

BURK FAMILY

by
Leolo Clara (Suber) Hawes

My mother¹ was the youngest child and she never referred to her grandparents by name, nor did she talk much about her family.

I visited the Deshler cemetery and copied information from the tombstones. I wrote to my cousin, Gertrude Snyder Thomas, and she copied names from a family bible. Gertrude is now dead. I guess I'm the oldest of the Deshler Burks, and I do not know much about my grandfather's parents, brothers, and sisters.

John Burk² recently wrote to Leon, Leoto, and me for information recently. He supplied my Grandfather, James Burk's father was named John and that he was a brother to Alexander Burk.

I recall Earl and Pearl Burk were twins, one with a speech handicap – stammer. I recall reference to a man called Uncle Alex, also a Crouch who stayed briefly at our house when I was about five or six years old.

I remember Cecil Burk and Merrit Burk³ lived in Deshler. Merrit was a school teacher in Deshler.

Someone named Oscar _____⁴ used to visit frequently in Deshler also.

Perhaps you could get more Information from the Mormon Temple. I found some Information on the Suber family, but I didn't search for Information on the Burks.

Burk Family

James Burk, son of John Burk, brother of Alexander, born May 4, 1836, died 1911 at age 75. Wife Nancy Ann Gibson Burk, daughter of Henry Gibson, born Dec. 20, 1844, died 1908 at 63+ years.

¹ Gertrude (Burk) Suber.

² Ivan John Burke now deceased, son of Earl Burk.

³ Leo Suber's son, Bill, said that Merritt Burke was the principle at the Deshler Public School when he attended. Nora E. (Herman) Burke's obituary shows that she and Cecil L. Burke were Merritt's parents. The 1900 census shows Hasel (b. 1888) and Cecil (b. 1890) Burke as step-children of Jacob M. (b. 1858) and Grace E. (b. 1867) Spangler in Deshler. Apparently, Grace's first husband was named Burke. These Burkes do not seem to be related to James Burk.

⁴ Oscar was referred to as a shirttail relative. He was long remembered as an example of poor table manners. Leon Suber remembers him from 1940 as the son of Earl Burk. However, no feasible official record of this Oscar Burk has been found and Ivan John Burke did not list him as a brother.

Their Children

I. Elizabeth Ellen Burk Miller, born Feb. 26, 1861 died 1892.

1. Clyde Miller
2. Elizabeth Miller McGee¹

II. Lusindia² Ann Burk, born Feb. 14, 1864, died _____.

III. Caspian Orbelus Burk, born Feb. 28, 1866, died 1934, known as Uncle "Cass". Wife Dora Lemons Burk, born 1871, died 1905.

1. Ethel M. Burk, died 1905 at 8 months.

IV. William Florrison Burk, born April 14, 1868, died _____³. Uncle "Willie" lived in Fostoria, Ohio.

1. Roy Burk of Toledo, Ohio, may have been Uncle Willie's son. Roy Burk married Loretta _____⁴, and they had a son, Jimmie.

V. Rosetta Armendia Burk Crouch, born Jan. 24, 1870 and died July 1915 at age 45, married Homer Crouch, who died in Oct. 1906.

They lived in Deshler and had two sons.

1. Clifford Crouch lived in Deshler and had a son named Richard Crouch.
2. Laurence Crouch lived in Deshler and married Gladys Ordway. They had a daughter named Millia M. Crouch Schuster, born March 21, 1916, died Oct. 20, 1976 at 60 years. "Millie" lived in Weston, Ohio and had several children. She was a frequent visitor with my parents. Laurence was arrested for some small crime and was imprisoned in Ohio State Penitentiary⁵. A fire broke out and he lost his life in that fire. This is certainly on record in Columbus, Ohio⁶.

Aunt "Rosie" married Charles N. Snyder after Homer Crouch. She and Uncle Charlie lived on a farm near Deshler, Ohio. They had no children.

¹ Suzanna Wells, a researcher of this family, reports that Clyde's obituary names his sister as Edith Edna and she married Charles McKee. This is supported by James Burks' probate records.

² The 1870 and 1880 censuses show her as "Lucinda". No record of her can be found after that.

³ FamilySearch Labs -- Ohio Deaths 1908-1953 shows that William died May 11, 1913.

⁴ FamilySearch Labs -- Michigan Marriages 1868-1925 shows that Roy, son of William, married Loretta Burrough.

⁵ This happened not to Laurence Crouch, but to Wilbur Young, husband of Violet Brown.

⁶ The Ohio State Penitentiary fire on Monday, April 21, 1930 is well documented.

VI. Floranes Matronia Burk Brown, born Feb. 8, 1874, died _____¹. Aunt “Matt” married Edward Brown and they lived on a farm north of Deshler. I recall my mother and I walking to visit Aunt Matt. They had four children.

1. Violet Brown Young had two children, Paul Young and Victor Young.
2. Ruth Brown _____² had a daughter, Betty. Ruth, remarried to Walter Osborne and lived in Michigan.
3. Darrell Brown died in the 70’s³.
4. Carl Brown married and had two children.

VII. Benjamin Frank Burk, born Sep. 20, 1878, died 1966⁴. Uncle Frank married Bertha _____⁵ and lived in Cleveland, Ohio. They had no children. I remember that we visited them in Cleveland and they visited our home several times.

VIII. Gracie Almedia Burk Snyder, born Sep. 16, 1882, died May 1, 1906 at age 23. Aunt Grace married her brother-in-law Charles N. Snyder, Sept. 18, 1900 and had two daughters.

1. Gertrude June Snyder Thomas was born March 10, 1902, died 198_⁶. Gertrude married Charles Wesley Thomas of Deshler in 1923. He passed away Oct. 14, 1960. They had three sons, Dale Wesley Thomas, born Feb. 26, 1924, Charles Edward Thomas, born Oct. 18, 1928, and James Bryant Thomas, born Dec. 12, 1929. Gertrude lived in Akron with her retarded son, Dale, but she died about two years ago and he moved to a care center.
2. Geneva Irene Snyder Bremer, born Feb. 27, 1905, died May 18, 1973 at age 68. Geneva married Carl Bremer of Deshler Nov. 1923, and they had a daughter, Ruth, June 24, 1936. “Ruthie” married Herschell Barfell and they had a son, Mark Allen Barfell, on Nov. 29, 1972. Ruthie died January 15, 1981 at age 44.

IX. Gerty Matrudy Burk Suber, known as Gertrude Mae Burk, born June 27, 1886, died Oct. 25, 1963 at age of 77, married John Cloyce Suber, born March, 1881 died ____⁷ 9, 1958. They lived in Deshler, Ohio, and had four children.

1. Leo John Suber, born Feb. 6, 1908, died Jan. 5, 1973, at age 64 – killed in an auto accident. Leo married Eileen Overly, born June 23, 1911, died Dec. 1, 1987

¹ FamilySearch Labs -- Ohio Deaths 1908-1953 shows that Flora A. Brown died June 27, 1919.

² Record of Ruth Brown’s first marriage has not been found.

³ FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index shows that Darrell died Nov. 1978.

⁴ An earlier draft of this document says that Frank died in 1959. Research by Leon Suber also gave 1959.

⁵ Bertha’s father was Richard Mott according to her Death Certificate.

⁶ FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index shows that Gertrude died Aug 1987.

⁷ John Suber’s 1919 draft registration card shows that he was born on Apr. 27, 1882. According to Bill Suber, John Cloyce Suber died on September 29, 1958.

at age 76+ years, and they lived in Deshler, Ohio. They had three sons, Leo John Junior Suber, William Devlin Suber, and Robert Suber.

2. Leolo Clara Suber Hawes, born Feb. 5, 1910¹, married Orville William Hawes, born March 28, 1910, died Jan. 3, 1984. They had three children, Marvin Paul Hawes, Arnajeon Paula Hawes Bye, and Dennis Allan Hawes. Dennis has two sons, Christopher S. and Timothy W.

3. Leoto Gertrude Suber Sloan, June 30, 1918² married Paul W. Sloan born Dec. 18, 1901, died Oct. 14, 1975. They had no children.

4. Leon Lavon Suber, born Dec. 14, 1922³ married Shirley Remmert and they had eight children, Tommie Suber, Raymond A. Suber, Marcia Suber Snell, Mary Suber Eader, Margie Suber, Nancy Lynn Suber, Wayne Suber, and Paul Suber.

Written, but unsigned, by Leolo C. Hawes, circa 1989 (she died in 2006)

Transcribed from the original hand-written document and footnoted by M. Paul Hawes in 2009 & 2012

¹ Died June 20, 2006.

² Died May 25, 2010.

³ Died January 13, 2011.