

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE



Volume 13, Issue 2

April 2010

PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of research information among Jabez descendants and to encourage and assist with ongoing research.

JOE BARBER'S COLUMN

By now the memories of winter and whether it was good or bad in your area will be slipping away as thoughts turn to spring and summer activities. When I finish my comments and complete some income tax I'll be ready to jump into spring.

Many of you will know that Doreen Dolleman, the most dedicated researcher of Jabez history that I know of and a faithful writer for our newsletter, is presently dealing with some serious health issues and has had to put this activity of hold for the time being. There will be more on Doreen's situation elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are fortunate to have material for you from three other cousins and I'm looking forward to reading what they have provided. We can always use material for the newsletter and I'm sure Carl would welcome hearing from other cousins as well.

Last week our newspaper had a short article on genealogy titled Family Trees Never Boring. I quote the first few lines "I don't believe I have an addictive personality. But I believe my latest discovery has put me at some risk. Put simply, my ancestors are calling. Whenever I can steal a moment, I boot up my computer and log onto Ancestry.ca."

This article was based partly on a discussion with an Ancestry.ca spokesperson and while it is a bit biased because of that it does point out the way modern technology has dramatically altered genealogical research over the years. It also mentions that Ancestry.ca has over four billion searchable records. If only those resources had been available when I first started some 26 years ago.

May you all have a great summer and hopefully you will make some genealogical discoveries along the way.

Joe Barber

Spring 2010 Update

By Doreen Dolleman

I wasn't sure that I would be up to doing the research involved in writing a newsletter article, so Carl graciously let me have a break. After all the words of encouragement from our newsletter readers and my genealogy pals I am motivated to try keep on writing as long as I have the strength to do it. I so appreciate all the prayers, thoughts and concern for me. That is what keeps me going.

For those of you who have not heard I had sudden kidney failure in mid December, pneumonia, was in the hospital for 2 weeks having hundreds of tests done to determine the cause, and was eventually diagnosed with a rare blood cancer called multiple myeloma. I am now on dialysis 3 times a week and am having treatment for the cancer. The drug being used targets only the cancer cells and it is working very well. The hope is to get me in remission with the possibility that my kidneys might then start working again. I have always been a healthy, energetic person and so it is difficult for me to deal with the way I am feeling now. I just get through one day at a time with the help of my wonderful husband and family and the prayers and thoughts of so many friends!

I have started gathering information for my next series of articles which will be on Jabez Olmstead, supposed son of Moses Olmstead and Abigail Elwell. I would love to hear from any descendants of this family and hope that we can share information and compare notes with each other.

*Published and
Edited by:*
Carlton O. Hommel

Summer Address
68 Leisure Lane
Frye Island, ME 04071
207-655-7175

Winter Address
5903 Princess Diana Ct.
Leesburg, FL 34748
352-315-4324

chommel6 at comcast.net

AND

Mr. Joseph L. Barber
4444 Arcadia Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canada S4S-4T4
306-586-3985

Joebarber at accesscomm.ca

Contributing Editor:

Mrs. William Dolleman
5570 S. Langston Rd.
Seattle, WA 98178

Bddolleman at hotmail.com

Subscription:

\$6.00 / year US, paper, to COH
\$5.00 / year US, digital, to COH

or

\$7.50 / year Can. to JLB

Descendants of Edwin Luther Olmstead

By Bob Olmstead

In the previous issue, November 2009, I discussed the test results which distinguish the two Jabez DNA groups and separate our ancestry from Captain Jabez and Thankful Barnes. Carl asked that I write a follow up article on my ancestral line. I am pleased to be able to collaborate on this with my cousin, Linda Hole, who provided some of the photos and who recently uncovered some valuable source information included in this piece. My g-g-grandfather Edwin Luther was the eldest son of Jabez Jr. and Anna Warren Day, who Doreen first detailed in the November 2001 issue. Since then, the Olmstead Y-DNA study has confirmed the familial relationship of the Jabez descendants. Jabez Group 2 members all trace their ancestry through children of Jabez Sr. and Miriam Husse.

Edwin Luther Olmstead was the son of Jabez and Anna Warren Day. Estimations are that he was born in late 1812 or possibly 1813, presumably in Hebron Township, Washington County, NY. Census enumerations record only that he was born in the state of New York. He died 24 Feb 1888 in Grant Twp. Reno Co. KS. His death was recorded in the March 1, 1888 edition of the Nickerson Argosy, which was the source just recently uncovered by Linda Hole. Edwin married Elizabeth Irwin 09 Aug 1834 in Oxford Twp. District of Johnstown, Upper Canada. Their marriage bonds were posted on May 12, 1834 at Bytown (Ottawa, Ontario today) by Henry Olmsted and George Holsted, son and son-in-law respectively of Gideon and Esther Husse. Henry and George were yeomen, or landowners, and lived across the Ottawa River in Hull. Edwin and Elizabeth's marriage registration was found in the archives of the Anglican Parish of Kemptville in the Township of Oxford, District of Johnstown in the Province of Upper Canada. It is likely that the actual wedding ceremony was conducted in Christ Church, which is still seen today at Burritt's Rapids, Ontario. The Ontario government has posted plaques in the area which read as follows:

"BURRITT'S RAPIDS

The Rideau River divides Burritt's Rapids, separating the north Marlborough Township into Carlton County, which was designated the Bathurst District in the period of 1836. Christ Church and the current Burritt's Rapids Cemetery are located on this side of the river. The village side of the river to the south is Oxford-on-Rideau Township in Grenville County, formerly known as the Johnston District in the period of 1836. The Johnston District extended south to the St. Lawrence River and west to [?].

North of the Johnston District and on the east side of the Rideau Canal in current Ottawa was Bytown in the District of Ottawa, which extended east and south of the Ottawa River across from Hull on the Quebec side to the north. This was also the division between Upper and Lower Canada.

FOUNDING OF BURRITT'S RAPIDS

In 1793 Stephen and Daniel Burritt, two brothers from Arlington, Vermont, settled in this vicinity. A bridge, sawmill and school were built here at "Daniel Burritt's Rapids" before 1826. In 1830, Henry Burritt, Daniel's nephew, began to develop his property on the Oxford side of the river. By 1831 a store, tavern and several houses were built and, on the Marlborough Township side, Christ Church was begun. A post office called "Burritt's Rapids" was opened in 1839 and later a town plot was surveyed and several additional mills built. With the opening of the Rideau Canal this milling center flourished but it was later bypassed by the railways and its importance gradually diminished.

Erected by the Archaeological and Historical Sites Board
Department of Public Records and [?] of Ontario

CHRIST CHURCH

Begun in 1831 and completed the following year, this frame church was designed in the gothic revival style, customarily used in

churches of that period. The Anglican congregation had been formed about 1822 in this part of the Marlborough and Oxford townships, where the earliest settlers on the Rideau had located. It was ministered to by the Reverend Robert Blakey, Rector of Prescott, until 1829 when the reverend Henry Patton was appointed missionary to this region. Under his guidance plans were made to erect a house of worship. In 1830 Daniel Burritt donated land for a church and a burying ground at the rapids bearing his name. In 1834 the church was consecrated as Christ Church by the Right Reverend Charles James Stewart, Bishop of Quebec.

Erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Culture and Recreation"

Reverend Henry Patton's signature appears on the marriage registration, witnessed by Stephen Hurd and Rufus Olmstead, son of Richard and Elizabeth Durkee. Elizabeth Irwin was born 01 Apr 1812 in Ireland, and died 24 Jan 1875 in Highland Twp. Oakland Co. MI. Bill Samland wrote in the November 2003 issue that Elizabeth may have been related to Mary Anne Irwin who married Rufus Olmstead.

By about 1835 many members of the Olmstead family had relocated to Michigan. The Oakland County Land Office lists transactions by Edwin, his mother Anna and her third husband James Olmstead, James's son Harley, and George Wood who married Edwin's sister Eunice. Jabez Jr. had died by this time. The 1840 U.S. Federal Census finds Edwin and his growing family in Commerce Township listed beside James Olmstead and George Wood. Two other young men are also enumerated, one each in the homes of James and Edwin. It is reasonable to suggest that these would be Anna's two other sons, David Day aged 17 and Oscar Franklin aged 14. By 1850, Edwin and Elizabeth had a family of 7 children, and Anna, widowed for the third time, was living with Oscar and his new family. Anna died 25 September 1858 at the age of 76, and was buried in Four Towns Cemetery in Waterford Township.

The following narrative is from the unpublished Biography of Elsie Irene Collins, daughter of Ellen Allen Olmstead, 4th generation above, and George Rodney Collins. She writes: "[My mother's] father was Edwin Olmstead; but since he is buried in Kansas, I do not know the date of his birth, but it was shortly before or after 1812, the year his wife was born. I do not know where he was born, but I do know that he lived in Canada for a time before coming to Michigan, and since Grandma [Elizabeth Irwin] also lived in Canada when she was a girl, I think it possible and quite probable that they met and were married there.

"The first place of which I have definite knowledge that they lived in Michigan, was Commerce, where my mother was born, but since she was next to the youngest in the family of seven, it is probable that they lived in other places before that, for he seems to have had a generous amount of wanderlust in his disposition.

"There were five girls and two boys in the Olmstead family. They were, in order of age, Sarah, Mary, Warren, Martha, Edward, Ellen Allen, and Melissa. In the spring of 1855, the family suffered a long siege of typhoid fever, which proved fatal for Mary, Warren and Melissa. Mary was seventeen, Warren was sixteen, while Melissa was only four at the time of their deaths. What sorrow it must have brought to Grandpa and Grandma to lose three of their children. Mary and Melissa's deaths occurred only a week apart, while Warren lingered on until fall. I have been told that Mary was a beautiful girl, and that Melissa was a little 'darling.' Her death was harder on Grandpa than were the others. I suppose it was because she was the baby of the family. She used to bring in a pan of chips every night for Grandma to start the fire in the morning, and the night she was taken sick she said to her mother, 'Ellen will have to get the chips tonight.' She and Mary and Warren are buried in a cemetery just off the Atherton Road, but I have not been able to find their graves. No doubt they are unmarked, as Grandpa and Grandma probably had their heart and hands full caring for the four children who survived. Good health

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

finally returned to the family, and later on Aunt Sarah taught school in a little log schoolhouse which was located somewhere within the confines of the town of Davison, and was the only building there at that time. The village sprang up later when the railroad was put through.

“Mother's sister Martha, whom we always called Aunt Mat, kept house for Grandpa and cared for Grandma who was blind and deaf. After the [Civil] war was over she married William Stevens whom we always called Uncle Bill.

“After Grandmother's death which occurred in 1875, he seems to have had another attack of wanderlust which had plagued him throughout most of his life. At this time there appears to have been quite an exodus to Kansas and other western states, and Grandfather succumbed once more to the desire to be on the move. Like some political slogans, his motto seems to have been, 'It's time for a change.' He sold the farm which had been his home since 1861, and made preparations to move to Kansas. Uncle Bill, Aunt Mat, and [their son] Clarence accompanied him, as Aunt Mat had kept house for him ever since Grandma's blindness. I've heard my mother tell how she and the neighbors went with them to the railroad station in Clyde where they boarded the train for the long journey which at that time involved many delays and stopovers. This was in 1877. Grandfather had a brother [David Day Olmstead] living near Nickerson, Kansas, and he and the other members of the family went to his place until they could find a place to live. It did not take long to find a place, and soon they were located on a farm about three miles from Nickerson.

“Seven years later, in the spring of 1884, Uncle Bill Stevens came back to Michigan to attend to some business, and before he returned he persuaded my mother to go back with him to see her father and Aunt Mat. I don't know just how long she stayed, but I have heard her say that I spent my first birthday, which is April 20, in Kansas. It is fortunate that she visited her father at that time for she never saw him again. Five years later, he and Uncle Bill passed away, only a week between their deaths.

“Grandma Olmstead was born Elizabeth Irwin. I know nothing of her family, except her father, as she was born in Ireland and came to this country when she was two years old. Her mother died in Ireland, and her father brought her to some place in Canada. What an undertaking that must have been! I do not know who cared for Grandma in her early years, but as soon as she was old enough to work, she was apprenticed out, as the expression was in Canada. When she was thirteen, her father died, but she was not told of his death until a week after it occurred. What a lonely girl she must have been! I think Grandma worked for some of the better class of people, for she learned to be a very good housekeeper and efficient manager. The last sixteen years of her life must have been very unhappy, as she was both deaf and blind, but amid all these afflictions, she maintained her religious faith. I have heard my mother tell of finding Grandma in her bedroom on her knees in prayer.”

Elizabeth died 21 January 1875, and was buried in the Hodges Cemetery, Hartland, Livingston County, Michigan. The inscription on her gravestone reads as follows:

“ELISABETH Wife of Edwin Olmstead DIED Jan 21, 1875, AGED 62 y. 9 m. 23 days.”

Edwin subsequently followed his family to Kansas where he died 24 February 1888. He is buried in the Wildmead Cemetery near

Nickerson.

Children of Edwin Olmstead and Elizabeth Irwin are:

1. Sarah Olmstead, born 1836 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died after 1890 in Indiana.
2. Mary Olmstead, born 1838 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 1855 in Davison Twp. Genessee Co. MI.
3. Warren Olmstead, born 1840 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 1855 in Davison Twp. Genessee Co. MI.
4. Martha Addie Olmstead, born 25 Sep 1842 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 16 Jun 1895 in Grant Twp. Reno Co. KS.
5. Edward Olmstead, born 01 Sep 1845 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 15 Mar 1921 in Tyrone Twp. Livingston Co. MI.
6. Ellen Allen Olmstead, born 10 May 1848 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 20 Dec 1930.
7. John Olmstead, born 1849 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI.
8. Melissa Olmstead, born 1851 in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI; died 1855 in Davison Twp. Genessee Co. MI.

I don't know of any Primary Source information to confirm Edward's birth date and specific place of birth. His son Fred was the informant on his death certificate and stated his birth date to be September 1, 1845. However, Fred also stated that Edward's father's name was Edward and that his mother's name was Bettsey Morea, which is incorrect. U.S. Federal Census enumerations indicate Edward's place of birth only as "Michigan". He was probably born in Commerce Twp. Oakland Co. MI, and died 15 Mar 1921 in Tyrone Twp. Livingston Co. MI. He married Ella Buzzell 22 Jun 1867 in Flint, Genesee Co. MI, daughter of Isaac Buzzell and Elizabeth Vantine. She was born 01 Jun 1849 in Atlas, Genesee County, Michigan, and died 28 Aug 1910 in Rush Twp. Shiawassee County, MI.

The Record of Marriage for the County of Genesee states only that the marriage of Edward Olmstead age 22 from Highland to Ella Buzzell age 18 from Flint took place on June 22, 1867, and was offi-



ciated by W.E. Bigelow. Florence Bigelow and John Parsell were witnesses. Their birthplaces, occupations, and names of their parents are recorded as “not given”. Census enumerations for Edward begin in 1850 when he was recorded as age 6, and continue through to 1920. He and Ella spent most of their life farming in Michigan with

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

occasional trips to Kansas. Their family photograph, included here, was probably taken by one of the itinerant photographers who traveled the countryside with their big 8x10 view cameras. It's my favorite picture, and was likely taken at Rush Township in Shiawassee County. In addition to showing the family, from left to right: Wilson McCann, Flora, my grandfather Cal, Addie, Ella, Edward, Edna Blanche in the wagon, and Fred, it shows Edward next to a sign posted by his doorway which reads "July 12 1899 WED". The detail in the photo is remarkable.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FALL 2010 ISSUE

ERRATUM

Vol 1, Issue 1 stated that Dorcas Marsh was the son of Jacob (9196) and Abigail, and Vol 2, Issue 1, incorrectly gave the name of the spouse. Dorcas is of course a feminine name. Her husband's correct name was Lyman Alden.

Vol 1, Issue 1 also had an incorrect name for Eli C. Marsh, son of Zenas (9172) and Fanny.

Bob Olmstead's article about DNA in the last issue failed to acknowledge that DNA samples have been collected from descendants of all three sons of Capt. Jabez. The sample from the descendant of the second son, Israel, is what we call Type 1, as we would expect.

Andrew Jackson Olmsted son of Job and Elizabeth Masters Olmsted By Andy Olmsted

I started researching my family about five years ago. Our family history was always long on stories and short on facts. Unfortunately, that is still the case.

Here are two such stories. The first is from the notes of Ruth Olmsted Bernard.

"Religious differences motivated our ancestors to leave Holland, flee to Scandinavia, then to England. From England, one brave soul stowed away on a ship taking settlers to Lord Baltimore's colony. To pay for their passage these men became indentured servants for five years; our friend was discovered hiding and was indentured for seven years. At the end of his service our ancestor and family traveled. One member wandered up around Martha's Vineyard and Narragansett Bay and married Princess love Skiff (spelling by guess. She was the daughter of Metacomet, known as King Philip, and granddaughter of Massasoit, Wampanoag Indians of the Algonquian Tribe. Friendly Massasoit was enamored of English titles and used them freely. King Philip burned Boston at least twice, was captured and his head displayed in Plymouth. Gradually the family moved west, spending some time in Pennsylvania and finally wandering into Michigan." The whole family believed this and quoted it often. I never asked her where she got her information. We were taught early on not to question our elders. Although, this story mentions Holland, there was disagreement as to the origins of the name; Swedish or Norwegian. The Bible mentions Job being Andrew's father but nothing before that. How they could skip two hundred years of family and not notice is a mystery.

The next story comes from Andrew J's Bible. I believe it was written by his son or one of his grandchildren.

"Andrew Jackson Olmsted ran away and enlisted under the name of Alexander Masters, his mother's maiden name, in Co E, 182 Pennsylvania Volunteers." This story may or may not be true.

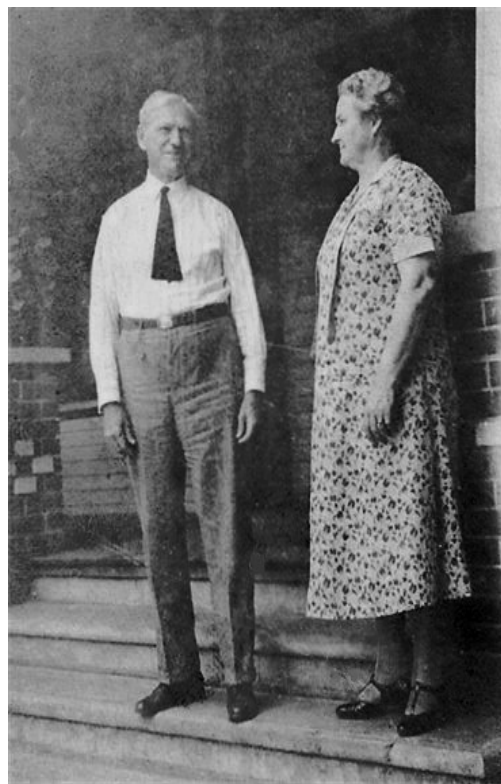
This is where I started. Google and the LDS website yielded nothing. I went to a LDS Library and was able to get on Ancestry.com.

I looked for a teenager thinking he ran away for adventure. After many hours of nothing, I expanded the search parameters. Many Olmsted's were found. Finally there was an Andrew J. Olmsted born 3 Sep 1831. I told my Aunt Ruth what I had found. "That's him" she said. I did the unthinkable: "If he was born in 1831 he would have been 30 years old at the start of the Civil War, why would he have to run away?" I got the LOOK. When we resumed our conversation fifteen minutes later, I told her of the numerous Olmsted's with biblical names. When I mentioned Job, she said, "That's his father." She died a couple of months later. These are the only family stories she would talk about.

In her article on Job Olmsted, in the Nov 2002 newsletter, Doreen Dolleman writes: "Andrew J. was born 3 Sep 1831. He was enumerated in Mackinac County in 1850 as Andrew Wormsted, 19 Fisherman NY. An Andrew of the correct age (38) was enumerated in the 1870 Sebawaing Huron County census with a wife Julia (25) and children Ezra (4) and Agnes (2). He was a cooper. More research needs to be done to confirm if this was Job's son."

An 1860 census has him in Harrisville Mi, age 29, fisherman. The three censuses are the only official records to be found so far. In addition to the story of his war service, family tradition says he was promoted to Lieutenant for bravery. A Civil War record for an Andrew Masters has been found. There are two minor differences; 1, the name was Andrew not Alexander and 2; the unit was the 188 PA Volunteers. Is this my ancestor? We might never know. The story does not make sense. If he was serving for someone else he could have used his own name. The physical description for Andrew masters is: Complexion-dark, Hair-brown, Eyes-brown, and Height 5'7".

If this is indeed Andrew Jackson, then this description fits his son, grandson, and g, grandson, all named Andrew. Andrew died Nov 12, 1871, three months after his son was born. It is said that he died from complications of a wound he suffered during the war. There is no proof of this. We do know that two of his children were diabetic. Could this have caused his death? No death certificate has been found. It took two years to



Francis X. Heric
1864-1929

Elizabeth C. Heric
1866-1945

Daughter of Andrew J. Olmsted

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

find his grave and I had the receipt for his headstone. He is buried in his in-laws plot in Oakridge Cemetery Bay City Michigan but was not indexed separately.

The only record of his marriage is in the Family Bible.

“Married in the town of Banks by Horace Tupper Justice of the Peace, Andrew J. Olmsted to Julia M Miller both of Banks, The Marriage Ceremony at the residence of P.C. Smith: September 3 1865.” The was written in a very feminine hand which I believe to be Julia’s.

Julia Mahalia Miller, (18 Apr 1845-19 Mar 1889). She was the daughter of William Henry Miller and Elizabeth Sharpsteen. She is buried in Oakridge Cemetery Bay City MI.

Andrew and Julia had three children.

The 1870 census is wrong. The eldest child of Andrew and Julia is Elizabeth Calista, born 15 May 1866 in Michigan. Aunt Ruth and one cousin are the only members of the family who have any memory of Elizabeth. I didn’t know she existed until I was well into my fifties. The 1880 census has her at home and not in school.

On 4 Apr 1888 she married Francis Xavier Heric. Francis was the son of John Heric and Mary Rose Collins Both of France. He was born 17 Mar 1864 in Bayfield Ontario Canada and died 7 Feb 1929 in Walla Walla WA. Frank was a musician in the U.S. Army. Elizabeth and Frank traveled a lot. They spent time in the Philippines, New York City, and Salt Lake City. A tea cup she brought back from the Philippines has been handed down to my sister. Elizabeth died 23 Feb 1945 in Salt Lake City UT and is buried there. Elizabeth and Frank had two children.

Guy Winfield Heric was born 18 Jan 1889, in MI. and died Sep 1968 in Salt Lake City UT. He was a musician and owned a sand-



Elizabeth Calista Olmsted Heric 1866-1945
Gary Winfield Heric 1884-1968
Cora Jean Heric 1891-1905
Daughter and Grandchildren of
Andrew J. Olmsted

wich shop at 2105 S. Main, Salt Lake City UT. His Wife Olive Marie was a waitress in the shop. In 1934 he was the president of the Lake Federated Musicians Local 104. This Information is in the City Directory. It is not certain whether they had children.

Cora Jean Heric born 1891; died 17 Dec 1905.

Agnes (Aggie) Judith was born 1 Jan 1868. She was a school teacher and never married. She died 29 Mar 1942, in Bay City, MI and is buried in Oakridge Cemetery next to her mother. Aggie was listed as a teacher in the 1st Ward of the West Bay City School System in 1888. The Bay City Historical Society informed me that there was a two year teachers college in the area at that time.

She taught for 35 yrs. According to her obituary, she was ill for several years before her death. I recently learned, from a distant family member, that she was diabetic. None of my older cousins new she existed. She was involved with her mother’s family.

Before I move on to the last child of Andrew and Julia, I would like to tell you about a forgotten man, Winfield Dubois (Du-boyes). Winfield married Julia on 12 Dec 1877 and became step-father to the three Olmsted children. His first wife, Mary J., died in February of that year. His three month old son died the year before. The 1880 census has him in West Bay City with Julia and her children. He was a Marine Engineer. Two notes: 1, the only way to find the Olmsted children in 1880 census is thru DuBois, and 2, there is no official record of this marriage in Bay County. There was a copy of a certificate issued by the Pastor in the Bible. In 1891, two years after Julia’s death, the whole family was still living together, including Elizabeth’s husband and son. Winfield left Bay City about 1894 and moved to Detroit MI with his stepson. He became the Head Engineer for the White Star Line of Detroit. He was also Chief Engineer on the excursion steamer Tashmoo. In 1901 he was involved in the Great Race on Lake Erie. This race rivaled anything on the Mississippi. In his book “Great Stories of the Great Lakes”, Dwight Boyer tells the story of the race, (Chap 1), between the Tashmoo and the City Of Erie. Winfield Dubois is mentioned in this book. I’ve had this book on my shelf for over 30 years and did not know this was my grandfather’s step dad until last year. He was born about 1851 and died sometime after 1920. Aunt Ruth had vague memories of him being a Sunday diner guest. He buried Julia with his first wife and son in Oakridge Cemetery.

Andrew Guy Olmsted was born 12 Aug 1871 in Sebewaing Mi. There was no birth certificate issued in Huron County. Three months later his father died. At some point, Julia moved the family to West Bay City, possibly to be near her parents. The 1880 census has Andrew in school. Family tradition says Andrew left school to go to sea. School records for the 1880’s need to be found in order to confirm this. In 1891 he is listed as a Marine Fireman in the City Directory. About 1894, he left Bay City and moved to Detroit with his step dad. They lived at 821 Franklin St. Also living at that address was the Tant Family. Clara Anne Tant, daughter of English immigrants Mark Tant and Clara Miles, married Andrew on 30 Dec 1896. Andrew became a Chief Engineer about 1905 and continued to sail until he retired in 1940. Family tradition says Andrew’s ship was sold to England in Nov.1940; he took his ship to some east coast port and because he had both a salt and fresh water license, he was asked by the government to take his ship to England. He called home to tell Clara and she told him,”Andy, come home. Let the young boys fight this war.” The part about him taking his ship to an east coast port is true. I saw his last Continuous Discharge Book (log book), But, I do not remember which port. Engineers did not need a fresh our salt water license. Someone added this to make it sound better. I believe this is when he realized that he did not have a birth certificate. Wayne County issued a delayed certificate in April 1941. Andrew was 69 yrs old when he was asked to take his ship to England. He died on July 1, 1950 in Detroit and is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

When Andrew left Bay City, he left behind his mother’s family. For some reason his aunts, uncles, and cousins were never mentioned in any family discussions.

Clara raised her six children almost single handed. She had Glaucoma and went blind in the early 1930’s. She died 1 March 1949 in Detroit and is buried in Forest Lawn.

Clara Julia was born in Detroit on 10 Nov 1897. She married Jack Drew on 28 Dec 1921. Jack was born on 16 Apr 1894. Jack

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

was a soldier in WW 1 and was awarded the Silver Star. He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corp during the depression. They had three children. Two are still living. In 1930, they lived in Grosse Pointe Township, MI. Jack, his brothers and sister, bought land around a small lake near Lake Orion Mi. Jack and Clara built their house on a hill overlooking the lake. We would visit two or three times a year. In the summer we would swim or fish in the lake. In the winter we would sled down the hill onto the frozen lake. Both Jack and Clara were school teachers in the Detroit Public Schools. Jack had a reputation for being very strict. If he heard someone talking, he would throw whatever he had in his hand in the general direction of the offender. Jack died 19 Apr 1976, in Clinton Township Mi, and was cremated. Clara died on 24 Mar 1985 in Stillwater Ok, and was cremated.

Margaret was born on 23 Oct 1899 in Detroit. On 22 Mar 1924, she married Edgar Wilford Baker. They had two children. One is still living. Edgar died on 30 Dec 1980 in Mt. Clemens MI. Margaret died on 30 Nov 1987, in Mt Clemens. As sometimes happens in families, there was a falling out between Edgar and Margaret's youngest brother, Don (my father). I can count, on one hand, the number of times I saw them.

Agnes was born 5 Sep 1901 in Detroit. She married Windle Grove Brooks on 17 Apr 1929 and divorced soon thereafter. She had three children, one deceased, none while she was married. Her oldest child was born in 1928. In 1930 she was living with her parents, without her child. She would give her children to someone to take care of for a while, then bring them back saying they were her sisters children. The youngest of her children is one week younger than me. Whatever her demons, this is a woman I remember with great fondness. In the summers of the 1950's, she and her son would pick me up and we would go watch the Detroit Tigers play doubleheaders. She suffered from diabetes and heart disease and died on 23 Oct 1965. She is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.

Andrew was born on 10 May 1903. He married Ernestine Fredericka Belanger, on 20 Jan 1926, she was born in 1904. She was a gym teacher in the Detroit Schools. They had two children. Andrew was the entrepreneur in the family. He was always willing to do whatever it took to support his family. He was a movie theatre manager in his twenties and, during the depression; he worked on the ship with his father. In the middle to late 1930's, he started his own trucking company. One of his customers was the Jourdan Bindery. They asked him to be their treasurer and he was able to hire his brother and their brother in law. The family lived in Detroit until the mid 1950's, then moved to Southfield Mi. Andrew was a model train enthusiast and had large layout in his basement. Andrew died 14 Nov 1987 and Ernestine died in Apr 2003.

Ruth Anne was born 31 Oct 1914 and for almost 91 years she heard every Halloween joke there was to tell. She eloped with Frederick Reynolds Bernard (20 July 1915-11 May 2002), and they were married on 24 Nov 1938 in Indiana. Ruth kept the family records of marriages, births, and deaths in the family. Neither she nor Fred would ever discuss the family except for the earlier stories. Any time the subject of ancestors was brought up, they would change the subject. They had two children, both deceased. She taught grade school in Detroit. Fred worked with his brothers-in-law. Ruth died 27 Oct 2005. Both she and Fred are buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery with their children, her parents, and her sisters Margaret's family.

Donald Tant was born 29 Oct 1917. To say he was the youngest doesn't tell the story. His oldest niece was five years younger, and most of his nieces and nephews were born before he was fifteen. He was also spoiled. Agnes and Ruth were only too glad to tell me about my father. With his father away a lot and his mother going blind, he had trouble adjusting during his teen years. He finally made it through high school and went to work with his brother. Here he met Virginia Jean DiFalco (14 Dec 1920-22 Aug 1994), daughter of Ben DiFalco and Adelina DiFilippo. They were married on 24 Jan 1942.

They had four children. Don entered the Army in WW2. After the war he returned to work with his brother. In the early 1950's he lost his left hand in a work related accident. Even though he had prosthesis, he never felt whole after that. Don was an avid camper and volunteered with the Boy Scouts. In May of 1974, he suffered a heart attack. Two weeks later, he had a stroke and died on 21 May 1975. He and Virginia are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit. Virginia died from Pancreatic Cancer. The three months prior to her death she was hooked up to a morphine pump for pain. One month before she died, she told us the exact day of her death. This may sound like another one of those stories, but, I have several relatives who will vouch for it.

For the most part, our family history was lost. Andrew J. was only seven when Job died and his eldest child was only five when he died. It is little wonder that stories were concocted to fill the void. I am very grateful for the people who have written articles for this newsletter. They have given me a heritage and extended family. I hope to meet some of you in July at the Family Reunion.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pictures of many individuals mentioned in this article, including Andrew Jackson Olmsted, his wife, Julia Matelle Miller, their daughter, Agnes Judith, and of Andrew Guy Olmsted and his family, are on the Jabez Olmsted Webpage, at http://www.jabezolmsted.com/FAMILY_PICTURES.htm Scroll down to the Job Olmsted Family.

Joshua Olmstead

by Raymond "Ray" Eugene Olmstead (great-great-grandson of Joshua)

Acknowledgements:

Although the various censuses have provided much information, most of the information contained in this article is a compilation of excerpts from the writings of Florence O. Collins, Vivian Woody, and Roxie Olmstead. All of these great ladies had to have put in countless hours of research to have created such a treasure trove of genealogical material. I'm sure that all of Joshua Olmstead's descendants, including myself, greatly appreciate their work and their willingness to share it with others.

During a 2007 trip to North Central Oklahoma/South Central Kansas Areas, I met three of my father's (Arthur Merle Olmstead), first cousins – Carole Dee Goodspeed, Fern Beckham, and Leon Beckham. They passed on family stories that they had heard as children, and shared their genealogical findings with me. I have included them in this article.

I want to offer my most sincere "thanks" to all those that shared their genealogical information with me.

Joshua Olmstead (Joshua, Harvey, Israel, Israel, Jabez), the son of Harvey Olmstead and Hannah Mingus, was born on January 2, 1822 in Eldridge Twp, Huron County, Ohio. Eldridge was later changed to Berlin Twp, Erie County, Ohio.

Mary Walker, the daughter of Alexander Walker and Lois Knapp, was born May 4, 1825 in Sparta, Dearborn County, Indiana.

Joshua Olmstead and Mary Walker were married on March 21, 1842 at Nauvoo, Hancock Co. Joshua's father, Harvey, and Joseph Albert W. Andrews, both followers of the prophet, Joseph Smith, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois to be with him.

Since several of Joshua and Mary's children were born in Wisconsin, I have to assume the family lived there for a period of time, but I have been unable to find any hard evidence (census, land re-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
cords, etc.) to bear this out.

Joshua, Mary, and four of the children then lived in Allamakee County, Iowa according to the November 4, 1850 Federal Census. On March 1, 1852 Joshua bought 40 acres in Allamakee County, Iowa per the U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907. I did find that the land making up Allamakee County, Iowa was once part of the Wisconsin Territory, until 1838 when the Iowa Territory was created. The land making up Allamakee County, Iowa was considered "free territory" (no other State wanted it) in 1847 when the County was created. Because of all the flux in Allamakee County's standing, Allamakee County wasn't included in a Federal Census until 1850.

Family stories say that Joshua either went to the gold rush in California by way of Panama or around the horn by ship to only then be put off in Peru. There he had the "yellow fever". Not hearing from him for months, he was presumed dead and mourned by the family. The family story goes, that after several months, one day Mary told the kids to "put on their Sunday best". Mary told them their father was coming home that very day on the stagecoach. When the kids questioned her as to who told her. She replied, "No one, I just know"! The kids probably thought their mother had finally lost her mind, but they obeyed. At last the stagecoach stopped and the family watched as the door opened and they saw their father, Joshua Olmstead, step out and walk towards the house. They rushed to greet their "resurrected" father. About a year after his return, Harvey Deloss Olmstead was born on February 14, 1853 in Harden County, Iowa.

I did find a "Jousua" Olmstead listed in Post Twp., Allamakee County, Iowa in an 1854 Iowa State Census. The census only listed the categories of male, female, military, and voters. If Harvey Olmstead was living with Joshua's family at the time (as he was later in Minnesota) and the census taker mistook one of the youngest children (three under the age of 3) as a boy instead of a girl, then "Jousua" is really "Joshua" and everything fits. This seems reasonable to me considering some of the other errors I've found on early censuses. There was also an 1856 Iowa State Census, but neither "Jousua" nor "Joshua" Olmstead was listed in that census.

Joshua and his family were living in the Concord Twp, Dodge County, Minnesota on the July 5, 1860 U.S. Census. His father, Harvey, at age '66' is shown as "blind" and living with them.

On December 3, 1860, Joshua received a land patent for 160 acres in Dodge County, Minnesota per BLM – General Land Office records. The land was Bounty Land granted to Sergeant Isaac Hazen by the March 3, 1855 ScripWarrant Act for military service to the United States. Sergeant Hazen assigned the warrant to Joshua Olmstead.

Joshua had a flour mill in Winona County, Minnesota. I have found no hard evidence (census, land records, etc.) of the family living there, but their son, Walter Roe Olmstead, was listed as being born there in 1864.

In 1862 the U.S. Congress passed the Homesteading Act. By now Joshua was ready to find a settled existence for his family in a good climate. Along with their worldly goods, they took \$4,000, mostly in greenbacks, and deposited in the bottom of a barrel of navy beans. Joshua and Mary left Elba, Winona County, Minnesota in May 1866, Traveling by covered wagon pulled by an oxen team they arrived on the Neosho River in Lyon County seven miles above Emporia, Kansas on July 26, 1866.

They originally settled in Lyon County, Kansas, where Joshua had an interest in a spring sawmill.

As a family story goes: Soon after arriving in Kansas, Joshua had to leave Mary and their children at home while he went to buy supplies, tools, etc. At night while he was gone, Mary sat up with a loaded gun while the children slept. At first their home had no doors or windows, only openings. Mary passed on that she would see eyes peering in at night, but that no trouble occurred. During this time-frame, Geronimo was thought to be moving through the general area and people's fear was in a heightened state.

Looking into the historical timeline of Kansas, I found the following happenings in the first 11 years of Joshua and Mary's Kansas experience: 1) 1867 – Indian attacks reached their height in Kansas, when nearly 130 settlers were killed; 2) 1868 - Col. George A. Forsyth and his command were surrounded by nearly a thousand Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux at Arikaree Creek; 3) 1868 – The 19th Kansas Calvary were mustered in for Indian Wars; 4) 1869 – The Sioux and Cheyenne ran raids into Northwestern Kansas; 5) 1869 - Will Bill Hickok was made Special Marshall of Hays City, Kansas; and, 6) 1878 – The Last Indian raid occurred in Decatur County, Kansas. And we thought we lived in interesting times!

In 1867, Joshua Olmstead was admitted into The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Mason of Kansas, Americus Lodge #62, Americus, Lyon County, Kansas. The Charter of Americus Lodge was revoked on October 21, 1869. Joshua became a Charter Member of Douglass Lodge #151; Douglass, Kansas by a Grand Secretary's Certificate issued June 24, 1871. He held the office of Senior Steward in 1874. No record exists of where his Masonic degree work was done, or where he transferred from.

There is no photograph of Joshua Olmstead that is reproducible, so I've included a photocopy of a sketch by Mark Alley of a photograph of Joshua. The original photo at the Douglass Museum is so badly deteriorated that it cannot be reproduced.

The photo of Mary Walker Olmstead has no date on it, but I would imagine it was taken while she was living in Kansas.

Joshua wanted to locate where he could erect a watermill. He heard of a riffle in the Walnut River south of Douglass. So, he and his partner, William Pulver, went to look it over. They bought the claim from Hugh Williams for \$300 and moved the sawmill from Lyon County in the fall and winter of 1869,



Joshua Olmstead 1822 – 1875
Son of Harvey and
Hannah (Mingus) Olmstead
Great great grandson of Israel and
Anna (Safford) Olmstead

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)



Mary (Walker) Olmstead
Wife of Joshua Olmstead

beginning sawing operations in the spring of 1870.

This was the first sawmill in the lower Walnut Valley and they sawed most of the native lumber for the claim houses in that area. After Mr. Pulver built his own house, he traded his interest in their sawmill to Joshua, who ran the mill a few years and sold it for junk. In the winter of 1868 or 69, Joshua located a claim two miles south of Douglas, Kansas. He built a log cabin

and covered it clapboards split from fine oak timber found growing along the Walnut River. Supplies such as flour, coffee and sugar were then being brought from Emporia, Kansas, three counties away from Douglass.

The main source of meat in those days was the buffalo. Golden wheat soon being grown in the river valley replaced tall bluestem grass. Winesap and Grimes Golden apples and luscious peaches replaced paw-paw and sand plums.

Douglass and Wichita grew up on the former Indian lands. Not long after the pioneers began to settle in the Walnut and Arkansas River valleys, they found themselves in a lawless area with a nest of horse thieves. This network of thieves proved to be one of the most effective in the West.

A group of vigilantes formed in Douglass. Joshua's eldest son, James, decided he would not be a vigilante. He did not wish to set himself against the small amount of law that had grown up around them. However, when asked to ride one of the thieves' horses and to check on the gang, he did so.

James told the vigilantes what he found out. On December 1, 1870, the vigilantes seized four of the gang for hanging. The vigilantes took a plank from Olmstead's Mill and placed it in the forks of two trees, which were about eight feet apart. Young James hid in the bushes and watched the hanging.

That night there was a heavy frost. In the morning people passing by saw four stiff bodies hanging from the plank between trees. Frost had turned hair and beards a glistening white. The bodies were returned to their home.

The above mentioned vigilante action began the end of the "free rein" of the horse thief gangs in Kansas and was credited as key in the demise of their lawless ways.

Joshua was a miller most of his life and he dreamed of building a gristmill. This dream came true in 1873; Joshua Olmstead and William Rossman Pulver built a grist mill on the Big Walnut River, which became known as the Olmstead Mill with the help of Turner Holcomb, carpenter, and John Strocks, stone mason. Joshua gave Turner the job of engineering the building of the mill and the dam across the river and put him in charge of construction.

Turner Holcomb's wife, Sarah Walker Holcomb, was the niece of Mary Walker Olmstead. The mill was ready to roll at the end of the 1873 harvest season. In July the whole town of Douglass went to the country side to help the Olmstead family celebrate the opening. Fiddlers furnished the music for dancing.

The mill stood on the south river bank just east of a bridge, built at a later date. Part of a rock wall may still be embedded in the bank.

The mill was put together with wooden pegs. The burrstones were chiseled stones about eight inches thick in triangles to fit into a circular wheel band of metal.

The dam was so well constructed of walnut logs that in later years when flooding required removal of the logs, they had to be blasted out.

Joshua did not live long enough to do much work in the mill south of Douglass. He died of pneumonia at his residence on January 26, 1875 and was buried in the Douglass Cemetery, Douglass, Butler County, Kansas. His wife, Mary, continued to operate the mill for several years.

People got forty pounds of flour for every bushel of wheat they brought to the mill in sacks plus their bran and shorts. The 1875 Kansas Board of Agriculture census shows the mill as having a capital investment of \$12,000, average number employed – two hands, \$500 wages paid, and the mill operated six months of the year. Production was 296,000 lbs. of flour valued at \$12,870; 99,000 lbs. of bran valued at \$990; 198,000 lbs. of shorts valued at \$3,960; and 1,000 lbs. of meal valued at \$25.

The mill operation proved to be too much for Mary Olmstead's business qualifications. A \$1,500 mortgage and 2% interest a month; she was forced to sell the mill.

Mary Olmstead placed a "Flour Mill for Sale" ad in the September 1, 1876 edition of the Southern Kansas Gazette (Augusta, Kansas). It read, "The Amber Flouring Mill at Douglas, Kansas is offered for sale. This mill is situated in the best wheat producing county in the State, and will be sold at a reasonable price. It has two run of stone, both for wheat. Either the whole or a half interest will be sold. For terms, and further particulars, inquire of Mary Olmstead, Douglass, Kansas."

John Dunn purchased the mill in 1878 and it became known as the Dunn Mill or sometimes, the Olmstead-Dunn Mill.

The mill operated until a few years after the turn of the century. The picturesque site was a favorite spot for Douglass area families to picnic and fish.

A painting of the Olmstead-Dunn Mill by Mae Harris Brown

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
hangs in the Copeland Memorial Library, Douglass, Kansas.

Mary (Walker) Olmstead married A. M. Fitzsimmons on November 2, 1876 in El Dorado, Butler County, Kansas. Mr. Fitzsimmons' passing was reported on the August 7, 1879 issue of The New Enterprise newspaper. He was kicked by a horse and had one of his legs broken, being in feeble health he never recovered from the shock. It stated "He was a man of fewer faults than most men; and his even temperament and social way made him a favorite with all his acquaintances. May he rest in peace."

Widow Mary Fitzsimmons, five of her Olmstead children, and a boarder are shown living in Douglass Twp, Butler County, Kansas per the June 8, 1880 U. S. Census.

Widow Mary (Walker) (Olmstead) Fitzsimmons married Isaac Renfro on December 17, 1883 in Cowley County, Kansas. Mr. Isaac Renfro Sr.'s passing reported in the February 1, 1889 issue of The Douglass Tribune newspaper stated "Isaac Renfro Sr. died last Monday at his new home down in the Neutral Strip, Indian Territory, where he went to locate some time since. He was in the 77th year of his age and has been well known in this locality for about 15 years." He is buried in Douglass Cemetery with no stone. Since Mary was not mentioned in his obituary, it is thought they were either separated

or divorced.

Mary (Walker) (Olmstead) (Fitzsimmons) Renfro's passing was reported in the March 22, 1895 issue of The Douglass Tribune newspaper. It stated the following:

"Mrs. Mary Renfro better known to her many friends as "Aunt Pop" died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. D. McC. Harris, on Saturday afternoon last, after a long and severe illness. Aged 63 years, 10 months and 12 days."

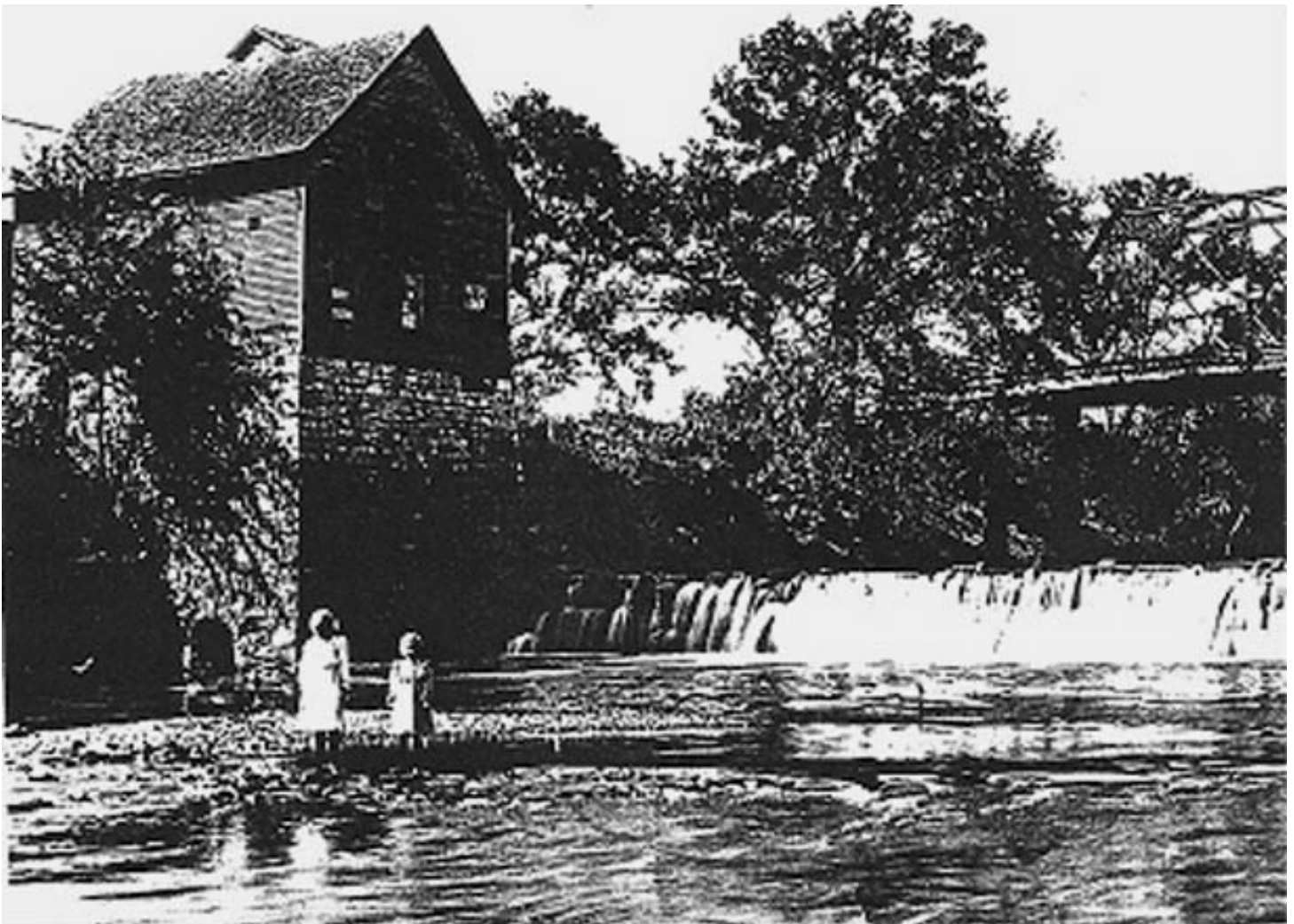
"The deceased was one of the early settlers of this country, coming to Butler County with her husband Joshua Olmstead, in 1869, and settling upon the Walnut River just below Douglass. She was widely known and universally loved for her generous disposition and kindly ways."

"The deceased was born in 1827, and had resided in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas, and for a short time with children in Oklahoma."

"The funeral was held at the Church of Christ on Sunday afternoon, and the house was overflowing with friends who had come to pay the last tribute of respect to one who all loved who knew her."

"It was one of the largest funerals ever witnessed in Douglass. The remains were laid to rest in the Douglass Cemetery."

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE FALL 2010 ISSUE



Old Olmstead-Dunn Mill, Douglass, Butler Co., Kansas

OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD'S ON THE INTERNET

Joe Barber has told us about an OLMSTEAD Forum WEB PAGE
at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmstead/>

There is also an OLMSTED Forum WEB PAGE at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmsted/>

There is an OLMSTEAD RootsWeb Mailing List, and an OLM-
STED RootsWeb Mailing List, in which subscribers can exchange
information, post queries, etc. To subscribe, send E-Mail to:

OLMSTEAD-request@rootsweb.com

and to:

OLMSTED-request@rootsweb.com

with the command "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the subject
block, and in the body of the message, and NOTHING ELSE.
Turn off your signature file if you are using one. I (COH) am the
List Administrator for both Lists. Posts sent to one Mailing List
are not sent to the other List, so one should subscribe to both Lists.

There is also an Ancestry OLMSTEAD Message Board and an
Ancestry OLMSTED Message Board, at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmstead/mb.ashx>

and at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmsted/mb.ashx>

Messages from the OLMSTEAD Board are gatewayed to the
OLMSTEAD Mailing List, and likewise the messages from the
OLMSTED Board are gatewayed to the OLMSTED Mailing List.
However, they are not cross-gatewayed.

The Forum, the Rootsweb Mailing Lists and the Message Boards
are not restricted to the Jabez Line, but contain information and
queries from all OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD's.

Back issues of this Newsletter, Olmsted/Olmstead ancestor and
current member pictures, and historic documents and plats, can be
found at

<http://www.jabezolmsted.com/>

Walt Steesy's Website, Place at the Elms, is at

<http://www.olmsteadfamily.com>

or

<http://www.olmstedfamily.com>

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE

IN THIS ISSUE

Joe BARBER's Column

Spring 2010 Update, by Doreen DOLLEMAN

Descendants of Edwin Luther OLMSTEAD, by Bob
OLMSTEAD

ERRATUM

Andrew Jackson OLMSTED, by Andy OLMSTED

Joshua OLMSTEAD, by Raymond Eugene OLMSTEAD

OLMSTED OLMSTEAD's on the Internet

