

The
Randall
Circle



Photos and information

Ruth Johnston Skidmore
 Marty Gaut Segyde
 Betty Bell Johnston
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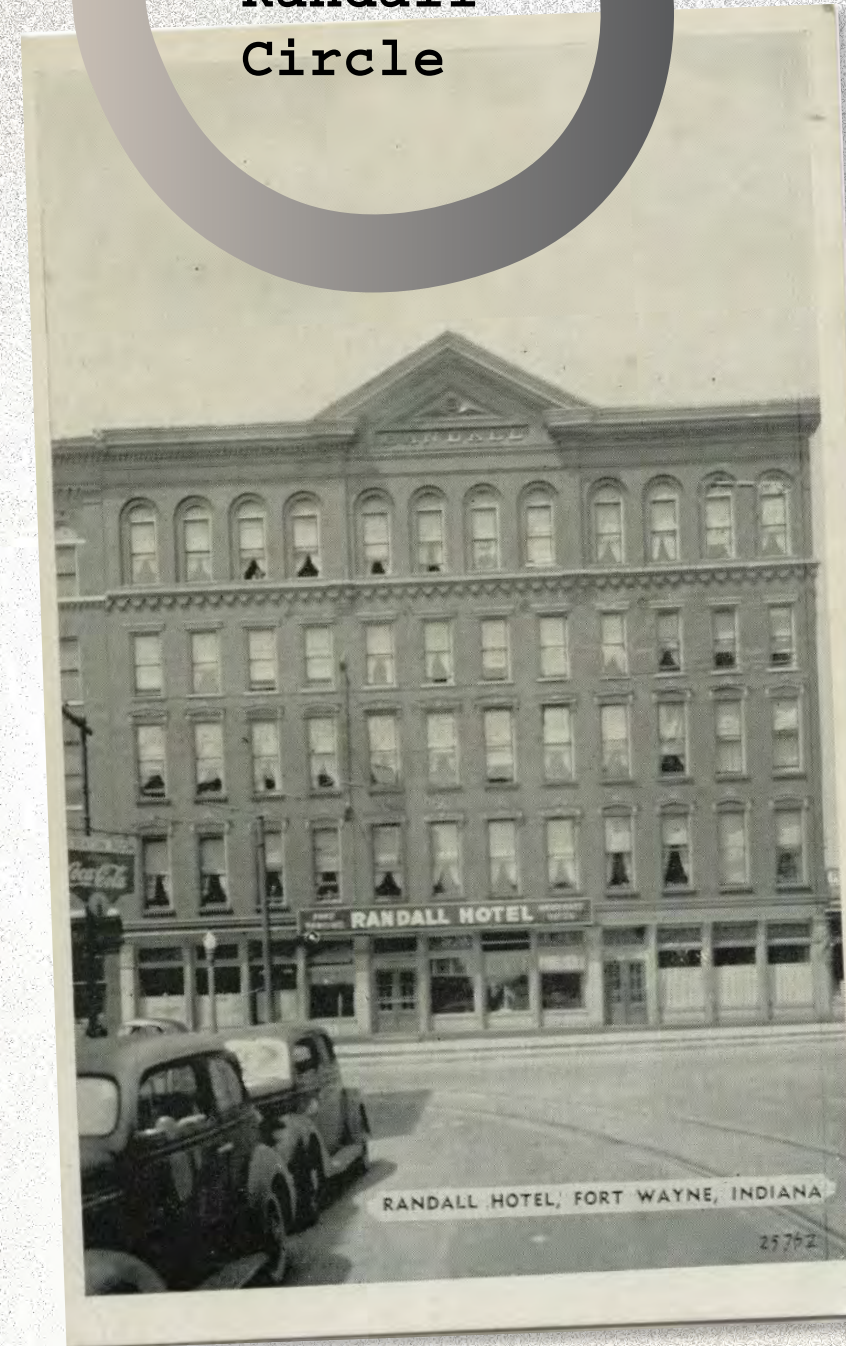
Thanks also to Jane
 Johnston and everyone
 else who saved photos.

The information in *The Randall Circle* is not intended to be a complete genealogy, however an attempted has been made to include family information and connections whenever possible for everyone shown. Hopefully, most of the information is correct.

The starting point was a random assortment of photos, and it grew from there. If anyone has additional relevant photographs or information, we can attempt to include it if there is a later version. PDFs of source materials are available upon request.

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The Randall Circle



The Randall Hotel and Its Proprietors

The Randalls and their hotel were at the center of a circle of family and friends, as well as Fort Wayne community and civic life.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, hotels like the Randall served a vital role for communities. "Traveling men" and local citizens used hotels as a hub for commerce as well as social connections. Goods and services were brought by traveling men who set up shop in their hotel. In the 1890s the "modern" 5-story, 83-room Randall Hotel... the best \$2 hotel in Indiana... became a center for commerce and social functions. Operated by Perry A. Randall until his death in 1916, it was then run by his widow, Winifred Johnston Randall until her death in 1963.

Located next to the railroad, just south of the Wabash & Erie Canal Orbidon Basin and docks, the site has had a rich and varied history. In the mid 1800s the Robinson tannery, on the same location, was as well known for leather as for the terrible odor of animal skins soaking in urine and oak bark. (Terrible odors were common in the 1800s and residents complained but took it in stride.) In 1870, James Robinson leased the property to JH Buckles for a hotel named the Grand Hotel... a Methodist establishment with no liquor or dancing... "a discouraging financial enterprise," according to Winifred Randall. In 1881, the 2 and 3 story building reverted to the Robinson family, becoming the Robinson House boarding house.

(continued on page 6)



**The
Randall
Circle**

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Randall Hotel Timeline

1889: The property at Harrison and Columbia Streets changed hands, was renovated and reopened as the Randall Hotel... "the finest hotel in the west."

1895: Young Winifred Johnston married Perry Randall and became co-proprietor of the hotel and partner in the Randall social/family circles, in addition to being at the center of the Johnston family circle.

1916: Perry Randall died and Winifred Randall, who never remarried, continued to operate the hotel until her death in 1963. As the surviving half of one of Fort Wayne's most prominent "power couples," she embraced both current and future members of the Randall Circle.



A Long and Interesting History

In 1891, Perry Randall purchased the property to avert a foreclosure proceeding on a first mortgage, which would have caused a financial loss for his client, who held the second mortgage... a loan made on Randall's recommendation. After extensive rebuilding and refurbishing, the Randall Hotel opened with a water tap on every floor, available drinking water and ice, wood stove heating and a horse-powered elevator. It was operated on the American plan with meals included, and was famous for a wide selection of wild game on the menu. (No mention found on the policy about liquor and dancing.)

You could find just about anything you needed in the neighborhood... taverns (hundreds of them), shoemakers, grocery stores, tanneries, clothing stores, grain elevators, dry goods stores, jewelers, drug stores, saddle stores, warehouses, an "opera" house, and even GG Brady's Circus, "about as tough a joint as ever came to Fort Wayne."

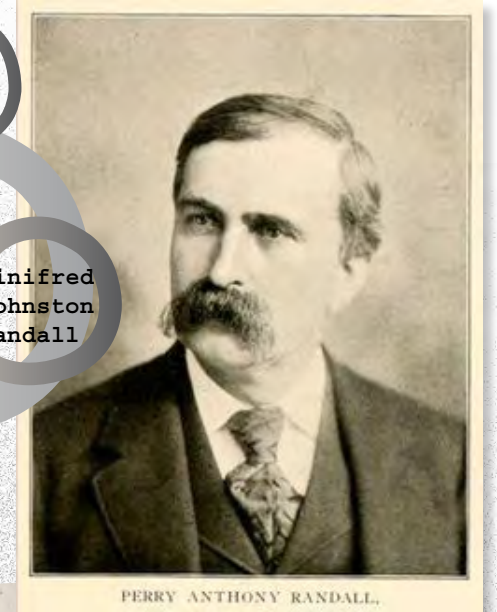
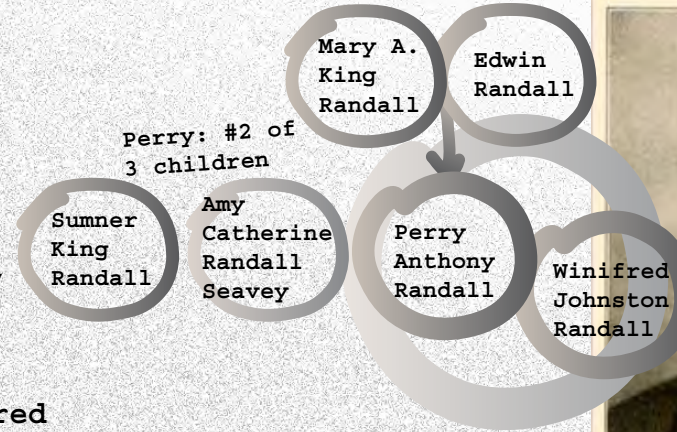


Harrison Street



Randall Hotel in the background

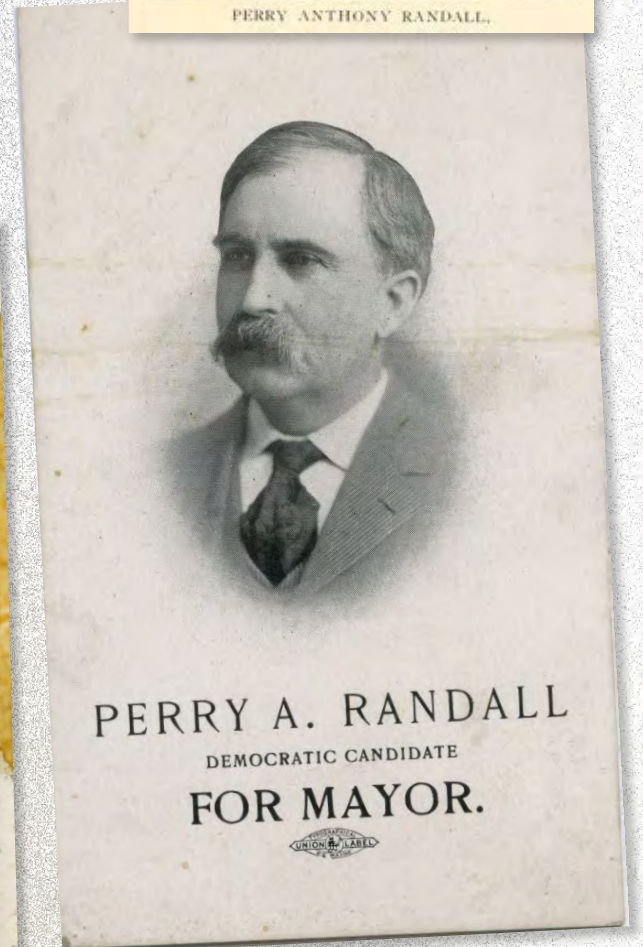
Winifred J. Randall, a historian at heart, enjoyed collecting stories and entertaining people with antidotes about half-frozen guests, disastrous storms, fires, notorious Independent Knights of Zoroaster (IKZ) initiations, traveling artists and horse-powered elevators. She shared some of these stories in a collection called "As I Remember," the source of much of this information. (PDF available upon request) Some of us are lucky enough to remember hearing Mrs. Randall's stories first hand.



PERRY ANTHONY RANDALL.



Fire like this one on Harrison Street was a common problem and all citizens had to help put them out.



Perry A. Randal was a descendent of the first Indiana settlers. Like his Randall ansesters, he took up law and civic pursuits.



Elizabeth Winifred Johnston Randall
(1873-1963)

Winifred Randall made history of her own in the early 1900s, when she famously won the contract for supplying white oak for Teddy Roosevelt's pet project, the Panama Canal. During the Great Depression, she transformed the Randall into a less grandiose establishment, which enabled it to survive the lean years. Her generosity enabled many in her circle of friends and family to survive the lean years, too. Her smarts and determination became an example for many baby-boomer gals, as the feminist movement began breaking down traditional barriers that she had broken down decades earlier. As a patron of the arts, she was among the founders of the Fort Wayne School of Art, today's Museum of Art.

Young Winifred



Randall Hotel lobby

Winifred Randall (center)
Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Lowrey were
cousins of Perry Randall



View from the roof...
Young Rhoda Johnston on the
Randall Hotel roof, c1930



The store fronts in the Randall Extension (next to the hotel) were leased to a variety of local businesses. Shown here, a hardware store. For years, family members enjoyed buying shampoo and beauty salon products from the beauty supply wholesaler in one of the store front. Today the Randall Extension has been renovated into the Randall Lofts apartments.



Randall Hotel 1961

Hotel Life



Randall Hotel staff photo taken in WJR's dining room in her apartment on the ground floor of the hotel. Winifred is at the center, Julius is to the right. Standing behind WJR (flowered dress) is Helen He

The hotel even had a Romanian Gypsy who told fortunes...



Also in WJR apartment, Winifred with Johnston sisters Mary and Ruth and their daughters Leslie and Sally, 1951



Julius Levintoff,
Hotel Manager

(1911-1964)



As a recent immigrant from Russia, by way of China and Paris where he studied piano, Julius traveled through depression-era America trying to find work. At the Randall, he asked to speak to the owner and apologized for being unable to pay the room rent... hoping to work off the debt. That was the beginning of a life-long relationship. He eventually became the hotel manager and Mrs. Randall's assistant and most trusted friend.

When Julius's family had fled Russia in the early 20th century, they immigrated to China and later sent Julius to Paris to study. When politics in Europe became difficult, they urged Julius to come to America. When WJR learned that Julius's parents were stuck in China, she wanted to help. But when the Levintoffs were finally able to board a ship for America, Julius's father was held back... only to die several weeks later. Nevertheless, the Levintoffs were always grateful for WJR's generosity. The Levintoffs, Randalls and Johnstons were like family.

As a hotel manager, Julius had a creative solution for every problem. When burlesque shows came to town, Julius would often hold on to the girl's luggage as security for the room rent. Ruth Johnston remembers many happy hours of playing dress-up in the skimpy burlesque costumes. Julius would regularly entertain "special" children by letting them run the elevator... always saying, "Don't tell Mrs. Randall." (Our secret!)

Randall Hotel history

A 1971 Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette article captures some of the highlights of Randall Hotel history, which was very much at the center of Fort Wayne history.



Winifred Johnston Randall, taken around 1960.

Around this time, her great nephew, Bernard Sisman, thought a recent event might be offensive to the elderly woman. She assured him that, "When you've owned a hotel as long as I have, there isn't anything you haven't seen or heard." How true... he remembered these words often when he worked for the Hyatt chain years later.

FORT WAYNE
JOURNAL-GAZETTE

Sunday

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1971

Tap Water

Hotel Manager's Family Kept The Pipes Flowing

NOTE: The Randall Hotel, whose facade marked the western terminus of Columbia Street, wasn't destined to become a part of The Landing—it was razed in 1965. But the archives of Roy M. Bates, Allen County Historian, show it survived a singular span of hotel development.

No one could appreciate the luxury of running water more than the Buckles boys whose lot it was many years ago to help keep the taps running in the old Robinson House, best remembered today as the Randall Hotel. It stood at Harrison and Columbia Streets.

Their father was J. H. Buckles, first proprietor of the hotel which for more than a century stared from many windows down the length of Columbia Street.

The Randall, known successively as the Robinson House, Grand Hotel and Brunswick House, finally attained eminence as the "best \$2 hotel in Indiana" and the strong backs of the Buckles brothers (conveniently they were four) were an undeniable help.

When the water level of the Wabash and Erie Canal nearby was too low to power a hydraulic ram (which was often) the Buckles pumped water from three wells in the basement to a reservoir on the roof which served a single tap on each floor. Water was carried in pails to the rooms but even so this was a convenience that endeared the hotel to the trade. Buckles made ice water available to his guests, too.

Manager Buckles might have been a severe father, but he appreciated the efforts of his sons: he did his best to persuade the city to convert a part of the canal system into a city waterworks in the 1870's—it could have been had for \$250,000 from downtown six miles up the St. Joseph River to the feeder dam.

Winifred Randall Saw Hotel Through

The late Winifred Randall, at one time the country's only feminine lumber buyer, was the life of the old hotel in its declining years. She died March 11, 1963, and two years later the building was razed and the site became a parking lot.

Besides running water the hostelry in early days had its own sawmill for

changed to Brunswick, but only briefly. Attorney Randall purchased the hotel building from Mrs. Robinson and her son for \$45,000 on Aug. 16, 1889 and the following month closed the building for renovation.

The following month, a telephone was added to the services of the hostelry.

Formal opening of the hotel under the Randall ownership came on May 23 of 1890 and it soon became a popular meeting place for community groups, including the monthly round table of the ministerial association. The first annual meeting of the National Cribbage Association was held there Nov. 17, 1892.

Randall added a 35-foot veranda to the main entrance of the hotel in 1891 and in 1894 the hostel installed its own electric plant. On Thanksgiving of that year more than 400 guests attended the annual game dinner in the hotel dining room—at these events a wide selection

of wild game and fowl were on the menu.

Dick Townsend, who had become manager of the Randall in 1890, disposed of his lease and furnishings in 1899 to Frank W. Beard of Chicago and Joseph W. Irwin of Little Rock, Ark., both experienced hotel men. The consideration was \$19,300 and the new lease was for a period of 15 years. Townsend subsequently leased the St. Charles Hotel in Toledo.

Another remodeling program had been conducted at the hotel in 1897, and at that time Randall announced that a 50-room addition was to come later.

This enlargement of the hotel was hurried by a \$90,000 fire, Oct. 28, 1904 that destroyed an adjacent building of the Pottlitzer Fruit Co., 608-10 S. Harrison St. and heavily damaged the Randall.

Randall immediately made plans to rebuild the damaged section and add two floors, making a building of five stories.

Of all the competitive ventures at the Randall, the one which brought its greatest popularity was a change from American to European plan on

cutting up firewood and a horse-powered elevator—all were innovations.

There was hope that the Randall could remain as a familiar backdrop for The Landing. For many years it had been maintained as a residential hotel by Mrs. Randall whose husband, the late Perry A. Randall, bought the property in 1889.

What was to be one of the state's leading hotels (along with the Rosemarie on Columbia Street) started as a three-story brick granary and tannery, built in February, 1856, by James H. Robinson, a tanner who came to the city in 1844. He opened a boot store on the first floor and later a tannery in the basement.

In earlier days an upper floor was occupied by a sporting organization of young people who called themselves the IKZ's. Often they dropped initiates through a trap door into the Orbison Basin of the old canal—but first they were roped around the waist so they could be drawn out to safety.

Continued On Page 3E.



HAD COLORFUL PAST—Once known as Grand Hotel, with no drinking or dancing, the Randall Hotel in its day sheltered VIPs from Benjamin Harrison to Buffalo Bill. It was theatrical headquarters, too during the heyday of Colerick Hall. The building, which marked the western terminus of Columbia Street, was razed in 1965.—Photo by Sid Pepe.

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The IKZ's also held bizarre parades, carrying candidates and human skeletons in coffins through the downtown.

Buckles leased the property Nov. 20, 1871 and converted it to a hotel. There was a dining room, a laundry in the basement and the kitchen occupied a two-story building at the rear.

Heating The Hostel Often A Problem

Coal was not generally used in the community then, and the hotel was heated entirely by wood stoves, only a few of them installed in the rooms. Thus, it became an expedient to set up a treadmill in a large room of the building on which usually two horses furnished the power for sawing up lumber into stove-size lengths. Sometimes three boatloads of wood were required to heat the hotel for a winter. Most of the stoves were set up along the hallways.

One morning in the dead of winter a guest appeared at the desk with his beard a solid mass of frost. He had slept comfortably, but his breath had frozen among the whiskers. The hotel often weathered 28 degrees below

Old Hotel Needed Strong Backs

Continued From Page 1E.

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Of all the competitive ventures at the Randall, the one which brought its greatest popularity was a change from American to European plan on

June 19, 1907 under the management of Frank E. Purcell. This change of program kept the hotel filled to capacity for a number of years afterward and it was during this period it became known as the best \$2 hotel in Indiana. Then, that was a substantial rate.

The city had been growing up around the Randall and newer hotels made their appearance down

town — The Anthony, Hotel Keenan and the Indiana. Usage of the Randall changed and finally it became a place for residential occupancy.

Mr. Randall died on Feb. 1, 1916 and was buried in Noble County. Mrs. Randall remained close to the hotel business until the time of her death. She had been active in the lumber industry at a time before hard-

woods were replaced in various areas of use by steel.

Unfortunately, The Randall Hotel was not destined to remain with The Landing but many of its treasures were salvaged as it left the downtown scene, to remind of the American period it served so well.

From aching-back plumbing through the European plan, it survived an amazing span of hotel development.

RANDALL HOTEL
Harrison at Columbia
100 all outside rooms
Rates \$1.50 up
W. J. Randall, Prop.
Julius J. Levintoff, Mgr.

Free Parking
Phone A 3112

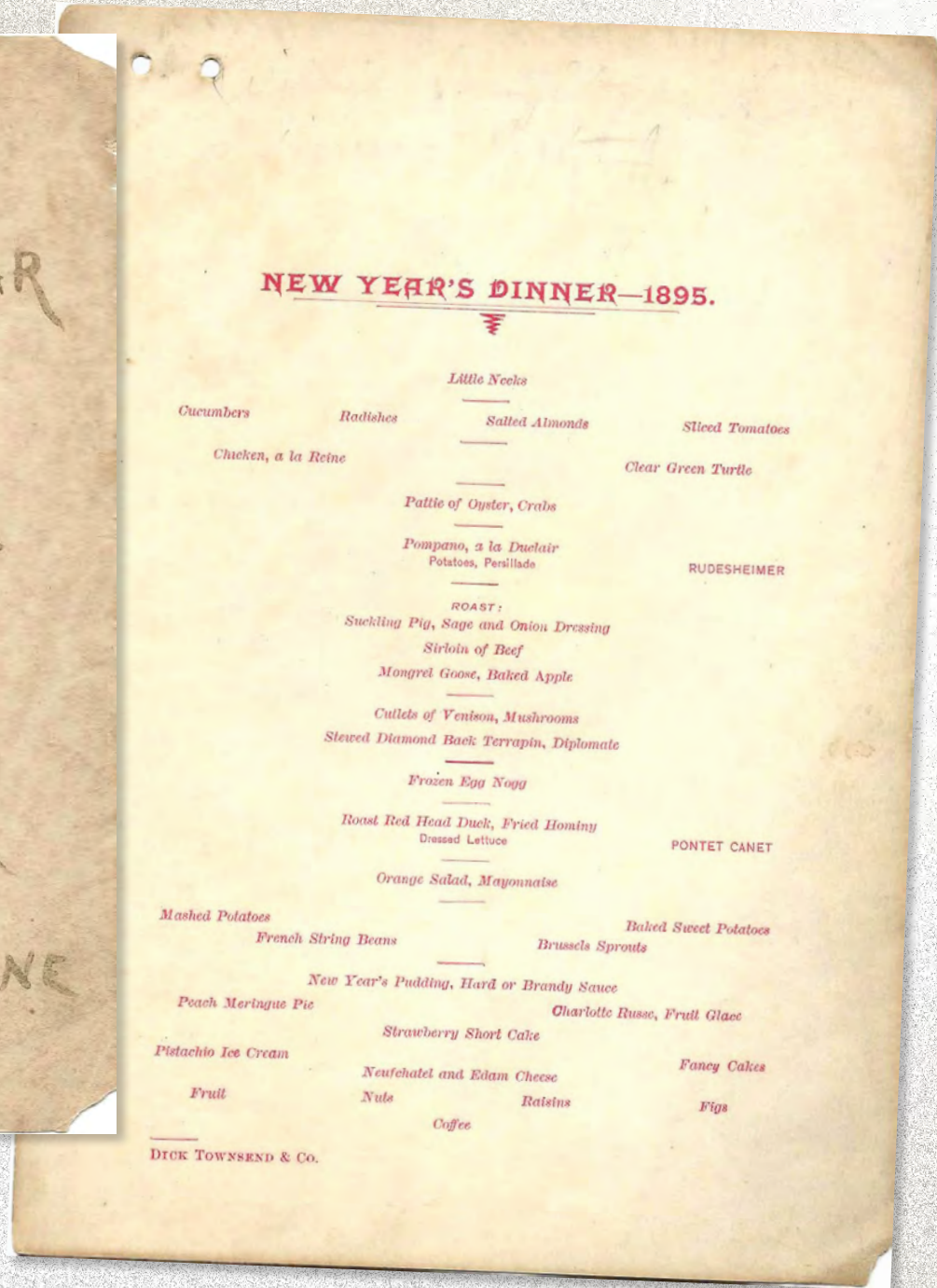
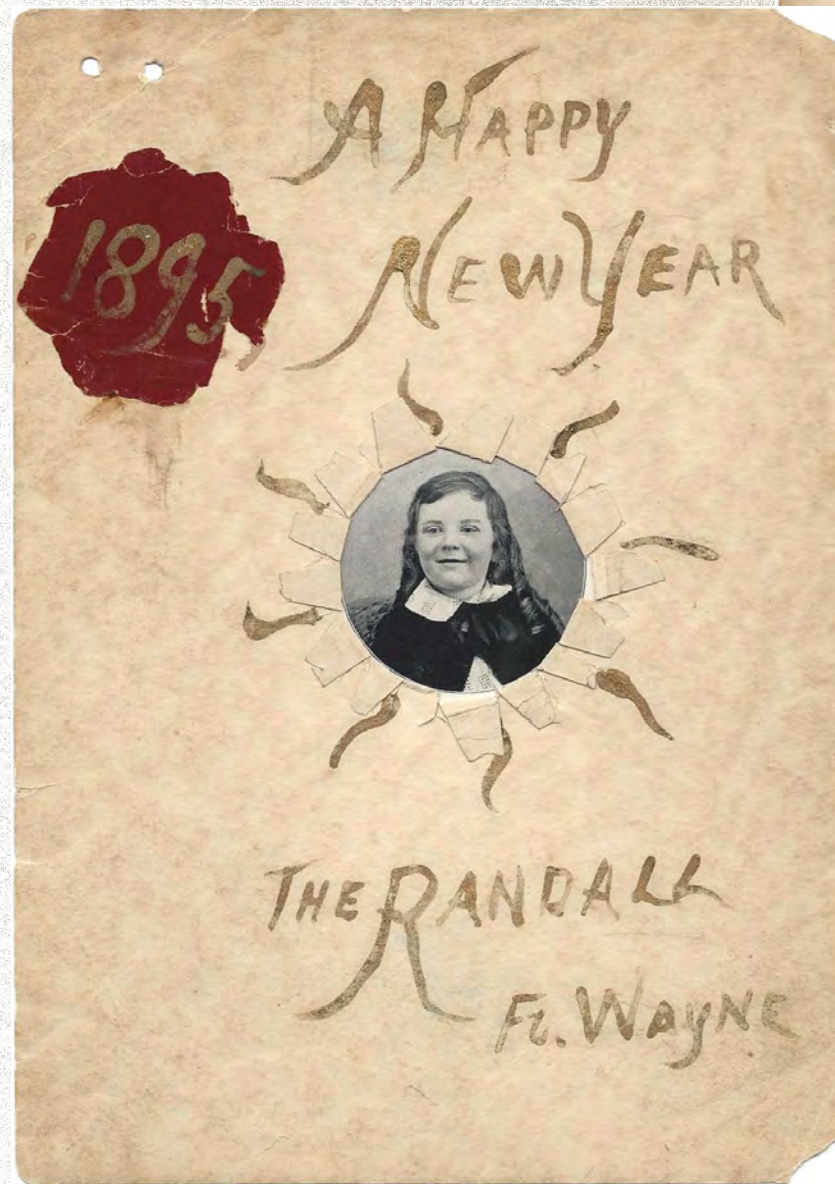
POST CARD



Hotel postcard... looks like they penciled over the price, raising the room rates from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

If you attempted to phone the hotel long distance in the 1950s or 60s, you had to be prepared to argue with the operator who would insist that Anthony-3112 didn't have enough digits for a phone number. Much to their surprise, the call always went through. In Fort Wayne, private phone numbers had 4 digits, while party lines had 5.

Holiday Celebrations at the Randall



1895 & 1898 New Year's Menus

The dining room at the Randall was one of the nicest restaurants in Fort Wayne with real silver flatware. The first indication that the depression was hitting really hard was when the silver began to disappear. It wasn't long after that the dining room was removed to turn the space into store fronts and an apartment for Mrs. Randall.

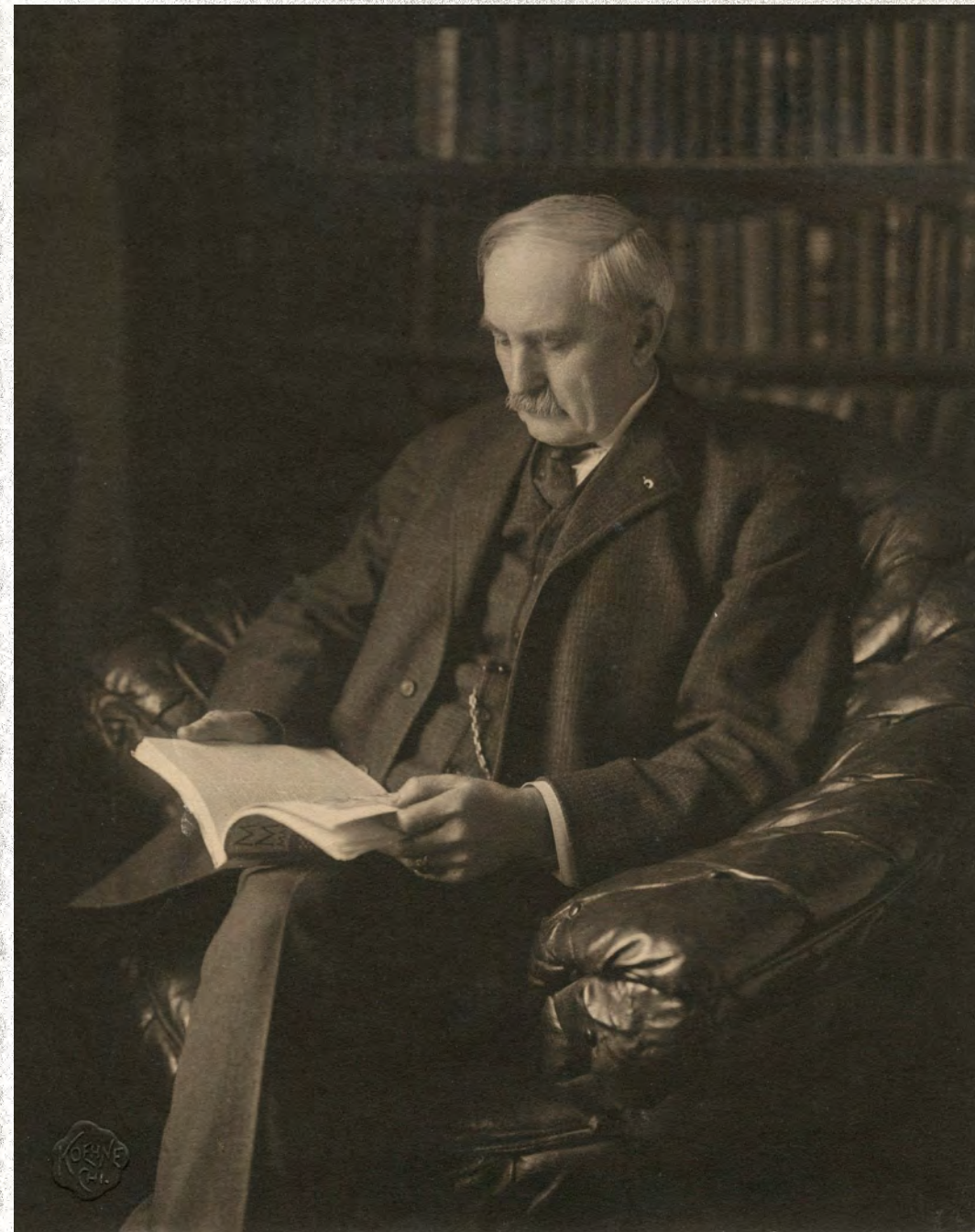
Randall Hotel Lobby at Christmas (1950s) Winifred Randall, in the dark dress, Julius Levintoff, next to tree.



"The Maine" was the US Navy ship that mysteriously exploded in Cuban waters... the event that got us into the Spanish American War. "Remember the Maine" was a patriotic slogan of the day.



Perry Anthony Randall (1847-1916)



One of the more famous stories about Perry Randall concerns the gold-leafed dome of the court house. After paying a contractor to purchase the gold leaf, Perry suspected that Fort Wayne was being cheated because he believed the gold color being applied way up on the dome wasn't real gold. They assured Randall that it was genuine and assumed their assurances would satisfy. Randall surprised everyone by climbing all the way up to the dome and exposing the fraud.



Family visit to the Perry A. Randall Monument, Fort Wayne

Published 1899

MEN OF PROGRESS.

INDIANA.

A SELECTED LIST OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS OF THE

LEADERS IN BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OFFICIAL LIFE.

RANDALL, PERRY ANTHONY, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is one of the best known and most successful attorneys of the northeastern section of the state. He was born at Avilla, Noble county, Ind., July 24, 1847.

His father, Edwin Randall, was born in Herkimer county, New York, May 18, 1808. He

MEN OF PROGRESS.

located at Avilla, Noble county, Ind., in 1836, and resided there on a farm until his death, which occurred September 14, 1873. He was a man of excellent qualities, and held the respect of the entire community. He held many minor offices and always discharged the duties devolving upon him with entire satisfaction to all.

His mother, Mary Ann King, was born in the state of New York, Dec. 18, 1824, and died Sept. 12, 1892. Her father was a farmer and contractor, and located at Avilla, Noble county, in 1837.

Mr. Randall's ancestors came from England in about 1635. His mother's father was a Scotchman of the John Calvin type.

Like the majority of men who have made a success in their profession and have attained a high degree of prominence in their locality, Mr. Randall received his early education in the country schools near his home. After a course in these schools, which were up to the average of those during his early life, he entered the Fort Wayne high school in the fall of 1864 and received a diploma from the classical department of this institution in June, 1867. His thirst for knowledge and mental development urged him onward in the educational field, and in the fall of 1867 he entered the University of Michigan. He took the classical course and graduated from this institution with the class of 1871. He subsequently took the law course in the same college and graduated with the class of 1873. The faculty of the university at Ann Arbor recognized in him a man of great ability, and in 1875 conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

Mr. Randall located at Fort Wayne for the practice of law in April 3, 1873, and has continued in the practice ever since. Aside from his law practice he is prominently connected with a great many business enterprises, and is one of the most influential business men in Fort Wayne. He was one of the incorporators of the Fort Wayne Electric Light company, in 1882, and has been a director and vice-president of the company since that time. He was



PERRY ANTHONY RANDALL.

also one of the incorporators of the Indiana Machine works and of the Indiana Road Machine company, and has been a stockholder and director in a large number of manufacturing concerns in Fort Wayne. He has also been a partner of many business firms of that city, and in 1895 was president of the Fort Wayne Centennial celebration, and in 1898 was president of the Business Men's Street Fair and Carnival committee.

Mr. Randall has always been a Democrat politically, and affiliated with that party until 1896, when he declined to accept the principles set forth in the Chicago platform. He attended the convention of the national Democrats held at Indianapolis during the fall of 1896, and was committeeman from his congressional district. He cast his vote for Palmer and Buckner, believing that this platform represented the true principles of Democracy. He is an effective political worker and his opponents have the highest regard for him on account of his frank and open manner in conducting political campaigns.

Mr. Randall is a 3rd degree Mason, and belongs to the Scottish Rite bodies of Fort Wayne



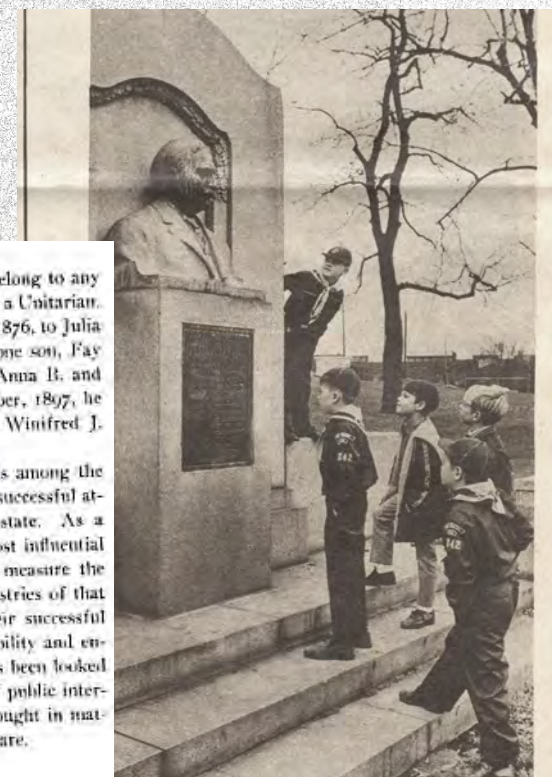
Descriptions of Perry Randall include honorable, civic leader, respected, admired, honest and above reproach...

His sister Amy described an incident in which Perry, motivated by simple kindness, took up the cause of two young boys, orphaned at sea while enroute to America. When the captain confiscated their property, the boys were helpless to challenge the injustice. Although the legal system was "primitive" and there were many who were "not noble," Randall was able to right the wrong.

and Indianapolis. He does not belong to any church organization, but in faith is a Unitarian.

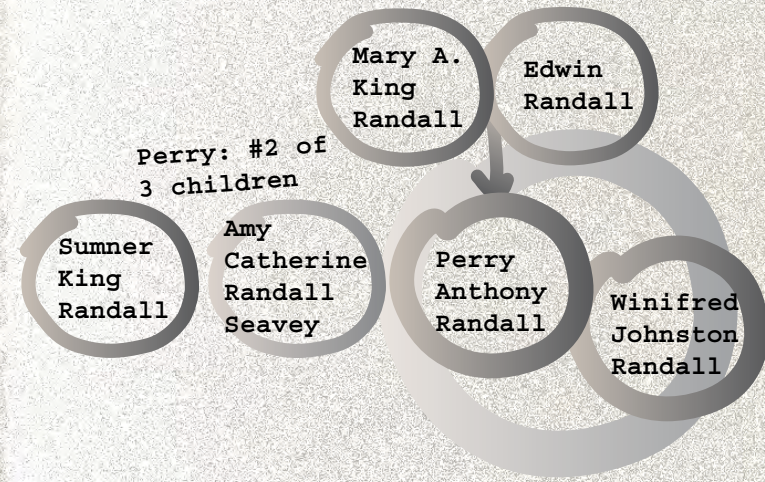
He was married in September, 1876, to Julia F. Fay, and has three children—one son, Fay D. Randall, and two daughters, Anna B. and Carrie Louise Randall. In October, 1897, he was married to his present wife, Winifred J. Johnson.

As a lawyer Mr. Randall ranks among the very best, and his reputation as a successful attorney reaches over the entire state. As a business man he is one of the most influential in Fort Wayne, and in a large measure the manufacturing and business industries of that city are indebted to him for their successful management on account of his ability and enterprise. For many years he has been looked upon as a leader in all matters of public interests, and his counsel is always sought in matters pertaining to the public welfare.



CUB SCOUT PACK 3040 from Anthony Wayne School look at the bust of Perry A. Randall sculpted by Frederick C. Hibbard and "erected by the citizens of Fort Wayne as a memorial to Perry A. Randall in recognition of the high example of patriotism his life afforded." The monument was placed in East Swinney Park, West Washington Blvd., in 1916, the year he died.

The Randall Family



The Randall family: Sumner King Randall (Perry's older brother, who looks older than he is), Loretta, Mary, Brice, Em Warrell, Amy Seavey (Perry's sister), Perry Randall (3rd from the right), Velma Onneck, Winifred, Avery Randall

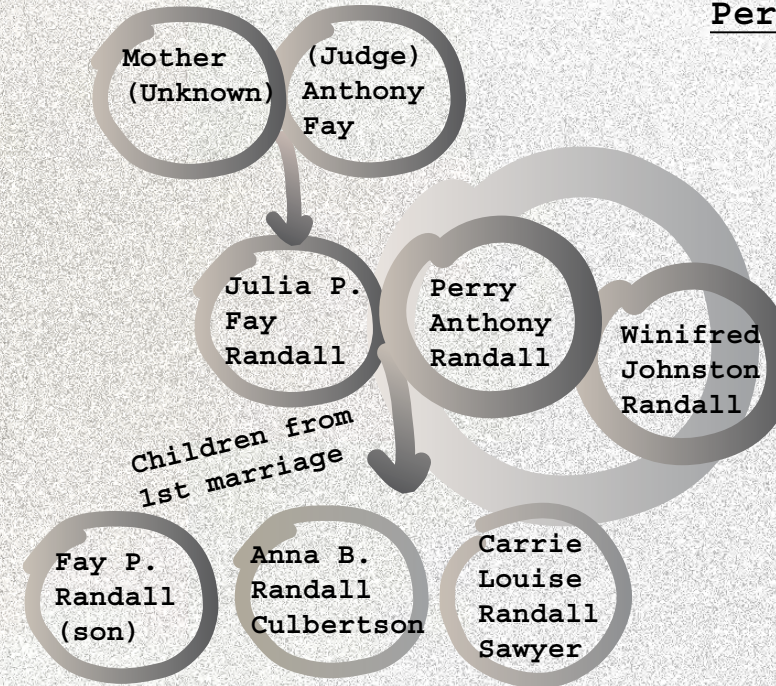


Sumner Randall's family in Avilla, Indiana

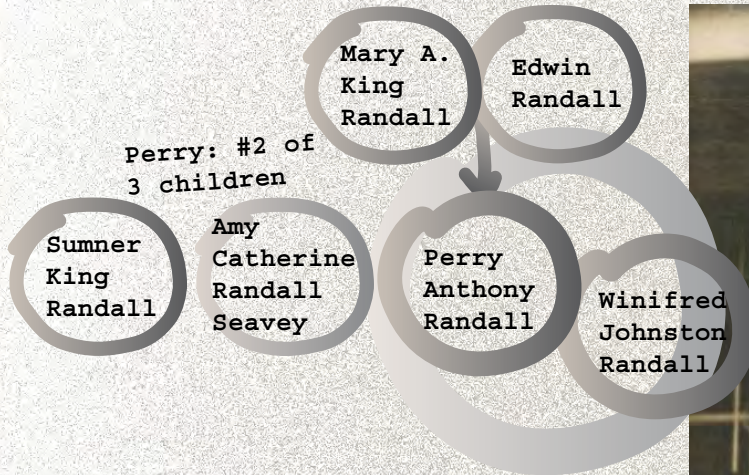


Perry's sister's family: Irma Merriam, Leila Seavey, Winifred Randall, Perry Randall, Amy Seavey (Perry's sister) Walter Seavey, in front, Walter Seavey Jr, Elizabeth Seavey (taken at Oak Knoll in Fort Wayne)

Perry Randall's First Family



Perry Anthony Randall (seated on the left), son Fay Paine Randall (standing with glasses), daughter Anna Randall culbertson (standing) and daughter Louise Randall Sawyer (seated on the right)



Sumner King Randall



Perry's brother Sumner made his home in Avilla Indiana

Perry (2nd on back),
Sumner (with long
beard) in Avilla



Sumner Randall
Sumner's farm in Avilla Indiana

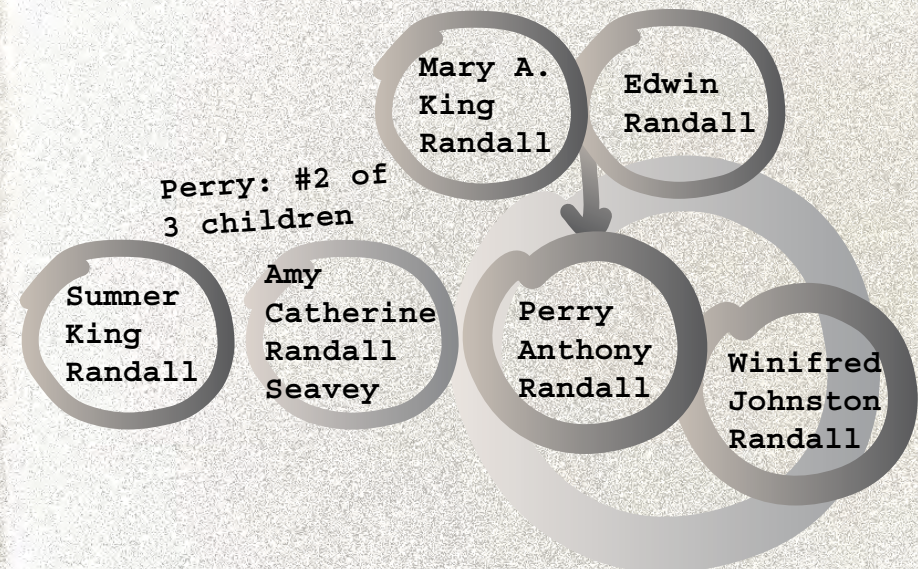


Sumner's children



Don Johnston (WJR's
brother) at the Randall
Avilla home





Amy Catherine Randall Seavey

Perry's sister Amy is remembered fondly by all the Johnston children. Even though she moved to Pasadena CA, she never lost her Fort Wayne connections.



Amy and her family were descendants of Michael Crofts, one of the Revolutionary War soldiers honored on a DAR plaque in the yard of the Swinney homestead. She married Gideon Webster Seavey, a second cousin of Daniel Webster. Their grandfather Hiram King was a well known pioneer minister.

Amy was a keeper of history and gifted her collection of memorabilia to the Fort Wayne Allen County Historical Museum. In her collection, she favored ordinary items that people used everyday... the kind of things that help us understand how ordinary people lived.



Walter Seavey (Amy's husband and son were both named Walter.)



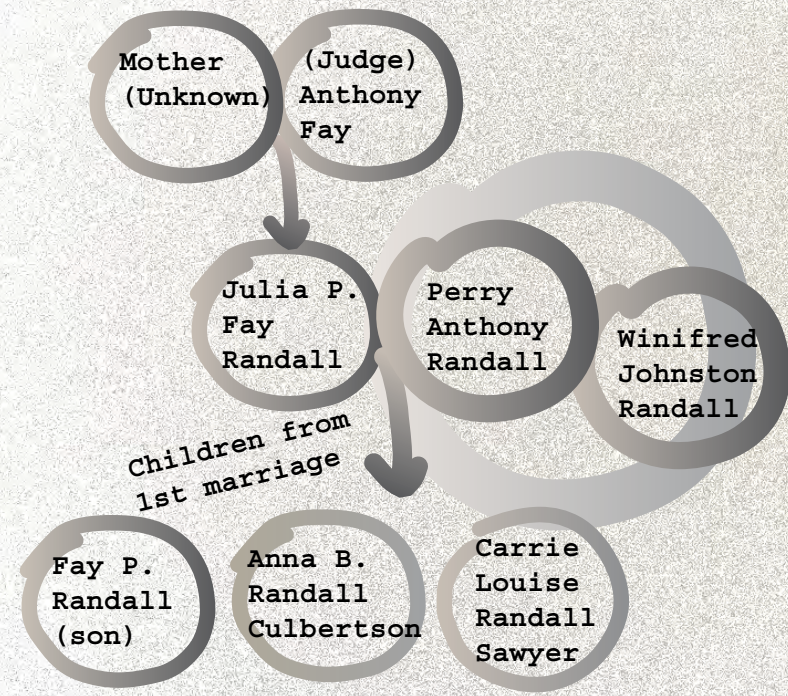
Viola & Tom Aber, Pasadena CA



Tom Aber PASADENA CALIF



A.J. Aber & trainer PASADENA



Fay Paine Randall (1878-1944)
Anna Randall Culbertson (1879-1969)



Anna Randall Culbertson



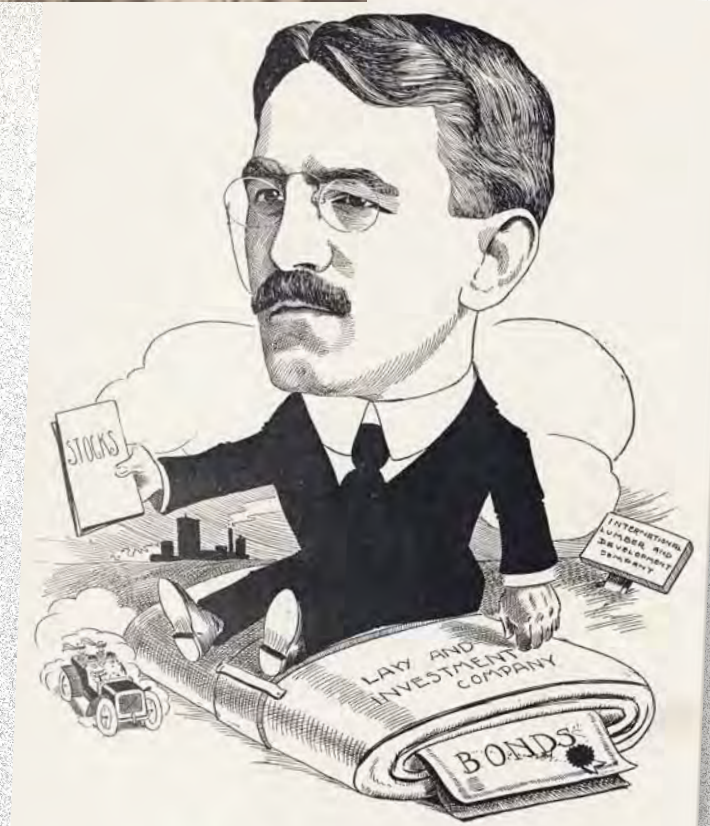
Anna Culbertson & Jewel



Julia Randall (Fay's mother)



Fay Randall with baby Judy

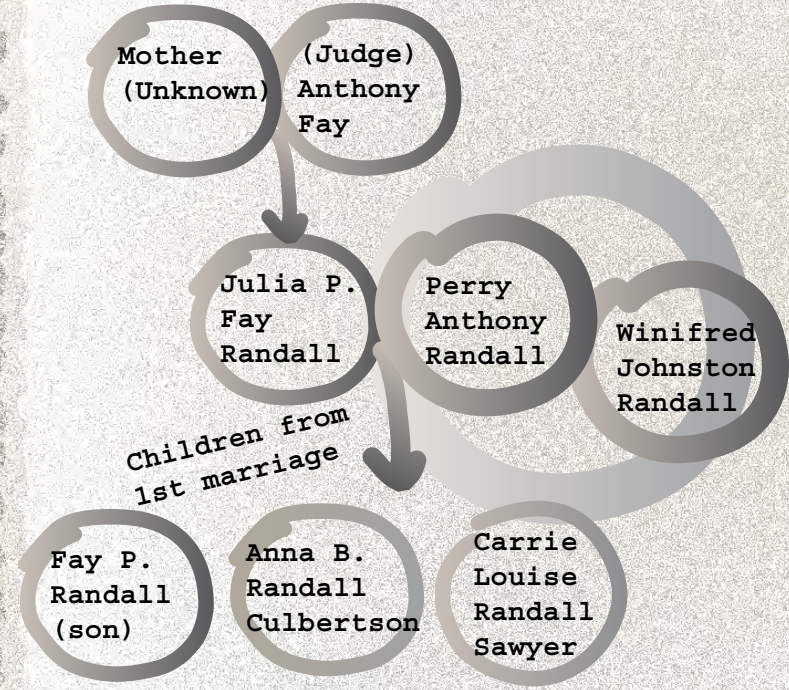


MR. FAY P. RANDALL.
 Stocks and bonds with the gilded edge,
 Investments galore with the useful per cent,
 For an easy flight your wings will fledge
 If to your affairs his service is lent.

A flyer for Fay's investment services reflected the pre-depression-era attitude about the easy money that could be made in the market.



Jewel Culbertson



Louise Randall Sawyer & family



Sawyer children, including cousins Catherine and Jewel Culbertson



Sawyer children



Louise Randall Sawyer



Young Louise



Frank Sawyer & sons in front of their home in Montclair NJ



Frank Sawyer & son



The Sawyers at sea

The Randall Residence

The Randall homestead at 409 East Berry Street was featured in *Pictorial History of Fort Wayne*, 1917.

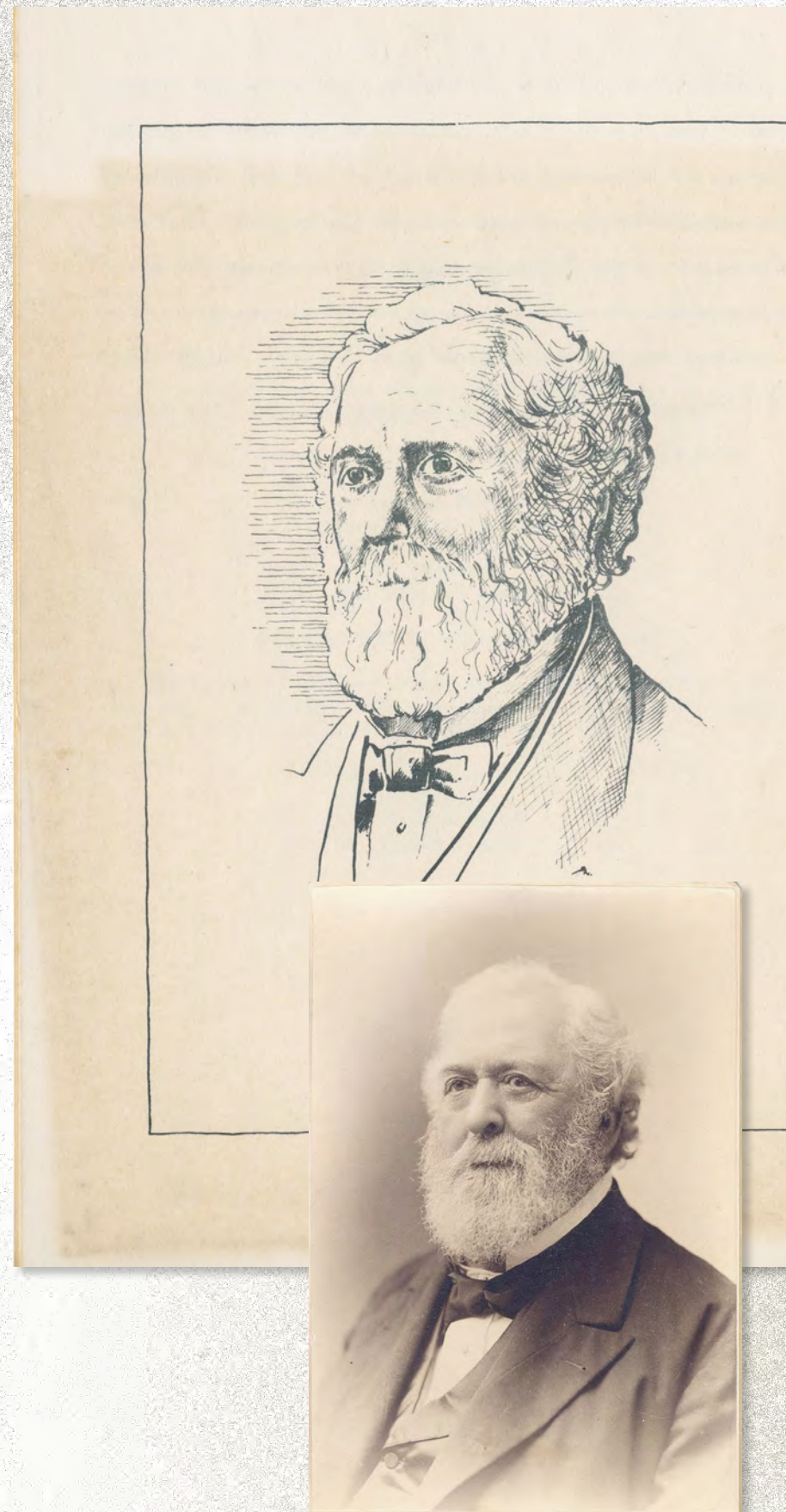
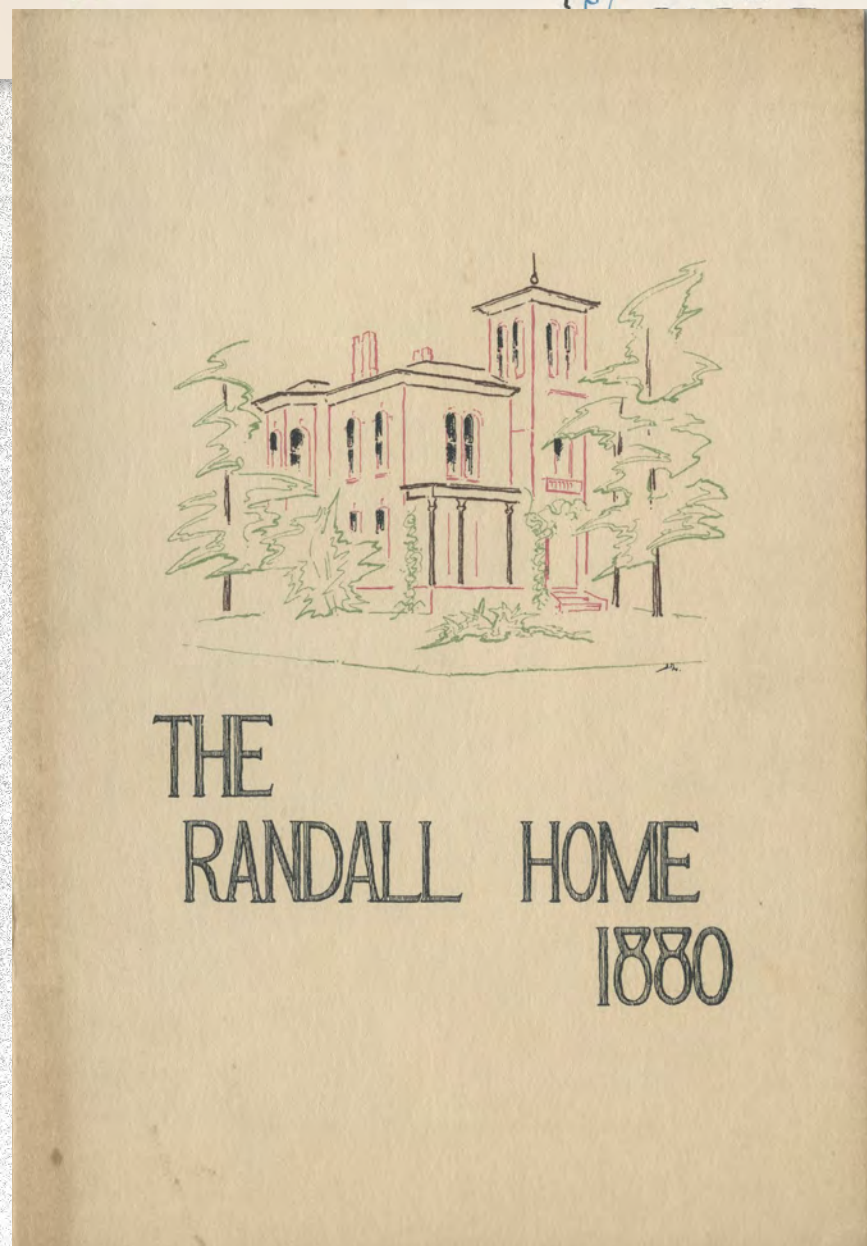
Franklin Peleg Randall (1812-1892) was the ancestor responsible for the unusual architecture and gardens.

The residence was unusually large (3 lots) and had a garden unlike any other. Franklin, a 5-term mayor of Fort Wayne, also had a serious interest in the railroads, horticulture, architecture and collecting rare books. He acquired and cultivated exotic plants from the tropics, and amazingly got many of them to thrive in Indiana. The Randall residence was a popular tourist destination, with visitors coming to see the giant palm in front of the home.

Franklin's collection of rare books was the equal of any in the country, with illuminated hand-lettered Bibles dating back to the 13th century.

The booklet shown here was a commemoration of Perry A Randall's grand 1888 New Years gala, when all of Fort Wayne's A-listers came to see and be seen in their diamonds and finery.

-PDF available upon request



Young Agnes Fairbanks, Franklin's granddaughter in front of the residence. She would later become Mrs. James Taylor (not the musician!). Mrs. Taylor is in many of The Randall Circle photos and is the mother of Blanche Taylor Johnston.

409 East Berry Street was the homesteaded property that became the residence of generations of Randalls. In it's day, it was one of the most unusual and interesting homes in the area... it was well known for the unique architecture and exotic garden.



Randall Residence 1889 (above)



In 1919 soldiers bound for the Great War marched past 409 East Berry. The photo at the right was taken during the WWI era. Today, there are no remnants of a house or any private residences on this site.



The stylishly furnished sitting room of the Randall residence often served as a photo setting with friends and family.



The dining room at 409 East Berry Street



Mrs Harry Prentiss, Grace Crosby, Winifred Randall, Mrs Potter, E.P. Johnston, Mrs Stans
Knitting World War I
Randall Homestead

Knitting for WWI soldiers at the Randall homestead: Mrs Harry Prentiss, Grace Crosby, Winifred Randall, Mrs Potter, Eliza Prudence Johnston (Winifred's mother), Mrs Stans

Randall Residence: Friends & Family



Winifred Randall with brother Donald D Johnston on left



A quiet moment... Grace Crosby

The gardens at 409 East Berry also made a lovely setting for pictures of friends and family.



Rhoda Johnston with Winifred Dixon, Mrs Rogers, Abbie Chase and Winifred Randall



Winifred with Robert Johnston in a WWI army hat



WJR on left... Mrs Taylor on right



Annie Lowry, Winifred Randall, Mrs Taylor



Mrs Stavyer & Clara Potter



Jes Rogers, Abbie Chase, Helen Rogers Morse, Gus Morse



James Rogers



Bob Dixon & Winifred



Winifred Dixon

Who is Winifred Dixon?

Winifred Randall took in a young boy named Robert Dixon, who later married Dora. Winifred is their daughter. WJR educated Bob and gave Dora a job as a cook at the Randall Hotel. According to family lore, Bob aspired to be an artist, but his most significant artistry was in writing checks on WJR's account. Although friends pointed this out to WJR, she preferred to ignore it.

Winifred Dixon



RANDALL RESIDENCE



Winifred Dixon 409 E BERRY ST



409 E BERRY



10.5 Randall Winifred P. Mrs D. W. Taylor

Winifred Randall, Winifred Dixon, Mrs Taylor



Winifred Randall, Helen Reese, Abbie Chase



David Cavdillelli family



Gregory Kinnerk



Orna Miller Gee, family friend who lived at 409 East Berry Street.

Winifred Johnston Randall
1873-1963

As a young widow, Winifred Johnston Randall continued running the Randall Hotel, a lumber mill (see page 38) and various farms. She paid the taxes and kept the Randall homestead in the family. She did legal work for many, including the Swinney family... among other things, helping them gift land to the city of Fort Wayne as Swinney Park.

Because of her love of art, she would be instrumental in founding the Fort Wayne Art School and Museum. The Randall Hotel became a mecca for traveling artists, who paid their hotel bills when they made enough money and gifted artwork when they didn't. Her grand piano had it's concert debut when Paderewski insisted on having it moved to the concert hall for his performance.

She was a prominent businesswoman in her own right, but it was her generosity that made her a beloved aunt and civic leader. She gave a home to numerous nieces and nephews and put more than a dozen children through college.



At the sawmill



Ed Davis & family



Winifred Johnston Randall and Mary Randall Wheeler Beckman 1957



Winifred Johnston Randall with brother Don Johnston 1962



Winifred Randall handled real estate matters for the prominent Swinney family, including the gifting of Swinney Park to the city.



Winifred Randall and Edna Randall



The Panama Canal

While the 1961 Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette article captured the public story of Winifred Randall's involvement in the Panama Canal project, I heard the story first hand several times. Aunt Winifred loved telling it, and here's how I remember it (with some background information added).

-Leslie Sisman

In the early 1900s, Winifred was finally getting ready to spend some time taking art classes in Chicago. She had a talent for art and a head for business. Her father had encouraged her to take some business classes, and from there she had gotten a job working for attorney and family friend, Perry Randall. He was a widower with 3 children and knew a good find when he came to know young Winifred. After the two were married, Perry wanted Winifred to be able to pursue her love of art and study in Chicago. That's when Winifred first learned that the mill was going to bankrupt them and decided she had to take over the running of it... a role she was uniquely qualified for.

The sight of WJR in her long skirt and boots at the mill was always a topic of conversation.

Queen Of White Oak

A Brave Woman Moved The Timber

By BESSIE K. ROBERTS

She was a slender young woman of average height with a touch of gold in her hair when a strange career started. Before she was through, she had kept scores of mills abuzz on Indiana white oak which helped dig the Panama Canal and provide keels, hulls, bows and ribs for a U.S. emergency fleet in World War I.

Mrs. Winifred Johnston Randall worked like a man and won the title of lumber inspector-work usually done only by men.

"If there was any woman during the 30 years from 1904 to 1935 inspecting and tallying lumber, nobody seemed to know who she was or where she could be found," she told me recently.

She could stand on a lumber pile all day in sub-zero weather if necessary, with ruler and tally in hand, measuring and inspecting lumber, at all times familiar with the uses to which it would be put.

"I could stand out as long as any man and never had to dress any differently. My only problem was to be able to walk safely and move around on a pile of lumber covered at times with snow or damp with rain. This problem was solved by wearing the smallest size men's felt shoes that not only kept me from falling but kept me warmer in severe cold."

Her only gesture toward masculinity was to wear woollen socks and men's felt shoes. She didn't even have to drink, smoke or swear.

goal for her ambition. In fact she had just expressed to Mr. Randall a desire to go to Chicago for a day with some artist friends to look over the Art Institute, when the blow came.

"His face fell a mile," she recalls. He told her that the mill in which he was a silent partner had just failed, and left a debt of \$50,000.

"We are \$50,000 worse off than nothing," he told her.

"I remember I began talking to myself. Here's where I make up my mind. The art must go, I told myself. I decided to go into the mill at the corner of Broadway and the Wabash Railroad the next morning to take care of the office. I was the only woman on the place, and in charge. It was a horrible old hole, 17 feet below the railroad. When it rained it was like a grav-

el pit and we had to pump the water out. But I was not unhappy there."

Did Six-Year Stint At Old Sawmill

For six years she went daily to this hole where she could not see above the ground, and loved it—the hum of the saws, the fine people she had to deal with in sawmills, all loyal, responsible. She used whatever form of transportation was available: horse and buggy, Broadway street-car, on foot.

After struggling against odds for five or six years to lower the debt, it was decided in 1910 to close down the mill and dismantle it.

"At that time I had only one order for a carload of white oak timbers for the Bucyrus-Erie Company of South Milwaukee, a firm I had been supplying with

dredge timbers. But I began to hesitate and feel uncertain about going on with furnishing the lumber until "Steam Shovel Mike" Devitt came down from the Bucyrus Company to rush the shipment."

"You have to decide now what I am to tell Mr. Knoll about these orders he is holding for you. The mill owner has just told me he plans to go up to South Milwaukee tomorrow to get your orders."

"Tell Mr. Knoll I won't let any man beat me to it! I will fill his orders.

"I could not pass up that challenge. I went out and bought white oak timber cut to sizes in different towns around. I knew just where to get it and how to saw it. I watched them saw; di-

Continued On Page 2E.



Her Appointments Kept Meticulously

... she had to keep appointments with men who were on hand at the mill with teams and could not be disappointed. She made it her business to be at the mill by 7 o'clock in the morning when the whistle blew—rain or shine.

Only once did she fail. On the day of President Warren G. Harding's funeral there was a snafu, and her record was spoiled. She was never allowed to forget it.

Her philosophy included a note on the weather. If you put up your umbrella and start, the clouds will disappear by 7 o'clock. That was her version of the lumberman's code.

This code carried her through a fabulous era of supplying the demand for Indiana white oak — cut and saved by Indiana and Ohio mills for dredge timbers used in excavating the Panama Canal and timbers for the government fleet.

Like many another career, it began with a blow dealt by fate.

Until the 1890's Miss Winifred Johnston of Albion, had never been called upon to make a decision more important than to which should she devote her life—music or art? So she was given opportunities to study both—art at the Carriage House Art School on the grounds of the Allen Hamilton Homestead, and piano at the European School of Music.

Her father finally came up with a suggestion that settled a part of her problem. She accepted his offer of a year of business training during which she discovered the "open sesame" to gainful employment and started to work in the Noble County recorder's office.

Her interest continued to the point that several years after her marriage to Perry A. Randall, prominent Fort Wayne attorney, she began to look toward the Chicago Art Institute as a

QUEEN OF WHITE OAK

She Kept The Timber Moving

Continued From Page 1E.

ected them to cut out defects so there would be no waste.

An order for five carloads came the next day, to be used, she learned later, for the digging of the Panama Canal; orders which she knew were only the beginning and would continue until the canal was completed.

"Every stick that went into the Panama Canal was from our Indiana and Ohio mills. Nobody else sawed that long—as long as 29 feet and 60 feet. The orders came on order blanks, not in letters. I can see them yet, great piles of them. They never asked the price. We could have raised the price and made twice as much. But we did not change our price."

She kept saying "we" from habit. But the entire job was hers.

Nor was she ever quite sure about all the timber for the Panama Canal until there appeared in a history of the canal, America's Triumph At Panama this statistic: Two makes of steam shovels were used in the excavation work, the Bucyrus and Marion . . . The work done by the steam shovels would dig a canal 55 feet wide and 10 feet deep from Maine to Oregon."

Erie and Marion steam shovel manufacturers as mountings for their buckets. The mills engaged exclusively by Mrs. Randall for cutting white oak were located in Wabash, Decatur, Grabil, Peru, Malott, Kendallville, Fort Wayne, Mentone, Huntington, LaFontaine, Mar 1 e, Portland, Bluffton, Warren, South Whitley, Elwood and Hartford City in Indiana; Schum, Ohio City and Greenville in Ohio.

"Of course all this meant inspections in different towns by a capable person employed to inspect and tally. In the first carload, the inspector overlisted timbers in his tally. So I decided I could do no worse than he had done, and that I would inspect personally and tally every car when loading, as well as continue to furnish the white oak timber. In this way I would be able to pay the debt on the defunct sawmill.

"As I was familiar with all of the dimensions, having sawed all these pieces at the Fort Wayne mill, this was not too difficult."

As orders began to come from all the dry dock companies around the northern lakes and from the west coast. Mrs. Randall had to find additional small mills in Indiana and Ohio. Among these lake firms to whom she furnished many thousands of feet of timber were the Manitowoc Dry Dock Co. (now worth millions); Leatham D. Smith

Navigation Co.; Sturgeon Bay Dry Dock Co.; Chicago Dry Dock Co.; Burger Boat Co.; Canadian General Electric Co., Montreal, Can., builders of the first lock at the head of the St. Lawrence. This required unusually large timbers — 20x20x60 feet long.

War Suddenly Over; Timber Everywhere

Suddenly the war was over and white oak lumber was scattered everywhere. Only one vessel of the timber fleet had been finished. The remaining lumber, engines and equipment had been paid for by the United States government down to the last cent.

For years after the death of Mr. Randall in 1916, Mrs. Randall continued to take lumber orders from the companies that had been so loyal to her. In fact, even now these men stop at the Randall Hotel to pay their respects and talk over old times.

A letter from L. H. Barkhausen of the Northwest Engineering Co. in 1937 expressed the feeling that these hard-working men had for a woman who carried her own weight as well as hers: "I feel certain you will remember our pleasant relations of the old war days when we were battling with you to get our Indiana white oak to us fast enough . . ."

Today when equipment and trucks bearing the Bucyrus-Erie signs are seen on the streets of Fort Wayne, they are no longer in need of Indiana white oak in large quantities. Metal has taken its place in the "long dipper" steam shovel handles and in the building of boats. Wood is now obsolete for many uses that made up the great demand. Our Indiana white oak is not so popular as it used to be.

But to Mrs. Randall, the sign Bucyrus is a reminder of her years at a most engrossing occupation.

"I could just hug that sign," she found herself saying when she saw it recently on a Fort Wayne street.

As a child WJR often accompanied her father, the county surveyor. She knew where to buy timber...and she was meticulously honest. Prior to WJR, the standard practice was to cheat just a little. If a customer bought 10 pieces of lumber, 9 would be fine but one would be sub-par. That wasn't acceptable to Winifred. Her mill soon earned a reputation for fairness and value... bankruptcy was averted. That's why Winifred was so shocked in 1904 to learn that President Teddy Roosevelt had sent out requests for bids... supplying white oak lumber for his new pet project... a canal in Panama... but he hadn't asked for a bid from her!

Friends were shocked. They had been willing to overlook Winifred's stepped in during an emergency. But US government contracts were "men's work." They implored her to sell the mill and get back to feminine pursuits. Her response... "You can tell them I not only intend to bid on the project; I intend to win it." She did just that, and she won every contract after that, receiving occasional handwritten letters from Teddy Roosevelt thanking her for her work. (Wonder where the lumber went? There were many uses for the extra hard white oak, including the complex rail system needed during excavation for removal of the rock and dirt.)



Winifred J Randall at her house in Rome City, Indiana

Winifred, at home at the lumber mill and in her modern office... roll-top desk, typewriter and phone!



W. J. Randall



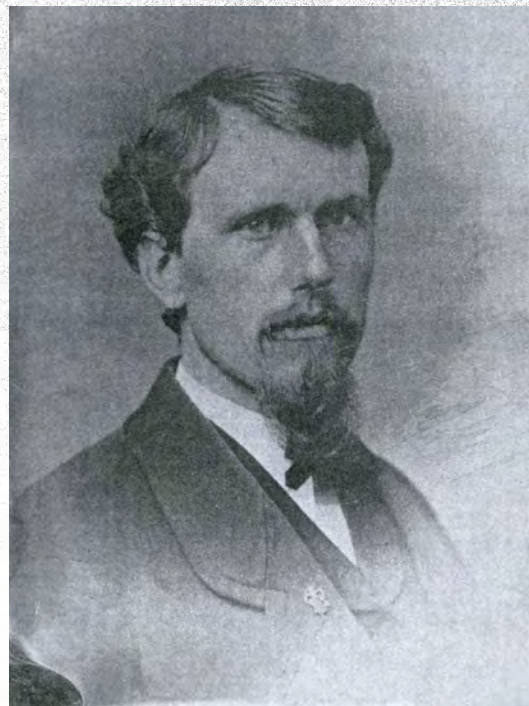
DAR Chapter Prepares For Independence Day



Winifred and Mrs. Theodore Thieme, charter members of the Mary Wayne chapter of the DAR, examine the charter.



The Johnston 1st generation: Mother Elizabeth Tytler Johnston on right, daughter Isabella Johnston Harvey with husband and son, Carl and John Harvey, James Tytler Johnston below



James Tytler Johnston c1860

James Tytler Johnston
(1840-1913)

Oldest son of John Johnston and Elizabeth Tytler Johnston. A Graduate of Washington Jefferson College, he was an engineer and the Noble County surveyor for 35 years. He was praised for his service and honesty... "always cheery and mild mannered, his was not a demonstrative life, but the current ran deep and true." James passed on his love of Scottish bagpipes to all his children.

Eliza Prudence Vermilyea Johnston
(1842-1923)

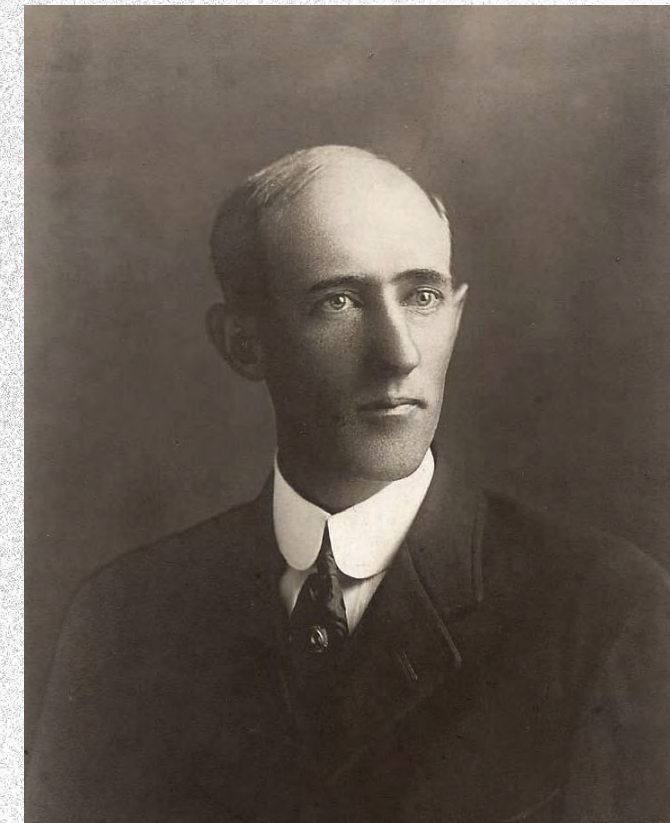
"She was a woman whose mind was singularly gifted and her character was marked by every gentle attribute and womanly grace. She was an early advocate of woman's suffrage. As a public speaker, she had striking purity of diction... a good useful woman."



The Johnston & their five children



Harry Vermilyea Johnston



John Harvey Johnston

Donald Denny Johnston

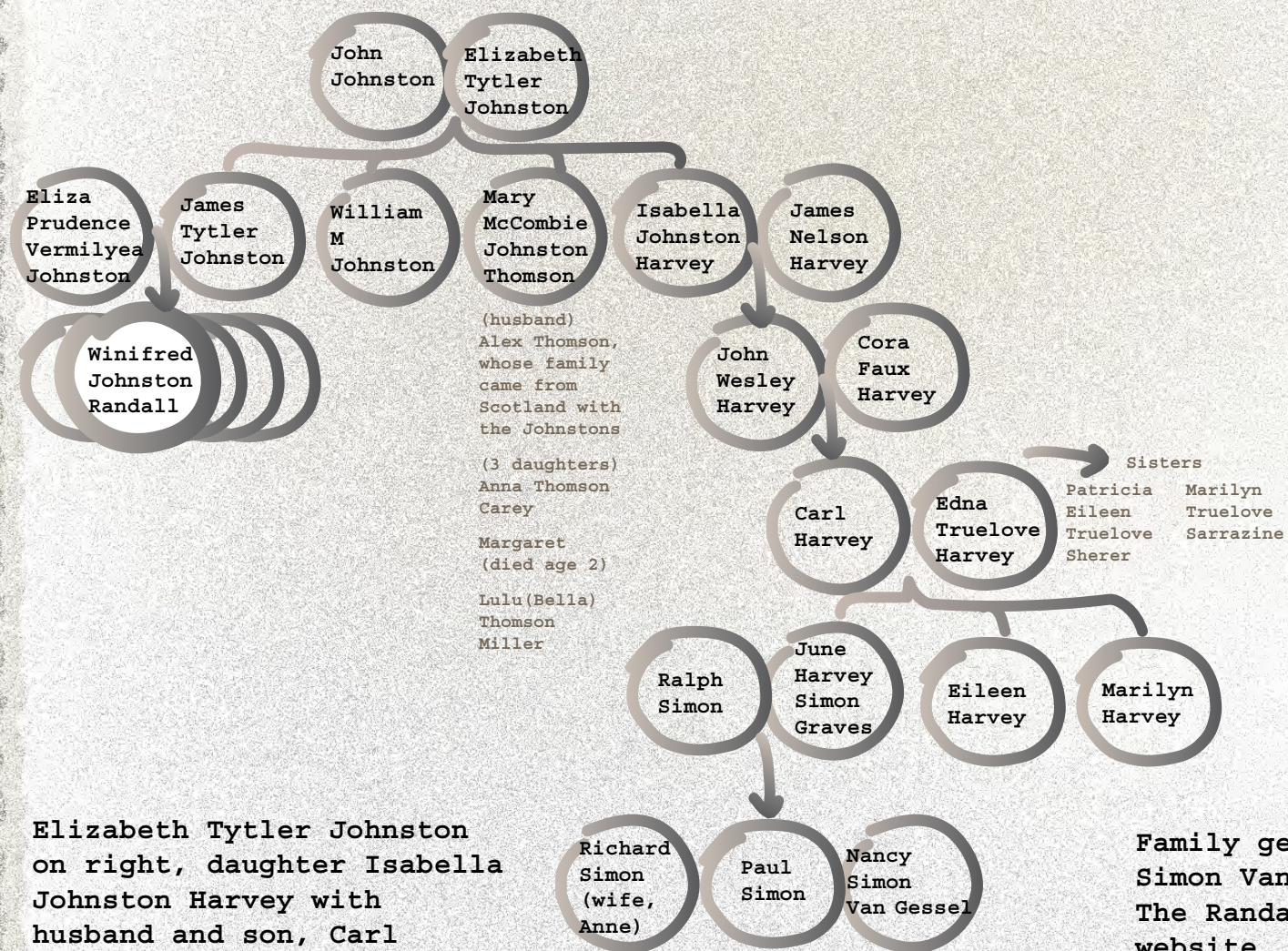


Elizabeth Winifred Johnston Randall

James Benson Johnston
(aka, JB)



Family of Isabella Johnston Harvey and James Nelson Harvey



Elizabeth Tytler Johnston on right, daughter Isabella Johnston Harvey with husband and son, Carl



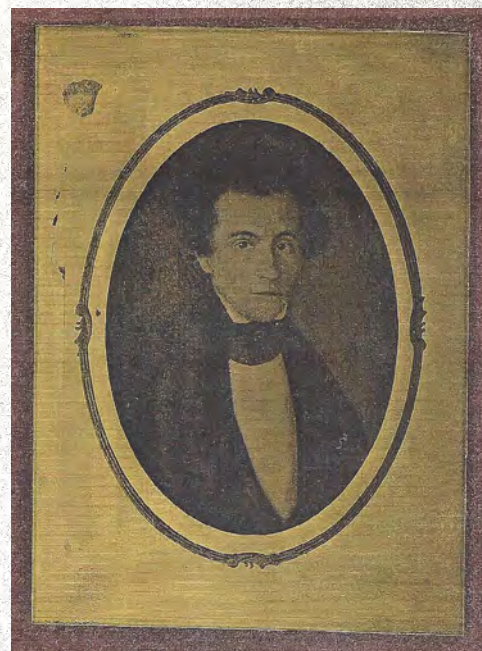
Family genealogy from Nancy Simon Van Gessel, who found The Randall Circle from our website.



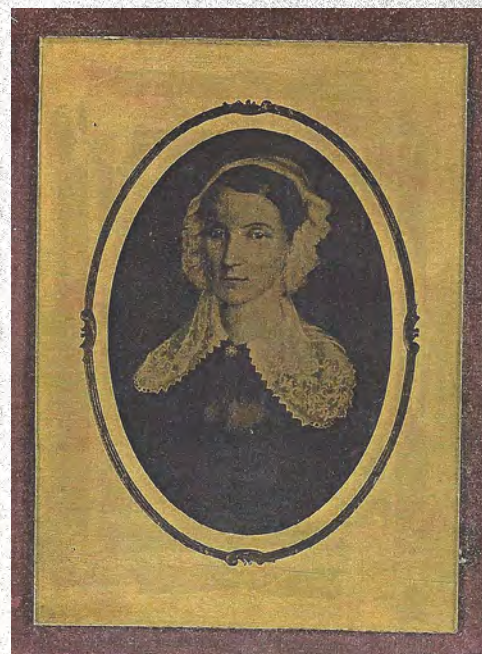
Johnston - Harvey family photo, taken at the home of James and Isabella Harvey (now the Simon family home and farm in Kendallville, IN).

Shown standing is Donald Johnston (dark suit) with sister Winifred Johnston seated in front of him. Also shown next to Donald are "Grandpa" Carl Harvey (the baby shown in photo on the left) with his daughter June.

Vermilyea Family



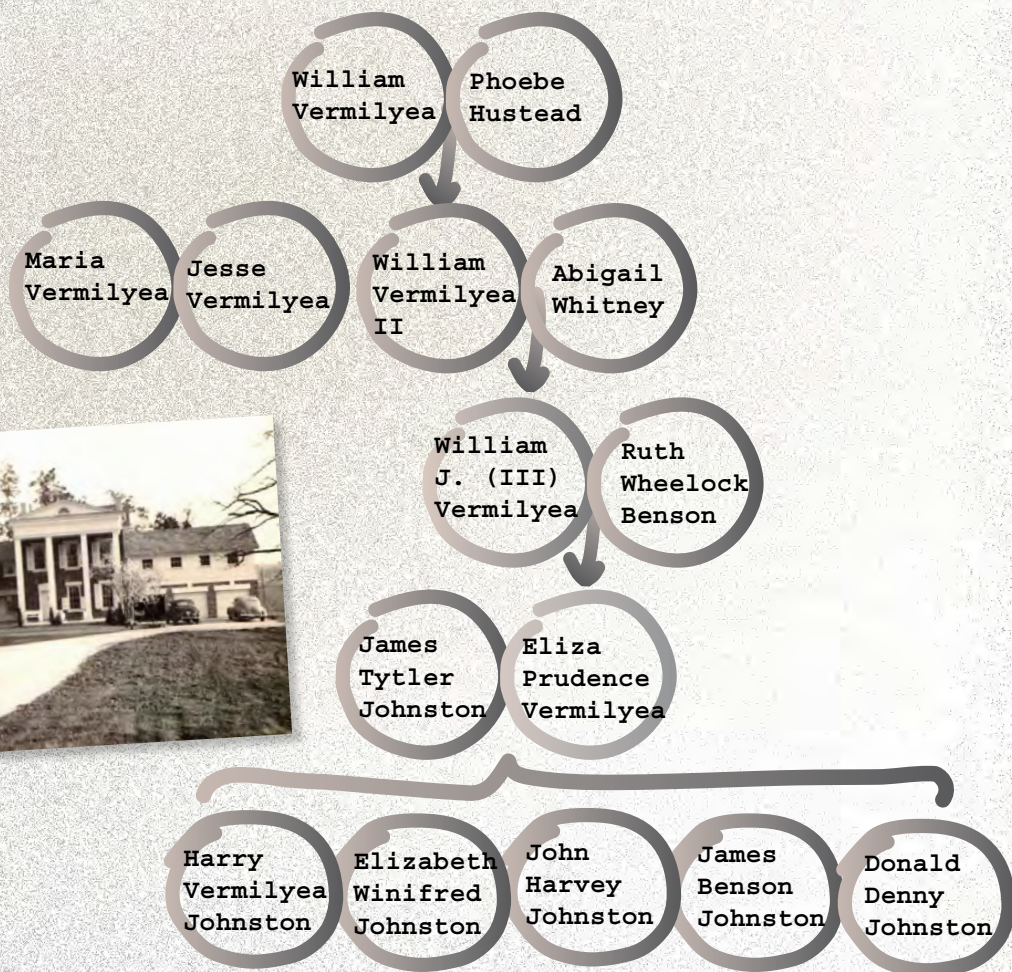
Jesse Vermilyea (1809-1846)



Maria Vermilyea (1812-1849)

The most famous local Vermilyeas
In our close family were Jesse and
his wife Maria from New York. They
were among the first settlers in
the area. Their home, built in the
1830s, still stands. Shown above
c1940.

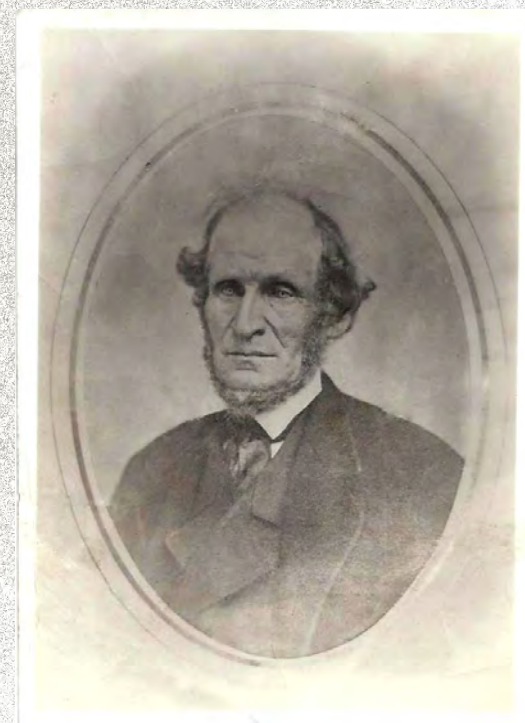
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From Vermigli (pronounced ver-MIG-li)
to Vermilyea (pronounced ver-MEEL-yay)

In Florence Italy around 1500, Count Stephen Vermigli named his son Pietre Martire after an Italian saint. "Peter Martyr" became a rather famous priest in the Roman Church before converting to Protestantism and marrying a former nun. The couple fled to Holland and later to England. At Oxford, Vermigli collaborated with Archbishop Cranmer to compose the first English Prayer Book. Upon the death of Henry VIII, Vermigli fled yet again. The family and their descendants spent their time between England and Holland, depending on the political climate.

Around 1600, Vermigli descendants were members of the Huguenot congregation of London. Around that time, Isaac Vermilye (grandson of Peter Martyr) came to New York from Holland with 4 children. One son, Johannes (born 1632 in Leyden) had 8 children (3 sons) and is the first generation ancestor of all the American Vermilyeas. (See following pages for Vermigli history)



William J. Vermilyea III



Daughter Eliza (some documents say Elizabeth) Prudence Vermilyea Johnston, photo c1860



Eliza Prudence Vermilyea Johnston & James Tytler Johnston c1880 (It seems that later Johnston generations used the Tytler name but changed it to Tyler.)

Branches of family tree include Benjamin Baker Odell II, governor of New York 1900-1904; John Hoagland Vermilye, president of the Union Stock Yards National Bank in Chicago; Judge Theodore Chardavogne Vermilye, New York City lawyer; Jacob Dyckman Vermilye, president of Merchant National Bank of New York; Thomas Edward Vermilye, Yale educated pastor of the Presbyterian Church on Vanderbilt Street in New York; and Jesse Vermilyea, early Indiana settler and one of the first directors of the Fort Wayne Branch Bank.

Other names in the family genealogy include Husted, Dodge, Pierce, Redman, Cheney, Howard, Benson, Smith, Wheelock, Whitney, Camp, Myers, Sackett, King, Stout, and Sturtevant. Abigail Whitney is from the family of Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin.

-1950 genealogy of the Vermigli family, PDF available upon request

Vermigli-Vermilye (from Italy, Switzerland, England, Holland to America)-

Peter Martyr Vermigli to Eliza Prudence Vermilyea Johnston and Us

Antonio Vermigli [13th great grandparents to the children of Jane, Rhoda, Mary, James, Paul, Ruth and Don Johnston]
Wife unknown

Count Stefano Vermigli (c1460, Perugia, Italy) [12th great grandparents]
Maria Fumantina Vermigli



Pietro Martire "Peter Martyr" Vermigli (May 8, 1500-Nov 12, 1562) [11th great grandparents]

Lived in Florence, Italy (sister: Felicita Vermigli)

1525: Ordained in the Roman Church and received his Doctor of Divinity

1545: Separated from the Church because of controversial reformist leanings. He married a former nun, Catherine Dammartin, who died in 1553

1547: As a known scholar of reformist teachings, he was invited to England by Archbishop Cranmer to collaborate on the First English Prayer Book

1552: Two editions of the Prayer Books published

1553: After the accession of Queen Mary (child of Catherine, Henry VIII's 1st wife), Peter Martyr was arrested for treason but managed to escape to Zurich where he married his 2nd wife

Catherina Merenda Vermigli of Brescia gave birth to a son shortly after Peter Martyr's death

(See next pages for Henry VIII and Peter Martyr history)

Vermigli unnamed son (1562 Zurich, Switzerland) [10th great grandparents]

Wife unknown

John Vermilye (1580) [9th great grandparents]
Marie Roubley Vermilye

Vermilye-Vermilyea (America)

Isaac Vermilye (1601, London-1676, Delaware) [8th great grandparents]
Jacomina Jacobs Vermilye

Isaac and Jacomina were the first Vermilyes to immigrate to America

Joannes Vermilye (1632-1696, Leiden, Holland) [7th great grandparents]

Aaltte Waldron Vermilye (1651-1734, daughter of Resolved Waldron)

Ancestors of all American Vermilye offspring

John Vermilye (1688-1782) [6th great grandparents]

Sarah Odell Vermilye

Abraham Vermilye (1716-1882) [5th great grandparents]

Mehetable Vermilye (1728)

William Vermilye (1749) [4th great grandparents]

Phoebe Hustead Vermilye (married during Revolutionary War)

William Vermilyea II (Apr 11, 1780, Westchester NY-Mar 6, 1834) [3rd great grandparents]

Abigail Whitney Vermilye (Dec 20, 1783, Fairfield CT [parents, Aaron and Hanna Burney Whitney]-Jul 29, 1860)

William "J." Vermilyea III (Jun 7, 1803, Roxbury NY) The "J" later added to distinguish him from all other Williams [2nd great grandparents]

Ruth Wheelock Benson Vermilyea (Sept 21, 1807, Marcellus NY [parents Elkanah and Deborah Wheelock Benson])

Eliza Prudence Vermilyea (Apr 4, 1842, Ruggles OH- 1923) [Great grandparents]

James Tyler Johnston (Oct 18, 1840, Aberdeenshire, Scotland-1913)

James Benson Johnston (Aug 28, 1880, Albion IN-1954)

Sarah Eversole Johnston (1890-1951)

Jane, Rhoda, Mary, James, Paul, Ruth, Don Johnston

Us!



The Intersection of Peter Martyr Vermigli and the Tudor Monarchy – Henry VIII and Church Upheaval in England



Henry VIII

1491: Henry VII is born.

1509 Henry succeeds Henry VII as King of England. Young, fit and handsome, he marries Catherine of Aragon (1st wife), his brother's widow.

1516: Mary is born and becomes the only surviving child of Henry and Catherine of Aragon.

1527: With no male heir, Henry enlists Cardinal Wolsey to begin a campaign for annulment from Catherine of Aragon so he can marry Anne Boleyn.

1530: Thomas Cromwell joins Henry's Royal Council and compiles evidence against the Pope's powers after the annulment petition is refused.

1531: Henry VIII becomes 'head of the Church in England and Wales as far as the word of God allows.'

1532: Thomas Cranmer is appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and leads the English Reformation. He helps Henry get an annulment from Catherine of Aragon.

1533: Henry marries Anne Boleyn (2nd wife) who gives birth to Elizabeth.

1534: Anne Boleyn is executed and Henry quickly marries Jane Seymour (3rd wife), who gives birth to a son, Edward, and dies in 1537.

1538: The first English translation of the Bible is published.

1540: Henry marries Anne of Cleves (4th wife), but the marriage is annulled months later. Thomas Cromwell is executed. Henry marries Catherine Howard (5th wife), Anne Boleyn's cousin, following the annulment from Anne of Cleves. Catherine Howard is executed in 1542.

1543: Henry marries Catherine Parr (6th wife).

1547: Henry dies at aged 57, grossly overweight and suffering from multiple afflictions.



Catherine of Aragon (above)



Anne Boleyn (below)



Thomas Cranmer



Peter Martyr Vermigli

1547: Edward VI (age 9, son of Jane Seymour) reigns from 1547-1553. Thomas Cranmer invites Peter Martyr Vermigli to England to work on the first two editions of the Book of Common Prayer for the reformed church.

1553: Mary, Henry VIII's daughter by Catherine of Aragon ascends to the throne after the death of Edward. She seeks to reestablish Roman Catholicism, going on a murderous rampage of Protestants, earning herself the name Bloody Mary. Peter Martyr Vermigli is imprisoned for treason in 1553 but manages to escape, fleeing to Zurich. As revenge, Mary has Peter's first wife's grave dug up and the body desecrated. Thomas Cranmer is imprisoned for treason and executed in 1556.

1558: Elizabeth I, daughter of Anne Boleyn ascends to the throne after Mary's death. She reverses the reestablishment of Roman Catholicism and reinstates Protestant rule. She ruled England for four decades.



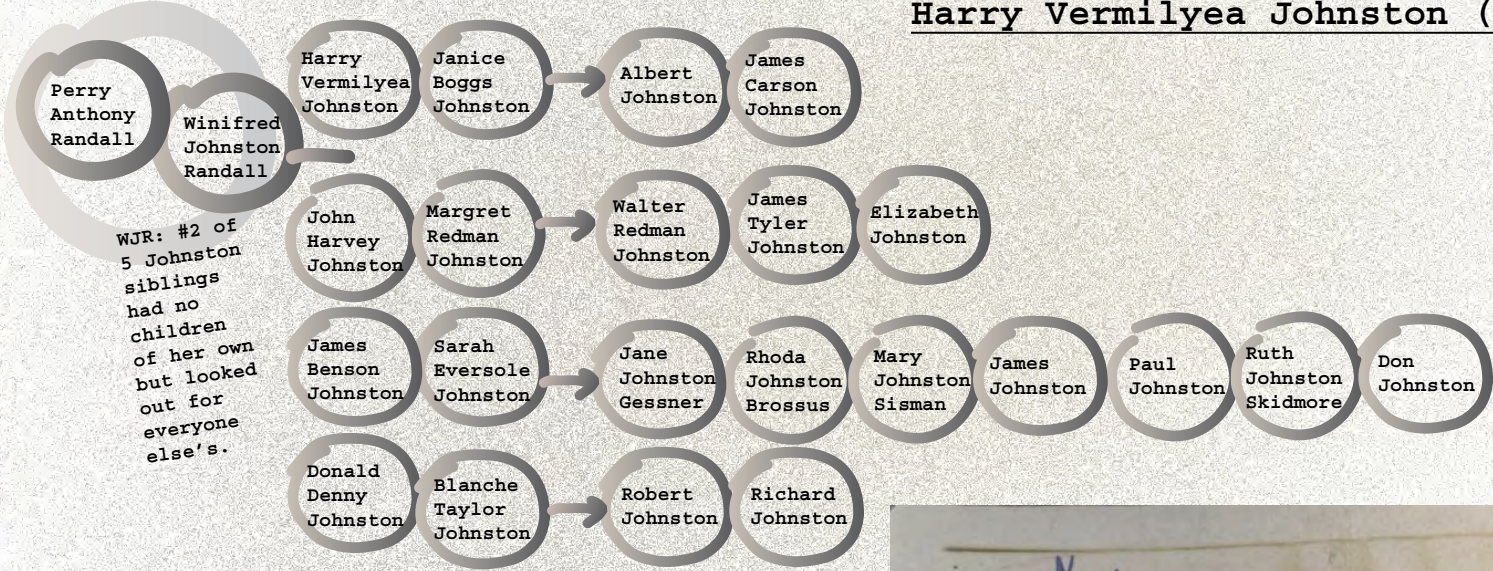
Tudors—
The 3 children
of Henry VIII

Edward VI

Mary

Elizabeth I

Harry Vermilyea Johnston (1872-1933)

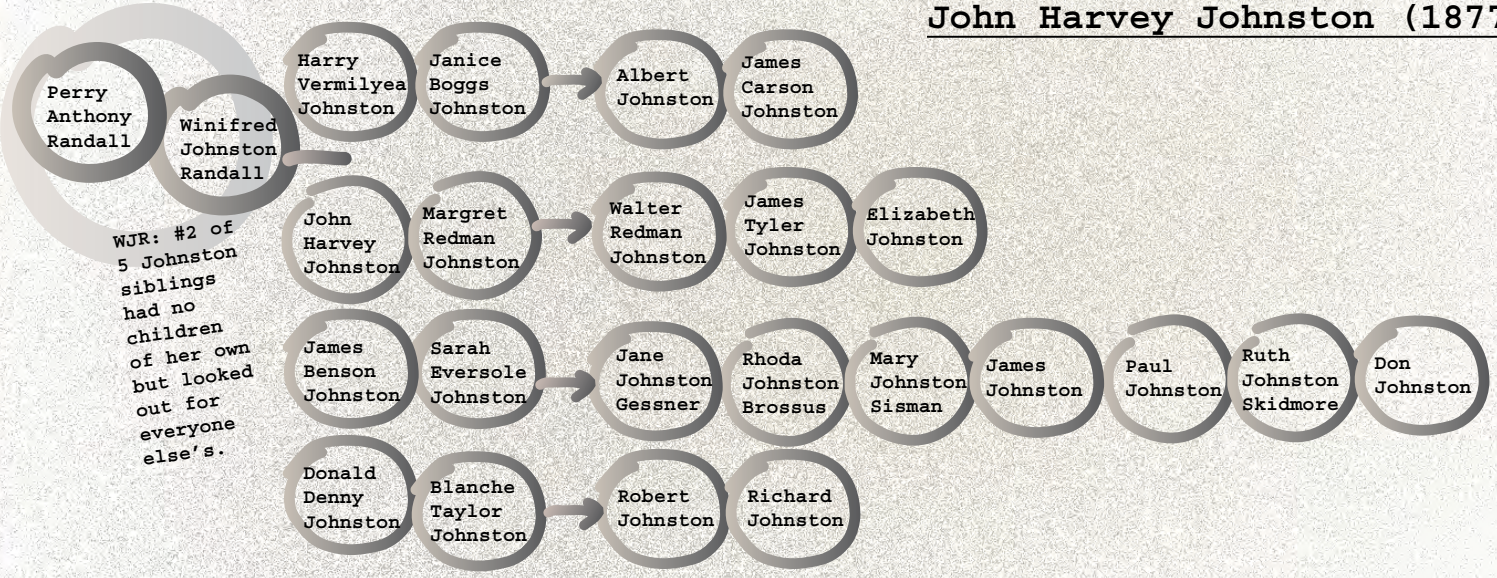


Harry Johnston,
Winifred's older brother



Harry's son, Albert Johnston is the one on the right, holding the pudgy pooch. Winifred always looked out for Harry's sons Albert and Carson. Albert is buried in the Randall family plot, as is Bob Dixon, whom Winifred took in as a child.

John Harvey Johnston (1877-1955)



John Harvey Johnston's 3 children, Walter, Jim & Elizabeth



Walter & Jim



Jim & Elizabeth



Elizabeth Johnston became a music teacher.



Walter Johnston

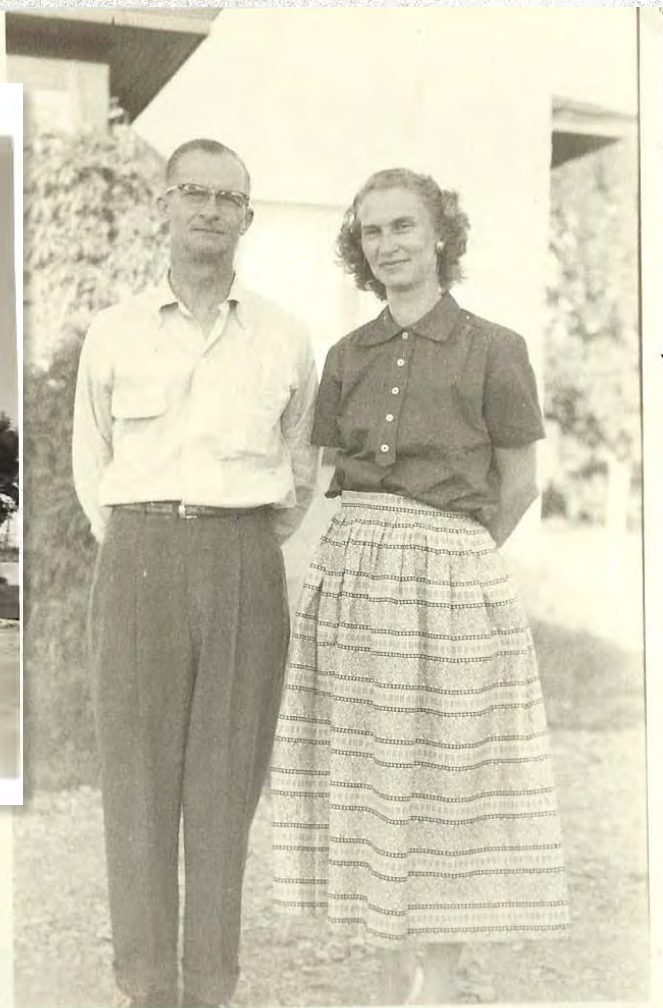


Mary & Rhoda with cousin Elizabeth Johnston (center)



Jim Tyler Johnston

The John Harvey Johnston home in Roundup Montana

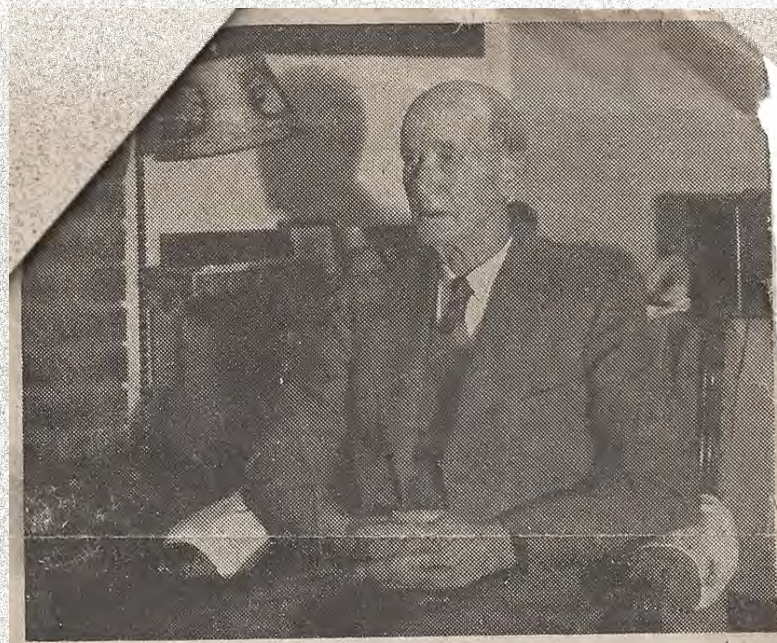


Walter Elizabeth
1954

Johnston siblings
Walter and Elizabeth,
1954



Elizabeth Johnston Bennett, Walter Johnston, Bennett T. Bennett (husband-name changed from Brudevold) with children, Paul, Jim, John and Carole, taken in Roundup, 1954



Dr. John Harvey Johnston

Dr. J. H. Johnston, Retired Veteran Dentist of Roundup, Dies at Memorial Hospital Monday Morning

Funeral services for Dr. J. H. Johnston, 78, retired Roundup dentist, were conducted Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Roberts funeral home with the Rev. R. N. Johnstone, pastor of the Methodist Church, officiating. Pallbearers were Dr. E. G. Vedova, Dr. R. T. O'Neill, Jay Graves, Cleon Graves, Ralph Puckett and Ed Spidel. Burial was made in Mountview Cemetery in Billings.

Dr. Johnston suffered cerebral hemorrhage Sunday night and died in the Roundup Memorial Hospital about 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 5.

John Harvey Johnston was born July 20, 1877, in Albion, Indiana, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Johnston. He was graduated from Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1897 and started practicing dentistry in Albion soon thereafter. He was married Dec. 28, 1904 in Youngstown, Ohio, to Margaret Redman who preceded him in death on Jan. 22, 1949.

The Johnstons came to Musselshell county from Albion in 1908 and homesteaded nine miles west of Roundup. In 1910 Dr. Johnston opened a dental office in Roundup, practicing until his retirement about two years ago.

Dr. Johnston was an accomplished musician. He played in local orchestras and was instructor and leader of the Roundup band for many years. He was also an amateur photographer of more than local repute, pictures that he took over the years constituting an unusually artistic and comprehensive history of Roundup and Musselshell county. Both as a musician and a photographer he gave freely of his time and effort much to the enjoyment and benefit of the community. He was instructor and leader of the Roundup American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps for many years during which time the well drilled and practiced group won five state championships.

Dr. Johnston was a member of the Roundup Congregational Church, the American Dental Society, the Montana and Indiana Dental Associations.

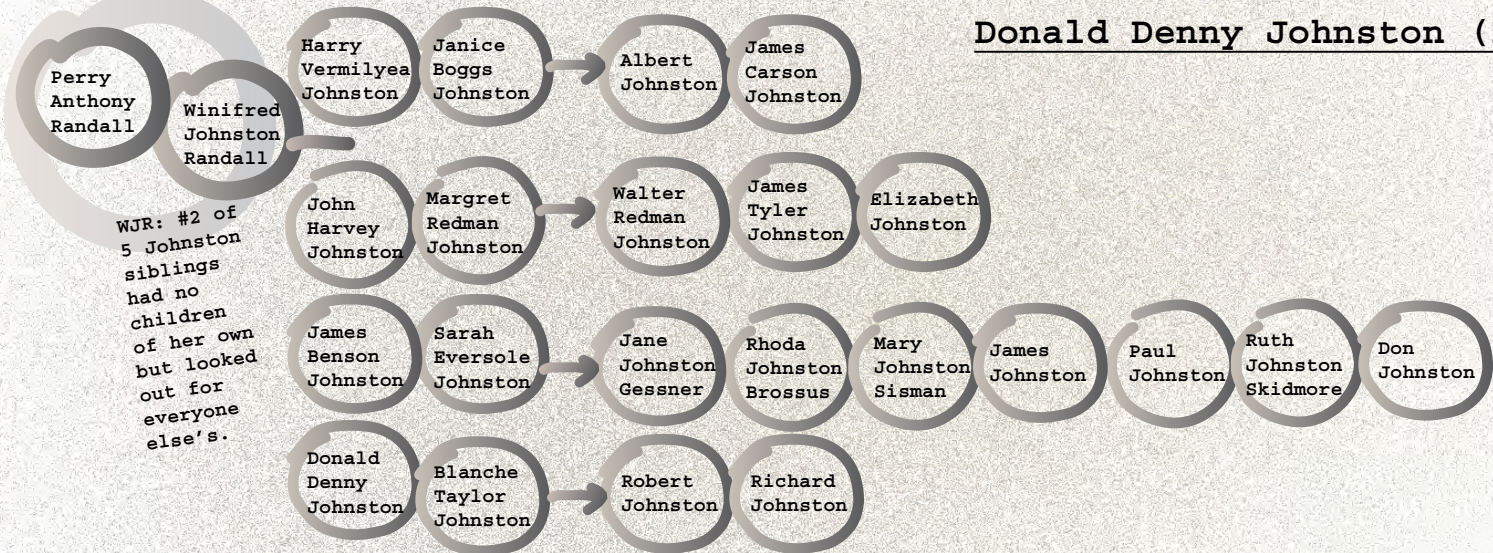
Dr. Johnston was universally respected and admired for his loveable character, generosity and tolerance. He took an active part in community enterprises and activities, giving of himself wholeheartedly and unhesitatingly. He served the dental needs of three generations of scores of families of this area, in many instances without hope or expectation of remuneration. The imprint he left on the community where he made his home most of his adult life will long withstand the test of time.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. B. T. Brudevold of Billings; two sons, James T. Johnston of Pasadena, Calif., and Walter R. Johnston of Chicago; a sister, Mrs. W. J. Randall of Fort Wayne, Ind.; a brother, Dr. D. D. Johnston of Indianapolis, Ind.; nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



Young Walter with grandad
James Tytler Johnston

Donald Denny Johnston (1884-1965)



Don Johnston (18??-1965)



Mary Moore, cousin of J.T. Johnston came from Scotland as nanny to Donald (Wonder what the family thought of her unusual haircut?)



Young Don Johnston with brother James (JB) and Harvey... also one of JB's beagles



Donald D Johnston on left with his sister Winifred, taken at the Randall residence



Young Don Johnston at the Randall home in Avilla



Dr. Donald Johnston,
WWII era



Johnston

A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1912, he served in both WWI and WWII. He was one of the first to do research related to high altitude flying.



UDJO'S CAVE



Don's wife Blanche Taylor Johnston is in back row, third from left. Her mother Mrs. Taylor (cousin of Perry Randall) is on far left, next to Winifred Johnston Randall (Young Agnes Fairbanks Taylor is also shown standing in front of the Randall residence, p23.) Eliza Johnston, Winifred's mother, is seated right behind Don Johnston (holding son Robert).



Blanche's mother Agnes Fairbanks Taylor is the little girl in the photo with her mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is the granddaughter of Franklin Peleg Randall.

Don & Blanch's Family



Richard (Dick) Johnston,
Don & Blanche's son



Son Robert Johnston



Don & Blanche
with son Richard



Big Long Lake. Don &
Blanche's lake house—scene
of many family outings



Don & Blanche Johnston



Winifred Johnston Randall
& brother Don Johnston 1962



Don Johnston in front of the
sea wall at Big Long Lake





Uncle Don & Aunt Blanch's cottage at Big Long Lake, Marty Gaut, Dawn & Rick Johnston (Dick's kids)



Dawn and father Richard with granddad, Don at Big Long Lake



Leslie at Big Long Lake on a Sisman family vacation to Fort Wayne, 1955

2 FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE Wednesday, November 23, 1955

DEATHS

Illness Proves Fatal To Donald Johnston, 6

Donald Marshall Johnston, 6-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Johnston, 2516 East Drive, died at 7:55 a.m. yesterday in Parkview Memorial Hospital. He was admitted to the hospital two days ago.

The youth was a pupil in the first grade at Forest Park School and a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are a sister and brother, Dawn D. and Richard M. Johnston II; his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. D. D. Johnston of Westville and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Robinson of Wyandotte, Mich., and his great-grandmother, Mrs. John LaFrance of Wyandotte.

One of the last polio deaths...

In 1955, Richard's 6-year-old son had a cold and couldn't get the new vaccine when his siblings did. Weeks later he caught the deadly disease and died.



Don with grandson Pat in California



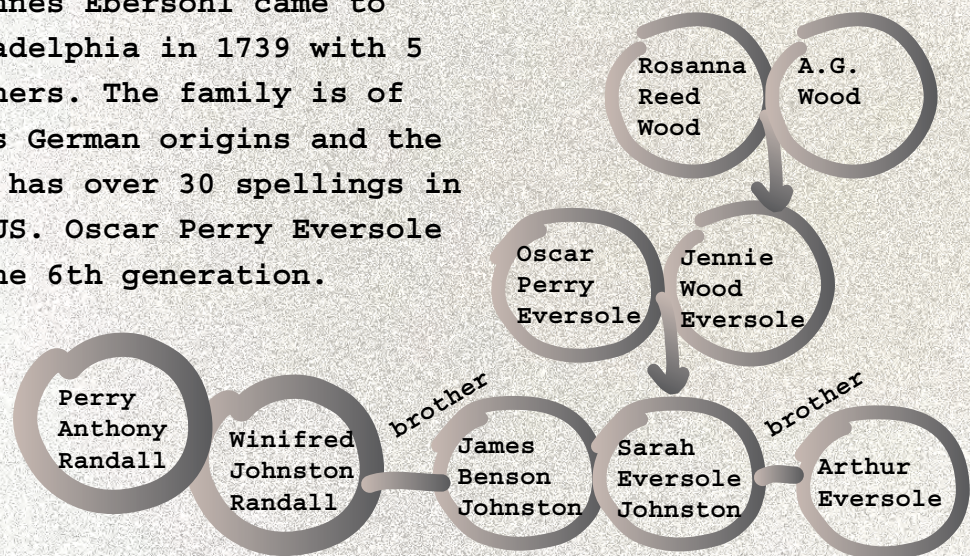
Diane Johnston, daughter of Robert T Johnston marries Paul Smith, c1960



Richard (right) with Rhoda and John Segyde (Rhoda's son-in-law)

Eversole & Wood families

Johannes Ebersohl came to Philadelphia in 1739 with 5 brothers. The family is of Swiss German origins and the name has over 30 spellings in the US. Oscar Perry Eversole is the 6th generation.



Judge Andrew G Wood (1835-1924) was the first Democrat mayor of Warsaw Indiana, 1918. During the Civil War, he was a captain in the Union Army.



Rosanna Reed Wood (1838-1915)



Andrew G Wood, with grandson



Andrew G Wood, with granddaughters Jane & Rhoda Johnston



Wood daughters: Jennie on left, Emma on right



Jennie Wood Eversole (1858-1944)



Wood sisters, Trella Wood Brubaker, Emma Wood Baker, Jennie Wood Eversole



Oscar Perry Eversole with Abe Brubaker and Oscar Bake: they married the 3 Wood sisters



Oscar Perry Eversole on right with brother Elhamon Eversole



Abe Brubaker



Abe Brubaker and daughter Mary



Oscar Perry Eversole



Lawrence Brubaker, son of Trella Wood Brubaker



Edgar and Geraw Baker, sons of Emma Wood Baker



De Vos. WARSAW.

Oscar Perry Eversole & Jennie Wood Eversole 1885

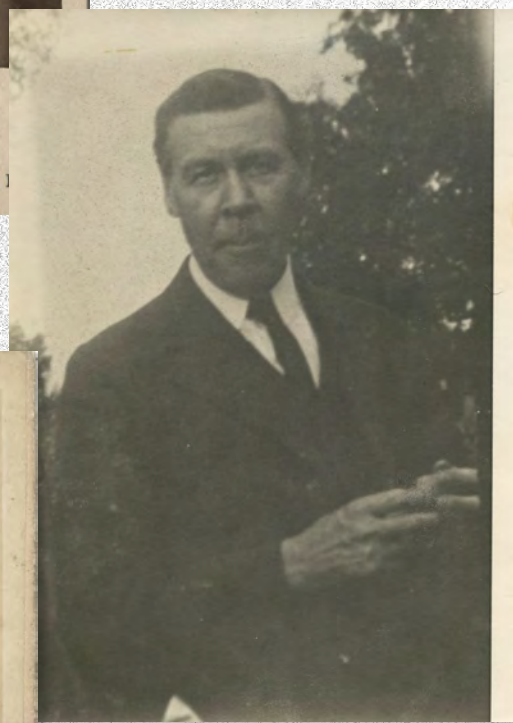


WARSAW, INDIANA

GROUND FLOOR STUDIO.

De Vos

Oscar Perry Eversole & Jennie Wood Eversole's daughter Sarah on the right



Oscar Perry Eversole (1858-1923)



Sarah Eversole Johnston (1890-1951)



Very Truly
O. P. Eversole



Arthur and Sarah Eversole

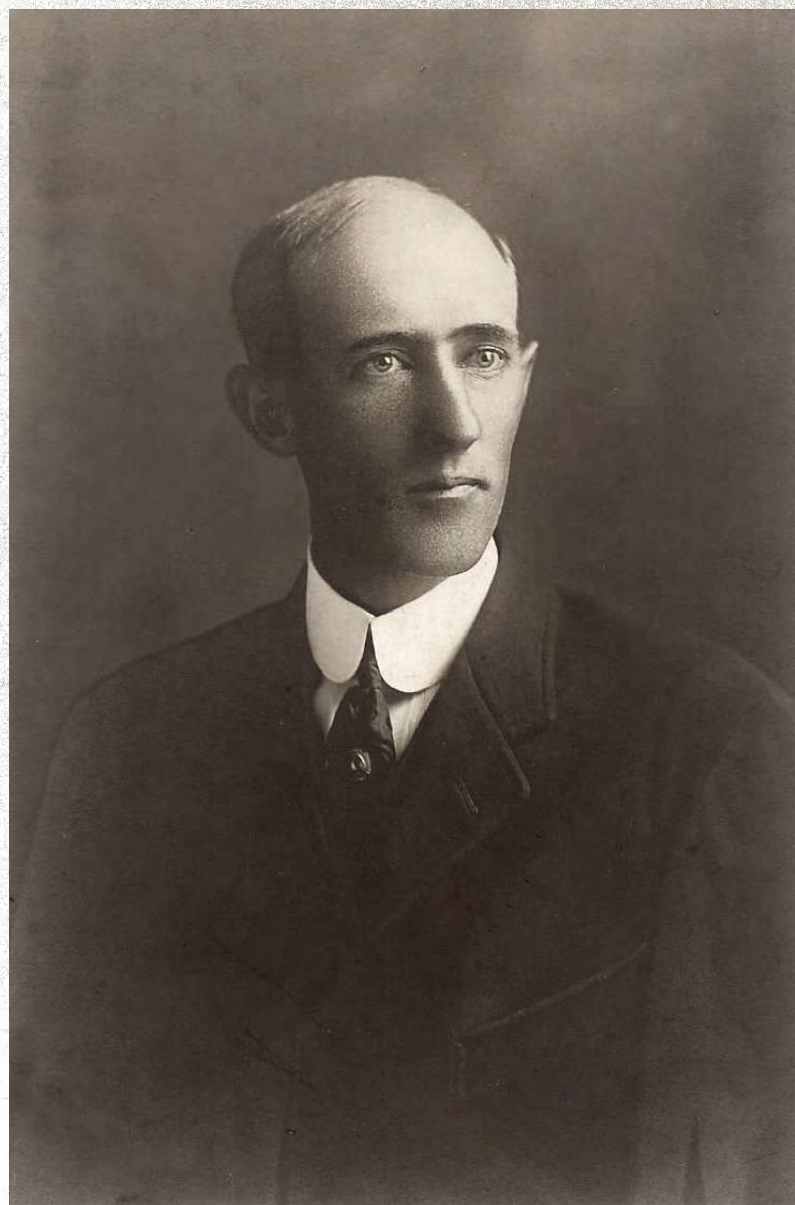
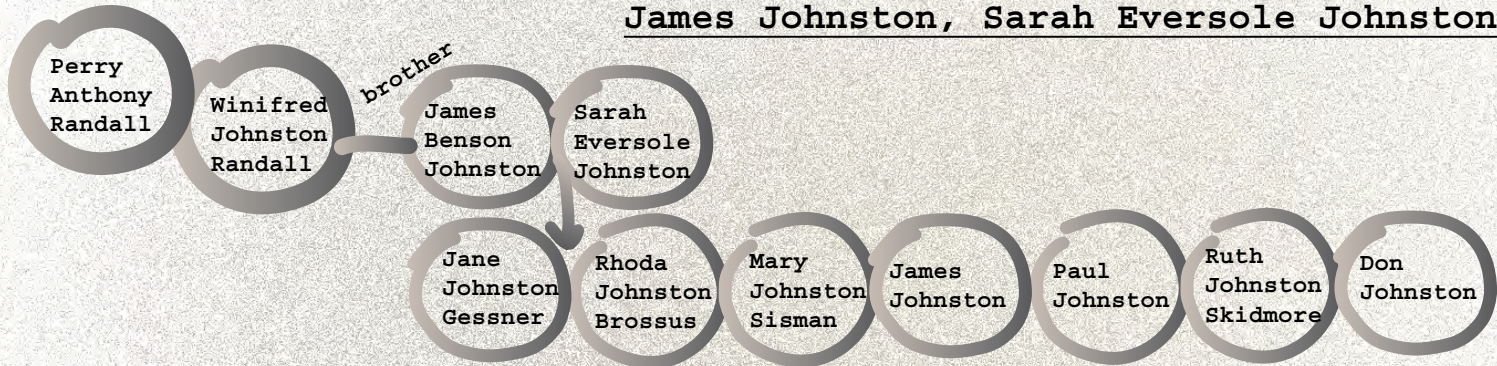


Sarah Eversole



De Vos ARTIST WARSAW INDIANA
GROUND FLOOR STUDIO

James Johnston, Sarah Eversole Johnston & Family



James Benson Johnston (1880-1954) & Sarah Eversole Johnston (1890-1951)



At their home at St Joe and St Joe Center Road and the St Joe River, 1929. For nearly a decade, the Johnston home had no electricity, phone or indoor plumbing. (Outhouse shown below... makes you wonder how they survived!)



Jas. Johnston and family Rhoda Mary Jane

Johnstons, Mom, Dad, big sister Jane, middle sister Rhoda, baby Mary, 1918



Sarah... kind, sweet and talented. She was a wonderful pianist... played at church and gave lessons. The smell of raspberries will always bring back fond memories of Grandma's jam... one of her specialties.

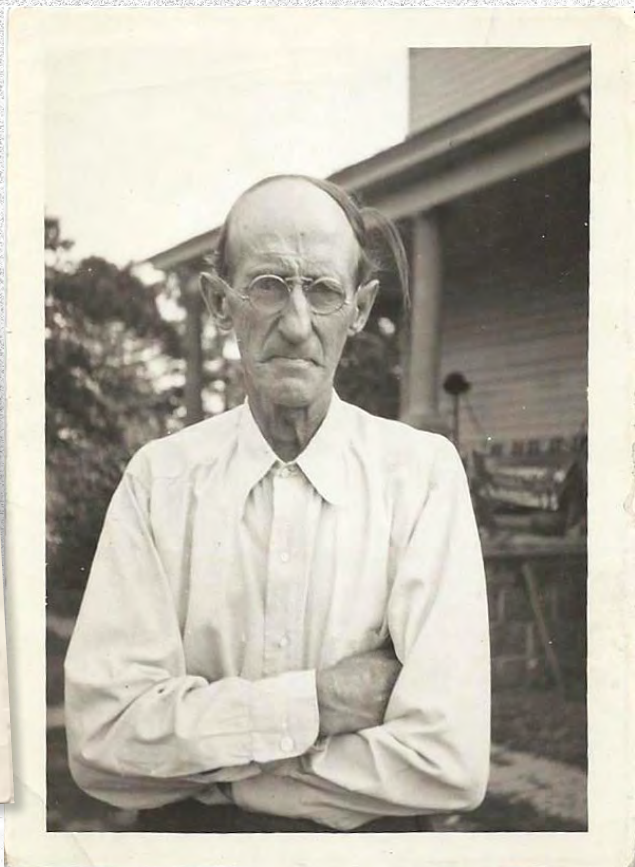
-Marty Gaut Segyde



James... a hard working farmer, always ready to try new ideas... like selling flowers at the Barr Street Market. All the Johnston children were expected to do farm work, whether they wanted to or not. "Strict" is the first word everyone uses to describe him. He grew vegetables and flowers, raised chickens and other farm animals. For hunting, he raised prized beagles.



JB with a helper



JB and brother Donald's duck and chicken business 1910, Corner of Randall Road and Coughton Road, Fort Wayne



JB 1927

JB's flower business was a project for all the Johnston children. Not only was JB the flower supplier for Lindenwood Cemetary, the girls sold flowers at the Barr Street Market. JB's truck is the 8th from the front on the right side (the light color panel truck).



This view of the Barr Street Market was taken around 1878. The outdoor stalls were provided when the market outgrew the combined market and town hall shown in the background.



Pictured in 1935, the last Barr Street Market was constructed after the present City Hall was built in 1910. The market was a busy, colorful place from midsummer through early fall each year.

James Johnston, Sarah Eversole Johnston & Family



Back: Dewey Gaut (Rhoda's husband), James (aka JB), Sarah, Ed Gessner, Rhoda, Mary, Jane, Suzanne (Jim's wife)
 Front: Don, Paul, Jim, Ruth (far right)
 Children: Mike (Jane's), Marty (Rhoda's), David (Jane's), Janna (Jim's)



Thanksgiving weekend 1941
 Jane, Sarah, Rhoda, Mary, Jim, JB (Gramps), Paul, Ruth, Don, Jane's kids (Mike and David)



Johnston siblings: Don, Ruth, Paul, James (Jim), Mary, Rhoda, Jane



Family picnic, around 1947, Ruth, Jane, Paul Eddie Gessner, Dewey Gaut (barely visible), JB (Gramps) and Mary

Below: Jim, Paul & Ruth Johnston standing, Forest Mets & Don Johnston seated. 1934



Grandma Jenny, Rhoda, Ruth and Jane



Grandma Jenny with David and Mike Gessner



Jennie 1915 chopping wood. She must have been something!



Grandma Jennie Wood Eversole (1858-1944)



Jennie Wood Eversole with grandson Jim, WWII era



Grandma Jennie Eversole Paul's car

1934: The Camera-Happy Johnstons



Jim & Ruth with little brother Don



Mary



Paul



Nurse Jane 1934



Ruth with big sisters Mary & Rhoda



Rhoda & Mary



Jim, Ruth, Paul



Jane
Top of Hall
World's Fair
Oct. 7



Jane and husband Eddie Gessner at the 1934 World's Fair in Chicago



Dr. Wood Nurse Keeping garden at World's Fair Oct. 7, 1934



Mary (center) with Jane & Rhoda

Jane, mom Sarah, grandma Jennie are on the left



Jane, Mary & Rhoda



Ruth Johnston (center) with Eversole cousins... daughters of Jennie's brother Arthur. The sisters are Mary, Martha, Betty and Barbara



Mary, Don, Grandma Jennie, Ruth, Rhoda, Jane with kids... David and Mike Gessner, Marty Gaut



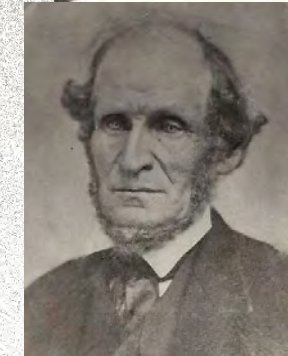


Johnston family 1951, after Grandma Sarah's funeral.
 Back: Bernie Sisman, Jane, Mary, Rhoda, Paul, Ruth, Don
 Front: David Gessner, Marty Gaut, Paula, JB with Leslie Sisman and Sally (Ruth's), Mike Gessner holding Joellen



Johnston family resemblances:

The Vermilyea Look



Three of Eliza Vermilyea Johnston's 5 children are the spitting image of her, as she is of her father



Granddaughter Ruth, daughter of JB has a remarkable resemblance to her Aunt Winifred

The Eversole Look



Sarah Eversole Johnston



Mary's daughter Leslie still has the Eversole look

Daughters Jane and Mary's photos can be hard to tell apart from their mother's



Johnston girls...
Jane, Rhoda & Mary
with Jim

Jane Johnston saved photos and information. If you wondered where those photos went, Jane probably had them. She also had a remarkable memory for history and bits of information... unless you asked her about something she didn't want to discuss... that's when her memory went blank!

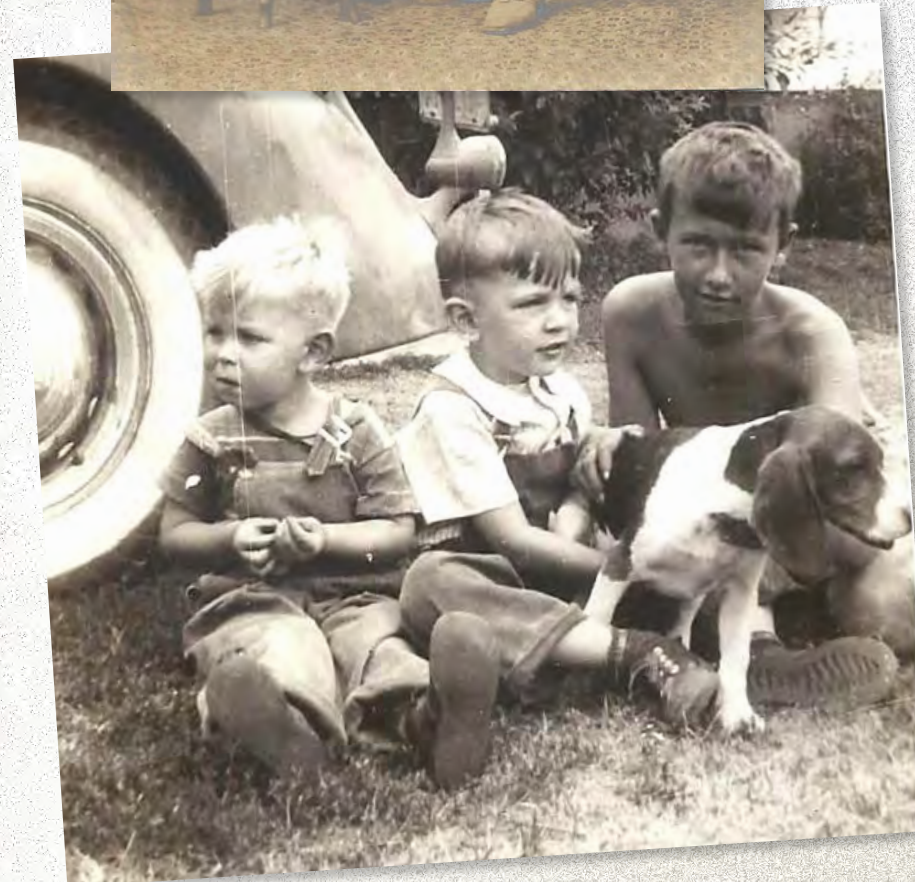
Jane holding Mary,
Rhoda helping



Jane Johnston
Cousin Robert Johnston



Jane RN, the first
of the Johnston RNs



Jane's boys, Mike and David Gessner with their
young Uncle Don and one of JB's beagles



Rhoda Johnston Gaut Brosius (1915-2011)



Rhoda Johnston Gaut & daughter Marty, taken 1945



Rhoda, fashion forward ;-)



Above: Paul, Don, Ruth & Rhoda, plus the Thanksgiving turkey. Below: Rhoda & Mary, St. Joe Road



Mary & Rhoda with Lee Gardner and Ida May Holsaple

I never knew anyone that didn't like Rhoda... cheerful, kind, warm, friendly... never took sides in family disputes. She was everyone's safe zone.

-Marty Gaut Segyde



Rhoda in front of Johnston home on St Joe Road, 1934... also with family friend Frank Hawks & little sister Ruth, who still plays in a band!



Rhoda at the Japanese Garden. She said she was lonely but laughing it off, 1934



Rhoda off to Indiana School of Nursing with her tennis racket

Rhoda Johnston: Everyone's Friend



Rhoda & Maxine Leisure standing in front of Randall Market on Harrison Street, 1934 (Ice cream 15¢ a pint)

Rhoda RN, graduation day



Rhoda & Lee Gardner at Big Long Lake, 1934

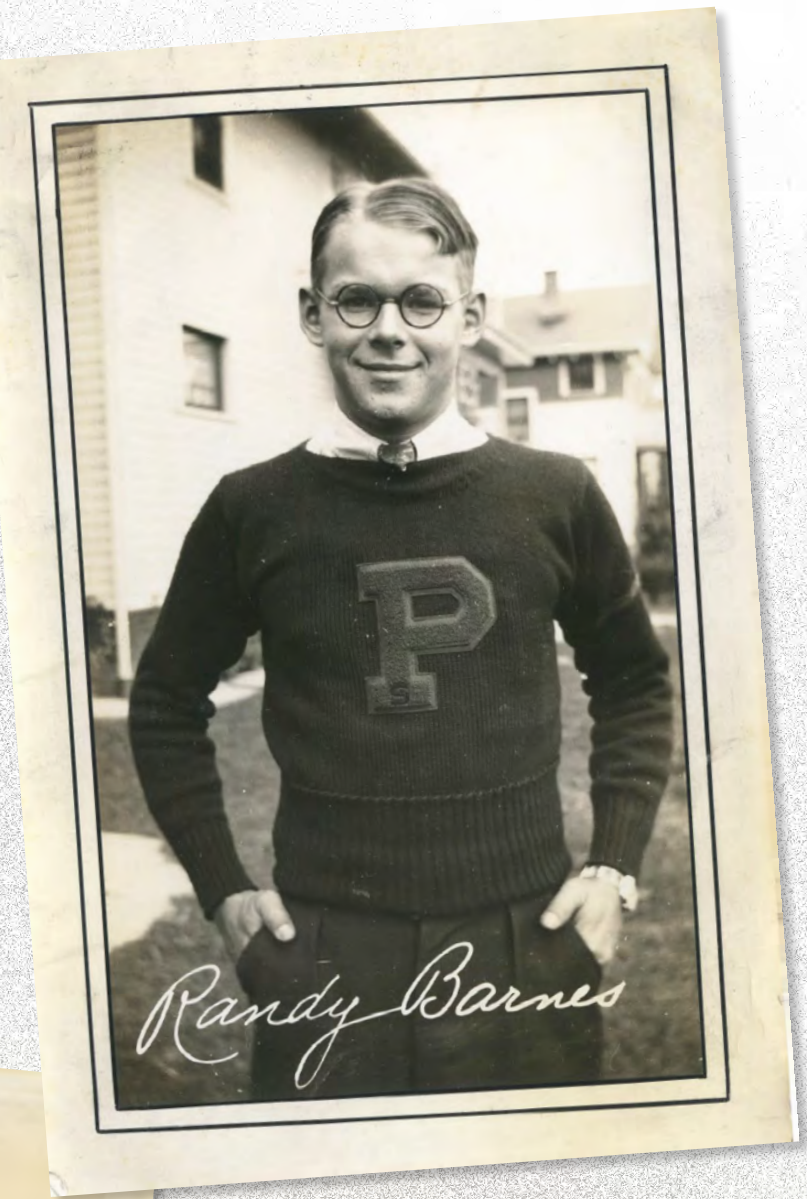


Friend Harold Warthman and Gerald Barr in front of Tanner's Barber shop on Harrison Street, near the hotel, 1934
At right, Harold



Friend Randy Barnes (aka, Poet Moderne) was a great letter writer when he went off to Peoria. He and Rhoda loved their poetry competitions... each writing their letters in corny poetry.

Randy was also a problem solver... a music lover, he rigged his radio to go on together with the lights in his boarding house room. Yet the radio wasn't very good... poor quality on low notes. When a friend offered him an old radio with good low notes but poor high notes, Randy combined them to become the perfect radio... the whole thing going on by flipping the light switch!



Rhoda Johnston Gaut (later Rhoda Brosius)



Rhoda with sister Ruth and friend Frank Hawk



Rhoda Gaut, husband Clarence Dewey Gaut (killed in an auto accident on Christmas Eve, 1948)



Four generations, Sarah, Rhoda with Marty and Great Grandma Jennie



Rhoda holding Joellen, Paula on the swing (Paul's daughters)



Marty Gaut Segyde on left, Janna (Jim's) on right



Marty & Dutchess 1952



Marty 1952



Uncle Don & Aunt Blanche's cottage at Big Long Lake, Marty Gaut, Dawn & Rick Johnston (Richard's kids)

Mary Johnston Sisman (1917-1978)



Mary... outgoing, talented and competitive. She was defiantly independent, stylish and original. Most of her friends remember exactly what she was wearing when they first met her.

Mary & Rhoda at Big Long Lake



Mary Katherine Johnston

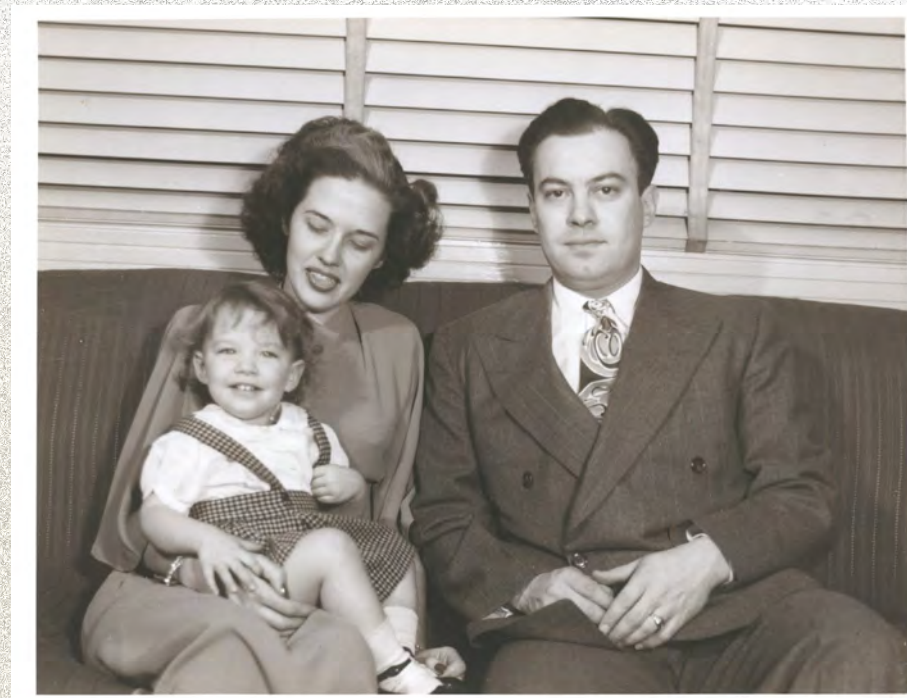


Oscar... quiet, calm, kind, smart and accomplished. He had an unexpectedly wry sense of humor. He could figure out just about anything... his research continues to be used in today's nuclear science.

Mary Johnston Sisman & Oscar Sisman, married 1944, Oak Ridge TN, where he was stationed working on the Manhattan Project



Mary & Oscar (1914-1977)

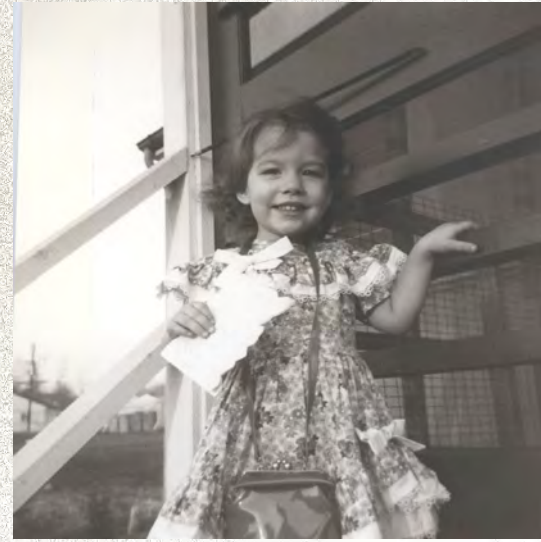


Mary Johnston Sisman & Oscar Sisman with daughter Leslie, born 1946



Leslie with grandmother Sarah

Oak Ridge, constructed in a rush for the Manhattan Project, had few luxuries. Oscar's mother Anna Deitchman Sisman came for a one-week visit around 1950 and hated it so much, she left after 3 days. The pioneer atmosphere never bothered the Sisman kids.



Leslie & brother Bernie at Norris Dam



Leslie at Norris Dam

Bernie & Abner (Knoxville)



Mary in late 1950s

Leslie & Bernie with friends Laurie and Derryl in Florida

James (Jim) Perry Johnston (1919-1994)



Jim, Paul & Mary 1927

Jim, WWII era, above with grandma Jennie, below with mother Sarah

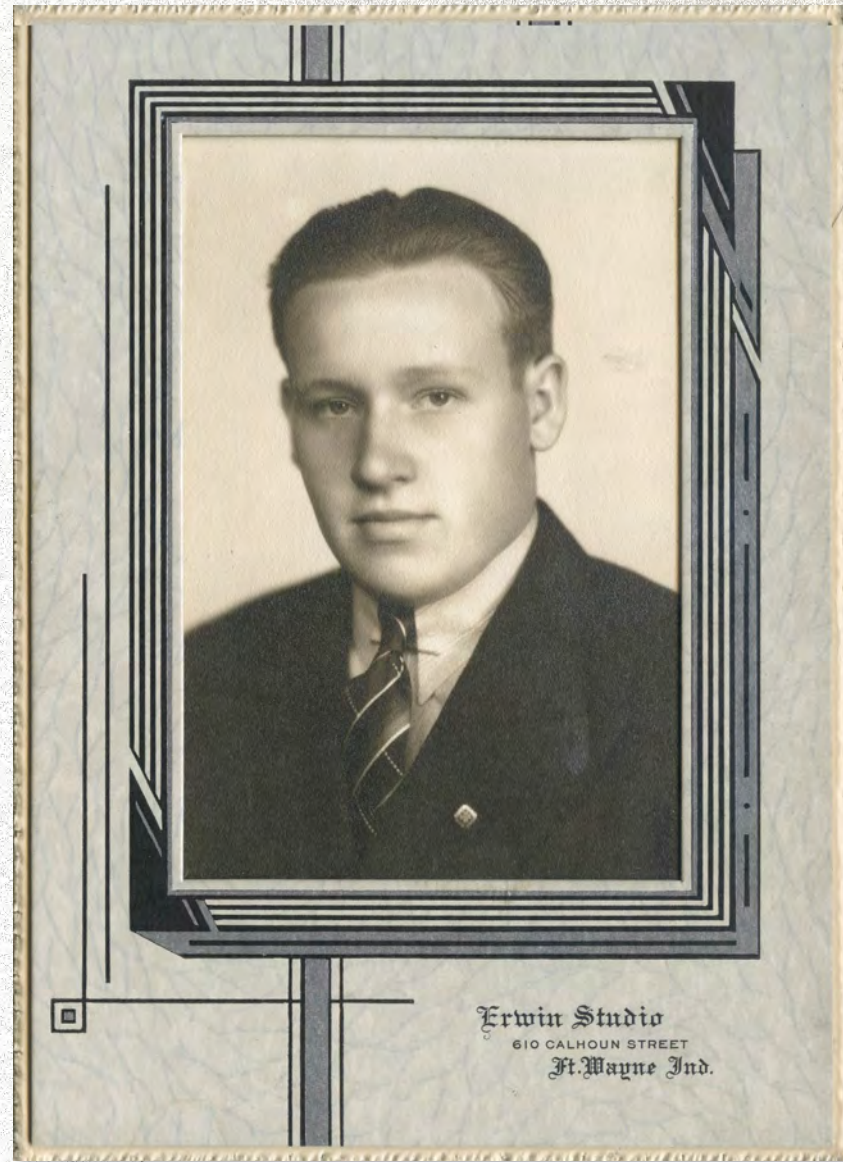


Wonder if Jim was Jennie's favorite!

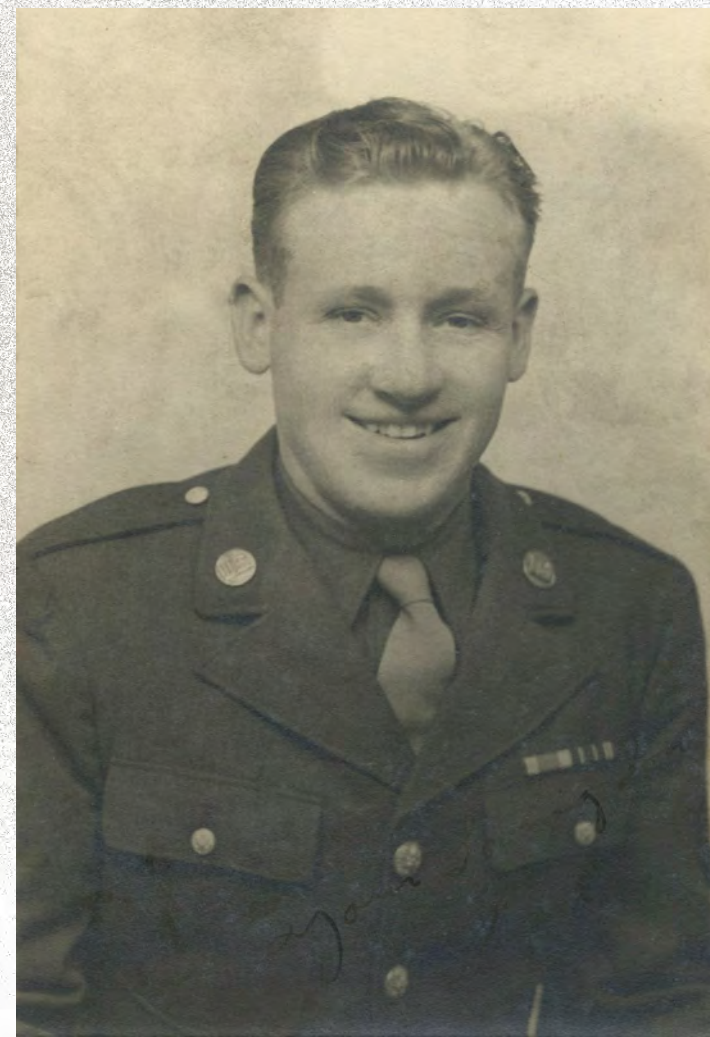
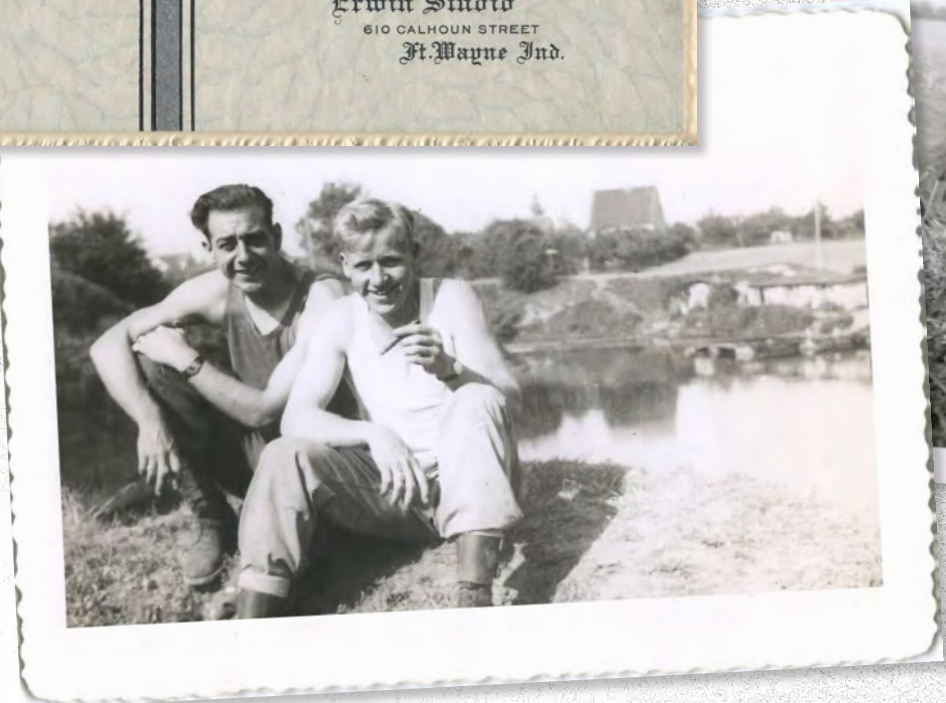
If you needed help doing almost anything, you could call on Jim. He was always willing and able to lend a helping hand.



Daughter Janna Johnston



Paul Johnston



Paul with 1st wife and sailors David & Michael Gessner



Paul with Michael Gessner





Joellen & Paula
with Santa, 1955



Paul's daughters Paula & Joellen

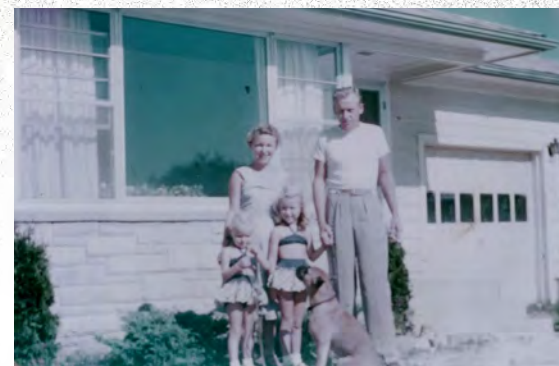


Joellen

Florence & Paul Johnston



At home in Ft
Lauderdale Florida



Family visit to Fort Wayne
& dog Duthess



Paul was an entrepreneur... owner of Broward Elevator company in Florida. Like all the Johnston children, he succeeded at whatever he set out to do.



Greetings...
FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS!

Dennis, Joellen & Regina

Granddaughter Regina, 1969



Ruth at Maid of the Mist,
Niagara Falls



Nurse Ruth



Ruth with friends:
"On the up and up"



Young Ruth



"We look like river debris."



Ruth and daughter Sally,
bridesmaid and flower girl

Ruth... don't let her gentle demeanor fool you. There's a lot more going on in that blond head than you might expect. Always cheerful, but when Ruth sets out to do something, she usually makes it happen. Cooking isn't her thing. Playing in a band is.



May Queen at Hanover College,
Ohio River in the background



Ruth and her mom,
Nogales Mexico



Ruth RN on graduation day



Ruth & Mary,
the Tennessee gals



Wedding day... Ruth and Milus



Mary, Ruth, Milus and twin
brother Radius Skidmore



Ruth with big sisters
Mary & Rhoda



Ruth and Sally,
Oak Ridge TN 1962



Daughter Sally



Skidmore family, 1981... Jim T, Milus Jr, Sally, Dwight,
Milus Sr, Ruth, Mary Margret

Don Joseph Johnston (1929-1999)



@ 1 year



Mary with brother Don, mid 1930s



Don with Jane's boys, Mike and David Gessner, also one of JB's beagles



Don with Susie (Jim's first wife) and Jennie



Don in the late 1940s

Don liked to carve... his little carved mice show up in the most unexpected places. He passed on his love of fishing, gardening & cooking to his 3 sons.

Thankfully, Don and Betty enjoyed family genealogy, too. They made binders of photos and documents that have been a wonderful resource for the rest of us.



Don Joseph Johnston & his bride Betty Joan Bell, Wedding day 1952



That's Don,
right front



Johnston Family

Standing: John (Randy), Penny, Jason, Karen,
Debi, Don (Grandad), John, Jeff, Ken
Seated: Jim, Betty holding Christopher



JUL • 61

Downtown Fort Wayne 2014

The building next to the hotel (see the 1961 photo on left) was owned by Winifred Randall and known as the Randall Extension. It wasn't, however, part of the hotel but was a warehouse with storefronts. (Warehouses were vitally important in that era because goods weren't easily transported and storage was essential.) Today, the Randall Extension has been converted into apartments called the Randall Lofts.



The Randall Lofts 2014



View of the Randall Hotel from Columbia Street c1900

When the hotel was sold in the late 1960s, real estate developers had no appreciation for historic buildings. If buildings needed renovation, they were simply torn down leaving an empty lot. By the 1970s Fort Wayne began restoring historic sites, but sadly, the most historic building in the now-trendy Columbia Street area was gone.



Columbia Street 2014 (There's now a parking lot where the Randall Hotel once stood.)



Standing on Columbia Street, one can only imagine the ghost of the Randall Hotel.

To contribute or request information, contact Leslie: lsisman@rcn.com



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The RANDALL

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FOR SALE HERE