortunately, I did not begin my hobby of genealogy until after his passing, so I wrote nothing down. In the course of clearing the Abbey homestead for an estate sale, however, I found a number of

documents, photos, and the 1879 photo album of Kenton's father Pitt Eben Abbey. While assembling materials over the years, I have many times wished that Kenton were present to amplify or correct what I have written.

FOOTNOTES

¹*The 1815 Migration to Norwich Township. In October 1815 fifteen families moved from the Town of Norwich, Chenango County, New York to the wilds of the Potato Creek Valley in Norwich Township (then Sergeant), McKean County, Pennsylvania. Some had first emigrated from Norwich, Connecticut to Norwich, New York. Heads of families that joined the migration were Nathaniel Brewer and his brothers William and Isaac, John Abbey, Rowland Burdick, Isaac Burlingame, Jonathan Colegrove, Jr. and his brothers Park and Benjamin, David Comes, Nathaniel Gallup, Gideon Irons and his son Gideon Irons, Jr., William Smith and his son Eseck, and Timothy Wolcott. The party was led by Jonathan Colegrove, Jr., who helped persuade them to exchange their property in New York for the lands in Pennsylvania. They were led to believe that the area had rich farmland and great mineral wealth. Neither turned out to be true, although later oil was discovered in McKean County. The wilderness area had no roads, so they had to ascend Potato Creek, with much labor and expense, in canoes, with their families and goods.*

To make matters worse, in 1816, a volcanic eruption in the South Pacific caused a darkened sky during the summer, and it snowed in June, freezing the crops. Isaac Burlingame and his father-in-law Timothy Wolcott travelled to Pittsburgh via canoe to bring supplies. A story goes that Seneca Indians were watching with amusement as one of the canoes laden with potatoes spilled in the creek near their home destination. That event gave rise to the name Potato Creek.

² Roy Wensel has a tree at worldconnect (wc.rootsweb.com, 2186421—rosewen) on which he has Eseck Smith b. 28 Nov 1804, the son of William Smith b. 22 Sep 1788 and Rhoda Matherson b. 1 Apr 1781. They were married 17 Aug 1798. William's parents were Eseck Smith and Phebe. Rhoda's father was Thomas Matherson. Several trees on ancestry.com have combined that Eseck with the Eseck that I have presented. Similarities are striking, but the dates do not totally correspond. I consider the matter unsettled.

³ I believe that all five children of Riley and Eliza Smith, despite their separation at young ages, at least knew of each other later in life and knew who their parents were. Nettie and Mary were well acquainted, as evidenced by several photos of Mary in the 1879 photo album of Pitt Abbey and the close relationship of Pearl McCamman Ostrom and the Abbey family. Rena McCamman Muir attended the funeral of Earl Abbey in 1957. Howard Neefe wrote a pamphlet in 1977, *Direct Heirs of Elmer Marcine Miller and Emily (Emma) Melissa Foster Miller*. The document focusses on descendants of Elmer and Emma and on the ancestors of Emma Foster. Howard indicates, however, that his mother Evva Miller Neefe told him the names of the sisters of Elmer in 1937 and 1938 and that Elmer, who died in 1935, knew that he had a twin sister Genie and had met her. Howard received confirming details about the other sisters of Elmer from Pearl McCamman Ostrom and Kenton Abbey.

⁴ After being married to Ora McCamman for only a short time, Lynn Elmer Burdick left her and in 1912, in Olean, married Lelia Margie Wagner (1885-1930). She had previously been married, in 1899, to Otis Arlington Evans, who had left her with a son Donald and went out to Los Angeles. In 1912 Lynn took a position with a furnace company in Emporium, Cameron County, where he and Lelia lived until at least 1921. But he then left Lelia and relocated to Detroit, Michigan, where in 1925 he married Betty Kegler (1900-1956). That same year Lynn and Betty had a son Lynn Carlyle Burdick. Lynn and Betty apparently stayed together until they both died in Detroit.