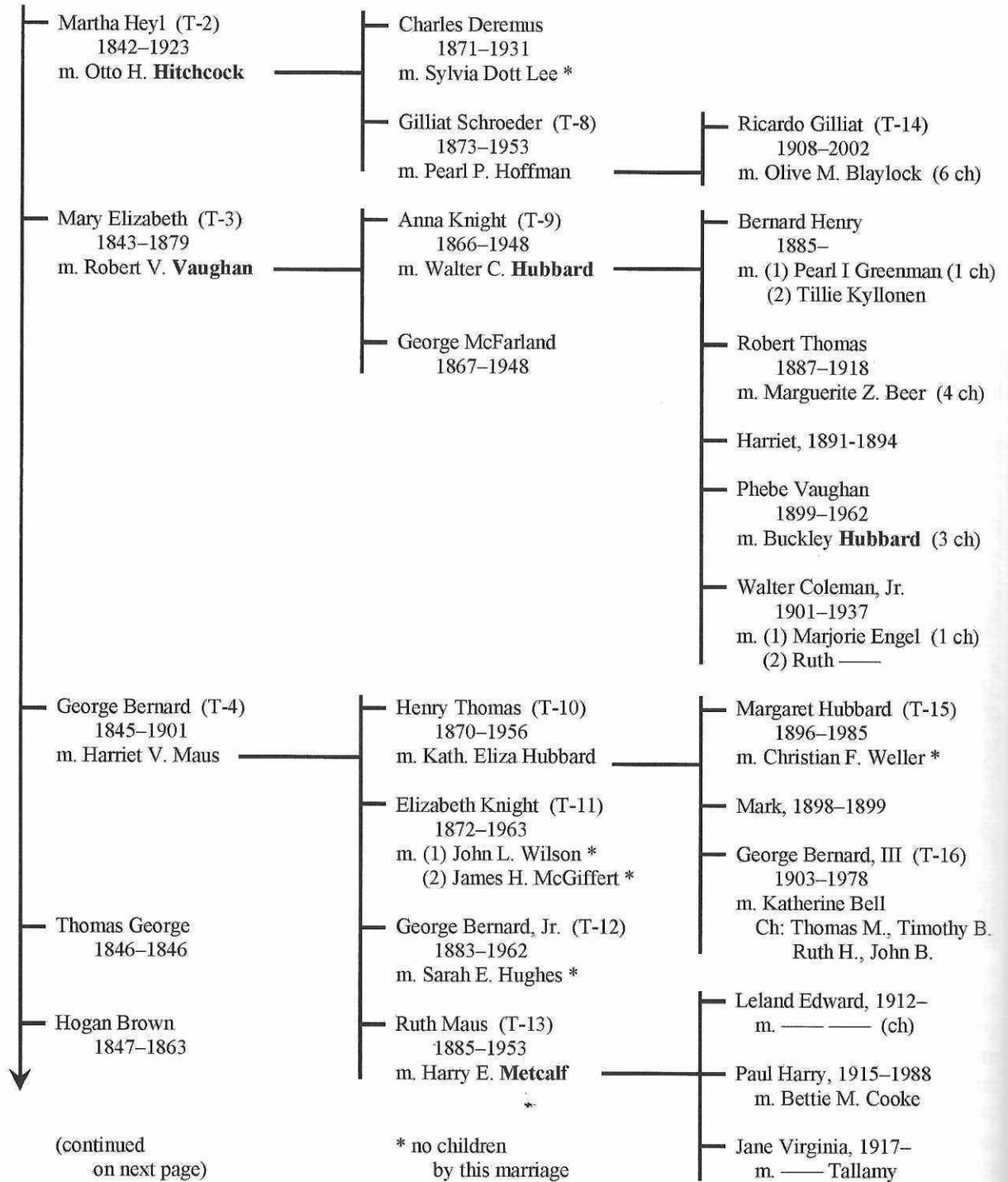


*Our Raser Family*

**Descendants of Thomas Raser (T-1)**

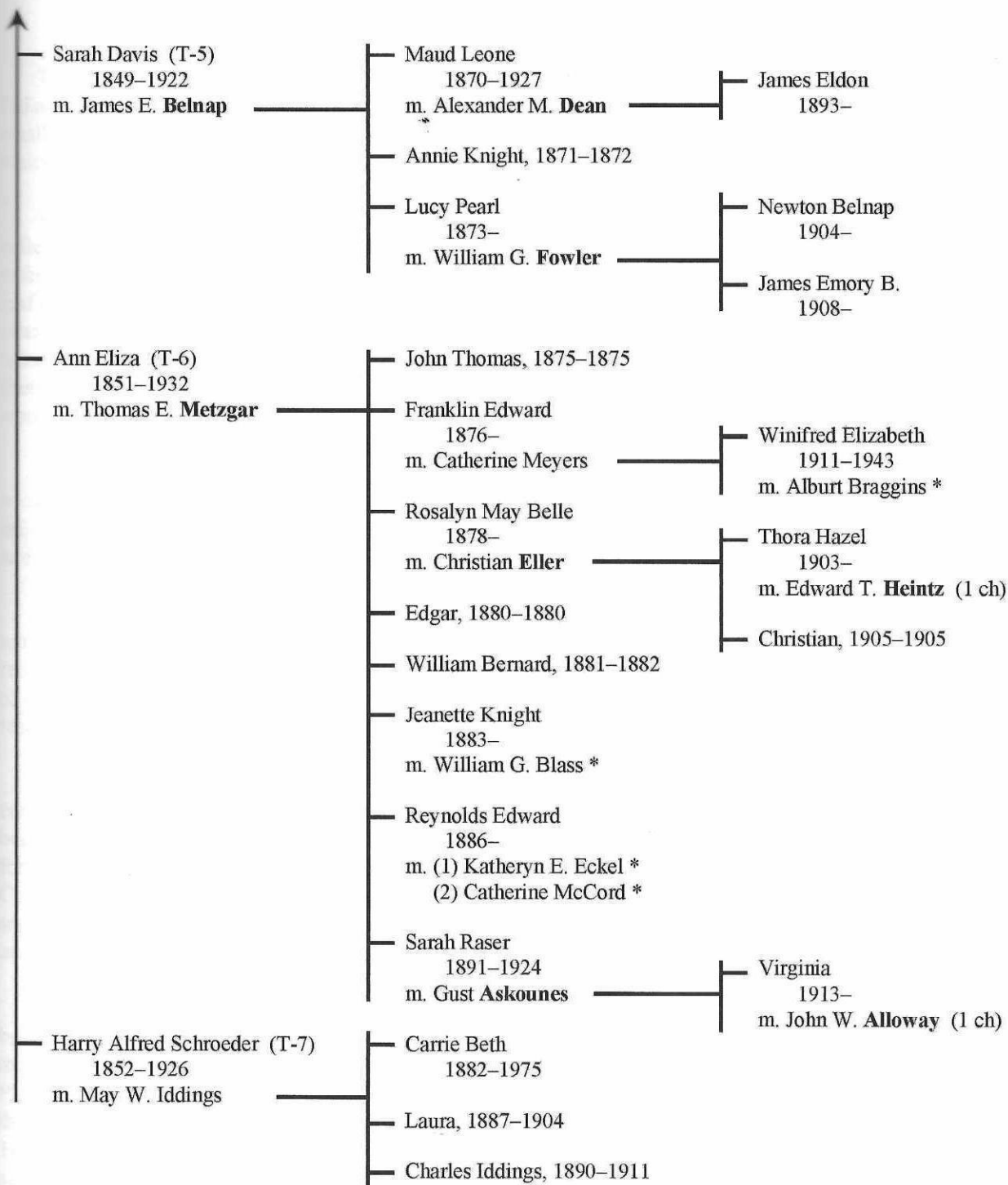
1793-1857

m. (1) Amantilda Pfister \*  
(2) Elizabeth K. Brown



The Thomas Raser Branch

Descendants of Thomas Raser (T-1)  
(continued)



\* no children  
by this marriage

## *The Thomas Raser Branch*

T-1. **THOMAS RASER**, son of Bernard Raser (A-9) and Mary Heyl, was born 26 August 1793 in Philadelphia, Pa. (1\*). He was nine years old when his father died and his widowed mother was left with five small children. She continued to raise her children in downtown Philadelphia until her death in 1810, after which her brother John Heyl and spinster sister Elizabeth Heyl took over the care of the Raser children.

What little we know of Thomas's early days comes from his daughter, Mattie (Raser) Hitchcock (T-2), a collector of early family memorabilia. She wrote that when a pre-teen, Thomas and his brother William liked to frequent a store-house maintained by their father in the waterfront area of Philadelphia. Sailors who would loaf there would give the boys tobacco to chew—and smoke. “In that way they learned to use tobacco. I have often heard my Father tell how sick he & William would get when they first put [tobacco] in their mouths” (2). Mattie also stated that when young, Thomas “worked for his board to learn the carpenter trade” (3). During his lifetime he was frequently involved in some way in construction and mill operation, and was handy with wood—a writing table he made for his first wife survives as a family heirloom (see Apdx. X-22).

By 1815 Thomas had become sufficiently involved in business activities that he began keeping a receipt book as a record of his cash transactions (4). The first entry, dated 9 mo., 21st 1815, suggests Quaker influences—possibly the Heyl's were Quakers. At that time he was engaged in the purchase of lumber. As late as April 1818 his records indicate he was still boarding with John Heyl.

During 1818 Thomas's older brother, William, went to Alabama to take advantage of business opportunities arising from the opening up of that region. By 1820 Thomas Raser joined his brother in the South. A receipt book entry, dated Demopolis, Ala., 12 August 1820, records a \$157.50 payment “in full for the Freight of his goods & for A. Pfister goods & one Corn Mill all amounting to 63 barrels ...” Thomas may have resided briefly with his brother in Mobile before moving on to Demopolis.

Thomas Raser became active in civic affairs soon after his arrival in Demopolis. In October 1820 he was commissioned an Ensign in the Alabama State Militia (5). By August 1821 he was overseer of the new road being laid out from Marengo Courthouse through Demopolis to the Tombigbee River; he subsequently served for several years as a justice of the peace for Marengo County (6). In June 1823 he was inducted into the Columbus, Mississippi, Masonic Lodge No. 23, in which his younger brother John B.—who also had moved south—was then the treasurer (7). By 1824 Thomas had purchased town-lots on Market Street in Demopolis, and later invested in a 480-acre tract in the county (8).

On 10 October 1822 Thomas was married in Demopolis to **AMANTILDA MARY PFISTER**; her brother-in-law, Basil Meslier, J.P., officiated (9). A daughter of Amand Pfister and Mary Josephine Rys of that town, she was born 6 July 1805 in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, but for many years had lived in Philadelphia. In April 1821 her sister Amanda Susan had married William Raser, Thomas's brother. The fact that Thomas Raser paid cash for transporting Amand Pfister's goods from Philadelphia to Demopolis in August 1820, and subsequently in September 1820 was paid \$70 “in full for building [a] Log House for Mr. A. Pfister,” suggests a close relationship already existed between the two families prior to their relocation to Alabama.

The marriage of Thomas and Amantilda was short lived. Family correspondence indicates they both suffered long illnesses in 1823. Amantilda died on 21 October 1823—family tradition says of childbirth (10). Her death most likely occurred in Demopolis, as on 29 October 1823 Thomas records a \$5 payment in Demopolis “for digging a grave.”

20<sup>00</sup>  
87<sup>5</sup> = Jacob Raser

Received Jan<sup>y</sup> 27 1816 of  
W<sup>m</sup> Thomas Raser the sum  
of thirteen Dollars in full  
Jacob Raser

---

Recd Philadelphia September  
18<sup>th</sup> 1815 of W<sup>m</sup> Thomas Raser  
One Dollar in full  
W<sup>m</sup> Raser

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Received August  
12 1816 of Thomas  
Raser thirty eight  
Dollars and 92 <sup>100</sup> cents in  
full for Lumber  
\$38.92 <sup>100</sup> 00  
David Williams

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Received August 17 1816  
of W<sup>m</sup> Thomas Raser the  
sum of Two Dollars fifty  
Cents in full Jacob Raser

Received Demopolis 13<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup>  
1820 of Thomas Raser  
One hundred & fifty seven  
Dollars & 50 Cents in full  
for the freight of his goods  
& for Amand Pfister goods from  
one Corn Creek all amounting  
to 63 Bards @ 2.50  
Doll<sup>rs</sup> 157.50 Thomas Williams

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Demopolis 19 Aug<sup>st</sup> 1820  
Rec<sup>d</sup> of Thomas Raser  
seventy five Dollars in  
full for Work  
David Gray

---

Rec<sup>d</sup> Demopolis 7<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1820 of  
Thos. Raser Ten Dollars in  
full for balance of the stable  
\$15.00 Fleming Thompson

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Received Demopolis 25<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1820  
of Thos. Raser Seventy Dollars  
in full for building Log  
House for Mr. Amand Pfister  
\$70.00 George H. Christman

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Rec<sup>d</sup> Demopolis 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1820  
of Thos. Raser Seventy Five  
Dollars in full for Goods

Pages from Thomas Raser's Receipt Book

The left page shows receipts for Thomas's activities in Philadelphia, including the purchase of lumber. The receipt signed by William Raser, older brother of Thomas, displays William's typically excellent handwriting. The right page show receipts made in Alabama for the shipment of Amand Pfister's goods to Demopolis, and for building Pfister a log house. (P-95)

The Raser business ventures in Alabama and Mississippi met with considerable financial success, but the work was demanding and the climate was unhealthy. By 1833 Thomas's three brothers had all died prematurely, and in 1837 his sister, Mary (Raser) Vincent, returned to the north with her family, settling at Chillisquaque, Pa. Thomas was still in Demopolis in 1839, but the next year he also moved to Chillisquaque.

Thomas left an interesting stage and steam-boat route guide, dated 1834, which contains various pencilled markings of route segments (11). No independent account of his return route has been found, but the guide suggests that at one time he may have traveled by stage via Tuscaloosa and Huntsville, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee, to Louisville, Kentucky, then by steamboat to Cincinnati, then by stage via Columbus and Zanesville, Ohio; Wheeling, West Virginia; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; to Harrisburg (but he could have made an earlier *return* trip via this route!).

Beginning in October 1840 Thomas's receipt book records various payments for work on mills, making a road and hauling stone. Family tradition says that after his return to Pennsylvania, Thomas maintained a large farm, and operated a gristmill and sawmill on Chillisquaque Creek, which he had purchased from his brother-in-law, John Himrod Vincent.

On 30 September 1841 Thomas Raser was married by Rev. William Hirst to **ELIZABETH KNIGHT** ("Libbie") **BROWN** in Chillisquaque, Pa. She was born in Sunbury, Pa., on 8 June 1819 (10), the daughter of William T. Brown and Mary Vincent. Her mother was a sister of John Himrod Vincent, who had married Mary Raser (A-13). The Browns apparently had been induced, along with several members of the Vincent family, to settle in Mobile, Alabama, about 1821. Elizabeth was raised in Mobile, where her father died in 1824 and her mother in 1830 (12). Orphaned at eleven, she may have returned north with the Vincents about 1837. At the time of their marriage in 1841, Elizabeth K. Brown was 22 while Thomas Raser was 48; nevertheless, tradition says they were well matched and happily married. Several of their children were named for members of Elizabeth's family (13\*).

In the 1850 census Thomas Raser is listed in Chillisquaque Township as a farmer with \$15,000 real estate (14). About 1852 the Rasers moved across the Susquehanna River to Lewisburg, where Thomas retired from business in 1854. Sometime after early 1855 the family settled in Waterford, Pa., where tradition states they had an exceptionally nice house (15). Thomas died in Waterford of pneumonia on 8 December 1857. He initially was buried there, but on 18 November 1874 his remains were reinterred in Erie (Pa.) Cemetery, in a family plot purchased two years earlier to hold his granddaughter, Annie K. Belnap (16).

When Thomas Raser died he left an estate inventoried at over \$12,000 (17), but the administrators failed in their trust, leaving the widow helpless (15). Thomas's oldest son, George, was only twelve years old at the time; he was forced by the circumstances to work to support his mother—something he continued to do the rest of her life. The 1860 census lists Elizabeth in Waterford Borough with only \$2,000 real estate and \$1,000 in personal property (18).

Elizabeth raised her seven children in Waterford and, after 1865, in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1870 she was residing in a four-family dwelling with her two youngest children; she had only a personal estate valued at \$300 (19), and was then giving piano lessons to help support her family (20). By 1880 she had removed to Ashtabula, Ohio, where she lived next door to her eldest son and was raising the two children of her deceased daughter, Mary Vaughan (21). By 1889 she had returned to Erie, residing at 250 West 17th Street (22). She died in Erie of pneumonia (but an Erie death register says typhoid fever) on 5 February 1894, and was buried in Erie Cemetery beside her husband and other family members (16).

About two years before her death, while Elizabeth was on a visit to Philadelphia, a photographer noticed her as she was walking down a street. Much impressed with her quaintness (she was wearing curls on the side



of her head), he approached her and offered to take her photograph. She accepted, and he posed her as a fortune teller, reading tea leaves for two young ladies. The photograph is a prized possession of a descendant of the family (20).

Children (RASER), all born in Chillisquaque, Pa., except the last, born in Lewisburg, Pa. (1):

- + 1. Martha Heyl (T-2), b. 4 July 1842, d. 10 Mar. 1923, m. 25 May 1868 Otto Henry Hitchcock.
- + 2. Mary Elizabeth (T-3), b. 23 Nov. 1843, d. 22 Oct. 1879, m. 10 Apr. 1865 Robert Vincent Vaughan.
- + 3. George Bernard (T-4), b. 10 July 1845, d. 13 Mar. 1901, m. 5 Oct. 1869 Harriet V. Maus.
  - 4. Thomas George, b. 3 Oct. 1846, d. 4 Oct. 1846, aged 15 hours.
  - 5. Hogan Brown, b. 14 Dec. 1847, d. 17 Feb. 1863 of epileptic convulsions in the asylum at Media, Pa. (20).
- + 6. Sarah Davis (T-5), b. 15 Mar. 1849, d. 26 Jan. 1922, m. 9 Feb. 1869 James E. Belnap.
- + 7. Ann Eliza (T-6), b. 30 May 1851, d. 8 Feb. 1932, m. 27 Jan. 1875 Thomas Edward Metzgar.
- + 8. Henry Alfred Schroeder (T-7), b. 16 Dec. 1852, d. 26 Sep. 1926, m. 20 Oct. 1875 May Webb Iddings.

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T-2. **MARTHA HEYL** ("Mattie") **RASER**, daughter of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born 4 July 1842 in Chillisquaque, Pa. (1). She was named after her aunt, Martha Brown of Mobile, Alabama, who first married Reuben Schuyler, then married Henry A. Schroeder. She was raised in Chillisquaque, Lewisburg, Waterford and Erie, Pa., and in 1855 attended Dickinson Seminary in Williamsport, Pa. (2)

Mattie Raser was married by Rev. G. F. Cain, in the evening of 25 May 1868, to **OTTO HENRY HITCHCOCK**, at the residence of her brother George B. Raser in Erie, Pa. (1, 3). Otto was the son of Julius William Hitchcock and Heneretta [*sic*] Gilbert Colt, and was born in Waterford, Pa., on 27 May 1840. He was working as a printer in Erie in September 1861 when he enlisted as a private in Company E, 83rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He served in the Civil War for three years, much of the time as a wagoner. In mid-1862 he was an ambulance driver when McClellan's army retreated to Harrison's Landing, Virginia, during the Peninsular Campaign. On 2 July, near White House, Virginia, he was driving at night "through a swamp over an army corduroy road [when he was] violently thrown from [his ambulance] against a projection and severely injured in his chest." He was hospitalized for almost two months; the accident left him crippled for life. He remained in the service until his term expired on 20 September 1864. (4, 5)

After their marriage the Hitchcocks lived in Waterford and Erie, Pa. In 1870 they were living in a boarding house in Erie; Otto was then a railroad conductor (6). By 1879 they had relocated to Keokuk, Iowa, where they appear in the 1880 census with their two sons, residing on Exchange Street (7). In 1882 the Hitchcocks relocated to Bellevue, Ohio, where the 1900 census shows them living alone in their owned home on Heter Street; Otto was still listed as a railroad conductor (8). In a 1902 pension application Mr. Hitchcock stated he had also lived in "Port Rico," Arizona and New Mexico. He also stated he was five feet seven inches tall, weighed 110 pounds, and had blue eyes and gray hair.

Because of his injury Mr. Hitchcock was limited in the work he could do. During much of his life he worked in the employ of railroads; for many years he was a baggage man for the Erie Railroad. In the latter part of 1904 he became ill and was confined in the Ohio State Soldiers and Sailors Home at Sandusky, Ohio, where he died on 11 October. Originally buried there, he later was reinterred in Bellevue, Ohio. Some years after his death, Mattie's sons, concerned about her being alone, tried to get her to join them out West. She lived with Gilliat in Golconda, Nevada, for one winter, and visited other places as far as Seattle, Washington. While she thought the scenery was grand, she felt like "a stranger in a lone country" and longed for her "plain old home" in Ohio (9). She returned East and lived happily the rest of her life in her house at 209 Heter Street in Bellevue.

Mattie developed a great interest in family history and diligently collected data from the Vincents and other family members. When Lessie (Raser) Arms was seeking information from Bishop John H. Vincent in 1902, he advised her "to correspond with Cousin Mattie ... who has more relics of the Rasers & more enthusiasm on such matters than any of the relatives I know" (10). Her relics included most of the heirlooms of Capt. Bernard Raser. Mattie Hitchcock also was an oil painter and a painter of china; in the 1910 census she is listed as an artist (11). A number of her landscapes are still owned by family members. Fortunately, after her death in Bellevue on 10 March 1923, many of her heirlooms and family papers were dispersed to interested family members (12). Both she and her husband are buried in Bellevue Cemetery.

Children (HITCHCOCK), born in Erie, Pa. (13):

1. Charles Deremus, b. 21 Feb. 1871, d. 24 Aug. 1931 in Lorain, Ohio. He m. 1 June 1908 Sylvia Dott Lee in Lagrange, Ohio; she was b. 23 June 1877 four miles from Flint, Mich. (14). Sylvia d. of childbirth in Chicago, Ill., on 27 Feb. 1911; Charles never remarried. Mr. Hitchcock was a civil engineer; he worked for many years in Arizona, Utah and Nevada setting up and operating mining machinery. He and his wife are buried in Bellevue Cemetery.
- + 2. Gilliat Schroeder (T-8), b. 23 June 1873, d. 29 Jan. 1953, m. 12 Mar. 1907 Pearl Perrin Hoffman.

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T-3. **MARY ELIZABETH RASER**, daughter of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born 23 November 1843 in Chillisquaque, Pa. She was raised in Chillisquaque and Waterford, Pa., in which latter place she was married by Rev. T. T. Bradford on 10 April 1865 to **ROBERT VINCENT VAUGHAN** (1). Family records, and the 1880 census, indicate that their daughter Annie was born in Ohio in 1866. By 1870 the Vaughans had moved to Harrisburg, Pa., where Robert was employed as a draftsman (2). Mary Vaughan had two children prior to her death—when she was not yet 36 years old. In 1880 her two children were living in Ashtabula, Ohio, where they were being raised by their grandmother Raser (3).

Mary Raser Vaughan died in Erie, Pa., on 22 October 1879 (1). Her obituary indicates she was then living at Seventeenth and French Streets, that she died after one year of great suffering, and the "arrangements for her funeral were all made by herself" (4). Although her brothers and sisters are named, no mention is made of her husband. Robert V. Vaughan was born 19 March 1843 and died 12 March 1916 (5). Nothing is currently known about his seeming disappearance after his wife died. Mary Raser Vaughan is buried in the Raser-Belnap plot in Erie (Pa.) Cemetery.

Children (VAUGHAN) (5):

- + 1. Anna ("Annie") Knight (T-9), b. 12 June 1866 in Kent, Ohio, d. 29 Nov. 1948, m. 12 Feb. 1885 Walter Coleman Hubbard.
2. George McFarland, b. 15 Oct. 1867 in Erie, Pa., d. abt. 23 Nov. 1948. In 1920 he resided alone in his owned house at 30 Amsden Ave., Astabula. He was then working as a clerk in a local foundry (6). His obituary stated that after having "not been seen for about six days, [police] went to his residence [at 1312 W. 3rd St., Ashtabula], broke in the back door and found the 80-year-old man lying dead near the right side of his bed upstairs" (7). The coroner ruled his death was due to a "possible coronary thrombosis." A life-long resident of Ashtabula, he was an accomplished organist and member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He never married. Buried in the Raser-Belnap plot in Erie (Pa.) Cem. (8).

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T-4. **GEORGE BERNARD RASER**, son of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born 10 July 1845 in Chillisquaque, Pa. He was a youngster when his parents moved to Waterford, Pa., where his father died in 1857. Only twelve at the time, he was forced to assist his widowed mother in the support of

her seven children; he continued to support her the rest of his life. As a result of this burden his education was limited to high school. (1)

After living for some years in Erie, Pa., George moved to Quincy, Illinois, where he learned the trade of harness maker. Not liking this work he abandoned it and secured employment in the construction and engineering corps of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company. His work in rail transportation activities continued for the rest of his life.

In the early 1870s George was in Canada constructing rail lines; his daughter Elizabeth was born there during this time. He next was briefly employed by a railroad in Erie, Pa., where he also was clerk to the assistant superintendent of the Anchor Line docks. In 1873 he moved to Ashtabula, Ohio, to assume the duties of agent for the Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Railway Company, which office he held for 26 years. During this time the freight handling facilities at Ashtabula Harbor experienced phenomenal growth, to match the huge increase in tonnage of materials being handled. In the 1880 and 1900 census records George Raser is listed as residing in Ashtabula township (2, 3).

While working for the railway company, George became increasingly involved in the business and financial growth of Ashtabula. He represented M. A. Hanna & Company of Cleveland, extensive dealers in iron ore, pig iron, coal and coke. He was a director of the Ashtabula Rapid Transit Company, and president of the Marine National Bank from its organization in 1891. He established the post office at Ashtabula Harbor, and was its postmaster for several years. For some time he was a member of the Ashtabula City Council, during which time he was instrumental in the replacement of horse-drawn cars by electric street cars. In 1897 he founded the Raser Tanning Company, but the family interests were sold at a profit four years later. The new owners retained the Raser name and continued to operate the tannery until its closing in 1956—the tannery buildings have since been destroyed (4).

George Raser married **HARRIET VANCE** ("Hattie") **MAUS** on 5 October 1869 in Erie, Pa. The wedding was conducted by Rev. C. C. Parker, and took place at the residence of her brother, George V. Maus, Esq. (5). Harriet was born in Bloomsburg, Pa., on 18 August 1848, the daughter of Lewis Maus and Elizabeth Vance. The Rasers were active Episcopalians and participated in founding the Trinity Reformed Church of Ashtabula in 1889. In 1898 "Mr. Raser issued a decree that no more liquor of an intoxicating nature should be taken onto the Hanna company docks, and the result was the most effective temperance reform ever worked in this city" (6). He founded the Seaman's Bethel, a home for Great Lakes seamen (now demolished) at Ashtabula Harbor; his son-in-law, John L. Wilson, was architect of the building (4). George Raser also was a Master Mason.

In the mid-1890s George built a large mansion, "The Elms," in suburban Ashtabula, at what is now 1920 South Ridge Road East. The mansion, with eight large rooms and a finished attic, and an associated carriage house, was designed by his architect son-in-law, John L. Wilson. The younger Raser children were raised there; son Harry and family also resided there for a time. (4)

George B. Raser died at "The Elms" on 13 March 1901, after suffering two paralyzing strokes in the preceding two months. He was buried in Ashtabula's Chestnut Grove Cemetery. In 1909 his widow sold the mansion and bought a house at 99 Center Street, Ashtabula, next door to her son Harry; by 1910 her spinster sister, Effie Maus, was living with her (7). Harriet Raser died at home of a severe heart attack on 2 May 1916; she was buried next to her husband in Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Children (RASER) (8):

- + 1. Henry Thomas (T-10), b. 10 July 1870 in Erie, Pa., d. 23 Nov. 1956, m. 23 Apr. 1895 Katharine Eliza Hubbard.

*Our Raser Family*

- + 2. Elizabeth Knight (T-11), b. 18 Nov. 1872 in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, d. 2 Sept. 1963, m. (1) 3 June 1897 John Lemuel Wilson, (2) 1928 James Henry McGiffert.
- + 3. George Bernard, Jr. (T-12), b. 14 Mar. 1883 in Ashtabula, Ohio, d. 2 June 1962, m. 9 Nov. 1911 Sarah Elizabeth Hughes.
- + 4. Ruth Maus (T-13), b. 4 Feb. 1885 in Ashtabula, Ohio, d. 8 Apr. 1953, m. 8 July 1908 Harry Edward Metcalf.

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T-5. **SARAH DAVIS RASER**, daughter of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born 15 March 1849 in Chillisquaque, Pa. She was raised in Lewisburg, Waterford and Erie, Pa. On 9 February 1869 she was married by Rev. C. C. Parker to **JAMES E. BELNAP**, in her mother's house in Erie, Pa. (1, 2). James Belnap was born 25 October 1841 in North East, Pa., the son of Ira Belnap and Julia Ann Henry (3).

In 1880 the Belnaps were residing at 230 West 18th Street in Erie (4); in 1900 at 250 17th Street (5). Mr. Belnap worked as a conductor on the Lake Shore Railroad (now the New York Central) for forty years. Following a paralytic stroke in later life, he went with his wife to Wabash, Indiana, to live with their daughter Lucy. However, his condition worsened and he died there on 26 September 1904; his body was returned to Erie and buried in Erie Cemetery (3, 6).

Sarah's whereabouts in 1910 remains undiscovered, but in January 1920 she was living with her daughter Lucy's family in Meridian, Mississippi, where Lucy's husband, William G. Fowler, was working as a civil engineer (7). Sarah died on 26 January 1922 and was buried in the Belnap plot in Erie Cemetery (8).

Children (BELNAP), all born in Erie, Pa. (3, 9):

1. Maud Leone, b. 22 July 1870, d. 22 Oct. 1927, m. 22 Apr. 1891 in Erie to Alexander ("Alex") M. Dean, b. 18 Aug. 1868, d. abt. 22 July 1929 (8). Both bur. in Erie Cem.; his inscription still without a death date in 1994. Alex caused his family much heartache as the result of embezzling money (10). One ch.: James Eldon, b. 23 Mar. 1893 in Erie. By 1910 Maud res. in Bridgeport, Conn.; she was still there in 1919 when her son was working for Air Reduction Co. in NYC (11). In 1928 James E. Dean res. at 265 Dell Ave., Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh, Pa., when he stated that "I have several of [Capt. Bernard Raser's] belongings, including a paste shoe buckle of peculiar design" (12).
2. Annie Knight, b. 8 Dec. 1871, d. 23 Aug. 1872 in Erie, Pa., bur. Erie Cem. to the right of her grandmother Raser (8).
3. Lucy Pearl, b. 2 May 1873, m. 25 Oct. 1902 in Erie to William G. Fowler. Mr. Fowler was a civil engineer; the family res. in Wabash, Ind., in 1910 (13); in Meridian, Miss., in 1920 (7), and "in the west" in 1948 (10). Two chn. (b. in Wabash, Ind.): Newton Belnap, b. 1 Feb. 1904; James Emory B., b. 10 Jan. 1908.

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T-6. **ANNELIZA ("Annie") RASER**, daughter of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born 30 May 1851 in Chillisquaque, Pa. (1, 2). Raised in Waterford and Erie, Pa., she was married by a Rev. Hilliard on 27 January 1875 to **THOMAS EDWARD METZGAR**, in her mother's house in Erie (3).

Thomas Metzgar was born 24 April 1841 in York, Pa. Although their census records are contradictory, probably his father was a native of Pennsylvania (many Metzgars settled early in York County) and his mother a native of Maryland. Thomas served in the Civil War as a private in Company C, 74th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered into service for a one year term on 6 April 1865, and mustered out with the company on 29 August 1865. During this time the regiment was primarily involved in picket and guard duty in West Virginia. (4)

### *The Thomas Raser Branch*

The Metzgars lived throughout their life in Erie, where Mr. Metzgar was employed by the railroad. In 1880 they resided at 138 18th Street in Erie; Thomas was identified as a railroad conductor (5). The census shows a daughter Ellen, age 9, living with them—possibly she was Mr. Metzgar's daughter by a previous marriage. By 1900 the Metzgars had purchased a house at 217 East 27th Street. Thomas was then listed as a laborer, and his three oldest children as clerks (6). In 1910 Thomas Metzgar was employed as a bartender; living at home were daughter Jennie, who was working as a shipping clerk in a button works, and daughter Sarah, working as an operator for a telephone company (7). The parents still resided on 27th Street in 1920, when Thomas had retired (8).

Thomas E. Metzgar died in Erie on 1 January 1929 and was buried in Erie Cemetery. In 1930 Annie and granddaughter Virginia Alloway and husband were living in her 27th Street house (9). Annie died in Erie on 8 February 1932, and was buried in Erie Cemetery with her husband and their three children who had died as infants (10).

Children (METZGAR), all born in Erie, Pa. (1, 2):

1. John Thomas, b. 14 Sep. 1875, d. 21 Sep. 1875 in Erie, Pa.
2. Franklin ("Frank") Edward, b. 17 Oct. 1876, m. 21 June 1904 in Erie to Catherine ("Kate") Meyers. She was b. 7 June 1876 in Meadville, Pa. Both res. in Erie in 1948. One ch.: Winifred Elizabeth, b. 10 Aug. 1911 in Erie, d. 5 May 1943 in Erie. Winifred had been mrd. only a short time to Albur Braggins when she died of cancer.
3. Rosalyn ("Rose") May Belle, b. 4 Mar. 1878, m. as his second wife, Christian Eller, in Erie, Pa., on 21 Nov. 1901. He was b. 22 Oct. 1874, d. Aug. 1943. Two chn., b. in Erie: Thora Hazel, b. 11 Aug. 1903, m. 4 Jan. 1924 in Erie to Edward T. Heintz, had one child, Rosalyn Mary, b. 11 Mar. 1933; Christian, b. 2 Aug. 1905, d. 23 (22?) Nov. 1905 in Erie. (10)
4. Edgar, b. 6 Mar. 1880, d. 8 Mar. 1880 in Erie.
5. William Bernard, b. 10 July 1881, d. 3 July 1882 in Erie.
6. Jeannette ("Jennie") Knight, b. 25 Apr. 1883, m. as his third wife, William Godfrey Blass, on 27 Nov. 1917 in Meadville, Pa. He was b. in Erie, Pa., on 9 Apr. 1882, d. 27 Oct. 1952. No chn., but Mr. Blass had a son Harrison by his second wife. Mr. Blass was custodian at Strong Vincent High School in Erie. They owned the Metzgar Family Bible.
7. Reynolds Edward, b. 17 Dec. 1886, m. (1) 23 Feb. 1909 in Washington, D.C., to Katheryn Elizabeth Eckel. She was b. 15 May 1888 in Cleveland, Ohio. After their divorce he m. (2) Catherine McCord. In 1948 he was living in Whiting, Ind.; his first wife was living in Erie. No chn. by either mrg.
8. Sarah Raser, b. 19 Oct. 1891, d. 4 Jan. 1924 in Erie, m. 19 June 1912 in Meadville, Pa., to Gust Askounes, as his second wife. He was in the candy business for some years. One ch.: Virginia, b. 20 Feb. 1913 in Erie, m. 12 Oct. 1929 in Erie to John Wilson Alloway, who was b. 26 Oct. 1909 in Erie.

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T-7. **HENRY ALFRED SCHROEDER** ("Harry") **RASER**, youngest child of Thomas Raser (T-1) and Elizabeth Knight Brown, was born in Lewisburg, Pa., on 16 December 1852. He was named after his uncle, the husband of Elizabeth's sister, Martha Brown (1). Harry spent his early youth in Waterford, Pa., where he attended public schools and Waterford Academy, paying his Academy tuition by performing janitorial work and other duties. In 1866 his widowed mother removed with her family to Erie, Pa., where Harry attended Erie Academy for one year. (2, 3)

In April 1867, at the age of 14, he began work as a messenger boy for the Western Union Telegraph Company, earning \$15 a month. He learned telegraphy and soon became a shipping clerk for the Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad at Newcastle, Pa. In 1869, when the Pennsylvania Company leased the Erie Railroad, he was employed by this new corporation. With one exception, he remained with the Pennsylvania Company until 1889, filling the positions of telegraph operator, and ticket and freight agent. In 1873-74 he worked as a

bookkeeper for the Shenango Furnace Company at West Middlesex, Pa. He resided at several places over these years, including Conneautville, Pa. (1875) and Warren, Ohio.

Harry Raser was married by Rev. D. C. Reed on 20 October 1875 to **MAY WEBB IDDINGS**, at her father's house in Greenfield, Pa. (4, 5). She was born 31 May 1854 in Warren, Ohio (6), the daughter of Dr. Warren Iddings and Laura Webb, and granddaughter of Thomas Denny Webb, who was a noted attorney and circuit judge of the Western Reserve (2). In 1880 Harry and May resided in West Middlesex, Pa., where Harry was then a railroad agent (7).

During a two-month vacation to San Francisco in 1889, Harry Raser was induced to settle in Tacoma, Washington. But he soon relocated to Seattle, which was rebuilding after a disastrous fire. He entered the loan and insurance business, becoming a partner in W. L. Gaggan & Co., which subsequently was reorganized as Goodwin, Raser & Fiskin.

In late July 1897 Harry was caught up in the Klondike Gold Rush. He sailed aboard the steamship *Mexico* to Skagway, and reached Dawson in mid-November after three months of treacherous mountain and Yukon River travel. Among other ventures he held a claim below Bonanza, but none was successful. In August 1899, accompanied by two others in a double-ended scow, he made the two-thousand mile trip down the Yukon River in twenty days. From Saint Michael he returned by ship to Seattle. Although some relatives thought "he made a lot of money" in the Klondike, this appears not to have been true (8).

Harry Raser resumed an insurance business in Seattle on his own, with offices in the Pioneer and Colman Buildings, and prospered with the growth of the city. He was active in civic and fraternal organizations, including the Masons and Sons of the American Revolution, and was active in Republican party politics. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1900 the Rasers were living in their owned home at 1230 Warren Avenue in Seattle (9). May Raser died in Seattle on 12 September 1919 (6) during a gall bladder operation (8). Harry and his daughter Carrie still resided on Warren Avenue in 1920 (10). Harry passed away in Seattle on 26 September 1926 (5, 6). The Rasers had three children, none of whom married.

Children (RASER), all born in Warren, Ohio (6):

1. Carrie Beth, b. 10 Jan. 1882, d. 17 July 1975 in Seattle, Wash. (11). In 1930 she still resided at 1230 Warren Ave., where she had taken in two lodgers and three boarders (12). In 1962 the author visited her and copied the Thomas Raser Bible Record (Apdx. X-8). By 1967 Carrie was wheel-chair confined, and living in the infirmary of Horizon House, University St., Seattle (13).
2. Laura, b. 22 Feb. 1887, d. 2 Sept. 1904 in Seattle, Wash. (6).
3. Charles Iddings, b. 15 May 1890, d. 2 July 1911 in Seattle, Wash. (6).

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T-8. **GILLIAT SCHROEDER HITCHCOCK**, son of Martha Heyl Raser (T-2) and Otto H. Hitchcock, was born in Erie, Pa., on 23 June 1873. At about age 15 he was sent to Arizona on the advice of the family doctor, who believed he had tuberculosis. He obtained employment as a horse wrangler on the John C. Slaughter Ranch near Douglas, Ariz., where his health soon improved. He subsequently worked as wrangler for the survey party installing international boundary markers along the Arizona border between Yuma and Nogales (where he resided in 1897). He later carried mail and worked as a cowboy in that area. (1)

About 1898 he joined the US Border Patrol as a line rider and customs inspector. He was wounded several times, and had two riders killed beside him in fights with smugglers. He left customs work to join his brother

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Charles installing mining machinery in Arizona, Nevada and Utah. He lived for a time in Salt Lake City, where he operated the first automobile taxi service.

While in Salt Lake City, Gilliat met **PEARL PERRIN** ("Dick") **HOFFMAN**; they were married in Ogden, Utah, on 12 March 1907. In 1910 they resided with her mother and two sisters at 850 East 2nd South in Salt Lake City; he was called a machinist (2). For a while Gilliat returned to mining equipment work in Utah and Nevada, but soon removed to Yuma, Arizona. There he worked as a carpenter, clerked in the Yuma Hardware Store, and served as town undertaker and deputy sheriff.

About 1915 the Hitchcocks removed to Beaumont, California, where Gilliat operated the city gas works. Pearl was still in Beaumont when, in September 1918, Gilliat registered for the World War I draft in Coos County, Oregon. He was then described as of medium height and build, with blue eyes and "slightly bald," residing at 140 Market Avenue, Marchfield, and working as a machinist for C. A. Smith Co. of Marchfield (3). That likely was a lumber mill at Coos Bay, where Gilliat is said to have worked during World War I. He subsequently worked for about two years for the Southern Pacific Railroad out of Los Angeles, maintaining railroad signal equipment. The Hitchcocks appear in Beaumont in the 1920 census, when Gilliat was working as an electrician (4). During 1920-22 he operated a garage and automotive repair shop in Beaumont, until a back injury forced him to sell the business.

In 1922 Gilliat loaded all the family possessions, some supplies and a milk goat, in a two-ton truck and began the drive over mountain and desert roads to Salt Lake City, Utah. After working as a handy man in the Salt Lake area for about a year, he obtained work as a maintenance mechanic in the shops of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. At the time of the 1930 census the Hitchcocks resided in their owned house at 773 South 7th West in Salt Lake City; Gilliat was listed as a machinist working in the railway shops (5). He retired from this work in 1936 to a farm in Hagerman, Idaho. After the death of his wife in 1942 he removed to Tucson, Ariz., and later to Blackfoot, Idaho, where he died 29 January 1953.

Mrs. Hitchcock was born 10 September 1876 in Bingham Canyon, Utah, the daughter of Francis ("Frank") Huffman/Hoffman and Charlotte Louise Higbee. Her father was a mining lawyer in Salt Lake City, and past commander of the Utah Department of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Her mother was a daughter of Isaac Higbee, one of the Mormon pioneers who settled in Utah. Isaac Higbee was the first Judge of Probate in the Utah valley, and built the first grist mill at Provo in 1850; his son was the first person buried in Provo, having been killed in the first of Utah's Indian Wars.

Mrs. Hitchcock attended Westminster College in Salt Lake City, and McCune School of Music. At the time of her marriage she worked as a secretary for her father. A devoted piano player, she gave piano lessons and always took her piano with her on family moves throughout the west. She died 14 October 1942 in Salt Lake City. Both she and her husband are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Salt Lake City.

Only child (HITCHCOCK), born in Golconda, Nevada (1):

+ 1. Ricardo Gilliat (T-14), b. 30 June 1908, d. 30 Dec. 2002, m. 5 Jan. 1931 Olive Muriel Blaylock.

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T-9. **ANNA KNIGHT** ("Annie") **VAUGHAN**, daughter of Mary Elizabeth Raser (T-3) and Robert Vincent Vaughan, was born 12 June 1866 in Kent, Ohio. She married **WALTER COLEMAN HUBBARD** in Ashtabula, Ohio, on 12 February 1885. (1, 2)

Walter Hubbard was born 13 June 1865 in Ohio, the son of Nehemiah Hubbard and Amelia Ann Hopkins, and a descendant of a pioneer family of Ashtabula (3). In the 1900 census he is listed as the manager of the

Raser Tannery; the Hubbards were then living in their owned house at 9 King Street, Ashtabula (4). In 1910 Walter was bookkeeper for a hide and leather company [the Ashtabula Hide & Leather Co.], while Anna was a dressmaker; they were then living in their owned house at 5 Drexel Street, Ashtabula (5). In the 1920 census Walter was listed as an accountant in a tannery; daughter Phebe's occupation was given as saleswoman, selling bonds—possibly for one of the Hubbard-family enterprises in Ashtabula (6). They were still on Drexel Street in 1930 when Walter was secretary of the hide and leather company (7).

The Hubbards were members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ashtabula. Mrs. Hubbard was an ardent flower raiser, growing a number of rare specimens from various parts of the world. Walter C. Hubbard died 3 October 1942 at their then home at 217 West 42nd Street; he was buried in Edgewood Cemetery, Ashtabula. At the time of his death he was treasurer of the tannery. His widow continued to live in Ashtabula until ten days before her death, when she moved to North Girard, Pa., to live with her daughter, Mrs. Buckley Hubbard. She died there on 29 November 1948, apparently while in good health; she was buried in Edgewood Cemetery (2). Several of their children also are buried in Edgewood Cemetery.

Children (HUBBARD), all born in Ashtabula, Ohio (1, 2, 3):

1. Bernard ("Bernie") Henry, b. 16 Dec. 1885, res. Chassell, Mich., in 1948 (2). He m. (1) in Flint, Mich., 10 (4?) Apr. 1904 Pearl Irene Greenman and had Ruth Irene, b. 15 Apr. 1905. Pearl d. 7 Dec. 1909; in the 1910 census dau. Ruth is shown living in her grandparents' house (5). Bernie m. (2) 2 May 1917 Tillie Kyllonen.
2. Robert Thomas, b. 12 Jan. 1887, d. 6 Apr. 1918, m. 14 Sept. 1908 Marguerite Zella Beer and had four chn.: Robert Vincent, b. 16 Apr. 1909; Dorothy, b. 16 July 1911; Dean Lester, b. 1 Jan. 1915; Annette Jean (twin), b. 1 Jan. 1915 (8\*).
3. Harriet Raser, b. 22 May 1891, d. 7 Nov. 1894 in Ashtabula.
4. Phebe Vaughan, b. 4 May 1899, d. 4 June 1962 in Erie, Pa., m. Buckley Hubbard (a third cousin, son of George Clark Hubbard and Mary Seymour), b. 4 Aug. 1900, d. 18 Aug. 1971, and had three chn.: Buckley Jr. (9\*), Mary ("Molly"), and John Amos. Phebe and Buckley are bur. in Erie Cem.
5. Walter Coleman, Jr., b. 9 Sept. 1901, d. 1937, m. (1) Marjorie Engle, b. 24 Sep. 1899 in Medina, Ohio, and had Walter Coleman III, b. 10 Jan. 1923, prob. in Lakewood, Ohio, d. 30 Dec. 2003 in Midland, Texas. Walter Coleman, Jr. m. (2) Ruth ——. (10)

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T-10. **HENRY THOMAS ("Harry") RASER**, son of George Bernard Raser (T-4) and Harriet Maus, was born in Erie, Pa., on 10 July 1870. He was educated at Storm King Academy, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., and DeVeaux Academy, Niagara Falls, N.Y.—both military schools (1). Harry Raser initially was employed by companies with which his father was associated, especially the M. A. Hanna & Co. interests in Erie, Pa., Buffalo, N.Y., and Ashtabula, Ohio—he worked for them in various capacities.

Harry Raser married **KATHARINE ELIZA HUBBARD** on 23 April 1895, in Ashtabula, Ohio; Rev. W. D. Stevens officiated. She was born 3 February 1870 in Ashtabula, the daughter of George Clark Hubbard and Elizabeth Selden Hubbard (2). Her parents, who were distant cousins, were descendants of Connecticut pioneers who came to Ashtabula in 1797 and 1801 as surveyors for the Connecticut Land Company, in which they had interests. The Rasers settled in Erie, Pa., where in 1900 Harry was superintendent at the M. A. Hanna iron ore dock and was living at 809 Cherry Street (3).

By 1903 the Rasers had removed to Ashtabula, Ohio, where they resided for some time at "The Elms," the mansion home of Harry's recently widowed mother. In 1909 his mother sold "The Elms" and both bought adjacent houses on Center Street, Ashtabula, where they both resided the rest of their lives (4, 5, 6).

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Harry Raser was mechanically inclined, and was an early "Automobilist"—he reputedly owned one of Northeastern Ohio's first automobiles. He designed an early gasoline engine which produced from eight to thirty horsepower, and founded the Raser Gasoline Engine Company to manufacture his engine, but the business soon failed in the face of competition from hundreds of new automobile engine manufacturers. At one time he operated an automobile service garage, and in 1906 operated a Rambler automobile dealership in Ashtabula. About 1906–7 he briefly resided again in Erie, Pa.

Prior to 1920 Harry began working for his Hubbard in-laws in their Ashtabula business enterprises. He eventually worked under his nephew Seymour Hubbard in The Ashtabula Corrugated Box Company. He remained there almost thirty years; in the later years he was involved in testing incoming and outgoing materials (6). He retired in the early 1950s; in 1956 the Hubbards sold the business to the Inland Container Company.

Harry Raser was an active hobbyist. "He loved to tinker with anything mechanical, and was keenly interested in models and miniatures, particularly railroads or boats or any toy which involved transference of power" (7). He also was interested in family history, and over many years collected information and acquired old documents from various relatives. In the 1915–20 period he became particularly active in this subject, drawing detailed charts of descendants and corresponding with relatives to expand his vital records data (see Appendix X-21 for an extended discussion). His enthusiasm was picked up by his son George, who took the opportunity to undertake family research in Philadelphia while attending college there in the early 1920s. George continued to expand the collection after his father's death; after George's death the collection went to his son Thomas McKim Raser (T-17) of Ashtabula.

The Rasers were members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ashtabula. Katharine Raser died on 3 April 1942 in her house at 97 (later renumbered 439) Center Street, and was buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Ashtabula. Harry Raser died there on 23 November 1956. A neighbor, shoveling deep snow to the Raser house, found his body on the front porch, the victim of a heart attack. He was buried in the family plot in Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Children (RASER) (1):

- + 1. Margaret Hubbard (T-15), b. 28 May 1896 in Erie, Pa., d. 4 July 1985; m. 26 Nov. 1924 Christian Francis Weller.
- 2. Mark, b. 10 Aug. 1898 in Erie, Pa.; d. 5 Aug. 1899 in Erie, Pa., of convulsions, bur. Chestnut Grove Cem., Ashtabula, Ohio.
- + 3. George Bernard III (T-16), b. 12 Sep. 1903 in Ashtabula, Ohio, d. 6 Dec. 1978, m. 18 Nov. 1948 Katherine Bell.

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T-11. **ELIZABETH KNIGHT** ("Bess", "Bessie") **RASER**, daughter of George Bernard Raser (T-4) and Harriet Maus, was born 18 November 1872 in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, where her father was involved in constructing a rail line. Soon afterwards her parents moved to Ashtabula, Ohio, where she spent much of the rest of her life. (1)

Elizabeth Raser was married 3 June 1897 to **JOHN LEMUEL WILSON** in Ashtabula, Ohio. He was born 5 August 1866 in Thompson, Ohio, the son of James K. and Celena Wilson. His father was a descendant of the "Great Yankee Migration," his forebears having come from Braintree, Mass., to the Western Reserve in the early 1800s. In 1900 the Wilsons resided in a rented house at 97 Center Street in Ashtabula (2); by 1910 they had purchased a house at 61 Division Street (3, 4).

Mr. Wilson early became interested in architecture; in the late 1880s he worked for the firm of Pond & Pond of Chicago, on plans of buildings for the Columbian Exposition of 1892. He subsequently was a partner

in the architectural firm of Thayer and Wilson of Painesville, Ohio, moving to Ashtabula in 1894 to extend the firm's business to that city. The firm flourished in both places, designing more than fifty buildings in Ashtabula. His works in Ashtabula included the Public Library on 44th Street, the Washington and Park Street school buildings, and many Main Street business blocks. He designed George B. Raser's mansion, "The Elms," in suburban Ashtabula. His last design was the club house of the Ashtabula Country Club—its plan was a gift to the club. He died 27 December 1923 of pleuro-pneumonia in his house on Division Street, and was buried in Ashtabula's Chestnut Grove Cemetery (5).

In 1928 Mrs. Wilson married **JAMES HENRY McGIFFERT** in Ashtabula. He was born 17 October 1866, the son of Rev. Joseph Nelson McGiffert, who was for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula. In 1889 James had married Winifred Dent; they had one child before her death in 1912 (6\*). In 1900 James formed a law partnership with A. T. Ullman which lasted 15 years; shortly afterwards he served as chairman of the State Tax Commission at Columbus, Ohio. At one time he served the City of Ashtabula as city solicitor. For a number of years prior to his retirement in 1926 he served as corporate attorney in the tax and trust department of The National City Bank in Cleveland. After their marriage the McGiffert's resided in Bess's house on Division Street (7), spending their summers in Ashtabula and winters in a house in Dunedin, Fla., acquired during Bess's first marriage. James McGiffert died of heart trouble 4 July 1938 in their then home at 531 West 44th Street, Ashtabula, and was buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery (8).

Elizabeth McGiffert sold her Florida house in the early 1940s and spent the rest of her life in Ashtabula, where she died 2 September 1963. Known to her family throughout life as "Aunt Bess," she had no children by either marriage. She was buried in the McGiffert plot in Chestnut Grove Cemetery, close to her parents.

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T-12. **GEORGE BERNARD RASER, Jr.**, son of George Bernard Raser (T-4) and Harriet Maus, was born 14 March 1883 in Ashtabula, Ohio. He grew up in Ashtabula, but attended The University School in Cleveland, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1901. In the early years of the 20th century he went on an extended trip west to Denver, and ultimately to California. (1)

Like his older brother, George developed an interest in gasoline engines. He may have had a substantial financial interest in the gasoline engine company which his brother founded about 1903 and operated until about 1906, when the enterprise failed.

George B. Raser married **SARAH ELIZABETH HUGHES** on 9 November 1911 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Usually known as Elizabeth (but "Bessie" in her youth), she was the daughter of Dr. Mason Beach Hughes and his wife Catharine M. Patterson, and was born 15 February 1868 (2) in Pennsylvania (3). By September 1918, when George registered for the World War I draft, they had settled at 5614 Walnut Street in Pittsburgh. George was then described as an engineer, working for Ingersoll Rand Co., and was of tall height, slender build, with blue eyes and light hair (4). They were still at the Walnut Street address at the time of the 1920 census, when George was listed as a wage-earning mechanical engineer (5).

The Rasers subsequently settled in Orangeville, Pa., north of Bloomsburg, where they resided much of the rest of their lives (6\*). Elizabeth Raser is recalled as being a school teacher, while George was then either a purchaser or retailer working for The Gorham Silver Company. When he was required to register for the World War II draft in April 1942, he was described as a retired salesman, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 142 pounds, with hazel eyes, gray hair, light complexion, and with "two broken joints 1st & 2nd fingers right hand" (7). He was a Mason, and after his death his Masonic regalia, badges and other items passed ultimately to his grandnephew, Thomas McKim Raser (8).

Elizabeth Raser died 2 November 1949; George died 10 June 1962 in Bloomsburg, Pa., from the effects of malnutrition (9). His estate was bequeathed equally to his niece Margaret Weller and nephew George B. Raser III. The Rasers, who had no children, are buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Orangeville, Pa., close to her parents and other Hughes family members.

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T-13. **RUTH MAUS RASER**, daughter of George Bernard Raser (T-4) and Harriet Maus, was born 4 February 1885 in Ashtabula, Ohio. She was married to **HARRY EDWARD METCALF** on 8 July 1908 in Ashtabula; he was born 25 January 1883, the son of George Metcalf and Lillie P. — of Saybrook, Ashtabula County, Ohio (1, 2).

Immediately after their marriage the Metcalfs moved to Pittsburgh, Pa. In 1910 they were residing at 5501 Elmer Street; Harry, a mechanical engineer, was working as a salesman of air compressors (3). In 1920–21 they lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where, according to tradition, Mr. Metcalf achieved substantial prosperity (4, 5). About 1922 the Metcalfs moved to Englewood, N.J., but by 1924 they resided in Plainfield, N.J., in their owned house at 700 Berkeley Avenue. They were there at the time of the 1930 census, when Harry was described as manager of an export business (6). By 1948 they were living in Branchville, N.J., at “Hem Manor.”

Mrs. Metcalf died of a stroke on 8 April 1953 in Branchville, after suffering a long illness. She was buried in the family plot in Newton, N.J. Harry Metcalf subsequently married, in St. Petersburg, Fla., on 1 February 1955, Mrs. Kathryn Widenor Reagle of that city. Afterwards they resided in Branchville.

Children (METCALF), all born in Pittsburgh, Pa. (1):

1. Leland Edward, b. 23 Aug. 1912, m. and had at least Leland Edward, Jr., b. 14 Aug. 1941.
2. Paul Harry, b. 7 Feb. 1915, d. 22 Nov. 1988 (7), m. 29 May 1948 Bettie Margaret Cooke (8).
3. Jane Virginia, b. 6 Jan. 1917, m. — Tallamy.

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T-14. **RICARDO GILLIAT** (“Dick”) **HITCHCOCK**, son of Gilliat S. Hitchcock (T-8) and Pearl P. Hoffman, was born 30 June 1908 in Golconda, Nevada, where his father was hoist engineer at the nearby Little Wonder Mine. He attended public schools in various states prior to graduating from West High School in Salt Lake City in 1927. Following a year of work at several jobs, he attended the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, Ill., and graduated in 1929. (1)

Returning to Salt Lake City, where he initially lived with his parents, he worked as an electrician’s helper with the Utah Power and Light Co. until mid-1931. During the height of the Depression he worked as a general farm laborer, and later as a commercial trucker for himself. During 1934–42 he was a contract milk hauler for Sego Milk Products Company, collecting milk over a 45-mile route in the vicinity of Buhl, Idaho.

During the war years 1942–43 he worked as a truck driver on three large construction projects: the Geneva Steel Plant in Provo, Utah, the Clearfield (Utah) Navy Base, and the Mountain Home (Idaho) Air Force Base. For a short time he also worked as a brakeman on the Union Pacific Railroad.

Between 1944–50 Dick Hitchcock worked as a mechanic in Buhl, Idaho, first for the Buhl Implement Company, and after 1946 for the Buhl Highway District. In 1950 he went to work for the US Post Office Department, first as a carrier, but from 1952 as a clerk in the Buhl post office, where he was employed until he retired in January 1973.

Mr. Hitchcock was active in community and church affairs all of his life. He worked in the Boy Scouts of America for almost twenty years, serving as Scoutmaster for three years and as District Commissioner. He received the Silver Beaver Award for his service. He also participated in first aid work, and for several years was an instructor for the American Red Cross in that subject. He was an active marimba player all of his life, having learned to play the instrument as a child.

His greatest interests were his family and service for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), in which he served as Ward Clerk for over 24 years. He also served in leadership roles in a wide variety of LDS church activities over the years. An active genealogist, he was in charge of the genealogical work of the membership of the Buhl First Ward and the Twin Falls (Idaho) Genealogical Society. He was a dedicated supporter of research work for the *Raser Genealogy* over the decades. He and wife Muriel served in the Boise Idaho Falls Temple, and served a full-time LDS mission in British Columbia, Canada. Ricardo served in the Sunday School Presidency at age 92. He was a compassionate husband, taking excellent care of Muriel in her aging years for as long as he could. He died 30 December 2002 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Dick Hitchcock married **OLIVE MURIEL BLAYLOCK** on 5 January 1931 in Logan, Utah. She was born in North Ogden, Utah, on 5 September 1907, the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Blaylock and Margaret Josephine Montgomery. Her father came to Utah with his parents in 1883, at the age of four years; he was an LDS missionary to Australia during 1899–1902. Her mother's parents were both of Mormon families who migrated early to Utah. Muriel Hitchcock was a Registered Nurse, having graduated from Dr. Groves Latter-day Saints Hospital Nursing School in Salt Lake City in 1930. She retired from Harral's Nursing Home in Buhl in May 1973. She also was an active genealogist. A kind and thoughtful mother and wife, she died on 1 January 2000 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Children (HITCHCOCK) (1):

1. Ralph Ricardo, m. Carol Deon McIntosh, chn.: Ronald Ralph, Denise, Andrea, Craig Kent, Cynthia, Rachelle.
2. Charles Kent, b. 5 Mar. 1934 in Buhl, Idaho, d. 21 Mar. 1962 in Encinitas, San Diego, Cal., m. 1957 Joy Carol Bradeen, chn.: Nola Kathleen, Rebecca Joy. Kent graduated from Northwestern Univ. Dental School, Chicago, in the top 10% of his class. He was serving in the Dental Corps of the US Marines at Camp Pendleton, Cal., at the time of his death. While attending Brigham Young Univ., prior to dental school, he was active in student government; he likewise was active in student affairs at Northwestern, and was Class Treasurer 1956–58. He served in leadership positions in the LDS church.
3. Karleen, m. Herbert Miller Hardy, chn. (HARDY): Grant Ricardo, Michael Kent, David Allen, Kaylene, Steven Lee, Richard LaMar.
4. Brenda Muriel, m. Wells LaMar Hoskin, chn. (HOSKIN): Curt LaMar, Lynette, Sheri Lynn, Janell, Brett David, Natalie LaNae, Brenda Marie.
5. Nelda Pearl, m. Kermit Gregory Morrison, chn. (MORRISON): Jo Lynn, Richard Kendall, Kai Gregory, Darwin Brian, Tanis, Mindy.
6. Margaret Anne, m. Dono Delin Peterson, chn. (PETERSON): Devin Delin, Ryan Kent, Steven Wade, Brad Michael.

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T-15. **MARGARET HUBBARD RASER**, daughter of Henry Thomas Raser (T-10) and Katharine Eliza Hubbard, was born 28 May 1896 in Erie, Pa. She grew up in Ashtabula, Ohio, where her parents had moved when she was a young child. Margaret graduated from Ashtabula High School in 1914, having been on the debating team. She attended Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, and then Simmons Secretarial College in Boston, Mass., from which she graduated (1). In 1920 she was working as a secretary in a college in Ashtabula (2).

Margaret Raser was married by Bishop Robert W. Peach of Newark, N.J., on 26 November 1924 to **CHRISTIAN FRANCIS** ("Chris", "Frank") **WELLER** of Pittsburgh, Pa., at the home of her aunt, Ruth M. Metcalf (T-13), in Plainfield, N.J. (3). After their marriage the Wellers resided in Pittsburgh; they appear in the 1930 census residing in a rented house in nearby Perrysville (4).

Chris Weller was born 18 February 1893. He served in the US Army in Europe in World War I, and was discharged as a sergeant. He served as a notary public in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Pa. He eventually became associated with Michael Late Benedum, "the Great Wildcatter," president and owner of the Benedum-Trees oil interests and numerous related enterprises in the United States and Columbia (5). By the time Benedum died in 1959, Chris Weller had risen from an accountant position in the Benedum-Trees company to being Mr. Benedum's personal secretary.

By the late 1940s the Wellers were residing in their owned house in Perrysville. In 1962 Chris Weller suffered a stroke; he died 17 August 1965 in Pittsburgh and was buried in Allegheny County Memorial Park.

Margaret Weller was active in the Pittsburgh-area chapter, American Red Cross, and in various social organizations. After the death of her husband she returned to Ashtabula, where she resided the rest of her life in the house formerly belonging to her aunt Bessie McGiffert (T-11) at 531 West 44th Street. In Ashtabula she was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. She died 4 July 1985 at the Ashtabula County Medical Center; her ashes were buried with her husband in Allegheny County Memorial Park (6). The Wellers had no children.

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T-16 **GEORGE BERNARD RASER III**, son of Henry Thomas Raser (T-10) and Katharine E. Hubbard, was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, on 12 September 1903. He was graduated in 1924 from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in Economics and received his B.S. degree. He received an A.M. degree from Harvard in 1929 and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1935. He did postgraduate work at the University of Breslau (Germany), 1926-27; University of Goettingen, 1927-28; University of Paris, 1931-32; and the University of Madrid, summer 1935. (1, 2)

After graduation in 1924 he worked for the Indiana Piston Ring Company, Hagerstown, Indiana, as assistant production manager, 1925-26; as a clerk for International Telephone & Telegraph Company, New York City, summer 1929; as an instructor of Romance Languages at Harvard University, 1932-35; instructor of French and Spanish at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., 1935-36; and assistant professor of French and Spanish, University of Rochester, 1936-41.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, George Raser was called to active duty in the US Navy in Washington, D.C., in his navy reserve rank of Lieutenant. In late 1942 he was sent to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to install telephone and cable censorship facilities, and in late 1944 to England for a course in Military Government. Soon after he was put in charge of a team to scour Germany for official naval records as an aid in demobilizing the German Navy, eventually being stationed in Berlin as Chief of the Naval Demobilization Division. Subsequently, in the rank of Commander, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by order of Gen. Eisenhower, Military Governor of Germany, "for his initiative and judgement in the formulation of plans for the orderly and thorough demobilization of German naval forces" (3).

During his post-war career in the regular navy he served as officer-in-charge, language division, of the US Naval Intelligence School, Washington, D.C., 1946-48; intelligence officer aboard the *USS Toledo* and *USS Fall River* 1947; naval attache, Bogota, Columbia, 1948-49; assistant naval attache, Havana, Cuba, 1949; and district intelligence officer, Seattle, Wash., 1950-52. He was assistant chief of staff for intelligence at Norfolk,

Virginia, 1952–54, at which time he participated in the founding of NATO—and after which he was promoted to Captain. He continued his intelligence role at Honolulu, 1954–55, at Kodiak, Alaska, 1955–58, and at Quarry Heights, Panama Canal Zone, 1958–61. He was district intelligence officer in Chicago, 1961–62, after which he retired from the Navy.

While in the Navy he met **KATHERINE BELL**, who was serving in the US Navy as a WAVE. They were married on 18 November 1948 in the Cathedral of St. Luke (Episcopal), at Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, while on route to his new assignment in Bogota. Miss Bell was born 17 October 1913 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the daughter of James McKim Bell and Ruth (Virden) Megee. Her father, who was a civil engineer and management consultant, was a high executive in the Brazilian Traction Co., lived 40-odd years in Brazil and was decorated by the Brazilian Government for his engineering achievements. Katherine Bell was educated in Rio de Janeiro and at the Mary Lyons School; for the five years prior to her marriage she resided in Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Navy Department. Katherine's first cousin, Ruth Bell, is the wife of the evangelist, Billy Graham. The Rasers were members of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

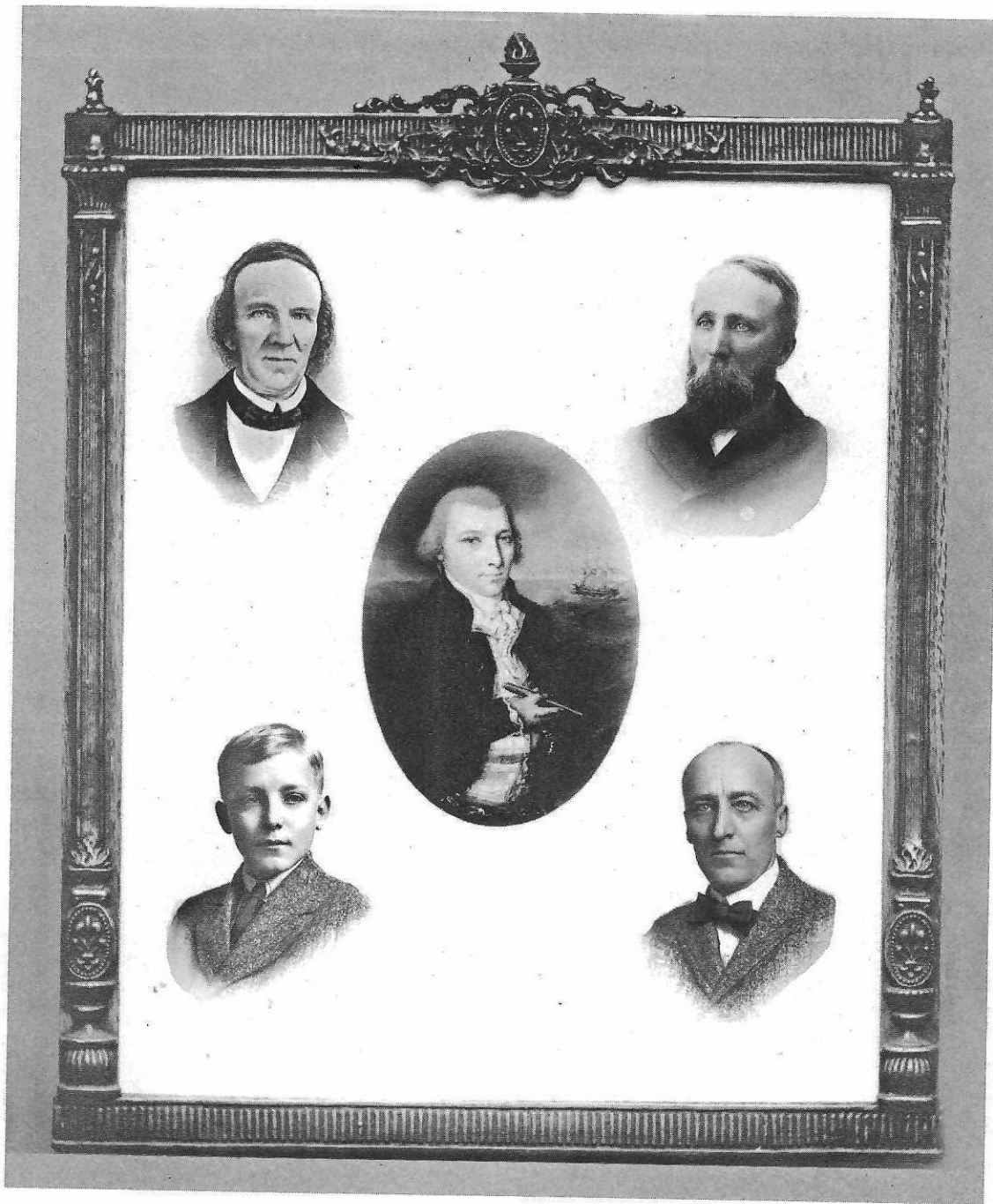
After George Raser retired from the Navy in 1962 the Rasers moved to Schenectady, New York, where he was employed as Professor of French and Spanish at Union College from 1962 until his final retirement in 1969. While in Schenectady the Rasers resided at 6 Douglas Road. In the summer of 1972 they moved to Pembroke, Maine, where they had purchased a summer home on a 50-acre farm in 1947. George died 6 December 1978 while hospitalized in Eastport, Maine. His widow died 7 July 1991 while hospitalized in Calais, Maine. Both were buried in the family plot in Chestnut Grove Cemetery, in Ashtabula, Ohio.

When a teenager George Raser became interested in his father's research into the history of the Raser family. While attending Wharton School in Philadelphia, 1919–24, he did significant research into public records of the family—his predecessors having mostly relied on family records and tradition. He continued to pursue seeking early history of the Rasers for the next two decades, as time permitted. Eventually he acquired a noteworthy collection of family records and heirlooms (see Appendices X-22 and X-23). His other interests included Balzaciana, the history of Paris, antiques, and popular music of the 1920s. He was the author of *Balzac's 'Le Message'* (1940), *Guide to Balzac's Paris* (1964), and *Heart of Balzac's Paris* (ca. 1966); he also wrote numerous reviews of books published in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and German.

Children (RASER) (1):

1. Thomas McKim. He acquired his father's genealogical collections in 1978, and during a visit in March 1994 allowed the author to examine the collection and freely make copies of the more-significant documents.
2. Timothy Bell, m. Melinda Sue McArdle McNott, chn.: Matthew Heyle [*sic*], Paul Benjamin.
3. Ruth Hubbard, m. Carey Harding Timbrell, chn. (TIMBRELL): Margaret Dohme, Clayton Carey, James Megee, George Bernard Raser.
4. John Baltas.

**Five Generations of the Thomas Raser Branch**



Framed copy of Harry Raser's Photo Montage

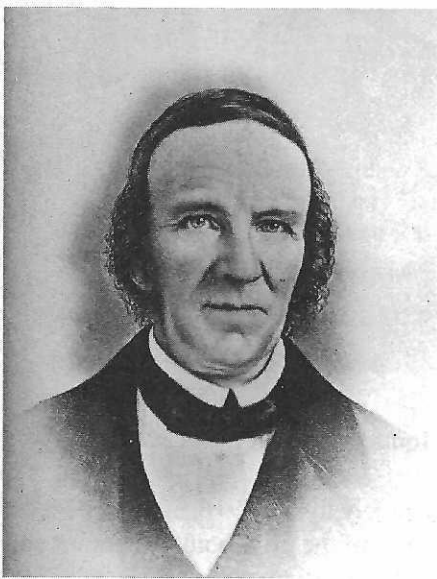
This photo montage was made by Henry T. ("Harry") Raser (T-10), possibly in late 1916, after he became seriously interested in family history. He subsequently distributed copies of the print both to Thomas and William Raser branch members during the process of soliciting information about their families. Surrounding the central painting of Capt. Bernard Raser (A-9) are shown, clockwise, Thomas Raser (T-1), George Bernard Raser (T-4), Henry Thomas Raser (T-10) and George Bernard Raser III (T-16). (P-97)

**Portraits of Thomas Raser and Family Members**

Thomas Raser (T-1) (1793–1857)  
mrd. (1) 1822 Amandilda Mary Pfister (1805–1823)  
mrd. (2) 1841 Elizabeth Knight Brown (1819–1894)



Daguerreotype of Thomas and Elizabeth Raser with son George Bernard, taken about 1850. (P-98)



(P-99)



(P-100)

Thomas and Elizabeth Raser in Later Years

**Elizabeth (Brown) Raser and Children**



(P-101)

Young George Bernard Raser  
(1845–1901)



(P-102)

Watercolor of Elizabeth Raser,  
probably made in the 1840s  
by John Heyl Raser.



(P-103)

Young Ann Eliza Raser  
(1851–1932)



(P-104)

Martha (Raser) Hitchcock  
(1842–1923)



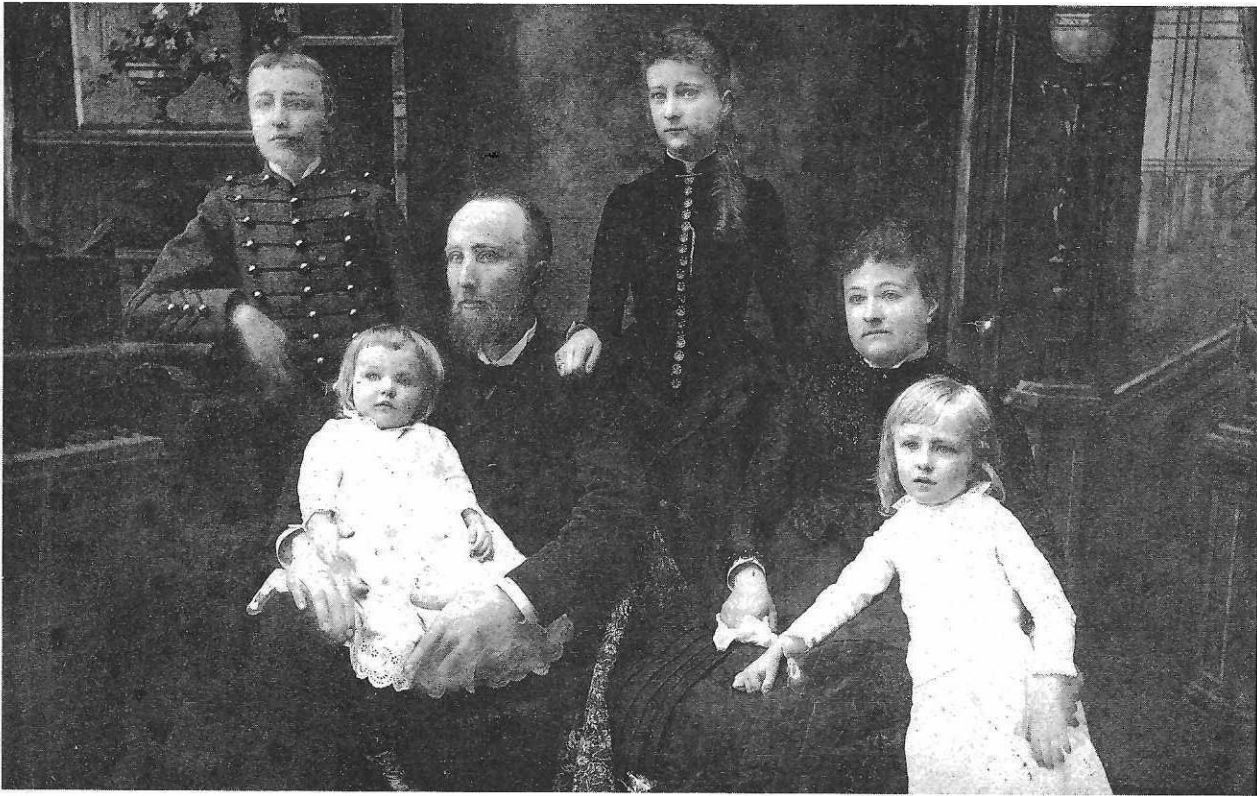
(P-105)

Elizabeth K. (Brown) Raser and Married Daughters

Surrounded by daughters (from left to right) Martha Heyl Hitchcock (T-2), Sarah Davis Belnap (T-5) and Ann Eliza Metzgar (T-6).

*The Thomas Raser Branch*

**George Bernard Raser (T-4) (1845–1901)  
mrd. 1869 Harriet Vance Maus (1848–1916)**



Family Portrait of George B. Raser Family, about 1888

Left to right: Henry Thomas (T-10) (b.1870), Ruth Maus (T-13) (b.1885), George B. (b. 1845), Elizabeth Knight (T-11) (b. 1872), Harriet (b. 1848), George B., Jr. (T-12) (b. 1883). (P-106)



(P-107)



(P-108)

George B. and Harriet Raser in Later Years

**Parents of Harriet V. (Maus) Raser,  
wife of George B. Raser (T-4)**

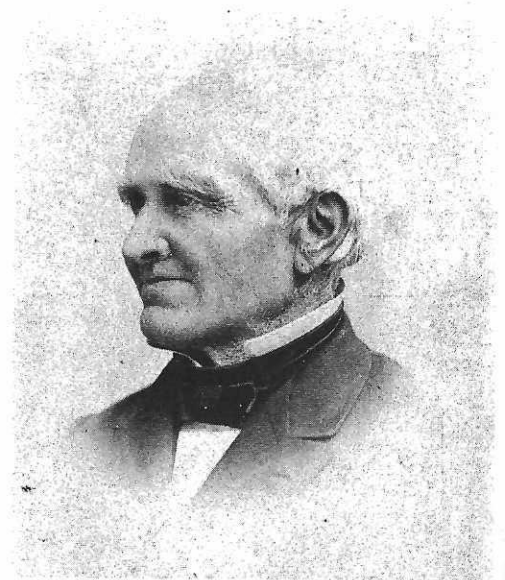


Lewis Henry and Elizabeth (Vance) Maus

Early daguerreotype, said to have been taken soon after their marriage in 1839. (P-109)



(P-110)

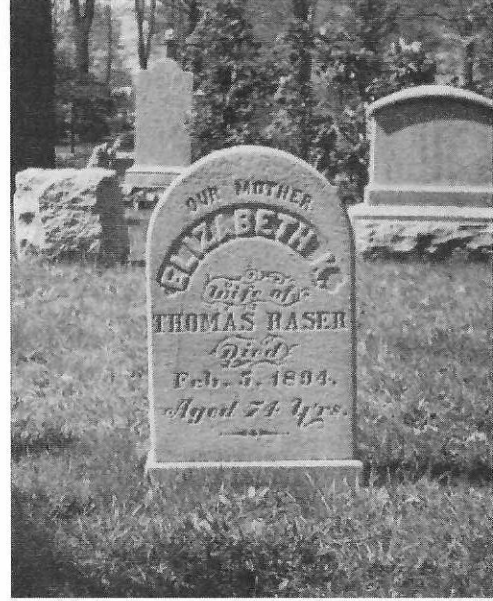
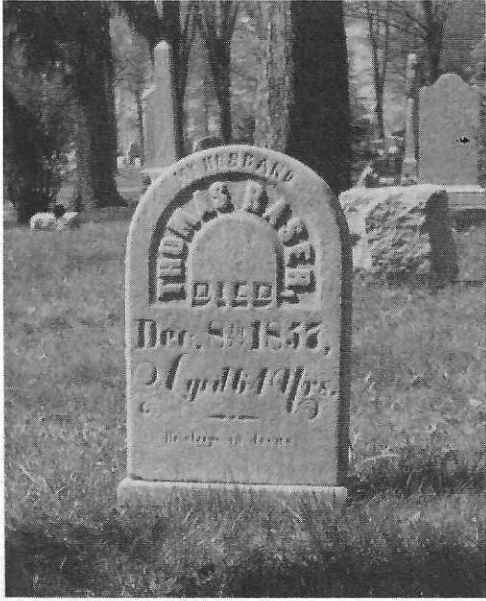


(P-111)

Elizabeth and Lewis Maus Late in Life

*The Thomas Raser Branch*

**Family Gravestones in Erie (Pa.) Cemetery**  
(Photographs by Edward J. Raser, 11 January 1948)



The remains of Thomas Raser were reinterred here from Waterford, Pa., in 1874. (P-112)



Mary (Raser) Vaughan and Son George M. (P-113)



Sarah D. (Raser) Belnap and Husband James E. (P-114)