

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

William Henry Decker, Jr. William And Margaretta Decker's Son

William Henry Decker was born November 27, 1864 in New Jersey,¹ presumably, Taylor Town, Pequannock Township, Morris County. William Henry Decker's parents were William and Margaretta Decker.² However, no birth records have been found for William Henry Decker; therefore, it is not known where he was born in New Jersey or exactly who his parents were. William Henry Decker is presumed to have been born in Taylor Town, Pequannock Township, Morris County because that is where his sisters, Rachell and Rossella were born.³ Actually, there is no direct proof that the parents of Rachel and Rossella Decker, (i.e. William and Margaretta Decker) are the same people who gave birth to William Henry Decker, i.e. William and Margaretta Decker. It is possible that were two sets of parents, each with the name William and Margaretta Decker. Still, there is a reasonable amount of evidence to indicate that William Henry Decker's parents were in fact the parents of Rachel and Rossella Decker.⁴

There are only five documents which reference William Decker marriage to Margaretta Preston. Two documents are birth records for Rachell and Rossella Decker. These documents indicate that a William Decker and Margaretta Preston were Rachell and Rossella Decker's parents. These documents do not prove that William Decker and Margaretta Preston were William Henry Decker's parents. The other two documents consist of William Henry Decker's Obituary and death certificate. William Henry Decker's death certificate and obituary indicates he was born November 27, 1864 in New Jersey and his parents were William Decker and Margaretta Preston. The information in the obituary and death certificate was provided by William Henry Decker's children. Naturally, they would have received the information from their parents, William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker. Still, the information in William Henry Decker's obituary and death certificate may not be reliable since his children may not have received correct information. The last document is the marriage record for William Henry Decker and Eliza Jane Hare. That document indicates that William Henry Decker's parents were Wm Decker and Margaretta Preston. The marriage record should be reliable since William Henry Decker would have provided the information himself and he certainly should have known whether the information was true.

¹ Census of 1870 Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; William Decker's Obituary, The Constitution, July 29, 1951; William Decker's Death Certificate; Buchanan County Marriage Records.

² William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1951, Independence, Iowa; Rossella Decker's birth record, No. Z2-2248, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey; Rachel Decker's birth record, No. Z2-229, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey; The Census of 1870 for Franklin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; 1951; 1870 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; William Decker's Death Certificate; Buchanan County Marriage Records; Erusla Decker's headstone, Cemetery, South Grove Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; The Portrait and Biographical Album of Dekalb County, Illinois, 1883, page 334; Application for Probate of Will dated April 14, 1890, Phebe Adkins, Deceased, Book D of Renunciations and Applications, Page 17; Phebe Adkins' Will [S 526] dated August 26, 1887, Petition to Probate Phebe Adkins' Will dated April 14, 1870, Documents filed 313-9, Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

³ Rossella Decker's birth record, No. Z2-2248, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey; Rachel Decker's birth record, No. Z2-229, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey.

⁴ William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1951, Independence, Iowa; Rossella Decker's birth record, No. Z2-2248, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey; Rachel Decker's birth record, No. Z2-229, New Jersey Archives, Trenton, New Jersey; The Census of 1870 for Franklin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; 1951; 1870 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; William Decker's Death Certificate; Buchanan County Marriage Records; Erusla Decker's headstone, Cemetery, South Grove Township, Dekalb County, Illinois; The Portrait and Biographical Album of Dekalb County, Illinois, 1883, page 334; Application for Probate of Will dated April 14, 1890, In re Phebe Adkins, deceased, Book D of Renunciations and Applications, Page 17; Phebe Adkins' Will [S 526] dated August 26, 1887, Petition to Probate Phebe Adkins' Will dated April 14, 1870, Documents filed 313-9, Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

It is thought that William Henry Decker's father died, or divorced his wife, Margaretta. However, no death record, divorce document or any other document, except for one, has been found which indicates what happened to William Henry Decker's father, William Decker.

There is a probate document which provides some evidence to support the argument that William Henry Decker's father died. During the probate of Phebe Adkins' Will in 1890, the Executor of her will, Ward Akins, set forth Phebe's next of kin in a Proof of Heirship.⁵ Among those identified were the children of Phebe Adkins' deceased son, William Decker.⁶ The children were identified as [Zulah?] Decker, granddaughter; William Decker, grandson and Rache^l Decker, granddaughter.⁷ Zulah Decker may be a misspelled version of Rossella Decker's name. Rossella Decker may have also been known as Ursula or Ersula, and therefore, Zulah may have been a misspelled version of Ursula or Ersula.

In any case, by 1868 Margaretta (Preston) Decker had moved to Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois with her children, Rachel Decker, William Decker and probably Rosella Decker.⁸ Margaretta (Preston) Decker married Royal S. Fuller on April 21, 1866 in Dekalb County⁹ and had two children with him.¹⁰ The Census of 1870 for Franillin Township shows Margaretta, age 28 living with Royal S. Fuller, age 53.¹¹ The Census shows that Royal and Joal, age 18, worked in a quarry.¹² Also living in Royal Fuller's household was Rachel Decker, age 7; William Decker, age 5 and Hanna A. Fuller, age 2.¹³ Margaretta's daughter, Rossella Decker, is noticeably absent from the Census.¹⁴ The 1870 Census shows that Margaretta, Rachel and William were all born in New Jersey, while Joal M. and Hanna A. were born in Illinois, and everyone in the household is listed as White, not Indian.¹⁵ The 1870 indicates William's race was White, not Indian.¹⁶

By 1880, William Henry Decker was living with his grandparents, Amasa and Rachel Preston.¹⁷ William was 16 years old, single and a farm laborer.¹⁸ William is identified as Amasa and Rachel Preston's grandson in the 1880 Census.¹⁹

⁵ Application for Probate of Will dated April 14, 1890, Phebe Adkins, Deceased, Book D of Renunciations and Applications, Page 17; Phebe Adkins' Will [S 526] dated August 26, 1887, Petition to Probate Phebe Adkins' Will dated April 14, 1870, Documents filed 313-9, Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

⁶ Application for Probate of Will dated April 14, 1890, Phebe Adkins, Deceased, Book D of Renunciations and Applications, Page 17; Phebe Adkins' Will [S 526] dated August 26, 1887, Petition to Probate Phebe Adkins' Will dated April 14, 1870, Documents filed 313-9, Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

⁷ Application for Probate of Will dated April 14, 1890, Phebe Adkins, Deceased, Book D of Renunciations and Applications, Page 17; Phebe Adkins' Will [S 526] dated August 26, 1887, Petition to Probate Phebe Adkins' Will dated April 14, 1870, Documents filed 313-9, Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

⁸ 1870 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois.

⁹ Royal Fuller and Mrs. Margaret Decker's Marriage Certificate, Book C - Page 124, Dekalb County, Illinois.

¹⁰ 1870 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois.

¹¹ 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹² 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹³ 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹⁴ 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹⁵ 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹⁶ 1870 Census for Franillin Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 25.

¹⁷ 1880 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 107.

¹⁸ 1880 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 107.

¹⁹ 1880 Census for Kingston Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, Page 107.

In 1885, William Henry Decker moved to Iowa. William's Obituary states that "He had lived in Buchanan and Fayette counties since 1885."²⁰ It is unknown exactly when William moved to Iowa, or for what reason.

On December 16, 1890, William Henry Decker married Eliza Jane Hare.²¹ This date was ten years "prior" to the date identified in Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker' Obituary which was published in the Conservative. The Bulletin Journal only published the year Eliza Jane married William and the year, 1890, was correct. The witnesses to their marriage were Eliza Jane Hare's parents, George and Lucinda Hare.²² When they were married, William Decker was 27 years old and Eliza Jane Hare was 19.²³ Their marriage was the first for both.²⁴ Eliza Jane was William's only wife.²⁵ At the time they were married, William and Eliza Jane were both living in Byron Township, Iowa and William's occupation was farming while no occupation was listed for Eliza Jane.²⁶ Their marriage record identifies William's and Eliza Jane's race and color as White / Caucasian.²⁷ Their marriage record indicates that William Decker was born in New Jersey and that his parents were William Decker and Margaretta Preston.²⁸ Their marriage record also indicates that Eliza Jane Hare was born in Nebraska and her parents were George

²⁰ William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1952, Independence, Iowa.

²¹ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa; Buchanan County marriage records listed their marriage as follows: Book 8- Page 561 Eliza J. Hare and William Decker December 16, 1890.

²² Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

²³ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

²⁴ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

²⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁶ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

²⁷ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

According to Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold, Nora (Decker) Reinhold told Josephine that Nora's father's father (William Decker, Sr.) was married to a Sioux, though Josephine doubts there are any records which substantiates the Indian lineage. Still, Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold, said, she always heard that Nora (Decker) Reinhold was 9/10 of everything, plus 1/10 Sioux.

According to Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, she always heard that her grandfather, William Henry Decker, had Indian blood in him, possibly Sioux, but she never heard any more information about where the Indian blood came from. In addition, according to Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, Nora (Decker) Reinhold said, William Decker did not tell his wife, Eliza Jane, about the Indian blood until after they were married. As a result, Eliza Jane would not let her children meet William Decker's other relatives who lived around the Independence area. Further, Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns never did find out who those relatives where.

Lawrence Reinhold did extensive research on William and Margarete Decker's family backgrounds. It appears that Margaretta Anna Preston's first husband was William Decker, Sr. However, there is no evidence of this marriage or where it took place, if it took place. It is assumed that the marriage took place in New Jersey since Margaretta gave birth to William H. Decker, Jr. on November 27, 1864 in New Jersey when she was 20 21 years old, and there are birth records for two girls whose parents were William and Margaret Decker and other information, so it is very likely that Margarete was married to William. Further, Royal Fuller and Margarete Decker's marriage license indicates Margarete's last name was Decker not Preston. Also, no birth record was found for William Henry Decker, but that does not mean that William and Margarete Decker were not his parents. In addition, it is thought that William Decker, Sr. died, divorced or disappeared between March 1864 B March 1865, but there is no proof of this other than he does appear on any records which have been located to date.

Lawrence Reinhold did not find any reference to any Indian heritage in either William Decker's or Margarete (Preston) Decker's background. However, since no records regarding William Henry Decker's birth and no records regarding his father, William Decker, have 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. As Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns said, "There were a lot of Indians around at the time." Further, if William Henry Decker was part Indian, he most likely was not broadcasting the information to the World, especially given the times.

²⁸ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

Hare and Lucinda (Campbell) Hare.²⁹

Eliza Jane Hare is identified in various documents by different version of her name. She was known as “Jane” by family members. Vital records (births & marriages) for her children either referred to her as “Eliza or Jane.” In her obituary published in the *The Conservative*, the newspaper states that she was born “Ella.” Her obituary published in the *Bulletin Journal* identifies Eliza Jane as “Eliza.” William and Eliza Jane Decker’s marriage license and Eliza Jane’s grave stone both identify her as “Eliza.” William Decker’s obituary referred to Eliza Jane as “Jane.” William’s Obituary states “[h]e married Miss Jane Hare. . . .” The reference to “Ella” in the *The Conservative* is the only source found where Eliza Jane is referred to “Ella.” All other references have identified her as Eliza, Eliza Jane, Jane or Liza.

William Decker mostly worked as a laborer through-out his life.³⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns does not think that he had much of a formal education.³¹ She believes his lack of a formal education was one reason he could never get a good job.³² However, William did drive a car.³³

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns explained that William Henry Decker tried to farm at least once, but he did not operate the farm very long.³⁴ He farmed land in Fayette County, north of Oran, Iowa.³⁵ He rented the land he was farming.³⁶ He also worked as a farm laborer and was working as a farm laborer when his daughter, Bernice was born.³⁷

William Decker also worked for the railroad companies.³⁸ According to Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, William told her that, when he was working the railroad section, he would get water from springs by her house south of Hazelton in Buchanan County, Iowa.³⁹ Of course this was before, Clarence and Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kern’s owned the farm house.⁴⁰ Carrie Lucille explained that there were springs near their farm house and that small sheds had been built over the springs.⁴¹ She explained that when she and her husband lived on the property, she used the springs as a refrigerator to keep their milk and food cool.⁴²

William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker were more on the quiet side and a little hard to get to know.⁴³ However, they were pleasant people and treat their grandchildren well both as children and as adults.⁴⁴

²⁹ Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

³⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; William Henry Decker’s Death Certificate, No.52C-5₂-459, Johnson County, Iowa.

³¹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

³⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴¹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.



NORA MELISSA DECKER'S BABY PICTURE
BORN APRIL 13, 1892.
ELIZA JANE AND WILLIAM HENRY DECKER'S DAUGHTER.



MARGARETTA ANN (PRESTON) (DECKER) FULLER
THOUGHT TO BE BORN IN 1843-1844.
WILLIAM HENRY DECKER'S MOTHER.



ELIZA JANE HARE, WILLIAM HENRY DECKER'S WIFE
BORN SEPTEMBER 15, 1872.



WILLIAM HENRY DECKER
BORN NOVEMBER 27, 1864.

William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker had eight (8) children all of whom are identified in the following two tables.⁴⁵ There was a 21-year span of time between the oldest and youngest child. Also, William was 8 years older than Eliza Jane.

ELIZA JANE AND WILLIAM DECKER'S CHILDREN				
Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death
Nora Melissa	04/13/1892	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa	04/20/1962	Medford Taylor County, Wisconsin
Luella MayElla May	10/31/1893	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa	08/24/1914	Oran Fayette County, Iowa
Stella Ethel	10/01/189510/00/1894	Buchanan County, Iowa	09/06/1958	Waterloo Blackhawk County, Iowa
Ralph Richard	07/21/1897	Hudson Blackhawk County, Iowa	08/15/1981	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa
Harvey Burton	06/06/1900	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa	07/29/1954	Waterloo Blackhawk County, Iowa
Bessie I.	11/27/1902	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa	08/03/1989	Pocahontas Pocahontas County, Iowa
Rosie Belle	11/20/ 1904	Independence Buchanan County, Iowa	03/25/1995	Oelwein Fayette County, Iowa
Bernice	01/29/1913	Fairbank Buchanan County, Iowa	01/11/1999	Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina Camp Lejeune, North Carolina area

ELIZA JANE AND WILLIAM DECKERS CHILDREN				
BO	Child	DOB	Father's Age DOB	Mother's Age DOB
			11/27/1864	09/15/1872
1	Nora Melissa	04/13/1892	27	19
2	Luella MayElla May	10/31/1893	28	21
3	Stella Ethel	10/01/189510/00/1894	30	23
4	Ralph Richard	07/21/1897	32	24
5	Harvey Burton	06/06/1900	35	27
6	Bessie I.	11/27/1902	38	30
7	Rosie Belle	11/20/ 1904	39	32
8	Bernice	01/29/1913	48	41

⁴⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold; Eliza Jane Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, March 4, 1936, Independence, Iowa; Eliza Jane Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936, Iowa; William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1952, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

William H. and Eliza J. (Hare) Decker appear on the 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa with two children.⁴⁶ William is list as 30 years old and born in New Jersey.⁴⁷ Eliza is listed as 22 and born in Nebraska.⁴⁸ Their children (Nora, age 2, and Ella, age 1) are listed as born in Buchanan County, Iowa.⁴⁹

William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker also appear on the 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa. By 1900, William and Eliza listed four children, though the Census also indicates Eliza was the mother of five living children.⁵⁰ William is listed as 35 years old and head of household.⁵¹ Eliza is listed as William's wife, age 26.⁵² The Census indicates William and Eliza were married nine (9) years.⁵³ Their children identified in the Census are Nora, age 8, born April 1892; Ella, age 6, born October 1893; Stella, age 5, born October 1894; and Ralph, age 2, born July 1897.⁵⁴ All their children are listed as born in Iowa.⁵⁵ The 1900 Census indicates that William Decker was born November 1864 in New Jersey and tha^t his father and mother were both born in New Jersey.⁵⁶ The Census also indicates that Eliza Decker was born September 1873 in Nebraska and that her father was born in New Jersey while her mother was born in Pennsylvania.⁵⁷

William H. and Eliza J. (Hare) Decker appears on the 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa.⁵⁸ William is listed as head of household, white, age 53.⁵⁹ His occupation is listed as Section Foreman, though the writing is very hard to read.⁶⁰ He could read and write English.⁶¹ William's parents were born in the United States and William was born in New Jersey.⁶² [Lucinda ?] J is listed as his wife.⁶³ However, her name is extremely difficult to read.⁶⁴ Most likely Lucinda J. was Eliza J., William's wife, and therefore, Lucinda will be identified as Eliza in this paragraph. She is identified as White, age 47.⁶⁵ She could read and write English, and her occupation is listed as farmer, general farming.⁶⁶ Eliza's father was born in New Jersey and her mother was born in Nebraska.⁶⁷ Eliza is also shown as having been born in Nebraska.⁶⁸ William and Eliza (Hare) Decker's children are identified as Ralph R, age 22; Harvey B., age 19, Bessie I. or L., age 17; Rossie B, age 15 and Mary Ann B., age 7.⁶⁹ Mary Ann B. is probably their daughter, Bernice.

⁴⁶ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁴⁷ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁴⁸ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁴⁹ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁰ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵¹ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵² 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵³ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁴ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁵ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁶ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁷ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.
⁵⁸ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁵⁹ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁰ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶¹ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶² 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶³ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁴ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁵ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁶ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁷ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁸ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.
⁶⁹ 1920 Census for Oran Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 8A.

**Death Record
Of Past Week**

THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON

Giving List Of Those Who Have Answered The Final Summons Since Our Last Report.

Mrs. Wm. Decker.

As briefly announced in the last issue of the Bulletin-Journal, Mrs. William Decker died Wednesday evening, March 4, 1936, at 11:40 o'clock at her home 7 miles north-east of town, as the result of a stroke of paralysis on Monday. She had been in failing health for over two years. The funeral services were held in the Swan & Leytze funeral home Sunday afternoon. The Rev. L. A. Miller officiated. Burial was in Wilson cemetery. The services were very largely attended.

She was born Eliza Jane J. Hare, daughter of George and Lucinda Hare, in Seward county, Nebraska, Sept. 15, 1872. When she was two years old the family moved to Illinois, going there in a covered wagon. They moved to Buchanan county in 1884, and she lived in this vicinity, practically all the time since then. She was married in Independence in 1890, to William Decker, who survives her. Others surviving are five daughters and two sons, Mrs. Oscar Reinhold, Medford, Wis.; Mrs. A. H. Downing, Independence; Ralph Decker, Oelwein; Harvey Decker, Mrs. F. R. Rankin, Mrs. George Siglin, Waterloo; Mrs. G. I. Carpenter, Fairbank. One daughter Ella died on Aug. 26, 1914, at Oran. Also four brothers and two sisters survive her: James and Delbert Hare, Independence; Charles Hare, Hazleton; Arthur Hare, Lyman; Esther Mishler, Oelwein; Mrs. Julia Fuller, Oelwein, also eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Decker's many friends were grieved to learn of her death and unite in sympathy to the sorrowing family.

William H. and Eliza J. (Hare) Decker appears on the 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa.⁷⁰ William is shown with his wife, Jane, and granddaughter, Hilda Miller, age 16.⁷¹ William was 65 years old and Eliza Jane was 57. William is listed as having been born in New Jersey.⁷² William father is listed as having been born in Germany and his mother is listed as having been born in New Jersey.⁷³ Eliza Jane is listed as having been born in Nebraska.⁷⁴ Her father is listed as having been born in New York and her mother in Pennsylvania.⁷⁵ William's occupation is listed as Foreman-Roundhouse.⁷⁶

Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker was a housewife.⁷⁷ According to Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, women did not work much outside the home at that time.⁷⁸ Eliza took in washing to earn extra money, but she did not have a garden.⁷⁹ While William and Eliza Jane lived in Oelwein their home was too small to have a garden.⁸⁰ Carrie Lucille thinks that Eliza Jane probably canned food when their children were growing up.⁸¹

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns went on to explain that William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker moved around quite a bit, but a lot of the moving occurred during the Depression.⁸² America's Great Depression is regarded as having begun in 1929 with the Stock Market crash and ended in 1941 with America's entry into World War II. She said, they finally settled down in Oelwein, Iowa.⁸³ Carrie Lucille went on to say that, during the Depression, William and Eliza Decker's son, Ralph, brought them groceries, and Ralph looked after them for a while during the Depression while they lived in Oelwein, Iowa.⁸⁴ Ralph and his wife, Emma, lived in Oelwein for 60 years.⁸⁵ Finally, when William and Eliza's health began to fail, both of them moved to Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa to live with their daughter, Stella Downing.⁸⁶

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns remembers William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker visiting Carl Oscar and Nora (Decker) Reinhold in Medford, Wisconsin.⁸⁷ She remembers her parents driving William and Eliza around her parents' local area sight-seeing.⁸⁸ However, she does not recall that William and Eliza travel much.⁸⁹ Mostly,

70 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

71 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

72 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

73 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

74 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

75 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

76 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

77 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; **[add Eliza's obit]**

78 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

79 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

80 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

81 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

82 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

83 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

84 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

85 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; **Ralph's obit; 1930 census**

86 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1952, Independence, Iowa.

87 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

**MRS. WM. DECKER
DIED WEDNESDAY**

4 Mar 1936 Cons
After failing in health for over two years, Mrs. William Decker, 64, of Hazleton township, passed away at her home about seven miles north of Independence, last Wednesday night. Her sad demise came after a stroke suffered on Monday night.

Funeral services were held from the Swan & Leytze funeral home at 2 p. m. Sunday, with Rev. L. A. Miller, pastor of the First Baptist church in this city, in charge of the rites. Interment was at Wilson cemetery, two miles east of Independence.

Mrs. Decker was born as Ella Hare on September 15th, 1872, in Seward county, Neb., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hare. When but two years of age, her family moved in a covered wagon from Nebraska to Illinois. In 1884 they came to Buchanan county, where she had lived most of the time since. Her marriage to William Decker occurred here in Independence in 1900.

Her husband survives with five daughters and two sons: Mrs. A. H. Downing, city; Mrs. Oscar Reinhold, Medford, Wis.; Ralph Decker, Oelwein; Harley Decker, Mrs. F. R. Rankin, Mrs. George Siglin, Waterloo; and Mrs. G. I. Carpenter, Fairbank.

DECKER, Ella (Hare) Cons 4 Mar 1936 C

William and Eliza stayed around their home area, as Carrie Lucille recalled.⁹⁰

Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker died of a stroke of paralysis on March 4, 1936 at 11:40 pm at her home 7 miles north of Independence, Hazleton Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.⁹¹ William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker were living with their daughter, Stella, at the time Eliza Jane died.⁹² Eliza's death record states that she died on March 4, 1936 of a cerebral hemorrhage.⁹³ Eliza's death record also indicates that she was born September 15, 1872 in Nebraska, she married in Washington Township and that her occupation was housework.⁹⁴ Her father's place of birth was New York and her mother's maiden name was Lucinda Campbell.⁹⁵ Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker was buried in Wilson Cemetery on March 8, 1936.⁹⁶ Her husband, William Decker provided the information in Eliza's death record.⁹⁷ At the time he provided the information, he was living in Independence.⁹⁸

Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituaries as they appeared in The Bulletin-Journal⁹⁹ and The Conservative¹⁰⁰ have been retyped in their entirety and are set forth below. [MISSING OBITS]

-
- 88 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.
 - 89 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.
 - 90 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.
 - 91 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.; Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, March 4, 1936, Independence, Iowa; Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936, Iowa.
 - 92 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.; William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1952, Independence, Iowa.
 - 93 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 94 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 95 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 96 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 97 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 98 Eliza Jane Decker's Death Record, Book 7, Page 52 Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa
 - 99 Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936, Iowa.
 - 100 Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, March 4, 1936, Independence, Iowa

William Decker Died Thursday; Services Sunday

Funeral services for William H. Decker, 87, were held Sunday, July 27, at the Swan Funeral home in Independence. Burial was in Wilson cemetery. The Rev. K. G. Rumppe officiated.

Mr. Decker died Thursday, July 24, at Iowa City, following an extended illness. He had made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Stella Downing, in Washington township.

Mr. Decker was born Nov. 27, 1864 in New Jersey, the son of William and Margaret Decker. He had lived in Buchanan and Fayette counties since 1885. He married Miss Jane Hare who died in 1936.

He is survived by seven children: Mrs. Nora Reinholt of Medford, Wis., Mrs. Stella Downing, Independence, Harvey Decker, Waterloo, Ralph Decker and Mrs. Rose Carpenter, Oelwein, Mrs. Bessie Rankin and Mrs. Bernice Siglin, Laurens; 11 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; and two half-brothers, John Fuller of Waterloo and Ben Fuller of Kansas.

William Henry Decker died July 24, 1952 of post-operative hemorrhage due to trans___hral prostatic section and benign prostatic hypertrophy¹⁰¹ in the State University of Iowa Hospital, Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa.¹⁰² Seven hours (7) passed from the onset of his cause of death until he died.¹⁰³ An autopsy was conducted and found benign prostatic hypertrophy.¹⁰⁴

When he died, William Henry Decker was 87 year old and a retired laborer.¹⁰⁵ At the time of his death, his residence was RFD, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹⁰⁶ His death certificate indicates that he was born November 27, 1864 in New Jersey to William Decker and Margaret Preston.¹⁰⁷ William was a widower when he died.¹⁰⁸ He was also a United States Citizen.¹⁰⁹ William's daughter, Stella Downing, provided the information on William Henry Decker's death certificate.¹¹⁰

William Henry Decker's Obituary as written in The Conservative¹¹¹ has been retype in its entirety and is set forth below. [MISSING OBITS]

William Henry and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker share a headstone. Their headstone indicates that William was born in 1864 and died in 1952; and that Eliza Jane was born in 1872 and died in 1936. [INSERT PIC]

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- 101 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
102 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
103 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
104 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
105 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
106 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
107 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
108 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
109 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
110 William Henry Decker's Death Certificate, No.52C-52-459, Johnson County, Iowa.
111 William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1952, Independence, Iowa.



WILLIAM HENRY DECKER FAMILY PICTURE

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN THE DAY OF ELIZA JANE (HARE) DECKER'S FUNERAL.

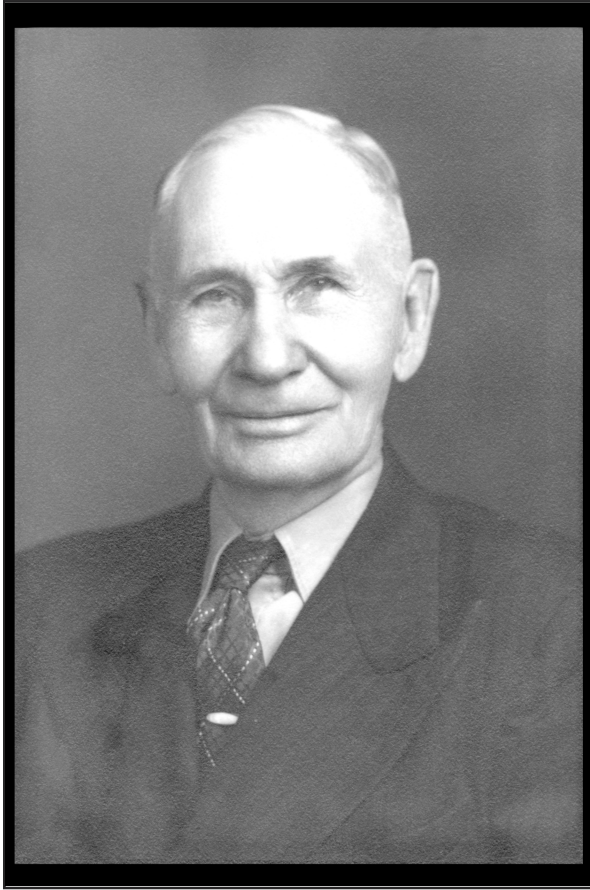
WILLIAM AND ELIZA DECKER'S DAUGHTER, ELLA (DECKER) MILLER, PASSED AWAY PRIOR TO THIS PICTURE BEING TAKEN.
 L TO R: BESSIE (DECKER) RANKIN, NORA (DECKER) REINHOLD, HARVEY DECKER, WILLIAM HENRY DECKER, RALPH DECKER,
 STELLA (DECKER) DOWNING, ROSA (DECKER) CARPENTER AND BERNICE (DECKER) SIGLIN .



WILLIAM HENRY DECKER
 WITH HIS DAUGHTER,
 BERNICE (DECKER) SIGLIN.
 BERNICE IS HOLDING HER DAUGHTER, SHIRLEY.



ELIZA JANE (HARE) DECKER SITTING IN CHAIR
 BERNICE (DECKER) SIGLIN IS STANDING NEXT TO
 ELIZA JANE AND HOLDING HER DAUGHTER,
 SHIRLEY. ELIZA JANE DECKER IS BERNICE AND
 NORA DECKER'S MOTHER. ELIZA JANE WAS VERY
 SICK IN THIS PICTURE.



WILLIAM HENRY DECKER, AGE 81
 PICTURE TAKEN IN 1945.
 WILLIAM HENRY DECKER'S WIFE WAS ELIZA JANE HARE.
 WILLIAM AND ELIZA JANE WERE
 NORA (DECKER) REINHOLD'S PARENTS.



ELIZA JANE (HARE) DECKER IS SITTING
 ROSA (DECKER) CARPENTER IS STANDING AND
 ROSA'S DAUGHTER, EVELYN IS THE CHILD.



ELIZA JANE AND WILLIAM HENRY DECKER
 PICTURE TAKEN DURING THE EARLY 1920s AT CARL OSCAR AND
 NORA REINHOLD'S FARM HOME IN THE TOWN OF MEDFORD,
 TAYLOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



L TO R: ELIZA JANE (HARE) DECKER
 WITH HER DAUGHTER, NORA (DECKER) REINHOLD
 PICTURE TAKEN DURING THE EARLY 1920s AT CARL OSCAR AND NORA
 REINHOLD'S FARM HOME IN THE TOWN OF MEDFORD,
 TAYLOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



WILLIAM HENRY DECKER
NORA DECKER'S FATHER.



ELIZA JANE (HARE) DECKER
NORA DECKER'S MOTHER.



ELIZA JANE (DECKER) AND HER SON,
HARVEY DECKER.



MINNIE DECKER, HARVEY DECKER'S
WIFE, STELLA (DECKER) DOWNING AND
WILLIAM HENRY DECKER.



L TO R: HARVEY, WILLIAM HENRY
AND RALPH DECKER.



BROW L TO R: ROSE DECKER, RALPH DECKER
AND BERNICE DECKER. FROW L TO R: NORA
DECKER AND BESSIE DECKER. THE WOMEN ARE
IDENTIFIED BY THEIR MAIDEN NAMES.



L TO R: MINNIE (HAUN) DECKER,
ELIZA JANE DECKER AND EMMA (HICK) DECKER.

NORA (DECKER) REINHOLD AND HER FATHER,
WILLIAM HENRY DECKER.



**Luella “Ella” May (Decker) Miller
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker’s daughter**

Luella Decker was born October 31, 1893¹¹² in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹¹³ Luella Decker is identified in various documents by various versions of her name, including Luella Mae Decker,¹¹⁴ Luella May Decker¹¹⁵ and Ella Decker.¹¹⁶ Hereafter, she will be referred to as Ella Decker.

Ella Decker was the daughter of William Henry Decker and Eliza Jane Hare,¹¹⁷ and appears with her parents on the 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹¹⁸ William is listed as 30 years old and born in New Jersey.¹¹⁹ Eliza is listed as 22 and born in Nebraska.¹²⁰ Their children (Nora, age 2 and Ella, age 1) are listed as born in Buchanan County, Iowa.¹²¹

Ella Decker also appears with her parents, William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker, on the 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹²² By 1900, William and Eliza listed four children, though the Census also indicates Eliza was the mother of five living children.¹²³ William is listed as 35 years old and head of household.¹²⁴ Eliza is listed as William’s wife, age 26.¹²⁵ The Census indicates William and Eliza were married nine (9) years.¹²⁶ Their children identified in the Census are Nora, age 8, born April 1892; Ella, age 6, born October 1893; Stella, age 5, born October 1894; and Ralph, age 2, born July 1897.¹²⁷ All their children are listed as born in Iowa.¹²⁸

¹¹² Luella Decker’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹¹³ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹¹⁴ Hilda J. Fox’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹¹⁵ Hilda Jane Miller’s Marriage Record, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Ira William Miller’s Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Ira William Miller’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹¹⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Ella A. Miller’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; George Miller’s Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

¹¹⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; Eliza Jane Decker’s Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936.

¹¹⁸ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹¹⁹ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁰ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²¹ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²² 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²³ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁴ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁵ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁶ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁷ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

Ella Decker married George David Miller on November 1, 1910 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹²⁹ At the time George and Ella applied for the marriage license, George was 21 years old, but Ella was only 17.¹³⁰ Their marriage license was issued on Ella's birthday, October 31, 1910.¹³¹ According to their Return of Marriage, George would have been 21 at his next birthday and Ella would have been 18.¹³² Actually, Ella was 18 years old when she married George. She would have been 19 on her next birthday, not 18 as their Return of Marriage indicates. Their marriage was Ella's first¹³³ and it is assumed their marriage was George's first also since their Return of Marriage does not say.¹³⁴ Both George and Ella are described as White and living in Independence, Iowa when they married.¹³⁵ George's occupation is listed as laborer.¹³⁶ There is no indication of what Ella's occupation was when she married.¹³⁷ Ella's mother, Mrs. Jane Decker, provided the consent to marriage and was one of the witnesses for the wedding of George and Ella.¹³⁸ The other witness was James McBride, the Justice of the Peace and the person officiating at their wedding.¹³⁹ Ella's parents are listed as William Decker and Jane Hare.¹⁴⁰ Ella's place of birth is shown as Independence, Iowa.¹⁴¹ George Miller's parents are listed as Ira S. Miller and Lucy Owens.¹⁴² George Miller was born December 26, 1889¹⁴³ in Urbana, Benton County, Iowa,¹⁴⁴ not May 26, 1889

¹²⁸ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹²⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁰ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa

¹³¹ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa

¹³² Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹³³ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹³⁴ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁵ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁶ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁷ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁸ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹³⁹ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁴⁰ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴¹ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴² Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴³ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa

¹⁴⁴ Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa

as indicated in the body of text in George's Obituary.¹⁴⁵

George and Ella (Decker) Miller's children would have had to be born between 1910 and 1914, the date they married and the date Ella died. There were no Miller births, fathered by George Miller, recorded in Fayette County, between the years 1914 and 1923. However, this could simply be the case of births not being registered, a common practice. The records for "Delayed Births" were not checked for that same time frame.

George D. and Ella (Decker) Miller gave birth to Ira William Miller on November 26, 1911 in Washington Township, Independence, Iowa.¹⁴⁶ Ira William Miller was George D. and Ella Miller's first child.¹⁴⁷ Ira's birth record indicates his father was George D. Miller, White, born in Iowa and Luella Decker, White, born in Iowa.¹⁴⁸ George was 22 years old when Ira was born and Ella was 18.¹⁴⁹ At the time Ira was born, George D. and Ella Miller's place of residence was Independence, Iowa.¹⁵⁰ Tragically, Ira William Miller only lived 12 days.¹⁵¹ Ira died on December 8, 1911 in Oran, Iowa and was buried in Wilson Cemetery, Independence, Iowa on December 8, 1911.¹⁵² His cause of death is listed as "premature birth - 8 months."¹⁵³

Ira's death record indicates his father was "J.D. Miller and his mother as Luella Decker."¹⁵⁴ Obviously, Ira's death record contains a typo.¹⁵⁵ The J. D should have been written G. D.¹⁵⁶ George Miller provided the information in Ira's death record, though the record states the informant was J.D. Miller.¹⁵⁷ George and Ella Miller were living in Independence at the time Ira died.¹⁵⁸

¹⁴⁵ George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa

¹⁴⁶ Ira William Miller's Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴⁷ Ira William Miller's Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴⁸ Ira William Miller's Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁴⁹ Ira William Miller's Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

¹⁵⁰ Ira William Miller's Birth Record, Births, Book 4, Page 88, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵¹ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵² Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵³ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵⁴ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵⁵ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵⁶ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵⁷ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁵⁸ Ira William Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 3, Page 119, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

George D. and Ella (Decker) Miller had possibly three daughters.¹⁵⁹ Hilda was their daughter who grew to adulthood.¹⁶⁰ Hilda Jane Miller (b: August 3, 1913 - d: July 3, 2001)¹⁶¹ However, George and Ella possibly had two other daughters who died in infancy.¹⁶² Search results of vital records have accounted for one or possibly two children from George and Ella Decker's marriage.¹⁶³

In 1913, Hilda was born at Brandon, in Buchanan County, located very near the Benton County line. One year later in 1914, both Ella (Decker) Miller and an infant Miller died at Oran Township, Fayette County and both were buried in Fairbank Cemetery.

Infant Miller (b: July 27, 1914 - d: July 29, 1914).¹⁶⁴ Infant Miller is presumed to be George and Ella Miller's child. However, there is no direct evidence that Infant Miller is their child.

Between November 1910 (George and Ella Miller's marriage) and August 1913 (Hilda Miller's birth) there was plenty of time for George and Ella Miller to have had at least one other baby. According to the Wilson Cemetery Listings, a "Baby Miller"¹⁶⁵ is among those buried in Margaret (Preston) (Decker) Fuller's burial lot.¹⁶⁶ There is no further information on Baby Miller.¹⁶⁷ There is no birth or death dates for the baby, and there is no head stone for Baby Miller.¹⁶⁸

Margaret (Preston) (Decker) Fuller is Ella May Miller's paternal grandmother - William Decker's mother.¹⁶⁹ Since Baby Miller is buried with William Henry Decker's mother, it seems likely that Baby Miller would have been a relative of the Decker family. Possibly, Baby Miller is George and Ella Miller's child. Further research is needed to find out who Baby Miller was.

Ella (Decker) Miller may have given birth to a premature child approximately one month prior to Ella's death.¹⁷⁰ A death record for a two day old "Infant Miller" born July 27, 1914 and who died July 29, 1914 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa was found.¹⁷¹ The infant's cause of death is listed as premature birth.¹⁷² According to the death

¹⁵⁹ Infant Miller's Death Record, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette county Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; George D. Miller's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa and Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

¹⁶⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

¹⁶¹ Hilda Jane Miller's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette County Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Hilda Jane and Alvin Fox's Application For Marriage License and Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387; Hilda Jane Fox's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa.

¹⁶² George D. Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

¹⁶³ Lylia Hare.

¹⁶⁴ Infant Miller's Death Record, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁶⁵ Buchanan County, Iowa Cemeteries - 1980, Page 296.

¹⁶⁶ Margaret (Preston) Fuller Cemetery Card, Lot 15, Block 7, Addition 1, Wilson Cemetery, Sumner Township, Section 2, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹⁶⁷ Lylia Hare.

¹⁶⁸ Buchanan County, Iowa Cemeteries - 1980, Page 296.

¹⁶⁹ William Henry Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, July 29, 1951, Independence, Iowa; William Decker's Death Certificate; William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Marriage Record, Buchanan County Marriage Records, Buchanan County, Iowa.

¹⁷⁰ Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁷¹ Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

record, (which is located on same page as Ella Miller's death record) Infant Miller is buried in Fairbank, Buchanan County, Iowa,¹⁷³ presumably in the Fairbank cemetery where Ella and George Miller are also buried.¹⁷⁴ Infant Miller's death record did not list a name for the baby or identify the baby's sex.¹⁷⁵ Because Infant Miller died at Oran and is buried at Fairbank, presumably the same cemetery as Ella and George Miller, it is believed that this was Ella's child, but there is no direct proof that Infant Miller is Ella's child. Ella Miller died about three weeks later.

A check was then run in the births records for Infant Miller to see if there was a name available, but there was no record of the birth.¹⁷⁶ Therefore, it is also possible that there may not be a record for the mysterious "Baby Miller" who is buried at Wilson Cemetery in Independence. Without dates, it will be difficult to match other records with Baby Miller in order to determine Baby Miller's identity or who Baby Miller's parents were.

George Miller and his daughter, Hilda, lived in Waterloo, Iowa after Ella died.¹⁷⁷ According to Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, she stopped to visit George and Hilda in Waterloo after Ella died. Carrie Lucille said, she probably did not go in the house, but her parents and her grandparents, William and Eliza Decker, did visit with George and Hilda that day. Carrie Lucille went on to say that she did know how long George and his daughter lived in Waterloo.

Ella (Decker) Miller died of pulmonary tuberculosis on August 24, 1914 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa.¹⁷⁸ when her daughter, Hilda, was one year old¹⁷⁹ and three weeks after presumably giving birth to a premature baby.¹⁸⁰ Ella was only 20 years old when she died.¹⁸¹ She would have been 21 in October 1914.¹⁸² She had only been married to George for three years when she died in August, or four years in November.¹⁸³ No obituary for Ella (Decker) Miller was found.¹⁸⁴ Ella (Decker) Miller is buried in Fairbank, Buchanan County, Iowa.¹⁸⁵ When Ella's

¹⁷² Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁷³ Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁷⁴ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923; May 8, 1923 and May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa; The Bulletin Journal, May 10, 1923, Independence, Iowa; Conservative, May 16, 1923, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁷⁵ Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁷⁶ Lylia Hare.

¹⁷⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

¹⁷⁸ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936.

¹⁷⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; Hilda Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁸⁰ Infant Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁸¹ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁸² Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁸³ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁸⁴ Lylia Hare.

mother, Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker, died in March 1936, Eliza's Obituary stated, "One daughter Ella died on August 26, 1914 at Oran."¹⁸⁶ It is not possible to get pictures of headstones for George and Ella (Miller) Miller.¹⁸⁷ There are no headstones for George and Ella Miller, Infant Miller, Hilda Fox or Marlette Fox all of whom are buried on Lot 166 at Fairbank Cemetery, _____, Iowa.¹⁸⁸ City Hall has their names on file and that will be the only record available for their burials.¹⁸⁹

Lylia Hare walked the Fairbank Cemetery and found Lot 166 and who was buried on it, namely a civil war veteran named Abbott. She used Mr. Abbott's grave as a reference point from which to find the George Miller family graves. There was a large empty space between Mr. Abbott's grave that was listed in the book and the next stone standing. The obvious vacancies were the location of many unmarked graves. After searching several rows on both sides of Mr. Abbott's grave, it was apparent to Lylia Hare that there were no markers for the Miller or Fox graves anywhere nearby.¹⁹⁰ Lylia Hare is totally convinced that the unmarked graves in Lot 16 are those of the George Miller family and daughter, Hilda (Miller) Fox and Hilda (Miller) Fox's daughter, Marlette.¹⁹¹

George Miller remarried after Ella's death.¹⁹² George's second wife was Mrs. Minnie B. Truair.¹⁹³ Minnie's maiden name was Minnie MacBell Robbins.¹⁹⁴ Her parents were David Bert Van Robbins and her mother was Leah Mae Miller.¹⁹⁵ According to George and Minnie's marriage record, they were married November 13, 1922 in Independence, Iowa.¹⁹⁶

George and Minnie Miller's marriage record indicates both were married once before.¹⁹⁷ At the time George and Minnie were married, George was a laborer, 33 years old and Minnie was 30 years old.¹⁹⁸ No occupation was listed for Minnie.¹⁹⁹ Their marriage record indicates both were White and living in Oelwein, Iowa.²⁰⁰ Their marriage record indicates George was born in Benton County, Iowa and that his parents were Ira S. Miller and

¹⁸⁵ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

¹⁸⁶ Eliza Jane Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁸⁷ Lylia Hare.

¹⁸⁸ Lylia Hare.

¹⁸⁹ Lylia Hare.

¹⁹⁰ Lylia Hare.

¹⁹¹ Lylia Hare.

¹⁹² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹³ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; George D. Miller's Obituaries, The Bulletin Journal, May 10, 1923, Independence, Iowa; Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa and Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

¹⁹⁴ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹⁵ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹⁶ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹⁷ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹⁸ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

¹⁹⁹ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

Lucy Owens.²⁰¹ Their marriage record also indicates Minnie was born in Independence, Iowa and her parents were David B. Robbins and May Miller.²⁰² The witnesses to their marriage were J.N. Marshall and Leah M. Truair.²⁰³

George D. Miller died May 6, 1923 at 11:30 a.m. in Oelwein, Fayette Count, Iowa.²⁰⁴ His cause of death was drowning in a cinder pit.²⁰⁵ He was employed for the Chicago Great Western Railroad (CGW) when he died.²⁰⁶ At the time of his death, he was a laborer, 33 years, 4 months and 10 days old.²⁰⁷ George was buried May 8, 1923 in Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank, Buchanan County, Iowa.²⁰⁸ His death record indicates that George was White, married and born December 26, 1889 in Benton County, Iowa.²⁰⁹ George's father was Ira S. Miller.²¹⁰ Mrs. Minnie Miller of Oelwein, Iowa provided the information for George's death record.²¹¹

There are discrepancies regarding the date on which George Miller died. The Oelwein Daily Register referred to George's death as May 5 (Saturday night),²¹² but George's death record reported his death as occurring on Sunday May 6, 1923 at 11:30 p.m.,²¹³ which seems to be in error based on all the details reported in the newspaper.²¹⁴ According to The Oelwein Daily Register, George was last seen alive 11:00 p.m. Saturday night and he was found some hours later,²¹⁵ possibly around 2:00 Sunday morning. It appears to be uncertain which side of midnight the fatal fall took place, so there really is no way of knowing for sure which date to use for his death. However, it is worth making a note of this conflict and the events surrounding it to better understand the reason for the confusion.

²⁰⁰ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

²⁰¹ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

²⁰² George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

²⁰³ George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Marriages, #2409, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

²⁰⁴ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁰⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁰⁶ George D. Miller's Obituaries, Bulletin Journal, May 10, 1923, Independence, Iowa; The Constitution, May 16, 1923, Independence, Iowa and Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

²⁰⁷ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁰⁸ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; George D. Miller's Obituaries, The Constitution, May 16, 1923, Independence, Iowa & Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

²⁰⁹ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²¹⁰ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²¹¹ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²¹² George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa

²¹³ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²¹⁴ George D. Miller's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923 & May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

²¹⁵ George D. Miller's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923 & May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

Various newspapers reporting on George Miller's death describe conflicting information about George's children. The Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, reported that "[h]e was married and there are two children."²¹⁶ This reference may have been to George and his second wife, Minnie. In which case, the reference is correct since there were two children: his daughter, Hilda Miller and his stepson, Robert Truair. The Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, reported that "[h]e was united in marriage to Miss Ella Decker, November 1, 1910 and to this union were born three children, two passing away in infancy."²¹⁷ This reference is also probably correct, i.e., his daughter Hilda Miller, Infant Miller and Baby Miller. Later, in the Obituary, the Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, says, "[h]e leaves to mourn his loss his loving wife, two children and one stepson, Robert Truair . . ."²¹⁸ This reference is probably incorrect as there probably were only his daughter Hilda and step-son, Robert. The Bulletin Journal, May 10, 1923, says, "[h]e leaves a wife and three children."²¹⁹ This reference is also probably incorrect as there probably were only his daughter Hilda Miller and step-son, Robert Truair.

However, according to Minnie Miller's granddaughter Pat _____, her grandmother, Minnie, was a "wild child," based on her lifestyle. Pat said, Minnie and George's daughter, Ruthe, was born July 6, 1916, despite the fact that there were no Miller births, fathered by George Miller, recorded in Fayette County, between the years 1914-1923²²⁰ and that George and Minnie did not marry until 1922. As a result, Ruthe could be the third child, and the "sister" referred to in Hilda Fox's obituaries. In reality, Ruthe would have been Hilda's half-sister.

There is an eight year gap between Ella (Decker) Miller's death, August 24, 1914²²¹ and George's marriage to Minnie, November 13, 1922.²²² George and Minnie were only married six months at the time of George's death, May 6, 1923.²²³ Therefore, if they had a child together, the child had to have been born prior to their marriage, or at best, the child had to have been born soon after they married and before George died. Further, if George and Minnie had a child, the child probably would have been George's other child referred to in his obituaries. The child's birth would have been between August 1914 and May 1923. However, as indicated earlier, there were no Miller births, fathered by George Miller, recorded in Fayette County, between the years 1914-1923.²²⁴

Hilda (Miller) Fox's obituary in the Oelwein Daily Register on July 5, 2001 states that Hilda was preceded in death by her parents, "a stepbrother and sister."²²⁵ This reference implies a step-brother and step-sister which means the children were Minnie's children from a previous marriage, or the reference implies a step-brother, and a sister. In any case, the reference is probably incorrect because Hilda probably did not have a sister, half-sister or step-sister who survived to adulthood.²²⁶ The Waterloo Courier, July 5, 2001, states Hilda was preceded in death by "a daughter; Marlette Fox; a stepbrother; a sister; and five grandchildren."²²⁷ The wording in the Waterloo Courier clearly indicates that Hilda Fox had a sister, not a step-sister. This reference is also probably incorrect because Hilda (Miller) Fox probably did not have a sister, half-sister or step-sister.²²⁸

216 George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

217 George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

218 George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa.

219 George Miller's The Bulletin-Journal, May 10, 1923, Independence, Iowa.

220 Lylia Hare.

221 Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

222 George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County, Iowa.

223 George and Minnie Miller's Marriage Record, Book 17, Page 496, Buchanan County, Iowa; George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

224 Lylia Hare.

225 George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa.

226 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

227 George Miller's Obituary, Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa.

Hilda Miller was only one year old when her mother died²²⁹ and almost ten years old when her father died.²³⁰ After her father's death, Hilda Miller went to live with her grandparents, William and Eliza Jane Decker, who finished raising her.²³¹ Hilda also lived with her aunt and uncle, Carl Oscar and Nora (Decker) Reinhold, in Medford, Wisconsin for about one year while Hilda was in high school.²³² Carl Oscar and Nora (Decker) Reinhold were Carrie Lucille's parents,²³³ and William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker were Carrie Lucille's grandparents.²³⁴

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns personally knew Hilda (Miller) Fox from at least the time when Hilda was living with their grandparents, William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker,²³⁵ through the date of Hilda's death. Carrie Lucille explained that during the period she knew Hilda, she never heard of Hilda having any living sisters from George and Ella Miller's marriage. Further, Carrie Lucille does not recall George and Minnie Miller having any children, but as she said, "It was a long time ago and I cannot be sure of that either." Carrie Lucille feels certain that if Hilda had a sister, either from George and Ella Miller's marriage, or from George and Minnie Miller's marriage, she probably would have heard about the women, and she never did. **[insert pic of her with lucile]**

News of George Miller's death was published at least five times in three newspapers.²³⁶ The contents of the newspaper clippings have been retyped for clarity and are set forth below. The clippings' formats have been changed to allow them to fit on the page. In addition, the newspapers' names and publication dates have been added. The quality of the image on the microfilm from which the clippings were obtained was so bad that some of the information in the clippings could not be read and therefore, those areas are identified as illegible.²³⁷

[missing obits]

²²⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²²⁹ Ella A. Miller's Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²³⁰ George D. Miller's Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²³¹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

²³² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²³³ _____ Census; Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns' Birth Certificate; Oliver Reinhold's birth certificate dated December 5, 1938, Return of Births, Fayette County, Iowa; Department of State, Passport Office, Birth Affidavit for Carl Oliver Reinhold dated September 8, 1978 and signed by Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²³⁴ Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health.

²³⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

²³⁶ Oelwein Daily Register, May 7, 1923; May 8, 1923 & May 9, 1923, Oelwein, Iowa; The Bulletin-Journal, May 10, 1923, Independence, Iowa; The Constitution, May 16, 1923, Independence, Iowa.

²³⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

Hilda Miller
George And Luella “Ella” Miller’s daughter

Hilda Jane Miller was born August 3, 1913, Brandon, Buchanan County, Iowa.²³⁸ Brandon, Iowa is located very near Benton County, but is actually in Buchanan County.²³⁹ Hilda’s marriage record incorrectly reported the location of Brandon as Benton County which is an error.²⁴⁰ Hilda Miller was only one year old when her mother died²⁴¹ and almost ten years old when her father died.²⁴² After her father’s death in May 1923, Hilda Miller went to live with her grandparents, William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker, who finished raising her.²⁴³ Hilda also lived with her aunt and uncle, Carl Oscar and Nora (Decker) Reinhold, in Medford, Wisconsin for about one year while Hilda was in high school.²⁴⁴

Hilda Jane Miller married Alvin LeRoy Fox on March 21, 1934 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa.²⁴⁵ The witnesses to their marriage were Pearle Fuller and Maurice W. Raymond.²⁴⁶ Their marriage was the first for both.²⁴⁷ At the time they were married, Hilda would have been 21 on her next birthday and Alvin would have be 21, too.²⁴⁸ Both Hilda and Alvin are identified as White and American born.²⁴⁹ Alvin’s occupation is listed as Shop man.²⁵⁰ No occupation is listed for Hilda.²⁵¹ At the time they were married, Alvin was living in Oelwein, Iowa and Hilda was living in Oran, Fayette County Iowa.²⁵² Alvin’s parents are identified as Rosia Maybel Carpenter and Lloyd Fox.²⁵³ Alvin’s place of birth is identified as Grove Hill Bremer, County, Iowa.²⁵⁴ Hilda’s parents are identified

²³⁸ Hilda J. Fox’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²³⁹ Lylia Hare.

²⁴⁰ Lylia Hare; Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴¹ Ella A. Miller’s Death Record, Deaths, Book 2, Page 172, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Hilda J. Fox’s Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴² George D. Miller’s Death Record, Book 3 (1921-1935), Page 235, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa; Hilda J. Fox’s Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.; 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 253.

²⁴⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁴⁵ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴⁶ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴⁷ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴⁸ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁴⁹ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵⁰ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵¹ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵² Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵³ Alvin and Hilda Fox’s Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page

Oelwein Daily Register
May 7, 1923

**GEO. D. MILLER'S
TRAGIC DEATH**

**Evidently Drowned in Cinder Pit, at
Round House, Body Found Sunday
Morning**

George D. Miller, a laborer in the employ of the C. G. W. met a tragic death Saturday night, his body being found in a cinder pit at the C. G. W. roundhouse about 2 o'clock Sunday morning.

He left home at about 7 p.m. in good health, as usual, and was last seen alive about 11 p.m. Saturday night. Some hours later he was missed and a search was made with the (illegible) and his lifeless body was found in the water of a cinder pit about (illegible probably 2:00) a.m. Sunday.

There was a bruise on the forehead which may have been caused by the fall into the pit or from other cause. The pit is about ten feet deep with several feet of water. The wound on the head was probably not sufficient in cause death but may have made him unconscious so that his death by drowning would result.

The county coroner was notified and an inquest will be held sometime this afternoon it is expected. Mr. Miller was born in Benton county and was 22 years, four months and 11 days of age at the time of his passing. He was married and there are two children. The family resides at 334 4 42 Street W. Short service will be held from the home Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. and the public funeral will be held from the Presbyterian church at 2 p.m. Interment will take place in Fairbank.

Oelwein Daily Register
May 9, 1923

**GEO. D. MILLER
IN MEMORIAM**

**Birn at Urbana,
Benton County, Iowa,
December 26, 1889
Died in Oelwein May 5, 1928.**

George D. Miller, son of Mr. And Mrs. Ira S. Miller, was born at Urbana, Benton county, Iowa, May 26, 1889. He passed away in Oelwein on the night of May 5, 1923 as the result of an accident, aged 33 years, four months and 11 days. His boyhood days were passed at Vinton with his parents, his sisters and three brothers.

He was united in marriage to Miss Ella Decker, November 1, 1910 and to this union were born three children, two passing away in infancy. In 1913 the wife and mother departed this life (illegible) little daughter to mourn their loss.

Mr. Miller was again married to Mrs. Minnie Truair and to them was born one child. He leaves to mourn his loss his loving wife, two children and one stepson, Robert Truair, also his parents, five sisters, three brothers and other relatives.

The last services were held from the Presbyterian church in this city Tuesday at 2 p.m. conducted by the pastor, Rev. George Korteling. The body was taken to Fairbank for interment. He lost his life Saturday night when he fell into a cinder pit at the C. F. W. roundhouse and his sudden passing is deeply regretted by many friends of the family. He was an industrious man who did his best to provide for his wife and children who will cherish the memory of a kind husband and father.

Bulletin Journal
(Independence Newspaper)
May 10, 1923

Mrs. Valentine Hahn received word Sunday that her nephew, Mr. Miller, had met instant death by falling in a cinder pit while working at the roundhouse in Oelwein. He leaves a wife and three children. Funeral services were held in Oelwein Tuesday afternoon. Burial in the Fairbank emetery.

Conservative
(Independence Newspaper)
May 16 1923

The remains of George D. Miller, whose tragic death occurred at Oelwein, where his body was found in the cinder pit of the C. G. W. roundhouse were brot here Monday afternoon and laid away in the Fairbank cemetery.

Oelwein Daily Register
May 8, 1923

**THE CORONER'S JURY
VERDICT ACCIDENTAL
DEATH IN MILLER CASE**

Coroner Smittle came to Oelwein yesterday afternoon and impaneled a jury consisting of Art Luthmer, Emil Wegner and James Fay to render a verdict on the cause of the death of George Miller. After hearing the testimony of witnesses the verdict given later yesterday afternoon was in substance that Miller came to his death from accidental causes. The railway company was criticized for not having the pit covered, this making it impossible for such a fatality to occur.

as George D. Miller and Luella May Decker.²⁵⁵ Hilda's place of birth is identified as Brandon, Benton County, Iowa.²⁵⁶

Alvin Fox was born May 31, 1913,²⁵⁷ though Alvin's Obituary as reported in the Waterloo Daily Courier says, "He was born May 24, 1913, in rural Fairbank, Buchanan County, Iowa."²⁵⁸ Grove Hill is located in the rural Fairbank areas.²⁵⁹ Alvin's place of birth on his marriage record to Hilda Miller was reported as Grove Hill in Bremer County, Iowa. Alvin would have been reporting the information about himself at the time of his marriage.

Alvin Fox's parents were Lloyd Fox and Rosa Carpenter. His mother, Rose (Carpenter) Fox, was a sister of George Carpenter (husband of Hilda's aunt, Rosie (Decker) Carpenter). Rosie (Decker) Carpenter was a sister of Hilda's mother, Ella (Decker) Miller. In other words, Alvin's uncle married Hilda's aunt. Also, Alvin Fox's mother, Rose (Carpenter) Fox, is related to the Carpenters who are buried in Grove Hill Cemetery, including her brother, George Carpenter, the husband of Rosa Belle (Decker) Carpenter who was Hilda (Miller) Fox's aunt.

Alvin and Hilda (Miller) Fox had ten children.²⁶⁰ They were Ruth L. Fox born February 5, 1935; Lee A. Fox; Wesley Fox; Ray W. Fox; Marlette Ann Fox born October 2, 1939 in Fayette County, Iowa; Sharyl M. Fox; Susan F. Fox; Phyllis A. Fox; Wanda G. Fox and Bernadette Marie Fox.²⁶¹ Ruth married Darrel Walter Fratzke on June 12, 1953 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

It is interesting to note the contrast in ages between Bernadette Fox and her siblings. Ruth Fox was Hilda and Alvin Fox's oldest child. Ruth was 25 years old and had been married seven years by the time her sister, Bernadette, was born. Hilda was 47 years old when she gave birth to Bernadette.

Hilda (Miller) Fox signed Bernadette Fox and James Oelrich's marriage affidavit. Bernadette's marriage to James did not last long. The circumstances for their ended marriage are unknown at this time, but no death record was found in Fayette County for James.²⁶² Unless he died elsewhere, it is possible that James and Bernadette divorced within that brief period. At any rate, Bernadette remarried. In 1980, she married David Schulmeister.

²⁵⁵ Alvin and Hilda Fox's Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵⁶ Alvin and Hilda Fox's Application For License & Return of Marriage, No. 11237, Marriage Book 14, Page 387, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁵⁷ Alvin Leroy Fox's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo Iowa.

²⁵⁸ Alvin Leroy Fox's Obituary, Waterloo Daily Courier, September 1994, Waterloo, Iowa.

²⁵⁹ Lylia Hare.

²⁶⁰ Hilda Fox's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa; Waterloo Courier, July 5, 2001, Waterloo, Iowa; Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 4, 2001, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Alvin Fox's Obituary, Waterloo Daily Courier, September 1994.

²⁶¹ Hilda Fox's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa; Waterloo Courier, July 5, 2001, Waterloo, Iowa; Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 4, 2001, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Alvin Fox's Obituary, Waterloo Daily Courier, September 1994.

²⁶² Lylia Hare

Alvin and Hilda (Miller) Fox were married for 22 years when they divorced in 1966. Later, Alvin married Laura F. (Rice) Ringer on September 30, 1967.²⁶³ Hilda did not remarry. When she died, her last name was still Fox according to the social security death index, her obituary and her death record, all in which showed her name was still Fox.

EVANSDALE – **Alvin L “Slim” Fox**, 81, of 721 Second Ave., died Tuesday, Sept 13, at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, of heart failure.

He was born May 24, 1913, in rural Fairbank, son of Lloyd Alvin and Rosa Mabel Carpenter Fox. He married Hilda Miller and they were later divorced. He then married Laura F. Rice Ringler on Sept. 30, 1967, in Evansdale.

Mr. Fox had been employed as a carpenter with Merle Gleason Contractor, retiring in 1975.

Survived by: his wife; three sons, Lee of Hazleton, Wesley and Ray, both of Waterloo; six daughters, Ruth Fratzke of Hiawatha, Sharyl Perry of Waverly, Susan Faye of Macomb, Ill., Phyllis Fox, Wanda Staton and Bernadette Schulmeister, all of Hazleton; a stepson, Philip Ringler, two stepdaughters, Mary F. Pietan and Nancy Pint, both of Waterloo; 23 grandchildren, seven stepgrandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 16 stepgreat-grandchildren; two brothers, Harvey of Marshalltown and LaVern of Oelwein; and three sisters, Bessie Reiter of Independence, Florence Neal of Oelwein and Leona Mohlis of Fayette.

Preceded in death by: a daughter, Marlette Fox; three brothers, Lester, Dale and Valaird; and five grandchildren.

Services: 11 a.m. Friday at Chapel of Memories-West Funeral Home, Waterloo, with committal services at 3 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery, rural Westgate. Friends may call from 5 to 9 p.m. today and 9 a.m. until services Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials: directed to Waterloo Senior Center, 415 E Seventh St., Waterloo.

Alvin LeRoy Fox died of cardio pulmonary avert on September 13, 1994 in Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.²⁶⁴ He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, rural Westgate, Fayette County, Iowa.²⁶⁵ Alvin was born May 31, 1913 in rural Fairbank, Iowa.²⁶⁶ His parents are identified as Lloyd Fox and Rose Mabel Carpenter.²⁶⁷ Alvin’s occupation is listed as carpenter, general construction.²⁶⁸ At the time of his death, he was married to Laura F. Rice.²⁶⁹ Laura F. (Rice) (Ringer) Fox provided the information in Alvin Fox’s death record.²⁷⁰

Alvin Fox’s Obituary has been retyped in its entirety and is set forth below.²⁷¹

²⁶³ Alvin L. Fox’s Obituary, Waterloo Daily Courier, September 1994, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁴ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁵ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁶ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁷ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁸ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁶⁹ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁷⁰ Alvin LeRoy Fox’s Death Record, Book 1994, Page 551, Black Hawk County Court House, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa

²⁷¹ Alvin Fox’s Obituary, Waterloo Daily Courier, September 1994.

Hilda (Miller) Fox died of dementia on July 03, 2001 at the Maple Crest Manor, a nursing home in Fayette, Fayette County, Iowa.²⁷² She is buried in Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank, Buchanan County, Iowa.²⁷³ The social security death index indicates Hilda's last residence was Wadena, Fayette County, Iowa. At the time of her death, Hilda was 87 years old.²⁷⁴ Her death record indicates her father was George David Miller and her mother was Luella Mae Decker.²⁷⁵ Hilda's son, Lee Fox, provided the information in her death record.²⁷⁶

News of Hilda J. Fox's death was published in three newspapers.²⁷⁷ The contents of the newspaper clippings have been retyped for clarity and are set forth below. The clippings' formats have been changed to allow them to fit on the page. In addition, the newspapers' names and publication dates have been added.

Hilda J. Fox...
 FAYETTE — Funeral services for Hilda J. Fox of Maple Crest Manor, Fayette, formerly of Hazleton, will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 6, at Floral Hills Funeral Chapel, rural Oelwein, with burial in Fairbank Cemetery.
 Friends may call from 4 until 8 p.m. today and after 9 a.m. Friday at the funeral chapel.
 Mrs. Fox, 87, died of natural causes Tuesday morning, July 3, 2001, at Maple Crest Manor.
 She was born Aug. 3, 1913, near Brandon, the daughter of George D. and Luella Mae Decker Miller. She married Alvin L. Fox on March 21, 1934, in Bremer County. They divorced in 1966. Mrs. Fox was an employee at various nursing homes in Manchester, Oelwein and Waterloo.
 Survivors include three sons, Lee A. of Wadena, Wesley H. and Ray W., both of Waterloo; six daughters, Ruth L. Fratzke of Hiawatha, Sharyl M. Perry of Waverly, Susan K. Fay of Macomb, Ill., Phyllis A. Fox of Littleton, Wanda G. Staton of Oelwein and Bernadette M. Schulmeister of Kansas; 23 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.
 She was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Marlette Fox; one stepbrother and sister; and five grandchildren.
 Memorials may be directed to the family.

²⁷² Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Recorders Office, West Union, Iowa

²⁷³ Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Recorders Office, West Union, Iowa

²⁷⁴ Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Recorders Office, West Union, Iowa

²⁷⁵ Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Recorders Office, West Union, Iowa

²⁷⁶ Hilda J. Fox's Death Record, Book 2001, Page 0717-1, Fayette county Court House, Recorders Office, West Union, Iowa

²⁷⁷ Oelwein Daily Register, July 5, 2001, Oelwein, Iowa; Waterloo Daily Courier, July 5, 2001, Waterloo, Iowa; Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 4, 2001, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Cedar Rapids Gazette
July 4, 2001

HAZLETON

Hilda J. Fox, 87, formerly of Hazleton, died Tuesday morning July 3, 2001, in Maple Crest Manor, Fayette, of heart failure. Services: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Floral Hills Funeral Chapel, rural Oelwein, where friends may come from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and after 9 a.m. Friday. Burial: Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank.

Survivors include three sons Lee of Wadena and Wesley and Ray, both of Waterloo; and six daughters, Ruth Fratzke of Hiawatha, Sharyl Perry of Waverly, Susan Fay of Macomb, Ill., Phyllis Fox of Littleton, Wanda Staton of Oelwein and Bernadette Schulmeister of Kansas.

Waterloo Daily Courier
July 5, 2001

HAZLETON B Hilda J. Fox, 87, formerly of Hazleton, died Tuesday, July 3, at Maple Crest Manor, Fayette, of natural causes; survivors include three sons, Lee A. of Wadena and Wesley H. and Ray W., both of Waterloo; six daughters, Ruth L Fratzke of Hiawatha, Sharyl M. Perry of Waverly, Susan K. Fay of Macomb, Ill., Phyllis A. Fox of Littleton, Wanda G. Staton of Oelwein and Bernadette M. Schulmeister of Kansas; and 23 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren; she was preceded in death by a daughter Marlette Fox; a stepbrother; a sister; and five grandchildren; services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at Floral Hills Funeral Chapel, rural Oelwein/Hazleton, with burial in Fairbank Cemetery, Fairbank; friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. until services Friday at the chapel memorials may be directed to the family; Mrs. Fox was employed at various nursing homes in Manchester, Oelwein and Waterloo.

Oelwein Daily Register
July 5, 2001

Hilda J. Fox...

FAYETTE B Funeral services for Hilda J. Fox of Maple Crest Manor, Fayette, formerly of Hazleton, will be 10:30 a.m. Fri-

day, July 6, at Floral Hills Funeral Chapel, rural Oelwein, with burial in Fairbank Cemetery.

Friends may call from 4 until 8 p.m. today and after 9 a.m. Friday at the funeral chapel.

Mrs. Fox, 87, died of natural causes Tuesday morning, July 3, 2001, at Maple Crest Manor.

She was born Aug. 3. 1913 near Brandon, the daughter of George D. and Luella Mae Decker Miller. She married Alvin L. Fox on March 21, 1934 in Bremer County. They divorced in 1966. Mrs. Fox was an employee at various nursing homes in Manchester, Oelwein and Waterloo.

Survivors include three sons, Lee A. of Wadena, Wesley H. and Ray W., both of Waterloo; six daughters, Ruth L.; Fratzke of Hiawatha, Sharyl M. Perry of Waverly, Susan K. Fay of Macomb, Il., Phyllis A. Fox of Littleton, Wanda G. Staton of Oelwein and Bernadette M. Schulmeister of Kansas; 23 grandchildren; 38. great-grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Marlette Fox; one stepbrother and sister; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Stella Ethel (Decker) Downing
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker's daughter



STELLA (DECKER) DOWNING

Stella Ethel Decker was born October 01, 1895 in, Buchanan County, Iowa.²⁷⁸ She married Arthur Herbert Downing on October 12, 1915 in Fayette County, Iowa.²⁷⁹ Arthur's obituary says their marriage date was October 12, which was an error reported in his obituary.

Stella Decker and Arthur Downing were married in Oelwein, Iowa on October 6, 1915.²⁸⁰ Their marriage was the first for both.²⁸¹ Stella would have been 21 on her next birthday and Arthur would have been 24.²⁸² Arthur is described as White / Caucasian and Stella is described as White / American.²⁸³ Arthur's occupation was farmer and his place of residence was Fayette County, Iowa.²⁸⁴ No occupation was listed for Stella, but her place of residence was Oran Fayette County, Iowa.²⁸⁵ Arthur Downing was born in Clinton County, Iowa.²⁸⁶ His parents were John Downing and Mary Bonson.²⁸⁷ Stella's place of birth was Buchanan County, Iowa.²⁸⁸ Her parents were William Decker and E. J. Hare.²⁸⁹ Their Return of Marriage states, 'by whom consent to marriage is given — Father & Mother.'²⁹⁰ The Return of Marriage does not indicate whose Father and Mother gave consent.²⁹¹ C. H. McQueen, J.P. married Stella Decker and Arthur Downing.²⁹² The witnesses to the marriage

²⁷⁸ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

²⁷⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold; Stella Ethel Downing's Obituary, Waterloo Courier, September 8, 1958, Waterloo, Iowa; Arthur Downing's Obituary, The Conservative, May 13, 1969, Independence, Iowa; Clifford Lee Downing's Obituary, The Conservative, January 17, 1969, Independence, Iowa.

²⁸⁰ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸¹ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸² Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸³ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸⁴ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸⁵ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸⁶ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸⁷ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁸⁸ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

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²⁹¹ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁹² Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.



ART DOWNING AND STELLA (DECKER) DOWNING'S
WEDDING PICTURE

were Mrs. and Mr. William Decker.²⁹³

Arthur and Stella (Decker) Downing lived around the Independence, Iowa area.²⁹⁴ Art Downing worked at a meat packing plant and then later, farmed northeast of Independence, Iowa.²⁹⁵

Arthur and Stella (Decker) Downing had two children, namely Clifford Leo Downing and Alice Mae Downing. Alice was born July 1, 1932 and died July 7, 1932.²⁹⁶ The baby possibly fell into a scrub pail and died.²⁹⁷ She is buried next to her parents in Lot 6A-023, Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.²⁹⁸

Arthur and Stella (Decker) Downing appear on the 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa with their son, Clifford.²⁹⁹ Arthur is 27 years old and listed as head of house.³⁰⁰ Stella is 24 and identified as Arthur's wife. Clifford is 12 and identified as Arthur and Stella Downing's son.³⁰¹ Arthur's occupation is shown as laborer working for the railroad.³⁰² Stella has no occupation listed.³⁰³

Stella Ethel (Decker) Downing died in St. Francis Hospital, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa on September 6, 1958 of metastatic cancer to liver due to cancer of the breast.³⁰⁴ She was in the hospital one day before she died.³⁰⁵ There was a two-year interval between the onset of cancer and her death.³⁰⁶

²⁹³ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

²⁹⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁹⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁹⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁹⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

²⁹⁸ Buchanan County Genealogical Society listing for Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Iowa.

²⁹⁹ 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet No. 17B.

³⁰⁰ 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet No. 17B.

³⁰¹ 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet No. 17B.

³⁰² 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet No. 17B.

³⁰³ 1920 Census for Oelwein City, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet No. 17B.

³⁰⁴ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³⁰⁵ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³⁰⁶ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

At the time of her death, Stella (Decker) Downing was 62 years old.³⁰⁷ Her place of residence was RFD #1, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa. Stella was born October 1, 1895 in Buchanan County, Iowa to William Decker and Jane Hare.³⁰⁸ At the time of her death, Stella was a housewife³⁰⁹ married to Arthur Downing.³¹⁰ Arthur provided the information on her death certificate.³¹¹ Stella (Decker) Downing is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Iowa.³¹²

Arthur Herbert Downing died of instant coronary thrombosis on May 8, 1969 at the People's Memorial - Extend Care Center, Independence Buchanan County, Iowa and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Iowa.³¹³ Arthur was born April 12, 1892 in (in Monona, Clayton County, Iowa) Iowa and was 77 years old when he died.³¹⁴ Arthur and Stella (Decker) Downing are buried in Lot 6A-023, Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.³¹⁵ His parents were John Downing and Mary Bonzer.³¹⁶ He was a United States citizen, but did not serve in the Armed Forces.³¹⁷ His occupation was farmer, general farming.³¹⁸ At the time he died, he was a widower living at 415 2nd Street, N.W., Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.³¹⁹ His son, Clifford L. Downing provided the information in Arthur Downing's death record.³²⁰

Stella and Art Downing are buried in Oelwein, Iowa with their infant daughter.³²¹

³⁰⁷ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³⁰⁸ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³⁰⁹ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³¹⁰ Stella Ethel Downing's Obituary, Waterloo Courier, September 8, 1958, Waterloo, Iowa; Arthur Downing's Obituary, The Conservative, May 13, 1969, Independence, Iowa

³¹¹ Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³¹² Stella Downing's death certificate dated September 18, 1958, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

³¹³ Arthur Herbert Downing's Death Record, Book 12, Page 227, Buchanan County Court House, Records Office, Independence, Iowa

³¹⁴ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³¹⁵ Buchanan County Genealogical Society listing for Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein, Iowa.

³¹⁶ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³¹⁷ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³¹⁸ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³¹⁹ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁰ Arthur and Stella Downing's Marriage Record & Return of Marriage dated October 8, 1915, Book 8, Page 412, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²¹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

Stella (Decker) Downing's Obituary as written in the Waterloo Courier,³²² and Arthur Downing's Obituary as written in The Conservative³²³ have been retyped and set forth below in their entirety.

Waterloo Courier
September 8, 1958
Waterloo, Iowa

The Conservative
May 13, 1969

INDEPENDENCE — Mrs. Stella Downing, 62, at 8:45 p.m. Saturday at St. Francis hospital in Waterloo; leaves husband, Arthur, and a son, Clifford, Independence; funeral, 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Brant funeral home in Oelwein; burial in Woodlawn cemetery there; body at the funeral home.

Arthur Downing

Funeral services for Arthur H. Downing, 77, of Independence were held Monday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m. at the White Funeral Home chapel in Independence. The Rev. Donald Alden officiated. Burial was in Woodlawn cemetery, Oelwein.

Mr. Downing died Thursday, May 8, at 5:45 p.m. at the People's Memorial hospital extended care unit. He was born April 12, 1892, at Monona, the son of John and Mary Bonzer Downing. On Oct. 12, 1915 he married Stella Decker in Fayette county, Iowa. He was a retired farmer.

Survivors include one son, Clifford Leo Downing, Independence; two brothers, Vern Downing, Waukon, Iowa and George Downing, Underwood, Minn.; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a daughter in infancy, one grandson, three brothers and two sisters.

Pallbearers were Leon Groskurth, George Hood, William Peyton, Milton Cusick, Roy Holst and Donald Bergom. White Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

DOWNING, Arthur H.

Cons. 5-13-69

Arthur Downing

Funeral services for Arthur H. Downing, 77, of Independence were held Monday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m. at the White Funeral Home chapel in Independence. The Rev. Donald Alden Officiated. Burial was in Woodlawn cemetery, Oelwein.

Mr. Downing died Thursday, May 8, at 5:45 p.m. at the People's Memorial hospital extended care unit. He was born April 12, 1892, at Monona, the son of John and Mary Bonzer Downing. On Oct. 12, 1915 he married Stella Decker in Fayette county, Iowa. He was a retired farmer.

Survivors include one son, Clifford Lee Downing, Independence; two brothers, Vern Downing, Waukon, Iowa and George Downing, Underwood, Minn.; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and daughter in infancy, one grandson, three brothers and two sisters.

Pallbearers were Leon Groskurth, George Hood, William Peyton, Milton Cusick, Roy Hoist and Donald Bergom. White Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

³²² Stella Ethel Downing's Obituary, Waterloo Courier, September 8, 1958, Waterloo, Iowa.

³²³ Arthur Downing's Obituary, The Conservative, May 13, 1969.

Clifford Leo Downing
Arthur Herbert And Stella Ethel Downing's son



CLIFFORD DOWNING
 ART AND STELLA (DECKER) DOWNING'S SON.

Clifford Leo Downing born July 6, 1940 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa.³²⁴ His birth is listed as legitimate.³²⁵ His parents were Arthur Downing, age 24 and Stella Decker, age 21.³²⁶ Arthur's occupation is listed as laborer and Stella's is listed as housewife.³²⁷ Both Arthur and Stella are identified as White.³²⁸ At the time Clifford was born, he was Arthur and Stella (Decker) Downing's first child and Clifford's parents were living at 108 5 Ave W., Oelwein, Iowa.³²⁹

Clifford Leo Downing married Mildred Marie First on January 6, 1940 in Lamont, Buchanan County, Iowa.³³⁰ Presumably, their marriage was the first for both since Clifford identified his marriage as his first, but Mildred's response was left blank.³³¹ At the time they were married, Clifford would have been 24 on his next birthday and Mildred would have been 17.³³² Clifford's occupation is listed as plumbing, but Mildred did not have an occupation listed.³³³ Clifford was living in Independence and Mildred was living in Lamont.³³⁴ Both Clifford and Mildred are listed as White and their nationality is listed as American.³³⁵ Clifford's birthplace is listed as Oran, Iowa and Mildred's is listed as Manchester, Iowa.³³⁶ Clifford's parents are identified as A. H. Downing and Stella Decker.³³⁷ Mildred's parents are identified as Mathias William

³²⁴ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁵ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁶ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁷ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁸ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³²⁹ Clifford Leo Downing's Birth Record, Book 5, Page 39, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³³⁰ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

³³¹ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³² Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³³ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁴ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁵ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁶ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁷ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939,

First and Maude Pratt.³³⁸ Witnesses to their wedding were Elaine Gross and Curley Kirkendall.³³⁹ The Application for Marriage and the Return of Marriage did not indicate that consent to marry was required.³⁴⁰

Clifford and Mildred (First) Downing had three children.³⁴¹ James Arthur Downing was born September 26, 1942 in Washington Township, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa when Clifford was 26 and Mildred was 20.³⁴² At the time he was born, Clifford was working as a farmer while Mildred was a housewife.³⁴³ James died at his home on March 17, 1944 in Rural Winthrop, Buchanan County, Iowa and is buried in Union Cemetery-north Manchester, Delaware County, Iowa.³⁴⁴ James died an accidental death by drowning in a pail of water.³⁴⁵ At the time of his death, James was one year, 5 months and 21 days old.³⁴⁶ Lois Jane Downing was born February 2, 1945 at People's Hospital, Washington Township, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa when Clifford was 28 and Mildred was 23.³⁴⁷ At the time she was born, Clifford was working as a farmer and at Rath Packing Company while Mildred was a housewife.³⁴⁸ Linda Joanne Downing was born July 26, 1949 at People's Hospital, Washington Township, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa when Clifford was 33 and Mildred was 27.³⁴⁹

Clifford died of an immediate, ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm on January 14, 1984 in the Delaware County Hospital, Manchester, Delaware County, Iowa and was buried in Thorpe Union Cemetery, rural Manchester, Iowa on January 17, 1984.³⁵⁰ At the time of his death, Clifford was 67 years old and married to Mildred Marie (First) Downing.³⁵¹ He worked for Rath Packing Company as an elevator operator.³⁵² Clifford was a United

#5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁸ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³³⁹ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁰ Clifford Leo and Mildred Marie Downing's Application and Return of Marriage dated December 30, 1939, #5275, Book 22, Page 172, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴¹ James Arthur Downing's Birth Record, book 9, Page 153, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Lois Jane Downing's Birth Record, Book 9, Page 371, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Linda Joanne Downing's Birth Record, Book 10, Page 349, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴² James Downing's Death Record, Book 8, Page 355, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; James Downing's obituary, Lamont Leader, March 23, 1944.

³⁴³ James Arthur Downing's Birth Record, Book 9, Page 153, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁴ James Downing's Death Record, Book 8, Page 355, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; James Downing's obituary, Lamont Leader, March 23, 1944.

³⁴⁵ James Downing's Death Record, Book 8, Page 355, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁶ James Downing's Death Record, Book 8, Page 355, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁷ Lois Jane Downing's Birth Record, Book 9, Page 371, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁸ Lois Jane Downing's Birth Record, Book 9, Page 371, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁴⁹ Linda Joanne Downing's Birth Record, Book 10, Page 349, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁰ Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵¹ Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

States citizen, but he had not served in the Armed Forces.³⁵³ Clifford's Death Record indicates that he was born July 6, 1916 in Iowa, and that his parents were Arthur Herbert Downing and Stella Ester Decker.³⁵⁴ Clifford's wife, Mildred Marie (First) Downing provide the information in Clifford's Death Record.³⁵⁵

Mildred Marie (First) Downing died on September 15, 1985 of congestive heart failure at her home, 1610 16th Ave. N.E., Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa and is buried in Thorpe Union Cemetery, rural Manchester, Iowa.³⁵⁶ Mildred's Death Record indicates she was a 63 year old widow and a United States citizen, but had not served in the Armed Forces.³⁵⁷ Her occupation was a homemaker at home.³⁵⁸ She was born on January 6, 1922 in Iowa and her color was White.³⁵⁹ Her parents were Mathias William First and Maude Lucinda Pratt.³⁶⁰ George Peyton provided the information in Mildred's Death Record.³⁶¹

³⁵² Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵³ Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁴ Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁵ Clifford Leo Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 268, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁶ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁷ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁸ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁵⁹ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁰ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶¹ Mildred Marie Downing's Death Record, Book 14, Page 368, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

Clifford and Mildred Downing's Obituaries have been retyped and are set forth below.³⁶²

The Conservative
January 7, 1984

Clifford Leo Downing

Funeral services for Clifford Leo Downing, 67, Lamont, will be held Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Independence. The Rev. Robert D. Stanford will officiate. Music will be by Mrs. Jim Blin and Mrs. Robert Stanford.

Burial will be in Thorp Union Cemetery, north of Manchester. Casket bearers will be Mark Francois, Edward Staton, Dean Staton and Randy March.

Downing died Jan. 14 of a heart attack. He was born July 6, 1916, in Oran, the son of Arthur Herbert and Stella Decker Downing.

He received his education from the Oelwein schools, and was united in marriage to Mildred Marie First on Jan. 6, 1940, at Lamont.

He was employed with Rath Packing Company for 31 years, retiring in 1978, and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Independence, where he was a deacon, and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workman of North America Local P 46 AFL-CIO.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred; two daughters, Mrs. George (Lois) Peyton, Independence; Mrs. Gary (Linda) Larson, Dubuque; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and one son in infancy.

Winthrop News
September 19, 1985

MILDRED M. DOWNING

Mildred Marie Downing, 63, died Sunday, Sept. 15, 1985, at her home in Independence, IA. She was born Jan. 6, 1922 at Manchester, IA, the daughter of Matthais William First and Maude Lucinda Pratt First.

She was united in marriage to Clifford Leo Downing, Jan. 6, 1940, at Strawberry Point, IA and he preceded her in death in January of 1984. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Independence. Mrs. Downing is survived by two daughters, Lois, Mrs. George Peyton, Jesup, IA and Linda, Mrs. Gary Larson, Dubuque, IA; seven grandchildren, three sisters, Donna Staton, Cedar Rapids, IA; Mrs. Florence Gross, Lamont, IA and Mrs. Ruth Francois, Dundee, IA. Besides her husband she was preceded in death by her parents, one son in infancy and two brothers and one sister.

Funeral services were Wednesday, September 18, 1985 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Independence, Rev. Robert D. Stanford officiating.

Burial was in Thorpe Union Cemetery north of Manchester, IA.

Pallbearers were Dean Staton, Edward Staton, Steve Francois, Mark Francois, Jeff Francois and Randy March.

Conv. **Clifford Leo
Downing** 1/17/1984

Funeral services for Clifford Leo Downing, 67, Lamont, will be held Jan. 17, 1:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Independence. The Rev. Robert D. Stanford will officiate. Music will be by Mrs. Jim Blin and Mrs. Robert Stanford.

Burial will be in Thorp Union Cemetery, north of Manchester. Casket bearers will be Mark Francois, Steve Francois, Jeff Francois, Edward Staton, Dean Staton and Randy March.

Downing died Jan. 14 of a heart attack. He was born July 6, 1916, in Oran, the son of Arthur Herbert and Stella Decker Downing.

He received his education from the Oelwein schools, and was united in marriage to Mildred Marie First on Jan. 6, 1940, at Lamont.

He was employed with Rath Packing Company for 31 years, retiring in 1978, and was a member of the First Baptist Church of In-

dependence, where he was a deacon, and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workman of North America Local P 46 AFL-CIO.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred; two daughters, Mrs. George (Lois) Peyton, Independence; and Mrs. Gary (Linda) Larson, Dubuque; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, and one son in infancy.

Ralph Decker
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker's son



RALPH AND EMMA DECKER



RALPH AND EMMA DECKER'S WEDDING PICTURE

Ralph Richard Decker was born July 21, 1897 in Hudson, Black Hawk County, Iowa, and died August 15, 1981 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

Ralph Richard Decker married Emma Louise Hick on March 22, 1921 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.³⁶³ She was born April 24, 1897 in Polk County, Iowa, and died February 14, 1983 in Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa. It is presumed their marriage was the first for both since the number of marriages was left blank on their Return of Marriage.³⁶⁴ At the time they were married, Ralph was 24 and Emma was 25, and both were identified as White Americans.³⁶⁵ At the time they were married, Ralph was living in Oelwein, Iowa and his occupation was listed as a stationary fireman; and Emma was living in Fairbank, Iowa, but there is no indication of what Emma's occupation was.³⁶⁶ Their return of Marriage indicates that Ralph's place of birth was Black Hawk County, Iowa and that his parents were Wm Decker and Jane Hare. Emma's place of birth was Polk County, Iowa and her parents were Earnest Hick and Mary Reonund (sp?).³⁶⁷ Ralph and Emma were married by Rev. J. K. Hawkins, Pastor of M.E. Church and the witnesses to their wedding were George Hick and Clea Seaton (or Staton?).³⁶⁸

Ralph and Emma (Hick) Decker had three children.³⁶⁹ They were Genevieve "Jean" Gwendoline, Ernest William and Lydia Gladys. Ralph and Emma Decker appear on the 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa.³⁷⁰ Ralph was 32 years old and is identified as head of house.³⁷¹ Emma was 33 and identified

³⁶³ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

³⁶⁴ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁵ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁶ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁷ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁸ Ralph and Emma Decker's Affidavit and Return of Marriage, #2165, Marriage Book 17, Page 252, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁶⁹ 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 247-B; Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

as Ralph's wife.³⁷² Their children were Genevieve, age 8; Ernest, age 7 and Lydia G., age 4 years and 7 months.³⁷³ Ralph Richard Decker's Obituary in The Conservative³⁷⁴ reads as follows.

<p>Ralph Richard Decker Funeral services will be held at 10:30 this morning at Brand-Kerns Chapel, Oelwein, for Ralph Richard Decker, 84, who died Saturday at People's Memorial Hospital. The Rev. Paul Somerville will officiate. Burial will be in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, Oelwein.</p> <p>Decker, a resident of East Towne Manor and a former resident of Oelwein for the past 60 years, was born July 21, 1897, Hudson, the son of William and Jane Hare Decker. He married Emma Louise Hick, March 22, 1921, and was a retired engineer from the Chicago Great Western Railway and also worked for Occo, Oelwein.</p> <p>Survivors include his wife; one son, Ernest Decker, Oelwein; two daughters, Mrs. Raphael (Lydia) Schuler, Oelwein; and Mrs. Raymond (Genevieve) Fischer, Waterloo; three sisters; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Brant-Kerns Funeral Home, Oelwein, is in charge of arrangements.</p>	<p>Ralph Richard Decker's Obituary <u>The Conservative</u> August 18, 1981 Independence, Iowa.</p> <p>Ralph Richard Decker Funeral services will be held at 10:30 this morning at Brand-kerns Chapel, Oelwein, for Ralph Richard Decker, 84, who died Saturday at People's Memorial Hospital. The Rev. Paul Somerville will officiate. Burial will be in Floral Hills memorial Gardens, Oelwein.</p> <p>Decker, a resident of East Towne Manor and a former resident of Oelwein for the past 60 years, was born July 21, 1987, Hudson, the son of William and Jane Hare Decker. He married Emma Louise Hick, March 22, 1921, and was a retired engineer from the Chicago Great Western Railway and also worked for Occo, Oelwein.</p> <p>Survivors include his wife; one son, Ernest Decker, Oelwein; two daughters, Mrs. Raphael (Lydia) Schuler, Oelwein; and Mrs. Raymond (Genevieve) Fischer, Waterloo; three sisters; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>Brant-Kerns Funeral Home, Oelwein, is in charge of arrangements.</p>
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Ralph worked for John Deere in Waterloo, Iowa.³⁷⁵ He retired from OCC Feed Mill in Oelwein, Iowa.³⁷⁶ Ralph and Emma lived in Oelwein, Iowa.³⁷⁷

Ralph Richard Decker died of pneumonia on August 15, 198 at the People's Hospital, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa and was buried on August 18 1981 in Floral Hills Cemetery in rural Oelwein, Iowa.³⁷⁸ (Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Hazleton, Buchanan County, Iowa.) Ralph was 84 years old, married to Emma and a retired engineer.³⁷⁹ His social security number was 708-10-3036.³⁸⁰ He worked for the CGW Ry.³⁸¹ He was a United States citizen, but did not serve in the Armed Forces.³⁸² Ralph's Death Record indicates he was born July

³⁷⁰ 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 247-B.
³⁷¹ 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 247-B.
³⁷² 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 247-B.
³⁷³ 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Page 247-B.
³⁷⁴ Ralph Richard Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, August 18, 1981, Independence, Iowa.
³⁷⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.
³⁷⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.
³⁷⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.
³⁷⁸ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

21, 1897 in Iowa.³⁸³ His parents were William Decker and Jane Hare.³⁸⁴ When Ralph died, he and Emma were living at 118 6th Ave. S.W., Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.³⁸⁵ His Death Record indicates Emma's maiden name was Emma Louise Hick.³⁸⁶ Ralph's daughter, Mrs. Lydia Schuler provided the information in Ralph's Death Record.³⁸⁷

Emma Louise Decker died due to cardiac arrest on February 14, 1983 at Oelwein Care Center, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa and is buried on February, 16, 1983 in Floral Hills Cemetery, rural Oelwein.³⁸⁸ (Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Hazleton, Buchanan County, Iowa.) At the time of her death, Emma was 86 and a widowed housewife.³⁸⁹ She was a United States citizen, but she had not served in the Armed Forces.³⁹⁰ Her last residence prior to death was 600 7th Street, S.E., Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.³⁹¹ Her Death Record indicates that Emma was born April 24, 1896 in Iowa.³⁹² Her parents were Ernest Hick and Mary Renud.³⁹³ Emma's daughter, Mrs. Lydia Schuler, provided the information in Emma's Death Record.³⁹⁴

³⁷⁹ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁰ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸¹ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸² Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸³ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁴ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁵ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁶ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁷ Ralph Richard Decker's Death Record dated August 19, 1981, Book 14, page 76, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

³⁸⁸ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁸⁹ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹⁰ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹¹ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹² Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹³ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹⁴ Emma Louise Decker's Death Record, Book 10, Page 510, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

**Genevieve Gwendoline Decker
Ralph and Emma Decker's daughter**



GENEVIEVE AND ERNEST DECKER
RALPH DECKER'S CHILDREN.



LYDIA GLADYS DECKER
RALPH DECKER'S
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

Genevieve "Jean" Gwendoline Decker was born December 25, 1921 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa³⁹⁵ and die December 24, 1998.³⁹⁶ When Genevieve was born, Ralph's occupation was farmer and Emma's was housewife.³⁹⁷ Genevieve's birth was considered legitimate.³⁹⁸ Genevieve married Raymond Fischer. There was no marriage record found for Jean and Raymond in Fayette County, Iowa.³⁹⁹ Raymond Fischer was born June 22, 1919 and died February 1983.⁴⁰⁰ Raymond's dates came from the Social Security Death Index which listed his last residence as Waterloo. Genevieve "Jean" Gwendoline Decker's dates came from the Social Security Death Index listed her as Jean G. Fischer, her last residence was Dows, Wright County, Iowa.

Genevieve was born December 25, 1921 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa⁴⁰¹ and died December 24, 1998. When Genevieve was born, Ralph's occupation was farmer and Emma's was housewife.⁴⁰² Genevieve's birth was considered legitimate.⁴⁰³ Genevieve married Raymond Fischer and they had at least one daughter.⁴⁰⁴ Genevieve lived in Waterloo, Iowa.⁴⁰⁵

³⁹⁵ Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹⁶ Social Security Death Index.

³⁹⁷ Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹⁸ Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

³⁹⁹ Lylia Hare.

⁴⁰⁰ Social Security Death Index.

⁴⁰¹ Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰² Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰³ Genevieve Gwendoline Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, Page 54, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴⁰⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

Lydia Gladys Decker
Ralph and Emma Decker's daugh'er

Lydia Gladys Decker was born July 2, 1925 in Oran, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁰⁶ Her birth was considered legitimate.⁴⁰⁷ When she was born Ralph was farmer, age 28 and Emma was housewife, age 28.⁴⁰⁸ Lydia Gladys married Raphael Peter Schuler on January 20, 1944 in Oelwein Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁰⁹ Their marriage was the first for both.⁴¹⁰ When they married, Raphael was a butcher, age 22 and Lydia was 19.⁴¹¹ No occupation was listed for Lydia.⁴¹² Both Lydia and Raphael were identified as White Americans. Raphael's residence was Hazleton and Lydia's was Oelwein.⁴¹³ Raphael's parents are identified as Matthew Schuler and Catherine Rider.⁴¹⁴ Lydia's parents are identified as Ralph Decker and Emma Hick.⁴¹⁵ Rev. E. J. OHara, Pastor of Secret Heart Church married Raphael and Lydia.⁴¹⁶ The witnesses for their marriage were Ernest Schuler and Luella Schuler.⁴¹⁷ Raphael Peter Schuler was born November 29, 1922 and died June 19, 1996.

Gladys married Ray Schular and lived in Oelwein, Iowa.⁴¹⁸ Gladys had three children.⁴¹⁹

⁴⁰⁶ Lydia Gladys Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, page 60, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰⁷ Lydia Gladys Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, page 60, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰⁸ Lydia Gladys Decker's Birth Record, Births Book 6, page 60, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁰⁹ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹⁰ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹¹ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹² Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹³ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹⁴ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹⁵ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹⁶ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴¹⁷ Raphael Peter and Lydia Gladys Schuler's Application and Return of Marriage, Marriages, Boo 21, Page 19, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

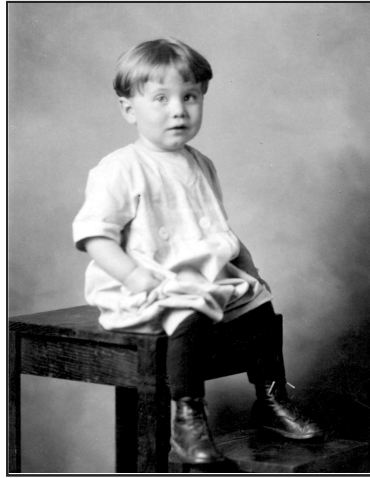
⁴¹⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁴¹⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

Ernest William Decker
Ralph and Emma Decker's son



GENEVIEVE AND ERNEST DECKER
RALPH DECKER'S CHILDREN.



ERNEST DECKER
RALPH DECKER'S SON.

Ernest William Decker was born December 27, 1922 in Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa. His parents were Ralph Decker a farmer, age 25 and Emma Hick a housewife, age 27.⁴²⁰ Ernest birth was considered legitimate.⁴²¹ At the time of Ernest birth, Ralph and Emma were living in Oran, Iowa.⁴²²

Ernie, married Betty Bur- gum.⁴²³ Ernie and his wife lived in Oelwein.⁴²⁴ Ernie died at quite a young age.⁴²⁵

Ernest William Decker married prior to July 1960, but the marriage was annulled and the name of his first wife is unknown.⁴²⁶

In any case, Ernest married Betty L. Barker on July 23, 1960 in West Union, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴²⁷ Betty Baker was also known as Bettylou Bernice Barker.⁴²⁸ Their marriage was Betty's first.⁴²⁹ At the time they were married Ernest was 37 on his last birthday and Betty was 20 on hers.⁴³⁰ Ernest lived at 229 8th Ave. S.W., Oelwein, Iowa and Betty lived at R.R.#1 Independence, Iowa.⁴³¹ Both Ernest and Betty are identified as White and Ernest's occupation was a laborer for Central Transit while there is no indication of what Betty's occupation was.⁴³² Both Ernst and Betty were of the Baptist faith and they were

⁴²⁰ Ernest William Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 55, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴²¹ Ernest William Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 55, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴²² Ernest William Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 55, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴²³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴²⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁴²⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁴²⁶ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴²⁷ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴²⁸ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record dated November 1, 1978, No. 12102, Marriages, Book 33, Page 82, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁴²⁹ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³⁰ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³¹ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

married by Richard A. Krell, First Baptist Church Minister, 203 N. Vine, West Union, Iowa.⁴³³ The witnesses to their marriage was Frederick Hansen and Lydia Schuler.⁴³⁴ Lydia Schuler was Ernest's sister. Their marriage record indicates that Ernest was born December 27, 1922 in Oelwein, Iowa.⁴³⁵ His parents were Ralph Decker and Emma Hick. Betty was born April 12, 1940, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa; and her parents were Howard Barker and Mildred Bergom.⁴³⁶

Ernest and Bettylou later divorced, but they remarried again in November 1978.⁴³⁷ When they remarried, Ernest was 55 years old and Bettylou was 38.⁴³⁸ At the time of their second marriage Ernest and Bettylou were living at the same address in Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa. The application for marriage was taken out at Independence, Buchanan County, but they actually were married at Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa. This explains why the marriage record was found at the Independence courthouse in Buchanan County, Iowa (BK-33/ Pg 82). Evidently, Bettylou had not remarried after her first divorce from Ernest, because her name on the marriage license application was Bettylou Bernice DECKER.

Ernest was married briefly prior to his marriage to Bettylou. No further information about his first wife, other than the marriage had been annulled, according to his marriage record to Bettylou Barker. Ernest and Bettylou had three children in their marriage.

Ernest and Bettylou Decker's first child was Laura Ann Decker born February 22, 1961 in Mercy Hospital, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴³⁹ Her parents are identified as Ernest William Decker a 38 year old laborer at Central Transit Warehouse and Betty Lou Barker, age 20.⁴⁴⁰ Betty had no previous births, no children born alive which later died and no stillborns.⁴⁴¹ Laura's Birth Record indicates that Betty Lou Decker was born in Independence, Iowa.⁴⁴² At the time Laura's birth, her parents were living at 12 E. Charles, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁴³ Betty Lou provided the information in Laura's birth record.⁴⁴⁴

⁴³² Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³³ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³⁴ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³⁵ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³⁶ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record, Marriages, Book 23, Page 388, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴³⁷ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record dated November 1, 1978, No. 12102, Marriages, Book 33, Page 82, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁴³⁸ Ernest and Betty Decker's Marriage Record dated November 1, 1978, No. 12102, Marriages, Book 33, Page 82, Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁴³⁹ Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁰ Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴¹ Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴² Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴³ Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁴ Laura Ann Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 97, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office,

Ernest and Bettylou Decker's second child was Steven Leroy Decker.⁴⁴⁵ Steven was born March 25, 1962 at Mercy Hospital, Oelwein Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁴⁶ At the time of his birth Ernest was a 39 year old laborer working for the Central Transit Warehouse, and Betty Lou was 21 years old.⁴⁴⁷ When Steven was born, Betty had one previous birth, no children born alive which later died and no stillborns.⁴⁴⁸ Also Ernest and Bettylou were living at 12 E. Charles, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁴⁹ Steven's birth record indicates Betty Lou's maiden name was Barker.⁴⁵⁰ Betty Lou provided the information in Steven's birth record.⁴⁵¹

Ernest and Bettylou Decker's third child was Mary Louise Decker.⁴⁵² Mary Louise was born January 1, 1964 at Mercy Hospital, Oelwein Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁵³ At the time of her birth Ernest was a 41 year old laborer working for the Central Transit Warehouse, and Betty Lou was 23 years old.⁴⁵⁴ When Mary Louise was born, Betty had two previous birth, no children born alive which later died and no stillborns.⁴⁵⁵ Also Ernest and Bettylou were living at 31 3rd Street N.W., Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.⁴⁵⁶ Mary Louise's birth record indicates Betty Lou's maiden name was Barker.⁴⁵⁷ Betty Lou provided the information in Mary Louise's birth record.⁴⁵⁸

West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁵ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁶ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁷ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁸ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁴⁹ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁰ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵¹ Steven Leroy Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 105, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵² Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵³ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁴ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁵ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁶ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁷ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

⁴⁵⁸ Mary Louise Decker's Birth Record, Births, Book 15, Page 114, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

Ernest William Decker died November 9, 1987 at Allen Hospital, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa and was buried November 11, 1987 at Floral Hills⁴⁵⁹ Memorial Gardens Floral hills in Hazleton, Buchanan County, Iowa. Ernest's death record does not list a cause of death or his age at death.⁴⁶⁰ Ernest's residence was 122 S. Frederick, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa, but he died at Allen Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa.⁴⁶¹ Ernest death record indicates that Ernest served in the Armed Forces from January 21, 1943 through June 19, 1943.⁴⁶² His record also indicates he was divorced and that his occupation was Central Transit.⁴⁶³ Finally, his death record indicates Ernest was born in Iowa and that his parents were Ralph and Emma Decker.⁴⁶⁴ Ernest sister, Lydia Schuler, provided the information in Ernest's death record.⁴⁶⁵

Ernest and Bettylou Decker divorced sometime after the birth of their third child, Mary, who was born in 1964. It is not known exactly when they divorced (1964 1978) or for how long, but they remarried each other on November 18, 1978. Ernest's sister Lydia Schuler was a witness to his marriage to Bettylou Barker in 1960. Lydia also was the informant of Ernest's death record. On his death record it stated that Ernest was divorced, so this indicates that he and Betty must have divorced again before his death in 1987. Also, in Ernest's obituary, it only lists his three children, there was no mention of a wife.

⁴⁵⁹ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶⁰ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶¹ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶² Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶³ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶⁴ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁴⁶⁵ Ernest William Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 35, Page 943, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

Harvey Burton Decker
William Henry And Eliza Jane Decker's son



HARVEY DECKER AND FIRST WIFE, MINNIE - FAMILY PICTURE
THEIR CHILD: EARL DECKER - PICTURE TAKEN 1928.



HARVEY DECKER AND FIRST WIFE, MINNIE

Harvey Burton Decker was born June 6, 1900 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.

Another conflict that has surfaced is the question, which spelling of Harvey's middle name "Burton" or "Berton" is correct? It appears both ways in different vital records and his Obituary. His marriage record reads Burton, his death record and obit read Berton. Harvey signed his son's marriage affidavit, but he simply signed it Harvey Decker, omitting his middle name.

In the CONSERVATIVE - Eliza's son "Harley" was a misspelling for HARVEY [ELZIA JANE'S OBIT]

Harvey Burton Decker married Minnie Haun on August 21, 1922 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa,⁴⁶⁶ though Harvey and Minnie Decker's Obituaries reported that their marriage occurred at Oelwein, Fayette County Iowa. They were married by Rev. J.K. Hawkins, Pastor of M.E. Church.⁴⁶⁷ The witnesses to their marriage were Wm Decker and Jane Decker.⁴⁶⁸ Their marriage was the first for both.⁴⁶⁹ When they married, Harvey would have been 23 at his next birthday and Minnie would have been 22.⁴⁷⁰ Harvey's occupation was fireman RR and no occupation is listed for Minnie.⁴⁷¹ Harvey and Minnie are identified as White Americans.⁴⁷² Their marriage record

⁴⁶⁶ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁴⁶⁷ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁶⁸ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁶⁹ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

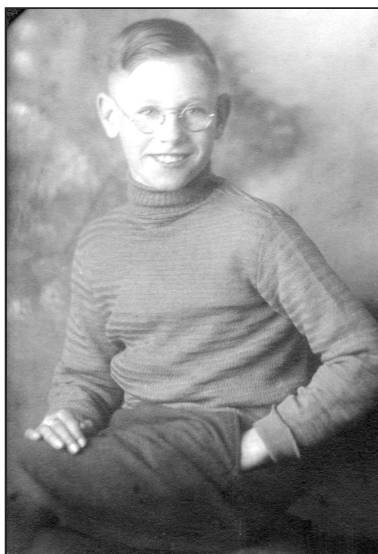
⁴⁷⁰ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷¹ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County

indicates that Harvey was born in Independence, Iowa and Minnie was born in Kensington, Kansas.⁴⁷³ Harvey's parents are identified as Wm Decker and Jane Hare.⁴⁷⁴ Minnie's parents are identified as John Haun and Emma Brew.⁴⁷⁵ Harvey and Minnie were both residents of Oelwein at the time of their marriage. The marriage affidavit shows that Harvey's father, William Decker, provided the affidavit regarding their ages. Then at the marriage both William and his wife, Jane Decker, were witnesses to Harvey's and Minnie's marriage which was performed by Rev. J.K. Hawkins, a pastor of the M.E. Church.



EARL DECKER



EARL DECKER, AGE 11
PICTURE TAKEN DECEMBER 15, 1934.

Harvey and Minnie (Haun) Decker had one child, Earl.⁴⁷⁶ Earl Edward was born October 21, 1923, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa. He married Jeanne Kathryn Kramer on September 3, 1949 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa. Their marriage was the first for both. Earl would have been 26 years old at his next birthday and Jeanne would have been 33 years old. There were identified as White. Harvey's nationality is identified as Dutch-American and Jeanne's is identified as German-Irish. Earl's occupation is listed as welder and no occupation is listed for Jeanne. Harvey's place of birth is listed as Oelwein, Iowa and his parents are identified as Harvey B. Decker and Minnie Haun (deceased). Jeanne's place of birth is listed as Warren, Minnesota and her parents are identified as Emil G. Kramer (deceased) and Kate Kilfagle (deceased). When they married, Earl's place of residence was 2530 W. 3rd, Waterloo, Iowa and Jeanne's was 1811 E. 4th _____.

Harvey and Minnie (Haun) Decker appear on the 1930 Census with their son, Earl.⁴⁷⁷ Harvey B. is identified as head of house and Minnie is identified as his wife.⁴⁷⁸ Earl E. is identified as their son.⁴⁷⁹ Harvey was 29 years old as of his last birthday.⁴⁸⁰ Minnie was also 29 as of her last birthday and Earl was 6 years old.⁴⁸¹ According to the Census, Harvey and Minnie were both 22 years old when they married.⁴⁸² Harvey and Minnie could read and write.⁴⁸³ Harvey's occupation is listed as an electric welder in a factory.⁴⁸⁴ There is no occupation listed for Min-

Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷² Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷³ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷⁴ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷⁵ Harvey and Minnie Decker's Marriage Record, No. 2365, Marriage Book 17, Page 452, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁴⁷⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁴⁷⁷ 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

⁴⁷⁸ 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

⁴⁷⁹ 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

⁴⁸⁰ 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

⁴⁸¹ 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

⁴⁸² 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.

nie.⁴⁸⁵ Harvey is listed as being born in Iowa, but both of his parents are listed as being born in Illinois.⁴⁸⁶ Minnie is listed as being born in Kansas.⁴⁸⁷ Her father is listed as being born in Illinois, but her mother is listed as being born in Ohio.⁴⁸⁸ Earl is listed as being born in Iowa.⁴⁸⁹

Harvey and Minnie Decker lived and died in the Waterloo, Iowa area.⁴⁹⁰ Harvey worked for John Deere in Waterloo.⁴⁹¹

At some point, Earl and Jeanne Decker were divorced. Earl's death certificate showed that he was divorced. The information found in Earl's death certificate was furnished by Ruth Snyder of the same address (611 Adrian Street) in Waterloo. It is uncertain at this time what Ruth's relationship was to Earl, if any.

Earl Decker never married and did not have any children.⁴⁹²

Earl Ernest Decker died at his home on January 24, 1994 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa and is buried in Wilson Cemetery, Independence, Iowa.⁴⁹³ Earl's birth record indicates his name was Earl Edward Decker. Earl's death record does not indicate a cause of death.⁴⁹⁴ Earl achieved the eleventh grade education and at his death, his occupation was listed as a laborer at a service station.⁴⁹⁵ Earl's residence was 611 Adrian Street, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.⁴⁹⁶ Earl was a United States citizen and had served in the Armed Forces.⁴⁹⁷ He was divorced.⁴⁹⁸ His death record indicates he was born April 17, 1906 in Oelwein, Iowa and that his parents were Harvey Decker and Minnie Haun.⁴⁹⁹ Ruth Snyder provided the information in Earl's death record.⁵⁰⁰

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- 483 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 484 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 485 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 486 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 487 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 488 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 489 1930 United States Census for Waterloo City, Waterloo Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Sheet 4A.
- 490 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.
- 491 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.
- 492 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.
- 493 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 494 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 495 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 496 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa; Social Security Death Index
- 497 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 498 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 499 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.
- 500 Earl Ernest Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 1994, Page 50, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

Earl E. Decker and his mother, Minnie L. (Haun) Decker share a common headstone. Their headstone shows the following information: Earl E. Decker, 1923-1994, son; and Minnie L. Decker, 1900-1945, mother.

[insert pic of headstone]



HARVEY DECKER AND SECOND WIFE, DORIS

Harvey Decker's wife was Minnie Lauddy Haun. Minnie Lauddy (Haun) Decker died of malignant tumor of the brain - carcinoma on October 31, 1945 in the hospital in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa and was buried in Wilson Cemetery, Independence,⁵⁰¹ Buchanan County, Iowa. Minnie was a 45 year old housewife when she died.⁵⁰² She was married to Harvey B. Decker, age 46, when she died.⁵⁰³ At her death, Minnie's residence was in Waterloo where she had lived for 22 years.⁵⁰⁴ Her death record indicates she was born September 23, 1900 in Smith County Kansas and that her parents were John Haun, born in Colorado, and Emma Brew, born in Colorado.⁵⁰⁵ Harvey B. Decker provided the information in Minnie's Death Record.⁵⁰⁶ Harvey's address was 2530 W. Third Street,⁵⁰⁷ which was the Scott Convalescent Home.

Harvey Burton Decker married Doris Lorena (White) Fleming on May 11, 1946 in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. Minnie died and Harvey married a lovely lady named Doris.⁵⁰⁸ Doris was the daughter of Morris White and Birdie O'donnell. Doris was born April 17, 1906 in Lynnville, Iowa, and died April 27, 2000 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa and is buried at Garden of Memories - Waterloo, Iowa. Harvey and Doris did

not have any children.⁵⁰⁹ Harvey Berton Decker died of cerebral vascular accident (?) antecedent causes were beni__hyper__ c.v. ol__ on July 29, 1954 at the Scott Convalescent home, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa⁵¹⁰ and is buried at Midwest Garden of Memories - Waterloo, Iowa. Harvey died within three days of the

⁵⁰¹ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰² Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰³ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰⁴ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰⁵ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰⁶ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰⁷ Minnie Lauddy Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 573, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵⁰⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁵⁰⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold; Ralph Richard Decker's Obituary, The Conservative, August 18, 1981.

⁵¹⁰ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

onset of his cause of death.⁵¹¹ No autopsy was performed.⁵¹² Apparently, the antecedent causes of his death had been ongoing for more than two years.⁵¹³ Harvey was 54 years old when he died.⁵¹⁴ His social security number was 481-10-5989.⁵¹⁵ Prior to his death, Harvey had lived 26 years in Waterloo.⁵¹⁶ His last residence was 2530 West 3rd Street, Waterloo, Iowa.⁵¹⁷ Harvey was a United States citizen, but never served in the Armed Forces.⁵¹⁸ He was a retired welder in a tractor works.⁵¹⁹ When Harvey died, he was married⁵²⁰ His death record indicates he was born June 6, 1900 in Iowa, and that his parents were William Decker and Eliza Jane Hare.⁵²¹ Mrs. Harvey B. Decker provided the information in Harvey's death record.⁵²²

Independence, Harvey Decker, Waterloo, Ralph Decker and Mrs. Rose Carpenter, Oelwein, Mrs. Bessie Rankin and Mrs. Bernice Siglin, Laurens; 11 grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; and two half-brothers, John Fuller of Waterloo and Ben Fuller of Kansas.

⁵¹¹ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹² Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹³ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁴ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁵ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁶ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁷ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁸ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵¹⁹ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵²⁰ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵²¹ Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

⁵²² Harvey Decker's Death Record, Book 8, Page 662, Waterloo Courthouse, Records Office, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

DEATHS

MRS. HARVEY B. DECKER. Mrs. Harvey B. Decker, 45, of 2530 West Third street, died at 5:50 p. m. Wednesday in her home, where she had been ill for the past three months with carcinoma.

Resident of Waterloo for the past 37 years, she was born Minnie Lauddy Haun, Sept. 23, 1900 in Smith county, Kan., daughter of John and Emma Haun, and moved with her family to Haxtun, Colo. as a young girl. She came to Waterloo to live when she was 18. On Aug. 21, 1922, she was married to Harvey B. Decker of Oelwein, Ia.

She was a member of United Brethren Church.

Surviving are her husband; one son, Sgt. Earl, now on his way here from Lowden, Wash., having recently returned from army service in the Pacific; four brothers, Charles Haun, Smith Center, Kan; John, Charles, both of Haxtun, Colo, and Robert, Pueblo Colo, and three sisters, Mrs. Mary Corder, Mabel Haun and Mrs Carri Hill, all of Haxtun

The body was taken to Kearns Garden chapel.

HARVEY B. DECKER

Harvey Berton Decker, 54, of 2530 W. 3rd St., died of a cerebral hemorrhage Thursday at 4:45 a.m. at Scott Convalescent Home. He had been ill since 1952 when he retired from duty at the John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works where he was a welder 26 years.

Mr. Decker was born June 6, 1900, at Independence, a son of, William and Eliza Jane Decker. He was first married at Oelwein to Minnie Haun who died in October of 1945. He was married a second time May 11, 1946, at Des Moines to Doris Fleming who survives. He was a member of the Graves Evangelical united Brethren church.

Surviving are his wife, a son, Earl, of 520 Boston Ave., and a brother, Ralph Decker of Oelwein, as well as five sisters.

They are Mrs. Bernice Sigln of Maywood Addition, Mrs. Stella Downing of Independence, Mrs. Bessie Rankin of Laurens, Mrs. Rosie Carpenter of Oelwein and Mrs. Nora Reinhold of Medford, Wis. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Arrangements for the last rites are pending at the Locke Funeral Home.

DEATHS

A. LEE BRADELY, PAGE 3.

HARVEY B. DECKER

Funeral services for Harvey Berton Decker, who died Thursday at the age of 54, will be at 2 p. m. Saturday at the Locke funeral home. The Rev. Russell S. Dunlop, pastor of Graves Evangelical United Brethren church. will officiate. Burial will be at Midwest Garden of Memories.

Doris Lorena (White) (Fleming) Decker died on April 27, 2000 at the age of 94 and was buried in Midwest Garden of Memories, Waterloo, Iowa.⁵²³ Her cause of death is identified as respiratory failure - 6 weeks & other - idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, pneumonia.⁵²⁴ She was in the Ravenwood Nursing & Rehab Center Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa when she died.⁵²⁵ Her usual residence was 420 Dawson Street, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.⁵²⁶ Doris was a widow.⁵²⁷ She achieved and eight grade education.⁵²⁸ Her occupation is listed as a clerk in a fish market.⁵²⁹ She was a United States citizen, but she did not serve in the Armed Services.⁵³⁰ Her death record indicates she was born April 17, 1906 in Lynnville, Iowa, and her parents were Morris O. White and Birdie F. ODonnell.⁵³¹ Doris' race was identified as White.⁵³² Dorothy F. Stokes of 420 Dawson St. Waterloo, Iowa provided the information in Doris Decker's death Record, perhaps Dorothy was a daughter from a previous marriage.⁵³³

⁵²³ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁴ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁵ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁶ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁷ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁸ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵²⁹ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵³⁰ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵³¹ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵³² Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁵³³ Doris Lorena Decker's Death Record, Deaths, Vol. 2000, Page 467, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

Bessie (Decker) Rankin
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker's daughter

[insert pic of Bessie] Bessie Decker was born May 12, 1900 in Independence, Iowa. She married Fay R. Rankin on August 3, 1920 in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa.⁵³⁴ They were married by Rev. J. K. Hawkins, pastor of M.E. Church and the witnesses to their marriage were I. S. Rankin and Wm Decker.⁵³⁵ Their marriage was the first for both.⁵³⁶ In the Affidavit attached to their Return of Marriage dated August 3, 1920, Wm Decker swears the following: Fay R. Rankin, 20, of Fairbank and Bessie I. Decker, 17, of Oran, Iowa.⁵³⁷ When they married, Fay would have been 21 at his next birthday and Bessie would have been 18.⁵³⁸ Their Return of Marriage indicates Fay's occupation was a fireman RR, but does not list an occupation for Bessie.⁵³⁹ Fay was living in Fairbank, Iowa when they married and Bessie was living in Oran, Iowa.⁵⁴⁰ Both are identified as White Americans.⁵⁴¹ Fay was bo'n in Searsboro, Iowa and his parents are identified as Isaac Scott Rankin and Diana Huson.⁵⁴² Bessie was born in Independence, Iowa and her parents are identified as Wm Decker and Eliza Jane Hare.⁵⁴³

Fay and Bessie (Decker) Rankin also owned an apartment house in California and lived in California for a few years before returning to Iowa.⁵⁴⁴ Fay drove heavy equipment and did very well financially.⁵⁴⁵ Fay Rankin dug the trenches in which the gas line for Oelwein, Iowa is buried.⁵⁴⁶ Fay and Bessie Rankin lived and died in the Laurens, Pocahontas County, Iowa area.⁵⁴⁷ They are buried aroun^d the Laurens area.⁵⁴⁸

⁵³⁴ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵³⁵ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵³⁶ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵³⁷ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵³⁸ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵³⁹ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁴⁰ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁴¹ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁴² Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁴³ Fay 7 Bessie Rankin's Marriage Record, Marriage Book 17, Page 107, Buchanan County Courthouse, Recorders Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁴⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁵⁴⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁵⁴⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁵⁴⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁵⁴⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

Fay and Bessie (Decker) Rankin appear of the 1930 Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa.⁵⁴⁹ Fay was 29 years old and identified as head of house.⁵⁵⁰ Bessie was 27 and identified as Fay's wife.⁵⁵¹ There were no children listed. Bessie and Fay could both read and write.⁵⁵² The Census indicates that Fay was 20 when he married Bessie and Bessie was 18.⁵⁵³ Both Fay and Bessie were born in Iowa.⁵⁵⁴ Fay's father was born in Iowa, but his mother was born in Illinois.⁵⁵⁵ Bessie's father was born in Pennsylvania and her mother was born in New York.⁵⁵⁶ Fay's occupation is listed as brakeman on the railroad.⁵⁵⁷ No occupation is listed for Bessie.⁵⁵⁸

Bessie I. (Decker) Rankin is buried in the Washington Cemetery, Havelock, Pocahontas County, Iowa. Fay R. Rankin is probably buried in the same cemetery.

Bessie (Decker) Rankin's Obituary was published in the Waterloo Courier and has been retype:

Bessie I. Rankin

Services for Bessie I. Rankin, 86, of Laurens, formerly of Waterloo, will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at Smith Funeral Home, Laurens, with burial in Washington Cemetery, Havelock.

She died Thursday evening (Aug. 3) at the Pocahontas Community Hospital of natural causes.

She was born Nov. 27, 1902, at Independence, daughter of William and Eliza Hare Decker. She married Fay Rankin Aug. 3, 1920, at independence. They lived in Oelwein and Waterloo before moving to Laurens in the 1940s.

Survivors include her husband; two sisters, Rosa Law Of Oelwein and Bernice Siglin of Hubert, N.C.; she was preceded in death by three sisters and two brothers.

Bessie I. Rankin's Obituary

Waterloo Courier

August 18, 1981

Independence, Iowa.

549 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
550 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
551 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
552 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
553 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
554 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
555 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
556 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
557 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.
558 1930 United States Census for Oelwein City, Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Iowa, Sheet 1B.

Rose Belle Decker
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker's daughter

On September 4, 1922 George I. Carpenter and Rosa Belle Decker were married in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa by Rev. J. K. Hawkins, pastor of M. E. Church.⁵⁵⁹ The witnesses to their marriage were Oscar Reinhold and Jane Decker.⁵⁶⁰ Oscar Reinhold was Rosa's brother-in-law and Jane Decker was Rosa's mother. Wm Decker signed an Affidavit dated September 2, 1922 stating that George I. Carpenter was 41 of Fairbank and Rosa Belle Decker was 17 of Oelwein, Iowa.⁵⁶¹ Apparently, Rosa's parents had to consent to the marriage as the parents' consent was on file.⁵⁶² Their Return of Marriage indicates that George would have been 42 at his next birthday and Rosa would have been 18 at hers.⁵⁶³ George and Rosa are identified as White Americans.⁵⁶⁴ Their marriage was the first for both.⁵⁶⁵ George living in Fairbank, Iowa and his occupation was farming.⁵⁶⁶ Rosa lived in Oelwein, Iowa and no occupation is listed for her.⁵⁶⁷ George was born in Bremer County, Iowa and Rosa was born in Buchanan County, Iowa.⁵⁶⁸ George's parents are identified as George Carpenter and Juda M. Haun.⁵⁶⁹ Rosa's parents are identified as Wm Decker and Jane Hare.⁵⁷⁰

George Carpenter, Jr. appears on the 1920 Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa.⁵⁷¹ George is shown living with his parents, George, age 71 and Judid M., age 61, and one sister, Maud B., age 16 and a brother, Walter R., age 19.⁵⁷² George Carpenter, Jr. was 37 years old and single.⁵⁷³ The Census was taken in January 1920⁵⁷⁴ and George married Rosa Decker in September 1922.⁵⁷⁵

⁵⁵⁹ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁰ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶¹ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶² George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶³ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁴ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁵ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁶ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁷ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁸ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁶⁹ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁷⁰ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

⁵⁷¹ 1920 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 83, 5A.

⁵⁷² 1920 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 83, 5A.

⁵⁷³ 1920 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 83, 5A.

⁵⁷⁴ 1920 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 83, 5A.

⁵⁷⁵ George I. and Rosa Belle Carpenter's Marriage Record, No. 2372, Marriage Book 17, Page 459, Buchanan

Rose Decker married George Carpenter, an older man and a kindly person.⁵⁷⁶ He loved his young bride, setting her up well financially.⁵⁷⁷ Rose, also known as Rosie, and George Carpenter had one daughter, Evelyn.⁵⁷⁸ George and Rose farmed south of Highway 3, around Fairbank, Iowa.⁵⁷⁹

Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter was born September 23, 1923 in Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa.⁵⁸⁰ Her parents were George Carpenter a farmer, age 21 and Rosie Decker a housewife, age 18.⁵⁸¹ George's age as shown on Evelyn's birth documents is incorrect.⁵⁸² George was 42 years old when Evelyn was born.⁵⁸³ Evelyn's birth was describe as legitimate.⁵⁸⁴ George's place of birth was Bremer County, Iowa and Rosie's was Buchanan County, Iowa.⁵⁸⁵ At the time Evelyn was born, George and Rosie Carpenter were living in Fairbank, Iowa.⁵⁸⁶ Both George and Rosie are described as White in Evelyn's birth record.⁵⁸⁷

Apparently, Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter married a man with the last name Tharp.⁵⁸⁸ It is unknown where this marriage took place.⁵⁸⁹ Possibly, Los Angeles County, California.⁵⁹⁰ Evelyn died in Los Angeles County, California.⁵⁹¹ The social security death index shows Evelyn's last residence as 91402 Tujunga, Los Angeles County, California.⁵⁹² The index shows that Evelyn was born September 23, 1923 and died in April 1984.⁵⁹³ The index indicates Evelyn Tharp's social security number was 485-22-7077 and was issued before 1951.⁵⁹⁴ California Deaths (1940-97) indicates that Evelyn Wauneta Tharp was born Sept 23, 1923 in Iowa and died April 28, 1984 in Los Angeles.⁵⁹⁵ Evelyn and her husband had no children in their marriage. Last residence was Tujunga, Los

County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa.

576 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

577 Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

578 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

579 Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

580 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

581 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa

582 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

583 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

584 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

585 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

586 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

587 Evelyn Wauneta Carpenter's Birth Record, Births, Book 6, Page 43, Fayette County Courthouse, Records Office, West Union, Iowa.

588 Social Security Death Index.

589 Social Security Death Index.

590 Social Security Death Index.

591 Social Security Death Index.

592 Social Security Death Index.

593 Social Security Death Index.

594 Social Security Death Index.

595 California Deaths (1940-97); Social Security Death Index.

Angeles County, California. California Deaths (1940-97) also indicates that Evelyn's mother's maiden name was Decker and her father's last name was Carpenter.⁵⁹⁶

George and Rosa Carpenter appear on the 1930 Census Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa with their daughter, Evelin W.⁵⁹⁷ George was 48 years old and listed as head of house.⁵⁹⁸ Rosa B. was 25 and shown as his wife.⁵⁹⁹ Evelin was 6 years old and listed as their daughter.⁶⁰⁰ George and Rosa could read and write.⁶⁰¹ George's occupation was listed as farmer, general farming, but no occupation is listed for Rosa.⁶⁰² Rosa was listed as being born in Iowa.⁶⁰³ Her father is listed as being born in Illinois and her mother in Nebraska.⁶⁰⁴ Evelin is shown as having been born in Iowa.⁶⁰⁵

George Israel Carpenter died at his home on September 11, 1956 from coronary occlusion and was buried on September 15, 1956 in Grove Hill Cemetery, rural Oran.⁶⁰⁶ George's residence was 225 8th Ave. S.W., Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa where he had lived for 12 years.⁶⁰⁷ George was 75 years old, married and retired from farming when he died.⁶⁰⁸ His death record indicates George was born February 26, 1881 in Bremer County, Iowa and he did not serve in the Armed Forces.⁶⁰⁹ His wife, Mrs. George I. Carpenter provided the information in his death record.⁶¹⁰

After George Carpenter died, Rosie (Decker) (Carpenter) remarried and moved to California to help her daughter, Evelyn, who had a stroke and passed away.⁶¹¹ Evelyn probably lived in Los Angeles County, California.⁶¹² Rosie's second husband's name and anything about him is unknown, other than his last name must have been Law since Rosie's last name was Law when she remarried the third time. It is unknown where Rosie married her second husband. Rosie eventually returned to Oelwein, Iowa with only the clothes in her suitcase.⁶¹³ She eventually was put into a nursing home due to her diabetes.⁶¹⁴

⁵⁹⁶ California Deaths (1940-97).

⁵⁹⁷ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁵⁹⁸ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁵⁹⁹ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰⁰ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰¹ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰² 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰³ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰⁴ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰⁵ 1930 United States Census for Franklin Township, Bremer County, Iowa, Sheet No. 1B.

⁶⁰⁶ George Israel Carpenter's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 89, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West union, Iowa.

⁶⁰⁷ George Israel Carpenter's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 89, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West union, Iowa.

⁶⁰⁸ George Israel Carpenter's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 89, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West union, Iowa.

⁶⁰⁹ George Israel Carpenter's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 89, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West union, Iowa.

⁶¹⁰ George Israel Carpenter's Death Record, Deaths, Book 5, Page 89, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West union, Iowa.

⁶¹¹ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶¹³ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹⁴ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

George Carpenter's Obituary was published in The Oelwein Register on September 12, 1956 and is retyped as follows.

George Carpenter

Funeral Saturday

A retired farmer of the Fairbank and Oelwein community George Israel Carpenter, 75, died Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. at his residence, 225 8th Ave. S. W.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 at Brant funeral chapel, Dr. M. B. Green officiating. Burial will be in Grove Hill cemetery near Oran. The body lies in state at Brant funeral home.

Mr. Carpenter, who moved to Oelwein from a farm northwest of Fairbanks in 1944, is survived by his wife, the former Rosie Decker, and a daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Tharp, Vista, Calif.

Also, six sisters, Mrs. Lillian Fleming, Faveite; Mrs. W. F. Adams, Arlington; Mrs. Rosie Fox, Oelwein; Mrs. Daisy Ruehner, Waterloo and Mrs. Estella Fox, Fairbank. Also, a brother, Walter Carpenter, Fairbank.

Mr. Carpenter was born Feb. 26, 1881 in Bremer county, the son of George and Judid Haun Carpenter.

Rose (Decker) (Carpenter) (Law) fell in love again with an elderly gentleman by the name of Larry Williams.⁶¹⁵ Both were severe diabetics.⁶¹⁶ At ages eighty-seven, they moved out of the nursing home and into Larry William's home.⁶¹⁷ They were married shortly thereafter.⁶¹⁸ However, Rosie and Larry could not take care of themselves.⁶¹⁹ Rosie became very ill and was returned to the nursing home once more.⁶²⁰ Larry lived with his daughter or daughter-in-law who looked after him.⁶²¹ Rose did not have any children from her 2nd & 3rd marriages.⁶²²

On September 12, 1991, Lawrence Albert Williams (b: 03/03/1911) and Rosa Bell Law (b: 11/20/1904) applied for a marriage license.⁶²³ At the time they applied for the license, Lawrence and Rosa were living together at 96th Street N.E. Oelwein Iowa.⁶²⁴ Their Certificate of Marriage dated September 25, 1991 indicates Rosa's birth date was November 20, 1904 and her parents were William Decker and Eliza Jane Hare.⁶²⁵ Their Marriage Certificate indicates Lawrence Albert Williams and Rosa Bell Law were married on September 22, 1991 and when they were married, they were living together at 96th Street N.E. Oelwein Iowa.⁶²⁶

George Carpenter's Obituary

Oelwein Register

September 12, 1956

⁶¹⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹⁷ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹⁸ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶¹⁹ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶²⁰ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶²¹ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶²² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶²³ Lawrence and Rosa Williams Application for Marriage License dated September 12, 1991, No. 2064, Marriage Book 36, Page 100, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶²⁴ Lawrence and Rosa Williams Application for Marriage License dated September 12, 1991, No. 2064, Marriage Book 36, Page 100, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶²⁵ Lawrence and Rosa Williams Marriage Certificate filed September 25, 1991, No. 2064, Marriage Book 36, Page 100, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶²⁶ Lawrence and Rosa Williams Marriage Certificate filed September 25, 1991, No. 2064, Marriage Book 36, Page 100, Fayette County, Iowa

Rosa B. (Decker) (Carpenter) (Law) Williams died March 23, 1995 at the Oelwein Health Care Center, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa and was buried in Grove Hill Cemetery on Highway 3, west of Oelwein, Iowa, Rural Readlyn, Iowa.⁶²⁷ Rosa was 90 years old on her last birthday and she died from arteriosclerotic heart disease due to diabetic mellitus.⁶²⁸ Rosa was a homemaker and married when she passed away.⁶²⁹ Her social security number was 484-26-5631.⁶³⁰ She was a United States citizen, but did not serve in the Armed Forces.⁶³¹ Her race was identified as White and she achieved an 8th grade education.⁶³² Her death certificate indicates she was born November 20, 1904 in Independence, Iowa, and that her parents were William Decker and Liza Jane Hare.⁶³³ Her last residence was 96th Street N.E., Oelwein, Iowa 50662.⁶³⁴ Her husband, Lawrence Williams, provided the information in her death certificate.⁶³⁵

Lawrence A. Williams died on September 11, 1997 of a cardiac arrest at the Oelwein Care Center, Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa and buried in the Floral Hills Cemetery, rural Oelwein.⁶³⁶ Floral Hills Memorial Gardens is in Hazleton, Buchanan County, Iowa. Lawrence was 86 years old and a widower.⁶³⁷ Lawrence was born March 3, 1911 in Linden, Iowa and achieved an 8th grade education.⁶³⁸ His parents were Albert Williams and Clara Farham.⁶³⁹ His occupation was a laborer with the railroad.⁶⁴⁰ Lawrence was a United States citizen, but he did not serve in the Armed Forces.⁶⁴¹

⁶²⁷ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa; Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶²⁸ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶²⁹ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³⁰ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³¹ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³² Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³³ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³⁴ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³⁵ Rosa B. William's Death Certificate filed April 11, 1995, Book 16, Page 387, Fayette County, Iowa.

⁶³⁶ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

⁶³⁷ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

⁶³⁸ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

⁶³⁹ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

⁶⁴⁰ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

⁶⁴¹ Lawrence A. William's Death Record, Deaths, Book 1997, page 0923-3, Fayette County Courthouse, Records office, West Union, Iowa.

Lawrence and Rosa (Decker) (Carpenter) (Law) William's Obituaries were published in The Oelwein Daily Register⁶⁴² and are retyped as follows:

Rosa Williams . . .

OELWEIN B Funeral services for Rosa B. Law Williams will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 27, at the Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home in Oelwein, with the Rev. Brian Hartman officiating. Burial will be in Grove Hill Cemetery, rural Readlyn.

Friends may call from 2 until 6 p.m., Sunday and for one hour before the service Monday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Williams, 90, died Thursday evening, March 23, at the Oelwein Health Care Center, following a short illness.

She was born Nov. 20, 1904, in rural Independence, the daughter of William and Liza Jane (Hare) Decker. She was married George Israel Carpenter, who died Sept. 11, 1956. She married Lawrence A. Williams, Sept. 22, 1991 in Oelwein. She was a homemaker and a member of the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church in Oelwein. She had been a resident of Oelwein health Care Center since March 11, 1992.

Survivors include her husband, L.A. Williams of Oelwein; one sister, Bernice Siglin of Hilbert, N.C.; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband; a daughter, Evelyn Thorp; two brothers, Ralph and Harvey Decker; and four sisters, Ella Miller, Stella Downing, Nora Reinhold, Bessie Reinkin.

Lawrence A. Williams

OELWEIN B Funeral services for Lawrence A. Williams will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Floral Hills Chapel Funeral Home, rural Hazleton, with the Rev. Brian Hartman of Lighthouse Assembly of God Church, officiating. Burial will be in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

Friends may call from 9 a.m. until service time Tuesday.

Mr. Williams, 86, died of natural causes Thursday evening Sept. 11, 1997, at Oelwein Health Care Center.

He was born March 3, 1911, in Linden, the son of Albert and Clara Farham Williams. He married Mary Elsbury on Dec. 29, 1929, in Perry. Mr. Williams had worked 20 years for the railroad. He was a member of Lighthouse Assembly of God Church, Oelwein.

Survivors include one son, Mark of Elko, Nev.; two daughters, Helen Surline of Prttsford, N.Y., and Ruth Green of Grass Valley, Calif.; two sisters, Sally Willis of pleasant Hill, and Ada Kuiters of Statton, Ore.; and 14 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary; two sons, Lawrence and Phillip; one grandson; and three brothers, Elmer (1978), Howard (1982), and Clarence (1989).

⁶⁴² Lawrence and Rosa William's Obituaries, Oelwein Daily Register, March 25, 1995 and Oelwein Daily Register, September 13, 1999.

Bernice Decker
William Henry and Eliza Jane Decker's daughter



BERNICE DECKER

Bernice Decker was born January 29, 1913 in Iowa.⁶⁴³ Her parents were William Decker and Eliza Jane Hare,⁶⁴⁴ though Bernice's Return of Marriage says Wm Decker and Jane Hare.⁶⁴⁵

George L. Siglin appears on the 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa with his parents.⁶⁴⁶ George is identified as 25 years old and single.⁶⁴⁷ His occupation is listed as laborer working for a construction company.⁶⁴⁸ George's parents are identified as Jacob B. and Cora C. Siglin.⁶⁴⁹ Jacob is identified as 75 years old and head of household.⁶⁵⁰ His occupation is listed as switchman. Jacob's wife, Cora, is identified as 48 years old with no occupation.⁶⁵¹

Since George and Bernice (Decker) Siglin's marriage record indicates that their marriage was George's second and Bernice's first,⁶⁵² George would have had to marry and divorce his first wife between April 11, 1930, the date the 1930 Census was taken,⁶⁵³ and before March 31, 1934, the day he married Bernice.⁶⁵⁴

Bernice Decker married George L. Siglin on March 31, 1934 at Cedar heights, Black Hawk County, Iowa.⁶⁵⁵ The witnesses to their marriage were Harvey B. Decker and Minnie L. Decker,⁶⁵⁶ Bernice's brother and his wife. Their marriage was George's second and Bernice's first.⁶⁵⁷ At the time they were married, George was living at R#2, Cedar Falls, Iowa and Bernice was living in Oelwein, Iowa.⁶⁵⁸ George Siglin would have been 28 years old

⁶⁴³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; Social Security Death Index.

⁶⁴⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns; George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁴⁵ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁴⁶ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁴⁷ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁴⁸ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁴⁹ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁵⁰ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁵¹ 1930 Census for Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa, Page 115.

⁶⁵² George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁵³ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁵⁴ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁵⁵ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa, Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶⁵⁶ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁵⁷ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁵⁸ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

on his next birthday and Bernice would have been 21 on hers.⁶⁵⁹ Both Bernice and George are identified as White Americans.⁶⁶⁰ George's occupation is listed as laborer, Rath.⁶⁶¹ George was born in Rogers Mills, Oklahoma and Bernice was born in Fairbanks, Iowa.⁶⁶² George's parents are identified as Jacob Siglin and Cora Sturch.⁶⁶³ Bernice's parents are identified as Wm Decker and Jane Hare.⁶⁶⁴

George and Bernice (Decker) Siglin had one daughter.⁶⁶⁵ Shirley June Siglin was born December 14, 1934 in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.⁶⁶⁶ Bernice developed severe diabetes with the pregnancy.⁶⁶⁷ At the time of Shirley's birth, Bernice and George were residing at 4907 Randall Street in Waterloo, Iowa.⁶⁶⁸ George Siglin worked in a factory in Waterloo.⁶⁶⁹

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns worked for George and Bernice Siglin the summer before the birth of their daughter.⁶⁷⁰ Also, William and Eliza Jane Decker lived with George and Bernice Siglin before and after the birth of their daughter.⁶⁷¹ It is not known how long William and Eliza Jane Decker lived with the Siglins.⁶⁷²

George and Bernice (Decker) Siglin lived in Waterloo, Iowa.⁶⁷³ After their daughter, Shirley, joined the United States Marine Corp., Bernice and George moved to a town near Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.⁶⁷⁴ Shirley was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and married a man in the military.⁶⁷⁵ Shirley last name is possibly Trout.

George Siglin passed away when his daughter, Shirley, was in her late thirties.⁶⁷⁶ George died before Bernice and both died close to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.⁶⁷⁷ George Siglin is buried in one of the Waterloo, Iowa cemeteries, but it is not known where Bernice is buried.⁶⁷⁸

⁶⁵⁹ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶⁰ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶¹ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶² George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶³ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶⁴ George L. and Bernice Siglin's Return of Marriage, No. 25297, Book 50, Page 27, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Records Office, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶⁶⁶ Shirley June Siglin's Birth Record, Book 14, Page 237, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶⁷ Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶⁶⁸ Shirley June Siglin's Birth Record, Book 14, Page 237, Black Hawk County Courthouse, Waterloo, Iowa.

⁶⁶⁹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷¹ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷² Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷³ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷⁴ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷⁵ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷⁶ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold.

⁶⁷⁷ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns

According to the Social Security Death Index, both George and Bernice (Decker) Siglin's last residence was in Swansboro, Onslow County, North Carolina and both of their last benefit payments went to Hubert, Onslow County, North Carolina.⁶⁷⁹ Bernice's social security number was 482-22-0921 and George's was 481-10-8459.⁶⁸⁰ The Social Security Death Index indicates that George was born April 2, 1905 and died October 1979; and Bernice was born January 29, 1913 and died January 11, 1999.⁶⁸¹ Also, the index indicates that both George and Bernice Siglin's social security numbers were issued in Iowa.⁶⁸²

⁶⁷⁸ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns.

⁶⁷⁹ Social Security Death Index

⁶⁸⁰ Social Security Death Index

⁶⁸¹ Social Security Death Index

⁶⁸² Social Security Death Index

Nora Melissa Decker
William Henry Decker and Eliza Jane Hare's daughter



NORA MELISSA DECKER, AGE 14

Nora Melissa Decker was born in Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa on April 13, 1892 and educated in the Iowa public schools.⁶⁸³ She was the daughter of William Henry Decker and Eliza Jane Hare,⁶⁸⁴ and appears with her parents on the 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.⁶⁸⁵ William is list as 30 years old and born in New Jersey.⁶⁸⁶ Eliza is listed as 22 and born in Nebraska.⁶⁸⁷ Their children (Nora, age 2 and Ella, age 1) are listed as born in Buchanan County, Iowa.⁶⁸⁸

Nora Melissa Decker also appears with her parents, William and Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker, on the 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.⁶⁸⁹ By 1900, William and Eliza listed four children, though the Census also indicates Eliza was the mother of five living children.⁶⁹⁰ William is listed as 35 years old and head of household.⁶⁹¹ Eliza is listed as William's wife, age 26.⁶⁹² The Census indicates William and Eliza were married nine (9) years.⁶⁹³ Their children identified in the Census are Nora, age 8, born April 1892; Ella, age 6, born October 1893; Stella, age 5, born October 1894; and Ralph, age 2, born July 1897.⁶⁹⁴ All their children are listed as being born in Iowa.⁶⁹⁵

Eventually, Nora Decker met Carol Oscar Reinhold. No one seems to know how they met. When asked, both Josephine Reinhold and Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns said, "You know, I never heard how they met." Josephine added, "Isn't that funny." Both said, Carl Oscar and Nora never talked about how they met. In any case, prior to getting married, Nora Melissa Decker and Carl Oscar Reinhold worked in different parts of the

⁶⁸³ Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health; Nora Reinhold's Obituary, The Star News, 1962; Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health

⁶⁸⁴ Carrie Lucille Kerns; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health; Nora Reinhold's obituary, The Star News, 1962; Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health Affidavit and Return of Marriage for George D. Miller and Ella Decker, #366, Marriages, Book 14, Page 366, Buchanan County Courthouse, Records Office, Independence, Iowa; 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa; Eliza Jane (Hare) Decker's Obituary, The Bulletin-Journal, March 12, 1936, Iowa

⁶⁸⁵ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁸⁶ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁸⁷ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁸⁸ 1895 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁸⁹ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹⁰ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹¹ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹² 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹³ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹⁴ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

⁶⁹⁵ 1900 Census for Washington Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.



CARL OSCAR AND NORA REINHOLD'S WEDDING PICTURE
MARRIED MAY 1913.

United States. Nora worked in Independence, Sioux City and Oran, Iowa as a housekeeper,⁶⁹⁶ and Carl Oscar Reinhold worked in various cities in Iowa, Minnesota and Canada.⁶⁹⁷ He also worked in the Red River Valley of North Dakota as a carpenter and general farm laborer, and he traveled up to Winnipeg and Saskatchewan Province, Canada working as a carpenter.⁶⁹⁸

Carl Oscar Reinhold apparently wrote frequently to Nora Decker, his wife to be, while he was traveling.⁶⁹⁹ Richard Reinhold also recalls his father, Carl Oliver Reinhold, explaining to him that Carl Oscar started to work in Canada and then worked his way down through the Red River Valley, finally returning to Iowa. Carl Oliver Reinhold said many times that his father, Carl Oscar Reinhold, was an excellent carpenter.⁷⁰⁰ Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns also explained that Carl Oscar Reinhold did tiling in fields around Winthrop, Iowa.

Carrie Lucille (Reinhold) Kerns, Carl Oliver Reinhold and Richard Reinhold explained that it was common knowledge in the Medford, Wisconsin area, and the states surrounding North Dakota, that during the fall there was work available in the Red River Valley area of North Dakota for those who were willing to travel there to work in the fields during harvest season, shocking grain and working on thrashing crews. Richard Reinhold went on to explain that during the winter, many North Dakota farmers would transport their teams of horses and equipment to northern Wisconsin, Min-

nesota and Michigan where they worked all winter in the logging camps and then returned home in the spring to plant their crops. Carrie Lucille and Carl Oliver Reinhold explained that during the early days (1920s) in Wisconsin and Minnesota, men would head for the logging camps, leaving their farm chores for their wives to do.

⁶⁹⁶ Postcards from Carl Oscar Reinhold to Nora Decker dated August 20, 1909; December 31, _____; March 28, 1911; December 1911; date unknown; April 23, 1912; April 25, 1912; April 27, 1912; date unknown; June 8, 1912, June 18, 1912 & March 1913, March 25, 1913

⁶⁹⁷ Postcards from Carl Oscar Reinhold to Nora Decker dated August 20, 1909; December 31, _____; March 28, 1911; December 1911; date unknown; April 23, 1912; April 25, 1912; April 27, 1912; date unknown; June 8, 1912, June 18, 1912 & March 1913, March 25, 1913

⁶⁹⁸ Carl Oliver Reinhold; Richard Reinhold, Postcards from Carl Oscar Reinhold to Nora Decker dated; April 25, 1912; April 27, 1912; date unknown

⁶⁹⁹ Postcards from Carl Oscar Reinhold to Nora Decker dated August 20, 1909; December 31, _____; March 28, 1911; December 1911; date unknown; April 23, 1912; April 25, 1912; April 27, 1912; date unknown; June 8, 1912, June 18, 1912 & March 1913, March 25, 1913

⁷⁰⁰ Richard Reinhold and Josephine (Van Laarhoven) Reinhold

Carl Oscar Reinhold married Nora Melissa Decker on May 29, 1913 in Independence, Iowa.⁷⁰¹ Their Return of Marriage indicates the groom's name was Oscar Reinhold, his occupation was a farmer and his place of residence was Winthrop, Iowa.⁷⁰² When Carl Oscar was married, he would have been 28 years old on his next birthday.⁷⁰³ Their Return of Marriage also indicates that Carl Oscar was born in Bureau County, Illinois, the son of Charles Reinhold and Carrie Anderson.⁷⁰⁴ The Return further indicates the bride's name was Nora Decker, she would have been 22 on her next birthday, her place of residence was Independence, Iowa, she was born in Buchanan County, Iowa and her parents were William Decker and Jane Hare.⁷⁰⁵

⁷⁰¹ Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health

⁷⁰² Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health

⁷⁰³ Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health

⁷⁰⁴ Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health

⁷⁰⁵ Carl Oscar and Nora Reinhold's Certificate of Marriage & Return of Marriage, Clerk of the District Court of Iowa, Buchanan County, Iowa; Nora Reinhold's Death Certificate dated April 23, 1962, No. 62-012535, Wisconsin State Board of Health