

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

Issue #12

March 21st, 2025



This page is not a permanent part of this newsletter. It's included here as a necessity when duplex printing this file as a single issue.

Above Illustration from the December 21st, 1911 issue of Life Magazine.

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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Milan Store Proprietor Kidnapped.

— The James F. Congleton Story —

— by Wally Lee Parker —

From Indiana.

... James F. Congleton ...

This is what the Reverend Jonathan Edwards wrote regarding area settler James F. Congleton in the Reverend's much referenced classic, *An Illustrated History of Spokane County, State of Washington* — this published in 1900. As is the normal form for the Reverend's book, the individual biographies are presented without indentions indicating paragraphs.

"J. F. Congleton, a pioneer of 1889, was born in Cory, Indiana, June 24, 1862. He was raised on a farm, but as soon as he became old enough, engaged in teaching and was in that profession for the ensuing five years. He then went into the hardware and implement business, but shortly afterwards sold out and became a farmer. In 1889 he came to Spokane where he was employed in a feed store for a while, then by the Spokane Cab Company, at first as a teamster, afterwards in their office. While hunting in

vacation he was accidentally shot in the thigh, a misfortune which confined him to his bed for ten months. On his recovery he resumed his first occupation and engaged in teaching for a couple of terms, then went into the mercantile business at West Branch, Washington. Two years later he moved his stock to Milan, where he has kept a store ever since. He is also engaged in the wood and lumber business and is interested in mines at Republic and Newport. Mr. Congleton is one of the prominent citizens of Milan, is a member of the school board of trustees, and takes a lively interest in all matters of local concerns. Indeed, he is looked upon generally as a leader in the community, and he enjoys in marked degree the respect and good will of his fellow-townpeople. He was married in March, 1884, to Miss Belle McNamar, a native of Cory, Indiana. They have three children, namely, Eva May, Margarette, and Frances. Mr. Congleton is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Woodmen of the World. He has just erected a very large store building with a spacious hall on the second floor."

A second recounting of James Con-

Further Reading.

"Illustrated History of Spokane County, State of Washington."

— by Edward Jonathan — Date of publication 1900 —

Available from the "Internet Achieve" — A source of public domain media.

https://archive.org/details/illustratedhisto00edwa_0/page/n5/mode/2up

gleton's early life was found in volume one of William Travis's 1909 tome, *A History of Clay County, Indiana*.

"James F. Congleton, a native of Clay County, son of Job C. and Margaret (Donham) Congleton, born in Perry Township, in the year 1862, came up on the farm, attended the public schools, making good use of his opportunities and time in acquiring the qualifications to teach in the public schools of his native township. Having married, about the year 1885, he accompanied his father-in-law, Henry W. McNamar, and family to the extreme Northwest, locating in Washington (the date of said arrival, according to the Congleton article from Edwards' History of Spokane County, being 1889). Soon thereafter the parents and family joined them in their adopted state. Recently, the subject of this sketch, whose home is at Spokane, was elected a member of the state senate. The parents are dead. Job Congleton, who was trustee of Perry Township from 1876 to 1878, is remembered by many surviving Clay Countians."

Belle's place and date of birth was Indiana, September 15th, 1870. She passed away in Seattle, Washington on the 27th of November, 1928, and was laid to rest at the Meyers Falls Cemetery, Kettle Falls, Washington.

James and Belle brought their one daughter with them, Eva May Congleton — commonly called May. She was born in Clay County, Indiana, in 1886 — exact date not found. They had two more daughters after settling in Spokane County. Margaret, born in Spokane on the 11th of November, 1896, and Frances Belle, born at Milan on the 13th of January, 1899.

... Job Combs Congleton ...

A biography of James's father, the abovementioned Job Congleton, is found in an 1884 publication titled *"Counties of Clay and Owen, Indiana. Historical and Biographical."* The editor of this material was Charles Blanchard. The book records Job C. Congleton as being *"one of the prominent farmers of Perry Township, and son of John and Nancy (Snoddy) Congleton, (he) was born in Posey Township, Clay County, Ind., August 31, 1838. His parents are both of Scotch extraction. He has lived in*

this county all his life, engaged in farming and stock-raising. The first fifteen years of his life he spent in Posey Township, the remainder of his life in Perry Township. His early education was acquired at the common schools of the county, yet by dint of hard labor and perseverance, stimulated by his ambition, he is in possession of rather more than ordinary educational attainments. He was married, March 24, 1861, to Margaret Donham, who was born September 14, 1841. They have had eight children — James F., Joseph S., Marietta (deceased), Matilda A., Lucinda J. (deceased), Ora B., George D. and Allen R. Mr. Congleton takes an active interest in politics and is a member of the Republican party. In the autumn of 1876, he was elected Trustee of Perry Township, serving one term with credit to himself and with satisfaction to his constituents. In the winter of 1862-63, he taught a term of school in the Center Schoolhouse in Perry Township. Being a man of enterprise, he always favors those things which tend to promote the educational and business interests of the community. Two of his children, Marietta and Lucinda J., died of smallpox in the year 1875. Mr. Congleton lives on a well-improved farm of eighty acres, one-and-one-half miles northwest of Cory. He was one of the two census enumerators of Perry Township in 1880."

The only thing clearly incorrect with the above is that Job and Margaret actually had nine children. The one not mentioned was Nellie Maud Congleton. More about her later.

We're assuming Job and Margaret arrived in Washington at the same time as their son James — that being 1889. Both passed away in 1900, Margaret on the 5th of March and Job on the 7th of March. I've yet to find any record of the circumstances of their deaths — meaning any record more along the lines of an explanation since they passed so close together. Both were laid to rest at the small rural Milan Cemetery, that on the west side of the Little Spokane River — approximately ¾ of a mile southwest of what was once Milan's townsite.

Of Job and Margaret's seven surviving children, Matilda was the only one remaining in Indiana when the rest of the family left Indiana. She was born on June 9th, 1869, and married David Herman Swank on September 21st, 1889.

Further Reading.

"History of Education in Washington — Bulletin #9."

— by Frederick E. Bolton & Thomas W. Bebb —

United States Department of the Interior, Office of Education, 1934.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED542314.pdf>

The rest of her immediate family moved to the Washington Territory — said territory reaching statehood on November 11th of 1889. Matilda enjoyed a long life in Indiana, passing away on the 21st of July, 1960.

... *Henry W. McNamar* ...

As noted in the recently quoted 1909 "*History of Clay County*," James Congleton relocated to the Washington Territory with his wife, the first of his eventual three daughters, his parents, six of his siblings, and his father-in-law, Henry W. McNamar, and part of Henry's family. We did find a portion of Mr. McNamar's backstory as it appeared in the June 29th, 1911 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*, that as part of an ongoing series of articles titled "*Spokane's War Veterans*."

To quote, "*H. W. McNamar, residing at 2227 Mallon Avenue, came to Spokane in 1889. He is a librarian to the Spokane Bar Association library and a member of Reno post, G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic.)*"

"*Mr. McNamar was born at Clay County, Indiana, April 2, 1840. He enlisted August 7, 1862, at Terre Haute, Ind., in Company D, Sixth Indiana Cavalry. He saw his first hard service at the battle of Richmond, Ky., where the federals were soundly thrashed by the Confederate forces under General Kirby Smith. At this fight, Mr. McNamar was taken prisoner, paroled and sent to Indianapolis.*"

"*After being exchanged, he was sent back into Kentucky and crossed over Cumberland Gap into Tennessee, arriving soon after Longstreet as raised the siege of Knoxville. He was taken to Chattanooga, Tenn., and joining Sherman's army was with him in a fight every day on to Atlanta, Ga.*"

"*Mr. McNamar went on what is known as Stoneman's Raid, from Atlanta to Macon, Ga. He was captured and sent to prison at Andersonville, Ga., and from there to Florence, S. C., which was equally bad with Andersonville. From there the prisoners were sent to Sullivan's Island, near Charlotte, S. C., from whence, toward the end of February, 1865, Mr. McNamar escaped and reached home in March, 1865, being furloughed as unfit for service on account of the result of the hardships of prison life. He was never in a fit condition to rejoin his regiment and was discharged at Indianapolis June 29, 1865, having served 3 years 8 months and 22 days.*"

Regarding Henry's Civil War experiences, an article appeared in the March 19th, 1968 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* announcing

that the Steven County Historical Society — said group originally founded at Colville in October of 1903 as the Stevens County Pioneer Association — had entertained a speech by Henry W. McNamar on July 4th, 1896, and that said speech would "*be repeated at the Stevens County Historical and Pioneer Society meeting tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the museum building on Wynne Street.*" The speaker would be Mr. McNamar's granddaughter, Margaret E. (Congleton) Keller, daughter of Mr. McNamar's son-in-law, James F. Congleton, and McNamar's daughter, Catherine Belle (McNamar) Congleton — the latter generally referred to by her middle name, Belle.

It's interesting that several eastern newspapers carried news snippets similar to this one from the February 5th, 1891 edition of the *Altoona Tribune*, Altoona, Pennsylvania. Under the dateline "*Brazil, Ind., February 4,*" the newspaper reported, "*Private dispatches received here from Spokane Falls, Wash., announced the massacre there by Indians of Henry W. McNamar and his son John. The former taught school in Cray [sic] County for twenty years and left here a year ago for Spokane Falls. The father and son had settled on a claim near Spokane Falls, adjoining an Indian encampment. A row with the Indians resulted in the death of a sq*** at the hands of the son. In the fight that followed both father and son were killed and their bodies mutilated.*"

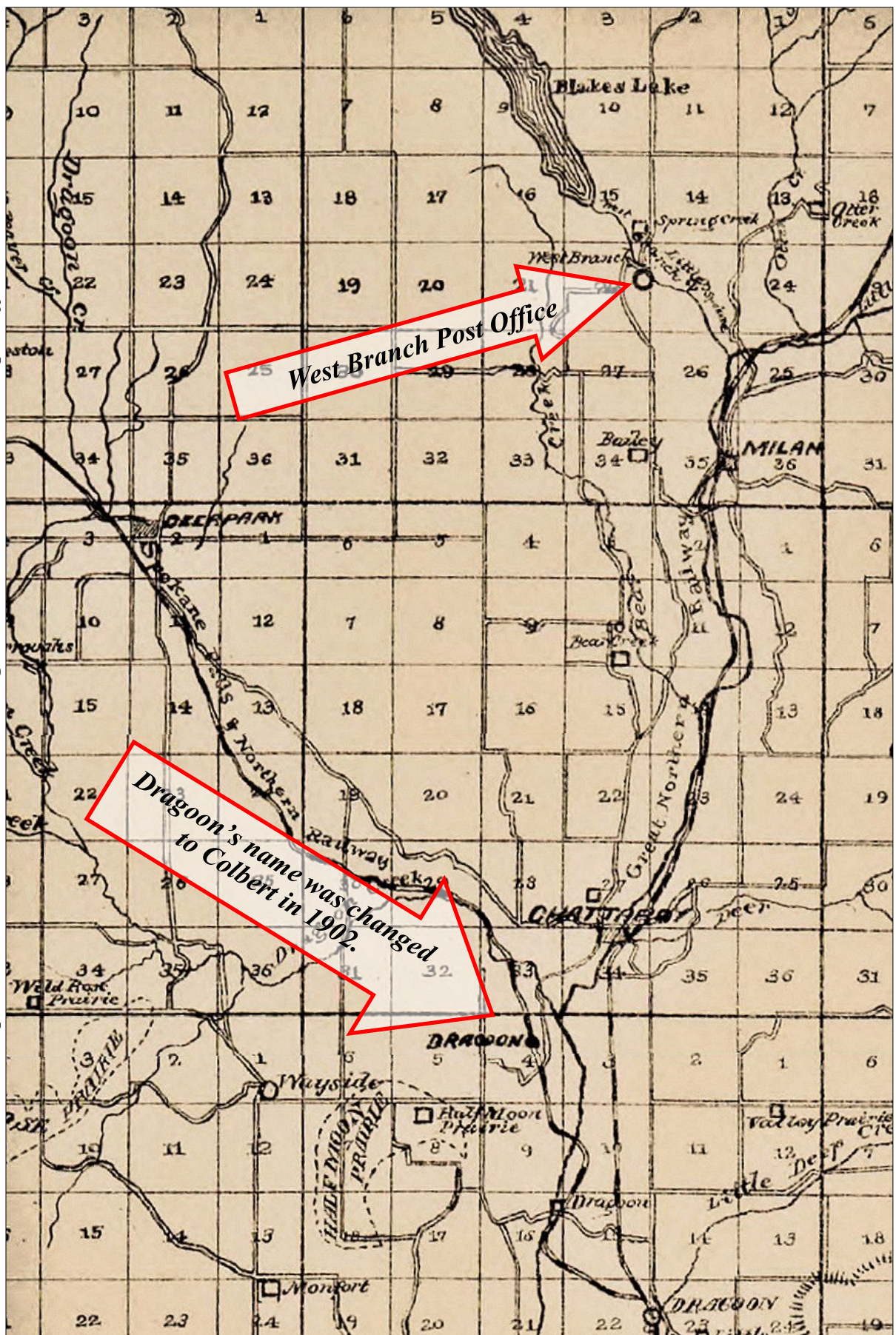
The above noted Brazil was and is a small town — population as of 1890 5,905 — in Clay County Indiana that during the date of the clipping above had a newspaper called the *Brazil Daily Times*. It doesn't appear that any 1891 copies of that newspaper are available.

On the other hand, the May 17th, 1892 edition of the *Spokane Review*, under the lead "*Teachers' Certificates: Successful Candidates at the Recent Examination,*" notes that "*The following were awarded second-grade certificates.*" Among those, "*Henry W. McNamar, Deer Park.*"

We'll assume one of the above newspaper accounts is incorrect.

On August 31st, 1893, the *Spokane Review* listed the results of a "*computation*" of "*various one-department country schools for the spring and summer terms*" for those with "*the best record in punctuality, attendance, order, scholarship, deportment, and reputation.*" Over 100 schools were considered, with 27 of the "*districts that stood highest ... named in the order of their rank.*" Third down on that list was "*Forreston district No. 102, Deer Park Post Office — Mr. H. W. McNamar, teacher; address*"

Segment from "Map of Spokane County, State of Washington, Compiled by John Wetzel, County Surveyor, April 1900."
 Clear squares are schoolhouses, shaded rectangles are townsites, clear circles are post offices.



Deer Park.”

A more detailed outline of Mr. McNamar’s history will be presented later in this article.

Gunshot.

... a near fatal wound ...

The first mention we’ve found of J. F. Congleton in Spokane is from 1892’s *Spokane City Directory*. To quote, “Congleton, James F., driver *Spokane Cab Co.*, residence 312 Benard.”

The first mention of Mr. Congleton located in the Spokane newspapers was this from the May 18th, 1892 edition of the *Spokane Review*. “With a gunshot wound through his left thigh, James F. Congleton made a journey of 30 miles on a handcar last night and now lies in a precarious condition at his home at 312 Benard Street.

“Congleton is employed as night clerk by the *Spokane Cab Company* and left the city yesterday morning to spend a day with P. J. Kelly of Deer Park, 30 miles from the city, on the *Spokane & Northern Road*. The men were hunting all day and while returning home through the woods Kelly let his gun, a 40-60 Colt repeater, slip from his hand. The weapon was discharged and the bullet struck Congleton, who was in advance of his friend, in the left thigh, about two inches below the joint, shattering the bone but luckily missing the femoral artery. The Wounded man dropped to the ground, and Kelly, with rare presence of mind, did what he could to staunch the flow of blood, then started for help.

“With the assistance of a man whom he happened to meet, he got Congleton to the railroad, and, as there was no other means of conveying him to the city, the now unconscious man was placed upon a handcar and the long journey was begun. Everything went smoothly until the men were in sight of the city, when the car jumped the track and Congleton fell off. The city

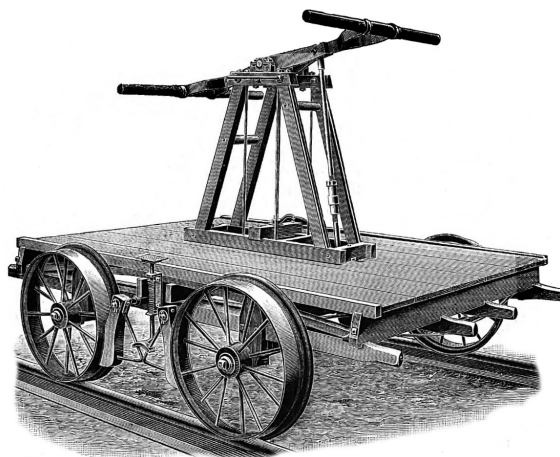
was reached at midnight, and he was taken at once to his home. Drs. Penfield, Gerlach, and Grove were called, and when they arrived Congleton was almost dead. His wounds were dressed temporarily in order to give him a chance to recover in a measure from the shock. At 2;30 o’clock this morning the physicians were engaged in administering an anesthetic in order to make a closer examination. Should the amputation of the wounded member be considered necessary, Congleton’s chances of recovery are but slight, and as it is, his wound is considered a very serious one.”

The next day’s *Spokane Review* added this update on Mr. Congleton’s condition. “His wound is giving him great pain and should inflammation set in it would probably necessitate the amputation of the injured member, which would be very apt to result fatally, as the amputation at the hip is a very delicate operation.

“P. J. Kelly, who gave Congleton his wound, is in constant attendance at his bedside and seems to blame himself wholly with the affair, though it was the result of an unavoidable accident.”

Typical Railroad Handcar.

This from the October 27th, 1893 issue of Engineering: An Illustrated Weekly Journal.



Further Reading.

Part One.

“The 1891 Donnybrook at the Kelly Brothers’ Store & Other Assorted Bits of Kelly History.”

— by Wally Lee Parker —

Mortarboard #167, March, 2022 — page 2499 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 50.

https://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_167_web.pdf

Part Two.

“The 1891 Donnybrook at the Kelly Brothers’ Store & Other Assorted Bits of Kelly History.”

— by Wally Lee Parker —

Mortarboard #168, April, 2022 — page 2513 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 50.

https://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_168_web.pdf

At this point reporting on the above incident seems to disappear from the area's newspapers, leaving us with the statement from Reverend Edwards' *Illustrated History of Spokane County* to assure us that, though confined "to his bed for ten months," James did recover and "resumed his first occupation and engaged in teaching for a couple of terms."

Being "confined to his bed for ten months" suggests something more was involved in his recovery than a few dozen words could convey. Ten years later the following observation regarding the aftermath of Congleton's injury appeared in the December 15th 1903 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle*. To quote, "He is lame, one leg being stiff and about three inches short from a gunshot wound." Also mentioned in a newspaper article appearing just after the 1892 incident was the fact that the bullet had entered "the left thigh, about two inches below the joint, shattering the bone but luckily missing the femoral artery." All the above put together strongly suggests that an extremely risky surgery may have been involved in Mr. Congleton's eventual recovery.

Just keep in mind when considering the art of surgery in the 1890s, that Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's discovery of X-rays — which could have imaged both the bone and the bullet — was still 3½ years in the future, and even then in need of much refinement before becoming a common medical tool. Blood transfusions were very experimental when Mr. Congleton was injured. The process was seldom tried, and when tried it was often fatal. In fact, it didn't become reasonably safe for another 25 years — and even then only justified in dire circumstances. Inducing a state of general anesthesia was commonly achieved by the inhalation of ether or chloroform. Both had potentially adverse side-effects, but their use allowed the physician to carry out procedures without placing the patient in unforgivable agony. While anesthetics slowed the pace necessary when surgical procedures needed to be undertaken on conscious patients, thereby allowing more precise outcomes, the increased time surgical incisions remained open also exposed the patient to one of history's most persistent killer — infection induced septic shock.

Bearing the title *A Dictionary of Medicine and the Allied Sciences* and a copyright date of 1900, the following source provided a definition of the word septic contemporary to the times. It said, "Of or produced by putrefaction or putrefying material or by morbid germs." It then gave several related terms — "Septic infection" and "Septic poisoning."

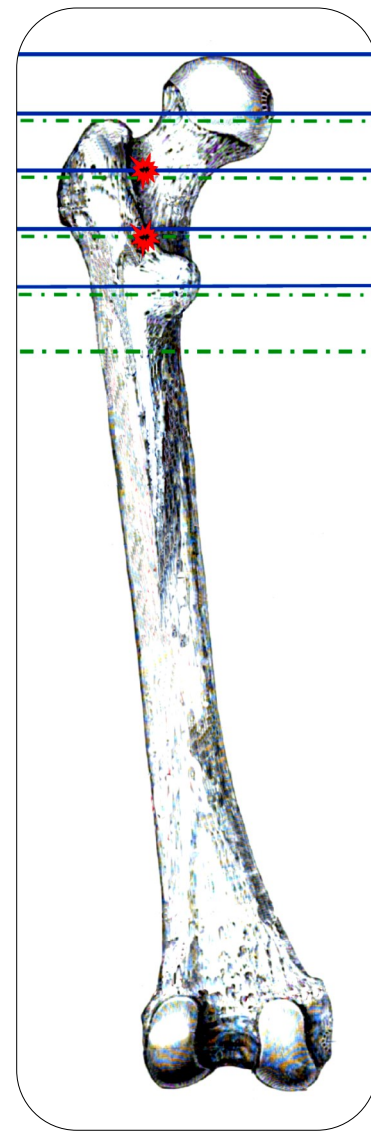


Illustration from "Human Anatomy, a Complete Systematic Treatise, Including a Special Section on Surgical and Topographical Anatomy." Published 1893.

Likely Point of Projectile Impact.

The above is the posterior view of a left adult femur approximately 18 inches in length. Each of the solid blue lines and broken green lines are separated from their like by one inch. The newspaper reports that the projectile impacted two inches below the hip. We don't know exactly where that measurement began. Was it the very top of the femur — that being the solid blue line at the top of the ball? Or was it the top of the greater trochanter — that the easily palpated distal protuberance just below the very top broken green line? The two red strike-points suggest just how devastating a rifle bullet shattering the femur at either point would be.

Directly below “septic” was the word “septicæmia,” that being defined as “*Poisoning of the blood by bacteria; a condition including both Bacteriæmia, in which the bacteria themselves accumulate in the blood and are generally diffused throughout the body, and Toxinæmia, in which the bacterial toxins alone, and not the bacteria, undergo diffusion.*”

Septic shock is a somewhat more modern term describing the last stage of an infection. It typically expresses itself as a loss of blood pressure and widespread organ failure — and historically is almost always fatal.

At that point in surgical history, the general consensus was that gunshot wounds carried an extremely high risk that the penetrating slug carried materials capable of causing infection deep into the wound — one of the worst of these being bits of the victim’s own clothing. It was felt that the bullet itself was the least problematic of the materials likely to be inside the wound — the heat generated by the burning propellant and the friction of the bullet passing through the barrel of the weapon having something of a sterilizing effect. Regarding other foreign materials, it was accepted that the most effective way of finding such foreign materials, especially bits of cloth, was the sensitivity of the surgeon’s fingertips — which likely meant opening the wound enough to allow such a search. And then again, at this time it was generally felt that the often-extensive trauma incurred when attempting to extract a deeply embedded slug was worse than leaving the same in place.

All this was to say, removing bits of cloth was a necessity to lessen the possibility of an overwhelming infection, while increasing the size of the wound to allow such a search also increased the likelihood of adding more infection.

The physician’s diagnosis that the upper part of the femur was shattered and likely infused with foreign materials, may have suggested either removing the entire leg, or at least removing the shattered portion of the bone. Experience suggested it was either one of those interventions or losing the patient. In such a scenario, saving the leg would have involved detaching the femur’s articulation with the pelvis — that being the ball at the head of the femur — by sawing the undamaged lower femur loose from the shattered upper portion.

At the time of Congleton’s injury, such skeletal disarticulation at the hip joints was a well understood and not exactly rare intervention. Intractable arthritic pain, the pain related to the disintegration of articulating surfaces symp-

tomatic to tuberculosis of the hip, and various other hip conditions were as a last resort solved by surgically removing the head of the femur. Assuming the patient survived the surgery and aftermath, the usefulness of the remaining limb varied.

Regarding the last, this was noted in the January 1899 edition of *The Canadian Practitioner and Review*. “*The loss of the femoral head, whether through operation or the destructive processes of disease, must be regarded as one of the most undesirable results.*” As the article explains, “*The shaft of the femur slides upward, and marked shortening (of the leg) results. But what is more serious, the end of the femur seldom secures firm anchorage, and when the weight of the body comes upon the limb, the adjustment between the femur and the pelvis is found ill-suited to weight-bearing so that the lack of fixation causes a very marked limp. The patient soon grows weary and pressure of the femur upward into tissues not designed to resist such intrusion causes pain.*” But then the article adds, “*True it is that, in a proportion of these cases, the upper end of the femur finds a firmer anchorage and much of the disability is thereby overcome. Shortening to the limb, if it be less than two inches, need not be considered a serious matter. The employment of cork under the boot will readily supply the lack.*”

Doubtless there are other possibilities. That said, unless records of Congleton’s treatment are eventually found that explain everything in detail, we’ll never know exactly what the gentleman endured. But despite it all, Mr. Congleton somehow managed to live a long a productive life.

Settling In.

... first a teacher, and then a merchant ...

The November 9th, 1893 edition of the *Spokane Weekly Review* printed a two-column article titled “*Teachers and Studies, Review of the County Institute and Its Beneficial Results.*” This article confirmed that after his recovery James initially returned to the profession he’d taken up as a young man back in Indiana — teaching.

The “*County Institute*” mentioned above was the Spokane County Teachers’ Institute. The article noted, “*The attendance during the sessions of the institute was about 300*” educators. The institute’s “*enrollment*” list, grouped according to school of origin, included “*West Branch — Henry G. Mosher, J. F. Congleton,*

Nella Pike, James B. Pike, Lucy Pike."

The concept of a teachers' institute with the intent of providing continuing education for teaching professionals was outlined in the April 17th, 1879 issue of the weekly *Vancouver Independent*, a newspaper published in the historic Columbia River settlement of Vancouver. In an abridged form, this is what the *Vancouver Independent* reported, "*The Teachers' Institute has become one of the educational forces in the land. Training the young is one of the most complicated and at the same time most responsible tasks upon which an individual can enter. Our school law makes it the duty of the County Superintendent of each county having more than ten organized school districts to hold annually a teachers' institute and also makes it the duty of all teachers to attend and participate in the exercises. All teachers having charge of schools shall adjourn their schools during the time the institute is held.*"

Edwards' *Illustrated History of Spokane County* also noted that Congleton only "*engaged in teaching for a couple of terms, then went into the mercantile business at West Branch, Washington.*" That was confirmed by this short notice from the April 10th, 1895 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*. "*J. F. Congleton, the West Branch merchant, was doing business with Spokane wholesalers yesterday.*"

The *Illustrated History* went on to say, "*Two years later he moved his stock to Milan, where he has kept a store ever since*" — ever since being up to the *History's* date of publication.

One of the activities he was involved with at Milan — besides his store — was the following, as copied from the *Spokane Chronicle's* March 6th, 1896 edition. "*Milan is to have a cheese factory. Milan is one of the new towns on the Great Northern (Railroad) in the north-east part of this county and isn't a very big place yet; but it has ambitions.*"

"*'We want a cheese factory at Milan,' said E. C. Sharp, one of the businessmen of that place who is in town today. 'And we propose to have it, too. It is in a good dairy district and there are many cows there now and would be many more if there was a market for the milk. It has been decided to hold a meeting at Milan Saturday, March 14, to see what can be done in the way of securing guarantees of milk and pledges of lumber and work to build the factory, and in short find out what we can offer to some experienced cheesemaker to locate there.'*"

"*Anyone who wishes information can obtain it by writing to M. E. Bailey, J. F. Congle-*

ton, or myself at Milan. If we do not make arrangements of the kind we will build the factory ourselves and hire a man to take charge of it, for we are determined to have one there.'"

The July 28th, 1896 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* noted, "*The Milan cheese factory began operations July 23, and is a success.*"

In November of the same year, James and Belle welcomed their second daughter, Margaret, to the family.

Dateline "*Washington (D.C.), May 11,*" the following appeared in the May 12th, 1898 edition of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*. "*James G. [sic] Congleton has been appointed postmaster at Milan, Wash.*" The Milan post office appears to have been established in the early autumn of 1892, the first postmaster being Robert A. N. Harvey. Our working assumption is that said post office was located in James Congleton's Milan mercantile store possibly before — but certainly after — Congleton's 1898 appointment as postmaster.

With this from the *Spokane Chronicle's* August 1st, 1898 issue, it appeared James had decided to take an active interest in regional politics in the form of being elected a representative to the Republican party's Spokane County convention. To quote, "*Returns from the county precincts are still coming in.*" Included among those already received, "*Mount Carleton — M. E. Pike, J. F. Congleton.*" In 1912 the mentioned Mount Carleton was renamed Mount Spokane.

On the 13th of January, 1899, daughter Frances joined the now completed Congleton family.

On the 29th of March, 1902, James and Belle's oldest daughter Eva May Congleton, then age 16, married Ray Ingham of Milan. Ray's age at the time, 24.

... remembering May Congleton ...

The first revealed documentation of the Congleton family in Spokane appeared in the December 24th, 1891 edition of *The Chronicle* — later to become the *Spokane Chronicle*. A piece describing the various Christmas programs at the town's churches included one being presented at the "*Second Christian Church*," that at the corner of "*Second and Lincoln Streets.*" The program included May Congleton singing "*Rock-a-Bye Baby.*" She was also going to take part in a cantata titled "*Santa Claus and Mother Goose.*" My best guess is that a "*cantata*" is something of a musical mini-play, but not exactly. I did look up the cantata "*Santa Claus and Mother Goose*"

as outlined in the November 14th, 1914 edition of *Hints: The Entertainment Magazine*. It appears to have been a collection of nursery rhymes, along with songs, the minimal plot being “*Children having considered who is to be supreme in their dreamland decide that at all times, except Christmas, they prefer Mother Goose.*” In the list of characters, May plays the part of “*Polly Flinders.*” May would have turned 6 years old the following January.

The March 10th, 1896 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* noted that “*Miss May Congleton gave a recitation*” before a group of civil war veterans gathered in downtown Spokane at an open to the public meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic’s Reno Post No. 47.

From this point we have to snap forward to March 29th, 1902. Sixteen-year-old May is now living with her family in the far north of Spokane County at Milan and is listed on the state document known as a “*Marriage Return*” as a housekeeper. On that date she married Milan resident Ray Ingham. Mr. Ingham is just three weeks shy of his 25th birthday, and, according to the same document, a laborer.

And then the April 1st, 1905 *Spokane Chronicle* carried this short notice, “*Mrs. May Ingham, aged 19, died this morning at her residence, 123 Fifth Avenue. The body will be shipped to Milan tomorrow or Monday for interment.*”

May’s official death certificate also uses the above Spokane address — which newspapers of the time suggest was a well-advertised room-to-rent building. But then, on a line asking for the deceased’s “*Former or Usual Residence,*” a cursive hand has inked in, “*Milan.*”

When describing the “*Cause of Death,*” there’s the largely illegible cursive scrawl one classically expects from doctors. The only certain things retrievable from the penmanship appears to be that May was under treatment from the 3rd of March through the day of death. And that peritonitis was considered a contributing factor to her death.

A 1903 volume by Dr. George M. Gould titled *An Illustrated Dictionary of Medicine, Biology, and Allied Sciences* defines peritonitis as an “*inflammation of the peritoneum.*” Peritoneum is defined as “*the serous membrane lining the interior of the abdominal cavity and surrounding the contained viscera.*” The term serous membrane is defined as “*the delicate membrane of connective tissue lining closed cavities of the body.*” The technical term for said membranes is “*serosa.*” At that time a common causative of infections within the abdominal cavity

was the bacterial spill from a ruptured appendix. Though we’ve no record suggesting the appendix was contributory, an effective non-toxic treatment for such infections, regardless of causative, would not be available until the widespread use of penicillin, that beginning in 1942.

It appears Ray stayed in the area after May’s death, this confirmed by the following snippet from the December 23rd, 1909 issue of the *Newport Miner*. “*The Milan mill has reopened after a short shutdown and will run all winter. The company is getting logs by rail and sleigh. Ray Ingham, formerly with Jurgens Bros., is sawing at the mill.*”

The 1910 census for the Township of Milan lists 33-year-old Ray Ingham as a “*Sawyer*” at a “*Lumber Mill.*”

Also on the same census sheet, Henry J. Hearst and his wife Minnie are listed, along with the couple’s three daughters, and two stepdaughters — the latter two being Eunice and Ruth Halbesleben, age 13 and 10 respectively.

On the 15th day of September, 1913, the above Eunice, then age 16, and Ray Ingham, age 36, were married. During their subsequent time together — that being 46 years, 10 months, and 2 weeks — they had one son and three daughters. Ray passed in 1960. His *Sandpoint News-Bulletin* obituary noted that “*Mr. Ingham, a resident of Priest River (Idaho) since 1922, passed at Sandpoint Manor rest-home.*” The newspaper added, “*after moving to Priest River, he worked for many years as an employee of the Beardmore Lumber Company.*” Eunice, having moved from Priest River to Spokane 22 years prior to her passing — said move likely at the urging of a surviving daughter then living in Spokane who understandably wanted to ensure her mother’s wellbeing — died in 1993. Her age, 96.

... the Congleton brothers’ store at Milan ...

It seems the Congletons were involved in all kinds of money-making endeavors at and around Milan. Perhaps the best documented was their general mercantile store. The best description so far located regarding this merchandising venture is found in the *Spokane Chronicle*’s August 23rd, 1902 edition. To quote

“*Burglary on the wholesale plan was indulged in last night at the little town of Milan, Washington. This morning the citizens of that place awoke to find that thieves had been at work during the night and had carried away money, postage stamps, jewelry, edibles and drinkables valued at about \$200. As a result of the industry of these toilers of the night, Congle-*

ton Brothers' general merchandise store and the post office, as well as the combination grocery store and saloon, were entered and thoroughly ransacked for valuables.

"The work was done, so it is stated at Milan, sometime between the hours of midnight and dawn, and, as all evidence goes to prove, was that of some person or persons familiar with the tricks of the robbing trade. Suspicion attaches itself to no one as far as is known, but the police authorities of all the surrounding towns and cities have been notified and are on the lookout for suspicious characters supplied with an extra amount of postage stamps and jewelry.

"It appears from various traces left by the operators that the store belonging to the Congleton Brothers was the first object of the bold men's investigation. They gained an entrance to that place by forcing the fastenings on one of the windows in the rear of the building and quietly raised the sash.

"Once on the inside everything was smooth sailing for the robbers, and they proceeded without loss of time to investigate the financial standing of the firm. The safe was opened and a good many dollars' worth of postage stamps of different denomination taken therefrom. The exact amount of this appropriation is not known and will not be until the postmaster's books are balanced up. One thing is certain, however, and that is they helped themselves to the entire supply and looked through all the cubby holes and drawers in search of extras.

"Satisfied with the safe work they had accomplished, the robbers proceeded to investigate other departments with an equal show of solicitude and consideration for their aggrandizement. The cash drawer was forced open and the cash therein, amounting to about \$3, was taken and a neat slip of paper left to tell the amount. The burglars then turned their attention to jewelry, and with a rare discrimination selected the best articles in stock. When they had satisfied their desires in this line, the proprietors of the store were out over \$100 worth of gold and silver ornaments and precious stones.

"This ended the scientific investigations of the intruders as far as this particular store was concerned, and with an industry which, if turned into legitimate channels would be well rewarded, they proceeded to the grocery store and saloon. Here they cut out the glass in the front window, and through the aperture thus created they crawled inside and proceeded with their work of getting something for nothing but work and risk.

"Fortune did not smile as favorably in

this enterprise as previously, and all that is missed from this place are a few cans of sardines and deviled ham and a considerable quantity of drinkables, none of which appears to have been of the nonintoxicating variety.

"Evidently satisfied or discouraged, or confronted with the coming of daylight, the robbers decided that they had enough for the night and quietly slid out of the store and away from town, and they left no trace of their whereabouts and no card relating what their names or occupation might be."

A Long Evening's Walk.

... kidnapped ...

The following lead-in was fitted beneath the headline "Kidnapped A Postmaster" in the *Spokane Chronicle's* December 15th, 1903 edition.

"Held up by a masked man.

"Robbed of \$35.

"Forced to walk seven miles to Chat-taroy.

"Such are the experiences that will make last night one long to be remembered by J. F. Congleton, postmaster and merchant at Milan.

The body of the article began, "Mr. Congleton is well known in this city and in fact all over the county. He was a candidate for the republican nomination for county commissioner last year. He is lame, one leg being stiff and about three inches short from a gunshot wound.

"On this account the seven-mile walk was especially hard on him and at times it seemed that he would surely give out, but the sight of an ugly looking revolver and the threats of the surly companion were enough to keep him plodding on, only to find rest in a cold boxcar."

The following paragraph is James Congleton's first-person account.

"About 9:30 last night, after having gone home, I happened to think that perhaps one of the front doors to the store had not been locked," (the following bit of script is an annotation by the article's author) 'stated Mr. Congleton in substance this morning in relating his experiences to a *Chronicle* representative.'

Returning to Mr. Congleton as speaker, the article related, "I left home and went to the store to see that the doors were locked. I did not have any rubbers or overcoat, it being but a short distance. I found that though the door was closed, it was not locked.

"It was very dark so that I could not see

a thing inside the store, but the snow gave a white background to me so that a person in the store could see me very plainly. I put my hand in my hip pocket to get my keys and I presume the man in the store saw and thought I was after a revolver.

"I heard a little noise in the store, but did not think of robbers, but thought it was the dog we generally keep in the building. I was going in to investigate anyway and pushed the door open. It struck something I presumed was the dog, but it evidently was the man.

"I made a step forward and stood just on the threshold when a man in the store jumped forward and shoving two revolvers in my face (and) shouted, 'Hold up your hands!'

"Instead of holding up my hands I made a break to get away and jumped off the porch which is about two feet high and started to run. He overtook me, grabbed me and pointing a revolver at my head said, 'If you don't hold up your hands, I'll blow your brains out!'

"So, then I thought it best to give up, and held up my hands. He ordered me to march out toward the railroad track, wanting to get me a safe distance away before searching me. I had to walk ahead, but as it was dark I managed to get my wallet with \$150 in it out of my pocket and toss it away, noticing the place so that I could find it again.

"As soon as we got to the railway track I was stopped, and the man began to search me. He wore a black handkerchief over his face so that I could (couldn't?) see his features. I didn't see any accomplice, but by the way he acted I made up my mind he was expecting someone.

"He searched me four or five times and got about \$35. He seemed to think it was funny I did not have any more, and said, 'You ought to have more money than that. It's a damn funny thing that you've only got \$30 or \$40 dollars in your pocket. What did you do with the rest of it?'

"I told him I didn't carry much money, but he searched me over and over again. Then he ordered me to walk on.

"I supposed he was going to take me out just a short way so that he would have time to escape, but he kept me walking on till I got pretty tired. It was disagreeable, with snow on the ground and raining all the time, so that being crippled it was hard for me to walk. Finally, I got tired and told him I couldn't go any further. He said, 'You've just got to do it, that's all. I've got the drop, and you've got to do it.'

"After that he let me take his arm, and that helped me some. Once in a while we would

stop and stand for a minute to rest. He let me pick up snow to eat, but was always careful that I didn't get a rock. I tried to talk to him, but he was sullen and would not say much, so it was a pretty lonesome journey.

"There may have been a man following on behind, but it was so dark that I could not have seen him, and I did not know there was any other man in the affair.

"We got to Chattaroy about one o'clock in the morning and walked on to the sidetrack about half a mile from the town. There he saw a boxcar, and the idea of locking me in it just struck him, but first he wanted something to eat. We stopped by the boxcar, and he pulled out a can of corn he had taken from the store, remarking, 'I have a can of corn here I took from your store, You have plenty more there. I am pretty hungry, and I guess you are thirsty. You drink that juice, and it will help you out.'

"He opened the can and I drank the juice and he ate the corn. Then he boosted me into the car and was about to lock the door when I argued with him that he ought not to lock me in the car and leave me where I might have to stay for three or four days.

"'If I can flag this passenger,' he said, meaning the regular (train), which was late last night, 'I will take off the lock then, as I can be in Spokane by time you get to Chattaroy.'

"That was the last I saw or heard of him. The passenger went by without stopping, and I presume he went on to Colburn. I was tired when I got into the car, and sat down to rest, but I soon got cold and commenced to walk up and down to keep warm and got fairly comfortable. It was about 3:30 or 4 o'clock when the searching party found me. I am all right this morning and none the worse. We found the pocketbook with the \$150 all right."

I'm going to assume the above reference to Colburn was a typo. There was a town called Colburn in Idaho, along the tracks of the Great Northern Railroad some eight miles north of Sandpoint. I suspect the report should have said Colbert, that being the former railroad village of Dagoon located some 4½ miles south of Chattaroy. The name was changed in 1902. It's location is indicated on page 129's map.

The author of the *Chronicle* article reported that, "George Congleton, a brother of J. F. Congleton, the victim, told a good story to the *Chronicle* about the search, which brought out nearly the entire town of Milan." Below, written in the same first-person narrative style as James Congleton's story, is the reporter's interpretation of George's rendition of events.

"After my brother went back to the store, his wife, who has been sick in bed, fell asleep and did not wake up until about midnight, then she noticed that my brother was not at home, and called to me. I sleep in an adjoining room.

"I got up and went to the store. I found the door unlocked, but no trace of my brother. I immediately went around to the neighbors for assistance, and soon practically the whole town had joined in the search. Some of the men were down the railway track a ways. They saw the tracks in the snow of three men and one of them was plainly identified as those of my brother. He wears a high heeled shoe on his lame foot.

"Deputy Sheriff Doak of Spokane was in town and joined in the search. One party started down the railway, following the tracks, while myself and J. W. Wheeler and Ed Burch got a rig and started on the wagon road for Chattaroy."

The above noted Deputy Doak was Howard Butler Doak. In the autumn of 1904, at the retirement of Sheriff William James Doust, Deputy Doak ran for the office of Spokane County Sheriff and won. He took office on January 9th, 1905, and held such through 1908.

The reporter's version of George Congleton's narrative continued with, *"At Chattaroy we got out and went to the railroad track and there saw the tracks again. The tracks showed plainly that there must have been another man besides the one who had charge of my brother. We were about to start off again in the rig when a couple of the men saw that tracks led to a box-car, and they rapped at the door and called to my brother. He recognized the voices of the men and called out to them.*

"We released him, and he was all right. In the meantime, the searching party on foot had arrived, and soon after them came another party on a handcar. We put my brother on the handcar and took him back. I do not think the men took anything from the store except the can of corn."

The author of the above article signed off with the following. *"Because his companion wore a mask, Mr. Congleton could not give much of a description except that he is above the average height and is thought to be a young man."*

Other than a report in the next day's *Spokesman-Review* noting that *"a young fellow who had been hanging around Milan for some time"* had been arrested by one of the deputies involved in the search, no further mention of that or any other detentions related to the incident have been found, suggesting that the person or persons actually responsible for kidnapping Mr.

Congleton had escaped justice.

A quick online search reveals that news of the incident was picked up by other newspapers throughout Washington, but also those in six other western states. For example, the *Elk City Mining News*, *Shoshone Journal*, and at least five more Idaho papers carried some version of the crime. This occurrence was also reported in a scattering of papers published in Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Montana. But within a few days, with nothing new to report, interest in the story faded away.

Or at least almost faded, as suggested by this paragraph in the *Spokesman-Review's* January 20th, 1904 edition. *"J. F. Congleton, the postmaster and merchant at Milan, who was recently the victim of holdups, was in Spokane replenishing his stock."* We're not sure what to make of the word *"holdups"* being presented in the plural. Maybe a misprint?

Moving Back to Spokane.

... a brush with politics ...

We next find a significant note of James in the October 3rd, 1904 issue of *The Spokane Press*. After the dateline *"Milan, Wash., Oct. 1,"* the newspaper reported, *"A large part of the population of Milan gathered in Congleton Hall tonight for the first republican rally of the campaign. Upward of 200 people from the town and surrounding lumber camps attended, and the gathering brought a great deal of enthusiasm and party loyalty to the front.*

"H. W. McNamar, an old Grand Army man and republican of long standing, was in the chair, with Precinct Committeeman J. F. Congleton assisting in arrangements. Enjoyable musical numbers were given by Miss Ida Nelson, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Congleton and others."

The spring of 1905 saw the Congleton family disrupted by the death of James and Belle's eldest daughter, the recently married Eva May Ingham. May's story was previously discussed, beginning on page 133.

A suggestion of the degree to which James Congleton's economic situation might have improved after the 1893 move to West Branch and then to Milan in 1894 was found in the *Spokane Chronicle's* May 10th, 1905 edition. Under the headline *"Milan Man Buys Third Avenue Property for \$10,000."* the article states, *"J. F. Congleton of Milan has purchased from Clara H. Bragaw the property located on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Third Avenue, consisting*

of 48x100 feet of land and a 50-room brick building known as the Idaho House. The consideration reported was \$10,000. In part payment for the property Mr. Congleton deeds to Mrs. Bragaw a 290-acre timothy farm near elk, wash., valued at \$7,000. This property is finely improved and has a good house and buildings."

And then, just a few months later, the August 23rd *Spokesman-Review*, under the lead "Rooming House Brings \$14,000," notes that the building once again changed hand, this time from J. F. Congleton to F. O. Berg. The article states, "The building is of brick, with stone foundations, three stories high, and contains 100 rooms." Whether Congleton had done anything to increase the value of the property isn't clear since the article goes on explain that "Mr. Berg proposes having the rooms all freshly calcimined and then refurbishing the house throughout."

The above term "calcimined" describes a white paint-like wall and ceiling emulsion commonly called whitewash.

The next year Mr. Congleton's dabbling in politics became something more, as outlined in the June 17th, 1906 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*. Under the lead "His First Nomination," the following. "J. F. Congleton, nominee for (Washington State) representative from the Fourth District, is a merchant at Milan. He is 43 years of age and was born in Indiana. He has lived in Spokane County for 17 years, the last 12 years of which he has lived at Milan. Mr. Congleton is married and is the father of two Children. This is the first time he has sought political office."

The term for a house representative was two years.

The following snippet is extracted from an article appearing in the January 4th, 1907 edition of the *Seattle Republican* listing the house membership of Washington State's 10th legislature by district number, name, address, and county represented. "4 — J. F. Congleton of Milan, Rep., Spokane."

As for James's political leanings, on March 13th, 1907, an article appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle* regarding a bill the Washington State's legislature had failed to pass that would have mandated eight-hour workdays for women — that having been state law for men since 1903. To quote, "The report states that J. A. Fancher, Emery P. Gilbert, and J. F. Congleton are the Spokane County representatives who voted against the passage of the initiative and referendum bill in the house."

A little more detail is given in the next days' *Spokesman-Review*, where it's stated that a

group of labor related bills, among them one "limiting laundry workers and women employees of department stores to 8 hours a day were passed by one house or the other and failed to get consideration in the other."

In 1911 the legislation regarding 8-hour days for women was passed. Possibly the fact that in November of 1910 the Washington State Constitution was amended by a two-thirds vote of the all-male state-wide electorate to read "There shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex," this giving said all-male legislative branch no other choice.

And as the results of November 1912 election, the following January saw two women taking chairs in Washington State's House of Representatives.

... daughters Margaret and Frances ...

In 1893 James Congleton had moved his family out of Spokane to settle some 23 miles to the north near the West Branch post office (see map page 129) — so named because it was beside the west branch of the Little Spokane River about a mile below that stream's southern exit from Blake's Lake. Blake's Lake was a shallow lake with accompanying wetlands that has since been relabeled Eloika Lake. About two miles south of the West Branch settlement was the community of Milan — to which the Congleton family relocated several years after first moving to West Branch.

The first official trace of the couple's second daughter, Margaret, is in the form of a Washington State Birth Return filed on the 12th of November, 1896. The form states that one day prior, at 411 Sprague Avenue in Spokane, a girl was born to the Milan couple with the assistance of a midwife — the above address likely the residence of the midwife. The child's Christian name wasn't stated on the document. However, on the 18th of September, 1942, an affidavit submitted to the Spokane County Auditor by Margaret's father made amends to the record, adding Margaret's first name.

Some two years and two months later another daughter was added to the family. According to her 1899 Birth Return, this third girl was born at Milan. But once again, her first name — Frances — had been omitted from the original Birth Return. And once again, this time on the 8th of October, 1942, her father submitted an amendment to add Frances's first name to the official record.

... returning to Spokane ...

Early in 1908 Margaret's father moved the family — Belle, Margaret, Frances, and himself — back to Spokane. I would guess this was to enhance his expanding business and political ambitions. After all, when the family left Spokane it was essentially a frontier town of just over 20,000 residents. Two years after they moved back, the 1910 census registered Spokane's population as just shy of 105,000 souls. Light rail systems were binding the dispersed communities surrounding Spokane into a commercial and residential web. And the town wasn't shy in sharing that its intent was to become the very heart of an "*Inland Empire*," the economic engine of such woven from mining, lumber, and agriculture enterprises.

... building an Empire ...

As noted in the extraction from a public relations piece appearing in the November 9th, 1908 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*, "*On the progress of the world's growth some communities have become great and prosperous through their agricultural lands, others through their manufacturing opportunities, others through their mineral resources, but the Inland Empire has the foundation for carrying on all of these wealth-producing agencies.*"

"The Spokane country has a magnificent grade of agricultural lands, in its mountains are large deposits of minerals, its hillsides and valleys contain billions of feet of standing timber, its ample facilities for manufacturing, coal for fuel and waterfalls for cheap power, and its navigable rivers for the upbuilding of a profitable commerce. In short, nature has endowed this northwestern country with all the elements that contribute to any form of prosperity.

"The one thing to be supplied is human genius, and there are fields in which human genius of any grade may find profitable employment, whether it be the laborer who toils for his daily wage, the master intellect whose executive skill supplies employment to his fellow man, or the capitalist with the savings of a lifetime. All can find work to do in the Inland Empire, and such in his own way contributes to his own happiness and the upbuilding of a proud citizenship."

... Spokane's Union Park district ...

After the family's return to Spokane, the society section of the town's newspapers occa-

sionally carried mention of Belle and her two surviving daughters. Their Spokane home was in the then up and coming Union Park district of east Spokane, about mid-point in what's now labeled Spokane's somewhat less than desirable East Central neighborhood. Although they lived in the Union Park district, there never was a Spokane park with that name. That said, the family's Third Avenue home was just a few blocks east of Liberty Park (*see image next page*) — that being 22 acres of donated parkland that was well on its way to becoming something equivalent to such Spokane icons as the late Natatorium Park and the current Manito Park. After being paved over by Interstate 90, little is left of this once magnificent slice of parkland — although a smaller and significantly less picturesque version was extended eastward of the original's few remaining acres in the early 1970s.

... the Congleton girls in Spokane ...

Though Margaret and Frances had spent their early years in a rural environment, the number of newspaper mentions after settling in Spokane seem to suggest their readjustment to the ins and outs of casual social dalliances as practiced among that era's upwardly mobile went very well. An example, this from the November 12th, 1909 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle*.

"In celebration of her thirteenth birthday anniversary, little Miss Margaret Congleton entertained a number of her young friends last evening at the home on East Third Avenue.

"Among the many games played was a north pole contest, at which the prize was won by Pearl Peterson, Marguerite Owen receiving the consolation."

A total of 26 young people — both girls and boys — attended the party.

And then this from the May 5th, 1912 edition of *Spokesman-Review*. "*Mrs. T. J. Congleton, E1828 Third Avenue was hostess to the members of the East End Book Club at her home Wednesday afternoon. The program for the afternoon included a paper by Mrs. H. E. Schlegel on the 'Blood Stone,' and the 'Agate' was given by Mrs. Henrietta Clark. Miss Margaret Congleton sang a solo and Miss Margaret Congleton and Miss Frances Congleton gave a duet. Refreshments were served.*"

The July 15th, 1912 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle* reported, "*The Hope Social Club had its third annual picnic Thursday at Natatorium Park and about 100 members and their friends attended. Bounteous repasts were served in the afternoon and evening, and the committee*

Liberty Park, Spokane, Wash.



Liberty Park, Spokane Washington.

Carrying a September 12th, 1911 postmark, the above colorized image was produced by the Spokane Post Card Company.

had arranged for plenty of amusement.” Among those listed as present, “Miss Frances Congleton.”

Under the lead “J. F. Congleton Disposes of Interests at Milan,” this appeared in the September 4th, 1912 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle*. “A deal involving several thousand dollars has just been closed by which J. F. Congleton, E1823 Third Avenue, this city, transfers to A. T. Kiblan of Milan, Wash., a half interest in the Milan water works.

“The sale also includes the transfer to Mr. Kiblan of a lot and store building with fixtures at Milan. The lot is described as lot 6, block 1 of Milan. Mr. Kiblan pays \$2,000 for this property.”

... a final year in Spokane ...

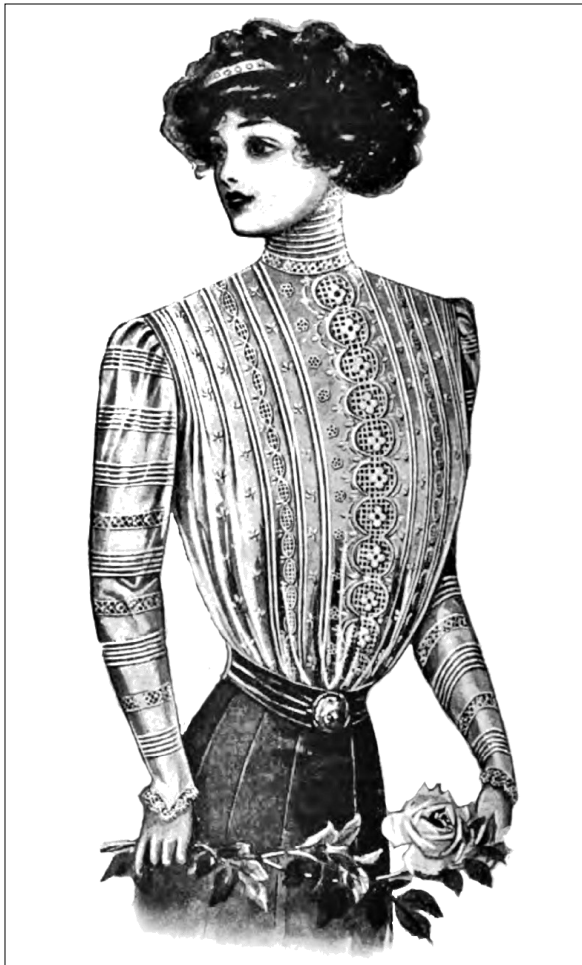
The following appeared in the January 11th 1913 *Spokesman-Review*. “Heavy leather shoes sopping wet, stockings oozing to the knees, nose and ears nearly frozen, 9-year-old Johnnie Wise, son of Louis Wise, a shoemaker, who resides at 3001 Sprague Avenue, at 3 o’clock Friday morning plodded through the snow to a glimmer in the bedroom window of the home of

Mrs. J. F. Congleton, E1828 Third Avenue, asked the time and complained that he was hungry, cold, and sleepy. Johnny had run away from the Academy of Holy Names. When Mrs. Congleton found the boy at the front door, she renewed the fire, she put on dry clothing and called the police station.”

On the 26th of January the *Review* noted that “Spokane Circle No. 746, Women of Woodcraft” a women’s group affiliated with the fraternal organization Woodmen of the World, “gave a successful social at the K. of P. (Knights of Pythias) hall on Wednesday ...” It was noted that among the entertainment there was a “vocal solo” by “Miss Frances Congleton.”

In early February the *Spokesman-Review* noted that “The members of the East End Book Club were the guests of Mrs. J. F. Congleton, E1828 Third Avenue, yesterday afternoon.” The article concluded, “Refreshments were served at the close of the afternoon, Miss Frances Congleton, Miss Ila Carr, and Miss Fleta Hunter assisting the hostess.”

Under the heading “Class Will Give Play,” this appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle’s* April 25th, 1913 issue. “The Get Busy Class of the Pacific Avenue Christian Church will give



Shirt-Waist Blouse

**Image from the June 5th, 1909 edition of
Dry Goods Economist — Fabric Edition.**

the play 'Betty Wales Girls and Mr. Kidd' at the North Hill Christian Church Friday evening, May 25. Characters are as follows ..." The list noted that the character "Babbie Hildreth" would be played by Frances Congleton.

The September 15th, 1912 edition of the semi-monthly *Bookseller, Newsdealer and Stationer Magazine* — a New York-based periodical covering the book, news, and stationery trade — carried this synopsis of author Margaret Warde's play.

"A play based upon the famous Betty Wales books, so popular with girls all over the United States. Betty and her friends, students at Harding College, invent a freshman named Georgia Ames in order to hoax Mary Brooks, a sophomore, and to mystify the college. They submit stories in Georgia's name to the college paper, of which Mary is editor, and send Georgia flowers and notes. The whole college is asking — 'Who is Georgia Ames?' Miss Prissy

Hicks, a teacher, puts Georgia's name on her class roll. Mary Brooks, discovering the trick, turns the tables by inventing Mr. O. Upton Kidd, supposed to be a student at Winsted College, nearby. Betty and her friends think he's a real man coming to Harding to see Georgia. They are about to meet him and apologize when Mary explains, introduces the real Georgia Ames, and is forgiven.'

Authored by Edith Kellogg Dunton (1875—1944), writing under the pseudonym Margaret Warde, the play was first published in 1912 — the script for same currently available on Google's "Advanced Book Search."

The scrip describes Frances's character, Babbie Hildreth, as "About 20. Pretty, popular, and very feminine. In Acts I and II, shirt-waist and skirt, or plain suit. In Act I, may also wear a wrap, but no hat, and coat or cape in Act II. In Act III wears pretty lingerie dress and big hat suitable for afternoon tea, and carries a long-stemmed rose; a very dressy young lady."

The newspapers didn't contain a review of how the play went, though we expect it was well received.

The May 24th, 1913 *Spokesman-Review* mentioned that "Miss Margaret Congleton, E1828 Third Avenue, attended the commencement exercises at Deer Park last night, and will spend the weekend with Miss Zola Kelly of Deer Park."

And then, on September 26th, 1913, the *Spokane Chronicle*, without further explanation, reported that "Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Congleton and family have moved from E2818 Third Avenue to Pacific Avenue and Sherman Street." We currently have no idea what that neighborhood was like back then, but today the vicinity of the aforementioned intersection has several very vintage brick buildings — said now along Pacific being rundown storefronts and what likely was and quite possibly still is an apartment house fronting Sherman — and expansive warehouses of a more modern but shabbily utilitarian appearance.

As to why the move, the October 11th, 1913 edition of the *Spokesman-Review* may offer a hint with this notice of "New Suits" being filed in Superior Court. "Northwestern and Pacific Hypotheek Bank vs. James Congleton and Van B. DeLashmutt to foreclose mortgage."

The above noted Hypotheek Bank was a mortgage company — formed in Holland in 1889 and operating until 1971 — which in the 1890s held approximately 25% of the mortgages outstanding in Spokane. As a result, filing lawsuits regarding the same appears to have been a

normal part of business for the company.

Regarding Mr. Congleton's partner in this lawsuit, the May 5th, 1901 *Spokesman-Review* gives us a glimmer with an article headlined "Men of Millions: New York Herald's List of Wealthy Citizens of Spokane." A portion of the article states, "According to the Herald there is no city in the northwest with so many millionaires as Spokane. It is true that the paper gives Portland 15 to Spokane's 14, but in the Portland list there is Van B. DeLashmutt who has his home here. By crediting him to Spokane, therefore the tally stands: Spokane 15, Portland 14. However, but three dead men are figured on the Spokane list, while seven of the Portland men have passed away."

In the April prior to the above noted lawsuit, Mr. DeLashmutt had announced his run for Spokane's City Commissioner. A portion of the *Spokesman-Review's* attending article said, "Such was the announcement last night of Van B. DeLashmutt, 1605 Tenth Avenue, for 15 years a citizen of Spokane, and a capitalist who has always been active in public affairs. Mr. DeLashmutt has lived in the pacific Northwest for 61 years, coming to Oregon in 1852. He is a former mayor of Portland, Ore., serving as the city's chief executive from 1887 until 1891."

In explanation of Congleton's changing fortunes, the general sentiment seems to be that Spokane's period of heated growth had slowed by 1910. A fair portion of the still wealthy were moving to plusher surroundings such as Chicago or New York. And speculators in larger real-estate and mining ventures scattered to more centralized localities. With this depletion of readily available local capital, one might expect that a number of area businessmen were finding themselves overleveraged and facing actions such as foreclosure whenever a slowdown occurred.

Whatever fortunes may have befallen the region's lesser shakers and movers, the April 8th, 1914 *Spokesman-Review* included the following under the dateline "Meyers Falls, Wash., April 7. — J. F. Congleton and family arrived yesterday from Spokane. He has leased the Hotel Gordon." At that point it was not indicated from whom the hotel was being leased

"Meyers Falls, Wash., July 17." The following note sounded very much like the type of social offerings reported as news back in Spokane. "Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Congleton entertained at cards and music yesterday in honor of Mrs. E. D. Offutt and Mrs. R. Glenn of Spokane and Mrs. Chris McDonald of Colville. Progressive five hundred was played. Mrs. W. H. Spencer winning first prize."

Oddly enough, the August 25th issue of the *Review* followed the dateline "Meyers Falls, Wash., Aug. 24," with, "H. W. McNamar has leased the Hotel Gordon to F. L. Brown of Marcus. Mr. McNamar will move to Spokane." Just a few months before that hotel had reportedly been leased to James Congleton. And here it's being suggested that the owner of the hotel at the time of the lease was James Congleton's father-in-law, Henry McNamer.

A bit later the same column notes, "Postmaster W. H. Spencer, John Harron, and J. F. Congleton went by automobile to Deep Creek for a week's outing and fishing." Whatever was going on, James didn't seem terribly worried about it..

And then, with the dateline "Colville, Wash., Sept. 9," the *Spokesman-Review* announced that "A marriage license was issued yesterday to C. H. Keller, merchant, and Margaret Congleton, both of Meyers Falls."

Several months later both the Hotel Gordon and James Congleton were in this bit of news from the *Spokesman-Review* under the dateline, "Meyers Falls, Wash., Nov. 28 — J. F. Congleton of Spokane has leased the hotel Gordon and took possession today. F. R. Brown, the former proprietor, will move to Spokane."

From that point the hotel seemed to stir nothing new in the line of operators until the following appears in the May 20th, 1916 issue of the *Colville Examiner*. "H. W. McNamar has sold to O. J. Phillips of Portland the Hotel Gordon at Meyers Falls, for \$3,000."

Going forward there's nothing to indicate who might be handling the day-to-day workings of the hotel — assuming it was still under lease to the Congleton family.

The January 15th, 1917 issue of the *Spokesman-Review* carried a slice of news dateline "Meyers Falls, Wash.," that read, "Mrs. H. W. McNamar entertained last night at 6 o'clock dinner. The honor guest was Miss Frances Congleton, the occasion being her eighteenth birthday anniversary. Covers were laid for fourteen."

According to an article in the *Spokesman-Review*, on April 13th, 1917 "At a patriotic meeting held in the town hall tonight, a tempo-

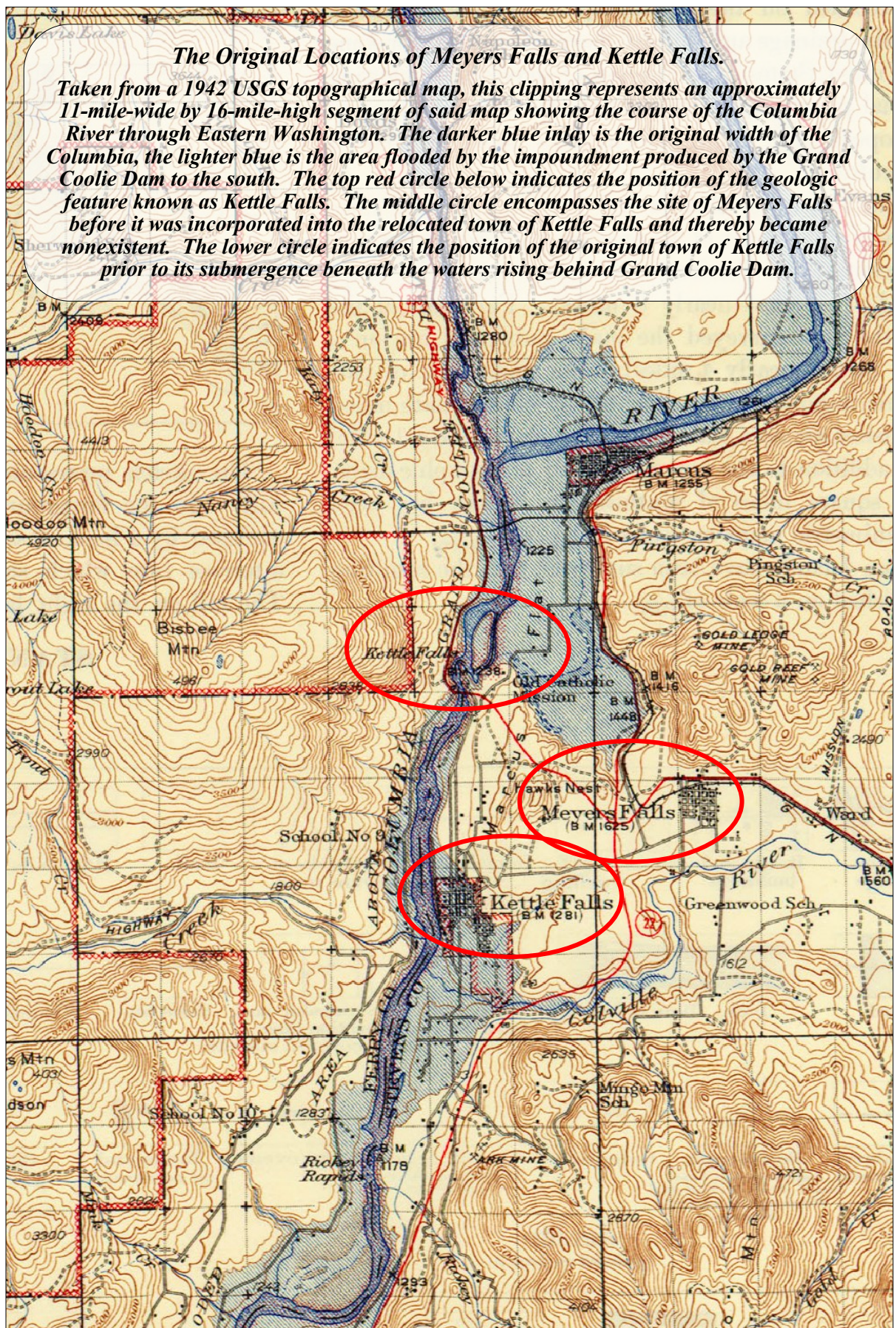
Resettling the Family.

... the Congleton family at Meyers Falls ...

In the summer of 1914, the *Spokesman-Review* carried this snippet under the dateline

The Original Locations of Meyers Falls and Kettle Falls.

Taken from a 1942 USGS topographical map, this clipping represents an approximately 11-mile-wide by 16-mile-high segment of said map showing the course of the Columbia River through Eastern Washington. The darker blue inlay is the original width of the Columbia, the lighter blue is the area flooded by the impoundment produced by the Grand Coolie Dam to the south. The top red circle below indicates the position of the geologic feature known as Kettle Falls. The middle circle encompasses the site of Meyers Falls before it was incorporated into the relocated town of Kettle Falls and thereby became nonexistent. The lower circle indicates the position of the original town of Kettle Falls prior to its submergence beneath the waters rising behind Grand Coolie Dam.



rary organization was effected and committees appointed to effect a permanent organization." At said meeting "J. F. Congleton was appointed temporary secretary." A few weeks later that appointment was made permanent.

Then several years later, the September 11th, 1920 issue of the *Colville Examiner* reported, "Mrs. Belle Congleton of Seattle is here visiting her daughter, Mrs. Charles Keller."

From this I think it's reasonably safe to assume that sometime after mid-1917 but before the late summer of 1920, James, Belle, and their youngest daughter, Frances, had relocated to Seattle.

About Belle's Father & Mother.

... a teacher, a merchant, and more ...

We've documented that in the early 1890s Belle's father, Henry W. McNamar, was teaching school for the Forrester District — and receiving his mail at Deer Park's post office. In 1892 he may have also sought the position of Justice of the Peace for the Deer Park precinct. It's currently not known if he obtained that position at that time.

In February of 1894 the *Spokesman-Review* indicates that Henry's son, John Edgar McNamar, had also obtained a Second-Grade teachers' certificate. John would have been 27 years old at the time.

The August 12th, 1894 *Spokesman-Review* reported that a "marriage license was issued yesterday to John E. McNamar and Bertha Rinehart, both of Deer Park." That last name, Rinehart, proved problematic. However, other sources suggest John's wife's full maiden name was actually Bertha Eliza Stacy. Bertha's death certificate states her date of birth was January 25th, 1871, and the place Ontario, Canada. She passed away in Seattle on the 16th of May, 1951. Reportedly the couple had two sons, Harold and Walter.

Both John and his father were mentioned in the 1896 R. L. Polk & Co's Spokane city directory. To quote, "McNamar & Co. (H. W. and J. E. McNamar), New and Second Hand Goods, 421 Sprague Av." The residence for both was also listed on the same page, that being a short distance away at 411 Sprague.

All seemed settled, but then this appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle's* June 6th, 1898 issue. "Rhodes & Son, who recently purchased the second-hand store of McNamar & Co., on Sprague Avenue, have moved their stock of

goods to Milan, Wash." We don't know for sure, but it's likely McNamar and Company were leasing the Sprague Avenue storefront — as still is common practice — and what they were selling to Rhodes & Son was their store's contents.

The *Spokesman-Review* followed that announcement 15 days later with this snippet carrying the dateline "Washington, June 21.," — "H. W. McNamar has been appointed postmaster at Scotia, Stevens County." Clearly the above-mentioned Washington was Washington D. C.

Scotia, now just another location where a hopeful town was once planted, is a rural crossroads located 12½ miles northeast of Milan, and 18 miles northeast of Deer Park. At the time that spot was in Stevens County — the eastern portion of which has since been partitioned away and relabeled Pend Oreille County.

This from the May 24th, 1899 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* gives us some idea of what else the McNamars were doing at Scotia. "Henry W. McNamar and John E. McNamar, who have been in business for some time past at Scotia, *Whitman [sic] County, filed a petition in bankruptcy in the federal court this morning. The combined debts of the two and of the firm amount to \$1474.69, while the total assets are only \$903.62."

*(The above should have read Stevens County.)

Under the dateline "Milan, Wash., Feb. 25," this was found in a 1901 copy of the *Spokesman-Review*. "H. W. McNamar will remove from Spokane March 1 to take personal charge of his hotel, B. A. Ritchie's lease having expired."

We know that the above B. A. Ritchie was a barber by profession; his shop prior to trying his hand at hotel management was in Ritzville, Washington. On December 6th, 1899, Ritzville's newspaper, the *Washington State Journal*, noted, "B. A. Ritchie and family have moved to Milan, Wash., where they expect to reside in future." After leaving Milan, Mr. Ritchie was traced to Everett, Washington where he had resumed the barber's trade.

As for Henry, the December 2nd, 1902 *Spokane Chronicle* reported that "H. W. McNamar, formerly of Spokane, and now of Milan, Wash., is in the city today to qualify as a Justice of the Peace." Several articles in following years show Henry acting in that capacity.

Regarding the hotel, there was an ad running in the October 1904 *Spokesman-Review* that read, "The Hotel Milan at Milan, Wash.: 15

sleeping rooms, parlor, dining room, kitchen and office; barroom in connection with hotel; average daily sales in saloon \$25; 25 steady boarders. Price \$4,000. Terms reasonable. Sparks Brothers, 602 Fernwell Blk. Phone Main 1947."

On the 2nd day of February, 1905, the above hotel, at the time reportedly owned by William Nelson, burned down, along with a general merchandise store owned by P. W. Murphy. At this point we can't directly connect these properties to the McNamar family.

Under the dateline "*Milan, Wash., Oct 1,*" this appeared in an edition of 1904's *Spokane Press*. "*A large part of the population of Milan gathered in Congleton Hall tonight for the first republican rally of the campaign. Upward of 200 people from the town and surrounding lumber camps attended, and the gathering brought a great deal of enthusiasm and party loyalty to the front.*

"H. W. McNamar, an old Grand Army man and republican of long standing, was in the chair, with precinct Committeeman J. F. Congleton assisting in arrangements. Enjoyable musical numbers were given by Miss Ida Nelson, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Congleton and others."

In mid-July, 1909, a letter to the editor was printed in the *Spokesman-Review*. The letter was signed and dated, "*H. W. McNamar, Spokane, July 13.*" A change of address from Milan to "*2227 Mallon Avenue,*" Spokane, was confirmed in an article published in the summer of 1911 — see page 128 of this article for the complete text of that clipping.

On the 11th day of September, 1915, this appeared in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle*. "*G. H. Ferrall has been appointed by the county commissioners as librarian of the Spokane County Bar Association Library at the courthouse at a salary of \$40 a month. He will succeed H. W. McNamar, who was forced to resign the place because of his wife's illness.*"

It's likely that soon after Henry and Eva moved to Meyers Falls to be with their daughter, Belle Congleton. That we're assuming from this article published in the February 4th, 1918 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*. Under the dateline "*Meyers Falls, Wash., Feb 3,*" to quote, "*H. W. McNamar and wife yesterday celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They were married in Bowling Green Indiana in 1868, and four children were born to them, two of whom are living, J. E. McNamar of Seattle and Mrs. J. F. Congleton of this place. They have two great-grandchildren. The great-grandchildren make the fifth generation. Mrs. McNamar's mother, Mrs. Catharine Marsh, age 93, is still living in*

Bowling Green, Ind. Mr. McNamar is a veteran of the civil war and spent six months as a prisoner in Andersonville. Mr. McNamar will be 79 years old April 2, and Mrs. McNamar is 64."

Via the internet link into the Washington State Digital Archives housed at Eastern Washington University's Cheney campus, I was able to obtain images of the July 16th, 1918 applications of both Henry and Eva McNamar for admission to the Washington Veterans' Home at Port Orchard, Washington. In search of more information on this facility, I found an article in the February, 1909 edition of *The Coast* magazine, a portion of which is included below.

"The legislature of 1907 enacted a law to establish and maintain a branch soldiers' home somewhere on Puget Sound, to be known as the 'Washington Veterans' Home,' and to be located upon land overlooking the wasters of the Sound. The purpose of the law was to provide a home for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who have served the United States government in any of its wars, members of the state militia disabled while in the line of duty, and also the wives of such soldiers, sailors and marines, all of whom must be bona fide citizens of the state at the time of applying for admission. The law provides for a home much broader in its scope than the one at Orting, the only other home in the state, and which was established some years ago and is for the soldiers of the civil war only."

Regarding where to locate the facility, the article states, "*The board decided upon the Port Orchard site as its first choice, and it was selected by unanimous vote of the full board.*"

The applications indicate that the couple's two children are at that time both living in Seattle, John McNamar at 922 N. 80th Street, and Belle Congleton at 707 N. 83rd Street. Both Henry and Eva gave Belle's address as their home address. The "*Surgeon's Certificate*" attached to Henry's application notes that among other things he is suffering from failing eyesight and is crippled with chronic rheumatism.

As to the couples' financial situation, it appears Henry was drawing \$40 a month on his military pension, and the rest he explained in this attached note.

"I have an equity of \$220 on lots 19 & 20, block 26, all at Meyers Falls, Washington. I have no other equity whatsoever. I owe Mrs. Ruth Spencer, who visited the home with us, \$500 on a mortgage, and she agreed to take the \$25 payments monthly and apply the sum until the mortgage is paid which will leave me for present my pension only. I am trying to buy a

little home for \$400. I hope I have made matters plain. Let me know soon.

"Very respectfully,

"H. W. McNamar."

A handwritten notation on the cover to the application appears to say that Henry died when on furlough from the Veterans' Home — that on April 15th, 1923. His home address given on his death certificate was 1030 N. 83rd Street, Seattle. The informant on the death certificate was Eva McNamar, living at the same address. As for Eva, she appears to have passed on March 17th, 1928 — that also when on furlough from the home. Her address at the time of death was "Duwamish R. F. D. #2 Box 346" — Duwamish referencing the indigenous peoples inhabiting the Seattle area prior to colonization by European settlers. That was James F. Congleton's address at the time, suggesting Eva was living with James and Belle at her time of death.

Regarding Eva, this appeared in the February 3rd, 1923 edition of the *Seattle Union Record*. "Married at 14, a grandmother at 32, and a great grandmother at the age of 48, is the achievement of Mrs. Henry W. McNamar, who Friday celebrated her 55th wedding anniversary with her husband, a Civil War veteran. The celebration was held at the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. F. Congleton, 1130 N. 83rd St., with other descendants present."

And Life Moves On.

... Joseph Sherman Congleton ...

The second of Job and Margaret's children, Joseph, was born in Clay County, Indiana on the 19th of June, 1864. There currently doesn't appear to be any record suggesting he ever married. He left his brothers and sisters in

Washington State, relocated to California around 1916, and passed away at Shasta, California on the 4th of February, 1950.

The February 6th, 1950 issue of Redding, California's newspaper, the *Record Searchlight*, reported, "Joseph Sherman Congleton, 85, of Redding, died at the county hospital Saturday night. He was born at Cory, Ind., and had lived in Shasta County for the past 34 years."

"He leaves two sisters, Mrs. Tillie Wolf of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Mrs. T. L. Murie of Edmonds, Wash."

... Marietta Congleton ...

Marietta, Job and Margaret's third child and first girl, is believed to have been born in 1867. She's the first of two Congleton girls that died of smallpox in 1875. Little else appears to be known at this time.

... Matilda Congleton ...

Matilda — usually referred to as Tillie — was the only child left behind in Indiana, doubtless due to the fact that she'd married David Herman Swank just before the family left for the Washington Territory. David passed away on the 5th of September, 1924. The reason was found in a snippet from the May 15th issue of Indiana's *Brazil Daily Times*. In a segment devoted to the news from the village of Cory, the *Times* reported, "Mr. and Mrs. James Royer, of Terre Haute, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hass spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Swank. Ames Royer and Sam Haas took Mr. Swank to Indianapolis for treatment of cancer." The above Mrs. Sam Haas was one of David and Tillie's daughters.

The following obituary was found in the July 22nd, 1960 issue of Indiana's Terre Haute

Society's Editor in Need of Copy!

(And a very tall Long Island Tea would be nice as well.)

If you have any materials you'd consider having the society publish in this newsletter, we'd certainly appreciate an opportunity to look. Our primary concerns regarding such materials can be found on the last page of each issue in our "Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns" info box. You'll also find a listing of "Society Contacts" at the same place.

We would like to see stories related to the history of northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. To get a better idea of what we want, check the Society's mission statement found just to the left of the newsletter's "flag," that at the top of the first page of each issue.



Tribune, under the dateline "Riley, Ind., July 22. — Services for Mrs. Tille Swank Wolfe, 91 years old, of RR (rural route) 5, Terre Haute, who died Thursday, will be at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Fox Funeral Home. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. James Royer of RR 5, Terre Haute, with whom she made her residence, Mrs. Hazel Fox of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Mable Elkins of Bedford; a sister, Mrs. Nellie Murie of Edmonds, Wash.; 18 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren."

She was buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Indiana, beside her first husband, David Swank.

... Lucinda J. Congleton ...

Lucinda is the second of the two girls recorded as having passed from smallpox in 1875. She was born in 1870. One of the few available records indicates she was buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Indiana.

... Ora Blanche Congleton ...

An obituary appearing in Everett's May 8th, 1959 issue of the *Daily Herald* said, "Mrs. Ora B. Owens, 82, of 2362 Rucker Ave., died in a local hospital Thursday (May 7th) morning. Mrs. Owens was born in Cory, Ind., Sept. 20, 1876, and had lived in Everett for 26 years. Mrs. Owens was a member of the Central Christian Church, Columbia Chapter No 33, OES, Women's Relief Corps, and the Women's Democratic Club. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Margaret Weldon of Seattle, Mrs. Essie Shaffer of Seattle, and Mrs. Georgia Everett of Missoula, Mont.; a son, John C. Owens of Kent; a sister, Mrs. Tillie Wolff of Terre Haute, Ind.; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren."

Regarding Ora's husband, this from the February 20th, 1951 issue of the Peninsula Daily News, Port Angeles. "George W. Owens, 81 former Port Angeles lumberman, died in Everett, February 13 and was buried there last Friday.

"Mr. Owens, a retired assistant parole officer, operated lumber mills or lumber retail yards in Spokane, Sedro Woolley, Mount Vernon, Port Townsend, and Port Angeles. He left here about 20 years ago.

"He became a parole officer in 1933 with headquarters at Everett and retired in 1949."

Regarding their time together, as recorded by the October 6th, 1949 edition of Everett's *Daily Herald* when reporting on the couple's 50th Wedding anniversary, the newspaper stated

that "Owens still congratulates himself on the twist of fate which sent him bumping westward by covered wagon in 1888. Three wagons and twenty horses provided the transportation for the long trek over the Old Mullen Trail.

"Owens met his wife while he was running a lumber business near Spokane. She was an employee who married the boss.

"But the roles have been reversed ever since," Owens chuckled."

As to the couple's children, we did find a birth certificate for their first born, Margaret Disa Owens. She was born at Milan, on the 7th of October, 1900. As for the next in line, John Congleton Owens was also born a Milan on the 30th of April, 1902. We know Essie Owens was born on April 27th, 1904, but where is a bit of a mystery. The last, Georgia Bonnie Owens, was born at Sedro-Woolley, on the 23rd of November, 1919.

Regarding George Owens' full name, the "W" in the middle stood for Washington.

... George Dallas Congleton ...

Job and Margaret's 7th child and 3rd son, George D. Congleton, was born at Cory, Indiana on the 30th of August, 1879. Due to his age, we're assuming he journeyed to the Washington Territory with the rest of the family. The first clipping we have regarding George is this from the January 16th, 1902 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*.

"Milan, Wash., Jan. 14. — George Congleton, a brother of the Congleton Bros., merchants of this place, and who was employed in the planing department of the Spokane Lumber Company, met with a serious accident today by having his hand caught in the lower cylinder of one of the planers. The hand was completely severed from the arm at the wrist. He was taken to Spokane for treatment."

That same day the *Spokane Chronicle* added that he had been taken to the Deaconess home in Spokane, that being the precursor to the soon to be built Deaconess Hospital.

On July 29th the next year, an article in the *Spokane Chronicle* began "George D. Congleton reckons the loss of his right hand at \$15,000 and through his attorneys, Roche & Onstine, has brought suit in the superior court against the Spokane Lumber company."

On September 2nd, 1903, the *Spokane Chronicle* reported that a marriage license had been issued "to George D. Congleton and Ruth E. Champlin, both of Milan."

As for the lawsuit, on May 18th, 1905,

the *Spokesman-Review* indicated the jury trial was to occur in the Superior Court. "*Setting Today — Congleton vs. Spokane Lumber Company.*" And two days later, on the 20th, "*Orders — George D. Congleton vs. Spokane Lumber Company; order dismissing action.*" I can't be certain, but it would seem possible that the sides, pending the risk involved in a trial, came to a last-minute settlement.

The course of his life would suggest the loss of his hand didn't prove insurmountable. Mr. Congleton continued to be active in the Milan community, involving himself in the township's governing committees, deeply emmeshing himself into matters related to the local school and so forth.

According to his death certificate, George Congleton passed away in Spokane's Deaconess Hospital on August 5th, 1942. His usual occupation was listed as farmer, and his place of residence, Milan. He left behind his wife, Ruth, one daughter, Gladys Hall of Spokane, and two sons, Byron of Milan and Max of San Francisco.

Ruth Edna Congleton died on the 20th of May, 1947. Both her and George are at rest in the Milan Cemetery.

... Allen R. Congleton ...

In the final month of 1922, a dispatch datelined "*Elk, Wash., Dec. 5.*" appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle*. It said, "*Funeral services for Allen R. Congleton were held in the I. O. O. F. Hall at Milan Sunday afternoon, the Rev. O. P. Shenefelt officiating. Mr. Congleton had been in poor health for some time on account of wounds received while in the service, but met his death in a railroad accident at Auburn, Cal. Two brothers and two sisters; J. F. Congleton of Seattle and George Congleton of Milan, and Mrs. George Owens of Mt. Vernon, Wash., and Mrs. P. L. Murie of Seattle, were present. The body was laid to rest beside his parents in the Milan cemetery.*"

... Nellie Maud Congleton ...

According to her death certificate, Nellie Congleton was born in Indiana on August 4th, 1885. Her parents, Job and Margaret Congleton. After those few facts, things get a bit more convoluted.

First we have a certificate of marriage dated September 12th, 1904, in which Peter L. Murie is joined with Eva La Bay — that occurring at Everett, Washington.

Next is a certificate of marriage dated January 19th, 1905, with A. G. Short of Cheney and Nellie M. Congleton of Milan being the contracting parties.

A notice appeared in the November 25th, 1905 edition of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* stating that Eva Murie was seeking a divorce from Peter L. Murie, whom she married at Everett in 1904. She also was asking to have her maiden name, Eva La Bay, restored.

The thing to remember about the above Peter Murie and Eva La Bay is that we can't firmly connect them to the following Peter Murie and Nellie Congleton. But we can connect A. G. Short to the following Nellie Congleton.

Confused?

Regarding Peter and Nellie, we have two census reports, one taken in Aberdeen, Chehalis County, Washington and dated April 25th 1910, and the other taken in Winlock Township, Lewis County, Washington on April 27th, 1910. On each form three Murie names are listed — those being Peter, Nellie, and Russell. There are several slight differences between the two forms, but those anomalies could easily be explained if a census taker approached Peter while he was working in one county and another census taker approached Nellie while she and the baby were residing in a separate county — as the forms indicate. Those things do happen.

We do have a death certificate for the above noted Russell — his age on both the census forms being 3. Russell was born at Cheney, Washington on October 7th, 1906. His father was listed as Peter Louis Murie, birthplace Dundee in Scotland. His mother was Nellie Maud Congleton, birthplace Cory, Indiana. Russell passed away in Seattle on April 13th, 1943.

As for the issue of his parents' marriage, there's a certificate from the Washington State Digital Archives that reads, "*This is to certify, that the undersigned, a minister by authority of a license bearing date the 19th day of December, A. D. 1910 and issued by the Auditor of the County of Lewis, State of Washington, did on the 24th day of December, A. D. 1910 at Hoquiam in the County of and State of aforesaid, join in lawful wedlock Peter C. Murrie [sic] of the County of Chehalis in the State of Washington and Nellie M. Congleton of the County of Chehalis in the State of Washington with their mutual consent.*"

A note was added to the above document correcting the name of the groom to "*P. L. Murie.*"

I'm unable to find any record regarding the nature of the separation between Nellie and A. G. Short. The only implication to be drawn

from that when looking back 120 years is that not everything in history can be clarified.

You will doubtless note there is a discrepancy between the date of the birth for Peter and Nellie's first child and the date of their marriage. Be that as it may, after their 1910 marriage, they remained a couple until Peter's death some 51 years and 9 months later.

The couple's second child, Irma Lone Murie, was born just before their marriage, on October 5th, 1910. Irma's death certificate noted that she had suffered from "*chronic epilepsy since childhood*," and had succumbed to a "*cerebral hemorrhage*," that on June 5th, 1961. Her place of death was given as 630 Main Street in Edmonds — that being a still existent two-bedroom home built in 1901, and currently serving as the office for an insurance company. Irma doesn't appear to have ever married. It might be significant that her Edmonds residence at the time of her death was about 11 blocks due south

of that of her younger sister

The next child was another girl, Pearl Leola Murie. Her obituary in the August 13th, 1996 issue of Everett's *Daily Herald* states, "*Pearl L Berg died peacefully in her home of 56 years on August 11, 1996. Pearl was born to Nellie and Peter Murie on December 8, 1912. Pearl graduated with honors from Edmonds High School in 1930. She was married to Egil R. Berg. Pearl retired from the Edmonds Post Office in 1976. She will be missed by her brother, Robert Murie; her children, Beverly Browne, Carole Campbell, and Robert Berg; and grandchildren.*"

Regarding her brother Robert Murie, we found that he was born on the 4th of July, 1916, and passed on the 24th of January, 2000. His wife's name was Alice U. (Kerr) Murie. Both are at rest in the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery.

Proofreaders Wanted!



As usual, this newsletter's editor is in semi-desperate need of proofreaders. A draft of each pending issue in both PDF and Microsoft Word format will be forwarded to each volunteer. The PDF is the complete magazine in galley format. The Word copy will include all the text found in the issue. Proofreaders can use either or both of these formats, whichever they feel most comfortable with. Email the editor for more details, or to sign up.

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Illustration from Life Magazine, December 21, 1911.