

**Genealogy of Stearns Descendants
From Jonathan Gale Stearns
To Present**

Part I



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**Prepared for the Stearns Reunion
at Grand Lake, Colorado,
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"Bond's genealogy of our family shows a shield like No. 1, which "belonged to the occupants of the old Stearns Homestead in Watertown," Mass., doubtless brought to this country by Isaac Stearns in 1630, but it also bears the helmet, and cock starling for a crest, with ornamental mantling and ribbon without motto below."

(from "GENEALOGY AND MEMOIRS
OF ISAAC STEARNS AND HIS DESCENDANTS."

by
Mrs. Avis Stearns Van Wagenen,
Syracuse, New York,
Courier Printing Co., 1901)

"Surnames Stearns, Sternes, Sterns, Strans, etc, undoubtedly corruptions of the English name Sterns, a well known name in the counties of Nottingham, Berks, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge. Of the Sterne family the oldest coat of arms is: Or, a chevron between three crosses flory sable. Crest: a cock starling ppr.

These arms were born by the Archbishop of York (1664-1683). Other families of the name had devices slightly varied from this one."
(Genealogical and Personal Memoirs - Cutter)

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Introduction

This report was written for the 2008 Stearns Reunion at Grand Lake Colorado. At previous reunions we have always held a "genealogy session" where we discussed the Stearns family ancestors. Most of these discussions centered around the immigrant Isaac Stearns who came to America in 1630 on the ship Arabella as part of the Winthrop Fleet. Isaac settled in Watertown, Massachusetts.

For this reunion, the focus will be on the more recent ancestors and family members that have lived within the lifetime of our elder generation George Orlo and Perry J Stearns. George Orlo Stearns and his wife Lacy Dings were known by his grandchildren Forest, David, Perry and Rhodora. However, to set the stage for a discussion of the life of George Orlo and his descendants, the author has backed up a couple of generations and documented some history of the parents and grandparents of George Orlo Stearns, namely Charles Edward Stearns and Jonathan Gale Stearns.

The report includes all the descendants of George Orlo and Perry Jay Stearns, but only a limited amount of information is included for the younger generations. This can be expanded at a later date for the next reunion. The author realizes that not every story was included and some critical information may be missing. This project should be considered as a work in progress and more items can be added or corrected for future reunions.

Stearns Genealogy

The Genealogy And Memoirs Of Isaac Stearns And His Descendants by Mrs. Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, Courier Printing Company, Syracuse, N.Y. 1901, is the definitive work of the genealogy of the Stearns family. Mrs. Van Wagenen completed a massive work in two volumes on the Stearns family starting with the first immigrant to America, Isaac Sternes or Stearns. Dave Stearns, Sr. thinks that Mrs. Van Wagenen was part of the family that owned the Stearns-Knight automobile company.

Bond's Watertown

Another great source of information on the Stearns family in Watertown, Massachusetts is the book Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts, by Henry Bond, M.D., 1860

Numbering System

Mrs. Van Wagenen assigned numbers to people without any particular organization, basically adding numbers as she added new people. For example, Isaac is No. 1. Our next ancestor is Samuel Stearns No. 7 (24). The first number is his listing as a child. One must follow down the report to No. 24 for the next entry to find out his details and children. Nathaniel is No. 27 (85); so one must continue to No. 85 for the next entry on Nathaniel. There is an index in the book which helps.

In this report, each individual is assigned a unique number. Numbering systems need to be flexible enough so that if new individuals are found, they can be incorporated into the system with the least amount of disruption. Spouses are generally ignored in most numbering systems.

The **Modified Henry System** is fairly functional and is used herein. It is a descendant-based system and assigns number 1 to the progenitor. The children are assigned the next higher magnitude numbers 11, 12, 13 and so on according to their birth order. Grandchildren of the progenitor are assigned their father's number and then their own birth order. Examples would be 111, 121, 131, 132, and 133 and so on. Individual 133 would be the third child of the third child of the progenitor. Sounds complicated, but after studying and using the system a bit, the numbers really tell a lot about the person without even knowing their name.

The following is a direct-line descent from Isaac Stearns to our 14th generation showing the modified Henry numbering system.

Descendants of Isaac Stearns

First Generation (in America)

1-Isaac Stearns b. 1595, Parish Stoke Nayland, Suffolk, England, d. 19 Jun 1671, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts Colony Of Great Britain. Married Mary Barker b. 1 Jan 1604, Nayland, Suffolk, England, d. 2 Apr 1677, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts' Stearns Genealogy Number: 1

Second Generation

Children of Isaac Stearns and Mary Barker

16-Samuel Stearns b. 24 Apr 1638, Watertown, Massachusetts. Married Hannah Manning b. 21 Jun 1642, Watertown, Massachusetts, d. 26 Jul 1723, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts
Stearns Genealogy Number: 7 (24)

Third Generation

Children of Samuel Stearns and Hannah Manning

163-Nathaniel Stearns b. 13 Dec 1668, d. 1716. Married Elizabeth Dix b. 4 Dec 1671, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts, d. 16 Jun 1712, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachussets
Stearns Genealogy Number: 27 (85)

Fourth Generation

Children of Nathaniel Stearns and Elizabeth Dix

1639-Ebenezer Stearns b. 22 Apr 1708, Watertown, Middlesex, Massachussets, d. Sep 1777, Worcester, Massachusetts. Married Mary Spring b. 20 Nov 1709, Of Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts, d. Oct 1798
Stearns Genealogy Number: 95 (267)

Fifth Generation

Children of Ebenezer Stearns and Mary Spring

16394-Nathaniel Stearns b. 26 Oct 1743, Worcester, Massachusetts, d. 17 Feb 1819. Married Elizabeth Stratton b. 1745, Of Northfield, d. 23 Mar 1840
Stearns Genealogy Number: 271 (728)

Sixth Generation

Children of Nathaniel Stearns and Elizabeth Stratteon

163942-John Stearns b. 20 Aug 1780, d. 29 Dec 1861, Brattleboro, Windham, Vermont. Married Sarah Gale b. 20 Oct 1784, Worwick, Franklin, Mass., d. 16 Jan 1857.
Stearns Genealogy Number: 733 (1687)

Seventh Generation

Children of John Stearns and Sarah Gale

1639423-Jonathan Gale Stearns b. 30 Sep 1808, Vermont, d. 10 Oct 1835, Amsterdam, NY. Married Mary Ann Livingston b. 16 Nov 1809, Newburyport, Essex, Massachusetts, d. 19 Sep 1897, Amsterdam, NY.
Stearns Genealogy Number: 1691 (3402)

Eighth Generation

Child of Johathan Gale Stearns and Mary Ann Livingston

16394231-Charles Edward Stearns b. 7 Oct 1833, Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York, d. 6 Apr 1885, Arapahoe, Furnas, Nebraska. Married Ellen Rice b. 11 Nov 1837, Natchez, Adams, Mississippi, d. 20 Jun 1920, Greenville, Bond, Illinois
Stearns Genealogy Number: 3403 (4982)

Ninth Generation

Children of Charles Edward Stearns and Ellen Rice

163942311-George Orlo Stearns b. 4 Nov 1862, Greenville, Bond, Illinois, d. 20 Mar 1942, 2022 E. Wood Place, Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Lacy Dings b. 29 Jul 1870, Huntersland, Schoharie, New York, d. 7 Dec 1956, 2022 E. Wood Place, Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Stearns Genealogy Number: 4983

Tenth Generation

Child of George Orlo Stearns and Lacy Dings

1639423111-Perry Jay Stearns b. 25 Nov 1890, Grand Island, Hall, Nebraska, d. 21 Jun 1966, Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Mae Belle Brook b. 19 May 1891, Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, d. 23 May 1954, Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Next married +Agena Kreimann b. 10 Jul 1893, Wisconsin, d. 2 May 1990, St John's Home of Milwaukee, 1840 N Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Stearns Genealogy Number: 4984

Eleventh Generation

Children of Perry Jay Stearns and Mae Belle Brook

16394231111-Forest Walden Stearns b. 10 Sep 1918, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, d. 8 Sep 1999, Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin. Married Hope C Hartley b. 14 Feb 1920, Buitenzorg, Java, Dutch East Indies, d. 28 Sep 1953.
Next married Ruth Marian Heitz b. 4 Jun 1920, Madison, Jefferson, Indiana, d. 14 Dec 1999, Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin

16394231112-David Brook Stearns b. 31 Oct 1920, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Jeanne Martin b. 30 Apr 1920, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, d. 27 Jul 1978, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Next married Mary Joan Buchta b. 4 Apr 1932

16394231113-Perry Orlo Stearns b. 26 Nov 1923, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Frances Elizabeth "Fran" Limberg b. 16 Sep 1926, Plymouth General Hospital, Plymouth, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

16394231114-Rhodora Stearns b. 3 Nov 1925, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Carl F. Leyse.

Twelfth Generation

Children of Forest Stearns and Hope Hartley

163942311111-Carlin Adeline Stearns b. 21 Jan 1944, Utah. Married John Hibbard. Next married Steve Raith

163942311112-Andrea Brook Stearns b. 19 Apr 1945, Washington, D.C.

163942311113-Jay Hartley Stearns b. 2 Nov 1948, Indiana. Married Donna Nasman. Next married Kathy Hayfield

Children of Forest Stearns and Ruth Heitz

163942311114-Timothy F Stearns b. 2 Jun 1961, Ramsey County, Minnesota, d. 19 Feb 1974, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Children of David Stearns and Jeanne Martin

163942311121-David Brook Stearns Jr., b. 8 Jul 1944, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Molly Elizabeth Beall b. 17 Feb 1945, London, Ontario, Canada. Next married Konnie Rae Waters [Twin] b. 28 Oct 1948, Utah

163942311122-Deborah Witherall Stearns b. 19 Jul 1947, Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, d. 26 May 1967 Chicago, Illinois.

163942311123-James Martin Stearns b. 12 Nov 1948, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Married Jennifer Weaver. Next married Jody Ostendorf.

Children of Perry Stearns and Frances Limberg

163942311131-Forrest Wolfgang Stearns b. 1952, Munich, Germany., d. 2006, Arizona

163942311132-Conrad Perry Stearns b. 21 Nov 1958, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Married Louise

Children of Rhodora Stearns and Carl Leyse

163942311141-Karen Elizabeth Leyse b. 19 Feb 1949, Chicago, Illinois. Married Douglas Tobin DeLapp. Next married Jon Radke.

163942311142-Robert Dale Leyse b. 17 Aug 1950, Chicago, Illinois

Thirteenth Generation

Children of Carlin Stearns and John Hibbard

163942311111-Alix Hibbard, b. 4 Jun 1973 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Married Married Christopher William Hay. Next married Michael Herzing

163942311112-Calder Hibbard, b. 1 Aug 1970 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Married Lee Rushmann

Children of Jay Stearns and Donna Nasmann

163942311131- Krista Marie Stearns, b. 18 Jan 1971, Goodhue County, Minnesota. Married Lewis Lankford

163942311132-Adrienne Edith Stearns, b. 14 Feb 1974, Wisconsin

Children of David Stearns and Molly Beall

163942311211-Travis David Gallagher Stearns b. 1 Nov 1967, Boulder, Colorado. Married Nancy Collins

163942311212-Jessica London Stearns b. 17 Feb 1970, Jackson, Mississippi. Married Sean Varley. Next married Dusan "Dan" Njegomir

1639423111213-Joshua Martin Stearns b. 4 Jan 1979, Denver, Colorado.
Engaged to Deirdre Galindez.

Fourteenth Generation

Children of Alix Hibbard and Michael Herzing

1639423111111. Jude August Herzing, M, b. 30 Jun 2006, Minneapolis, MN

Children of Calder Hibbard and Lee Rushman

1639423111121. Reyna Frances Hibbard, F. b. 18 Jun 2001 in St. Paul, MN
1639423111122. Lauren Jane Hibbard, F, b. 18 Jan 2005 in Minneapolis, MN

Children of Krista Stearns and Lewis Lankford

16394231111311. Bailey Blythe Lankford, F, b. 12 Oct 2003 N. Carolina
16394231111312. Flannery Marie Lankford, F, b. 28 Sep 2006 N. Carolina

Children of Travis Stearns

16394231112111-Benjamin Joseph Stearns b. 14 Jan 2005, Bellingham,
Washington

Children of Jessica Stearns

16394231112121-Alexander Njegomir, b. August 20, 2006, Denver, Colorado

Chapter 1 - Jonathan Gale Stearns

Seventh Generation Children of John Stearns and Sarah Gale

1639423. Jonathan Gale Stearns, (*John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) son of **John Stearns** and **Sarah Gale**, was born on 30 Sep 1808 in Vermont and died on 10 Oct 1835 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York at age 27. [*On one of Perry J. Stearns Pedigrees, he gives a birth date of 30 Oct 1808 but no source. The Stearns Genealogy (see below) gives the 30 Sept. date.*] Jonathan was the third of ten children. There is no information found so far that explains why Jonathan died so young.

Jonathan married **Mary Ann Livingston**, daughter of **Timothy Livingston** and **Mary "Polly" Garron**, on 24 Oct 1832. Mary Ann was born on 16 Nov 1809 in Newburyport, Essex, Massachusetts and died on 19 Sep 1897 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York at age 87. She has conflicting death information of 18 Sep 1897

Child from this marriage was:

16394231. Charles Edward Stearns, b. 7 Oct 1833 in Amsterdam, N.Y.

The following notes about Jonathan Gale Stearns were taken from *Genealogy and Memoirs of Isaac Stearns and His Descendants* by Mrs. Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, Courier Printing Company, Syracuse, N.Y. 1901.

3402-Jonathan Gale Stearns (1691), b., Sept. 30, 1808, son of John and Sarah (Gale) Stearns, of Warwick, Mass.; a cabinet-maker, of Amsterdam, N. Y., where he d., Oct. 10, 1835. He md., Oct. 24, 1832, Mary A. Livingston, of Amsterdam, N. Y., who, afterwards, became Mrs. H. V. B. Easton, of Amsterdam, N. U.; one son.
3403-Charles Edward Stearns (4982), b., Oct. 7, 1833; d., Apr. 6, 1885.

The following are notes from George Orlo Stearns taken by Perry Jay Stearns:

"Jonathan Gale made the mahogany table with claw feet [See picture in Perry J Stearns Chapter - table was in possession of George Orlo and Lacy Dings Stearns] and the bureau with the posts in lower part. Both are hand carved. It is said the bureau had a mirror at one time.

The table was originally a dining room table with leaves running to floor. Grandmother Easton [*Mary Ann Livingston – widow of Jonathan Gale Stearns, remarried Harmon Van Buren Easton*] unfortunately had it remade. The leaves hung within 1 inch of floor. The two pieces made by Jonathan Gale were a wedding present to his bride. Uncle Charley Livingston got idea of going into furniture business from Jonathan Gale.

On death of Jonathan Gale – Grandmother Easton started a boarding house in the home on Main St. near depot. Big 3 story house. On Main St. she had professional men as boarders. Her dining room ran clear across the house with a long table. The mahogany table formed part of it. She was still there when GOS visited her in 1916 [*he must mean 1896 because she died in 1897*]. While GOS was there she sold the house to a Jew for a clothing store for \$25,000. From there she went to the house where PJS visited when 6. From the new house you could look down the hill onto the roof of the old bldg. she had sold. When we went there in 1896 she lived on Market St. The same street where her father's foundry was located - where the street crosses Chuctanunda Creek.... [*Chuctanunda Creek is one of the three tributaries that empty into the Mohawk River in Amsterdam and was the focus for the location of the town and many of the industries that used water power. The author could not find any map that shows Market Street crossing Chuctanunda Creek, but it is adjacent to the creek.*] H.V. Easton [*Harmon Van Buren Easton*] was a painter and one of the boarders. Not long after they were married he became demented. Her friends wanted to put him in an asylum but she would not consent. They had one son Geo. Easton.

Grandfather Livingston had reputation of being the inventor of the screw propeller. When GOS there at 16, he went to the foundry and saw castings of screw propellers. Whoever ran the former was still making them. They used them on the canal and on the Hudson, but were not a success on the canal because of the waves. The canal was intended for tow path propulsion and the horses were run in relays so that no horse would have to put the boat in motion except occasionally."

Jonathan Gale Stearns died in 1835. No reason for his untimely death has surfaced. Mary next married **Harmon Van Buren Easton**, son of **Ahimaz Easton** and **Mariah Van Buren**, on 9 Feb 1840. Harmon was born on 26 Feb 1797 in Johnstown, New York, died on 17 Mar 1874 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York at age 77, and was buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. He has conflicting death information of 8 Mar 1874.

Mary had several children by her second husband Harmon van Buren Easton of which only George survived. Children from this marriage were:

Julia Potter Easton was born on 29 Aug 1842, died on 1 Jun 1844 at age 1, and was buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York.

George Livingston Easton was born on 31 Jan 1844 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1850 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. George Stearns is 6, living with his mother Mary and his stepfather H. B. Easton. He is attending school.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1860 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. George Easton is 16 and living with his parents "Mary D", 51, and "Harman V B Easton", 43.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1870 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. George is 26 and living with his parents. He has no listed occupation.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1880 in Main St., Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. George L is 34, single, and living with his mother. He is a painter.

George Orlo Stearns probably had a mild dislike for George Easton. He stated in the notes taken by Perry J Stearns the following:

"Geo Easton spent most of his time at the place on Main St lying around the barn waiting for a chance to shoot a rat. Geo Easton lived to be about 50 and died."

The above comment about shooting rats was in the middle of a discussion about Nebraska. It is not known whether the "Main Street" mentioned above is referring to Amsterdam, New York or Grand Island, Nebraska. His mother, Mary Ann Easton, ran a boarding house in Amsterdam, New York on Main Street for a number of years and there is no Main Street of any significance in Grand Island, so it is assumed he was referring to Amsterdam.

Edward Brockway Easton was born on 12 May 1846, died on 16 Jun 1847 at age 1, and was buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York.

Edward Brockway Easton was born about Jun 1850 in New York. This information came from an Ancestry.com Family tree. Edward #1

is corroborated by burial records in the Green Hill Cemetery and Edward #2 was probably on the 1850 census. (It was common practice to name children in honor of infants who predeceased them). The Stearns family lore does not mention any of these children except George. It is assumed that Edward #2 also died young.

Edward #2 appeared on the US Federal census in 1850 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. He was enumerated as Abram "ditto" and follows Charles Edward Stearns. "Abram" is 1 month old and living with his mother Mary and stepfather H. B. Easton. He is felt to be Edward #2 and the "ditto" referring to Easton instead of Stearns. He apparently did not make it to the 1860 census, but no record of his death has been located to date. There may be some confusion, particularly if he was named after a previous Edward Brockway Easton.

Noted events in their lives were:

They appeared on the US Federal census in 1850 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. Mary A. is 41 and living with her husband H. B. Easton, 53 and her stepchildren Mary 25, James Easton, 22, Ann Easton, 14, Charles Stearns, 17, son from her previous marriage and George Easton, 6, and "Abram" Easton, 1 month, both children from her current marriage. H. B is a painter and owns real property worth \$2000. Mary has no occupation.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in <u>Amsterdam</u>			in the County of <u>Montgomery</u> State				
of <u>A. Y. R.</u> enumerated by me, on the <u>24</u> day of <u>July</u> 1850.			<u>H. M. Hill</u> Ass't Marshal.				
Designation and order of Inhabitants. Families numbered in the order of Inhabitation.	Description.	Age.	Value, Color, or size.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. Attended School within the year. Purchased Day or even Worn out and a wife.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1137.001	H. B. Easton	53	U.	Painter	2000		
12	Mary A. do	41	do		"		
13	Mary do	25	do		"		
14	James do	22	U.	Painter	"		
15	Charles Stearns	17	U.	"	"		
16	Ann do	14	do		"	/	
17	George do	6	U.		"	/	
18	Abram do	1/2	U.		"		

1850 Census, Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York

[DBS Transcriber Interpretation: On the census, the children are listed in order of age. All have "Do" (ditto) after their names except Charles Stearns. At first glance, one would assume that Ann, George and Abram's last name is Stearns since they were listed below Charles, but

this is not verified or substantiated by family history. Therefore, it is assumed that the enumerator really meant the ditto to refer to Easton and not Stearns. Ann "ditto" is listed after Charles Stearns since she is younger, but is most probably Ann Easton from Harmon Easton's first marriage. Ann Easton was born about 1836, four years before Mary Ann Livingston Stearns married Harmon Easton. "Abram" is thought to be mistaken for Edward Easton No. 2. He probably died as he is not seen on any later census and is not mentioned in family history. From notes taken by Perry Jay Stearns, Mary Ann and Harmon had one son, George Easton. The son, George "ditto", listed above, is probably George Easton, Mary and Harmon's only surviving child.]

They appeared on the US Federal census in 1860 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. "Mary D" is 51 and living with her husband "Harman V B Easton", 43, stepdaughter Ann Easton, 24, and son George Easton, 16. Other household members are Clark Smith, Wm and Julia Knox, probably boarders. Harman is a painter. He owns no real or personal property. He was born in Johnstown, New York. Mary has no occupation. She was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

They appeared on the US Federal census in 1870 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. Mary A is 60 and living with her husband "H V B" Easton, 73 and their son George, 26. H V B is a painter. He owns no personal or real property. Mary's occupation is keeping boarders. Other family members living in their home are Julia M Potter [enumerated as John], 53, b. abt. 1817 New York, boarding, Real Property value \$12,000, Personal Property value \$15,000, no occupation and Catharine E Livingston, 70, b. abt. 1800 New York, Boarding, no property, no occupation. There are 14 boarders living in the house. [It seems unlikely that Julia M Potter is the one with the high value of real and personal property. It was known that Mary Easton sold their boarding house later for \$25,000 so the enumerator may have put the property values on the wrong line and they are more likely to be that of Mary or her husband Harmon]

She appeared on the US Federal census in 1880 in Main St., Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. Mary A is 70, a widow and living with her son George L, 34, her stepmother Catherine Livingston, 79, her sister Julia M. Potter, boarder, 63, and her stepsister Adaline Livingston, 68. Mary runs a boarding house with 10 boarders. Her parents are from Massachusetts.

She resided at 14 Grove from 1887 to 1890 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. Two addresses are given for Mary A Easton in Amsterdam, New York. In 1887-88 she is listed at 14 Grove; in 1888-

89 at 14 Milton Ave and in 1889-90 at 14 Grove. 14 Grove does indeed look over the lower area of Amsterdam and on to Main Street and the old depot as GOS discussed above.

It is not certain where Mary Ann (Livingston Stearns) Easton is buried, but it is likely in the Green Hill Cemetery in Amsterdam, New York. Inscriptions found from that cemetery did not include her although her two husbands were there. Her stone may be missing.

The following information was taken from Perry J Stearns transcribed notes that he wrote down in a notebook in the late 1930's and early 1940's in Milwaukee. These notes were based on interviews he did with his parents, George Orlo Stearns and Lacy Dings Stearns
[Author's notes are in italics]:

The will of Mary A. Easton was probated in the Surrogate's Court of Montgomery County, N.Y. The citation is addressed to George L Easton, George Orlo Stearns, Frank Lester Stearns, Mrs. G.W. Williams, William Gale Stearns, Edward Augustus Stearns, Mary Julia Stearns, Charles Thomas Stearns and John Addison Stearns.

Gilbert B. Johnson applied for probate of will of Mary W. Easton, late of city of Amsterdam Set for Nov. 13, 1897 at 9 A.M. Citation dated Sep 26, 1897 by Barlow Dunlap, Surrogate.

John *[Jonathan Addison Stearns]* was left \$1400 from his grandmother Easton's estate. All of it 1400 for each child was sent to GOS and he divided it up except for Minnie who wrote to have her share sent to her direct. If Charles Edward had been living he would have gotten it all, and the Horton's would not have come in for any at all."

Miss Adeline E. Jansen 2006 Prairie Ave. Quincy, III had the old grandfather's clock of Grandmother Easton. Also a table with 2 drawers in front room from her; also silver tea pot. She has an inlaid sideboard of Timothy Livingston's which he probably bought when he married at Newburyport, Mass and on the back is written Timothy Livingston, Troy, N.Y. He lived there for some time in going from Newburyport or Billerica to Amsterdam, N.Y. This sideboard her mother got from George Livingston of Clyde N.Y. when he died. Miss Jansen has a picture of George P. Livingston. Also a picture of "My grandfather, Timothy Livingston – owner of "the clock" signed Mary Livingston Jansen. 12-28-31.

She also has two pages torn from an old **family Bible** reading – Timothy Livingston, born in Billerica, Mass. October 19th 1779."

Chapter 2 – Charles Edward Stearns

Eighth Generation Children of Jonathan Gale Stearns and Mary Ann Livingston

16394231. Charles Edward Stearns (*Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 7 Oct 1833 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York and died on 6 Apr 1885 in Arapahoe, Furnas, Nebraska at age 51.

Charles married **Ellen Rice**, daughter of **Lester Rice Sr.** and **Adeline Going**, on 30 Dec 1857 in Bond County, Illinois. Ellen was born on 11 Nov 1837 in Natchez, Adams, Mississippi and died on 20 Jun 1920 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois at age 82. From letters he wrote during the war, it is known that Charles called his wife "Nellie". He also signed his letters "Charlie".

Marriage Notes: This record can be found at the County Court Records, Film # 1317522 – 1317524 but has not been obtained as of this date.



Charles Edward Stearns



Ellen Rice Stearns

The above pictures are not dated, but Charles is obviously in his Civil War Army uniform which would probably date the picture about 1862-63. Considering the similar style, Ellen's picture is probably from the

same time. They were not a set, but in separate folding frames with some rather ornate decoration on the exterior of the case.

Mary Stearns, daughter of Charles and Ellen distributed some of Charles and Ellen's belongings after the death of her mother, Ellen. The above photographs were sent to Perry J Stearns.

She states in an undated letter:

- 6) Father in his blue soldiers suit
- 7) Don't know if this of Mother was taken before she married father or after.

Children from their marriage were:

163942311. George Orlo Stearns, b. 4 Nov 1862 Greenville, IL
163942312. Frank Lester Stearns, b. 3 Apr 1866 Litchfield, IL
163942313. Minnie Stearns b. 12 Aug 1868 Greenville, IL
163942314. William Gale Stearns b. 25 Mar 1871 Greenville, IL
163942315. Edward Augustus Stearns, b. 2 Jul 1873 Greenville, IL
163942316. Mary Julia Stearns, b. 13 Feb 1876 Greenville, IL
163942317. Charles Thomas Stearns, b. 17 Jan 1878 Greenville, IL
163942318. Jonathan Addison Stearns, b. 18 Oct 1880 Greenville, IL

Public events in their lives were:

Charles is probably present on the US Federal census in 1840 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. Head of the household is Herman V. B. Easton. The household consists of 9 persons:

Males 5 thru 9: 1 [Possibly Charles Stearns]
Males 10 thru 14: 2
Males 20 thru 29: 2
Males 40 thru 49: 1 [Probably Harmon V B Easton]
Females 15 thru 19: 1
Females 20 thru 29: 1
Females 30 thru 39: 1 [Probably Mary Ann Livingston Stearns Easton]

Seven persons are engaged in manufacturing. Some of the children are probably from Harmon's previous marriage. Some of the young males age 20-29 may be boarders. Four of Harmon's children are present on the 1850 census, so it may be that four died young. Charles would have been about 7 years old in 1840.

Charles appeared on the US Federal census in 1850 in Amsterdam, Montgomery, New York. He is 17, living with his mother Mary Ann and his stepfather H. B. Easton. He works as a painter.

Ellen appeared on the US Federal census in 1850 in Woodburn, Macoupin, Illinois. She is 12 and living with her mother Adeline and stepfather W. D. H. Johnson. She is attending school.

Charles appeared on the US Federal census in 1860 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. He is 26 and living with his wife Ellen, 22. They have no children. Edward is a farmer and owns real property worth \$300 and personal property worth \$400. Ellen has no occupation. Living with them is Robert Brown, male, 18, born about 1842 in North Carolina and attending school.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1870 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. Charles is 37 and living with his wife Ellen, 33, and their children George O, 11, Frank L, 4, and Minnie, 2. Charles works as a painter and Ellen is keeping house. Their real property value is \$2000 and personal property \$600. George Fraser, minister is their neighbor.

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1880 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. Charles is 47 and living with his wife Ellen R, 43 and their children George, 17, Frank L, 13, Minnie, 11, Willie, 9, Edward, 7, Mary, 4, and Charles, 2. Charles is working as a grocer and Ellen is keeping house. Charles father was born in Vermont and his mother in Massachusetts. Ellen's parents were born in Vermont. [It is unlikely that Charles and his son George were working as grocers. Painting was his profession and the enumerator probably made a mistake].

The last record we have of Ellen Stearns in Nebraska is the Veteran's Schedule census in 1890 in Grand Island, Hall, Nebraska. Ellen R. Stearns, alias Charles E. Stearns, was listed on the 1890 Veterans schedule. No other relationship is given, but it is known that she was a widow at this time. The date of the census was June 1890. The schedule states that Charles was a corporal in Company F, 130th Illinois Infantry. He enlisted 7 Aug 1862 and was discharged 17 June 1865. He served 2 years, 10 months and 10 days. No disability was noted. It was remarked that Charles was a prisoner at Camp Fort Tyler, Texas 13 1/2 months - discharged at close of service.
[Transcriber Note: David Dings is on the same page.]

Ellen R appeared on the US Federal census in 1900 in Central Twp, Bond, Illinois. She is 62, a widow and living with her children William

G, 28, Mary J, 24, John A, 19, Charles T, 22, and Edward A, 26. She owns her home free and clear. She has no occupation. Her parents were born in Vermont. She has borne 8 children with 8 living.

Minnie Stearns, the oldest daughter, married George Williams in Nebraska about 1888 and remained there. The youngest son, John, was living with Minnie and George in 1900. William Gale, son number three, married about 1900 in Illinois, so he moved back to Illinois along with Edward, Mary and Charles. Second son Frank moved to Sedalia, Missouri and married there. There is no help from any other family members as to their whereabouts between 1890 and 1900.

Ellen R appeared on the US Federal census in 1910 at 316 Spring Ave. in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. She is 73, a widow and living with her daughter Mary, 34. Ellen has her own income and owns her house free and clear. Her parents are from New York. She has borne 8 children with 4 living.

She appeared on the US Federal census in 1920 at 316 Spring St. in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. Ellen is 82 and living with her daughter Mary, 43. The census says she is married, but is a bit blurred. She is known to be a widow. She has no occupation and owns her home free and clear. She states her father to be born in the USA and her mother in Vermont. Mary is single and has no occupation. Her father was born in New York. Note that Ellen died about 6 months after this census.

The following notes about Charles Edward Stearns were taken from Genealogy and Memoirs of Isaac Stearns and His Descendants by Mrs. Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, Courier Printing Company, Syracuse, N.Y. 1901.

4982-CHARLES EDWARD STEARNS (3403), b. Oct. 7, 1833, son of Jonathan Gale and Mary (Livingston) Stearns, (of Amsterdam, N. Y.; md., 1860, Ellen Rice, of Greenville, Ill., where they settled. In the fall of 1883, he removed with his whole family to Arapahoe, Neb., where he died very suddenly, Apr. 6, 1885, of heart-disease. He enlisted in the Army in the Civil War, in Co. F, 130th 111. Vols., and served the full time, being a prisoner of war for over a year at Tyler, Texas; was also in the famous Red River expedition under Gen. Banks. He was a painter, by, trade, and the father of eight children.

To review some early history, Charles Edward's father, **Jonathan Gale Stearns**, died in 1835 when Charles was only 2 years old. His mother, **Mary Ann Livingston Stearns** remarried **Harmon Van Buren Easton** on 9 Feb 1840 and Charles was brought up by his

stepfather. They lived in Amsterdam, New York which is in Montgomery County. Harmon was a painter and in those days, the sons usually learned their trade from their fathers. Harmon was previously married to **Elizabeth Grinnell**. She died on 4 Mar 1838. Elizabeth and Harmon had eight children.

As mentioned above, Perry Stearns interviewed his parents and wrote his remarks in a small composition notebook. The author has transcribed and rearranged these notes and has selected the following passages that explain as best as possible the life of Charles and his family according to recollections of George. The entries are not in any particular chronological order, so the author has attempted to reorganize the statements into a more coherent story line.

Perry used a number of abbreviations; "GOS" is George Orlo Stearns; "Chas. Edw." or "CES" is Charles Edward Stearns; "JGS" is Jonathan Gale Stearns; "LDS" is Lacy Dings Stearns. The author's comments are in brackets and italicized. Words in red are questionable, illegible or interpreted.

"It was unfortunate JGS died so early because C.E.S. was only 4 years old and his mother married half baked Easton who was a painter and so Chas. Edw. became a painter. If his father had lived his training would have been different. If it had not been for Easton he probably would have not been a painter. When CES came west [*to Illinois*] he leaned to the Livingston's – yet did not follow them as to his business. Chas. Edw. came west to his Uncle Albert [*Albert Livingston*] before he was 21. But he stayed in Amsterdam long enough to learn the painters trade. In those days there were no mixed paints. Each painter had to grind and mix his own paints. When mixed paints did begin to come in painters would not use them. GOS says this was a mistake. Chas Edw. painted a house for a lawyer named Phelps in Greenville – mixing his own paints. The job lasted so long and stayed so white Phelps would tell everybody about it.

Chas Edw. was a member of the 130th Illinois Volunteers Infantry. He started out to war before GOS was born and only got to Camp Douglas (**Sergeant?**) in southern Illinois [*Charles enlisted as a private and was mustered into service at Camp Butler, Illinois*]. When GOS born he came back to Greenville Nov 4, 1862 stayed a few days and then went back to camp. Selon Harlow Rice [*Perry often uses "selon" - From the French, selon, meaning "according to"*] he was in battle of Shiloh [*this is not substantiated*], then in siege of Vicksburg with Grandfather Johnson, [*According to the 130th Illinois Roster, William D.H. Johnson was a chaplain with the 130th Illinois Vols.*] then followed Gen. Banks Red River expedition and their capture. Ellen did not hear from Chas.

Edw. for over 2 years. He was in Confederate prison at Fort Tyler. When he came home unexpectedly she became hysterical selon Harlow Rice. GOS doubts this [*in fact, Charles and wife Ellen exchanged several letters while he was in prison camp*]. She was teaching in Greenville and rec'd word that Chas Edw. was home. She dismissed school at once. The school was at Mulberry Grove. She taught to support herself and GOS during war. When he came home he brought \$800.00 made from selling notions, tobacco, etc. in a canteen he was allowed to run. To celebrate his return, he took Ellen and GOS back to Amsterdam to see his mother. They stopped at Niagara Falls and climbed the tower on Goat Island which later went over the falls with part of the island.

When GOS was about 7 years old his folks went to Litchfield to live and GOS believes Chas. Edw. built house although, Harlow Rice says he rented. He worked there at his trade as a painter. Frank (1st child after war) was born in Litchfield. All the others were born in Greenville.

On return to Greenville, he built the old homestead and Minnie born there. When built it was 4 room 1 story house. Kitchen and dining room was one room. Later he added an ell – as a kitchen – with flat roof. Porch was on east side of kitchen. There were two cisterns – one in south and one on east side of kitchen. Water al came off roof and the resulting sediment would be 3 or 4 inches thick. The cisterns were about 10 feet in diameter. About 8 or 10 years later Chas Ed built the two story part of the house on the north side of the original house. He had a quarter block of land. Besides the house he had a smokehouse where he smoked his own meat, a barn holding 1 horse and 2 cows and a spring wagon, hay loft above, a cow lot and back that had a pig pen. South of house was a large garden. There was a wood shed directly east of kitchen, holding wood for all winter. Usually bought 10 cords and then would have darkies or a horse tread mill or a steam wood cutter. The wood cut off was thrown over the fence into the yard. Then it was the job of GOS to split it up and pile it in the wood shed. They had a grape arbor. Chas. Edw. would buy 10 or 15 bbls. of apples, store them in the grape arbor, covered with carpets and they would not freeze.

Chas. Edw. had a contract with 3 shops that made wagons and plows. All of the industries in Greenville and he had all their work. In addition, he did all kinds of odd painting jobs that came his way. Business was good. He also painted for all the farmers in the surrounding country and would take his pay in horses, pigs, cows, etc. He was energetic and looked out for the dollars.

Charles Edward was no family man at all. He was not the same man after he came back from the Army. He did not spend his evenings at

home. He spent most of his evenings at the drug store of Charles Watson, where he bought his paints. Fred Hoyles, the banker and Bill Williams the blacksmith made a gathering place of the drug store.

Chas Edw was an Oddfellow and active in lodge. He joined the Masons but someone there offended him and so he told GOS never to join the Masons.

Chas Edw. had fistula piles and went to clinic at Indianapolis and stayed there for 2 years. He boarded at a boarding house on street right back of circle toward State House – with widow woman who had a daughter. When he returned he told Will [*Johnson*] about a job he could get and about the boarding place. Will went later, married the daughter. Ed (widower of Lizzie – Chas Edw's cousin) also went to Indianapolis and he married a girl there who would not take any interest in Ed's daughter Ora.

Mary Stearns explains one of the photographs that she sent to Perry in a letter concerning the Stearns relics:

5. Father taken after the war and after an illness when he was in a hospital at Indianapolis (tintype unframed).

The picture referred to above of Charles Edward may be that provided by Carlin, although it does not appear to be a tintype, but might be. This might be the picture taken in Indianapolis.



Charles Edward Stearns, prob. taken 1875 or thereabouts, courtesy Carlin

George continues with his narrative:

When the Bond county Court House burned when GOS was 15 or 16 years old, he was sent upon the roof of his father's store and a bucket brigade formed to hand him water which he poured on the store roof and front. It was very hot from the fire across the street. Nearly all the records in the Court House were burned. Not long after Charles Edw. became tired of the painting business. GOS believes it disagreed with his health."

According to the Stearns Family History, Charles picked up his family and moved to Arapahoe, Nebraska in the fall of 1883. George Orlo does not mention an exact date of departure, but implies it was about 1883. His motivation might have been free land available through the Homestead Act.

The Homestead Act was passed by Congress in May, 1862. The Union Pacific Railroad was chartered on July 1, 1862 when President Lincoln selected a route that would pass through Nebraska. And the Morrill Act was signed into law on July 2, 1862.

In addition, one of the major provisions for the Homestead Act provided special treatment for veterans of the Civil War. After the war, a soldier would be allowed to deduct the number of years that he served in the Union Army from the five-year residency requirement. Any person who had borne arms against the Union was not eligible.

Nebraska Homestead Act
<http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0500/frameset.html>

His son, George Orlo, has his view on the matter of going west:

GOS says Chas. Edw. died too young for the good of the rest of the family – age 52. He probably would not have gone west if it had not been for the railroad advertising about free land, etc. But GOS says they, including his father, knew nothing about farming and they should never have tried it. CES would have done better to have invested his money in Milwaukee, but he did not know any better. He had in mind Uncle Albert's success who bought 1000 A. at 1.25 an A. in Fillmore Co. near Hillsboro. Albert made money out of his gov't land and CES thought he could do the same in Nebraska.

When GOS was about 19, Chas Ed got idea of going out west and getting a farm for each of his sons. In looking for a location he went to Texas, because he had been impressed while at Fort Tyler. He spent the night at a hotel and next morning found three men hanging to a tree across the street. He quit Texas in disgust and came back to

Greenville. Then he went to N or S Dakota – Blue – and liked that town [*maybe Blue, Texas or Blue, Oklahoma – no town named Blue in the Dakotas. There is a town named Blue Bell in Custer County, S.D.*]. He went down to Kansas and from there to Nebraska and roamed all around there. In Arapahoe he met with a man named Albee – a nice man. About only friend GOS had after Chas. Edw. died – who induced him to settle there. Chas Ed put some money into the land and then came back to Greenville. He got the blues and got on the fence as to what to do. Finally they chartered two freight cars and loaded up all the family possessions, wagons, tools, 3 horses, 2 cows and some pigs, ladders.

G.O.Stearns says his father used to have two shops in Greenville (1) Sloops and (2) Bill Williams. The latter preferred partly because Sloop was a Dutchman and CES had no use for Dutchmen. Dad says I should have seen my grandfather Stearns. He was a "stem-winder". He always insisted on getting to his shop at a regular early hour and while Dad was feeding and **polishing?** up, etc., Shellbark, he would be **fixing** breakfast. Dad ate after he left. Shellbark was a 2 ½ minute horse and CES kept him going. People had to look out and step lively when CES drove around town. One time the horse ran away and bumped into a shellbark hickory tree scraping off the bark and cutting his neck rather seriously but he got over it and ever after was named Shellbark. When they went west Shellbark was old and rather broken down but they shipped him west with the household goods.

He thought he could get the boys through without passage money. The boys were put on top of the car. The agent at Greenville allowed it. At St. Louis they made them take the ladders off the top of the car and send by freight. They were too long to go inside the car. They fixed up 2 bunks – 2 boys in a bunk; GOS and Frank; Will and Ed. It was a long dreary ride. The other children were young enough to go ½ fare or free on the passenger train with GOS and Ellen. They began to worry as to whether the freight would ever arrive. The freight (and boys) was held up in railroad yards. It was a long dreary ride. The whole trip was done over GOS protest, but he finally decided it was no use. They were leaving stability, security and a good business.

In the center of Arapahoe Chas Ed rented a house until GOS could build one on the farm. GOS built the house basically alone and then they went out there to live. They bought a few more horses, cows, hogs and sheep. They dug a well and built a windmill. The farm was on two levels and two flats. To get water on the lower level a pipe was laid and GOS could not get the water to flow down the pipe. He did not know he had to have an air outlet. Finally when they quit farming the tenant made it work. GOS cannot remember his father on the farm nor much about the farm. It was over very quickly.

Chas. Edw. died at 52 when he should have begun to live. He was buried at Arapahoe – a very small settlement. After his death no one wanted to stay in Neb. And they all moved to Grand Island. Frank got a job in the printing office at Gr. Island as he had at Arap. GOS had a wooden picket fence built around his father's grave. For \$100 he had a machine turned stone monument erected. John who was there within the last year [*date of this note was 10/17/37*] says it has been kept up well – because Chas. Edw. was a Civil War veteran. When shortly after the family moved back to Greenville – GOS wrote grandmother Easton suggesting the desirability of moving his father's body and grave to Greenville – if she could pay the cost. She replied that she did not believe in moving dead bodies once buried. So nothing was ever done.

David Stearns, Sr. states that he and his son James visited Arapahoe 30 or 40 years ago and found the grave of Charles Edward.

Attached below is a recent (2008) picture of Charles Edward Stearns' grave in Arapahoe Cemetery.



Charles Edward Stearns monument, Arapahoe Cemetery, Arapahoe, Furnas, Nebraska. Photo taken May, 2008

The inscription reads:

CHARLES E
STEARNS
DIED APR 6. 1885
AGED
51 Y's, ?

STEARNS

The clasped hands design on the monument are probably the mark of the Oddfellow's organization. The wooden fence mentioned by George Orlo is not present.

The author has compiled a timeline to show the main events in the lives of Charles Edward Stearns and his wife Ellen Rice.

Timeline

7 Oct 1833 - Charles Edward Stearns born in Amsterdam, Montgomery, NY
10 Oct 1835 – His father, Jonathan Gale Stearns dies in Amsterdam, NY at age 27
11 Nov 1837 – Ellen Rice born in Natchez, Mississippi
7 Jul 1839 – Ellen's father, Lester Rice, Sr. dies in Woodburn, Illinois of Typhus at age 28.
9 Feb 1840 – Charles' mother, Mary Ann Livingston Stearns next marries Harmon Van Buren Easton.
1840 Census – Charles is probably living with stepfather HVB Easton in Amsterdam, NY.
1840 Census – Ellen living with widowed mother Adaline Going Rice in Macoupin County, Illinois
Nov 15, 1840 – Ellen's mother, Adaline Rice next marries WDH Johnson in Macoupin, Illinois.
1850 – Charles is living in Amsterdam N.Y. with mother and stepfather working as painter.
Mid-1850's – Charles travels to Illinois and stays with Uncle Albert Livingston, probably in Litchfield, Montgomery, Illinois
30 Dec 1857 – Charles marries Ellen Rice in Bond County, Illinois
Aug 7, 1862 - Charles Edward enlists in Army in Civil War
Nov 4, 1862 – First son George Orlo Stearns born in Greenville, Illinois
April 8, 1864 – Charles captured by Rebs. Sent to Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas
Jun 17, 1865 - Charles Edward discharged from Army.
Oct 18, 1880 – Charles and Ellen's last child, John Addison, born in Greenville, Illinois
About 1881-2 - Charles Edward gets tired of painting and scouts out land in Texas, Dakotas, Kansas and Nebraska
Fall 1883 - Family moves to Arapahoe, Nebraska
Apr 6, 1885 - Charles Edward dies in Arapahoe, Nebraska
Dec 1888 - Ellen decides to sell property at Arapahoe and moves family to Grand Island, Nebraska.
June 14, 1889 – Auction of Stearns farm in Arapahoe.
June, 1890 – Ellen enumerated on Veteran's Schedule in Grand Island, Neb.
After 1890 and before 1900 – Ellen and family move back to Greenville. The author speculates it was probably about 1891-2 about the same time son George left for Milwaukee.
1900 – Ellen Stearns living in Greenville, Illinois on 1900 census
1910 – Ellen Stearns living in Greenville, Illinois on 1910 census
Jan, 1920 – Ellen Stearns living in Greenville, Illinois on 1910 census
Jun 20, 1920 – Ellen Stearns dies in Greenville, Illinois

Charles Edward Stearns Civil War Record

Charles joined the Illinois 130th Infantry Volunteers and was assigned to Company F during the Civil War. The 130th was comprised primarily of men from Bond County, Illinois.

The history of the 130th Illinois Infantry is summarized below and appears to be very accurate and corroborates Charles' diary that he kept during the war.

Illinois At Vicksburg
Page 319 (no title)
From David B. Stearns files

130th Infantry, Illinois Volunteers

The 130th Infantry was organized at Camp Butler and was mustered into the service on the 25th of October, 1862. The companies comprising this regiment were organized in the counties of Alexander, Bond, Clark, Christian, Coles, Edgar, Monroe, Sangamon, Richland and Lawrence.

The regiment left Camp Butler November 11th for Memphis, Tennessee, where it arrived on the 17th. It remained at Fort Pickering, near the city, until March 27, 1863, during which time it did provost duty in the city, and was only relieved at the urgent request of Colonel Niles for active service in the field. Owing to the prevalence of measles and smallpox, the regiment sustained a great loss by death while serving near Memphis.

On the 27th of March it embarked for Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, where it arrived on the 31st. It remained at this point while the army was organizing the Vicksburg campaign, and moved with that army on the 15th of April, 1863, and crossed the Mississippi River at Bruinsburg on the morning of May 1st, and marched immediately for Port Gibson, where the advance of the 13th corps had early engaged the enemy. Here it became engaged for the first time.

The regiment continued with the army through Mississippi, and was again engaged at Champion's Hill on the 16th of May, and on the 17th at Black River Bridge. On the 18th it marched on toward Vicksburg and at night encamped within three miles of the city.

On the morning of the 19th the regiment participated in the assault. It was also in the assaulting column of May 22nd. It served in the line of investment during the entire siege until July 4th.

On the morning of the 5th of July the regiment again took up its line of march, for Jackson, Mississippi, where the Confederates were found entrenched behind very formidable works. A vigorous siege of ten days compelled them to withdraw, burning and sacking the town as

they left. The regiment was then ordered to return to Vicksburg, and encamped on the bank of the river, where the 13th Army Corps were permitted to rest and reorganize, after which it was transferred to the Gulf Department, under the command of General Banks.

The 130th remained near New Orleans until the middle of October, 1863, when it was ordered, with the remainder of the army, to Berwick Bay, thence up Bayou Teche, at which time a Texas expedition was under way. After proceeding up the Bayou about eighty miles, the regiment was brought to a halt at New Iberia, and with the 99th Illinois, remained on duty at this place, while a large portion of the army moved on twenty-five miles farther up to Vermillionville. It remained at New Iberia until about the 1st of December.

The regiment was then ordered to the coast of Texas, where it spent the winter of 1863-4 at Decrow's Point, on Matagorda Peninsula. In February, 1864, it returned to Berwick Bay, and then started on the ill-fated Red River expedition. At the battle of Mansfield it lost severely in killed and wounded, and nearly its entire number were captured and taken to Tyler, Texas, where they remained thirteen months, as prisoners of war, and were only paroled a few days before the surrender of the entire Confederate army. At the battle of Mansfield, Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Reid, in command of the regiment, and the only field officer present, was severely wounded, a rifle ball passing through the upper lobe of his right lung and the entire body. He was taken to a Confederate hospital, where he so far recovered as to be paroled in ten weeks from the date of his capture. He returned to Union lines, and by the time he was exchanged, was able to again take command of the regiment. Captain F.D. Phillips was also severely wounded in the knee and afterwards died from the effects of the wound. Captain C. T. Mullen was also wounded and died while in the hands of his captors. The remainder of the regiment, but a handful of men, who succeeded in escaping, returned with the army to the Mississippi River and were afterwards ordered to New Orleans where it was put on duty during the winter of 1864-5.

In January, 1865, it was temporarily consolidated with the 77th Illinois, with which it was connected during the Mobile campaign, and participated in the attack and siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. This was the second regiment that landed on the Mobile shore of the bay, and upon landing found the enemy had evacuated the city, and following him, had a slight skirmish with his cavalry – one of the last skirmishes of the war. It went up to the Tombigbee River as far as McIntosh Bluffs, where the Confederacy once had a navy yard. Here it remained until the surrender of Taylor's command and the return of the Confederate fleet down the river, when it embarked on that fleet and returned to Mobile.

On the 11th day of July, 1865, the old 77th was mustered out, and the old 130th reorganized into a battalion of six companies, but the untiring energy of Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Reid, who was anxious that it should be mustered out as the 130th regiment. In the first

week of August, 1865, it was ordered to New Orleans for muster-out, which was accomplished on the 15th and it at once embarked for Springfield, Illinois, where on the 31st of that month it was paid off and finally discharged. For gallant services several officers were here promoted, among the number Lieutenant-Colonel John B. Reid to Colonel and Captain Jacob W. Wilkin to Major.

The following is a slightly different version of the 130th Illinois Volunteer Infantry record, at least as far as the internment in prison. It matches pretty well the account given in Charles' diary below.

1863 – Assignments and Service

- Duty at Fort Pickering, Memphis, TN till March 27, 1863, District of Memphis, 16th Army Corps
- Moved to Milliken's Bend, LA, March 27 – 31, and duty there till April 25
- Movement on Bruinsburg and turning Grand Gulf April 25 – 30
- Battle of Magnolia Hills, Port Gibson, May 1
- Champion Hill May 16; Big Black River May 17
- Siege of Vicksburg, MS, May 18 – July 4; assaults on Vicksburg May 19 and 22
- Advance on Jackson, MS July 5 – 10; siege of Jackson July 10 – 17; and reconnaissance to Pearl River July 11
- Camp at Big Black till August 13; ordered to New Orleans, LA, August 13 and duty there till October; Western Louisiana Campaign October 3 – November 30
- At New Iberia till December 6
- Moved to New Orleans, thence to Pass Cavallo, TX December 6 – 20 and duty there till February 1864

1864 – Assignments and Service

- Reconnaissance on Matagorda Peninsula January 21, moved to Algiers, thence to Franklin, LA
- Duty at Pass Cavallo, TX till February 1864
- Red River Campaign March 10 – May 22
- Advance from Franklin to Alexandria, LA March 14 – 26
- Bayou De Paul, Carroll's Mills April 8
- Battle of Sabine Cross Roads April 8; Regiment mostly captured at Sabine Cross Roads and confined at Camp Ford at Tyler, TX for 13 months

Charles was involved in two major campaigns – the Vicksburg Campaign under General Ulysses S. Grant, including the Battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills, the siege of Vicksburg and the Battle of

Jackson, and the Louisiana Red River Campaign under General Banks. Before the Red River Campaign, his company was part of the Western Louisiana Campaign and also went to Matagorda Bay, Texas. Charles kept a diary throughout his time in the service. Most of the above locations where he served are documented in his diary.

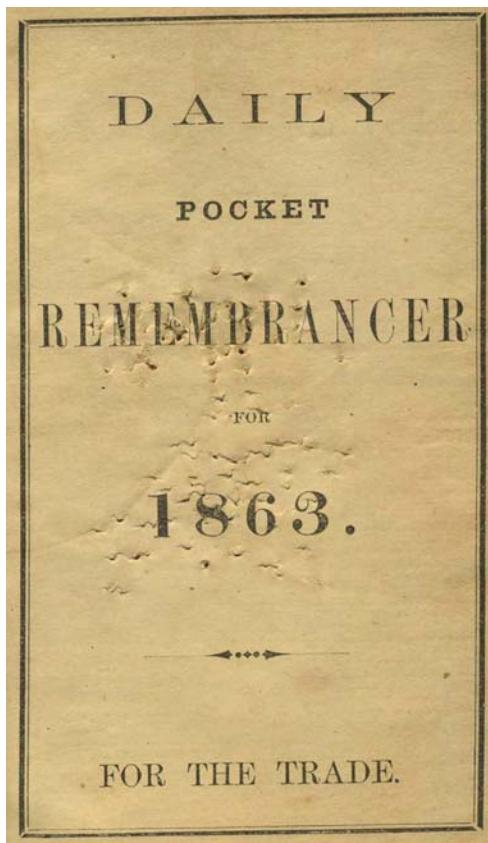
Charles Edward Stearns Civil War Diary.

The diary was transcribed word for word as spelled by Charles. He was not the greatest speller or grammarian although he had a good command of the English language. What is surprising is the fact that he was able to write a diary at all given the circumstances and duress of battle.

The following is an edited and corrected version of that transcription intended to make for easier reading. The essentials have not been altered.

Place names are in black bold font, **Ship names** are in bold blue font, italics in brackets are the *[author's comments]*, red font is used for words that are **unknown or illegible**.

Charles apparently had only one pocket sized diary that he used during his entire Civil War service, the year 1863. The title page states:



Title Page – Charles E. Stearns Civil War Diary

He jumped back and forth, crossed out some dates and wrote in his own. A number of pages contain cryptic chits and expenses that were incurred while in prison camp. These pages were not transcribed for this report, although are a good reference for names of men who were with him at the prison. According to his diary, Charles and several other men ran a bakery in the prison and sold pies and crackers that they made. His son George stated above that he came home with \$800 in cash he earned while in prison selling tobacco and notions, but this might have been money he made from the bakery. Being a painter and businessman, Charles was probably good with numbers and accounting.

[Begin Diary]

C.E. Stearns enlisted as a private in the 130th Reg. Ills. Vol. Inf. at **Greenville**, Bond County on the 7th day of August, 1862, the day the Company was organized. J B Reid Captain, Wm Colbey 1st lieut, G.O. Domrell 2 Liut, C Ives Orderly.

Started for **Bellville** on the 5th of Sept. Got there that evening. Left **Bellville** for **Camp Butler** on the 10th and got there on the 11th. Went to **St. Louis** by rail and from there to **Alton** on the **David Tatum**. From there to **Camp Butler** by rail. Our regiment was organized on the 25th of October and mustered in. Went **home** on the 9th of October. *[His son George Orlo was born on 4 Nov 1862 – He went home for the birth]*

November 1862. Capt Reid was promoted to Major October 25th. Colbey, Capt., J. D. Domrell, 1st lieut., C. Ives 2nd lieut, elected by the Company F. D. Phillips, Orderly. We left **Camp Butler** 11th of November and went to **Alton**. From there to **Memphis**, Tennessee on the **Robert Allen** and arrived at **Memphis** on the 17th. We ran aground a few miles above the **Arkansas line** & went ashore and stayed one night. Our Company was thrown out as picket. Went into camp about 2 miles out of the city on the 18th, moved into **Fort Pickering** [Tennessee] on the evening of the 26th. I was at 8th Corps. on the 28th. Our Company went out on picket and came in the next evening. Our regiment went into the city on provost guard and moved back to the fort the 15th day of January 1863.

March 23rd 1863 received orders to prepare to go to **Vicksburg**. 27 went on board the **J C Swan** with the 109th. We lay at this wharf that night & it rained very hard. About 4 in the afternoon we went down to the fort and coaled up & at ½ past 11 started out. Stopped at **Helena** & at **Lake Providence** [Louisiana] & arrived at **Milliken's Bend** the 30th March about 4 o'clock. The 31st landed, pitched our tents. On April 13, 1863 received orders to be ready to move by noon tomorrow. It rained most all day. On the 14th, packed up but did not move. Sent most of our troops aboard boats. On the 15th struck tents. At 8 o'clock left for **Richmond** [Louisiana] 9 o'clock. Halted, pitched tents after a tramp of 14 miles. On 16 April struck tents and moved towards **Carthage**. Marched 10 miles. Pitched tents n **Holmes Plantation**. *[Madison Parish, LA]* Apr 17 got paid today to the first of March. On the 20th, the Parson started home with the boys money *[Could have been Wm D.H. Johnson]*. April 24, struck tents, marched at 8 o'clock toward **Carthage** [New Carthage]. Halted on **Smiths Plantation** [Smith's Landing?, near Carthage] ½ past 2, A.M, 7 ½ miles. April 26, marched at dark. Had no tents so were ready in a hurry. Went 4 miles & halted for the night. It rained some.

April 30, the troops all crossed this morning on boats except our Division. We went aboard about 4 o'clock except our Regiment. We stayed to load the boats and got aboard at 12 midnight. Crossed the river on the **Forest Queen** & got over just at day light May 1st. Companies F and D stayed to unload boats. The rest of the regiment went on. We left about nine o'clock and arrived on the **Battlefield** [*Battle of Magnolia Hills, near Port Gibson*] about 12 o'clock after a forced march of about 15 miles. Halted & unslung knapsacks. Moved forward and joined our Brigade which was in the fight. We lay still for some time there, being but little to do. Col. Landram told our two Companies to go back and rest a little & get our breakfast as we had eaten nothing since the night before. While we were gone our regiment was engaged. Capt Johnson & another man were wounded. It was a pretty hard fight and our victory complete. The Rebs skedaddled in the night towards **Grand Gulf** & burnt the bridge after them. May 2 got up at daylight. The whole army moved towards **Port Gibson**. Got there at 10 half. The regiment was sent back to get our knapsacks from the battlefield. Part of the troops moved on across the river as soon as the bridge was built.

Saturday, May 2, 1863

Took possession of **Port Gibson**. Crossed the river.

Sunday May 3, 1863

Our regiment was thrown out on skirmishes this morning at 11. Have followed our Division. We halted at 5 o'clock after a march of 8 miles at **Bayou Pierre**.

May, Monday 4, 1863

Lay still today. Went foraging

Tuesday May 5, 1863

Still at the same place. Nothing of importance going on.

Wednesday May 6, 1863

Still at the same business.

May, Thursday 7, 1863

Regiment moved to **Rocky Spring** 11 miles. Camped for the night

Friday May 8, 1863

Lay still all day. Had dress parade and review [*with Gen Grant*]

Saturday May 9, 1863

Had a Brigade review about Six o'clock. Lay still the rest of the day till two when we packed up and marched 2 miles. Camped on a **Sandy Stream** [*Probably Big Sandy Creek*]

May, Sunday 10, 1863

Lay still till about two o'clock. Marched about 6 miles. Camped at **Cayuga**

Monday May 11, 1863

The Bond County Cavalry Company came up this morning. Moved about ¼ of a mile

Tuesday May 12, 1863

Ate breakfast by daylight and were on the move. Marched 12 miles. Our advance drove in Rebs pickets. Our Company went on picket

May, Wednesday 13, 1863

We were called in. Our regiment had left so we went ahead. We went back the same road a little ways. Camped $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from **Mt. Auburn [Auburn]** 7 miles

Thursday May 14, 1863

Lay still all day. Had quite a shower in the morning

Friday May 15, 1863

Lay still till about 11 o'clock. Marched to **Raymond** 16 miles. Camped at 1 o'clock in the morning. Bad marching in the dark

May, Saturday 16, 1863

Took up line of march towards **Edwards Station**. Our Advance ran on the Rebel pickets. Formed line of battle. Whipped the enemy. This was the Battle of **Champion Hills**

Sunday May 17, 1863

Formed line of battle this morning but the Rebels had gone. Followed on to **Black River** [to right?] Then there and captured a good many prisoners cannon, &c. The Rebels fell back across the river towards **Vicksburg**

Monday May 18, 1863

Left **Big Black**. Crossed the river. Marched to within 4 miles of **Vicksburg** and 12 miles from **Big Black**. Camped for the night

[Start Vicksburg Battle]

May, Tuesday 19, 1863

Formed line of battle and moved over the Hills to good rifle distance from the enemy. I. Thorn killed & E. Dewey, L Fuller F. A Clough wounded. Lay on our arms at night in position

Wednesday May 20, 1863

Held our position and kept up fire. James McConner wounded – lay on field till about ten o'clock and were relieved. Went into a hollow and camped for the night – Had a good nights rest, the first part sometimes.

Thursday May 21, 1863

11 Wisconsin relieved us Supporting battery till night Changed position to the right of rail road. This morning lay all day and night Some firing going on. H. McOrd, L Case, T W Hyner fell back at dark. D H Brown? at Hospital

May Friday 22, 1863

Company F & D Sent in front & attached to the 97th which was to support the 11th Wisconsin in making a charge at 11 o'clock. Was made & the fort was carried, but with terrible loss. Held positions till about Six. Fell back. Capt **Colbey** mortally wounded. Loss of **Eight, Killed and wounded**.

Saturday May 23, 1863

Lay on the Hill supporting Battery. Capt Colbey died. Moved to the right in the evening with the First Brigade. Not much fighting going on today

Sunday May 24, 1863

Buried the Captain J. Jilfred made his coffin & buried him. Not much firing today
Our regiment went on picket

May, Monday 25, 1863

A flag of truce for burying the dead came out today. John Davis was found & buried
them all. Opened again at 8 o'clock

Tuesday May 26, 1863

James Comer died this morning & L A Clough this afternoon No very hard firing today
Most of the Company went on picket tonight

Wednesday May 27, 1863

Lay still all day. Not much firing. The Rebs don't reply much

May, Thursday 28, 1863

Our regiment got a mail today. It rained a little today

Friday May 29, 1863

Our Artillery prayed on the city this morning and this evening. The Rebs did not
reply. H. Patterson & H. Shomaker got back. 17 of our Company went on a picket.
Tom Hynes died tonight at 12.

Saturday May 30, 1863

T Hynes buried. J Halfred made his coffin & Buried him. No very sharp firing

May, Sunday 31, 1863

Our artillery opened heavy on the City & fortifications this morning about 9 o'clock.
The Rebs opened fire on our Signal Corps this afternoon but fired but few rounds.
Our Regiment went on the Hill

June, Monday 1, 1863

Nothing of importance today. Our regiment went to support Battery. Tonight the
Rebs fired on our fatigued men creating quite an excitement for a few minutes. Did
not amount to much.

Tuesday June 2, 1863

Not much firing except by cannon

June, Tuesday 9, 1863

Very hot today. The regiment goes on picket tonight. Changed camp today.
Received a letter from my wife. Got our tents for the first time – **linen**. We left
Palmer plantation

Wednesday June 10, 1863

This morning it is raining hard and bids fair to rain all day. Afternoon still raining

Thursday June 11, 1863

Very pleasant today after the rain. Our regiment was most all on duty. There was
considerable cannonading today. Poynter missing

June, Friday 12, 1863

Received a letter from my wife and sent one to her. The rebels fired more today than common. Had a pretty comfortable day so far.

Saturday June 13, 1863

Quite pleasant but warm. Not much going on

Sunday June 14, 1863

Quite pleasant but hot. Lieut. Charles Ives died typhoid fever. The regiment was ordered into line but did not have to move

June, Monday 15, 1863

Very pleasant – not too hot. Lieut Charles Ives was buried. Prospect of rain. Considerable firing on both sides with cannons

Tuesday June 16, 1863

The Rebs shelled the Hollow considerably

Wednesday June 17, 1863

Sharp firing on the left in the afternoon

Thursday June 18, 1863

The vacancies in our Company were filled by promotion. Danwell Capt; Phillips, 1st lieut; Murdock, 2nd Lieut; Enloe, **Orderly**

Friday June 19, 1863

Got up early. Cleaned quarters. Signed pay roles. Considerable cannonading in the afternoon.

Saturday June 20, 1863

Up this morning at 7 A.M. Our regiment & the whole Division went into the rifle pit. Heavy cannonading till ten o'clock

June, Sunday 21, 1863

Cap Holden started home, Not much going on

Monday June 22, 1863

Our regiment was most all on duty today

Tuesday June 23, 1863

Up this morning at 3. Ordered to get two days rations and hold ourselves in readiness to march to the rear. All quiet again this evening

June, Wednesday 24, 1863

Heavy firing on the river from the gun boats

Thursday June 25, 1863

Nothing of importance this morning. We rec'd orders to be in line with 80 rounds, coat & canteen filled. The Division all went into the rifle pits. Company gun blew up a fort on our right. Our artillery opened heavy. There was heavy firing on our left this afternoon

Friday June 26, 1863

All quiet not much firing

June, Saturday 27, 1863

Not much firing on either side. Shoemaker got struck with shell

Sunday June 28, 1863

Dan'l Aull got killed today. Shot in shoulder. Ball **ranged?** toward body. With musket ball the Rebels tried to blow up over rifle pits

Monday June 29, 1863

Very little firing this morning. In the evening we received orders to sleep with our clothes and guns by our side ready to go to rear at a moment's warning. I was on picket in the rear **line.** James in command. Had us up in over **five** minutes

June, Tuesday 30, 1863

The regiment went to Black River on a scout. I was on picket so I did not go. The Mercantile Battery went with them

July Wednesday 1, 1863

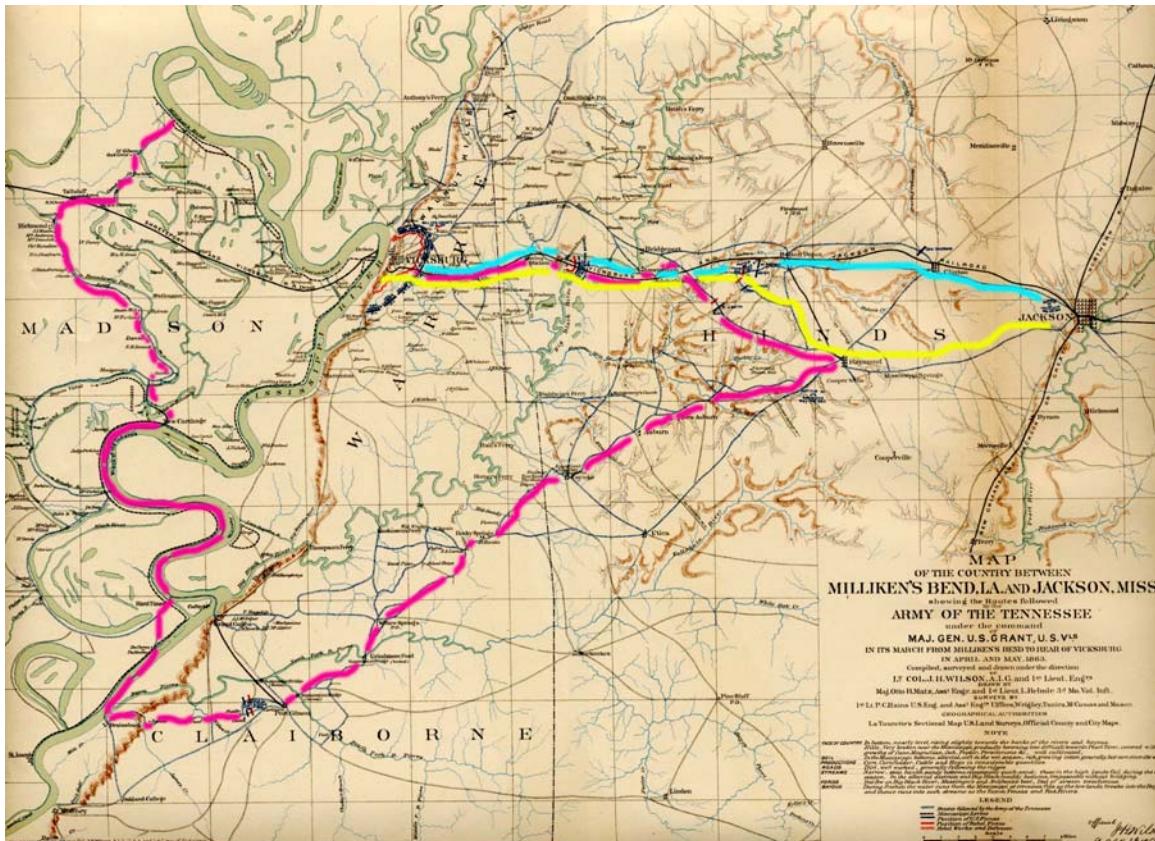
Considerable cannonading on both sides this morning. This evening there was very heavy firing on the right

Thursday July 2, 1863

All quiet as could be expected

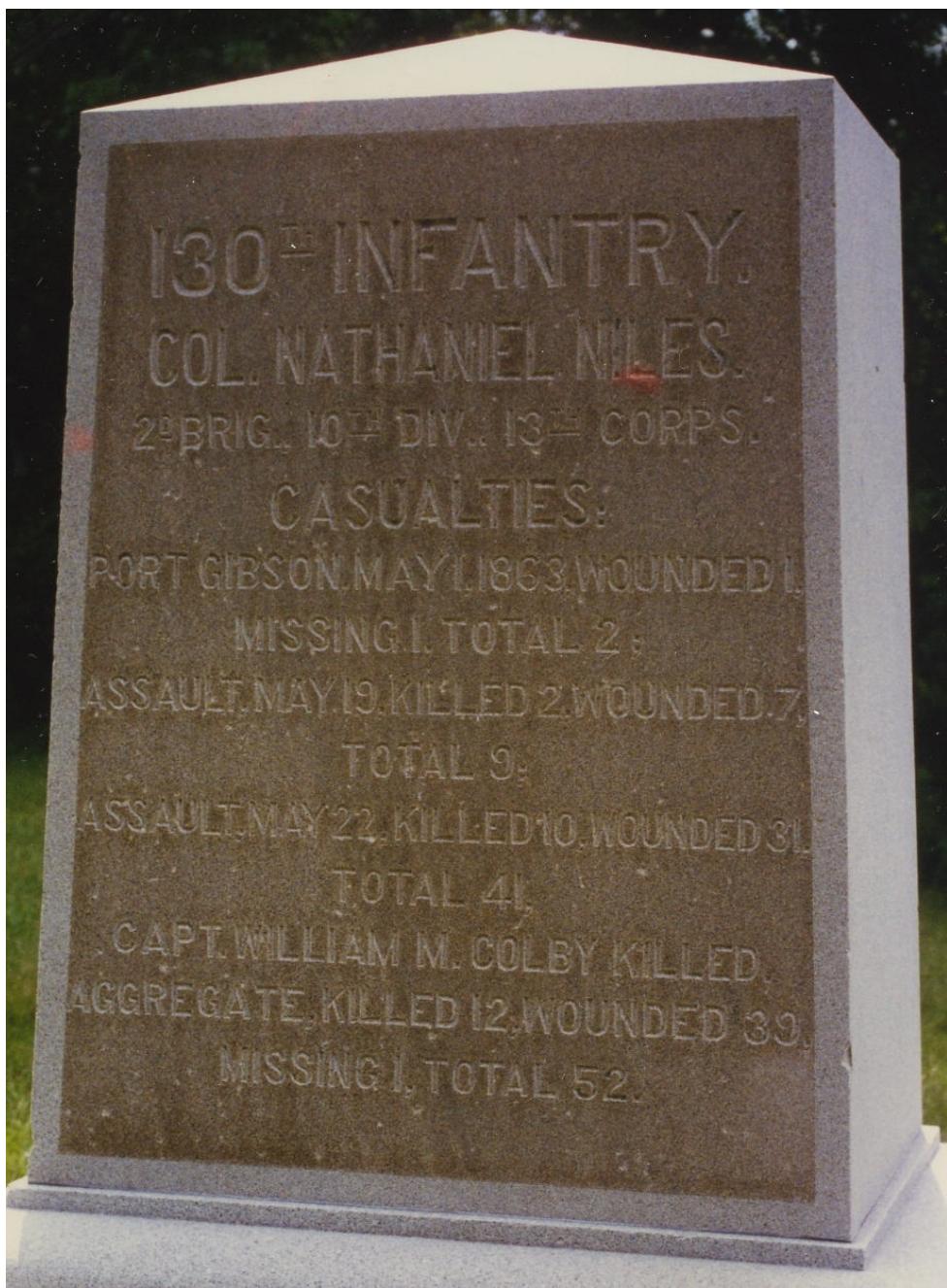
After a Scout of three days, get two months pay. There was another flag of truce. Gen. Pemberton met Gen. Grant at **logans?** No firing today. The supposition is they are to surrender which they did.

[End of Vicksburg Siege – Begin Battle for Jackson]



Grant's Vicksburg Campaign Map

Charles route is traced as follows: Pink is initial advance from Millikin's Bend south via the Mississippi River to Port Gibson Battle, on foot to the northeast to Raymond and turning northwest to Battle of Champion Hills, then west to Vicksburg. After the Vicksburg surrender, the Blue line is their march east to Jackson and the ensuing battle there. Yellow is their return west to Vicksburg.



Illinois 130th Infantry Memorial, presumably at Vicksburg

July, Friday 3, 1863

There was a flag of truce came out this morning. Gen. Bowen [*Confederate*] & Col. Montgomery [*Union*] came out & with it in our front & Gen Smith received them & connected? them to Gen. Burbridge Headquarters. They are fine looking men. Our regiment came in. The white flag was raised this morning about 11 and the Rebs marched out & stacked their arms. I went inside the fortifications but did not go to town. Got orders to be ready to march leaving our baggage behind. Took up line of march towards at 4 this morn for **Black River**. Marched about 12 miles. Camped at **Clear Creek** 3 1/2 miles from **Black River**.

July, Monday 6, 1863

We lay in camp till 4 o'clock this afternoon. Took up time of march. Crossed **Black River**. About 4 miles march. Our two days rations about **90 C?**

Tuesday July 7, 1863

Up and on the march again by daylight. Went over the Battleground of **Champion Hills**. Saw a good many graves & lights of the fight. 13 miles. Camped for the night. Dark. 8 miles from **Clinton**. Rained all night

July, Thursday 9, 1863

Daylight on the road. Marched 6 miles. Met the enemy. Drove them towards **Jackson**

Friday July 10, 1863

Marched 5 miles toward **Jackson**. Formed line of Battle in the evening. Went to the front to support Cavalry. Had a few shots

Saturday July 11, 1863

Next day went in front. Had one man killed & **one** wounded. Changed position twice. Ed **Dewey?** got struck in the arm with piece of shell

July, Sunday 12, 1863

Lay in camp all day. Heavy firing in front & left. Got a letter from my wife date 28-29 June

Monday July 13, 1863

All night some pretty heavy firing along the line. Called into line of Battle

Tuesday July 14, 1863

Called into line of Battle at ? O'clock this morning. Flag of truce for burying the dead

July, Wednesday 15, 1863

Nothing of importance today. Our Company built a shade today

Thursday July 16, 1863

All right today. Regiment called into line once or twice

Friday July 17, 1863

The Rebs evacuated **Jackson** last night. Gens **Blair & Haveys? Davis?** took possession. I went in the city to see the place. Moved back 3 miles

[End of battle for Jackson, capitol of Mississippi]

July, Saturday 18, 1863

Lay still all day. Had Brigade instruction in morning. Major Ried came to regiment

Sunday July 19, 1863

All right & quiet

Monday July 20, 1863

Ordered to be ready to march at five in the morning

July, Tuesday 21, 1863

Up a 4 & at 9 took up line of march toward **Raymond**. Marched 8 miles. Very hot & water Scarce. Encamped near **Miss Springs [Mississippi Springs]**

Wednesday July 22, 1863

Up at **dawn**. Marched toward **Raymond**. Went threw there at 8 & marched 8 miles beyond over the old Battlefield [*Champion Hills*] & camped 2 miles from **Bakers Creek** (14 Miles)

Thursday July 23, 1863

Started early marched to **Edwards Station Black River** & through to our old Camp 20 miles. There were a good many of the boys fell behind. The longest march we have made.

July, Friday July 24, 1863

Lay in camp till 12. Struck tents and moved to the river passing through **Vicksburg** 9 miles 1 ½ below the city

Saturday July 25, 1863

Pitched our tents. Got two letters from home wife

Sunday July 26, 1863

All quiet in camp

July, Monday 27, 1863

All quiet. Our regiment **drive? clothing. I have** 2 pr Socks 1 pr Shoes a Hat & canteen & 2 pr. Drawers, Very hot.

Tuesday July 28, 1863

Rained this afternoon. Very Hot

Wednesday July 29, 1863

A Elam, George Patterson & Wm Smith started for home this evening. Very hot

July, Thursday 30, 1863

Lay in camp all night. Very hot

Friday July 31, 1863

Lay in camp all day and general inspection & dress parade. Very hot

August, Saturday 1, 1863

Lay in camp all day. Company drill dress parade. Very hot

August, Sunday 2, 1863

Company inspection. Awful hot

Monday August 3, 1863

Not very well. Hot

Tuesday August 4, 1863

Not very well. Hot

August, Wednesday 5, 1863

Not very well. Hot

Thursday August 6, 1863

Unwell. Hot

Friday August 7, 1863

Unwell. Hot

August, Saturday 8, 1863

Not very well. Hot

Sunday August 9, 1863

Not well. Hot

Monday August 10, 1863

Not very well. Hot

August, Tuesday 11, 1863

Not well. Hot

Wednesday August 12, 1863

Unwell. Hot

Thursday August 13, 1863

Not very well. Hot

August, Friday 14, 1863

Not well. Hot

Saturday August 15, 1863

Not well. Hot

Sunday August 16, 1863

Not well. Not so hot

August, Monday 17, 1863

Not well. Not so hot

Tuesday August 18, 1863

Not very well. A little cloudy

Wednesday August 19, 1863

Went up to load ammunition. The boat **City of Madison** blown up by shells a total wreck. The Ed Walsh badly injured. Several lives lost Co F. C.E. Hiprell Killed, W.D Lugg wounded in head

August, Thursday 20, 1863

The weather is pleasant. Not very well

Friday August 21, 1863

Sent a letter to my mother. Not very well

Saturday August 22, 1863

Not very well It is warm & sultry this morning & Cloudy

Tuesday August 25, 1863

12 o'clock at night left **Vicksburg** for **New Orleans**. Got to **Natchez** at ? in the morning Stopped about an hour

August, Wednesday 26, 1863

Got to **Port Hudson** about Six in the evening

Thursday August 27, 1863

Got to **Carrollton** about 8 o'clock. Landed. Went to camp about 4. P.M.

August, Saturday 29, 1863

Had **Corps** review By Gen. Banks

Saturday August 5, 1863

Crossed the bay and pitched tent

Saturday August 26, 1863

Wrote to my mother & sent to **New Orleans** to be mailed by Major Reid

Sept. Monday 28, 1863

Smart got back today. Quite a heavy rain at night

[Begin Western Louisiana or Texas Campaign]

October, Sunday 4, 1863

Left **Carrollton** on the **Steamer Emerald** for **Algiers**. Embark in the cars for **Brashear City**. [Brashear – now Morgan City] Got there that night

Monday October 5, 1863

Crossed the Bay and went into Camp

October, Wednesday 7. 1863

Left camp for the interior. Marched 15 miles

Thursday October 8. 1863

Marched 18 miles along **Bayou Teche**

Friday October 9, 1863

Marched 22 miles camped

October, Saturday 10, 1863

Camped at **Oliver's** Landing with the 97th and 127th Calvary.

Wednesday October 14, 1863

Regiment marched to **Iberia** [New Iberia] to guard Commissary Store. 97th with us. Col N Niles Command post

October Monday 26, 1863

D. E. White Jr. died at regiment hospital

November Wednesday 4, 1863

Left Iberia. Marched to **Vermillion Bayou** 22 Miles. Rather a rainy night

Thursday November 5, 1863

Left camp & marched about 5 miles. Halted. The Army was falling back from **Opelousas** having had a pretty severe fight. Rained hard at night

Nov. Friday 6 1863

Lay in camp today. Last night it rained & all day today. Wrote a letter to Mr. Lester Rice

Saturday November 7, 1863

Changed camp to the south side of **Vermillion Bayou**. Pitched tent & got our dinner and moved 8 miles south and camped for the night

Sunday November 8, 1863

Marched 15 miles. Camped a little north of **Iberia**

Nov. Monday 9, 1863

Cleaned camp. Commenced digging rifle pits, &c

Tuesday November 10, 1863

Changed camp to front of Battery. Chopped again today

Nov. Thursday 12, 1863

On picket. The regiment went on a Scout. Murdock reported **to** company for not falling in

Saturday November 14, 1863

Got 3 letters from my wife

Nov. Sunday 15, 1863

R. T. Poynter, B. F Johnson, E. F Case, John Williford, H A McCord returned to Company at **Iberia**

Nov. Wednesday 18, 1863

Return of N P Davis to Company

Friday November 20, 1863

The third Division went out and captured 111 men; one Capt. & a Major. Had two men slightly wounded

Nov. Saturday 21, 1863

The regiment went foraging. The 19th Corps got scared. Marched 8 miles & back. Had a good time

Sunday November 22, 1863

In camp. Very pleasant this morning

December Monday 7, 1863

Left **New Iberia**. Marched 8 miles. Regiment got paid.

Tuesday December 8, 1863

Marched 20 miles

Dec. Wednesday 9, 1863

Marched 22 miles

Thursday December 10, 1863

Marched the whole day and crossed. Took McCues? [Possibly a boat] for **Aljiers**. Got there that afternoon

Friday December 11, 1863

Lay in camp today waiting for transfer to train?

Dec. Saturday 12, 1863

Got aboard the **Ship Continental**

Sunday December 13, 1863

Left **New Orleans**. Crossed the bar at the **mouth of the Mississippi River** at 5 o'clock and put to sea

Monday December 14, 1863

Out on the gulf. Out of sight of land

Dec, Tuesday 15, 1863

Anchored five miles from camp at the mouth of **Matagorda Bay**. Waiting for a **lighter** to take us off

Wednesday December 16, 1863

Sea rough. The vessel rocked very hard

Thursday December 17, 1863

Sea smooth. Got off the **Continental** and to a **light draft Steamer** and lay up for the night

Dec, Friday 18, 1863

Got off the Boat & camped at **Matagorda Bay** a very dry sandy disagreeable place

Saturday December 19, 1863

Cleaned up. Got things in some shape

Sunday December 20, 1863

Sent a letter to my wife Nellie. Got two from her - all well

Dec. Monday 21, 1863

Had Brigade inspection

Tuesday December 22, 1863

Wrote to mother

December Friday 25, 1863

Wrote to Nellie

Dec. Sunday 27, 1863
Very windy & cold for Texas

February, Tuesday 24, 1864
Ordered to cook three days rations and get ready to Embark for **Berwick** [*The Town of Berwick, Louisiana or Berwick City*]

Thursday February 25, 1864
Struck tents packed and moved to the landing

[Begin Red River Campaign]

Friday February 26, 1864
Got aboard the **Steam Ship Crescent** and started for **Berwick**. Thomas & Tavenbend got Left.

March 7th, 1864
Left Berwick. Marched 16

March Sunday 8, 1864
Marched 15 miles. Camped 5 miles above **Franklin**

March Monday 16, 1864
Left camp. Marched 16 miles. Went into camp 7 miles below **Iberia**. Weather cool 6 A M, 12 A M

March 17, 1864
Left camp – Marched 10 miles. Camped at **Camp Pratt** 1.00.P.M Pleasant

March 18th, 1864
Left **Camp Pratt**. Marched 19 miles to **Bayou Vermillion**. Camped for the night. Cool. Heard today that Alexandria was taken

March 19th, 1864
Left camp. Marched 19. Crossed **Carencro Bayou** [*originally Carrion Crow Bayou aka Carencro Bayou*] Camped out on the **Carencro Battle ground**. Warm & dusty

March, 20, 1864
Left camp. Marched 18 miles. Went through **Opelousas, Washington** & **Camped on Bayou Cortableau**. Warm & dusty

March 21st, 1864
2 P.M. Left camp. Went 8 miles to guard Division train. Rained hard. Land red clay. Slept in a Smoke House

Sunday March 22, 1864
Marched 10 miles. Went into camp on **Bayou Boeuf** Had **large? pitcher** soup for breakfast

March 23, 1864
Marched 25 miles; pretty good loads. Very tired at night and foot sore. Passed through homes **visible** along **Bayou Boeuf**

March 24, 1864

Marched 16 miles; rained almost all the time. The regiment tolerable. Happy to night
Passed threw **Cheneyville**

March 25, 1864

Marched 15 miles; very muddy

March, Thursday 26, 1864

Marched 10 Miles; came threw **Alexandria**

Sunday March 27, 1864

On guard. Regiment paid

March 28, 1864

Left camp. Marched 22 miles. The first part of the day wet and muddy. **Bayou Swift** [*Proper name or just fast water?*]

March, 29, 1864

Marched 20 miles. Passed through pine forest. Camped On **Cane River**. The country through which we passed today was hilly and some rocks

[*What is now Cane River was once the main channel of the Red River.*]

Monday March 30, 1864

Lay in camp while a bridge was being built. Camp surrounded by wood on three sides and the river on the other

Tuesday March 31, 1864

Crossed river. Marched 18 miles and crossed again. Passed through **Cloutierville** [*Cloutier or Cloutierville, LA*] Cool & dry

April 1, 1864

Left Camp. Marched 20 miles along **Cane River**. Very dusty

Thursday April 2, 1864

Left camp at 6 A.M. Marched 6 miles Camped on the Bank of **Cane river** at 9 a.m. Near **Natchitoches**

Friday April 3, 1864

Lay in Camp near **Natchitoches**

April, Saturday 4, 1864

Got a letter from Nellie (wife). Lay in camp

April 5th, 1864

On picket.

April 6th, 1864

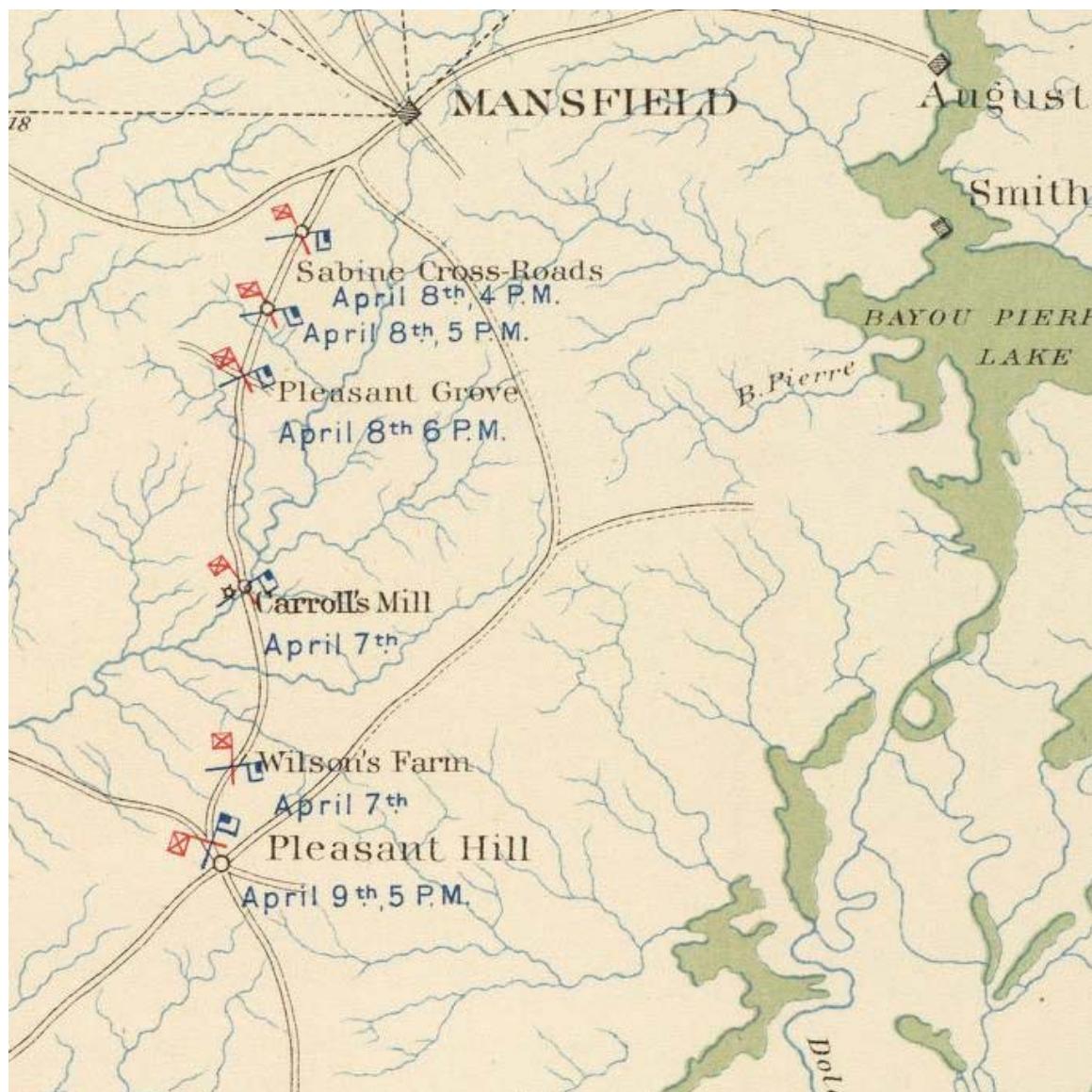
Marched 15 miles. Camped in the pine wood

April 7, 1864

Marched 20 miles. Camped at **Pleasant Hill**. Here the advance had a little brush

Friday April 8, 1864

Marched 28 miles to the Battleground near **Mansfield**. Our loss pretty heavy but the Rebs loss three times more men. We camped near **Marshall?** as Prisoners of War



Red River Campaign Battles in the vicinity of Mansfield, Louisiana

April 8th the Battle of Mansfield was fought. Co. F. badly cut up [Also known as Battle of Sabine Crossroads]

Evan Evans Killed

T Hugerreis Mortally wounded

Ben Johnson Wounded

John Haley Wounded

Bent Wood Wounded

T Vaughn Supposed Killed

A Ingles Supposed Killed

R W Patterson Supposed Killed
T Gardenhier Supposed Killed
W Flemming Supposed Killed
W P Mcadow Supposed Killed
T Mount Supposed Killed
H F Fuller Supposed Killed
Merry
D M Gibson
Wheeler

[Marching through Texas on way to prison camp]

Saturday April 9, 1864

Marched 21 miles. Camped for the night. Land only tolerable. Timber good. Country rough.

April, Sunday 10, 1864

Marched 22 miles. Passed threw **Keatchie**, a small town & camped in **Texas** that night. Land poor. Heavy timber

Saturday April 11, 1864

Marched to **Elysian Fields** 16 miles. A small place. Yankee's a curiosity here. Land rather poor. Timber good. Here it rained all night. [*TEXAS. Elysian Fields is at the junction of Farm roads 31 and 451, a mile north of the Panola county line in Harrison County*]

Tuesday April 12, 1864

Country hilly. Marched to **Marshall** 18 miles. Ordered all who were not able to march to report to Doctor. Tobacco 10 Dollars Confederate Dollars U.S. Sugar 2.50 per Pound

Cane **Sugar?** 1.00 apiece. Land rather poor; timber.

April, 13, 1864

Left Marshall. Marched 25 miles towards **Tyler** through a hilly timber country. Land thin & red stone. Red similar to red Land Stone

Thursday April 14, 1864

Made 20 miles & crossed the **Sabine River**. Passed several loads of Cotton going west. Had some rain & hail

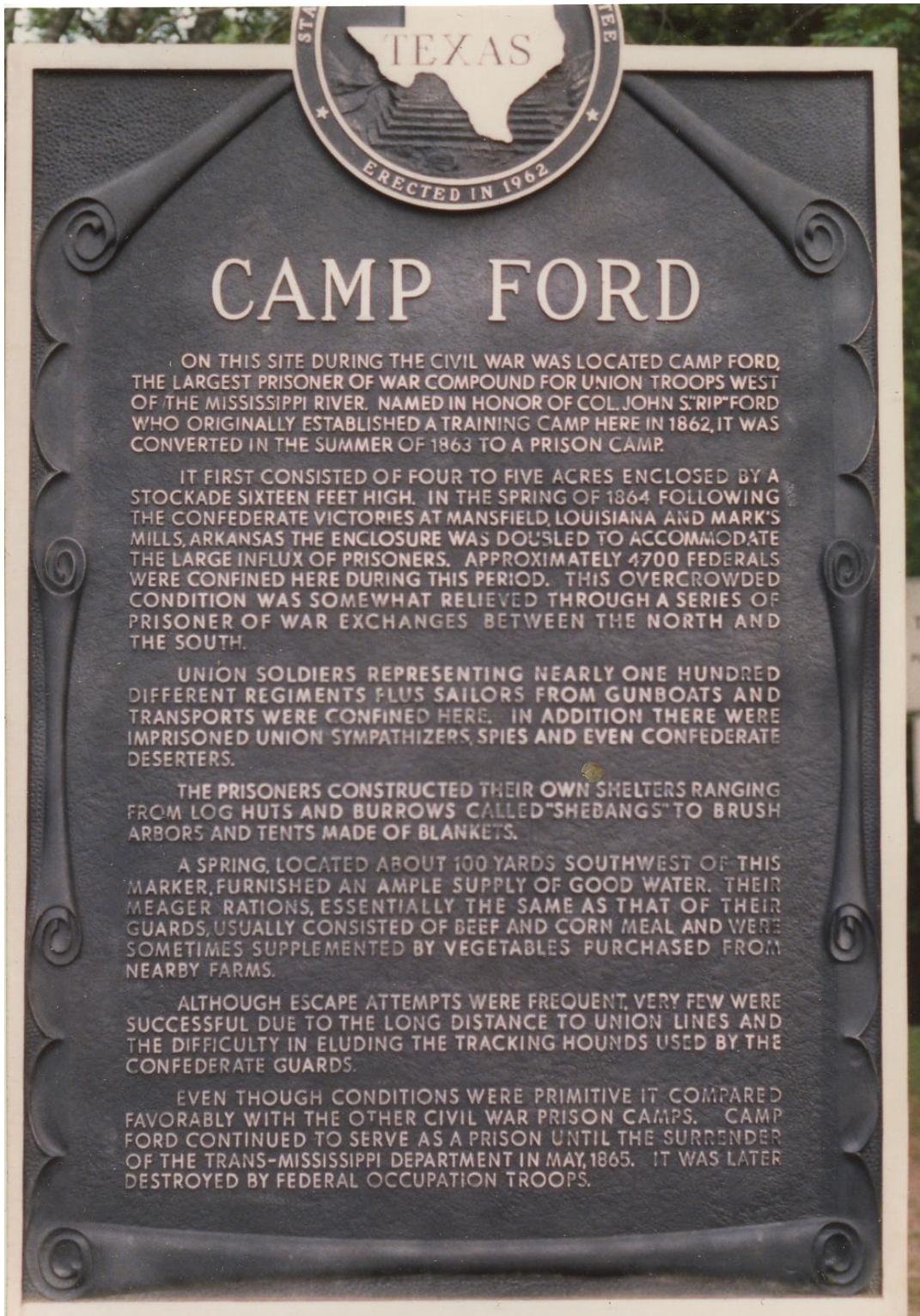
Friday April 15, 1864

Left **Sabine [River]**. Passed through **Star Ville** [*Starryville Mountain?*] 20 Miles. Camped on a hillside ½ mile from the Bull Pen [*Prison Camp*]

April Saturday 16, 1864

Took our names and then we came to the **pen**

[In Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas prison camp]



ON THIS SITE DURING THE CIVIL WAR WAS LOCATED CAMP FORD, THE LARGEST PRISONER OF WAR COMPOUND FOR UNION TROOPS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. NAMED IN HONOR OF COL. JOHN S. "RIP" FORD WHO ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED A TRAINING CAMP HERE IN 1862, IT WAS CONVERTED IN THE SUMMER OF 1863 TO A PRISON CAMP.

IT FIRST CONSISTED OF FOUR TO FIVE ACRES ENCLOSED BY A STOCKADE SIXTEEN FEET HIGH. IN THE SPRING OF 1864 FOLLOWING THE CONFEDERATE VICTORIES AT MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA AND MARK'S MILLS, ARKANSAS THE ENCLOSURE WAS DOUBLED TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE INFUX OF PRISONERS. APPROXIMATELY 4700 FEDERALS WERE CONFINED HERE DURING THIS PERIOD. THIS OVERCROWDED CONDITION WAS SOMEWHAT RELIEVED THROUGH A SERIES OF PRISONER OF WAR EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

UNION SOLDIERS REPRESENTING NEARLY ONE HUNDRED DIFFERENT REGIMENTS PLUS SAILORS FROM GUNBOATS AND TRANSPORTS WERE CONFINED HERE. IN ADDITION THERE WERE IMPRISONED UNION SYMPATHIZERS, SPIES AND EVEN CONFEDERATE DESERTERS.

THE PRISONERS CONSTRUCTED THEIR OWN SHELTERS RANGING FROM LOG HUTS AND BURROWS CALLED "SHEBANGS" TO BRUSH ARBORS AND TENTS MADE OF BLANKETS.

A SPRING, LOCATED ABOUT 100 YARDS SOUTHWEST OF THIS MARKER, FURNISHED AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF GOOD WATER. THEIR MEAGER RATIONS, ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT OF THEIR GUARDS, USUALLY CONSISTED OF BEEF AND CORN MEAL AND WERE SOMETIMES SUPPLEMENTED BY VEGETABLES PURCHASED FROM NEARBY FARMS.

ALTHOUGH ESCAPE ATTEMPTS WERE FREQUENT, VERY FEW WERE SUCCESSFUL DUE TO THE LONG DISTANCE TO UNION LINES AND THE DIFFICULTY IN ELUDING THE TRACKING HOUNDS USED BY THE CONFEDERATE GUARDS.

EVEN THOUGH CONDITIONS WERE PRIMITIVE IT COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH THE OTHER CIVIL WAR PRISON CAMPS. CAMP FORD CONTINUED TO SERVE AS A PRISON UNTIL THE SURRENDER OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT IN MAY, 1865. IT WAS LATER DESTROYED BY FEDERAL OCCUPATION TROOPS.

Camp Ford Memorial, Tyler, Texas

Sunday April 17, 1864

Still no cooking vessels. Had preaching twice.

April Tuesday 19, 1864

Out of salt. Weather fine. Blankets more plenty

Wednesday April 20, 1864

Rumors very abundant. Prospect of rain. 14 men brought in from Powder Horn.
Sent Company letter home

Thursday April 21, 1864

Suet as usual; full of fly Blows [*blow flies?*] but barren of fat

April, Friday 22, 1864

Showery with sunshine in the afternoon

Saturday April 23, 1864

Two Days nothing issued. Commenced a shelter. Bacon instead of beef. Cold Day

Sunday April 24, 1864

Fine day. Preaching twice

April, Monday 25, 1864

General monotony. Weather fine

Tuesday April 26, 1864

Warm day. Bought flour at .50 per pound. John Gibson ill. Quite warm

Wednesday April 27, 1864

Had a small row in camp. 16 Indiana Cavalry men & one of the **guards** had a fight.
Skillet got broke

April, Thursday 28, 1864

Pleasant; rather warm in the sun. Report this evening says we are to be exchanged
as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made

Friday April 29, 1864

Pleasant but warm. The officers are taking the names preparatory to an exchange

Saturday 30, 1864

Pleasant & warm

Sunday May 1, 1864

Pleasant & Warm

May 2, 1864

Weather cool, but pleasant in the sun

May 3, 1864

Pleasant & Warm

Wrote a few lines to my wife to day

May Wednesday 4, 1864

Pleasant & warm. One of the 46th Indiana died & one of the 108th Ills. Died. 108th
died of hemorrhage nose & lungs

May 5, 1864

Pleasant & warm. No news today. One of the 46th Indiana & one of the 108th Illinois Vol. buried

July 11th 1864.

L.H. Shoemaker shot by one of the guards about 9.o'Clock in the evening. Died about 3 in the morning

May Wednesday 18, 1864

One of the guards shot himself today

July Saturday 16, 1864

Three months today since we came into this cursed Bull Pen. Hot as it can be, I reckon

July Sunday 17, 1864

Hot. Windy towards evening and has the appearance of rain

July Monday 18, 1864

Very hot & dry. News rather dull. Not much prospect of getting away from here just now, though the Col. says we will all be exchanged this month

August 30th 1864

Quite encouraging reports of our being exchanged soon. Weather very hot

[Release from prison camp]

[Year not given, but assumed to be May 16, 1865]

May 16 Drilled Marched miles

May 17 left stockade	17
May 18 Marched	14
May 19 Marched	26
May 20 got to Marshall	12
May 21 marched	28
May 22 marched	12
May 23 marched	1

Get aboard the Gen Quitnsan or Quintn??

[They marched 110 miles. Unfortunately, the upper right of next page is torn out and the complete name of the ship is not clear. It is not certain where they embarked. This is the only missing section in the entire diary.]

The following is a letter from his mother [Mary Ann Livingston Stearns Easton]. She is writing her brother, probably Charles Livingston in Illinois, and inquires about her son, Charles. According to his diary, at the time this letter was written Charles was already a prisoner.

Amsterdam May 26th / 1864

My Dear Brother

It is some months since I last wrote to you, asking you to write to me very soon but as I received no answer to that I thought I would again hoping that this may bring an answer. We all feel anxious to learn how you and your family are. I hope you are all well and getting along well.

I suppose you will see Mr. Potter and Julia before many weeks as they intend starting for the west in two or three weeks.

I believe I wrote you that we had sold our house. We bought another this spring. The one where Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Palmer used to live. We sold our house for \$5000 and paid \$2850 for this.

Mother is here, came last week she is quite sick with a cold. I often wish you would send me a paper. I do not know as could learn anything more from one of yours, yet I have thought there might be more about the western Army than there is in ours. I feel very anxious about Charles Edward. He was in the Red river expedition but whether he is killed or a prisoner I do not know. This suspense is dreadful, as long as I do not hear I hope for the best. He is in the 130th Reg. Ills Vol. 13th Army Corps 2nd Brigade 4th Division. Many who went from here have given their lives for their country. Ben Leonard, Mrs. Arnold's grandson was killed in the last battle on the Potomac, and some others who went from here. I hope we shall soon see the end of this war. Oh, how many lives have been sacrificed: yet some who are getting rich out of it, would rather it would last for years. I have no patience with the speculators.

I suppose Mr. Potter and Julia will tell you all the news when they see you. I wish it was so that I could come too.

Love to your family and write as soon as you get this.

Yours affectionately, M.A.Easton.

While in prison Charles wrote at least a dozen, if not many more, letters back home to his wife. Four of these letters have survived and were transcribed by the author. They give an interesting description of prison life and testify to the loneliness, monotony and despair the men must have felt waiting to be exchanged, paroled or released and being in only limited touch with their families. They are presented, as transcribed, with his original spelling and grammar. Names of fellow soldiers are in bold. Charles used limited punctuation and usually did not capitalize beginnings of sentences. It is often difficult to determine when a sentence ended and the next began.

Letter No. 1

Camp Ford Tyler Texas Jan 4th /1865

(To Mrs. C E Stearns Greenville Bond County Ill) *[written upside down]*

Dear Wife

I was disappointed New Years day in
not getting a letter from you there was
quite a mail Came Here but there were
only four or five letters for Co. "F" it
is three months Since I received any
news from Home. I Shall be glad when
we get where we can hear from ower
friends oftener, that is the worst
feature of ower prison life, but I
am in hopes it will not be long till
we are exchanged then I know
it wont be a great while till we
will come home to Stay Seven
Months more and ower time will
be out that would Soon pass away
could we hear from each other often
The Parolling officer is Here corecting the
lists of prisoners. Some think there will
Some leave in a few days but I am of
opinon he will go to the front first
in that case it will be Some time
before we will get away from Here, but I Hope
we will be in ower own lines before you get
this note. Company ,F, are all well we Have Had
but one death Since we Have been Here
James N McCasline Died the 14 of October
I should like to hear from the Ballance
of the Regiment, the Major Luit Philleps
and all the Boys but they Seam to Have
forgotten We are in the land of the Co ,F, *[written below "of the"]*
living. Send word to Mrs Wm Smith
that Her Husband is well, also Heffer
Thomas. Patterson, Gardenhire, Townsend
you can asertain where they live. When
you write tell How the families of
others are and dont be affraid to
fill a Sheet full. We Have good quarters
now and are very comfortably fixed
we Have Had very little cold weather

Hardly a day that a man could not
Do very well in His Shirt Sleeves in
the midle of the Day. to Day is like
Summer, this is a very Healthy part
of the country I think. when you write
to mother tell Her I am all right
and will Send **for** that Box when
I get out of this place as I think
I can enjoy it Hugely when I get
Back. I Should like to Step in and Se
you and Orlo, but suppose I will Have
to wate A While. take good care of
yourself and the Boy and give yourself
no trouble about me

Your Husband Charlie

tell Poynters Girl Her father is well
and would like to Hear from Her
Send word to Mrs Abner Elam 3 miles from Greenville on *[continued on first page]*
the Thomas place Her Husband is well.

Letter No. 2

[Ink bled through the page making reading difficult]

Camp Ford Tyler Texas February 8th 1865

My Dear Nellie

I received your letter of the 16th November and was
glad to learn that my little family were well and Hope
they will continue to keep well. The parolling officer
is Here parolling prisoners for exchange but we
are among the unlucky once again. but I guess when
all the rest are exchanged except the 130th that
the next Squad will be the One Hundred two
Dozen and a Half. Well we can Stand it if it is
a little tough we Have got used to the pretty rough
fare. Company "F" are all well at present. We Have
Had very little Sickness in the Regiment Since we
Have been Here. The weather Here Has been fine We Have
had but little cold weather. Hardly a day but a man
could do very well with his coat off in the Midle
of the day. We Have but little change in the eating
line The Rations that are ishued to us are One and
a Half pints of meal and one & 1/4 pound of beef per
day & Salt enough Occasionally we get a ration of Tobacco
that is rather Hard fare but I am fat and Harty So I

Suppose it is good enough I know we are Healthyer
than we would be if we got plenty of Such rations as we get

Page 2

in ower own lines in fact I think I Shall live on Meal
when I get Home as it is far cheaper than the way we
used to live. I will tell you How myself, &, Elam, Poynter
and W. T. Freeman *[not on Co "F" roster]* pass away the time we Have a Small
Shanty Seperate from the Company and run a Bake
Shop Which enables us to live Better and make Some
Besides. We Have Made Over 3000 pies which we Sold at 25 each
and lots of crackers. We Have payed as High as Sixty Dollars
per Hundred for flour ^ ⁱⁿ green back. I Have plenty
of Clothing Some of which I bought & Some I **dress?** Ower
folks ^ ^{Have} Sent 2400 Suits of clothing Here which were
ishued to those who neaded them worst at least that
was the intention. When you receive this Se Mrs. Abner
Elam She lives on the Zion road 3 Miles from town
tell Her Her Husband is well also Mrs William Smith
that Bill is full of His **??** When you write tell
all you know about those who Have friends in
Here I Should like to know how you are getting along
How W. D. H. is doing & @ take good care of your
Self and Orlo and be Shure I will do verry Well
when you write to Mother tell Her I will be **over?**
there when the War is over if I **live?** after that
Box of good things good Bie for to Night. Your Charlie

[Upside down on first page]

Tuseday Evening all well The Parolled prisoners
leave in the Morning

Sweet Potatoes 5 to 7 Dollars per Bushel Candles 15 apiece eggs 120 per Dozen
Sugar 2,50 per pound Coffee not to be Had Tobacco Costs a Small
fortune a week Meal 25 for quart Bacon 7,00 per Pound Dried
Peaches or apples 55 dollars a Bushel Bull Necks ,75 apiece Hams

[Continued on last page upside down]

85 each livers ,50 Hearts ,50 tails ,25 tripe ,25 I Should like to know
How the Preacher Would like keep Boarders and pay Such prices for
provisions

Letter No. 3

February 9th 65

Dear Wife another day Has passed and we are
Still alive and well and Hope ower friends
are also. The parolling is over for this time and
we are glad that Some are about to go where
they can hear from their friends and
hope it wont be long till we Have the
Same privelage. To Day we Have Baked and
Sold 170 pies which Has kept us prety Busy and
keeps us from getting the **hipo low po** or the Bleus
or whatever you please to call it. I should like
to Step in and Se my Dear ones to night
and hope it wont be long till I will Have that privelege
and Dont think it will be long till we will be
exchanged. There are various rheumars in
camp what they will amount to time will
tell. Friday 10th to Day we baked 108 pies the weather is
very fine Warm as it generaly is in April in
Illinois. Saturday Evening this fore noon
We baked 59 pies and are now out of flour
for the present but will get Some more in
a day or two. I Should like to Send you some
money if I was Shure you would get it
but I don think it best to send it
at present Try and get along without getting

Page 2

in debt. I Should like to Have all that will
be coming to me from government When my
time is out to Commence anew with but if
you Nead any try and Borrow Some and I will
replace it When I am exchanged. There are a
good Many Illinoisans in Texas ocasionally
I See one who used to live Near where we are
acquainted There was one Man Here
last Summer who used to live in
Bond County and Had a Brother
there When I enlisted. I wish we
could Hear what is doing in the east
How ower army is getting along We
Hear a great many Stories but Dont
know Wheather to Believe them Some

we know to be lies others we dont
like to Swallow I Judge from the
actions of the Rebals that the Bleu
Coats Have been giving them a few
Lincoln pills More than they
Could Stand Some where and I
guess they think they are about played
out at least those who are
posted. Ower present comander
Here is a gentalmen So far as I Have
Seen and we fare as well as I ever
expected to as prisoners. Had we Had
a general to command us last Spring
We Would not Have Had the experience
we Have Had in a rebal prison those we
fought did not capture us Most of them
fought their last battle before we were
captured but that did not Save us ower
flanks Were Not guarded and we were Surrounded
about the time we were out of ammunition. I would
Have tried to get away from Here before this
time but dont think I could Stand the exposure

[Continue on top of Page 1 written upside down]

which a trip threw the woods at night would be
atendedede with though my
Health is good Still it is by taking good care of it

[continue on side of sheet]

that it is So be carefull of Yourself and Orlo Much love to both of you Charlie

Letter No. 4

Camp Ford Tyler Texas March 19th 65

My Dear Wife

I received you letters of the 8th & 27 of January
and was glad to learn my little family were well
and Hope they will keep well till I return at
least. I was Sorry to learn of the Death of John
Laws. it is a Hard blow to His family, also of
the Death of Mr. Street, he was a good
Neighbour and friend. I am glad to learn
that Lester is coming back to Bond. I

dont like for you to Have to teach School
but perhaps it is best if you go to
pocahontas it will be as pleasant a
place as you can go I expect, be carefull
of yourself and dont try to do more than
you can without injuring your Health
The Health of Co. "F", and of the Camp
is good as can be expected. The Parolling
officer is Here again What for I dont know He Says
he is not going to take any prisoners away
with Him but thinks we will be exchanged Soon.
I Hope so We Have been prisoners long enough
if ower friends would Send us Some good
reading mater it would be quite a relief to
us the time would not drag quite So
Heavy. Still we cannot complain ower
case might be a great Deal worse. The
weather Here is fine. Yesterday there
were about two Hundred prisoners Brought
Here from Shreevesport Some
of them were men who Had ran away
from Here and tryed to get to ower lines
but were Captured again. I think Some
of Co. "F" or Major Reid Might Send us a
few lines we have not Heard from
the regiment for a long time. I wrote
to the commander of company F once but Have
not received an answer I Suppose they
eather did not get the letter or els they are
all dead (to us at least) tell Mrs. Smith
Thomas, Elam, Townsend, Heffler, George
Patterson and J.M. Gardenhire their
Husbands are well. Send a News Paper
once in a while if I dont get it perhaps
Some one will who will read it with as
much interest and proffit. I Have written
not less than a Dozen letters to you Since
I was captured but I Suppose you Have not
got all of them. if you do not Hear from me
be Shure you are not forgotten and I Hope
the time is close at Hand when we can
Hear oftener from each other. if ower lives
are Spared I trust it will not be verry long
till we will Se each other. We Hear there is a
general exchange if Such be the case we

must be exchanged Soon But Such things
moove Slow. Write as often as you can
Keep in god Spirits and all will be well. Charlie

Well, there is a happy ending to this story and Charlie and Nellie were eventually reunited after the war ended and he was released from prison.

As a result of his service, Charles was eligible for a disability pension. He applied about June 6, 1878 according to an Adjutant General report. The report is difficult to read and is transcribed below:

Adjutant General's Office
Washington, D.C., June 6th, 1878

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your Office of application for Pension No. 249.301, and to return it herewith, with such information as is furnished by the files of this Office.

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office that Charles E. Stearns was enrolled on the 7. day of August, 1862, at Greenville in Co. F., 130 Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, to serve 3 years or during the war, and mustered into service as a Recruit on the 27. day of Feb 1863 ^ (to date Nov. 10/62) at Memphis Tenn, in Co. F, 130. Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the war. On the Muster Roll of Co. F., of that Regiment, for the months of Nov. & Dec, 1862, he is reported present; So reported until roll for March and April, 1864, reports him missing in battle of Sabine Cross Roads April 8/64. (Regt. was in action at that place on that date) So reported to Dec. 31/64 Roll of Co. F. 77 Ills. Vols., to which transfd for Jan. & Feby. 1865, reports him as above stated; to June 30/65 – same report. So reported on muster out roll of Co. "E" 130. Ills. Vols. Dated August 15, 1865. He was mustered out on det. M.O. roll as of Co. F. 77. Ills. Vols. June 17/65, at Springfield, Ills. The 130. Ills. Vols. Was stationed at Hard Times, La., April 30/63. Name not borne on rolls of 79. Ills. Vols.

Prisoner of War Records show him captured at Mansfield, April 8. 64. Paroled at Mouth Red River, La. May 27. 65, reported at Benton Barracks Mo., June 12.65 and was sent to State for muster out June 16.65. No evidence of medical treatment or disability as alleged.

The records of this office furnish no evidence of any disability incurred during May, 1865.

I am sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
S.N. Ruesaicuis ??
Assistant Adjutant General
Caleb? Keefe?

Commissioner of Pensions
Washington, C.C.

It appears that Charles was successful in obtaining a disability pension on 25 Feb 1878 according to the Pension Index below. After Charles died, his widow Ellen applied and was granted a widow's pension Mar 2, 1886. She was receiving \$25 / month at the time of her death; Certificate 240606.

NAME OF SOLDIER	<i>Stearns, Charles E.</i>			
NAME OF SPOUSE	Widow,	<i>Stearns, Ellen R.</i>		
NAME OF DEPENDENT	Minor,			
SERIAL	G 130, 300, 301			
	E 74, 300, 301			
	G 130 " 300, 301			
DATE OF PENSION	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILES
1878 Feb 25	Laurel,	249, 301	162, 783	
1886 Mar 2	Widow,	335, 891	240, 606	nebr,
	Minor,			
ATTORNEY				
F. L. Stearns				

Civil War Pension Index

Charles died intestate. Ellen petitioned the court for Letters of Administration from the Furnas County, Nebraska County Court. A notice was published in the Arapahoe "Pioneer" weekly newspaper. The paper was run by Frank L. Stearns, her son.

In the County court of Furnas County, State of Nebraska.

In matter of Estate of }
CHARLES E. STEARNS, Deceased. }

THE State of Nebraska to the heirs and next of kin of the said Charles E. Stearns, deceased: Take notice, that upon filing of a petition of Ellen R. Stearns praying for letters of administration on said estate, it is ordered that said matter beset for hearing the 6th day of July, A. D. 1885, before said County Court, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., at which time any person interested may appear and contest the same; and notice of this proceeding is ordered published in THE ARAPAHOE PIONEER, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal
[SEAL.) of the County Court, at Beaver City,
this 11th day of June, A. D., 1885.
C. B. ROBERTS, County Judge.

Notice in Arapahoe "Pioneer" newspaper

The following is a transcription of the court records from Charles Stearns probate file. Furnas County, Nebraska, probate case files, No. 235, Charles E. Stearns (6 July 1995), Estate of Charles E. Stearns, 11 May 1964; Furnas County Court Office, Beaver City.

Probate Notice

In Matter of Estate of Charles E. Stearns Deceased} In County Court, Furnas County, Neb

The State of Nebraska to the heirs and next of kin of the said Charles E. Stearns deceased,

Take Notice, That upon filing of Petition of Ellen R. Stearns praying for Letters of Administration on said Estate, be set for hearing the Sixth day of July A.D. 1885 before said County Court, at the hour of Ten o'clock A.M., at which time any person interested may appear and contest the same; and notice of this proceeding is ordered published three weeks successively in the Arapahoe Pioneer a weekly newspaper, published in this State.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County Court, at Beaver City this 11th day of June A.D. 1885

C.B. Roberts

County Judge

In County Court of Furnas County in the state of Nebraska.

In Probate

*In the matter of the application of Ellen R. Stearns for letters
Administration on the Goods and Chattels and Credits of Charles E.
Stearns, Deceased*

The Petition of Ellen R. Stearns respectfully shows.

*1st That your Petitioner is and has been for the past year a resident
of Furnas County in the state of Nebraska and is the widow of the
said Charles E. Stearns deceased and is of full age.*

*2nd That said deceased died of Heart Disease at Arapahoe in said
Furnas County Nebraska on the 6th day of April, 1885 without
leaving any last will and testament to the best of your Petitioners
knowledge, information or belief. That your petitioner has made
diligent search and inquiry for a will of said deceased and has not
found any or obtained any information that he left any.*

*3rd That said deceased died possesses of certain personal property
[Real Estate] in the County of Furnas & state of Nebraska and that
the value of all the personal property [Real Estate] wherever
situated of which the deceased died possessed does not exceed the
sum of Six Hundred Dollars of Personal Property and Two
Thousand Dollars of Real estate total not exceeding \$2600.00*

*4th That deceased left surviving him his widow (this applicant)
residing in Furnas County Nebraska and Six Sons as follows G.O.
Stearns, F.L. Stearns, W.G. Stearns, E. A. Stearns, Charley Stearns
and J. T. Stearns and Two Daughters as follows, Minney Stearns
and Mary J Stearns,*

*And that he left surviving him no other child. That your
petitioner widow of the said deceased.*

*5th That said deceased a painter was at Immediately previous to his
death a resident of Furnas County Nebraska.*

*Your Petitioner therefore prays that letters of Administration of
the Goods & Chattels & Credits of the said deceased may be granted
to her by the said County Court of Furnas County Nebraska.*

*State of Nebraska} Ellen R. Stearns (Signature)
Furnas County }*

Ellen R. Stearns being duly sworn deposes & says the facts stated in the above petition are true.

Ellen R. Stearns (Signature)

Subscribed in my presence & sworn to before me this day of May 1885

Frank C Constorn?

ADMINISTRATORS BOND

Know all Men by these Presents: That we Ellen R. Stearns and D. W. Gamblin and L G Roberts of the County of Furnas and State of Nebraska are held and firmly bound unto the County Judge of Furnas County, Nebraska, in the penal sum of Twelve Hundred (1200) Dollars, lawful money of the United States, well and truly to pay, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and each of them, firmly by these presents.

The condition of this bond or obligation is such, that whereas the said Ellen R. Stearns has been granted and has taken out letters of administration on the estate of Charles E. Stearns deceased, late of said County;

NOW THEN, the said Ellen R. Stearns is to make and return to the County Court of said County, within three months from this date, a true and lawful inventory of all the goods, rights, moneys, credits, chattels or anything of value belonging to the estate which shall come to her knowledge or possession, and out of the same to pay and discharge all debts or legacies and charges on the said estate, or such dividends thereon as shall be ordered by the County Court and shall render a true and just account of her administration within Twelve months from this date, or at any other date when required to do so by the County Court, and to perform all orders of the County Court in this estate; and at the expiration of her trust render her account on oath, and make her final settlement with said Court and ;pay to the person or persons legally entitled to receive the estate due from her or in her hands. Then this obligation to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed this 6th day of July 1885 Ellen R. Stearns, Principal

D.M.Tamblien?

L. T. Roberts, Security

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND OATH

The State of Nebraska} ss.

Furnas County }

Ellen R. Stearns do solemnly swear or affirm that I will well and truly administer all and singular the goods and chattels, rights, credits and effects of Charles E. Stearns deceased, and pay all just claims and charges against his estate, so far as his assets shall extend, and that I will perform all other acts now or hereafter required by law, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this}

6th day of July A.D. 1885

} Ellen R. Stearns (signature)

C. B. Roberts

County Judge

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

The State of Nebraska} ss.

IN THE COUNTY COURT,

Furnas County }

To all to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

Know Ye, that whereas Charles E. Stearns of the County of Furnas and State of Nebraska died intestate, on or about the 6th day of April, A.D. 1885, at Arapahoe, Furnas County, having at the time of his decease personal property and effects in this State. To the end, therefore, that said property and debts may be collected, preserved, administered, and distributed according to law...

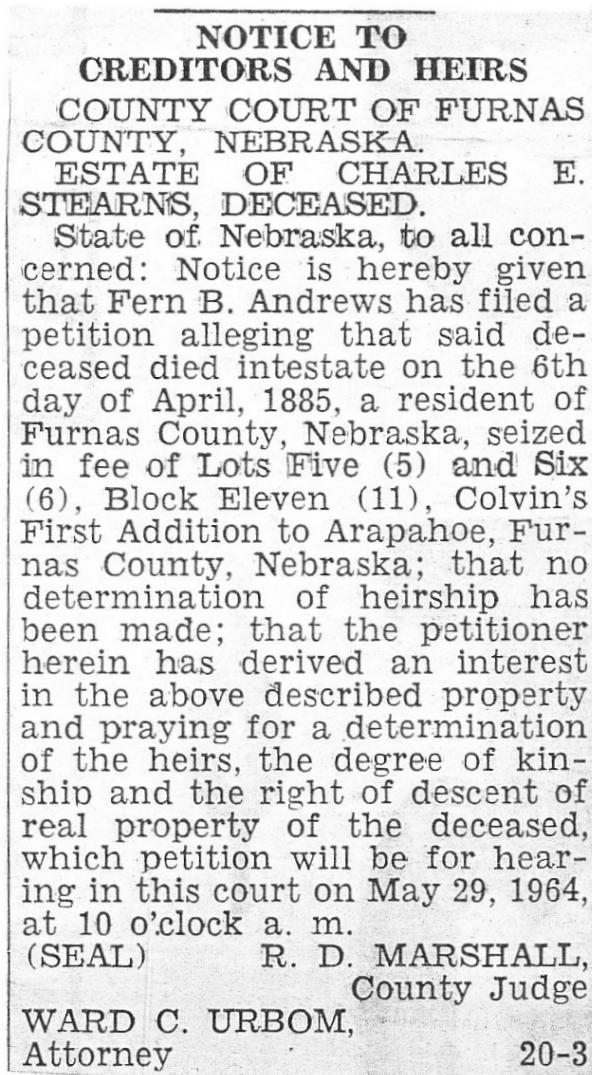
Ellen R. Stearns

Is hereby appointed administratrix of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights, credits, and effects, which were of the said Charles E. Stearns estate at the time of his decease, with full power and authority to secure and collect the said property and debts, wheresoever the same may be found in this State, and in general to do and perform all other acts which now are or hereafter may be required of him by law.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County Court, at my office in Beaver City, Nebr. This 6th day of July 1885

*C. B. Roberts
County Judge*

Interestingly, there was another court record attached to the probate file for Charles Stearns. It was a petition filed by Fern B. Andrews in 1964 asking for determination of heirs of Charles Stearns' estate. Her interest is not known and the order was made by the judge in the case that the descendants of Charles Stearns were the rightful heirs. Perhaps Fern owns the property, is a descendant and wanted to clear up title.



Fern Andrews Petition notice

Charles Stearns is buried in the Arapahoe Cemetery at Furnas County, Nebraska. David Sr. and son Jim Stearns visited the grave in the 1960's and were successful in finding it. No pictures were taken or at least none can be found which recorded that visit, but a recent picture

was obtained by the author through the help of a volunteer who lived nearby.



Monument of Charles E. Stearns, Arapahoe, Furnas, Nebraska

The inscription is not very legible on the picture, but reads:

CHARLES E
STEARNS
DIED APR. 6, 1885
AGED
51 Y's (Illegible – probably 5 M's)

There is a handshake emblem above the name. This may be from the Odd Fellows Organization (I.O.O.F.) who conduct burials. Note what appears to be a G.A.R (Grand Army of the Republic) emblem in the ground at the left side of the monument.

Ellen Rice Stearns

Ellen was born in Natchez, Mississippi. Her father was **Lester Rice** from St. Johnsbury, Vermont. He married **Adaline Going** and they moved to Natchez shortly after their marriage. Lester was working as a bookkeeper for a hotel in Natchez. When Ellen was six months old Lester and Adaline left Natchez and moved to Alton, Illinois and then to Woodburn, Illinois. They bought land there, but Lester came down with Typhus and died shortly afterwards in 1839. Adaline later married **William Dalrymple Horatio "W.D.H." Johnson**, a Baptist preacher, and they had several children together. Adaline and WDH lived in Illinois and moved to Nebraska for a while about same time as the Stearns'. WDH died there and Adaline moved to Indianapolis where she died in 1896.

Adaline wrote a letter to her daughter-in-law Rhoda Street and discussed the events of her time with her first husband Lester Rice. Below are some excerpts from the letter (some of the punctuation has been changed for purposes of clarity. Italics are the author's comments):

Indianapolis Feb 13, 1893

Dear Rhoda,

We [*Adaline Going and Lester Rice*] were married May 18, 1836. We were married at Mr. Hosners [*Hosmer—see Lester's letters*]. She gave the cake, 20 pounds, then we went to mother's for two or three weeks, then we went to his father's and spent the summer visiting him, and my old friends there, then we went to Mothers again and from there to Boston. From there to New York city where we met Mrs. Holton, and she and Lester spent a week buying goods for the new hotel which was put on board a ship and we went aboard and went about the same route that he did the time he went. Got there the fourth of Oct, 36 (to Natchez)

We had just arrived at Natchez in my last [*letter*] and as the new Hotel was not finished we boarded at a private house until it was. When we moved into our nice room in the new house, your father was Book Keeper and a kind of general overseer always busy from daylight till midnight, and I you may be sure was not idle.

It seems that before Lester left [*Boston*], when he came to be married they agreed to pay him one thousand doll a year and our board and I could sew for them or not as I chose, there was nothing said about pay as I had nothing to do, I chose to help, and did not expect anything extra, I know I did more than two hundred doll worth of work. Well we stayed there a year and a half. When Ellen was six months old we left and went up the river by steam boat to Dubuque thinking of settling there, but as we did not like, we went back to Alton and from there to Woodburn, where we rented a house and stayed a year. In that time Lester entered an eighty of government land, paid one dollar twenty five cents to an acre for it, and a yoke of oxen and tools for farming, broke up some of the land and put in five acres of wheat and in the spring moved on to the eighty joining. Robert Tomkins owned it, and had put a two story frame house on it, and he lived in one half, and we in the other. Lester was hauling the lumber to build our house when he was taken very sick with Typhus fever, It was a very sickly season and there was no Dr nearer than Bunker Hill. He treated him till he was called away to Greenville and was gone three days. All this time Lester was getting worse, and when the Dr did come he was too far gone to save him and he died and I was left with my two babies and in poor health, to do the best I could. Then I knew what real heart trouble ment.

Well as soon as the funeral was over, a man that had lost his wife and had a little babe a week old wanted me to come an take care of his babe and keep house for him so I went and stayed about six months, when another woman took the babe and a Mr. Danvis of Bunker Hill, a farmer, wanted me to keep house for him, his wife having died, so I went with my babies, and stayed two or three months when his wife's sister with her family came and moved into his house and that set me free Then I went back to Woodburn and rented a room of a Mr. Luttret ? and took in sewing and washing and ironing. That spring Mr. Johnsons wife died, and he came to board at Mr. Luttruts and he wanted someone to sew for him, and someone recommended me as a good hand with my needle. I sewed for him a while and in that time we got acquainted and the result was we were married. Do I need to say any more, Ellen you and Lester know enough of our struggles with poverty, hard work, joys, and sorrows (for there were some bright spots as well as dark ones) without my recalling them.

Love to you all write soon, your Mother and Grandmother.

George Orlo mentions some things about his grandmother:

"Grandmother Johnson was the one who bathed me as baby and burned my toe against the stove.

Her first husband was the Rice who went from Boston to Natchez. They came to Bloomington. He died there soon after leaving 2 children, Ellen and Uncle Lester. They sent a man clear from Bloomington to Chicago but help did not get back soon enough. She moved to Greenville and rented old Sargent House where Uncle John now boards. One of her boarders was Wm Dalrymple Horatio Johnson an English man with a big farm who raised his own tobacco and smoked his own pipe. GOS used to help him hang up the tobacco on his farm to cure. They had 3 boys and 1 daughter. Will (oldest) Edward next and John (Deac) was last. The daughter Lizzie was getting meal at the olde fashioned fireplace with crane when dress caught fire and she burned to death. Age about 17 or 18. Will, Ed and Deac Johnson did not care for farm outside of Greenville and all came to Greenville and worked for Chas Ed. in painting business. Will became expert grainer.

GOS says his grandfather Johnson was the first one to go west. He took his mother's ½ brother Deak with him. They started from his father's house in an old spring wagon and a horse that looked as if it could not get across a field. "A pretty sorry looking horse". They drove all the way to Nebraska – taking supplies for use along the road in the wagon. They did not settle in the best land but foolishly settled on a farm in the sand hills west of Grand Island. Grandfather Johnson died in the town near this farm."

George has a few words about his mother, Ellen:

"He [her brother Lester] was chopping wood one day. Grandmother Ellen Rice Stearns was sitting on the log. Lester hit her hand with the hatchet. The doctors did a good job in sewing her fingers, but she always carried scars.

Ellen Rice Stearns was a good speller. She would go to spelling bees for miles around Greenville and spell down lawyers, doctors and teachers. She said she had a rule by which she could not fail – selon GOS and LDS"

Ellen belonged to the First Immanuel Baptist Church in Grand Island, Nebraska. The following is a description of the history of that church and the position she held there.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1870 by Rev. J. N. Webb, State missionary, with five members, increased to forty members in 1876. The first Baptist Church building, dedicated September 16, 1888, stands on Seventh and Sycamore Streets. It is built in the form of a Greek cross, showing four gables, a tower 103 feet in height and a minaret 71 feet. The main audience room, an amphitheater 54x43 feet, may be connected with the Sunday-school rooms. The building is 54x72 feet, and claims a seating capacity of 750. Rev. L. W. Terry is the present pastor.

Immanuel Baptist Church is a modern organization-an outcrop of the first Baptist society. No sooner was organization completed, than the work of church building was entered upon, and to-day a very neat structure, modern in style, exists. The pastor is Rev. Fred. E. Britten; clerk, E. E. Cole; treasurer, L. M. Bryan; deacons, N. T. Estes and W. A. Whitney; trustees, J. F. Baillie, C. J. Keith and S. C. Shipman; superintendent of Sunday-school, J. F. Baillie; secretary of Sunday-school, Clarence Stevens; president of missionary circle, Mrs. E. Stearns, and president of aid society, Mrs. W. J. Estes.

This information was taken from the following:

"Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Adams, Clay, Hall and Hamilton Counties", Published 1890 by the Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.
HALL COUNTY, CHAPTER XXVI, Page 587



Ellen Rice Stearns. On back of photo is written "This picture of mother was taken about two years before she went away. At the back porch of the old home. It was probably written by her daughter Mary.

Ellen died on 20 Jun 1920 in Greenville, Illinois. Not much is known about her life between the time she left Grand Island, Nebraska and the date of her death. Her daughter, Mary, never married and lived with her mother until she died. The George Orlo and Perry Stearns family did stay in contact with their relatives in Greenville and attended a number of reunions. A few years after Ellen's death, Mary distributed several of their relics to family members including Perry and his children. The family Bible went to their son John and later to one of son William's children, Frank or Aline.

A transcription of the Bible was obtained by Perry Stearns and transcribed by the author.

Stearns Family Bible - given by Aunt Mary to Uncle John and by him to Frank and / or Aline.

This certifies that C.E. Stearns and Ellen Rice were united by me in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony at Greenville, Ill. on the 30th day of December in the year of our Lord 1857 (signed) W.D.H. Johnson In presence of many witnesses.

Marriages: In Greenville, Ill. Dec 30th 1857 by Rev. W.D.H. Johnson, Charles E. Stearns to Ellen Rice.

In Grand Island, Neb. Sep 26, 1888 by Rev. C.W. Gavidge, Minnie Stearns to George W. Williams.

In Grand Island, Neb. Dec 15th 1888 by Rev. J.H. Storms, Orlo G. Stearns to Miss Lacey Dings.

In Sedalia, Mo., Dec 7, 1892 Frank L Stearns to Miss Estelle Ashworth

In Greenville, Ills, Nov 4, 1900 Wm G. Stearns to Miss Dora Lawson

In Milwaukee, Wis., Apr 23, 1907 John A Stearns to Agnes Lewis

In Coffeen [Ill] June 27, 1926 Frank W. Stearns to Grace L Furry

In Greenville, Ill. Mar 13, 1933 Aline Stearns to Earl H. Bourgeois

Births

Charles E. Stearns Oct 7th, 1833 in Amsterdam, N.Y.

Ellen Rice Nov 11th, 1837 in Natchez, Miss.

George Orlo Stearns Nov 4, 1862 in Greenville, Ills.

Frank Lester Apr 3, 1866 in Litchfield, Ills.

Minnie Aug 12, 1868 in Greenville, Ills.

Willie Gale, March 25th, 1871 in Greenville, Ills

Edward Augustus, July 2nd, 1873 in Greenville, Ills.

Mary Julia, Feb 13th 1876 in Greenville, Ills.

Charles Thomas, Jan 17th, 1878 in Greenville, Ills.

John Addison, Oct 18th 1880 in Greenville, Ills.

= =

Edward Horatio Williams, June 19th, 1882 in Grand Island, Neb

Perry Jay, son of G.O. and Lacey Stearns, Nov 25, 1890 in Grand Island, Neb
Emily Ellen Williams, Nov 9th, 1891 in Hastings, Neb.
Edward Gale Stearns, Oct 19th 1902 in Greenville, Ill.
Frank Wilson Stearns, Mar 4, 1905
Charles Nelson Williams, Nov 21, 1904
John Stearns Jan 25, 1908
Alene Stearns, Apr 29, 1912
Eldon Ray Stearns, Mar 23, 1927
Lillian Mae Stearns, May 8, 1930
Donald Bourgeois and Ronald Bourgeois [Twins] Feb 1, 1934
Larry Nelson Bourgeois Aug 9, 1936
Brenda Bourgeois Mar 3, 1938
Billie Gene" July 13, 1942

Deaths

Charles E. Stearns, Apr 6, 1885 in Arapahoe, Neb., 51 years, 5 mos., 21 days.
Edward A. Stearns, Co. F 39th Vol. Inf., Sep 2nd, 1900 on board ship at Nagasaki, Japan, aged 27 years and 2 months.
Charles T. Stearns, Co. F. 39th Vol. Inf., Oct 24th, 1900 at Manila, P.L. aged 22 yrs, 9 mos and 7 days.
Frank L Stearns at Nevada, Mo., Dec 2nd, 1902, aged 36 years and 7 months.
Edward Gale, son of W.G. and Dora Stearns at Greenville, Ills, aged 11 mos. and 16 days, Oct 5th, 1903
Ellen R. Stearns in Greenville, Ill. Age 82 yrs. 7 mos. 9 days, June 20, 1920
Brenda Bourgeois at Greenville, Ill., Jan 20, 1939, 10 mo., 2 weeks, 3 days.
Minnie S. Williams
William G. Stearns, May 20, 1946 in Greenville, Ill., 75 yr. 1 mo. 25 days

Memoranda

Died in Fillmore, Ills. Feb 20th 1888 Albert Livingston, uncle of C.E. Stearns, aged 66 yrs, 10 mo. 5 da.
Died in Clyde, N.Y. Dec 22nd 1888, Dr. George P. Livingston, uncle of C.E. Stearns, aged 63 years.
Died in Honey Bend, Ills, Chas S. Livingston, aged 72, Dec 30th 1891
In Indianapolis, Ind., Sep 14, 1896 Adaline Rice Johnson, aged 83 yrs and 4 mos.
In Amsterdam, N.Y. Sep 18, 1897 Mary A. Easton, aged 88 years.
In Amsterdam, N.Y., Dec 7, 1905 Julia M. Potter, aged 90 yrs.

Temperance Pledge. We hereby solemnly promise, God helping us, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors including wine and beer and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of , and the traffic in the same.

Ellen R. Stearns
Mary J. Stearns
John A. Stearns
Minnie Stearns
Edward A. Stearns
Charles T. Stearns

John Addison Stearns Naval record [not transcribed]

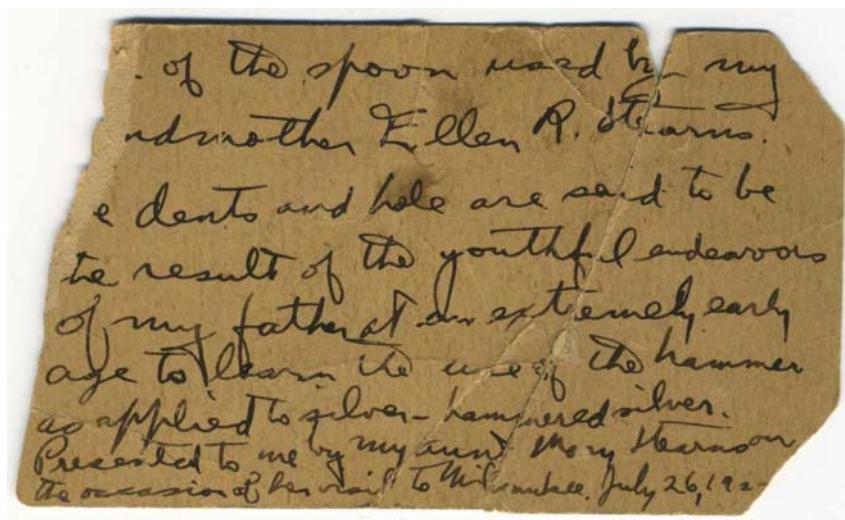
Married

Eldon Ray Stearns and Joyce Vivian Hickey (born May 22, 1932)
daughter of Herman Hickey and Mary Edna (Rector) Hickey of
Greenville, July 14, 1950 at Greenville by Rev. D. Walls? Johnson and
Rev. Eugene Houpt.

One item belonging to Ellen was sent to Perry J Stearns. It is a silver spoon. A note attached to the spoon states:

"Spoon used by my grandmother Ellen R. Stearns. The dents and hole are said to be the result of the youthful endeavors of my father at an extremely early age to learn the use of the hammer as applied to silver – hammered silver. Presented to me by my Aunt Mary Stearns on the occasion of her visit to Milwaukee, July 16, 1927"

The note is assumed to have been written by Perry J. Stearns. The date of Aunt Mary's visit is a bit obscured as to the last digit "7", but 1927 appears correct.



Note regarding spoon written by Perry J Stearns



Ellen Rice Stearns silver spoon. Left: front view, Right: back view.

Ellen Rice Stearns Spoon Markings

"Pure Coin" (found on thin neck of handle on rear side of spoon) and
"DEFRIEZ ST. LOUIS" (found on handle)

Ellen died in Greenville, Bond County, Illinois. According to George Orlo Stearns, the following was published in the local paper:

Greenville Advocate: Mrs. Ellen R. Stearns, 82, passed away at her home in Greenville on June 20, 1920. Maiden name, Ellen Rice, born Nov. 11, 1837 in Natchez, Miss. When a girl she came to Greenville with her parents; where on Dec. 30, 1857 she was united in marriage with Charles E. Stearns. She is survived by 3 sons: George O. of Milwaukee, WI, Will G. of Irving, IL, and John A. who is in the U.S. Navy. Two daughters, Mrs. George W. Williams of Kennett, AR and Miss. Mary Stearns of Greenville survive. Also one brother Lester Rice of Lincoln, NE, and two half brothers Will and John Johnson of Indianapolis. Burial at Montrose Cemetery. Courtesy Richard Sherman

Death Certificate

Ellen's death certificate was obtained through the Charles Stearns Civil War Pension file and is transcribed below:

The informant for the death certificate was Mary Sterns (sic). It is difficult to understand the fact that she stated Ellen's father was born in England and her mother Adaline Going was born in Massachusetts. She was obviously confused with WDH Johnson, Ellen's stepfather, who was born in England. The statement that Adaline was born in Massachusetts is incorrect also. She was born in Vermont. However, no proof of birth for Adaline has yet surfaced. Adaline lived in Massachusetts and Adaline's mother, Sally Story Stearns Lane did live in Massachusetts and Mary probably heard stories about her.

1. PLACE OF DEATH County of Bond Township or Road District or Village of Greenville		Registration No. 24 Dist. No.	STATE OF ILLINOIS Department of Public Health - Division of Vital Statistics	COUNTY CLERK'S RECORD <i>copy</i>
		Primary Dist. No.	STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
		Primary Dist. No.	Registered No. (Consecutive No.)	
Street or Hospital:		No. _____ (If death occurred in hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number.)	St. _____	Ward _____
2. FULL NAME: Ellen R Stearns		St. _____ Ward _____ (If non-resident give city or town and State)		
(a) Residence. No. _____ (Usual place of abode)		Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. m ^o s. d ^o How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. m ^o s. d ^o		
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				
3. SEX Female	4. COLOR OR RACE White	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Widowed (Write the word)	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
6a. If married, widowed or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of widowed		16. DATE OF DEATH June 20, 1920 (Month) (Day) (Year)		
6. DATE OF BIRTH November 11, 1837 (Month) (Day) (Year)		17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from April 1, 1920, to June 20, 1920 that I last saw her alive on June 10, 1920 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 7:45 A.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows <i>Diabetes Mellitus</i>		
7. AGE 82		Years 82	Months 7	Days 9
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) (c) Name of employer		9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Mississippi (State or Country)		
10. NAME OF FATHER Rice		11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) England (State or Country)		
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Adeline Goings		13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) Massachusetts (State or Country)		
14. INFORMANT Mary Stearns Address: Greenville Ave.		15. Filed: 6-24, 1920 C.J. Myers Registrar		
16. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED If not at place of death? _____ Did an operation precede death? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ (Signed) L. J. Cordonnier, M. D. Address: Greenville Ave.				
17. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL May Rose Cemetery June 21, 1920 18. UNDERTAKER W.D. Arnell & Co., Greenville Ave.				
19. DATE OF BURIAL ADDRESS				

Illinois Certificate of Death – Ellen Rice Stearns

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Department of Public Health – Division of Vital Statistics
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County of: Bond
City of: Greenville
Registration District No: 24

Street of Hospital:
2. FULL NAME: Ellen R Stearns
(a) Residence. No.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX: Female
 4. COLOR OR RACE: White
 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED: Widowed
 - 5a. If married, widowed or divorce HUSBAND of: widowed
 6. DATE OF BIRTH: November 11, 1837
 7. AGE: 82 Years, 7 Months, 9 Days
 8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED: Housekeeper
 9. BIRTHPLACE: Mississippi
- PARENTS
10. NAME OF FATHER: Rice
 11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER: England
 12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: Adaline Going
 13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER: Massachusetts
 14. INFORMANT: Mary Sterns, Greenville, Ill.
 15. Filed 6 - 24, 19__ C T Myers Registrar
- MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
16. DATE OF DEATH: June 20, 1920
 17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from April 1, 1920 to June 20, 1920 that I last saw her alive on June 10, 1920 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 7 46 A.M.
The CAUSE OF DEATH Was as follows: Diabetis Mullitus
Duration: 2 years
 18. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED:
Signed: L J Cordonnier, M.D.
Date: June 24, 1920
 19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: Mont Rose Cemetery
 21. DATE OF BURIAL: June 22, 1920
 22. UNDERTAKER: W D Dannell & Co, Greenville, Ill.

She was buried in Montrose Cemetery, Greenville, Illinois. To date, no photograph of her gravestone has been taken.

Chapter 3 – George Orlo Stearns

Ninth Generation Children of Charles Edward Stearns and Ellen Rice

163942311. George Orlo Stearns (*Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) son of **Charles Edward Stearns** and **Ellen Rice**, was born on 4 Nov 1862 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois, died on 20 Mar 1942 in 2022 E. Wood Place, Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 79, and was buried on 23 Mar 1942 in Vallhalla Cemetery, 5409 N 91st St, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



George Orlo Stearns about 1865-66, Greenville, Illinois

This may be the photo or a facsimile of that described by Mary Stearns, younger sister of George. She states in a letter to Perry J Stearns dated 10 Aug 1945:

"I have a photo of your Father taken when a very small boy, he is standing beside a table leaning on a cane and his panties are showing. I wonder if this photo was taken when he was afflicted with rheumatism, hence the cane. I know mother told me he had rheumatism when a small boy. All they could find to overcome the trouble was medical salve used for cows given them by a veterinarian."

George married **Lacy Dings**, daughter of **David Dings** and **Melissa Baker**, on 15 Dec 1888 in Grand Island, Hall, Nebraska. Lacy was born on 29 Jul 1870 in Huntersland, Schoharie, New York, died on 7 Dec 1956 in 2022 E. Wood Place, Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 86, and was buried on 10 Dec 1956 in Vallhalla Cemetery, 5409 N 91st St, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MARRIAGE LICENSE						
THE STATE OF NEBRASKA HALL COUNTY.			OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE.			
LICENSE is hereby granted to any person authorized to solemnize marriages according to the laws of said State, to join in marriage Mr. <i>George O. Stearns</i> and Miss <i>Lacy Dings</i> of the County aforesaid, whose ages, residence, etc., are as follows:						
NAME OF PARTIES.	AGE	COLOR	PLACE OF BIRTH.	RESIDENCE.	FATHER'S NAME.	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME.
<i>Geo. O Stearns</i> <i>Bride</i>	26	Wht	<i>Iles</i>	<i>Oly</i>	<i>Chas Stearns</i>	<i>Ellen Rice</i>
<i>Lacy Dings</i> <i>Groom</i>	19	"	<i>Xai</i>	"	<i>David Dings</i>	<i>Melissa Baker</i>
And the person joining them in marriage is required to make due return of the annexed Certificate to the County Judge of said County, within ninety days, of the names of the parties, time and place of marriage and by whom solemnized.						
In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office in Grand Island, Nebraska, in said County, this day of A. D. 1888..... County Judge.						

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.						
TO THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA:						
This Certifies, that on the <u>15</u> day of <u>Dec</u> A. D. 1888, at <u>Grand Island</u> and						
in said County, according to law and by authority, I duly joined in marriage Mr. <i>George O Stearns</i> and						
Miss <i>Lacy Dings</i> and there were present as witnesses <i>Mary Dings</i>						
Given under my hand the <u>13</u> day of <u>Dec</u> A. D. 1888 <i>J. H. Stearns</i> <i>Baptist Minister</i>						

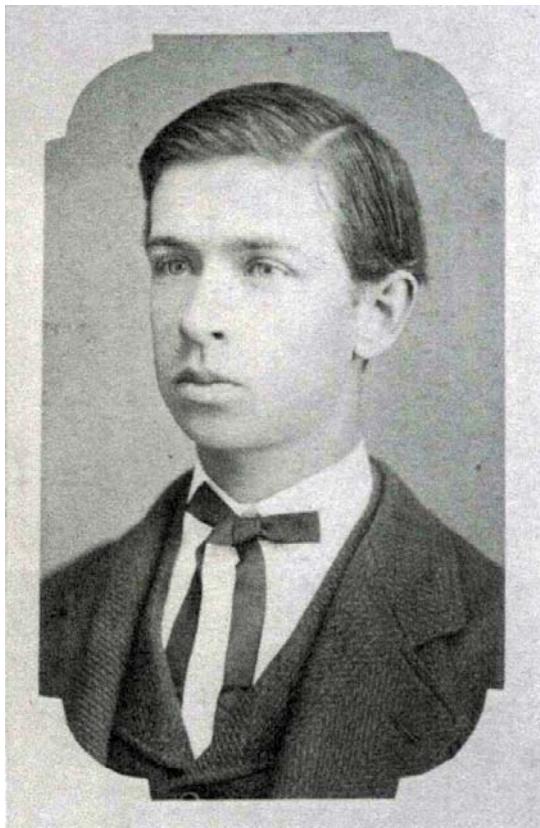
George Orlo Stearns and Lacy Dings Marriage License and Certificate

George and Lacy were married on 15 Dec 1888 in Grand Island, Nebraska. Witnesses were Myron Dings (Lacy's brother) and G.W. Williams (George's brother-in-law). J.H. Storms was the Baptist Minister officiating.

The only child from this marriage was:

1639423111. Perry Jay Stearns, male, b. 25 Nov 1890 Nebraska

No wedding picture is known to exist at this time. Carlin Stearns Raith provided a couple of younger pictures of George and Lacy, presumably before they were married.



**George Orlo at 18-19 years of age. Lacy Dings, age not given,
courtesy Carlin Stearns Raith.**

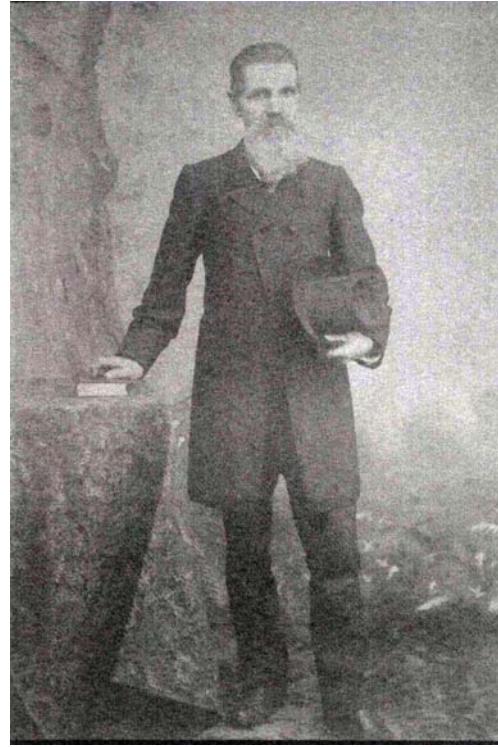
Below is a picture of the home where Lacy was born. Her father was a miller in New York for many years and also served in the Civil War.



**Home where Lacy Dings says she was born.
The old mill stream is in back. Schoharie County, N.Y.**



**Melissa Baker Dings and unmarked tintype on right.
According to Carlin Stearns, the tintype is Melissa Dings with daughter Lacy.
Carlin has a duplicate tintype.**



Melissa Baker Dings and her husband David Dings, courtesy Carlin

Public events in their lives were:

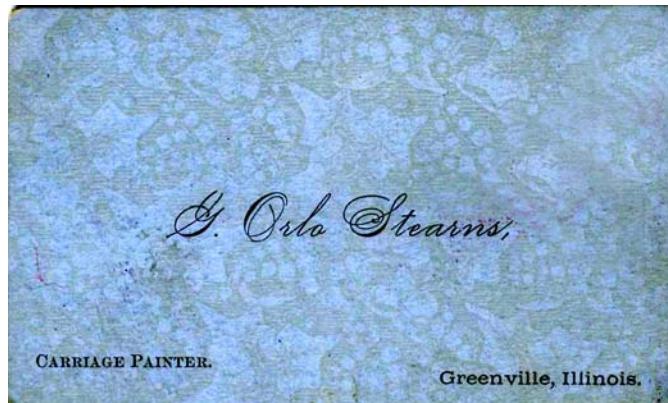
George appeared on the US Federal census in 1870 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. He is 11, living with his parents and attending school. His father, Charles E Stearns is 37 years old, owns \$2000 in real property and \$600 in personal property. He is a painter. His mother, Ellen is 33 and keeping house. Also in the home is Frank L, 4 years old, and Minnie, 2 years old. George Fraser, minister is their neighbor.

George appeared on the US Federal census in 1880 in Greenville, Bond, Illinois. He is 17, living with his parents and working as a grocer. The household consists of his father, Charles, 47, his mother Ellen R, 43 and his brothers and sisters, Frank L, 13, Minnie, 11, Willie, 9, Edward, 7, Mary, 4, and Charles, 2. His father is working as a grocer and his mother is keeping house. One must assume that George is working for his father. From all indications, Charles Edward never owned a grocery store. He was always a painter. This census entry showing them working as grocers is thought to be in error.

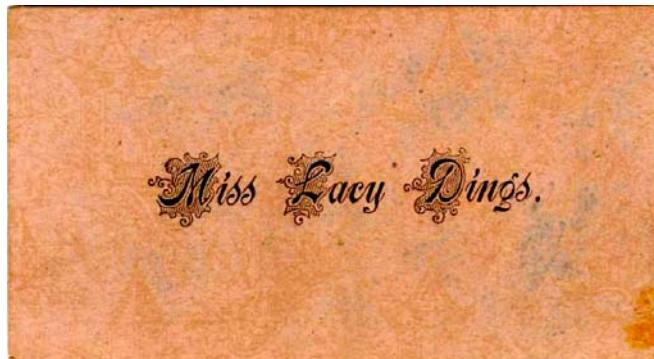
Lacy appeared on the US Federal census in 1880 in Hastings, Adams, Nebraska. She is 9, living with her parents and attending school. Her father David is 45 and her mother Malissa is 41 years old. Her brothers

and sisters are Myron, 20, Mary, 17, Alvin, 14, Marshall, 12, and Granville, 4. Her father is a miller. Malissa is keeping house. Also living in the home is her grandfather, Peter Dings, 75 years old. He was born about 1805 in New York. Peter is stated to have cholera.

The following cards belonged to George and Lacy before their marriage.



G. Orlo Stearns business card



Miss Lacy Dings calling or visiting card

An explanation of "Visiting Cards" was found at Duke University and explains the etiquette at the time of George and Lacy.

"Calling cards: Also called "name cards" or "visiting cards," they were small cards imprinted just with a man's or woman's name, sometimes printed in a fancy script. They were exchanged on social occasions and also as tokens of affection; they sometimes were saved as a measure of one's popularity."

The following notes about George Orlo Stearns were taken from Genealogy And Memoirs Of Isaac Stearns And His Descendants by Mrs. Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, Courier Printing Company, Syracuse, N.Y. 1901.

4983-George Orlo Stearns, b., Nov. 4, 1862, in Greenville, Ill.; an electrician of Grand Island, Neb., afterwards, of Milwaukee, Wis.; md.

Lacy Dings, and had one son 4984-Perry Jay Stearns, b., Nov. 25, 1890, in Grand Island, Neb.

George and Lacy's son, Perry, spent many evenings at their home in the late 1930's and early 1940's taking notes about their lives and the history of the Stearns and other related families as told by George. In George's own words (as written by Perry Stearns), the events that transpired between his birth in Greenville, Illinois, their move to Nebraska and their relocation to Milwaukee are presented below as transcribed by the author from Perry's notebook [*author's comments are in brackets and italicized*]:

"The following answer was given to the **New England Historic Genealogical Society** 12/10/41 as to names of my ancestors on my fathers side in direct line.

George Orlo Stearns, decorator to 1891, thereafter electrician until retirement in 1940, a "double" over 40 year veteran with Milw Elec Ry and Light Co., (after 48 years of service); Greenville, Ill until 1883; Grand Island, Neb 1886? to Dec 1890; Milwaukee, Wis thereafter; married Lacy dings, dau of David and Melissa (Baker) Dings, Dec 15, 1888, Rev J.H. Storms officiating.

[Origin of George Orlo's name]

Harmon Van Buren Easton -> H.W. Easton was a painter and one of the boarders. Not long after they [*Mary Livingston Stearns*] were married he became demented. Her friends wanted to put him in an asylum but she would not consent. They had one son Geo. Easton. Chas Edw came west to his Uncle Albert before he was 21. But he stayed in Amsterdam long enough to learn the painters trade. If it had not been for Easton he probably would have not been a painter. GOS says this was a mistake.

Geo Easton lived to be about 50 and died. He was related to Horton's by marriage. HVBE had children by a previous marriage by a woman named Horton. Mrs. Defenberg was a Horton. Mrs. Defenberg had a brother - Uncle Orlo Easton and GOS was named from him and from George Livingston – Mary A's half brother.

[Author's Clarification: Mary Ann Livingston (father, Timothy Livingston) first married Jonathan Gale Stearns. Their child was Charles Edward (George Orlo's father). Jonathan died 10 Oct 1835 and Mary Ann remarried Harmon Van Buren Easton 9 Feb 1840. They had three children Julia Potter, George Livingston and Edward Brockway Easton. George Easton is the one discussed above. Harmon Van Buren Easton was previously married to Elizabeth Grinnell. They had a number of children including Mary Easton who married Orlo Horton and Ann Easton who married Elias Devenbaugh (or aka sp. var.

Devenburg). Harmon Easton was a painter who passed on his trade to Charles Edward Stearns, his stepson.

Mary Ann Livingston had several brothers including Albert (Uncle Albert mentioned above) and George Livingston. Albert Livingston moved to Montgomery County, Illinois sometime before 1845. Charles Edward lived in Amsterdam, N.Y. in 1850 with his mother and stepfather Harmon Easton. Charles was next found in Greenville, Illinois in 1860, married to Ellen Rice (m. 30 Dec 1857). He must have gone west to live with his Uncle Albert sometime after 1850. Albert might have lived in the vicinity of Litchfield, Illinois which is in Montgomery County. Charles Edward's second son, Frank, was born there.]

[George Orlo's early childhood]

GOS was chopping wood on a sawhorse one time when the hatchet went through and hit his knee. He still carries scar. At another time in father's store in Greenville, GOS went to lift a box which he thought was empty. Instead it was packed and heavy and the sudden change in weight caused him to drop it on his leg. The wound was not taken care of and it became worse and worse. The doctors finally gave up healing the wound and recommended amputation. Charles Edward agreed but GOS said that if they took his leg they could take him too. So they tried curing the sore by less heroic methods and it was finally cured. Dr. Rhodes was the doctor. He was a very popular doctor but about twice a year he would go on a spree. Once such a time he tipped a lamp over in his office and was found dead on the floor next morning with a large hole burned in the floor beside him.

Adaline Going [*George Orlo's grandmother*] was born in Waterford, Vt. May 15, 1813, was married in St. Johnsbury, Vt. to Lester Rice in 1836, day and month not known, (May 18, 1836 is date given in Adaline's letter copied above - 26 years before GOS born) went to Natchez Miss by boat (a trip of 13 weeks says GOS) while there one daughter, Ellen, was born on Nov 11 1837. Sometime after that they moved to Woodburn, Ill. where a son Lester was born July 1839. Mr. Rice died there when the baby was about 6 months old, I believe then Mrs. Rice married W.D.H. Johnson also of Woodburn, on Nov. 15, 1840. They had four sons and two daughters and Mrs. Johnson died in Indianapolis Ind. Sept 14, 1896, at the age of 83 years, 4 months. Her father was Mr. Going who was born May 2, 1780 and her mother was Sally Woodbury or Sally Story, I am not sure which but am almost positive it was Woodbury. (GOS thinks it was Story) Her second husband was Lane. She was great-grandmother Lane when GOS visited Annisquam [*Annisquam, Gloucester, Mass.*] at 15 or 16. She was a little old lady not as tall as grandmother Johnson. Mrs. Lane had one son Jonathan – a big fellow who was a stone mason. All of her children were larger than she was. GOS thinks two of her children never married – were old maids and Jonathan lived with them and he never married. Another daughter married a man by the name of

Rooney or Mooney – or some such name – and moved down near Boston on the beach. GOS visited her there a few days – going back to Annisquam. He wrote lots of letters back to his father and mother – but does not know whether they still exist. While at Cape Anne he filled a raisin box – wholesale size – full of sea shells and sent it home to his father in Greenville – charges collect. It cost his father \$1.39 and as he had no use for the shells, GOS never heard the end of it. They were small shells. His mother liked them. They were mostly about the size of a dime and some may have been the size of a quarter. His mother melted lead on the outside of a box and put the shells on the outside. GOS thinks there is still one around the house. When GOS left Aunt Julia at Amsterdam on his way home she gave him a wallet with about \$50 in it. He gave that to his father and that took the curse off the shells.

When GOS a boy his father gave him the upstairs of the wood shed for a work shop. GOS worked occasionally for John Elam blacksmith and had what he called a plow factory where he made plows and wagons to order. When John Elam found GOS was making a steam engine John went to the trouble to make the boiler for him. GOS put the thing together and sold it to a boy for \$14. He does not think it was serviceable or would work. He thinks the boy's name was Rome Sprague, but is not sure. GOS used to hang around Elam's shop and helped out just for the fun of it. After a while he was paid a little. GOS thinks he was about 12 years old when he made the engine. He had a fret saw which he rigged up so it would run more easily than when made – a bigger wheel. He made all kinds of wall brackets, corner brackets, picture frames. His father got him thin wood cherry, walnut, mahogany – a sheet of each which he bought somewhere. GOS filled the house full of these things. After the wood was gone, GOS used cigar boxes. The fret saw was real good operated by foot power – bought by Chas Edw for GOS. He also bought the C.G. Conn baritone horn for GOS at a cost of \$75 – a present [*C.G. Conn was a musical instrument company in Elkhart, Indiana*]. GOS made case for it himself – lined with plush. He took it to Arapahoe – and the case disappeared there. They made GOS leader of the band at Arapahoe right away, but he did not stay lead [*long*]. The members of the band were not very good. GOS says it was a hard band to lead. They had a good leader of the band at Greenville before GOS left – Charlie Martin – a Frenchman. There was a good many French around. St. Louis. When Garfield killed [*on July 2, 1881*], GOS was in a band practicing – boy came with news and they quit practicing. Garfield much beloved. Killed by a R.C.



Arapahoe Band. George is 5th from left, next Frank Stearns, courtesy Carlin

When the Bond county Court House burned when GOS was 15 or 16 years old, he was sent upon the roof of his father's store and a bucket brigade formed to hand him water which he poured on the store roof and front. It was very hot from the fire across the street. Nearly all the records in the Court House were burned.

[Move to Arapahoe, Furnas Co., Nebraska]

Not long after Charles Edw became tired of the painting business. GOS believes it disagreed with his health.

When GOS was about 19 [1881], Chas Ed got idea of going out west and getting a farm for each of his sons. In looking for a location he went to Texas, because he had been impressed while at Fort Tyler. He spent the night at a hotel and next morning found three men hanging to a tree across the street. He quit Texas in disgust and came back to Greenville. Then he went to N or S Dakota – Blue – and liked that town. He went down to Kansas and from there to Nebraska and roamed all around there. In Arapahoe he met with a man named Albee – a nice man, about only friend GOS had after Chas Ed died – who induced him to settle there. Chas Ed put some money into the land and then came back to Greenville. He got the blues and got on the fence as to what to do. Finally they chartered two freight cars and

loaded up all the family possessions, wagons, tools, 3 horses, 2 cows and some pigs, ladders. He thought he could get the boys through without passage money. The boys were put on top of the car. The agent at Greenville allowed it. At St. Louis they made them take the ladders off the top of the car and send by freight. They were too long to go inside the car. They fixed up 2 bunks – 2 boys in a bunk. GOS and Frank, Will and Ed. It was a long dreary ride. The other children were young enough to go $\frac{1}{2}$ fare or free on the passenger train with GOS and Ellen. They began to worry as to whether the freight would ever arrive. The freight (and boys) were held up in railroad yards. It was a long dreary ride. The whole trip was done over GOS protest, but he finally decided it was no use. They were leaving stability, security and a good business.

In the center of Arapahoe Chas Ed rented a house until GOS could build one on the farm. GOS built the house basically alone and then they went out there to live. They bought a few more horses, cows, hogs and sheep. They dug a well and built a windmill. The farm was on two levels and two flats. To get water on the lower level a pipe was laid and GOS could not get the water to flow down the pipe. He did not know he had to have an air outlet. Finally when they quit farming the tenant made it work.

GOS quit farming to work at his trade. Went to Red Cloud but did not stay long because employer did not pay enough. Then to Cambridge – then to another town to paint a bank in and out. Then back to Cambridge – a gen. store – a house for store owner and house for woman where he boarded – all in winter. In spring went on to McCook – but got no work. So returned to Arapahoe. Kept all money he made except what he had to spend for board and when he got home he gave all to father. Then GOS set up shop in old bldg on blocks in Arapahoe. Cold in winter. Banker came out from Chicago to start banks. GOS got job to paint bank. He wanted colors but could not decide – so left it to GOS. Banker was so pleased with result he gave GOS an extra \$10. While he was buying lumber for house, he was counting out money and a \$10 bill blew away and he could not find it.

GOS cannot remember his father on the farm nor much about the farm. It was over very quickly.

GOS says Chas Edw. died too young for the good of the rest of the family – age 52. He probably would not have gone west if it had not been for the railroad advertising about free land, etc. GOS says Chas Edw. would have done better to have invested his money in Milwaukee, but he did not know any better. He had in mind Uncle Albert's success who bought 1000 acres. at \$1.25 an acre. in Fillmore County near Hillsboro. They named Fillmore and Hillsboro – Albert and CES ? Albert made money out of his gov't land and CES thought he

could do the same in Nebraska. He died in Arapahoe before the family moved to Grand Island so that my mother never met him [Uncle Albert]. Chas Edw. died at 52 when he should have begun to live. He was buried at Arapahoe – a very small settlement. After his death no one wanted to stay in Nebraska and they all moved to Grand Island.

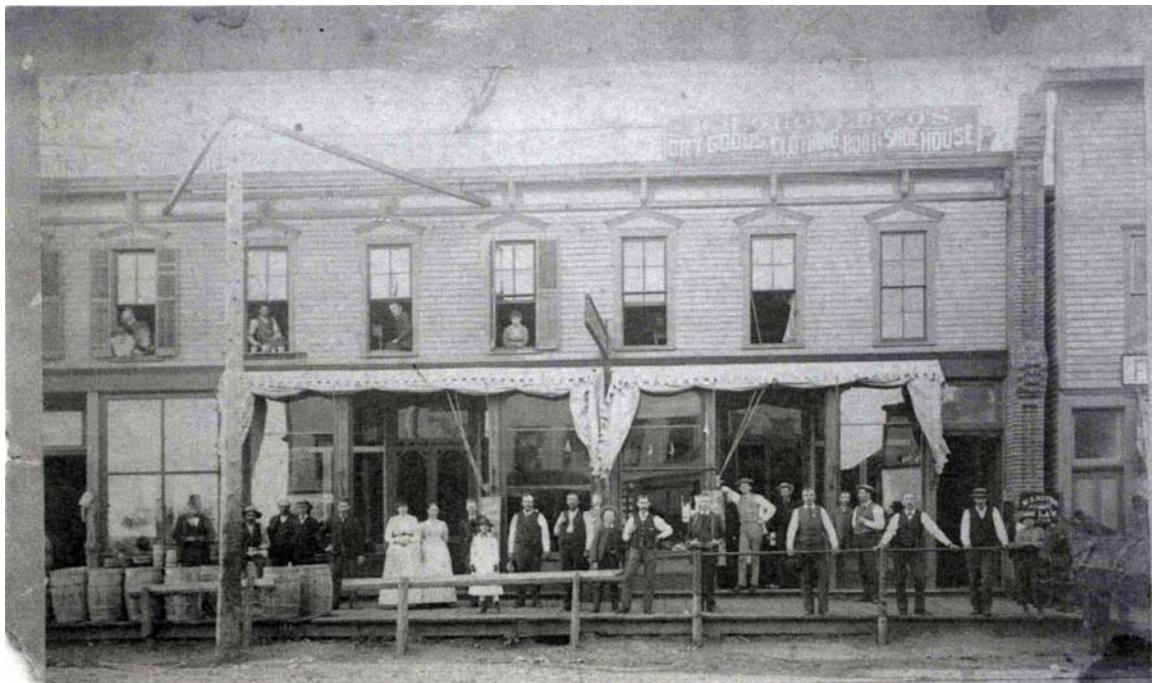
GOS says Chas Edw. had \$2000 life insurance and a friend in Greenville wrote him that if he wanted to collect it he had better come in person. So he went to Greenville and he thinks that is the time he went on to Indianapolis.

GOS cast his first presidential vote for Cleveland at Arapahoe while his father was still living – although he was not a Democrat [Election held November 4, 1884]

When Mary would not take Ora, Grandmother Johnson and Deac? took her. For several years, GOS boarded with them in Grand Island until his folks came from Arapahoe. GOS [went] from Arapahoe to Red Cloud and worked there one winter. The next winter west to Cambridge, Neb. There was a Bob Northcott he went west from Greenville at same time as Chas Ed who got him a job as cashier at Cambridge. Bob got GOS the job of painting in the new bank. While there he also got job of painting a new store and a residence. From there he went to Grand Island to work for Uncle Lester who was painting contractor and ran a store selling wall paper and paints.

[Grand Island, Nebraska]

When the Stearns family (with a family of brats says Lacy) came to Grand Island they settled kitty corner across the street from the Dings family. Lacy says she always called Ellen, Mother Stearns. GOS always walked so fast when he came home from work and would not go around to the front of his house to the gate but would step over the fence first one leg and then the other. Dad says he used to sit on his Uncle's store steps and saw mother (Lacy?) across the street on second floor working in telephone office. He did not know who she was. Mother also saw him sitting there and did not know who he was.



Glover's Store, Grand Island, courtesy Carlin

Myron Dings ran the first telephone exchange in Grand Island on the second floor. The man sitting on the second floor window sill is Myron Dings and the woman leaning on the next window is his wife Donna Buckingham Dings. The next window or the two are their living quarters. The switchboard was along the wall where the counter or desk can be seen with Myron Dings. The closed window is the room occupied by a dressmaker. Lacy Dings having come to know her while she worked in the telephone exchange, was invited to stay all night which she did. But the rooms were so close, stuffy, and smelly that she did not stay a second night. (Transcription from back of picture).

Chas Ed had no buggy but only a spring wagon to carry the whole family. Lacy says GOS only extravagance in Gr. Island before marriage was to hire a horse buggy. Ed Gregory when he took her [Lacy] out to his folk's house would hire 2 fiery horses. That was the way the young men did then. Mothers pink ribbons floated back in the wind. Ed Gregory's mother in a nearby town was very nice to them. He was a kind of clod-hopper – gangle-shanks. Lacy did not care for his looks. He was a nice boy. His folks at one time lived across the street and were friends of the Dings family. Geo. Easton spent most of his time at the place on Main St. lying around the barn waiting for a chance to shoot a rat. Geo. Wms who married Minnie, while he was still single, invited Lacy Dings to some event and she said she would go if her mother would let her. She then got behind Mr. Wms and shook her head so that her mother would say "no". Geo Wms was a fine man and Melissa liked him, so the answer otherwise would have

been "yes". Lacy told him that perhaps Minnie Stearns across the street would like to go with him and she did.

He left Uncle Lester to go into wagon painting business and ran the business about 2 years before he was married. He had lots of work until all of a sudden the town went flat. Grandfather Dings advised him (GOS) that if he were going to leave it was a good time to go and advised Milwaukee. GOS owed about \$200 including \$80 to a Chicago firm for glass.

Charles Scarf – young and full of progressive ideas – of fine well-to-do family in east. He wanted Dings to go out in country to take [care] of sheep. He spent thousands of dollars on them. The scab got them and the wolves and he lost his entire investment. He then went to Grand Island and built a hotel which GOS thinks he got rid of. Then he subdivided West Lawn and built a lot of houses which Dad painted and never got his money for. Then he built a panorama. Dad hired Uncle Lester for the murals and paid him. Dad spent \$80 for glass for the roof. Scarf got the railroads to advertise the thing widely. He had thousands of tickets printed! But hardly anybody came and Scarf skipped town.

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GOS clipping of "Referee's sale" in action pending in District Court of Furnas Co., Neb. Wherein George Orlo Stearns is plaintiff and Ellen R. Stearns, Frank L. Stearns, Minnie S. Williams, George Williams, Wm G. Stearns, Edward A. Stearns, Mary J. Stearns, Charles F. Stearns and John A. Stearns are def. – At December 1888 Grm. ordered real estate sold as upon execution by the referees, at public auction at front door of Court House in Beaver city in Furnas Co., Neb on June 14, 1889 at 1 P.M.: to wit S1/2 NW1/4 and N1/2 SW1/4 of sec 19, Town 4 N. R. 22 W 6th P.M. town of Arapahoe, Neb. Terms of sale, Cash. Given under our hands this 13th day of May 1889. C.B.R. Roberts, A.J.M Peak and A.Y. Wright, Referees.

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GOS remembers going to Beaver City and Lacy went with him. They went to the hotel and GOS was so engrossed with the legal business he neglected to pass things to his bride – of 12/15/1888 – at the hotel table until his attention was called. GOS does not remember about the suit but thinks it was something concocted by the lawyer A.Y. Wright to put something over – at any rate to clear up a title. GOS says he was greener than grass. Two men took an interest in him and tried to get him going straight. One was Fred Albee. But GOS thought he knew better. GOS had a lot of feed he had raised on the farm and corn was cheap. He had a chance to take 60 steers to feed. Albee advised against it but GOS says he thought he knew better. The Chicago people paid him all right – but he did not make a cent. He

says they weighed them when they first gave them to him and again after ready for market and paid him accordingly. An out and out swindle. But GOS says they, including his father, knew nothing about farming and they should never have tried it.

The \$2000 life insurance GOS used to build 2 new houses and to finish the house they had planned to live in. Arapahoe grew around Colvin's farm so he sold it off in lots. Old man Colvin was friendly. GOS thinks they got their insurance money back through the referee's sale and may have made a little money. Also GOS had in own name a 2 or 3 room house right near where they lived on 1 of the 3 lots and he must have sold that too. He kept himself busy. He was the only painter in the town who knew anything about painting so he was kept busy. They lived in Arapahoe about six years.

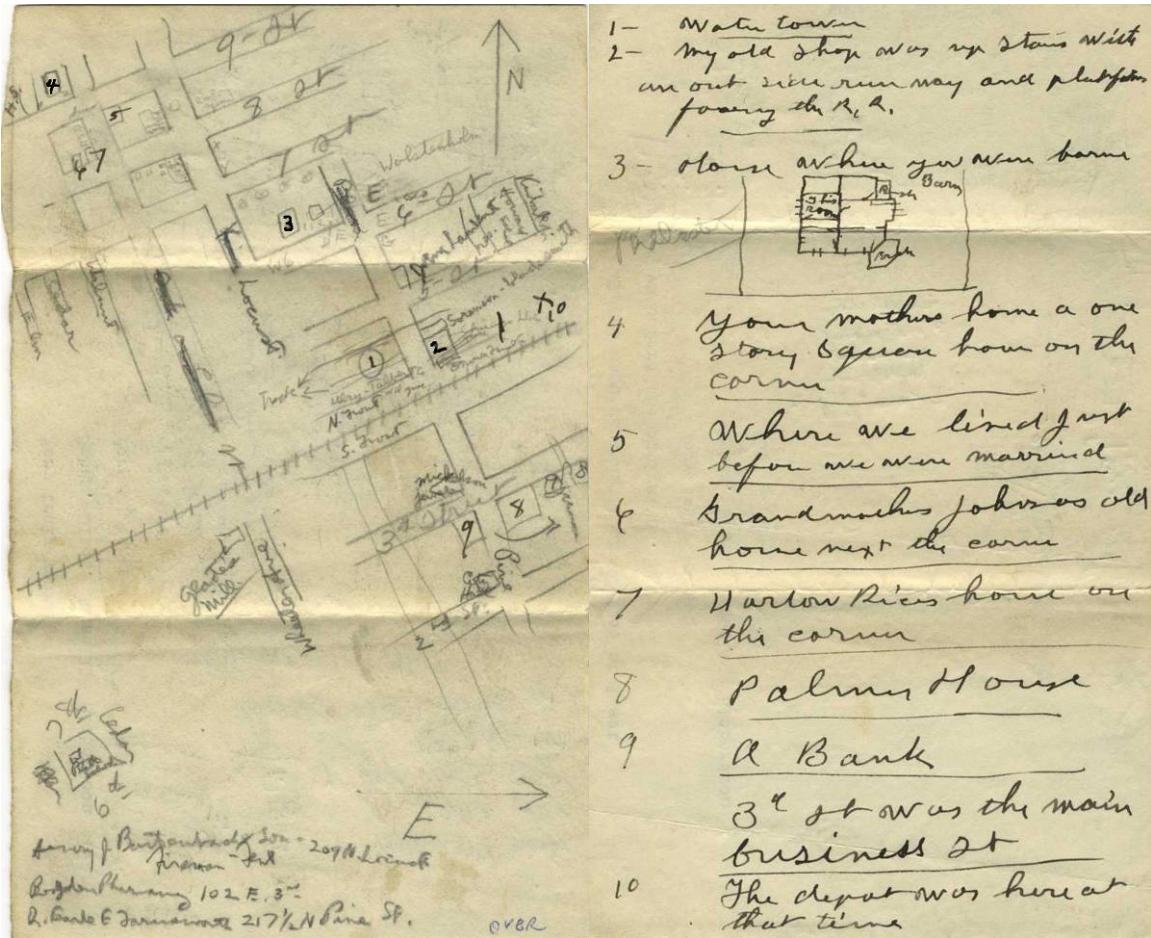
[Move to Milwaukee]

Not long after Alvin wanted them to come to Milwaukee – on a promise of a job – but there was no job. However he had offers of 2 jobs in 1 day. Mother did not want him to paint because of the effect on his health. For finishing work he had to have a certain temperature so varnish would flow. So did not take either job. It so happened the night dynamo tender at E. P. Allis Co. quit just then to go into [better] business. So Dad took the job and so got into the electric business. He worked nights there for 6 months from Jan 1 to Aug 1 when he jumped at a chance to work for Badger Illuminating Co. Coldest place he was ever in. With Alvin's permission he painted the 2 machines - Edison bipolar and also Woods? 50 light arc machine.

Every night he had to go out and trim the 55 lights. Alvin got him a new pair of rubbers. They were all right when new but finally he got some terrible shocks and could not understand what was the matter. Finally he came too and got a box and stood on it for protection. He had five machines – two ??? and 3 US generators for the cranes. Church was superintendent and he wanted GOS to stay but he would not unless he could work in day time. So he went with Coleman. He (Coleman) and Beggs (John L.) did not mix on whiskey question.

Aug 1, 1937 – today is the 46th anniversary of the date G.O. Stearns started working at TMER&L Co. [Aug 1, 1891]"

George drew a handwritten map of Grand Island, presumably to show where everybody lived during 1890. The map along with indexed numbers referring to specific locations is reproduced below:



George Orlo Stearns map of Grand Island as it was about 1890.

The author has distilled and interpreted the above information into a timeline for George. Some information in George's above account is lacking. Disappointingly, he says little or nothing of his introduction and courting of his future wife, Lacy and says nothing about their wedding. Unless there are other notebooks that Perry compiled, the story related above is entirely from George's viewpoint. Lacy may have contributed a few isolated notes, but there was very little about her life, her parents move to Nebraska and her childhood.

Summary Timeline

- Nov 4, 1862** - George Orlo Stearns born in Greenville, Illinois
- 29 Jul 1870** – Lacy Dings born in Huntersland, Schoharie, New York.
- 1880 census** – Lacy and family are living in Hastings, Nebraska. They move to Grand Island shortly after 1880.
- Fall 1883** – George and Charles Edwards Stearns family moves to Arapahoe, Nebraska

Nov 4, 1884 – George Orlo cast his first presidential vote for President Cleveland at Arapahoe Nebraska

Apr 6, 1885 – His father, Charles Edward Stearns dies.

1884-5? – George quits farming and moves to Grand Island. Lives with Grandmother Adaline Rice Johnson for 3 years before family arrives.

Dec 15, 1888 - George and Lacy are married in Grand Island, Nebraska

Nov 25, 1890 - Perry Jay Stearns born

1891 - George, Lacy and Perry move to Milwaukee. Gets job as night dynamo tender

Aug 1, 1891 - George takes job with Badger Illuminating Co.

April 1940- George retires from Wisconsin Electric Power Co.

20 Mar 1942 – George Orlo Stearns dies in Milwaukee, WI

7 Dec 1956 – Lacy Dings Stearns dies in Milwaukee, WI.

Public record

George and Lacy appeared on the US Federal census in 1900 in 516 Oakland Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (516 Oakland is now about 2480 Oakland). George is 28 (the enumerator probably made a mistake since he should be about 38 years old) and living with his wife Lacy, 28, and son Perry, 9. They have been married 11 years or about 1889. Lacy has borne 1 child with 1 living. George is working as an electric light man and rents his home. His father is from New York and his mother from Mississippi. Lacy's parents are from New York. They are living in the same dwelling as Berhard "Segerbrg", 35, b. Sweden, immigrated 1890, bookkeeper and his wife Emma and children Einer and Olga. They are the same family George rents from in 1920 and they are probably renting from them in 1900. Their name is enumerated as "Segroberg" on the 1920 census but is probably spelled "Segerberg" according to other sources.



Perry J, Lacy Dings and George Orlo Stearns at Prospect Ave. home, about 1900. Perry J looks to be about 9-10 years old.



**Stearns Home on 537 Prospect Ave. Lacy and Perry in front. No date.
Courtesy Carlin**



**Living room of George and Lacy Stearns, said to be Prospect Avenue home,
courtesy Carlin**

Note the carved table, probably the same built by Jonathan Gale Stearns seen in other pictures of their homes. The piano is not the same upright seen above.

Either they moved from their home on Oakland Ave. to Prospect Ave., or they lived on Prospect Ave. before 1900. The timing is not clear.

A picture from about this era shows Lacy Stearns on her front porch with her dog "Mascot". No date is given, but the front porch resembles the Prospect Avenue home. No picture of the Oakland Ave. home is confirmed.



Lacy Stearns with dog Mascot, courtesy Carlin



George, Lacy and Perry Stearns about 1906.

The woman on the far left is **Donnah Buckingham Dings**, wife of **Myron Dings** (brother of Lacy) and her daughter **Hazel Dings** on the far right sitting on the fence next to Perry J Stearns. George Orlo is holding his derby hat and Lacy Dings is in the center. The picture was

probably taken in Wisconsin, but that is not certain. Myron Dings was likely the photographer.

A companion picture to this, with Donnah Dings probably taking the photo, was provided by Carlin. The clothing is the same and it is assumed that the pictures were both taken on the same day.



Lacy and George Stearns, Hazel Dings, Perry Jay Stearns and Myron Dings

George and Lacy appeared on the US Federal census in 1910 in 833 Newhall St., 18th Ward Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (now approx. 3135 Newhall St). George is 47 and living with his wife Lacy D, 39, and their son Perry J, 19. He is working as an electrical superintendent of a street railway and rents his home. They have been married 21 years or about 1889. She has no occupation. Also living with them is his mother-in-law, Melissa Dings. Melissa is 71, a widow, born in New York, her parents born in New York. Melissa has borne 7 children with 5 living.

George and Lacy's grandson, Perry Orlo Stearns, states the following:

"The census was done in April. Perry J was 19, according to the Census and would be 20 in November, 1910, as a Harvard freshman, so you

are catching him just at East High school graduation time. He and Maebelle were in the same class, of which she was Valedictorian.

833 Newhall St. was near the route to church and several blocks from the Lake. That house was 2-story with a narrow yard. Forest was probably born while they lived there.

Only streetcar company in Milwaukee City and County was the T.E.M.R.& L which ran single and double cars to all parts of the city. (The Electric Motor Rail & Light Co???) George Orlo was Superintendent of the Rail division. It may be that they moved to E. Wood the summer of the Census? Lacy Dings' mother Melissa had passed on before I was born in 1923. I never met any of Lacy's people and cannot tell you the relationship of the rather spectral fellow who lived in their attic in my early adolescence...a vet of WWI who'd been gassed.

The TEMR&L gave a dinner for Grandfather at his retirement along with a gold fob watch. Not a dime for pension, though. Perry"

Perry was questioned further about the boarder and WWI veteran who was gassed that lived in the small upper room in George and Lacy's home. Perry couldn't recall his name, but did state that he was a Stearns relative who moved around from one kin to another. This man has never showed up on any census involving George or Lacy, so his name is not known. Since Perry Jay had no siblings, it must have been a more distant relative.

George and Lacy appeared on the US Federal census in 1920 in 506 Frederick Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was enumerated as George B Stevens. George is 57 and living with his wife Lacy D, 50. They have no children at home. He works as a general electrician and is probably renting. She has no occupation. His father was born in New York and his mother in Tennessee. They are boarders in the home of Emma "Segroberg", 55, born in Norway and immigrated in 1890. Emma has 3 children Einer, 22 born in Utah, Olga, 21, b. in Utah and Bernard, 18, born in Wisconsin. This was the same family they rented from in 1900 although Emma is now a widow.

George and Lacy appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in 432 E. Wood Pl., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (now 2022 East Wood Place). George is 69 and living with his wife Lacy, 59 (she was enumerated as Lucy). They have no children. He owns his home worth \$10,000 and is working as an electrician for Public Service. His father is born in New York and his mother in Mississippi. He was first married at age 27 or about 1888. Lacy has no occupation. Her

parents were both born in New York. She was first married at age 18 or about 1888.



Holiday Greeting Card showing home at E. Wood Place in Shorewood.

The street numbers were changed between 1929 and 1931, so 432 East Wood Place probably became 2022 East Wood Place after 1930.

George and Lacy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1938. The following might be a picture of them at this time.



George Orlo and Lacy Dings Stearns, no date, courtesy Carlin

George kept in touch with his brothers and sisters, several of whom remained in Greenville, Illinois. They appeared to have regular reunions often attended by George and his family. His son, Perry, continued the tradition and took his family to Greenville on occasion for these reunions.



Lacy and George Orlo Stearns, Dora and William Gale Stearns, Greenville, Illinois, circa 1930's.

According to his funeral service (see below) George started working for the Badger Illuminating Company in 1891. An early history of this company and its evolution is given below:

History of Wisconsin Energy Corporation

Wisconsin Energy's origins lie in the late 1880s, when financier Henry Villard consolidated Milwaukee's electric and streetcar companies into the Milwaukee Street Railway Company, a subsidiary of an early utility trust called the North American Company. Villard made his acquisitions quietly and in his own name. Within three years his company held the properties of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, the Badger Illuminating Company, Milwaukee Electric Light, the Milwaukee City Railroad Company, and the Cream City Railway Company.

To run his Milwaukee holdings Villard recruited Western Edison executive John I. Beggs. But before Beggs could do much work, the panic of 1893 hit and sent the Milwaukee Street Railway Company into receivership.

On January 29, 1896, the company emerged from receivership as the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company (TMER&L). Beggs, who had remained president, concentrated on a burgeoning electric streetcar business and soon organized The Milwaukee Light, Heat, and Traction Company (MLH&T) to operate in the suburbs. By 1900

TMER&L and MLH&T had a combined total of 1,511 customers and more than 41.5 million paying traction passengers.

Beggs also began making acquisitions. To MLH&T he added a series of southeastern Wisconsin utilities including the light, traction, and gas companies of Racine. In Milwaukee he consolidated the city's remaining electric and traction properties into TMER&L.

Key Dates:

- 1880s: Henry Villard consolidates Milwaukee's electric and streetcar companies to form the Milwaukee Street Railway Company, a subsidiary of the North American Company.
- 1890: Milwaukee Street Railway Company goes into receivership.
- 1896: Company emerges from receivership as the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company.
- 1911: Company begins to shift its focus from railways to electrical service.
- 1920: A coal shortage and miners' strike threaten the company's existence.
- Early 1920s: North American forms Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCo); Lakeside Power Plant is built.
- 1935: Company builds a new power plant at Port Washington.
- 1938: The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company is merged into WEPCo.
- 1943: A second power plant is built at Port Washington.

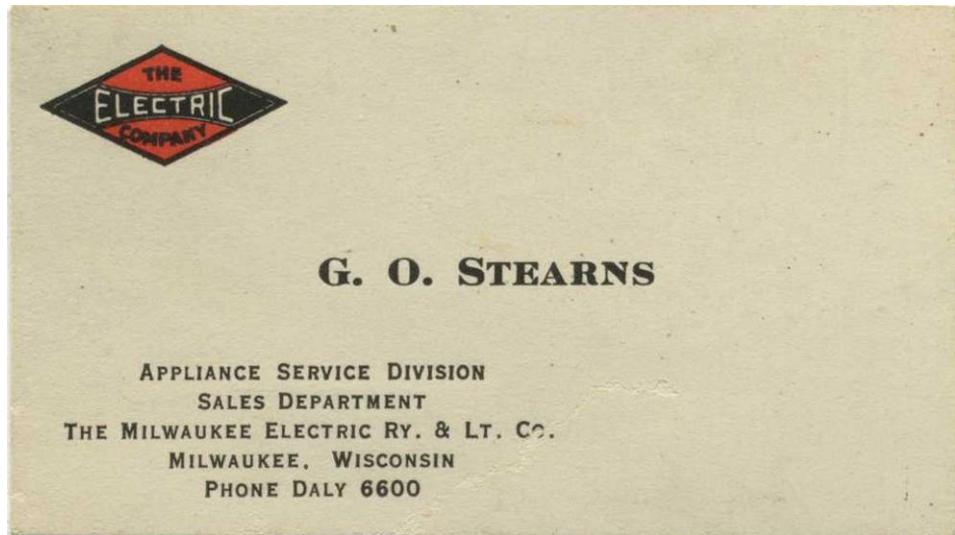
<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/79/Wisconsin-Energy-Corporation.html>

According to the US Census and obituary data, Georges lists his occupations as follows:

- 1880 – Grocer (probably an error – should be painter)
- 1900 – Electric light man
- 1910 - Electrical Supt, Street Railway
- 1920 - Electrician, General
- 1930 - Electrician, Public Service
- 1940 - Assistant Superintendent Appliance Service, Sales Div.

Apparently George advanced from wireman and electrician into the street railway division and eventually into the appliance service division. This was probably commensurate with the company's evolution and emphasis from electric railway to electric service.

One of George Orlo's business cards is reproduced below:



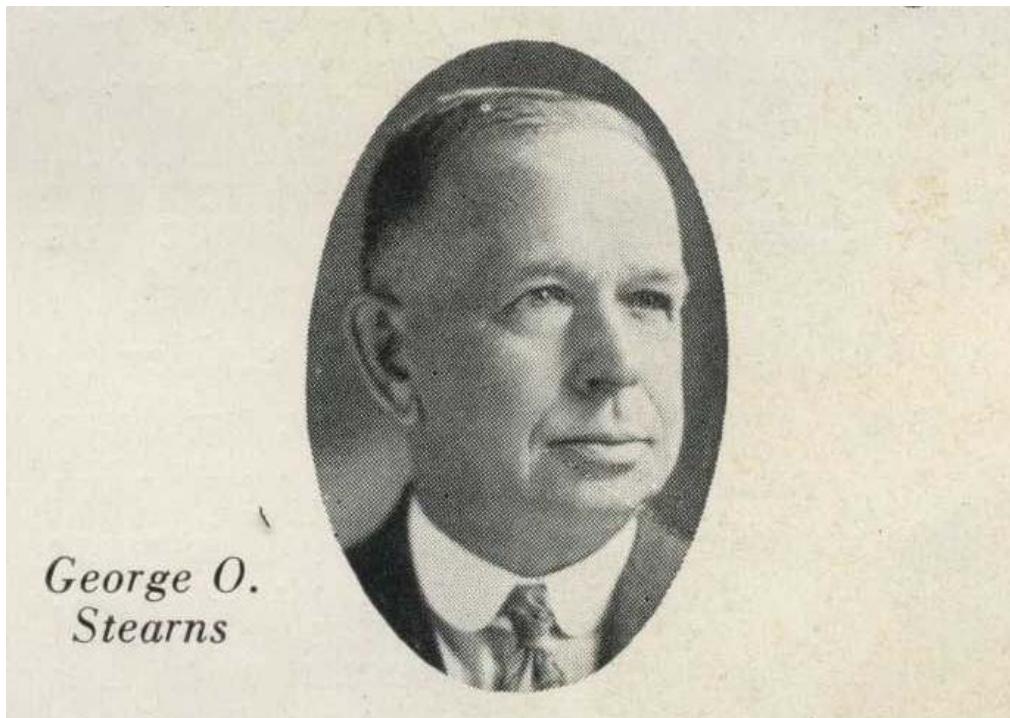
George Orlo Stearns, business card

The following picture is probably of the Appliance Service Division, although could be a group of electricians. George Orlo appears to be standing on the far right side, obviously a supervisor. The picture was not annotated with date, place or names. Where in Milwaukee this might be is not known.

It appears that the Wisconsin Electric Power Plant may be in the immediate background with the tall smokestack. Hotel Charlotte is in the background on the left and the Security Building sign is in the upper right.



Probably George Orlo Stearns standing on far right and Electric Company workers.



*George O.
Stearns*

George O. Stearns. Picture from "Rail & Wire", Vol. XXV., October, 1938, No. 5

Rail & Wire was published monthly in the interests of their employees by The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company, Motor Transport Company and Badger Auto Service Company, Public Service Building, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

George retired in April 1940 after serving almost 50 years with the Electric Company. He was given a celebration dinner and a gold watch, but no pension.



George Orlo Stearns retirement dinner. George is sitting far left and front.

Another picture of George Orlo and probably another retiree is seen below. The fellow in the middle is probably an executive in charge of the award ceremony.



George Orlo Stearns on right. He may be wearing his retirement gold watch. Neither retiree looks particularly happy.

A certificate of advancement to Honorary Membership in the Veterans' Association was presented to George.

THE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER CO.
THE MILWAUKEE ELECTRIC RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT CO.
WISCONSIN GAS AND ELECTRIC CO.
WISCONSIN MICHIGAN POWER CO.
MOTOR TRANSPORT CO.

CERTIFICATE OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

THIS CERTIFIES, THAT IN RECOGNITION
OF LOYAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION AND OF DILIGENT AND
FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE EMPLOYING
COMPANY FROM WHICH HE HAS NOW
RETIRED WITH HONORS

GEORGE O. STEARNS

HAS ADVANCED TO THE CIRCLE OF
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

this 16th day of April 1940

CR Smith
CHIEF VETERAN.

Henry Elbert
VETERAN SECRETARY.

Dated at Milwaukee June 22, 1940.

George Orlo Stearns, Honorary Membership Veterans' Association

Perry Orlo Stearns confirms George's work and retirement:

"I don't know exactly where he actually learned his electrical business but shortly after he came up to Milwaukee, he was in charge of the streetcars in Milwaukee which there were quite a few of them at that time. He was the top man in the streetcar department. I've told Fran several times that he was rather annoyed when they let him go and they gave him a nice watch. They didn't give him anything except a watch and maybe a go away dinner. I wasn't there.

[But they managed to live comfortably after that I guess?]

Oh, I don't know how much money father helped with him. But I think he paid off his house. He only had the one car. It was a small house and sometimes they rented the upstairs and I'm sure they got paid something for that. Maybe father helped them now and then but I don't think we had any excess of money either, so I think he had saved enough. They didn't usually go very far or do very much. I never saw them go out to the opera or anything like that.

Grandpa Stearns lived around the corner, George Orlo, had a very nice old car. He died when I was away at school I guess. After he died, father always had to go over there every night and sit there and talk to his mother and read and et cetera."

Both grandsons, Dave and Perry Stearns, have matching memories of their grandfather sitting in his reclining easy chair - sleeping.

Dave:

"He was born just before the Civil War, 1862. So by 1920, he was maybe 60 or 70 when I was growing up. I remember him, I don't know if we still have that chair anywhere in the family, but he had a chair that was almost like a recliner. My memory of my grandpa George Orlo Stearns is him sleeping in that chair at home."

Perry:

"Grandpa Stearns. My memory of him is just an old man. My picture of him was he would come home on the trolley and he'd get in his chair and sit down; it was a very comfortable chair. I can't remember him walking around much at all or doing anything."



George Orlo Stearns in his easy chair at 1022 East Wood Place

Dave relates an interesting incident concerning George Orlo:

"What was the story about Grandma and Grandpa Stearns dancing the Virginia reel? [Mary Joan asked]

That was Brook! Stearns, dance? Old sourpuss; old Grandpa Stearns; George Orlo?

He had a good job. He worked as a vice president at Wisconsin Electric power. They had a sales department where they sold electrical stuff. He was in charge of that. He was vice-president in charge. They sold electric ranges, heaters, appliances. I think he was a pretty good electrician. I'll never forget one day. They lived right around the corner from our place on Murray on East Wood. They could see our house from their house. There were trees in the way but they could see through the trees. At some point when I was a young kid we got to climbing electric poles, wooden poles. He could see that from his back yard. He came over all excited to my mother and dad. Get those kids off those poles! There were hot wires up there. He was right. We were fooling around trying to climb those wooden poles. You could get

electrocuted. And he was right. I never climbed another pole after that day. They could see across the various lots from their house to our house."

George enjoyed only about 2 years of retirement before he died. George and Lacy were residing at 2022 East Wood Place in Shorewood, Wisconsin at the time of his death on 20 May 1942.

George Orlo's death certificate is below followed by the transcription:

2583

Form No. 206 Copy Certificate of DEATH		WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH Bureau of Vital Statistics		Local Registrar's No. _____
1. PLACE OF DEATH: (a) County <u>Milwaukee</u> (b) Township _____ or City or Village <u>Shorewood</u> (c) Name of hospital 2022 East Wood Place		2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED: (a) State <u>Wisconsin</u> (b) County <u>Milwaukee</u> (c) Township _____ or City or Village <u>Shorewood</u> (d) Street No. <u>2022 East Wood Place</u> <small>(If rural, give Route No. and Post Office)</small> (e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.?		
3. (a) FULL NAME <u>George Orlo Stearns</u>		MEDICAL CERTIFICATION		
3. (b) If veteran, name war <u>no</u>		3. (c) Social Security No. <u>391-12-0387</u>		
4. Sex <u>Male</u> race <u>white</u>		5. Color or 6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced <u>Married</u>		
6. (b) Name of husband or wife <u>Lacy Dings Stearns</u>		6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive <u>71</u> years.		
7. Birth date of deceased <u>November 4, 1862</u>		7. Date of death: Month <u>March</u> Day <u>20</u> Year <u>1942</u>		
8. AGE: Years <u>79</u>	Months <u>4</u>	Days <u>16</u>	If less than one day hr. _____. min. _____	
9. Birthplace <u>Greenville,</u> (City, town, or county)		10. Usual occupation <u>Retired</u>		
11. Industry or business		12. Name <u>Charles E. Stearns</u>		
Father { 13. Birthplace <u>Amsterdam</u> New York (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)		14. Maiden name <u>Ellen Rice</u>		
Mother { 15. Birthplace <u>Matchez</u> Mississippi (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)		16. (a) Informant <u>Perry J. Stearns</u> (b) Address <u>4146 N. Murray Avenue</u>		
17. (a) <u>Burial</u> (Burial, cremation or other) <u>Valhalla Cemetery</u>		17. (a) Date thereof <u>3-23-42</u> (Mo.) (Da.) (Yr.)		
18. (a) Signature of funeral director <u>Fred C. Fass & Son Co.</u> (b) Address <u>3601 N. Oakland Avenue</u>		19. (a) <u>April 1, 1942</u> (b) <u>John L. Jones</u> (Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)		
19. (c) <u>March 23, 1942</u> (d) <u>E. R. Krumbiegel M.D.</u> (Date received sub-registrar) (Sub-registrar's signature)		20. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>January 39</u> , 19 <u>42</u> , to <u>March 20</u> , 19 <u>42</u> ; that I last saw him alive on <u>March 20</u> , 19 <u>42</u> ; and that death occurred on the date stated above at <u>5:55 A.M.</u>		
		Immediate cause of death <u>Myocardial insufficiency</u> Duration <u>1 year</u>		
		Due to <u>Arteriosclerosis</u> <u>15 years</u>		
		Due to <u>NOT VALID FOR IDE</u>		
		Other conditions <u>(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)</u> Major findings: <u>DOC. NO. 2583</u> Of operations <u>FILED Apr. 27, 1942</u> Of autopsy <u>REGISTER OF DEEDS</u> Physician <u>Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.</u>		
22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following: (a) Accident, suicide, homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? (City, village or township, county and state) _____ (d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? (Specify type of place) _____ While at work? _____ (e) Means of injury _____ 23. Signature <u>T. M. Northey</u> (M.D. or other) Address <u>2577 N. Downer Avenue</u> signed <u>2-20-42</u>				

Wisconsin Death Certificate – George Orlo Stearns

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health - Bureau of Vital Statistics

Certificate of Death

Local Registrar's No.: 2583

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

County: Milwaukee

City: Shorewood

Name of hospital or institution:

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

State: Wisconsin

County: Milwaukee

City or Village: Shorewood

Street No. 2022 East Wood Place

3a. FULL NAME: George Orlo Stearns

3b. If Veteran, name war: No

3c. Social Security No. 391-12-0387

4. Sex: Male

5. Color or Race: White

6a. Single, widowed, married, divorced: Married

6b. Name of husband or wife: Lacy Dings Stearns

7. Birth date of deceased: Nov 4, 1862

8. Age: Years , Months , Days 71

9. Birthplace: Greenville, Illinois

10. Usual occupation: Retired

FATHER

12. Name: Charles E. Stearns

13. Birthplace: Amsterdam, New York

MOTHER

14. Maiden name: Ellen Rice

15. Birthplace: Natchez, Mississippi

16a. Informant: Perry J. Stearns

16b. Address: 4146 N. Murray Avenue

17a. Burial, cremation, or other: Burial

17b. Date thereof: 3-23-42

17c. Place: burial or cremation: Valhalla Cemetery

18a. Signature of funeral director: Fred C. Fass & Son, Co.

18b. Address: 3601 N. Oakland Avenue

19a. Date received local registrar: April 1, 1942, John L. Jones

19b. Date received sub registrar: March 23, 1942, R. R. Krumbiegel, M.D.

20. Date of Death: Month, Day, Year: March 20, 1942

21. I certify that I attended the deceased from: January 1939 to March 20, 1942 that I last saw him alive on March 20, 1942 and that the death occurred on the date stated above at 5:55 A.M.

Immediate cause of death: Myocardial insufficiency, Duration 1 year

Due To: Arteriosclerosis, duration 15 years.

Major findings: None

23. Signature: T. M. Northey, M.D.

Address: 2577 N. Downer Ave,

Date signed: 2-20-42

Date Filed: Apr 27, 1942, Register of Deeds

Obituaries were published in the Milwaukee Journal and the Shorewood Herald and are provided below:

The Milwaukee Journal, p. 11
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Saturday, 21 March 1942

STEARNS: George Orlo, 2022 E. Wood pl., Mar. 20, aged 79 years, husband of Lacy Dings Stearns, father of Perry J. Stearns, brother of Mrs. Minnie Williams, Mary Stearns, William G. and John A. Stearns; also survived by 4 grandchildren. Services at the Fass Funeral Home, 3601 N. Oakland av., Mon. at 2 p. m. under auspices of the EMBA. Interment Valhalla cemetery. In state after 12 noon Sunday.

Death Notice, Milwaukee Journal

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1942

G. O. Stearns Is Dead Here

Veteran Employe of the Electric Co. Had Been in Retirement

George O. Stearns, 79, who worked for the Electric Co. and the old Badger Illuminating Co. for 49 years, died Thursday at his home, 2022 E. Wood pl., after a few days' illness.

Mr. Stearns was assistant superintendent of the appliance service

division in the sales department of the Electric Co. when he retired in April, 1940. Just last Saturday he attended a meeting of the veterans' association, of which he was a member.

Over a half century ago he came to Milwaukee from his native Greenville, Ill. On Dec. 15, 1938, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Surviving are his wife, Lacy; a son, Perry J.; two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Williams, Little Rock, Ark., and Mary, Greenville, and two brothers, William G. and John A., both of Greenville.

The Employees' Mutual Benefit association of the Electric Co. will direct funeral services at the Fass chapel, 3601 N. Oakland av., at 2 p. m. Monday. Burial will be in Valhalla cemetery.

Obituary no source, but same text as Shorewood Herald

His funeral service was conducted by the E.M.B.A. or Employees' Mutual Benefit Association. Part of the service was transcribed below:

Services for George Orlo Stearns at

Fred C. Fass And Son Funeral Home
3601 N. Oakland Ave.; Shorewood, Wis.
March 23, 1942

Organ music by Miss Alma Seefeld
Solo by William Alston – 23rd Psalm from
Treasury of Gospel Hymns
By Edward MacHugh

E.M.B.A. service read by William Zarse, Secretary.

"Brother G. O. Stearns, who was a charter member of our order, commenced his company service in 1891 as a commercial wireman for the Badger Illuminating Company. Those were pioneer days in the electrical industry, and the development of the business to the stage with which we are familiar today had its foundation in the efforts of those early workers in this field. Mr. Stearns spent nearly five decades in Company service, years in which he gave unstintingly of his ability, time and vigor. During a good part of his career he was occupied in customers service work, and the efficient organization we know today had its origin in the pattern he prepared at the beginning of this activity. He retired from active duty in 1940, and the account he was then able to give of his stewardship was indeed a creditable one. His interests, in addition to his work, were centered in his home life. There he found his relaxation, and there, as a provident and considerate husband and father, he spent his most contented hours. To the companion who walked at his side in more than 50 years of married life, to the son, to other relatives and close friends, the genuine sympathy of Employees' Mutual Benefit Association is extended"

Lacy Dings Stearns continued to live at Eastwood Place until her death in 1956. According to family stories, she owned a cat named "Griffin". His picture is seen below:



Lacy Dings Cat "Griffin"

Perry and Fran mention the cat:

Perry - Grandma loved her birds and loved her cat. I don't know how many birds the cat ate but whatever the cat did was all right. It was a nice gray Persian, named Griffin.

Fran - We have a plate with his picture on it that she painted."

Griffin is a name that comes up in Perry J's notes as a relative on the Stearns side. Could that be why Lacy named her cat Griffin – perhaps with tongue in cheek?

Lacy apparently practiced the Christian Science religion. Several letters amongst the Dings family members attest to their interest in this practice. Whether Lacy practiced it after her marriage to George is not known.

Most pictures of Lacy show her well dressed and often wearing large hats. Below is a picture showing Lacy in a quiet pose in relaxed clothing, circa 1920. The location appears to be in the north woods.



Lacy Dings Stearns, circa 1920

Below is another reunion picture from Greenville, Illinois that Lacy attended.



Stearns Reunion, Greenville, Illinois, circa 1940.

George Orlo is not in the picture, so it could be after 1942. Left to right: Mary Stearns, unknown, Mae Belle Stearns (hiding), John A Stearns, Perry J Stearns, William G Stearns, Dora Stearns (wife of Wm G), possibly Grace (wife of Frank), Lacy Dings Stearns (with hat),

Frank Stearns (son of Wm G), unknown two young girls (dark haired girl on left is possibly Aline – dau. of Wm G). The three young boys in front are not identified. Best guesses for the three boys are Larry, and the twins Ronald and Donald Bourgeois. The husband of Aline, Earl Bourgeois, might be the young man to the right of Mary Stearns or he could be Frank's son Eldon Ray.

When asked what Dave and Perry remembered most about their grandmother Lacy, both had similar answers centering on her cooking:

Dave:

"She was a real good Grandma type. We always went there for Thanksgiving dinner. She always had a big turkey and a big feast. That was our Thanksgiving party."

Perry and Fran:

"We'd go over to Grandma's house for wonderful meals. She loved to cook. And yes, the whole family would go over and sit down for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner or maybe."

"Perry and I had a Thanksgiving dinner there. We were married in 1946 so that would probably have been in 1947 or 1948. I remember that vividly."

Fran describes Lacy's "Turkish Corner" in her home:

"She had a Turkish corner in her house with the brass pot and colored lights and peacock fan. We still have one of the brass pots. Yes, right here. This comes from Lacy Dings Turkish corner. It will polish up to be a beautiful, well, you can see it has lived with us for the last 40 years and so it has been used."

[What was the purpose of her Turkish corner?]

It was a common thing at the turn of the century; up 'till the first World War. Peacock feathers, colored lamp that went down that had colored lights in it and then you turned the switch and it glowed at night. Things like that. That belonged to your grandmother Stearns."

Her death certificate follows and is transcribed below:

State Birth No.

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Milwaukee		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission). a. STATE Wisconsin b. COUNTY Milwaukee	
b. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) OR TOWN Shorewood		c. LENGTH OF STAY (in this place) Shorewood	
d. FULL NAME OF (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION 2022 E. Wood Place		d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 2022 E. Wood Place	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print)	a. (First) Lacy	b. (Middle) Dings	c. (Last) Stearns
5. SEX Female	6. COLOR OR RACE White	7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) Widowed	4. DATE OF DEATH Dec. 7, 1956
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Housewife		8. DATE OF BIRTH July 29, 1870	
10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY -----		9. AGE (In years) 86	
13. FATHER'S NAME David Dings		11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Huntersland, New York	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) -----		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)		17. INFORMANT Perry J. Stearns	
<p>*This does not mean the mode of dying such as heart failure, asthma, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.</p>		<p>MEDICAL CERTIFICATION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) Cardiac failure</p>	
<p>ANTECEDENT CAUSES Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause. (a) stating the underlying cause (a).</p>		<p>DUE TO (b) Myocardial failure</p>	
		<p>DUE TO (c) Old age</p>	
19a. DATE OF OPERATION		19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION	
21a. ACCIDENT (Specify) SUICIDE HOMICIDE		21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)	
21d. TIME (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) OF INJURY m.		21e. INJURY OCCURRED While at Work <input type="checkbox"/> Not While At Work <input type="checkbox"/>	
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from alive on 12-7-1956 , and that death occurred at 1:40P m. , from the cause and on the date stated above.		21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?	
23a. SIGNATURE John D. Stearns		(Degree or title) MD	
24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		24b. DATE 12/10/56	
DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. Dec. 13, 1956		24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIUM Valhalla Cemetery	
REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Clyde M. Nakeman		24d. LOCATION (City, town or county) Milwaukee, Wisconsin	
		23c. DATE SIGNED 12/8/56	
		ADDRESS 3601 N. Oakland Ave	

Wisconsin Death Certificate – Lacy Dings Stearns
WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Local Registrar's No.:

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

County: Milwaukee

City: Shorewood

Name of hospital or institution: 2022 E. Wood Place

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

State: Wisconsin

County: Milwaukee

City or Village: Shorewood

Street No. 2022 E. Wood Place

3a. FULL NAME: Lacy Dings Stearns

4. Date of Death: November 26, 1966

5. Sex: Female

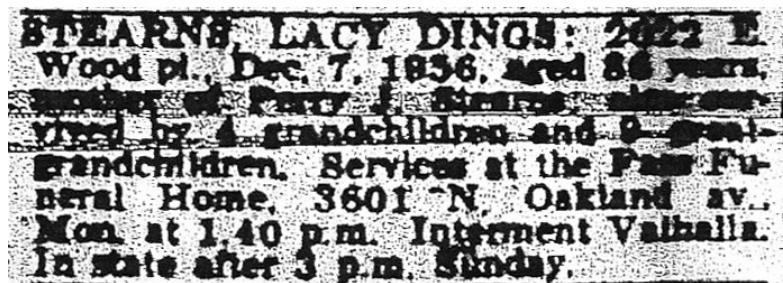
6. Color or Race: White

7. Single, widowed, married, divorced: Widowed

8. Date of Birth: July 29, 1870
9. Age: Years: 86
10a. Usual Occupation: Housewife
10b. Kind of business or industry:
11. Birthplace: Ironwood, Huntersland, New York
12. Citizen of what country: USA
13. Father's Name: David Dings
14. Mother's Maiden name: Melissa Baker
15. Was Deceased ever in US Armed forces: No:
16. Social Security No.: ---
17. Informant: Perry J. Stearns
18. Cause of Death: Part I: Cardiac Failure, Duration: Days, Due To:
Myocardial failure, Duration: Yars, Due to: Old Age
18 Part II:
19. Was Autopsy Performed: No
20. Accident, suicide, homicide: None
21. I certify that I attended the deceased from: 1945 to 12-7-1956 that I last
saw her alive on 12-7, 1956 and that the death occurred at 1:40 PM on the
date stated.
23. Signature: John Jorton, MD,
Address: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Date signed: 12-8-56
23a Burial, Cremation, Removal: Burial
23b. Date: 12/10/1956
23c. Name of Cemetery or Crematory: Valhalla Cemetery
23d. Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
24. Name of Funeral Home: Fred C. Fass & Son Co., 3601 N. Oakland Ave.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 53211
Date Rec'd by Local Reg: Dec. 13, 1956
Registrar's Signature: Clyde M. Haberman
25 Funeral Director's signature:

A death notice and obituary were published in the Milwaukee Journal
and the Shorewood Herald and are presented below:

The Milwaukee Journal, p. 17.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Saturday, 8 December 1956,



Milwaukee Journal Death Notice, Lacy Dings Stearns

The Herald,
Shorewood, Wisconsin.
Thurs., 13 December 1956, p. 8

* * *

Funeral services for **Mrs. Lacy Stearns**, 86, 2022 E. Wood pl., mother of Attorney Perry J. Stearns, were held Monday at the Fass funeral home. Burial was in Valhalla cemetery.

A native of New York state, Mrs. Stearns died Friday after a long illness. She had lived here since 1890 and formerly was a member of the International League for Peace and Freedom. Her husband, George I., died in 1942. He was assistant superintendent of appliance service in the sales division of the old Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co.

Lacy Dings Stearns Obituary, Shorewood Herald

George and Lacy are both buried in the Valhalla Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**Stearns monument, Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Inscriptions: Perry J. Stearns on left and George O. Stearns on right**



Lacy Dings Stearns footstone, Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Chapter 4 – Perry Jay Stearns

Tenth Generation Child of George Orlo Stearns and Lacy Dings

1639423111. Perry Jay Stearns (*George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 25 Nov 1890 in Grand Island, Hall, Nebraska, died on 21 Jun 1966 in Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 75, and was buried on 23 Jun 1966 in Valhalla Cemetery, 5409 N 91st St, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Perry Jay and Lacy Dings Stearns, courtesy Carlin Stearns Raith

His birth certificate has not yet been obtained from Nebraska.

His son, Dave Stearns, did not hesitate regarding the origin of his name. He says:

"His middle name was given by his parents, George and Lacy Stearns, in honor of John Jay the first justice of the United States Supreme Court appointed by George Washington."

[JOHN JAY was born on December 12, 1745, in New York, New York, and grew up in Rye, New York. He was graduated from King's College (Now Columbia University) in 1764. He read law in a New York law firm and was admitted to the bar in 1768. He began the practice of law in 1768 in partnership with his relative by marriage, Robert Livingston. Jay served as a delegate to both the First and Second Continental Congresses, and was elected President of the Continental Congress in 1778. He also served in the New York State militia. In 1779, Jay was sent on a diplomatic mission to Spain in an effort to gain recognition and economic assistance for the United States. In 1783, he helped to negotiate the Treaty of Paris, which marked the end of the Revolutionary War. Jay favored a stronger union and contributed five essays to The Federalist Papers in support of the new Constitution. President George Washington nominated Jay the first Chief Justice of the United States on September 24, 1789. The Senate confirmed the appointment on September 26, 1789. In April 1794, Jay negotiated a treaty with Great Britain, which became known as the Jay Treaty. After serving as Chief Justice for five years, Jay resigned from the Supreme Court on June 29, 1795, and became Governor of New York. He declined a second appointment as Chief Justice in 1800, and President John Adams then nominated John Marshall for the position, Jay died on May 17, 1829, at the age of eighty-three.]
http://www.supremecourthistory.org/02_history/subs_timeline/images_chiefs/001.html

In the author's uninformed and humble opinion, this does not compute. Why would George and Lacy have such a great interest in John Jay? Perhaps Lacy, coming from New York, heard stories about John Jay or possibly there was a connection between the Stearns family and John Jay's partner Robert Livingston (Mary Ann Livingston was the mother of Charles Edward Stearns) but this appears to be a long shot. Asked again, Dave thought George and Lacy gave him his middle name to provide inspiration.

Family names that would make more sense would have included Peter or David from the Dings family or Charles and Jonathan from the Stearns family. Even Phineas, Lester or Timothy from the maternal grandmother's sides would have been more logical.

Dave continues:

"I don't know where Perry came from. I've never understood that. That was a new name in our family history, I believe. Maybe in your genealogy stuff you have found previous Perry's. He didn't spell it Peary, but he spelled it Perry."

Famous Perry's include:

Commodore Oliver Perry, an American Naval officer primarily known for his involvement in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

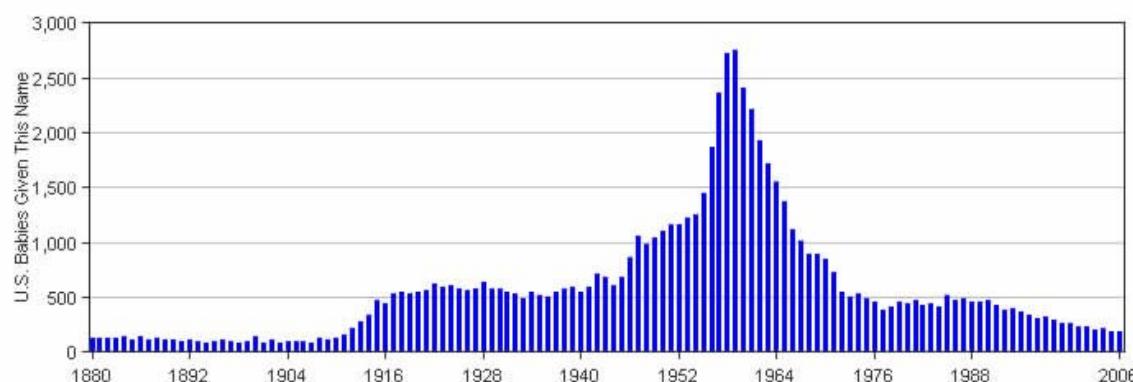
Commodore Matthew Perry, younger brother of Oliver Perry and American naval officer primarily known for his opening of trade between the United States and Japan in 1854.

Robert Edwin Peary (May 6, 1856 – February 20, 1920) was an American explorer who claimed to have been the first person to reach the geographic North Pole -- a claim that is today widely doubted.

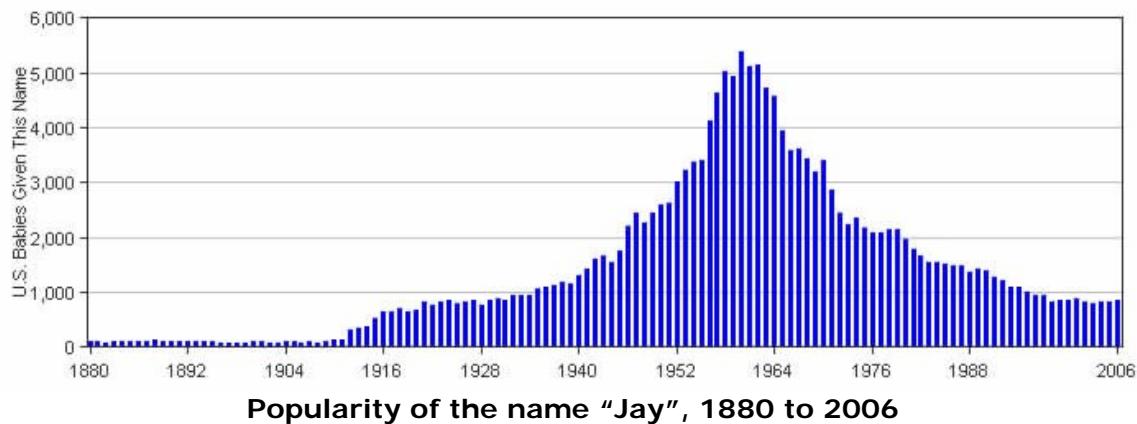
Could any of these men have attracted the attention of George or Lacy Stearns? When the author helped clean out their house after the death of Lacy Dings Stearns, there was a complete set of National Geographic magazines that spanned the years back to the late 1800's. Perhaps they were intrigued with exploration and the romance of the high seas.

The author has read most of Perry's notes and genealogies on the Stearns and Dings families and nowhere is there any connection to the origin of either his first or middle names. Neither were there any acquaintances of George or Lacy that might have influenced them to name their first and only son Perry Jay. Perhaps his parents just liked the sound of it, much like the seemingly random naming of children today.

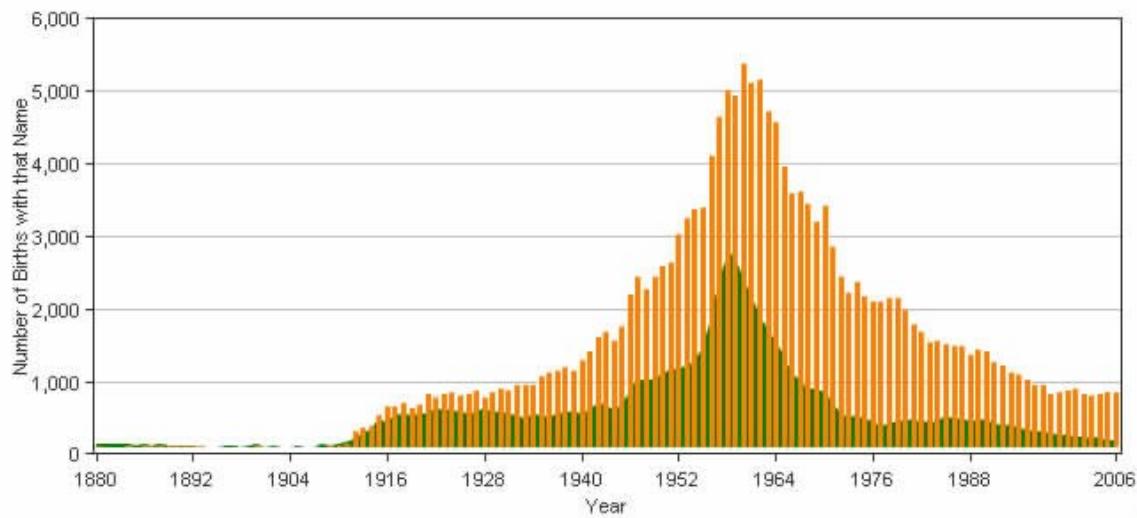
To conclude this discussion of naming practices, various charts are present below showing the popularity of the names "Perry" and "Jay".



Popularity of the name "Perry", 1880 to 2006



Popularity of the name "Jay", 1880 to 2006



**Comparison of "Perry" and "Jay" naming trends
(Jay, light brown, Perry, green)**

Both names peaked in popularity during the early 1960's, but were virtually unknown in the late 1800's. This argues against George and Lacy choosing the name based on popularity.



C. HOLDMANN,

224-226 GRAND AVE.

MILWAUKEE.

Perry J Stearns about 7 years old. Picture taken in Milwaukee.



Perry Jay Stearns, about 10 years old?, courtesy Carlin

Perry married **Mae Belle Brook**, daughter of **Jabez Jeffery Brook** and **Emma Henrietta McSpadden**, on 14 Sep 1915 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mae Belle was born on 19 May 1891 in Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, died on 23 May 1954 in Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 63, and was buried on 26 May 1954 in Valhalla Cemetery, 5409 N 91st St, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

According to Carlin Stearns Raith, on the back of the following photo she has of Mae Belle sent to Aunt Rhodie and Uncle George, her name was given as **Emma Mae Belle Brook**. Emma, as part of her given name, has rarely, if ever, been seen or used. Her birth certificate has not been obtained from Minnesota and might shed light on whether Emma is part of her name or not.



HENNEPIN
STUDIO

625 HENNEPIN AVE.
MINNEAPOLIS

**"Emma" Mae Belle Brook, 5 mos and sister Rhoda Adaline Brook, 6 yrs.,
courtesy Carlin**



Perry Jay Stearns and Mae Belle Brook wedding picture, courtesy Carlin



Perry J Stearns and Mae Belle Brook wedding.

Left to Right: Dr. Jeffrey J Brook and first wife Norma Rau, Lacy Dings Stearns, George McSpadden, Perry J Stearns (groom), ?, ?, Emma McSpadden Brook, Rhoda Adeline Brook (Aunt Addie), Mae Belle Brook Stearns (bride), ?, children ?, ?, George Orlo Stearns (rear), ?, ? McSpadden, Jabez J Brook, Niles Brook.

They were married in Milwaukee and from the looks of the surroundings they were married at the Brook home, probably at 729 Murray Ave (pre-1930 numbering).

Their marriage certificate was obtained from Milwaukee County and is copied below:

Registration of Marriages.

PLACE OF MARRIAGE

County of MinneapolisNo. 3048

Township of _____

or

Village of _____

or

City of MinneapolisUNCERTIFIED COPY
NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

GROOM

Full Name Perry J. Stearns
 Residence 1380 Ridland Court
 Color or Race W, Age at Last Birthday 24 Years
 Single, Widowed S Number of Marriage 1st
 Birthplace Nebraska State or Country
 Occupation Student
 Name of Father Geo. O.
 Birthplace of Father Illinois State or Country
 Maiden Name of Mother Lacy Drigo
 Birthplace of Mother Wisconsin State or Country

BRIDE

Full Name Mae Belle Brook
 Residence 727 Murray Ave
 Color or Race W, Age at Last Birthday 24 Years
 Single, Widowed S Number of Marriage 1st
 Birthplace Minnesota State or Country
 Occupation —
 Name of Father Jerry J.
 Birthplace of Father England State or Country
 Maiden Name of Mother Emma M. Spalding
 Birthplace of Mother Minnesota State or Country

Maiden Name of the Bride, if she was previously married.

CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That.

Perry Stearns and
Mae Belle Brook were joined in Marriage by me

in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, at.

this 14th day of September 1915 —

WITNESSES (2)

Name Adeline Brock Signature of Person officiating and P. O. address
 Residence 727 Murray Ave A. H. Anderson
 Name Donald Anderson Credentials at 262 Lyon St.
 Residence 762 Lyon St. Was either party examined on oath as required by section 2333, Statutes
 of 1898?

Filed Sept 18 1915 — Geo. C. Lusk and D. License No. 61265 Date Sept 21 15 —
 Local Registrar

Recorded Sept 13, 1915 — County Clerk Louis G. Winkler

Register.

Perry and Mae Belle Marriage Certificate

Their marriage certificate has been transcribed below:

Registration of Marriages

Vol 256, Page 139

No. 3048

PLACE OF MARRIAGE

County of: Milwaukee

City of: Milwaukee

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

GROOM

Full Name: Perry J. Stearns

Residence: 1380 Richland Court

Color or Race: W

Age at Last Birthday: 24

Birthplace: Neb.

Occupation: Student

Name of Father: Geo O.

Birthplace of Father: Illinois

Maiden Name of Mother: Lacy Dings

Birthplace of Mother: N. Y.

BRIDE

Full Name: Maebelle Brook

Residence: 729 Murray Ave.

Color or Race: W

Age at Last Birthday: 24

Single, Widowed or Divorced: S

Number of Marriage: 1

Birthplace: Minnesota

Occupation: --

Name of Father: Jabez J.

Birthplace of Father: England

Maiden Name of Mother: Emma McSpadden

Birthplace of Mother: Minnesota

CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That Perry Stearns and Mae Belle Brook were joined in Marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee this 14th day of September, 1915.

WITNESSES (2)

Name: Adaline Brook

Residence: 727 Murray Ave.

Name: Mildred Anderson

Residence: 262 Lyon St.

Signature of Person Officiating and P.O. address: D?. H. Anderson, 262 Lyon St.

Credentials at: Waupaca

Was either party examined on oath as required by section 2333, Statutes of 1898?: --

Filed: Sept 18, 1915, Geo C. Rubland?

License No. 61265, Date: 9-2-15

Recorded: Oct 13, 1915, County Clerk: Louis G Widule?

Children from this marriage were:

16394231111. **Forest Walden Stearns**, male, b. 10 Sep 1918, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

16394231112. **David Brook Stearns**, male, b. 31 Oct 1920 Milwaukee, WI

16394231113. **Perry Orlo Stearns**, male, b. 26 Nov 1923 Milwaukee, WI

16394231114. **Rhodora Stearns**, fem, b. 3 Nov 1925 Milwaukee, WI

Noted events in their lives were:

Perry appeared on the US Federal census in 1900 at 516 Oakland Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is 9, living with his parents George and Lacy and attending school. His father, George, is listed as 28 years old (probably wrong) and his mother, Lacy, is 28. George is working as an electric light man and apparently rents his home from Bernhard Segerberg.

The following picture was taken when Perry was about 10 years old. Presumably it was taken in the Oakland Ave home about the time of the 1900 census.



**Perry J Stearns, age 10, in parlor of home on N. Prospect Ave, c. 1900
(table carved by Perry's great-grandfather, John Gale Stearns)**

Mae Belle appeared on the US Federal census in 1900 at 294 Pleasant St., Milwaukee Ward 1, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is 9 and living with her parents, Jabez, 45, and Emma, 40. Also in the household are her brothers and sisters Harley, 19, Jeffrey, 16, Adaline, 14, and Niles, 12. Her father is a buyer for a flour mill and rents his home. He emigrated from England in 1860 at about age 5. His parents are from England. Emma has no occupation. Her parents are from Scotland. Their neighbors are Martin Anderson and James Irwin.

Perry graduated from High School in 1909. The following is a picture taken at the time of his high school graduation.



Perry J. Stearns, high school graduation, 1909.

Mae Belle graduated from the same high school as Perry. She was salutatorian. The following picture of Mae Belle may have been from about that time or possibly when she graduated from grade school.

Dave explains:

"They both went to old East Division High which was in the heart of the city on the east side. The building was there for years and was later

torn down and now they rebuilt a building on the same site which is now called Lincoln High, the same site as the old East division. East Division is now called Riverside High; and that's a little farther north almost to the suburbs. Riverside is the successor to old East Division. They were high school sweethearts, I guess, or at least they met there."



Mae Belle Brook (Dave estimates 11 to 13 years of age)

Perry J appeared on the US Federal census in 1910 in 833 Newhall St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is 19, living with his parents George and Lacy and attending school. His father, George, is 47 and his mother, Lacy D, is 39. Also living with them is his maternal grandmother, Melissa Dings, 71 years old. George is working as an electrical superintendent of a street railway and rents his home.

Perry J's son, Perry Orlo, states:

"The census was done in April. Perry J was 19, according to the census and would be 20 in November, 1910, as a Harvard freshman, so you

are catching him just at East High school graduation time. He and Mae Belle were in the same class, of which she was Valedictorian. 833 Newhall Street was near the route to church and several blocks from the lake. That house was 2-story with a narrow yard. Forest was probably born while they lived there."

Mae Belle appeared on the US Federal census in 1910 at 829 Racine St. Milwaukee Ward 1, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just around the corner from their previous home in 1900. Mae Belle was enumerated as "Mac B". She is 18, living with her parents Jabez J, 55, and Emma, 51, and attending school. Also in the household are her brothers and sisters Jeffrey J, 26, Rhoda A, 24, and Niles W (enumerated as Miles), 21. Her father works as a wheat buyer for the Chamber of Commerce. They rent their home. Emma has no occupation. His parents are from England. Emma's states her father is from Ireland and her mother from Ohio.

Perry attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and graduated with an A.B. degree, class of 1913. He returned to Boston and attended Harvard Law School and graduated in 1916 with a L.L.B. degree. He married Mae Belle Brook in September of 1915, a year before he graduated. He is listed as an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin and, according to one of his later political biographies, attended Law School there for one year.

An interesting article was found that Perry wrote while attending Harvard as an undergraduate in 1912.

KNEW NOT ARISTOTLE.

Harvard Class Ignorance Rouses Editor to Lamentation.

Special to The New York Times.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 27.—The average college undergraduate knows very little of general interest outside of his immediate course of studies, says Perry J. Stearns, editor of The Harvard Illustrated Magazine. He notes an incident, which recently happened in Prof. W. H. Scofield's class in comparative literature as an example of where the student is lacking and consequently the college.

The Professor asked his class of over 100 when Aristotle lived. Not one could answer. And when he further inquired how many thought he was born after 1840 six men held up their hands.

"Where lies the fault," asks Mr. Stearns, "with the college or the preparatory school? Both are certainly delinquent—the former in not demanding a modicum of general knowledge of subjects other than algebra, and Latin, and the latter in allowing students to leave its walls with vacuous brains. It is for the college man to wake up. There is need of a little less interest in football, for which ninety-seven out of every hundred of us have not the excuse offered by playing, and a little more interest in mundane outside affairs, the knowledge of which goes to make up a broad-minded, well-educated man. It is the lack of this broad interest among many Harvard undergraduates which is sometimes spoken of under the name of 'Harvard indifference.'"

The New York Times

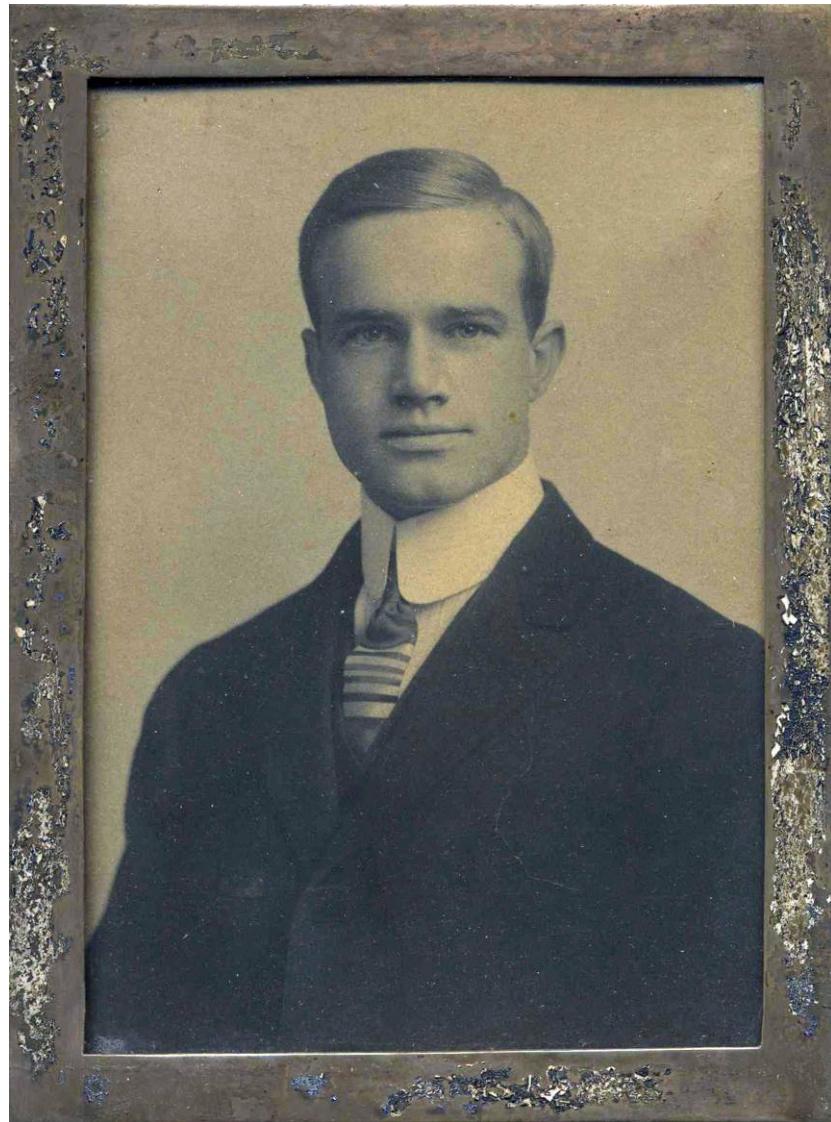
Published: January 28, 1912

Copyright © The New York Times

**Perry Stearns article written while Editor,
Harvard Illustrated Magazine, January, 1912**

Here we have Perry speaking his mind at an early age regardless of the consequences, a trait that continued into his later life. This borderline pompous attitude probably did not earn him many new friends at Harvard.

The following picture is hanging on the author's wall. It and many other family pictures were compiled and framed by Jeanne Martin Stearns, wife of David Stearns, Sr. It appears to be about the time Perry graduated from Harvard as an undergraduate. The stiff collar and fancy tie suggest a formal picture, possibly for the Harvard graduation ceremony or yearbook (if such a book exists).



Perry Jay Stearns, about 1913

Dave relates a story told to him by his mother:

"They went off together and got an apartment in Cambridge and that was one of her good stories about her husband. She was lonesome; she was away from home for the first time. She'd been from a big family at home; four or five kids in the Brook family. She told me he would do jigs for her and dance around and amuse her and try to get her out of the doldrums, out of the blues, and I guess he was pretty successful at it because she used to tell about it in a nice way."

After graduation, they returned to Milwaukee and Perry joined the old established law firm of Upham, Black, Russell & Richardson and practiced law there until 1945.

Dave continues:

"So they came back from Cambridge to Milwaukee to live I would guess in the late teens about 1916-17, somewhere in there. My brother Forest was the first child born. He was born there in 1918. They lived on the lower east side toward Brady Street, down there somewhere. It was in the area where the old East side high was, where they had both gone to high school. That had been torn down and the new Lincoln High had been built which was a lovely nice new building. They first had a little house on the middle-east side on Oakland Avenue; a bungalow type of thing. It was still there when I was growing up. About 1918, their first child was born, Forest Walden Stearns, named after Thoreau's, "Walden Pond."

Perry and Mae Belle appeared on the US Federal census in 1920 living at 492 Oakland Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was enumerated as "Pery J". Perry is 29 and living with his wife Mae Belle, 28 and their son Forest, 1yr and 3 mos. He owns his home and is working as an attorney at law. His father was born in Illinois and his mother in New York. Mae Belle has no occupation. Her father was born in England and her mother in Minnesota.

Perry and Mae Belle appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 living at 1472 Murray Ave., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (now 4146 N. Murray Ave.). Perry is 39 and living with his wife "Maebelle", 39 and their children Forest, 11, David, 9, Perry O, 6, and Rhodora, 4 yrs and 3 mos. He is a lawyer with a law firm and owns his home worth \$9000. He was first married at age 24 or about 1915. His father is from Illinois and his mother from New York. She was first married at age 24 or about 1915. Her father is from England and her mother from Minnesota.



**Perry and Mae Belle pictures taken from the Brook reunion booklet.
They appears to be from the early 1930's, although Mae Belle's picture
might be earlier than Perry's.**

A couple of pictures of the Perry Stearns and George Orlo Stearns families on an outing follow:



L to R: Perry Orlo, Perry Jay, Lacy, George with Forest and Dave in front.
The car appears to be a Model T Ford, vintage about 1923. Caption on the
back reads "Just out for a good time"

Just guessing, but Perry's car may be the roadster in the background.



Companion picture to above, courtesy Carlin.
Mae Belle is in the picture and Perry Jay is the assumed photographer.

Dave explains about the time they bought the home on Murray Avenue:

"I guess it was about 1922-23, because they also bought the cabin about 1925 so they wouldn't have bought two properties in the same year. Those were pretty good years in the twenties, almost like the roaring '90s. Business was great, the economy was great and then all of a sudden in 1929 there was a terrible bank failure. The banks had to close down. The stock market crashed, Black Friday."

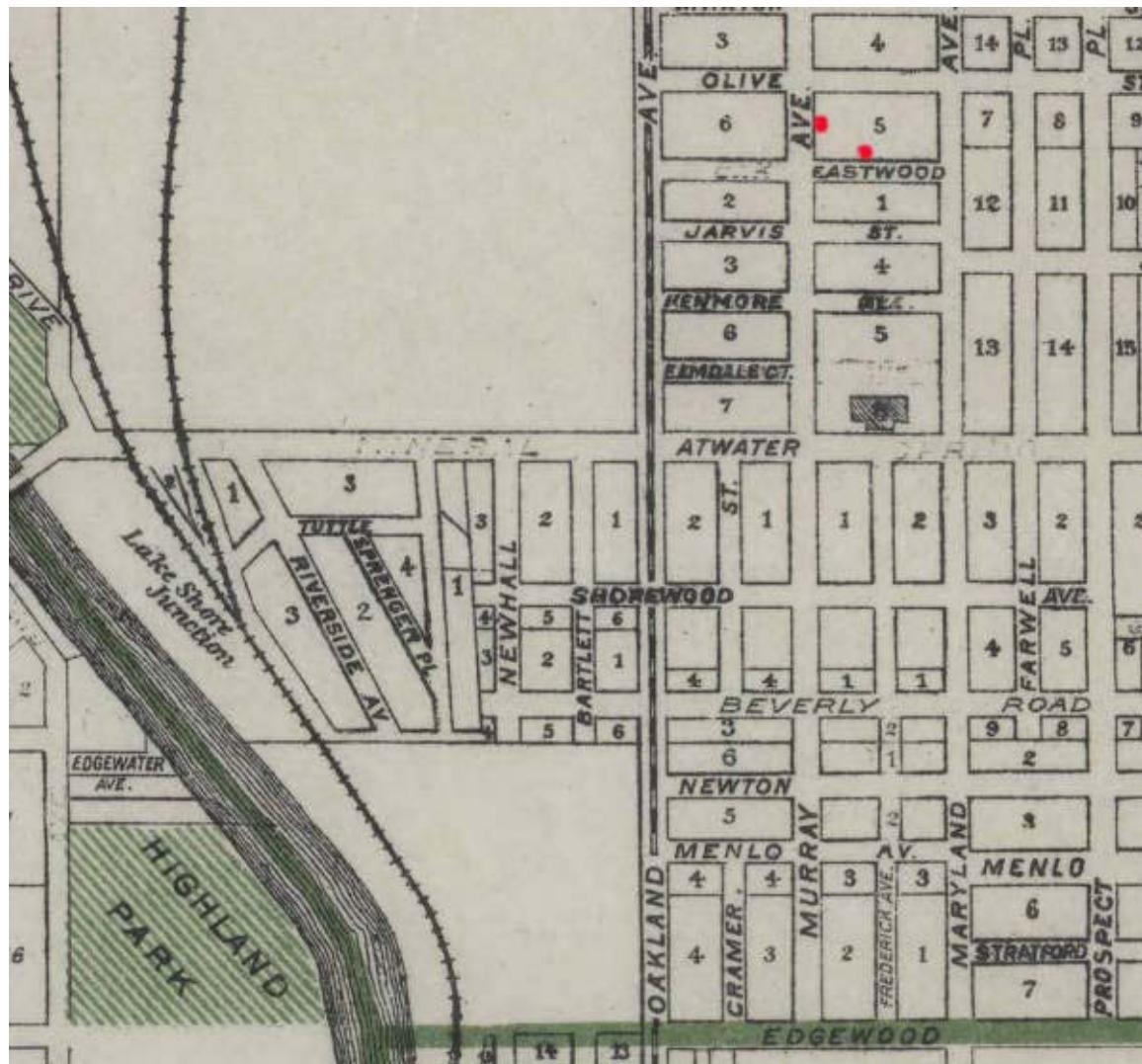


**Home of Perry J and Mae Belle Stearns at 1472 Murray
(later changed to 4146 N. Murray Ave.), Shorewood, Wisconsin.**

Judging from the size of the trees, the home is probably about 10 to 15 years old at the time this picture was taken. The picture is not dated. According to later information, the house was built about 1910. Since Perry probably bought it in the early 1920's, this picture was likely taken about the time Perry bought the home.

According to a 1923 Wright map of Milwaukee, the area appears to be fairly new and still in development. In the following map, one can note the large empty tract of land west of Oakland Avenue, opposite

Murray and Eastwood Avenues. This happens to be the area that the author's grandfather, Roland Martin bought a home in the mid-1940's.



**1923 Wright Map of Milwaukee.
Red dots are homes of Perry J (on Murray) and George Orlo on Eastwood)**

Jumping ahead a few decades, in 1959 Perry sold the house to a Shorewood group who turned it into a remodeling project. The house was gutted, the beautiful front porch eliminated and the interior totally remodeled.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

★ ★ ★ Thursday, December 3, 1959 ★ ★ ★

Shorewood Civic Group Buys a Home to Remodel as Example to Community

Purchase of an old home which will be completely remodeled as a demonstration project for other owners was announced Thursday by a Shorewood civic betterment group.

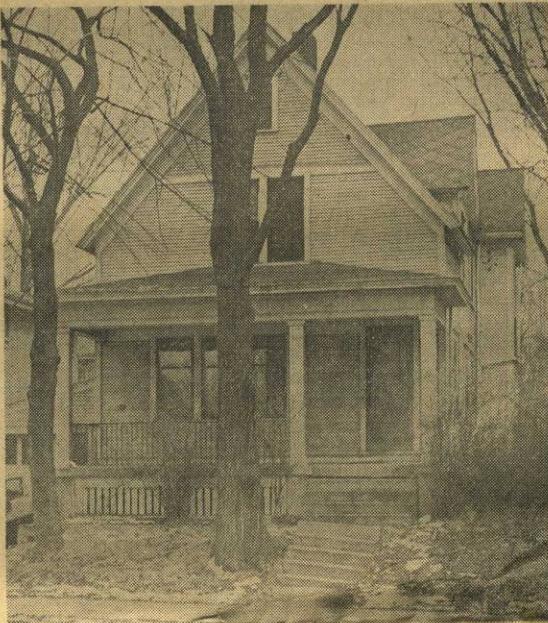
The 49 year old home of Perry J. Stearns at 4146 N. Murray av., Shorewood, was purchased for \$16,000. Title was taken by Baldwin Daly, 3718 N. Maryland av., a property management expert, on behalf of the "Shorewood modernized model home committee."

The committee is an "action group" named by the Shorewood civic study group, according to Harvey Kneser, executive vice-president of the North Shore State bank and chairman of the study group.

"We plan to have the home completely remodeled by Apr. 1 and then opened to the public to show what can be done," Kneser explained Thursday.

"It is part of our program to interest the many owners of older Shorewood bungalows in rehabilitating their own properties. Unless our demonstration project motivates hundreds of others in Shorewood to do likewise, we have failed."

Purchase of the home was arranged through Kneser's bank and the North Shore Savings and Loan association. A down payment of \$6,300 was made from pledges received from real estate



This 49 year old home at 4146 N. Murray av., Shorewood, will be completely remodeled as a demonstration project by a Shorewood civic betterment group. —William J. Hayes

firms, landscapers and other Shorewood business firms.

Details of the remodeling work will be handled by the model home committee, which is headed by Paul Spector, 2112 E. Edgewood av., a realtor.

Shorewood architects will be asked to submit plans for

the remodeling work, Spector said. Arrangements have been made with suppliers of building materials to provide the materials at cost under long term billings.

Each portion of the improvements in the home will carry a price list, together
Turn to Remodel, page 12, col. 3

Remodel

From page 1, column 6

with the cost of financing and monthly payments that would be necessary, Kneser explained. "Before" and "after" pictures of each room will show visitors what can be accomplished.

The home selected for the demonstration will offer many varied opportunities to exhibit remodeling work. Erected on a 50 by 150 foot lot, it has a block foundation and wood siding. The first floor includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, den and sunroom. There are five bedrooms and two baths on the second floor.

Serving on the model home committee with Kneser, Spector and Daly, who will be expeditor of the project, are Marvin Hersh, 1900 E. Capitol dr., a general contractor; Robert Duncan, Shorewood village manager; William Ardern, Shorewood assessor; Mrs. Rod Van Every, 4520 N. Newhall st.; Mrs. Philip Dressler, 3548 N. Downer av., and John Aboya, 3529 N. Frederick av., an advertising company employee who will co-ordinate public relations and advertising.

Renamed to Mission Post

The Rev. Frederick R. Ludwig, pastor of Lake Park Lutheran church, was re-elected Wednesday as secretary of the board of American missions of the United Lutheran Church in America. The meeting was held at Atlantic City, N. J.

4146 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee Journal remodel article

The after-completion brochure for the remodeling project exists and the before and after picture of the façade is present below:



Shorewood

Re-Model Home

4146 N. MURRAY AVE.

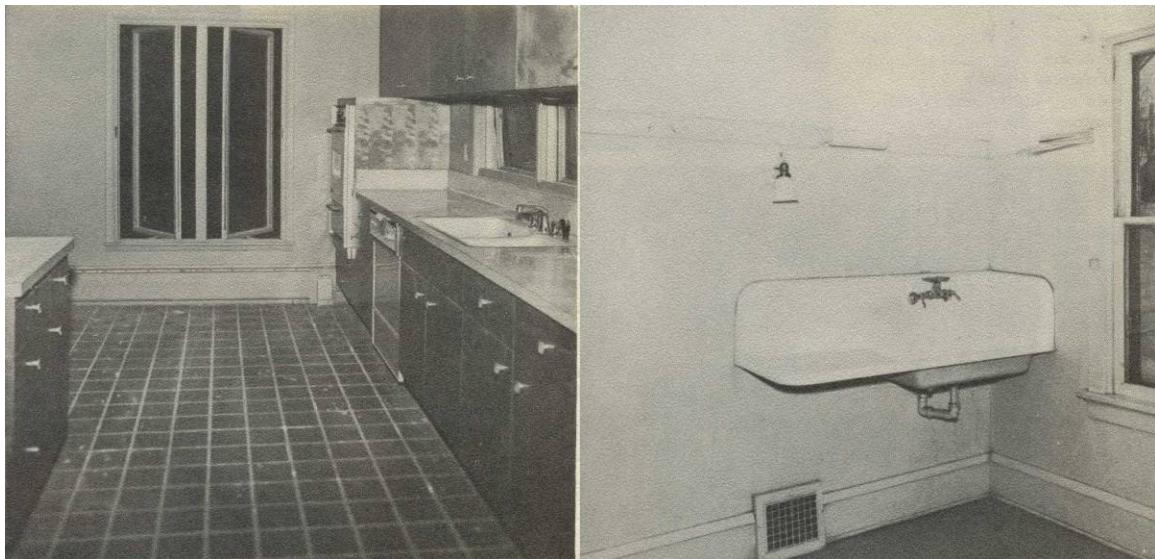
A houseful of remodeling ideas

Award-winning design by Architects Charles Harper and Douglas Drake



4146 N. Murray Remodel Promotional Brochure

While certain improvements to the interior were warranted such as the kitchen, the beautiful front porch and sun room were eliminated, totally obliterating the original historic character of the home.



New kitchen at expense of sun room. Old kitchen at right.

The author found the re-model not to his liking in 1959 and still regards it a travesty today.

Both sons, Dave and Perry Orlo, have recollections of their home at Murray Avenue. Dave tells a story about him and his older brother Forest:

"For a long time we (Forest) were bed mates. This was when we were in the old house at Murray before we remodeled it. There were two bedrooms. My folks had the front bedroom with the big double bed. There was a smaller bedroom on the same floor, upper floor, which had little or no heat in it. The (coal fired) furnace was in the basement. It had registers that brought some of the air up to the second floor. Most of it warmed the living room and the lower living floors and only piddles of warm air got up to the bedroom areas. We slept in one bed. We slept back to back just trying to keep ourselves warm.

At the height of the depression my dad, with his firm Richardson, Robertson Reeder & Stearns or whether he was on his own by that time, were making pretty good money. They probably had bankruptcies and foreclosures and that kind of thing. At any rate, that's when he remodeled our house on Murray Avenue. They added three bedrooms, so instead of two, after that we, Perry and I, shared a

bedroom. Forest got his own bedroom and Rhodora got her own bedroom. The folks had a bedroom. It was quite a big addition. They added a garage on the side of the house so you didn't have to drive way around the back to park the car. They put the garage up in the front. That was quite an improvement.

Mae Belle's conservatory. It was a sun room with a metal tray all around it. It was supposed to be full of plants and water, but they had it full of old newspapers mostly. I don't know if they ever got any plants in there."

Perry and Fran add their comments:

Perry: "We added the sunroom to the house and the library in the back and two bedrooms upstairs so we had 5 bedrooms all together and mother and dad were in the front room and Forest I guess was next, Rhodora in the middle and me and David. We had a big barn in the back and I don't know what happened to the barn but it disappeared after I left and went to college. There was no alley behind us. The Becker's were next door. They were just old ladies. I don't remember any man that lived there. On this side there was a family and on the corner was another family and around the block one house and another house then Grandma and Grandpa Stearns. I think there were two additions to our house. The sun room in the back and a library in the back and two bedrooms upstairs and David and I had to sleep in the same room until Forest left because then mother moved into Forest's room, I believe, and Dad stayed in the front room and I had a room all of my own.

Fran: For many years I kept a scrap of the curtain in Perry's room. I couldn't lay hands on it now but it had little animals and clowns and stuff in it. It was a very handsome house. When some developers bought it to show what could be done with upgrading in Shorewood, I thought they did a rather charming job. But they jettisoned a few things that I rather liked. There was a marvelous box, well of course coming from a dairy family I would be sensitive to this, but there was this wonderful box that the milkman opened on the outside and then when you were inside you opened it and pulled the milk out.

Perry: The front porch stayed pretty much the same, but sometime later in life we built a garage next to the house. Before that the coal man would come up and put a slide down into the basement.

Fran: Coal chute we called them.

Perry: *[He would]* pour the coal down into the basement. That was kind of dusty and messy. Behind was the back door on the side of the house, north side, and next to the back door was this little door for the

milk. The milkman would come around early in the morning and put 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 bottles of milk in. Sometimes when we went down in the winter to get the milk - I've seen the milk - the bottle went up like this and at the top it was only that wide and the cream went down to here and when it froze - the highest I ever saw it was about 3 and a half inches up. The lid was on top of the cream. I couldn't say if there was an icebox. I'm sure we *[had one]* at one time. "

The author has his own recollections of the house on Murray Avenue.

"Walking in the front door, one would see the fireplace on the left. Mae Belle had several sculptures resting above the fireplace. One was a bust of Dave in his flight outfit with goggles. This was probably made about the same time that his picture was taken in the same outfit. I vaguely remember a piano, and I think it was on the left side of the living room and was an old upright. The bust of David might have been on top of the piano. Straight ahead was the dining room. It was lined with built-in cabinets. I seem to remember mostly they contained books. Way in the back was the sun room. As a young child I recall it filled with plants, but in later years it became a repository for newspapers. The home was not exactly child-friendly and I don't recall ever venturing upstairs or spending any cozy time in the kitchen with Grandma Mae Belle. I think after dinner the children would be ushered outside. My impression was that the yard was rather overgrown, but fun to explore. It was certainly not neatly cultivated. There were lots of bushes and trees and maybe a partially vacant wooded lot on the north side or perhaps the yard just seemed large and somewhat wild. The front porch was a favorite spot with a wonderful porch swing. I know we had a number of dinners at their home, but there are no vivid memories that I can recall. The environment was rather formal."

According to Dave, Perry purchased the north woods Found Lake property in the mid-1920's, probably a few years after buying the home on Murray Avenue:

"I think they bought that cabin in 1924 from a couple of Alaska bachelors who thought they'd come down - they had a garage, a boathouse - and make a repair shop out of it to repair launches. They had a launch there when we first got it. I remember one time my Uncle Harley who was pretty mechanical was there and he fixed that launch and had it running. My father was not very mechanical and after Harley left, why whatever went wrong didn't get fixed. Finally the old launch rotted away. One thing my dad did do was with the old barn. It was all made out of poplar wood. Popular wood is soft wood that doesn't stand up very well. There was no upstairs but there were just poplar girders. He did arrange and had paid for some local

carpenter to put in an upstairs there with nice a hardwood floor which became the dormitory. That was in the top part of the boathouse. That was a nice place. If I had friends that wanted to come up, we could have a half dozen of my friends that could come up from my high school. I'll never forget when Bob McIntyre came up. He had a cot right near the door. He was one of my closest friends from high school days. He passed away years ago now. Bowser, or Scraps? I think the guard dog at that point was Scraps. Scraps was a sweet dog, rough haired. Supposed to be a fox terrier with smooth hair and slick but somebody got into the wrong pocket and Scraps came out as a rough-haired dog. He was not smart but he loved to chase skunks. One year when my boyfriends were sleeping on the second story there and McIntyre's cot was right next to the door. Scraps had chased a skunk and got badly sprayed and came in and jumped up on McIntyre's bed. Mac was just about to say "Hi, Scraps" when he got a dose of skunk odor. That barn or boathouse unfortunately was allowed to go to rack and ruin. You know with the heavy snows up there in the winter time. If it didn't fall down it was torn down.

We went up there every summer. We didn't miss a summer. We were up there for years. Starting about 1925 or 1926, we would drive up and leave the car there with us kids. Perry would take the train back down and then he'd come up every so often and so we'd always have a car there and mom did the driving. My father was, the outdoors he loved, but he didn't have much time outdoors. He was a full time attorney. When he took his vacation which was two weeks, we'd meet him at Eagle River if he'd come up on the Northwestern route or we'd meet him at Sayner if he came up on the Milwaukee Road which was more likely because he could get a Milwaukee Road train late in the day, after working Friday, and then he could have a berth and he'd arrive in Sayner about 7 o'clock the next morning. We'd meet him in Sayner. The train went on up to Star Lake another 30-40 miles. They would stay there. If the train came up overnight and arrived at Star Lake in the morning they would stay there all day. Then they'd start back that evening and pick people up and take them back down to town.

We would all drive up together for his vacation. His vacation would be spent driving. It would take two days to drive up to northern Wisconsin. We went through the Indian Reservation at Shawano. There was quite a steep hill. We had an old Willys-Overland. It had a canvas top. It was a four cylinder, an underpowered car. When you left Shawano, there was quite a steep hill to go up into the Reservation. The old Willys-Overland would never get up that hill. We all had to get out of the car, the whole family except Grandpa Perry Stearns who would be the driver. And we'd all get out, two or three kids, I don't remember how many kids we had by then, three at least. We would push that car up the hill with the car running. It took the

car and the three pushers, Mom, Forest and me. I don't know if Perry was old enough to be involved in that or not. That was how we got up through the Indian Reservation. When you got up that hill, it was easy going and you were in the woods country. The pine country came down, well the Indian Reservation had a lot of pine in it, but when you got out of the Indian Reservation there was some flat farming country for a little ways up toward Antigo. That was fairly level country. Beyond Antigo you got into the lake country. Pelican Lake was the first big lake.

We might have to stay overnight. Once we stayed at Summit Lake just around Antigo somewhere, just about a hundred miles short of Sayner or Eagle River and Found Lake. We stayed in some kind of a shanty. We didn't camp out. Dad was not much of a camper unless we were on a canoe trip. He loved canoe trips. We had two canoes and we'd go out and take two canoes at once on the trip. Once I remember we went down the Flambeau from Park Falls down to Ladysmith. We would leave the car at Park Falls which is along Highway 70. Highway went across the state through Eagle River, then it went on through Minoqua and Fifield and further west. We would leave the car and when we got to our destination down at Ladysmith which was maybe a two or three day trip down the river. We had one water falls to go over. It wasn't a big one. A big rapids is what it was. A little scary. After we got down to the other end we would get out of the river and bring our canoes out on the ground. Dad would hitchhike back to the starting point up around Park Falls. The river did a triangle and the roads did the square so he had to go due east on Highway 8, US 8, and then north on whatever. And get the car and then drive back down and pick us up with the trailer. And put the canoes on the trailer.

We had a lot of fun picnics. We knew every picnic spot in the north woods. We went to Plum Creek and we'd picnic there.

Perry Orlo has some memories of the Flambeau River canoe trip:

"It was 1937 probably when our family took off for a canoe trip down the Flambeau. My Father and I had the old canoe and David, my Mother and Rho were in our newer one, as I remember. Don't think Forest was there. It was mid-summer hot in Wisconsin and we all know what that means. We stopped once at a bridge where up the bank was a bar and grill where we went for something cold. Mother chastised Father for letting me get a cold root beer and for drinking what she thought was beer himself. She made such a fuss it sticks in my mind. We camped out one night. Before we reached the town (which I think was Flambeau), we had to navigate a small falls. My Dad thought we could make it but we wound up soaking wet when we finally got to shore with the canoes full of water. Good trip. I have no

memory of how we got back to Eagle River although it could be that Forest was waiting for us with the car."

The flap about the beer is explained further by Perry:

"Mother was brought up in a family that didn't believe in drinking anything except water and milk. They didn't like cards or dancing, at least not dancing much. They danced now and then. I never remembered seeing them dance."

Perry's Profession

After his graduation from Harvard Law School in 1916, Perry and Mae Belle returned to Milwaukee. He was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1916, joined an established law firm where he practiced law as a licensed attorney. He was a lifetime member of the Wisconsin Bar Association.

**Stearns, Perry Jay [c 09-12, A.B. 13; l
12-13, 15-16, LL.B. Law.] 927 Wells
Bldg., Milwaukee, Wis.**

**From "Harvard Alumni Directory" by Harvard Alumni Directory (Office),
Harvard University, Harvard Alumni Association**

Dave explains what he knows about Perry's professional life:

"He had a position with a very fine firm. He joined a firm called Upham, Black Russell & Richardson. They were in the Wells building. Upham was the original founder of the firm. He had been the first governor of the State of Wisconsin. Upham was dead by the time my dad was there. It was a fine firm."

UPHAM, BLACK, RUSSELL & RICHARDSON

General practice, Firm consists of: Horace A. J. Upham, William E. Black, Charles C. Russell, Emmet L. Richardson.

Horace Alonzo Jaques Upham, b. Milwaukee, Aug. 14, 1853; a. to bar, 1877, Wisc.; grad. Univ. of Mich., B.A., 1875; legal ed. law office. Mem. Alpha Delta Phi fraternity; Milwaukee, Wis. State, and American Bar Ass'ns; general practice, also specializes in Estates, Trusts, Railroad and Corporation law.

William E. Black, b. Ithaca, Wisc., May 23, 1867; a. to bar, 1890, Wisc.; grad. Univ. of Wisc., B.L. 1888; legal ed. Univ. of Wisc., LL.B., 1890. Mem. Phi Delta Theta fraternity; Milwaukee, and Wisc. State Bar Ass'ns.

Charles C. Russell, b. Gouverneur, N. Y., April 4, 1868; a. to bar, 1892, Wisc.; grad. Beloit College, B.A., 1889; legal ed. Univ. of Wisc., LL.B., 1892. Mem. Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Phi fraternities; Milwaukee, and Wisc. State Bar Ass'ns; general practice, also specializes in Corporation and Estate law.

Emmet Lee Richardson, b. Evansville, Ind., Nov. 7, 1870; a. to bar, 1896, Ind.; grad. Univ. of Ind., A.B., 1891, Leland Stanford Jr. Univ., A.M., 1892; legal ed. Harvard, LL.B. Mem. Board of Sch. Directors, Milwaukee, 1908-1914, Pres. 1911-1912. Mem. Beta Theta Pi fraternity; Milwaukee, Wisc. State, and American Bar Ass'ns.

Firm is counsel for: J. I. Case Threshing Machine Co., Marshall & Ilsley Bank, Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad, I. Stephenson Co., Trustees.

Office: 927 Wells Bldg.

Description from "The American Bar" by James Clark Fifield, 1918

(Author Notes: Dave is probably confusing the attorney Horace A. J. Upham with William H. Upham, Governor of Wisconsin from 1895 – 1897 or possibly with Don Alonzo Joshua Upham (1809 – 1877), lawyer and politician who in 1837 moved to Wisconsin, settled in Milwaukee and built a large law practice. A Democrat, Upham was elected mayor of Milwaukee in 1849 and was the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor in 1851. They may be related, given Horace Upham's middle name is Alonzo).

It was in the Wells building on the 9th floor. I'll never forget that. They had open cage elevators. They had to go up these open cage elevators. The Wells Building was only 12 stories high and they were on the 9th floor. That's where they had their office for all the years that he was with Upham, Black, Russell & Richardson.

They later named the firm Richardson, Robertson, Reeder & Stearns after the three attorneys that were ahead of him in seniority in the firm. That was a mouthful. Three "R's" and an "S". *[son Perry does not recall this name and letterheads that Perry used reflected a different firm name]* Richardson was head of the firm by the time my dad got there. The other three had all died. They were good friends. They would all come over for dinner every so often. I remember having the Richardson's out for dinner. We were members of the Unitarian Church. I think the Richardson's were also members there.

They were in civil law. They were not criminal attorneys. They had good business clients and they were in the right spot for it. The Wells building was a prominent downtown office at the time. They might have taken some special cases, maybe bankruptcy. It wasn't long before 1929 came along, the stock market crashed and the first great depression started and Herbert Hoover came in as President in 1928 and did nothing about it. Perry did well during the Depression years as many attorneys did.

Dad was with them for quite a while. He was a partner. He finally broke off. He had great political ambitions and that took a lot out of his time, energy and money".

Perry eventually broke ties with the R. R. R. & S. law firm and went into private practice. Dave briefly mentions this development:

"He and Mae Belle opened an office and she worked as his secretary for a long time and by that time us kids had pretty much grown up. Probably in the late 1930's or early 1940's. She was a very competent woman and did many things very well without much encouragement. I think he was always a little jealous of her brain power. She was a nice person".

In 1938, Perry attended his 25th Harvard reunion. Mae Belle along with their son David traveled east. As a result, Mae Belle missed her own 25th reunion at Milwaukee-Downer College.

The article below describes the events of the summer.

Schools in the East Beckon to Graduates

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Stearns Leave for Harvard;
Frances Bussey Visits Wellesley

BACK to dear old Siwash or its feminine counterpart, to see what the years have done to curricula, campus and classmates, flock the "old grads" every year at this time. While undergraduates feel slightly dispossessed, they take

over classrooms for the campus "colleges" that have become such popular features of reunions in recent years. With the enthusiasm of conventioners, they blithely sail through a program in one week that would do nicely to fill in a month at home, and in between formal meetings, they talk . . . and talk . . . and talk . . . and woe to the lad or lass with a bad memory for faces, or a worse memory for dates!

Harvard, which always makes a great deal of the twenty-fifth reunions of its graduates, is turning lodgings in the Yard over to the members of the class of '13 this week, and planning for them an especially festive program. Bound for that reunion, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Stearns, N. Murray av., left here Thursday night. Their son, David, who was graduated from Shorewood High school Thursday, accompanied

his parents, but while they're having fun, he'll be buckling down to college board exams for entrance into Harvard next September. His older brother, Forest, has just completed his junior year at Cambridge.

Mrs. Stearns Misses Reunion at Downer

En route to Cambridge, Mr. and Mrs. Stearns and David visited the Boy Scout camp at Quinapoxit, N. H., where Forest is to be director of handicraft this summer, and where David will be assistant director of water sports. Before returning, the Stearnses will go up into New Hampshire again, and probably into Maine.

That trip East meant that Mrs. Stearns is missing a reunion of her own class, 1913, at Milwaukee-Downer college, the first one she has been absent from in years.

Perry Stearns 25th Harvard Class of 1913 reunion in 1938

The following headings are the author's interpretation of Perry J based on observations, experiences and documented evidence. They include a few quirky character traits as well as his many interests. Perry J definitely was a multifaceted individual. His interests were highly varied and he virtually attacked subjects that interested him with vigor. The author feels a bit cheated that Perry either was unable, too busy or lacked the motivation to pass his interests and knowledge down to his grandchildren. In spite of this shortcoming, the author seems to have picked up a number of Perry's interests in acquiring property through foreclosure and tax sales, vegetable gardening, stamp collecting, genealogy, and his love of the outdoors.

Pacifist

Dave describes Perry J as a pacifist. He was against war unequivocally. He didn't serve in the military in WWI although was about the right age. The United States joined their allies in April 1917.

During World War I there were three registrations:

- 1) June 5, 1917, men between the ages of 21 and 31.
- 2) June 5, 1918, men turned age 21 after June 5, 1917.
- 2a) August 24, 1918 (supplemental) men age 21 after June 5, 1918.
- 3) September 12, 1918 men aged 18 through 45.

Perry would have been 26 years and 6 months at the time of the first draft. No WWI Draft record has ever been found for Perry. Knowing Perry's position on war, his record of defending conscientious objectors and his stance against the government in many cases, it would not be surprising if he somehow avoided registering or ignored the call in some manner.

Dave states:

"He was a pacifist in his demeanor. He didn't believe in the military. Where he got that from originally I don't know but he became a strong supporter of the things President Woodrow Wilson was backing. He was backing, hoping the US would join the League of Nations which was a glorious idea but it never got through the Congress. So the United States never joined the League of Nations. It was presented to them by President Wilson."

Fran and Perry describe Perry J's work and his association with the Wisconsin ACLU:

Fran: "In the war he was very active with the Amish so they did not suffer because of their non-combative status and also he made quite a fuss about sugar being rationed because people couldn't preserve food. ACLU when he was in college he the chap who founded ACLU, Roger something or other, were friends in law school and Perry J took over local cases for the ACLU. It was a consequence of his friendship with people in law school. The ACLU records in Milwaukee ought to be a treasure trove for you.

[Author Notes: Roger Baldwin was a lifelong pacifist; he was a member of the American Union Against Militarism (AUAM), which opposed American involvement in World War I, and spent a year in jail as a conscientious objector rather than submit to the draft. After the passage of the Selective Service Act of 1917, Baldwin called for the AUAM to create a legal division to protect the rights of conscientious objectors. On July 1st, 1917, the AUAM responded by creating the Civil Liberties Bureau (CLB), headed by Baldwin. The CLB separated from the AUAM on October 1st, 1917, renaming itself the National Civil Liberties Bureau, with Baldwin as director. In 1920, NCLB was renamed the American Civil Liberties Union with Baldwin continuing as the ACLU's first executive director.]

Perry: He made several long trips out to the North Dakota Indian Reservation and brought me back my stone axe on the stick and another one, the drum and another one it was wood not dangerous, with a ball at the top and a point out.

Fran: It was just a wooden simulacrum of an ancient piece of equipment whereby you stuck a stone sliver into the end of a ball of wood which was on a handle and the Indians gave that to Perry's dad.

Perry: Or he bought it. I don't know which, but he brought that home and gave it to me and I still have it somewhere. I was about 12 or 14.

Fran: I think it was an outcome of ACLU. Because his political stance was always what we would call today liberal but

Perry: He was a liberal Republican, but he was a Republican

Fran: But Republicans were different in those days than they are today. Hoo Hoo Hoo for Hoover, don't forget that.

Perry: Oh yes, we went up the stairs at night, when I was a youngster, saying "Hoo, Hoo, Hoo, for Hoover".

Fran: They would all line up on the steps and do this. That's pretty cute."

Perry Stearns Political endeavors

Starting in 1944, for about 14 years Perry sought political office. He ran three times against Joe McCarthy. Initially, he paid his dues with the local Republican Party before entering his first primary election for U.S. Senator. Around 1941-2, Perry was the Chairman of the Shorewood Republican Club and Chairman Speakers' Committee of Republican Party for Milwaukee County.

He sent out a nomination letter in May of 1944. The letter solicits support and signatures, presumably to get him on the ballot. There is a nice handwritten signature of Perry J. Stearns on the letter.

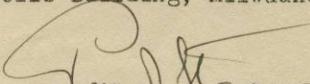
927 Wells Building
Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin
May 18, 1944

Dear Wisconsin Citizen:

You want a Senator in Washington who will be close to industry, labor and the farm and protect their respective interests from aggression by arbitrary power.

If elected to that office I aim to promote the interest of free enterprise, free labor and the free farmer. I shall give prompt attention to all communications with respect to legislation or requesting information.

As a Republican candidate for United States Senator at the primary on August 15, 1944 I hope I may have your support. If so, I should be happy to have circulated the enclosed nomination paper. Please return it to me properly notarized by May 31, 1944 at 927 Wells Building, Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin, with names then signed.



Perry J. Stearns
Candidate for United States Senator
927 Wells Building
Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin

P.S. Wisconsin laws provide that if the name of any man or woman in the service who will be of voting age at the time of an election be sent to the proper election official in time, such official is bound to send to such person in the service a ballot. Nothing further need be done by the informant or the person in service.

Authorized and paid for by the candidate for Republican nomination for United States Senator, Perry J. Stearns, 4146 North Murray Avenue, Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin.

Following below is a campaign platform statement for the 1944 primary election. The flyer includes an informative biography.

PERRY J. STEARNS for nomination as Republican candidate for United States Senator from Wisconsin

PROGRAM

Perry J. Stearns, a candidate in the Republican primary to be held August 15, 1944, pledges his support to the platform of the Republican Party of Wisconsin adopted at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 4, 1944.

1. The Party favors an all out war effort. Perry J. Stearns asserts that we shall not have unity in this country while the New Deal is in office undermining the Constitution and the principles for which the men at the front are fighting the forces of foreign totalitarian nations.

2. The Party opposes the administration's excessive use of propaganda. Perry J. Stearns opposes not only Government propaganda but also the sycophantic press which applauds every act of the administration however unconscionable or treasonable.

3. The Party favors a fair Selective Service program. Perry J. Stearns condemns the arbitrary manner in which the administration has administered this program, not in accordance with the law, including refusing registrants the right of legal counsel, and the attempt recently brought to light to adopt a rule calculated to exempt students preparing for the ministry in certain religious denominations but not in others.

4. The Party favors a return to our constitutional concepts of government. Perry J. Stearns, if elected, will not compromise with the internal enemies of our Constitution, but will seek their prosecution.

5. The Party favors the preservation of states' rights. Perry J. Stearns, as Senator, will not support a bill supported by the incumbent (whose term expires this year) which would destroy states' rights in the field of education.

6. The Party favors the election of a strong and independent Congress. The incumbent, in six years, has not demonstrated independent strength, but has voted too often with the isolationist La Follette and the dictatorial administration.

7. The party favors the elimination of bureaus, directives and confusion in government. Perry J. Stearns has opposed in the courts and out, O.P.A. and other unconstitutional boards in their arbitrary actions. He would use all his energy to liquidate all Federal bureaus, boards, authorities, administrations and corporations not absolutely necessary to performance of the constitutional powers delegated in the Constitution.

8. The Party favors a foreign policy that will promote world peace and American ideals, keeping the people informed. To this end, Perry J. Stearns will work for the principle of open treaties, openly arrived at. To promote peace by law he will support the World Court, urged by all our Presidents since its inception.

9. The party declares that there should be set up some kind of international organization that shall provide a just method of settling international disputes, and have power to preserve peace. To this end Perry J. Stearns urges immediate action, striking now a blow for permanent peace, in order that the boys at the front may be given a lift, and not be left in doubt, as to whether the peace after this war will be lost as was the last by the irreconcilables in Washington. Action now would embarrass Germany and Japan our enemies who resigned from such an organization.

10. In accordance with the platform, Perry J. Stearns supports the rights of free labor; fair dealing with the free farmer; the American system of free enterprise; government subservient to the people; government by law, not men; and the reform of the courts so that the poorest citizen will have justice when prosecuted by the government.

11. A Wisconsin U. S. Senator has not been elected from Milwaukee County since 1899. On the basis of population and general importance the County of Milwaukee should, mathematically, have representation in the United States Senate at least half the time. Instead, only four senators out of the 20 who have served since the formation of the State in 1848, have been from Milwaukee County. In years these four served only 14% of the time elapsed since 1848.

12. Perry J. Stearns is a candidate from Milwaukee County who will serve the best interests of all sections and all groups of the people of the State. He is a people's candidate, just as the Republican Party is now a people's party.

BIOGRAPHICAL

Perry J. Stearns is descended from lines of forebears who left Europe because of religious and political persecution, for freedom in America. They have been on the side of freedom ever since.

He was born at Grand Island, Nebraska, November 25, 1890, and was brought to Milwaukee by his parents the same year; was educated in the public schools of the City of Milwaukee; graduated from Harvard College in 1913, and Harvard Law School in 1916. He was admitted to the Bar the same year and is a life member of the Wisconsin State Bar Association, and a member of the American Bar Association. He is a member of the law firm of Richardson, Reeder, Stearns & Weidner at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

He is married and has three sons in the service and a daughter who is a student at the University of Wisconsin.

About 1931 he was elected President of the Wisconsin Branch of the League of Nations Association, and while no longer holding that office has ever since been active in endeavoring to promote world organization and permanent peace.

For some years he has been a member of the American Society of International Law. He is a life member of Wisconsin Historical Society.

He is the Wisconsin representative of the American Civil Liberties Union which endeavors to protect individual rights from encroachments by arbitrary public authority.

For some years he has been Chairman of the Department of National and International Relations of Milwaukee County Council of Churches, also representing the Unitarian Church, of which he is a member.

He is a member of the Executive Committee of Milwaukee Refugee Committee, an agency of the Milwaukee County Community-War Chest.

He favors the American Declaration of Independence and Washington's Farewell Address, where we are told to maintain friendly relations with all nations. A league made up of all the sovereign nations of the world is quite different from a united superstate composed of a few nations not so sovereign. Perry J. Stearns favors farewell addresses generally and recommends the use of such in particularly trying situations. Admiral Dewey when invited to leave Manila and run for President said it was the function of the President to carry out the laws of Congress. That was long before megalomania became epidemic. A great nation builds many great men. So Perry J. Stearns believes the office of President should be limited to one term.

Authorized and paid for by candidate Perry J. Stearns, 4146 North Murray Avenue, Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin.

Campaign position and biography flyer for candidate Stearns

The August 15th 1944 U.S. Senatorial Republican Primary results:

Incumbent Sen. Alexander Wiley – 153,000
Joseph R. McCarthy – 79,000
Leatham Smith – 44,000
Atty. Perry Stearns – 14,000

The August 13th 1946 U.S. Senatorial Republican Primary results:

Circuit Judge Joseph McCarthy – 207,953
Incumbent Sen. Robert La Follette – 202,555
Atty. Perry Stearns – 29,605

Perry stood alone in his opposition to Joe McCarthy at the Republican convention in Wisconsin.

The Sheboygan Press

ONE SECTION
20 PAGES

THE PAST IS GONE WE FACE TO-DAY ***

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1950 VOL. XLIII, NO. 148

McCarthy Is “Commended” By Convention

Resolution Is Adopted By
State Republicans Today
Heartily Commending
Him For Campaign

Milwaukee —(UP)— Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R., Wis., was “heartily commended” by his home state republicans today for his campaign to “root out treasonable, communistic and disloyal” persons in government.

Delegates to the state GOP convention gave thundering approval to a resolution supporting Wisconsin’s junior senator. Reading of the resolution was interrupted twice by applause and cheers followed by the approval by a voice vote.

Only one delegate — Perry J. Stearns, Milwaukee candidate for Alexander Wiley’s seat — spoke against the resolution, saying McCarthy’s program is divisive and intends to divide the republican party.” The other 2,500 delegates boo’d his remarks.

After the vote, McCarthy sent a message of thanks to the convention. He said he was “extremely grateful” for the delegates’ backing.

Text of Resolution

The resolution said:
“Whereas Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, a great American who has demonstrated in war as well as in peace his courage, patriotism and loyalty, has been subjected to merciless and unceasing vilification and abuse because of his militant opposition to communistic infiltration in government, and

“Whereas he nevertheless with unswerving fidelity to his oath of office and his love of country has continued his spearheading of the fight against the un-American activities and policies in the state department, and the fellow travelers and subversives in government and

(Continued on page 8, column 5)

ernment service, now therefore,
“Be it resolved by the republican party of Wisconsin, in convention assembled, that we do most heartily commend and encourage the determined and untiring efforts of Senator McCarthy to expose, root out and destroy the treasonable, communistic, disloyal elements now playing such a dominant role in the present democratic administration.”

The resolution was drawn up yesterday after McCarthy received a loud ovation during a speech attacking Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Perry Stearns boo’d by delegates at Republican convention

July 25, 1950 – Perry Stearns was 2 minutes late in filing nomination papers for U.S. Republican Senatorial Primary election.

The Sheboygan Press

TWO SECTIONS
22 PAGES

THE PAST IS GONE WE FACE TO-DAY.

★★★

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1950

Court Rules Stearns Late Filing Papers

Madison, Wis. — (AP) — Perry Stearns, Milwaukee attorney, lost his appeal today to get his name on the republican primary ballot for U. S. senator.

The supreme court ruled that Stearns had handed in his nomination papers past the 5 p. m. limit July 25 and therefore

couldn't get his name on the ballot for the Sept. 19 primary.

Stearns rushed into Secretary of State Fred Zimmerman's office July 25, but Zimmerman said he was two minutes late and refused to accept Stearns' nomination papers.

Stearns' appeal to the supreme court on a writ of mandamus was transferred to Circuit Judge Edward Duquaine who ruled that the Milwaukee attorney was late.

The high court then ruled today that his name could not be placed on the ballot. Stearns ran for the senate twice before, getting about 4,000 votes each time.

Perry Stearns, missed filing deadline

September 27, 1950 – Perry Stearns announced he will run as an independent against incumbent Alexander Wiley.

Stearns Will Run For U. S. Senate As Independent

Milwaukee. —(AP)— Perry J. Stearns, Milwaukee attorney who forfeited a place on the primary ballot by filing his nomination papers two minutes late, will run for the U. S. senate as an independent candidate Nov. 7, he said today.

Stearns intended to run in the republican primary against the incumbent Senator Wiley and his virtually unknown opponent, Ed.

ward Finan of rural Bristol. But his nomination papers were refused by Secretary of State Fred R. Zimmerman because he came in two minutes after the 5 p. m. filing deadline.

The state supreme court upheld Zimmerman's action.

Stearns said today he'll take no chances this time and will file his papers Thursday morning, the first day for independent filing. It will be Stearns' third try for a senate seat. He ran third in 1944 when Wiley was renominated and third again in 1946 when Joseph R. McCarthy unseated Senator Robert M. La Follette, Jr.

Perry Stearns to run as independent in Senate race

Page 2 - Waukesha Daily Freeman

Friday, November 3, 1950

PAID ADV.—Authorized and paid for by Perry J. Stearns, Shorewood, Wis.

For lower prices, lower taxes and more freedom

WISCONSIN CANNOT AFFORD A DEMOCRAT IN THE U.S. SENATE

**VOTE FOR PERRY J. STEARNS
FOR U. S. SENATOR**

CHAMPION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND AMERICAN FREEDOM

A MAN OF THE PEOPLE. HE IS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE!

He is on the ballot as an INDEPENDENT. VOTE INDEPENDENT!

**VOTE FOR
STEARNS**

1. To break the Coleman-McCarthy machine.
2. To doom fascism and communism in America.
3. To end labor boss politics and slavery.
4. To destroy big city Democrats' organized crime.

TO PRESERVE CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM, VOTE STEARNS, U.S. SENATOR

Campaign Ad, Waukesha Daily Freeman, Nov. 3, 1950

March 1, 1952 – Perry Stearns entered the April 1 Presidential Primary race.

Two Surprise Slates Are In April Primary

**Stearns And Chicago Man
Appear At Final Hour
To File Their Slates
As G. O. P. Candidates**

MADISON (AP) — Two dark-

horses entered Wisconsin's April 1 presidential primary yesterday, getting their names in just before the 5 p. m. deadline for filing.

The name of General McArthur, Negro employe of a Chicago packing firm, was filed as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination by Lar Daly of Chicago.

Perry Stearns, Milwaukee attorney, filed on the GOP ticket as a "favorite son for myself and the constitution of the United States."

Perry Stearns enters Presidential primary race, 1952

April 2, 1952 U.S. Wisconsin Republican Presidential Primary Results:

Gov. Earl Warren, State Capitol, Sacramento, Cal
Grant A. Ritter, Beloit, Wis
Robert A. Taft, Cincinnati, Ohio
Harold E. Stassen, Philadelphia, Penn
Perry J. Stearns – 0.38%

1952 US National Republican Primaries - total popular vote results:

Robert Taft - 2,794,736 (35.84%)
Dwight D. Eisenhower - 2,050,708 (26.30%)
Earl Warren - 1,349,036 (17.30%)
Harold Stassen - 881,702 (11.31%)
Thomas H. Werdel - 521,110 (6.68%)
George T. Mickelson - 63,879 (0.82%)
Douglas MacArthur - 44,209 (0.57%)
Grant A. Ritter - 26,208 (0.34%)
Edward C. Slettedahl - 22,712 (0.29%)
Riley A. Bender - 22,321 (0.29%)
Mary E. Kenny - 10,411 (0.13%)
Wayne L. Morse - 7,105 (0.09%)
Perry J. Stearns - 2,925 (0.04%)
William R. Schneider - 580 (0.01%)
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_\(United_States\)_presidential_primaries,_1952](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)_presidential_primaries,_1952)

Perry also ran for the Republican U.S. Senate Primary in 1952 against incumbent Joseph McCarthy.

THE SHEBOYGAN (WIS.) PRESS,
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1952

• • • • •
• Authorized and paid for by
Perry J. Stearns, 4146 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, Wis.
• • • • •

**Nominate
STEARNS**

U. S. Senator

★ ★

• The only Candidate who
can give "IKE" real REPUBLICAN support in the
Senate.

★ ★

• McCarthy is "persona non
grata" to IKE, national Republican standard-bearer.

• Schmitt is "persona non
grata" to KOHLER, State Republican standard-bearer.

VOTE Perry J.

STEARNS

U. S. SENATOR

A REAL Republican

Campaign Ad in the Sheboygan Press

September 26, 1952 – Results Republican U. S. Senatorial Primary:

Incumbent Sen. McCarthy – 515,481

Len Schmitt – 213,701

Andrew Jacobson – 11,639

Perry J. Stearns – 10,353

Edmund Kerwer – 4,078

Edward J Finan – 4,021

Perry also tried for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The March 9, 1954 – Primary election results for Wisconsin Supreme Court:

Justice Roland J Steinle – 124,450

William H. Dieterich – 49,669

Perry J. Stearns – 28,134

Joe McCarthy died in May 1957. A special election was held to fill the remaining months of his vacancy. The primary election was on July 30 and the general election was held Aug 27th. William Proxmire, a democrat, was elected. It appears that Perry did not run in that election (see front page Stevens Point Daily Journal, July 31, 1957)

Perry wrote a campaign flyer in 1958 for the US Senate primary election to be held in September of that year. It is not known whether he was on the ballot or not.

The following picture is thought to be about the time of his 1958 candidacy.



Perry J. Stearns, probably about 1958

**Nominate REPUBLICAN, PERRY J. STEARNS, for UNITED STATES SENATOR
from Wisconsin.**

The Primary Election will be September 9, 1958.

Born at Grand Island, Nebraska, November 25, 1890, the son of George Orlo and Lacy Dings Stearns, Baptist and Methodist respectively, who became members of First Church of Christ, Scientist, where Stearns went to Sunday School. Graduated from the Maryland Avenue School and from the East Side High School — both in Milwaukee. Awarded the A.B. degree from Harvard College and the LL.B. degree from Harvard Law School, including one year at University of Wisconsin Law School. Married, by Methodist minister, Mae Belle Brook, a graduate of Milwaukee-Downer College. She died at Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, May 23, 1954. Perry J. Stearns is the father of three boys: Forest W., now at Vicksburg, Mississippi, a botanist; David Brook, at Milwaukee, a lawyer and president of a Milwaukee warehouse company; and Perry Orlo, a doctor in Pennsylvania; and one daughter, Rhodora, wife of Carl W. Leyse, formerly of Kewaunee, Wisconsin, and now living near St. Louis, Missouri, an atomic technician, both graduates from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Stearns has been practicing law in Milwaukee since 1916. A life member of the State Bar Association of Wisconsin and a member of the American Bar Association. In World War I was a member of Milwaukee Council of Defense and in both World Wars, was on the Legal Advisory Board. For one full year he was a field man for the University of Wisconsin Extension Division. Was Wisconsin Chairman for the League of Nations Association and is now a member of the United Nations Association in Wisconsin. He is a member of the First Unitarian Society in Milwaukee and a past president, as well as former superintendent of its Sunday School. Is a past presiding officer of all his subsidiary bodies in the York Rite of Free Masonry and a past presiding officer of the Council in the Scottish Rite, Valley of Milwaukee, 32°.

A past presiding officer in all his bodies of adoptive Masonry in Wisconsin, including Eastern Star, White Shrine, Amaranth and True Kindred.

A member of American Interprofessional Institute.

Captain of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Wisconsin.

Life member of Wisconsin Historical Society and former secretary of the Wisconsin Genealogical Society.

A member of Delta Upsilon, now a college fraternity at over 70 colleges in North America, founded in 1834 in opposition to secret fraternities on the motto, "Justice, our Foundation." A life member of Harlan Inn at the Wisconsin Law School at Madison, in Phi Delta Phi now installed at about 75 law schools in the United States.

Married May 29, 1957 at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to Agena Kreimann who graduated from the teachers' college in Milwaukee and who taught school in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. She was born on a farm in the town of Schleswig, Manitowoc County, and later lived with her parents in Kiel, Wisconsin, members of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. On return from Mexico they were married again on July 2, 1957 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Milwaukee.

Perry J. Stearns ran against Joe McCarthy in every primary except one, in which case the referee of Wisconsin Supreme Court held he filed his nomination papers one minute late. Perry J. Stearns was in the office of the Secretary of State when nomination papers were still being checked for other candidates. The rule had been that papers might be filed as long as the filing office was open.

A U. S. Senator, like any other legislator should pledge himself to study proposed legislation and then vote as his study and conscience and the best interests of his country require. Stearns is not opposed to a summit conference or any other meeting the President may wish to attend. The treaty making power is in the President. In general he supports President Eisenhower as our Republican leader.

In general, Perry J. Stearns accepts and approves the platform and resolutions adopted by the recent Republican Convention in Milwaukee. He will work for highway safety, public welfare, education, conservation, income tax reform, human rights, and the best interests of labor. He is opposed to attempts to interfere with the treaty-making powers of the president and the jurisdiction of the United States Supreme Court. He believes foreign aid should be limited and the friendship of the peoples of Europe and South America should be cultivated. The United States should apply the principles emphasized by George Washington when he urged that we maintain friendly relations with all nations. We have to deal with de facto governments even though their methods and philosophy are abhorrent to us. The United States Supreme Court should be praised for applying American principles of freedom and justice even against propaganda of fascistic elements in this country.

He leaves to future historians the question whether Cyrus Eaton or J. Edgar Hoover is the better American. It seems evident on which side freedom lies. He loves freedom and abhors fascism even in the Motor Vehicle Department.

In Milwaukee Journal for May 23, 1958, p. 13, col. 5, speaking of the candidate for U. S. Senator, confident of endorsement, a party leader was quoted, "Wisconsin is 35% Catholic" *** and he *** "has good standing with the Catholic hierarchy."

He does not believe in endorsement by party politicians. He did not seek it and is not bound by the recent convention in Milwaukee. In the Republican primary the people will nominate. He will support the man endorsed by them. Republican unity begins there. The competition of the primary stirs interest in the Party. Unity does not require conformity. His allegiance is to Truth and Justice.

(Signed) PERRY J. STEARNS.

An announcement was found in the Appleton Post-Crescent regarding his candidacy.

[Wed., June 4, 1958 Appleton Post-Crescent B 20]

Perry J. Stearns Says He Will Run For U. S. Senate

Madison — (P) — Perry J. Stearns, 67, Milwaukee attorney and frequently a candidate for Republican nominations for state and senatorial offices, told Secretary of State Zimmerman Tuesday he would seek the GOP nomination again for the U. S. Senate.

Stearns, in a letter to Zimmerman, asked information about nomination papers for

the senatorial seat and said he would seek it.

He has sought the nomination unsuccessfully in several previous campaigns. He also has run for supreme court justice.

In 1952 Stearns sought to file nomination papers for the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator against the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy. But his papers were filed too late and he was not certified. He carried the case to the supreme court only to have the high court rule that he did not qualify because of the lateness of his filing.

A search of local papers in Wisconsin that were available on the dates of this primary did not list Perry Stearns as a candidate so it is possible that he dropped out of the race. 1958 appears to be the last year Perry was involved in politics. His son, David, picked up where Perry left off.

Dave recaps his father's interest in politics:

"In 1932 FDR came in and started the New Deal. He was a Democrat. That was anathema to my father. Perry was a died-in-the-wool Republican even though he was not a successful Republican. FDR came in and took over and started the New Deal. He was going to solve all the problems. It was almost a Socialistic program. That went on for three full terms and I think a fourth term. That was the first president that ran for more than two terms. All this time Perry is hurting badly because the Democrats are in power. The "New Deal" — he hated that.

He got so involved in politics and ran for office twice. He was a quite a vocal person. He was a good speaker, but his positions were not political. They were his own convictions and that's what got him in trouble. He was strongly anti-Catholic and he didn't hesitate to say so. I don't know where that started. He was anti-Catholic to the point that it ruined his political career. He was not a politician. Where he got

that anti-Catholicism I'm not sure exactly, but at one point there was a judge that ruled against him and gave him a hard time, Judge Duffy, who was of course, Irish Catholic. I don't think that was where it started but that certainly didn't help any.

He had a great yearning to be a successful politician, but never made it. Twice he ran for US Senate and the first time he did fairly well. He ran against "Tail Gunner" Joe McCarthy, who was of course a strong Catholic who had all the support of the Marquette crowd in Milwaukee. Dad had no compunction about opposing him but that didn't make him many friends in the political field because Joe McCarthy was anti-Communist. My father was very liberal and thought that was a phony position, Anti-Communism. Joe McCarthy was really more of a fascist than anything else. They used to call him "Tail gunner, Joe McCarthy". He had one flight in the back end of a bomber and he claimed he was a tail gunner. He got a lot of publicity for that tail gunner stuff. In those days having been in the war was a plus for a politician.

Perry was quite liberal in his thinking. He got that at Harvard. He thought anybody ought to be able to do almost anything they wanted to do. The first time he did quite well but he didn't beat McCarthy. These were primary elections for US Senate. McCarthy was Republican. We didn't have Democrats very much in Wisconsin. The La Follette's were not Democrats. They had been the whole political scene in Wisconsin for a long time and they were what they called Progressives or something -semi-Socialism. There were two of them. One of them had been US Senator, I think that was Bob and Phil had been a governor of Wisconsin.

He never ran again and did drop out of the firm and started his own firm or maybe they kind of eased him out because they weren't too proud of him with his political ambitions.

Author's Note:

Robert M. La Follette, Governor from 7 Jan 1901 to 1 Jan 1906 (b. 1855, d. 1925, Republican)

Philip Fox La Follette, Governor, from 5 Jan 1931 to 2 Jan 1933 (1st time, b. 1897, d. 1965, Republican) and from 7 Jan 1935 to 2 Jan 1939 (2nd time, Progressive)

Source: <http://www.nndb.com/gov/945/000051792/>

Perry and Fran discuss their views on McCarthy and the Catholic situation with regard to Perry and Wisconsin in general:

Perry: "Oh yeah, they didn't like Catholics at all. That was ages ago. And I don't remember ever hearing that Grandma and Grandpa Stearns ever went to church. I never saw them at church.

Fran: You want to remember that Perry and I grew up in Wisconsin where Catholicism was all around you. In Green Bay, kids would come out of Catholic grade school and come into the public junior high and they needed remedy. Remedial. If you would have seen their arithmetic books you'd understand they were couched in Biblical terms. It was strange. Their arithmetic was distorted to conform to teaching some Biblical lesson or some religious lesson, not necessarily Biblical. It was really quite grim. You must also understand that throughout Catholicism in this century there was a strong undercurrent of sexual deviation. And that was very strong in my childhood in Green Bay and I would think that at the time, in the times, in the twenties sexual deviation was not something you talked about. I mean there were hardly words for it. One must surely have understood that. One had all sorts of sly digs about nuns and that kind of thing but you never really heard what was the meat of the matter and that was male deviation. But it was there and that probably informed a great deal of the anti-Catholic stuff that Perry and I grew up with.

Perry: Well, it formed part of it.

Fran: But we never heard of it. They didn't talk about it in those terms.

Perry: They didn't talk about it in those terms at all.

Fran: No, but that's probably the origin of it

Perry: But they weren't happy with the church or the school and our Catholic school was a pretty big one in Shorewood and they probably had better teaching than you described. Because most of the people I knew that came to high school, at least by ninth grade, were reasonably educated.

Fran: The Minahans owned the Green Bay Press-Gazette and the Appleton Post-Crescent and of course McCarthy rose politically in Appleton. The Minahans owned the papers. The Green Bay Press-Gazette and the Appleton Post-Crescent and so far as they were concerned Joe McCarthy walked on water. My mother found this extremely disgusting, because the man was pretentious. He was a divorce lawyer and he could be bought and he was. Proof abounded. So when Perry J stated publicly that McCarthy's wild charges of rampant communism in our State Dept. had no probity, this became a national event. Time Magazine picked it up. When Perry J died they gave him an obit. I wish we had a copy of it.

[Right or wrong, "tail gunner" or phony, vilified or revered, Joe McCarthy did serve his country in WWII as a marine and fought to expose what he perceived to be a Communist threat to his country during the Cold War. His investigations into communist infiltration within our government are still being sorted out by historians, but with the help of recently released KGB files, the Venona Project and the release of decrypted Soviet cables, the scope of Communist infiltration in the US was not a figment of his imagination. The liberal left tagged his efforts "McCarthyism" and he eventually was censured by Lyndon Johnson and the Senate, effectively ending his career.]

Without getting into the complex politics of the McCarthy era, suffice to say that our Perry J Stearns shared in a small piece of this history and we all should be proud of him (right or wrong) for his own efforts at trying to change the course of America in the direction he thought best.

Perry J's politics are incongruous and many of his positions reflect the liberal left influence acquired while receiving his Harvard education. These positions include his anti-war pacifism and support of the League of Nations, yet his hatred for FDR and the "New Deal" and his staunch defense of the Constitution with its cornerstone of individual freedom, liberty and limited government, portray his more conservative positions. Just who was this man? Independent would probably best define Perry J. Stearns. Even though he was a Republican in terms of party loyalty, he definitely thought for himself and cared little if his views were not in the mainstream. The author has thought hard about this and wonders if he, himself, would have voted for Perry J. Stearns and believes the answer to be yes.

Genealogy

Commensurate with the beginning of Perry's political ambitions was his interest in genealogy. What motivated him initially is not known, but it might have started when he acquired a copy of the book "Genealogy and memoirs of Isaac Stearns and his descendants" by Avis Stearns Van Wagenen, Syracuse, NY: Courier Print. Co., 1901. This work may have perked his interest enough to explore further. The fact that he was mentioned in the book probably encouraged him even more. A two volume original hardcopy edition of this book currently is in the possession of David B. Stearns, Sr.

For whatever reason, thankfully he pursued genealogy with fervor and compiled notebooks and constructed pedigree charts for many of the Stearns ancestors. He did a fair amount of original research mostly by

corresponding with government agencies and relatives, touring the country and visiting libraries and other repositories. As far as the author can tell, his work was very good and has held up even with today's more extensive online data.

Perry spent many hours at his parent's home writing down their memories of the Stearns and related families. He also transcribed many letters from relatives then in the possession of George Orlo Stearns or Harlow Rice who lived in Milwaukee.

Although his work was good, Perry never compiled any completed work or wrote a book, so one must dig through disorganized scraps of paper, handwritten notebooks and old letters to glean the useful information.

Perry encouraged Myron Dings to write the history of the Dings family. The book was titled "The Dings Family in America" by M. Dings. 182p., 1927. Perry bought several copies of the book of which two remain in the possession of David B. Stearns, Sr. and David B. Stearns, Jr.

Gardener

Perry bought some undeveloped property on Bender Road in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. He probably picked it up in a tax sale or foreclosure. The land was somewhat boggy, but had black rich topsoil. There was a wooded portion of the property with a little spring and creek where fresh watercress grew. The author used to walk over to this property and play regularly there with his friends. We would build forts in the woods, eat watercress and hike along the high Chicago Northwestern train embankment that bordered the northern boundary of the property.

Perry tilled the Bender Road property and grew vegetables there for a number of years. The author remembers that Perry had an old surplus U.S. Army jeep that he had painted silver. He would drive that over to the property and use it as a tractor for plowing. He seemed to love to grow squash and would stop by at our house on his way home and drop off fresh yellow squash for our family.

The following letter mentions some of these activities in the last paragraph. The letter also mentions his gift of membership for his grandchildren in the Mayflower Descendants Society and some activities of his son Perry.

Dear Children and Grandchildren:

September 15, 1955.

I am determined to write and mail this today or bust. It is project planned ever since I received Perry's letter dated August 19, in which he reported that half of Stroudsburg was inundated but their house is on a hill and the office away from the river so that they were untouched. Yet he says, "My office is rolling along successfully, I would not say I am rushed but I am paying my bills, I had a lot of them, and I am well satisfied with it. I have the most modern, brightest office in Stroudsburg, in a neighborhood comparable to Shorewood and I hope to develop rapidly a stable middle class clientele that pays their bills. Mine so far is 3/4 year round residents, some other doctors do mostly summer business and rest the rest of the year. *** I had something else to say but I can't think of it now. Here comes a patient. Goodbye Perry." Do any of you know where his Harvard diploma is? I have spent the summer rearranging papers and magazines from attic to cellar and there are several things I am still hoping to find. When I move the secretary in the library there is no telling what I may find behind it. Perhaps when Perry writes again he will let us know what extra duties the flood threw upon him.

When I was in Oshkosh Saturday attending a Meeting of KYCH at the Masonic Temple I telephoned Helen Briggs (Mrs Warner) Geiger and she says her brother William left Milwaukee about two weeks ago and is now with the Soil Conservation service at LaFayette, Indiana. She gave me his address there but just now I cannot find in a hurry the slip of paper on which I wrote it while at the telephone. She is President for the State of Wisconsin of the American Association of University Women.

Enclosed for each grandchild is a membership card in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Wisconsin which is good until each respective 25th birthday at which time it is hoped that the person named will take steps to become regular instead of just a Junior Member of the Society in the State in which he or she may then be living.

Last July I planted hills of scalloped squash and other hills of crooknecks but the summer was so hot and dry that they did not appear to be getting anywhere. I planted them particularly to have something to eat for the annual harvest festival of Kenwood White Shrine to which I belong. This was last Monday evening. So about 5 P.M. that day I took DBS, Jr. and had the pleasant surprise of picking almost a bushel of these cucurbitaceous pepos. Planted at the same time some seedlings were just poking their heads through the soil. Love to all,

Perry J. Stearns

Perry Stearns letter to family, 1955.

Dave has his own thoughts about Perry's farming ventures:

"He loved land. He bought 10 acres of bottom land on Bender Road. It was all beautiful black earth. It had been the floodplain from the Milwaukee River which used to flood over every year because it got backed up by a dam down near Lincoln Park on Hampton Road. The land he bought was beautiful black loam. The problem was that it didn't have drainage at all. There was a little creek that ran through his property. When we were kids we used to play there. The creek came from a spring which is probably still there around the Port Road and the Bender Road. This land was just north of the Bender Road on the north side. That land was beautiful soil and should have been good farm country but it was too low with no drainage. He had a jeep that he bought at some point for his farming. He would go out there every Sunday and Saturday and he would attempt to plow his land and plant. He could plant Rhubarb and that worked quite well. I don't ever recall him ever having a good crop of anything, but he worked at it. He was always out there on Sunday afternoons after the Unitarian Church shut down for the day. He had his jeep and by mid-Sunday afternoon, almost every Sunday, if I didn't get out of the house before he could reach me by telephone why he'd call me up "Uh Dave, can you get out here, how soon can you get out here, I'm stuck". If I hadn't gotten out of the house fast enough, why I'd be stuck too. There was no way I could turn him down. He was stuck with his jeep. Not just stuck up to the hubcaps, but up to the body, the bottom of the body of the jeep cab. I finally figured out how to get him out of there. I got some kind of a winch going. There was a big willow tree that had fallen down there and I figured out a way to tie a heavy rope to that willow tree and winch him out of that deep loam.

Mae Belle had no interest in farming and in fact she resented that he would be spending his Sundays over there."

Collector

Perry had a number of collections of things, some useful and others not so useful. He was a stamp collector at some point in his life, probably as a youngster. The author remembers on one occasion being taken by his father to look at Perry's stamp collection.

"Perry was very gracious and offered me a number of stamps for my own collection, some of which were rather rare (to me) and possibly of some limited value. I remember he had them in an old gray book with a soft cover. He was careful enough not to glue them in and used hinges. I was very grateful for this gift and still have the stamps to this day.

Later, after Perry died, it was discovered that he had soaked stamps off of envelopes and tied them into neat bundles with thread. There were literally shoeboxes full of these stamps. Most were common stamps of the day, cancelled and not worth much even by today's standards. What he intended to do with them is not known. I still have a number of these boxes stashed away somewhere. I don't know what happened to Perry's personal collection. I think he stopped collecting stamps early on and his interest did not carry into his adulthood.

Probably the most common stamp that Perry bundled up was the 2 cent commemorative stamp of the Columbian Series issued in 1893-4. The stamp was the first of its commemorative stamp of its kind in the US. This indicates that Perry probably started his collecting very early on. Literally billions of these stamps were sold.



2 Cent Columbian Series Commemorative Stamp

If Perry had only saved the higher denominations, I would have been able to retire years ago."

Perry also collected books and newspapers. He loved to read, but his newspapers were another story. Both Dave and Perry remember this quirk well. Dave states:

"He marked things for years. He was always going to cut them and paste them up and make scrapbooks out of them. I don't think that ever happened. I think at some point they all went down the drain. They were sitting in the trough where the flowers should have been. It was metal lined about this wide and deep and was all metal and when he remodeled the home in 1928 he put that in there and it was watertight. So if water got in there, if anything got on top of it got soaked, drowned or ruined which was the case with most of the papers he marked. I don't think he ever cut the clippings, ever."

Perry and Fran recall a similar story:

Perry: "Father would come home from work, sit down in his chair, start reading the newspapers, we had two for a good many years, and he'd mark items that he wanted to save but he rarely cut them out.

Fran: He saved them all right, but he saved them in toto.

Perry: He folded them up and they went down in the basement."

Stubborn and politically incorrect

***Landlord-Lawyer Snubs OPA,
Then Eviction Suit Doesn't Fit***

Perry J. Stearns, a widely known Milwaukee attorney, announced in the civil court Thursday that he does not recognize the OPA. The OPA entered no objection, but it immediately became apparent that Stearns, in his present attitude is going to have some trouble evicting a tenant from an upper flat at 524 E. Detroit st., which Stearns owns. Stearns brought the eviction action Thursday before Civil Judge Herbert Schultz against Harry Ross, charging that Ross is two months behind with his rent of \$15 a month. Failure to pay rent is a justifiable cause for eviction under OPA regulations. It is only required that the landlord notify the OPA before proceeding with the ouster.

As the case opened, Judge Schultz turned to E. P. McCarron, chief rent attorney for the OPA here, and said, "You have been notified, of course." "No, we haven't," said McCarron. Stearns, who was handling his own case, turned to McCarron and asked, "Are you the attorney for the defendant?" "I'm with the OPA," he answered. "I am proceeding under state law," Stearns told the court. "I do not recognize the OPA and I never shall."

Judge Schultz seemed puzzled but he did not argue the point.

"Well, the case is dismissed," said the judge. "The case has not been properly brought into court."

Counselor Stearns stalked out.



Perry Stearns

Undated article probably from the 1940's.
The OPA (Office of Price Control) was a New Deal office that dealt with wartime price control and extended to rent and eviction proceedings.

Procrastinator

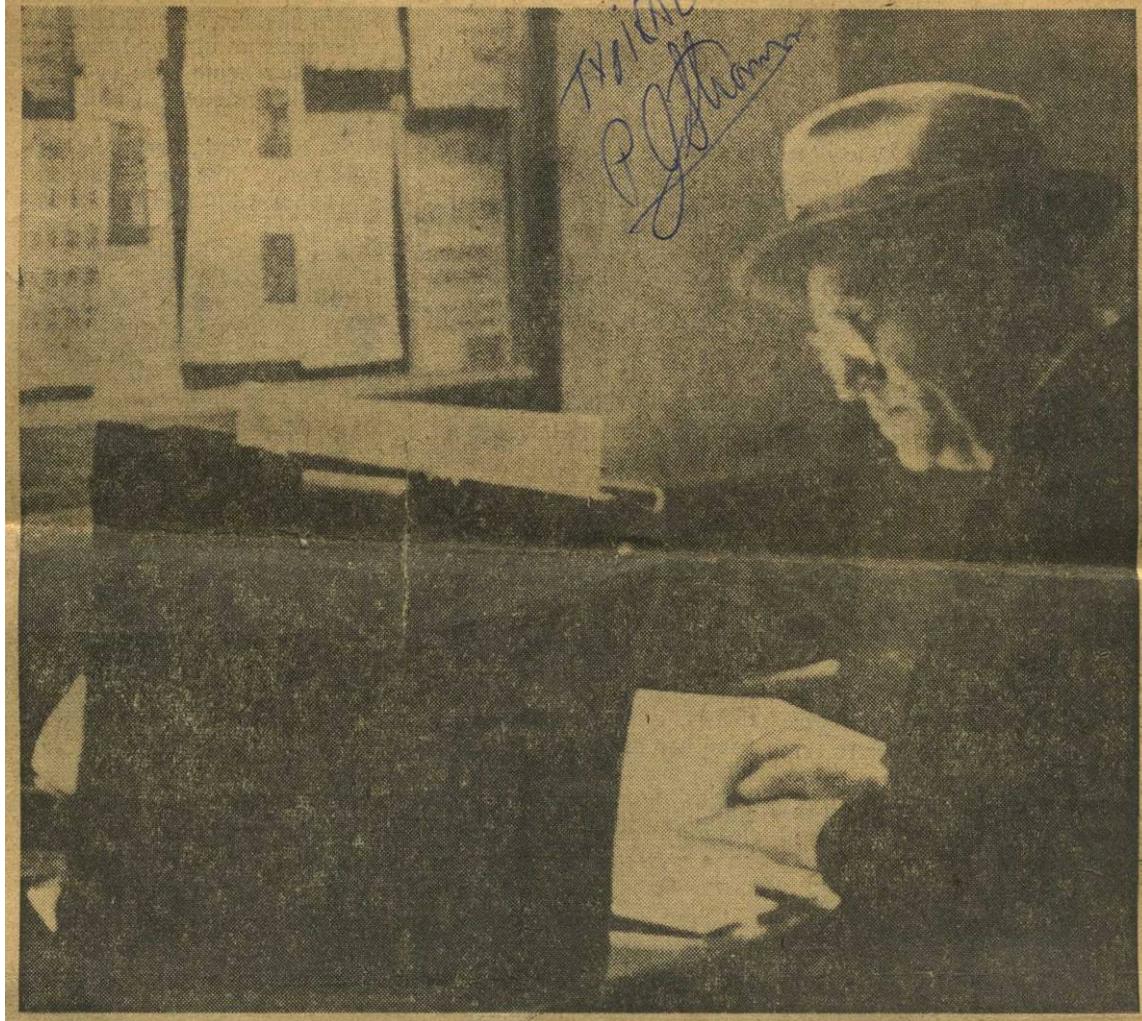
4

Tuesday, April 16, 1957

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

As clock hands turned closer to the income tax deadline Monday night, taxpayers worked at counters in the main post office. One chewed on a cigar as he computed his

tax. Another brought a brief case loaded with data. Four policemen helped mail handlers take mail from motorists and fill bags at the curb to keep traffic moving.—Journal Staff



Perry Stearns doing his tax return in the Post Office before the midnight deadline

Property Investor

Besides purchasing the Bender Road property, early on Perry picked up homes during the Depression for probably pennies on the dollar. These he rented out and later sold for profit. He also purchased Found Lake and another property not too far from there on Shannon Lake.

In addition to these, he also owned undeveloped property at one time in Oostburg. Dave once stated that Perry intended to build a cabin or house at Oostburg, but the land was so full of poison ivy that the project was scrubbed.

Little attention has been paid to the Oostburg property, but some information can be provided. Perry sold the property in 1952, date and circumstances of purchase are unknown but it appears to be a government lot.

**THE SHEBOYGAN (WIS.) PRESS,
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1951**

42 Real Estate Transfers Recorded At Court House

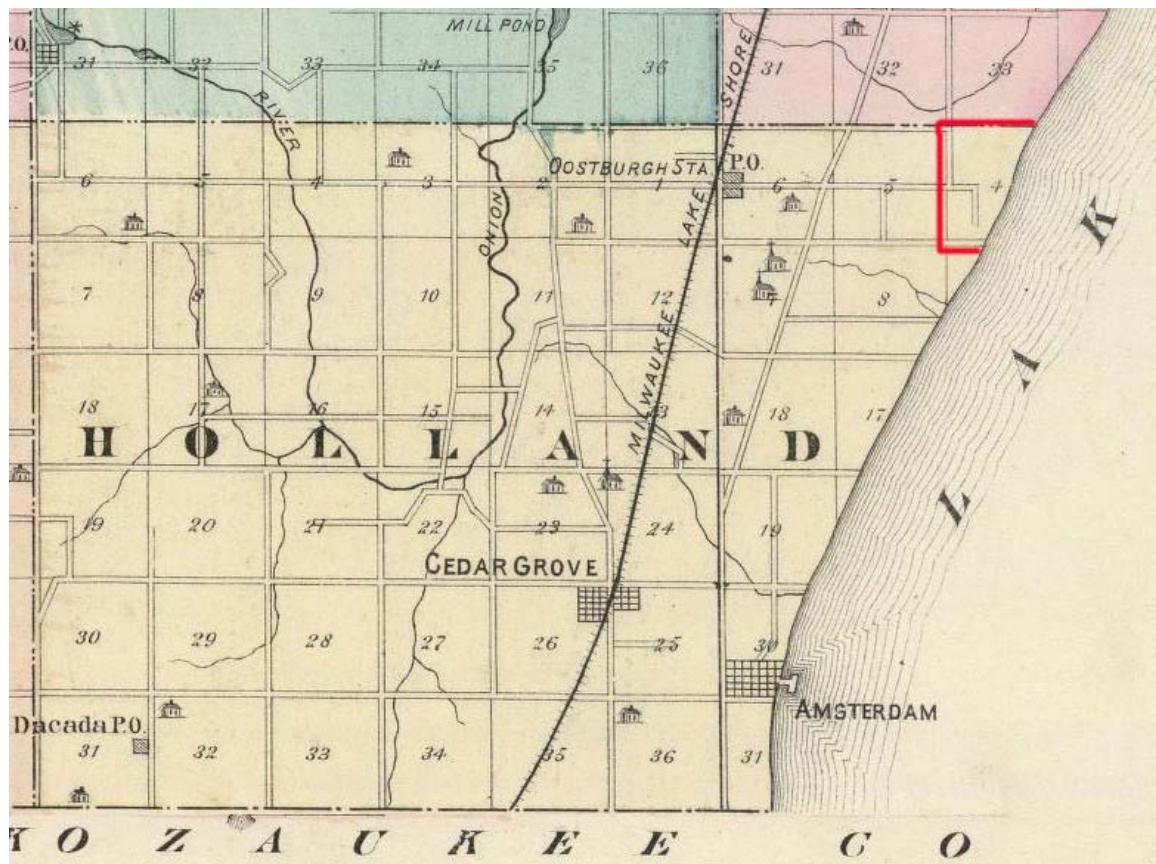
Transfers in title of 42 parcels of Sheboygan county real estate property were recorded during the week ending Oct. 20, Register of Deeds Ben W. Diederich reported today.

The complete list of transfers follows:

Perry J. Stearns to Nola Mae Williamson, Pt. Gov't. Lot 1, Sec. 4, Holland.

Sale of "Part Gov't Lot 1, Section 4, Holland Township, Sheboygan Co.

The property appears to be on or near Lake Michigan about 2 miles east of Oostburg. A plat map is available at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, but the author does not have a copy. The lot Perry owned is somewhere within section 4 of the Holland Township but cannot be pinpointed further due to the lack of a metes and bounds description.



Approx. location of Oostburg property in Section 4 of Holland Township, Sheboygan County (highlighted). Size of lot unknown.

Perry and Fran describe Perry J's rental properties (David B. Stearns, Jr. is the narrator):

Fran: You're looking at a people who knew how to handle themselves but there were the times, from time to time, that the Depression came a little close. The Depression, the late tail end of the Depression, no when Perry was a child this would be just before the crash and just as well immediately after the war,

Perry: That was a real bad Depression too

Fran: But he bought property at the Depression that they lived off of, quite literally.

Perry: Well father bought quite a few houses around Milwaukee, quite cheaply, during the depression and as he sold them off one at a time, they paid the bills. That is after he quit working at least. And he had oh, I think probably a half a dozen houses, little, usually not very large ones, but scattered around Milwaukee mostly in southern Milwaukee

Fran: He rented them didn't he?

Perry: Yeah

[So did he go collect the rent himself?]

Perry: Oh no, he didn't do that

Fran: Who did?

Perry: I don't know. I never went with him. He never talked about it.

Fran: Oh, I would think he would do it himself

Perry: He might have done it himself or he might have hired somebody to do it.

Fran: I don't think so. That wasn't Perry J's way. Perry J's way was hands on. No, my sense of Perry J is that he would do that himself.

You are talking about people struggling to stay in the upper middle class and slipping, slipping, slipping. And that happened to lots and lots of people.

Perry: Well, we stayed in the middle class but during the depression it was hard.

Fran: So you kept your church friends and you just paid attention to where you were in time and space.

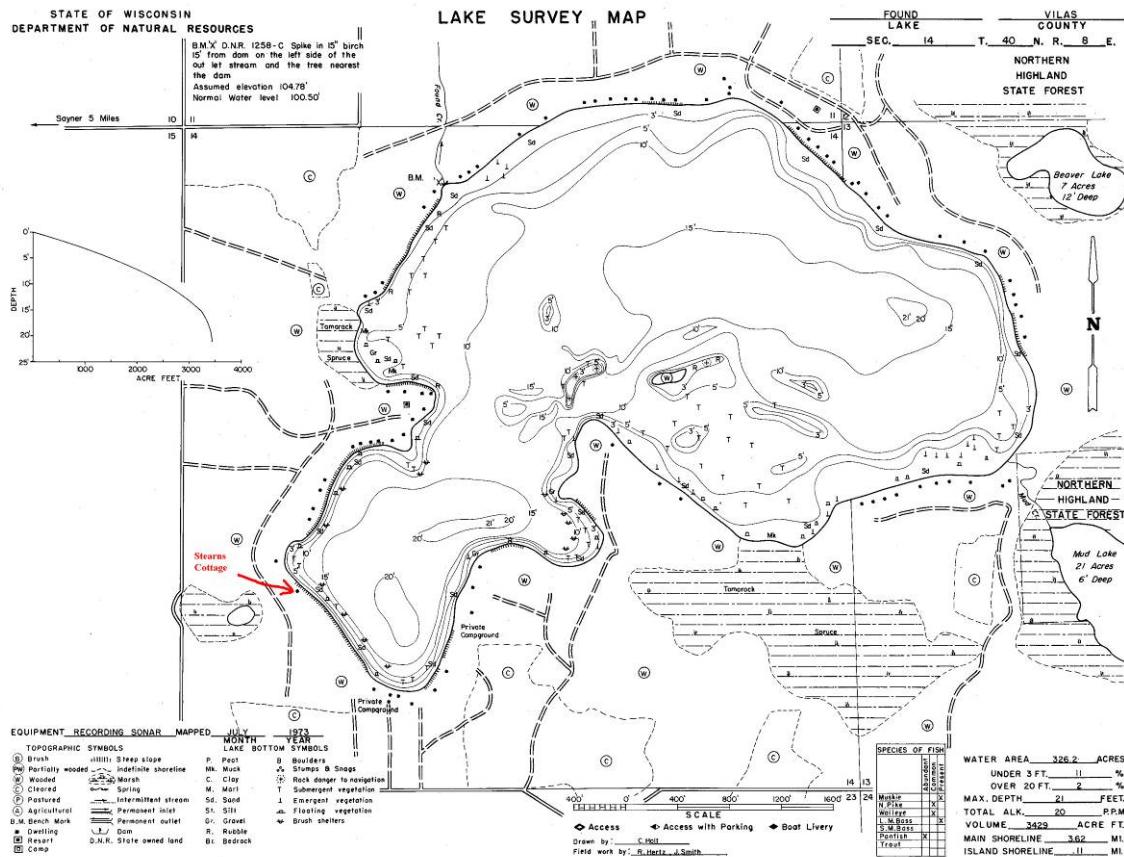
Dave discusses the Shannon Lake property below (Narrator, David B. Stearns, Jr.):

"He bought the whole lake. The state was selling off property that wasn't particularly attractive. There was no real road into Shannon Lake. You could hike in if you were on the far shore of Found Lake over past Dean's. There was a little stream that trickled out of Shannon Lake into Found Lake. No, that stream came from Mud Lake. There was another lake further down that was all mud. Shannon Lake was a nice clear lake. There was no settlement on it at all. No homes and the state owned it *[Not many fish either]*. At some point they had a policy of trying to sell off some of their property or just weren't going to develop it or maybe they had a lean year in their budget or something. There was a little lake on the way over called Beaver Lake where you could see if you go past that and watch the beavers play and slap their tails and frolic around. It was so wild.

There were no homes on either of those two lakes. The only home on the far shore of Found Lake after you passed Deans Resort which was almost due across the lake from us but then there was quite a long shore all the way down to Kleppe's farm which was at the other end of the east shore and we could row across or sail a boat across and park there and tie it up and there never was anybody that would bother it and we could walk over past Beaver over to Shannon. Why did we ever want to go to Shannon, I wonder? There was not anything there. I think we went for picnics or something. Mother was great at pitching picnic lunches.

[We used to go over there just because you owned it. At least for a while. I don't know what happened to it.]

I think either the state foreclosed on it or taxes. I don't know what happened."

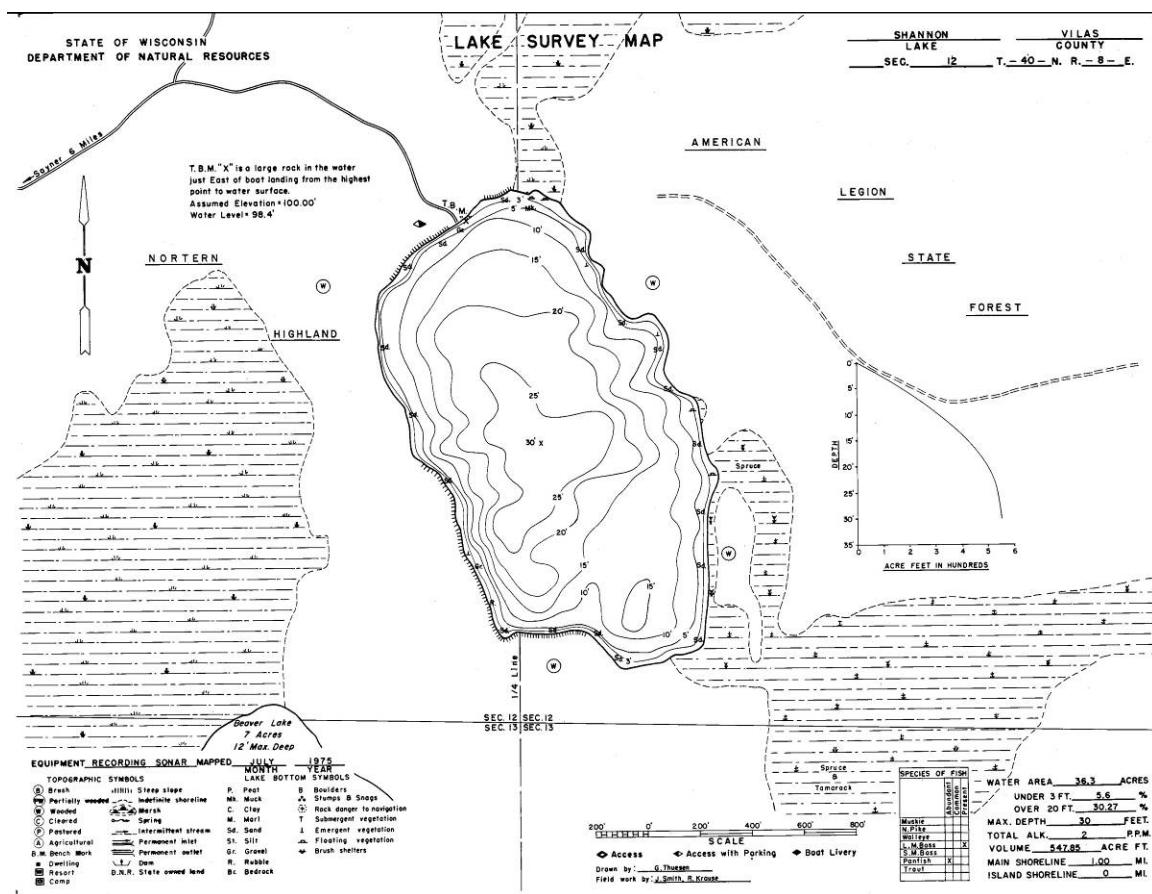


Found Lake Map

David Jr's comments:

"When I was a teenager, there was a road to Shannon. I forgot the exact route to get there, but remember driving over on several occasions, particularly during hunting season. We never shot anything at Shannon, but it was a nice place to spend time during the middle of the day.

I think we might have hiked over there as a youngster, probably with Dave as our guide. I don't recall there being any fish in the lake. We tried a number of times, but never saw or caught anything. It was quite clear water but probably didn't have the depth or enough oxygen to support anything other than a few minnows. Parts of the banks around the lake were rather swampy and we would hike around the lake and usually get our boots soaked when trying to cross those areas.



Shannon Lake Map

YMCA

Perry was a long time member and supporter of the YMCA. He attended YMCA camp as a youth



**Perry J (second row, far left) at YMCA Camp,
Phantom Lake, Mukwanago, Wisconsin, 1908**

Dave describes the YMCA activities:

"He used to have kind of a fur hat that he wore around. It didn't have a tail like Daniel Boone, but was circular and kind of flat. He belonged to the YMCA in downtown Milwaukee. They used to have a hiking group and they used snowshoes. In the winter around Milwaukee you could use snowshoes quite often. They'd go out on these hiking parties with their fur caps and snowshoes and when there was snow on the ground it was good exercise and healthy exercise. They had a

lot of fun. I think it was part of the YMCA program which he belonged to downtown YMCA. The women's YWCA was more of a dormitory plus nice cafeteria. We used to go to the YWCA cafeteria for dinner with the folks now and then. We would go to lectures with the City Club. They were joiners. City Club met at the top of the old Riverside Theater building on the top floor there was a big room there. They had lectures there and I think they had films there. Forest and I were invited down there for certain lectures and films now and then. I don't think Perry or Rhodora were ever involved in that."

Speaking of fur, the author also has a story:

The author was the recipient of a full length, black bearskin coat that belonged to Perry. It was not one of those "Roaring Twenties" types of raccoon coats, but real bear. What Perry had in mind with this coat is not known, but it served David Jr. well during his years at UW Madison when the cold bitter wind whipped across Lake Mendota on his way to classes across campus. It was definitely unique and possibly of Russian origin, but that is not known for certain. Maybe it was something the Alaskan brothers left behind at the cottage at Found Lake."

Perry also belonged to what was called the Sunday Evening Club. This appeared to be another hiking or outing club for parents and children. The picture below was taken in Fox Point on one of these outings.



Cropped picture of Sunday Evening Club in Fox Point. Picture is dated April 6, 1930. Perry in middle wearing checkered wool jacket. Forest (left) and David (right) wearing white shirts, ties and beanie caps.

Masons

Perry's obsession with the Masons was excessive if not extreme. Men join fraternal organizations for various reasons, some for fellowship, some for business connections or community service and others for escape. Perry may have joined for all the above reasons, but the latter was probably more relevant in his latter years.

The seed may have been planted in his mind by his father, George Orlo (GOS). A short entry in one of Perry's notebooks mentions the following:

"Chas Edw was an Oddfellow and active in lodge. He joined the Masons but someone there offended him and so he told GOS never to join the Masons. However, GOS has always told me that if I ever joined any lodge I should join Masons."

Perry is speaking of his grandfather Charles Edward Stearns. GOS is his father. George Orlo Stearns apparently was never a Mason.

Dave mentions Perry's interest in the Masons.

"He joined the Masons sometime later. He belonged to Shorewood Lodge which met in the Shorewood Presbyterian Church which was a dinky little church on Oakland Avenue around Kenmore or Jarvis in there somewhere. Masons came later, but he became very enamored with the Masons."

Fran and Perry mention the Mason connection with Perry J:

Fran: "Your father was always a strong and vibrant member of the Masons. He went on from 32nd to 33 degrees.

Perry: I don't know when he joined the Masons but it was before I was born. If there was anything of importance to him to be in the Masons, he joined it. He was a member of the Shorewood Masons group. He was a Mason for years and years.

Fran: He was a 33rd degree.

Perry: As far as you can go!

Fran: He was a sponsor of the Eastern Star."

Little evidence remains concerning Perry's activities in the Masons. They are a semi-secretive organization and do not openly recruit new members. From the above accounts, Perry reached the 33rd Degree

The lodge confers three degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. Additional degrees are conferred by two groups of advanced Freemasonry: the York Rite, which awards 12 degrees; and the Scottish Rite, which awards 30 higher degrees. In the United States and Canada, members have formed a large number of groups to enable them to expand their social and charitable activities. The best known of these groups is the Shriners (official name: "Ancient Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine"), who hold festive parades and support hospitals for crippled and burned children. (To be a Shriner, one must be a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, or its equivalent in the York Rite [Knights Templar]). [The **33rd degree** is an honorary

degree bestowed upon especially worthy masons who have accomplished outstanding work in such fields as religion and politics.]
<http://www.rapidnet.com>

Not much further can be said about Perry and the Masons since he left no particular record of his activities. One picture remains of Perry in his Masonic uniform.



Perry with second wife, Agena, January 1962

Religion and the Unitarian Church

Perry came from a family that appears not to have been particularly religious. In all the notes transcribed by the author that Perry wrote down from interviewing his father, the words "religion" and "church" are not mentioned. However, there was one single entry that implied George Orlo Stearns attended Sunday school while a youngster in Greenville, Illinois.

Perry Orlo states:

"I don't remember ever hearing that Grandma and Grandpa Stearns ever went to church. I never saw them at church."

The Dings family was connected with the Christian Science church, but it is not certain whether Lacy was active after leaving Nebraska or if her parents resumed their attendance when they moved to Milwaukee.

Perry J joined the Unitarian Church in Shorewood. Apparently he and Mae Belle attended regularly and his children attended Sunday school.

Dave relates his knowledge of Perry and the Unitarian Church and a trip they took:

"I think he got that [*interest in the Unitarian Church*] at Harvard. I think he got interested in that out East. That was an eastern development. I know one time when we were kids, I was maybe 7 years old, that's probably 1927, there was a Unitarian convocation on Star Island, which was on some islands offshore Boston, not too far offshore.

[Star Island is one of the Isles of Shoals, located seven miles off the coast of New Hampshire in the Atlantic Ocean. It is owned and operated by the Star Island Corporation as a religious and educational conference center, with close ties to the Unitarian Universalist Association]

They had a lovely hotel there. I remember taking the train with the folks from Milwaukee all the way down east. We went through Albany. I'll never forget going through the Berkshire Mountains on the Boston and Maine Railroad which went from Albany east into the Berkshire Mountains. I remember those mountains seemed so high. We were down on the railroad track that went through the valleys. You'd look up and see those mountains and they were all pine, they were not Rocky Mountains at all. They were beautiful mountains. We were heading to Boston and eventually to the Star Island, the Isle of Shoals. We kids, Forest and I were old enough to go along. Perry was not with us. He might have been born by then. He probably stayed with Grandma. So we got to the islands. We had that event there and came back home. That was 1927. It was some Unitarian Convocation which us kids did not understand. We weren't part of that."

Obsessive Driver and Buick Aficionado

Fran recalls Perry's fascination with Buicks:

"What about your father and his Buicks? I always got a big kick out of that. He always bought black Buick cars. And the boys never learned

to take care of them. Perry [*Orlo*] is the direct opposite of his sons who wouldn't let a speck of dirt be on their cars. If the car got washed, I washed it or took it to be washed."

Perry adds:

"Well we stopped in Nebraska once driving home from one of our long trips to the west. He liked to drive and we went to almost, once a, not every year, but almost once a year up to Canada or Nova Scotia, that sort of thing, and Glacier National park, Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite and Grand Canyon and once we got all the way to Oregon."

Dave remembers Perry and their trips the following way:

"When he got behind the wheel he was in Heaven. He just loved to drive. We had an old Buick, a 1932 which was a sedan. Sturdy and rather expensive car, before they started streamlining cars. They started streamlining about a year after they bought that Buick. It was upright, what they called a mafia car, a black sedan. They didn't call it that then. We drove to Yellowstone and camped out. If he got behind the wheel he got entranced. He hated to quit. I remember one night leaving someplace up in Montana, Missoula either going from Missoula to Helena or Helena to Missoula, way out in the middle of nowhere, western Montana. Poor mom! She always wanted to stop. He always wanted to keep going. She was in the back with the kids. I generally used to stand behind my father, I was short. I would stand in the back seat and lean over the top of his seat right behind him. Quite often I had studied the map and I would tell him what turns to take because I was always a map nut. In Wisconsin I always told him which way to go although I'm sure he knew, but he followed me. I remember driving well into the night from Billings to Missoula.

We stayed in hotels. In those days they didn't have motels like we do now. We probably stayed in a hotel up there somewhere.

I think we took a trip up to Lake Superior. Dad wanted to see the Porcupine Mountains. Porcupine Mountains are on the lower rim of Lake Superior. They are not very high, not real mountains, but to Wisconsin people that was a pretty big mountain. On top of the mountain there was a lake on top. My dad wanted to see that."

Husband and Father

It is no revelation that Perry J was a good father. He took pride in his children and made certain that they were well educated. He may have been frugal but he paid for their educations and even loaned money when necessary. He taught them to appreciate learning, nature and

the outdoors and provided a stable home and their precious summer getaway, the cottage at Found Lake.

Perry and Fran remember some enlightening sessions around the dinner table:

Fran: But your father reading the, what was it, not John Greenleaf Whittier, but Charles Evans Hughes, what is it that he read to you?

Perry: He'd read lots of things. We'd sit at the table while he and I or Forest or mother would read out of the book, usually it was Dad, a chapter every night after supper.

Fran: Yes, but what was it that you and Forest always used to giggle about? Charles Evans Hughes? Come on, help me. One of those three-named fellows. Oliver Wendell Holmes! That's who!

Perry: He was especially happy with him

Fran: He read to you out of Oliver Wendell Holmes. *The Autocrat at the Breakfast Table!*

[So at dinner time you would sit down and read a book to you? After or before the dinner?]

Perry: After dinner, but not every night.

Fran: But that was a regular practice."

Perry was a voracious reader by all accounts. Dave describes the following picture of Perry in his "Cozy corner"



Perry Stearns, reading in cozy corner, no date

His relationship with his wife, Mae Belle, is less obvious and probably very complex. The author has little to contribute to this discussion, so it will be told in the words of his children.

Comments by son Dave:

She was a long suffering person, Mae Belle, living with my father. He could be sort of a tyrant or he could be very warm. Of course he bought the place up north at Found Lake sometime in the middle twenties. We did have that as a really nice edge to our life. I don't remember my mom Mae Belle as being downhearted or morose much. She always seemed to me to be quite cheerful. She spent the summers always every summer up north with us kids from 1926 on.

They were happily married. They were a happy couple. Perry was a little domineering in his ways however Mae Belle was smart enough to live with it and slough it off. He could try to dominate her but she was a little sharper. She was a pretty sharp lady. Not in a mean way at all.

He would [Perry], when he was home at night instead of staying at home he spent most of his evenings over at grandma Stearns. That's what really bothered mom. She'd be alone there all of the time. She loved to read and she was able to do a lot of reading that she was good at and enjoyed, but she was lonesome. She was alone there. I think by this time her sister Adeline had died and at one point had lived quite close around a block or two down by Jarvis. I was living out in Whitefish Bay and I couldn't walk over there every night and leave my family alone. I had young kids at that point including you. So it became kind of a bad situation. If Perry had stayed home instead of going over to Grandma's house every night it would have been fine. They could have at least had some conversation and maybe read the same books or something. They were both good readers."

Perry and Fran's comments [*David Jr., narrator*]:

Fran: We've never had any emotional problems as well could have been when you consider Perry and Mae Belle and my parents. Perry and Mae Belle at the time we met them were on speaking terms, living terms, but they essentially lived apart. He would go down to the Mason's and go over to his mother's. She would go to the library and congregate with her friends, and all that sort of thing, and of course she always had a deep interest in her children, but we did not replicate that pattern.

Perry: When he wasn't home in the evening or at his mother's house around the corner he would go down to the Masons group and mother hated the Masons. She thought this was a way to get away.

[*What was Mae Belle doing during this time?*]

Perry: She was very intelligent; she was very nice, pleasant.

Fran: The fact of the matter was that Perry was never elected to anything and Mae Belle was the president of the school board.

Perry: Mae Belle was very active at Downer College where she graduated. She was on their board and we went down there every year for whatever ceremonies they had, dances, mostly outdoors; the maypole, going around the maypole.

Fran: We have that picture of all of you in your little tartan things.

Perry: One year we were all dressed up in Scotch dresses, kilts. She was busy with them and on the board.



From left: Rhodora, Perry and David dressed up for Christmas pageant at Milwaukee Downer College, about 1931

Perry: She had a very active public life.

[Tell me did Mae Belle, was she ever invited over to the George Orlo house?]

Perry: Oh yes, they were right around the corner

Fran: Thanksgiving dinner

[No, I mean for these sessions that Perry would have there]

Perry: Well at that age, that was after Grandpa Stearns died. I wasn't home for that so I don't know exactly when he did die.

Fran: Perry and I had a Thanksgiving dinner there. We were married in 1946 so that would probably have been in 1947 or 1948. I remember that vividly.

Perry: And yes, the whole family would go over and sit down for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner or maybe.

Fran: Mae Belle kept that between herself and her husband. She didn't inflict her feelings on her mother-in-law because she appreciated that her husband was going to see his elderly mother of whom he was exceedingly fond. The problem was that he just wasn't home.

Perry: He was a single boy too.

[So Mae Belle kind of sat home alone a lot?]

Fran: Well as her public life ebbed away, yes.

Perry: After she was off the school board and after we all went off to college and Rhodora was up in New Hampshire, why she'd be sitting alone there a lot and it wasn't too long before she began to lose her contact with people in life. And she and Aunt Addie got along very well.

Fran: She lost her sister

Perry: Her sister died too. *[Author's note: Rhoda Adeline Brook died on 8 Aug 1961 and Mae Belle died on 23 May 1954, so Mae Belle actually preceded Aunt Addie]* And my father was less livable and he spent most of his time watching over his mother.

[Did they not get along, Mae Belle and Perry?]

Fran: They just became estranged.

Perry: Estranged. Yeah, I would call it that.

Fran: It was very much too bad. As I say, I regret that I did not show more appreciation of her because she really was an awfully nice person. She grew old and the times changed very rapidly in the late '40s and early '50s after the war. Things changed.

Perry: Well, during the war and after.

Fran: Things changed. It would be hard not to write a novel about it as one tried to tell you because it was just enormous the changes that occurred.

[And how did this affect Mae Belle and Perry?]

Fran: Because people moved and there were diseases people died of that were cumulative from their own time. We lived in a different way so we weren't appreciative of that. I really cannot, I've not tried to put it into language but if I did the truth of it would turn into a novel. You remember Wisconsin when the roads between towns were ten or fifteen feet wide, and flat, they weren't graded. You remember that?

[Sure]

Fran: Well, think back to when the world was connected by ungraded roads. And paved roads weren't graded so that rain ran off to the side of the road. Well that's symptomatic of thousands and thousands of different changes including the crowdedness that we experience, we Perry and I, experience of the United States today. It is crowded. It was not that bad. As a child, when I had my runaway days, I got on my bicycle in Green Bay and pedaled down to Plymouth, Wisconsin. I did that.

Perry: You did that? All that way?

Fran: I did. I did indeed do that. I was in a fury and a rage and that's what I did. But that is symptomatic of, when we were in, when Perry was in medical school and I was in art school I hitchhiked up to Casco Bay from Boston. I hitchhiked. I did that back and forth. I did that for two summers. You couldn't do that today.

Perry: Bob Wilson and I hitchhiked down to New York and back up to see Rhodora and all over.

[I used to hitchhike back in the early 1960's, but it was getting a little bit iffy.....]

Fran: Yes, you couldn't do it today, I'll tell you. It's just the world has changed and the world changed on Mae Belle.

Perry: She was getting old and father was often over at Grandma's and we were all gone from school and this being alone by herself she faded fairly fast.

Fran: You remember he was losing his own mentality too. And I think she was not sympathetic or appreciative of his insecurity because if she examined that insecurity she would have to have recognized how precarious their financial situation was. So that if he could keep his sense of mastery and his sense of competence this preserved their way of life too a little longer.

Perry: Well, financially, we always had enough money.

Fran: Ah, but that was what was beginning to be threatened at that time.

In conclusion, Perry was probably a better father than he was a husband. He and Mae Belle drifted apart as Perry spent more and more time with his outside activities. To their credit, they kept the family and home together and somehow made it work.

Mae Belle

Mae Belle, unlike her husband Perry, was more successful at her official pursuits and held elected office with several institutions.

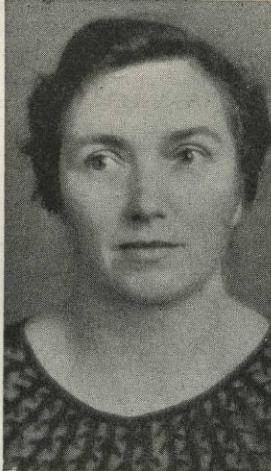
According to Dave, she was president of the Shorewood School Board and was a trustee of the Milwaukee-Downer College. She was very active with Milwaukee Downer alumni.

The following article was published in the Shorewood Ripples, the high school newspaper.

Behind Wheels Is Power; Back Of Us We Find Five Prominent, Busy Educators—The Board



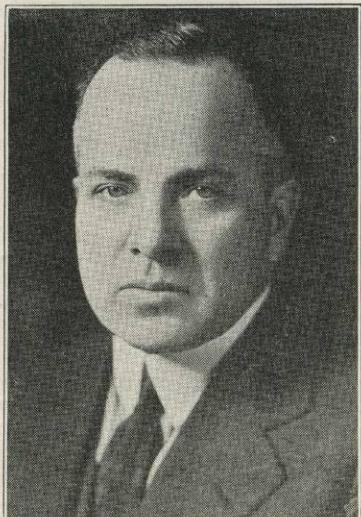
Adolf Hafner



Mrs. Perry J. Stearns



Albert E. Oberndorfer



Herbert R. Manger

School Kept Rolling Along

The power behind the wheels is an energetic quintet—five clear-thinking, progressive citizens, who, in providing three streamlined automobiles (the Shorewood schools) are giving student passengers a safe smooth ride over the highways of education.

How many long hours they spend over the council table preparing a budget and apportioning money to finance this perpetual motor trip! How many times must they pucker their brows to keep the three autos in perfect condition and in proper pace with each other!

They select capable chauffeurs who know the best roads and how to guide their charges over the bumps in this educational highway.

If it were not for the honesty and efficiency of this truly genuine "power"—a power which constantly considers the welfare of the students



Leslie A. Eaton

and of the village, the Shorewood schools might become rusty, indeed, they might become "tin Lizzies," but, as it is, they are firm and strong, tuned up to the times, and functioning harmoniously.

Mae Belle (Mrs. Perry) Stearns, member school board, 1938

The following picture of Mae Belle was taken from son Perry's Copperdome High School Yearbook of 1941. She is listed as a "member" of the school board. Both Dave and Perry state that her

position on the board was consistently misquoted and that she really ran the show.

COPPERDOME



*Board of
Education*

LEO J. LANDRY
Director

RICHARD H. TYRRELL
Clerk

ALBERT E. OBERNDORFER
Treasurer

LESLIE A. EATON
Member

MRS. PERRY J. STEARNS
Member

ANTHONY J. BENZING
Secretary to the Board

Mae Belle Stearns, member of Shorewood School Board, 1941

And yet another from 1942.



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Leo J. Landry, member; Leslie A. Eaton, clerk; Richard H. Tyrrell, director;
Mrs. Perry J. Stearns, member; Albert E. Obendorfer, treasurer.

Copperdome, 1942

On a more personal note, Dave recalls the following:

"She had artistic ability. Unfortunately, she didn't pass that on to any of her kids. I still have some of the things she did. She wasn't a really great artist but she tried. Watercolors were her media, I believe. I probably have something of hers around somewhere."

[I know she did a sculpture of you, a bust of you]

In my aviation suit.

[She did a pastel drawing of me when I was a baby]

I remember that. It was in color. She had some artistic talent, but unfortunately she passed none of it on to her children; at least none of

the boys that I know of. Forest didn't have any artistic talent; I don't think Perry ever did either. Maybe Rhodora has, but I don't think so

As you recall she was quite active in organizations."

[We didn't spend much time over there as a child. She died fairly early, 1954 I guess it was. I remember when she died because I was up in my room listening to the radio and you came up and told me my grandmother had passed away]

She was in pretty bad shape by that time. She was generally pretty healthy most of her younger life.

She was an intelligent lady. She was a trustee of Milwaukee Downer College. She was on the board of trustees of Milwaukee Downer College. She graduated from Milwaukee Downer College which was a fine ladies school in Milwaukee. She later became president of the Shorewood school board. I've got a picture of her. They called her clerk, but she was really the head, president, the chief officer. She was one sharp lady. If you have any brains in your system, you inherited a lot of it from Mae Belle.

[She liked plants and things, didn't she?].

She had her plants in her own home. They had (plants) in what they called the sun room. But which later turned out to be a great place to put old newspapers; a place to stack up bundles of old newspapers.

Perry and Fran continue with their recollections:

Fran: Perry loved his mother. I would say I found her a little intrusive the first few years that we were married, but I will say that I wish now that I had appreciated her more, shown her more appreciation when she was alive because I recognize your husband is really the product of his mother and I've had a nice one, a good one and Mae Belle is certainly responsible.

[And how was she a good mother?]

Perry: Well, she took us to the, rarely to a movie, but to the opera, or downtown in Milwaukee the companies came around in the winter four or five times and took us to good plays, Shakespeare and all that and we went down to the Downer College with her. I remember three of us Rhodora, myself and David were all dressed up in little kilts.

Fran: She made a wonderful Yorkshire pudding. It was something, really good.

Perry: She wasn't a great cook, but her food tasted good to us. We had to go down to the corner store.

Fran: Her Yorkshire pudding was something to write home about.

Perry: She was quite busy with Downer College which was a college in its own before the State moved in next door and gradually bought them out. But mother did a lot of work there. She was on the school board for years in Shorewood which was a job in itself. And then every summer we went up to the north woods, 300 or 350 miles, sometimes it would take us all day to drive up there.

The author was only ten years old when Mae Belle died. He has little memory of her. She seemed to be a timid, humble but very kind woman who stayed in the background of the Perry J Stearns household. When we would go over to visit, Perry usually took center stage.

According to her obituary (see below) Mae Bell was active in the following organizations.

Member of the **Shorewood school board**, a post she held for about 10 years.

Teacher. At one time she taught English at Milwaukee-Downer College and Washington high school

Trustee of Milwaukee-Downer College.

Member of the **Milwaukee College Endowment Assn.** The Milwaukee College Endowment Association was active in advancing women's education through lecture programs and endowments to academic institutions in the metropolitan Milwaukee area, in particular, endowments for professorships at Milwaukee-Downer College.

Member of the **Milwaukee-Downer College Alumni Assn.**

Member of the **Seven Arts Society.** The Seven Arts Society was founded in February of 1932. The Society supported various interest groups focusing on architecture, painting, sculpture, drama, literature, music, and photography.

Member of the **Ladies of Shorewood**

Member of the **Ladies of Ivanhoe** and the Milwaukee assembly of the **Social Order of the Beauceant.** The Social Order of the Beauceant

is a society to which Master Masons and their female relatives may belong.

A nice picture of Mae Belle was taken about 1942 at age 51.



**Mae Belle Brook Stearns, Sept 1941, age 51 yrs.
Picture taken at Brantview, St. Johnsbury Academy, Vermont**

Mae Belle took a trip to England in 1951. She traveled alone and according to Dave, went to explore the area where her father, Jabez J. Brook, originated. He was born in 1854 in the town of Bottisham, Cambridgeshire, England. She left Liverpool on June 29th and arrived in New York on July 7th. She traveled tourist class on the ship "Britannic". Her passport was No. 410206 and her address in the US was 4146 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee 11 Wisconsin. She had 2 pieces of luggage.

PART I-10
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
(IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE)
(Rev. 1-4-48)

Date reported:
Budget Bureau No. 48-3041-1.

LIST No. 11

LIST OF IN-BOUND PASSENGERS

(United States Citizens and Nationals)

CLASS TOURIST from LIVERPOOL, JUNE 29th, 1951.
(Port of embarkation) (Date)

on MERRITTA ANTO II arriving at port of NEW YORK JULY 7th 1951.
(Name of vessel) (Date)

Line No.	FAMILY NAME—GIVEN NAME DESTINATION IN UNITED STATES	Age (Years)	Sex (F—M)	Mark or Serial	U. S. Passport No. Place of Birth	NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PIECES OF BAGGAGE	THIS COLUMN FOR USE OF IMMIGRATION AND U. S. OFFICES
1	SOTTHILL IDA J. 85 F 68, Empress St. Southbridge, Mass. Durree			899681		3	U. S. CIT. 113
2	STEARNS MAE 59 F M 146 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee 11 Wisc.			410206		8	
3	STEVENS CAROLE 12 F S 2281, Plumb St. Brooklyn, NY.			17168	MTDN	3	
					NEW YORK		

US Immigration and Ship manifest, Mae Belle Stearns, 1951.

Mae Belle died in 1954. Her death certificate is shown below and is transcribed:

b!
Local Registrar's
No.

FORM NO. 70-10 REV. 1-1-50

State Birth No.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Local Registrar's No.

002542

601 W.
Milwaukee

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. County Milwaukee			2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission). a. State Wisconsin b. County Milwaukee		
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) Milwaukee			c. LENGTH OF STAY (In this place)		
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) Columbia Hospital			e. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 4146 N. Murray Ave		
3. NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) Mae Belle b. (Middle) Brook c. (Last) Stearns			4. DATE OF DEATH (Mo.) May (Day) 23 (Yr.) 1954		
5. SEX Female 6. COLOR OR RACE White 7. MARITAL STATUS Widowed			8. DATE OF BIRTH May 19 1891		
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Work done most of life) Housewife			10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Own Home		
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Minneapolis, Minn			12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY USA		
13. FATHER'S NAME Jeffery J. Brook			14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Emma Mc Spadden		
15. Was Deceased ever in U.S. Armed Forces? (Yes, No or Unknown) (Dates of Service) No			16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None		
17. INFORMANT Perry J. Stearns			18. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c). Lung abscess - pneumonia		
19a. Date of Operation			19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION Encephalomalacia		
21a. ACCIDENT-SUICIDE-HOMICIDE (Specify)			21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, factory, street, etc.)		
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Mo.) 5 (Day) 26 (Yr.) 1954			21e. INJURY OCCURRED (Not at Work) At Work		
21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?					
22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Feb 16, 1954 to May 23 1954 that I last saw the deceased alive on May 22, 1954 and that death occurred at 8 a. m. from the cause and on the date stated above.					
23a. SIGNATURE R. A. Jefferson, M.D.			23b. ADDRESS 208 E. Wisconsin Ave		
24a. BURIAL, CREMATION REMOVAL (Specify) Cremation			24b. DATE 5-26-54		
24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CEMATORIUM Valhalla Cem			24d. LOCATION (City, Town or County) Milwaukee, Wis.		
DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR May 25 54			REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE E R Krumbiegel, M.D.		
25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR M. J Clasen			ADDRESS 2001 W Wisconsin Ave		

Wisconsin Certificate of Death – Mae Belle Brook Stearns

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Local Registrar's No.: 2542

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

County: Milwaukee

City: Milwaukee

Name of hospital or institution: Columbia Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

State: Wisconsin

County: Milwaukee

City or Village: Shorewood

Street No. 4146 N. Murray Ave

3a. FULL NAME: Mae Belle Brook Stearns

4. Date of Death: May 23, 1954

5. Sex: Female

6. Color or Race: White

7. Single, widowed, married, divorced: Widowed

8. Date of Birth: May 19, 1891

9. Age: Years: 63
10a. Usual Occupation: Housewife
10b. Kind of business or industry: Own Home
11. Birthplace: Ironwood, Minneapolis, Minn.
12. Citizen of what country: USA
13. Father's Name: Jeffery J. Brook
14. Mother's Maiden name: Emma McSpadden
15. Was Deceased ever in US Armed forces: No:
16. Social Security No.: None
17. Informant: Perry J. Stearns, Husband
18. Cause of Death: Part I: Lung abscess – pneumonia
Antecedent Causes: Psychosis – due to Encephalomalacia
18 Part II:
19. Was Autopsy Performed: Yes
20. Accident, suicide, homicide: None
21. I certify that I attended the deceased from: Feb 16, 1954 to May 23, 1954 that I last saw the deceased alive on May 22 1954 and that the death occurred at 8 a.m. on the date stated.
23. Signature: R.A. Jefferson, MD,
Address: 208 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Date signed: 5-24-54
23a Burial, Cremation, Removal: Cremation
23b. Date: 5-26-54
23c. Name of Cemetery or Crematory: Valhalla Cemetery
23d. Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
24. Name of Funeral Home: M.J. Clasen, 2001 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Date Rec'd by Local Reg: May 25, 54
Registrar's Signature: E. R. Kumblegel, M.D.
Doc. No. 4056
Filed: June 1, 1954
Register of Deeds

Her obituary was published in the Shorewood Herald.

Obituary

* * *

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Mrs. Mae Belle Brook Stearns, 4146 N. Murray ave., at the Unitarian church, N. Astor and E. Ogden st. She was the wife of Perry J. Stearns, an attorney.

Mrs. Stearns was well known as a member of the Shorewood school board, a post she held for about 10 years. At one time she taught English at Milwaukee-Downer college and Washington high school and was a trustee of Milwaukee-Downer college.

She was a member of the Milwaukee college Endowment assn., the Seven Arts society, the Milwaukee-Downer college Alumni assn., the Ladies of Shorewood, the Ladies of Ivanhoe and the Milwaukee assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant.

Mrs. Stearns died Sunday at Columbia hospital at the age of 63. She is survived by her husband, three sons, Forest W. of Lafayette, Ind.; David, 6055 N. Kent ave., and Perry, Kingsville, Md., and a daughter, Mrs. Carl G. Leyse, Idaho Falls, Ida.

Mae Belle Brook Stearns obituary

Another obituary provided by Carlin is below. It is not known where this was published and appears to be a transcription or possibly a draft.

Mae Belle Brook Stearns, born at Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 19, 1891, youngest child of Jeffrey Jabez Brook and Emma McBadden Brook, his wife. She died at Columbia Hospital, Sunday, May 22, 1954 at 8 A.M. in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She married at Milwaukee, September 14, 1915, Perry Jay Stearns of Milwaukee, son of George Orlo Stearns and Lacy Dings Stearns, his wife. Her children, Forest Walden, of La Fayette, Indiana, David Brook, of Whitefish Bay, Perry Orlo, of Kingsville, Maryland, and Rhodora Adaline (Mrs. Carl F.) Leyse of Idaho Falls, Idaho survive. Her brothers, Harley M. Brook of East Hartford, Conn. and Dr. J.J. Brook of Wauwatosa and sister Rhoda A. Brook of Shorewood survive. Her brother Niles Winfield Brook predeceased her. ~~Her~~ Daughters in law and a son-in-law, nine grandchildren, and nephews and nieces also survive.

She graduated from Milwaukee-Downer College in 1913 and was later a trustee of the college. She taught for one year at Carlisle, Illinois and for a short time assisted in English at Milwaukee-Downer College and Washington High School. She was a member of the school board in the Village of Shorewood for about ten years.

Mae Bell Stearns obituary copy, courtesy Carlin

Mae Belle was buried in Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her footstone is next to the Stearns monument.



Mae Belle Brook Stearns footstone,
Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Perry next married **Agena Kreimann**, daughter of **Herman Kreimann** and **Anna Boockmeier**, on 29 May 1957 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Agena was born on 10 Jul 1893 in Wisconsin, died on 2 May 1990 in St John's Home of Milwaukee, 1840 N Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 96, and was buried on 7 May 1990 in Kiel, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The cause of her death was colon cancer.

The author recalls taking a trip with Perry, Agena and Dave in the spring of 1957. We drove from Milwaukee to St. Louis. It was one of those famous marathon drives with Perry at the wheel. Dave and I were dropped off by Perry and Agena in St. Louis where we stopped to visit my Aunt Rhodora and Uncle Carl. We stayed a few days and took the train back to Milwaukee. We knew Perry and Agena were heading to Mexico for a vacation, but were surprised to learn later that they were married there.

Marriage Of Teacher And Attorney Told

Word has been received in Kiel of the recent marriage of Miss Agena Kreiman and Perry Jay Stearns, Milwaukee attorney. The wedding took place at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, on May 29, with a religious ceremony at Plymouth Congregational Church in Milwaukee on July 2. Dr. Everett McNair was

officiant.

The former Miss Kreiman is well-known in the Kiel area. She is a native of the vicinity and spent her early life there. A graduate of Kiel High School, she taught in public schools in Kiel, Sioux City, Ia., and Minneapolis, Minn. She and her sister, Miss Hulda Kreiman, are homeowners in Kiel and spend vacations and summer months in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Stearns will reside at 4146 Murray Ave., Milwaukee, after their vacation in northern Wisconsin.

Stearns – Kreimann Wedding

Public events in her life were:

Agena appeared on the US Federal census in 1900 in Schleswig, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She is 6 and living with her parents. She is attending school. Her father, Herman, is 36 and her mother, Anna, is 40. Her older sister Hulda is 11. Herman is a farmer and owns a mortgaged farm. He and Anna have been married 11 years or about 1889. Herman's parents are from Germany. Anna was married about age 29. She has borne 2 children with 2 living. Her parents are from Germany. Their neighbor is Ferdinand Kreiman, probably Herman's brother.

Agena appeared on the US Federal census in 1910 in Schleswig, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She is 18, living with her parents and attending school. Her father, Herman, is 47 and her mother Anna is 48. Also living at home is her sister Hulda, 20, and her brother Erwin, 8. Herman is a general farmer and owns his farm free and clear. He and Anna have been married 22 years or about 1888. Herman's parents are from Germany. Anna's parents are from Germany. Anna has borne 3 children with 3 living. Neighbors are Henry Meggers and John Pfeifer.

Agena appeared on the US Federal census in 1920 in 689 28th St., Milwaukee Ward 22, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is 26 and living as a boarder in the home of Maria Raymore. She is single and working as a bookkeeper in a machine shop. Also living as a boarder in the same home is her sister Hulda. Hulda also works as a stenographer at a machine shop, probably the same one as Agena.

Agena appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 living as a lodger in a large unnamed hotel at 327 Tenth Street, Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota. She was enumerated as Agens Kusman. She is 36, single and working as a teacher in public schools. Mr. Linn F. Melaney is the hotel manager.

**THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1927**

**Recent Happenings
Reported At Kiel**

Miss Agena Kreiman, who has been teaching in Minnesota, is enjoying a two-weeks' vacation in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Yellowstone Park.

Miss Agena Kreiman, teacher in Minneapolis, 1927

Miss Agena Kreimann was residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1927 and when her father died on October 16, 1933. Presumably she was still teaching school there. She also was mentioned in 1927 and 1934 as residing in Minneapolis.

**THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS,
THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1934**

The Misses Hulda Kreiman of Milwaukee and Agena Kreiman of Minneapolis, Minn., are spending some time here with their mother, Mrs. Anna Kreiman.

Miss Agena Kreiman was living in Minneapolis in 1934

The obituary of her father gives some good information on the Kreimann family.

Herman F. Kreiman Of Kiel Is Summoned At Home Monday

Kiel. — Herman F. Kreimann, aged 69, well-known Kiel resident passed away at his home at 1104 N. 6th street at 11:20 a. m. Monday, after an illness of several months' duration. For ten days Mr. Kreimann had been a patient at St. Nicholas Hospital, Sheboygan, and for the past sixteen days was under a physician's care at his home here.

Mr. Kreimann, was born on a farm in the Town of New Holstein on November 27, 1863. He was united in marriage to Miss Annie Boockmeier of New Holstein on March 20, 1889, and the couple settled on a farm in Meggers, which they operated until 1917, when they moved to Kiel to their present home. For many years, Mr. Kreimann served as director of the Calumet County Mutual Fire Insurance

company, and also served as first janitor and caretaker of the Kiel City Hall building since its erection in 1927.

Survivors are his wife, three children, Miss Hulda Kreimann, and a son, Erwin Kreimann, both of Milwaukee, and Miss Agena Kreimann, of Minneapolis, Minn., also one granddaughter, Nancy Lee Kreimann, one brother, Ferdinand, of New Holstein, and two sisters, Mrs. Louise Gau, of the Town of Eaton, and Mrs. Bertha Hajenga, of New Holstein.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the family residence at 1104 N. 6th street, and at 2:30 o'clock at St. Peter Reformed church. The Rev. E. L. Worthman will officiate and burial will be made in the Kiel cemetery.

Herman Kreimann, obituary

Herman married **Anna Boockmeier**, which is the best spelling rendition available at this time. Anna's father was **Jurgen Boockmeier**, born on 25 Feb 1820 in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany and her mother was **Anna Kloth**, born on 18 Jan 1832 in Sagau, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Both Anna's parents died in New Holstein, Calumet, Wisconsin. A picture was found of Anna Kloth.



Agena Kreimann's maternal grandmother, Anna Kloth (1832-1887)

Kiel Tri-County Record, 1946

MRS. ANNA KREIMANN DIES IN MILWAUKEE

Mrs. Herman Kreimann, nee Anne Bookmeier, passed away at 4:25 a. m. Sunday at the home of her son, Erwin, in Milwaukee. Mrs. Kreimann accidentally fell down a stairs in her home at 1104 N. 6th st., some months ago, and following the accident was removed to a hospital in Milwaukee, and later to the home of her son.

The deceased was born in the town of New Holstein on Feb. 27, 1861, the daughter of the late Juergen and Anna Bookneier. On March 20, 1889 she was married to Herman Kreimann of the town of Schleswig. The couple lived on a farm in that township until Dec.

21, 1917, when they moved to Kiel. Mr. Kreimann died Oct. 16, 1933.

Survivors are three children: Miss Hulda and Erwin of Milwaukee, and Miss Agena of Minneapolis, Minn.; three grandchildren; a brother, Herman of Los Angeles, Cal., and a sister, Mrs. Maria Thede of Chilton.

Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at the St. Peter Evangelical and Reformed church, with the Rev. E. L. Worthman officiating. Burial was made in the Kiel city cemetery. Pallbearers were Brun, Valentine, Clifford, Filmore and Everett Bookmeier and Ray Thede.

Anna Bookmeier Kreimann Obituary, courtesy Kiel Public Library

Herman's father was **Henry Kreimann**, born about 1838 in Mecklenburg, Germany. Herman's mother was **Mina**, also born in 1838 in Mecklenburg, Germany.

Agena was interested in international affairs and landed a scholarship to the UN in 1948 (before she and Perry were married).

**SHEBOYGAN (WIS.) PRESS,
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1948**

The Misses Hulda and Agena Kreiman spent several days at their home on Sixth street. On Saturday Miss Agena, who for many years has been a high school instructor at Minneapolis, left for New York, where with the privilege of a scholarship which she received, she will study the United Nations. Miss Hulda returned to Milwaukee on Monday to resume her duties as secretary in the office of the Koehring Manufacturing company.

Agena UN scholarship

Perry sold his home on Murray Avenue and he and Agena resided at 709 E. Juneau Avenue from his retirement in 1960 until his death in 1966.

They took a trip to Hawaii in 1962. The following picture documents their visit to the islands.



Perry and Agena in Hawaii, 1962
[Perry is wearing a bolo tie instead of a lei]

Perry and Agena traveled to Cambridge for his class of 1913 50th Harvard reunion. They also attended Agena's reunion at the Milwaukee State Normal School. The trip was noted in the Sheboygan Press.

THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS.
Saturday, June 8, 1963

**Couple Plans
To Attend Two
50-Year Reunions**

KIEL — Mr. and Mrs. Perry Stearns and Miss Hulda Kreimann, Milwaukee, are spending about two weeks at their home here. On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Stearns will attend the 50-year class reunion of Mrs. Stearn's, the former Agena Kreimann, from the University of Wisconsin Extension at Milwaukee, then known as the Milwaukee State Normal School.

On Monday morning they will fly to Boston where they will attend the 50-year class reunion of Mr. Stearns' class from Harvard University Law School.

While in the East they will visit Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia.

Perry and Agena to attend Harvard reunion

Agena kept notes on their trip and wrote a nice 4 page summary of the events of that summer. The letter is too long to include here but is found in the Appendix.

They had their picture taken at Harvard.



Perry and Agena at the Harvard 50th reunion, class of 1913.

Perry died three years later in June of 1966. According to the Social Security Death Index, his last Residence was in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. His SSN was issued in Wisconsin (1959-1960)

His death certificate follows and is transcribed below:

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH									State Death No.		UNCERTIFIED COPY NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY		
Local Registrar's No. 3193		1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Milwaukee				2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If hospital, residence before admission) a. STATE Wisconsin b. COUNTY Milwaukee							
Please Cooperate: Use black ink to initial or stamp a photo copy of this record for legal purposes. Type if possible.		b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Milwaukee		c. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY OR TOWN LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		d. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Milwaukee		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY OR TOWN LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>					
		d. HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital, give street address) Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee.		e. LENGTH OF STAY lb		e. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give mailing address) 709 East Juneau Avenue		f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
3		3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print) Perry		a. (First) Perry b. (Middle) J c. (Last) Stearns		4. DATE OF DEATH June 21, 1966							
Reserved for Coding		5. SEX Male		6. COLOR OR RACE White		7. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>		8. DATE OF BIRTH November 25, 1890		9. AGE (In years last birthday) 75			
Hospital		10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Attorney at Law		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Private Practice		11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Grand Island, Nebraska		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA					
Residence		13. FATHER'S NAME George O. Stearns		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Lacy Dings		15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) No		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.			17. INFORMANT Mrs. Agena Stearns		
Age		17a. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE, IF ALIVE Agena Stearns		17b. AGE OF HUSBAND OR WIFE, IF ALIVE									
Acc. Co.		18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b) and (c).) PART I DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:		IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Cerebral Thrombosis, Multiple, recurrent		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH several years							
Acc. Place		Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause of death (a), stating the underlying cause last.		DUE TO (b) Arteriosclerosis, Severe, Generalized		Dermal Gran.							
Local—Cause of death 1-2-11A				DUE TO (c) Arterio sclerotic heart disease with failure		Derm. Gran.							
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION		PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a) Diabetes Mellitus									19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		20a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of Item 18.)		20c. TIME OF INJURY DOC. No. 5326		Hour, Month, Day, Year a.m.					
		20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT NOT WHILE WORK <input type="checkbox"/> AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g. In or about house, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)		20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION FILED June 24, 1966		COUNTY STATE					
		21. I attended the deceased from 1960 to 6/21/66 and last saw him alive on 6/20/66				REGISTER OF DEEDS							
		Death occurred at 3:30 A.M. on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.											
		22a. SIGNATURE Owen Royce (Degree or title) M.D.		22b. ADDRESS 1925 E. Wisconsin Milwaukee		22c. DATE SIGNED 6/20/66							
		23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		23b. DATE June 23, 1966		23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIUM Valhalla Cemetery		23d. LOCATION (City, town or county) Milwaukee, Wisconsin			(State)		
		DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. C JUN 21 1966		REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE J.R. Krumbeegel MD		25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE Gerald Glanz Jr.							

Wisconsin Certificate of Death – Perry Jay Stearns

WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Local Registrar's No.: 3193

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

County: Milwaukee

City: Milwaukee

Name of hospital or institution: Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

State: Wisconsin

County: Milwaukee

City or Village: Milwaukee

Street No. 709 East Juneau Avenue

3a. FULL NAME: Perry J Stearns

4. Date of Death: June 21, 1966

5. Sex: Male

6. Color or Race: White

7. Single, widowed, married, divorced: Married

8. Date of Birth: November 25, 1890

9. Age: Years: 75

10a. Usual Occupation: Attorney at Law
10b. Kind of business or industry: Private Practice
11. Birthplace: Ironwood, Grand Island, Nebraska
12. Citizen of what country: USA
13. Father's Name: George O. Stearns
14. Mother's Maiden name: Lacy Dings
15. Was Deceased ever in US Armed forces: No:
16. Social Security No.: None
17. Informant: Mrs. Agena Stearns, Wife
17a. Name of Husband or Wife if alive: Agena Stearns
18. Cause of Death: Part I: Cerebral Thrombosis, Multiple recurrent, several years
Due to Arteriosclerosis, severe, generalized, several years
Due to Atherosclerotic Heart Disease with failure, several years
18 Part II: Other Significant Conditions: Diabetes Mellitus
19. Was Autopsy Performed: --
20. Accident, suicide, homicide: None
21. I certify that I attended the deceased from: 1960 to 6/21/66 that I last saw the deceased alive on 6/20/66 and that the death occurred at 3:30 a.m. on the date stated.
23. Signature: ? Royse, MD,
Address: 425 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Date signed: 6/21/66
23a Burial, Cremation, Removal: Burial
23b. Date: June 23, 1966
23c. Name of Cemetery or Crematory: Valhalla Cemetery
23d. Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
24. Name of Funeral Home: Fred C Fass & Son Company, 3601 North Oakland Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
Funeral Director Signature: ? Claus Jr.
Date Rec'd by Local Reg: Jun 21, 1966
Registrar's Signature: E. R. Kumblegel, M.D.
Doc. No. 5326
Filed: June 24, 1966
Register of Deeds

An article was found concerning his death in the Sheboygan Press.

Obituaries

Perry Stearns Dies; Former GOP Candidate

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Attorney Perry J. Stearns, an unsuccessful candidate four times for the U.S. Senate and twice for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, died today at Lutheran Hospital.

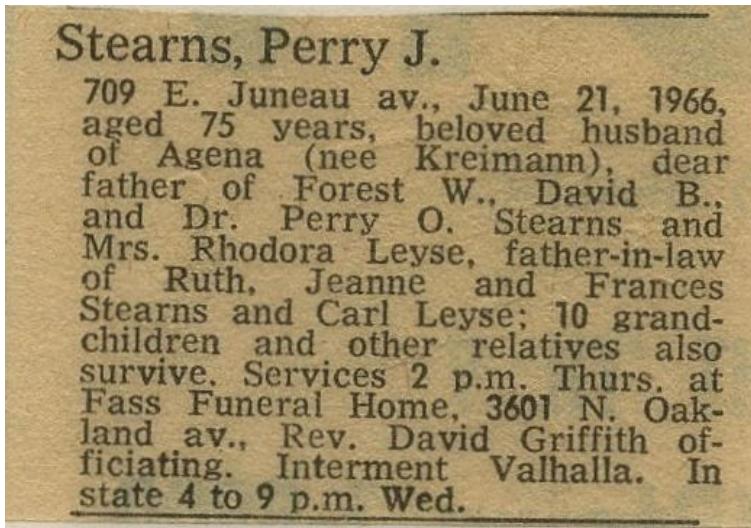
Stearns, 75, had suffered a series of strokes and had been hospitalized since Feb. 3.

He was active in Republican politics for many years and first sought his party's senatorial nomination in 1944. He ran again for that post in 1946 and 1952. In 1950, when he was two minutes late in filing nomination papers, Stearns ran for the Senate as an independent.

Sheboygan Press obituary, Perry Stearns

Perry was known statewide from his various campaigns for the Senate and presidency hence many papers carried notices of his death.

A more personal obituary was published in the local Milwaukee paper, probably the Journal.



Perry J. Stearns, obituary (probably Milwaukee Journal)

His son, David Stearns, wrote an obituary draft, but it is not known whether it was ever published. It may have been published in the Shorewood Herald but no copy is in hand at this time.

OBIT – PERRY J. STEARNS

6/16/66

Perry J. Stearns, 75, a leading Milwaukee attorney from 1916 until his retirement in 1960, died this morning at Lutheral Hospital. Mr. Stearns, for many years a resident of Shorewood, lived at 709 E. Juneau Avenue since his retirement. He was born at Grand Island, Nebraska in 1890.

Active in Republican Party politics, Mr. Stearns ran twice for the office of United States Senator, in primary elections against former Senator Joseph McCarthy. In 1946 against McCarthy he ran strong polling votes.

Mr. Stearns was a graduate of Harvard University in the Class of 1913 and Harvard Law School in 1916. Immediately after law school he joined the old Upham, Black, Russell & Richardson firm where he practiced law until 1945.

Mr. Stearns was active in the State and American Bar Associations and served on the Legal Advisory Board in World War II. He was active in the American Interprofessional Institute and in the Masonic groups. He was a member of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee.

His first wife, the former Mae Belle Brook, passed away in 1954. In 1957 he married Agena Kreimann who survives him, as do three sons, Forest of Rhinelander, David of Whitefish Bay, and Dr. Perry O. Stearns of Philadelphia, Pa., and one daughter, Mrs. Carl (Rhodora) Leyse of Placerville, California.

The funeral will be held at 2 P.M. Thursday at the Fass Funeral Home, 3601 N. Oakland Avenue, Shorewood. The body will be at the funeral home from 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. Wednesday. Burial will be at Valhalla.

An obituary was found that was published in The Herald, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin on June 30, 1966, but it appears not to be the same as the above draft written by Dave.

Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin

THE HERALD, Thursday, June 30, 1966 Page 8

Funeral services for Attorney Perry J. Stearns, 75, 709 E. Juneau ave., longtime Shorewood resident, who died June 21 at Lutheran hospital, Milwaukee, after a series of strokes, were held Thursday at the Fass funeral home. Burial was in Valhalla cemetery.

Some years ago, Shorewood purchased the Stearns home on N. Murray ave. for its "Remodel home" project, which spurred considerable remodeling of older Shorewood homes.

Active in Republican politics for a number of years, Mr. Stearns was an unsuccessful candidate four times for the United States Senate; twice for the state supreme court, and once for president.

A native of Grand Island, Neb., he came to Milwaukee with his family as a child. He was graduated from Harvard University in 1913 and from the Harvard Law

school in 1916.

Mr. Stearns practiced law with the firm of Richardson, Reeder, Stearns and Weldner until 1945. From that time until his retirement in 1960 he was in private law practice.

Active in Masonic affairs for many years, he was awarded the Masonic Knight of York cross in 1933.

A life member of the State Historical society of Wisconsin, a charter member of the American Interprofessional Institute, Mr. Stearns was also a life member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Wisconsin.

A son, David, 1142 E. Sylvan ave., is former Milwaukee county Republican chairman.

Other survivors include his wife, Agena; two other sons, Forrest, Rhinelander, and Dr. Perry, Philadelphia, and a daughter, Mrs. Carl Loyce, Placerville, Cal.

Perry J. Stearns, obituary – Whitefish Bay Herald, June 30, 1966

Perry is buried next to George Orlo Stearns in Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (see picture of Stearns monument in Chapter 3 – George Orlo).

Agena lived for a number of years following Perry's death. She was a kind woman and always treated Perry's family and grandchildren with love and respect. The author visited her several times when she moved to the St. John's Home in Milwaukee.



Agena, 1975. Possibly her 82nd birthday

Forest Stearns wrote a letter to his brother Dave about the news of her death. He indicated that her death notice was to be published in the Kiel paper. Carlin provided a copy of this obituary.

Friday May 4, 1990

Stearns, Agena K.

At St. John's Home, May 2, 1990, age 95 yrs.
Wife of the late Perry J. Stearns. Sister-in-law of
Ethel Schaefer, Bradenton, FL. Dear Aunt of
James Kreimann, Milwaukee. Patricia (James)
Orr, Carbondale, IL and Nancy (Thomas) Harney
of Pearl City, Oahu, Hawaii. Other relatives also
survive. CLOSED CASKET. Friends may greet
the family from 2 to 4 PM Saturday at FASS
FUNERAL HOME, 3601 N. Oakland, Shorewood
Ave. Interment Kiel, WI. Memorials to American
Cancer Society in lieu of flowers appreciated.
Member Plymouth United Church of Christ, Kiel
Chapter Order of Eastern Star and member of
Milwaukee Chapter of United Nations.

Agena Stearns obituary, courtesy Carlin

David and Mary Joan
1230 Parkway Drive
Mt.Pleasant, S.C. 29464

3040 Sorenson Road
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-362-2048

May 2, 1990

Dear Dave and Mary Joan:

Jim Kreiman (Agena's nephew) phoned us this evening to say that Agena died at 1:30 this afternoon in her room at St. John's Home. She had been in poor condition for several months and was deteriorating rapidly when we last saw her several weeks ago. She had recognized us but was barely able to communicate. Her cancer had spread from the original site in the colon into her lungs and was complicated by pneumonia. Her cousin, Edith Quade of Milwaukee, visited her regularly and had phoned us last night to report that her condition was worsening.

Jim said that there will be no funeral- at Agena's request made 5 years ago- just visitation with closed casket at the Fass Funeral Home on Saturday afternoon and burial at Kiel on Monday. She was 96 years old and was looking forward to her 97th on July 10.

We trust all is going well with you. The weather here has been playing games. Last week most days were in the 80's and this week in the 40's with a low last night of 20 F. Fortunately most leaves that are barely emerged have good supplies of antifreeze (sugars) and so far no damage. Still the weather brought an early crop of blackflies and some butterflies. The usual chores plus work in the basement and frequent travel to UWM seem to be all we can manage. We need rain badly , perhaps it will arrive next week.

It was good to talk with you last night. We got the information to Edith Q. just in time- she will see that the notice gets into the Kiel paper. I spent the day painting in the basement but at least that showed some progress. Do you still have the Richmond house also?

All our best wishes for a good trip and a pleasant and productive stay in RIO.

Forest and Ruth

Another obituary was found and is probably the one spoken above in Forest's letter. It was published in Kiel by the Kiel Tri-County Record.

Obituaries

Agena Stearns

Agena Kreimann Stearns, 96, a resident of St. John's Home, Milwaukee, passed away Wednesday, May 2.

She was born in Kiel in 1893, the daughter of Herman Frederick and Anna Boeckmeier Kreimann. She attended the Schleswig school and later graduated as the valedictorian of the Kiel High School Class of 1911.

She earned her teaching degree from Milwaukee Normal School, then returned to Kiel to teach. Later, Mrs. Stearns achieved a four-year degree and went on to teach in Sioux City, Iowa and the Minneapolis area.

Obituary – Agena Kreimann Stearns

Agena's death certificate was obtained. It shows she died at St. John's Home of Milwaukee, 1840 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee on May 2, 1990 at age 96 of "metastatic carcinoma of colon".

2630

<small>DOH 560 Rev. 6/89 Chap. 69, Wis. Stats.</small>			STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH											
<small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Print <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Back <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Without <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erasures <small>Reserved for Corrections & Amendments</small> </small>			UNCERTIFIED COPY NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES											
			STATELINE DATE STATE DEATH NO.			4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE <small>Mo. Day Yr.</small>			4b. HOUR <small>Hour 24+ hours after death</small>			5. BODY FOUND <small>Mo. Day Yr.</small>		
1. DECEDENT'S NAME: Agena K. STEARNS			2. SEX <small>M F</small>			3. SOC. SEC. NUMBER OF DECEDENT <small>332-30-1425</small>			4b. (CHECK ONE) <small>1:15 P M Y N</small>			5. BODY FOUND <small>1:15 P M Y N</small>		
6a. AGE (years) 6b. Month <small>96 July 10, 1893</small>			7. DATE OF BIRTH <small>Mo. Day Yr.</small>			8a. COUNTY OF DEATH <small>Milwaukee</small>			8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP <small>Milwaukee</small>			11a. HOSPITAL (AND CAMPUS) OR NURSING HOME <small>St. John's Home of Milwaukee</small>		
9. DEATH AT HOSPITAL <small>1: Input 3. DOA-From Nur. Hm. 5. DOA-From Other 2. Output 4. ER-From Nur. Hm. 6. ER-From Other</small>			10. OTHER PLACE <small>N.H. Other Res. of deceased</small>			11a. HOSPITAL (AND CAMPUS) OR NURSING HOME <small>(If not Hospital or Nursing Home give street address)</small>			11b. NURSING HOME LICENSE NO. <small>2611</small>			12. MARITAL STATUS <small>Married Divorced Widowed</small>		
13a. RESIDENCE STATE <small>Wisconsin</small>			13b. RESIDENCE COUNTY <small>Milwaukee</small>			13c. RESIDENCE-INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP <small>Milwaukee</small>			13d. (CHECK ONE) <small>City Village Township</small>			14a. NUMBER, STREET <small>1840 North Prospect Avenue</small>		
15. STATE OF BIRTH (Country First in U.S.) <small>Wisconsin</small>			16. FATHER'S NAME: Herman Kreimann			17. MOTHER'S NAME: Anna Bockmeier			18. RACE (e.g. White, Black, Am. Indian, etc.) <small>White</small>			19. HISPANIC ORIGIN? Specify Cuban, Mexican, etc. <small>[X] No</small>		
21. EDUCATION <small>Highest grade completed Elementary School College (13-1)</small>			22. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <small>[X] No</small>			23. SURVIVING SPOUSE (if wife, give birth surname, not married surname) (First, Middle, Last) <small>None</small>			20a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Do not enter "Retired") <small>Elementary Teacher</small>			20b. KIND OF BUSINESS / INDUSTRY <small>Public School Systems</small>		
24a. INFORMANT'S NAME <small>James E. Kreimann</small>			24b. MAILING ADDRESS <small>1308 East Randolph Court</small>			24c. CITY/VILLAGE <small>Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212</small>			27. LOCATION City/Village/Township <small>Kiel, Wisconsin</small>			28. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE/LICENSEE <small>May 3, 1990</small>		
25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION <small>Burial Cemetery Burial</small>			26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) <small>Kiel Cemetery</small>			29. DATE RECEIVED FROM MED. CERT. <small>May 9, 1990</small>								
30a. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE (or person acting as such) <small>[Signature]</small>			30b. WI LICENSE NO. <small>3380</small>			31. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY (Street and Number, City, State, ZIP) <small>F.C. Fass & Son Company 3601 North Oakland Avenue; Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211</small>			38. DATE OF DEATH (Mo. Day, Yr.) <small>May 2, 1990</small>			39. DATE OF INJURY (Mo. Day, Yr.) <small>1. [X] Natural 4. [] Homicide</small>		
CERTIFIER <small>[Check One]</small>			34. AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <small>[X] Yes [] No</small>			40. HOUR OF INJURY <small>M</small>								
35a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S SIGNATURE <small>[Signature]</small>			35b. DATE SIGNED (Mo. Day, Yr.) <small>5-7-90</small>			41. PLACE OF INJURY (Home, Street, Farm, etc.) <small>Specify</small>			42. INJURY AT WORK? <small>[] YES [] NO</small>					
36a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S NAME <small>Dr. Parks LeTellier</small>			36b. WI LICENSE NUMBER (If Physician) <small>11402</small>			43a. LOCATION Street or RFD, City or Vill., and State in which injury occurred <small></small>			43b. COUNTY <small></small>					
37. CERTIFIER'S MAILING ADDRESS (Street, & Number, City, State, ZIP) <small>2222 North Mayfair Road; Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226</small>			44. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE <small>[Signature]</small>			45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo. Day, Yr.) <small>MAY 11 1990</small>			PART II <small>Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in underlying cause given in Part I.</small>					
46. PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock or heart failure. List only one cause on each line. Do not list old age or senility as sole cause.														
IMMEDIATE CAUSE → <i>Metastatic carcinoma of colon</i> <small>(Final disease or condition resulting in death.)</small>														
Sequential list conditions if any, leading to immediate cause. ENTER UNDERLYING CAUSE LAST. (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death)														
47. IF INJURY, DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED.														

Wisconsin Death Certificate – Agena Kreimann Stearns

The transcription follows (items not filled out are omitted):

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
 ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 LOCAL FILE NUMBER: 2630

1. DECEDENT'S NAME: Agena K. Stearns
2. SEX: F
3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF DECEDENT: 332-30-1425
- 4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: May 2, 1990
- 4b. HOUR: 1:15 PM
5. BODY FOUND 24+ Hours after death: N
- 6a. AGE: 96
7. DATE OF BIRTH: July 10, 1893
- 8a. COUNTY OF DEATH: Milwaukee
- 8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILL., TOWNSHIP: Milwaukee
- 8c. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: City
10. OTHER PLACE: N.H.
- 11a. HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME: St. John's Home of Milwaukee
- 11b. NURSING HOME LICENSE NO.: 2611
12. MARITAL STATUS: Widowed
- 13a. RESIDENCE STATE: Wisconsin

- 13b. RESIDENCE COUNTY: Milwaukee
13c. RESIDENCE-INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Milwaukee
13d. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: City
14a. NUMBER, STREET: 1840 North Prospect Avenue
14b. ZIP CODE: 53202
15. STATE OF BIRTH: Wisconsin
16. FATHER'S NAME: Herman Kreimann
17. MOTHER'S NAME: Anna Boockmeier
18. RACE: White
19. HISPANIC ORIGIN: No
20a. USUAL OCCUPATION: Elementary Teacher
20b. KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY: Public School Systems
21. EDUCATION HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED: College 4
22. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES: No
23 SURVIVING SPOUSE: None
24a. INFORMANT'S NAME: James E. Kreimann
24b. MAILING ADDRESS: 1308 East Randolph Court, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION: Burial
26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION: Kiel Cemetery
27. LOCATION: Kiel, Wisconsin
28. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: May 3, 1990
29. DATE RECEIVED FROM MED. CENTER: May 9, 1990
30a. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: Garth Claus Jr.
30b WI. LICENSE NO.: 3380
31 NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY: F.C. Fass & Son, 3601 North Oakland Avenue; Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211
32. MEDICAL CERTIFIER
 CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN - To the best of my knowledge death was pronounced and occurred at the time(s) and due to the cause stated.
33. DATE OF DEATH May 2, 1990
34. AUTOPSY PERFORMED: No
35a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER SIGNATURE & TITLE: Parks LeTellier M.D.
35b. DATE SIGNED: May 7, 1990
36a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S NAME: Dr. Parks LeTellier
36b. WI. LICENSE NUMBER (IF PHYSICIAN): 11402
37. CERTIFIER'S MAILING ADDRESS: 2222 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226
38. MANNER OF DEATH: Natural
44. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE: Pueliw Narvis?
45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR: May 11 1990
46. PART I. a. IMMEDIATE CAUSE: Metastatic Carcinoma of Colon, 1 yr.

She was buried in the Kiel Cemetery in Kiel, Wisconsin. The informant was her nephew James E. Kreimann of 1308 E. Randolph Ct., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He states Agena's parents to be Herman Kreimann and Anna Boockmeier.

Chapter 5 – Forest Walden Stearns

Eleventh Generation Children of Perry Jay and Mae Belle Stearns



Forest, rear, L to R: Dave, Rhodora, Perry, courtesy Carlin Stearns Raith

16394231111. Forest Walden Stearns (*Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 10 Sep 1918 at Mt. Sinai

Hospital, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and died on 8 Sep 1999 in Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin at age 80.

The birth registration is transcribed below followed by the certificate:

Vol 714 Page 227

Registration of Births

No. 11906

PLACE OF BIRTH

County of: Milwaukee

Township, or Village, or City of: Milwaukee

No. Mt. Sinai Hosp. 246 – 12th St.; 2 Ward

Full name of child: Forest Walden Stearns

Date of birth: Sept. 10, 1918

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

Stillborn: No

Was child deformed or physically defective? No

Nature of Defect:

Sex of child: Male

Color or Race: White

Twin, Triplet or other:

Number in order of birth:

Legitimate: Yes

FATHER

Full name: Perry J. Stearns

Residence: 492 Oakland Ave.

Color: White

Age at last birthday: 27

Birthplace: Nebraska

Occupation: Lawyer

MOTHER

Full maiden name: Ma Belle Brook

Residence: same

Color or Race: White

Age at last birthday: 27

Birthplace: Minnesota

Occupation: Housewife

Number of Child of this mother: 1

Number of children of this mother now living: 1

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on Tues. Sept. 10 1918, at 7:19 A.M.

Signature: G.H. Fellman

Address: Majestic Bldg.

Filed: Sept. 13, 1918

Local Registrar: Geo C Rukland M.D.

Recorded: Oct 16, 1918

Edw. H. Mueller, Register

Registration of Births.

PLACE OF BIRTH
 County of Milwaukee No. 11906

Township of _____
 or _____
 Village of _____
 or _____
 City of Milwaukee

No. Art. Sinai Hospt. 246-12th St. 2 Ward _____

Full Name of Child Forest Walden Stearns

Date of Birth Sept. 10 1918

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

Stillborn: Yes or No.	<u>No</u>	Was child deformed or physically defective? Yes or No.	<u>No</u>	Nature of defect:
Sex of Child	<u>Male</u>	Color or Race of Child	<u>White</u>	Twin, Triplet, or other?
			and	Number in order of birth
			<u>Yes</u>	
FATHER		MOTHER		
Full Name <u>Perry J. Stearns</u>		Full Maiden Name <u>Ma Belle Brook</u>		
Residence <u>492 Oakland Ave.</u>		Residence <u>same</u>		
Color or Race <u>White</u> , Age at Last Birthday <u>27</u> Years		Color or Race <u>White</u> , Age at Last Birthday <u>27</u> Years		
Birthplace <u>Nebraska</u> State or Country		Birthplace <u>Minnesota</u> State or Country		
Occupation <u>Sawyer</u>		Occupation <u>Houswife</u>		
Number of Child of this Mother?	<u>1</u>	Number of Children of this Mother, now living?	<u>1</u>	1. What prevention for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? <u>silver nitrate</u> 2. If none, why?

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on Tues. Sept. 10

1918 at 7:19 a.m.

(Signature) G. H. Fellman

{ When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return.

Given name added from a supplemental report

UNCERTIFIED COPY
FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES

Physician or Midwife

Address Majestic Blg.

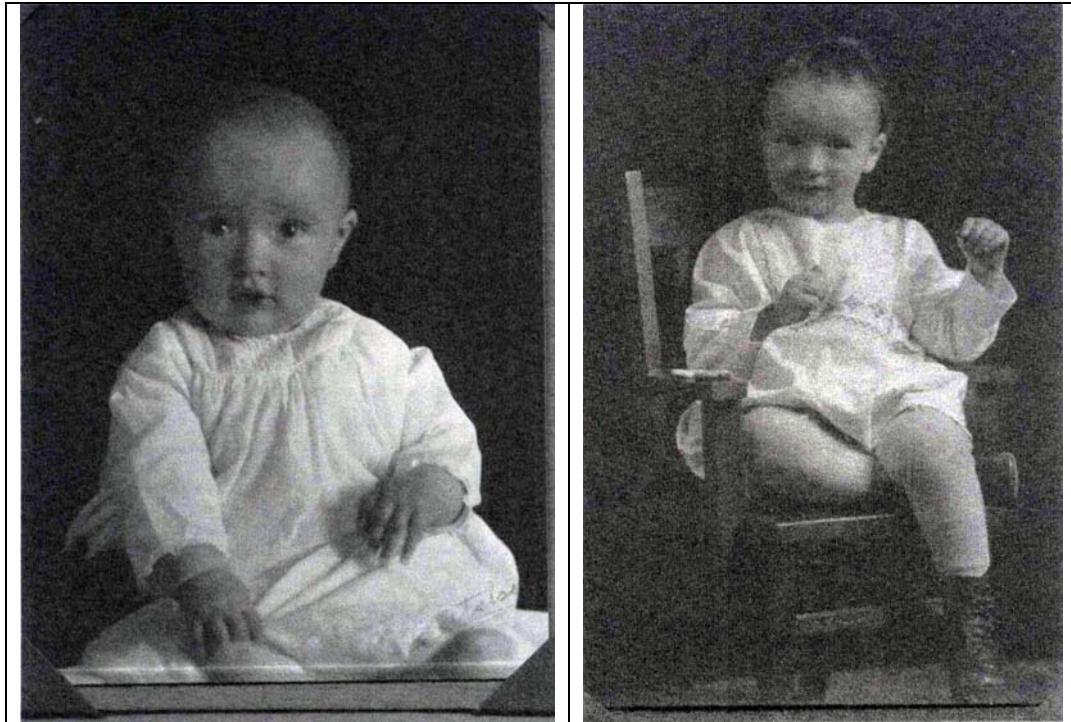
Filed Sept. 13, 1918

Geo C Ruckland A.A.
Local Registrar

Recorded Oct 16-1918

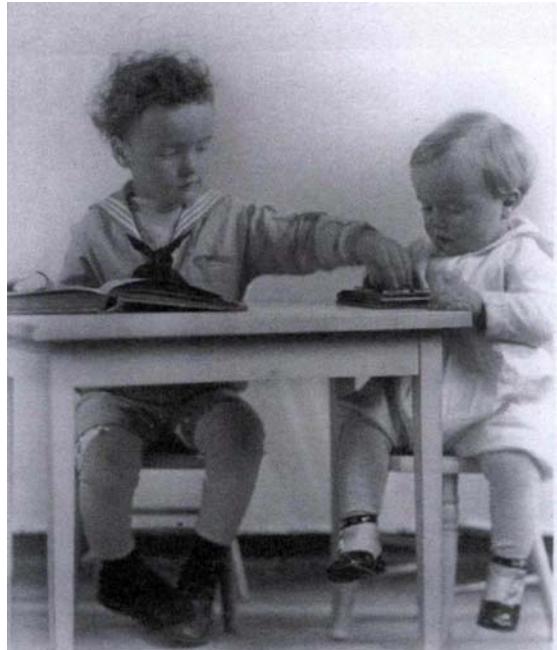
Edu. H. Mueller
Register

Registration of Birth – Forest Walden Stearns



Forest at about 1 year and 2 years, courtesy Carlin

Forest Walden was named after Thoreau's Walden Pond, a favorite spot of his parents while they lived in Cambridge during the time Perry was attending Harvard Law School. Forest was born about two years after Perry and Mae Belle returned from Harvard to Milwaukee.



Forest with brother Dave, courtesy Carlin



Forest and brother Dave (in wagon) in front of Murray Ave home, 1923

Forest was very active in scouting. It is not known if his father had anything to do with Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts of America were founded in 1910, about 8 years before Forest was born. His father, Perry J., loved the outdoors and took his sons on hikes with the YMCA and the "Sunday Afternoon Club" (see Chapter 5, David Stearns). Perry probably was very supportive of scouting. Forest led the way

and both his brothers joined when they were old enough. Forest became an eagle scout as did his brother David.

A picture of Forest with his two brothers is shown below. It was probably taken at their home on Murray Avenue.



**From back to front: Forest, David and Perry.
The picture is not dated, but appears to be from about 1926-27 and is most
likely at the Murray Avenue home.**

Forest grew up in Shorewood, Wisconsin and attended Lake Bluff Grade School. He then attended Shorewood High School and graduated in 1935.

During his grade school and high school years, Forest and the family benefited greatly from his father's purchase of 500 feet of high ground lake frontage on Found Lake in northern Wisconsin. The property was purchased from two Alaskan men who built and repaired motorized

launches used on some of the larger lakes in the area for logging operations. At one time the museum at Sayner, Wisconsin had a restored motor launch similar to those thought to have been used by the Alaskan brothers. It still may be there.

There was a small cottage that came with the Found Lake property as well as a large boat house that housed the launches. A picture of the cottage as it was in 1982 is shown below.



Found Lake cottage once owned by Stearns family

Not much has changed in the years that Perry J and later, his children, owned the property other than Forest's purchase of the bog acreage behind the cabin. The cottage and about 9 acres of land was sold to one of Forest's colleagues, Dr. Gene Likens, in 1985 or thereabouts.

A picture of Forest, David and Perry on one of the old rowboats in Found Lake follows.



**Dave with net, 7 yrs, Forest rowing, 9 yrs and Perry, 4.
The old rowboat was still in use throughout the 1950-60's**



**Perry Jay with sons Forest, David and Perry and daughter Rhodora
Found Lake circa 1930, courtesy Carlin**

A picture of Forest with his mother Mae Belle, was probably taken when Forest was about 18 or 20. He may have already been in college.



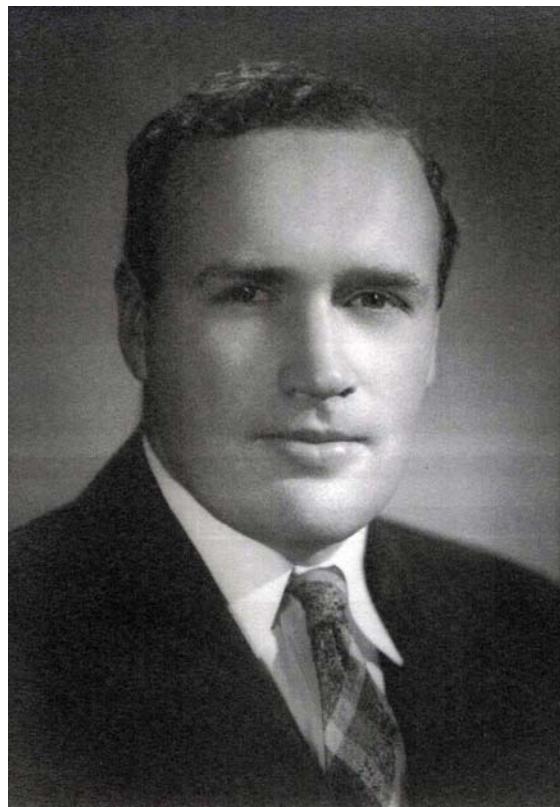
Forest and mother, Mae Belle, circa 1936-38

Forest spent several summers as a camp counselor at Boy Scout Camp Quinapoxet in New Hampshire. He was Director of Handicraft where he began to hone his lifetime hobby of photography. His brother Dave accompanied him and worked there on the waterfront in 1938.



Perry, Forest, Mae Belle and David at Murray Ave. about summer 1938.

Forest graduated from Harvard with a Bachelors degree in 1939.



Forest Stearns, Harvard graduation portrait, 1939, courtesy Carlin

In 1940 he served as a field assistant in malaria research, employed by Marquette University. He then returned to Wisconsin and began graduate studies in botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He graduated with a Master of Science degree in Botany in 1940. He served as a Biology instructor from 1940-42. He started working towards his Ph.D. when WWII began.

About six months after Pearl Harbor, Forest enlisted in the US Army. The public record contains the following information:

Forest W. enlisted in the Army as a private, Warrant Officers Branch on 29 Jun 1942 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was born in 1918. He is single with no dependants. He has 4 years of college. His civil occupation is listed as actor or director or entertainer. He is 66 inches tall and weighs 175 lbs.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration. U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Forest probably had an interest in photography hence being categorized by the army as actor, director or entertainer. He did become involved in aerial photography. An undated news clipping explains further:

Forest W. Stearns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry J. Stearns, 4146 N. Murray av., Shorewood, has been graduated from a photography school of the army air force technical training command at New Haven, Conn., and commissioned a second lieutenant.

Forest and his brother Dave met up in December of 1942, likely while both were on leave. The following photograph appears to have been taken in Milwaukee, possibly at Murray Avenue. Dave was a naval cadet stationed at Glenview Naval Air Station at the time.



Forest and Dave Stearns, Dec. 1942

Forest married **Hope Carlin Hartley**, daughter of **Carl Pierce Hartley** and **Maybell Clarice Sears**, on 24 Apr 1943 in Washington, D.C. Hope was born on 14 Feb 1920 in Buitenzorg, Java, Dutch East Indies and died on 28 Sep 1953 in Lafayette, Indiana at age 33.

Her father, Carl, was born in Lincoln, Nebraska 7 Apr 1887 and died in Dec 1968. He is buried in the Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska. Maybell was born on 2 May 1885 in Aurora, Hamilton, Nebraska and died 16 Apr 1957 in Washington D.C.



Hope Hartley and Forest Stearns Portrait, 1943, courtesy Carlin

Her father was a plant pathologist for the US Forest Service. Carl graduated in 1907 from the University of Nebraska and received his Masters degree in 1909, also from Nebraska. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California – Berkeley. Maybell attended the Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts.

Hope was born in Buitenzorg, Indonesia while her father was working there as a plant pathologist for the Indonesian government. The Hartley family applied for a passport renewal in 1921 at the American

Embassy in Batavia, Java. Their family photo was attached to the application.



Hartley Passport Photo, 1921



Hope Hartley (left) in Java, Indonesia 1922, age 2, courtesy Carlin

They returned to the US on 9 May 1923 and went to Washington, D.C. where Carl continued to work for the US Office of Forest Pathology, Dept of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Hope probably graduated from high school in Washington, D.C.



Hope Hartley, high school graduation picture, courtesy Carlin

Hope graduated from the University of Wisconsin and accepted a teaching assistantship in Botany from Duke in 1942. It seems likely that Forest and Hope met at Wisconsin. They were probably married in Washington, D.C. where Hope's parents lived.

Children from this marriage were:

16394231111. Carlin Adeline Stearns, F, b. 21 Jan 1944,
Brigham City, Utah

16394231112. Andrea Brook Stearns, F, b. 19 Apr 1945
Washington, D.C.

16394231113. Jay Hartley Stearns, M, b. 2 Nov 1948 Indiana

Several pictures were taken of Forest, Hope, her parents and Dave and Jeanne Stearns who came to the wedding. Dave and Jeanne had just been married a few days earlier.



Forest and Hope, Washington, D.C. April, 1943



Forest, Hope, Maybell and Carl Hartley, Washington, D.C., April, 1943

Public events in their lives were:

Forest appeared on the US Federal census in 1920 in 492 Oakland Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is 1 yr and 3 months old and living with his parents. His father, Perry J, is 29 and his mother Mae Belle is 28 years old. Perry owns his home and is working as an attorney at law. His father was born in Illinois and his mother in New York. Mae Belle is not employed. Her father is from England and her mother from Minnesota.

In 1920, the Hartley family was living in Indonesia. Carl and Maybell left San Francisco for Indonesia on October 18, 1919. Hope was born there in 1920 and the whole family returned to the US via New York on 9 May 1923. They went to live in Washington, D.C.

Forest appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in 1472 Murray Ave., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is 11, living with his parents and attending school. His father Perry is 39 and his mother Mae Belle is 39 years old. Also in the household are his brothers David, 9, and Perry O, 6, and his sister Rhodora, 4 years and 3 months old. Perry is a lawyer with a law firm and owns his home worth \$9000. He was first married at age 24 or about 1915. His father is from Illinois and his mother from New York. Mae Belle is not employed. Her father is from England and her mother from Minnesota. Their neighbors are Wilhelm Becker and Arthur Schroeder.

Hope C appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in 1123 Buchanan St., Washington, Washington, District of Columbia. She is 10, living with her parents and attending school. Her father, Carl, is 42 and her mother, Maybell S, is 44. Also in the household is her sister Blythe M, 4 years and 5 months old. Carl works as a botanist for the US Government. Maybell is not employed. They own their home worth \$12,500. Carl was first married at age 24 and Maybell at age 26 which is about 1912. Carl's father is from Ohio and his mother from Michigan. Maybell's father is from Illinois and her mother from Iowa. Carl did not serve in the military.

Forest served as an air reconnaissance officer and was involved with aerial photo interpretation. He was stationed in Utah and Europe. While stateside, Forest and Hope had their first child, Carlin, born in Utah in 1944. According to a letter he sent home to Perry and Mae Belle in November, 1945, he was stationed in Munich, Germany. He served in three capacities; still photography officer, technical supply officer and photo interpreter.



From left: Rhoda Brook, Forest, Mae Belle Brook Stearns, Carl Hartley, Lacy Dings Stearns holding Carlin, Perry Stearns, Hope Hartley Stearns.
Picture taken July, 1944, probably in Wisconsin.

Following the war, Forest resumed his studies at the University of Wisconsin and received his Ph.D. in plant ecology in 1947 (a seminal study of hardwoods in northern Wisconsin).

After graduation, Forest took a position as assistant Professor of Biology at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana where he worked from 1947 to 1955. His brother, Dave, visited Forest in Purdue. The plane in the background is probably a DC-3.



**Forest and Dave in Lafayette, Indiana, circa early 1950s.
Sign on hanger in background states "Purdue University Airport".**

Forest's wife Hope died in Lafayette, Indiana on 28 September 1953 at the age of 33 years. They had been married 10 years.

A funeral notice was published in the 30 September 1953 Wednesday evening, edition of the Lafayette Journal and Courier, on page 10, in column 1:

Stearns, Mrs. Forest W. - Private services will be conducted. It is the wish of the deceased that flowers be sent to Cary Home for Children or to convalescent homes.

At that time, Forest had three children, Carlin, Andrea and Jay. The children were taken in for several years by Hope's sister Blythe (Bunny) and his brother Perry and his wife Frances who were living in East Stroudsburg, Monroe, Pennsylvania.

Forest next married **Ruth Marian Heitz**, daughter of **Edward Joseph Heitz** and **Dora Letitia Wilkins**, on 3 Aug 1956 in Lafayette, Tippecanoe, Indiana. Ruth was born on 4 Jun 1920 in Madison, Jefferson, Indiana and died on 14 Dec 1999 in Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin at age 79. Carlin states in her obituary that she was born in

Wirt, Indiana. Wirt is just a few miles northwest of Madison and was likely where the family farm was located.



Ruth Heitz, 1955, courtesy Carlin

Ruth graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. degree in Home Economics. She completed a M.S. degree in textiles and clothing at Michigan State. She taught at Butler University and served as a State 4-H Club leader at Purdue.

The child from this marriage was:

16394231114. Timothy F Stearns, M, was born on June 2 1961 Ramsey County, Minnesota and died in Feb 1974 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 12.

Public events in her life were:

Ruth M appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in Madison, Jefferson, Indiana. She is 9, living with her parents and attending school. Her father, Edward J, is 43 and her mother Dora L is 40. She has brothers and sisters Evelyn, 18, Glen E, 6, Beryl M, 4, and Helen M, 9 mos. Her father Edward works as a farmer and they own their home. Edward was first married at age 25 and Dora at age 22 or about 1912. Dora has no occupation. Both Edward and Dora's parents are from Indiana. Neighbors are Gus Heitz and Henry A Heitz.

Forest took a position with the Southern Forest Experimental Station (USFS) in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He worked there on soil moisture and vegetation projects with the US Army Corps of Engineers from 1957 to 1961.



Ruth Heitz Stearns in Sept, 1959



Forest with his three children Jay, Carlin and Andrea, Sept 1959

In January, 1961, they moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where he headed the newly formed wildlife Research Group for the USFS. Timothy was born while stationed in Minnesota. They later moved to Rhinelander, Wisconsin where Forest worked for the North Central Forest Experimental Station until 1968. This move allowed him to be more centrally located and closer to his beloved north woods.

The following is a picture of Forest and his father Perry, nine months before Perry died. The picture might have been taken in Rhinelander.



Perry and Forest Stearns, Sept, 1965

Forest then took a position with the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (UWM), where he was Professor from 1968 to 1987 and chaired the department from 1973 to 1977. At this time they were living at 2513 E. Stratford Ct. in Shorewood, Wisconsin. He taught a wide variety of courses including the first urban ecology class in the country and shepherded many students through their Ph.D.'s.

On retiring from UWM, Ruth and Forest moved to 3040 Sorenson Road on Lake George near Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin. Ancestry.com Public Record Index shows Forest Stearns living at 3040 Sorenson Rd, Rhinelander, Wisconsin. No date given on this record listing.

Forest remained actively involved in research and writing until his death. He kept an apartment in Milwaukee while he continued to work weekly out of a UWM office. Public phone records show a listing for

Forest Stearns at 4000 N Morris Blvd 4, Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the years 1995-96. The above listing may be that apartment.



Forest and Ruth at home in Rhinelander – Stearns Reunion #1



Forest hiking in the woods, Rhinelander

Forest died in on 8 September, 1999 at the Found Lake cottage while visiting Dr. Gene Likens. A colleague wrote an outstanding memorial for Forest.

Resolution of Respect

Forest W. Stearns

1918–1999

During his lifetime as a professional ecologist, Dr. Forest W. Stearns became internationally known and a legacy in his own right. He died on 8 September 1999 at his childhood home near Saint Germain in northern Wisconsin. It seems fitting that he should have died at Found Lake, since it was during the summers there with his mother, an amateur botanist, that he developed a lifelong interest in plant and animal ecology and preservation of natural communities. He died talking with his close friend and present owner of the property, Dr. Gene Likens, while sitting under his favorite trees overlooking the Lake. Throughout his career he was never away from his beloved northern Wisconsin for very long. At the height of his career, he was a pioneer researcher in the field of landscape ecology, an editor, an author, and a leader in the Ecological Society of America and American Institute of Biological

Sciences. Although he was 80 years old and 11 years post retirement at the time of his death, he continued to be professionally active and co-authored a book chapter and an article on savannas within the last year.

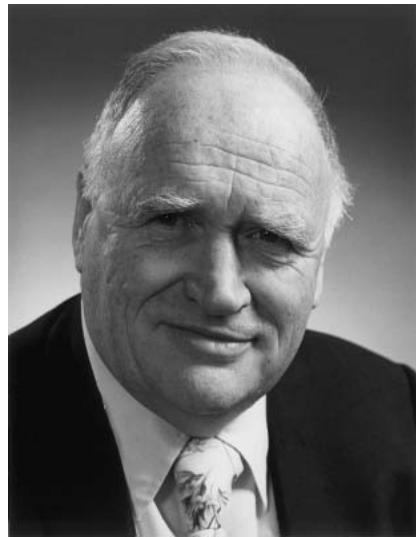
Forest was born on 10 September 1918 in Shorewood, Wisconsin, graduated from Shorewood High School, and subsequently attended Harvard University, where he received a baccalaureate degree in 1939. That same year, he became a graduate student in the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and received a Master of Science degree in 1940. His work toward a Ph.D. degree was interrupted when he entered the U. S. Army Air Force, where he served from 1942 to 1946.

When he returned to the University of Wisconsin to complete the Ph.D. degree, he found that John T.

Curtis had transferred his research interest from plant physiology to plant ecology, and thus Forest had the distinction of being Curtis' first Ph.D. student. In 1947, he was awarded the degree with the completion of his dissertation, "The composition of the sugar maple–hemlock–yellow birch association in northern Wisconsin." Doing the research for his dissertation must have been like returning to his "home" in northern Wisconsin.

During his subsequent 40 years as a teacher and researcher, he was associated with a variety of agencies, beginning as an instructor and assistant professor in the Departments of Botany and Biological Science at Purdue University (1947–1955), and later as a researcher with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (1956), Project Leader with the Southern Forest Experiment Station at Vicksburg, Mississippi (1957– 1961), and the North Central Forest Experiment Station (1961–1968). In the latter position, he supervised the Wildlife Habitat Research Project at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, once again returning to his summer home at Found Lake. One aspect of this project was the study of how scale affected wildlife use of forest openings. During this project, he became one of the first researchers to promote the use of remote sensing in wildlife habitat research.

His last professional position was with the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (UWM), where he was Professor from 1968 to 1987, and Chair from 1973 to 1977. He taught courses in urban ecology, environment and man, advanced plant ecology, and scientific writing for journals. During his tenure, he trained 11 Ph.D. students and 37 M.S. students, at least seven of whom later received a Ph.D. from other institutions. Substantial field work was required of his students, as Forest felt it was the best way to learn about natural systems.



His students have become university faculty, environmental educators, botanical garden or arboretum directors, and natural resource personnel.

At the University of Wisconsin, he developed a strong interest in urban ecology and the urban–rural interface, landscape ecology, biogeography, and primary productivity of wetland and upland communities. He was responsible for developing the field of urban ecology in the United States and pioneered a regional approach to exploring solutions to urban system problems. Forest was the first researcher to receive a National Science Foundation grant in landscape ecology, specifically to study change along an urban–rural landscape gradient in southeastern Wisconsin.

Forest was a prolific writer, and his publication list is lengthy. He was author or co-author of 40 journal articles, 10 book chapters, one textbook, three Wisconsin Transactions articles, and 120 additional publications including research notes, articles in proceedings, reports, station papers, reviews, and technical bulletins. He co-edited two indexes covering 30 years of articles published in the journal *Ecology*.

His contribution to professional service was as extensive as his writing. Chronologically, he was: Director of Phenology Program/International Biological Program (1969– 1971); Principal Investigator/Urban Systems Project (1972–1974); Vice President (1971–1972), Treasurer (1972–1974), and President (1975– 1976) of the Ecological Society of America; Member and Chair of the Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council (1973–1989); a member of the Governing Board and Executive Committee (1974–1980), President-elect, and President (1980–1982) of the American Institute of Biological Sciences; for the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, Council Member (1976–1979) and Editor of Transactions, (1978–1981); a member of the editorial boards of *Urban Ecology* (1980– 1986), *Journal of Biogeography* (1981–1990), *Landscape and Urban Planning* (1986–present); Botanical Editor for *Ecology* (1962–1968), Coordinating Editor for *Ecology* (1968–1971); and Consultant to Argonne National Laboratory (1972–1977). He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Forest also served on a variety of other university, city, and state councils and boards, and was a member of about 15 professional organizations.

Forest was recognized as a warm and caring teacher. Dr. Thomas Crow, until recently head of the Ecology Landscape unit at the North Central Forest Experiment Station, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, noted: "He is a great teacher. His students love him and want to maintain a close relationship with him." One former student said that he was greatly impressed with Forest's devotion to his students, and his willingness to

shift his research interest to accommodate them. Not surprisingly, Forest said he was proudest of his association with at least two generations of students at UWM and what they had taught him (*NC News*, North Central Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1995). To his students, he became known as "Papa Bear" because of his burly physique and enthusiasm for helping students with field work. At the time of his retirement in 1988, his students endowed an award in his name at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

After retirement, he continued to lecture on ecology, write articles, and take an active role in various organizations. Interestingly, many of his awards came after retirement: Wisconsin Academy Citation for furthering ideas of the Academy and service to the state (1986) from the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters; Wisconsin Idea Award (1990) from the Center for Resource Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison; award from the Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council (1990) "Recognizing Forest Stearns for his Contributions to Conserve and Protect the Natural Heritage"; Certificate of Appreciation for "Exceptional Performance and Level of Service provided to the Department of Natural Resources and State of Wisconsin (1990) from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison; Outstanding Environmentalist (1991) from the College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; and the Scientific Roundtable Award on Biological Diversity Issues (1992) from the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests, Wisconsin.

In recent years, weakness resulting from post-polio syndrome and diabetes progressively limited his movement and travel. However, he remained a volunteer with the Landscape Ecology unit at the North Central Forest Experiment Station in Rhinelander, and stopped in several times a week to exchange ideas and be a resource for other professionals. During these years, he also much appreciated the visits by professional colleagues and former students. He once said these visits were his means of staying informed about ongoing research, but when I, or occasionally my forest ecology class, visited him at his current home on Lake George, near Rhinelander, Wisconsin, he always seemed current and gave as much information as he received. However, visitors were not his only source of information. In his two living rooms, the numerous (maybe as many as 45) journals, which continued to arrive throughout the retirement years, were neatly arranged on tables alongside recently published books. In his basement, library stacks of reference materials filled the space. In his large office that looked out through a greenhouse containing his favorite orchids, there were more books, and many stacks of papers, notes, data sheets, and nearly completed manuscripts alongside a computer. His numerous awards hung on the wall. And any visitor was supplied immediately with coffee or soft drinks and fresh cookies baked by his gracious wife, Ruth.

Besides Ruth, Forest is survived by his daughters Carlin Hibbard and Andrea Stearns of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, his son Jay of Virginia, two brothers, Perry Stearns of Arizona and David Stearns of Florida, a sister, Rodora Leyse of Idaho, and a number of grandchildren, cousins, and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, Timothy. When I asked Carlin what she remembered about her father when she was growing up, she said, "He always seemed to have a manuscript in his hand, and when we rode with him, he made too many stops to check the vegetation." Jay recalled that his father was an Eagle Scout, he was in his father's troop, and that together they started several troops in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jay also indicated that at Harvard University, Forest was a heavyweight boxer. A final note from the family was that like many ecologists, his pictures were mostly of plants and vegetation; there were very few of people.

Forest Stearns is gone, but the legacy continues through his thoughts and ideas in his writing and his students. He was an outstanding mentor and role model for young ecologists. He was dedicated to teaching and research until his death. The scientific

community has lost a valued and endearing member. His ashes will be scattered over the land overlooking Found Lake.

James S. Fralish, Professor Emeritus Department of Forestry Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL 62901

January 2000

Addendum, Forest Stearns

I was with Forest Stearns when he died. We had just finished a pleasant lunch with our wives at our cabin on Found Lake. The conversation was lively, wide ranging, and interesting. Forest and I were working on the details of a manuscript about the recovery of the pine forest following lumbering and fire in the 1890s in this area of Wisconsin. It was under these towering, now 100-year-old pines, that he died, peacefully and without pain. True to form for the consummate ecologist, minutes before he was describing to his wife, Ruth, the sensitivity of "bracken to frost."

I had known Forest for some three decades as a professional colleague, and more recently as a dear friend. Although he was a highly regarded and honored scientist, he was equally respected as a warm, kind, and considerate human being. He will be missed, but remembered fondly and respectfully by very many.

Gene E. Likens Institute of Ecosystem Studies Millbrook, NY 12545

According to the Social Security death index, Forest died on 8 Sep 1999. Last Residence: Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin 54501
State (Year) SSN issued: Indiana (1955-1956)

OBITUARIES *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*
9-17-1999

Stearns, a leading ecologist, taught at UWM

By ELDON KNOCH
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Forest W. Stearns, an internationally known ecologist who taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for two decades, died of natural causes Sept. 8 in St. Germain. He was 30.

Among his research interests were urban ecology, and marshes and aquatic plants.

He was past president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Ecological Society of America and had been botanical editor for the official publication of the Ecological Society and for the *Journal of Ecology*.

He also was past chairman of the Wisconsin Scientific Areas Reservation Council, which advised the Department of Natural Resources.

He had a close relationship with his students and, after a field trip, 15 or 20 of them might find themselves having dinner with the professor and his wife at their home, according to a friend, Thomas Schuck, who is laboratory manager for biological sciences at UWM.

Stearns was born Sept. 18, 1918, in Shorewood, the son of a lawyer. He graduated from Shorewood High School and got his undergraduate education at Harvard University. He received a master's degree and a doctorate in 1947 from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, writing his thesis on the hardwood forests of northern Wisconsin.

After 10 years on the faculty of Purdue University, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Vicksburg, Miss., and at its North Central Forest Experiment Station in Rhinelander.

He joined the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1968 and was chairman of the botany department in the mid-'70s. After he retired in 1987, he was made an emeritus professor.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of Rhinelander; two daughters, Carlin Hibbard and Andrea Stearns, both of Eau Claire; and a son, Jay of Virginia. Another son, Timothy, died in 1972.

No funeral will be held.

**Forest Stearns obituary from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,
courtesy Carlin**

His death certificate was obtained from Vilas County.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILING DATE

228

LOCAL FILE NUMBER			STATE OF WISCONSIN			STATE FILING DATE								
99-0120			DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES			228								
Type or Print Use Permanent Black Ink No Whiteout or Erasures			ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			STATE DEATH NO.								
1. DECEASED'S NAME: Forest Walden STEARNS			2. SEX: M			3. SOC. SEC. NUMBER OF DECEASED: 306-40-2936								
SA AGE (years) (Last Birthday) 80			7. DATE OF BIRTH: Mo. Day Yr. September 10, 1918			4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: Mo. Day Yr. September 8, 1999								
8a. Under 1 yr. Mo. Days 80			8b. COUNTY OF DEATH: Vilas			4b. HOUR: 1520 M 24+ hours after death Y X N								
9. DEATH AT HOSPITAL Wisconsin			10. OTHER PLACE: N.H. X Other Res. of deceased 7695 Dixon Road			8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILL., TOWNSHIP: St. Germain								
13a. RESIDENCE - STATE: Wisconsin			13c. RESIDENCE - INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Pelican			13d. (CHECK ONE) CITY: Vilas								
15 STATE OF BIRTH (Country if not in U.S.): Wisconsin			16. FATHER'S NAME: Perry Stearns			17. MOTHER'S NAME: Maybelle Brook								
18. RACE (e.g. White, Black, Am. Indian, etc.): White			19. HISPANIC ORIGIN? Specify Cuban, Mexican, etc.: No			20a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Do not enter "Retired") Professor/Doctor of Ecology								
21. EDUCATION Highest grade completed: 8			22. DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? X Yes X No Ruth Hietz			20b. KIND OF BUSINESS / INDUSTRY University								
24a. INFORMANT'S NAME: Ruth Stearns			24b. MAILING ADDRESS: 3040 Sorenson Road - Rhinelander, WI 54501			24c. CITY/VILLAGE: Rhinelander ZIP: 54501								
25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION: Burial Cremation Rhinelander Crematory			26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of Cemetery, cemetery, or other place): Rhinelander, WI			27. LOCATION City/Village/Township: State: Rhinelander, WI								
28. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSE (or person acting as such): D. Bruce Carlson			29. LICENSE NO.: 4702			30. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: September 9, 1999								
32. MEDICAL CERTIFIER SIGNATURE & TITLE (Black Ink): Paul Tipre Coroner			33. DATE OF DEATH (Mo. Day Yr.): September 8, 1999			34. MANNER OF DEATH: 1. Natural X 2. Accident 3. Suicide 4. Homicide 5. Unde								
35. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S NAME: Paul Tipre			36. PHYSICIAN'S NAME: CME Corp 0063			37. DATE OF INJURY (Mo. Day Yr.): Sept 10, 1999								
38. DATE OF INJURY (Mo. Day Yr.): SEP 13 1999			39. DATE OF INJURY (Mo. Day Yr.):			40. HOUR OF INJURY: M								
41. PLACE OF INJURY (Home, Street, Farm, etc.):			42. INJURY AT WORK? YES NO			Specify								
43a. LOCATION (Street or Rd. No. City or Vill. and State in which injury occurred):			43b. COUNTY:											
44. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE: John Hansen Register of Deeds			45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo. Day, Yr.): SEP 13 1999											
PART I Enter the disease, injuries or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock or heart failure. List only one cause of death on each line. Do not list old age or senility as sole cause.														
IMMEDIATE CAUSE - (Final disease or condition resulting in death.)														
(a) <u>Cardiac Arrest/Myocardial Infarct</u>														
(b) <u>Secondary Myocardial Infarct</u>														
(c) <u>Diabetes</u>														
(d) <u>Heart Disease</u>														
Sequently list conditions if any, leading to immediate cause. ENTER UNDERLYING CAUSE(S). (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death)														
47. IF INJURY, DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED.														
Accident U.C.O.D. _____			Accident Coding: <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>											

Forest Walden Stearns – Wisconsin Certificate of Death

The transcription of the certificate follows (items not filled in are omitted):

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

LOCAL FILE NUMBER: 99-0120

1. DECEASED'S NAME: Forest Walden Stearns

2. SEX: M

3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF DECEASED: 306-40-2936

4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: September 8, 1999

4B. HOUR: 1520

5. BODY FOUND 24+ Hours after death: No

6a. AGE: 80

7. DATE OF BIRTH: September 10, 1918

8a. COUNTY OF DEATH: Vilas

8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILL., TOWNSHIP: St. Germain

8c. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Township

10. OTHER PLACE (N.H., OTHER, RES of deceased): Other

11a. HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME: 7695 Dixon Road

12. MARITAL STATUS (Married, Never Married, Divorced, Widow): Married

13a. RESIDENCE STATE: Wisconsin

13b. RESIDENCE COUNTY: Oneida
13c. RESIDENCE-INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Pelican
13d. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Township
14a. NUMBER, STREET: 3040 Sorenson Road
14b. ZIP CODE: 54501
15. STATE OF BIRTH: Wisconsin
16. FATHER'S NAME: Perry Stearns
17. MOTHER'S NAME: Maybelle Brook
18. RACE: White
19. HISPANIC ORIGIN: No
20a. USUAL OCCUPATION: Professor/Doctor of Ecology
20b. KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY: University
21. EDUCATION HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED: College 8
22. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES: Yes
23 SURVIVING SPOUSE: Ruth Hietz
24a. INFORMANT'S NAME: Ruth Stearns
24b. MAILING ADDRESS: 3040 Sorenson Road – Rhinelander, WI 54501
25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION (Entomb., Burial, Cremation, Donation):
Cremation
26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION: Rhinelander Crematory
27. LOCATION: Rhinelander, WI
28. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: September 9, 1999
29. DATE RECEIVED FROM MED. CENTER: September 10, 1999
30a. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: D. Bruce Carlson
30b WI. LICENSE NO.: 4702
31 NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Carlson Funeral Service, Inc.
134 N. Stevens St. – Rhinelander, WI 54501
32. MEDICAL CERTIFIER
_x_CORONER/M.E. - On the basis of examination and /or investigation, in my
opinion, death was pronounced and occurred at the time(s) and due to the
cause and manner stated.
33. DATE OF DEATH September 8, 1999
34. AUTOPSY PERFORMED: No
35a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER SIGNATURE & TITLE: Paul Tirpe, Coroner
35b. DATE SIGNED: Sept. 10, 1999
36a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S NAME: Paul Tirpe
36b. WI. LICENSE NUMBER (IF PHYSICIAN): 0063
37. CERTIFIER'S MAILING ADDRESS: HC Box 251 – Manitowish Waters, WI
54545
38. MANNER OF DEATH (Natural, Accident, Suicide, Homicide, Undet.,
Pending): Natural
44. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE: Joan Hansen, Register of Deeds
45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR: Sep 13 1999
46. PART I. a. IMMEDIATE CAUSE: Cardiac Arrhythmia, unknown
b. DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: Probable Myocardal Infarct, unknown
c. DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT
NOT RESULTING IN UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN IN PART I: Diabetes, Heart
Disease

Ruth died 3 months after Forest.

According to the Social Security death index, Ruth died on 14 Dec 1999. Last Residence: Rhinelander, Oneida, Wisconsin 54501
State (Year) SSN issued: Indiana (Before 1951)

Her obituary was written by Carlin Stearns Raith and was published in a Rhinelander newspaper, likely the Rhinelander Daily News. The date of publication is not known exactly.

Rhineland Daily News

Ruth M. Stearns

Ruth M. Stearns, age 79, of Rhinelander, died Tuesday, December 14, 1999 at Saint Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. She was born on June 4, 1920, in Wirt, Ind., the daughter of Edward and Dora (Wilkins) Heitz.

She was raised on her family's farm in southern Indiana. She graduated from North Madison High School and later received her bachelor's of science degree in Home Economics from Indiana University and her master's degree in Textiles and Clothing from Michigan State University. She taught both high school and college levels and served as state 4-H Club leader at Purdue University. In 1956, she married Forest W. Stearns in LaFayette, Ind. She assisted in raising three step-children and one son of her own, who died of leukemia at age 12. Throughout the rest of her life she ably supported and enhanced her husband's career and the lives of all those around her. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by children, Jay (Katherine Hayfield) Stearns of Virginia, Carlin Hibbard (Steven Raith) of Humbird, Wis. and Andrea Stearns of Wisconsin; four grandchildren; sisters, Evelyn McCullough of Fort Wayne, Ind., Beryl Furnish of Franklin, Ind. and Lois Weber of Corydon, Ind.;; sister-in-law, Lucille Heitz of Eugene, Ore., and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Forest, in September 1999; son Timothy; and brother, Glenn Heitz.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Carlson Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Ruth Heitz Stearns obituary

Ruth's Death Certificate was obtained and is included below:

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH												STATE FILING DATE 368	STATE DEATH NO.		
Type or Print Use Permanent Black Ink No Whiteout or Erasures		LOCAL FILE NUMBER			First	Full Middle	Last	2. SEX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	3. SOC. SEC. NUMBER OF DECEDENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X 317 - 14 - 1937	4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: Mo. Day Year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 14, 1999 <input type="checkbox"/> 6:30 PM <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	4b. HOUR <input type="checkbox"/> 24+ hours after death	5. BODY FOUND <input type="checkbox"/> 24+ hours after death			
Reserved for Corrections & Amendments		6a. AGE (Years) (Last Birthday) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 79	b. Under 1 yr. Mo. Days <input type="checkbox"/> June 4, 1920	c. Under 1 day Hour Min <input type="checkbox"/> Res. of deceased <input type="checkbox"/> St. Mary's Hospital	7. DATE OF BIRTH Mo. Day Yr. <input type="checkbox"/> June 4, 1920	8a. COUNTY OF DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida	8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILL., TOWNSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinelander	8c. (CHECK ONE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	9. DEATH AT HOSPITAL <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOA-From Nur. Hm. <input type="checkbox"/> DOA-From Other <input type="checkbox"/> Outpat. <input type="checkbox"/> ER-From Nur. Hm. <input type="checkbox"/> ER-From Other	10. OTHER PLACE <input type="checkbox"/> N.H. <input type="checkbox"/> Other	11a. HOSPITAL (AND CAMPUS) OR NURSING HOME (If not in Hospital or Nursing Home give street address) <input type="checkbox"/> St. Mary's Hospital	11b. NURSING HOME LICENSE NO.	12. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widowed		
13. RESIDENCE - STATE <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin		13b. RESIDENCE - COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida	13c. RESIDENCE - INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Peleican	13d. (CHECK ONE) City <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	14. NUMBER, STREET <input type="checkbox"/> 3040 Sorenson Rd.	14b. ZIP CODE <input type="checkbox"/> 54501	15. STATE OF BIRTH (Country if not in U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	16. FATHER'S NAME: <input type="checkbox"/> Edward	17. MOTHER'S NAME: <input type="checkbox"/> Heitz	17. MOTHER'S NAME: <input type="checkbox"/> Dora	Wilkins	18. RACE (e.g. White, Black, Am. Indian, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> White	19. HISPANIC ORIGIN? (Specify Cuban, Mexican, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	20a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Do not enter "Retired") <input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker	20b. KIND OF BUSINESS / INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> Own home
21. EDUCATION (Highest grade completed) <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (0-12) <input type="checkbox"/> College (13-16) <input type="checkbox"/> 5+		22. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	23. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give birth surname, not married surname) (First, Middle, Last) <input type="checkbox"/> none	24a. INFORMANT'S NAME <input type="checkbox"/> Carlin Hibbard	24b. MAILING ADDRESS Street <input type="checkbox"/> N. 4247 Square Rd.	City/Village <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinelander	State <input type="checkbox"/> WI	ZIP <input type="checkbox"/> 54746	25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION <input type="checkbox"/> Burial <input type="checkbox"/> Burial at Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Cremation <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinelander Crematory	27. LOCATION (City/Village/Township, State) <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinelander, WI	28. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE (Mo. Day Yr.) <input type="checkbox"/> December 15, 1999	29. DATE RECEIVED FROM MED. CERT. (Mo. Day Yr.) <input type="checkbox"/> December 16, 1999		
30a. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE (name and number) <input type="checkbox"/> Barry Wallis		30b. WI LICENSE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> 5048	31. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY (Street and Number, City, State, Zip) <input type="checkbox"/> Carlson Funeral Service, Inc. 134 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander, WI 54501	32. CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN - To the best of my knowledge death was pronounced and occurred at the time(s) and due to the causes stated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL CERTIFIER <input type="checkbox"/> CORONER/M.D. - On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death was pronounced and occurred at the time(s) and due to the causes and manner stated (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Danny Lundberg, M.D.	33. DATE OF DEATH (Mo. Day Yr.) <input type="checkbox"/> December 14, 1999	35. MANNER OF DEATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental <input type="checkbox"/> Undet. <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Pending	39. DATE OF INJURY (Mo. Day Yr.)	40. HOUR OF INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> M	41. PLACE OF INJURY (Home, Street, Farm, etc.) Specify <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinelander, WI	42. INJURY AT WORK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	43b. COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/>				
35a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> Danny Lundberg, M.D.		36b. WI PHYSICIAN/LICENSE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> CME 30452	44. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> Tom H. Ziegler	45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo. Day, Yr.) <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 20 1999											
46. PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock or heart failure. List only one cause of death on each line. Do not list old age or senility as sole cause.												Interval before death onset and death <input type="checkbox"/> days	PART II Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in underlying cause given in Part I. <input type="checkbox"/> Congestive heart failure		
IMMEDIATE CAUSE - (Final disease or condition resulting in death.) (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Acute Myocardial Infarction (DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): (d) <input type="checkbox"/>															
Sequentially list conditions if any, leading to immediate cause. ENTER UNDERLYING CAUSE LAST. (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death)															
47. IF INJURY, DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED															

Wisconsin Death Certificate – Ruth Stearns

The transcription of the certificate follows (items not filled in are omitted):

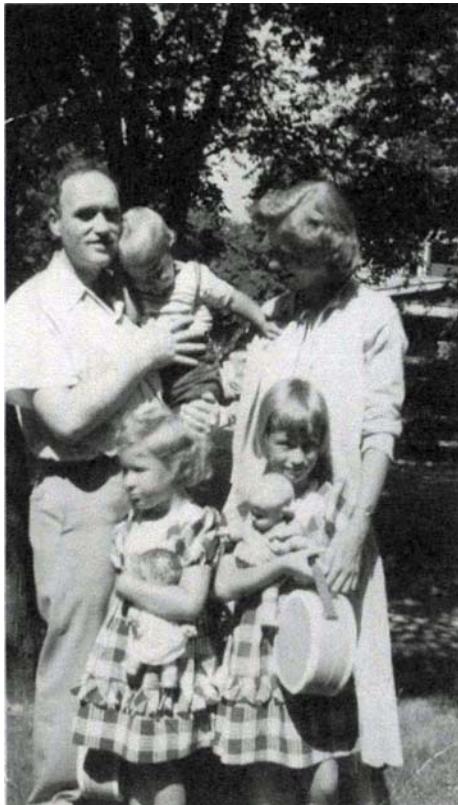
**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

LOCAL FILE NUMBER:

1. DECEDENT'S NAME: Ruth Marion Stearns
2. SEX: F
3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF DECEDENT: 317-14-1937
- 4a. PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: December 14, 1999
- 4b. HOUR: 6:30 PM
5. BODY FOUND 24+ Hours after death: No
- 6a. AGE: 79
7. DATE OF BIRTH: June 4, 1920
- 8a. COUNTY OF DEATH: Oneida
- 8b. DEATH OCCURRED INSIDE CITY, VILL., TOWNSHIP: Rhinelander
- 8c. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: City
9. DEATH AT HOSPITAL: Inpatient
10. OTHER PLACE (N.H., OTHER, RES of deceased):
- 11a. HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME: St. Mary's Hospital
12. MARITAL STATUS: Widowed
- 13a. RESIDENCE STATE: Wisconsin
- 13b. RESIDENCE COUNTY: Oneida

13c. RESIDENCE-INSIDE CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Pelican
13d. CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP: Township
14a. NUMBER, STREET: 3040 Sorenson Road
14b. ZIP CODE: 54501
15. STATE OF BIRTH: Indiana
16. FATHER'S NAME: Edward Heitz
17. MOTHER'S NAME: Dora Wilkins
18. RACE: White
19. HISPANIC ORIGIN: No
20a. USUAL OCCUPATION: Homemaker
20b. KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY: Own home
21. EDUCATION HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED: College 5+
22. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES: No
23 SURVIVING SPOUSE: None
24a. INFORMANT'S NAME: Carlin Hibbard
24b. MAILING ADDRESS: N 4247 Square Rd, Humbird, WI 54746
25. METHOD OF DISPOSITION: Cremation
26. PLACE OF DISPOSITION: Rhinelander Crematory
27. LOCATION: Rhinelander, WI
28. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: December 15, 1999
29. DATE RECEIVED FROM MED. CENTER: December 16, 1999
30a. FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE: Barry Wallis
30b WI. LICENSE NO.: 5048
31 NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Carlson Funeral Service, Inc.
134 N. Stevens St. – Rhinelander, WI 54501
32. MEDICAL CERTIFIER
 CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN - To the best of my knowledge death was pronounced and occurred at the time(s) and due to the cause stated.
33. DATE OF DEATH: December 14, 1999
34. AUTOPSY PERFORMED: No
35a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER SIGNATURE & TITLE: Danny Lundberg MD
35b. DATE SIGNED: 12/15/99
36a. MEDICAL CERTIFIER'S NAME: Danny Lundberg MD
36b. WI. LICENSE NUMBER (IF PHYSICIAN): 30452
37. CERTIFIER'S MAILING ADDRESS: 1020 Kabel Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501
38. MANNER OF DEATH: Natural
44. REGISTRAR SIGNATURE: Thomas H. Seylite?
45. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR: Dec 20 1999
46. PART I. a. IMMEDIATE CAUSE: Acute myocardial Infunction, days
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RESULTING IN UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN IN PART I: Congestive heart failure

**Twelfth Generation
Children of Forest Stearns and Hope Hartley**



Pictures of Forest, Jay, Hope, Andrea and Carlin, courtesy Carlin



Forest, Jay, Carlin and Andrea, June 1959



Carlin, Andrea, Jay, Timothy and Forrest Stearns, Found Lake,

courtesy Carlin

16394231111. **Carlin Adeline Stearns** (*Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 21 Jan 1944 in Brigham City, Utah.



Forest and Carlin



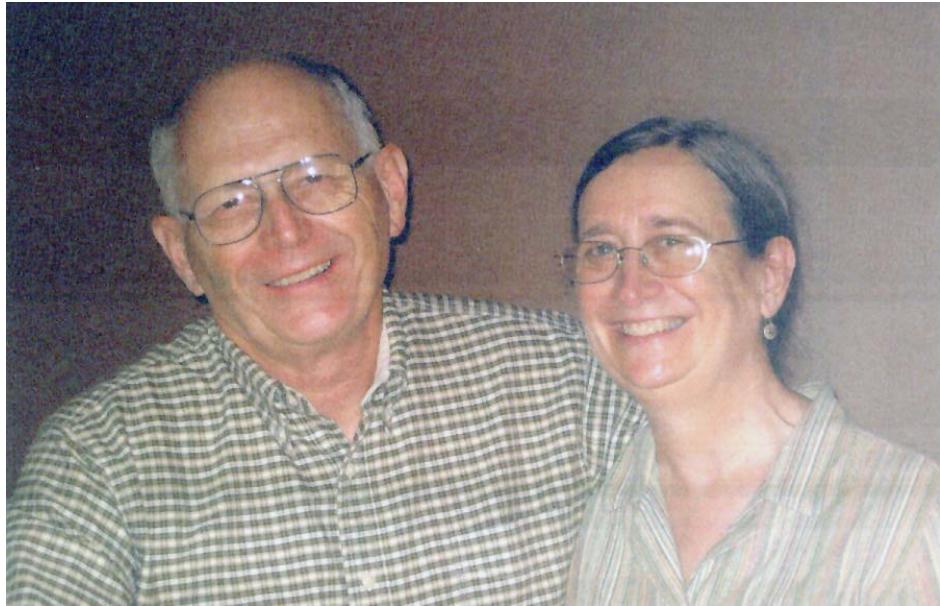
Carlin - 9th Grade graduation

Carlin married **John Hibbard** on June 6, 1966 in Madison, Wisconsin. John was born on 23 Aug 1942. John's mother is **Allie K. Johnson** born in Mondovi, Wisconsin and his father is **Darrell O. Hibbard** born in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Children from this marriage were:

163942311111. Alix Hibbard, F, b. 4 Jun 1973 in Eau Claire, WI.
163942311112. Calder Hibbard, M, b. 1 Aug 1970 in Eau Claire, WI

Carlin next married **Steve Raith** on 21 July 1995. Steve was born 23 July 1938 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.



Steve and Carlin Raith, courtesy Carlin

Carlin and Steve currently reside in Humbird, Wisconsin.

**Thirteenth Generation
Children of Carlin Stearns and John Hibbard**

16394231111. Alix Hibbard (*Carlin Adeline Stearns¹², Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born 4 Jun 1973 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



Alix at the Stearns reunion 2001

Alix married **Christopher William Hay** in 2000. He was born 10 Feb 1970. His father is **William Hay** and his mother **Constance Wylde**. The marriage ended in divorce in 2003. There were no children.

Alix next married **Michael Herzing**. He was born on 8 Oct 1965 in Warren, Pennsylvania. His father is **August Bernard Herzing** and his mother is **Patricia Jean Brennan**, both born in St. Marys, Pennsylvania.

They had the following children:

163942311111. Jude August Herzing, M, b. 30 Jun 2006, Minneapolis, MN

163942311112. Calder Hibbard (*Carlin Adeline Stearns*¹², *Forest Walden*¹¹, *Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷ *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born 1 Aug 1970 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Calder married **Lee Rushmann** on 30 Aug 1997. Lee was born 23 November 1969 in Denver, Colorado. Lee's mother is **Sandra Winget**,

born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and her father is **Jon Rushmann**, born in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.



Lee and Calder Hibbard, courtesy Carlin

They had the following children:

1639423111121. Reyna Frances Hibbard, F. b. 18 Jun 2001 in St. Paul, MN
1639423111122. Lauren Jane Hibbard, F, b. 18 Jan 2005 in Minneapolis, MN



Reyna Hibbard, left; Calder and Lee with Lauren Jane Hibbard,
courtesy Carlin

Twelfth Generation (Continued)
Children of Forest Stearns and Hope Hartley

16394231112. Andrea Brook Stearns (*Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 19 Apr 1945 in Washington, D.C.



Andrea Stearns

Andrea received a BA degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Andrea never married.

She currently lives at a group home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin where she is happily engaged in sewing and continues her vigilance on environmental issues.

16394231113. Jay Hartley Stearns (*Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 2 Nov 1948 in Indiana.



Jay with trophy panfish at Found Lake

Jay married **Donna Jean Nasman**.

Children from this marriage were:

163942311131. Krista Marie Stearns, F, b. 18 Jan 1971,
Goodhue County, Minnesota

163942311132. Adrienne Edith Stearns, F, b. 14 Feb 1974,
Wisconsin

Jay next married **Kathryn A. Hayfield** in 1989. Kathy was born on 10 Feb 1958 in Ohio.



Jay, Kathy, Adrianne, Jeremy and Krista

Kathy was previously married to Unknown **Frye**.

They had a son **Jeremy D. Frye**. Jeremy was born on 8 Jan 1983 in Virginia. After serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with the US Army, Jeremy married **Alice Venale** in 2006. Alice was born on 17 May 1982 in Rome, Italy. Jeremy and Alice had a daughter **Melania Anne Frye**. Melania was born on 31 Dec 2006 in Vicenza, Italy.



Jeremy in Afghanistan

Kathy and Jay ran the Deep Creek Tube Center & Campground, a Smokey Mountain campground near Bryson City, North Carolina for a

number of years. They sold the place a couple years ago and moved to Richmond, Virginia where they now reside.

Thirteenth Generation
Children of Jay Stearns and Donna Nasman

1639423111131. Krista Marie Stearns (*Jay Hartley*¹², *Forest Walden*¹¹, *Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷ *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹). Krista was born on 18 Jan 1971 in Zumbrota, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Krista married **Lewis C. Lankford** on 11 Sep 1999 at the Hawk and Ivy in Barnardsville, NC, son of **Lewis W. Lankford** and **Sally Davis**. Lewis W. Lankford died in 2003. Sally remarried **Wilson Comer** in 1981. Both his parents were from Alabama. Lewis was born on 12 Jun 1969 in Mississippi.

Krista and Lewis own the West End Bakery and Cafe in Asheville, NC with their business partner Cathy Cleary. The Bakery was a pioneer business in the economic revitalization of West Asheville and currently employs 17 people.

Children from this marriage are:

16394231111311. Bailey Blythe Lankford, F, b. 12 Oct 2003 N. Carolina
16394231111312. Flannery Marie Lankford, F, b. 28 Sep 2006 N. Carolina

Their daughter Bailey is 4 1/2 and enjoys thinking like a scientist, and is into books, mutli-media art, ballet and singing. Flannery, age 19 months, is seeking to master the English language and enjoys birds, climbing, and blowing dandelions.



Krista, Bailey, Lewis, and Flannery, Asheville, NC, Dec 2007

1639423111132. Adrienne Edith Stearns (*Jay Hartley¹², Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*). Adrienne was born on 14 Feb 1974 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Adie is currently working as an innkeeper at the White Gate Inn in Asheville, North Carolina.

Twelfth Generation (Continued)
Children of Forest Stearns and Ruth Heitz

163942311114. Timothy F Stearns (*Forest Walden¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on June 2 1961 in Ramsey County, Minnesota and died on 19 February 1974 of leukemia in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 12.



Timothy, Ruth and Andrea, 1962



Timothy, courtesy Carlin



Timothy, approx age 10, courtesy Carlin

His death certificate was obtained from Milwaukee County.

912		STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OF HEALTH										JURISDICTION DATE				
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH												UNCERTIFIED COPY NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES				
DECEASED-NAME		First		Middle		Last		SEX		DATE OF DEATH		Month	Day	Year		
4. WHITE		(Specify) So.		12		STEARN		MALE		FEBRUARY 19, 1974						
NAME OF CITY, VILLAGE (Location of Death)		Inside City or Village Limits (If Not in Either Give Street and Number or Location)										COUNTY OF DEATH				
7b. MILWAUKEE		7c. XX Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No										7d. MILWAUKEE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL				
STATE OF BIRTH (If Not in U.S.A., Name Country)		CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY								SURVIVING SPOUSE		(If Wife, Give Maiden Name)				
8. Minnesota		9. U.S.A.														
SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		USUAL OCCUPATION Give Kind of Work During Most of Working Life Even if Retired										KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY				
12. None		13b. Student										13b.				
RESIDENCE: STATE		COUNTY		NAME OF CITY, VILLAGE (If Neither, Name Township)		Inside City or Village Limits				MAILING ADDRESS (Home Address at Time of Death)						
14a. Wisconsin		14b. Milwaukee		14c. Shorewood		14d. XX Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		14e. 2513 E. Stratford Ct.								
FATHER- NAME		First		Middle		Last		MOTHER- MAIDEN NAME		First		Middle		Last		
15. Forest						Stearns		16. Ruth						Heltz		
INFORMANT- NAME		MAILING ADDRESS Street or R.F.D. No. City or Village State Zip WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES?										17c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				
17a. Forest Stearns-father		17b. 2513 E. Stratford Ct. Shorewood, Wis. 53211														
18. PART I DEATH WAS CAUSED BY - Enter Only One Cause Per Line for (A), (B), and (C)		19a. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown										Duration				
Conditions, If Any. A. Immediate Cause: Which Gave Rise to What Caused (A) B. Consequence of: Stating the Underlying Cause Lost. Due to, or as a C. Consequence of:		gastrointestinal hemorrhage acute lymphoblastic leukemia										1 wk.				
20a. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: Conditions Contributing to Death Given in Part I (A)		20b. Septicemia										20c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				
Cause:		20d. <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE										20e. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				
/ACCIDENT		20f. DATE OF INJURY Month Year										20g. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				
INJURY AT WORK		PLACE OF INJURY (Home, Farm, Street, Factory, Etc.)										LOCATION Street or R.F.D. No. City or Village State Zip				
21a. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21b. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown										21c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				
CERTIFICATION-Month Physician I Attest That The May 1971 To Feb 19 '74		Day		Year		Month		Day		AND LAST SAW HIM/HER ALIVE ON Month Day Year		DID YOU VIEW THE BODY AFTER DEATH		DEATH OCCURRED (Hour)		
Deceased From		21a. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21b. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21d. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21e. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		21f. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		At The Place, On The Date, and, To the Best of My Knowledge, Due To The Cause(s) Stated.		
CERTIFICATION-MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER: On the Basis of The Examination of the Body and/or The Investigation, In My Opinion, Death Occurred From The Causes Stated.		HOUR OF DEATH THE DECEASED WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD Month Day Year Hour										M. 22b.				
CERTIFIER- NAME (Type or Print)		SIGNATURE-CERTIFIER										Title			DATE SIGNED Month Day Year M.	
22a. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gilbert Thatcher		22b. <input type="checkbox"/> Gilbert Thatcher MD										23c. Feb 19 74			State Zip	
MAILING ADDRESS-CERTIFIER		Street or R.F.D. No. City or Village										23d. 1700 W. WISCONSIN Avenue Milwaukee WI 53233				
23d. <input type="checkbox"/> BURIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> REMOVAL		24b. Forest Home Cemetery										24c. Milwaukee Wisconsin			Zip	
BURIAL-DATE Month Day Year		25a. Funeral Home Name and Address										25b. Weiss Funeral Home 101 Farwell Ave Milwaukee Wis. 53203			26b. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
24d. Feb. 19 1974		25a. <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTRAR-SIGNATURE										26a. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			DATE RECEIVED By Local Registrar FEB 20 1974	
25b. Howard Wilson		26a. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown										26b. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				

Wisconsin Certificate of Death – Timothy Stearns

The transcription of the certificate is below:

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Health and Social Services

Original Certificate of Death

Local File. No. 912

1. Deceased Name: Timothy Stearns
2. Sex: Male
3. Date of Death: February 19, 1974
4. Race: White
- 5a. Age Last Birthday, years: 12
6. Date of Birth: June 2, 1961
- 7a. County of Death: Milwaukee
- 7b. Name of City, Village (Location of Death): Milwaukee
- 7c. Inside City or Village Limits: Yes
- 7d. Hospital or other institution: Milwaukee Children's Hospital
8. State of Birth: Minnesota
9. Citizen of What Country: USA
10. Never Married
11. Surviving Spouse: --

12. Social Security No. None
13a. Usual Occupation: Student
13b. Kind of business: --
14a. Residence State: Wisconsin
14b. County: Milwaukee
14c. Name of City, Village: Shorewood
14d. Inside City or Village limits: Yes
14e. Mailing address: 2513 E. Stratford Ct.
15. Father Name: Forest Stearns
16. Mother Maiden Name: Ruth Heitz
17a. Informant Name: Forest Stearns - Father
17b. Mailing Address: 2513 E. Stratford Ct., Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211
17c. Was deceased ever in US Armed Forces: No
18. Death was caused by
Part I:
a) Immediate Cause: Gastrointestinal hemorrhage, Duration 1 wk.
b) Due to: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Duration 2 years
c). Due to:
Part II
Conditions contributing to Death but not related to cause: Septicemia
19a. Autopsy: Yes
19b. Were findings considered in determining cause of death: No
20a. Accident, Suicide or Homicide: ---
20b. Date of injury:
20c. Hour:
20d. How injury occurred:
20e Injury at Work:
20f. Place of injury:
20g. Location:
Certification of Physician
21a. Attended The Deceased From: May, 1971
21b. To: Feb 19, 1974
21c. And Last saw him alive on Feb 18, 1874
21d. Did you view body after death: No
21e. Death occurred hour: 4:40 AM
Certification of Medical Examiner.
22a.
22b. Decedent was pronounced dead:
23a. Name: Gilbert Thatcher
23b. Signature: L Gilbert Thatcher, M.D.
23c. Date signed: Feb 19, 1974
23d. Mailing address: 1700 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233
24a. Burial, Cremation, Removal: Cremation
24b. Cemetery: Forest Home Cemetery
24c. Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
24d. Burial Date: Feb. 21, 1974
25a. Funeral Home: Weiss Funeral Home, 1901 Farwell Ave, Milwaukee, Wis 53202
25b. Funeral Director Signature: Howard Wilson
26a. Registrar Signature: L. Janagis??, M.D.
26b. Date Received by local Registrar: Feb. 20 1974

His death certificate says that the cemetery or crematory name is Forest Home Cemetery. Officials at Forest Home stated that he had been cremated, but not interred at the cemetery.

According to Carlin, "He was cremated and we spread his ashes as few years ago in Rhinelander at Crescent Lake where the folks lived before they moved to Milwaukee."

Chapter 6 – David Brook Stearns

Eleventh Generation (Continued) Children of Perry Stearns and Mae Belle Brook

16394231112. David Brook Stearns (*Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷ *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born on 31 Oct 1920 in Milwaukee Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



David Brook Stearns at 2 years old

His birth certificate transcription and certificate follows:

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Registration of Births
No. 12952
PLACE OF BIRTH
County of: Milwaukee
Township, or Village, or City of: Milwaukee
No. Milwaukee Hospital, 15 Ward
Full name of child: David Brook Stearns

Date of birth: Oct. 31, 1920

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

Stillborn:

Was child deformed or physically defective?

Nature of Defect:

Sex of child: Male

Color or Race: White

Twin, Triplet or other:

Number in order of birth:

Legitimate: Yes

FATHER

Full name: Perry Jay Stearns

Residence: 1472 Murray Ave., Shorewood

Color: White

Age at last birthday: 29

Birthplace: Minnesota

Occupation: Lawyer

MOTHER

Full maiden name: Mae Belle Brook

Residence: same

Color or Race: White

Age at last birthday: 29

Birthplace: Nebraska

Occupation: Housewife

Number of Child of this mother:

Number of children of this mother now living:

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on October 31st. 1920, at 12:15 M.

Signature: Walter G. Darling

Filed: Nov. 5, 1920

Local Registrar: Dr. G. H. Jahn

Recorded: Dec 15, 1920

Edw. Richard Elener?, Register

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THE BOEHM BINDERY

Registration of Births.

PLACE OF BIRTH

County of Milwaukee No. 12952

Township of _____

or

Village of _____

or

City of Milwaukee

No. Milwaukee Hospital St. 157

Full Name of Child David Brook Stearns

Date of Birth Oct. 31, 1922

Month

Day

Year

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

Stillborn: Yes or No.	Was child deformed or physically defective? Yes or No.		Nature of defect:	
Sex of Child Male	Color or Race of Child White	Twin, Triplet, or other?	Number in order of birth	Legitimate?
FATHER			MOTHER	
Full Name Parry Guy Stearns			Full Maiden Name Mae Belle Brook	
Residence 1472 Murray Ave.			Residence Same	
Color or Race White	Age at Last Birthday 29		Color or Race White	Age at Last Birthday 29
Years			Years	
Birthplace Minnesota	State or Country		Birthplace Nebraska	State or Country
Occupation Lawyer			Occupation Housewife	
Number of Child of this Mother?	Number of Children of this Mother, now living?		1. What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? 2. If none, why?	

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on October 31st,

1922, at 12:00 M., on the date above stated.

(Signature) Walter G. Darling

{ When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. }

Given name added from a supplemental report

Physician or Midwife

Address

UNCERTIFIED COPY
NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES

Filed Nov. 5, 1922.

Local Registrar

Recorded Dec 15-1920

Dec 6-21-1920 Register

Richard E. Stearns

Birth Certificate – David Brook Stearns

David married **Jeanne Martin**, daughter of **Roland Roscoe Martin** and **Inez Witherall**. Jeanne was born on 30 Apr 1920 in Green Bay, Brown, Wisconsin and died on 27 Jul 1978 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin at age 58. Jeanne's mother also went by the name "Olive" or "Babe".

Her birth certificate and transcription follow:

Form 102-5-20-19-100M

PLACE OF BIRTH

County of *Brown* Township of _____
or Village of _____
City of *Green Bay* (No. *532 S. Webster*)

MAY 191920 **STATE OF WISCONSIN**
Department of Health—Bureau of Vital Statistics

COPY OF BIRTH RECORD *726*
(To be filled out by the Register of Deeds)

Page No. *726* St. *Ward*

FULL NAME OF CHILD *Jeanne Martin*

Stillborn: Yes or No.	Was child deformed or physically defective? Yes or No.	Nature of defect:
<i>W</i>		

Sex of Child	Color or Race of Child	Twin, Triplet, or other?	and	Number in order of birth	Legitimate?	Date of birth (Month) <i>Apr</i> (Day) <i>30</i> (Year) <i>1920</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>W</i>			<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>	

FATHER FULL NAME <i>Roland Roscoe Martin</i> RESIDENCE <i>532 S. Webster</i>	MOTHER FULL MAIDEN NAME <i>Olive Witherall</i> RESIDENCE <i>532 S. Webster</i>
COLOR OR RACE <i>W</i> AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>25</i> (Years)	COLOR <i>W</i> AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>25</i> (Years)
BIRTHPLACE <i>Wis</i> (State or Country)	BIRTHPLACE <i>Wis</i> (State or Country)
OCCUPATION <i>Real Estate Agent</i>	OCCUPATION <i>Housewife</i>

Number of child of this mother?	Number of children of this mother now living?	1. What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? <i>1% Silver Nitrate</i>
<i>W</i>	<i>1</i>	2. If none, why?

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on *Apr. 30*, 1920 at *532 S. Webster* M., on the date above stated.
 { When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. } (Signature) *H. Hendrykson M.D.*
 Given name added from a supplemental report. Address. *Green Bay, Wis.*
 Local Registrar. Filed. *May 7, 1920, Mrs. F. J. Goss*
 (Physician or Midwife)
 Local Registrar.

Wisconsin Birth Certificate – Jeanne Martin

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 Department of Health – Bureau of Vital Statistics
 Copy of Birth Record
 Page No. 726
PLACE OF BIRTH
 County of: Brown
 Township, or Village, or City of: Green Bay
 No. 532 S. Webster

Full name of child: Jeanne Martin
Date of birth: Apr 30, 1920
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
Sex of child: F
Color or Race: W
Twin, Triplet or other: } and { Number in order of birth: 1
Legitimate: Yes

FATHER

Full name: Roland Roscoe Martin

Residence: 532 S. Webster

Color: White

Age at last birthday: 25

Birthplace: Wisconsin

Occupation: Real Estate Agent

MOTHER

Full maiden name: Olive Witherall

Residence: 532 S. Webster

Color or Race: W

Age at last birthday: 25

Birthplace: Wisconsin

Occupation: Housewife

Number of Child of this mother: 1st

Number of children of this mother now living: 1

Was prophylaxis used to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum?: Yes

What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use?: 1% Silver

Nitrate

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on Apr 30, 1920 at 5:30 p.m.

Signature: H. Hendrickson, M.D.

Address: Green Bay, Wis

Filed: May 7, 1920

Local Registrar: Mr. F. J. Gosin

Recorded: May 19, 1920

According to Dave, the Martin's moved from Green Bay around 5th Grade or so. They first lived in duplex near Lake Bluff School where she met Dave who was roller skating around the neighborhood looking for cute girls.

She graduated from grade school at Lake Bluff and then they moved to 1420 East Capitol Drive where she attended junior high school at Shorewood High School.

Jeanne double dated with Dave's friend John Coleman and Dave took another date, Alene Belle Clark, from Whitefish Bay to the Junior Prom at Shorewood High.



Jeanne Martin at about 1 year, probably in Green Bay, Wis.

Children from this marriage were:

16394231121. David Brook Stearns Jr., M, b. 8 Jul 1944
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

16394231122. Deborah Witherall Stearns, F, b. 19 Jul 1947 in
Boston, Massachusetts.

16394231123. James Martin Stearns, M, b. 12 Nov 1948
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Noted events in their lives were:

He appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in 1472 Murray Ave.,
Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. David is 9, living with his parents

Perry J, 39, and Maebelle, 39, and attending school. Also at home are his brothers Forest, 11, Perry O, 6, and his sister Rhodora, 4. Perry J owns his home worth \$9000 and works as a lawyer with a law firm.

Jeanne appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 living at 1695 Morris Blvd., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is 9 years old, living with her parents Roland, 34, and Olive, 33 and attending school. They rent their home for \$50. Roland is an Asst. Credit Manager for a meat packing company. Olive is not employed.

Dave grew up in Shorewood and lived there until he left for college in 1938. He attended Lake Bluff grade school and then went to Shorewood High School where he graduated 1st ranking boy in his class of 200. He was beat out by two girls for top honors.



Lake Bluff School. Dave is on far left, second row. Probably 2nd or 3rd grade.

He was active in the Boy Scouts and attained the level of Eagle Scout.



**David in Boy Scout Uniform about 6th grade.
Lake Bluff School in background.**

The Stearns family spent most every summer at their cottage in the north woods on Found Lake near Sayner, Wisconsin. Dave specialized in bass fishing. He used to catch crayfish which he used for bait. The next picture is of Dave with some very nice looking bass that he caught. His younger brother Perry is standing next to him admiring the catch or possibly waiting his turn to get a picture with the fish.



**Dave Stearns with smallmouth bass caught with crayfish.
Brother Perry on right. Found Lake, circa 1930.**

The Perry Stearns family belonged to the Unitarian Church on the lower east side of Milwaukee. As a project for Sunday school, Dave made a passport as an introduction to their upcoming studies of the Holy Land.

<p>I, the undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of America, hereby request all whom it may concern to permit safely and freely to pass, and in case of need to give all lawful aid and protection to</p> <p><u>David B. Stearns</u> a citizen of the United States.</p> <p>Given under my hand and the seal of the Department of State at Washington</p> <p>March 20th 1932 <u>Henry L. Stimson</u></p>		<p>Description of bearer</p> <p>Height <u>4</u> feet <u>8</u> inches.</p> <p>Hair <u>Brown</u></p> <p>Eyes <u>Brown</u></p> <p>Distinguishing marks or features: <u>A Mole above right eye</u></p> <p>Place of birth <u>Milwaukee</u> <u>Wisconsin U.S.A.</u></p> <p>Date of birth <u>Oct. 8, 1920</u></p> <p>Occupation <u>Student</u></p> <p>Signature of bearer. <u>David Stearns</u></p> <p>Photograph of bearer</p>
<p>I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that I am a loyal member of the First Unitarian Sunday School, that I intend to embark <u>March 27, 1932</u> on the steamship <u>S.S. Columbia</u> for an extended trip through the Holy Land visiting <u>Joppa, Hebron, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho</u>. This trip being personally conducted by: <u>Mrs. Hugo Lyemann</u></p> <p>Signed <u>David Stearns</u> <u>4146 North Murray Avenue</u> <u>Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.</u></p>		

I, the undersigned, do hereby
declare, that David B. Stearns
is a member in good standing, of
the First Unitarian Sunday School,
Milwaukee, Wis., and as such, is
entitled to receive this Passport
giving him the rights and privi-
leges of a traveler through the
countries herein mentioned.

Given under my hand and seal this

20th day of March 1932.

Course of Study:

THE BIBLE

and

THE BIBLE COUNTRY

Teacher: Mrs. Hugo Logemann.

Maurice G. Ogden

Supt. First Unitarian
Sunday School,
Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A.

**Unitarian Sunday School Passport.
Teacher was Mrs. Hugo Logemann, March 1932.**

The picture of Dave in his "passport" thoughtfully included his dog that was traveling with him to the Holy Land. The dog was the infamous and well-loved "Scraps", known for mingling with skunks in the north woods.

Dave says that every Sunday it was always a last minute rush to get to Sunday school on time.

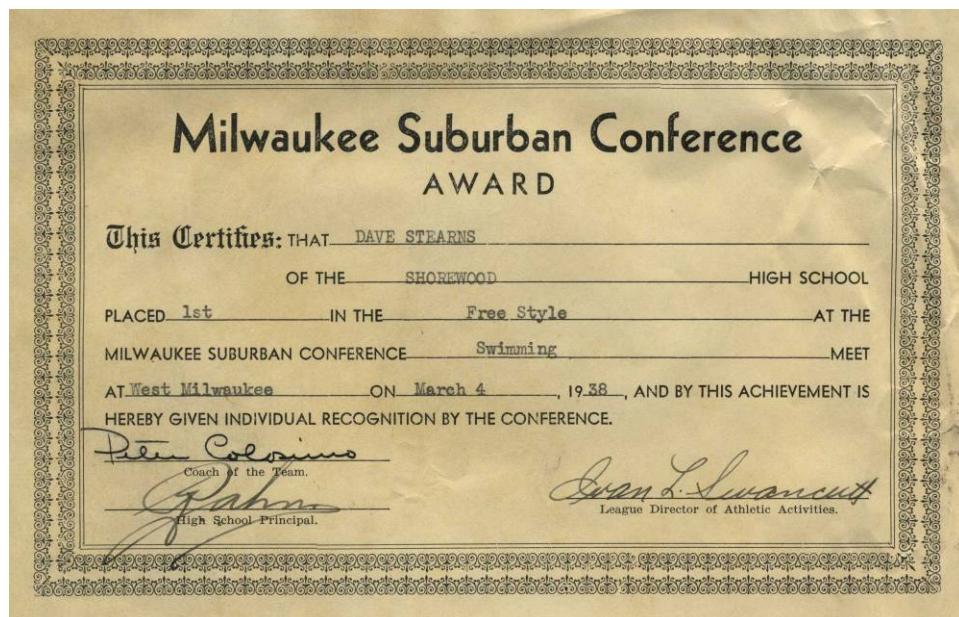
Another dog they had as children was not remembered so fondly. According to Dave it bit him once on the face. Perry ignored the incident. Later the dog bit Rhodora and Perry immediately got rid of the dog. According to Rhodora, it was a Spitz named 'Buddy'.

In high school, Dave was on the swimming and football teams and was awarded 1st place in State competition in the free style swimming event.

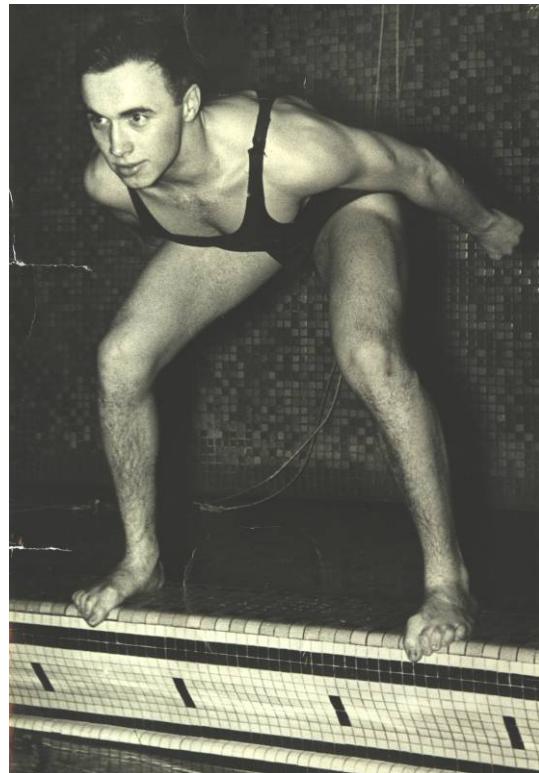
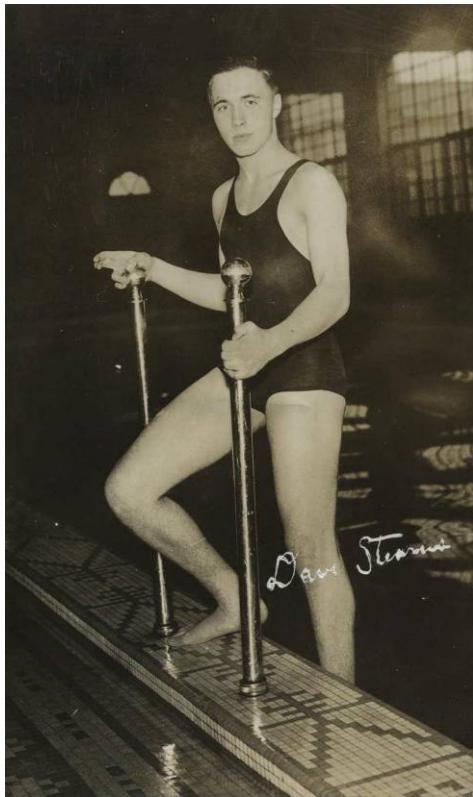
Dave states that his football achievements were undistinguished. He says he only weighed 125 pounds and was once given the ball and lost 3 yards.



Shorewood Football team. Dave is in front row, far right.



Suburban Conference 1st Place swimming award



Dave Stearns, Shorewood swimming team.

Scarlet Splashmen Retain Sto

**Garner 54½
Points And
Win Easily**

**150 Yard Relay Team Sets
New State Mark In
Time of 1:29.8**

Snatching five firsts out of nine events, Coach Pete Colosimo's men easily retained their state swimming title by sinking all enemies with 54½ points.

The 150 yard relay team, composed of Don Frank, Bill Scott, and Fred Miller, established a new record when they tore down the old one of 1:31.2 to 1:29.8.

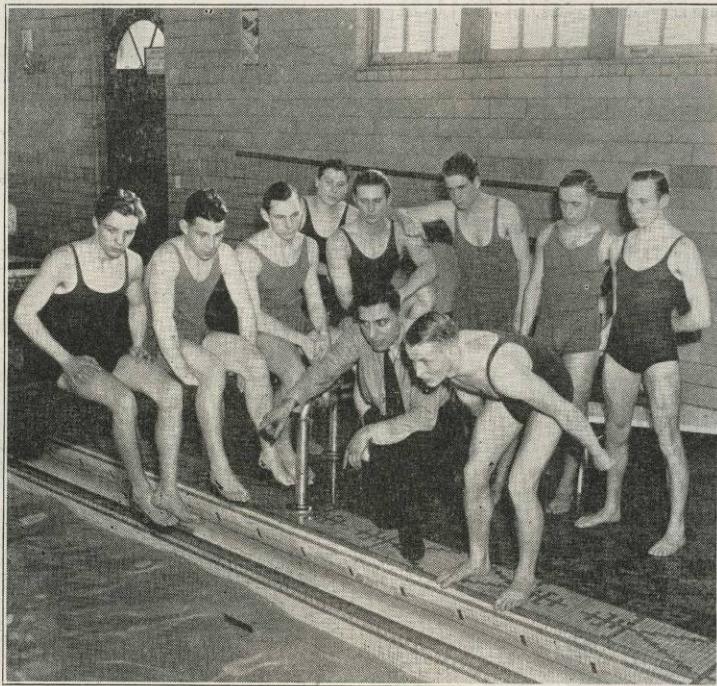
Paul Pohle of Washington nosed out Don Frank to set a new mark in the 100 yard backstroke when he made the distance in 1:06.9.

The 200 yard free style relay team of Don Frank, John White, Dave Stearns, and Bud Owens; Bruce Allen in the 75 yard individual medley; and Dave Stearns in the 100 yard free style garnered the other Crimson firsts. Bud Owens brought home three seconds.

Other finmen who starred for the Red and Grey were Bob Smith, Bill Buckley, Bill Scott, Ronny Trumble, Don Schmidt, and Carl Guile.

The victory wound up a successful season in which the Admiral and his crew lost only one dual meet out of nine contests, the victor being a strong Rockford squad.

Seniors End Pool Paddling



Fifteen Tankers Win Letters; Scott And Frank Co-Captains

Coach Pete Colosimo announced early today that fifteen members of the tank squad would receive letters for the fine showing they made this season.

At a recent meeting of the swimmers, Don Frank, sterling backstroker, and Bill Scott, outstanding breaststroker, were elected to the honorary post of co-captains.

Ronnie Trumble and Carl Guile upheld the diving duties in fine style and were given letters for their services, while Don Frank and Bill Buckley took complete charge of the

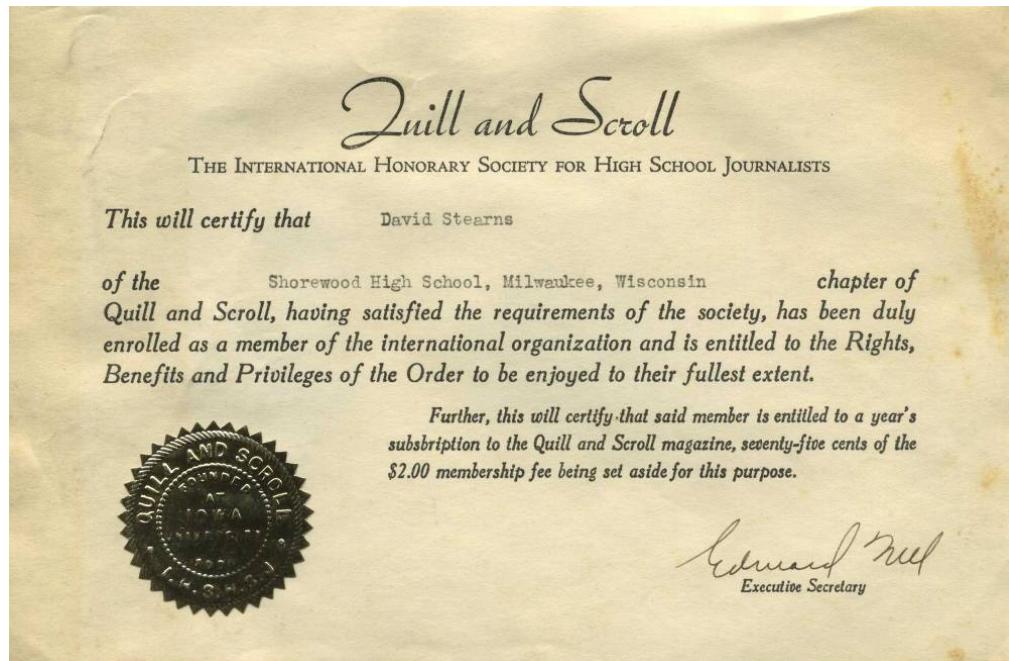
backstroke department and also gained emblems.

Erv Rauser and Bill Scott splashed away in the breaststroke division and were awarded the "S", and the exceptional work of Bruce Allen in the 75 yard individual medley gained him a letter.

The 200 yard free style was, perhaps, the toughest grind on the docket, so Bob Smith and Don Schmidt well deserved the award. Other free stylers who received letters were Fred Miller, Dave Stearns, Bud Owens, John White, Rex Scott. Jack Coleman took the manager's award.

**Shorewood swim team article in "Shorewood Ripples", Mar 25, 1938
Dave is standing second from right in picture.**

He was a member of Quill and Scroll, a journalism organization and was news editor of the high school paper, "Shorewood Ripples".



Quill and Scroll membership certificate

A scanned image of the "Shorewood Ripples" newspaper masthead and staff list. The masthead features the title "Shorewood Ripples" in a large, decorative font. Below it, the text "Published bi-weekly by the students of Shorewood High School, Shorewood, Wisconsin." is printed. A horizontal line follows, with staff names listed as follows:

Editor-in-chief Nelldean Kingsley

Managing Editor Frank Birch
News Editor David Stearns
Sports Editors Bill Pape, Fred Goulston
Feature Editors Dorothy Jane Taylor, Malcolm Smith
Campus Editor Sue Fisher
Alumni Editor Dorothy Hoffman
Exchange Editor Ruth Ann Anders
Columnist Mary Marie Bingham
Proof Reader Virginia Diercks

David Stearns, News Editor, Shorewood Ripples

He was also an active member of the band and played the flute and piccolo.

CONCERT

Shorewood High School Band

SANDY S. SMITH, Director

Friday, May 21, 1937

PERSONNEL OF BAND

Chief Musician—Howard Litscher
First Drum Major—John Connor
Second Drum Major—Jack Campbell

PICCOLO

David Stearns**
Robert McIntyre*

FLUTES

David Stearns**
Robert McIntyre*
Lloyd Williams
Richard Mattchett
Jean Cunningham
Helen Valencourt

BASSOONS

Gilbert Hornig
Ruth Reilly
June Tracey

BASS CLARINET

Carrol Jassoy

ALTO CLARINETS

Alice Bienenstock
Dorothy Paulus

FRENCH HORNS

William Kuhns*
Sue Fisher
Mildred Fox
Herbert Eisten
John Connor**
James Brachman
Donald Willson

EUPHONIUM

Howard Litscher***

Band concert flyer from a performance in Hammond, Indiana (the two asterisks after Dave's name indicates he was a sergeant)

Dave and Bob McIntyre were the two piccolo players and also were in the flute section. Dave discussed his flute and piccolo experiences below:

I was the head of the flute section. There were four of us in the flute section, all guys. As flute players we also played the piccolo. It was the same fingering and everything, just a higher register, quite a bit higher. We were featured when we went on trips. We would always be called up to get out in front of the band and either march along if we were walking or stand in front of the band if we were sitting and play the Stars and Stripes Forever; Sousa's march. It was a wonderful great march. It goes....rumptdy dumpty da .da. da. dum...this is about two octaves above where I am singing.....rumptdy dumpty da .da. da. dum, Sousa's great march; Stars and Stripes Forever; the most famous march of all. Our flute section was Bob McIntyre, and Lloyd Williams, me and one guy from the next class down, the Matchette kid, Dick Matchette. I don't know if you ever knew him. He was a cousin of your Matchette friends [John Matchette was Dick's cousin and father of Rick and Mike]. We would get rousing cheers for our rendition of the Stars and Stripes Forever. [Wish we had that on tape]

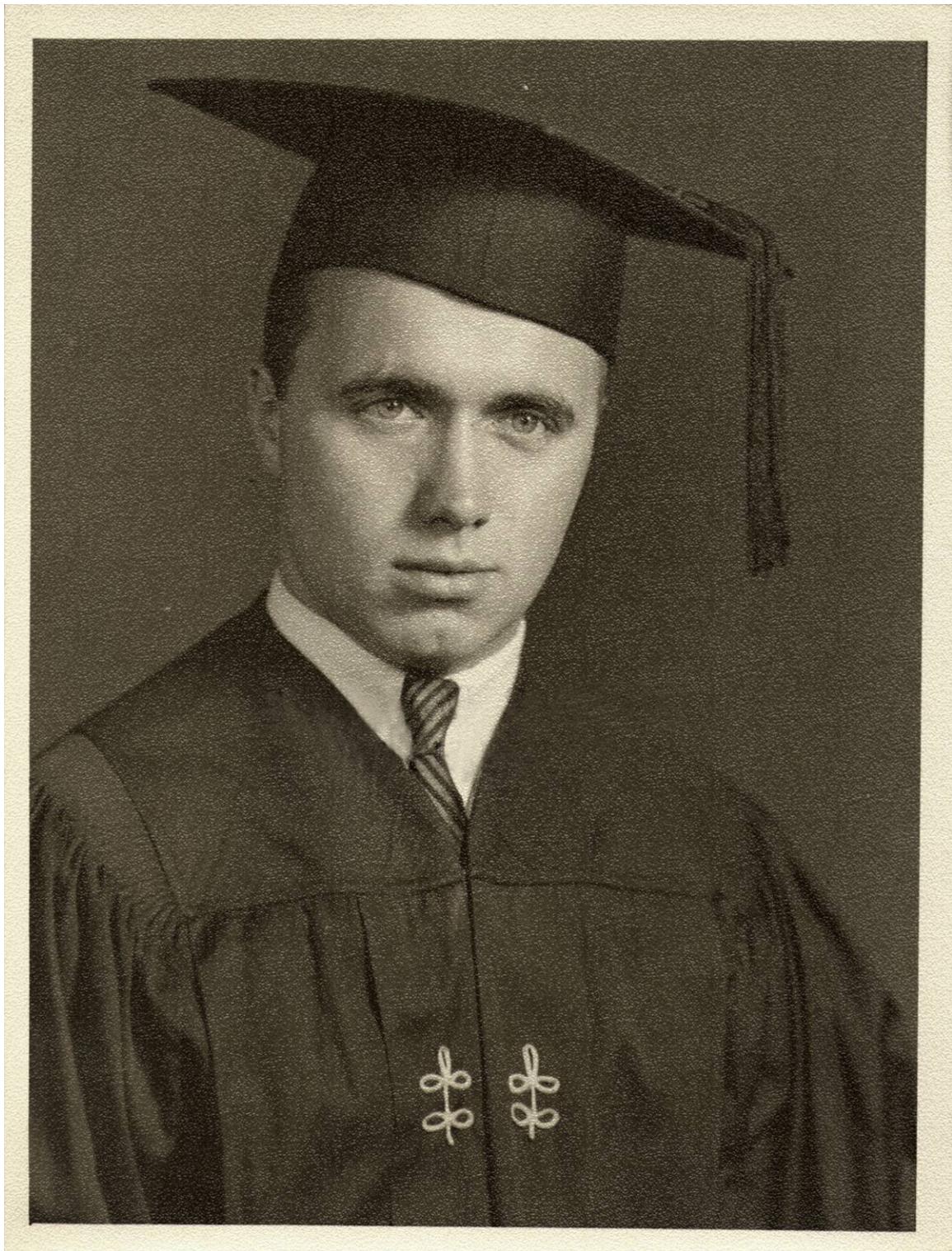
It is so shrill and its way above the band and you can hear it for miles.

The Shorewood High School yearbook was called the Copperdome.
This is Dave's picture for the yearbook in his last year, 1938.

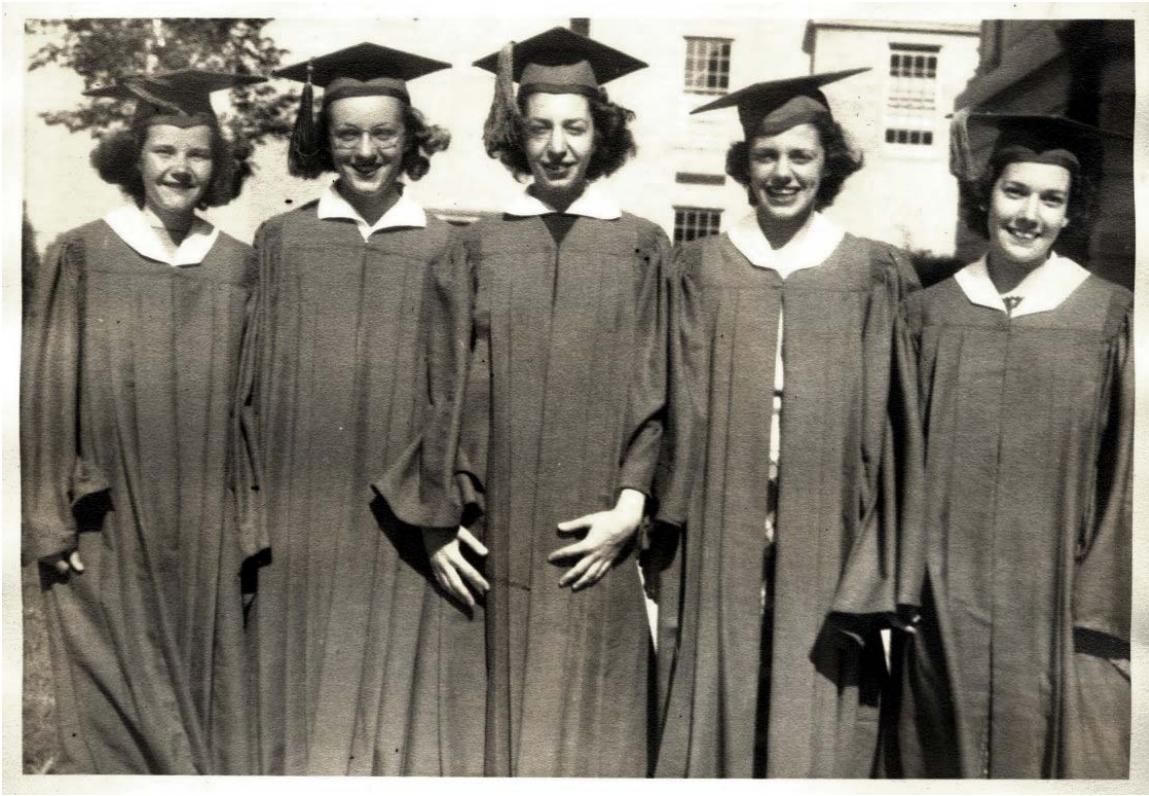


David Stearns, Copperdome picture, 1938

Both Dave and Jeanne graduated from Shorewood High School in 1938.



David Brook Stearns, graduation picture Shorewood HS, 1938



**Jeanne Martin and friends. Graduation picture. Jeanne is second from right.
DJ Taylor on far left next to Ruth Ann Anders (Peterson), Jean Steinmeyer
and Emmy Caraway on far right.**

Dave and Jeanne knew each other throughout high school, but were not serious about each other until after graduation. The following picture was taken in front of the Martin family apartment on 1420 E. Capitol Drive, just a few blocks from Shorewood High School.



Dave and Jeanne, June 1938, 1420 E. Capitol Drive, Shorewood, Wis.

After graduation, Dave was accepted to Harvard University for the fall term, graduating class of 1942. Jeanne attended Milwaukee Downer College.



HARVARD COLLEGE

CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION

CAMBRIDGE, July 20, 1938

David Brook Stearns is admitted to the
Freshman Class as a candidate for the degree of *A. B.*

*Honors
English*

This candidate has satisfied the
language requirements for a degree
in the following subjects:

English

Before a candidate is permitted to register in the Freshman Class, he is required to submit to the Office of the Dean, 3 University Hall, Cambridge, a satisfactory certificate of vaccination.

A candidate admitted in June who does not intend to enter Harvard in the year in which his certificate of admission is issued should notify the Committee on Admission of that fact not later than September first.

A candidate who wishes to defer his entrance until a later year must give notice in writing of his intention to register in a subsequent year; and this written notice must be sent to the Committee on Admission between January first and June first of the year in which he expects to enter. Failure to comply with this rule will ordinarily cancel the privilege of registration for that year.

Richard M. Grummer

Chairman of Committee on Admission.

David Stearns, letter of acceptance, Harvard University

During the summer months, Dave worked at Boy Scout Camp Quinapoxet in New Hampshire with his brother Forest. He was to be the Assistant to the Water-Front Director in charge of canoeing and boating including sailing instruction.

 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
EIGHTEEN BRATTLE STREET • CAMBRIDGE • MASSACHUSETTS

CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL INCORPORATED

THEODORE L. STORER, President	INGOLF V. BOCKMANN, Commissioner	RUSSELL GEROULD	FRANCIS T. McCABE	EDWARD INGRAHAM
STEPHEN H. MAHONEY, Vice President	JAY W. CLEMENTS, Executive	ALBERT B. CARTER	GEORGE H. ROCKWELL	WAYLAND M. MINOT
ROBERT R. DUNCAN, Vice President	JOSEPH R. LITTLE	TRUMAN D. HAYES	JOHN D. CROWLEY	E. FRANCIS BOWDITCH
LEONARD WHEELER, JR., Treasurer	HYMAN PILL	DANA T. GALLUP	DAVID H. HOWIE	MILTON STREET

June 6, 1938

Mr. David Stearns
4146 North Murray Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

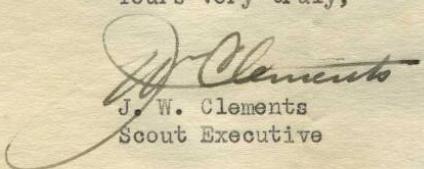
Dear Mr. Stearns:

I expect you have been waiting some time to hear from me. Since talking with your brother Forest regarding the possibility of your coming to Camp Quinapoxet with us this summer, I was taking it pretty much for granted that you would be there.

The position I have in mind for you is Assistant to the Water-Front Director, particularly in charge of canoeing and boating, including instruction for sailing craft. We have purchased two new sail boats this year.

We will be glad to have you come with us for the regular season from July 3 to August 24, the remuneration to consist of free board during the length of your stay. If possible, plan to come on June 27, so that we might have several days in Camp together before the regular opening.

Yours very truly,


J. W. Clements
Scout Executive

JWC:S

David Stearns offer to work at Camp Quinapoxet, N.H.



Dave at Camp Quinapoxet, summer 1938

After working in New Hampshire with his brother Forest for the summer, they returned to Milwaukee and prepared to go off to college. Forest was also attending Harvard and in September of 1938, Dave and Forest left Milwaukee for Cambridge. They made it to Massachusetts, but were traveling at the same time that the infamous 1938 hurricane hit the New England states. They made it through.

Dave says that as he was about to board the Lake Michigan ferry, Jeanne Martin and a few friends came down to see them off and she gave him a big hug and kiss. According to Dave, that was the start of their serious relationship.

Life was not always rosy for Dave. Just before he left for college, he had a little fender-bender with his dad's Buick sedan. A picture documenting the damage was taken by a professional photographer, presumably for an accident report. Dave is sheepishly sitting in the driver's seat. His son, David, Jr. really cherishes this picture and figures it is the reason why Dave was not so mad at him for smashing up the 1954 family Ford station wagon when he himself had an

accident as a teenager. Unfortunately, David Jr. skipped school that day and was chastised more for that than the accident.



Dave Stearns behind the wheel of his father's Buick after accident. Photo taken Sept 6, 1938. The car looks to be about a 1936 model.

Dave attended Harvard from the fall of 1938 until December 1941 when he quit school a few credits shy of graduating to join the Navy. This was two days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and he along with many other men joined up after hearing Franklin Roosevelt's speech on the "Day that will live in Infamy".

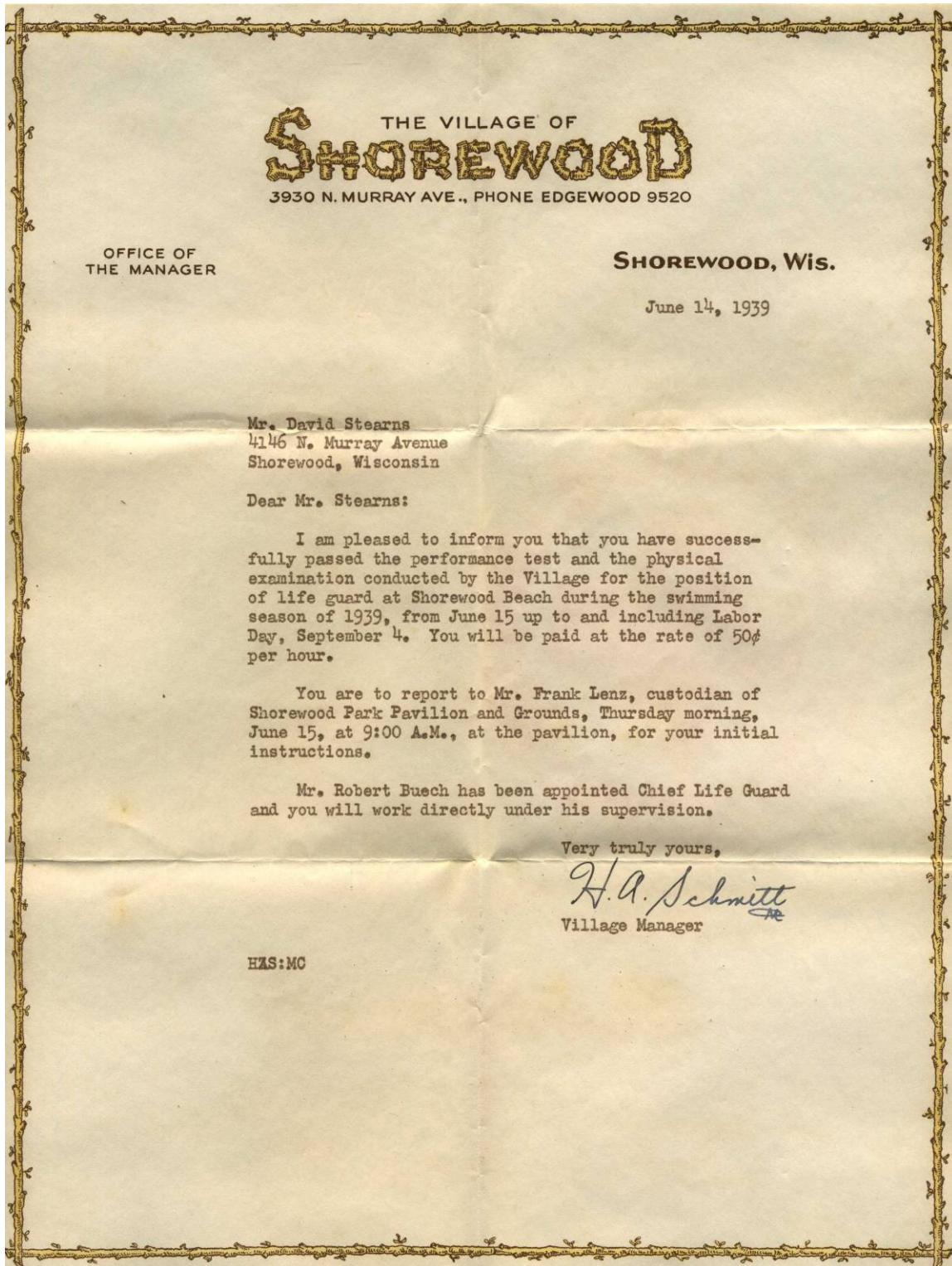
While at Harvard, Dave was the Captain of the freshman swimming team. Jack Kennedy was also on the swimming team during this time. Dave worked as the sports editor of the Harvard Crimson school newspaper. He lived in Adams House, one of the older dormitories on campus.

Dave and Jeanne saw each other during breaks and the summer months. A nice picture of the two taken while attending a summer prom at UW in Madison, Wisconsin was taken in 1939.

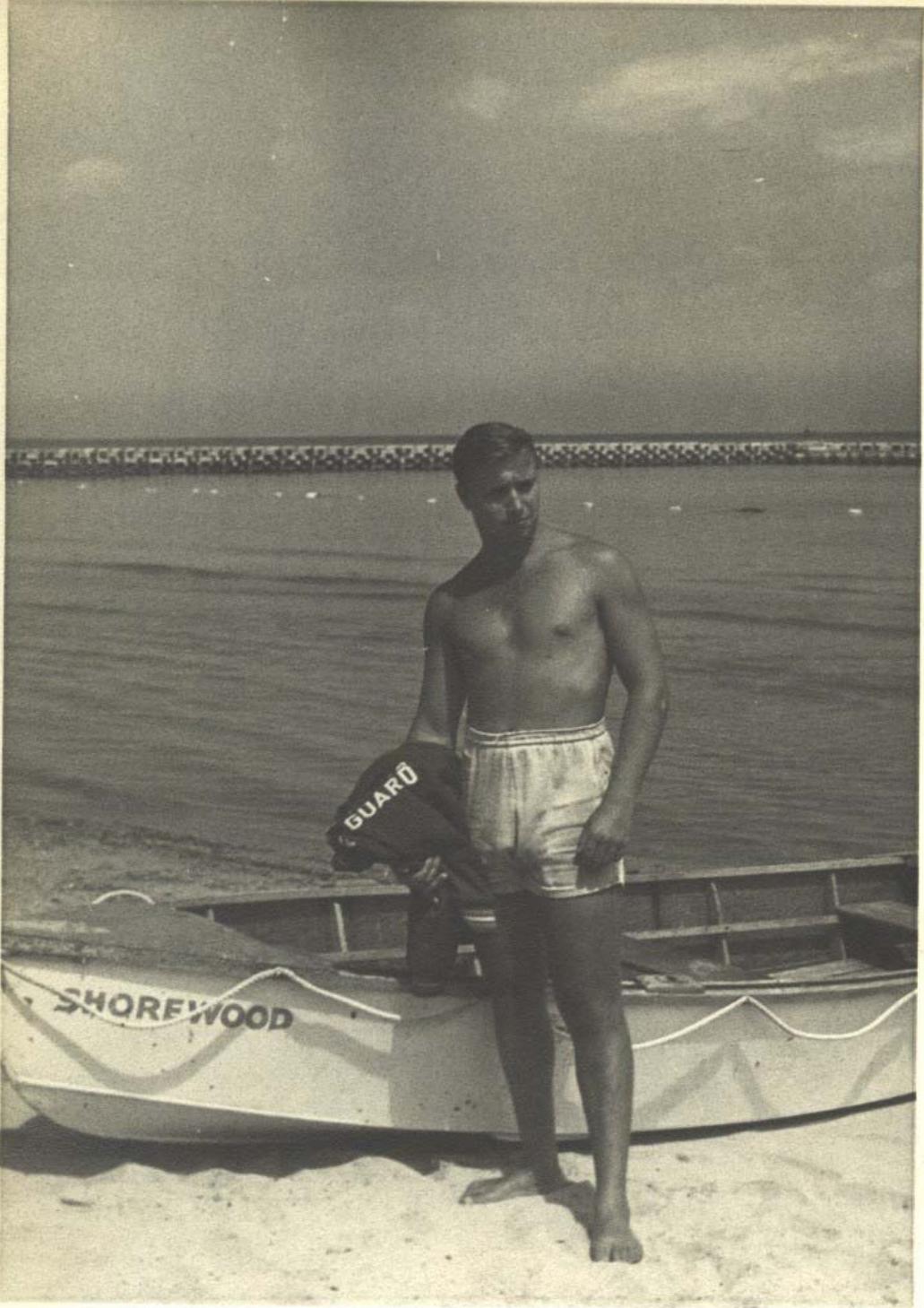


Summer prom, University Wisconsin Madison, 1939

During the summer of 1941, Dave worked as a lifeguard at the Atwater beach in Shorewood.



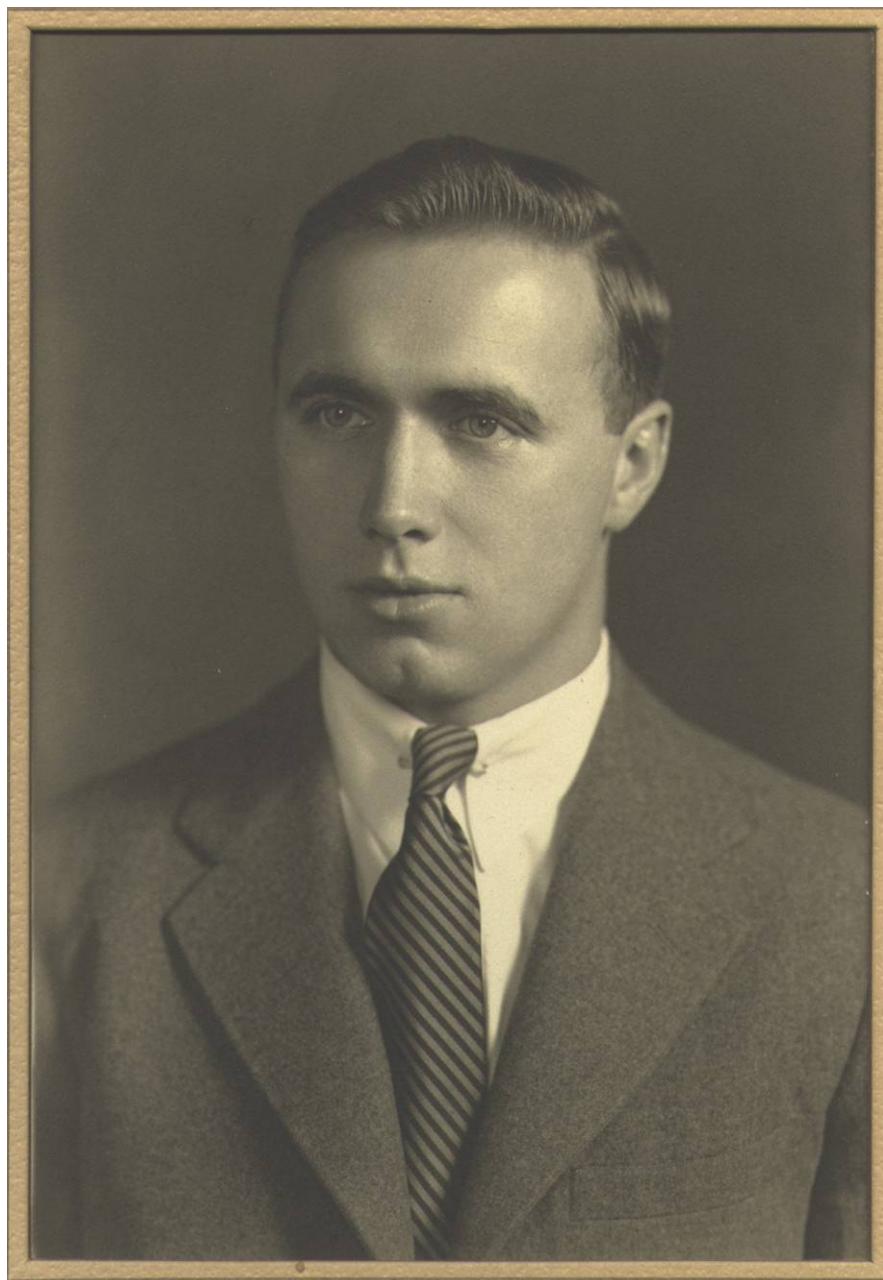
Acceptance letter from the Village of Shorewood for lifeguard position



Summer - 1941

Dave Stearns, lifeguard, Shorewood Atwater beach on Lake Michigan

Dave probably took the following picture his last year at Harvard, perhaps in anticipation of graduating. There is no date, but it is easy to date Dave by his hair. Here he has a pretty full head of hair, so it must have been while still an undergrad.



**David Stearns, no date, but probably as undergraduate at Harvard.
Picture was taken in Boston.**

Dave had one semester to go when the United States was attacked by Japan at Pearl Harbor. He was only shy two credits to graduate. After enlisting in the Navy as an aviation cadet, he negotiated a deal with Harvard to get those last credits needed for graduation. He was to write some short stories for his English professor for one credit and the other credit would be granted after he completed flight training and got his commission as an officer.

Dave left Harvard for Milwaukee in January of 1942 and was told by the Navy to wait until his assignment to pre-flight school. Dave waited about 6 months and in the meantime, wrote his short stories and worked in the Blatz brewery. Finally, he was given his orders and reported to Iowa City, Iowa for pre-flight school in June, 1942. He states that most of the time there was spent marching and doing physical training and drills with full packs and rifles in the 110 degree summer heat. He finally graduated in September of 1942. Rhodora, Perry and Mae Belle Stearns along with Jeanne Martin and Lacy Dings Stearns drove down to see him in July of 1942.



Graduation from pre-flight school at Iowa City, Iowa, Sept. 1942. From left, sister Rhodora, Dave, Perry J and Mae Belle



Another Iowa City graduation picture with Jeanne Martin, Dave, Mae Belle and Lacy Stearns

Dave's next assignment was to Naval Air Station Glenview, Glenview, Illinois, only a short distance from Milwaukee. Presidents George H W Bush and Gerald Ford both were at Glenview during WWII. Astronaut Neil Armstrong was also stationed there.

Here Dave received actual flight training in a Navy N3N biplane trainer and made his first solo flight on October 12, 1942. Dave finished up training there in December of 1942 and said he was glad to be done with it due to the bad weather.

After mastering the biplanes at Glenview, Dave's next assignment was to report for advanced training at the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. Here he flew in the SNJ trainer and later in PBY seaplanes. Before graduation, he was offered an opportunity to transfer into the Marine Corps and fly fighters. He accepted the offer and graduated with his wings and a commission as second lieutenant in the Marines on the 15th of April, 1943. After getting his wings, Dave probably fancied himself as Eddie Rickenbacker or a member of the Lafayette Escadrille.



Aviator, David Stearns

Harvard came through with their deal and gave Dave his diploma.

HARVARD COLLEGE

DEAN'S OFFICE
A. C. HANFORD, DEAN

4 UNIVERSITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

May 26, 1943

Dear Stearns,

I am very happy to inform you that the Administrative Board has voted to grant you 1 course credit for your work in Naval Aviation, that your name is added to the degree list and will be awarded to you on May 27th. I am taking the liberty of having the degree itself sent to your parents for safe keeping.

This should complete our official negotiations, but if at any future date I can be of any further service to you, I hope that you will not hesitate to write to me.

I am returning to you, at your request, the copy of your "Notification of Appointment."

Please accept my most sincere congratulations for having completed your college work under such difficult circumstances and my very best wishes for the days to come.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Duhig

Charles W. Duhig
Assistant Dean

Second Lieutenant David B. Stearns
Operational Training Squadron #8
U. S. Marine Corps Air Station
Cherry Point, North Carolina

Letter from Harvard granting Dave his degree

His next assignment was to get married. Dave and Jeanne made plans to marry before he had to report to the Cherry Point Marine base the following month. They married on April 20, 1943 at the home of Marion (Witherall) and Fred Dohmen in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

COPY OF ORIGINAL

RECD May 21, 1943

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health—Bureau of Vital Statistics Register No. 1330

Certificate of Marriage

I, Hal Earl Norton, hereby certify that on the 20 day of April A.D. 1943 at MILWAUKEE in the county of MILWAUKEE, State of Wisconsin, David Brook Stearns of the State of WISCONSIN, and Jeanne Martin of Shorewood, state of MILWAUKEE, were by me united in marriage as authorized by a Marriage License issued for that purpose by the County Clerk of MILWAUKEE, County and State of Wisconsin, numbered 215276 and dated the 20 day of April A.D. 1943.

We, the undersigned, were present at the Marriage of David Brook Stearns and Jeanne Martin. We declare that they took each other for husband and wife, as set forth in the foregoing certificate, at their request, and heard their declarations.

Two Witnesses	<u>Mrs. Jerome L. Hogan, Jr.</u>	Signature of person officiating	Name <u>Hal Earl Norton</u>
	<u>Ervin F. Rausier, Jr.</u>	and P. O. Address	<u>5504 N. Lydell, Milwaukee</u>

Groom	Bride
Name <u>David Brook Stearns</u>	Name <u>Jeanne Martin</u>
Residence <u>4146 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood</u>	Residence <u>1420 E. Capitol Dr., Shorewood</u>
Age <u>22</u> Color <u>white</u> Single <u>Widowed</u> No. of Marriages <u>1st</u>	Age <u>22</u> Color <u>white</u> Single <u>Widowed</u> No. of Marriages <u>1st</u>
Birthplace <u>Milwaukee, Wis</u> Nationality <u>American</u>	Birthplace <u>Green Bay, Wis</u> Nationality <u>American</u>
Relationship <u>none</u>	Relationship <u>none</u>
Occupation <u>U. S. Marine's Aviation</u>	Occupation <u>none</u>
Name of Father, Guardian or Curator <u>Perry J. Stearns</u>	Name of Father, Guardian or Curator <u>Roland R. Martin</u>
Maiden name of Mother <u>Mae Belle Brook</u>	Maiden name of Mother <u>Olive Witherall</u>
If previously married	
Date of Marriage	Date of Marriage
To whom Married	To whom Married
Date of Death	Date of Death
Where Divorced	Where Divorced
By What Court Divorced	By What Court Divorced
To whom Divorce granted	To whom Divorce granted
Was a special dispensation issued? <u>yes</u>	
Maiden name of Bride	
If previously married	

If previously married

Date of Issue 4/20/43 1943 Goo. F. Breitbach County Clerk
 Filed 4/22/43 1943 G.R. Flambreg M.D. Local Registrar

*UNCERTIFIED CO
NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY*

David Brook Stearns and Jeanne Martin Marriage Certificate

Transcription of Marriage Certificate (items not filled out are omitted):

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Health - Bureau of Vital Statistics
Copy of Marriage Record

Doc. No.: 2001??

Filed: May 21, 1943

Register No.: 1330

{License Number: 215276

{Place of Marriage

{County of: Milwaukee

{or City of: Milwaukee

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE:

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Two Witnesses}

Mrs. Jerome I. Hogan, Jr.

Ervin F. Rauser, Jr.

Signature of person officiating and P.O. Address}

Name: Hal Earl Norton

P.O. Address: 5564 N. Lydell, Milwaukee

Groom

Name: David Brook Stearns

Residence: 4146 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood

Age: 22

Color: white

Single, Widowed, Divorced:

No. of Marriages: 1st

Birthplace: Milwaukee, Wis.

Nationality: American

Relationship: none

Occupation: U.S. Marine's Aviation

Name of Father, Guardian or Curator: Perry J. Stearns

Maiden name of Mother: Mae Belle Brook

Was a special dispensation issued: Yes

Bride

Name: Jeanne Martin

Residence: 1420 N. Capitol Dr., Shorewood

Age: 22

Color: white

Single, Widowed, Divorced:

No. of Marriages: 1st

Birthplace: Green Bay, Wis.

Nationality: American

Relationship: none

Occupation: none

Name of Father, Guardian or Curator: Roland R. Martin

Maiden name of Mother: Olive Witherall

Date of Issue: 4/20/43

County Clerk: Geo. F. Breitbach

Filed: 4/22/43

Local Registrar: E.R. Krumbiegel M.D.



Miss Jeanne Martin and Lt. David W. Stearns, who were married Tuesday, cut their wedding cake at the reception held at the home of Jeanne's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Dohmen, W. Washington Blvd.

Unsourced newspaper article on Dave and Jeanne's wedding.



Wedding couple. Dave is in his Marine Corps dress blues with his wings.

Jeanne had several formal wedding pictures taken, probably before the wedding. Dave said he was a little strapped for time that day and barely got the marriage license, ring and best man lined up in time for the wedding.



Jeanne Martin Stearns, bride, April 20, 1943

That same day, Tuesday April 20, 1943, Dave and Jeanne hopped a train and headed towards Cherry Point, North Carolina. They stopped in Washington, D.C. to visit **Forest Stearns**, Dave's older brother, who was getting married that same week on Friday, April 24th to **Hope Hartley**.

They eventually made it to Cherry Point but due to an accident on the base, Dave was granted a 30 day leave. They used this time for a honeymoon in the Smoky Mountains.



Honeymoon in the Smokies, 1943

Dave eventually reported back to Cherry Point and received flight training on the F4U Corsair. He was shipped overseas to Hawaii in March, 1944. His squadron spent about 6 months there and then boarded another carrier for the south Pacific.

Dave eventually saw action on Okinawa during the months of April and May, 1945. He flew over 300 hours of combat and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. He returned to the US via Hawaii in May, 1945 and was assigned as a test pilot at the Patuxant River Naval Air Test Station (for more details on Dave's war experiences, refer to "Lucky Streak", written May 10, 2007).

In the meantime, his first son David was born while he was in the south Pacific on July 8, 1944. After the war, Jeanne met Dave in San Diego when he arrived stateside. They bought a car and drove back to Milwaukee. Dave saw his 1 year old son, David, for the first time.

By the worried expression on his face, David, Jr. was a bit skeptical about this new person in his life



**Pictures of Dave, Jeanne and David Jr. taken in Milwaukee, June 1945.
Lower right is Perry J, Dave, David, Jr. and Roland Martin.**

Dave enrolled in Harvard Law School in October of 1945. He was also discharged from the Marines on 20 October, 1945. Again, everybody packed up their belongings and headed to Cambridge. Dave bought a home with his bonus money from the Marine Corps. It was a duplex at 33 Grozier Road in Cambridge.

While Dave attended law school he bought a truck and started a laundry agency that serviced students at Harvard. He had over 500 customers and grossed \$3000/month. In one of our taped interviews, Dave tells a little about this business:

"While I was at law school I had a chance to make a little money to support my family by selling laundry services. I had done this as an undergraduate a little bit, but it wasn't so vital, but at this point I was supporting you and your mom and so it was important to have some money around the house and we did that by having a business. It was a laundry pickup business.

I had a group of 5, 6, or 7 students that helped me make the pickups and we gathered them into my truck which I had. I've forgotten when I got the truck, but we used that to collect the laundry and we used the truck to hold it until Robbins Laundry came up from Cape Cod. He came up and took it right out of my truck. It was all bagged and marked and he hauled it down to Cape Cod. He was the laundry guy in Cape Cod. So that worked out real good. I didn't have to re-handle it.

I arranged the payments. I took a \$50 deposit from every student that wanted laundry service and I put it in the bank for them. I showed a credit for each student. I kept a record of each student that had a credit. As long as they had some money left on their credit, we would pick up their laundry. If they ran out of their money and their credit and didn't replace it, we didn't pick up their laundry. We just let it sit by their room. We were picking up by the dormitories; mostly in the old halls, not the new dorms. The new dorms were spread out and the old dorms were concentrated so it was more efficient. Robbins laundry did that every week.

[So that truck you had for the laundry business, that's what you drove back to Milwaukee?]

I brought that truck back to Milwaukee with me after law school. That's what I started the trucking business with Kro-Flite Cartage. Halfway home that truck broke down and we had to leave it by the side of the road. A couple days later we came back and got it and towed it back to Milwaukee. That was a good old truck."

In addition to his studies, Dave acted as advertising chairman of the law school yearbook and as publicity director for the Harvard Athletic Association. He was also Harvard correspondent for the Boston Herald-Traveler. Dave was awarded a scholarship and graduated with the class of 1948.

While in Boston, Dave and Jeanne had their second child, Deborah Witherall. She was born on July 19, 1947.



Dave and Jeanne in front yard of home at 33 Grozier Rd. Jeanne appears to be pregnant with Debby dating this picture as around May 1947.

Following graduation, he sent his family home by train and loaded his furniture in the laundry truck and drove back to Milwaukee.

After arriving in Milwaukee, Dave and Jeanne purchased a home at 5956 Bay Ridge Avenue in Whitefish Bay. He was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in July 1948. Their third child, James Martin Stearns, was born in Milwaukee on 12 Nov 1948.

Dave worked for his uncle Jeff for a while and as an attorney with his father for a short while, but apparently this didn't work out. Dave tells a story that when he first went to his father's office it was in such disarray that he cleaned everything up and organized the files. His father was irate with this move and shortly thereafter found Dave a job with The Milwaukee Cold Storage Company.

Dave explains his association with the Milwaukee Cold Storage Company:

"They had two guys that ran it. They owned it. One was Harvey Paul who was almost a hundred years old. He had been there for years. He was a crusty old guy. He stayed on. There was a younger man, Herb Rummell. He was the second in command there. He went to a

convention, an annual storage industry convention, and he died along the way. So they needed somebody to replace him and they asked me if I would replace him and I said, "Yeah, I'd be happy to try". So that's how I got started there. My father was either the attorney for the company or owned part of it. I don't remember. I got the job through my dad. I didn't discover that. But it just happened that Herb Rummell, who was the younger man in charge, died just after I got there.

I took over the responsibility of running it on a day by day basis. Then I negotiated with the owners. The owners were the Hill family. My dad had been attorney for the Hills who were a fairly wealthy Milwaukee family, an old family, and we had always visited them in the summer. They had a place at Three Lakes. When we went up to our cottage we would stop at Three Lakes and see the Hills. They would take us for a ride in their launch on the Three Lakes chain. They had a beautiful launch. That's how we got to know them. I guess the older Hill died [*John A. Hill, see 1920 census Milwaukee – wife Caroline, president Cold Storage-Milwaukee Ward 18, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*] and some way we got in touch with his brother who lived in California, George Hill, and I called him up in California and told him I would like to come out and talk to him about buying it. He said "Come on out, I'll be happy to talk with you". I went out there and I offered him \$100,000 for the company. I didn't know where I was going to get it from but I thought maybe I could borrow it. I was able to borrow \$100,000 from a banker in Milwaukee, from the north side. I'll never forget that. He was an unusual banker. He was a young kid without much in the way of experience. I went to see him and he said I'll loan you a hundred thousand. It was a bank on the north side of the city of Milwaukee somewhere. He did. He loaned it to me and I paid it back. The company made money and I paid it back to him over a period of time. I wish I could remember his name. He was a good banker. He really wanted to help you. That was unusual. He didn't give me a hard time."

Dave bought the Milwaukee Cold Storage about 1954 or thereabouts. In order to purchase the business he sold the home on Kent Avenue.

"I used the money from selling the house to buy the cold storage. I had to pay off \$100,000 that we owed to George Hill, which I did. I paid off every cent. They were nice people. They lived in California. We went all the way out to see him. Took my kids along. They were very gracious. They had a swimming pool and we swam in their swimming pool and made good friends.

I had that truck left over from the laundry business. I was working there at cold storage and I asked the Hills if they minded if I had the trucking business and they didn't care. Thought it was a good idea. I

ran it out of the cold storage business. I parked it in the stalls at night. That's when I hired Erv Winkowski. They had rented the dry storage building next to a small trucking business, Murray Trucking, and when we first came there he was running Murray or something. That's how I got Kro-Flite Cartage started. We took it over. He couldn't pay his bills or something. We bought out Murray trucking. Murray disappeared from the scene.

Erv ran Kro-Flite and dry storage. He was a good man. Hard worker and a good guy. We became good buddies. I went to his daughter's wedding. His daughter got married. Erv was a good solid Polack. Erv Winkowski."

Dave was an early proponent of frozen foods and his warehouse was outfitted to store frozen as well as fresh foods. He had a solid business with the storage of apples, cheese, beer and diverse foods such as nuts and pickled herring.

Dave offers a few stories about the business and some of the problems he had with frozen food storage and his employees:

"Bob Lilly. I had to fire him. He was my engine room guy. He was there at night. He didn't last long with me.

I used to park the Kro-Flite truck in the stall at night. We found out he was siphoning gas out of our trucks at night. We knew gas was being stolen but we didn't know who was doing it. So one night I spread blue powder all over the gas tank. Sure enough, the next morning his hands were all blue. We had him dead to rights. He was gone. That was his last day at work. I replaced him with an older guy. I think I replaced him with Doug Robbins. Doug Robbins was at least honest. He didn't steal from you.

Noreen Ward was my secretary. She did the books.

[The author remembers her perfume. She wore this pungent cheap perfume. The whole office reeked.]

She had a son named Buster who was in the advertising business. He was rather capable. He was an artist sort of kid.

Then I got into frozen foods. We bought the property next door next to the cold storage plant. We used to rent that from the Lindsey's who owned the next set of buildings, the Lindsey Brothers farm implements. They were just south of us. We rented that building from them and when we had a chance and we bought it from them. That was an open warehouse. We put a freezer in on the second floor. We

wanted to get into the frozen food business. That was a coming thing. Frozen foods were new then. We did. Only trouble was I didn't have adequate insulation on the floor. So when we turned on the freezer and it got cold in there it sucked moisture up through the floor the attraction of the cold and the warm moist air down below and it kind of oozed its way up into the products. At one point we did some damage. Seems like we had Robert A Johnson Candy up there. We damaged a lot of candy.

We always carried product insurance. It was rather expensive but if you screwed up somebody's storage product, it was nice to have that insurance company on your side. We were able to talk the Johnson people into accepting a settlement. It didn't bankrupt us, otherwise it would have if we hadn't had a good insurance company. It was a big loss. We didn't have to pay for it, but we lost the account. That was tragic because it was a really good account. I should have known better than to not adequately insulate and vapor barrier the floor before we started using it for cold storage, freezer storage. That was one of my big mistakes in the cold storage business. I knew better but I was just trying to get by.

We were big in apples. That was the big deal in the main part of cold storage business. Of course over there we weren't freezing anything. We were doing just cooling - 32 degrees. That cold storage was perfect. We could do a beautiful job on apples. Put apples in there and hold them at 32 and a half degrees. They would stay there for 3 or 4 months and you wouldn't see any difference. We brought them in by the carload from the west coast, Washington, unloaded them on our track. The only problem it wasn't built as a freezer, it was built as a cooler. We could hold 32 or 33 degrees right on the head and never freeze anything, never spoil anything. That building was not built for freezing.

Wisconsin Cold Storage was our big competitor. Philip Kuehn. He owned that and the Kuehn family. His father was Henry Kuehn. They got into the freezer stuff early on. He ran for governor of the State of Wisconsin."

Boxcars were unloaded in the rear of the building which featured a Milwaukee Road rail line spur and the truck docks were in the front of the building on 100 South 2nd Street. The Milwaukee River was adjacent on the northeast side where a large trestle bridge crossed a canal into the river to facilitate the crossing of the main line Milwaukee Road tracks.

Jim and David Jr. both worked there during the summers. Their recollections are as follows:

Jim and David Jr. Reminisce about the Cold Storage

David states: As a little kid, I remember going down to the Cold Storage. It was kind of scary. The old elevator; the musty basement; the tunnel between cold and dry storage; the big walk-in safe; the antique ammonia compressors in the engine room; and the coolers with the big heavy doors were all scary for a little kid. I was afraid I'd get locked in one of the coolers or the tunnel would collapse on me. It took several years before these fears went away. I started working down there when I was about 13 years old. At that time it was not a serious job, but Dad let me work and I earned some good money in the summer. Our neighbor, Al Morgan who was a couple of years older than me, also worked there with me. He was more serious about it and wanted to work full time. I was only interested in going there for a few days a week and he used to get angry with me about not wanting to work that much. We loaded and unloaded trucks - simple things like that. Years later, I took the job more seriously and spent several summers working there. I didn't spend much time in the office. Dad never gave me an office job so I was either in the cold or dry storage areas. The jobs were pretty repetitive. We mostly loaded or unloaded trucks at the front docks. We would get an order for so many pallets or boxes of candy, fruit, nuts or whatever.

Jim remembers the little yellow papers you'd get for an order to fill and then the job of tracking down the lot in all the rooms....

David recalls that there was a little window between the dock area to the office where they would place new orders that came in. They were on a clipboard and we would see them sitting there and know that we had to fill it in a timely fashion since the truck would soon be there to pick it up. Each shipment that came into the cold storage had a lot number which was tied to a date and total number of boxes. Usually an order would be for an entire lot so we would have to find all the boxes that originally came with that lot number. They usually were all together but some boxes might be scattered around the cooler somewhere. We first would take one of those 4-wheeler carts and head up or down on the elevator to whichever floor the stuff was stored, find it and then load it on the cart. Then we would push or pull it onto the elevator. The old elevator would sink several inches with a load that might have weighed a ton. It always bothered me to get on that thing. I have no idea how old it was but it must have been built in the late 1800's. It had a lift gate made of wood held by a tattered rope and pulley. The gate would lift up and we would roll the cart on the elevator and then close the gate. The elevator didn't have any buttons. It was operated by two cables. You would have to pull one cable up or down depending on which direction you wanted to go. To stop you would have to reverse the procedure until it stopped. After a

while, one could judge about when to start reversing the cables in order to stop the elevator at the floor without any gap. It was tricky, ancient and seemed like it could crash down into the basement at any time. I think I went up to the top of the shaft once and looked at the wheel, cables and gearing. It didn't offer any new level of confidence.

Jim states that to him it was amazing no one got seriously hurt on that contraption. He says he saw some interesting accidents though - carts loaded with boxes half off the elevator when someone started it up - breaking the gates, etc. Fork lifts falling down the truck bays.

David remembers handcarts loaded with boxes that would tip over and would have to be restacked. The only serious accident that we recall was when one of the dry storage workers, Charlie Meyer, cut off his finger on a fork lift truck. The finger was still in his glove and Dad grabbed the glove and they rushed Charlie to the hospital where they successfully sewed his finger back on to his hand. To load the trucks in the bays, we would have to lay down these old square metal plates and make a ramp since the bed of the truck would not always match the level of the docks. We would have to get a running start with the fully loaded cart and push it up the ramp and then stop it before it hit the front of the truck or any boxes that might already be in there. Same deal with the boxcars. We had to build a bridge with these metal plates to get in and out. The rail spur ran behind the cold storage. They would shift cars at night and new boxcars would arrive for the morning. Some would be refrigerated and others would be filled with dry storage items. Mostly they were refrigerated cars filled with 80 pound boxes of cheese or 100 pound cheese wheels in wooden casks. Often there would be crates of apples, plums or some other kind of fruit. We would load these up in the car onto the hand cart and then one guy would take the handle of the cart and pull while the other guy would push. We would turn the corner and push/pull the cart down the dock and into the warehouse where another crew of two would be waiting to take the cart and unload it in one of the coolers. After mastering the turn into the cold storage from the rail dock, one could ride the handcart down the slight decline to the elevator, jumping off at the last moment to slow it down and make the turn before running off into the 5 foot deep truck bay. This would go on all day. Sometimes we would finish a boxcar and start another. It was pretty repetitive and monotonous work, but good exercise. There wasn't much intellectual challenge with these jobs. After learning how to interlock and stack boxes on pallets and count boxes, there was little left that one could add to a resume. Lunch would be eaten either in the boxcar on a nice day or up in the lunchroom on the second floor. We might play some cards but mostly it was talking. I worked with two black guys, Joe Dodson and another but can't remember his name. Most of the talk was about sex and girlfriends. At 13 to 16 years of age, I didn't have much to add to the conversation, so they

used to enjoy teasing me. But everybody was always very friendly and we had a good time. They didn't seem to mind that I was the owner's son since I had to do all the same dirty jobs they did and got no preferential treatment.

Jim says he enjoyed eating lunch in the coolers on a hot steamy August day. He recalls that there were a couple fruit rooms off that corridor, the tunnel that ran between cold and dry storage, and at one time, the pizzas were stored off that tunnel in a room they converted to freezer. He thinks they added a lot of freezer space for the meat and butter. The school lunch contract didn't make money much - (not sure, but Dad downplayed it), but it did provide steady and voluminous business, which is somehow a benefit in softening the seasonal peaks in fresh produce. It also brought in federal inspectors and that's how the whole mouse thing started. I spent a summer with a friend in high school looking over each and every bag for mouse signs and cleaning up bags cutting out mouse stained parts and re-sewing them up. Urine shows up under black light - so yes, I think it might have been the summer of love - we spent a psychedelic summer under near constant black light - really groovy man - except that we were looking for mouse droppings.

Jim - I liked working in the RR cars - loading unloading - and the semis. Got to ride the rails a couple times as they switched cars - just hung out and no one knew we were there. We knew they had to bring the car back because it was only half unloaded.

Both Jim and David remember that on occasion there would be a damaged box and we would take an apple or plum or a candy egg figuring nobody would miss it. David's favorite memory is when the cheese inspector would come around. This occurred maybe once every few months or so. It would be David's job to take him around and find whichever lots of cheese he wanted to inspect and then bring out a box or wheel to sample. He would take a plug of cheese out of it and taste it. He would spit it out and throw away the rest of the plug. I would often ask for the plug and eat the cheese. It was great Wisconsin cheddar and I probably got sick from eating so much cheese on those days.

Jim recalls that every night dad had to check every door before leaving - he couldn't trust anyone else to do it I don't think. That's a lot of doors.

David says that sometimes Dad would send me over to dry storage to work with Erv Winkowski who ran Kro-Flite and the dry storage section. That was less interesting. Most of the stuff they had stored there were appliances, big rolls of paper, maybe some Briggs and Stratton engines, things that did not need to be kept cool. I spent

many a day sweeping and cleaning up coolers with a broom and vacuum. That was dusty and least enjoyable of all the jobs. I think I was demoted at that point, but that was about the only job Erv ever complimented me for that I can remember. He was a tough old bird, but had a soft side. I remember him telling me the story of his son who was killed in Vietnam. Got shot right between the eyes – never knew what hit him. Erv was pretty emotional when he told me that story. As I got older, I was entrusted with driving a fork lift truck. I think I screwed that up a number of times by running into bags of flour or something with the forks. It was challenging to be able to lift up heavy pallets of something and stack them without tipping over the truck or the pallet. We would also do moving jobs with Kro-Flite. Those were OK, but sometimes involved moving appliances, pianos, or other heavy items. Often we had to go up or down stairs. I got to be fairly adept at using a two-wheeled dolly but most of it was just heavy lifting and brute force. Erv finally let me drive a straight truck and I would make deliveries to grocery stores or other plants or factories to pick up or drop off items. Of course, I learned the hard way about minding the top of the truck and ran into an overhang at Kohl's grocery store one morning. That damaged the truck and probably totaled the overhang in their parking lot. That was a hard lesson and I had to bear the wrath of Erv. I don't recall driving too many trucks after that. Dad rented another building on the opposite (west) side of 2nd Street for dry storage. That was where he stored all of Perry J's books and stuff for a while after he died. It was all just thrown in a storage room - unstacked - a mess! Wish I had been more cognizant of what was there - probably great books on genealogy, etc. I think they stored big rolls of paper or something there and appliances - refers, washers and dryers - Westinghouse maybe or Maytag. I believe they parked a number of Kro-Flite trucks somewhere over there too. Probably the semi's. I didn't enjoy working in that building since there were no people and it was kind of a lonely job and not much to do most of the time.

Jim and David collectively recall some of the various products stored at the Cold and Dry Storage:

Robert Johnson Candy – "Swiss Miss" or "Swiss Maid" boxed chocolates?

Ambrosia Chocolate Company in Milwaukee – blocks of bulk chocolate Nuts – One company had a slogan on their trucks "We Deliver Nuts To You". Jim says there was also a "Buddy Squirrel" nut account and big burlap bags of filberts, Virginia peanuts, etc., pistachios from Turkey and possibly some specialty items like paprika in burlap bags?

Boxes and boxes of walnuts and pecans - California Santa Clara walnuts - Select, extra select, extra special select.... fancy - extra fancy - pieces, halves, etc. It might have been the same company.

Ma Bensch pickled herring in big wooden barrels.

Jim says the School Lunch program contract came later - frozen butter, meat, and buns - frozen pizzas too.
Budweiser frozen egg products and yeast for bakers.
Tons of apples, plums and maybe some cherries. Apples were the mainstay.
Boxes of chocolate marshmallow Easter eggs and other candies – the account was some fancy chocolate/candy shop – maybe Chocolate House?
Tons of cheese in square blocks in cardboard boxes as well as 100 pound wheels.
Kegs of Lowenbrau beer.

Personnel that David and Jim remember

Office: Bill McHugh and Noreen Ward. Dave says Noreen did the books for him.

Engineers: Lester Lange, Doug Robbins, Donny Bantle. Donny Bantle was a short little guy and was missing a few fingers. He painted our house on several occasions. I recall him using an old blowtorch to take off the old paint. He was a really friendly guy.

Cold Storage laborers: Joe Dodson

Truck Drivers: Easel Wilkes. Dad did hire black truck drivers but he was forced to unionize with teamsters. I guess Easel was the first black union teamster. He may have been non-union for a while. They wouldn't allow blacks in the teamster union initially, but Dad tried to get him in and succeeded. I don't know the motives. My guess is the union required all truck drivers to be union and finally had to give in on the black issue. Dad pushed hard to get him in and the teamsters finally relented. The warehouse workers were never unionized and Dad paid them all well and gave them a pension.

There was another driver named Freddie?

There were a number of truck drivers that we never saw. They shuttled back and forth with the Briggs and Stratton engine account. I think they left their trucks at Briggs overnight on many occasions and rarely hung around the office.

Doug's kid worked there one summer with Jim.

Dry Storage: Erv Winkowski ran the dry storage side and also Kro-Flite Cartage. He had a small office. It was always smoke-filled with a phone and an old typewriter. Probably never had been cleaned in 50 years.

Laborers were Charlie Meyers, Jimmy Wink (Winkowski) and Gar Wilkes (Easel's cousin?).

About 1952, Dave and Jeanne purchased a home at 6055 N. Kent Avenue. This was a nicer and larger home than the Bay Ridge house and could accommodate their growing family. The main reason for the move was the fact that Bay Ridge was a busy street and more of a thoroughfare whereas Kent Avenue was relatively quiet. Dave's friend from high school, Gordy Gile, lived across the street and his son was hit or almost hit by a car. There was considerable concern for the children playing in the street and the new home offered less chance for accidents. Dave says:

"We bought the Bay Ridge house when we first came there. We were only there about a few months when we realized that Bay Ridge was a very busy street. Our neighbor across the street, Gordy Gile and his wife Jean Grootemont, were good friends. I had been a lifeguard with Gordy Gile at Shorewood Atwater Beach. He was a year ahead of me at Shorewood. He had been an all big ten football player. Nice guy.

We bought a house just across the street from them and their little guy almost got run down one day, their little boy. That was a warning and shortly after that we sold the Bay Ridge house on the busy street and moved to 6055 Kent Avenue which was one block from Bay Ridge."

The house was about one block east and north from Bay Ridge. It was an older style home with large oak trees in the front and back yards and was on a quiet street. Each child had their own bedroom, although Jimmy's room was a bit on the small side directly over the front porch. The Morgan family lived next door on the north side, a Catholic family of six children. There were plenty of kids to play with. An elderly widow, Mrs. Meisner, lived on the south side. She loved to feed squirrels. She would knock two walnuts together and the squirrels would come running up to her for a handout. The Grootemont's lived across the street. The Kroening's lived north of the Morgan family. David Jr. dated Kathy Kroening while in grade school. The widow and an heir to the Miller Brewing Company lived a few doors south next to the Dunlap family.

There was a small one car garage in the back and a large backyard complete with a homemade swing that Dave constructed by spanning a wooden girder between two large oak trees.



6055 N. Kent Ave., Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. The 1954 Ford "Woody" station wagon is in the driveway.



**The house as it stands today – the beautiful oak trees are gone!
The Morgan family owned the Tudor style home on the right (north side).**

About 1955-56 or so, the family was uprooted again and moved several blocks away to 5943 Santa Monica Boulevard. This house Dave rented and the Kent Avenue house was sold. This move was to generate the cash needed for the purchase of the Milwaukee Cold Storage business from the previous owners.

It was less than a block away from Richards School where the three children attended grade school. There would be one more move for the family which took place about 1961. Due to Debby's health, Dave purchased a house at 1142 East Sylvan Avenue which was just a short walk from the Whitefish Bay High School where she would be attending her freshman year. The Sylvan house was a real step up and everybody had their own bedroom again after living in the slightly cramped three bedroom rental house on Santa Monica.

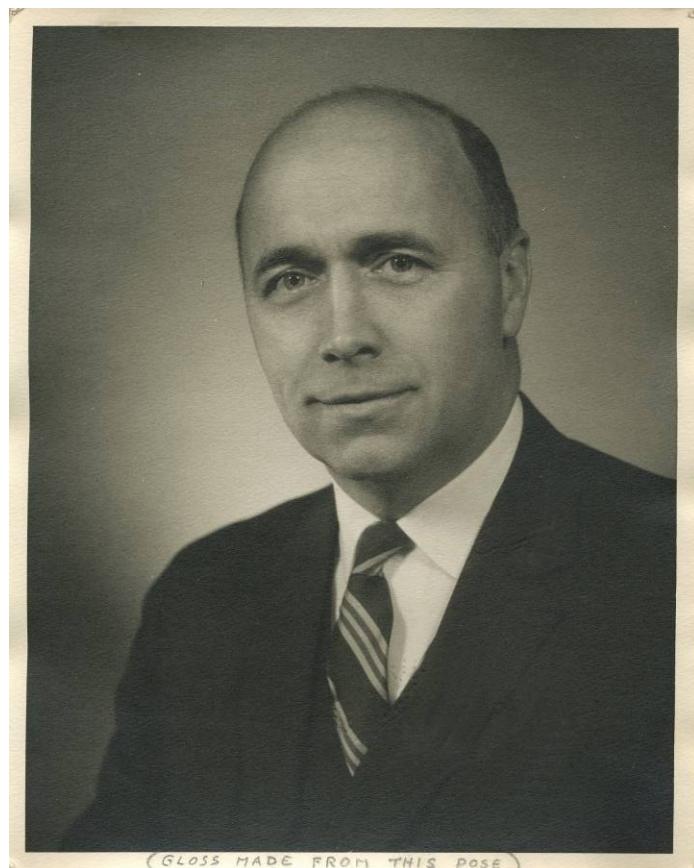


**1142 East Sylvan Avenue, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin.
Jim, David (playing guitar), Roland Martin and Jeanne Stearns, circa 1962**

Dave recognized the need for exposure in his business and joined the local Milwaukee Traffic Club. The Traffic Club was an organization that promoted greater knowledge in the traffic, transportation, and logistic fields. Most of the organizations Dave joined were oriented towards his business or other pragmatic pursuits such as economics and the

industry of Wisconsin. Unlike his father, Perry, Dave did not join the Masons, although he said he once checked them out.

In 1956, Dave served as the secretary for the Wisconsin Warehouseman's Association. This organization wielded considerable political power in Milwaukee.



Portrait of Dave for Milwaukee Cold Storage promotional brochure



Milwaukee Cold Storage Co and Milwaukee Road trestle



THE WISCONSIN WAREHOUSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION held its annual membership meeting at Riverdale Country Club here today. Shown in the above photo, prior to the start of the morning session, are, seated, from the left: Allen D. Walters, secretary of the merchandise division, American Warehousemen's Association, Chicago; Harold M. Willenson, Milwaukee, president of the Wisconsin assoc-

iation, and Donald E. Horton, executive vice-president of the merchandise division, American Warehousemen. Standing, from the left: Lawrence A. Buck, Oshkosh, treasurer of the Wisconsin group; David B. Stearns, Milwaukee, state secretary, and John Fengler, Sheboygan, entertainment chairman. — (Sheboygan Press photo).

Warehousemen Of State In City For Annual Meeting

With the objective of providing even better service to the public in the storage of personal property, members of the Wisconsin Warehousemen's Association discussed their operations and problems today during the annual meeting at Riverdale Country Club.

Today's meeting followed the Monday session of the closely allied Wisconsin Household Goods Carriers Association at Hotel Foeste.

With President Harold M. Willenson, Milwaukee, presiding, the Warehousemen gathered for special morning divisional meetings. They included discussions by Chester P. Rookey, Superior, an executive vice president in

the association's household goods division; Maurice West, Fond du Lac, cold storage division; and Ray J. Laubenstein, Green Bay, merchandise division.

Rookey discussed the program for storage of household goods of military personnel in public warehouses.

Following a noon luncheon at Riverdale, Donald E. Horton, Chicago, executive vice president of the merchandise division, American Warehousemen's Association, told of the current trends and developments in warehousing.

A discussion on labor and its relative problems within the industry was held during the afternoon general membership

meeting. Final order of business was to be the election of directors.

The meeting was to be climaxed with an outdoor bratwurst fry and special entertainment. This portion of the program was in charge of John Fengler of Sheboygan.

In addition to those named above, other Warehousemen's Association officers here for today's meeting were David B. Stearns, Milwaukee, secretary; Lawrence A. Buck, Oshkosh, treasurer; and the following directors: Dave Graebel, Wausau; Theodore L. Hansen, Milwaukee; Emil Juedes, Shawano; Philip C. Kuehn, Milwaukee, and Henry P. Melius, Milwaukee.

Picture of Dave Stearns (with bow tie) at annual meeting of Wisconsin Warehouseman's Association. He was serving as secretary in 1956.

The picture above is very poor, but Dave's bow tie is readily distinguishable from those of the other men in the picture. Dave wore bow ties as early as the author can remember. They were real bow ties, not clip-on imitations. For some reason, Dave must have decided they were fashionable and wore them to work and to any event where he donned a suit. They conveyed a more formal image that Dave must have preferred. Sir Winston Churchill was probably the most famous 20th century figure that wore bow ties. Also Frank Sinatra, one of Dave and Jeanne's favorite singers, popularized them. Dave's ties were just basic stripes or possibly polka dots or solid colors, nothing too avant-garde. It probably wasn't until the late 1960's or early 1970's that he went back to wearing standard neckties. Most pictures of him in this report show him wearing neckties, but during his years with the Milwaukee Cold Storage and while engaged in politics, he mostly wore bow ties. They are not easy to tie and unlike long neckties, need to be the exact length to fit each individual neck size.

Something must be said about Dave's sense of fashion. His suits were always impeccable and he dressed very smartly for work. His casual dress was less predictable. In the 1950's, he wore his old Marine leather flight jacket, probably until he couldn't fit into it anymore. He had this old red cap that he wore for so many years it became molded onto his head (he still has it). But perhaps his most distinguishable signature was his slacks. Dave rarely, if ever, wore blue jeans. Maybe khaki trousers on occasion, but he seemed to love loud, outlandish pants most of all. Perhaps this was an offshoot of his interest in golfing, but he wore them on as well as off the golf course.

A classic picture of Dave in a pair of pants that might now be on display at the Smithsonian is shown below.



Dave visiting Dings family mill in New York, no date

The above picture also demonstrates Dave's preference for "boonie" or bucket style hats. He may have picked up this idea while training for jungle warfare on Hawaii in WWII. They were obviously comfortable and served him well on the road or on the golf course.

Dave loved golf. He started golfing as early as WWII and his interest accelerated during his years in Milwaukee. He was quite good but never had the time to perfect his game. It was more of a social sport for him and he spent many occasions golfing and schmoozing with his business associates.

He was a better swimmer than golfer and could easily impress onlookers with his jackknife and swan dives off the high board. He taught his children to be good swimmers. His love for swimming extended to his joy of body surfing in Lake Michigan. The author remembers trips to Oostburg where his father Perry owned land at one time. There was a beautiful shallow gradational beach there with breakers that one could ride a long distance into shore. Dave states that he did a little surfboarding while stationed in Hawaii.

In 1957 and 1958 he served as President of the Wisconsin Warehouseman's Association. Dave was active in political issues pertaining to Milwaukee commerce while serving at this position. An article was found that indicates the types of issues that he was dealing with while in this position of influence.

The Sheboygan Press

THE PAST IS GONE WE FACE TO-DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1957

State Leaders Wire Ike, Protest Customs Closing

MILWAUKEE (UPI)—Business lawmakers and labor leaders joined Gov. Thomson Thursday in protesting a government order which would abolish the customs collection district in Milwaukee.

The Treasury Department order, announced Tuesday, is due to become effective Dec. 31.

It would put the Milwaukee collections office under jurisdiction of the customs office in Chicago. It also would put the Superior-Duluth office under Minneapolis-St. Paul.

"The proposed order would unquestionably create problems which would make Milwaukee's port less attractive than that of Chicago," said Thomson in a telegram of protest to President Eisenhower.

Rep. Zablocki (D-Milwaukee) said Thursday he hoped Wisconsin's entire Congressional delegation could make a united protest on a non-political, bipartisan basis.

Sen. Wiley (R-Wis.) already has protested the order, calling it an "insult" to Wisconsin.

John Brzek, president of the AFL Longshoremen's Union in Milwaukee, said he planned to seek the support of local and state AFL labor organizations in opposition to the order.

The Wisconsin Warehousemen's Assn. adopted a protest resolution, according to its president, David Stearns, Milwaukee.

Stearns said the order was "diabolically timed, coming as it does just when Milwaukee is about to emerge in its role of a major foreign trade port."

Philip G. Kuehn, Wisconsin Republican chairman, called the order "false economy."

Kuehn said he has talked to Robert Humphreys, director of the Republican National Committee's campaign committee, and he said Humphreys was "disturbed" and promised to "see what could be done" about the order.

Dave Stearns, president of Wisconsin Warehouseman's Assn. gets involved in political issues pertaining to the port of Milwaukee, a sector of industry that Dave found himself involved with in future years.

In 1960, Dave was named Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

In 1960-61 he served as Chairman of the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision.

The Sheboygan Press

Sheboygan, Wis., Tuesday, February 9, 1960

Panel Of Tax Specialists To Be Here On February 22

Why Wisconsin needs tax revision will be explained to the annual meeting of the Sheboygan County Taxpayers Association on the night of Feb. 22 at the Hotel Foeste, by a panel of specialists in the field of public finance.

In announcing plans for the meeting tax group President Leonard Wartman said the public will be welcome to attend the 7:30 p.m. program which will be followed by a buffet lunch.

The history and effects of taxation in the state will be traced by John C. Miller, Berlin, president of the Berlin-Chapman Co. and a member of the board of the Public Expenditure Survey of Wisconsin. Then David B. Stearns, Milwaukee, chairman of the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision, will explain the "Taxpayers' Tax Plan" his group is endorsing as a means of steering the state towards great-

er economic growth. Stearns is president of the Milwaukee Cold Storage Co. and chairman of the tax revision committee of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce. Arch Ely, Madison, executive director of the Public Expenditure Survey, will serve as moderator of the discussion period.

The Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision is a coordinating group of representatives of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association, Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce, and the Special Taxpayers Committee on the State Budget, an independent citizens' group served by the Public Expenditure Survey.

Wartman announced that tickets for the meeting can be obtained from any of the tax group directors.

Dave to explain tax plan at conference in Sheboygan

The Sheboygan Press

Sheboygan, Wis., Friday, February 19, 1960

15



TO SPEAK MONDAY —

The Sheboygan County Taxpayers' Association is going to build its annual meeting scheduled for 7:30 p. m. Monday, Foeste Hotel, around the need for overhauling the state and local government tax structure, according to Leonard Wartman, president. Speakers will include David B. Stearns, above, of Milwaukee, chairman of the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision and of the tax revision committee of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and John C. Miller, Berlin, a member of the board of directors of the Public Expenditure of Wisconsin and of the Oshkosh Industrial Development Corporation. Arch Ely, Madison, executive director of the Public Expenditure Survey of Wisconsin, will moderate a discussion period, Wartman said.

Dave Stearns, speaker in Sheboygan on tax revision

An article published in the Sheboygan Press on Feb 23, 1960 is transcribed below and explains in more detail the Tax Plan favored and promoted by David Stearns and the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision.

Outline Sales Tax Plan During Taxpayer Meeting The Sheboygan Press, Tuesday, February 23, 1960

A Plan for improving the state's economic climate through using a sales tax to guarantee income and property tax relief was explained to the Sheboygan County Taxpayers Association at its annual meeting at the Foeste Hotel here Monday.

David B. Stearns, Milwaukee chairman of the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision, outlined the "Taxpayers Tax Plan" which would use half the income from a 3 per cent general retail sales and use tax to cut back every property tax bill by 17 per cent.

John C. Miller, Berlin, a member of the Public Expenditure Survey of Wisconsin, traced the growth of what he called Wisconsin's tax weaknesses. He said that since 1946 Wisconsin operating industry had created more new jobs outside the state than inside it largely because income and property taxes in the state were unfavorable.

The Wisconsin Committee for the Tax Revision is a coordinating group of representatives of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Wisconsin Manufacturers Association, Wisconsin State Chamber of Commerce and the Special Taxpayers Committee on the State Budget, an independent citizens' group served by the Public Expenditure Survey of Wisconsin. Stearns is chairman of the Milwaukee association's tax revision committee.

"If we need both tax relief and more tax revenue, the sales tax is the only way out for Wisconsin. The political philosophers and theorists have been fooling around with the problem and getting nowhere fast while Wisconsin has lost ground in the economic race," Stearns said.

Miller said the Wisconsin legislature will have to erase a deficit of about \$24,000,000 when it resumes its deliberations in May, warning that the taxpayers should be on guard against stopgap taxation to plug the revenue hole.

"Wisconsin taxpayers stand very much in danger of being hit harder with the so-called traditional taxes. This seems to be a case where tradition is going to be our downfall because study after study in recent months and years, carried on privately and through government agencies, has established the undesirability of the present Wisconsin tax structure," Miller said.

Stearns explained that sales tax in the Taxpayers Tax Plan would not apply to the raw materials of farming and industry but would apply, for instance, to the hotel and lodging bills of transients.

The property tax relief would be provided by requiring the local government who received the state payments from sales tax collections to show the payments in terms of actual reductions or rebates on property tax bills. At current rates, there would be \$75,000,000 a year available for property tax cuts, according to Stearns.

The top bracket in the net corporate income tax which is now 7 per cent of all over \$6,000 would be cut to 6 per cent of all over \$5,000 Stearns said, "to advertise to the nation that Wisconsin wants to do something about its reputation for being hostile to industry."

The plan eliminates the individual income surtax and increases the personal deduction of the taxpayer filing the return from \$7 to \$22.50. It also allocates periodically for property tax relief all surplus funds in the state treasury, according to Stearns.

The alternatives to such an approach are fewer jobs and intolerable burdens for the dwindling number of persons and businesses called upon to support government in Wisconsin, Stearns said. Stearns urged his listeners to ask their legislators to adopt the Taxpayers Tax Plan in May – “not more expeditors or higher income taxes.”

The Selective sales tax and income tax withholding laws were enacted in 1962. The sales tax was originally intended, as outlined above, to reduce property taxes by providing counties with an alternative source of income based on taxing the sale of luxury goods. In 1969, the tax was increased and expanded to include most all goods, something the original proponents did not intend to happen. In 1982 the rate was increased to 5%. In retrospect, it became yet another means for politicians to squeeze money out of the populace and had questionable and mixed results on effectively reducing the property tax.

Dave next became active in Republican politics as a block worker, precinct chairman and village chairman. In 1960 he became chairman of the North Shore Republican Club and was county chairman for three years.

In 1962, Dave announced his candidacy for Republican nomination for House of Representatives in the 5th district. He was up against the well-entrenched Democrat incumbent, Henry Reuss.

Jack Kennedy had been president since 1960. Jack, class of 1940, was two years ahead of Dave at Harvard. The Cold War climate was tense. 1962 was the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis. John Glenn orbited the earth and Kennedy was beginning to ramp up the Vietnam War.

David Stearns Seeks A Seat In The House

MILWAUKEE (AP)—David B. Stearns, 41, the operator of a cold storage firm, announced Tuesday he will seek the Republican nomination for the House of Representatives from the 5th District, now represented by Democrat Henry Reuss.

Stearns, chairman of the North Shore Republican Club, is the son of Perry J. Stearns, who twice sought unsuccessfully Republican nomination for the U. S. Senate. The younger Stearns, a graduate of Harvard University, is president of the Milwaukee Cold Storage Co.

An early advocate of a sales tax, Stearns is chairman of the Wisconsin Committee for Tax Revision and chairman of the Milwaukee Assn. of Commerce state legislative committee.

In announcing his campaign, Stearns assailed Reuss, now serving his third term.

Reuss, according to Stearns, "has shown a lack of concern for our basic freedom and individual rights—he has been taking us in the wrong direction."

Dave announces candidacy for House of Representatives, 1962

Dave was a true conservative. He was an advocate for personal freedom, industry and capitalism and lower taxes. The rest of his family was pretty liberal, but maybe he became more conservative due to running his own business in the real world and having to fight increasing taxes and government intervention. At any rate, he kicked off his campaign in true Wisconsin style with beer, food and music.

They Say It in Song at Rally for Stearns

Music, Beer and Food Help to Kick Off His Nomination Drive in 5th District

Even the music was Republican style Thursday night as Milwaukee 5th district Republicans whipped up their enthusiasm in a rally boosting David B. Stearns for congress.

A couple of hundred Republicans crowded into Schumacher's hall, 3945 N. 35th st., on behalf of Stearns, a candidate for the GOP nomination for the 5th district congressional seat.

It was billed as the kick-off of Stearns' campaign. His opponent for the nomination is Thomas Nelson, past chairman of Milwaukee County Young Republicans.

Speeches, Food, Beer

It was a good, old time political rally in many ways. There were speeches; red, white and blue streamers; posters on the walls bearing pro-Stearns slogans, food, and beer.

The speeches attacked spending, taxes and Democrats in general and Representative Henry S. Reuss (Dem., Milwaukee)—the man whom Stearns

hopes to defeat next fall—in particular.

But the musical entertainment provided the warmup and the most fun for the crowd.

Tax Date Commemorated

This gaiety was plausible enough. The announced purpose of the rally was to commemorate the date, Apr. 5, by which, in Stearns' words, "most of us have worked off our debt to the government and can start working for ourselves and our families."

The reference was to the proportion of the year the average citizen has to work to pay his taxes.

However, after the singing, Stearns said in his speech:

"If we had used new figures just received for 1961, we could not have had this wonderful party tonight. We would have had to wait until Apr. 16."

Even if this intelligence had come before the music, it is doubtful if it would have dampened spirits much.

Kennedys Get In Song

First came "The Republican Trio"—three teen age boys including Stearns' son, David, Jr.

Tenor Marvin Moran donned a red, white and blue hat and led the singing of seven well known songs fitted out with Re-

publican lyrics by Mrs. Karl F. Gangler, wife of Stearns' campaign manager.

One, to the tune of "The Man on the Flying Trapeze," went like this:

*"They float 'round the world
With the greatest of ease,
This Kennedy clan
That does just as they
please."*

*"They've covered the earth
Now for space they would
pack*

*But John Glenn in orbit
Needs no help from Jack."*
The victory march of the evening was "On to Congress" to the tune of "On, Wisconsin!"

Fierly speechmaking had its place, too. William O'Connor, 18th ward Republican chairman, attacked "King John the first and his crowd of Kennedys who have made nepotism fashionable in the United States."

Stearns quipped to the crowd's delight: "They say the secret of success in Washington is to go to Harvard and turn left. I went to Harvard and went the other way."

Dave Stearns kicks off Congressional campaign

The author attended this event and was one of the three members of the quickly assembled "Republican Trio" who sang songs for the crowd accompanied by their guitars. Rick Matchette (nephew of Richard "Dick" Matchette, flutist at Shorewood), and Bob Race were friends of David Jr., who comprised the other two members of the trio.

Dave vehemently objected to the heavy taxing and spending policies of Democrats Jack Kennedy and Representative Henry Reuss and the increasing national debt.

Stearns Rips 26% National Tax 'Bite'

About 26% of the national income goes in taxes to support local, state and federal governmental functions, David B. Stearns, candidate for the Republican nomination for 5th district congressman, said Thursday night.

Stearns spoke at a "W-2 Liberation Rally" that served as his campaign kickoff before an estimated 350 persons at Schumacher's Hall, 3945 N. 35th St.

He cited figures showing that taxes take about 11 hours out of every 40-hour week, or 95 days out of every year.

"If elected," he said, "I will do everything in my power to hold back sharply the rising cost of government and to roll back the W-2 Liberation Day . . . toward Jan. 1 so that the

average person can enjoy a greater share of the fruits of his hard work."

Stearns criticized the Kennedy administration and Rep. Reuss (D-5th) as heavy spenders and heavy taxers.

He said the Democratic majority in Congress was responsible for boosting the national debt to 300 billion dollars and said it would climb another 8 billion dollars by the end of this fiscal year if "the current wild spending binge is not curtailed."

Arthur R. Godar, former Republican assemblyman, introduced Stearns. Speakers who lauded the candidate included such GOP unit chairmen as Charles Kendall, 9th Ward; Joseph West, 20th Ward, and William O'Connor, 16th Ward.

Stearns outlines position after announcing candidacy for congress.

Dave did not make it to the primaries. He dropped out of the race after the press attempted to label him anti-Catholic like his father. This was a false accusation, but he decided it was too much of an uphill battle with that stigma facing him.

Dave recalls the events that unfolded:

"There were two Catholics who knew about my father being such an idiot anti-Catholic and they thought I was too. One was in the state legislature. He was a state senator, Jerry Leonard. He got together with Vince Rucurio? and they were both very strong Catholics. I wasn't anti-Catholic. I didn't agree with my father on that position at all. I had grown up with and had many Catholic friends.

I kicked off my campaign with a caucus. At the end of the caucus these two guys got up and gave me a real hard time and my campaign folded. They were rather powerful in the party. I said "the hell with it. I don't need this kind of grief from anybody".

It was very short lived. I had a guy who wanted to be my campaign manager, Carl Gengler, I'll never forget. He was really working hard for me and he was very disappointed when I quit but he didn't understand that there was no sense in my going on. If they could paint me as anti-Catholic I didn't have a chance in Milwaukee with Marquette University. That was my father's stupid mistake running as an anti-Catholic. Dumb thing to do! Marquette had a very strong influence in Milwaukee. Very strong Catholic bastion!"

Some of the articles that were published at the time follow and help to explain the events of Dave's campaign.

"Stearns Gets Club's Okay", *The Milwaukee Journal*, David Stearns 1962 5th District Congressional Race, 14 February 1962; newspaper clipping (Republican Party Clipping File); Milwaukee Public Library Humanities Department, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Stearns Gets Club's Okay

North Shore Group

M FEB 14 1962

Supporters of David B. Stearns struck the first blow Tuesday night in what promises to be an all-out Republican fight for the GOP nomination for congress in the 5th district. *Party*

Stearns, chairman of the North Shore Republican club, was given the club's endorsement at a meeting at the Whitefish Bay Woman's club, 600 E. Henry Clay st. He also was given a leave of absence as chairman in order to campaign.

The endorsement vote was 77 to 9. It followed a long argument in which a small minority argued that Stearns' opponent, Atty. Thomas F. Nelson, should have been given a chance to express his views before the vote was taken. Nelson was not at the meeting. He has said that he favors a primary contest and is not seeking party endorsement.

Modifies Primary Stand

Stearns, also an attorney and president of a cold storage company, has wanted to avoid a primary on the ground that it would weaken the winner. He modified his view Wednesday night. He said he would support Nelson if Nelson won the primary and urged the club members to keep their eye on the general election and the Republican effort to unseat the Democratic incumbent, Representative Henry S. Reuss.

The endorsement of Stearns was mostly for psychological ef-

fect. Republican officials said it would not bind the club's delegates to a district-wide caucus Apr. 13. That caucus can decide whether to endorse someone or not and whether to endorse one or more candidates.

Blanchard Speaks

A move to endorse Assemblyman Nile Soik (Rep., Whitefish Bay) for re-election was ruled out of order by Philip K. Dressler, the club's first vice-chairman, on the ground that Soik had not announced his candidacy. The club voted unanimously to congratulate Soik on his legislative service and to encourage him to run.

Assembly Speaker David Blanchard of Edgerton said the main issues of the 1962 campaign would be economy in government and what he called "practicing faith in historic values, spiritual and moral."

Following the lead of Claude Jasper of Madison, the state Republican chairman, Blanchard attacked Gov. Nelson for opposing the house committee on un-American activities and for vetoing a bill to have school children recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag; Atty. Gen. John W. Reynolds for ruling that the flag pledge bill would be unconstitutional, and Representative Kastenmeier (Dem., Watertown) for allegedly favoring the admission of Red China to the United Nations (Kastenmeier has voted twice in congress for resolutions opposing the admission of Red China to the UN.)

Atty. Clarence J. O'Brien of South Milwaukee, candidate for county judge in the Mar. 6 primary, also spoke.

Milwaukee Journal, 14 Feb 1962

5th District GOP Republican Party Battle Shapes Up

MS APR 13 1962

A spirited contest over endorsement between supporters of two rival candidates for the Republican nomination for 5th District congressional representative is anticipated at the district caucus Friday night, according to reports Thursday.

Delegates to the GOP state convention of both 4th and 5th Districts will caucus separately at the Eagles Clubhouse.

Thomas Nelson and David B. Stearns both have been campaigning for the nomination for the seat of Rep. Reuss (D-5th) and both have substantial support in the party.

Stearns favors endorsement, and said he would seek it and abide by the caucus decision. Nelson opposes it, and said Thursday he would not allow his name to be submitted for endorsement in case the caucus decides to endorse. He said he would not be bound by the result.

In a letter to 5th District delegates, Stearns, 5943 N. Santa Monica Blvd., president of the Milwaukee Cold Storage Co., said that "if the caucus desires to endorse I will be proud to submit my name," adding that he would "respect the wishes of the caucus."

Stearns, 41, who is on leave as chairman of the North Shore Republican unit, said that "respect" meant he would abide by the result. He said in his letter that he favored endorsement "so that the working and informed members of the party may express their preference

and unite behind a strong candidate. In this way he will have the strength to defeat the free spending Democrat now in office."

Nelson, 31, of 3373 N. Hackett Av., a lawyer and former chairman of the Milwaukee Young Republicans, sent a letter to delegates saying he was not seeking endorsement "because I believe that a spirited Republican primary is required to develop a candidate strong enough to defeat Reuss."

Nelson said he wanted "an open primary."

Stearns said that the 5th District has "traditionally" endorsed a congressional candidate.

Though endorsement is mandatory in the GOP for constitutional state office and U.S. Senate, congressional endorsement is optional with the caucus. However, Edward Friend, 5th District chairman, said that he believed in the past "we have endorsed more times than we have not."

Several observers said it was a tossup as to which candidate had more delegate support. It is expected the first test of strength will come on a motion that the caucus go on record as favoring endorsement. A majority is required for passage. If it should pass, Stearns would presumably get endorsement without a contest, because Nelson would not permit submission of his name.

"5th District GOP Battle Shapes Up", *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, David Stearns 1962 5th District Congressional Race, 13 April 1962; newspaper clipping (Republican Party Clipping File); Milwaukee Public Library Humanities Department, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Journal – April 13, 1962

Stearns Abandons Bid for Congressional Seat

Bows Out After 5th District Caucus of GOP Votes Against Any Endorsement

By KENNETH E. FRY
Of The Journal Staff

David B. Stearns disfounded 5th congressional district Republicans early Saturday by withdrawing as a GOP candidate for congress in the district.

His dramatic, and unexpected, withdrawal came after the district caucus voted, 278 to 132, not to endorse a Republican candidate to run against the Democratic incumbent, Representative Henry S. Reuss.

Loud cries of "No, no" erupted from many of some 400 delegates when Stearns said, shortly after midnight, that he was quitting the race. Stearns persisted, saying that his father, Perry, had run unsuccessfully for office many times without party endorsement and that he had decided long ago not to do the same thing.

The caucus was at the Eagles club, 2401 W. Wisconsin av.

Supports Nelson

Stearns threw his support to the only other announced candidate, Atty. Thomas Nelson, saying that the party would be united in November. Nelson, who was as surprised as anybody, thanked Stearns for his "courageous statement" and promised an all-out campaign.

Asked what he would do about an open house he had scheduled Saturday afternoon at a campaign headquarters at 3832 W. Burleigh st., Stearns said it was off. "Tom can have it (the headquarters) if he wants it," Stearns said.

Stearns, chairman of the North Shore Republican unit, had favored endorsement of a candidate but had given a strong



Nelson Stearns

impression that he would remain in the race if the caucus decided not to endorse.

"Don't Know What to Say"

Nelson, former county Young Republican chairman, had opposed endorsement on the ground that a spirited primary contest between him and Stearns would build the winner into a stronger candidate. Nelson had said he would not submit his name for endorsement.

Asked how he felt about being alone in the field, Nelson said: "I really don't know what to say."

Nelson later issued a statement in which he said that the substantial vote against endorsement strengthened the party but did not relate to the merits of either candidate. He said he had hoped for a spirited primary contest but was still confident of victory.

The endorsement struggle erupted after delegates spent about three hours listening to speeches from 15 candidates, passing resolutions, and taking

Turn to page 13, column 3

Stearns

From page 1, column 4

care of other caucus business. The fight seemed to be centered more on the merits of endorsement rather than on the merits of the two candidates.

Speaker Problem Seen

Supporters of endorsement

said it was a question of party responsibility and that failure to endorse would split party workers and finances, make the candidates more intent on winning the nomination than beating Reuss, and present a problem to speakers of national prominence, who probably would not want to get involved in a primary race.

Opponents generally followed Nelson's line of thinking, adding that two candidates in the field would spread the Republican philosophy more than one.

Stearns' strategy also was surprising. He had indicated earlier that he would soft pedal the endorsement issue and did not mention it in his formal speech to the caucus. But, after about 40 minutes of debate, he jumped into the fray.

"Our Prerogative," He Says

"You're not here just to hold hands and pass resolutions," he said. "We here tonight are ordinary people. We do the doorbell ringing and envelope stuffing. This (endorsement) is our prerogative that we have earned through long hours of work."

Nelson did not get into the debate but had earlier opposed endorsement in his formal speech.

Labor Curb Spurned

The Republican thirst for victory this year was clearly demonstrated when resolutions were considered.

The delegates flatly refused to consider a resolution urging that labor unions be subjected to the same antitrust and antimerger laws covering business.

Among resolutions adopted were those:

Urging foreign aid only to friendly countries, aiming it for the benefit of the general citizenry and designing it to help the other countries become self-sufficient.

Opposing financing of the United Nations by bonds when other countries hadn't paid their share of the cost and urging the United States to seek denial of voting privileges for nations that hadn't paid.

Urging the immediate resignation of the United States from the UN if Red China is admitted.

"Stearns Abandons Bid for Congressional Seat", David Stearns 1962 5th District Congressional Race; newspaper clipping (Republican Party Clipping File); Milwaukee Public Library Humanities Department, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. April 14, 1962 Milwaukee Journal

Milwaukee Journal, April 14, 1962

May Re-enter Race, Stearns Tells Rally

MJ MAY 20 1962

He Says Nomination
Papers Have Been
Circulated by His
Campaign Aides

David B. Stearns, whose withdrawal last month from the 5th congressional district Republican race surprised party leaders, indicated Saturday night that he was back in the running. Stearns disclosed to a party rally at the Smith Steel Workers local 19806 Memorial hall, 3651 N. 27th st., that members of his old campaign committee and others had been circulating nomination papers in his name.



Stearns

As a result, he said, he was "seriously considering" re-entering the Republican primary race against Atty. Thomas Nelson, the only other Republican candidate.

2,914 Sign Papers

Sherman L. Bremer, 35, of 1030 E. Hampton av., Whitefish Bay, said 2,914 persons had already signed Stearns' nomination papers. Only 1,000 signatures are necessary to put his name on the ballot in the September primary.

Bremer told the meeting that "the Republican party let Dave down" last month when the 5th district caucus voted not to endorse a Republican candidate. It was over this issue that Stearns, who favored endorsement, quit the race.

Bremer said people working for Stearns hoped to get 10,000 signatures on his nomination

papers. That many signatures would be "very encouraging," Stearns said, and would be an important consideration in his final decision on whether to run or not.

Must Be "Draft"

Asked whether he would run if he did not get 10,000 signatures, Stearns would not comment. "It would have to be a draft," he said.

Nelson, who was also at the meeting, said he would welcome Stearns back into the race if Stearns decided to run.

"If Stearns does enter the race, it means that he now believes, as I have always believed, that a primary contest is desirable in the 5th district," he said.

Stearns, 41, lives at 1142 E. Sylvan av., Whitefish Bay. He is president of a cold storage firm.

Nelson is 31 and lives at 3373 N. Hackett av.

"May Re-enter Race, Stearns Tells Rally", *The Milwaukee Journal*, David Stearns 1962 5th District Congressional Race, 20 May 1962; newspaper clipping (Republican Party Clipping File); Milwaukee Public Library Humanities Department, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Milwaukee Journal, 20 May 1962

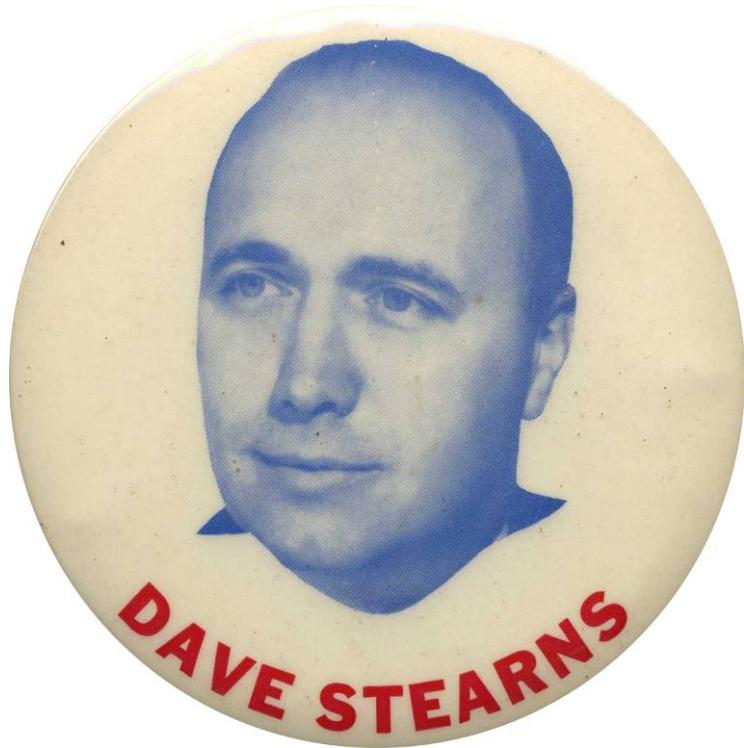
Henry S. Reuss won the election. Reuss was a Harvard graduate and attorney, and at one time was counsel for United States Office of Price Administration, 1941-1942, an organization that Perry J Stearns abhorred.

**VOTE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BY DISTRICT
WISCONSIN GENERAL ELECTION, November 6, 1962***

Fifth District		
County	Henry S. Reuss (Dem.)	Thomas F. Nelson (Rep.)
Milwaukee, part	103,705	59,441
TOTAL	103,705	59,441

Theobald, H. Rupert, Editor, *The Wisconsin blue book, 1964*, p. 761.

Election Results, 5th District – Nov. 6, 1962



Stearns Campaign button, 1962

Dave was a good guy – perhaps too good and too principled. He always acted for the good of the Republican Party and for conservative values. The author, his son, feels he should have kept going. History might have been changed for the better, had he been elected.

Dave continued with his political interests and as chairman of the Milwaukee County Republican Party. In 1964 he was a delegate to the presidential GOP convention in San Diego held on July 13, 1964.

8 THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS, Monday, March 9, 1964

List Of Byrnes Delegates

MADISON — Here's the list of delegates filed by Rep. John W. Byrnes, Green Bay Republican, for entry in the Wisconsin presidential primary Tuesday.

Delegates-At-Large

Catherine Cleary, Milwaukee — Vice Chairman, State Republican Finance Committee; former Assistant Treasurer of the United States; bank executive.

Mrs. Byron Ising, Oshkosh — Republican National Committeewoman; National Treasurer, American Dental Association Auxiliary; housewife and civic leader.

Warren Knowles, New Richmond — Republican candidate for Governor; former Lt. Governor and Senate Majority Leader; attorney.

Melvin R. Laird, Marshfield — Chairman, 1964 Republican National Convention Platform Committee; former Wisconsin State Senator; Representative in Congress from 7th District since 1953.

Jack Olson, Wisconsin Dells — Lieutenant Governor; candidate for re-election; resort owner and recreation leader.

Daniel Parker, Janesville — Chairman, State Republican Finance Committee; business executive.

Talbot Peterson, Appleton — Chairman, Republican Party of Wisconsin; businessman and civic leader.

Wilbur Renk, Sun Prairie — Republican candidate for U. S. Senator; former University of

Wisconsin regent; farmer and businessman.

Don L. Taylor, Waukesha — President, Wisconsin Federation of Young Republicans; banker and civic leader.

Everett Yerly, La Crosse — Chairman, Republican State Central Committee; businessman and civic leader.

District Delegates

1st District:

Congressman Henry Schadeberg, Burlington; and 1st District Republican Chairman Fred Hartley, a Kenosha attorney and longtime Republican Party worker.

2nd District:

Former State Chairman Claude Jasper, Madison; and Dan Draper, Watertown, a young sales representative who is the 2nd District Republican Party Chairman.

3rd District:

Third District Republican Chairman W. Roy Kopp, a Platteville Attorney; and John Bosshard, a La Crosse attorney who is also prominent in civic leadership.

4th District:

4th District Republican Chairman William Gollberg, who is a sales representative and a lifelong resident of southside Milwaukee; and Clara Herrmann, an active worker in Milwaukee County Republican Party activities and 4th District Republican chairwoman.

5th District:

Vincent Mercurio, Milwaukee, longtime Republican Party worker and 5th District Republican Chairman; and Janet Norris, Milwaukee, District vice-woman and former Milwaukee County Republican vice-chairwoman.

6th District:

Charles Derr, Fond du Lac, a businessman and Fond du Lac County Republican Chairman; and Mrs. Anita Becker, a county courthouse officeholder (Clerk of Circuit Court) and Vice Chairwoman of the 6th Congressional District.

7th District:

State Senator John M. Potter, Port Edwards; and District Republican Chairman Howard Woodside, Stevens Point, who is an insurance executive.

8th District:

Congressman John Byrnes, 8th District; and Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly Robert D. Haase, Marinette.

9th District:

Milwaukee County Republican Chairman David Stearns; and M. J. Vollmer, Delafield, businessman and active worker in Waukesha County Republican Party activities.

10th District:

State Senator Holger Rasmussen, Spooner; and Mrs. C. W. Chatterson, Eau Claire, who is Vice Chairwoman of the Eau Claire County Republican Club and chairman of the State GOP's 1963 Neighbor-to-Neighbor fund raising drive.

Dave Stearns, delegate 9th District to National GOP convention, 1964.

Senator Barry Goldwater won the nomination for president on the first ballot on Jul 16th.

Dave, Jeanne and son James attended the convention. Later that year, Barry Goldwater came to Madison, Wisconsin and spoke at the

UW campus at Bascom Hall. Through Dave's influence, our family was able to sit on the platform just behind Sen. Goldwater and hear the speech.

Dave continued as Milwaukee County Republican Chairman until January, 1966 when he was ousted by State Republican Chairman Ody Fish in favor of a more moderate-less conservative headed organization.

Fish was an uneducated, but successful businessman in Wisconsin who rose in the Republican Party and chaired the successful gubernatorial campaign of Warren P. Knowles in 1964. From his biography published by UWM, the following information was extracted:

"Knowles' election in the face of Republican losses elsewhere in the nation brought Fish to the forefront of the national party leadership. In 1965 he was elected state chair of the Wisconsin Republican Party. Together Fish and Knowles guided the state party toward the pragmatic, moderate political philosophy which they shared. Fish's abilities in overcoming the diverse elements within the party is attested to by the fact that under his leadership (1965-1970) Republicans controlled both houses of the legislature, all five constitutional offices, and seven of the ten congressional seats."

The "diverse elements within the party" mentioned above, spoke primarily of the conservative Republicans headed by Dave in Milwaukee County. Wisconsin has always been a diverse political state, run by the "Progressives" or "Sewer Socialists" headed by "Fighting Bob" La Follette in the early 19th century and later by the Republicans and "Tail Gunner" Joe McCarthy in the 1950's and 1960's. Fish and Knowles were successful with getting Republicans elected in the late 1960's and early 1970's but the state has voted largely Democratic since 1984.

The Sheboygan Press

Sheboygan, Wis., Friday, January 21 1966

The Wisconsin Scene . . . John Wyngaard

Knowles Will Call The Shots

MADISON — Within the topside of the Wisconsin Republican Party, Rep. Melvin R. Laird is one of the acknowledged powers. As a rising figure in the Republican caucus of the House of Representatives of Washington and as a seasoned and successful campaigner after repeated triumphs in his own district in the good years and bad, Laird is one of the men to whom the practical politicians of the Wisconsin party tend to listen.

Laird came to Milwaukee last weekend with a message, as he was invited to sit at the head table at the testimonial dinner informally launching the re-election campaign of Gov. Warren P. Knowles.

It was as brief as it was pointed.

"We acknowledge Warren Knowles as our leader," he said.

"He will call the shots in 1966."

"I want to be a Knowles Republican: we can win that way," said the congressman who is looking ahead to his own re-election drive.

What Laird said is elementary politics in the usual situation. The governor is the top man on a state election ballot. His success or failure is felt by all other candidates, from congressmen down to sheriffs.

That an experienced politician should have felt it advisable to recite such obvious matters before an audience of partisans whose regularity is indicated by the fact that they spent \$25 per plate to get into the hall is suggestive. When Laird talked about Knowles "calling the shots," it was fairly clear that he was speaking in ideological terms — before an audience that probably contained many men and women of more conservative preferences than some of the items in the Knowles record thus far have represented.

Moreover, the timing of the Laird declaration of the governor's leadership preroga-

tives was significant. It came within a few hours of the decision of the GOP State Executive Committee, led by Ody Fish and representing his wishes, to depose the conservative chairman of the Milwaukee County Republican Committee and to establish a caretaker organization of Fish's own choosing to run party affairs in the metropolis.

Fish pointedly declared when he made public the decision to unhorse David Stearns and the other party regulars in Milwaukee that the incident had no ideological meaning. Yet that will be difficult to convey in a convincing way to the Republican sophisticates who know that the Stearns dismissal took a full day of deliberations and was ac-

complished in the end with five minority votes out of 30.

Because everybody knows the close relationship between Chairman Fish and the governor, there can be no doubt that the unhorsing of the Milwaukee stalwart organization was with his consent. Or perhaps, as Laird suggested with his "calling the shots."

There can be little dispute about the fact that the Milwaukee Republican machinery has been weak and ineffectual for a long time. Whatever Stearns' shortcomings, they were probably not readily distinguishable from those of his predecessors. The degeneration of parties tends to be cumulative in neighborhoods where the opposition has dominant and assured strength. There are other counties in which the Republican organization is more nominal than real. But Milwaukee has such an immense importance in the logistics of state politics as a whole that Fish evidently felt that the risk of outside intervention was worth taking. Moreover, once the decision to move was made, it was probably wiser to move now than to wait until later in the year.

Whether it was wise to move will not be known until after the votes are counted in the fall. The important revelation in the incident is that the Republicans are deadly serious in their determination to retain the key office in state politics they won by a hairline in 1964.



Wyngaard

Dave Stearns ousted as Republican Chairman of Milwaukee County

This event effectively terminated any political ambitions that Dave may have entertained and he returned to his "roots" of running his warehouse and trucking business in Milwaukee. He stated:

"He was a state chairman. Ody and I had been friends. We got into a rivalry situation. Our friendship went down the drain."

It was about this time (1966) that Dave tendered a bid to the City to run one of the marine stevedore terminals in the Port of Milwaukee. To his surprise, he won the bid and suddenly was in the stevedoring business. There were four terminals. Locally, these included Hansen (subsequently Meehan) Seaway Service, Ltd.; Stearns Marine Co.; Pier, Inc.; and P & V Atlas.

Dave recalls the event:

"We bid on the dock that the city had. P & V Atlas was a competitor. They were in the dry storage business. We competed with them in dry storage. I got to know those people pretty well."

We bid and we got it. We got it out of the blue. All of a sudden we were in the terminal business. It was a real shocker. How will we do it, how will we run it? It worked out."

This business dovetailed well with the Milwaukee Cold Storage Company and Kro-Flite Cartage Company which Dave continued to operate. He used the trucks to haul freight from the docks to his warehouse or to other destinations in Milwaukee.

Typical of Dave, he ran this business with flair, intensity and professionalism. He traveled to Europe, including Russia, to promote the Port of Milwaukee and landed some good contracts with the Irish Head Lines and other deep sea shipping lines from Scandinavia and Japan. He had several very capable men who helped him run the business; Les Kriegmann and Al Skinner. Les probably had many contacts in the shipping business and helped Dave with contracts. Al Skinner, an expert noontime sheepshead player, ran the day-to-day stevedoring business in the terminal. There were some real characters on the docks. It was strict union and everything was according to seniority, not brains or capability. Timing was more critical on the docks since any delays in getting the ship unloaded and loaded could cost big money. Things had to go more smoothly than the warehouse business. Often the longshoremen would work past midnight (at triple

time pay) to get the ship loaded and on its way. The author recalls some of the items that were handled:

"We seemed to load a lot of UNICEF 100 pound bags of flour. It was going overseas and seemed to have Arabic letters on the bags. This product usually was loaded in the lowermost hold of the ship. Dunnage would be loaded first, laid down and then the pallets of flour would be dropped in by crane and offloaded on top of the dunnage. Raw animal hides were a special odiferous product that we handled. The longshoremen had to wear rubber gloves and aprons. The hides were raw, slimy, and slippery, they stunk and contained maggots. It was the worst job on the docks. Another winner was loading bags of graphite. That created worse dust than the flour. If you were up in seniority, you got better jobs and didn't have to work down in the hold of the ship. We got a lot of German beer and liqueurs from Europe. The liqueurs would be in locked storage areas on the upper decks. The beer was mostly in barrels but there were some cases of bottles too. Invariably, a case would break open and we would have to clean up the mess by drinking the remains. Occasionally cars would be shipped from Europe to America. Somebody in Milwaukee was buying antique autos in Europe and shipping them back. They were mostly old Fords that went to Europe back in the early 1900's. One time somebody shipped a new Mercedes back to Milwaukee. Somehow a nearby container had gotten loose on deck and slammed into the car all the way across the Atlantic. The car looked like an accordion. We handled a few containers, but that business was just getting started and Milwaukee didn't have a big container handling capability. Most containers were offloaded by hand using cables and the ship's cranes."

David Jr., Jim and Jay Stearns all worked on the docks as longshoremen.

All was going well and Dave was making a nice profit until the longshoremen went on strike. The exact date is not known, but was probably in the early 1970's. This closed down the Port of Milwaukee for many months and Dave's newly contracted vessels were forced to go to Chicago to unload. This was the blow that essentially ended Dave's venture into the deep sea terminal business. He did not have the deep pockets to weather the strike and the Port of Milwaukee was hurt tremendously by the arrogance and greed of the longshoreman's union.

Dave returned to running the Milwaukee Cold Storage Company and Kro-Flight. He had some lucrative contracts with Briggs and Stratton and this business sustained him until he retired from the warehousing business and eventually sold the cold storage company about 1977.

One of the major tragedies of his life was when their daughter Debby died on 25 May 1967 at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She was born with a heart problem which affected her physically throughout her life. Technology was not advanced enough at the time of her birth to correct it as would be possible today. The doctors finally told Dave and Jeanne that they could correct the problem, but she died on the operating table. She had just completed her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dave and Jeanne were members of the North Shore Congregational Church in Whitefish Bay. The church was founded in 1949 and first met in the basement of the Country Day School building on Santa Monica Boulevard. The author recalls being confirmed there about 1961. They later built a new church in Fox Point. Its first minister was Rev. Vernon I. ("Pat") Flynn followed by the addition of Assistant Minister John D. ("Jack") Fitzgerald, Jr. They either joined as charter members or very early on. At some point in time, Dave and Jeanne joined a splinter group and founded the Mayflower Congregational Church (now Hill Point Church) at 2500 West Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee, of which they were charter members.

Finally, after all the children were grown up and left home, Dave got his civilian pilot's license.

He states:

"I didn't fly any more for 15 years or 20 years from when I started flying in the service. I found a deal where I could rent an airplane, a single engine, civilian type airplane, at quite a reasonable rate and I could fly it all over the country. I just had to fill it with gas and have the engine checked out every so often. I was quite content not to fly a Corsair any more. That was like taking your life in your hands whenever you took off the ground."

Dave would rent and fly a single engine Cessna or Piper around the country. He and Jeanne flew out to Colorado one year to visit his son David, Jr. He also flew down to see his brother, Forest, on one occasion when Forest was a professor at Purdue in Lafayette, Indiana.

"I went down to see him. He didn't know I was coming. But I found out what classes he was teaching at the point when I arrived there. I went over and sat way in the back row and then when he had a question and answer session I got up and asked some really stupid question. He just about fell off the roof! He wasn't expecting me and

didn't know I was there until I got up in the question and answer session after his lecture. He was a good lecturer in his field. He was very surprised to see me there."

Dave's wife of 35 years, Jeanne Martin, died in 1978. The direct cause of death was hepatic coma caused by cirrhosis as a consequence of ulcerative colitis. Other contributing factors were colon cancer. She had been on medicine for her colitis continuously for many years which probably contributed to her liver failure. Her situation was not properly diagnosed or monitored by her long-time physician Dr. Royce in whom she trusted implicitly. Dave was finally able to take her to the Mayo Clinic but it was not in time.

Type or Print in Permanent Black Ink
3917

FORM No. VS-12
100M-REV. 1-78

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DOC. No. 6036
FILED Aug 21, 1978

STATE FILING DATE
STATE DEATH DATE
REGISTER OF DEEDS

Prepared for Coding	LOCAL FILE NUMBER	First	Middle	Last	SEX	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female	DATE OF DEATH
Race	DECEDENT NAME	JEANNE	MARTIN	STEARNS	2.	July 27, 1978	
Hispanic, American Indian, etc.	AGE - Last Birthday	58	UNDER 1 YEAR	UNDER 1 DAY	3.	Month	
White	Years	58	Mo.	Days	4.	Year	
Hours	59	50	59	59	59	59	
Minutes	59	59	59	59	59	59	
Seconds	59	59	59	59	59	59	
Days	59	59	59	59	59	59	
Months	59	59	59	59	59	59	
Years	59	59	59	59	59	59	
CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP OF DEATH	HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION - Name	Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee	INSIDE CITY OR VILLAGE LIMITS	IF HOSP. OR INST.			
Milwaukee	Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing home <input type="checkbox"/> Other institution (If none of these, give street and number)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	DOA <input type="checkbox"/> DOB <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/>				
STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A. name country)	CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY	MARITAL STATUS	SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name)	WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES?			
Wisconsin	USA	X 1. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Never Married <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	David B. Stearns	12. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)	KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY					
13.	Homemaker	Own Home					
RESIDENCE STATE	COUNTY	CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP OF RESIDENCE	INSIDE CITY OR VILLAGE LIMITS	STREET AND NUMBER			
Wisconsin	Milwaukee	Brown Deer	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	4225 Rivers Edge Circle			
FATHER NAME	First	Middle	LAST	MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME			
Roland	R.	Martin		Olive Witherall			
INFORMANT NAME (Type or Print)	MAILING ADDRESS	Street or R.F.D. No.	City or Village	State			
18a. David B. Stearns	4225 Rivers Edge Circle, Brown Deer, Wisconsin	53209					
CEMETERY OR CREMATORIUM NAME	LOCATION						
Valhalla Mem. Park	Milwaukee Wisconsin						
FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE Or Person Acting As Such	NAME OF FACILITY	ADDRESS OF FACILITY					
Signature	F.G. Fass & Son Co	3601 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood, Wis. 53211					
21a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the date and place and due to the cause stated.	22a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated.						
Signature and Title	DATE SIGNED	HOUR OF DEATH	DATE SIGNED	HOUR OF DEATH			
21b. To be Completed by CHIEVING PHYSICIAN ONLY	21c. Month Day Year	21d. 4:50 PM M	22b. Month Day Year	22c. M			
NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print)	TO BE COMPLETED BY MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER						
Signature	DATE SIGNED	HOUR OF DEATH					
21e. To be Completed by REGISTRAR	21f. Month Day Year	21g. 22. Month Day Year	22d. Month Day Year	22e. M			
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER) (Type or Print)	DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR						
22f. Signature	22g. Date						
22h. To be Completed by REGISTRAR	22i. Month Day Year	22j. Date	22k. Month Day Year	22l. Date			
IMMEDIATE CAUSE	ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c).						
23. PART I Conditions which gave rise to the immediate cause(s). Cause(s) stating the immediate cause(s) in detail.	24. PART II Other significant conditions contributing to death but not related to cause given in PART I (a) Cause(s) stating the other significant cause(s) in detail.						
25. PART III Accident National Safety Council Code	DATE OF INJURY	HOUR OF INJURY	AUTO/DS	WAS CASE REFERRED TO MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER			
1. Accident <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Homicide <input type="checkbox"/>	25a. Month Day Year	25b. 25c. M	25d. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25e. Date			
INJURY AT WORK	PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, office, factory, office building, etc.	LOCATION	Street or R.F.D. No.	City or Village State			
25f. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25g. 25h. 25i.	25j.	25k.	25l.			

Jeanne Martin Stearns – Wisconsin Death Certificate

Her death certificate is transcribed below:

STATE OF WISCONSIN Department of Health and Social Services

Original Certificate of Death

DOC. No. 6036

Filed: August 10, 1978

DECEASED

1. Decedent Name: Jeanne Martin Stearns
2. Sex: Female
3. Date of Death: July 27, 1978
4. Race: White
- 5a. Age Last Birthday, years: 58
6. Date of Birth: April 30, 1920
- 7a. County of Death: Milwaukee
- 7b. Inside City or Village Limits: Yes
- 7c. Name of City, Village (Location of Death): Milwaukee
- 7d. Hospital or other institution: Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee
- 7e. Inpatient
8. State of Birth: Wisconsin
9. Citizen of What Country: USA
10. Married
11. Surviving Spouse: David B. Stearns
12. Was deceased ever in US Armed Forces: No
13. Social Security No. – none given
- 14a Usual Occupation: Homemaker
- 14b Kind of business: Own Home
- 15a. Residence State: Wisconsin
- 15b County: Milwaukee
- 15c Name of City, Village: Brown Deer
- 15d. Inside City or Village limits: Yes
- 15e. Mailing address: 4225 Rivers Edge Circle

PARENTS

16. Father Name: Roland R. Martin
17. Mother Maiden Name: Olive Witherall
- 18a. Informant Name: David B. Stearns
- 18b. Mailing Address: 4225 Rivers Edge Circle, Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53209

BURIAL

- 19a Burial, Cremation, Removal: Burial
- 19b Cemetery: Valhalla Memorial Park
- 19c. Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 20a. Funeral Service Licensee: Fred W. Fass
- 20b Name of Facility: Fred C. Fass & Son Co.
- 20c. Address of Facility: 3601 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood, Wis 53211

CERTIFICATION

- 21a. Signature of Certifier: _See image_
- 21b. Date signed: 7/31/78
- 21c. Death occurred hour: 4:50 PM
23. Name and address of certifier: Samuel E. Hoke, MD - Harwood Med. Assoc. 7400 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa, Wis.
- 24a Registrar Signature: ???, M.D.
- 24b. Date Received by Registrar: Aug 3 1978

CAUSE

- 25 Part I:
 - a) Immediate Cause: Hepatic coma, acute
 - b) Due to: Cirrhosis, years
 - c). Due to: Ulcerative colitis, years

Part II

Conditions contributing to Death but not related to cause: Colon carcinoma
26. Autopsy: No

Jeanne's obituary was published in the paper, but the source was not noted. It appears to be the Whitefish Bay Herald.



Obituary, Jeanne Martin Stearns (1920-1978)

Jeanne is buried in the family plot at Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Stearns Monument



Stearns Monument Inscriptions



Jeanne Martin Stearns (1920-1978)

David next married **Mary Joan Buchta Friend** on 20 May 1979 at Mayflower Congregational Church, Brown Deer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mary was born on 4 Apr 1932, the daughter of **Elmer Anthony Buchta** and **Mary Louise Blade**. They had no children.



Mary Joan (Buchta) and Dave Stearns at Mayflower Congregational Church



Mary Joan and Dave following wedding

Mary Joan was previously married to **Carroll Salls** with whom she had a daughter, **Mary Carol Salls** on 5 Jan 1955. This marriage ended in divorce. She next married **Andy Friend** in 1958 and had a son **John Blade Friend** on 26 Sep 1960. She and Andy subsequently divorced.

Dave Jr. interviewed Mary Joan in April 2008 about their lives after they got married. The narrator's comments are in brackets. The dialog is presented below:

"We got married on Sunday the 20th of May at the convenience of our kids when they could come and when the Country Club could have us. After the wedding we had a sit down luncheon at Ozaukee country club, which was really nice, and then we had to drive up to Green Bay to take Jeanne's aunt Ethel back to Green Bay and we had actually planned to stay in Milwaukee but we changed those plans and we spent two nights in Green Bay. Had to rush back on Tuesday because Dave had a luncheon for a bunch of waterfront people that he had to officiate at and I had to collect the money so we tore back there

We were married at Mayflower, Mayflower Congregational. I don't know if that's Mequon or what it is.

So I spent the next month moving and getting us ready, mostly Dave, ready to move out of the apartment that he had when we were married because we had taken another apartment and we couldn't get in until the 1st of July, so we spent all of June in Florida at my condo. We were at the condo and then we went down and spent about week

in Key West, which was nifty. The condo was in Boynton Beach on the water. It was on the intercoastal waterway.

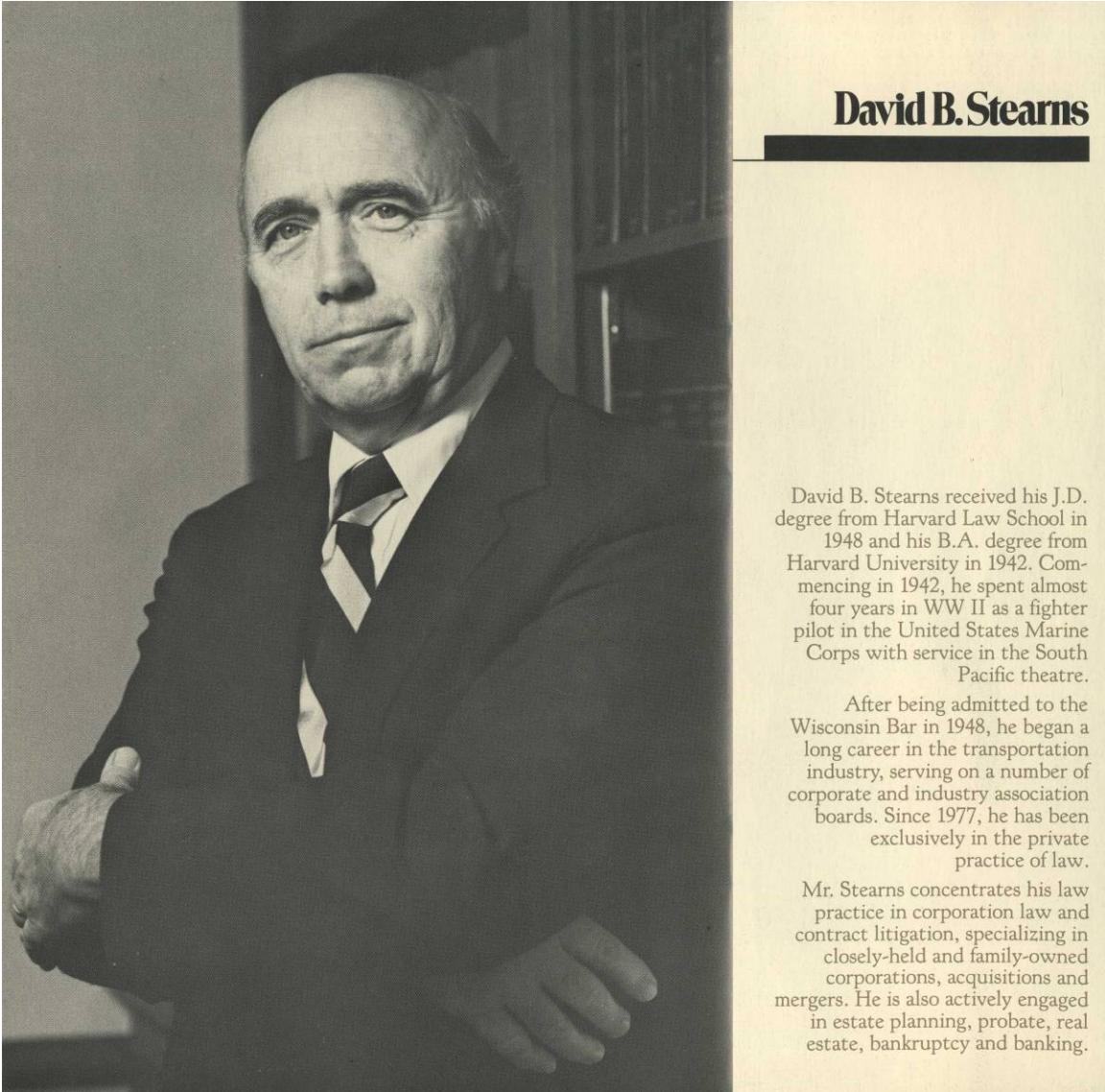
It was a little bitty condo, but it was a cute little place so we stayed there. And winded our way back to Wisconsin and moved into the apartment that we had rented on the 1st of July. That was on Dean Road and right across the hall from old friends of Dave's, Liz and John Evans, which was nifty because Liz could kind of show me the ropes, since I was relatively new in town again having been gone for quite a while; lived in Florida almost 10 years.

Finally we decided we'd like to buy a condo and so we sold my condo in Florida, this was probably after we had been married 2 years. We bought a condo in Brown Deer – don't ask me the address – but we were there 3 years. It was Jade Gardens, that I can tell you. Jade Gardens condominiums, but where it was I'm not real sure. It was right off Brown Deer Road. I could go there, but I can't tell you where it is. Then we bought a house out in Mequon which we both loved. By this time Dave was working with a law firm that had a number of his old friends and buddies working for him.

I know he sold the cold storage about two years after we got married. But the terminal he was not involved in at all. When we were married he was strictly doing lawyer work and but he still had the cold storage which he was kind of anxious to get rid of because it was enough to do the lawyering which he wasn't that crazy about anyway.

Dave – We found a couple of suckers who bought it. They were business people who thought that this must be an easy racket because I didn't work very hard at it. They didn't last long. They thought they could run that business by sitting on their hands".

After selling the Milwaukee Cold Storage, Dave practiced law for a while on his own and then joined the law firm of Fiorenza, Weiss, Amato, Hodan & Belongia.



David B. Stearns

David B. Stearns received his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1948 and his B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1942. Commencing in 1942, he spent almost four years in WW II as a fighter pilot in the United States Marine Corps with service in the South Pacific theatre.

After being admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1948, he began a long career in the transportation industry, serving on a number of corporate and industry association boards. Since 1977, he has been exclusively in the private practice of law.

Mr. Stearns concentrates his law practice in corporation law and contract litigation, specializing in closely-held and family-owned corporations, acquisitions and mergers. He is also actively engaged in estate planning, probate, real estate, bankruptcy and banking.

David Stearns, Esq.

Continuing with Mary Joan's dialog:

"So as I said, he didn't really enjoy being a lawyer and so when an opportunity came for him to run the port of Richmond, this friend of ours put in a bid to take over the management of the Port of Richmond, which is on the James River; he offered the job of managing it to Dave and I was ready. He thought it might be fun so we packed up and moved to Richmond in the beginning of the year in 1985. By this time we had been married like almost 6 years. We were there for several years which we loved. We really loved Richmond. It's a neat town.

Dave – Seems to me we were really close to the area...The James River was navigable for quite a ways up and they could bring boats,

boatloads of tobacco up. They took tobacco right out of our warehouse in bales.

Phillip Morris is in Richmond.

Dave – We were right across the street from Phillip Morris, I think weren't we?

You were right across the highway from Phillip Morris.

Dave - That was our big account.

They were the biggest user of the port, weren't they?

Dave – Yeah, that was the only real excuse for the port, was to serve Phillip Morris Tobacco Company

One of the fun things about that port I remember was the, they shipped livestock to South America out of Richmond and they'd bring in all these poor old cows who really didn't want to be there and they'd beller and they'd holler and they'd try to get them on the boat. They didn't want to go. They were hollering all the way down "I don't want to go" but they kept poking them and prodding them and it was fun. Every time we had a load of cattle I would go down there.

Dave - They walked on the boat.

They had to. The only way they could get there.

They would have a load of cattle every other month of cattle that came from the south area.

Our house in Milwaukee, we sold that. It was in Mequon. It was on Scenic Drive in Mequon. Right near Ozaukee Country Club, as a matter of fact. If David wanted to he could have fallen out of bed and on to the golf course. We wound up buying a house in Richmond, another nifty house that we loved a lot. But we really loved Richmond and enjoyed it. I would have stayed there forever. I was very happy there. But a chance came for us to buy into a newly formed company that was going to start a shipping service to Europe and Bermuda and so we bought into that. There were three partners from the United States and two from Bermuda. And we were there, nine months maybe before it went belly up? Unfortunately we didn't have enough capital to last those first awful months when we didn't have any business. This was in Charleston after Richmond.

The company, of course, still had a number of expenses and one of the Bermuda partners had pretty unlimited funds and he really sunk a

bundle into it but we just didn't have enough to go along the first two years that are so tough in a new business. So it folded. Dad went to work for a company out of England, also a shipping company, so we were out on the road around South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia trying to get people to use this particular shipping company. I guess we did that about three years. We had a terrible hurricane in Charleston in September of 1989 and then in December of 1989 we had a really bad snowstorm and you really don't think about that in South Carolina, ever. But, matter of fact, Jim was coming for Christmas and my kids were coming from Michigan and they all had to lay over someplace else because they couldn't fly into Charleston because we were socked in there. Matter of fact they had to lay over Christmas Eve too. They didn't get in until Christmas Day. It was hairy even at that because at that time the thaw had started and the condo right across from us developed a terrible leak and that's where Jim and his present girlfriend at the time were staying and so we spent Christmas night, the kids, Dave and our other guests mopping up two condos over next door, the roast beef was ruined. It wasn't our finest hour. That was the last holiday that we had in Charleston.

We lived in an area called Shadow Lake. It was a condo complex around lakes, several little lakes and it was really nice. We enjoyed it there. We had a really good time. I guess it was January. We had some damage to the condo and I was pretty sick of Dave being president of the Condo association and having people...all through the hurricane of course with all the damage and stuff, he was president and we were getting sort of up to our nose with that so once again we decided to move. But then we didn't know what else to do. We moved. So then we moved then into a house. We moved in about the first of February and golly we hadn't even hung a picture when a phone call came from a man that David worked with in Richmond and he was going down to Brazil to head up a group of people who were going to do a study on the five big ports in Brazil and he was organizing a group of men, specialists in port operations to go down and study these ports to find out what could be done to improve them because this company who was going to back it financially felt that if they could help Brazil, with all its resources, help it get out this third world status, one way would be to improve the port situation. So of course we laughed real hard. Ha, Ha! Think about going to Brazil. Ha. Ha! How funny! Well it was even funnier after Dad went up and talked to the people in New Jersey who were backing this and he came home and he'd taken the job. So we never did hang pictures in that house. It was one of those things. We moved out of there. We rented that out. Thinking, our contract was for three years. We rented that out and moved the first of June down to Rio de Janeiro. That was his spot. He and one other guy from the United States. So he headed the team in Rio. There were a couple of Brazilians and one other guy was from New Jersey and of course they were studying it and they realized that

as long as it was run by Brazilians, staffed by Brazilians they were never going to get out of the third world status. Because out of an eight hour day, maybe they worked four and a half hours. They were big on coffee breaks; big on long lunches; big on a little nap here and there.

But we learned a lot in Brazil. First of all we had to learn Portuguese. We took lessons from a teacher. She was great. Thank God she was very patient. We were living in a hotel at that point and then we took a sublet on a condo. By then we realized that I didn't need to learn the kind of Portuguese that Dave did because he had to conduct meetings and write letters and have it very precise. I had to get along with the people in the grocery store. The little man I bought from down at the corner. I bought chickens and I had to ask him "Please cut off the head and the feet", that kind of thing. What I needed was street Portuguese and Dad needed pure, so he continued the lessons and he was really good. Both of us could read the paper far better than we could understand or speak.

They called the people in Rio "Cariocas" and they had an accent all their own. It was pretty guttural. They talked really fast - it's the only thing they do quickly - but if you listened to them you would swear they were speaking German or even Dutch, but was Portuguese. A little further down the road in the other really, really, big city south of Rio, San Paulo, they call those people the "Paulistas". We took a tour with a group of Paulistas one time up to Bella Horizonte and by this time we had been there six months and knew quite a lot but their accent was so different that we had a hard time getting with them.

Bella Horizonte is inland. It is straight inland from Rio. The capital, Brasilia, is north and west of Rio. That's a big state, Brazil. You could fly for hours and you would still be flying over Brazil. We traveled. We saw a lot for the short time we were there. We weren't in any hurry to take trips because we thought we would be there three years but after about six months they realized - we hadn't been paid at all by the Brazilian Government – they were to pay our company. Meantime our company was paying all of us that were down there. They had teams, two and three in each port, so they probably had 14 specialists plus the two that were working, coordinating in Brasilia and so all that money that the company was paying out hadn't been reimbursed. Finally after the first of the year, that would have been 1991, the government paid them a half million dollars or something, anyway they figured that was as well as they were ever going to get and they were coming home.

The World Bank was going to fund the work to improve the ports. We did the study for the World Bank. They hired this firm in New Jersey to hire teams to supervise and then when all the data was in after a 3

year study, then the World Bank was going to lend it to them at something ridiculous, 4 percent interest?

Dave – Less than that, something like 1 percent.

It was a ridiculous rate of interest. It was really a good, good deal for Brazil.

Dave – We recommended against it. As I recall we recommended against them loaning it to Brazil at that time. We figured they would never get it back from Brazil.

When we got there they had a new president, young guy about 29, and it was the first time they had an elected president. They had been run pretty much by the army, the military, his name was Collor [*Fernando Collor, Mar 15, 1990 – Oct 2, 1992. First president elected by popular vote since the military coup. Impeached by the Chamber of Deputies, with automatic suspension from office. Convicted of the impeachment charges by the Senate. Resigned the presidency during the Senate's trial of impeachment, in a failed attempt to abort the proceedings*]. He was very popular, but he loved to play. He loved to sail, sailing, and he loved his fast little boats, he was a playboy. As a ruler he was not so great and of course the poverty was not getting any better under his rule. So we did leave Brazil about the 15th or 20th of March and went to Mexico to stay out of the country for a year so we wouldn't be taxed for our earnings. We stayed in Mexico in San Miguel de Allende.

Dave- That's where we got to know about Corona beer.

We were there until the first of June until we could come back into the country. We went up to Denver. Jim came down and picked us up in Juarez. This was 1991. We went back up to Denver. We were going to stay just a couple of days. We had a flight out of Denver. We got up to Denver on a Monday and we were going to fly out on Wednesday except that the other No. 1 son was in jail And so we didn't fly out until the following after you got out of jail.

Dave - We visited you in jail didn't we? What was that all about – Molly?

[Yeah]

Every morning I would say to your Dad what time are you going to visit him in the hoosegow today? [*From Latin American Spanish juzgao, variant of standard Spanish juzgado ("court, courthouse")*]

[As I recall I had you plant some of my garden while I was in there, which you guys did. Thank you very much]

Well, anyway we stayed longer than we planned. But that was all right because we had nothing to do and we didn't have any place to go. We had assured the Harris Company, they asked us to please if we didn't have to, please not take another job. And by this time your Dad is 70 and he didn't have to take another job. So we applied for Social Security. Harris Company is the company we worked for in New Jersey when we were in Brazil. They were hoping to either put this thing in Brazil back together if they could get some assurance of some money or there was a deal in Venezuela they were bidding on and much the same sort of thing. They would have needed the same kinds of experts and they wouldn't have needed as many.

Dave – We thought we would maybe be called in for that.

The top guys in each of the cities were asked if they would, if they didn't have to, please don't take a job for a while and we'll be in touch. Well, unfortunately, neither of those things panned out. I was just as happy. I enjoyed it. I really, really, wouldn't have missed it for the world. But I'll tell you it was awfully nice to get back up here where people speak English, where you didn't have to watch every move on the sidewalk, where you weren't about to get knocked over by some little kid going by.

We traveled for about two years. We got in our little van and we went all over. All the people who for a long time had been visiting us, we got on the phone and said "guess who's coming for dinner for a month", that kind of thing. We bought a van, a GMC. We packed it up and away we went. We pet-sat and house-sat for our friends who were going to be gone for a while. We sat for one house for a couple of months and took care of their standard poodle. We sat for our friends who had taken our cat when we went to Brazil and they were in Europe for six weeks. So that was kind of spotty. But for two years we didn't have an address or a home and that was getting kind of old. That had been a long time.

Dave – We didn't have to pay any income tax. As I recall we didn't have to pay any income tax all the years we were in foreign countries.

No we didn't. We were just in a foreign country for a year from June of 1990 to June of 1991. It was October 1993 when we finally settled in Florida. We bought a house in Florida and settled there.

[Why did you choose Lakeland?]

Because I loved Florida when I lived there. We chose to be inland in Florida then because we'd already done one hurricane and we didn't want to do another one.

Dave – Lakeland was on the western side of Florida. It was a nice town. A couple of little lakes there. Or was there a big lake? Didn't we have sort of a mobile home?

We had a manufactured home.

Dave - We had a manufactured home next to a swamp. A swamp on one side and a golf course on the other side. We finally sold that.

Dave and Mary moved to a retirement community at Schalamar Creek near Lakeland, Florida. Schalamar Creek is a 500 acre gated community with a golf course and swimming pool. Unfortunately, by this time Dave's knees were bothering him and he was unable to take full advantage of the nice golf course that was adjacent to their home.

Instead of enjoying retirement and peacefully writing his memoirs while he approached his twilight years, Dave was true to his character of keeping busy and became involved with the local homeowners association.

He became the director-at-large of the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners of Florida (FMO) and served as a district vice president. He also chaired the FMO Litigation Funding Assistance Committee and served on the Legislative Committee.

The following article was published in 1999 in a local paper, the Ledger, and outlines Dave's personal biography and his involvement with the local FMO.

A MAN IN THE KNOW ABOUT MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES P.17



David Stearns

*Schalamar Creek Golf and Country Club
Lakeland*

David Stearns is currently serving as director-at-large and has served as a section director for three years and as a district vice president. A Harvard University Law School graduate and former Marine fighter pilot in World War II, Stearns enjoyed a successful career in business and corporate law.

Stearns, who has been an FMO member for five years, chairs the FMO Litigation Funding Assistance Committee, in addition to serving on the Legislative Committee.

"I have served as president of numerous trade organizations and know that hard work and dedication to the cause are the secret to building a successful team for the furtherance of FMO's important goals."

Headline of article that follows.

The Ledger

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999

Competent Director Long-Term Activist

Schalamar Creek's David Stearns is the kind of source that journalists dream of. He always knows what's going on in and around Florida's manufactured housing scene.

Now completing a two-year term as director-at-large of the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners of Florida (FMO), Stearns is a long-time activist on behalf of park residents and a candidate for the FMO vice-presidency.

Yet when you meet Stearns, you find him genial, unhurried and impeccably mannered. You must study him closely to penetrate his understated style and find hints of a quiet competence. His record, though, shows consistent success in an impressive variety of undertakings since he graduated from Milwaukee's Shorewood High School in 1938. He may never mention his Harvard education or his law practice or the three companies he founded.

But it's all there: his graduation in 1942 with a major in American government and history and his law degree in 1948. Between times, of course, was World War II. After law school came a long and stellar career in business.

Two days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Stearns volunteered for the Naval Aviation program. "After pre-flight training at Iowa City, we began training in Glenview, Ill., in those old-fashioned biplanes like the barnstorming pilots used," he says.

After further training at Cor-

MOBILE HOME LIVING



Tom Gaston

pus Christi, Texas, Stearns took a 10-day leave to go home and marry his girlfriend, Jeanne, who eventually became the mother of his three children. Jeanne accompanied him to Cherry Point, N.C. and stayed with him while he qualified as a Corsair fighter pilot. Although accidents were common, Stearns' training was uneventful.

Then Stearns embarked for the South Pacific, where he flew dive-bombing, strafing and combat air patrols in three major operations including the bloody invasion of Okinawa, and earned the Distinguished Service Cross and two Air Medals. "My plane was never hit, and I never had an accident," he reports, though the LST boat that carried supplies for his ground crew was sunk and fighting around him was intense. "Okinawa was their last bastion. Their kamikaze (suicide) pilots were quite effective. They sank 90 of our ships in 90 days during that battle." Back Stateside, Stearns did a short stint as a test pilot ("That was actually boring") before his discharge, just in time to enter law school in the fall of 1945.

For a short time, he practiced law. Then he joined a company that ran refrigerated warehouses and stayed with them 35 years. "When the St. Lawrence Seaway opened, we branched into stevedoring. Things were booming. We once unloaded 400 ships in eight months." Meanwhile, Stearns had founded a small trucking company that proved equally successful. But after the death of his first wife in 1978, he sold both businesses and relocated to Richmond, Va. There, he managed the Port of Richmond for two years before pursuing other ventures in Charleston, S.C., and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was hired for the South American assignment as an expert on port management.

"I spent a wonderful year in Rio," he recalls. "We were doing a feasibility study intended to pave the way for a \$50 million World Bank loan to rebuild that port. Unfortunately, Brazil's economy was in terrible shape at the time. Inflation hit 4,000 percent!

"The Brazilian government was unable to pay the American firm that hired me. The company finally managed to collect about half the \$1½ million dollars owed them. Then they cancelled the deal and brought us home."

Thus began Stearns' search for an ideal retirement home. Touring in a van, he and his present wife, Mary, checked out Arizona, Texas and most of Florida before the Schalamar Creek sign caught their attention.

"As soon as I took that long, beautiful drive from the road, I was hooked," he recalls. Less than a month after moving in, he was approached by the president of the Schalamar homeowners' association, who noticed that he was an attorney.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Tom Gaston is a professor emeritus and former director of the office of writing review at Purdue University. Questions or comments can be sent to The Ledger, P.O. Box 408, Lakeland, 33802 or faxed to 802-7826. Some questions may be answered in the column.

Still feeling like he didn't have enough to do, Dave decided to apply for entrance to the Florida Bar in 2000. He was doing quite a bit of pro bono work and thought it would be nice to get paid for a change. Unfortunately, this didn't work out for Dave and he missed passing the bar exam by a few points. He said there were too many young smart-aleck law graduates to compete against. He gave it a good shot but after this disappointment Dave and Mary decided to skip town and took an offer presented by Mary's daughter, Mary Carol, to move into a condo that she purchased free and clear for them in Las Vegas.

Mary continues with her history:

"We decided we'd move again just for a change. We had been there almost 10 years so it was time for a change. All the kids had been agitating about us coming west because we were so far from all of them. So my daughter bought this condo that we're living in now and so we came west and moved into Sin City.

[And so, the west is history!]

When we moved out to Las Vegas, we'd been married almost 25 years and that was our 19th move in 25 years. We did stay one step ahead of Master Card. If they can't find me they can't send the bill. We have been here 4 years. We may stay a little while yet."



Mary Joan and Dave in their condo in Las Vegas

Dave and Mary currently live in that same garden level condo at 3066 Mirado Court, Las Vegas, Nevada where they enjoy going out to dinner at the casinos and take in the occasional show. Dave is allowed a dollar a month for gambling and is currently in the red.

They hosted a reunion of Dave's WWII Marine fighter squadron VMF-322 a few years ago. They also enjoy traveling and accommodating close friends and family who travel to see them in Las Vegas.



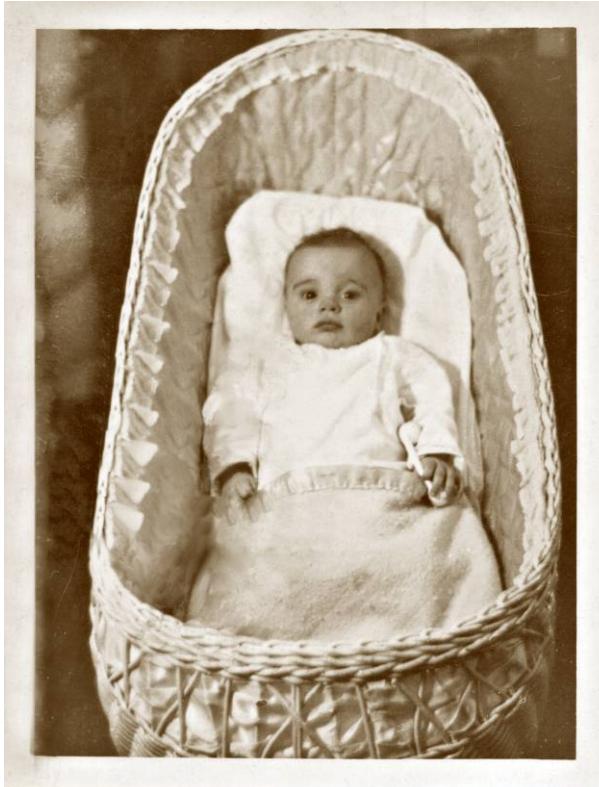
Dave and Mary Joan at condo in Las Vegas, circa 2006. Dinner includes Mary's famous Bourbon Sweet Potatoes. Pai Gow, their Siamese cat is eating her dinner in the background.

**12th Generation
Children of David Stearns and Jeanne Martin**



**Christmas card photo
David, Debby and Jim at Kent Ave home, abt 1954**

163942311121. David Brook Stearns, Jr. (*David Brook¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 8 Jul 1944 at Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



"Davey" Stearns at 3 months, Shorewood, Wisconsin

David lived with his mother and Martin grandparents at 1420 E. Capitol Drive in Shorewood, Wisconsin for a year before his father saw him in July of 1945 after returning from active duty on Okinawa.

David graduated from Richards Grade School and Whitefish Bay High School, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin in 1962. He received a B.Sc. degree in Geology from University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1966 and a M.Sc. and D.I.C. in Petroleum Geology from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College of the University of London in London, England in 1969.

David married **Molly Elizabeth Beall**, daughter of **Geoffrey Beall** and **Muriel Gallagher** on 6 Jun 1966 in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. Molly was born on 17 Feb 1945 in London, Ontario, Canada. They were divorced in 1984 in Arapahoe County, Colorado.

Children from this marriage were:

- 111211. Travis David Gallagher Stearns**, M, b. 1 Nov 1967 in Boulder, CO
- 111212. Jessica London Stearns**, F, b. 17 Feb 1970 in Jackson, Mississippi
- 111213. Joshua Martin Stearns**, M, b. 4 Jan 1979 in Denver, CO

David worked in Bogota, Colombia; Jackson, Mississippi; Denver, Colorado; Houston, Texas; Spain; Den Haag, Netherlands; San Francisco, California and on the North Slope, Alaska doing exploration and development for various oil companies.

David next married **Konnie Rae Waters** [Twin], daughter of **Don Waters** and **Flora Katherine Davenport** on 17 May 1987 at their home on Weaver Place in Littleton, Arapahoe, Colorado. Konnie was born on 28 Oct 1948 in Utah. They had no children.



David and Konnie at Jim's wedding, 2002.

Konnie had three children from her previous marriage to **Ron Cirbo**:

Andra Leigh Cirbo, b. 8 May 1970 Denver, Colorado. Andra is married to **"Sammy" Tavera** and they have two daughters **Paloma Grace Tavera** and **Salomae Catalina Tavera**.

Amiee Renee Cirbo, b. 19 Nov 1976, Denver, Colorado. Aimee has one daughter, **Julia Cirbo**. Julia's father is **Rob Skrasnas**. Aimee was married to **Wade Raitz** for a few years, but is now divorced.

Addam Matthew Cirbo, b. 20 May 1978 Denver, Colorado. Addam is married to **Elena Poddighe**, a girl he met in Italy while stationed there with the Navy. They have one son, **Matthew Christopher Cirbo**.



Aimee, Addam and Andra at Addam's wedding in Norfolk, Virginia, July 2007

Addam has been deployed twice to the Persian Gulf and Iraq. He belongs to the Navy SWCC (special warfare group). He is currently between deployments and lives in Norfolk, Virginia.

Noted events in Konnie's life were:

She graduated from North High School, Denver, Colorado in June 1966 and attended college in California.

Konnie has worked at several positions of service in the Denver community. She spent a number of years with Promise Keepers and currently is a grant writer for the Denver Rescue Mission.

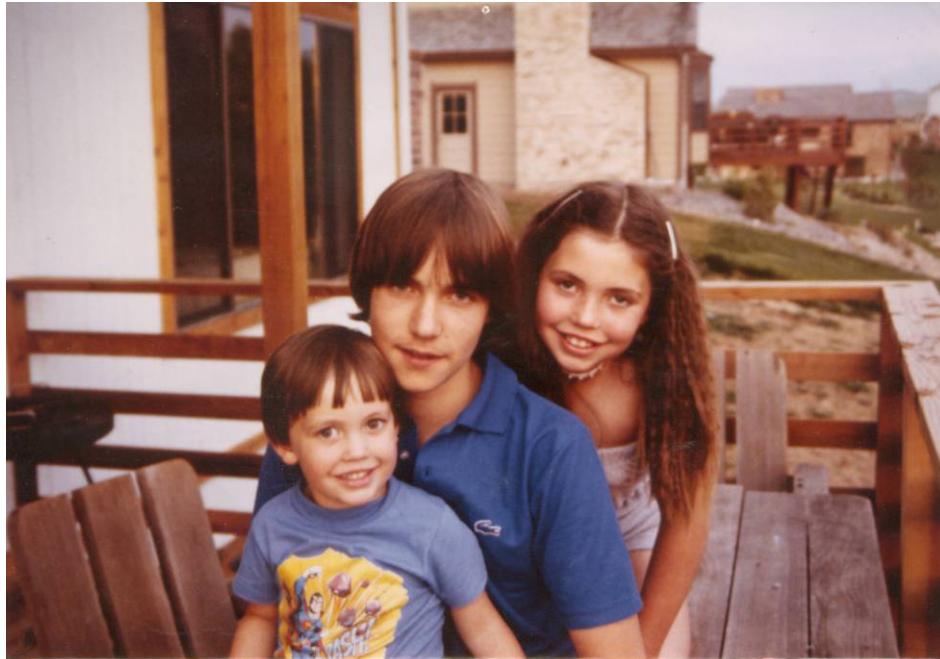
Konnie has a twin sister, **Kathie (Gary) Brom**, and two younger sisters **Julie (Howard) DeWeese** and **Donna Waters**.

David and Konnie live in Lakewood, Colorado and are currently involved in building a cabin at Eleven Mile Reservoir in Park County, Colorado.

David works as a geologist for Fairweather E & P in Alaska, a contractor to British Petroleum. He commutes from Denver to the

North Slope of Alaska and supervises geo-steering of horizontal oil development wells in Prudhoe Bay and surrounding satellite oil fields.

**13th Generation
Children of David Stearns, Jr. and Molly Beall**



Joshua, Travis and Jessica, Littleton, Colorado, 1982

1639423111211. Travis David Gallagher Stearns (*David Brook Jr. ¹², David Brook ¹¹, Perry Jay ¹⁰, George Orlo ⁹, Charles Edward ⁸, Jonathan Gale ⁷ John ⁶, Nathaniel ⁵, Ebenezer ⁴, Nathaniel ³, Samuel ², Isaac ¹*) was born on 1 Nov 1967 in Seven Day Adventists Hospital, Boulder, Boulder, Colorado.

Travis married **Nancy Collins**.

The child from this marriage is:

16394231112111. Benjamin Joseph Stearns, M, b. 14 Jan 2005 in Bellingham, Washington.

1639423111212. Jessica London Stearns (*David Brook Jr. ¹², David Brook ¹¹, Perry Jay ¹⁰, George Orlo ⁹, Charles Edward ⁸, Jonathan Gale ⁷ John ⁶, Nathaniel ⁵, Ebenezer ⁴, Nathaniel ³, Samuel ², Isaac ¹*) was born on 17 Feb 1970 in Jackson, Mississippi.

She married **Sean Varley** in 2002 in Colorado. The marriage ended in divorce. There were no children.

Jessica married **Dusan "Dan" Njegomir** in 2005 in Colorado.

The child from this marriage was:

16394231112121. Alexander Njegomir, M, b. Denver, Colorado

They currently reside at 1388 South Fairfax Street, Denver, CO 80222.

1639423111213. Joshua Martin Stearns (*David Brook Jr.¹², David Brook¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 4 Jan 1979 in Denver, Colorado.



Joshua Stearns

Joshua attended grade school and high school in Littleton, Colorado and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently living in Hawaii where he works in the design field. He is also an accomplished photographer and musician. Visit <http://www.0-style.com> and <http://www.joshuastearns.com>

He recently became engaged to **Deirdre Galindez**. Her parents are **Ric Galindez** and **Laurie**. They also live in Hawaii, moving there from Washington State about 7 years ago. Deirdre recently received her Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Hawaii in 2008. Deirdre will be a "Marshall" in her graduation ceremony. She was the one of the top 4 in her class for GPA in the school of architecture. They will be moving to Los Angeles where she will continue work as an architect with a firm where she was once an intern.

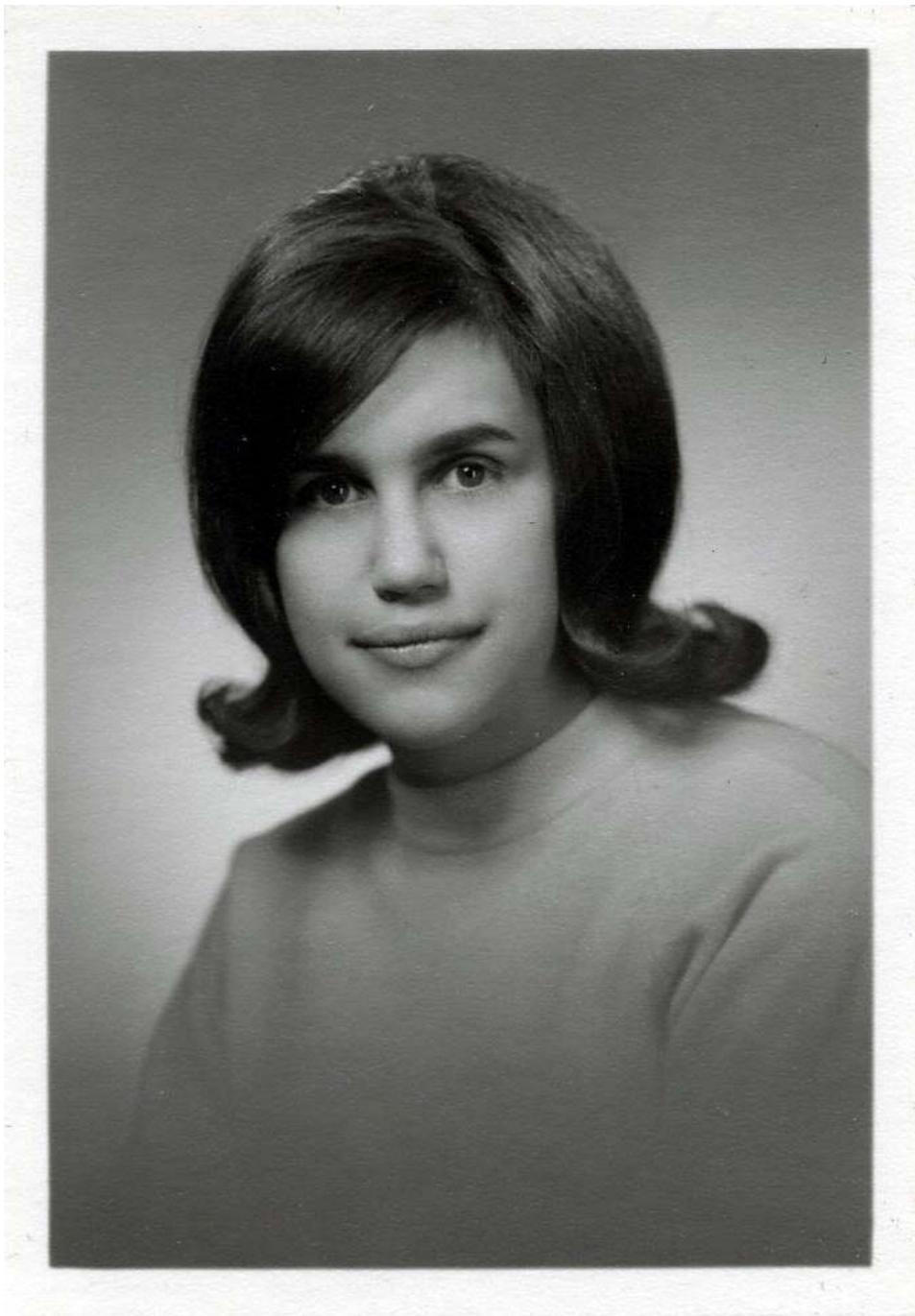


Deirdre Galindez at her graduation announcement, May 2008

12th Generation (Continued)
Children of David Stearns and Jeanne Martin

163942311122. Deborah Witherall Stearns (*David Brook¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 19 Jul 1947 in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts and died in Chicago, Illinois on 26 May 1967 at age 19.

Debby attended Richards Grade School in Whitefish Bay and graduated from Whitefish Bay High School in 1965. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 2 years.



Deborah Witherall Stearns

She was born with a heart defect which kept her less physically active than normal. In today's world, she would have been operated on at birth with excellent chances of recovery, but heart surgery in those days was not very advanced. She died during open heart surgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois in 1967.

A TRIBUTE
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MILWAUKEE, WIS.
MAY 26 1967

Memorial Obituary

Entered Into Eternal Rest
Thursday, May 25, 1967

**Miss Stearns,
19, Victim of
Heart Defect**

Miss Deborah W. Stearns, 19, daughter of a former Milwaukee county Republican chairman, died Thursday in Chicago after open heart surgery.

The operation, for a congenital heart condition, was performed at Children's Memorial hospital. Miss Stearns had undergone heart surgery there 10 years ago.

She lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David B. Stearns, at 1142 E. Sylvan av., Whitefish Bay. Stearns is president of the Milwaukee Cold Storage Co., Kro-Flite Cartage Co. and Stearns Milwaukee Marine Terminal.

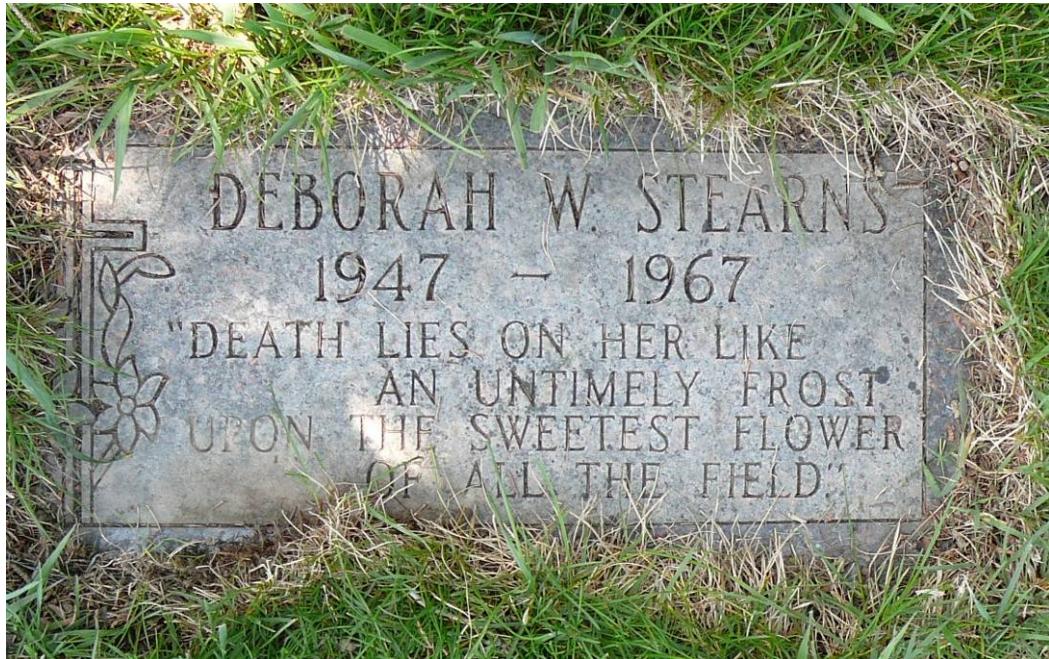
Miss Stearns was born in Boston when her father was attending Harvard university. A 1965 graduate of Whitefish Bay high school, she attended the University of Wisconsin until February. She did not continue because of failing health.

Miss Stearns was a charter member of Mayflower Congregational church, River Hills.

Survivors, besides her parents, include two brothers, David B., jr., a petroleum geologist in Bogota, Colombia, and James M. at home.

The body will be at the Feerick funeral home, 2025 E. Capitol dr., Shorewood, after 4 p.m. Sunday. Services will be held at the funeral home at 2 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in Valhalla cemetery.

Debby is buried in Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee next to her mother.



Deborah Witherall Stearns, Valhalla Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
The inscription is from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

163942311123. James Martin Stearns (*David Brook¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷ John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 12 Nov 1948 at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Jim attended Richards Public School K through 6th grade, then graduated (8th grade) from Henry Clay Public School. He graduated from Whitefish Bay High School in 1967. Jim attended University of Wisconsin in Madison from 1967 to 1970; then transferred to UWM, graduating with a BS degree in Biology in January 1972.

Jim attended graduate school at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico and received his MS degree in Zoology in 1976. He then enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Zoology at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia but did not complete the program. In 1979 he did a year at UC Irvine continuing with his biology studies. Jim returned to UGA, and took various courses there from 1980-82. He worked at the UGA Institute of Ecology.

Jim decided on a career change and attended UW (Madison) Law School from 1982-5, graduating with Juris Doctor (JD), in May 1985. He started working for US EPA in Denver ("Region 8") in June 1985 (two weeks after law school) and has been there ever since. Jim is a member of the Wisconsin Bar.

James married **Jennifer Weaver** in 1994. The marriage ended in divorce. They had no children.

James next married **Jody Lynn Ostendorf** on 9 November 2002 in Boulder, Colorado. Jody was born 6 March 1969 at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Hamilton, Ohio. Her father is **Daniel Irwin Ostendorf**, born in Cincinnati, and her mother is **Lillian Adler** born in Traverse City, Michigan.



Bride Jody Lynn Ostendorf, Photo by Joshua Stearns

Jody's maternal grandparents, **Heinrich and Ilse Adler** were born in Vienna, Austria. Henry was imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, Germany but with the help of his wife, managed to get released and escape the holocaust. He and his wife and one son, Johann, immigrated to America in 1939 and settled in Traverse City, Michigan. Many others of the Adler family perished in extermination camps. Their story is included in the CD.

Daniel's father was **Joseph Ostendorf** who came to the US from Germany in the 1920's. His mother, **Opal Ward**, came from Huntington, West Virginia.



Wedding picture

L to R: Lillian (Adler) Ostendorf, Jim and Jody and Daniel Ostendorf

Jody grew up in Ohio and received her diploma from the Lakota High School in West Chester, Ohio, June 1987

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism at Ohio University, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Athens, Ohio in June, 1991. She then attended Leiden University, Department of Public Administration, in the Netherlands during their fall semester of 1997. Her studies were International Environmental Policy, European Administrative Systems, Policy and Integration, and Institutional Development in Western Nations.

Jody then received her Master of Public Affairs degree at Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Bloomington, Indiana in May 1998.

Jody worked as an Environmental Program Manager for the U.S. Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa from 1994 to 1996. Since then she has

worked mostly at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver, Colorado. Positions she has held there are Environmental Protection Specialist and Public Affairs Specialist.

The child from this marriage was:

1639423111231. Arabella Deborah Stearns, F, b. July 20, 2004, Denver, Colorado. She attends the Montessori school in Denver and is very cute.



Arabella Stearns

Jim, Jody and Arabella currently live at 3450 Eldorado Springs Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.

Chapter 7 – Perry Orlo Stearns

11th Generation Children of Perry Stearns and Mae Belle Brook

16394231113. Perry Orlo Stearns (*Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷, *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born on 26 Nov 1923 in Milwaukee Hospital, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and died 16 Sept 2008 at his home in Arvada, Jefferson, Colorado at age 84 yrs, 9 mos. and 21 days.

Perry was the third child and third son born to Perry J and Mae Belle.



Perry at one and half years, approx 1925

His birth registration and a transcription of the certificate follows:

338 page of Vol. 848

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

THE BOEHM BINDERY 35060

PLACE OF BIRTH

County of Milwaukee

13435

No.....

Township of

or

Village of

or

City of Milwaukee

NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES

No. Milwaukee Hospital St; 15 Ward

Full Name of Child Perry Orlo Stearns Jr.

Date of Birth Nov 26, 1923

Month

Day

, 19 Year

Stillborn: Yes or No.	No	Was child deformed or physically defective? Yes or No.	No	Nature of defect:
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Sex of Child	m	Color or Race of Child	w	Twin, Triplet, or other?	and	Number in order of birth	Legitimate?
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FATHER		MOTHER		
Full Name Perry J Stearns		Full Maiden Name Mabelle Brook		
Residence 1472 Murray Av.		Residence 1472 Murray Av.		
Color or Race White, Age at Last Birthday 33 Years		Color or Race White, Age at Last Birthday 22 Years		
Birthplace Nebraska (State or Country)		Birthplace Minnesota (State or Country)		
Occupation Lawyer (Nature of Industry)		Occupation Housewife (Nature of Industry)		

Number of children of this mother
(Taken as of time of birth of
child herein certified and including
this child.) (a) Born alive and now living 3 (b) Born alive but now dead..... (c) Stillborn.....

What preventive for ophthalmia neonatorum did
you use? Eye ointment If none, why?

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on Nov 26,

1923, at 5:50 P.M., on the date above stated.

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the (Signature)
{father, householder, etc. should make this return. A stillborn
child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life
after birth.

U. Senn
Physician & Surgeon
(Physician or Midwife)

Given name added from supplemental report Address 502 Wells Blvd. Miles.

NC (Month) (Day) Filed Nov 30, 1923

Recorded Dec 17 - 1923 Registrar G. C. Rubland, M.D.

J. D. Phelps Register

Perry Orlo Stearns – Birth Registration

Vol 848 Page 338?
Registration of Births
No. 13435
PLACE OF BIRTH
County of: Milwaukee
Township, or Village, or City of: Milwaukee
No. Milwaukee Hospital
Full name of child: Perry Orlo Stearns, Jr.
Date of birth: Nov 26, 1923
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
Stillborn: No
Was child deformed or physically defective? No
Nature of Defect:
Sex of child: M
Color or Race: W
Twin, Triplet or other:
Number in order of birth:
Legitimate: Yes
FATHER
Full name: Perry J. Stearns
Residence: 1472 Murray Av.
Color: White
Age at last birthday: 33
Birthplace: Nebraska
Occupation: Lawyer
MOTHER
Full maiden name: Mabelle Brook
Residence: 1472 Murray Av
Color or Race: White
Age at last birthday: 32
Birthplace: Minnesota
Occupation: Housewife
Number of Child of this mother
a) Born alive And now living: 3
What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use: Agno 3 1%
Sol.
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it
occurred on Nov 26, 1923 at 5:50 PM, on the date above stated.
Signature: U. Senn
Physician or Midwife: Physician & Surgeon
Address: 502 Wells Bldg, Milw
Filed: Nov 30, 1923
Local Registrar: Geo C. Ruhland M.D.
Recorded: Dec 17, 1923
Register: A O Phelps

Another early picture of Perry is presented below. Here Perry is driving a goat chariot with David keeping watch for the Israelite hoards. Where the goat came from is anybody's guess, but one can surmise that it was not part of the Stearns family menagerie. In those days, street vendors were commonplace and the goat and cart setup might have belonged to a traveling photographer. Forest is notably absent and was probably in school. Rhodora was not born yet.



Perry and David with goat cart in front of Murray Ave., circa 1925



Perry in 1929, probably a grade school picture.

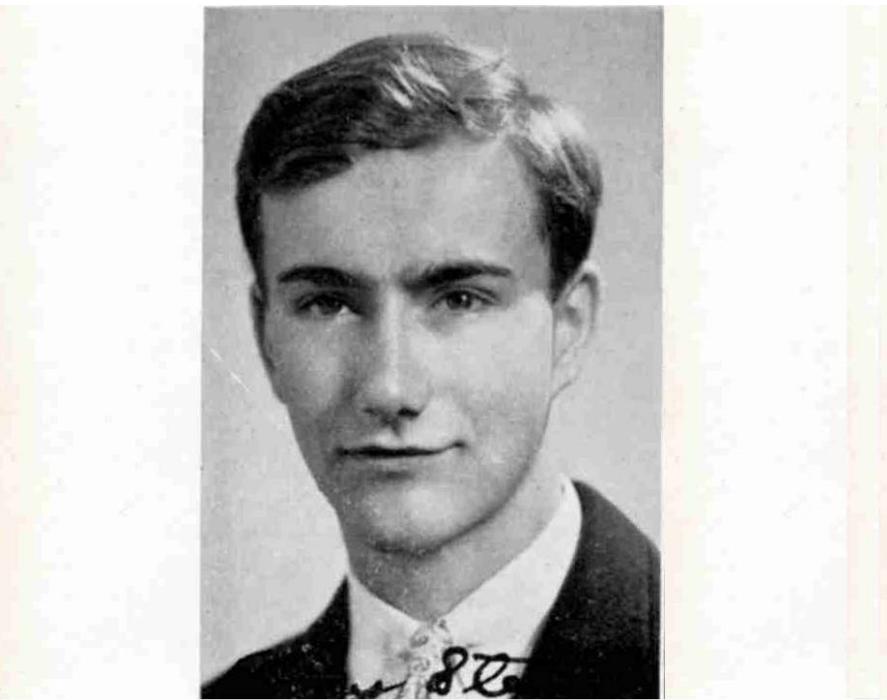
Like his brothers, Perry followed with the tradition of joining the scouts. The following picture is of Perry in his scout uniform with Lake Bluff School in the background.



Perry in scout uniform. No date, circa 1913.

Perry attended Lake Bluff grade school and then Shorewood High School. Perry graduated with the class of 1942.

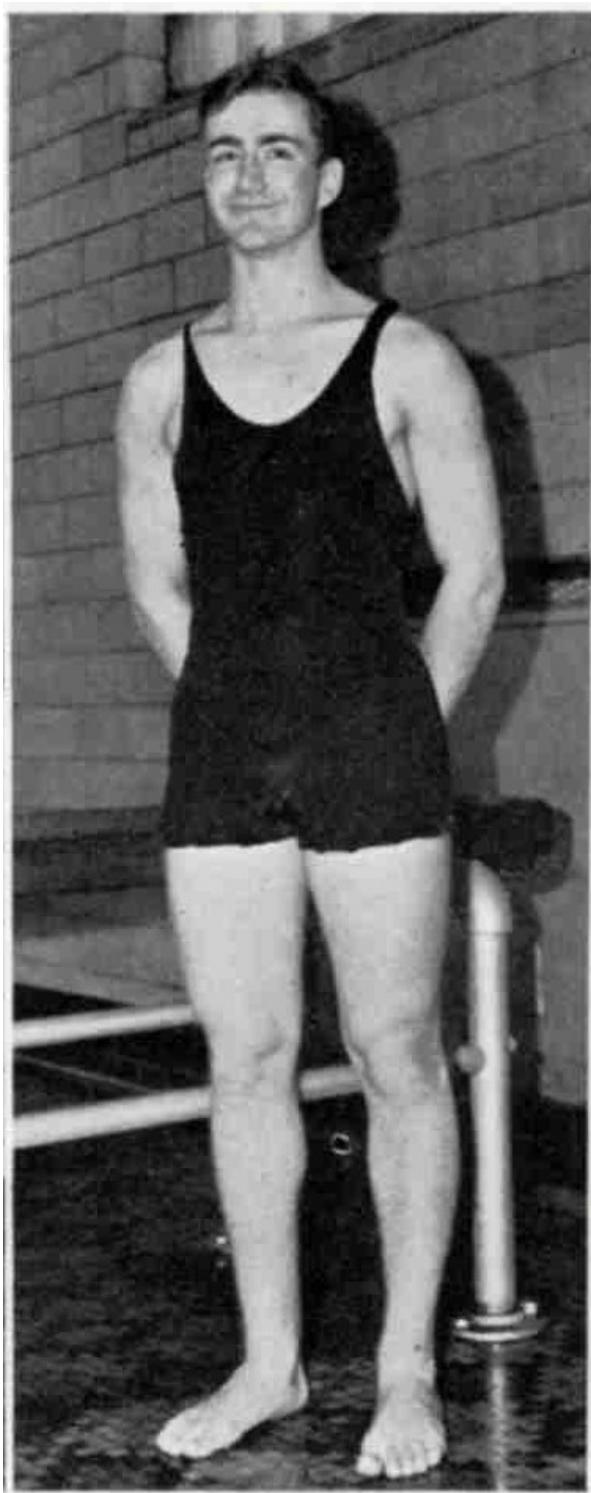
His nickname was "Bear Tracks". Presumably this moniker was given him due to his love of camping and the outdoors.



PERRY STEARNS — Associate editor of the Ripples, band member for six years, speedy foam churner in Admiral Colosimo's navy from freshmen through senior year, and Student council representative in twelfth grade, Bear Tracks was elected to Hi-Y and Quill and Scroll. Outdoor man, Stearns often takes overnight camping trips.

Perry Senior Class picture, Copperdome, 1942

Perry was active in a number of associations including Quill and Scroll, Student Council, Band, Hi-Y and the swimming team. He probably made his most significant mark with the swimming team.



Co-capt. Perry Stearns

Perry Stearns, Co-captain, Shorewood High School swimming team.

Another swim team picture of Perry from the 1941 Shorewood High School Copperdome yearbook.



Stearns, 200 yard free style—2:17

As with Forest, Dave and Rhodora, Perry shared the same rustic and inspiring summer experiences at the north woods cottage at Found Lake.

Perry mentioned that one summer, Dave opted out of the annual trip to the north woods, presumably to stay in Milwaukee and date the girls. That was probably the summer Dave was a lifeguard at Atwater Beach. Perry remembers this since he got stuck with most of the hard lifting and chores around the cottage. The following picture may be that same summer. Perry appears to be a bit exasperated with the chore of chopping wood with his father.

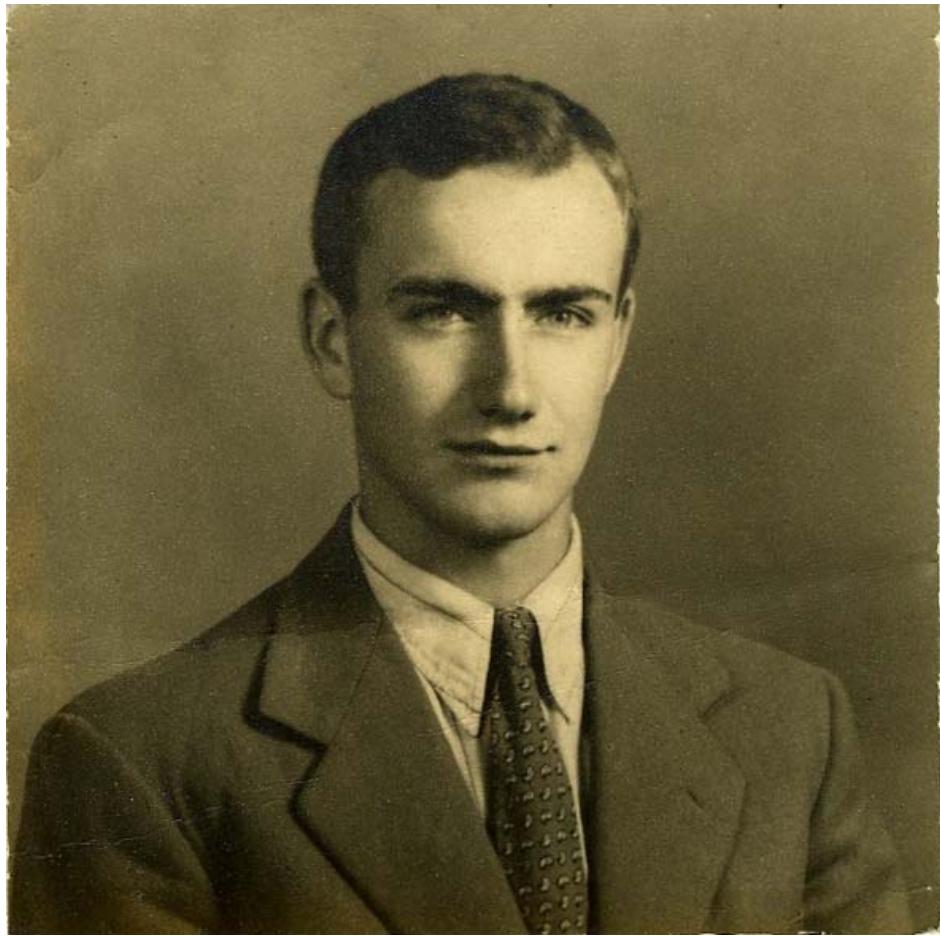


Perry Orlo and Perry Jay Stearns chopping wood at Found Lake, circa 1939.

Not much changed in 20-30 years. The author remembers as a young boy that same bench made of the two log stumps and a 2x6 as well as the old wood pile.

Perry graduated from Shorewood High School in the spring of 1942 and enrolled at Harvard in the fall of 1942. He and Bud Loos, his friend and neighbor at Found Lake, both went off to Harvard together.

World War II was underway and this must have been an uncertain time for Perry knowing that both his older brothers were already in the armed services.



Perry Stearns, photo that accompanied his application to Harvard

He was in the Harvard class of 1946. In 1943, Perry joined the V-12 Navy College Training Program at Harvard and this paid for his next year's education. When he came out of V-12 in 1944 he was an ensign. He was in V-12 for a year at Harvard. During that year he stayed in school but did military calisthenics and wore a uniform until they were called up. After completing the V-12 program, he was sent to Northwestern where individuals in his group were assigned to a Navy operation. Perry's strong swimming experience made Underwater Demolition a natural outcome.

The V-12 program is explained according to a history found on a Rootsweb.ancestry.com website:

V-12: The Navy College Training Program
By Carolyn Alison WWII Committee

The V-12 Navy College Training Program was initiated in 1943 to meet both the immediate and long-range needs for commissioned officers to

man ships, fly planes and command troops called to duty in World War II.

When the draft age was lowered to 18 in November 1942, the Navy quickly foresaw a shortage of college-educated officers for its operations. Likewise, hundreds of the nation's colleges and universities feared economic collapse without students to fill suddenly empty classrooms.

Help came from the federal government with the creation of the V-12 Navy College Training Program. V-12 accepted students already enrolled in the Navy and Marine Corps college reserve programs, enlisted men who were recommended by their commanding officers and high school seniors who passed a nationwide qualifying examination.

Between July 1, 1943, and June 30, 1946, over 125,000 college-age men were enrolled at 131 colleges and universities throughout the United States in the V-12 program. Fifteen thousand of these men were in the Marines Corps V-12 section of the program. All those in V-12 were on active duty, in uniform and subject to a very strict form of military discipline. Approximately 60,000 of those in the program were eventually commissioned as Navy ensigns or Marine Corps second lieutenants. V-12 schools ran the gamut from the Ivy League and large state universities to small, church-associated colleges in very small towns.

V-12 participants were required to carry 17 credit hours and nine and one-half hours of physical training each week. Study was year-round, three terms of four months each. The number of terms for a trainee depended on his previous college background, if any, and his course of study.

From the V-12 program, most of the Navy trainees went on to a four-month course at a reserve midshipmen's school.

He wound up in Florida training his UDT team of 15 men swimming off the east coast south of Jacksonville. UDT is equivalent to today's Navy SEALS. They were based at Ft. Pierce, Florida.

From the US Navy SEALS website, they describe the WWII UDT teams as follows:

"Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) were a precursor to the current United States Navy SEALs. The UDT's conducted beach and hydro-reconnaissance, explosive cable and net cutting; explosive destruction of underwater obstacles to enable major amphibious landings; limpet

mine attacks, submarine operations, and the locating and marking of mines for minesweepers. They also conducted river surveys and foreign military training. While doing this, the SEALs' predecessors pioneered combat swimming, closed-circuit diving, underwater demolitions, and mini-submarine (dry and wet submersible) operations."

Perry was captain of one of the UDT teams. He knew how to enjoy himself in the water. Perry had a very strong kick and a great stroke. They were training in the use of Primacord and dynamite to blow up submarines and small boats and learning efficient cleaning of beaches to facilitate landings. They had a lot of fun despite a shark bite and a few fish with a lot of teeth. Leaving for the Pacific from California in late 1944, they stopped in Pearl Harbor on their way to the Sea of Japan.



Perry with Aunt Addie (Rhoda Adaline Brook)

Perry headed overseas in the summer of 1945. He stated that he was on a destroyer escort (very small ship) sailing towards Japan when the war ended. Their ship continued on into the Sea of Japan and eventually to Korea. Perry tells of his captain who one night went ashore and got drunk. Perry was in charge of the skiff which shuttled sailors between their ship and the shore. He said the Captain fell overboard while attempting to get in the boat and Perry subsequently rescued him.

A portrait style picture of Perry was taken in his Navy uniform.



Perry Stearns, 1944-45

The uniform appears to be the basic Navy sailor blues and may have been taken during or right after V-12.

A couple of nice pictures of Perry were taken in his whites and another in the blue dress uniform.



Home as a sailor in V12, 1943-44



Orlando 1945

Perry in his whites and another in his dress uniform.

Perry states that he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and Fran thought he came out of the service a captain. The picture on the left is probably while he was still in V-12 at Harvard and that on the right after he became a commissioned officer during his training in Florida.

After the war ended and Perry returned stateside, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington D.C. Navy headquarters.

Perry married **Frances Elizabeth "Fran" Limberg**, daughter of **Wayne Limberg** and **Doris Inez Anderson** on 18 May 1946 in Washington, D.C. Frances was born on 16 Sep 1926 in Plymouth General Hospital, Plymouth, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

According to Frances, no wedding picture was taken.

Children from this marriage were:

163942311131. Forrest Wolfgang Stearns, M, b. 28 Nov 1952 in Munich, Germany.

163942311132. Conrad Perry Stearns, M, b. 1958 in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

(Note for more detail on Frances Limberg, refer to "The Limberg Family Genealogy of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin" written by the David Stearns, Jr., September 15, 2006)

Public events in their lives were:

Perry O appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 in 1472 Murray Ave., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is 6, living with his parents Perry J, 39, and Maebelle, 39, and attending school. Also at home are his brothers Forest, 11, David, 9, and his sister Rhodora, 4. Perry J owns his home worth \$9000 and works as a lawyer with a law firm.

Frances E. appeared on the US Federal census in 1930 at 3609 Park Hill Ave., Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is 3 years and 7 months old. Her father is Wayne, 31 and her mother is Inez, 28. Wayne was enumerated as Wayne "Limberger". They are renting from and living in an apartment house owned by David Livingstone. Her father works as a credit manager? for a Motor Manufacturer? (the census is poorly legible). According to Frances, the home was the 'Livingstone Apts.', owned by David Livingstone. Her father worked at an Essex-Hudson dealership as the Motorized Manager in 1930 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Below are several interviews of Fran and Perry that explain how they met, the circumstances of their marriage and what they did thereafter. It is transcribed from tape recordings made by David Stearns on Mar 24, 2008 and again in May, 2008. David Stearns, Jr. was the interviewer.

Based on these interviews, the following timeline was constructed for Perry (some dates are approximate):

Spring 1942 – Graduated Shorewood High School

Fall 1942 - Enrolled Harvard University as undergraduate

1943 - Joined V-12 Navy College Training Program at Harvard

1944 – Finished V-12 as ensign in US Navy.

Northwestern University for Navy training

Florida – UDT training

Late 1944 – Shipped overseas from California to Pearl Harbor.

1945 – Headed to Sea of Japan on destroyer escort

2 September 1945 – Surrender of Japan. Continued on ship to Korea

1945 - Retuned to US – Washington, D.C. Assigned to Bureau Naval Personnel

18 May 1946 - Marriage in Washington, D.C.
Stayed summer in Washington, D.C. with Bureau Naval Personnel

Fall 1946 – Discharged from Navy

Fall 1946 – Moved to Boston (to finish Harvard undergrad degree)
First lived on Chamon Avenue
Next moved to apartment on Hannover St.

Spring 1947 - Graduated Harvard undergrad degree
Attended Harvard Medical School
Bought home in Medford

1951, June - Denver, Colorado – US Army Fitzsimmons Hospital

June, 1952 Depart for Europe with US Army as Battalion surgeon.
Fran departs on S.S. Constitution or Independence. - Arrives Salzburg, Austria (Fran three months pregnant)
Move to Linz, Austria. Lived in Bindermichel apartments

Nov 28, 1952 – Wolf born in Munich, Germany
Vacation trip to Italy

June 1953 - Return to U.S. – Arrived in New Jersey
Lived in Sparrows Point, Maryland near Baltimore – VA Hospital (1 year)

28 Sep 1953 - Hope Hartley Stearns died
Carlin and Jay come to live with Perry and Fran while still in Maryland

About June 1954 - Stroudsburg, Penn – Begins private practice with Dr. Rushmore

3 Aug 1956 - Forest marries Ruth Heitz
Carlin and Jay return to Forest and Ruth

21 Nov 1958 - Conrad born in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
Bought Walnut Grove farm

Summer 1963 - Guatemala – Catholic Church clinic (Dominicans) – spent 1 summer

1963-64 – Attended Columbia University, New York. Master's in Public Health
Interned in Pennsylvania

About 1965 - Works for State of Maryland Health Department in Bowie, Maryland

July 1974 - Left Maryland for Detroit
Worked for Dept Public Health, State Michigan in Detroit – stayed 4 years

1978 - Moved to Phoenix, Arizona – worked for Dept Public Health 2 ½ yrs.

1981-2 - Took job in Globe with private industry running hospital for copper company
Wolf joined Air Force
Conrad went to Albuquerque to nursing school

About 1984 - Moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico (Corrales) – took position in industrial medicine with private group.

1990-1992 - Moved to 10410 Charter Oak Scottsdale, Arizona

1992 - Retired.

Late 2001 Moved to 5600 Dover St., Arvada, Colorado.

Frances starts talking. David [*narrator*] in italicized brackets.

Fran: Perry and I attended Sunday school together when we were very small children at the family Unitarian Church in Shorewood. You will want to pick that up from Perry because he can give you the name of

the church and pastor and so forth. My parents recognized that I needed a little association with other children and so they joined the Unitarian Church as being closest to something that they could tolerate.

Perry: Anyhow, they left Milwaukee and she went back up to Plymouth and Green Bay and years later, after I came back from the Navy and I was a lieutenant JG, second lieutenant, by then. I think, you were back in Milwaukee for some reason

Fran: Going to school



Picture of Fran on left with her girlfriend and roommate Hanni Meyer at the Pink Pig in Milwaukee, 1946. Fran was attending the Milwaukee State Normal School.

Perry: And Miss Bursch heard about this. She was an old lady who lived up in one of the white towers in downtown Milwaukee looking over Lake Michigan and over the park where the main road went down to the river and she invited three couples, three boys and three girls and Fran was one of them. And I had worn my nice white summer Navy uniform because I was still in the Navy and with a hat and all and guess I impressed her quite a bit.

Fran: You have no idea what blue eyes and whites can do for a girl.

[Who was Miss Bursch?]

Fran: Annie B Bersch. She always joked that she taught at the crippled school for children. But as a young woman she, oh goodness sakes, I hate to take up your time on your machine while I struggle to remember this man's name, but she went back to New York, to Columbia, to study under, come on, come on, he was very famous in education circles, he was responsible for, it was probably the reason Annie B. Bersch and Mae Belle were good friends. I'll have to fill that in. She went back to New York and studied.

[So she was a friend of Mae Belle's?]

Fran: Oh, my goodness yes. What was his name, oh dear me! He is so important in education, American education. John Dewey.

Perry: And we went down occasionally to her house, her apartment.

Fran: At any rate, Annie B. Bursch did that and she came back to Milwaukee and she taught at what she called the Crippled School for Children but of course she meant the School for Crippled Children and she really objected to that name and I think she was instrumental at getting the 'crippled' out of the title

Perry: I think by the time I knew her she was no longer teaching.

Fran: Well, I think you are right about that. As she gradually eased into old age, living as she did on the 4th or 5th floor of, what was the name of those apartments? It's right there on the shore, she began to identify with the birds.

Perry: North of Wisconsin Avenue about two blocks on the top of the hill and looking over Lake Michigan and her house was, I thought it was about the 7th floor, but you could look out her windows and you could see all of the park and the roads and the birds and there the lake was.

Fran: Yes, yes. She began to identify with the birds and when she died she left us her complete Shakespeare which is in little red books, each play and \$400 and we shared it. At that time Carlin and Jay lived with us and we shared it. We kept a hundred, no I think it was \$800 because we had \$400 free and clear to put down on the farm when we bought it and it came from Annie B Bersch. Yeah, we gave a hundred to Jay, a hundred to Andrea, a hundred to Carlin and a hundred to somebody else and we still had \$400 of it. And the farm you know is, the hundred and thirty two acres, 134 actually when we bought it, of real old run down Pennsylvania Dutch.

Fran: We met again in 1945 when Perry came back from the Pacific and was working at the Navy Bureau of Personnel having narrowly being done to death by the Japanese in the Sea of Japan and being saved by the atomic bomb. That is a fact.

Fran: Annie B. Bersch invited some young persons of her acquaintance for a supper. I was in Milwaukee for a short period of time attending the Milwaukee, it was a public school, I was attempting to get a teaching certificate for art and Perry and I met there.

[Normal school]

Fran: I remember he cut quite a dashing figure in his whites. He dressed very properly as a Navy officer should and we went out together and had a good time. I was living at the time with the Oliver's, Archie and Gladys, a black couple,. I can't remember the name of the street but it was a comfortable little house and I was living with them having moved out of..ummm.. A.O. Smith was the name of the father-in-law of Nancy Wright, the wife of one of Smith's sons, probably he was in the service, and I was living there with her to take care of her little boy for my bed and board. A.O. Smith and I had a little falling out. He came one day and I've forgotten now why he didn't like something that I was doing so I told Nancy I thought would make other arrangements. I moved in with my friends Archie and Gladys Oliver. I remember the little house and their children. Gladys was a very good cook. She made a lot of food and she made inexpensive materials go a long way, I remember that. But anyway they were nice people and I liked them a lot. I just wanted to finish the semester. Then I met Perry and we talked and had fun together. He had to go back to Washington. I was saving my money to the degree I could, I was working part time. I was going to go to Provincetown to a summer course with Henry Hensche, who was a famous colorist. Barbara Koske and I were going to do that together. I finished my classes in Milwaukee. After we were married I wanted to bring the Oliver's over to the Stearns' house to reciprocate their hospitality but my in-laws indicated to me that they didn't think that bringing a black couple into their neighborhood would be a good idea. I think I was a little blistery on that subject. I confessed this to the Oliver's, who had no problem with it, I'm embarrassed to say.

Fran: On my way to Provincetown I stopped in Washington, where Perry was, for a couple of days. My friend Hanni Meyer, with whom I had been rooming in Milwaukee before living with Nancy Wright Smith, had traveled with me on her way back to her home in New York City. She and I talked over what my plans were and what I wanted to do and what Perry wanted to do, which for both of us was to go back to school, and one thing or another, in a month and a half it seems, we got married. We were married by a Congregational minister and we

went out and played a game of baseball afterwards. And then two or three days later Perry and I found a little kitten under a lettuce box in the Safeway, that was Lucy. The famous calico Lucy whom we had for seventeen years.

Fran: We were married in Washington, DC on either May 18th or 19th, 1946. One of them is Andrea's birthday and one of them is our anniversary, we can never remember which [*Andrea's birthday is on 19 Apr 1945 so they must have been married on the 18th*]. It was in a church building. It was not in front of the altar so there was no congregation. Protestant churches have these little rooms that you do things in; I know our Unitarian church here does.

Fran: Perry was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel. His exit rank was Captain, I think, but you will have to check that out with him. We went on from there to Boston, but that is a whole 'nother story.

[So, the dinner was the introduction to Perry?]

Fran: Well that had already been accomplished in Milwaukee. We had vetted each other, so to speak, before leaving Milwaukee.

[Perry's parents didn't know you were getting married before you left?]

Fran: Well, I don't think we knew we were going to marry after leaving Milwaukee. I was 19 and Perry was 22 or 23 and if I had gone on to Hensche, I probably would have stayed there and I would have had to instruct and teach and work because I would have had to build a body of work to show. My career was in front of me. I had already had several well-known Wisconsin artists encourage me and I had scholarships and that kind of thing. So that was in front of me. I had to make a career choice at that moment. I may have been 19 but I started school when I was nearly 3 in Milwaukee. I graduated from East High in Green Bay, took scholarship to Cleveland school of Art for 3 years. If we married, I would go to Boston and attend the Boston Museum School of Art and that would be quite adequate and probably the instruction that I needed and not to get caught in the groove of Hensche and his school. That probably was on my mind too. And anyway I liked the guy. We just made nice music together. I had what he needed which was the ability to punch through sham and he had what I needed which was the prospect of a stable income whereby I could lean back and learn more about my profession before having to do commercial things that I really didn't want to do any more because I had already done a lot of commercial stuff. So as you looked at it, it made sense. We both knew each other's backgrounds and we understood where we were going in life. We weren't going to throw

ourselves away. We were going to work. So as a proposition at the time, we're talking 1946, it made sense. I don't think either of us have regretted it. We have always gotten along very nicely.

[We're getting ahead of ourselves. You were in Boston going to graduate school, I guess?]

Fran: No, he had to finish Harvard.

Perry: I hadn't finished Harvard before we got together. But I was still in the Navy; then I got out of the Navy

Fran: He got out of the Navy in 1946 and he graduated in 1947

Perry: Then we went to Boston to start back to school again. The Navy, at that time, I was able to get government money to help me go to school plus what my father kicked in and I don't know if there was too much of that.

Fran: Your father didn't give a thing to it. The GI bill paid for your last year at Harvard. You took some pleasure in the fact we asked for no help. And we bought an old Ford stationwagon, wood-sided.

Perry: Well he gave me one of his cars

Fran: Is that what he did?

[The Buick?]

Perry: No, we had an old Ford

Fran: And we lived on Chamon Avenue.

Perry: That would be in 1948 I think until 1952.

Fran: We were married in Washington, spent the summer in Washington

Perry: Fran and her friend who were going to the art school in Milwaukee

Fran: Hanni Meyer

Perry: After our dinner she went back to school and I went back to Washington. Well she talked me into getting married. She was young and pretty and I really liked her, so we got married.

Fran: If you believe that you swallow a lot of stuff.

Perry: And her friend was the second person and somebody from the minister's office came out and was the other person, so the marriage was all legal.

Fran: And we had a ball game.

Perry: We had a ball game. Was it baseball?

Fran: I remember diving in the grass

Perry: Not much of a baseball game but we threw it around.

Fran: I worked for the Bureau of Recreation in Washington DC that summer. They paid me well but it seems that I did the unforgivable thing. You see there were white and there were colored parks .And little colored kids, they had no swimming pool. What they had was a hose that went around that somebody turned on, you know Washington gets warm. And I would let them sit on the side of our pool and let them put their feet in. I recognized that I couldn't let them get in, but nevertheless somebody objected to that and I was called on the carpet for it and I said this is stupid. These little kids live there and here is this water and da, da, da. Well I was fired. And so the last few months in Washington I had to myself and I went to museums and did some drawings and something, I don't know anymore. And then we went to Boston and we were very frugal and we lived in a really wretched part of Boston on Shawmut Avenue and we still have a chair from that house, the one that sits in front of the telephone desk in the other room.

Perry: At one time it was a nice section, but by the time we moved there it surrounded by...

Fran: Foul..it stunk of poverty but we really had to hang on to our money..

Perry: We lived on very limited means..

Fran: Then we discovered the Italian section. We went down to Hanover Street and we found two old apartments and there is no way I can describe these things to you. Things like this don't exist anymore. But you went up three flights of stairs and go in this rickety door and there two very small immigrant style little apartments had been flung together. So, for \$7.50 a month we rented about 5 rooms and your father (Dave Stearns) was there and he came to sleep at our house a few times when your mother, Jeanne, was gone. He was taking exams. He stayed overnight a couple of times. That's where the boiled cat story comes from.

Perry: I was in medical school, anatomy class and we didn't have people to work on

Fran: You had to articulate a skeleton. That was your job.

Perry: So I caught a cat

Fran: It took a long time to catch this cat

Perry: He was a male, old big cat and wasn't easy to catch and he was even harder to kill. We had to put him in the oven.

Fran: But you see his bones would be strong enough so that we could articulate him because if it was a smaller cat you couldn't because they would disappear in the cartilage.

Perry: And we put him in the oven and finally we won. He died. And I spent several weeks articulating him.

Fran: Well anyway that's the kind of place it was. The floors were wooden and they rattled but we had a St. Vincent DePaul's and we bought things that today sell for hundreds of dollars. We bought for 10, 15 or 20 dollars. We bought old clothes. I remember I wore for a long time - remember that brown velvet coat? That would be, people would slather over it. Our great big American Flag that is made out of thistle or maybe cactus fiber came from there I bought for 50 cents. There were things like that. But that's what we furnished our house with. It was a lot of fun. We had kids from our school come and we just had a whole lot of fun. And every Saturday we went, Friday night it was, wasn't it, we would go out and get a bean basket, walk down Hanover Street, get a bean basket and go around to all the peddlers and buy our week's food.

Perry: One street in Boston where every weekend, on Fennel Hall, everybody in the county I think came down there to buy.

Fran: Remember when you brought home a horse's liver? And Perry continues to this day to bring me home things to challenge my cooking. Well he got a horse's liver and gee, it smelled like piss. It really did. And when you cooked it, it didn't smell any better.

Perry: I thought it was pretty good.

Fran: Well, we sliced it.

Perry: A nice big one too.

[You ate it then?]

Fran: Oh certainly, I tried.

Perry: Well we weren't rich at the time.

Fran: We did eat horse meat but the thing about horse meat is that you have to cut off all the fat because that's what makes it taste bad. And so you get solid meat and for that you've got to have special techniques for cooking.

Perry: After we lived there for a year or two we moved up to Medford

Fran: We still came down to shop

Perry: Oh yeah, we came down to shop every weekend.

Fran: Because a bean basket is this big, built like this.

Perry: I remember going back with two arms full and I don't know what you were carrying.

Fran: The same thing

Perry: I mean the bean baskets were full to the top

[Little wire handles?]

Fran: No handles. They stood about this tall.

Perry: That was fun and good. I still like it.

Fran: Lot of good food. We really did. No, we ate really well. We never went over \$7.50. So that's what we ate on. And then my mother came. Perry and I talked this over.

Perry: Well, we moved up to Medford.

Fran: No, not first. They came when we were on Hannover Street. That's when they came. We had bought the house but they did come for a couple of months on Hannover Street.

[They being?]

Fran: My mother and my sister.

Perry: It was a big house and it had been divided into 4 apartments. Two stories, two on each side.

Fran: It actually was a servants' house for the Isaac Royall. It was built about the end of the 18th century, about 1796. We always thought it was a home for overseers of the plantation...the intervening property had been alienated long before there had been any thought of rehabbing the Manor house so what we bought was old but unvalued for its origin. It had not many architectural features that were worth preserving other than an old fine brick oven and good floorboards and rooms of good proportion.

(Author's Note: The Royall House and Slave Quarters were built in 1732-1739. The House is one of the finest 18th century buildings in New England; the Slave Quarters is the only such structure in the Northern United States. Both the buildings and grounds are a National Historic Landmark. Isaac Royall never intended to abandon hearth and home. He just got caught on the wrong side of the Revolution. He had journeyed to Boston the very day the Battle [of Lexington-Concord] happened, after which it was impossible to get out of town.)

[You're talking about the house you bought in Medford? How far is that from Cambridge?]

Fran: A trolley car

Perry: Not very far.

Fran: It's near Tufts. We had Tuft's students in our house.

[How could you afford to buy a house?]

Fran: Ahhh, That's the GI Bill. We bought it for \$8500. It was a nice big old house with 4 apartments. Then we had the problem with how we were going to get them out, because you see there was a housing, what did they call it? You couldn't move people out. People had, if they had an apartment. There was a word for that.

(Probably the OPA "Office of Price Administration". Wartime price, rent and eviction control. Part of FDR New Deal. Perry J abhorred this agency)

Perry: For whatever reason, the one who moved out of the second story on the left side of the house, the west side, left. It didn't take him very long to go. I think we gave him a little encouragement. But the other apartments were all occupied. The people that lived below us.

Fran: In the back yard there had been an enormous elm that had been blown down in the tornado of 1938

[The hurricane]

Yes, the hurricane. So it was a nice yard. We could grow a few vegetables. We did a lot of work on the house from bricks that we found and we'd bring them home until we got a pile of bricks. We changed the front door so that it conformed more, the entrance, so it conformed more to the period so that across the front we put a railing with steps to the side. Altogether I think we were good for the house and gradually we filled it up with people from Tufts so there were Perry and my mother and my sister and me in the upper one of 122 B Summer and downstairs we had a fellow, Ralph Warshaw, and I kept a room for a studio and Cecil Taylor who turned out to be a famous jazz pianist, came, a friend of mine, came to practice here, and of course he was black and that outraged the people who were over on the other side, 120A, they didn't like this black person coming into the house that they lived in and that was nice, they moved out. So then we got a good rent for it because a physics major, I've forgotten their names, a couple who came and I remember I gave her a choice I told her she could have anything she wanted to in the way of wallpaper so she picked this big pattern. I remember being a little surprised And then the ones upstairs, they had a little one named Honey who slept in a little room that really was not legal for her to sleep in that room and somehow I managed to work that into a reason why they should move and I can't remember how I did that but it was a little on the slippery side. So eventually we had a house that returned us enough money so that we could pay our own heating bill out of that money as well as provide us enough to make little twitchy improvements.

[You must have had a mortgage on that too, didn't you?]

Fran: When we sold it we sold it for \$8500 which was what we paid for it. But if I had been a little shrewder, I would have worked on what I now recognize that was a house that was built for the Isaac Royall servants, for the Isaac Royall house which was

Perry: A block away

Fran: Yes, not much more than that. What it had been one big farm, the Isaac Royall farm. I would have parlayed that into a little more, but I wasn't as savvy as I am today.

[So you had graduated from medical school at that time?]

No, no.

Perry: I was going to medical school



Perry, 1949 Found Lake, during time he was attending medical school

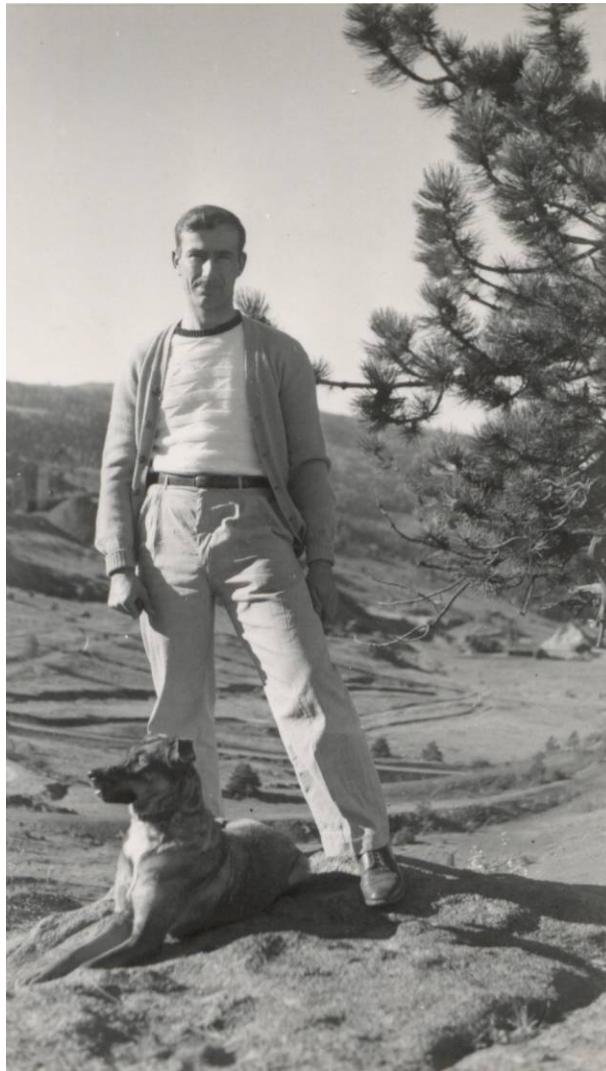
Fran: He decided that he was going to go into medicine because he didn't want to go into law – that was apparently the fiat issued by Perry Jay. I think that was part of my attraction. None of the siblings spoke directly to oppose their parents, I thought. I do not take kindly to fiats and found the family's ways a little heavy. He felt he needed that to fill out his personality just as I needed Perry's geniality to fill out mine. We really are a case of two halves making a whole.

[But when you sold the home in Medford, you must have graduated?]

Fran: Yes that's when we came out to Denver when you graduated from medical school. Perry applied for medical school in 1947 when there were thousands of people applying for medical school. People were pouring back into the country. I could not get a scholarship or even an opening because I was female. The men soaked everything up for at least 5 or 6 years so I just bundled myself along. This setback was unanticipated for me. So in 1951, June, we piled Gail, and you and me in the car. My mother had since left, had learned to drive, bought a small car and driven out to her new job in Coos Bay.

[Where were you going?]

Fran: Here (*Denver*). Perry had got a residency at Fitzsimmons. We needed to have our teeth fixed. We had stuff we needed to do. So he went into the Army. And we thought we'd try to learn to play golf, at the golf course, so we went out for golf and then we went to the officers club and we found golf so boring and officers club was awful, so we resigned. The chap, the doctor, who ran Fitzsimmons refused to forward Perry's records because nobody resigned from the officers club. So we sic'd Perry's dad on him. And then we went to Europe."



Perry and dog Fritzie in Colorado, summer 1951

Fran continues with the story without Perry:

"Perry's dad wrote a letter to the M.D. director of Fitzsimmons chiding him for holding Perry's records back in revenge for our resigning from the Officers' Club and golf course. What in the world he thought that would do, I don't know. But apparently nobody had ever resigned from

those before. I became pregnant. I can't remember going to Europe on the USS Independence or came back on that or went over on the USS Constitution - they were sister ships.

I've told you the story about the big whiskey bottle. It's a really delicious story. Wolf was born in 1952 so this would have been in 1951. Old Forester erected an enormous whiskey bottle on top of a warehouse in downtown Denver. The whole town was really quite upset about all this but it didn't seem to do much good. The Rocky Mountain News took it upon themselves to really push on getting rid of this whiskey bottle which dominated the skyline of Denver which of course was far less impressive than it is today... so that bottle dominated the skyline..

I left on either the Independence or the Constitution by myself. It was a boatload of Italians, this was in June of 1951, a load of Italians going back to the old country on vacation. Marvelous Italian food - morning, noon and night. Nobody told me not to eat salt or if they did I didn't hear it and when I got to Europe my ankles were sloshing over my shoes. It was really pretty spectacular. I had no idea how this happened. I was perhaps 3 or 4 months pregnant and just enjoyed this great food.

When I arrived in Salzburg they put me in hospital and that was my introduction to Europe. I remember sitting in a hospital, there were three or four of us in the same room and two of these gals were native Austrians who had married GI's and they were just rolling in the glory of it all. One of them had her eyelashes dyed and her eyebrows dyed and she went on and on about the shade of her nail polish and what she was buying here and what she was buying there and her husband was what, a corporal or something like that but these people knew how to save money, really, and just luxuriating in the marvels of the canteen and the PX, don't you know, and things you could buy and so I had a real amusing time with these silly girls.

Salzburg was where Perry was serving. Salzburg in the summer was a very pretty place. And then Linz. We lived in Linz which had Adolph Hitler's favorite opera house and we went to the opera several times there. I remember attending a Faust performance there. The town center in Linz was still Adolph Hitler Platz. My German was fairly good and I enjoyed myself. We had a housemaid, her name was Inga. She later married a Czech guy and they came to this country and came to visit us when Perry was in practice in Stroudsburg.

I arrived in Salzburg in June, 1951. Wolf was born November 28th. Bindermickel was the name of the apartments where we lived in Austria. I remember coming into our apartment at Christmas and Inga was busy lighting candles on the ends on a little Christmas tree

whereupon of course I went ballistic. I said "You've got to stop that right now!" Well she just didn't understand why this should be the case. We spoke kuche Deutsche to each other with funny results.

Interesting thing about Austria in the wintertime... it's gray. Every day it is gray. I have a photograph of the day when the sun broke through for maybe 15 minutes. We rushed to get the baby and I rushed over to the window and Perry took a picture. I had on that scotch plaid dress that your grandmother Mae Belle brought back from Scotland for me when she went on her Lake Country tour.

Wolf was born in Munich - München, in the Schwabinger Krankenhaus. That was an interesting day. In order to expel this child I took castor oil three times that last month. I mean this was grim. The last time we went I just said "I am going to stay there until this thing happens. I am not going back to Linz. I'm going to stay in Munich in the Schwabinger Krankenhaus." On our third try we waited for a huge flock of sheep to pass before going into the Krankenhaus. They used to have transhumance in Germany, that is to say shepherds would graze sheep on the mountains and then bring them down to pasture in their own hof in the wintertime. They mark sheep so it is easy to do, to merge them all into the home flock, it was really nice – and we have pictures of it - to sit on rocks or a fence across the road from the Krankenhaus while the sheep passed by before I could get into the hospital. Fortunately I wasn't having contractions because you get the castor oil when you get into the hospital. Well anyway that was a fun thing.

The Krankenhaus' order of nuns had big linen, starched linen, headdresses of vast proportions that flapped when they walked. My ward was sort of a dormitory kind of thing where there were perhaps eight of us. My bed was positioned so that I could see this large German farm girl transformed into a nun by her white linen costume and headdress walking down a long sunlit corridor of this rehabbed old TB hospital carrying our baby. She walked in with a big smile saying "Hier ist Ihr Goldene Fisch!" – Wolf was a beautiful baby with red gold curls hair, he was a month overdue, he had a head full of red curly hair and very long fingernails which didn't get clipped before he gave himself a scratch still visible as an adult. A very handsome child; he weighed 8 ½, 9 pounds.

Wolf wore Lederhosen that he was able to wear from when he was about 5 and he wore it through 8 or 9. We have some photographs of it. He had a dual citizenship. Of course he had to renounce the German one, but nevertheless when he went into the Air Corps he asked for Wiesbaden and they sent him there. He was a fair German speaker. He spent 4 years there.

Perry was busy running around the mud with his troops. Europe that spring had classic Northwest Coast weather. He was a battalion surgeon . It wasn't anything particularly glamorous I can tell you.

Down in the Isar there was this great Munich museum, a huge one – I've forgotten the name of it - and they had a splendid Greek collection, lots of really nice things and I was able to go down and look at it. It was on an island in the Isar, the river that goes through Munich.

Inga was allowed to take care of the baby, but I didn't let her do it too much. She didn't live in the house with us. She came in and helped. I would go out and shop and leave the baby there. I nursed him for 5 months, but both my children were large and greedy so I didn't get to do it for very long. It is good for a baby. It gives them immunities that they wouldn't get otherwise.

Linz was an interesting town to live in. I still have braid I bought there at that time. It is as good today as the day I bought it- very Oosterreichish.

The Russians were just over the Nibelunge Brücke in Linz. You could hear them practicing their guns – Boom, Boom, Boom, trying to scare us. But I can't remember being scared at all. We would walk to the middle of the Nibelunge Brücke and then we walked back. I enjoyed myself watching them. We traveled around to St. Florian's and listened to Bruckner's organ. We bought and enjoyed Austrian wine, beer, suppe...especially liked Consumme mit Ei.

Spent four months in Lido di Camaiore , near Pisa of the Leaning Tower, where Wolf got the best tan he ever had ...that sun felt good after the Austrian winter dankness. We explored Rome when you could drive in it with much more ease than today.



Fran and Wolfie in Lido, May 1953

[So when you were there, that would have been the time of the Korean War?]

1951-52. Yes, that was the whole point. When Perry finished his year at Fitzsimmons. He asked - he signed up for two years. I mean after medical school and art school we needed our teeth filled. We needed attention and so that was a logical thing to do.

[You were talking about the Korean War]

Perry asked for Korea knowing from his experience in Bur Pers, the Naval Bureau of Personnel, at the end of WWII that that meant he would go to Europe and so it did. And of course if he went to Europe it meant that I could go too, and so we had a year in Europe. A year residency at Fitzsimons and a year in the field. Wolf and I returned in June 1952 on either the Constitution or the Independence. AND... here is the dénouement. Guess what was there in the harbor in New Jersey when the ship pulled in? The Old Forester Bottle had been translated from Colorado to New Jersey!

[I was wondering how you were going to tie that together]

There it was. Now if you can find someone else who was here during the first or second half of the twentieth century they'll know the story. The Rocky Mountain News certainly will because they were the ones who did it. It was a really big old ugly nasty something.

Battle of the Bottle Time Magazine

Monday, Apr. 07, 1952

Until last December, there was little about the Zook Building in downtown Denver to distinguish it from any other six-story office structure—except, of course, the uncompromising fact that it was named the Zook Building. But shortly before Christmas, Brown-Forman Distillers Corp. erected a gargantuan advertisement upon its roof: a \$15,000, 38-ft. 9-in. model of an Old Forester bottle.

Except for a thirsty few who wistfully tried to figure out how much whisky it would hold if there were whisky in it (answer: 400,000 quarts), nobody paid much attention. But one day last month Jack Foster, editor of the Rocky Mountain News, explored a new building the newspaper is soon to occupy. Foster loves to stare at mountains, but when he looked out a second-story window he discovered that the bottle-topped Zook Building blocked the view.

"This Inglorious Thing." The next day in a News editorial he complained bitterly about "this inglorious thing [which] has disfigured my view [of] the snowy heads of Longs and neighboring Mt. Meeker . ."

Ministers, prohibitionists and other mountain lovers began to protest, too. So many letters poured into City Hall that the mayor devoted a 30-minute radio talk to the bottle, the city engineer personally climbed up to the roof of the Zook Building to see if the ad complied with ordinances (it did) and city councilmen discussed an anti-bottle law.

Goaded by criticism, the distillery company's district manager, Stanley Barnett, rashly voiced his views to a Denver Post reporter: "Why," he cried, "should we do anything about it? Of course, if we'd known what kind of controversy it would start in this overgrown cow town we probably wouldn't have done it." Asked if he didn't think it disfigured the skyline, he asked: "What skyline have you got here?" He had hardly spoken before he was the center of a blizzard of protest.

"He Didn't Mean It." Astounded, the company hurriedly ran apologetic full-page newspaper ads which read: "He didn't mean it; we didn't mean it." It promised to pull the bottle down if a majority wanted it down. But Denver's loyal bourbon drinkers rallied strongly. Others cheered for the bottle, too. Jeff Fuller, a businessman with offices in the Zook Building itself, said: "I think it's a pretty good sign. This

country was raised on whisky. Anyone who can't stand to see a little whisky, there's something wrong with them." At week's end the Battle of the Bottle was still unresolved; while waiting for a decision Denver chanted a bit of doggerel supplied for the occasion by the Rocky Mountain News:

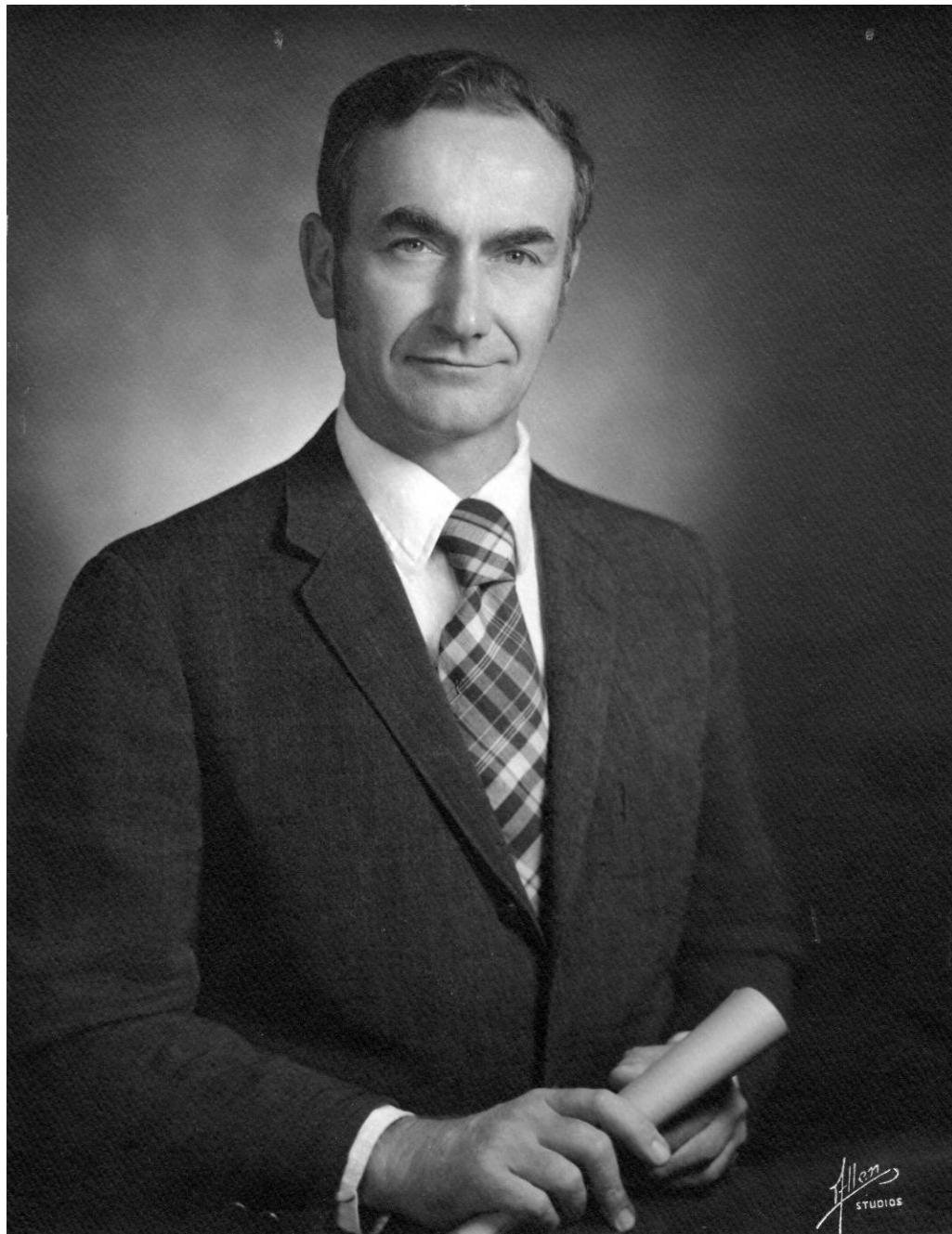
Bottle, bottle, shining bright, Morning, noon and all the night, Up above the town so high, Like a barroom in the sky.

[So you came back to the States. Did you have a job or was the tour of duty up?]

Perry went to work at Sparrows Point outside of Baltimore in the VA because he had not fully decided what he wanted to do. I think that he had a great interest in tuberculosis and its management and things that were happening in the field and that kind of thing. And he was trying to zero in on - because he had a year with the VA - he was trying to decide what he would specialize in or do. And then Hope died. Forest was just so distraught and obviously Bunny could not take on all the kids because she had small children of her own.

That was 1953. That's right because Wolfie was walking and yes and then the year at Sparrows Point. So we talked it over and said "Well, if Bunny would take Andrea" and that was because Forest thought that Andrea might blossom better if she did not have Carlin to lean on. Carlin was a steady little soul. It was just not in her to leave her sister floundering when she could smooth the way. That was natural. So, Forest wanted to separate them and that's why we took Carlin and Jay, and Andrea went to Bunny. Besides, then she would have the advantage of Bunny's attention because Bunny didn't have a daughter at that time and so that's the way it went. But that meant that we couldn't stay in Maryland. We had to get a job elsewhere if we were going to do this because Forest couldn't pick up all of our expenses and we knew that. So we started looking for work and we went up to Pennsylvania because we knew we would be getting the children and there was a little period of time where – it's not clear to me – it was busy, busy and I've lost control of exactly what happened when, but we knew we had to get work and get a house. We had Jay and Carlin in Maryland and Jay went to play school and Carlin will have to tell you what her day was because I just no longer remember. I know we had ducks and a turkey and there was a big to-do when we killed a duck for Thanksgiving.

They came to live with us while we finished out Sparrows Point and then they went back to Forest for the summer. And we went to Pennsylvania and we answered ads for practices. People were selling their practice or they wanted to bring in another physician.



**Picture taken to accompany his letters of introduction when we were looking
for a practice and living in Maryland**

Medicine was practiced very differently then than it is now. When you practiced, you went out to people. They didn't come to you. It wasn't this business of you had a whole weekend. You worked like a slave. It was just hard work to be a practitioner. Anyway, I remember we went to Lancaster and a few other places in Pennsylvania, but Perry kind of liked the area up on the Delaware River at Little Gap, Stroudsburg. He

liked that because people from New York would come for the summer and so your practice was busy all year and these people did not make any difficulties about their payments. They paid for services and they understood that they were getting good service and it was a whole lot less expensive than New York. And so it was a rather comfortable, good practice. But it was work! It was twelve – fourteen hour days. At the end of them, sometimes my ear felt like a cabbage – just swollen.

We went to Stroudsburg and Perry went into practice with Dr. Rushmore. It was very pleasant. Stroudsburg was sort of a backwoods kind of place but clearly thriving and there was talk of the highway which subsequently became Interstate 80 coming through and so you were kind of growing up with the community. So he gradually ingathered, because he liked the work, number of administrative medical jobs, he liked that. He did the DPW work, Department of Public Works, and he did the tubercular clinic and the Well Baby clinics. He just liked that kind of thing. We lived in a very pretty house on Spring Lake that belonged to Wendy Mazer and her husband.

[You bought it or rented it?]

No, we rented that. It was a very nice house. We had no plans to stay in Stroudsburg especially. Jay went to Smithfield and so did Carlin. Jay bounced out of the door every morning to get on Moser's second load, I think it was. He'll have to tell you. Smithfield School. He was a general pet. He was a charming boy, he really was.

They were nice children and we had a lovely time. They were with us I think for 3 years.



Carlin, Jay, Wolfie, Andrea and Perry at Found Lake, 1956

We were making a good living. It was hard work! We had another baby, Perry Conrad, and it was not the time to make a change. We decided two was enough. We bought a little house. He rented an office in East Burg (aka East Stroudsburg) and later we moved to Stroud Township where we built an office attached to our house.



Fran, June 1957 in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

We came to recognize that most of the physicians, in fact all the physicians that we knew except for the youngest one, had worked a little too long and had damaged themselves. Got a little bad heart – a little of this, a little of that and so they really couldn't do anything else except deepen and improve their practices. It would just be more than they would care to do to move on. After 8 years we looked at each other and said "Do we want to keep on like this?" And medicine was changing too although not in ways yet that we could not foresee. But we just knew that 14 hour days were not something that we wanted to continue. Of course we bought the Walnut Grove, the farm, so we could get away – we had to get away! You had no peace if you didn't get away.

We went there on our day off and on weekends. The boys and I stayed out there for a couple days at a time sometimes. I had my own car and Perry had an office nurse so I got away from the telephone. But, I didn't get much of my own work done at all. It was rather grim that way.



Perry, Conrad and Wolf, March 1961 in East Stroudsburg

But we had to get out. The question was what to do? So we went to Guatemala to see what Public Health was or Private Public Health was. We worked for the Office of the Congregation, something like that in the Catholic Church, the Dominicans in Guatemala - spent a summer there in Chichicastenango.

[Chichicastenango is a small and stucco-white town, lying on the crests of mountaintops at an altitude of 1,965 meters. It is located about 140 km and 2-3 hours drive northwest of Guatemala City and is home to what is surely the most colorful native market in North and Central America, perhaps in all the Americas]

I could give you an hour on Chichicastenango (aka ChiChi) and medicine there. We went back, you know, in the mid 1990's and spent a couple of days to see the town and to see what happened to the church. The market is in front of the church.



Perry on return trip to Chichicastenango, about 1992

Conrad was born in 1958 and we did not have him until they [Carlin and Jay] were at home. That is to say that Forest had married Ruth [August, 1956]. We went to Guatemala when Wolf was 9. The little kids his age were 3 feet tall and he was a foot taller. It has completely changed – totally! The food is better. Of course it is not so old-timey, not so rustic, not so Indian, it is much more cosmopolitan. It is much different. The kids are bigger, healthier, no runny noses.

We were there and at other 'clinics' two and a half months, something like that.

[That wasn't charity work, was it?]

What do you mean charity? It was with the Dominicans. The Dominicans ran a clinic.

[But you got paid?]

No! No! We were in ChiChi, then north to Quiche where the head man of the village presented Perry with a bunch of platanos. We got our accommodations but that's about all. It was a lot of fun. Interesting time.

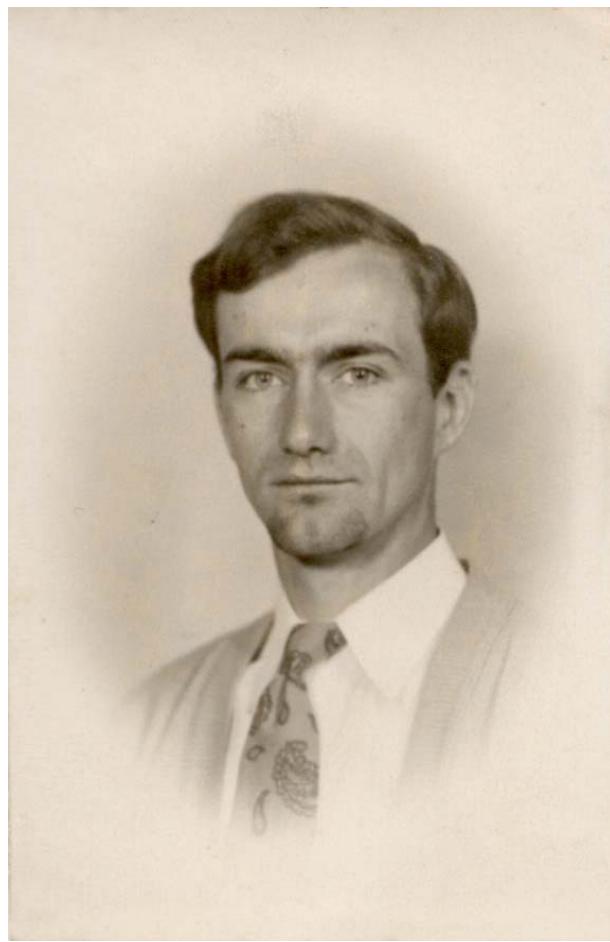
[That was after you decided to get out of practice?]

That's when we were deciding. So did he want to go into public health? So what you were dealing with in the private sector was a very large box of leftover medications that somebody took a write off

on and gave it to the Catholic Church and they ended up in these clinics all over the world. That was pretty cheesy.

But internal medicine? Does he want to be an internist? But he really does like the administrative side of things and he did it well. He was able to see this person's point of view and that person's point of view and found that trait which he certainly got from his mother, that is a Mae Belle trait, he used it to good effect in Prince Georges County Consul, in the State of Michigan and the State of Arizona and a few odd jobs he did for OEO, of course he did a lot of that in Maryland.

To be succinct: In 1963-64 he went to Columbia and took his Masters in Public Health and went to work for the State of Maryland



Perry with goatee, taken by a fellow student while at Columbia, 1964

He will have to tell you what those jobs were but I can give you some anecdotes. Blue Plains was the sewage system that served Washington, D.C. which was expanding. The whole country was expanding.

I can't really characterize how it happened, but people got septic system permits on land that would not perk. This came to be quite a scandal and Perry was sent there. He was sort of a floater. He was sent out to do things – to correct situations - a troubleshooter. That was the kind of thing he did and did well. First he interned in southeastern Pennsylvania in the Philadelphia area. He'll talk to you about closing the United States Steel plant and so forth. But then his real job - when he finished his residency we went to Maryland. We lived in Bowie, Maryland, where Carlin and Jay joined us.

This perking business and sale - surreptitious granting of septic systems was mis-, mal- and non-feasance on a ruinous scale and put the Governor, Marvin Mandel, behind bars.

The governor put his influence in the race track commission to get an extension which went on to become more than an extension for Bowie Race Track which he had invested in. It would have been a big bill for them to get a sewage system piped out there, and so the governor used his influence to manage an extension of use of its septic. Well, Perry wouldn't stand for that and so the ultimate outcome was that Marvin Mandell went to jail for three years.

But he managed these things in a sort of way that people in charge understood that this had to happen, but on the other hand it meant that you could only work somewhere for four years because you'd worn out your welcome. So we went from Bowie to Michigan. We were there for four years which was a very, very odd....



Studio photo of Fran, Conrad and Perry, Bowie, Maryland about 1970

While we were in Maryland I helped to mount the White House conference on hunger and along with some friends, Susan, Ann Miller and a few others, we founded the Maryland Food Committee. I was so situated that I was able working with a few other people to do what sorely was needed to be done in the welfare world which was to extricate one's eligibility for food stamps from being tied to the amount of money that you got as a public assistance recipient. It's hard to believe that if say, for example, in Mississippi with three children you got \$65 per month, your food stamp eligibility was a function of the \$65. Hard work, but just to bring it to a quick resolution, what I did with two people are still operating in Washington, we got through the Congress the concept that one's food requirements were a function of your being a human being.

A woman had to have so many calories and a man had to have so many calories and a child needed so many calories and that is what is what dictated the level of your food stamp eligibility. So that a four person family would have food money sufficient for life and health in the United States. Purchase is done on a card now, not stamps either, an amount of eligibility which would actually feed them for three meals a day for thirty days. There are some things that are wrong with it. I worked really hard to get the soda pop companies out of it so that those stamps could not be spent for soda pop, but the Coca Cola people were too strong for us. I also worked (without effect) so that unions could not freeload on food stamps during strikes. But I took a lot of abuse for that. I don't know what the situation is now. But there were issues, things to work on. I put five or six years of my life into that. Then when we left Maryland I dissolved my relationship with the Maryland Food Committee and went along to Detroit.

[What year was this?]

1974. Oh yes, and before we left I was on the first committee that was formed to support Eugene McCarthy, I remember when, this was famous in our family, when Lyndon Johnson said on television "I will not accept...dah dah dah

[Ah will not ax-cept, the nom-uh-na-shun of mah party"]

And Wolfie just turned to me and looked at me open-mouthed... he thought his mother had done this, because I was busy handing out literature for McCarthy. A woman named June Wing, married to Baltimore's Public Health director, gathered us together in Maryland for Gene; we were the first.

Perry had kind of worn out his welcome, the governor was indicted and he had done his job for Blue Plains and Prince Georges County which was then his assignment.

[So he had done a good job?]

Certainly, Of course he did a good job everywhere he went.



Perry accepting award from Prince Georges County.

July 26, 1974

Dr. Perry Stearns, right, the former County Health Officer, is presented with a special citation from the County Council by Chairman Francis B. Francois during Upper Marlboro ceremonies last week. Stearns, who is leaving the Washington area for a public health post in Michigan, was lauded by the Council in the form of a special resolution and the pictured plaque.

-30-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, COURTHOUSE, UPPER MARLBORO, MD. 20870

P. G. PHOTO

PLEASE
CREDIT



Sometimes it wasn't clear what that job was to people. Then he went to southeastern Michigan's Health Department. Mayor Coleman became annoyed because Perry wouldn't let the cement plant burn bad stuff— they had a big revolving drum and the mayor wanted to have some noxious stuff burnt in this drum to get rid of it instead of causing the city a lot of expense in trucking it. Perry went over and looked at this big drum and said "You can't do that, there's a crack in it". I got assigned the job of rabble-rousing in the neighborhood to let people know there was a crack in the drum and they didn't want this stuff burned there. That was quiet and I don't think the mayor ever knew I did that. There were a number of things of that kind that I did.

[Activist!]

Well, I don't call that activist. It's just simply, you had to goose people here and there or at least let them know because the authorities were not going to let them know, the political authorities were not going to let them know. Perry, as a medical professional, had a responsibility. He always got along with the newspapers really well. But sometimes there were some people - in Michigan it was a special thing. The union people created a level of unease with confidentiality issues. You really couldn't trust them.

[Big union town, right?]

It wasn't so much a union town, as it was a union people. There were lots of unions and they conflicted, they had opposing points of view. There just were many different currents and you didn't always know where to put your foot down. So sometimes you just did it yourself and that was an example. There were a number of things like that – they were part of daily life. That just stands out in my mind, that big crack in the cement drum.

[How long did take you to wear out your welcome in Detroit?]

Four years. Four years is what it was. Then we went to Arizona.

[That would have been 1978, roughly?]

1974 sticks in my mind. 1974 we went, 1978 OK. And then to Arizona, where he expected to become the Secretary of Health after the gal who was a Mormon and was a loon left the job.

[What town?]

Arizona. Scottsdale was where we lived. Phoenix was where the State government was. Bruce Babbitt was the governor. Now Babbitt, undergraduate degree in geology that he had, was pushing to present

himself as a candidate for President. He destroyed a flourishing mineral business in AZ in chrysotile asbestos by pandering to fears well justified in use of amphibole asbestos. I recall him rushing to greet TV cameras to make remarks when he was on a trip in MS. You know the fiber – one's curly and the other straight, called amphibole. The curly kind, mined in many places in AZ was an effective fire retardant, mined for many years with no measurable additions to AZ morbidity statistics. For several years following halt in its use, there were death-trap fires in new hotels until a retardant replacement was developed.

Babbit became Secretary of the Interior. He did good work there, but he would just throw people under the bus. And he did it over and over again. Also, as part of his make-over in politics, Babbitt wanted to down-play reproductive rights. And so when the copper companies in Globe and Miami came calling asking Perry to take over medical affairs for their copper companies up in Globe. I would say it didn't take us a long time to decide. We were just disgusted with Babbitt.

The job was Medical Director. We were delighted to take advantage of the new laws in retirement saving by turning Perry into a PC (Professional Corporation) and opening a Defined Contribution Plan. It was a headache but we know now it was just what we needed to do.

There were two, then three companies with interest in the medical function for their employees and looking for someone who could keep them straight with OSHA. Perry was intimately familiar with the development of OSHA and knew the regs. I had a good time in Globe, collecting specimens and clays. We explored all of Arizona; you and I, David, took samples in the AZ Crater in 1980. Our Gussie went with us, dodging behind boulders to stay in the shade on that steep climb.



Perry with Gussie and her puppy, Scottsdale, Arizona, about 1980

So then Wolf went into the Air Force and Conrad went to nursing school in Albuquerque where he did a lot of hang gliding off the Sandia Mountains, beginning his studies of weather and cloud patterns.

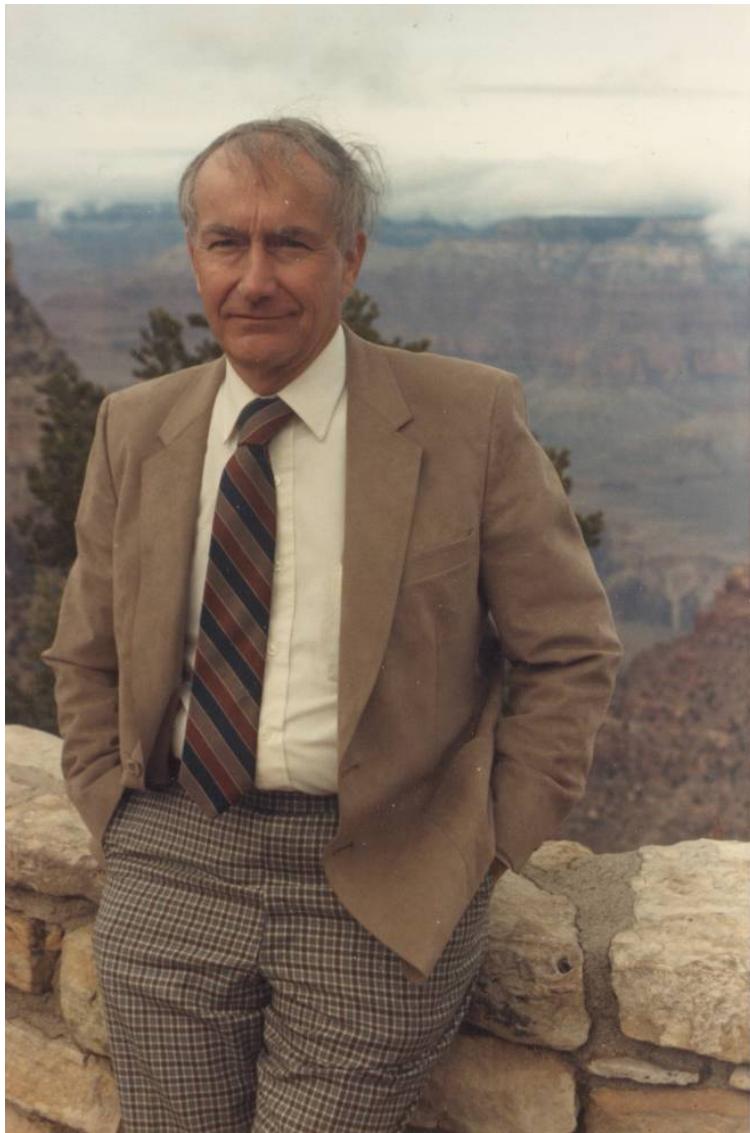
Perry, typically, had a problem with the hospital which needed to be upgraded with state standards. He tried to get all these people in the county government working together but the problem is that county governments in US rural areas use hospital employees as flacks. The people who get hired by county hospitals, it is understood that they are of the right political party and that they will work to get and keep their employers in office. In closing the county hospital, the idea was to merge the copper company's hospital with the county hospital because neither of them were keeping up with standards of equipment and treatment that were coming to be imperative because the whole health system, which I have not discussed with you at all, was under great pressure.

Alteration in approaches to health treatment and in-house treatment were revolutionizing across the whole country. Interest groups were

building hospitals left and right because they knew that the regulations were going to change and their livelihood and importance in the community were tied to their ability to sequester tax money for this hospital purpose. Little rural hospitals like Globe's hospital, Gila County, and the copper company's hospital were pressured to merge to improve. County commissioners had tax money but the copper companies had copper money and also they could fall back on Anglo-American which owned part of the mining companies.

The Chairman of Anglo-American in South Africa came on a tour of his company's Copper mines. He took Perry aside and asked him where he kept his paraplegics. In South Africa you had a whole clinic of paraplegics; people whose arms and legs were lost in their deep mines and so they were kept in Company wards. Those people mined 6 miles down in the earth and they could do things to people and thus for them. Perry entered Public Health in a time of changing standards when the work meant enforcement by persuasion, persuading people to accommodate themselves to this and then sometimes having to break the news that they were no longer going to be a part of it and they were bitter. They didn't like this. With age the edges of all those things get worn off and I don't remember the details of what was a continuously interesting life ...this is a small sample.

Let's see. Then the hospital thing – what Perry was doing was literally working himself out of a job. He wanted to see the public hospital take over what the copper company hospital is because it had access to federal and all kinds of other flows of money that the copper company's didn't and it would just be better for the men – it came to be men and women over there. So he worked himself out of a job. He was grandfathered into Industrial Medicine with the proviso that he would soon take his Boards. That is a much more relaxed practice. By that time the practice of Industrial Medicine had become institutionalized so that it had hours. And so he went into practice with an established group in Albuquerque.



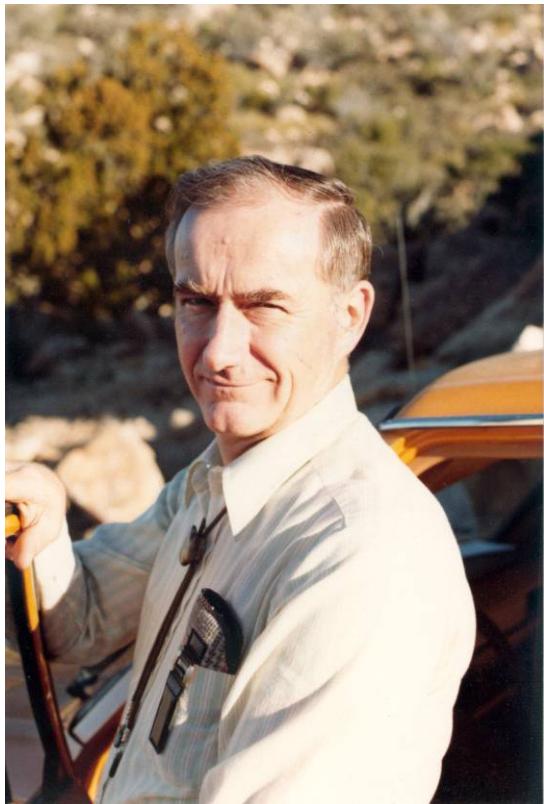
**Perry at Grand Canyon where he had the Clinic for Samaritan after he left
Globe, about 1984**

[So you moved to Albuquerque?]

Yes. That's Corrales. We lived in Corrales where we would have loved to have stayed but the people there had been there for several hundreds of years and this was their time to make it pay. So no matter what you tried to get going in the way of preservation and conservation of the community, they just didn't want to hear it. If people wanted to build big old trophy adobe houses on half an acre, the old families—they were going to sell it. I was part of a group that wanted to tie us into Nature Conservancy and there was some other group, I forget the name of it, that we really tried to get established there in Corrales but they didn't want it. They set up a whispering campaign. They just made it very ugly.

[Is this where you had your sheep?]

Yes. We would have loved to have stayed there, but it just became ugly.



Perry in Corrales, NM about 1984



Fran at a fleece auction in Corrales



Perry with sons Perry Conrad and Forrest in Corrales

And so I put a big number on my house, put it up for sale, and it went. So we went back to Phoenix. That was a mistake. I just missed the cycle in Tucson; the houses were climbing so we went back to Phoenix where values had not yet taken off.

[Do you remember what year this was?]

1990?

[So you went back to Phoenix in 1990?]

Either 1990 or 1992, 91 or 92

[Just tell me who was president – You probably know that!]

I can't remember. And we were there for 6 or 7 years. Well, we came here *[Colorado]* in 2001, the end of 2001.

[When did Perry retire?]

In 1992. And then he fell out of the Queen Palm tree.

[You stayed in Phoenix then...?]

Scottsdale.

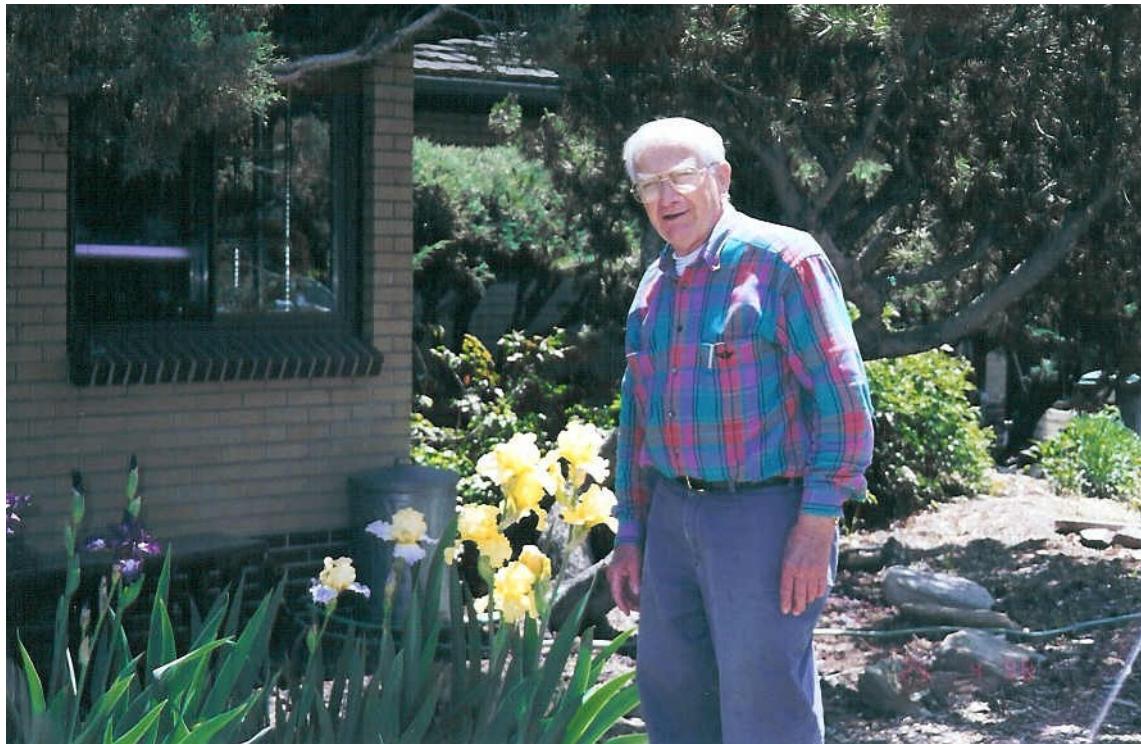
[You weren't right in the middle of the city. You had a little farm or something?]

No, we had an acre. A house on an acre on an elevation of land - a full acre.

[The address there was...?]

10410 Charter Oak. It was a very nice neighborhood. Later Maricopa County built an inner ring road, an interior circular road. Because Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesen West was to the east of us, our neighborhood literally had a private entry to the freeway abutting our neighborhood and property values just went....zingo.

Since 2001, Perry and Fran have lived at 5600 Dover in Arvada, Colorado. The front yard has been turned into a beautiful flower garden with iris, day lilies and roses.



Perry in front yard of home in Arvada, Colorado

Perry died in September of 2008. His obituary was written and submitted to various newspapers for publication. The text is reproduced below:



Perry Orlo Stearns, MD, MPH

Dr. Perry Stearns, 84, passed away at his home in Arvada, CO, Sept. 16, 2008. Cause of death was congestive heart failure and complications of metastatic prostate cancer.

Born in Milwaukee, WI., on 26 Nov. 1923, the son of Atty. Perry J. and Mae Belle (Brook) Stearns, Dr. Stearns followed his father and two older brothers in attendance at Harvard College. His schooling was interrupted by WWII when he served in the Navy as leader of an UDT (Underwater Demolition Team), precursor of the US Navy SEALS. Anticipating the invasion, his unit was sailing towards Japan as the atomic bombs were dropped and the war ended. One of the fortunate few among thousands of returning veterans, Stearns was accepted for medical education at Boston University, graduating in 1951. The following year he was in residency at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, near Denver, Colorado, later serving as Battalion Surgeon in Europe. On return to the States, he completed residency at Sparrows Point Veterans Hospital in Maryland.

After serving his country during two wars Dr. Stearns entered private practice in Stroudsburg, Penn. After practicing in that community for about 10 years and following a summer with a Roman Catholic Church (Dominicans) clinic in Guatemala, he earned his Master's degree in Public Health from Columbia University, New York, in 1964. Following residency in Pennsylvania, among the institutions he worked for were the Maryland Health Department with extended duty in Prince George's County; Dept. Public Health, State of Michigan in Wayne County; and the Arizona Department of Public Health in Maternal and Child Health.

A strong interest in the health implications of the emerging OSHA led Dr. Stearns to accept employment with several copper companies in Globe and Miami, AZ, where he was instrumental in reconciling work practices with new work rules for the mining industry. Boarded in Public Health and Industrial Medicine, Dr. Stearns spent his last years in practice in Albuquerque, NM, retiring to Arvada, CO. in 2001. In addition to professional memberships and the Rocky Mountain Harvard Club, Stearns was a lifelong Unitarian, most recently a communicant at Jefferson Unitarian of Golden, CO.

Perry married Frances Limberg, daughter of Wayne Limberg and Inez Doris Anderson on 18 May 1946 in Washington, D.C. She survives him along with a son, P. Conrad Stearns, both of Arvada. His oldest son, Forrest Wolfgang, predeceased him in 2007. Also surviving are an older brother David of Las Vegas, NV and a younger sister Rhodora Leyse of Idaho Falls, ID. An older brother, Forest, died in 1999.

Perry was a champion swimmer in his Shorewood WI high school and Harvard years. He loved outdoor activities especially those associated with water. He also enjoyed flower gardening and reading which

occupied much of his time since retirement. A quiet and soft-spoken man, he is responsible for several significant reforms in the public health sector. He will be missed by his immediate family as well as by numerous adoring nephews and nieces living in California, Denver, Wisconsin and Virginia. His cremated remains will be committed at Arvada Cemetery, Arvada, CO, in the spring of 2009. At his request, there will be no other ceremony.

5th Generation
Children of Perry Orlo Stearns and Frances Limberg

163942311131. Forrest Wolfgang Stearns (*Perry Orlo¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 28 Nov 1952 in Munich, Germany and died 24 Oct 2006 in Arizona.

Forrest was known as "Wolfie" by most of his relatives, but apparently preferred being called Forrest.



Perry holding Wolfie on rare sunny day in Linz, Austria

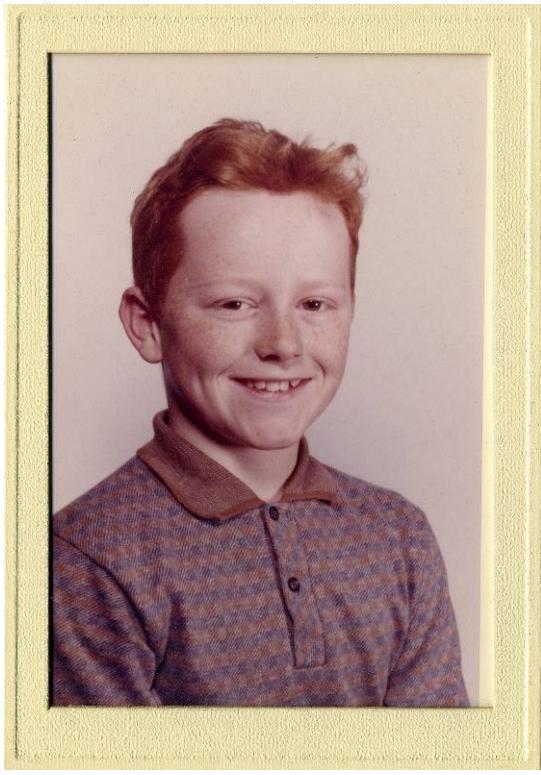
Several school pictures are presented below:



EAST STROUDSBURG
SCHOOL 1957-58



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
SCHOOL DAYS 1958-59



After the family move to Globe, Arizona, Forrest joined the Air Force.



Forrest in Air Force uniform, about 1980-82

He was stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany.

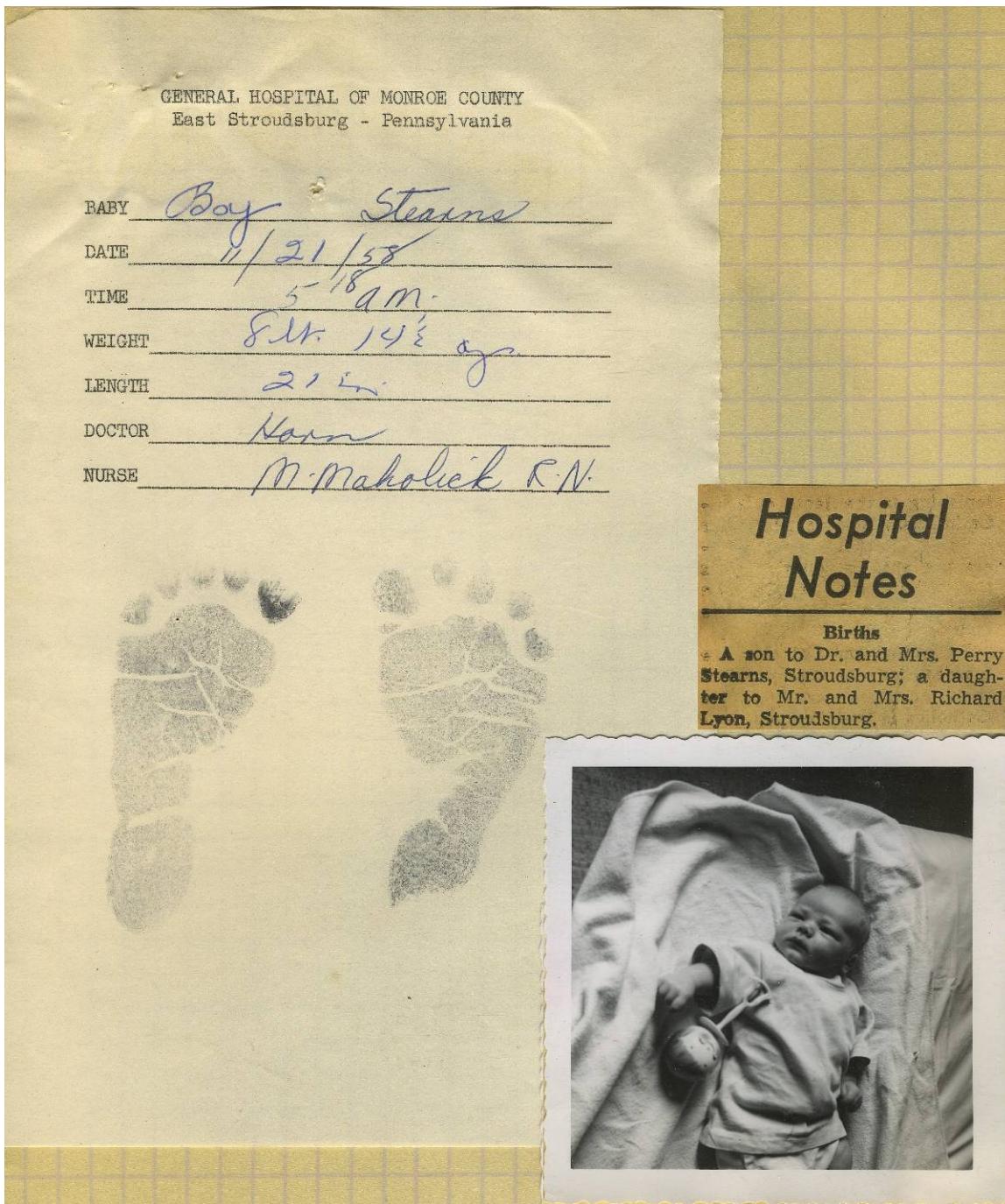


A more recent picture of Forrest, possibly in Corrales.

Forrest died of an apparent heart attack while on a bike trip in the mountains in Arizona. He was cremated and buried in Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colorado. The Department of Veteran Affairs listing for Forrest is given below (Note that he is classified as a Vietnam era vet):

STEARNS, FORREST W L
SSGT US AIR FORCE
VIETNAM
DATE OF BIRTH: 11/28/1952
DATE OF DEATH: 10/24/2006
BURIED AT: SECTION 55, SITE 589
FT. LOGAN NATIONAL CEMETERY
4400 WEST KENYON AVENUE DENVER, CO 80236
(303) 761-0117

163942311132. Perry Conrad Stearns (*Perry Orlo¹¹, Perry Jay¹⁰, George Orlo⁹, Charles Edward⁸, Jonathan Gale⁷, John⁶, Nathaniel⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Nathaniel³, Samuel², Isaac¹*) was born on 21 Nov 1958 in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.



Perry Conrad Stearns hospital birth information

Like Forrest Wolfgang, Perry Conrad has interchangeable first names. He prefers Perry, but many relatives know him as Conrad.



Perry giving Conrad a bottle in Stroudsburg, about 1959



Studio picture, Bowie Maryland, 12 yrs old.



Perry Conrad Stearns, graduate

Perry Conrad married **Louise**. They had no children.

Perry Conrad pursued a career in nursing which he practiced in Arizona and later in Denver. He currently lives with his mother at 5600 Dover in Arvada, Colorado.

Chapter 8 – Rhodora Adaline Stearns

11th Generation Children of Perry Stearns and Mae Belle Brook

16394231114. Rhodora Adeline Stearns (*Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷, *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born on 3 Nov 1925, in Milwaukee Hospital, Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Rhodora has always been known to her family as "Rho".

No baby pictures of Rho have surfaced yet, but the following picture looks like it was taken when she was about 3 years old.



Rhodora – Winter on Murray Avenue, courtesy Carlin

Her birth registration and transcription of same follow:

432 page of Vol. 904
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

PLACE OF BIRTH		No. 13731	
County of Milwaukee			
Township of or Village of or City of Milwaukee		NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES	
No. Milwaukee Hosp.....		St.; 15	Ward
Full Name of Child Rhodora Stearns			
Date of Birth Nov. 3 1925		Month Day Year	
Stillborn: Yes or No. <i>No</i>	Was child deformed or physically defective? Yes or No. —	Nature of defect: —	
Sex of Child <i>Fam.</i>	Color or Race of Child <i>white</i>	Twin, Triplet, or other? } and { Number in order of birth	Legitimate? <i>yes</i>
FATHER		MOTHER	
Full Name Perry Jay Stearns		Full Maiden Name Mae Belle Becht	
Residence 1472 Murray St., Brooklyn		Residence —	
Color or Race white, Age at Last Birthday 34 Years		Color or Race white, Age at Last Birthday 34 Years	
Birthplace Neb. (State or Country)		Birthplace Minn. (State or Country)	
Occupation Attorney (Nature of Industry)		Occupation Housewife (Nature of Industry)	
Number of children of this mother (Taken as of time of birth of child herein certified and including this child.) (a) Born alive and now living 4 (b) Born alive but now dead (c) Stillborn —			
What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? Agno. 3 1925 Presentation Farter			

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended the birth of this child, and that it occurred on Nov. 3...

1925, at 4:40 A.M., on the date above stated.

(Signature)

H. Stearns
H. Stearns
(Physician or Midwife)

Given name added from a supplemental

report *UNCERTIFIED COPY* Address 122 - 1/2 St.
(Month) 12 (Day) 1925

NOT VALID FOR IDENTITY PURPOSES
Registrar.

Filed Nov. 7, 1925

John P. Kehler, M.D. Registrar.

Recorded Dec. 21-25

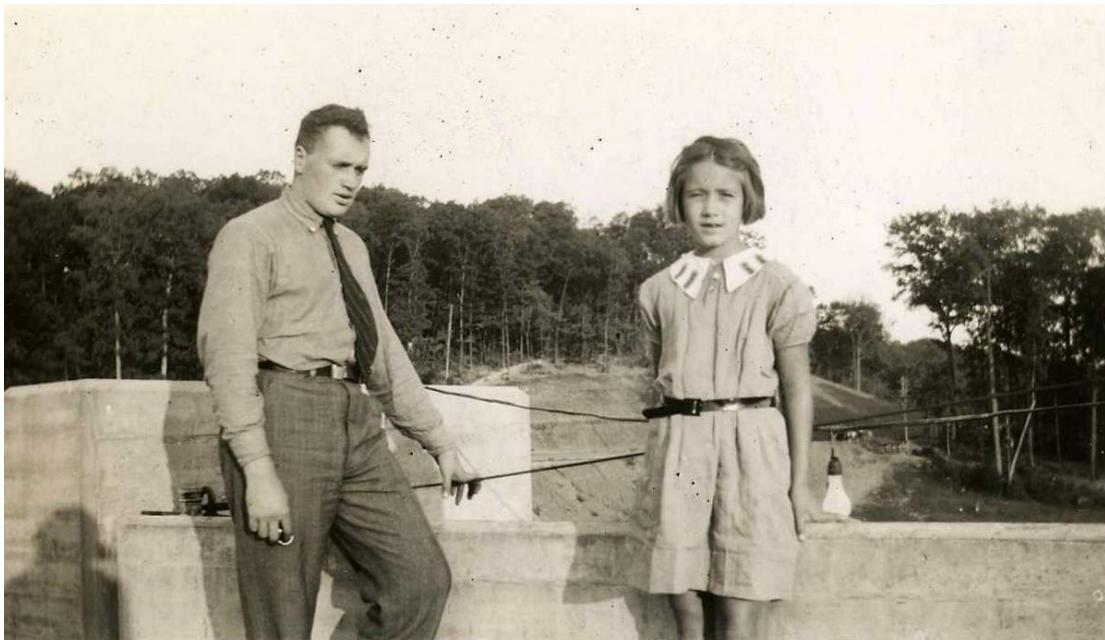
P.C. Westfall Register.

Rhodora Stearns – Birth Registration Certificate

Vol 904 Page 432
Registration of Births
No. 13731
PLACE OF BIRTH
County of: Milwaukee
Township, or Village, or City of: Milwaukee
No. Milwaukee Hospital; 15 Ward
Full name of child: Rhodora Stearns
Date of birth: Nov 3, 1925
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
Stillborn: No
Was child deformed or physically defective?
Nature of Defect:
Sex of child: F
Color or Race: W
Twin, Triplet or other:
Number in order of birth:
Legitimate: Yes
FATHER
Full name: Perry Jay Stearns
Residence: 1472 Murray Ave, Shorewood
Color: White
Age at last birthday: 34
Birthplace: Neb
Occupation: Attorney
MOTHER
Full maiden name: Mae Belle Brook
Residence: --
Color or Race: White
Age at last birthday: 34
Birthplace: Minn
Occupation: Housewife
Number of Child of this mother
a) Born alive And now living: 4
What preventative for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use: Agno 3
1% Sol
Presentation: Vertex
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, and that it
occurred on Nov 3, 1925 at 4:40 AM, on the date above stated.
Signature: U. Senn
Physician or Midwife: Phys
Address: 120 Wis. St.
Filed: Nov 7, 1925
Local Registrar: John P Koehler, M.D.
Recorded: Dec 21, 1925
Register: P. C. Westfahl



**'Dee-dee Bird' with doll in front of Murray Avenue home, circa 1930,
courtesy Dale Leyse**



Forest and Rho in 1936. Location not identified

Another picture from about the same vintage was provided by Carlin.



Rhodora probably about 9-10 years old

Rhodora married **Carl F. Leyse**, September 7, 1946, at the First Unitarian Church in Milwaukee. Carl was born on 11 Feb 1917 in Kewaunee, Kewaunee, Wisconsin and died on 24 Nov 2004 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. His parents were **Henry Leyse**, born 15 Feb 1885 in Lansing, Allamakee, Iowa and died on 31 May 1941 and **Emilie Duescher**, born 4 Sep 1888 in Montpelier (Ellisville), Kewaunee, Wisconsin and died on 20 Jan 1985.

Children from this marriage were:

163942311141. Karen Elizabeth Leyse, F, b. 19 Feb 1949, Chicago Illinois.

163942311142. Dale Robert Leyse, M, b. 17 Aug 1950, Chicago, Illinois

Noted events in their lives were:

Rhodora appeared on the 1930 US Federal census at 1472 Murray Ave., Shorewood, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is 4 years, months and living with her parents Perry J, 39, and Maebelle, 39, and attending school. Also at home are her brothers Forest, 11, David, 9, and Perry O, 6. Perry J owns his home worth \$9000 and works as a lawyer with a law firm.

Dale Leyse interviewed Rhodora. Below is a transcription of that interview. The author has rearranged, condensed, and edited the interview in order to fit it into chronological order.

Dale - This interview is based upon a transcription of an oral interview conducted with Rhodora Adaline Stearns Leyse at her home in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The interview was conducted by her son Dale on September 10 & 13, 1998. The questions were provided by Gay Brook Rohrer and her sister Cindy Brook Biren for information gathering purposes for the 1999 Brook Family Reunion in Estes Park, Colorado.

Some of Rho's childhood activities are related below:

"We traveled most places by car. What we did have in Shorewood when I was growing up were streetcars. I went by streetcar to my piano lessons. My piano teacher was Irving Mantey and he taught at The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, on Lakeshore Drive. He was the organist at our Unitarian Church. I used to go most of the way on the streetcar and then walk. We also went by streetcar to downtown

Milwaukee to shop. To get to school we either walked or rode our bikes. It was about six blocks to school."

As she was growing up, Rho enjoyed the beauty and wonder of the family cottage at Found Lake and spent numerous summers there with her parents and brothers. She became very good friends with Marge Loos, a neighbor at Found Lake who later introduced her to Carl Leyse, her future husband.



Rhodora at Found Lake, circa 1932. She appears to be wearing a bathing cap and about to dive into 6 inches of water, courtesy Carlin.

Rhodora attended Shorewood High School for two years and spent the last two years of high school studying in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

Rho explains some of the events surrounding her somewhat unexpected move to St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

Their official website states:

"St. Johnsbury Academy was founded in 1842 by Erastus, Thaddeus, and Joseph Fairbanks to provide "intellectual, moral, and religious training for their own children and the children of the community." The school was reincorporated in 1873 in order to accomplish the founders' goal of providing exemplary educational opportunities to a wider range for students, not just those destined for the liberal arts colleges and universities."

The following is extracted from the interview conducted by her son Dale.

"Then of course I went off to St. Johnsbury, Vermont and that was a traumatic event at the time. I went there the last two years of high school. I think some ancestor did go there. Father was very much into genealogy. *[Lester and his father, Abel Rice both lived in St. Johnsbury. Adaline Going met her husband Lester Rice in St. Johnsbury. It is entirely possible that one of them attended St. Johnsbury Academy, but there exists no record of such attendance at this time. Lester was a bookkeeper by profession.]* He had brought a number of school brochures to Found Lake and Dorothy Watson and I looked at them and decided which ones we thought were best. I guess I was too innocent and I wasn't taking it seriously. When he said I was going, I cried for days. That's the only time I saw my father threaten my mother. The boys were holding him back. It was very traumatic. Well since I didn't want to go, I think the family was sticking up for me. I had never been away from my family and friends. But it was all decided, I guess, and I went. And the minute I got there, I loved it! That's the way it goes. It was such a beautiful place and the people were so nice. I think as far as my education goes, it would have been just as good at Shorewood. It was a very good school.

I had what was called a working scholarship to help pay my tuition. Sometimes I dusted the old Victorian style rooms with all the fancy woodwork on the staircases and tables etc. Sometimes I peeled potatoes before dinner every night for weeks. Or I cleaned johns for a certain period of time. Yes, I earned some of my keep."



Rhodora, possibly about high school age, courtesy Carlin

Rho tells her story about dating in the 1940's:

"I can remember dating back in high school in Shorewood. I don't know if you'd call it dating, but we would go to games (school sports, etc.) with friends and we'd walk home together. We'd be standing on the street corner talking and father would come along in the car and take me home! I was out too late I guess. He was a pretty stern father. I remember one time this fellow from church took me to a movie and when he brought me home and we were sitting in the car just talking, father came out on the porch and turned on the light and stood there. There wasn't going to be any hanky-panky there! At St. Johnsbury, of course, there were strict rules and regulations. If you went to a movie, you couldn't walk home with a boy. One night I did and I guess I was almost kicked out of school. We were just walking. I had a nice boyfriend the last year I was there, very polite, very nice and very smart."



Rhodora, courtesy Carlin

She then attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison from 1943-1947 and graduated in 1947 with a degree in Letters & Science majoring in Zoology. Rho continues with her interview:

"In our house when we were growing up we knew we were expected to go to college. I don't think my brothers had a choice of where they'd like to go to college, but you can't beat Harvard! In those days girls were expected to grow up and get married and have a family. It was before the days of women's liberation. In those days married women were expected to stay home and the men went to the office. One paycheck was considered adequate for a family to live on.

I went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison from 1943-1947. That was one concession my father made when I went to St. Johnsbury that I could go to a coed college, instead of Milwaukee Downer where my mother went. Family tradition indicated that's

where I was to go. At the time it was still an all-girl school. Later it became part of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee campus, where Forest taught graduate students. I wanted to go to Cornell because I was interested in ornithology, but I didn't go there. I went to the University of Wisconsin during the war when things were a little bit hectic. I did have a course with Aldo Leopold. I remember tromping around in the wet snowy woods with him on class field trips. His book 'Sand County Almanac' was published in 1949. The first semester I took a botany class, from an older man. He knew Forest and I guess I did excellent drawings, so he gave me an A (perhaps because he knew Forest). I had an English Literature teacher that used to walk around the room when we'd be studying Shakespeare and he would act out the scenes as he went. That made it lively. There was an Art Appreciation course that I really liked, with slides that took you through the ages of art. I still have Professor Hagen's book. I also had a Music Appreciation course that I enjoyed very much. I majored in Zoology so naturally I took a lot of courses related to Zoology. I used to dream of being an ornithologist. That was my dream. It has been a life-long hobby, but I'm getting rusty.

When I was in college I worked at the telephone company one summer on some state survey. Also at college, for awhile, I counted and measured smelly fish that were in jars of formaldehyde. A bunch of us went to a factory a few times and did some work for the war effort. I also trained to be a nurse's aide. I was pretty good at it but they didn't teach me how to tell old men how to finish their own baths and it scared me to death. I wasn't very good at being a nurse's aide because of that."

Several glamour shots of Rhodora were provided by Carlin.



Rhodora, courtesy Carlin



Rhodora, courtesy Carlin



Rhodora Stearns

She met Carl at Madison on December 7, 1945. Carl had come back from the war and attended the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill. He got his degree in Mechanical Engineering with a physics option. They married in 1946.

Rhodora relates in her interview with Dale how they met.

"I met my husband on a blind date at the University of Wisconsin. Marge Loos had come up to see Dusty, Bob Dustrude, whom she was crazy about. He had some roommates and brought two along for a blind date. Mary Sunderman and I were the two girls with Marge. I said I wanted the one with the mustache, and I got him! Mary and her friend didn't hit it off too well. We probably went to a movie. We had some nice dances at college. Some of the big bands would come and play. I heard some in Milwaukee too. That was the age of the big bands. Good danceable music. Carl was a serious student, being home from the service and older. Our dates were usually to the library to study.

Of course during the war we all had our hopes and dreams that our brothers and cousins and boyfriends would be home soon. Our family was fortunate. Everyone got back safe and sound. But the boyfriend picture changed along the way. Carl got back first and came to the University on the GI bill. As nice as my boyfriend was, he lost out.



**Perry Orlo and Rhodora during the war years in 1944 at Murray Avenue
(note Perry J on porch in background)**

We had a traditional marriage in the Unitarian Church. We had the reception in our home which I thought looked lovely, never looked prettier. Of course we just had fruit punch to drink because my folks didn't drink! Father had a beer now and then if he was hot and out somewhere with no water to drink. We spent our honeymoon at the cabin and then went back to Madison to school. Somewhere along the way we stopped and had some champagne.



Rho and Carl on their wedding day, courtesy Dale Leyse

After Carl and I were married I got a job at the Laundromat because I took our clothes there to wash and people kept asking me questions and I was so helpful that the owner gave me a job. Then I worked at the telephone office. I worked in a big office. At first I was just a clerk, but then I was given someone else's job when they quit and there was more work than I could handle. I wasn't really qualified for that job. Letters would pile up in my tray until this nice man would come over and help me catch up. Luckily, Carl graduated and we left Madison."

Carl and Rhodora lived in various places as Carl moved around with his employment.

Madison, WI – until 1948
Washington, DC – summer of 1948
Chicago, IL – fall 1948 to fall 1950
Evergreen Park, IL – fall 1950 to summer 1951

Shorewood, WI – Summer 1951 (Stayed at 4146 Murray Ave. while Mae Belle was on her Cook's Tour of England, etc.)

Idaho Falls, ID – late summer 1951 to summer 1956 (lived in 9th St. house about 3 years then another while their Morningside Drive house was being built which was lived in for a year.)

Clayton, MO - summer 1956 - summer 1957

'Clayton Crest', Chesterfield, MO - summer 1957 - summer 1959

Pine Glen, PA – summer 1959 - summer 1960

La Jolla, CA – summer 1960 - summer 1961

River Bend Estates, Chesterfield, MO - summer 1961- summer 1963

Glendora, CA – summer 1963- November 1964 (more than a year)

Placerville, CA - November of 1964 to July of 1972

Idaho Falls, ID – lived in one house 18 years then moved in Nov 1990

"We were married while we were still going to school in Madison. I had one year and Carl had two years till graduation. He got his degree in Mechanical Engineering with a physics option. I got a BA and majored in Zoology. The first place we went to was Washington DC, where we had one room in a house without air-conditioning. It was hot and muggy and I was pregnant. We used to sleep on the floor of the outdoor porch because it was cooler. Friends were there at the same time and two of us both pregnant would catch the bus and see some of the sights.

From there we moved to Chicago. We lived on the South side in a third floor walk-up apartment. We lived there about a year and one half. We moved in about three weeks before Karen was born. It was a changing neighborhood, and by the time we moved out it was all black. I didn't drive in those days. I knew how but we only had one car that Carl drove to work, besides I didn't want to drive in Chicago. We had a tiny porch where I could hang diapers or else go down three flights of stairs and hang them in the backyard. Then we found a little house in Evergreen Park. We looked for a long time to find a house close to good schools and away from busy streets and railroad tracks. We lived there six months and moved and that taught me a lesson!

Karen and Dale were both born in St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Karen on February 19, 1949 and Dale on August 17, 1950. Those were the days when you went to have your baby and you stayed for a week. You were given menus and were fed like royalty and you had a nice rest, before going home. I had never been around babies in my life because I didn't have any younger siblings or cousins. I had a lot to learn and Dr. Spock was my textbook.

So I stayed at home in Milwaukee the summer of 1951 and cooked meals for my father while mother was gone. That was when mother took her one big trip, a Cook's tour of England and France. She wanted to do that for years. She read a lot of English literature before she got to go. But she got sick drinking the water in France because she

wouldn't drink the wine. Carl spent two months in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It was the summer of 1951 before we moved out to Idaho, to the nuclear site. So I stayed at the house in Milwaukee with the children. I was running up and down stairs for safety pins or diapers or whatever. We stayed there, and I was wishing I was down in Oak Ridge with Carl, at least until mother came home. Father had his own routine. I cooked dinner for him when he was around. Mother enjoyed her grandchildren but father never really paid much attention to them. After dinner he always went around the corner to read to his mother.

At the end of that summer we moved to Idaho. Dale had his first birthday there. We bought a small new house on Ninth Street. Several years later we rented a home for a few months while we built a house on Morningside Drive. It was barely finished when we moved again. It was the only house we ever built. While we built the house we lived in BelAir, the slums of Idaho Falls. But about everybody we knew lived there at one time or another.

Then we moved to St. Louis. We lived in Clayton in an apartment upstairs from a blind lady and it really, really bothered me because the kids were young and boisterous and would run across the floor. I kept thinking about that poor lady downstairs. Luckily we moved out of there to Clayton Crest, a nice big old home in the country, west of St. Louis. That house had character! The living room was 30 x 40 feet, as big as our first house in Idaho Falls. It had an old fashioned kitchen that was pea-green in color. I was often alone with the kids while Carl went on business trips. That house was probably the biggest house we ever lived in. We bought the man's library for \$25, and that was the beginning of our collection of books. There was an old-fashioned dungeon of a basement where I had to take Dale and Karen, sometimes in the middle of the night when we were alone, for tornado warnings. But we had a beautiful yard with a hedge of mock orange and a magnolia tree. That's when we bought our grand piano and other things to help fill up the space. We had tall Christmas trees in the middle of the living room and we had the company parties there. We had that summer house where Carl would cook steaks, good steaks in those days. A friend had left his big 'box' of woofers and tweeters with us, along with his records while he lived in Italy, and we had the music on full blast. That was an interesting place!

From there we moved to Pennsylvania. That's when we sent Dale and Karen up on the plane to stay with Mom Leyse and we drove to Pennsylvania to look for housing. So then we lived in Pine Glen, Pennsylvania which was near Curtis-Wright's Research Center. Pine Glen was a new suburb out in the middle of nowhere up in the coal mining area. That wasn't the best year of our lives, and then the lab

closed and we moved to San Diego, La Jolla, California. We drove two cars all the way from Pine Glen, Pennsylvania to San Diego, California. That was quite a trip. I do remember the first night we spent in the motel. The California ants sent an army to investigate our empty cooler. We went up through Canada, up through Banff on our drive west that time. We camped in Rocky Mountain National Park with our cat in the tent with us. I drove all the way, including Las Vegas in rush hour traffic. And we got to San Diego safe and sound. I couldn't do that now.

We were in San Diego about a year. A lot of these moves were because Carl was either moving up the ladder or the company was changing. But we moved regularly for a few years. We went back to St. Louis and we lived in a modern subdivision west of the city, Riverbend Estates, I believe. Then the company had problems. Carl was president of Internuclear Co. at that point, but it turned out to be a difficult period for small consulting firms. That was a bad time and we had our problems.

We moved from there to Glendora, California and we would have been there longer than a year but the company moved the whole division up to Sacramento, California. We had an interesting house, right on the edge of the foothills. We were above the smog most of the time and we had horses there and six lemon trees. That's where we got Karen's first horse, Smoky. He was as stubborn as a mule, and the neighbor should never have let us buy him. We also boarded a nice horse for a young lady. Coyotes would come through our yard regularly and help themselves to our chickens.

From there Carl was transferred to Sacramento. He was tired of moving and ready to quit, but we all drove up with him to Sacramento to look around. We drove up through Placerville and decided we liked it. Then we drove over the mountains and through a snowstorm from Lake Tahoe down to Mammoth. Worst snowstorm Carl says he ever drove in; couldn't even ski Mammoth because it was snowing so hard. I believe that trip was in the beginning of the month of May. So we moved to Placerville. We lived there going on nine years; we were starting to settle down. We lived there from November of 1964 to July of 1972. Karen and Dale actually went to the same school all the way through high school. We had plenty of land but not a big house for the four of us. What sold me on the place before I ever saw it were the pictures of the two waterfalls and the woods and everything. Years later when they resurveyed, the falls ended up not being on our property at all. I didn't go there very often anyway because I always got poison oak. I had poison oak for years when we lived there. It was very different from where we lived before, and it was fun. We were out in the woods. We ended up pretty shortly with four horses. We brought that mule of a horse up with us, plus some banty hens

and three cats and a dog. We bought Ala Taleyn with her new filly and had her rebred as part of the deal, so before too long we also had another foal. None of the horses were too dependable for riding. You could ride Ala Taleyn, but of course there were the young ones running around which made it tricky. But it was fun and it was an experience. I spent a lot of time taking care of horses.

So from Placerville we moved back to Idaho Falls. We made the circle. Carl worked there and retired in 1984. We lived in one house for 18 years and then moved to the one we're in now in November 1990.

I was about to go to work before we left Placerville, but then we moved back to Idaho. Carl always wanted to get back here. Raising a family was a full-time job and especially since we moved so often. It wasn't the easiest job in the world!

Now we have more homes than we know what to do with. Somewhere along the way, we acquired an old cabin in Island Park, Idaho and a small condo in Teton Village, Wyoming. I drive over and enjoy wonderful music in July and August at the Grand Teton Music Festival."

Rho discusses some of the family vacations and her own interests and activities:

"In Idaho, when the kids were small, we would often go on camping trips and sleep in a tent. Carl could fish and we'd hike. Then in the winter we'd ski. When we first arrived in Idaho we went to Pine Basin for six weeks and learned how to ski, and then we went to Sun Valley and right to the top of the ski hill. We had a lot of friends that skied and we had some great ski trips and a few wild parties. I'm surprised we survived some of the drives home. We had after-ski parties and we skied Sun Valley and Jackson's Snow King. Had a great time! Carl went hunting and fishing with his friend Calvin Hogg; there was still good steelhead and salmon fishing then. I even went salmon fishing once near Red Fish Lake and let three of them get away. It was exciting!

When we lived in St. Louis we'd take trips in the middle of winter to go skiing. We went to Aspen, a couple of times. Once we got the last room in town. That house was built in the gold mining days and the lady had been there about that long too. Her male cat got in my suitcase and left his scent, ugh! Twice at Aspen, we were caught up on the mountain in blinding snowstorms.

We took a family vacation to Alaska in 1966. That was with our new Avion camper that we still have. We went from Placerville, California to Alaska by way of St. Louis and Wisconsin. We went to St. Louis to check on a house we had for sale. I flew on to Milwaukee to attend

father's funeral. We went north from there and had two broken axles along the way. I remember the first one... we were driving across the bridge in Two Rivers, Wisconsin and the wheel came off and went into oncoming traffic and it jumped over the edge of the bridge and landed in the water and just missed a couple of men in a boat. We tied up traffic because that was the only way through town. So we sat in Kewaunee at Mom Leyse's while that got fixed. Then we had the other on the Alaska Highway, mile number 233?

Carl had to leave us at some highway maintenance station at Profit River, Mile 245. There was only a motel, café and filling station. I spent most of my time in the camper reading 'Doctor Zhivago' while Dale and Karen got to know some of the young people working there. We sat by the side of that Alaskan highway for a week, while Carl made his way down by bus and plane to Seattle where he bought another truck, a Ford pick-up to replace the Jeep truck. He had a little trouble with that when he started out, but he made it and we continued what was left of Carl's vacation.

We did get up to Alaska and saw beautiful Mount McKinley and saw a grizzly bear in the meadow below the road. It looked like a moving haystack. We enjoyed the nice museum in Fairbanks. One morning in Anchorage, we watched helplessly while someone stole our reserve gas can off the back of the camper. Then we drove on to Haines where we took the ferry through the inland passage, south past Juneau to Prince Rupert. It was foggy or rainy the whole trip down. We could just see the little villages down at the water's edge but everything else was lost in fog. From Prince Rupert we had to drive back up to retrieve the Jeep because we couldn't sell it up there. So we had two cars and three drivers to get from Mile 169 on the Alaskan Highway back to Placerville, California in time for Carl to go back to work. He had six weeks vacation time... that became a real adventure! Three of us took turns driving home, with no time to spare. Karen was a real trooper because she would drive for a long time and still say she wasn't sleepy. We didn't let Dale drive until we were about maybe 30 miles from home because he didn't have his driver license yet, just his permit. We got home the evening before Carl had to go back to work. I have always said I'd like to go back to Alaska and do it right. We never have.

In Placerville, I liked to hike around and watch the wildlife when I had time. I joined AAUW, when you and Karen went off to school and I needed stimulating conversations. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I was instrumental in helping to start a recycling center which is still going strong. When we moved back to Idaho, Carl said "no more of that", so now I just recycle our own stuff.

Here in Idaho I belong to a book group and used to be in an antiques study group and an AAUW study group. I am a charter member of the Snake River Audubon Society and enjoy their programs and field trips. The book group is the only one where I have to lead a discussion. I don't like to give programs anymore!

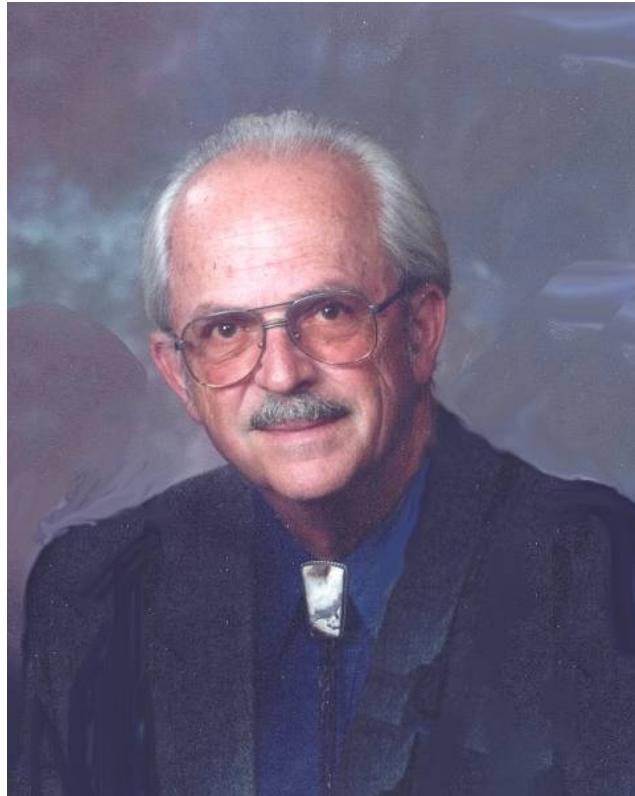
We were in an evening gourmet dinner group which met once a month until it finally folded. I play in a ladies Wednesday bridge group that I was in back in the fifties. It meets twice a month. Then there's a ladies Thursday bridge group, that meets once a month. Carl and I had some good trips, some business trips when I would go with him to San Francisco, Denver, Tucson and Mexico City. Once we went to Puerto Rico. Of course, he had some good business trips of his own to Italy and Japan, etc. We have vacationed in Puerto Vallarta and we went on a tour of England, Scotland and Wales when Carl retired. We took riverboat trip in New Orleans in December 1990, just after we moved into our present house. I needed that! We went to Lake Powell with a group of friends from Sociables. Sociables is a good group where we do different things every month.

Most of our trips were to Wisconsin, to Milwaukee to visit your parents, and Aunt Addie, and to Kewaunee to see Grandma and Angie Leyse. We often spent time at the cottage with my brothers and their families."



Rhodora and Carl

Carl died in 2004 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. His obituary follows:



Carl F. Leyse (1917-2004)

Carl F. Leyse, 87, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, died Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2004, at the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, with his family at his bedside.

He was born Feb. 11, 1917, in Kewaunee, to Henry and Emilie Duescher Leyse.

Carl graduated from Kewaunee High in 1934. As a young man, he enjoyed collecting butterflies. He was employed at Leyse Aluminum Co. as a lithographic pressman and also played trumpet in local dance orchestras.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was stationed in England, flying in B-17s as a weather forecaster. In 1948, he received a BS degree in mechanical engineering from UW-Madison.

On Sept. 7, 1946, he married Rhodora Stearns in Milwaukee. They began their family in Chicago, Ill., and resided in numerous locations across the United States, as Carl pursued his career in nuclear engineering. Over the years, Carl worked for Argonne National Lab., Phillips Petroleum Co., Internuclear Co., Curtiss-Wright Corp., Aerojet

Nuclear Co. and EG&G. Upon his retirement in 1985, he worked as a consultant in Idaho Falls, Idaho. In 2003 he was honored as an Idaho nuclear pioneer.

He loved to ski, fish, hunt, golf and play bridge. His love, kindness, wit and sense of humor will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Rhodora; daughter, Karen Leyse, of Davis, Calif.; son, Dale Leyse, of Placerville, Calif.; brother, Robert (Jan) Leyse, of Sun Valley, Idaho; and two nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Angie Leyse. A memorial gathering was held Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Wood Funeral Home in Idaho Falls.

Rhodora continues to reside in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**12th Generation
Children of Rhodora Stearns and Carl Leyse**



Studio Photo of Dale & Karen in Idaho Falls, circa 1954, courtesy Dale Leyse

163942311141. Karen Elizabeth Leyse (*Rhodora Stearns*¹¹, *Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷, *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born on 19 Feb 1949 at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.



Karen Leyse in grade school

Karen married **Douglas Tobin DeLapp**, October 12, 1974 in Camino, California.



Karen as bride in her 1974 outdoor wedding.

Karen next married **Jon Radke**, March 31, 1989 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

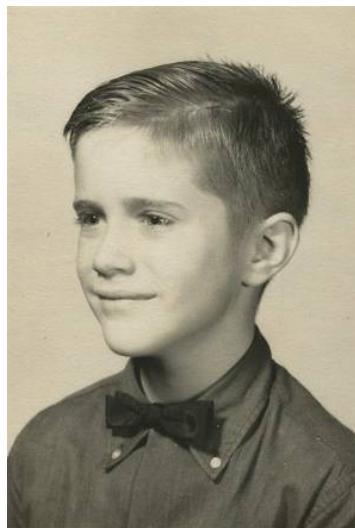
Karen studied at UC Davis and received her Ph.D. in 2005 on Amphibian/fish interactions, conservation biology.



Karen backpacking in Sierras

Karen lives in Davis, CA and works for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Sacramento, CA.

163942311142. Dale Robert Leyse (*Rhodora Stearns*¹¹, *Perry Jay*¹⁰, *George Orlo*⁹, *Charles Edward*⁸, *Jonathan Gale*⁷, *John*⁶, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Ebenezer*⁴, *Nathaniel*³, *Samuel*², *Isaac*¹) was born on 17 Aug 1950 at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois



Dale in Grade School

Dale graduated with honors in 1973 from Cal Poly, SLO (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA) with a degree of Bachelor of Architecture.



**Dale as foreign studies student in 1971-72; Copenhagen, Denmark,
courtesy Dale Leyse**

He lives in Placerville, California and is currently 'semi-retired' but still maintains his architecture office & practice there.



Rho & Dale in Idaho, July 2005, courtesy Dale Leyse