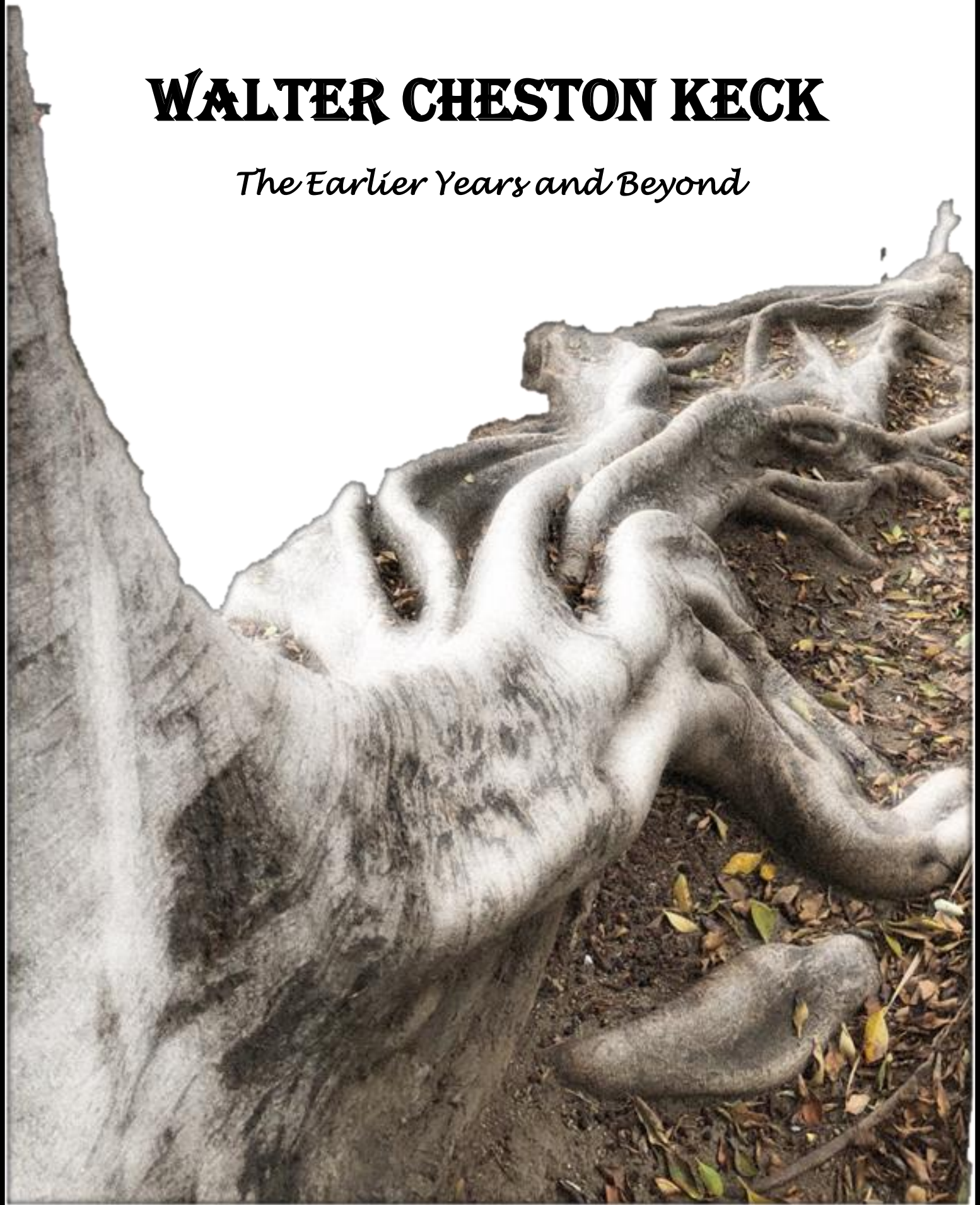


WALTER CHESTON KECK

The Earlier Years and Beyond



William Henry Harris Keck

- b: 22 May 1842 in Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky, USA
- m: 27 May 1866 in Bentonsport, Van Buren, Iowa, USA

- d: 16 Mar 1901 in Steffenville, Lewis, Missouri, USA; From description of Harriet Carr; however also states on military record 4/1/1901

Walter Cheston K. Keck

- b: 16 Sep 1869 in Palmyra, Marion County, Missouri, USA
- m: 10 Jul 1899 in Columbus, Kansas; By H.H. Radley, Probate Judge, advertized in Pittsburg Daily Headlights
- d: 14 Nov 1950 in Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA; Per obit in Joplin Herald

Anna Mae Harr

- b: 14 Nov 1847 in Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, USA
- d: 18 Aug 1938 in Palmyra, Marion County, Missouri, USA

John Keck

- b: 19 Oct 1800 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; Given on death certificate of John Quincy Adams Keck.
- m: 18 Sep 1823 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- d: 23 Feb 1876 in Gallatin, Daviess County, Missouri, USA; Age: 75

Elizabeth Margaret Tevis

- b: 11 Dec 1803 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- d: 26 Sep 1882 in Gallatin, Daviess, Missouri, USA; Age at Death: 78; Lile Family Cemetery with her son Daniel T. and Elizabeth Keck Poe

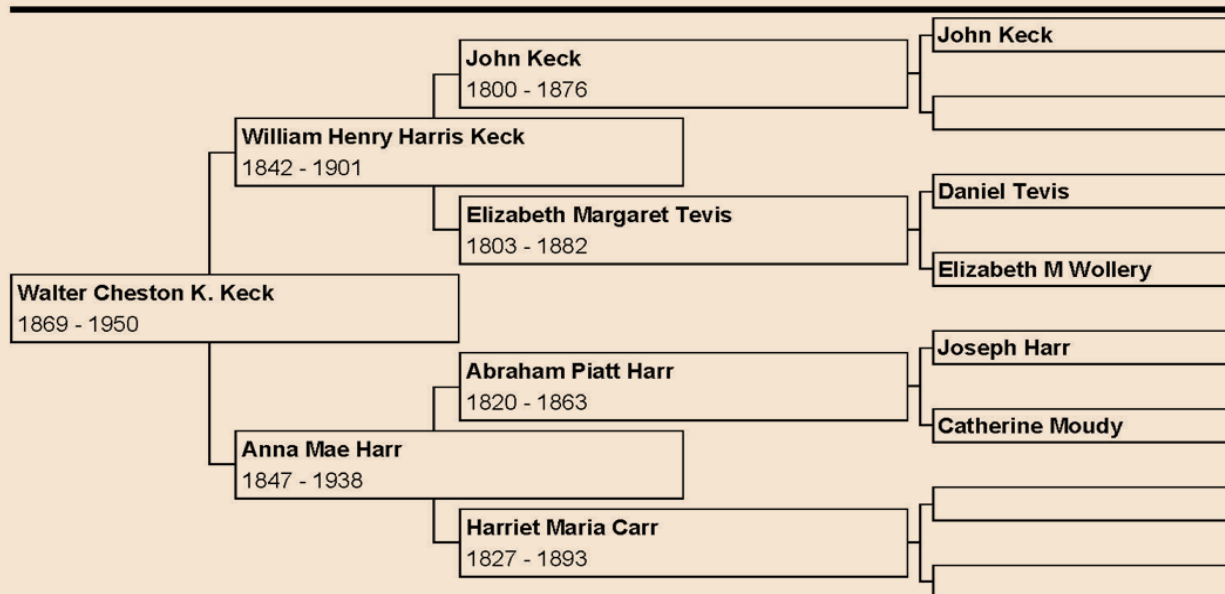
Abraham Piatt Harr

- b: 29 Feb 1820 in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, USA; Per Findagrave.com
- m: 16 Sep 1847 in Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, USA
- d: 21 May 1863 in Bentonsport, Van Buren, Iowa, USA; Age: 43

Harriet Maria Carr

- b: 10 Apr 1827 in Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, USA
- d: 14 Feb 1893 in Boise, Ada Co., Idaho, USA

Family Report for Walter Cheston K. Keck



Walter Cheston K. Keck
 Born: 16 Sep 1869
 Palmyra, Marion County, Missouri, USA
 Died: 14 Nov 1950
 Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA

Mary Sophrona Jane Harmon
 Born: 22 Dec 1868
 Centerville, Reynolds County, Missouri, USA
 Died: 17 Dec 1938
 Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA

Marriage: 10 Jul 1899 in Columbus, Kansas; By H.H. Radley, Probate Judge, advertized in Pittsburg Daily Headlights

Children:	Sex	Birth	Death
👧 Mary Alice Morrow	F	15 Sep 1885 Kansas, USA	18 Apr 1922 Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA
👦 James Ellis Morrow	M	25 Jan 1888 Midway, Crawford, Kansas, USA	29 Apr 1933 Greybull, Big Horn, Wyoming, USA
👧 Maude Ella May Morrow	F	02 May 1890 Georgia City, Jasper County, Missouri, USA	09 Oct 1912 Webb City, Jasper, Missouri, USA
👧 Wyoming Rosebud Keck	F	26 Oct 1899 Oranogo, Jasper, Missouri, USA	07 Feb 1996 McMinnville, Yamhill, Oregon, United States of America
👦 Stephan Henry Keck	M	21 Nov 1902 Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri, USA	25 Oct 1983 Redlands, San Bernardino, California, USA
👦 Everett Cheston Keck	M	30 Mar 1905 Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri, USA	24 Jun 1964 Miami, Ottawa, Oklahoma, USA
👦 Archibald Harmon Keck	M	28 May 1908 Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri, USA	01 Feb 1970 Villa Park, DuPage, Illinois, USA
👧 Dorothea Irene Keck	F	03 Mar 1910 Georgia City, Jasper County, Missouri, USA	30 Oct 1999 Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA
👧 Mable Blanchett Keck	F	09 Mar 1913 Georgia City, Jasper County, Missouri, USA	16 Jul 1913 Georgia City, Jasper County, Missouri, USA

The Twice Leaving of Palmyra

According to family stories at age 15 or so, Walter Cheston Keck (Walter)ⁱ left home. Walter left home because of his mother's, Anna Mae Harrⁱⁱ (Anna Mae), demand that he take care of the twins, Henry Conant Keck (Harry) and Hallie Frances Keck (Hallie)ⁱⁱⁱ, and her treatment of him as a servant and making him live in the servants' quarter. Also, it has been suggested that Anna Mae disliked Walter as he resembled his father, suggesting that she had strong feelings of love or hate for her spouse. These assertions do not seem consistent with the reports about Walter nor his actions as reported by newspapers.

Per the local papers^{iv}, Walter left the Keck's home in the Fabius area^v, Missouri, after March 9th but before March 23, 1888 which would have made him 18 years old. Another date to note, however, is that the twins, Hallie and Harry, were born on April 20, 1885. Walter was 15 at the time of their birth. With the birth of the twins, the family included William Henry Keck (Henry)^{viii}, Anna Mae, and five siblings^{viii}, including an adopted son, Ishmael Worth^{ix}. Being a full house, Walter may have been moved to the other or "servant" quarters to make room for the twins but there is no information on whether the family had servants or live-in-help. The 1870 and 1880 US Federal censuses do not show an unrelated person in the household.

It should be noted that the Harr-Keck-White families of this general area of Marion County, Missouri and Quincy, Illinois visited each other often. Anna Mae's sons, Clarence, Charles and Ed [until his move to Montana], Harry and her daughter, Hallie, are frequently mentioned as visiting each other. Likewise the Keck's cousins, whose parents were Eugene White and Sarah Keck, and also John Quincy Adams Keck from Gallatin, Missouri, are reported to attend reunions and general visits. There were also relatives just over the Missouri-Illinois-Kansas borders such as Leonidas Keck^x, brother of Henry Keck and possibly some in St. Cloud, Minnesota^{xi}. There were those

exceptional visits after long absences such as William Henry Keck's brother, Benjamin Franklin ("B.F.") Keck, who visited Henry after 22 years^{xii}. Benjamin had been living in Florida while the rest of his family was in Kansas. From the Harr-side, there were Anna Mae's brother, Charley from Anson, Clark County, Missouri and her half-sister, Emma Short (Hass) Henderson, the latter who met in person for the first time after 60 years on February 15, 1928.^{xiii} Henry Keck visited his sister, Sarah Elizabeth Keck White^{xiv}, in Shelby County, Missouri as well as his brother, Leonidas Keck and family^{xv} in Quincy, Adams, Illinois.

Anna Mae may have asked Walter to contribute to the keeping of the house which he resented. At the time of the birth of the twins, Walter was at the age when it would have been expected for him to contribute financially to the household. Anna Mae and the other siblings contributed to the needed income for the care and upkeep of the household. Preceding the twins' births, Henry and Anna Mae were the agents for selling Comprehensive and Popular History of the United States, from the Discovery of the American Continent to the present by Alexander H. Stephens.^{xvi} Other income for the family was Henry pension for a Civil War injury to his foot (\$4.00 per month)^{xvii}. Anna Mae also wrote for the "Palmyra Spectator" and other publications for 40 years before moving to Palmyra in 1919.^{xviii} She raised 70 chickens.^{xix} Clarence was busy farming and Charles and Ed, both younger brothers of Walter, were working too according to news reports in the "Marion County Herald" and "Palmyra Spectator". Wyoming Rosebud suggested that due to Walter's health, he was not forced to do outside chores from about age 10-18 and that the brothers did all the heavy outdoor work, like caring for the stock and hauling ice from the river in winter. Walter learned "... housekeeping', cooking, laundry, ironing and preserving food for winter, sewing his clothes and sox and had less trouble with his head aches, sore throats and infected ears...."

The 1880 Federal Census shows that Walter lived on the farm when the family lived in Union City.^{xx}

But the newspapers do not report on any type of work prior to his departure while providing such details on Clarence and other brothers.^{xxi} The only reports on Walter were his romantic endeavors, selling his spotted pony to ride the iron horse and seeking “lace earbobs”. There were other comments in the local news about Walters’s ears and nose.^{xxii} The article in Marion County Herald, March 23, 1888, mentions that Anna [Annie Harsell^{xxiii}] prepared the food for his trip and another unnamed young lady gave him a silk handkerchief.^{xxiv} Prior to leaving, the Marion County Herald, February 23, 1888, warned Walter of “Robert D.” courting one of Walter’s other girlfriends, Alice Vincent.^{xxv} Alice is the young woman who knitted him “toboggans” for his large ears.^{xxvi} There is also mentioned “Gustie” Witte^{xxvii}, who Walter thought was going to prepare his “vitals” for the trip.^{xxviii} While Walter may have been working, the reports suggest that he was a bit of a gad-about or at least more focused on the ladies than working.

Walter may also been asked to help with the twins due to some health issues of his parents and twins as well as other siblings. Anna Mae experienced some illness during the pregnancy^{xxix} and at the end of 1887.^{xxx} Hallie and Harry experienced some illnesses which were reported in the newspaper immediately prior to Walter’s departure.^{xxxi} And Henry had health issues of which he apparently complained often.^{xxxii} Clarence was prone to accidents^{xxxiii}. These conditions continued during Walter’s absences and upon his return. But, upon his return, Walter was sick too. Charles had a disabling illness that was prolonged and included diagnosis of diabetes^{xxxiv} and heart condition for which he eventually went to St. Mary’s Hospital in Quincy, Illinois to be cured^{xxxv}. According to Wyoming Rosebud Keck, Walter had health issues with his sinuses, tonsils and ears from childhood.

Walter may not have had hard feelings about home. He may have just been responding to the need for adventure and a better job market. Leaving home to travel (and find work or adventure) was not an unusual event for his family

members^{xxxvi} and the young men from his community in which he lived. He was most likely knowledgeable about the Colorado, Utah and other “western states” from his mother’s family, the Harts^{xxxvii} and Shorts. The local newspapers not only reported of his adventures but other young men, including George Schaller, Frank Taylor and Kirby Beckett. These young men reported back from Truckee California, Washington Territory, Oregon and Texas^{xxxviii}. His most likely departure date was erroneously reported to be of his big brother’s, Clarence Keck, lead who took off for Utah around March 9, 1888^{xxxix} after selling his “spotted pony” to ride the iron horse [train] to the West. And if newspaper accounts were a reflection of his actions, Walter initially sent home messages to his mother and family fairly regularly home about his experiences in Utah, Nevada, California and Butte, Montana. But he did not return as quickly as the others.



Newspaper articles support that he lived in Osage Lane near Palmyra and was considered attractive to the ladies.^{xi} As reported, Walter's girlfriends included Alice Vincent, Annie Harsell, "Gustie" or Augusta Charlotte Henrietta Witte. Alice prepared his vitals for the trip, another gave him a lace handkerchief and apparently others inquired often of his return. So how did these girlfriends do after the departure and lengthy adventure in the West? Despite promises that he might return before Christmas in 1888^{xii}, in a short time on May 30, 1889^{xiii} and April 1890^{xiiii} Walter did not return for eight years. Alice did not wait long to show her affection for another, Robbie Denise [or "Robert D"], at a picnic that summer.^{xliv} She had made a visit to her sister for the first time in many years around October 12, 1888.^{xlv} Alice moved from the community to live with her sister in Monroe City on February 14, 1889. She returned after the summer around October 10, 1889.^{xlvi} She eventually married a man from Monroe County, David S. Thomas of Paris, Missouri, on March 20, 1890. He was a manager in the telephone company.^{xlvii} Anna May Harsell stayed in the area but married on August 11, 1895 and had two children.^{xlviii} Gustie may have held the torch longer than all the others as she remained unmarried and continued her relationship with Anna Mae.^{xlix} She did move to Quincy, Illinois in 1892.^l However, she did not cut off her ties to the friends in Marion County.^{li} She remained unmarried until her death; however, her failure to marry may have been due more to her strong ties to her German family traditions and culture.

So where did Walter go and do? According to Amanda S. Harmon Bull Henderson^{lii}, he rode a coach line through the gold countries of California, worked in a saloon as a piano player and played cards for a living. He was a gambler. From newspaper accounts, he first went to Utah to visit an uncle (March 23, 1888 in Utah per telegram)^{liii},

who most probably was Henry Conant (1838-1905), husband of Camilla Harr (b. 1849-1891), who was Anna Mae's sister. Then he reported that he was in Winnemucca, Nevada (January 18, 1889 in Winnemucca, Nevada)^{liv} Truckee (February 13, 1890) where there was snow and "deer" not "dears",^{lv} San Francisco, California (May 30, 1889 in California)^{lvi} and, just before his return, Butte, Montana (September 3, 1896)^{lvii}. He had his hand crushed and was in the hospital for two months in San Francisco in September 1888.^{lviii} Family stories suggest other locations, including Colorado. Wyoming Rosebud Keck provided the following description of this travels in a letter to her sister, Dorothea Irene Keck on November 5, 1985:

"...[w]hen he was 18 or so he wanted to go to Wash [sic] the state of Washington^{lix}, to visit his uncle, but when he arrived, the Uncle he wanted to see – had sold his chicken ranch and moved, leaving no new add-[ress] so he got work in resturants (sic) or hotells [sic] to support him, he was a good cook or dish washer – so he got by till fall. Then when he heard that there was a job he could do at a logging camp in the mt, near town he was in, he walked up there to see. Of course he had wanted to do a mans work, like lugging, (done by horse power). He was hired to do stable work caring for the teams and cleaning barnes(sic), but he became ill and was in the cabins where other men slept, but he couldn't work out side in snow and hi winds, on a mt., top- So the boss put him to help the Chinese cook, a china man in middle life who was cook for the crew of woods men – but he and Pop slept behind the big double (coal and wood) cook stove and Pop helped him keep free of colds and pain. In the spring he was outside to work again, for over two years he worked there and he always said the "pin trees and their good smell cured his head trouble, so he could work out in bad weather like a man."

Walter came home sick^{lx}. *Family stories tell of him becoming very sick and being helped by a Chinese cook during his travels.* The newspapers report that he had a bad cough and looked poorly before his trip to Florida (May 4, 1897)^{lxi}. But apparently

his trip to Florida ended him up in Ohio. He return from Ohio looking better than when he left in February as reported on September 26, 1897.^{lxii}

But apparently his attempts to get work locally did not stick. He went to Quincy, Illinois around September 24, 1896 to work with a cousin, John White, who was an auto inspector.^{lxiii} Walter is listed in the Quincy directory in 1898 as a waiter at the Missouri House, which is an establishment at which his father worked. He also worked for Beas Roberts of Emmerson in March 1898. Beas Roberts seemed to have a reputation of roving around like an “old tom turkey”.^{lxiv} Perhaps Walter and Beas were “birds of a feather”. As such, Walter may have accompanied Beas Roberts to Indian Country in October 1898.^{lxv} No matter the exact month of his departure, Walter left Palmyra once again not to return for 30 years.

Mining, Marriage and Family Life:

Family stories do fill out Walter’s whereabouts as well as documented events such as his marriage to Mary Saphronia Jane Harmon^{lxvi}, the birth of their children, and news reports of their lives in Quapaw, Oklahoma.

Walter left for the Missouri-Kansas mining area (Tri-state area) to find work after March 1898. *Family stories suggest that Walter was attracted to Tri-state area either for investment opportunities in mining or work in the mining business.* Cities mentioned in family stores are Waco and Web City, Missouri and Galena, Kansas. These cities fall within what is referred to as the tri-state mining district. In 1898, Galena was referred to as the “Queen of the Missouri-Kansas mining belt due to the level of production over its existence as a mining center.”^{lxvii} Reference is also made to the McCullough mine in Center City. 1897 was referred to the greatest in the history of the Missouri-Kansas lead and zinc mining area with production of zinc being 365, 533, 931 pounds and lead, 62, 5_9,400 pounds for a value of nearly \$5,000,000 [approximately \$137,000,000 in 2015 dollars].^{lxviii} One reporter observed that the likelihood of

success of one’s investment were greater in this area than the Alaska gold fields due to higher returns and better weather.^{lxix} This reporter even referred to this area as “The Great Missouri-Kansas Klondike.”^{lxx} This sentiment was echoed by local papers.^{lxxi}



One family story^{lxxii} tells of how in 1907 Walter sold lots in Webb City^{lxxiii} to pay for medical expenses for Stephen Henry^{lxxiv} and Everett Cheston, who had had diphtheria. This story suggests that Walter did understand that money could be made by owning and leasing tracts to the companies that mined lead and zinc in the area. However, considering his attempts to find employment upon his return from his eight year absence, it is more probable that he went to the tri-state mining area to find work. As advertised he probably found this area much more attractive than Alaska and areas he had already explored during his wanderings.

Family story is that he worked building mines in Waco, Missouri and Galena, Kansas. In 1907, Walter had his hand crushed between the cog wells of the sludge machine at Oronogo (previously named Minersville). August 20-23, 1907 visited Mrs. Exendine in Galena, Kansas.^{lxxv}

The family story is that Walter first met Saphronia through Nancy and Francis Marion Exendine in Galena, Kansas. Nancy Exendine had boarders of which Walter was one. Francis told Walter of his “niece”, Saphronia. Another story is that Walter checked into a hotel in Webb City where Saphronia worked. When Walter saw Saphronia he told his friend that she was the woman he was going to marry. His friend expressed his surprise as they had

just got to town. Walter confirmed that he had not previously met Saphronia. He asked Saphronia if she had a boyfriend. Saphronia replied yes. Walter said to get rid of him as he was going to court her. Francis Marion Exendine and his wife lived in Galena, Kansas^{lxxvi}. Saphronia, if the wife that is referred to in the prison records of "Thomas Morrow," also lived in Galena in 1894. William Thomas Morrow (Thomas)^{lxxvii} was the first husband of Saphronia.

Assuming that Walter arrived in 1898^{lxxviii}, Saphronia was possibly still married to Thomas. A specific record of divorce for Saphronia and Thomas has not been located despite a search of local court records in Crawford County, Kansas. *One family story was that Saphronia got an automatic divorce from Thomas Morrow because he was convicted of a crime. While in some of the relevant states grounds for divorce included the spouse being convicted of a felony and no further collaboration was needed, the family stories of Thomas death or "automatic divorce" suggesting that no legal action was required is incorrect.*

Thomas may have returned to Galena after his release from prison on February 28 1898. On August 23, 1898, he may have committed an attack on Saphronia and her sister, Amaranda or Randy Harmon Smith^{lxxix}, causing him to be re-incarcerated.^{lxxx} Following that incarceration, he may have been convicted of a rape of a 15 year old girl and imprisoned once again being released on February 1, 1906^{lxxxii}. *Family stories vary but are consisted with Saphronia's comment to her granddaughter, Amanda, that Thomas had a sad and wasted life. The family stories tell of his committing crimes ranging from murder and rape. He abused Saphronia by bringing home other women, sleeping with them and then leaving with all her money and assets that she had been able to build up during his absences.*

One family story tells of a knife fight between a man and Saphronia while living with her sister, Amaranda Harmon. As such, Thomas may have been the "Tom Morrow" who attacked his wife and

sister-in-law on August 23, 1898^{lxxxii} It would be helpful to obtain the criminal records of Jasper County (Joplin) in 1898 to determine if the "Tom Morrow" returned to Missouri by extradition was Thomas.

There was a story of Thomas raping a young girl. Sheriff (Isaac) Horton and Deputy Sheriff Campbell from Dade County arrested "Tom Morrow" in Webb City for the rape of the Sheriff's wife's sister in Greenfield, Dade County, Missouri on or about February 18, 1904. The prison records state that this person was "W. T. Morrow." The early report of arrest of a "Tom Morrow" with Jesse Smith was for the stealing of mules.^{lxxxiii}

Walter was married to Saphronia on July 10, 1899 by H.H. Radly, Probate Judge, both living in Asbury, "Kansas".^{lxxxiv} The affidavit of the parties being able to marry is signed by Walter stating that he is 29 years old and that Saphronia Morrow [spelling is "Sephrona"] was 26 years old. The actual age of Saphronia would have been closer to 30.

Wyoming Rosebud Keck was born on October 16, 1899 in Oronogo^{lxxxv}, Jasper, Missouri. This suggests that the marriage was a formality to an ongoing commitment by the parents. Perhaps the divorce postponed the official marriage. However "quickie divorces" were possible at this time, with one convenient state or territory being Indian Territory or Oklahoma.^{lxxxvi} *One family story tells of how Saphronia got an "automatic" divorce because of Thomas' conviction or imprisonment. While one ground for divorce was a conviction of a felony in Indian Territory, the divorce was not "automatic" as the filing spouse had to establish residence for the required period of time.^{lxxxvii} It might also be that Saphronia believed that Thomas Morrow was dead and then his return dispelled that idea. A family story relates how the sister of Thomas Morrow kept in touch with Saphronia after she married Walter. At some point in time both the sister, Julie, and her mother^{lxxxviii} received news that he had died. Subsequent they were informed that he was not dead. In the 1930 US Federal Census, however, the couple reports they were married 29*

years (1901) suggesting that they either remarried or assumed the latter date for convenience.

Walter and Saphronia had the following children on dates in towns of Missouri as indicated.

Name	Birth	Town	County
Wyoming Rosebud	October 16, 1899	Oronogo	Jasper
Stephan Henry	November 21, 1902	Oronogo	Jasper
Everett Cheston	March 30, 1905	Oronogo	Jasper
Archibald Harmon	May 38, 1908	Oronogo	Jasper
Dorothea Irene	March 3, 1910	Georgia City	Jasper
Mabel Blanchett	March 9, 1913	Georgia City	Jasper

Family stories tell of how Walter and Saphronia moved to the James Ellis' farm to help James Ellis and Patsy Jane during their senior years.

From documents it appears that the move to the Harmon farm may have occurred at several times or while the Keck family maintained residence in other locations (i.e. Waco, Oronogo and Opolis). Walter is listed in the cities' directories as follows:

- 1902 in Waco
- 1903 Oronogo^{lxxxix}
- 1903 Oronogo
- 1909 Oronogo^{xc}
- 1910 Oronogo
- 1912 Opolis, living on Route 1. ^{xcii}

It appears that the whole Keck family was living in Oronoco or Oronogo, Missouri at various times from at least October 1899 to 1910^{xcii} based upon the birthplace and dates of their children and published events. However it is noted that on June 4, 1900, the Keck Family is living in a separate house from James Ellis in Georgia City on the US Federal Census for 1900. In the 1900 Federal Census, "Georgia City" was included in the area called "Jasper Township, Jasper County, Missouri

rather than as a specific area. On June 4, 1900, according to the 1900 US Federal Census, Walter and Saphronia ("Phrona") were renting a house in Georgia City, neighbors to John C. Quinn, James Ellis Harmon and other identified residence of "Georgia City"^{xciii}. In addition to Wyoming ("Wioma"), the three Morrow children were living in the household. The three Morrow children were Mary Alice Morrow (Mary Alice), Maude Ella Mae Morrow (Maude) and James Elis Morrow (James Morrow). James Willis Harmon (James Willis), son of William Harmon and husband of Maud, was living with James Ellis Harmon^{xciv}. Walter is a "Day laborer." In August 1907, Walter once again has his hand crushed in the cog wheels of the sludge machines at the Oronogo and is reported in connection with his visit to Ellis Harmon, his father in law.^{xcv}

By April 29, 1910, Walter, Saphrona, "Wyoma", Steve H., Evert E, Harmon, "Dortha", and James Ellis Harmon were living together in Georgia City, Jasper County. It appears that Georgia City was referred to as "Opolis" in the 1910 Joplin City Directory as J.E. Harmon and J.C. Guinn are also listed on Route 1. Walter is listed as a "farmer" for "general farming." All adults are shown knowing how to read and write. Walter's and James Ellis respective parents are listed as unknown ("U.K.") This is the second census on which James Ellis Harmon is listed as a "mulatto,"^{xcvi} and the only one for Saphronia. All other members of the family are also listed as such.^{xcvii}

Further documents supporting the residence in Oronoco or Oronogo is the marriage certificate of Maude to James Willis Harmon (2/14/1907) wherein Saphrona gave consent to Maude marrying underage. She gives her residence as Oronoco. James Willis worked with Walter in the mines at Oronoco and is shown in a photo with him at the mining site. Walter and Saphrona were still living in Oronogo on August 14, 1907 when he and Saphrona visited James Ellis.^{xcviii}

Family stories set the date of the move to Quapaw, Oklahoma as between 1914 and October 1918. The

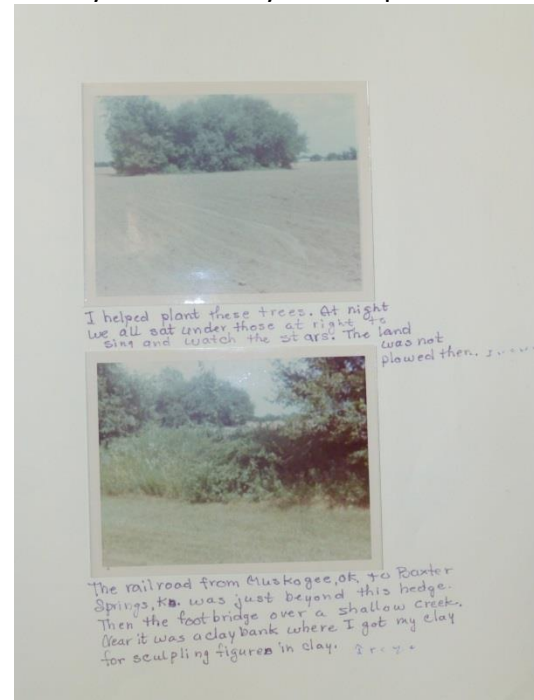
later date is supported by other documents. On October 6, 1914, Walter stated on James Ellis Harmon's death certificate that he lived in Opolis, Missouri.^{xcix} Likewise, Saphronia stated that she was a resident of Opolis on February 8, 1916 on the death certificate of James Willis Harmon. Saphrona's obituary in 1938 states that she had lived in Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma for 20 years, placing their arrival about 1918^c and sometime before July 26, 1918 when Wyoming Rosebud's announcement of obtaining a marriage license was made in the Miami District Daily News.

Opolis sat on the state line with the town split between Kansas and Missouri. It was promoted in 1901 as a great place to buy cheap land with potential of coal and lead mining. It had a population of 300 and supported "...depot, express office, post office, seven stores, lumberyard, three blacksmith shops, harness shop, mill, two church building, two school houses, hotel, livery and feed stable, opera house, picture gallery, two barber shops, restaurant, shoe shop, drug store and two doctors."^{ci}

The family stories are that Saphrona packed up a wagon and arranged to have the house in which they lived moved^{cii} and drove to Oklahoma, meeting Walter in the mining community. Wyoming Rosebud Harmon Casteel reported that the Keck family brought household furniture, garden products, barrel of sauerkraut, barrel of pickles and canned and quart jars of food. Dorothea Irene Keck Snyder sat in the back of the wagon with the chickens, one of the hens laying an egg on the way. Wyoming Rosebud Keck Casteel reported that at first they lived in a tent and box car near the railroad track. Irene identified the location of the tracks during a visit to Quapaw as being the tracks that ran from Muskogee to Baxter Springs. The Keck settled on leased Indian land belonging to the Whitebird family^{ciii}.

When Eufrona Ann Snyder O'Neill visited Quapaw with her mother, Irene, and father Thad Allen Snyder^{civ} in 1977, she saw the evidence of the Keck's "landscaping", a circle of trees which Irene

pointed out as having been planted by the Keck family. She wrote later "I helped plant these trees. At night we sat under those at the right [referring to photo] to sing and watch the stars. The land was not ploughed then." When Eufrona revisited Quapaw in subsequent years, the trees had been removed and plowed as if for planting. The area is now part of a Project Wastewater Treatment Facility Collection System Improvement.



According to the local papers, the Keck family settled into daily life with Walter's children attending school, participating in social events, getting engaged and married, and children returning home to visit Walter and Saphronia. Family stories tell of rescuing animals from bullies, fixing the house, social, church and school events, meeting their spouses, visiting relatives, birthdays, reunions and other daily life stories. Newspapers told of Walter repairing the Union Church to the east of Quapaw on March 8, 1928^{cv}.

By January 28, 1920, Walter C., Saphrona Jane, Stephan H., Evert __, Harmon A, Irene D. and Amanda Harmon were listed as living in Quapaw on the 1920 US Federal Census. Walter lists his parents' birthplaces as "U.S." He is listed as a "farmer" and his two older sons as "teamsters" with their own team. Walter also states that he

owns the property on which they were living. As of April 14, 1930, Walter, C, "Mary S", Irene, Amanda Harmon and "Edna Thomas"^{cxvi} were living in District 31, Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma. All except Walter's race is shown as Indian. Saphrona's father is listed as Mixed blood; her mother, as Cherokee. Irene, Amanda and Edna, their respective mother's place of birth shows first "Missouri" with an additional handwritten remark "Mixed". For Edna, her birthplace was Washington but also with the hand notation on her mother's birthplace of "mixed". Walter is shown as renting the farm property on which the family dwelt. On this census Saphrona does state that her first marriage was at age 15. Walter states that it is his first marriage of 29 years (say 1901). This misstates the actual marriage date of Walter and Saphrona (1899).

There is a family story that Saphrona registered with the tribe. An affidavit of Ruby Stogsdill relays information from John T., her husband whose mother was Alice A. Harmon sister of Saphronia, who overhead Saphronia state that she had filed papers through an attorney, Scott Thompson [A. Scott Thompson] or Dick DeVillars in either Quapaw or the Miami Agency.

While both A. Scott Thomson and Dick DeVillars were attorneys in the Quapaw are, no documentation to support this story other than the statement by family members has been found.^{cxvii} Other members of the extended family did attempt to file for benefits under the Eastern Cherokee tribe but there is no reference to Mary Saphrona Jane Harmon Morrow or Keck^{cxviii}. Perhaps Saphrona was referring to the 1930 Federal Census.

On or about December 22, 1926, Walter "unexpectedly" visited Anna Mae in Palymra and then his brothers in Lewistown and Nelsonville.^{cxix} It was purportedly the first visit with Anna Mae but definitely not the first contact with his siblings. Wyoming Rosebud Keck Castille relayed a story of Clarence Albert Keck visiting the family when she was 16 years old.^{cx} This visit then would have been

in Oronoco or Georgia City in about 1915.^{cxii} She also recalled a visit by Clarence Arthur Keck and his wife Eugenia White around 1911 while the Keck family lived in Georgia City, Jasper, Missouri. As such there may have been two visits. Some visits were documented by group photographs.

Wyoming Rosebud Keck Casteel visited Anna Mae in about 1924. Dorothea Irene Keck Snyder visited her grandmother and Aunt Hallie on or about December 25, 1935^{cxiii}. Harry Wiseman, Hallie Keck's son by a previous marriage, had visited the Kecks in the summer ending on or about August 28th ^{cxiii} before Irene's visit. On the week ending January 1, 1930, Walter with Saphrona and "son" visited again when Anna Mae was ill. They drove 410 miles in 13 ½ hours only stopping twice.^{cxiv} Anna Mae had been confined to bed for several weeks.^{cxv} Anna Mae was quite ill resulting in her daughter Hallie Keck leaving job at the Palmyra Telephone office to attend to her.^{cxvi} Yet despite a heart condition that confined Anna Mae to bed for six months, Anna Mae did improve to live for another eight years.^{cxvii} Walter did not attend the funeral^{cxviii}.

Perhaps Anna Mae's declining health preceding her death on August 18, 1938 and burial on August 31, 1938 explains why there were no Marion County Keck relatives at the Keck Reunion on July 3, 1938 as listed in the local newspaper^{cxix}



Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Keck
Patty Fulton of Weir City, Kansas

Mrs. John Mathis and family of Weir City, Kansas
 Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Harmon of Vinta, Oklahoma
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stogsdill and family of Joplin, Missouri
 Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Stogsdill and son of Joplin, Missouri
 Mrs. And Mrs. C.A. Alderson and family of Joplin, Missouri
 A.H. Keck of Joplin, Missouri
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy Malicoat of Los Angeles, California
 Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Harmon of Yale, Oklahoma
 Miss Irene Keck of Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Harmon and family of Arkansas City, Kansas

Shortly after this reunion and a birthday celebrations for both Walter and Saphrona on September 18th^{cxx}, Saphrona died on December 17, 1938 at 2:10 AM. *The family story was that she had sensed her death was near and requested that the family members gather at the home on the 16th. In her last moments, she saw a vision of Jesus and cried out "Jesus, sweet Jesus." After her death, Walter sold the house in which they lived. He then moved into a smaller house^{cxxi} which was moved near Irene and Allen. He continued to live there until sometime after 1940 and before 1945 when Walter married Margaret Francis Kirk, widow of Martin Crow Stanley^{cxxii}.*

Likewise the Harr-Keck reunion held on October 10, 1943 did not include any Walter Keck's family members.^{cxxiii} However, Walter had visited his family including his brother Charles in September 1939 and a two week visit from August 28 to September 2, 1940 with Hallie Keck Swigert and her husband, Dan, and Harry Wiseman^{cxxiv}. He then traveled to Keokuk, Mt. Pleasant and Fairfield, Iowa with the Wisemans and Dan Swigert. Another visit was to Charles Keck and his wife and his daughter, however^{cxxv}.

The attendees at that Harr-Keck reunion included: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Swigart of Nelsonville, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keck of Nelsonville, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Baity and children, Eugene

and Mary Lou, of Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Handlon of Kahoka, Mrs. Eugenia Keck of Lewistown, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lake of LaGrange, Missouri, Mrs. Roy Hallis of Hannibal, Missouri, Demar Lake and Miss Alice Waggner of LaGrange, Missouri, Ira Keck, Lewisville, Missouri.



Above and below: photographs from visits by Walter to his family in Marion County, Missouri.



Walter stated to experience some serious health issues in the latter part of 1947. His comings and goings to the hospital in Oklahoma and Picher were reported in the local newspapers.^{cxxvi} When his health issues became so serious that he had to be confined to bed, Irene and Allen moved him back into the small house where he had lived prior to the marriage to Mrs. Stanley. There Irene attended to his needs until he died. Her efforts were all the more stressful due to her duties as the mother to Eufrona Ann Snyder, born on November 1, 1948. The following photograph shows Walter celebrating his 81st birthday with a cake and

flowers provided by the Methodist Church on September 16, 1950.



Walter died of a tumor on November 14, 1950. Those serving as pall bearers at his funeral included Claude and Fred Stanley, sons of Margaret Frances Kirk Stanley. He is buried next to his wife, Saphronia, in the GAR Cemetery in Miami, Ottawa, Oklahoma.

Children, Step-children and Grandchildren

When Walter died, five of his six children were still living. He had 31 grandchildren and step grandchildren. Of his siblings four were still living. His children, step-children, and grandchildren and step-grandchildren, of whom he and Saphrona made a home, had visited him and Saphrona over the years. Family stories include the following:

Walter protected his step-daughter, Mary, from her father who tried to take her away when she was about 15 years old.

James Ellis Morrow and Walter were about the same size. Upon one of James Ellis Morrow's visit, he fooled Walter into buying Walter a new set of clothing by taking Walter into town, pretending to buy clothes for himself and then giving them to Walter. He also gave Saphrona some taffeta and blankets. In the following photo of Mary Saphrona

and her granddaughter Amanda Saphrona Harmon it appears that she is wearing a taffeta skirt.



Walter taught the boys how to play cards after getting permission from Saphrona. The boy had done some work for a man who cheated them out of their pay by cheating at cards. The boys returned, worked and played cards, winning their money back.

Walter had a special relationship to his granddaughter, Janna Margarette Snyder^{cxxvii}. After his marriage to Mrs. Stanley he lived in a house that she owned a block from where Irene and Allen lived. The Snyder house was located at the corner of and across from the grade school. Irene would stand on the corner of the street to watch as Janna walked down to meet her grandfather. Walter called her "Sug."

ⁱ b. 9/16/1869 in Palmyra, Marion, Missouri; d. 11/14/1950 in Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma

ⁱⁱ b.11/14/1847, d. 8/18/1938. Note that some members of the Harr family used the spelling "Carr" such as Camilla Jane Carr in her marriage license to Charles Henry Cochran. Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman October 4, 1864, from whom she received a divorce five years later on grounds of adultery.

ⁱⁱⁱ 4/20/1885 for both Harry and Hallie Frances in Hester, Missouri. Hallie died July 3, 1961 in Monroe, Marion, Missouri (hospital) with her last residence being Ewing, Marion, Missouri and Harry died in Ewing, Lewis, Missouri.

^{iv} Marion County Herald and Palmyra Spectator

^v The Keck family lived in several communities in the county of Marion County, Missouri. It appears that they did not acquire ownership interest in land but rented until about

1910 when Anna Mae is listed as owning a farm on the 1910 US Federal Census. As was reported in Anna Mae Harr Keck's obituary, a short time after their marriage in Iowa, they moved to a farm west of Palmyra in Little Union. In 1870, Henry, Anna, Clarence and Walter lived in Union as Henry is described as being a "farm laborer" with personal property worth \$100. In 1880, Henry, Anna, Clarence, Walter, Edgar, Charley and Ishmael are in Union with Henry listed as farmer. By September 1883, the Kecks were living in Hester, Missouri when John A. Keck of Gallatin, Missouri visited his brother. Henry's sister, Elizabeth Keck Poe of Stansbury and nephews of Shelby, White and Keck were also guests. In 1887, the family appeared to move to Osage Lane where it is reported that Mrs. Keck is doing better. The newspapers also reported that Henry's brother from Florida, whom Henry not seen for 22 years, was visiting. There are references in 1888 to the Keck family members in Oak Valley as well as Horseshoe Bend in 1889 but it is uncertain if they lived in those communities. The papers also mentioned that Henry bought a cow in Shelby County [where his sister, Sarah Elizabeth Keck White lived] and brought it home. In 1890, Clarence and other family members were located in Taylor. It was reported in the papers that Clarence rented the George F. Kempf farm in East Fabius sometime in 1891 and continued to hold the lease for another year. This lease may have extended until 1895 as it is noted in the papers the Kempf farm was where the Keck family lived. Anna is mentioned as being ill and losing both her kid gloves and book at the beginning of 1891 in this community. In the US Federal Schedule of Veterans, Henry is listed under those veterans living in the "Fabius Tp [Township] S. of S. Fabius River" in Marion County. In February 1899, the papers note that Clarence Keck rented the farm belonging to Mr. Kelley. As of June 5, 1900 Clarence Keck is head of household with his mother, Annie M, Charles R., Hallie F, and Harry C. They are shown renting on the US Federal Census 1900 living in Fabius, Marion, Missouri. William Henry Keck is living in Quincy, Adams, Illinois, working as a hotel night clerk at the Missouri House, located at 301 J Maine. This hotel was mentioned in the local Palmyra newspapers relative to existing and former proprietors. Except for his death in 1901 there is no mention of the comings and goings of William Henry Keck in the local newspapers, suggesting that he only returned prior to his death.

^{vi} William Henry Keck was born on May 22, 1842 in Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky and died March 16, 1901 at his sister, Sarah Elizabeth Keck [9/23/1849-10/24/1924], and brother-in-law, Eugene Smith White (5/8/1841-8/14/1917) home in Cherry Dell, Shelby, Missouri. He had gone to help his brother-in-law who was in poor health. William H. died of a brain abscess. He was buried near his sister in Steffenville. See Marion County Herald, dated May 21, 1901.

^{vii} William Henry Keck is reported to have visited friends in Quincy, Illinois before departing on June 2, 1893 to visit Saint Cloud, Minnesota. He also visited his sister Sarah Keck White

in Shelby County. Otherwise, it appears that he was living with his wife and children. See Palmyra Spector June 1, 1893. ^{viii} Clarence Albert Keck (Clarence) 9/30/1867-4/30/1941; Edgar or Edward Harr Keck (Ed) 4/18/1875-7/30/1955; Charles Russel Keck (Charles) 10/11/1879-7/23/1958; Hallie and Harry, the twins and Ishmael, the adopted son.

^{ix} April 27, 1879-March 24, 1893. See Marion County Herald, March 30, 1893. Several news articles about his death from meningitist after have the gripe. He apparently was never that healthy and was describe as being a cripple the rest of his life if he had survived. There was also comments about his conversion. Note that "Ishmael Worth" was the name of a character in a popular novel, "Ishmael: Or in the depths" by Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth, originally published in 1876. It tells a story of a man who was born into the lowest of circumstances and through his efforts became socially acceptable. In the words of the author: "Socially, Ishmael Worth was born the lowest of all the low. Naturally he was endowed with the highest moral and intellect gifts. He is in a great measure self-educated. In worldly possessions, he is beneath our feet: in wisdom and goodness, he is far far above our heads. He is one of nature's princes but one of society's outcasts." See pages 476-477.

^x Born March 20, 1835 in Bracken, Kentucky and died September, 16, 1907 in LaBelle, Lewis, Missouri

^{xi} William Henry is noted as visiting relatives in Quincy, Illinois and then on to St. Cloud, Minnesota. See Palmyra Spector, June 1, 1893. However research so far does not reveal any relations in the area.

^{xii} September 2, 1887 in Marion County Herald.

^{xiii} It was noted in the news article that the two women had carried on regular correspondence over the years. See Palmyra Spector of same date. Emma was living in Boise, Idaho by 1930 but had lived for some time in Chicago, Illinois from about 1910 to her move to Idaho.

^{xiv} Born 9/23/1849 in Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky and died in 10/24/1924 in Salem, Lewis, Missouri.

^{xv} Leonidas' family included his wife, Sarah Stanford (10/24/1835-11/25/1911 and children, John T. Keck (born about 1860 in Savannah, Andrew, Missouri and died February 6, 1922 in Uniontown, Perry, Missouri), and Edward E. Keck (born January 1, 1861 and died in Amarillo, Potter, Texas on September 17, 1897 but was buried in Wichita, Sedgwick, Kansas.)

^{xvi} Marion County Herald, February 28, 1884 and Palmyra Spector, February 29, 1884.

^{xvii} Marion County Herald, November 15, 1883.

^{xviii} Palmyra Spector, November 11, 1934, includes sample of her last article written regarding the Taylor's house burning California.

^{xix} Insert reference to 70 chickens.

^{xx} By 1883, the Kecks were living in Hester, Missouri when visited by John A. Keck and other relatives. Marion County Herald, September 21, 1883. On February 21. 1984, Henry and Anna's health status were reported in Rainbow Bend.

And then in October 1884, Aa “Mrs. Keck” is reported ill in Emerson. There were other unrelated Kecks in the area: J. Adam Keck who eventually moved to Quincy, Illinois and Taylor Keck. And George Keck of Philadelphia, who may have been a relative. October 28, 1887, Clarence is shipping wheat from Osage Lane to Palmyra. William Henry Keck is reported returning to Osage Lane from a visit to his sister White in Shelby County also. In 1887, there continue to reports on the family in Osage Lane. By 1888, the newspapers report Anna living in Fabius when her brother, Charley Harr of Anson, Clark County [Mo or Illinois?] visited her. But then in 1890 we find Clarence, Ed and Anna reports in Taylor.

^{xxi} Marion County Herald August 26, 1887 as an example.

^{xxii} Marion County Herald November 18, 1887.

^{xxiii} Anna Mae was good friends with Anna’s parents, Jacob and Rebecca Harsell. See Marion County Herald, February 3, 1883.

^{xxiv} Another young woman by the name of Annie E. Moore apparently lived close to and was friends with Annie Vincent. She eventually married Robert Denis at Samuel King’s residence. It may be that she was also a “servant” of the Samuel M. King family. Samuel M. King is shown as being a slave owner in 1850 in Fabius, Marion, Missouri. This Samuel M. King would be too old for this person. However, he may be the father.

^{xxv} Alice Vincent was born February 7, 1863 and died on November 28, 1943 in Paris, Monroe, Missouri. In the 1880 census she is listed as a “servant” in the home of the Samuel King Family in Round Grove, Marion, Missouri. She married David S. Thomas on March 20, 1890. They had a daughter on July 29, 1891 named Effie Jane Thomas.

^{xxvi} Marion Herald, November 4, 1887.

^{xxvii} Augusta Charlotte Henrietta Witte was born on July 25, 1868, her father, Fredrich, was 29 and her mother, Wilhelmine, was 24. She had four brothers and four sisters. She died on December 22, 1934, in Quincy, Illinois, at the age of 66, and was buried there. She was born in Lippe, Detmolt, Germany arriving in the USA on April 12, 1873 with her family. She was a resident of Taylor, Missouri from about 1882 to 1894. She shows her profession as a seamstress in the 1900 Federal census and seamstress in the garment factory on the 1910 and 1920 Federal Census. By 1930 US Federal Census she shown no profession and was living with her sister “Minnie” in a rented place.

^{xxviii} Marion County Herald March 9, 1888. It should be noted that Clarence Keck appears to have been friends with one of her brothers.

^{xxix} Marion County Herald, October 30, 1884

^{xxx} Marion County Herald, September 2, 1887.

^{xxxi} Marion County Herald, March 9, 1888

^{xxxii} Marion County Herald, February 21, 1884.

^{xxxiii} Marion County Herald, December 2, 1887

^{xxxiv} Marion County Herald, October 19, 1899

^{xxxv} Palmyra Spectator of August 10, 1899 and December 10, 1899. Later in 1900 he would develop stomach problems whereby he was restricted to only milk, whiskey and bread. See Marion County Harold of January 25, 1900 and December 13, 1900.

^{xxxvi} One example is his cousin, John T. Keck, son of Leonidas Keck, whose wife divorced him because John had “wanderlust” and was never home to provide for her. Another was Walter’s uncle Benjamin Franklin Keck, who appears to have left his family in Kansas to travel and live in Florida.

^{xxxvii} The most likely relative in Utah was Anna Mae’s sister, Camilla Harr, (b. 1849 d.1891) who had married Henry Conant (b.1838 d.1905) and lived in Kelton, Utah about the time of Walter’s departure. Kelton was on the railroad line as well as the terminus for stage coach lines to Oregon, Idaho and Utah with extended to Washington Territory. It was well situated to silver and gold mines within the area. It appears that Henry Conant was the “senior partner” with his brother in a company {Conant, Elsworth & Company, that provided services of forwarding and commission. There is also information suggesting that Henry Conant was in the hotel business (Railroad Hotel) in Kelton. But by 1897 the city had shrunk to a few people due to the Oregon Short Line. Henry continued to maintain a store serving local ranchers and other settlers of the area. See Utah Directory Gazette 1879-880 compiled and printed by H.A.L. Culmer Publishers. Also see Croft’s Trans-continental Tourist’s Guide By Henry T. Williams. Also The “Salt Lake Tribune”, September 4, 1897.

^{xxxviii} Palmyra Spectator, February 13, 1890

^{xxxix} This may have been an error by newspaper inserting “Clarence” for “Walter”.

^{xl} Newspaper reports that Walter Keck of Osage Lane was in competition with another Walter in the area

^{xli} Marion County Herald, December 21, 1888

^{xlii} Palmyra Spectator, May 30, 1889

^{xliiii} Palmyra Spectator, April 17, 1890

^{xliiv} Marion Herald, June 29, 1888

^{xliv} Marion Herald, same date.

^{xlvi} Palmyra Spectator of same date.

^{xlvii} Palmyra Spectator, February 2, 1916

^{xlviii} Anna May Harsell was the daughter of Jacob Harsell and Rebecca living in Fabius, Marion, Missouri per 1870 census. Anna May married Henry J. Sterkel [Sparkle] on August 11, 1895 and had two daughters. The celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary was reported in the Palmyra Spectator on November 21, 1945. She died June 6, 1957 in Kirksville, Adair, Missouri and buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Palmyra, Marion, Missouri.

^{xliv} Gustie visited Mrs. Anna Keck and her daughter in March 8, 1933. See Palmyra Spectator of same date.

ⁱ April 21, 1892 Marion County Herald

^{li} May 18, 1893, Marion County Herald, October 4, 1894

^{lii} Born 12/18/1907; died 4/3/1982; father James Willis Harmon and mother, Maud Ella May Morrow

^{liii} Marion County Herald, same date
^{liv} Marion County Herald, same date
^{lv} Palmyra Spectator of same date
^{lvi} Marion County Herald, same date
^{lvii} Palmyra Spectator, same date
^{lviii} Retroactively reported in Palmyra Spectator, September 14, 1938 [50 years ago].
^{lix} Checking city directories of Butte, Montana in 1890 or so, one finds Paul Keck, 1889, John T. Keck a carpenter.
^{lx} Anna Mae and “two” sons ill per Palmyra Spectator, October 7, 1887. Family members report that he had trouble hearing. Not sure if this was later in life or arose earlier.
^{lxi} Palmyra Spectator, same date
^{lxii} Palmyra Spectator, same date
^{lxiii} This was most probably John White who visited his cousins in Palmyra and was said to be an assistant car inspector on August 6, 1896 in the Marion County Herald. John was the son of Eugene and Sarah Keck White. Another candidate would be either John T. Keck son of Leonidas Keck who was living in Quincy, Illinois at the time. John T. Taylor listed in the Federal Census his profession as “bookkeeper” but he held other jobs as “printer” in 1920 census.
^{lxiv} Marion County Herald, February 11, 1897
^{lxv} Marion County Herald, March 10, 1898. Beas Roberts was associated with the establishment of a lumber saw mill by Lee Bowes and Charlies Stout. Bowes and Stout bought the mill from Thayer and were to move the mill to the Maddox land near old Marshal Ford near Fabius. Thayer and Beas was going to move there also to board the mill hands and do the hauling. Lee Bowes was a friend of the “Keck boys”. Beas Roberts seemed to have a reputation of roving around like an “old tom turkey”. Perhaps Walter and Beas were “birds of a feather.” See Marion County Herald, February 11, 1897. Beas Roberts is shown hauling lumber to Palmyra for Mr. Stillions in October 28, 1897 by Marion County Herald. Beas Roberts and family may have influenced Walter Keck to travel south as they went to Indian County in October 1898. See Palmyra Spectator dated October 6, 1898.
^{lxvi} Born December 22, 1868 in Centerville, Reynolds County, Missouri and died December 17, 1938 in Quapaw, Ottawa, Oklahoma.
^{lxvii} See pages 18-20 of the Iron and Machinery World, Volume 84 Published 1893 Original from the University of Michigan Digitized Apr 26, 2011 for more specifics on production and community.
^{lxviii} See page 18, supra.
^{lxix} See pages 16, supra. Article by William M. Richart.
^{lxx} See page 15, supra, Article by William M. Richart.
^{lxxi} See articles in January 21, 1897, August 25, 1898 of Palmyra Spectator. April 22, 1897 August 19, 1897 November 11, 1897 of Marion County Herald. Comparison to “Klondike” in 1/6/1898 Arkansas City Daily Traveler (article was also published in The Hutchinson News, Lawrence Daily, Columbus Daily Advocate, Leavenworth Times, Newton Daily Republic, The Evening Herald, The Parson Daily Sun, The

McPherson Daily Republican, The Walnut Times, junction City Union, and The Ottawa Daily either on the 6th or 7th.) Similar news item in Galena Times Evening Times, Galena Times, Abilene Times on January 7, 1898. Also see advertisements and article on investing in Joplin in Inter Ocean, Chicago, on June 13, 1898.

^{lxxii} Dorothea Irene Keck

^{lxxiii} While states as “Webb City” in correspondence between Amanda Saphronia Harmon and Dorothea Irene Keck, the census and birth locations of Stephan Henry and Everett Cheston suggest that the Kecks were living in Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri at the time and subsequent to the illness. Oronogo or Oronoco is immediately north of Webb City and increased in size and importance to Oronoco over the years, most probably because Route 66 went through Webb City and not Oronoco.

^{lxxiv} Stephen Henry was born on November 21, 1902 in Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri and died October 25, 1883 in Redlands, San Bernardino, California. Everett Cheston was born on March 30, 1905 in Oronogo, Jasper, Missouri and died on June 24, 1964 in Miami, Ottawa, Oklahoma.

^{lxxv} Galena Weekly Republic of same dates.

^{lxxvi} Francis Marion Exendine was born in by some accounts in Overton, Tennessee on December 18, 1843 and in other in North or South Carolina. He died on February 15, 1905 in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. His obituary in the Galena Evening Time of February 15, 1905 states that he was 62 years at his passing. As such the year of his birth would be 1847. James Ellis Harmon and Patsy Harmon made supporting declarations in his affidavit for membership in the Cherokee tribe: James Ellis Harmon knew Francis since a boy, over 50 years [in 1898 thus since 1848 or so]. Patsy Jane states that she knew him since he “sat up” and was at his christening. Both said that they knew Francis Monroe’s mother, Rebecca or Becki McDonald. They also knew her mother, Mackey or Macky McDonald, who was married to James McDonald. Both did not know James McDonald. Macky McDonald lived in the home of James and Patsy for about a year before 1860. Macky told both that James McDonald was her husband. Further she told Patsy that he died in South Carolina. So the time period they knew of McKay McDonald was about 1843 to 1864, when she died. The interacted with Francis Monroe Exendine regularly until the civil war when there was a gap from 1860 to 1872. Then following 1879, there was less interaction. His father is stated in Frances’ declaration as Johnson Exendine. Another statement was Fanty told Nancy that he was born in S. Car. Spent the next 9 years in Pope Co Ark and went N. to Galena and around Springfield just in time to sign up for the Civil War Service.

^{lxxvii} The date of birth and death has not been substantiated by this writer but calculated based on information in marriage certificate (1861) and purported prison records. See other writing regarding the Morrow families in the

Missouri area which may have been William Thomas Morrow's.

^{lxxxviii} Thus the story that Walter fended off William Thomas Morrow's efforts to take Mary at age 12 do not seem well founded.

^{lxxxix} Born March 25, 1859 in Reynold County, Missouri and died March 27, 1927 in Picher, Ottawa, Oklahoma. Family story state that Amaranda lived in "widow town" of Webb City.

^{lxxx} The only record so far identified is that the W.T. Morrow arrested and incarcerated for the rape had two prior imprisonments.

^{lxxx} See Missouri State Penitentiary Database online. Record is for "W.T. Morrow," age 43, born Tennessee, laborer, two prior incarcerations, offense being rape, occurring in Dade County, two years from August 2, 1904, date of discharge February 1, 1906 (Reel S226, Volume z, Page 134).

^{lxxxii} See Galena Evening Times, September 13, 1898, noting the event took place three weeks prior to publication. Also other information on the eventual capture and return are as follows: Attack on August 31, 1898 in Leader Democrat of same day was reported on August 31 and September 2, 1899: "A serious stabbing affray occurred in Central City Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, in which Tom Morrow, having become involved in a quarrel with his wife, proceeded to punish her with a knife, and the wife's sister, who was present, having interfered, both women received a number of bad wounds. Immediate after the cutting Morrow made his escape and has not been captured." Thomas Morrow was arrested in Galena and brought to Columbus on extradition orders. The Joplin authorities came to pick him up. See September 15, 1898 the Columbus Weekly re-publication of Joplin news article. Also see article from Joplin News of September 13, 1898.

^{lxxxiii} See information in previous right up on William Thomas Morrow. Summary without footnotes is as follows:

"In April and May 1894, newspapers reported that Thomas Morrow and Jesse Smith^{lxxxiii} were arrested, convicted and incarcerated for stealing mules belong to the James R. Woodard, constable of Center Township, Greene County, Missouri (ten miles west of Springfield)^{lxxxiii}. Morrow purportedly stole the mules in retaliation for the Constable causing Morrow trouble. Woodard had a warrant for the arrest of Morrow, charging Morrow with attempted rape of a married woman near Springfield some time before this event. On April 16, 1894, Morrow and Smith had stopped at Morrow's uncle's home (Raines or Rains) three miles north of Ozark.^{lxxxiii} Raines suspected the mules were stolen and let them loose. Raines notified D. Young (aka J.B.) who then formed the posse that apprehended the two about three miles from Ozark, Missouri. Deputy

Sheriff Bert Maurer and Mr. Woodward pursued the two from Greene County to Christian County. The newspapers suggested that the posse might have hanged the two but for the intervention of Sheriff Allen Thompson and Deputy Sheriff Charles Cox from Ozark. It also appeared that the two had a continuing concern that lynching might still be an option being considered by the citizens of Ozark as their readily confessed to the crime and requested they be incarcerated. The two were taken to the justice of peace in Ozark where they waived preliminary examination, pleaded guilty and were incarcerated in the county jail to await action by the grand jury. The two asked for an immediate trial and to be taken to the penitentiary. Prosecuting Attorney Long arranged a special term of the circuit court at which Judge Neville (also given as different judge named Gideon) sentenced the men to five years in the penitentiary on a charge of grand theft on May 6, 1894. The two were taken to Jefferson City on the westbound train. On May 10, 1894, Deputy Sheriffs Charles Cox, George Yoachum and Allen Thompson, all from Ozark, deliver Morrow and Smith to the penitentiary in Jefferson City.

It is noted that the two men were "six-footers". Morrow had also stolen a large bull-dog pistol from Mr. Huff in Center Township. Morrow had threatened that Constable Woodard could not arrest him."

^{lxxxiv} Family stories erroneously state that Walter and Saphronia were married in Webb City. Asbury is located near the border of Kansas and Missouri but is fully incorporated in the state of Missouri unlike Opolis, where Saphrona and Water also lived. There is a "Kansas Avenue" in Asbury. The city of Asbury is close to what was Georgia City, Missouri.
^{lxxxv} Also known as "Leadville Hollow," "Minersville," and "Center creek P.O." On suggested name source is the Orinoco River in Venezuela and can be found in other states. However, the local stories were that a meeting was held to find a substitute name for "Minersville" and during the discussion a drunk miner jumped up to say "Boys, by God, it's Ore or no go." It was bordered by Webb City.
^{lxxxvi} See Divorce, an American Tradition, by Glenda Riley, University of Nebraska Press, 1997, ISBN 0803289693, 9780803289697. Indian Territory had a 90 day residence before granting a divorce which was changed by Congress in 1896 to one year; however, judges appear to have been ignoring the rule even in 1908. Other "migratory" divorce

states were North and South Dakota both establishing the 90-day residence rule while territories and maintain them after becoming states.

^{lxxxvii} Saphronia would most likely have prevailed under some of the other grounds such as adultery and willful neglect.

^{lxxxviii} My investigation shows that William Thomas Morrow was the son of H. James Morrow (born 1845 and died January 8, 1891) and Lidia A. Foster (about 1838, death unknown). A "Thomas Morrow" is listed as son of James H. Morrow on the 1870 Federal Census for Center, Martin, Indiana [Page 15]. The other persons listed are Lydia A. (mother), Miles F., Lydia C. (sister), Kemsted E (aka Remsted). All are shown born in Tennessee except for Lydia C. and Kemsted E. who were born in Indiana. James (1838), Lydia Ann (1840) and Miles F. (10/12) are found in District 14, McMinn, Tennessee (Post Office Cog Hill) in the 1860 Federal Census. Immediately preceding their family on the census was Milles Forester, her father, Amanda Collins Forester, her mother, as well as her siblings. James is a "day laborer." "H.J. Morrow" and "Lidianna Forester" were married on November 3, 1858 in McMinn County, Tennessee. This Forrest family may be connected to the Morrow Family from Dade County, Missouri as described above. Both families originated from Blount County, Tennessee. In the Early Tax List, 1783, Robert Forester and William Forest are listed in 1805. Miles Forrest is listed on the tax records (1838) as well as shown marrying Amanda Collins on May 19, 1829 in Blount County, Tennessee. On the List of Enumeration of Males Voters for Tennessee, Jo Forrest (1805) in Blount County, Tennessee. Another connection between the Morrrows and Forresters or Foresters is that William McTeer, who was the Justice of the Peace who married Miles F. Forester and Amanda Collins, was a tailor who employed Rufus Morrow (1834) as such in District 9, Blount County, Tennessee in the 1850 Federal Census. At the same time there is a James Morrow listed with James Allen family in District 4, Blount County, Tennessee.

By 1880 Federal Census, Lydia had remarried John Edward Graham (October 1, 1878) and living with her new husband and children in Benton, Crawford, Missouri. Thomas is shown as being the "Step-son". Emeline and Julie C. are named as step-daughters, being born in Indiana. Thomas lists his place of birth as "E. Tennessee".

Julie C. Morrow eventually marries Nathan Henry Wright and has the following children: Cara Opal, Ethel Garnett, Rosa Hestor, Gay E., Benjamin L. and Gloria May Wright. Julie and her children subsequently describe their occupation as grocers or store owners. They are also connected with Carls Junction and other areas close to where the Kecks lived in Missouri and Oklahoma. It does not appear that there was an immediate connection between the Morrrows associated with

Springfield (William Thomas Morrow) or Carthage, Missouri. Nor that the line of Morrrows buried next to James Ellis and Patsey Harmon in Georgia City, Missouri had any immediate connection with this Thomas Morrow. In addition to tracing out some of the family trees, I have contacted individuals associated with the families who did not believe that our Thomas Morrow is connected to their respective families.

^{lxxxix} Joplin, Missouri City Directory 1903

^{xc} Carthage Missouri City Directory, 1909, Ancestry.com, City Directories, Durham Directory Company. Also in Joplin, Missouri City Directory same source.

^{xc1} Carthage City Directory same source as above. Living on Route 1.

^{xcii} Pittsburg Daily Headlines, August 14, 1907, living in Oronogo.

^{xciii} John C. Guinn founded the city of Georgia City in 1868 and in February 1930 his daughter Lottie Guinn Young requested the streets and alleys of the platted village be vacated and land returned to farming. A post office was established in 1870 and removed in 1904. See "Post Offices". Jim Forte Postal History. Retrieved 18 October 2016. The city was located in sections 4 and 5 of Township 29N, Range 33 W. One can find the location by driving east from Asbury on Oak Road to its dead in at County Road 270. By 1883 the population of Georgia City was 50. See [The History of Jasper County, Missouri](#), Published by Mills & Company, 1883. By 1912, the city had been See [A History of Jasper County and Its People](#) Vol 1. by Joel Thomas Livingston, Lewis Publishing, 1912.

^{xciv} Mary Alice Morrow born on 9/15/1885 and died on 4/18/1922; Maude Ella Mae Morrow born on 5/2/1890 and died on 10/9/1912; and James Elis Morrow born on 12/25/1883 and died in 2/8/1916.

^{xcv} The Pittsburg Daily Highlights, August 14, 1907

^{xcvi} On the 1860 US Federal Census, a "James Homon" is listed with Patsey, Miranda and Sarah. Also listed within area is "Daniel Harman" with Polly, Kitsey, Rebecca, Hattie, William, James, Henry, and another William. All the Homons and Harmans are listed as "Mulatto". See Hochschild JL, Powell BM. [Racial Reorganization and the United States Census 1850-1930: Mulattoes, Half-Breeds, Mixed Parentage, Hindoos, and the Mexican Race](#). Studies in American Political Development. 2008;22 (1) :59-96 for discussion of US Federal Census and use of term "mulatto."

^{xcvii} It is important to note that the census taker is Galen M. Bell, who was related by marriage to Hiram Morrow, neighbor or fellow citizen to James Ellis. His full name was "Galen Morrow Bell" (born June 1, 1891, died 1962) the son of John Wright Bell and Dora Bell Wampler. Galen's paternal grandmother was Mary Ann Wood who married John W. Bell, William Stevens, John Enos, and Hiram Morrow. Family story is that James Ellis Harmon was upset with Sophrona for causing Thomas Morrow to go to jail arising from his friendship with the Morrrows. However, it has not been established that Hiram Morrow was directly related to William Thomas Morrow, husband of Saphrona. It also

should be noted that the current research shows William Thomas Morrow's sister marrying a Nathan Wright, which may be somehow connected to Mary Ann 's son John **Wright** Bell. This said, searching out Galen Morrow Bell and his mother does not link these families. They were however geographically close, including Galen M. Bell's mother Dora Bell Wampler who lived and was married in Georgia City to John Wright Bell.

^{xcviii} Pittsburg Daily Headlight, August 14, 1907. About the same time, August 23, 1907, Walter and Saphrona visited Mrs. Francis Marion Exendine in Galena. See Galena Weekly Republic, August 23, 1907.

^{xcix} The death certificate notes that the place of death was Twin Groves, Missouri. Within this township is Carls Junction and nearby is Oronogo. It is possible that the Kecks moved to this area or had connections within this area from previous residence in the area.

^c Miami Daily District News

^{ci} The Girard Press, May 2, 1901.

^{cii} It has been assumed that this house was the house located in either Opolis or Georgia City; however it was a standard practice in Oronoco to have movable houses to allow full exploration of the area for ore. See Webb City by Priscilla Purcell Brown, Arcadia Publishing, 2015.

^{ciii} At the end of Fifth Street abutting into Whitebird Street in open field

^{civ} Born September 30, 1911 and died on February 17, 2006.

^{cv} Miami Daily News Record of same date.

^{cvi} "Edna Thomas" was Clara Edna Griffith, daughter of Mary Alice Morrow and Clyde Earl Griffith, born on March 18, 1912 and died on January 30, 1990. Her first marriage was to Loyal Thomas. Notice of license in the Miami Daily Record-News newspaper was on July 8, 1929. On December 31, 1930 a notice of Thomas Loyal's filing of divorce from Edna appeared in the same newspaper. Final decree of the divorce was notice on February 18, 1931. Edna married Elijah Jay Pruitt on July 27, 1930.

^{cvi} Scott Thompson was an active attorney in the Miami and Quapaw areas in the early 20th century. Of note is that he filed an action that eventually was settled in the Supreme Court (notice in newspaper on May 16, 1922. The action was against Paul A. Ewart, a former US District attorney for the Quapaw Indians, who purchased George Redeagle 100 acres that was one of the richest mining areas. The Supreme Court ordered Ewart to return ownership of the land and payback \$125,000 of royalties received. Dick DeVilliers knew the Keck and were purportedly friends. The Kecks rented the Whitebird land and DeVilliers was the Whitebird's lawyer. Thad Allen Snyder also mentioned knowing the daughter of DeVillars. He thought that she was a possible marriage partner before or at same time he knew Dorothea Irene Keck. It was a small town. Dick DeVilliers with Charlie Douthat purchases land from the Indian Agent from Harry Whitebird

and Julia SHapp, which they subdivided. It is possible that one of these lots were leased to the Kecks. He passed the bar on June 21, 1929. He ran for the County Attorney in 1930 and became county representative to legislature. He died before 1943. There was a "100,000" fire in 1948 destroying some property owned by the Devilliers, including all his law books per his widow.

^{cviii} Some were [James Daniel "Harman", son of "Rebekah Harman" aka Rebekah Ferrell and father unknown^{cvi} and grandson of Daniel "Harman" and "Poley Harman"; George Burton "Harman", son of James Daniel "Harman" and Nancy Grimes; William Albert "Harman", son of James Daniel "Harman" and Nancy Ann Grimes; William S. Oxendine, son of Levi Oxendine and Clara Haynes, grandson of Archie Oxendine and Patsey Oxendine "was a Shumake"; Griffin Oxendine, son of James Oxendine and Lily Lowry, grandfather John Oxendine; Arthur Oxendine, son of Griffin Oxendine and Pauline Lowry, grandparent Revel Oxendine or Acxendine and Mary Lowry.

^{cix} Palmyra Spectator, December 22, 1926.

^{cx} She visited again on June 6, 1957 when she and her then husband, Warren James Dollar (birthdate unknown, died 1967), went on a road trip.

^{cx} Clarence Albert Keck and his family had moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma area in about October 1907 but returned to Marion County in March 1909. See Palmyra Spectator, dated October 23, 1907, November 6, 1907, June 3, 1908, and February 3, 1909. Also Marion County Herald, August 26, 1908, January 8, 1908, and March 10, 1909.

^{cxii} Palmyra Spectator of same date.

^{cxiii} Marion County Standard, August 28, 1935

^{cxiv} Palmyra Spectator, January 1, 1930. Also Miami Daily New Record, January 2, 1930.

^{cxv} Palmyra Spectator, December 18, 1929

^{cxvi} Palmyra Spectator, March 12, 1930.

^{cxvii} Palmyra Spectator, June 25, 1930. Death occurred on August 18, 1938 with burial following around August 31, 1938.

^{cxviii} Palmyra Spectator, August 31, 1938.

^{cxix} Miami Daily News Record, July 3, 1938

^{cxx} Miami Daily News-Record, September 18, 1938

^{cxxi} This house was eventually sold for \$80 dollars by Irene to pay for Walter's funeral expenses. It was moved to north of Quapaw on lands on which a school was built in 1985 or so per Irene.

^{cxxii} Margaret Francis Kirk was born on August 4, 1880 and died on March 29, 1964. She is buried with her first husband, Martin C. Crow at the Union Cemetery, Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. Her first husband had died in 1922.

^{cxxiii} Palmyra Spectator, October 13, 1943.

^{cxxiv} Palmyra Spectator, September 4, 1940

^{cxxv} Marion County Standard, September 6, 1939 and Palmyra Spectator, September 6, 1938 and September 4, 1940

^{cxvii} Joplin Globe, October 18, 1947; Joplin Globe, October 25, 1947; Miami Daily News-Record, March 12, 1950.

^{cxvii} Born June 29, 1941 and still living.