



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
June 2011

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org)

<http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Saturday Seminars

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2011. Meetings are held in the Program Room at the Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Plano, TX from 10:15 to 12:30:

Today's Topic:

June 18, 2011—Barbara Brixy Wiley is our speaker. Her topics will be “Curlicues & Chicken Scratch: Reading Yesterday’s Handwriting” and “Was Your Grandmother a Relict? What Do Those Old Words Mean?”

Future Topics:

July 16, 2011—Our speaker is Tara Carlisle from the University of North Texas. She’ll be talking to us about the UNT Digital Libraries and The Portal to Texas History. We have a great resource right here in our own backyard.

August 20, 2011—Need some magic to help with your genealogy research? Ada Nelson’s “Research Magic—Showcasing Tools for Genealogists” will be right up your alley. Come learn how Office One Note, Roots Magic, Magic Wand Scanners, iPad, and Skype/Magic Jack can help you conjure up your ancestors.

August 27, 2011—Learn N—Get organized and Get ready for your next research trip. Our speakers will be Carol Hofer and Barbara Coakley.

September 17, 2011—Stacy Kemp, the Collin County Clerk will speak to us about records at the County Courthouse.

October 15, 2011—”Y DNA Testing” by Don Raney

October 20, 2011—Dining Out at Outback Steakhouse

November 19-2011—All Day Seminar—Kelvin Meyers will be our speaker. See the back page for more details

December 17, 2011—Show and Tell—bring your genealogy treasures and share with the group.

If you have suggestions for programs please submit them to Barbara Coakley at bjc1620@sbcglobal.net.

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Publications For Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Public Land Survey Systems	\$5
Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$40
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10
Military Investigations: Red, White & Blue	\$10
Colonial Ills, Brews & Concoctions	\$10
Library 101: Using Dewey Decimal Sys	\$10
Compiled Newsletters with Index	\$15

GenFriends Blog

A blog is a combination of the terms web and log. They are meant to be interactive. GenFriends has a blog, <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>. Check it out, post comments and follow it to keep up with what's going on in the society.

Genfriends Membership Special

Hunting for a bargain? Normally individual memberships are \$30 a year (October 1—September 30), we're running a special—join now for \$45 and you get a two year membership that expires September 30, 2012. The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library. Family memberships are also available. Download the membership form on our website <http://www.collin.edu/ce/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc

PO Box 860477

Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Friends Logo Shirts

You can be one of the best dressed genealogists in town!

We have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, Henley's and polo style shirts available.

The shirts have a 3" dark green logo printed on the left chest. All shirts are available in toddler through XXXL.

T-shirts \$15

Long Sleeved T Shirts \$18

Sweatshirts \$20 (white, neutral, ash, light blue, pink, yellow and sand)

Henley's \$20 (white, ash or natural)

Polo Shirts \$20 (white, ask or light blue)

Genealogy Class

Genealogy III—Breaking Down Brick Walls will be offered at Collin College (CCCC) on Tuesday nights (July 26 to August 30) at Courtyard Campus from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. In this class, Barbara Coakley, the instructor, focuses on advanced problems like sorting out people with the same name, finding women ancestors, getting around burned courthouses, using the census before 1850, and analyzing problems. To register visit <http://www.collin.edu/ce/>

Newsletter Articles

We need your stories to put in our newsletter. Write a story about one of your ancestors, a research problem you solved or need help solving. Your experiences can help out another researcher or someone researching the same family might see your article—our newsletter is posted on our website and sent to the Allen County Public Library so it is indexed in PERSI.

Submit your article in a word document to Barbara Coakley at newsletter@genealogyfriends.org

A Collin County Pioneer's Link to Union Army Military Leader and U.S. President ???

A Family Genealogy Mystery Yet to be Solved

By Johnny B. Drury

As all amateur genealogists, I often find myself following ambiguous historical clues with mixed success. However, one of my research journeys has consumed over three years of my passion with yet inconclusive results. I continue to find interesting information, so the search continues. The following shares my research experiences and perhaps finds a genealogist reader who can provide further suggested research options.

The mystery concerns my great-great grandmother, Rowena Lucy Knight, a Collin County, TX, resident in the 1880s. A family legend passed down through the generations was, as a teenager, Rowena was once engaged to Ulysses S. Grant. The legend also said she broke off the engagement when she discovered him to be a "drunkard." Over the years, I continued to hear this same story from my mother, grandparents, and aunts and uncles¹. The unsubstantiated story was also published in a Wise Family genealogy book many years ago.

I always found the story to be quite interesting as I grew up, but did not place much credit in its accuracy...that is, until three years ago.

After my mother died, I found among her household papers and old family photographs a 2-page original letter dated March 7, 1856. The letter was addressed to Rowena and signed "U.S.". This, combined with the family stories over the years certainly perked my genealogy interest. The following article describes my "sleuth" work to-date and my continuing plans to solve the mystery of whether or not the letter was indeed penned by U. S. Grant. If nothing else, my search has made me much more knowledgeable in various, unrelated subjects such as Grant history, mid-west transportation in the 1850s, forensic handwriting analysis, and more.

Rowena Lucy Knight:

Rowena Lucy Knight was born 6 Aug 1836 in northern Kentucky to Charles and Mary A. (Tane) Knight. Her father was a "druggist" who was born, raised, and educated in Massachusetts before moving to Kentucky and marrying the daughter of a Kentucky farmer².

The family moved to Potosi, Grant County, Wisconsin in about 1848 where Charles Knight was the town's druggist. The family seemed to be "upper, middle class," as Rowena did not appear to be deprived of very much. The family's financial status can be surmised from the facts that they owned a house in Potosi and fertile farm land in Tennessee³ and Charles owned a successful business. Additionally, the subject 1856 letter highlights Rowena's love of nice clothes, hard partying, and holiday trips out of state.

Rowena had only one sibling, Susan Ann Knight. Susan was born in 1838 in Kentucky⁴. She died 15 Jun 1853 and was buried in Potosi, WI.

Rowena married Samuel Thomas Wise on 10 Apr 1858 (two years after the subject letter was written). Some family historians believe Samuel previously knew the Knight family in Kentucky and followed them to Wisconsin because of their teenage daughter, Rowena⁵. Samuel was a farmer⁹ in Wisconsin and probably worked, at least part time, in the local lead mines. Rowena and Samuel's first daughter, Mary A. "Minnie," was born 16 Jun 1859 in Potosi.

The entire family, including Rowena's parents, moved via riverboat⁷ to Ohio County, KY, in late 1860 or early 1861 (perhaps returning to their native state upon the outbreak of the Civil War). The family farmed near Cromwell, Ohio County, KY until about 1873 when they moved to Hartville, Wright County, MO⁸. Rowena's mother moved with them as her husband, Charles Knight, died in 1870 in Cromwell, KY⁹.

In about 1878¹⁰, the Wise family continued their westward movement and finally settled in Collin County, a few miles northeast of McKinney. Rowena and Samuel had nine children:

1. Mary A. "Minnie" (b. 30 Jan 1859, Potosi, Grant County, WI; d. 16 Jun 1933, Collin County, TX; m1: James C. Samuels; m2: Rbt. G. Welsh).
2. John Charles (b. 20 Nov 1861, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY; d. 23 Aug 1873, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY).
3. Thomas Walker (b. 14 Oct 1863, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY; d. 20 Oct 1863, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY).
4. Jennie L. (b. 13 Oct 1864, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY; d. 23 May 1890, Coal Hill, Johnson, AR; m: John Chaffin).



**Rowena Lucy (Knight) Wise
(1836-1891)
Photo circa 1870**



**Samuel Thomas Wise
(1828-1894)
Photo circa 1870**

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5. Samuel Alonzo (b. 20 Jan 1868, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY; d. 28 Feb 1938, Wilbarger, TX; m1: Sara Alva Betterton, m2: Lou Dora Buckman).
6. James William (b28 May 1870, Cromwell, Ohio County, Ky; d. 13 Nov 1871, Cromwell, Ohio County, KY).
7. George Edwin (b. 6 Apr 1872; d. 11 Jan 1873).
8. Matthew Robert (b. 3 Jun 1874 in Hartville, Wright County, MO; d. 3 Nov 1962, Collin County, TX; m: Pearl Springstun).
9. William Lawrence (b. 14 Apr 1877, Missouri; m: Georgia Ann Rutledge).

Rowena's mother, Mary Knight, died on the Wise family farm on 22 Jun 1880 and was reportedly buried in a currently unmarked grave in the Pecan Grove Cemetery, in McKinney, TX¹¹.

Rowena died 2 Jan 1891. She was buried in the Milligan Cemetery on South Bridgefarmer Road about three miles east of McKinney, TX¹². Samuel Wise moved to Glass, Obion County, TN soon after her death and he died 11 Dec 1894 in Kentucky^{13 14}.



**Grave of
Rowena (Knight) Wise
Milligan Cemetery
McKinney, Collin Co, TX**

(For more detailed information on the Rowena, Samuel, their family, and additional associated Collin County history, see [Genealogy Friends News](http://www.genealogyfriends.org), a newsletter of the Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc, January 2011 at www.genealogyfriends.org)

The Letter:

Now,...the COOL STUFF! The following is a verbatim transcription of the letter¹⁵ in question followed by comments about its contents:

Gaysmill[sic] Wis. March 7. 1856

My dear friend, Rowena,

I received your epistle in due time, was happy to hear from you again but was sorry to learn that you were suffering from a severe cold occasioned by late hours at parties, young ladies use less judgment at those parties than any where else, how often do they leave the flore[sic] in a perspiration and push into a cold current of air, where the least philosophy in the world should teach better and perhaps after the dance walk home in tight shoes. Rowena, take care of your health for you will find it difficult after once having lost it ever to enjoy health again, and without health I need not tell you are miserable, think not that I am lecturing you, I am only giving you a little caution, and since a word to the wise is sufficient I will say no more. I heard from you a short time since by way of Mr Morris who met you at a party in Potosi. he said you were well and enjoyed yourself finely, so I conclude the blues of which you spake[sic] sometime ago have taken their departure, at least I hope so. never suffer yours of to feel cast down. Much obliged to my friend Mr Green for his good opinion of me, and much more to yourself for knowing my good qualities without the information. I was glad to learn that you had such a good time on Christmas, so many fine gentlemen from Debuque[sic]. One of them I understand fell in love with you. I think it a little strange that the love was not reciprocated since he was real pretty and a merchant besides. Say, was it not in part? I am still in Cassville, shall probably remain here some four weeks more. my health is not very good. have a severe cold, it has settled on my lungs and fear it will deprive me of speech as it sequently[sic] does, but I have not taken it in visiting the Cassville girls coming in. I have used every precaution to escape a cold for I know to my sorrow the consequences. Rowena, answer this as soon as convenient, and send me the specimen named. Remember me to your kind father and mother.

God bless you my dear friend

To Miss Rowena Knight

U. S.

The letter provides many potential clues into Rowena's teenage life and possibly an eventual solution to my mystery. Rowena was age 19 when the letter was written. It is obvious that the author of the letter had corresponded frequently with her and certainly expected a response to this letter. The author apparently was a well-educated gentleman as demonstrated by his sentence

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A Collin County Pioneer's Link to Union Army Military Leader and U.S. President ???

(Continued from page 4)

structure and spelling (I found that many of the misspelled words were common spelling in that era.) The tone of the letter was friendly but contained "counseling" as if from an older man (Grant was age 32 at the time the letter was written). Obviously, Rowena could be labeled in today's teenager terms as "a party animal." The author's mention of "Debuque" was a reference to Dubuque, IA, where Rowena apparently spent Christmas in 1855 attending social parties. Dubuque is located a few miles from Potosi, WI, just across the Mississippi River.

The letter was written in Gays Mills, WI. Gays Mills is located in the extreme southwest corner of Wisconsin near the Mississippi River, about 45 miles north of the Illinois border. This small village contained a saw mill and probably a few other businesses. The letter's author mentions staying in Cassville. Cassville was a business hub because a large hotel, The Denniston House, had been built there years before in anticipation of the newly formed state's capital being established there¹⁶. Cassville was also a riverboat stop on the Mississippi River. Rowena's hometown of Potosi was about 12 miles east of Cassville. (These geographical locations become important in my later research discussions.)

Another part of the letter continues to intrigue me. Toward the end of the letter, the author says, "send me the specimen named." What did this mean? Was it a reference to something she mentioned in her previous letter that she would send him? The "specimen" was probably something small enough to be inserted into a letter's envelope. Was it possibly a lock of hair, etc.?

Grant's Biography and Potential Links to Subject Letter:

A short review of Ulysses S. Grant's biography is important to any linkage to the letter. He was born in 1822 in Ohio as Hiram Ulysses Grant and later attended The United States Military Academy at West Point where his name changed to Ulysses Simpson Grant (due to a clerical error during college registration)¹⁷.

Grant married Julia Dent in 1848¹⁸ near St. Louis, MO, and they lived there until 1860. He served in the Mexican American War and was later stationed in the Oregon Territory. While at his Oregon post, he suddenly resigned his commission. Some historians believe he was encouraged to resign due to his tendency to disregard senior leadership and for his propensity to drink heavily¹⁹.

He returned home to St. Louis following his resignation and struggled with farming, real estate, and several other business attempts.

Grant and family moved to Galena, IL, in 1860 after failing to succeed in farming and business in St. Louis. His father had bought a leather goods store in Galena in 1854, and Grant began helping his two brothers with that business.

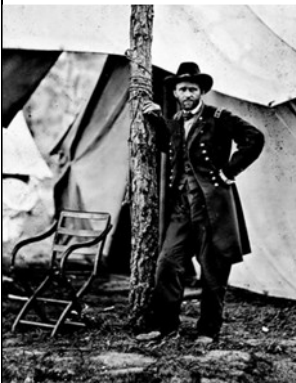
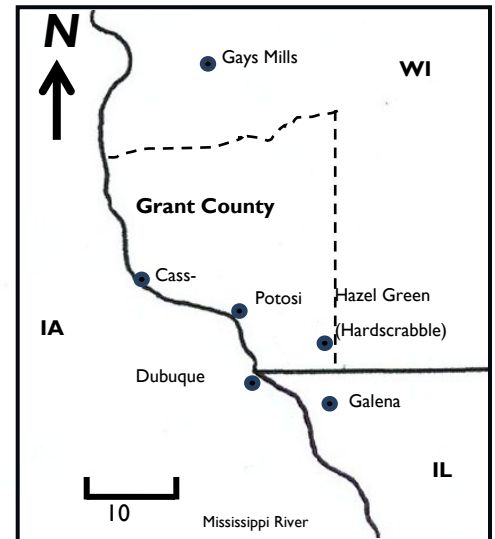
Historians have well recorded the remainder of his life. He joined the Illinois Militia at the outbreak of the Civil War and ultimately became the Union's top commander. After the war, he remained Commander of the Army and was later elected 18th President of the United States.

My "Sherlock Holmes" Detective Work To-Date:

I was excited to find hints perhaps substantiating our family legend. But as an amateur genealogist, I wanted to substantiate or rebuke the legend with documented facts, no matter what the final outcome might be. But with little experience in this type of research, I first began to conduct internet searches and visited several libraries for anything that might lead me to an answer. After a short research period, I decided first to seek professional opinions.

I first sought advice from a history professor²⁰ at the Mississippi State University who was also the Executive Director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. After a brief telephone conversation with him, I emailed a photocopy of the letter. Within about 15 minutes, I received a response essentially saying he thought the letter was not written by Grant primarily because of the following reasons:

There is no known record of U. S. Grant being in southwest Wisconsin at that time.



Ulysses S. Grant
Photo circa 1863-64

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There is a record of U. S. Grant registering at a St. Louis hotel ten days after the letter's date, thus he could not have been in Southern Wisconsin near that time.

Grant was building a home (he named "Hardscrabble") at the time near St. Louis, so he would not have been traveling to Wisconsin.

Ulysses S. Grant was not known to sign letters as "U. S." He signed letters to family and friends as "Ulysses" and professional correspondence as "U. S. Grant" or "Ulysses S. Grant."

I certainly respected this career historian's opinion. However, the above four reasons why the letter could not have been written by Grant only caused me more curiosity.

First, I agree that there is no current record of Grant being in southwest Wisconsin at the time. But, Grant could easily have ventured to that area in support of his struggling businesses. Additionally, he must have been familiar with that general area of the county because his father had opened a leather goods store two years earlier in nearby Galena, IL, in 1854²¹.

Secondly, the fact that Grant had registered at a St. Louis hotel several days after the letter's date can easily be explained by the fact that transportation along the Mississippi from St. Louis to the Cassville area allowed the distance to be traveled within one day. Riverboat travel and train routes on the Illinois side of the river were well established in 1856.

Next, the fact that Grant was building a house that year would not preclude him from being out of St. Louis at other times. According to the U. S. National Park Service, Grant didn't start the foundation of the house until spring/summer of 1856 and completed construction October of 1856, over seven months after the letter's date²².

Lastly, since receiving the professor's opinion, another researcher informed me there were indeed historical examples where Grant had signed letters later in life as "U.S."²³.

Not yet being satisfied with the first investigation results, I searched for other professional research help. I contacted a certified appraiser²⁴ in Denver who specialized in historical documents and artifacts. She was also a published historical author. She examined and researched the letter over five months. Upon completion of the research, she provided me both a written and verbal report. It was her opinion that the letter was indeed authentic and penned by Ulysses S. Grant.

In her verbal debriefing with me, she candidly offered two observations that she did not include in the written report. She first apologized for her first observation and shared her personal thoughts of the letter's contents. She said based upon the letter's contents my great-great grandmother must have been quite a "floosy" in her teen years. (I laughed and said I agreed.)

Her second observation was quite interesting and something that I had not noticed before. She showed me how the 2-page letter began with very elegant and clear penmanship. However, as the letter progressed the handwriting quality increasingly deteriorated until it finished with the pen strokes almost "running off the page." She said that she strongly believed the letter's author was becoming increasingly drunk as he wrote the letter.

Now I had two professional opinions at extreme opposite ends of the spectrum. I was becoming frustrated. (The search was also becoming expensive.) However, I was also increasingly dedicated to find the truth. After several more weeks of internet searches for any applicable historical clues, it suddenly dawned on me to find an expert outside the history field. How about a handwriting expert? There must be many available Grant documents written from his later years to compare the handwriting! I thus started the next interesting leg of the investigation.

I next consulted a certified handwriting expert²⁵ found through a national handwriting consortium. This person was experienced in historical handwriting analysis as well as legal opinions of forensic document examinations for court room trial dispositions.

I emailed a high resolution copy of the letter to her. Although she said she could certainly find various sources for known U. S. Grant handwriting, I offered samples I already had and sent them to her. I did not find much of his pre-Civil War samples. Since many letters from Grant during Civil War years were often penned by aides, we remained cautious to find his actual handwriting. The first samples I forwarded to the expert were an 1861 signature of Grant's appointment as Brigadier General and an 1866 letter (known to be his own handwriting) written while he was Army Commander to another general in Georgia. The expert and I continued to search, and we found several additional valid Grant handwriting samples.

She continued to provide me periodic updates on her progress. Shortly after beginning the research, she called to say she found many similarities between my letter and the 1866 letter. However, one thing troubled her. His 1866 document contained examples of his small "d's" ending with a "loop" at the top of the letter. This comparison letter was written 12 years after my mystery letter. She explained a person's handwriting could change over the years. Additionally, handwriting could even vary with changing emotions. She asked me to try to find earlier U. S. Grant samples while she would do the same. She also began to seek an opinion from one of her colleagues.

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The concern over Grant's "loop" when writing "d's" in the comparison letter sample eventually became a non-issue. The expert found earlier Grant letters that were without this trait.

This expert was the one I mentioned earlier who advised me that during her research she found examples of U. S. Grant occasionally signing letters with "U. S." Those particular letters also usually included a reference to "Uncle Sam."

The handwriting analysis took almost two months. She said in her professional opinion, her findings were "inconclusive" of whether or not the letter was penned by U. S. Grant. I was disappointed! Now I had three professional opinions, two at extreme ends of the spectrum and one exactly in the middle.

Continuing Questions:

The three professional opinions left me with continued nagging questions but encouraged me to continue the search. Such questions included.

- Was Rowena's "engagement" to U. S. Grant just an interesting story, but this letter saved for almost 160 years was only a coincidental remnant of another friend's correspondence?
- If Rowena knew U. S. Grant, was her "engagement just a teenage "romantic fantasy?" (Grant had been married eight years when the letter was written.)
- If the letter is authentic, had Grant led Rowena to think he was single during the years before the letter was written?
- If the letter is not authentic, why would Rowena have cherished it until her death in 1891 and then the letter be preserved over four generations thereafter? The letter had been carefully stored away with important family possessions and transported via riverboat, horse-drawn wagon, and train over 2,000 miles just in Rowena's lifetime.
- Could another small mining village very near Rowena's hometown be another clue that Grant possibly visited the area in the middle 1850s? Hardscrabble, WI²⁶, was established in the late 1820s, but the name soon changed to Hazel Green, WI (see previous map of Grant County in this article). Although the word "Hardscrabble" (the name Grant called his new home built in 1856)²⁷ was not an uncommon term in the 1850's, did Grant name his home after the village's earlier name? Also, Grant was known to often visit Hazel Green, WI, to visit his close friend, Jefferson Crawford²⁸. Were some of these visits after 1860 when he moved to Galena, IL, or did he visit Mr. Crawford before 1860, thus suggesting he had been in that area when the letter was written? (Jefferson Crawford was known to have lived in Hazel Green as early as 1854.)²⁹

What's Next?

The previous discussion illustrates my research to-date. The following are my current efforts and future "plan of attack."

I believe the key to my research now is to find an additional link to U. S. Grant and the Cassville, WI, area. I contacted the President of the Cassville Historical Society³⁰ and asked if there were any records remaining of the guest register logs for the famous Denniston House, the major hotel in town. I learned that only one known registry log existed for the year 1857 (a year after the letter), but it was sold to an unknown buyer on EBay.

However, a correspondence from the Cassville Historical Society President indicates he came across a recent find indicating "a Grant family member conducted business in Cassville." Unfortunately, an exact date of the business visits in Cassville has yet to be determined. Could it have been U. S. Grant in 1856? Could it have been U. S. Grant after 1860 when he moved to Galena, IL, to assist in the family business? Or could it have been his brothers visiting in Cassville beginning when they started the Galena business in 1854? (The brothers' initials do not match the signed letter.) More research is warranted on this specific area.

The letter's content provides additional clues to research. The letter's author mentions a mutual friend (and perhaps Grant's business associate) by the name of "Mr. Green." I have been unsuccessful to-date linking this name with U. S. Grant but continue my search.

I received two unusual research suggestions from a Texas A&M University history professor³¹ and a historian/author friend³² in Austin. Both suggested I contact the directors of the PBS television show "History Detectives." So, I have submitted a request for the show to consider my mystery project. To-date, I have yet received a response.

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Help!!!

If any fellow genealogists have suggestions or additional information concerning my research, I would greatly appreciate it. I will be glad to share a detailed photograph of the subject letter for anyone interested. Please contact me at Rustic04@aol.com or via my genealogy website at www.druryfamily.weebly.com.

Notes

¹Unknown Author), The Wise Line, home-published, 1988, p. 64, (a copy of this research document contained in the Drury/Welsh Genealogical Collection and in the current possession of this author).

²Ibid, p. 63.

³Deed of Sale, Obion County (now Lake County), TN, 15 Jan 1850.

⁴1850 U. S. Federal Census, District 24, Grant County, WI, line 40.

⁵Ibid, Unknown Author, p. 64

⁶1860 U. S. Federal Census, Village of Potosi, Grant County, WI, p. 12, line 39.

⁷Ware, Peggy Jane (Welsh), great-granddaughter to Rowena (Knight) Wise, interview with this author, May 2009.

⁸Dates of Missouri residence based upon birth dates and location of Wise children who were born in Missouri.

⁹U. S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885, Cromwell Precinct, Ohio County, KY, (recorded for the year ending 1 Jun 1870, p. 1, line 12.

¹⁰Estimated date based upon children birthdates in Missouri and the 1880 U. S. Federal Census which shows the family living in Collin County.

¹¹Ibid, Ware.

¹²Grave site location confirmed by this author's visit, May 2009.

¹³Ibid, (Unknown Author)

¹⁴Welsh, Clara (Rodgers) grand-daughter-in-law to Samuel T. Wise, as recorded in front of the Welsh Family Bible, circa 1940.

¹⁵The letter described in this article is in the Drury/Welsh Genealogy Collection and currently in the possession of this author.

¹⁶Cassville Tourism Department, "The Cassville Story", <http://www.cassville.org/cassville%20story.html>

¹⁷"Ulysses S. Grant, Union Civil War Genera," Retrieved 10 May 2011 from <http://www.americancivilwar.com/north/grant.html> .

¹⁸"Ulysses S. Grant Biography," The Biography Channel Website, Retrieved 13 May 2011 from <http://www.biography.com/articles/ulysses-s-grant-9318285> .

¹⁹"Ulysses S. Grant." American Presidents, <http://americanpresidents.com/ulysses-s-grant>

²⁰Marszalek, Dr. John F., Executive Director, Ulysses S. Grant Association, Mitchel Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, 2009, (email correspondence with author), June 2009.

²¹"Location," (A history article concerning the building which now contains the Fried Green Tomato Galena Restaurant, Galena, IL), <http://www.friedgreen.com/location.cfm>

²²National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, <http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/historyculture/hardscrabble.htm>

²³Carlson, Kathy, Certified Forensic Document Examiner, (email and telephone correspondence with this author, March 2010), <http://www.coloradohandwritingexpert.com> .

²⁴Grover, Margaret E., ASA, President, Grover Consulting, LLC. Denver, CO,

²⁵Ibid, Carlson.

²⁶Hunt, John W., Wisconsin Gazetteer, Madison, WI, 1853; as cited in "Dictionary of Wisconsin History," Wisconsin Historical Society, http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id=9338& .

²⁷Ibid, National Park Service

²⁸"History of the Inn," (a history of the Wisconsin House Stage Couch Inn, originally a home bought by Jefferson Crawford in 1853), <http://www.wisconsinhouse.com/history.html> .

²⁹Jackson, Ron V. Accelerated Indexing Systems, comp...Wisconsin Census, 1820-90 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 1999. Original data: Compiled and digitized by Mr. Jackson and AIS from microfilmed schedules of the U. S. Federal Decennial Census, territorial/state censuses and/or substitutes.

³⁰Schnering, Richard, President of the Cassville, WI, Historical Society, (email correspondence with this author), 28 Apr 2011.

³¹Kamphoefner, Walter, PhD., Professor of History, Texas A&M University, (email correspondence with this author), January 2010.

³²Grasshoff, Ray, (email correspondence with this author), January 2010.

Collin County Historical Marker Dedication

By Joy Gough

On June 3 at least 13 descendants of William Andrew Murphy attended the dedication ceremony of a historical marker honoring him.

WILLIAM MURPHY

Location: Northeast Corner of Tom Clevenger Road and North Maxwell Creek in the Murphy Family Cemetery



William Murphy and his wife Dorothy Hudiberg Murphy moved to Collin County in the 1850s from Morgan County, Indiana. William and Dorothy purchased land first near Dublin in Collin County and later in the Maxwell settlement. After the Civil War residents of the community sold lots to develop a town between FM544, Murphy Road, and Maxwell Creek called Decatur with the hope of the railroad passing through the area. The business venture was not successful since the railroad did not pass through the community at that time. However, when the town applied for a post office in 1884, they found there was already a Decatur, and the town was named Maxwell. When the railroad finally arrived in Maxwell in 1888, the William Murphy family donated land and the right-of-way for the depot. The new depot was named Murphy, and the community changed its name to Murphy.

Murphy was thinly settled and dotted with high native grass and wild game. William Murphy was a great hunter in the early days, and there were plenty of rabbits, wild turkey, and bears to feed the growing family of five boys and six girls.

“Grandpa” Murphy, as William preferred to be called in later years, was an elder and member of the Christian Church for nearly half a century. He was a congenial man known to be an industrious and patriotic Democrat. When Susan Emberton, his sister, died in 1872, William Murphy set aside land on his farm for the family cemetery. This became the Murphy Family Cemetery located near the juncture of Tom Clevenger and Maxwell Creek Roads. William and Dorothy Murphy, Collin County pioneer family, and other Murphy family members are buried in the family cemetery. (2011)

Carry Along Collin

Collin County Historical Commission is sponsoring a program called “Carry Along Collin” for kids that is back this summer for its fifth year. This will be a series of one-day children’s programs offered at museums in the area. Each camp is described on the website

http://www.collincountytx.gov/public_information/features/carry_collin_2011.jsp

Donations

GenFriends donated the following books to the genealogy section:

Around Farmersville, California Wagon Train Lists, Vol 1, Railway Passenger Lists of Overland Trains to San Francisco and the West (2 vols) San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists (Vol 11 and IV)

Collin County Jewel

A historic tombstone was found on Memorial Day in Ross Cemetery in McKinney. Flo Henry, President of the Ross Cemetery Association, announced that the cemetery is the final resting place for a Buffalo Soldier. “Buffalo Soldiers” was the nickname given to six unit all-African-American army units that represented the first black professional soldiers.

To read more about Buffalo Soldiers visit <http://buffalosoldiermuseum.com/>.

To read the entire article about the find in the cemetery visit http://www.courier-gazette.com/articles/2011/06/01/news_update/381.txt





Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries Presents:

“Sources & Techniques to Jump Start Your Research”

Speaker: Kelvin L. Meyers

When: Saturday, November 19, 2011

Where: Plano Bible Chapel
1900 Shiloh, Plano, TX

Topics: Tax Records or Why Did Scarlett Make a Dress of Her
Mother’s Drapes?

Who Cares Who Their Neighbors Were? You Do!
That’s Who!

Where Do I Go After 1930 Census?

Researching the Territorial Papers of the United
States

Details: 9:30 to 4:00

Before 11/1/11 \$35 Members \$38 Non Members

After 11/1/11 \$40 Members \$45 Non Members

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch