

Melrose History Quilt

Interesting Observations and Facts

statistics

222 names on the quilt / information found on 188 of those

75 households in Melrose, 7 probably in Melrose (people moved just before or just after the quilt was made), 8 households elsewhere in the area

general observations

People hardly ever lived alone.

Many of the live-in servants were young Irish immigrants or older, widowed women.

One indication of someone in mental hospital.

Divorce was rare, though not unheard of.

People moved around New England a fair amount, but not many moved from other regions.

household structure

parents and young children

parents and young adult, unmarried children

families with widowed parent or widowed sibling

families with other relatives, eg. niece, nephew, brother

spinster sisters, or aunt and niece

families with live-in servant or servants (not only big families)

families with boarders (sometimes head of household was a widow)

boarders (sometimes families, not just single people)

example:

In 1900, Emiline Loveland was 72 years old, a widow. She lived at 4 E. Emerson St. with her son Charles, 49, a tailor's cutter, his wife Caroline, 41, and their son Ralph, 11. There were two boarders in the house: Louisa Kendall, 75, a widow, and Frances Bowker, 76, also a widow.

servants

The census records list 34 live-in servants in households on the quilt. 19 are immigrants: 1 from Scotland, 7 from Ireland, 9 from Canada, 2 from Sweden. 1 is black, from Alabama. 20 are in their 20's or younger, 9 are in their 30s and 40s, 4 are older and widowed.

immigrants

The census records list 41 immigrants - 25 from Canada, 16 from England, 1 from Sweden, 1 from Denmark, 1 from Germany.

families inter-connected

Anderson - Whidden

Angelina Whidden Anderson and George Whidden were brother and sister. Other members of both families are on the quilt.

Atwood - Churchill

Bessie Atwood married Walter Churchill in 1905

Coffin - French?

Coffin - Everson

Lucy Coffin was the mother of Georgina Everson.

Howes - Grady

Jennie Stone's (Mrs. W. H. Howes on the quilt) brother, Samuel Stone, married Mary Ellen Grady, sister to Alice and Margaret Grady who are on the quilt (or it might be Alice and her mother, whose name is also Margaret).

Jones - Selee

Walter De Haven Jones had a photo taken at the C. R. Selee Studio in Melrose, brother of Lucy Selee.

Jones - Worth

W. De Haven Jones married Gertrude Worth. Other members of both families are on the quilt.

Hannah Jones - Frank Damon

Frank Damon was executor of Hannah's will.

Schwartz - Anderson

Martha lived in Maine with her husband Charles when quilt was made. By 1910, she was widowed and living in Melrose with her sister Angelina Anderson and her brother-in-law.

Wiley - Smith

Lizzie Smith's parents were Sarah and David Wiley.

Pickles - John was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church from 1883-1885. During his tenure as pastor, he married three of the couples named on the quilt: George and Clara Fogg, Herbert and Christie Chandler, and Walter and Gertrude deHaven Jones.

Leonard - Joel was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, beginning in 1896. He married John Davis Pickles and his second wife Lucy Cora Selee, Herbert Weeks and Hattie Orcutt, and Walter and Bessie Churchill, whose names appear on the quilt.

professions — (f) indicates a woman in that profession

accountant

architect

bank clerk

blacksmith

boarding house (f)

bookkeeper (f)

bookkeeper, bank

bookkeeper at a leather business

brass finishing

carpenter - 2

carriage smith

city clerk

clergyman

clerk, grain dealer

clerk, patent medicines

clerk, patterns

clerk post office (f)

clerk, railroad office

clerk, store - 2

comm. trad. lecturer

composites

conductor, electric

court room clerk

crocheting (f)

doctor - 2, one is (f)

doctor (magnetic)

dressmaker (f)

druggist

dry goods - buyer - shipper - cashier (f) - clerk (f) - 2

electrician

farmer

furniture dealer - 3

glass awning builder

grocer - 3
hardware
"helper, express"
hotel keeper
housekeeper (f)
janitor
leather cutter
machinist - 2
manufacturer combs
manufacturer, ships compasses
matron of city poor farm (f)
millinery shop proprietor (f)
milliner (f)
motorman
moulder
music teacher (f)
Navy officer, retired
nurse, hospital (f)
painter
paperhanger - 3
plumbing
professor at a training school
real estate agent
reporter
rubber shoe maker - 2 one (f)
sailor
salesman
salesman, artists' materials
salesman, beef
salesman, boots
salesman, clothing
salesman, dry goods
salesman, lace curtains - 2
school teacher (f) - 7
seamstress (f)
servant (f) - 3
sewer inspector
shirt cutter / cutter tailor
stenographer (f) - 2
tailor
traveling salesman glass
variety store proprietor
vocal teacher - 2

stories of interest

Alice Grady is probably the most famous person named on the quilt. She is listed as a stenographer at the time the quilt was made. A family member expanded on her story by telling me the important fact that Alice worked for Louis Brandeis. Alice assumed leadership of Massachusetts Savings Bank Life Insurance when Brandeis was appointed to the Supreme Court. The organization's goal was to provide working-class families with affordable life insurance. They collaborated for decades, and Alice is mentioned in all biographies of Justice Brandeis. She was a very popular public figure.

Eleanor Blaisdell was a widow, 87 years old, and living with her son-in-law Rufus Leavitt, 77 years old, and his three daughters, presumably her granddaughters, who were 38, 32, and 22 years old.

In 1900, **Lena Boothby** was 22 years old and worked as a stenographer. She lived at 6 Grundy St. in her uncle's home. Her brother, 18 year old Asa Boothby lived there with her and worked as shipper at at dry good company. Their father had died in 1889, but their mother lived in Fall River, MA until her death in 1917. But maybe family finances had made it sensible for Lena and Asa to move to Melrose. Their uncle was George H. Stone, 34, a buyer at a dry goods company, and his wife Aurelia was 33. Lena married in 1901 and moved to Fall River, MA. She divorced and remarried in 1910.

Herbert and Christie Chandler lived at 144 Lebanon St. Herbert, 40 years old, was a paperhanger, and Christie, 49 years old, was the matron of the city poor farm. This was Herbert's first marriage and Christie's second. Five "inmates" of the poor farm, ages 84, 84, 75, 49, and 27, also lived with them.

There were several **Harriet Cobb's** living in the area around Melrose, none living in Melrose. One Harriet Cobb was 61 years old, a widow, and a physician. She lived at a boarding house in Cambridge run by her sisters Ellen Cowley and Mary LaCroix. There were 7 boarders there and 2 servants. One of the other boarders was also a woman doctor.

On the 1900 census, **George and Mary Emerson** were living at 118 Bellvue Ave. George was 75 years old and Mary was 42. They had married in 1895. It was his third marriage, her first. George's sister Eliza, 72 years old, also lived with them.

In 1900, Charles **Everson**, a carpenter, and his wife Georgina lived at 235 Porter St. They lived with their 5 year old daughter Lucy and Georgina's mother Lucy Coffin, 66 years old, whose name also appears on the quilt. Charles and Georgina's second daughter, Grace, was born on March 21 1897 and died on September 13, 1898. She lived between the 1880 and 1900 censuses, so the record of her short life on this quilt is very touching.

Sophonria Ford lived with her son Ralph Wilbur at 63 E. Foster. She was 48 years old, a

dressmaker. Ralph's half-sister Laura Ford, 12, also lived with them.

Jeremiah **Hanniford** married Abbie Ann Learned Trowbridge. Jeremiah was 69yo, it was his 3rd marriage. Abbie was 50yo, a housekeeper and it was her 2nd marriage.

Sarah Hicks (73) ran a boarding house. Two of her boarders are named on the quilt - **Anna Richardson** (72) and **Anna Gibson** (32) - and also her niece Emma Lane (50), who also lived with her.

H. West Leonard was 41yo, born in Iowa, an accountant chocolate business. He was the eldest son of Rev. Ralph Leonard and his first wife Ada. Rev. Leonard's second wife Mary and their children are also named on the quilt.

In 1900, **Mary Littlefield** was a 61 year old widow, living at 8 Avon St. with her son William, a widower, and his sons George 8 years old and Owen J., nearly one year old born 16 Jan 1899. I searched further, and found that Mary's husband was Joshua Owen Littlefield, making him the J.O. Littlefield on the quilt. He had just died as the quilt was being made, on May 1, 1898, and was buried in Melrose.

Belle Montgomery married Frederick Montgomery on 12 Mar, 1895. The both lived in Massachusetts, but were married in Maine where they both had been born.

Herbert Orcutt was newly married when the quilt was made. He was a clerk at a grain dealer. By 1910, he had become a wholesale grain merchant. By 1940 he was a salesman, retail clothing, and he and Hattie ran a boarding house with seven lodgers.

In 1910, the household of **Mark Smith**, his wife Lizzie, and their sons Preston and Mark, also included Mark's grandmother, mother, and sister, and Lizzie's mother.

The Pickles:

John, Elizabeth, and their daughter Helen Pickles were the first people I identified in my research. John was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church from 1883-1885. Elizabeth died in 1895, pretty certainly before the quilt was made. Perhaps she was named on the quilt as a memorial.

John married again, to Lucy Cora Selee, on November 10, 1897. He was 49; she was 36. It was her first marriage. They were married by Joel M. Leonard, whose name also appears on the quilt. They had two daughters, born in 1889 and 1900. Neither Lucy nor their two daughters are named on the quilt.

On the 1900 census, John was 52, living with his wife Lucia, 39, in Westfield. They lived with his daughter Helen, 15, and their daughters Katharine and Marion, one year and one month old. They had a boarder, Lucetta Hardy, 45, an immigrant from Canada and a dressmaker, and a servant, Flora McInnes, 30, also from Canada.

The long story that connects Eunice B. Phinney and Mary Ives Hersey and Sarah M. Lavender:

In 1870, Eunice B. Dyer was living in Melrose at the home of her sister, Mary Knowles Dyer Hersey and Mary's children, including Mary Ives Hersey, who was then 14 years old.

In 1876, Eunice married Erastus O. Phinney, a physician and Melrose resident. Erastus was 66, his second marriage; Eunice was 42, her first. (Erastus' first wife was Eliza Dyer, but I haven't found her in any of the trees.) Erastus died in 1883.

In 1900, we find Mary Ives Hersey, 45 years old, living with her uncle, Nehemiah Mayo Dyer, 61 years old, at 16 Vine St. He was a retired U.S. Navy captain. Interestingly, Mary is listed as head of household.

In 1910, Mary Ives Hersey, 57, and Eunice B. Phinney, now a widow and 75, are sharing that same house at 16 Vine St. Mary is listed as head of household and Eunice as partner. Nehemiah had died that same year.

Just to round out the story of these two women:

In 1912, Mary Ives Hersey married Abbott Davis. He was 56, his second marriage. She was 59, her first marriage. Same rhythm as Eunice's marriage!

In the meantime, one of Eunice Dyer Phinney's sisters and Mary Hersey's aunts, Sally Mayo Dyer had married John Lavender, a sea captain, in 1846. He died in 1878 in Haiti. In 1900, she is living very close to Mary Hersey and Nehemiah Mayo Dyer, her brother, at 4 Vine Street with her daughter Carrie and her family, the Sawtelle's, And at this point, and on the quilt, Sally is going by her given name of Sarah, Sarah M. Lavender.

So.

Eunice B. Dyer (Phinney), Mary Knowles Dyer (Hersey), Nehemiah M. Dyer, and Sally Mayo Dyer (Lavender) were four siblings out of the nine children of Henry Dyer and Sally Mayo Dyer. John D. and Elizabeth (nee Seavey) Pickles were the first people found in my research. John was an immigrant from Canada. John and Elizabeth married on June 14, 1877. Helen was their daughter, born in 1885. Elizabeth died on October 25, 1895, probably before the quilt was made. This is the only date that doesn't make sense with the other telltale dates on the quilt. Perhaps she was named on the quilt as a memorial.