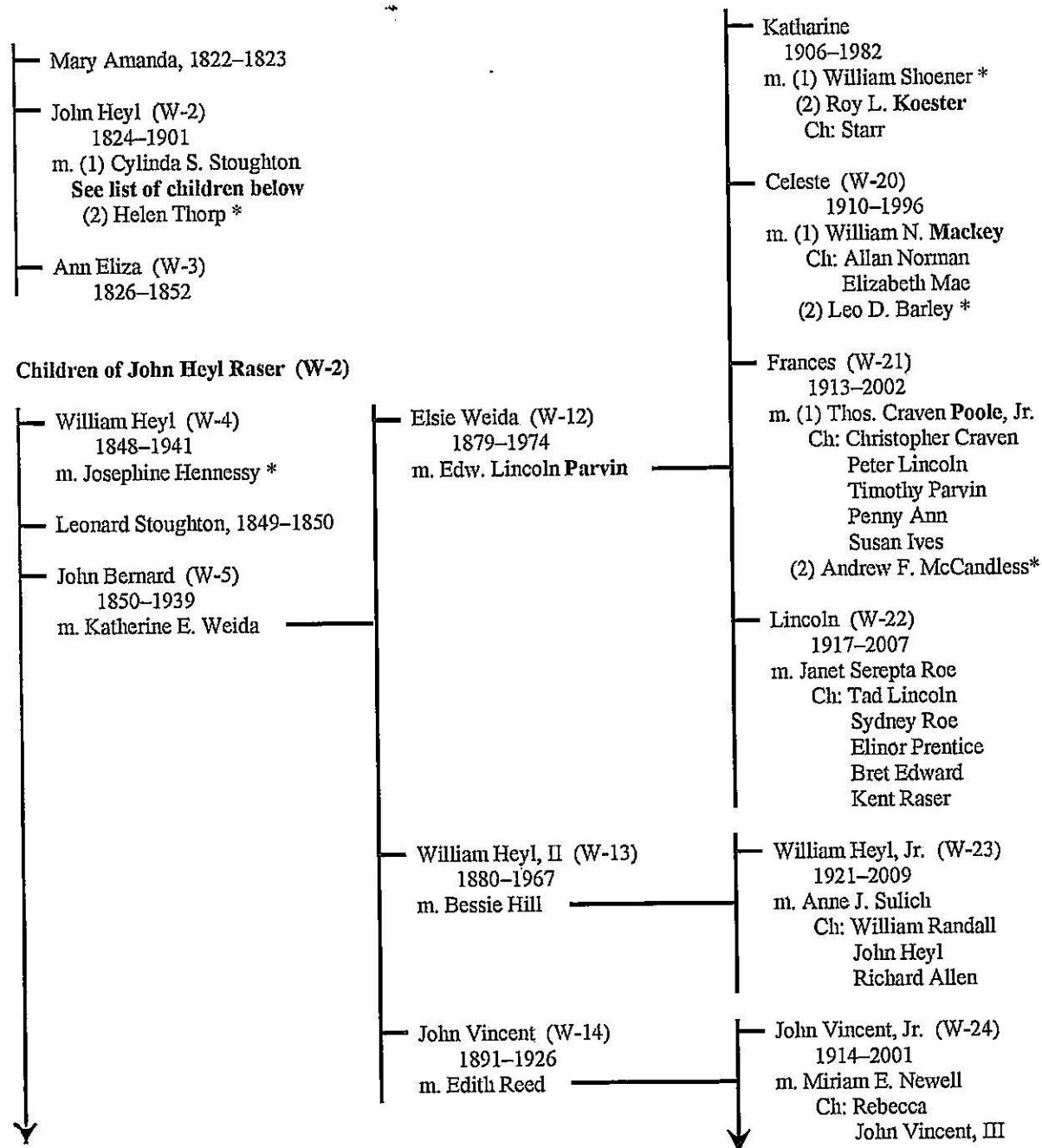


The William Raser Branch

Descendants of William Raser (W-1)
1791-1833
m. Amanda Susan Pfister

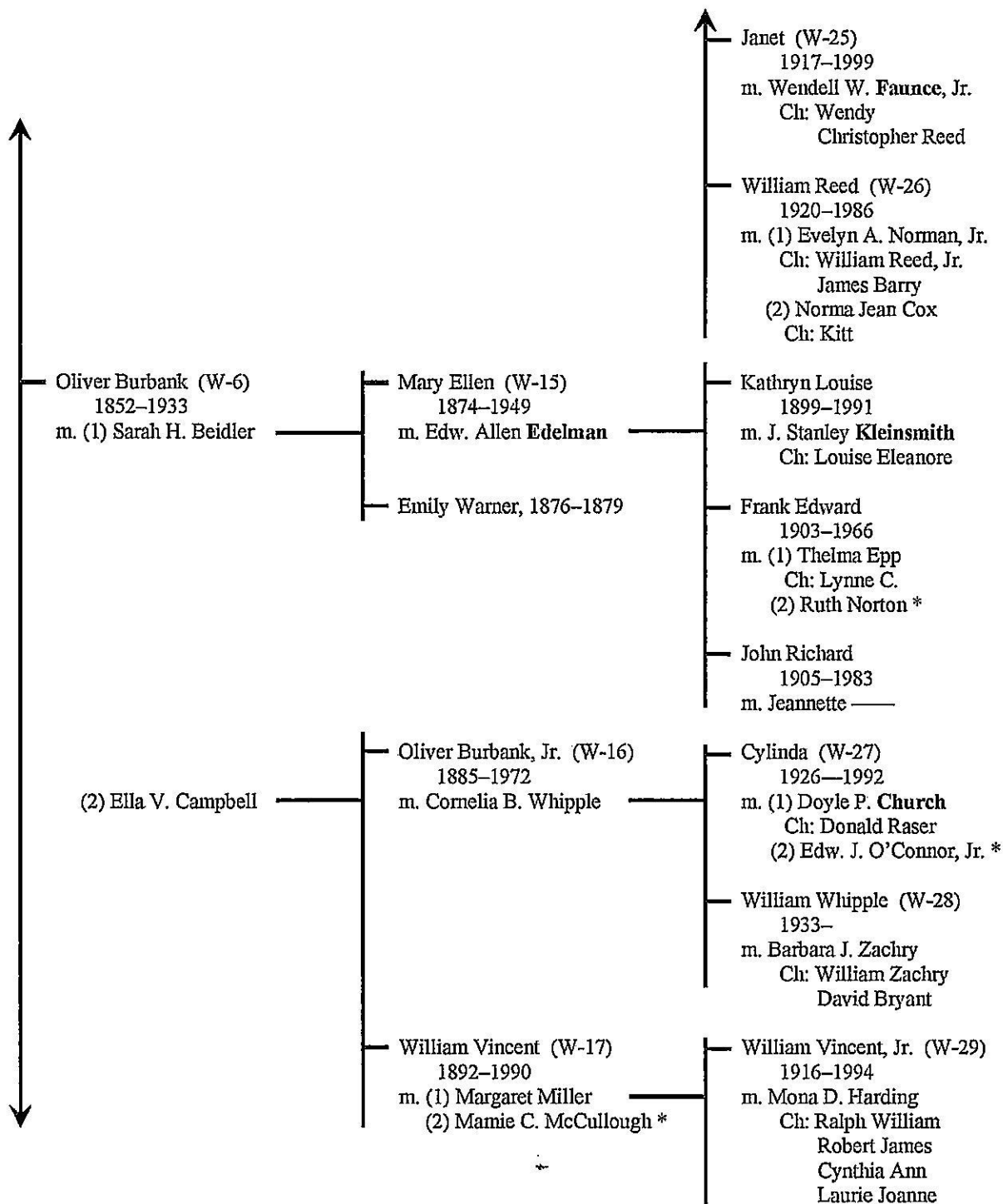


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* no children
by this marriage

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Descendants of William Raser (W-1)
(continued)

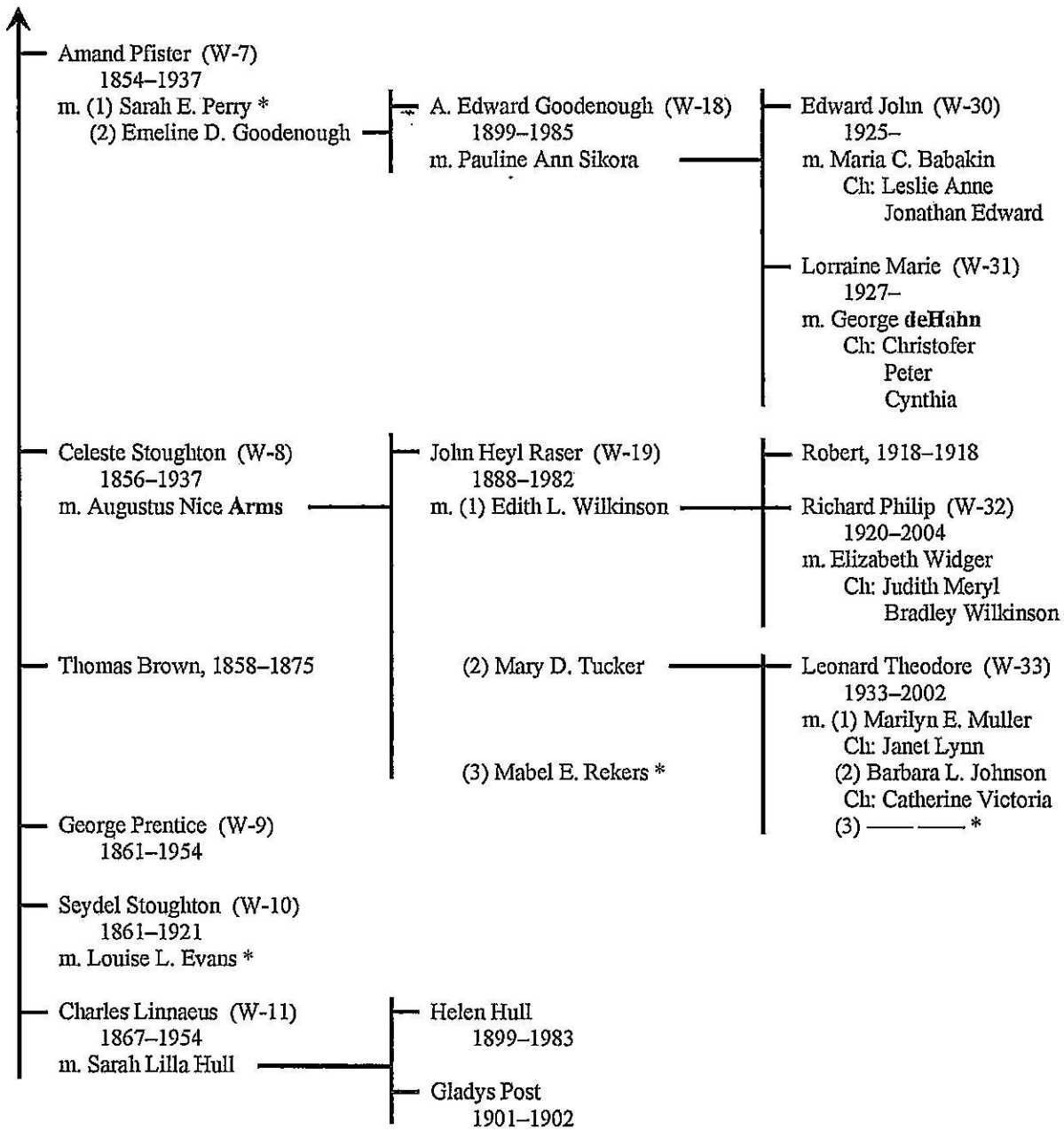


(continued
on next page)

* no children
by this marriage

The William Raser Branch

Descendants of William Raser (W-1)
(continued)



* no children
by this marriage

The William Raser Branch



Silhouette of
William Raser (P-13)

W-1. **WILLIAM RASER**, eldest child of Capt. Bernard Raser (A-9) and Mary Heyl, was born 23 March 1791 in Philadelphia, Pa. (1). He was raised in the family residences on Duke Street and later on Coate's Alley — the latter almost under the present-day Benjamin Franklin Bridge. After his widowed mother died in early 1810, when he was not yet nineteen, he came under the guardianship of his uncle John Heyl, and resided with his brothers and sister in the Heyl residence at 106 North Second Street.

Currently very little is known of William up to about 1818, but his father's shipping involvement, and the proximity of the family to the business district and waterfront, apparently motivated the Raser brothers to follow mercantile careers. On 4 May 1816 William returned to Philadelphia from Bordeaux, France, aboard the ship *Magnet*, probably on some business-related activity (2).

During William's early years, Congress had organized and extended the Mississippi Territory, so that after 1812 it embraced all of the present-day Alabama and Mississippi and parts of western Florida. Settlement began to increase rapidly after the end of the War of 1812–14, resulting in Mississippi being formed as a state in late-1817, followed by Alabama in late-1819. An economic boom in the region, largely based on cotton, prompted many northern businessmen to seek their fortune in the Deep South. The Rasers were among them.

By 1818 William Raser had settled in Mobile, Alabama, which was then becoming a thriving seaport; there he set up business as a commission merchant. Tradition says he had traveled to Alabama on horseback, accompanied by his brother John Bernard Raser and a friend, George Prentice (3). His other brothers soon joined them in business, settling at Demopolis and Tuscaloosa in Alabama, and at Columbus, Mississippi—all in the Tombigbee River Basin. William first appears in Mobile in an 1818 list of persons liable for work on the road running north of Mobile toward Fort Stoddert (4). In November 1821 he appears with brother George in a list of persons liable to perform duty as a city watchman—the origin of law and order in the City of Mobile (5).

William Raser owned land on the Mobile waterfront as early as May 1820 (6). In 1822 he bought nearby lots on which parts of historic Fort Charlotte once stood (7); he subsequently owned other lots in the city. He initially traded as William Raser & Co.—it is not known specifically who all the “company” included. George Prentice soon returned to Philadelphia, where he handled the northern interests of the company (8). William Raser apparently headed the business, traveling extensively in the Tombigbee River Basin and making trips over the years to New Orleans, Philadelphia and the Bahamas to make trading arrangements and to visit relatives.

William Raser was married on 3 April 1821 to **AMANDA SUSAN PFISTER**. The ceremony was performed in Demopolis by Amanda's brother-in-law, Basile Meslier, J.P. (1, 9). Amanda was the daughter of Amand Pfister and Mary Josephine Rys, French refugees who had been driven from San Domingo (modern Haiti) by the black uprisings and had fled to Philadelphia in 1796. The Pfisters subsequently removed to Nassau, New Providence, in the Bahamas, where Amanda was born on 21 January 1801; the family later returned to Philadelphia. About 1819 the Pfisters joined a group of Philadelphia-based Bonapartist exiles who

founded the ill-fated Vine and Olive Colony at Demopolis. It is likely that William Raser knew the Pfisters when both families lived in Philadelphia, and that he later saw them during his business trips to and through Demopolis.

The Rasers settled in Mobile, where William became active in local affairs. On 27 November 1821, by an act of the Alabama General Assembly, he and five others became incorporators of The Mobile Steam Boat Company (10*). In 1822 and 1824 he was elected to serve as one of the 13 annual directors of the Bank of Mobile—Alabama's first bank (11). In May 1823 he was elected as one of seven trustees of the Independent Protestant Church (12), which in the preceding year had been erected as the first protestant church in Mobile. Possibly as early as 1823 the Rasers resided in their country home, "Live Oak Lodge," in the western suburbs of present-day Mobile. The house, with its servant quarters at ground level, stood until about 1980 at 115 Kilmarnock Street (13*). In 1826 William Raser was one of the city's six Aldermen, and the next year he served on a jury deliberating the opening of two new downtown streets (14).

But all too much of William's life was devoted to his merchant activities—his wife, in her correspondence, often expressed regret for her separation from William, as well as from her relatives. Some measure of William's business can be gained from a book which chronicles the early shipping activity at Mobile (15). During calendar year 1822 he made shipments on 21 outbound vessels, of which nine were destined for New York, six for Philadelphia, two each for New Orleans and Liverpool, England, and two for the interior of Alabama. His shipments were largely of bales of cotton, with from 5 to 74 bales for New York, 111 to 182 bales for Philadelphia, 6 to 20 bales for New Orleans, and 241 bales for Liverpool. In April his shipment to Philadelphia included 629 bushels of salt, while in May he shipped two barrels of buck's horns and one barrel of moss to Liverpool. The second most common export from Alabama at this time was lumber. In June, along with 149 bales of cotton, William shipped 1,400 pipe staves to Philadelphia (for the city's rapidly-expanding water supply system), followed in July by 13,000 more staves for Philadelphia. In September, another merchant shipped 118,000 barrel staves to New York! An up-river shipment in October consisted of "130 pkgs. goods" on the barge *Hornet*, destined for Tuscaloosa, while in December he shipped "merchandise" aboard the keel boat *Buttahatchie* to his brother J. B. Raser in Columbus, Mississippi.

Acting as commission merchant, William received consignments from 43 inbound vessels from mid-November 1821 through December 1822. Seventeen brought goods from New Orleans, nine from New York, eight from Philadelphia, three from Tuscaloosa, two from Liverpool, England, and one each from Boston, the Bahamas, Havana and Pensacola. In April two shipments from New Orleans were of groceries, while later consignments from there mention flour, whisky, bacon and coffee. Consignments from Liverpool included dry goods, hardware, crates, iron, porter, salt and cotton bagging, while coffee, sugar and fruit came from Havana. In March Wm. Raser & Co. imported the sole cargo of 1,600 bushels of salt aboard the schooner *Margaret Ann* from Long Island, in the Bahamas.

On 30 December 1821, the steamboat *Cotton Plant* arrived at Mobile from Tuscaloosa and intermediate points with 330 bales of cotton on board, and 228 bales in tow aboard the barge *Triton*, destined for William Raser and other consignees. Passengers on the boat from Demopolis included "Mrs. Raser [and her relatives] Miss & Mr. Phister." The *Cotton Plant* was not the first steamboat in the area, but it was one of the earliest and attracted wide attention. Two interesting accounts of its passages are appended to the end of this account. Subsequent passenger lists show William Raser arriving in Mobile with cargo from Philadelphia aboard the sloop *Phoenix* on 2 January 1822—having spent Christmas Day 1821 at sea, while another shows "Mr. Wm. Raser and Miss Segan [a relative]" returning from New Orleans on Christmas Day 1822 aboard the schooner *Orleans Packet*, with assorted cargo for himself and several other companies.

Most commonly, the shipping news gave no specifics of the nature of consignments—all from New York and Philadelphia for William are noted only as cargo or merchandise. However, most consignments were for

open sale, and the consignees immediately advertised the availability of these goods. In the *Mobile Commercial Register* of 11 July 1822, the following ad appeared: "Just Received, Per Schooner *Sophia*, from Philadelphia": 20 barrels prime beef, 60 bundles hay, 1000 bushels oats, 200 barrels fresh flour, 150 barrels whiskey, 4 casks hams; brandy, gin, mackarel, claret, peach brandy, Teneriffe wine, lime juice; bale rope, one bale Union Cloths, a small assortment of dry goods, 30 boxes window glass, wheelbarrows, carts, &c., "Which are offered for sale, low for Cash, by W. Raser & Co."

Old family correspondence (16*) indicates that William's work was very demanding, and the unhealthy Alabama climate was frequently affecting his health and his ability to conduct business. His business also suffered a severe financial loss in the latter half of 1823, when both mailings of matching halves of five \$100 bank notes never reached Philadelphia (17). By February 1824 he was trading as Raser, Stockton & Co.—possibly the monetary loss had precipitated this change.

Amanda Raser also was frequently sick, and was only 27 years old when she died "after a long and painful illness" (possibly tuberculosis) on 8 September 1828 at Belmont Springs, Mississippi (18*). She was buried in Church Street Graveyard, Mobile. William Raser was left with son John Heyl, four years old, and daughter Ann Eliza, not quite two. For a while William may have made local arrangements for the care of his two infant children, but circumstances soon forced him to send his son to Philadelphia to be cared for by John Heyl—who had been William's own guardian two decades earlier. His daughter Ann Eliza was sent to Tuscaloosa to live with William's sister Mary (A-13), wife of John H. Vincent.

William continued his business in Alabama, but at a decreasing pace. In the 1830 census he appears living alone in Mobile, except for a black male slave, age 10-to-24, and a female slave, age 24-to-36 (19). Living next-door was John B. Hogan, whose wife Sarah, nee Vincent, was the sister-in-law of Mary (Raser) Vincent. Hogan had a household of eleven whites, plus 29 black slaves (20 were males). This suggests that William was still living at "Live Oak Lodge," in the then rural suburbs.

In a letter of July 1832 William stated his health "has been very bad," and in November that "My cough continues very oppressive & I am very weak." He died, probably of tuberculosis, in Mobile on 3 January 1833. He is buried with his wife and daughter, Mary Amanda, in the Raser-Pfister lot in Church Street Graveyard, Mobile (20*). His death is noted only with an abbreviated inscription at the bottom of a family slabstone. He left no will; Edward Hall was appointed administrator of his estate, with Basile Meslier and Amand Pfister as security; George G. Prentice was among those selected to inventory his estate (21). In April 1836 John Heyl was appointed guardian of the young John Heyl Raser in Philadelphia (22), and the next month John H. Vincent obtained letters of guardianship for the two Raser children, enabling him to care for their financial interests in Alabama (23).

Children (RASER), born in Mobile, Ala. (1):

1. Mary Amanda, b. 19 Mar. 1822, d. 16 June 1823 in Mobile, Ala. (20*).
- + 2. John Heyl (W-2), b. 30 Aug. 1824, d. 14 Dec. 1901, m. (1) 10 Aug. 1847 Cylinda S. Stoughton, m. (2) 28 Apr. 1881 Helen Thorp.
- + 3. Ann Eliza (W-3), b. 30 Oct. 1826, d. 14 Feb. 1852, unmarried.

* * *

Arrived, 30 December 1821: Steam Boat *Cotton Plant*, S. Chandler, from Tuscaloosa "and intermediate places, with 330 bales cotton on board, having the barge, *Triton*, with 228 bales cotton, in tow; in all, 558 bales, and some other merchandise—consigned to ...W. Raser & Co., ... B. Vincent, & others."

Passengers: "to Mobile, from ... Demopolis, Mrs. Raser, Miss & Mr. Phister."

"The *Cotton Plant* carried up eight passengers, destined for St. Stephens, Coffeerville, Chickasabogue, Demopolis and Tuscaloosa. She performed her passage to Tuscaloosa, against a strong current, heavily laden,

Our Raser Family

"Live Oak Lodge," Mobile, Alabama



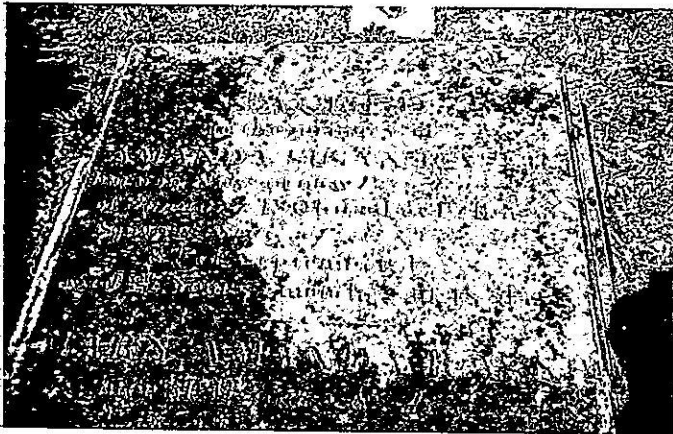
Photograph of the house at 115 Kilmarnock Street, two miles west of downtown Mobile, taken in 1908 at the direction of Charles Linnaeus Raser (W-11), and purported to be William Raser's suburban house. According to George Prentice Raser, a copy of the photo was presented to each one of the surviving Raser siblings that year. (P-14)



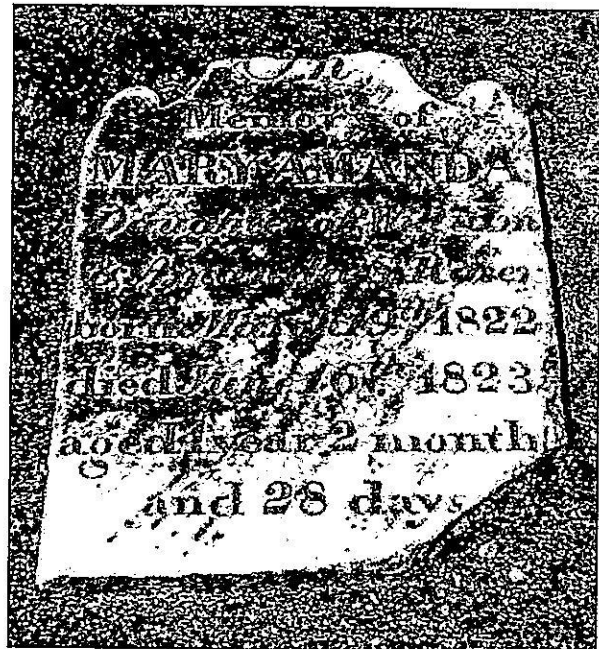
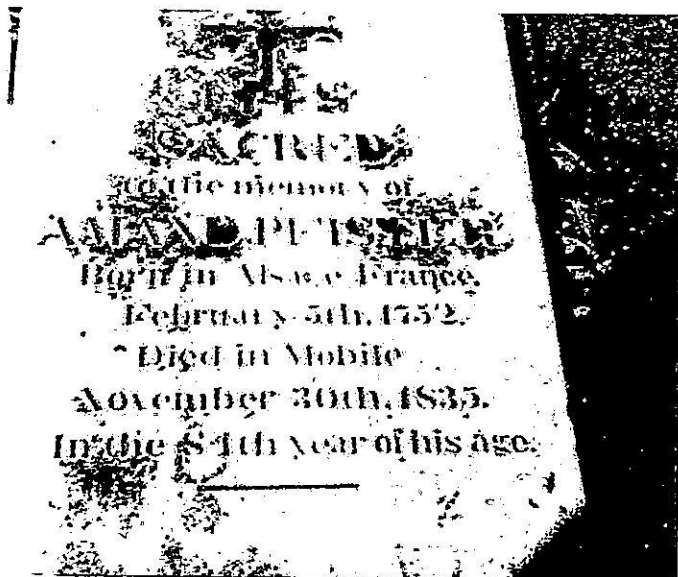
Same aspect view, 1949

This photo was taken by Edward J. Raser during a research trip to Alabama in August 1949. Although the house had undergone extensive remodeling over the last century, comparison of the chimney brickwork on the right side of the house leaves no doubt that it is the same building. The house was torn down sometime before 1982, and by 1994 the lot was made into a parking lot for doctors' offices. (P-15)

Family Gravestones, Mobile, Alabama



Pictured at left, in two segments, is the large slabstone in Church Street Cemetery for Amanda Susan Raser (1801–1828), Mary Amanda Raser (1822–1823), and William Raser (died 1833), located in lot R18-L53. At lower right is the original small gravestone for Mary Amanda Raser, now far removed from her parents and imbedded in a concrete slab in lot R3-L118. At lower left is the gravestone of Amand Pfister in Magnolia Cemetery, which cites his birth in Alsace, France, on 5 February 1752. (P-16)



in 124 running hours; a distance but little short of 500 miles. Left Tuscaloosa on the 22nd, Demopolis on the 27th, and St. Stephens on the 29th inst. She has been about 25 days performing her passages to the several places she has touched at, incl. all stops, for the purposes of taking in & landing cargoes of herself and barge, taking fuel on board, &c. having encountered all the currents, counter-currents and driftwood, incident to the navigation of inland waters, through newly settled countries. Having been somewhat interrupted, by the breaking of her wheels, she performed her passage to Tuscaloosa and back in not far from 200 hours—having run very little short of one thousand miles, which gives her about 5 miles headway per hour, on an average.

“The *Cotton Plant* measures about 80 tons, has a powerful engine, (say about 30 horse power) upon the low steam principal, and performs remarkably well, and her cabin is as pleasantly (though not so expensively) arranged as any we have ever seen; the *Richmond's* and *Chancellor Livingston's* not accepted [*sic*].” (24)

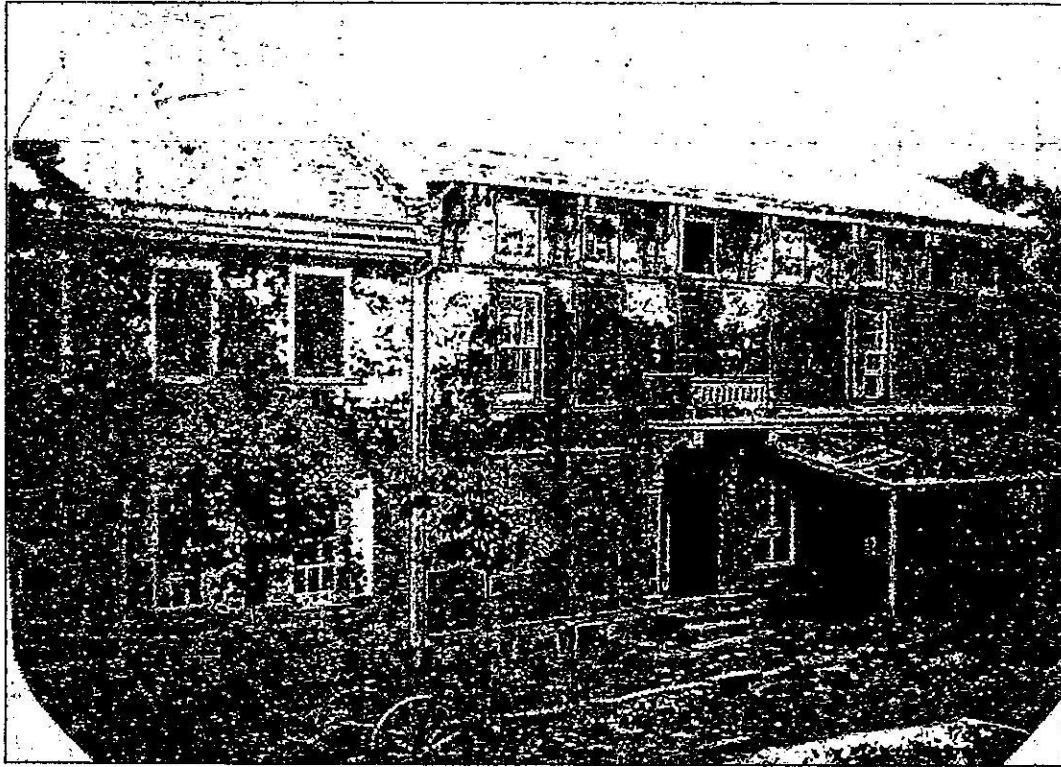
Arrived [Mobile, Tuesday] 19 March 1822: Steam Boat *Cotton Plant*, S. Chandler. Left Tuscaloosa [Monday] 11 Mar. “at 11 o'clock, with 120 bales Cot[ton]; stopped at Cherry's Gin, M'Cowan's Bluff, O'Rear's Bluff, and Stephen's Bluff; and arr. at Erie on Wed. 13th, at 3 P.M., where she took in the ballance of her cargo, amounting to 450 bales Cot[ton], to J. Hurndon, J. Armstrong, B. Vincent, & Wm. Raser & Co. Left Erie on Fri. morning, at 7 o'clock; arr. at Demopolis on same day, at 12 o'clock; left at 2 o'clock same day, and arr. at St. Steph[ens] on Sun. the 17th, at 1 P.M. Left St. Steph[ens] same day at 3 P.M. ... and arr. [Mobile] at 9 o'clock P.M.” (25)

W-2. **JOHN HEYL RASER**, only son of William Raser (W-1) and Amanda Susan Pfister, was born 30 August 1824 at “Live Oak Lodge,” the family home in the suburbs of Mobile, Alabama (1, 2). When not yet a year old, he was taken briefly—undoubtedly by ship—to Philadelphia, where on 11 June 1825 he was baptized in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fifth and Race Streets—the Heyl family church (3). Following the premature death of his mother in 1828, he was sent back to Philadelphia to be raised by his great-uncle and guardian, John Heyl. In the mid-1830s he was sent to Plainfield Academy in Connecticut for his education, and later attended Becks Academy at Lititz, Pa.

In an old letter dated 1843 he was reported to be in Lewisburg, Pa., working “in a drug store he likes it much” (4). More recently, a son stated that about 1845 he clerked in Charles Martin's drugstore in Pottsville, Pa. (5). In 1846–47 he was teaching school, probably in Chillisquaque, Pa.; Mary (Raser) Vincent's younger children were among his students (6). He soon decided on pharmacy as a career, and in 1847 matriculated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He never graduated, however, possibly because he recently had married and soon had a family to support.

John Heyl Raser was married to **CYLINDA SEYDEL STOUGHTON** in Milton, Pa., by the Rev. James Williams, on 10 August 1847 (2). She was the daughter of Leonard Stoughton and Eliza Seydel, and was born in Milton on 24 April 1828. Her father was a native of Connecticut, while the Seydel family was of Pennsylvania German ancestry. Cylinda eventually became the mother of ten children, nine of whom were boys. The Rasers lived in Milton for several years where John operated a drugstore. He is said to have also owned a pharmacy in Lewisburg during this time, which he subsequently sold to a Dr. Josia Baker (7). John, Celinda and son William appear in Milton in the 1850 census, with John listed as a druggist owning \$1,860 real estate (8). This and later census records show that the family always maintained a domestic servant in the house.

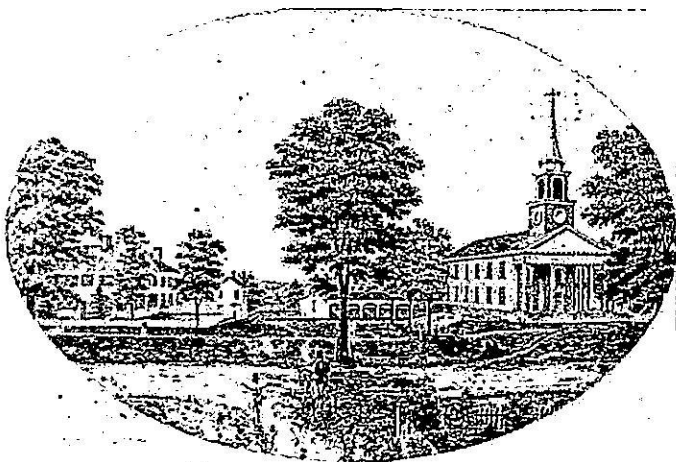
For some undiscovered reason, in 1851 John shipped his family, furnishings and drugstore stock to Reading, Pa., on a packet boat of the old Union Canal (9). There he opened a drugstore at 526 Penn Street, Reading, where the Adler Dress Shop was located in 1961. “His coming brought the first soda fountain to Reading. By 1852, he had developed more than nineteen syrups, with which he flavored ‘mineral waters’.



John Heyl Raser's Drug Store and Residence, Milton, Pa. (P-17)

This building on Front Street in Milton housed the family drug store (behind the canopy), and the family residence on the second floor. The passageway on the right side of the store was called "Raser Alley." According to *Raser Photographs*, the original of this photo was annotated by William Heyl Raser: "House in Milton in which I was born, July 14, 1848." The building was destroyed in the great fire of 1880.

The paintings below are representative of the art work done by John Heyl Raser over the years. The Plainfield, Conn., view is a detailed watercolor from his early years, while the self-portrait is an oil painting made later in life.



Congregational Church & Parsonage,
Plainfield, Conn. (P-18a)



Self-portrait (P-18b)

The most popular flavors were pineapple, ginger, roses, coffee, pear, almond, and vanilla.” “A few years later, Mr. Raser came out with another ‘first’—the first gas lighted drugstore in Reading. This was a center of attraction for people in Berks County” (10*). In 1860 he appears in the census as John Raser, druggist, with \$5,500 real estate (11). In 1864 John sold the store to Dr. P. M. Ziegler, and moved his business to 146 North Sixth Street—residing at 148 next door. In 1870 John H. Raser, druggist, appears in the census with \$12,000 real estate (12). He operated this new store for some years, but when his son John Bernard graduated from pharmacy school in 1871, he sold him the business. The elder John subsequently devoted himself largely to artistic pursuits.

According to one traditional account, when John Heyl Raser was about 1 1/2 years old, a young negro servant accidentally dropped him and his hip was broken (13*). Despite later medical attention in Philadelphia (14), the injury never healed properly and he grew up with a short leg. Although he wore a built-up shoe to compensate, he always walked with a limp. He developed an intense application to studies, which in part may have been an attempt to compensate for his disability. He was a student of biology, chemistry, mineralogy and astronomy. In January 1869 he was one of the organizers of the Reading Society of Natural Sciences; its initial quarters was a room on the second floor above his drug store (15). At one time he represented the National Weather Bureau at Reading, and lectured on botany at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. He was an accomplished musician, regularly playing the violin, flute and clarinet, and was able to play a half-dozen other instruments. Old correspondence indicates he had an enthusiastic and playful personality—he would get great joy participating in jam sessions with his children when they had occasion to get together. He truly could be called a “Renaissance man.”

But his greatest love was art, in which he showed a talent as early as five years old. Charcoal still life sketches dated 1839—while he attended school in Litiz, Pa.—and watercolors early made in Plainfield, Conn., were still in family hands in the 1960s. He subsequently turned to oils and pastels. After 1871 he opened a studio at North Sixth Street, Reading, where he specialized in portrait painting. In mid-1875, accompanied by his son William, he traveled extensively in Europe (16), where, according to tradition, he painted at the Louvre, and in Germany and Italy. However, a meticulous diary kept by his son during this trip makes no mention of this activity. He appears in the 1880 census residing at 148 North Sixth Street, and is described as a “Landscape Painter” (17). His large landscape, “The Falls of French Creek,” was reported at an early date as having been sold for \$1,800 (18). He was a prolific painter, commonly signing his works “J. Heyl Raser.” While a preliminary catalog identifies some fifty of his works, he probably sketched and painted at least three times that number (19). No portraits other than his own have been discovered by the author, probably being retained in family collections, but his landscapes can be found in Pennsylvania and other museums which display representative views of earlier days in America.

Cylinda Raser died in Reading, Pa., on 17 February 1879 and was buried there in Charles Evans Cemetery. Two years later, on 28 April 1881 in Philadelphia, John Heyl Raser married **HELEN THORP**, his second cousin. He had long admired Miss Thorp, and had become exceedingly attached to her over the years. Born on 30 June 1841 in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia, she was the daughter of Isechar Thorp and Catharine Miller, and the granddaughter of Susannah (Raser) Miller (A-10). Her father, who was born in England, was a well-to-do calico printer of Germantown (20). By 1860 Helen’s father had died, and she was living in downtown Philadelphia with her widowed mother and two older sisters (21), but by 1870 the group of women, now including Helen’s widowed sister Louisa Buzby, had returned to Germantown (22).

In 1884 the Rasers moved to Philadelphia; directories show they initially settled at 42 West Johnson Street in upper Germantown. By 1887 they had relocated to 4 West Walnut Lane, Germantown, while John maintained an artist’s studio in the 700-block of downtown Walnut Street. By 1892 they had moved to 3638 North Broad Street, with John maintaining studios in center city. For many years he was a member of the Art Exhibition Gallery and the Philadelphia Art Club (18). But by 1897 the Rasers had again returned to

Germantown, where they bought a house at 17 West Walnut Lane. They appear there in the 1900 census, alone except for Helen's sister, Louisa Buzby, and a servant (23).

Late in life John and Helen frequently traveled south during the winter months. During stays in Florida John continued to paint, until his eyesight began to fail him. In early 1901 the Rasers ventured as far south as Nassau, N.P. On 27 May 1901, Helen died suddenly and unexpectedly, of apoplexy, in their West Walnut Lane house; she was buried in South Laurel Hill Cemetery (24). Greatly stricken, John soon afterwards went to live with his daughter Lessie Arms in Williamsport, Pa., but he was unhappy with the remoteness from other family members and his friends in Philadelphia and Reading. According to all accounts, he never recovered from his loss, and pined away until his death in his daughter's house on 14 December 1901 (25). He was buried in Reading beside his first wife in Charles Evans Cemetery.

Children (RASER), first three born in Milton, Pa., the rest in Reading, Pa. (2):

- + 1. William Heyl (W-4), b. 14 July 1848, d. 1 July 1941, m. 18 June 1890 Josephine Hennessy.
2. Leonard Stoughton, b. 5 Nov. 1849, d. 28 Jan. 1850 in Milton, Pa.
- + 3. John Bernard (W-5), b. 7 Dec. 1850, d. 13 Feb. 1939, m. 18 Oct. 1877 Katherine Elizabeth Weida.
- + 4. Oliver Burbank (W-6), b. 30 June 1852, d. 20 Mar. 1933, m. (1) 20 Aug. 1873 Sarah Hannah Beidler, m. (2) 16 July 1884 Mrs. Ella Virginia (Campbell) Campbell.
- + 5. Amand Pfister (W-7), b. 9 June 1854, d. 5 Oct. 1937, m. (1) 10 Dec. 1891 Sarah E. Perry, m. (2) 2 June 1898 Emeline Davison Goodenough.
- + 6. Celeste Stoughton (W-8), b. 29 Feb. 1856, d. 3 May 1937, m. 16 Feb. 1882 Augustus Nice Arms.
7. Thomas Brown, b. 31 Jan. 1858, prob. was named for one of his Brown relatives of Mobile, Ala. He d. 7 May 1875 in Reading, Pa. (26). According to Prentice Raser (W-9), he died of a brain concussion after accidentally diving into a rock while swimming in a nearby river (2). However, John Arms stated that Thomas went swimming in cold water and developed a fatal mastoid infection, and that his sister Celeste, who cared for him, later "recalled how in his head pain, he begged for an ax to chop his head off" (27). At the time of his death, Thomas was studying dentistry with Dr. T. Yardley Brown of Reading (28).
- + 8. George Prentice (W-9), b. 8 Sep. 1861 (twin), d. 18 Apr. 1954, unmarried.
- + 9. Seydel Stoughton (W-10), b. 8 Sep. 1861 (twin), d. 13 Aug. 1921, m. 10 June 1898 Louise Lewis Evans.
- + 10. Charles Linnaeus (W-11), b. 10 Nov. 1867, d. 30 June 1954, m. 14 July 1897 Sarah Lilla Hull.

W-3. **ANN ELIZA RASER**, daughter of William Raser (W-1) and Amanda Susan Pfister, was born 30 October 1826 in Mobile, Alabama, probably at "Live Oak Lodge," her parents' suburban home. She was not yet two years old when her mother died, and only six when her father passed away. At some time between these deaths—probably in June 1829, when her gravestone says she was adopted (1)—she was sent to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to be raised by her aunt, Mary (Raser) Vincent (A-13), wife of John Himrod Vincent. She probably remained there until 1837, when her aunt and uncle decided to return north and settled in Chillisquaque, Northumberland County, Pa. In 1839 she attended the Moravian School in Lititz, Pa., along with another cousin, Mary Eliza Raser (A-14). Ann Eliza continued to live with the Vincents in Chillisquaque, and for an interim period in nearby Lewisburg where her uncle operated a store for several years (2).

Many years later her adoptive brother, Bishop John Heyl Vincent, in a memorial to his mother (3), reported that early in 1852 he was summoned from his ministerial duties to the bedside of his adopted sister who "had been suffering for several years from a complication of diseases ... the end was evidently approaching." Coincidentally, his mother became ill, and was brought to a couch near Ann Eliza as her adopted daughter was rapidly weakening. Bishop Vincent describes the conversation that passed between the two, prior to Ann Eliza's death at 2 p.m., 14 February 1852, in Chillisquaque. Ann Eliza was buried two days later; within hours after her burial her aunt unexpectedly passed away. The two are buried alongside each other in Lewisburg Cemetery (4).

Old family correspondence indicates Ann Eliza left a will and a very large monetary estate—probably the proceeds of her father's Alabama property that was recovered over the years by Vincent family members. It has been suggested that this estate was abused, not only to her detriment but to her brother, John Heyl Raser (5). The author has not taken the time to investigate this matter, which would require extensive research in the South as well as in the Northumberland County courthouse in Sunbury, Pa.

W-4. **WILLIAM HEYL** ("Will") **RASER**, eldest child of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Milton, Pa., on 14 July 1848. His early education was in the public schools of Reading, Pa. While a school boy he worked in his father's drugstore, where he developed an interest in pharmacy and chemistry that was to influence his later career development. (1)

On 1 October 1861, when he was only thirteen, William Raser enlisted for three years Civil War service as a Musician in Company B, 93rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. According to family tradition, he had already served a year as drummer boy in the Reading unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard which became this volunteer company. At the time of enlistment he was described as five feet five inches tall, of fair complexion, with grey eyes and dark hair, and by occupation a druggist. (2)

Will was mustered into service on 12 October 1861. In early 1862 his regiment was assigned to Pecks Brigade, Army of the Potomac, under General McClellan, for the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia. In April 1862 the regimental Hospital Steward was detached to Fort Monroe, and drummer Raser, who had been assisting on the regimental medical staff, was made acting Hospital Steward. He subsequently was present at the battles of Williamsburg (5 May), Fair Oaks (31 May) and Malvern Hill (1 July), as well as several skirmishes during the retreat to Harrison's Landing. As a result of the strenuous and gory hospital-work treating a continuing stream of casualties, and weakened by a bout of dysentery and a recurring pre-enlistment hernia, he suffered a physical breakdown. In early July he was sent north to Bellevue Hospital, New York City, for recovery, and on 29 August 1862 he was discharged. (2, 3)

From fall 1862 through spring 1863, Will attended the Moravian Academy in Lititz, Pa. In the summer of 1863, when Lee invaded Pennsylvania, he served from 30 June to 11 August 1863 as a musician in Company C, 42nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Militia (1)—records indicate this unit was not mustered into Federal service (4). In the fall he returned to Lititz for another year of school. In July 1864, when Confederate raiders once again threatened to invade Pennsylvania, he enlisted for 100 days as a private in Company B, 195th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered in on 16 July and promoted to Hospital Steward on 24 July. After serving in Maryland and northern Virginia the company was mustered out at Harrisburg, Pa., on 4 November 1864 (5).

Following in his father's footsteps, in 1865 Will commenced studies at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, from which he received his Ph.G. degree in 1868. During his college years he worked in the historic old pharmacy of Frederick Klett & Co., at North Second and Callowhill Streets in Philadelphia (6). After graduating he worked in Philadelphia as a salesman for Hance Brothers and White, manufacturers of pharmaceutical products. In 1872 he removed to New York City to manage the company's branch office at 58 Vesey Street. But in 1875 he returned to Philadelphia, where he worked as a salesman for French, Richards and Company, wholesale druggists, until 1879.

During June–September 1875 Will accompanied his father on a European tour, sailing in both directions aboard the American Line steamship *Ohio*. He kept a meticulous 190-page journal of their travels, which took them as far as Berlin, Venice and Rome (7). During 1879–80 William was for one year the Paris Correspondent for the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*. In 1880 he returned to New York City to work for a prominent

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drug importer at 53 Cedar Street. In 1883 he succeeded to the business of Daniel & Company, the oldest drug brokerage house in the city, and conducted it both as a broker and exporter with much financial success until his retirement in 1898; his office was at 32 Platt Street. During this time he also controlled the New York agency for perhaps the largest wax bleachery in the United States. He was a life member of the New York College of Pharmacy. (8)

On 18 June 1890 William Raser was married in New York City to **JOSEPHINE** ("Josie") **HENNESSY** at the bride's residence, 799 Madison Avenue, by Rev. William J. B. Daly of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. She was born 28 February 1858 in New York City, the daughter of Daniel Hennessy and Jane Ann Russell (2). Her father was a prominent real estate operator and builder of expensive residences on the upper East Side; he died in 1900. The Hennessys were Catholics, but William always considered himself a "Presbyterian by birth and training, but not a communicant."

Prior to his marriage Will resided at 173 Fifth Avenue (9). After marriage the Rasers resided at several mid-town Manhattan locations: from 1890 to the early 1920s at 799 Madison Avenue (where Josephine's sister also resided for many years) (10), then for several years at the Park Avenue Hotel, Park Avenue and 32nd Street. About 1926 they made their final move to the Hotel Seville, 29th Street and Madison Avenue.

William had an interest in family heritage—but did no original research—and was a member of various hereditary and historical societies, as well as social clubs. By 1938 he was the last surviving member of George Washington Post No. 103, Grand Army of the Republic, and at the time of his death he was one of the last five Civil War Veterans in New York City. He frequently was pictured in Memorial Day celebrations in the pictorial sections of various New York City newspapers.

Although mentally alert, late in life William suffered from partial deafness, impaired vision and intermittent numbness of his left leg. On 21 June 1941 he tripped and fell on the stoop of the Hotel Seville and sustained a fractured skull (11), from which he passed away in Bellevue Hospital on 1 July (12). By his will he left legacies to many of his nephews and nieces. His widow died in New York City on 13 June 1943 (13). The Rasers, who had no children, were buried in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, Pa.

W-5. **JOHN BERNARD RASER**, son of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Milton, Pa., on 7 December 1850, but lived most of his life in Reading, Pa., where his parents had relocated in 1851. In his youth he worked behind the soda fountain of his father's initial drugstore on Penn Street, and after 1864 assisted in the new store at 146 North Sixth Street. Deciding to follow his father in a career as pharmacist, he matriculated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. At the time of the 1870 census he was residing in the house of Chas. Hancock, druggist, in West Philadelphia; John Raser was identified as a drug clerk (1). Soon after receiving his Ph.G. degree in 1871, John succeeded his father in the North Sixth Street drugstore. (2, 3)

The younger John Raser soon began to branch out from the syrup making activity of his father, slowly becoming a manufacturing chemist and developing a line of drug products. As his business flourished, Dr. Raser (as he came to be known) found it necessary to expand his facilities. In 1879 he purchased from the Reading School District the building at the corner of Sixth and Walnut, which had been Reading's first public school. Here he erected a new building, continuing the business as the Raser Drug Store. His letterhead of 1900 described him as "Wholesale Druggist, Nos. 154 and 156 North Sixth Street./Laboratory, 540 and 542 Walnut Street./N.Y. Office, 34 Platt Street." According to one of his obituaries, "At one time, Dr. Raser distributed more than 100 pharmaceutical products which he originated. He frequently said of the root beer extract [he reputedly invented], 'It was the original root beer and all the others are patterned after it'" (4). The

web site, Root Beer World, under "Raser's," provides pictures of two of his packaging labels. After his retirement in 1906, his son William Heyl II succeeded him in the business. The Raser Drug Store was a familiar Reading landmark until it was sold out of the family in 1954.

John B. Raser married **KATHERINE ELIZABETH** ("Kate", "Katie") **WEIDA** in Reading, Pa., on 18 October 1877. She was born in Reading on 30 April 1855, the daughter of Solomon Weida and Elizabeth Hahs (5*). For many years her father operated a jewelry store on Penn Street, Reading, where the F. W. Woolworth store stood in the 1960s. By 1880 the Rasers were residing at 232 North 5th Street in Reading (6).

Dr. Raser was active in the business community; he helped organize the Citizens Bank of Reading, and later served as a director of the Reading Trust Company, into which the Citizens Bank had been merged. After his retirement, he devoted much of his time to travel and philanthropy. In 1912 he and his wife visited the Orient, returning to San Francisco from Hong Kong on 12 May 1912 aboard the Pacific Mail Steamer *Siberia* (7). He was the principal contributor among the six members of the Raser family who, in 1928, provided funds for the furnishing of the newly constructed library of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (8). In more recent years the original building was replaced by a modern library, and the brass donors' plaque honoring the Raser's earlier contribution has disappeared (9). He was for many years an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Reading. Prior to his death he was secretary of the Reading Hospital, and the oldest living member of its board of managers (10).

Sometime before 1900 Dr. Raser bought a large house, "Swananoa," at 606 North Fifth Street in Reading, where he raised his family and remained the rest of his life (11). Katherine Raser died in Reading on 21 May 1935. Dr. Raser's health declined slowly the last two years of his life; he died at his long-time residence on 13 February 1939. Both he and his wife were buried in Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading. "Swananoa," no longer in the family, survived in 2004 as the Bell Tower Beauty Spa and Barber Shop.

Children (RASER), all born in Reading, Pa. (2):

- + 1. Elizabeth ("Elsie") Weida (W-12), b. 12 Aug. 1879, d. February 1974, m. 18 Oct. 1905 Edward Lincoln Parvin.
- + 2. William Heyl II (W-13), b. 27 Dec. 1880, d. 1 Aug. 1967, m. 18 Oct. 1919 Bessie Hill.
- + 3. John Vincent (W-14), b. 17 Feb. 1891, d. 27 Oct. 1926, m. 29 Apr. 1913 Edith Reed.

W-6. **OLIVER BURBANK RASER**, son of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born 30 June 1852 in Reading, Pa. His father had hoped he would become an office worker, and about 1870, through friends in management, obtained for him a job at the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, Pa. His initial work as a messenger boy took him throughout the shop areas, where the sight of huge locomotives under construction soon ended further interest in paper work. His father reluctantly agreed to his becoming indentured as a machinist apprentice, which obligation he served for four years (1). In the 1870 census he is listed as a machinist apprentice, residing at that time in Reading with his parents (2).

In 1873 Oliver met **SARAH HANNAH** ("Sally") **BEIDLER**, a young woman from Reading who had come to Philadelphia to learn to be a seamstress and who resided in the same rooming house. She was the daughter of Franklin C. Beidler, a carpenter employed by the Reading Railroad Company, and his wife Hannah Maria Warner; she was born in Reading on 21 May 1852. Sarah and Oliver were married in Philadelphia by Rev. Andrew Manship, a Methodist minister, on 20 August 1873, and subsequently had two daughters. (3*)

About 1877 Oliver disappeared, and for many years neither his wife nor parents knew anything of his whereabouts. His wife was forced to return to Reading, where she worked for many years as a tailor to

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support herself. She resided with her parents and sisters the rest of her life—for many years at 541 North 9th Street (4, 5), but by 1910 at 746 North 11th Street (6). When Sarah's daughter Mary Ellen grew older she would visit her uncle John Bernard Raser at his drugstore. But it was not until sometime after her marriage in 1897 that Mary Ellen learned from her uncle where her father was living, after which her mother obtained a divorce (3). Sarah Raser never remarried, and died in Reading on 8 February 1913.

Eventually it became known to the family that Oliver had worked for some time as a brakeman on both the Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads. Wlten in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 16 August 1878, he enlisted for five years in Company A of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, US Army. His enlistment papers describe him as a machinist, with blue eyes, light hair, light complexion, and 5 feet 6 3/4 inches tall. His unit was sent to the Northwest where he participated in the mop-up phase of the Bannock Indian War. As a result of harsh conditions and sleeping on the ground, he developed lumbago, kidney trouble and eventually diabetes, prompting his discharge at Fort Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Territory, on 8 May 1880. Oliver, identified as "Soldier (machinist)", was still a resident of the military post at Coeur d'Alene Lake when the 1880 census (7) was taken there on 21 June. (8*)

During 1880–83 Oliver worked as a lineman for the Northern Pacific Railroad (9), setting poles and stringing wire in advance of railroad construction in Idaho and Washington. He frequently worked as a machinist during prolonged stops in construction. In 1883 he settled in Portland, Oregon.

On 16 July 1884 Oliver Raser was married by Rev. A. L. Lindsley in Portland, Ore., to **ELLEN VIRGINIA** ("Ella") (**CAMPBELL**) **CAMPBELL** (8). Ella was born in Oregon City, Ore., on 13 May 1862, the daughter of William Brackett Campbell (a government land surveyor) and Frances Caroline (Cason) Prigg. Her mother's people were from Virginia and Missouri, and came west in the great trek of 1843; her father's people were from Massachusetts and came to Oregon in 1849 (10, 11). When but thirteen years old, Ella had married her first cousin, Horace Guy Campbell, at The Dalles, Ore. According to family tradition (12), Horace was "an adventurous type and a ladies man"—they had a son, Lora Hector, before their marriage ended. Lora H. Campbell was born 27 November 1876 in East Portland, Ore.; he lived with Ella and Oliver until he was about 17 years old (8). A marine engineer, he was twice married and lived most, if not all, of his life in Portland—where he was still a resident in 1930. (13)

In Portland, Oliver was employed in the machine shops of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, and also the Southern Pacific Railroad, working on steamboat and logging engines, as well as on locomotives. In April 1900 he removed with his family to San Francisco, where he worked as a master mechanic for the Market Street Cable Railway. In June the Rasers appear in the 1900 census at 43 Jesse Street (14). His family lived through the San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 1906; their flat at 196 Dubois Avenue was one of the few in the immediate area that escaped destruction.

In August 1906 the Rasers returned to Portland, where Oliver worked as a machinist for the City of Portland Municipal Shops until he retired. By 1910 the Rasers had bought their house at 302 Stanton Avenue (15). After 1923 they were joined by their son William and his young son—William's wife having abandoned them; they were still all living together in the Stanton Avenue house at the time of the 1930 census (16). It was not until after his retirement in 1927 that Oliver finally visited his native state. He died of a tumor in Portland on 20 March 1933. His widow died there on 7 July 1938 and was buried with her husband in Portland's Lone Fir Cemetery.

Children (RASER) by Sarah H. Beidler (3):

- + 1. Mary Ellen (W-15), b. 31 Mar. 1874 in Reading, Pa., d. 8 May 1949, m. 21 Apr. 1897 Edward Allen Edelman.
2. Emily ("Emma") Warner, b. 14 July 1876 in Philadelphia, Pa., d. 30 Sep. 1879 in Reading, Pa.

Children (RASER) by Ellen V. Campbell, born in Portland, Ore. (8):

- + 3. Oliver Burbank, Jr. (W-16), b. 20 Apr. 1885, d. — Dec. 1972, m. 14 Sep. 1919 Cornelia Bryant Whipple.
- 4. Poss. another child; the 1900 census states Ella was the mother of four children, three [incl. Lora H. Campbell] then living (14).
- + 5. William Vincent (W-17), b. 29 Apr. 1892, d. 1 June 1990, m. (1) 15 Jan. 1916 Margaret Miller, m. (2) 1 Aug. 1942 Mamie Cathey McCullough.

W-7. **AMAND PFISTER RASER**, son of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born 9 June 1854 in Reading, Pa. For some undiscovered reason he celebrated his birthday on 4 March, even though some of his siblings knew this was incorrect. He was named for his great uncle, as is proved by the letter of appreciation which Amand P. Pfister sent to his father—the letter also confirms the 9 June date (1, 2).

In his youth Pfister assisted his father in the family drugstore in Reading, and early acquired an interest in pharmacy. In the 1870 census he is listed as an apothecary apprentice, residing in Reading with his parents (3). He subsequently attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, receiving his Ph.G. degree in 1873 (4). After graduation he worked briefly for his father. During this time a mixture he was compounding exploded, peppering his face with glass and ceramic fragments, but miraculously sparing his eyes. However, forever after he was hard of hearing—a condition which his brothers believed contributed to his later lack of financial success. (5)

He soon after moved to the south, claiming he preferred a milder climate. He worked in pharmacies in three different Georgia towns, including Americus, before returning north. His subsequent whereabouts for some years are uncertain, although his son said he worked in New York City for a time, in or near which he kept a house with his brother Linnie. Pfister A. Raser, druggist, appears in the 1880 census as a boarder in the house of Robt. M. Brand, dealer in surgical hosiery, at 2622 Frankford Road, Philadelphia (6). In the late 1880s he was working as a clerk in Philadelphia—probably as a drugstore pharmacist and sales clerk (7). About 1890 Pfister moved to Bordentown, N.J., initially to run a pharmacy there, but subsequently becoming a business partner. This was his only entrepreneurial venture, and after a number of years the business failed.

While in Bordentown, Pfister became infatuated with **SARAH E.** (“Sadie”) **PERRY**; they were married in Bordentown on 10 December 1891. She was born on 14 September 1858, the daughter of Emanuel O. Perry and Eliza Jane ——. Although remembered as Dr. Perry by some family members, census records of 1880 and earlier indicate her father was a railroad engineer (8). The marriage was short lived, as Sadie died of childbirth on 14 May 1893 in the family residence at 100 Farnsworth Avenue (then called Main Street) in Bordentown. She was buried in the Perry family plot in Bordentown Cemetery (9*).

On 2 June 1898 Pfister married **EMELINE DAVISON** (“Lina”) **GOODENOUGH** in Farmingdale, N.J. Lina Goodenough was born in Farmingdale on 9 February 1864, the daughter of William B. Goodenough and Emily Amanda Havens. The Goodenough and Havens families were for many generations residents of Monmouth County, N.J., and both could trace their ancestral lines back to New England prior to 1640. How Pfister met Lina is not known, since he presumably was still living in Bordentown, but in 1900 the Rasers were sharing their rented flat at 100 Farnsworth Avenue with her brother, Harry C. Goodenough, and his family (10). Possibly Harry had come to share the Raser flat after Sadie Perry died, and Harry introduced Pfister to Lina. Pfister was known to be a great walker, and it was often said in the family that he walked all the way to Farmingdale on several occasions to visit Lina Goodenough.

By June 1901 Pfister had accepted a position as pharmacist in the Washington Market Pharmacy in Trenton, N.J., where he was “boarding in a lovely home near the store” (11). The next year he moved his wife

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and young son to a townhouse at 27 Peace Street in Trenton. About 1905 Pfister bought the duplex at 931 Edgewood Avenue, Trenton, where the family resided until Lina's death in 1933 (12). For a time after he moved to Trenton, Pfister worked and roomed in New Egypt, N.J., while his family lived at home. He also worked for several years in a drugstore on Cookman Avenue, Asbury Park, N.J.; during the summers his family lived at the shore.

But for the most part Pfister worked in the drugstores of Trenton. He frequently changed jobs, possibly being let go because of his hearing problem. He worked in about a dozen different drugstores, working in some on more than one tour of duty. He always worked like an old-fashioned pharmacist, doing all the jobs in the store from compounding medicines and tending the soda fountain to acting as doctor to any sick or injured neighbor who rushed into the store. For about five years he worked for Scott's Drug Company, having invested about \$500 in the business. He worked a good while at their Chestnut Avenue store, where he originated and prepared "Scott's Emulsion." When Scott's expanded and built a new drugstore at Stuyvesant and Hermitage Avenues, he was placed in charge of it. Eventually Scott's went broke and Pfister lost both his investment and his job. Nevertheless, he always enjoyed his work, and was past eighty when he worked in Posta's Drug Store in Trenton in his last job as pharmacist.

Pfister's principal hobby was flower gardening, but he also loved animals. His pets included dogs, birds, fish and an alligator—which he liked to display in his drugstores—that grew to over six feet long. In addition to being a great walker he also was an avid freshwater fisherman.

Lina was a Methodist and had her son baptized in St. Paul's Methodist Church, Trenton; Pfister was an active Episcopalian. Lina was a beautiful but frail woman, being afflicted with a pulmonary weakness and diabetes most of her life. She died of pneumonia in her Edgewood Avenue home on 11 January 1933. Pfister soon afterwards went to live with his son in Ewing Township, N.J. In May 1937 he fell in his bedroom and broke his hip. He was bedridden in a hospital and later at home until he passed away in bed on 5 October 1937. He was buried alongside his wife in Evergreen Cemetery, Farmingdale, near other members of the Goodenough family.

Only child (RASER), born in Bordentown, N.J.:

- + 1. Amand Edward Goodenough (W-18), b. 1 Apr. 1899, d. 23 Oct. 1985, m. 27 June 1922 Pauline Ann Sikora.

W-8. **CELESTE STOUGHTON** ("Lessie") **RASER**, only daughter of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Reading, Pa., on 29 February 1856. She was raised in Reading, where she married **AUGUSTUS NICE** ("Gussie") **ARMS** on 16 February 1882. (1)

Augustus Nice Arms was born 5 August 1848 in Danville, Pa., the son of Charles Augustus Wells Arms and Mary Ann Nice. He was educated in a high private school, after which he worked as a clerk in the offices of the Lehigh Valley Railroad in Mauch Chunk, Pa. "He then went to Andalusia, Pa., as principal of the Potter Hall Military School, and remained there several years [before becoming] instructor of the junior department of the Selwyn Military Academy in Reading, Pa." Licensed as a lay-reader in the Episcopal Church, he also served as chaplain at both schools. In the 1880 census he was listed as a teacher and boarder at the Diocesan School of Central Pennsylvania for Boys, North Eleventh Street, Reading (2).

About 1882 the Arms couple moved to Williamsport, Pa., where Mr. Arms had entered the employ of the Rowley-Hermance Company, manufacturers of wood-working machinery. Starting as a shipping clerk, he rapidly learned the business and soon became a highly successful salesman. He traveled extensively in the South, selling the company's machinery to wood-working mills. Although not a technician, he specified

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machinery for their needs, monitored its construction in Williamsport, then oversaw its installation and the training of operators in its use. The 1900 census listed Augustus as a bookkeeper, residing with wife "Lulu S." and son John H. in a rented house (which they later were to buy) at 412 Third Avenue in Williamsport (3). While in Williamsport, Mr. Arms was instrumental in founding the local YMCA.

In mid-1901, following the unexpected death of her father's second wife, Lessie Arms volunteered to care for her aging father in her Williamsport house. Her husband's business activities frequently took him away from home, so her father's presence was a comfort to her. However, the remoteness from his friends in Reading and Philadelphia was depressing to father John Heyl Raser, and by year-end he had passed away in her house.

Just before the turn of the century, Augustus Arms' company merged with similar businesses to form the American Woodworking Machinery Co. In 1902 this merger took him to New York City as Secretary and Treasurer of the company. In 1907 the family removed to Rochester, N.Y., when the principal office of the business was relocated to that city. In 1910 the Arms resided in their owned house at 56 Lake View Park in Rochester (4). He was still working for the company in Rochester when, in early 1915, he experienced the first of three heart attacks—prior to this he had enjoyed excellent health. "On Sunday, March 12, [1916,] while standing talking with his wife, he suddenly fell ill, and the physician said afterward he probably was dead before his body hit the floor" (1). During his life he was active in Episcopal church work and Masonic activities.

Following her husband's death Lessie returned to Williamsport, where she resided in the family house long owned at 412 Third Avenue. She appears there, alone, in both the 1920 and 1930 census reports (5, 6). She died of a stroke in Williamsport Hospital early in the morning of 3 May 1937. She and her husband are buried in Wildwood Cemetery in Williamsport.

Throughout her life Lessie was active in Presbyterian church work and women's organizations. For a number of years prior to 1902 she served on the board of directors of the Home for the Friendless in Williamsport (7). She was involved in travel, garden and literary clubs, and was Registrar and Secretary for DAR chapters in Williamsport, Elizabeth, N.J., and Rochester, N.Y. (8). Over the years Lessie accumulated a notable collection of family memorabilia through her contacts with cousin Bishop John Heyl Vincent and Raser relatives. Interesting biographical material concerning members of the Raser and Pfister families was derived by the author from her collection, which subsequently passed to her son.

Only child (ARMS), born in Williamsport, Pa.:

- + 1. John Heyl Raser (W-19), b. 28 Feb. 1888, d. 4 Mar. 1982, m. (1) 17 Dec. 1913 Edith Lucia Wilkinson, m. (2) 31 Dec. 1929 Mary Darley Tucker, m. (3) 28 June 1934 Mabel Etta Rekers.

W-9. **GEORGE PRENTICE** ("Prent") **RASER**, twin son of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Reading, Pa., on 8 September 1861, at 10 A.M., twenty minutes before his brother Seydel (1). His early education was in the public schools of Reading, Pa. In the 1880 census he is listed as "Clerk in Store," residing with his parents in Reading (2).

In the latter part of 1880, Prentice (as he usually was known) moved to Philadelphia, where he matriculated in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. In August 1881 he was employed—presumably part time—by Smith & Kline Company as a stock clerk in their sundries department at 309-11 North 3rd Street. In November he was promoted to assistant salesman in the sundries department, and in April 1882 to salesman in the drug department. Following his graduation from the college in the spring of

1882 with a Ph.G. degree, he was induced by Mr. Kline to take on the position of traveling salesman. He was assigned to the territory of northeastern Pennsylvania, centered on the Wyoming Valley (3). Prentice was an energetic and gregarious bachelor (he never married), and soon became a well-befriended and highly successful salesman. Over time he lived at various places in the region, including the Wyoming Valley Hotel, Hotel Sterling and Burdick Apartments in Wilkes-Barre. By 1892 he returned as salesman to Philadelphia, which was rapidly growing and modernizing. He resided, at least until 1906, in a boarding house at 1225 Arch Street (4, 5). For several years prior to 1910 he resided at 1415 Arch Street.

During his travels, Prentice had become intrigued with the beauty of Lake Winola, about a dozen miles northwest of Scranton. In 1900 he bought a cottage, "Rusticana," on the south shore, and the next summer began entertaining family relatives there. Between 1902–05 he bought five more cottages on the lake, presumably as rental properties (6). Prentice also dabbled in real estate elsewhere. In 1904 he purchased two beach cottages in Belmar, N.J., from Louisa Buzby (sister of Helen Thorp Raser); he sold them two years later (7).

Following his retirement in 1910, Prentice returned to the Wilkes-Barre area (8), living there in winter months but spending summers at Lake Winola. After the Scranton trolley line was extended to the lake, he became disenchanted by the increased commercialization, and in 1917 began disposing of his properties. In 1924 he sold the last cottage, "Clinton Terrace," which he had acquired in 1903 and had been using both as a guest house and his primary summer residence (6). In 1916 he established semi-permanent lodging at 745 North 63rd Street, Philadelphia, in the house of Dr. L. Bruce Campbell (9)—he was still there through 1950. Prentice knew Dr. Campbell from the 1880s, when Campbell was in the drug business in Wilkes-Barre; the doctor disposed of that business about 1900 and moved to Philadelphia, where he practiced dentistry (10).

During retirement, Prentice renewed his interest in travel, taking many rail and steamship trips. He liked to be on "firsts," and said he was "a passenger on the initial run of the first electric street car in Scranton," Pa. (11). In 1924, with 65 others from northeastern Pennsylvania, he participated in "the first of a series of semi-annual Southern jaunts" sponsored by two large railway and steamship companies; the trip took them throughout Florida (12). On 20 July 1926 he was on one of the two airplanes which that day initiated regular passenger flight service from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. (13). During 1927–28 he made an around-the-world cruise aboard the steamer *Belgenland*, and in 1930 made a cruise to the North Cape and Russia aboard the *Reliance*, followed by a tour of central Europe. Over the years he traveled frequently about the country visiting family and friends, commonly staying in Pennsylvania country hotels in the summer months, and with (or near) friends in California and Florida (14) during the winters.

Prentice was a member of many organizations. He was initiated into the Covenant Lodge, No. 456, Free and Accepted Masons, in Philadelphia in May 1889; as he moved about he associated with other Masonic groups. He was a member of the Union League of Philadelphia for over 50 years, the Wheelman's Club and the Penn Athletic Club, as well as the Manufacturers & Bankers Club of Philadelphia.

Prentice spent the winter of 1950–51 in Hollywood, Cal., from which place he visited family and friends. On 28 February, while visiting a Joseph Simner and his wife, Prentice suffered a mild stroke and was rushed by them to a hospital. After ten days he had recovered sufficiently to fly back home, but needing further medical attention, Simner accompanied him to Kingston, Pa. (a suburb of Wilkes-Barre), where Prentice entered Nesbitt Memorial Hospital under the care of Simner's brother-in-law, Dr. Carey. After three weeks Prentice was released and went to live with the Simners in a (rented?) house at 317 Rutter Avenue, Kingston, next door to Dr. Carey (15). During the next half year Simner frequently acted as Prentice's secretary, handling his mail and typing replies to correspondents.

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Finding the Rutter Avenue house inconvenient (it only had one bath), in late 1951 Prentice and the Simners moved to a new apartment building at 124 West River Street, Wilkes-Barre, across the river from Kingston, where they occupied a suite of rooms (16). During their several years together the Simners took him on automobile trips and arranged local entertainment. About the end of March 1954 Prentice was admitted to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital with a broken hip, presumably after having fallen down some stairs in their apartment. He died there on 18 April, and subsequently his cremains were buried in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading.

It soon developed that Prentice was said to have signed a deathbed will, reading as follows: "Dictated by G. P. Raser to Joe Simner in Room #127 at Nesbitt Hospital, Kingston, Pa., the following—Joey is my dearest and most intimate friend of many happy years. He is so kind to me and I have taken up so much of his time and he has prolonged my declining years and made them happy, loving and comfortable. I make this my last will and testament. I order my body to be cremated and all my funeral expenses and just debts be paid. I give all the rest of my estate to my most dearest friend Joseph J. Simner. Dated and signed April 2, 1954. G P Raser" (17*).

*Dictated by G. P. Raser to Joe Simner in Room #127
at Nesbitt Hospital, Kingston, Pa., the following—
Joey is my dearest and most intimate friend of many
happy years. He is so kind to me and I have taken
up so much of his time and he has prolonged my de-
clining years and made them happy, loving and
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I make this my last will and testament. I order my
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Simner. Dated and signed April 2, 1954.*



Photocopy of the Contested Will (P-19)

Concurrently, family members retrieved his duly executed will of 6 May 1942 in which, after giving bequests of \$1,000 to each of six institutions, he gave the remainder of his estate to his brothers and sister, or their heirs (18). The Raser heirs immediately hired legal help to block probate of the Simner will, prompting the local newspaper headline: "\$565,953.87 Raser Estate Contest Stake, Will Favoring Simner Fought By Relatives" (19). The most valuable asset was 8,000 shares of Smith, Kline & French stock.

Expecting a trial, the Raser attorneys hired handwriting experts to appraise the Simner will (20), as well as private investigators to look into alleged questionable aspects of the relationship between Prentice and Simner, and of his condition and care. They also collected voluminous correspondence from family members to refute potential claims of indifferent contact with Prentice. Fearing that a jury might be swayed

by Simner's published "father and son" story (21), and might favor a local beneficiary over distant relatives, the attorneys pressed for a financial settlement. After several court appearances in which the Raser attorneys presented revealing testimony (22), on 17 August Simner agreed to settle for \$80,000. On 9 October 1954 the Orphans Court approved the compromise, allowing the 1942 will to be probated (23). Although the settlement, and the court and legal costs, cut substantially into the estate, the heirs agreed to accept their shares via distribution of the remaining Smith, Kline stock—which eventually proved to be a fortuitous choice. (24)

W-10. **SEYDEL STOUGHTON** ("Seyde") **RASER**, twin son of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Reading, Pa., on 8 September 1861, twenty minutes after the birth of his brother Prentice (1). His education was in the public schools of Reading, Pa. In the 1880 census he is listed as "Clerk in Store," residing with his parents in Reading (2).

By 1883 Seyde had moved to Philadelphia, where the city directory shows him, as a clerk, residing with his twin brother at 705 Vine Street. He appears again during 1887–99 at various Philadelphia addresses, with listings that suggest he either was a hardware salesman or worked in hardware stores. For much of the time he resided at 1225 Arch Street, where his twin brother also lived as late as 1906.

On 10 June 1896 Seyde married **LOUISE LEWIS EVANS**. By June 1900 they were living in New York City at 40 Morton Street; Seydel was listed in the census as a cigar dealer (3). He probably was working for his younger brother, Linnie, who is known to have been operating a cigar store in the city at that time. His stay there soon ended, for after Prentice purchased "Rusticana" on Lake Winola in 1900, Seyde and his wife began living in that cottage during the winter months. However, the house presented a heating problem, so that Prentice soon rented a house for them close to nearby Mill City. In 1906 Prentice bought a house with eleven acres east of Mill City, where Seyde and wife lived until they removed to Philadelphia about 1912 (4). In the 1910 census they appear in Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pa.; Louise was listed as age 48 (5). Seyde was then identified as a chicken farmer, with their residence being owned [by Prentice] free of a mortgage.

Seyde Raser suffered from locomotor ataxia. He already was an invalid in a wheelchair when visited by his nephew Edward G. Raser (W-18) about 1916. He then resided at 2530 South Cleveland Street in West Philadelphia, with his wife and twin brother. During the visit Edward learned that Seyde had once been in the National Guard Signal Corps, and knew telegraphy (6). Seyde's condition grew progressively worse, and his brother Prentice eventually had him placed in the Home for Incurables on Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia. He died there on 13 August 1921 and was buried in the Raser family crypt in Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading.

What little we know of Louise (who sometimes was called Louisa) comes from census records, which state that all of her family members were natives of Pennsylvania. In 1880 she was living at 507 Pierce Street in Philadelphia with her widowed mother, Harriet, and sisters Annie E. Carr, Nettie B., and Sallie (7). In 1920 she resided in Philadelphia at 2509 South 16th Street with mother Harriet and widowed sister Annie Carr—who owned the house (8). She was still living with Anna E. Carr in 1930 (9). Louisa died in Philadelphia on 28 January 1943 and was buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery (10). The Rasers had no children.

W-11. **CHARLES LINNAEUS** ("Linnie") **RASER**, youngest child of John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Cylinda S. Stoughton, was born in Reading, Pa., on 10 November 1867. He was only eleven years old when his mother died. In 1882 he went to Williamsport, Pa., to live with his recently-married sister, Celeste Arms,

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but soon after was sent to Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J., for his education. After completing his schooling, Linnie settled in New York City, where he initially worked as an office assistant in his brother Will's wholesale drug business; he later moved up as a salesman. He early showed talents in selling, and subsequently became a salesman for Rogers & Galette, perfume manufacturers. (1)

In early 1897 Linnie was attracted to **SARAH LILLA HULL**, who was residing in the same rooming house; at that time she was working as a telegraph operator for Cooper Union. They were married in Teaneck, N.J., on 14 July 1897. Lilla (which rhymed with Villa) was born in Rutland, Vt., on 11 June 1863, the daughter of Edson Samuel Hull and Eliza Post, both natives of Vermont. After Lilla's father suffered a stroke while swimming and drowned, her mother remarried to Henry Hayward, a Rutland farmer. Following his death her mother moved to New York City and worked as a matron in the old Bloomingdale Asylum.

The Rasers were residing on 99th Street near Morningside Avenue, N.Y.C., in 1899 when their daughter Helen was born. The next year, when Linnie was operating a cigar store in the city, they had moved to a rented house at 472 14th Street in Brooklyn (2). Sometime afterwards, Linnie was persuaded by his wife's brother-in-law, John L. Robinson, to become a salesman for the American Grass Twine Company, of which he was president. Subsequently the Rasers lived for a number of years on Robinson's estate in Teaneck, N.J., but about 1909 they moved to Englewood, N.J., where they soon bought a house at 67 Grand Avenue (3). In 1918 they relocated to Hackensack, N.J., where they bought a house at 390 Summit Avenue (4).

Charles Raser remained with the New York office of the twine company for 33 years, during which time it was reorganized as the Crex Carpet Company. In his early years he traveled from coast to coast as a salesman. From 1908 to 1914 his responsibility including "looking after" the operation of the St. Paul, Minnesota, mill which processed much of the native wire grass that was processed into twine. In 1914 he was given sales management of the important Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington territory, and subsequently became general manager of the New York City office and a member of the Board of Directors (5). In 1930 the Rasers were living in an apartment building at 300 West 107th Street in Manhattan (6*). Unfortunately for Linnie, the Crex Carpet Co. failed during the Depression and he lost his job.

In 1934 Linnie went to work for the Cochrane Carpet Company—which subsequently became James Lees & Sons. A natural salesman, he worked at this job in the Washington, D.C., office until the summer of 1942, when he retired. During these years the Rasers resided at 3000 Connecticut Avenue. Linnie's wife died in Washington on 9 March 1944, after which he moved to Winter Park, Fla., where his daughter resided. Linnie passed away in Winter Park on 30 June 1954.

The Rasers were a gregarious couple, and had a wide circle of friends. They owned a large cottage at Mountain Lake, N.J., which for many years was a favorite meeting and vacation place for relatives and friends. Linnie was an avid golfer and motorist. In earlier years (1888-93) he had served as a private in Company E, 7th Regiment, N.Y. National Guard (7). In April 1918 he was commissioned as a Captain in the Quartermaster Corps, N.J. State Militia, and served on the staff of Gov. Walter E. Edge during World War I.

Children (RASER), born in New York, N.Y.:

1. Helen Hull, b. 13 July 1899, d. 18 Apr. 1983 in Winter Park, Fla. A Registered Nurse, she worked as a private nurse much of her life. She was a resident of Winter Park since 1944, and a frequent entertainer of relatives from all over the country when they visited Florida. Helen died of a heart attack while reading in bed, and was not discovered until the next day. She had donated her body for research, and was cremated (8).
2. Gladys Post, b. 3 Jan. 1901, d. 25 Mar. 1902 in Teaneck, N.J.

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W-12. **ELIZABETH WEIDA** ("Elsie") **RASER**, daughter of John Bernard Raser (W-5) and Katherine E. Weida, was born in Reading, Pa., on 12 August 1879. Although named Elizabeth at birth, she acquired the nickname Elsie as a child and used it the rest of her life. She was educated at Miss Baldwin's School—now The Baldwin School—in Bryn Mawr, Pa. (1, 2)

Elsie Raser was married in the First Presbyterian Church, Reading, Pa., on 18 October 1905, to **EDWARD LINCOLN PARVIN**. He was born 29 November 1874 in Leesport, Pa., the son of Jeremiah Starr Parvin and Clara Lincoln (3*). The society wedding was attended by hundreds, with "guests from Pottsville and Philadelphia and intermediate points [arriving] on special chartered Pullman Cars attached to the regular trains. Carriages were waiting to convey the guests to the church." Following their honeymoon they resided "in their own newly-furnished home at 312 Oley" Street, Reading (4).

At the time of their marriage, Edward Parvin was a salesman for the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven, Conn. But sometime before 1910 he became a salesman for the American Cement Tile Company, of Cleveland, Ohio—he worked for them for many years. His largest sale was for the roof of the Philadelphia Suburban Railroad Station.

The Parvins lived in Reading until about 1907, when they removed to Swarthmore, Pa., where they appear in the 1910 census living in a rented house at 213 Yale Avenue (5). They subsequently bought a house at 26 Derwen Road in Cynwyd, Pa., where they resided for many years (6*, 7). At times in later life Eddie and Nannie, as they were called by family members, lived with their children in Broad Brook, Conn., and San Francisco, Cal. Edward was known as a fox hunter, while Elsie was a crafts person. Her unique handmade Christmas angels—sold at Podesta's in San Francisco in the 1940s when she lived there—are still treasured in the family.

By 1947 Edward Parvin had suffered three strokes and was no longer able to walk. Bedridden, he passed away in San Francisco on 4 April 1949 (8). He was buried in the Parvin family plot in the Maiden creek Quaker Meetinghouse Yard, Berks County, Pa. (9). Elsie Parvin subsequently returned east, living for periods with her daughter Kitty in Center Bridge, Pa., or her son Lincoln in Setauket, N.Y. She died in New Hope, Pa., in February 1974 (10) and was buried in a nearby cemetery.

Children (PARVIN) (1):

1. Katharine, b. 27 Aug. 1906 in Reading, Pa., d. June 1982 (10), m. (1) — William Shoener, div., no chn.; m. (2) 19 Aug. 1929 Roy L. Koester in Cynwyd, Pa. Kitty and Roy resided for many years in San Francisco, where they operated an antique shop. Roy, a retired Navy officer, was an expert refinisher of antique furniture. By the 1960s the Koesters had returned east, settling in the New Hope, Pa., area, where Kitty operated a dress shop in nearby Peddler's Village. Ch. (KOESTER): Starr, b. 9 Feb. 1937, d. Oct. 1978 (10), m. by Feb. 1961 James B. Atkinson.
- + 2. Celeste (W-20), b. 27 Dec. 1910 (10, 11) in Swarthmore, Pa., d. 4 Sep. 1996, m. (1) 28 Dec. 1935 William Norman Mackey; m. (2) 9 June 1973 Leo Dosch Barley.
- + 3. Frances (W-21), b. 20 Dec. 1913 in Cynwyd, Pa., d. 3 Apr. 2002, m. (1) 14 Nov. 1935 Thomas Craven Poole, Jr.; m. (2) 6 June 1994 Andrew Fell McCandless.
- + 4. Lincoln (W-22), b. 22 May 1917 in Cynwyd, Pa., d. 25 Feb. 2007, m. 9 Aug. 1941 Janet Serepta Roe.

W-13. **WILLIAM HEYL** ("Will") **RASER II**, son of John Bernard Raser (W-5) and Katherine E. Weida, was born in Reading, Pa., on 27 December 1880. He was educated in the schools of Reading, and at Lawrenceville (N.J.) School, prior to his attending the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He was graduated with a Doctor in Pharmacy (P.D.) degree in 1901. Will Raser worked in the family drug store at

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Sixth and Walnut Streets, Reading, succeeding his father in the business in 1906. Until his marriage he resided with his parents at 606 North Fifth Street. (1)

During World War I, and for ten months following the Armistice, Will Raser was a YMCA secretary in France with the armed forces (57th Engineers). While in Paris he met **BESSIE HILL**, who also was working for the YMCA as a secretary. They were married in Baltimore, Md., on 18 October 1919. Miss Hill was born in Baltimore on 12 January 1890, the daughter of Dr. Henry Francis Hill and Margaret Stine. Dr. Hill was a board member of the Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, and conducted a general practice in that city. Following their marriage the Rasers took up residence in an apartment above the family drug store at 154 North Sixth Street in Reading (2).

Will Raser continued to operate the Raser Drug Store in Reading for forty years, until 1946 when he sold the business and went into semi-retirement. Operation of the store had included a wholesale business, which was discontinued in 1939, and the manufacture of Raser's Root Beer, egg dye, hair cleanser, Cerebrine (for headaches), Bug Bane, cough drops, and for a time, tooth paste. The Raser Drug Store had been a Reading landmark since 1879.

Soon after Will's retirement the Rasers moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where Will assisted his son in building a small house for Bessie and himself. In June 1947 Will passed the Florida Pharmacy Board exam, and subsequently undertook pharmacy relief work in local drugstores (3). After the death of his wife in 1953 he returned to Reading, where he continued part-time work as a pharmacist in the Medical Arts Pharmacy and Mohler's Drug Store. He resided much of the time in the Wyomissing Club in Reading.

Will was for many years active in church work, serving as elder and trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Reading. He was a member of the Berks County Pharmaceutical Society, Berks County Civil Defense Council, and two Reading clubs—the Hungry Club and the Schuylkill Navy Club. When he was required to register for the World War II draft in April 1942, he was described as 5 feet 11 inches tall, of 214 pounds, and with gray eyes, brown hair and ruddy complexion (4).

Bessie Raser died after a prolonged bout with colon cancer, at her son's residence in Great Neck, N.Y., on 10 March 1953. She had been active in several world peace organizations. Will Raser passed away of a stomach tumor in Community General Hospital, Reading, Pa., on 1 August 1967 (5). He was buried next to his wife in Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading.

Only child (RASER), born in Baltimore, Md.:

+ 1. William Heyl, Jr. (W-23), b. 1 Jan. 1921, d. 12 Nov. 2009, m. 1950 Anne J. Sulich.

W-14. **JOHN VINCENT RASER**, son of John Bernard Raser (W-5) and Katherine E. Weida, was born in Reading, Pa., on 17 February 1891 (1). He attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, but did not have his father's interest in medicine and left the school. For a time he attended the University of Pennsylvania. He was interested in music and was a piano player; while at the University he wrote songs for the Mask & Wig Show and was a member of the cast. (2)

Vincent Raser married **EDITH REED** in Ridgewood, N.J., on 29 April 1913. She was born 20 March 1890 in Ridgewood, the daughter of Oscar William Reed and Josephine ——. Oscar Reed was born in New York state of German parents. By 1900 he owned a house at 182 Godwin Ave. in Ridgewood and was employed as a clerk (3*)—the family was still living there in 1910 (4). Oscar died before January 1920, when his widow, Josie D., and her two sons were living in an apartment house at 43 South Walnut Avenue in East Orange, N.J. (5).

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A 1911 city directory indicates Vincent was then employed as a clerk with N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia; he resided in Swarthmore, Pa. Subsequently, he was employed by the Autocar Sales & Service Company as a salesman. He first worked in their Bryn Mawr, Pa., home office, but soon transferred to their New York City location. During these years Vincent commuted to the city from his residence in Roselle, N.J. (6). When he registered for the World War I draft in June 1917 he identified himself as a Corporal in Roselle Home Defense, and was described as of medium build, with blue eyes and blond hair (7).

About 1921 the Rasers moved to New Haven, Conn., where Vincent worked as manager of the local Autocar operations (8). About two years later the family moved again, this time to Newton Highlands, Mass., with Vincent continuing to work for Autocar in nearby Boston as a salesman (9). In 1925 he joined the investment firm of Tucker, Anthony & Company as an account executive. The following year he bought a house in the Waban suburb of Newton, where he died prematurely on 27 October 1926, at the age of 35. Vincent had developed a carbuncle which, after being lanced by a doctor, became grossly infected and he died of blood poisoning.

After being widowed, Edith Raser apparently was forced to give up her house. By 1929 she was living with her young children in a rented house at 61 Bowdoin Street in Newton (10, 11). She supported her family by making children's clothing and taking in roomers; later she went to work for Stearns Department Store in Boston as a saleswoman. During these years she was able to send her three children to private schools. Around 1940 she worked for several years as a housemother at the Catharine Gibbs School in Boston. She later operated yarn shops—her favorite work—on Cape Cod and in Winter Park, Fla. For the most part Edith lived alone, but spent varying periods with her children when her grandchildren were born. She died in Winter Park, Fla., in the second half of 1954. The Rasers, who were Episcopalians, were buried in Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading, Pa.

Children (RASER) (1):

- + 1. John Vincent, Jr. (W-24), b. 8 Sep. 1914 in Ridgewood, N.J., d. 18 May 2001, m. 1 Jan. 1942 Miriam Elizabeth Newell.
- + 2. Janet (W-25), b. 9 June 1917 in Roselle, N.J., d. 14 Mar. 1999, m. 3 Sept. 1938 Wendell Winslow Faunce, Jr.
- + 3. William Reed (W-26), b. 17 July 1920 in Roselle, N.J., d. 17 Mar. 1986, m. (1) 1948 Evelyn Abell Norman, Jr., m. (2) 3 Apr. 1961 Norma Jean Cox.

W-15. **MARY ELLEN** ("Mamie") **RASER**, eldest daughter of Oliver Burbank Raser (W-6) and Sarah Hannah Beidler, was born 31 March 1874 in Reading, Pa., where her mother had returned to have her child. Mary Ellen was raised for several years in Philadelphia, but after the disappearance of her father about 1877 she returned with her mother to Reading. She was raised in the home of her Beidler grandparents, and received her education in the Reading public schools. At the age of sixteen Mary Ellen served her apprenticeship to be a milliner in Pomeroy's Department Store in Reading; she continued to work there until she married. (1)

On 21 April 1897 Mary Ellen Raser married **EDWARD ALLEN EDELMAN** in Reading; the marriage was performed by Rev. George Drach, then supply pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Edward Edelman was born in Oley, Pa., on 7 April 1868, the son of Capt. Peter Y. Edelman and Mary Weaver (2). In 1900 the Edelmanns resided at 919 North 11th Street, Reading (3). Edward was a machinist by trade and worked for some years in the Reading Railroad car shops, but about 1906 ill health forced him to seek less strenuous employment. In 1910 he was working in a jewelry store, while his wife worked as a milliner in their rented

house on North 10th Street (4). Edward subsequently obtained work as a clerk in the City of Reading Water Department, where he remained until his premature death in Reading on 15 January 1911.

At the death of her husband, Mary Ellen was left with three young children. She opened a millinery shop in her house at 422 North 10th Street, which she operated until about 1917. At that time she sold the business and went to work in Cora Seltzer's Exclusive Hat Shop, located on North 5th Street, Reading; she eventually retired at age 66. By 1920 Mary Ellen had moved to 814 North 10th Street (5), and by 1930 had bought the house at 1034 Oley Street, Reading (6), where she remained the rest of her life. Shortly before her death she suffered a series of strokes, finally passing away on 8 May 1949 in her home. The Edelmans were members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Children (EDELMAN), all born in Reading, Pa. (1):

1. Kathryn Louise, b. 11 May 1899. Upon completing her education in the public schools of Reading, she assisted her mother in her hat shop. Later she worked as a clerk in the stock room of the Nolde & Horst Company hosiery mill, until she was married. On 6 October 1925 Kathryn married John Stanley Kleinsmith in Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, Pa. He was born 29 June 1901 in Reading, Pa., the son of George Kleinsmith and Elizabeth Klopp(?). Mr. Kleinsmith was a metallurgist with the Parish Pressed Steel Company in Reading for forty-four year, until his retirement in 1966. He died in Reading, Oct. 1985; Kathryn died there 26 Feb. 1991 (7).

The Kleinsmiths were active members of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Reading most of their lives. They resided for many years at 1034 Oley Street, Reading. Their only child, Louise Eleanore, was b. 19 Nov. 1926 in Reading. She m. 12 Feb. 1949 James Francis Duggan, Jr., a real estate broker, and had two chn.: John Michael, and James Francis, III.

2. Frank Edward, b. 4 Aug. 1903, d. 10 Sep. 1966 in Los Angeles, Cal., and is bur. there; m. (1) Thelma Epp, and had dau. Lynne C.; m. (2) Ruth Norton. In 1963 he resided at 6510 Brynhurst Ave., Los Angeles.
3. John Richard, b. 22 May 1905, d. Nov. 1983 in Arizona, m. Jeanette Mauror(?). In Nov. 1968 he moved from Reading to 10016 Mountain View Rd., Sun City, Ariz.

W-16. OLIVER BURBANK RASER, Jr., son of Oliver Burbank Raser (W-6) and Ella Virginia Campbell, was born 20 April 1885 in Portland, Ore. (1*). He moved with his parents to San Francisco, Cal., in 1900, where he attended the Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts, 1900-04, and the California School of Mechanical Arts in 1905. Along with his parents he survived the earthquake and fire of April 1906; in later life he would tell his children how he watched the burning city from nearby hills. Soon afterwards he entered the City Architects Office as a junior draftsman. Downtown San Francisco lay in ruins—he helped in making surveys and restoration plans, but his principal work was the design of new school buildings. (2)

In 1910 Oliver returned to Portland, Ore., where his parents had previously removed, and worked there with Emil Schacht & Sons, architects, until he left for the East in 1912. In New York City he became associated with several architectural firms, attended the Beaux Arts Institute of Design during 1914-17, and became a Registered Architect (N.Y.) in 1922.

On 14 September 1919 Oliver married **CORNELIA BRYANT WHIPPLE** in Portland, Maine. She was born in Portland, Me., on 4 November 1897, the daughter of William Howard Whipple and Cornelia Elizabeth Bryant. Her father was a Portland merchant, and her mother, who was from Wareham, Mass., was a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of *Mayflower* fame. Mrs. Raser had studied fashion design at the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts in 1916-17. In early 1920 the Rasers resided in an 8-family dwelling at 65 West 11th Street in Manhattan (3).

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Oliver's early architectural employment in New York included work as designer on the staffs of Warren & Wetmore (1912-17), Palmer and Hornbostel (1918-20), and George B. Post & Sons (1921-24). During 1925 he traveled in western Europe, undertaking further architectural studies in France, Belgium and England. Upon returning he joined the firm of Simon & Simon in Philadelphia, working as a design associate during 1926-28.

In 1929 Oliver returned to New York; he appeared in the 1930 census at 71 Red Brook Road, in the Kings Point Village section of North Hempstead on Long Island (4). He worked in New York City as an associate in various architecture firms, including York & Sawyer; McKim, Mead and White; and Wyeth & King, prior to his retirement in 1956. During his career he participated in the design of many buildings, of which the more notable included Grand Central Station, the Buffalo Statler, Hotel Roosevelt, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, the N.Y. Telephone Company Building, Haddonfield (N.J.) High School, several 1939 Worlds Fair buildings, the US Navy Seaplane Base at Jamaica, B.W.I.; and Tripler Memorial Hospital in Hawaii. He was a member of the Long Island Chapter, A.I.A., and the Architectural League of New York.

Oliver was a member of Company E, 7th Infantry Regiment, N.Y. National Guard in 1914-17, serving in New York state and on the Mexican border. When he registered for the World War I draft in September 1918, he was described as an architect, residing in the Washington Square area of Manhattan, and being tall, of slender build, with blue eyes and blond hair (5). He again served with the Guard in 1919-23, after the regiment had returned from France as the 107th Infantry; he attained the rank of sergeant. All of his life he was an enthusiastic yachtsman, having gained early experience on San Francisco Bay and the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, and later did much sailing on Long Island Sound and Great South Bay. He was a member of the San Francisco Yacht Club, Oregon Yacht Club, New York Canoe Club, and Babylon Yacht Club. He also was a collector of antique furniture, ship models, paintings and guns.

The Rasers were long-time residents of Babylon, Long Island. They also owned a summer house at East Boothbay, Maine, which was a well-known meeting place for visits from friends and relatives. Oliver passed away in West Islip, N.Y., in December 1972, and Cornelia died in Southampton, N.Y., in April 1980—the remains of both were cremated (6).

Children (RASER) (2):

- + 1. Cylinda (W-27), b. 5 Apr. 1926 in Phila. Pa., d. 21 Dec. 1992, m. (1) 21 Aug. 1942 Doyle Pierce Church, m. (2) 1956 Edward J. O'Connor, Jr.
- + 2. William Whipple (W-28), b. 1933, m. 1955 Barbara Joanne Zachry.

W-17. **WILLIAM VINCENT** ("Bill") **RASER**, son of Oliver Burbank Raser (W-6) and Ella Virginia Campbell, was born 29 April 1892 in Portland, Ore. He was named Vincent in honor of Bishop John Heyl Vincent, his father's first cousin. In 1900 he moved with his parents to San Francisco, Cal. He attended public schools there until shortly after the earthquake and fire of April 1906, which prompted the family to return to Portland. (1)

At age seventeen, Bill Raser undertook a four-year apprenticeship as a pattern and model maker in the West Side Pattern Works in Portland. After completing his apprenticeship he worked in various Portland shops to broaden his experience, making patterns for steamboat, railroad and lumbering machinery. When he registered for the World War I draft in June 1917, he was described as tall, of slender build, with blue eyes and light brown hair (2*). During the war he worked in Portland shipyards on patterns for various shipboard parts and machinery. From 1921 to 1931 he continued to work as a pattern maker in the Port of Portland, Dry Dock and Ship Repair Department.

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From 1931 until his retirement in 1957, Bill worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rivers and Harbor Maintenance Division. His biggest project was building working models of the Bonneville and McNary Dams, prior to their construction on the Columbia River. The models—built to a scale of 1:100—consisted of riverbed, spillways, fishways, navigation locks, powerhouse, draft-tubes, and generating equipment.

Bill was active in pattern-makers' activities all of his life. In 1962 he received an Honor Emblem as a 50-year Member of the Pattern Maker's League of North America. At one time or other he held every office in the Portland Association of the League. In 1967 the State of Oregon awarded him a Certificate of Meritorious Service for 22 years of voluntary service in developing sound apprenticeship for Oregon youth.

On 15 January 1916 William Raser married **MARGARET** ("Marge") **MILLER** in Portland; she was born there on 2 February 1897. She was the daughter of John Miller/Muller and Sophie Bauer, both of whom had emigrated from Norka, Russia, to the United States in 1889, and had married about 1892 (3). They were descendants of German families that had been induced by Catherine the Great about 1766 to emigrate to Russia to establish farming communities in the undeveloped Volga River region southwest of the frontier town of Saratov (4). These Germans remained insular both in Russia and America, so that as a child, Margaret spoke only German. Her father, a Portland day laborer, died about 1905; her mother later remarried several times. (5)

In 1920 the Rasers resided in their owned house at 1507 Haven St., Portland (6). They separated in 1923 (and were divorced in 1925), with Margaret moving to San Francisco, leaving behind her young son. She early lived in the YWCA, and sold perfume at the City of Paris in downtown San Francisco. She subsequently married Edward Ignatius Creely, son of Dr. Edward James Creely, a local veterinary doctor said to have established the first veterinary school west of the Mississippi. By Creely she had a son, Robert Scott, born 1926 in Ross, Marin County, Cal. Margaret had a reputation for being beautiful, and a great cook, housekeeper and gardener; see knitted for the Red Cross during World War II. In February 1973 (7) she suffered a massive blood clot to the lungs and died in a San Francisco hospital. She was buried in the Colma Cemetery Complex south of San Francisco. (5)

After Margaret's departure, Bill and his son went to live with his parents at 302 Stanton Street in Portland. They were still there at the time of the 1930 census (8), but by the early 1930s Bill had purchased the house at 6704 North Greeley Avenue in Portland where he resided for the rest of his life.

On 1 August 1942 Bill married **MAMIE CATHEY McCULLOUGH** in Portland. Mamie was the daughter of Francis David McCullough and Sadie Stella Jewett; she was born in Woodburn, Ore., on 15 November 1891. Mr. McCullough, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, came to America with his parents in 1884; after living in Boston, Mass., and Dawson County, Nebraska, the McCulloughs settled in Woodburn, Ore., about 1890. Francis McCullough and his sons were all master painters and conducted a prosperous business. Following an illness about 1961, Mamie was placed in a nursing home; she died in Portland, Ore., on 8 September 1964 and was buried in Portland's Sunset Hills Cemetery.

Bill Raser was an active winter sportsman, boating enthusiast, and climber in the Cascade Mountains. At the age of 73 he was encouraged by his grandson Ralph—who was an airline pilot—to take up flying lessons, and in August 1967 he received his private pilots license. He subsequently owned a Cessna 182 Skylane in which, at the age of 93, with son William, Jr.—also a private pilot—he flew his airplane from Evergreen, Wash., to Wiseman, Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle. Two years later he flew to the southern tip of Baja California. He participated in, and received many honors and awards at, fly-ins and air shows up and down the Pacific Coast. Local aviation clubs were delighted to have the talents of this master craftsman who personally designed and fabricated in his home workshop many of their award trophies and plaques. Bill also

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was active in the Masons, and was a Past Master of Doric Lodge #132. He died 1 June 1990 in Portland, Ore., and was buried in Portland's Sunset Hills Cemetery. (5)

Only child (RASER), by Margaret Miller, b. in Portland, Ore.:

+ 1. William Vincent, Jr. (W-29), b. 17 Nov. 1916, d. 22 July 1994, m. 5 July 1941 Mona Dorothy Harding.

W-18. **AMAND EDWARD GOODENOUGH** ("Ed") **RASER**, son of Amand Pfister Raser (W-7) and Emeline Davison Goodenough, was born 1 April 1899 in Bordentown, N.J., but in 1903 moved with his parents to Peace Street in nearby Trenton, N.J. Although he was given Amand as his first name, he never used it during his lifetime. He developed stammering when very young, but after extended attendance at the Stech School for Stammerers in Philadelphia he was completely cured. He received a technical education at the Trenton School of Industrial Arts, 1913-15, and at the Cooke School of Electrical Engineering during 1925. (1)

At the age of nine Ed became fascinated by wireless radio, and for the rest of his life he was engaged in various aspects of wireless communications. He was a pioneer in amateur radio from 1908-17. In May 1918 he enlisted in the US Navy as an Electrician 3rd Class (Radio), and served during World War I as a radio operator. After initial service in Philadelphia he was stationed at the Cape May (N.J.) Naval Air Station, where among other tasks he flew in Navy aircraft experimenting with the use of airborne radio communications. He subsequently was relocated to the Philadelphia (League Island) Navy Yard, where he was a wireless operator at station "NAI" until the end of the war. He was then transferred to inactive status in the Naval Reserve Force, and finally discharged in September 1921. Ed was also an avid photographer during his lifetime, and recorded many scenes which later proved to be of historical significance.

While on inactive status, he spent ten months in 1919 as radio operator aboard the coastal steamer *Lake Strabo*. In January 1920 the census recorded him as living with his parents at 931 Edgewood Avenue, Trenton, while being employed as an electrician in a shipyard (2)—probably at Hog Island, below Philadelphia. During seven months in 1920 he was wireless operator aboard the collier *Ethan Allen* on its maiden voyage; the collier delivered coal to the Canal Zone for the Navy, after which it picked up nitrate in Chile for its return trip. Upon returning home, Ed was employed by the Ajax Electrothermic Corp., and later the Pyroelectric Instrument Company, as an electrical instrument maker.

On 27 June 1922 Ed married **PAULINE ANN** ("Paula") **SIKORA** in Perth Amboy, N.J., after a four-year courtship which started in Philadelphia. Pauline was born 23 June 1900 in Helmetta, N.J., the daughter of John Charles Sikora and Mary Anna Kudic, both natives of Slovakia. Prior to her marriage Pauline worked for the Red Cross in Philadelphia during the influenza epidemic of 1918-19, and later as a secretary in Philadelphia and in Perth Amboy. During their courtship she learned Morse code, and surprised Ed one day when, walking with clasped hands, she began sending him messages. She subsequently became one of the earliest licensed women radio operators in America. After their marriage the Rasers lived with his parents in Trenton, but in 1924 they bought their own house at 315 Beechwood Avenue in nearby Ewing Township, N.J.

In the early 1920s Ed worked in various electrical and radio engineering jobs. He helped establish Trenton's first radio broadcast station, WMAL, and designed and built the radio transmitter for station WOAX. In 1926 he established a radio retail and service business in partnership with Samuel S. Kale in Trenton—it flourished for some years but failed during the Depression (3). After doing radio and electrical repair work for two years out of his home, in 1935-36 he returned to sea as radio officer aboard the Columbian Steamship Co. cargo-passenger ships *Columbia*, *Haiti* and *Pastores*, sailing throughout the Caribbean.

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Ed subsequently worked as a radio instructor for the National Youth Administration, but in 1939 he began work at the US Signal Corps Radio Laboratories at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in vehicular radio development. He was well experienced with such equipment, having served as Technical Sergeant in communications in the 112th Field Artillery, N.J. National Guard, during 1926–36, and in the 119th Observation Squadron, Army Air Corps Reserve, in 1936–40. During the early years of World War II he served in radio equipment field-test and production supervision missions for the Signal Corps in various parts of the US, and for a period was stationed at the White House at President Franklin D. Roosevelt's radio communications center.

In late 1942 Ed became Radio Supervisor for the N.J. State Police. He was largely responsible for the post-war modernization of the N.J. police ground and mobile radio systems, and for the introduction of police radar as a speed-monitoring device. He retired from the State Police in 1963. A photographic record of his modernization activities can be found in the archives of the N.J. State Police Museum in West Trenton.

During his entire lifetime Ed was a collector of wireless and broadcast radio equipment and paper memorabilia, including early publications and photographs of pioneer wireless radio installations. For many years his private collections were on display in the W2ZI Historical Wireless Museum which he maintained in his "retirement house," which the Rasers had built in 1957 at 19 Blackwood Drive, West Trenton. Late in life he donated most of his equipment collections to various public museums in the northeastern United States.

During his life Ed was a member—often a charter or honorary member—of almost every wireless radio society of consequence in the United States. He was personally acquainted with many of America's radio pioneers. He received numerous awards for his contributions toward encouraging fraternity among wireless operators and preserving wireless history. While hospitalized following a fall at home, he developed pneumonia and died in Helene Fuld Hospital, Trenton, on 22 October 1985; he was buried in Ewing Cemetery.

In married life Paula was primarily a homemaker; she maintained a sizeable vegetable garden for many decades. During World War II she returned to work as a secretary in a war plant. She loved to travel, and with Ed made many ocean voyages in the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific. After Ed's death she resided in her West Trenton home until September 1996, when mobility problems forced her retirement to an assisted-living facility in Stamford, Conn. In the morning of 11 January 2002 she fell out of bed and broke her arm; soon after being taken to Stamford Hospital she passed away at the age 101 1/2. She was noted to the end for her wonderfully cheery disposition and perfect hearing. She would often joke to family members about the conversations of unsuspecting workers and dining room neighbors that she would overhear. She was buried alongside her husband in Ewing Cemetery.

Children (RASER):

- + 1. Edward John (W-30), b. 1925, m. 1954 Maria Carina Babakin.
- + 2. Lorraine Marie (W-31), b. 1927, m. 1955 George deHahn.

W-19. **JOHN HEYL RASER** ("Jack") **ARMS**, only child of Celeste Stoughton Raser (W-8) and Augustus Nice Arms, was born 28 February 1888 in Williamsport, Pa. Following education at the Pingry School, Elizabeth, N.J., he attended Cornell University in 1905–07 in the College of Mechanical Engineering, but did not graduate. In 1907 he was employed by the American Wood Working Machinery Company, in which his father had become its secretary and treasurer. The 1910 census shows him living with his parents in Rochester, N.Y., while employed by the machinery company as a stenographer (1). Using his mechanical engineering knowledge, he soon developed a specialty in production control. He worked in this capacity in 1914–15 for Warner Brothers Company, Bridgeport, Conn., and as a private consultant in 1915–17. (2)

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John Arms married first, 17 December 1913 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, **EDITH LUCIA WILKINSON**, a high school science teacher and pianist. She was born 5 October 1884 in Emporia, Kansas, the daughter of Jasper N. Wilkinson and Nellie Reynolds. The Arms had two children prior to Edith's death in East Orange, N.J., on 29 January 1928 (3). She was buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Williamsport, Pa.

In May 1917 John Arms, residing at 2041 Arch Street in Philadelphia, and with a dependent wife and mother, registered for the World War I draft. He was described as both a salesman working for Boston Belting Company of N.Y.C., and a musician (4). He was not drafted, but worked during the war in Philadelphia for the Selective Service Division, U.S. War Department. In 1919 he joined the Manufacturing Company of America, Philadelphia, eventually becoming assistant to the vice-president in charge of personnel and plant operation. From 1925 to 1933 he acted as management consultant to various corporations, and after 1933 was also a part-time engineering consultant in partnership with Dr. Huxley Madeheim in New York City.

John Arms married second, **MARY DARLEY TUCKER**, on 31 December 1929 in Maplewood, N.J. She was born 5 July 1910 in Newark, N.J., the daughter of Seymour Tucker and Mary Gow Darley. After their marriage they resided, along with John's young son, with her parents at 66 Plymouth Avenue in Maplewood. The 1930 census lists Mr. Tucker as a real estate broker, John Arms as an industrial engineer, and wife Mary as a music teacher—all three self-employed (5). Mary was an accomplished soprano singer, having studied voice culture at Northfield (Mass.) Seminary, and was a frequent soloist at metropolitan area churches, cultural organizations, and on radio station WOR. She also was assistant chairman of life saving and first aid of the Red Cross of the Oranges. Shortly after the birth of her son, she was operated on for mastoditis and died on 1 April 1933 in Presbyterian Hospital, Newark, N.J. She was buried in her wedding dress and veil; interment was in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark. (6, 7) John Arms married third, **MABEL ETTA REKERS**, in New York City on 28 June 1934. The daughter of Henry Rekers and Sarah Byvank, she was a teacher, musician and social service worker.

During the Depression in 1931–33, John served as an agent in employment services for both the U.S. and N.J. Departments of Labor. In 1933 he also joined the staff of United Engineering Trustees, Inc., in New York City, which had been founded in 1904 to provide combined administrative services to the principal engineering societies of the United States. He was made General Manager the same year, and Secretary of the Trustees in 1934. For much of the time until his retirement in December 1956, he served on the awards committees for the John Fritz and Daniel Guggenheim Medals, and as Secretary for the Engineering Foundation. (8).

In addition to being a member of several engineering societies, Mr. Arms was a member of the Automobile Old Timers, the Real Estate Board of N.Y., the Engineers Club (N.Y.C.), and the Shriners. For more than twenty years he was active with the American Red Cross in water safety and first aid work. He was an accomplished woodwind musician, and for a time played flute and piccolo with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, and was first flutist with the Lu Lu Temple Band in Philadelphia. He was very interested in family history, having acquired the papers collected over the years by his mother. For many years after his retirement he resided in a summer home in Somers Point, N.J., and a winter home in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. About two years before his death he entered a nursing home in Danvers, Mass. He died in Danvers on 4 March 1982 (9). Following cremation, his ashes were buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Williamsport, Pa. (10)

Children (ARMS) by Edith L. Wilkinson, born in Philadelphia, Pa:

1. Robert, b. 1918, d. soon after birth in West Philadelphia Hospital for Women.
- + 2. Richard Philip (W-32), b. 31 Mar. 1920, d. 7 Apr. 2004, m. 1947 Elizabeth Widger.

Child (ARMS) by Mary D. Tucker, born in West Orange N.J.:

- + 3. Leonard Theodore (W-33), b. 29 Mar. 1933, d. 1 Jan. 2002, m. (1) 1956 Marilyn E. Muller; m. (2) 1964 Barbara L. Johnson; m. (3) abt. 1975 ———.

W-20. **CELESTE PARVIN**, daughter of Elsie Weida Raser (W-12) and Edward Lincoln Parvin, was born 27 December 1910 in Swarthmore, Pa. She was a graduate of Lower Merion High School in 1929. (1)

Celeste married **WILLIAM NORMAN** ("Norm") **MACKEY**, in Reading, Pa., on 28 December 1935. They had met during the summer on the beach at Avalon, N.J., where Norm's best friend was employed as a life guard at the 29th Street beach. Although Celeste was a Quaker at heart, they were married by a Presbyterian minister in her grandfather Raser's house at 606 North Fifth Street. Norman was the son of William S. Mackey and Mae Watson, and was born 18 June 1908 in Philadelphia, Pa. His father was a Philadelphia native, but his mother was from Glasgow, Scotland. Norman had trained in engineering at Drexel University, and worked as a civil engineer in Philadelphia for Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania until his death. He died in Philadelphia on 1 February 1962, and was buried in the Mackey plot, West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia. For most of their married life the Mackeys resided in Overbrook, Pa. In 1966 the widowed Celeste, who was fascinated by the ocean and was a great beach walker, moved to Neptune Beach, Fla.

On 9 May 1973 Celeste married **LEO DOSCH BARLEY**, a bachelor, in a civil ceremony in Neptune Beach, Fla., and again on 13 June in a family country-church wedding in East Calais, Vt. They had been dating for five years since meeting on the beach at Neptune Beach. After their Vermont marriage ceremony Leo continued their auto trip to visit his relatives in Dayton, Ohio, before returning via the Blue Ridge Mountains to Florida. Leo, who had been born 30 October 1900 in Dayton, was a mechanical engineer and had worked for General Motors and the Harris Corporation before retiring at age 68. The Barleys resided in Neptune Beach until moving to Savannah, Ga., in 1986. Leo died there of cancer on 14 January 1992, and was buried in Dayton, Ohio. He had acted as grandfather to Celeste's four grandsons during their 19 years of marriage. After Leo's death Celeste moved to nearby Tybee Island, Ga., where she could watch the sun rise each morning over her beloved ocean.

Celeste wrote poetry, from reminiscences of family life to sensory lines about her years by the ocean; several poems were published and won awards. She also was a painter, mainly in oils, doing still lifes and portraits and ocean scenes crafted with a palette knife. She passed away in Savannah, Ga., on 4 September 1996, and was cremated. In accordance with her wishes, half of her ashes was spread on the Atlantic Ocean off Tybee Island, while the remainder was buried in the Mackey plot in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Children (**MACKEY**) (1):

1. Allan Norman, m. Helen Christine Riegels, chn.: Scott Riegels, Blake Parvin.
2. Elizabeth Mae, m. George Van Riper Smith, chn. (**SMITH**): Douglas George, Todd Mackey.

W-21. **FRANCES** ("Frannie") **PARVIN**, daughter of Elsie Weida Raser (W-12) and Edward Lincoln Parvin, was born 20 December 1913 in Cynwyd, Pa. Following her graduation from Lower Merion High School, Ardmore, Pa., in 1931, she attended the School of Industrial Arts in Philadelphia. Her talents in art and interior decorating were later put to professional use as a commissioned artist painting murals in New York City apartments. (1, 2)

On 14 November 1935 Frances married **THOMAS CRAVEN** ("Tom") **POOLE, Jr.**, in Reading, Pa. He was the son of Thomas Craven Poole and Isobelle Mills, and was born in London, England, on 7 November 1911. His father was president of the Axminster Carpet Company before retiring in 1919. Tom was raised in Philadelphia, and in 1931 graduated from the Episcopal Academy, Merion, Pa., where he was a letterman on the football, baseball and basketball teams. During 1932-33 he attended the University of Alabama.

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Following their marriage, Tom was engaged in various jobs in the Philadelphia area, and later in Coral Gables, Fla. In 1940-43 he was manager of the Florida Products Company, Coral Gables, specialists in coconut products. In 1943 Tom enlisted in the US Army and served as a private in the Army Engineers (Amphibious) until 1946. Shortly after D-day he landed at Omaha Beach, France, and subsequently participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and central Europe. He crossed the Rhine on the famed Remagen Bridge shortly before its collapse.

After the war Tom worked in the real estate business along the Philadelphia main line. In 1957 the Pooles moved to Long Island, where Tom owned and operated a restaurant, while Frannie owned and operated an antique shop at Sag Harbor. In the summer of 1959 the family moved to Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii, where, in partnership with a friend, Tom established Aloha Rental Company. Specializing in the rental of small power equipment, and furnishings and entertainment supplies for commercial and private use, the business was highly successful.

In 1964 the Pooles returned to the east coast, where they could resume their interest in antiques. They settled in Bay Shore, Long Island, subsequently owning and operating antique shops in Bay Shore and Sayville; they also frequently traveled to antique shows to conduct business. Soon after their return Frannie undertook folk art painting on wood—a talent for which she soon became known throughout the east. Shops and private collectors kept her busy at this work, which she pursued the rest of her life. By 1986 the Pooles relocated to New Hope, Pa., continuing a summertime antiques business there, while maintaining a winter residence in Boynton Beach, Fla. Both were long-time active golfers and tennis players. Tom passed away in Boynton Beach in July 1987. According to his wishes, he was cremated and his ashes spread on the ocean off Boynton Beach.

On 6 June 1994 Frances married **ANDREW FELL** ("Andy") **McCANDLESS** in Delray Beach, Fla. Born on 19 January 1911 (3), he was the founder and owner of McCandless Fuel Company of suburban Philadelphia. He was greatly interested in boats and the sea, and over time owned a number of yachts which, from their base in Avalon, N.J., he would pilot them down the Intracoastal Waterway to a base in Stuart, Fla. He also was very interested in the stock market, and was an active trader. The McCandlesses resided in Ocean Ridge, Fla., until 1998, when they relocated to Chestertown, Md. Frances died there on 3 April 2002, and was cremated. She and Andy had maintained a charter membership in the Avalon Yacht Club, and in a ceremony at sea her ashes, along with those of her son Chris (who had died a little over a month before Frannie) were spread on the Atlantic Ocean off of Avalon, N.J. Andrew continued to reside in Chestertown, where he died on 27 June 2007 (3).

Children (POOLE) (1):

1. Christopher Craven, b. 21 Nov. 1936 in Haverford, Pa., d. 24 Feb. 2002 of cancer in Port St. Lucie, Fla., m. 1967 Charlene Marie Paloncy, ch.: Tracy Parvin. During 1956-59 Chris served in the US Navy Reserve; he was based in Argentia, Newfoundland. After discharge he joined Georgia-Pacific Corp., working as a sales representative for construction products in Phila., Chicago and Denver, until his retirement in 1999. He was an avid sailor, sailing on Lake Michigan and in Colorado as he moved. Eventually, with their 27-foot Catalina, he and Charlene sailed extended cruises in the Florida Keys, the Abacos in the Bahamas, and Chesapeake Bay. Charlene was formerly a special education school teacher for the hearing impaired. (4)
2. Peter Lincoln, m. (1) Mary Dixon Thayer, chn.: Michael Lincoln, Nancy Thayer, Leslie Parvin; m. (2) Jeanne Marie (Donnelly) Curtin (5).
3. Timothy Parvin, m. Barbara Waters-Ryan Edell (6).
4. Penny Ann, m. Les Anderson, div. (7).
5. Susan Ives, m. (1) Alexander Marcy Crowell, ch. (CROWELL): Thomas Poole; m. (2) John Robert Crawford, ch. (CRAWFORD): Travis William (2).

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W-22. **LINCOLN** ("Linc") **PARVIN**, only son of Elsie Weida Raser (W-12) and Edward Lincoln Parvin, was born 22 May 1917 in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. He was educated in the public schools of the Philadelphia suburbs and at Reading (Pa.) High School. He studied textile engineering at the Philadelphia Textile School during 1936-39. (1, 2)

Lincoln married **JANET SEREPTA ROE** in Scantic, Connecticut, on 9 August 1941. She was born 14 February 1922 in Detroit, Mich., the daughter of Harold Bretoune Roe and Elinor Serepta Potwin. Janet was Lincoln's distant cousin through her mother, who was descended from the Stoughton and Bissell families of Windsor, Conn.

In 1941 Linc enlisted in the Army Air Force and was assigned to the Medical Corps. He served until 1946 as a non-commissioned officer in charge of the Keesler Field Hospital Laboratory, at Biloxi, Miss. After the war he joined La France Industries, Boston, Mass., as Southern New England fabric sales representative. During 1947-50 he was with the Valley Textile Corp., Hartford, Conn., where he became Vice President and Manager in charge of design and production of upholstery fabrics.

In 1951 Linc moved to the New York City area, working as a stylist in woolens for Deering-Milliken & Co. He served in a similar capacity for Strook & Co., New York, during 1954-56. In 1956 he returned to sales work for Deerfield Textile Corp., New York—mill agents in woolens; he subsequently became company Vice-President and Treasurer. He served as President of Welsh Valley Mills, Inc., of New York, 1961-63. During 1963-76 he became a partner in the F. W. Tipper Woolen Co., also of New York City. Over the years the Parvins resided in Hazardville, Conn., and in West Islip and Setauket, N.Y. They were sailing enthusiasts and members of the Babylon (N.Y.) Yacht Club.

In 1977 Lincoln went to work as a designer for Guilford Industries in Guilford, Maine; he remained with them until he retired in 1985. The Parvins then moved to Crossville, Tenn., to be near their eldest son, but in 1988 relocated to Marco Island, Fla. Here Linc continued his lifelong love of golf and tennis—when but a teenager he had been named the Pennsylvania Junior Tennis Champion. He taught tennis for many years, and was very involved with the Marco Island YMCA. Janet, who was active in the YWCA, died in Marco Island on 1 April 2000 (3) and was cremated.

Following Janet's death, Linc moved to New Orleans, La., to be near his daughter Elin. He resided in a retirement home in the university district of the city, close to the Mississippi River. The day before Hurricane Katrina hit, Linc evacuated New Orleans with his daughter Elin's family, seeking safety in a family residence in Delray Beach, Fla. Two months later Delray Beach was hit by Hurricane Wilma, and their house was without power for two weeks. While their New Orleans residences were not significantly damaged, Lincoln never returned and settled in nearby Boynton Beach, Fla. His favorite interest in life had been his family, and he continued to spend as much time with them as he was able.

In early 2007 Linc fell and severely broke his hip. He never fully recovered from surgery, and died peacefully in Bethesda Memorial Hospital, in Boynton Beach, on 25 February 2007 and was cremated. On 7 July 2007 about forty family members, close relatives and friends, aboard a chartered 50-foot catamaran, joined in sending Linc's and Janet's comingled ashes to sea off Marco Island's Tigertail Beach—where they had spent many happy hours over the years. At a reception which followed, grandson Rod Jerabek showed a 20-minute video of their lives which he had prepared; copies of his video were distributed to family members. (4)

Children (PARVIN) (5):

1. Tad Lincoln, m. Mary Diane Ervin, ch.: Paige Prentice (6).
2. Sydney Roe, m. Charles F. Jerabek, chn. (JERABEK): Rodney Charles, Molly Roe.

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3. Elinor Prentice, m. Andre Grikitis, chn. (GRIKITIS): Erik Alexander, Alexander Parvin, Nikolas Andre.
4. Bret Edward, b. 25 Mar. 1956 in West Islip, N.Y. He attended the Boston School of Art, and was an artist, poet and writer of children's stories. Unmarried, he died 13 Apr. 1992 (7) in an auto accident.
5. Kent Raser, m. Anita Nilsen, chn.: Ida Katrin, Hannah Serepta.

W-23. **WILLIAM HEYL** ("Bill") **RASER, Jr.**, son of William Heyl Raser II (W-13) and Bessie Hill, was born in Baltimore, Md., on 1 January 1921. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1942, and from New York University with an M.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1946. He subsequently received a Professional Engineer license in Pennsylvania. (1)

Following graduation in 1942, Bill was employed as a structural engineer with Curtiss-Wright Corp. in Caldwell, N.J., analyzing propellers, helicopter rotor blades and their control mechanisms. In 1945 he enlisted in the US Air Force, hoping to find a way to become part of the Manhattan Project—the US atomic bomb development program. He already had a small role in this program, having helped the Curtiss Propeller Division design a special propeller to meet the unusual flight requirements for the bomber which was to drop an atomic bomb on Japan. Instead, he was assigned to the Air Force Propeller Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, where he became involved in helicopter rotor testing. This work made it apparent to him that the commercial future for privately-owned helicopters would be severely limited unless a less-complicated rotor hub could be designed. This greatly stimulated his inventive interests and later led to several outside development projects.

Bill's discharge from the Air Force in 1947 coincided with his father's retirement and his parents' move to Florida, at which time he took the opportunity to erect their retirement home—a prefabricated house—in Gulfport, Fla., near St. Petersburg. After completing that task, Bill's career became mostly engineering employment with manufacturers of helicopters or related systems, such as flight trainers, autopilots, gas compressors and rotor components. His employers were Piasecki Helicopters (now a part of Boeing), Link Aviation, Sperry Gyroscope, Sikorsky Aircraft and Hughes Helicopters. His titles during the last two of these jobs were Supervisor of the Preliminary Structural Dynamics Group, and Senior Helicopter Research Engineer, respectively. He retired from corporate employment in 1982.

For a time Bill was Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He taught a number of electrical courses both there and at a Northrop Aircraft operation called Saltanatabad, in Tehran, Iran. He co-authored a university-selected textbook, and published ten papers on technical subjects mostly related to helicopters, stability-of-control systems, and sealing systems for hydrogen compressors. Always known for his electromechanical and inventive talents, in retirement he continued engineering activities in his own business, Data-Trace, Inc. His personal developments included design of an automatic collective-pitch helicopter rotor, and a computer peripheral device for digitizing test measurements. *Machine Design* magazine selected one of his patents to be written up in their feature called "Noteworthy Patent of the Month." He was elected into membership of two engineering honor societies—Tau Beta Pi, and Eta Kappa Nu. After a full life he passed away of natural causes on 12 November 2009 in his home in Westchester, Los Angeles county, California.

In 1950 Bill married **ANNE J. SULICH**, the daughter of John Sulich and Helen Buhay. Anne had received a B.A. degree in 1949 from the State University of New York, Albany, having focused on teaching secondary-school science and mathematics. In the year before her marriage she worked as a high school teacher in Treadwell, N.Y. During 1950–54, as she and Bill moved about, she took jobs as a mathematician, engineering aide, and nursery school teacher, after which she settled down to raise her family. Following their permanent relocation to Los Angeles in late 1961, Anne worked at various times as a high school substitute

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teacher, and during 1973–84 as an insurance underwriter and pension administrator. She was active over the years in school and homeowners groups, frequently holding officer positions. During 1984–2003 she served as co-leader of Great Books discussion groups in the Los Angeles area. (2)

Children (RASER):

1. William Randall, m. Judeth Ann Richards, chn.: Lindsay Anne, Scott William, Kevin Oliver (3).
2. John Heyl, m. Susan Mary Donahue, chn.: Sean Heyl, Jason James, Kaitlyn Susan (4).
3. Richard Allen.

W-24. **JOHN VINCENT** (“Jack”) **RASER, Jr.**, son of John Vincent Raser (W-14) and Edith Reed, was born 8 September 1914 in Ridgewood, N.J. He was educated in the public schools of Newton, Mass., and also attended Mt. Hermon School, Northfield, Mass., in 1932–33. (1, 2)

Jack Raser’s initial employment was with Eastern Gas and Fuel Associates, Boston, Mass., where he worked as a salesman during 1934–39. However, wishing to conduct a business of his own, in 1940 Jack established “Grundel Farm,” a poultry farm in Londonderry, Vt., which he operated until it was interrupted by World War II.

On 1 January 1942 Jack married **MIRIAM ELIZABETH NEWELL** in Brattleboro, Vt. She was born 25 March 1920 in Brattleboro, the daughter of Harold Freeman Newell and Harriet Louise Douglas. Through her mother she was descended from Stephen A. Douglas, the well-known US Senator who debated Abraham Lincoln in 1858.

In 1942 Jack joined the US Coast Guard, where he was trained as a machinist’s mate, and served in Hudson Bay during the summer of 1943. He was then sent to the South Pacific, where he served during 1943–45 aboard the *LST-784* and participated in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

After the war Jack returned to poultry farming at Londonderry, Vt., continuing this business until 1950. During 1951–63 he was a salesman for Wilcox–Crittenden Company, of Middletown, Conn., manufacturers of marine hardware. His sales territory covered Maine and the maritime provinces of Canada. During 1963–65 Jack conducted his own electrical business while residing in Newcastle, Maine. He subsequently returned to sales, and became sales manager for Danforth–White Company, of Portland, Me., manufacturers of marine hardware. His sales territory covered the northeastern quarter of the United States. He retired in 1970 to operate a model railroad store in Bar Mills, Me. His hobbies were sailboating, yacht racing, and model railroading.

Miriam Raser worked for many years as a title abstractor, retiring about 1980. The Rasers continued to live in Bar Mills, Me., until 1998, when they moved to a retirement community in York, Me. In September 1999 they moved to the Seattle area to be near their daughter Rebecca. Jack Raser died in Puyallup, Wash., on 18 May 2001; Miriam died there on 26 September 2002. Both were buried in Brattleboro, Vt. (3)

Children (RASER):

1. Rebecca, m. (1) Richard Gordon Seagrave, chn. (SEAGRAVE): Jonathan Richard, Christopher John, Sarah; m. (2) Gene Robert Nunn (3).
2. John Vincent, III, m. Barbara McDonald, chn.: Elizabeth Christine, Katherine Rebecca (2).

W-25. **JANET RASER**, daughter of John Vincent Raser (W-14) and Edith Reed, was born 9 June 1917 in Roselle, N.J. She was educated in the School of Practical Art, Boston, and—during 1935–36 under a piano scholarship—at the Conservatory of Music at Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla. (1, 2)

Janet was married on 3 September 1938 to **WENDELL WINSLOW** (“Wen”) **FAUNCE, Jr.**, in Newton Highlands, Mass. He was born 23 April 1914 (3) in Scranton, Pa., the son of Wendell Winslow Faunce and Margaret Brooks. His father was of an old Alston, Massachusetts family, while his mother was from a prominent Scranton, Pa., family involved with coal and investments. Wen was a graduate of Haverford and Hotchkiss Schools, and later studied yacht design, built boats, and invented a semi-transparent nylon racing sail. In 1941 the Faunces built a Howard Johnson Restaurant in Broomall, Pa., but World War II travel restrictions forced the business to close. Wen spent the war years working in various shipyards in Massachusetts, until the Faunces were divorced in 1945; they had two children. Wen later remarried, and died 10 September 2002 in or near Salem, Mass. (3).

After their separation, Janet was forced to use her artistic abilities to support her young family. In 1941 the Faunces had already established the Hobby House shop in Villanova, Pa., specializing in antique restoration and decoration. Janet’s early interest in American and Swedish decorative and ornamental art had led her to undertake extensive study and research of obsolete design techniques, eventually resulting in published magazine articles and a comprehensive manuscript on the subject. During 1944–45 she worked as an interior decorator with furniture firms in Boston and Brookline, Mass.; in 1946 she established the first business of this type in Brattleboro, Vt. In early 1949 she worked as manager of the King of Prussia (Pa.) Antique Shop, where indirectly she was introduced to the field of textile design. As a result she became a textile designer of silk-screen and roller prints in New York City from 1949 to 1951.

But Janet’s main interest was in painting. While in New York in 1949 she discovered her talent in portrait painting and rapidly perfected her technique. Upon settling in Dallas, Texas, in 1951, she found a ready clientele for her portrait work—her early subjects were predominantly the children of influential Texans. One of her most notable early works was the “Everts Madonna,” commissioned by Everts Jewelers of Dallas in 1957 and prominently displayed during Christmas seasons; it now is owned by The Church of the Resurrection in Garland, Tex. Her largest work at that time, it received widespread attention and helped catapult her career. She increasingly turned to painting portraits of adults, many of whom were prominent business men and women of Texas. They included Beverly Sills, Trammell Crow, the Ross Perot family, the Louis Beecherl family, all the headmistresses of the Hockaday School of Dallas, and Miss Hockaday herself (4). By her own count, Janet had produced over 300 portraits in oil, pastel and charcoal by 1968. She was a member of the Dallas Museum of Art, and of Portraits, Inc., of New York City.

Janet also painted landscapes and diversified subjects, both from local sources and from her travels in Mexico, New England, eastern Canada and Nova Scotia, and Europe. In addition to frequent solo gallery showings, she exhibited in many juried art shows, including the state-wide Texas Artists Invitational. Janet was also an accomplished pianist, and a participant in chamber music groups. Her avocational interests included gardening, sailing and French cooking. For many years she did volunteer work at the Children’s Medical Center in Dallas.

In 1996, with her daughter Wendy, she bought a house in Weston, Vt., thereby fulfilling a lifelong dream to spend summers in New England doing scenic painting, while still continuing her portrait work in Texas. At the end of 1997, after experiencing one of the happiest years of her life, she returned to Dallas only to discover that she had developed lung cancer. Despite treatment she gradually weakened, and passed away on 14 March 1999 in her son’s home in Cumby, Tex. As she had wished, she was cremated and her ashes spread on the coastal waters of Pemaquid Point in Maine (5).

Our Raser Family

Children (FAUNCE):

1. Wendy, m. (1) Kenneth Raymond Porter, chn. (PORTER): Heidi, Scott Lambert, Heather; m. (2) Charles Benton Johnson, Jr. (5)
2. Christopher Reed, m. (1) Judith Elaine Carp; m. (2) Patricia Ann (Routson) Thornton, chn.: Buffie Marie, Amy Lynn, Christine Janet (6).

W-26. **WILLIAM REED RASER**, son of John Vincent Raser (W-14) and Edith Reed, was born 17 July 1920 in Roselle, N.J. He was educated at the Cathedral Choir School, New York City, and Lenox School, Lenox, Mass., prior to entering Middlebury (Vt.) College in 1939. He left school the following year to work for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company in Hartford, Conn. (1, 2)

Shortly after the US entered World War II, Reed joined the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. He received his wings and commission as Lieutenant at Valdosta, Ga., in March 1943. He subsequently trained as a B-17 bomber pilot; after combat and group-lead training he flew his bomber non-stop from Newfoundland to Ireland in October 1943. He was assigned to the 357th Heavy Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force, based near Peterborough, England.

Between November 1943 and July 1944 Reed flew 33 missions over German-occupied Europe, including five raids on Berlin and support to the Allied invasion on D-day. His longest mission was to Danzig, Poland, lasting over eleven hours and during which his formation was under continuous attack. His crew was credited with shooting down four enemy aircraft on this flight. Despite repeated exposure to fighter attack and anti-aircraft fire during his missions, miraculously none of his own crewmen ever was injured. He was awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Reed returned to the US in July 1944, where he became a flight and combat-technique instructor, and later a tower control officer at Gulfport (Miss.) Army Air Base.

In April 1945 Reed left the service to join Eastern Airlines as a copilot. He was based in New York and Boston, flying various east coast routes, and eventually became a Captain. In 1958 he was relocated to New Orleans, and in 1960 to Miami. After twenty years of commercial flying he became a flight instructor, and in 1968 was a check-pilot and manager-of-flying of Electra, DC-8 and DC-9 aircraft. In his years with Eastern Airlines he flew all Douglas aircraft from the DC-3 through the DC-9 jets, Lockheed Constellations and Electras, and the Boeing 727 jet. Due to health problems, he retired in 1969.

In 1948 Reed married **EVERLYN ABELL NORMAN, Jr.**, the daughter of Barry Norman and Evelyn Abell. During 1941-45 she attended Louisiana State University, receiving a B.A. degree. In her senior year she was elected Secretary of the Student Body; she became its first woman President when both senior officers left for World War II. At the time of her marriage Evelyn was working as an Eastern Airline stewardess. Following their divorce in 1960, she received a Masters in Education degree from the University of New Orleans in 1961. From 1961 through 1986 Evelyn worked as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in the Orleans Parish, La., school system. During 1993-94 she spent increasing amounts of time at the home of her failing mother in Opelousas, La. Following her mothers death in November 1994 she decided to settle permanently in Opelousas, and sold her New Orleans house in 1995. A dedicated gardener and reader, Evelyn never remarried. (3)

Reed subsequently married **NORMA JEAN COX**, on 3 April 1961 in Miami, Fla. She was born 16 April 1934 in Jonesboro, Tenn., the daughter of William Paul Cox and Leota Elaine Harshbarger. A graduate of Science Hill High School in Johnson City, Tenn., she later moved to New York to become a model. She was working as a stewardess with Eastern Airlines at the time of their marriage (4). Following Reed's retirement

in 1969 the Rasers moved to Cocoa Beach, Fla., for the winters. Reed also bought a farm house in Warren, Maine, from which in the summers he could launch fishing and hunting trips into the Maine woods. In the summer of 1972 the family moved to a Seattle suburb on Bainbridge Island, Wash. However, Reed preferred the northeast, and in June 1977 the Rasers made a final move to North Eastham, Mass., on Cape Cod. Reed spent his final retirement years golfing, fishing, and maintaining his vegetable garden. He was an avid golfer, entering several amateur and Pro-Am tournaments. In earlier years he had installed his own sound equipment, and during his lifetime had accumulated a large collection of records and tapes.

In July 1985 Reed learned that he had lung cancer. Following removal of his right lung he made a remarkable recovery, actively playing golf and seemingly was cured. However, at Christmas, after some dizziness and upset stomach, it was discovered that he had developed three brain tumors (5). He died 17 March 1986 in his home in North Eastham. As he had requested, he was cremated and his ashes were spread on Fort Hill in Eastham, Mass.

Norma and daughter Kitt continued to live in North Eastham, where Norma had become an active member of the Eastham Methodist Church. While resident there she worked for 12 years as teller and supervisor in local branches of the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, until her health prompted an early retirement. In November 1995, her health failing, she moved to Plantation, Fla., to live with Kitt and her husband John. She died there of "a chorea of unknown etiology" on 30 January 1998 (6). As she had requested, she also was cremated and her ashes spread on Fort Hill. (7)

Children (RASER), by Evelyn A. Norman:

1. William Reed, Jr., m. Nancy Diane Kvande, ch.: Kyla Diane (3).
2. James Barry, m. (1) Coleen Webb; m. (2) Susan Levin, ch.: Cameron Reed (8).

Child (RASER), by Norma J. Cox:

3. Kitt, m. John Patrick Kelleher (7).

W-27. **CYLINDA** ("Sallie") **RASER**, daughter of Oliver Burbank Raser, Jr. (W-16) and Cornelia Bryant Whipple, was born 5 April 1926 in Philadelphia, Pa. She was educated in the public schools of Bablyon, L.I., New York. (1, 2)

Sallie was married first in East Orange, N.J., on 21 August 1942 to **DOYLE PIERCE CHURCH**. He was born 19 January 1922 in Canton, N.Y., the son of Willard P. Church and Frances Agnew. During World War II he served in the US Navy on PT-boats in the South Pacific. He subsequently worked for the New York Department of Transportation. After their divorce he continued to reside in Babylon, where he died on 17 June 2002 (3).

Sallie was married secondly, in 1956, to **EDWARD J. O'CONNOR, Jr.**, the son of Edward J. O'Connor and Mary Edith Worrad. He served in the US Navy; by vocation he was a carpenter. In later life Sallie resided in Hampton Bays, N.Y., where she died on 21 December 1992 (3); her remains were cremated.

Only child (CHURCH) (1):

1. Donald Raser, b. 13 June 1943 in Bayshore, L.I., N.Y. A high school graduate, he was much interested in boats and worked as a commercial fisherman. On 12 August 1963, he was a passenger in an automobile involved in a serious accident in West Babylon, N.Y. He died of his injuries two days later (4); his remains were cremated.

W-28. **WILLIAM WHIPPLE** ("Bill") **RASER**, son of Oliver Burbank Raser, Jr. (W-16) and Cornelia Bryant Whipple, was born in 1933. He was raised in Babylon, N.Y., where he attended the public schools. He continued his education at the State University of New York at Farmingdale, L.I., taking courses in civil engineering during evening sessions in 1957-61. (1)

Shortly after being employed in June 1953 by the N.Y. State Department of Transportation (DOT), Bill was drafted into the US Army. He received basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., and in January 1954 was sent to Korea. He served sixteen months in Korea, mostly as a motor-pool mechanic, with the 2nd, 45th and 7th Infantry Divisions. Following his discharge as a corporal, he returned to DOT as a civil engineer.

Most of Bill's DOT career was spent in the design section, where he worked on many of the modern-day highways traversing Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island. He was primarily involved in working up plans, specifications and estimates for state highway widening, safety and demolition projects, prior to the soliciting of bids from contractors. Some of his time also was spent with road survey crews and on beach erosion projects. He retired from DOT in March 1991, and has continued to reside in the house at 34 Shore Road in Babylon, which he purchased in 1959. For many years his hobby was wood carving, particularly of fish and boat hulls. He had always been fascinated with motorcycles, and in 1999 purchased his first—a 1996 Harley-Davidson "Low Rider."

In 1955 Bill married **BARBARA JOANNE ZACHRY**, the daughter of Henry Reese Zachry and Blanche Elizabeth Higgins. She was educated in the public schools of Brooklyn and Babylon, N.Y. Early in married life she was involved in volunteer work, providing help to Planned Parenthood of Suffolk County, and the Southside Hospital Auxiliary in Bay Shore. For the 18-year period 1974-1992 she was a teacher at the Babylon Methodist Nursery School. About 1995 Barbara developed Alzheimer's disease, and subsequently was placed in an assisted-living facility in Dix Hills, N.Y.

Children (RASER):

1. William Zachry ("Billy"), b. 28 Nov. 1957 in Amityville, N.Y., d. 29 June 2005 in Babylon, N.Y., m. 1982 Patricia Ann Dichristopher, div. Billy received an Assoc. Degree from Suffolk County Community Coll. in 1977, and a B.A. in Liberal Arts from the State Univ. of N.Y. at Buffalo in 1980. During 1980-88 he worked as a graphic artist for Greenman, Pederson Engineers. He was owner/caterer of a gourmet food shop 1988-99, provided host service to charter flights (mostly private jets) 1999-2002, and was a restaurant chef 2003-05. A talented cook and watercolor artist, he also was a painter of decoy ducks. (1)
2. David Bryant, m. Denise McWilliams, chn.: David McWilliam [sic], Emily Celine (2).

W-29. **WILLIAM VINCENT RASER, Jr.**, only child of William Vincent Raser (W-17) and Margaret Miller, was born 17 November 1916 in Portland, Ore. Following the departure of his mother in 1923, he and his father lived with Oliver Raser, Sr., where he was raised under the watchful eyes of Ella Raser, his grandmother. He was educated in the public schools of Portland and at Oregon State College, Corvallis, Ore., where he received a B.S. degree in Forest Engineering in June 1942. (1, 2)

Having enlisted as a private in the Army Air Corp while in college, he was on inactive duty awaiting assignment to Air Cadet training when he failed a physical examination in December 1942. In February 1943 he was called to active duty and served for two years as an Air Corps drill instructor and squadron clerk at bases in Tempe and Kingman, Ariz. In 1945 he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Va., and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. He subsequently was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., serving as a basic training platoon leader until his separation from the service in June 1946.

The William Raser Branch

From June 1946 until May 1950 William was a partner in the Harding Blasting Company, doing rock drilling and blasting work in Oregon and California. He then worked for two years selling life insurance in the Portland area for the Business Men's Assurance Company. In May 1952 he was employed by the Western Equipment Company, dealers in heavy construction and logging equipment. He was a salesman for eight years, working out of their Pendleton, Ore., office from 1955 to 1961. In November 1961 he returned to Portland where he served as office and service manager until 1977, when the company went out of business. He then was employed by the Hyster Company, doing inventory control work until his retirement in 1980.

In his earlier years William was a boating enthusiast. After retirement he earned a private pilots license, and spent much time flying with his father and two sons, all of whom were pilots. He also worked with his sons on their radio-controlled airplane hobby. He loved to travel, owning a recreation vehicle in which he and his wife toured much of the western United States. William also was active in the Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, serving some years as a ruling elder. He died 22 July 1994 in Portland and was buried in Portland's Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

William Raser married **MONA DOROTHY HARDING** in Vancouver, Wash., on 5 July 1941. She was born 29 November 1917 in Dillon, Montana, the daughter of Ralph Allen Harding and Ethel Piercy. Mona was employed as a public relations representative for Let's Dine Out Company of Oregon from 1962 to 1972. She next worked as a teacher's aide for the Portland School District, in their Holladay Center for Handicapped Children, until she retired in 1979. She was an avid bridge player, and an accomplished pianist and seamstress. She was active in the Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church in Portland for 40 years. Mona loved to travel, and after her husband's death continued to do so with her daughters and friends. She moved into a retirement home in Gresham, Ore., in 2003, and later to an assisted-living facility, where she was frequently visited by her extended family. Following the occurrence of an infection, she was moved to a hospital in Portland, Ore., where she passed away on 29 April 2008. She was buried next to her husband in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

Children (RASER):

1. Ralph William ("Bill"), b. 7 June 1944 in Portland, Ore., d. 28 Sep. 1999 in Canby, Ore., bur. Willamette National Cem., m. Susan Marie Haines, chn.: Jennifer Ann, Marjorie Elizabeth. Ralph had a life-long interest in flying, beginning with model airplanes as a small child—he subsequently became a private pilot. He was undergoing pilot training with Northwest Airlines when called to active duty in the US Navy in 1966. He served as an A-4 attack bomber maintenance supervisor aboard the aircraft carrier *Ticonderoga* in the Viet Nam theater of conflict. Upon returning to Northwest Airlines, he worked for 33 years as a commercial airline pilot. He was an avid radio-controlled airplane hobbyist (2)
2. Robert James, m. Laurie Jeanne Powell, chn.: Katie Christine, Meghan Elizabeth (3).
3. Cynthia Ann, m. James Herbert Bigej, chn. (BIGEJ): Lisa Ann, Robert James (2).
4. Laurie Joanne, m. John Keith Steinke, chn. (STEINKE): Michelle Joanne, Nicole Renee, David John (2).

W-30. **EDWARD JOHN ("Ed") RASER**, son of Edward Goodenough Raser (W-18) and Pauline Ann Sikora, was born in 1925. He was educated in the public schools of Ewing Township, Mercer County, N.J., and Trenton, N.J. He was graduated from Cornell University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Electronics) degree, and from Columbia University in 1950 with an M.A. degree in Mathematics and Science Education. (1)

While in high school in early-1943 Ed tried twice to enlist in the US Navy as a V-5 aviation cadet candidate, but was rejected for a blood pressure condition. He successfully talked himself into the US Navy V-12 program and immediately after graduation was sent to Cornell University in an engineering officer

Our Raser Family

candidate program. In mid-1945 his blood pressure condition was rediscovered and he was transferred to the US Naval Hospital at Sampson, N.Y. He was discharged from there soon after the end of the war.

After completing college Ed took a job with General Electric Company in their test engineer training program, and worked at six locations in northeastern states before taking a permanent assignment in the D.C. Armored Motor Engineering Division in Erie, Pa. There he worked as an applications engineer, adapting heavy-duty direct-current drive motors to various steel mill, mining and shipboard uses. In late-1949, feeling he might prefer teaching, he left General Electric to obtain an education degree. After practice teaching in DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx, N.Y., he taught high school mathematics and science for two years in Hackensack, N.J., and Ewing Township.

Finding the teaching work and salary unsatisfying, he joined International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation in late-1952 as a special (electronics) customer engineer. He initially worked in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in an on-the-job training program on an IBM-701 computer—the first of the modern-day mass-produced electronic computers. In mid-1953 he was a member of a three-man team which installed IBM-701, serial #7, at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, in Fort Worth, Texas. Upon returning to Poughkeepsie he undertook work in circuit and logic design of the Air Force SAGE air defense computer—for this and subsequent work he was awarded four patents in early computer technology. He then moved into test planning, and during calendar year 1955, while resident in Concord, Mass., he supervised acceptance testing of the XD-1 prototype SAGE computer at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, Mass.

In 1954 Ed married **MARIA CARINA BABAKIN**, a daughter of Alexander A. Babakin and Wilhelmina L. M. Berendts. Her father, a naval communications officer of half-Russian, half-German ancestry, had fled the Russian Revolution and eventually had settled in Schenectady, N.Y., where he worked as an electrical draftsman for the General Electric Company. Her mother was of upper-class German ancestry, descended from influential Germans who had been induced to settle in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the invitation of Peter the Great. Maria was a secretarial school graduate, and had gone to work for IBM in Poughkeepsie as a secretary in 1951. In 1955 she was secretary to the IBM manager of the SAGE programming school at Lincoln Laboratory—a school which is noteworthy as the training ground for many early computer programmers. Following their separation in 1987, Maria settled in Germantown, Md., while Ed returned to New Jersey.

The move to IBM was fortuitous for Ed, whose interests were more analytical than engineering-oriented. As a systems analyst in a rapidly-growing IBM, where he specialized in large-scale system design and testing, he was able to influence his future job direction. While located at Poughkeepsie and Kingston, N.Y., during 1956–59 he was manager of systems studies on applying computers to combined air defense and air traffic control. In 1960 he relocated to Gaithersburg, Md., when his division established its Washington Systems Center in Bethesda, Md., to better serve agencies of the federal government.

After 1960 he became involved in applying computers to military command and control. During 1962–65 he was project manager of naval command systems support groups in Washington, D.C., Norfolk, Va., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In mid-1965 he was named to direct design of a management information system for the newly-established US Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

Due to his education background, he was asked by IBM in mid-1966 to develop and manage a technical education program to train IBM personnel to program and test the revolutionary new IBM-360 computers then coming on the market. As Manager of Professional Education for the Federal Systems Division, a huge number of new hires and experienced employees were trained in his schools in Bethesda and Gaithersburg, Md., and at remote locations.

In late-1968 Ed relocated to Mendham, N.J., working with Bell Telephone Laboratories on the Safeguard Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense System as manager of IBM test support groups in Whippany and Madison, N.J., and Greensboro, N.C. In 1975, after the Safeguard program was terminated, he became IBM resident test planner at the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITT) facility in Nutley, N.J., in a joint IBM-ITT project for the Strategic Air Command. After 1977 he functioned as a senior staff analyst/planner, and worked at several northeastern US locations before transferring back to Gaithersburg, Md., in 1980. He had been working for four years as senior systems test planner on a major upgrade to the Air Force world-wide satellite monitoring network when he retired from IBM in March 1986.

In 1939, at the start of World War II, Ed became interested in modern naval warfare, and ultimately assembled a large library on the subject. He was especially interested in the development of German U-boats and Allied countermeasures. In late-1946 he began taking flying lessons, soloing that winter in a ski-equipped airplane; he subsequently received a private pilot license. He continued his education interests as a Great Books discussion group co-leader, and as a Literacy Volunteers of America instructor. But Ed's principal hobby was genealogy, in which he had become interested in mid-1945. He specialized in New Jersey and Pennsylvania families, and was associate editor of *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* for 33 years. He frequently submitted articles for publication, and compiled a dozen manuscript genealogies on his ancestral families, including *Raser and Allied Families*—the predecessor of this book. In the 1992–2002 period he compiled and had published three hard-cover New Jersey genealogical finding aids.

Since June 2004 Ed has resided in Rossmoor, a retirement community in Monroe Township, Middlesex County, N.J., where he lives close to Margaret Mary Copeland, his fiancée and companion since 1988. Margaret is a graduate of Fordham, Columbia and Rutgers universities, and is a retired New York City school teacher and guidance counselor. Subsequently, for twelve years, she worked as a psychiatric social worker. An avid reader of *The New York Times*, she is particularly interested in national and international politics.

Children (RASER):

1. Leslie Anne, m. Bogdan Wojtsekhowski.
2. Jonathan Edward, m. Marie Christine Cancellare, chn.: Colin Edmund, Daniel Edward.



W-31. **LORRAINE MARIE** (“Lorrie”) **RASER**, daughter of Edward Goodenough Raser (W-18) and Pauline Ann Sikora, was born in 1927. A graduate of Trenton Central High School in 1945, she subsequently received commercial art training in the School of Industrial Arts, Trenton; at Poor Richard School of Advertising, Philadelphia, Pa.; and at the University of Bridgeport (Conn.) in 1982. (1)

Lorrie's first employment was with the S. P. Dunham & Company department store in Trenton, where she worked five years as a fashion illustrator. She subsequently worked seven years for the Pfaus-Finkle Advertising Agency in Trenton as a designer-illustrator, developing advertising concepts and producing page layouts and requisite artwork for magazine, newspaper and brochure advertising. Shortly after her husband's death in 1981 she returned to graphic design work on a free-lance basis, creating event programs and corporate images for local businesses and organizations in Westport and Fairfield, Conn. In 1986 she designed, illustrated and produced the program for the annual National Christmas Pageant of Peace, which involved the presidential lighting of the White House Christmas Tree on the Washington Ellipse.

She retired a few years later to pursue her interests in travel, cruising the Inner Passage to Alaska, the Panama Canal, the Greek Islands to Istanbul (her husband's birthplace), and taking trips to other distant places including Hong Kong and China. Volunteering has been important in her life, and she continues (2010) her work at Operation Hope's Pantry in Fairfield, distributing groceries to individuals and families in need of food.

Our Raser Family

Lorraine was married in 1955 to **GEORGE deHAHN**. The only child of Constantine Petrovich von Hahn (a.k.a. Peter deHahn) and Maria Magdalene Lashkarev, he was born on 9 September 1920 in Constantinople, Turkey. Both parents were descendants of illustrious Russian families; they suffered greatly during the Russian Revolution. According to official records George was born in Sevastopol, Russia (2), but this was just a device to claim Russian nativity for their son when his parents emigrated to the United States in 1923. He never used his Russian patronymic, Constantinovich, which appears in childhood records. In 1934 his parents were divorced; his mother soon afterwards married Dr. Charles W. Goff, a prominent orthopedic surgeon of Hartford, Conn. Peter deHahn and the Goffs remained long-time friends.

In the summer of 1935 George worked for Lewis and Magee Company, a Hartford advertising agency, where he did filing and was an errand boy and general handyman. In the summer of 1936 he worked as a copy boy for *The Hartford Times*. During the summer of 1937 he lived with his father in Boston, while working as assistant to an etcher at the Intaglio Process Co. He subsequently attended Charlotte Hall (Maryland) Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1939. In September 1939 he entered the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, from which he received a B.S. degree in Economics in 1943. He received an M.A. degree in Public Administration from Princeton University in 1947.

During 1946–59 George worked for the State of New Jersey; as Chief of Methods and Planning he designed and supervised the installation of the first computerized system of N.J. motor vehicle inspection records. In the mid-1950s he also served as Deputy Coordinator for Mercer County, Office of Civil Defense and Disaster Control. During 1959–65 he worked for Minneapolis–Honeywell Co., Wellesley Hills, Mass., in computer sales, training, systems development and consulting assignments. From 1965–68 he worked for Mack Trucks, Inc. and FMC Corporation, both in New York City, and for Fairchild–Hiller in Hagerstown, Md.; in all places he worked in management positions in data processing and information services, upgrading business procedures and systems to utilize the large new computer systems then coming onto the market.

In September 1968 George was employed by IBM Corporation at their Data Processing Division Headquarters in White Plains, N.Y.; he remained there until his death. He worked as Project Manager, Advanced Administrative Systems, designing, installing and operating various on-line IBM centralized internal business systems that eventually used over 7,500 computer programs to provide real-time record keeping and information services for 350 IBM branch and regional offices throughout the United States.

George had developed heart disease early in life, which eventually led to his having Dr. Christian DeBakey, a pioneering heart surgeon in Dallas, Tex., perform heart by-pass surgery on him in 1973. Over time, with age and stress, the by-pass deteriorated and he was prompted to enter Bridgeport (Conn.) Hospital for a second heart by-pass operation. He died on the operating table on 1 June 1981. George had early-on been married to Helen Patricia Harding of Princeton, N.J. After about eight years of marriage they were divorced; they had no children. Patricia remarried, but died in a fire that destroyed her home; her second husband survived the blaze.

Over the years the deHahns resided in Trenton in 1955–57, Yardley, Pa., in 1957–59; Lexington, Mass., in 1959–64; Princeton, N.J., in 1964–68; Hagerstown, Md., in 1968–69, and Fairfield, Conn., since 1969. They were sailing enthusiasts, owning a 30-foot Pearson sailboat for many years. Both were expert sailors and navigators, and frequently participated in Long Island Sound sailboat races. Following George's unexpected death, he was cremated and his ashes spread on Long Island Sound in a ceremony attended by many of the deHahn's Fairfield-area boating friends.

Children (deHAHN):

1. Christofer, m. Martha Ann Nurmi, chn.: Patrick George, Catherine May (3).
2. Peter.
3. Cynthia, m. Jonathan Neal Block, chn. (BLOCK): Kali Eliana, Jessica Grace (4).

W-32. **RICHARD PHILIP** ("Dick") **ARMS**, son of John Heyl Raser Arms (W-19) and Edith Lucia Wilkinson, was born 31 March 1920 in Philadelphia, Pa., but was raised in Narberth, Pa., where his parents settled in 1922. He was educated at Peddie School, Hightstown, N.J., and at Yale University, from which he received a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) degree in 1939, and a Master of Engineering (Applied Mechanics) degree in 1942. (1, 2)

Dick Arms' first work, during the summers of 1939–40, was with the Curtiss–Wright Corporation, Clifton, N.J., where he worked on engineering problems associated with electrically-controlled aircraft propellers. In 1941 he joined General Electric Company, working for three years in Lynn, Mass., on aerodynamic design of turbosupercharger compressors and turbines. These devices were responsible for the high-altitude capabilities of US warplanes in World War II. In 1944 Dick began work on jet engines, then in their infancy. During portions of 1945–46 he worked at Muroc Flight Test Base, Cal. (now Edwards AFB), on secret tests of these new engines. He subsequently was a Project Engineer for one model of the J47 engine, which was the first jet engine controlled by an electronic computer.

In 1950 Dick relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio, when GE transferred its large jet engine activities to nearby Evendale, Ohio. For five years he was Manager of Engineering for the J47 and J73 engine series. During 1955–65 he had various assignments concerned with research and development of jet engine components, including prototypes for the Supersonic Transport (SST) engine. From 1965–70 he was Manager of Systems Engineering in the CF39 engine project, working on the turbofan engine designed to power the huge Air Force C-5A Galaxy jumbojet transport. During 1970–72 he served as a marketing manager in the F-101 and B-1 bomber projects. In 1972 Dick was transferred back to GE's Lynn, Mass., plant (but took up residence in Boxford, Mass.) where he worked on the T700 engine project for the H-60A Blackhawk helicopter. He retired from General Electric in 1982, but continued to work for the company as an independent consultant until 1990. In 1990 the Arms moved to Gilmanton Iron Works, N.H., where his wife's family had summered on Crystal Lake for more than a century. Finding that "Chiquacoa," the camp house which her father had built on the lake in 1929, would be too impractical to modernize, in 1990 they built a new "Chiquacoa" on the same site.

Dick was an accomplished flutist, playing while in Yale with the Yale Band and Symphony, and the New Haven Symphony, and later in the Melrose (Mass.) Symphony. He was an enthusiastic tennis player most of his life. During his career he was an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), serving in the 1950s as a Director of the Cincinnati Board and in 1962–63 as National Chairman of the ASME Aviation and Space Division. In 1964 he co-chaired the first joint ASME–SAE National Aviation and Space Conference in New York. Dick was an airplane pilot, and with other GE engineers owned a Cessna aircraft. After retirement he became active in the Gilmanton Historical Society, where he served as President and Museum Curator, and was on the Board of Directors. Following his father's death Dick acquired the large collection of family papers and photographs mostly assembled by his grandmother. His family interests prompted him in 1992 to publish and distribute to family members a 64-page collection of *Raser Photographs*, covering Capt. Bernard Raser and early descendants in the William Raser branch of the family. In December 2003 he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and died in Lake Region Hospital, Laconia, N.H., on 7 April 2004. After cremation, his ashes were buried in front of "Chiquacoa," overlooking Crystal Lake.

In 1947 Dick married **ELIZABETH WIDGER**, the daughter of William Knowlton Widger and Dorothy Stacey Harnden. Although usually known as "Betty," in college she was called "Widge," and Dick always called her so. Educated in the public schools of Lynn, she graduated from Bates College in 1946 with a degree in Sociology, and for a year attended the Graduate School in Social Work at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Betty led a Girl Scout troop for many years. While in Cincinnati she became seriously interested in the natural world, particularly in birds. She served on the Indian Hill Green Acres Committee and as a volunteer at the Cincinnati Nature Center. After returning to New England she continued in this field, working part time as a teacher/naturalist at Endicott Center, and as a volunteer at the Ipswich River Wildlife Center—both centers being part of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. She also served on the town of Boxford's Conservation Commission. After moving to New Hampshire Betty volunteered with New Hampshire Audubon for many years, leading school groups, taking part in bird surveys, and later doing exhibit work. She was active with the Gilmanton Garden Club and interested in local history; in 2006 the Gilmanton Historical Society published her 170-page, well-illustrated book on the camp settlement history of Crystal Lake (3).

Children (ARMS):

1. Judith Meryl, m. Stanley Mark Sorscher, chn. (SORSCHER): Noah Andrew Arms, Sarah Elizabeth Arms (4).
2. Bradley Wilkinson, b. 5 June 1960 in Cincinnati, Ohio, was adopted by Betty and Dick when six weeks old. He was educated in Indian Hill, Ohio, schools, and at Indian Mountain School, and Wilbraham and Monson Academy, in Conn. Brad worked as a car salesman and also sold cameras and appliances. In his early 20s he developed multiple sclerosis and was forced to give up his employment. Although he underwent various treatments for the disease, he grew increasingly disabled until he died 22 Apr. 2002 in Salem, Mass. His ashes were buried in front of the family house on Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works, N.H. (2)

W-33. **LEONARD THEODORE** ("Ted") **ARMS**, son of John Heyl Raser Arms (W-19) and Mary Darley Tucker, was born 29 March 1933 in West Orange, N.J. His mother died three days later from complications of a mastoid operation. His father soon moved to the New York City suburbs and remarried. Pushed by the musical interests of his step-mother, and the flutist talents of his father and brother, by September 1950 Ted had already been involved in school and regional musical activities for seven years. In Bronxville High School he played flute with the orchestra, piccolo with the band, and also played tenor saxophone, clarinet and the violin (1). During his junior year he was studying to become a director of music education. (2)

Ted's high school education was interrupted in March 1951 so he could enlist in the US Navy. Following graduation from the US Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C., he served more than two years as solo flutist in the Band of the Flagship of the Atlantic Destroyer Fleet (22 months on the destroyer tender *Yosemite*, then 3 months on the tender *Cascade*), with command headquarters at Newport, R.I. While stationed in Newport he was soloist for the Newport Symphony, and on Sundays played at six of Newport's churches. After his discharge as Musician 3rd class in late January 1954, he completed his secondary school education at The Dwight School in New York City. (3, 4)

During 1955–56 Ted attended New York University in music education, and in 1956–57 attended the University of Miami in Coral Gables, majoring in music education and the flute. In 1956 Ted married **MARILYN ELIZABETH MULLER**, daughter of John Henry and Elizabeth Y. Muller, in The Little Church Around the Corner, New York City (5). A student at Vassar College at the time of their marriage, she accompanied Ted to Florida, where she continued her college work. Upon returning north, she graduated from Vassar in 1958 with a B.A. degree in Education/Child Study. During this time the Arms settled in Pleasant Valley, east of Poughkeepsie, with Ted employed as a bank teller in Poughkeepsie, and playing flute with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra. Following their divorce in 1963, Marilyn continued to reside in Pleasant Valley, where she raised their daughter Janet and worked for 31 years as an elementary school teacher in nearby Spackenkill schools. In 1980 Marilyn married William Kirchner, owner and operator of a retail meat market in Poughkeepsie and later Pleasant Valley. The Kirchners long were active in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley—she as a lay reader, treasurer and assistant organist.

The William Raser Branch

About 1962, after separating from Marilyn, Ted moved to Lower Newton Falls, Mass., and for several years was employed by an electronics firm in Cambridge, Mass. In 1964 he married **BARBARA LOUISE JOHNSON** in Sudbury, Mass. She was born 12 August 1928 in Boston, Mass., the daughter of Paul L. Johnson and Madeline S. Thayer. She received a B.A. degree in Science Education from Salem (Mass.) State Teachers College in 1949. After briefly doing substitute teaching, in 1950 she was employed as a secretary by the Garland Knitting Mills in the Jamaica Plains, Mass., area, where she worked for several years.

About 1966 Ted and Barbara moved to Yarmouthport, Mass., Ted having shifted his main effort to teaching music at the Cape Cod Conservatory of Music and Art, in nearby Barnstable. For some years he headed the woodwind faculty at the Conservatory. For a time he also owned a pet shop on Main Street in Hyannis, as well as other small businesses, all of which failed. About 1973 Ted and Barbara were divorced, after which Barbara continued to reside in Yarmouth for about twenty years, where she raised their daughter Cathy. She was passionately interested in classical music and singing, and was a writer of short stories and poems. She had completed 26 chapters of a planned book about England before her death on 9 May 1996 in Hyannis, Mass.

About 1975 Ted married a South Yarmouth, Mass., resident with two teenage children, taking up residence in her house. He soon discontinued his Conservatory work, but gave private woodwind lessons to promising students. During the 1980s he and his wife operated the Edelweiss Gift Shop, a clock and gift shop, in Yarmouth. Ted earlier in life had developed an interest in watch and clock movements, and tended to specialize in that part of the business. (6)

In April 1986 Ted failed to return home one evening; nothing whatever was known of his whereabouts for several years. It eventually was discovered that he had suffered an emotional crisis, leaving him unable to face family members, and had gone to lower Manhattan to reside. Subsequent pleadings by his wife to return home and seek medical attention proved of no avail. Very little is known of his life in New York City. He died of cardiovascular disease the morning of 1 January 2002 in his apartment at 444 2nd Avenue, and was buried in City Cemetery on Hart Island, Bronx, N.Y. (7, 8).

Following Ted's disappearance, mounting bills forced his wife to close and liquidate the gift shop. She took a secretarial job in Yarmouth so that she could completely pay off the many unpaid shop bills, and eventually obtained a divorce. She still resided in her South Yarmouth home in 2007.

Child (ARMS) by Marilyn E. Muller:

1. Janet Lynn, m. Marc David Goldberg, ch. (GOLDBERG): Jesse Elizabeth (9).

Child (ARMS) by Barbara L. Johnson:

2. Catherine Victoria, m. Darin Scott Karras; chn. (KARRAS): Christopher Shawn, Amanda Lynn (10).



Portraits of John Heyl Raser and Family Members

Few early photos bear dates, and belated dating was commonly inaccurate. As a result, photos have been placed here left-to-right, top-to-bottom, in what appears to be life-span sequence, with the more reasonable or likely dates noted. All images are believed to be correctly identified as to person, unless noted otherwise. For photo credits and image details, see the P-#s listed in Appendix X-31, Pictorial Items: Credits and Notes.

John Heyl Raser (W-2) (1824–1901)
mrd. (1) 1847 Cylinda S. Stoughton (1828–1879)
mrd. (2) 1881 Helen Thorp (1841–1901)



“as Bride & Groom, August
1847” (P-20)



“Soon after their marriage ...”
These two daguerreotypes, although belatedly dated,
probably were taken well before 1850. (P-21)



Eliza Seydel, about 1870 (P-22)



The Parents of Cylinda S. Stoughton

Leonard Stoughton (P-23)

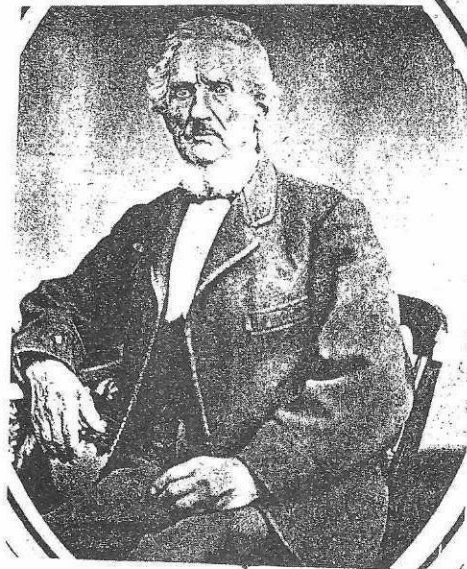
Cylinda S. Stoughton's Parents, Uncle and Aunt

This page is reproduced from *Raser Photographs*, and provides additional views of Cylinda's parents. Uncle Oliver Burbank Stoughton (1795-1866) was only one of nine of Leonard Stoughton's siblings (the children of Augustus Stoughton and Celinda Bissell), most of whom grew to maturity and married. (P-24)

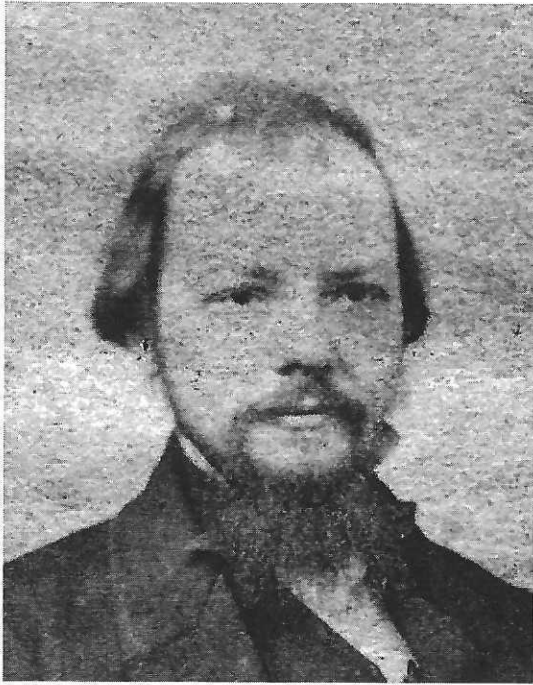


Clockwise from upper left :

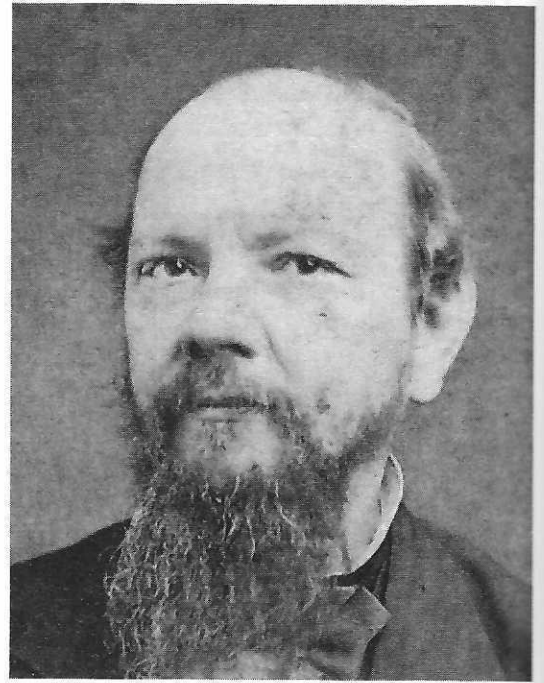
- Eliza McCurley Seydell Stoughton, wife of Leonard Stoughton ("Grandma Stoughton")
- Oliver B. Stoughton of Salem, N. J.
- Leonard Stoughton, ("Grandfather Stoughton"). He was the son of Augustus Stoughton of Windsor, Connecticut, a soldier in the Revolution.
- Mrs. Oliver B. Stoughton of Salem, N. J. ("Aunt Mary")



John Heyl Raser (W-2)



(P-25)



(P-26)



“about 1875” (P-27)



1890s (P-28)

John Heyl Raser (W-2) and Wives



Cylinda, about 1865 (P-29)



Helen (P-30)



John (P-31)



Helen (P-32)

Late Life Portraits, about 1900

Our Raser Family

William Heyl Raser (W-4) (1848–1941)
mrd. 1890 Josephine Hennessy (1858–1943)

In late life William participated in Memorial Day parades and often was pictured, with the few remaining Civil War veterans, in the rotogravure sections of New York City newspapers.



“ in his first pair of pants. Taken about 1852.” (P-33)



Hospital Steward, 195th Regt., Pa. Volunteers, 1864 (P-34)



“1868” (P-35)



(P-36)

William Heyl Raser (W-4) and Wife



from an 1896 biography (P-37)



about 1916 (P-38)



"Memorial Day 1936" (P-39)



Josephine, "about 1902" (P-40)

Our Raser Family

John Bernard Raser (W-5) (1850–1939)
mrd. 1877 Katherine Elizabeth Weida (1855–1935)



(P-41)



with friend, C.B. Kinsey
in Pittsburgh, PA (P-42)



early 1870's (P-43)



(P-44)

John Bernard Raser (W-5) and Wife



(P-45)



(P-46)



early (P-47)

Katherine (Weida) Raser



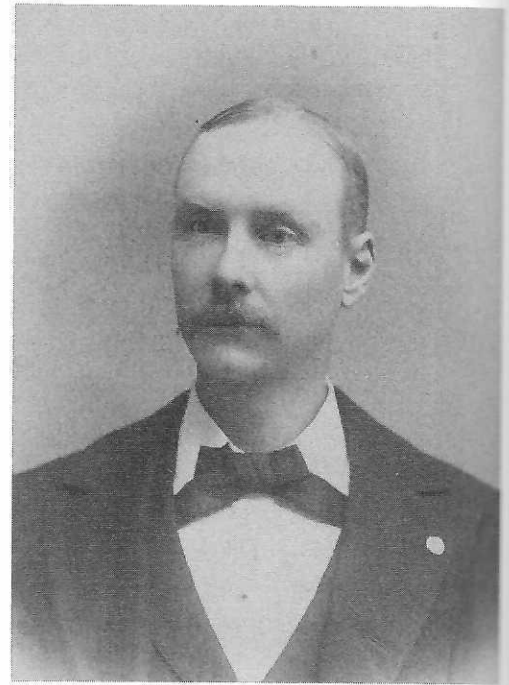
late (P-48)

Our Raser Family

Oliver Burbank Raser (W-6) (1852–1933)
mrd. (1) 1873 Sarah Hannah Beidler (1852–1913)
mrd. (2) 1884 Ellen Virginia (Campbell) Campbell (1862–1938)



age 19 (P-49)



taken in San Francisco
before the earthquake (P-50)



Oliver and Ella with
his daughter Ellen (P-51)

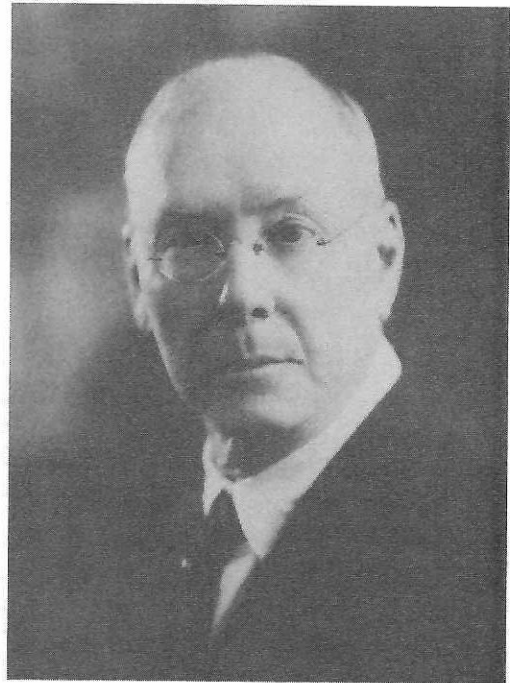


Ella and Oliver (P-52)

Oliver Burbank Raser (W-6) and wife Ella

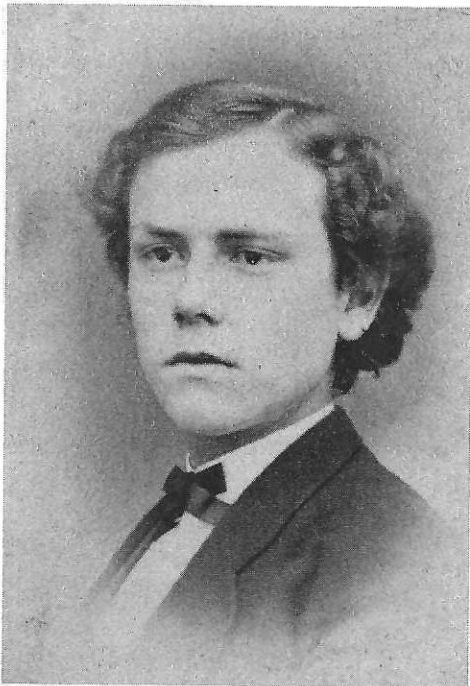


"1908" (P-53)



used in his 1933 obituary (P-54)

Amand Pfister Raser (W-7) (1854–1937)
mr. (1) 1891 Sarah E. Perry (1858–1893)
mr. (2) 1898 Emeline Davison Goodenough (1864–1933)



(P-55)



(P-56)

Amand Pfister Raser (W-7)



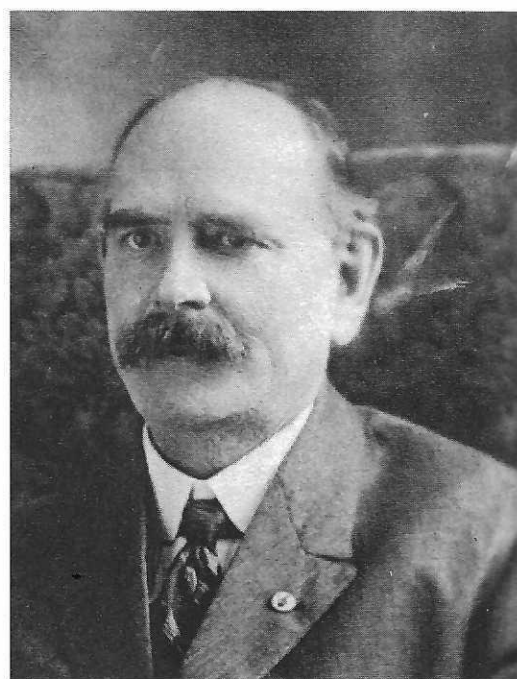
(P-57)



(P-58)



(P-59)



Christmas, 1921 (P-60)

Wives of Amand Pfister Raser (W-7)



Sarah E. Perry

(P-61)



(P-62)



Emeline D. Goodenough

(P-63)



Christmas, 1920 (P-64)

Our Raser Family

Celeste Stoughton Raser (W-8) (1856–1937)
mrd. 1882 Augustus Nice Arms (1848–1916)



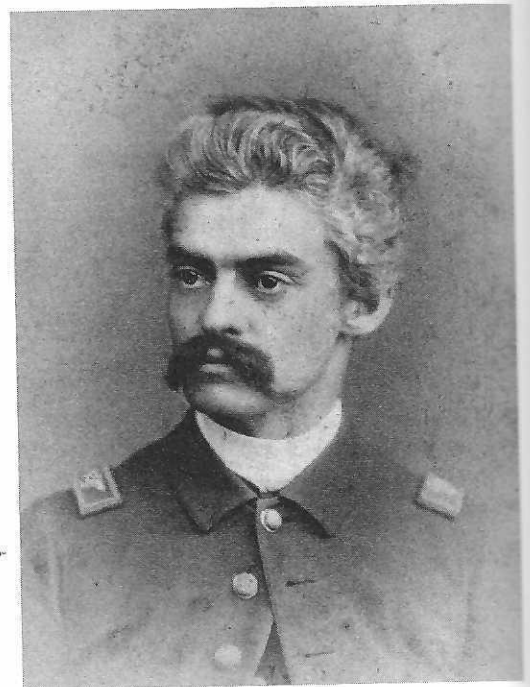
"1872" (P-65)



"1876" (P-66)



(P-67)



late 1870s (P-68)

Celeste (Raser) Arms (W-8) and Husband



"1906" (P-69)



"1912" (P-70)



with 1916 obituary (P-71)

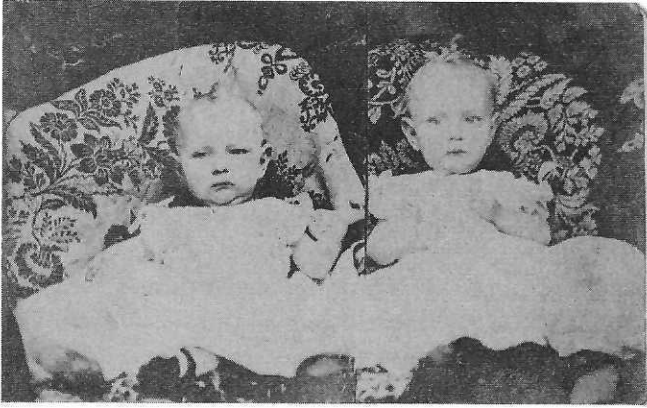


Augustus Nice Arms

(P-72)

Our Raser Family

**bachelor George Prentice Raser (W-9) (1861–1954)
and twin Seydel Stoughton Raser (W-10) (1861–1921)
mrd. 1898 Louise Lewis Evans (abt. 1869–1943)**



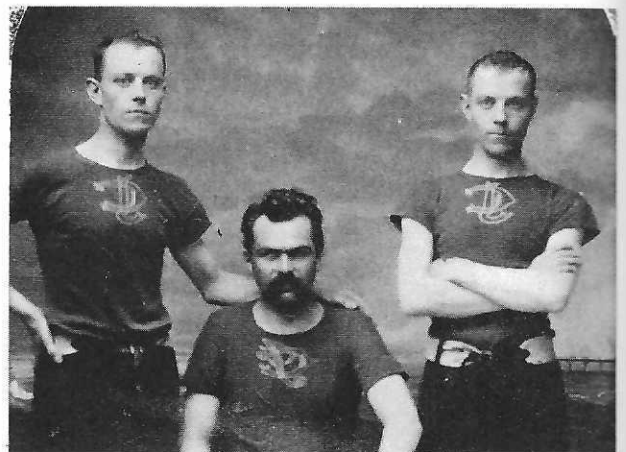
Prentice (left) and Seydel,
about one year old (P-73)



Prentice (left) and Seydel,
six years old (P-74)



Prentice (left) and Seydel (P-75)

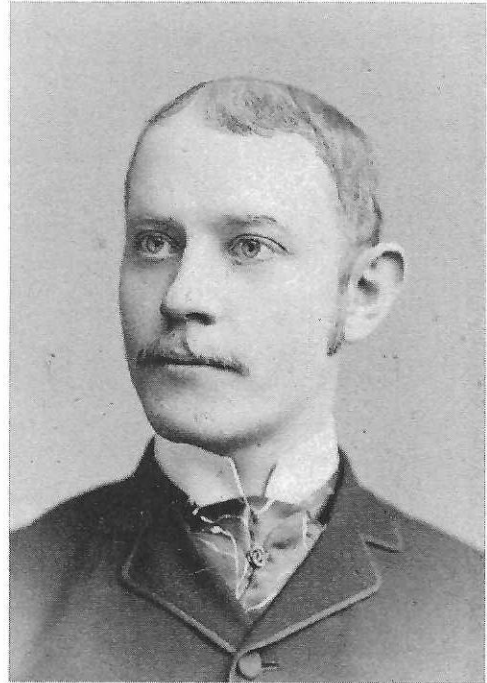


Seydel (left) and Prentice (right) with friend
Wm. Weis in Atlantic City, 1885 (P-76)

George Prentice Raser (W-9) and Seydel S. Raser (W-10)



Prentice, about 1885 (P-77)



Seydel, 1885 (P-78)



wearing Masonic pin (P-79)

George Prentice Raser



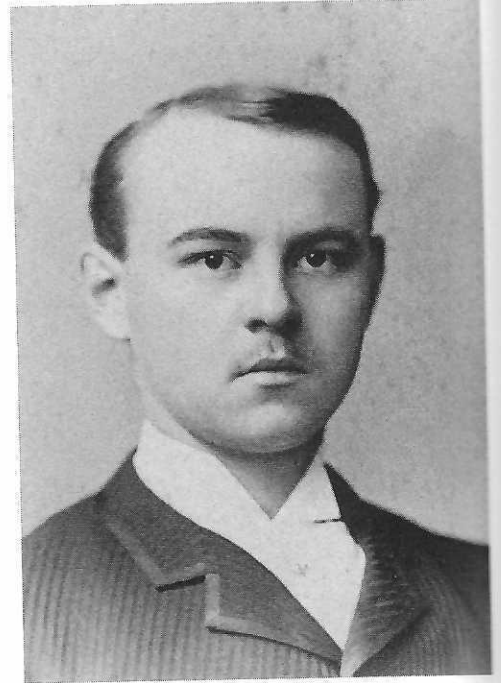
late life (P-80)

Our Raser Family

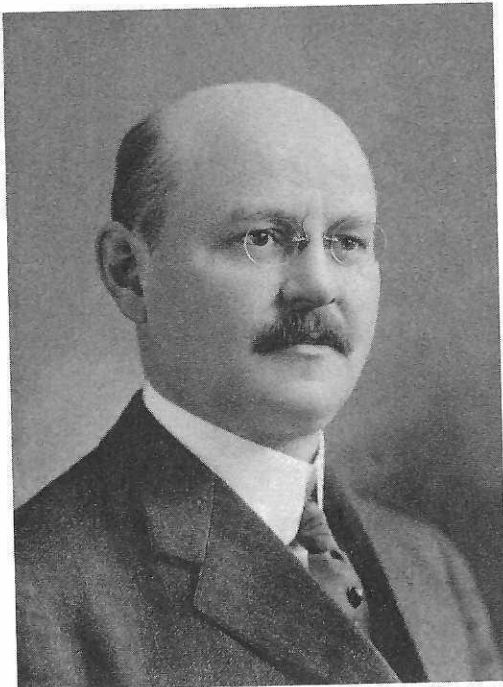
Charles Linnaeus Raser (W-11) (1867–1954)
mrd. 1897 Sarah Lilla Hull (1863–1944)



early 1870s (P-81)



1889 (P-82)



early 1900s (P-83)



about 1919 (P-84)

Charles Linnaeus Raser (W-11) and Wife



“1938” (P-85)



young Lilla (P-86)



(P-87)

Sarah Lilla Hull



“1913” (P-88)

Thomas Brown Raser (W-2-7) (1858–1875)



(P-89)



(P-90)



(P-91)

Mystery Photos

Thomas died an accidental death in May 1875, early in age 17. All three of these photos were identified (belatedly) by siblings as being of Thomas, but comparison of the images raises questions. The top two photos are of appropriate young age, but look somewhat different; further more, each boy's hair is parted differently. The photo at upper left, found in Linnie's photo album, is clearly identified as Thomas. The photo at upper right was identified by both Prentice and Lessie as "Thomas about 1874", but an original CDV in William Raser's album bears an annotation by Prentice: "Tom? Raser." The photo at left, from the JHRA Collection, bears Prentice's note: "Thomas Raser / About 1875." This third photo looks too old for Thomas, and in fact is almost certainly an edited portrait made from Seydel's 1885 image taken at Atlantic City (see P-76).

Full View Photos



William Heyl Raser (W-4)
photographed in New York City
about 1890 (P-92)



Charles Linnaeus Raser (W-11)
and his chum Jack (or Gack)
about 1869 (P-93)



Cylinda (Stoughton) Raser
Wife of John Heyl Raser (W-2)
(P-94)