

VOLUME III

**GENEALOGY**  
OF  
**DR. FREDERICK BRYAN**  
AND  
**DELVA NEWCOMBE**

PREPARED  
BY  
MARILOU WEST FICKLIN, CG  
COLFAX, CALIFORNIA  
2008  
(REVISED 16 DEC 2016)

Ancestor Stories

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## PREFACE

The documentation in this report is based on personal research except where correspondence from other descendants and published works are specifically cited. Key documents will be found as follows:

BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES ARE IN BINDER,  
"FAMILY HISTORY OF BRYANS-NEWCOMBES-  
GILKINSONSDOCUMENTS"

### **WARNING: PREVIOUS FAMILY HISTORY**

**A previous two-volume report, "West-Bryan-Ficklin Family History (Vol I and II)" contains inaccurate material regarding the West and Bryan families and should never be released to the public in any form. Please discard it. (The parts about the Gilkinsons were incorrect. The parts about the Bryans have been incorporated into the present report.)**

## Ancestor Stories

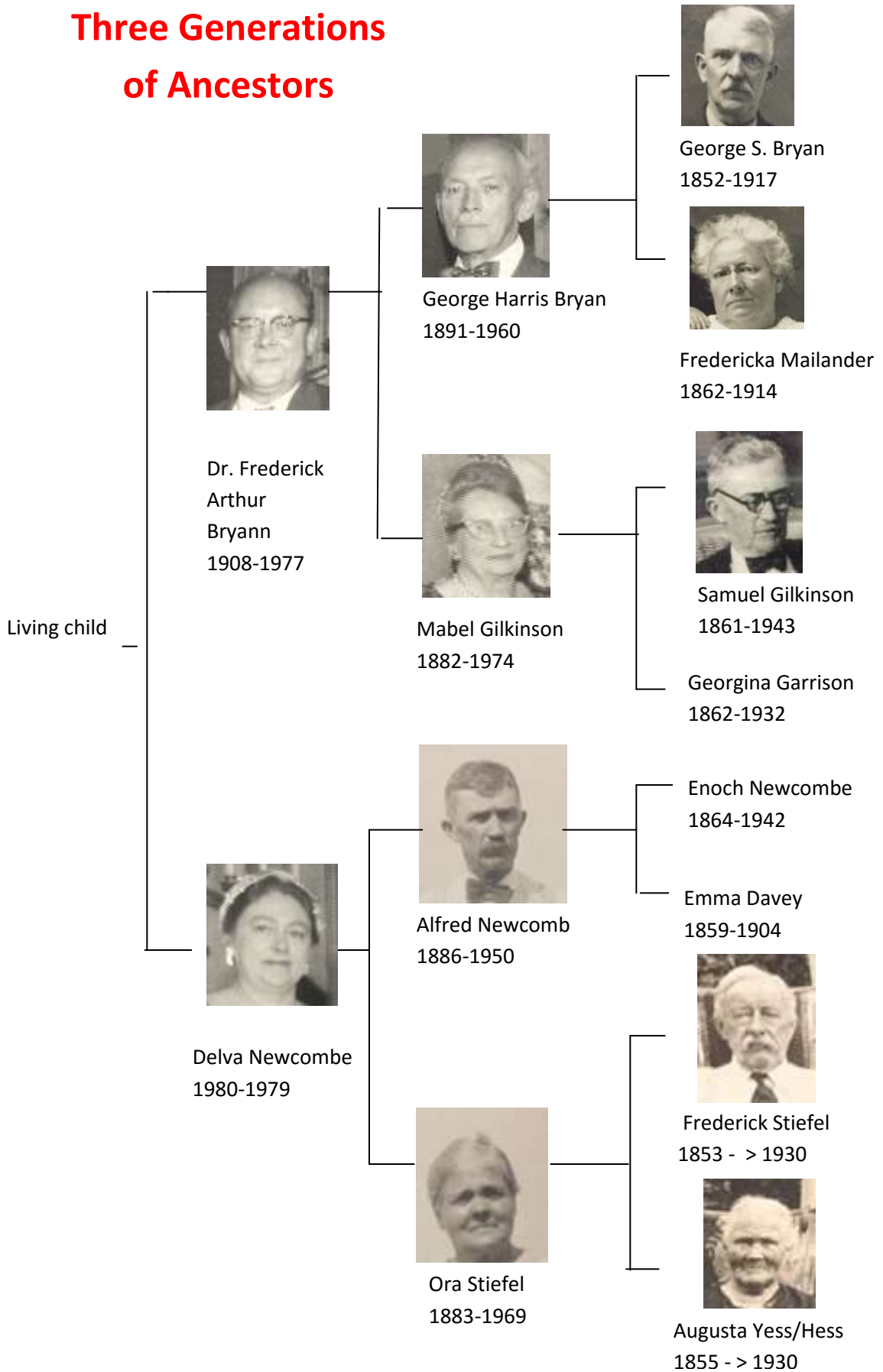
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## Ancestor Stories

# Three Generations of Ancestors



Ancestor Stories



# **BRYAN ANCESTOR STORIES**

## Ancestor Stories

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## Dr. Fred Bryan and the Manhattan Project

Frederick Arthur Bryan was born to George H. and Mabel Gilkinson Bryan in 1908 in Rochester, NY. He attended the University of Rochester, obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering, and later an MD at the University's Medical School. He married Delva Newcombe. After receiving his license to practice medicine in 1938, Fred took a position teaching at the University, and practiced at Strong Memorial Hospital. He designed and built its blood plasma unit. At this time they lived at 611 Melville Avenue in Rochester.



611



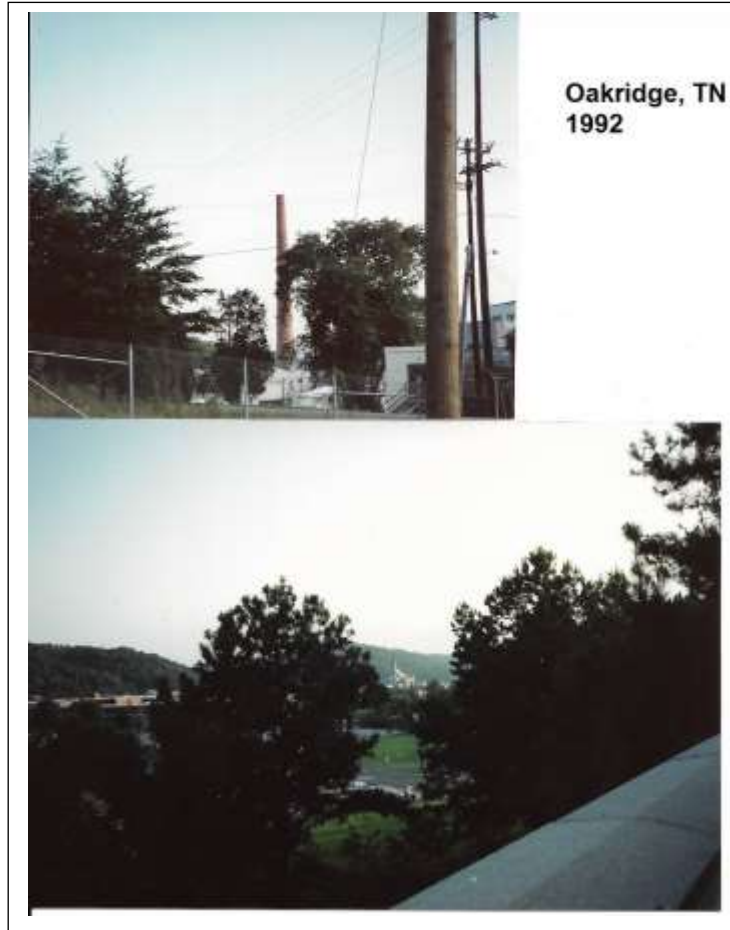
Delva June Newcombe as bride

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Two views of University of Rochester Medical School—Strong  
Memorial Hospital (1930s above, and the 1980s below)

In 1942 the U.S. Government formed the Manhattan Engineering District and invested two billion dollars in a project inspired by Albert Einstein. In 1943 the Department of the Army “invited” Stafford Warren, Chief of Medical Services at Strong Memorial –and Chief of Radiology at the Medical School to join the secret “Manhattan Project.” Warren accepted and in so doing members of his hospital staff were drafted into the army, including Captain Fred Bryan.

The army chose a little community consisting of 1000 residents eighteen miles from Knoxville, Tennessee, to be the



project location. The place was “Oakridge” and selected because it was remote and concealed by natural ridges. The one thousands residents were ordered to vacate and the Army moved in.<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1945 the Bryans settled in the homes of the previous residents of Oakridge. The device developed by the project” was shipped to White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico for test later that year. The “Atom Bomb” was first deployed over Hiroshima, Japan in August 1945. It ended WWII and changed the course of history.

Four days after the war Fred was named “Man of the Week” in Rochester newspapers.<sup>2</sup> He was sent to take part in atomic testing on Bekini Island after which he returned to civilian life. In 1947 he co-developed and patented an inhalation therapy technique with his associate Dr. George Taplin. That same year his Chief of Service, Stafford Warren, was appointed Director of the Atomic Energy Project at UCLA.

<sup>1</sup> *Smokey Mountain Country*, North, Callahan, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1952.

<sup>2</sup> Newspaper clipping among mementos of Fred and Delva Bryan now held by granddaughter Suzanne Bryan of San Francisco, CA.

Warren asked Fred to be Chief of the Industrial Hygiene Division at the Medical School. Fred accepted the position and relocated to Los Angeles along with former associates. He began a lifelong career at the UCLA Medical Center.



***Delva June Newcombe Bryan***  
***1959 photo***



***Dr. Frederick Arthur Bryan***  
***1959 Photo***

The entire family came west with Fred—including his wife and son and his parents, George and Mabel Bryan. Delva’s parents, Alfred and Ora Newcombe accompanied them. All remained in Los Angeles for the rest of their lives.<sup>3</sup>

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For another “Bryan” from Rochester who served during WWII, see “leftovers” for the story of Roger Bryan, Flying Fortress Radio Gunner.

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<sup>3</sup> Death Certificates for each are on file in the California State Department of Health. However no burial records have yet been found.

## Ancestor Stories



## Alfred Newcombe from Devon, England

Alfred Newcombe was born in Bideford, Devonshire,<sup>4</sup> England, in 1886 to Enoch and Emma Davey Newcombe. Alfred sailed with his brother, Arthur, to New York on the Ship “Philadelphia”. They departed Southampton, England 24 September 1904 and arrived at New York October 1. The Ship manifest lists him as a “Collector.” Alfred and Arthur each had \$30. Their destination was 49 Olean Street, Rochester, New York.<sup>5</sup>

The brothers are listed together in the 1905 State Census of New York where they ‘boarded’ with a Cawburn family at the Olean Street address. Alfred reported his occupation as “stenographer.” Arthur said he was a “day laborer.”<sup>6</sup>



***Alfred Newcombe***

### ***Bideford on the west coast of Devonshire, England***



<sup>4</sup> Birth in “Biddeford, Eng., from Alfred Newcombe station owner, born “Beddeford,” Englan Donlon St, Rochester, Dist 6. He is listed

<sup>5</sup> See Ship’s Manifest on page 9.

<sup>6</sup> NY State Census, 1905. Alfred states he has been in the U.S. 4 years. Arthur states he has been in the U.S. 1 year.

No further record has been found about Alfred until 1907.

Alfred Newcombe married Ora Stiefel in 1907!

Their first daughter, Delva June, was born in 1908. Their second daughter, Dorothy, was born in 1910.<sup>7</sup> According to family they lived in “Swissvale, Pennsylvania,” southeast of Pittsburgh near the Monongahela River.<sup>8</sup>

Family legend which has prevailed over several generations goes like this:

*Alfred Newcombe worked the coal mines near Pittsburgh until he was stricken with tuberculosis and sent to Rochester, New York for treatment. Ora Stiefel nursed him back to health. Some say she was a nurse and that they met while he was in the hospital in Rochester. No records have been found to support this claim.*



**Ora Stiefel (1883-1969)**  
Date of photo unknown

The legend that he was a miner might derive from Alfred’s origins: he grew up in Devon on the west coast near the border of Cornwall. (Cornwall was famous for mining – and for exporting miners to America.)

However as a boy in Bideford Alfred had worked as a mason’s apprentice.<sup>9</sup> On arrival in America he worked as a stenographer. If he took a job in the mines, he took it as a novice.

Only two years elapsed between the time Alfred lived on Olean Street in Rochester (June 1, 1905) and his marriage to Ora June 4, 1907. Is it logical that during two years he could have gone to Pittsburgh, worked in the mines long enough to contract “TB” and have been shipped back to Rochester to be cared for by Ora—and married her?

Perhaps he married Ora in Rochester and then went to the Pittsburgh mines. In that case he probably got sick after the marriage and the births of his daughters.

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<sup>7</sup> The family has not been found in the 1910 census of New York or Pennsylvania in the transcriptions at Ancestry.com.

<sup>8</sup> The death records of both Newcombe sisters state they were born in New York. Information provided by surviving—and grieving-- family members is often unreliable.

<sup>9</sup> 1901 Census of England, Devon.

The next ten years are full of mystery.

If Alfred were treated in Rochester it may have been at the Famous Iola Sanitarium which opened as a tent hospital about 1909. It opened, officially, in 1911.<sup>10</sup>

Wherever Alfred was treated, the Newcombe family left no record in the 1910 U.S. Census nor the 1915 New York State Census.<sup>11</sup> Where did he live? Even though the US and NY State agents failed to find him, the publishers of commercial directories found him—year after year.

In 1909 the Rochester City Directory listed Alfred as a ‘trimmer’. Then from 1911-1917 it displayed him as a “chauffeur” at various locations—living at 9 ½ Donlon Street.

In the meantime his brother Arthur had returned to Devon to bring their father, Enoch, and family to America. The mother, Emma, had died in 1904 and Enoch remarried to Mary West Jeffery. They sailed from Liverpool to Boston in April 1914 on the Ship “Olympic.”<sup>12</sup> They settled briefly in Rochester and were enumerated in the 1915 census. Enoch worked in a foundry.

By 1917 Enoch Newcombe is listed in the same directory as “removed to Detroit.” Apparently Alfred’s brother, Arthur, went to Michigan with their father.

In 1918 Alfred filled out a WWI Draft Registration Card in Rochester.

By 1920 Alfred’s father, Enoch Newcombe, had resettled in Flint, Michigan. Alfred and Ora followed and were enumerated in Enoch’s household in the 1920 U.S. Census in Flint. Enoch was employed in the cement industry and Alfred worked as an auto mechanic.<sup>13</sup> Enoch would remain in Flint to work in the auto industry for the rest of his life.<sup>14</sup>

Alfred and Ora did not stay long in Flint. Alfred returned to Rochester to his old job—chauffeur.

In 1921 they again resided at on Donlon Street—where they stayed for the next twenty years. Alfred continued to work as a chauffeur.

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<sup>10</sup> The structure located on Westfall Road was demolished in 2013 for a shopping center.

<sup>11</sup> The Census Bureau enumerates people at their normal place of residence—even if they are in the hospital or on vacation.

<sup>12</sup> Massachusetts Passengers and Crew Lists 1820-1963, Enoch Newcombe and Arthur, 1914

<sup>13</sup> 1920 U.S. Census, Flint, Michigan lists both families including “Molly,” Alfred’s fourteen-year-old half-sister, daughter of Mary West Jeffery

<sup>14</sup> Flint was a major General Motors Plant manufacturing Chevrolets.

## Ancestor Stories

According to the 1940 census Alfred had advanced to the position of 'gas station proprietor.' He lived with his family on Farmington Road. The 1941 City Directory for Rochester shows Alfred as 'owner of a gas Station' at 3522 East Avenue in Pittsford (a district of southeast Rochester). Alfred had become a citizen of the United States.

After WWII Alfred followed his son-in-law, Fred Bryan, to California. Alfred died in 1950 in Los Angeles.

What did Alfred look like? Alfred's WWII draft card describes Alfred as 5'8" tall, 150 lbs with hazel eyes and brown hair. (See photo on page 5.)

Alfred's father, Enoch, died in 1942 only eight years prior to Alfred. No photos of Enoch have been found.

Alfred's wife, Ora, survived him by many years, residing in a modest home in West Los Angeles. Her daughter Dorothy Melvin lived with her in later years.<sup>15</sup> Ora lived long enough to see the birth of two great grandchildren in 1960 and 1962. She died in 1969.



***Delva Newcombe Bryan with her parents and in-laws in the 1930s.***

*Top left to right: Alfred Newcombe, George H. Bryan*

*Bottom left to right: Ora Stiefel Newcombe, Mabel Gilkinson Bryan, Delva*

Alfred's ancestors trace back decades—perhaps centuries—in Devon. Alfred's parents, Enoch Newcombe and Emma Davey were married in 1882. His grandparents were Emmanuel Newcombe born in 1818 and his wife Joanne Willis.

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<sup>15</sup> Dorothy married a Mr. Melvin who worked with the U.S. Diplomatic Service in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They divorced and Dorothy returned to Los Angeles to live with her mother.

**B**

**LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.**

Arriving at Port of **NEW YORK**, OCT - 1 1904, 1904

S. S. "PHILADELPHIA" sailing from **Seattle, Wash.**

No.	Age	Sex	Color	Religion	Place of Birth	Country of Birth	Profession	Marital Status	Number of Family	Number of Dependents	Number of Months in U.S.	When Arrived	Where Arrived	Where to go	Remarks	Classification
100	27	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
101	25	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
102	24	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
103	23	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
104	22	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
105	21	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
106	20	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
107	19	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
108	18	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
109	17	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
110	16	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
111	15	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
112	14	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
113	13	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
114	12	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
115	11	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
116	10	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
117	9	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
118	8	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
119	7	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
120	6	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
121	5	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
122	4	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
123	3	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
124	2	M	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Shipyard	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant
125	1	F	White	Protestant	Sweden	Sweden	Housewife	Married	4	3	12	1902	Seattle	Seattle	Working on ship	Immigrant

Passenger List of Ship Philadelphia, 24 September 1904  
Alfred Newcombe and brother Arthur.

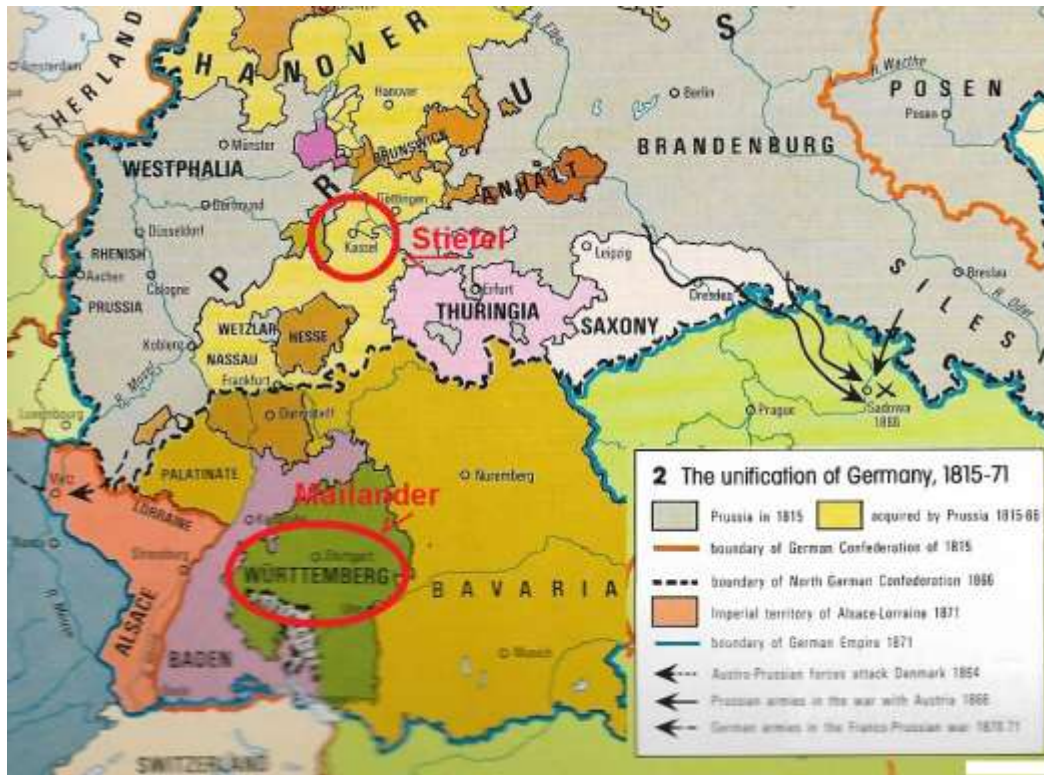
[Magnified detail outlined in red]

Alfred Newcombe  
Arthur Newcombe

## Ancestor Stories

## Gottfried Stiefel, Hessian Immigrant

**Gottfried Stiefel**, a German farmer, and his wife Elisabeth were born in Hesse—Kassel. Gottfried was born about 1813 and Elisabeth about 1815.<sup>16</sup> They sailed from Bremen to New York in 1846 on the Ship “Amazon.” Their stated destination on the passenger list was “Wisconsin.” Their first record of residence, however, was in Buffalo, New York in 1850.



Their first son, William, was born about 1849 in New York and the second son, Frederick, in 1854.

Gottfried and Elisabeth came to Rochester before 1860.<sup>17</sup> He worked as a cabinet maker. His son, William, married and moved next door.

<sup>16</sup> Hesse-Kassel: Hesse is in west central Germany. Modern Hesse was known as Hesse-Darmstadt until the Seven Weeks War in 1866 when Hesse-Cassel/Kassel was annexed to Prussia. It became part of the German Empire in 1871.

<sup>17</sup> Passenger list of the Ship Amazon, NY, 5 Jun 1846 from Bremen; 1850 U.S. Census, Buffalo, NY; 1850 U.S. Census, Buffalo, NY; 1860 U.S. Census, Rochester, NY—all stating birth in Hesse Kassel.

Gottfried died in June 1872 and is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester. His wife Elisabeth died in October 1889 and is also buried at Mt. Hope.<sup>18</sup> (See Ship's Passenger List on next page.)

Many with the surname "Stiefel" settled in Rochester. Unfortunately many of them were given the Christian names William and Frederick. See ship list on next page and their enumeration in the 1860 U.S. Census, Rochester, NY on page 14.

## The sons and grandsons of Gottfried (Godfrey) Stiefel

**William Stiefel (1849-?)** Gottfried's eldest son, first worked as a **fireman on the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad.**<sup>8</sup> He married twice and had two children by his first wife, Mary who died before 1880. One of his boys was named **Frederick** (born about 1870). William Stiefel later remarried to a woman named "Nellie." His death and burial place are not known.

**Frederick William Stiefel** (1870-1942). William Stiefel's son Frederick also was a fire fighter. He became a Fire Captain for the City of Rochester Fire Department. He was born in July 1870. He married a woman named Catherine in 1895. Catherine was born 22 Dec 1872. They had a daughter named Verona who taught school at the James Whitcomb Riley School.

They lived on Barrington Avenue in Ward 12 of Rochester. In the Rochester City Directories he is listed as Captain of Truck 4 of the Fire Department. The 1925 State Census shows Fred as a captain in the city fire department, "Truck Co. #4."<sup>10</sup> Fred died in 1942 and is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester. His gravestone commemorates his service with "Truck 4" of the Rochester Fire Department.



Catherine died in 1967.

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<sup>18</sup> Mt. Hope burial shown at Find-A-Grave at Ancestry.com, memorial # 41389825 for "Godfrey Steefel," and # 41390228, "Ann Lizabeth Stiefel" 1870 U.S. Census, Rochester, NY shows Gottfried still living with wife and son Frederick. The 1875 New York State Census shows Elisabeth living with Frederick and his wife, Augusta.



Index

**DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK—PORT OF NEW-YORK.**

I do solemnly swear, and truly believe, that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, is a true and correct account of all the Passengers received on board the Amazon, on the 5th day of June, 1846.

**LIST, or MANIFEST of all the PASSENGERS taken on board the Amazon, on the 5th day of June, 1846.**

Master, from Germany      Northern      Ship

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The Country to which they are bound.	The Office to which they intend to be assigned.	Died on the voyage.
Carl Schickel	25	male	Tinner	Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	25	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	24	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	23	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	22	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	21	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	20	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	19	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	18	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	17	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	16	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	15	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	14	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	13	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	12	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	11	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	10	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	9	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	8	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	7	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	6	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	5	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	4	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	3	female		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	2	male		Germany	St. Louis	
Joh. Stiefel	1	female		Germany	St. Louis	

Gottfr. Stiefel      24      female

Ships Passenger List of the "Amazon", 5 June 1846, showing Gottfried and Elizabeth Stiefel (enlarged image outlined in red)

Page No. 139  
 SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in 11th Ward City Rochester in the County of Monroe State  
 of New York enumerated by me, on the 9 day of August, 1860. Wm. Wright Ass't Marshal  
 Post Office Rochester

1	2	3	Description			7	Value of Real Estate		10	11	12	13	14
			4	5	6		8	9					
		Christian Miller	3	f	✓				N.Y.				
		Lucretia	2	f	✓				Do.				
		Nathan Phelps	10	m	✓	Day laborer			Rochester				
104	1010	Harriet May	35	m	✓	Do.	1	200	Do.				
		Theresa	30	f	✓				Do.				
		August	5	m	✓				N.Y.				
		Antonia	3	m	✓				Do.				
		Katharine	1	f	✓				Do.				
105	1011	Anton Schupp	11	m	✓	Day laborer	1	600	200	Monroe			
		Elphira	37	f	✓				Do.				
		Henry	12	m	✓				N.Y.				
106	1012	Gottfried Stiefel	18	m	✓			100	100	Carthagen			
		Anna Elt	15	f	✓				Do.				
		William	11	m	✓				N.Y.				
		Frederick	4	m	✓				Do.				
107	1013	John Kiriliga	10	m	✓	Joiner	1	100	150	Rochester			
		Anna Kiriliga	37	f	✓				Do.				
		Theresa	11	f	✓				Do.				
		Henry	4	m	✓				Do.				
		Katharine	6	f	✓				N.Y.				
108	1014	Charles Schupp	10	m	✓	Day laborer	1	600	100	Monroe			
		Mary	37	f	✓				Do.				
		Henry	12	m	✓				N.Y.				
		Katharine	7	f	✓				Do.				
		John	4	m	✓				Do.				
109	1015	John Miller	33	m	✓	Shoemaker	1	100	100	Wartburg			
		John	33	f	✓				Monroe				
		Katharine	4	f	✓				N.Y.				
		Mary	2	f	✓				Do.				
		Richard	3	m	✓				Do.				
		William	2	f	✓				Do.				
		Abraham	16	f	✓				Do.				
110	1016	Mary Trauer	16	f	✓	Widow	1	200	100	Rochester			
		Barbara	22	f	✓				Do.				
		Yolanda	20	f	✓				Do.				
		Barbara	18	m	✓				Do.				
		Josephine	16	f	✓				Do.				
		Joseph	16	m	✓				Do.				

104	1012	Gottfried Stiefel	18	m	✓			100	100	Carthagen			
		Anna Elt	15	f	✓				Do.				
		William	11	m	✓				N.Y.				
		Frederick	4	m	✓				Do.				

1860 U.S. Census, Monroe Co., NY, Rochester, 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, 9 Aug 1860  
 Showing Gottfried Stiefel, wife Anne Elizabeth, and sons William and Frederick

**Frederick Stiefel (1853-?)**. Gottfried's son Frederick followed his father's profession and became a furniture craftsman in Rochester. He married in 1874 to a German girl named **Augusta Yess** from Prussia.<sup>19</sup> A family legend states that Augusta Yess was born aboard ship in New York Harbor. No such record has been found.

Augusta herself claimed she was born in Prussia in 1854 and that she immigrated to America in 1869.<sup>20</sup> She was 15 years old when she entered New York Harbor. (See immigration year on census, page 18) Augusta sometimes called herself "Gusta."

They both lived until after 1930. No records of Frederick and Augusta's death have yet been found.

(See photos of Frederick and Augusta on following page.)

#### **Children of Frederick and Augusta Stiefel:**

Frederick and Augusta had five children. The eldest sons were named William Frederick Stiefel and Frederick William Stiefel, Jr.

**William Frederick Stiefel (1876- )**. He married about 1905 and left few records. He married Ann Van Buren, an immigrant from Switzerland born in 1882. She had come to Rochester with her parents.

William worked in a business downtown Rochester as a stocker and shipper according to city directories from 1909 to 1921. However the New York State Census of 1915 found Ann living with her parents and siblings in Rochester. It is possible William had served in WWI.

William has not been found at all that census or the 1920 U.S. Census—although the 1921 city directory finds him living at 408 East Main and working at 96 St. Paul St. There is no record of the couple having any children.

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<sup>19</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, for Frederick and Augusta Bryan gives marriage year as 1874. The Maiden name, "Yess," is from death and marriage certificate of daughter, Ora Stiefel Newcombe..

<sup>20</sup> 1930 U.S. Census, Rochester, states she immigrated in 1869 and was never naturalized. No record of her immigration has been found. An "Augusta Yoss," was found in a ship's list for the Ship "Holsatia", 20 July 1869. She was a nineteen-year-old unmarried female travelling alone.

Ancestor Stories



This photo from the Bryan family collection has been referred to only as the 'great grandparents.' It is believed they are Frederick Stiefel and Augusta Yess. The photo appears to be circa 1900-1930 . (Enlarged segments below)



**Frederick William Stiefel (1880- )** Frederick followed his father's trade in woodworking. He married a fifteen-year-old German girl named Barbara Mayer about 1908. Fred worked as a cabinet maker and woodworker. Eventually he went to work for Eastman Kodak in Rochester. He registered for the draft for WWI and WWII. (See WWI draft registration on page 19)

He was described as of medium height and build (5 ' 8", 195 lbs in 1942). His eyes were blue and his hair brown. In 1925 Barbara's brother in law came to live with them. They lived on Norton Street in Ward 17.

**Ora Stiefel (1883-1969)**. Ora was born in 1883 in Rochester, New York.. When she was seventeen Ora worked as a saleswoman in a dry goods store. The family lived in the community of "Webster."<sup>21</sup> In the 1905 State Census she was listed as a "camera worker." No record has been found to suggest she trained as a nurse. Ora married Alfred Newcombe in 1907. (See Alfred Newcombe)



Ora (Stiefel) and Alfred Newcombe – undated photo

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<sup>21</sup> 1930 U.S. Census, Monroe Co., NY, living in Webster.

Ancestor Stories

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
 FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930  
 POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumeration District No. 28560  
 Precinct No. 9  
 Sheet No. 5A

Enumeration District No. 28560  
 Precinct No. 9  
 Sheet No. 5A

NAME	RELATION	SEX AND AGE		MARRIAGE	RACE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE	FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE	MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE	LANGUAGE	YEAR IMMIGRATED
		SEX	AGE								
Stiefel, Frederick	Head	M	77	M	71	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	German	1869
Stiefel, Augusta	Wife	F	75	M	30	Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	German	1869

1930 U. S. Census showing Frederick and Augusta Stiefel indicating the year of Augusta's immigration, 1869.

Name	Age	Age at Marriage	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Language	Year Immigrated
Stiefel, Frederick	77	71	Germany	Germany	Germany	German	1869
Stiefel, Augusta	75	30	Germany	Germany	Germany	German	1869

### REGISTRAR'S REPORT 31-7-10-C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT						
HEIGHT		BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Slender	Medium	Short		
22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	34	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	28		<i>Blue Brown</i>

29 Has perfect lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature, or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Date of Registration *Sept. 12, 1937*

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

### REGISTRATION CARD A

SERIAL NUMBER **2097** ORDER NUMBER **3055**

1 *Fredrick Stiefel Jr.*  
(Last Name) (Middle Name) (First Name)

2 *417 Madison St. Rochester N.Y.*  
(Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or Town) (State)

Age in Years **38** Date of Birth **June 20 1898**  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

R. A. C. E.			
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Natives Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Non-declarant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION *Contractor* EMPLOYER'S NAME *Contractor Kodak Co.*

16 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS *12 Caledonia Ave. Rochester N.Y.*  
(Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or Town) (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE Name *Barbara Stiefel*  
 Address *417 Madison St. Rochester N.Y.*  
(Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or Town) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

F. M. G. O. *Fredrick Stiefel Jr.*  
(Registrant's Signature)

## Ancestor Stories



## Samuel Gilkinson, Irish Immigrant

The ancestor of this family is said to be Samuel Gilkinson of Dungannon, County Tyrone, (1770-?). His son, Alexander (1805-1899) lived in Tullygun Town in the parish of Dungannon, County Tyrone. Alexander was the father Samuel Gilkinson (1827-1917) who emigrated to America in 1850.



The picture on the right shows modern Dungannon (location of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Gilkinson farm.)

Samuel Gilkinson (1827-1917) married Mary Park, the daughter of James and Jane Park. The marriage took place 14 November 1848 in Dungannon.<sup>22</sup>

The 1840's were known as the decade of the "Potato Famine" in Ireland. The linen industry

was the foundation of the economy in County Tyrone. Samuel was a weaver as was his father before him. The famine had a drastic effect on the industry and the population.

Under these circumstances cheap passage to America lured many young men like Samuel from the stricken country. Samuel and Mary sailed on the Ship Wolfville in May of 1850. They settled in New Jersey. (See ship list, page 23.)



Their son, Samuel R. Gilkinson was born September 9, 1861 in New Jersey. Samuel married Georgina Garrison December 26, 1881 in Newark. Georgina was born in New Jersey in 1862.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Ireland Civil Register of Marriage Index, 1845-1958, Vol. 5, p. 488 listing place as Dungannon. Ireland Select Marriages 1619-1898 shows Alexander as father of Samuel.

Samuel Gilkinson, Sr., died 13 June 1917 in Belleville, Essex County, New Jersey. Mary Park Gilkinson died March 2, 1880.<sup>24</sup>

Mabel Gilkinson was born to Samuel and Georgina Gilkinson in New Jersey December 7, 1882. The family left New Jersey and came to Bath, NY. Their son Robert was born in New York in 1884.

Samuel R. Gilkinson, a case maker by trade, located his business in downtown Rochester. His oldest son, Robert, opened a grocery on Plymouth Street. Over the next decade he established grocery stores at various locations. Samuel's youngest son, Bill, is said to have fought in WWI.



*Mabel Gilkinson*



Samuel R. Gilkinson

Samuel and Georgine Gilkinson's daughter, Mabel, married George Harris Bryan, son of George S. Bryan, on July 18, 1904.

Samuel R. Gilkinson's wife, Georgine, died 28 December 1932.

Samuel then went into the grocery business with his youngest son, Bill.

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<sup>23</sup> It may be a coincidence that Dr. Fred Bryan's (1908-1977) maternal grandfather and his paternal great grandfather both married a "Garrison" (Elisha Bryan married Margaret Garrison of New Jersey and Samuel R. Gilkinson married Georgina Garrison of New Jersey.) The two women are not known to be related.

<sup>24</sup> Mary Gilkinson was buried at Woodland Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.

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NAMES	AGE		SEX	OCCUPATION	The Country in which they usually being	The Country of which they intend to become inhabitants
	YEARS	MONTHS				
Sarah McCracken	21		f			
Thos M Munnay	"		m	Labourer		
Dani Warden	29		"	"		
Alis Blitcher	21		"	"		
Ellen McManus	11		f	"		
Andw. McManus	29		m	"		
James Grant	"		"	"		
Geo. Anonius	"		"	"		
Wm. Anonius	11		"	"		
Annie ad	30		f	"		
James ad	21		"	"		
Mary ad	11		"	"		
Patrick ad	"		"	"		
Michael ad	10 1/2		"	"		
John McClelland	21		m	"		
Margt. Blair	"		f	"		
John Cameron	21		m	"		
Margt ad	18		f	"		
John ad	13		m	"		
Ellen ad	11		f	"		
Isabella ad	10 1/2		"	"		
John McShee	21		m	"		
Saml Gilkison	"		"	"		
Mary ad	"		f	"		
James McAnoy	29		m	"		
Sarah McAdams	"		f	"		
Ellen Kelly	20		"	"		
Geo. Lumberton	35		m	"		
Michael Lynch	20		"	"		
Michael Murdoch	"		"	"		
James McBlair	"		f	"		
Cather McPherson	30		"	"		
Robt. Anonius	21		m	"		
Mama Anonius	15		f	"		
John McAnoy	29		m	"		
John Munnay	31		"	"		
John ad	"		f	"		
John ad	"		m	"		
Sarah McAdams	"		f	"		
Robt McShee	"		m	"		
Ellen Kelly	10		f	"		
John McAnoy	21		"	"		

Saml Gilkison	"		"	"		
Mary ad	"		f	"		

Passenger List, Ship Wolfville from Belfast, May 21, 1850

## Ancestor Stories

## George Harris Bryan of Gleason Works

George Harris Bryan was born in 1881 in Rochester, New York to George S. and Fredericka (Rika) Mailander Bryan.

When he was a youth he worked as a draftsman at the same plant as did his father. Later he went to work at the Gleason Works. He was a talented engineer and advanced steadily until promoted to Chief Engineer.



*George Harris Bryan abt. 1912*

Gleason Works (1987 photo)



George H. Bryan with son Frederick and father George S. Bryan  
(abut 1912)

George married Mabel Gilkinson when he was 24. Their son Fred was born 20 October 1908.

George and Mabel Bryan relocated to Los Angeles, California when their son, Dr. Frederick Bryan, went to work at the UCLA Medical Center after WWII.

They lived out their lives in a small craftsman bungalow in West Los Angeles, California.

**Anecdote about death of George H. Bryan  
and birth of grandson, 1960**

Tragically George became agitated when the impending birth of his first great grandson was delayed beyond the expected 'due date'. That date, August 18, 1960, passed without the expected birth. He paced with worry for days. He felt something surely had gone wrong. Distraught beyond measure, George died 29 August, 1960.

His first (and only) great grandson was born without complication five days later on September 3, 1960.

*(See "leftovers" for discussion of George H. Bryan's middle name: Harris.)*



## George S. Bryan and Reka Mailander

George S. Bryan was born in 1852 in Rochester, New York to Elisha N. and Margaret Garrison Bryan. George began to work as a pressman with Horace Bryan when he was seventeen years old.

George married Fredericka Mailander in 1881. Fredericka, known as “Rika,” was born in September 1862 in New York. She was the daughter of Jacob and Magdalena (Lena) Mailander both born in Wurtemberg (Germany), Jacob in



1825 and ‘Lena’ in 1828.

Jacob and Lena immigrated to America in 1854, sailing on the “Leverland” arriving at New York 1 June 1854. Their first destination according to the ships manifest was Wisconsin.



According to the Census they lived in Rochester as early as 1860 and continuously thereafter. They had at least eight children including Rika. Jacob and Lena lived at least until 1896 in Rochester.

George and Rika Bryan had two sons: George Harris Bryan and Charles Bryan. They lived on Fern Street near the Bryan factory buildings.

With them lived Elizabeth Paulus and her children: son Charles and twins Bertram and Laura<sup>25</sup>. (Boarders) Elizabeth Paulus was Rika's sister. (She had married Charles Paulus in 1882.)<sup>26</sup>



At age 37 George S. Bryan became foreman at his plant. The plant was located at 330 Lyell Avenue on the west side of Rochester—the very location his uncle purchased seventy years before.<sup>27</sup>



George S. Bryan died in 1917 and Fredericka Mailander Bryan died in 1914.

They are buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery In Rochester, New York.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>The house was not far from the home of the Samuel R. Gilkinson whose daughter, Mabel, married George and Rika's son, George Harris Bryan.

<sup>26</sup> Elizabeth Paulus is listed as married in the 1900 census but her husband is not in the household. By the 1910 census Elizabeth is a head of household and widow.

<sup>27</sup> 330 Lyell was the address of the original Bryan factory making grain cradles and fan mills.

<sup>28</sup> Find-a-grave at Ancestry.com memorials 152818887 (George S. Bryan) and 152818736 (Fredericka Mailander Bryan), Mt. Hope Cemetery Section BB, Row 44, lots 93 and 93.



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George S. and Rika Bryan with sons and wives and one grandson. Left to Right: Top: George H. Bryan, George S. Bryan, Charles Bryan (?). Bottom: Fred Bryan about age 4, Rika Mailander Bryan, Maude Bosdyk Bryan (Charles' wife?), Mabel Gilkinson Bryan.

## Elisha Bryan, Politician

Elisha Bryan was born in 1809 in Shecomeco,<sup>29</sup> “Northeast,” New York, in the valley of the Oblong River of Dutchess County. It is near Amenia a few miles from the Connecticut border.

Elisha’s brother, William W. Bryan, was born in the same place in 1811. The brothers migrated together eventually establishing a business in Rochester, NY in the 1830s.

They were the sons of Isaac and Sally Bryan. The brothers continued the business of fan mill and grain cradle manufacturing first started by their grandfather, Ezra, in Amenia. Shortly after going into business, the Panic of 1837 hit Rochester and demolished their hopes.

Elisha began to take an interest in politics. In 1844 he was the Democratic nominee for Lumber Inspector. He was appointed the next year. In 1848 Elisha became the National Reformer’s “Barnburners” candidate for State Assembly and gained the backing of organized labor. A newspaper article published in the *Rochester Republican* mentioned that he gave a speech on the subject of suffrage but it did not elaborate on his views.<sup>30</sup>



***Genesee Falls near downtown Rochester***

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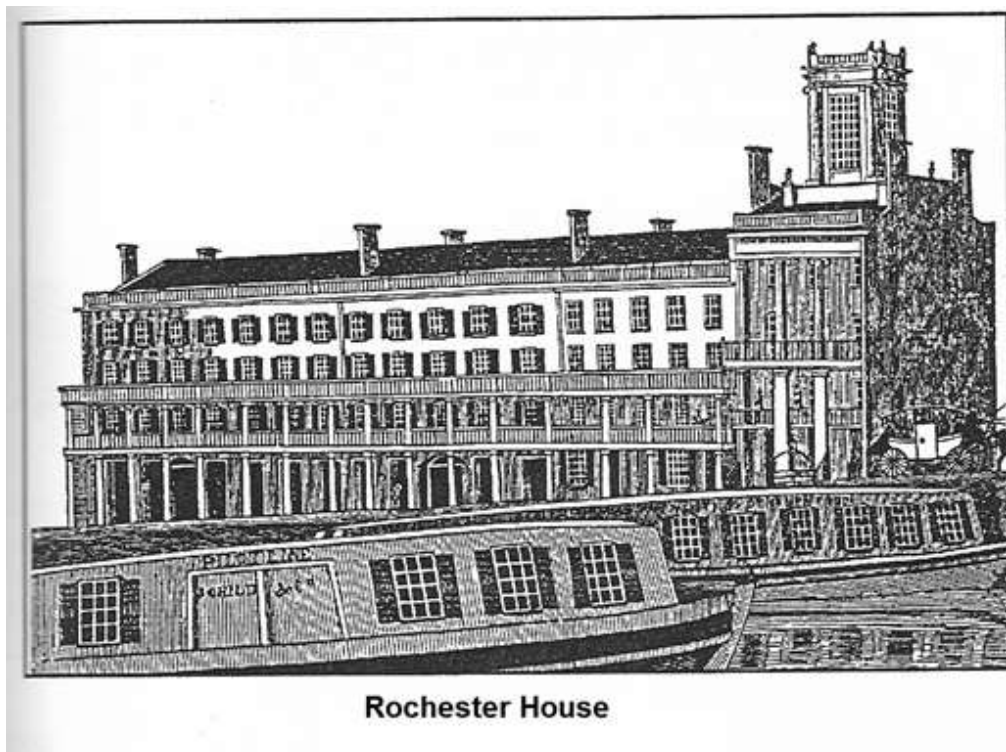
<sup>29</sup> Shecomeco is sometimes spelled “Shekomeko.”

<sup>30</sup> The news article merely stated that he spoke to the issue.

He followed in his father's footsteps by becoming Secretary of the Monroe County Temperance League.

In 1851 he married Margaret Garrison. In 1852 a cholera epidemic swept the city. Shortly thereafter Elisha went into business with his brother William. The two families lived together in one house on Kent Street. He became Overseer of the Poor in 1862.

When Civil War broke out, Elisha joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Artillery of the 54<sup>th</sup> New York Militia. The 54<sup>th</sup> was called the "Union Grays," or the "Reynolds Battalion [sic]." It served in the worst of the early battles including Bull Run and Antietam. Elisha was 54 years old.<sup>31</sup> On return from the war Elisha changed his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican and became a charter member of the Veterans of Union Gray.



Rochester House

### Rochester House Hotel burns three times.

Elisha then became proprietor of the Rochester Hotel which burned down three times under his management. He became the Republican candidate for and was elected to the position of Police Justice in 1865. He served one term as City Assessor for which he

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<sup>31</sup> Elisha's service record has not been acquired. He might have been too old for combat.

received an ebony cane with gold head. He served as Superintendent of the Truant House until it was abolished and two years as Collector at the Customs House. During these years he and his wife owned a home and several lots on Smith Street in what had been the Frankfort district across the river from downtown Rochester.<sup>32</sup>

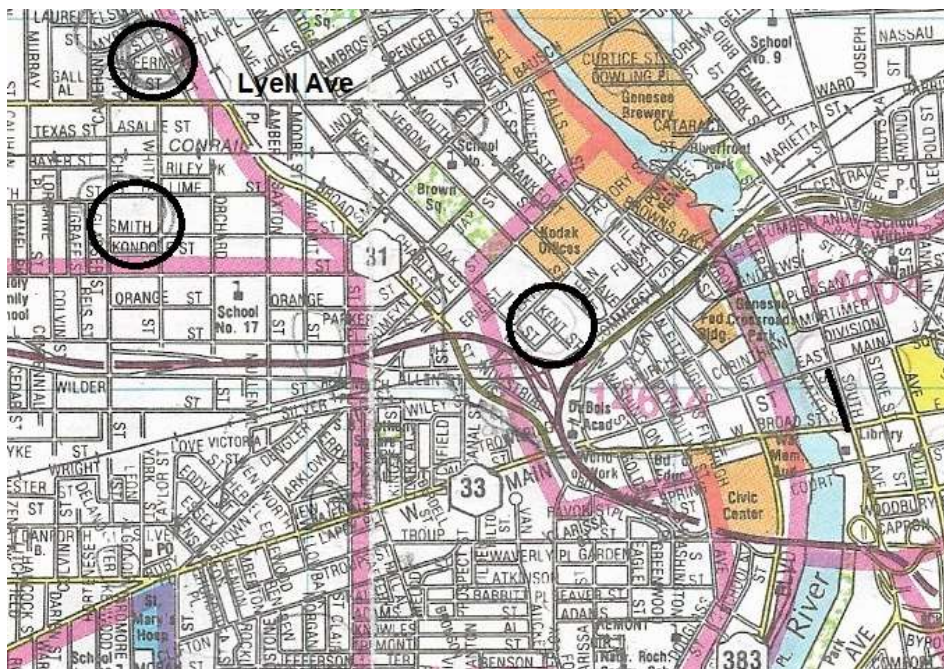
In his later years there came a time when Elisha's extended family all lived together on Smith Street. A Caroline Bryan, daughter-in-law of Jacob Bryan, a noted pioneer of nearby Penfield, and distant cousin, lived at the same address. Her son, Horace Bryan, also lived there. Elisha's son, George S. Bryan, worked for Horace in a print shop located in a building in which Caroline Bryan ran a restaurant.

Why after so many generations the two families came together—Caroline's and George's—is a mystery. Both families trace back to Alexander Bryan of Newtown, Connecticut in the early 1700s. (See later sections: "Alexander Bryan, Newtown, p. 47)

In 1875 Elisha retired from the bench and became Director of the Children's Home. His wife died and he remarried. He then retired from public life and went to work as a street car conductor for the Rochester Street Railroad.

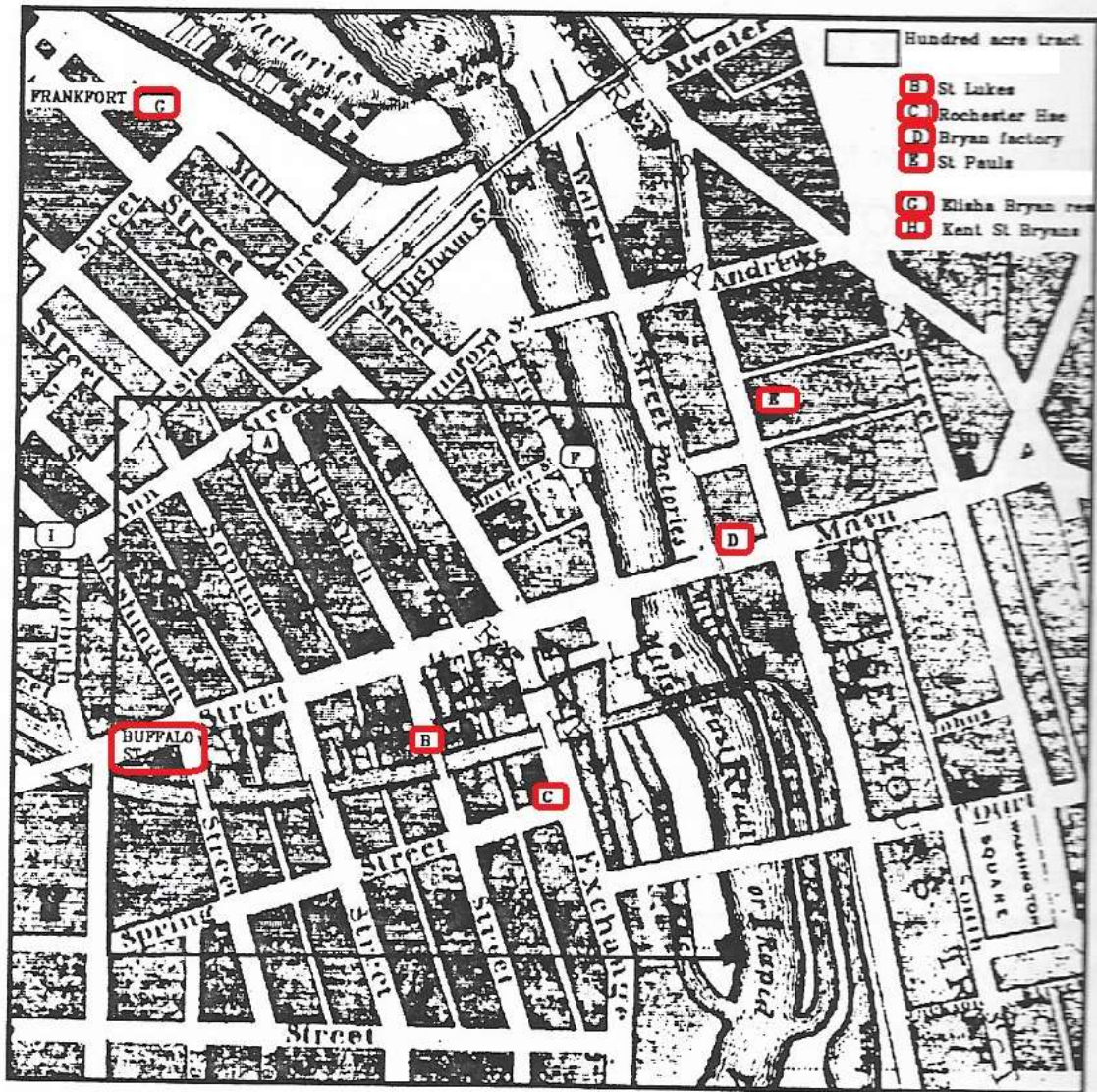
Tragically his eldest son, Frederick, fell from the roof of the almshouse and was killed.

Elisha died of a stroke in 1888 at age 79.



Modern street map showing some Bryan locations in 1800s

<sup>32</sup> Image of Rochester House from Henry O'Reilly, *Sketches of Rochester*, rpt (Geneseo; James Brunner, 1984.)



**BRYANS IN ROCHESTER,  
1800S**

Map showing locations of residence of George S. Bryan relative to that of Samuel Gilkinson and George Bryan's father, Elisha Bryan.

- Smith: = Elisha Bryan
- Fern = George S. Bryan
- Kent = Samuel Gilkinson

## Isaac Bryan: Temperance and Letters

Isaac Bryan was born 18 August 1776 to Ezra and Sarah Peck Bryan. He grew up in the village of Shecomeco/Shekemeko in the township of Northeast in Dutchess County, New York. Isaac left Shecomeco in the early 1800s to seek opportunities in Rensselaer County to the north. There he engaged in fan mill manufacturing on the Hudson River.

The business was first established by his father, Ezra, in Amenia, New York. Ezra's sons and nephews brought the business to the Hudson River in the early 1800s.

Development of the Erie Canal in the early 1830s drew members of the Bryan family west to Rochester, New York.

Isaac came to Rochester with sons Elisha and William. While the boys went into manufacturing, Isaac entered the civil service. He became a "Street Inspector" for the City of Rochester, followed by "Measurer of Wood," "Pound Master" and "Weigher of Hay."<sup>33</sup> He was elected delegate to the State Temperance Convention in August 1846.

Rochester was well-known for its *Reform* celebrities. The major topics of Reform were abolition, temperance and women's rights. The most significant persons who lived, advocated, died and are buried there



*Shecomeco/Shekemeko NY and relation to Waterford and Pittstown in Rensselaer County*

<sup>33</sup> *Rochester Daily Democrat*, 17 July 1835.

were: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick O. Douglass.

It is clear from Isaac's letters that he supported reform. In his day he was definitely opposed to the *Fugitive Slave Act*. Whether he ever met any of these giants of Reform is not known.

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Throughout Isaac's residence in Rochester, he exchanged letters with his younger brother, Amos, who had remained in Shecomeco.

Their correspondence reveals Isaac's thoughts as well as vital details of the lives of his close relatives.

Sept 1, 1846

[From Isaac Bryan, Rochester, NY to Amos Bryan, Esq. Northeast, Dutchess County, NY, Federal Store Post Office]

Dear Brother

As I have been appointed one of the delegates to the state temperance convention to be held at Auburn on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Sept instant, and as there will be delegates from all parts of the State, I thought very likely you might be one....

I must now say something about domestic concerns. We are now enjoying good health except for Sally, whose health is generally poor. I think she is much like her sister, Betsy....Elisha is at home, works at cradles mostly, sold about six hundred this year. Wm. Is doing good business in the hardware line. Sarah has married a hatter, works as journeyman...his name is Leonard. Laura married a widower with a child—resides in Iowa. Her husband's name is Dibble...Harriet is at home. Phebe was married the 20<sup>th</sup> last month to an Irishman by the name of Hair....

Your affectionate brother, Isaac Bryan.

From this letter it appears Isaac had daughters in addition to his two sons Elisha and William:

Sarah Bryan Leonard, Laura Bryan Dibble, Harriet Bryan, Phebe Bryan Hair already mentioned.

In the next letter Isaac talks personally about Temperance family and his wife Sally's health.

September 7, 1847

Dear Brother

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter containing a draft of \$40 which I consider a very liberal present, and for which I feel under the greatest obligations. It surely will not go, one cent of it, for intoxicating liquor for I have not swallowed one drop of anything which would intoxicate in about 5 ½ years, not even beer or cider....

Sally's health has been very poor for several years, is now very low, probably as poor in flesh as her sister Betsy ever was, no doubt the last stages of consumption.

## Ancestor Stories

Plat Viehl resides here now, all well. He has put up this season one of the most splendid buildings in western New York and perhaps in the state. The architect...says that there is nothing in Broadway in New York that can come up to it.

Isaac Bryan

[Sally died in 1849. Plat Viehl married Isaac's niece, Pheobe. His son William married Plat Viehl's daughter, Jane.]

The following letter reveals Isaac's politics.

December 11, 1852

Mt. Hope, Rochester

Dear Brother

A great and important election being just over, I must say a word about politics. Pierce has gained the greatest victory, when there was opposition that has ever been gained. I claim no credit for. I did not vote for him, neither did I vote for Scott, who tried to cheat his way into the White House. I voted for John P. Hale. They say I lost my vote, but I think not quite so much as those who voted for Scott, for I think Scott is civilly dead forever. My vote for Hale may tell something another time, I can never vote for any man who supports that obnoxious wicked & unconstitutional fugitive slave act (not law). I have the highest authority in the union for saying it is unconstitutional. Daniel Webster, before his great 7<sup>th</sup> March 1850 speech was a strong antislavery man.

Your affectionate Brother, Isaac Bryan.

[In the 1852 election John P. Hale was the candidate of the Free Soil Party an antislavery movement.]

In 1853 he writes about the fire at Rochester House

Dear Brother

I suppose you have heard of Elisha's misfortune, as I saw it in the New York papers. The Rochester house was burnt about two months since, which he kept with two partners. There were four persons burnt in it. He, wife and child just escaped without any clothes, lost all his furniture, no insurance. They had an insurance on the company property of \$1000 which will secure a part of the loss. This is the third time he is been burnt out, lost about \$1000 each time.

Isaac Bryan

In 1853 he speaks of the children he has lost and his own health

December 16, 1853

...I have lost 4, the youngest was 15. It is hard to lose them, but we must submit, thy will be done. ...As to myself, I don't know how I am. I am coughing more than I did in the summer...I have for about a month past been sorely afflicted with carbuncle biles...

My Respects to all

Isaac Bryan

Finally in 1854 this letter from Isaac's son, William, to Amos

June 29, 1854

Dear Uncle



## Index

It is with pain and deep regret that I am called upon to inform you of the death of my Father and your only Brother which took place Sunday morning 25<sup>th</sup> inst at 9 o'clock AM. His funeral was Tuesday last at ½ past 3 o'clock PM.

His suffering during the last few weeks of his illness was very severe. However he bore it with great patience and apparently Christian submission.

W.W. Bryan

In later days Isaac Bryan gave his address as "Mt. Hope, Rochester." This image below is entitled "A View from Mount Hope, 1854" the year of Isaacs Death. He is buried at Mt. Hope cemetery.



**Cover: *Sketches of Rochester* by Henry C. O'Reilly, rpt (Geneseo; James Brunner, 1984.)**

*(See Transcripts of all the letters in the accompanying binder labelled, "Documents." They were provided by David Bryan, descendant of David Bryan, son of Ezra Bryan of Shecomeco, NY.)*

# Bryan Fan Mills and Grain Cradles

Ezra Bryan invented the fan mill (See next chapter).<sup>34</sup> He began to produce them while living on his farm at the village of Shecomeco in Northeast on the Oblong River, Dutchess County, New York.

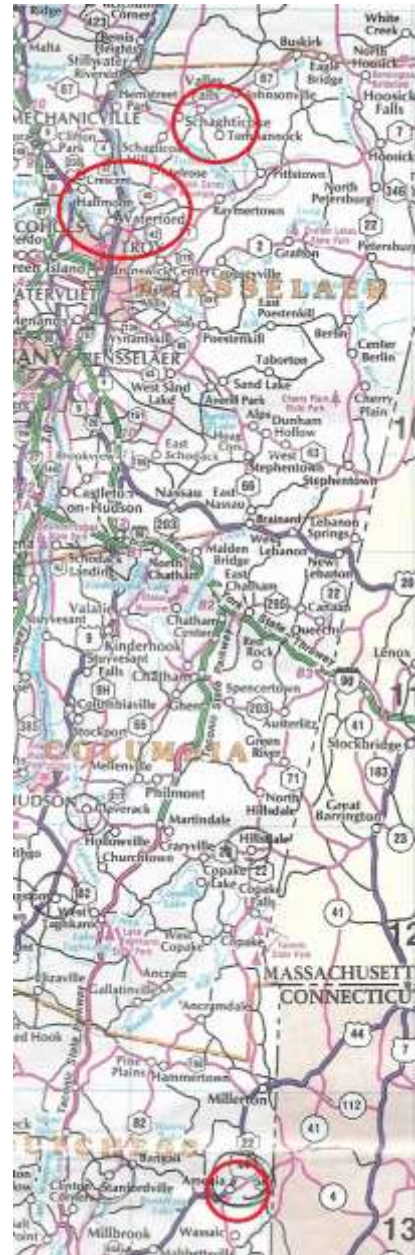
Three of Ezra’s sons and a nephew took the invention to Rensselaer County. These were sons David, Alexander, Isaac and nephew, Ezra.

Land had been offered for sale in late 18<sup>th</sup> century, in what was called the “Hoosic Patent.” David Bryan acquired land in 1799. A town called “Bryan’s Corners” was established in Pittstown on the Tomhannock River.

An Ezra Bryan (thought to be son of Isaac’s brother, Amos) built a grain cradle and fan mill factory on the Hudson River at Schaghticoke.

Ezra Bryan’s grandsons William and Elisha Bryan, reached adulthood about the time the Erie Canal opened. Western New York became the new land of opportunity. The Bryans moved west to extend the fan mill and grain cradle business to Rochester New York. They settled in the heart of the city. William W. Bryan bought land east of the Genesee River in the industrial district along Lyell Road.<sup>35</sup> William married Jane Elizabeth Viehl daughter of Platt Viehl, Treasurer of the Eastside Savings Bank. In 1837 William W. Bryan started his own farm equipment business.

William lost his business in the “Panic of 1837.” His property was sold at auction by the City in 1840. Perhaps his losses drove him by necessity to politics. William became the Democratic delegate to the County Convention in 1845 and elected to be an officer in the Fifth Ward Democratic Hickory Club.



<sup>34</sup> According to his grandson’s Dutchess County, NY biography.

<sup>35</sup> Rochester City Directory, 1841. William W. Bryan, hardware merchant, 9 Buffalo St.

## Index

In 1850 William W. Bryan was ready to try manufacturing again and opened an Edgetool Company on Buffalo Street next to the Van Zandt Brothers Coffee and Spice Mills. A few years later, together with brother Elisha, he opened a grain cradle and fan mill factory on Buffalo Street.



Above: a postcard of Buffalo Street in the early days.<sup>36</sup>

Below: A 1987 photo of the property on Lyell Road where the fan mills were made:.



BRYAN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY - LYELL ROAD

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<sup>36</sup> Image posted online.

## Ancestor Stories

Three generations of Bryans were engaged in this engineering and manufacturing business. It seems to have established a tradition of engineering passed down to later generations including George S. Bryan, George H. Bryan, Frederick Bryan and beyond.

Was is it in the Bryan DNA?



Grave of Platt V. Bryan son of William W. Bryan.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Find-a-grave at Ancestry.com, Memorial #116921145, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY



## Ezra Bryan, Quaker, of Shecomeco

Ezra Bryan was born 30 November 1740 in Newtown, CT. He married Sarah Peck 21 May 1761 in Newtown.

There are conflicting versions as to when Ezra left Newtown and came to Dutchess County, New York.

The obituary of Ezra's son, Isaac Bryan, states he (the son) was born in Dutchess County in 1776.<sup>38</sup> A local history states that another son of Ezra, Amos Bryan, was born in Dutchess County in 1779.

This argues that Ezra had come to Dutchess County at the outset of the Revolution by 1776.

However correspondence from living descendants now residing in Dutchess County claim Ezra did not come to Shecomeco until 1789 "after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution."<sup>39</sup>



Whether or not Ezra migrated to Dutchess County before the Revolution or after, he did purchase 400 acres of land as well as land for a Friends Meeting House in the "Little Nine Partners Grant" in the town of "Northeast," on the Oblong River in 1789.

The dispute? Did Ezra come to Dutchess County before 1776 or after 1789?

Many local histories contain anecdotes about Ezra.

Ezra was a devout Quaker and thus did not serve in the War. However he had a brother, Elijah, said to have been killed in the War.

It is possible that Ezra was the first Quaker in his family line.

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<sup>38</sup> Isaac's obituary in the Rochester Daily Democrat(?) states that he died June 25 1854 at age 78 and that he was born in Dutchess County. This implies a birth year of about 1776

<sup>39</sup> See correspondence from Ann Bryan Knickerbocker in accompanying bind of documents.

The *Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County*<sup>40</sup> contains biographies of Ezra's grandsons David and Isaac (son and grandson of Amos). David's biography states that Ezra was at first a cabinet-maker specializing in coffins and later invented the 'fan mill.' Ezra developed a business manufacturing the mill.

The biography goes on to state:

*"Ezra was a member of the Society of Friends, and through his loyalty to the Colonial government lost the bulk of his property in supporting the Revolutionary cause."*

Was this a misprint? How could he be loyal to Colonial (British) Government and still support the Revolutionary cause?

Did he lose property in Newtown, CT prior to coming to Shecomeco? Or did he purchase and lose another property in Dutchess County prior to his 1789 purchase at Shecomeco?

Another biographer states that Ezra Bryan of Amenia was "one of the true whigs of the Revolution....":<sup>41</sup>

It seems that Ezra identified with the patriot cause and was never a British Loyalist.

Ezra died in his carriage on his way to "Friends "Meeting" in 1825. Ezra and Sarah are buried at the "Bryan Burying Grounds" in Shecomeco, NY.



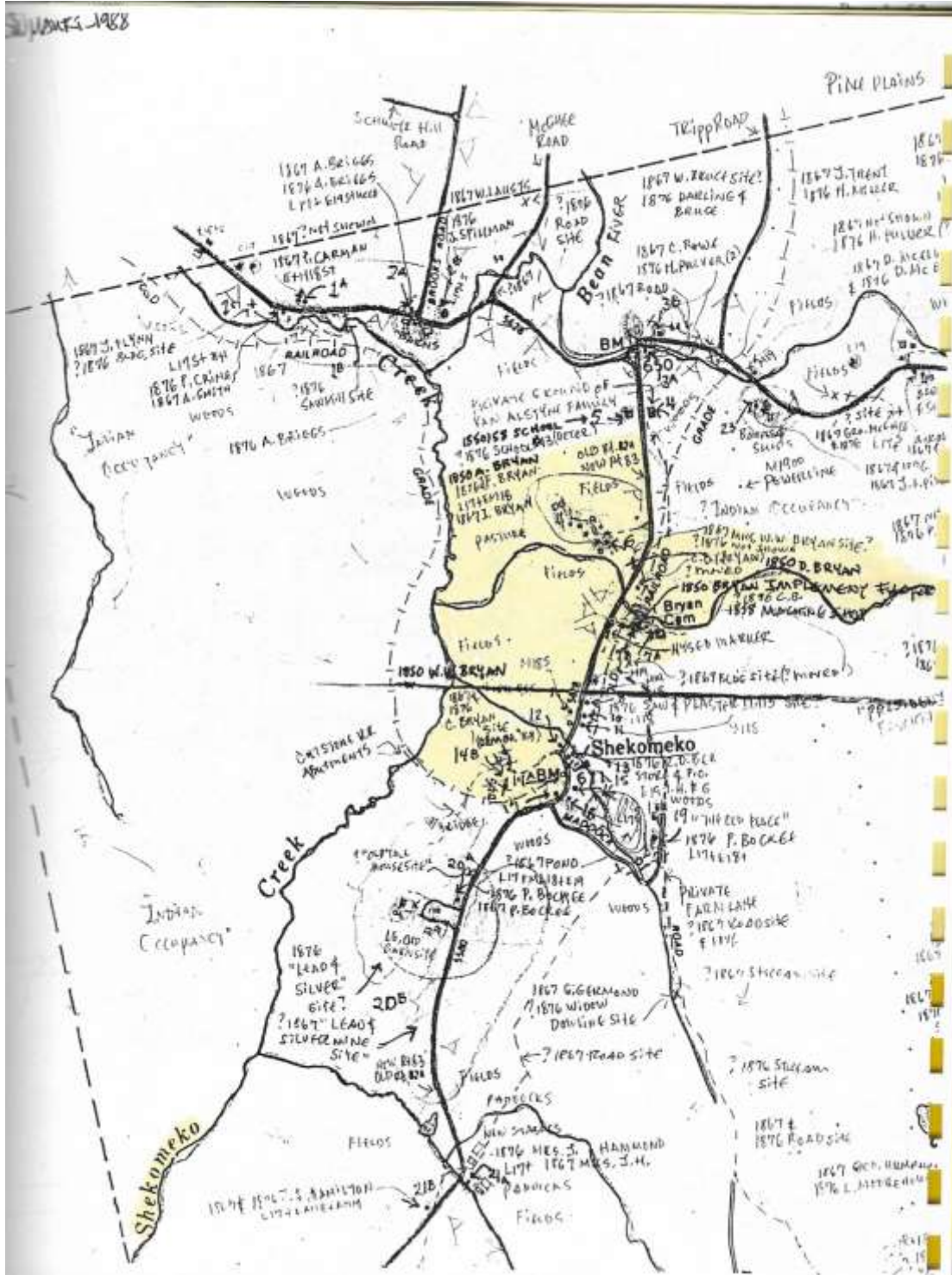
***Photos of Ezra Bryan farm provided by Dutchess County Historical Society in 2006***

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<sup>40</sup> *The Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County*, J.H. Beers & Co., New York and Chicago, 1897.

<sup>41</sup> Joseph H. Smith: *History of Dutchess County, NY*, Heart of the Lakes Publishing, Interlaken, NY, 1980

Ancestor Stories



Dutchess County Survey of historic sites, 1988 provided by Dutchess County Historical Society (More maps from survey are in the appendix)





# Alexander Bryan of Newtown

Alexander Bryan, the father of Ezra Bryan of Shecomeco, was born in 1709 to Capt. Richard Bryan of Milford, Connecticut. He and other members of the family were to first to venture west along the Housatonic River to the frontier. They settled in Newtown, Connecticut in the early 1700s.<sup>42</sup>

Alexander married Sarah Hubbell and they had at least two sons, Elijah and Ezra.

A change of outlook seems to have taken place with this generation. They left behind the comfort and prosperity of Milford to face the challenges of frontier life.

They turned away from the dynasty of shipbuilders, land speculators, and privateers.

The Newtown Bryans spawned a northwestern migration to many different places. Augustine Bryan went to Stockbridge, Massachusetts; Alexander Bryan went to Waterford, New York; and Ezra Bryan went to the Little Nine Partners Grant in Dutchess County, New York.

Some of the Bryans stayed together in Newtown throughout the Revolution, but some began to migrate north and west before the War. Supposedly one of Alexander's sons, Elijah, was killed in the Revolution.

Sometime in this period Ezra Bryan became a Quaker and migrated to Dutchess County, New York. Quaker records, usually a precise source of family history, have not been found to show the migration of Ezra from Newtown to Shecomeco.



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<sup>42</sup> Susan Woodruff Abbott: *Families of Early Milford, Connecticut*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.,1978)



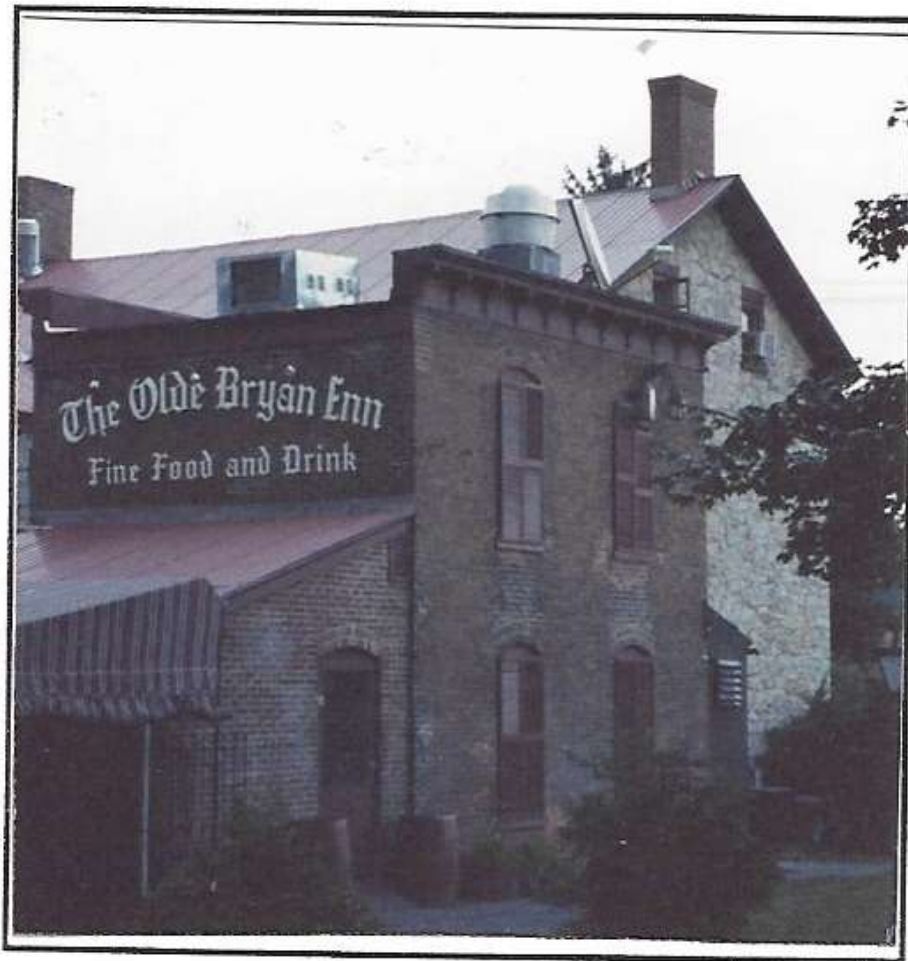
# COUSINS



## Alexander Bryan Double Agent

During the Revolutionary War the northeast campaign of British General Burgoyne in the Hudson Valley is viewed by many as a turning point in the War in favor of the American patriots. Patriot fervor was high in the Berkshires of Massachusetts and northern New York—Burgoyne was hated.

Burgoyne's situation was made even worse because he was waiting for support from British General Howe. During his advance down the Hudson, Burgoyne tarried on the east bank of the Hudson River at a tavern —the Inn of Alexander Bryan Inn, at Waterford.



**1987 photo of the Alexander Bryan Inn**

Alexander Bryan's Inn was visited regularly by partisans of both side of the war. Alexander was a wily innkeeper. He gladly befriended patrons on both sides of the conflict. He gained the confidence of both the patriot General Gates as well as the British General Burgoyne. Gates became aware of Alexander' unique situation and approached him with a proposal. Gates hired Alexander Bryan to carry out a hazardous spy mission against Burgoyne.<sup>43</sup>

Alexander Bryan entered the camp of Burgoyne and stayed until he learned of the British Plan to cross the Hudson at Stillwater and surprise the greatly outnumbered American garrison.<sup>44</sup> Alexander Bryan was discovered by the British September 15, 1777 and chased him on horseback for three days. Alexander was forced to abandon his horse and to hide by submerging himself in a river with only his mouth above water. He narrowly escaped detection. Against severe odds he got back to General Gates and reported his findings. The intelligence allowed the Americans to prepare for the engagement of September 19, 1777 and the ultimate Patriot victory over Burgoyne on October 7, 1777 at the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the Revolution.

This Alexander was the son of Samuel Bryan (b. 1699) and grandson of Richard Bryan Town Clerk of Milford and owner of the "Seaflower".<sup>45</sup>

A monument to Alexander at the Greenwood Cemetery, Saratoga reads:

"Alexander Bryan died April 9, 1925, the first permanent settler. An unpaid patriot who alone and at great peril gave the first and only information of Burgoyne's advance on Stillwater."

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<sup>43</sup> 'History of Saratoga Springs,' Saratoga Springs Historical Museum, 1990.

<sup>44</sup> Beatrice Sweeney, Saratoga Springs City Historian, "History of the Bryan Inn," 1990.

<sup>45</sup> C.C. Baldwin, *Alexander Bryan of Milford Connecticut*; Susan Woodruff Abbott: *Families of Early Milford, Ct* (Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD, 1979).

## Augustine Bryan of Stockbridge

Augustine Bryan, grandson of Capt. Richard Bryan of Milford was born in 1732 and, migrated west to the Berkshires of Massachusetts by 1763. His son Joseph lived in Stockbridge until after 1790 and then went to Monroe Co. NY. Some say he was the father of Barney and Jacob Bryan.

Jacob, born in 1789 in Stockbridge, came with his family to the Rochester area in 1796 and settled first in Mendon and then became postmaster of Penfield New York in 1811. He owned the Stillwater Tavern.

Both Barney and Jacob served in the War of 1812 in the 52<sup>nd</sup> New York Militia. Barney served at Fort Lewiston where he was killed in October 1812.

Jacob married Maria Clark in 1815. They had children some of whom were found working with and living in the vicinity of Elisha Bryan of this report.

Jacob and Maria had a son, Horace Clark Bryan who married Caroline\_\_\_\_. Horace and Caroline had a son Horace. Horace Sr. died in 1869 leaving Caroline and Horace as his only survivors.

Caroline opened a restaurant at 11 North St. Paul Street in downtown Rochester. Horace ran a print shop at the same location. Elisha Bryan's son, George, went to work for Horace as a pressman. They all shared the same address at 14 Smith Street

They are mentioned here to show that they are distant cousins of the Bryans of this history. Jacob's descendants appear to have reconnected in Rochester with the descendants of Ezra Bryan.

Augustine Bryan and Ezra Bryan were first cousins. Joseph Bryan and Isaac Bryan were second cousins. Jacob Bryan and Elisha Bryan were probably at least aware that they were living in the same town. Perhaps Jacob had suggested Isaac's migration to Rochester. Who knows?





# **WEALTHY IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS**



## Richard Bryan Privateer

In 1685 Milford, Connecticut was granted a patent entrusted to seven men, one of which was **Richard Bryan**. He was pre-eminent in commerce and a very wealthy man. He had eight children. He carried on his father's shipping trade. Some suggest he was a privateer—a 'pirate' sanctioned by the British Government.

Captain Richard Bryan joined a group of investors in 1705 buying land known as "New Milford." It was beyond the frontier and at that time hazardous for settlement. The same investors bought land in the same region and a few brave souls settled it as "Newtown."<sup>46</sup> When hostilities with native people eased, Richard's adult children migrated to Newtown.

Richard had three sons.:

Richard's first son was named Alexander (after his grandfather). In 1690 Alexander commissioned a 150 ton brig. He lived on Long Island.

Richard's second son was named Samuel, born 1659. He also became a sea captain.

**Richard's third son was Capt. Richard Bryan, born in 1666.** This Richard is the grandfather of Ezra of Shecomeco. Richard married Sarah Platt. He became Town Clerk of Milford and built the ship "Seaflower." He launched it in 1717. Richard remained in Milford. But his business ventures spanned the oceans at a time when the waters of the Atlantic coast of America were home to pirates and privateers.

Sarah and Richard had twin sons Richard and Samuel born in 1699. Samuel was the father of **Alexander Bryan** the spy.

Their third son, **Augustine Bryan**, produced the line that migrated to Stockbridge, MA and later to Monroe Co. NY.

Their fourth son was **Alexander** born in 1709. This Alexander was the father of **Ezra Bryan of Shecomeco**.

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<sup>46</sup> Recognized to day as the site of the Sandy Creek Massacre at Newtown in 20\_\_.



## Alexander Bryan, Merchant of Aylesbury

*Thomas Bryan of Aylesbury was kin to Sir Francis Bryan and Thomas Bryan III. His son Alexander was born in 1602 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. He sailed to Milford Connecticut. He is the English immigrant of the Connecticut/New York Bryan family and specifically the grandfather of **Sea Captain Richard Bryan and his son Alexander Bryan.***

The tidal rivers of Connecticut fed ports on Long Island Sound. Investors in companies that financed voyages to America were attracted to these ports. Upland falls provided power for mills. The ports became centers for trade.

Alexander Bryan came to Long Island Sound about 1640 financed by a Colonial company interested in exploiting the natural wealth of North America. His family was a member of the prosperous merchant class. His recent ancestors belonged to the nobility in the days of Henry Tudor and had been Royalists for centuries. When Civil War broke out in England, Aylesbury, home of the Bryans, was a Royalist stronghold. Possibly this situation drove Alexander to America.

**Alexander Bryan** was among the five trustees who purchased the land for the settlement of Milford from the local natives for six coats, ten blankets, one kettle, twelve hatchets, twelve hoes, two dozen knives and a dozen small glasses. The site was situated at the inlet of the Wopowaug River west of the New Haven grant but east of the Housatonic River. From that time onward the Bryans continued to acquire more and more of the surrounding land in trusteeship for the town. A dynasty of Bryans began to evolve. Alexander and his son Richard became the first merchants of Milford.

From its location on Long Island, Milford became a trading center. It dealt in precious furs shipped to Boston and bought in return farm and household goods and items for trade with the Indians. Within ten years they had built a wharf and warehouse and continued to add to their assets. The Bryans were prospering in the new land as they had in the old.

By 1662 Alexander and other trustees had acquired considerable land and donated much of it to the town. Alexander and son Richard owned several warehouses, sloops

and two brigs. They donated the warehouse to the town. They built a thriving trade with Virginia, the West Indies, the Azores and Nova Scotia, exporting staves, cattle, horses, beef and pork. They imported rum, molasses and European goods.

It was in these early days that Milford's first "public house" was accused of price-gouging on liquor. The townspeople accused the tavern keeper of overcharging for beer, wine and spirits. They filed suit against him for permitting dancing and gambling. The suit was settled when the tavern-keeper agreed to exchange his property plus a cash sum for Richard Bryan's home. The value of both properties was to be established by Alexander Bryan. The old Bryan home located twelve rods outside town became the new public house—and remained so for 200 years. Richard bought the place back ten years later.

Biographies of Alexander claim he was an educated man trusted in business throughout the colonies. His credit was good anywhere, his personal notes considered as safe as bank notes. 11-4 He sometimes appeared as an attorney in general court. He once defended the Deputy Governor when he was sued for slander calling a woman a 'witch'—not a trivial accusation in Colonial New England.

Soon, of course, the proliferation of European settlement brought about conflict with native populations. Frequent skirmishes caused the town of Milford to build a militia of every able-bodied male over sixteen. Alexander Bryan served as an ensign.

Alexander died in 1679 leaving considerable assets to his grandchildren. His son Richard acquired his father's land at Eaton's Neck at Huntington, Long Island.

## Ancestor Stories