

The Family of Frances (Ledwith) Stein

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Frances E. (Ledwith) Stein was the paternal grandmother of my daughter-in-law, Kerry Stein Mobley. Frances married Victor Emil Stein Jr., and she and Victor lived in the San Francisco area. Their second child, Richard Bennett Stein, was Kerry's father.

In November 2013 Kerry asked if I could find out more about her grandmother's family back in Nebraska. When I discovered the Stein family had earlier lived in the same Nebraska town, I chose to also include them. A summary report follows.

Frances E. Ledwith

Frances Ledwith was born in Lincoln, Nebraska to Frank Edward Ledwith, a Lincoln native, and Carolyn B. "Carrie" Fales from Ashland, Nebraska, midway between Lincoln and Omaha. When Frances was a child, her grandfather Fales died and Frank and Carrie subsequently moved their family from Lincoln to Ashland to live with Frances' grandmother.

Frances grew up in Ashland and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1929.

Victor Stein Jr. and Frances Ledwith

By 1931 Frances Ledwith and Victor Stein Jr. were married.

Early in their marriage Victor and Frances lived in different locations in the San Francisco area. In 1931 through 1935 Victor and Frances were living at 57 Idora Avenue in San Francisco. In 1939 and 1940 they were at 1152 Fulton in Palo Alto. In 1941 they were at 201 Bayswater in Burlingame. In 1943 they were at 649 Darien Way in San Francisco. In 1948 they lived at 2500 Summit Drive in Hillsborough.

Victor and Frances had three sons, Albert, Richard (deceased) and Robert (deceased).

Victor Stein Jr. was a florist, becoming prominent in his profession. Early in his career he worked for his uncle, Albert Stein, and later he took over Albert's business. In 1959 Victor served as president of Interflora, the international organization that includes FTD as the United States component.

Victor Stein Jr. died in San Mateo County. He (and presumably Frances) is interred in Skylawn Memorial Park in Redwood City. I don't know when or where Frances died.

Frances Ledwith's parents and sibling

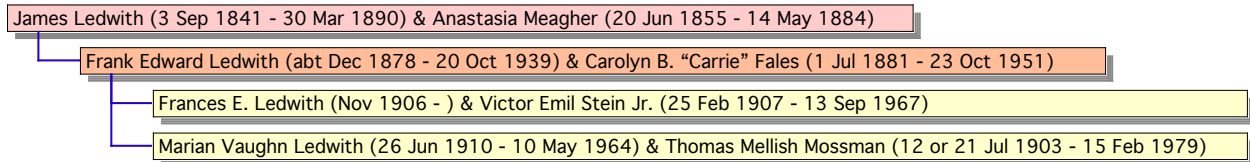
Frank E. Ledwith and Carolyn "Carrie" Fales married at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Ashland, Nebraska on October 25, 1905. In 1910 Frank was a railway conductor living at 930 A Street in Lincoln. Around 1912 Carrie's father died and the family moved to Carrie's mother's home in Ashland. In 1915 Frank may have been farming land owned by his father-in-law but later he returned to railroad work.

Frank Ledwith became the yardmaster at the Burlington Railroad yards in Omaha. One day in 1939 he drove to work and died of a heart attack in his auto in the Burlington yards. Subsequently Carrie moved to California, where she died in San Mateo County.

Frank and Carrie Ledwith also had a younger daughter, Marian. Marian married Thomas Mellish Mossman, a doctor from Hawaii. Thomas and Marian Mossman subsequently lived in Hawaii, and apparently had two children.

Frances (Ledwith) Stein's paternal ancestors

Here is a chart showing Frances Ledwith's paternal grandparents. I haven't included Frank Ledwith's siblings.



James Ledwith was an early settler in Lincoln, Nebraska, arriving before 1870 and became a prominent member of the community. James was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey and his wife, Anastasia in Wisconsin, but all their parents, except for James' mother, were immigrants from Ireland. James had various business and political interests. Both James and Anastasia died young and are buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln. (My notes at the end of this history contain more information.)

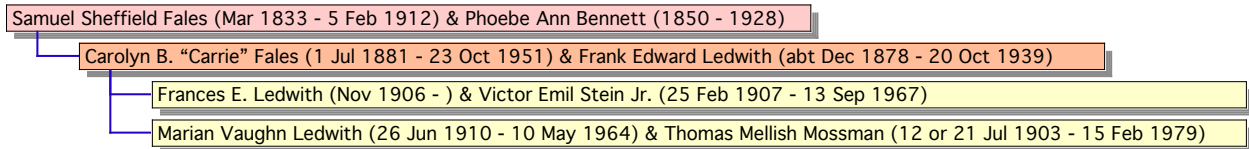
The following is a late 19th century photograph, with the University of Nebraska at the end of the street. The building on the left, constructed in 1887 is James Ledwith's "Ledwith Block", later called the Merchant's Hotel. Around 1908 the building became the Savoy Hotel, and two stories were added in 1911. Sadly it was demolished in the 1980s. (Source: "Nebraska Memories" at memories.ne.gov)



A short biography of James Ledwith is at geocities.ws/donaldo_48307/ledwja.htm.

Frances (Ledwith) Stein's maternal ancestors

Here is a chart showing Frances Ledwith's maternal grandparents. Her mother was an only child.



Samuel Sheffield Fales was born in Bristol, Rhode Island to Samuel Fales and Hannah Vaughn, natives of Rhode Island.

Phoebe Ann Bennett was born in Massachusetts to Edward Bennett and Pamela Coleman, natives of Massachusetts.

Samuel and Phoebe married around 1874 and in 1875 came to Ashland, Nebraska, where Samuel operated a general store with his brother until 1889.

Samuel may be buried in Rhode Island. Phoebe is buried in the Ashland Cemetery with her daughter and son-in-law.

In 1888 Samuel and Phoebe bought the house pictured below, at the northwest corner of 19th and Boyd Streets in Ashland, for \$3,000. It is thought the house was built in 1887. This house, where Frances (Ledwith) Stein spent the latter part of her childhood and where her parents lived until 1939, is still standing. (Source: ashlandhistoricalsociety.org/Pages/HISTORICHOMESAshlandNE.aspx)

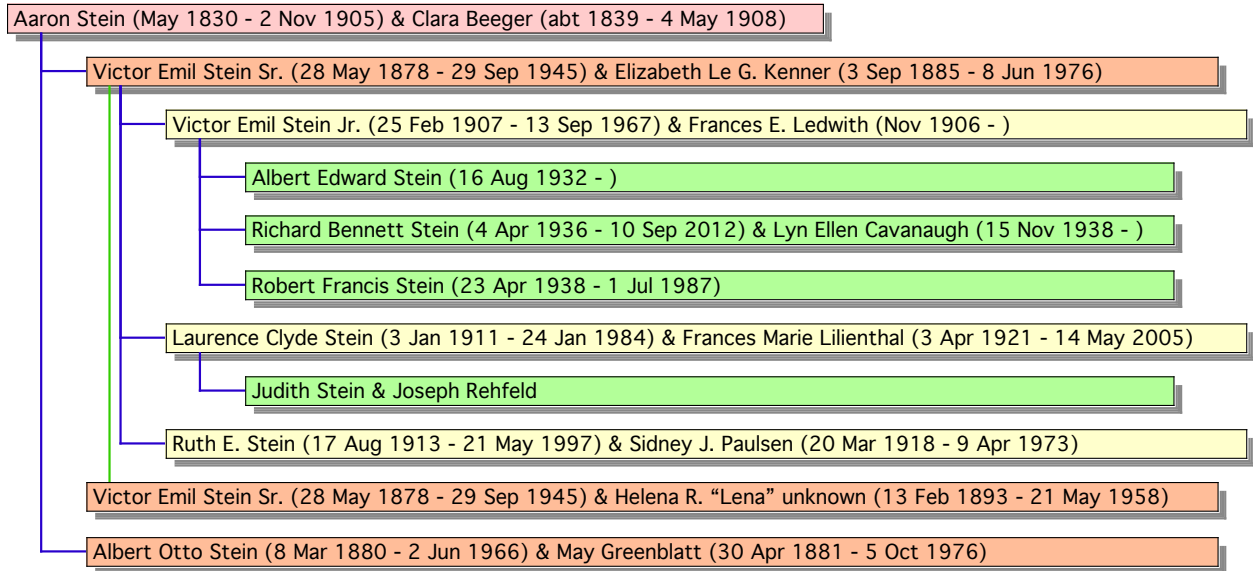


A biography of Samuel Fales appeared in "Past and Present Saunders County, Nebraska, A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement", Charles Perky Supervising Editor, Vol. II, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago 1915 and as of December 2013 is on-line at onlinebiographies.info/ne/saun/fales-ss.htm/

Ancestry of Victor Emil Stein Jr. (two pages)

Victor Emil Stein Jr., Kerry (Stein) Mobley's paternal grandfather, was born in California to Victor Emil Stein Sr. and Elizabeth Le G. Kenner.

Here is a chart of the older members of the Stein family. My daughter-in-law, Kerry Stein Mobley, is the daughter of Richard Bennett Stein and Lyn Ellen Cavanaugh.



The First Generation – Aaron Stein:

Aaron Stein and his wife, Clara Beeger, were both born in Germany. Aaron emigrated around 1859 and settled west of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in Watertown, where he worked as a merchant. Clara emigrated in 1865. Aaron and Clara married in 1871 in nearby Dodge County, Wisconsin. Each possibly had an earlier marriage.

Victor Stein Sr. and Albert Stein were Aaron and Clara Stein's only children. They were both born in Ashland, Nebraska where Aaron and Clara lived around 1880 and where Victor Sr.'s daughter-in-law, Frances, grew up a generation later.

The Aaron Stein family came to San Francisco around 1890, and lived at 159 9th Street.

I believe Aaron Stein generally was the proprietor of a small retail business.

I don't know where Aaron and Clara Stein are buried.

The Second Generation - Victor Emil Stein Sr.:

Victor Emil Stein Sr. and Elizabeth Le G. Kenner were married in the San Francisco area on May 9, 1906, shortly after the San Francisco earthquake of April 18. She was an Indiana native.

In 1909 and 1910 the Victor Stein family was living in Oakland. By 1913 they were living in Stockton.

Victor Sr. and Elizabeth divorced before 1918.

By 1918 Elizabeth had married Sidney H. Stichal, an accountant, who was born and raised in Illinois. Sidney had an earlier marriage in Illinois and came to California around 1915. Elizabeth and Sidney had one child, Sidney H. Stichal Jr.

In the 1920 census, Victor Sr. is living in a boarding house in Turlock and his sons, Victor Jr. and Laurence, are boarding with Nicholas and Margaret Roth at 801 Haight St. in San Francisco. In 1920 the Stichal family, presumably including Ruth, was living at 455 Buena Vista Avenue in San Francisco.

Around 1921 Victor Stein Sr. married Lena, whose last name is unknown. Victor and Lena were living at 301 Montecito Avenue in San Francisco in 1930 and in Modesto in 1940. He apparently died in Napa County.

Early in his working life Victor Stein Sr. was a cigar salesman. By 1918 he was selling food products. In 1942 he was employed by the United States Army Quartermaster Corps at the San Francisco General Depot in Oakland.

Victor Stein Sr. and his second wife, Lena, are buried in Acacia Memorial Park in Modesto. Victor Steins Sr.'s first wife, Elizabeth, and her second husband, Sidney Stichal, are interred in Skylawn Memorial Park, Redwood City.

The Second Generation - Albert Otto Stein:

Albert Stein was already working as a florist in 1900. He had a shop at 1150 Sutter in 1912. Later he had a shop at 359 Sutter, which his nephew, Victor Jr., took over.

Albert Stein and May Greenblatt married around 1913. I don't believe Albert and May had children.

The Third Generation – Miscellaneous Notes:

Victor Emil Stein Jr.'s sketch is on page 1.

Laurence Clyde Stein married Frances Marie Lilienthal, a San Francisco native, in 1955.

Of interest: Frances Lilienthal grew up in the magnificent Haas-Lilienthal house at 2007 Franklin Street in San Francisco, built by her Haas grandparents in 1886. Frances' mother, Alice Haas Lilienthal, the last family member to live in the Haas-Lilienthal house, died of a heart attack in 1972 while swimming in Laurence Stein's pool.

In 1973 Frances and the other heirs donated the Haas-Lilienthal house to the Foundation for the Architectural Heritage of San Francisco. As of 2013, you can find more at sfheritage.org/haas-lilienthal-house.

Ruth Stein married Sidney J. Paulsen, a San Francisco native. Sidney served in the United States Navy from 1940 to 1947 and subsequently was a civilian crewmember on military ships. Ruth and Sidney lived in Honolulu, Hawaii and had no children.

Sidney Howard "Sid" Stichal Jr. (3 Jan 1919 – Feb 1978), the half-brother of Victor, Laurence and Ruth Stein, doesn't appear in the chart on the previous page. I believe he married, had children, and lived in the Los Angeles area.

Notes:

Portions of this history come from conversations with the late Richard Stein and his daughter, Kerry Stein Mobley. However, the bulk of this history comes from recent Internet research, especially using ancestry.com.

Addendum to page 2, *Frances (Ledwith) Stein's paternal ancestors:*

Frances Ledwith's grandfather, James, was the son of James Ledwith and Mary Carbery, immigrants from Ireland. One source has Elizabeth, New Jersey as James Ledwith Jr.'s birthplace, but Dover, further west in New Jersey, is a possibility. Also, Mary Carbery's name may have been Mary Jane Carberry.

James Ledwith Jr. moved with his parents and siblings to Illinois in the late 1840s. By 1860 his family was living on a farm near Freeport in northwestern Illinois in Erin Township, Stephenson County.

James Ledwith Jr. came to Lincoln, Nebraska with his business associate and future brother-in-law, John W. Menlove. For a time they kept a saloon in Lincoln.

The parents of James Ledwith Jr. are buried in Stephenson County in Saint Mary's Cemetery west of Freeport, Illinois, along with other Ledwith relatives. You can see more information about Ledwith burials in that area through Google with the search string

Ledwith Stephenson findagrave

There is a possibility that James Ledwith Jr.'s parents' Stephenson County death certificates (if indeed they died in Stephenson County) might contain clues to their birthplace in Ireland.

I can't find a town named Ledwith in Ireland or England. Possibly Ledwith is a corruption of a place name in England where Ledwith ancestors once lived before moving to Ireland. Alternatively, Ledwith could be a variant of another surname such as Ledwick.

Please notify me of errors. --- Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen, RACChristia@aol.com, Dec 2013.