

Over 200 years of the Fowler Family: The Fowlers, Eddys, Gridleys, Parrishes, etcetera

This document is part of the story about the Fowler family of Gratiot and Isabella Counties in central Michigan and their roots in America. Another portion of the story involves the ancestors of Nellie Pearl Brooks (1873-1960), wife of Anson James Fowler and daughter of Elisha Hall Brooks (1818-1891) and Laura Jane Bartlett Brooks (1830-1908). We have broken this branch off into its own document which you can find at <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> [choose "Tom's Ancestry" tab]. You will also find other materials there, such as descendent charts.

This story is about the Fowler family of Gratiot and Isabella Counties of central Michigan. It began with the "innocent" question, asked in 2005: "Who was the first Fowler of **our** line in North America?" Family lore passed down to us states that "Fowler brothers" escaped England for the New World for political reasons. This sounds a lot like the genealogical "fairy tale" which many families have in their oral histories: the quintessential "three brothers" story. In truth, many of those stories are true, as people tended to come to America in groups -- and many in family groups. So far, however, we have not been able to corroborate this in our case, mostly because we do not yet know who our Fowler immigrant-ancestor was!

A family story that a Fowler initially was part of the Wells-Fargo stagecoach line has largely been disproved ¹, as has the story's variation that one of the Fowler brothers changed his name to Fargo and was the multiple-great-grandfather of the founder of the stagecoach line. The latter was disproven by DNA evidence: Y-DNA tests from the male descendants of Fargo do not match those of the Fowlers at all.

In this document, we will examine a few potential Fowler immigrant-ancestors, who might have given rise to our lineage. And we will discuss the results of Y-DNA tests and their ramifications.

¹ This piece of family lore came from O.S. who claimed that the Wells Fargo express company was initially the Wells Fowler Company. This debunks that myth:

William George Fargo (May 20, 1818 - August 3, 1881), pioneer American expressman, was born in Pompey, New York. From the age of thirteen he had to support himself, obtaining little schooling, and for several years he was a clerk in grocery stores in Syracuse.....In 1844 he organized, with Henry Wells (1805-1878) and Daniel Dunning, the first express company (Wells & Co.; after 1845 Livingston & Fargo) to engage in the carrying business west of Buffalo. The lines of this company (which first operated only to Detroit, via Cleveland) were rapidly extended to Chicago, St. Louis, and other western points.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_G._Fargo

But the idea that Wells went into business with a Fowler first seems really farfetched. What WAS in existence, however, was the Fowler & Wells Publishing House discussed in reference to Orson Squire Fowler and Charlotte Fowler. Our best guess is that someone in the family heard about Fowler & Wells and extrapolated that company to the express business.

In order to keep this story focused, we will organize it into sections, one on each of the generations of male Fowlers whom we can document and the women they married. In one case, that of the Brooks, we have discussed the families of the wives in a separate chapter.

Here is who they were, where they lived, and when:

Chapter 1: Abel Fowler (1781 South Kingstown, RI – 1862 Ogden, Monroe, NY): lived in Fairfield/Newport, Herkimer Co, NY probably from 1809-1816, then in Churchville/Riga/Ogden, Monroe Co, NY ² from 1816-1862. Abel married **Mary Eddy** (abt 1789 Berkshire Co, MA – 1827 Ogden, Monroe Co, NY) and later **Harriet Scott** (abt 1796 Peacham, Caledonia Co, VT - 1874 Ogden, Monroe Co, NY).

Chapter 2: Anson Fowler (1809 Fairfield, Herkimer, NY – 1855 Wheatland, Hillsdale, MI): lived in Fairfield/Newport, Herkimer Co, NY from 1809-1816, in Churchville/Riga/Ogden, Monroe Co, NY from 1816-1835, and then in Wheatland, Hillsdale Co, Michigan 1835-1855. Anson married **Harriet Louisa Gridley** (1810 Pompey, Onondaga, NY – 1898 Wheatland Twp, MI). We will occasionally refer to this man as Anson (I) to avoid confusion with his grandson, also Anson..

Chapter 3: Edward Kirtland Fowler (1832 Churchville, NY – 1898 Coe Twp, Isabella, MI): lived in Churchville/Riga/Ogden, Monroe Co, NY from 1832-1835, then in Wheatland, Hillsdale Co, Michigan 1835-1857, and later in Coe, Isabella, Michigan 1857-1898. Edward married his first or second cousin (once removed) **Eunice Tower Eddy** (1841 Oakland County, MI – 1928 St. Louis, MI).

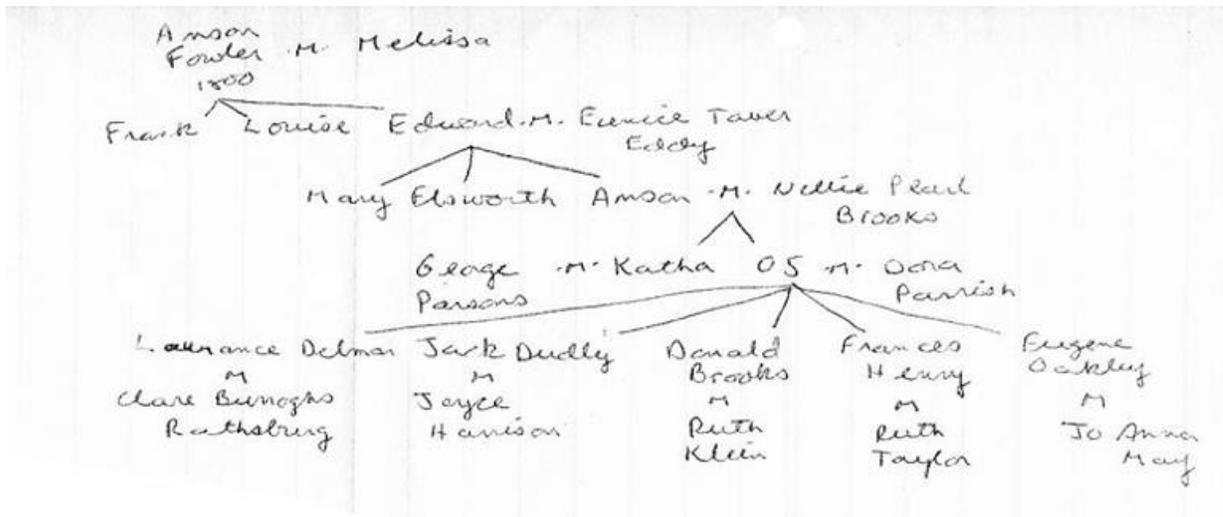
Chapter 4: Anson James Fowler (1866 Coe, Isabella, MI – 1959 Traverse City MI): lived in Coe, Isabella and Pine River, Gratiot Counties, MI all his life. We will refer to this man as Anson (II) or Anson James when clarification is needed. Anson married **Nellie Pearl Brooks** (1873 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI – 1960 Dunedin, Pinellas, FL). See <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> and choose “Tom’s Ancestry” tab for *the separate Brooks chapter*.

Chapter 5: O.S. Edward Fowler (1895 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI – 1993 St. Louis MI): lived in Coe, Isabella and Pine River, Gratiot, MI most of his life. O.S. married **Dora Alice Parrish** (1898 Paulding, OH – 1959 Alma MI) and later **Winifred Brooks Vroman** (1894 Grand Rapids, MI – 1985 St. Louis, MI).

But we did not know all this in the beginning. To start the family tree, we had this information from O.S. Fowler in the 1970’s:

² Monroe County was formed from parts of Genesee and Ontario counties in 1821, shortly after Abel and family arrived there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monroe_County,_New_York



Kristen Fowler's diagram of the Fowler family tree, as dictated by O.S. Fowler, circa 1979.

Years later, O.S.'s son Francis Fowler passed on to us his more extensive knowledge of the Fowler family origins. (Diagram below.) The document you are reading is the result of fleshing out the bones of what these men passed on to us.

Initially, we took a subscription to Ancestry.com and used that platform to build a database using their software, Family Tree Maker and their incredible collection of records. Also we did an extensive internet search for various family members, accessed Bureau of Land Management of land patent records³, war rolls, pension records, Find-A-Grave.com memorials, other cemetery records, other genealogical information, and even ship passenger manifests. If you have a subscription, you can access the entire tree at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/113195954>

Joining internet surname bulletin boards put us in contact with such people as Ross Gridley of Hamlin, NY who had been researching the Gridleys for 20 years; Douglas Mueller who suggested Abel's possible connection [incorrect as it turned out] to the Connecticut Fowlers; and Jim Vinson who helped us out with key connections in the Bartlett lineage. Ross Gridley suggested we visit the Ogden Farmer's Library in southwestern Monroe Co, NY where we met Don Specht and Ken Beaman, the historians there; these men helped us locate Abel and Mary's farm, extracted records, guided our land records searches, and even contacted living people to obtain family memories for us. Don suggested we contact Fran Meier about repairing Mary Eddy Fowler's grave stone at Maple Grove Cemetery, and this was accomplished. Township sextons are helpful people, and several helped us locate gravesites. Even title abstract researchers have helped us, and we appreciate it!!! Other county history librarians, Find-A-grave contributors, DNA database managers, and many others contributed to the story. Rebecca Logan provided guidance, encouragement and caution in appropriate and helpful doses.

When we got a Y-DNA match with another Fowler line, several distant cousins worked tirelessly alongside of our efforts to hammer out hopefully merging lineages.

³ <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/>

Lawrence Sonley's "BROOKS Genealogy of a Family of That Name, A Roster of Fifteen Generations", 1983, was invaluable in building the Brooks side of the family in our companion document on that line. His pre-computer and pre-internet research was exhaustive! And he was kind enough to agree to allow scans of his book to be published here in this document, as well as on the internet. You can see that at: <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> -- choose "Tom's Ancestry" tab.

Kudos to cousins who helped with family connections, photos, etc. and some potential cousins who agreed to have their DNA tested. Also to those who actually matched Tom's Y-DNA at FamilyTreeDNA.com in the U-106 and SNP CTS10893 grouping ⁴.

On the subject of cool ancestors, we've been startled to discover how many of our ancestors have been living in North America since the 1600's and how many were even connected to historical personages. Just a few of the more illustrious examples:

- The Reverend Thomas Hooker, ancestor of Harriet Gridley, Anson (I)'s wife, founded Hartford, CT in June 1636. Two years later he preached the historic sermon, which inspired the "Fundamental Orders", and is credited with sowing the seeds of free Constitutional government in America.
- Mayflower passengers John Alden – supposedly the first from the Mayflower to step onto North American soil -- and Priscilla Mullins were ancestors of Eunice Tower Eddy, Edward Fowler's wife (through surname sequence Tower, Sprague, Webb, Bass, Alden); and also ancestors of Zipporah Coates, mother-in-law of Elisha Brooks (through surname sequence Coates/Coats, Palmer, Rice, Forbush ⁵, Bruce, Maynard, Gray, Billings, Bill, Pabodie, Hewitt, Hodgkins, Tilden, Little, Lettice, Alden).
- Mayflower passengers William Brewster and Mary Wentworth Brewster were other many great-grandparents of Eunice Tower Eddy (through the surname sequence Eddy, Smith, Freeman, Prence, and Brewster).
- British, French, and Spanish kings and were direct ancestors of Nellie Brooks, Anson (II)'s wife, through her maternal grandmother Zipporah Coates.
- George Whitehorne, the 3G-grandfather of Edward Fowler's wife Eunice Tower Eddy, was a ship-owner, shipmaster, wharfinger and distiller in Boston. Whitehorne's Wharf at the in Boston Harbor was the most prominent wharf between Windmill Point and South Battery in 1714. In 1773, the same wharf was known as Griffin's Wharf and was the site of the Boston Tea Party. ⁶

⁴ There are five men whose Y-DNA places them into the R1b-U106 Y-DNA Haplogroup and R-CTS 10893 subclade (Z9>Z30>Z2>Z7> CTS10893>FGC924> S27458?> 385=11-12) and the SNP CTS10893. Test results from the other men are due shortly and we expect those results to be similar. See <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/U106/default.aspx?section=yresults>.

⁵ BTW, the Forbushes may have been Scottish, an exception to the rule of English ancestors!

⁶ Robert Joseph Curfman, "Captain George Whitehorne of Boston: and Some of His Descendants", The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Volume 146 (1992) pages 161-177, Volume 581, January (1992) pages 3-27.

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____
 Date _____

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____.

Chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
 p.b. Place of Birth
 m. Date of Marriage
 d. Date of Death
 p.d. Place of Death

4 **ANSON JAMES FOWLER**
 (Father of No. 2)
 b. 10-16-1866
 p.b. COE TWP, ISABELLA CO.
 m. 9-13-1873
 d. 4-2-1959
 p.d. TRAVERSE CITY MI
 (CARISIAN STANLEY)

2 **O.S. FOWLER**
 (Father of No. 1)
 b. 3-25-1895
 p.b. PINE RIVER TWP, GASTROT, CO, MI
 m.
 d.
 p.d.

5 **NELLIE PEARL BROOKS**
 (Mother of No. 2)
 b. 12-16-1873
 p.b. SAINT LOUIS, MI
 d. 2-22-1960
 p.d. DUNEDIN FLA

① **FRANCIS HENRY FOWLER**
 Frank Fowler
 b. 5-12-28
 p.b. ST LOUIS, MI
 m. 9-19-47
 d.
 p.d.

3 **DORA ANICE PARRISH**
 (Mother of No. 1)
 b. 1-1-1898
 p.b. PAULDING, OHIO
 d. 5-20-57
 p.d. ALMA, MI.

7 **ELIZABETH ANN BAUGHMAN**
 (Mother of No. 3)
 b. 6-8-1866
 p.b. SAXTON GERMANY
 d. 3-1-58
 p.d. ST. LOUIS, MI

Ruth (MARGARET TAYLOR)
 (Spouse of No. 1)
 b. 2-15-29
 d.
 p.b. LANSING, MI
 p.d.

8 **EDWARD K FOWLER**
 (Father of No. 4)
 b. 1822
 p.b. NEW YORK STATE
 m. HIESDALE CO. COOKS ILLINOIS
 d. 1898
 p.d. COE, TWP

9 **EUNICE T EDDY**
 (Mother of No. 4)
 b. 1841
 p.b. NEW YORK STATE
 d. 1928
 p.d. ST LOUIS, MI

10 **ELISHA H BROOKS**
 (Father of No. 5)
 b. 1818
 p.b. BRACEVILLE OHIO
 m. 4-9-1845
 d. 1891
 p.d. PINE RIVER TWP

11 **LAURA J BARTLETT**
 (Mother of No. 5)
 b. 1839
 p.b. INDIANA
 d. 1908
 p.d. PINE RIVER TWP

12 **WILLIAM K PARRISH**
 (Father of No. 6)
 b. 10-1-1820
 p.b. CRAWFORD CO OHIO
 m.
 d. 3-17-1902
 p.d. PAULDING OHIO

13 **LURRTIA COMER**
 (Mother of No. 6)
 MALLISSA CHRISTOPHER
 b.
 p.b.
 d.
 p.d.

14 _____
 (Father of No. 7)
 b.
 p.b.
 m.
 d.
 p.d.

15 **CHRISTINE**
 (Mother of No. 7)
 b.
 p.b.
 d.
 p.d.

16 **ANSON FOWLER**
 (Father of No. 8,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 1800
 m.
 d. 1850

17 **MILISSA**
 (Mother of No. 8,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

18 **JAMES EDDY**
 (Father of No. 9,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 1801
 m.
 d. 1893

19 **MARY TOWER**
 (Mother of No. 9,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

20 **JOHN BRIDGES**
 (Father of No. 10,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 4-7-1781
 m.
 d. 9-15-1823

21 **HANNAH RUSSELL**
 (Mother of No. 10,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 1784
 d. 5-17-1826

22 **OTIS BARTLETT**
 (Father of No. 11,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 1805
 m.
 d. 1897

23 **ZEPPERAH COATES**
 (Mother of No. 11,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b. 1806 NY.
 d. 1891 MINN.

24 **JOHN PARRISH**
 (Father of No. 12,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 m.
 d.

25 **SARAH BROWN**
 (Mother of No. 12,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

26 **HENRY COMER**
 (Father of No. 13,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 m.
 d.

27 **SUSANNA DICKEY**
 (Mother of No. 13,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

28 _____
 (Father of No. 14,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 m.
 d.

29 _____
 (Mother of No. 14,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

30 _____
 (Father of No. 15,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 m.
 d.

31 _____
 (Mother of No. 15,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)
 b.
 d.

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Francis Fowler's family tree, circa 1985

The rich sweep of frontier history, as it is rarely told, became our passion for several years. Watching as our lines moved from New England, through New York, into Canada in one case, into Ohio, and finally Michigan in the 1800's, made history come alive in a way it never had before. For that, the authors are indebted to this project.

One caveat, however, is that the database we built using Ancestry.com's software program, Family Tree Maker, enabled us to access and add many ancestors whom we "found" through the fact that other people uploaded their family trees to Ancestry.com. So in many cases, we accessed and merged "Other People's Data" (OPD, as genealogists call it). In some situations, this was just not accurate. Genealogy is all about puzzle-solving: we make a hypothesis, test it with as much primary data we can find (census records, town histories, land records, etc) and then decide what is plausible or unlikely to be true. This particular document contains quite a bit of OPD. We have labeled anything seriously questionable as well as we could.

Additionally, it is sad that, while we can name and date and place so many ancestors, we have no idea what sorts of people they were. Historical records can provide some descriptions of harsh realities, but we don't know how they loved and dreamed, struggled and despaired. In earlier times, obituaries were not published to help color in the lines of what we know. What we do know is that they survived to create the next generation, and ultimately, us.

We want this history to be as complete as possible and distributed as widely as possible. Feel free to download the PDF file and distribute as you wish. We encourage further research and collection of family stories. Please contact us if you would like to add to this document, which will be available as long as we maintain a website. This is a "working document", so you will see the **last saved date of the document at the bottom of each page**. That way, you will know if you have the latest version or not.

Sincerely, Tom and Melissa Fowler
Ithaca, New York
e-mail: mcf3@cornell.edu and tlf11@cornell.edu

Chapter 1: Abel Fowler and Mary Eddy Fowler

At the time this research began, the man who was our oldest KNOWN Fowler ancestor was Anson Fowler (1809 – 1855). We did not know anything about Anson's parentage. Then we found this [incorrect] account:

In 1841, on Valentine's Day, John Edward (Wooster) married, second, Abigail Fowler. He was 32, and she was two years younger. These families must have known each other and come from New York State together. She and her brother, Anson Fowler must have been very close because tracing them through census after census in Hillsdale, the two families always lived next door to each other. The Fowlers were especially numerous in Hillsdale, three Fowler brothers opening a store there in 1830. Abigail's father, William Fowler, took out patents on in all 240 acres of land between 1834 and 1838. Anson also filed for a patent on 40 acres of land. ⁷

This Wooster family history contains what we now know to be several big mistakes about "our" Hillsdale, Michigan Fowlers. The story about Abigail's "father William", and the numerous "Fowler brothers" had us following erroneous trails for many years, mistakenly looking for proof that there was a William in Anson's patri-lineage. It turns out that a William Fowler ⁸ DID purchase a lot of land in adjoining Fayette Twp, near Jonesville, Hillsdale

⁷ A Wooster Family <http://home.earthlink.net/~geneals/wooster.htm>

⁸ This William Fowler was born in Maryland about 1774, and that makes it unlikely that he was a close relative of Abel's. He DID purchase a lot of Michigan land in adjoining Fayette Twp, near Jonesville, Hillsdale County, perhaps 20 miles from Anson (I) in Wheatland. We first found Fayette-William through the Bureau of Land Management database of land patents, later through an Ancestry family tree. Jonesville, being a commercial center, matched with the store Fayette-William supposedly opened:

Jonesville was the principal market for the produce of the country, though Adam Howder's hotel, at Hillsdale, which at the time was the headquarters of travelers and parties who came to the county to locate lands, made large demands upon the settlers for grain and provisions.

History of Hillsdale County, Michigan, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Johnson, Crisfield, Everts & Abbott. Philadelphia, 1879.

<http://name.umdl.umich.edu/BAD0928.0001.001>

Fayette-William may have been the pioneer referred to in the following history of Hillsdale:

Historical research has revealed long-lost details about Baw Beese and his people. Those first settlers credited Baw Beese and his tribe of about 100 for helping their pioneer families by providing meat and traditional medicinal care through the long hard winters. The Potawatomes were known as successful planters and growers of maize (corn), who fished and hunted in fruitful locations. Baw Beese led his people around the county to three primary spots. The first was near the shores of Baw Beese Lake (supposedly named after the old chief by **an early settler, Colonel William Fowler**), where they fished; the second was near the corner of Squawfield and Waldron Roads, where they grew maize; and the third was just south of Somerset, where they hunted. The native inhabitants also made excursions into Ohio and Indiana, as well as into neighboring Michigan counties.

A Brief History of 'Hillsdale County'; Pioneer Period: 1825-1843, Dan Bisher, 1999

<http://www.co.hillsdale.mi.us/hc-history.htm>

William also had 6 sons, three of whom lived in Hillsdale Co. until their deaths and who probably constituted the "numerous" Fowler brothers. William died Sept. 17, 1857 and was buried at Sunset View Cemetery in Jonesville, MI (<http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=29823660>), very near, or perhaps on, his 1830's-purchased land.

County, a commercial center. But his relationship to Anson (I) and sister Abigail was pure fiction!

We then learned that **Abel Fowler**, and NOT William, was Anson's father.

Here is what we know about Abel Fowler: he was born in 1781 in South Kingstown, RI ⁹ and died in 1862 in Ogden, Monroe, NY. Abel's age and birth state was gleaned from various federal censuses, his gravestone, and from a biography of one of his sons ¹⁰. Even after years of research, there is nothing PROVEN about his early life or ancestry, but that same biography indicated that Abel's wife Mary Eddy was "of" Wallingford, Vermont, and that they married there, providing a maiden name and a residence for Mary. Such nineteenth century biographies of "leading citizens" of various counties can be horribly inaccurate, but this 1892 biography of Samuel Mills Fowler, son of Abel and Mary, provided a starting point for our research and bore fruit, as we shall see. Using various records, we were able to follow Abel and Mary as settlers, first, in Herkimer County, NY in the first decade of the 19th century, and then less than 10 years later in the "Genesee Country" of New York State.

Now that we know that Abel was Anson's father, who was Abel's father?

We have been able to find quite a bit about Abel as an adult in Monroe County. What we DON'T know about Abel is his lineage and his childhood!! Records for Abel do not exist before 1810. ¹¹ Why can't we locate vital records on Abel from Rhode Island? Some Rhode Island Fowler families are well documented with first-hand records and even good family OPD research. Others, such as "our" Abel, are completely missing. In Rhode Island, we learned, public records were not required until 1860.

The chaotic early days of settlement in America followed by the turbulent Colonial times were not conducive to the recording of family history. Government records were but carelessly made and less carefully kept, the records of Revolutionary and earlier times divulging but little value. The frequent ravages of fire in public buildings has caused the total loss of many of the records such as were kept, making research work all the more difficult. ¹²

Records in Rhode Island are conspicuous by their absence. They are not nearly so numerous as in Massachusetts and Connecticut. This had been explained by Joel Eno, historian and genealogist. He says Rhode Island sought, and had, religious liberty. Schools in the other states were maintained early by the church, which dominated in such things. Rhode Island, having liberty, was very backward in education in consequence. There was no compulsory schooling till well into the 1860's, though there were private schools. After the earliest days, while those educated in England were still alive, it was rare that a man in Rhode Island could sign his name on wills and other documents. Naturally, it seemed to him unnecessary to go to the town clerk (who could not spell well himself) to have his children's names recorded. Mr. Remington,

⁹ We use Kingstown and not Kingston, unless it is used within a direct quotation. At various times, Kingston has been correct and today Kingstown is what is correct.

¹⁰ Portrait and Biographical Record of Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and representative Citizens....., Chapman Brothers, Chicago, IL, 1892, pgs 427-428

¹¹ This, from the Ancestry.com database, as well as the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society of South Kingstown, RI and every other source that has been consulted.

¹² H. Alfred Fowler, An Incomplete Genealogy of the Fowlers, 1913. Page 11.
<https://ia600408.us.archive.org/12/items/incompletogeneal00fowl/incompletogeneal00fowl.pdf>

town clerk for North Scituate, R.I. said we are indebted for what names we have to the law requiring owners of cattle to register the ear marks on their cattle in order to prove ownership. He said when a man went to the town clerk for such registry his wife would say to him, "Don't forget to have Samantha's and Joshua's births set down too!" And so we have some records. ¹³

There were several dead-ends that we went down to attempt to locate a lineage for Abel. Another historical reference provided a lot of confusing information:

Abel Fowler, the first member of the family of whom there is mention, was a resident of Rhode Island. He married and had a son Anson, mentioned below.

(II) Anson, son of Abel Fowler, was born in Rhode Island, died at the age of eighty-four at Churchville, New York. He was a soldier in the revolution in Colonel Tophan's regiment from Newport and Bristol, Rhode Island. He removed from Rhode Island to Herkimer, New York, and about 1816 to Churchville, same state, where he cleared a farm and followed farming during the remainder of his life. His children were: 1. Anson, mentioned below. 2. Abel, whose son, Nelson S. Fowler, resided at Churchville, New York, on the old homestead. 3. Daughter. This family is doubtless a branch of that founded by William Fowler and very numerous in Connecticut. There was an Anson Fowler, son of Captain Amos Fowler, born in 1803, in Lebanon, Connecticut, where he lived to a great age.

(III) Anson (2), son of Anson (1) Fowler, was born in 1809, in Rhode Island, died in 1854 at Wheatland, Michigan. He accompanied his parents to New York State, removing from Churchville to Wheatland, Michigan. He followed the occupation of farming. ¹⁴

What a mish-mash of correct and incorrect material! A little is accurate; most of it is not. Two interesting leads emerged from among the confusion, however: 1. some Fowler, perhaps Abel's father, served in the Revolution, in a regiment from RI; and 2. Fowlers "doubtless" harkened from Connecticut. We pursued those to see if they were correct, and it turned out **they were NOT.**

Let's look at these two ideas: It just so happens that there WAS an Abel Fowler from Rhode Island, who was a Sergeant in the Revolution. And he had a SON named Abel as well. However, this Rhode-Island-soldier-Abel-Fowler line ¹⁵ moved to Washington County, NY after the American Revolution and stayed there, not moving further west as we now know "our" Abel did in the early 1800's. Definitely, these Fowlers, including Abel Jr. and Sr., came from Rhode Island but were living in Cambridge, Albany County (later Washington Co) NY and then White Creek, Washington Co. NY, in 1790 through 1830 federal censuses. So this is not "our" Abel.

¹³ Adelaide May Blanchard Crandall. *The Blanchards of Rhode Island*. 1942.

¹⁴ *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation, Volume 3*. William Richard Cutter. Lewis historical publishing Company, 1913. Pages 1418-1419.

¹⁵ Here's the lineage for this branch of the Fowlers from South Kingstown, RI:
Henry Fowler (1633 England – 1687 Mamaroneck Westchester NY) begat
Christopher Fowler (1660 Newport RI – 1752) begat
Isaac Fowler (1708 Newport RI – 1773 S Kingstown RI) begat
Simeon (1722 RI -1807 White Creek Washington Co, NY) and Mercy Jones begat
Abel (1745 S. Kingstown RI – 1829 or 33 Washington Co, NY); married Mary Brownell (1746 RI – 1809 Washington Co. NY) on 6/3/1770 in Exeter North Kingstown; and went to war between 1775 and 1783, begat
Abel (1776 Exeter RI – 1847 Hastings Center Wash Co, NY) married Lydia Fuller; and they begat Rensselaer, Mary, Rodney, Peter, Rhoda and Luther.

The second idea, that he came from the CT Fowler family, needed to be examined in some detail. Let's step back and get some perspective on Colonial Fowlers.

Fowler immigrant-ancestors and possible DNA proof of lineages

For our present purposes, we looked at two main Fowler immigrant-ancestors to Seventeenth Century America: Henry Fowler and wife Rebecca Newell (ancestors of many of the RI and Westchester County, NY families) and puritan William Fowler and wife Sarah Neeld (of the Connecticut Fowlers). A lot of Fowlers in New England and New York descended from these two men. Some founded their own large families in New Haven CT, Guilford CT, Southampton, Westchester and Eastchester NY, branching into Cohocton NY, Washington County NY, and other places as the new lands opened up after the Revolution.

The Rhode-Island-soldier-Abel-Fowler line was descended from immigrant-ancestor Henry Fowler ¹⁶ (1633 Hambleton, Rutland, England – 1687 Mamaroneck, Westchester, NY) and wife Rebecca Newell (1637 Roxbury, Essex, MA – 1672 Westbury, NY) and also included many or most of the Rhode Island Fowlers of the 1700's. Rick Fowler, a direct descendant of Henry's and the Washington Co, NY branch, graciously allowed us to run a DNA sample of his genetic material to compare it to that of our line. They did not match AT ALL. So barring an NPE (a "non-parental event", such as a step-child, an adoption, fostering, or illegitimacy in Rick's, OR OUR, male-to-male line), "our" Abel may NOT be of Henry/Rebecca's lineage.

The idea that Abel was born to the large Fowler family of Connecticut, who were descended from immigrant-ancestor William Fowler (1572 Dalbury, Lees, Derby, England – 1661 Milford, New Haven, Connecticut) ¹⁷ and Sarah Neeld (1599 Dalbury, Lees, Derby, England – 1637

¹⁶ Henry Fowler III arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in 1652 or 1653, initially establishing residence in Roxbury... There are surviving letters connecting him with his best friend, Joshua Foote, who accompanied him on the trans-Atlantic voyage. Henry Fowler recorded a purchase of 60 acres of upland and meadow from Joshua Winsor and 58 acres from Valentine Whiton in 1654 near what is now Providence, Rhode Island, becoming one of the first settlers there. His occupation is recorded as "ironmonger". Joshua and Henry were partners in a vertically integrated business from the blacksmith forges to import/export of ironworks in Boston. Henry Fowler married Rebecca Newell of Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1655. An additional 253 acres around Providence were purchased in 1656. By 1662 he had traveled to New York and met with Peter Stuyvesant obtaining a "ground brief" for what would become Mamaroneck, New York. He was one of 26 notable men who signed the "Articles of Agreement" founding the town of Eastchester in 1664. His residence, though, must have continued to be Providence as in 1671, he was chosen one of the deputies to sit in General Assembly to be held at Newport.

Land deeds record the purchase of 111 acres of land in Eastchester, New York in 1675. During the same decade, Henry Fowler transferred several pieces of land in Providence to some of his female children so it would appear that he along with several sons relocated to New York. He is definitely known to have been living in Mamaroneck, New York in 1680 when he entered into an agreement, together with Thomas Hatfield, John Richbell, and his son-in-law Richard Ward, to build a sawmill there. The expense and profits were to be evenly divided. The exception was the ironwork which belonged to Henry Fowler alone. The location is recorded as bounded by both the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers including their confluence the salt meadow on Great Neck.

<http://nffowler.com/fowler.aspx>

¹⁷ William Fowler, born 1572, died 25 January 1660/1 aged 88 at Milford, Ct. He was from Islington, London, England, a prisoner in Bridewell with other Puritans in 1592. Came to America in the company of Governor Eaton and Rev. John Davenport from England, and arriving at Boston, Ma. 26 June 1637, removed to New Haven, Ct. next year, then settled 1661 at Milford, Ct. Planter. Builder of mill. First magistrate of New Haven 1637. Judge. Freeplanter. One of the seven pillars at the founding of the church. Said to have had a classical education in his native country, and was a man of distinction. Representative. Lieutenant. Assistant of the

Milford, New Haven, Connecticut) was a dead end. Ancestry.com revealed an Abel born in the same year "our" Abel was born, 1781, to William Fowler and Olive Coan who were both born and died in Guilford, New Haven, CT. Nowhere is Abel-son-of-William-and-Olive's birthplace explicitly listed as Connecticut, but he IS described as unmarried and "died, date unknown, Lost At Sea". We wanted very much to believe that this was "our" Abel. Another willing man, Bruce Fowler, descended from the CT Fowler group, allowed us to run a DNA sample of his genetic material to compare it to that of our line. They did not match AT ALL either! So, again, barring an NPE, "our" Abel is probably NOT descended from the William Fowler/Sarah Neeld line either.

Indeed, when we examined the various male DNA results posted at the Fowler Project at Family Tree DNA ¹⁸ in an effort to perhaps understand the "big picture" of Fowler genetic relationships, we found that there are a lot of I haplotypes (that's what Bruce tested to be) and a lot of R haplotypes (what our lineage has tested to be and also what several men who claimed to be descended from Henry of RI also are) and only a few J haplotypes (what Rick tested as). It is not clear at all how these Fowlers might ever have all been related, if at all. And when you compare an R haplotype man to a J or an I man, the other man is "more closely related to Adam than to us", as one geneticist has said.

Moreover, while we examined the CT and RI Fowler patriarchs and their descendants closely, it would be an oversimplification to believe that all the Fowlers in the American Colonies derived from two immigrant men and their wives. There were other early Fowler immigrants about whom we have read:

- Famously, Robert Fowler arrived in 1657, although he may not have remained in the Colonies after leaving his Quaker cargo here:

On 1 Sixth Month [August] 1657 Robert FOWLER's brig *Woodhouse* landed on Long Island, with eleven Friends, also known as Quakers....Five remained to share their experience of religious conviction with local English settlers: Robert HODGSON, Richard DOUDNEY, Sarah GIBBONS, Mary WEATHERHEAD, and Dorothy WAUGH. Robert Fowler and Robert Hodgson called upon Governor STUYVESANT, and found "he was moderate both in words and actions." Three days later Fowler and the other five sailed on to Rhode Island. ¹⁹

Colony. He married Sarah. Among the monumental remains at Islington are found those of his family, bearing this inscription after some names and dates: "Divers of this family lie here interred; the ancestors of Sir Thomas Fowler, Knight and Baronet, living 1630."

Thomas P. Hughes, *American Ancestry: Giving the Name and Descent in the Male Line of Americans Whose Ancestors Settled in the United States Previous to the Declaration of Independence, AD 1776, VOL. 1, 1887.* Page 28.

<https://archive.org/stream/AmericanAncestryGivingTheNameAndDescentInTheMaleLineOfAmericans/AmericanAncestryGivingTheNameAndDescentInTheMaleLineOfAmericansWhoseAncestorsSettledInTheUnitedStatesPreviousToTheDeclarationOfIndependenceAd1776#page/n7/mode/2up>

See also http://hillfamilymd.org/Family/ps23/ps23_070.htm

¹⁸ <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/fowler/results>

¹⁹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paxson/jackson/Jackson.index.html>

Robert Fowler's own account of the remarkable voyage is reprinted in James Bowden, *The History of the Society of Friends in America* (London: Charles Gilpin, 1850), 1:63-67. A shorter, perhaps more readable version, is in Elfrida Vipont, *George Fox and the Valiant Sixty* (Philadelphia: Friends General Conference, 1997), 107-8. See also Bowden, *The History of the Society of Friends in America*, 309-320.

And then there were 1600's settlers to other Colonies among Fowler immigrants:

- John Fowler (1610 Marlborough, Wiltshire, England – 1683 Henrico Co., VA) whose line spread into Virginia and Maryland at the very least. Fayette-William of Hillsdale MI may have descended from this immigrant, as he was born in the state of Maryland.
- Philip Fowler (1590 Marlborough, Wiltshire, England -1679 Ipswich, Essex, MA) who arrived in Massachusetts in 1634 aboard the ship "Mary and John" and who settled in Ipswich, MA and gave rise to a large family in Massachusetts.²⁰ All the known descendants of this Massachusetts line appear to be accounted for genealogically and did not migrate into Rhode Island in time to father Abel in 1781 – at least not that we know of.

We cannot easily determine a relationship between these two immigrant men from Wiltshire, but there certainly may have been one.

- Also, there were Scots-Irish Fowlers who arrived in the 1700's from Northern Ireland. So it is always possible that Abel's parents were later arrivals in the Colonies.

Looking back at the confused paragraph quoted on the previous page, we think the author of "New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial", combined all the Fowlers he knew of into one fabricated family. He knew about the Abel who was a Revolution veteran, he knew about someone being born in Churchville, someone in Rhode Island, and someone moving to Wheatland Michigan. He knew about a large group of Fowlers in CT. And he rolled them all up into one family. So we can pretty much ignore the parts of this reference that we cannot corroborate for ourselves.

More ways to search for lineages

It is a genealogist's trick to search for other men with the same first name as an ancestor to see if he might have been named for a father, uncle, etc. Were there OTHER Abel Fowlers? Yes. Aside from the Washington-County-NY Abels, and the CT Abel who was "lost at sea", there was an Abel Fowler born in 1796 in RI, who moved into Ohio; and one with unknown birthplace, but born about 1775 - 1781 who lived in Onondaga Co, NY in 1820 and 1830. None of them was "our" Abel because we can "follow" these men, using their public records, into the 1800's and they did not end up where "our" Abel did. Few of their family lines were easy to follow to determine where their lineages had originated.

Abel and Mary named their first son (who lived to adulthood) Anson. Were there other Anson Fowlers who might have been a father, uncle or such, and for whom Abel named their son? Yes, this name was used, starting in about 1768, by the Connecticut Fowlers, but we have found no Rhode Island Anson Fowler - yet.

How about the male Fowlers who censused in South Kingstown, RI who might have been Abel's father? The 1774 Rhode Island census listed 19 Fowler families in the entire state. The

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paxson/jackson/cit-jackson.html#35jack>

It has been suggested that Robert did not stay in RI and in fact returned to Yorkshire. We have been unable to locate any lineage from him in that the Colonies. <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/QUAKER-ROOTS/2009-01/1233022717>

²⁰ Christine Cecilia Fowler, The History of the Fowlers, 1950. Page 625.

1777 Rhode Island Military Census listed 7 male Fowlers of the “right” age group to be Abel’s father in South Kingstown. But so far, we have not been able to determine whether any of these men was Abel’s father, mostly due to sketchy family-tree information about them. A lot of them were from the lineage of Henry and Rebecca.

Of the 2,190 white people in South Kingstown in the 1782 census ²¹, the year after Abel was born, the only Fowler family “head of household” in South Kingstown was John Fowler. Within his household were 5 people: 2 females ages 0-5; 1 male 22-49; 1 female 22-49; 1 female 50+ -- no young son!

In fact, in the 1790 census of Rhode Island, when Abel would have been 9-yrs-old, there was only one man in South Kingstown with a household containing a male under 16 (Samuel), one in North Kingstown (Benjamin), four in Jamestown (Henry, Oliver, Thomas, and Josiah), one in Newport (Samuel G), and one in Cumberland (Ichabod). Assuming accuracy in the enumeration, assuming Abel’s father was still alive in 1790, and assuming they were still in RI, these are possibilities for his father. Some of these men (Thomas and Oliver) were from Henry and Rebecca’s line, and the rest do not have very good family trees, for instance, on Ancestry with which we can investigate their known families.

A DNA test which DID provide a match

However, Samuel in South Kingstown in the census of 1790 may be an important link. When we did our DNA testing, our lineage’s Y-DNA test (that of Tom) yielded an EXACT match to another Fowler (Allan), the latter of whose line stretches back to an ancestor (Samuel Fowler 1765 – 1846) also born in South Kingstown, R.I. Allan’s research strongly suggests that this direct ancestor was indeed the Samuel who censused in South Kingstown in 1790 with a young male child in his household. The DNA testing company tells us that the probability is very high that the two lines (that of Allan and that of Tom) share a common ancestor, within 7 to 10 generations or diverged about 1800 AD. Abel’s unknown father was 7 generations back from Tom; Samuel’s unknown father was 7 generations back from Allan. So the two lines MIGHT merge/diverge with Abel’s and Samuel’s father. But in both cases, no amount of research has been able to turn up the NAME of Abel’s father or Samuel’s father! Allan’s research has hit a brick wall, just as ours has. Perhaps the SAME brick wall??

Thankfully, we know a lot about Allan’s ancestor, Samuel Fowler (1765 South Kingstown, RI – 1846 Sherburne, NY) and his offspring, due to Samuel’s pension application for Revolutionary War veterans -- in which Samuel, unfortunately, never NAMED his father!!! Samuel was born in South Kingstown, RI in 1765, and in about 1775 or ‘76, his unnamed father moved the family to Stonington CT (and this would mean Samuel’s father was not even IN Rhode Island to be enumerated in the R.I.1777 census). The history of Stonington indicates that the town put out a call for able-bodied men to come help defend the town during the hostilities, so Samuel’s father might have answered that call and left Rhode Island. Samuel did not say that his father served in the Revolution, although a Samuel claimed to have volunteered and served as a very young man. Then about 1781 (according to the pension application) or maybe after the 1782 census, they moved back to South Kingstown where, a few years later, an emancipated Samuel was listed as a head-of-household in the 1790 census. At that time,

²¹ According to “Rhode Island 1782 Census” written by Jay Mack Holbrook in 1979, there were 2,675 people living in South Kingstown. In addition, there is a table breaking down the population by race: White: 2,190; Indian: 32; Mulatto: 38; Black: 415; Minorities: 485

Samuel had a young male and one woman in his household. None of Samuel's documented children was born before 1790 (they were born between 1792-1818), so we have to wonder -- imagining that Abel COULD have been Samuel's brother -- whether a perhaps-orphaned 9-yr-old brother Abel was living with Samuel and his wife (Samuel's wife Hannah would have been 16-yr-old) -- or might this woman have been a SISTER instead of a wife of Samuel's? Of course, the boy could also have been a first child for Samuel and a very young wife Hannah, one who did not survive to be documented by the genealogical records which have been pieced together for his family. There was no such male in Samuel's household in 1800, just his known young children. In about 1809, Samuel started moving about: to four different towns in CT, finally landing in Otsego and Chenango Counties, NY where he died. We know that well before 1809, Abel had left RI for his new life in VT and NY; where he might have been in 1800 is still a mystery, although we hypothesize he might already have left R.I. and been in Wallingford, Vermont with the Whitehorne family (see further on).

At present, we can only suggest that Samuel and Abel were brothers. Geneticists now say their two lines diverged about 1800 AD which is congruent with our theory. Who their parents were????? Still a frustrating mystery.

However, let's examine a potential father for Samuel (b 1765) and Abel (b 1781): another Samuel Fowler, the one who censused in R.I. in 1774 with a male child under 16 and 2 female children under 16. Other people's family trees at Ancestry (credible?) suggest that this Samuel may have been born about 1742 in South Kingstown, and may have been the great-great-grandson of immigrant-ancestors Henry/Rebecca, and son of Gideon Fowler (1717 R.I. -- 1804 South Kingstown, RI) and Abigail (??- after 1790). Using a genealogist's reasoning, this Samuel fits into the picture we have built for a father for DNA-related-Samuel-and-Abel because:

- ✓ he was born in South Kingstown, R.I.;
- ✓ was in R.I. with Samuel, Jr b 1765 perhaps, enumerated by the 1774 census when he had a young son in his household;
- ✓ he named his (possibly) first son for himself (a time-honored practice);
- ✓ he was NOT enumerated in South Kingstown in 1777, when Samuel, Jr's pension application indicated the family was in CT;
- ✓ he was a cousin to Abel-the-Revolutionary-War-soldier (of the Washington County, NY Fowlers) and could have named his later-born son Abel in honor of his cousin;
- ✓ "our" Abel named a son Samuel;
- ✓ this man's mother, Gideon's wife, was Abigail, and "our" Abel named his first daughter Abigail -- Abel was of such an age that he would have known this grandmother, as Abigail and Gideon were still alive in 1790 and censused in South Kingstown.

However, Samuel, Sr. was also not in the 1782 taxpayer census, nor the 1790 census, at least not in Rhode Island. This could indicate that he (and his wife too?) died shortly after Abel's birth in 1781.

All this is pure conjecture based on the sketchy records we can access. It does not explain non-matching DNA tests of a descendant of Henry's unless sometime between Henry and Samuel, Sr., there was a "non-parental event" (a foster son given the Fowler name, a step-

son, etc.) Or between Henry and the man whose DNA we tested and whose results provided a J-haplotype.

What DOES the DNA result really tell us?

It would have been so great.... It seemed so easy... you get a DNA test done and the results come back and you compare your ancestry to the lineages of the men who match you (because of course, they have done their genealogical research to know their lineages) and, presto, learn all manner of new information about who you are and where you came from!!!

And as it turned out, it was so naïve! But we were so fortunate to have a match with Allan's DNA !!!!! At present, Allan Fowler and a small number of other men whose surnames are **not** Fowler, are the only men whose DNA tests at FamilyTreeDNA.com match Tom's closely enough to be useful ²². In fact, test results of those men whose DNA appears to be "close" to Tom's (ISOGG long form R1b1a2, or shorthand R-M269, and even more specifically R-U106 ²³) are unlikely to represent a common biological relative within the last 3000 or 4000 years!!!! There are lots of ways to introduce error into genealogy research, but the DNA does not lie. Close, as they say, only counts in horseshoes and hand-grenades.

As more and more people get interested in DNA testing and in genealogy, there may be more men whose Y-DNA tests match into Tom and Allan's group (U-106 and SNP CTS10893), and then we may have some more information on which to base our family research. But for now, we have to sadly conclude that there are NO OTHER FOWLERS and in fact, NO OTHER AMERICAN MEN WHO HAVE HAD Y-DNA TESTING DONE, who match Allan's and Tom's DNA profiles and whose ancestors were in North America within the Colonial American era. Therefore, we cannot use these data to make any claims about our ancestors in America before the birth of Samuel and Abel in 1765 and 1781. Their lineage remains a deep mystery.

The Great Migration

Before we turn back to what we actually KNOW about Abel and Mary, let's look at the world into which they were born.

Jamestown, in Virginia, was founded in 1607 and is generally regarded as the first permanent English settlement in North America. However, the 1620 establishment of Plymouth Bay Colony in Massachusetts by the religious immigrants known as the Pilgrims may be regarded as the beginning of large-scale migration

²² These five men have tested DYS492 = 13 and 385 = 11-12. Which places them into the R1b-U106 Y-DNA Haplogroup and R-CTS 10893 subclade (Z9>Z30>Z2>Z7> CTS10893>FGC924> S27458?> 385=11-12).

Tom and one other of the five men have now tested positive for the SNP CTS10893.

See <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/U106/default.aspx?section=yresults>.

SNP testing is the only certain way, currently offered by the genealogical companies, to test and confirm these historic family relationships and that more SNP testing needs to be done. Unfortunately much of the early testing was done before the SNP testing was either cost effective or available in the required detail - just as much of the early STR testing was only for 12, or 25 markers when we now know that 12 marker matches in particular can be unreliable (ie false positives)

²³ <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/u106/about>

from Europe to the territory that would eventually become the United States. The Pilgrims came from English dissenters against the Church of England, known as Separatists, who believed that they should separate themselves from the state Church entirely. In order to follow their separate faith without persecution from English authorities, communities of Separatists went into exile in Holland. However, it was difficult for the English religious refugees to find any work other than in the hardest and lowest-paying occupations, and their economic situations were often precarious. Also, the intensely religious exiles were suspicious of Dutch culture, and they worried about their children losing their English customs. Their leaders managed to get England's King James I to agree to allow them to resettle in America, and they obtained support from financial speculators in the London Virginia Company in return for granting the company a large portion of the crops to be produced in the New World.

On September 16, 1620, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England, with 102 emigrants, forty-one of whom were Separatists. Two months later, they arrived at Cape Cod in modern Massachusetts. After tense encounters with Native Americans, they resettled at Plymouth Bay in December. They had a difficult struggle to establish themselves, but eventually, with new arrivals, the colony at Plymouth became one of the bases of the new American population.

An even greater contribution to the American population, in sheer numbers, began with the Puritans, who believed in purifying the established church, a decade after the voyage of the Mayflower. In 1630, seventeen ships left England for America. The most famous of these was the *Arabella*, on which the Puritan leader John Winthrop sailed. Mainly stemming from the area of East Anglia in England, the Puritans left during a time when Archbishop William Laud was attempting to eliminate Puritan influences from the Church of England and King Charles I was attempting to rule without calling Parliament into session. The decade of the 1630's, leading up to the English Civil War (1642-1651), was a time of economic depression, as well as a period in which the Puritans were out of favor in the English church and state.

The years 1630 to 1640 are known as the **Great Migration**. The largely Puritan immigrants from England settled in New England, north of the settlement at Plymouth Bay, in a stretch of land known as the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The major centers of the new colony were the eastern coastal Massachusetts towns of Boston and Salem. During the Great Migration, an estimated two hundred ships reportedly carrying approximately **20,000 people** arrived in Massachusetts.

Although migration to New England dropped dramatically after the Great Migration, the descendants of the people who entered Massachusetts in those years settled much of the northeastern region of the United States and later spread westward throughout the country. ²⁴

These are the people who produced our first generations -- until some ancestors of German birth enter our Fowler family lines much later. ALL the families were the descendants of British settlers of the 1630-1650's (a very few later) who landed and/or settled in Massachusetts and then spread into Rhode Island through the time of the American Revolution. Even immigrant-ancestor Henry Fowler who arrived about 1654, initially settled in Roxbury MA before becoming one of the first people in the Rhode Island town of Providence, R.I. He also bought land in what is now Westchester Co, NY where one of his sons settled and where he died.

In the coming pages, you will read about many such family lines. Initially surprised by how *special* this sounded to today's ears, we have come to understand that THESE WERE OUR PEOPLE. They did not marry Italians or Irish or Scots because those groups were not here yet ²⁵. They married one another and pretty much, when we investigated the lineages, we found that all the lines stretched back to the "first man to settle in XX town" in what are now New England states.

What Do We Know About Mary Eddy Fowler?

Mary's gravestone gives her age as 37 years at her death in 1827, which means she was

²⁴ <http://www.immigrationinamerica.org/548-history-of-immigration-1620-1783.html?newsid=548>

²⁵ Daniel Forbush (1620 – 1687) may be an exception. He may have been a Scottish immigrant.

born in 1789 or 1790. She was said to be “of” Wallingford, VT by the 1892 biography of one of her sons, and several Eddy families moved into Wallingford from Berkshire County, Massachusetts between 1790 and 1810, among them Eddy heads of households who had daughters in the right age range.

Unfortunately, the old census records did not name the children in households. Mary’s three probable candidate fathers were all three brothers, sons of Samuel Eddy (1736 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1811 Dorset, Bennington, VT) and wife Rachel Smith (1736 Rehoboth, Bristol MA – 1811 Dorset, Bennington, VT). Several of Samuel and Rachel’s sons moved to Wallingford by 1790 or 1800; at least one between 1800 and 1810; other sons or nephews who moved to Wallingford either had no daughters that we know of or were too young to have had a child Mary’s age. We will examine these men after we discuss Mary’s lineages.

Just to be careful, we also looked into the possibility that Mary was not born an Eddy, since she and Abel named their second (or third) son, Samuel Mills Fowler. There was a Mary Mills, born in 1789 in Williamstown, Berkshire Co., MA to father Samuel Mills, Sr. and Jemima Herrington Mills. Samuel Mills, Sr and Jr died in 1814 and 1813, respectively, four years before Abel and Mary Fowler named their next-born son Samuel Mills Fowler. Might Mary Mills have had a short first marriage to an Eddy, been widowed very young, and arrived in VT with the surname Eddy? Nope, this Mary Mills remained single and lived a long life right there in Williamstown, MA where she had been born. However, this Samuel Mills of Berkshire Co. MAY have been an important family friend of the young Mary Eddy in Massachusetts – so important, that she and her husband named a son for him. Or not.

So we firmly believe that Mary Eddy Fowler was in the lineage of Samuel and Rachel Smith Eddy, was born and raised in Berkshire County, Massachusetts (Windsor or Adams) not Wallingford, VT, and moved with her family to Wallingford between 1790 and 1800 or shortly after 1800.

Mary’s Eddy roots in America go as deep as some of the others we will discuss, in this story. Our Eddy generations, were *redundantly* named, as were so many other old families: immigrant-ancestor Samuel, then Caleb, then Samuel, then Caleb, then Samuel

The Eddys go WAY back in Colonial History

Starting the furthest back in time: Immigrant-ancestor Samuel Eddy (1608 Cranbrook, Kent, England – 1687 Swansea, Bristol, Massachusetts) was the son of Rev. William Eddy ²⁶ (1559 Bristol, Gloucestershire, England – 1616 Cranbrook, Kent, England), Vicar of St. Dunstan’s Church, in Cranbrook Co., Kent, England, and Mary Fosten (1568 Cranbrook, Kent, England – 1611 Cranbrook, Kent, England).

Samuel came to the American colonies with his brother John, on the ship, the "Handmaid" in 1630, landing in Plymouth, Massachusetts where he resided for over fifty years. He was a tailor in Plymouth, although he probably farmed more than sewed. He married Elizabeth Savory (1607 Hannington, Wiltshire, England - 1689 Plymouth, Plymouth, MA) whose father, Thomas Savory (1580 Hardenhuish, Wiltshire, England – 1674 Plymouth, MA) had come to the Colonies aboard the “Mary and John” in 1633. Samuel and Elizabeth had at least 8

²⁶ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 3-13.

children and were buried at the Eddy Burial Ground, Swansea, MA ²⁷. (See a picture of a memorial stone to the couple below.)

Their son Caleb Eddy ²⁸ (1643 Plymouth, MA – 1713 Swansea, Bristol, MA) was indentured until age 21: on March 4, 1652, due to the poverty of his parents and their many children. Caleb was bound to John Browne of Rehoboth, as a servant, until his 21st birthday, a period of about 12 years and was one of two sons who moved to the newly formed town of Swansea, MA, residing on 50 acres given him by the same John Browne, about the same time he married. Samuel and Elizabeth may have lived with Caleb or his brother Zachariah Eddy (who lived on the other 50 acres of Browne's gift of land) in their advanced years. In later life, Caleb became a member and deacon in the First Church of Swansea (Nov. 16, 1679). He married Elizabeth Bullock (1652 Rehoboth, Bristol, MA – 1730 Swansea, Bristol, MA) in 1670, and the couple may have had as many as 14 children.

"Caleb Eddy, the third son of Samuel of Plymouth, settled farther to the west in Swansea, near the Kickemuit river and he is buried in the cemetery on its west bank, in the town of Warren (formerly this spot was in Swansea) ²⁹. This cemetery is about half a mile north of the Kickemuit Water Works. Not far from the center of the plot is an evergreen tree (a cedar, if I recall correctly) and near this is the grave of Caleb Eddy with the inscription, 'Here lyeth the Body of Caleb Eddy aged 69 years Deceased March 23 in the year of our Lord 1713.'There are many stones without any inscriptions. Probably one of these belongs to Elizabeth Bullock, Caleb's wife, and others to his son Zachariah and his son Samuel, who married Sarah Estabrooks. Three of his daughters married into the Cole Family. At least two of these are buried here. Caleb's other two sons went to Boston, where they died." ³⁰

Caleb's wife Elizabeth Bullock was the daughter of immigrant-ancestor Richard Bullock (1622 London, England – 1667 Rehoboth, Bristol, MA) and Elizabeth Ingraham Bullock (1628 England – 1659 Rehoboth, Bristol, MA). It appears that the Richard Bullock's parents and the Ingrahams all arrived in the Great Migration to the Massachusetts Colony as well, although we do not know where they were buried.

Aug. 4, 1647, Richard Bullock married Elizabeth Ingraham in Rehoboth. She is said to have been the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Wignall) Ingraham and a descendant of Sir Arthur Ingraham of Watertown, Mass. Elizabeth was born about 1629 and died at the age of 30 on January 7, 1659/60, shortly after the birth of her sixth child, Hopestill. ³¹

Caleb and Elizabeth Savory Eddy were buried in the Kickemuit Cemetery, Warren, Bristol Co, RI.

²⁷ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=2476030&GRid=9257876&>

²⁸ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 38-39.

²⁹ Kickemuit Cemetery

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&GRid=9258454&CRid=1721870&>

³⁰ *The Eddy Family in America*, quoted on Find-A-Grave

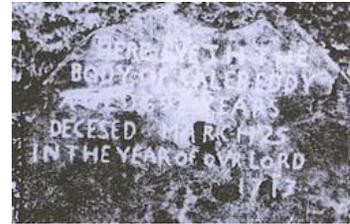
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9258454>

³¹ As quoted on Find-A-Grave <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=125532012>

Source: *Descendants of Colonel William Bullock of Rehoboth, Massachusetts* by Virginia Miller Deagan, p. vi.



Stone and plaque honoring Samuel Eddy (1608 Cranbrook, Kent, England – 1687 Swansea, MA) and Elizabeth Savory Eddy (1607 Hannington, Wiltshire, England – 1689 Plymouth, MA)
At the Eddy Burial Ground, Swansea, MA ³²



Grave marker for Caleb Eddy (1643 Plymouth, MA – 1713 Swansea, Bristol, MA), both in raw stone, and adjusted for legibility; buried Kickemuit Cemetery, Warren, Bristol Co, RI ³³

Caleb's and Elizabeth's second son Samuel Eddy ³⁴ (1675 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1744 Swansea, Bristol, MA) and his wife Sarah Estabrook ³⁵ (1676 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1744 Swansea, Bristol, MA) and Sarah's parents, immigrant-ancestor Thomas Estabrook (1629 Enfield, Middlesex, England – 1713 Swansea, Bristol, MA) and first-generation Sarah Woodcock (1647 Roxbury, Suffolk, MA – 1726 Swansea, Bristol, MA) are believed to have been buried in Kickemuit Cemetery as well. Samuel inherited tools, part of a house, and land from his father but became a weaver. He lived all his life in Swansea.

Samuel and Sarah's son Caleb Eddy ³⁶ (1707 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1793 Scituate, Providence, RI) and his wife Mehitable Luther (1712 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1780 Swansea, Bristol, MA) were both born in Swansea. Caleb was a farmer and husbandman there until about 1752 when they moved to Scituate, RI. Before that, he sold his Swansea land and the deeds listed Warren, Bristol, RI instead of Swansea, MA, as the area had been ceded to RI and renamed. Caleb served in a RI unit during the "French Indian War" campaign of 1759. We do not know where the couple was buried.

³² <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=2476030&GRid=9257876&>

³³ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9258454>

³⁴ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 58-59.

³⁵ Variation in spelling: Eastabrooks, Easterbrooks, Easterbrooke, and so forth

³⁶ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 95-96.

The family lines of Caleb's wife Mehitable Luther (Luther, Brayman, Bowen, Abell) were already in Bristol Co, MA in the 1650s. Her great-grandfather, Captain John Luther (1597 England – 1644 or 1646) died aboard his ship in Pennsylvania's Delaware Bay, murdered by Indians (see below). We couldn't resist copying this biography of his son, Mehitable's grandfather, Samuel Luther (1636 Taunton, Bristol, MA – 1716 Kickemuit, Bristol, MA) and publishing the photo of his beautiful gravestone in Kickemuit Cemetery:

Samuel [Luther] was the son of Capt. John Luther and Elizabeth Turner. He is listed as being born in Yocumtown, RI. The name was later changed to Taunton. He was 'of Rehoboth in 1662' and later joined in the settlement of Attleboro. It has been said that he bought a stone house which had been built by Governor Benton of Newport, on land at Mattapoissett purchased in turn from the Indians in 1644, which house was garrisoned at the beginning of King Philip's War. He sold out his interests in 1667 to join in the settlement of Swansea. In spite of the fact that he did not have a formal education, as few did in those days, he proved himself a man of such character and leadership ability that he was ordained Elder of the Swansea Baptist Church to succeed the distinguished Elder John Myles. He became known after that as Reverend Captain Samuel Luther, according to "the Swansea Stage: A Local History" page 66.

He also had a bit of fame as a boy because of his alleged experience with the Indians in Swedish America. His father was even murdered aboard ship by Indians, using hatchets that were there for the purpose of trading...

Samuel married Mary Abell on Oct. 25, 1662, in Rehoboth. They had 11 children....

He was pastor of the First Baptist Church for 30 yrs in "Swanzea", Massachusetts. He is buried with his wife. ³⁷

Mehitable's father and mother were Joshua Luther (1670 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1747 Swansea, Bristol, MA) and Experience Brayman Luther (1682 Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1721 Swansea, Bristol, MA). While we know little about them, we could not resist publishing these beautiful pictures of their gravestones in Kickemuit Cemetery as well.



³⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9565981>

Samuel Luther (1636
Taunton, Bristol, MA – 1716
Kickemuit, Bristol, MA):
buried Kickemuit Cemetery,
Warren, Bristol Co, RI ³⁸

Joshua Luther (1670 Swansea,
Bristol, MA – 1747 Swansea,
Bristol, MA);
buried Kickemuit Cemetery,
Warren, Bristol Co, RI ³⁹

Experience Brayman Luther (1682
Swansea, Bristol, MA – 1721
Swansea, Bristol, MA).;
buried Kickemuit Cemetery, Warren,
Bristol Co, RI ⁴⁰

The son of Caleb Eddy and Mehitable Luther Eddy who was our direct ancestor was another Samuel Eddy ⁴¹ (1736 Swansea, Bristol, MA - 1811 Dorset, Bennington, VT) who married Rachel Smith (1736 Rehoboth, Bristol, MA - 1811 Dorset, Bennington, VT) in Scituate, RI in 1754. The couple had most of their children there in Scituate, Samuel buying and selling several parcels of land between 1754 and 1768. In about 1768-1770, they moved to western MA (New Providence Plantation, Cheshire, Berkshire Co, MA) ⁴² where the less conservative settlers tended to move at the time:

[in the mid 1700's] Berkshire County, on the border between Massachusetts and New York, attracted pioneers from both directions, and in Egremont and Great Barrington, New Englanders and Dutch families mingled. The proprietors of these western lands were usually Massachusetts men, but most of the settlers came up from Connecticut, following the rich interval lands of the Housatonic.

With the fall of Quebec in 1758, the war [French-Indian War] in America was practically over... The pent-up population was ready to swarm by 1760, and as soon as hostilities ceased, the unappropriated lands were taken up.... New Ashford [Massachusetts] had pioneer families from Rhode Island and Connecticut, as had Hancock, Hinsdale, and Cheshire... Besides granting lands in the usual way, upon the request of the would-be proprietors, the colonial government of Massachusetts took the initiative on June 2, 1762, by offering for sale at public auction nine townships lying near the western border of the colony. The township of Adams.. Windsor,.... The three proprietors of Adams laid out forty-eight settling lots of one hundred acres each, to which they later added twenty lots of the same size, and admitted settlers to the number of sixty, on condition that they build a meeting-house and settle a minster according to the requirements of the General Court. In 1768, the rest of the land was divided into tracts containing two hundred acres each. Windsor, another of these auction townships, was settled by Connecticut and Hadley families...

Going beyond the confines of a single town, the whole frontier sometimes rose in what it considered righteous indignation against a conservative and arrogant coast population.... In 1778-79 the county of Berkshire, which had been settled mostly from Connecticut towns, was in almost open rebellion against the state of Massachusetts, on the matter of admitting the authority of the General Court and the judicial courts as well. ... The northern towns of the county were the most hostile to the General Court.... Only in 1780, when a constitution had been formed by a convention elected for that express purpose, and therefore drawn up by the people themselves, were the demands of the Berkshire radicals on one hand and the Essex conservatives on the others harmonized, and the new constitution adopted. ⁴³

³⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=luther&GSiman=1&GScid=1721870&GRid=9565981&>

³⁹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=luther&GSiman=1&GScid=1721870&GRid=22038710&>

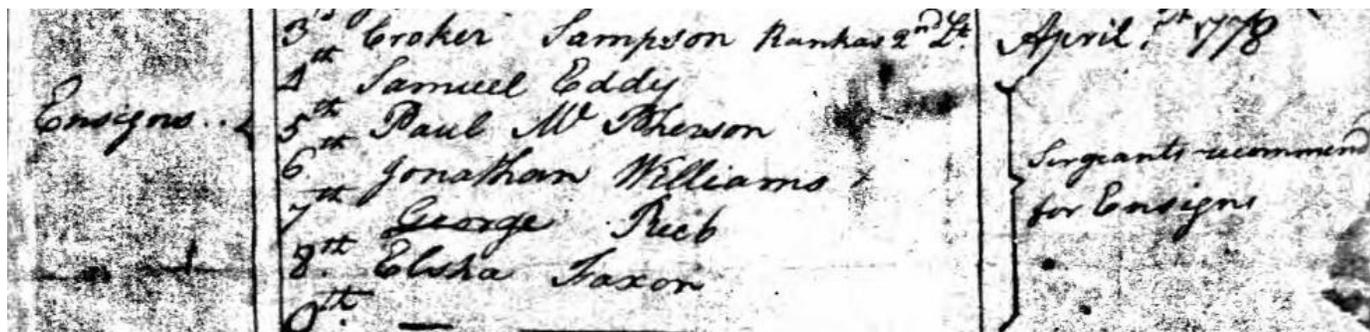
⁴⁰ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=22037697>

⁴¹ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 156-157.

⁴² <http://peterandsally.com/Towns/staffhil.htm>

⁴³ Laura Matthews, *The Expansion of New England*, 1936. Pages 79-80, 109-111, 263-264.

Samuel served in the Revolutionary War, enlisting repeatedly (each time an “alarm” was raised) in the Berkshire County Militia in 1777 and was part of the famous company known as the “Silver Grays”⁴⁴ which defended Bennington, VT and other parts of Vermont. According to his son, he achieved the rank of Sargent-Major in Capt. Joshua Eddy’s Company of Colonel Gammaliel Bradford’s Massachusetts Regiment. Samuel’s Find-A-Grave record⁴⁵ is labelled Lieutenant Samuel Eddy, and records of him often included that title.



U.S., Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, probably 1780 roll for Col. Bradford’s 12th regiment

Some of this information came from the pension application his son Samuel made in 1832, mentioning that he was in the same regiment as his father had been.

He stated that his father, Samuel Eddy, was
Sergeant-Major in the same regiment with him.

It is not stated that soldier was married.

Respectfully,

E. W. MORGAN
Acting Commissioner.

From U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900.
Application for son Samuel Eddy (1765 – 1844)

Samuel also served the community in Berkshire County. In Windsor, Samuel served repeatedly as Selectman, surveyor of highways, and for one year, tax collector.

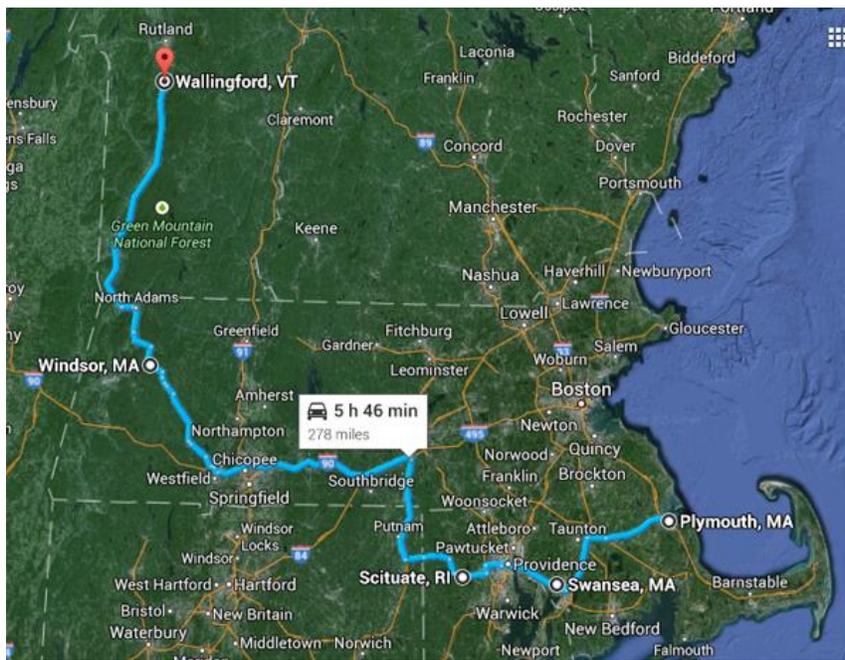
⁴⁴ This term has been used in the military to define a group of soldiers who were too old to serve in the regular forces but which were the “backup” forces of their days. In the Revolution, the Silver Grays from the Berkshire County Militia were important in the Battle of Bennington, VT.

<http://peterandsally.com/Towns/staffhil.htm>

⁴⁵ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=60354637>

Samuel and Rachel lived in Berkshire County from about 1768 or 1770 (census records list them in Windsor in 1790 and Adams in 1800) until after the 1800 census, after which they relocated to Vermont, probably along with or following their children. Both were buried in the North Dorset Cemetery, Dorset, VT. Once again, the Eddys had moved into an area where their less conservative ideals could take flower:

When Timothy Dwight travelled through Vermont in 1805, he noted the radical and unconventional ideas of the inhabitants, as evidenced by their conversations, their constitution, and their educational and religious views.....One observation made by Mr. Dwight in commenting upon northern New England, was the low moral tone which he found prevailing, and which he greatly deplored. He attributed it in large part to indifference regarding churches and schools....⁴⁶



Samuel Eddy (1736 Swansea, MA - 1811 Dorset, VT); buried in North Dorset Cemetery, Dorset, VT⁴⁷. There is apparently no stone for Rachel.

Eddy generations, subsequent to immigrant Samuel were living in Plymouth, MA, then Swansea, MA, then Scituate, Rhode Island, then (Windsor or Adams) Berkshire Co, MA and then the area of or around Wallingford, VT. Map from Google Earth maps (2015)

Rachel Smith Eddy's father's family hailed from Cape Cod. Immigrant-ancestor John Speculation Smith (1585 Hingham, Norfolk, England – 1640 Hingham, Plymouth, MA) and wife Grace Lucas Smith (1591 Hingham, Norfolk, England – 1640 Hingham, Plymouth, MA) arrived from England in 1633, along with their son Ralph Smith (1612 Hingham, Norfolk, England - 1685 Eastham, Barnstable, MA), the latter of whom relocated to Eastham, MA (Cape Cod) where at least 4

⁴⁶ Laura Matthews, *The Expansion of New England*, 1936. Pages 146-147.

⁴⁷ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=60354637>

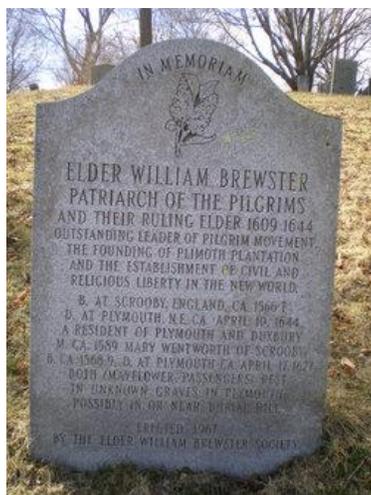
generations of Smiths lived -- until sometime in the first half of the 1700's, when the Smiths moved into Scituate, MA, then to Bristol Co, MA, where Rachel was born. Her other lines of Hobart, Hopkins, Lothrop, Freeman, Howland, Prence, Sears, Myrick, and Brewster) also hailed from early arrivals in MA.

One of the Eastham Smith men married into the family of the Prences and Brewsters, which made Rachel Smith Eddy's 6th great-grandparents Mayflower passengers William Brewster (1560 Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England – 1644 Plymouth, MA) and Mary Wentworth Brewster (1569 Nottinghamshire, England - 1627 Plymouth, MA) The link between Rachel and the Brewsters was through the surname sequence Eddy, Smith, Freeman, Prence, and Brewster:

Pilgrim colonist, leader and preacher: Elder William Brewster came from Scrooby, in north Nottinghamshire and reached what became the Plymouth Colony in the Mayflower in 1620. He was accompanied by his wife, Mary Brewster, and his sons, Love Brewster and Wrestling Brewster. The town of Brewster, Barnstable, MA was incorporated Febr 19, 1803 and was named for Elder William Brewster. A large part of the inhabitants being his descendants.

William Brewster attended Peterhouse College, Cambridge 1580-1583; was postmaster and baliff-receiver at Scrooby, England 1590-1607. Organized Scrooby congregation 1606-1609; removed his family to Amsterdam and later to Leyden, Holland where he tutored 1609-1616 and was ruling Elder 1616-1619. He was in flight and hiding in England in 1619-1620 while arranging passage for the Saints to New England. William, his wife and two youngest sons arrived Plymouth via the Mayflower in 1620. At Plymouth, William was Ruling Elder until 1643. He was also purchaser 1626; Undertaker 1627-1641. ⁴⁸

William Brewster and Mary Wentworth Brewster were buried on Burial Hill in Plymouth:



Plaque dedicated to William Brewster (1560 Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England – 1644 Plymouth, MA) in the Plymouth, MA "Burial Hill" ⁴⁹



Likeness of William Brewster ⁵⁰

⁴⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=16195888>

⁴⁹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=34836091>

⁵⁰ <http://www.thehistorylist.com/events/brewster-house-site-archaeological-dig-duxbury-massachusetts>

Along with her sister, William and Mary's daughter Patience Brewster (1600 Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England – 1634 Duxbury, Plymouth, MA) arrived in Plymouth three years after her parents and brothers had, and she married Thomas Prence (1600 Lechlade, Gloucestershire, England – 1673 Plymouth, MA) in 1624. Thomas and Patience were also buried on Burial Hill, Plymouth, MA:

Thomas Prence: Colonial Royal Governor. He was born about 1600 (based on his age at the time of his death), and was the son of Thomas Prence, carriage-maker, of Lechdale, Co. Gloucestershire, England. He came to America on the ship "Fortune" in 1621, and he served as the fourth Governor of Plymouth Colony from 1634 to 1635, then from 1638 to 1639, and again from 1657 until his death in 1673. ⁵¹

The Prence's daughter Mercy Prence (1631 Plymouth, MA – 1711 Eastham, MA) married John Freeman (1626 Pulborough, Sussex, England – 1719 Eastham, MA). About this couple, Rachel's 4th great-parents, and John's father, Edmund Freeman (1596 Pulborough, Sussex, England– 1682 Sandwich, MA):

Edmund Freeman: Freeman along with his second wife Elizabeth and his family set sail from Plymouth, England on 4 June 1635 aboard "The Abigail". During the crossing an epidemic of smallpox broke out on shipboard. They arrived in Boston on 8 October 1635 and then settled in Saugus.

Edmund (or Edmond) Freeman was admitted freeman at Plymouth on 23 January 1637. He was one of the ten founders of Sandwich, Massachusetts. Freeman died in 1682 in Sandwich. He is buried in a well-known, marked private burial plot in Sandwich along with his second wife Elizabeth. ⁵²
[grave site: Saddle and Pillion Cemetery, Sagamore, Barnstable, MA]

He was Deputy to the general court for Sandwich, MA 1666-1673; assistant to the governor, 1666-1686 and 1689-1691 ⁵³

John Freeman was the son of Edmund Freeman. Born in 1626, he came over from England with his family on the "Abigail" in 1635. They were part of the early English settlement of Sandwich, Plymouth Colony on Cape Cod. The Freeman family settled on Ploughed Neck near Scusset Marsh.

John married Mercy Prence, the daughter of a governor of Plymouth Colony. At his marriage he was deeded lands in Scorton Neck in Sandwich, and a few years later, in 1650, he and his wife removed to Eastham on the Cape where they and the Prence family were among the earliest settlers. He became a large landholder there. In 1676 he bought land in West Brewster from the native Americans. In 1691 the Town of Eastham conveyed to him two islands as security.

He was for many years prominent in public affairs: deacon of the Eastham Church, deputy to the General Court in Plymouth, 1654-1662, selectman, 1663-1673, and in December of 1692, he was appointed to the bench of the court of common pleas. He was also Assistant Governor of the Colony for a time. He was also prominent in military affairs and saw service in the French and Indian Wars. In 1667, with the rank of Major, he marched in an expedition against the natives at Saconnet and had the rank of Captain in the battle of Taunton in 1675. He was a member of the Plymouth Colony Council of War, 1675-1676 and was chosen as Major of the Barnstable militia in 1685.

He died October 28, 1719, his wife having preceded him in death, September 28, 1711. Both were buried in the graveyard in Eastham. His will is dated June 1, 1716 and provides for his family. It mentions his negro slaves to

⁵¹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=7497193>

⁵² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Freeman

⁵³ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=43529426>

whom he granted freedom from bondage with four acres of land, a horse and a cow, and he further adds: "I desire my children to put them in such a way that they may not want."⁵⁴



Plaque for Edmund Freeman (1596 Pulborough, Sussex, England– 1682 Sandwich, MA) at Saddle and Pillion Cemetery, Sagamore, MA⁵⁵



John Freeman (1626 Pulborough, Sussex, England – 1719 Eastham, MA); buried in the Cove Burying Ground, Eastham, MA⁵⁶



Mercy Prence Freeman (1631 Plymouth, MA – 1711 Eastham, MA); buried in the Cove Burying Ground, Eastham, MA⁵⁷

Perhaps a bit less “illustrious”, Rachel Smith Eddy’s mother’s family: the Knights, Bucklins, Jenkes, and so forth, also arrived early in Massachusetts and then moved into Rhode Island.

Back to Samuel Eddy and Rachel Smith Eddy

Samuel and Rachel had 8 sons and three daughters that we know of. We are completely convinced that one of their sons was Mary Eddy Fowler’s father. What we do NOT know for certain is *which* son was Mary Eddy Fowler’s father. Here are the three candidates for Mary’s parents (other sons or nephews who moved to Wallingford either had no daughters that we know of or were too young to have had a child Mary’s age):

- James Eddy⁵⁸ (1758 Scituate, Providence, RI – 1835 Wallingford, VT) and Lydia Ross (1760 Scituate, Providence, RI – 1837 Wallingford, VT), the strongest candidate for several reasons. First, Abel Fowler and Mary Eddy named their second daughter Lydia Eddy Fowler, although they did not use the name James. James censused in Adams, Berkshire, MA in 1790 and in Wallingford in 1800. Importantly, in census records, James had 2 girls in his household, presumably daughters, for whom we do not know names: 1 born between 1785 and 1790 and one between 1790 and 1800; either of

⁵⁴ From "Sandwich: A Cape Cod Town" by R. A. Lovell, Jr., pub. 1984 and "The Freeman Genealogy," by Frederick Freeman, pub. Boston, 1875

⁵⁵ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6127309>

⁵⁶ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=7301580>

⁵⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6023848>

⁵⁸ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 249-250.

these could have been Mary.

Later we learned that James also had a son named Caleb ⁵⁹ who was not known to Ancestry trees, although he and another previously-unknown son appeared as “under 16” in the census of 1790 in Adams, MA. Years later, the young Fowlers and also Caleb his and family settled nearby each other in Herkimer County, NY shortly after marrying. So it is quite possible that Mary Eddy Fowler was a heretofore unnamed daughter of James’ and Lydia’s. (Read more about James and Lydia in Chapter 3 when we discuss his son Caleb and family.)

- Andrew Eddy ⁶⁰ (1756 Scituate, Providence, RI – after 1820, probably Wallingford or Danby VT) and wife (possibly maiden name of Rowley??? -- OPD) were in Windsor, Berkshire Co, MA in 1790 and also censused in Wallingford in 1800, 1810, 1820. He served in the Berkshire Co. Militia for a short period in 1780. There was an Andrew Eddy who had a grocery store in Danby, VT 1816 - 1832 and who was a member of the masonic lodge there. ⁶¹

We have not located any names for grown children for him, any wife’s name other than possibly (OPD) Rowley, nor do we know when and where he died. In the census of 1790, no children were listed in his household, but one female was, probably his wife. The couple buried two children in Berkshire Co. in the 1790’s ⁶², and in the census of 1800 in Wallingford VT, he listed two children in his household, male and female, between 10 and 15, which was contradictory to the 1790 census. It is certainly possible that the “wife” represented in these two census records were actually two different wives

⁵⁹ Caleb’s parents were elusive until we found this family bible transcription from the family of one of Caleb and Eunice’s daughters, Lucy, whose first husband was Wanton Smith – the couple had at least 7 children, one of whom was Wanton’s namesake and moved to Lenawee Co, MI where he died in 1889:

“Lenawee Bibles and Bible Records:

Wanton Smith Bible Records: Found at the Lenawee County Historical Society Museum Archives in a Hollinger box, file labeled Smith, there were several sets of records in this file.....

NOTE in a manuscript found in this bible states regarding EDDYS:

Caleb Eddy was b. the 6th of March, 1781

Eunice Whitehorn, wf Caleb Eddy and mother of Lucy (who married Wanton Smith),

[Eunice] b. the first of April, 1781, d. the 16th of Feb., 1837ae 57y 10m 14d

James Eddy, father of Caleb Eddy d. the 28th of Aug. ae 77y 3m

Lydia Ross Eddy, mother of Caleb Eddy , d. the 30th of Aug. 1843 ae 82yrs

FACTS regarding Eddys from “EDDY FAMILY IN AMERICA” Eddy, p. 249:

James Eddy was b. May 26, 1758 in R.I., d. Aug. 27, 1835; he was a REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER from R.I., enlisting 1st in 1777.

Lydia Ross Eddy, dau Joseph and Mary Ross, was b. Situate, R.I., and Joseph Ross was also a REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.”

<http://lenaweebibles.blogspot.com/2009/07/wanton-smith-bible-records.html>

⁶⁰ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, The Eddy Family in America, 1930. Page 249.

⁶¹ This may not be the SAME Andrew Eddy as the one who lived in Wallingford in 1820, as there was also an Andrew Eddy in Dorset, Bennington, VT in the census of 1820, about 20 miles to the south. Danby lies about mid-way between the two towns. The Andrew Eddy who ran the store in Danby did not do so for long, according to:

In 1816 he [McDaniels] sold his store at the Borough to Andrew Eddy, who did not remain in trade long.

J.C. Williams, The History and Map of Danby, Vermont, 1869

<http://www.ancestraltrackers.net/vt/counties/rutland/history-and-map-danby.pdf>

⁶² Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988

and that the second wife brought children from a first marriage to the household, but this is all speculative. It is conceivable that the girl listed in the 1800 census as being born between 1785 and 1790 was Mary.

Keep in mind, however, that Abel and Mary Fowler never used the name Andrew for any of their own children.

- Israel Eddy ⁶³ (1762 Scituate, Providence, RI - 1831 Starksboro, Addison, VT) and wife Mercy Ross (sister to Lydia Ross: 1768 Scituate, Providence, RI – 1858 Bristol, Addison, VT) and family were in Windsor, Berkshire, MA in 1790 and 1800 where they lost a son in 1797 ⁶⁴ and possibly another child the same year. They arrived in Wallingford between 1800 and 1810 and remained in Vermont until their deaths, selling their Wallingford property in 1818 and moving to Rutland; in 1830 they were living in Starksboro, VT where they were buried.

In the 1800 census, they had two daughters born between 1790 and 1800, one of whom we have not found a name for; the other was Mercy B. Eddy. Maybe the unnamed girl was Mary? Israel named a later son William Anson Eddy, born probably the year following (or unsubstantiated OPD two years before) Abel and Mary's son Anson was born.

Keep in mind, however, that Abel and Mary Fowler never used the names Israel or Mercy for any of their own children.

Abel travelled to Wallingford, VT

So the first thing we “know” about Abel other than his birth year and place was his marriage to Mary Eddy in Wallingford, VT. When we imagine Abel and Mary meeting and marrying in Wallingford in the first decade of the 1800's, we picture a young Abel Fowler travelling the roughly 200 miles north-west from South Kingstown, RI, perhaps purposely heading towards Herkimer County, NY where he censused in 1810 and where he might (or might not) have already bought property, and/or perhaps purposely heading to Wallingford, VT to stay with Rhode Island friends, for a long enough time to meet and marry Mary Eddy.

Or else -- Abel may have wandered across New England looking for work and for the area in which he would like to settle. The history of settlers and the way they traveled to their new homes suggests that he may have stayed in South Kingstown until he set off directly for New York or Vermont. He may have purchased NY land before he left Rhode Island. On the other hand, we have found no record of Abel actually OWNING land in Herkimer County.

So why did Abel travel through Wallingford VT? At least one, possibly four, South-Kingstown-born Whitehorne siblings were in Wallingford at the time Abel would have been in transit from R.I. to New York:

- Clark Whitehorne (1775 South Kingstown, R.I. – 1860 Burdett, Schuyler, NY) married in R.I. in 1796, censused in Wallingford or Dorset, VT in 1800 – 1830;

⁶³ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 250-251.

⁶⁴ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988

- Stephen Whitehorne (1783 South Kingstown R.I. – after 1820, possibly 1827 and possibly in Michigan) was married in Wallingford, VT in 1802 or 1805 to a Wallingford “native” Phebe Doty (1785 South Wallingford – 1847 Hillsdale County, MI);
- Rev. John Whitehorne (1767 South Kingstown, R.I. – 1842 Dorset, Bennington, VT), married in 1785 in R.I., and censused in or nearby Wallingford from 1790-1840;
- Eunice Whitehorne (1781 South Kingstown, R.I. – 1839 Farmington, Ontario, NY) married a Wallingford man, Caleb Eddy (Mary’s brother or cousin), in Wallingford in 1800 and was probably living there with her husband and children until about 1807. We will discuss Eunice in Chapter 3 as she was also one of our direct ancestors.

Abel would very likely have known these people from South Kingstown. And as there were no “warnings out” issued for Abel ⁶⁵, he was not a stranger when he arrived in Wallingford. He would have been staying with someone he knew – a Whitehorne perhaps.

Why Whitehornes and not some other South Kingstown transplant in Wallingford? Stephen Whitehorne not only was born in South Kingstown and married in Wallingford, but also settled in Herkimer County near Abel and Mary later. Eunice Whitehorne was born the same year as Abel in South Kingstown, also married in Wallingford, and she and her husband settled in Herkimer Co. near Abel and Mary. And one of Abel’s sons was named John Whitehorn Fowler. So while there were other families from South Kingstown in Wallingford at the time Abel arrived there ⁶⁶, we suggest it was the Whitehorne connection which invited Abel to travel through, and stop in, that town.

When did Abel arrive in Wallingford? If Abel had actually travelled to Wallingford WITH Stephen Whitehorne, then he would have to have been there before Stephen and Phebe Doty married there (as early as 1802 but possibly 1805). If Eunice Whitehorne had been in the travelling party, then they would have arrived in Wallingford before 1800, when she married there. This means that Abel might have arrived in VT before 1800 (when, you may remember,

⁶⁵ Alden M Rollins, Vermont Warnings Out. Volume 2: Southern Vermont. Picton Press, Camden, Maine. 1977.

Towns warned newcomers out if they did not know the person or their financial status. That way, if the person became indigent, the town was not obligated to support them. Some towns warned out everyone who came and some warned out only people who looked a bit iffy. No idea what the policy was in Danby.

The warning out was not a dismissal and didn't force people to leave; it simply advised them (in writing) that the town would not be financially responsible for them. This meant that the town where they originated would bear that responsibility.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warning_out_of_town

⁶⁶ Using an internet search engine, we located this family group who relocated to Rutland County but we do not know exactly when: Congdon, Benjamin (1732 North Kingstown, Washington, Rhode Island - 1793 Tinmouth, Rutland, Vermont); his brother Congdon, Joseph (29 Apr 1734 North Kingstown, Washington, Rhode Island - after 1790 Pownal, Rutland, Vermont).

They were first cousins to Congdon, James (28 Mar 1741 N Kingstown, Washington Co. RI - 16 Feb 1829 East Wallingford, VT) and his son Congdon, James Headley (20 Jul 1779 North Kingston, RI - 22 Apr 1854 Wallingford, VT). Their Congdon cousins also moved into CT in the 1750's and intermarried with descendants of Samuel Fowler (DNA-match-Samuel) there.

he was not found in Samuel Fowler's 1800 census record in R.I.) and stayed in Wallingford for several years.

An inconclusive but intriguing factoid: In the 1800 Wallingford VT census, Clarke Whitehorne (who had still been in R.I. in 1796, presumably, since he married there in that year) had two young men and a young woman in his household who were too old to have been any of his known children – might they have been Abel Fowler and Stephen and Eunice Whitehorne? This would mean that Abel was in Wallingford before 1800. In fact, might all of them have travelled to Wallingford *together* between 1796 and 1800?

Why did Abel leave Rhode Island at all?

There seem to be three likely reasons that our pioneers moved into newly opened lands: 1.) the pioneer spirit; 2.) lack of money to buy land in a more established area, and/or 3.) political or social “radicalism”:

Enough has been said of the progress of settlement to make it apparent that the years from 1713 to 1754 were characterized by conflicting tendencies: on the one hand was the pressure exerted by an increasingly dense population to thrust the less prosperous, the discontented, the ambitious, and the more adventurous elements out into the newer parts of the colonies. The well-to-do classes, prosperous merchants, lawyers with lucrative practices, capitalists of all sorts, are always disinclined to move away from their homes; they are everywhere the conservative element in their community. They are also comparatively few; but in their interests attach others to them, and only the more ambitious of their underworkers seek to establish themselves in business ventures of their own. Many will naturally move into the more recently planted towns; but there is always a more radical element which loves the unrestricted life of a pioneer community, and chafes under the restraints of a solidified economic and social condition. With this radical element there combines another made up commonly of young men (frequently unmarried) who have not the capital to buy a farm in the neighborhood in which they were reared, but can gather together enough money to buy a tract in the wilderness. This they cultivate, to the new log cabins they will bring their brides, and here they raise their families. Upon these elements was the pressure exerted which drove them out into the wilderness....

This pressure was... intensified by the development of a mania for speculation in wild lands.... Massachusetts and Connecticut felt his craze, and sold townships to grantees who never intended to occupy the lands so obtained but meant to re-sell them and pocket the profits.

What factors have operated to send inhabitants to the frontier? Over and over again the search for cheap and fertile land has been most potent, for until the Revolution the chief business of all the colonial inhabitants save those in coast towns was connected in some way with agriculture. When the best land in New England had been taken, it became necessary to remove to some more productive region, or else to change one's occupation – a thing not so easily accomplished a hundred years ago as it is today....

Inseparably connected with the search for land there has often been discontent with existing conditions – social, economic, religious, and political. When a church quarrel arose, what need was there to yield or to compromise, when the disgruntled minority could have its will in another region not far away? There was no necessity for yielding to the will of a majority with which one did not agree when wide stretches of unoccupied land were inviting settlers who could do as they pleased. With this assurance, excessive independence and assertive personality needed no curb, for there was room for all ideas, political and social. The contented, the prosperous, the conservative, -- these remained in the old town; the discontented, the poor, the radical – all such elements moved to the frontier.

When these families or colonists made up their minds to move, they did not set out with any vague notion of their destination; they knew exactly where they were going, for the way had been traveled before their departure, and

usually the site for their future homes already chosen. Certain states and parts of states have had a fascination for the Connecticut man, still others for the pioneer from Massachusetts, and yet another for the Vermont emigrant. ⁶⁷

Possible dates for Abel and Mary's marriage and travel to Herkimer

When did Abel and Mary marry? The marriage would probably not have occurred before 1804 at the very earliest (with Mary's birthdate of 1789-90) but more likely took place between 1805 and 1808, based on Mary's age and the birth of Anson in 1809. If Abel and Mary had any earlier children who did not survive until the 1810 census – and there is a hint that there may have been a first son named Abel ⁶⁸ -- then both their marriage and their move into Herkimer might have happened before 1808.

How did the three men decide on Herkimer County?

Abel, Caleb Eddy and Stephen Whitehorne all settled in Newport, Herkimer County, NY just a few years before the census records of 1810 captured them there. How and when did they all decide to do that?

Historically, much of Herkimer Co, NY had been conveyed in large land grants by the King of England to individuals before 1760. After the American Revolution, the lands of those who had remained loyal to the King were forfeited to the state of New York, and the "Commissioners of Forfeitures" ⁶⁹ sold the lands to help pay the state's war debt. Some lands were bought by speculators in the 1780's and then re-sold throughout New England. Many Herkimer Co. settlers were from Rhode Island; hence, the town name of "Newport", brought from R.I.

⁶⁷ Laura Matthews, *The Expansion of New England*, 1936. Pages 99-100, 256, 260-261.

⁶⁸ We found this piece of information in Mary Lovering Holman, *The Scott Genealogy*, 1919. Page 69.

<https://archive.org/details/scottgenealogyde00holm>

The Scotts were the family of Harriet, Abel's 2nd wife. Page 69 claimed that they had a son named Abel. If so, that child did not survive. Note that Samuel Fowler is left out of the six children named!

80. HARRIET⁵ SCOTT (*William⁴, Benjamin³, Joseph², John¹*), born in Peacham, Vt., about 1796, died in New York State about 1873; married (1), JOHN GILMAN, who died in Craftsbury, Vt., 21 Jan. 1833. She married (2), about 1836, ABEL FOWLER, who died in New York State, date unknown, aged eighty-two years. She was Mr. Fowler's second wife; by his first wife, he had six children, Abel Fowler; Anson Fowler; Abigail Fowler, married a Mr. Wooster and lived in Mich.; Ruth Fowler; Lydia Fowler, lived in Illinois; Mary Fowler, lived in New York.

⁶⁹ For information on the Commission on Forfeitures, see:

<http://www.westchesterarchives.com/HT/muni/wca/forfeitSumm.html>

http://www.rny.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_mi_revwar_estates.shtml

Fairfield (Herkimer Co.) historian, Jane Dieffenbacher, believes it possible that, *if* Abel bought land in Herkimer Co., he (as well as Stephen Whitehorne?) might have done so before he left Rhode Island, through middle-men such as Rhode Island land speculators. We feel there was a significant lag time between when we think Abel left R.I. and when they arrived in Herkimer, however, which casts significant doubt on him having bought land ahead of time. The frustrating part is the lack of county records of Abel buying or selling land, but this does not mean he did not do so. The county clerk's office in Herkimer Co burned in 1804 and all records were lost. Another fire happened in 1834 in which many records were lost. So Abel MAY have been a land owner, but we cannot prove that he was, or wasn't!!!

On the other hand, Jane admits they could easily have read about opportunities in Herkimer County while in Wallingford, from a newspaper, handbill, or brochure ⁷⁰. While Stephen and Abel might have bought land while still in R.I., because they CAME from R.I., that path would not have been the one that Caleb Eddy took. But as the new brother-in-law of Stephen and brother-in-law or cousin-in-law of Abel, he might have moved on as part of the extended family group, heading west with the other young men of his generation.

If the men did not buy land there, they may have read about opportunities to be tenant farmers or to rent land in Herkimer. In fact, while we THINK they stayed in Herkimer for as long as 7 years, we DON'T KNOW THAT at all. They may have hop-scotched across the state in smaller jumps, stopping to work in any number of communities. The only thing we have to go on is that snapshot of the federal census every ten years.

When did Able and Mary leave Wallingford for Herkimer Co?

Not too surprisingly, we do not know exactly when Abel and Mary left Vermont for Herkimer County. It is believed that Anson was born in Herkimer in 1809, but again, if they had a first son named Abel ⁷¹, or any other children who did not survive, that might have happened earlier in Herkimer (or of course, in Vermont). So the safest date range to give is 1806 - 1809. We believe that Caleb Eddy and family made the trip in 1807 (see later chapter).

What was settling in Herkimer like for the Fowlers?

There had been earlier settlers in the area, but Indian massacres were a recurring problem in the region until the final treaties of the Revolutionary War were signed, after 1784 ⁷². Between 1770 and 1790, new settlers from New England arrived slowly. In 1801, there were 2065

⁷⁰ Handbills and other advertisements was a fairly common practice: We know that when Riga and Ogden (Monroe Co, NY) lands were being sold, James Wadsworth "obtained a commission agency from Sir William Pulteney, for the sale of lands upon the Mill Tract west of the Genesee River, embracing what is now Ogden, Parma, Riga, Chili, and part of Greece and Wheatland" as well as for other tracts from other land owners. One of the things he did was make hand bills which went out to the less fertile areas of Massachusetts, offering to trade farms there for land in Riga and Ogden.

O. Turner, History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase, and Morris' Reserve; embracing the counties of Monroe, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Steuben, most of Wayne and Allegany, and parts of Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming. To which is added a supplement: Extension of the Pioneer History of that portion of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase embraced in the County of Monroe and the northern portion of Morris' Reserve. 1851. Page 336.

⁷¹ Again, Mary Lovering Holman, The Scott Genealogy, 1919. Page 69.
<https://archive.org/details/scottgenealogyde00holm>

⁷² The Pennsylvania and New York Frontier, William Brewster, 1954

inhabitants of the entire Herkimer County. Here's a description from "The Pioneers of Newport" of what the young Fowler family might have experienced:

A man with his axe and a pack of provisions obtained from the Palatine in the valley, would find his lot for a home, chop a small clearing, burn it off in the fall, making it ready for spring planting, put up a cabin and return for his family; then when there was snow and the streams were well bridged with ice, his family and household goods, were loaded into a huge sled with a yoke of oxen for a team, and away they would go for the "Land of Promise." In Munsell's County of Albany, page 310, it is recorded that twelve hundred sleigh passed through Albany in three days, in the winter of 1795, with emigrants going west. ⁷³

The passage above, citing 1200 sleigh traveling through Albany in three days' time, provides some concept of the number of New Englanders heading west after the Revolution, Indian treaties, and genocide had made lands available to settlers. The original North American colonies were full to bursting; the vast majority of migrants were coming from the northern colonies/states.

Abel and Mary in Herkimer County, NY

The federal census of 1810 captured the now-married Abel and Mary Fowler in Newport, Herkimer Co, NY: Abel listed as being between 26 and 44 years old, with wife Mary between 16 and 25 years old, and one son, less than 10 years old. This son was Anson, supposedly born in the town of Fairfield, Herkimer County, the previous year. Fairfield and Newport historians have not been able to locate anything else about their lives there.

1810 United States Federal Census

Names of Heads of Families	Free White Males					Free White Females				
	Under 10	10 thru 15	16 thru 25	26 thru 44	45 and over	Under 10	10 thru 15	16 thru 25	26 thru 44	45 and over
Nicholas Brown	2	1	1	1	"	2	1	"	1	"
Quinn Barrett	1	1	"	1	"	3	"	"	1	"
John Melas	4	2	"	1	"	"	"	"	1	"
<u>Abel Fowler</u>	1	"	"	1	"	"	"	X	"	"
Abel Nelson	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	1	"	"
William Child	2	"	"	1	"	2	"	"	1	"
James Chau	"	"	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	"
James Chau	3	"	1	"	"	2	"	1	"	"

1810 Herkimer Co. census page, with column headers added. Abel Fowler underscored in green.

As we mentioned, Stephen Whitehorne and wife Phebe Doty lived nearby the young Fowlers in 1810, and also Caleb Eddy and wife Eunice Whitehorne Eddy were there. As we have seen, the Whitehornes were very possibly childhood friends of Abel's, and Caleb was either Mary's brother or her first cousin. Herkimer County historians were unable to locate any information about these two couples owning property in Herkimer either, so it quite possible that they were all tenant farmers or hired hands there.

⁷³ <http://herkimer.nygenweb.net/newport/newcent.html>

We do not know how long they all stayed there. But all three couples left Herkimer County, the Fowlers and the Eddys moving about/before 1816, and the Whitehornes some less-specified time between 1810 and 1820. But not to the same town this time: the Fowlers moved to Riga, Monroe Co, NY; the Eddys moved to Farmington, Ontario Co, NY and the Whitehornes to Perinton, now Monroe, NY. (We know they kept in touch: Sixty years later, Caleb and Eunice's granddaughter, Eunice Tower Eddy would marry Abel and Mary's grandson Edward Fowler. More about this couple in Chapter 3.)

Also in Newport in 1810 were two other Eddys: Levi Eddy (1776 Utica, Oneida, NY – 1841 Eddyville, NY) with wife Lydia Willoughby (1780 Goshen – 1830 Newport, Herkimer, NY), a distant cousin but possibly not someone well known to Mary or Caleb when they settled in NY. And Nathaniel Eddy, also of Norway in 1802 and 1804 ⁷⁴ and Newport in 1810, was 45 years or older in 1810. So far, we have not been able to find out anything at all about Nathaniel, except that he remained in Newport (Herkimer) through the time of the 1820 census.

Abel's son's biography states ⁷⁵ that Abel might have served in the War of 1812, in the Battle of Plattsburgh. It is certainly possible, but we have not been able to substantiate it.

Abel and Mary in Riga, Genesee (which later became Monroe) County, NY
We estimate that around 1816 ⁷⁶, the Fowler family arrived in Riga Township (it was then Genesee Co, and became Monroe Co, NY in 1821 ⁷⁷), the central town in which was Churchville. The properties Abel eventually owned were in what was called Pulteney Tract, Pulteney Purchase, Genesee Tract or the Mill Yard Tract ⁷⁸. We believe Abel may have been a tenant farmer or hired hand there for the first number of years.

Son Nelson Fowler's obituary (written in 1911, almost 100 years later) indicated that Abel had homesteaded in Riga when he was age 18 ⁷⁹ (that would have been 1799). While it's a great story, we do not believe it to be true, based on everything else we know about Abel's life to that point. Our research indicates he would have been more like 35 when he reached the Riga area, although he may well have set out *from Rhode Island* at age 18.

⁷⁴ New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804

⁷⁵ Portrait and Biographical Record of Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and representative Citizens....., Chapman Brothers, Chicago, IL, 1892, pgs 427-428

⁷⁶ Based on the 1855 New York state census, in which Abel reported he had been "here" for 39 years.

⁷⁷ By the year 1815 there were several hundred inhabitants within the present limits of Monroe County. The territory comprising the county was included in the Phelps and Gorham Purchase of 1788, and was made a part of Ontario County in January, 1789.

Chapter XIX. The County of Monroe. *In History of the Genesee Country Western New York the Counties of Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Genesee Livingston Monroe Niagara Ontario Orleans Steuben Wayne Wyoming and Yates* Lockwood R. Doty ed. 1925. Page 622.

⁷⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pulteney_Association

⁷⁹ Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1911 - 4617.pdf , October 3, 1911

We found Abel in Riga Twp. in the census of 1820 with one male under 10 years (Samuel), one 10-15 (Anson), one male over 45 (Abel was actually 39); three females under 10 (Abigail, Lydia, and Ruth), one female 26-44 (Mary). The 2 in the last column indicated 2 other persons in the household, perhaps renters. Read on: what we don't know is exactly where the family was living in the Town of Riga.

1820 United States Federal Census										
New York > Genesee > Riga										
Individual's name	Free white males under 10	Free white males 10-15	Free white males 16-20	Free white males 21-25	Free white males 26-44	Free white males 45 and over	Free white females under 10	Free white females 10-15	Free white females 16-20	Free white females 21-25
Charles Mutton	4		1	2	1					1
Abel Fowler	1	1	1	3			1			2

1820 U S Census; Census Place: Riga, Genesee, New York; Page: 245; NARA Roll: M33_72; Image: 137

What was the area like in those days?

Settlement at Churchville began in 1806 when Samuel Church purchased eight hundred and ninety-seven acres in what was known as West Pultney. Along the banks of Black Creek Samuel constructed a saw mill in 1808 and later, a grist mill at about 1810. With the construction of Buffalo Road in 1811, the property of Samuel Church was now connected to Rochester and the Towns of LeRoy and Batavia permitting travelers to witness the fertile farm lands and contemplate settling in the area. Unfortunately, the War of 1812, a conflict between the United States and Great Britain, put a halt to further settlement in the area. Many of the war's bloodiest battles, of which Captain Samuel Church participated in, were fought just seventy miles east of the Church homestead. In 1815, the war ended and the first store owned by Linus Pierson opened in the area. Just shortly after, a public house was constructed to accommodate the stage coach passengers.

Development in this area was further accelerated when the Tonawanda railroad was constructed through the village in 1837. By this time, located within the village was one flouring mill and custom mill, one saw mill with two saws, one steam cloth dressing and wool carding manufactory, one tannery, one distillery, one ashery, three stores, two taverns, one grocery, two carriage and sleigh shops, four blacksmith shops, one axle shop, one saddle and harness shop, one plough shop, one painter's shop, two shoe maker shops, one cooper shop, two doctors, two tailor shops, three milliner shops, and one butcher shop.⁸⁰

Abel's children

Before we get into Abel's land holdings, etc, let's review Abel's children. Abel and Mary had six or seven children before Mary Eddy Fowler died in July 1827. For more on the descendants of Abel's children, see <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com/tf>

- Abel Fowler (possible son -- died young or in childbirth, before 1810)⁸¹

⁸⁰ <http://www.churchville.net/obrien/History.html>

⁸¹ Again, Mary Lovering Holman, The Scott Genealogy, 1919. Page 69.

<https://archive.org/details/scottgenealogyde00holm>

The Scotts were the family of Harriet, Abel's 2nd wife. Page 69 claimed that they had a son named Abel. If so, that child did not survive. Note that Samuel Fowler is left out of the six children named!

- Anson Fowler (1809 Fairfield, NY -1855 Wheatland, MI). See Chapter 2.
- Abigail Fowler (1811 probably Herkimer Co., NY – d 1892 Wheatland, MI). Perhaps named for a great-grandmother Abigail Fowler. She moved west with her brother Anson about 1835, married widower John Edward Lacy Wooster (1809 West Avon NY – 1884 Wheatland MI) in 1841, and had 5 children in the 1840's and 50's.

In 1841,... John Edward (Wooster) married, second, Abigail Fowler. He was 32, and she was two years younger. These families must have known each other and come from New York State together. She and her brother, Anson Fowler must have been very close because tracing them through census after census in Hillsdale, the two families always lived next door to each other.⁸²



John Wooster and Abigail Fowler Wooster grave, Church's Corner Cemetery, Wheatland, MI (photo by author, 2010)

The Woosters and Anson's family did indeed live close together, but not for the reason the author assumed. In the land records of 12 July 1837, it was recorded that "John E. L. Wooster of the Township of Barre, County of Orleans, New York" purchased Section 22 SW quarter of section 6 of Wheatland Township, Michigan. On 29 June of the same year, he purchased section 27, west half of the SW quarter, adding to his farm. This shows that John Wooster was from Orleans County NY, not the same county Anson and Abigail came from. Plus, the Woosters and Fowlers arrived several years apart. John Wooster and his first wife were neighbors of Anson's. So Abigail married the widower next door, 4 years after his first wife died in 1837. She and John lived in Wheatland until their deaths in 1884 (John) and 1892 (Abigail) and were buried in Church's Corners Cemetery there, adjacent to Anson and family.

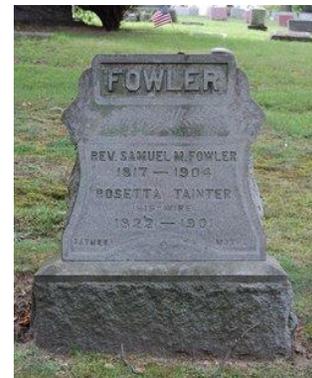
⁸² A Wooster Family <http://home.earthlink.net/~geneals/wooster.htm>

- Lydia Eddy Fowler (abt 1815 probably Herkimer Co., NY – 1898 Kokomo, Indiana) was, we believe, named for Mary’s probable mother, Lydia Ross Eddy. She censused in Riga with her parents and siblings in 1850, age 35; and in 1860 in Henry, Marshall, Illinois, in the household of William Robinson (sister Ruth’s family), with her occupation listed as artist. In 1862, in Peoria Co, IL, she married Dr. Henry Mastyn Saxton (1824 probably CT ⁸³ – 1866 St. Joseph Co, MI), a physician who died in 1866. In 1870, she was back living with her sister’s family in Illinois. In 1873, she remarried to Dr. Corydon Richmond and lived in Kokomo, Indiana, until her death in 1898. We are not aware that Lydia had any children, but Corydon had three with a previous wife and Henry Saxton may also have had other children. Lydia was buried in the Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Indiana with Henry Saxton, whom she apparently had dis-interred and moved to Kokomo about 1888. Or else the stone there is a cenotaph.



Lydia E. Fowler (Saxton)
Richmond gravestone, Crown
Point Cemetery, Kokomo, IN,
shared with Henry Saxton.
(photo courtesy of Find-A-
Grave ⁸⁴)

- Samuel Mills Fowler (1817 Riga, Genesee, NY – 1904 Kalamazoo, MI)
Possibly/probably named for a friend from Berkshire County MA where we believe Mary was raised, although Samuel was also the name of Mary’s grandfather and may have been Abel’s father and brother’s name. He moved to Michigan after 1844; occupation clergyman; married Rosetta Tainter (1822 York, Livingston, NY – 1901 Kalamazoo MI) in 1843 and had three children.



Samuel Mills Fowler and Rosetta Tainter
gravestone, Riverside Cemetery,
Kalamazoo, MI (photo courtesy of Find-
A-Grave ⁸⁵)

⁸³ His death was reported in the “Connecticut, Hale Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934”, as Doctor Henry A. Saxton, “son of the late Deacon Charles of Ellington, Conn and brother of Rev. Otis.”

⁸⁴ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=fowler&GSiman=1&GScid=84788&GRid=101396122&>

⁸⁵ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=fowler&GSiman=1&GScid=1963665&GRid=25812879&>

Biography of Samuel Mills Fowler:

Rev. Samuel M. Fowler, a minister of the Christian Church, residing at No. 507 Elm Street, Kalamazoo, was born in Riga, Monroe County, N.Y., July 17, 1817. His parents were Abel and Mary (Eddy) Fowler, the former a native of South Kingston, R.I., and the latter of Wallingford, Vt., where their marriage was celebrated. By occupation, he was a farmer, and served in the War of 1812, participating in the Battle of Plattsburgh. The family is of English lineage and descended from Guy Fawkes, of English history ⁸⁶.

Prof. O.S. Fowler, the celebrated phrenologist, was also of the same family ⁸⁷, and Commodore Perry was a second cousin to Abel Fowler. ⁸⁸

Our subject was the fourth of six children, five of whom are still living ⁸⁹. One, Mrs. Wooster resides in this state. Until the age of twenty-two, our subject remained at home. His mother died when he was ten years old, but her Christian teachings have never been forgotten. In winter seasons, he attended school until eighteen years of age, and the following year he began teaching, which he followed through four winter terms. He afterward attended a private school and by home study made himself a well-educated man. At the age of eighteen, he joined the church and read a number of theological works. He seemed drawn to the work of the ministry and at the age of twenty-two began preaching. Failing health led him to visit a brother living in Wheatland, Hillsdale County, Mich., and, attending meeting the Sunday after his arrival when the Class-leader announced that the minister was absent, Mr. Fowler seemed called upon to speak. Taking for his text, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul," he spoke earnestly and eloquently and was again called upon to preach several times before returning to New York. Here he formed the determination to make his life work that of the ministry and several times told the gospel message in the old stone church in Sweden and Ogden, of which the parents of Frances E. Willard were members. Subsequently, he again engaged in teaching and then after another serious illness he attended Whitesboro Academy, his preceptor being the noted abolitionist, Beriah Green. The following year, he began preaching, and for six months afterward received \$25 per month. He took charge of the church in Lester, Livingston County, N.Y., and was ordained pastor of the Christian Church on October, 1841, Elder John Badger preaching the ordination sermon, while Elder C.A. Morrison, Jesse E. Church, Stephen Fellows and S.L. Pervier were the ordination council.

Rev. Mr. Fowler was married in Lester, July 10, 1842, to Miss Rosetta, eldest child of Jonathan and Eunice (Bowman) Tainter. Unto them has been born the following children: S. Mills, a medical practitioner, of Gainesville, Tex; Samuel, who served through the war; Abel B., who was also in the service, and Eunice Rosalia, wife of James B. Moore, of Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. They now reside in Kalamazoo.

After a year's labor in Lester, Rev. Mr. Fowler engaged in preaching in Niagara County, and his next location was in Pekin, after which he spent two years in Ontario County, and a year in Barry, Orleans County, holding successful revivals in those places. Then he engaged to come to Michigan as a missionary and in October, 1849, joined Elder J.S. White in Centerville, St. Joseph County, who had been sent out two years before. He worked with him one year and then came to Brady Township, Kalamazoo County, where Dr. Ezra Smith, a preacher and medical practitioner, was located. He held a number of revival services and in July, 1850, located in Brady Township, where he organized a church. The next winter he went to Leroy, where he preached for two years, and in 1853 removed to Grand Prairie, where another church was organized. In 1854 he removed to the city of Jackson and preached there two years. He returned in the fall of 1855 to his farm in Grand Prairie, and resided there a year. In December, 1856, Rev. Mr. Fowler went to Newmarket, Canada, where he preached two years and also

⁸⁶ We believe O.S. Fowler may have read this article. He too knew the Guy Fawkes legend. Keep in mind, please, that Guy himself and all his co-conspirators were hanged or otherwise prevented from having any more children than they already had. Fawkes scholars, however, believe that Guy did not have offspring. Francis Fowler remembered O.S.'s story in another way: that the two brothers who fled England were brothers of Guy Fawkes. One changed his name to Fowler and the other to Fargo. Again, history tells us that Guy Fawkes was **the only son** of Edward Fawkes of York and his wife Edith Blake.

⁸⁷ See Frank Gridley Fowler's biography and the notes about the phrenologist for more information about him.

⁸⁸ Nope, that's the Abel-Rev-War-soldier's-Washington-County family, through Mary Brownell. So some of the material in this biography of S.M. Fowler confused our Abel with another Abel of the period.

⁸⁹ Records show that only four were still living at that time: Samuel, Abigail, Lydia, and Ruth.

held protracted meetings. On his return to Michigan, owing to earnest solicitation, he became the financial agent of the Michigan Central College at Spring Arbor, and his wife became matron of the ladies' department. They were connected with the school for a year, during which time Mr. Fowler was continually preaching, and then returned to the old farm on Grand Prairie in the fall of 1860. Sickness soon afterward prostrated him and for two or three years, he was not able to either read or study. About 1863 he had a charge at Watson, Allegan County, where he preached every two weeks for about four years. His two sons had joined the country's service and hence the heavy burden devolved upon his wife. In 1869 he returned to Oshawa, Ontario County, Canada, where he again preached for two and a half years and then went back to his old church in Newmarket. We find him in Kalamazoo in the fall of 1872 and the following spring he purchased his present home but returned to Oshawa, Canada, once more assuming the duties as minister of the church at that place. Subsequently, he spent one winter in Florida, then for some time had no regular work until September, 1890, when a few families were organized into a Christian Church at Kalamazoo, Rev. Mr. Chase, now Governor of Indiana, assisting in the work. In April, 1891, the church was organized and Mr. Fowler preached part of the time until August, 1891, when he was given full charge. There is now a membership of sixty and the church is in a flourishing condition. Rev. Mr. Fowler was identified with the first Christian Church organized in the county and was a member of the Washingtonian Society, the first temperance organization. He lectured on that subject and also against slavery, of which he was a bitter opponent. Although now well advanced in years, Mr. Fowler yet labors on. He is tall and of fine address, his sermons show much good thought and his earnest work is resulting in much good. A noble, upright life has he led and the confidence and high regard of the entire community are given him.⁹⁰

- Ruth Fowler (1820 Riga, Genesee, NY- 1893 Jacksonville, IL) could have been named for Ruth Ross Eddy, Mary's aunt and the wife of Amos Eddy of Danby VT. Ruth censused in Riga with her parents and siblings in 1850, age 30. She married William Durgin Robinson (1824 Merrimack, Hillsborough Co, NH – 1906 Jacksonville, Morgan, IL) two years later in Henry, Marshall, IL. It seems odd to us that Ruth married in Illinois. She would not have moved to IL without first being married, would she? Unless she had a pledge from him and went to join him after he got settled? Our best guess is that William came through Monroe Co. on his way to Illinois and met Ruth there. There were two Robinson brothers, who lived very nearby the Fowlers, as well as a Robinson who married into the True family nearby, and who may have been related to Wm D. Robinson although we have not yet found the link. Ruth and William and had 5 children and were buried in Diamond Grove Cemetery, Jacksonville, IL. We were pleased to locate a photograph of Ruth (right).



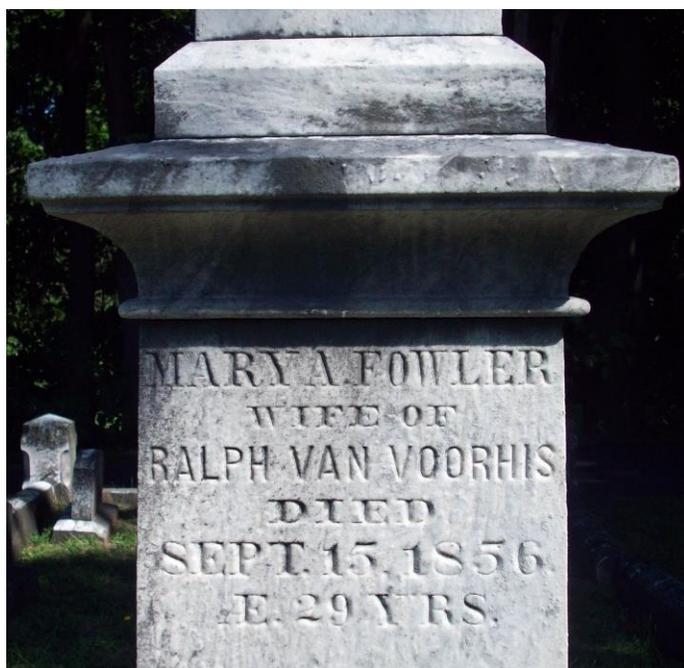
Ruth Fowler Robinson
(photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave⁹¹)

⁹⁰ Portrait and Biographical Record of Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren Counties, Michigan, containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and representative Citizens....., Chapman Brothers, Chicago, IL, 1892, pgs 427-428

⁹¹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=robinson&GSiman=1&GScid=1275384&GRid=89179988&>

- Mary A. Fowler (1827 Riga, Monroe, NY - 1856) named, almost certainly, for her mother who died the same year she was born and whose birth may even have occasioned her mother's death. Censused in Riga with her parents and siblings in 1850, age 23; married Ralph VanVoorhis (1826 Parma, Monroe, NY – 1895 Spencerport, Monroe, NY) between 1850 and 1852; had two children with him. In 1855, the couple was living in Parma, NY, alongside Ralph's parents. Their first child died abt age 2 and the birth of the second may have resulted in Mary's death in 1856. Both Mary and Ralph were buried in Fairfield Cemetery, Spencerport, NY, as were their two children, Carrie and Frederic who died at age 16. Ralph remarried to Harriet Reynolds Colt, a widow, before 1860, but the couple did not have more children. Harriet too was buried in Fairfield Cemetery.

Ralph was born July 19, 1826, and at the age of twenty-one he worked his father's farm, continuing until 1853, when he went to Michigan and bought a farm near Kalamazoo, but ill health forced him to return and he located at Parma Center as a blacksmith. A little later he bought a farm in Riga, living there a year. After working for a time on his brother's farm, Mr. Van Voorhis purchased a farm in the northeast part of the town of Ogden, which he still owns, and where he resided until 1887, when he removed to Spencerport.... His first wife was Mary Fowler of Riga, by whom he had two children, who died young.⁹²



Mary A. Fowler VanVoorhis grave, Fairfield Cemetery, Spencerport, NY (photo courtesy of Don Specht⁹³)



Carrie and Frederic VanVoorhis grave, Fairfield Cemetery, Spencerport, NY (photo courtesy of Don Specht⁹⁴)

⁹² William F. Peck. Landmarks of Monroe County, NY. Part III. 1895. p. 17 – 18
<http://mcnygenealogy.com/bios/biographies002.htm>

⁹³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192544918/mary-a.-vanvoorhis>

⁹⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192545174/frederic-vanvoorhis> and
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192545076/carrie-e.-vanvoorhis>

With Abel's two elder sons gone [Anson moved to Michigan between 1827-1830; Samuel was studying for the ministry, perhaps at home or perhaps elsewhere?], Abel remarried, about 1836, to Harriet Scott Gilman (1796 Peacham, Caledonia, VT – 1874 Ogden, Monroe NY).

How and when did Harriet end up in Monroe County after the death of her first husband, John Gilman, in Vermont in 1833? Might she have come to stay with relatives? An Edward Gilman (1770-1855) lived adjacent to Abel, on Ogden Lots 204 and 219 (censusing there in 1820, buying and selling parts of them in 1828 and 1837); he was a very distant cousin to Harriet's first husband but moved to nearby Byron, Genesee County where he died and was buried, though some of his children remained in the Riga/Ogden area. There was also a brother to Edward, Samuel Gilman, on Ogden Lots 203 and 204 (censusing there in 1820 and 1830, buying property in 1835 and selling some in 1842); we have not been able to find out much about his family or where he went after 1830.

More importantly, Calvin Gilman (1802-1885) was in Ogden NY as early as 1830, having arrived with his parents in 1816⁹⁵, and was shown on the 1852 map, living close by Abel's home. Calvin was John Gilman's first cousin.

Harriet's sister-in-law, Pamela Gilman married Levi True of Ogden in 1835, and another sister-in-law Mary Gilman and husband Asa Hoyt moved to Ogden between 1840 and 1850. So clearly there were in-laws of Harriet's in the area with whom she might have come to live or visit, and it was probably Calvin and his family or siblings of his.

Harriet bore Abel three more sons:

- Nelson S. Fowler (1837 Riga, Monroe, NY -1911 Riga) Married Sarah E. Brigham (1837 NY – 1925 Churchville, Monroe, NY), his neighbor, in 1858 and had 10 children with her, remaining in Riga, as did many of his children. The couple was living with Abel in the census of 1860. He farmed with Abel and effectively inherited the farm when Abel and his two younger brothers died in 1862 and '64. Nelson and wife were buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery, Ogden.

⁹⁵ Augusta E. N. Rich, Ogden Centennial Pioneer Reminiscences, 1902.

http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Ogden_Centennial_Pioneer_Remimiscences.pdf pages 47-48



Nelson S. Fowler grave, Maple Grove Cemetery, Ogden, NY (photo by author, 2016)

NELSON S. FOWLER IS DEAD FROM ACCIDENT

Highly Respected Resident
of Riga.

Churchville, Oct. 3.—Nelson S. Fowler, one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of this town, where he had passed his life, died at 12:30 o'clock to-day at his home, two miles north of Churchville, death resulting from an accident that occurred three months ago, when he sustained an injury by falling from a hayracke after his horse became frightened at a passing automobile and ran away.

Mr. Fowler was born on the farm on which he died, and which is known as the Fowler homestead. His father came to Riga at the age of 18 years and cleared the land on the homestead. Fifty-five years ago December 31st 1856, his deceased was married to Miss Sarah E. Brigham, who survives him. He was a charter member of Riga Grange, in which organization he took on active part for many years.

Besides his wife, Mr. Fowler leaves four daughters and three sons. Mrs. Ethie T. Goodridge, Mrs. H. Arthur Nichols, and Mrs. Adelbert F. Webster, of Spencerport; Mrs. Augustus Snyder and H. Brigham Fowler, of Churchville; Herbert C. Fowler, of Middleport, N. Y., and Elmer E. Fowler, of Buffalo.

Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle 1911 -
4617.pdf , October 3, 1911

- John Whitehorn Fowler (1839 Riga, Monroe, NY -1862 Riga) was presumably named for a friend of Abel's from RI and VT. Died about age 23. We found no evidence of him marrying nor do we know his cause of death. Buried Maple Grove Cemetery. Later on, read John's will, written one month before he died.
- William Scott Fowler (1842 Riga, Monroe, NY -1864 Riga) Died about age 22. Probably named for Harriet's father, William Scott (1767 Sturbridge, MA - 1839 Craftsbury, VT). We found no evidence of him marrying nor do we know his cause of death. Buried Maple Grove Cemetery. Later on, read William's will, written four months before his death.

Harriet also brought the three children from her previous marriage to John Gilman (1796 Walden, VT – 1833 Craftsbury, VT) to the household:

- Jane Gilman (1826 Craftsbury NH – perhaps before 1863) was about 12 when her mother remarried to Abel. The only census in which she appeared living in Abel's household was that of the state census of 1855 (although perhaps she was in the

federal census of 1840 ⁹⁶). In 1850, she was living in nearby Sweden with farmers Nathaniel and Daniel Bangs and laborer Patrick Boyd, and although the census did not list her as a housekeeper, she probably was. After 1855, we found records of several women named Jane Gilman which tempt us to believe in them, but the facts are out of line in each case. Since no one named Jane Gilman, or anyone named Jane with the right birth year, was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery, she most likely married a man whose name we do not know and may have even moved out of the immediate area. Or she died and the death record and grave have been lost to time. She was not named as a half-sister in the probated will of her half-brother in 1863 so that suggests she may have died before then.

- Lucinda Scott Gilman (January 1830 Craftsbury VT – 1868 Ogden). Married abt 1848 to Henry Warren Smith (1826 Ogden – 1894 Ogden), a neighbor in Riga, stayed local all her life, and had 7 children who lived to adulthood (and 2 - 3 who did not) with Henry. Henry Smith, who went to the gold rush in the early 1850's, was a prosperous hops farmer in Ogden in the 1860's. In his later years he became a recluse in Ceres, NY. They were buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, but had a large brood who went on to create a living legacy to the couple in Monroe County for well over a century. We have researched the line and included them in the Ancestry.com family tree at <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/113195954>.
- Joseph Floyd Gilman (September 1830 Craftsbury, NH – 1884 Whitewater, WI) There was a boy in Abel's household in the census of 1840 who was the correct age to have been Joseph. By 1860, Joseph was married to Clara Merritt (1844 Battle Creek MI – 1925 Oak Park, Cook Co., IL) and was living in Battle Creek, MI. He served in the Civil War, died in Wisconsin but was buried in Battle Creek. The couple had at least two children and were buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek MI. Their line is also detailed at Ancestry in our tree there.

So in 1840, we see the blended family in the Monroe County census -- although the exact number of free white persons in each category does not conform exactly to what we know. It includes a male of Anson's age and we know him to have left the state by then, and it also seems to include Samuel who may have been away from home studying. It also lists only two females between ages 10 and 15 when we believe there to have been 3: Jane and Lucinda Gilman plus Mary Fowler.

Abel's Land Holdings

The area in which Abel lived after 1816 was originally in the land purchase known as the Phelps/Gorham Purchase, and also considered to be in the Pulteney Tract, Pulteney Purchase, the Genesee Tract ⁹⁷, or Mill Yard Tract. The town of Riga was first named West Pultney, and Ogden was called Parma, Fairfield or even earlier it was simply called Township

⁹⁶ In the federal census of 1840, the ages for the females in the household do not seem to correspond accurately to the years they were born. But essentially, the right number of women were there, assuming Abigail had already left for Michigan, which she did in 1835.

⁹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pulteney_Association

#3. Towns such as these were erected about 1817 in Genesee County, NY – the area became part of Monroe Co in 1821.

In the 18th century, the lands of present-day Riga were part of the "Mill Seat Tract" deeded by Native Americans to Phelps and Gorham. Soon thereafter, Robert Morris of Philadelphia acquired the land and sold it to the Sir William Pultney's estate in England.

The Riga area was originally part of Ontario County, set up by the State Legislature in 1789. It later became part of Genesee County. The first organized town between the Genesee River and Lake Erie was Northampton. In 1802, Northampton was divided into Leicester, Batavia, Southampton, Northampton, and East and West Pultney - after Sir William Pultney. In 1808 East and West Pultney became East and West Riga, and in 1809 the Town of Riga was formed.⁹⁸

The town of Riga was erected April 8, 1808, from the town of Pulteney, and the first town meeting was held April 4, 1809, at the home of Henry Waidener. Thomas Hill was the first supervisor. Prominent among the early settlers of Riga were Samuel Baldwin, Ezekiel Barnes, Thomas Bingham, Henry Brewster, Elihu, Richard and Samuel Church, Dr. John Darling, Joseph Emerson, Amasa and Nehemiah Frost, Benjamin Holbrook, James Knowles, Enos Morse, Eber and Chester Orcutt, William Parker, Samuel Shepherd, Joseph Thompson and Henry Waidener. Elihu Church built the first house in the town; the firm of Thompson & Tuttle opened the first store, and the earliest tavernkeeper was Joseph Thompson. The village of Churchville was named for Samuel Church, who built the first house there. The village was incorporated in 1855, with J. M. Jameson, John Markley and Zephas Willard as trustees; it was reincorporated May 27, 1867. The first saw mill in the village was built by Samuel Church; the first store was established by Linus Pierson. On February 22, 1822, the town of Riga was divided and the eastern part was made into the new town of Chili.⁹⁹

The Town of Ogden was founded on January 17, 1817, at which time it was still part of Genesee County.¹⁰⁰

On January 27, 1817, the southern part of the town of Parma was set off as a new town, named Ogden for William Ogden, son-in-law of John Murray, the original proprietor. Sometime in the early years of the nineteenth century James Wadsworth visited Haddam, Connecticut, to induce settlers to come to the new western country. At a public meeting Daniel Arnold was appointed to visit the region. He made a favorable report, and in 1802 George W. Willey came from East Haddam, the first actual settler in the town of Ogden. Others who came from Connecticut shortly afterward were Daniel Arnold, Jonathan and William B. Brown, Abraham, Eastman, Isaac and Timothy Colby, Benjamin Freeman, Henry Hahn, Josiah Mather, Austin, Daniel and William H. Spencer, Daniel Wandle and Benajah Willey. Ansel Chapman, John and Samuel Gott and a number of others soon joined the colony, settling near the southern border.¹⁰¹

We know that Abel ended up owning adjoining acreage in Riga and Ogden and tried to determine whether Abel bought land directly from the Pulteney land office when he first came to the area. After extensive research, it seems Abel bought his property from other settlers or speculators who had already purchased it from major the land owners. And he bought it years after he arrived.

⁹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riga,_New_York

⁹⁹ Chapter XIX. The County of Monroe. *In* History of the Genesee Country Western New York the Counties of Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Genesee Livingston Monroe Niagara Ontario Orleans Steuben Wayne Wyoming and Yates Lockwood R. Doty ed. 1925. Page 627, 634-35.

¹⁰⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogden,_New_York#History

¹⁰¹ Chapter XIX. The County of Monroe. *In* History of the Genesee Country Western New York the Counties of Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Genesee Livingston Monroe Niagara Ontario Orleans Steuben Wayne Wyoming and Yates Lockwood R. Doty ed. 1925. Page 631.

Very early Ontario County land records, Genesee County town clerk's land records (starting in 1816) and the Monroe County town clerk's land records (starting in 1821) do not show Abel buying land until **1827, at which time he bought 17 acres of Riga Lot #6; 1830, when he bought another 29 acres of Riga Lot #6; and 1835 when he bought 6 acres of Riga Lot #4.** (We believe this was transcribed incorrectly and should be **6 acres of Lot #5.** See footnote for verification.)¹⁰²

These Lot 5 and 6 purchases may have totaled the whole of Abel's Riga land, if we read the land descriptions correctly. But surveys done in different eras often reported different numbers of acres, so the differences we see between the sum of these acres bought, the total Abel owned when he died, and the total in today's title records may vary considerably due to accuracy differences.

A map of Fairfield, which became Ogden, and estimated to have been drawn about 1812-15 definitely showed Lot 220, which eventually was part of Abel's holdings, in the hands of J. True. He appears to have owned the entire lot, as partial lots had dotted lines across them and two names. We searched for records of True selling any portion of that lot in Ogden and were unable to locate any. Despite long and hard searches in old records, including records under many names, we haven't found any record of True selling or Abel *buying* Ogden

¹⁰² An 1810 map of Churchville showed a man named Haskin as the original owner of Lot #6 in Riga, but Haskins was not the man from whom Abel bought land.

In July 1827 he purchased from David Sherman about 17 acres of Lot 6., Riga Township (Liber 18, Page 37) <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-STTM?i=39&wc=M7H5-RM3%3A358137401%2C358359001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
Sherman had purchased the entire lot #6 from David Cathcart, Lord Alloway in May of that year (Liber 9, page 411): <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-Q5F4?i=414&wc=M7H5-3NG%3A358137401%2C358254801%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

In 1830 Abel purchased from Joseph Bromley about 29 acres of Lot 6., Riga Township (Liber 18, Page 36) <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-STTF?i=38&wc=M7H5-RM3%3A358137401%2C358359001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
Bromley had only owned this acreage since 1828 (Liber 13, pg 415): <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-7LJM?i=417&wc=M7H5-D2S%3A358137401%2C358299501%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
He had purchased it from Ichabod Sprague who had gotten it from David Sherman (Liber 10, page 468) who had gotten it from David Cathcart, Lord Alloway in 1827 (Liber 9, page 411).

We believe that the typewritten deed for this 1835 purchase from David Sherman to Abel Fowler 6 acres, Lot 4, Riga Township (Liber 44, Page 58) should read **lot #5 and not #4**: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-WH1M?i=61&wc=M7HT-538%3A358137401%2C358638001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
Sherman had bought all of Lot 5 from David Cathcart (Lord Alloway) in 1834 <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-7PQ2?i=438&wc=M7H5-YTY%3A358137401%2C358369201%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
And also the SE 18 acres of lot 4 in 1831 from Harmon Whipple <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-WXDW?i=176&wc=M7H5-1TG%3A358137401%2C358379601%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
So he owned the SE corner of both lots.
Can land records help us determine if there had been a transcription error between lots 5 and 6?
Yes, because in 1839, Sherman sold portions of Lots 4 and 5 to his son, and the description included the south east corner of 4 as well as **everything but Abel's chunk of Lot 5.** <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-Q9ZG?i=69&wc=M7HY-HWR%3A358137401%2C358708201%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
Therefore what Abel bought in 1835 was the corner of Lot 5 and not Lot 4.

acreage at all. ¹⁰³ However, in 1835, we found a record for Susan Ogden et.al. selling the EAST half of 220 to Aaron Banks. ¹⁰⁴ At one time, her father John Murray owned the entire tract and there is no record of the Ogdens buying the lot back ¹⁰⁵, so we continue to be confused as to the information on the 1812-1815-era map below.

¹⁰³ Genesee County grantor index 1802-1884 for T's: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9WT-2RYT?mode=g&i=714&wc=M7C4-VYD%3A358135801%2C359721501%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
Monroe County grantor index 1821-1871 for T's: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WR-RCCW?i=780&wc=M7CF-HTT%3A358137401%2C360852301%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

Of those who may have searched for Abel's title to that land, we are in good company! In a title search done in 1943, the researcher noted, "We find no record of a conveyance of the premise herein specified in the Town of Ogden to Abel Fowler."

We have scanned grantee and grantor records, TO NO AVAIL, not just for Abel, but also for those of anyone named True; for William and Susan Ogden who inherited the entire town from her father John Murray; for those of men whose lands surrounded Abel's, such as Perry or Robinson; for anyone who might have willed a piece of land to someone in Abel's household, a Gilman, Hoyt, True, Gridley, Eddy, Ross; and for other shirt-tail relatives and friends mentioned in Abel's will for instance-- Zophar Willard (whose father owned part or all of Ogden 218 in 1827 and who himself bought parts of Ogden 202 and Riga 4), Williams, Smith, Richmond; and for David Sherman who sold Abel his Riga land No one with any of these surnames owned the west side of Ogden lot 220, and therefore might have sold or given it to Abel or someone in his household.

¹⁰⁴ Monroe County Deeds, liber 31. Page 319: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WR-PKQ6?i=1222&wc=M7CF-CPD%3A358137401%2C360847501%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654> and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-W77K?i=322&wc=M7HR-RN5%3A358137401%2C358488201%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹⁰⁵ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WT-KBJD?i=416&wc=M7C4-FZJ%3A358135801%2C359734001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WR-PTDM?i=539&wc=M7CX-6TP%3A358137401%2C360745601%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

	Ch ^o Gilbert	David Cornell	S. Scribner	A. Curtis	S. Fr
157	158	159	160	161	162
		E. True	J. P. Webster	J. McClellan	C. Gilbert
171	172	173	174	175	176
	M. Preston	E. Preston	Robt. Adams	Brighams	H. Lamm
187	188	189	190	191	192
J.H. Thompson	J. Hill	Calvin Abbott	Dan Arnold	J.P. Webster	J. Maxson
		O.A. Willard			W. Funch
202	203	204	205	206	207
E. Kelly	A. Gilman	B. Gilman	O. Butler	S. Courge	D. Lillian
					J. E. Pag
217	218	219	220	221	222
E. Kelley	O. Willard	B. Gilman	J. True	E. Trumbull	J. Richmond
					A. Belth

Map of Fairfield, dated 1812-1815 showing J. True owning Ogden Lot 220

Abel and family may have arrived about 1816 and censused in Riga Township in 1820; however, the oldest map on which Abel's name was inscribed, wasn't made until 1852 (the Churchville/Riga historian is not aware of any map between 1810 and 1852 which showed owners/residents). At that time, he was shown as having a house in Riga Township on Lot #6. This is consistent with the acreage he bought between 1827 and 1835. We believe it was Abel who built, or had built for him, the house that still stands on that acreage.

The road on which he lived was known as Fowler Road, until it was much later renamed "Adams Basin-Spencerport Hwy" and then "Washington". If he owned Ogden land *before* Riga land, we might have expected to see his house on Ogden maps and see his census records in Ogden, and we did not find this. It suggests that he bought the Riga land before obtaining the Ogden land.

Where were the Fowlers living between the time they arrived in Riga and the time they started buying land (~1816 to maybe 1827)? There are no records to tell us that, but probably he was doing the same thing he may have been doing in Herkimer County: hiring his labor out, "working out by the month" or being a tenant farmer. ¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ We found several references to how many "freeholders there were and "working out by the month":

1. An early resident of Riga, Elihu Church wrote a reminiscence about early days in Riga, in which he said: the first town meeting we attended was in Ogden...in 1807. ... We made a choice of two supervisors in succession, but their election was a nullity, neither of them being free-holders; free-holders were scarce in that early day."
2. Another settler, Levi Tallmedge, said he "**worked out by the month** for a year or two" after arriving in Ogden. O. Turner, History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase, and Morris' Reserve; embracing the counties of Monroe, Ontario, Livingston, Yates, Steuben, most of Wayne and Allegany, and parts of Orleans, Genesee, and Wyoming. To which is added a supplement: Extension of the Pioneer History of that portion of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase embraced in the County of Monroe and the northern portion of Morris' Reserve. 1851. Page 504, 511. <https://archive.org/details/historyofpioneer00inturn/page/504>



Above, 1852 Ogden map, showing the Riga house location circled in red, a school circled in green, and the "OS (Old Stone) Church" circled in blue.
 The heavy black horizontal line represented the Ogden/Riga township line.
 Maple Grove Cemetery did not appear on this map. We suspect interments started there at least as early as Mary's in 1827.

Abel had one other land dealing that we located: In 1836, he was one of a group of Riga, Ogden, and Chili co-owners who sold a one-acre lot in the city of Rochester, along (what was then the route of) the Erie Canal near the "high falls" of the Genesee River ¹⁰⁷. Why he owned 1/60th of this property with numerous other men is a mystery, as is when he/they bought it. Many of the names on the deed with his, however, were those of early settlers or sons of early families in Riga.

3. In another history, "John [Brigham], the fifth child in whom we are most interested, grew tired of **working by the month** and his thoughts turned to the West, the "Far West" it was then called..... Augusta E. N. Rich, Ogden Centennial Pioneer Reminiscences, 1902.
http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Ogden_Centennial_Pioneer_Remimiscences.pdf

This tells us that there were a large percentage of settlers who were NOT free-holders (land owners); in other words, tenant farmers.

¹⁰⁷ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-WCWX?i=8&wc=M7HT-538%3A358137401%2C358638001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

By the time that the 1855 state census was collected, Abel owned 107 acres of land. The 1902 plat maps of Monroe County ¹⁰⁸ most clearly show both parcels of (what had been) Abel's property in two adjoining townships: parts of tracts #5 and #6 in Riga Township and part of tract #220 in Ogden Township, just north across the Riga/Ogden town line. Such plat maps ¹⁰⁹ and agricultural censuses tell us that one parcel was 50 acres and the other 65 acres and over the years, was in the hands of various Fowlers: husband to wife to son to son's wife, etc.

In state census reports, we found extensive information about the acreage and cash value of the farm and its produce. Here's the farm output of Abel's (then son Nelson's) farm in Monroe Co, NY in three state agricultural censuses:

	1855	1865	1875
Acres improved:	80	90	102
Acres unimproved:	27	17	107
Cash value of farm:	6000	6500	6500
Cash value of stock:	600	1275	1200
Cash value of tools and implements:	200	330	360
Acres plowed the year previous:	35	20	36
Acres in fallow the year previous:	24	10	0
Acers in pasture the year previous:	20	11	10
Meadow acres:	7	17	10
Meadow tons of hay:	10	10	15
Meadow bushels of grass seed:	0	0	0
Spring wheat, acres sown:	0	0	0
Spring wheat, bushels harvested:	0	0	0
Winter wheat, acres sown:	20	27	30
Winter wheat, bushels harvested:	350	540	680
Oats wheat, acres sown:	2	2	2
Oats wheat, bushels harvested:	50		60
Rye, acres sown:	0	0	0
Rye wheat, bushels harvested:	0	0	0
Barley, acres sown:	1	9	4
Barley, bushels harvested:	25	220	110
Buckwheat, acres sown:	0	0	3
Buckwheat, bushels harvested:	0	0	0
Corn, acres sown:	5	6	8
Corn, bushels harvested:	200	200	250

¹⁰⁸ The links for plats are:

1902 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00216.htm>

1902 Ogden plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00208.htm>

¹⁰⁹ The links for plats are:

1872 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/mcm/mcm00026.htm>

1887 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00402.htm>

1902 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00216.htm>

1924 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00055.htm>

1872 Ogden plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/mcm/mcm00016.htm>

1887 Ogden <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00402.htm>

1902 Ogden plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00208.htm>

1924 Ogden plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00065.htm>

Potatoes, acres sown:	1	2	2
Potatoes, bushels harvested:	100	300	300
Peas, Beans, Turnips, Flax, Hemp,			
Hops, Tobacco:	0	7	9
Apple Orchards, bushels	300	250	300
Apple Orchard, barrels of cider:	2	3	3
Market garden, acres; value of products sold:	0	0	0
Pounds of Maple Sugar made;	0	0	0
Gallons of maple molasses made;	0	0	0
Gallons of wine made:	0	0	0
Pounds of honey collected:	0	0	0
Pounds of wax collected:	0	0	0
Pounds of silk cocoons:	0	0	0
Neat Cattle, under 1 yr old:	4	2	2
Neat Cattle, over 1 yr old, excluding working oxen and cows	5	3	8
Bulls			1
Neat Cattle, Cows:	5	0	5
Number of cattle killed for beef:	0	1	
Whole number of cows milked:	5	4	5
Butter, number of Cows:	5	4	
Butter, pounds of butter:	150	200	600
Cheese, number of cows:	3	0	0
Cheese, pounds of cheese:	240	0	0
Cows milked for market:	0	0	0
Gallons of milk sold:	0	0	0
Horses:	6	6	5
Mules:	0	0	0
Swine: under 6 months:	0	0	0
Swine, over 6 months:	6	100	6
Swine, pounds of pork made		1600	460
Sheep, number of fleeces:	60	30	0
Sheep, pounds of wool:	180	210	0
Poultry, value of poultry sold:	4	0	40
Poultry, value of eggs sold:	8	2	25
Special manures used:	plaster	0	0
Special manures used, quantity:	2 ton	0	0
Special manures used, value:	6	0	800
Domestic Manufactures:	none	none	none

At his death, Abel's farm was 107 acres. This is close to/consistent with what was claimed in the 1855 and 1865 censuses. The number of acres he owned was not mentioned in Abel's will. But after Abel died, TWO MONTHS after he died, his young son John wrote a will in which he left 1/3 of his real estate to his mother and the remaining two thirds to his brothers Nelson and William. Sadly, John died less than 5 months after his father did. The next year, mother Harriet sold the land John had left her to Nelson (11.89 acres or effectively one-ninth

of Abel's acreage), and in that 1863 deed, it was made clear that those 107 acres had represented Abel's entire holdings ¹¹⁰.

About Abel's house

Historians at nearby historical Genesee Country Village told us that Abel might have erected a log cabin when he got to the area or when he first bought land, in which the family could have lived for a decade or so. Then, depending on the availability of a local sawmill and his financial status, he would have built a frame home.

"Greek Revival" houses, such as Abel built on Lot 6 of Riga (although it IS possible he purchased the house along with the land), were being built in the area at the time he bought the Riga land, and the style remained extremely popular for decades ¹¹¹.



The house built by Abel Fowler, at the current address of 2985 Washington St. (Photo by author, 2009)

What happened to the farm?

Nelson Fowler ended up with the entire 107 acres after his mother and 2 younger brothers died. In a very interesting move: in February 1898, Nelson sold to Sarah his wife all 107 acres of Abel's farm for \$5000. ¹¹² Once again, this transaction makes clear that Abel died with 107 acres of Riga and Ogden land and explains why the 1902 plat, below, shows the property in Sarah's name, even though Nelson did not die until 1911. [We suspect that this move had tax implications – during the

¹¹⁰ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-493K-Q?i=100&wc=M7C7-26K%3A358137401%2C359512301%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹¹¹ <http://www.libraryweb.org/rochimag/architecture/styles/stylesgreekrevival.htm>
<http://www.nyc-architecture.com/STYLES/STY-GreekRevival.htm>

¹¹² <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-17RH?i=186&wc=M7CX-3TG%3A358137401%2C360610501%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

same decade, Edward Fowler, grandson of Abel, sold some of his Michigan acreage to HIS wife, Eunice.]

Note that Abel claimed a total of 107 acres in 1855 and 1865, and Nelson had 209 acres in the state census of 1875. In decades following Abel's death, Nelson Fowler and his wife Sarah E. Brigham Fowler (married in 1858) bought, sold, or inherited a number of parcels of land in Ogden, but did not sell any of Abel's land, with one small exception. In 1863 for instance, Nelson and Sarah sold to Harry Brigham, a cousin of Sarah's, 102 acres of Ogden Lot 176 and 30 acres of Ogden Lot 144 ¹¹³. Brigham is later shown living on that lot in the 1872 plat and he later left his lands in his will to Sarah ¹¹⁴. One sale deed of 1881 mentioned that the parcel being conveyed (12 acres of Lot 175 Ogden in this case) had been "devised", probably by Sarah's mother, who died in 1879 and who had been shown living there in 1872. ¹¹⁵ In other cases, however, we are unable to determine how the couple came in possession of their land. There are no records which seem to answer these questions without gaining access to the titles of the properties.

A real money-maker for Nelson and Sarah was half of a lot on the east side of Main Street in Churchville which Nelson bought in 1882, later described as a "brick store". In various records, we saw them get paid for renting the second floor to a lodge or for granting right-of-way to a lane which ran down one side ¹¹⁶. Perhaps this was the property sold in 1943 when Howard Bloomfield and Harry B Fowler grantors, sold to Fred Sohn, grantee, in Churchville ¹¹⁷.

Of Abel's known land, however, in 1875, Nelson sold ONLY the quarter-acre of Ogden Lot 220 which contained the schoolhouse he and his siblings had probably attended and which was shown on maps as early as 1852. ¹¹⁸

¹¹³ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9WF-K2X8?i=388&wc=M7C7-G3F%3A358137401%2C359488101%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹¹⁴ May 16, 1898 Henry Brigham left to Sarah Fowler (niece) south part of lot 175 Ogden, 44 Acres; west part of 206, 21 acres; lot 176 23 acres; in north half of lot 190 16 acres. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-YR3Q?i=48&wc=M7CX-3NT%3A358137401%2C360624001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654> 4 and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-YR52?i=50&wc=M7CX-3NT%3A358137401%2C360624001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹¹⁵ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-L53?i=300&wc=M7CC-R68%3A358137401%2C360111101%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹¹⁶ 1882, Nelson from Knapp, \$715 lot on main st in Churchville. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WF-RQ3R?mode=g&i=25&wc=M7C8-ZZ9%3A358137401%2C360336701%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

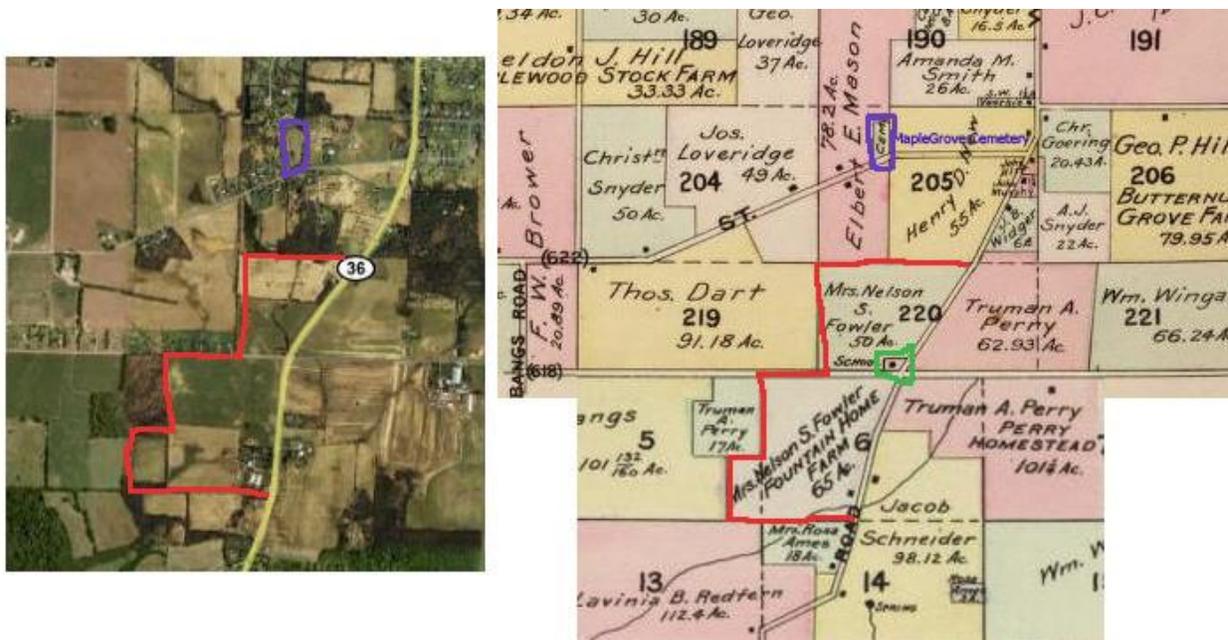
1883 Knapp and Nelson to Churchville lodge, renting second floor of their brick building on main st, for 5 years at \$80/yr. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-LLMP?i=379&wc=M7CZ-M68%3A358137401%2C360180001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

1886 Nelson and Sarah to Knapp, \$2300 for a right-of-way to lane <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-1NP9?i=340&wc=M7C8-GP2%3A358137401%2C360386201%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

1897 Sarah to Knapp, Churchville, \$4000 for a right-of-way to lane <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9WN-9BMX?i=6&wc=M7CX-923%3A358137401%2C360602902%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹¹⁷ Liber 2129 pg 412.

¹¹⁸ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-4BW4?mode=g&i=237&wc=M7CC-8T5%3A358137401%2C359925401&cc=2078654>



Satellite view of Abel's' farm acreage (red outlines), left. (Google maps, 2009).

Plat of 1902 ¹¹⁹, right. Maple Grove Cemetery (blue outline) is on Dewey Rd.

Note the legend " on the Riga property.

The school house on the town line on Fowler Rd on what was Abel's acreage (Ogden tract #220, green box), which the Fowler children probably attended.

Nelson's widow Sarah separated her Riga/Ogden acreage into two sections in January 1912, three months after Nelson died: Forty acres of the Riga land, the south portion with the house on it, went to her eldest son Elmer E. Fowler (1862-1924), and the remainder of the Riga acreage plus the Ogden land went to her youngest son Harry Brigham "Briggs" Fowler (1872-1942), both transactions with the "right to use said premises for the term of her natural life". In 1920, at age 82, the federal census found her living alone on Fowler Road. Elmer was living in Buffalo, NY and Briggs nearby in on Buffalo St. in Riga. Sarah died in 1925.

Otto Leibeck's daughter, Dorothy Leibeck Pharoah, told us that as a boy, her father would ride his bicycle past the Fowler house and say that he would live there when he was bigger. It had been: "the showplace of Churchville with a spectacular fountain in front of it". The Leibeck family purchased the house and Elmer's' 40 acres of the Riga "Fountain Home Farm" (what was written on the 1902 plat map) in 1927 from Eva Fowler Beck ¹²⁰, the Elmer's daughter. When Otto finally acquired the house, a big wing of it had to be torn down, as it had deteriorated -- Sarah and Elmer had not taken good care of it.

¹¹⁹ 1902 Riga plat <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00216.htm>

¹²⁰ 1927 Eva Beck to Joseph Gearing (Otto Leibeck's father-in-law), Monroe County Deeds, Liber 1419, page 447. 1937 Joseph Gearing to Bessie Leibeck (Otto's wife), liber 1864, p412. Otto and Bessie were the grandparents of the current owner (2016)

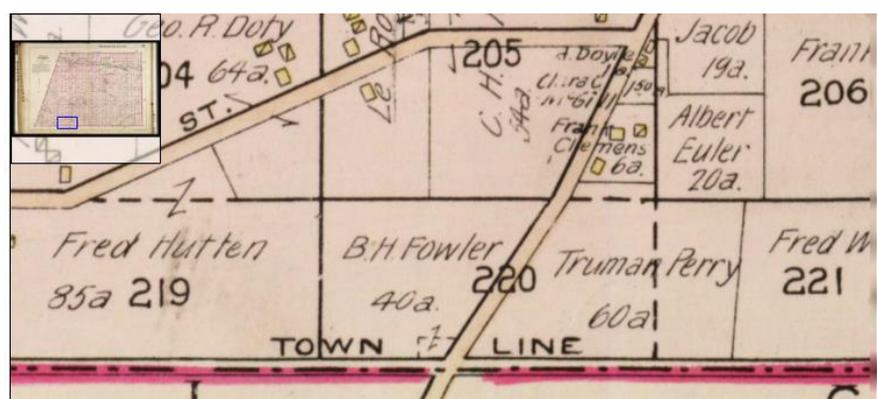
By the way, in 1927, Eva Fowler Beck was still trying to untangle the mortgage agreement Abel had made in 1830, as well as the 1828 mortgage to the owner before that on Lot #6 Riga. She had to have both “ancient mortgages”¹²¹ discharged in order to sell it.

THE DAILY RECORD. TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1927.

Matter of petition of Eva F Beck for discharge of two ancient mortgages— Order discharging mortgage given by Joseph Bromley and wife to Daniel M Chittenden, dated Oct 30, 1828, and mortgage given by Abel Fowler to Elizabeth Brumley, dated March 6, 1830

Rochester Daily Record, July 26, 1927

We cannot explain then, why at the time of the 1924 plat, shown below, Leibeck appears to own the 40 southern Riga acres from Elmer’s family, when in fact, the land records do not show the Leibeck family buying the farm until 1927. Harry Brigham Fowler still owned his Riga and Ogden acreage. [We think the “B.H. Fowler” was an error and should have been “H.B. Fowler” as the Riga map shows.]



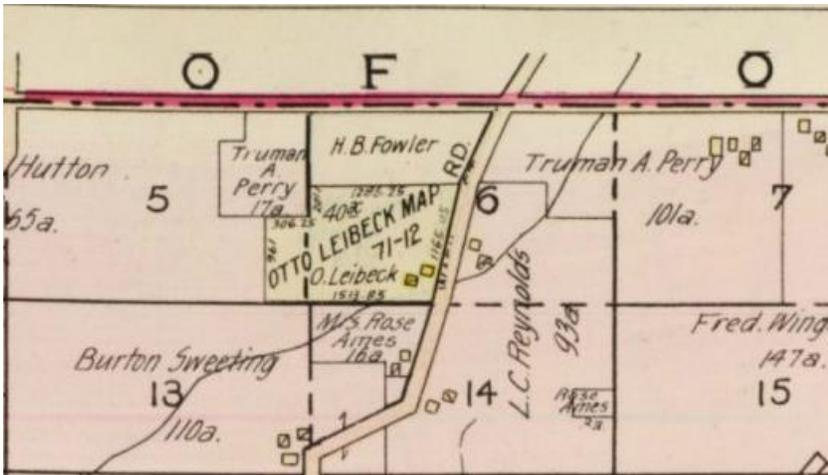
Ogden (upper)¹²² and Riga (lower)¹²³ plats of 1924 show Harry Brigham Fowler with 40 acres plus perhaps 20 acres left of Abel's farm in the two townships.

Otto Leibeck had purchased the house and 40 acres from Harry Brigham Fowler before the map was drawn.

¹²¹ Bromley/Chittenden 1828 mortgage, Monroe Co Mortgage book, Liber 6 page 343, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99WF-LQYW?i=207&wc=M7CZ-R3N%3A358137401%2C360247001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>
 Fowler/Brumley 1830 mortgage, Monroe Co Mortgage book, Liber 8 page 585, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q5Q-G9WF-28F?i=313&wc=M7CZ-YTG%3A358137401%2C360253301%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹²² <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00065.htm>

¹²³ <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/rpm/rpm00055.htm>



Note the name of Burton Sweeting in Riga Lot 13 above. In April 1903 “Briggs” Fowler bought from neighbor Lavinia Redfern 98 acres of Lot 13, and 14 acres on Lot 14 -- for ONE DOLLAR!! ¹²⁴. In the census of 1910, he and his family were living on that parcel along Fowler Road. Then in 1915 he sold it to Burton Sweeting ¹²⁵ and moved to Buffalo Road where he censused in 1920 through 1940.

In 1943, shortly after Harry Brigham Fowler’s death, Harry B’s daughter sold the remainder of Abel’s farm to Otto Leibeck, except for the ¼-acre schoolhouse piece. It took some doing, as there were no records of Abel ever having bought the Ogden acreage. At the time, there were plenty of depositions made about Nelson having clearly owned it and inherited it ¹²⁶, and apparently the title was cleared for Leibeck’s purchase..

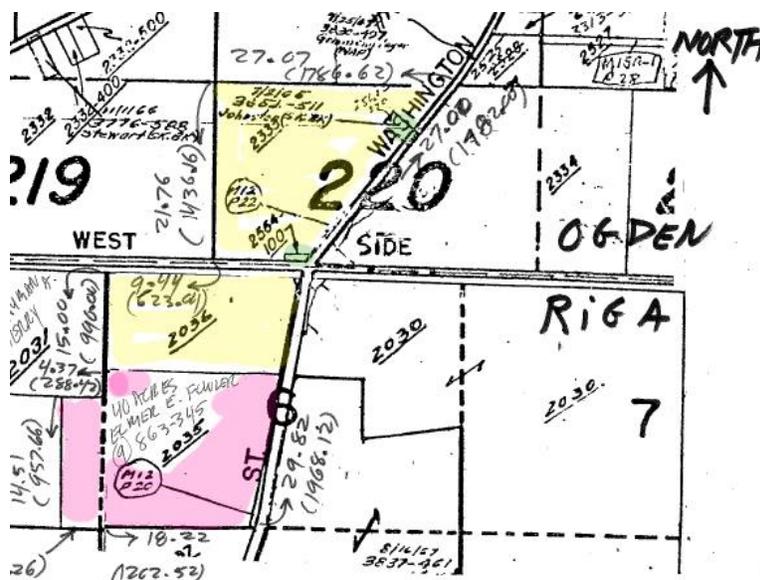
All of what had been Abel’s farm still remains in the hands of Otto Leibeck’s descendants today, except for the ¼ acre schoolhouse lot which is now a private home, and another 2/3 acre piece along Washington St. which Otto sold to his hired hand in 1965.

¹²⁴ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WF-B7S1?i=411&wc=M7CX-6NP%3A358137401%2C360686001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

¹²⁵ Monroe County deeds liber 960 pg 349

¹²⁶ We have scanned these documents, the title of this property, and it is available under Abel’s record in our Ancestry.com family tree

Composite tax map of Abel's original acreage, circa 1968.
 Yellow: land given to Harry Brigham Fowler in 1912 and sold to Leibeck in 1943. Pink, land given to Elmer E. Fowler in 1912 and sold to Leibeck about 1927.
 Green, properties sold to school and Otto's hired man.
 All yellow and pink lands remain in the Leibeck family.



Back to our discussion of Abel and family:

What else do we know about Abel? He was named among the founding members of an interdenominational religious organization, named the Union Society of Sweden and Ogden (Sweden was the next town west from Ogden), which built a church, known as the "Old Stone Church" or "Stone Church" on Dewey Rd. Samuel Mills Fowler's biography (above) refers to this church. We were told that the remains of the building no longer exist:

The Union Society of Sweden and Ogden: This Church was formed on Dec. 21, 1830 at the district #8 schoolhouse in the Town of Ogden for the inhabitants of the southwest part of Ogden and the southeast part of Sweden. It was incorporated on Jan. 10, 1831. The Trustees at the time of the formation were Nathaniel Bangs of Sweden, Josiah F. Willard of Ogden and Ezra B. True of Ogden with James Hill serving as clerk. In about 1835 this society built a stone Church which served as their meeting place. The church was truly interdenominational although the ministers were usually either Free-Will Baptists or Congregationalists. The Society prospered for a time but many of the founding members either died or move west and by 1880 the Society passed out of existence. ¹²⁷

The Old Stone Church on Dewey Road

The Christian Church of Ogden, commonly called the Stone Church, was erected about 1835 through the efforts of Levi True, H.C. Gilman, David and L.D. Bangs, Edward Covell, James Hill and others representing a pioneer element in the southwest part of the township. The society prospered for a time, but with the death or removal of its leading supporters and founders, interest declined and the society gradually passed out of existence. Mr. Henry Way ... of Dewey Road paid the church society six hundred dollars for the church building and the parsonage next door....

Later, in about 1850, the school district bought the Stone Church of Mr. Way for one hundred dollars and specified that the building and the land revert to the Way Farm when no longer used as a school. This happened about 1915. Since then the building has been used as cabbage storage for many years. Now it is just storage for farm tools and machinery. ¹²⁸

¹²⁷ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nymonroe/vr/union.htm>

¹²⁸ Earl Edgar White, 150 Years in Ogden; 100 Years in Spencerport, 1967.

An A. Fowler of Riga (probably Abel) was a delegate to the Republican county convention in 1832.¹²⁹

In 1857, Abel executed a curious document, basically giving the four living adult children from his first marriage their portions of his estate EARLY -- in return for not being able to make claim on his Riga/Ogden farm after he died¹³⁰. Abigail, Lydia, Samuel and Ruth each received \$400. One wonders if his second wife had something to do with this (smile)??

Here is Abel's will, initially written in 1859, with a codicil added in 1861:

In it, he gave Harriet a third of his real estate and household goods as long as she remained his widow; \$200 to son Samuel; \$300 for Lydia; \$300 for his son Anson's widow and children (they had not gotten any part of the 1957 pay-out); \$25 to his grandson by deceased daughter Mary, Frederic VanVoorhis; daughters Ruth and Abigail were mentioned as having "received their full share of my estate"; Nelson, John, and William got all the rest. Nelson was named executor with the 1861 codicil adding that Nelson and friend Zophar Willard be executors.

¹²⁹ Sent to us from the Rochester library in a bulletin board post:

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=708&p=localities.northam.usa.states.newyork.counties.monroe>

¹³⁰ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9WF-QDLC?i=343&wc=M7CQ-TT5%3A358137401%2C359373001%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

Record of Will

Know all men by these presents that I Abel Fowler of the town of Riga in the County of Monroe and State of New York considering the uncertainty of this life and being of sound mind and memory do make declare and publish this my last will and Testament

First - I give and bequeath to my wife Harriet the use of one third of all my real estate and household furniture so long as she shall remain my widow

Second - I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Fowler the sum of two hundred dollars in three years from my decease without interest

Third - I give and bequeath to my daughter Lydia Fowler the sum of three hundred dollars in three years from my decease without interest

Fourth - I give and bequeath to Harriet Fowler (my son Asa's widow) and his surviving children three hundred dollars in two years from my decease without interest to be equally divided between them

Fifth - I give and bequeath to Frederick Vanvoras my daughter Mary's son the sum of twenty five dollars

My daughters Ruth + Abigail have received their full share of my estate

Sixth - I give demise and bequeath to my sons, Nelson, John and William all the real and personal property I may die seized and possessed after paying all my lawful debts and the above bequests to be equally divided between them share and share alike

Seventh - I do nominate and appoint my son Nelson Fowler to be the Executor of this my last will and Testament

In testimony whereof I have to this my last will and Testament contained on one sheet of paper subscribed my name and affixed my seal this twenty fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine

Abel Fowler LS

Signed sealed declared and published by the said Abel Fowler as his last will and Testament in presence of us who at his request and in his presence and in presence

of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto
 Gopher Willard Town of Riga Monroe Co N.Y.
 Hart Smith Town of Riga Monroe Co N.Y.

Codicil to the foregoing Will

Whereas I Abel Fowler of the Town of Riga in the County of
 Monroe and State of New York have made my last will
 and testament in writing bearing date the twenty fifth day
 of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
 and fifty nine and by which I have nominated and
 appointed my son Nelson to be the executor of my last
 will and testament. Now therefore I do by this my writing
 which I hereby declare to be a codicil to my said last will
 and testament and taken as a part thereof order and
 declare that my will is that my friend Gopher Willard
 be associated with my son Nelson in the execution of my
 last will and testament. And I hereby nominate and
 appoint my son Nelson and Gopher Willard to be the
 Executors of my last will and testament aforesaid

In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and
 seal this twenty third day of October in the year of our
 Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty one
 Abel Fowler L S

Abel Fowler's will and codicil ¹³¹

With the deaths of Abel and John in 1862 and William in 1864, all the farming fell to Nelson, his sons (eventually), and hired help. Harriet inherited 1/3 of the land and remained in Ogden, after a trip to VT, censusing in 1865 and 1870 with the family of Henry Warren Smith, her daughter Lucinda Gilman and son-in-law. In the plat book dated 1872 ¹³², however, Abel's house was listed in the name of H. Fowler (Harriet), who did not die until 1874, although we never found her living in that house in any census records.

A descendant of Harriet's sent us the transcription a letter Harriet wrote from Craftsbury, VT during a visit "home" in 1865, found in the estate of her great-granddaughter (Lucinda's line). It was very clear Harriet had missed the "grand and sublime" scenery of Vermont, and she thought it might take her "all the season" to visit all her VT friends and family members. She

¹³¹ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YCR-D4?mode=q&i=247&wc=Q7P2-7MS%3A213300501%2C215873401%3Fcc%3D1920234&cc=1920234>

¹³² <http://photo.libraryweb.org/rochimag/mcm/mcm00026.htm>

also asked that Nelson send her some money. The line which wrenches the heart is her concluding sentence: "Home is the finest".¹³³

Abel, Mary, Harriet, William Scott, John Whitehorn, Nelson and his family, and many others we have named, were buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery, nearby the house and the church. Abel (at 81) and John (at 23) both died in 1862 and William (at 22) in 1864. We were shocked to see that the two young Fowler sons died in their twenties, two years apart. Common causes of death in the era were fire and "swamp fever"¹³⁴ (which may refer to Leptospirosis, Malaria, Equine infectious anemia, or the mumps¹³⁵).

Both had time to write wills; John wrote his in November 1862, one month before he died, and William wrote his 4 months before his death.

Here is John's will, in which he left his clothing to his brother William, and divided his "real and personal estate" into thirds to leave to his mother and brothers.

¹³³ Tom Stewart, personal communication

¹³⁴ Ross Gridley, personal communication.

¹³⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swamp_fever

Record of Will

In the name of God amen

I John Fowler of the Town of Regina in the County of Monroe and State of New York of the age of twenty three years and being of sound mind and memory do make publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say

First I give and bequeath to my brother William S Fowler my wearing apparel as a token of remembrance

Second I give and devise to my mother Harriet Fowler one third of my real and personal estate and full power to sell and convey the same and at her decease if any thing remains I give and bequeath the same to to my sister Lucinda Smith

Third I give and devise all the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate of every name and nature whatsoever to my brothers Nelson and William S Fowler their heirs and assigns forever share and share alike

Fourth I do hereby nominate and appoint Harriet Smith to be the executor of this my last will and testament hereby

revoking all former wills by me made

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty eighth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty two

John Fowler (S)

John Fowler's will ¹³⁶

In contrast to that of his brother John, here is William's will, written in August 1864, in which he leaves all his real estate to Nelson and asks that Nelson give their mother \$200 a year. And after Harriet died, to send \$700 to their half-brother Joseph Gilman in Michigan. Then he gave away personal items, such as his silver watch and specific pieces of clothing to his half-sister's husband, Henry W. Smith, his buffalo robes and shotgun to Nelson, stereoscope and pictures to his niece, violin to a friend and neighbor, etc. All remaining personal items were to go to his half-sister Lucinda Gilman Smith. His executor was to be his brother-in-law Ralph VanVoorhis (husband of Abel and Mary's deceased daughter Mary).

¹³⁶ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YC5-14V?mode=g&i=348&wc=Q7P2-7MS%3A213300501%2C215873401%3Fcc%3D1920234&cc=1920234>

Records of Wills.

In the name of God Amen. I William S Fowler of the town of
Ogden County of Monroe and State of New York, being of sound
mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and
transitory life do therefore make and declare, publish and declare
this to be my last Will and Testament, that is to say.

First - I give and bequeath unto my brother Nelson S Fowler of
the town of Rego in said County of Monroe. All of my
Real Estate of every nature or nature whatsoever I have and I hold
his heirs and assigns forever - subject to the following conditions
over and above - said Nelson is to pay to my Dear Mother Harriet
Fowler the sum of two hundred dollars yearly, after my death to be
paid on the first day of October in each year as long as she
said Harriet shall live - and also said Nelson is to pay to
Joseph C. Lilman of Battle Creek in the State of Michigan within
one year after the death of said Harriet the sum of seven
hundred dollars, and as security for the payment of the sums
above mentioned they the said Harriet and said Joseph C.
are to hold in lieu upon my Real Estate with power to enforce
the payments thereof according to law, which sums are above
mentioned I give and bequeath unto the said Harriet & the
said Joseph C.

I also give and bequeath unto Henry W Smith of Ogden above
named my silver watch, also my best coat, vest and pants
- shoes and Hat.

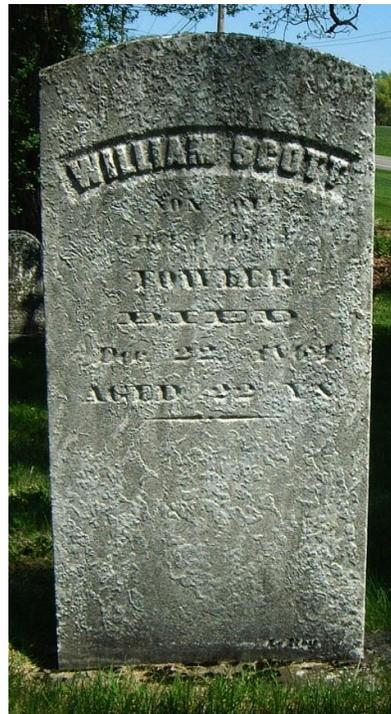
Also I give and bequeath unto my brother Nelson before named
the remainder of my clothing - my buffals robe, and double
barrel shot gun - Also I give and bequeath unto
James Smith (daughter of said Henry W Smith) my telescope
and pictures. Also I give and bequeath unto Hellen Smith
(also daughter of Henry W Smith) my gold pencil and case
Also I give and bequeath unto Charles Smith (son of Grant
Smith) my violin. Lastly I give and bequeath all of the
remainder of my personal property unto Lucinda Smith (Wife
of Henry W Smith before named) of every kind.
Likewise I make constitute and appoint Ralph Warr Washburn
of the town of Ogden above named to be executor of this my
last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills
by me made.

On Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed
my seal the twenty ninth day of August in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and sixty four.

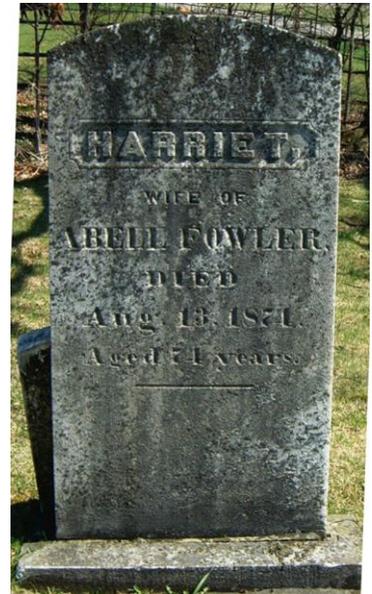
William S Fowler. W.S.



John Whitehorn Fowler grave, Maple Grove Cemetery, Ogden, NY (photo by Don Specht ¹³⁸)



William Scott Fowler grave, Maple Grove Cemetery, Ogden, NY (photo by Don Specht ¹³⁹)



Graves of Abel and Mary Eddy Fowler in the Maple Grove Cemetery, Ogden, Monroe, NY, left. (Photo by author, 2014). Grave of Harriet Scott Fowler, right. (photo by Don Specht ¹⁴⁰)

¹³⁸ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=fowler&GSiman=1&GScid=65171&GRid=118301591&>

¹³⁹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=118301590>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81395462>

Chapter Two: Anson Fowler and Harriet Gridley Fowler

Anson Fowler (1809 Fairfield, Herkimer, NY -1855 Wheatland, Hillsdale, MI) was born in Fairfield, Herkimer Co, NY ¹⁴¹ and traveled west with his parents to the new farm in Genesee [now Monroe] County, NY about 1816.

Where did Abel and Mary find the inspiration to name their son Anson, an English name which means: son of Ann, son of Agnes, or son of God? It is not at all clear. As we said above, we have been able to locate several Anson Fowlers, all born to Connecticut Fowler families and all of whom remained in CT at least until after “our” Anson was born. We have found no Rhode Island Anson Fowler.

Of course, Anson might have been a name from Mary’s lineage. We have not found an Anson Eddy, but found a William Anson Eddy who was born probably the year following (or unsubstantiated OPD two years before) “our” Anson was born, born to Israel Eddy, whom we believe may have been Mary’s father or uncle. There was also an Anson Ross born in 1809, the same year, who might have been a relative of Lydia and Mercy Ross (Mary Eddy’s possible mothers – three Ross sisters married three Eddy brothers!).

We have also to consider that a “famous” person named Anson [fill-in-the-last-name] was a popular personage/hero of the time and that the name began to be used for that reason. For whatever reason, at about 1809, there was a sprinkling of children in Mary’s matri-lineage, named Anson, and her first (or second) son was one of them. .

In 1831 in Ogden, Anson married Harriet Louisa Gridley (1810 Pompey, Onondaga, NY – 1898 Wheatland Twp, Hillsdale, MI). Harriet was the daughter of Thomas Hooker Gridley (1775 Hartford, CT – 1857 North Chili, NY ¹⁴²) and Lucilla Kirtland Gridley (1781 Saybrook, CT – 1826 North Chili, NY). Thomas had moved to Ogden sometime between 1820 and 1830 and owned part or all of Ogden Lot 225 (buying in 1839 and selling to his son in 1844 ¹⁴³). There was also a Stephen Gridley, in Ogden by 1811 (bought Ogden Lot 181 in 1831 ¹⁴⁴). So Harriet’s family lived very nearby.

Harriet’s Family, the Gridleys, Hookers, and Kirtlands

Harriet’s father, Thomas Hooker Gridley (1775 Hartford, CT – 1857 North Chili, NY) was descended from a long line of Thomas Gridleys -- in fact he was Thomas Gridley the Seventh! It was Thomas the Third who immigrated from Ashen, Essex, England to the American colonies in about 1633, ministered in Cambridge, MA for about 3 years, and settled in Hartford, CT.

¹⁴¹ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Page 1228. This citation apparently comes from a Hooker family genealogy.

¹⁴² His will is here: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YCG-X1D?i=137&wc=Q7PJ-PTL%3A213300501%2C215845301%3Fcc%3D1920234&cc=1920234>

¹⁴³ Monroe County Deeds, Liber 46, pgs 392&393; Liber 65, page 459.

¹⁴⁴ Monroe Co Deeds, Liber 21, pg 119.

The second wife of Thomas Gridley VI (1725 Farmington, Hartford, CT – 1804 Pompey, Onondaga, NY) and the mother of Thomas VII, was Mary Hooker (1736 Berlin CT – 1819 Pompey, Onondaga, NY), the third great granddaughter of the Reverend Thomas Hooker (1586 Leicestershire, England – 1647 Hartford CT), a Puritan ¹⁴⁵, one of the founders of Hartford CT, and the originator of the state constitution which earned Connecticut the motto “The Constitution State”. ¹⁴⁶ The Rev. Thomas Hooker founded Center Church in 1638 (now a United Church of Christ) and was buried in Center Cemetery, Hartford, CT.

Other family lines leading to Thomas Gridley and Mary Hooker were Wilcoxon, Birdseye, Cotten, Clarke, Seymour, Lee, Leete, Hamlin, Willet, and Garbrand – all early settlers of New England as well.

Harriet’s mother Lucilla Kirtland (1781 Saybrook, CT – 1826 North Chili, NY) also came from an old Connecticut family, her 2nd great-grandfather, Nathaniel Kirtland arriving in MA from Buckinghamshire, England in 1635 and the family settling in the Saybrook, CT area within a generation. Other lines leading to Lucilla Kirtland were Lord, Strong, Jenner, Hinman, Stiles, and Buckingham. So Anson and Harriet’s children carried a deep legacy of colonial American settlers.

Beyond that, the scope of the enormous Gridley lineage is not something we want to go into in detail. Suffice it to say that Harriet was one of six children born to Connecticut-born Thomas and Lucilla in Greene and Onondaga Counties of New York State in the first two decades of the 1800’s. The Gridleys moved west from their earlier farm in Onondaga Co., between 1820 and 1830, to Ogden and may have been the Gridleys found in the early plat maps just east of the Fowlers. So Anson and Harriet probably grew up as neighbors. Harriet’s siblings, those who lived to adulthood, all married and remained in western New York State

¹⁴⁵ Many of the Puritans started private congregations in their homes. Others started theological schools in their homes. Some left England and went to Holland; others came to America, such as **Thomas Hooker**, John Cotton, John Norton, and many others who distinguished themselves as New England Puritans. Introduction to the Puritans, Dr. Don Kistler, <http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/intro-to-puritans.php>

¹⁴⁶ One of the sides of the statue of Thomas Hooker in Hartford reads, “Leading his people through the wilderness, he founded Hartford, in June 1636. Two years later he preached the historic sermon, which inspired the Fundamental Orders, and sowed the seeds of free Constitutional government in America” <http://larkturnthehearts.blogspot.com/2009/08/reverend-thomas-hooker-11th-great.html>
In 1635, Thomas Hooker led about one hundred of his followers from Newtown, Massachusetts, to Hartford. Hooker and his followers were fleeing the oppressive Puritan colonies to the north, and hoped to create a freer society. In 1638 Hooker said, “The foundation of authority is laid, firstly, in the free consent of the people.” On 14 January 1639, the Fundamental Orders—based on Hooker’s ideas about freedom—were adopted. They were a set of rules that limited the scope of the government. Although not fully a constitution, the Fundamental Orders have earned Connecticut the nickname “the Constitution State.” (<http://www.answers.com/topic/connecticut>)



Statue of Thomas Hooker at the Old State Bldg, Hartford, CT



Plaque honoring Thomas Hooker, Center Cemetery, Hartford, CT. The burying ground is located in the rear of Center Church, Main St, Hartford.

Back to Anson and Harriet

Anson and Harriet had two children in New York, and then moved their family further west, purchasing land in Wheatland Township, Hillsdale Co, Michigan either at the Monroe, MI land office or the Bronson, MI land office ¹⁴⁷ in 1835. (This is the date of the patent certificate and may not be the same as the date he settled on the land).

And in Wheatland, three more children were born. Their five children, who lived to adulthood, were:

- Edward Kirtland Fowler (1832 Churchville, NY - 1898 Coe Twp, Isabella, MI)
Purchased land in Isabella Co, Michigan in 1857. See the next section.
- Mary Louisa or Louisa M. Fowler (1834 Churchville, NY – 1909 Jonesville, Hillsdale, MI). She married Cornelius Cuyler Dearing (1819 Dutchess Co, NY – 1893 Jonesville MI), a minister, in 1859. They censused in a variety of places in Michigan, and had 4



¹⁴⁷ there are two different documents with these offices on them

children [one named Anson].
Both Cornelius and Louisa were
buried in Sunset View Cemetery,
Jonesville, Hillsdale, MI ¹⁴⁸.

Louisa M. Dearing grave, Sunset View
Cemetery, Jonesville, MI
(photo from Find-A-Grave ¹⁴⁹)

- Frank Gridley Fowler (1836 Wheatland, MI – 1907 Bridgeport, CT). Frank (or Francis in one census record) became a teacher, secretary to the famed phrenologist and publisher O.S. Fowler ¹⁵⁰, engineer, and stenographer. Married Jennie Bell Farmer (1852 Cincinnati OH – 1940 Los Angeles CA) and had twin boys, Francis Clinton Fowler and Frederick Anson Fowler. Jennie was also a stenographer. Frank died in 1907 in CT. While there is a stone for him at Church's Corners Cemetery, Wheatland Twp, Hillsdale Co, MI ¹⁵¹ with his parents, we believe that one to be a cenotaph. He was actually interred at Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport ¹⁵² where one of his sons was also buried; however, his remains were removed in 1932 and cremated. Jennie was interred in Iowa with her parents, but we wondered if this, too, were a cenotaph? ¹⁵³ The Cemetery confirmed that her ashes were, indeed, interred there. The next question might be whether Frank's ashes were combined with hers, but in that case, we would expect his name to have been put on the stone alongside Jennie's. So where Frank's ashes ended up will remain a mystery. Perhaps Church's Corners?

Here is a biography of Frank Gridley Fowler:

Frank Gridley, son of Anson Fowler, was born April 24, 1836, at Wheatland, Michigan. After attending the public schools of that section he entered a private institution, but abandoned it after a few terms. He

¹⁴⁸ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=dearing&GSiman=1&GScid=1835&GRid=17257074&>

¹⁴⁹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=dearing&GSiman=1&GScid=1835&GRid=17257074&>

¹⁵⁰ Phrenology is a theory stating that the personality traits of a person can be derived from the shape of the skull. It is now considered a pseudoscience. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrenology>

Orson Squire Fowler was descended from the Connecticut Fowlers and was not related to our branch -- that we know of.

Orson Squire Fowler (1809 -1887) was a phrenologist who popularized the octagon house in the middle of the nineteenth century. The son of Horace and Martha (Howe) Fowler, he was born in Cohocton, New York, He prepared for college at Ashland Academy and studied at Amherst College, graduating in the class of 1834. With his brother, Lorenzo Niles Fowler, he opened a phrenological office in New York City, and wrote and lectured on phrenology, preservation of health, popular education and social reform from 1834 to 1889....He edited and published the American Phrenological Journal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1838 to 1842. He was a partner with Fowler & Wells, publishers, New York.....

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orson_Squire_Fowler

¹⁵¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86277351/frank-gridley-fowler>

¹⁵² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192122076/frank-gridley-fowler>

¹⁵³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82872357/jennie-b-fowler>

did not relinquish his purpose, however, but pursued the studies of geometry, physics, chemistry, mechanical drawing and shorthand successfully without the aid of a teacher.

In the latter study he was particularly interested and was soon called to fill a position tendered by Professor O. S. Fowler, the noted author, and lecturer on phrenology, Mr. F. G. Fowler, being kindly recommended by Andrew J. Graham. He joined Professor Fowler in the spring of 1857 at Cincinnati, Ohio, and traveled with him, visiting all the principal cities of the United States and Canada.

After spending two years with Professor Fowler he located in Springfield, Illinois, with a view of taking up legislative reporting, but the appropriation for this purpose failing and being offered a position as tutor, he accepted it and taught for several years in Springfield and vicinity. During this period he was awarded a diploma by the department of public instruction, which entitled him to teach any school in Illinois during his life without further examination. This was the highest honor possible to pay any teacher, and was awarded only to those who had proved themselves successful and after a rigid examination by the state superintendent.

During this period he often had calls to do reporting. In 1864, when the Union party found itself obliged to carry on a war at the front and a presidential election at the rear, he reported patriotic speeches, which were published. Among the speakers were eminent statesmen, famous generals, and local speakers of note, whose sentiments were sometimes couched in homely phrase, but aglow with patriotic fire and which told with the masses. Among some of the speakers reported were Governor Yates, Governor Oglesby, Senator Wilkinson, President Andrew Johnson, General Sherman, General Logan, General Sickles and many others.

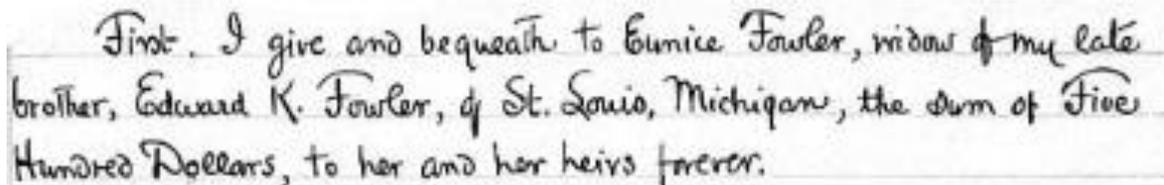
Soon after this his reporting practice was interrupted and his energies directed in the channel of mechanical engineering. At the request of one of his country friends he constructed a novel windmill, which was quite extensively used in that locality in lifting water from wells. In studying upon this theme he perceived the device was not merely a windmill, but a propellor as well, and could be used for propulsion, steering and manoeuvring of vessels. Accordingly patents were secured and it was embodied in model form and was exhibited at Chicago, Buffalo and New York City, and finally resulted in locating him at Bridgeport, Connecticut. For this device he was subsequently awarded a medal by the American Institute, and a diploma by the Centennial Commission, it having been applied to several steam vessels....

Shortly after this Mr. Fowler discovered that he had no pecuniary interest in the enterprise, and he abandoned all further effort in that direction. A friend happening to know that he was a stenographer called him in to report a case. This call was followed by a second and a third, and within less than three years, without having made any effort or ever intending to enter the shorthand field again, he found himself doing an extensive shorthand business. In 1884 a general stenographic law was passed by the Connecticut legislature, the measure being brought about mainly by Mr. Fowler's patrons and such friends as they could interest in other parts of the state. Mr. Fowler was appointed to an official position, the signatures of nearly every attorney in the county appearing on the application. He employed the best of assistance, and did an immense amount of work in that section of Connecticut, being the first to produce a daily transcript on the typewriter. Mr. Fowler was the author of two works on shorthand, and of a process of writing shorthand, which under some circumstances admits of very great speed. As an instance may be given the reporting of the Quarto-Millennial Anniversary of the Old Stratford Church, which consisted in part of fifteen five minute speeches, delivered in rapid succession, and in which some of the speakers covered twelve hundred and eighty-four words, as appears by the printed report, and concerning which the chairman of the committee of publication stated, "the stenographic report of that occasion is an unceasing marvel to me."

Mr. Fowler married, October 1, 1884, in Kansas, Jennie Bell, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, daughter of George Clinton and Sarah Jane (Williams) Farmer. ... Children of Frank Gridley and Jennie Bell (Farmer) Fowler: Frederick A. and Francis C., twins, born September 17, 1887. Both studied at the International Correspondence School, Scranton, Pennsylvania; both are draughtsmen in Bridgeport

Mrs. Fowler is also a stenographer and one of the few women who have succeeded in transcribing notes taken in court by another person. ¹⁵⁴

In his 1904 will, Frank left thirds of his estate to his wife and sons, but that was after the first provision that gave \$500 to his brother's widow, Eunice Tower Eddy Fowler. While his one of his sisters, Louise Mary Fowler Dearing, was still alive at the time, he did not bequeath anything to her, presumably because her financial status was better than that of Eunice.



First. I give and bequeath to Eunice Fowler, widow of my late brother, Edward K. Fowler, of St. Louis, Michigan, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, to her and her heirs forever.

Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records for Frank G. Fowler, October 1907



Stones for Frank Gridley and Ann Amelia Fowler, Church's Corners Cemetery, Wheatland Twp, Hillsdale Co, MI

Amelia and her husband were actually buried in Lansing, MI and Frank's burial place is unknown.
(photo by author, 2010)

- Ann Amelia Fowler (1841 Wheatland, MI - 1900 Jackson, Michigan). Married Henry Brigham Fuller (1840 Michigan – 1902 Lansing, Ingham, MI) in 1864 ¹⁵⁵ and was living in Jackson, MI when the 1900 census found the couple there in June of that year. She died the following month. There was a stone for her placed in the family plot at Church's Corners Cemetery, Wheatland Twp, Hillsdale Co, MI, but she and Henry were buried in Lansing, as were Henry's 2 siblings and parents. The 1900 census told us that the couple had no children.

¹⁵⁴ New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation, Volume 3. William Richard Cutter. Lewis historical publishing Company, 1913. Pages 1419-1420.

¹⁵⁵ "North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000" and "The Descendants of Rev. Thomas Hooker, Hartford, CT, 1586-1908"



Grave of Ann Amelia Fowler Fuller (Wheatland, Hillsdale, MI 1841 – Lansing, Ingham, MI 1900) grave in Mount Hope Cemetery, Lansing, MI (photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ¹⁵⁶)

- Lucilla Maria Fowler (1850 Wheatland, MI -1872 Wheatland, MI). In 1871, Lucilla married local farmer Harvey McGee, Jr. (abt 1854 Michigan – 1917 Hudson, Lenawee, MI) and died the following Spring, with no death records that we can find ¹⁵⁷. We have not located her burial place with certainty. Harvey was living with his mother in the census of 1880 and remarried in 1888 to a divorcee who either died or left him by 1900. He died in Lenawee County in 1917, and his death certificate says he was buried “Church, Mich”, which we believe implies Churches Corners Cemetery. I suspect strongly that Lucilla and Harvey were buried at Church’s Corners, where both set of parents and some siblings were also interred. But interment records no longer exist due to a fire, so we may never know for sure.

¹⁵⁶ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=10802162>

¹⁵⁷ The marriage was found in Michigan Marriage Records, and both the marriage, and her birth/death dates were found in “North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000” and “The Descendants of Rev. Thomas Hooker, Hartford, CT, 1586-1908”

Other than “Abigail’s father William, and the numerous Fowler brothers” of the erroneous Wooster genealogy we discussed many pages ago, Fowlers who bought patents in Hillsdale were Richard in Adams Twp (10 miles away), and Henry in Ransom Twp. Also a Charles Fowler came into the area and purchased lands already owned by others. Charles and 8 other Fowlers, by the way, were buried in the “Fowler Cemetery”, Wheatland, Hillsdale, just a few miles north of where Anson et al are interred. Were they related to our line? We don’t know of any connection. Charles’ story is a stark one

The following, from the pen of Charles C. Fowler, now deceased, is copied from the records of the Hillsdale County Pioneer Society :

“ I came to the Territory in the fall of 1836, in company with my uncle, Ransel Wood, with but \$10 in my pocket. When we arrived at Monroe, we had to pay a sixpence apiece for the privilege of lying on the floor of a deserted grocery-store. We remained there three days, waiting for a team to take us to Adrian. I did not stay long, but started for Tecumseh, and there took the Chicago turnpike, and came as far as Gambleville, in the township now Somerset. I then left the turnpike, determined to go to the southern part of the town, now Wheatland. I came as far as Francis Hill’s, who then lived on the farm now

owned by Charles Doolittle. There was no road, and our only guide was blazed trees. I was now at the end of my journey ; had spent my \$10 and owed \$1 more. I immediately set to work chopping and logging for Deacon John Bailey. I followed this business for several years, consequently I have helped to clear nearly every farm in this vicinity. I also helped to clear the track for the Michigan Southern Railroad. I helped to build the first saw-mill in this vicinity, and many of the first dwellings. My first farm was opposite Charles Doolittle’s, now owned by John Wilson. In 1843, I built a log house, and cleared four acres. I did most of my chopping evenings, and days I helped some one else. Kept this farm three years, then sold to a Mr. Dunmore. I then bought the farm on which the Wheatland town-house is now built; kept this six or seven years and sold to John L. Williams; then bought the farm I now own, 1 mile north and 80 rods east of the present town-house.”

Mr. Fowler died in May, 1874.

From the same source, here’s some information about how Wheatland grew ¹⁵⁸:

¹⁵⁸ History of Hillsdale County, Michigan, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Johnson, Crisfield, Everts & Abbott. Philadelphia, 1879.
<http://name.umd.umich.edu/BAD0928.0001.001>

WHEN, on the 17th of March, 1835, the township of Vance (Hillsdale County) was divided from north to south (by ranges) into four separate townships, range 1, or the eastern quarter of the county, was given the name of Wheatland. From the same territory have been formed three additional townships, leaving Wheatland embracing only township 6 south, of range 1 west, of the principal meridian. Somerset, formed from township 5 south, was created March 20, 1837; Pittsford, originally including all south of what is now Wheatland, March 23, 1836; and Wright, originally Cavaan, from the south part of Pittsford (townships 8 and 9 south), March 6, 1838.

This town is remarkable from being the source of four of the great rivers of Michigan, and one of lesser note that flows into Ohio; these are the St. Joseph, of Lake Michigan, Kalamazoo, Grand, and Raisin, and the St. Joseph, of the Maumee; the latter—also called “Bean Creek,” from the abundance of wild beans which in early times grew upon its banks—flowing in a southwesterly direction to Fort Wayne, Ind., where it unites with the St. Mary’s and forms the Maumee, thence flowing in a northeasterly course to Maumee Bay and Lake Erie.

In 1838, according to a “Gazetteer of Michigan” published that year by John T. Blois, Esq., now of Jonesville, the township of Wheatland contained a post-office, a population of 729, a saw-mill, 309 head of neat stock, 10 horses, 18 sheep, and 387 hogs. The State census of 1874 contains the following summary, which will prove interesting in comparison with the above figures:

Population (692 males, 766 females).....	1,398
Number of acres of taxable land.....	22,662
“ land owned by individuals and companies.....	22,680
“ improved land.....	14,798.50
“ land exempt from taxation.....	18
Value of same, including improvements.....	\$22,250
Number of acres in school-house sites.....	9.50
“ church and parsonage sites.....	4
“ burying-grounds.....	4.50
“ farms in township.....	208
Number of acres in farms.....	17,427
Average number of acres in farms.....	83.78
Number of acres of wheat sowed in 1874.....	2,499

The surface of the township is much diversified. In places it is comparatively level, and in others undulating or hilly. The soil is in general excellent, and the improvements throughout the town are good. In fact, as a farming township, Wheatland has been called the best in Hillsdale County. It is exclusively an agricultural township, as its water-power is not sufficient to enable the inhabitants to turn their attention to manufacturing. Neither has it the advantages of railway connections with the outside world, yet the natural advantages it does possess, coupled with the energy and enterprise of its citizens, have rendered it one of the most prosperous and wealthy in the State.

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Number of acres of wheat harvested in 1873.....	2,448
“ “ of corn “ “.....	2,104
“ bushels of wheat “ “.....	35,415
“ “ of corn “ “.....	126,600
“ “ of all other grains harvested in 1873.....	26,807
“ of potatoes raised in 1873.....	8,496
“ tons of hay cut “.....	2,682
“ pounds of wool sheared “.....	23,243
“ “ pork marketed “.....	389,593
“ “ cheese made “.....	1,320
“ “ butter “.....	88,037
“ “ fruit dried for market in 1873.....	37,069
“ barrels of cider made in 1873.....	849
“ pounds of maple-sugar made in 1874..	6,695
“ acres in orchards “.....	591
“ bushels of apples raised in 1872.....	26,142
“ “ “ 1873.....	22,838
“ cwt. of grapes “ 1872.....	9
“ “ “ 1873.....	9
Value of all such productions (fruit and vegetables), 1872.....	\$13,821
Value of all such productions (fruit and vegetables), 1873.....	\$13,574
Number of horses, one year old and over, owned in 1874.....	676
Number of mules, one year old and over, owned in	

Getting started wasn't easy. Here's more of the saga of Charles Fowler ¹⁵⁹:

¹⁵⁹ History of Hillsdale County, Michigan, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Johnson, Crisfield, Everts & Abbott. Philadelphia, 1879. <http://name.umd.umich.edu/BAD0928.0001.001>

Charles and Bradford Carmichael, when they came to begin their improvements (October, 1835), built a pole shanty on their father's lot, and covered it with dirt and leaves. In this they made their home until they had erected the log house into which their father moved afterwards. Charles Carmichael, after his father had been comfortably settled, proceeded to build a house for himself. He boarded with Eli Eastman while he prepared the logs and put the body of a first-class log house,—the best then in the township. In order to secure help sufficient to raise it, Mr. Carmichael says he walked over two townships in search of the necessary persons. After his house was in order, he went back to Lenawee County for his family, which had remained there, and returned and moved into it early in January, 1836. Upon starting from his former residence in Lenawee County, he procured provisions sufficient to last until the following March, placed his family in a sleigh, and started, with his oxen sharp shod. For the first few miles sleighing was poor, and only ten miles were traversed the first day. That night he stayed over-

When Charles and Bradford Carmichael built their pole shanty—October, 1835—they were somewhat fearful of sleeping in it, as the wolves howled around them in such chorus that Charles Carmichael says "it seemed as if there were a thousand of them." His brother was much frightened, but the elder told him to take the rifle and shoot among them and disperse them, while he lay snugly in his place, pretending not to be alarmed. These animals were of the large, gray variety, known as "timber wolves," and abounded in great numbers throughout the then Western wilds. Bears were also plenty enough, and were extremely unscrupulous about making off with stray pigs, sheep, or calves. An old sow belonging to Charles Carmichael unfortunately came in the way of a huge black bear one morning, soon after sunrise, and Bruin coolly captured her and carried her off. Mr. Carmichael was milking at the time, and when the porcine victim squealed forth her signal of distress he told his little son to go and see what was the matter, for he was afraid a bear had got after her. This frightened the boy so he dared not go, and the bear was therefore allowed to feast sumptuously on pork which could illly be spared.

From the same reference, land Entries for Wheatland Twp, included Anson Fowler in Section 34 ¹⁶⁰:

LAND ENTRIES.

At the close of the year 1833, but 1200 acres of land had been entered in what is now Wheatland, and this was divided among the following persons, viz.: Silas Moore, Richard M. Lewis, Mahlon Brown, Edwin Brown, Lydia Kaniff, Thomas Sewin, Stephen Russell. Up to the 27th of April, 1838, the following entries had been made:

Section 1.—Silas Moore, Anson Jackson, Hiram Hetfield, Jesse Ellsworth, David Steer, O. C. McLouth.

Section 2.—E. Gay, Jesse Ellsworth, J. H. Converse,

Section 32.—W. Culver, J. L. Edmonds, Jr., Stephen S. Gage, J. Robins, L. Crothers, S. Clement, J. L. Edmonds, Seba Murphy.

Section 33.—W. Culver, J. C. Burdick, S. L. Gage, H. S. McQuig, E. Gillett, Jr., A. Vreedenburgh, S. Comstock.

Section 34.—George Crane, Anson Fowler, John Barr, Jesse Vose, Aaron Clement.

Section 35.—B. S. Northrop, John Gustin, Stephen Wilcox, G. G. Tabor, Samuel Van Gorden, T. N. Bailey, B. Bump, B. Johnson.

Section 36.—B. S. Northrop, Thomas Dood, D. Rogers, J. L. Taylor, O. Crittenden, J. L. Johnson, J. W. Ashley, A. S. White, T. Teare.

¹⁶⁰ History of Hillsdale County, Michigan, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Johnson, Crisfield, Everts & Abbott. Philadelphia, 1879.
<http://name.umd.umich.edu/BAD0928.0001.001>

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Township of Wheatland in the County of Hillsdale of Michigan enumerated by me, on the 1st day of August, 1850.

Dwellings beside which numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
			Age.	Sex.	Color. (White, Black, or Indian.)			
99	101	Anson Fowler	41	M		Farmer ✓	1600	NY ✓
		Harriet S. Fowler	40	F				NY ✓
		Edward Fowler	18	M		Farmer ✓		NY ✓
		Louisa M. Fowler	16	F				NY ✓
		Francis Fowler	14	M				Mich
		Ann A. Fowler	9	F				Mich

1850 federal census page for Anson's family in Hillsdale. Note that Frank is named as Francis. This is the only place we ever saw him listed that way.

Churches were being organized around 1838, and Harriet was "identified with" (= member of?) the local "free-will" Baptist Church "in the north part of town". So was Charles Fowler, whom we met above.

FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

This society has its church in the north part of town, and is known as the "First Free-Will Baptist Church of Wheatland." It was organized at the house of Eli Eastman, Feb. 19, 1838. The original members were the following persons, viz.: Francis Hill and wife, George Nokes and wife, David Alverson and wife, Eli Eastman and wife, Isaac Lamb, Sr. and wife, and possibly their daughter, and John Thomas. The organization was effected by Elder ____ Whitcomb. George Nokes was chosen deacon and Francis Hill clerk. Elder Whitcomb lived at Cook's Prairie, in Calhoun County. After the organization an extended revival was held, and a considerable number of the residents of the township became members. Before this, Charles Carmichael says, "there was more rifle-shooting done on Sunday than any other day."

Among those who early became identified with this church were ... Charles Fowler,....Harriet Fowler... ¹⁶¹

In 1850-53, the 1st Baptist congregation built a frame church at Church's Corners, just a few miles from the farm where Anson's family lived. It is likely Harriet would have attended this church nearer home or even been part of the instigation for building it.

¹⁶¹ History of Hillsdale County, Michigan, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Johnson, Crisfield, Everts & Abbott. Philadelphia, 1879. <http://name.umd.umich.edu/BAD0928.0001.001>

Anson died in 1855; Harriet remained in Hillsdale through the 1870 census (with Lucilla 19), and 1880 (alone) after Lucilla married. In the county clerk's office, we found quite a few records of Harriet buying and selling acreage within a few miles of the original patent, alone or jointly with a relative. Clearly, Harriet was financially comfortable.

Anson's and Harriet's farm is currently (2010) in the hands of David and Cynthia Godfrey. Architecturally, the house there looks as though it could have been built in the era of Anson and Harriet, although it has been much modified. We have not researched when the farm left Fowler hands or whether it was handed down to family members.



Two views of the house on Anson's patent land, at the current 12691 East Bacon Rd., Hillsdale, MI (photo by author, 2010)

There are markers for Anson, Harriet, Frank Gridley, and Ann Amelia, next to a larger family stone, in Church's Corners Cemetery ¹⁶², just a few miles from the farm where they lived. We believe the parents were buried there, but there is some question about whether son Frank was actually interred there, and we know that Ann Amelia was buried in Lansing with her husband.

It seems very odd that there were stones erected for Amelia and Frank at Church's Corners Cemetery but not for the 3 other children, especially if Amelia and Frank were not actually interred there. If you were going to honor children with cenotaphs, wouldn't you honor ALL of them? Of course, that would depend on WHO erected the stones.

If, for instance, the fairly local daughter Louisa, who did not die until 1909, had her parents' stones erected about 1898, she might NOT have done stones for her siblings who had already died (Edward and Lucilla) and whom she knew were buried elsewhere, or for herself whom she knew would be buried elsewhere; and she might have erected two stones for her siblings who had not YET died, Amelia and Frank. If mother Harriet planned all this ahead of her own death, she might have done the same, leaving out her more local daughters. However, someone would have had to have Amelia and Frank's death dates engraved on the stones, and Harriet was dead by then. So probably Louisa, who lived until 1909, or subsequent generations, had at least the death years engraved. Since interment records no longer exist for this cemetery, we may never know when the stones were erected and why.

¹⁶² Variant (Nonofficial) Names for Church's Corners Cemetery: Baptist Cemetery.



Anson's and Harriet's
gravestones, Church's
Corners Cemetery,
Hillsdale, MI.

Stones for Frank Gridley
and Ann Amelia Fowler
are to left, and ones for
Frank Gridley and
Ann Amelia Fowler,
which were pictured
above, lie to the right of
the large family marker
and out of the bounds of
this photo. (photo by
author, 2010)

Chapter 3: Edward Kirtland Fowler and Eunice Tower Eddy Fowler

Edward Kirtland Fowler (1832 Churchville, NY – 1898 Coe Twp, Isabella, MI) was the oldest of Anson and Harriet's family of five. We have no idea where Anson and Harriet got the inspiration to name their first son Edward – we know of no close relatives with that first name. Kirtland, however, was Harriet's mother's maiden name.

As a boy, Edward moved west with the family to southern Michigan, as his father before him had moved west with Abel and Mary to parts of N.Y., and he appeared in the Wheatland, Hillsdale MI census records of 1840 and 1850 with the family. In 1856, Edward purchased land in Coe Twp., Isabella County, Michigan. His patent is dated 1857 but we know he was assessed for taxes in 1856.

Here is a piece of biography written by Edwards' grandson O.S. Fowler. We cannot vouch for its accuracy. *Known errors are in italics*:

Anson and Melissa Fowler, my great grandfather and grandmother, moved to Hillsdale County Michigan and *settled at Cooks Corners*. They brought their family of *three* children with them. They were: Edward K, my grandfather, born 1832 and *died 1897*; Frank; and Louise, who later married *Anson* Deering of the farm implement family of Detroit.

Edward K attended Hillsdale College ¹⁶³ and was a school teacher. About 1868 he married Eunice Tower Eddy, also a school teacher.

One fall there had been a heavy frost in the Hillsdale area which had turned everything brown. He came to Coe Township to hunt and saw everything was still green. "What a beautiful place" he thought and immediately decided to come here to live.

So in 1854 he homesteaded one hundreds sixty acres of land in Section 36, Coe Township, which was fifty cents an acre. However, it took four years to make it your own as it was necessary to build a house and clear some of it.

Edward K was a friend of Chief No-geh-sek, who was a frequent visitor to the area. Chief No-geh-sek's wife is buried in the Indian Lutheran Cemetery outside of St Louis.

Edward K had asthma and his remedy for it was the seeds of the plant "stromonium". These he would dry and burn in a small container. By inhaling the smoke, relief was given to the filled lungs.

By his grandson O. S. Fowler ¹⁶⁴

In nearby Pine River (Gratiot Co), to the south of Coe (Isabella Co), settlers had begun to arrive in the 1840's and 50's. The first land entries in Isabela were in 1854:

The first permanent settler in the (Gratiot) county had arrived in the mid-1840's and had settled in the southern tier of townships. By 1853, encouraged by the availability of cheap government land, many other settlers arrived in the county, including the man who would start the settlement of Pine River that would later become St. Louis....In an ox-drawn wagon, Clapp and the Grooms began the long trek from Ohio to the Michigan wilderness. At Maple Rapids, Clapp hired a number of men to cut a wagon road from Maple Rapids to his new property on the Pine River. They followed the Pine River Trail....It took a number of days to hack a wagon road thirty miles to the Pine River. ¹⁶⁵

¹⁶³ <https://www.hillsdale.edu/about/history/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillsdale_College#Founding

¹⁶⁴ Isabella County, Mabel E. Kyser, chairman, History Book Committee. Shepherd Area Historical Society. 1982.

¹⁶⁵ David McMacken, St. Louis at 150, Concept Communications, 2003.

Isabella County...

... was first set off as a separate county in 1831; the first township was Coe Township in 1855... Isabella County was once one of the most magnificent pine and hardwood areas in all of the Great Lakes region. ¹⁶⁶

The county of Isabella was named after the celebrated patroness of Columbus, and was separated from contiguous territory by legislative act, dated March 2, 1831, but was not separately organized until twenty-eight years later, March 11, 1859. In the year 1854, entries at the Land Office were made under what was known as the "graduation act," by eight or ten settlers, at the price of 50 cents per acre. These persons very soon began to clear and improve the land so purchased, and one at least (P. H. Estee), still resides on the original plat. The first high-way into the county was from the south, by way of Gratiot County, which boasted of the villages of St. Louis and Alma, each of which at that time consisted of two houses and families. This road was opened in November, 1854, and made just barely passable that winter, so that three families, viz., Joseph and Thomas Roberts and Patrick Fanning, moved in and have the honor of being the first permanent settlers. Later in the same fall the road was pushed on west and in February, 1855, John M. Hursh settled on a farm just south of where the city of Mt. Pleasant now stands, and thus formed an opening in the forest near the central portion of the county. Almost simultaneously, John M. Frazer and one or two others had crossed the Tittabawassee river and cut a road along the Pine River to the old Indian Mission, a little northwest of the present city, and met the newcomers from the south. It would be profitless and tiresome to recount the hardships and trials of these pioneers, for they were not different from the hardships and trials which attended the settlements of other counties. Most were poor and found that after payment on the land was made, and the expense of the transit was met, little was left in the wallet, and opportunities for replenishing it were not numerous. ¹⁶⁷

Did Edward begin improvements of his Coe Twp. land right away? It would seem reasonable, given the way settling of the region had been dictated:

Afraid the settlers in the county were buying land on speculation and then leaving the county, the government demanded that the settlers "improve" their land. If they didn't live on the land, or at least cut the trees, they would lose the land and the money they had paid for it. This resulted in a panic in 1855. Ill-equipped settlers rushed into the county to secure their property and disaster soon followed.... The settlers were poor to begin with, and they faced the winter without food for man or beast...the next summer, rare frosts destroyed their crops.....Forest fires in October brought thick choking smoke...Soon people in Gratiot county were on the verge of starvation. ¹⁶⁸

However, Edward later had to redeem his lands for unpaid taxes in 1858 and 1859. Also he was tallied in the federal census of 1860 as living in Cambridge, Lenawee Co, MI (about 30 miles from his home in Hillsdale) with the James Eddy family and working as a music teacher.

Eunice Tower Eddy (1841 Oakland County, MI – 1928 St. Louis, MI), James' daughter and Edward's future wife, was teaching in Essex, Clinton Co, MI in that same year, 1860 ¹⁶⁹, but she was reported in the Lenawee census as well. Such duplicate census records happened when the list was actually collected at different times in different places. Eunice was perhaps home when the Lenawee Co. census was collected on one date, and with the family she

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.isabellacounty.org/history.html>

¹⁶⁷ Sketch of the Settlement and Growth of Isabella County, J.E. Day, 1896
<http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/isabella/Isacohx.htm>

¹⁶⁸ David McMacken, St. Louis at 150, Concept Communications, 2003.

¹⁶⁹ Boarding with the Daniet Pratt family there

boarded with when the Clinton Co. census was taken on another date. Or perhaps her family said something like, "Eunice lives here too" when the collector came to the door.

Did Edward Fowler live with the James Eddy family randomly? Or was the family known to the Fowlers as former friends (in R.I. and in Herkimer Co) and cousins? Because we believe that Caleb Eddy and Mary Eddy Fowler were siblings or first cousins (once removed), Eunice and Edward were, therefore, second or third cousins and the families had very likely continued to correspond after leaving Herkimer County. In 1860, the couple was very likely already engaged to be married.

Edward and Eunice married in June 1861 in Hillsdale. It seems that the couple were spared the first and harshest years in central Michigan, what McMacken's history of St. Louis called "Starving Gratiot"¹⁷⁰. By 1861, when the couple presumably moved there, the roads through central MI may have been better than when the first families arrived in Gratiot. Nonetheless, starting out as a pioneer was probably not any easier for Edward than it had been for Abel in Herkimer and Genesee, or Anson in Hillsdale.

However, it may have been 1863 before the couple moved north as their first child was reportedly born in Hillsdale in the fall of 1862.

¹⁷⁰ David McMacken, St. Louis at 150, Concept Communications, 2003.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CERTIFICATE }
No. 12,429

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas Edward Fowler, of Hillsdale County, Michigan,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Sonoma, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

Edward Fowler, according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South West quarter, of Section thirty six, in Township thirteen, North, of Range three, West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Sonoma, Michigan, containing one hundred and sixty acres.

according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said Edward Fowler,

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said

Edward Fowler, and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

Edward Fowler, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, James Buchanan, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the tenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the eighth first



BY THE PRESIDENT:

James Buchanan
By G. H. Jones

Act. Secretary.

J. W. Grunger Recorder of the General Land Office.



Historical map of Coe Township, left, showing sections, yellow block is Edward's quarter section. Current (2010) satellite map showing Coe Township, right, with quarter section slightly highlighted.

Eunice's father's family, The Eddys and Whitehornes



Eunice Tower Eddy Fowler, 1841-1928



Eunice (center) with daughter Mary L. Fowler Olger and granddaughter Harriet Olger Walker, in 1912

Eunice was the daughter of James Eddy (1802 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) and Mary S. Tower Eddy (1804 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI), and the granddaughter of Caleb Eddy (1781 Berkshire MA – 1868 Cambria NY) and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy (1781 South Kingstown, R.I – 1839 Farmington, Ontario, NY).

We discussed a great deal of Eunice's Eddy patri-lineage when we discussed Mary Eddy Fowler in Chapter 1 because Eunice's paternal grandfather, Caleb Eddy and Mary Eddy Fowler were siblings or first cousins. We also touched on Eunice's paternal great-grandparents, James Eddy (1758 Scituate, Providence, RI – 1835 Wallingford, Rutland, VT) and Lydia Ross (1760 Scituate, Providence, RI – 1843 Wallingford, Rutland, VT) as potential parents for Mary, but let's look into James and Lydia in greater detail here:

James ¹⁷¹ was the son of Samuel and Rachel Smith Eddy. Born in Scituate, R.I., when his parents Samuel and Rachel moved to Berkshire County in western Mass (as early as 1768 or '69) he went along. He was issued a pension for service in the Massachusetts Militia during the Revolution, enlisting in 1777 and serving for short periods through 1781, whenever Vermont sounded an "alarm". He purchased property in Adams, Berkshire, MA after the war and censused there in 1790 with as many as 4 children. The family moved to Wallingford, VT between 1793 and 1796 (if we believe the OPD dates of children's' births), where they censused in 1800 through 1830, and where they died and were buried (in West Hill Cemetery, Wallingford).

Lydia Ross, her sister Mercy Ross (wife of Israel Eddy) and sister Ruth Ross (wife of Amos Eddy) married three of the Eddy brothers! One married in RI, one in VT, and we

¹⁷¹ Ruth Story Devereaux Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America*, 1930. Pages 249-250.

believe Lydia and James were married in Berkshire Co, MA, probably coincident with James buying property there.

All three women were all the daughters of Joseph Ross (1733 Killingly, Windham, CT – after 1820 Danby, Rutland, VT) and Mary Flanders (1733 Killingly, Windham, CT – 1820 Danby, Rutland, VT). While Joseph and Mary were born in CT, they were in Glocester, Providence County, RI in 1777, where many of their 16 children were born. OPD records of the children's births suggest the couple moved to New Providence, MA (an early plantation near Adams, Berkshire, MA ¹⁷²) before 1780 and to Vermont between 1784 and 1788. The census listed them in Danby, Rutland VT in 1790 through 1800 at least and they probably died there although we have not located their gravesites.

Joseph Ross' grandfather was a Scottish immigrant, but the rest of Lydia's line (Barretts, Fosdicks, Covells, Palmers, Algers, Flanders, Jones, Hackett, Carter, Sandusky, Russell, and Osgood) came to America during the Great Migration from England. It is said (OPD) that James Covell (1620 London, England – 1690 Edgartown, MA) had his four Covell children with a native American Wampanoag woman "Mary" on the island of Martha's Vineyard in the 1660's.

James Eddy and Lydia Ross Eddy may have had 9 children or more, not all of whose names we know. Almost all of their "known" children (that is, formerly known to public family trees at Ancestry.com and elsewhere) were born in 1790 or later, but in census records, James claimed two sons (under 16 in 1790) and two daughters (for whom we



do not know names, one born between 1785 and 1790 and one between 1790 and 1800). Either daughter could have been Mary Eddy Fowler. We now also know that one of the previously unnamed sons was "our" Caleb Eddy, Eunice's grandfather, born in 1781 in Berkshire Co, MA.

We did not know who Caleb's parents were until we found until we found a family bible transcription from the family of one of Caleb and Eunice's daughters, Lucy, whose first husband was Wanton Smith – the Smiths had at least 7 children, one of whom was Wanton's namesake and moved to Lenawee Co, MI where he died in 1889:

James Eddy (1758 Scituate, RI – 1835 Wallingford, VT); buried in West Hill Cemetery, Wallingford, VT ¹⁷³

¹⁷² <http://www.ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Berkshire/index.shtml>

¹⁷³ photo courtesy of Janet Muff and Find-A-Grave <http://findagrave.com/cgi->

"Lenawee Bibles and Bible Records: Wanton Smith Bible Records: Found at the Lenawee County Historical Society Museum Archives..."

Note in a manuscript found in this bible states regarding Eddys: Caleb Eddy was b. the 6th of March, 1781 Eunice Whitehorn, wf Caleb Eddy and mother of Lucy (who married Wanton Smith) b. the first of April, 1781, d. the 16th of Feb., 1837ae 57y 10m 14d

James Eddy, father of Caleb Eddy d. the 28th of Aug. ae 77y 3m

Lydia Ross Eddy, mother of Caleb Eddy , d. the 30th of Aug. 1843 ae 82yrs

FACTS regarding Eddys from "EDDY FAMILY IN AMERICA" Eddy, p. 249:

James Eddy was b. May 26, 1758 in R.I., d. Aug. 27, 1835; he was a REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER from R.I., enlisting 1st in 1777.

Lydia Ross Eddy, dau Joseph and Mary Ross, was b. Situate, R.I., and Joseph Ross was also a REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER."¹⁷⁴

We will return to Caleb and Eunice Eddy after discussing the Whitehorne family.

The Whitehornes:

Eunice Whitehorne Eddy's (1781 South Kingstown, RI – 1839 Farmington, Ontario, NY) great-grandparents George Whitehorne (1661 Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – 1722 Boston, MA) and Katherine Hoe Whitehorne (1669 London, England – 1722 Boston, MA) arrived in the American Colonies at the relatively late date of 1714 – to stay that is. George had been back and forth from London to Boston or New York several times from 1694 to 1714 as a ship-owner and freighter. He was also a "wharfinger" and distiller and at his death, after his debts had been paid, his estate was valued at £1395. Whitehorne's Wharf at the harbor end of Pearl St., Boston, near Fort Hill, was the most prominent wharf between Windmill Point and South Battery in 1714. In 1773, the same wharf was known as Griffin's Wharf and was the site of the Boston Tea Party.¹⁷⁵

The next generation in Eunice's line was George and Katherine Whitehorne's son John (1699 Boston MA – 1766 Newport, RI), the man who moved from Boston to Rhode Island after marrying his second wife, Newport native Abigail Langworthy (1707 Newport RI - ??) in 1732, and becoming a "freeman" of Newport. John Whitehorne was a distiller in Newport, and in 1755 bought a 200 acre farm in South Kingstown, RI. He died in quite a bit of debt, as was common to many prosperous Rhode Island families at that time, and many of his properties were mortgaged to pay the debt. His son James Whitehorne (1739 Newport RI – 1820 North Kingstown, RI) and wife Eunice Albro (1741 North Kingstown, RI - ??) retained the "tenure and occupation" of the South Kingstown farm, however, and lived there at least through the 1800 census, and probably until their deaths. These were the parents of Eunice, Clark, John, and Stephen Whitehorne, among other children, all of whom lived in, or travelled through, Wallingford Vermont on their way west. And we suspect were well known to young Abel Fowler growing up in South Kingstown.

Eunice Whitehorne Eddy's female family lines of Langworthy, Remington, Parker, Cooke, Gardiner, Hicks, Eldred, Miller, Lawton, Salisbury, Mott, Lott, and Albro, all arrived in the Great

bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=eddy&GSfn=james&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1835&GSdyrel=in&GSst=49&GScntry=4&GSob=n&GRid=85156204&df=all&

¹⁷⁴ <http://lenaweebibles.blogspot.com/2009/07/wanton-smith-bible-records.html>

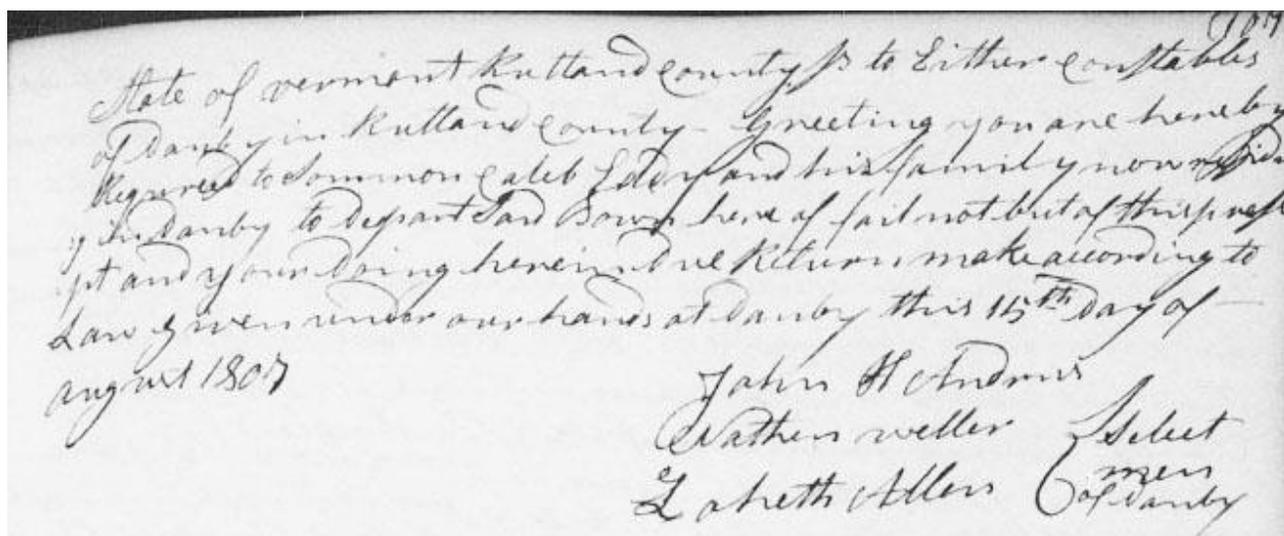
¹⁷⁵ Robert Joseph Curfman, "Captain George Whitehorne of Boston: and Some of His Descendants", The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Volume 146 (1992) pages 161-177, Volume 581, January (1992) pages 3-27.

Migration of English settlers to the American Colonies and lived mostly in Rhode Island. Abigail Langworthy's ancestor, Andrew (1610 Widecombe, Devon, England – 1691 Newport, RI), for instance, had arrived in Newport, RI perhaps as early as 1642 but definitely by 1652.

What brought Eunice to Wallingford? Did she actually travel there with one of her brothers? Did one of her brothers offer to arrange a marriage for her? We do not know, but we know she did marry there in 1800.

Back to Caleb and Eunice:

Caleb Eddy and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy were married in Wallingford, VT in 1800 and the couple, plus their first four children, probably left Wallingford in August 1807. On August 15, 1807, a "Warning Out" was issued in Danby, VT for Caleb Eddy and family -- also for an Elizabeth Eddy and her child ¹⁷⁶. This probably tells us that Caleb and family were making the move, through Danby VT, towards Herkimer Co, NY, where their next child was born in December 1807, if the reported birthplaces of their children are accurate (see below) and in fact, if this is the correct Caleb.



"Warning Out" ¹⁷⁷ was issued in Danby, VT for Caleb and family

¹⁷⁶ Who was Elizabeth Eddy who may have been traveling with Caleb and family? Possibly Elizabeth, daughter of Caleb Eddy (1751-1820) and Prudence Hopkins Eddy. Born 1778 in Scituate, Providence, RI, died after 1850, probably Wallingford VT. She was found in the 1850 census in Wallingford, living with her sister Mehitable Eddy Cole and niece and grandnephew.

¹⁷⁷ Alden M Rollins, Vermont Warnings Out. Volume 2: Southern Vermont. Picton Press, Camden, Maine. 1977 pg 67, and microfilmed at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLR-5SG7-4?cat=305831>

Towns warned newcomers out if they did not know the person or their financial status. That way, if the person became indigent, the town was not obligated to support them. Some towns warned out everyone who came and some warned out only people who looked a bit iffy. No idea what the policy was in Danby.

The warning out was not a dismissal and didn't force people to leave; it simply advised them (in writing) that the town would not be financially responsible for them. This meant that the town where they originated would bear that responsibility.

The census enumerated the family in Herkimer County in 1810, nearby Abel and Mary Fowler there. The family did not stay in Herkimer County for very long, however. They left Herkimer between 1810 and 1819, perhaps as early as 1816 based, again, on children's reported birth places, and moved west to Farmington, Ontario Co, NY, where, one Eddy researcher tells us, they were not land *owners* but tenant farmers, or perhaps hired hands. Eunice died in Farmington in 1839, and Caleb remained in Farmington, living with his son Alfred Eddy (in the federal census of 1840), with his son Spencer Eddy (in the NY state 1855 census) and then moved on to Cambria, Niagara Co, NY with the Alfred Eddys. He lived "next door" to Alfred in 1860, working as a "farm helper" with another family, and then with Alfred's family in 1865. He died in Cambria in 1868 but was buried in the Hathaway Cemetery in Farmington with Eunice.

Caleb and Eunice had at least 13 children ¹⁷⁸, most of whom remained in western NY in their adulthood. In this list, there are 6 who were born before the 1810 census was collected, and that census confirms it: 2 boys and 4 girls under the age of ten.

- James Eddy (1802 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI). Named for his paternal grandfather. Read on...
- Lucy Eddy (1803 VT – 1861 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY) In 1819 Lucy married Wanton Smith (1777 Berkshire MA – 1843 Farmington, NY). They had 7 children before he died in 1843. She later (1845) married David Cassort (1789 MA - 1861 in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY). She and Wanton Smith were buried in North Farmington Friends Cemetery, Farmington, Ontario, NY. David Cassort and his first wife Sarah Phelps Cassort were buried in Sand Hill Cemetery in Canandaigua, NY.
- Ziba Harrison/Hamilton Eddy (1804 VT – abt 1875 MI) He married Savalla ?? (1807 ?? – 1831 Farmington, Ontario, NY) with whom he had two children, and then Servior Barnard (1808 NY – aft 1880) with whom he had three children -- all in NY before moving to Ionia County, MI sometime between 1850 and 1860. He purchased 40 acres from his brother-in-law in 1854; he sold those acres in 1869, and we do not know much about him after he censused in Orange, Ionia, MI in 1870, in two places: the land he was selling as well as a rental farm. Servior censused with one of their children in 1880.
Savalla was buried in the Hathaway Cemetery in Farmington, NY. We have not located gravesites for Ziba or his second wife, but it's most likely they lie somewhere in Ionia County. Servior was the sister of Alfred Eddy's wife, Maria, both daughters of Levi Barnard (1780 Hartford Co, CT – 1861 Niagara Co, NY) and Mary Milkes Barnard (1783 Dutchess County, NY – 1863 Oneida Co, NY).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warning_out_of_town

¹⁷⁸ Eddy Fam. Assoc. 1980 supplement pages 346-347; 1968 supplement pages 309, 409-411

- Lorenza Eddy (1806 Wallingford, VT – 1854 Wallingford, VT) The information from a genealogy of the Whitehornes ¹⁷⁹ says that Lorenza Eddy married a man named Baker. There were a number of Bakers in Ontario County, but we have not been able to find any records of the couple or of Lorenza other than the article in which we found her husband's last name. Nor was there a girl of the correct age in the Eddy household during the census of 1820 to have been Lorenza.

There are a number of researchers who believe that Lorenza Eddy and Lorenza Whitehorne (daughter of Clarke Whitehorne of Wallingford, VT) were one and the same woman, Lorenza Eddy, and that she married Stephen Cook in Wallingford (sometime before 1826), had six children with him, and died there in 1854. We were swayed by the fact that the second marriage record for one of their daughters (Iola Cook Stafford married Senter Payton in 1886 in Kansas) cited her mother's maiden name as Eddy, and not Whitehorne.

Looking at census records for Caleb and Eunice Eddy, Lorenza Eddy may no longer have been in her parents' household in the 1820 census in Ontario County, but there was a girl of the correct age in James Eddy and Lydia Ross Eddy's household to have been Lorenza Eddy, their granddaughter, a child not explained by that couple's "known" children.

We once imagined that the Whitehorne brothers may have written back home to R.I. and lured Eunice Whitehorne to Wallingford with the idea of a marriage to Caleb Eddy. Perhaps the same sort of thing lured Lorenza to her birthplace of Wallingford to (eventually) marry Stephen Cook? Or her Eddy grandparents agreed to care for her to take pressure off the large Caleb Eddy family.

Did a separate woman named Lorenza Whitehorne exist? There is no girl of the right age in Clarke Whitehorne's 1820 census record to have been *either* of the two Lorenza's, but if Lorenza Eddy lived in the Whitehorne household for a number of years before marrying, then she might have come to be known locally as "Lorenza Whitehorne".

We are of the school which believes there was one woman named Lorenza, her maiden name was Eddy, and that she was the daughter of Caleb and Eunice and wife of Stephen Cook.



Lorenza Eddy Cook's grave at West Hill Cemetery, Wallingford, VT (photo courtesy of Janet Muff and Find-A-Grave ¹⁸⁰)

¹⁷⁹ Robert Joseph Curfman, "Captain George Whitehorne of Boston: and Some of His Descendants", The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Volume 146 (1992) pages 161-177, Volume 581, January (1992) pages 3-27.

¹⁸⁰ Photo by Janet Muff, <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=76369644>

- Fidelia Eddy (1807 Herkimer Co, NY – 1897 Fowlerville ¹⁸¹, MI) We found three possible birth years for this woman: 1807 in the FamilySearch database, 1810 on her tombstone and abt 1812 in the 1855 census. We suspect either the 1807 or 1810 date is correct based on the count of children in the 1810 census for Caleb's household. Additionally, she stated in the 1855 census that she had been born in Herkimer County, NY, while in later ones, she said Vermont. She married Reuben Aldrich (1790 ?? – 1839 Farmington, Ontario, NY) before 1833 and the couple had two sons before Reuben died in 1839. In the 1840 census for Farmington, we found Fidelia living alone with her two sons, and also nearby a number of 4 families headed by Aldrich men. So after Fidelia was widowed, she was surrounded not just by her own Eddy family, but also by what may have been her husband's family. Between 1850 and 1855, Fidelia remarried James Sweet, Jr. (1820 VT – 1899 Fowlerville, MI). The 1855 state census captured them with her two Aldrich sons and James' siblings and father in Farmington. She did not apparently have any children with James. By 1860, the family was in Handy Twp, Livingston Co, MI, where they remained until their deaths and where they were buried as well.



“Philidelia” Eddy Sweet’s grave at Greenwood Cemetery, Fowlerville, Livingston, MI (photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ¹⁸²)

- Lydia Eddy (1809 NY – 1855 Farmington, Ontario, NY) Named for her paternal grandmother. Like that of her sister Fidelia, Lydia's birth year data varies depending on the source. Many OPD family trees state it as August 1809, but the 1850 census tells us it might have been as late as 1821. We suspect the 1809 date is correct based on the count of children in the 1810 census for Caleb and Eunice. In 1840, she was married to Philander Cooper (1809 Ontario Co, NY – 1892 Ontario Co, NY) and the couple had three children who appeared in the 1850 census. Lydia died in 1855 in Farmington, but we have not located a grave site for her. Philander was buried in Boughton Hill Cemetery, Victor, Ontario, NY.
- Alfred Eddy (1811 – 1813) We do not know for certain if this child was born in Herkimer or Ontario County, NY, although one OPD says Ontario. There are no Eddy cemetery records for Ontario or Herkimer County before 1820, so we don't know much.

¹⁸¹ The first Fowlerville we noticed was Fowlerville, Michigan, on a trip through that area, and we began to wonder about our Fowler ancestors in the southern part of Michigan. However, Fowlerville, MI was named for Ralph Fowler. Although there are a lot of towns named Fowlerville, Fowlersville, and Fowler in NY and MI, so far, there's no connection to our line.

¹⁸² <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=sweet&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=in&GSst=24&GScty=1273&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GSsr=41&GRid=103616117&df=all&>

- Henry Eddy (1813 – 1813) We do not know for certain if this child was born in Herkimer or Ontario County, NY, although one OPD says Ontario. There are no Eddy cemetery records for Ontario or Herkimer County before 1820, so we don't know much.
- Unnamed daughter (1814 – “died young”) We do not know for certain if this child was born in Herkimer or Ontario County, NY, although one OPD says Ontario. There are no Eddy cemetery records for Ontario or Herkimer County before 1820, so we don't know much.

- Alfred Eddy (1816 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1884 Cambria, Niagara, NY) married Maria Barnard (1815 Ontario, Canada - 1885 Cambria, Niagara, NY) before 1840. The couple had three children between 1842 and 1848. In the 1840 census, a man of father Caleb's age was enumerated with the young couple, and Caleb appeared in several of their census records later. Between 1840 and 1850, the family moved into Cambria, Niagara County, NY where they remained, dying within a month of each other.



Graves of Alfred and Maria Barnard Eddy, at the Hillside Cemetery, Cambria Center, Niagara, NY (photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ¹⁸³)

Maria was the sister of Ziba Eddy's wife Servior, both daughters of Levi Barnard (1780 Hartford Co, CT – 1861 Niagara Co, NY) and Mary Milkes Barnard (1783 Dutchess County, NY – 1863 Oneida Co, NY).

- Eliza Eddy (1817 NY – 1893 Fowlerville, MI) Married Caleb T. Power/Powers (1812 Farmington, NY – 1887 Fowlerville, Livingston, MI) before 1840 when the young couple censused in adjacent Wayne County, NY. We do not think that Caleb was related to Eunice Eddy's husband Andrew Power. In 1850, they were farming in Brighton, Livingston Co, MI and in 1860, Handy, Livingston Co, MI, Caleb was Justice of the Peace (1860). They lived in Handy Twp. the rest of their lives. Like her sister Fidelia and husband James Sweet, they were buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Fowlerville, Livingston, MI. The couple had no children.
- Spencer Eddy (1819 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1903 Simpson, Olmstead, MN) Spencer married Cordera Felt (1821 Victor, Ontario, NY – 1848 East Victor, Ontario, NY) in 1845 in East Victor, NY, but lost her after three years of marriage and two children. She was buried in the Victor Village Cemetery, as was one of her children and one later child of Spencer's second wife. Spencer remarried to Susannah Fox (abt

¹⁸³ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=40553477&ref=acom>

1827 – between 1900-1910 presumably Olmstead Co, MN) and had two more children. Spencer, a blacksmith, lived in Farmington until after 1860; Lewiston, Niagara Co, NY in 1865 and 1870; and then in Cambria, Niagara, NY in 1875 and 1880. In 1900, he and Susannah censused with his daughter (by first marriage) Ann Loretta Eddy LeVan in Simpson, Olmstead, MN where Spencer died in 1903 and Susannah sometime after 1900, probably before 1910. We have not located gravesites for them in Minnesota, but there is one account which says they were buried in Rochester, MN.

- Eunice Eddy (1821 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1893 Farmington, Ontario, NY) Married Andrew T. Power in 1840 in Phelps, Ontario County, NY. We do not think that Andrew was related to Eliza Eddy's husband Caleb Power/Powers. Of Andrew (1819 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1907 Farmington, Ontario, NY), when he died, it was written:

On Nov. 4th occurred the death of Andrew T. Power at his home in Farmington. ... The deceased was 90 years old and was a pioneer, and formerly one of the largest land owners of this town, where he spent his entire life. He died in the house in which he was born. His survivors are two sons and one daughter. ¹⁸⁴

Andrew Power, indeed, was censused in Farmington from 1850 through 1900 – even after Eunice died. They were both buried in North Farmington Friends Cemetery, Farmington, Ontario, NY, as were several of their 7 children.

Caleb Eddy and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy were buried at Hathaway Cemetery, Farmington, Ontario, NY:

¹⁸⁴ Geneva Daily Times, November 8, 1907



Caleb Eddy and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy's graves at Hathaway Cemetery, Farmington, Ontario, NY (photos courtesy of Find-A-Grave ¹⁸⁵)

In our next Eddy generation, Caleb and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy's oldest son, James Eddy (1802 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI), and Eunice Tower Eddy Fowler's father, was born in Vermont (probably Wallingford) and moved to Herkimer Co. as a child and then to Farmington, Ontario Co. by 1820. Read more about him in a few pages along.

Eunice's mother's family, The Towers

James Eddy (1802 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) married Mary S. Tower (1804 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI), daughter of Joseph Tower (1778 Northampton MA – 1819 NY or VT) and Naomi Strong Tower (1782 Vermont – 1827 Chili, Monroe Co., NY). Mary's middle name was likely to have been Strong for her mother's maiden name, but we are not certain of that. The Towers and the Strongs were old Massachusetts families, Mary's 4th great-grandfather John Tower having arrived from Norfolk, England in 1637, and her third great-grandfather John Strong from Somerset, England before 1636. Mary had several other ancestral lines which had been in North America similar amounts of time: Bush, Gould, Wheeler, Barrett, Pond, Lawrence, Prescott, Morse, Sprague, Webb, Bass, and Forbush ¹⁸⁶.

¹⁸⁵ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=64780&GRid=11383661&> and <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=64780&GRid=11383655&>

¹⁸⁶ BTW, the Forbushes may have been Scottish, an exception to the rule of English ancestors!

Mary was also a 5th great-granddaughter of John Alden (1598 Harwich, England – 1687 South Duxbury, MA) and Priscilla Mullins (1602 Weybridge, England – 1685 South Duxbury, MA), Mayflower passengers, through the surname sequence Tower, Sprague, Webb, Bass, Alden.



Gravesite of John Alden (1598 Harwich, England – 1687 South Duxbury, MA); buried Myles Standish Burying Ground, Duxbury, MA ¹⁸⁷



Gravesite of Priscilla Mullins Alden (1602 Weybridge, England – 1685 South Duxbury, MA); buried Myles Standish Burying Ground, Duxbury, MA ¹⁸⁸

Mary Tower Eddy's parents, Joseph and Naomi Tower had their first two children in Northampton MA (in 1801 and 1803) and then 3 in Vermont (in 1804, 1807, and 1809). The last two may have been born in Livingston Co. NY (in 1810 and 1812), but those sons' later census and death records vary between NY and VT. The 1810 census found the family in Windsor, VT with another young man in the household, possibly a brother to one of them.

It is claimed that Joseph died in Wayne Co, NY in 1819 (OPD), but we also found a death record for him in Windsor VT which seems very credible.

It is also not known exactly how the family got along in the next few years after Joseph's death. Mary had only one brother that we know of, and he was in Ohio by 1810. With Tower siblings? Probably. There were 13 Tower siblings, but only Joseph and his brother Cornelius appear to have left Massachusetts. Cornelius had moved into Oneida Co, NY before 1798 and lived there or Genesee County until at least 1830. (Further on, we will discuss him in Oakland Co., MI). We suspect that is why Naomi ended up moving into the greater Rochester

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=15>

¹⁸⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=749>

NY area, although there are not enough people in Cornelius' 1820 census record to suggest that Mary and children moved into his household. We have not found records to show where the family lived before Naomi's death in Chili, Monroe Co., NY in 1827. We also do not know where Naomi or Joseph were buried.

Joseph and Naomi's children were:

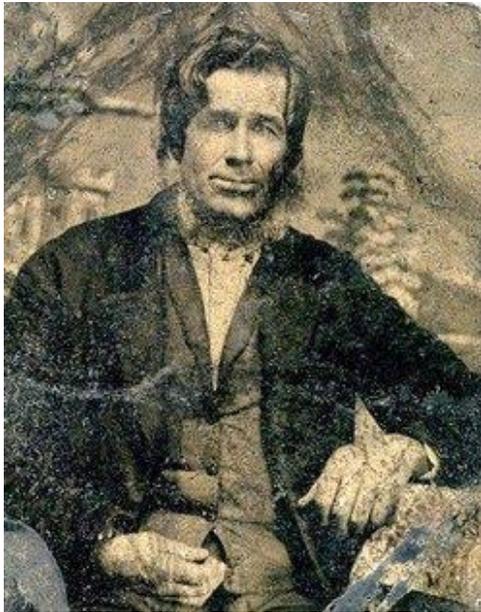
- Joseph and Naomi's eldest daughter, Eliza Tower (1801 Northampton MA – 1878 Randolph MA) was married to Jacob Niles (1801 Randolph MA – 1872 Randolph MA) in Massachusetts the year after Naomi died – she seemingly went back to (or stayed in?) the town where she had been baptized (her baptism certificate from that same town contains the names of her parents, so we believe it is the same Eliza) and lived there the rest of her life. It is interesting to note that, in the census of 1870, there were two Tower families on the same page as Eliza and Jacob. These were very distant cousins. The couple had at least 3 children and were buried in the Oakland Cemetery, Randolph MA.



Jacob and Eliza Tower Niles' grave in Oakland Cemetery, Randolph MA (photo from Find-A-Grave ¹⁸⁹)

- The eldest son, Samuel Stebbins Tower (1803 Northampton MA – 1863 Hadley, Lapeer, MI) bought a patent for 80 acres in Addison Township, Oakland Co, Michigan Territory in 1827, the year his mother died. The census of 1830 showed him there with his first wife Elizabeth Cornelia Coleman (1808 – 1831 MI) and probably with his youngest brother, as there is a likely male in his household. He and second wife Emily Chapman (1814 Somerset, PA – 1872 Byron, Shiawassee, MI) and family censused in Oakland or Lapeer Co, MI throughout their lives. The couple had at least 11 children. Samuel was buried in the Byron Cemetery, Byron, Shiawassee Co, MI.

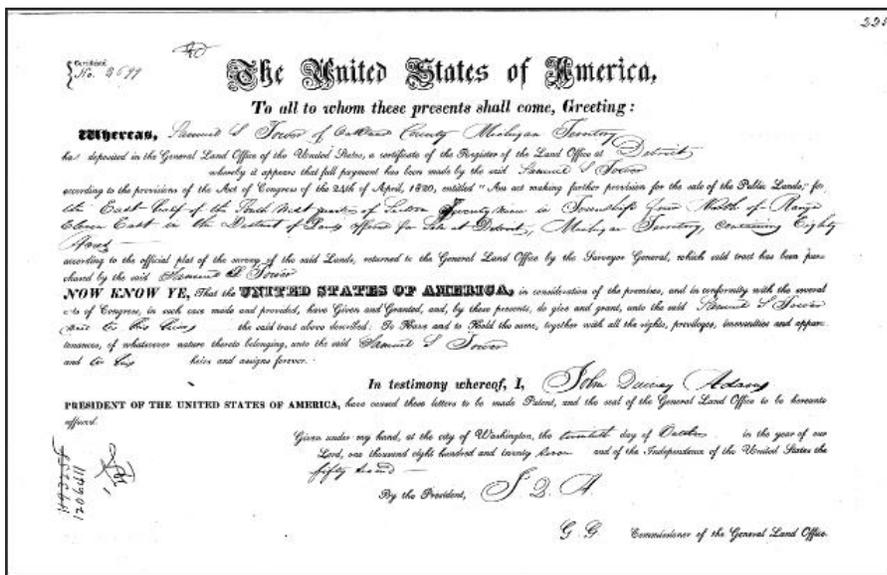
¹⁸⁹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSI=niles&GSiman=1&GScid=91369&GRid=52122820&>



Drawing of Samuel Stebbins Tower (from Ancestry.com and Find-A-Grave ¹⁹⁰)



Samuel Stebbins Tower grave at the Byron Cemetery, Byron, Shiawassee Co, MI. (photo from Find-A-Grave ¹⁹¹)



“Samuel S. Tower of Oakland County Michigan Territory” patent for 80 acres, “the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 29 in Township Four North of Range 11 East”, October 20, 1827.

(Bureau of Land Management ¹⁹²)

¹⁹⁰ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=tower&GSiman=1&GScid=197182&GRid=83312564&>

¹⁹¹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=tower&GSiman=1&GScid=197182&GRid=83312564&>

¹⁹² <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>



In this 1896 map of Addison Township ¹⁹³, note that what had been Samuel's patent in the southwest quarter of Section 29 was later owned by John Young and J.M. White.

- Mary S. Tower (1804 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) married in or before 1830, most likely in Farmington NY, where she censused with her husband, James Eddy in 1830. More on her in a few pages.
- David J. Tower (1807 Windsor, Hartland, VT – 1890 Shiawassee, Shiawassee, MI) may have gone to Ohio (where his oldest 2 children were reported to have been born in 1834 and 1835) and then to Michigan by 1837 (next child's birthplace) and censused in Shiawassee Co, Michigan in 1850 until his death there. His wife was May A. Sichner (1805 NY – 1860 Shiawassee, Shiawassee, MI). The couple had at least 6 children. Their grave sites are not known.

¹⁹³

- Nancy Tower (1809 Windsor, VT – 1854 Monroe Co, NY) married Jesse Secor (1811 NY – 1886, Phelps, Ontario Co, NY) presumably before 1832 when the first of their 4 children were born. They seemingly lived in Monroe and Ontario Counties during their married life together. Nancy was buried in Egypt Cemetery, Egypt, Monroe County, NY alongside two of their children who died in 1851. Jesse went on to marry twice more; his burial site is unknown.



Nancy Tower Secor's grave in Egypt Cemetery, Egypt, Monroe, NY (photo from Find-A-Grave ¹⁹⁴)

- Solomon Tower (1810 Nunda Livingston, NY [OPD – some records say VT] – 1882 Otsco, Kent, MI) censused in Michigan starting in 1850, but his children's births were reported to have begun in 1836 in Michigan after his Oakland Co, MI marriage in 1835 to Mary Baldwin (1817 Monroe Co, NY – 1880 Grattan, Kent, MI). They censused in Kent or Ionia Counties, MI through their lives together. They had at least 12 children and he was buried in the Grattan Cemetery, Grattan, Kent, MI



Solomon Tower's grave in Grattan Cemetery, Grattan, Kent, MI (photo from Find-A-Grave ¹⁹⁵)

- Joseph Tower (1812 Nunda, Livingston, NY [OPD – some records say VT] – 1874 Grattan, Kent, MI) We believe that Joseph was in the household of his oldest brother in the Michigan territory in 1830. Children born to him and wife Philene Baldwin (1815 Monroe Co, NY – 1880 Grattan, Kent, MI) there began coming in 1834. In 1837, they purchased two pieces of property totaling 160 acres, nearby his brother Samuel, on sections 33 and 34 of Addison Township, Oakland Co. Using the same map (above), we can see that the property was no longer in the hands of the Towers in 1897. They

¹⁹⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/51615575/nancy-secor>

¹⁹⁵ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=tower&GSiman=1&GScid=2274486&GRid=29474054&>

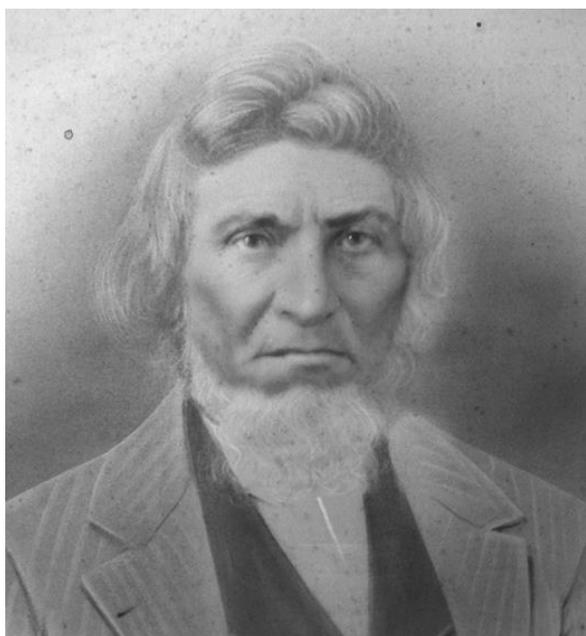
censused in Oakland, Ionia, or Kent Counties, MI through their lives and had at least 12 children. We have not located their grave sites.

So when Joseph and Naomi Tower died in 1819 and 1827, very possibly, some of the Tower children moved to live with Uncle Cornelius, and one of the youngest sons moved to Michigan with his eldest brother abt 1827. Cornelius himself moved to Oakland Co, MI between 1830 and 1840 along with his wife's mother and siblings, the Potters. (Other Potters, of unknown relationship to this family, were in Oakland Co. by 1826.) Uncle Cornelius died in Goodison, Oakland, MI, seen in the map above as being very close to the sections where his nephews settled in Oakland Co. Many of Cornelius' children also spent the ends of their lives in Oakland County.

So does that mean that Samuel was the first of the Towers to move into Oakland County? No, it seems that a John Tower was first: his patent for two townships over (Troy Twp) from Samuel's land was dated April 1824. Who was John Tower? I wish we could say he was a son of Joseph and Naomi or a son of Cornelius, but at present we just don't know how he was related, if at all.

It appears that at least some of the Tower boys moved into Michigan when Samuel did in about 1827. All of them got there by the late 1830's and later most sold out and moved into other Michigan counties (Shiawassee, Lapeer, and Kent). As both Solomon and Joseph (and possibly David) married women from Monroe County NY, we can see that many families from the Lake Ontario shore area of central New York State made this move. We know that Anson Fowler did as well.

Eunice's parents, James Eddy and Mary Tower Eddy



Charcoal portrait of James Eddy
(1802 - 1887)



Charcoal portrait of Mary S. Tower Eddy
(1804 – 1887)

As we saw above, Caleb and Eunice Whitehorne Eddy's oldest son, James Eddy (1802 Vermont – 1887 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI), Eunice Tower Eddy Fowler's father, was born in Vermont (probably Wallingford) and moved to Herkimer Co., NY as a child and then to Farmington, Ontario Co., NY by 1820. When her Tower brothers moved away about 1827, James' future wife, Mary S. Tower remained behind in Monroe or Ontario Co, living with another family member (Uncle Cornelius?) or perhaps marrying James Eddy a few years earlier than we thought. Their first child who lived to adulthood was born in 1831 in Farmington, but if there were other young children who died, Mary and James might have married well before 1830. She was certainly represented in the 1830 census records along with James in Farmington, Ontario, NY but no children were listed in the 1830 census.

The couple moved around a bit, as tenant farmers or hired hands do – their second and third children were born in Chili, Monroe Co, NY in 1833 and 1835. In the 1840 federal census, we found James and family in Oakland County, MI, which is consistent with Eunice (born 1841) claiming all her life that she was born in Michigan and her death certificate stating Oakland County. You may remember that several of Mary Tower Eddy's brothers were living in Oakland Co, MI at that time. In 1840, the James Eddy family were listed on the census line above Mary's brother Joseph Tower and five lines above Solomon Tower. However, 1850 found the family back in Farmington, Ontario Co., where James censused as a cooper (wooden barrel maker) in 1850 and 1855. Then they moved to Lenawee Co., Michigan before the 1860 federal census, where James was listed as a farmer there. Before they left, they sold a one-acre lot of land in the town of Farmington to James' sister Lucy Cassort ¹⁹⁶, but this was

¹⁹⁶ <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9WH-F892?i=467&wc=M7HT-RMW%3A358134101%2C358648201%3Fcc%3D2078654&cc=2078654>

lands. And that may be, but the census records tell us that James owned some land in 1870 and again in 1880; we just have not found any record of the purchase or sale.

1	OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				FARM VALUES.			FENCES.		LABOR.				GRASS LANDS.								
	THE NAME.	Sex.	Age.	Years for which owned (rent).	IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.		Of farm, including land, fences, and buildings.	Of farming implements and machinery.	Of Live Stock.	Cost of building and repairing in 1879.	Cost of fertilizers purchased in 1879.	Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879, including value of board.	Weekly hired labor upon farm (and dairy) excluding household work.	Estimated value of all farm productions sold, consumed, or on hand for 1879.	ACRES 1879.			PRODUCTS RABBIT OWNED IN 1879.			Horses and mules, all ages, on hand June 1, 1880.	No.	No.	
					No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.									No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.				No.
1	Eddy James	M.	35	1	5			200		50						25										
2	Calman Ryan	M.	22	1	2	58	3	1600	12	125																2
3	Steph Bonanvis	M.	12	1	2	6	1	500		40						100										
4	Apsh Clayton	M.	30	1	23	45	15	5000	150	400	100			120	22	1139			25	10					3	
5	Lyula Wagon	M.	25	1		30	5	1200	75	58	165					40										
6	Thompson Victoria	M.	8	1		40	2	1000		1						119			1							
7	Jay Edward	M.	15	1	8	33	12	1900	150	150						1										2
8	Woods H. S.	M.	30	1				3000								75										
9	Davis James P.	M.	10	1	5	20	4	1200	100	250						242			8							4
10	Davis Clayton A.	M.	8	1		22		600																		

US, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1880 - James Eddy

157 188	Howard Edwards	W. D. 47	Father	1.	Fanner	✓
	Emmie D.	W. D. 28	Mathie	1.	Housekeeper	
	Mary	W. D. 17	Daughter	1.	Laundry	
	Lucy J.	W. D. 12	Son	1.	Housekeeper	
	Elizabeth E.	W. D. 9	Daughter	1.		
	Lula E.	W. D. 1	Daughter	1.		
158 189	Eddy James	W. D. 79	Father	1.	Cropper	✓
	Mary	W. D. 75	Mathie	1.	Housekeeper	

1880 Federal Census, Coe Township, Isabella Co, Michigan with Edward Fowler and family on the lines directly above James and Mary Eddy.

Mary and James had four children that we know of:

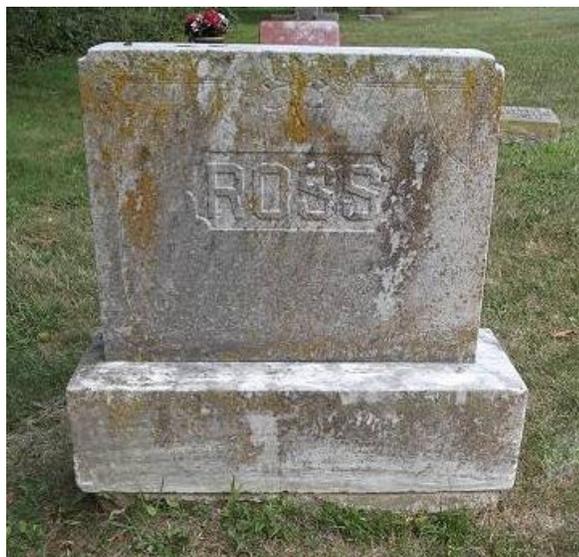
- Eliza Tower Eddy (1831 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1918 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) was named for her mother's sister Eliza Tower. She married Webster T. Ross (1827 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1917 Coe, Isabella, MI) in 1850 in Ontario Co., NY. In 1856, the family moved to Wheatland, Hillsdale, MI. Webster's parents had moved to Lenawee Co, MI before 1840, and Eliza's parents also relocated there between 1855 and 1860.

They purchased an original patent for 40 acres of land in section 23 of Coe Twp, Isabella County, MI, very near the Davises and the Fowlers, where they moved in 1863, and where they lived until at least 1917. Plats of 1879, 1899, and 1910 show them or their son still owning parts of the original 40 acres. Webster died in 1917 and Eliza in 1918. They were buried in the Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd MI.

The Isabella Co. atlas of 1879 shows Webster's 40 acres as belonging to their son George E. Ross at that time. 40 acres of the Davis' land had been sold to son Charles Ross and 40 of the Edward Fowler farm to son William Ross. The four Ross children all stayed within Isabella or adjoining counties throughout their lives.



Webster and Eliza Eddy Ross with children, probably taken in 1917 on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. In the back row: William W, Mary E, Charles A, and George E Ross (photo from Ancestry family trees)

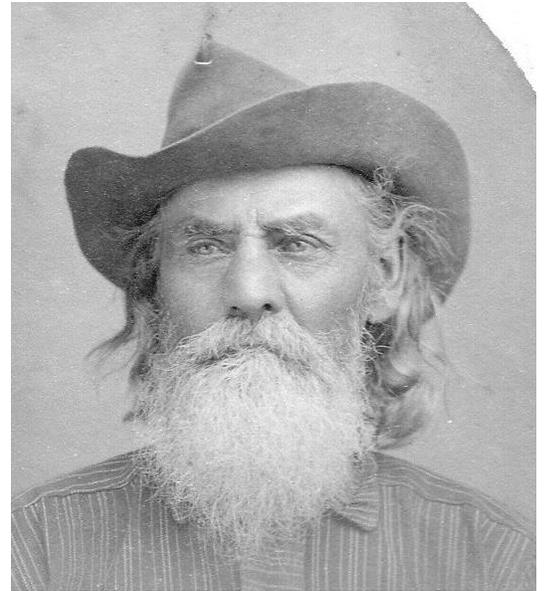


Eliza and Webster's gravestones, left, and the family plot stone, above, at Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd, Isabella, MI. ¹⁹⁸



¹⁹⁸ Photo from Find-A-Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=131508578> and <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=131507816>

- Wallace Gerald Eddy (1833 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1920 Lee, Midland, MI) censused in Farmington with his parents in 1855 and seems to have moved to Michigan with them, censusing also in 1860 in Lenawee Co. We have located two military draft registrations for him in 1863: in both Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties, but no record that he served in that conflict. In 1871, he married his first cousin Sarah Louise Tower (1848 Michigan, Grattan, Kent Co. – 1938 Portland, Ionia, MI), daughter of Mary's brother, Solomon, with whom he had 8 children. He was reported in the 1880 census as a farm laborer in Grattan, Kent, MI, in 1900 farming on a rented farm in Homer, Midland, MI, and he died in 1920 in Grattan, Kent Co. Louisa followed him in 1927, and they were buried in the Midland City Cemetery, Midland MI with 2 of their children who had predeceased them. (see Anson James Fowler's journal entry about going to Rufus Eddy's funeral -- this was one of Wallace and Sarah's sons.) Most of their 8 children stayed in Michigan, although several of the boys spent some years in Florida and a couple of them died there; also one died in Indiana where he probably went to live with a daughter.



Wallace Gerald Eddy



Wallace Eddy grave, Midland City Cemetery. ¹⁹⁹

- Mary Jane Eddy (1835 Farmington, Ontario, NY – 1913 Coe, Isabella, MI) married Marvin Powers Davis (1833 New York – 1912 Coe, Isabella, MI), a neighbor in Farmington about 1858. The couple censused in Lenawee Co, MI in 1860 where the value of their real estate was \$1000. Before 1870, Marvin bought 160 acres (section 24 of Coe Township, Isabella Co), within two miles of Mary Jane's sisters Eliza and Eunice. Before 1879, they sold 40 acres of their original land to their nephew Charles Ross, who sold it before 1899 and moved to Montcalm Co; and on the 1899 plat, still retained 40 of the original 160 acres, with a son holding another 40. They remained in Coe Township until their deaths. In the 1910 plat, their son Clayton owned 80 of the original 160 acres. The couple had 3 children, who also remained local, and were buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI.

¹⁹⁹ Photo from Find-A-Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=121164906>



Graves of parents James and Mary Eddy to the left of the "Davis" stone. Marvin P. Davis' stone to the right of the large monument and presumably Mary Jane Eddy Davis' grave to the right of Marvin's grave, with her stone no longer present. Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI. (photo by author, 2016)

- Eunice Tower Eddy (1841 Oakland County, MI – 1928 St. Louis, MI). Read more about Eunice in this section.

Here is a biography that his great-grandson O.S. Fowler wrote about James Eddy, in a history of Isabella County early residents. Please keep in mind that *there are several errors in this (in italics)* and that O.S.' and James' lifespans did not overlap. We cannot vouch for the validity of the comments about James' drinking, but we know for sure, he was NOT Irish:

James Eddy was born in *Connecticut in 1801*. *About 1825 he moved to New York State*, where he met and married Mary Tower. They had four children: Mary Davis, Eunice Fowler, Wallace Eddy, and Eliza Ross. He was a cooper (barrel maker) by trade. He would cut down an oak tree and with a froh [fro], rive and various planes, draw shaves, make the staves, hoops and headings for barrels. It is reported that in his younger days he harvested wheat and grains with a sickle. It's also reported he never wore socks, only cowhide boots on his feet. *About 1850 they moved to Hillsdale County, Michigan*. Later they came to Coe Township, Isabella County. This was about 1863 and they built a cabin on the Fowler homestead. He continued his trade after his wife died up to a short time before his own death *in 1893*. He would make oak barrels and take them to St Louis and sell them for \$2.00 each. *He was Irish* and strong-willed and in his younger days, it didn't take too much to pick a fight with him. He also liked whiskey and reportedly one time when he took off his boot, and set it down it tipped over. He said, "what's the matter, are you drunk, too?"
By his great-grandson, O.S. Fowler ²⁰⁰

Mary died in 1887 of consumption, and James later the same year. An Isabella County genealogist found Mary's simple death notice for us:

Mary S. Eddy, of Coe, died June 16, aged 83 years. She was a resident of the township since 1864.

Both Eddys were buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI in the same plot as their daughter and husband, the Davises.

²⁰⁰ Isabella County, Mabel E. Kyser, chairman, History Book Committee. Shepherd Area Historical Society. 1982.



James Eddy's grave at
Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI.
(photo by author, 2015)



Mary S. Tower Eddy's grave at
Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI.
(photo by author, 2015)

REDEMPTION CERTIFICATE.

I hereby Certify, That the sum below stated is due for the redemption of the following described tracts of Land, sold for taxes assessed in the county of Midland for the year 1856.

Sub-division of Sections.	Sect'n.	Town.	Range.	Acres.	100ths	Amount sold for.
SW 1/4 of	36	N 3	W 160			11 02

Interest from 1st October, 1857, to 1st day of July, 1857, 9 months, at 20 per cent.

Office Charges, 15
66
 TOTAL, \$ 4 77

Given under my hand at Lansing, this 7th day of April, A. D. 1857.

WHITNEY JONES, Auditor General, State of Michigan.

State Treasurer's Office,
 Lansing, April 7, 1857.

RECEIVED of Edward Jones the sum of Four Dollars and Seventy Seven Cents, in full of the above.

[COUNTERSIGNED:] Chas. Jones Auditor General. Smith State Treasurer.

1858 redemption certificate for unpaid 1856 taxes

REDEMPTION CERTIFICATE.

I hereby Certify, That the sum below stated is due for the redemption of the following described tracts of land, sold for taxes assessed in the county of Midland for the year 1857.

Sub-division of Section.	Sect'n.	Town.	Range.	Acres.	100ths	Amount sold for.
SW 1/4 of	36	N 3	W 160			14 59

Interest from 1st October, 1857, to 1st day of April, 1858, 6 months, at 20 per cent.

Office Charges... 36
1 15
 TOTAL, \$ 16 40

Given under my hand at Lansing, this 16th day of March, A. D. 1858.

DANIEL L. CASE, Auditor General, State of Michigan.

State Treasurer's Office,
 Lansing, March 16, 1858.

RECEIVED of Edward Jones the sum of Seventeen Dollars and Forty Cents, in full of the above.

[COUNTERSIGNED:] Ezra Jones Auditor General. Smith State Treasurer.

1859 redemption certificate for unpaid 1859 taxes

In 1860, he began paying his taxes on time:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That there is due the State of Michigan, upon the following described Tracts of Land, the sum stated below, for Taxes assessed in the County of Isabella for the year 1859

Sub-division of Section.	Sec.	Town.	Range.	Acres.	100ths	State Tax	County Tax	Town Tax	Road Tax	School Tax	RECAPITULATION.
SW ¹ / ₄ of	56	13 N	3 N	160		184	122	622	579		School Tax,..... 5 79 Road Tax,..... 6 22 Town Tax,..... 1 22 County Tax,..... 1 84 State Tax,..... Total of Taxes, \$ 13 07 Office Charges,..... 25 Expenses of Sale,..... Interest on total tax from Feb'y 1st, 1860, to 9. day of June, 1860, 7 months, 8. days, at 15 per cent. 69 TOTAL \$ 14 01

Given under my hand at Lansing, this 9 day of June A. D. 1860.

DANIEL L. CASE, Auditor General, State of Michigan.

State Treasurer's Office,
Lansing, 9 June 1860

RECEIVED of C. K. Fowler the sum of 14 01
Dollars and 00 Cents, in full of the above.

[COUNTERSIGNED:] Edw. L. ... Auditor General.

Samuel ... State Treasurer.

Receipt for 1859 taxes, paid in June 1860

We can continuously follow Edward and/or Eunice in the census records of Coe Township, where Edward was a farmer. Also, we have many the receipts for his tax payments in the family archives. What is of interest to us is how the acreage which left the Fowler family hands did so -- and when.

In November 1871, Edward and Eunice mortgaged their 160 acres for \$300 for three years at 8% interest.

And they signed the mortgage document:

Edward K. Fowler
Eunice T. Fowler

Then in October 1874, Edward and Eunice sold 40 acres, the northern-most slice of their land, to Eunice's nephew William Ross, son of Webster and Eliza Eddy Ross, for \$600²⁰². The 1879 atlas of Isabella County confirms those 40 acres as belonging to W. M. Ross.

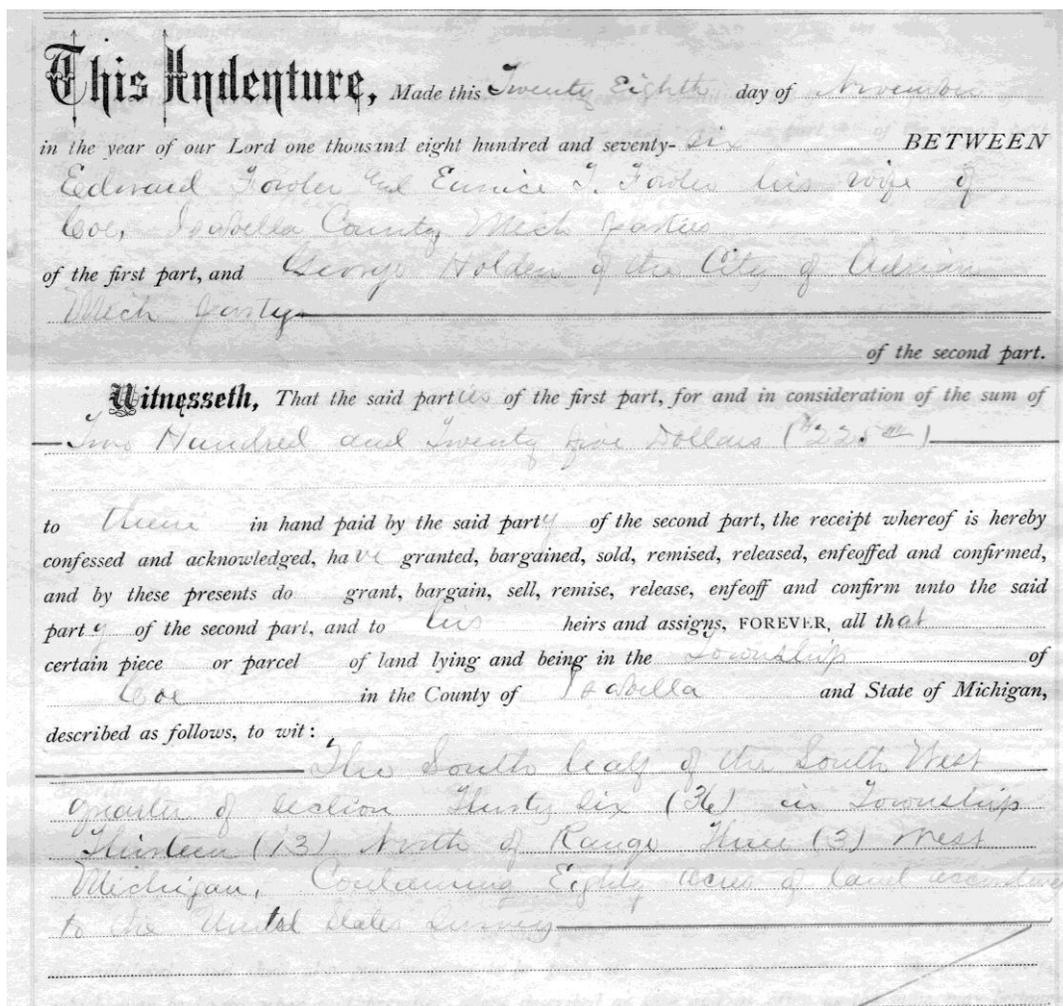
²⁰² Isabella County deed: liber 27, p 349.



1879 map of Coe Township ²⁰³.
Edward held 120 acres of his original 160 at that time.

William and first wife Anna McCallum Ross sold that acreage to Thomas Hannett in 1884, and it never returned to family hands.

In 1876, Edward and Eunice again mortgaged 80 of their 160 acres for \$225, as we see below, and the couple paid the debt off by May of 1880.



²⁰³ <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/473315/Coe+Township/>

\$11 7/100 Received May 26th 1877 Eleven 2/100 dollars interest to May 28/77 (Receipt given)
 \$11 25/100 Recd Dec 27/77 inter on within to Nov. 28/77 (Receipt given)
 \$11 25/100 Recd May 27/78 inter on within to May 28/78 (Receipt Given)
 \$11 1/4 Recd Jan. 13/79 int-to Nov. 28/78 (Receipt given)
 \$11 1/4 Recd Aug 9/79 int-to May 28/79 = Receipt given
 11 1/4 Recd Nov 26/79 int-to Nov 28/79 = Receipt given
 \$11 1/4 Recd Nov 26/80 int-to May 28/80 (I am receipt for same)
 Paid in full

And again, their lovely handwriting on the mortgage document:

Edward Fowler
Eunice T. Fowler

In 1885, Edward and Eunice sold another 40 acres to their daughter Mary L. Olger, for “One Dollar... love and good will” ²⁰⁴. This was two years after Mary married Frederick Olger, and it seems unusual that the deed was put into Mary’s name. In 1887, Mary sold the land to Oliver Adams; then Mary and Fred jointly bought it back for the same price (\$300) 18 days later. They sold the 40 acres for the last time in July of 1889, and the property never came back into Fowler family hands.

In 1885, Edward also sold another 40 acres -- to his wife Eunice, for \$100 ²⁰⁵. We suspect that this exchange of money and title between spouses may have had tax-savings purposes. We saw Nelson Fowler do this in Monroe Co, NY and Elisha and Laura Jane Brooks do it in adjacent Gratiot Co.

Then in 1894, Eunice sold her 40 acres to her two sons, Anson and Ellsworth, for \$400 ²⁰⁶, an indenture which they paid off in 1897. This fits with the receipts we have that tell us taxes on 40 acres (S ½ of S ½ of SW ¼ of section 36) were paid by E. K. Fowler (or after his death in 1898 “E. K. Fowler, Est.” = estate) and taxes for the other 40 acres (N ½ of S ½ of SW ¼ of section 36) were paid by A.J. and E.E. Fowler, Edward’s two sons.

²⁰⁴ Isabella County deed: liber 42, p 417

²⁰⁵ Isabella County deed: liber 42, p 541

²⁰⁶ Isabella County deed: liber 67, p 77

Treasurer's Office. Township of Coe, Isabella County, Michigan, *Jan 14* 189*5*
 RECEIVED OF *A & E Fowler*
 Upon the following described tracts of land and personal property, the sum stated below, being the taxes assessed in said township for the year 18*94*

DESCRIPTION.	SEC	T & R	ACRES	VALUATION	STATE TAX	COUNTY TAX	TOWN TAX	HI'WAY TAX	SCHOOL TAX	DRAIN TAX	TAX	TAX	RECAPITULATION		
													Tax	Dollars	Cents
<i>N 1/2 of S 1/2 of S 1/4</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST.</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>185</i>				STATE		
<i>Personal</i>				<i>50</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>19</i>					COUNTY	<i>602</i>
													TOWN		
													HI'WAY	<i>62</i>	
													SCHOOL		
													DRAIN		

Treasurer's Office. Township of Coe, Isabella County, Michigan, *Dec 14th* 189*5*
 RECEIVED OF *E. S. Fowler*
 Upon the following described Tracts of Land and Personal Property, the sum stated below being the Taxes Assessed in said Township for the year 1895.

DESCRIPTION.	SEC	T & R	ACRES	VALUATION	STATE TAX	COUNTY TAX	TOWN TAX	HI'WAY TAX	SCHOOL TAX	DRAIN TAX	TAX	TAX	RECAPITULATION		
													Tax	Dollars	Cents
<i>3/4 of S 1/4 SW 1/4</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>TH, RANGE 3 WEST.</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>98</i>		STATE	<i>900</i>	
														COUNTY	
													TOWN		
													HI'WAY		
													SCHOOL		

Also starting in 1892 (which does not quite fit with the deed which says 1894), we have receipts for payments made by Anson and Ellsworth on a mortgage given them by Edward and Eunice.

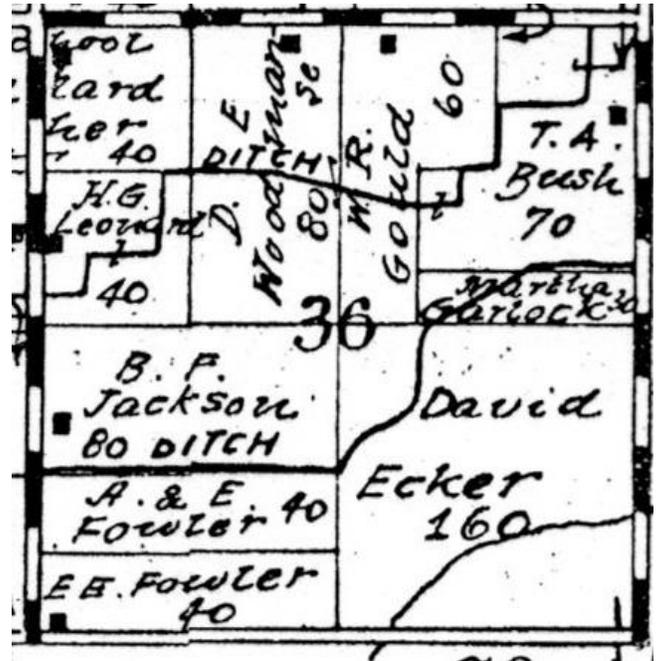
\$ 35.00
 Ulua
 Ithaca, Mich., *Nov 8th* 189*5*
 Received of *A. J. E. Fowler*
Thirty five Dollars
 to *apply in interest*
 on mortgage given by *Edward N. Fowler & wife*
 to *me*
 Dated *Nov 23, 1891*
N. Church

In 1894, the sons took out another 4-year mortgage with Nathan Church, or transferred the one they had to Church, which they paid off in 3 years. This fits with the deed for 40 acres which was finally issued in 1897.

So if we imagine Edward's original 160 acres, sliced straight through west-to-east into four slices of 40 acres each, the north-most slice was sold to Eunice's nephew in 1874, the next one south was "sold" to their daughter in 1885, the third one to Eunice and later to the two

sons, and the south-most slice remained in Edward's hands, and after Edward's death, went in the hands of Edward's estate.

In 1901, after Edward's death, the estate, "widow and heirs" (Eunice, Anson and wife Nellie, Mary Olger, and Lula), sold that south-most slice to Ellsworth for \$500 ²⁰⁷. This is borne out by the plat maps of 1899 (left below) and 1910 (right below):



Also, Ellsworth sold his half-interest in the 40 acres he owned with his brother to his brother in 1920 ²⁰⁸. So Anson owned the N ½ of S ½ of SW ¼ of section 36, on which he erected a barn which still stands; and Ellsworth, the S ½ of S ½ of SW ¼ of section 36.

Lastly, in 1930, Ellsworth sold the south-most slice to Clyde and Joy Fisher for "one dollar and other valuable considerations" ²⁰⁹. This property contained Edward's original house which Clyde sold to the VanSickle family who moved it north a mile or two to another location on Chippewa Road.

²⁰⁷ Isabella County deed: liber 79 (?), p 417

²⁰⁸ Isabella County deed: liber 128, p 449

²⁰⁹ Isabella County deed: liber 156, p 43

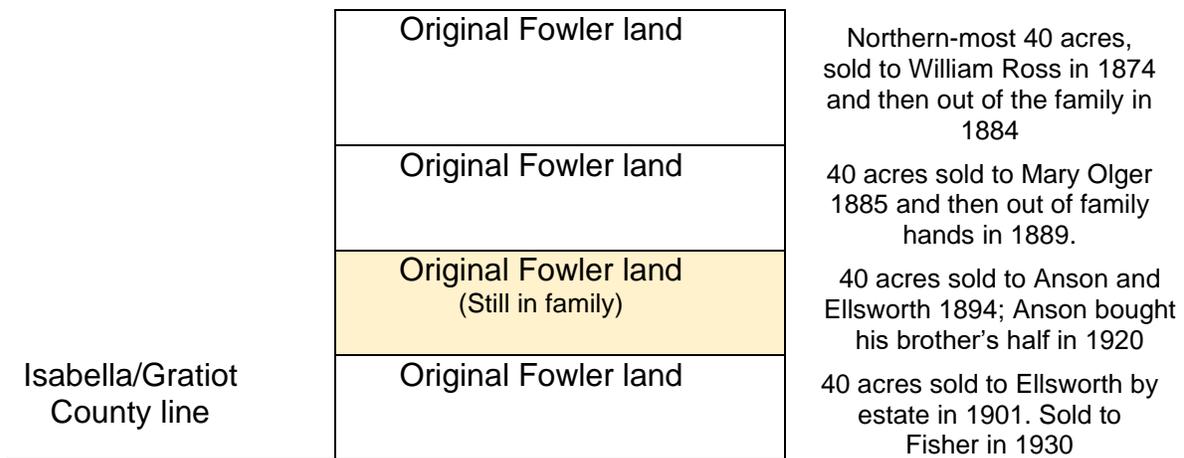


Diagram of Edward Fowler's 160 acres, SW ¼ of section 36 of Isabella County, Michigan

And in 1942, Anson transferred the ownership of his 40 acres (the N ½ of S ½ of SW ¼ of section 36) to his son O.S. Fowler²¹⁰. This 40 acres remains in the hands of O.S.'s descendants to this day. (We will try to determine where Anson and Nellie were living and O.S. and Dora were living, through this period, when we discuss those generations.)

Perhaps Edward also did a bit of land speculation when he bought a lot of land from his neighbor's brother-in-law, Joseph L. Frary in the town of St. Louis in 1871 for \$75²¹¹. We did not find a sale for that property so we don't know how long they owned it, or what it was for.

Edward and Eunice Fowler had four children²¹² all born in Coe Township or in St. Louis, MI.

- Mary L. Fowler (1862 Hillsdale Co, MI – 1931 St. Louis, MI) Married in 1883 to Frederick Gale Olger (1859 Belview MI – 1942 Cook Co, IL). The couple were sold (basically given) 40 acres of Edward and Eunice's patent land in 1885, which they sold in 1889, buying 40 acres in Deerfield Twp (Isabella Co) in 1889 and then selling that in 1891. By 1900, they censused in Montcalm Co, Michigan.
 Mary and Fred had 7 children, all born in Michigan between 1885 and 1902. In the 1911 Belding City Directory, the family was living at 610 Hambrook where Fred was listed as a driver and their four daughters (Cuma, Harriet, Mary, and Hazel) were silkworkers.
 Fred divorced Mary in 1917 and remarried immediately. At the time of the divorce decree, Mary received custody of their youngest child, half interest in a lot of land in the city of Belding (Ionia Co), and half of their cemetery plot at River Ridge Cemetery. Fred retained the other halves of the lot and plot, plus all of a quarter section they owned in Isabela Co, as well as two other lots in Belding.
 In 1920, living in the household of one of her children in Grand Haven, MI, Mary reported to the census that she was "widowed", probably the only category she fit into

²¹⁰ Isabella County quit-claim deed Oct 27, 1942

²¹¹ Gratiot County deeds: liber 51, p85. Lot 3 of Block 1 of Frary's Addition to St. Louis.

²¹² In the census of 1910, Eunice recorded that all 4 of the children she had given birth to were still living.

as a divorcee. She was reportedly living with Ellsworth and Eunice in 1928 in St. Louis when Eunice died there. The 1930 census also located her there with her brother Ellsworth. She was buried in River Ridge Cemetery with one daughter, one son, ex-husband [probably] and second wife [definitely].



Mary L. Fowler Olger, 1912



Mary's daughter Harriet J. Olger Walker, 1912

- Anson James Fowler (1866 – 1959) Spent most of his life in Isabella and Gratiot counties. See the next section.

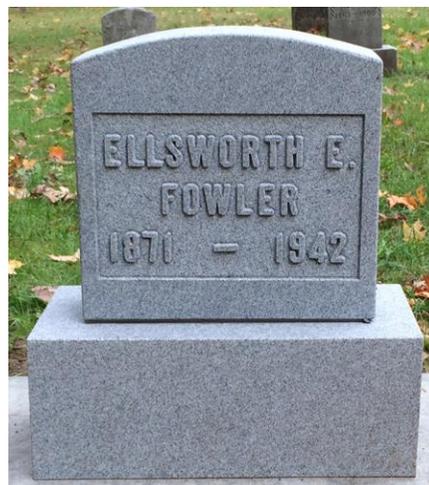
- Ellsworth Edgar Fowler (1871 Coe Twp, Isabella, MI – 1942 Traverse City, MI) -- probably named for local folks with the surname of Ellsworth. At first, we thought Ellsworth did not appear on the 1880 census record, but then realized he was incorrectly named "Elizabeth E." in that enumeration. He was living with sister Lula and mother Eunice in 1900, and in 1910 and 1920 with just his mother, in Coe Township, probably on the 40 acres he owned (part of Edward's original patent) and in the house that Edward had built there.



Ellsworth Fowler, taken about 1890-1895

Ellsworth farmed acreage of the original Fowler patent from about 1892 to 1930 when he sold his remaining acreage to Clyde Fisher. He had moved into the city of St. Louis with his mother and sister between 1920 and 1928, censused in the city in 1930 with his sister Mary Olger who died in 1931. We did not locate a census

record for him in 1940 (possibly because he had already been hospitalized? he spent the last 11-12 months of his life in the State Hospital in Traverse City MI). He suffered from arteriosclerosis and psychosis, according to his death certificate, for 14 years before he died of pneumonia ²¹³ in 1942. We know that Ellsworth traveled to Florida with his brother and sister Lula in the mid- to late-1930's, due to entries in Anson's journals. Ellsworth was buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Louis, MI with his parents.



Ellsworth Fowler's grave, Oak Grove Cemetery,
St. Louis, MI (above)
Broken stone was replaced, 2016
(Photos by author, 2015 and 2016)

²¹³ Betty Driscoll, History of the Gratiot County Poor Farm. Page 215 (inscrutably, this volume also contained State Hospital records).

St. Louis Leader obituary for Ellsworth, 1942 (right). (Courtesy of the Gratiot County Genealogical and Historical Society)

S.L.L. E. E. FOWLER 5/14/42
Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the Crandell funeral home for Ellsworth Edward Fowler, 71, who died after several months illness in the state hospital at Traverse City, where he had been a patient for the past year.
The Rev. Wayne Davis officiated and burial was in Oak Grove. Mr. Fowler was born March 17, 1871, on a farm in Coe township. He was the son of Edward K. and Eunice T. Fowler, and his home had always been in St. Louis vicinity. Surviving are one sister, Mrs. Earl Richmond, and a brother, Anson Fowler, both of St. Louis, also several nieces and nephews.

- Lula Eunice Fowler (1878 – 1963) appeared as a single person in the 1900 census with her mother and brother Ellsworth in Coe, Isabella, MI. She married Earl Richmond (1876 West Point, Columbia, WI – 1952 Carson City, Montcalm Co., MI) in 1906. The couple owned a gas station in St. Louis and had 4 daughters who married men named Myers, Morey, Cottrill, and Moeggenberg and who all stayed in Gratiot or nearby counties through their lives.

Lula and Earl had married, initially in 1906, were divorced in 1934 on the grounds of “extreme and repeated cruelty”, and REMARRIED to each other in 1938 !

To the best of our knowledge, Lula and Earl lived in or near Gratiot County, MI the rest of their lives, although we have not found an entry in the 1940 census for them, and we know that Earl died in 1952 in Montcalm County, MI. We also know from Anson’s journals that Lula travelled to Florida with them at least one winter, in the mid- to late-1930’s. They



Lula Eunice Fowler, taken about 1890-1895



Earl and Lula Richmond’s grave at Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd, Isabella, MI (photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²¹⁴)

²¹⁴ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=100749728>
<http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=richmond&GSiman=1&GScid=1711&GRid=100749816&>

were buried together in the Salt River Cemetery in Shepherd MI.

Edward, educated at Hillsdale College ²¹⁵ according to his great-grandson, apparently continued to teach after moving north to Isabella County. He was noted in one Gratiot County history book as having taught Micah Wood, who settled with his family in Coe in 1865 and lived very nearby the Fowlers and Brooks:

“His teachers were Professors Edward K. Fowler, H. N. Robinson, and J. Milt Putnam, well-known rural educators in the early days.” ²¹⁶

We did not find Edward among the charter members or founders of the nearby Pleasant Ridge (Coe) Church of Christ, which has been the “family church” for some generations, although Edward was still alive in 1883 when it was founded. So we do not know what faith he and Mary practiced.

Edward died in 1898, and Eunice lived with one or more of her children (with Ellsworth and Lula in Coe Township in 1900 and with only Ellsworth in 1910 and 1920 after Lula married), presumably in the house on Edward’s original patent land, those 40 acres of which Ellsworth had bought from Edward’s estate in 1901.

In 1907, Eunice received a bequest from the estate of her brother-in-law, Frank Gridley Fowler, of \$500. As Edward’s other living sibling did NOT receive money from Frank’s will, we presume that Eunice’s financial status may have been more precarious than that of the other sibling.

At some point (date unknown), Eunice bought a house in St. Louis. In August 1928, a family reunion/birthday party was held in that house in her honor, 2 months before her death of bowel cancer. In Ellsworth’s probate records, it was described as the west half of Lot 1, block 27 in St. Louis, which in current terms, is on the corner of North and Delaware Streets.



House owned by Eunice and/or Ellsworth Fowler until 1942.
(Google maps street view, 2016)

Ellsworth and divorced sister Mary Olger continued in that house through the time of the 1930 census. Mary died in 1931 and Ellsworth in 1942 in a state hospital in Traverse City. After

²¹⁵ <https://www.hillsdale.edu/about/history/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillsdale_College#Founding

²¹⁶ Tucker, W. D. Gratiot County, Michigan. Saginaw, Mich.: Press of Seemann & Peters. 1913. Page 1136.
<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=miun.bad0927.0001.001;view=1up;seq=1139>

Ellsworth died in 1942, the house on North St. was sold by his heirs to cover his debts at the time of his death. The "residue" of his estate after all was said and done, was \$473. This was distributed to his siblings, nieces and nephew ²¹⁷.

A family reunion of twenty-two relatives met together at the Fowler home, on North Avenue, Sunday and enjoyed a picnic dinner in honor of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. E. T. Fowler, who has lived to the age of eighty-seven years. 8/23/28 SLL

"St. Louis Leader" newspaper articles about Eunice, 1928: birthday celebration (above) and death notice (right).

(courtesy of the Gratiot County Genealogical and Historical Society)

DEATH COMES TO MRS. E. T. FOWLER

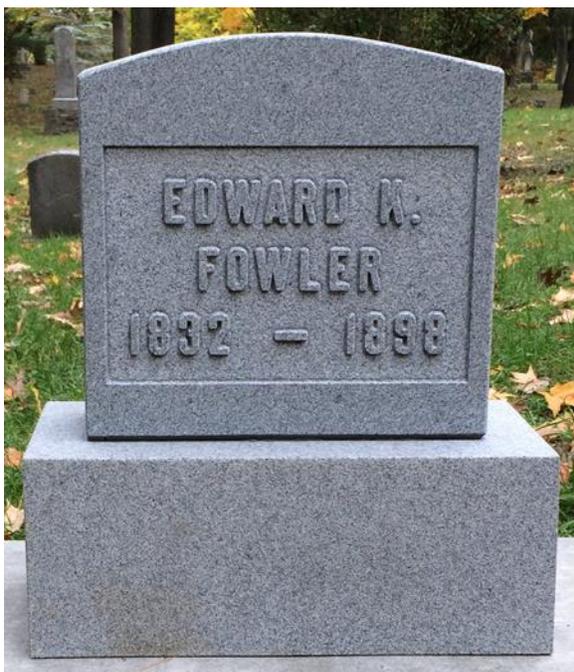
Aged Resident Passes Away on
Tuesday After Long Period
of Ill Health.

10/25/28 — SLL-1

Mrs. E. T. Fowler, age 87 years of age passed away at her home on North avenue, Tuesday afternoon at 2:15. Mrs. Fowler had been in ill health for two years but not until recently had she been confined to her home and bed only about a week. With her lived her daughter, and a son, Mrs. Mary Olger and Ellsworth Fowler. Two other children also survive. They are A. J. Fowler and Mrs. Earl Richmond, all of St. Louis, several grand-children and great grand-children and one great, great, grand-child. Funeral services will be held at the home 325 North avenue, Friday afternoon at two o'clock.

Both the Fowlers were buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI, as was Ellsworth.

²¹⁷ Probate records and a decades-later question about the legal description of the property, mentioned that he and Mary had inherited the house from Eunice. Gratiot County deeds: Liber 376, p607. Ellsworth Fowler probate records, Gratiot County. And Gratiot Co deeds: liber 339, p 234.



Graves of Edward and Eunice T. Fowler, Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI.
Broken stones were replaced in 2016.
(Photos by author, 2015 and 2016)

Chapter Four: Anson James Fowler and Nellie Pearl Brooks

Anson James Fowler (1866 Coe, Isabella, MI – 1959 Traverse City MI) was raised in Coe Township, Isabella Co, and was tallied with his parents and siblings in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of the township. In 1893 he married Nellie Pearl Brooks (1873 Pine River, Gratiot, MI – 1960 Dunedin, Pinellas, FL), youngest daughter of Elisha Hall Brooks (1818 Braceville OH – 1891 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI) and Laura Jane Bartlett Brooks (1830 Gustavus, Trumbull OH – 1908 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI), a young woman who was born and raised in Pine River Twp, Gratiot Co, across the town and county lines, but literally right next door.



Street map of Pine River and Coe Townships, left, showing adjoining quarter sections patented by Elisha Brooks (south) and Edward K. Fowler (north). 2010 satellite map, right, showing same quarter sections.



Anson Fowler in his youth



Anson and Nellie Brooks Fowler with their first two great-grandsons, Ron and Tom, about 1945

For information about Nellie Brooks' family, The Brooks, Bartletts, Blanchards, etcetera, we have separated out this portion of our story to another document. Please find that at <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> -- choose "Tom's Ancestry" tab

Anson James and Nellie Pearl were married in Mount Pleasant (Isabella Co) on September 13, 1893 by the clergyman, William H. Hoffman ²¹⁸. In 1900 and afterwards, they censused in Pine River Township, Gratiot Co, Michigan. This was because when they married, they moved in with Laura Jane Bartlett Brooks (Elisha had died two years before). To our knowledge, they lived on the Brooks' "Forest Hill" property all the rest of their lives, except when they wintered in Florida in their later years.

In the 1890's, Anson and his brother Ellsworth had bought 40 acres of Fowler land, and in 1901, Ellsworth bought another (the south-most) 40 acres of the Fowler land from Edward's estate. It was not until 1920, that Ellsworth sold Anson his half share of the 40 acres they owned.

The land that Ellsworth and Anson were occupying or farming in 1904 (shaded in pink):

Isabella County	Originally Edward Fowler land	Northern-most 40 acres, sold to William Ross in 1874 and then out of the family in 1884
	Originally Edward Fowler land	40 acres sold to Mary Olger 1885 and then out of family hands in 1889.
	Originally Edward Fowler land	Sold to Anson and Ellsworth 1894; Anson bought his brother's half in 1920
	Originally Edward Fowler land	Sold to Ellsworth by Edward's estate in 1901. Sold to Fisher in 1930
Gratiot County	Originally Elisha Brooks land	Laura Jane Brooks inherited this when Elisha died
	Originally Elisha Brooks land	Sold to Cephas Wood in 1895 ²¹⁹
	Originally Elisha Brooks land	Purchased by Warren Brooks in 1874 ²²⁰

²¹⁸ Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952

²¹⁹ Gratiot County deeds: liber 93, p 372

²²⁰ Gratiot County deeds: liber 28, 564.

Diagram of Edward Fowler's 160 acres, the SW ¼ of section 36 of Isabella County, Michigan (top) and Elisha Brooks' 160 acres, the NW ¼ of Section 1, Pine River Township, Gratiot Co, MI (bottom). For more on the Brooks' land and how/when it changed hands, see the document on the Brooks at <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> and choose "Tom's Ancestry" tab

The family still has Anson's journal for 1904 -1905. In addition to all the farm work which he recounted in some detail, he had a contract to provide and help set telephone poles for the new-fangled communication device being installed in the area. He often mentioned working with Ceph' (Cephas) Wood, his neighbor, socializing with his sister Lula, his mother's siblings' families (those of Mary Eddy Davis, Eliza Eddy Ross) and Nellie's family (sister Flora and Chester Alexander, brother Warren and Emaline Brooks, and nephew Charlie Dutt). And they went to church, Sunday school, and "singing practice" weekly. As one family member said of him, "If the doors of the church were open, he was there". The church in question was the Coe Church of Christ founded by his father-in-law, Elisha Brooks. It is said that Anson helped build the stone church building in 1915 ²²¹. (For more about that church, see the Brooks chapter at <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> and choose "Tom's Ancestry" tab)

In Anson's notes which follow, "Ma" was probably Laura Jane Brooks with whom they lived at the time, as opposed to "Mother" which seems to have been used for Eunice Fowler.

One name which appeared over and over again was what looks to be "Coll." We wondered if "Coll" might have been a favorite horse or a dog, but the context seems wrong; besides, "Coll" is also mentioned almost daily in Anson's 1935-36 Florida journal as well.

We realized after looking at the land Anson and his brother Ellsworth owned and/or were farming, that this almost HAD to be shorthand for (or a nickname for) brother Ellsworth. Nowhere did Anson refer to his brother, the man who owned acreage next door and co-owned 40 acres of the Fowler land, as "Ellsworth" in his journal. Instead, he interacted/worked frequently with "Coll" and sometimes mentioned "Coll" in the same breath as his sister Lula. Sister Mary Fowler Olger was not mentioned in this journal; she and her family had moved to Montcalm County by 1900, but her son Homer is mentioned in these excerpts from the 1904 journal, below.

We know Ellsworth went down to Florida with Anson and Nellie in 1936 because he was listed as helping pay for gas as "E.E." In that journal, Coll. was mentioned on almost every page.

²²¹ "Coe's Heritage in the Restoration Movement", a document in the possession of Tom Fowler, tells us:

The original building, constructed of wood, burned during a severe electrical storm in 1913. A second building replaced it, built in 1915 out of stone gathered from the surrounding countryside, to prevent a similar loss.

Fri. Jan. 1st 1904
Hauled load of manure and
beet tops. We all took dinner at
Mother's. Aunt Elizie, Mary, and
George Ross were there

Fri Jan 1, 1904: Hauled load of manure and beet tops. We all took dinner at Mother's. Aunt Elizie [Eliza Eddy Ross], Mary [Mary Ross, still unmarried] and George Ross were there.

Fri Jan 15)

Nellie, Mother, Coll, Ceph'
and I went to St. Louis.
Ceph and I got to fooling and
spilled the buttermilk.
O.S. about the same. He
had the earache some.

Fri Jan 15, 1904: Nellie, Mother, Coll, Ceph' and I went to St. Louis. Ceph' and I got to fooling around and spilled the buttermilk. O.S. about the same. He had the earache some.

Feb 4. Th) Coll helped me cut
wood in forenoon. I fitted
the crosscut saw in the
after noon. We did not go
to singing school. I didn't
feel very well.

Th Feb 4, 1904: Coll helped me cut wood in forenoon. I fitted the crosscut saw in the afternoon. We did not go to singing school. I didn't feel very well.

Sun Feb 21) Mother - Lulu - Chat -
Aunt Mate - George and I went to
Midland to Rufus Eddy's funeral
Left Uncle Marv's at 6 A.M. and
arr' at Will's at 1:30 P.M. Stormed
all day, wet snow. Went to church
in evening.

Sun Feb 21, 1904: Mother, Lulu, Chat [?], Aunt Mate [maybe meant to be Mary?], George and I went to Midland to Rufus Eddy's funeral. Left Uncle Marv's [Davis] at 6AM and arr' at Will's at 1:30PM. Stormed all day. Wet snow. Went to church in evening. [Rufus Eddy was the son of Eunice's brother Wallace Gerald Eddy.]

Th Feb 25) Coll and I hauled
some phone poles out of
the woods. in forenoon
I hauled load of manure
in afternoon. Went to sing-
ing school in evening at Coe.
Feb Fri 26) I split some wood.
Flora came up from town.
Charlie Dutt was here in
afternoon. Nellie ^{O.S.} and I went
over to Mother's this evening
C. Davis folks came down

Th Feb 25, 1904: Coll and I hauled some phone poles out of the woods in forenoon.
I hauled load of manure in afternoon. Went to singing school in evening at Coe.

Fri Feb 26, 1904: I split some wood. Flora came up from town. Charlie Dutt was here in afternoon. Nellie, O.S. and I went to Mother's this evening. C. Davis folks came down. [Maybe Clayton Davis, first cousin.]

We (Mar. 2) I split wood in forenoon and helped Ceph' Wood cut 15' phone poles in afternoon.
Saw three robins first ones.

Wed Mar 2, 1904: I split wood in forenoon and helped Ceph' Wood cut 15 phone poles in afternoon.
Saw three robins. First ones.

We April 6) I piled wood in the wood-house in forenoon
Got Ceph's cooker and boiled sap, and peeled tele-
-phone poles in afternoon
Ceph' and I went fishing
down creek in evening
Th. April 7) I helped survey
telephone line in forenoon
Helped finish surveying in
afternoon and set some
poles

Wed April 6, 1904: I piled wood in the wood house in forenoon. Got Ceph's cooker and boiled sap, and peeled telephone poles in afternoon. Ceph' and I went fishing down creek in evening.

Th April 7, 1904: I helped survey telephone line in forenoon.

Helped finish surveying in afternoon and set some poles.

Sun June 5)

We all went to
Sunday school at Elm
Grove except Ma.

All went to church at
Coe in evening

Mon June 6)

O.S. and I planted
corn he planted 20 rows.

Nellie spilled a churn
full of cream

Sun June 5, 1904: We all went to Sunday School at Elm Grove except Ma. All went to church at Coe in evening.
Mon June 6, 1904: O.S. and I planted corn. He planted 20 rows. Nellie spilled a churn of cream.

Th June 23)

I cultivated corn
and beets.

Nellie, O.S., Ketta, Hommer,
and I went to the woods
and got some fish poles.

Fri June 24)

Geo. and Mary Ross,
Coll. & Lulu, all of us
(except Ma.) and Ceph.
Wood's folks went to the
river fishing and boat
riding. Willie Brooks and
Paul Riess went also. We
went to singing school in eve.

Sat June 25) I plowed some
new ground. Hommer pulled
some dock out of the oats.
O.S. thinned beets and picked
strawberries

Th June 23, 1904: I cultivated corn and beets. Nellie, O.S., Ketta,
Hommer and I went to the woods and got some fish poles.

Fri June 24, 1904: George and Mary Ross, Coll & Lulu, all of us (except Ma) and Ceph' Woods folks went to the river
fishing and boat riding.

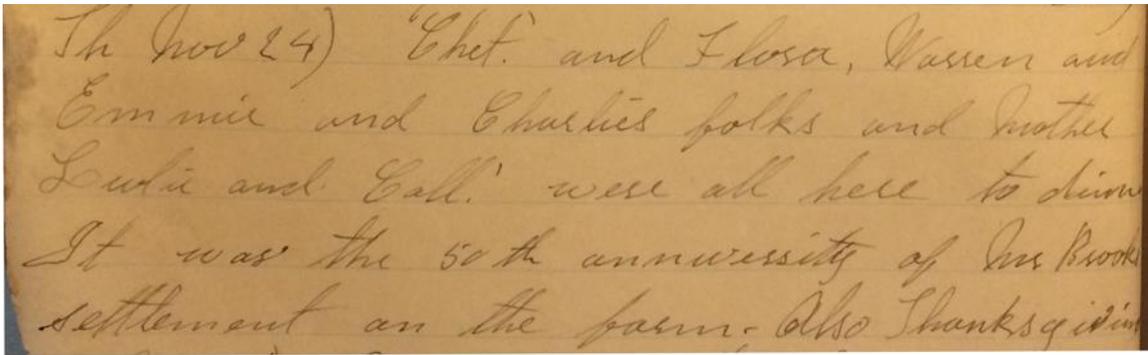
Willie Brooks and Paul Riess [Nellie's grand-nephew] went also. We went to singing school in eve.

Sat June 25, 1904: I plowed some new ground. Hommer pulled some dock out of the oats.

O.S. thinned beets and picked strawberries. [Hommer = Homer Olger, Anson's nephew]

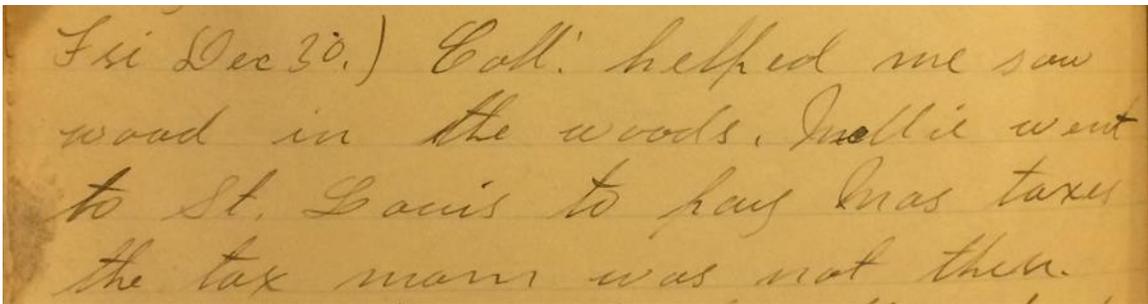
Mon Sept 12) I hauled some manure
 and worked on the wheat ground
 O.S. commenced school.
 Tue Sept 13) I worked on wheat
 ground discing and dragging.
 Our eleventh wedding anniversary
 Wed Sept 14) I finished dragging the
 wheat ground in forenoon. Cleaned
 seed wheat, got the drill and sowed
 some wheat in afternoon
 Th Sept 15) I finished sowing wheat
 rolled the ground and dragged it
 partly over. We went to box social
 at Elm Grove in evening
 Fri Sept 16) I finished dragging wheat
 and helped Coll' on his wheat
 ground. Went to singing school in
 ___ at Forest Hill. Second night of
 ___ term

- Mon Sept 12, 1904: I hauled some manure and worked on the wheat ground. O.S. commenced school.
 Tue Sept 13, 1904: I worked on wheat ground discing and dragging. Our eleventh wedding anniversary.
 Wed Sep 14, 1904: I finished dragging the wheat ground in forenoon.
 Cleaned seed wheat, got the drill, and sowed some wheat in afternoon.
 Th Sept 15, 1904: I finished sowing wheat, rolled the ground, and dragged it partly over.
 We went to box social at Elm Grove in evening.
 Fri Sept 16, 1904: I finished dragging wheat and helped Coll' on his wheat ground.
 Went to singing school in ___ at Forest Hill. Second night of ___ term.



Th Nov 24) Chet. and Flora, Warren and
Emmie and Charlie's folks and Mother
Lulu and Coll. were all here to dinner.
It was the 50th anniversary of Mr Brooks
settlement on the farm. Also Thanksgiving.

Th Nov 24, 1904: Chet' and Flora, Warren and Emmie and Charlie's folks and Mother Lulu and Coll were all here to dinner. It was the 50th anniversary of Mr. Brooks settlement on the farm. Also Thanksgiving.



Fri Dec 30.) Coll. helped me saw
wood in the woods. Nellie went
to St. Louis to pay Ma's taxes.
The tax man was not there.

Fri Dec 30, 1904: Coll' helped me saw wood in the woods.
Nellie went to St. Louis to pay Ma's taxes. The tax man was not there.

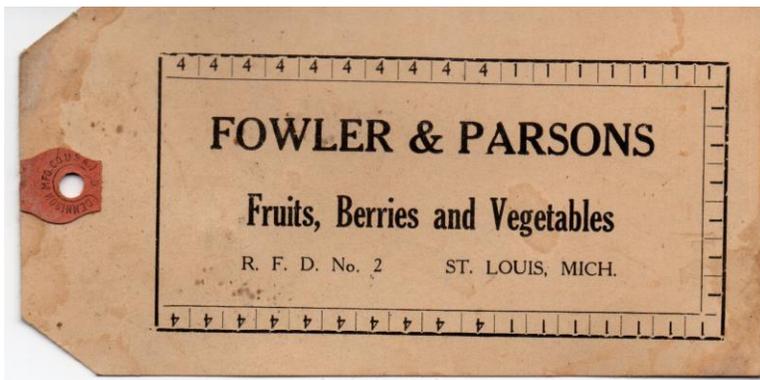
As we saw in the Brooks document, after the death of Laura Jane Bartlett Brooks, Anson and Nellie directly inherited 15 acres of the Brooks land, on which the "Forest Hill" house stood. Later, after Nellie's sister Flora Brooks Alexander died, they also bought the 30 acres to the east of the 15-acre parcel, from Flora's estate (1940).

Anson is said to have built the barn, which still stands, on the piece of what had been Edward's property which he owned outright after buying out his brother's interest in 1920.

The barn which Anson James is credited with building, on what started out as Edward Fowler's 160 acres. (Chippewa Road, Gratiot Co, MI. Photo by author, 2015)



And he grew grapes Anson and son-in-law George Parsons also had a truck-farm business together:



Tag from Anson's and George Parsons' business

Anson was a curious man and probably read widely about various crops he might plant. We have two letters to him from extension and research specialists at Michigan State College: one from 1934 describing the sweet potato as a commercially unimportant crop in Michigan but telling Anson where he might procure some plants if he decided to grow some; another from 1933 answering his question about obtaining/growing particular varieties of seed potatoes.



Anson James Fowler and his great-grandson Tom in about 1947 outside one end of the "Forest Hill" house, above.

Anson cutting his beloved grapes, circa 1948, left.
(photos courtesy of Tom Fowler)

The couple had only two children, who were given unusual first names as well as middle names honoring their Fowler grandparents ²²²:

- O.S. Edward Fowler (1895 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI -1993 St. Louis MI) Married Dora Alice Parrish (1898 Pauling OH – 1959 Alma MI) in 1917 and Winifred Vroman Jackson (1894 Grand Rapids MI – 1985 St. Louis MI) in 1960. See next section.
- Ketha Eunice Fowler (1900 St. Louis MI – 2002 Dunedin FL) Married George Couthbert Parsons (1901 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI – 1972 Dunedin, Pinellas, FL) in 1921, had two daughters, and lived in Lansing, MI (1923), Delhi, MI (1930), Pine River (1935 and 1940). According to Frank Fowler, when they moved to Gratiot Co, they were living in a rented house kitty-corner across the road from Edward Fowler's original land. George's father, Milo W. and Ethel Parsons, had moved to Dunedin, FL in 1923, censused in Dunedin in 1930, and Milo worked for a food machinery company there. The family moved to Dunedin, Florida sometime between 1940 and 1941. In 1941, they were in Dunedin with George's mother Ethel (divorced in 1935 from Milo); George was a fruit truck driver. In 1945, they lived at 721 Main St, Dunedin, according to the Florida state census, along with their daughters and three grandchildren. WWII draft card tells us that he was working in "citrus concentrates" in 1942. There is no family consensus on where the inspiration for Ketha's name came from. The name can be a surname, however, and Ancestry.com published an 80-page book, titled, "The Ketha Name in History" in 2007. There were a few people named Ketha living in the U.S. by 1920 (almost two decades later), so the couple *may* have named

²²² The census records of 1900 and 1910 indicated that all her children were still living.

their daughter for a friend, using his or her surname. An additional wild-guess comes from one of Nellie's nephews who married a woman from Mt. Pleasant whose name was "Retha". That name may have resonated with Nellie and spawned the rhyming name "Ketha". The Eunice middle name was clearly for Anson's mother. Ketha lived a few months past her 102nd birthday. We have not located grave sites for George and Ketha or for either of their daughters, Jackie or Phyllis. After Anson and Nellie's deaths, George and Ketha inherited the 15-acre "Forest Hill" parcel, although it is not believed they ever lived there. It was bought from them by Laurence Fowler in 1967 ²²³.



Ketha, Anson, and Nellie, about 1947. Nellie was wearing the heavy coat that she wore, even on days when it seemed too warm outdoors for it.

One sidelight about Anson and Nellie was their trip to England in August 1935 with Nellie's sister Flora Brooks Alexander. The three sailed home aboard the Andania, from Liverpool England to Quebec. The trip was to "visit cousins" there, it was remembered. Since we know all their family lines had been in America for centuries, it is a mystery, if they truly "visited cousins" in England, who that would have been, unless it was the relatives of Flora's deceased husband, Chester Alexander.

Form 502
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Immigration Service

Based on this blank United States citizens and citizens of Insular Possessions of the United States arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the Insular Possessions of the United States, and such citizens arriving at a port of said Insular Possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of another Insular Possession.

Number

LIST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS
(FOR THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES)

S. S. ANDANIA Sailing from LIVERPOOL, 30 AUGUST, 1935, Arriving at Port of QUEBEC, P. Q. 7th SEPTEMBER, 1935

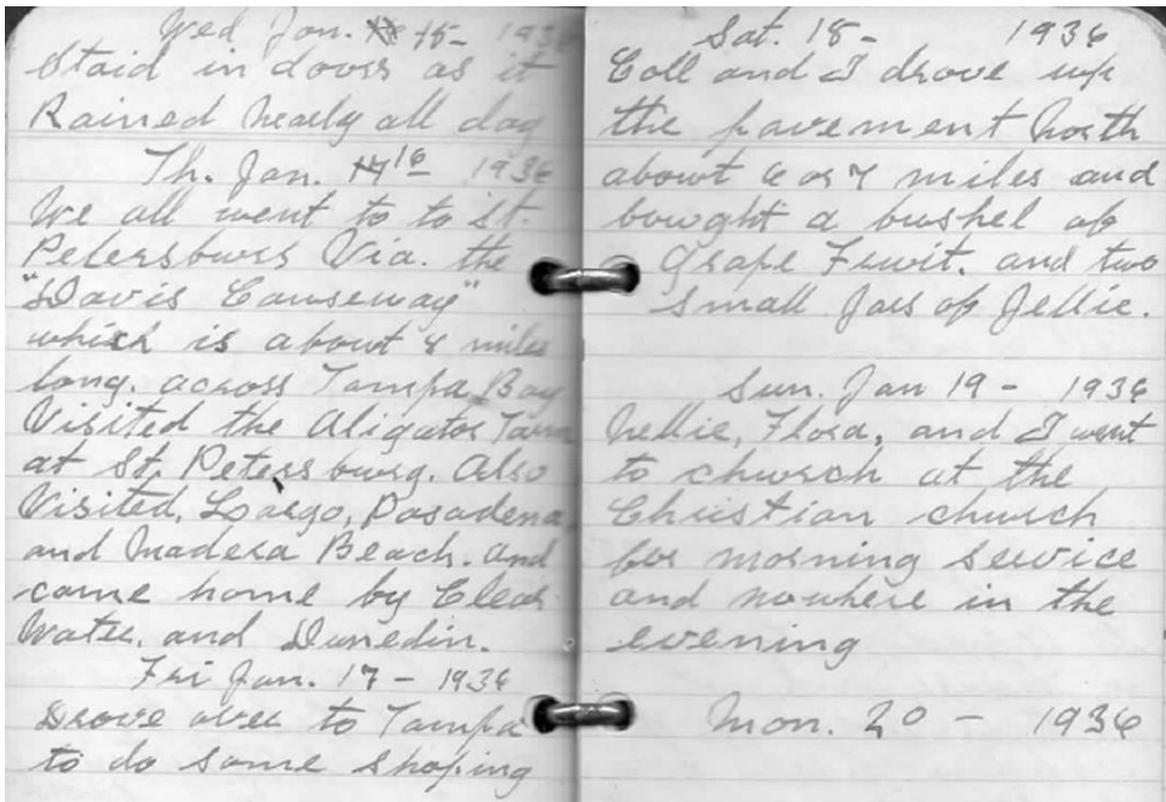
No. on List	Name in Full	Age	Sex	Color	IF NATIVE OF UNITED STATES INSULAR POSSESSION OR IF NATIVE OF UNITED STATES, GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY OR TOWN AND STATE).	IF NATURALIZED, GIVE NAME AND LOCATION OF COURT WHICH ISSUED NATURALIZATION PAPERS, AND DATE OF PAPERS.	ADDRESS IN UNITED STATES
1	BROWN Gladys	70	F	W	SEMINA, N.Y. 28 JAN. 1867	P.P. 170403 N. 3/11/35	409 S. GERRICH ST. SEMINA, N.Y.
2	CLARK Robert	70	F	W	SEMINA, N.Y. 28 JAN. 1867		124 S. GERRICH ST. SEMINA, N.Y.
3	CLARKE Bertha	46	F	S	Earlville 10 FEB. 1887	P.P. 212325 N. 3/21/35	109 STANLEY AVE. PARK RIDGE, ILL.
4	CLARKE Harriet	52	F	S	Algonia Ia. 12 AUG. 1882	P.P. 202571 N. 3/21/35	409 STANLEY AVE. SIoux CITY, IOWA.
5	DAVIS Helen F	49	F	S	SEMINA, N.Y. 11 APRIL 1886	P.P. 204655 N. 4/2/35	119 FIFT ST. PORTLAND, ME.
6	HAGLEY ATSON, E.	12	M	W	PURSER 24 NOV. 1914		641-47th ST., MC MINNVILLE, OREGON.
7	PHILLIPS Wanda	11	F	W	PURSER 31 DEC. 1924		CANTON, S. DAK.
8	PHILLIPS Wanda	11	F	W	PURSER 31 DEC. 1924		CANTON, S. DAK.
9	SMITH see sheet 2 line 13						
10	MARSHALL THOMAS FREDERICK	53	M	W	SEMINA, N.Y. 18 FEB. 1882	nat. BOSTON, MASS. SEPT. 1929. P.P. 204745 N. 4/2/35	124 S. GERRICH ST. SEMINA, N.Y.
11	ALEXANDER FLORA	67	F	W	St Louis Mich. Jan. 1st 1868	P.P. 212328 N. 4/2/35	R.R. 2 St Louis Mich.
12	FOWLER ANSON	69	M	W	St Louis Mich. Oct 15th 1866	P.P. 212641 N. 4/2/35	St Louis Mich.
13	FOWLER Nellie	61	F	W	St Louis Mich. Dec. 18th 1874	P.P. 212641 N. 4/2/35	St Louis Mich.
14	lines 14 to 30 blank NOT USED						

List of US citizens arriving in Quebec aboard the Andania in September 1935, included Anson, Nellie, and Flora Alexander from St. Louis, Michigan

²²³ Gratiot County deeds: liber 364, p692

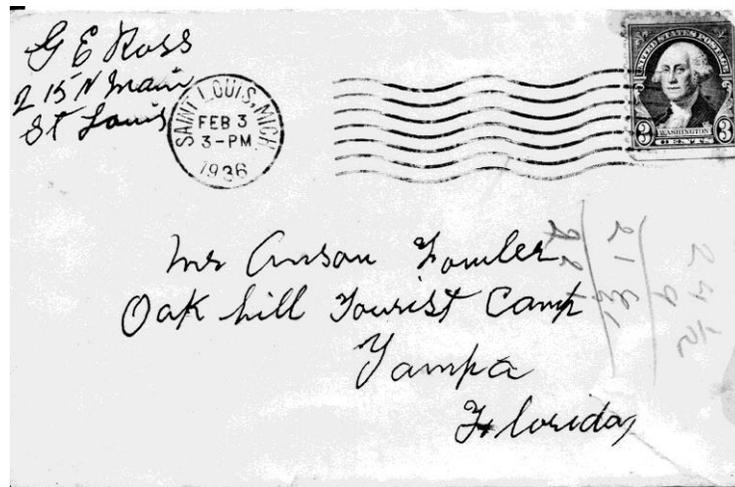
The couple also spent winters in Florida with or nearby Flora, starting in about 1935 or perhaps a bit earlier, and eventually owned a modest "cabin" in Dunedin.

In winter 1935-36 journal entries, Anson wrote they drove to the bay through a part of Tampa, or to St. Petersburg across an 8-mile causeway (originally the Davis Causeway, opened in 1934²²⁴, now the Courtney Campbell Causeway, rte. 60). Another time they went to church at "Seminole Heights Christian Church" which might have been either a present-day Baptist or Methodist Church, still located in downtown Tampa. Other days, they went to "Sulfur Springs", also now a part of Tampa, "two miles away", for supplies or to church. In fact, cousin George Ross wrote a letter in February of 1936, addressed to them at "Oak Hill Tourist Camp, Tampa, FL". An ad in the Tampa newspapers of the era confirmed that the "tourist camp" was at "Nebraska Ave., 1 3/4 mi. north Sulphur Springs., Tampa".



Two pages from Anson's journal covering the winter of 1935-36 in Florida. It's hard to know where they drove across the bay, but they drove home through Dunedin so perhaps they were NOT living in Dunedin that winter.

²²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtney_Campbell_Causeway



Letter from cousin George Ross, February of 1936, addressed to Anson at "Oak Hill Tourist Camp, Tampa, FL".

So in the winter of 1935-36, they were not yet living in Dunedin. Flora, however, may not have been living in the tourist camp with them, but in Sulfur Springs; we know that she was there at least by 1939. according to a letter addressed to her in Sulfur Springs in our archives.

Anson and Nellie were receiving letters in Dunedin by February 1939 (to a post office box), and this was substantiated by a March 1939 letter from Flora Brook Alexander to her family: "Aunt Nellie and Uncle Anson are living over at Dunedin where they were last year." Their daughter Ketha's father-in-law, lived in Dunedin in 1930; George and Ketha moved down there from Michigan between 1940 and 1941 to a house on Main St.

When did Anson and Nellie buy property in Dunedin? Nellie's obituary stated she had lived in Dunedin for 22 years, so it could have been as early as 1938.

Anson made modifications to his "cabin" in Dunedin [date unknown, but the snapshot below might be from the 40's, taken by Joyce Harrison Fowler]. The house was at 1237 New York Avenue; one online service tells us it was built in 1939 and is about 600 ft² and sits on a 6255 ft² lot ²²⁵. We do not know if Anson was the builder.

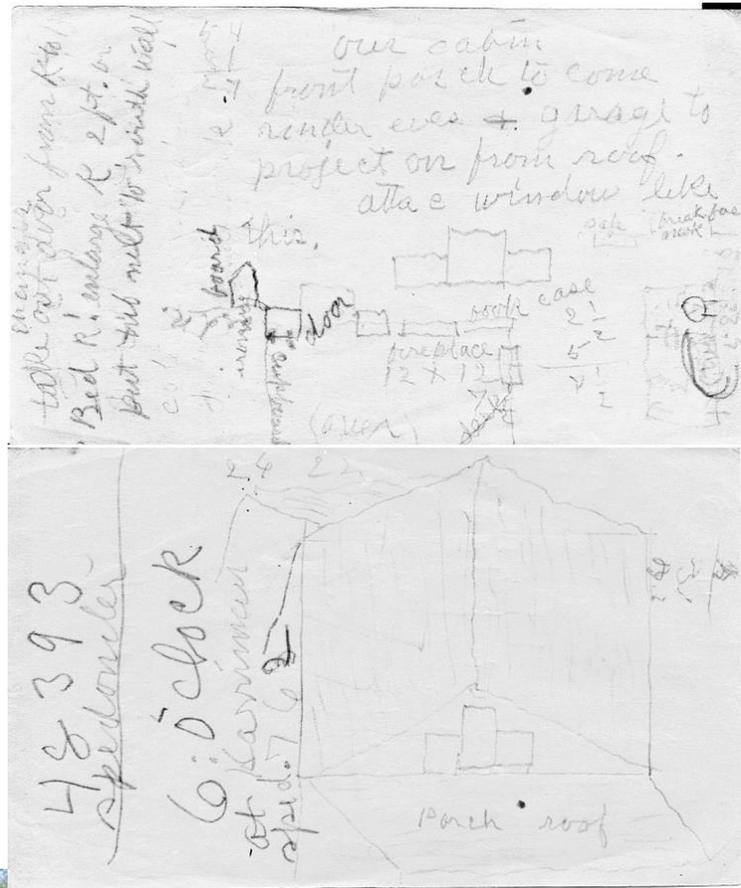
In 1993, Ketha was listed as living there, as was her daughter Jackie. Ketha and George inherited the house there after Nellie died (in that same house in Dunedin) in 1960. In a newspaper article for Ketha's 100th birthday, it was claimed that the Parsons family and Anson and Nellie swapped residences in about 1954, Anson and Nellie moving to a renovated building on a retired army base. But their grandson Frank Fowler does not believe that was accurate.

²²⁵ https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/1237-New-York-Ave-Dunedin-FL-34698/47185731_zpid/

Right: Anson's sketch for modifications to the Florida "cabin", including adding a front porch and garage, enlarging the kitchen and adding windows above the porch roof.



The Florida house, above, presumably after the modifications, taken in the 1940's by Joyce Harrison Fowler.

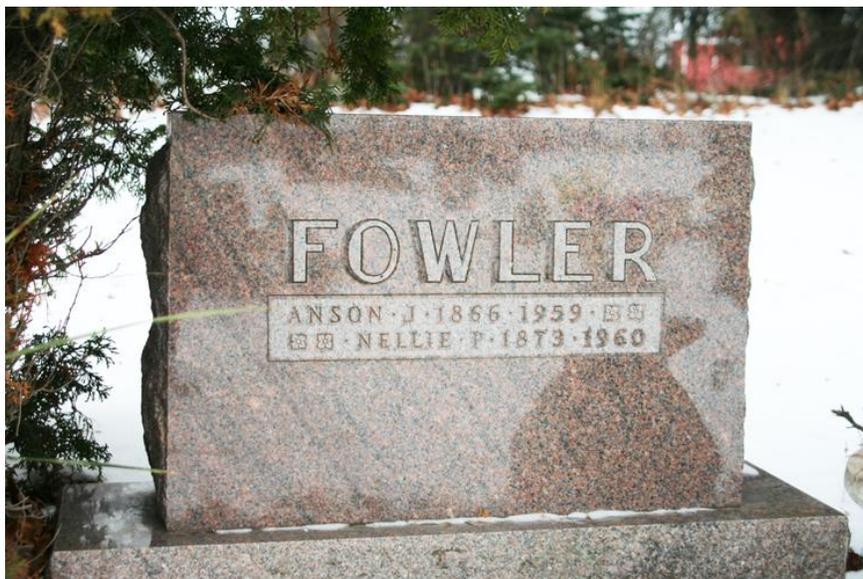


1237 New York St, Dunedin (photo, left, Google Street View, 2019) matches the old photos of Anson and Nellie's "cottage" exactly!

Anson came back to Michigan when he was too ill for the Parsons to care for, was in a care facility in Isabella County for a while, where his family all remember visiting him during the winter of 1958-59, and died in the hospital in Traverse City in February 1959.

Nellie died in the Dunedin house a year later. Because Anson and Nellie both died intestate, Ketha gathered quit-claim deeds and other instruments to gain ownership of the property in 1961, all other descendants giving up their claims in her favor.

Both Anson and Nellie were buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Coe Twp, Isabella Co, MI



Anson and Nellie's grave, Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Coe Twp, Isabella, MI
(photo by author, 2009)

Chapter Five: O.S. Edward Fowler and Dora Alice Parrish Fowler

O.S. Edward Fowler (1895 Pine River Twp, Gratiot, MI -1993 St. Louis MI) married Dora Alice Parrish (1898 Pauling OH – 1959 Alma MI) in September 1917 and later Winifred Vroman Jackson (1894 Grand Rapids MI – 1985 St. Louis MI) in 1960.

The noted phrenologist, O.S. Fowler (Orson Squire Fowler), might have been the inspiration for his odd first name. (See Frank Gridley Fowler's biography and the endnotes about the phrenologist for more information about him. To our knowledge, Orson Squire Fowler was not from our branch of the Fowlers, but rather from the CT Fowlers.) There's been a lot of conjecture that O.S. was named for the phrenologist, that Anson and Nellie admired the phrenologist, or that the phrenologist lectured in St. Louis and caught their attention. Orson Squire died in 1887 and O.S. was born in 1895. Perhaps this is the explanation. O.S. himself did not know he might have been named for someone named Orson Squire -- he assumed "Orison Stanley" (Orison WAS suspiciously close to Orson) when entering the army. Additionally, he told one of his granddaughters that "O.S." stood for "Oh Shit". He had a good sense of humor !

O.S.'s draft registration card was filled in with "O.S. Edward Fowler" (see below), the middle name that of his grandfather, Edward. So was his marriage record to Dora, below. None of us was aware of this middle name until we saw these documents.

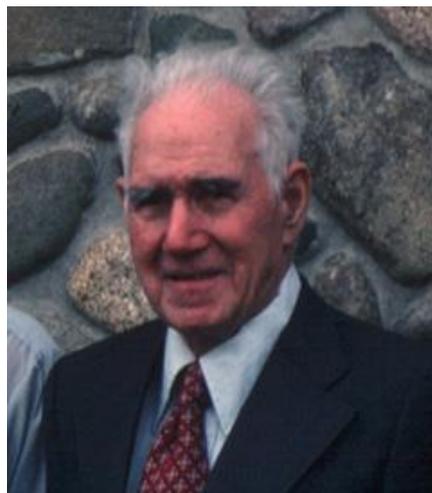
Federal censuses found O.S. in Pine River Twp, Gratiot Co, MI: In 1900 as a child with Anson, Nellie and grandmother Laura and in 1910 as a child with Anson, Nellie, and sister Ketha.



O.S. and son Jack,
about 1922



Perhaps in the 1950's



1978

Before we discuss OS and Dora as a couple, and their later lives, let's look at Dora's family:

About Dora's father's family, The Parrishes and Comers/Gaumers

Dora's father's family, the Parrish family, moved into Midland County, MI between 1900 and 1910 from Ohio.

Our immigrant-ancestor Parrishes were father Edward Parrish (1605 Yorkshire, England – 1679 West River Hundred, Annapolis, Anne Arundel, Maryland) and son John Parrish (1640 Yorkshire, England – 1670 West River Hundred, Annapolis, Anne Arundel, Maryland) who arrived in 1635 and 1655, respectively, if we can believe OPD. Unlike most of the colonists we have been discussing, these men came to a southern colony, rather than a northeastern one. We are not convinced the women who are listed in OPD are correct, so we will not try to discuss them here.

Also, the areas in which these next generations lived in VA seems confused and that is also because of OPD. My apologies. Here is what we can gather:

A few generations later, James Parrish (1712 West River Hundred, Annapolis, Anne Arundel, MD – 1792 Louisa Co, VA) left Maryland and moved southwest more than 100 miles to Louisa County, VA where he married Mary Barnett (1737 Goochland, VA – 1792 Louisa, VA) about 1733. The Barnetts, Rolfes, Farrars, Perrins, and Royalls were all early settlers in Henrico Co., Goochland, and Varina VA (in the Richmond area).

Their son, Jolly Barnett Parrish (1740 VA – 1783 Louisa Co, VA) was a colonel in the Revolution, drafted into the militia in 1775 or 1776 as a captain, a major by 1780, and a colonel by 1781. In 1781, he was accused and tried for having "enlisted a Slave as a substitute for his division of Militia, and deliver'd him up knowing him to be so." He continued to serve, however, so we assume he was not convicted. Jolly's wife, at the time he wrote his will was Ann Powers (1740 Louisa Co., VA – 1785 Louisa Co., VA), although our lineage may run through another wife, Mary Blackwell (1740 VA - ??). In his will, Jolly left a total 12 slaves to his heirs, along with a number of animals, 250 acres of land, AND two plantations, one named Upshaw (to be sold to pay his debts) and the other "where I now live".

To our ancestor Meredith Parrish (1763 Louisa, VA – 1828 Campbell, VA), he left

To my Son Meredith I give and bequeath one Negro Boy named Harry and one hundred acres of Land where he now lives and likewise one black Mare which he now has in possession and one feather Bed likewise.

Meredith, however, sold the land in 1795 and moved possibly into Kentucky if the OPD birth places of his children with Joyce Elizabeth Curtis (1764 Goochland, VA – 1860 Bracken Co, KY) can be believed, or elsewhere in Virginia (or what is now WV?).

Meredith and Joyce's son John Reuben Parrish (1791 Ohio County, VA, now WV – 1867 Putnam Co, OH) married Sarah Brown (1796 St Clair, IL – 1881 Kalida, Putnam, OH) in 1814 in Licking Co, OH in 1814. Sarah was the daughter of Deliverance Brown (1770 NY – 1803 St. Clair, IL) and Sarah Nichols Morris Brown (1770 Wheeling VA, now WV – 1811 Licking OH). While we don't know much about the Browns, Sarah Nichols' parents were John Nichols (1740 Somerset PA – 1800 Ohio Co, VA, now WV) and Rebecca Mounts (1744 maybe Maryland, maybe WV – OPD - 1817 Ohio Co, VA, now WV). One OPD family tree suggests that John was the son of John Nichols (1698 Lancaster, Worcester, MA – 1783 Lancaster, Worcester, MA), but the facts don't quite add up for this to be the case.

John Reuben Parrish was a veteran of the War of 1812, for which service he earned a military warrant of 160 acres of Union Twp. in Putnam County, OH, which he signed over (or sold) to Deliverance Nichols in 1853, one of Sarah's nephews, when it was awarded. John also bought 160 acres in Putnam Co, OH in 1836. The couple censused in Pleasant (1840), Union Twp. (1850), and Kalida (1860) in Putnam County and had 14 children between 1817 and 1837, all born in Crawford, Licking, Marion, or Putnam Counties.



John and Sarah Brown Parrish were buried in the Union Twp Cemetery, Kalida, Putnam OH (photos from Find-A-Grave ²²⁶)

In 1858 in Putnam Co, OH, John and Sarah's son, William Bryan Andrew Parrish (or maybe William Bryan Brown Parrish (1830 Crawford Co, OH – 1902 Paulding OH), married Sarah Lucretia Comer (abt 1840 probably Putnam Co, but definitely OH – 1870 Paulding OH), daughter of Henry Comer (1808 Shenandoah Co, VA - ?? Putnam Co, OH) and Susanna Decker Comer (1798 VA – 1881 Putnam Co, OH).

About the Comers

With the help of a Parrish cousin/genealogist blogger, we have learned even more about the Comers (an anglicization of the name Gaumer):

The phrase Pennsylvania Dutch is a term that refers to the people who came from the southwest area of Germany and also Switzerland, then settled in Pennsylvania during the 17th and 18th centuries. And in 1737, aboard a ship called the "Snow Molly", Christopher Comer arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from Germany.... Christopher made his way to Shenandoah County, Virginia settling there by 1745, and in 1746 he purchased a plantation at Hawksbill Creek.

²²⁶ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=2133842&GRid=29025729&http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=2133842&GRid=29025751&>

Christopher's son, Michael, who was born about 1723 probably in Germany, and his wife, Catharine/Catrina had a son of their own, Phillip Comer. Phillip and his wife, believed to be Miss Barbara Daker (or Baker) were the family members who "made the move". They were the ones who picked up their family and made the shift in their life. Phillip and Barbara moved from Virginia to Champaign County, Ohio before 1830. ²²⁷

This information allowed us to reach back to Germany and locate records for Johann Dietrich Gaumer (1619 Adelshofen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany – 1693 Adelshofen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany) and wife Barbara; their immigrant-ancestor son Johann Lorenz Gaumer (1654 Adelshofen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany – 1736 Lancaster, PA) and wife Catherine; their immigrant-ancestor son John Christopher Comer (1687 Adelshofen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany – 1763 Hawksbill Creek, Shenandoah, VA) and wife Susanna Catherine Ripp (1690 Adelshofen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany – 1763 Lancaster, PA); and then their son Michel Comer (1722 Ittlingen, Heilbronn, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany – 1802 Page Co, VA)

It looks as though three generations of Gamers (Johann Lorenz, John Christopher, and Michael plus some siblings) indeed immigrated to America in 1737 or earlier if we believe Johann Lorenz's death date and place of 1736 in Lancaster.

In VA, Michael married Catherine Michael (1735 Shenandoah Co, VA – 1802 Page Co, VA), about whose roots we have not learned much. Their son Philip Comer (1776 Page Co, VA - ?? Putnam Co, OH) and wife Barbara Baker Comer (1774 Shenandoah Co, VA – 1850 OPD says VA, but almost *must* have been Putnam, OH) were the Comers who moved to and purchased acreage in Putnam Co. in 1833. Barbara's father Philip Peter Baker (1723 Framersheim, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany – 1802 Strasburg, Shenandoah, VA) was also a German immigrant, and her mother Barbara Snapp (1730 Muhlhausen, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France – 1783 Strasburg, Shenandoah, VA), a French immigrant. Philip and Barbara had 5 children in VA before moving to Ohio. Their son Henry Comer and Susanna Decker Comer had at least three daughters (maybe a fourth), and we know the couple was buried in the Comer Cemetery ²²⁸ but suspect that Philip and Barbara were as well. We have been unable to find out much about the Decker family.

William Bryan Andrew Parrish and Sarah Lucretia Comer

William Bryan Andrew Parrish had at least five children, including our ancestor, with his first wife, Sarah Comer Parrish; Sarah was also buried in her family's cemetery when she died in 1870 in Putnam County ²²⁹. William moved to Paulding Co, OH in 1872, following his youngest brother, John Stateler Parrish ²³⁰ (1837 Pleasant City, Putnam County, OH – 1915 Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio) and widowed mother:

²²⁷ <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/2014/06/27/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks-7-christopher-comer-family/comment-page-1/#comment-59>

²²⁸ The map provided by Find-A-Grave shows this tiny family cemetery outside of Cloverdale, along Rte 114, in a bend of the Auglaize River, Putnam County, Ohio <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GScid=40363>

²²⁹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GScid=40363&GRid=137113177&>

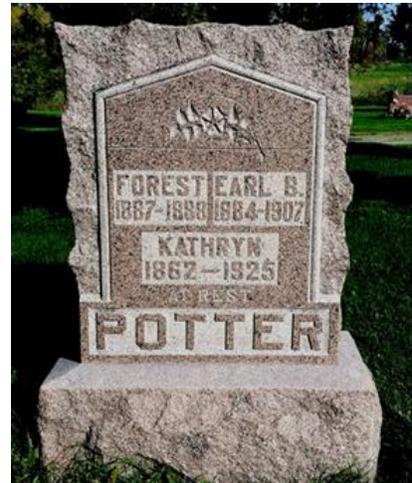
²³⁰ Named for grandmother Catherine Stateler

It is recorded that in 1872, William moved from Putnam County to neighboring Paulding County. His father having already passed, his mother was now living there with William's youngest brother, and while mourning the death of his wife, being surrounded by family would have brought comfort to a grieving William, who also had his hands full with five young children. Perhaps, just perhaps, a match may have been in the works for William to meet the woman who would step in as a mother to his children. William and Melissa were married on 29 November 1873, and together they had four children of their own.²³¹

The blogger we introduced above told us that the youngest of William's children was raised for a time by an uncle "Jack" Parrish, which was probably John Stater Parrish in Paulding Co., where William relocated, and it certainly may have been more than the one child who was lodged with his brother's family²³², while William got his feet on the ground in Paulding Co.

Those five children were:

- John Henry Parrish (1861 Putnam Co, OH – 1937 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) married Elizabeth Ann Baughman (1866 Saxony, Germany – 1953 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI) Read more about him in the coming pages.
- Mary Katherine/Kathryn Parrish (1862 Putnam Co, OH – 1925 Toledo, OH). If we believe OPD and an Ohio marriage record for "Kate" Parrish, then she married Levi N. Potter (1863 OH – after 1910) in 1883 in Paulding, OH. The couple had two sons, both of whom died young, and who were buried with "Kathryn" in Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH. It looks as though Levi Potter had an earlier marriage, as we found him living with his mother and "daughter" Eva Potter Parker (widow) in Jackson, Paulding OH in 1900, *without* Kate. In 1910, however, Eva was listed as Eva Potter and as Levi's wife and the family was in Kansas with new additions to the family. So perhaps Levi and Kate were divorced before 1900, but we are not sure.
- Julia Etta Parrish (1864 Jackson, Putnam, OH – 1903 Cleveland, Ohio). Julia married William Henry Stahl in 1800 in Paulding, Ohio and the couple had at least five children between 1884 and 1893, three of them alive and living with them in 1900 in Paulding.



Mary Katherine Parrish Potter's grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH. (photo from Find-A-Grave²³³)

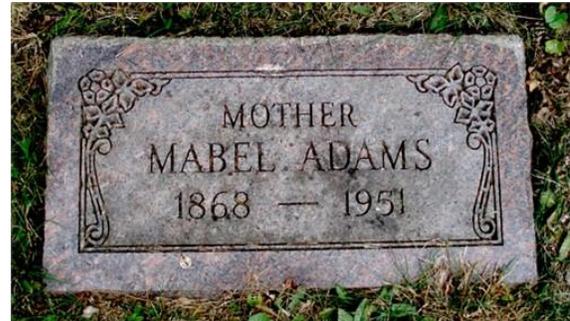
²³¹ <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/author/cditkowski/>

²³² <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/2014/09/20/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks-19-charles-parrish/>

²³³ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=potter&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=80773717&>

There was also a city directory listing for them in Cleveland, OH in 1904 but she had already died in May 1903 in Cleveland and was buried in the Lake View Cemetery there. In January 1904, William re-married Jennie Harrison McKee and went on to have more children with her in Van Wert County, OH.

- Mabel Susan Parrish (1868 Putnam Co, OH – 1951 Toledo, Lucas, OH). Despite some OPD that indicate there was a Susan Parrish and a Mabel Parrish, we believe that there was just one child, Mabel Susan. She married Jesse G. Adams (1865 Allen Co, OH – 1938 Toledo, Lucas, OH) in 1892 in Paulding. He was a rail-road station agent then mechanic in the oil fields in Paulding County, and they had 2 daughters.



Mabel Susan Adam's grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH. (photo from Find-A-Grave ²³⁴)

- Charles Franklin Parrish (1870 Putnam Co, OH – 1944 Paulding Co, OH). Charles was 18 months old when his mother died and the children were lodged with their Uncle Jack in Paulding County until William could reassemble his family. Our cousin blogger wrote that Charles went to live with his brother John Henry at some point (see below) and had a child, Charles Floyd, with Vonvora May Pittman in 1889, whom they gave to John Henry and Betty Parrish to raise. Then in 1895, Charles married Clara Lucy Medley (1875 Putnam Co, OH – 1959 Paulding Co, OH) in Paulding Co. and together they had 8 children. Charles spent his married life on his farm in Jackson Township and was active on the school board there.



Charles Franklin and Clara Lucy Medley Parrish (photo courtesy of cditkowski ²³⁵)



Charles Franklin and Clara Lucy Medley Parrish's grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH.

²³⁴ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=40389560>

(photo from Find-A-Grave ²³⁶)

William Parrish married again, in 1873, to Mellisa Schisler (1849 – 1941 Paulding OH), and the couple had four ²³⁷ more children. Whatever fostering his brother John/Jack did to help out, the whole “blended” family was together again and enumerated in Paulding Co, OH in 1880.

William and Melissa’s children were:

- Joshua Billingsly Parrish (1875 Jackson, Paulding, OH – 1945 Jackson, Paulding, OH) married in 1892 to Emma R. Hughes (1876 Brown, Paulding, OH – 1894 Paulding, OH); then in 1894 to Ida B. Wilson (1874 Ohio – 1922 Paulding, OH); then in 1923 to Wilda Boroff (1881 Mercer, OH – 1952 Mercer, OH). Joshua and Ida had 6 children. He farmed in Paulding County all his life.



Joshua B. and Ida B. Parrish’s grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH.
(photo from Find-A-Grave ²³⁸)

²³⁵ <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/author/cditkowski/>

²³⁶ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=24303387&>

²³⁷ In the 1900 census, Melissa said her five children were all still living. But in 1910, she said correctly said four of four were living.

²³⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=29228950&>

- James Curtis Parrish (1878 Paulding, OH – 1951 Paulding Co, OH) married Iva Idonia Corbin (1885 Delaware Co, OH – 1921 Paulding, OH) in 1903 in Paulding Co, and the couple had nine children -- one of whom, Irene Parrish Baker did extensive genealogy research on the Parrishes in her later life ²³⁹. James and Iva moved into Michigan by 1910, where he was farming in Iosco County. In 1930, he was working as a trucker out of Flint, MI. But at various times in his life, he was back in Paulding, when he registered for the WW1 and WW2 draft for instance. In 1929, James remarried to Anna Boroff Andrick in Midland, MI in 1929; she lived until 1960 and was buried with one of her earlier



James C. and Iva C. Parrish's grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH. (photo from Find-A-Grave ²⁴⁰)

husbands in Midland, MI. Confusingly enough, however, James censused with his mother, sister and brother-in-law in Paulding in 1940.

- Margaret Rose Ellen Parrish (1881 Jackson Twp, Paulding, OH – 1969 Ft. Wayne, Allen, IN) was married three times. First, to William Howard Turner in 1903 in Paulding OH with whom she had one child; they censused with Melissa and brother George in Paulding in 1910. Later to John Price Nichols in 1921 in Allen, IN; then to Harry Sturgis Saunders with whom she censused in 1940 with her mother and brother in Paulding. She was buried with her first husband in Paulding.



Rose Ellen Parrish Turner's grave at Bowholtz Cemetery, Paulding, OH. (photo from Find-A-Grave ²⁴¹)

²³⁹ Irene's books, included several volumes and were titled, "A Portrait of our Ancestors - Jury, Troxell, Shisler, Parrish". See also <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/2013/11/03/in-memory-of-irene-parrish-baker/>

²⁴⁰ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=29228319&>

²⁴¹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=turner&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=39422191&>

- George Stateler Parrish (1888 Jackson, Paulding, OH – 1974 Fort Wayne, IN) married Amanda C. McCabe (1891 OH – 1966) in 1911 in Paulding Co, OH and had three children. George was a farmer in Paulding until about 1935 when the couple moved to Fort Wayne, IN where George was a laborer there. The couple were interred Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Allen, IN.



George Stateler Parrish and Amanda McCabe Parrish were both interred Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Allen, IN (photo from Find-A-Grave ²⁴²)

William was buried in the Bowholtz Cemetery in Paulding Co, OH, along with his second wife, Mellisa. Here are his obituaries:

Wm. Parrish, an old and respected citizen of Jackson twp., and pioneer of Paulding county, died of smallpox last Monday morning. The circumstances of his death are very sad, as the children and friends were not permitted to visit him during his sickness, or to pay the last sad tributes of respect as we are informed.

Wm. Parrish, aged about 70 years, died at his home near Hedges Monday of smallpox. The remains were buried in the cemetery nearby sometime during the same day. He had been sick for about two weeks and was considered nearly out of danger from the dread disease, when he took a sudden turn for the worse and died soon afterward.

Obituary -

William Parrish, the deceased was born in Crawford county, Ohio, Oct. 1 1830 and died at his home in Paulding county March 17, 1902 aged 72 years 3 months and 16 days. The subject of this sketch was the son of John and Sarah Parrish. He went with his parents to Putnam County, Ohio in the year 1836 when that county was a dense forest, they settled down on 160 acres in a log cabin to hew out a home quite a few miles from any other white family.

The deceased was united in marriage to Lucritia Comer in Putnam county in July 1858, to this union was born three sons and three daughters one of which preceded him to the better land. The wife died in 1870 leaving him with five children. In 1872 he moved to Paulding county and purchased the present home which was then in its wild state. On Nov. 29th 1873 he was united in marriage with Mellisa Shisler and to this union were born three sons and one daughter all of whom are still living. He leaves a wife, five sons, four daughters, two brothers and one sister and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

He united with the U.B. church during the winter of 1877 under the administration of Rev. R. Gear and has always remained an active worker and a true Christian. He was baptized in the summer of 1896 in the Auglaize river at Charloe. We believe that he had complied with the word of God as to the conditions of salvation, he was conscious all through his sickness and knew the time was nearing for him to die, he called the family that was present to his bed and said he was sorry to leave them but he was going home to rest and bid them all a last farewell. The remains were laid to rest in the Boholtz cemetery March 17, funeral services were held at Blue Creek Sunday morning May 18th 1902 by Rev. H.P. Bucher of Van Wert, Ohio. Farewell husband, father dear, they loss to us is great but in heaven we hope to meet you when partings are no more. ²⁴³

²⁴² <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=85700&GRid=86411213&>

²⁴³ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=33653008&>



Charcoal drawing of William done by a cousin Charley Keck of Paulding OH (left) and the grave of William and second wife, Mellisa Shisler Parrish, in Paulding OH (right), courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁴⁴.

The charcoal portrait of William Parrish (above) was re-located by his descendent Irene Parrish Baker after it had been “lost”:

Irene had written in her book about a set of wedding pictures of her grandfather, William – my great-great grandfather. The story was that the pictures hung on the wall of his son’s home for many years, but by the time Irene had begun to write the family histories, the owners of the pictures had both died, and the pictures were nowhere to be found, but Irene was hoping to search for it before publishing her final volume. ...As it turns out, once the owners of the pictures had died, another family member had taken the pictures – only to use the frames they were in, and then moved to Kentucky. As luck would have it, Irene was able to track down where they lived and made the trip to retrieve this priceless family pictures, arriving just after a tornado had gone through the area, and the pictures being lost from the home. Only miraculously was the picture of William found, face down in a creek bed, and returned to Irene. Although water-damaged, the artist in her promptly set to work at restoring the picture, which now proudly hangs in her apartment. ²⁴⁵

More from our cousin/blogger:

In the family history written by my cousin, Irene Parrish, she has transcribed many of the family letters that are in her possession. A letter written by Melissa Parrish’s oldest son, Joshua – dated 6 March 1902, he writes to an aunt letting her know that both his mother and father had come down with small pox at home. Due to the seriousness of the disease at that time, the family living there at home would have been quarantined and unable to send mail out. Therefore, the next letter that arrived was sent from a neighbor of William and Melissa’s. It spoke of the seriousness of William’s illness, and how Melissa, who was although somewhat ill, still managed to care for the household.

²⁴⁴ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=39987&GRid=33653008&>

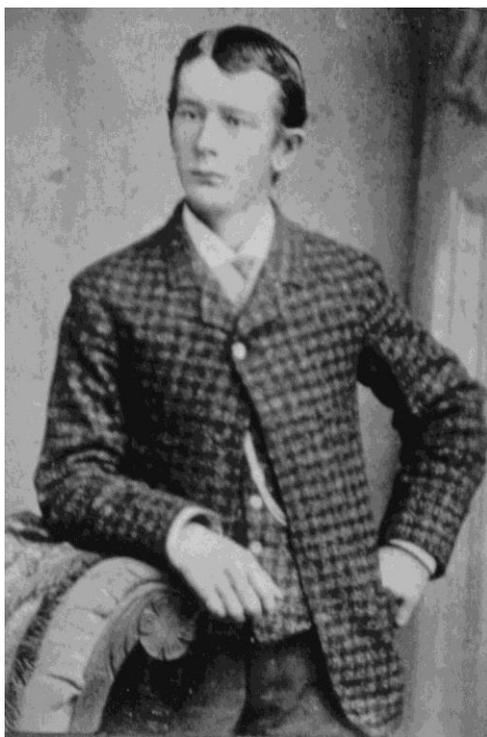
²⁴⁵ <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/2013/11/03/in-memory-of-irene-parrish-baker/>

And then a letter arrived that was dated March 20, 1902 from William's daughter, Rose, to her aunt Ethel. It was a letter giving the details of the death of William Parrish who died of small pox on March 17:

"...no one was here except Ma and Josh Jim George and I (** referring to Melissa and their four children)...O how sad none of the other children (**from his first marriage) ever saw him but **John Henry** before he got down bad John came to the window and talked a little while to Pa. ... Ethel, he saw Grandma Brown he told us so before he left us and smiled and said he would soon be there. ... He wanted to tell us so much before but could not for his throat would not let him talk....O if his throat would have let him talk he would have told us something great." ²⁴⁶

John Henry Parrish and Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Baughman Parrish

In the next generation of Parrish men, the oldest son, and our ancestor, was John Henry Parrish (1861 Kalida, Putnam, OH – 1937 St. Louis, Gratiot, MI). We have seen that John's mother died when he was 9, and his father relocated the family to Putnam County so that he could have some help raising his 5 children. John may have been "farmed out" to his uncle's and grandmother's care, or he may have been old enough to help his father begin establishing a new farm there in the early 1870's.



John Henry Parrish
(1861 Kalida, Putnam,
OH – 1937 St. Louis,
Gratiot, MI).

On 12 June 1885, John Henry married Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Baughman (1866 Saxton, Germany – 1953 St. Louis, MI) in Paulding OH. At that time, John was working in a lumber mill, and the couple lived in a 1-room "shack" ²⁴⁷. Fifteen years later (1900) John and wife Betty were living in Jackson Twp, Paulding OH in the same neighborhood as two of his brothers and one of hers, and John was farming. This was where all of their children were born. His father lived elsewhere in the same "south precinct" of Jackson Twp. (12 pages of

²⁴⁶ <https://geneacandy.wordpress.com/author/cditkowski/>

²⁴⁷ According to stories told to grandson from Francis Fowler.

census records away), but John Henry reportedly stopped by to talk with his dying father in 1902.

The descendants of John's youngest full brother, Charles Franklin Parrish (1870 Putnam Co, OH – 1944 Jackson Twp, Paulding Co, OH), tell the story that Charles went to live with John and Betty when he was 12, which would have been about 1882 -- although John and Betty were not married until 1885. It was not a surprise, therefore, to hear that John and Betty raised Charles' son, Charles Floyd, after the child was born to Vonvora Pittman (1870 Bucyrus, Crawford County, OH – 1940 Fostoria, Seneca, OH) in 1889²⁴⁸. John and Betty's other children, the ones who lived to adulthood, were born from 1891 to 1899. Betty apparently had one child who died, as reported to the 1910 census, but we do not know when.

Between 1900 and 1910, the family moved to Porter Township, Midland, MI, and by 1920 they had moved one township west to Jasper Twp, Midland MI to the community known as Pleasant Valley, where they farmed and lived the remainder of their lives. To our knowledge, John Henry, was the only one of his siblings to migrate to Michigan. None of Betty's siblings left Ohio either. We do not know if they moved north with a group of friends, which was usual, or made the venture alone with their young children.

In the 1910 census, Betty reported that 5 of her 6 children were still living. This probably means that she lost a child at birth or in infancy. The 5 children who lived to adulthood (adopted and otherwise) were often named for grandparents:

- Charles Floyd Parrish (1889 Ohio - 1964 St. Louis, MI). Often called an "adopted" son, he was actually the son of John Henry's brother Charles Franklin Parrish and Vonvora Pittman, which explains why he physically resembles the rest of the Parrish family in the portrait below. His birth certificate gives the names of both his biological parents and his name was given as "Charles" only. We wonder if "Floyd" was given to him by John and Betty? Charles Floyd may have been/become his full name, but he went by Floyd all his life. Floyd married Edna Beryl Harry in 1915 and began farming in Jasper Township, where he censused in 1920 and 1930 near his father's and brothers' farms. He was listed



Photo from Salt River Cemetery, courtesy of Find-A-Grave²⁴⁹

²⁴⁸ Although Vonvora is incorrectly named "Nora" in the birth record [Ohio, Births and Christenings Index, 1800-1962](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FSOhioBirth&h=232084&indiv=try)
<http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=FSOhioBirth&h=232084&indiv=try>

²⁴⁹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=1711&GRid=131486982&>

as renting his farm in 1920 and owning it in 1930. The couple had one daughter, Ilah (who married Stanley Vinton), and were buried in Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd, MI. Reportedly, Ilah knew and visited Vonvora and knew her as “Aunt Vora”.



Vonvora May Pittman Hassenfelt grave, Fountain Cemetery, Fostoria, OH, courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁵⁰

- Lucretia Christine Parrish (1891 Paulding, OH – 1966 Alma, MI). Named for both grandmothers. Married Earl Whitney and had two children with him. Earl died about 1918 and was buried in Breckenridge Cemetery. In 1920, Lucretia was living with her parents (under her maiden name) and two daughters, then she re-married to James Franklin Good and had 3 more children. The Goods lived in Porter Twp, Midland Co, MI and were buried at the Breckenridge Cemetery, Breckenridge, MI.



Photo from Breckenridge Cemetery, courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁵¹

- William Henry Parrish (1896 Paulding, OH – 1969 St. Louis, MI) Married Gertrude Mae Stephenson in 1922 and had two children. William was the only brother who served in WWI, registering for the draft the same day as his brother Floyd and his brother-in-law O.S. Fowler. William and Gertrude censused near his brothers' farms in Jasper, Midland, MI and they owned their farm in 1930. They were buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Coe, Gratiot, MI.



William Henry and Gertrude Parrish grave, Pleasant Ridge Cemetery (photo by author, 2015)

- Dora Alice Parrish (1889 Paulding, OH – 1959 Alma, MI) Please read about Dora in the next section

²⁵⁰ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Hassenfelt&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1940&GSdyrel=in&GSst=37&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=50384975&df=all&>

²⁵¹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=good&GSiman=1&GScid=2249320&GRid=122091079&>

- John Christopher Parrish (1899 Paulding, OH – 1938 St. Louis, MI). Married Ethlo Edith Crawford in 1918 and had one son, Maynard. In 1920, the family censused on a rented farm in Bethany Twp, Gratiot, MI and in 1930 on a rented farm nearby his brothers in Jasper Twp. John died in 1938 as the result of a farm accident on his brother Bill's farm next door, when parts of a windmill fell on him. He lived another 9 months after the accident. Ethlo remarried to Floyd Gruber. They were buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI.



Photos from Oak Grove Cemetery,
courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁵²



John Henry Parrish (1861-1937) and Elizabeth Ann Baughman [Betty] Parrish (1866-1953) (seated) and their children: Lucretia Christine (1891-1966), Charles Floyd (1889-1964), William Henry (1896-1969), John Christopher (1899-1938), and Dora Alice (1898-1959), left to right standing.

²⁵² <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIIn=parrish&GSiman=1&GScid=1252&GRid=52574532&>

John Henry died in 1937 and Betty continued to live on the Pleasant Valley farm, with the help of her children (three of whom lived very close by) and grandchildren, until her death in 1953. They were buried in St. Louis, MI in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Grave of John Henry Parrish and
Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Baughman
Parrish,
Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis, MI
(photo by author, 2009)



About Dora's mother's family, The Baughmans

Like Micheal Comer and Philip Peter Baker, Dora's mother, Elizabeth Ann Baughman Parrish (1866 Saxton, Germany – 1953 St. Louis, MI) was one of our ancestors who was not of English extraction: she was born in Saxony, Germany, as were all but two of her siblings.

Betty's parents were John Christian Baughman I (1831 Germany – 1877 Ohio) and Christina Luft Baughman (1832 Germany – 1902 presumably Hardin Co, Ohio). Family lore states that they arrived in the United States shortly before John Christian died. When was this? OPD says he died in 1877, but we have not been able to corroborate this. Census records for each of the 5 immigrating children disagree mildly on the year the family arrived in the U.S. [we've seen everything from 1857 to 1876], but 1868 seems to be the date most agree upon. The family was supposedly in Washington Twp, Hardin Co, OH by 1871 when Charlie was born, according to his obituary 71 years later, but his 1900 census record says he was born in Ohio in 1869 -- which is accurate? We have not been able to find any record of the family in the 1870 census in Ohio however. With them from Germany came Henrietta's infant son, Rhienhold, presumably by a first marriage, born in July of 1868, so they must have departed Germany soon after his birth. Rhienhold's census records say that he was born in Germany in 1868 and arrived in the U.S. in 1868.

When we searched "arrival" records for John Christian and family, we did not find anything totally believable. There is one record for an 1868 arrival in the U.S. by a Christian Bauman in Philadelphia, but we cannot access the list to see if this man had family with him.²⁵³ A second record exists for a Johann Baumann, arriving in NY in 1868, but again with no complete list to check for accompanying family.²⁵⁴ Still a third record for a John Baumann arriving in Illinois in 1868²⁵⁵ seems highly unlikely to be our man. And yet another record exists for a Joh. (Johann) Baumann, age 34, arriving on May 7, 1868 aboard the ship Allemannia from Hamburg, Germany, but this man was alone. Still it is possible that this is the arrival record for John Christian, travelling alone.

NAMES.	AGE.		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The Country to which they usually belong.
	YEARS.	MONTHS.			
Joseph Moller	17		m	Labr	Germany
Joh. Baumann	34				
Leh. Frauenth	46				

From the arrival manifest of the ship Allemannia from Hamburg, Germany, May 7, 1868.
New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Ancestry.com

²⁵³ Section II, Alphabetical Index of Naturalization Records, 1794-1880, Maritime Records, Port of Philadelphia. Ancestry.com

²⁵⁴ SCHRADER-MUGGENTHALER, CORNELIA. The Alsace Emigration Book. Vol. 1. Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1989. 277p. Ancestry.com

²⁵⁵ DAGIT, CHRISTAL E. Tazewell County, Illinois Naturalization and Immigration Records, 1839 to 1909, Volume 1. Pekin, IL: Tazewell County Genealogical Society, 1994. 109p. Ancestry.com

When we widened the search parameters to adjacent arrival years, we located other records which seem plausible, but so far none which includes both John/Johann AND his family. Another possible one is a Johann who was a German farmer with the correct birth year, arrival 29 Jul 1869 aboard the ship Germanic from Hamburg, but again, travelling alone.

62	Ernest Hehn	15	female	summarily	Germany
63	Hermann Jeldenburg	32	male	merchant	"
64	Abraham Jollen	24	"	farmer	"
65	Adolf	26	"	"	"
66	Johann Baumann	38	"	"	"

From the arrival manifest of the ship Germanic from Hamburg, 29 July 1869.
New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Ancestry.com

So John/Johann may have arrived in the U.S. alone and later sent for his family. If not, then we have not yet located the records for the Baughman arrival in the United States.

Why did Germans come to America in the 1860's?

During the late eighteenth century, the Industrial Revolution began transforming the economies of the many German states from agricultural to manufacturing bases, making it more difficult for farmers to prosper. The lure of apparently unlimited farmland in North America, coupled with news from successful immigrants to provide a powerful lure to emigrate. From the late eighteenth century through much of the nineteenth century, millions of Germans went to the United States. Many of them were farmers who brought skills that contributed significantly to the agriculture of the Midwest, and many settled and helped build cities such as Milwaukee and Cincinnati.²⁵⁶

We do know that John died "shortly after the family arrived", possibly in 1877 (unsubstantiated OPD), maybe earlier, and it was a difficult time, made much more so by the fact that Christina spoke little or no English²⁵⁷. Christina re-married in late 1879 or early 1880 to John Ulrich Wagner (after the death of Ulrich's first wife in 1879), the father of her son-in-law Jacob Wagner. In the 1880 census, Christina was living with her two youngest sons and second husband in Washington, Hardin, OH. After John Ulrich Wagner died in 1886, twice-widowed Christina was living with her daughter Lena and family in 1900 in Washington, Hardin, OH. She reported in 1900 that 7 of the 8 children she had birthed were still living. Christina probably died between 1900 and 1910 (OPD says 1902). We do not know where she or her first husband John Christian were buried. Nor do we know where her second husband was buried.

Some of the male children of the family moved away from Hardin Co, probably in order to find farm land they could buy. But all the children, except for Betty, remained in NW Ohio, in

²⁵⁶ <http://www.immigrationinamerica.org/519-german-immigrants.html?newsid=519>

http://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/German_Ohioans?rec=592

²⁵⁷ Personal communication from Francis Fowler.

Orange, Paulding and Hardin Counties. And all but Charlie farmed all their lives or married a farmer.

- Henrietta “Yet” (1851 Germany – 1935 Orange, Hancock Co, OH) arrived in the U.S. with an infant son in 1868. We do not know if her husband came with her from Germany, whether she was even married, or what happened to the child’s father, but in the 1920 census, son Rhienhold said that his father was German. About 1874, Henrietta married Jacob Wagner, a naturalized Swiss immigrant (who arrived with his family in 1853). In 1880, the couple was living in Blanchard, Hardin Co, Ohio with two young Wagner children and Henrietta’s son, Rhienhold Deats (Dietz?). Henrietta had 5 children with Wagner. By the time of the 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses, they were living in Orange, Hancock Co, OH on a farm which Jacob owned. Rhienhold was doing the farming for the elderly Wagners by 1920. Jacob died in 1924. The 1930 census found Henrietta and Rhienhold still living on the same farm. Rhienhold, who never married, died two years after his mother and was buried in the same cemetery (as were Henrietta’s two other sons). Henrietta had five children, all of whom were alive in 1910.



Jacob and Henrietta Wagner grave, Haddon Cemetery, Van Buren Township, Hancock, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁵⁸

- John Christian (II) “Chris” (1853 Germany -1930 Paulding Co, OH) In 1878, he married Anna Barbara Cooper, also a German immigrant (arrival 1877). In 1880, the family was in Hardin Co, OH. In 1900, 1910, they owned their farm in Jackson, Paulding OH, with brother August living nearby in 1910. In 1910, he was listed as owning his own home while his son-in-law farmed from the same household; John said he had his “own income” but did not provide an occupation. Anna reported all three of the children she had given birth to were



The Baughman plot stone. Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding Co, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave, where it is associated with the interment of John Christian’s son ²⁵⁹.

²⁵⁸ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=wagner&GSiman=1&GScid=41320&GRid=13102093&>

²⁵⁹ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=baughman&GSiman=1&GScid=533441&GRid=78341114&>

still alive in 1910. In 1930, he reported himself as a widowed retired farmer. We have not located grave sites for the couple, although one son and at least one brother were buried in the Live Oak Cemetery in Paulding, OH. There is also a family monument there but we don't know who all it covers.

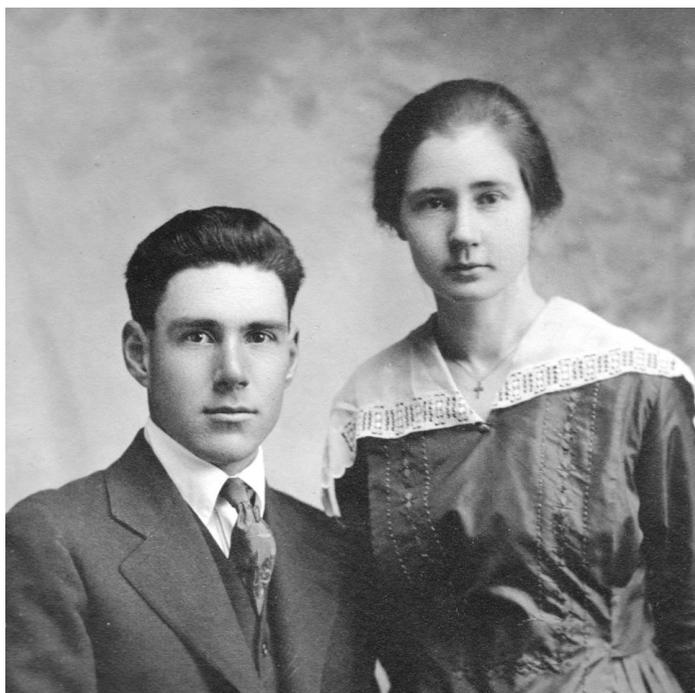
- August "Gus" (1858 Germany -1932 Paulding Co, OH) Gus and Annie Wolbert (1867 Ohio – 1931 Paulding, Ohio) were married in 1887. The couple censused in Jackson, Paulding, OH from 1900 to 1930 where they owned their own farm. Brother John lived nearby in 1910, and sons George and Lawrence lived almost next door on Stutzman Rd. in 1920 and 1930. In 1910, Annie reported that both the children she had birthed were still alive. The couple were buried in the Live Oak Cemetery in Paulding, OH where there is no individual stone for them ²⁶⁰.
- Lena (1862 Germany -1918 Hardin, Ohio) married Philip Willeke (1873 Hardin Co, OH – 1957 Hardin Co, OH) in 1896. In 1900, the couple was living in Washington, Hardin, OH on a rented farm, with her mother, Christina Wagner as well. In 1910, the couple owned their own farm in Washington, Hardin, OH. In 1910, Lena reported that all three of the children she had birthed were still alive. We do not know where Lena or her husband were buried. They are not with the other Willekes of Philip's family.
- Elizabeth Ann "Betty" (1866 Germany -1953 St. Louis, MI) Betty married John Henry Parrish in Ohio in 1885. She was the only of her siblings to move away from Ohio.
- Charles "Charlie" (1871 Hardin Co, OH – 1943 Dunkirk, OH) Married Jennie Cline (1877 Ohio –1939 Dunkirk OH) in 1896. The census of 1900 and 1910 recorded the couple in Washington Hardin, OH while Charlie farmed on their rented farm in 1900, worked as a stone cutter at the France Co, Toledo (reported in his obituary as that lasting for 25 years and he reported that occupation in the 1910 census). 1920, '30 and '40 censuses found them on West Patterson Street, Dunkirk, Ohio where Charlie worked as a "stationary engineer" at a stone quarry there. In 1940 he was living with his divorced son Verle after Jennie died in 1939. All three of their children survived to adulthood. Charlie, Jennie and Verle were all buried in the Dunkirk Cemetery, Hardin Co, OH.
- Lewis "Lewie" (between 1871-1873 Ohio -1934 Hardin Co, OH) Lewis reported his own birth year in various census records as being anywhere between 1871 and 1873. In 1880, Lewis was living with his mother and step-father in Hardin Co, OH, and in about 1900 married Doris Isabelle or Dora Belle Searson (1870 Ohio - 1960 Kenton, Hardin County, OH). The couple was living on a rented farm in 1900 and 1910. The couple had only one child that we know of. Lewis probably lived in Washington Twp, Hardin Co. his entire life. We do not know where Lewis and his wife were buried.

²⁶⁰ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=BAUG&GSpartial=1&GSbyrel=all&GSst=37&GSctry=4&GSsr=481&GRid=78341118&&ftm=1>



The children of John Christian Baughman (1831-1877) and Christina Luft (1832-1902): Top row, left to right: John Christian "Chris" (1853-1930), August "Gus" (1858-1932), Charlie (1871-1943), and Lewis "Lewie" (abt 1872-1934). Bottom Row, left to right: Henrietta "Yet" (1851 - 1935), Elizabeth Ann "Betty" (1866-1953), and Lena (1863-1918).

Back to O.S. Fowler and Dora Alice Parrish Fowler



O.S. Fowler and
Dora Alice
Parrish, 1917

O.S. and Dora married in September of 1917. Both their fathers officially witnessed the nuptials which were officiated by B. G. Hampton, "Minister of the Gospel" in St. Louis, MI.

Form 141-7-13-13000

297 To the Honorable Secretary of State of Michigan:
Return of Marriages in the County of *Gratiot*

Record Number.	Date of License.			Full Name of Bridegroom and Bride, and Maiden Name of Bride if a Widow.	Age of Each in Years.	White, Black, Mexican, Etc.	Residence of Each.	Birthplace of Each.	Occupation of Each.
	Month.	Day.	Year.						
4196	Sept.	12	1917	Eugene F. Ferrall Ethel L. Hawkins	19 19	white white	Newark Twp. Newark Twp.	Fulton Twp. Newark Twp.	Farming Housework
4196	Sept.	13	1917	O.S. Edwards Fowler Dora A. Parrish	22 19	white white	Pine River Twp. Jasper Twp. Midland Iles.	Pine River Twp. Ohio	Farming Teacher

Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952

O.S. had registered for the draft in June of 1917, a few months before he and Dora were married (2 of Dora's brothers' registration cards bear the same date as O.S.'s) and was called up in 1918, training in Battle Creek in the summer of that year. He reported to his grandchildren that, by the time he got to France, it was only "a week or two" before the armistice. Hardly. He shipped out in late July 1918, and some of the ugliest battles happened in the summer/fall period. We do know, however, that the movement of troops to the front once they landed in Europe was not smooth, and O.S. could indeed have not reached the

front much before (if at all) the armistice, which came Nov 11, 1918. Both his honorable discharge papers and his final payment roll ²⁶¹ state he was in "Service outside US: 30 July 1918 to 2 April 1919", so it was also a while before he was shipped back to the States.

On this registration card, it is interesting to see he listed his occupation as an "agricultural student". Although he did not finish high school, O.S. took agricultural training at what is now Michigan State University. So this was not an embellishment of the facts.

Form 1 1272 REGISTRATION CARD No. 85-		REGISTRAR'S REPORT A 21-3-8	
1	Name in full <u>O. S. Edward Fowler</u> Age, in yrs. <u>22</u>	1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>tall</u> Stocky, medium, or stout (which)? <u>medium</u>
2	Name <u>St Louis</u> <u>Mich</u> <u>U.S.</u>	2	Color of eyes? <u>green</u> Color of hair? <u>black</u> <u>wt. 60</u>
3	Date of birth <u>9</u> <u>25</u> <u>1895</u>	3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>no</u>
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>natural born</u>	I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
5	Where born <u>St Louis</u> <u>Mich</u> <u>U.S.</u>	<u>W. Vanderbeek</u> (Signature of registrar)	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Farming</u> <u>agricultural student</u>	Present <u>Paris River</u>	<u>6-3-1917</u> (Date of registration)
8	By whom employed?	CITY or County <u>Eastport</u>	
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>no</u>	State <u>Michigan</u>	
10	Married or single (which)? <u>single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>white</u>		
11	What military service have you had? Rank _____ Branch _____		
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>no</u>		
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
<u>667</u> <u>O. S. Edward Fowler</u> (Signature or mark)			

Draft registration card for O.S. Edward Fowler, June 1917

²⁶¹ The National Personnel Records Center of the National Archives reported to us that OS's war records were in a 1973 fire that destroyed the bulk of WWI records. <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/fire-1973.html> The only record that remained in 2016 was his final payment roll of April 1919.



Dear Mother

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

Here is where I got some sore shoulders at practice. I got your last letter D. M. glad to get it. Continue to write to the same address until I tell you different and do write often. Pa you write again to. Don't send Herald's now. I don't have time to read them.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.
JUL 15
11 30 AM
1918
CLUSTER BR. 104

U.S. POSTAGE
3 CENTS

POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Mr. A. J. Fowler
St. Louis
#3 Mich

Postcard that O.S. sent home to his parents while he was training for war.



"Orison"
Fowler in
uniform,
circa 1918

According to recent book on one-room schoolhouses in Isabella Co., Dora taught at the Davis School, Fremont Twp, Pleasant Valley Rd, in the academic year 1916-1917, the school year before the couple was married (September 1917). O.S. reminisced that he would pick her up from her boarding house on Friday afternoons and deliver her back there Sunday evenings. He never gave up his secrets, but hinted to his grandsons that "the horse knew the way", so we imagine some "spooning" happened in the wagon on these trips.

It was unusual for a married woman to continue teaching, but records tell us she also taught at the Elm Grove School ²⁶², only 1.5 miles from the Fowler and Brooks farms, for one partial year, 1917-1918 (which portion of the school year was not recorded). She made a total of \$150.00 for teaching 3 months and had a limited teacher's certificate that was entered as "rural expires June 1919". Her sister-in-law, Ketha Fowler, was in her class there.

We do not know if she continued teaching while O.S. was in the Army or later. There was no other listing for her in that Isabella Co. resource book, nor for the Elm Grove School, but we have not gained access to Midland County records. In the census of 1920 that she was listed as a teacher: in fact, the federal census takers found O.S. and Dora enumerated in two places

²⁶² Located on the south side of Adams Rd. between Jerome Rd. & Begole Rd. according to "Rural School Locations, Gratiot County, Michigan" <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mivanbur/GratiotSchools.htm>

that year ²⁶³:

1. in Jasper, Midland Co, MI on the 5th of January, with Dora's mother, father, and two siblings; Dora listed as a teacher in the district school and "Orison" as a farm laborer "working out";
2. in Greendale, Midland, on January 15th, both "lodgers" with a couple named Voorhies, O.S listed as a carpenter ("general carpentering") and Dora as a teacher in the public school.

In both records, she was listed as a teacher. So it is very possible that she continued teaching in Midland County schools.



Dora Alice Parrish Fowler,
probably 1917



Dora Parrish Fowler, date
unknown



To the delight of her grandsons –
puppies!! 1956

Their five sons were born between 1921 and 1932. After the 1920 school year, the family lived on the Brooks land (in a "rough house") where their first son was born in 1921, then on the Edward Fowler land in a house that O.S. built, from about 1922 until that house burned in 1933 or '34. After that, the family again lived "rough" for a time and then moved into a rented house across the street, one in which George and Ketha had rented, Frank Fowler remembered.

In 1937, Nellie's parents, John Henry and Betty Parrish, purchased a 40-acre farm from George H. McNaughton ²⁶⁴, just north of the original Fowler land on Chippewa Rd. (SW ¼ of

²⁶³ Either the couple was visiting the Parrishes at the time the census collector knocked on the door, or whoever named the residents of the house claimed they still lived there, or less likely, they moved in the space of 10 days!

²⁶⁴ Isabella County deed: liber 173, p 634

the NW ¼ of Section 36), and the family moved there. This farm is still in the hands of the Fowler family and is known to some as the "Leonard Farm" (because of its original owner) or the "little house".

About 1941, O.S. went to work in a military factory in Lansing, "Reo Motors", building truck engines. His family followed about 2 years later, Dora working in a dairy retail store there, "Quality Dairy". The boys still worked the farm in the summer, though; Larry remembers living in a shack on Anson's piece of Edward's patent land in the summers, growing strawberries, and he loved it! Son Francis decided to finish high school in St. Louis and moved back to live with his grandmother Betty Parrish. Son Jack and his young family lived in the Leonard/McNaughton house.

The family returned to Isabella Co. in June of 1950, immediately following Larry's graduation from high school. At that time, the couple moved into the Forest Hill (Brooks) house with Anson and Nellie. In 1955, they purchased a 40-acre farm on section 35 from Blanche Leonard ²⁶⁵ (facing Remick Rd.) which they sold to their son Jack. And at that same time, O.S. and Dora moved into the small house on the Leonard/McNaughton property which they had purchased in 1937. After the death of Anson and Nellie in 1959 and '60, the Forest Hill house and the surrounding 15 acres went to Ketha and George Parsons, but we do not believe they ever lived there.

²⁶⁵ Isabella County deed: liber 264, p 188

Of the property that Edward Fowler, Anson Fowler, O.S. Fowler, or Elisha Brooks (or their wives) owned, those tracts shaded in blue (below) are still in the hands of O.S.'s descendants.

	(property still in family)	Leonard/McNaughton 40-acre farm purchased in 1937.
←Remick Road	Original Edward Fowler land	Northern-most 40 acres, sold to Eunice's nephew William Ross in 1874 and then out of the family in 1884
	Original Edward Fowler land	40 acres sold to daughter Mary Olger 1885 and then out of family hands in 1889.
	Original Edward Fowler land (Still in family)	40 acres sold to Anson and Ellsworth 1894; Anson bought his brother's half in 1920.
	Original Edward Fowler land	40 acres sold to Ellsworth by estate in 1901. Sold to Fisher in 1930
Isabella County		
	Original Elisha Brooks land (45 of 60 acres are still in family)	45 acres of this 60 acre slice. See the section on Elisha and Laura for how these parcels changed hands.
	Original Elisha Brooks land	Approx 44 acres: sold to Cephas Wood in 1895 ²⁶⁶
Gratiot County	Original Elisha Brooks land	60 acres: purchased by Warren Brooks in 1874 ²⁶⁷ but sold by him before 1929

Diagram of The Leonard/McNaughton farm purchased in 1937, the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 36, Edward Fowler's 160 acres, the SW ¼ of section 36 of Isabella County, Michigan and Elisha Brooks' 160 acres, the NW ¼ of Section 1, Pine River Township, Gratiot Co, MI.

²⁶⁶ Gratiot County deeds: liber 93, p 372

²⁶⁷ Gratiot County deeds: liber 28, 564.

O.S.'s and Dora's five sons and their families:

- Jack Dudley Fowler (1921 – 1981) married Joyce Harrison (1924 – 1997) in 1943. Their children are:
Thomas Lee Fowler, b. 1944
Beverly Ann Fowler, b. 1947
Dennis Jack Fowler, b. 1954
Paula Diane Fowler, b. 1955
- Donald Brooks Fowler (1923 – 1995) married Ruth Klein (1924 – 2003) in 1943. Their children were/are:
Ronald Dean Fowler, 1944 - 2006
Daniel Lynn Fowler, 1945 - 2010
Gail Klein Fowler, b. 1951
Darryl Kent Fowler, b. 1963
- Francis Henry Fowler (1928 -) married Ruth Taylor (1925 -) in 1947. Their children were/are:
Susan Ruth Fowler, 1949 - 2002
Christine Frances Fowler, b. 1951
Carolyn Irene Fowler, b. 1951
- Eugene Oakleigh Fowler (1930 - 2017) married Jo Anna May (1932 – 2012) in 1951. Their children are:
Steven Bruce Fowler, b. 1952
Scott Eugene Fowler, b. 1956
Patrick Kelly Fowler, b. 1960
- Laurence Delmar ²⁶⁸ Fowler (1932 - 2016) married Clare Louise Rathsburg (1933 - 2018) in 1957 (they were divorced). Married Elaine Haire Tycocki in 2016. Did not have children with either of his wives but helped raise Elaine's two children from her previous marriage.

Dora suffered a blood clot in her leg around 1938 or '39, for which she was sentenced to bed rest with a full-time nurse for at least 6 months. Son Larry remembers she endured at least 5 major surgeries, some for kidney and gall bladder problems. "Mother had a spell; she's in the hospital", is something the boys heard many times, and in 1959, she died while in the hospital. O.S. lost his wife and both parents in 1959 and 1960 -- sad times!

O.S. remarried in 1960, his first cousin-once-removed, Winifred Brooks Vroman Jackson (the daughter of Warren Brooks' daughter Elsie Ann Brooks ²⁶⁹), and they remained happily

²⁶⁸ Delmar for his great-uncle by marriage, Chester Delmar Alexander

²⁶⁹ At this date, it is difficult to pin down the exact facts of Winnie's patri-lineage, although there is no question who her mother was. She admitted to one step-grandson that her parents had not been married; she told another step-grandson that she had been adopted by close relatives; she censused with the family of William H. Vroman in 1900 and 1910, as a "daughter" and "foster daughter" respectively – Wm's wife Zelpha Rose was Elsie Ann Brooks' first cousin through their mothers, the Paynes -- which answers the 'close relative' question;

married, living on the Leonard/McNaughton farm, and later in a house in St. Louis, until Winnie's death in 1985. O.S. lived the remainder of his life in the St. Louis house and then in a nursing home.

O.S. often bragged that he and Winnie had been married almost as long as he and Dora had been, but it was a little over half as long. The story he told us was that he was re-acquainted with Winnie one afternoon at a relative's home. The following day he proposed to her. When we asked O.S. if he thought that was impulsive, he laughed and said he was just a really good judge of women. And so he was.



Jack and Don Fowler, circa 1925



Francis, Larry, and Gene Fowler, circa 1934

she listed William Vroman as her father when she married Wm. Jackson in 1912; and she reported to census takers that both her parents had been born in Michigan. However, many years ago, we turned up a very interesting post on a now-defunct Vroman internet bulletin board (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cgi-bin/pageload.cgi?Winifred,Jackson::vroman::284.html>) from a woman who was searching for Winnie and claimed to be a cousin. This woman, whom we were not able to contact, said that Winnie was the biological daughter of Lucius Elmer Vroman (1862 Rockfalls, Whiteside, IL – 1937 Plattsmouth, Cass, NE). We have not been able to substantiate this or make any genealogical connection whatsoever between the Vroman family who fostered Winnie in Isabella County and that of Lucius Vroman (such as “they were cousins so there was a visit from the Nebraska cousin to Michigan, so Elsie Brooks might have met him then”). And so we are inclined to call Winnie's biological father “unknown”.



Jack, Larry, Don, and Gene Fowler, 1950



Gene, Jack, O.S., Larry, Francis, and Don Fowler, circa 1979



Gene, Larry, Jack, Winnie, Don, O.S., and Francis Fowler, circa 1969



Francis, Don, O.S., Larry, and Gene, 1982

Among the five brothers, they had 14 children:



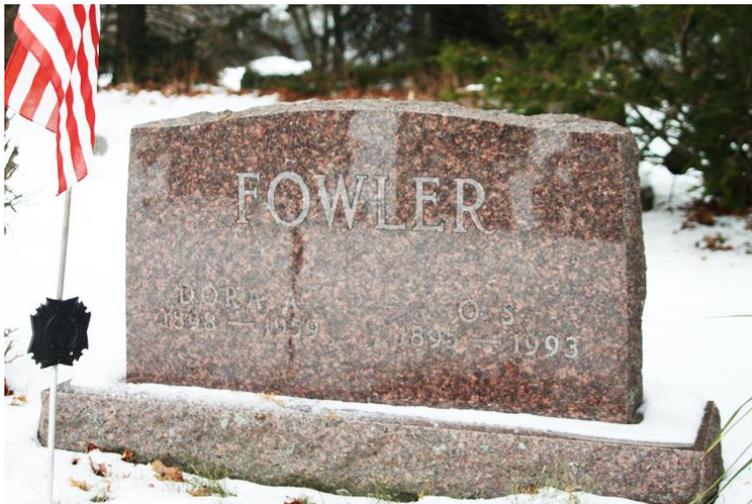
Christmas with the cousins, 1955.

Back row: Tom, Ron, Dan, Bev, Chris & Carol; Front row:
Steve, Sue, Gail, Dennis (Bim), Paula (in Bev's arms). Not yet born: Darryl, Scott and Pat.



Fowler reunion, 2000
 Three of O.S. and Dora's five sons attended as did many of the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the five brothers.

O.S. and Dora were buried in Pleasant Ridge (Coe) Cemetery; Winnie was buried with her first husband, Henry Jackson, in Shepherd MI at the Salt River Cemetery.



O.S. and Dora Fowler's grave, Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Coe Twp, Isabella, MI (photo by author, 2009)



Winnie Vroman Jackson Fowler's grave at Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd MI. (photo courtesy of Find-A-Grave ²⁷⁰)

²⁷⁰ <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=106039968>