# Part 7

# William John Adams, Generation 4

William John was born 2 August 1843 in Slippery Rock Township of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. His wife, Mary Elizabeth McKean (McCain) was born 17 August 1847 in Butler County, Pennsylvania. William John and Mary were married 14 September 1866 and had ten children. William John, as did his father, Joseph, fought for the Union in the Civil War. Proud of his country, William John apparently never missed an opportunity of showing off his Union allegiance and would apparently appear in full military dress in local parades. A patriotic picture of William, then age 77, is kept in his family tree file and is shown below.





Mary Elizabeth McKean Adams, 1892

William John was a Union veteran of the Civil War, Company Battery C, and 212th Infantry, 6th Heavy Artillery Regiment. Private. Date of Service: Enlisted 2 September 1864; Mustered out on 13 June 1865 in Ethan Allen, Virginia. A marble military headstone is located at Rose Point Presbyterian Cemetery. See Military records obtained from The National Archives in part, below.

## Regimental History PENNSYLVANIA TWO HUNDRED and TWELFTH INFANTRY (SIXTH ARTILLERY) (One Year)

Sixth Artillery. - Col., Charles Barnes; Lieut.-Col., Joseph B. Copeland; Majors, Robert H. Long, Joseph R. Kemp, Frank H. White. More men than the standard required had been recruited for the 54th artillery, the 204th of the line, and it was therefore decided to organize the 6th artillery, which became the 212th regiment. It was mostly composed of men from the counties of Allegheny, Butler, Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington and Lawrence, who rendezvoused at Camp Reynolds, Pittsburg, and was mustered into the U. S. service during the first half of Sept., 1864, for one year. On Sept. 17 the regiment left for Washington, where it was assigned to the 2nd brigade of DeRussy's division, then garrisoning the defenses of the capital. On the 29th it was detached, to perform railroad guard duty on the Orange & Alexandria railroad between Alexandria and Manassas, with headquarters at Fairfax Court House. It was engaged in this service until about the middle of November when it returned to the defenses of Washington. Thus far it had served as infantry, but the men were now drilled as artillery and soon became proficient in this arm of the service. It remained in the forts about Washington until June 13, 1865, when it was mustered out at Fort Ethan Allen, returned to Camp Reynolds, where the men were finally paid and discharged on the 17th.

Source: The Union Army, Vol. 1

## **Battles Fought**

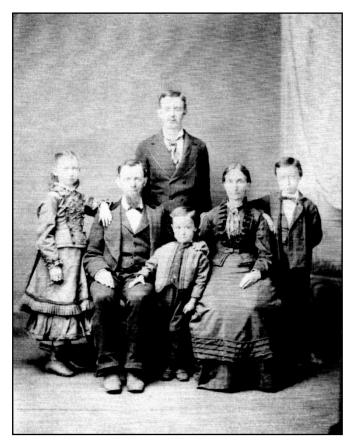
Fought on 13 Oct 1864 at Burke's Station, VA.



Oral history suggests that William may have been a bodyguard for President Lincoln during the Civil War. Lincoln allegedly willed land to William John just outside of Pittsburgh. William allegedly sold the land for \$800.00 according to unsubstantiated notes from Caryl Glasser, wife of Roy Dean Glasser in **1999**. However, this information has never been authenticated.

Ref: W.J. Adams record notes.

William John about 1866, age 26, shortly after his Civil War duty. (Photograph supplied by Virginia Lee Scott, of Santa Barbara, California)



Mary apparently used the spelling "McCain" for her maiden name but a reason has not determined as to why. It is believed that Mary's mother was American Chippewa Indian; however, this also has not been verified. Census records of 1850 show a Mary Elizabeth McKean, age three, and her brother, James, age six, and match both of their gravestone's birthdates. (See page 172). Mary's father, Robert McKean, is listed but no mother is shown. Two sisters, Nancy (1848) and Amanda, (1850) are also shown in this census record.

Many cherished photographs were provided to me by Virginia Lee Scott, of Santa Barbara, California, a daughter of Alice Hazel Adams and Charles Harvey Adams, and grand-daughter of William John.

The William John Adams Family, c. 1885 Amanda (10), William (41), Charles (14), Harry (5), Mary (38), James (9)



Charles Harvey Adams is the tall, handsome son standing in the background in the above photograph and is also shown here with his wife, Mary Newsome. While Charles appears to tower over his family members, his adult height was only 5'-8 1/2". (See Part 8.)

(Photographs provided by Virginia Lee Scott, of Santa Barbara, California)

**Charles Harvey Adams** 

William and Mary had, as their ninth child, William Floyd, the author's grandfather, born 19 July 1885, also in Slippery Rock Township. Their other nine children are shown with their ages in the group photograph shown below.



The William John Adams Family, c. 1890 1<sup>st</sup> row: Mary Ada (7) Ambrose (3) 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Nancy (22) William Floyd (5) William John (46) Mary (43) Melissa (23) Harry (10) 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Amanda (15) Sarah (16) Charles (19) James (14)

One of the many treasures I have received in my genealogical work is the above photograph of William John and Mary with their family of ten children. This photograph was given to me by my uncle Eugene Tunney Adams at a family reunion in 1993 at the Moraine State Park, north of Pittsburgh in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. The above photograph was taken about 1890, likely in Rose Point, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, where William and Mary lived. The names of the family and their ages are given based upon the presumption that the photograph was indeed taken in 1890.

William John was a demonstratively proud American, small in stature at 5'- 6", dark eyes likely from his mother, fair hair and complexion. He farmed and worked in coal mines and factories most of his life. (See Pension Application, pages 184-185). William John was born in Centre Township of Butler County and stayed there until he left to fight for the Union during the Civil

War. After his discharge at Ethan Allen, Virginia, on 13 June 1865, he returned home to wed Mary Elizabeth McKean in 1866 and remained in Rosepoint, Lawrence County, PA until 1890.

William and Mary were living in Beaver Falls, Beaver County, Pennsylvania when Mary passed away. Mary died of blood poisoning on 13 June 1899. She was 52 years old. Mary's tombstone reads:

# " I am weary, let me rest."

Mary's tombstone was replaced by gracious persons unknown in the 1980's and maintains the same inscriptions as the original.



Mary's headstone at Rose point Presbyterian Church, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Mary Elizabeth McKean Adams is buried at the Rose Point Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania.

This is Runt Sadismon ewas much las In the Bernt Sade. heave a Christian to hadath cin The adams Fame was a lovely person

Photo w/ note from Edward Mellen, husband of William and Mary's 4th child, Sarah (Sade) Augusta Adams

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA	
	1
I, JOHN GREER, Clerk of Common Pleas Court, Orphans'	
Division, County of Lawrence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, d	
hereby certify that in Volume, Page, Registrati	on
of Deaths, the following information may be found: Name of Deceased Mary Addams	
Name of Deceased white	
Sex female	
Age 52	
Name of Mother, not given	11.14
Name of Father not given	
Married or Single	
Place of Birth Butler County, Pa	
Occupation not given	
Date of Death June 13, 1899	
Place of Death Slippergrook Twp., Lawrence County, Pa	
Cause of Death Blood poison	
Duration of last illness 3 weeks	
Place of Interment Rose Point	
Date of Interment June 15, 1899	na tra constante da la constant
Date of Record Dec. 20, 1899	
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand	
and the Seal of the said Court at New Castle, pA	
this 12th day of March A.D., 1981.	
achare Granner	
Clerk of Courts	

Death Certification for Mary Elizabeth McKean Adams

The name is spelled incorrectly; however, this document is otherwise factually accurate. This document also affirms her birth date of 1847 given she was 52 at the date of her death in 1899.

William John would have been 56 years of age when his wife, Mary, passed away in 1899.

Mary, wife of William J. Adams of Slipperyrock township, a notice of whose illness with paralysis, appeared in The News a few days ago, died on Tuesday evening aged about 60 years. Her husband, four sons and four daughters survive her and are well known in the county. Mrs. Adams was a very estimable woman and a consistent member of the Reformed Presbyterian church. The family have the sympathy of all the vicinity in this their sad bereavement. The funeral occurred at Rose Point, Rev. J. S. Martin conducting the services on Thursday afternoon. Interment Rose Point cemetery

**Obituary of Mary Elizabeth Adams (Butler Eagle)** 



## Gravestone of Mary's brother, James McKean Rosepoint Cemetery, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Mary's brother, James McKean, (1844-1914) also a Civil War Veteran, is also buried adjacent to Mary Elizabeth McKean Adams in the Rose Point Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Lawrence Co., Pennsylvania. Sarah (Sade) Augusta Adams, daughter of William John and Mary Elizabeth, married Edward Flagg Mellen, Sr. and is the author of the above handwritten note. What is meant by "a hard row to hoe" is left only to one's imagination. Pioneer women with ten children must all have faced many challenges and hardships.

Military records for William John (See Ref: Declaration for Pension, Sheet 2, page 171-172), signed by W.J. Adams on 01 October 1925) show that he remarried in 1907, eight years after Mary died. We believe the name of his second wife was Nancy Kane, and William's military records indicate that she (his second wife) died in 1914. I also surmise that in his later years William John "married" Nancy Kane principally to allow his pension to care for her and her three children, Garnett, Olive and Bernard, who, in the 1910 census had all shown the last name of Adams. I would speculate that Nancy was essentially a caretaker to William John and was not a "wife" to him in a literal sense. Note also that the name of William's "wife" is shown to be "Mary E." and not "Nancy". It is speculative as to why the actual name of his listed wife, Nancy, is not shown. Perhaps this was a memory lapse?

# The above military reference indeed shows that William John (age 83) stated "Married Sep't 14, 1866, wife (Mary) died June 4, 1900. 1907 remarried, wife died 1914."

Apparently William John never formally adopted Nancy's three children. Nancy was apparently ill when they "married" and died four years later in 1914. No mention was made of the disposition of Nancy's three children. A census search of Nancy's children, Garnett, Olive and Bernard indicate that they later carried the name, Kane, rather than Adams. Follow-up research on the children of Nancy Kane has not resulted in any meaningful results. It is not known whether Nancy's children received pension benefits from William John Adams' Civil War service. No such records were received in my request from the War Department's Declaration for Pension requests for William John Adams.

In 1902 William John Adams and his children, Ambrose and Amanda, were living at 2711 5th Ave, College Hill. College Hill is a neighborhood located in the northern section of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Geneva College is located in the community, and is the namesake of College Hill. **Ref: Beaver Falls City Directory, 1902-1903.** 

Geneva College was founded in Northwood, Ohio in 1848, but it moved to northern Beaver County in 1880 after being offered free land by the Harmony Society, which was apparently highly influential in Beaver Falls. After the college was established on land just north of Beaver Falls, a community grew up around it, and in 1892, it was incorporated as the borough of College Hill. In 1932, forty years after its incorporation, it merged with Beaver Falls. As of the 1900 census, College Hill had a population of about 900. In recent decades, College Hill has become less of an industrial community than previously; the owner of the former Armstrong Cork factory donated the property to the college, which has since built an athletic complex on the site.

A number of our family members have attended Geneva College. **Ref: Wikipedia, Geneva College.** 

# 1910 Federal Census of Beaver Falls, Beaver County, PA

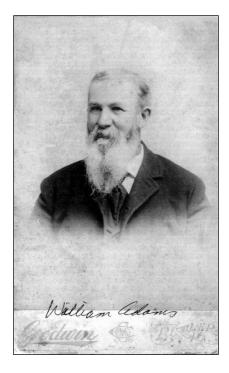
1910 United States Federal Census about William J Adams

Name:	William J Adams	
Age in 1910:	65	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1845	
Birthplace:	Pennsylvania	
Relation to Head of House:	Head	
Father's Birth Place:	Pennsylvania	
Mother's Birth Place:	Pennsylvania	
Spouse's Name:	Mary E	
Home in 1910:	Big Beaver, Beaver, Pennsylvania	
Marital Status:	Married	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household	Name	Age
Members:	<u>William J Adams</u> <u>Mary E Adams</u> (Nancy Lewis Kane)* <u>Garnett E Adams</u> <u>Olive J Adams</u>	65 36 13 10
	Bernard R Adams	9

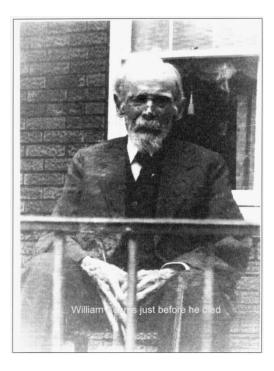
\* Note: The age of 36 would obviously not have been correct for Mary E. Adams.



William John, granddaughter Arabell Adams Calhoon, Daughter Nancy, Great grandson Louis c. 1916



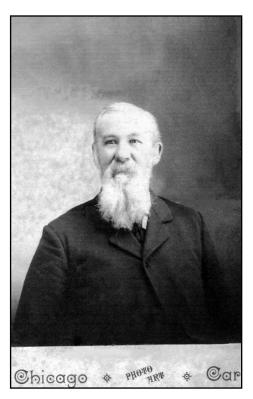
William John Adams c. 1912



William John Adams just prior to his death c. 1928

Ref: The above photographs were graciously supplied by Virginia Lee Scott, of Santa Barbara, California.





William John Adams, c. 1914 From Virginia Lee Scott



Daughters of William John and Mary Elizabeth: Melissa, Nancy, Tinnie, Sade, Adda Adams

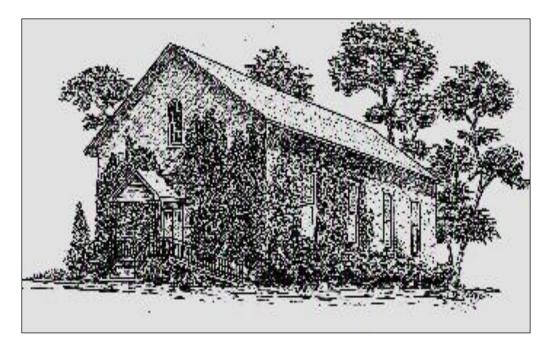
William John died on 03 Jan 1929 at the age of 87 in Beaver Falls, Beaver County, PA.



William John Adams Gravestone at Rosepoint taken in 1980 Rosepoint, Pennsylvania

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs BUR	RECORD OF AL PLACE OF VET		ence
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LOCATION OF GRAVE IN CEMETERY SECTION RANGE LOT No. GRAVE NO.	GOVERNMEN	Marble	( ) FAMILY ( )
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Pennsylvania Veterans Burial Card for William John Adams Ref: Ancestry.com



Rosepoint Reformed Presbyterian Church (Artist of etching unknown)



Rosepoint Reformed Presbyterian Church Rosepoint, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, 2006

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1850 Federal Census of Centre Township, Butler County, PA, Page 284

Note the names of Annabel (Wasson Thompson) Adams, her son William W. Thompson and their families. The Reverend John Coulter, also shown, married Joseph and Jane on 13 Aug 1829. Jane and their residing children are shown on the next page, below. William John is shown on Line 5, below, with mother, Jane, and five of his siblings.

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1850 Federal Census of Centre Township, Butler County, PA

DECLARATION FOR PENSION Act of May 1, 1920 THE PENSION CERTIFICATE SHOULD NOT BE FORWARDED WITH THE APPLICATION READ CAREFULLY THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE HEREOF r a State of Countu of 883 before me, the undersigned, personally appeared the following declaration as an application EQUIRED for pe red May 1, 1920 That ï ENLISTED Z U ā RAS DISCHARGED 0 da un Ы ōz ny, at not ٩ employed in the United States military or naval service was as follows: Height That his per of first enlistment m ٩ reneur ٩ND and his That he requires the regul ٩D of the folle ann REGULAR VHIOH serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States between April 6, 1917, and That т July 2, 1921, or at any time during said period. Th member of his family served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States between April 6, 1917, δ and July 2, 1921, or at any time during said period ... (If any members of claimant's family were in the military or naval service during the period Ě that the full name under which each such member served, with the designation of the organization in (or vessel on) which such service was rende Ы ischarge. State also whether any such members are dead and, if so, give the DAT Ы applied for sion under Original No. under F ۵ Certif 5 Ш 0 *в*∪RE ТО ВТАТ Í đ (Claimant's signature in full.) (Claimant's address in full.) ∢ Two: õ 1924 ; and I hereby certify that the Ы Sui BAR IN TA BARA HIZ THIS ۵ vere fully made kno earing, including the words \_ 6 erased, and the added; and that I have no interest. direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim. lungeon NOTARY PUBLIC

Declaration for Pension, Sheet 1 01 October 1925 William John Adams Civil War Records

Claimant should answer fully the following: No, J. Are you a married man? If so, state your wife's full name and her maiden name. Answer: M.C. Widower No. 2. When, where, and by whom were you married to your present wife? Answer: ... No. 3. What record of your marriage to her exists? Answer: .. No. 4. Were you previously married? Answer: July .... If so, state the name of your former wife or wives, the date of e to each, and the date and place of death or div Married Sept-14 1866 wife died June 4 1900 1907 Memorned wife died 1914 No. 5. Have you any children under 16 years of age living? If so, state their names and the dates of their birth. Answer: 420 William & Adamy BEVD CVBELATTA e house or to his bed and, and the claimant. to has been required; or, if the cl SNOILODHISNI 0761 'I AULY DOADT 1dv 133

## Declaration for Pension, Sheet 2 01 October 1925 William John Adams Civil War Records

**Note:** 13 Jun 1899 is the date given for Mary Elizabeth's death, not the above date of June 4, 1900. The marriage date is 14 September 1866. John was 83 years of age and subject to some error!

The military file for W.J. Adams contains approximately 100 documents of which noteworthy documents are included in this chapter, and others that are available in his file.

#### William John Adams Family Group Sheet 1

#### Husband: William John Adams

Born 1: 02 Aug 1842 in: Slippery rock Twp, Lawrence Co., PA Born 2: 1843 in: Pennsylvania Born 3: 02 Aug 1843 in: Slippery rock Twp, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, USA Born 4: 1845 in: Pennsylvania Married 1: 12 Sep 1866 in: Rosepoint, Lawrence County, PA Married 2: 12 Sep 1866 in: By Rev. J. E. Smith Died 1: 03 Jan 1929 in: Rose Point, Lawrence Co., PA, 1125 Highland Ave. Died 2: 03 Jan 1929 in: Rose Point, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, USA Father: Joseph Adams Mother: Jane Thompson Other Spouses: Nancy Kane Adams

#### Wife: Mary Elizabeth (McCain) McKean

Born 1: 17 Aug 1847 in: Butler, Butler Co., PA Born 2: 1846 in: Pennsylvania Born 3: 17 Aug 1847 in: Pennsylvania, USA Died 1: 13 Jun 1899 in: Rose Point, Slippery rock Twp., Lawrence Co., PA Died 2: 13 Jun 1899 in: Slippery Rock, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, USA Father: Robert McKean

#### Children

# 1 F Name: Melissa Jane Adams

Born: 21 Mar 1867 in: Slippery rock Twp., Lawrence Co., PA Died: 07 Dec 1934 in: Polk, Polk County, NE Married: 27 Apr 1893 in: Rosepoint, Lawrence County, PA Spouse: Robert Slemons Glasser

#### 2 F Name: Nancy Elizabeth Adams

Born: 20 May 1868 in: Lawrence County, PA Married: 1895 Spouse: Joseph Harold Calhoon

#### 3 M Name: Charles Harvey Adams

Born 1: 01 Dec 1872 in: Rosepoint, Lawrence County, PA Born 2: 01 Dec 1870 in: Rosepoint, PA, USA Born 3: 1871 in: PA Born 4: 1871 in: Pennsylvania Died 1: 10 Sep 1949 in: Jameson Hosp., New Castle, Lawrence Co., PA Died 2: 10 Sep 1949 in: New Castle, PA, USA Married: 09 May 1892 in: Butler Co., PA Spouse: Mary Barber Newsome

#### 4 F Name: Sarah (Sade) Augusta Adams

Born 1: 25 Jul 1874 in: Lawrence County, PA Born 2: 1874 in: Pennsylvania Born 4: 1875 in: Pennsylvania Born 5: 1875 in: Pennsylvania Died 1: 11 Mar 1960 in: Mentor, Lake County, OH Died 2: 11 Mar 1960 in: Lake County, Lake, Ohio Married: 1904 Spouse: Edward Flagg Mellen, Sr.

#### 5 F Name: Amanda Tinnie Adams

Born 1: 15 Mar 1875 in: Lawrence County, PA Born 4: 1875 in: Pennsylvania Born 5: 1876 in: Pennsylvania 5 Died: Abt. 1966 Married: Spouse: Charles Barr

#### 6 M Name: James Adams

Born 1: 30 Jul 1877 in: Lawrence County, PA Died: 1897 (20 years of age)

#### 7 M Name: Harry Thompson Adams

Born 1: 28 Dec 1880 in: Rosepoint, Lawrence County, PA Died: 14 Oct 1961 in: Florence, Hanover Twp., Washington Co., PA Married: 23 May 1917 Spouse: Glenola Thelrid Montgomery

#### 8 F Name: Mary Adda Adams

Born: 1884 in: Pennsylvania Died: 16 Aug 1973 in: New Brighton, Beaver Co., PA, Med. Ctr. Married: Spouse: Benjamin Howard Klink

#### 9 M Name: William Floyd Adams, Sr.

Born 1: 19 Jul 1885 in: Portersville, Slippery Rock Twp., Lawrence Co., PA Died 1: 02 Apr 1968 in: Beaver Falls, Beaver Co., PA Died 2: Apr 1968 in: Monaca, Beaver, Pennsylvania Married: Oct 1907 Spouse: Ella Nora Smith Married: Abt. 1920 in: Youngstown, Ohio Spouse: Chloe Mae Stevens

#### 10 M Name: Ambrose Updegraff Adams

Born 1: 19 May 1887 in: Portersville, Lawrence County, PA Died: 22 Mar 1924 in: New Castle, Lawrence County, PA Married: 1906 in: PA Spouse: Myrtle Leah Smith

#### William John Adams Family Group Sheet 2

#### Husband: William John Adams

Born 1: 02 Aug 1842 in: Slippery rock Twp, Lawrence Co., PA
Born 2: 1843 in: Pennsylvania
Born 3: 02 Aug 1843 in: Slippery rock Twp, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, USA
Born 4: 1845 in: Pennsylvania
Born 5: 1845 in: Pennsylvania
Born 6: 1845 in: Pennsylvania
Married: 1906 in: PA
Died 1: 03 Jan 1929 in: Rose Point, Lawrence Co., PA
Died 2: 03 Jan 1929 in: Rose Point, Lawrence, Pennsylvania, USA
Burial: 06 Jan 1929 in: Rose Point, Lawrence Co., PA, Rose Point Cemetery

Father: Joseph Adams Mother: Jane Thompson Other Spouses: Mary Elizabeth McCain McKean

#### Wife: Nancy Lewis Kane (Note: "Wife", may not have been literal. only shown as such)

Born: 1874 in: OH Died: 1914 in: Beaver Falls, Beaver, PA. Burial: Father: Mother: Other Spouses: Kane

#### **CHILDREN**

1 Name: Garnett E. Kane Born 1: 1898 in: WV Born 2: 1897 in: Born 3: 1897 in: West Virginia Died: in: Burial: Married: in: Spouse: John R. Lewis

2 Name: Alice J. Kane Born 1: 1900 in: WV Born 2: 1900 in: Died: in: Burial: Married: in: Spouse: William Alexander

3 Name: Bernard R. Kane Born 1: 1901 in: WV Born 2: 10 Oct 1900 in: Born 3: 1901 in: Born 4: 1901 in: West Virginia Married: in: Died 1: 23 May 1976 in: Lawrence County, OH Died 2: May 1976 in: South Point, Lawrence, Ohio, United States of America Died 3: 23 May 1976 in: Lawrence County, Lawrence, Ohio