

## **The Older Descendants of Samuel Wood**

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Samuel Wood was born in Ohio in 1816 to Henry Wood and Elizabeth Cranmer and came to northwestern Missouri as a young man. In Missouri he taught school and worked in a grocery store in Kingston. Samuel married Mary Merrill early in 1838.

In late 1838 Samuel and Mary Wood were a young Mormon couple living in the Hahn's Mill neighborhood of eastern Caldwell County. On October 30<sup>th</sup> Samuel narrowly escaped death at Hahn's Mill when a band of Missouri militia killed 17 Mormon men and boys.

Early in 1839, the Samuel Wood family joined 5,000 or more Mormons who were expelled from northwestern Missouri. Within a few years most Mormons settled in Illinois and Iowa in and near Nauvoo on the banks of the Mississippi River.

In 1846 Mormons were forced to abandon Nauvoo. The Samuel Wood family left Lee County, Iowa, near Nauvoo, for the Council Bluffs area. Here they lived in or near Allred's Camp north of Council Bluffs.

In late 1850 the Samuel Wood family became the first permanent settlers in the Union Grove area in Harrison County southwest of present-day Persia, Iowa. The settlement in Union Grove was called Unionburg.

In the 1860 census, Samuel Wood is listed as a wagon maker, a trade he pursued during his earlier years in Allred's Camp.

Samuel Wood left the LDS church but later was active in the RLDS church, including serving for a term as an RLDS missionary to Utah. During his Union Grove years, Samuel also made a trip with his brother back to Ohio.

Except for absences such as those listed above, Samuel Wood apparently lived in Union Grove until his death, which I believe was at home in Unionburg on 7 Sep 1895. Samuel Wood's burial location remains a mystery.

**Much of the information contained in the sequel has not been confirmed.**

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## Highlights of the Life of Samuel Wood

### **Ohio - Samuel Wood's Parents, Henry Wood and Esther Cranmer:**

Wood family researchers believe that Henry Wood was born in 1790 in Cornwall in Litchfield County, Connecticut.

Henry Wood served early in the War of 1812 in Ohio but did not see action. His company went as far west as Sandusky in northern Ohio. This may be why he happened to arrive in the Northfield area in northeastern Ohio in June of 1813.

Abraham Cranmer, Henry Wood's future father-in-law, was the second settler in Northfield, arriving with his family in 1810.

Henry Wood and Esther Cranmer married on 22 September 1813 at the Abraham Cranmer home. This was said to be the first marriage in Northfield.

Incidentally Northfield is in Summit County, Ohio, about fifteen miles southeast of downtown Cleveland. However, Northfield was originally in Portage County, as Summit County wasn't established until 1840.

In Northfield Henry Wood was a carpenter, school teacher, town clerk and farmer. Henry and Esther Wood had ten children, including Samuel, born 1816, and Martin, born 1818. It is not clear if all ten children were born in Northfield. Some may have been born nearby in Cuyahoga County.

### **Caldwell County, Missouri (1836 – 1839):**

In 1836 the Henry Wood family moved to Kingston in Caldwell County, Missouri. For a few years Caldwell County was the center of Mormon settlement in northwestern Missouri. The town of Far West, now an unpopulated historical site, was being developed as the major Mormon religious and political center.

Evidence is inconclusive as to whether Henry and Esther Wood had joined the Mormon Church.

In Kingston Samuel Wood clerked in a store and then taught school. In the spring of 1838 Samuel married Mary Merrill.

**About Mary Polly Merrill:** On-line sites differ as to Mary's birthdate and place. They seem to agree that her parents were Thomas Merrill and Susan or Susannah Goodwin. She was likely born in Knox County, Ohio, between 1817 and 1817 and came with her parents, Mormon converts, to Caldwell County.

Mary (Merrill) Wood soon became pregnant. However, in 1838 the so-called Missouri Mormon War took place.

Most of the deaths during the Missouri Mormon War took place at Hahn's Mill in eastern Caldwell County on October 29. Samuel Wood was present, and if timing had been a little different he would have been killed.

Area Mormons gathered in Far West on October 30 and surrendered. Mormon leaders were arrested. Mormons were allowed to remain in the area, providing they left early the following year without planting crops.

### **The Exodus to Illinois:**

After the Missouri Mormon War in 1838 the Wood family and Mary Polly (Merrill) Wood's parents joined the exodus of Mormons overland across northern Missouri to the Quincy Illinois area and then on to the Nauvoo area further north. It is said that Samuel and Mary Wood's first child was born in February along the road and that he was intentionally named William Wallace Wood, William Wallace being a Scot who had fought for independence around 1300.

The citizens of the Quincy, Illinois area treated the Mormon refugees well, and many worked in the Quincy area for a time before moving on.

In Quincy Samuel Wood's brother, Martin, married Esther Ersula Eggleston on 31 Jul 1839.

### **Nauvoo (1839 – 1846):**

Commerce, Illinois was a small town on the Mississippi River about 50 miles upstream from Nauvoo. Mormons bought Commerce late in 1839 and renamed it Nauvoo. Those of the Mormon faith began to gather in the Nauvoo area much as they had in northwestern Missouri a few years earlier. By 1844 Nauvoo boasted 12,000 residents, roughly the size of Chicago at the time.

Samuel and Mary Wood did not live in Nauvoo. Rather, they lived across the Mississippi in Lee County, Iowa. It is likely that their next four children were born in Lee County, in the years 1842-1846. There is evidence that Mary's parents did live in Nauvoo, and scant evidence that Samuel's parents were also in Nauvoo.

However, again as in northwest Missouri in 1838, tensions soon grew between the Mormons of the Nauvoo area and the nearby residents. In 1844 Joseph Smith Jr. and his brother were lynched at the county jail.

Most Mormons accepted Brigham Young as Joseph Smith's successor. Brigham Young agreed to evacuate Nauvoo in early 1846. The natural direction to go was west, perhaps to go very far west, where Mormons would not have to fit into a preexisting population. However, for logistical reasons moving past the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains could not be done without an intermediate staging area.

### **The Exodus to the Missouri River:**

In February 1846 Mormons began to evacuate Nauvoo, crossing the Mississippi River to the west. The first wave of Mormon refugees, perhaps nearly 3,000 in number, began the trek west across southern Iowa on March 1, arriving at the heights above the Missouri River near what became Council Bluffs, Iowa where Iowa School for the Deaf is now located on June 13<sup>th</sup>. A larger crossing of Iowa by possibly 10,000 occurred in the

summer, and in the fall a smaller group of around 700 were driven from Nauvoo and crossed Iowa.

When Mormons began their trek across Iowa in early 1846, they had no legal right to set up quarters, even temporary, along the Missouri River. There were problems on both sides of the river:

- The east side of the Missouri, although part of Iowa Territory, was also the Pottawattamie Indian Reservation. In 1833 the Pottawattamie had been persuaded to leave the area around Chicago and relocate to extreme northwestern Missouri. Evidently the good citizens of Missouri didn't like the Pottawattamie living in their state any more than they liked Mormons, so in 1837 the Pottawattamie were persuaded to move further upstream into southwestern Iowa, giving up their Missouri lands in what is called the Platte Purchase.
- The west side of the Missouri, in the area encompassing today's city of Omaha, was Indian Territory possessed by the Omaha tribe, although the United States government claimed some sort of say in the Omaha's dealing with outsiders.

Mormons managed to obtain rights to settle temporarily on both sides of the river as follows:

- The east side of the Missouri: In May 1846 Thomas L. Kane, a young man from a prominent Pennsylvania family, met some Mormon representatives in Philadelphia. Kane became interested in their cause and his family intervened at the highest governmental levels to obtain permission for Mormons to stay on the Pottawattamie Indian Reservation in southwestern Iowa. Two factors supported this decision by President Polk:

- The Pottawattamie would soon be leaving for their new reservation in Kansas.
- The Mormons agreed to provide a battalion of 500 men for service in the Mexican War, which was just beginning.

Thomas Kane carried President Polk's decision to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from which a detachment was sent to southwestern Iowa to recruit the Mormon Battalion.

- The west side of the Missouri: A group of the first Mormons to arrive on the Missouri met with Chief Big Elk of the Omaha tribe and arranged for temporary Mormon use of a portion of the Omaha lands. This allowed Mormons to build what was called Winter Quarters. However, after being occupied for a winter or two, Winter Quarters was abandoned due to governmental pressure and the residents moved east across the Missouri River into Iowa.

I suspect Henry and Esther Wood returned to Summit County, Ohio, rather than joining the general Mormon migration westward across Iowa in 1846. In the 1850 census Henry Wood is enumerated as a farmer in Northfield Township.

### **Allred's Camp near Council Bluffs (1846 – 1850):**

In the October 1850 census, the Samuel Wood family was still enumerated in Pottawattamie County, with Samuel's occupation listed as wagonmaker.

### **Union Grove Part 1 (1850 – 1869):**

In November 1850 the Samuel Wood family left the Allred's Camp area and moved about thirty miles northeast to Union Grove in Harrison County.

Union Grove, where Samuel Wood settled in 1850, was part of Lagrange Township until 1858, when Union Township was constituted from part of Lagrange Township.

In the 1854 Iowa census for Lagrange Township, the Samuel Wood household consists of three males and seven females (only heads of household were named in this census). In the 1856 Iowa census, Samuel Wood's occupation is still listed as wagonmaker. Samuel is also raising hay, oats, corn, potatoes, hogs and cattle.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS, now the Community of Christ) was formally established with 300 members in Amboy, Illinois in April 1860. The RLDS became, next to the Mormon Church based in Salt Lake City, the largest religious organization tracing its roots back to the revelations of Joseph Smith Jr. Prior to April 1860 some predecessor congregations had been established, including one at Union Grove in 18

In the July 1860 census, Samuel is now listed as a farmer. The household consists of Samuel, Mary, and eight children. By now all ten of Samuel and Mary's children have been born. Rose died years earlier and Sarah has left the family and is living nearby, having married Jasper Gallup at the age of 14 the previous year. Samuel and Mary are getting their mail at the Council Bluffs Post Office.

In July 1860, nearly ten years after Samuel Wood moved to Union Grove, the census taker could find only 62 people to enumerate in all of the 36 square miles of Union Township. Twelve of them consisted of Samuel Wood, his wife, their nine children, and their son-in-law. Union Township exemplifies the slow settlement of this part of Iowa. Most of the unsettled land was not available for purchase from the government, having either been acquired earlier by speculators or held in reserve for future railroad grants. Also, Union Township consisted mostly of prairie land and most settlers were still resisting living on the prairie.

In 1865 Samuel's wife, Mary (Merrill) Wood, died at the age of 51 and was buried in the Unionburg-Cox cemetery, about a mile south of Unionburg.

### **Union Grove Part 2 (1865 – 1895):**

Unionburg was a small settlement that developed near Samuel Wood's home at the edge of Union Grove. Unionburg boasted a post office from 1869 to 1889, with Samuel Wood being the postmaster at times.

At the September 1870 Reorganized Latter Day Saints conference Samuel Wood was one of four chosen for a mission to Utah. The four included Alexander McCord and Jonas Wellington "J. W." Chatburn, the latter being the father-in-law of Samuel Wood's

oldest child, William Wallace Wood. The surviving Chatburn correspondence indicates that the RLDS missionaries were treated harshly by the church authorities in Utah.

## The Three Wives of Samuel Wood

I know of nine children of Samuel Wood by his first wife, Mary Merrill. His second wife, Nancy E. Copeland, was already in her 40s when she and Samuel married so there was no issue from this marriage. Samuel had three known stepchildren and one child by his third wife, the widow Jane Elizabeth (Follett) Gunnette. Samuel Wood's wives are listed below and his children on the following page.

- ♥ Samuel Wood married Mary Merrill in the spring of 1838 in Caldwell County, Missouri. Mary Merrill was born in Knox County, Ohio to Thomas Merrill and Susanna Goodwin. She died in Union Grove in 1869 and is buried in the Unionburg-Cox Cemetery.
- ♥ Samuel Wood married Nancy E. Copeland on June 30, 1865 in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Nancy Copeland was a Tennessee native, but I have no further information. She died in Union Grove and is buried in the Unionburg-Cox Cemetery.
- ♥ Samuel Wood married Jane Elizabeth (Follett) Gunnette on June 30, 1873 in Pottawattamie County. Jane Elizabeth Follett was born in Ohio to Martin Van Buren Follett and Delora Caruthers. Jane Elizabeth's first marriage was to John Gunnette. John Gunnette sometimes spelled his name "Gunnett". He was born in Pennsylvania or Ohio and came to Pottawattamie County around 1852. John Gunnette and Jane Elizabeth Follett married in Pottawattamie County on March 28, 1858. I know of three children, all of whom survived to adulthood. After marrying in 1858, John and Jane first lived in Pottawattamie County. They lived in Utah for a few years around 1866 and returned briefly to Pottawattamie County. By 1870 they were living in Allegan County in southwestern Michigan. John Gunnette died in Allegan County and Jane they returned to Iowa with her three surviving children, who are listed below.

In the 1880 census the Samuel Wood household consists of Samuel and J. Elizabeth, their son Charlie, and her son A O. Gunnette.

John Gunnette (abt 1835 - abt 1872) & Jane Elizabeth Follett (25 Jan 1836 - 22 Jun 1904)

Minnie May Gunnette (15 May 1863 - 4 Mar 1918) & John William Kimball (abt 5 Sep 1856 - aft Jan 1925)

John M. Gunnette (18 Dec 1866 - 12 May 1938) & Luella Grove (1859 - 1946)

Albert Osburn Gunnette (10 Mar 1868 - 1946) & Nellie B. Childs (9 Apr 1869 - 10 Aug 1932)

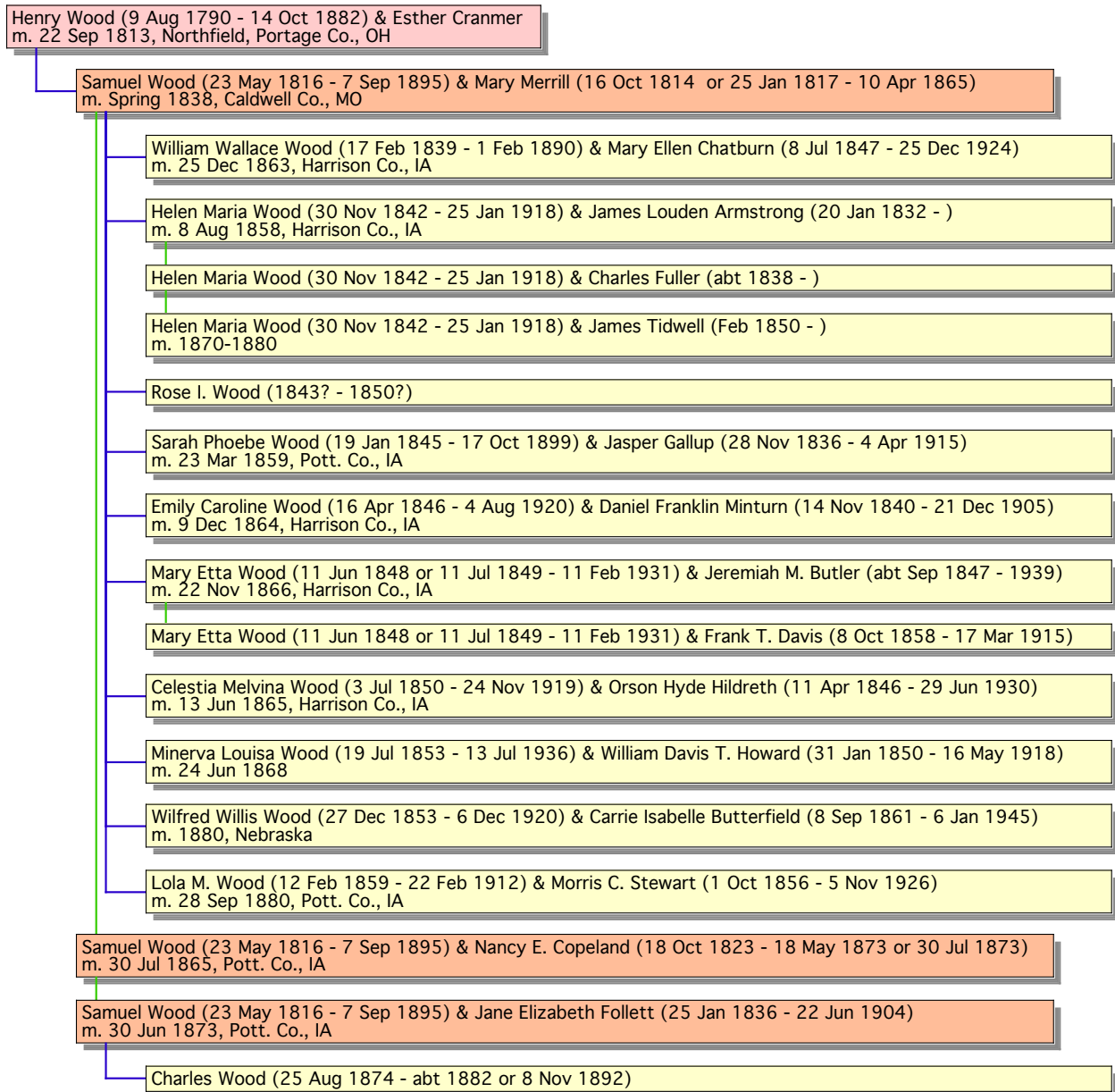
Albert Osburn Gunnette (10 Mar 1868 - 1946) & Emma McKinney (abt 1870 - )

Household 12 in the 1900 census for Union Township consists of John M. Gunnette; his wife, Luella; his widowed mother, Jane E. Wood; and Luella's youngest child from her first marriage, Jacob P. Reichart.

Jane Elizabeth (Follett) Gunnette Wood died in 1904 and is buried in the Neola Township Cemetery about ten miles southeast of Unionburg.

## The Children of Samuel Wood

I believe Samuel Wood had eleven children as shown on the following chart and about 56 grandchildren, of whom about ten died in childhood.



The following pages contain very brief biographical sketches of Samuel Wood's children.



- **William Wallace Wood** married Mary Ellen Chatburn, the daughter of Jonas Chatburn and Mary Burton, in Harrison County in 1863. William and Mary Ellen Wood farmed in the Union Grove area until his death, their farm being about a mile south and  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west of Unionburg. You can find their 1885 residence by referring to the map in the Union Township appendix.

William Wood died in 1890 and is buried in the Unionburg-Cox Cemetery. After William's death in his middle years, his widow, Mary Ellen, married Benjamin Roberts and moved to Woodbury County, Iowa.

William and Mary Ellen Wood appear to have had nine children who reached maturity, as well as four who died in childhood. Like Mary Ellen, some of their children settled in Woodbury County.

- **Helen Maria Wood** and James Loudon Armstrong married in Harrison County in 1858. Their marriage ended in divorce shortly after his 1865 return from Civil War service in Company C of the 29<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry Regiment.

Helen subsequently married Charles Fuller, who farmed near Council Bluffs. Their one child, Nettie, was born in 1870 and married E. C. Hildreth in Harrison County in 1886.

Helen's third marriage in the 1870s, to James Tidwell, the son of Ransom Tidwell and Mary Henderson, ended in divorce.

In the 1910 census Helen was working as a private nurse in Council Bluffs. Helen is buried in the Neola Cemetery near her sister, Mary Etta.

- **Rose L. Wood** died as a child. She is not enumerated in the Samuel Wood household in the October 1850 Pottawattamie County census. However, there is a stone for her in the Unionburg-Cox Cemetery.

- **Sarah Phoebe Wood** and Jasper Gallup married in Pottawattamie County in 1859. In 1860 Jasper and Sarah were living in the Union Grove area but by 1870 had settled in northwestern Minden Township several miles northeast of Neola.

Jasper and Sarah Gallup had nine known children, at least one of whom died in childhood. They evidently separated between 1885 and 1895. Sarah died in 1899 and is buried in the Neola Township Cemetery.

- **Emily Caroline Wood** married Daniel Franklin Minturn, the son of Benjamin Minturn and Mary Eckley, in Harrison County in December 1864. Daniel had completed serving in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nebraska Cavalry Regiment, which protected portions of the border against Native Americans during the first years of the Civil War.

Daniel and Emily Minturn lived in Sarpy County, Nebraska.

Daniel and Emily Minturn had seven children, four of whom died in early childhood. Daniel and Emily Minturn are buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Papillion in Sarpy County.

- **Mary Etta Wood** Jeremiah Butler, the son of Jeremiah M. Butler and Mary Gates, in Harrison County in 1886. By 1880 they were living near the Jasper Gallup household near Mosquito Creek several miles northeast of Neola.

Jeremiah and Mary Etta Butler had two children, one of whom died before 1900. By 1895 Mary Etta and Jeremiah were separated.

After separating, Mary Etta cared for her sister Sarah's youngest child, Zella Gallup, eventually moving into the town of Neola, while Jeremiah farmed with their son in Woodbury County.

By 1915 Mary Etta had married Frank T. Davis, a retired farmer from Missouri, and was living in Neola.

Mary Etta and both of her husbands, Jeremiah Butler and Frank Davis, are buried in the Neola Township Cemetery.

- **Celestia Melvina Wood** married Orson Hyde Hildreth, the son of Jehiel Hildreth and Louisa Merritt, in Harrison County in 1865. Orson and Celestia Hildreth were living in Union Township in 1870 but by 1875 had moved to the Red River Valley, in Clay County, Minnesota, near Moorhead. Soon thereafter they moved to Emerson, also in the Red River Valley, south of Winnipeg in extreme southern Manitoba.

Around 1885 the Orson Hildreth family returned to the Harrison County area. They lived in Lagrange Township in 1895 and 1900 and by 1905 were back in Union Township.

Celestia (Wood) Hildreth died in Harrison County, perhaps in Persia, in 1919. Orson was living in Council Bluffs in 1925 and in Independence, Missouri, where he died, in 1930.

The twelve known children of Orson and Celestia Hildreth, eleven of who reached adulthood, are listed below.

Orson Hyde Hildreth (11 Apr 1846 - 29 Jun 1930)  
 & Celestia Melvina Wood (3 Jul 1850 - 24 Nov 1919)  
 m. 13 Jun 1865, Harrison Co., IA  
 | Rosa Lee "Rose" Hildreth (18 Dec 1866 - 20 May 1945)  
 | & Charles William "Bearcat" Kemmish (5 Aug 1865 - 4 Feb 1950)  
 | m. 24 Jan 1886, bride's res., Harrison Co., IA  
 | Lillie Dale Hildreth (1 Jan 1869 - 14 Jun 1906)  
 | & Rufus Abbott (abt 15 Apr 1857 - 9 Nov 1946)  
 | m. 1 Dec 1886, Pott. Co., IA  
 | Clara May Hildreth (30 Dec 1871 - 5 Jul 1955)  
 | & William Alonzo Champlin (5 Nov 1868 - 8 Nov 1951)  
 | m. 1891  
 | Eva Ann Hildreth (3 Nov 1874 - 6 Oct 1939)  
 | & Edward S. Gerard (9 Jun 1870 - 8 Nov 1942)  
 | m. 12 Jan 1893, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA  
 | Charles William Hildreth (1 Mar 1877 - 5 May 1960)  
 | & Emma Isabelle Riley (27 Aug 1879 - 24 Feb 1955)  
 | m. 12 Jun 1898, Reeder's Mill, Harrison Co., IA  
 | Nellie Victoria Hildreth (28 Feb 1879 - aft 1957)  
 | & Thomas C. Jeffrey (abt 1870 - )  
 | m. 24 Dec 1896, Pott. Co., IA  
 | James Arthur Hildreth (4 Dec 1881 - 23 Sep 1882)  
 | Lora Leota Hildreth (31 Oct 1883 or 31 Oct 1884 - 6 Sep 1949)  
 | & Augustus Frederick "Gus" Cave (3 Feb 1879 - 25 Apr 1956)  
 | m. 5 Sep 1900, Harrison Co., IA  
 | Ella Edith Hildreth (5 Apr 1886 - 9 Mar 1971)  
 | & John Nicholas Babe (18 Aug 1885 - 15 Aug 1950)  
 | m. 16 May 1912, Pott. Co., IA  
 | Daisy Gertrude Hildreth (1 Feb 1889 - Oct 1978)  
 | & Samuel Clyde Earleywine Jr. (22 Oct 1882 - 1954)  
 | m. 18 Feb 1905, Harrison Co., IA  
 | Ira Arlando Hildreth (15 May 1891 - 1 Feb 1955)  
 | & Grace unknown (abt 1896 - )

| Maud Montese "Shirley" Hildreth\* (5 Jun 1893 - 3 Nov 1975)  
| & Daniel Alexander Vallier (19 Jan 1889 - 6 Jun 1964)  
| m. 30 Sep 1911, Union T., Harrison Co., IA  
| div.  
| Maud Montese "Shirley" Hildreth\* (5 Jun 1893 - 3 Nov 1975)  
| & Harry F. Colby (abt 1887 - )

Orson and Celestia Hildreth are buried in the Valley View Cemetery west of Persia, Iowa, as are their children, Rose (Hildreth) Kemmish, Charles Hildreth, Lora (Hildreth) Cave, and Ira Hildreth.

Lillie (Hildreth) Abbott is buried in Hanford, California; Eva (Hildreth) Gerard in North Oregon, Ohio; Ella (Hildreth) Babe in Moorhead, Iowa; and Daisy (Hildreth) Earleywine in Soldier Valley Cemetery in Pisgah, Iowa.

- **Minerva Louise Wood** married William Davis Howard, the son of William Howard, in 1868, and lived in Union Township. (RAC: I have been unable to locate the William Davis Howard family in the 1885 and 1895 Iowa censuses.)

William Davis and Minerva Howard had nine children, eight of whom were still living when their father died in 1918. Minerva was living with their son, Charles, in Union Township in 1920 and again with Charles in Ash Grove, Davis County, Iowa in 1930.

It appears that Minerva died at Clarinda, Iowa in 1936. William and Minerva Howard are buried in the Valley View Cemetery.

- **Wilfred Willis Wood** married Carrie Isabelle Butterfield, the daughter of Charles E. and Isabelle Butterfield, in Nebraska in 1880. They initially lived in Nebraska but by 1885 they were living a half-mile south and a mile and a half west of Unionburg, perhaps on a farm owned by the Stoker family.

Around 1905 Wilfred and Carrie Wood turned over their farm to their son-in-law, Martin Ulfers, and moved to Gunnison, in Sanpete County, Utah, with their two younger children. Around 1913 they returned to Harrison County, settling in Logan, where Wilfred and Carrie died and are buried in the Logan Cemetery.

Wilfred and Carrie Wood had seven children, including two sets of twins, but three children died in infancy. Wilfred and Carrie Wood are buried in the Logan Cemetery.

- **Lola M. Wood** married Morris Stewart, the son of Benjamin F. Stewart and Ellen Crampton, in Pottawattamie County in 1880. Morris Stewart had moved from Cincinnati, Ohio to Neola, Iowa with his parents in 1878.

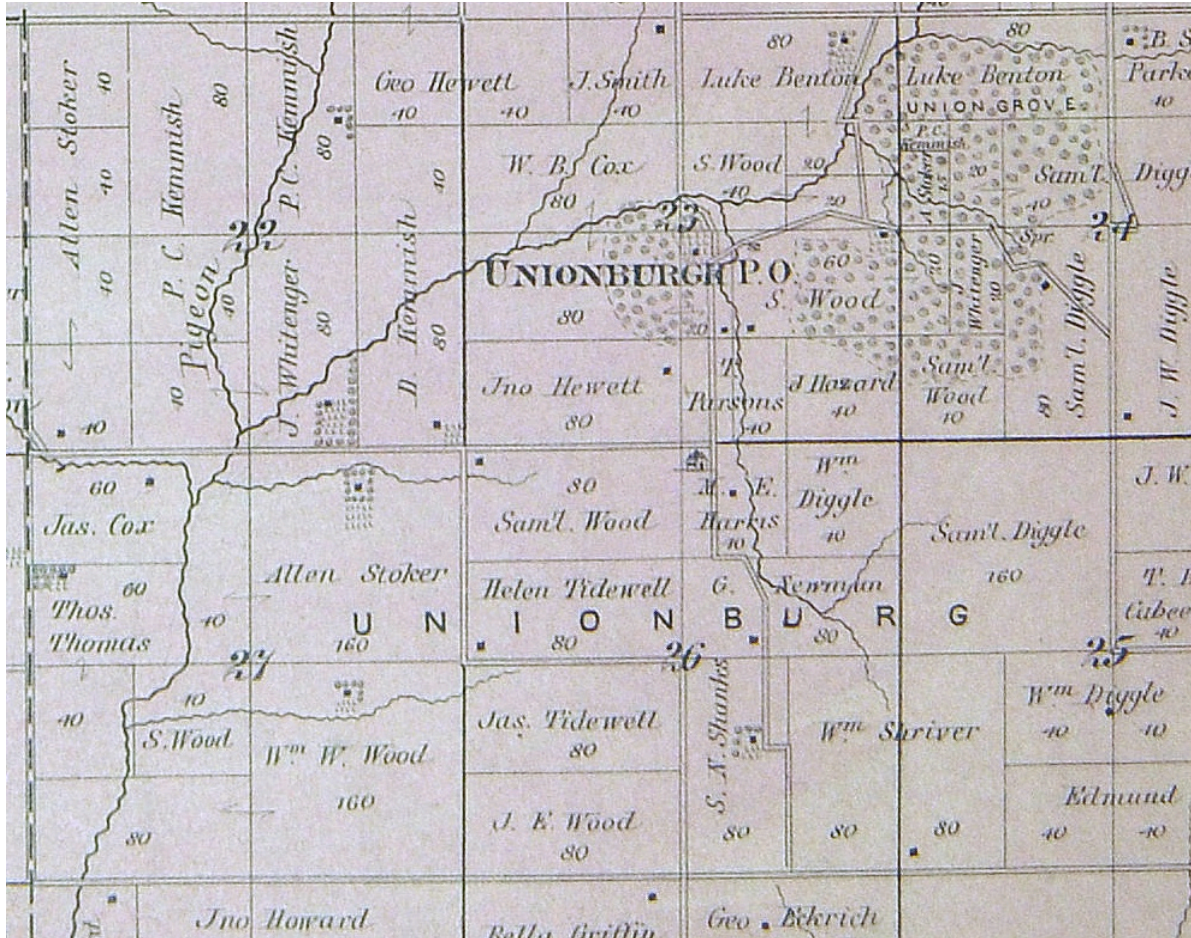
Morris and Lola Stewart lived in Council Bluffs, where he was a railroad car inspector. They had one adopted child, Marion, with whom Morris lived in his old age.

Morris, Lola and Marion Stewart are all buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **Charles Wood** died as a child and is buried in the Unionburg-Cox Cemetery.

## Appendix – Union Township

Union Township is located in Harrison County in southwestern Iowa. Union Grove in east central Union Township, shown on the following map, was the site of the settlement of Unionburg, no longer in existence and the inactive Cox-Unionburg Cemetery. The Unionburg Post Office operated from 1869 to 1889.



### ***The Union Grove area in 1884***

From *C.R. Allen & Co.'s 1884 Illustrated Atlas of Harrison County*  
 Courtesy of the Iowa Digital Library, [digital.lib.uiowa.edu](http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu)

Most of the families shown on the above map had been members of the Latter Day Saints, also known as the Mormon, Church. Many were members of the Reorganized Latter Day Saints Church.

Samuel Wood, owner of several parcels on the above map, is believed to have been the first permanent settler in Union Township, arriving with his family late in 1850. However, settlement in Union Township was slow and the township was not completely settled at the time of this map in 1884.

Referring to the plat of a portion of Union Township on the previous page, the majority of Union Township is drained by Pigeon Creek, which runs southwest eventually entering the Missouri River north of Crescent. Parallel to Pigeon Creek to the east is Mosquito Creek, which enters the Missouri River south of Council Bluffs. Union Township has never had a town or railroad within its borders.

**Other historic places of interest in Union Township were:**

- **Crisp** in Section 8, site of the Crisp Post Office from 1897 to 1903.
- **Valley View** in Section 2, site of the Valley View Post Office from 1870 to 1889 and the Valley View Cemetery.

The following towns are (or were) located near Union Township.

- **Beebeetown** in southeastern Lagrange Township, about a mile south and six miles west of Union Grove, was established around 1880. As of 2015, commercial life in Beebeetown centers on the *Twisted Tail* restaurant, run by my step-cousin, Eddie Spencer.
- **Logan**, the county seat of Harrison County, is on the Boyer River in western Jefferson Township about 14 miles northwest of Union Grove. Logan was established on the site of Henry Reel's mill in 1867 when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, the first railroad into Council Bluffs, was built.
- **Neola** is in southeast Neola Township, Pottawattamie County about eight miles southeast of Union Grove. Neola was established in 1869 when the Rock Island Railroad was constructed into Council Bluffs. Starting around 1905, Union Grove residents received their mail on the Neola #3 Rural Route.
- **Persia** is in north central Washington Township about seven miles northeast of Union Grove. Persia was established in 1882 along the newly constructed Milwaukee Railroad line into Council Bluffs. Most burials of Persia area residents are in the Valley View Cemetery mentioned above.
- **Yorkshire**, no longer in existence, was on the Milwaukee Railroad in Section 32 of Washington Township, about six miles southeast of Union Grove.

## The Older Descendants of Samuel Wood

### Acknowledgments and Sources

The following individuals provided information that I used herein:

- Samuel Wood's great-great granddaughter, Janet "Jan" (Koll) Frazier, and her daughter, Kathy Joyce.
- Janet's cousin, Yvonne (Martens) Severyn, who in 2004 compiled a four-page biographical sketch of Samuel Wood.

Some specific print and Internet sources:

- *History of Harrison County, Iowa*, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915. In 2001 Mona Sarratt Knight excerpted portions that are on-line with the title "Mormon Migration and Settlement in Harrison County" at [archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/IAHARRIS/2001-03/0983586152](http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/IAHARRIS/2001-03/0983586152).
- Jan Frazier kindly loaned me her mother's copy of the Persia, Iowa Centennial Book, 1883-1983, printed by the Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas (LC 83-060617). From this I photocopied the pages for the Becker, Cave, Koll and Martens families. There are no Wood or Hildreth entries. As of 2015 you can find an on-line index by Googling or at [iagenweb.org/Harrison](http://iagenweb.org/Harrison).

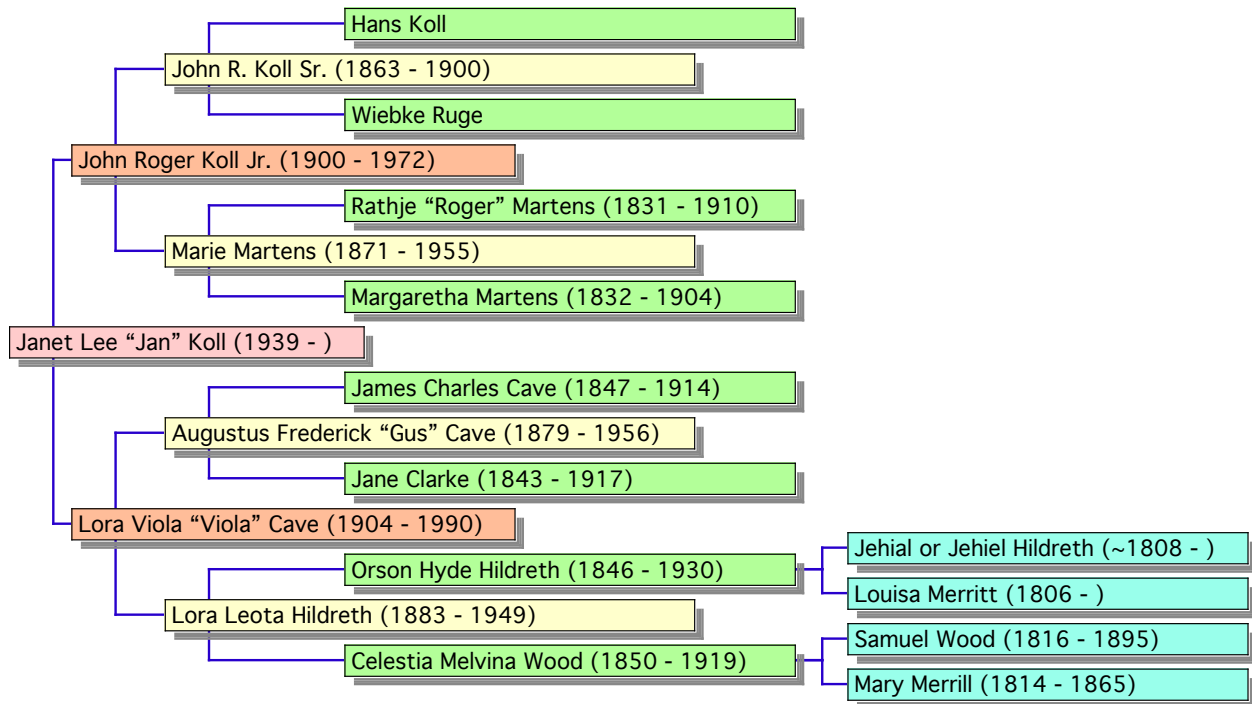
Much of my information came from general Internet sources, especially the following:

- The *Google* search engine.
- *Ancestry.com*, which I find especially useful for census records, city directories and family histories. Ancestry.com use requires a subscription, but is usually available without charge at public libraries.
- *Findagrave.com*, which often includes photographs of gravestones and sometimes includes obituaries.



## Appendix – The Older Relatives of Janet (Koll) Frazier

The following chart shows the ancestors of Janet (Koll) Frazier. (RAC: Janet is the mother of my oldest daughter, Kathleen LaRae "Kathy" Joyce).



Commenting on each of Janet's grandparents in turn:

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Rathje "Roger" Martens (1831 - 1910) & Margaretha Martens (1832 - 1904)  
 | Hartwig Martens (1861 - 1940) & Helene Trede (1872 - 1947)  
 | | Gretha Louise Martens (1893 - 1917) & Ferdinand Foje (1890 - 1943)  
 | | | Elvin Henry Foje (1914 - 1995) & Donna Grossner (1919 - )  
 | | Peter Martens  
 | | Marie Martens (1896 - 1970) & Archie Hammond (1894 - 1969)  
 | | Johannes Martens (~1898 - ) & Vera Sullivan  
 | | Emma Christina Martens (1900 - 1990) & Almor Lee Dakan (1900 - 1961)  
 | | Frieda K. Martens (1902 - 1993) & Alfred A. Cave (1901 - 1971)  
 | | Arthur Harry Martens (1904 - 1981) & Rose Victoria Cave (1905 - 1999)  
 | | | Yvonne V. Martens (1926 - ) & Emil J. "Bud" Severyn (1926 - 2007)  
 | | | Rosemary Martens (~1929 - ) & unknown Laing  
 | | | Betty Jane Martens (1939 - 2011) & Robert A. Christiansen (1938 - 2010)  
 | | | Victoria Martens  
 | | | Amy L. Martens & unknown West  
 | | | James A. Martens  
 | | Edwin Martens (~1907 - ) & Bernadine Stien  
 | | | Jacqueline A. Martens (1930 - 2012) & Clifford Leroy Osbahr (1923 - 2010)  
 | Jurgen "George" Martens (1866 - 1918) & Doratheia Emma Katherine "Dora" Dohrman (1879 - 1927)  
 | | Carl Martens (1907 - 1964) & Elsie Pieper (~1912 - )  
 | | | Robert George Martens (1934 - 2006)  
 | Marcus Martens (1868 - 1925) & Emma Christine Bredenkamp (~1880 - 1919)  
 | | Hulda Margaret Christine Martens (1903 - 1996)  
 | | Henry Detlef Martens (1905 - 1992) & Evelyn Solvig Christensen (1908 - 1935)  
 | | Sidonia Marie Martens (1907 - 1955) & Victor Vincent Gill (1906 - 1977)  
 | | Leonard Marcus Martens (1909 - 1984)  
 | | Arnold J. Martens (1912 - 1983)  
 | | Lorraine Dorothy Martens (1916 - 2003)  
 | | Laurence Durwood Martens (1916 - 1996)  
 | | Wallace Edmund Martens (1917 - 2014) & Geneva Lee Clark ( - 2009)  
 | Marie "Mary" Martens (1871 - 1955) & Johann Roger "John" Koll Sr. (1863 - 1900)  
 | | Alvina Margaret Koll (1892 - 1986) & Nicholas Jacob Hinrik "Nick" Schroeder (1888 - 1978)  
 | | | Irene Helen Schroeder (1916 - 1990) & Harry John Davies (1917 - 1986)  
 | | | Fern Schroeder (~1922 - )  
 | | Anna Catherine Koll (1894 - 1977) & Albert Iwen Dohrman (1892 - 1948)  
 | | | Paul Henry Dohrman (1924 - 1924)  
 | | | Elaine Alberta Dohrman (1927 - 2012) & Philip George Arnold Sr. (1929 - 2003)  
 | | | Marian Dohrman  
 | | Henry Koll (~1895 - 1896)  
 | | Helen Marie Koll (1898 - 1979) & Willie Edward "Bill" Becker (1898 - 1969)  
 | | | Leeta Marilee Becker (1927 - 2012) & Lynn Fredrick Grap (1925 - 2014)  
 | | John Roger Koll Jr. (1900 - 1972) & Lora Viola "Viola" Cave (1904 - 1990)  
 | | | Ramon L. Koll (1924 - 2009) & Sarah Butler (1919 - 2010)  
 | | | Vivienne Koll (1926 - ) & Elmer Steenbock (~1925 - )  
 | | | Adrienne C. Koll (1926 - ) & Robert L. Crouch (~1921 - )  
 | | | Kenneth Koll (1929 - )  
 | | | Janet Lee "Jan" Koll\* (1939 - ) & Robert Alvin "Bob" Christiansen (1935 - )  
 | | | Janet Lee "Jan" Koll\* (1939 - ) & Dennis Dale Frazier (1938 - )  
 | Henry Martens (1873 - 1966) & Blanche E. Zinn (1882 - 1951)  
 | | Maxine Louise Martens (1918 - 1994) & William Hugh Welch (1919 - 1985)

| Detlef Martens ( - 1885)