

The Scott Family

Ada Scott Morton, M.D.

Robert H. Friedrich, (Ed "Strangler" Lewis)

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Preface

It all began after the death of my mother when I was nineteen years old. My father's death had preceded hers by under 2 years. I was a young bride at the time. I had made a promise to my mother that I would take care of my sister. So I did. I, being the responsible sibling, however not the eldest. We had a brother that was older, but for all practical purposes wasn't emotionally available.

We really had no family to speak of. We had a Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt and four cousins from my father's side of the family. We never were that close to them growing up. We lived a couple of hours away and we just hadn't grown that close as an extended family. When our father died, they weren't there to offer support to my mother. Why did we actually think that they would be there for us when our mother died? There was absolutely no one on my mother's side of the family. Her mother had died before us children were born, and her father was distant and she had no contact with him.. She was an only child, no sisters or brothers. So we dove right in and on we went with life. My sister and I, two motherless daughters, taking one day at a time.

I recall packing up mother's belongings and memorabilia. We sold some of the furniture, splitting some of the treasures with my brother. We were actually too young to understand the importance of

heirlooms. Several items I held on to and displayed them proudly on her antique side table. One was a worn leathered bound, gold leaf edged, family Bible that had been used to keep family records over the years. I didn't spend much time scanning the pages of the records. It just was a nice memory of her and it went well with my other old time memorabilia on the antique table.

Time went on as it seems to do. It is said that, "Life happens as you are making other plans", and after my own two children were born I became aware of the emptiness of not having a mother to share that joy with. No mother to share sorrows with. I realized that my children also did not have the connection of Grandparents to watch them grow. They didn't have a legacy to carry on from my side of the family. It created a curiosity in me that wouldn't let up. A nudging in my heart to find out about the family that I never knew. I was longing to connect to the relatives that I didn't know as a child, and to find a heritage for my children.

It wasn't until the 1980's that I dusted off the family Bible and searched the family record pages. I was excited and shocked at the same time. Excited because there was several family events documented that would be of help in researching, however shocked to find out that one record had evidently been documented in error. Erased from history! How could that be? Again curious, but as a busy

single mother, lack of time kept me from diving into the pages of that worn family Bible.

At the end of the 20th century is when I really began to search the history of my mother's family ties. I began by back tracking her childhood. I knew that she grew up in **San Jose, California in the 1920's**. I was also aware that her mother, my Grandmother was a well known physician and surgeon of the Santa Clara County, **Dr. Ada Scott Morton** and her famous husband was the World renowned Champion Wrestler, **Ed "Strangler" Lewis a.k.a. Robert H. Friedrich**, throughout the 20th century. However, that alone wasn't enough. I needed to find out more. I needed to find out why and who erased an important document in that sacred book. What did that page contain that was so secretive?

The Scott family also had several well known physicians that they were connected to and associated themselves with. Many of their family events taking place in the Santa Clara County area.

Their stories don't begin in Santa Clara County, however, I must begin telling their story by introducing several other family members such as, her father **Richard Thomas Scott** and his harrowing experience bringing his family across the plains from Arkansas at the time of the catastrophic **MOUNTAIN MEADOW MASSACRE**.

I have collaborated several notebooks of information on my Scott side of the family from various sources. I am thankful to the resources available to us in the 21st century through the World Wide Web. As a member of Ancestry.com, I have been able to dig deeper into their lives than I ever thought possible. The many archives of newspapers and books, not to mention collections of passenger lists, passport applications, marriage and divorce decree's have been an enormous resource in my research. As a member of the Mountain Meadow Association, descendants of direct family members of the wagon trains crossing the plains in 1857, I have been able to understand the whole picture of the Scott family. Who they were, where they came from, and why they came to settle in Northern California.

I trust that this information is conveyed in a simple format and that you too will come to learn of a simple, hard working, well educated, family oriented, dream driven, family. Richard T. Scott and Susan E. Scott raised 13 children. Several of them became prominent professionals in the field of medicine. This story is mainly about their 12th child, my Grandmother, **DR. ADA SCOTT MORTON.**

A faded black leather bound, gold leaf edged, family Bible that had been passed down for four generations, is how it all began. Many circumstances brought me to beginning my family tree. It wasn't just curiosity, although that did play a large part in my research, it was the fact that I knew I had some interesting facts about my mother's side of the family. Always in the back of my mind, I felt as if I had cheated my own children out of an extended family. My mother and father had passed away while I was still a teen. As children, my siblings and I didn't have the experience of grandparents from her side of the family. She lost her mother when she was just a teen also. No grandma, no grandpa, no cousins, no aunts or uncles. No real family legacy to pass down to another generation. She shared snippets of information regarding her family as we grew up, but not really enough to hang on to. As vague as my mother had been during our upbringing, I sensed that there was a lot more to the history of her family than she was sharing. Perhaps that was all that she knew. I was determined to find out all that I could.

I remember back in the early 1980's perusing more carefully through that black leather bound family Bible of my mothers. Taking the time to absorb what had been written and who had been mentioned in that sacred book, I noticed one odd page.

One page that had been blackened out with India ink right in the middle of the family records section. What could it be covering? Why did someone take the time to erase a whole entire page? What record that once was so proudly recorded on that page of the family Bible, no longer have significance? I remember holding the page up to the light, at different angles, trying hard to decipher what was under the blackened page. As I laid it down, and I put the book back on the antique side table along with other memorabilia from years gone by, it never left my mind. My curiosity was constantly nagging at me. I knew that someday I must resume my quest for an answer. Again years went by...

I began researching my ancestry in 1999. I sent to the county of Santa Clara for early settler records. I did know from conversations with my mother that she had grown up in San Jose. To my surprise, I received a biography of my grandmother (my mother's mom)

Dr. Ada Scott Morton. Wow, was I excited! I had known that my grandmother was a doctor, in fact I recall while growing up, my mother would occasionally mention that her mother was a famous female surgeon and that she was one of the first of her time. So as my mother was using one of her home medical remedies on us children, such as a couple of tablespoons of coca cola syrup for an

upset stomach, she would remind us that your grandmother use to recommend this to her patients.

After receiving that biography from Santa Clara County it opened up a whole wide range of information that I had never known. I pulled out the leather bound family Bible and opened it to the family record pages and right there in the "Presented to" page was Ada Scott Morton and directly underneath was Ada Scott Friederich. It was presented to her by her mother Susan E. Scott before her death. Under the "Births" section was **Sara Ada Scott** born March 17th 1881. Sara was Dr. Ada Scott Morton's given name at birth. Some of this information I had already known, however most of it was confirmed by the original owners of the family Bible. In another area of the Bible, Dr. Ada Scott Morton then precedes to present it to her daughter Barbada Scott Morton, my mother, in April of 1932.

From the biography of Dr. Ada Scott Morton, I knew that Richard Thomas and Susan Elizabeth were her parents, and my mother's grandparents, and my great-grandparents, and most of all *my children's great, great grandparents.*

Ada's biography briefly brushed over the fact that the Scott family had migrated west across the plains in a covered wagon train in the spring of 1857 from Arkansas. Ever so slightly mentioning

something about a **Mountain Meadow Massacre**. Well, that peaked a whole new interest. What in the heck was the Mountain Meadow Massacre? Who got massacred and who was responsible for it? I had never heard anything about this while growing up. My mother never mentioned anything about a massacre. Never read about it in any history books. It sounded like a catastrophic event. Somehow, some way, my ancestral family was a part of this place in history. I had to find out more. I spent every chance that I had gathering information about this historic event. My husband and myself even became members of the Mountain Meadows Association. The association members are direct descendants of the original families that were killed in that horrific event on September 11, 1857.

The Thomas D. Scott family was a rather affluent family residing on a large plantation in Cumberland County, Kentucky. They enjoyed many servants for their every need. They had hired slave laborers working in the fields and tending to their livestock. They owned the richest cattle and horses that money could buy. Dr. Thomas Scott was a practicing physician in Kentucky. He and his wife had several children. **Richard Thomas Scott**, George W. Scott, **Henry Dalton Scott**, Martha Scott and Allie Scott. This story is about the life of **Richard Thomas Scott** and that of his **family**. Richard Thomas

Scott married a refined woman of Alabama, ***Susan Elizabeth Ferguson***. Susan's family were all from Alabama. Her father, Dr. John Ferguson was well known in both Arkansas and Alabama as a successful practitioner. Miss Susan Ferguson was a well educated woman. She herself attended college which was rare for a woman of the mid 19th century. She and Richard Scott married in Little Rock Arkansas in January 11, 1855. Richard's interest was in farming and in freighting. After they were married they began their life in Crooked Creek, Carroll County, Arkansas. The birth of their first child, Malenda Scott, came in 1856.

THE MOUNTAIN MEADOW MASSACRE

About 1849, before Richard was married, he and some local men had ventured across the plains to inspect California, the wonderful land of opportunity. It was assumed that they had taken the southern route through Utah and stopping at the Mountain Meadows before arriving in San Diego, California. Bringing back with them to Arkansas information that southern California didn't have the same appeal as the fertile grasslands of San Joaquin Valley in northern California. Two years after they were married and after the birth of Malenda, they decided to pack up all of their belongings and join the migration to California. Richard was familiar with the moving of mules

and cattle across the plains and the hardships that are encountered along the way. After all, He had traveled those trails to California before and was ready to leave everything behind to have his share of that California gold. We can only imagine what it must have been like to make the decision to strive for a better life, to travel with your entire family, all your belongings, your cattle and what money you have saved. Not to mention all that your parents had worked for in their life. I wonder how hard it would have been to convince your wife and other family members of your dream? Would they believe in you? How hard would it be to orchestrate a major caravan of wagons with other friends, neighbors, family members and those that shared that same dream? It was the gold rush time in California and many emigrants were migrating west across the plains, not only for the mining of gold but also for the selling of their livestock for the miners to consume while residing in the gold camps along the California trail.

Richard's family joined the Alexander Fancher train in Carroll County, Arkansas in April of 1857. They started out with approximately a party of seventy-five. They would meet up with other wagons along the route. The emigrants experienced many conflicts along the road to California. Their main fear was that of the Indian Territory. The United States Government had relocated the Indians

there in the 1830's. On one occasion the Indians had surrounded the emigrants cattle, and demanded payment for the grass that the cattle ate. At one point Indians attempted to kidnap three children that were sitting on a wagon bed. They did not succeed, but perhaps it was an attempt to frighten the travelers. Several times the cattle herds of the emigrants were stampeded. It was not a carefree journey to their California dream.

Richard's wagon train consisted of he and his wife Susan, their young baby Malenda, Richard's brothers, George and Henry Dalton, and his sisters Allie and Martha Scott. **Henry Dalton Scott and his wife Melinda Cameron Scott** had their 3 small children along also. Melinda, Henry's wife, was the daughter of William and Martha Cameron. The entire Cameron family were also traveling with the Alexander Fancher train. Melinda was carrying their 4th child, which she gave birth to in Utah during the adventure to California. The Richard Scott train consisted of all these and possibly others. They brought with them all their best clothing, jewelry and watches, blankets, bedding, cooking utensils, not to mention the finest tack for their horses, and equipment for their livestock. Richard brought a large freighting outfit along with his mules and cattle. They also carried all the gold and silver that they possessed. It has been noted

that these families in this caravan of wagons, coming from Arkansas that summer in 1857, were extremely well off. It was obvious by the fine horses that they rode and the outfits that they wore. The locals and Indians were also aware of the money that they were spending as they made their way across the plains while replenishing their supplies.

A very important historic decision was made when the wagon train came to Salt Lake City on that August day in 1857. The wagon train containing the Scott's and Melinda Cameron Scott's family along with a few other wagons chose to go the northern route out of Salt Lake City. Even though it would take longer, Henry Scott felt that the cattle would have better grazing heading north through Utah instead of taking the southern route. The decision was made to split up and meet in California. Many of the other wagons with Alexander Fancher as the lead, continued on the southern route. It was the more direct trail and a shorter distance to their destination. These wagons on the southern route, by way of the Old Spanish Trail, would be the innocent families that were murdered in the **Mountain Meadow Massacre**. Between 120-140 innocent men, women and children brutally lost their lives that summer of 1857 crossing the plains to a better life. Their lives were stolen by Mormon leaders disguised as

Paiute Indians. Every man, women and child thought to be over eight years of age were savagely killed at point blank. Seventeen children's lives were spared that day due to their age of innocence and accountability. The Mormons believed that the children under eight wouldn't remember the catastrophic happenings and wouldn't be able to relay any of the events to anyone else. They were wrong. The surviving children of the massacred families would later be able to tell their horrific stories.

Somewhere near Salt Lake City, Utah, right after the decision had been made to head north, there was a quarrel between Henry Dalton Scott (Richard's brother) and another wagon train member. There was a scuffle and Henry Scott was shot and lost his life. His widow Melinda carried on the route with her brother-in-law's family until they reached Stockton, California. She gave birth to their fourth child Susan in Utah a couple of days after Henry's death. The Scott's went on to reach Northern California about October of 1857. They waited over a week for the other wagons that had taken the southern route, hoping to see Melinda's family that were lead by Alexander Fancher. After weeks of no sign of any family members, it was declared that they had been killed in the Mountain Meadow

Massacre.

Richard Scott's sister Allie met **Samuel L. Martin** along the journey from Arkansas to California. Samuel Martin started across the plains all alone, then met up with the Scott's wagon and joined up with them. He did his share of the work in moving the cattle across the plains. The young couple fell in love and after arriving safely in Stockton, California they were married October 17, 1857. **Mr. Samuel L. Martin** became well known for putting through the drainage ditch into Martin's Slough because the crops on his ranch were failing to grow. The overflow of the river was at fault. Since he put the drainage ditch in there was no longer a problem with the overflow of water. He helped build the Calaveras Schoolhouse and served as trustee of the district for years.

Mrs. Melinda Cameron Scott whose husband Henry Dalton Scott had been killed coming across the plains, remarried two years later in 1859. She married Hiram Thurston. Mrs. Cameron Scott Thurston would many years later give a deposition regarding the events that took place at the Mountain Meadow Massacre involving the loss of her entire family, their livestock, and their worldly possessions. She sued the state of Utah for \$30,000.00 and never received any of her families belongings back nor did she receive anything monetarily for

the charges filed.

Richard Thomas Scott (Dick Scott as he was known) was a well known freighter. He began freighting between Stockton and the mines. He also went into the upper San Joaquin Valley. He was to later apply himself to ranching. He enjoyed the ownership of several farms. **Sara Ada Scott** was born on March 17 of 1881. Ada (as she was known) was Susan and Richard's twelfth child. She had twelve other siblings. Many of whom followed in the footsteps of their grandparents on both sides of the family, and became Physicians. Ada too, receiving her Doctor of Medicine degree in the year of 1907 after graduating from the University of Physicians and Surgeons of Illinois.

Ada Scott married in December 1901 to **Alfred Woodham Conner** of San Jose. Mr. Alfred Conner's family also came to California by one of the early routes that crossed the plains. His father John Smith Conner was a pioneer of California. His name is associated with Santa Clara County, where he founded a grain and fruit ranch. **Mr. John Conner** settled in Santa Clara County in 1860 and sold the ranch property in which he resided to the County in 1874, for the location of the County Infirmary. Mr. Conner later purchased eighty acres known as the Conner ranch and fruit farm.

His wife Miss Sarah Jane West was the daughter of Captain John and Hannah West. He was known for operating a line of schooners between the harbor at San Francisco and the Alviso in Santa Clara County. He continued the operation of schooners on the bay until 1877. He made his home in Santa Clara County. Mr. John and Mrs. Sarah Jane Conner were proud of their son **Dr. Alfred W. Conner** who also attended the University of Physicians and Surgeons of Illinois and graduated the same year as Dr. Ada Scott. He was well known as a prominent professional of San Jose and he also enlisted in the World War in 1917. He was commissioned first lieutenant to the Hawaiian Islands.

The married Doctors shared a practice together in San Jose at the Garden City Bank building . They resided at the Hotel Montgomery. The Doctors were divorced in March of 1912. They continued practicing together until 1917.

Dr. Andrew Wade Morton was a professor at the College of Physicians and Surgeons where **Ada Scott Conner** was a student. She was married at the time to **Dr. Alfred W. Conner** who also attended the same college. Sometime during their 6 years of medical schooling Dr. Ada and Dr. Alfred became separated, or perhaps secretly divorced. There were rumors at the time of their graduation

in 1907 that she and her professor Dr. Andrew Morton were engaged and a wedding date had been set. **Dr. Andrew W. Morton** was the owner operator of the Morton Hospital at 775 Cole Street in San Francisco. Shortly after graduation she suddenly went abroad for an indefinite stay. No explanations had been announced. She just picked up and left. Her friends were startled by the news. It seems as though she was having second thoughts about the separation between her and Dr. Alfred Conner, and the pending engagement and marriage to Dr. Andrew W. Morton. She must have been overwhelmed and needed to leave the situation for awhile.

After sometime she returned to the states, and pursued post-graduate work at the Mayo brothers' Clinic in Rochester New York. When she arrived back in San Francisco around 1911, the old romance between her and her former professor **Dr. Andrew W. Morton** was revived. Again there would be no marriage between them. She suddenly became married or re-united with her previous spouse, Dr. Alfred W. Conner of San Jose. She continued sharing a professional practice with Dr. Conner in San Jose, occasionally having business contact with Dr. Andrew W. Morton. Privately in March of 1912, Dr. Ada Scott Conner filed for a divorce. The divorce was a mutual agreement. Dr. Ada continued practicing in downtown San

Jose, even though she became the resident physician of the Morton Hospital. Friends suspected that a marriage was pending.

Dr. Andrew W. Morton and **Dr. Ada Scott Conner** were united in marriage in April of 1913. **Dr. Andrew W. Morton** was chief surgeon for the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. His wife, **Dr. Ada** was also a surgeon for the Santa Fe Railroad in 1914. It was in June of 1915 that the two Doctors purchased a country home in the eastern foothills, near the Country Club, in the **Santa Clara County**. Much of their free time was spent at La Paloma, their country home in on Kirk Avenue, in San Jose.

May of 1917 the doctors were in litigation over valuable property that was located in San Diego and on Kirk Avenue in San Jose.

Dr. Andrew Morton accused his wife of having contacts with Robert H. Friedrich while attending a conference in Southern California. Dr. Andrew Morton took his wife to court regarding this matter. Dr. Ada accused him of physical abuse, slander and verbal accusations he had made of her breaking their marriage vows. According to her version of the story they were separated in February 1917. February 1918 Dr. Ada and Dr. Andrew were granted a divorce. Dr. Andrew Morton deeded the Linda Vista, Kirk Avenue ranch to her in a settlement of the divorce.

It had been reported that Dr. Ada Scott Conner Morton met **Robert H. Friedrich**, known in the Athletic world as, **Ed "Strangler" Lewis**, after he injured his ankle in a wrestling match in Butte Montana in 1917. He was taken to San Francisco to have the famous Santa Fe Railroad surgeon, **Dr. Ada Scott Morton**, look at his injury. This meeting was the beginning of their relationship. It was a short time after they met that the newspapers were announcing that the female physician and the wrestler would be tying the knot. They were married on May 1, 1919 in Pennsylvania. **Robert H. Friedrich**, the famous wrestler became her third husband. She seemed happy and content. Making her home full time in San Jose at the Linda Vista ranch location. Her successful Practice was located in the Twohy building in San Jose. As in our contemporary culture of today, the local newspapers and reporters were the paparazzi of their time. Daily in the newspaper, articles were written regarding the life of the famous couple. After all, she a prominent female surgeon, and he the contender for the World Championship in Wrestling. The news reporters were always on the other end of the phone or at their front door. Nothing the couple did or said was sacred.

Dr. Ada Scott Conner Morton Friedrich was helpful in

developing **Ed "Strangler" Lewis' famous headlock hold**. It was with her medical knowledge that she encouraged him to go ahead and develop the hold. She found that it produces a form of anesthesia to the brain. The brain goes to sleep. It causes a numbness first, then stupor and unconsciousness follows. As soon as pressure is released, circulation begins to wake up the brain. No negative lasting effects are left on the brain.

Many celebrations took place at La Paloma, their Linda Vista home. On one occasion it was getting close to Christmas and there was a shortage of turkeys at the local market. The newspapers announced that **Ed "Strangler" Lewis** had just over thrown Joe Stecher and won the famous match that gave him the World Wrestling Championship title in December of 1920. Dr. Ada was preparing a surprise reception for her husband. She had purchased over 200 turkeys for the big event. She hosted over 2,000 friends and town folks at the Kirk Avenue location. His fans and the city of San Jose were so excited that they had a Wrestling Champion residing in their home town. The Chamber of Commerce and many other Committee members were in attendance. It was the well known attorney James P. Sex, in behalf of the many committees, that made the "welcome home" speech. Bobby (as he was known to his

wife and friends) was presented with ***a large silver trophy***.

The trophy was approximately 24" high, with handles on both sides. It resembled a loving cup. The inscription on the front said, "from all of your San Jose friends". How do I know so much about the details of this trophy? It rested for many years on the fireplace mantel of my childhood home. My mother, daughter of Ed "Strangler" Lewis, treasured the gift from the San Jose friends that was given to her famous wrestler father. It still remains treasured in our family to this day.

For several years Dr. Ada planned Christmas parties for all the children in San Jose. Over five hundred kiddies that otherwise would not have had a Christmas were invited to her home in Linda Vista. Transportation was provided to the foothill home and sandwiches, candy, and full Christmas stockings were provided to all. A giant Christmas tree was decorated and lit up for all the youngsters to enjoy. The gigantic Christmas tree was displayed in the enormous gymnasium that Dr. Ada had built for Bobby to train.

As soon as Bobby became World Champion, San Francisco reporters were trying to persuade Dr. Ada and Bobby to claim their city as their home. They believed that it would bring additional glory to the city of the Golden Gate. Dr. Ada could not see it that way. She

made it clear to them that as long as she and Bobby shall live, "San Jose will always be our home." The Press Association had prematurely reported that Bobby was moving back to Kansas City and that would be his new home. Dr. Ada immediately received a telegram from Bobby stating that the press "had gone off its trolley" when they sent out that dispatch. He stated that San Jose, USA "would continue to be his home as long as prunes and apricots grow in the valley."

By this time Dr. Ada Scott Morton was already a popular resident of San Jose. She had made the decision to keep her former husband's name for professional purposes. She had a successful practice in the Twohy building and she was the member of many clubs and medical associations. She even held an office in the Native Daughters Society.

Dr. Ada and Bobby enjoyed raising their daughter together. They had given her the name of "Bobada" Scott Friedrich. It was a combination of both of their names. Bobby was very proud of her and took her along on his daily workouts. He carried her in a sling type blanket that he would sling over his shoulder or even hang it up on a coat rack at the barber shop with her in it. In a way she was a prodigy. They started feeding her on a special schedule and a diet of

goat's milk and bacon grease. They even introduced beef at an early age. He started training her when she became old enough to walk. She would pull herself up on a low bar that Bobby had designed for her size, to lift her slightly off the ground.

Bobby and Dr. Ada drove around the town of San Jose in their 2-seater Studebaker roadster. After the children came along, Bobby was down at the dealership and searching for a more family friendly machine. After all it was quite a load when they all piled in for a Sunday drive. They had Robert Adrian, the son that Bobby adopted at the age of 12, and they had Bobada still a toddler. Their German Shepherd police dog "Guido" went everywhere with the family, and a little dog named "midget". Not to mention Bobby and Dr. Ada also. He purchased his 1921 Studebaker from Benson & Weaver so that he could show the family a great deal of California that summer.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis was out of the state quite often. Wherever his matches would take him. He even purchased an airplane to aid in the travel time of his transportation to and from the home front. Dr. Ada wasn't as fond of the airplane as she was of the new Studebaker. She rather have her feet on the ground.

In June of 1923 Dr. Ada heard through the word of news reporters, that Bobby was in the east filing for a divorce in his

hometown of Wisconsin. She was shocked. She told the reporters that "it just can't be so". "Bobby and I have a terrific relationship".

So it was, in June 1923, without much warning, again she was divorced. One can only imagine how devastated she was. Especially about 2 months later after hearing the news that Bobby was engaged to a Russian Princess. Perhaps his charm as an athlete had gone to his head. He just couldn't refuse his women fans. Finding it hard to face his ex-wife and family, he had also applied for a passport to go abroad that same month.

Dr. Ada was very sadden by the fact that he just left her and his daughter for another women. It was then that she disassociated herself and Bobada from him. She decided to change Bobada's name to Barbada. She probably had a little help with that from the press because they never could get the spelling of her name right! She didn't want him to have any part of the daughter that they shared. She also dropped his last name of Friedrich/Lewis and gave their daughter her professional last name of Morton. Barbada being only three years old at the time probably didn't remember much of her World Champion Wrestler father. Dr. Ada made it a point to try to erase any memory that she might had store in her three year old memory. Perhaps, unkind words were used when the mention of the

wrestler came up in conversation.

San Jose was home for many years to the Scott family. Relatives of Dr. Ada lived in the city also. Her younger brother John Scott, died in San Jose as a possible suicide death, and her niece Miss Edna Scott, were two of her close family residing in the same home town. Her father Richard Thomas Scott, having spent the bulk of his life in Stockton since settling there in 1857, came to live with Dr. Ada toward the end of his life. He passed away in San Jose July of 1917.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis continued his success in Wrestling. He lost his World Championship title a couple of times but was always able to win it back. He never married the Princess from Russia that he had left Dr. Ada for, however he did have a couple of other marriages after her. When his wrestling career came to a close he began managing and training young wrestlers to attain the championship title. Toward the end of his life he became blind. He also had found religion and attributed his success and long life to prayer and being thankful to God. My mother never had contact with him during our childhood that we knew of. Even though during my research finding out that he only lived several towns away. Though he had made millions throughout his wrestling career he died with little left, or so it was said. He enjoyed traveling and the high society life.

As he was once quoted as saying, "you can't take it with you."

As for Dr. Ada Scott Morton. She did marry one last time. In January 1926, in Redwood City, California. She married Sawyer Wells Clark, a fruit rancher. In 1926 she and Barbada moved to Fallbrook, California. There they lived on a spacious avocado and Orange Grove ranch. I'll never forget the stories that my mother told of having to get up in the middle of the night to light the fire in the smudge pots to keep the orange trees from freezing. "Pappy" as my mother called him was her step father. For a reason that we grandchildren never really knew, they never had a close relationship. Perhaps as a young child of six when Dr. Ada married him Barbada didn't like the idea of him as her father figure. There is always the possibility that he didn't treat her nice. Dr. Ada Scott Clark became ill around December of 1930. My mother was ten years old at that time. Ada experienced multiple heart attacks. She had been practically bedfast since December 22, 1932.

It was in April of 1932 that Dr. Ada Scott Clark opened that black leathered bound Bible one more time. this is where my curiosity got to me. Why would a mother on her sick bed make a point of blacking something out of a historic family record, then underneath add a bold statement. She used one whole page to dedicate the Bible to her

daughter, Barbada Scott Morton. Ada wrote that her mother had presented it to her before her death in 1925, and she was now passing it on to **"my own born child"** born to me on July 22, 1920! That was the exact inscription. It was not written once, not twice but three times! "My own born child, born to me on July 22, 1920!" She had made it clear that whatever had been written on that page needed to be changed and witnessed of her doing so. Her peer Dr. Benjamin Childs, and his wife Francis Childs were present at the time and witnessed the changes that she made. Regarding the birth of Barbada, Ada made it a point to write "I was confined in my home by Dr. B. N. Childs M.D. (Benjamin) in San Jose, he made no birth certificate". "My mother and Miss Duminil witnessed the birth".

That blotted out page of the family history, the page erased in time, has been a mystery for years. I have had speculations for over twenty-five years as to what might be under that ink stained page. So many questions came from that altered record. Knowing today in the 21st century how different it was nearly 100 years ago. Hush, hush was the word. Everything was attempted to cover over smoothly. Was there a possibility that she was hiding something from her family, her colleagues or her husbands? Could she have had the baby herself while she was traveling abroad?

Is it possible that she adopted her while abroad? What about the possibility that as a physician Dr. Ada had the resources of unwanted pregnancies and was able to get the baby from one of her patients? What I want to believe is that she and Robert H. Friedrich had adopted my mother, Bobada back in July 1920, while their marriage was going strong and they were on top of the world. After Ada's world came crashing down and she disassociated herself and Bobada, from him, and changed her daughter's name to Barbada, that she also disconnected any association he had in their daughter's adoption. There are so many possibilities.

It was a known fact that Ada loved children. She couldn't do enough for the under privileged children of San Jose, especially at Christmas time. Perhaps she did have Barbada while over seas, and had originally written on that Bible page that she had adopted Barbada, but because of the "secrecy of adoption" back in those days and because she was nearing the end of her life, she didn't want her daughter to know that she had been adopted and went ahead and erased that record before presenting the Bible to her. She made sure that she wrote the statement that she "gave birth to her." The language that was used seems to be in a defensive way as if to be proving a point. I do know that Barbada believed that she was the

naturally born child of Dr. Ada and Robert Friedrich.

I do feel in my heart it to be true that Barbada was adopted by Dr. Ada and Bobby. I also have strong convictions that under that blackened India Ink is documentation proving this fact. I believe that under the erased page would reveal who her natural mother was. My research continues on this quest.

Regardless of the mystery, Dr. Ada Scott Morton and Robert H. Friedrich (Ed "Strangler" Lewis) were my mother's parents. They were my grandparents and *my children's great, great grandparents*. In the end my children really do have a legacy. They do have an extended family. They will find it written in the sacred pages of the family "Holy Bible" that will be passed down to them.

Dr. Ada Scott Conner Morton Friedrich Clark expired on Jan 11, 1939 at 2:03pm. The cause of her death was Angina Pectoris Myocarditis, degenerative, thrombosis of the large coronary vessel of the heart. This also was documented in the protected pages of the sacred book.

Her husband made a note that, "no one will ever know how she suffered". "She had hundreds of angina attacks". "I lost the best sweetheart, the best pal and the best wife, all in one, any one ever had." S. W. (Pappy) Clark.

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