

THE LIFE OF ALBERT DAVID STUCKEY

1873-1944

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Albert David Stuckey (A.D. Stuckey)

Born October 20, 1873, Danvers, Illinois

Died April 15, 1944, Hamilton, Ohio

Oldest child of C.R. Stuckey, grandson of Bishop Joseph Stuckey

Wife of Emma Sault Berk, Father to Frederick, Donald, David, Louise, and Howard

Grandfather of Patricia, Karen, Neil Ann, Kathleen, Carylann, John, Marcia, Tom

Introduction

Albert David Stuckey's life (1873-1944) spans the rise of industrialism in the late 1800's, the opportunities of unchecked capitalism from 1900-1929, and the economic depression and hardship of the 1930's resulting from the stock market crash of 1929 - a pivotal event in the life of the family. A businessman of Mennonite stock from a small central Illinois farm village, Stuckey was enticed early in his career to the larger industrial region of Southwestern Ohio, where he gained business experience as a foundry plant assistant manager from 1910-1917, and president of a failing caster company during the same period. Venturing out on his own in the late teens and early twenties as president of a foundry, an auto dealership and an investment service, by 1926 he seemed on the



brink of success, only to succumb to economic collapse and a nervous breakdown surrounding the market crash of 1929. There followed more than a decade of diminished means and well-being prior to his death from a stroke in 1944.

What can we learn from the trajectory of his life - promising start and seemingly limitless opportunity, but threatened by crisis and decline. Was it the result of overextension and unrealistic optimism, poor business acumen, or were his fortunes ruined by larger national economic forces? What part did his Mennonite background in Illinois, his mentoring by a dynamic father-in-law (F.H. Berk) in Ohio, or his association with established businessmen in Ohio, play in his success or failure? And what character traits guided his behavior? He and Emma raised five children, offering his family prosperity and college educations for his sons in the early years, only to see the depression threaten, but not destroy, his way of life and his children's opportunities.

Perhaps these questions can be answered, perhaps not, but this description of the events of his life may offer some clarity. This account is derived predominantly from Hamilton newspaper articles, and some from family documents, but very little is known of his personality or motivations. We will not know how he confronted issues in his personal and business life familiar to all of us: courage and cowardice, confidence and self-doubt, loyalty to family, greed, patience, anger, desire for control, intense effort but spread too thin.

One thing can be said for sure: his life experiences were far removed from those of his grandfather, Amish-Mennonite Bishop Joseph Stuckey, who was alive for Albert David's first 27 years.

1850 Arrival in Illinois

A.D.'s grandfather, Joseph Stuckey, eldest of eight children, immigrated at age four from near Lorraine, France, in 1830 through the port of New Orleans with his parents, Peter and Elisabeth, to the Amish region of Madison Township in Butler County, Ohio. They had been drawn to the settlement, established in 1819 by Christian Augspurger, former manager of the Meinau Estate outside Strasbourg, France, seeking farmland and an Amish worship congregation. Joseph grew up in the Augspurger Amish congregation, surrounded by the faithful. He married Barbara Roth in 1844 and had the first of his two children, Jacobina, in 1846, in Butler County. In 1850 he moved to Illinois with his wife, child, and parents. Initially working in the Peoria area for five months, the family later moved to a farm in McLean County, where son C.R. (Christian Roth) was born in 1852. In 1853 Joseph acquired the first 40 of his eventual 200 acres. He went on to become a self-educated Amish-Mennonite minister (1860), Bishop (1864-1902), and founding member of the North Danvers Mennonite Church.

Bloomington, Illinois (February 21, 2012) – 159.77 acres of prime farmland in Illinois' largest corn and soybean producing county hit a record high price earlier this week at an auction conducted by Soy Capital Ag Services. The record \$14,100/acre price for this farm, which also has grain storage, a machine shed and other farm buildings was purchased by an investor.



Joseph's son, C.R. Stuckey, followed farming until after he was married to Catherine Strubhar in a ceremony performed by his father, the Reverend Joseph Stuckey in 1872. Albert David (A.D.) was born on the farm in 1873, but in 1875 the family moved to the small nearby village of Danvers (population 356 in 1870), where C.R. became engaged in the mercantile business. Christian and his father,

Joseph, held an interest in a general merchandise store, while Joseph pursued his increasing ministerial duties. C.R. continued to operate a retail grocery and general store along with son, Albert David, until about 1900, before entering real estate and insurance. He remained active in the North Danvers Mennonite Church but also participated in the local Danvers Presbyterian Church, the first Stuckey to move away from the family religious heritage.

Danvers

Danvers, just 11 miles west of Bloomington, was laid out under the name of Concord (after Concord, Massachusetts) in 1836. Between 1835 and 1837 eight new towns and many additions were laid out in McLean County. Danvers was on the stage coach route from Bloomington to Peoria.

The early growth of the village was extremely slow. In the words of the 1879 county history, "For more than six years the place was nearly lifeless." In 1848 a Post office was established in Concord, but in 1861 the name of the town was changed to Danvers, taken from the town of Danvers in Massachusetts.

In the 1860s, farmers began moving into the fertile prairies around the newly renamed village and it became the center of an exceptionally



productive agricultural district. It became clear that if Danvers was going to ship grain, a railroad was essential. The Danvers Town Council subscribed \$50,000 in railroad bonds and on November 25, 1869 a celebration was held in

Danvers to hail the arrival of the first train. A great public celebration was held and perhaps opening of the railroad brought growth and increased opportunity. Additionally, Joseph was becoming a prominent

Amish-Mennonite leader in Illinois and needed a less demanding occupation than farming.

Thus, one could say that the entry of the railroad into town lured the Stuckeys from the farm and away from the Amish life and into business, establishing the future course of the family.

1873 Early Life

A.D., born in 1873, grew up in the village of Danvers, attending the local school. His younger sister, Ida Victoria, was born in 1875, and a brother, Jesse, born in 1879, died the same year. A brother, Lyle, was born much later in 1896, when A.D. was 23, and they must have enjoyed



DANVERS SCHOOL 1890

an entirely different type of relationship. A.D. was a good and improving student. His junior report showed 100 in math but a 64 in United States History and a 65 in English grammar. By the 1891 senior final exam, his math score remained at 100, with gains in history to 91 and English to 87, increasing his class rank to 6 of 101. Showing promise, he was enrolled by his father at age 18 in the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

1891 Eastman Business College



Eastman was founded in 1859 by Harvey G. Eastman (cousin of George Eastman, of Eastman-Kodak fame), and was for a time one of the largest commercial schools in the United States. The College offered students practical instruction in those basics needed to succeed in business or a profession. The course of study was usually about four to six months and included courses in business writing and arithmetic, book-keeping, business customs, letter writing, commercial history and geography, mercantile law, banking, finance and business practices. Tuition was \$100 - \$150 and room and board \$4.50 weekly. For \$115 in advance, a student could obtain twelve weeks of instruction, and room and board in a private residence.

This must have been a bold adventure for a young man from a rural Illinois village of 500 (1890) to head East. Christian and Joseph must have sensed in the young man certain qualities of intelligence and



industriousness, and they were eager to give him a good foundation. Besides he would be challenged by new ideas and meet a variety of students from various regions of the country. His autograph book (similar to a yearbook) contained well wishes and signatures from students in all regions of the country, indicating a wide circle of friends from other backgrounds and perspectives.

A.D. completed the course of study, graduating late in 1891. Returning to Danvers, he apprenticed with his father for ten years in the family business, C.R. Stuckey & Son, applying what he had learned in the East. In November of 1893, a fire destroyed their store and several other buildings, but they reopened in February with a fine grocery and general merchandise store. Christian, perhaps bolstered by his son's business education and promise, closed or sold his retail grocery and entered the real estate, loan and insurance business in 1902. By then he had acquired additional real estate in Danvers Village and Township, and in 1905 he acquired 1300 acres of North Dakota farmland. Christian also was civic minded, serving on the Danvers City Council and Danvers School District Board. This served as a powerful example to his young son A.D., whom he mentored to one day continue in business and community involvement.

A.D. did seem to be on track to perhaps continue his father's business interests in the small village of 600 (in 1900). The family was prospering, had acquired a large home in 1890, and had been a pillar of the community for 25 years. But an unexpected visit from a beautiful young woman would change all that.

1903 Courtship and Marriage to Emma Berk

Emma Sault Berk of Trenton, Ohio, then in her mid-twenties, was sent to visit a cousin in the summer of 1902, as her parents were trying to discourage a romantic relationship in Trenton. She spent two weeks in Danvers near to the Stuckey's and returned to Trenton in love and engaged to be married to Albert David.



ANNA, JACK, AND SARAH

Emma was born on July 1, 1877, into difficult circumstances in Hamilton, Ohio. Anna Steinman, from Switzerland, and John Sault, an Englishman, were married in 1870 in Louisville, Kentucky, where John worked as a machinist. They had two children, Jack, born in 1871, and Sarah, born in 1873. Sometime between 1872-73 they moved to Hamilton for unknown reasons. City Directories list a John Sault, machinist, in Louisville yearly from 1870-1872, and then in Hamilton in 1873, but not in the 1875 directory, consistent with

his reported death on August 9, 1873. He died shortly after he and Anna took Jack and Sarah to Chadwick's Mills, New York, to be baptized at the home of John Sault's relatives.



The 1875 Hamilton City Directory lists a Mrs. Sault, dressmaker, (but no John Sault) living at the rear of Butcher Bernard Holbrock's in the 400 block of South Second Street. In the fall of 1876, Anna became pregnant but she grew ill as the summer of 1877 approached. Shortly before delivering Emma on July 1, and diagnosed with consumption (tuberculosis), too ill to care for them, she placed her two young children Jack and Sarah in the Butler County Infirmary on Poorhouse Hill. Shortly after giving birth in July, she returned to the infirmary with infant Emma, where Anna, probably then in her late twenties,



died in November 1877, leaving all three children wards of the state. Emma's birth father remains unknown.

Jack and Sarah were adopted by the New York relatives of John Sault and grew up in Johnson City, New York, unaware of their half-sister,

Emma. In December, 1877 Emma was transferred to the Butler County Children's Home at South "D" Street. Emma's life took a decidedly positive turn when adopted in December of 1879 at the age of 2 years and six months by prominent businessman F.H. Berk and wife, Louise Deuscher Berk, of nearby Trenton, Ohio. She was raised in favorable circumstances, graduating high school 1893 and later attending The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Only in their twenties were the three children, Jack, Sarah, and Emma, reunited under the auspices of the Salvation Army and they remained close for the remainder of their lives.



Married in a lavish wedding at Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Trenton in June of 1903, Emma and A.D. returned to Danvers, living either with or next to his father Christian Roth and continuing the new business ventures of his father in real estate, insurance, loans, and property management. This would be important early experience for A.D., as we shall see in his future business endeavors.



A.D.'s grandfather, Joseph, died in 1902 after nearly 40 years of shepherding the North Danvers Mennonite Church, and with his death, family participation in the Mennonite church diminished where they probably continued with a quieter existence in Danvers, a small village of 600. In 1907 Danvers became a stop on the electric interurban railroad (until 1953) and remained a pleasant residential environment for commuters to Bloomington, but a sustained or substantial growth never materialized and the population only reached 1000 by 1950. One can surmise that had A.D. remained in Danvers, his opportunities and horizons would have been much more limited and restricted. Nevertheless, frequent visits by the Stuckeys to many relatives in Danvers in the 1920s and 1930s resulted in pleasant memories of Danvers for the family.

1904 Back to Trenton

There must have been considerable excitement then for the young couple when word was received in 1904 of an opportunity in Trenton and Hamilton, Ohio.

Emma's adoptive father, F.H. Berk, was married to Louise Deuscher, daughter of H.P. Deuscher, prominent farmer, brewer, and industrialist, owner of a malt brewery and since 1878, owner and operator of the H.P. Deuscher Foundry in Hamilton. H.P. Deuscher made farm implements, school seats, castings, heating furnaces, and letter presses. The line of farm implements was impressive and included the Hamilton Folding Harrow, the Hamilton Disc Harrow, the McColm Soil Pulverizer, the Favorite Churn, the Lone Star Rake, the

"Ideal" walking and riding cultivator, the "Ideal" garden plow, as well as manhole covers, gate latches, lawn settees, iron vases, and much more.



Mr. Deuscher had six daughters and one son, his son dying early of tuberculosis. An experienced businessman himself, son-in-law F.H. Berk had become increasingly involved in operation of the H.P. Deuscher Company, assuming the role of vice president some years earlier. When H.P. Deuscher died in 1903, son-in-law Frederick H.



FRED BERK



H.P. DEUSCHER

Berk was asked to take over management of the Deuscher Foundry as president and general manager.

The Berk Home -Trenton

Berk also saw the promise in the serious young man from Danvers, and in 1904 asked A.D. and Emma to come live with him and his wife in Trenton and assist in the foundry operation. They concluded affairs with C.R. Stuckey in Danvers and moved into the Berk's comfortable home in



Trenton in 1904. Starting at the bottom at H.P. Deuscher in Hamilton, A.D. was listed as book keeper in 1906 and correspondence clerk in the 1908 Hamilton City Directory.



A.D. and F.H. traveled daily to Hamilton by traction car to the foundry on Seventh and Hanover Streets. One can imagine the two discussing business affairs on the 8-mile trip, with F.H. Berk mentoring his young son-in-law.

1910 Move to Hamilton

By 1910 A.D. was listed as assistant manager at H.P. Deuscher, and they still lived in Trenton, but that year, after six years of commuting, F.H. Berk purchased a large double home for both families at 439 South Second Street in Hamilton. This residence, a stately three-story brick with front porch columns and a ballroom on the third floor was only seven blocks from the foundry, and was probably within walking distance of it.

Emma was now living just three or four doors down from where she was born in 1877 in a small wooden alley dwelling at the rear of Butcher Holbrock's. She probably never imagined her remarkable change in station. We don't know if she was even aware of this rather dramatic



coincidence. Sons Frederick (1907) and Donald (1908) had been born in Trenton, but in 1911 twins Dave and Louise entered the family, with Howard arriving in January of 1913. The family was now complete and began to prosper as A.D. worked his way up at H.P. Deuscher under the mentorship of his father-in-law F.H. Berk. Half-sister Sarah (Sadie) joined the family about this time, assisted in raising the children, and remained with Emma for the duration of her life.

1910 The H.P. Deuscher Fire



On the night of Wednesday August 17, 1910, a disastrous fire destroyed the H.P. Deuscher Foundry. The night watchman discovered the blaze and used the fire call box in place at the time but it malfunctioned due to burned wires. Flames were seen at 10:15 PM and calls went out to the Fire Department locomotives on a nearby track blew their horns to sound the alarm. Flames shot a hundred feet in the air and could be seen from around the region. The building was wood and the fire rapidly spread, destroying all but iron castings, the company safe, and the steel doors of safes being made for the nearby Herring Hall Marvin Safe Company. Patterns for clients Herring Hall Marvin, The Hamilton Caster Company, and Cleveland School Seat Company were destroyed. By the time the fire was brought under control, 5000 people and 65 autos surrounded the area to watch. A

news reporter wrote: "perhaps the most beautiful yet awe inspiring part of the fire was the burning of the sills and woodwork around the doors and windows. With parts of bare walls standing out against the sky, the sight was impressive. From a distance it seemed that a figure on the northwest corner of the building was pronouncing judgment over the ruins." "The crash of collapsing walls and falling roofs could be heard for blocks. Women screamed in terror when the big east wall began to sway and the heroic fireman attempted to get out of the way." The foundry was a total loss.

About 140 men were employed at the plant at the time of the fire, making farm implements and school seats for clients such as Sears Roebuck in Chicago, furnaces and heating equipment, and jobbing work for foundries and machine shops.

F.H. Berk, president, and A.D. had moved with their families to Hamilton just one month before, in July. Vice President Otto Ehresman said the loss was about \$100,000, \$60,000 of which would be covered by insurance. With several hundred men immediately out of work, the directors would take immediate steps to lease a vacant foundry, Victor Company, to continue manufacturing operations.



President Berk said, "We will rebuild and the new structure will be more modern in every respect." Work would begin immediately on a new facility costing \$100,000.

After the fire, the company did rebuild on the same location, but Deuscher abandoned the manufacture of farm implements, school desks, and heating equipment and changed its production to grey iron castings, becoming jobbers for other businesses needing iron castings for their equipment or products. They also made ornamental products such as street lights. Berk and Stuckey must have been instrumental in that business decision, and ultimately the company prospered in that location and remained operational until it finally declared bankruptcy in 1989. The company was owned by shareholders, mostly Deuscher family, but A.D. was not an owner of those shares.

1910-1916 National Caster Company

During the tenure of A.D. Stuckey at H.P. Deuscher, he was also listed as president of the National Caster Company, beginning about 1909-1910, and lasting until its demise in 1916.

Castors were wheel structures produced for a wide variety of furniture, manufacturing plants and machine shops and were in great demand. Innovation, design and construction demanded knowledge and engineering skill. This story is related in detail to illustrate the possible, but thwarted, aspirations of A.D. Stuckey.

National Caster was initially incorporated with \$5000 stock as The Hamilton Metal Pattern Company on July 29, 1901, with five original owners. Their goal was to make electrical appliances, novelties, and wood and metal patterns. Just several months later, in November of 1901, the company was purchased by Wilmer Brown and Paul Sohngen. In late 1901 the firm was moved from its High Street location to a more substantial plant at 121 North "B" Street. The company thrived and in 1904, "The Hamilton Metal Pattern Company of Hamilton Ohio have changed their name to the National Caster Company and will give their attention to the manufacture of the Martin anti-friction two-wheeled caster. C.J. Parrish is president; W.S. Brown, secretary, and John Kaefer, general manager." Notice in the *Metal Industry. A Trade Journal* (nonferrous metals and alloys). NS. Vol II No. 5, May 1904, P. 82. Google Books, (Courtesy Jon Thiem)

Wilmer Brown of Venice, Ohio, was elected Butler County Treasurer in 1897, and re-elected in 1900. Retiring from public office in 1901, he invested in and remained active with National Caster for many years and during his tenure, the famous Billy Yank statue was cast in the foundry.

Billy Yank is the statue atop the Hamilton Soldiers and Sailors Monument. A Civil War Veterans group initiated the movement for a memorial and monument. Construction began on the monument building in 1902. Local sculpture Rudolph Thiem won the bid for the statue on November 5, 1903. By April of 1904 a clay model was

completed, and by November, the statue was cast in bronze at the now renamed National Caster Company. It was hoisted to the top of the monument December 1, 1904, and dedicated July 4, 1906, honoring pioneers and military vets from the county.

Billy Yank represents no one person in particular, but a typical young Union Civil War Soldier. The young soldier is depicted in a battlefield scene in his private's uniform and shouting victory, musket in right hand, foot on exploded shell, cap in left hand. The statue weighs 3500 lbs. and stands 17 feet high. Billy Yank remains Hamilton's most important and visible landmark.



Billy Yank was sculpted by Rudolph Thiem. Thiem was born in Berlin in 1859, studied in Germany and was primarily a sculptor. He immigrated to the United States in 1881- met Lazard Kahn (Estate Stove Company) in New Orleans in

1886 and came to work at Kahn's Estate Stove Company in Hamilton, designing the intricate work on Estate Stoves. (Both Earl Weiland, as credit manager, and Louise Stuckey, office worker, were employed at Estate Stove.) Later he opened his own business doing larger scale projects, monuments, busts, etc.

Mr. Thiem's work was done in a small shop on South "A" Street, across the river from the Monument. Eventually the workshop moved to 110 North "B" Street, directly across the street from National Caster.

After the success of Billy Yank, Wilmer Brown left for a sugar plantation in Cuba for two years, 1907-1909, returning to Cuba intermittently after that.

By 1910, A D Stuckey is listed as president of National Caster in the City Directory, with Wilmer Brown as Secretary/Treasurer. Since A.D. was moving up in the H.P. Deuscher Company, he obviously had contacts all over the city and knew Frank Duerr (Deuscher Secretary) from rival foundry Hamilton Caster Company, and Wilmer Brown from National Caster. We don't know exactly how he came to be president, but his close association with Deuscher people must have been the connection. Perhaps F.H. Berk was most instrumental in introducing him to this opportunity, as he also had a mortgage on the National Caster building.

Hamilton Caster Company - Worthy Rival

Charles Stengel, a local furniture dealer, made his own casters with his own design since he didn't like available casters, and his worked better with his furniture. In 1903 he got a patent and hired Frank Duerr,

secretary of H.P. Deuscher to be President. Duerr had connections, brought financial support, and could get better raw material deals from H.P. Deuscher. Duerr knew every executive in town and brought credibility. Then he hired John Weigel, a railroad worker, for sales: he was personable and effective. From Phoenix Caster he hired a Mr. Cousins, who had technical know-how. Stengel had a small factory at Seventh and Maple Streets, from which they worked.

By 1906 the company ran out of steam for lack of capital to expand and produce products. Duerr returned to Deuscher, Cousins left, but Weigel remained. Stengel patented another caster but lacked capital and was in poor health. Weigel worked for the railroad full time, had six children, but wanted to own a business, so went into retail business with his son and others. In 1907, still with a dream, he bought Stengel's patents and opened a small shop behind the H.P. Deuscher Foundry. He still worked for the railroad but hired machinists for the new venture. For the first three years he managed to survive. Hamilton was a major manufacturing center, but he still had to compete with several other caster companies and many industries for machinists. So, in 1910, he incorporated, raising \$10,000. All six board members were family. He couldn't make enough product, so in 1911 he increased his stock offering to \$30,000. The company moved to 350 Hanover Street in a larger facility. He felt he needed to sell the larger casters for industrial use but had only \$350 profit in 1911 for expansion. The 1913 flood reaching Hanover Street did not cause much damage at his manufacturing plant and operations escaped relatively unharmed.

By 1914 sales reached \$25,000, and Weigel hired a Chicago advertising firm to promote Hamilton's product nationwide. Soon orders arrived from the east coast, including from International Shoe Company. The double wheel caster appealed to shoe companies in the Northeast United States. While their direct marketing was working, Weigel reached out to traveling salesmen to sell the casters. Now Hamilton Caster was on its way.

Competition in the early 1910s were Phoenix Caster and A.D. Stuckey's National Caster Company. National Caster suffered more substantial damage in the 1913 flood, and there was a gas explosion in 1915. On January 21, 1915, National Caster blamed the city and sued for \$750 in damages from a natural gas explosion. National Caster lost the suit.

National Caster in Trouble

National Caster, with A.D. Stuckey as president, was in trouble by 1916. On August 12, 1916, Wilmer Brown, back from Florida, filed suit against National Caster, the company was insolvent, and he requested receivership from the Court and "any officer (this included A.D. Stuckey) having property to turn it over to the receiver." By September 15, 1916, National Caster was placed in receivership with assets of \$20,000 and debts around \$10,000 (\$7000 real estate, \$3000 personal property). There were 50 creditors listed, one of whom

was F.H. Berk, holding a mortgage on the property. The Court recommended sale as soon as possible.

An auction was ordered held October 25, 1916, all property and contents of the premises were to be sold. John Weigel of rival Hamilton Caster purchased the property and the assets.

Wilmer Brown died early the next year on March 7, 1917.

While A.D. Stuckey was president, National Caster began to fade, perhaps failing to produce new or innovative products, perhaps lack of advertising, damage from the flood and the explosion, whatever, it could not compete at the same level as the forward-thinking people of Hamilton Caster. The role of A.D. Stuckey in this is speculative, but it was clear that rival Hamilton Caster had a variety of products, national advertising, engineering know-how, and the passion of the owner John Weigel. A.D. Stuckey had another full-time job and five young children, and perhaps his full attention was not directed at growing and sustaining the company.

Rival Hamilton Caster grew slowly but produced a steady income, and by 1918 had a complete line of different type of casters. The company was willing to modify casters to particular customers' needs, and they advertised quality-built products. Customers felt they had an engineering firm working on their problem. By 1920 they increased capital to \$100,000 and moved to a larger plant on Dixie Highway.

Hamilton Caster continues to be a major manufacturer of casters to this day, and is the only manufacturing plant (of nearly 150 in operation from early 1900), still in continuous operation in Hamilton today. Just imagine the family trajectory if National Caster under A.D. Stuckey had become the dominant caster manufacturer in Hamilton!

Comparison of National Caster and Hamilton Caster is described in detail because it illustrates the intense competition in Hamilton in the early part of the century, and more specifically how differently each company was managed for success, i.e., how one company survived and the other did not.

1913 Hamilton Welding Company - Risky Adventure?

In late 1912 or early 1913, when A.D. was still assistant manager at H.P. Deuscher and also serving as president of National Caster, an additional opportunity arose. Three partners, A.D. Stuckey, Claude E Freeman (a foreman at Deuscher), and Robert Kemp established a partnership business called Hamilton Welding Company using a fairly new process to Hamilton: Oxy-Acetylene Welding.

Oxyacetylene welding, and oxy-fuel cutting are processes that use acetylene gases and oxygen to weld and cut metals, respectively. French engineers Edmond Fouché and Charles Picard became the first to develop oxygen-acetylene welding in 1903. The apparatus used in gas welding consisted of an oxygen source and a fuel gas source (usually contained in cylinders), two pressure regulators and two flexible hoses (one for each cylinder), and a torch. The three partners located a building on Chestnut Street and contracted with the Macleod Company, a Cincinnati firm, to perform the equipment installation. Since the technology was just ten years old, the full risks of such an



operation may not have been known, but needless to say, pressurized gases, regulators and temperatures at 6300F in the absence of today's safety training and

regulations must have given the partners some pause for reflection; nevertheless, they pressed on.

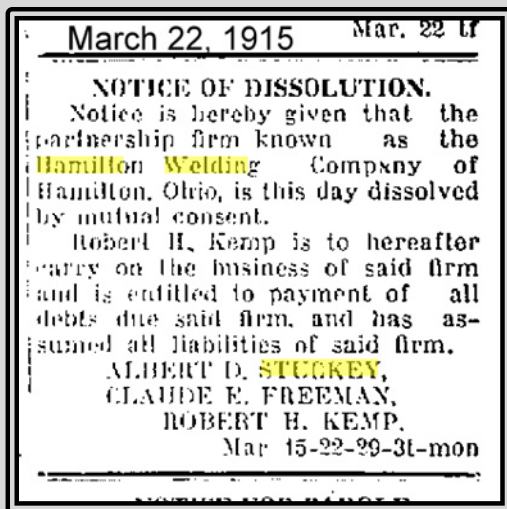
This new technology used a flame of gas in combination with jet of oxygen able to cut steel and iron 4 inches thick and 14 inches long in three minutes. The purpose was to operate a shop for welding of all kinds of metals for new construction and repair of all sorts of metals, metal containers, and dissimilar parts for shops all around the city.

The plant was outfitted, equipment installed, and prepared for operation. Shortly before the shop was to open, the disastrous March 23, 1913, flood struck Hamilton. When the flood waters receded sufficiently to expose the damaged plant, workmen were sent to recover the pieces and erect a new factory with incredible speed. A new shop was set up and the Macleod Company set up the apparatus a second time. Amazingly, by April 18, the shop was again ready for operation. The first job was repair of a spindle from the presses of *The Hamilton Evening Journal*, allowing the presses to quickly roll again.

An advertisement stated they "will undertake the repair of all kinds of broken parts of the smallest household utensil to the heaviest class of industrial machinery."

A local news article at the time of opening opined that "despite the fact that Hamilton is passing through a crisis of the most tremendous proportion (referring to the devastating March flood), the best illustration that her businessmen are undismayed and possess to a remarkable degree the resiliency of the American of the best type lies in the fact that not only are they rehabilitating their factories, stores, homes, and places of business but are even opening new lines of work and providing employment for their operators."

In February of 1914, a setback occurred as theft of 14 brass globes and a brass injector was investigated by Hamilton police.



Despite what this new technology and process offered, Hamilton Welding was not able to attract enough business, and by March 29, 1915, a notice appeared in the paper announcing the dissolution of the Hamilton Welding Company by mutual consent of Stuckey, Freeman, and Kemp. Robert Kemp would carry on business of the firm by himself and "assumed all assets and liabilities of the firm."

Once again, we see that A.D. Stuckey had a full-time managerial job at Deuscher, was involved in the struggle to maintain viability of National Caster, all the while attempting to introduce this new technology company. Were his efforts spread too thin?

Ironically, Kemp restructured the business and eventually went on for many years to operate a successful company in three Hamilton locations. In 1918, he actually moved his business to 121 North "B" Street, the site of the A.D. Stuckey's previous National Caster Company.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge A.D. Stuckey's willingness to embrace new technology and innovate with a new business despite the obvious risks of such a venture, and to persist despite the devastating flood. Noted though, is the fact that he began and operated this venture while employed fulltime (assistant manager) at H.P. Deuscher, and president of National Caster Company. Once again, we must ask, did he take on too much responsibility?

1913 The Historic Flood



When flood was highest—Looking down High Street toward Memorial Monument, Hamilton.

Son, Howard, was two months old at his Baptism by Reverend E.F.C. Stahl, pastor of the Trenton Lutheran Church on Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913. Just two days later an historic rainfall and flood engulfed Hamilton, threatening the lives and home of the Stuckey family. They survived, though over 300 Hamiltonians died in

the tragic aftermath. Read the full account in a separate document on the Flood of 1913.

1915 Robbery Attempt at the Stuckey Home

In 1915 the Stuckey family lived on South Second Street in a large three-story brick home. The city was quite segregated in those days and the city's small black population lived near the river just blocks away. On the night of September 11, 1915, at 11:30 P.M. police received a call from the home that burglars were attempting to enter. Police arrived in minutes and found a Dennis Williams on the front porch with his hat, necktie, and shoes off. Williams allegedly attempted to draw a concealed gun but an officer "beat him to it" with a blow to the head with a baton. He was arrested and arraigned the next morning, pleading guilty to carrying a revolver, and was held on bond for trial. The Stuckey home was never entered.

1915 Life at 439 South Second St - Recollections of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine

NeilAnn Stuckey Levine: "In the meantime, here are a few more of my memories of tales Dad told about life in the double house on South Second Street with the Berks in the other half.

* The boys used to take their snow sled to the top of the house and slide down the stairs, which I am certain had turns that were tricky to navigate. I don't know whether the runners ran on carpeting or bare wood, but I suspect the latter.

* Someone, presumably Aunt Sadie, went to the nearest brewery about 11 a.m. most days for a pitcher of fresh beer. Emma baked gingerbread. And then everyone had what Aunt Louise said Emma called "a light lunch."

* Because of the strong anti-German feeling in southwestern Ohio at the time of World War I, the Stuckey family stopped going to the Lutheran Church where services were in German and became instant Presbyterians. Apparently neither Emma nor A.D. cared to switch allegiance – they had been married, after all, in splendor in the Lutheran Church in Trenton. So, the children were sent off to the Presbyterian Church alone, each with a quarter for the collection plate. But Dave quickly discovered that 25 cents would buy a wurst with all the trimmings, especially chopped raw onions, at a shop on the way to church. Thus fortified, the Stuckey children would arrive for services and sit together in one row. A devout parishioner in the pew behind sniffed and complained that she smelled onions. And, of course, the Stuckeys had nothing to put in the collection plate when it came around.

* Christmas would be a magical time because the tree and gifts were set up in the Berks' half of the house. On Christmas morning, some sort of double doors would be flung open to reveal what Santa had brought. My father (Don) remembered that a most precious gift was a fresh orange in his stocking. A few years ago, I gave to our son Jon the German music box that my family used every Christmas, after Dad (Don Stuckey) built a special table with triangular shelter for the box so as to allow the tree to revolve. That's how the music box had originally been designed, but it was intended for a tabletop tree. Dad's craftsmanship was necessary so that he could wind in reverse the electric light cords which then would slowly unwind as the tree turned. Originally, of course, candles would have been used. Neil Ann

* One wonderful story Dad (Donald Stuckey) always described about the 1913 flood sticks in my mind. Although he was only five years old at the time, he told of being sent down into the root cellar of the house (after the flood receded) on Second Street to remove eyes that had sprouted from the potatoes stored there. While doing this, he discovered bottles of homemade wine buried in the mud along with the potatoes. He told of opening a bottle of wine and enjoying the contents until he saw double the number of eyes on the potatoes! This story may be apocryphal, of

course. Perhaps it was actually Fred who was sent to the cellar to de-sprout potatoes. I have many other memories of tales Dad told about growing up in the big double house on Second Street with the Berks living in the other half. Neil Ann

All five children were indeed penned into the First Presbyterian Church "Roll of Infant Members' with a listing around 1917. A.D. served as Deacon at one point, but the family attendance was short lived.

1915 Real Estate Investment

After the demise and sale of National Caster and the dissolution of Hamilton Welding, A.D. Stuckey was not deterred. He seemed intent upon developing a number of business interests and taking advantage of the opportunities of the times. On November 15, 1915, he purchased land for investment at Front and Woods Street. This would begin a continuous string of investments in building lots and properties lasting through to at least the mid-twenties. For example, on May 24, 1924, he sold seven lots to a Frank Robinson. He may have speculated in land, but doubt that he erected homes, though it is rumored he attempted to develop a small subdivision just North of the Champion Paper Mill.

1915-1919 Workers Strikes

A particular challenge to A.D. Stuckey during his tenure at both the H.P. Deuscher and later at his Iron City Foundry were strikes by union workers, especially machinists and molders. Molders are specialized skilled workers that create the molds for iron products ordered. A

foundry cannot operate without molders. During the period 1915 to 1919, workers were constantly testing employers' will in a battle for improved wages and working conditions.

On October 29, 1915, the City of Hamilton was met by a massive strike by the general machinists and molders involving 1500 men from eight major manufacturers after negotiations to settle worker grievances were unsuccessful.



On November 30, 1915, employers, including HP Deuscher and eight other foundry companies, took an ad in the newspaper stating their position against strikers was firm, they had no further benefits to provide, and welcomed any employees who wished to work.

1916 Striker Violence and Gunfire at H.P. Deuscher

On Monday January 3, 1916, the H.P. Deuscher Foundry reopened following strikes that had kept the plant closed from October through December, 1915.

Trouble began at the Deuscher plant the next day. Tensions were running high as only some workers had returned to the job. Autos belonging to management were being used to transport returning workers back and forth from their homes. On Tuesday

morning rocks were thrown at one auto. An arrest of a rock thrower incensed the remaining strikers and sympathizers. By 4 P.M. that day, nearly 800 strikers and local resident gathered at the plant on Hanover Street to voice their displeasure. Around 4:45 P.M. several cars carrying workers began to materialize for the trip home when suddenly rocks and bricks were thrown at them. Foundry employees fled the cars and took refuge in the factory. In the excitement and confusion, a Mr. Schneider, a Deuscher employee, drew a gun and began firing. Two men were struck in the thigh and soon other shots rang out. Approximately 50 shots were fired altogether from the shop amid a shower of rocks and missiles from the crowd. Police and Sheriff's deputies arrived to restore order and Schneider was arrested.

TWO MEN SHOT AT

H. P. DEUSCHER PLANT.

The first serious trouble in connection with the present labor troubles in Hamilton developed at the plant of the H. P. Deuscher company Wednesday evening, at 4:45, when the men who have been working in the plant since Monday, were leaving for home. They were being taken away in automobiles when either strikers or strike sympathizers made an attack upon the machine. As a result of this attack, it is charged that William F. Schneider, an employe of the H. P. Deuscher company, drew a revolver and fired. John Cabalane of South Ninth street and Paul Sebastian of Vine street, were

The crowd moved on to the home of Claude Freeman, superintendent of Deuscher and A.D.'s business partner, where rocks were hurled at his home. According to the news reports "the shooting was one which created more excitement than any that has occurred in this city for many years." After several workers were arrested and indicted for assault and battery, tensions remained high. A young man named Ott was arrested by special deputies inside the plant after "interfering with officers of the company and preventing them from discharging their duties." H.P. Deuscher Company pressed charges against Ott and 43 others for various actions interfering with company operations. A standoff remained in the strike.

A.D. Stuckey was not mentioned in news reports but he could have easily been targeted as assistant manager, and he lived just blocks from the factory with five children at home. One can imagine A.D. Stuckey as assistant manager, dealing with violent strikes, security concerns, the use of firearms and an unruly crowd during the tense days of January of 1916. Nothing in his experience in Danvers would have prepared him for this!

1916 Miami Foundry Purchased and Renamed Superior Foundry

In early 1916, A.D. and a Deuscher colleague, Claude E. Freeman, became interested in the Miami Foundry, incorporated in 1901, located on Mill Road between Dayton and High Street on the Hamilton Hydraulic, a diverted stream of water from the river used for factory water power. The Miami Foundry had operated for 15 years under the

guidance of expert James K. Cullen and William B. Cullen, titans of Hamilton industry. J.K. Cullen was President of the massive and world renown Niles Tool Company. The Miami Foundry was sometimes referred to as the Cullen Foundry, due to the expertise and skill of the Cullen's. Miami Foundry had been recently put back into operation following a brief period of inactivity, but it was for sale. Miami Foundry was purchased on June 14, 1916, by Stuckey, Freeman and F.G. Traber, to be kept closed until the first of the year 1917 for remodeling and investment in new equipment.

A.D. and his two associates from H.P. Deuscher, C.E. Freeman and F.G. Traber, while still employed at H.P. Deuscher, embarked on an ambitious plan to retool the Miami Foundry. A.D. had just completed 10 years' working his way up to assistant manager. Traber was bookkeeper at Deuscher for 12 years and recognized as "one of the best office managers in the city." Freeman spent 26 years with H.P. Deuscher, the last seven as foreman and general superintendent. James K. Cullen, president of Niles Tool in 1915, was probably eager to sell off the foundry in 1916 as his duties and responsibilities as president of the company had increased significantly over the years.

The purchase was completed in June of 1916 and the new owners began immediately to reshape the business. They brought years of experience with H.P. Deuscher and implemented production four months later in October of 1916. During the next 14 months, the building was remodeled and enlarged, new equipment and machinery

was purchased, and a new cupola for melting iron was installed. Business orders immediately increased and by December of 1917, 100 men were employed in the production of gray iron castings. That month, the business was incorporated as the Superior Foundry and Machine Company with capital stock of \$50,000, with the three men and their wives as principal stockholders. A.D. Stuckey was named president of the company.

1917 Workers Strike

During the time A.D. and colleagues were retooling the plant, the area was beset again by labor trouble. In July of 1917, Niles Tool Company molders and machinists had been on strike for six weeks demanding a fifty-hour work week without a pay reduction. Management refused to consider the workers' committee demands. On Sunday July 8, 1917 strike breakers brought into the city by Niles management thrust the city into its most serious labor crisis ever. Headlines the next day:

Hamilton Today Faced the Most Serious Labor Disturbance

Of Her History and The City's Business Faces a Crisis

A large crowd had gathered at the Atlas Hotel in Hamilton where it was reported strike breakers, hired by the company, were being housed. A Niles Tool truck brought four additional strike breakers from Detroit to the hotel, and one man was dragged from the truck and beaten.

Sixteen men housed at the Atlas Hotel and brought in by management to disrupt the molders strike were removed by a large crowd of strike sympathizers in the early evening and made to walk to the train station hands over heads where they were placed on a departing train and told never to come back.

On September 12, 1917, Governor Cox of Ohio sent two mediators to the city. Molders again had been on strike and the Niles Tool Company had been closed for several weeks with no efforts scheduled to resolve the impasse. There were rumors of martial law and the importation of "Negro" troops to quell any disorders but these reports proved false. Other molder workers had shut down most of the city's foundries (including Superior) in a sympathy strike but returned to work September 13. There were some reports of rock throwing and saloons across the city were ordered shut to prevent alcohol from fueling tensions.

In December of 1917, participating strikers, charged with various offenses in the summer/fall of 1917, were to be arraigned rather than post bail. They chose to be jailed in protest. A sympathy strike of more than 1000 union workers was called to support those workers who were jailed. The work stoppage closed many foundries with Niles Tool reporting 108 out of work, H.P. Deuscher with 40 out, and Superior Foundry, nearly 60 out. Stoppage was brief and workers returned to their jobs in one to two days. The strike included bakers and bartenders and other sympathizers in the city.

The strike ended peacefully as the strikers were bailed out of jail and resumed work, but A.D. Stuckey had to deal with absent workers in

the two companies in which he had managerial responsibility; H.P. Deuscher and Superior Foundry.

Again, on May 15, 1919, molders and core makers went on strike at H.P. Deuscher and Iron City Foundry asking for a change in working hours and wage adjustments. The shop owners granted these requests without a prolonged work stoppage



HAMILTON FOUNDRY WORKERS 1919

1917 Iron City Foundry

The Iron City Foundry Company

09-11-1924

The Iron City Foundry was started in 1916, and for 8 years has been located at No. 35 Mill Road. This organization specializes in gray iron casting work.

The Iron City Foundry is further doing exceptionally fine work in turning out the highest type of fireproof safe castings, a feature of the business which in turn reflects as well the thoroughness of the foundry's methods and real craftsmanship back of its operations.

The gray iron casting work is of the better type required for the machine tool trade. The plant has two cupolas, one of which is in constant operation. The Iron City Foundry possesses 3 acres of space and gives steady employment to 100 men in its plant. The industry is producing special welding rods of the fine quality demanded for the welding trade, in fact, it has worked up a national and international business in this line.

The personnel of this organization is comprised of A. D. Stuckey, president; C. E. Freeman, vice-president, with F. G. Traber, secretary and treasurer. The Iron City Foundry has proven to be one of the steady going enterprises of Hamilton.

Within a short period of time (between 1917 and 1919) Superior Foundry was renamed the Iron City Foundry, but it is not clear why. As we shall see later, it was not unusual for A.D. to rename his businesses. In a report to Hamilton business in September of 1924, Iron City boasted of two cupolas in operation with one operating 24 hours per day turning out higher quality castings than were required for typical machine tool industry use. The plant operated on a three-acre site off Erie Boulevard at Dayton Street and Mill Road, employing 100 men, who produced fireproof safe castings for the local safe factories, and "high quality welding rods for which they have developed an international business." The plant was served by a rail line that made receipt of materials and

shipment of product convenient. A.D. left Deuscher sometime between 1916 and 1917, but the circumstances of his departure are unknown. Likely, however, he wished to devote full energy to his new venture, as he was now free to concentrate on management and growth at Iron City. He continued with residential real estate transactions.

1920 A New Home on Millville Ave

In 1920 the Stuckey family purchased a new wood frame home at the corner of Ross and Millville Avenues, about a mile from the river on the West side. The 2500 square foot 5-bedroom home was constructed in 1919, but it is unknown whether A.D. had it built or purchased it from



a builder. In 1915 F.H. Berk retired and had transferred ownership of the large brick home on South Second Street into Emma Berk Stuckey's name. Perhaps the large home was too much to maintain and perhaps they wished to locate away from the threat of Hamilton's devastating floods. A receipt on August 20, 1920 for \$1000 to a local architect indicates they made some additional alterations during the move-in. The new home must have provided adequate space for the five children, and Aunt Sadie, who lived full time with the Stuckeys and helped care for the children.

1922 C.R. Stuckey - 50th Wedding Anniversary

In the summer of 1922, the entire family traveled to Danvers, Illinois to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary and 70th birth year of his father, C.R. Stuckey. C.R. had retired from his businesses but during



his lifetime he served on the Danvers School District and the Danvers City Council. Joining the Stuckey clan for the festivities were sister Ida Victoria Norton, her husband, Rufus, and their four children, and brother Lyle, wife, Hortense, and their children Jack and Betty. Lyle remained in Danvers his entire life and was President of the First National Bank of Danvers, served as Mayor of Danvers for 10 years, and for 20 years on the Danvers School Board, and was the first president of the McLean County Board of School Trustees.

1922 Investors Service and Finance Company

On May 12, 1922, five years after creation of Iron City Foundry, announcement was made of a new investment firm: **Investors Service and Finance Co**, with A.D. Stuckey as president, with offices in the Beeler Building. Other officers included business associates of

INVESTORS' SERVICE AND FINANCE CO. HAVE ARCADE OFFICE

July 7 1922—
The Investors, Service and Finance company have their offices in Suite 1, Court street entrance of the New Arcade.

This company is organized to furnish investors an intelligent, efficient and dependable investment service. Another purpose of the organization is to assist local business interests by discounting commercial paper.

In speaking about their company, Mr. A. L. Marvin, the secretary and treasurer, said that it was a very difficult problem for the average individual to select safe and profitable investments for his surplus funds; hence one of the purposes of our company is to build an organization for an investment service in which the average investor will have confidence and upon whose judgment reliance can be placed.

Prominent and successful business men of unquestioned integrity, who have had years of experience in business finance constitute the board of directors. These men who have an individual responsibility in shaping the policies of the company, keep in close touch with its affairs daily. The executive officers are: A. D. Stuckey, president; K. H. Davis, vice president; David Pierce, counsel, and A. L. Marvin, secretary-treasurer.

A.D. from the foundry, and the Board of Directors comprising two local physicians, including prominent citizens, Dr. Mark Milliken and Dr. H.C. Minnich. A.D.'s early experience with his father in real estate insurance and loans gave him sufficient background to feel confident in this area. His skill must have been in organizing and enlisting investors and directors in the new endeavor. The purpose of the company was to offer and an "intelligent, efficient, and dependable investment service" from "prominent and successful businessmen of unquestioned integrity." They were in the business of investments, loans, and securities.

"Make the investment safe for the investor" was their slogan. Capitalization was \$300,000, a large sum at the time. In October of 1922 an ad in the newspaper said "(finance companies) deal in money and no condition of the market affects them adversely." Another ad stated "The company uses its capital for commercial financing, which is a safe and profitable business." In August of that year the company offered "Guilt-Edge" securities to investors and a booklet to describe them.

By 1923 a stock offering was advertised, raising capital to purchase mortgages and do commercial financing, with a promised yearly dividend of 7%, paid quarterly, with the income exempt from federal taxes. The Secretary/Treasurer was A.L. Marvin, who led an effort in 1925 to create a larger mortgage company called United Mortgage Company

On May 14, 1925, local papers reported the proposed consolidation of twenty mortgage companies in six states (including Investors Service) into an entity called United Mortgage Company. The Chairman of the organization committee was A.L. Marvin (secretary/treasurer of Investors Service and Finance Company) with temporary offices in Hamilton. Marvin and Dr. Mark Millikin also served as officers of United Mortgage of Hamilton. The purpose was to consolidate loan activity, reduce overhead, raise new capital and grow the company with acquisition of other mortgage firms, a bold move for its day. However, on June 3 following a ruling by an Indianapolis judge questioning the committee's petition, the reorganization was temporarily abandoned.

No further information could be found on the company's plans, and it must have been abandoned. A.D. Stuckey's name is not mentioned in news articles, though he was president of Investors Service at the time. It is assumed that United Mortgage never came to fruition, but it was a bold, aggressive expansion for the Hamilton firm, and if successful, would have become a significant regional factor in the mortgage industry.

In 1928, Investors Service and Finance Company advertised short term loans from \$25-\$300 with household goods or autos as collateral, repayable in one to three months. These must have been marketed to consumers in short term financial distress due to the weakening economy. Investors sometimes borrowed money to invest in stocks, a very risky proposition, given what was soon to occur in the stock market.

The business operated successfully into the 1930s but A.D. Stuckey was no longer listed as president in the 1929 directory, which listed A.L. Marvin as "Manager." No description of A.D.'s exit from the company could be found in news articles, and A.D.'s connection with the company ended sometime in 1929.

7%

THE INVESTORS SERVICE AND FINANCE CO.

Pays 7% Dividend

Next Dividend Date, January 1, 1923

7%

THIS IS THE TIME TO INVEST

Select a "Gilt Edge" Security, one that has—

**SAFETY and
SECURITY**

Our company deals in FIRST MORTGAGES ONLY. These investments are of a liquid character, readily converted, hence safe and secure.

**STABLE
EARNING
POWER**

The investor should not only receive simple interest, but the earning power on his investment. Our association in "Commercial Financing" with reliable dealers guarantees our share holders large profits in excess of the regular quarterly dividend.

**EFFICIENT
MANAGEMENT**

The management of our company is in the hands of prominent and successful business men of unquestioned integrity, who have had years of experience in business finance.

**EXECUTIVE
OFFICERS**A. D. STUCKEY, President.
K. H. DAVIS, Sec'y-Treas., Monarch Gas Co.
DAVID PIERCE, Counsel.
A. L. MARVIN, Secretary-Treasurer.**BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS**A. D. STUCKEY, President, Iron City Foundry.
K. H. DAVIS, Sec'y-Treas., Monarch Gas Co.
DAVID PIERCE, Vice-Pres. North College Hill Realty Co.
C. E. FREEMAN, Vice-Pres. Iron City Foundry; Mgr. Superior Oxy-Acetylene Machine Co.
DR. MARK MILLIKIN, Director, Lincoln Bldg. & Loan Co.; Director, Welfare Loan Co., Hamilton, O.
WM. J. FISCHER, Pres. Fischer Motor & Implement Co.; Prop. Fischer Hardware Co.
H. C. HENNERBERGER, Pres., The Central Bldg. & Loan Ass'n.; Purchasing Agent, Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Co.
A. L. MARVIN, Director, Hamilton Welfare Loan Co.
LOUIS M. PIKER, Pres., The Hamilton Metal Products Co.
R. H. BURKE, Personnel Mgr., The Hooven-Owens-Rentschler Co.
PROF. H. C. MINNICH, Dean Teachers College, Miami University.

Place your surplus funds with us, a home company, where they will be tax free and pay 7 per cent, besides participating in the profits of the common stock.

The Investors Service and Finance Co.

Hamilton, Ohio

Phone 3814

Suite 1—Hamilton Arcade Building, Court Street Entrance

1923 Butterfield Motors

Ford **Ford** **Ford**
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

"Courteous and Efficient Service"

MEET US AT THE FAIR

Lincoln - Ford - Fordson Salesmen With
THE BUTTERFIELD MOTOR SALES CO.



BOB WHEELRIGHT
Salesman



ELMER SIPP
Salesman



O. L. JESSUP
Salesman



MRS. C. E. BEISER
Saleslady



JAMES A. STEVENSON
Salesman



J. J. MCMAHAN
Salesman



DAVID L. SMITH
Salesman



PAUL CONNELLY
Salesman



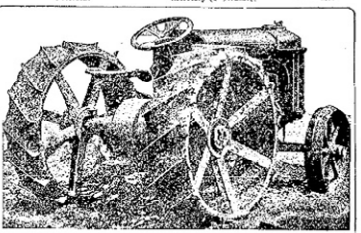
N. BUTTERFIELD
Vice-Pres. & Sales Manager



A. D. STUCKEY
President



H. H. BURKE
Secretary & Treasurer

THE BUTTERFIELD MOTOR SALES CO.
Authorized Dealers
LINCOLN -- FORD -- FORDSON
A. D. STUCKEY, Pres. N. BUTTERFIELD, Vice-Pres. and Sales Manager R. H. BURKE, Secy.-Treas.

Ford **Ford** **Ford**
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

On the heels of the success of the new Investment Service and Finance Co., A.D. moved rapidly to expand the scope of his business dealings. In 1923 he became associated with Butterfield Motors, an auto dealership which began operation the previous year.

Butterfield Motors was a local Ford Motor car and Fordson Tractor dealer. N. Butterfield, a longtime auto salesman, and A.D. Stuckey had joined forces to create a Ford dealership at 321 Market Street, occupying 25,000 square feet and

employing 25 men. On February 15, 1924, Butterfield elected its first officers and named its Board of Directors, which included again Mark

Millikin M.D., and several officers of Investors Service and Finance Company.

In the first nine months of operation, 500 cars, trucks, and tractors were sold. An optimistic sales report supported a plan to expand the property in the near future.

Butterfield Co. Elects Officers; Fine Record Is Made In First Year

2-15-1924

The Butterfield Motor Sales Company at its first annual meeting elected the following officers and directors for the coming year.

A. D. Stuckey, President; N. Butterfield, Vice President and Sales Manager; R. H. Burke, Secretary and Treasurer.

DIRECTORS—A. D. Stuckey, President, Iron City Foundry; E. E. Freeman, Proprietor, Superior Oxy Acetylene Co.; H. C. Hennenberger, Purchasing Agent, Herring-Hall-Marvin-Safe Co.; Dr. Mark Millikin, Physician and Surgeon. E. A. Ralston, President, The Ralston Paint Co.; H. Wuebbold, Proprietor H. Wuebbold and Co.; A. L. Marvin, Secretary-Treasurer, Investors Service and Finance Co.; K. H. Davis, Vice President, The Investors Service and Finance Co.; Louis Piker, President, The Hamilton Metal Products Co.

R. H. Burke and N. Butterfield are active members of the organization. This company of enterprising business men have the sales and service of Ford cars—Fordson Tractors and Lincoln cars.

They have made rapid progress with this popular line of automobiles since starting in business and have plans for an addition to their building on property recently purchased adjoining them.

Their sales of Ford cars, trucks, tractors and Lincoln cars exceeded 500 in their first nine months of business. This is a remarkable record especially considering the fact that the season for automobile buying was well advanced last year before advance deliveries could be made to the company.

Mr. Butterfield who has charge of sales predicts that this will be the best year in the history of the automobile business. He earnestly advises those anticipating the purchase of automobiles to place their order early and avoid the disappointment experienced by late buyers last year. This particularly applies to the purchasers of Fordson Tractors. Its increasing popularity with the farmer and its many uses by industrial concerns have created a demand beyond expectations this year.



**LOCATION OF A.D. STUCKEY'S AUTO SHOWROOM 321 MARKET STREET
SEEN HERE IN 1933 AFTER NEW OWNER MOVED IN**

In 1920 Henry Ford had set up a production plant along the Hamilton Hydraulic, a water canal flowing from the Erie canal downhill to the Great Miami River. Mr. Ford saw the opportunity of producing Electric Power through hydroelectric plants, and he located his Fordson farm tractor plant just north of the city. The plant produced tractors for only a short time and then switched to producing auto parts. Ford visited Hamilton to inspect the hydraulic and plant. His Highland Park production plant in Detroit utilized gas-steam engines manufactured at Hamilton's Hoovens, Owens, Rentschler Company.

Hamilton engines for Ford Motor Company Power Plant

"This machine, 82 feet long, 46 feet wide, and weighing 750 tons, is one of nine that powered the Ford Motor Company's Highland Park plant while Model T's were being

Together, the nine 53,000 horsepower. engine and a steam engine either side of a generator. The gas efficient than the

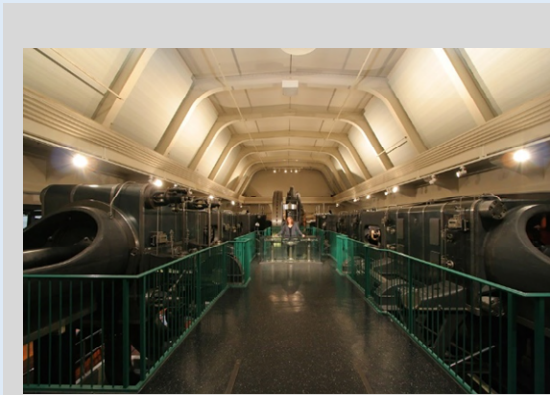


manufactured there. machines generated Each had a gas engine mounted on 4,000-kW DC engines being more steam-driven units

but less regular in speed, provided economy and power; the steam engines provided

reliability. At the installed at around 1915, stir in

They were as highly economical industrial power.



regulation and time the units were Highland Park they created quite a engineering circles. generally regarded innovative and means of supplying

The Hoovens, Owens, Rentschler Company of Hamilton, Ohio, made the gas-steam engines about 1913; the Crocker-Wheeler Company of Ampere, New Jersey, made the electric generators. It took about six months to build the equipment and another six months to install it. William B. Mayo, who designed the gas-steam engines at the Hoovens, Owens, Rentschler Company, went to work for Henry Ford soon after the new power plant was installed. Mayo was for many years responsible for power installations throughout the Ford Motor Company." (Henry's Attic)

1924 Real Estate Investment

Flush with success in the foundry business, A.D. no doubt buoyed with confidence, continued to invest in residential real estate. How he acquired lots for sale is unknown and not documented in local papers but the newspapers list many lot transactions with A.D. Stuckey as the seller to individual buyers. He was known to have purchased several other lots and properties and probably bought and sold these as part of his investment business.

Example of Sales

12/21/26 Lot to Florence Skinner

3/27/24 Lot 15255 to Hamilton Badin

12/21/25 Lots 15192/3 to Scott Land

11/7/25 Lot 16844 to?

8/22/25 15163/4 to Jason Ward

5/24/24 7 lots to Frank Robinson

1924 Stuckey Vacation-Hollywood

In the summer of 1924, the entire Stuckey family, including Aunt Sadie Sault, packed their trunks and traveled by train to visit Emma's

adoptive father Frederick Berk in Hollywood, California. By this time Louise Deuscher Berk, her adoptive mother, had died and Fred married Louise's sister Ella. By all accounts the family had a grand time, visiting a movie set, traveling to Catalina Island, visiting formal gardens, time at the beach, and other pleasures of the area. Years later, the memorable trip was recalled with fondness.

1925 Fort Hamilton Motors - Ford Dealers

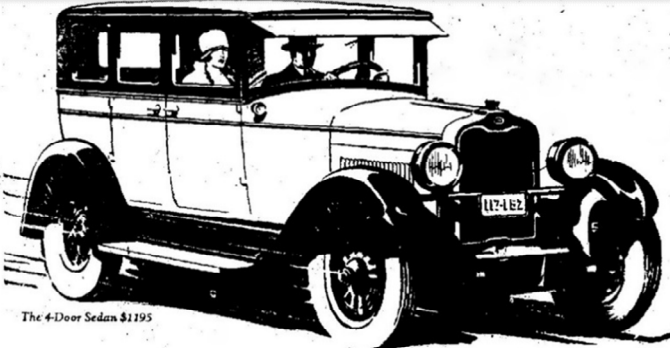
On February 6, 1925, with business prospering, Butterfield Motors announced a new name and a new symbol. The new company was to be called Fort Hamilton Motor Company, with the sturdy stockade of the old "Fort Hamilton" from 1791 as its symbol of strength. Listed in the announcement are 11 salesmen, two parts clerks, two garage mechanics, and three departmental supervisors.

Neil Ann Stuckey Levine: "Dad (Donald Stuckey) often reminisced about A.D. Stuckey's days as a Ford dealer. Alone or with one or another brother, Dad used to take the train to Detroit, pick up stock for the dealership, and drive the car(s) back to Hamilton, including a custom-built roadster with tiltable steering wheel to accommodate C.R. Stuckey's more than ample girth. And Dad once actually met Henry Ford when the man visited the local Hamilton plant."

It was heady times for the auto industry and everyone involved with automobiles. Auto ownership in the 1920s went from 8 million to 23 million in 1929, auto production from 4000 to 4.8 million cars by 1929.

New brands, new colors, increased advertising, and the introduction of installment buying lured investors and managers like A.D. Stuckey to plunge into the business.

"Due to the commercial success of the Model T, Ford had dominated the automotive market from the mid-1910s to the early 1920s. In the mid-1920s, Ford's dominance eroded, as its competitors had caught up with Ford's mass production system. They began to surpass Ford in some areas, offering models with more powerful engines, new convenience features, or cosmetic customization."



The 4-Door Sedan \$1195

“... all the advantages of Oakland's super-precision construction, plus the rich beauty of New Colors in Duco”

In this great era of industrial precision, Oakland manufacturing processes stand out as a marvel of the day and age. Not in the entire history of the automobile has any car of its price embodied so many super-precision processes—so many practices previously used only in the manufacture of the costliest cars.

Piston pin bushings diamond-bored to limits of three ten-thousandths of an inch! Piston, ring and rod assemblies balanced to fifteen one-thousandths of a pound! Main bearing seats aligned to two and one-half thousandths of an inch! A 100% hardness test on axle shafts.

And the list could be extended almost indefinitely—for Oakland is going to unheard-of lengths to make certain that the

Greater Oakland Six continues to be the finest built car of its price in the world.

Merely on the basis of such scientific accuracy, the Greater Oakland Six would constitute the outstanding value in its field. Yet today's Oakland Six is winning an entirely new measure of popularity, offering all the advantages of Oakland super-precision construction, plus the rich beauty of new colors in Duco.

These original color combinations were developed in cooperation with Dupont, the world's leading automotive color authorities. They lend refreshing smartness to every Oakland body. They introduce into their price field a new note of modishness and luxury—one that you will instantly mark the moment you see the car.

\$1095
SEDAN

Oakland Six, \$1025 to \$1295. The New and Finer Pontiac Six—at New Low Prices—\$775 to \$975. Bodies by Fisher. All prices at factory. Easy to pay on the General Motors Time Payment Plan.

The Fort Hamilton Motor Co.
A. D. Stuckey, Pres. P. E. Connolly, Sec'y.-Treas. M. J. Butterfield, V.-Pres.
321-S Market St. Phone 4905 Hamilton, Ohio

The Greater OAKLAND SIX
PRODUCT OF GENERAL MOTORS • WINNING AND HOLDING GOOD WILL

1926 Fort Hamilton Motor Co- Now General Motors Dealers

Old Friends With A New Name
Announcing
THE FORT HAMILTON MOTOR COMPANY
NEW NAME OF
The Butterfield Motor Sales Co.



We have chosen as the symbol for our firm name that old stockade built in 1791 on the bank of our Great Miami River. This sturdy stockade was the foundation of your present beautiful and prosperous Hamilton. We like to think the foundation principles of our business as basically solid as was this same old Fort. Ford Products, Reliable Sales and Reliable Service combined with a sincere desire to give our patrons every courtesy and reasonable consideration form an exceptional merchandising service to our Hamilton and Butler County friends.

The members of our organization — all of them, are old residents of Hamilton and Butler County, and are men whom you know and with whom you have been doing business in different lines for many years. We welcome you—new and old patrons, and invite you to drop in and see our new salesroom and service station. We are here to serve your motor car needs to your satisfaction.

Officers and Directors

A. D. Stuckey, *President*
 E. A. Rolston, *Vice Pres.*
 R. H. Burke, *Secy.-Treas.*
 Louis M. Pifer
 Dr. Mark Millikin
 A. L. Marvin
 C. E. Freeman
 Herman Wuebbold
 H. C. Hennsberger
 F. G. Traber
 George Berkman

SALESMEN

DAVE BEALL
Used Car Department

BOB WHEELRIGHT
Sales Room & Truck Dept.

JIM STEVENSON
Tractor Department

Elmer Sigo
 Harold Quick
 Charles Eilde
 Ernest L. Glardon

Elmer Woodruff
 John Heist
 Dan Shea
 J. L. Schatzman

Jan Overpeck
 Stanley Cochran
 Wm. Furrler

Partsroom—
 RALPH BURGESS
 OSCAR ZEEK

Garage and Battery—
 TONY RUSH
 JOHN SCHWAR

For Our Mutual Prosperity
THE FORT HAMILTON MOTOR COMPANY
 321-333 Market St. "The Home of Personal Service"

On November, 13, 1926 it was announced that A.D. Stuckey, N.J. Butterfield, and Paul Connolly had absorbed the holdings of the former owners of the Fort Hamilton Motor Company and had been selected by the General Motors Corporation as local representative and district distributor of Oakland and Pontiac vehicles. The General Motors selection represented "their business ability, their honesty, and their intimate knowledge of the auto industry." Butterfield and Connolly had sold a combined 3000 vehicles of many manufacturers over the years. The reorganized dealership "has storage for 50 new cars and can service any make or model of car." The business had expanded to 321-325 Market Street. A.D. Stuckey remained as president of the General Motors dealership. By all accounts the operation of both the Ford and General Motors dealerships were successful despite intense competition in Hamilton. The dealership operated successfully until its demise on November 29, 1929.

1928 Duntile: A.D. Ventures into A New Building Material

On March 16, 1928, a group of investors, after securing local production rights, organized a company to produce Duntile, a new concrete-like building material produced under pressure used in constructing houses, walls, and any structure made of brick. Always looking for a new opportunity, A.D. invested in, and was named treasurer of The Hamilton Duntile Company. A new factory was constructed in Coke Otto, a small enclave just a few miles north of Hamilton, and was in operation by July 24. Duntile could be manufactured in various colors, had insulating properties, resisted moisture, and seemed to have promise in the building industry. The fate of this company and A.D.'s investment is not known.

1926-1929 Prosperity & The Roaring Twenties

During this booming period, A.D. was president of three companies, treasurer of a new venture, and dealing in real estate. It was the most productive and prosperous time of his career. Despite the fact that National Caster and Hamilton Welding had failed, the years 1920 brought renewed optimism and opportunity as A.D. took advantage of economic forces to maximize his position. But did he go too far and take too much risk? Was he able to run the affairs of three companies at the same time? Did he see what was coming? Highly doubtful, but he was certainly not alone. Looming ahead was The Great Depression.

BUEKER COAL CO. BLUE JACKET LUMP COAL
WALNUT ST. AND B. & O. R. R. PHONE 969

SECOND NATIONAL BANK.

1927 HAMILTON [STU] DIRECTORY 567

Stroup Chas. foreman, 2351 Dixie Highway, res. 1300 E. High.
 (Bertha)
 Struble B. B. chief draftsman, Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Co. res.
 321 Ross Av. (Martha S)
 Struble Ethie, res. 726 Ross Av
 Struble Lida M. teacher, Lincoln School, res. 726 Ross Av
 Struble Mary I. bookkeeper, n.e.c. Monument Av. and Market,
 res. 321 Ross Av
 Struble Wm. R. insurance agent, room 3, 210 S. 2d. res. 321 Ross
 Av. (Rose)
 Strudel Chas. J. res. 443 Williams Av. (May)
 Strudel Happie E. bookkeeper, 223 High, res. 443 Williams Av
 Strunks Alma, maid, 319 N. 2d
 Strunks Arthur Wm. lineman, res. 1690 Singer Av. (Martha M)
 Strunks Chas. driver, rooms 644 Ludlow
 Strunks Laura E. widow of Elmer A. res. 1885 Parkamo Av
 Stubbs Harry C. truck driver, res. 206 Warwick Av. (Johanna)
 Stubbs Mrs. Mildred, res. 202 Warwick Av
 Stubbs Roger T. student, res. 816 Laurel Av
 Stubbs Walter W. electrician, res. 810 Long. (Elizabeth)
 Stubbs Wm. T. molder, res. 816 Laurel Av. (Pearl M)
 Stuck Ray W. civil engineer, res. 230 Sherman Av. (Yonda)
 Stuckenberg Bertha C. bookkeeper, 2d floor 38 High, res. 168
 Washington
 Stuckenberg Henry W. machinist, res. 168 Washington. (Ele-
 nora)
 Stuckenberg Oscar B. apprentice, res. 168 Washington
 Stuckey Albert D. president, The Fort Hamilton Motor Co. presi-
 dent, The Iron City Foundry Co. and president, The In-
 vestors Service & Finance Co. res. 63 Millville Av. (Emma
 B)
 Stuckey Donald D. student, res. 63 Millville Av
 Stuckey Fred. B. salesman, 321 Market, res. 63 Millville Av

STUDEBAKER PASSENGER CARS,

The E. S. Gahagen Co., Distributors, s.e.c. 2d and Market,
 Phone 447

Studemyer Wm. laborer, res. 26 Walnut
 Studer Frank, cupola tender, res. 1008 Ludlow
 Studer Frank, jr. molder, res. 1008 Ludlow
 Stueben Arnold O. machinist, res. 1811 Grand Blvd. (Mildred
 H)
 Stuerer Cornelius, tinner, res. rear 1025 Franklin. (Florence)
 Stuhlmueeller Adolph, electrical engineer, res. 814 Webster Av.
 (Orillia)
 Stuhlmueeller Albert H. (Hamilton Studio) res. 948 Heaton
 Stuhlmueeller Clifford, physician, 144 N. 3d, res. 319 Progress Av.
 (Marie)
 Stuhlmueeller Emma, res. 948 Heaton
 Stuhlmueeller Ferd. pattern maker, res. 948 Heaton
 Stuhlmueeller Ignatz G. foreman, 545 N. 3d, res. 948 Heaton

HAMILTON PAINT & GLASS CO.

A COMPLETE LINE OF PAINTS, VARNISHES AND ENAMELS

108 NORTH SECOND ST.

OPP. Y. M. C. A.

MARTIN LINGLER || BEST QUALITY SMOKELESS COAL

Religious Affiliation of the Stuckeys

A.D., of course, was born into an Amish-Mennonite family. His well-known grandfather had a 40-year career as a Bishop and had a branch of the faith named after him - The Stuckey Amish. Joseph's son Christian broke with tradition and while maintaining a presence in the Danvers Mennonite Church for many years, eventually became a Presbyterian. A.D.'s wife, Emma, was raised German Lutheran, and they were married in St. Peter German Lutheran Church in Trenton, Ohio. Howard was baptized there in 1913. Later in 1917 they had their children enrolled at Hamilton's First Presbyterian Church to counter anti-German sentiment during WWI. A.D. was elected an elder of the Presbyterian Church in 1920.

Emma and A.D., however, became aware of Unity Temple and its minister, the Reverend Louise Tahse, in the late 1920s. The Unity Temple is a non-denominational metaphysical movement associated with the Association of Unity Churches of Unity, Missouri, known today simply as Unity.org, publishers of The Daily Word. Louise Tahse, an ordained Unity minister, came to Hamilton in 1919 and formed a congregation, meeting in several locations around Hamilton until finding a home on lower Ross Ave, about five blocks from the Stuckey home at Ross and Millville Avenues.

Emma was baptized into the Unity Temple congregation on December 28, 1930. Emma served as Vice President of the Unity Truth Club in 1930 and in 1931 she was named to a committee to draft a statement of faith for the local church. Unity is a teaching religion serving the needs of people through weekly classes in metaphysical teachings and regular Sunday morning worship. One does not need to give up any current religious affiliation, and need only follow the truth according to their inner feelings. There are no creeds or pledges, only the belief in the teachings of Christ and the power of prayer. The extent of Emma's and A.D.'s involvement is unknown, but Reverend Louise Tahse ministered the church from 1919-1951, and conducted Albert David's funeral service in 1944 and Emma's service in 1947.

I suspect Emma was feeling somewhat isolated and alone during these years, a hint of which comes through in the letter she wrote to her sister in 1915 and transcribed on page 135 of Neil Ann's history in which Emma describes her depressive feelings. Certainly, with the strain of A.D.'s disappearance and "nervous breakdown" and the collapse of the family's businesses in 1929, she would have been seeking spiritual guidance, and perhaps she found it in Unity. It seems certain that she then involved her husband, and they remained connected until their deaths, as Unity provides a practical and simple way to enhance one's own spiritual growth.

1929 June - Fred Berk Retirement and Death

Fred Berk died on June 25, 1929. He shared his home with the Stuckey's from their arrival in Trenton in 1904, and orchestrated the move to a shared home in Hamilton in 1910, until approximately 1915 when he retired from the H.P. Deuscher Company. He and second wife Ella Deuscher Graf eventually took a local apartment with his wife's relatives. Despite trips to Florida as a possible retirement location, in 1920 he and his wife moved to Los Angeles, California. Other Hamilton acquaintances, mostly associated with the Deuscher Foundry and family, had relocated to the Hollywood area. Within a year they had moved to a comfortable home on Carmen Ave, a block long street near Hollywood Boulevard, where in 1924 the entire Stuckey family vacationed. The Berks lived on this street until his death in 1929.

Berk was brought back to Hamilton for burial. A.D. Stuckey was named executor of the estate on July 22, 1929, by the Butler County Probate Judge.

Berk owned a working 500-acre farm in Madison Township that was managed by A.K. Augspurger. He also owned other rental property in Trenton. The Will made cash bequests to a number of individuals and charities including \$25,000 to his wife Ella, \$10,000 to Emma, his adopted daughter and wife of A.D., \$3000 to Emma's half-sister, Sadie, and \$1000 to her half-brother Jack. The Children's Home, St

Peter Lutheran Church of Trenton, and Capital University, Columbus, were other recipients. The Will, dated June 1927, requested that the estate not be closed and bequests not made until five years after his death, to allow time for other assets to be sold. It specifically stated that only Berk's wife Ella could request her funds before this time. This made the position of executor all the more complicated, as the farm was in operation by tenants at the time. However, A.D. took on the task, but as we shall see, trouble was brewing and executor of the Will proved tempting and challenging.

1929 August - Trouble at Iron City Foundry

On Aug 1, 1929, it was announced that Claude E. Freeman and Ethyl Weller, owners of Superior Acetylene Company, had purchased (or taken control of) the Iron City Foundry. On August 8, an auction was announced for August 10. 2 and 1/3 acres of land, an 8000 square foot building, and 500 feet of railroad siding were to be auctioned. There were no buyers, however, and the property remained in the hands of Freeman and Weller until purchased on March 12, 1930, for \$16,000 by a brick and stone contractor for use as a stone yard, convenient because of the rail line. On September 30, 1930, Citizens Bank sued Stuckey for \$700 due on a \$2450 loan collateralized by 265 shares of Iron City Foundry stock, which was now worthless as Iron City was in process of liquidation. Finally, on December 13, 1930, stockholders of Iron City Foundry met "for the purpose of dissolving the corporation." A.D. no doubt exited the company prior to August 1, 1929.

Almost immediately after this announcement, on August 8, 1929, application was made in court (presumably by executor A.D. Stuckey) to sell shares of Proctor and Gamble and Central Alloy stock from the Berk estate for about \$500 cash.

1929 October - Stock Market Crash

"The crash followed a speculative boom that had taken hold in the late 1920s. During the latter half of the 1920s, steel production, building construction, retail turnover, automobiles registered, even railway receipts advanced from record to record. The combined net profits of 536 manufacturing and trading companies showed an increase, in fact for the first six months of 1929, of 36.6% over 1928, itself a record half-year. Iron and steel led the way with doubled gains. Such figures set up a crescendo of stock-exchange speculation which led hundreds of thousands of Americans to invest heavily in the stock market. A significant number of them were borrowing money to buy more stocks. By August of 1929, brokers were routinely lending small investors more than two-thirds of the face value of the stocks they were buying. Over \$8.5 billion was out on loan, more than the entire amount of currency circulating in the United States at the time. The rising share prices encouraged more people to invest, as investors hoped, the share prices would rise further. Speculation thus fueled further rises and created an economic bubble. Because of margin buying, investors stood to lose large sums of money if the market turned down—or even failed to advance quickly enough.

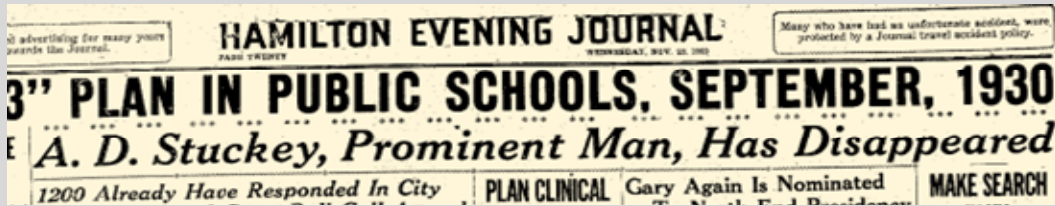
After WWI, America “bathed in economic prosperity,” allowing people to enjoy more leisure time and make use of innovations such as mass-produced automobiles, refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, radios, talking movies, among others. During this era of exuberant optimism, referred to by historians as “The Age of Prosperity”, Hamiltonians were clearly caught up in the times, as was A.D. Stuckey, assuming risks they would not take in usual times.

The epic boom ended in a cataclysmic bust. On Black Monday, October 28, 1929, the Dow declined nearly 13 percent. On the following day, Black Tuesday, the market dropped nearly 12 percent. By mid-November, the Dow had lost almost half of its value. The slide continued through the summer of 1932, when the Dow closed at 41.22, its lowest value of the twentieth century, 89 percent below its peak. The Dow did not return to its pre-crash heights until November 1954.

The first three weeks of November, 1929 were trying times for A.D. Stuckey. He had just been through the demise of Iron City Foundry in August and was aware of the current precarious position of his auto dealership, but he did not share his concern with his wife or family, trying to shield them from the realities he hoped would just fade away.

It was with shock and at first, fear, that the headline below appeared in the Wednesday, November 20th, 1929 edition of *The Hamilton Evening Journal*.

1929 Nov. - The Mysterious Disappearance of A.D. Stuckey



On Tuesday, November 19, 1929, A.D. Stuckey unexpectedly did not return home in the evening for dinner. He was very regular in his habits and his wife Emma became immediately concerned. Around 7 P.M. when he failed to return, Emma contacted police and a radio alert about his description and vehicle information was broadcast statewide. Son, Donald, was summoned home from college at Purdue University in Indiana.

Early Tuesday, Stuckey had gone to the auto dealership on Market Street, gathered some loan notes for deposit, and took a new company owned car, telling associates he was going for a little ride. He headed to the National Bank of Trenton, where he was a director. He deposited the notes, withdrew \$125 and began his return trip to Hamilton around 11 A.M.

Later, Stuckey said on his way back to Hamilton "a feeling came over me" and he did not want to return to his business. He had been affected by some depression and anxiety for about a year over business operations. He did not want to confide in or ask his wife for money. He had stopped for gas on the way back to Hamilton in Collinsville and was seen in the company of another man, later leading to speculation he may have been robbed or the victim of foul play. Reaching Hamilton, he continued on to Cincinnati, whereupon he placed his new car in a Walnut Street garage. He wrote a letter to his wife expressing business anxieties, and enclosed the ticket for the automobile along with instructions to retrieve it. He then purchased a bus ticket and left the city, leaving a frantic wife, five children, and business associates clueless.

The following morning his wife, Emma, received the aforementioned letter, postmarked from Covington, Kentucky. At 10:30 A.M., Emma, son Donald, (summoned from Purdue University) and officials from Fort Hamilton Motors traveled to Covington to enlist the aid of local police and retrieve the auto in Cincinnati.

A tip received from the statewide alert the previous night reported the Collinsville sighting along with note of a "stranger" riding with him, who was also thought to have accompanied him to Cincinnati, alarming authorities of suspected foul play.

In the following three days the family heard nothing despite expansion of the police alert, investigation by police, and pleas from the family to return. Headlines and daily news columns garnered local interest in the story. Three newspapers followed the story with daily articles: Hamilton News Journal, The Cincinnati Post, and The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. Police questioned authorities in Detroit and Cleveland following a report by a bus station agent that a man of similar description was thought to have purchased a ticket to one of those locations.

The week of worry and suspense ended Saturday, November 23, when A.D. read a Cincinnati Enquirer story in which his son, Donald, made a personal appeal for his return at once. **"Come home at once. We need you. Everything is alright in your business."** A.D. had taken a bus to Knoxville, Tennessee and was staying at the local Y.M.C.A. He wired Emma at noon Saturday that he was safe and would leave immediately by bus for Cincinnati.

Emma and Donald met A.D. in Cincinnati that evening, arriving home in Hamilton around midnight. His physician, Dr. Neil Millikin was summoned and after consultation, indicated the "nervous breakdown" was "about mended" and that further medical care would not be necessary after several days of quiet and bed rest.

A.D. was not questioned further by police, given the circumstances. Son Donald said "I, too, am thankful he is home. I cannot say anything else."

Stuckey's disappearance was covered extensively in the local papers, with daily articles appearing and a long column in two papers upon his return. There was speculation about his business affairs, and it was reported that a meeting of creditors would be held the following Wednesday, November 27.

Upon return the family expressed confidence that "whatever financial difficulties, imaginary or otherwise, may have arisen, only a short time will be necessary to have them removed." "Mr. Stuckey, as soon as his physical condition permits, will return to active control of the company."

However optimistic the family's statement, it was not to be, for the reality of the situation was far more harsh.

1929 November - The Demise of Fort Hamilton Motors

On Wednesday November 27, 1929, just four days after A.D. reappeared in Hamilton, representatives of 40 creditors met at the

garage building, 321 Market Street, and chose seven representatives to dispose of the assets of the Fort Hamilton Motor Company. They included, among others, The First National Bank, The Citizens Bank, and The Bank of Trenton. The motor company was represented by John F. Neilan, attorney and father-in-law of Mr. Stuckey. It was disclosed that a Cincinnati company had already paid \$7000 for the stock of new cars. Those seven representatives met again on Friday, November 29, and learned that Cincinnati used car dealers had purchased most of the used cars, and that a compilation of assets and liabilities would be forthcoming in ten days. Meanwhile attempts would be made to rent the building.

By December 14, 1929, The Christmas Store, a local charity providing baskets and clothes for needy families during the holiday season, opened in the former showroom. By mid-February, The Gene Welborn Company, a Dodge truck and bus dealer, relocated from Main Street to the Market Street garage and showroom.

Thus, the demise of the Fort Hamilton Motor Company came swiftly and no doubt surprised all, including the immediate family, given the confident statement to the press following A.D.'s disappearance and return. Within days after his return, the dire financial status of the company became clear to his associates, such that the only alternative was liquidation of the company.

AUTO AGENCY'S CREDITORS MEET

Nov 29, 1929

**Name Committee to Dis-
solve Business Headed
by A. D. Stuckey**

Seven representatives of creditors of the Ft. Hamilton Motor Company were chosen to dispose of the assets of the business at a special meeting of 40 creditors held Friday morning in the offices of the company.

The following representatives were named: The First National Bank & Trust Co., The Citizens Savings Bank & Trust Co., The Trenton Bank; John J. Crowley, Ed Humbach, A. L. Marvin and T. A. Seibert.

John P. Nellan, attorney for the company, said Friday, an examination of the books may be completed

within the next ten days, when a definite statement on the condition of the company may be prepared. The creditors will attempt to dispose of all assets of the company, including rental of the building, which is owned by the Ft. Hamilton Motor Co. It is reported that Cincinnati used car dealers have purchased most of the used car stock of the company.

A. D. Stuckey, president, who is said to have suffered a nervous breakdown 10 days ago, resulting from worry over financial condition of the company, did not attend Friday's meeting. He disappeared from Hamilton 10 days ago, and returned to his home, 63 Millville avenue, last Saturday night.

Son-in-Law of Parker Called

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., Nov. 29. (AP)—Rev. Charles Mercer Hall, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church and son-in-law of the late Judge Allen B. Parker, Democratic candidate for President in 1904, died here today.

Loss of the auto dealership was the final blow for A.D. following his exit from Investors Service Company and Iron City Foundry. He had tried to hold things together, and conceal the seriousness of his position, exhibiting anxiety and depression, even resorting to use of funds from his wife's inheritance (see below) in the days leading up to November, but economic forces in play nationally were just too powerful to overcome. The economy was headed for depression and

there were no investors, no buyers for autos, and no orders for manufactured goods. The short dark days of December must have challenged his resolve and tested his character as the Christmas season approached.

1930 A.D. Stuckey and the Will of Frederick H. Berk

Stuckey was under considerable personal and financial strain shortly after being named executor of F.H. Berk's Will in July, 1929. As seen above, the summer and early fall of 1929 saw Stuckey exit the Investors Service Company, the Iron City Foundry closed pending sale, and Fort Hamilton Motors liquidated.

It became known by some in early 1930 that A.D. had perhaps used his position as executor of the Berk Will to manipulate funds during the summer of 1929 to perhaps cover his debts, or save his companies, and/or relieve some of the financial strain.

Neil Ann Stuckey Levine: "Now back to the Deuscher family's discontent with so much money going to A.D. and Emma. I remember my dad recounting how the five other Deuscher sisters and their husbands "banded together" to try to cut Emma out of an equal share because she was not a Deuscher by blood but rather, as we all know, had been "adopted" from the Butler County Children's Home by F.H. Berk (1844-1929) and Louise Deuscher (1853-1911), the oldest of the Deuscher daughters. F.H. Berk, a widower since 1911, died on June 26, 1929." Neil Ann 2011

However, the "nervous breakdown" of November and the subsequent loss of his auto dealership perhaps called into question his ability to act as executor. Subsequently, on February 6, 1930, Peter B. Holly, a longtime acquaintance and local attorney, was named administrator of the Berk estate. This was actually beneficial, as it removed some decision-making from the direct family, and as it turns out, there was a farm to dispose of during the next four years and this resulted in a number of lawsuits and countersuits that would have made administration of the Will unduly stressful and burdensome. For example, on January 27, 1932 a suit by A.K. Augspurger to recover \$16,360 from the Berk estate from administrator Mr. Holly was heard before a jury in Butler County. A.D. Stuckey was called to testify as a defense witness. On February 23, 1932, an auction of the F.H. Berk Hardware and Machinery store was held and all possessions and land sold. These activities were no doubt beyond A.D.'s capacity or will to undertake during this time.

The Berk estate was still being adjudicated into 1937. The final details of the execution of the Will are not available, but there is no evidence that A.D. experienced adverse consequences other than the personal sorrow of his family knowing that he attempted to appropriate his wife's portion of the proceeds prematurely to salvage what he could of his remaining business interests. It is unknown how much may have been diverted during this time.

The ultimate outcome for A.D. Stuckey was that all three once thriving businesses were either diminished or closed. A.D., at the beginning of 1930, found himself unemployed and without assets.

Neil Ann Stuckey Levine -2014 "Here's a bit of family history that you might want to pursue. Aunt Louise was married once, to someone named George Zellner, but the marriage was annulled because, as my father recalled, "he didn't want to take care of her." A.D. Stuckey's somewhat profligate use of his wife's inherited money meant that the house at 225 Sherman Avenue had to be deeded in Louise's name to keep the property out of the hands of Emma's creditors. What happy family gatherings I remember at 225 Sherman Avenue! Kathleen and I went there almost every Sunday after church and stayed until our bedtime. This afforded my parents blessed hours alone on Sundays after Grandmother Marie Woods Neilan died in 1952. While that grandmother was alive, Kathleen and I were parked next door with her for a couple of hours practically every day so that my mother could have time to herself."

1930-1932 The Aftermath and the Depression

Following the disappearance of A.D. in November 1929, the closing of Fort Hamilton Motors shortly after, and the naming of Holly as executor of the Will of F.H. Berk in early 1930, life became exceedingly more difficult for the Stuckey household. Unemployment was rising generally throughout the city and nation. With no steady source of income and no savings, Emma Stuckey did what she could by selling antiques from the home. This must have been difficult for her to part with treasures accumulated during more



prosperous times. A.D., described as a "broken man," never worked again, and spent his days at home with family and his beloved dogs.

The boys went to work supporting the family. Howard quit high school after his junior year (1930) and worked along with his brothers to help support the family.

Neil Ann Stuckey Levine: "The collapse of A.D. Stuckey's business in 1929 figured very greatly in my own parents' lives. When our grandfather ran away from home after helping himself to much too generous a share of Deuscher money, my father was summoned home from Purdue to help support his mother and younger siblings. My dad was the first in the family to go to college, for I am sure he knew that he would need higher education in order to win my mother for his wife. Both my parents graduated from Hamilton High School in 1926 among the top ten students. Dad began at Purdue right away but did not complete perhaps even his first semester for health reasons. He enrolled again subsequently, only to be called home, as noted above. Fred could not be asked to contribute to his mother's and siblings' maintenance since he was already a husband and father. Cousin Patti was born on June 26, 1929. Note the date. So, the major burden fell on my dad. In the interim, my mother finished college at Mount Holyoke in 1930, right on schedule, and enrolled in the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia. She and my dad "broke up," and she met someone else in Manhattan. Apparently that mysterious man was attracted to my mother for her presumed "wealth" – only child of a prominent small-town lawyer. But times were tough for everyone in 1930, so my mother withdrew from Columbia and went home to Hamilton to find a job to earn and save money toward the day that she and dad could marry. They finally wed in September 1933."

In 1930, Howard and David were listed in the city directory as machinist helpers in a safe factory, which would have been either Mosler or Herring Hall Marvin, and Donald had quit Purdue University and to become a "laborer" in an auto factory, perhaps the Ford Plant. The next year, 1931, Howard moved on to debt collector at 250 High St, his brother, David, is listed as a clerk, at 601 North "B" Street (headquarters of Champion Paper) and his brother, Donald, a cashier at 114 North Second Street - so, all three young men quit school and were employed for at least two years to stabilize the family finances. The 1933-1934 City Directory lists all five Stuckeys living at 63 Millville. Howard returned to high school for his senior year and David and Donald are listed as clerks. Eldest son, Fred, and his wife Melba, both listed as salespersons, lived in the household (with daughter Patty) and must have contributed some to the joint family effort.

Gradually circumstances improved for the Stuckey family. Howard graduated from Hamilton High in 1933 and began studies at Ohio State, but only briefly. David moved on to his engineering studies at the University of Cincinnati. Donald did not return to Purdue, remaining in Hamilton and in 1933 marrying his high school sweetheart, Kathleen Neilan (who had graduated from Mount Holyoke), eventually becoming business manager of *The Hamilton Journal News*. Fred and Melba moved to their own residence until leaving Hamilton for Houston in 1940.

1933 The Death and The Will of C.R. Stuckey

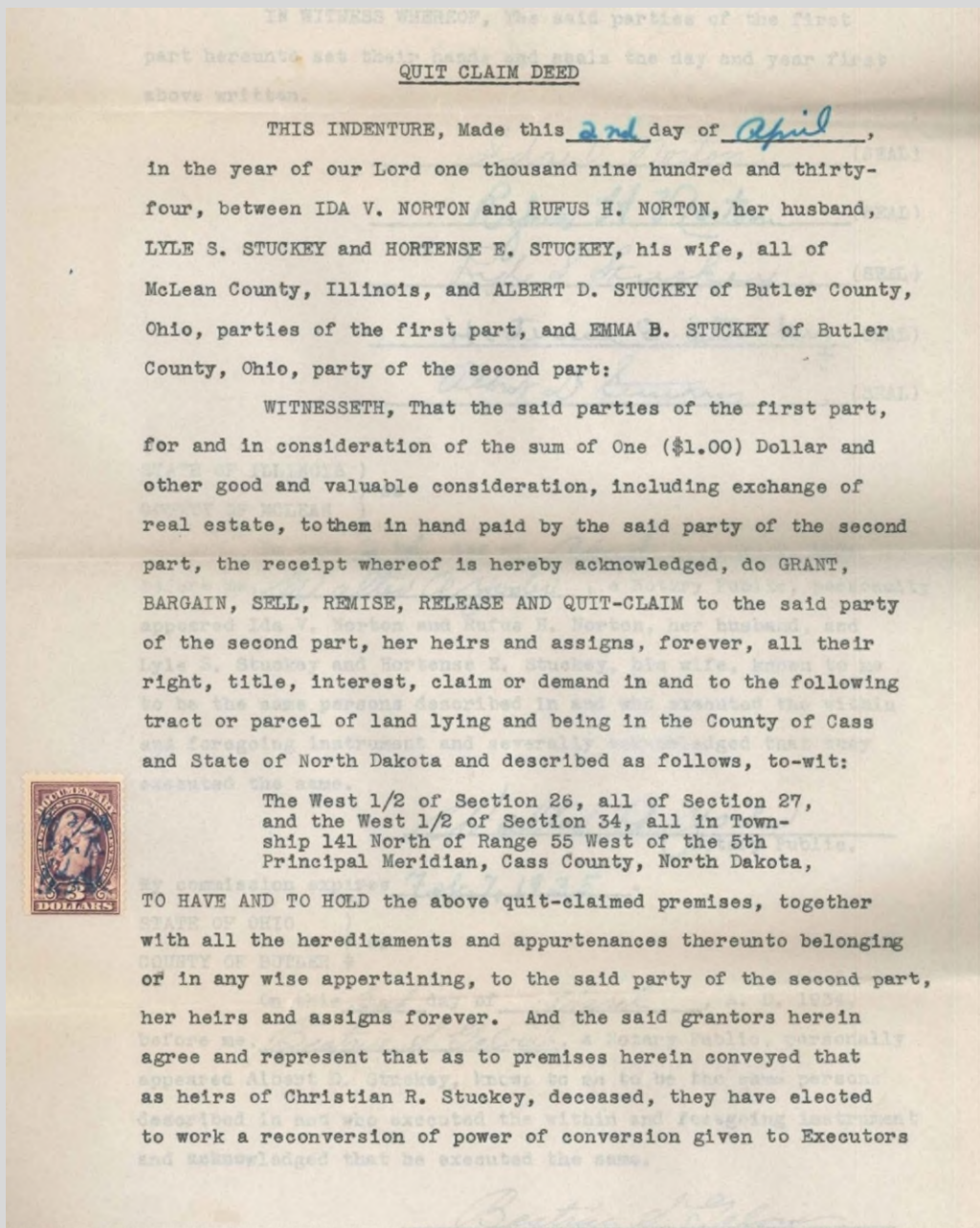
The remaining family in 1933 included A.D. and Emma, half-sister Sarah (Aunt Sadie), Louise, and Howard. On January 21, 1933, A.D.'s father Christian Stuckey died in Danvers, Illinois. His Will was probated on February 11th in Danvers. Christian's wife Catherine had died the previous August, and so the Will stated the remaining property and personal effects were to be divided among the three children - A.D., Ida, and Lyle. Ida's husband, Rufus, and Lyle, were named executors of the Will. While there were less than \$5000 in personal effects, there was an interest in an income producing farm in Cass County, North Dakota, just west of Fargo.

A.D. thus saw an opportunity to buffer his family against the effects of the depression and the loss of his livelihood. He and his two siblings, Lyle and Ida, either reached an amicable agreement, or perhaps A.D. persuaded them, due to his more dire circumstances, to transfer the income producing farm property to Emma's ownership.

Thus, on July 1, 1933 a petition signed by all three was submitted to Cass County (North Dakota) Probate Court to accept the Will of Christian Roth Stuckey in North Dakota for the purpose of transferring the property to Emma. The Will was accepted as legal and valid and during proceedings and over the next two years the property was transferred to Emma by quitclaim deed. An appraisal determined that the balance remaining on the original mortgage of \$19,000 (amount not given), plus interest in arrears of \$3900 was equal to the current appraised value, thus there was no equity in the farm, and thus no

inheritance tax due. The final decree of August 13, 1936, accepted the quitclaim deed and appraisal and the property was formally transferred to Emma Berk Stuckey.

The overdue interest was no doubt paid and the farm continued being rented to local farmers, providing perhaps some irregular and variable



income over the succeeding years, despite unpredictable weather and crop yields, and the depression.

In 1935 the family in 1935 sold their home of 15 years at 63 Millville Ave and move to a rental at 837 Ross Ave. Howard and Louise provided some income, as did Emma's half-sister Sadie, and it is unknown, but likely, that the others assisted in their parent's support when they could.

1938 The Final Stuckey Home

By 1938 the family moved again, renting a home on the corner of North "D" Street and Elvin Avenue. Shortly after this, perhaps 1939, Howard obtained employment in the State Treasurer's Office in Columbus and moved permanently from the family home. Louise, unmarried, remained at home and was employed at the Estate Stove Company across town. Sadie was employed by Bentel & Margadent Company, and later, The Central Foundry. In 1940, son Fred, seeking new opportunity, relocated his family to Houston, Texas, as he became a salesman for the Hamilton company, Krauth and Benninghofen, in their Houston office. Fred died in 1960, and his two children Patty (deceased 2011) and Karen and their offspring, have made Houston their home since.

Little is known about the circumstances and daily life of the Stuckeys during the years 1938-1944. Pictures of A.D. Stuckey on the lawn of

the "D" Street home with his beloved dogs, and those of Emma in the garden indicate a quiet life and simple pleasures.



1944 Death of A.D. Stuckey & Sale of the North Dakota Farm

In the first three months of 1944, A.D.'s health began to fail. Ultimately, he suffered a stroke at home on April 8, and was hospitalized for a week at Mercy Hospital before succumbing on April 15. Services were conducted by Reverend Louise Tahse of the Unity

Temple at the Webb Funeral Home, on Ross Avenue. Pallbearers included his four sons and interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Eight months after A.D.'s death, son Donald wrote to A.D.'s brother, Lyle, about Emma's farm property in North Dakota. In a letter dated December 6, 1944, Donald indicated that A.D. had initiated sale of the farm property prior to his death the previous January and the transaction was now completed. He indicated there were four good years in a row (1940-1943) with a good crop (and presumably profit), but that the 1944 crop was wiped out by the weather, and they accepted an offer on the farm.

Donald describes in detail that there was be a loss on sale of the farm but that up to a \$10,000 tax deduction on the loss would be allowed. Enough was made in 1944 to cover expenses and reduce the mortgage by \$2400. In order to compute the tax due, Donald was asking his brother the appraised value of 1/2 interest in the farm property when transferred after the death of Christian in 1933 (which we now know there was no equity). He indicated his mother was hazy on details and his father never confided much about it (a word to the wise about estate planning). A.D. left no estate for the care of his wife, and no insurance, and Donald was hoping to use the sale proceeds and whatever other interest was left in the Christian Stuckey Estate "to buy a little home for her (Emma), Sadie, and Louise."

Hamilton, Ohio
Dec. 6, 1944

Dear Lyle:

Mother told me the other day that she had had a letter from you in which you said you were expecting a double visit from the stork in Danvers. I trust that the waiting period is over and that you have two fine grandchildren by now. Howards son is now about two months old and he is a fine Stuckey. We were glad to get a boy here to carry on the name. We seem to do alright with the girls.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that we have disposed of the North Dakota farm. Dad started the ball rolling last year and we were finally able to put the deal through. Now mother has parted with all interest in Cass County, North Dakota, for which we are grateful. We had hopes of another good crop this year, but four good years in a row was asking to much, and the weather man stepped in about August 1st and ruined a perfectly good crop with rain while everything here suffered for the lack of it. This fact, of course, reduced what we expected to get out of it, but we all felt here that with the past experience of North Dakota in our minds, and with the war in Europe seemingly drawing to a close, that this would be the year we would be able to sell, so when a somewhat decent offer came our way, we let it go right quick. Of course, you are perfectly familiar with the joys of operating a farm in North Dakota.

Before we can arrive at any net amount received from the sale of the farm, we will have to figure and pay the federal income tax. We can without question establish a loss on the sale of the farm and this loss will be allowed up to \$10000.00 as a deduction. However the first part of the year, 1944 we sold enough grain and used the income to pay the current operating expenses and also pay 2400.00 on the old principal balance, the latter item being a taxable amount. To complete a tax return, I need a figure which you should have somewhere among the papers of your fathers estate. I need to know the appraised value of grandfathers 1/2 interest in the farm to use as the cost to mother of the 1/2 interest. I would be grateful if you would send me this figure at once because the return is going to be a tricky one to figure and I need all the time possible.

I know that you, Dad and Aunt Ida had some sort of an arrangement among rselves as to the distribution of your parents estates. Mother is a little hazy about what was done and Dad never confided very much about it to me so you'll have to let me know what arrangements were made, how it was to be carried out and what part was carried out.

You probably know that Dad didnt leave any estate to care for mother when he passed away, not even insurance, and hence what mother received from the sale of the farm is all she has. We want to try and buy a little home for her, Sadie, and Louise from the proceeds if possible. To do this it will be necessary to convert any remaining interest that would be hers by reason of Dads interest in his parents estate to cash at this time. About the only way I know of doing this would be to trade any interest that you and Ida might have in the proceeds from the sale of the North Dakota farm for any interest Dad might have in any assets still held by you and Aunt Ida. Of course this would have to be done on a basis of fair appraisement. I would be pleased if you have any other ideas and would let me know about them if you have.

This whole procedure will probably take some time to work out. I am the only one here now with the exception of Louise, and am acting more or less as a trustee for the rest of the boys in taking care of mother and looking after her affairs. Any settlement would necessarily have to be approved by Fred in Texas, Howard in Florida and Dave who has just arrived safely on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

Don was seeking guidance from Lyle as to whether there was any further asset (besides the farm) left to A.D. from the estate he could "cash in" now. He describes his role as "trustee" for the other boys (now of course, men) in working out the details for care of his mother. We have no documentation of the answer to this question, but based on court papers, the sum total of Christian Roth's personal effects was less than \$5000, including, one would assume, the home and furnishings.

1947 The Last Years of Emma Berk Stuckey

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, Donald was able to purchase a home at 225 Sherman Avenue with proceeds from sale of the North Dakota farm. Emma, Louise, and Sadie moved to Sherman Avenue in 1944 or 1945. Louise continued to work, providing income. Emma developed an early dementia, and passed away at the home Jan 9, 1947, at the age of 69. The service was conducted again by the Reverend Louise Tahse of the Unity Temple, Emma's religious affiliation from about 1930. She was buried alongside her husband at Rose Hill Cemetery. It is remarkable that A.D. and Emma, given their longtime involvement in Mennonite and Lutheran Churches, gravitated in 1930 to a metaphysical spiritual church during trying times, remaining connected until their deaths 14 and 17 years later.

Sadie lived on with Louise until she required assisted living in a nursing facility. She passed away at 86 in 1959. Howard and I visited with her quite a few times in the last months.



ALBERT DAVID STUCKEY - HIS FINAL YEAR-1944

Commentary

What do we make of the life of A.D. Stuckey, and what can we learn from his successes and his failures? Certainly, he seemed well prepared for the business climate of the early twentieth century after attending business school and apprenticing with his father for ten years. He was ambitious, hard-working, and had business connections from the very beginning. Moving to Hamilton expanded his possibilities substantially, as he was mentored all along by F.H. Berk, his successful father-in-law. He worked his way up in the Deuscher Company, along the way starting several other ventures in the teens. After Deuscher he helped found and successfully presided over three companies from 1926-1929. But when on his own, was he overly ambitious, taking on too many companies and responsibilities simultaneously? Was he not able to focus on each business sufficiently? One wonders whether had he not spread himself too thin would he have been able to weather the depression with a surviving business?

The temptation of funds from the estate of F.H. Berk was seemingly too much to resist, however, it apparently caused no long-term harm, as all was lost anyway. The disappointment must have been severe, and it is a wonder he was not a suicide statistic, as were many others during the depression.

Preparation for hardship, or perhaps even catastrophe, was a lesson learned by all the Stuckey children. There was no safe harbor for A.D. Stuckey, no backup plan, and no assets he could fall back on.

Frederick, Donald, David, Louise, and Howard applied the fallout from this family experience, and all were sufficiently cautious during their lifetimes, providing stability for their families through conservative financial management.

The period of United States history between 1921 and 1929 was known as the "Roaring Twenties", the "Era of Prosperity", or alternatively, "The Age of Big Business", but it all came crashing down with a boom, the effects lasting a decade. Each one of the Stuckeys was affected in some way in their teens or early twenties, just as they were beginning to chart their own courses in the world.

As we each look to the future, can we absorb A.D. Stuckey's experience and ask ourselves - could any of us have done better? How well prepared are we for the unexpected, not only in our personal lives, but on a larger national scale? And can we better prepare the next generation for uncertain times?

John Stuckey, grandson of A.D. Stuckey

Rockville, Maryland

December 2021

Timeline Table – Life of A.D. Stuckey

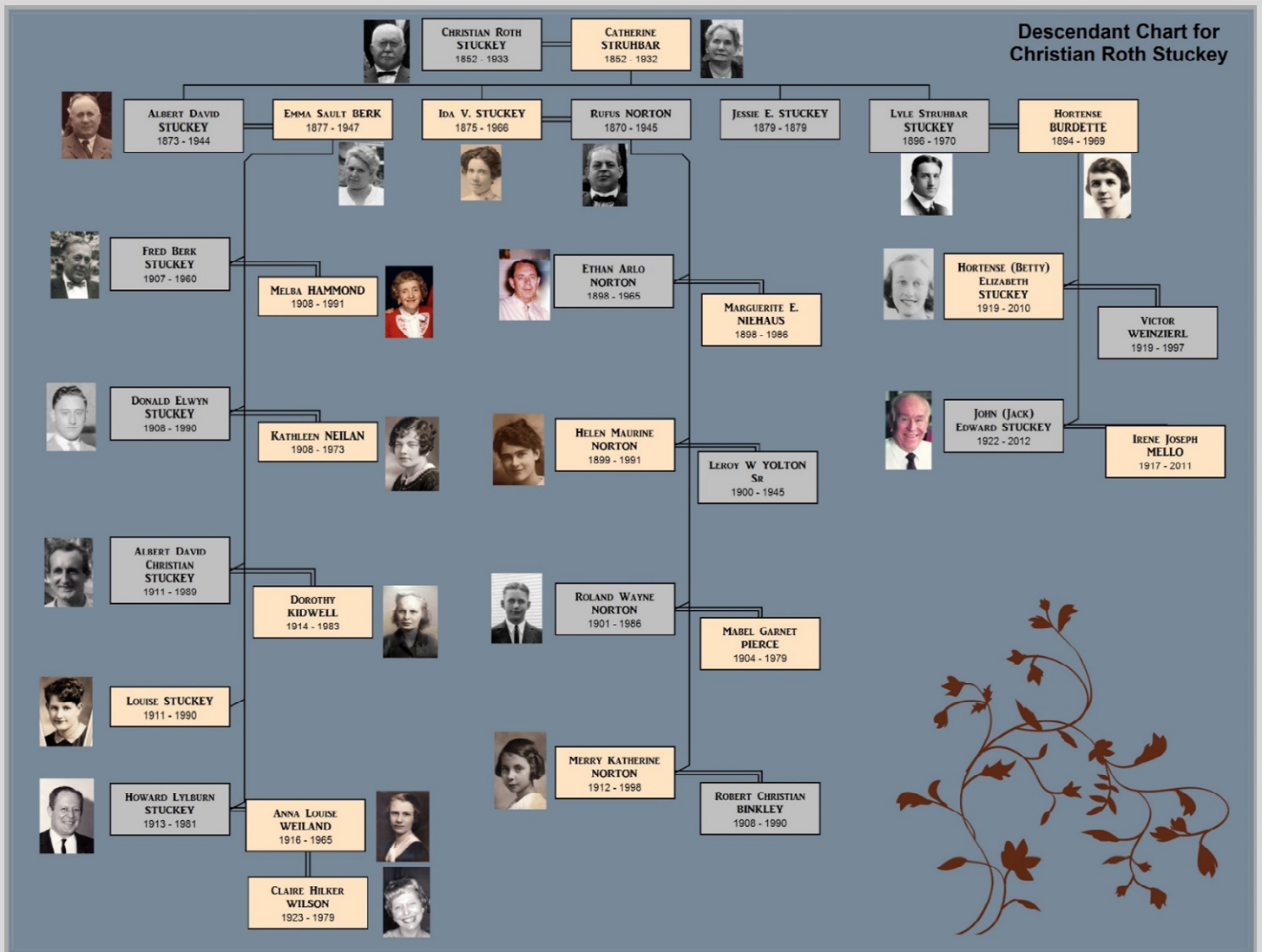
Timeline - Life of A.D. Stuckey		
Year	Event	Comment
1873	Birth	Born on father's farm 4 miles NW of Danvers, Ill
1875	Move to Danvers	Population 400-600. Attends the primary school and completes high school
1891	Business School	Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
1891-1904	Joins father's business in Danvers	Initially retail grocery & general merchandise, later, insurance, loans, and real estate
1903	Marriage to Emma Berk	Emma Berk-adopted daughter F.H. Berk from Trenton Ohio. The family attends St Peter Lutheran Church.
1904	Moves to Trenton, Ohio	Entry level bookkeeper at H.P. Deuscher Co-Hamilton with father-in-law F.H.Berk
1908	Correspondence Clerk	H.P. Deuscher Foundry
1910	Moves to Hamilton	F.H. Berk purchases large double home at 439 S. 2nd
1910	Assistant Manager	H.P. Deuscher Foundry
1910	President-National Caster	National Caster Co. -concurrent with H.P. Deuscher job

1913	Hamilton Welding Co	Partnership with two associates in new oxy-acetylene welding process
1915	F.H. Berk retires	Transfers home title to Emma Stuckey
1916	Purchases Miami Foundry	Purchased with two colleagues- renamed Superior Foundry, and later Iron City Foundry in 1917
1917	President-Superior Foundry	Grows to 100 employees
1917	Leaves H.P. Deuscher	Superior renamed to Iron City Foundry
1917	Enters Real Estate	Buys and sells lots and properties
1917	Presbyterian registration	Children registered here at height of anti-German sentiment. Previously German Lutheran
1920	Move to 63 Millville Ave	Safe from devastating floods like 1913
1922	C.R. Stuckey Wedding Anniversary	Family gathers in Danvers for C.R. and Catherine's 50th wedding anniversary
1922	President Investors Service Co.	Investment and Mortgage Co formed 3/24/22
1923	Considers United Mortgage Co.	Multistate company proposed by his partners to create large mortgage co.-deal unsuccessful
1924	President Butterfield Motors Feb 14th	Ford dealership on Market Street 25,000 sq ft, 25 employees, space for 100 cars

1924	California Vacation	Entire family travels by train - visits the Berks, now retired in Hollywood, California
1925	President Fort Hamilton Motors	Company renamed Feb. 6 and operates as Ford dealer
1924-25	Real Estate	Continues to buy and sell lots
1926	President Fort Hamilton Motors	Becomes a GM Dealership-Oakland and Pontiac
1928	Duntile Concrete at Coke Otto, North of Hamilton	Treasurer of and investor in Duntile Co, a new concrete building product company
1926-29	Most successful period-concurrent President of 3 companies	President-Iron City Foundry, President Investors Service and Finance Co, President-Fort Hamilton Motors, Treasurer-Duntile Co., Director-Trenton National Bank
1929	F.H. Berk Dies in June	A.D. Named Executor of will, A.D. exits from Investors Svc Co.
1929	October-Stock Market Crash	Economic climate deteriorates- all three businesses in trouble
1929	November 19, A.D. Stuckey disappears	Disappears Tuesday, Nov 19, takes bus to Knoxville, Tenn., returns Sat. Nov. 23, diagnosed with "nervous breakdown"

1929	Fort Hamilton Motors dissolved	Creditors meet, dispose of assets
1930	Iron City Foundry sold	A.D. left company in 1929
1930	New executor named to will	Sons go to work to support family, Emma sells antiques
1935	Sale of 63 Millville Ave	Family rents house on Ross Avenue, A.D. remains unemployed
1938	Rents home on North D St	A.D., Emma, Louise, Sadie, & Howard live at home, work to support family
1944	A.D. suffers stroke, dies	Lives 1 week after stroke, Emma, Sadie, and Louise move shortly to 225 Sherman Avenue
1947	Emma dies of dementia	Sadie and Louise remain at 225 Sherman Avenue until Sadie transitions to a nursing home.
1959-1970	Passing of A.D. and Emma's siblings, the last of A.D.'s generation	A.D.'s sister Ida dies in 1966, brother Lyle in 1970 Emma's half-sister Sadie dies 1959, half-brother Jack dies 1964
	Descendants in the next generation of Stuckeys	AD & Emma: Fred, Don, David, Louise, Howard Ida: Ethan Arlo, Helen, Roland, Merry Lyle: Jack (aka John), Betty Emma's sibs Jack and Sadie had no children

The Christian Roth and Catherine Strubhar Stuckey Family Tree



Acknowledgements

I wish to thank my cousin, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, for sparking an interest in our family history during our 1991 family reunion in Hamilton, Ohio. Over the years she regularly sent copies of her newest published research works, whose contents broadened my knowledge substantially. This prompted me to save every bit of family information I could gather for the next thirty years. More recently, she generously shared photos, letters, documents, and reminiscences relevant to the family and to A.D. Stuckey. I would never have attempted to reconstruct the life of A.D. without her continued interest and support.

Cousin Kathleen Stuckey Fox read the manuscript, and expeditiously made numerous edits and suggestions that improved the consistency and readability of the document immensely, and I am grateful for her assistance. Her superb organization of our two family history reunions in the 1990's enabled many to experience our history firsthand. Her interest in this project, our family history, and her efforts to preserve the history of notable Hamiltonians over the past few years is much appreciated.



TOM (L) & JOHN STUCKEY – AT LAST STUCKEY HOME - HAMILTON 2015