

# The Hare, Preston, Fuller & Decker Families

Long Time Residences Of America

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

My name is Lawrence Reinhold. Carl Oliver and Josephine Mary (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold are my parents.

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## PREFACE

My journey into my family history occurred by chance. It started with Mom's Book about her life. She bought a computer and printer, and starting typing. Mom did not know anything about computers or software. Her computer apparently overwrote part of her data files for some reason. The overwritten data files caused Mom to lose part of her Book. Mom printed all the pages as she wrote, so she had her Book in its entirety. One day, Mom called me and asked if I would help her straighten out her Book. I had no idea how much work I was in for when I agreed to help Mom.

Mom gave me her hard copy, the electronic files that survived, and pictures and documents that she wanted included in her Book. I burned through hundreds of hours trying to reorganize her electronic data to match her hard copy. I finally gave up. In the end, I bought a scanner and software. I scanned her entire hard copy into a word processing format.

At the time, scanners were relatively new and expensive, and the scanning software was not too reliable. It was not easy connecting the scanner to my office computer network, either, and it was expensive. I learned to run scanning software for pictures and text. I scanned her photos and documents, which of course I scanned incorrectly, so later I had to rescan almost every item because I scanned them in too low a resolution, or the size was too small, or the color was wrong, or I scanned the item in the wrong format. Also, due to the scanning software's inaccuracies, it took hundreds of hours to match Mom's hard copy to the electronic file for her scanned book.

In all, Mom's Book was a mess. At best, her Book was a rough, first draft. There were large gaps between the times when she wrote. Mom did not go back and read what she wrote before starting to write again. She simply started writing. So, there was a lot of duplicative commentary covering the same event or period. As I worked on her Book, I called Mom. I asked about the chronology of events and wording. Every time I called, Mom would immediately start with, "Don't you change what I wrote!" I always assured Mom that I did not change what she wrote. I explained that the text did not read right, or did not make sense, or the chronology was wrong, and so on. I did not "change what Mom wrote." I eliminated duplicative text. I move extraneous text to footnotes. I corrected the chronological order, sentence structure, word order, grammar, and tense. I slowly combined paragraphs. Over the years, I sent Mom various drafts of her Book for her review. The work took thousands of hours; actually, it took years. Then, I started inserting her photos and documents into the word processing files. I soon realized I had huge files that crashed the software and corrupted the files. In the end, I hired a graphics and computer person to help me.

The graphics person recommended that I start over using very expensive, professional grade layout and graphics software to process the graphic files. She told me what the graphic files parameters should be for printing and the computer person taught me how to scan the items within those parameters. Once I upgrade my software and hardware, I did the entire layout for Mom's Book. I converted her text from word processing software to layout software and added the graphic files. Once I completed my work, I gave the graphic and layout files to my graphic's person to professionalize.

At the time, hard drives were not large enough to hold all the graphic files, and larger hard drives were very expensive. Also, mobile data storage devices could not hold large graphic files, or not many, so it was very difficult to move files from one computer to another, and to back up my data. The computers also lacked the power and memory to process the material effectively. The network cards were slow, which made transferring large files and large amounts of data very time consuming. I continually upgraded my computers, including my network hardware and software, so they processed the work, or processed it faster.

Eventually, I compiled the last three chapters of Mom's Book from her letters, email, and cards that she sent me over the years, and from conversation I had with Mom. I first collected and sorted a huge volume of documents before I started scanning her letters and email, and I typed in the text from her cards. I sent Mom drafts of the last three chapters for her review. I asked Mom to place quotes at the beginning of each chapter as she had done throughout her Book. That entire process took almost a year and did not include editing the text. Then I add pictures. It took several years to complete those three chapters.

The families' photo history, including historic documents, was as difficult to amass as my families' factual history, and more expensive. Family members had old family pictures and negatives. I collected their pictures, documents and hundreds of negatives. I could not keep all the items. Most of the photos were one of a kind, which included family photos in Mom and my sibling's possession. I took selected prints to a professional photo company and had high quality copy negatives made. I had prints made from the copy negatives and I scanned the original pictures. Then I returned the original pictures to their owners. I bought a light box and looked through hundreds of old negatives. I selected negatives to make individual prints and to make group images on proof sheets. I scanned and individualized all the images in a layout program so I could add captions for the photos. Then I sent the layouts to family members and asked if they could identify the individuals and locations shown in the pictures, and I asked them to write captions. This project took months up to probably two years to complete. I inserted captions on all the pictures using the information from family members and from information written on the backs of photos. Most of the people who helped identify the individuals and places in the pictures have passed away. I am very lucky to have started the project when I did, and to have obtained their assistance in recording their knowledge. Much if not most of the family's photo history would have been lost without their help.

Working on the family photos, including the captions for the photos, moved my interest away from Mom's Book and toward doing family research. I now knew who my ancestors were. I just did not know anything about them. I hired many researchers around the United States and several in Sweden to research family members. It took many years to compile the research. I spent a year or two reading numerous books on old European history, and considerable early American history for the areas where my ancestors lived. Reading history helped me understand their lives, and why and how they moved to the United States from Europe, and why they moved across the United States. Eventually, I wrote up the research in several Book and included the pictures. That process took over fifteen years of continual effort. Some research only arrived recently, mostly because it took time to realize research was missing from the Book and to find a researcher to look for the missing material, and for the data to become available on the Internet.

Mom's Book did not have any information about Dad prior to Dad marrying Mom, or certainly not much. I told Mom that she should add information about Dad. She did and a good portion of that information came from my family research. I became interested in researching the Reinhold family history primarily because the Reinhold side of the family was supposed to have had a different last name and no one seemed to know what it was. Also, I was interested in finding the Indian, which I never did find. It was my understanding that Grandma (Decker) Reinhold was supposed to be one-quarter Indian. I even had my DNA tested following the mother's side of the DNA looking for the Indian. The problem with my test was it followed Mom's DNA back in time, and not Grandma (Decker) Reinhold's. I should have tested one of Dad's sisters' DNA. After I received the results showing no references to Indian markers, I asked how to find the markers. The DNA testing facility told me to have DNA from a male Decker run in order to find the Indian markers on the father's side of the DNA.

Still, the biggest challenge lay in handling the graphic files. There are about 2,000 graphic files. They consist of photos and documents. I bought a used Apple external hard drive for my graphic's person so she had a bigger hard drive to hold files. At the time, it cost me \$500, a huge sum of money. She cleaned, sized, and included about 1,500 graphics files in the Books' layouts. At some point, the hard drive died causing all the files to be lost. I finally completed all the pictures to be included in the family books after some considerable effort using

backed up files stored on cds and five years later. I inserted the lost files into the layouts, which meant most of the layouts had to be resized and some aspects had to be reconstructed. I also inserted additional pictures and documents. I could not complete the Books until all the historical documents were discovered, scanned, cleaned, and included in the Books. Processing the graphics files, even with professional help, was a huge project separate and distinct from the research portion, the writing portion, and obtaining the pictures.

In addition to, and while working on Mom's Book, I wrote four books on my family history. The Reinhold, Decker and Van Laarhoven Books each cover a number of families. My Book is about growing up on our farm. In a way, it is a companion book to Mom's Book. The two Books should be read together. La Verne (Van Laarhoven) Zastrow did a lot of research on the Van Laarhoven family, but her work was not written up until I included the information in the Van Laarhoven Book. I have piles of documents and email from researchers. I read all the research, organized it, made sense of it, and wrote it up in a fashion that hopefully is interesting and so others can find the same historical information. My investment in learning and the money spent on Mom's Book was spread across those other Books. I used many of the same pictures in the other Books, the computer hardware and software remained, and once I learned how to scan and use the appropriate layout and graphics software for Mom's Book, it did not take me as long to work on the additional Book. I have to admit; I had to learn a lot about writing and printing a book.

The Books would not have been possible without the burst of computer technology and the arrival of the Internet that occurred during that fifteen-year period when I worked on the Books. The Internet and email allowed me to access people and data that were otherwise unavailable to me, for example, all the Swedish research and the federal homestead database. The advances in computer technology allowed me to do work I would have had to pay professionals to do. Originally, I planned to print all the Books in hard copy using a professional printer and graphics person. I planned to write the text, but I expected the graphics person to process all the pictures and handle the layout. I also expected the graphics person to work with the printer in printing the final Books. I obtained several bids over a 5-10 year period. The quotes were always high, actually too high to make printing a small number of the books realistic. By the time I was finally ready to print the Books, technology had progressed to the point where I could prepare the Books (text, graphics, & layout) in an electronic format myself. Printing them in an electronic format was realistic and perhaps preferred. Certainly, it was substantially less expensive. In the end, I prepared the Books in an electronic format compatible for commercial printing, printing using a home computer, or reading electronically. I burned the electronic files to DVDs and sent them to family members. None of this was possible when I started working on the Books.

I believe La Verne captured the essence of family research best when she said, "After all these years, I think the person who gains the most from the research is the person who did the research." I spoke with other people about family research. One person was the fellow who help me make copy negatives and prints of the old family photos. He had just finished compiling and printing old family photos for his family. He said in reference to family research, "No good deed goes unpunished" and then he proceeded to tell me of his ordeal. My own thought is, never do work for free. Then, why did I do it, and for free? Well, it caught my interest, especially the old photos. I wondered about the people, and the trials and tribulations which they endured. At the time, I was representing foreign nationals immigrating to the United States. I could see the burdens they endured. I listened to their reasons for immigrating. I wanted to understand, or at least, to try to understand my ancestors' reasons, and to learn something about them. I also did the work for those who will come after me. I have no children, but there will be others like me who will wonder as I did.

I cannot say that I regret the inquiry into my family history, or the work required to create the Books. I worked over fifteen years on the material and spent at least \$20,000, not to mention travel costs, or the number of software programs and the amount of computer hardware which I bought and had to learn, or the number of times the hardware and software changed over that fifteen-year period. Tanya Tan (who herself immigrated from Malaysia) and I travelled to parts of the United States looking for family graves to collect information on those identified

by their markers. We took photos of gravestones. We met with and collected photos from family members. I learned a lot about my family history from those folks. I spent hundreds of hours talking with extended family members and researchers by phone. I conversed by email and regular mail with them. I worked with many different people to collect and compile the information in the Books. Just managing a project of that size was an experience in itself. Learning my family history was interesting particularly when read in conjunction with early European and early American history. Researching my ancestors' lives (including their wealth, religiosity, and children) brought insight, particularly in the context of world events. It was easy to see how world events devastated individual and family lives, especially economic events. I could see a young man's aspirations wiped out by events so beyond his control that he and his family appeared to be nothing more than leaves blown away by a hurricane. The historic information definitely changed how I view an individual's life. Still, though it was interesting, exciting, challenging and informative, I would never do it again, not ever!

## INTRODUCTION

The primary focus of this Book is to follow the direct line of decedents from William Hare down through Carl Reinhold as follows:

Generation	Name	Family Relationship	Spouse's Name
1st	William Hare	First Known Hare	Unknown
2nd	William Hare	Son of William Hare	Mary Mott
3rd	Jonathan Hare	Son of William Hare	Hannah Hunt
4th	Samuel A. Hare	Son of Jonathan Hare	Sarah (Sally) Humphrey
5th	Henry Hare	Son of Samuel A. Hare	Eliza Patrick
6th	George A. Hare	Son of Henry Hare	Lucinda S. Campbell
7th	Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker	Daughter of George Hare	William Henry Decker
8th	Nora (Decker) Reinhold	Daughter of Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker	Carl Oscar Reinhold
9th	Carl Oliver Reinhold	Son of Nora (Decker) Reinhold	Josephine Van Laarhoven

Before proceeding with a discussion of the Hare, Preston, Decker and Fuller families, it is necessary to give a brief introduction into how the research was conducted and the general outcome of that research. I commissioned Linnea B. Foster, CGRS to research the Hare, Preston and Decker families' genealogical history in New Jersey. Ms. Foster conducted an exhaustive search for family members including related families which culminated in a series of reports and photo-copied documents pertaining to the various families. Despite Ms. Foster's best efforts, there is little or no information on key family members. In some cases, there is very little evidence supporting, or only evidence suggesting that family members are related or married. Just as important as the information which Ms. Foster found is the information that she did not find. In many cases, Ms. Foster checked various records, but did not find family members. Knowing that Ms. Foster check various records, but did not find family members suggests that the family members may have left the county or the state. It also suggests that the records do not exist, or that the event did not occur. In any case, as you read this Book, please keep in mind how much or how little evidence supports the family relationships discussed in this Book.

Various operating theories were developed to help in researching the families and individuals discussed in this Book. As you read, you will see these theories discussed either in the body of the text or in the footnotes. The theories are just that—theories. They were devised as a research tool to help find families and individuals due to the lack of evidence supporting certain family relationships; the lack of information regarding certain individuals; and evidence which only suggests certain relationships or outcomes. In most cases, there is **no evidence, or limited evidence** to support the theories. Still, the various theories helped guide the research and may be proven valid or invalid in the future.

The research on the Decker families has been severally hampered by the number of Deckers in the United States. There are literally thousands of Deckers and thousands of William Deckers, both of which span an enormous period of time and probably all of the United States. As a result, you will see references to Deckers which are not related to Carl Oliver Reinhold. They are mentioned in order to provide clarity by indicating they were checked and found not to be related to Carl Oliver Reinhold.

Carl Oliver Reinhold, his wife Josephine, and his sisters, Hazel and Carrie Lucille, have all said they were told as children and as adults that William Henry Decker was part Indian. In addition to Ms. Foster's research, I and Lylia Hare did extensive research on William and Margarete Decker's families backgrounds. In all the research, we did not find any reference to any Indian heritage in either William Decker or Margarete (Preston) Decker's background. Since no records of William Henry Decker's birth exist, or at least none have been found; no marriage record for William Henry Decker's parents, William and Margarete (Preston) Decker, exist or have not been found; and no records regarding his father, William Decker, exist or have not been found, there is always the possibility that William Henry Decker could have Indian heritage derived from either William Decker's involvement with an Indian women or Margarete (Preston) Decker's involvement with an Indian man. There is such a lack of information regarding William Decker and Margarete (Preston) Decker's family histories that anything is possible.