

Vierling Family Information

Dawn Valerie Schwartz (2-15-36)

Mary Elizabeth Vierling, Chicago
(2-9-17---7-30-2002) M. 1934

Edward Elliot Schwartz, Chicago
(7/29/13---July 8, 1998)

Arthur Garfield Vierling, Chicago
(2/15/1880---9/6/65)

Anna Vierling (d. 1910)
Son Gilbert (1897-?)

Grace May Cummings, Peru, Ind.
(4/13/1885---7/27/66) m.1911

Frank Charles Vierling, Cincinnati
(b. 6/13/1850-d. 2/3/ 1907) m. 4/20/1871

Caroline Vierling, England? (B. 1834-d.
1/27/1890)

Margaret Chadwick Williams, England
(B.4/12/1845-d. 12/30/1912)

Francis Vierling (2/27/1817-10/20/1863)
Caroline Vierling (3/3/1823-1/21/1890)

Information From:

1. Chicago Eagle Newspaper article Saturday, April 2, 1892.
2. 1900 Census
3. 1880 Census
4. The Book of Chicagoans, A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the City of Chicago; edited by John W. Leonard (editor of Who's Who in America); A. N. Marquis & Co., Chicago, 1905.

5. Oakwoods Cemetery records
6. Oral History of Mary Vierling Follett
7. History of Chicago, Illinois; Volume 1; Munsell & Co., Publishers, Chicago & New York; 1895; description of importance of Vierling Steel Works as manufacturers of architectural iron works P. 423.

Francis and Caroline Vierling are listed as having come from Lorraine, France. Also listed as from Alsace. (2) He was reputed to have been a German Republican Revolutionary of 1848. (1) They arrived in Chicago in 1855. (1) Twice he had to chase down his son Frank, who at age 11 marched off to the Civil War, to have him discharged. (1) The third time cost him his life. Caroline Died 1-27-1890 of a Hernia at the age of 66 in Chicago and was living at 3760 Indiana Avenue with Frank C listed as next of Kin. They had five children who were:

- A. Frank Charles Vierling born in Cincinnati, Ohio 6/13/1850.
- B. Adolph Vierling born in Cincinnati, Ohio 5/16/1852 died in Omaha, Neb 3-21-1948 N/A for reasons for death.
- C. Robert Vierling born in Buffalo, NY 12/23/1854 died in Chicago 12-20-1906 of liver cancer.
- D. Louis Vierling born in Chicago 6/13/1856 died 12-27-1930 of a coronary with schliorises of the liver as additional cause. He was living at 4857 Greenwood and Charlotte, his wife was next of kin.
- E. Clara born in Chicago 10/27/1863 and died in Omaha, Neb. While living at 1317 S. 35th St., of Breast cancer 8-21-1940 at the age of 77.

Details of their lives

A. Frank Charles Vierling (Great Grandfather)

1. Came to Chicago in 1855.
2. Attended public schools and Bryant & Stratton Bus. College
3. Married Apr. 20, 1871 (year of fire) Margaret Chadwick Williams (according to Census 1880 & 1900) ---Arthur's Mother---- who died choking on spinach (but Caroline, her sister was his first wife).
4. Three children
 - a. Mary Vierling Blake (16 years older than Arthur) half or stepsister. Called Mamie. Margaret's daughter by a previous marriage.
 - b. Ida Vierling Waterman (8 years older than Arthur and deaf) who died of typhoid fever on 8-14-1896 at the age of 24 in Chicago.
 - c. Arthur Garfield Vierling (named after Presidents Arthur and Garfield) born 2-15-1880 in Chicago and died Sept 7, 1965---s.s. # 353-01-6780. Married twice. Anna ---who died in 1910. Grace May Cummings whom he married in 1911. She was daughter of WM Cummings, of Peru, Ind. (Wehaw Plains). Born on April 13, 1885.
5. Varied Business Experience
 - a. Cook at Tremont House in 1861
 - b. Cashier in 1862-64
 - c. Collector and Tribune Paper carrier 1867-9 saved \$1000 to begin Real Estate business
 - d. Owned Rainbow Beach (75th St. Beach), N.W. corner of State and Madison, and 1 sq. block of Congress between State and Wabash, among other real estate.
 - e. School Fund Appraiser, 1875 raising the tax base to accommodate school needs.
 - f. Alderman of 2nd & 5th Ward, Chicago's wealthiest, 1889 to 1892. Big on trees, landscaping city---worked with Olmstead, park development (build up for Columbian Exposition).
 - g. Office was 115 Dearborn St and residence 37 75th St. (beach) (2)
6. Civil War Experience (1)
 - a. One of youngest drummer boys in Union Army from IL. Irish Brigade at age of 11.
 - b. Father had him discharged twice after chasing him down to bring him back. Father died the third time on 10/20/1863. (Oral history from Arthur.)
 - c. Frank re-enlisted in February 1865 and served until the end of the war when he was mustered out as a corporal, Company F, 23rd Veteran Volunteers, Col. Mulligan's Irish Brigade.
 - d. Corporal Vierling was mustered out at Richmond, Va, May 28, 1865 and arrived home Sunday June 13, for his 15th birthday

- e. He became a commander of the Abraham Lincoln Post #91, Grand Army of the Republic as well as many secret organizations and the Masons (32nd Degree), Germania.
- f. Early member of the Union League Club, whose original members were Union veterans of the Civil War.

B. Adolph J. Vierling

1. Born May 16, 1852 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Died March 21, 1948.
2. Married Kate Organ born March 18, 1854 died July 13, 1913 died 7-23-1913 of a cerebral thrombosis at the age of 59. Had lived at 23rd and Stewart in Chukka, Neb.
3. Ran Paxton-Vierling Steel Works in Omaha, Neb.
4. Mom remembers him as tall, thin, looked like my Granddad, Arthur, pleasant.

C. Robert Vierling

1. Born Dec. 23, 1853 in Buffalo, NY. Died Dec. 20, 1906.
2. Never married, cared for his younger sister Clara Josephine.
3. Educated at Chicago Public Day and Evening Schools and the Chicago Athenaeum (Turners).
4. Began iron and steel business at N. S. Bouton & Co as a boy in 1871---year of the Chicago Fire.
5. April 1882 organized Vierling, McDowell & Co., Manufacturers of structural and ornamental steel and iron (serving the building of the Eiger Building, the Monadnock among others ---Arthur Vierling oral history).
(7) To be researched for more information. Served as president until his death.
6. In 1885 co-organized Paxton, Vierling Iron Works in Omaha, Neb. Became VP.
7. Formerly lieut. -Col. of Illinois National Guard and senior major of provisional regent for Spanish-American War.
8. Member of 2nd Presbyterian Church (renown for having 21 major Tiffany windows and was attended by THE families of Chicago) and the Union League of Chicago.
9. Office was 23rd and Stewart, residence 4914 Greenwood Ave., Hyde Park section of Chicago. This was later the home of Arthur, Grace and Mary Vierling.

D. Louis Vierling

1. Educated in Chicago Public Schools
2. Married Feb. 7, 1900 To Charlotte Bowen Molthop who died 4-2-1961 of a coronary occlusion at the age of 83 while living at 10255 S. Hoyne.
He was 44 and she was 21.
Daughter was Caroline Vierling Wilson who died 2-14-1970 at the age of 65 in Atlanta, Ga. Arthur Young Wilson was her husband
3. First worked at N. S. Bouton iron works 1872.

4. 1882 became connected to Vierling, McDowell & Co. Iron Works, manufacturers of Structural and ornamental iron and steel/ 23rd and Stewart Ave.
5. Became Sec. & Treas. of Vierling, McDowell and of Paxton & Vierling Iron Works in Omaha, Neb.
6. After Roberts Death, he became the president.
7. Associations
 - a. Republican Party
 - b. 2nd Presbyterian Church
 - c. Art Institute of Chicago, life member.
 - d. Union League Club of Chicago
8. Residence: 120 E. 49th St., Chicago, and IL.

E. Clara Josephine Vierling

1. Born Oct. 21, 1863, died Aug. 21, 1940.
2. Spinster who lived with Robert and retained home at 4914 Greenwood (lived in by Grace and Arthur Vierling).
3. Mary Vierling remembers her as a plain woman with a gray bun. She had all the family over for Thanksgiving dinners.
4. Had a servant/cook who did the work.
5. Friendly with Granddad.

F. Arthur Garfield Vierling

1. Born @ 15th and Prairie Ave. at site of the emergency entrance to St. Lukes Hospital. Could run out the door and play on the beach.
2. Moved to 24th and Michigan and summer home was at 75th and South Shore Dr. Bought the Manhattan and Rainbow Beach--- built a pier out into the lake with an apartment above. They had chickens and some farming. (Gilbert as a boy stayed out there with Grandparents).
3. In 1893 sold peanuts and popcorn at Columbia Worlds Fair in Jackson Park (popcorn just introduced)
4. Educated in Chicago Public Schools. Excelled in Math.
5. Conductor on horse drawn streetcar and Illinois Central Railroad.
6. Legs burned at age 7 by fireman on 75h Street and carried scars for life.
7. Entered Steel Works ultimately became Sec. & Treasurer and one of executives who did selling to major accounts. Company hit early by depression, he bid and won contract to supply the steel for Tri-River Bridge in Pittsburgh signing his personal stock and assets for the purchase of pig iron for contract. Duane Molthrop took over vote of remaining family stocks since he

believed that Granddad was playing fast and loose with company money. Caused the foreclosure on Granddad's estate. Left Corp and Duane took over as president.

8. Bootlegger for a while during prohibition because he had a connection with Canadian distributors and acted as purchasing agent for many people in the steel business.
9. Worked for Chicago Park District, purchasing agent for Park Board. Retired.
10. Lived at Stevens Hotel (later named Hilton) on Michigan Ave. and then in an apartment in the Crillon Hotel at 13th and Michigan.
11. Worked for the racetracks in Chicago and Florida.
12. Met Anna in Hot Springs Arkansas. Married her and lived with her and her son Gilbert. She died in 1910.
13. Met Grandma (Gracie) while living at a hotel in which they were both staying. They were married for 54 years.
14. He died in his home at 10120 NW 2nd Ave., Miami, Florida. Choked on sputum from bronchopneumonia of the left lung. Also had infected nodular hyperplasia prostate, old inactive pulmonary TB, emphysema on Sept. 6, 1956. Buried in Oakwoods between his wives.

G. Grace May Cummings Vierling born in S. Lafayette, Ind. (Peru, Ind.---Wehaw Plaines site of farm) April 13, 1885.

1. Father, William Cummings, was a farmer who had a large 360-acre farm with a covered bridge going over a river on the property. He also had cattle and sold beef to Bonner Brothers. Mother's name was Hattie. Mom (Mary) did a painting of it and sold it.
2. Had many brothers one of whom was gassed in the First World War and another, Uncle Jack, lost his leg in a railroad accident. She was close to Jack and his wife Dess and their family in Chicago.
3. Left farm at around 16 to go to Chicago then to New Orleans.
4. Became a model for Gosser Corset and later for George Petty. Considered a real beauty. She was 5'2" tall and had brown eyes with Auburn hair.
5. At one time engaged to Harry Black of Hawaii (Dole Pineapple)

6. Considered fun loving, a thoroughly modern woman who also smoked---shocking for its day.
7. She didn't want children so granddad got her drunk on Champagne and the result is my Mom, Mary Elizabeth Vierling, their only child.
8. Parents were Scotch-Irish and German Descent (Pennsylvania Dutch who were earliest German immigrants---1700's.
9. Died July 27, 1966 of sclerosis of the liver, bowel blockage, and pneumonia.

H. Mary Elizabeth Vierling

1. Born Feb.9, 1917 at 4630 Calumet Ave. Her parents lived at 4362 Lake Park Ave, Chicago. Arthur was 36 and Grace was 31. Granddad's occupation is listed as salesman for Steel Works and Grandma was a housewife. The Doctor was Dr. J.E.Bigelow. She was born at 3:30PM.
2. As a baby her crib was out on the back porch when a riot occurred and there were bullets flying all around, during the race riots of the period. The family had two maids Etta and Ebba.
3. Her memories of childhood include two German shepherds who pulled her on her roller skates down the street back and forth to school. The school was St. Xavier's where she went for grade school and part of high school. She graduated at 14 from high school (later found to be a myth---graduated at 18 from South Shore High School---picture in year book).
She also remembers going to Diamond Joe Esposito's restaurant with her parents in their Marmon. They were held up at the entrance to the restaurant and their money, furs, jewels and the car were stolen. They went in and Granddad was furious. After they ate, they were taken home in the Esposito limousine and returned the next night. When they returned they were seated at the table and their money and jewels were under their napkin. When they got up to leave, their fur coats were put on and they went out to find their car waiting for them with bullet holes in the doors. Ah Chicago!!
4. Her graduation present was a Chevy convertible with a rumble seat. Even though it was the height of the depression. (Later admitted just before she died that this was a story concocted to save face over their lowered economic status)

5. They had a winter home in Point Loma just off of San Diego and they had become acquainted with several professors at Univ. of So California. She attended St. Mary's of the Woods for three weeks but they were such snobs that she left. So she drove out Route 66 (same old family route) calling Granddad at 8AM every morning to let him know how she was doing. She went to school majoring in English and Drama until the scholarship was cancelled due to the depression. (Story told but later admitted was a story)
6. She met Ed Schwartz after a football game in Calif. and learned that he was from her neighborhood. She returned to Chicago and worked in the cosmetic business, they courted and were married late in 1934 and were divorced 1st week of Feb 1936. This was done so that she could have sole custody of her daughter, Dawn, who was born Feb. 15th at the Lying-Inn Hospital, Chicago. The divorce was caused by his family's religious concerns.
7. She met Garth Follett in the late 1930's and married him some time later. He was VP and Sales Manager of Follett Corp. He also authored a book on the circus after taking Dawn to the Circus and wanting to re-coup his \$3.50 for the tickets. Garth was an extremely handsome man who looked like Errol Flynn with his hat on and had dancing blue eyes. He loved children and was everyone's favorite uncle---and Dad.
8. Over the years her interest in art led her to taking painting classes from several distinguished artists and then a degree for art conservation from the Academy of Professional Art Conservation in Lafayette, Calif.
9. She solely owned two art galleries called Paintin Place, one on Oak Park Avenue and the other on North Boulevard behind Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois.
10. She continued the galleries and became a noted conservationist who cleaned and restored many famous paintings. She traveled extensively often taking either her daughter or her grandchildren or her best friend, Peggy Dupont D'amico.
11. She sold her gallery when her husband of 50 years, Garth, died of Emphazema in 1989.
12. She continued her travels and often took her entire family on special trips around the country.

- 13. She died of cancer, which began in the lungs and spread throughout her body on June 30, 2002. She left a considerable estate, which showed her special talent for frugal living and excellent money management. She also was an unusually canny investor had gotten out of the stock market in 2002 just before the great downturn and went into Tax Free Municipal Bonds--- which were used to pay the income taxes for the combined estate of Garth and Mary.**
- 14. While being the life of every party and fun to be around for her friends and family, she was tough as nails on the women in her life. She did love men.**