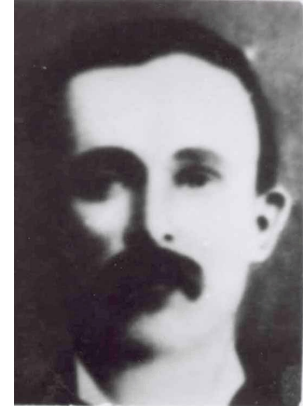


Biography of William Leyshon

William Leyshon was born March 2, 1849 (a different story stated the birth as March 1, 1849), in the town of Glamorganshire, Wales. His parents were Lewis Leyshon, born April 2, 1813 and Alice Jones born May 2, 1813. Both of his parents were born in Cefn-Cody Cymmer, Brecon, Wales. William had two brothers. Griffith was born Dec. 1, 1846 and died Feb. 28, 1854 in Cefn-Cody Cymmer, Brecon, Wales. The other brother, Lewis was born July 8, 1854, in Aberdare Glamorganshire, Wales. He died July 9, 1887. After his death his temple work was done. On the 25th of Feb. 1896 a baptism was done in his behalf, in the Salt Lake Temple. William also has two sisters. Mary was born January 15, 1852, in Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales and died April 17, 1867. Later on February 1896 a baptism was performed for her in the Salt Lake Temple. Margaret was born January 14, 1857 in Aberdare Glamorganshire, Wales and died in 1859. All of the children were later sealed to their parents on February 26, 1896 in the Salt Lake Temple.



William Leyshon

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH
COPI DILYS O GOFNOD GENEDIGAETH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON.
FE'I RHODDWDYD YN Y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON.

Application No. 8778 A
Rhif y cais

REGISTRATION DISTRICT
DOSBARTH COFRESTRU

1849 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Mountain Ash in the County of Glamorgan
GENEDIGAETH yn Is-ddosbarch yn

No.	When and where born	Name if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
Rhif	Pryd a lle y ganwyd	Enw os oes yn	Rhyw	Enw a chyfenw'r tad	Enw, cyfenw a chyfenw morwynol y fam	Gwaith y tad	Llofnod, disgrifiad a chyfeiriad yr hysbysydd	Pryd y cofrestrwyd	Llofnod y cofrestrwyd	Enw a gofnodwyd wedi'r cofrestru
1	First born	William	Boy	Lewis Leyshon	Alice Jones formerly Jones		The work of Alice Jones formerly sister of Mr. Jones	20th March 1849	M. White Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above-mentioned.
TYSTIOLAETHWYD ei fod yn gopi cywir o gofnod mewn copi y tystiwyd i ddo o Gofrestr Genedigaethau yn y Dosbarch a enwyd uchod.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office,
Fe'i rhoddwyd yn y GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, o dan Sêl y Swyddfa a enwyd,

the 4th day of September 1922
y 4ydd o fis 1922

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953.
Rhoddir y dystiogrif hon yn unol â BIRTHS and DEATHS Registration Act 1953.

*See note overleaf
Gweler trosodd

William spent most of his young life in Wales. He met and married Lettice Davis, sometime in June of 1870. Lettice Davis was born Sept. 22, 1853 at Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire, Wales. She was baptized Feb. 25, 1876 (one story said 1896), died August 3, 1876 in England. There were four children born to William and Lettice. Their first child Griffith, a boy, was born June 27, 1871 and lived only one hour and forty-five minutes. They next had a girl named Margaret, born March 2, 1874 who also died shortly after birth. Both Griffith and Margaret were born and died in Aberdare

Glamorganshire, Wales. Their next child a girl named Alice was born in 1875 also at Aberdare Glamorganshire, Wales. She later died in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1912. Their fourth child, a

boy was born on August 3, 1876 in Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales. Joseph, which was his name, later died in Los Angeles, California.

In the year of 1878, shortly after his wife's death, William decided he would take his two children and go to America, and live in Salt Lake City, Utah. (According to Emigration Records, British Mission 1875 -1913 pg. 65 <old> film #025693, he came on the ship "Wyoming" which sailed 25 Oct 1876. William was age 28, Alice Ann was age 3, and Joseph was an infant.) When he arrived in Salt Lake, he left his children with their aunt while he went to hunt for a job. He found work in the coal mines of Winter Quarters and while working there he met Emily Crofts.

Emily, who had known William in England was working at the boarding house where William was living. They soon resumed their friendship and fell in love. They were married in Provo Utah, on June 15, 1879 by John E. Booth. They built a two room log cabin at Winter Quarters, and decided that a new room would be added after the birth of each child. While there they were blessed with seven children and their house became quite large. They decided to travel to Salt Lake and have Lewis, Sarah, Lettice, Emily, William and Martha and Hyrm, their seven children sealed to them. This was done on February 26, 1896. While at the temple, William and Emily did work for Lettice, Williams first wife, and her two small children. Later in Winter Quarters, William and Emily were blessed with three more children, Ezra, Lorenzo, and Mary. They then decided to move to Spanish Fork, Utah where they were blessed with two more children, Nephi and Rachel.

William and Emily did a lot of work for the dead in the Salt Lake Temple. William who worked mostly in the coal mines was also known for the good he did with herbs. Although he never took any training he was called doctor by many people. William's father who was an herb doctor had taught William a lot about herbs.

William not only helped, but saved many people in Winter Quarters and around the country with the herbs he made. Sixteen years before his death, William was injured while working in the coal mines at Winter Quarters. It left him paralyzed for the rest of his life. Six of those years were spent in bed, but he kept up his courage and hope, and succeeded to recover enough to provide a living for his family until he died. While in Aberdare Wales, William was a home missionary and was a hero in the cause of the gospel. To despite all of his troubles, even during his sickness, William never failed to pay his tithes and offerings. When sorrow and death prevailed William strove to live the gospel and to be a wonderful father and husband.

William and Emily never will forget the mine disaster of May 1, 1900, when their eldest son Lewis was killed. William told his son to stay home but Lewis knew they were in need of money and that his father was too sick to go so he went. When they moved to Spanish Fork they lost their second son, Ezra (or Leland, there were two stories that had both of these names), who was only 9 years old. After all their trials, William said, "Emily, my dear, console yourself and let us call on the Lord and do our duty unto him and he will carry us thru." William was truly a man of great faith.

Six years after William and Emily were married, there was a bad flood in Winter Quarters which took all their clothes and home. But the miners came and helped build a new home and supplied food and clothing. A few years later a big boulder rolled into their home and again the fellow miners added in the repair. While in Winter Quarters, Emily was a midwife. Many people called upon William and Emily in the time of birth, death and sickness. People gave them the name of doctor and nurse. William never told anyone what went into his herbs that helped the sick. William loved sports and the outdoors. Fishing was one of his great pastimes. Emily shared in his enthusiasm for fishing by bottling the for winter. A favorite game called chicken fight was one of William's favorite. William also had a dog which he loved dearly. Often times the dog would pull the children in the wagon or on the sleigh.

Shortly after Emily and William were married, William's two children Joseph and Alice came to live with them. At a young age Joseph ran away and joined the navy. Nothing was ever heard from him until William's death. Joseph then came to his father's funeral. He was then again never heard from until one day the state of California notified Sarah, his half sister that he was found dead in an alley. He was buried in California and his flag was given to Hyrum his half brother. During the time Alice was with William and Emily she gave birth to a baby out of wedlock. She gave the baby to some people by the name of Meadows, in Pon town. Later the Meadows moved to Canada and Alice went to Salt Lake City where she married and later died.

William tried very hard to teach Emily how to read and write, but later as sickness and children came there wasn't much time. Emily received no formal schooling and never knew how to read or write. When signing her name she simply made an X.

The mines in Winter Quarters were called for many years, the Leyshon mine. However the name was later changed when William, was unable to make money on the mine and a new man took over.

William and Emily and their family did such odd jobs as clean school, churches, washed and ironed for miners, to help with expenses. Emily cooked in a boarding house to help with expense. William, was the first to arrange for playgrounds for children. He also was the first in organizing baseball, hopscotch and other games for the children. Lettice, Sarah, Alice, Lewis, and Joseph kept the playgrounds clean every day.

While Emily and William were living in Leland their crop of wheat was destroyed. William said "never mind Emily, some chicken will come and eat the wheat that's left."

William loved his family dearly, and even during his sickness, when confined to a wheelchair or bed, he was more than happy to have one of his children sit on his lap. He often read them stories and when confined to a wheelchair gave them rides in it.

After moving to Leland, Utah, William was sick more of the time. While in Leland they lived in a four room house on a farm, and William didn't know much about it due to his illness.

William Leyshon died August 5, 1905 in Spanish Fork. He left his wife Emily with eleven children and the 12th was born eight months after his death. William felt much love for

his family as expressed in his last words which were, "Emily, don't work too hard, but do keep the children together. All my love to you and the children."

My father By
Mary Leyshon Coleman
1126 East 13th South
Salt Lake City Utah

Biography of William Leyshon

By M. M. Thomas

William Leyshon of Leland, who died August 5th at 10:00 P.M. was born in Dowlais, Glamorganshire, Wales March 1, 1849. He worked around the mines most of his life. He went to Schofield along in 1880 or 1881. I am not exact as to the day or year, but about that time he met Emily Crofts of Spanish Fork, and Married her. Since that time he had done considerable work for the living and dead. He had a paralytic stroke 16 years ago in the Schofield mines, which caused one side to be helpless, but he got better from that stroke, and he kept his courage and fought his best to make a living while he lived.

This is the real cause of brother Leyshon's death. Still pneumonia might have something to do with it at last. Brother Leyshon was a home missionary in Aberdare when the writer knew him in Wales, and he was a hero in the cause of the gospel, in all his troubles he never



Emily Crofts Leyshon, Ethel Hansen 1925

complained of being too poor to pay his tithes and offerings. Lewis 18 years of age, and he also lost another son Leland 9 years old. And after all these trials he said to his wife, "Emily, my dear, console yourself and let us call the Lord and do our duty unto him, and He is able to carry us through." And he did trust in the Lord and finished his mission here upon the earth, he didn't even give his wife a cross look while in the pang of death, but spoke consoling words all the time. He fought the great fight and will gain eternal glory. He left a loving wife and nine children to mourn him. Hoping the people will not forget to visit the widow and orphan children in their hour of need, as brother and sister Leyshon have always been generous in their hearts in all such circumstances of distress.

If I Had Gone To Work

by William Danie Walton, age 82
from Our Pioneer Heritage pg. 224-225

At the time of the disaster, I was a boy of eighteen living at home with my mother and seven brothers and sisters. Our home, which was located in a coal mining town in the mountains of Utah, was known as the Walton House, a short-order house with a few boarders and Mother as general manager. It was May Day, May 1, 1900; the miners began work at 7:00 a.m., as usual, but being May Day they anticipated the celebration which was to take place in the afternoon. A celebration to most miners meant to spend time in the sunshine and fresh air, or to gather at their favorite saloon. That day, instead of taking my usual place on the fifth level of the Number Four Mine, I went into the thick underbrush of ravines and quaking aspen trees to look for our milk cow and her new calf. To our family this meant a fresh supply of milk, and I was to find the cow and the calf and bring them back home. Mother had packed a lunch for me, as I was not expected to be home until late in the evening. I was happy to be on my way, climbing the trails, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air, and observing the welcome signs of spring, and at the same time listening for the tinkle of the bell which we had tied on the cow's neck.

As I passed over the area which I later learned was almost directly above the fifth level of the mine, I felt the earth tremble. I recall wondering to myself what it could be, and I remember looking at my Ingersol watch which read ten o'clock. Not being able to figure out what caused the earth to tremble, I continued on without giving it any further thought. I searched most of the afternoon before I finally heard the welcome tinkle of the cowbell. Because of the new calf's inability to walk I carried it most of the way home, so I did not arrive there until after dark.

As the town came into view I was struck by the unusual activity. The entire town was lighted, and nine special railway cars had been left on the main line near our home. As I came nearer, I could see that coffee, milk, and sandwiches, along with flowers, were being distributed to the dozens of heart-stricken people I met everywhere. I later found out that the earth tremor which I felt earlier that morning was one of the worst coal mining disasters ever recorded. Two hundred and eight men and boys lost their lives in the dust explosion at the Number Four Mine in Scofield, Carbon County, Utah.

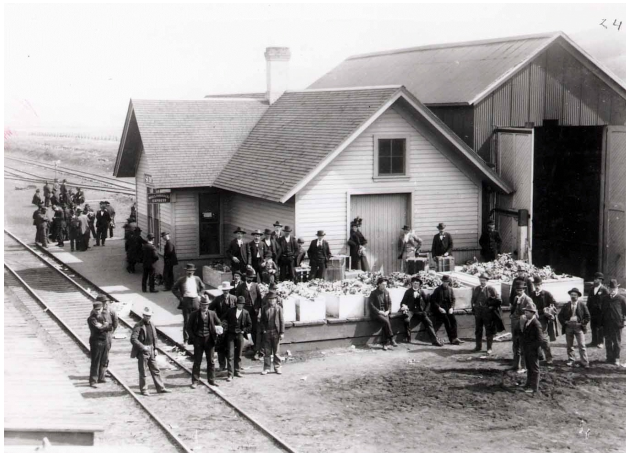
Our home was a hive of activity; food was being served, and help was being given wherever possible. Instead of the reception, I had expected, I was very unceremoniously shoved into the kitchen, given a dish towel and told to get busy. My sister Libbie, managed to give me the bare facts. Our older brother Andrew, was in bed unconscious and not expected to live. I was greatly saddened when I was told that Louis Leyshon, a good friend of mine who had taken my place at the mine that day, was still missing. Miraculously my brother Andrew, regained consciousness, recovered, and gave his account of the explosion. He was a driver on the first level--a driver being one who handles the horse which pulls the empty cars to the miners, who in turn blast the coal loose and load some 2,200 to 2,500 pounds of coal in each car. These loaded cars were then taken to the main entrance where they were literally dropped down the half-mile track to the exit by the electric hoist. He had just taken empty cars to all of his men and was

waiting at the switch about a quarter of a mile from the main entrance. Superintendent Thomas Parmley and General Foreman Andrew Hood, happened to come along just at that time, making an inspection tour. Seconds later they felt the blast and were almost knocked off their feet. They all knew it was a serious explosion, and the superintendent instructed my brother to get word to as many men as possible on his level to hurry out this exit and not the usual way which would be in the direct path of the explosion. My brother ran two miles through the mine to tell all of the men on his level what had happened and where to make a safe exit. They were successful in saving the lives of all the men on the first and a few of the men on the second level, but were finally overcome themselves by the after-damp, and all the men on the third, fourth, and fifth levels perished. "Afterdamp" is the term used when the oxygen has been burned out of the air. Dozens of men lost their lives not knowing where the explosion had taken place or where to get out, for there was absolutely no way to communicate with them.

The persistent and heroic efforts of the superintendent, general foreman and Andrew, to save the lives of the miners almost cost them their own lives. Andrew, was finally carried home unconscious and that was the way I found him on my arrival home.

I went to see Louis Leyshon's mother the next day, and I shall never forget the anguish and sorrow in her eyes as she said, 'Oh if you had only gone to work my boy would be alive!' I could only weep with her as that was a fact. Her boy had taken my place. I promised her I would assist in getting his body out as soon as the air pumps had been replaced. Unfortunately the mines were very dry and dusty, and very little watering was done to keep down the coal dust which clung to everything about an inch thick. This was especially true on the fifth level where the explosion was believed to have taken place. We do not know what caused the explosion, but I believe it was started by an open twenty-five pound keg of black powder and this was intensified by the accumulation of fine coal dust. After the disaster, many necessary precautions were taken to prevent such a tragedy from recurring, but this was little solace to the widows and orphans of the 208 men who had perished. It was three months or more before all of the bodies had been removed, for many were buried under great rock cave-ins caused by the fact that the timbers had completely blown out. I obtained permission to go to the fifth level where my friend's body was, and with the help of others, finally located the badly burned body of the finest friend a boy could ever have, Louis Leyshon, who had taken my place that day.

The following pictures were obtained from the Utah State Historical Society. They are of the Schofield Mine Disaster.



36. Winter Quarters Mining Town, Winter Quarters, Utah, 1900. A view of Winter Quarters, looking down the canyon toward Scofield, includes a few of the survivors of nearly two hundred miners killed on May Day, 1900, in the number four mine of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company. Winter Quarters is now a ghost town.



*Scofield Mine disaster of 1900
this is where one of the Ferris brothers died*



*Scofield Mine disaster of 1900
this is where one of the Ferris brothers died*

Biography of William Leyshon



William Leyshon was born March 1, 1849, in Dowlais, Glamorgan, Wales. His parents were Lewis Leyshon (coal miner), born April 2, 1813 and Alice Jones born May 2, 1813. Both of his parents were born in Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer, Brecon, Wales. They were married Aug. 6, 1844 in the Vaynor Parish of Brecon, Wales. William had two brothers, both died young. Griffith was born December 1, 1846, in Dowlais, and died February 28, 1854. Lewis was born July 8, 1854 in Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales. He died July 9, 1887, leaving behind his wife, Dinah, and a few small children. William also had three sisters. Elizabeth was born Aug. 8, 1844 in Dowlais. She married John Lewis 25 July 1861 in Wales and had seven children. She and her family immigrated to Iowa where she died Feb. 22, 1912 in Des Moines. Mary was born January 29, 1852 in Aberdare, and died April 17, 1867. Margaret was born June 12, 1857, in Aberdare, and died Jan. 8, 1859.

William's grandfather, William Leyshon, after whom he was named, joined the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shortly after missionaries opened the Wales, British Mission. He was baptized Dec. 12, 1850 in the Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer Branch. Although baptism records have never been found for William's parents, Lewis and Alice Leyshon, it is believed that they also joined the church as their daughter, Elizabeth was baptized in 1852 at the young age of eight. William was baptized Mar. 6, 1868 at the age of nineteen. William served a home mission in Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales as a young man. He was said to have been a "hero in the cause of the Gospel" by one of his Welsh friends who knew him when he was serving his mission.

William met and married Lettice Davis, sometime in June of 1870. Lettice Davis was born September 22, 1853 at Mountain Ash, Glamorgan, Wales. There were four children born to William and Lettice. Their first child Griffith, was born June 27, 1871, and lived only one hour and forty five minutes. They next had a girl named Margaret, born March 2, 1874 who also died shortly after birth. Both Griffith and Margaret were born and died in Aberdare. Their next child, a girl named Alice Ann, was born in 1875 in Aberdare. She later died in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1912. Their fourth child, a boy named Joseph, was born on August 3, 1876, in Aberdare. He died in Los Angeles, California.

In the year 1876, shortly after his wife's death, William decided he would take his two children and join the Saints living in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. He came on the ship "Wyoming" which sailed 25 Oct 1876. William was age 28, Alice Ann was age 3, and Joseph was an infant. When he arrived in Salt Lake, he left his children with their aunt while he went to hunt for a job. He found work in the coal mines of Winter Quarters and while working there met Emily Crofts.

Emily Crofts Leyshon



Emily Crofts Leyshon



Emily Crofts Leyshon

Emily, whom he had known in Wales was working at the boarding house where William was living. They soon resumed their friendship and fell in love. They were married in Provo, Utah, on June 15, 1881 by John E. Booth. They built a two room log cabin at Winter Quarters, Carbon, Utah and decided that a new room would be added after the birth of each child. While there they were blessed with seven children and their house became quite large. They decided to travel to Salt Lake City and have their children sealed to them; Lewis born Jan. 15, 1883, Sarah Jane born Dec. 14, 1884, Lettice born Sept 17, 1886., Emily born Apr. 5, 1888, William born Jan. 8, 1890, Martha born Dec. 17, 1891, and Hyrum born Mar 13, 1894. This was done on February 26, 1896. While at the temple, William and Emily did work for Lettice, William's first wife, and her two small children. Later in Winter Quarters William and Emily were blessed with three more children; Ezra born Sep. 16, 1896, Lorenzo born Jan. 19, 1899, and Mary born Dec. 1, 1901. They then moved to Spanish Fork, Utah where their last two children were born; Nephi born May 13, 1904 and Rachel Munerva born Apr 19, 1905/6.

Shortly after Emily and William were married, William's two children Joseph and Alice came to live with them. At a young age Joseph ran away and joined the Navy. Nothing was ever heard from him until William's death, Joseph then came to his father's funeral. He was then again never heard from until one day the State of California notified Sarah, his half sister, that he was found dead in an ally. He was buried in California and his flag was given to Hyrum, his half brother. During the time Alice was with William and Emily, she gave birth to a baby out of wedlock. She gave the baby to some people by the name of Meadows, in Pon Town. Later the Meadows moved to Canada and Alice went on to Salt Lake City where she married and later died.

Six years after William and Emily were married there was a bad flood in Winter Quarters which took all their clothes and home. But the miners came and helped build a new home and supply food and clothes. A few years later a big boulder rolled into their house and again the fellow miners aided in the repair.

William and Emily did a lot of ordinance work for the dead in the Salt Lake Temple. William who worked mostly in the coal mines was also known for the good he did with herbs. Although he never had any formal training, he was called “doc” by many people. William's father who was also an herb doctor had taught William how to use herbs for the benefit of healing. William not only helped but saved many people in Winter Quarters and around the country with the herbs he mixed. Emily was often by his side. She was also a midwife. Friends referred to them as “doctor” and “nurse.”

William and Emily never forgot the mine disaster of May 1, 1900 when their eldest son, Lewis, was killed. William told his son to stay home but Lewis knew they were in need of money and that his father was too sick to go so he went. When they moved to Spanish Fork, they lost their second son, Leland, who was only nine. After all their trials, William said, “Em, my dear, console yourself and let us call on the Lord and do our duty unto Him and He will carry us through.” William was truly a man of great faith.

Sixteen years before his death, William was injured which was caused by working in the coal mines of Winter Quarters. It left him paralyzed for the rest of his life. Six of those years were spent in bed but he kept up his courage and hope, and succeeded to recover enough to provide a living for his family until he died. Despite all of his troubles, even during his sickness, William never failed to pay his tithes and offerings. When sorrow and death prevailed, William strove to live the gospel and be a wonderful father and husband.

William loved sports and the outdoors. Fishing was one of his great pastimes. Emily shared in his enthusiasm for fishing by bottling the fish for winter. A game called “Chicken Fight” was one of William's favorites. William also had a dog which he loved dearly. Often times the dog would pull the children with the wagon on the sleigh.

William tried very hard to teach Emily how to read and write, but later as sickness and children came there wasn't much time. Emily received no form of formal schooling and never knew how to read or write. When signing her name, she simply made an “X”.

One of the mines in Winter Quarters was called for many years the Leyshon mine. However the name was later changed when William was unable to make money on the mine and a new man took over.

William and Emily and their family did such odd jobs as clean school, churches, washed and ironed for the miners, to help with expenses. Emily cooked in a boarding house to help with expenses. William was the first to arrange for playgrounds for children. He also was the first in organizing baseball, hopscotch and other games for children. Lettice, Sarah, Alice, Lewis, and Joseph kept the playgrounds clean every day. While Emily and William were living in Leland,

their crop of wheat was destroyed. William said, "Never mind, Em, some chicken will come and eat the wheat that's left."

William loved his family dearly, and even during his sickness when confined to a wheelchair or bed, he was more than happy to have one of his children sit on his lap. He often read them stories and when confined to a wheelchair gave them rides on it.

After moving to Leland, Utah, William was sick most of the time. While in Leland they lived in a four room house on a farm. William didn't know much about farming however.

William Leyshon (age 56) died August 5, 1905 in Spanish Fork. He left his wife, Emily with eleven children and the 12th on the way. Rachel, was born eight months after his death. William felt much love for his family as expressed in his last words which were, "Em, don't work too hard, but do keep the children together. All my love to you and the children."

This story was submitted by [Cindy Hills. tooth@burgoyne.com](mailto:tooth@burgoyne.com) The information in the story has been documented. If you are related to or would like more information about the family and the documentation please contact her.