

MEAD

FAMILY ANCESTRY

by

Jim German

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INTRODUCTION

The Mead ancestry can be found in the days of the Norman Conquest of the 11th century. However, at that time the Mead name was not used as we know it today. It was more a descriptive word, coming from the Norman word, “de Prato,” meaning “of the meadow,” which described where a person lived, the flat lands or a meadow. Over the centuries the word became more associated as a proper name, than as a descriptive name. It wasn’t until about 800 to 900 years ago that proper (last) names as we know them became common usage. Given this, there are many Mead families in England and Ireland that are not related to each other unless we go back to Adam and Eve. This can also be true of Mead families in America. Tracing the Mead’s in England past the 1500’s is very difficult, as documentation is difficult to piece together, or is nonexistent. Throughout the history of England, there are many Meads filling the ranks of the upper classes, as well as the middle class. Given the chances, there may have been some in the lower classes, but it seems our known Mead ancestry falls into the middle class, which usually included the people working as tradesmen or operating businesses.

The following is an excerpt from the book titled “*History and Genealogy of the Mead Family*,” by Spencer P. Mead, copyright, 1901.

“In 1180 to 1195 there is to be found in the ancient Norman records the names of William, Robert, Matilda, and Reginald de Prato, and in 1198 the names of Richard, and Robert de Prato. In 1199, Essex, England, occurs the name of Roger de Prato, and the same year also that of Walter de Prato in Hertfordshire, England, and in 1272 those of Stephen and Peter de Prato, England. Hervey de Prato, in 1200 in Normandy, was King John’s “Faithful Knight,” and the custody of Rouen Castle was given to his brother.”

In that book, it goes on to detail many Mead’s in high positions in English history.

11TH GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Our earliest Mead ancestors traced with certainty are **Richard Mead** and **Martha Gouldhurst**, of Watford, Hertfordshire, England. Richard was born about the year 1515, during the reign of King Henry VIII. It is believed by some, that Richard's father was Timothy Mead, with two more Timothy's preceding him. Not enough documentation has been found to substantiate their claim, and therefore it is speculation at best. There are records of these Timothy's, but none other than the common location, that tie them to Richard. Watford is a town located about fifteen miles northwest of present day London in the county of Hertfordshire. The Meads of Watford were known as Mealmen, a term that explains their profession as millers of grain.

10TH GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Pricilla Mead and **Dorothy Grey**, our 10th great grandparents, lived in Watford, England. Other than being a mealman, dealing in the raising and grinding of grain, nothing much is known about them. The name Pricilla today is decidedly feminine, but at that time it was established as a male and female name.

9th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Our ancestors who immigrated to America were Richard and Martha's grandson, **William Mead** and his wife **Philippa Kilvey**, our generation's ninth great grandparents. They came with their children Joseph, John, and Martha. Another daughter, Mary the eldest of their children, died before they left England. Philippa's last name of Kilvey is possibly incorrect but is what some researchers have settled on. The Mead family is purported to have left from Lydd, Kent County, England aboard the ship "*The Elizabeth*," believed to be in the company of Pastor Richard Denton and his Watford entourage, in April of 1635. They arrived in Plymouth Colony in June of 1635. Their voyage had been a hard one, with scant provisions, and cramped accommodations, very typical of crossings at that time. It wasn't until the late 1800's that passage became more comfortable.

They did not come to America for religious freedom, as a lot of early settlers had, but to build a new life in a new country. William was not tolerant of the straight laced people of Boston, nor did he care for the organized religions and their harsh doctrines. In 1636 discontent manifests itself around Boston, and Rev. Thomas Hooker, Roger Williams and Mrs. Hutchinson lead a revolt against the established church and left Massachusetts bound for Rhode Island, and Connecticut. This left only about eleven families still in Cambridge. With the many families that revolted from this environment, William and Philippa joined the group of Massachusetts Bay Colonists, led by Roger Williams, and moved to Connecticut. Connecticut and Rhode Island, though strict by today's standards, were not ruled by the tyrannical oligarchy of the Massachusetts government, and offered more religious and personal freedoms for those that moved there. It is here where you see the attempt to separate the government from the church. These Connecticut Colonists, tired of the church control into their everyday lives, set up their governing body separate from the rule of the church. Their attempt probably wasn't any better for the colonists, but does show the start of a basis for the American Constitution, separating Church and State.

William and his family first settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut, which is near Hartford and was under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Colony. On December 7, 1641, they moved to and established Stamford, Connecticut, with forty one other families. Stamford was under the rules of the New Haven Colony. There William was granted five acres and a town lot, a place to build his home.

William Mead, the immigrant, was a well respected man of early colonial Connecticut. William was very active in the governmental proceedings of Stamford, Connecticut, and left his mark throughout his community, and in history. He was the ancestor to most of the Mead's of Connecticut, New York, Vermont and those that settled Meadville, Pennsylvania. It is said over a million Americans have William's blood flowing in their veins. Our own Mead ancestral line evolved from those that settled first in Connecticut,

then western New York, Ohio, Indiana and then to California.

William's wife Philippa died of malaria in Stamford, on September 19, 1657. A memorial in Tomac Burying Ground, in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, in memory of the Mead family, only mentions William and his three children, Joseph, John, and Martha, leaving Philippa's burial place unknown.



Notable descendants of William Mead, through his son John, are **Major General John Mead IV**, Revolutionary War soldier. **Major General James Mead** of the Revolutionary War, and subsequent co-founder of Meadville, Pennsylvania. **Major General Ebenezer Mead**, Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. **Major General David Mead**, war of 1812, and co-founder of Meadville, Penn. **General Thompson Mead** of the War of 1812. **Amos Mead, M.D.** (Surgeon) Esquire, French and Indian War, member of the Continental Congress for Fairfield County, Connecticut, and signer for the ratification of the United States Constitution. Amos was a great grandson of John Mead I. **Dr. Elwood Mead**, (b. 1858, Indiana) Director of the Dept. of the Interior. As director of the Interior, he was overseer of the construction of Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington, and Owyhee Dam on the Owyhee River in Eastern Oregon. With his accomplishments, he was honored to have Lake Mead named for him. Among many other accomplishments in his career, he also oversaw water projects in Australia, and Israel. Generals John and James Mead are our generation's first cousins seven times removed, and Elwood Mead is our seventh cousin three times removed. General Thompson Mead is our third cousin, six times removed. General Ebenezer Mead is our third cousin, six times removed. General David Mead assisted Commodore Perry of the Navy, in squashing a British attack at Erie, Pennsylvania during the War of 1812. Amos Mead is our second cousin, seven times removed.

Early in the Colonial period, defense from attacks by Indians was developed by organizing militia groups, sometimes called train bands. Train was a term shortened from the word trained. All able men, including our Mead ancestors, were required to participate in the defense of their community, as well as when needed, in the Colonies as a whole. These settlers were required to attend scheduled training, and keep at the ready, a rifle, powder, bullets, and match. Certain members of these train bands were also required in turn, to be at a moment's notice, ready for a call to service. These became known as the minutemen. The command structure in the early days was by appointment, usually by the local governing body. Later a common practice was by election by the members of the militia. These militias and the need for them placed the Colonies in the ready, when the Revolutionary War broke out.

When the English came to Connecticut in the 1600's, the Dutch were in control of that part of southwest Connecticut in which the Mead's settled. With a history of the Dutch people supplying fire water to the Indians, and the Indians resultant rampages against the settlers, there were continuous skirmishes between the two groups. The many massacres that occurred on both sides eventually subsided when the Indians dwindled in numbers. These many outbreaks of war between the settlers and the Indians became known as the Colonial Wars, and continued almost continually until after the Revolutionary War. Life on the frontier was a continuous battle for survival at best.

In 1650 the Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam (New York) agreed that control over Greenwich would transfer to the New Haven Colony. It was still considered as part of the town of Stamford as it was settled by people from Stamford. In 1656 the General Court at New Haven said that the inhabitants of Greenwich lived in a "disorderly and riotous manner." They accused them of selling liquor to the Indians, receiving and harboring servants who had fled from their masters, and joined persons unlawfully in marriage. The Colony of New Haven decided to assert its control on the unruly citizens and bring them back in line, to live a more orderly life. They sent the settlers of Greenwich dispatches requesting them to submit to their

authority. They refused, stating they were an independent state under letters from the King of England, and when they could not produce such documents, on threat of arrest, they begrudgingly agreed to place themselves, including our Mead ancestors, under the jurisdiction of the New Haven government. In 1665 New Haven Colony and the Connecticut Colony became one, and Greenwich fell to the control of the Connecticut government in Hartford. In 1667 a school was built, and Greenwich was up and running, becoming the base for our Mead family's long history, that spread throughout America. There is still today a very large presence of Meads in Greenwich.

William's oldest son Joseph was born in 1624, in Watford, England, and married Mary Brown in 1654 at Stamford, Connecticut. Joseph was a barrister, though not formally educated in law, he defended fellow townspeople, his brother John Mead, and his sister Martha Mead, on numerous occasions in the New Haven Courts. He was noted as being the first lawyer in Greenwich.

Joseph and Mary moved to Hempstead on Long Island and lived there for a few years. Joseph was the Assistant Justice of Hempstead, Long Island, New York, for the short time he lived there and was selected to procure a minister for Hempstead before returning to live in Connecticut. From 1669 to 1671, Joseph was a representative for Greenwich, Connecticut to the Colonial Assembly. In the Greenwich Town records, he with his brother John is listed as one of the first 27 proprietors of Horseneck (Greenwich) Conn.

In 1655 William and Philippa's daughter, **Martha Mead**, was charged with "fornication outside of wedlock," and was ordered to stand trial by the magistrates of New Haven. She became pregnant while she was engaged to John Richardson, though he was not the father of the baby. Martha and John married in 1653, and left Connecticut and moved to Roxbury, Massachusetts to avoid a possible scandal. The baby was born and died a month later, so they returned to Stamford, Connecticut to resume their lives. The secret leaked out a few months later, and the charges were filed. Martha, who suffered from epilepsy, said she was unconscious and taken advantage of, and did not know who her assailant was. Many of the townspeople testified on her behalf, nevertheless, she was found guilty by the unsympathetic New Haven Court. The Court stated that the sexual act surely would have involved pleasure by its participants, and sentenced Martha to a severe public flogging and a fine. The flogging was suspended because she was pregnant again, this time by her husband John Richardson. Her fine was 10 Pounds. John Richardson and Martha's father, William Mead, paid the fine on installments, which included two "milch cows." In reading about this sort of crime, the courts usually went heavy on the punishment for women and light on the men. It was the consensus that men had this in their nature and could not help it. In similar cases, many of the men got off with just a fine. Soon after her conviction, Martha and John, to avoid further reprisal, moved to nearby Westchester County, in New York.

There John Richardson, in partnership with Edward Jessup, bought Indian lands from the local Indians, the Shonearokite and eight other tribes. This patent dated April 26, 1666 was known as West Farms Patent and was granted to them by King James. The name was given to describe its location relative to the other settlements in Connecticut.

The boundaries of their land was the Bronx River to the East; East River to the South; Harlem River and the Hudson Rivers to the West; and the township of Yonkers on the North. Within a year Edward Jessup died and willed his land to his daughter Elizabeth Hunt, the wife of Thomas Hunt. Today Hunt's Point on the East river is named for this family.

In 1873 West Farm was removed from Westchester County and annexed into New York City. In 1898 it was made a burrow of New York City, known as Bronx. A descendant family through Elizabeth, the daughter of John and Martha, still owns land in Bronx. Their name is Tiffany.

John and Martha had three daughters: Elizabeth who married Gabriel Leggett; Mary who married Joseph Hadley; Bertha who married Joseph Ketcham.

After John passed away, Martha remarried to Captain Thomas Williams who was a very prominent man in Westchester. He died a few years later leaving no heirs.

8th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

John Mead, our generation's eighth great grandfather, the son of William and Philippa Mead, started out in his younger years being what we would call a juvenile delinquent. He even spent time in a New Haven jail. It was said of him on record, "he was an excitable young man and a public nuisance." It was after he married **Hannah Potter**, the daughter of a respected and wealthy man of Stamford, that John became a respected pillar in the community. Hannah's father was William Potter, one of the original founders of New Haven Colony, and a member of Reverend John Davenport's church, which had the strictest admission procedures in all of New England.

Some speculation has Hanna being adopted by William. Some sources believe there is a possibility that Hannah's father died, and her mother remarried to William Potter, then William adopted Hannah, giving her his name. This has not been proved or disproved. There are many sources that have different views as to the family of William Potter. There may have been more than one William. More information will need to come to light to sort out Hannah's heritage.

John and Hannah Mead had a vision for the country, and decided to take a chance in real estate, so John bargained with the Indians for land and resold this land to the colonists. In 1658, because of the Dutch rule over Connecticut at this time, and not sure of what was going to happen in the area, plus the sour taste of the events of Martha's conviction, John and Hannah sold everything in Connecticut and moved with his brother Joseph Mead, across Long Island Sound to Hempstead, on Long Island, which was under the rule of the British. This is also where Pastor Richard Denton went with his flock a few years earlier. No sooner did they get settled, and King Charles II gave to his brother, the Duke of York, a gift of Long Island. This left a shadow of uncertainty over Long Island, so in 1660, John and Hannah moved back to Connecticut as the Dutch control has by now been subdued, by the expanding English power over New England. Joseph also moved back to Connecticut, but it is believed he went back to take care of his aging father William Mead.

As control over the land shifted from country to country, or monarch to monarch, Indian to white man, the ownership of land was often brought into dispute, creating havoc for the colonists. At times a colonist would purchase land only to find someone else claimed control. This meant sometimes, in having to purchase the land twice, or even losing it completely.

On October 26th 1660, John Mead purchased lands and housing owned by Richard Crabb in Greenwich. John bought land on December 21st 1661 from John Studwell in Greenwich. In 1664 John Mead with twenty six other proprietors including Joseph purchased from the Hiosekhasseky Indians the "Horseneck Plantation" known as the "Old Horseneck Farm," named that for the neck of land where horses grazed. It took in all the land between the Myanos River and the Byram River which is at the New York, Connecticut border. It is now known as Field Point, and Belle Haven, a place of palatial estates just south of the town of Greenwich. The size of the lot received by each of the partners was determined by the amount of taxable land owned in town. John and Hannah settled in and John continued his buying and selling land. On December 30th 1670 John and his brother Joseph each received a land grant on the "lowermost meadow" south of the Westchester Path. John's father in law William Potter owned Shippan Point, a coastal peninsula of land south of Stamford which John and Hannah received when William died. At one time John Mead was the largest land owner in Greenwich.

John Mead, and six others, Jonathan Reynolds, John Hobby, Joseph Ferris, Joshua Knapp, Angell Husted, and Jeffery Ferris, known as "the Seven Proprietors," requested of the General Assembly on February 4, 1664, to separate from Stamford and permit the establishment of Greenwich, Connecticut. Greenwich was declared a Township on May 11, 1665. One of the rules these town fathers enacted was, "none shall be admitted as an inhabitant of Greenwich without a certificate testifying to an orderly life, and must be approved by the minister." John Mead was a "prosperous and self possessed man with a strong character". In 1670 he was put forth to be a Freeman of Greenwich. He was a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, 1679, '80, and '81.

Today Greenwich, Connecticut has the largest amount of Fortune 500 companies based within the city; more than any other city in the country. I guess you could say John and Hannah started the trend over 350 years ago.

The following is a story told about John Mead. *“On a cold day in old Connecticut, John Mead can be seen riding toward Dumpling pond, near Greenwich, taking grist to mill. As he approaches the river Myanos, he overtakes an old Quaker, jogging along slowly on foot, carrying a heavy load. In the spirit of kindness, he offers to take the Quaker’s load upon his horse and thus give the Quaker an easier journey, no! replies the Quaker, thee don’t get my bundle, for I can read men’s thoughts. Thee wants to get my bundle and then thee’ll run off. Thee don’t get my bundle. Very well came the simple reply, and they go on slowly together. At last they come to the brink of the Myanos. Here Mr. Quaker is really in trouble. How to cross the river, two or three feet deep, dry shod, is a puzzle. So he gladly accepts a second offer of assistance from John. The bundle is mounted in front, John Mead in the middle, and the Quaker behind. They arrived at the center of the stream, in pretending to adjust his stirrup, John Mead catches the Quaker by the heel and dumps him into the river. Such treatment is too much even for Quaker forbearance, and the victim seizes hands full of pebbles and would seek vengeance, does not, as John Mead threatens to put the bundle in the water also. This threat and the lecture following it, gradually cools the Quaker’s anger. Mead informs him that all has been done for his own good, to teach him a lesson. And the lecturer says he hopes the stranger never again profess to read men’s thoughts. For, he says, I asked you to ride, kindly, in the first place, when you refused, but at the second time of asking, I really intended to do as I have done. He tosses back the bundle and rides on, leaving the Quaker to ponder the moral as he thinks proper.”*

When John died, he left land to all of his sons, not mentioning any of his daughters in his will. This act was not unusual in this day. In a separate will he left token money to all of his children. Sometimes the daughters received their inheritance in the form of a dowry when they were married, and this usually depended on the wealth of the family.

John and Hanna’s third child, **Ebenezer Mead**, who married Sarah and Ruth Knapp, was licensed in 1696 by the townspeople of Greenwich, to operate a tavern, “a place of publik entertainment for man and beast.” Located on the Old Boston Post Road, now Putnam Avenue and Lafayette Place, “The old tavern stood on the same site for nearly two hundred years, and has a history linked with the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars.” There are many stories about events that played out at the Mead Tavern, stories that were pivotal in the history of our country. These included the presence of Revolutionary war figures General Putnam and Governor Tyron. The Mead Tavern stayed in the Mead family until July of 1886 when it was torn down to make way for the building of a Presbyterian Church. Many artifacts of its colonial period were unearthed when the building was removed.

Benjamin Mead was John and Hannah’s seventh child. His home is the oldest building still standing in Greenwich. It was built in 1697, on Orchard Street in Cos Cob and is still there in its original construction. Cos Cob, a suburb of Greenwich, is located between Stamford and Greenwich Connecticut. The salt box constructed home remained in the Mead family until the middle 1940’s. It sold in 1960 for \$20,000 and sold again in 1998 for \$510,000, and the new owner did some restoration to return it to its original condition. There are two other buildings besides Benjamin’s home in Greenwich that are from the seventeenth century and are still there today. They are the home of Thomas Lyon, which has been moved from its original location and the Knapp Tavern of Revolutionary war fame. The Knapp Tavern was originally built by Timothy Knapp, son of Joshua Knapp, one of the “Seven Proprietors of Greenwich” and was located on the Old Boston Post Road, now Hwy. 41 in Greenwich. Timothy Knapp built it in the late 1600’s as his residence. It was later turned into a wayside inn/tavern by Timothy’s descendants and was the site of many Revolutionary War stories, including events with General Putnam and George Washington.

An interesting chain of events between the Mead and Knapp families has to do with John and Hannah’s son Ebenezer Mead. Ebenezer married first to Sarah Knapp, Timothy Knapp’s first cousin. His second marriage was to Ruth Knapp, Timothy Knapp’s sister. There were many other Mead, Knapp marriages between the descendants. Though these taverns were close, they were the focal point for colonial activities and were quite often where most commerce, community government activities and played out.

Much of the shoreline property of Greenwich and Stamford fell into the ownership of the Mead family and their descendents. A majority of the Greenwich townspeople of today, as well as the rest of us spread throughout America, and beyond, owe our rich family heritage to these Mead forefathers.

7th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

John and Hannah's eldest son, **John Mead II**, and **Ruth Hardy**, our generation's seventh great grandparents, was the first recorded marriage to be held in the town of Greenwich, Connecticut. They were married by the Reverend, Jeremiah Peck, on October 27, 1681. Ruth was from a family that came to the colonies from England in the mid 1600's. Their son John Mead III was the first recorded birth in Greenwich. John II held the title of Constable of Greenwich, a position bestowed to him by the townspeople of Greenwich. On November 15, 1683, John and Ruth received a land grant of three acres in Greenwich on which to build their home. John Mead II was just 35 years old when he passed away in 1693. Upon his death the Town officers called a special town hall meeting to honor John upon his death; something not a normal course of action but done for the respect they had for him. John and Ruth's grandson, through their son John Mead III, was General, John Mead IV of Connecticut, who served for the American forces in the Revolutionary War. He had turned down a commission as a Captain in the British forces, offered to him by King George of England. On November 10, 1695, the Probate Court ordered distribution of John's estate to his wife Ruth, and his four children, leaving speculation that Ruth was pregnant when John died. While not known for certain, some records show there were two additional daughters. Ruth (Hardy) Mead remarried to Joseph Finch on March 12, 1712. Upon their death, they deeded land to her sons Jonathan, and Nathan Mead. Ruth passed away on November 20, 1727 in Greenwich.

6th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

John and Ruth's son, our generation's sixth great grandparents, **Jonathan Mead** married **Esther Butler** in Greenwich, Connecticut. Not a lot is known about the lives of Jonathan and Esther, except he was a cooper by trade, and they bought land in Greenwich in 1706 from Isaac Howe. A Cooper is someone who makes barrels, a highly needed art form, as almost everything was shipped and stored in barrels. In some places it was made illegal to transport barrels out of a township as their need and possession was so coveted.

We do know that sometime between 1731 and 1740 Jonathan and Esther moved with their son **Enos Mead**, to Nine Partners Patent, in Dutchess County, New York.

5th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Enos married **Millicent**, (last name unknown) and were our generation's fifth great grandparents. Millicent was born in Milan, Dutchess County, New York. Enos served in the French and Indian War (1754-1763), which was just prior to the Revolutionary war. They may have been married in Connecticut before the move to New York. Enos Mead, his twin brother Nehemiah and brother Jonathan were attributed with being among the first settlers of Nine Partners Patent, which took up a lot of present day Dutchess County, New York. There were other Meads; namely Jonathan's brother Nathan and first cousins, Jonathan (the blacksmith) and brother Timothy Mead that settled in Nine Partners and their history is also established there. Timothy went on to Vermont to establish the Mead family there. Enos and Millicent owned lot 19 of Nine Partners Patent and property in Crum Elbow Township, which is in the area near present day, Hyde Park, New York. All of their five children were born in Nine Partners Patent, named that for the original nine men to receive the patent from the King of England. Eighteenth century land documents, tax lists and deeds show Enos as having property in Charlotte Precinct (Crum Elbow), Dutchess County and in Charlotte (now Washington) County, New York.

Enos and Millicent moved to Saratoga Township, Charlotte, County, New York, probably sometime after 1783 when Enos was last listed in the minutes of the town meeting in Crum Elbow, Dutchess County. They bought land in Shaghticoke, Rensselaer County and in Stillwater, Saratoga Township, Charlotte (Washington) County, which are about five miles from each other. On the 1790 census for Saratoga Twp. Enos is listed as living next door to his son Levi, with sons Michael, William and Gideon living close by.

On November 4, 1791 and December 24, 1793, Enos sold land in Washington County, New York. With this information we may surmise that Millicent died before 1790 and Enos died sometime after 1793.

Enos and Millicent's son Gideon Mead married his second cousin Martha Fisk in Nine Partners and moved to Saratoga about 1784. They had eight, maybe nine children. On January 28th 1795 Mary Mead, daughter of Gideon and Martha Mead, married George Davis at the Yellow Quaker Meeting house by the minister, Isaac Leggett, one of the first settlers of Saratoga. In the 1790's Gideon moved to Chester Township, Warren County, New York and farmed not far from his brother Levi Mead. Their only child to remain in Chester was Lydia Mead who married Charles J. Starbuck, who was from a prominent family in the early settlement of Chester. The other children either died or moved on to other places. Gideon died in Chester, Warren County, New York on September 27th 1814. Martha (Fisk) Mead died there on October 13th 1813.

William Mead, another son of Enos and Millicent Mead, moved to Stillwater, Charlotte County, New York where he married Hannah Palmer, the daughter of early pioneer George Palmer who bought the land the village of Stillwater was built on in 1763. William Mead owned the first wayside inn and tavern to be built in Stillwater, New York. It was in William Mead's Inn that the first town meetings of Stillwater were held. William was a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. The 1790 census lists one slave owned by him in Stillwater, New York. That slave was not listed on any other census. Slave holding in these northern states was common but not condoned by the majority, so many of them through community pressure, were given their freedom.

Enos and Millicent's son Levi Mead married Esther Bryant, who was the aunt of William Cullen Bryant, the celebrated poet, journalist, lawyer and politician. Esther's great, great grandparents were Josiah and Sarah Standish, our family's ninth great grand parents and son of Captain Myles Standish. Her grandfather Stephen Bryant married Mehitable Standish, the daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Allen) Standish. Levi and Esther were married in Dutchess County, New York and had nine children. Levi served as a Captain in the New York Militia during the Revolutionary War. He was again called to service in the War of 1812. In August of 1812 he was sent with his Company to go to Lake Champlain to encounter the British. By the time his Company arrived, the battle there was over. Levi and Esther moved to Chester Township in Warren County in about 1793 and were among the first settlers of that town. Many Mead families were attributed as the first settlers of Chester. Levi Mead operated a grist mill, a saw mill and a farm about one and one half mile south of the present town of Chestertown in a area known as Thurman's Gore. His son Enos continued living on this family farm and considerably increased the family holdings by purchasing adjacent properties. Levi died there in 1843 and Esther died in 1857. Both are buried in the Leggett Cemetery in Chester. The Leggett cemetery is also known as the Chester Rural Cemetery. Many descendants of Levi and Esther can be found in Warren County, New York.

Many of the Mead families moved to Charlotte County, which is in upstate New York, sometime, from about 1770 into the 1780's. At the time Enos and Millicent moved, the county was named Charlotte County, which had been taken from Albany County and explains why his will written on December 19, 1774, mentions property in Charlotte County. In 1784, after the Revolutionary War, Charlotte County became known as Washington County, in honor of George Washington. Later, Washington County was divided into Warren, Essex, Franklin and Clinton Counties. This move to upstate New York included Michael Mead, his siblings, as well as other relatives. The years after they settled there are significant, as this area, as well as many of the Mead family members, was heavily involved in the Revolutionary War. Many major battles were waged up and down the Hudson River Valley, including the Battles of Saratoga. Many of our Mead ancestors were involved in the war, from Generals all the way down the ladder to Privates, Drummers, Fifers, etc.

I was able to find a person by the name of Jonathan Mead of Greenwich, Connecticut, that stayed loyal to England. He was imprisoned as a Tory, and released after the people of Greenwich spoke for him and others. I assume it was not Jonathan and Esther's son Jonathan. He was the right age, but Jonathan did serve with his son Nathaniel, for the Continental forces during the war. Maybe this came after a change in heart. A man by the name of Smith Mead, was in the Continental forces, but was found fighting for the British after being captured. It seems he chose to stay behind while the others in his unit escaped after a raid on a British vessel. Smith Mead was the great, great grandson of John Mead I. He was seen with the British stealing cattle at Greenwich from his own family and had the gall to ask them to help him obtain a

war pension. The ironic part in this was; he applied for a war pension and after fighting for it he received it. Considered worse than the English loyalist Tories were the Cowboys. The Cowboys killed and plundered at will for their own purpose and gain, and were often aided by the British to that end, even though they took siege on the British as well. They often sought out revenge on those they felt did them wrong before the war. During the Revolutionary War, in 1780, it was the Cowboys that shot and killed Captain Sylvanus Mead at the old Ralph Peck place near Myanus, Connecticut. Sylvanus was the great grandson of John Mead I.

4th GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Enos and Millicent Mead's son **Michael Mead** was born in Dutchess County, New York and married **Martha (Patty) Potter** of Saratoga, New York in 1780, and were our generation's fourth great grandparents. Martha Potter's great grandmother on her father's side was Elizabeth Sherman. Elizabeth was related to our eighth great grandmother Phillippe Sherman who married Benjamin Chase. I have not been able to find if there is a tie between Martha's ancestral line, and Michael's great, great grandmother, Hannah Potter. I have traced both families back to England by differing family lines. If there is a connection, it would probably be in England, and that will remain elusive. At that time there were no less than seven Potter families that came to America. Martha's 3rd great grandfather, Nathaniel Potter, immigrated from London, England to America in 1634 with his two brothers, Robert and George Potter, arriving in Massachusetts. He soon settled in Aquidneck, Rhode Island. Martha's ancestors migrated from Rhode Island to Massachusetts, then to New York where she was born.

Michael Mead enlisted as a Private at Williamstown, Massachusetts in Captain, Luke Day's Company, of Colonel, Ichabod Alden's Infantry Regiment, of the Continental Army. This Revolutionary War Regiment later became known as The Massachusetts 7th Regiment and was part of the "Massachusetts Line" of the "Northern Department" of the "Continental Army". The Northern Department covered the New England States. Alden's Regiment was garrisoned at Fort Alden in Cherry Valley, New York. The earliest date I could find was May 18, 1777, as a possible enlistment date for Michael.

Michael is listed in Eva Mead Firestone's compilation "Mead-Clark Genealogy" as having served with the Berkshire, Massachusetts Militia under Colonel Stark and with the Green Mountain Boys at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, and 17, 1777 at Walloomsac, New York. This was a decisive victory for the Continental Forces. Berkshire is the county where captain Luke Day's Company was formed. It was said of these men that the Berkshire Militia when summoned to the Bennington Battlefield came in a downpour rain with the roads in bad condition. Every man not crippled shouldered his gun and walked to the field of battle, some as much as 50 miles.

Michael's next known battle began near Stillwater, New York on September 19, 1777, in which Alden's Regiment served under General Gates in the "Battles of Saratoga" which culminated with Burgoyne's surrender on October 17, and was a decisive victory for the Revolutionary Forces. The battle began at a place called Freeman's Farm with the British the winner and ended at the battle of Bemis Heights. This battle was so decisive a victory for the Colonist that it led to France and Spain recognizing the Colonies as a country and brought them into the war, allied with the Colonist against the British.

The next major battle for Michael was on November 11, 1798 at Fort Alden and the ensuing "Cherry Valley Massacre", which he survived. Fort Alden was no more than a Garrison House well fortified by a stockade against Indian attack but many of the officers and men were quartered at farm houses close to the fort. Colonel Alden was killed trying to get from his quarters to the fort and his second in command was taken prisoner. The British, with a group of Indians and Tories, attacked Fort Alden killing many of the civilians and men of Alden's Regiment. The Indians rounded up many of the men and made them strip before being tortured and killed. The outrage over the many civilians, men, women and children being murdered, led to a spike in enlistments throughout the colonies and put a very much needed patriotic spark into the revolutionary cause. Even though it was a victory for the British, it helped the Colonies to recommit to the cause with a renewed sense of purpose. A monument to the men and women of Fort Alden and the Cherry Valley Massacre sits in the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

This massacre led to George Washington requesting Congress to fund his proposed "Sullivan/Clinton Campaign" which they did. This campaign in the summer of 1779 funded with \$1,000,000, was for the forces of Major General John Sullivan, starting from Easton, Pennsylvania and Brigadier General James Clinton from Schenectady, New York, to meet near Athens, Pennsylvania and build Fort Sullivan for a base of operations to begin Washington's scorched earth campaign against the Indian tribes of the Finger Lakes region of New York. Michael's regiment, now designated the 7th Massachusetts Regiment and a part of General George Washington's Main Continental Army, was assigned with General Clinton's Brigade and traveled from Schenectady, New York to Lake Otsego and then down the Susquehanna River to Athens. They staged at the south end of the lake where they dammed the Susquehanna to raise the level of the lake. After destroying the dam, they used the resulting flood waters of the river to navigate down river to Athens with more than 240 boats to carry their supplies. After the two brigades met at Athens, their first battle of note was the destruction of the Indian village Newtown near present day Elmira, New York. On August 26th they continued north with 3,200 men and 250 pack horses into west central New York wiping out, by their accounts, over 40 Indian Villages of the Six Indian Nations. By the end of September they returned to Fort Sullivan ending the campaign. From Fort Sullivan, Clinton's Brigade returned to Fort Stanwix near Rome, New York and Sullivan returned to New Jersey. Clinton's men spent a few days at Fort Stanwix then proceeded to Teantotalago near Schenectady, New York and carried out orders to arrest every male Mohawk, and to pillage and destroy their crops. They incarcerated the Indians at Albany until 1780 when they were released.

On November 14th, the 7th was relieved from George Washington's Main Continental Army and reassigned to the Highlands Department which covered the Hudson River Valley and the northern part of New York.

It is unclear who replaced Colonel Alden after his death, but Colonel John Brooks is listed as in command of the 7th on January 1, 1780. It is at this time in January 1780 Michael was transferred from Colonel Brook's 7th Massachusetts Regiment to Captain Moses McFarland's Invalid Corps, under Colonel Lewis Nichols Regiment stationed at Boston, Massachusetts. The Invalid Corps was established for those men that were well enough to still serve in a supporting role but were not able to function in battle. The nature of his injury, if any, was not explained. The last date I could find for Michael in service was December 31, 1780, but he was probably furloughed well before that. Captain Luke Day's Company continued serving with the 7th Massachusetts regiment until it was disbanded in 1783. On November 4, 1783, Michael was paid by Col. Lewis Nichols for his services. Being a private he received \$80 and a further \$54.21. Being he received two payments he probably was owed for two different classes of indebtedness.

An interesting note about Captain Luke Day and Colonel John Brooks: After the Revolution, Luke Day was a leading force in Shay's Rebellion while John Brooks was sent to squash the rebellion, meeting once again on the battlefield, this time as adversaries.

Martha Potter had been an Indian captive when she was sixteen years old. In 1779 a French fur trader bought her freedom from the Indians for the price of a silver Knee Buckle. Within a year after her release, Michael and Martha were married. The first record of Michael having land was in 1784, living on Road 2 in Saratoga Township, then Albany County, now Saratoga County, New York. Michael received from his father's estate 100 acres in Charlotte Precinct, Dutchess County, New York and property mentioned on the west side of the Delaware River in Somerset Township, County of Charlotte, New York. Charlotte County became Washington County in 1784 and was further divided into more counties. What he did with these properties is unknown but I would assume he sold them to free himself of the attachment to Dutchess County. He was at that time, living in Albany County. Michael and Martha are listed on the 1790 census as living in Saratoga Township, Albany County, New York.

Sometime in 1800, Michael and Martha moved to the town of German, Chenango County, New York, where they obtained 50 acres of land adjoining east of Abraham Livermore. Abraham was the first person to settle the town of German, New York. The town of German was named for Revolutionary War General Obadiah German, who was the original land patent owner. Abraham located his family there after blazing a trail by himself through the wilderness in true pioneer fashion with an axe on his shoulder to mark the trail and a pack horse to carry his supplies. He left his family behind in Paris, New York until he blazed the trail and built a cabin in the wilderness, then returning to bring his family. Michael and Martha Mead

was the third family to settle in the town of German, after moving there from Saratoga County, New York by the means of an ox team, and a sled. Michael and Martha lived and farmed there about ten years, when sometime after 1810 they decided to move to a place near Cayuga Lake, near a place that is now, Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York (Finger Lakes Area). They lived in Tompkins County for about ten years. These places of German, and Cayuga Lake are places where some of their children met and married their spouses before moving to Ohio.

Sometime in early 1820, Michael and Martha moved to Springfield, Clark County, Ohio. Their son **Stephen Potter Mead** and his wife **Jemima Newman** probably followed to Springfield later that year. Michael and Martha's son Enos and their son **Israel Thompson Mead** and his wife **Elizabeth Newman** also moved to Springfield, Ohio about the same time. Stephen and Jemima, our generation's third great grandparents, with their family, moved to Ohio in Wagon Train fashion. The men set about to prepare their equipment, selecting their best animals, making spare parts, and preparing seed and other necessities for the trip. The women prepared the food, and household goods, for the journey, such as furniture, clothing, pots, and pans. Nothing was left to chance, as they were heading into a wilderness with few of the necessities, and even fewer ways of obtaining them. In 1828 Michael and Martha moved and settled on land they bought in Clarksfield, Huron County, Ohio with their children Israel, Allen and Eliza Starr. Later, in 1830, after selling their farm in Clarksfield to their son Luther, Michael and Martha moved to live with their son Enos Mead, near Green Springs, Adams Township in Seneca County, Ohio. They both died there, and are buried near by in the Butternut Ridge Cemetery, a few miles east of Green Springs.

The children of Michael and Martha Mead is somewhat left in question. I have found no information to verify the two sons, namely Michael Mead and Ephraim Mead. The information about Michael and Ephraim being Michael and Martha's children comes from the Grandson of Ephraim Mead, Dr. Arthur Raymond Mead and miscellaneous other works. In that this information came from such a close family member to the two in question I am including them in this story as if they are, subject to further information and review.

Michael Mead, the eldest son of Michael and Martha (Potter) Mead was born in 1781 in Saratoga County, New York. Prior to 1809, Michael, a single man, moved to live in Onondaga County, New York, where he was a pioneer in salt production. In March of 1809 Michael was elected as the first Commissioner of Roads for the newly organized town of Salina which derived its name from the salt production of the area. Being one of the founding fathers of this community left Michael's name in the history books of the area.

On December 24, 1809 Michael married **Dolly Thompson** in Salina, New York and they had two sons John (b. 5-23-1811 in Liverpool, N.Y. d. 3-2-1889) and George A. Mead (b. ? d. 8-28-1884, New Haven, Ohio). Their son John, with his family, remained living in Salina, while George eventually moved to Huron County, Ohio where he had a family of five children.

Captain, Michael Mead participated in the War of 1812; leading the Captain Michael Mead's Company of Infantry, New York Volunteers and Militia. He also commanded Michael Mead's Company, 147th New York Regiment. This unit of volunteers participated under various commands and enlistments during the war, including being stationed at Oswego, and Sackets Harbor, on Lake Ontario, New York. Today there is a Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Park commemorating these men of The War of 1812. Sackets Harbor was where the United States held a large naval ship building facility and this is why it needed protection from the invading British. Michael and his unit remained in the conflict through to the end of the war and returned to Salina and his family in 1816.

Salina is located on the eastern and northern shore of Lake Onondaga and today it is a part of the City of Syracuse, New York. The whole area developed around underground salt deposits that supplied the state of New York and much of the nation with a considerable amount of its salt supply in the early 1800's to 1900's and Michael had a large part in that early history. Michael died on November 5, 1845 and Dolly on July 10, 1854. Both Michael and his wife Dolly are buried in the Old First Ward Cemetery in Salina. That cemetery today has degraded so much, part of it is now known as Chestnut Park in Salina Village.

Michael and Martha's son Luther, their next oldest son, while not known for sure, may have been with the family on that wagon train migration to Ohio. Luther moved to Huron County, Ohio in 1830. While

living in Huron County, Ohio in 1832, he met and married his wife Jane Ann Picard, in the town of Hartland by Free Will Baptist Minister, Thomas J. Carlton. Luther Mead died in Huron County.

Michael and Martha's son Israel Thompson Mead, and his wife Elizabeth Newman first settled in Ulysses (now Trumansburg), Tompkins County, New York. They soon sold their farm in Ulysses and moved to Bristol, Morgan County, Ohio, living there a short time and then they moved to, and settled in Clarksfield, Huron County, Ohio as early as 1826, living on a farm on the New London Rd. Israel and Elizabeth had six children. Israel had been married once before his marriage to Elizabeth, and had a son and a daughter by that marriage. By that marriage his son was Platt C. Mead and his daughter was Lucy Caroline Mead, who is believed to have died very young.

Israel was a veteran of the War of 1812, serving as a Private in Captain Trowbridge's Company of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Bloom's 88th Regiment, Cayuga County, New York State Militia.

Israel died from cholera on October 18, 1832. His son Platt C. Mead, his son from his first marriage, died just one week later of cholera. In 1841, Elizabeth remarried to Kiah Gould, a Free Will Baptist Minister. After 1846 they moved to Middlebury, Elkhart County, Indiana.

A story told about Kiah and Elizabeth (Newman, Mead) Gould was that they were visiting friends in nearby Howe, Indiana when Elizabeth got very sick. Kiah borrowed the Middlebury Hearse knowing it would be more comfortable for the ride home. Kiah fixed up the hearse with a feather mattress, pillows and blankets and at first Elizabeth refused but eventually gave into a ride in the hearse.

After 1870 and the death of Kiah Gould, Elizabeth moved to Plainfield, Michigan, presumably to live with her daughter Mary. She died January 20, 1872, and is buried in the Plainfield Cemetery.

Michael and Martha's daughter, **Deseree Mead** married **Daniel Livermore** in German, Chenango County, New York. They farmed next door to Daniel's parents, Abraham (sometimes spelled Abram) and Hepsibeth (Williams) Livermore in the town of German, also known as Livermore Corners. Daniel was also a carpenter and a mill-wright and was accredited with the building of many saw mills in the area. In 1833, Deseree and Daniel sold their farm, and with their six children, moved to Clarksfield, Ohio, where they lived and bought a farm. In 1845 they sold that farm and moved to Maquoketa, Jackson County, Iowa. David passed away in 1846 and Deseree in 1853. They are both buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery, in Jackson County, Iowa.

Michael and Martha's son, Ephraim Mead was born in Saratoga County, New York, in 1791. Ephraim Mead married Jane Davenport. Jane was born on November 12, 1795, in Hartford, Connecticut. They were probably married sometime prior to 1819 in Tompkins County, New York. The 1820 census shows them living there: a neighbor to Jane's parents. The Davenport family was a family close to the Meads in Greenwich, Connecticut, being among the first settlers of the area. Sometime after 1834 Ephraim sold his farm in New York and moved to Springfield, Ohio. The 1840 census shows the family living in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio with Ephraim being a farmer. They then moved to Englishville, Kent County, Michigan where both, Ephraim and Jane passed away. They are buried in the Englishville Cemetery. Their son William was the father of Dr. Arthur Raymond Mead.

Michael and Martha's son **Allen Mead** moved to Huron County, Ohio in 1815, and became an ordained Baptist Minister in 1822. He farmed land in Huron County, at the same time ministering his Free Will Baptist faith. While living in Hartland Township Allen was elected appraiser of property, lister and treasurer of Hartland Township. Later, Allen, and his wife Sally (Skarlett) Mead, moved to Wolf Lake, Noble County, Indiana. Allen died there in 1849 and Sally died in 1864. They are buried in the Sanford Cemetery, Noble County, Indiana.

Michael and Martha's daughter Eliza Mead, married Ira Starr, a native of Connecticut, in 1815. Ira Starr had been a post rider, carrying the mail in his younger years, and was injured while riding a horse. His leg had to be amputated twice, once below the knee, and again above the knee. Both times by the use of a butcher knife and hacksaw, with no anesthetic. He maneuvered the rest of his life by the use of a peg leg.

They first moved from New York to Indiana, then to Seneca County Ohio, and then in 1828, they moved to Clarksfield, Huron County, Ohio where they bought a farm. In 1833 they sold the farm and moved across the road and operated a small store. In 1836 they bought a 75 acre farm and built a block house on the property. Ira maintained a tailor shop in one of the rooms being a tailor by trade. Ira sold the farm in 1840, then moved to Hainesville, Ohio, where he kept a store with his son in law, Francis Barnes. Eliza died on April 2, 1863 and is buried in the Clarksfield (Day) Township Cemetery. Later in life, Ira went to live with his daughter, Betsey Ann (Starr) Twiss in Kent City, Michigan. He died at his daughter's home in 1885 at the age of 90, and is buried in the Chubuck Cemetery, about three miles north of Kent City.

Michael and Martha's son **Enos Mead** married in 1827, to **Ellavoisa Hale**, in Springfield, Ohio. They soon settled on a homestead Enos had purchased in 1825, near Green Springs, Seneca County, Ohio. They remained there, and raised a family, spending their entire lives on this farm. Enos and Ella had three daughters and one son. Mary J. Mead; born in 1829. She never married and died in Tiffin, Ohio, May 26th 1915. Emily Jane Mead; born Sept. 26th 1832, died December 25th 1910. Ezra H. Mead; was born about 1839 and died November 20th 1887 in Kansas and is buried in Lay Cemetery in Clyde, Ohio. Ezra's wife died in Kansas in 1888. Martha Mead; born about 1842 and died August 1908. It is through letters written by these children to their uncle Stephen Potter Mead, that I was able to document our Mead ancestry to Michael and Martha Mead. Without those letters we may have never been able to prove our Mead ancestry. Enos died of cholera at the age of 65 on March 18, 1867. Ella died 13 years later. Both Enos and Ella are buried near his parents in the Mead plot, in the Butternut Ridge Cemetery, near Green Springs, Ohio. Butternut Ridge Cemetery and Lay Cemetery are one in the same and are located on the county line of Seneca and Sandusky Counties.

3rd GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Michael and Martha's son **Stephen Potter Mead**, and **Jemima Newman**, our generation's 3rd great grandparents, were married in New York where their oldest two sons were born. Stephen and Jemima moved to Springfield, Ohio where more of their children were born. Jemima was the sister of Elizabeth Newman, Stephen's older brother Israel Mead's wife. Jemima descended from Thomas Calvin Newman that came to America from London, England in 1634 on the ship *Mary and John* and eventually settled in Stamford, Connecticut. The Newman family would have been closely associated with the Mead's of Stamford and Greenwich. Her family's ancestry remained in Stamford for seven generations. The Newman family crossed into New York from Connecticut living in Westchester County before her father James Newman moved to Tompkins County, New York, where Jemima met and married Stephen Mead. Jemima's mother was Bethia Rundle, who was also from a very prominent family of Greenwich, Connecticut and was one of the founding fathers of Stamford. There were many Mead/Rundle marriages over the years.

Sometime in the 1830's Stephen and Jemima moved from Springfield, Ohio to near Green Springs, Adams Township, in Seneca County, Ohio. Stephen died in 1847, and is buried in the Butternut Ridge Cemetery, several miles east of Green Springs. He is buried in the same plot with his parents, Michael and Martha Mead and his brother Enos Mead and wife Ellavoisa (Hale) Mead. Jemima remained in Seneca County for awhile, at least until sometime after the summer of 1850, then moved to Shunk, Henry County, Ohio to live with her daughter Lucinda and her husband Judson Emery. Jemima died at the home of her daughter Lucinda (Mead) Emery, on May 2, 1880 in Damascus Township, Henry County, Ohio. I have yet to be able to find her burial location. At this point in time, I assume she is buried in the Grelton or Hoy (Shunk) Cemetery in Henry County, or at least in one close by.

Stephen and Jemima Mead's son Robert was the eldest of our great, great grandfather's siblings. Born in 1817, in New York, Robert along with his baby brother Jesse was in the Mead Wagon Train migration to Springfield, Ohio in 1820. After moving and settling in Seneca County, Ohio, Robert grew to manhood and married Laura Mariah Alexander, on April 23, 1843, by the Justice of the Peace, George Kline. They settled and raised a family in Seneca County where Robert took to the trade of being a wagon builder. Here their children were born. Justin, b. Oct. 27, 1842, Adeline (Addie) b. 1844, Homer, b. Apr. 18, 1846, Lida, b. 1850, and Lora who was born in Wood County in 1855. Lida must have died, as she was not listed

in the 1860 or any subsequent census. Robert moved his family to the town of Gilead, in Wood County, Ohio. In 1853 Robert built a one story building, and opened the first grocery store in Gilead, Ohio. He afterwards, took on a partner, Foster Pratt. In conjunction with the store, they operated a livery business. In 1860 Robert established a hotel in Gilead called the Commercial House. The building had originally been a school house. When the new school was completed, the old building was moved to a new site, and fitted for use as a hotel. In the 1880's, under different owners, it became known as the Yost House. In 1884 the town of Gilead, Ohio changed its name to Grand Rapids.

Robert was active in the local politics of the day. He was elected a city councilman in the years of 1856, 1859, 1860, and 1861. In 1859 Robert was also elected as the school director for the Gilead School District.

When the Civil War broke out, at the age of 44, Robert enlisted in the Union Army. He joined the 68th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on October 11, 1861 and served under General William Tecumseh Sherman. By December, he made First Sergeant, and the following year, on November 2, 1862, he was commissioned a full 2nd Lieutenant, the rank he held until his discharge in Tennessee, October 28, 1864.

Eventually Robert moved his family to Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio, where he had a bakery business. The 1880 census shows living with them an adopted son, age 25, Porter B. Mead. During this time, Robert's son, Justin owned a drug and jewelry store at 516 S. Elmore St, in Escanaba, Michigan. In his employ, was his brother, Homer. Justin was widowed, and Homer and his wife Emma had a child. Justin remarried in 1881 to Carrie Beath, a music teacher in Escanaba, Michigan.

Sometime after 1880, and probably by 1884, Robert and Laura moved to Port Gamble, in Washington Territory with their daughter Adeline and her husband Dr. James Minkler, a physician. They soon settled in Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula. During this time, they had property near Centralia, Washington, which they sold off the timber and cleared land for crops. They then moved to Centralia where their son Homer joined them. In 1889, Homer moved first to Tacoma, Washington, and then to Centralia. In 1891 Laura passed away, and was buried in the Butterworth's Cemetery, in Centralia, Washington. After Laura's death, Robert moved to Escanaba, Michigan to live with his son Justin. Homer Mead remained in Centralia, where he became a well respected business man as an undertaker and a judge. Homer L. Mead passed away December 16, 1907 in Centralia and his wife Emma died ten years later in Tacoma, Washington. Adeline and James also remained in Centralia where James died in 1895 and Adeline died in 1912.

Robert passed away, caused by Bright's disease, in Escanaba, Michigan on January 20, 1898, and is buried in the Lakeview Cemetery, in Escanaba. His son Justin N. Mead, a prominent pioneer pharmacist died at home from a sudden onset of gastralgia at 528 S. Elmore St. in Escanaba on July 15, 1900 at the age of 53. Just four days later his son Robert passed away. His wife Carrie died five years later on April 27, 1905 of typhoid fever and pneumonia leaving one son Harold who became a doctor. Justin and Carrie are also buried in the Lakeview Cemetery in Escanaba.

Stephen and Jemima's son, James Newman Mead, was born in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, on June 28th 1821 after the family arrived there from New York. James moved to Wood County, Ohio in 1851. On May 15, 1853 James married Anna Eliza Ashley, in Gilead, Wood County, Ohio. Anna was born in Fort Ann, Washington County, New York June 3, 1829. Her parents were Col. Denison and Lucinda Ashley who were from Fort Ann and Freedom, New York. James and Anna settled in Gilead (now Grand Rapids), Wood County, Ohio where James was a pioneering physician of that county. I do not know where James obtained his medical training but given the time and location it was probably at the Western Reserve University of Medicine near Cincinnati. He was a physician prior to 1860 and was admitted to membership in the newly organized Wood County Medical Society in June of 1879. On August 10th 1864 James registered for the Weston Township, Wood County Militia Roll with no record ever being found showing if he was called to service in the Civil War. Their children were Della Elvina Mead, b. 1857, Lucinda Alice, (Lulu) b. Oct. 14, 1861, and adopted son Rolla N. (Cromwell) Mead, b. 1869.

Della married George Franklin McNeal at Grand Rapids, Ohio on September 3, 1884.

On October 14, 1886 James and Anna's daughter Lulu (Lucinda) married Azor Thurston of Grand

Rapids, Ohio at her parent's home. He was a pharmacist noted throughout America for his breakthroughs in medicines which were in demand nationwide. After James died, Anna remarried to James Todd Skinner and lived in the nearby town of Tontogany, Ohio. Azor and Lulu then moved into the home her parents built. That home is still there today and is a bread and breakfast inn called the Thurston Sisters B and B in honor of the Thurston family. A picture of that home is in a following section of Mead ancestral homes. The Thurston family closed their home in Grand Rapids and moved to Columbus, where Azor was an instructor at the Ohio State University and served as the Ohio State Chemist. Lulu (Mead) Thurston died of complications of surgery on May 16th 1917 in Perrysburg, Ohio.

James Newman Mead was appointed the Gilead School Clerk in 1870. Other than the 1880 census, I found no more information about James and his family. He died in Grand Rapids January 12, 1888.

Stephen and Jemima's daughter Lucinda Mead was born in 1823 in Springfield, Ohio. In 1848 she married Judson Emery, the cousin of our great, great grandmother Caroline Emery. They were married in the log cabin home of our great, great grandparents, Jesse and Caroline (Emery) Mead in Shunk, Henry County, Ohio. They had two children, Ophelia, b. 1850, and Erika, b. 1854. Lucinda and Judson settled on a farm near Jesse and Caroline's farm near Shunk, Ohio, and spent their entire lives there. Judson and Lucinda seemed to be the family haven. On every census there showed at least two other family members living with them, including her mother Jemima, her sisters, brothers, and cousins. They opened their home to family as the need came about. After Lucinda and Judson died, Erika followed in her parent's footsteps, by taking in her aunt, Lucinda's sister, Phoebe Mead.

Stephen and Jemima Mead's daughter Phoebe Mead was born in Springfield Ohio and was never married. After the children's father Stephen passed away, Phoebe, with her mother Jemima, lived with Lucinda and Judson Emery. The last record I found of Phoebe was the 1900 census living with Judson and Lucinda's daughter in Harrison Twp. Later I found evidence of her living in an institution. She soon died as Jesse's obituary in 1906, stated he was the last of his siblings. Phoebe was not capable of taking care of herself and needed someone to watch over her and tend to her needs throughout her life. She could neither read nor write. Nothing I have found gives an indication of what she was afflicted with.

Stephen and Jemima Mead's son Stephen was born Potter Stephen Mead, but went by the name Stephen Potter Mead. Stephen lived with his mother and then Judson and Lucinda Emery after his father died. While living with them, he was listed in the census as a school teacher at the age of twenty. Later he plied the trade of a carpenter.

In the early 1860's, Stephen followed the gold rush to Yreka, California, and to Canyon City, Oregon. In all probability, Stephen followed the Mormon and California trails to the Applegate trail which splits off of the California Trail near present day Winnemucca, Nevada, and travels across northwestern Nevada, and through the Modoc of northern California, to get to Yreka. At this time in history, the Indian tribes of this area, the Modoc's and Bannock's, were still hostile. It wasn't until 1879 that the Modoc Wars ended Captain Jack's, Chief of the Modoc's, reign of terror on the white man. It must have been quite an adventure by horseback to take such a trip, and survive the ordeal. People traveling alone or in small groups didn't have the protection of the larger wagon trains. The return trip was probably by way of the Oregon Trail, which would have been just as arduous. Remember, the Transcontinental Railroad wasn't built until 1869. Stephen returned home sometime in 1864, with not a lot to show for his adventure.

In 1865 Stephen married Rocelia (Celia) A. Gaston. They lived their lives in Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio where they had two children, May L. Mead, b. 1866, and Marshall Gaston Mead, b. 1870. I found no record of May ever being married. After Stephen died of apoplexy in 1900, Celia and May were listed on the 1910 census as living together in a boarding house in Oberlin. Marshall was married and it is from him that Kim Knight, our 4th cousin is descended. Kim and his wife have been very helpful with information about family history.

Stephen and Jemima Mead's daughter Caroline S. Mead was born in Ohio in 1832. On the family name list written in 1842, her name was Caroline, however she went by the name of Cynthia throughout her life. In the 1850 census in the Mead household, along with Jemima, head of household, were the children listed, Phoebe, Stephen, Lura, and daughter Cynthia Mead. Some said that Cynthia was a nickname for Lucinda, but by 1850 Lucinda was already married to Judson Emery and out of the

household. Marriage records show Cynthia Mead married Caroline (Emery) Mead's brother, Rufus Emery, on July 4th, 1850, in Seneca County, Ohio just after the 1850 census was taken. They were married by the Justice of the Peace, Ephraim Porter.

Rufus and Cynthia (Caroline) had one daughter named Mary, born on July 28, 1852 and one son Willis Nathaniel Emery, born in September of 1855, just a few days before his mother Cynthia past away. Rufus and Cynthia had a farm near Shunk, Ohio not far from Jesse and Caroline Mead. This is where both of their children were born. After a long illness, Cynthia died on October 3, 1855 at the age of 23. In that Willis was born so near to his mother's death, the child birth event may have played a role in her demise.

On the 1880 census, Mary Emery, Rufus and Cynthia's daughter, was listed as living with Robert and Laura Mead in Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio. She was listed on the census as Robert's niece, and had the occupation as a hairdresser. On May 2, 1882, Mary Emery married Burdette A. Porter in Lorain County, Ohio. They lived for the most part in Columbus, Ohio where Mary died October 27, 1906. Their son Willis married to Ellen Smith Spade on February 5, 1876 in Henry County, Ohio. Willis died in Toledo, Ohio on April 5, 1941.

On November 23, 1858 Rufus remarried to Phillyra (Emery) Pettis, the daughter of his uncle Asa Emery; therefore, he married his first cousin. Prior to her marriage to Rufus, Phillyra had been married to someone with the last name of Pettis.

With Phillyra, Rufus had seven more children, with only three living to adulthood. Three of them died in 1864 and 1865. Rufus and Phillyra fell off the radar around the 1870's. In 1870 their son Willis was living with Judson Emery. By 1880 Rufus had given up farming in Henry County, and moved to Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio, where he became a photographer and an artist. Rufus died January 13, 1915 in Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio and Phillyra died there on April 12, 1913.

Stephen and Jemima Mead's daughter Lura Mead was born in 1835, in Seneca County, Ohio. After her father's death Lura lived with Judson and Lucinda Emery. Lura married Hamilton Pratt in 1854. They lived in Gilead, Wood County, Ohio and were farmers. Hamilton was also a school teacher. In 1851, Hamilton was a member of the Teacher's Institute of Wood County. They had one daughter, Emma, b. 1859. Hamilton died in 1859, the same year as Emma's birth. The 1860 census shows only Lura and Emma in their household. The land records of 1859 shows the land in the possession of Lura, so Hamilton must have died early in that year. In family letters of the early 1860's, it is mentioned about Lura's husband's death, and later, about her poor health. In 1864, Lura died in Henry County, Ohio and their daughter Emma went to live with Judson and Lucinda (Mead) Emery.

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Stephen and Jemima Mead's son, **Jesse Townsend Mead**, our generation's great, great grandfather's obituary stated he was born near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York. While this is possible, the family was living near Ithaca, in Ulysses Twp, Tompkins County, New York at the time of his birth. The Mead family definitely had ties to the Poughkeepsie, and Dutchess County area, and it is possible they were visiting at the time of his birth. Jesse was named for a close neighbor and family friend from Ulysses Township, Jesse Townsend.

Jesse was just one year old when the family moved to Springfield, Clark County Ohio. He grew to manhood in Clark and Seneca Counties. Near present day Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio, Jesse married Caroline Emery, on Christmas Day 1843. They were married by Caroline's father, Tristram Emery, who was the Justice of the Peace. The ironic part of this was that on October 12, 1843, Caroline was scheduled to be married to Joseph Jackson in a duel wedding ceremony with her brother Horace and his bride Mary West. Both were to be married by their father Tristram Emery. On the record, written across the bottom is this notation: "Lady backed out and married to another person".

In 1846, after their daughter Juliaette was born, Jesse and Caroline loaded their covered wagon and

moved to Shunk, Henry County, Ohio. This area of Ohio was known as the Great Black Swamp, due to the heavy timber and standing water. This area was the last area in Ohio to be settled. One of the reasons the land was so expensive, \$1.25 an acre, twice what it was worth, was that part of the purchase price went to the cost of building drainage canals. They purchased 40 acres of land just across the road and south of Caroline's sister, Irene Emery and her husband Harper Senter. The land was heavily wooded, so they had to clear the land. While living out of their covered wagon, with the help of Harper Senter and others, they took to clearing a lot, and building a large log cabin home. This is where five of their six children were born, including our great grandfather, **Elwood Mead**. Caroline's parents, Tristram and Lydia Emery moved to a farm on property just south of Jesse and Caroline.

The Henry County tax rolls show them living in Harrison Township, and paying taxes in the years of 1851, 1853, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1860, and 1862. Jesse farmed the land and plied his trade as a carpenter. He was well known for building caskets.

In the early part of June, 1863, Jesse and Caroline sold their Henry County farm for \$1,500, and with their six children, they loaded their covered wagon, and moved to Middlebury, Elkhart County, Indiana, a rural community north east of Goshen where they bought an 80 acre farm. They had many relatives living in Seneca and Henry Counties, so it was probably an agonizing decision to pull up and move. The harsh primitive, frontier conditions probably had a lot to do with it. This was also during the Civil War, and maybe they wanted to get further away from it, as the war did reach into Ohio.

The farm was located on present day Road 22, or as it is known, the Middlebury Road, just a little over half way between Goshen and Middlebury. The road dissected the farm leaving half on both sides of the road. The land location description of the farm is W1/2 NE, Section 20, Township 37 N Range 6E of the Second Prime Meridian, Indiana.

In 1892, soon after their grandson Arthur Raymond Mead, who had been living with them, returned home, Jesse and Caroline sold their farm near Middlebury to retire and moved to 415 Queen Street in Goshen. Caroline died of stomach cancer June 5th 1901 and Jesse died five years later on July 4th 1906 at the home of his daughter Ella Cornell, where he lived after Caroline died. Both Jesse and Caroline are buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Goshen, Indiana.

See the story "*Grandfather's Tales Told by the Old Kitchen Stove*," written by Raymond Mead, for a detailed story about their frontier lives in Shunk, Henry County, Ohio and an insight to their lives in Middlebury.

Of Jesse and Caroline Mead's children, Juliaette Nash Mead was their oldest; born near Tiffin in Seneca County, Ohio September 3rd 1844. She was named for a family friend, Juliet Nash. She married William Mead on December 5th 1873 in Middlebury, Indiana. After William's second wife died he requested Juliaette come to Michigan to help him care for his children. To be proper, the marriage was an arranged union. William Mead was twenty years Juliaette's senior and had been married twice before, once to Jane Haire and then to Esther Hoose.

William Mead was born on May 23rd 1824, in Rochester, New York. Family lore says William was related to Jesse but stopped short of explaining the relationship. I have tried to find William's ancestry but other than his parents I have come up empty handed. A lot of evidence points to William's father Ephraim Mead as being a brother of Stephen Potter Mead. William's mother was Jane Davenport, who died in Englishville, Michigan, May 11, 1874, and was the daughter of Joseph and Nancy Davenport. William's father was Ephraim Mead, who died in February 25, 1855 in Englishville, Michigan. Their families were from Tompkins County New York as were our Mead ancestors. On the 1860 census Jane was living with her son Enos.

In 1877 William and Juliaette moved from Englishville, Kent County Michigan to Grelton, Henry County, Ohio where William laid out the plans for the town of Grelton. Their children were; James Eddy Mead, b. Feb 4, 1875, Myrtle Irene Mead, b. 1877, Jesse Vera Mead, b. 1879, Arthur Raymond Mead, b. March 3, 1880, Irma Leona Mead, b. Sept. 17, 1883, and Clyde Laverne Mead, b. June 1, 1886. Their two daughters, Myrtle and Jesse, died of diphtheria just hours apart in 1882. Juliaette died in 1931 and William died in 1909 and both are buried in the Grelton Cemetery.

Jesse and Caroline's children Clarence, born March of 1846 and Cordelia, born March of 1848, died at early ages and are buried in Middlebury, Indiana. Clarence was twenty four and Cordelia was nineteen. Neither had married.

Jesse and Caroline's daughter Ella Mead was born in September of 1851. She married Abijah (Bige) Cornell of Middlebury, Indiana in 1875. They had three children, Roy B. Cornell, b. 1877, Jesse Earl Cornell, b. 1882 and Warren Cornell, b. 1887. Bige operated a grocery delivery business in Goshen, Indiana and had a farm just north of town. He traveled using a horse and wagon, buying farmer's products and reselling them and other items to those who wanted the things he carried. Abijah died May 31, 1907 and Ella went on to live with her step daughter until she died January 6, 1930. Both are buried in the Oakridge Cemetery in Goshen.

Jesse and Caroline's son Elmer Mead (twin) was born July 19th 1858 and married Emma Jane Bellows in Union, Michigan in 1880. After living near Bristol, Indiana, in 1880 they homesteaded a farm and moved to Kimball, Nebraska. Life was a struggle for them as the farm did not do very well as the land conditions were not conducive to productive farming. This family moved back to Indiana and Michigan in the 1890's then went back to Nebraska again where Elmer again tried his hand at raising cattle and farming. They had five sons, L. B. Emery Mead, b. July 19th 1884, Alton (Alvin) Osborne Mead, b. Feb. 5th 1886, Harry Townsend Mead, b. Nov. 2nd 1892, Frank Carlton Mead, b. March 25th 1895, and Burr George Mead, b. May 12th 1899. Sometime prior to 1920 Elmer and Jennie divorced. Jennie remained in Kimball, Nebraska. She died there on June 24, 1929 after living sixteen years as an invalid and was buried in the Kimball Cemetery. Their sons Alton, Frank and George Burr Mead eventually moved to California. Elmer came to California and lived with his son Frank Carlton Mead at 1452 Rowland Avenue in El Monte, California. Elmer died in El Monte November 15th 1942 and is buried in the Savannah Cemetery in Rosemead, California as is Frank and his wife Tamson (Parkins) Mead. Alton and his wife Daisy (Chambers) lived in Ramona, San Diego County. Alton died May 21, 1971 and Daisy died July 4, 1971. Both are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Ramona, California. LB Emery Mead who never married remained in Kimball taking care of his invalid mother and farming the family farm his father homesteaded in 1880. He died September 29, 1971 at the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth, Nebraska and was buried in the Kimball Cemetery. Harry Townsend Mead lived with his wife Caroline in North Platte Nebraska. He and Caroline worked first for the telephone company and then he worked for the railroad until his retirement. Harry died April 10th 1991. He and Caroline are buried in the North Platte Cemetery. George Burr Mead lived near Washington D. C. while working at the Pentagon. Then he lived in San Jose during his retirement years. After his wife died, George went to live in Sacramento, California with his daughter. He married his first wife Grace Violet Glenn of Oklahoma in 1923. She died in 1928. He married his second wife Frances (Druand) Pierce in 1938 in Washington D.C. From his first marriage, George had a daughter Ellen J. (Mead) Anderson who at this printing lives in Sacramento, California. George Burr Mead, grandma Pingrey's first cousin, died October 10th 1986, in Sacramento, California and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose, California.

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Our great grandfather, **Elwood W. Mead**, (twin) was born in the log cabin home in Shunk, Henry County, Ohio, on July 19th 1858. He was a twin of Elmer J. Mead. Twins are a common event in the Mead family, as our Mead ancestry is marked with many sets of twins.

Elwood Mead attended Valparaiso University, studying medicine where he met our great grandmother **Alma Adena Bach**. She taught school in Kansas before they were married. Elwood remained living with his parents, helping them with the farm in their later years and working for the railroad, until he was 33 years old, when he left the farm and was married in 1891. He moved to Goshen from Middlebury, where Elwood and Alma bought a lot in town and built their home. It was at this time Jesse and Caroline asked for their grandson Raymond Mead, to come and live with them to help with the chores of the farm until they could dispose of the farm.

Work was hard to get as a depression hit in the early 1890's. This is when Elwood bid for the mail contract for Goshen. It did not pay much, but had a steady income and some side benefits. As part of this

job, Elwood was required to meet all the trains, at all hours of the day and night to collect and send the mail. In time Elwood and Alma bought a bakery delivery business, which added to their income. Even in the hard times of the 1890's, they had their new home and improvements paid off in a few years. They also supplemented their living with a truck farm, which gave them many of the food items necessary for living. In 1901, after considerable debate, Elwood bought the farm from his mother in law, Emily (Grandlienard) (Bach) Fisher. She was having trouble with renters and needed someone she could trust to take over the farm. This did not lead to a very good situation for them, as after a bad crop year, Elwood was unable to pay the mortgage in full. Emily had Elwood evicted from the farm, leading to a lot of bad feelings in the family. I couldn't help but feel that Elwood's situation had to be better than the renters that were stealing from her and not coming through with their part of the bargain. It gives a little insight into our great, great grandmother Emily's character.

During this time Elwood was studying medicine under the direction of their family doctor. It was a subject he was very much interested in. Other than formulating his own medical formulas, he never followed through with the formal education he started at Valparaiso, University.

In 1910, Elwood sold their interest in the farm and everything they did not need and moved his family west, for no reason other than he was dissatisfied with things in Goshen and wanted to get far away from a meddlesome mother in law. They left Goshen on April 14th and came by train, which brought them through Kingman, Kansas, and Las Animas Colorado. They visited Alma's sister Mary Moore in Kingman and brother Frank Beck in Las Animas spending a few days at each place. Upon leaving Kingman their train brought them through Pueblo, Colorado, then to Salt lake City, Utah and across the Great Salt Lake Desert. Soon they were in the Sierra Mountains going through the snow sheds where there was still snow in the high mountains. They had no exact destination in mind when they left Indiana, but thought they might look into the Redding, California area to live. Their trip brought them through Auburn and on to Sacramento, California, where they transferred trains, and then headed north. They spent the night in a boarding house in Marysville, California. It is there they decided on Chico, California, taking the recommendation from the hotel clerk, who told them both Marysville and Redding had to high a crime rate. The clerk told them Chico was a much nicer place to live, and raise a family.

They arrived in Chico on April 23, 1910, and stayed in a boarding house on West 5th Street until they could find a place to live. They lived in three places before buying the 10 acre farm in Pleasant Valley, an area on the northeast edge of Chico. Grandma mentioned one of the places they stayed, bordered on being a dump, and was very embarrassing for her when it came to having friends visit. That fall, they moved into the barn they built, on their farm until the house could be finished.

Elwood was a successful farmer; with just ten acres, he made a living raising almonds, peaches, plums, misc. vegetables, and wheat. He and the family supplemented their income by working occasionally on the Bidwell ranch.

After finding out the area had no school, Elwood launched an effort to get a school established. He led the effort, mostly his, by going from door to door, and working with civic leaders, which eventually resulted in getting the school issue on the ballot. The vote for the school passed by a slim margin, and after finding a suitable location, the Pleasant Valley School was built. It is now known as the John McManus School, named for a realtor and civic leader in Chico.

Their home burned down on Sunday morning, November, 8, 1931. It was a total loss, including a 200 year old violin and some of great grandma Mead's manuscripts. They barely made it out with a few items. In talking with their granddaughter, Virginia Mead, she described the refrigerator in that house as typical for the time, as a set of wood shelves encased in tin, with a burlap cover, on which water dripped, keeping the contents cool. They built another home on the farm, but that was short lived, for just two years later Elwood passed away. After Elwood passed away Alma lived at 1490, and at 1540, Palm Avenue, in Chico.

Remember her stale cookies? Her ice box with the coils on top? Her food storage bins? Her living room with her ever present typewriter, and piles of reading materials? At times I wish I could have some of those days back to ask the questions I have on my mind today, and better appreciate the times we had. In a child's mind, I guess, we are not given the wisdom that comes with age. Her cookies were not stale from age, but from the ingredients she stored to long in those bins. I have many fond memories of great

grandma Mead. Our family visited her often and even shared a vacation to Banff, Canada with her. On that trip, in 1955, we had a box of apricots with us and at the Canadian border we were not allowed to take them into Canada. Being the frugal grandma that she was, not wanting to waste food, we had to sit at the wayside until we consumed all of the apricots. You can imagine what that led to. On that trip, due to her age, she stayed in a boarding house in Banff, while the rest of us stayed at a campground nearby. We met in the morning to go sightseeing each day. Great grandma Mead died on March 21, 1958, and is buried in the Chico Memorial Cemetery, with Elwood.

Most of you know great grandma Mead was a story writer. She had many unpublished stories that are in manuscript form. Some of the short stories Aunt Marguerite and I have copied, and sent out to family members. It is my intention during my retirement to bring one of her novels to print. If time and money permit, others will follow. Great grandma Mead had a novel accepted for publication just before she passed away, and a lot of work needs to be done in order to put it into a format a publisher can work with. I have read the novel and really enjoyed the experience. Knowing her fictional stories were about family and friends in Indiana, made the stories that much more interesting.

Elwood and Alma's son, Robert Beck Mead married Agnes Forward in Battle Creek, Tehama County, California, on February, 28 1922. Robert was named for his uncle Robert Mead, a 2nd Lt. In the Civil War. Robert served his country during World War I, and was stationed at Corregador, Philippines, and after the war he was a drill instructor at the Army Presidio, in San Francisco. Later in life Robert was a postman in Chico. Agnes comes from a long ancestry of notable people in the history of our country. No less than two Coast Guard Cutters have been named for her family. After their retirement, Robert and Agnes moved to Susanville, Lassen County, California, to be closer to their daughter, Virginia. Robert Mead died there in 1977, and Agnes died in 1976, and both are buried in the Diamond Crest Cemetery, in Susanville.

Elwood and Alma's son **Frederick John Mead** married **Eileen Walker** of Elko, Nevada. They were married in Marin County, California in 1923. Eileen's father was a school teacher and the Sheriff of White Pine County, Nevada. I haven't been able to pin down Eileen's parents very well; I believe they lived in Oroville, California before and after living in Nevada. Though I do not know for sure, I believe Fred was named for his grandfather's brother, Frederick Bach, and his middle name came from his grandfather, John Bach.

Fred and Eileen had two children; **Marjorie Mead**, who was born in 1924 and **Jack L. Mead**, born in 1926, both in Chico, Ca. Jack lived and worked in the oil industry in Bakersfield before he and his wife moved to Santa Maria, California where he died in 2001. Marjorie and her husband lived in Hollywood, California.

Fred and Eileen lived in Chico for the most part, but moved their family to Bakersfield, California in about 1944.

When Fred was just 17 years old, he enlisted in the Army, and was sent to the World War I battlefields in France. He suffered from the effects of gas agents from the war his whole life, and died very young at the age of 45, where he and his family lived in Bakersfield, Kern County, California. Fred was a carpenter and had a business of repairing furniture. Eileen died in Los Angeles, California, in 1982. Both are buried in the Greenlawn Cemetery, in Bakersfield, California.

GRANDPARENTS

Elwood and Alma's daughter, **Marjorie Henrietta Mead**, our grandmother was born in Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana, August 10, 1893. She was 16 years old when the family moved to California. While in high school in Goshen, students were given training options, and grandma chose a business oriented education. Having this education landed her a position with Annie Ellicot (Kennedy) Bidwell, as her personal assistant and private secretary. She spent about two and a half years living at the Bidwell Mansion and working for Annie Bidwell, sorting through and putting General Bidwell's papers in order, along with writing letters, and running personal errands for her.

Grandma met **Albert Dyer Pingrey**, at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chico. Grandpa was a member there and active in the Epworth League and the church choir. In 1911 when grandma joined the church, she became active in the Epworth League and the choir, and this is how they met. In 1914 grandma and grandpa were married, which ended her employment with Annie Bidwell. After their marriage, grandma and grandpa lived on South Main Street in Chico. Grandpa worked as a clerk in several grocery stores. In 1921 grandpa started working for the Sacramento Northern Electric Railroad, as a brakeman, and at times as a conductor. He worked the passenger service between Chico, Sacramento, and San Francisco, and ran street cars in Marysville, Oroville, and Chico. The family lived on East Second Avenue before they bought their home at 175 East First Avenue. Both grandma and grandpa were very active in civic as well as church activities. Grandpa Pingrey died in 1973 and grandma died in 1987. Both are buried in the Glen Oaks Cemetery, in Chico.

For those of you who do not know who the Bidwell's are, General John Bidwell and his wife Annie were early pioneers of Chico. John Bidwell brought one of the first wagon trains west in 1841, and was John Sutter's business manager. After finding gold at Bidwell's Bar in 1849, John Bidwell purchased the 22,000 acre land grant known as the Rancho Del Arroyo Chico, and then laid out the town of Chico, California. He was also appointed as Brigadier General of the California Militia, forerunner of the California National Guard. He served in the California State Senate and was one of California's representatives to Congress in Washington D. C. The Bidwell Mansion, located on the Esplanade, is a State Historical Landmark, is part of the State Park System, and is open to the public. Available for purchase at the Mansion are recordings made by grandma about life and times in the Bidwell Mansion when she lived there.

