

Faces from the Past

Scrapbook Pages by Beverly Whitaker of Kansas City, Missouri (2009)

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As we seek out our ancestors and try to imagine what their lives were like, we are grateful for that occasional opportunity to study the image of some of them. Perhaps these scrapbook pages will encourage you to do something similar with photos saved by members of your family.

In my possession is a photograph copy of an original charcoal drawing of Durst Ammen, probably made by his son Jacob. The initial photograph was produced in 1960 by C. E. Ammen, (now deceased) of New Orleans, from the original drawing which was loaned to him by Mrs. Sara Francis Ammen of Philadelphia.



Durst Ammen, 1730-1805

Durst was born in Switzerland, came to Pennsylvania in 1749 on the ship, *Crown*. He had gone first to Germany at the age of 18. He may have had a first wife, Anna Barbara, who died there. In Pennsylvania, he met Anna Eva Ranck whom he married in 1759. During the Revolutionary War, Durst served as a private in the 3rd Battalion, Lancaster County, PA. In 1786, he was granted 504 acres at Looney's Mill Creek in Botetourt County, Virginia, by Patrick Henry. Durst moved his family there and later purchased additional land in Virginia.



Maria Eva's little iron kettle.



The above photo is of me, examining the pot. These pictures were made in 1993, nearly 240 years after the event. Maria Eva Petra Harshbarger was my sixth great grandmother.

Durst and Eva had several children. Their daughter Barbary (Barbara) married Revolutionary soldier, Christian Harshbarger, in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, in 1779. Christian was the son of Jacob Harshbarger and Maria Eva Petra. I have never seen their likenesses. However, one of Maria Eva's possessions is displayed at Crawfordsville, Indiana, at Lane House. It is the little iron pot which she was holding when she fell overboard during their voyage to America. A sailor by the name of Ebersole saw her blue linen dress under the water, thrust a pole into her garments and pulled her to safety. When she was safe on the ship again, it was found that she still clutched in her hands the little iron pot. This event occurred in 1754.

Ammen, Petra,
and Harshbarger

[Harshbarger and
Deardorff](#)

[Deardorff
Williams, Dickey](#)

[Williams, Britton,
DeLong](#)

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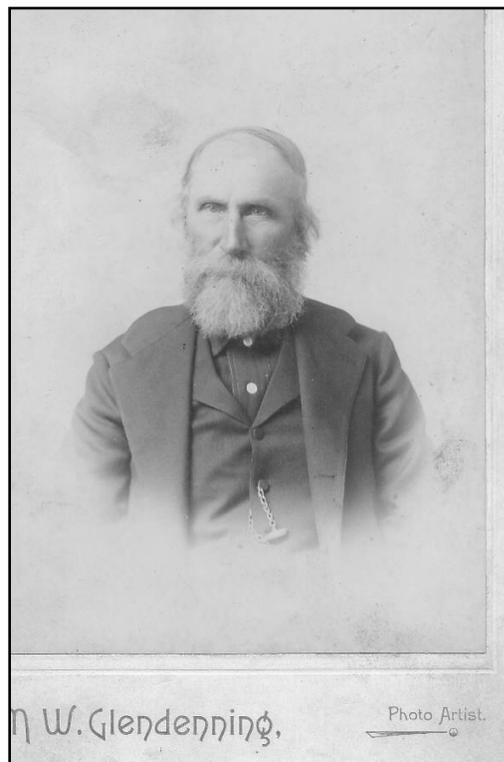
John Deardorff and Catherine Harshbarger

Several members of the Harshbarger family intermarried with the Deardorff family. Christian's daughter Catherine married John Deardorff (1779-1853) at Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, 13 Feb 1804. John and Kathy lived the first years of their married lives in Virginia, in Bedford and Botetourt Counties; then moved in 1817 to Highland County, Ohio; then to Union County, Indiana. In 1838, they moved to Des Moines County, Iowa and lived there the rest of their lives. John was a farmer, and acquired much property in southeastern Iowa. John died 1 Jul 1853 and is buried at Blakeway Cemetery, Des Moines County, Iowa. They had twelve children who survived into adulthood, several of whom journeyed still farther west.



Catherine Harshbarger Deardorff
1781-1871

The above photo was provided courtesy of Mel Deardorff, descendant of Catherine and John's son, Samuel F. Deardorff, produced from the original photo to which was a daguerreotype. According to photography historians consulted by Mr. Deardorff, the photo was probably made in about 1860.



Is this John Deardorff ?
1779-1853

The photo on the left may be that of John Deardorff. It was in a red velvet photo album found in a Deardorff trunk. The photos in the album were not labeled, but this one appeared close to the one of Catherine .

Clues in the photo: photographer's name, man's probable age, clothing, hair style etc. These clues should narrow the date and possible location where the photo was made.



Previously, the only photo I had of Catherine was the smaller one also shown here. As was done occasionally in those days, that photo was made immediately upon her death (1871).

[Ammen, Petra,
and Harshbarger](#)

Harshbarger and
Deardorff

[Deardorff,
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John Wesley Williams and Catherine Deardorff

Among the children of John Deardorff and Catherine Harshbarger was a daughter Catherine, 1819-1901. In 1836, she married John Wesley Williams, 1813-1882. They moved from Indiana in 1843, joining Catherine's parents in Des Moines County, Iowa.



< John Wesley Williams
Catherine Deardorff



John Hubbard Williams >
Mary Elizabeth Dickey

John Hubbard Williams, 1842-1924, was a son of John Wesley Williams and Catherine Deardorff. In 1863, in Iowa, he married Mary Elizabeth Dickey, 1847-1910.

A Deardorff Cousin at the Alamo



I don't believe either my grandmother or great grandmother knew that one of their Deardorff cousins died at the Alamo. On a visit to San Antonio in 1995, we found William's name on the monument at the Alamo called the *Alamo Cenotaph*.

The Deardorff/Dearduff family's original American home was in York County, Pennsylvania, and then Bedford and Botetourt Counties in Virginia before moving west. The next generation included William and his half sister Elizabeth. In about 1830, they

came to Texas to DeWitt's Colony in Gonzales. William and his brother-in-law were in Gonzales when the call came from Colonel William Travis for reinforcements at the Alamo. They were among the brave 32 who went to the aid of soldiers at the Alamo. Battle with Santa Anna's army ended there on March 6, 1836, with the death of 189 known patriots who valued freedom more than life itself.

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Williams, Britton, and DeLong

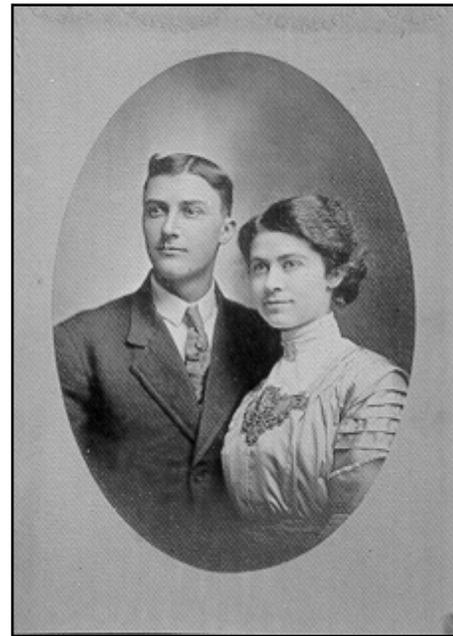
Orel Pearl Williams, daughter of John Hubbard Williams and Mary Elizabeth Dickey, was born in Iowa in 1870. On January 1, 1889, she married George Albert Newell Britton. He was also born in Iowa, in 1866.

Orel Pearl Williams was my great grandmother, and I feel fortunate to have known her. Many of the stories about her family were passed down and verified by her daughter, Edna Britton DeLong, (my grandmother) who was largely responsible for my interest in family history.

Edna Pearl Britton was born in Iowa in December of 1890. In her early childhood, the family lived in Orchard, Texas. Due to the devastation from the Galveston Flood, they traveled back to Iowa. Shortly after Edna's marriage, she and my grandfather Louis DeLong, accompanied her parents to Missouri, where they lived for a few years, returning to Iowa when my father, Robert Newell DeLong, was just a few months old.



Orel Pearl Williams & George Albert Newell Britton



1912. Louis and Edna.

Like her parents, Edna chose to be married on New Year's Day.



Edna Pearl Britton and Louis LeRoy DeLong
Courtship in 1911

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