

RESEARCH REPORT

Addendum to Previous Reports

Rollin J. and Elizabeth Furbeck House

515 Fair Oaks Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois



Architect, Frank Lloyd Wright

Constructed 1897

House Captains: Carrie Leshyn, Joel Schorn, Petra Starr

Research Captain: Ken Simpson



Frank Lloyd Wright Trust
WrightPlus 2023

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Homeowners Tom and Deb Abrahamson very graciously allowed the Wright Plus team to visit their home and shared information about their knowledge of its history, work done since they purchased the house and their family.

All photos, except historic photos and as otherwise noted are by the author.

Ken Simpson
Wright Plus 2023

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Statement of Significance

The Rollin J. and Elizabeth Furbeck House, which throughout this report will be referred to as the Furbeck House, was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1897. It has appeared on Wright Plus numerous times and has been well-researched and documented in previous Research Reports, as well as in numerous publications about Wright's work. It is a significant example of this first decade of Wright's independent architectural, combining Prairie elements, such as strong horizontal lines, hip roofs, and broad chimneys, with strong vertical elements, as well as Louis Sullivanesque ornamentation.

The house is also in a significant neighborhood in the development of Oak Park. An undeveloped area north of Chicago Avenue was purchased by investors including prominent early Oak Park resident, Henry W. Austin in 1872. Eventually Austin sold his

interest to other investors who proceeded to subdivide and develop the neighborhood, which was marketed as "Fair Oaks". It was promoted for improvements that included macadamized and stone curbed streets lighted by electricity, water and sewer connections, stone sidewalks, and shade trees "artistically placed".¹ Warren Furbeck, Rollin's father, invested in the development and then Rollin's uncle, Judson Whaples purchased lots. One of those lots was sold to



Figure 1 – 1894 advertisement for property in Fair Oaks.

Warren who then sold it to his son as the site for a new house. Judson built his own house next door at what is now 509 Fair Oaks.² There is no documentation as to why Frank Lloyd Wright was selected as the architect for the house. Obviously, Wright was local and had many connections with prominent residents in the area. He had recently designed homes for William Winslow, Nathan Moore, and Harry Goodrich. Wright had also been selected to design a house for Rollin's brother George. The Furbecks appeared to be interested in progressive architectural styles. George Maher, who was designing Prairie style houses, including the John Farson home near Rollin's parents' house, was selected to design the next house for Rollin.

Much more is said about the importance of this house and all of its features in the previous Research Reports.

¹ Birth of the Fair Oaks District, Oak Park.com, July 11, 2006.

² Chain of Title for 515 Fair Oaks Avenue, Oak Park, IL, derived from Cook County Property Records, prepared by Pam Reynolds, Debbie Becker and as documented in prior Research Reports.

Previous Reports and Supplemental Information

Since 1985, the Furbeck House has been owned by only two families. Both have done a significant amount of work to restore and preserve this important architectural landmark. They have also generously opened the house numerous times for Wright Plus and Research Reports are in the Trust files as far back as 1986. In each of those reports, information has been documented that allows us and Wright Plus guests to better understand the design and history of the Furbeck House. Since the homeowners have remained the same and no significant changes have been made to the house since the last few reports were written, the current research focused on collecting additional information about the owners and residents of the house that followed the Furbecks. This information was relatively brief in the previous reports. Much new information has been found, including two previously undiscovered families who resided in the house presumably as renters. It is hoped that documenting the families who lived at 515 Fair Oaks, further illustrates how this is not just an interesting example of Wrights early career, but also a place that people called home for 125 years.

These families lived through significant historical moments and technological advances. In the early years of the house, horse and buggies were the mode of transportation and telephones were just beginning to be installed. Families in the Furbeck House lived through World War I, the so-called “Spanish” flu pandemic, the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, as well as the more recent wars in the Middle East. Home entertainment progressed from gathering around the radio, to watching black & white television, then color television and now streaming via the internet. The Wright Brothers first flight occurred when this house was occupied by its fourth residents and the Ford Model-T was introduced during the time of the fifth different family living here. Subsequent families saw the coming of commercial air travel and then men landing on the moon. Throughout the years of these continuous change, the Rollin Furbeck House has provided a connection with the past, while continuing to be a comfortable home adapted to how people live today.

Changes

The changes to this house have been well documented. A collection of photos provided to the current owners in 2001 by a resident of the house in the 1950s provides a glimpse of how the interior of the house looked at that time. A few of those photos are included in this report with more in the exhibits. Also, a few of the photos showing restoration work completed by the previous and current homeowners have been included, with more in the exhibits. House numbering changes and a street name change, creates some confusion in deciphering the residents of the house during the early years. Originally, Fair Oaks Avenue was a continuation of North Scoville Avenue and the house was numbered 609. It was then renumbered to 611. It was then renumbered to 515 and the section of the North Scoville within the Fair Oaks subdivision was renamed Fair Oaks.



Figure 2 – Antique water pump in backyard Oaks.

One item that had not been addressed in previous reports is the antique pump in the backyard. There is no documentation of the purpose of the pump and when it was installed. The Sanborn maps do not show a gasoline tank in the yard at any time and the pump does not appear to be the type that was typically used for pumping fuel in the early 1900s. Based on input from a group with some knowledge of antique pumps, it appears most likely to be what is known as a driven point or sand-point well.³ This is a shallow well, usually 25 feet deep or less, with a screened tube at the base of length of pipe used to extract water from the surrounding aquifer layer of soil.⁴ It was most likely used for watering a garden or landscape plantings. The pump itself is believed to be hand-made and probably not more than 75 years old.

Family Information

Chronology of Property Ownership and Residents¹¹

- 1897 – 1898 Rollin & Elizabeth Furbeck
- 1898 – 1900 John & Annie Hubbard
- 1900 – 1903 Edgar & Gertrude Thompson
- 1903 – 1904 Carl and Lulu Mae MacFadden, renting
- 1904 – 1913 Henry & Mary Barlow
- 1913 – 1924 Arthur & Helen Hamilton
- 1924 – 1928 Everett & Gertrude Brewer
- 1928 – 1943 Fred & Maude Stambaugh
- 1943 – 1945 William & Florence Elliott, renting
- 1945 – 1951 Elvin & Georgina Foster
- 1951 – 1954 Anthony & Pauline Cerami
- 1954 – 1985 Angelo & Linda Sharris & Linda Vasilopoulos (Title held for some portion of this time by George & Gertrude Kotin)
- 1985 – 1998 William & Linda Ryan
- 1998 – present Thomas & Debbi Abrahamson

³ “Antique Water Pumps of Yesterday”, closed FaceBook group, comments by Tony Kautza, March 5, 2023.

⁴ Driven Point (Sand-Point) Wells, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website, <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/DG/DG0022.pdf>.

Original Residents

Rollin J. and Elizabeth Furbeck, 1897–1898

Rollin Judson Furbeck was raised in Oak Park, and went to high school at Oberlin Academy in Oberlin, Ohio. He attended Yale University in 1894-1895. He then went to the University of Chicago in the fall semester of 1895-1896. He joined the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. No evidence has been found to indicate he completed a college degree.⁵ He followed in his father Warren's footsteps and became a stockbroker. Some interesting background on the Furbeck ancestry, Warren's parents were from New York and his paternal great, great grandfather was a Hessian soldier sold into service in the British army during the Revolutionary War. After being taken prisoner by the colonists, he chose to fight for the Americans and stayed in the country after the war.⁶ Rollin's mother, Sophia Whaples Furbeck, was a member of one of Oak Park's oldest and most prominent families. Sophia's parents, Reuben and Margaret Whaples, were said to be the second settlers in what eventually became Oak Park, buying a parcel from the first European settlers, Joseph and Betty Kettlestrings.⁷



Figure 3 – Warren Furbeck
from 1893 book of
noteworthy Chicagoans



Figure 4 – Elizabeth
Allen Furbeck

Elizabeth Allen was born in 1877 in Rockford, IL to Charles Herbert Allen and Carrie Friedman Allen.⁸ Charles had served in the 142nd Illinois Infantry during the Civil War in 1864, but only for about a month. He was apparently injured, since he later applied for veterans benefits as an invalid.⁹ He then attended the University of Michigan and graduated in 1868 from the Department of Medicine and Surgery and, according to a school catalog, he worked as a "chemist and druggist" in Chicago.¹⁰ In 1880, the Allen family was living on Lake Street in Chicago and Charles' occupation was a corresponding clerk.¹¹ In 1896 the family was living on Prairie Avenue in Chicago.¹²

It is unknown how Rollin and Elizabeth met but they were married on September 30, 1896.¹³ A little over a year later they moved into their new house at 515 Fair Oaks. Their daughter Edith was born soon after in January 1898. Rollin's uncle Judson Whaples and his family lived next door at 509

⁵ Email from University of Chicago Library, January 17, 2023, and various Yale and University of Chicago publications available online (see Exhibits).

⁶ *The Handbook of Chicago Biography, a Compendium of Useful Biographical Information*, edition of 1893, edited by John J. Flinn, the Standard Guide Company, Chicago, IL.

⁷ *More Pioneers*, included in a file about the Whaples family at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

⁸ Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/64651423/elizabeth-m-furbeck>)

⁹ Ancestry.com, online resource, Charles H. Allen Veterans Pension, 1900.

¹⁰ Ancestry.com, online resource, U.S. School Catalogs, 1765-1935, for Charles Herbert Allen, Zeta Psi, 1899.

¹¹ 1880 Census of the United States. State of Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 120, Page 43.

¹² *The InterOcean*, Social Affairs, October 1, 1896.

¹³ Ibid.

Fair Oaks. Judson was Sophia Furbeck's brother and likely the inspiration for Rollin's middle name. Judson had purchased both the lot for his house and Rollin's house in 1895 and sold the second lot to Warren Furbeck in 1896 who then sold it to Rollin a few months later.¹⁴

The Furbecks only occupied the house for a year, selling it in November 1898, and contracting with George Maher for a new house near the Farson House. They apparently never occupied the new house, since the family moved to the New York City area before its completion. Interestingly, Elizabeth Furbeck's parents and sister moved to New York at about the same time.¹⁵ Her sister Edith was married in New York in March 1899 and Elizabeth was the maid of honor. At the time of the wedding, the Furbecks were referred to as out-of-town guests, so they had not left Oak Park yet.¹⁶ The Furbeck's second daughter was born in New York in 1904.¹⁷ There seems to be some confusion with the name of their younger daughter. On some records her name is given as Phyllis A. Furbeck, but on others it is Elizabeth A. or Elizabeth Joan Furbeck. In 1905, Rollin, Elizabeth and their two young daughters were living in East Orange, NJ. They have two maids living with them, 19-year-old Eliza from Ireland and 20-year-old Anna from Germany. Rollin was working as a broker.¹⁸ He seemed to be having trouble holding down a job. In 1912-13, Rollin was living in Portland, OR working as an assistant sales manager for Slauson-Craig Company, a commercial real estate company. Living with him was his 13-year-old daughter Edith. Also



Figure 5 – A very young Rollin Judson Furbeck



Figure 6 – Elizabeth Joan Furbeck, from 1921 passport application.

living in Portland was Rollin's brother John Philip Furbeck.¹⁹ By 1915, Rollin was living in Mt. Vernon, NY, with his wife and daughters. His occupation was given as "printing" in the census.²⁰ Daughter Edith married Perry Breck in New York in September 1915. By 1918, Edith and Perry were separated and she was working as a clerk for the British Ministry of Shipping.²¹ In 1918, Rollin registered for the draft in the lead up to World War I. He was 43 years old and there is no evidence that he ever served in the military.²² The Furbecks were living in New York City and Rollin was working at Post and Flagg brokerage on Wall Street. In 1920, Edith married Hubert Pallant in London, England where she apparently lived after that.²³ Elizabeth Furbeck traveled with her younger

¹⁴ Chain of Title Research, previously documented in Rollin Furbeck House Research Reports.

¹⁵ 1900 Census of the United States. State of New York, Manhattan Enumeration District 473, Page 16.

¹⁶ *The Interocean*, March 16, 1899.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Elizabeth Furbeck in the New York, New York, U.S. Extracted Birth Index, 1878-1909.

¹⁸ 1905 New Jersey State Census, Essex County, East Orange, Enumeration District 3, Sheet 21.

¹⁹ *Polk's City Directory* 1912 & 1913 Portland.

²⁰ 1915 New Jersey State Census, Westchester County, Mt. Vernon, Election District 2, Ward 5.

²¹ United States Passport Application, Edith Furbeck Breck, June 9, 1918.

²² Ancestry.com, online resource, United States Draft Registration, September 12, 1918.

²³ Marriage certificate, Hubert Albert Pallant and Elizabeth Furbeck Breck, St. Saviours, Pimlico Church, December 12, 1920.

daughter in the early 1920s. On passport applications, the daughter's name is shown as Elizabeth Joan. The two applied for travel to Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland. Rollin and Elizabeth divorced sometime before her death in 1927.²⁴ Daughter Elizabeth apparently never married. Rollin married Frances Paterson in Indiana in 1939 and they were living in Detroit.²⁵ Rollin and Frances divorced in 1949.²⁶ Rollin died in Norwalk, CT in 1951.²⁷

Subsequent Residents

John S. and Annie C. Hubbard, November 1898–October 1900

The 1899 *Oak Park Directory* shows "J. S. Hubbard, Mgr. A G Fisher & Co" at this address (at the time it was 609 N. Scoville).²⁸ The 1900 census, taken in June, lists John (54), Annie (35), daughter Mary (6), son John (5) and Annie's sister Estelle Corbin (20) living in the house. John's occupation was shown as "Manager Smelting".²⁹ The census indicates that the Hubbards owned the house outright with no mortgage. A December 1900 ad offered stock in the Ute Smelting Company and listed John S. Hubbard as the Director, with a Chicago office in the First National Bank Building.³⁰ The smelting and mining facilities of the company were near Cripple Creek, CO. The company was listed in Colorado business and mining directories in 1900 and 1901.³¹ A response to a question submitted to an investor publication about the Ute Smelting Company in 1903, stated that the stock had no value and the company never really existed.³² No other information could be located about the Hubbards. Perhaps the smelting company failed and the Hubbards had a drastic change in circumstances.

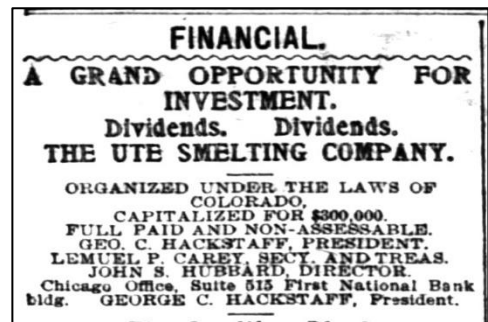


Figure 7 – 1900 ad offering stock in The Ute Smelting Company at 50 cents per share, John S. Hubbard, Director

²⁴ United States Passport Application, Elizabeth Allen Furbeck and Elizabeth Joan Furbeck, April 15 & 18, 1921.

²⁵ Ancestry.com, online resource, Rollin Judson Furbeck in the Indiana, USA Marriages, 1810-2001.

²⁶ Ancestry.com, online resource, Frances C Furbeck, in the Michigan, US Divorce Records, 1897-1952.

²⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Rollin J Furbeck, in the Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2012.

²⁸ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest Museum.

²⁹ 1900 Census of the United States. Illinois, Cook County, Town of Cicero, Enumeration District 1145, Sheet 29.

³⁰ *The InterOcean*, Financial, page 37, December 16, 1900.

³¹ *Colorado Mining Directory*, 1901, page 958.

³² *United States Investor Journal*, Vol. 13, 1903.

Edgar and Gertrude Thompson, October 1900–1903

Edgar Bradford Thompson was born in Woburn, MA in 1859, to Ambrose Leonard Thompson and Maria Smith Thompson.³³ He attended MIT and graduated as a mechanical engineer.³⁴ After graduating, he took a position with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in Minneapolis, MN, where he apparently met Gertrude Stocker. They were married in 1889, at the bride's sister's house in Watertown, SD. Their wedding announcement stated that Gertrude was the supervisor of drawing at the St. Paul, MN public schools. Edgar had apparently been transferred to Chicago. After the wedding, the couple was to make their home 220 Wisconsin Avenue, Oak Park.³⁵ *Oak Park Directories of 1889 and 1901* list "E. B. Thompson" as a clerk and then an engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway.³⁶



Figure 8 – Edgar Bradford Thompson

They purchased the Furbeck House in 1900 and owned it for about four years. The Thompsons were very active in social activities, with Mrs. Thompson mentioned often in social columns in the *Oak Leaves*. An interesting event was a very elaborate sounding "Japanese Reception" where Mrs. Thompson was a hostess. It was attended by Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright and a number of spouses of Wright's early clients.³⁷

Apparently, the Thompsons rented out the house for the last year of their ownership (see below). A job transfer appears to be the reason. An April 1903 article states that "Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Thompson left Tuesday night for Mason City, where they will make their home."³⁸ They were back in Oak Park by 1907 when their name again appeared in articles about social events in the village.³⁹ The Thompsons were living in the Quadrangle Apartments, 108 S. East Avenue, Oak Park in February 1908.⁴⁰ They must have expected their time in Oak Park to be more permanent, since an October 1908 article under the heading "Building in Fair Oaks", said that E. B. Thompson has purchased a 50-foot lot on East Avenue, west front, between Iowa and Augusta Streets. The article went on to say that a fine residence will be erected by the purchaser.⁴¹ It is doubtful they had time to build a house. A January 1909 article says that Edgar had been appointed superintendent at Chicago, St. Paul and Omaha Railroad in Minneapolis and



Figure 9 – Edgar Bradford Thompson

³³ Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43911919/edgar-bradford-thompson>)

³⁴ *Massachusetts Institute of Technology Catalog*, 1880.

³⁵ Find A Grave, online resource, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/166673689/gertrude-thompson>)

³⁶ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest Museum.

³⁷ *Oak Leaves*, page 5, April 11, 1902.

³⁸ *Oak Leaves*, page 20, April 23, 1903.

³⁹ *Oak Leaves*, page 4, December 28, 1907.

⁴⁰ *Oak Leaves*, page 23, February 22, 1908.

⁴¹ *Oak Leaves*, page 8, October 10, 1908.

that the couple was moving there.⁴² Mrs. Thompson was back in town however, “to attend the finale of a notable series of social gatherings.”⁴³ The Thompson’s frequent moves were a topic of an article on January 30, 1909, about a reception given for Gertrude before she left town and another local woman who had just returned to Oak Park. The article referred to them as “railway women” who followed their husband to wherever there is “big railway work to be done”.⁴⁴ The 1910 census shows Edgar, 45, Gertrude, 40, and a servant living in St. Paul, MN.⁴⁵ The Thompsons apparently had no children.

Again, the Thompsons relocated. The 1914 St. Paul directory listing for Edgar B. Thompson states, “moved to Chicago, IL”.⁴⁶ At some point, they moved to Glen Ellyn, IL, where Gertrude died in 1918. She is buried in her hometown of Winona, MN.⁴⁷ In 1920, the census shows Edgar as a lodger in a house in Glen Ellyn and his occupation was given as civil engineer in the railroad industry.⁴⁸ Edgar married Sarah Elizabeth Fowler in 1921.⁴⁹ Edgar was about 62 years old. A Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Fowler is listed in the 1910 Oak Park Directory at 114 S. Harvey Avenue, so perhaps Edgar met her when he still lived in Oak Park.⁵⁰ The 1940 census includes Edgar (81) and Elizabeth (65) living in a home they owned in Glen Ellyn.⁵¹ Edgar died in Elmhurst, IL in May 1941 and is buried in Waldheim Cemetery, Forest Park, IL.⁵²

Carl and Geneva (Lulu Mae) MacFadden, Renting 1903 - 1904



Figure 10 – 1903 Philander Barclay Photo. Driveway to port cochere visible on left side of house.

Carl Kendrick MacFadden and his wife, Geneva Kimball MacFadden, who went by the nickname of Lulu Mae, lived in the house in 1903 and part of 1904. The 1903 directory lists C. K. MacFadden in the oil business at this address (then 611 Fair Oaks and, in some cases, still 611 Scoville).⁵³ A photo from the Philander Barclay collection shows a photo of the house dated 1903 and names the resident as C. K. MacFadden.⁵⁴ There are also several newspaper articles that mention the MacFaddens at this

⁴² *Oak Leaves*, page 13, January 23, 1909.

⁴³ *Oak Leaves*, page 11, February 26, 1909.

⁴⁴ *Oak Leaves*, page 10, January 30, 1909.

⁴⁵ 1910 Census of the United States. Minnesota, Ramsey County, St. Paul, Enumeration District 94, Sheet 9.

⁴⁶ 1914 St. Paul, MN city directory.

⁴⁷ Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/166673689/gertrude-thompson>)

⁴⁸ 1920 Census of the United States, Illinois, DuPage County, Enumeration District Glen Ellyn Village, Sheet 13.

⁴⁹ Ancestry.com, online resource, Sarah E Fowler, in the Cook County, IL USA Marriages, 1912-1942.

⁵⁰ Ancestry.com, online resource, Sarah Elizabeth Fowler, in the U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995.

⁵¹ 1940 Census of the United States, Illinois, DuPage County, Glen Ellyn Village, Enumeration District 22-64, Sheet 13A.

⁵² Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43911919/edgar-bradford-thompson>)

⁵³ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

⁵⁴ Philander Barclay photos on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

address. Carl MacFadden was a noteworthy engineer in the oil industry with a number of patents for various types of drilling equipment.⁵⁵

Carl MacFadden was born in Travisville, IN in 1872.⁵⁶ Sometime between his birth and 1900, the MacFaddens had moved to Cicero Township, IL.⁵⁷ Geneva was born in Michigan in 1874 and in 1880 her family was living in Grand Rapids.⁵⁸ By 1893, when Carl and Geneva got married, her family was living on Taylor Street in Oak Park.⁵⁹ The couple possibly met through Geneva's father's business. In the 1910 Oak Park directory, her father was listed as being the President of the Traction Lubricating Company.⁶⁰ Carl, being in the oil industry, may have done business with this lubricating company. Carl's parents became well-established in Oak Park. In the 1927 obituary of his father, William MacFadden, it said that he was a pioneer resident of Oak Park and his wife, the late Margaret MacFadden, was well known.⁶¹

After their marriage, Carl and Geneva were living in Geneva, IN. The 1900 census lists Carl, Lulu Mae (Geneva), an infant son Bobbie (Robyn) and Lulu Mae's younger brother, Harold, living in Geneva. Both Carl and Harold's occupations are shown as "oil producers".⁶² An article in November 1902 mentions



Figure 11 –
Carl Kendrick MacFadden,
1917 Passport Photo

Mrs. MacFadden and her son visiting her parents in Oak Park and returning home to Geneva, IN.⁶³ By 1903, the MacFaddens are shown in the Oak Park directory as living on Fair Oaks.⁶⁴ It may have been that Geneva wanted to be close to her family and convinced her husband to rent the house, however, he apparently spent little time there. A 1903 Beaumont, TX directory lists C. K. MacFadden as the American Manager of Byrd Syndicate and Beaumont Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company with a bed at Oaks Hotel.⁶⁵ A January 1904 article states that "The oil interests of Carl MacFadden are so extensive that he spends most of his time in Beaumont, Tex, and in other oil districts".⁶⁶ Sometime before September 1904, the MacFaddens moved to Texas. A December 1904 *Oak Leaves* article describes the travels of a Reverend Sydney Strong and while in Texas he was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. MacFadden, former Oak Parkers.⁶⁷

Carl and Geneva apparently divorced shortly afterward. Geneva moved back to Oak Park and in the

⁵⁵ United States Patent Office, No. 730,838, Patented June 9, 1903, Pipe-Driving Attachment.

⁵⁶ United States Passport Application, Carl Kendrick MacFadden, March 5, 1917.

⁵⁷ 1900 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Cicero Township, Enumeration District 1147, Sheet 3.

⁵⁸ Ancestry.com, online resource, Lulu Mae Kimball in the 1880 United States Federal Census.

⁵⁹ *The Interocean*, page 4, October 22, 1893.

⁶⁰ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

⁶¹ *Chicago Tribune*, "Hold Funeral Rites Today for George W. MacFadden", March 23, 1927.

⁶² 1900 United States Census, Indiana, Adams County, Geneva Town, Enumeration District 13, Sheet 2.

⁶³ *Oak Leaves*, page 6, November 7, 1902.

⁶⁴ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

⁶⁵ 1893 Beaumont, TX directory.

⁶⁶ *Oak Park Reporter*, page 1, January 23, 1904.

⁶⁷ *Oak Leaves*, "In the Sunny South", page 15, December 31, 194.

1910 census she and her 10-year-old son are shown living with her parents on Taylor Street.⁶⁸ Carl married Pearl Woodford in New Orleans in 1906.⁶⁹ In 1911, Carl and Pearl are listed in a Muskogee, OK directory. Carl's occupation was given as "oil operator".⁷⁰ Pearl died suddenly in St. Louis, MO in 1912.⁷¹ In 1917, Carl applied for a passport, with plans to travel to Columbia, Venezuela and Panama. His gave his permanent address as being in Long Beach, New York.⁷² In the July-December 1917 issue of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute, Devoted to Science and the Mechanic Arts*, Carl was described as, "Technical advisor of companies interested in petroleum; Member Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers; Associate Member of American Society of Naval Engineers; fuel oil expert and consulting engineer for American foreign companies."⁷³ By 1920, Geneva had married John Henderson and the census from that year lists her and her parents, along with a servant, living with John in Wilmette, IL.⁷⁴

Carl applied for a passport again in 1924, listing numerous countries in Europe and South America that he planned to visit. His address was given as Daytona, Florida.⁷⁵ By 1930, Carl was living in New York City and was married again. His wife's name was Norma. They were renting a house in Manhattan, where were five lodgers were also living.⁷⁶ Geneva (Lulu Mae) Kimball MacFadden Henderson died in September 1944, in Chicago.⁷⁷ In 1950, 78-year-old Carl was retired and still living in New York with his 43-year-old wife Norma.⁷⁸ Carl died in Rye, New York in December 1952.⁷⁹ Carl apparently had other children, although only his son Robyn with his first wife Geneva is documented in any census reports. His father William's obituary in 1927 stated that he was survived by his son Carl and three grandsons, Carl Chamberlain MacFadden of Daytona Beach, Robyn MacFadden of Chicago and William MacFadden of New York.⁸⁰

⁶⁸ 1910 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 79, Sheet 21A.

⁶⁹ Ancestry.com, online resource, Carl Kendrick MacFadden in the New Orleans, Louisiana Marriage Records, 1831-1964.

⁷⁰ 1911 Muskogee, Oklahoma directory.

⁷¹ *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, page 9, November 8, 1912.

⁷² United States Passport Application, Carl Kendrick MacFadden, March 5, 1917.

⁷³ *Journal of the Franklin Institute, Devoted to Science and the Mechanic Arts*, Vols. 184, Nos. 1099-1104, July-December 1917.

⁷⁴ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, New Trier Township, Wilmette, Enumeration District 125, Sheet 7.

⁷⁵ United States Passport Application, Carl Kendrick MacFadden, November 24, 1924.

⁷⁶ 1930 United States Census, New York, New York, Borough of Manhattan, Enumeration District 31-264, Sheet 3B.

⁷⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Geneva Henderson in the Illinois, U.S., Deaths and Stillbirths Index 1916-1947.

⁷⁸ 1950 Census of Population and Housing, U.S. Department of Commerce, New York, New York, Sheet 8.

⁷⁹ Ancestry.com, online resource, Carl K. MacFadden, in the New York, U.S. Death Index, 1852-1956.

⁸⁰ *Chicago Tribune*, "Hold Funeral Rites Today for George W. MacFadden", March 23, 1927.

Henry and Mary Barlow, September 1904–March 1913

Henry Clay Barlow was born in Niles, Michigan in 1850, to parents Samuel and Hannah Barlow.⁸¹ According to the *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois with Commemorative Biographies*, “At the age of sixteen he began working as office boy and clerk in the Illinois Central railroad in Warren, Illinois. One year later, 1867, he was employed by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and remained with this organization until 1881”. Henry then became Division Freight Agent for the Winona & St. Peter Railroad in Winona, MN.⁸² An article in the January 31, 1883, *Spearfish (Minnesota) Daily Register* under the heading, “Railroad Rumbblings” states that “Mr. H. C. Barlow, late division freight agent of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, now with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, was united in marriage Monday afternoon to Miss Mary Louise Cone of Winona, MN”.⁸³ (Maybe the Barlow’s purchased the Furbeck House from the Thompsons because Mary Barlow and Gertrude Thompson knew each other, since they were both from Winona. Also, both husbands were in the



Figure 12 – Henry Clay Barlow from the *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*



Figure 13 – Mary Louise Cone Barlow from 1923 passport application

railroad business.) After a honeymoon trip, the Barlow’s took up residence in Topeka. In September 1886, their son Cone was born in Oak Park.⁸⁴ In January 1889, their second son Whitney was born in Milwaukee, WI, but Whitney lived only a few months and died in April.⁸⁵ Daughter Louise was born in 1892 in Chicago and daughter Frances was born in Evansville, IN in 1897. Obviously, the family moved around frequently, apparently due to Mr. Barlow’s job. As shown by the 1900 census and *Oak Park Directory*, the family was in the area, renting a house at 436 Chicago Avenue in Oak Park (then part of Cicero). At that time, the family consisted of Henry (49), Mary (42), Cone (13), Louise (9), Frances (5) and Mary Fleming (59), identified as a nurse.⁸⁶ The 1910 U. S. Census shows 515 Fair Oaks occupied by the “Darlow” (*sic*) family: Henry (59), Mary (52), Louise (18), Frances (13), and a servant, Clara Oreson (22). Mr. Barlow’s occupation was shown as a traffic specialist for a commerce association.⁸⁷

⁸¹ Schedule 1, Free Inhabitants of Third Ward of the City of Niles, County of Berrien, State of Michigan, 1860.

⁸² *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois with Commemorative Biographies*, Volume II, by Newton Bateman, D. Paul Selby, and Seymour Currey, Copyright 1933, Munsell Publishing Company.

⁸³ *Spearfish (Minnesota) Daily Register*, “Railroad Rumbblings”, January 31, 1883.

⁸⁴ Application for Membership to the Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Cone Barlow, April 3, 1914.

⁸⁵ Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81969348/whitney-barlow>)

⁸⁶ 1900 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Town of Cicero, Enumeration District 1146, Sheet 16.

⁸⁷ 1901 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 69, Sheet 2B.

The 1910 *Oak Park Directory* lists Mr. Barlow's occupation as a manager for the Chicago Association of Commerce.⁸⁸



Figure 14 – Frances Barlow
from 1921 passport application

The Barlows sold the house in 1913, likely because most of the children were now adults and Henry was in his 60s and Mary in her late 50s. In 1914, Henry Barlow traveled to Glasgow, Scotland for business, although the specific nature of the business is unknown. At the time, his wife and youngest child, Frances, were living in Chicago. His older children, Cone and Louise, were living in Oak Park.⁸⁹ In the 1920 census, Henry (69) and Mary (61) were residing at 2146 Lincoln Park West in Chicago. Henry's occupation was still listed as Traffic Manager.⁹⁰ Henry died on December 6, 1921. His obituary stated that his son Cone was living in Donnacona, Quebec, daughter Louise Barlow Hamilton was living in Oak Park, and daughter Frances was living with her mother at Lincoln Park West.⁹¹ Henry apparently had a large estate, since an Executor's Bond was issued in Mary's name in an amount of more than \$100,000.⁹² The *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois* includes this statement about Henry Barlow, "During the World War, his superior professional capacity was given to his country in the ordering of its transportation forces for victory."⁹³

On April 1922, Frances married Reginald Keith Jopson, British Vice Consul at Chicago.⁹⁴ Mary traveled after her husband's death, applying for a passport in 1923, and sailing to Buenos Aires in 1931.⁹⁵ Mary died on April 28, 1934, in Chicago. Both she and Henry are buried at Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, WI. Mary's obituary states that Cone was living in Indianapolis, Louise Barlow Hamilton was living in Winnetka, and Frances Barlow Jopson was living in Helsingfors, Finland.⁹⁶

⁸⁸ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

⁸⁹ Registration of Citizen of the United States, U.S. Consulate, Glasgow, Scotland, August 6, 1914.

⁹⁰ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 1204, Sheet 16.

⁹¹ *Chicago Tribune*, December 7, 1921.

⁹² Executors Bond, State of Illinois, County of Cook, Mary L. C. Barlow, December 14, 1921.

⁹³ *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois with Commemorative Biographies*, Volume II, by Newton Bateman, D. Paul Selby, and Seymour Currey, Copyright 1933, Munsell Publishing Company.

⁹⁴ *Chicago Tribune*, April 7, 1922.

⁹⁵ United States Passport Application, Mary Louise Cone Barlow, March 22, 1923.

⁹⁶ Find A Grave, online resource, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/81969402/mary-louise-barlow>)

Arthur L. and Helen P. Hamilton, March 1913–August 1924

Figure 16 – Arthur Little Hamilton

Arthur Hamilton was born in 1876 in Fond du Lac, WI, the youngest of six children.⁹⁷ His father, Woodman C. Hamilton, was a very prosperous businessman in Wisconsin, owning forest land, a lumber mill, iron mines and real estate.⁹⁸ Upon Woodman's death in 1899, he left an estate valued at more than \$660,000 (more than \$20 million in 2023). The estate was divided up among his large family, with Arthur inheriting \$78,000 (about \$2 million in 2023). In the obituary, it stated that son

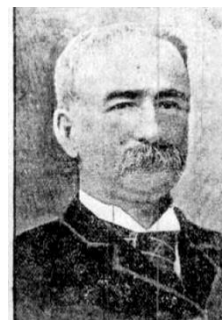


Figure 15 – Woodman C. Hamilton

Arthur was attending a Boston college. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology *Register of Former Students* includes Arthur Little Hamilton receiving a Bachelor

of Science in Mining and Metallurgical Engineering in 1900.⁹⁹ A 1910 directory lists Arthur living at 529 Grove Avenue, Oak Park. In October of that year, he married Helen Parker at her parents' home in Lawrence, MA.¹⁰⁰ The 1915 Chicago directory lists Arthur L. Hamilton as the President of International Tag Company, 852 W. Lake Street; home in Oak Park.¹⁰¹ A 1916 City Club of Chicago bulletin includes an article about upcoming elections of officers. Included as a candidate for Director of the Club is Arthur L. Hamilton, President of International Tag Company and member of the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Ethical Society.¹⁰² (The City Club of Chicago was founded in 1903 to promote civic responsibility and to be a forum for political debate. It is still an active organization. The Chicago Ethical Society was founded in 1882 as the Society for Ethical Culture to promote social welfare in the city. It changed its name to the Chicago Ethical Society in 1911 and to the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago in 1969.) The Hamiltons lived in the house through the years of World War I and the so-called Spanish Flu pandemic, but Arthur did not serve in the military and there is no documentation of the pandemic having any impact on the family. The 1920 U. S. Census shows the members of the family living at 515 Fair Oaks as Arthur (43), Helen (41), Parker (18), Arthur L., Jr. (13), and a servant from Sweden, Hilda Johnson (26). It shows Mr. Hamilton's occupation as President of a "tag manufacturing co."¹⁰³ A September 1920 article states that a Miss Helen Hamilton of 515 Fair Oaks will be entering Chicago University.¹⁰⁴ However, a daughter does not appear in any other records of the Hamilton family. Arthur's older brother Edgar also lived in Oak Park, at 245 N. Kenilworth, and in 1920 their wives spent the summer months together in Wisconsin.¹⁰⁵ The 1922 *McCoy's Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park Directory* lists Mr. Hamilton's occupation as

⁹⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Arthur L. Hamilton in the 1880 U.S. Census.

⁹⁸ Find A Grave, online resource, Woodman Clark Hamilton, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/230022091/woodman-clark-hamilton>

⁹⁹ *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Boston, Register of Former Students*, Volume 47, Number 3, March 1912.

¹⁰⁰ *Boston Evening Transcript*, page 11, October 7, 1900.

¹⁰¹ Chicago Directory, 1915.

¹⁰² *City Club Bulletin*, 1916.

¹⁰³ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 144, Sheet 10A.

¹⁰⁴ *Oak Leaves*, Collegians Farewell, page 22, September 18, 1920.

¹⁰⁵ *Oak Leaves*, page 63, July 3, 1920.

“President – International Tag Co.” A 1923 Chicago business directory lists the International Tag Company at 319 N. Whipple.¹⁰⁶ Arthur applied for a passport in 1924 for travel to France, Britain, Switzerland and Italy for the purpose of study. At the time he was living in Lawrence, MA.¹⁰⁷ The 1930 census lists Arthur, Helen and Arthur, Jr. living in Lisbon, NH. Arthur, Sr. was apparently retired and Arthur, Jr. was working as a teacher.¹⁰⁸ In June 1931, Arthur, Jr. married Martha Kunhardt Knapp of Stamford, CT, at the bride’s parent’s summer home in Vineyard Haven on Martha’s Vineyard, MA. Parker Hamilton was the best man. The article about the wedding stated that, “Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton left on their yacht “Selkade” for a wedding trip”.¹⁰⁹ An article about a large passenger steam ship crashing during a storm while approaching Vineyard Haven in August 1931, states that “the ship struck the 60-foot power yacht Selkade, owned by Calvin Child, at anchor and unoccupied. Some reports state that the yacht was overturned. Childs was a retired millionaire executive of the Victor Talking Machine Company”.¹¹⁰ (Victor Talking Machine Company was acquired by RCA in 1929 and became RCA Victor.) Perhaps the Hamiltons or the Knapps were related to Calvin Child.

A 1936 ship’s manifest lists Arthur and Helen arriving in New York from Cherbourg, France.¹¹¹ Arthur L. Hamilton, Jr. received a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard in 1938.¹¹² Apparently, Arthur, Jr.’s marriage to Martha Knapp did not last long. In 1939, he was living in Washington, DC and applied for a marriage license to Luella Howard of Wichita, KS.¹¹³ In the 1940 census Arthur, Sr. (65) and Helen (62) were living in Lisbon, NH.¹¹⁴ Helen died shortly after this and in 1945 68-year-old Arthur married 48-year-old Eleanor Shane, a librarian from Southbridge, MA.¹¹⁵ In the 1950 census, Arthur, Jr. was living in Santa Fe, NM with his second wife Luella and his occupation was a manufacturer of crafts.¹¹⁶ Arthur, Sr. died in Lisbon, NH in 1955.¹¹⁷ Arthur, Jr. died in 1986. At the time of Arthur, Jr.’s death he was living in Washington, DC and his wife Luella was recently deceased. The obituary mentions that he had served in the army during World War II and he was survived by a number of nieces and nephews who were apparently his brother Parker’s children. Arthur, Jr. had no children with either wife.¹¹⁸



Figure 17 – Arthur Hamilton, Jr., 1938 Harvard Yearbook

¹⁰⁶ 1923 Chicago Business Directory.

¹⁰⁷ United States Passport Application, Arthur L. Hamilton, August 21, 1924.

¹⁰⁸ 1930 United States Census, New Hampshire, Grafton County, Lisbon Town, Enumeration District 5-30, Sheet 5A.

¹⁰⁹ *Hartford Courant*, June 21, 1931.

¹¹⁰ *The Martha’s Vineyard Times*, “This Was Then: Swept Aground”, July 22, 2020.

¹¹¹ List of United States Citizens, S.S. Deutschland, sailing from Cherbourg, April 10, 1936, arriving port of New York, April 17, 1936.

¹¹² *Bulletin of the Harvard Business School*, July 1939.

¹¹³ *Washington, DC Evening Star*, June 24, 1939.

¹¹⁴ 1940 United States Census, New Hampshire, Grafton County, Lisbon Town, Enumeration District 5-41, Sheet 8A.

¹¹⁵ State of New Hampshire, Certificate of Intention to Marriage, Arthur Little Hamilton, Elanor Shane, 1945.

¹¹⁶ 1950 United States Census, New Mexico, Santa Fe County, Enumeration District 26-4, Sheet 12.

¹¹⁷ Certificate of Death, State of New Hampshire, Arthur L. Hamilton, March 20, 1955.

¹¹⁸ *Albuquerque Tribune*, February 21, 1986.

Everett C. and Gertrude J. Brewer, August 1924–May 1928

Everett Caleb Brewer was born in 1880 in Indiana.¹¹⁹ Everett married Gertrude Jenette Frary of Warsaw, IN, in her hometown in January 1899. A brief article about the wedding said the couple “at once left for Chicago where they will make their home.”¹²⁰ Chicago directories around 1900 list Everett living on Drexel Avenue in Chicago.¹²¹ In 1905, their son, Everett, Jr., was born.¹²² A June 1908 article in the *Suburban Economist*, under Auburn News, mentions that Everett and Paul Frary (likely his brother-in-law) spent the weekend at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.¹²³ A 1917 Wilmette, IL directory includes a listing for Everett C. and Gertrude Brewer with Everett’s occupation given as broker.¹²⁴ Everett registered for the draft that year and his occupation was Investment Banker at Powell, Gerard & Company on LaSalle Street.¹²⁵ The 1920 census shows the Brewers living on Kenmore Avenue in Chicago. Gertrude had begun going by her middle name of Jenette.¹²⁶ The 1925 *McCoy’s Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park Directory* lists the Brewer’s at 515 Fair Oaks and Everett has the same occupation. Their 20-year-old son Everett Jr. was also listed at the address.¹²⁷ The Brewers sold the house in 1928, possibly because their adult son had moved out or they decided to leave Chicago for the warmer climate of southern California.

The 1930 census lists the Brewers as owning a home on South Ogden Street in Los Angeles and Everett’s occupation was given as salesman of stocks and bonds.¹²⁸ A 1938 Los Angeles directory lists Everett and



Figure 18 – Everett Caleb Brewer III and Donna Jeanette Brewer, undated photos

Gertrude at the same address and he was a salesman for Union Securities Corporation.¹²⁹ Everett Jr. also moved to California and the 1930 census shows him living in Los Angeles with a wife named Crystal and a 1-year-old son, also named Everett.¹³⁰ A 1933 Santa Monica, CA directory lists both Everett Sr. and Jr. at Brewer Manufacturing & Sales Company.¹³¹ In 1940, Everett, Jr. and Crystal were living in Burbank and had a second child, a daughter named Donna Jeanette.¹³² On his World War II draft registration, Everett, Jr.’s employer was given as Lockheed Aircraft Company.¹³³ At 62 years old, Everett, Sr. also registered

¹¹⁹ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 1426, Sheet 4.

¹²⁰ *The Interocean*, January 13, 1899.

¹²¹ Ancestry.com, online resource, Everett C Brewer in the U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995.

¹²² U.S. Draft Registration, Everett Caleb Brewer, Jr., 1940.

¹²³ *Suburban Economist*, “Auburn News”, June 12, 1908.

¹²⁴ Wilmette Directory, 1917.

¹²⁵ U.S. Draft Registration, Everett Caleb Brewer, 1917.

¹²⁶ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 1426, Sheet 4.

¹²⁷ Oak Park Directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

¹²⁸ 1930 United States Census, California, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Enumeration District 19-108, Sheet 6A.

¹²⁹ Los Angeles California Directory, 1938.

¹³⁰ Ancestry.com, online resource, Everett C Brewer in the 1930 United States Census.

¹³¹ Santa Monica California Directory, 1933.

¹³² 1940 United States Census, California, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Enumeration District 19-169, Sheet 5B.

¹³³ U.S. Draft Registration, Everett Caleb Brewer, Jr. 1940.

for the World War II draft in 1942.¹³⁴ Gertrude was apparently deceased, since Everett, Jr. was listed as his next of kin. Everett, Jr. and Crystal divorced in the early 1940s.¹³⁵ Everett, Sr. died in Los Angeles in 1946.¹³⁶ In 1963, Everett, Jr. married Lorene Miller. Everett, Jr. died in 1965 in Orange County, CA.¹³⁷

Frederick A. and Maude A. Stambaugh May 1928–August 1943

Frederick Alexander Stambaugh was born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1876.¹³⁸ The Stambaughs had ancestors in the United States since the early 1700s, including at least one that served in the American army during the Revolutionary War.¹³⁹ Maude Antionette Howland was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1875.¹⁴⁰ Frederick and Maude were married on July 9, 1904, in Chicago.¹⁴¹ Their son, John Howard, was born in 1905.¹⁴² As shown in the 1910 census, Fred and Maude Stambaugh were living in a rented room or apartment on Washington Boulevard in Chicago with their 4-year-old son John. Fred was a manager



Figure 19 John Howard Stambaugh, University of Chicago 1927 Yearbook

in a mail order house.¹⁴³ Daughter Mary Louise was born in 1913.¹⁴⁴ Fred registered for the draft in 1918 and gave his address as 250 Keystone Avenue, River Forest, IL.¹⁴⁵ The 1920 U. S. Census shows the Stambaugh family residing at the same address. The family included Fred (43), Maude (44), John (14), and Mary Louise (6). Fred's occupation was the same as in 1910.¹⁴⁶ In April 1920, Fred was elected as a River Forest School Board Trustee.¹⁴⁷ A July 1920 article mentions that John was attending a summer course at Culver Military Academy in Culver, IN. In July 1921, the Stambaugh's River Forest home was used by the Atlas Educational Film Company as a set for the film "The Adventures of Salesmanship". An article described the film as "designed to show dramatically and vividly the technic of salesmanship..."¹⁴⁸

John graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School in 1923.¹⁴⁹ A 1925 Oak Park directory listed Fred and Maude still at the River Forest address and Fred's occupation was

¹³⁴ U.S. Draft Registration, Everett Caleb Brewer, April 27, 1942.

¹³⁵ Find A Grave, online resource, Crystal Brewer Beatley, January 4, 1963.

¹³⁶ Ancestry.com, online resource, Everett C Brewer, in the California Death Index, 1940-1997.

¹³⁷ Find A Grave, online resource, Everett Caleb Brewer Jr, February 19, 1965, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23460896/everett-caleb-brewer>)

¹³⁸ Ancestry.com, online resource, Frederick Alexander Stambaugh, Family Tree.

¹³⁹ Application for Membership, National Society Sons of the American Revolution, John H. Stambaugh, 1962.

¹⁴⁰ *Nashville Banner*, "Stambaugh Services Conducted", March 19, 1963.

¹⁴¹ *Chicago Tribune*, July 9, 1904.

¹⁴² Ancestry.com, online resource, Frederick Alexander Stambaugh, Family Tree.

¹⁴³ 1910 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 1459, Sheet 12-A.

¹⁴⁴ Ancestry.com, online resource, Frederick Alexander Stambaugh, Family Tree.

¹⁴⁵ U.S. Draft Registration, Frederick Alexander Stambaugh, September 12, 1918.

¹⁴⁶ 1920 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, River Forest Village, Enumeration District 203, Sheet 9B.

¹⁴⁷ *Oak Leaves*, page 77, April 24, 1920.

¹⁴⁸ *Oak Leaves*, page 1, July 2, 1921.

¹⁴⁹ *Forest Leaves*, page 8, June 17, 1948.

manager, Sears Roebuck.¹⁵⁰ John graduated from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1927.¹⁵¹ The 1930 directory shows Fred, Maude and John living at 515 Fair Oaks. Fred was a Department Manager for Sears, Roebuck, and John was in sales.¹⁵² In the 1930 census, the family now has a 36-year-old maid from Germany, Louise, living with the family. John (24) was still at home and his occupation was given as bond salesman in a broker's office.¹⁵³ Fred retired in 1936 after working for Sears for 36 years. At his retirement he was group supervisor for farm supplies and equipment.¹⁵⁴ In 1937, Mary Louise married Stanley Graham Smith, formerly of England. Stanley was in the advertising business and an organist. He played the organ during the wedding ceremony. The article about the wedding mentions that her brother John was by then married to Helen Walton.¹⁵⁵



Figure 20 John Howland Stambaugh, 1973 *Palm Desert Post*

In 1940, the Stambaugh household at 515 Fair Oaks consisted of Fred (64), Maude (63), daughter Mary Lou (26) and her husband Stanley Smith (29). Stanley was a salesman for a lithograph company.¹⁵⁶ John registered for the draft in 1940. His draft registration shows him living in Valparaiso, IN with his wife Helen and his employer was the Stambaugh Farm Equipment Company. He apparently served in the military during World War II, since the registration card was marked "Discharged 11-30-44."¹⁵⁷ An article in 1948 mentions John (Jack) Stambaugh led the singing of "We're Loyal to You", at the 25th reunion of the Oak Park High School class of 1923. At the time, John's address was still Valparaiso, IN.¹⁵⁸

The Stambaughs put the house up for sale in July 1940. However, they had difficulty selling it and they took it off and put it back on the market a number of times until it finally sold to the Fosters in 1945. The real estate listing included the statement that they were receptive to renting the house for one year or more at \$125/month. In the 1950 census, Fred (74) and Maude (74) were living in Chicago with Mary Louise (36), divorced, and her son Stanley (8).¹⁵⁹ Fred and Maude moved to Washington, D.C. in 1953 where their son John was working for the Eisenhower administration. Fred died there in 1959. Fred's obituary mentions that he ran his son John's farm equipment business in Valparaiso, IN while John served in the Army during World War II. John was quoted as saying, "Dad ran my business better than I could."¹⁶⁰ Maude moved to Nashville in 1962 where her son was then Vice Chancellor of Vanderbilt University. She died there in 1963. At the time, her daughter Mary Louise had remarried and was living

¹⁵⁰ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

¹⁵¹ University of Chicago Yearbook 1927.

¹⁵² Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

¹⁵³ 1930 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park Village, Enumeration District 16-2250, Sheet 17-A.

¹⁵⁴ *Nashville Banner*, VU Official's Father, F. A. Stambaugh Dies, page 10, November 20, 1959.

¹⁵⁵ *Chicago Tribune*, Stambaugh-Smith Nuptials to be Today, April 29, 1937.

¹⁵⁶ 1940 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 16-3528, Sheet 7-B.

¹⁵⁷ U.S. Draft Registration, John Howland Stambaugh, October 16, 1940.

¹⁵⁸ *Forest Leaves*, Class of 1923, Most of it Anyway, Returns for Reunion, page 8, June 17, 1948.

¹⁵⁹ 1950 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 103-3959, Sheet 32.

¹⁶⁰ *Nashville Banner*, VU Official's Father, F. A. Stambaugh Dies, page 10, November 20, 1959.

in Ft. Lauderdale, FL with her son Stanley. Maude's obituary stated that son John was now a senior consultant with George Fry and Associates, a worldwide management consulting firm.¹⁶¹ A January 1973 article in the *Palm Desert Post* said that Mrs. Bob Hope announced John Stambaugh became a member of the Eisenhower Medical Center Board of Trustees. The article stated that, in addition to serving as a consultant in the Eisenhower administration, John served on the President's Commission on International Trade and Investment under the Nixon administration.¹⁶² John died in 1988 in Rancho Santa Fe, CA. His obituary said he was survived by his wife Helen, a long-time resident of Indian Wells, CA. They had no children.¹⁶³

William B. and Florence Elliott, Renting 1943 -1945

The Elliotts apparently took the Stambaughs up on their offer and rented the house from 1943 to 1945. William Benjamin Elliott was born in Chicago in 1895.¹⁶⁴ Florence Sheehan was also born in Chicago in 1895.¹⁶⁵ William apparently had a brief first marriage and a son. William married Florence in 1921. They had six children together by 1930, in addition to a son William had by his first marriage.¹⁶⁶ In the 1940 census, the family was living on Longwood Drive in Chicago and consisted of William, Florence, seven children ranging from 11 to 21 years of age, along with William's aunt, also named Florence. William's occupation was a salesman at a construction equipment company.¹⁶⁷ In April 1942 when William registered for the draft, he and Florence were living in Wauwatosa, WI and he was working for the Koehring Company, a manufacturer of heavy equipment.¹⁶⁸

The 1943 Oak Park directory lists Wm B Elliott at 515 Fair Oaks. Possibly a job change or transfer brought the Elliotts to Oak Park in 1943.¹⁶⁹ Since there is no census from the few years that the Elliotts were living at 515 Fair Oaks, it is not certain if all the children and William's sister were living there, but it was a very busy, large household during those years, coinciding with the final years of World War II.

In January 1943, son James married Dorothy Schmitt.¹⁷⁰ In March 1943, daughter Mary Grace Elliott married George Benjamin of Navy Pier (George was apparently in the Navy). A reception for 65 guests was held at the bride's parents' home, 515 Fair Oaks.¹⁷¹ Son James received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University



Figure 21 -Dorothy Schmitt, bride of James Elliott, 1943.

¹⁶¹ *Nashville Banner*, Stambaugh Services Conducted, March 18, 1963.

¹⁶² *Palm Desert Post*, Nidorf, Stambaugh Added to EMC.

¹⁶³ *Palm Desert Post*, Stambaugh Memorial Fund Set Up, October 19, 1988.

¹⁶⁴ Medical Certificate of Death, Indiana State Board of Health, Division of Vital Records, State No. 57-037575.

¹⁶⁵ Ancestry.com, online resource, Florence Sheehan, 1895.

¹⁶⁶ 1930 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 16-2573, Sheet 22B.

¹⁶⁷ 1940 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 102-1091, Sheet 6B.

¹⁶⁸ U.S. Draft Registration, William Benjamin Elliott, April 27, 1942.

¹⁶⁹ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

¹⁷⁰ *The Capital Times*, Madison, WI, Dorothy Schmitt is Married to James Elliott, January 24, 1943.

¹⁷¹ *Forest Leaves*, Elliott-Benjamin, March 18, 1943.

of Wisconsin in April 1943.¹⁷² Daughter Elizabeth Jean married Cecil Davis sometime in 1943. In November 1943, Elizabeth's husband Cecil completed basic training for submarine duty. The couple was living at 515 Fair Oaks.¹⁷³ In September 1943, Florence Elliott died at the age of 48. In her obituary it states that son William was a Private in the Army and son James was an Ensign in the Navy.¹⁷⁴ A July 5, 1945, article stated that John Elliott of 515 Fair Oaks was receiving his initial indoctrination at the Great Lakes Naval Station.¹⁷⁵



Figure 22 -Madlyn Elliott, 1945.

In 1945, daughter Madlyn was selected to attend the National Music Camp at Interlochen, MI. When she returned in September, the family's address was still 515 Fair Oaks.¹⁷⁶ A July 1948 article described the wedding of the Elliott's son John to Jean Merle Dovell. The wedding was at the bride's parents' home in southern California, but the family was formerly of Oak Park. The flower girl was Cecil and Elizabeth Davis's daughter, Janet. By the time of this wedding, the Elliott family had moved to Chicago.¹⁷⁷ William died in 1957 in Indianapolis. At the time of his death, he was Chairman of the Board of the Insley Manufacturing Company of Indianapolis, a manufacturer of construction equipment. Son James Elliott was President of the company. The obituary stated that he maintained a home in Chicago and a suite at the Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis. It also said that he was a veteran of World War I. William had remarried and was survived by his widow, Frances, as well as his seven children.¹⁷⁸

Elvin and Georgiana Foster, August 1945–May 1951

Elvin Foster was born in Florida in 1912. By 1920, his family was living in Georgia and Elvin's father, also named Elvin, was a railroad agent.¹⁷⁹ By 1930, the family had moved to Chicago and Elvin's father had died. Elvin's mother was not employed, his older sister was a waitress and 18-year-old Elvin was working as a drill press operator.¹⁸⁰ Georgiana MacKenzie was born in Chicago in 1907. In the 1910 census, Georgiana's father William had an occupation as a shipping clerk in a factory.¹⁸¹ In 1936, Elvin and Georgiana were married in Chicago.¹⁸² In April 1940, Elvin, Georgiana and their infant son Robert were living on Addison Avenue in Chicago and Elvin was a manager of retail electrical supplies.¹⁸³ When Elvin registered for the draft in October 1940, his address was given as 1212 W. Addison, Chicago and he was

¹⁷² *Forest Leaves*, page 35, April 8, 1943.

¹⁷³ *Forest Leaves*, page 26, November 11, 1943.

¹⁷⁴ *Chicago Tribune*, September 5, 1943.

¹⁷⁵ *Forest Leaves*, page 10, July 5, 1945.

¹⁷⁶ *Forest Leaves*, Village Girl at Interlochen, page 10, July 12, 1945.

¹⁷⁷ *Forest Leaves*, Miss Dovell Wed in Garden Service, 40, July 15, 1948.

¹⁷⁸ *The Indianapolis News*, William Elliott Was Construction Leader, October 30, 1957.

¹⁷⁹ 1920 Census of the United States, Georgia, Crisp County, Cordele, Enumeration District 29, Sheet 6B.

¹⁸⁰ 1930 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 16-641, Sheet 25A.

¹⁸¹ 1930 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 1500, Sheet 1A.

¹⁸² Ancestry.com, online resource, Elvin Foster in the Cook County, Illinois, Marriage Index, 1930-1960.

¹⁸³ 1940 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 103-2969, Sheet 20B.

self-employed with his business called Complete Electric Supply. For some reason, he named his mother, Ella Foster, as his contact rather than Georgiana.¹⁸⁴ In the 1950 census, the Foster family living at 515 Fair Oaks consisted of Elvin (39), Georgiana (41), son Robert (10), daughter Gloria (8) and Georgiana's parents, although they were listed as non-residents. Elvin's occupation was described as "Executive, Retail and Wholesale Fan & Motor Parts".¹⁸⁵ The Fosters put the house on the market in February 1951, took it back off in April, then sold it to the Ceramis in May. A feature of the house that was mentioned in a number of real estate listings that shows the style of the day; knotty pine paneling in the screened porch.

The Fosters apparently moved to Barrington, IL, after selling the house on Fair Oaks. When daughter Gloria married Jay Bulaw in 1958 (she would have been 16 or 17 years old), the family was living in Barrington. The wedding announcement said that both Gloria and Jay were graduates of Barrington High School and that Jay was enrolled at Ohio State. After a honeymoon in San Francisco and Hawaii, the Bulow's would be living in Arlington, OH.¹⁸⁶ Elvin and Georgiana divorced in Las Vegas in 1972.¹⁸⁷ Elvin was living in River Forest, IL when he died in 1984. His obituary stated that he had been president of Complete-Reading Electric, which had branches in Texas, Ohio, Kansas and New Mexico. (Complete-Electric was a distributor of electrical motor parts, which was acquired by Belden Corporation in 1967.) Elvin had remarried and was survived by his wife Peggy and six children; Ellen, Gloria, Marlene, Laurie, Robert and William, as well as nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.¹⁸⁸ Gloria and Robert were Elvin's children with Georgiana. It is unknown how many of these children were his and his second wife Peggy's, or were children of his second wife to a previous marriage. Georgiana was living at the Luther Village senior living complex in Arlington Heights, IL when she died in 1998. Her obituary said that she had co-founded the Complete-Reading Electric Company in the late 1930s with her husband and that in the 1970s she was a volunteer at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. She was survived by her daughter Gloria, son Robert, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁴ U. S. Draft Registration, Elvin Foster, October 16, 1940.

¹⁸⁵ 1950 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 108-25, Sheet 78.

¹⁸⁶ *Chicago Tribune*, page 57, December 25, 1958.

¹⁸⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Elvin Foster in the Nevada, U. S. Divorce Index, 1968 – 2015.

¹⁸⁸ *Chicago Tribune*, Elvin Foster, November 1, 1984.

¹⁸⁹ *Chicago Tribune*, Georgiana Foster, April 18, 1998.

Anthony and Pauline Cerami, May 1951–January 1954

Antonio Cesamina was born in Italy in 1893, and came to the U.S. in 1911.¹⁹⁰ Paolina Cascio was born in Italy in 1900. She came to U.S. in 1910.¹⁹¹ They were both from towns in northern Sicily, so their families may have been acquainted. Antonio and Paolina were married in Chicago in October 1916.¹⁹² They both eventually “Americanized” their names and became Anthony and Pauline Cerami. Antony registered for the draft in January 1917 shortly before the U.S. entered World War I. He was not a U.S. citizen at the time of the war and there is no evidence that he served in the military. He was a barber working at his home address of 9 N. May Street, Chicago.¹⁹³ Antony became a U.S. citizen in 1924. At the time, his address was 823 S. Oak Park Avenue.¹⁹⁴

In the 1930 census, the family was living at 121 Pleasant Street and the family consisted of Antony (36), Pauline (28), children Anna/Antoinette (7) and Joseph (3), brother Salvatore Cerami (30) and sister-in-law Virginia (23). The census showed that Antony was a barber with his own shop. Antony’s brother was also a barber.¹⁹⁵ The Ceramis had moved to 333 South Taylor Avenue, Oak Park by 1940. By this time, Antonio’s name was appearing as Anthony. Salvatore and Virginia were no longer living with them.¹⁹⁶

Anthony Cerami was very active in Oak Park real estate and in the 1940s there were many requests for building permits where he was identified as the owner, including three consecutive addresses on S. Maple Avenue being converted from one-family to two-family residences, alterations to a building at 333 S. Taylor, and conversion of a store at 506 Madison into apartments.¹⁹⁷ A 1941 article describes Anthony Cerami of 333 S. Taylor being robbed at gunpoint after pulling in his garage. The thief took a notebook of no particular value.¹⁹⁸ In April 1942, Anthony again registered for the draft as World War II was underway. He was 49 years old.¹⁹⁹ Rent control was topic of much discussion in the second half of the 1940s as evidenced by many articles in the local papers. In 1945, the Ceramis were the subject of “first criminal action to be taken by the government in enforcement of rent controls.” Charges were filed against them for their properties at 109-111 South Marion.²⁰⁰ No information could be found about the outcome of these charges.

¹⁹⁰ Ancestry.com, online resource, U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Services, Antonio Cerami, September 18, 1924.

¹⁹¹ United States of America, Petition for Citizenship, Pauline Cerami, January 1, 1920.

¹⁹² Ancestry.com, online resource, Antonio Cesamina, in the Cook County, Illinois, U. S. Marriage Index, 1871 – 1920.

¹⁹³ U. S. Draft Registration, Antonio Cerami, June 5, 1917.

¹⁹⁴ Ancestry.com, online resource, U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Services, Antonio Cerami, September 18, 1924.

¹⁹⁵ 1930 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 16-2, Sheet 6B.

¹⁹⁶ 1940 Census of the United States, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration 16-371, Sheet 64B.

¹⁹⁷ *Forest Leaves*, page 31, August 9, 1945.

¹⁹⁸ *Forest Leaves*, Gunman Gets a Notebook, Police Notes, page 57, February 6, 1941.

¹⁹⁹ U. S. Draft Registration, Antonio Cerami, April 27, 1942.

²⁰⁰ *Forest Leaves*, Rent Overcharge Up to Criminal Court, page 20, February 1, 1945.



Figure 23 – “Ann Rami”, Anna Cerami from a 1942 *Forest Leaves* article.

The Cerami's daughter was apparently a singer and a 1942 article describes that she was featured in a group touring the country to entertain the troops. She was using the stage name “Ann Rami”.²⁰¹ Mom was in entertainment as well and articles in 1944 and 1945 state that Pauline Cerami was President of the Universal Opera Company. The company held performances of *Rigolletto* and *La Traviata* at the Eighth Street theater.²⁰² (The Eighth Street Theater was at the corner of 8th Street and Wabash Avenue, Chicago. It was the site of the 1907 Democratic Convention and hosted the WLS Radio Barn Dance program from 1924 to 1957. The building was demolished in 1960.)

A lengthy article in May 1948 described the wedding of Joseph Cerami to Sara Grace Olson of 240 South Maple, Oak Park. The groom's parents' address was given as 1201 North Harvey, Oak Park. The article stated that after a wedding trip, the bride and groom would be at home in River Forest.²⁰³ Joseph and Sara

had a baby girl, Paula Vail, in March 1949.²⁰⁴ Anna married August Malatia in August 1949.²⁰⁵ The 1950 census shows Anthony and Pauline living in Elmwood Park and Anthony's occupation was manager, building maintenance.



Figure 24 – Sara Grace Olson, bride of Joseph Cerami from 1948 engagement announcement.

The Ceramis purchased the Furbeck House in May 1951. In December of that year there was a fire in the basement. The newspaper article about the fire stated that it was attributed to spontaneous combustion and caused \$2,000 in damage.²⁰⁶ It appears the Ceramis may have purchased the house so that their daughter and son-in-law could move in with them. There are no census records to verify this, but Pauline's 1961 obituary refers to her daughter as Mrs. August Malatia, formerly of Fair Oaks.²⁰⁷ Otherwise, there is little evidence of the Cerami's time in the house. When the house was put up for sale in October 1953, the owner was shown as “Cerami T. Malatia (daughter)”. The real estate listing mentions a maid's room and bath in the basement, as well as knotty pine paneling in the basement.

²⁰¹ *Forest Leaves*, Sings to Soldiers, page 61, September 24, 1942.

²⁰² *Forest Leaves*, Opera Company Gives “Rigolletto”, page 10, April 27, 1944.

²⁰³ *Forest Leaves*, Miss Olsen Has Double Ring Ceremony, page 6, May 6, 1948.

²⁰⁴ *Forest Leaves*, page 16, March 31, 1949.

²⁰⁵ Ancestry.com, online resource, Anne Antoinette Cerami, in the Cook County, Illinois, Marriage Index, 1930 – 1960.

²⁰⁶ *Forest Leaves*, Firemen Battle Flames in Home, Garage Here, page 9, December 9, 1951.

²⁰⁷ *Forest Leaves*, Resort Owner Mrs. Pauline Cerami Dies in Wisconsin, page 102, November 16, 1961.

Oak Park directories list Anthony Cerami at 1101 South Boulevard in 1951, 1954 and 1956. Mr. Cerami owned an office building at that address. The 1956 directory also lists Anthony at 502 Bonnie Brae in River Forest.²⁰⁸ In listings of Cook County property assessments in 1961 and 1964 show Anthony owning property at 500 Bonnie Brae.²⁰⁹ Pauline died in Burlington, WI in October 1961. Her obituary also says that Pauline was the “owner, designer, supervisor and manager of the Cerami Island View Resort, Burlington.”²¹⁰ A 1951 postcard referred to the resort’s “exotic tropical luxury for year-round vacationing”.²¹¹ Anthony died in Glendale, AZ in October 1974.²¹²



Figure 25 –Cerami Island View Resort, Burlington, WI, from a 1951 postcard.

George and Gertrude Kotin/Linda Sharris Vasilopoulos, January 1954–1984

George Kotin purchased the property in January 1954 and placed into a trust in 1955.²¹³ After this, details on ownership are difficult to trace. A real estate listing dated April 1954 indicates the owner was the real estate broker, A. R. Jackson Co. of Chicago. Another listing in July 1954 shows George Kotin as the owner. No documentation has been discovered that would indicate the Kotins ever occupied the property. All records uncovered to-date show that the house was occupied by Linda Sharris Vasilopoulos. She may have rented it from George Kotin, who also owned at least one apartment building in Chicago.²¹⁴ All building permits issued during this period show the Sharris/Vasilopoulos name and Cook County Property Assessment values for 515 Fair Oaks published in the newspaper are listed with the name Sharris.²¹⁵ However, since ownership throughout this period remains uncertain and there are a number of unclear and conflicting pieces of information about residents of the house, the available information about both of these individuals and their families are included here.

²⁰⁸ Oak Park/River Forest directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

²⁰⁹ *Forest Leaves*, Cook County Personal Property Assessments, November 18, 1961, and November 19, 1964.

²¹⁰ *Forest Leaves*, Resort Owner Mrs. Pauline Cerami Dies in Wisconsin, page 102, November 16, 1961.

²¹¹ Wisconsin Historical Society, online resource, <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM84521>.

²¹² Ancestry.com, online resource, Anthony Cerami in the U. S. Social Security Death Index, 1935 – 2014.

²¹³ Chain of Title for 515 Fair Oaks, Oak Park, IL as derived from Cook County Property Records.

²¹⁴ *Suburban Economist*, An Expert Tells ATOA of Problems with Tenants in Upgrading Bldg., page 2, February 2, 1966.

²¹⁵ Building Permits on file with the Village of Oak Park.



Figure 26—George Kotin
from the 1920 Chicago-
Kent School of Law
Yearbook.

George N. Kotin was born in 1901 in New York. By 1910, his family was living in Chicago and his father was in the clothing business.²¹⁶ George graduated from Tuley High School in the West Town neighborhood. The school moved into a new building in 1974 and was renamed Roberto Clemente High School. He then graduated from Chicago-Kent Law School in 1920. In the school yearbook, it states that Mr. George Kotin and Miss Marie McCutcheon carried off the class honors. It is interesting to read the comments in the yearbook that reflect world events at the time, the so-called Spanish flu and World War I; “School was closed for several weeks in the fall of 1918, on account of influenza.”, “We greeted the signing of the armistice joyfully, and closed the year 1919 more joyfully, with many of our number returned to our ranks.”²¹⁷ Gertrude Geller was born in 1899 in Illinois.

In 1910, her family was living in Chicago and her father worked in a grocery store.²¹⁸ George and Gertrude were married in 1921. In 1930, the census shows that the Kotins were renting an apartment on Kenmore Avenue in Chicago, with sons Merritt (6) and Lawrence (3) and a maid from Germany.²¹⁹ They are listed in the 1940 census as living at 7063 Greenview Avenue, Chicago. They had two more children, Lois and Gary (Gabriel).²²⁰ Merritt went to Northwestern and became a lawyer like his father. In 1942, he joined the army and served in World War II. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and awarded a Bronze Star for bravery. He became a Captain in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, then an administrative assistant to a congressman and in 1952 was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.²²¹ When Lawrence was 18 years old in 1945, he registered for the draft. His registration card shows that the family was still at the Greenview Avenue address and he was a student at Northwestern University.²²² There is no evidence that he served in the military but he did become an attorney (it runs in the family) with his own law practice.²²³ In 1948, George Kotin testified before a congressional subcommittee investigating “Monopolistic and Unfair Trade Practices”. He testified on behalf of the Chicago and Wisconsin Leather and Finders Association.²²⁴ In 1950, the family was at the same address and Lawrence (23) and son Gabriel (16) were still at home.²²⁵ Unfortunately, no census records after 1950 have been made public yet, so where the family lived just prior to purchasing 515 Fair Oaks is difficult to determine. A 1966 newspaper article discusses the conditions of a 72-unit apartment building on Adams Street in Chicago owned by George Kotin, a Loop attorney. There is an interesting comment in the article by the couple hired by George to manage the building that reflects the times;

²¹⁶ 1910 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 768, Sheet 8A.

²¹⁷ 1920 *Transcript*, Chicago-Kent Law School.

²¹⁸ 1910 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 972, Sheet 8.

²¹⁹ 1930 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 16-1892, Sheet 29A.

²²⁰ 1940 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 103-3147, Sheet 61A.

²²¹ Find A Grave, online resource, Merritt Kotin, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112236853/merritt-kotin>.

²²² U. S. Draft Registration, Lawrence Lewis Kotin, 1945.

²²³ Find A Grave, online resource, Lawrence Kotin, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108382135/lawrence-kotin>.

²²⁴ House of Representatives, Subcommittee No. 2 of the Select Committee on Small Business, September 8, 1948.

²²⁵ 1950 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, 103-4855, Sheet 4.

prospective tenants call and ask “Do you rent to coloreds? Colored what, I ask? We rent to people. Are you green or something?”²²⁶ In 1968, George retired and he and Gertrude moved to Miami, FL. George remained active in Miami, becoming President of the South Florida B’nai B’rith Council and Chairman of the South Florida Council of the Anti-Defamation League. Gertrude died in 1976. George married again to Shirley Friedburg and died in 1979. They are buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie.²²⁷

A grandson of George and Gertrude Kotin, Daniel Kotin, stated that his grandparents never lived in Oak Park. He said that George did buy small apartment buildings in the city (as noted in the 1966 newspaper article mentioned above) and usually flipped them after making improvements. Daniel did not believe that George bought single family homes for that purpose. He said that his grandfather did a lot of estate planning work as an attorney and speculated that his name may have shown up in the title records on account of his work for someone who did own the property. He also said that George had a heart attack in 1956 and then became much less active in business. That is another reason Dan believes that his grandfather would not have held ownership in an Oak Park house after that time.²²⁸

The resident and likely owner at 515 Fair Oaks for much of this period was Linda Sharris/Linda Vasilopoulos. She first appears at this address in the May 1955 Oak Park Yellow Pages in the Dressmaker category as Linda Sharris and in the 1956 and 1957 phone directories.²²⁹ She also shows up in December, 1955 on a remodeling building permit as the “owner and contractor.”²³⁰ In December 1956, Cook County property assessments were published in the newspaper, which included Angelo Sharris at 515 Fair Oaks.²³¹

Linda Sharris was born in Greece in 1924 as Lida Hari.²³² Angelo Sharris was born in Chicago in 1919 and joined the U. S. Army in 1942.²³³ In October 1945, Angelo and Linda were married in Karlsruhe, Germany. Linda sailed to the U.S. from Antwerp, Belgium on September 1946. Sailing with Linda was her 10-year-old sister Litsa Hari.²³⁴ In 1948, Linda applied for U.S. citizenship. On her application, her address was given as 1877 W. Winnebago Avenue, Chicago, IL and her occupation was dressmaker/housewife.²³⁵ In the 1950 census, Angelo (31), Linda (25) and Linda’s sister (13), whose name was shown as “Litsi Harris”, are still on Winnebago Avenue. Angelo’s occupation was salesman in a retail grocery store. No occupation was shown for Linda.²³⁶

²²⁶ *Suburban Economist*, An Expert Tells ATOA of Problems with Tenants in Upgrading Bldg., page 2, February 2, 1966.

²²⁷ Find A Grave, online resource, George Kotin, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112236057/george-kotin>.

²²⁸ Phone conversation with Dan Kotin, January 28, 2023.

²²⁹ Oak Park directories on file at the Oak Park River Forest History Museum.

²³⁰ *Oak Park Building Permit No. 27895, November 12, 1955.*

²³¹ *Forest Leaves*, Cook County Personal Property Assessments, December 22, 1956.

²³² United States of America, Petition for Naturalization, No. 331813, Linda Sharris.

²³³ *Ancestry.com*, U. S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946.

²³⁴ List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States, S.S. Centauro, from Antwerp, Belgium, September 13, 1946.

²³⁵ United States of America, Petition for Naturalization, No. 331813, Linda Sharris.

²³⁶ 1950 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago, Enumeration District 103-3030, Sheet 73.

In 1952, Litsi married Konstantinos Mertzelos, who had immigrated to the U.S. from Greece in 1951.²³⁷ Both of them applied for U.S. citizenship in 1958. Konstantinos changed his name to Gust Louis Morzel. Litsi and Gust had a son named Louis born in 1958. At that time, Litsi, Gust and Louis were living at 325 N. Mason, Chicago. Gust was in the grocery business.²³⁸

Phone book and building permit records show Linda Sharris and/or Angelo Sharris living at 515 Fair Oaks at least through July, 1981.²³⁹ During this period, newspaper reports show her as owning property in the Austin area of Chicago.²⁴⁰ She owned the West End Theater on Cicero Avenue. A meeting was called in May 1965 by the Austin Community Organization to discuss “problems” at the theater.²⁴¹ Apparently, the problems were not resolved and the building was demolished soon afterward.²⁴²



Figure 28 – People at a banquet table on the north wall of the kitchen/family room during a party at the house in the

An Oak Park building inspector made the following notes after a visit to the house in November 1955; “Made personal inspection of these premises and found owner installing new rear stairway to basement and also installing a kitchen and bathroom in the basement. Stove on first floor is not hooked up and owner stated she intends to do all her cooking in the basement. Two guests, who are visitors are temporarily occupying space on the third floor.”²⁴³ There is a memo in the Oak Park records regarding a hearing held in front of a judge on March 2, 1956, regarding an alleged assault that occurred two weeks earlier at 515 Fair Oaks. This memo sheds some light on the occupancy of the house at the time, which

included two women paying rent, rooms occupied on the second and third floors by “displaced persons from Greece”, Mrs. Sharris’ brother and a friend of Mrs. Sharris not paying rent staying temporarily until employment is found. It is stated that the two women who had been paying rent were evicted and the remaining occupants were “one roomer, three relatives, the owner and his wife (*presumably Angelo and Linda Sharris*)”. A Village representative stated that inspections of the house had been made



Figure 27 – Women in Greek costumes in the living room during a party at the house in the 1950s.

²³⁷ Ancestry.com, online resource, Gust Morzel, in the Cook County, Illinois, Marriage Index, 1930 – 1960.

²³⁸ United States of America, Petition for Naturalization, No. 393673, Konstantinos Mertzelos.

²³⁹ E-mail from Pam Reynolds to William Kundert, March 20, 1914.

²⁴⁰ “Salesroom is Firm’s Goal in Zone Plea”, *Chicago Tribune*, January 16, 1964, p. W5; “Austin Unit Seeks to Raze 2d Theater”, *Chicago Tribune*, May 6, 1965, p. W3.

²⁴¹ *Community Publications, Austin News*, West End Owner Invited to Meeting, page 6A, May 5, 1965.

²⁴² Cinema Treasures, online resource, West End Theater, <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/4804>

²⁴³ Permits and correspondence on file with the Village of Oak Park.

at various times and the owner always declared that everyone living in the building was related to her.²⁴⁴



Figure 29 – Susie Durapekt Nadel on front porch, 1955 (left) and 2001 (right).

One of the women involved in this hearing who rented a room in the house in 1955 and 1956, visited the current owners, Tom and Deb Abrahamson, in 2001. Her name was Susie Durapekt Nadel. Susie said that she had just immigrated from Czechoslovakia when she moved into 515 Fair Oaks. According to her, the owner was Linda Vasilopoulos, (although at that time she would have still been Linda Sharris) who was a “matchmaker” and had “women of ill repute” living in the house. Susie said that all the Greek musicians came to the house when they were in Chicago and she has fond memories of many parties.²⁴⁵

A November 21, 1957, article says that “members of the Last Thursday Book Club meet at the home of Mrs. Edith Frost, 515 Fair Oaks.”²⁴⁶ It is possible that Mrs. Frost was another person renting a room from Linda Sharris/Vasilopoulos. A Village inspector’s report in 1966 indicated that the built-in pool in the backyard was installed in August 1956, although there is no permit for the installation in the Village records. By the time of the inspection in 1966, the pool was found to be no longer in use. Later inspection reports at various times during the Sharris/Vasilopoulos ownership indicate that pool was in disrepair, partially filled with rain water and not in use.²⁴⁷

Certified mail correspondence from the Village of Oak Park in August 1969 addressed to Linda Sharris regarding violations of housing ordinances was returned to the Village as unclaimed. A 1973 zoning inspection report from the Village files indicates that the inspector spoke with Mrs. Morzel, the married name of Linda’s sister Litsi.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁴ Memorandum for Mr. Bartel from Mr. Brown, RE: Occupancy of residence at 515 Fair Oaks, April 4, 1956, on file with the Village of Oak Park.

²⁴⁵ Notes taken by Deb Abrahamson during visit by Susie Durapekt Nadel in 2001.

²⁴⁶ *Forest Leaves*, Review by Last Thursday Book Club, page 51, November 21, 1957.

²⁴⁷ Permits and correspondence on file with the Village of Oak Park.

²⁴⁸ Permits and correspondence on file with the Village of Oak Park.

At some point around 1970, Linda divorced Angelo Sharris and married Kostas Vasilopoulos, who appears in the Oak Park phone books at 515 Fair Oaks in 1974 and 1980. A 1973 *Oak Leaves* article noted that “Mrs. Linda Vasilopoulos of Fair Oaks Av.” was the administrator of a charitable group, International Concern Missionaries, which was sponsoring an international review of modern music by young people to be held at the Auditorium Theater, Chicago, in August, 1973.²⁴⁹



Figure 30 – Linda Sharris Vasilopoulos, 1973.

In December 1981, the Village wrote to Mr. K. Vasilopoulos regarding the removal of a junk car on the property.²⁵⁰ That is the last documentation discovered indicating that Linda Sharris/Vasilopoulos or her family members were living at 515 Fair Oaks. An article from the *Oak Park News* dated April 23, 1980, notes that 515 Fair Oaks was for sale, and concludes with the following paragraph: “Though the present owner travels extensively and has never really moved in during her ten years of ownership, the previous owner has stayed on as tenant and caretaker. Well cared for, the house would not need much work to put it back into the beauty of its prime....)”²⁵¹ This implies that the property changed ownership around 1970 and there is no documentation of that in the county title records. It is really unclear who is being referred to as the “present” and “previous” owners.

Linda was shown as living at 1847 North 77th Avenue in Chicago from 1993 to 1995.²⁵² Gust and Litsi are also at that address. Angelo Sharris died in 1986.²⁵³ Gust Morzel died in 1992. His obituary stated that he had been an employee of Jewel Tea for 25 years.²⁵⁴ Linda Vasilopoulos died December 27, 2002.²⁵⁵ Linda’s obituary from the December 30, 2002, *Chicago Tribune* reads: “Linda Vasilopoulos, beloved wife of the late Solon (Kostas?) Vasilopoulos, the late Angelo Sharris, and the late Gus Vasilopoulos...”²⁵⁶ It also says she was the devoted mother of Litsi Morzel. However, on census reports Litsi was listed as Linda’s sister and Linda was only about 13 years older than Litsi. It goes on to state that Linda was the fond grandmother of Louis Morzel and loving great-grandmother of Gus, Zoe and Mia.

²⁴⁹ “Love Is Helping”, *Oak Leaves*, June 13, 1973, p. 51.

²⁵⁰ Permits and correspondence on file with the Village of Oak Park.

²⁵¹ “Sale of Wright Home Offers Unique Buying Opportunity”, *Oak Park News*, April 23, 1980, p. 18.

²⁵² *Ancestry.com*, U. S. Phone and Address Directories, 1993-2002.

²⁵³ *Ancestry.com*, Angelo J Sharris, in the Illinois, Cook County, Death Index, 1986.

²⁵⁴ *Chicago Tribune*, Morzel, January 10, 1992.

²⁵⁵ *Ancestry.com*, U. S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-Current.

²⁵⁶ *Chicago Tribune*, Vasilopoulos Linda, December 30, 2002.

William and Linda Ryan, 1984–March 1998

The transfer of ownership to the Ryans is not clearly documented in the county title records. According to Linda Ryan, William Ryan purchased the house from Linda Vasilopoulos in 1984. Also, according to Linda, they spent four years restoring the house, then got married in 1988 and moved in when the house was more “inhabitable”.²⁵⁷ The extensive work executed by the Ryan’s is well-documented in previous Research Reports. They were awarded two Historic Preservation Awards by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission for their work to restore the Rollin Furbeck House.



Figure 32 – William Ryan, 1958, Fenwick High School

William was a lifelong Oak Park resident. The 1950 census shows 8-year-old William was the youngest child of Harry and Jule Ryan, living at 1019 N. Taylor Street in Oak Park. William had an older sister and two older brothers. His father was a plumbing and heating salesman.²⁵⁸ William went to Fenwick High School, Marquette University and then DePaul University School of Law. He worked as an attorney with the law firm Ryan, Harman & Fedick in Chicago.²⁵⁹ The practice now operates as Harman & Fedick, Ltd. A history of the firm on their website states “It was established in 1950 as Doyle, Ltd., by John A. Doyle, a well-known Chicago trial attorney. In 1979, the firm became Doyle & Ryan, Ltd., reflecting John Doyle’s partnership with William Ryan, a brilliant and well-known Chicago trial attorney. In 1994, the firm name recognized the addition of the two current

partners, Thomas J. Fedick and James M. Harman.”²⁶⁰ William was married to Nancy Duane and had three children, Linda, Kathleen and Michael.²⁶¹ William and Nancy apparently divorced sometime before 1984. William then married Linda and they had a child, Michael. Linda had a career as a social worker in various business settings, but after moving to 515 Fair Oaks, she became an elementary school teacher. The Ryans enjoyed entertaining family, friends

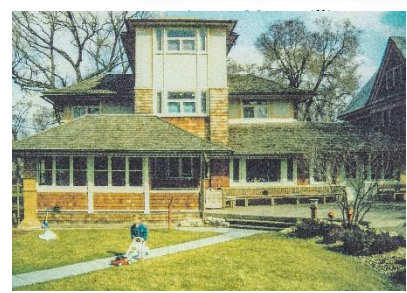
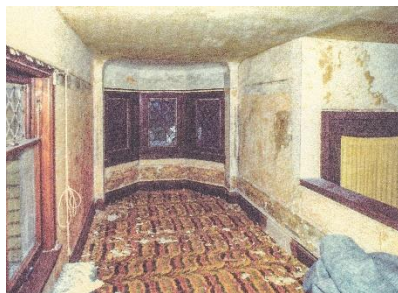


Figure 31 – Photos from the 1980s of restoration work done by the Ryans. Left, the mezzanine alcove prior to restoration. Center, the rear of the house in 1984 with slender posts supporting the cantilevered third floor bedroom. Right, rear of the house after the space below the third-floor bedroom was enclosed and restoration was completed.

²⁵⁷ Email from Linda Ryan, February 5, 2023.

²⁵⁸ 1950 United States Census, Illinois, Cook County, Oak Park, Enumeration District 108-3, Sheet 2.

²⁵⁹ *Forest Leaves*, William F. Ryan, page 96, February 28, 1996.

²⁶⁰ Harman & Fedick, Ltd, Attorneys at Law, website, <https://www.harmlaw.com/>.

²⁶¹ Ancestry.com, online resource, William Francis Ryan, 1942 – 1996.

and neighbors at the house. The Ryans were long time supporters of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust and William served on the Board. They opened the house several times for Wright Plus.²⁶²

William died suddenly in 1996 and is buried at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL. After selling the house to the Abrahamsons, Linda Ryan moved to Bonnie Brae Place in River Forest, IL.²⁶³



Figure 34 – 1994, one of Linda Ryan’s favorite photos of the house during their time living there.

Tom and Deb Abrahamson, March 1998 – Present²⁶⁴

Tom Abrahamson was born in Chicago. His parents, Len Abrahamson and Inez Levin, were from East Chicago, IN. Len was a manufacturing company executive in the electronics business. Inez was one of the first female graduates of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and had a career as an oil painter and art teacher. Many of Inez’s paintings hang in the Abrahamson’s home. Tom grew up in Wheeling, IL and Highland Park, IL. Tom graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in fine arts photography and a minor in community development. He received a Master’s degree in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University. He also participated in executive education programs at Harvard and Vanderbilt Universities.



Figure 35 - Inez Levin, c. 1945

Deb Silver Abrahamson was born in Philadelphia. Her parents, Bob Silver and Janet Friedman, were both born in Philadelphia and lived there their entire lives. Bob ran the Penn Ventilator Company, a family business started by his father and two uncles. The company manufactured and sold fans for commercial and industrial use. Janet was trained as a teacher but was a homemaker. Deb grew up in Melrose Park, a suburb of Philadelphia. She attended Cornell University for 2 years and then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and a minor in French. Deb also has a Certificate of Nonprofit Management from the University of Chicago.

Tom spent 15 years in higher education administration at three universities. The last nine were at DePaul University as Dean of Admission and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. After

²⁶² Email from Linda Ryan, February 5, 2023.

²⁶³ Ancestry.com, online resource, William F Ryan, in the U.S. Index to Public Records, 1994 – 2019.

²⁶⁴ All information in this section provided by Deb and Tom Abrahamson, January – March 2023.

DePaul, he joined the marketing firm Lipman Hearne, which specializes in nonprofit institutions and higher education where he eventually became CEO and Chairman. After 23 years, Tom retired and sold the company to its employees in 2016. He was also an owner and board member of Right at School, Inc. and myFootpath, LLC as well as an investor in other businesses.

Deb was the Executive Director of the nonprofit Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF), which provides hands-on STEAM enrichment programs to every Oak Park District 97 student during the school year and offers similar programs in its summer BASE Camp. She spent most of her career with OPEF, previously working in public relations and corporate communications.

The Abrahamsons have always placed a priority on volunteerism and support of nonprofit organizations, even after retiring. Tom has served as board chair of Dominican University, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago, Friends of the Children-Chicago, American Marketing Association Foundation, the Acorn Center for the Performing Arts (AKA The Acorn Theater), and Urban Gateways. Deb has been on the boards of Growing Community Media (the nonprofit home of the Wednesday Journal and four other publications), Maywood Fine Arts and the Pro Bono Network.

Tom and Deb first met in San Antonio, TX. Deb's brother met Tom through Tom's sister when they were living in San Antonio. Deb's brother and sister-in-law invited Tom to dinner when Deb was visiting. During that evening, Tom was cleaning up, pushing a glass jar full of pennies into a closet. It broke and cut his hand. They took him to the emergency room for stitches, but before leaving, Tom made margaritas for everyone. Tom and Deb hit it off and Deb soon quit her job in New York City and moved to San Antonio. Later, Deb was accepted to graduate school in Chicago and Tom moved back with her. Tom landed a job with DePaul and began his long career in higher education. Deb decided not to go to graduate school, got a job in public relations with Container Corporation of America and they began raising a family.

The Abrahamsons have two children, both born in Chicago; Lauren in 1987 and Michael in 1989. Lauren received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Trinity University, a Master's in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green University and an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. She married Matt Tharp in 2002 (who grew up at 403 N. Scoville, 1 block from 515 Fair Oaks, although they didn't meet until 2018). Their daughter Adeline was born in 2022. Michael received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Colgate University, a Fulbright Scholarship to Slovakia, and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School. He married Jennifer Burkey in 2018 and their son Charlie was born in 2021.



Figure 36 – The Abrahamson family in 2000. (Photo courtesy of the Abrahamson family)



Figure 37 – The Abrahamson family in the inglenook shortly after moving into the house.

When the Abrahamsons first moved to Oak Park in 1989, they bought a John Van Bergen house at 806 Columbian. That house sparked their interest in Frank Lloyd Wright's work and influence. When they decided to move, they were looking for a bigger backyard and Tom wanted more garage space. They found that the Rollin Furbeck house had those features and so much more. Most of the house had been nicely restored by the Ryans, but Tom and Deb decided to enlarge and remodel the kitchen. They kept the footprint of the house the same by expanding into the space that formerly was a back porch. All cabinets and appliances were replaced and a large island with seating for eight was installed, separating the cooking area from the family room space on the north side of the room. Leaded glass pendant light fixtures were custom-made to hang over the island, inspired by the "Butterfly" lights designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, IL. They also remodeled the room in what had originally been the porte-cochere on the southwest side of the house. The windows were replaced, heat was added, the ceiling was raised to follow the roofline, and a custom-made leaded glass light fixture was installed. Shortly after the work was completed, the house was featured on an HGTV home remodeling show. The Abrahamsons also completely reconfigured the primary bedroom suite on the east side of the second floor. The bathroom was moved from the center of the space into what had been a small bedroom. The primary bedroom was then relocated from the south side of the space into the space that had been the large bathroom. The former primary bedroom that ran across the entire south side of the house was divided into a walk-in closet on the east side and an office on the west side. When parts of the ceiling were removed on the north side of the house during this remodeling, evidence was found of charred wood in the studs and rafters. The contractor concluded that it had been due to fire in the gravity furnace in the basement coming up through the ductwork. This may have been the fire that was reported in the basement in December 1951 when the Ceramis lived in the house.

The house has been a wonderful place to raise their family. It is also a great party house and they have hosted parties for 50 to 100 friends in the house and yard including four "Burning Man" themed Halloween parties. In addition to being on Wright Plus numerous times, the Abrahamsons hosted many fundraisers for other local nonprofits. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, when daughter Lauren had to cancel plans for a large wedding, they shifted gears and hosted a socially distanced outdoor wedding for 13 people (and two dogs) in the backyard, which Lauren and Matt declared was perfect.



Figure 38 – Deb Abrahamson shows the house to local 5th grade students in 2016 from an article in the *Chicago Tribune*.

Tom and Deb are now enjoying having their grandchildren visit and the finished basement makes a great playroom for them. They plan to remain in the house for the foreseeable future and, other than routine maintenance, no major projects are planned.



Figure 39 – The Abrahamson Family in the front yard, November 2022. Center, Tom and Deb. Left, daughter Lauren, son-in-law Matt and granddaughter Adeline. Right, son Michael, daughter-in-law Jennifer and grandson Charlie. (Photo courtesy of the Abrahamson family)