



THE LIFE OF HOWARD LYLURN STUCKEY

1913-1981

John Stuckey, Rockville, Maryland July 2022
johnhstuckey@aol.com

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Introduction

Howard Lylburn Stuckey was born into a large, lively, and prosperous family on January 20, 1913, the youngest of five children. As the youngest, he was no doubt the subject of great attention. His father Albert David and mother Emma lived with Emma's parents (Fred and Louise Deuscher Berk) in Trenton since 1904, and had their first two sons, Fred, b1907, and Don, b1908, in that small Ohio village. The two families then moved together



from Trenton to 439 South Second Street in Hamilton in July, 1910, into a large three-story brick home purchased by and shared with grandparents, Fred and Louise Berk. The families were prosperous, as A.D. Stuckey was on track to become assistant manager of the nearby H.P. Deuscher Foundry, and F.H. Berk was president of the company. In 1911, twins Dave and Louise were born and two years later on Jan 20, 1913, Howard completed the family. Two months later on Easter Sunday March 23, 1913 Howard was baptized in the Trenton

Evangelical Lutheran Church, the very church where his parents were married on June 10, 1903. Two days later Hamilton was ravaged by the Great Flood of 1913, and though just two months old, Howard (and the family) survived, when nearly 400 of their fellow citizens did not. (See [Flood Stories](#) for a more complete description of the flood events).

One would think surviving such a menacing threat in infancy might portend a much quieter life experience, however such was not the case. On the horizon was the great depression, disappointment over thwarted personal career aspirations, drafted service in World War II, the death of two wives, financial hardship, and a terminal cancer struggle. Nevertheless, Howard made the best of his circumstances, recovering repeatedly from adversity all the while carving out a successful career, raising a family, enjoying many friends, and widely recognized for his friendly personality and helpful manner.

[The Stuckey Family](#)

His father, Albert David Stuckey (1873-1944), was raised in Danvers, Ill, a good student who graduated from the Eastman Business School in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1891. Returning home, he worked alongside his father, Christian Stuckey, who was a successful businessman in the small community of just under 1000 inhabitants. His grandfather was Joseph Stuckey, the renowned Amish Mennonite Bishop, who had come to Illinois in 1850 with his young family from Butler County, Ohio to take up farming. His upbringing was no doubt entwined with the staunch Mennonite principles and disciplined life.

A.D. Stuckey met Emma Berk, from Trenton Ohio, when she was sent to visit friends in Danvers, Illinois for the summer, by chance staying near to the home of the Christian R. Stuckey family. A summer romance developed with the young A.D. Stuckey and after a courtship, they married in Trenton, Ohio on June 10, 1903. They returned to Danvers for about a year, where A.D. was in the real estate and insurance business with his father. Eldest son A.D. and his new bride Emma, returned to Trenton in 1904 at the invitation

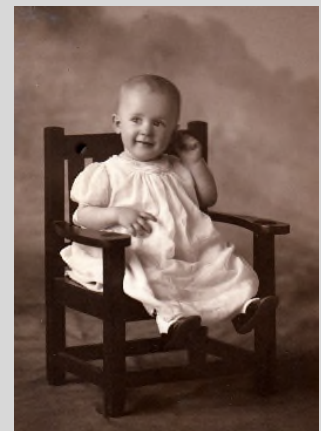
of his father in-law, F.H. Berk, when Berk was asked to manage the H.P. Deuscher Foundry in Hamilton after his father-in-law, H.P. Deuscher, died in 1903. A.D. started as a correspondence clerk, moving up to assistant manager by the time he left in 1917. For a time, they both commuted to the foundry on the Trenton-Hamilton streetcar (8.5 miles), but both families moved to Hamilton to be closer to the business. By 1910, the growing Stuckey family shared a large home with the Berk's at 439 South Second Street (known as the Hooven Home), with a ballroom on the third floor. The home was built in the 1880's, served several owners, and then occupied by the Stuckeys from 1901-1920. After the Stuckeys moved in 1920, it was



purchased by representatives of multiple local labor unions and became the "Labor Temple" serving as meeting place and offices for many trade unions. Presently, it is a recovery and halfway house.

Early years 1913-1929

Many early photos show a happy face and a characteristic hand pulling on his ear. His sister said it was from a persistent ear infection, and it certainly identified him in family pictures. It is unknown where the middle name Lylburn originated, other than perhaps his father's younger brother was named Lyle.



Howard, and his older twin siblings Louise and Dave, were all born in this home. Stories told about the home include extravagant Christmases in the old German tradition, enhanced by Grandparent Berk's enthusiasm for delighting the youngsters. I am certain this is why Howard loved Christmas lights and Christmas trees and always surprised his three children on Christmas morning with the appearance of the tree, the presents, and the decorations, all prepared with great effort throughout the night. In the morning we all awoke by 5 am with great anticipation of the revelation about to appear, and despite being up all night, the delight on Howard's face was certainly evident. Also told about these early years in the Stuckey-Berk home is the time when Don and his brothers shoved a toy piano out of the ballroom's third story window to the ground below.



During Howard's early years, A.D. Stuckey was a successful businessman in Hamilton. From 1907-1917 he rose from correspondence clerk to assistant general manager of the H.P. Deuscher Company, a foundry making farm implements, tools, stoves, and after a devastating fire

in 1910, iron castings. A.D. was developing additional business interests during the period of Howard's childhood from 1915-1925. In 1917 he purchased, with other investors, Superior Foundry, manufacturer of gray iron castings for use in railroad wheels, etc. In the early twenties he became president of an auto dealership located at 321 Market Street, a prominent location for Hamilton auto sales for many years thereafter. He

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A. D. Stuckey, Pres. P. K. Connolly, Sec'y-Treas. H. J. Butterfield, V-Pres.
321-3 Market St. Phone 4905 Hamilton, Ohio

OAKLAND
ALL-AMERICAN SIX
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is listed as president of the Fort Hamilton Motor Company, president of the Iron City Foundry Company, and in May, 1922 he founded and was president of The Investors Service and Finance Company. His experience with his own father in Danvers during the period 1891-1903 served him well by this time. No doubt he felt confident in the economy after WWI, Hamilton's industrial base was growing, and his experience and influence had grown during his time with H.P. Deuscher. In 1928 he was also a director of The Bank of Trenton.

His economic success provided the family relative prosperity. They enjoyed a comfortable home, antique furnishings with a grand piano, fine clothes, and the ability to travel. They moved to 63 Millville Ave in 1920, away from the danger of flood which had threatened them on South Second Street in 1913.



A letter written by his mother to her half-sister Sadie in Illinois about this time referred to Howard as "Dumpy", perhaps referring to his always occupied diaper. He attended Hamilton schools as a child. A newspaper article describes an oral report he gave in the 5th grade on Herbert Hoover.



By 1920 Fred Berk was 75 and had retired with his second wife Ella to Hollywood, California, living in a home on Carmen Ave, a one block long street close to Hollywood and Vine. In 1924, when Howard was 11, the entire family (including Aunt Sadie Sault) traveled by train to California to visit the Berks. While there they relaxed on the beach, saw the sights, visited a movie set, and visited Catalina Island. Howard appears carefree and fun loving in family pictures of the time.

In 1927, at the age of 14, Howard was painting with oils. He had a real talent for painting, but it is not known whether he had instruction, encouragement, or whether this was a natural gift. The oil painting of the USS Constitution, in possession of son Thomas Stuckey, is striking even today in use of color, and is his only known work of art. After his early teen years, Howard never really pursued his hobby again, even though a set of oils was purchased for him after his wife Ann Louise died in 1965.



As a teenager in the late 20's Howard worked at the Webb Funeral Home on Ross Ave, polishing the extensive woodwork, doing odd jobs and general handiwork. The Webb's were very fond of him and they became lifelong friends. Many times, he would return for funerals of family (Including



his parents and his two wives) and friends and remember old times with the elder Webb's, who were in their eighties in 1980. I remember them well and they always remarked how fond they were of Howard. He had many stories about his early days there, including trips in the hearse, and there was a great appreciation for the extensive and ornate woodwork throughout the house, which he seemed responsible for.

An episode that is not clearly remembered is the time when Howard developed a high fever one night while in his late teens or early twenties. He had been out on the town, which was common for him and his buddies. They were substantial drinkers in their day and dressed stylishly. He returned home almost ready to pass out, and had to be carried indoors. His temperature was very high, perhaps 104-105 and he was delirious. The illness lasted several days and he recovered, but it was said that he never had the same coordination after that. Indeed, in later years, he had difficulty catching balls and judging things thrown his way.



Howard always told us his mother was extremely protective of him as a child. She would not allow him to play baseball, have a bicycle, or undertake any activity that may have even some minor risk. The origin of this protective attitude is unclear and whether it extended to the other children is unknown. Perhaps that is why in later years, he was so cautious and protective of his own children.

As can be imagined during this time, the family enjoyed the fruits of their father's success, including the trip to California and college educations for the boys. In the early 30's Howard's older brother Dave was

on his way to becoming an engineer, brother Don was enrolled at Purdue University, and brother Fred was a salesman.

The Depression Era 1929-1933

October 1929 marked a dramatic turning point in the life of the family. We have all heard of the great depression, but it really did affect the Stuckey household in a significant way for the next 10 years. The great stock market crash affected everything A.D. Stuckey was involved in. Investments plummeted, people could no longer afford cars, industries were cutting back, and the foundry had fewer customers. Economic conditions were deteriorating for the Stuckey's and the strain must have been tremendous, as the family business interests were suffering.

Economic hardship was forecast during 1929 and beyond and there must have been no way out of the downturn for many families such as his. He was no longer involved in the Investment Service, and the Foundry had been sold to another investor. By November, with only the auto dealership left, A.D. Stuckey's continued financial difficulties resulted in personal stress and he suddenly and unexpectedly disappeared for 4 days in late November 1929, just one month after the stock market crash. Howard was almost 17 and a junior in high school, and brother Don was in college at Purdue.



On Tuesday, November 19, Howard's father A.D. picked up a vehicle from the dealership, made a trip to Trenton, where he was on the Board of the Trenton National Bank, and withdrew some cash. He returned to Hamilton but never returned home. He drove to Cincinnati, parked the car in a garage, sent a letter to his wife Emma, got on a bus, and disappeared. It is difficult to imagine what must have been going through his mind at the time. After his disappearance was reported, a police alert was issued and a nationwide search was initiated. His story was on the front page of the Hamilton and two Cincinnati papers for 4 days. Don returned home from college and issued an appeal through the news media. By the 4th day he responded to the appeal and returned from Knoxville, Tennessee where he had been staying in the local YMCA. A "nervous breakdown" was Dr. Neil Millikin's assessment and he was sent to his bed to recuperate. His wife Emma was distraught throughout the event and nearly suffered a breakdown herself.

AUTO AGENCY'S CREDITORS MEET

Nov 29, 1929

Name Committee to Dissolve 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 Hambach, A. L. Martin and T. A. Seibert.

John P. Nelson, 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.

Within days, his last remaining business, the Fort Hamilton Motor Co., was forced into bankruptcy, the assets sold, and operations ceased.

After his father's breakdown and the demise of his business interests, economic pressures increased and Emma sold antiques from her home to raise funds, presumably for living

expenses. The boys went to work supporting the family. A.D., described as a

"broken man", never worked again. The effect on Howard during this time of upheaval is not really known, as he never really discussed it. Howard quit high school after his junior year (1930) and worked (along with his three brothers) to help support the family, returning to graduate in 1933.

1930. In the City Directory of 1930 Howard and Dave were listed as machinist helpers in a safe factory, either Mosler or Herring Hall Marvin, and Don, who had returned from Purdue University, became a laborer in the Ford auto factory. The next year, 1931 Howard became a debt collector (250 High Street), his brother David is listed as a clerk, at 601 North "B" Street (address of Champion Paper) and his brother Don, a cashier at 114 North 2nd Street. All three younger boys quit school, lived at home, and were employed for at least two years during this upheaval. One can only imagine the effect on the young men, nearly losing everything and having their entire existence threatened. Mother Emma began to sell the family furniture out of the home as an antique business. The family was never without food and shelter however, and certainly others families in town were in more extreme circumstances. But the industriousness of the family no doubt saw them through this difficult period in better shape than many in Hamilton.

1932. A practice of his we all remember is slowing down at every intersection on Millville Ave, looking both ways for cars, even though there were no stop signs for blocks. It may be however, that this caution arose from an incident on Aug 1, 1932 at age 19, when a friend was killed in an accident involving them both. Howard was driving his friend Charles Eberling and their dates back from Cincinnati. After midnight while driving north on Pleasant Avenue from College Hill in Cincinnati they approached a streetcar stop, which was located in the median of the roadway. The car careened against the curb. In the impact, young Eberling was initially thought to be

all right, but died shortly thereafter with a broken neck. None of the others were seriously injured, and an investigation found Howard not to be at fault, with excessive speed and alcohol not contributing factors.

The DAILY NEWS family of readers respond to messages of advertisers.

THE HAMILTON DAILY NEWS

HAMILTON, OHIO, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1932. PAGE TEN

DAILY NEWS readers enjoy the world's best features and comics.

JAMES EBERLING, 22, KILLED WHEN AUTO HITS "ISLAND"

Hamilton Boy Finds Body Of Norwood Youth On Bottom Of LeSourdsville Lake

EARL MONROE TOUCHED BODY WHEN DIVING

Friend Unaware He Was Missing—Life-saving Squads' Efforts Fail

Pied Piper Petty Piker; Circus at Seiberts Draws Crowd

Week-end parties and many young people gathered at Seibert's today and were talking of the two parties given last on Saturday afternoon and evening by the Seibert-Seibert circus in the Seibert-Seibert park and garage, 112 Pyramus avenue. The circus "went over big."

CHILDREN HURT AS CARS CRASH ON CEREAL AVE.

Carolyn And William Jones Rushed To Hospital—Other Accidents

Youth, Known Here, Killed in Airplane Crash at Dayton

Charles P. Harding, 19, of Dayton, son of C. P. Harding, engineer for the General Motors Corporation and formerly a resident of Hamilton who was killed in an airplane crash near Dayton, Ohio, shortly before noon Sunday, was well-known in Hamilton. He is a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Smith of 645 Allen street.

THREE OTHERS HURT; ON WAY HOME FROM COLLEGE HILL

Coroner Cook Hopes Removal of Traffic Menaces Not Far Off—Howard Stuckey and Two Girls in Automobile

The investigation revealed several crashes under similar circumstances in the same location and a public plea was made by authorities to remove the median streetcar stops and curbs, as they were a hazard. We all used to complain about the slowness of his driving, but now appreciate this carefulness. No doubt this death of a close friend while a passenger in his car is the reason his driving was so abundantly cautious. Howard never talked about this incident and we do not know to what degree he was affected, nor do we know how the Eberling family and friends reacted.

1933. As 1932 moved into 1933, and Howard adjusted to this traumatic period, the family financial situation improved. Howard returned to Hamilton High School after two years and graduated at the age of 20 with the class of 1933, two years later than anticipated.

Courtship, Marriage, & Work 1934-1940

1934. His interrupted high school education was fortuitous, however, as he and Ann Louise Weiland, class of 1934, four years his junior but now just one year behind in high school, developed a romance during this time. Howard lived at 63 Millville Avenue, and Ann Louise at 260 North "F" Street, about 6 blocks away.



It was during his high school years he

acquired the nickname "Bullet", the origin of which remains unknown. However, he carried this nickname throughout his entire life. During High School, Howard was described in the 1930 yearbook, his junior year- "Bullet is one of Marcum's Cowboys. The reference remains lost in history. The yearbook also states that he

could "easily be mistaken for a movie star. Cast an eye his way, and you'll see." Earlier, in 1929, he was stage manager of the play *"The Gypsy Trail"*.

It is unknown how his two-year absence affected him at the time, as he had returned to finish with students two years younger.



1935. Howard always had hopes of becoming an attorney and he had a short-lived opportunity to attend college at Ohio State University in 1934 in the waning months of his 20th year. Whether from of lack of funds or for other unknown reasons, Howard returned home by 1935, working as a "helper", an adjuster, and as a clerk between 1935-39, according to the Hamilton City Directory. He and Ann continued their courtship during this time, enjoying improved economic circumstances but political instability on the world stage. They enjoyed a wide circle of friends, and a 1935 news article described their trip to Lexington to visit friends.



Prytania and Elvin 1939



Meanwhile the family had sold their Millville Avenue home in 1935 and moved several blocks to 857 Ross Avenue until 1938, and then to the corner of Prytania and Elvin by 1939, now just three blocks from Ann Louise. A.D., Emma, Louise, and Aunt Sadie Sault

(half-sister of Emma) remained in this home until the death of A.D. Stuckey from a stroke in 1944.

1939. Sometime late in 1939 Clint Egbert, an attorney and friend from Hamilton, helped him acquire a job in Columbus in the office of Treasurer of

the State of Ohio. He began as Assistant Cashier in the State Tax Commission. According to his Army Separation Qualification Record he “audited weekly reports of sales tax agents, checked vendors purchase orders, and later supervised 30 office workers.” One of his responsibilities was to witness executions at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus. He told me he did this but never described it in detail. He lived alone in a comfortable apartment near downtown in a beautiful old apartment building at 580 East Town Street. During the ensuing year Howard and Ann, their romance now in full bloom, planned a September 1940 wedding in Hamilton, and discussed Ann's move to Columbus.



1940. A newspaper wedding announcement on Sept 10, 1940 described the upcoming wedding of Ann and Howard on Sept 14th, 1940 in the living room of her parent's home at 260 North F Street. June Steed played the piano at the wedding. She practiced diligently, and as she describes, was very nervous, but played flawlessly when the time came.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weiland
announce the marriage of their daughter
Anna Louise
to
Mr. Howard L. Stuckey
on Saturday, the fourteenth of September
nineteen hundred and forty
Hamilton, Ohio

Weiland-Stuckey Wedding Was Pretty Affair Saturday

Sincerity and quiet dignity were salient attributes when Miss Anna Louise Weiland, attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weiland, 260 N. F St., became the bride of Howard L Stuckey, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Stuckey, 493 N. D Street, in a simple wedding service at 4:30 Saturday afternoon in the Weiland home.

Rev. Wilbur A. Vorhis, pastor of the First Methodist Church, officiated during the exchange of vows which marked the single ring service, performed before an altar of potted palms, effectively improvised in front of the fireplace, the mantle above bedecked with an exquisite arrangement of white asters and gladioli. The subdued radiance of lighted tapers in five-branched candelabra illuminated the altar, the focal point of the wedding scene.

Miss June Weiland, fetching daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Weiland, and niece of the bride, contributed the prenuptial piano selections, "Because", and "To An Evening Star", preceding her significant rendition of Lohengrin's "Wedding March".

Miss Weiland had as her only attendant her sister, Miss Kathryn Weiland. Both wore becoming costume suits of angel wool. Miss Kathryn Weiland's was of cinnamon brown edged in a lighter hue, it's modish styling offset by a corsage of yellow gladioli.

The radiant bride was escorted by her father. She had selected a costume of the new soldier blue, its fitted lines particularly adapted to the traditional bridal conservatism. A gardenia corsage graced the lapel of her jacket, and as her only adornment she wore a single strand of pearls, the gift of the groom. She had observed the ancient custom of including, "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue", in assembling her bridal apparel.

They were met at the altar by the groom and his brother, David Stuckey, who performed the services of best man.

Afterwards, about 40 guests, comprising the immediate family and intimate friends, extended felicitations to the couple and their parents. Mrs. Weiland wore a corsage of Johanna Hill roses against a dress of royal blue crêpe. With her dress of powder blue crêpe, Mrs. Stuckey wore a black hat and accessories, and a corsage of bluish roses.

A three-tiered wedding cake of ornate design, with a miniature bride and groom atop its final tier, graced the dining room table, flanked on either side by lighted candles in three-branched candelabra. More flowers and smilax were evident on the buffet. Cake, ice cream, fruit punch and bonbons were served to the guests.

Later, amid a chorus of good wishes from their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stuckey left for a wedding trip of one week in the East. Upon their return, they will establish residence in a handsome apartment at 63 W. California Ave., Columbus. There, the many beautiful and useful wedding gifts displayed at the reception will be included in the furnishings.

Mr. Stuckey is assistant cashier in the state treasurer's office, Columbus. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Stuckey was employed at the Ohio Casualty Insurance Company, where her charm and personality won her many friends. The wedding culminated a romance which originated when the bride and groom were pupils at Hamilton High School from which they were graduated in 1934 and 1933 respectively. After graduation Mr. Stuckey attended Ohio State University.

On To Columbus 1940-1943

1940. Returning from their honeymoon "In the East", Howard and Ann planned their life in Columbus. Prior to his marriage Howard lived in a fashionable downtown apartment building, but now they chose a two-story row house in a more residential neighborhood just north of the Ohio State University campus at 63 West California Ave.

Howard's position listed in the City Directory was a sub auditor for the state treasurer's office. He rode the streetcar to work every day down High Street. They had little money at the time.

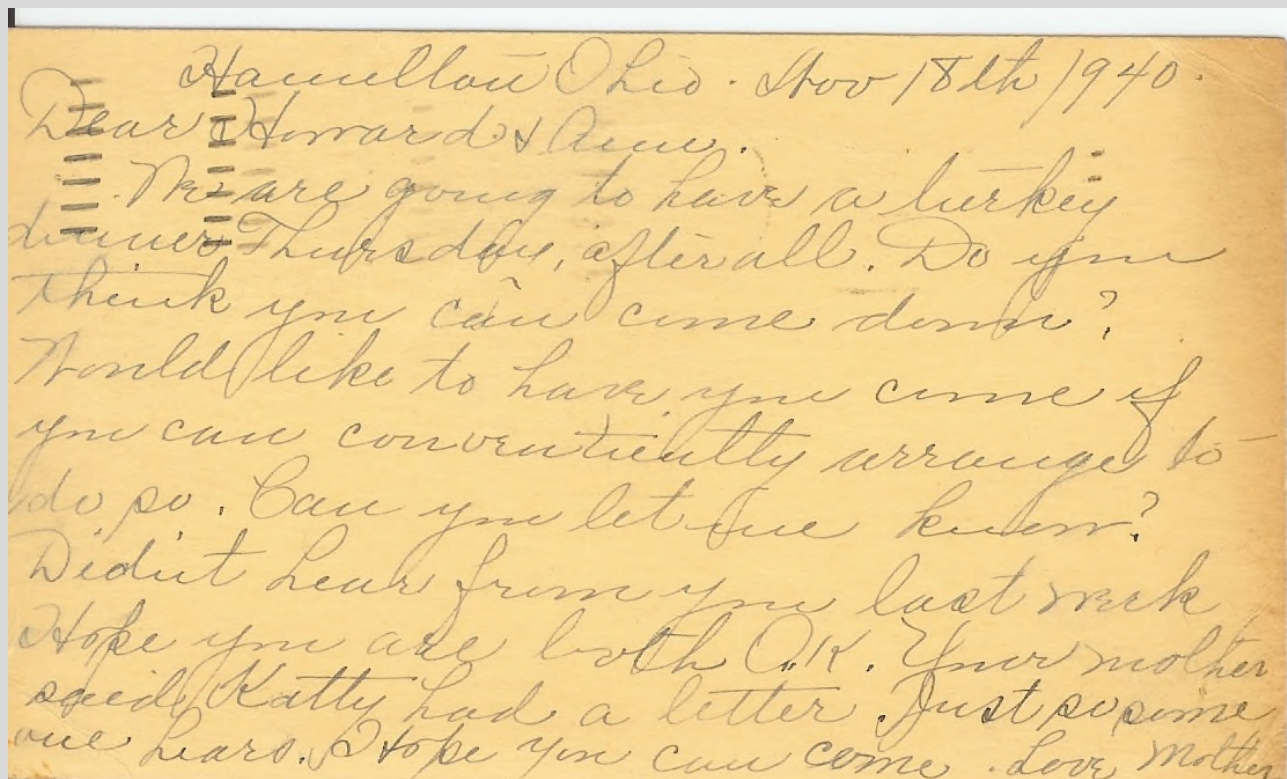


June Steed, who was only sixteen or seventeen, visited in Columbus when she could. She recalls being taken to a night club by Ann and Howard, and knowing how short funds were at the time, scanned the menu for the least expensive item-Seltzer water. During this time, Howard took additional course work (9 hours per week) at Franklin University in Columbus.

A post card written by Emma Stuckey, Howard's mother, on Nov. 18th, 1940, two months after their marriage, requests their presence at Thanksgiving dinner.

"Dear Howard and Anne: We are going to have a turkey dinner Thursday after all. Do you think you can come down? Would like to have you come if you can conveniently arrange to do so. Can you let us know?"

Didn't hear from you last week. Hope you are both OK. Your mother
(referring to Anne's mother Edith) said Katty had a letter. Just so
someone hears. Hope you can come. Love Mother."



Hammonton Ohio - Nov 18th 1940.
Dear Howard & Anne.
We are going to have a turkey
dinner Thursday, after all. Do you
think you can come down?
Would like to have you come if
you can conveniently arrange to
do so. Can you let me know?
Didn't hear from you last week
Hope you are both OK. Your mother
said Katty had a letter. Just so
someone hears. Hope you can come. Love Mother

1942. They were now living at 159 West Weber Road in Columbus, just two blocks from the previous residence. Their time in Columbus must have been a happy one- a young couple in a larger city with new opportunities, but on the other hand they were both used to lots of family and old friends around them. It is unknown what Ann did during these years.

From high school on, they were best friends with Hazel and Neil Sohngen. Neil and Ann were in the same high school class, one year ahead of Hazel.

Shortly after high school they were inseparable friends, spending many Friday nights together playing cards, drinking beer, and enjoying each other's company. In earlier days, Neil relates a time when they borrowed one of Howard's father's cars to travel to Louisville to buy furniture. They had a rousing time all the way down and back, and Neil burned a cigarette hole in the new car seat. In a later discussion I had with Hazel in her retirement home she said "Howard had a rough life", implying that he had high hopes but never really was able to accomplish what he set out to. She seemed sad when saying those words about him. I always remember Howard saying "You never know what the next ten years will bring". He never expected to outlive his first wife let alone his second. Hazel also said "he was the nicest man you would ever want to know." Gene Steed said the same thing. Indeed, he was always doing something for somebody or visiting somebody. Gene Steed, and Howard were lifelong good friends, often sharing a drink and a good conversation. Gene thought highly of Howard and appreciated his listening ear.

1943. The war effort was progressing and the need for military personnel was increasing. The U.S. was seeking older and older draftees, and Howard, at 30 was a prime candidate, especially with his experience. His induction order was received March 18, 1943.

159 W. Weber Rd. - Apt. C - Columbus

SERIAL NUMBER 2295	1. NAME (Print) Howard Lyburn Stucky		ORDER NUMBER 1791
2. ADDRESS (Print) 493 North D. Hamilton Butler Ohio			
3. TELEPHONE 1381 W	4. AGE IN YEARS 27	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Hamilton Ohio	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP America
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Emma B. Stucky			
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Mother			
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 493 North D. Hamilton Butler Ohio			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Don E. Bright, Hamilton Butler Ohio			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Treasury Office (State) Columbus Franklin Ohio			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		16-17106 Howard L. Stucky (Registrant's signature)	

Draft Registration 1940

World War II - Howard in the Army Air Corps 1943-1946

During the early years of the war Howard and Ann were in Columbus, but as the conflict progressed, older men were being called to duty. Howard received his induction order on March 18th, 1943 at the age of 30. On March 29th, a letter arrived appointing him leader (presumably due to his age and work experience) of a contingent of men from Butler County who would report for duty in Cincinnati.

"He is, therefore, charged with the enforcement of Selective Service Regulations governing selected men enroute to Induction Stations during the journey from Hamilton, Ohio to Cincinnati, Ohio and all men included within the contingent are directed to obey his lawful orders during the journey."

He was inducted into the Army in Cincinnati on March 29, 1943 and reported for duty in Hamilton on April 5, 1943. About 10 days were spent at Ft. Thomas, Kentucky before assignment to the Army Air Corps, 512 Squadron, 604th training group at St. Petersburg, Fla., announced by telegram to Ann at 9:59 PM April 15th. Basic training lasted about 30 days-the only mishap being an injured leg (muscle strain) that occurred after falling 15 feet off a bar during an obstacle course.

By June 7, basic training was completed and he was transferred to Buckley Field, Colorado, 18 miles east of Denver, arriving June 12th. He was still there on July 27, wiring Anne "Still here-send \$5.00 Air Mail-Love Howard." It was not clear why he was there or what he was to do, but on August 5th he was transferred to Brookings South Dakota for an 8-week training course at the Army Administration School. On October 27th he graduated with over 200 other men with the notation: "This is to certify that PFC Howard L.

Stuckey has diligently pursued and successfully completed the course of instruction in the enlisted classification course at Enlisted Branch #3 Army Administration Schools, South Dakota State College, Brookings South Dakota, September 18, 1943 to October, 27, 1943." This prepared him for service as an Army Classification Specialist.

On Oct. 30th he was sent to the 3rd Air Force Replacement Depot, Plant Park, Tampa, a temporary holding area prior to reassignment. Shortly he was assigned to Drew Field in Tampa. He went on to become a Classification Specialist, handling classification and reclassification of enlisted men and officers. His job was to interview men and recommend them for various types of work while in the service. Upon Howard's induction in March, 1943, Ann moved back to her parent's home in Hamilton. A furlough home was granted Jan 16-Jan 30, 1944, and shortly thereafter, Ann became pregnant with their first child, John. He remained at Drew Field through 1944 and on Sept. 1, 1944 he was promoted from Pfc. to Corporal at Drew Field.



On October 7th came a long-anticipated telegram: "John Howard Stuckey arrived 9:10 PM Baby weighed 7 pounds, thirteen ounces." He remained at Drew through Thanksgiving and Christmas, and obtained a furlough Jan 16-Feb. 2, 1945 for a first visit with his new son.

World War II - On to Europe 1945

On Feb. 7th, 1945 he received an order to report to Camp Howze, Texas.
That same week,

February 4-11, 1945 – Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill met at Yalta to discuss post war peace and the reconstruction of war torn nations.

Howard remained at Camp Howze until April 9th in preparation for possible transport to Europe.

On **April 1, 1945** - U.S. troops encircle Germans in the Ruhr; Allied offensive begins in Northern Italy.

The War was in its final stages, but no one knew when the end would actually come. On April 9th he was routed to Ft. George Meade, Md. (now the site of the National Security Agency NSA) for several weeks awaiting his departure for Europe. During his time at Ft Meade:

April 12, 1945: Allies liberate Buchenwald and Belsen concentration camps; President Roosevelt dies. Harry Truman becomes President.

April 16, 1945: Soviet troops begin their final attack on Berlin; Americans enter Nuremberg.

April 18, 1945: German forces in the Ruhr surrender.

April 21, 1945: Soviets reach Berlin.

Howard sailed from New York Harbor on April 29th, 1945 on the SS Mariposa bound for LeHavre, France, (The very port from where his great great grandfather Peter Stuckey and family sailed to America in 1830) arriving one

week later on May 6th. During his ocean crossing the troops received the following information:

April 30, 1945: Adolph Hitler commits suicide

May 2, 1945: German troops in Italy surrender.

The SS Mariposa's ocean crossing was uneventful and Howard arrived in LeHavre on May 6th.

May 7, 1945: Unconditional surrender of all German forces to Allies

May 8, 1945: V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.

There must have been elation and jubilation among the troops in the two days after his arrival in Europe.

Howard sent a telegram from Sansorigne France on May 11th announced "All well and safe. Best wishes to all at home. Keep smiling."

A map detailing his assignment through France, Belgium and Germany shows that he was moved quickly, probably in support of the rapid occupation of the defeated Third Reich. Though not assigned to the infantry at first, and not knowing whether he would see action or not, he later told of guarding captured German soldiers. In a letter to his wife, Ann, describing conditions at Heilbronn, Germany, written on May 11th, (3 days after the end of the war), he tells of being transferred to the artillery. During his deployment through Germany, he was reassigned to Battery A, 74th Field Artillery Battalion, to which he remained assigned until discharge.

A scrapbook of his military service was created by Ann and sister Kathryn detailing each event in his military service and is a treasured piece of family history. Included mementos are various badges and pins from captured German soldiers.

He arrived at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania from Marseilles, France on July 5, 1945 on the **Marine Dragon**, along with 3088 returning troops. Another furlough was granted July 9 - Aug. 9, a welcome visit home after several months in Europe.

On October 1st, 1945 he received transfer orders from Fort Jackson, South Carolina to the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, where he was assigned to the Contract Termination Branch. On November 8th, 1945 he was promoted from corporal to Technician Fourth Grade (Tech 4). On the 9th of January he received his discharge orders and was honorably discharged from service on January 16, 1946 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The amount of hand typed correspondence just for Howard in his scrapbook was substantial, and one can only imagine the secretarial pool necessary for the entire war effort. Also, one can note and appreciate the many, many locations Howard was moved to during his years of service and the logistic support necessary for moving millions of similar men.

Howard's age and past experience in the Ohio state treasurer's office led to his Army training as a classification specialist, and when additional assistance was needed in Europe at the end of the war, his was in a support role.

During the war effort, the two adjacent Weiland homes on "F" Street in Hamilton proudly supported four young men in military service: Howard,

Ann's brother Bob Weiland, Captain in the Army, next door brother Earl's son Jack Weiland, and June's future husband, William (Gene) Steed. In addition, Howard's brother Dave served at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific.

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION											
HONORABLE DISCHARGE											
16 3 2 WP 55											
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL STUCKEY HOWARD L				2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 35 797 382		3. GRADE T-4		4. ARM OR SERVICE FA		5. COMPONENT AUS	
6. ORGANIZATION BTRY A 74TH FA BN				7. DATE OF SEPARATION 16 JAN 46		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION SEP CEN CAMP ATTERBURY IND					
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 260 N F ST HAMILTON BUTLER OHIO						10. DATE OF BIRTH 20 JAN 13		11. PLACE OF BIRTH HAMILTON OHIO			
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT TREAS OF STATE OF OHIO COLUMBUS OHIO						13. COLOR EYES BROWN		14. COLOR HAIR BROWN		15. HEIGHT 5-10 1/2	
16. RACE X NEGRO		17. OTHER (specify)		18. MARITAL STATUS X SINGLE		19. OTHER (specify)		20. U.S. CITIZEN X YES		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. AUDITOR 0-01.60	
MILITARY HISTORY											
22. DATE OF INDUCTION 29 MAR 43			23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 5 APR 43			24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE			25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE FORT THOMAS KY		
26. REGISTERED X YES			27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 1			28. COUNTY AND STATE BUTLER OHIO			29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE COLUMBUS OHIO		
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. CLASSIFICATION SPECIALIST 275						31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i. e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) CARBINE MARKSMAN					
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS CENTRAL EUROPE											
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS AMERICAN THEATER RIBBON; EAME THEATER RIBBON W/1 BRONZE STAR; GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL; VICTORY MEDAL											
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NONE											
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES						36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN					
SMALLPOX APR 44		TYPHOID APR 44		TETANUS APR 44		OTHER (specify) APR 44 TYPHUS		DATE OF DEPARTURE 21 APR 45		DATE OF ARRIVAL 1 MAY 45	
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE						38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD					
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			FOREIGN SERVICE			TEC-4					
YEARS 2		MONTHS 6		DAYS 26		YEARS 0		MONTHS 2		DAYS 15	
39. PRIOR SERVICE NONE						40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION CONVN OF GOVT AR 615-365 AND LTR WDGA 220.8					
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED NONE						42. EDUCATION (Years) GRAMMAR 8 HIGH SCHOOL 4 COLLEGE 1					
PAY DATA VOU 24192											
43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY			45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS			46. TRAVEL PAY		
YEARS 2		MONTHS 9		DAYS 18		TOTAL \$ 300		THIS PAYMENT \$ 100		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER NONE \$ 7.30 187.14 B B CALLAWAY LT COL FD	
INSURANCE NOTICE											
IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.											
48. KIND OF INSURANCE X Nat. Serv.			49. HOW PAID X Allotment			50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance JAN 46			51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 28 FEB 46		
None			Direct to V. A.			52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 7.10			53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO X Continue		
									Continue Only		
									Discontinue		
54. RIGHT THUMB PRINT						55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) ERC TIME FROM 29 MAR 43 THRU 4 APR 43 NO DAYS LOST UNDER AW 107 ASR 2 SEP 45 - 49 LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED					
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Howard L. Stuckey						57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) M I PERRY 1ST LT AC					
WD AGO FORM 53 - 55 1 November 1944						This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.					
UNIC WORLD WAR II CLAIM						COMPENSATION APPLIED FOR No. 392071					

Post War Years 1946-1952

1946. Returning from military service, he quickly adapted to civilian life and his new family. Howard, Ann Louise, and John resided with the Weiland's at 260 North F Street. With the war over, a new son, and now living in Hamilton, he had to consider his future. His father had died in the spring of 1944, and his brother Don and sister Louise were in Hamilton, Brother Dave was in the South Pacific, then in Cincinnati after the war. Brother Fred had relocated to Houston Texas in 1940.

What could he do? Even though he was once employed in the state auditor's office and had some experience in the army with personnel decisions, perhaps his father's operation of the auto dealership in the 1920s had some influence. After the war, industrial production converted to consumer items, America was becoming more mobile, returning GIs were going to school and raising families. American industry was shifting production to consumer goods and opportunities seemed bright for the auto industry.

The Interstate Highway System did not exist, but it was recognized that a nationwide system of National Defense Roads would be needed to manage the expected increase in travel. Howard perhaps felt comfortable with automobiles, having been around the dealership in his formative years. Whatever the reason, he began to represent auto parts manufacturers, traveling to retail auto parts stores in Ohio and Kentucky.

Lastik, the company started by Neil Sohngen's father Louis in 1915, made tire patches for early autos. The patches would **LAST** and they would **STICK**, hence the name, according to Neil. Actually, there are several versions of the origin of the name according to sons Mick and Neil, Jr. When World War

II came, the businesses of Hamilton rapidly adjusted to the War effort. The Lastik company purchased huge rolls of flannel, which they processed and cut into 2.5-inch squares, which were used to clean rifles of the US Infantry. The company was turning out 7 million of these rifle cleaning cloths per day at the height of the war. After the war, a consumer boom occurred in autos and the company adapted from rifles to auto polishing cloths, supplying General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. In 2019 the company, now located in Dayton, continued to manufacture a line of wax treated cotton auto polishing cloths, 115 years later. Howard represented the company for years, selling a complete line of auto polishing products, and our garage was always full of Lastik containers and polishing cloths.

ca 1948. At some point in the late 1940s he joined the Manufacturer's Representative firm of Andy (or Charles) Grantello - *Grantello Sales*. He was a manufacturer's representative for many lines of auto products, including Monroe shocks, Lastik polishing materials, additives, side and rear-view mirrors, spray paints, and many other products. He traveled all over Southern Ohio to Gallipolis and through northern Kentucky as far west as Paducah. His job was to sell wholesale to auto parts retailers in the area. After the war business was good and he became quite successful. He would frequently leave on Monday and return on Friday, which is what he disliked most about the job. An auto trip in those days-without freeways, was an arduous undertaking and I'm certain he spent many lonely nights in less than comfortable motels in the far reaches of Kentucky.

1949. In the late forties he finally began to make some money. Most of his married life (1943-1949) he lived with his Weiland in-laws, much as Walter Weiland had done in the early 1900's. But now the opportunity to buy (perhaps they rented) a home of his own presented itself. The family moved

to 28 North Washington Blvd. about 1949; a two-story brick in a neighborhood filled with children. There were close neighbors and the entire neighborhood would get together frequently for picnics. The furnace was still coal at the time and Ann would be down in the cellar every winter morning stoking the furnace. Many mornings before school I would watch her as she shoveled coal into the furnace. There was always a coal bin in the basement and the coal delivery truck would come and slide the coal down a chute through the basement window.

1950. Marcia was born in January, 1950 and the couple delighted in their growing family. Howard was very proud of his new daughter, and that he was home for her birth.

Family Life 1952-1955

I remember my first day of school in grade 1 in 1952, as Howard went with me to the bus stop at the corner of North Washington Boulevard and Westview Avenue. There we waited for the bus together on an otherwise beautiful September morning, and when it came, I cried and cried and would not get on. Well, he got on the bus with me and 15 other elementary kids and rode all the way to school (1.2 miles each way) and took me inside. I never did know how he got home that day, but I was forever appreciative of his support.

In August 1952 he took the family on an automobile trip to Miami Beach, Fla. We took the large Buick and were watching the Stuckey's signs all the way down. There were no interstate highways in those days. Near the town of McRae in Southern Georgia, we were rounding a bend when a car crossed the midline and sideswiped the entire car. There were no seat belts then,



and I was freely bounced around the front seat. I had a small laceration on my forehead and it was stitched up by Dr. McRae in McRae Hospital in McRae Georgia. No one else was injured and after proceeding, we had a great time at a Miami Beach oceanfront motel.

Also, around 1952 the family made a train trip to Chicago with next door neighbor's the Datillo's, and we visited many of the Chicago sights. There was the great fun of an overnight sleeper train to attend an auto show in Cleveland and a trip to Columbus to attend an auto show in the convention center. Though the trips were fun for me, he hated the business and the traveling, often being away Monday through Friday.

1953. Howard purchased the first television in the neighborhood, a picture of which is in the family collection. All the neighborhood children would come over to watch the Howdy Doody show. When Dwight Eisenhower was inaugurated Jan 20, 1953 and when Queen Elizabeth was coronated June 2, 1953, both were big events and we were all sent home early from school to watch on the new TV with a 7-inch screen.

During this period Howard was often gone during the week, but Ann made a comfortable home, involved us with the neighbor kids, and enrolled us in many activities. In those days, outdoor play was commonplace and preferred by all kids. We lived on a huge double wide street and I received a shiny

new Schwinn bike one year- the road was perfect for wide circle turns on a very heavy bike.

1954. March, 1954 marked the arrival of Thomas David to complete Howard and Ann's family. Thomas' middle name derived from Howard's close brother Albert David Christian Stuckey. We were still in our Washington Blvd home, but would be moving to our new James Road house within the year.

1955. Around 1955, Howard arranged a special trip for just he and I to New York City. Uncle Jack Sault (half-brother of grandmother Emma) was in his seventies and had spent a lifetime as a railroad union man, and then a boiler attendant in Manhattan. Married twice, widowed twice with no children, he now lived alone in an apartment and welcomed our visit. We took an American Airlines DC3 prop plane to Laguardia and while there he took us to all the sights - Coney Island, the Empire State Building, The Queen Elizabeth passenger ship, and the United Nations. It was a wonderful visit for a young boy. What I remember most is the violent storm over Columbus on the way back, rocking and shaking the DC3 with lightning and thunder outside the window.

Howard was always ready to help someone out and he always made sure we visited relatives, especially those in nursing facilities. I remember many trips to see Aunt Sadie Sault on Sunday's. Aunt Sadie had faithfully helped her half-sister Emma raise all five children and Howard grew up with her from birth and I'm sure he felt a special bond with her. He made a special effort to take me along to visit at frequent intervals.

In the early 1950s from about 1952 to 1955, while on North Washington Boulevard, he gathered a group of neighbors together to form the Washington Investment Club (we lived on Washington Boulevard), serving as president of the club. This no doubt stems from his father's interest in, and creation of, Investors Diversified Services in the 1920s. The group met regularly and invested in common stocks which they researched themselves. The one remaining yearly statement lists income from dividends of about \$1300 yearly for the club, which netted a little over \$100 yearly for each of the 13 or so investors. They were not handsomely rewarded, but they enjoyed the meetings and discussions. Interestingly, The Dow nearly doubled from 240 in 1952 to 472 in 1955

[A New Home on James Road 1955](#)

1955. By 1955 he and Ann decided to build a house at 1102 James Road, which was to be the family home until he died. He contracted for the home on a vacant lot he had purchased and he and Ann must have had great enjoyment planning the details. I recall him visiting every day checking out progress from foundation to completion, examining the workmanship in detail. I remember Ann showing off the house after we all moved in - her "pride and joy" was the bathroom, possessing a large mirror from countertop to ceiling, and a long vanity. The surfaces in the kitchen and baths were all Formica with those hideous triangle designs. The basement was unfinished but over time, Howard built an attractive bar on the garage level and a home office on the lower level. He was quite handy with a hammer and saw, displaying considerable skill in woodworking.

During those early years in the 1950s I recall as a young boy being faithfully taken almost every Saturday to the hobby store to buy the latest plastic model car, boat, or plane, or to the tropical fish store to replenish the tank. When I began playing Little League Baseball, he was an ardent supporter and came to every game he could. This continued through the Babe Ruth years and there was great excitement when we won the city Championship in 1959, and were runners up in 1960. I entered high school the first year of the newly built Hamilton Taft High. I played Varsity Baseball all three years, and during this time his interest grew in the new school and its fledgling sports programs, becoming President of the Taft High Booster Club in 1961.

Somewhat shy by nature, he uncharacteristically took part in a local play "*Guys and Dolls*" put on by the Hamilton players.



Howard, holding boxes

Transitions 1960-1966

1960. M&S Sales Co. After the dissolution of the Grantello arrangement, he formed a manufacturer's representative business in the early sixties with Clayton Marquardt, a partner from Cleveland. Marquardt covered Northern Ohio and Howard covered Southern Ohio and they called themselves M&S Sales (Marquardt and Stuckey). The business was quite successful and he was grateful he did not have to make long trips to rural Kentucky anymore. They represented a number of companies including Monro Shocks, Truflate, Lastik, Touch up Spray Paint, and many others. He had his office in the basement. He made a good living from the work but always disliked the travel. His tax returns for 1960 reflect an income of around \$15,000 when the yearly median U.S. family income in 1959 was \$5400. In 1964 he bought a new Buick 2dr for \$2430. He preferred a Buick, as they were heavy, and could withstand a crash, but reliable. He did not use seat belts until they were mandated by law first in 1968, but of all the miles he traveled in all conditions five days a week for years, he never had an accident, other than the one on vacation in the 1950's. He reported 31,000 business miles on his tax return in 1967.

Death of Ann Louise

1965. Both Howard and Ann Louise were heavy smokers since the thirties. Ann Louise had lost her older brother Earl to a sudden heart attack in 1949. Without prior warning, in the late spring of 1965 Ann Louise experienced marked unexplained fatigue. Diagnosed with a "heart attack", she spent 6 weeks recovering in Fort Hamilton Hospital, where she had delivered all

three of her children. She returned home to convalesce, but on July 7th, she suddenly collapsed and died in the late morning at home while talking to Jane Mohler, a neighbor, on the phone. This was of course a great shock to all, as she was just 48. The presumed cause of death was a cardiac arrhythmia. Her funeral was held at Webb's and she was laid to rest at Rose Hill Cemetery alongside Howard's parents. After Ann's death Howard had great difficulty returning to his previous level of activity and productivity. He was personally greatly affected by her death and spent the next 9 months mourning her passing. He lost interest in work, drank heavily, and though the details are not are not entirely known, he and partner Clayton Marquardt underwent a transition period.

Marriage to Clare Wilson

1966. After a difficult winter, he began to socialize and by mid-1966 he had met Clare Wilson, divorced mother of son John. Clare was the only daughter of Marian and Kenneth Hilker. Kenneth had died some years earlier of diabetes and Clare and son John lived in the family home on Ross Avenue. Marian was the daughter of prominent Judge Clarence Murphy.



Clare and Howard were immediately attracted to one another and following a brief courtship they were married on June 23, 1966, less than one year following the death of Ann. A party at the home Marian Hilker, Clare's mother, on Ross Ave ushered in a new blended family. Clare's

son John Wilson, 16, was the same age and school class as daughter Marcia, and they both moved into the Stuckey family home. Clare provided needed companionship and a future, as Howard did not function well in the midst of

loneliness and isolation. They remained happily together, traveling some- including Mexico, Maine, Washington DC, and doted over their dog - a beautiful Irish Setter, Scarlett, as teens John W., Marcia, and Tom grew up and left the home.

Marriage, Work, and More Loss 1967-1979

1967-1969. Howard's 1966 tax return reported \$16,019 in income. He was doing quite well as the median household income in the US at the time just \$7400. His business continued successfully, with 1967 income of \$15406. 1968 and 1969 were transition years as M&S Sales dissolved, ending his nearly 10-year association with Clayton Marquardt, perhaps related to Howard's increasing distaste for travel. Seeking local employment for the first time in 20 years, Howard was offered a position as warehouse manager for Savage Auto, an auto parts retail store, on Maple Street. The Savages were personal friends and previous clients. I can remember him saying it was "not the best of jobs", but he enjoyed the contact with people. He was store manager for several years, with income \$13,142 in 1970 (median family income \$10,290), and \$12,465 in 1971 (median family income \$11,286). It was clear his effective income was declining yearly in this position.

During the late 60's Howard and Clare settled into married life - second marriages for both. Clare was so different in style and substance from Ann Louise, but Howard seemed to embrace the change as their home achieved a different look and feel, and their social life expanded, as they hosted parties for relatives. For the teens at home there was additional adjustment as the families blended.

Real Estate

1972. Again in 1972, at age 59 Howard faced another transition, as the Savage Auto Supply was sold and he was not retained by new management. He received \$5800 from Savage before the transition and he and Clare supplemented their income with the sale of \$3800 in Ohio Casualty Stock shares, and they fell below the median family income for the first time in perhaps 15 years. He decided to try real estate and took a Miami University real estate course. He took the Ohio real estate salesman exam and passed (minimum 220) on Dec 7, 1972 with a score of 238 out of 295. He worked initially for Bob Sirk (a friend) Realty, followed by a stint at Coombs and Thomas, and finally with College Real Estate, with an office on Main Street across from Fillmore School. A promotional announcement three months after arrival boasted Howard as their July sales leader. His real income dropped dramatically however as his tax returns for 1973 and 1974 were \$4007 and \$4010. When Tom entered Miami University in 1972, none of his children probably understood how precarious his financial situation was. However, Clare's mother Marian Hilker, recipient of a generous trust fund, and by now living at Westover Retirement Center, was there to back them up if needed.

1978. During their twelfth year of marriage Clare developed abdominal pains. She was admitted to Fort Hamilton Hospital in early July and surgery was promptly scheduled for Monday, July 10. Because it is so descriptive, I include a letter to me from Kathryn (Aunt Katty) Weiland on July 24.

Monday, July 24, 1978

Dear John

I know the thing upper-most in our minds today is the shocking news about Clare. I was at the hospital to see her the day after she was admitted and, of course, before the scheduled surgery. I thought that day her attitude was rather good as she told me she was concerned about Howard and was so glad that Tom and Diana were coming down and would be with Howard on Sunday night (the surgery was scheduled, as you know, for Monday morning). None of us knew that Marcia also was coming and I think they got here either on Friday or Saturday and they stayed until last Thursday. I did talk with Marcia several times and, as she said, 'we just aren't going to leave Dad alone to face this' - and they didn't. And, I know, too, that you called many, many times.

On Monday, Tom and Diana stopped here, after being at the hospital and hearing the diagnosis and told me what the story was. Tom had to take Diana back to Columbus but he came back that night - although Marcia said she and Mike had stayed until eleven o'clock and Tom wasn't back at the time they left. He then was here with Howard on Tuesday all day. Much of went on then I am sure you have been told. I did not go to the hospital at that time since I felt it was most important for Marcia and Tom to be there with Howard and Clare. I had told Howard earlier that I would do anything I could to be of help - after all, John, I do remember how many times it was Howard who was so helpful to me, in times of crises.

I did go again to visit with Clare this past Thursday - she is quite weak, and has been unable to eat, and, of course, had some discomfort from the surgery. Again, I thought her attitude rather good although I am sure she has many moments of depression. Now that treatment has been started, and I am sure you have been told about that, we can only hope and pray it will be successful. In fact, yesterday, Howard told me he thought she might get to come home perhaps tomorrow or Wednesday, if she is sufficiently strong enough.

I feel so very, very sorry for both Howard and Clare - I truly think they have had twelve good years of marriage and happiness, don't you? I don't know if you realize that Clare was fifty-five years old in January and is just ten years, and one day, really, younger than your dad - how do I know all this - well, I have everything written down in my book.

Kathryn Weiland

The diagnosis was advanced ovarian cancer and despite surgery and chemotherapy and a brave fight, she succumbed to the illness on Oct 12, 1979. This was another unexpected blow to a man who thrived on companionship, but he bravely soldiered on. Following Clare's death, he remained with College Real Estate, visiting his three children, caring for his dog, and providing emotional support for Clare's mother, Marian Hilker, at Westover. Stepson John Wilson who came into the family at 16 when he and Clare married, remained supportive to the end. They met weekly for dinner and had his grandmother as a common interest. John Wilson was very helpful in managing the Stuckey estate. John W. died suddenly of unknown causes in 2000 at the age of 50.

Marian Hilker, the mother of Claire Wilson, was a prominent Hamiltonian. Her father was Judge Clarence Murphy. She inherited a considerable sum of money and donated wisely; to support the Murphy Rehab Center and the Hilker Wing, both at Westover Nursing and Assisted Living Facility in Hamilton. Howard visited her faithfully, even after Clare died. She was a delight to visit, sharp witted, amiable, with a hearty laugh. Marian outlived Howard by 13 more years, passing away peacefully at Westover on April 9, 1994 at the age of 96.

Howard retained friends, stopping frequently at Gene Steed's, or visiting his brother Don and sister Louise. He was not athletic and did not participate in sports activities. He did not play golf or tennis. His supreme enjoyment was sitting out on the screened in patio on a warm summer night listening to the sounds of crickets and birds and just gazing out at the darkened yard, reliving personal memories.

Approaching the End

1981. In the fall of 1981 Howard developed a sore tongue but the first exams were non revealing. The symptoms persisted and he was eventually diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. He had undergone radiation treatments for tonsillitis at an early age, an accepted treatment in the early part of the century, but he was also a heavy lifetime smoker and alcohol drinker. He bravely endured a radical neck dissection and radiation at the University of Cincinnati Hospitals. An attempt at chemotherapy resulted in a 104 fever and delirium after the first dose, however nothing prevented progression. A visit to him in his hospital room in Cincinnati revealed him alone in a small room, listening to relaxing music with his small bedside radio. He was moved to a nursing facility in Fairfield, near Hamilton, receiving visits from friends,

brother Don and sister Louise. His last days were spent with a feeding gastrostomy tube. He enjoyed an occasional visit to the Steed's, where, as a lifelong beer drinker, he did enjoy pouring an occasional beer into the tube, to the delight of his grandchildren! He derived small pleasures as he whiffed the aroma of his favorite brew.

As he deteriorated, he continued to receive and enjoy visits in the nursing facility from siblings Don and Louise, as his three children were each living in distant cities. The evening before he died, I received a call at work in Baltimore - he wanted me to come as soon as possible. I already had a plane ticket for the next morning - Saturday. Marcia drove down from Youngstown that evening and was with him that final evening, and the end came overnight at 1AM.

Obituary Hamilton Journal News

Howard L. Stuckey, 68, of 1102 James Road, died at 1AM Saturday at the Community Multi-Care Center. Born in Hamilton, the son of Albert David and Emma (Berk) Stuckey, Mr. Stuckey attended the Hamilton Schools and attended Ohio State University.

He was a US Army Veteran of World War II.

He married Anna Louise Weiland in 1940, and she preceded him in death in 1965.

In 1966 he married Clare Wilson, who preceded him in death in 1979.

Mr. Stuckey was employed as a manufacturer's representative for automotive parts. For eight years, he operated his own business, Marquardt and Stuckey.

Since 1972 he had been active in real estate, as a realtor, he was associated with Sirk Realty Co., Coombs and Thomas realty, and more recently with College Real Estate Co. He is survived by two sons, John Howard Stuckey, Washington, D.C. and Thomas David Stuckey, Chapel Hill NC; a daughter, Mrs. Michael (Marcia Ann) Pater, Youngstown; a stepson, John K. Wilson, Hamilton; two brothers, Donald Stuckey, Hamilton, and David Stuckey, Bradenton, Fla.; a sister Miss Louise Stuckey, Hamilton, and six grandchildren. Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family at the Webb Funeral Home. Burial will be at Rose Hill. The family suggests memorials to the Butler Hamilton Area Chapter of the American Cancer Society or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Comment

Howard was well liked throughout his life, spent entirely in Hamilton. He was widely known in Hamilton as a gregarious, fun loving, but thoughtful friend. His early years were spent in a large happy family. His hopes of attending college and becoming a lawyer were dashed by the depression, and then as he began to get his footing, interrupted by the war. He was successful as a manufacturer's representative but he was unfulfilled, supplanted by affection for and attention to his family. Never expecting to outlive his first wife, he nevertheless remained optimistic, and spent his final years happily married to his second wife, until her passing from cancer in 1978. He took great interest in his three children, stepson John Wilson, and their lives, visiting and receiving visits when he could. He was proud of all.

So, what can we learn from Howard's life? He was born into an optimistic environment, his family already on the way to some degree of wealth and good fortune, set in place by his father's hard work, business acumen and some fortunate connections with a father-in-law. Industrialization of America was in full swing. Howard was set to study law, and already he showed promise as a painter. I am sure he thought good things lie ahead. All that came crashing down with the great depression of 1929. His father lost three once successful businesses, debts mounted, the sons had to return home to work, and his father had no productive years left. Nevertheless, Howard finished high school, met his future wife, dreamed of a law degree, attempted college and began to get himself back on track again. He married, got a job with the state auditor, took some classes in Columbus, and entertained the idea of returning to school. Then came WWII and the inevitability of military service, once again interrupting his plans. After three years in the military, he returned to a post war environment with economic promise, finding his niche in automotive parts sales. He worked hard,

reluctantly traveled a lot, his income consistently above the national median. He built a successful business and provided his growing family a comfortable life. He and Ann built a new home, completed a family of three children, participated in his children's school activities, sent their first son to college, and then tragedy, as Ann died suddenly of heart disease. Devastated, he tried to regroup, and within a year found second wife Clare, followed by ten happy years of marriage. Though income declined with a succession of job changes, he remained optimistic, with many friends and social acquaintances. His three children lived elsewhere, dictated by their personal circumstances and life revolved around Clare, stepson John, and Clare's mother Marian. When Clare died of cancer in 1978, he accepted this with more equanimity. Continuing life alone, he dined with John Wilson, visited his siblings Don and Louise, and relatives the Steeds.

Described by many as a kind and loyal friend, by children as a kind and generous father, a man of extreme patience and understanding, helpful without criticism or judgement, he persisted through disappointments and trials, accepting the life given him. This is what we learn - whatever adversity comes your way, pick up, regroup, and persist onward, remaining kind, gentle, patient, and understanding.

I find many of his qualities within me, as I suspect do Marcia and Tom, and we remain grateful for his life and his example.

Letters to Ann, WWII

Howard was enrolled at the Army Administration School, Brookings, SD from September 18 to October 27, 1943. He wrote this letter to Ann.

October 17, 1943 Brookings South Dakota

My Dearest Annie:

This is a beautiful day outside but in every other respect it is very dull. Last night however was our pheasant dinner which turned out real good. There were 11 of us altogether and we had a Capt. and a Lieut. and his wife, two of the fellows had their wives, then four of us alone. We started out with a drink then had dinner about seven. For dinner of course we had pheasant, leg and breast, potatoes, peas and carrots, and biscuits, a lettuce salad, sherbet and cake, then coffee. After dinner we had another drink then sat around and talked till about 8:30. A good time was had by all - which brings you up-to-date on the current events for this weekend.

This past week sure went by in a hurry and I suppose next week will go twice as fast. Everyone and everything is getting to the point of being stale so I guess it's a good thing we will be shoving off shortly. This week I'll want to get my clothes all cleaned and in order as the Lord only knows what facilities will be available at the next place, wherever it

happens to be. Outside of that I'm ready to take off at any time. I'm more or less looking forward to the train ride as only a short distance will be a troop train, while the rest of the time we should have a private car again. Up to now I haven't heard any new rumors as to just where we will go, but I imagine they will start soon. Last night at dinner the captain told us about that Atlantic City deal, but also expressed the opinion that we probably wouldn't go there now, as the quotas will have been filled. So it goes, everything is maybe.

Well darling are you still going to bed so early at night? Don't worry when I get back, I'll probably want to go to bed early most of the time anyway. Especially sweetheart until we get caught up again.

This just about covers everything again so be good my sweet, and think of me as IZYVUUM.

All my love

Howard

Howard's oldest brother Fred moved to Houston in 1940. During a furlough, Howard caught a transport from Tampa for a surprise visit. He wrote this letter to Ann.

November. 11, 1944 Drew Field, Fla.

My Dearest Annie and Johnnie;

So you two are in the pink as usual. That's good news Sweetheart and keep up the good work. I'd say Johnnie's getting to be quite a boy weighing 9 lb. already. I think you made a good buy on the buggy and also the tailor tot and play pen. That's three pretty expensive items for \$25.00 which would cost at least \$100 if you had to buy them new. Sugar you haven't said anything about yourself lately. Are you getting your strength all back and do you feel like your old self once more? Take it easy now and let me know how you are doing.

I didn't get to write yesterday, as I had quite a weekend. I mentioned in Saturday's letter that I might get to take a trip. Well Saturday morning I found out I could go, so I put my shaving stuff in a bag and dashed down to the line and hoped on a plane for Houston, Texas. There were seven of us, the pilot was a Lt. Col. then we had a Capt., a 1st Lt., a 2nd Lt., a Sgt., myself, and a Pfc. We went in a D C-45 which is a medium size cargo or transport. We took off at 100 EWT and arrived in Houston at 1700 CWT. It was about 4 and 3\4 hours flying time. We landed at Mobile, Alabama to eat and refuel. We followed the coast all the way going over Pensacola, Fla., Mobile, Ala., Biloxi, Miss, Gulfport, Miss, New Orleans, lake Ponchatrain, Lake Charles, Beaumont, Texas, then Houston. We flew at 8000 feet and the weather was nice and

clear all the way. Flying over New Orleans I had the headphones on and listened to the Army-Notre Dame football game. We landed at the Municipal Airport in Houston, so I called Melba on the telephone and believe me, she was surprised. I then hitched a ride into town and the man let me off three blocks from Fred's house so I walked right in. Fred was at work so we had dinner then late in the evening I took Pat downtown and walked around for a while. When Fred came home, he woke me up and we drank a few beers and gabbed for a while. Sunday morning Fred, Mel & Pat took me a ride all around Houston then drove me out to the airport again. We took off at 1100 CWT. and flew back the same route arriving in Tampa at 1725 EWT so I was back here for dinner again. We stopped off at Mobile, Alabama again to eat and refuel. That was some whirlwind trip don't you think? I enjoyed it a lot, but sure wish I could get a trip like that to Dayton or Cincinnati. One never knows, I may get a trip home like that sometime. Anyway Fred's are all feeling fine and things seem to be under control. I'll write mother though as I know she will be interested. Patty (Fred's daughter) is getting bigger, but she is as cute as she can be.

I hope you received the present by now Sugar. Do you think John will approve of Mama all dressed up in her bright colors? I haven't been able to get any film as yet but I'm still looking. I'll sure be waiting for that next bunch of pictures.

Everything else is about the same Sweetheart so you and Johnnie be real good now and think of Daddy as he loves you tremendously.

*All my love,
Howard*

Howard arrived in France May 6, two days before V-E (Victory in Europe) Day. Within 5 days (May 11) he was guarding German prisoners in Heilbronn.

May 13, 1945 Heilbronn, Germany

My Dearest Annie and Johnnie,

How do you like this for stationary? In a few more days it looks like I'll have to start on the toilet paper. This is kind of a wet day but the sun came out a while ago so it has started to dry up and get a little warmer. It's now a little past noon and since there is a six-hour difference in time, I was thinking you're just about getting up for the day or lying in bed thinking about it. Perhaps Johnnie has just awakened and is peering about with a few soft gurgles here and there. Heckling his mama no doubt. When you start thinking about dinner tonight, I'll be ready to hit the hay again. I told you in a previous letter that I had to sleep out on the ground every other night, the situation has been corrected somewhat so that only occasionally we have to sleep on the floor in a tent. Even tho it doesn't sound like it, it is an improvement. It's still a sore spot tho as it is now and always was, so unnecessary. For a while today I had visions of going to Heidelberg for the afternoon, but the pass was given to someone else, so guess I'll have to wait till a later date. I wasn't too anxious anyways. I didn't particularly care to go alone, or with someone that I didn't know. There really isn't much going on anyway, but it would be a change of scenery, something that all of us need pretty badly.

We were paid today and I now have a pocketful of money and no plans to spend it. Generally speaking, it's always been the other way around. Now if I can get a pocketful of money and someplace to go all at

the same time I should be in pretty good shape. I might describe our little settlement here to give you some sort of a picture. This is a suburb of Heilbronn but the houses are in a group like a separate community. All the houses look practically alike, being a tan stucco with orange and yellow tile roofs. Every house has a yard but they don't have grass and a lawn, the yards are all planted into gardens. The gardens were all well-kept and looks just as nice as a lawn. The main crop in these gardens is strawberries, they are just beginning to get ripe now and believe me they are tasty. I've noticed also onions, lettuce, and cabbage. I guess it's the early crop and they would all have been replanted later on. (Just now ran out of lead for my Ever Sharpe and won't be able to buy that particular kind over here also ran out of ink so I've borrowed a pencil to finish this - some joke, a good fountain pen and pencil and can't use either one) to continue, they have gooseberries planted around the shrubbery. There are numerous cherry trees, which have a nice crop going at the present time. The street and sidewalks are just dirt but they are packed down enough so as not to be muddy. Every house seems to have a hedge around it. All the houses have a wine cellar with the customary 50-to-60-gallon casks lined against the wall (they are all empty already). We found a good many 10-gallon glass jars in wicker cases - they are also empty now. There was also some bottled wine but I've seen very little of that. The houses have no bathtubs but there are toilets, only these toilets don't flush, you carry a bucket of water with you. They all stink like the proverbial shit house. No running hot water, you heat that in the basement on a special stove. We found some modern sewing machines no electric however. I've seen no electric appliances

anywhere, but suppose some sections have them. There are electric lights and some wall plugs which lead me to believe they did have a few radios. The flat iron is a big job and you build a fire right in the iron. I don't think you would care for one as it is like picking up the kitchen stove. Washing is all done by hand. As for refrigeration I don't have the slightest idea what they used. There are no sewers, each house has its own cesspool and they use that to fertilize the gardens. There are no garages behind any of the houses. You see mostly bicycles, and motorcycles. Oh, I forgot to mention, the roofs on all the houses have a sharp slant to them, as they must have considerable snow here in the wintertime. I can't tell you much about the main section of the city as there isn't enough left to distinguish what was what. I hope you can get a brief idea of the setup from this.

As I told you in yesterday's letter, I am out of the infantry now and in the field artillery, which makes all of us wonder more than ever just what the hell we are over here for anyway. I anticipate some more changing around in the near future but it is impossible to even try to figure the score.

I've been in ETO for a month now and it seems like years. I hope the near future will be brighter. Give my love to all darling and you and Johnnie take it easy. You know my thoughts are with you all the time.

All my love
Howard

Table of Life Events

Year	Event	Residence	Comment
1913	Birth	439 South Second, Hamilton	Christened 2 days before Hamilton Flood
1920	Age 7	63 Millville Ave, Ham	
1930	Student	"	Started soph year in school
1930	Machinist helper	"	Safe Factory during depression
1931	Collector	"	
1931-32	Student	"	Returns to High School
1932-33	Student	"	Graduates High School
1935	Helper	857 Ross Ave, Ham	
1936	Student	580 E Towne St Cols	Ohio State University
1938	Adjuster	857 Ross Ave, Ham	
1939	Clerk	580 E Towne St Cols	State Tax Commission
1940	Asst. Cashier	63 W Calif Ave Cols	Marriage Sep 14
1941	Sub Auditor	63 W Calif Ave Cols	State Treasurer's Office
1942	College Courses	159 W Weber Rd Cols	Franklin University, Cols
1943	Army	Drew Field, Tampa Fla	Basic Training
1944	Army	260 N F Street	Furlough, Birth John Oct 7
1947	Salesman	260 N F Street	
1950	Salesman	28 North Wash Blvd	Birth Marcia Jan 25
1954		28 North Wash Blvd	Birth Thomas Mar 25
1955	M&S Sales	1102 James Rd, Ham	
1965		"	Death wife AnnLouise
1972	Auto store manager	"	Savage Auto
	Real Estate	"	Sirk Realty, College Real Estate
1978	"	"	Death of wife Clare
1981	Death	"	Cancer – Oral. Died at Community Multi-Care, Fairfield, Ohio

Howard Stuckey 1913-1981

