REUNION '83

The Nevada, Iowa Evening Journal - Wednesday, March 16, 1983

Lounsberry: There’s no life like farm life

BY LYNN MURRIN
NEVADA — On Sunday, March 20, Lydia Lounsberry will be celebrating with an open house birthday party. And what’s so special about that? Lydia will be 100 years old.

"I sure have had alot of birthdays," said Lydia, as she showed me two very special birthday cards that she had received. One was from Ronald and Nancy Reagan sent from The White House and the other from the new governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad.

Lydia was born near Tipton, Iowa and moved to Nevada with her parents when she was about 15 years old. Her father was a farmer for many years, but eventually moved into town where he ran a butcher shop.

In 1913, Lydia met and married James Garfield Lounsberry. Lydia adds that her husband was named after the President with that same name. The couple had three sons, Frank, Charles and Wayne, of whom all three live in the Nevada area to this day. Now Lydia has seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the fourth generation.

"I’ve had lots of good times in my life," she said, "But I wouldn’t want to live another hundred years." James and Lydia lived on their family farm until 1969 when James died. Then Lydia moved to town, but she has never lost her love for the country. "I’d like to be out there now, there’s no life like the farm life," she added. "I like the fresh air and the good drinking water."

Flowers and birds are a favorite of Lydia’s. "I’ve been watching for the robins in the yard and I sure can hear them singing," she said.

Lydia admits that she doesn’t know the secret to her long life and added that her memory is as good as it always was. According to Lydia a hundred years is an awfully long time. "I’ve had lots of good things in my life, and one of those has been good neighbors, both on the farm and in town," she concluded.

NEVADA, IOWA
Source: Jim Lounsbury, N.Y.C., N.Y.

"The Iowa Reunion was one of our biggest this year - June 12th - about 100 on hand. A good time for everybody and over 100 year old Lounsberry (Lydia) was there for a big ovation. It was our 60th reunion. It’s the second Sunday in June every year."

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Reunion held on July 17th. Keith Lounsbury planned to attend. No report yet.

TILOGA CENTER, NEW YORK

The 50th annual Lounsbury Reunion was held on August 13, 1983 at Fred Lounsbury’s residence on Ellis Creek Road, Tioga. The Reunion is held by the descendants of Richard, Richard, Josiah, Timothy, Timothy, Lewis (con't page 2)
For those of you who may not be familiar with this branch of the family of Raymond A. Lounsbury, its Origin, Meaning and Significance. My interest in my ancestry lay dormant for many years. Probably it would never have been aroused, had it not been for our family reunion which is held on the second Saturday in August every year at Tioga Center, New York, a tiny community on the Susquehanna River near the Pennsylvania Line about half way between New York City and Buffalo.

In the days of my youth several older members of the family had a get-together and decided that a Lounsbury reunion would be a nice event. The first reunion was held in 1921 on the spot where Lewis Lounsbury and his wife Harriet (nee Clark), after moving from Woodbridge, Connecticut, in an ox-cart in 1802, cleared the land of the virgin forest and created a farm out of a hillside wilderness. Like most sturdy pioneers they did much more than meet the challenge of their environment; they also raised a large family, six sons and two daughters. Their descendants, numbering 50 or more, assembled for this first reunion.

Three principal sponsors were Nellie May (known as Helen) Lounsbury, Cornelia (Lounsbury) Newell, and Harriet Lounsbury.

The northern portion of Woodbridge Township located a few miles north of New Haven, Connecticut, became a new township in 1832 thereafter known as Bethany. The detailed genealogy of the family is available at Lounsbury Genealogy, edited by Raymond A. Lounsbury. Copies were microfilmed for distribution at the Lounsbury reunion held on August 1, 1975, at Tioga Center.

The Lounsbury family reunion was held on Saturday, July 2 at Westerlo Town Park. Over 80 Lounsbury and their descendants attended. Many Lounsbury from Albany, Greene, Schoharie, and Schenectady counties were present. Among those who traveled for the reunion were Mr. and Mrs. Al Lounsbury of Scotia, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Al Lounsbury of Saratoga Springs; Dr. and Mrs. William Lounsbury of Lockridge; Daniel Patrick Lounsbury and family of Chalfont, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lounsbury and family of Lawrence, Kan.; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Calof of Minnesota and their daughter, Susan; with her husband, Tim, of Brooklyn Heights; Attorney Donald Lounsbury of Long Beach, Cal. and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Clark of Rochester. Dr. Anna Perkins of Westerlo was an honored guest.

The speaker was Mrs. Edith Wicks, founder of the Stamford (Conn.) Genealogical Society. She spoke of Lounsbury and the Lousbury. All of the Lounsbury-Lousbury-Lousburies in the U.S. and Canada are direct descendants of Richard Lounsbury who came to America from Yorkshire, England, in the 1600s. They are eligible to receive the Pennoyer Grant at Harvard University which also entitles them to acceptance at Harvard if they meet the minimum entrance requirements.

Richard's sons later migrated from Stamford and located throughout the U.S. and Canada. One branch came to the Heidenbergs in the 1700s. County Legislator Henry Dennis, Jr., president of the reunion, conducted the meeting, later stepping down for newly elected President Bettejean Mueller. Other officers continue to be Janet Berkofer, secretary; Dennis Lounsbury, vice president; and James Lounsbury, treasurer. The board of directors includes Mrs. Louise Wright, Janice Lounsbury, Patrick Lounsbury, Gertrude Dennis, and the officers.

A quarterly newsletter is now being published with a circulation of over 300 Lounsbury and their descendants. To receive a copy of "The Lounsbury Tree" send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Patrick Lounsbury, R.D. East Berne, N.Y. 12059.
Canadian Reunion

WE WERE THERE IN '83

Many from the United States and Canada journeyed to Petticoat, New Brunswick for the unparalleled Reunion. It was three days of food, family and fun. Highlights for us included Jack Lounsbury's informative talk on William and his descendants, the bus tours, a talent show of professional calibre and the opportunity to meet and talk with so many Lounsbury's, many of whom I have corresponded with for years. As Ralph Oren Lounsbury, Utah put it, "you could finally put a face with the name" Congratulations to all of our Lounsbury Cousins on a job well done. Pat & Marie Lounsbury East Berne

THINKING OF US

Mrs. Edith Wicks, Stamford Genealogical Society wrote that she attended a DAR in Ridgefield, Ct. at the Keeler Tavern which is just down the road from the Governor Lounsbury House. They had a Lounsbury cricket there which made her think of us.


Karma Lounsbury Brown, Route #2 Box 123 Rigby, Idaho 83442 writes that she had attended the Lounsbury reunion in Nevada, Iowa. She tells us that the Lounsbury's in Idaho are the descendants of John and Anna Gaurin Lounsbury. Down through Michael Lounsbury, William and Sarah Giles Lounsbury, William and Grace Elizabeth Grey Lounsbury, Isiah H and Marlon Montgomery Lounsbury, Andrew and Mary Ann Horn Lounsbury to Ralph Andrew and Sarah Ellen Wake Lounsbury.

Andrew Lounsbury was born at Bangor, Maine in 1845. He came west in 1865 after the war. In 1880 he was first to bring cattle from Texas to the Powder River Country in Montana. In 1881 he came to Southern Idaho and started ranching and raising cattle. He was also into banking in Cassia County.

Note to Mrs. Mildred L. D' Ambrosio 25 Pleasant Street, North Reading, Mass. Congratulations on your book - the history of the branch - Richard, John, Michael, William, William, John, Jim, Fred etc. Does the preceding article give you the firm confirmation you were seeking?

OUR LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

Harold Lounsbury, 2128 Dalis Drive, Concord, CA 94520 writes:

"My father William E. Lounsbury came to Nebraska because his father Sidney R. Lounsbury had his government given land due to his service in the Civil War.

My father, William Edward Lounsbury (1856-1926), with my mother, Sarah Elizabeth Hurst Lounsbury (1858-1947) and their two little girls, Irene Inez (1885-1972) and Irene (1886-1991) at first accompanied by William's brother William Giles Lounsbury (1881-1936) undertook to pioneer and homestead in eastern Colorado. The two brothers built a "soddy" or a sod house where Wm., wife and children set up a home. (I still have a picture taken apparently by an itinerant photographer (1887).

Due to a drought and a plague of locusts, crops failed and my father was forced to take a job haying, thirty miles away, riding home for week-ends. His pay was 75c a day. During one of his absences his team was stolen by bandits who were rife in those days. This forced the family to return to eastern Nebraska (Aurora), where my father earned good pay as an expert carpenter and cabinet maker. This ended my father's first attempt at pioneering. The second attempt involving the Sand Hills of Nebraska had some interesting developments which can be told if you are interested."

WE ARE VERY INTERESTED, HAROLD—MANY THANKS
GOLD
A most interesting letter received from James G. Lounsbury, Box 983, Fairbanks, Alaska. Originally of the Iowa Branch, James tells us that his grandfather Lloyd P. Lounsbury journeyed to Fairbanks in 1905 to look for gold. J.G.L. says he continues the search for the mother lode. That's great, James. Good Luck and we wish we were there.

LETTER DATED January 1, 1973
Ira D. Lounsbury, Wisconsin Lounsburys, son of Daniel Lounsberry, Berne, N.Y. "My Grandfather Lounsbury was a Massachusetts Yankee, also my fathers Mother. He was at the Battle of Bunkers Hill when he was sixteen years old, which was the commencement of the struggle for American Independence.
Now in regard to myself; I started from my Fathers house in the spring of Thirty Seven alone for Wisconsin. John Nott, a friend Quaker preacher, had made a purchase of some two thousand acres of land in Jackson County, Michigan, the year previous, for himself and others. When we arrived at Buffalo, the steamboats could not go for the Ice. After staying there a day or so, Noel Baughton, Horace Baughton, Charles Dayton they were all strangers to me, only as I got acquainted with them on the Canal. ..........Letter continues

NOTE: with the opening of the Erie Canal, 1825 settlers traveled by steamboat (1807) along the canal & Great Lakes to Michigan Territory from which the state of Michigan and Wisconsin were later made. Westward movement really accelerated. The Canal soon carried 250 boats a day (cargo and passenger)

Travelers Today- Lee and Lucille Christoffersen, of Edina, Minnesota, made their second trip to India, from July to October, 1982. The previous one had been in 1975-76. After both these trips, they put together a tape-slide presentation, interpreting the mission work in India, which they are taking around to the churches of Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Lee recently retired after serving the conference, as it's administrator, for 19 years. Lee's mother, Leora Lounsbury Christoffersen, age 93, lives in Centerville, South Dakota.

Heartfelt condolence is extended Bob and Edna Lounsby of Danvers, Massachusetts, on the loss of their son after a long illness. Our thoughts are with you. We also wish to extend sympathy to the family of Clair A. Lounsbury who died May 17, 1983, age 80 years. Clair was a native of Sugartown in the town of Great Valley. He moved to Salamanca (Buffalo, New York area) in 1920 and was a prominent business leader there for thirty two years.

From Abstracts of Wills, Letters of Administration and Guardianship of Schoharie Co., N.Y. from 1795-1820 Volume 1 copied and compiled by Gertrude A. Barber 1938 p. 278
We have not actually compiled a complete list of sources, except to list the source when using some article. Ray Lounsbury in his Lounsbury Genealogy has made a list on Page 48 that we have found to be most helpful. It follows:


II. For the descendants of Michael^2 Lounsbury of Stamford, Connecticut, son of Richard^1, see Mrs. Lillian Lounsbury (Miner) Sellock, One Branch of the Miner Family, pp. 62-71.


IV. There is no record of descendants of Thomas^2 Lounsbury of Rye, New York, son of Richard^1. On October 9, 1709, Michael^2 sold the land at White Plains, New York, which he and his brother Thomas^2 jointly inherited from their father. (Land Deeds, office of the Town Clerk, Town of Rye, Westchester County, Portchester, New York. Liber I, pp. 231-2.) Thomas's name nowhere appears on the document. This suggests that Thomas^2 died sometime before the date of the sale of the land. The name of their brother John^2 appears on the deed, but not as a seller.

For descendants of Richard^3 Lounsbury of Kingston, New York, son of Richard^2, son of Richard^1, see the study made by Mrs. P. A. Bottino, Reference Librarian of Kingston City Library, Kingston, New York.


QUERY REGARDING THE PENNOYER GRANT

For further information regarding the Pennoyer Grant consult: Pennoyer Brothers - Colonization, Commerce, Charity, in the Seventeenth Century still available - By Raymond H. Lounsbury, Box 624, Hartwell, Georgia 30643
GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Marie Lounsbury continues to invite genealogical queries. We will include as many as we can. Answers should be sent to querist directly, but Marie would appreciate receiving copies of the answers so they can be placed on file or shared with other Lounsburys. We repeat the address—Mrs. Marie Lounsbury, Sawmill Road, East Berne, New York 12059.


*Curiosity, combined with an interest in post card collecting, prompts Joan Dunn, P.O. Box 413, Wurtzboro, New York 12790 to request further info on a Fred Lounsby who did pictures for the front of postcards - flowers etc. He is listed in the book re: Postcards.

*Many readers have expressed a similar interest in John Lounsby who is listed in Walt Disney Credits as an animator. Send info to ML/gkd.

*John M. Freund, 7241 Valentown Road, Victor, New York 14564 Searching for info on parentage of his wife"s ggg grandfather, Henry Lounsby who died at home of his daughter, Sarah (Lounsby) Aldridge in Victor, Ontario County, New York between the 1850 and the 1855 Censuses. John resides on the site. Sarah was born 3rd March 1798 in Orange County, New York. Henry is listed in the 1850 U.S. Census for Victor as a member of the John Aldridge household, age 81 years and blind. In the 1840 U.S. Census John Aldridge's household included one male 70-79 and one female 60-69. No probate file.

*Mrs. John F. Walters, 38 Sycamore Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017 writes thanks for printing query on Tamar Lounsby. She notes however that her dates were correct in the second line (1744-1832) but Jake Lounsby of Mercer Island, WA wrote to say he noticed her death date in the next to the last line as 6 Sept., 1852, and should be 1832. Many thanks for the correction. Phyllis (Mrs John) Walters is also interested in any new material in the line of Michael2.

*Bea Clark, 45 Cloverdale Road, Rochester, New York 14616; who graciously assists the TREE with genealogical record keeping, travels far and wide filling in family record sheets for a projected rewrite of Lounsberry, Lounsberry, Lounsby. Since she has found much can be added to the first edition, a second printing has been held up for added information and also correction. Bea urges anyone who possibly can to provide documented information from their geographic area - library or county clerk records etc, etc. It is physically impossible for her to obtain records from the Western States. Much has already been received but any further record sheets out there would be greatly appreciated. All materials sent to Marie are copied and forwarded to Bea.

Editors Note: We commend Bea for the tremendous job she is doing. This is a labor of love for her as she is continuing the work of her father, Oscar Lounsburys and at absolutely no profit to herself. We also want to send congratulations to Bea. She just advised us of the birth of a new granddaughter, Angela Dawn Livingston born July 31, 1983.

REALLY PROVES — IF YOU WANT A JOB WELL DONE, ASK A BUSY PERSON.