

Paul J. Harris

From: Paul J. Harris [paulharris@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2003 1:08 PM
To: Jean Thompson
Subject: RE: Robert and Ethel Randall

Hi Jean,

Thanks for your message. I hope you enjoyed reminiscing in your mother's diaries. You might be surprised at what you will find in the letters. I often find reference to events that helps put them in a particular place or time frame.

Before I respond to specifics in your e-mail, I will first tell you that I was able to take the very limited information you had on Alfred Nothstine and produce some interesting results. You told me that his wife's name may have been Edna and their address was in Ida, Michigan. Armed with that limited information, I was able to search an online database of index entries to death's in Michigan from 1971-1976. Ida, Michigan, is in Monroe County. My search produced the following two entries:

Nothstine, Alfred H.
Died: 30 August 1989
Place: Frenchtown, Monroe, MI
Born: 17 March 1912
Residence: Dundee, Monroe, MI

Nothstine, Edna
Died: 30 December 1976
Place: Raisinville, Monroe, MI
Born: 19 September 1914
Residence: Dundee, Monroe, MI

Obtaining their death certificates would provide proof that this is them, but I have little doubt. Their birth dates make them a couple. Edna's death in Raisinville fits with their residence you gave me. Raisinville is not a town, but a township, as is Frenchtown, where Alfred died. The town (crossroads) of Ida literally sits on the border between Raisinville and Ida Townships, with Raisinville Twp lying north of Ida and Ida Twp. lying south. The Oak Street address is two blocks north of the border, placing it in Raisinville Township. Frenchtown Township is on the northern edge of the city of Monroe, Michigan. Perhaps, Alfred was in a home or medical facility when he died 13 years later.

Two additional questions about them:

1. Alfred's name. The death index says his middle initial was H. I had his name as Alfred Ralph Nothstine. This kind of discrepancy is not uncommon, but wondered if you had any comment?
2. Do you have any awareness of whether or not they had any children?

Margaret Nothstine

Since you told me her married name was Rankin, and she was born on March 14, I was able to extract the following entry from the Social Security Death Index:

Name: Margaret Rankin
SSN: 287-14-2682
Last Residence: Columbus, OH 43214
Born: 14 Mar 1915
Died: Aug 1984

Good chance it is her since the birthday, name, and residence zipcode match what you have given me. However, using all kinds of combinations and wildcard searches, I cannot get her

to show up in the Ohio Deaths Index (1958-2000). Either her entry didn't make it in the index, or possibly she died outside of Ohio.

Questions:

1. Do you have any knowledge of WHERE Margaret may have died?

Jack Rankin

Since you were able to tell me he died 20 June 1974 I found this in the SS Death Index:

Name: JOHN RANKIN
SSN: 321-09-8417
Last Residence: Columbus, OH 43201
Born: 22 Oct 1906
Died: Jun 1972
State SSN issued: IL

Questions:

1. This man was eight or nine years older than Margaret. Is that your recollection?
2. Does the fact that his SSN was issued in Illinois mean anything to you?
3. Try as I may, I can't get him to show up on the Ohio Death Index either. Any knowledge of his death outside of Ohio?

Comments between quotes, below:

-----Original Message-----

From: Jean Thompson [mailto:hjrt1@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2003 2:11 AM
To: paulharris@nc.rr.com
Subject: Re: Robert and Ethel Randall

>>Aunt Ella died 10/2/67 following a stay in the hospital where . . .

This would have to be Ruth Ella (Pickering) Harris, the wife of Franklin Work Harris's younger brother, Howard Noble Harris. I already had her birth date of 17 Jan 1878 and I had only her year of death, 1967, from her gravestone. This is where it gets interesting:

I pulled the following from the SS Death Index:

Name: ELLA HARRIS
SSN: 273-48-6776
Last Residence: Marietta, OH 45750
Born: 17 Jan 1878
Died: 15 Oct 1967

Well, the birth date matches what I have, but we have a conflict with the death date between this record and your mother's diary. Continuing the search, in the Ohio Death Index we find:

HARRIS, RUTH E
Volume: 19036
Certificate: 80274
Gender: Female
Date of Death: October 02, 1967
SSN:
Birth Date:
Age: 89
Birth Place:

Marital Status: Widowed
Residence: Marietta, Washington County
Place of Death: Marietta, Washington County

I believe this is her, as the age fits with her known birth date, and there is no SS Number contradicting the other record, her husband preceded her in death in 1945, and the date of death AGREES with a contemporaneous record made by your mother. See how valuable your mother's diary has become in resolving a conflict in records?

>>Mama, Wilbur, Mabel, and Madge (birthday 7/16/?) visited her
>>in Marietta, Ohio, on 9/19/67.

If you don't know these folks, Frank Harris's youngest brother, Seth Balderson Harris was married to Minnie Belle Way. They had two children: Madge Louise Harris (16 Jul 1900) and Jacob WILBUR Harris (04 May 1905), whose wife was MABEL Thomas. Mabel died in 1999, but I had a chance to interview her in 1993.

>>On 6/12/69 Aunt Minnie went to Carroll Rest Home in Sunbury.
>>She died there on 6/25/69 at the age of 89 1/2.

This would Minnie Belle (Way) Harris, Seth's wife. I had that she died on 28 June 1969, but that information came from the memory of Mabel Thomas Harris. Your mother's diary has raised another discrepancy to resolve.

SS Death Index:

Name: MINNIE B HARRIS
SSN: 279-48-2919
Last Residence: Westerville, Franklin, OH 43081
Born: 1 Jan 1880
Died: 15 Jun 1969

Date of birth agrees with information from my grandfather, but as you can see, we have another problem with the death date. We now have three! Can't get her to show up in any way in the Ohio Death Index. I have viewed the burial records at Otterbein Cemetery and she was buried on 02 July 1969, which would be more consistent with the 28th or 25th date. The actual death certificate and or an obituary may resolve this issue.

>>In case you don't have it, Cassie's birthday was 10/7, but I don't have the year.

I have Martha Cassandra Harris born 07 October 1888, but I don't know where. Perhaps that other letter you are going to send will have that.

>>I'm hoping you have some info on Ethel. I may be WAY off base on this, but were Ethel and Frances Harris twins?????

Absolutely correct! Ethel Marie and Frances B. Harris were born 15 Jun 1905 to Leonard David Harris (younger brother of Frank) and Maude G. Burns. Frances never married and died on 01 January 1954.

(Newspaper obituary, title unknown)

"Miss Frances Harris, 29 W. Lincoln-av, Westerville, prominent in music circles and a teacher at Otterbein College 27 years, died Friday at Doctors Hospital.

Miss Harris, who was 48, had been ill for several weeks of cancer and had undergone surgery.

For a number of years Miss Harris, a member of the Otterbein College music department, had been head of the piano section. She was organist for the First Evangelical United Brethren Church at Westerville for 26 years.

She leaves her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Harris of the residence; a sister, Mrs.. Ethel Wertz, Akron; two nieces and two nephews...."

She is buried in Otterbein Cemetery and her twin sister was buried at her side on 22 November 1982. Ethel had married a Clifford R. Wertz and they had two children, Richard and Judy.

>>2/1/? was Nelle Harris' birthday. Mama mentioned it in 1968. On 5/27/72 Nelle and Harold (her son, a couple of years younger than I) were guests at Mama's for dinner.

Ethel and Frances Harris had an older brother, John Henry Harris, born 15 December 1899. He married Nellie M. Gorsuch, and they had a son, John Jr. who was born and died in 1922. They also had Harold W. and Barbara. This must be the family you are referring to.

I have Nelle as born on 01 February 1899 in Delaware County, Ohio. The Ohio Death Index is missing all 1978 deaths, but the SSDI shows:

Name: NELLE HARRIS
SSN: 290-28-3272
Last Residence: Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Born: 1 Feb 1899
Last Benefit: Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Died: Feb 1978
State issued: OH

>>Paul, this is quite a bit of info and I hope at least some of it you don't already have.

Jean, you have been most helpful with the information you have provided. Some I had, much I did not. Your clues have led to much additional information.

>>I'm going to look at some old letters, though I doubt if they will turn up as much info as the diaries did.

Doubt not!!

I, too, am sorry this has been so long, but it HAS been interesting. I hope you find it interesting, too. When I get the work we have done compiled and documented, I'll send you some reports and charts that will help put it all in perspective and let us see where we need more information.

Tomorrow, my wife and I are heading to California for the weekend to visit my half-sister, Patricia June Harris. She has a vague recollection of your name. She was born a year after you, and they lived in Piqua, then Columbus, Ohio, until about 1932. They would have been frequent visitors to Westerville, as my dad's parents and brothers lived at 39 East Park Street during that time.

If you have any questions that just won't wait, my cell phone is 919-414-2056.

Have fun with this. We'll "talk" some more.

Regards,

Cousin Paul