

**Remembering Hamilton Royalty:
The Families of John Woods,
John F. Neilan, Homer Gard,
William Beckett, Samuel D. Fitton,
and Thomas Millikin**



By

Kathleen Stuckey Fox

2017

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and Thomas Millikin**



(Photograph above, and that on the cover, of Homer and Ethelyne Gard courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Ethelyne Grove Gard and Homer Gard, circa 1937, at their home, designed by Hamilton Architect Frederick G. Mueller in 1922, at 133 South “D” Street, Hamilton, Ohio.

Dedication

To all the other families of “Hamilton Royalty”
who helped define Hamilton from 1791 forward.



Hamilton, Ohio

Our Home Town

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Quick Reference Guide:

The John Woodses, the John F. Neilans and the Homer Gards

2017

By Kathleen Stuckey Fox

Great, great, great granddaughter of Alexander Woods

Great, great, granddaughter of James Woods

Great granddaughter of John Robeson Woods

Granddaughter of John F. Neilan, Jr.

Great niece of Warren Gard



(Kathleen and Neil Ann Stuckey, December 25, 1944)

Players in Immediate Family

The Woodses

Alexander Woods, 1768-1848, married Mary “Polly” Robinson, 1762-1828

First son, John Woods, 1794-1885, married Sarah Ann Lynch, 1801-1881

Third son, James Woods, 1800-1851, married Maria Robeson, 1807-1852

John Robeson Woods, 1844-1918, married Jennie Zuver, 1848-1921

Pearl Zuver Woods, 1875-1946, married Warren Gard, 1873-1929

Lydia Marie Woods, 1883-1952, married John F. Neilan, Jr., 1881-1945

The Neilans

Thomas Neilan, 1806-? Married Sarah M. Dwyer, 1823-1899

John Francis Neilan, Sr., 1845-1907, married, Jane Wilson Kincaid, 1849-1904

John Francis Neilan, Jr., 1881-1945, married Lydia Marie Woods, 1883-1952

Kathleen Neilan, 1908-1973, married Donald E. Stuckey, 1908-1990

John Neilan Stuckey, 1938-1939

Neil Ann Stuckey, 1941 -

Kathleen Stuckey, 1943 -

The Gards

Jeremiah Gard, 1792-1853, married Elizabeth Zerley, 1796-1871

S. Z. Gard, 1833-1906, married Mary “Mollie” Duke, 1838-1903

Homer Gard, 1866-1952, married Lutie Matthias, 1866-1934

Charles Campbell Gard, 1895-1921

Homer Gard, 1866-1952, married, Ethelyne Grove, 1908-1970

Nora Gard, 1870-1870

Warren Gard, 1873-1921, married Pearl Zuver Woods, 1875-1946

Stillborn son (1912)

Introduction

This project was first a PowerPoint which I presented in two parts to the Butler County Historical Society in the spring of 2015. Then, in 2017, a friend of mine emailed me to say that he thought the project would make a nice local history book. I thought about it, and decided he was correct, so I delved further into publishing a book for the local history buffs. In all honesty, so much more material surfaced in the two-year period following my presentation I decided to jump in, again, to share my family history. Therefore, this book you are now reading became a reality.

As I approached the autumn of my life and having recently devoted two years to bringing Oxford, Ohio's First Lady, Caroline Scott Harrison, to life, I began to realize that I knew more about the intimate details of her life and family than I did my own! I had to do something fast to renew and collect my thoughts about my own heritage! Throughout my life, I collected bits and pieces of my family history but had never completely studied it, as my sister, Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, had done for our father's side of the family, in particular, and our mother's side to a lesser extent, throughout her early life when living in Hamilton. She is a published author many times over who still continues her research today, including transcribing and translating into English, letters to Thomas Jefferson written in old German script. "The Thomas Jefferson Papers" is a mammoth project involving numerous scholars located in Princeton, New Jersey.

I realized that I wanted to know everything about my family history while I was still physically and mentally capable of doing so, so I started out two years ago to accomplish this huge task, obviously now made easier by the existence of the internet and after many conversations with my sister and others named later. However, I admit that I went into this research blindly, without a plan. Then, the plan was revealed piecemeal. Another motivation was that I wanted to tell my family's story, which ultimately is my own story, and not leave it to someone else to tell after I was gone. I deeply regret that I did not get this information directly from my parents when they were alive.

Thus, the reason this book exists today is so that I may share the fascinating and truly amazing journey of the lives of three families from Hamilton, my close relatives: the John Woodses, the John F. Neilans, and the Homer Gards, in particular, while touching briefly on the lives of the William Becketts, the Samuel D. Fittons, and the Thomas Millikins, all of whom are distant relatives. And truly all these families are "Hamilton Royalty." I am only a messenger with the desire to tell my family's story so others may enjoy the rich heritage that befell me when I was born.

If any one of the following events had not taken place, I would have missed the chance of getting to know these wonderful Hamilton relatives. And, that I would say would just have been so sad!

An unexpected and reoccurring feeling I had in writing this history was that I wished I were able to go back in time and really get to know these wonderful and fascinating people in person all over again, and also wished that I had had the privilege of knowing those who died before me.

Also, unfortunately I discovered that through life when you are living in the moment, history does not seem all that important; what matters is when you trace the dots backward you find out just how meaningful that moment truly was. All this has made me realize that we need to live in the moment and appreciate everything.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, says, “You can only connect the dots looking backward.” I know I have done that a lot lately. Through connecting those dots, a treasure chest of my family history opened up before me.

My immediate family:



(Photograph of my family, taken on September 12, 1946, on my parents' 13th wedding anniversary, courtesy of author Kathleen Stuckey Fox. I am on the left, my sister Neil Ann Stuckey next, then my parents, Kathleen and Donald Stuckey; one of my favorite pictures that has survived throughout the years. I believe we were at Pogue's celebrating in Cincinnati. I was just a little over three and when the waitress brought the rolls and butter out, I picked up the entire pat of butter and ate it. I still have that love for butter to this day!)

The Woods Family



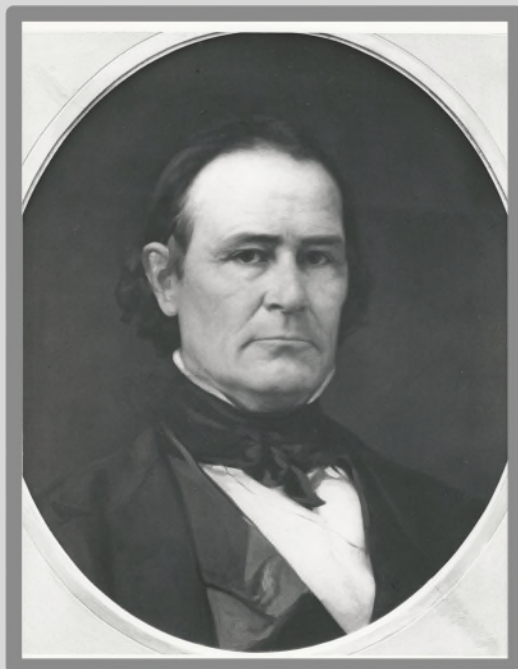
(Map of Ireland courtesy of the Internet.)

First, let me introduce you to the Woods family: Alexander Woods (1768-1848), a wheelwright, who would be my great, great, great grandfather, left his native County Tyrone, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1790, where he and his family established a homestead in Hanover, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

There in 1793, he met Mary “Polly” Robinson (1762-1828), daughter of Samuel Robinson, Sr., (1723-1807), of the Thomas Hastings Robinson line, and Jean Snoddy (1730-1768). Alexander and Polly were married on January 2, 1794, by the Reverend James Snodgrass of the old Hanover Presbyterian church there. Polly gave birth to their first child, John Woods, on October 18, 1794, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. All in all, Polly and Alexander Woods would have eight children, two of whom greatly figured into my genealogy: John Woods, first born, and his brother, James Woods, fourth born. The Alexander Woods family moved to Kentucky, then to Warren County, Ohio, where Alexander began farming and where James Woods, my great, great grandfather would be born on September 24, 1800. John Woods cleared land next to his father’s farm. He began to study law with the Honorable John McLean, future member of Congress, who also served as U.S. Postmaster General, and as a justice on the Ohio and U.S. Supreme Courts. Continuing with his education, John studied law and made application to the State Supreme Court in Dayton, Ohio, in 1819, and was admitted to practice law as an attorney and solicitor-in-law in the courts of the United States. In 1819, John Woods

moved to Hamilton where he commenced his law practice. From 1820 to 1825 John served as prosecuting attorney of Butler County.

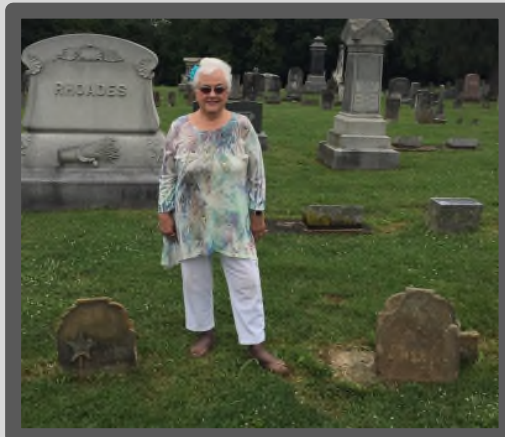
On June 20, 1820, in Springboro, Ohio, John Woods married Sarah Ann Lynch, born on December 29, 1801, in South Carolina. She subsequently moved to Hamilton with him, where they began their lives as husband and wife. Together, Sarah and John had nine children, only five of whom reached adulthood. Figuring into my ancestry will be Mary Woods, first born, and Martha Woods, third born, whom we will get to know later. Among his many lifetime achievements: John served in the War of 1812, was a prosecuting attorney, United States Congressman, editor and publisher of the Hamilton *Intelligencer* newspaper. John helped to establish the Hamilton and Rossville Female Academy; was president of two railroad lines, the Eaton and Hamilton Railroad Company and the Junction Railroad Company, leading to Oxford and beyond. He helped merge Rossville and Hamilton; he helped to secure funding for establishing the Hamilton and Rossville Hydraulic Canal; he was instrumental in bringing to fruition a roadway to be built between Hamilton and Cincinnati. He was a member of the National House of Representatives for two terms, 1825 to 1829, and Auditor of the State of Ohio, from 1845 to 1851, these among his many other accomplishments.



(Picture of John Woods and his wife Sarah Ann Lynch, whom he married on June 20, 1820, courtesy of “The History of the Woods Family,” by Roy Cleo Woods, Ph.D.)

While doing my research, I decided to look at “Find a Grave” on the internet since I already knew that Warren County played an important part in my family history. I was curious to find the grave sites of Alexander Woods and Mary “Polly” Robinson, and when I searched for their names, pictures of their graves appeared. I was totally shocked. Also on line was the Will of Alexander Woods. I knew then and there that I

had to make a visit to their graves. A kind gentleman who worked at the Springboro Cemetery was most helpful in finding my great, great, great grandparents. Polly's relatives are also buried there. As I saw their graves, an unexpected chill came over me.



(Picture taken on August 7, 2017. I am standing on the grave of Alexander Woods, his wife, Mary "Polly" Robinson Woods, is to the right. To the left is the grave of Mary "Polly's" father, Samuel Robinson, my great, great, great, great grandfather, who served in the Revolutionary War, thus qualifying me to be a DAR member, totally unexpected.)

Reiterating, Hamilton's famous John Woods, lawyer, U.S. Congressman, and Auditor of the State of Ohio, was my great, great, great uncle. His brother, James, my great, great grandfather, married Maria Robeson, on February 23, 1826. Maria gave birth to six children, one of whom, John Robeson Woods, played a most important part in my lineage. On December 10, 1874, John Robeson Woods, a merchant and real estate appraiser who served in the Civil War, married Jennie Zuver, born in Michigan in 1848. She gave birth on September 8, 1875, to my great aunt, Pearl Zuver Woods, and again gave birth on December 26, 1883, to my grandmother, Lydia Marie Woods, who went by the name of Marie.



(Photograph of Lydia Marie Woods, circa early 1890s, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Picture of Jennie Zuver Woods (left); her daughter, Marie Woods Neilan (right); and my mother, Kathleen Neilan, six months old in 1908, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

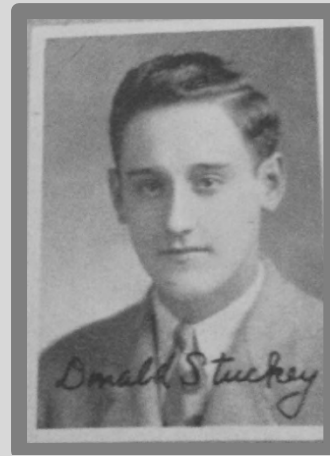
Marie gave birth to my mother, Kathleen Neilan, on June 8, 1908.



(Pictures of Kathleen Neilan, and her baby plate U.S. February 7, 1905, Royal Baby-Plate, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



Kathleen Neilan and Donald E. Stuckey attended Hamilton High School together and both were in the top ten percent of their graduating class. (Below, Mom and Dad's high school graduation pictures, courtesy of "The 1926 Review, Volume XIII, Number 27, Hamilton High School.")



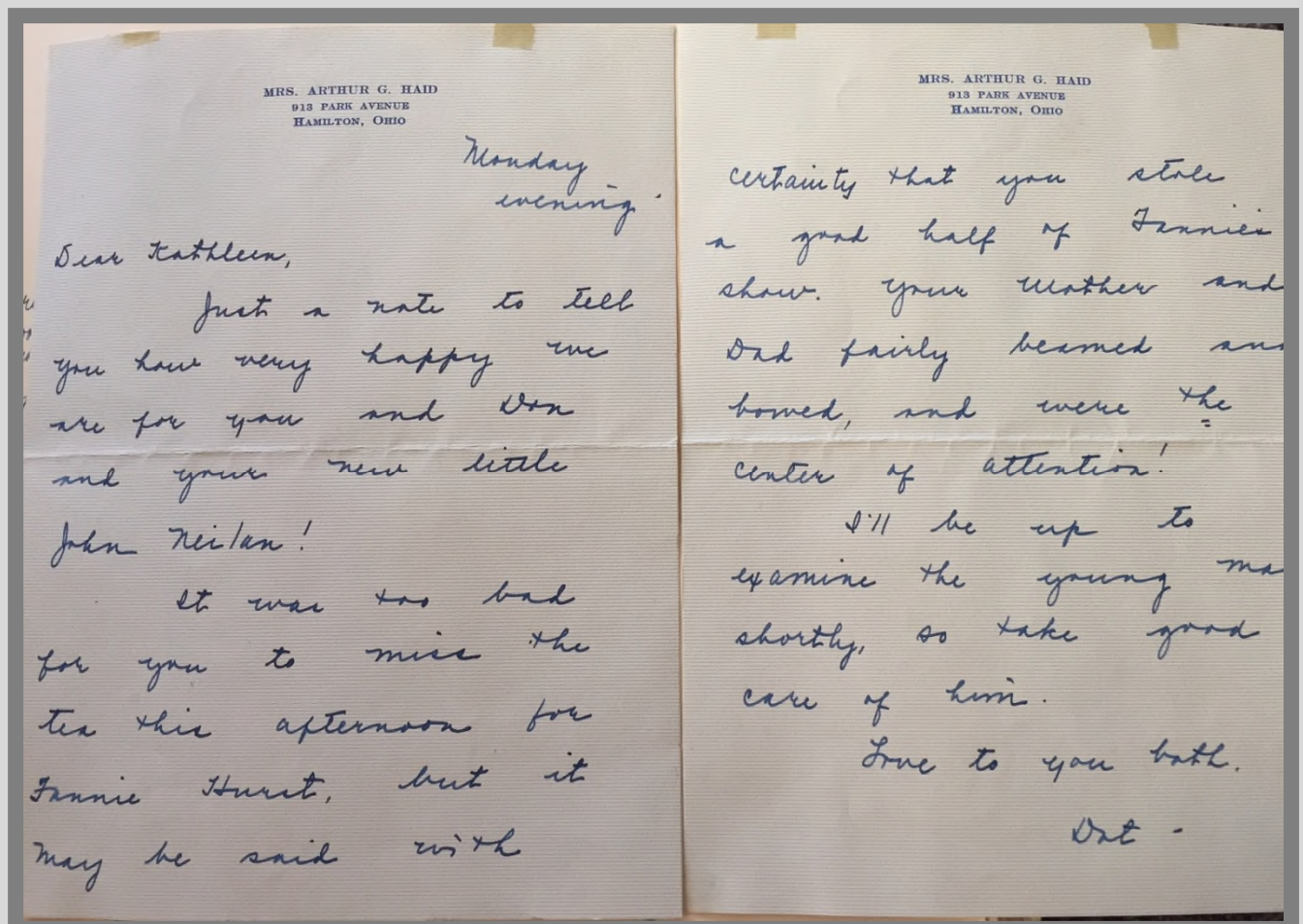
Kathleen graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts, and attended Columbia University in New York, and Donald attended Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, but he was called home to help with family matters. Kathleen married Donald E. Stuckey, son of Emma Sault Berk and Albert David Stuckey, on September 12, 1933. Kathleen gave birth to a son, John Neilan Stuckey, my brother, on November 7, 1938; tragically, he died four months later.



(Photograph of John Neilan Stuckey courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox, his sister.)

John Neilan Stuckey, first child of Kathleen Neilan and Donald E. Stuckey, born November 7, 1938, died March 9, 1939. However, November 7 was a fortuitous day: Ethelyne (whom you will get to know later as Homer's second wife) and Homer Gard, Homer being the owner of *The Hamilton Journal News*, were giving a reception for Hamilton born author, Fannie Hurst, at their home at 133 South "D" Street, in Hamilton, Ohio. For obvious reasons, my mother, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, was unable to attend this beautiful event. You will learn more about Fannie Hurst later.

A great find, a letter written from Dorothy Haid to Kathleen, telling of the wonderful occasion that she missed at the Gard reception.



(Copy of letter written in November of 1938 to Kathleen Neilan Stuckey from Dorothy Haid, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Transcription: Monday evening, Dear Kathleen, Just a note to tell you how very happy we are for you and Don and your new little John Neilan! It was too bad for you to miss the tea this afternoon for Fannie Hurst, but it may be said with certainty that you stole a good half of Fannie's show. Your mother and dad fairly beamed and bowed, and were the center of attention! I'll be up to examine the young man shortly, so take good care of him. Love to you both. Dot -

This letter was found recently in my mother's baby book that she kept for her first born, John. Also contained in the baby book was the necklace in blue and white beads, with the white beads with black lettering spelling out the name, "Stuckey." In those days, necklaces were used as a form of identification instead of bracelets.

In doing my research, I discovered a missing part in my life: my brother. I never had the privilege of knowing him, and somehow I felt an empty place, an ache, which I had never experienced before. And growing up, he was never discussed by our parents.



(Photograph of Neil Ann Stuckey, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Neil Ann Stuckey, born May 19, 1941, second child of Kathleen Neilan and Donald E. Stuckey.

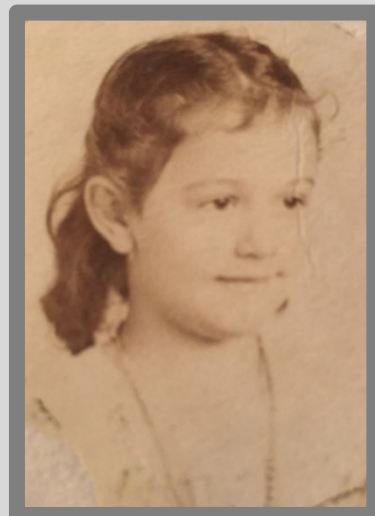


(Photograph of Neil Ann Stuckey, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph of Kathleen Stuckey, June 10, 1944, courtesy of the author.)

Kathleen Stuckey born April 24, 1943, third child of Kathleen Neilan and Donald E. Stuckey.



(Painted photograph of Kathleen Stuckey, December 9, 1947, four years old (left) and first grade photograph, courtesy of the author.)



(Picture of John Woods' obelisk marker courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox)

John Woods, my great, great, great uncle, died on July 30, 1855, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. My great, great, grandfather, James Woods, John's brother, is buried in Collinsville, Ohio, with his wife Maria, daughter of Major William Robeson, who served in the War of 1812, and Mary Wilson. I just recently learned that Maria Robeson had a twin sister, Elizabeth, aka, Eliza Williamson. I also discovered her grave in Collinsville, right next to her sister's. Also, I discovered that several of Eliza Williamson's family members are buried in Collinsville, as well. Researching family history can just be so rewarding!



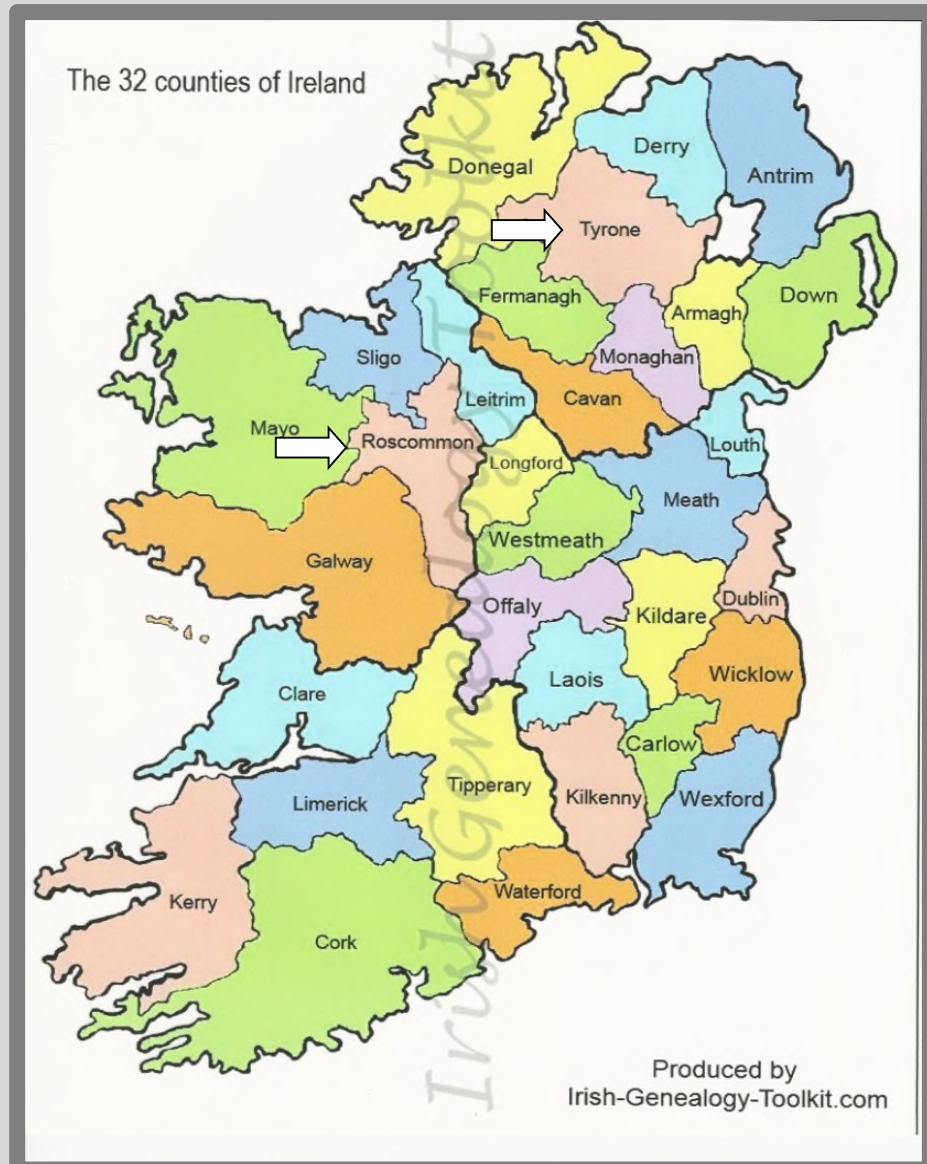
(Photographs of Maria Robeson's grave, who died on December 20, 1852, and that of James Woods's, who died on November 16, 1851, Collinsville Cemetery, Collinsville, Ohio, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

I then discovered that Maria's and Eliza's parents, William and Mary Wilson Robeson are also buried in Collinsville, their gravestone unreadable or now nonexistent, but thanks to the internet found the information. I was totally surprised to find this wonderful and unexpected information about my mother's side of the family.

I want to tell you of an exciting event that certainly I can classify as a miracle; just recently in further pursuing my family lineage, I found a cousin who lives in California, whom I never knew existed, Kay Hildebrandt. She was researching her family on the Robeson side through the Collinsville Cemetery in Milford Township, Ohio, in order to put a War of 1812 marker on the grave of William Robeson. Her great, great, great grandparents are my great, great, great, grandparents, William and Mary Wilson Robeson. Her great, great grandmother is Lucinda Robeson, sister of my great, great grandmother, Maria Robeson Woods. It was definitely Divine Providence! William's stone is almost unreadable, and we decided that we needed to have a new one erected between the old markers so that future family members would know exactly where to find William and Mary. It was only by trial and error that I was able to find the four markers, only one still standing of their son, Daniel, who died in infancy, which I cleaned off and could only read with the sun shining on it directly. This event was certainly one of the highest points in my research, having found a living relative, so far away, yet so near. Once I learned her name and phone number, I made the call, and the rest is unexpected history! Kay and her daughter, Candy, did make the trip from California, and we dedicated Robeson's War of 1812 marker on October 17, 2017, at Collinsville. It was a most poignant and memorable occasion, over 200 years later!

Sounds complicated, doesn't it? But after studying the sequence of the lives of my ancestors, it has become quite clear to me and even clearer as I discover more connections. Now I will share with you the story of the John F. Neilan family.

The Neilan Family Combined with the Woods Family



(Map of Ireland courtesy of Internet.)

Thomas Neilan and his wife, Sarah Dwyer, left County Roscommon, Ireland, in 1848, and began their long journey to America. As previously stated, the Woods family left County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, in 1790 and came to America and settled in eastern Pennsylvania. The Neilan family left Ireland in 1848, fifty-eight years later. You can see where these two counties lie on the map. Probably, they are fewer than 200 miles apart. As I began comparing their lives and tracking their moves, I found it incredible that

these two families would come to America fifty-eight years apart, both families finally settling in Hamilton, thus securing my place in history through the marriage of a Woods to a Neilan, which put me on my exact course to be born approximately 95 years later! (Love connecting those dots backwards.)



(Photograph of John F. Neilan, Sr., courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Thomas Neilan's family was said to have been one of the oldest and wealthiest families in the west of Ireland, whose patrimony was confiscated by the British government. This, combined with the effects of the potato famine, necessitated that he and his family move to America and start a new life. John F. Neilan, Sr., (my great grandfather) was three years old when his family left County Roscommon, Ireland, relocating in New Haven, Connecticut, where his first job was shucking oysters. When he was old enough, John, Sr., began his education. In 1857, the family moved west and settled in Fayette County, Ohio. They cleared off virgin land; however, now they were quite poor. John, Sr., was an avid reader. His disdain for his mother country for taking the family fortune drove him to want to study the history of the United States. He became very well-read and was able to start teaching school in 1866. While teaching school, John Francis Neilan, Sr., studied law under Judge Crane. On April 13, 1874, John was admitted to the Ohio Bar to practice law in all courts of record. On June 2, 1874, John Neilan, Sr., married Jane Wilson Kincaid, born in Virginia in 1849. They had six children: Thomas Kincaid, born in 1875, who was kicked by a horse and died in 1881, and William Neilan who died in infancy; four survived: Mary E. born in September 1878; John F. Neilan,

Jr., born on December 28, 1881, destined to be my grandfather; Jane Teresa born in 1885; and Robert Neilan born in 1891. In that same year, 1874, when he was admitted to the bar, John F. Neilan, Sr., became editor of the *Hamilton Examiner*, a Democratic newspaper.

To the Alumni and other Friends of Miami University.

The Collegiate Department of Miami University was opened in November, 1824, with a President, one Professor, and twelve pupils in the lower classes. The first class, consisting of twelve members, was graduated in September, 1826. During a period of forty-nine years nearly one thousand young men were graduated, and more than twice that number received a large part of their education within her walls. The income from the Permanent Fund having been found, owing to the rise in prices, inadequate to meet current expenses, instruction in the Institution was suspended in July, 1873. At that time there was a debt of nearly \$10,000. This has been paid, and \$50,000 added to the Permanent Fund. Encouraged by this increase, the Trustees have determined to re-open the Institution, and, as a preliminary step, a Freshman class will be formed Sept. 18, 1884, under the instruction and government of Prof. R. H. Bishop. Additional Instructors will be employed as they may be needed. The aid of the Alumni and other friends is solicited in this attempt to revive Miami University; and it is hoped that in conversation and through the press, they will use their influence to raise her to her former state of prosperity and usefulness.

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THE ACADEMICAL YEAR

Extends from the third Thursday in September to the second Thursday in June.

THE SUMMER VACATION is from the second Thursday in June until the third Thursday in September.

THE WINTER VACATION, of not more than two weeks, includes Christmas and New Year's days.

TUITION FEE: \$30.00 per session, covering all incidental and other fees—to be paid in advance.

BOARD in private families from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per week.

*For further information inquire of Professor Bishop, at Oxford.

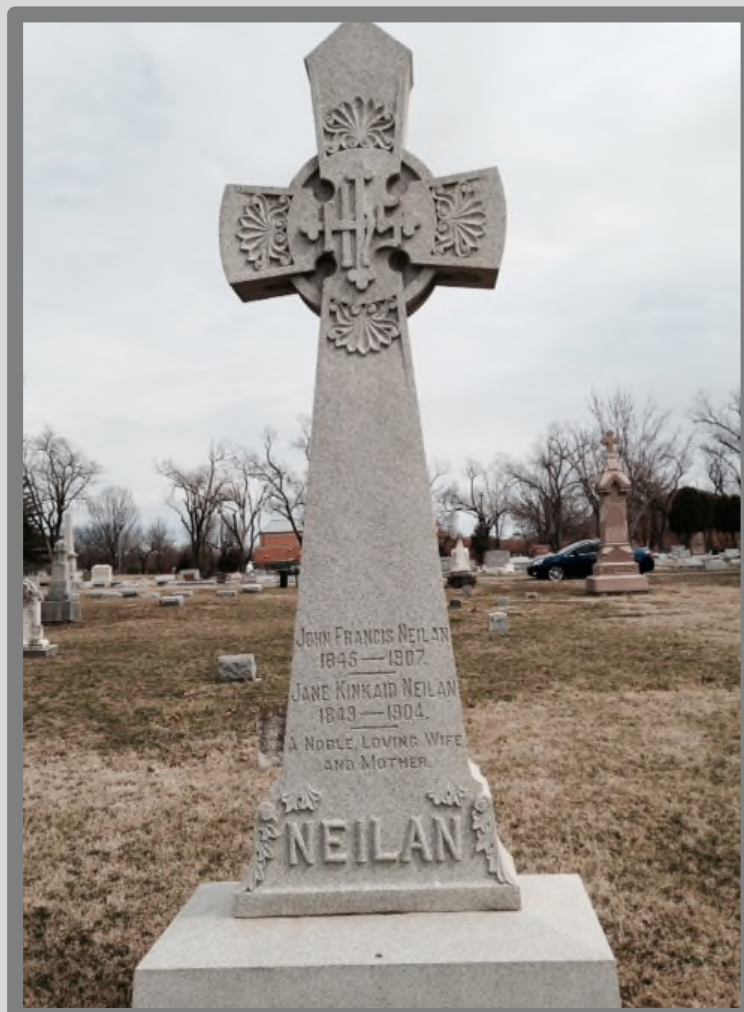
By Order of the Board,

L. N. BONHAM.

(Photo courtesy of Miami University, 1809-2009, Bicentennial Perspectives, Curtis W. Ellison, Editor, Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio 45701, page 81.)

Miami University, dated 1884, Board of Trustees, lists the Honorable John W. Herron, President, from Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the father of Helen Herron, who married the future 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft. Also listed on the Board of Trustees of Miami University are: Thomas Millikin, Esquire, and William Beckett Esquire (founder of the Beckett Paper Company in 1848), both who would become distant relatives, and of course my great grandfather, John F. Neilan, Sr.

John F. Neilan, Sr., held numerous important positions in Hamilton throughout his career, among which were prosecuting attorney of Butler County and Judge. He was first appointed to the Board of Trustees of Miami University by his friend, Governor George Hoadley; his second appointment came from his business friend and Governor, James E. Campbell. He served for a total of nine years from 1884 to 1893. Jane Kincaid, his wife, died in 1904, and John Neilan, Sr., married again on May 10, 1906, to a Miss Agnes Nelan of Akron. She is the sister of a famous Ohio political cartoonist, Charles Nelan, also from Akron.

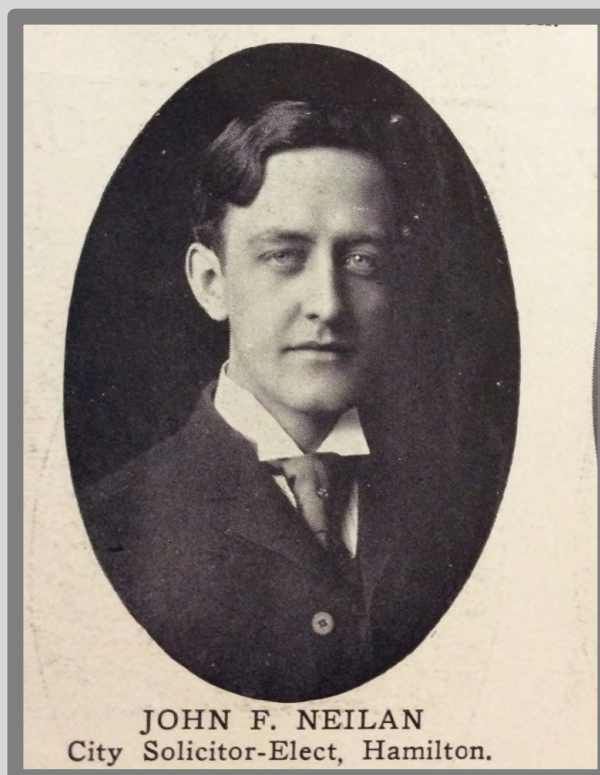


(Photograph of John F. Neilan, Sr.'s grave site in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery on Pleasant Avenue in Hamilton, Ohio, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Today, John Neilan, Sr., still ranks among the great lawyers in the Hamilton courts. He died suddenly at his home at 335 Wood Street (now Pershing Avenue) on October 9, 1907, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery on Pleasant Avenue, with other members of his family. Warren Gard, a colleague and personal friend and who was my great uncle, was instrumental in helping make the funeral arrangements. Through research I later learned that John F. Neilan, Sr., used to live on the property where the U.S. Post Office is now located at 105 Court Street in Hamilton.



(Photograph of John Francis Neilan, Jr., (1881-1945), son of John Francis Neilan, Sr., (1845-1907), courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox, granddaughter of John F. Neilan, Jr.)



(Photograph of Marie Woods Neilan courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. A young John F. Neilan, Jr., photograph courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

John F. Neilan, Jr., married Marie Woods on February 21, 1906, in Hamilton, Ohio.

My grandfather, John Francis Neilan, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps. He joined his father's law practice in 1903 and took over after his father died in 1907. His law office was located in 614 Rentscheler Building at the corner of Second and High Streets, Hamilton. He was just as ambitious as his father.

I hardly remember my grandfather for I was born in 1943 and he died in 1945. We called him Gaboo, why, I do not recall. At the time he and Marie lived next door to us on Oakwood Drive. My grandfather, Gaboo, for whom Neilan Boulevard was named, led a very active life. Besides being a formidable lawyer, he directed the affairs of the West Side of Hamilton during the 1913 Flood; he helped found the Columbia Federal Savings and Loan Association; he helped form the Miami Conservancy District to prevent future flooding of the Great Miami River; he helped direct Hamilton's Relief Program during the Depression; was head of the Civic Works Administration; he was a prominent figure in the continued development of Mercy Hospital and a contributor to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, plus helped in the development of many other organizations.



(Picture of Mercy Hospital founded in 1892, to which John F. Neilan, Jr., became a future ongoing contributing member, courtesy of the Internet.)

John was the attorney, along with his father, for *The Hamilton Journal News* and for the Gard family. He died of a cerebral embolism and other complications on March 27, 1945, and was buried in Collinsville Cemetery. He lies next to his wife Marie who died of a cerebral hemorrhage on March 15, 1952, while playing bridge at Virginia Beckett's home at 420 South "D" Street.

I just recently learned that the love seat (albeit reupholstered) on which my grandmother died in 1952 is still in existence and is located in the David and Marge Belew home in Hamilton.



(Photograph of John F. Neilan, Jr.'s, and Marie Woods Neilan's grave sites in Collinsville Cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Great and happier news! On April 3, 1953, our family dedicated Neilan Boulevard in honor of my grandfather, John F. Neilan, Jr. Frank J. Lausche, 55th and 57th Governor of Ohio, was there to officiate at the ceremony. Our family was there as we dug the hole for the first tree to be planted. My sister, who is named Neil Ann in honor of the Neilan name, did the honors.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Left to right, Governor Frank J. Lausche, Neil Ann Stuckey, Donald Stuckey, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey; in front, Kathleen Stuckey.

Unfortunately, the trees no longer exist for they were taken out when the bridge was widened many years later. For years, I had that shovel signed by Governor Lausche in my bedroom closet but over the years, I guess we had occasion to use it. And it is now lost.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Governor Frank J. Lausche signing the shovel that we used to plant the trees on Neilan Boulevard on April 3, 1953.



(Portrait of Mary Woods, John Woods' daughter, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Earlier, I referred to Mary Woods, born in 1821, daughter of John Woods and Sarah Ann Lynch. She married Dr. Cyrus Falconer of Hamilton in October 1839. She wore a lovely wedding gown, made especially for this occasion. That same wedding dress and veil were worn by two other brides, Marge Beckett and Neil Ann Stuckey, and the veil was worn by five other brides, all relatives of John Woods. You had to be related to John Woods to have the privilege of wearing his daughter's wedding gown; however, the dress was so small, that the other five brides could wear only the veil.



(Photograph of Marge Beckett Belew and David Belew's wedding reception on July 3, 1953, with wedding cake made by Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph of Marge Beckett (in Mary Woods' wedding gown) and her father Guy Beckett, walking down the stairs at their home at 420 South "D" Street, Hamilton, Ohio, on her wedding day, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

When Marge Beckett, the second bride to wear the dress, wore the dress in 1953 as she married David Belew, the approximate age of the dress was around 114 years old.



(Photograph of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine in Mary Woods' wedding gown, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

The third, and last bride to wear the dress was my sister, Neil Ann Stuckey, in June of 1963, when she married Richard J. Levine whom she met at Cornell University. They were married in a Unitarian Church on the campus of the university. Then the dress was approximately 124 years old.

In talking with my sister, she told me that the dress was totally remade for Marge, only the silk bodice remained original; the skirt was reversed when the dress was remade. The only part of the wedding ensemble that was in great shape was the veil, which had been lost, but was later found. Fortunately, now the dress and veil are in the

possession of the Butler County Historical Society, and condition of the dress is not that great since part of it is now approximately 175 years old. What history this dress and veil have seen!!

Another person who has great meaning in our family is Martha Woods, who was born in 1824, daughter of John Woods and Sarah Ann Lynch. Martha Woods married William Beckett, founder of the Beckett Paper Company in Hamilton in September of 1848. That makes our family distant relatives of the Hamilton Becketts. Mary Woods, born in May 1863, daughter of Mary Woods and Dr. Cyrus Falconer, married Samuel D. Fitton in June of 1888. Now our family is distantly related to the Hamilton Fittons. May Woods Beckett, born in February 1868, daughter of Martha Woods and William Beckett, married Dr. Mark Millikin in Hamilton in June 1893. Now our family is distantly related to the Hamilton Millikins, all these families, "Hamilton Royalty."

Reiterating, James Woods, born September 9, 1800, son of Mary "Polly" Robinson and Alexander Woods, and brother of John Woods, married Maria Robeson on February 23, 1826. They had six children, among whom was John Robeson Woods, born July 24, 1844. He married Jennie Zuver on December 10, 1874, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Jennie Zuver Woods became my great grandmother. She gave birth to two girls: Pearl Zuver Woods, on September 8, 1875, and Lydia Marie Woods, on December 26, 1883.



(Photograph of Pearl Zuver Woods Gard courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph of Lydia Marie Woods Neilan courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, sister of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Marie Woods Neilan, Kathleen Neilan, Pearl Zuver Woods Gard, Jennie Zuver Woods and John Robeson Woods.

A friend introduced me to familysearch.org, which is a collective database of varying quality, connecting me to Mormon Church records, which led me to sources around the globe. I found many important scanned documents, some of which were signed by my parents and relatives. It was an unexpected step back in time. I enjoyed every minute which brought about new discoveries about my family and puzzles to be solved. It was as if I were living in that time period, of which I was never a part.

Now that the Woodses and Neilans are intertwined, I will share with you the lives of the Gards of Hamilton, and how their lives were already connected to those of the Neilans.

The Gard Family Intertwined with Neilan and Wood Families



(Photograph of Homer Gard courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Through familysearch.org, I was able to trace the Gard family back to 1624, when John Gard was born, probably in Connecticut. The Gards also resided in New Jersey. Seven generations later, Samuel Zerley Gard was born in Darrrtown, Ohio, in 1833. S. Z. Gard, as he was later called, was the son of Jeremiah Gard, Jr. (1792-1853) and Elizabeth Zerley (1796-1871). S. Z. attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he studied under the auspices of Horace Mann, then president of the college. After college, S. Z. taught school for several years and studied to become a lawyer with Judge Alex F. Hume. In 1859 he was admitted to the Ohio bar. His business took off well as he prosecuted important cases. Early in his career, S. Z. had been quite active in the newspaper business. On March 26, 1865, S. Z. Gard married Miss Mary “Mollie” Duke, daughter of Edward Duke and Ann Virginia Wright from Virginia. From this union, two sons were born: Homer in 1866, and Warren in 1873.

Homer Gard, who attended Amherst College for three years, made his name as manager and editor of the *Hamilton and Butler County Democrat* and held many other

important newspaper positions throughout his lifetime. In 1927 he was appointed by Governor Vic Donahey to the Board of Trustees of Miami University.

One important and ongoing feature in Homer's life was his love of humanity and youth, and he was also very active in the Y.M.C.A. Homer helped to organize the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce; he actually owned several newspapers throughout his lifetime. In a change of ownership with the *Daily Democrat* in 1895, which brought about a change in the editorship of that publication, Homer decided to relocate to northern Ohio and purchased the *Canton News-Democrat*. This move took place in February 1895, and he took Lutie, his wife, and her mother, and their recently newborn son, Campbell, with him. You will learn much more about Campbell later. He remained there for about eighteen months. When the opportunity came to sell the majority stock of the paper, Homer decided to sell the paper, unfortunately at a loss, and moved his family back to Hamilton. This would be the only time in his life that Homer's residence was not listed as being in Hamilton. He got another opportunity to work at the *Hamilton Daily News*, as they needed a new editor. Because the timing was right, it stands to reason that Homer no doubt was acquainted with William McKinley, a native of Canton, Ohio, who served as the 39th Governor of Ohio and who would be elected the 25th President of the United States in 1896. It also stands to reason that Homer could have known Warren G. Harding, 29th President of the United States and a native of Marion, Ohio, since they were both in the newspaper business. Homer's brother, Warren, would become a personal friend of Warren G. Harding's.

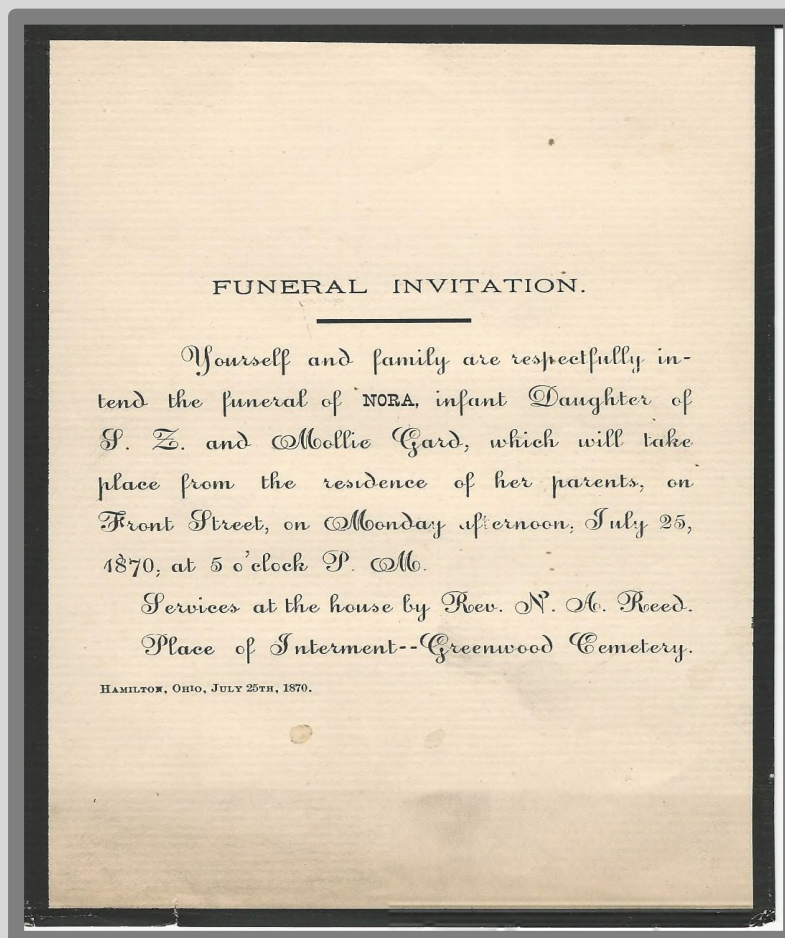


(Portrait of Homer Gard (without the beautiful gold frame) which for years hung in the Board Room of *The Hamilton Journal News*, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

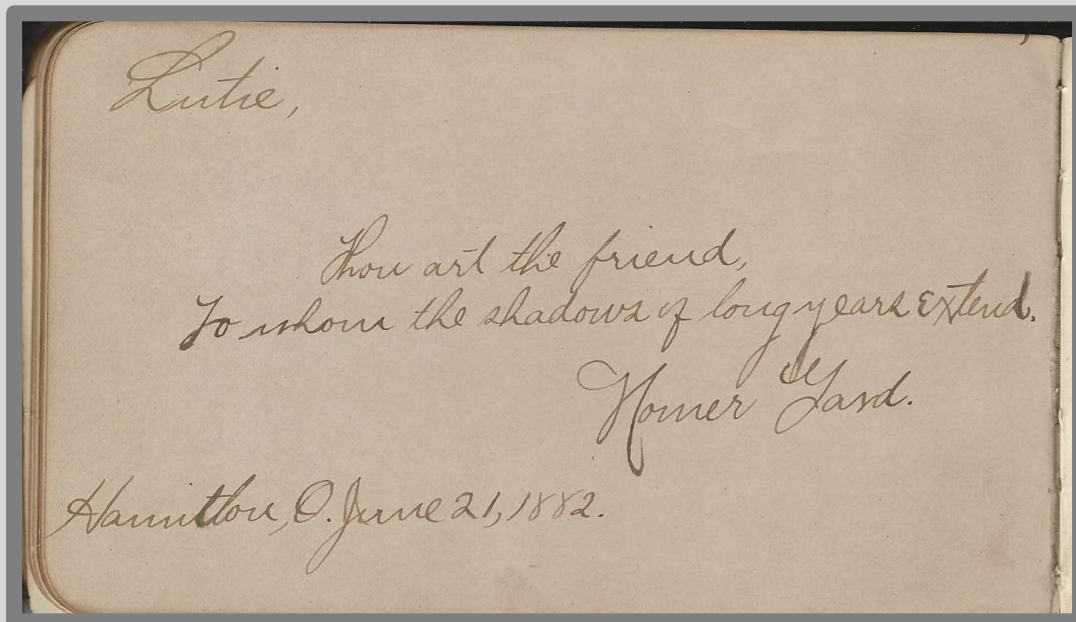
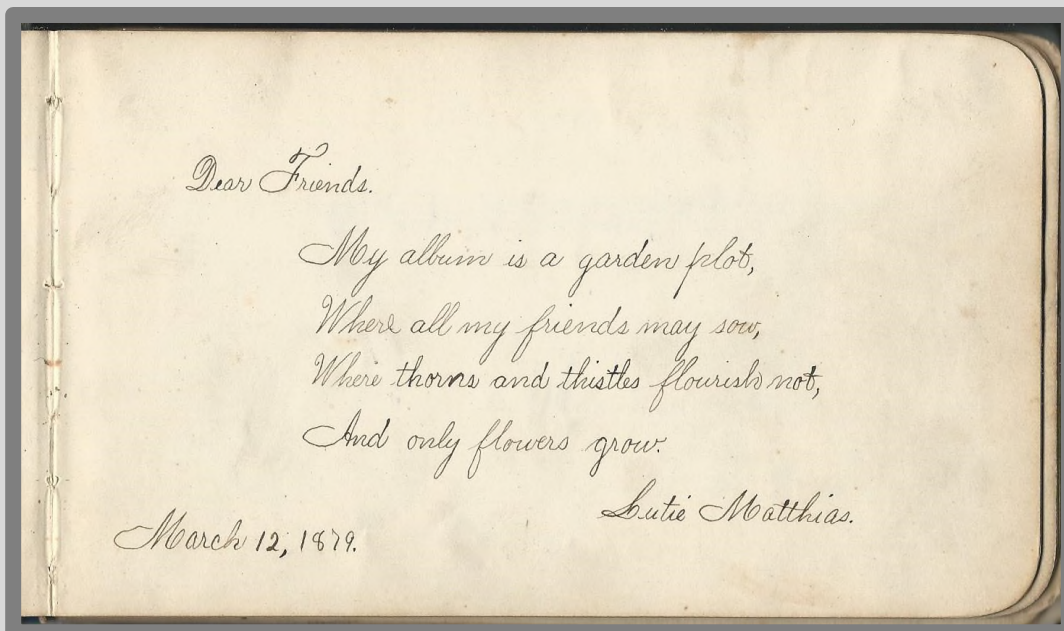
On January 1, 1914, Homer was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to be the Postmaster General in Hamilton, and he served in that capacity for eight years. He also served on the Board of Directors of The Second National Bank of Hamilton. He was an

original member and contributor to the founding of the Associated Press. His fraternal affiliations included the Elks and Eagle Lodges, the National Press Club in Washington, the Ohio Society of New York, and Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Amherst, plus many other well-known affiliations.

Homer's brother, Warren, made his name as Prosecuting Attorney in Butler County and as a Congressman, among other high positions he held. We learn more about him later. Both sons, Homer and Warren, became stalwart members of the Hamilton community. Handily, both attained well-deserved and popular distinction in their respective lines of business. As I was doing my research, I happened to come upon the death certificate of a third child born to S. Z. and Mollie, a daughter, Nora, who died a few weeks after birth. When I mentioned this to my sister, the information came as a total surprise to her as well, because we always thought that there were just Homer and Warren. But indeed, they had a sister born in 1870.



(Copy of Funeral Invitation courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(Copy of autograph pages courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Homer Gard and Lutie Matthias were classmates in high school and graduated together from Hamilton High in 1884, being from a class of six. Homer's graduating oration from Hamilton High School was entitled "Action," in which he compared the two words, "Action" verses "Inaction," in a person's lifetime. After all these years, this paper written in his handwriting still survives. To me, it is no surprise that Homer was an insightful, thoughtful and intelligent writer, being that he was in the newspaper business. I was lucky to find two of Lutie's autograph books, from which I will transcribe the following passages. On the first page Lutie states: "Dear friends, my album is a garden plot,

where all my friends may sow, where thorns and thistles flourish not, and only flowers grow.” Signed, Lutie Matthias. The second entry is from her future husband, “Lutie, Thou art the friend, to whom the shadows of long years extend. Homer Gard.” Perhaps as they went their separate ways to two different colleges, Homer to Amherst and Lutie to Buchtel College which is now the University of Akron, they may have suspected they would have a future together.

As previously indicated, Homer went off to Amherst College in Massachusetts after graduating from high school in 1884. In 1887 he was forced to return permanently to Hamilton without finishing his degree. His father had become ill, and he was needed at home. Homer considered becoming a lawyer like his father and brother, but the newspaper business won him over, so he got his first job in that venue, which was the start of one of the many great adventures in his lifetime.



(Two photographs of Lutie Matthias courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Homer did marry his classmate, Lutie Matthias, on June 1, 1892. They honeymooned in Ft. Collins, Colorado, at the home of good friends, Doctor and Mrs. Alston Ellis. Lutie was born on September 11, 1866, the daughter of Jacob Matthias from Virginia, and Ann M. Janes, born in Hamilton in September 1828.

From this union, a son, Charles Campbell Gard, was born on January 13, 1895.



Three Months

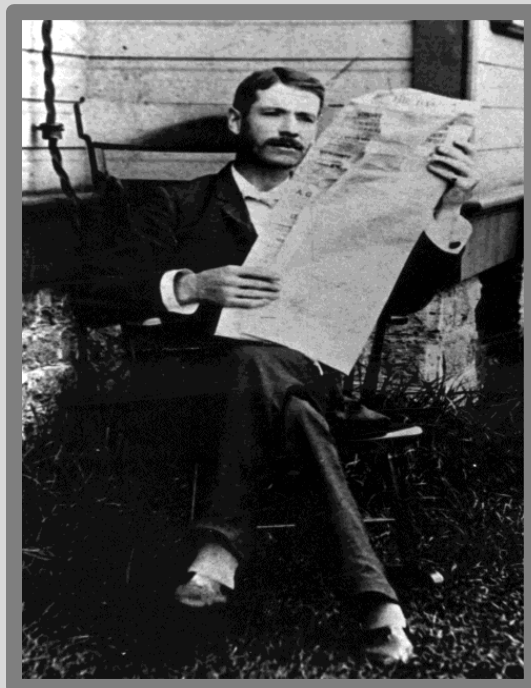
(Photograph of Lutie Gard and young Campbell Gard, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(Photograph of Homer Gard and young Campbell Gard, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(A young Campbell Gard, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

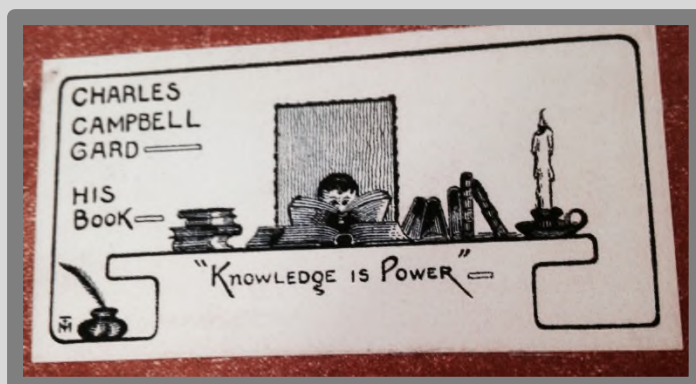


(Photograph of Charles M. Campbell, courtesy of Richard Piland, Hamilton historian/author.)

Charles Campbell Gard was named after Charles M. Campbell, who was editor and proprietor of the *Daily News* and the *Hamilton Telegraph*. Mr. Campbell, a good friend of Homer's, is the gentleman who gave him his first job in the newspaper business.



(Left photograph of Campbell Gard courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society. Right photograph courtesy of Camp Campbell Gard, Hamilton, Ohio.)



(Campbell Gard's book plate, "Knowledge is Power," an aphorism originating from Sir Francis Bacon, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Campbell was their only child, a beloved son. He graduated from high school in 1913 and studied for a year at Amherst, his father's college. He then studied journalism for a year at the University of Wisconsin. Campbell then came home to help his father at the newspaper, now renamed the *Hamilton Evening Star*. In 1917, Campbell enlisted in the First Ohio Field Artillery where he trained as an observer-bomber. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, and was made Adjutant of the 186th Aero Squadron. Campbell was a member of the squadron that dropped flowers from his plane as President Wilson arrived in France on December 13, 1918, when he headed the American delegation to the peace conference seeking a definitive end to World War I. Wilson's visit marked the first official visit of a United States president to Europe. For his efforts to bring peace to Europe, President Wilson was awarded the 1920 Nobel Peace Prize.

Close to the end of the war, Campbell was injured in a plane crash, one of several, and returned to Hamilton to recuperate and resume work as managing editor of the newspaper run by his father. On October 25, 1921, Campbell died suddenly sitting at his desk at the *Hamilton Evening Star*. His death certificate states that he died from myocarditis, inflammation of the myocardium, the middle layer of the heart wall. This condition is usually caused by a viral infection. Also, a contributing factor was acute indigestion and probably after-effects of the war.



(Photograph courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(Wings from Campbell Gard's uniform and his dog tags which were saved by Cynthia Hughes Calkins (daughter of James Hughes and Adelaide Sohngen of Hamilton), recently given to Betty Jane Rump, niece of Ethelyne Gard, sent to historian/author Richard Piland, and found their way to the Butler County Historical Society for safekeeping, where they finally found their permanent home.)

Through familysearch.org, I unexpectedly came upon information about a trip that Homer and Lutie took in 1925 on the SS Finland, from Havana, Cuba, to San Pedro, California. They left Havana on March 15, 1925, and arrived in San Pedro on March 29. This is just speculation, but perhaps this trip, taken four years after their son's death, was to get away and to find renewal.

The office building where Campbell died would later be known as the *Hamilton Journal News* Building. My father, Donald E. Stuckey, was hired there in the mid-to-late 1930s. After Homer died in 1952 and Ethelyne Grove Gard became the president and sole owner of the paper, she gave every senior member of the staff a substantial raise. Dad would spend his entire career at *The Hamilton Journal News*, working his way up to Treasurer/Business Manager. In 1970 after Ethelyne Grove Gard Gramm's death, the paper was sold to Harte-Hanks Newspapers in Texas. Shortly after that, Dad chose to retire early because the new owners were going to put him in charge of sorting and delivering mail.

Campbell's death was obviously quite a shock to everyone. It is difficult to understand how Campbell survived several plane crashes during The Great War, only to die sitting in the newsroom at his desk! He was just 26 years old and engaged to a Helen Raymond from Wyoming, Ohio. In any case, Campbell had purchased an engagement ring; it is not clear when he gave it to her. But he died four days before he was to be married, so no doubt he had already given it to her. When that ring was returned to the Gard family, I do not know; there it remained for many years, and it re-enters my narrative later. Campbell had plans to purchase their marriage license in Cincinnati on the day he died.

Recently discovered: Through ongoing extensive research, I learned that Helen Raymond actually ended up marrying a Herbert E. Ritchie on June 9, 1923. Herbert Ritchie comes directly from the line of Alexander Woods and Mary "Polly" Robinson Woods, via their daughter Mary Woods Gray (1803-1880), who is the sister of John Woods, my great, great, great uncle, and James Woods, my great, great grandfather. So now, I find myself kind of related to Campbell's fiancée. Helen and Herbert would eventually have two children, David and Susan.



(Photograph of Warren Gard courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Warren Gard, Ohio State Representative, born on July 2, 1873, graduated from The Cincinnati Law School in 1894. He was admitted to the bar that same year and began his practice in Hamilton. He was prosecuting attorney of Butler County from 1898 to 1903. He was judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1907 to 1912. He was elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-third and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 3, 1913, to March 3, 1921), was not up for re-election, and returned to his law practice.



(Photograph of invitation to Marie Woods Neilan from President Harding courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Warren G. Harding, our 29th president, collapsed and died on August 2, 1923, in San Francisco, California, on one of the legs of his return trip from Alaska. Judge Warren Gard, a gifted orator and personal friend of the President's, was asked to give the eulogy in Hamilton on the national day of mourning, August 8, 1923. Warren also was instrumental in introducing and securing the passage of the Bill, HR 755, in 1916 granting a National Charter to the Boy Scouts of America. Also, Marie Neilan received an invitation to the White House from President Warren G. Harding to attend a reception to be held on February 9, 1922.



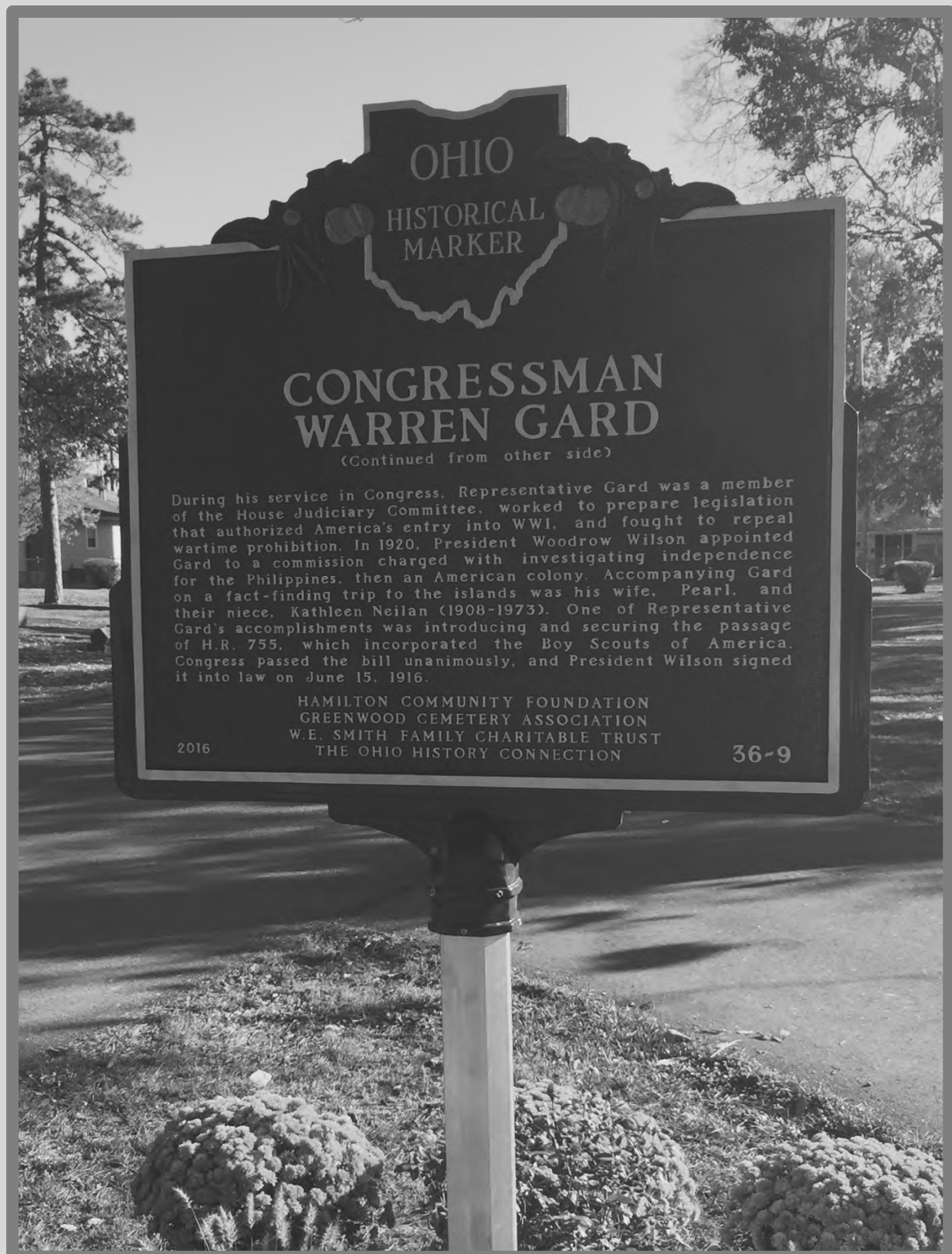
(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

On February 22, 1958, my mother, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, represented the Gard family when the Boy Scouts of America honored Warren Gard for his help in writing their National Charter. The ceremony took place in Greenwood Cemetery at Warren's grave site.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox, taken on November 12, 2016, at the dedication of Warren Gard's Ohio Historical Marker in Greenwood Cemetery.)

In the picture on the previous page, I wanted to replicate the laying of the wreath in 1958 at the gravesite of Warren Gard when the Ohio Historical Marker was dedicated. Since the season for Christmas wreaths had not begun, I asked Greenwood Cemetery if they would let me have some cuttings from their beautiful pine trees. Thus, I created a most substantial wreath for the occasion, pictured above.



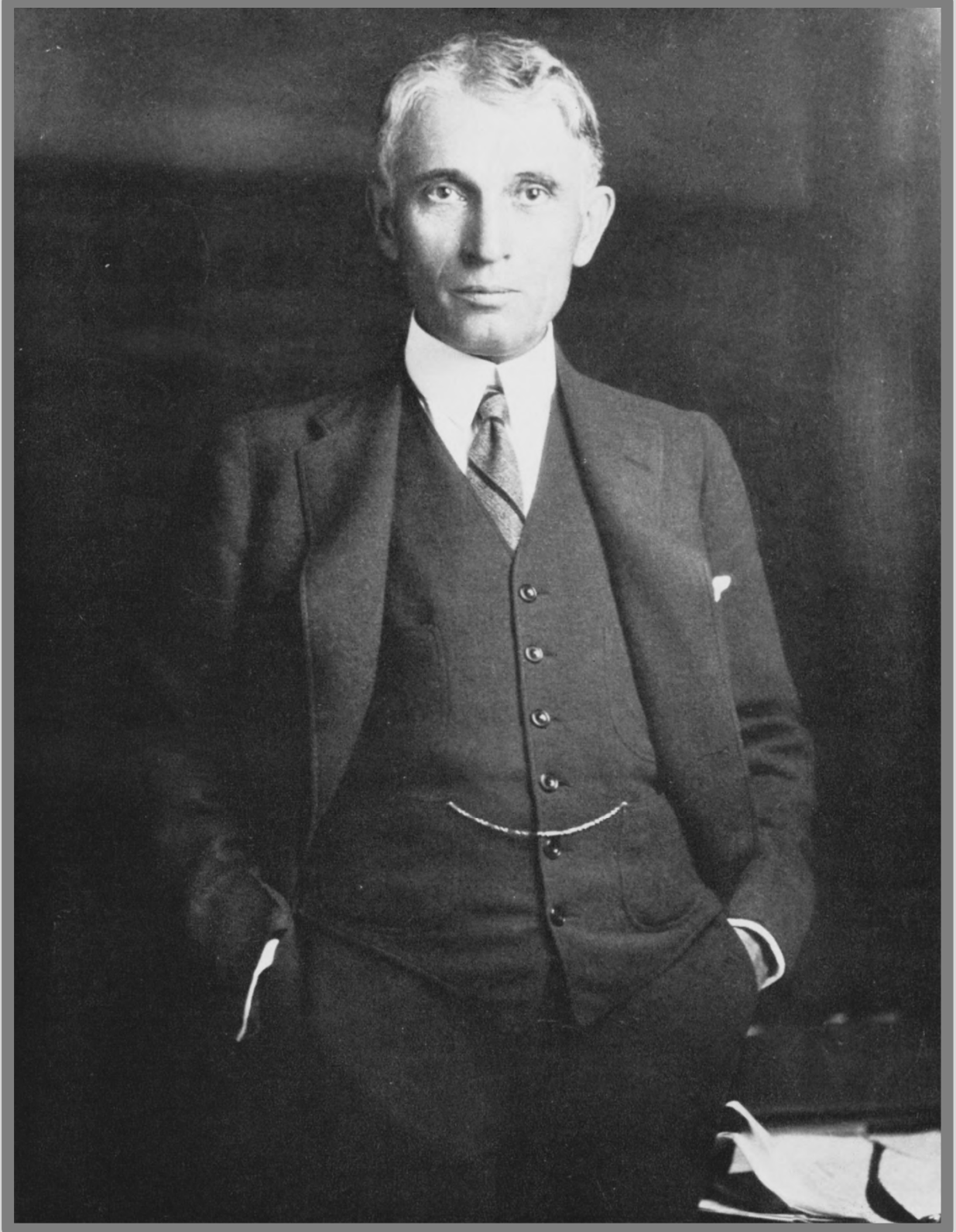
(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. See page 133 for legend on both sides written by Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

I arranged for an Ohio Historical Marker to be placed in Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton, Ohio, to honor my great uncle Warren Gard for his writing the Boy Scouts National Charter which was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on June 15, 1916. The dedication took place on November 12, 2016, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the National Charter for the Boy Scouts of America. I wish to thank the W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust for providing the money for the marker and for Greenwood Cemetery for opening their property for the first ever Ohio Historical Marker to be placed in their care.



(Photograph, circa 1958, of Kathleen Stuckey standing in front of her home at 450 Oakwood Drive in Hamilton, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

On June 22, 1910, Warren married Pearl Zuver Woods, my great aunt, and sister to my grandmother, Marie Woods Neilan. One can only speculate, but Pearl and Warren no doubt met one another through family connections. Obviously, this is when Homer Gard became Uncle Homer to my Mother and Lutie Gard became Aunt Lutie. Homer was most generous to my mother and her family, and when my parents married in 1933, the wedding gift from Homer and Lutie was a lot on Oakwood Drive, where my parents built their dream home, pictured above, even though the architect's plans had to be scaled back for lack of funds. My brother, John, died there; my father lived there for 51 1/2 years; my sister and I grew up there; and my mother died there in 1973.



(Painting of a young Homer Gard courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(Photograph of Pearl Woods Gard career woman, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

In working on my genealogy, I discovered another birth record of which none of us was aware. Pearl and Warren had a stillborn son on February 5, 1912. We never knew. We all thought they had no children. Pearl was a career woman and married later in life, and this may have contributed to her son being stillborn because her first and only child was born when she was 37 years old.



(Picture of Pearl's china painted punch bowl courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Pearl was an excellent artist and teacher and was Supervisor for Art and Drawing for the Hamilton Public School System. The punch bowl in the above picture is exquisite and was painted by her. The sideboard was stored in the attic over the garage at 450 Oakwood Drive, our home, and, when my sister Neil Ann was married in 1963, my parents gave it to her. However, the feet were damaged, and my father fixed them as best he could. It is only through conversations with my sister that I came to realize that this is the same sideboard to which Lutie refers in the 1913 flood letters to her sister, Lillian. Originally, my sister thought that this sideboard belonged to Marie. It took me only a minute to realize that this indeed was Pearl's sideboard. At the time Warren and Pearl lived at 219 North Second Street, and their home was severely damaged during the flood of 1913. Also, in my sister's possession is Pearl's walnut four-poster bed decorated with pineapple finials, with a matching dresser and full-length chavel mirror.



(Picture courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Pearl and Warren had a beautifully monogrammed sterling tea set from Black, Starr and Frost, which we believe was given to them as a wedding gift by well-to-do friends. My mother inherited the tea set upon her mother Marie's death in 1952. In the 1980s, my dad's house was robbed, and the thieves took all the beautiful pieces but left the tray. Many sterling tea sets have plated trays because sterling is so soft; this tea set had a very substantial sterling tray. Obviously, the thieves assumed the tray was silver plated and left it behind. When we split up the belongings in Dad's house in 1990 as he was preparing to move to Schroeder Manor, my sister selected the tray. It is quite lovely with a beautifully engraved monogram, PWG, the only piece left. Speaking of sterling, one of the many gifts that my Aunt Ethelyne gave me over the years was a sterling silver "X" necklace from Georg Jensen of Denmark. Unfortunately, that necklace was also stolen by a roommate in the mid-sixties, and I was never able to recover it.



(Photograph of Pearl Woods Gard, Warren Gard, and niece Kathleen Neilan, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

As I did more research and found pictures of my mother, I realized how much we looked alike. In this picture above, taken at Chicken Dingle's Camp on the Great Miami River, probably around 1916, I believe my mother is around eight or nine, and she looks just like me when I was young. Since Warren and Pearl had no children, my mother became the "apple of their eye." Because my mother was the only child of Marie and John Neilan, and the only grandchild of Jennie and John Robeson Woods, she spent much time with all three families. Dare I say it: Collectively, all three families spoiled her! At an early point in her life, mother thought she had been adopted by her parents, Marie and John, because she looked so much more like Pearl than she did her own mother.



(Photograph of Kathleen Neilan and her Uncle Warren at the Cincinnati Zoo, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

In one letter, a copy of which I received from my sister, my mother is in Washington, D. C., in 1918 with Pearl and Warren.

WARREN GARD
3D DISTRICT OHIO

Wed. June 12, 1918.

House of Representatives U. S.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mother and Daddy:-

I was so glad to ~~hear~~ hear from you. I look for a letter from some one every day. I suppose you do the same, and are much dissapointed if you do not receive one.

I want to see Jane and Allison before they go away. Uncle ~~W. Mann~~ Mann is going to start for Ohio about the 21st of June and I hope to get home before they go away.

Ta borrowed \$1.00 from ~~me~~ me to-day and promised to pay me back, and I'll see she does it promptly.

Last night we saw Mary Pickford in M'liss. It was fine. She did many active sports and acted like a wild Indian. Have you seen it?

I am at Uncle Mann's office. Ta has gone shopping with Mrs Keating who invites us to luncheon ~~at~~ at ^{Congress Hall} Congress Hall.

Uncle Mann has taken Ta and Mrs. Keating.

down town and has not come back
yet, so I am alone with Miss Stuck.
When Uncle Warren comes he is going to take me
down town to get me a ~~Boy~~ Scout Hat. That is
to see if he can. Then we are going to
the library to get some more books.
I appreciate Daddy's saving paper when he
writes to me. He uses both sides. But I
dislike the way you waste it. You and
Emma and Papa. Please use both sides of
this.
I was so sorry to hear that Nani's arm hurt her
so, and that Pop is so weak.
Tell both of them not to do too much.
I am not going to tell you of our trip to
Richmond as Pa has already told ~~Nani~~ ^{you} in
her letter to Nani and I am sure Nani will
show her letter to you.
Mr. Smith got back this morning after sleeping
all night in his car.
It was two o'clock before I got to bed that
night and the next day I took a nap that
lasted at 2 hrs and about 15 min.
Are the people at your house well?
Write to very soon
Much Love
Kathleen.

(Photograph of letter written by Kathleen Neilan to her parents in 1918, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

In her letter, my mother, Kathleen, speaks of seeing the movie "M'liss" starring Mary Pickford. This was filmed in 1918, and the director was Marshall Neilan. I wonder if anyone noticed and also could he have been distant relative?

The following is another of many trips Mother would take with her aunt and uncle, Pearl and Warren.

Volume 17, Division of Civilian Control, Employees and Dependents
The original and duplicate of this passport must be attached to it a copy of the applicant's photograph.
A small square photograph of the applicant must accompany the application.
The photograph must be on thin paper, should have a light background, and be not over three inches in size.

APPLICANT'S NAME MUST BE COMPLETELY
And the: The total fee of one dollar,
in currency or postal money order,
must accompany the application.
A passport application must state
whether the applicant is a native born
naturalized citizen, and state whether
he is a native born or a naturalized citizen.
The rules issued for carefully read
before making the application to the
Department of State, Division of Passport
Control, Washington, D. C.

(UNITED STATES)
(FORM FOR NATIVE CITIZEN.)

No. _____
Issued _____

WASHINGTON
JUN 10 1920
DIVISION OF PASSPORT CONTROL

(Signature)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

State of District of Columbia
County of Columbia
I, Warren Gard, a NATIVE AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE
UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport,
accompanied by my wife, Pearl M. Gard, and daughter,
Kathleen Neilan, both Hamilton Ohio, born 4, 1907.

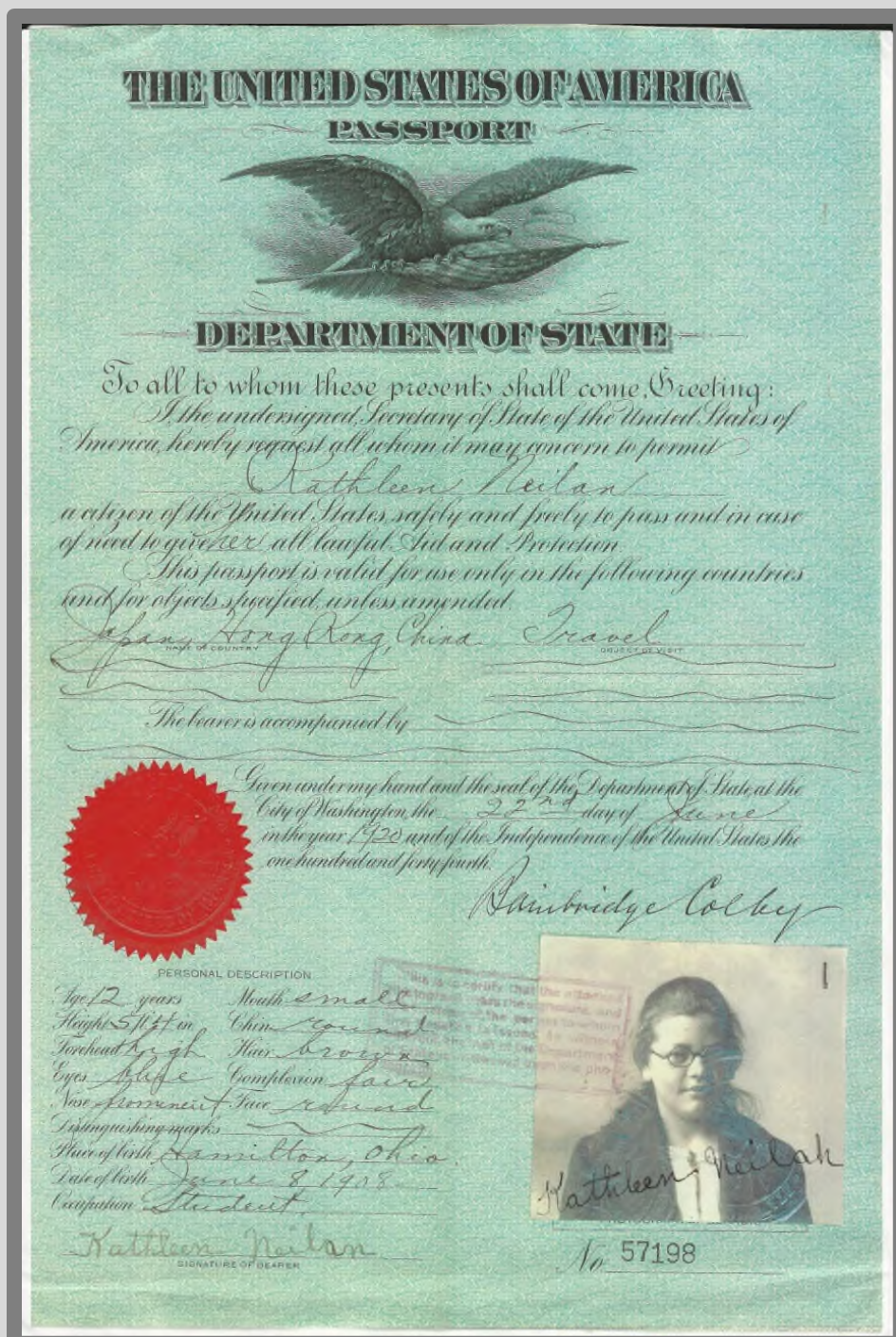
I solemnly swear that I was born at Hamilton in the State of
Ohio on the 2nd day of July, 1893; that
my ~~father~~ husband Samuel J. Gard was born in Ohio
and is now deceased.
(That he emigrated to the United States from this port of _____
on or about _____; that he resided _____ years, uninterruptedly, in
the United States, from _____ to _____ at _____; that he was
naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the _____ Court
of _____ at _____ on _____, 1_____, as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization);
that I have resided outside the United States at the following places for the following periods:
_____ from _____ to _____
_____ from _____ to _____
and that I am domiciled in the United States, my present residence being at Hamilton,
in the State of Ohio, where I follow the occupation of Member of Congress.
My last passport was obtained from _____ on _____
and was _____ I am about to go abroad temporarily; and I
intend to return to the United States within 6 months with the purpose of residing and per-
forming the duties of citizenship therein; and I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries here-
inafter named for the following purpose:
China, Hong Kong
Japan
Philippines

(Name of country) (Name of country) (Name of country)

(Signature of Minister of State)

(Photograph unexpectedly found on the internet when searching for documentation for this project: Congressman Warren Gard's application for his trip to the Philippines in 1920.)

Through copies of documents provided by my sister, I have a much better picture of our mother's trip to the Philippines in 1920 with Warren and Pearl. This trip was organized during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921) at which time the United States was considering the granting of full independence to the Philippines when it was still an American colony; however, after this trip, the commission returned with the conclusion that granting independence to the Philippines would be premature. Kathleen Neilan's name is crossed off Warren's passport because she was not his daughter, and thus Kathleen needed to obtain a passport of her own, pictured on the following page.



(Photograph of Kathleen Neilan's passport application courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Warren Gard was one of two Congressmen chosen from Ohio, the other being Frank Murphy, who were asked to take this diplomatic tour to the Philippines in 1920. From the program, it looks as if there were over twenty congressmen and their families who took the trip which began on July 27, and ended on August 5, 1920. Warren's wife,

Pearl, and any children were allowed to accompany him. Because Pearl and Warren had no children, they asked their niece, my mother, Kathleen, to go with them; she was twelve at the time.

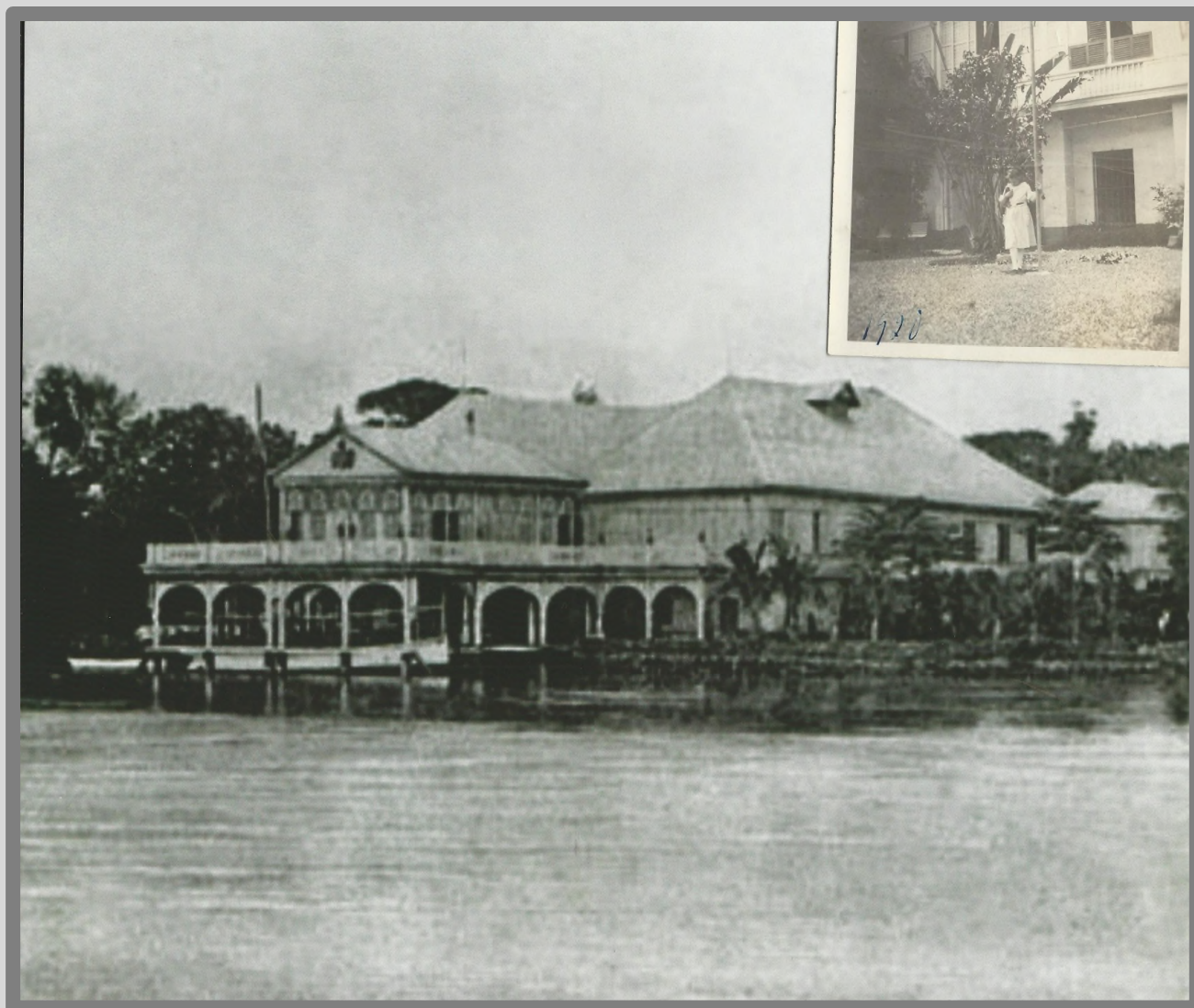


(Photograph of Program of Entertainment for the Congressional Party, Manila, Philippine Islands, July-August 1920, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PARTY

Senator William J. Harris (Georgia) Mrs. Harris (wife) and daughter	Congressman Hersman's mother Congressman Hersman's aunt
Senator Thomas Sterling (South Dakota) Mr. Sterling (son) Miss Sterling (daughter) Miss Sterling (daughter) Miss Sterling (daughter)	Congressman J. M. Morin (Pennsylvania) Miss Morin (daughter) Miss Morin (daughter)
Congressman Guy E. Campbell (Pennsylvania) Mrs. Campbell (wife) Miss Campbell (daughter) Miss Campbell (daughter)	Congressman Frank Murphy (Ohio) and son
Commissioner Jaime C. de Veyra Mrs. De Veyra (wife) and two daughters	Congressman H. Z. Osborne (California)
Congressman L. C. Dyer (Missouri) Mrs. Dyer (wife) Miss Dyer (daughter) Miss Dyer (daughter)	Congressman M. F. Phelan (Massachusetts) Mrs. Phelan (wife) Mr. Phelan (son) Miss Phelan (daughter) Miss Phelan (daughter)
Congressman James A. Frear (Wisconsin) Mrs. Frear (wife)	Congressman Stephen G. Porter (Pennsylvania) Miss Porter (daughter) Mrs. Blacenship (chaperon for Miss Porter)
Congressman Warren Gard (Ohio) Mrs. Gard (wife) (niece)	Congressman C. H. Randall (California) Miss Randall (sister) (niece)
Congressman L. B. Goodall (Maine)	Congressman L. D. Robinson (North Carolina) Mr. Robinson (son)
Congressman Rufus Hardy (Texas) Mrs. Hardy (wife) Miss Hardy (daughter) Miss Hardy (daughter)	Congressman W. M. Shreve (Pennsylvania) Mrs. Shreve (wife)
Mrs. W. W. Hastings (wife of Congressman W. W. Hastings, of Oklahoma) Miss Hastings (daughter) Miss Hastings (daughter)	Congressman John H. Small (North Carolina) Mrs. Small (wife) Miss Small (daughter)
Congressman H. S. Hersman (California)	Congressman W. S. Vare (Pennsylvania) Miss Vare (daughter) Miss Vare (daughter)
	Congressman H. C. Woodyard (West Virginia) Mrs. Woodyard (wife) Mr. Woodyard (son)

The Congressional delegation members are listed on the program.



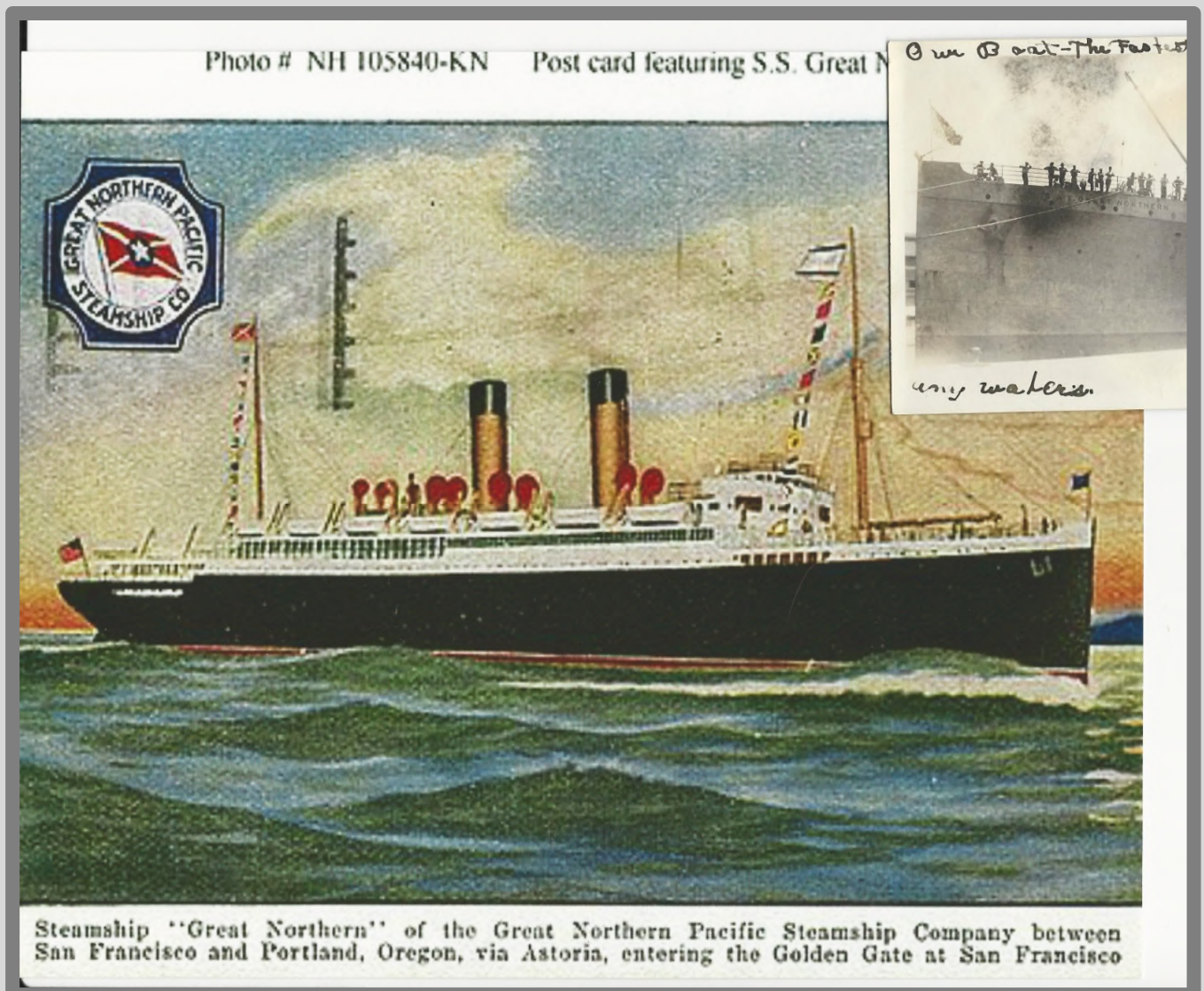
(Photographs of Kathleen Neilan's trip to China in 1920, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Kathleen Neilan in picture in upper right corner.)

From her paper, "China in a Day," written later by my mother, Kathleen, a copy of which I obtained from my sister Neil Ann, we learn so much more about our mother's trip with her Aunt Pearl and Congressman uncle to the Philippines, China, and Japan. She speaks of her Aunt Pearl; my mother called her Ta, which stands for Tante, "aunt" in French, Pearl's choice of address by our mother. Remembering conversations from the past, Mother told us that when they were visiting the beautiful Malacanon Palace of the Governor-General of the Philippines, Francis Burton Harrison, Pearl made the comment that she loved one of the chests she had seen in the palace.



(Photograph, taken by my mother, Kathleen Neilan, when stopping in Hawaii on her return trip to China, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

There was a matching chest. Also, through mother's paper, I learned that Pearl had become ill, and the doctor told Warren they needed to return to the States as soon as possible. When the ship docked in China, Mother had only a day to spend there. She had really only dreamed of visiting China. Pearl and Warren were good friends of the wife of the former American minister to China, Paul S. Reinsch. Mrs. Reinsch accompanied Warren and mother into Shanghai while Pearl stayed on the ship. Since this was a very short trip to China, mother was totally disappointed; it was not what she expected. Unfortunately, in mother's photo album from the trip, most of the pictures are of other people, but I was able to find these wonderful pictures shown here.



(Photographs courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Inset photograph taken by Kathleen Neilan in 1920 of the ship on which she sailed, "The Great Northern.")

They continued their travels to San Francisco on the ship "Great Northern," which Mother had nicknamed the "Greyhound of the Pacific." In my research I was pleased when I read on Wikipedia, quoting here. "Great Northern also took a Congressional party on a long Pacific inspection, touching at Hong Kong, Honolulu, Cavite, and then returning to San Francisco, California, in the summer of 1920." What a find!



(Photograph of what we called the “Korean Chest” from the Philippines, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Neil Ann Stuckey and Mary Dove, next door neighbor, circa mid-1950s at Christmas.

From there Pearl saw the doctor; they then proceeded to drive to Yosemite National Park, then to the Grand Canyon, and no doubt wended their way home to Hamilton. Mom’s paper and pictures tell the story. When Pearl, Warren, and my Mother returned home, one of the twin chests from the Malacanon Palace was waiting for them at the Gard residence. Obviously, it was totally a surprise and unexpected. That chest remained in the family for years. The moral of this story, my parents always said, was that, when you visit the Philippines do not make a comment that you like something, for

you could end up owning it. When my father died, I was lucky enough to inherit that piece with all its great history. But it was deteriorating badly and needed complete restoration. Because I did not have money to put into it, I sold it. I now regret that decision, knowing so much more about its historical value today.

Now returning to the Homer Gards:



(Picture of Campbell Gard's gravestone in Greenwood Cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Reiterating, Campbell Gard had died on October 25, 1921. His funeral service was held at their home at 220 Ross Avenue. What a nightmare Campbell's death had to have been! In order to help Homer and Lutie cope with the loss of their only son in 1921 and to ease their pain, they decided they needed to do something special to honor him. Rather than proposing a sculpture of Campbell, they decided that a living memorial to him would be more appropriate, since he had been an active sportsman, athlete, lover of nature, and during his short life had dedicated himself to helping others. They decided to open a camp.



(Photograph courtesy of "Camp Campbell Gard, Y.M.C.A.," booklet, Hamilton, Ohio, paper for said booklet furnished by the Champion Paper Company; paper for the cover and fly-leaf furnished by the Beckett Paper Company, Hamilton, Ohio. Booklet printed by the Hill-Brown Printing Company, Hamilton, Ohio, 1926. Homer and Lutie Gard did the honors and are standing in front, left of the flat pole.)

The plaque below was dedicated in 1926, reading: "Camp Campbell Gard, 1926, as a Loving Memorial to our Son, Charles Campbell Gard, 1895-1921. This camp is given to the Y.M.C.A. of Hamilton, Ohio, by Mr. and Mrs. Homer Gard."



(Photograph of said plaque still on display today at Camp Campbell Gard, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

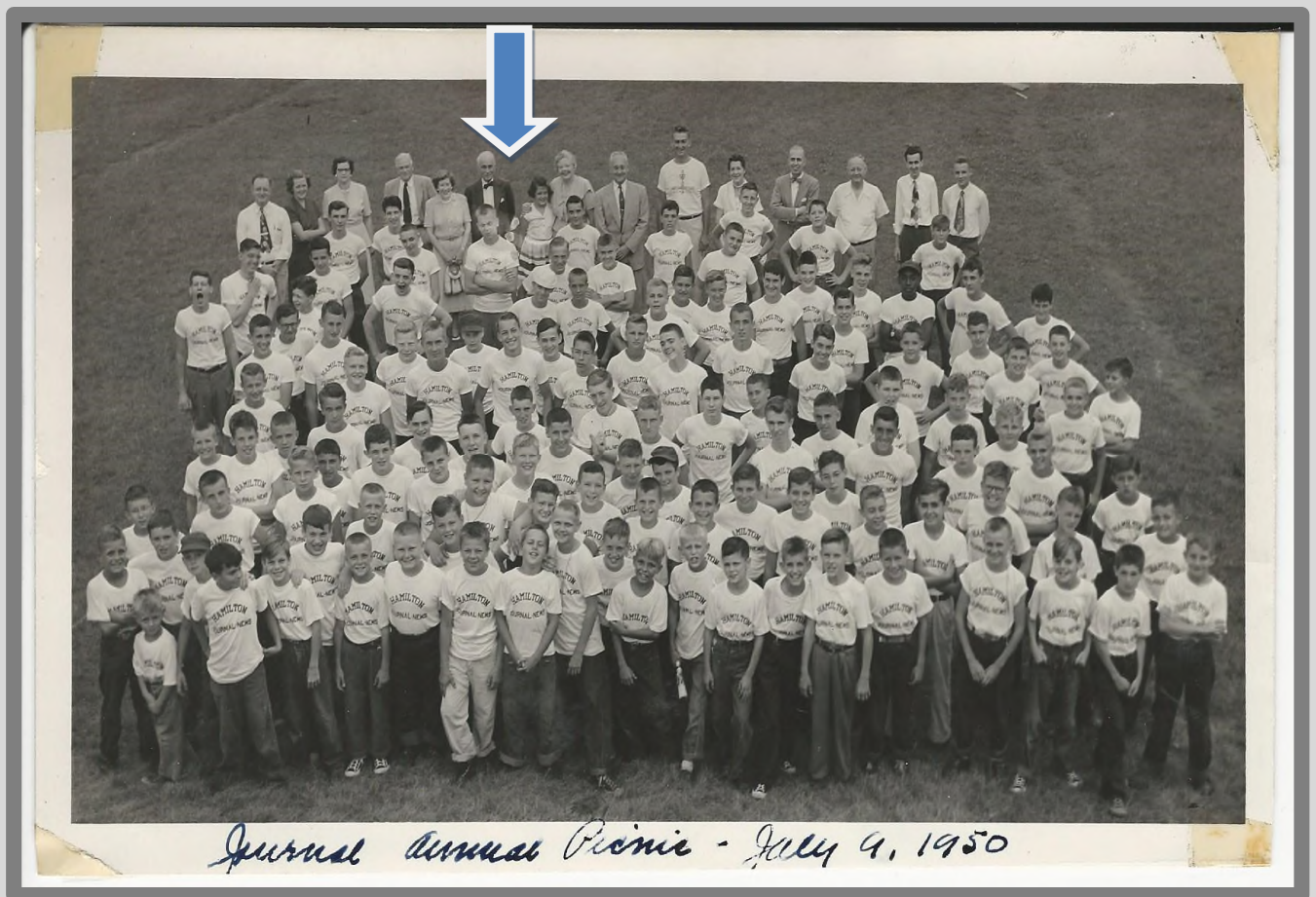
Homer and Lutie gave Camp Campbell Gard to the Hamilton Y.M.C.A. as a living memorial to their son. The camp located on 30 acres along the Great Miami River on Augspurger Road, St. Clair Township in Woodsdale, was opened on Monday, June 28, 1926, although it was only half finished. One of the first official campers was none other than Hamilton's Robert McCloskey, who ended up carving that famous totem pole and designing the sketches that appear on the Frederick G. Mueller Building, the former city building, and writing all those famous children's books, one of which was "Blueberries for Sal" that I read as a child. I remember going to the library once to meet him.

The camp was not officially dedicated until Friday, July 1, 1927, by his father, Homer, six years after Campbell's death. The dedication featured remarks by former Ohio Governor James M. Cox and Charles P. Taft II, son of the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft. Also, Charles M. Campbell spoke; after all, Charles Campbell Gard was named after Charles M. Campbell because he had given Homer his first job in the newspaper business. As we all know, the camp still exists today and is now open year-round, and many improvements, along with the addition of acreage, have been made throughout the years. I visited there recently, had a wonderful tour, and found out that there are several original buildings still standing and used today. In 10 years Camp Campbell Gard will celebrate its 100th anniversary.



(Photograph, August 16, 1947, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Every summer, *The Hamilton Journal News* held its annual picnic at Camp Campbell Gard. In the picture above, taken on August 16, 1947, I am sitting on my Godmother's, Ethelyne Grove Gard's, lap in the front row. Sister Neil Ann is to my left, next to Ruby Smith, our father's secretary, and my parents are directly above and behind Homer and Ethelyne in the last row.



(Photograph of Journal News Annual Picnic, July 9, 1950, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

In this picture taken on July 9, 1950, we can see in the top row: Homer in the black tie and jacket, so classy, sixth from the left; next to him is my sister, Neil Ann, with mother's arm around her; my dad, next to my Mother; and to the right of the tall young man is Ethelyne. I guess I had something else going on that day, for I am nowhere to be found.



(Camp Campbell Gard insignia in use since 1926, courtesy of Camp Campbell Gard.)



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Above is a picture at the camp, circa 1950, where we are sitting on a bench between two trees. Left to right, Frances Grosvenor, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, Kathleen Stuckey, Neil Ann Stuckey, and Ethelyne Grove Gard.



(Author, Kathleen Stuckey Fox, standing beside Appreciation Boulder, dedicated June of 1927, picture courtesy of the author, January of 2015.)

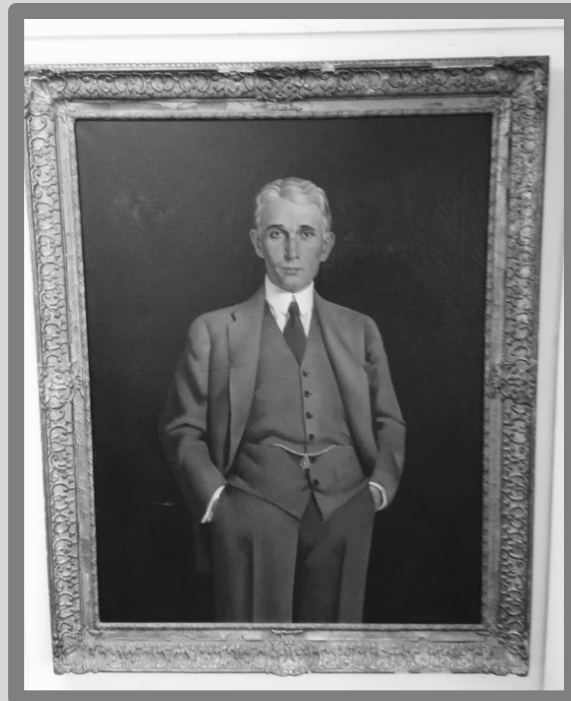
The marker reads: The Campers of 1926 placed this rock as a mark of their appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Gard, June, 1927. Character Thru Camping.” Both the camp emblem and the Y.M.C.A. emblem appear at the top of the bronze tablet.



(Picture courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

I discovered while at the camp Homer had monogrammed plates on which to serve the campers, and I now have become the proud owner of one of the very precious few remaining. I also was able to obtain one which I gave to the Butler Country Historical Society for their collection.

What a thought: going to camp and eating off monogrammed china dishes! Homer did everything first class.



(1866-1952)

(Portrait of Homer Gard which hangs in one of the buildings at Camp Campbell Gard, courtesy of Camp Campbell Gard, photo taken by Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Picture of the entrance to Camp Campbell Gard, as it exists today, May 13, 2017, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. The gate does not look all that different some ninety years later.)



(Photograph of Kathleen Neilan courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

CITY OF HAMILTON

STATE OF OHIO



OFFICE OF Hospitalization

March 21, 1934

Dear Uncle Homer:

News from Washington no longer means to us here in Hamilton the latest details of the action of President Roosevelt upon the affairs of the nation, but the latest bulletin concerning yours and Aunt Lutie's healths. That news is relayed faster than even the Journal could print it to the hundreds of friends who enquire daily concerning both of you. But, of course, it is unnecessary to tell you that.

The only thing of any consequence that has happened since you have been gone is your own illnesses and now, thankfully, your own convalescences. That is the best news we have had for days. Every one here is quite well. Daddy looks better than he has for months, I believe, and with the mild weather beginning now, Hamilton might not be such a bad place for you both to recuperate.

We are, of course, most anxious to see you both and to do anything we can to assist in making things ready for your homecoming, whenever it may be. Ed Cook and Mother and Ta are supervising the housecleaning; Daddy seems to have business matters pretty well under control and we only await your continued improvement in health to bring you back safely.

THE CITY OF DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES - KNOWN IN THE WORLD'S MARKETS

With much love,
Mother and David

(Letter, written by my mother, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, to her Uncle Homer, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Homer had many business obligations which took him to Washington, D. C., and in 1934 he traveled to Washington to attend the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce meeting, of which he was a member. Homer was now 68 years old, and during my research, I learned that he suffered periodically from an infection called quinsy, in which the tonsils become terribly inflamed with pus which makes it quite painful and difficult to swallow. When doing research at the Butler County Historical Society, I also discovered a similar letter to that of my mother's, written by my grandfather, John F. Neilan (Homer's lawyer), to Homer with concerns for his and Lutie's health. Homer had been put in the hospital in Washington, D. C.

Form No. 4

NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1746 K ST. N. W.

No. 2031

This is to certify that

Edna Ethelyne Grove R. N.
of the District of Columbia, has met the requirements of the law and is entitled to this

Certificate of Registration for 1934-1935

This certificate, dated July 1, 1934, expires on
June 30, 1935.

11/10/34
Date issued

B. McKeen-Seering
Executive Secretary.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(Photograph courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Upon hearing of Homer's hospitalization, Lutie traveled from Florida to Washington to help take care of him. Unfortunately, she fell ill with a cerebral spasm. Ethelyne Grove, Homer's future second wife, whom I will highlight shortly, was one of Lutie's nurses. You will note that for the first time we see Ethelyne's actual name, Edna Ethelyne Grove. Also, another nurse, Jacqueline Whiting, helped nurse Lutie back to health. Just speculating, but the certificate above is dated July 1, 1934, and Lutie was in the hospital in March of that year, so one can only assume that Ethelyne was working on her District of Columbia Nursing Certification at that point in time.



(Photograph of Lutie Matthias Gard gravestone in Greenwood Cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

When Lutie and Homer had gone back to Florida and had later returned to Hamilton, everyone thought she was showing signs of recovery. However, she died of a cerebral hemorrhage, with complications from arterial sclerosis on May 15, 1934, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.



(Photograph of Children's Home Board Members 1953, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Many of the pictures I have used have my mother's handwriting on them.)

It is interesting to note that both Lutie Gard and my mother, Kathleen, would serve years apart as president of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home, located at 425 South "D" Street. Also, in my research I learned that my great grandmother, Jennie Zuver Woods, was an early member of the Board of Trustees, as well. Also Lutie Matthias Gard's mother, Ann M. Janes Matthias, was in on the ground floor when the Children Home was first opened in 1869. Sometimes Mom would take us to the Children's Home to swim in their large pool, only on the lunch hour, so as not to disturb the residents. My mother was president of the Board of Trustees from 1950-1960. It is interesting to note that the funds for the Children's Home swimming pool were provided in 1921 through the generosity of Charles E. Heiser, Hamilton philanthropist and past president of The Second National Bank of Hamilton.



(Photograph of Kathleen and Neil Ann Stuckey, courtesy of the author.)

Also interesting to note is that my grandmother, Emma Sault, my dad's mother, spent exactly two years and one day at Children's Home before she was adopted by Frederick H. Berk, who worked at the H. P. Deuscher Company in Hamilton, and who had married H. P. Deuscher's daughter, Louise. The adoption papers were never finalized, which caused great angst later on for her and other family members.

It would be in 1902 that Eleanor Beckett McKinney, daughter of Martha Woods and William Beckett, returned to Hamilton to discover that the Children's Home needed a hospital on the grounds to care for the sick. Through the generosity of her and her husband, Colonel R. C. McKinney, they would donate funds to build the beautiful structure pictured below, which they would name "Ruth Hospital," in honor of their daughter, Ruth, who had died in 1883 when she was just ten months old.



(Photograph of Ruth Hospital, at the Children's Home, 425 South "D" Street, courtesy of the "Centennial Celebration of The Children's Home of Butler County, 1869-1969.")

My sister and I spent many wonderful times at the Children's Home as our mother, Kathleen, would spend almost thirty years there on and off, starting in the early 1930s when she was a social worker and/or homefinder and ending in 1960, after having served ten years as president of the Board of Trustees. In total, my sister and I have eight relatives who were connected one way or another to the Children's Home. I can remember swinging on the swings on the playground pictured above.

Now, more about the Gard family members:

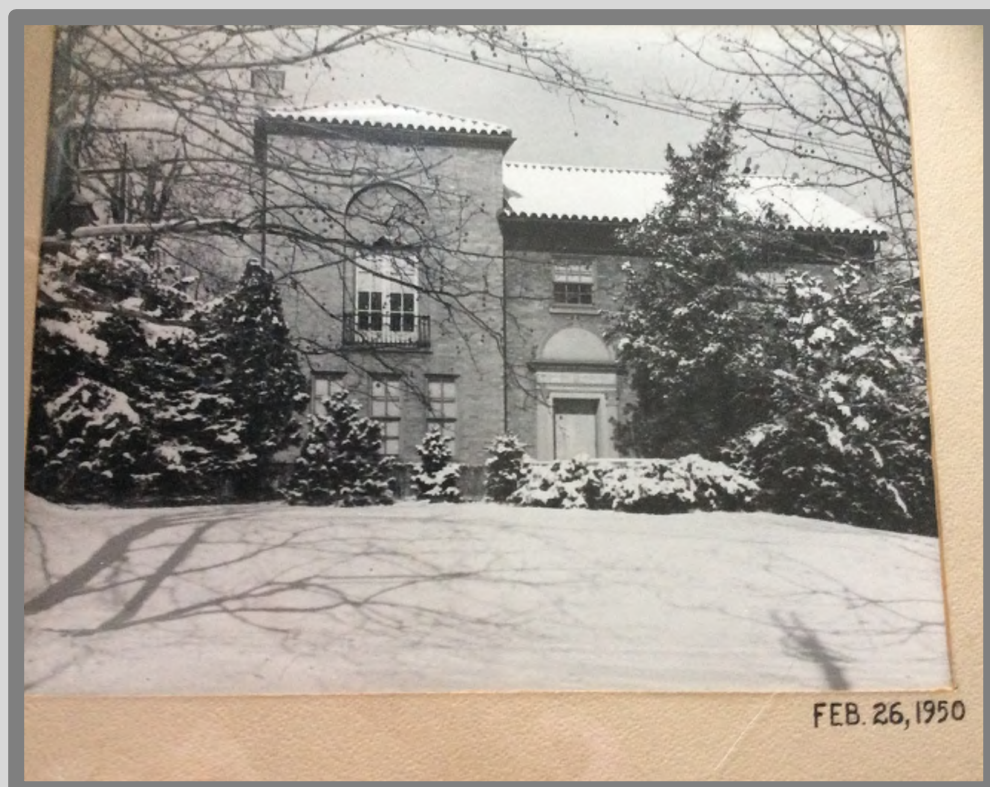


(Photograph of Homer and his cocker spaniels, at 133 South “D” Street, Hamilton, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

Actually, we have Ethelyne’s niece, Betty Jane Lewis Rump, to thank for so many memories and facts she has shared with me over the past few months. Betty Jane and I were reunited through the Butler County Historical Society, when they told me that she had returned to them letters written by Charles Campbell Gard to his parents while he was in World War I, and the 1913 flood letters written by Lutie and Homer to her sister, Lillian. Betty Jane and I were beneficiaries of Ethelyne’s Will when she died in 1970, which I will tell you about later. To reconcile my past, I decided to take a trip to Florida to visit Betty Jane in 2015, and asked my son Woody Fox to accompany me. Betty and I had not seen one another in over sixty years. What a reunion it was. There I found that Betty Jane has in her home in Florida the bedroom furniture which belonged to Lillian, Lutie’s sister. Lillian’s bedroom was the northeast front bedroom at 133 South “D”

Street. In 1944, Betty Jane met her husband, William Sohngen Rump in the back yard of 133 South "D" Street, and they were married in West Virginia in 1947. Her ex-husband is a relative of the George Rump who lost his life in the 1913 Flood and who was highlighted in the presentation "The 1913 Flood as Seen through the Eyes of Homer and Lutie Gard," given at the Butler County Historical Society on April 17, 2013. Also, highlighted in this presentation was the Sohngen family. It is ironic, so many connections exist. Campbell Gard was best man at Elizabeth Sohngen and Elias S. Rump's wedding. Elias was George Rump's son and William Sohngen Rump's, grandfather, that William Sohngen Rump being Betty Jane's ex-husband.

Homer and Lutie built the gorgeous brick home at 133 South "D" Street in Hamilton in 1922, on the property Homer had purchased in 1917 from Blanche H. Griffis, a portion of the J. C. Hooven Estate, the Hoovens and Gards being very close friends.



(Photograph of 133 South "D" Street, Hamilton, Ohio, home first to Lutie and Homer Gard, and then home to Ethelyne Gard and Homer Gard, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

When my mother was growing up she spent much quality time, as well as holiday celebrations with Homer and Lutie Gard at 133 South "D" Street. This is a Tuscany Villa-Romanesque-styled home, which is unique when compared with other homes in the area. The architects were close friends, Frederick G. Mueller and Walter Hair of Hamilton. This is the home which I inherited in 1970 upon Ethelyne's death. I will tell you later how that inheritance came into being. After Lutie's death, Homer continued to live at 133 South "D" Street, and he continued to travel in the winter to Winter Park,

Florida, as he had done with Lutie, where they enjoyed the warm weather. Homer would travel back and forth in his new Lincoln, which he nicknamed “Uncle Abe.” He stayed at the Seminole Hotel there, from which correspondence on hotel stationery comes to Ethelyne in Washington, D. C. The hotel later burned down and was rebuilt and then demolished many years later.



(Photograph of back yard at 133 South “D” Street, Hamilton, Ohio, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

It is hard to discern in this snowy picture, but there is a fountain with a boy on a dolphin and pond in the background, and every year we would make the trip to the fish hatchery in Cincinnati to supplement the gold fish that survived the winter in the pond.



(Passport image courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine. Ethelyne traveled to Europe with a passport using her maiden name.)

The Butler County Historical Society as in its possession, many letters written by Homer to Ethelyne during the period of 1934 to 1935. There were, no doubt, letters from Ethelyne to Homer, but unfortunately they do not have any of those. In one of many letters written from Homer to Ethelyne around Christmas of 1934, Homer explains to her that before she died, Lutie wished to have him send Ethelyne a gift as a “thank you” for all the care she gave her in Washington, D. C. He does not know what to buy for her, so he sends her a check for her to choose something. From Betty Jane, I learned that Lutie actually had two nurses in Washington, Ethelyne and Jacqueline Whiting (mentioned earlier) and later Homer invited both of them to Hamilton and other places of interest to decide which one he wanted to marry. As history has been written, he chose Ethelyne. Betty Jane also explains that her family was very much concerned about their age difference of 42 years. Ethelyne was born on July 18, 1908, in West Virginia to Martha Jane White and Ellis Edward Grove. Her parents were tenant farmers, and Ethelyne was the youngest of fifteen children, all of whom lived to adulthood.

I wish to share a couple of passages from one of Homer's letters to Ethelyne:

Seminole Hotel, Winter Park, Sunday night, March 24, 1935: My Dearest Ethelyne.... In chapel this morning my thoughts turn to the Sunday morning you were with me, and my regret today was you were not at my side.... I have two or three fine ideas about a little home here but hesitate to speak much about them to you. Tomorrow (Monday) I have an appointment to look at a home and lot over in the beautiful Estates Division; you drove me there the last day you were here. I wish you were here now with me.... Good night, my dear. With deep affection, always, Homer.

I spent several hours reading all of Homer's letters to Ethelyne, from mid-1934 until their marriage on July 5, 1935. Actually, I ended up typing them up for future use at the Butler County Historical Society. These letters were so insightful. I was so privileged to learn so much about Homer as a person. Homer and I crossed paths for nine years only, and I did not really know his personality until I began reading all his letters to Ethelyne, some 70 years later. All I can say is that Lutie Matthias and Ethelyne Grove were two lucky women, as fate would find them married to a very special human being. Homer tells Ethelyne in an earlier letter that he is so happy that she has finally signed her letters, "affectionately, Ethelyne," that he wants this relationship to be special. She is obviously reluctant to commit, one factor no doubt being the age difference of 42 years and the distance.

As a woman, I am totally impressed with Homer and his generosity throughout his lifetime. He is writing to Ethelyne shortly before their marriage. He is purchasing her wedding ring to compliment her engagement ring, at Herschede's in Cincinnati, then an exquisite family-owned jewelry store. The saleswoman tells Homer that Ethelyne's wedding band needs to have baguettes in it to match her engagement ring which he had purchased earlier. Homer finds one he likes, and it needs to be made larger to fit her finger. The store will then ship the ring to Ethelyne in Washington, D. C., for her approval. He is also making the honeymoon arrangements at Cook's Travel Agency in Cincinnati. He mentions also that on his way to Cincinnati, he plans to stop by to visit Helen Raymond, Campbell's fiancée who was left behind when he died, to tell her of their wedding plans and his plans for her. Helen is now married to a Herbert E. Ritchie, their marriage having taken place on June 9, 1923, and they have two children, David and Susan. It stands to reason that Helen may have met her husband through Homer, since Herbert Ritchie was from Hamilton. I learned through my sister, Neil Ann, that sometime after Homer's son, Campbell, passed away in 1921, Homer had changed his will to include Helen Raymond. However, on the occasion of Homer's planning to marry Ethelyne in 1935, he needed to reconsider the extent to which he now included Helen.

Also, he tells Ethelyne that he is sending her a box of goodies he has purchased along the way for her, because he thought she would enjoy his purchases. He goes into detail about getting their passports in time. Homer already has one, which he obtained with Lutie earlier. Ethelyne's mother has to help get hers in time for their departure date. It appears after all that there was not enough time to get a passport under Ethelyne's new name, so she traveled to Europe on a passport listing her maiden name.



(Stock Internet Photo of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.)

As recorded in history, Ethelyne and Homer were married by the Reverend Robert W. Anthony on July 5, 1935, in Manhattan at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.



(Ethelyne's engagement ring, purchased by Homer from Herschede's Jewelers in Cincinnati, Ohio, photo courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)

Certificate of Marriage

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

That on the Fifth day of
July

in the year of our Lord 1935

Homer Gard
and Ethelyne Grove

WERE BY ME UNITED IN

MARRIAGE

at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
according to the laws of New York

Robert D. Anthony

Witnesses

Helmut R. Ritchie
Quinton Lewis

C. C. GIBSON & COMPANY
NEW YORK

(Copy of Marriage License for Ethelyne Grove and Homer Gard courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

On the Certificate of Marriage, you will note that the witnesses to their marriage were Betty Jane's father, Burton Lewis, and Helen Raymond Ritchie, Campbell's former fiancée. From all my research, it is obvious that Homer and Helen remained very close friends and saw a lot of one another.



(On their second wedding anniversary, Homer gave Ethelyne the above beautifully engraved diamond and sapphire watch; picture courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



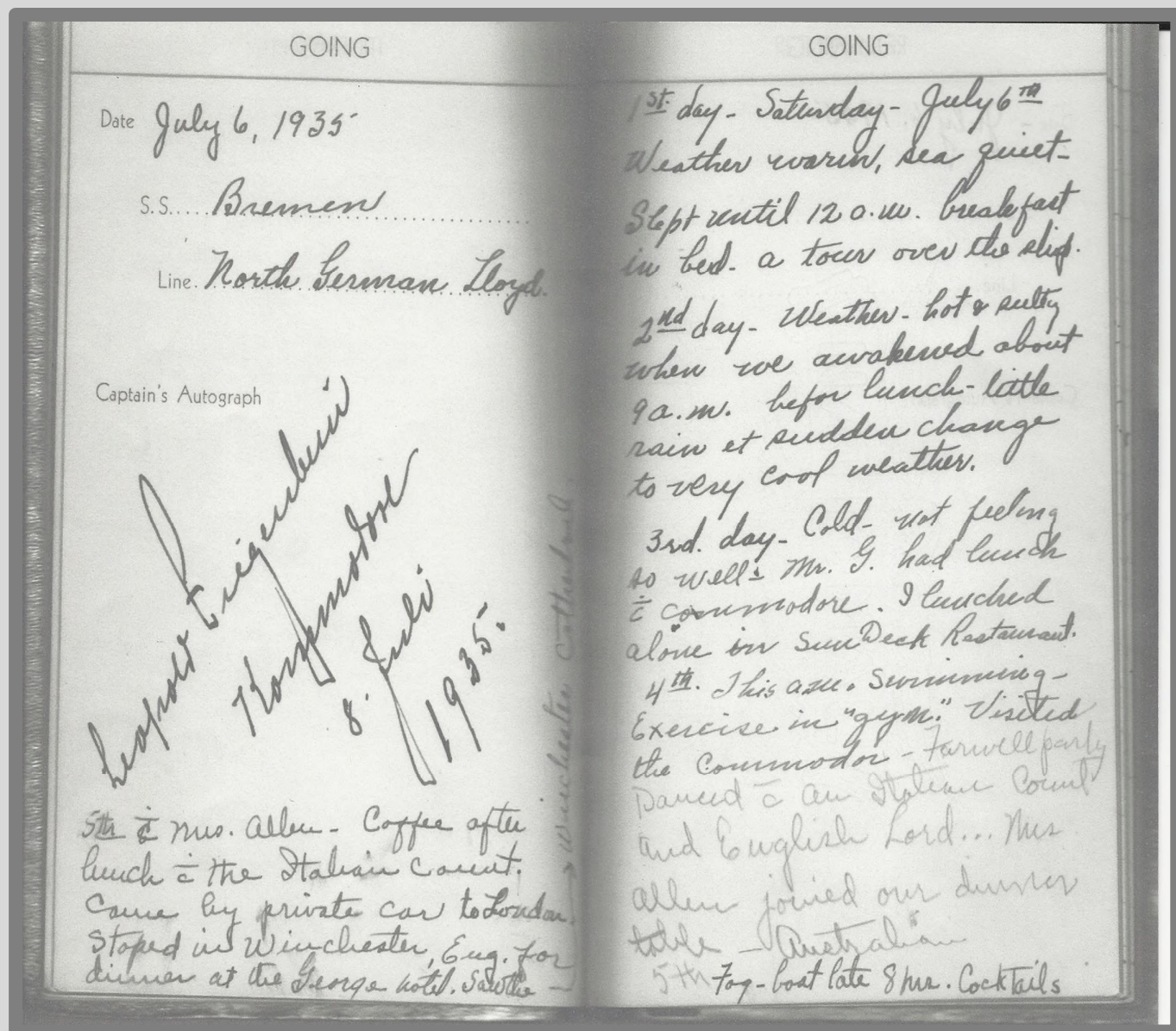
(Ethelyne at home at Patio Gar-Grove in Winter Park, Florida, circa 1940s, photograph compliments of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Ethelyne in her twenties when Homer fell in love with her, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Photograph of Ethelyne, looking very much like a model, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Pages from Ethelyne's honeymoon diary courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)

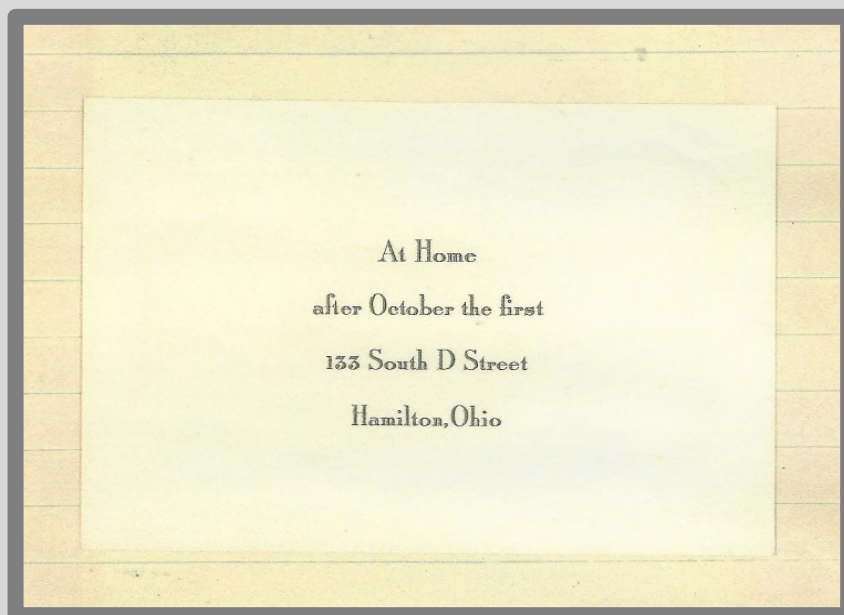
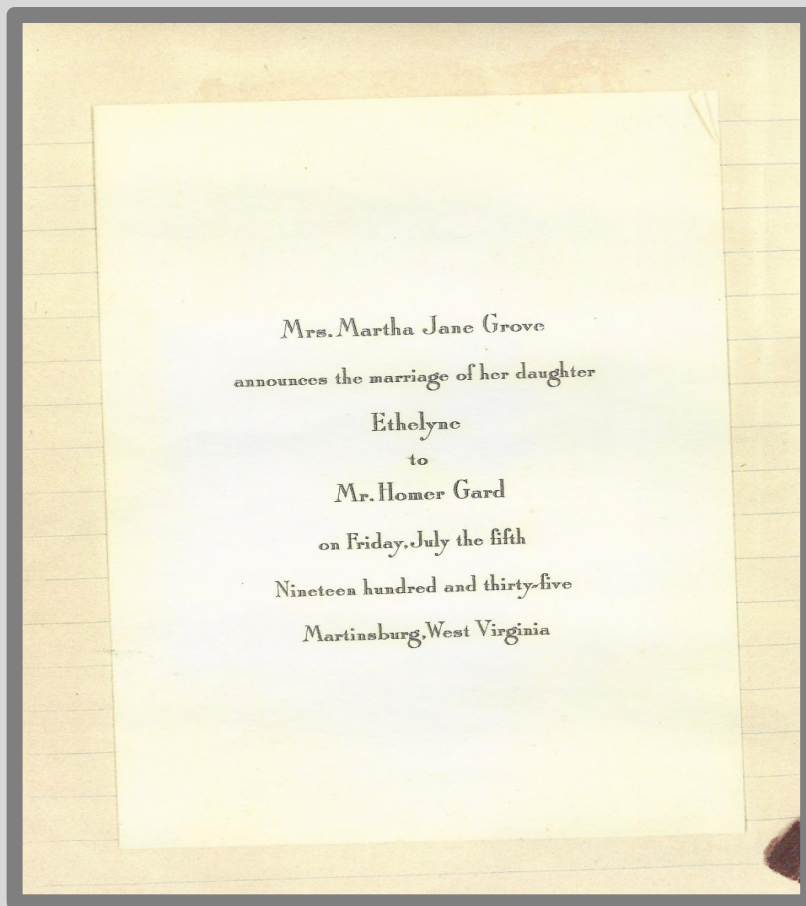
Homer and Ethelyne sailed for Europe the following day, July 6, 1935, on the *Bremen* of the North German Lloyd Line. Quoting, "1st day - Saturday - July 6th weather warm, sea quiet - Slept until 12 P.M. Breakfast in bed. A tour over the ship." They returned on September 24, 1935, on the *SS Normandie*, from Le Havre to New York.



(Stock internet picture of SS Normandie on which Ethelyne and Homer returned from their honeymoon.)

Ethelyne and Homer were two months too late to experience the Normandie's maiden voyage on May 29, 1935. In 1942, the ship burned and capsized on her port side and came to rest in the mud at Pier 88 in the Hudson River, as it was being converted to a troop ship to be used in World War II. It was to be renamed the *USS Lafayette*. Later, it had to be scrapped.

Ethelyne's mother sent out announcement cards to family and friends. It would be in 1937 that Homer and Ethelyne would purchase three separate lakefront properties and renovate the existing home at 860 Via Lugano Drive on Lake Maitland in Winter Park, Florida, which they would christen Patio Gar-Grove. It was around 1940 that they wintered at their newly renovated home in Florida. They would spend many busy winters there as they involved themselves in Winter Park society, including Homer's being president of the University Club there.



(Marriage announcement and At-Home card, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)



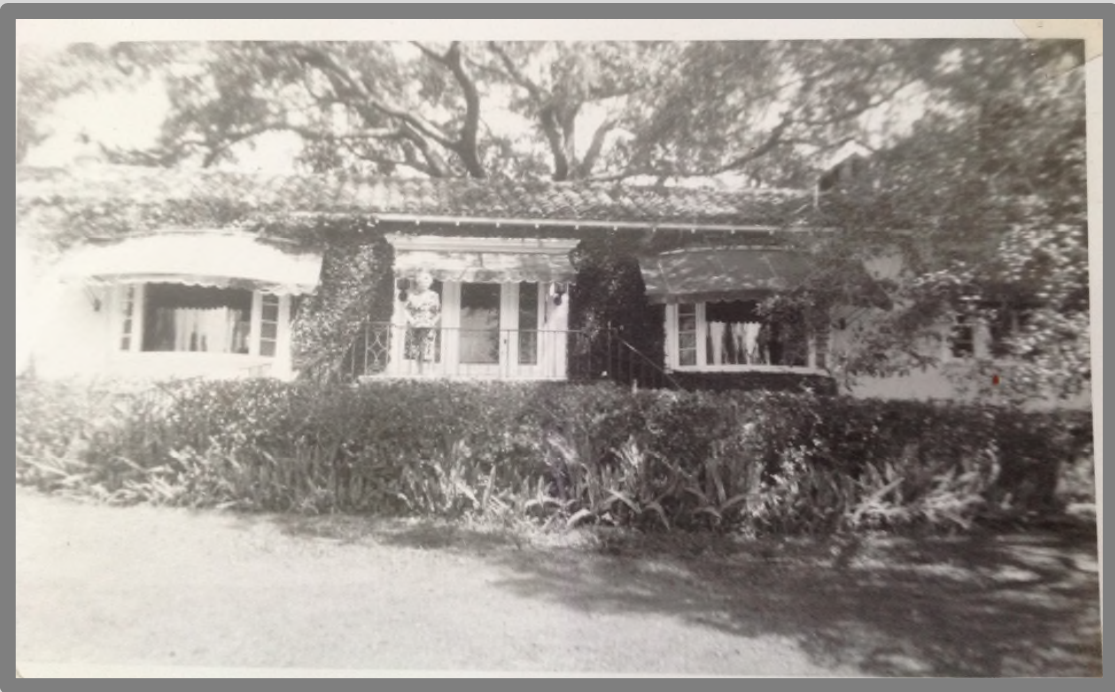
(Photograph of Ethelyne and Homer, 1952, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph of the entrance to Patio Gar-Grove in Winter Park, Florida, circa 1950, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Photograph of Ethelyne Grove Gard, painted by society artist Channing Hare (1899-1976), which hung in their Florida home, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Photograph of back of Patio Gar-Grove courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

This home was torn down in 2007, and recently the property has been re-divided into the original three lots, waiting for new multi-million-dollar homes to be built. Ethelyne always was proud that she had more lakefront property than anyone else there in Winter Park.



(Lalique bookend angels given to Ethelyne by Homer, a gift from the Whistling Oyster, picture courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Photograph, circa late 1930s, of Homer and Ethelyne at their Winter Park, Florida, home on Lake Maitland courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Photograph of Homer and Ethelyne canoeing on Lake Maitland, Florida, circa late 1930s, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Homer's trusty coffee pot, which is in use today, now in the possession of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



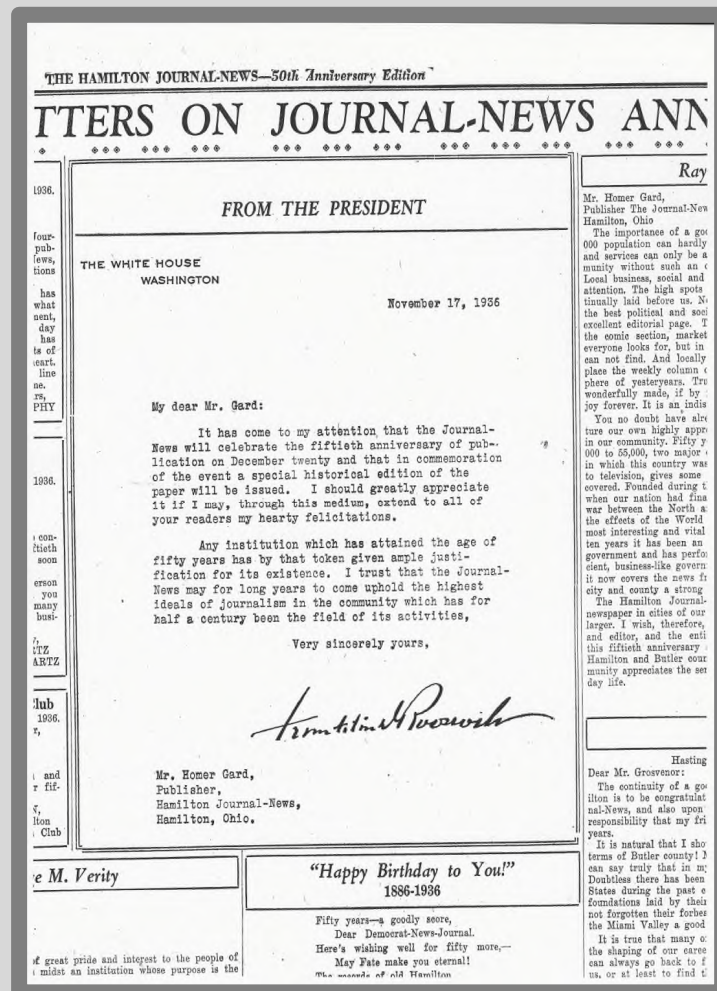
(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox; napkin with Whistling Oyster emblem courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Ethelyne's favorite gift shop in Winter Park was the Whistling Oyster, and for many, many years, we quite often received gifts from that unique shop. I can remember the excitement opening the packages, which were displayed in beautiful wrapping paper in fancy boxes, with a bow, always with something unusual in them. I know she showered other friends as well with surprise gifts from this same gift shop. Also every Christmas Ethelyne and Homer would send us a delicious Virginia ham, which was characterized by being very salty. She no doubt ate this ham when growing up in West Virginia. Also every year they sent us, among many other close friends, beautiful boxes of fruit from

Florida, which included oranges, grapefruits and kumquats, which helped me learn early on about this different fruit and obviously how to pronounce it.

Personally, I remember only one trip to Florida to visit Ethelyne at Patio Gar-Grove in the early sixties with Mom and Dad after Harry Gramm, her second husband died. I wish there could have been more trips for me. You will learn more about Harry later.

Returning to the 1930s, upon arriving back home to Hamilton in 1935 after their honeymoon, Ethelyne obviously became reacquainted with members of the family, which included my mother, Kathleen; her mother and father, Marie and John Neilan; Warren's wife, Pearl; and my father, Donald Stuckey, and many of Homer's other long-time friends and family. Warren was not alive then because he had passed away of a uremic coma and chronic nephritis in 1929. He died at home at 716 Gray Avenue and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Unfortunately, Ethelyne never had the privilege of meeting her brother-in-law, nor did I.



(Photograph courtesy of The Hamilton Journal News, Cox Media Group Ohio. "Happy Birthday to you, 1886-1936.")

On Saturday, December 19, 1936, a year and a half after Ethelyne and Homer were married, *The Hamilton Journal News* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a special edition of the paper. In it were many letters written to Homer Gard, congratulating him on this wonderful occasion. The paper had been launched on December 20, 1886, and had gone through a number of name changes. As Richard Piland was showing me the paper -- this was the paper, not microfilm -- one name in the paper stood out from all the rest, a personal letter from the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, highlighted on the previous page.



(Colorized photograph of Ethelyne and Homer taken in 1937 at their home at 133 South "D" Street, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)

The following memorable and endearing occasion took place on their first New Year's Eve together in Hamilton in 1935 at 133 South "D" Street. Ethelyne and Homer had so many invitations to attend parties for their first New Year's Eve that they could not make up their minds where to go, so they elected to stay at home. They had one chilled bottle of champagne, went through that, and decided to open another bottle; however, there were no more chilled ones, so they drank the champagne at room temperature.

Since Lutie was Aunt Lutie to my mother, Kathleen, Ethelyne quickly became Aunt Ethelyne to her when she married Homer on July 5, 1935. Also obviously it is clear that Marie Woods Neilan, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, and Pearl Woods Gard, introduced Ethelyne to members of Hamilton society such as it existed back then, which was truly engaging. Also, Dorothy Griffis Haid and Adelaide Sohngen Hughes were very good friends of Homer's, and great, lasting friendships developed amongst these individuals. Since my sister, Neil Ann, is two years older than I, it stands to reason that she remembers much more than I do, and she mentioned to me in our many recent conversations that our mother had occasionally to defend Ethelyne to stave off rumors that she had married Homer for his money. The truth will never be known. What does it matter anyway? I think they look very much in love in the colorized picture on the previous page, taken in 1937, a most handsome couple, indeed.



(Photograph of Ethelyne and Homer in September of 1950, as they were returning on the SS Lurline to the States after their visit to Hawaii, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

During their 17-year-marriage, Homer and Ethelyne traveled quite a lot. They had their home Patio Gar-Grove in Florida, where they spent winters; occasionally they rented a cottage in Nantucket, and they visited Hawaii several times, always staying at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. On the occasion of their trip to Hawaii in 1950, they sailed on the SS President James Monroe on July 10, arriving in Honolulu on July 15. It is noted on the passenger manifest that the Gards had seven pieces of luggage for their extended stay. Their return trip was on the SS Lurline, leaving Honolulu on September 2 and arriving in San Francisco on September 6, 1950.

The SS Lurline is the same ship that Amelia Earhart took to Hawaii on December 22-27, 1934, when she took with her her Lockheed Vega Airplane secured on deck, as she was preparing for her record-breaking Honolulu-to-Oakland solo flight she made in January 1935. It is also interesting to note that in 1931, Amelia Earhart began a one-month lecture tour, each day a new city and new speech. She started out in Hamilton, Ohio, and ended in Meadville, Pennsylvania, twenty-five speeches and thirty-one days later.

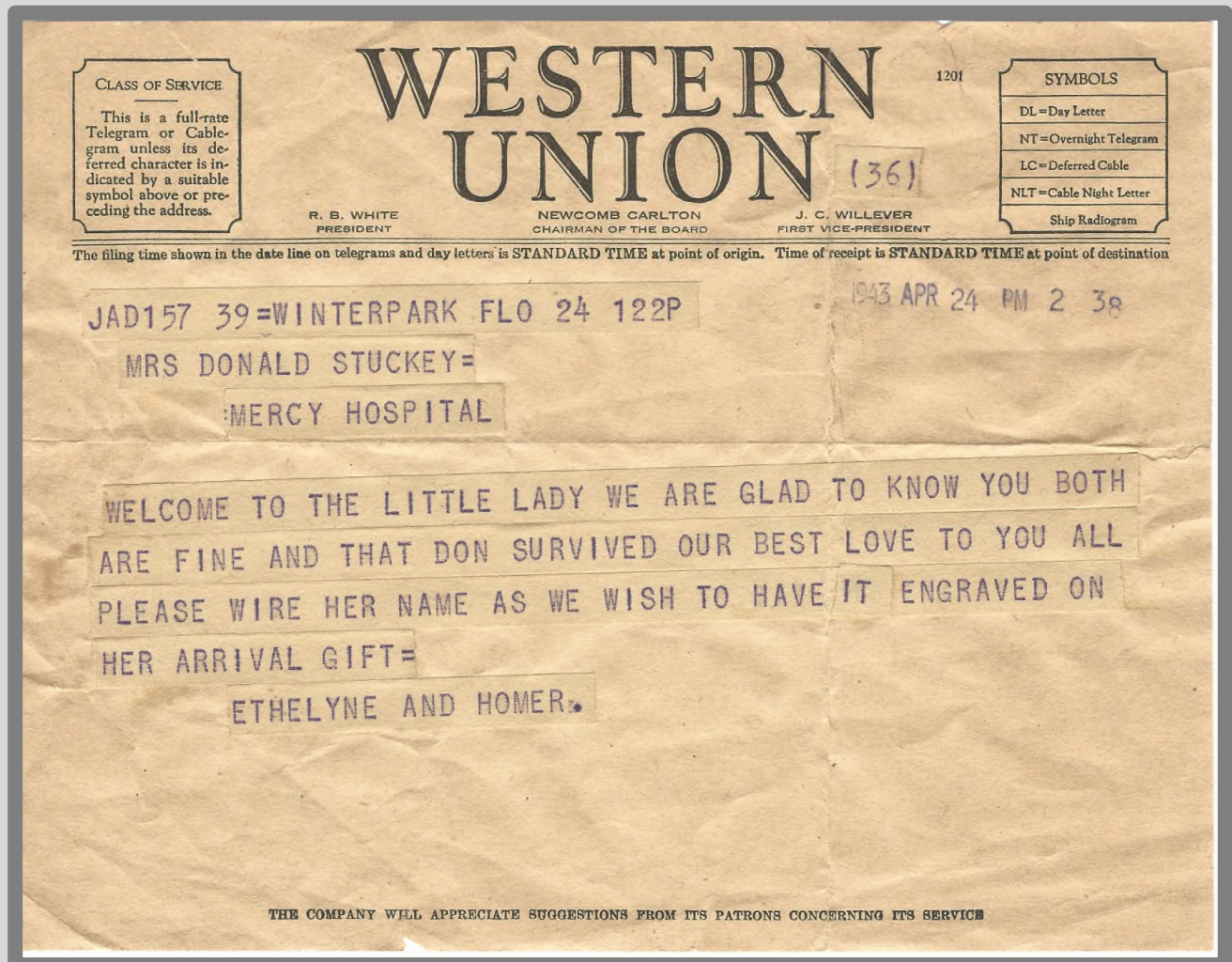
One of the many gifts bestowed upon our family was a gift Ethelyne gave to my sister. It was a blue bicycle which she had purchased in Nantucket. She no doubt found out when she brought it home that peddling on Hamilton's hills just did not work for her. On it was an original Nantucket basket. Then one year, my sister and I received matching pink Schwinn bicycles for Christmas, and I imagine that was the end of the blue bicycle from Nantucket. Ethelyne also presented my sister and me with 14K gold Hamilton watches, which we were so proud to wear and so appropriate.

In the early 1950s, Ethelyne gifted to me and my sister for Christmas two beautiful Madame Alexander Cinderella dolls. We just loved them with their sleepy eyes. I received Poor Cinderella and my sister received Cinderella at the Ball.



(Our same dolls' pictures found on the internet on Ebay. Amazing.)

Other gifts that Ethelyne gave to my sister and me were miniature black Hitchcock chairs, with woven rush seats, with our names written in gold on the flat top rails. They were precious. However, my name had been misspelled, Kathlene. It surely would be something to have those still today. Ethelyne and Homer moved graciously in and out of our lives as my sister and I were growing up, and the presence of these two individuals obviously added excitement and joy.



(Photograph of telegram sent to my parents by Ethelyne and Homer when I was born on April 24, 1943. It is a miracle that this piece of paper survived all these years.)

“Welcome to the little lady. We are glad to know you both are fine and that Don survived. Our best love to you all. Please wire her name as we wish to have it engraved on her arrival gift. Ethelyne and Homer.”

Mother and Ethelyne had a special bond: one that she was Homer’s niece, another being they were both born in 1908. Their age really mandated that they were more like sisters. When I was born on April 24, 1943, Ethelyne became my Godmother, after first being the Godmother to my brother John (1938-1939).



(Photograph of formal dining area, circa early 1950s, in the Gard home, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

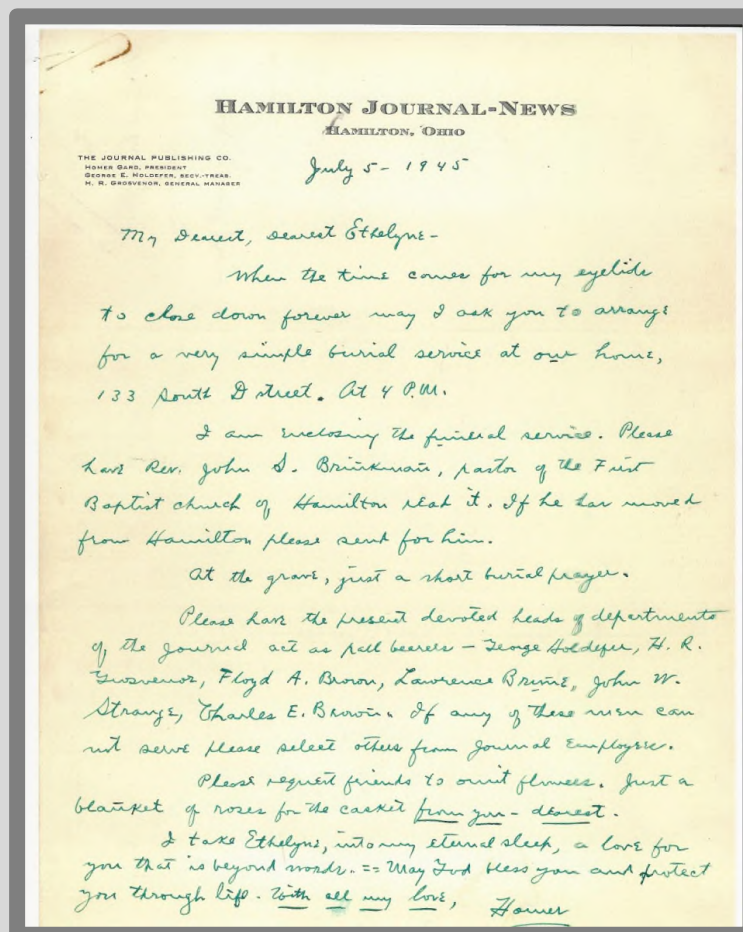
I can remember one Thanksgiving or Christmas that we spent at 133 South “D” Street. Homer was at the head of the table carving the turkey in their elaborate and formal dining room. He was probably in his mid-eighties at that time. The turkey slipped off the platter and landed on the floor. I hope we did not laugh! The turkey was picked up, put back on the platter, no doubt brushed off, and served. Another time we drove to Cincinnati in Ethelyne and Homer’s 1948 Cadillac to shop at Giddings and Jennys Department Stores in downtown Cincinnati and to lunch at an upscale restaurant, like the Netherland Plaza. I am thinking this was after Homer had died on October 8, 1952, and before her second marriage on the last day of December, 1953. Ethelyne occasionally bought school clothes as gifts to us. The Cadillac had jump seats in the back, and it was big and beautiful. I imagine that people were staring at us as we rode down the street in this leviathan. I remember my father drove that day. Another of our most favorite places to eat after our shopping sprees was Mecklenburg Gardens, located at 302 East University Avenue in Cincinnati. I have recently eaten there, bringing back so many fond memories. Ethelyne also had a beautiful 1940 Pontiac convertible. Homer and Ethelyne called the color of their two cars, “Hamilton Green.” But, honestly, I think they were black.

In my many memories, I recall that Ethelyne and Homer had a home caretaker, Johnnie, who took care of the yard and helped around the house at 133 South “D” Street. They also had another employee, Clifford, who was responsible for driving the Cadillac from Hamilton to Winter Park and back. There were times when both cars were put on the car train to be delivered to their Florida home. Betty Rump remembers that in 1949, she, her husband Bill, and Clifford drove both the Cadillac and Pontiac down to Florida. She also recalls that Clifford, being black in the segregated South, had to find alternative accommodations for sleeping. On one occasion in the 1950s, Clifford took a side trip east to visit his relatives when he should have been driving south to Florida, and the

Cadillac engine blew a rod. He called my dad and asked how he should handle this awkward situation. This is one of the few occasions that I remember that my father, Donald Stuckey, ran interference for misadventures at 133 South "D" Street.

Another of my sister's many memories: One evening when I was probably two or three, we went as a family to the Gards' for dinner. It was always a dressy affair and very formal. Homer was quite jovial that evening, as it was the cocktail hour, and he took me in his arms and lifted me way up over his head so that my head almost hit the ceiling. My dad quickly came to my rescue before anything happened.

Aunt Ethelyne loved Halloween and always wanted us to help her on Trick or Treat nights, so she asked my sister and me to come and answer the door since the front door was larger than most and very heavy. But handing out the candy at 133 South "D" Street meant that my sister and I gave up the chance to go out ourselves, but I imagine we got our pay with bags full of candy from the leftovers! She had another employee, Winkler, who would polish the red apples to give out to her masked visitors, plus she had lots of other goodies. I remember wearing a tiger costume one year as we assisted Ethelyne's visitors. Or on another occasion my sister and I wore the muumuus that she brought back to us from Hawaii.



(Photograph of Homer's burial instructions, courtesy of Neil Ann Stuckey Levine.)

Through my sister, I was able to obtain a copy of Homer's burial wishes to Ethelyne, which he had written down on *Hamilton Journal News* letterhead, on July 5, 1945, written ten years to the day of their marriage. Homer was such an elegant writer. I will transcribe here the first and last paragraphs: My Dearest, Dearest Ethelyne, when the time comes for my eyelids to close down forever, may I ask you to arrange for a very simple burial service at our home, 133 South "D" Street, at 4 P.M. Last paragraph: I take, Ethelyne, into my eternal sleep, a love for you that is beyond words. May God bless you and protect you through life. With all my love, Homer. Homer would actually die seven years later on October 8, 1952.



(Photograph of Homer Gard marker in Greenwood Cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Unfortunately, my sister and I were not allowed to attend his funeral in Greenwood. Our parents were protecting us – too many family members had died in recent years.

In the following year Ethelyne would become better acquainted with Harry Gramm in New York City, since so many friends were in the newspaper business and many had known one another for years. She subsequently married him. This new relationship with Ethelyne's second husband also figured into our family's lives.

During the years in which my father worked at *The Hamilton Journal News*, we went on many train trips to New York at Thanksgiving time to see the Macy's Day Parade, usually featuring cowboy Hopalong Cassidy, aka William Boyd, and to see as many Broadway shows that we could fit in. There was a theater train that left from Hamilton every year, and our parents went often. I remember being taken out of school to catch the train and being very excited to be traveling to New York again. These trips were fabulous. We had adjacent bedrooms on the train and the center panel opened up to form a larger area for a family of four.



(Photograph of Kathleen Neilan Stuckey (back row center) celebrating her 44th birthday (left); at right, celebrating with Dorothy Haid, Donald Stuckey, and Ethelyne Grove Gard Gramm at the Hamilton City Club (circa mid-1950s, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

In the picture top left, Kathleen's birthday party was held at our home on Oakwood Drive to celebrate her 54th birthday in 1952. This is one of the many parties that my parents gave throughout their lifetime. Homer probably was not well enough to attend. Aunt Ethelyne was in attendance: she is on the left, then come Adelaide Hughes, Dorothy Haid; in the back, Frances Grosvenor, my mother and father. I am unable to identify the other two women, although they look familiar.



(Photograph of Kathleen Neilan Stuckey (in her handwriting) and Uncle Homer Gard in Florida in 1952.)

Also happening in 1952 are the following events: Homer was now 86 years old and physically and mentally not in good shape, and my mother visited him in Florida in March of that year. Mother had gone down to Florida to help relieve Ethelyne as she had been nursing Homer for long periods. Also, Betty Jane, living close by in Florida at the time, remembers giving relief to Ethelyne by going over and sitting with Homer at Patio Gar-Grove.

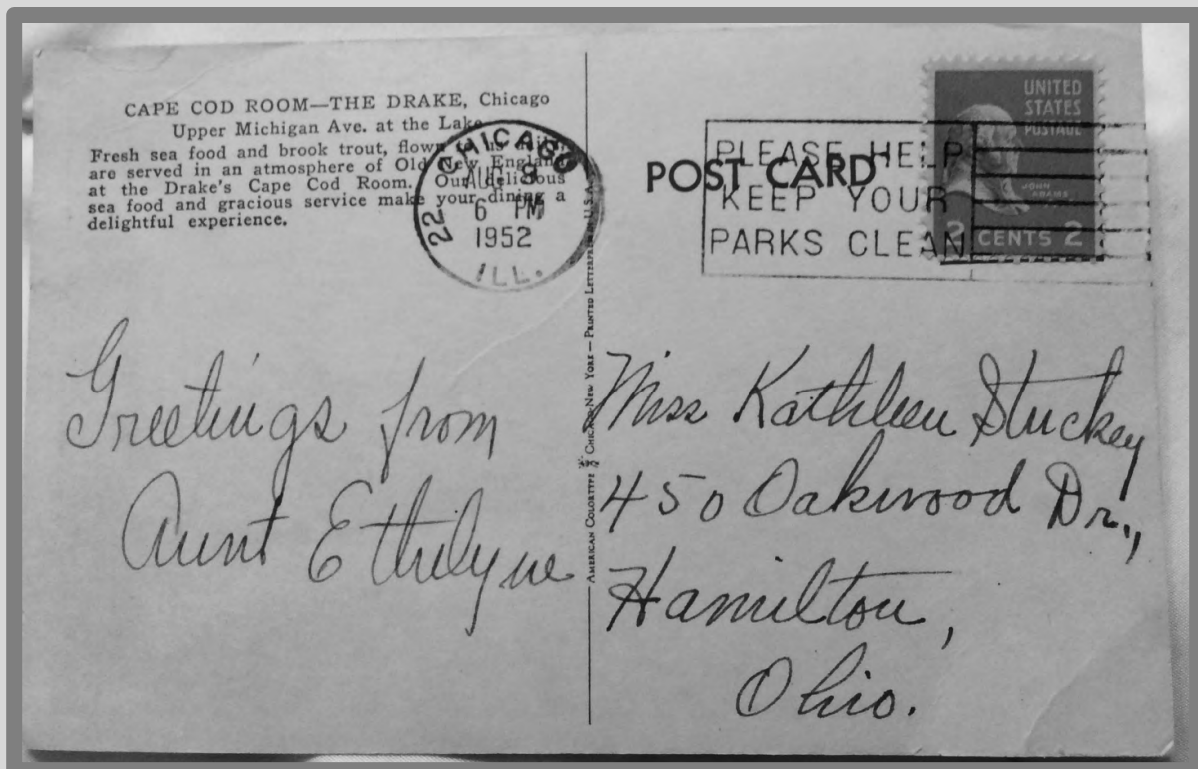
Also in July of 1952, Dorothy Haid, her son Alan, and Ethelyne and Homer took a six-week train trip to the Jasper Hotel in Alberta, Canada. Alan was commandeered to help with the luggage and care for Homer. On July 15, 1952, the main hotel burned to the ground. Luckily, the four of them were staying in a cabin far removed from the fire as they only took their meals in the main building. They cut their trip short because of this terrible fire.



(Photograph of Alan Haid, Ethelyne, Homer, and Dorothy Haid, on their trip to Canada in 1952, courtesy of Alan Haid.)

I would also like to mention here that Dick Haid and his cousin Bill from New York were present at the huge fire at Camp Campbell Gard in the early forties when the dining hall burned down. Everyone was trying to save as many things as they could, including all the monogrammed dishes. That dining hall was rebuilt and still stands today.

Below is a postcard from Ethelyne dated August 8, 1952, when they stopped over in Chicago on their way home and stayed at the famous Drake Hotel.



(Photograph of postcard courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Again, how this postcard survived all these years is a total mystery.)

It would be two months to the day, October 8, 1952, that Homer would pass away of arterial sclerosis at Fort Hamilton Hospital.

I recall events that occurred in April of 1966 I had just given birth to my son, Donald Woods Porter, now Fox, of course named after the Woods side of the family. Hamilton's Fannie Hurst was coming to town for what would be her last visit to her hometown. She was quite well-known then, having written many books, including *BACK STREET*, published in 1931, and *IMITATION OF LIFE*, published in 1933, both of which were later made into Hollywood movies, five different times. In all, Hollywood made over thirty movies based on Fannie's books, short stories and magazine articles. Several of these films were made during the silent era, so Fannie was right there during the discovery of the talkies. Hurst commanded large sums from the motion picture magnates who acquired the rights to her work. Aunt Ethelyne and Fannie Hurst went back many years, no doubt because of Homer, and Ethelyne and Homer hosted a private tea for Fannie on November 7, 1938, at their home at 133 South "D" Street, which I will detail later. Over the years, Ethelyne would play hostess on several occasions to Fannie Hurst, but later she had a hip replacement which curtailed her many activities.

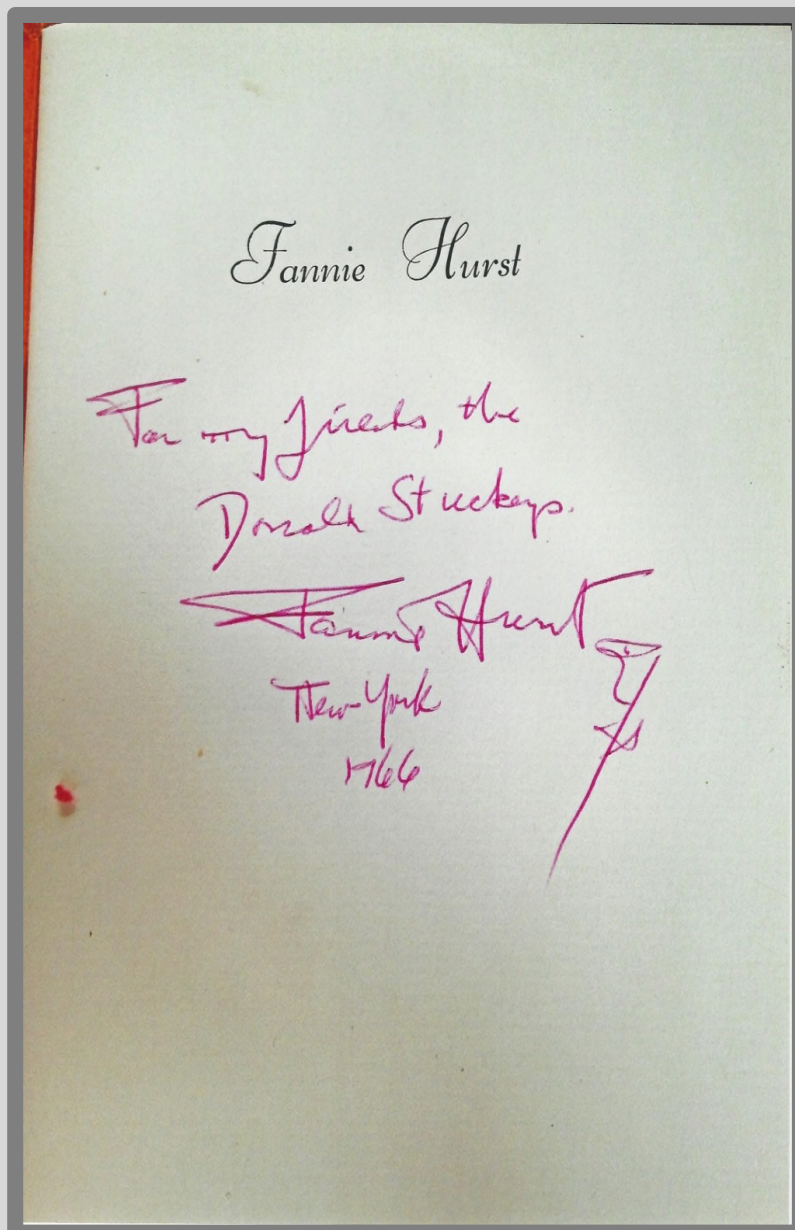
In looking back over all these years, I realize that in moving back home with my son, Woody, I actually gave Mom and Dad an opportunity to help raise their grandson, since they were denied that privilege when their own son, John Neilan, had died on March 9, 1939.

In my research, I found beneficial the lavender-bound *Rosemary* books, published in 1940 by the Journal Publishing Company at the behest of Ethelyne Gard. These two massive volumes contain the newspaper articles written by Hamilton's own Stella Weiler Taylor, who worked for many years as a society columnist at *The Hamilton Journal News*. The volumes were an eye-opener for my own life as well as for this book. I learned more about Ethelyne's relationship with Fannie Hurst, but, more importantly, I learned more about my deceased brother, John Neilan Stuckey. As it turns out, Ethelyne was first named my brother's Godmother in 1938. John Neilan Stuckey was born on October 7, 1938, and between Ethelyne's duties of being a Godmother to John and having a tea for Fannie Hurst at her home, she was kept quite busy. Through the *Rosemary* books, I found this out only recently. This revelation has haunted me: for if my brother had not passed away in 1939, Ethelyne obviously would not have become my Godmother, nor would I have inherited her home at 133 South "D" Street, or perhaps I would not have even been born! In order to help heal the deep wound caused by the death of their son, my mother and father, Donald and Kathleen Stuckey, took a trip to Beaumont Inn, in Kentucky, to try to put their lives back together.

I also learned from Stella Weiler Taylor's writings more about Warren Gard. Quoting from the *Rosemary* book, I found this most interesting: "Warren Gard was one of Hamilton's glamorous ones, outstanding in personality, looks, mentality, and kindness of heart.... Rosemary felt certain that Warren Gard would be governor of Ohio and United States President...But the fates ruled otherwise. He died entirely too young." (Page 122 of the *Rosemary* books, by Stella Weiler Taylor.)

For many years, our Father and Mother attended the annual American Association of Newspaper Publishers convention always held in the spring in New York, and they went by train. These conventions were interesting and elaborate, and my father talked about meeting movie stars who were there as guests. It was the year 1964 in the spring when I was attending Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Manhattan that my parents came to attend the convention. One of the grand parties was held at the Plaza Hotel. They took me there, where we were privileged to meet Sidney Poitier and Betty Davis. I will never forget that Sidney Poitier winked at me. On another trip, Dad tells the story that he was kissed on the forehead by Montgomery Clift.

These are such wonderful memories. When I was attending Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School from 1963-1964, I would take the subway or bus to school at the Pan-Am Building on Fifth Avenue during the week, and then on the weekends. I would attend Broadway shows and just wonder around Manhattan. I actually got in with a group of people who liked to chase film stars, and I had the unexpected privilege of meeting Richard Burton, Richard Chamberlain, and Paul Newman. And I can recall, I actually saw numerous other movie stars and stage actors. I was totally in my element, and so immature!



(Photograph of Fannie Hurst's autographed book, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

On another occasion in 1966 which I did not have the privilege of attending, my mother took my sister, Neil Ann, who was in graduate school at Columbia University at the time, to visit Fannie Hurst, who lived in the Hotel des Artistes near Central Park. Fannie basically occupied the top three floors, comprised of fourteen rooms and six bathrooms. Fannie viewed the city from her windows to the world in her 18th floor apartment which shielded her from all the noise so she could concentrate on her writing. My sister said that her apartment was pretty "seedy and scary." Today the building has been repurposed and is totally beautiful.

Fannie Hurst came to town for what would be her final visit in April of 1966, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Lane Public Library.

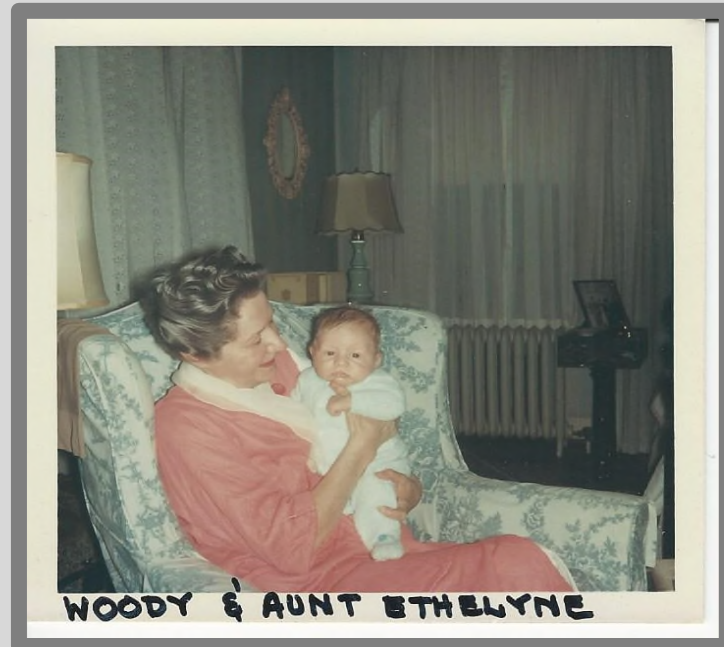


(Picture of my mother, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey and Fannie Hurst, taken at the Lane Library on April 16, 1966, printed with permission from Cox Media Group, Dayton, Ohio.)

I am now working on my third Ohio Historical Marker, and this one is for Fannie Hurst, to be dedicated in Armstead Park, at the corner of Main and “D” Streets in Hamilton. A friend, Diana Royer, and I have written a book about Fannie, and it will be available for purchase at the time of the dedication of the marker on April 15, 2018, exactly 52 years to the day that Fannie spoke in Hamilton in 1966. All proceeds will go to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, her alma mater, Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts where she occasionally taught, and to the Hamilton Salvation Army, Fannie’s favorite charity.

And I have arranged for a week's worth of Fannie movies (a total of 33 movies in all were based on her books and articles), and I will also present a PowerPoint about her life which I have created. This will be a wonderful week in Hamilton, full of Fannie Hurst activities, and bringing Fannie back to life in her hometown of Hamilton.

I really consider Fannie Hurst a part of my family, since, as I stated before, she was being feted by Ethelyne and Homer Gard at 133 South "D" Street in Hamilton on the day my brother was born, November 7, 1938. Fannie was a wonderful author, humanitarian, and philanthropist.

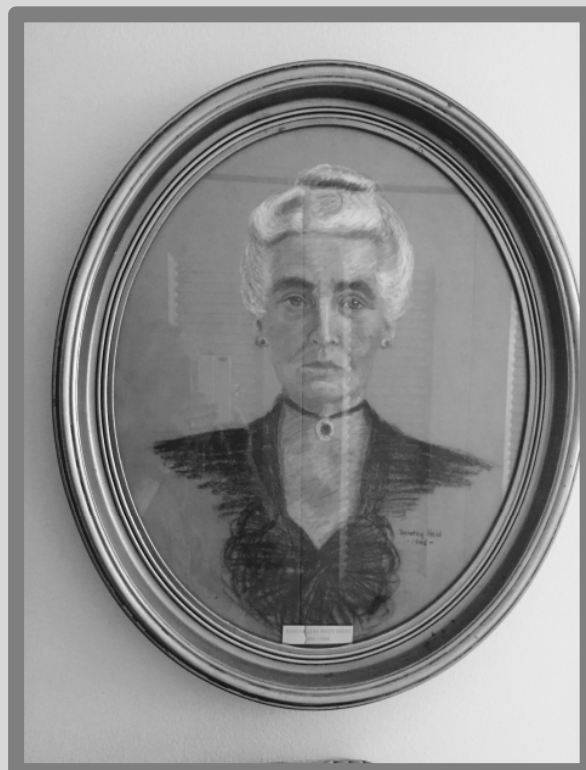


(Picture of Ethelyne Grove Gard Gramm and Donald Woods Porter (Fox), born on January 17, 1966, at Thanksgiving, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Ethelyne in Winter Park, Florida in 1965, having had hip replacement surgery (top). She is wearing the same outfit that was given to her by my parents, Kathleen and Donald Stuckey.)



(Photograph of Ethelyne and Dorothy Haid, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Returning to the year 1952, during the months after Homer's death on October 8, 1952, and before December 31, 1953, when Ethelyne married Harry Gramm, one of the interesting things she did was to take a trip to California with Dorothy Griffis Haid, long-time friend of the Gards and Stuckeys.



(Portrait of Martha White Grove, Ethelyne's mother, painted by good friend, Dorothy Haid in 1945, courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)



(Photograph courtesy of Richard Lewis Haid, long time Hamilton friend of the Gards and Stuckeys.)

The occasion was that Dorothy and Art Haid's son, Richard, was being commissioned in the Navy as an ensign at the conclusion of Officer Candidate Training at the Long Beach Naval Station in Long Beach, California. Dick had helped Ethelyne and Homer at their home for many years while in junior and senior high school, and he tells me that his main job was to keep the silver polished, clean the basement and sometimes cut the grass. The Commander of the Naval Station was Captain Minor Heine, who was raised in Hamilton and who was a good friend of Dick's parents, and he also hosted Ethelyne and Dorothy at the naval station's members-only Officers' Club.



(Photograph courtesy of Richard L. Haid.)

Dick then was assigned to the USS Radford (DDE446) and joined the ship which was off North Korea and had been firing at North Korean shore targets. In the spring of 1954, the Radford returned to its home port of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



(Photograph of Ethelyne checking out Dick Haid's new insignia courtesy of Richard L. Haid. I remember her hat so well!)

In the following picture, Ethelyne is inspecting Dick's new officer's insignia at his commissioning at Long Beach. Of the hundreds of ensigns commissioned in this ceremony, Dick was the only one who had his photograph taken, courtesy of *The Hamilton Journal News*, and it appeared in the paper the next day.



(Photograph of Ethelyne's and Harry's trip to Hawaii in 1954, courtesy of Richard G. Haid.)

In late summer of 1954, Ethelyne and her new husband, Harry Gramm, whom we will meet shortly, and Dorothy Haid went to Hawaii to rendezvous with Dick. Ethelyne gave a lavish party at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Dick's honor for the Radford's captain and all the destroyer's officers. The Royal Hawaiian was very plush and was also one of the finest hotels in Honolulu. Ethelyne loved staying there and did several times during her lifetime.



(Picture of the pink Royal Hawaiian Hotel, in Honolulu, courtesy of Internet.)



(Photograph courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)

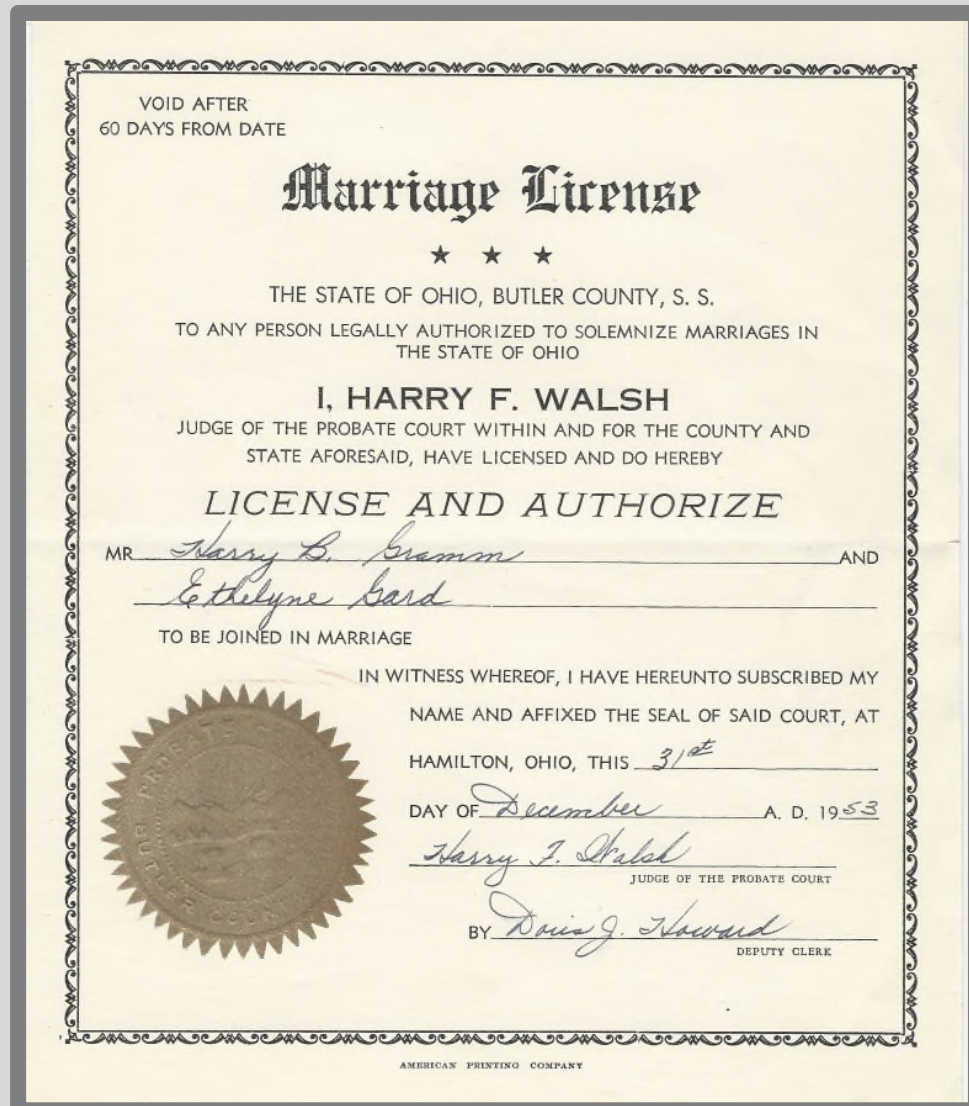
After leaving Hawaii, Betty Jane Rump joined Ethelyne and Harry in San Francisco at the Fairmont Hotel. This is the first time that Betty Jane had the opportunity to met Harry. Then they drove down the Pacific Coast Highway to Betty Jane's home near Los Angeles where they spent several days together.

Dick told me that as a young boy he spent long stretches of his summers out at Camp Campbell Gard. Because the Gards were good friends of his mother's, Homer Gard told the director of the Hamilton Y.M.C.A., "Because I [Homer] am making up the camp's financial deficit for every summer anyway, Dick should be allowed to go to camp each summer for as long as he wishes." Because the camp periods varied between one and two weeks at a time, Dick would come home to Hamilton occasionally for a week to see his parents but would otherwise spend most of the summer at Camp Gard on the Great Miami River, where he had a wonderful time. As always, as evidenced throughout his lifetime, Homer Gard was most generous to others. His and Ethelyne's generosity was displayed many times over. My sister conveyed to me this story: In August of 1956, our mother negotiated with Camp Campbell Gard officials for my sister to be a junior counselor there. Throughout his lifetime, Homer had provided free facilities for the crippled children of the area. This continued after his death. My sister took great pride

in helping with the less fortunate, and this event turned out to be a life changing experience for her.

Dick is the son of Art and Dorothy Haid, the grandson of the Griffises of Hamilton, and the great-grandson of the J. C. Hoovens, from whom Homer purchased the lot on South "D" Street. The preparation for my presentation, and now this book, has brought Dick and me full circle back into each other's lives, where we have shared so many memories that our families created.

Stepping back to the early-to-mid 1950s:



(Photocopy of Marriage License for Ethelyne Gard and Harry B. Gramm, dated December 31, 1953, courtesy of The Butler County Historical Society.)



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

My first thought is that in the above picture, Harry and Ethelyne are traveling, but then on second thought, Mom and Dad are more dressed up so I believe they are going somewhere. From the windshield of the car, I know this picture is in the late 1950s. Looking again, perhaps they are all traveling since there are four pieces of luggage! In the picture below, my parents, Donald and Kathleen, are on their way to one of their many New York trips in the spring, circa late 1960s, to attend the A.A.N.P. Convention (American Association of Newspaper Publishers, founded in 1887).



(Picture courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Infrequently, Ethelyne would accompany my parents to New York. On one such trip in the spring of 1953 Aunt Ethelyne who was now the sole owner and president of *The Hamilton Journal News*, and a widow, accompanied them. As previously mentioned, Ethelyne became reacquainted with one Harry Gramm who was manager of the New York office of the John W. Cullen Company, national advertising representatives of the Ohio Select List of Daily Newspapers, of which *The Hamilton Journal News* had been a member for many years. On this trip, Ethelyne became interested in Harry, and he in her, as well. Or as my sister said, they were “fixed up.”

On December 31, 1953, Ethelyne and Harry were married at 133 South “D” Street.



(Photograph of Ethelyne Gard and Kathleen Stuckey, courtesy of the author. A young Lutie Matthias is in the framed picture above the mantle.)

I was ten at the time and Aunt Ethelyne's attendant. My father, Donald, was best man.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Donald E. Stuckey and Harry Gramm walking down the steps at 133 South "D" Street, when Ethelyne married Harry Gramm on December 31, 1953.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

As Ethelyne and I were walking down the stairs, I said to her, “Aunt Ethelyne, I just love your home, would you will it to me?” I was ten and just making conversation.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

JAN 4 1954

Hamilton Publisher Is Bride

HAMILTON, Jan. 4.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Gramm are in New York following their marriage Thursday night in Hamilton at Mrs. Gramm's home on S. D st. The couple exchanged wedding vows at 7:45 o'clock in the presence of a group of friends. The Rev. Wheaton Webb of the First Methodist church in Hamilton, performed the ceremony. The bride's only attendant was Miss Kathleen Stuckey and Donald E. Stuckey was best man for Mr. Gramm.

Mrs. Gramm is the former

Mrs. Homer Gard of Hamilton. She is president of the Journal Publishing company of Hamilton and publisher of the Hamilton Journal-News.

Mr. Gramm, of New York city, is manager of the New York office of the John W. Cullen company, national advertising representatives of the Ohio Select List of Daily Newspapers of which the Journal-News is a member.

When Mr. and Mrs. Gramm return from their New York trip they will leave for Winter Park, Fla. where they will spend the winter. In the spring they will make their home on S. D st. in Hamilton.

(Society column from the *Dayton Daily News* on January 4, 1954, printed with permission for Cox Media Group Ohio.)

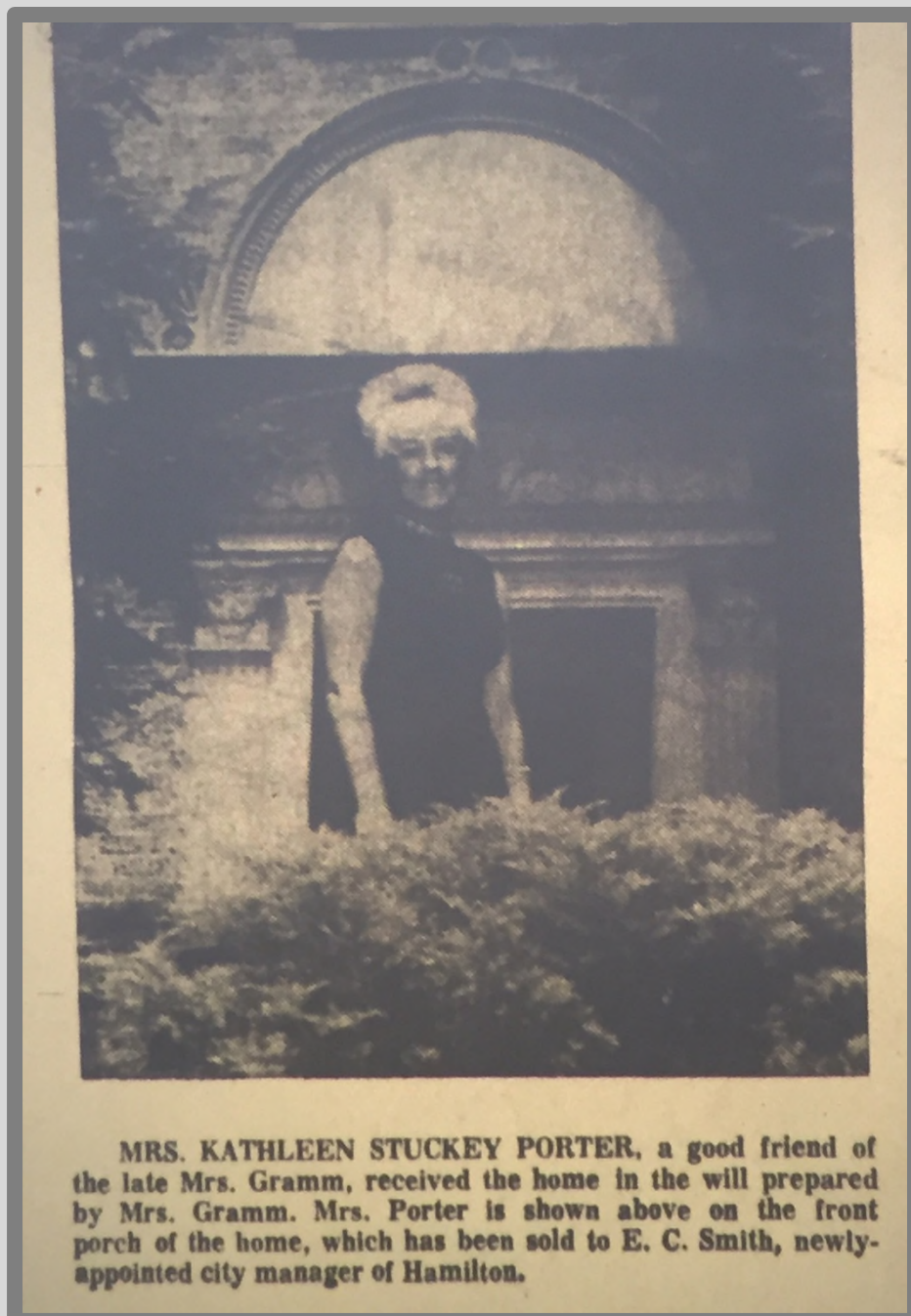
Ethelyne always had an interest in Homer's work and after his death she took an integral part in running *The Journal News*. Upon marrying Harry, she was the president and Harry was the publisher, and together, they made a great team. Plus they had the help of many stalwart executives of the paper, who were experienced newspaper men. That included my father. Harry Gramm died in 1960 and was buried in Greenwood in the Gard plot. Ethelyne died of pneumonia in 1970 in Florida, and I never really gave a second thought about the home. I remember taking the call since my parents were away on a trip to Europe, a gift from Ethelyne. At the time of Ethelyne's death, I was working at The Second National Bank of Hamilton, having been hired by Richard P. Rogers, Executive Vice President, as President Ned Hitchcock's secretary.

That morning of October 20th, 1970, I went to work and told Trust Officer Donald Litzelfelner that Ethelyne had passed away in Florida the day before. Don went to the Trust Department and brought her Will downstairs and began to read it. He then said, "You got the house." I was really shocked and obviously pleased at the same time. I was single, not making that much money and living with my parents, and our family decided that I had to sell my inheritance because I could never afford to maintain it, let alone pay the insurance and taxes. I had no choice. My dad and I had a wooden sign carved with curved scroll work, I painted it white, and put "For Sale" in black letters with my phone number on it. That sign caught the eye of Ed Smith, the new City Manager, he bought it, lived there and later turned it into apartments, much to my dismay. I understand now that the house is now in the process of being returned to its original beauty.



(Recent photograph of 133 South "D" Street, Hamilton, Ohio, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Discovered later in *The Hamilton Journal News*, is a picture of the auction that was held in July of 1971, as the house was being sold to Ed Smith. So many memories to recall that I was totally overwhelmed when my cousin, John Stuckey, directed me to the picture of myself on the following page.



MRS. KATHLEEN STUCKEY PORTER, a good friend of the late Mrs. Gramm, received the home in the will prepared by Mrs. Gramm. Mrs. Porter is shown above on the front porch of the home, which has been sold to E. C. Smith, newly-appointed city manager of Hamilton.

(Photograph of Kathleen Stuckey Porter, now Kathleen Stuckey Fox, printed with permission from Cox Media Group Ohio.)

The home was so special and beautiful and still is today. Niece Betty Jane Lewis Rump inherited Ethelyne's furniture and personal belongings from both houses, here and in Florida, and Ethelyne's 1940 Pontiac convertible, and all the Campbell Gard letters to which I referred earlier, which she returned to Hamilton and now are in the possession of the Butler County Historical Society.



(Photograph of Ethelyne's 1940 Pontiac convertible, provided by Betty Jane Lewis Rump. Betty sold it to a collector in the 1970s.)



(Photograph of Ethelyne Grove Gard Gramm's headstone in Greenwood cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

It would be Camp Campbell Gard and the Young Men's Christian Association that would receive the bulk of the inheritance from Ethelyne's estate, somewhere in the 6-to-7 million-dollar range. Renovations began to take place at the camp once her Will was probated. It was Homer's bequest that the money went to the camp and the Y.M.C.A., and his wife, Ethelyne, honored his wishes eighteen years later. Homer will always be remembered for his love of humanity and his generosity to Hamilton's youth.

Remember, my mentioning the two children, one stillborn to Warren and Pearl in 1912, and the other, Nora, a daughter, born to S. Z. and Molly Gard in 1870 who died in infancy? When Greenwood Cemetery was preparing the grave site for Ethelyne, the workers dug up two small caskets. They were not marked. No one in the family back then knew who they were. So in doing all my research, I finally solved that mystery. We know now who was buried there.

Moving on to 1971, Mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She lived for two years; after that, she passed away on August 16, 1973. In 1952, my mother had inherited her mother's engagement ring, and upon the occasion of my sister's marriage, to Richard J. Levine in 1963, she gave the ring to her. It was Marie's request that her diamond be given to my sister. To be fair to me, at that same time, she gave me the engagement ring that Campbell Gard had purchased for Helen Raymond in 1921. I do not know who held this ring all these years, but it eventually came into my mother's possession. Mother was the sole heir to the estates of three families, for she was the only close relative left on either side of the Woodses, Neilans, and Gards.



(Photography of Pearl Gard's engagement ring when she and Warren Gard were married on June 22, 1910, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Upon Pearl's death in 1946, Mother inherited the engagement ring given to her by Warren Gard, and Kathleen Neilan Stuckey wore it for twenty-seven years. When Mother knew she would not be living much longer, in 1973 in mid-summer, she presented me with that beautiful diamond ring. Now I had in my possession two very beautiful rings with poignant history behind them. These two rings I wore separately until 1978 when I had them combined to make my own engagement ring and wedding band when I married Gary Fox in 1978. I wore them for twenty-five years, not really thinking too often from about where they came. When I divorced in 2003, I had the occasion to give one ring to my son's wife-to-be, Anne, and the other ring to my other son's wife, Jennifer. Each of them had the rings remade to fit their needs. My son, Kyle's wife, Anne, has the diamond from the Campbell Gard engagement ring. My other son, Donald Woods's wife, Jennifer, has the center stone from Pearl's ring. When I became involved in writing the history of these three families, I realized that I had to have Pearl's ring back, obviously now minus the center stone, because I desired to see the ring on my finger and have it as a constant reminder of its history and my family. Luckily, Donald Woods had kept the platinum setting, and I asked him to give it back, which he did. I had it refurbished, and now wear it, which makes me feel very close to Pearl and my mother, Kathleen, and Warren, the original giver. This setting is now over 100 years old. This engagement ring had been through the 1913 flood, had been to China, Japan, and the Philippines, long before I received it. I am so happy to own it again and share its meaningful history.



(Photograph of Pearl W. Gard headstone in Greenwood cemetery, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Pearl died of coronary thrombosis on December 3, 1946, and my mother passed away on August 16, 1973, from complications from breast cancer. In doing all this research, I discovered the home where Pearl was living when she died was for sale. The address is 333 Park Avenue. I called the realtor, and she was kind enough to let my son, Donald Woods, and me take a tour. I had probably not been in that home in over fifty years. It was another step back in time that I created for myself, and very emotionally rewarding. Also, I discovered that Warren and Pearl lived at 716 Gray Avenue in Hamilton, and that is where he died. Pearl lived also at 350 South "D" Street after Warren passed away. I contacted the present owners of these two homes, but was unable to fulfill my desire to visit where my ancestors had previously lived. Truly, I was disappointed.



(Photograph of Kathleen Stuckey and Bill Corbin at prom night and the cherry secretary, Taft High School, 1961, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. Oh, to be young again!)

Throughout their lifetimes, Homer, Lutie, and Ethelyne were most generous people. From talking with the few others previously mentioned who are still living, I found out more about the extent of their gift-giving. In the 1940s when John and Marie Neilan moved to 440 Oakwood next to my parents' home, Ethelyne and Homer gave them a present of a beautiful cherry secretary, which they had purchased in Nantucket. Remember, John Neilan was the attorney for *The Hamilton Journal News* and also was Homer's personal friend and attorney. My sister has the secretary in her home in New Jersey. In 1970, Ethelyne paid for our parents' trip to Europe, which consisted of two

crossings over the Atlantic and private drivers on land. This gift was not only to thank them for all they had done over the years to help her since she had no children and lived alone for ten years after Harry's death, but also to thank them for being there for her during some difficult times throughout both her marriages. Ethelyne died of pneumonia with complications in Florida on October 19, 1970, one day before my parents' return to Hamilton. Unfortunately, they were never able to thank her in person for her generosity.

Plus all the previous gifts I have mentioned, another example of Ethelyne's generosity occurred when Mother gave birth to my sister in 1941. It was a most difficult time for her since she had experienced the death of her first child, John Neilan Stuckey, my brother, only two years earlier. This was most tragic and a private matter, to the extent we really do not know, and it was not discussed. Mother told Ethelyne about her feelings that she needed to stay up all night and watch her daughter to make sure she did not choke in her sleep, so Ethelyne personally paid for a night nurse to come and watch my sister sleep, so that our mother could get a good night's rest.



(Picture of the Hamilton Journal News Building, Court and Journal Square, circa 1920, courtesy of the Butler County Historical Society.)



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox. My father, Donald E. Stuckey, second from the right.)

Ethelyne was responsible for enlarging the physical plant of the Journal building and purchasing the new printing press in 1956. With the nursing skills she acquired in Washington, D. C., in the early 1930s, Ethelyne was welcomed as a member of the Board of Directors of Fort Hamilton Hospital, on which she served for the next twenty years. During her lifetime in Hamilton, Ethelyne was an engaged philanthropist, known for her many benefactions to the community.

When I embarked on this venture, I had no idea of how much information I would be able to find, nor did I realize how much I truly missed my relatives. I am so thankful, though, that I took the journey.

The Combined Families of the Woodses, Neilans, and Gards.



(Photograph courtesy of Betty Jane Lewis Rump.)

Family picture circa 1943: Pearl Woods Gard, widow of Congressman Warren Gard; Lawyer, John F. Neilan and father of Kathleen Neilan Stuckey; Alice Grove, sister of Ethelyne Grove Gard; Martha White Grove, mother of Ethelyne and Alice; Ethelyne Grove Gard, second wife of Homer Gard; Homer Gard, owner and publisher of *The Hamilton Journal News*; Marie Woods Neilan, wife of John F. Neilan, and mother of Kathleen Neilan Stuckey.

**Partying at the Homer Gards, circa late 1940s
133 South “D” Street
Hamilton, Ohio**



(Photograph taken at 133 South “D” Street, courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)

Ethelyne’s mother, Martha White Grove, Homer, Ethelyne . In the back: Dorothy Haid, Kathleen Neilan Stuckey, Marie Woods Neilan, Arthur Haid, Donald Stuckey.

Warren Gard Ohio Historical Marker Information

Warren Gard

Warren Gard (1873-1929), son of Samuel Z. Gard and Mary Duke, was born in Hamilton, Ohio. He established his practice in Hamilton after graduating from Cincinnati Law School and being admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1894. Gard served as Butler County Prosecuting Attorney from 1898-1901, and as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas from 1907-1912. In 1920, he married Pearl Zuver Woods (1875-1946). In 1912, he was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1913-1921. Gard delivered a eulogy for his friend, Warren G. Harding, on August 8, 1923, the national day of mourning for the deceased president. Gard had been a 35-year member of the bar when he died. He is buried next to his wife in the Gard plot in Greenwood Cemetery.

Congressman Warren Gard

During his service in Congress, Representative Gard was a member of the House Judiciary Committee, worked to prepare legislation that authorized America's entry into WWI, and fought to repeal wartime prohibition. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Gard to a commission charged with investigating independence for the Philippines, then an American colony. Accompanying Gard on a fact-find trip to the islands was his wife, Pearl, and their niece, Kathleen Neilan (1908-1973). One of Representative Gard's accomplishments was introducing and securing the passage of H.R.755 which incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. Congress passed the bill unanimously, and President Wilson signed it into law on June 15, 1916.

(Ohio Historical Marker wording written by Kathleen Stuckey Fox, great niece of Warren Gard, said marker dedicated on November 12, 2016, in Greenwood Cemetery, their first Ohio Historical Marker ever.)



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Also, I need to give a very special shout out to BCHS volunteer Marlene Carmack, a most talented and versatile historian, who helped me put together the marvelous family chart of the Woodses, Neilans and Gards, which was on display in 2015, when I presented my PowerPoint to interested persons at the Butler County Historical Society, which led to this book. And personal friend Teddi Robeson, who held so many pieces of the puzzle about the Robeson side of the family and shared them with me.

And, lastly, a thank you goes to David Fahey, retired history professor from Miami University, who suggested that I write this book for local historians to enjoy.



(Photograph courtesy of Kathleen Stuckey Fox.)



(Picture of author Kathleen Stuckey Fox and Betty Jane Lewis Rump, taken in Florida in 2015. We had not seen one another for over sixty plus years. Photograph courtesy of author.)

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