

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

Issue #4

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The C♦DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

The Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society's
**Letters, Email,
Bouquets & Brickbats**

— or —

**Bits of Chatter, Trivia, and Notices
— all strung together.**

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**George Emerson Crawford
&
His Eastern Washington and Southern Minnesota Families.**

— Wally Lee Parker —

... getting to Northeastern Washington ...

On February 9th I received the following email from Society member Mike Reiter. “At tomorrow’s meeting I’m going to broach the subject of hanging pictures of some of Deer Park’s early settlers — movers and shakers — in our Deer Park building. I found a copy of the Congregational Church’s photo of William Short on our website, but nothing similar of George Crawford. Have you ever seen a picture of Crawford?”

My immediate answer was no. But then I decided to do some digging. A quick check of Google’s online “Advanced Book Search” came up dry. Next I tried *newspapers.com*. Since Minnesota was George’s place of birth as well as death, I concentrated the search there — but couldn’t find even a hint of an image, and close to nothing in the way of text as well.

Mike responded, “I didn’t realize he only lived in the Deer Park area for about three years.” That left both of us wondering what George might have accomplished in such a short time to deserve having one of the town’s most important streets as his namesake. And with that question a reevaluation of our assumptions regarding George Emerson Crawford began.

It’s reassuring to know that even I occa-

sionally have enough luck to stumble onto something exactly when needed. As a result, we now have part of George E. Crawford’s backstory, this extracted from a weighty 1910 tome titled “History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota, Volume II.” The book was “Compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge” from research provided by a slew of authors. Since this volume (see link to the online version below) is currently 18 years beyond any possible claim of copyright, we can lift quotes as freely as desired.

The article of interest begins by stating that “George E. Crawford, of Morristown, comes of (that being the word the writer chose) an old New England family of Crawfords. He was born in Morristown, Minn., April 30, 1864, and is one of six survivors of a family of nine children born to William S. and Matilda (Coen) Crawford, who were married December 9, 1860.” ... “James Crawford, the paternal grandfather of this family, was born in Beaver County Pennsylvania ... and there grew to manhood and married and worked at the blacksmith’s trade after the primitive ways of pioneer times.”

The book states that in 1858, James’s son, that being George’s father — the above noted William S. Crawford, then 18 years of age — accompanied his father in moving to Rice County, Minnesota. They built a blacksmith’s shop in

Further Reading: George Emmerson Crawford.

“History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota — Volume II.”

Compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge.

(Rice County Minnesota Genealogy and History (genealogytrails.com))

Morristown and began practicing that trade. The article continues, “*As his (William’s) sons grew up, they learned the blacksmith’s trade and were taken into the business, which was carried on under the name of W. S. Crawford & Sons.*” Something to note, both George’s parents “*were honored members of the Congregational Church of Morristown, in which (William) served twenty-three years as deacon.*”

Specific to George, the article continues, “*Our subject attended the district schools in his boyhood, but as soon as he was strong enough he began working his father’s shop, even when he had to stand on a block to reach up to his work, and there learned the blacksmith’s trade.*”

Now comes a both critical and problematic part of the story as relates to George. “*He went to Easton, Wash., in his younger days and worked in a sawmill and also at this trade.*”

It’s likely most Washingtonians are unfamiliar with Easton. It’s an unincorporated community of something less than 400 people located on the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains. It’s about 20 miles southeast of the point at which Interstate 90 crosses Snoqualmie Pass. Both the climbing Interstate and descending Yakima River pass just to the north of Easton.

The village of Easton was platted by the Northern Pacific Railroad in August of 1902. But years earlier — in 1886 — a depot the railroad named Easton was established at that place to support the railroad’s breaching by tunnel of Stampede Pass — said pass a short distance west by northwest of Easton. After that, the depot was to remain as a necessary Cascade Mountains waystation.

As explained in the May 5th, 1887 edition of the *Spokane Falls Review*, “*There is a station at the foot of the mountain incline on the eastside which is called Easton. The station at the foot of the incline on the westside is called Weston.*”

As for the distance between Easton and the eastern mouth of the then under construction tunnel, the May 24th, 1887 *Tacoma Daily Ledger* reported that the President of the United States had appointed a group of nationally recognized businessmen to inspect the project. The newspaper indicated that the distance “*from Easton*” to “*the east portal of the tunnel*” was six miles.

The tunnel wouldn’t be completed for regular traffic until May of 1888. In the meantime, a set of switchbacks — short sections of track laid in a zigzag pattern that allowed specialized locomotives pulling a limited number of cars to slowly traverse up and down steep inclines by pulling forward on one set of tracks, then backing up on the next — were temporarily

laid so materials and a limited number of passengers could cross the pass by rail. The stations at each end of the zigzag assisted in transferring goods and passengers from the grade-climbing trains to the mainline traffic.

The point here is that the name Easton was associated with a project that would link the Northern Pacific’s mainline to the Pacific Ocean. That kind of thing was especially newsworthy in an era when traveling any significant distance overland with a degree of rapidity and comfort would require passage on a train. As a result, many well-traveled people in the northern tier of states were likely familiar with the name of the Northern Pacific’s Easton Depot — especially considering that the extra length of the tunnel — just over 9,850 unventilated feet — assured that most passengers in the era of coal-fired steam engines would be subjected to a memorable environment of often suffocating smoke during the train’s transit through the tunnel.

My first inclination (well, maybe my second or third) whenever encountering an unfamiliar placename, especially someplace within our area of historic interest, is to look it up. That’s what happened when the “*History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota,*” reported that “*He (George Crawford) went to Easton, Wash., in his younger days and worked in a sawmill and also at this trade.*” The indicated trade being blacksmith.

Since research revealed there was — and still is — a village on the east slope of Washington State’s Cascade Mountains called Easton, the matter seemed settled.

As it turns out, I wasn’t the only one wondering whether the compilers of the “*History of Rice and Steele Counties*” could have either heard or somehow transposed the word in question incorrectly. What if what they took to be “*Easton*” was the word “*Eastern*” — in which case what the “*History*” should have printed was that “*He,*” meaning George Crawford, “*went to Eastern Wash., in his younger days ..?*” Society member Carolyn Knapp-Nelson, when helping gather background for this article, had the same thought — but when comparing notes, it was very apparent that she had the thought first.

A finer point can be put on things by quoting from an article our society’s then vice-president, Pete Coffin, wrote for the October 2012 edition of the group’s former newsletter, the *Mortarboard*. That article was sketching the life of what was likely Deer Park’s most significant founding father.

As Pete outlined it, “*William Hopkins Short Sr. moved to Spokane in early 1889 at the*

urging of his mother's brother, Brayton Hopkins, who had settled on Peone Prairie northwest of Spokane Falls. The rest of his family would move to the Spokane area a few months later. The family now included his mother, his sister Gertrude, Gertrude's husband George Crawford and their daughter Ruth. William's sister Emma remained in Minnesota to finish her schooling."

Pete noted in the preamble to his *Mortarboard* article, that he had drawn a good portion of the facts presented from a (then assumed to be unpublished) manuscript written by William Hopkins Short's son, William Hodges Short — said manuscript held in the archives of Deer Park's Congregational Church. That source considered, the timelines and locations Pete stipulates are accepted as valid.

Their Minnesota marriage license indicates that George Emerson Crawford and Gertrude Pickett Short were wed in Morristown, Minnesota on the 29th of August, 1888. Their first child, Ruth Gertrude Crawford, was born in Morristown on the 31st of July, 1889. Said birthdate would suggest that George's budding family would have arrived in Washington no earlier than the later part of 1889's summer.

As for the use in "*History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota*" of the phrase "younger days" to suggest George's age when arriving in Washington, in the late spring of 1889 George would have turned 25 — that, compared to the ages of most of the members of our historical society, being very young.

And lastly, we have evidence that after arriving in the Washington Territory — just a few months before the territory became a state — he did work in a sawmill, just as recorded in the "*History of Rice and Steele Counties.*"

... living here ...

Under the headline "*On the Spokane Northern: Fine Timber Lands Still Remain Awaiting Settlers,*" the following appeared in the April 29th, 1890 edition of the *Spokane Daily*

Chronicle.

"The Messrs. Cummings Brothers, land agents, have just returned from an extended trip along the Spokane (Falls) & Northern Railroad, where they have been inspecting the public lands and looking up timber claims. They are very enthusiastic over that part of the country and think that it has a bright future before it. Nearly all the trains which arrive from Spokane are filled with settlers looking for farms and ranches. All along the line of the road are handsome farms, and the whole country has an appearance of prosperity and industry. Deer Park, a small town a few miles from here, is rapidly growing and all the land in that neighborhood is being taken up rapidly.

"The timber claims about thirty miles this side of Colville, are some of the finest in the state and are very near the railroad. Some of them are only a mile and a half from the road. There is lots of stock to be seen roaming over the country, and the ranchers report that very few of the cattle died from exposure and starvation last winter. They are now in excellent condition and good feed is plenty.

"The timber on the government lands will undoubtedly be worth at least \$2.50 per thousand (board-feet) inside of two years."

In his October, 2012, *Mortarboard* article — using William Hodges Short's manuscript as a guide — Pete Coffin wrote, "*William Short Sr. got a job with the Washington Mill Company in Spokane Falls and rapidly gained the confidence of the partners owning the operation. The company needed more lumber than its Spokane Falls mill could provide. Spokane was rebuilding after the (August 4th, 1889) fire. And ties were needed for building the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad. In addition, the railroad wanted to sell the timber from its land along the right-of-way. These needs resulted in a three-way deal whereby William H. Short Sr. and George Crawford organized a sawmill operation to buy timber from the railroad, saw it into lumber to supply the Washington Mill Company with*

Further Reading — William Hopkins Short.

"The Short Boarding House: A Deer Park Landmark." — by Judy (Haden) Sherry.
Mortarboard #29, September, 2010, page 361 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 8.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_29_downsinglesizepageweb.pdf

"William Hopkins Short: Founding Father of Deer Park." — by Peter Coffin.
Mortarboard #54, October, 2012, page 657 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 14.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_54_downsinglesizepageweb1.pdf

"W. H. Short's 1911 Sawmill." — by Peter Coffin.
Mortarboard #146, June, 2020, page 2081 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 43.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_146_web_.pdf

TAKE ROONE STREET CAR.

WASHINGTON MILL COMPANY,

Wholesale and Retail Lumber Dealers.

Manufacturers of Sash, Doors, Store Fronts, Moldings, Frames, Turned Posts, Balusters, Brackets, Etc. Office and Mill: Corner Walnut street and S., L. S. & E. R. R. Telephone 658.

Oldest currently known ad for Spokane's Washington Mill Company, this from the October 15th, 1891 edition of The Spokane Review.

the lumber that they needed. In the summer of 1889, the company Short & Crawford was formed, and they rented a portable sawmill to set up along a railroad siding named Deer Park.”

Pasted above is the oldest currently known ad for Spokane's Washington Mill Company, that ad published by *The Spokane Review* in mid-October of 1891. We don't know how long before that ad was published that said company set up shop. However, on the 8th day of February, 1892, these three lines appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle*. “*The Washington Mill Company was incorporated this morning; the articles being filed at the auditor's office.*”

The very next day *The Spokane Review* carried the following article under the headline, “*A Big Incorporation: Two Well Known Firms of This Section Combine: Washington Mill Company and Short & Crawford File Articles of Incorporation.*”

The body of the article explained, “*Articles were filed with the county auditor yesterday incorporating the Washington Mill Company, formerly a partnership concern, and the firm of Short and Crawford of Deer Park.*”

“*The corporation will be known as the Washington Mill Company, a name which is well known in business circles in this city and throughout the Pacific Northwest. The concern as now organized is the only one in this branch of business in Spokane who operate their own saw and planing mills, turning out lumber from the stump to the finished product, and which includes the manufacturing of lumber, sash, doors, moldings, interior finish, etc.*”

“*The officers of the new company consist of W. H. Short, general superintendent, J. C. Barline, manager and treasurer, and W. H. Acuff, secretary. The capital stock is \$25,000, a portion of which will be applied to increasing the capacity of the sawmill located at Deer Park, on the Spokane & Northern Railroad. One of the improvements which they propose to add as soon as possible is a modern dry kiln to insure thor-*

oughly seasoned stock.”

The article went on to note that the “*lumberyard and factory*” were then located in Spokane at the “*corner of Sharp and Walnut Streets, on the northside.*”

Though not mentioned in the above release, Pete Coffin's *Mortarboard* article notes that at this point, “*George Crawford was made manager of the Deer Park mill.*”

There's little doubt that Mr. Crawford intended to permanently settle in Deer Park as of that summer, such evidenced by the following from the August 14th, 1892 *Spokane Review*.

“*One homestead filing was entered at the land office yesterday by G. E. Crawford of Deer Park on the southwest quarter of section 2, township 28, range 42.*”

... wife and second child ...

On the 1st of September, 1892, George and Gertrude's second child — Agnes Gertrude Crawford — was born. On the copy of the Washington State Birth Return pictured on page 36, the space for the child's name is blank — that kind of omission not particularly unusual at the time of birth.

This lack of a documented first name seems to have given Agnes a problem some 67 years later. A further search of the Washington State Digital Archives produced an “*Affidavit for Correction of Record*” forwarded from San Francisco, California. Said document stated, “*I hereby swear that the record of birth number 610 for Agnes Gertrude Crawford who was born to George Emerson Crawford and Gertrude Short in the City of Spokane, County of Spokane, on September 1st, 1892 is incorrect or incomplete as follows: The record shows no first name. The true facts are: First name is Agnes. I further swear that I represent the Child as (her) Business Acquaintance, and that I have the consent of all parties concerned in stating these true facts. I further declare that if the corrected cer-*

tificate is questioned, I will assume the responsibility of furnishing proof of the corrected item to the questioning agency.”

Any translation on my part of the requester’s signature — that being scrawled in cursive — would be essentially impossible. What isn’t impossible to read, though again in cursive, is the signatory’s address — “520 Clement St., San Francisco, California.” Said document was dated, May 31st, 1960, then notarized.

On the outside possibility that the address given was associated with a business — a consideration since the requester’s association with Agnes was stated as “Business Acquaintance” — I did a newspaper search of that address for the years immediately before and after 1960. What turned up was a recurring ad that first appeared in the June 23rd, 1961 edition of the *Daily Independent Journal*, that being a newspa-

per out of San Rafael — a moderate size city about 11 miles north of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge.

This string of happenstance is extremely tenuous. We don’t know if this was the same business that was at that address a year earlier. We don’t know if Agnes worked for that company at some point, or if she worked there at all. We don’t know if Agnes was somehow related to the person submitting the “Correction of Record” request.

What we can say is that Agnes would have been 67 years, 8 months, and 30 days old at the date of application. We’ve seen similar types of requests related to applications for Social Security retirement benefits when there’s some question regarding the documentation used as evidence of date and place of birth. That said, the most positive hypothesis to be drawn from all this is that Agnes was alive and hopefully well; that she was living in California; and a business acquaintance was assisting her in applying for her somewhat delayed social security.

Fellow researcher Carolyn Knapp-Nelson later substantiated at least part of the above.

Next comes the fate of Agnes’s mother, Gertrude. Records indicate that she passed away eight days after giving birth to Agnes. The cause, as shown on Gertrude’s “Death Return” (see page 37), was pleuritis. Since the suffix “itis” means inflammation, this suggests an inflammation of the pleura was involved. But that’s all it tells us.

A New Pronouncing Dictionary of Medicine (exact title), published in England in 1892, defines “pleura” as, “The investing serous membrane of the lung, which also lines the inner thoracic wall. It consists of two layers, a parietal or costal pleura and a visceral or pulmonary pleura. The cavity of the pleura is the space between the two layers and contains a serous fluid. A fold of pleura running from the root of the lung to the diaphragm forms the pulmonary ligament.”

A clipping from the June 23rd, 1961, edition of the Daily Independent Journal, San Rafael, California.

BOOKKEEPERS to small business since 1949. We pick up and deliver monthly. Reasonable fees.
Business Control Service
 520 Clement St., San Francisco
 SK 2-4922

**Birth Record,
 Agnes Gertrude Crawford.**
From the Washington State Digital Archive.

BIRTH RETURN. 610

- Name of Child (a)
- Date of Birth Sept. 1st 1892
- Place of Birth 411 Spokane St. S.
- Sex Female
- Color (b) White
- Alive or Still-born
- Legitimate or Illegitimate
- Mother's Maiden Name Gertrude Short
- Mother's Age Last Birthday 23
- Color (b) white
- No. of Child Born to this Mother 2nd
- Mother's Birthplace (c) Wash.
- Father's Name Geo. E. Crawford
- Father's Age Last Birthday 28
- Color (b) White
- Father's Occupation Lumbering
- Father's Birthplace Miss.

State of Washington, County of Spokane, ss.

I hereby certify that the above is a true return of the said Birth, and of the other facts there recorded.

Dated at Spokane, Washington, this 1st day of Sept 1892
E. J. Hunsley M. D. (d)

NOTE.—(a) Give surname and Christian name, if child has been named.
 (b) State color distinctly, so race may be known, as White, Black, Mulatto, Indian, Chinese, Mixed White and Indian, etc.
 (c) Give State or foreign country, so nationality is plainly shown.
 (d) If returned by any other than Physician, sign as: Accoucheur, Parent, Coroner, etc.

(OVER.)

Regarding several of the above words, I'm assuming that "investing," as used here, means a membrane that largely envelopes. And, as defined by the "New Pronouncing Dictionary," the word "serous" means "pertaining to serum" and serum is defined as "a yellowish, thin fluid constituent of blood."

As best I can interpret, the above definitions suggest that the lungs are an expandable/contractable set of organs encased within a semi-flexible housing — think ribs. The expansion and contraction of the lungs can cause problems if the act of breathing induces friction between the various chest-bound structures and organs as they slide by each other. This friction is countered by the above noted serous fluid being secreted into the space between the inner and outer layers of the above noted serous membrane. The function of the fluid is to act as a lubricant.

**Death Record,
Gertrude Pickett Crawford.**
From the Washington State Digital Archive.

427

DEATH RETURN.

Deasant Prairie

1. Name of Deceased Gertrude P. Crawford
2. Date of Death Sept. 9th
3. Age Last Birthday 24 yrs.
4. Sex Female
5. Color (a) White
6. Married, Single, Widow or Widower Married
7. Place of Death 411 Spokane St.
8. Disease or Cause of Death Pleuritis
9. Birthplace (b) N. Y. State
10. Residence Deer Park
11. Occupation _____
12. Father's Name Wm. R. Spat
13. Father's Birthplace (b) N. Y. State
14. Mother's Maiden Name Sarah Hopkins
15. Mother's Birthplace (b) N. Y. State

State of Washington, County of Spokane, ss.

I hereby certify that the above is a true return of the Death, and of the other facts there recorded.

Dated at Spokane, Washington, this 10th day of Sept. 1892

E. D. Chestnut M. D. (c)

NOTE.—(a) State color distinctly, so race may be known, as White, Black, Mulatto, Indian, Chinese, Mixed White and Indian, etc.
(b) Give State or foreign country, so nationality is plainly indicated.
(c) If returned by any other than Physician, sign as: Accoucheur, Parent, Coroner, etc.

SMITH & CO.

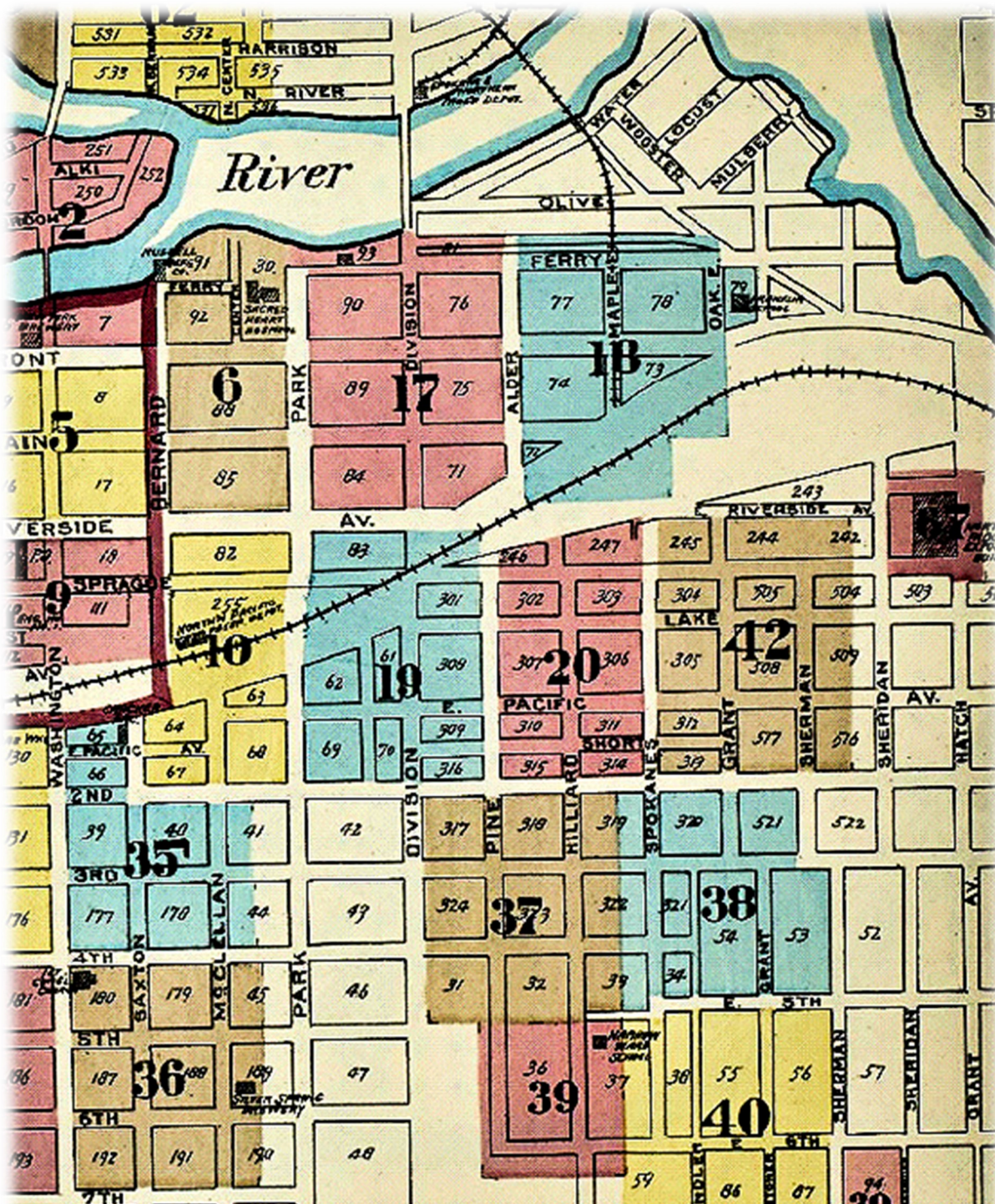
This 1892 *Dictionary of Medicine* first defines pleuritis as "pleurisy" — the former term appearing to be seldom used anymore. It goes on to state that pleuritis is an "inflammation of the pleura, which occurs either as an acute or chronic process" — meaning said process can be either temporary or long-term. It also details a few diagnostic procedures intended to reduce the number of medical possibilities as to the origin of the inflammation.

When shuffling through the "Death Returns" in Washington State's Digital Archives, the prevalence of maternal deaths postpartum is disheartening. In that era pregnancy was an obvious health hazard. And something more understandable than a single word such as "pleuritis" is needed to explain the sense of loss being suffered by a family. Of course, the act of an invasive postmortem without sufficient cause may have been considered too disrespectful of the deceased. And — considering the diagnostic technologies available in the newly minted State of Washington during the waning years of the nineteenth century — quite possibly not even that revealing. Considering such, it seems what we're left with is a "cause of death" that strikes one as more of a symptom than a diagnosis — and there may be a reason for that.

Gertrude's "Death Return" indicates a residence at or near "Deer Park," with the "Place of Death" being "411 Spokane St." That Spokane address now appears to be within the Spokane Veterans Home's parking lot just to the south of what was once "Spokane St.'s" intersection with the 300 hundred block of East 5th Avenue. Just a block or two further south of that once existent intersection is the current site of Saint Luke's Rehabilitation Center.

The oldest trace found so far regarding that address was in a newspaper dated May 12th, 1898. A list of new subscribers to the *Spokane Chronicle* — with last names first — included "Matthew. A. R. 411 Spokane St." On the 3rd of July, 1898, the *Spokesman-Review's* birth records included, "Spokane, June 29. — To Mr. and Mrs. Adolph R. Mathews, 411 Spokane Street, a daughter." On February 21st, 1899, the *Chronicle* notes that "Ethelwyne Matthew, aged five years and eight months, daughter of A. Matthew, died at the family residence, 411 Spokane Street, last night of spinal meningitis. The funeral will take place from the family residence at 10 o'clock tomorrow forenoon. Interment at Greenwood."

I thought it odd that none of these early newspapers state on which side of Riverside Avenue — north or south — the above address was.



*A Map Showing Spokane Street 1891
With a Link to the Source Material:*

http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4284sm.g4284sm_g093311891

The above image is from the Library of Congress's public domain map collection. Our specific area of interest is "Spokane Street." It runs north and south three blocks east of Division Street. On the north it appears to end as a through street when intersecting with East Sprague, and to the south after intersecting with 6th Avenue. As far as known it does not reappear anywhere else in the city.

For enhanced details of individual segments, visit the webpage.

In pursuit I viewed Spokane's 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps as held in the Library of Congress. Said maps revealed that Spokane Street ended its northward run at Sprague Avenue (see page 38) — meaning there wasn't a northside version of this street, although in later mentions of the address the "south" or "S" was often added.

What all the above tends to suggest is that, despite Gertrude Crawford's home being listed as in or around Deer Park, she passed away in what may have well been a single-family home in Spokane — the same residence her daughter, Agnes, was born in eight days earlier. It wasn't unusual for doctors of the era to have their offices in their own homes. On the other hand, the Crawfords likely had any number of relatives and friends in Spokane. So, neither of those possibilities can currently be ruled out.

As for the building existent at that address — with the caveat that this is once again highly speculative — under the heading "House for Rent," the September 27th, 1939 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* carries the following advertisement, "4-Room Semi-Modern. \$12.50: Clean. Garage. S411 Spokane Street." And again, the March 14th, 1963 issue of the *Spokesman-Review*, under the boldfaced heading "Buildings to be Moved or Razed," this appeared, "1-Story House and Garage. 411 South Spokane Street."

All that said, it's quite likely that the medical care available in Spokane was better than that available in Deer Park at that time. Also, according to the Sanborn Maps, the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway's passenger terminal was located on the north bank of the Spokane River, just west of the Division Street Bridge as it then existed. That would suggest that the trip from Deer Park to Spokane by rail, and then to the indicated address by buggy, would have been reasonably comfortable by the standards of travel common in most 1892 frontier communities.

It should be noted that the physician's signature on Gertrude's "Death Return" — to my eyes being another illegible example of cursive — is doubtless the same handwriting as on Agnes's "Birth Return." And this is where Gertrude's own words would guide the way to Spokane's Doctor E. D. Olmstead.

The previously mentioned unpublished manuscript within the Deer Park Congressional Church's archive carries the cursive-drawn title "From Whence We Came." It was completed in 1971 by William Hopkins Short's son, William Hodges Short. Pete Coffin had scanned a copy for our society's archive before his passing. Among the documents used to trace out the first

several years of the Crawford family's history in Deer Park where a set of letters written by Gertrude (Short) Crawford to her sister, Emma Short — "later Mrs. Frank A. Reed."

A snippet from Gertude's letter of January 10th, 1891, reported that, "Ruth (Gertude's first daughter) was taken sick Monday and by night she was burning up. The next day she was worse. I wrote the symptoms to Dr. Olmstead and paid the brakeman to deliver the message and bring Medicine. I am thankful to the Heavenly Father for her delivery from such an illness."

Regarding Doctor Olmstead, the January 6th, 1888 issue of the *Spokane Falls Review* stated, "Doctor E. D. Olmstead, recently arrived from Plymouth, Illinois, comes here highly recommended." As for the tenor of the recommendation, the *Review* continued, "A prominent citizen of Plymouth writes thus: 'We are greatly grieved to have Dr Olmstead and wife leave us. He had a very large practice here and has been very successful.'"

Reportedly Doctor Olmstead had a home built in Spokane's Browne's Addition in 1899. But we've yet to discover the doctor's residential address prior to that move — essentially whether in fact that address was on South Spokane Street. We do know the doctor was elected mayor of Spokane in 1897 and held that position until 1901, at which point he decided not to run again. It appears he was appointed a trustee of the Cheney Normal School in 1896, and there are suggestions he eventually achieved a high administrative position at that school. He was also elected President of Spokane's Chamber of Commerce at some point prior to his 1918 death. As to whether he continued practicing as a physician during these diverse years is unclear.

DRS. OLMSTEAD & GUNDLACH,
Homeopathic Physicians.
Office 221 W. Sprague st., over Bertrand's.
Office hours: 8-9 A. M., 2-4 P. M.

*Clipped from the January 28th, 1888
edition of the Spokane Falls Review.*

Doctor Olmstead's medical specialty, as seen in the professional ad clipped above, was "Homeopathic Physician." Volume II of 1908's *The Standard Family Physician: A Practical International Encyclopedia of Medicine and Hygiene Especially Prepared for the Household,*

indicates that “*Homeopathy is the art of selecting and administering medicines in accordance with the law or rule of similars. A remedy is homeopathic to a given disease condition when it has produced in the healthy individual symptoms similar to those which characterize the condition.*”

1898’s *An Illustrated Dictionary of Medicine, Biology, and Allied Sciences* defines the word “*Homeopathy*” as “*A system of treatment of disease by the use of agents that, administered in health, would produce symptoms similar to those morbid conditions for the relief of which the agent or medicine is given. The hypothesis expressed by the adage, similia similibus curantur.*” Google translates the above Latin phrase as “*Like are taken care of by like.*”

The above agents administered to emulate symptoms like those observed in the patient are normally derived from plants. For example, the 1893 volume of *Homeopathic Principles and Practice of Medicine* — that by W. H. Dickinson, M. D. — in a chapter discussing “*Acute Pleuritis,*” finds the doctor intoning that “*Aconite is indicated in the beginning of the disease. The symptoms indicating its use are chill, followed by dry heat, lancinating pain though the chest, short dry cough, short superficial breathing. These symptoms correspond to those present in the first stage of pleuritis.*”

Another 1893 volume, this titled *A Dictionary of Medical Science*, when defining the word “*Aconite,*” tells us to see “*Aconitum,*” of which it says, “*Various species of Aconitum have been used in medicine in fevers, throat affections, inflammation of the lungs and bronchial tubes, etc. They are all poisonous in different degrees.*”

Wolfsbane and Monkshood are the common names of “*Aconitum napellus,*” that apparently the specific plant from which the above noted medicinal aconite is extracted.

Dickenson’s *Homeopathic Principles and Practice of Medicine* goes on to say, “*Should Aconite fail to speedily relieve, or if you aren’t called to the case before exudation (fluid oozing) has commenced, Bryonia is the remedy. This is the main remedy, and, in a large majority of cases is sufficient to effect a prompt cure. Its use is indicated as follows: respiration impeded, quick and without motion of the ribs, cough dry, tearing stitches in chest, worse during motion and on deep inspiration.*”

Once again referencing the above noted *A Dictionary of Medical Science*, we find that Bryonine is a “*Very bitter glucoside from (the plants) Bryonia alba and Bryonia dioica. Inter-*

nally used in pleurisy, pleuropneumonia, and acute rheumatism.” These plants are also poisonous and can be fatally so.

If Doctor Olmstead followed the homeopathic pharmacology, highly diluted tinctures derived from the above plants given orally on a prescribed schedule would likely have been the preferred means of treatment. Though poisonous, this tincture would have had been so diluted it would have had little to no effect on the body. It appears the premise for this type of treatment was that instilling substances that created symptoms similar to the affliction being endured would cause the patient’s body to react against the actual cause of the affliction — essentially inducing the body to heal itself. As best I can manage, that was the theory.

Of Gertrude’s death, William Hodges Short records this in his 1971 manuscript, *From Whence We Came*, “*Totally unexpected tragedy struck the Short clan and the Deer Park community on September 8, 1892. Gertrude Crawford died on this date — within a week after the birth of Agnes, a second daughter.*”

William noted that the community referred to Gertrude as “*Gertie.*” Before marriage she attended Minnesota’s Carleton College — founded in 1866 and to this day graduating students. Gertie was well educated and active in establishing the village of Deer Park. William added that she “*passed away two months to the day*” before her twenty-fourth birthday.

Gertrude Pickett Crawford was laid to rest at the Orchard Prairie Cemetery, some 16½ miles south by southeast of Deer Park.

William records, “*Just a few months after Gertie passed away, George Crawford was called to Minnesota to care for his ailing father who had suffered a stroke and could scarcely move or speak.*” Though this ended George’s active participation in the new lumber company, he did “*returned to Deer Park to arrange for his separation from the company and for the care of Ruth and Agnes.*” And at that time may have toyed with the idea of returning permanently.

... the girls ...

Regarding George’s arrangement for the care of his daughters back in Deer Park, it’s likely that such at first fell to the girls’ grandmother, Sarah Ruth (Hopkins) Short. In *From Whence We Came*, William Hodges Short recalled the many young people — siblings, children, and grandchildren — Sarah had gathered under her care over the years. With her daughter Gertrude’s passing, she appears to have taken in

Ruth and Agnes as well — at least until her other daughter, Emma, was able to take over. And when William Hopkins Short's first wife, Florence, passed away in 1904, two more grandchildren — William Hodges and Gertrude Louise — were added to Bama's care — Bama being little Ruth Crawford's nickname for her grandmother.

The girls' aunt, the above Emma, received her certificate to teach in 1891, and likely taught wherever needed before marrying Frank Reed on the 28th of July, 1897.

Spokane County's Federal Census for 1900 lists those residing in Frank A. Reed's household as Frank and his wife Emma, the couple's child, two-year-old Donald, and Emma's two nieces, 10-year-old Ruth G. Crawford and 7-year-old Agnes G. Crawford. In 1902 the Reeds were living about seven miles northwest of Deer Park in a community along the western fork of the Little Spokane River called West Branch. After that date the various addresses found for the Reed family seemed to be centered in Spokane. That said, as they grew it appears the Crawford girls moved between Spokane and Deer Park rather freely, depending on the immediate demands of their schooling or work.

The next trace so far located of either of the girls was from a 1908 issue of the *Spokesman-Review*. An article datelined "Deer Park, Wash., Dec. 30," said "A party was given to 30 young people at the Congregational parsonage last night by the Rev. and Mrs. Perry Frederick Schrock in honor of the college students home for the holidays — Ruth Crawford and May Lewis, Cheney; Earnest DeVoe and David Lewis, Pullman; and Clair and Miss Glenna Lybrook from Spokane College."

The above mentioned "Cheney" would have been the teachers academy located near that town some 33 miles south — with a slight westward twist — of Deer Park.

Next the *Spokesman-Review* reported that Ruth — along with 293 other students from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and elsewhere — was attending summer classes at Cheney for, as the newspaper described it, "special work."

The August 4th, 1911 edition of the *Deer Park Union* detailed the wedding of Ruth and Agnes's paternal grandfather, lumber mill owner William Hopkins Short, to Cora Chadbourne. Among the attendees, the groom's son William Hodges Short, and the younger William's cousins, Ruth and Agnes Crawford.

The May 31st, 1912 edition of the *Deer Park Union* stated, "A very pretty wedding occurred Wednesday afternoon at 3:45 at the Congregational Church. The fortunate pair was Al-

bert Blake of West Branch, Wash. And Miss Ruth Gertrude Crawford of Deer Park." The paper also noted, "In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Blake left for their home in West Branch, where the groom has a little home all in readiness for his bride."

Among the guest was "Miss Agnes Crawford," and also "Mr. G. E. Crawford of Mankato, Minnesota, father of the bride."

And then the *Spokesman-Review's* June 9th, 1912 edition, following the dateline "Deer Park, Wash., June 8," added "G. E. Crawford has returned to his home in Mankato, Minnesota, after visiting relatives and friends for the past two weeks."

During the school year beginning that September, Agnes Crawford's name occasionally appeared in the Deer Park and Spokane papers — primarily regarding her senior year at Deer Park's high school and her activities with Deer Park's Congregational Church. Then the May 24th, 1913 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*, beneath the dateline "Deer Park, Wash., May 23," reported that "The commencement exercises of the first class to graduate from the Deer Park High School were held this evening. The class includes Leonora Gemmill, Zora Kelly, Agnes Crawford, Gladys Turner, and Lee and Mont Chadbourne."

A short post-graduation blip in the September 12th, 1913 *Deer Park Union* noted that "Miss Agnes Crawford visited with her sister, Mrs. Albert Blake at West Branch this week." That was follow the next spring when the *Spokesman-Review*, under a Deer Park, April 11th dateline, reported that "Miss Agnes Crawford of Spokane visited relatives" — implying she had been living in the larger town. As for why, the "Local Items" segment of the *Deer Park Union's* September 4th, 1914 edition explained "Miss Agnes Crawford has returned to Spokane to enter the Deaconess hospital and continue training."

Washington State's digital archive contains a document titled "Washington State Board of Examiners of Nurses: Application for Certificate as Registered Nurse." The completed form indicates that Agnes graduated from Spokane's Deaconess Hospital School for Nurses on May 23rd, 1917, after completing a 3-year course of study.

I've located mentions in the Spokane newspapers of Agnes attending Deaconess School of Nursing alumni events in the following years. Next we have a marriage certificate from the City of Seattle stating that on the 19th of November, 1938, Charles Landry and Agnes G. Crawford, both residing in King County, were



***Graduating Class Of 1913,
Deer Park High School.***

***Top Row: Leonora Gemmill, Lee and Mont Chadbourne, Gladys Turner,
Bottom Row: Zora Kelly, and Agnes Crawford.***

married. As to whether this is our Agnes, research undertaken by Carolyn Knapp-Nelson has concluded that she is indeed ours, and that the previously mentioned "*Affidavit for Correction of Record*" submitted on Agnes's behalf to correct her Washington State "*Birth Return*" did indicate that she had indeed moved to California. Carolyn's research also indicates that Agnes passed away in 1979. The place, San Francisco. Her age at time of death, 87.

As for Ruth, her and Albert had at least two children when still living in the Deer Park area, a girl, Elizabeth Gertrude, born on July 2nd, 1913, and another girl, Dorothy Agnes, born on the 17th of October, 1914 — both these confirmed in the *Deer Park Union*. The third child, this one born while still living in the State of Washington, was Albert E. (possibly Emerson). According to the October 23rd, 1920 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle*, a child was born to "*To Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blake, W1727 Spofford Avenue, October 15, a son.*" I've yet to find a sec-

ond confirmation that we have the right Mr. and Mrs. Blake — but am reasonably satisfied.

As for the last child, Helen Louise, reportedly born in 1924 — location and exact date of birth is currently unknown.

The first clear indicator of where the family went next was from the March 8th, 1928 edition of the *Independent-Observer* — a weekly and still publishing regional newspaper located in the small town of Conrad, Montana. Quote, "*Mr. Albert Blake and family moved to Brady from Portage. We understand Mr. Blake is planning a butcher shop in the near future.*"

Nowadays "*Portage,*" as viewed from obit, is just a few barnyards with attendant homes clustered around a rural intersection about 12 miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana. In the Blake's day it would have included a station for the Great Northern Railroad, a post office, and very likely little else.

Today the above mentioned "*Brady*" is a small unincorporated community about 10 miles

south of Conrad, and 45 miles north by northwest of Great Falls. The ad (seen to the right) was taken from August 29th, 1929 issue of the *Pondera County News* — beginning that year and for the next 16 years a competitor to Brady's *Independent-Observer*.

The following snippet from the November 14th issue of the *Pondera County News* — under the heading "News from Brady" — did suggest that Ruth's family was comfortably settled at Brady. "The 4-H club met Tuesday after school at the Albert Blake home. A delightful luncheon was served after the meeting by Mrs. Blake."

Occasional small blips like that continued over the years. And then this appeared in the July 2nd, 1945 edition of the *Great Falls Leader*. "Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blake of Conrad have announced the marriage of their daughter, Helen Louise of Great Falls, to Technical Sgt. Joseph R. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Smith of Schuylkill Haven, Pa. The ceremony took place June 18. The couple are making their home at 701 Second Avenue North."

On the 19th of August, 1954, the *Independent-Observer* noted that, "Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blake will leave for San Francisco this weekend. They will spend several months there with their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blake Jr., and their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith and Jerry of Sacramento."

In November of that year, the *Independent-Observer*'s legal notice section began carrying an announcement of a pending foreclosure action on property held by "Albert Blake and Ruth G. Blake, husband and wife." We don't know the outcome, though this was noted in the *Independent-Observer*'s January 6th, 1955 issue. "Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jermunson and children, Donald and Deborah, returned last week from a trip to California where they spent the holiday season with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blake, and her brother, Albert Blake Jr., and the family at Red Wood City. They also visited her sister, Mrs. J. R. Smith and family at Carmichael."

And a final bit of newsprint from Montana's *Independent-Observer* dated the 16th of April, 1964. "Funeral services were held Wednesday at 11 a.m. for Albert Blake, 76, of San Jose, California, at the Darling-Faber-Campbell Memorial Chapel in San Jose, California. Albert Blake is a former resident of Brady and Conrad.

"Albert Blake was born October 5, 1888 in Milan, Washington. He died April 12 at a San Jose hospital. Survivors include the widow, Ruth

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Blake, San Jose; three daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Bliss, Great Falls, Mrs. Dorothy Jermunson, Brady, and Mrs. Helen Smith, Mississippi; one son, Albert E. Blake of Haywood, California. Other survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Viola Kelly, Mrs. Bessie Lansing, and Mrs. Catherine Talbot; and four brothers, Edgar, Walter, Earl and Harry Blake, all of Washington; five grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

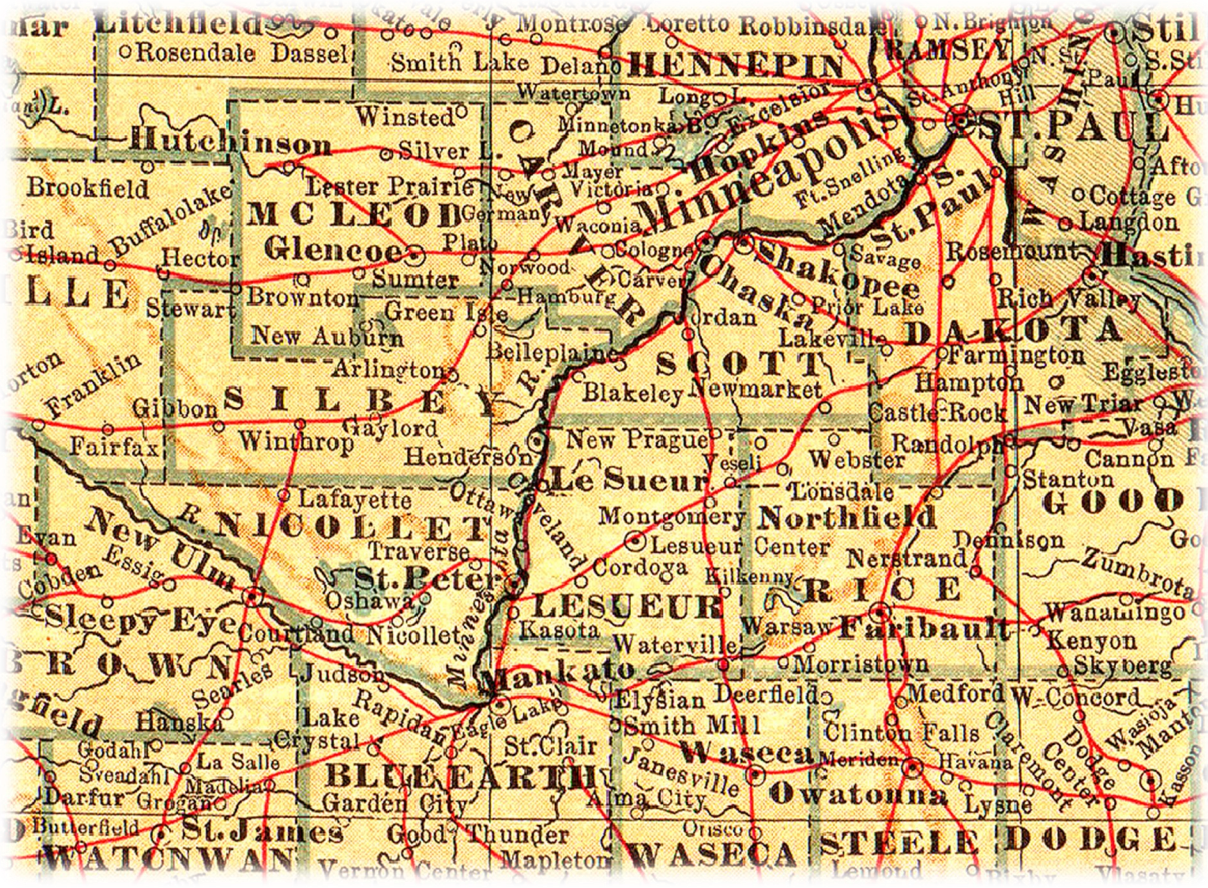
"Blake was a buyer and seller of live-stock, and at one time he owned a butcher shop in Brady."

Data located by Society member Carolyn Knapp-Nelson indicates that Ruth Gertrude Crawford Blake passed away in San Jose, California on the 23rd of August, 1983. Her age, 94.

... George Crawford's Minnesota family ...

We have a few tidbits that suggest George occasionally returned to Deer Park over the years — that after leaving to care for his father back in Minnesota shortly after Gertrude's death. And one suspects he intended, at least in the beginning, to stay in Deer Park. The Open-Door Congregational Church's book, *Ninetieth Year History: 1891 — 1981*, recorded that a "building committee" charged with constructing the church that would become Deer Park's historic heart was organized early in 1894. Among those on the committee, George Crawford. From the January 16th, 1895 *Spokane Chronicle*, there's this short blip. "George Crawford, the Deer Park blacksmith, is spending a few days in this city." But then this from the June 16th, 1895 edition of Minneapolis, Minnesota's *Star Tribune* indicates a change in plans. To quote, "The marriage of Miss Mayme Sprague to George E. Crawford of Morristown, Minn., is announced to take place Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Sprague of Langford Park Place." Langford Park is in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Over the years there were a few other recorded instances of his visits to the Deer Park area — attending his daughter Ruth's wedding, for example. Beyond that it's difficult to say



This map showing the area below and to the west of Minneapolis, Minnesota was clipped from The New Encyclopedic Atlas & Gazetteer of the World — 1911 edition. Villages of particular interest, from the lower left, are New Ulm, Mankato, and Morristown. One community too small to be represented on this map is Cambria. It's on the south side of the Minnesota River, roughly halfway between New Ulm and Judson. It's possible the red lines are indicative of local railway lines.

how much attention George Crawford paid to his Deer Park children after his 1895 marriage to Miss Sprague. We do know that the younger of George's two surviving brothers, James Levi Crawford, married a young lady by the name Sarah Hopkins Sprague in the village of Morristown, Minnesota on February 12th, 1900. Sarah was the sister of Mayme Ruth Sprague, the young lady George Crawford married in 1895. So, it's probably Mayme and George had been acquainted for some time prior to their marriage, and doubtless even prior to George's adventures in Deer Park.

It's our current understanding that Mayme and George made their home in Morristown for around 20 years. Records suggest their two children were born there: Mildred Jane on December 21st, 1896, and William Hopkins on August 12th, 1899. And then there's a couple of newspaper clippings, beginning with this one

from the October 23rd, 1914 edition of Minnesota's *Mankato Free Press*. "*Miss Mildred Crawford returned last night from Morristown, where she spent the week-end with her parents.*" At that time Mildred was attending high school in Mankato, some thirty miles to the west.

Regarding Mildred's academic standing, out of 79 seniors graduating in 1915, she was the one giving the class's salutatory address.

This clipping from the December 29th, 1916 *Mankato Free Press*, states, "*Miss Mildred Crawford is home from the university to spend the vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford on Marshall Street.*" A quick check confirms that the above Marshall Street is in the town of Mankato, indicating that George and family had relocated from Morristown.

Nothing is known about Mildred's life at the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota, other than the fact that she was pic-

tured in 1919's school annual.

We do know that the family had been living in Cambria, Minnesota for several years when the following appeared in the November 18th, 1921 edition of the *Mankato Free Press*. Under the datelined "Cambria, November 10," the newspaper in part reported, "At 2:30 p.m. Saturday, November 5, at the Cambria Presbyterian Church, Miss Mildred Jane Crawford and Mr. Don Anderson were united in the bond of matrimony. ... The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford of Cambria. She is a graduate of the Minnesota State University and has taught high school branches for two years; the first year at St. Frances and last year at Nicoet (likely Nicollet). The groom is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Anderson of Mankato and is also a graduate of the Minnesota State University."

Regarding William Hopkins Crawford, this appeared in the November 26th, 1915 edition of the *Mankato Free Press*. "Selecting a variety of topics for debate, including woman suffrage and preparedness, the High School Civic Club is now in readiness to exercise its vocabulary organs to the full. The first debate will be held December 6. The question will be: Resolved, that women should be granted the suffrage on equal terms with men. Affirmative, Kenneth Adams, William Crawford. Negative, William Allworth, Hale Clements."

After high school, the direction William intended to travel was suggested by this clipping from the February 15th is of 1918's *Mankato Free Press*. "William Crawford, 117 Marshall Street, will leave this evening for Menomonee, Wisconsin, to take a special intensive course in manual training at the Stout Institute, to become an assistant training teacher by next year."

The Stout Institute appears to have been similar in concept to Spokane's Community College, offering courses in vocational arts as well as liberal arts. Today it's known as Wisconsin's Polytechnic University.

It seems those plans were shuffled to the side when World War I got in the way. As the October 25th, 1918 issue of the *Mankato Free Press* notes, "John Butzer and William Crawford of this city left this noon at 12:30 o'clock for Kelly Field, Texas, where they have been inducted into the aviation service. The men were escorted to the train by draft board officials and were given comfort kits before they departed." The Armistice bringing an end to World War I was signed a month later.

On May 15th, 1919, Mankato's newspaper reported "William Crawford has returned from a southern camp where he has been in the aviation



Mildred J. Crawford — class of 1919
From the University of Minnesota's annuals.
William H. Crawford — class of 1924



service.” On the fourth day of the next month the *New Ulm Review* followed with, “*William Crawford, who recently returned home from the aviation camp, has been honorably discharged and will assist his father at the elevator this summer. He expects to enter the State University this coming fall to take a course in Dentistry.*”

I’m assuming the above mentioned “elevator” is a grain elevator — such towers still seen throughout wheat farming areas.

In a section reporting happenings in the nearby community of Cambria, the June 21st, 1922 issue of the *New Ulm Review* reported, “*William Crawford, who is a student at the State University, has been home for a few days to visit with his parents. He has returned to Minneapolis where he will work during the summer vacation. He has one more year at the university before he completes his course in dentistry.*”

Regarding the children’s father, the April 2nd, 1919 edition of the *New Ulm Review* reported that “*George Crawford of Cambria met with an unfortunate accident last week. While chopping wood a piece bounded upward and struck him in the forehead, inflicting a deep gash over the eye. The injury is of a serious nature, and it is feared that the eyesight may be affected.*” I couldn’t uncover anything else about that.

On July 30th, 1920, the Mankato newspaper carried a story datelined “*Cambria, July 24.*” The story began, “*Thursday morning, July 15, six automobiles left Cambria with Morristown, Minnesota as their destination. Their object was to inspect some church furnishings at the above place.*” Later on the anonymous author reported, “*We found Morristown a neat, clean town, well laid out and we were very glad to hear how much the folks there think of George Crawford’s family — residing at Cambria now — as they were among the pioneers of that section on the country.*”

Reportedly Mildred and William’s mother, Mayme Ruth Sprague Crawford, was born in Morristown in February of 1872 — the day of birth currently unknown. A thread of evidence indicates she passed away in New Ulm on the 5th of May, 1945. What’s certain is that she’s interred at the Riverside Cemetery, Morristown, Minnesota.

George Crawford was born in Morristown on April 30th, 1864. He died at Nicollet, Minnesota on June 29th, 1946, and was laid to rest beside Mayme in Morristown’s Riverside Cemetery.

Volunteer Proofreader for this Issue: Linda Swain.

Further Reading: The First Store in Deer Park.

“The 1891 Murder Trial of John C. Hoefer,” by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #158, June, 2021 — page 2309 — Collected Newsletters, Vol. 47.
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_158_web_.pdf

Letters/Brickbats: “Deer Park’s First Store,” by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #162, October, 2021 — page 2395 — Collected Newsletters, Vol. 48.
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_162_web__1_.pdf

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