Milligan and Lind

OUR FAMILY STORY

ancestryProGenealogists

The story of our family, the history of each person, the lives they led, and the impact they had on the world around them. Let the past unfolds, as we explore the stories of joy, sorrow, and triumph that have shaped us.

Their own accord, true and unadulterated, the notes which recount their own stories. Their own accord, the great variety of melodic histories.
This story explores the lives of some of the ancestors of David Vaughn Milligan and his wife, Susan Mary Lind. These ancestors participated in some of the most iconic moments in American history. Their journeys stretch from Scotland and Sweden to America, where most made their homes in the Midwest. Common themes surface repeatedly across generations: resilience, a taste for adventure, willingness to answer the call to serve, and adaptation to changing economic and political conditions.

Many of the details of earlier generations in this story were discovered through research done by AncestryProGenealogists, while family members shared some details on more recent descendants. The Melvin Milligan Family History also provided numerous helpful details.

Their stories, rich with military heroism and pioneer spirit, are shared in these pages.
The story begins with George Milligan, the earliest known ancestor of David Milligan. The surname Milligan is of Saxo-Norman origin. Originally spelled Millingas or Millanges, it means “Manor Mill.” Many people with the surname moved to the Netherlands or to southern Scotland, where the surname became Milliken or Milligan.

George Milligan Jr.

George Milligan Jr.
born about 1733
b. Dumfriesshire, Scotland

George Milligan Jr. was probably the son of George Milligan Sr. and Jean Smith. He was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and while the exact date of his birth is not known, family members believe he was born in 1731. He was baptized in Kirkmahoe, Dumfries, Scotland, on 4 November 1733.

Incidentally, this was just a few miles from where the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns lived with his family for the last three years of his life before his death at the age of 37 in 1796.

For hundreds of years, Scots had the reputation of being the most educated people in Europe. In the Lowlands, where Dumfriesshire is located, most parishes had their own schools in the mid-18th century so people could learn to read the Bible. This atmosphere of learning was the breeding ground for the Scottish Enlightenment. Intellectuals and authors alike gathered in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, including economist Adam Smith, inventor James Watt, and the aforementioned Robert Burns.

Located in southern Scotland, Dumfries also was famous for hosting Charles Edward Stuart, known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, for three days toward the end of 1745, when his Jacobite rebel army was preparing to fight against the British to restore
extreme increases in rent, many farmers were forced from their land and left to look for work in urban centers like Glasgow, Falkirk, and Edinburgh. These displaced farmers were among the first Scots to make the trip across the Atlantic to North America, where plenty of land lay waiting. This is one possible reason the Milligans left their native Scotland.

The details and exact time frame of George’s immigration from Scotland to America are difficult to prove through official records, but descendants say he left from Wigtown, Scotland, in about 1758, sailing on to Liverpool and eventually to America. He lived in Pennsylvania by March 1786. The Lowlands of Scotland, where George Milligan was born, were populated by tenant farmers in the years preceding that date until the Agricultural Revolution motivated landlords to turn individual farms into larger commercial holdings. Faced with new leases and}

The signing of the Declaration of Independence
Pennsylvania played an important role during the American Revolution, which ended just three years before George Milligan acquired his 100 acres of land. The colony’s capital, Philadelphia, was the largest city in the New World, and it was in the “city of brotherly love” that Thomas Jefferson penned the momentous Declaration of Independence. During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress called Philadelphia home until the looming British invasion forced members to flee. After the Red Coats surrendered at Yorktown, Philadelphia once again became the American capital, at least for a while. It was there that the Founding Fathers crafted and signed the U.S. Constitution. Pennsylvania became the second state in the Union on 12 December 1787, just a year and a half after George received his land warrant in Washington County.

George and his wife, whose name is not yet known, had two sons, James and George, near the turn of the 19th century. George Jr. was 68 years old when his son George III was born in 1801, by which time the family had moved east from Washington County to Westmoreland County, just east of Pittsburgh.

The Known Children of George Milligan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth/Death Dates</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>(born April 1796)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>George (Ancestor)</td>
<td>(24 March 1801–18 July 1879)</td>
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George may have moved a bit farther east from Westmoreland County to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, later in his life. He died in Pennsylvania, although the exact date of his death is not known.

The other children of George Milligan in Later Years

James married Mary Silex, daughter of Samuel Silex, and they had at least seven children: James Jr., Wilson, Samuel, Nancy, George, Lovinia, and Hannah. James moved to Greenfield, Ohio, where he received two free lots in the village. He died on his farm near Greenfield.

George Milligan and Priscilla Thrapp

According to family members, George Milligan was one of two known sons of George Milligan Jr. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, just east of Pittsburgh, on 24 March 1801. He reported that he was born near the battlefield of Braddock’s Defeat, also known as the Battle of Monongahela. This referred to an expedition by British General Edward Braddock, commander-in-chief of the British Army in America, who led his forces, numbering about 1,400 men,
When George reached adulthood, he took up farming about 2½ miles southwest of Deavertown in Morgan County, Ohio, which borders Perry County. He bought several hundred acres of land and constructed a substantial brick house on a hill that featured a wide view of the land to the south and west. The farm had rolling hills and the terrain was ideal for raising livestock, but it was not as well suited for cultivating crops. Therefore, George focused on buying, feeding, and selling cattle, and became quite adept at it.

George married Priscilla Thrapp in Perry County on 14 February 1822. Priscilla, who was of Dutch ancestry, was born to John and Elizabeth Thrapp in Loudoun County, Virginia, on 20 March 1796. See page 43 for more on Priscilla’s parents.

George and Priscilla had at least ten children in the two decades after their marriage.

In 1830 and 1840, the Milligans lived near Bearfield in Perry County, Ohio, and the census records show their family was growing, as was their farm operation. This was despite the financial panic that cast a dark shadow over the United States starting in 1837. Though rays of hope shined through at times, it would take the country seven years to recover from its first devastating depression. Earlier in the decade, a wave of naïve optimism characterized commerce. Silver from abroad poured into the United States, paving the way for Western expansion. With freed-up lands resulting from Indian removal, a
The Known Children of George Milligan and Priscilla Thrapp

1822

Sarah Ann  
(23 May 1822–14 May 1832)

Sylvester Harrison  
(18 February 1824–3 January 1890)

Rebecca Jane  
(23 January 1826–2 January 1846)

Elizabeth  
(4 August 1828–28 November 1873)

John J.  
(16 June 1830–8 February 1888)

Alfred Perry (Ancestor)  
(1 September 1831–21 April 1914)

George Washington  
(18 February 1834–3 April 1865)

Susannah  
(born about 1835)

Nancy  
(born 18 December 1836)

Una P.  
(birth and death dates unknown)

1914

John J.  
(16 June 1830–8 February 1888)

Alfred Perry (Ancestor)  
(1 September 1831–21 April 1914)

George Washington  
(18 February 1834–3 April 1865)

Susannah  
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speculative bubble formed. Land was overvalued and the bubble burst in 1837, sending shockwaves throughout the domestic and global economy. The real estate and banking industries collapsed. The national bank, which stabilized the country’s financial system, lost its charter. This jolt catapulted the country toward panic.

With no central bank, each of the country’s 850 banks began printing its own currency, causing inflation. In the chaos, businessmen were ruined and nearly half of the banks closed, causing sky-high unemployment. By 1844, the depression lifted, but not before these hard times had become the worst in the country’s young history.

George was at least six feet tall but slender, weighing about 140 pounds. According to a history of the family written later by his grandson Melvin Milligan, George was:16

“strong and wiry and possessing great endurance. He was positive in his opinions, easily provoked to anger, and of a domineering disposition. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, affiliated with the Holcomb congregation…”

The 1850 census shows George and Priscilla had recovered by then from any effects they may have felt from the 1837 depression. They owned $5,000 worth of real estate, the equivalent of about $150,000 in modern currency. Three of their sons—John, Alfred, and George—were in their late teens or early twenties then and helped with the labor on the farm.

The Milligans had even more substantial assets ten years later, in 1860.17 That year’s census shows they owned $18,000 in real estate and $1,656 in personal property, assets that would equal about $545,000 in modern currency. A 21-year-old Rebecca Johnson and a 13-year-old Stacy Hart lived with the Milligans that year. This
Residents supported the Union cause, but some who lived in the southern part of the state remained Confederate sympathizers.

Those who stayed at home did their part, too, and it easy to imagine Priscilla Milligan, always industrious and willing to help her neighbors, joining in these efforts. One aid organization for children raised $16,000 by selling portraits of President Lincoln door to door, while women organized sewing bees to make uniforms. Ohio women formed soldiers’ aid societies, serving dinners to regiments and holding concerts to raise war funds. An Ohio woman wrote in her diary: “We sewed hard all afternoon on moccasins, hemming handkerchiefs, scraping lint for the ‘poor soldiers.’” They also organized food drives and wrapped bandages to send to the front lines.

For the men who stayed home, the draft was a hot topic; several draft riots took place in major cities like New...
assets, for one reason or another, even though they lived in Union territory. In 1870, they had about half the land they had owned ten years earlier, although they were still well-to-do for the times. This may simply indicate that George was selling his land or turning it over to his sons as he reached retirement age and began to work less on the farm. George was 68 years old in 1870 and had $9,000 worth of real estate and $4,200 worth of personal property—assets that would equal about $260,000 in modern currency. George and Priscilla lived on their farm that year with a 17-year-old Mary Brock, who attended school.

York and Boston, where recruiters and military personnel were beaten to death. Just one year into the war, the financial burden also began to take its toll when the U.S. Congress enacted the first income tax law. However, with encouragement from their president, Northerners pushed onward, supporting the cause of the Union. As one Pennsylvania newspaper said: “We are all in this war; those who fight and those who stay at home.”

Although the Civil War tended to hit Southern farmers hardest, the war years seem to have depleted the Milligans’ assets, for one reason or another, even though they lived in Union territory. In 1870, they had about half the land they had owned ten years earlier, although they were still well-to-do for the times. This may simply indicate that George was selling his land or turning it over to his sons as he reached retirement age and began to work less on the farm. George was 68 years old in 1870 and had $9,000 worth of real estate and $4,200 worth of personal property—assets that would equal about $260,000 in modern currency. George and Priscilla lived on their farm that year with a 17-year-old Mary Brock, who attended school.
saw the best in other folks and never spoke disrespectfully of anyone. She was always ready to help the sick and unfortunate of the neighborhood. Her hands were never idle and she was contented and happy in her ‘corner.’"

Priscilla shared all these gifts with her family until she reached the age of 80. She died on 7 September 1876 and was buried in Yellowtown, Perry County, Ohio.

On 30 November 1876, when he was 75 years old, George married Catharine McClellan in Perry County. She was born in Ohio in about 1842, which means she was about 41 years younger than George. Catharine had been married previously and had one son, William H. McClellan, who was born in about 1871. Perhaps George, who had grown rather wealthy as a farmer, married the widowed Catharine in part to help provide for her and her son.

George and Catharine had less than three years together before he died in Perry County on 18 July 1879. He left a will, naming his son Alfred Perry Milligan as the executor. He left his estate to his widow, Catharine, and his surviving children. George was buried in Holcomb Cemetery, the graveyard of the Methodist Episcopal Church he had attended in Yellowtown, Perry County, Ohio.

Catharine lived with her son, William, in New Lexington, Perry County, Ohio, in 1880. She married John D. Winder in Perry County on 11 May 1882, when she was about 40 years old.
Gravestone of George Milligan

Gravestone of Priscilla (Thrapp) Milligan
Alfred Perry Milligan was born to George Milligan and Priscilla Thrapp on their farm about 2½ miles southwest of Deavertown in Perry County, Ohio, on 1 September 1831.26 Alfred lived on this family farm in 1850, when he was 19 years old.27 He and his brothers John J. and George W. all helped their father with the farm work then, and Alfred and his younger brother George Washington also attended school. Their education was likely very basic since their school only met for a few months during the winter and featured limited instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic.28 However, Alfred read as much as time allowed throughout his life and stayed informed to the best of his ability.

When he was 26 years old, Alfred married 18-year-old Rachel Iliff in Perry County on 11 March 1858.29 She was born on 16 February 184030 to Thomas Iliff and his second wife, whose identity is not yet known with certainty, although family members believe her name was Salome Reed.31 See page 46 for more on Rachel’s father.

Alfred and Rachel had at least five children, although the names of two of their children are not known.
Likely as Alfred was preparing for spring planting in April 1861, the news of the attack on Fort Sumter arrived in Ohio. In this first military confrontation of the Civil War, Confederate artillery bombarded the island fort in South Carolina’s Charleston Harbor for three days. About 85 federal soldiers inside the fort knew they were outgunned as they endured a 34-hour assault. No battle deaths were recorded on either side, but the commander surrendered when a fire began to consume the wooden interior of the fort. The Confederates would control Charleston Harbor for almost the entire duration of the war that had officially started with this attack.

As the news of this assault reached disbelieving ears throughout the other states, the Union Army swung into action. Alfred enlisted in the military on 24 September 1861, when he was 30 years old, signing up for three years of service for the Union Army. He joined the more than two million other soldiers who left their families and jobs to fight for the Union for what they thought would be a short war, not knowing that it would last four years and that more than 360,000 Union soldiers would never return home from battle.

Alfred was given the rank of sergeant and assigned to Company A of the Ohio 62nd Infantry Regiment along with about 100 other men at Camp Goddard in Zanesville, Ohio. Only 13 of these soldiers would return home when the regiment came back to Ohio about three years later.
Much of the information about Alfred’s Civil War service comes from his own account, which he wrote at the request of his children in later years. He recorded that the Ohio 62nd Infantry Regiment was first sent to Marietta, Ohio, where the soldiers camped for about two weeks before returning to Zanesville. They waited there until early January 1862, when the army ordered them to march to Rooney, Virginia. However, this order was soon withdrawn and the regiment went instead to Green Spring, West Virginia, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line. They traveled through Paw Paw tunnel, a canal tunnel in Allegany County, Maryland, and then were stationed at Camp Kelly at Great Cacapon Creek a bit farther south in northern West Virginia. The soldiers had no shelter or tents to protect them from the six to eight inches of January snow on the ground there, although they made use of a few
stacks of wheat they found in the area to find some warmth. They remained there until 10 March 1862, when they marched north to Martin’s Ferry in eastern Ohio.

The regiment soon marched to Martinsburg, West Virginia, and headed up the Shenandoah Valley to Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Alfred wistfully wrote about an unfortunate but minor incident that happened to a fellow soldier:

“From here the Regiment went to Martinsburg and up the Shanandoah [sic] valley at Strassburg [sic] where the first blood of the Regiment was shed by a comrade while supporting Dan’s battery, who got mixed up in a briar patch, and how fortunate it would have been if this had been the only blood shed, but alas, this was only the beginning of that which ended with the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox.”
—Alfred Perry Milligan

The regiment ended up at Winchester, Virginia, under the command of General Nathaniel P. Banks by 23 March 1862. For the next three months, Alfred’s regiment was engaged in active combat with Confederate forces under Stonewall Jackson and “Mosby Askby,” by whom Alfred probably meant John Singleton Mosby, a famous Confederate Army cavalry battalion commander.

A soldier named W. B. Patterson also wrote a full account of the regiment’s activities during these months of the war. He recalls that they were ordered to go on picket—essentially, move ahead of the full regiment to provide warning about oncoming threats—on the road between Winchester and Charleston, West Virginia, that March:

“On the morning of the 23rd we were relieved but were immediately ordered to the front again to meet an attack made by Confederate General Stonewall Jackson upon the forces under the command of General James Shields. Our Regiment and Sullivan’s brigade held the center of the line from the beginning, and after remaining in this position until after dark we were ordered during this time to support a battery. The engagement at dark was fierce and shortly afterward we went forward double quick with the enemy under the rebel General Jackson defeated and flying in all directions. The retreat of the enemy up the Shanandoah [sic] valley left the field in our possession with a large number of his dead and wounded.”
—W. B. Patterson

The regiment was in Falmouth, Virginia, on 22 April 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln arrived to conduct a military review. He was joined by General Shields and General Irvin McDowell, who commanded the Army of Northeastern Virginia. Alfred likely stood in formation at attention with his fellow soldiers as Lincoln surveyed his regiment and its readiness for battle.

Clearly, life in the Union Army meant moving frequently from place to place, usually on foot and often enduring extreme weather. When Union soldiers
had free time, they wrote letters to loved ones and read letters they had received. They also gambled and played a new game known as baseball. During battle season, a Union soldier was engaged in combat for one day each month, on average. The letters and diaries written by these soldiers uniformly tell a graphic tale of the relatively brief time they spent in battle.

About 45 percent of the Union Army was made up of white men who were born in the United States, but many immigrants joined the ranks and likely spoke other languages and brought other cultural customs to the soldiers’ camp. Men born in the German states or Ireland accounted for almost 20 percent of the Union Army, and 210,000 African Americans also served for the North. During the bitter fighting of 1863 and 1864, about 200 soldiers deserted the Union Army every day, sometimes to return home for family reasons or to try to plant or harvest a crop, but more often because the conditions the soldiers faced were so miserable.

In late spring or early summer of 1862, the soldiers of the Ohio 62nd Infantry were transferred to Alexandria, Virginia, under the command of General Orris S. Ferry. They left Alexandria to march to Harrison’s Landing along the James River near Charles City, Virginia, on about 1 July 1862 to join the Army of the Potomac under the command of General George McClelland. This is where Alfred would later relate that he and his fellow troops faced exposure to extreme weather that caused him eye trouble that would last the rest of his life.

Rachel gave birth to the Milligans’ second son, Thomas Corwin, back home in Ohio on 3 August 1862. Fortunately, Rachel was a strong pioneer woman and was able to take care of the household, farm work, and her young children during Alfred’s absence.44

The Union troops were forced to retreat from their post along the James River on 20 August 1862,45 and after they evacuated Harrison’s Landing, the
soldiers of Alfred’s regiment were sent to Suffolk, Virginia, then New Berne, North Carolina. They then marched to Morehead City, North Carolina, before moving to Cole Island and then to Folley Island under the command of General Quincy Adams Gillmore. These travels took many months, and it was the next summer before their most intense battle took place.

On 10 July 1863, Alfred recorded that the men “crossed the Folley river [sic] to Morris Island, assaulted the enemy’s works, driving him into the heavy forts. On the 11th of July we assaulted Fort Wagner and were repulsed. Then began the siege of the fort.”

That day’s siege required Alfred and his fellow troops to use 100-, 200-, and 300-pound guns as they attacked the fort and the city of Charleston. However, they were forced to retreat and regroup.

Union generals believed that Fort Wagner needed to be taken as a prelude to an assault on Fort Sumter, so they mounted another assault on 18 July 1862. This charge was led by the 5th Massachusetts Regiment of Colored Troops, the Union’s first regiment made up entirely of African Americans.

Prior to the charge, the regiment’s 25-year-old leader, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, rallied his troops and issued his initial orders: “The eyes of thousands will look on what you do tonight…Move in quick time until within a hundred yards of the fort, then, double-quick and charge!”

Unfortunately, the attack, known thereafter as the Second Battle of Fort Wagner, was a two-hour bloodbath during which the Union made several charges at the fort and suffered more than 1,500 men killed, wounded, or captured. The Union Army contingent lost 16 of its 19 officers and 153 of its 218 soldiers. Among the Union's dead and mortally wounded were General George Crockett Strong and three colonels, including Shaw, who died on the parapet of the fort early in the battle.

“Every general and field officer was either killed or wounded, except Major Butler of the 67th O[hio] V[olunteer] I[infantry]. I received a slight wound on the right ankle but not sufficient tosend me to the hospital.” —Alfred Perry Milligan

Of the 1,800 troops defending Fort Wagner, the Confederate Army had lost 36 soldiers killed in action and 133 wounded. The Confederates held the fort from 18 July 1862 until September 1862. Union forces were finally able to quickly capture Fort Wagner on 15 September 1863.

After the July battle, Alfred and his regiment were sent to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where their unit’s status was changed to that of a veteran organization. On 31 January 1864, Alfred was given a 30-day furlough and returned home to Ohio to see
his family. He and his fellow soldiers on furlough arrived in New York City on 3 February 1864, and made it to Columbus, Ohio, by 5 February 1864, leaving Alfred 17 days at home before he started to make his way back on 22 February 1864, this time through Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia.

The men, fortified by some time at home with their families, soon rejoined the Union Army at Yorktown, Virginia, and took part in General Benjamin Franklin Butler’s expedition against Richmond. The soldiers landed at Bermuda Hundred in Virginia in May 1864. They were asked to help build a fort above the landing at the Appomattox River. Alfred described the constant fighting that occurred in the weeks that followed:

“From this time the Regiment took an active part in the skirmishing in the vicinity of James river [sic]. In August the Regiment cross[ed] the marshes to Deep Bottom run where on the 14th of August with a part of the 10th Army Corps, repulsed the enemy with heavy losses on both sides. October the 7th the enemy made a desperate charge on our works at Chapman’s farm but were repulsed with heavy losses on both sides. Later in October we met the enemy at Darbytown cross-roads, and as he refused to run, the 62nd did. The Regiment was engaged in all of the campaign with the Army of the James River until the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee.”

—Alfred Perry Milligan

Since Alfred’s three-year term of service had ended, he mustered out near Richmond, Virginia, on 26 October 1864, when he was 33 years old. The remnant of his regiment was consolidated with the 67th Ohio Volunteer Infantry after Lee’s surrender and mustered out of service more than a year later, on 12 December 1865.49

Alfred’s own account of the war ended with this emotional note:

“God knows I am glad it is over, and I hope there will be no more wars. I can scarcely refrain from tears while writing this sketch of the Regiment.”

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After his return to Ohio, Alfred became a member of the fraternal organization of Union veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), and was affiliated with the following Civil War Battles:

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with the Burley Post of Crooksville, Ohio, until he died. The GAR advocated for voting rights for black veterans and promoted patriotic education. It was instrumental in making Memorial Day a national holiday and helped secure regular pensions for veterans.

By 1870, five years after the end of the Civil War, Alfred and Rachel and their two oldest sons, Melvin and Thomas, lived on their farm near Bearfield. Their farm operation seems to have been thriving, since the family’s real estate holdings were valued at $8,000 and their personal property at $1,200. These assets would equal about $181,000 in modern currency. Another son, William, was born to Alfred and Rachel in October 1872.

All three of Alfred and Rachel’s sons attended school in 1880, when the census shows them living on their farm near Bearfield. The Milligans had two hired workers that year: Mary A. Brock helped with housework and John Keller was a farm laborer. Mary was likely the same young woman who had lived with and probably worked for Alfred’s father, George, in 1870. George had died in 1879.

Alfred was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a congregation that met for services in Deavertown. He contributed financially to this church and also gave his time as a Sunday school teacher, class leader, and, for many years, the Recording Steward of the Deavertown circuit,
which consisted of six congregations. He carefully followed religious teachings and held family worship sessions each morning and evening. His children were always invited to read scripture or pray out loud at these gatherings. They also grew up praying before every meal to express their thanks.

The Masons were also quite active in central Ohio, and Alfred was part of the Doric Lodge of Deavertown and served as its master for many years. He became a member of the chapter and council of this order, which were affiliated with the lodges of New Lexington. He also was active in educational affairs. Alfred wanted his children to get the best education possible, and although their country school was about two miles from the Milligans’ farm, he worked to make the northern section of his township part of a special school district centered in Deavertown in Morgan County. After this took effect, his children attended school there.

Alfred’s pension records reveal that he had a medical examination on 21 October 1885 during which a doctor found problems with Alfred’s left eye. These eye troubles would be a constant complaint of his for many years. He told the doctor that the problem started when he was on picket duty with the Union Army at Harrison’s Landing in Virginia in July 1862 and had no blankets while he slept on the ground. In the cold, wet weather, he suffered rheumatism of the head and eyes that made his left eyelid droop permanently and affected his vision forever. He noted that it was worse at night or in damp weather.

Alfred began receiving a pension of six dollars a month in 1888. He had another medical examination on 29 February 1888, the record of which was included in his Civil War pension file. It reveals that Alfred had partial loss of sight in his left eye due to “rheumatism of the head and eyes.” His eyesight began to dim, his left eyelid drooped, and he experienced double vision, even though he had no pain or inflammation. In addition, Alfred appeared on a veterans’ census in 1890, and it reflects the three years and one month he spent in the Union Army. It also shows that he suffered from rheumatism and had problems with his hearing and sight at that time.

A form filled out on 10 February 1891 shows Alfred was disputing a rejection of his pension application, which had indicated that his eye trouble could not be attributed to his war service. However, he said the condition had gotten worse and kept him from doing any work, and asked that the decision be reviewed again. On 28 May 1891, a doctor wrote that Alfred had experienced vertigo but was largely healed, although he still had pain in his ear and constant nausea, which forced him to stay in bed most of the time. He felt despondent. It appears his
doctor perforated his eardrum to try to relieve the pressure and infection, which helped restore his hearing to some degree, although it did not return to normal.

Alfred and Rachel’s sons had all left home by 1900, when the couple lived alone in Bearfield, Perry County, Ohio.59 His pension file shows Alfred began receiving a pension for his Civil War service again on 20 February 1907.60

By 1910, the Milligans had retired and moved from their Perry County farm into the home of their son William, his wife, Eleanor, and their children Mary, Eleanor, and Alfred in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio.61 Their house at 20 South Limestone Street was also home to William’s wife, Eleanor, and their children Mary, Eleanor, and Alfred. William worked as a shipping clerk then. The Milligans worshiped at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church while they lived in Springfield.62

Alfred died of a stroke complicated by heart disease in Springfield on 21 April 1914, when he was 82 years old.63 He was buried in the Deavertown Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery in Morgan County, Ohio, where he had attended church services for most of his adult life. Rachel died almost three years later, on 10 April 1917, when she was 77 years old.64

Death certificate and gravestone of Alfred Milligan
Melvin Milligan and Jennie Howard Fairbanks

**Melvin Milligan**
1860–1955  
b. Perry County, Ohio

**Jennie Howard Fairbanks**
1862–1949  
b. Union County, Ohio

Melvin Milligan was born to Alfred Perry Milligan and Rachel Iliff in Perry County, Ohio, on 28 July 1860. He was in a small log home on what was known as the Haines Farm in Bearfield Township. He was the couple’s first child, and the young parents put baby Melvin to sleep in a maple sap trough instead of a cradle.65 Their home was made of rough logs, with mud and small pieces of wood to fill the cracks. Not long after his birth, Melvin’s family moved about one mile north to the Fickle farm, where a much larger four-room log home gave them more space.

Melvin’s father was away serving in the Civil War for just over three years when Melvin was still a baby. His mother cared for him and his younger brother Thomas until Alfred returned from war in late 1864. The family likely relished the more peaceful years after the war ended in April 1865, and their farm continued to grow. Melvin was 10 years old in 1870 and remembered later that, despite his young age, he helped saw logs for lumber and shingles to help his father build a barn on their property near Bearfield.66

For several years, Melvin attended a country school about two miles south of his home. After his father pushed for a special educational district connected to the nearby town of Deavertown, Melvin finished his education there. In the summer of 1876, he enrolled in a business course at Zanesville Business College and in September 1878 he enrolled in the preparatory course at the Ohio Wesleyan University. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity during his university years and graduated from the Classical course in 1884. A member of the Athenian Literary Society,
he frequently took part in inter-society contests and also served as one of the editors of the “Bijou,” the senior class publication.

He also met his future wife, Jennie Howard Fairbanks, while at Ohio Wesleyan University, where she also was a student. Jennie, born near Unionville Center, Union County, Ohio, on 13 March 1862, was the daughter of Loriston Monroe Fairbanks and Mary Adelaide Smith.

After his graduation, Melvin taught a six-month term at the Christman school, located about two miles east of Deavertown. When the school session ended, he went to Zanesville and began to study law in the office of A. W. Train and Frank A. Durban. Mr. Train served as the attorney for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and his practice was the largest and most profitable one in the city at that time. Melvin spent one year working at this law firm before completing his studies in Columbus, Ohio, in the office of W. O. Henderson. Melvin was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Ohio on 4 May 1886. He opened his own law office in the Wesley Building on High Street in Columbus, and after about a year, he was asked to join Edwin Dowdall in his firm on South High Street.

Melvin and Jennie married at her parents’ home in Columbus on 30 August 1887. A few months later, in November, they headed west to southern California, where Melvin was set to become the secretary of the Pacific Land Improvement Company,
a subsidiary of the Santa Fe Railroad. However, after they reached Los Angeles, they found that the land boom that had been underway for several years had collapsed, and the owners of the Pacific Land Improvement Company decided to cease operations.

Melvin shifted to Plan B and opened a law office with Jennie’s brother, N. H. Fairbanks, but the venture was not as successful as they had hoped. The Milligans moved back to the Midwest to settle in Kansas City in early 1889 and Melvin was soon appointed Assistant Agent of the Associated Press. He served as a news agent but also was appointed a census enumerator for the U.S. Federal Census in 1890.

Melvin resigned his position with the Associated Press in the fall of 1891 and he and Jennie moved to Springfield, Ohio, to take charge of the East Street Shops, which Jennie’s brother Charles had purchased from the Whitely, Fassler, and Kelly Company, which made Champion reapers and mowers. The property transfer was delayed, however, and for more than a year Melvin worked as a general attorney for the Ohio Southern Railroad. Then, after Charles Fairbanks purchased an interest in the Standard Manufacturing Company, makers of extension tables, Melvin was appointed secretary of the business. He served in this capacity for a year.

After his marriage to Jennie, Melvin became a member of the Presbyterian Church. They had five children, including twins who were born in 1895. The family attended First Presbyterian Church in Springfield and Melvin was chosen to serve as superintendent of the Sabbath school, his first church office, in 1897. After four years in that role, he began teaching an adult Bible class for men and women, a ministry he continued for about 20 years. He later served as superintendent of the Sunday school and as chairman of the Sunday School committee. In addition to being an elder from 1900 on, Melvin served in many positions of leadership in the Presbytery and the synod and, starting in January 1917, he was treasurer of the National Missions Committee for the Dayton Presbytery.

A municipal election took place in Springfield in 1900, and many of Melvin’s associates encouraged him to run for mayor of Springfield. He entered the race and won it by 21 votes. Melvin served as mayor for two years and was an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1904. After his term as mayor,
Melvin was appointed a member of the Sinking Fund Commission of the city of Springfield and served a total of 12 years in this role.

After working at the Standard Manufacturing Company, Melvin was transferred to become manager of the Springfield Foundry Company. This later became The Fairbanks Company, which manufactured machine tools. In 1907, the company also began producing piano plates, an offering that became very popular. The company built up a capital stock of $160,000 and had a surplus of about $200,000, but then the piano business experienced a 60% decline. In September 1928 the directors surveyed their prospects in the piano business and decided to liquidate the company, which they did in November 1928. This turned out to be a wise decision since piano sales continued to drop in the years that followed. However, Melvin took the pattern, flasks, templates, and the solid reputation of The Fairbanks Company to begin manufacturing piano plates through a contract with the O. S. Kelly Company.

Melvin held his wife, Jennie, in the highest esteem, and wrote the following tribute to her:

“Her faith in God and Christianity never waivers [sic] and her standards of right living are of the highest and noblest. There is no halfway or compromise between right and wrong in her thought or deed. She has a most lovable disposition—charitable, considerate, tolerant, cheerful, happy, and optimistic. Her Christian life is fellowship with Jesus, to whom she prays often and in whose steps she walks.”

Both of the Milligans lived long, full lives. Jennie reached the age of 87 before she died in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, on 30 September 1949. Melvin died there on 8 January 1955, when he was 94 years old.

Robert Lee Milligan and Alice Eltabelle Connell

Robert Lee Milligan
1900–1999
b. Springfield, Ohio

Alice Eltabelle Connell
1902–1971
b. Findlay, Ohio

Robert Lee Milligan was born to Melvin Milligan and Jennie Howard Fairbanks on 11 October 1900. He attended grade school and high school in Springfield, Ohio, graduating in 1918. He then enrolled at his parents’ alma mater, Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and graduated in 1922. During his university years he served as business manager of the student publication called the “Bijou.” He also was a manager of the football team.

After graduation, Robert took a job as superintendent of The Fairbanks Company of Springfield, Ohio, manufacturers of machine tools and piano plates. He later was a director, vice president, and manager of the company until 1928, when the company retired from the industry due to a drop
in demand for pianos. Robert was a member of the Kissel Lodge of the Masonic order in Springfield.

On 30 June 1928, Robert married Alice Eltabelle Connell, who was born to George Clinton Connell and Mary Augusta Howes in Findlay, Ohio, on 5 December 1902. She was a loving, free-spirited person who was very popular among her peers at Findlay Central High School. She graduated in 1920 and continued her education at Russell Sage College in Troy, New York. She participated in drama and was a member of the Box and Candle Dramatic Club. In the college’s 1923 yearbook, one of her classmates wrote that “Alice always has a date.” However, she left Russell Sage on amicable terms for smoking, which was often prohibited for women in those times.

Robert and Alice had three sons: Warren Lee, Robert Lee, and David Vaughn.

The Children of Robert Lee Milligan and Alice Eltabelle Connell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth - Date of Death</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Lee Jr.</td>
<td>4 April 1934 – 20 July 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Living</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Vaughn</td>
<td>19 September 1940 –</td>
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Alice Connell, back row in striped tie, and fellow members of the Box and Candle club at Russell Sage College, 1922.
After The Fairbanks Company closed, Robert took a job at the Pure Oil Company in Chicago, and was placed in charge of the Employees’ Investment Department in 1930. He stayed with this firm for more than 40 years, climbing from a low-level job in the treasury department to become president and CEO of the company in 1954. In the 1960s, Robert decided to move the company from downtown Chicago to the suburb of Palatine. Under considerable pressure from Wall Street, Robert guided the Pure Oil Company through a merger with Union Oil Company of California in 1965.76 Investors liked the company’s solid bottom line and large oil reserves. According to their son Dave, Robert and Alice greatly enjoyed their interactions with family, friends, and neighbors:

“They both were quite active in the community and were able to establish a very diverse set of close
friends via involvement in numerous organizations. They enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities such as hunting, skeet shooting, fishing, and golf. Their civic, country, and sporting clubs became a focus of their social lives. Alice later became quite skilled at the sport of curling as well as a master-level bridge enthusiast.”  
—Dave Milligan

Dave, the youngest of the Milligans’ three sons, often traveled with his parents and spent extensive time with them:

“Alice was a wonderful mentor who provided constant reminders concerning the social graces and opportunities to learn via life’s experiences. She also encouraged reading and provided ready access to library and reference books as well as magazines. The family did not have TV until 1953. She played a major role in shaping the lives of her three children who all ended up leading successful lives. Her grandchildren became the focal point of her later years. She provided the same basic guidance and resources for her grandchildren as she had her children. Her attention was appreciated by all and the grandchildren loved her dearly.”  
—Dave Milligan

The Connell family also had a rich history. In fact, Alice became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through her ancestor George Alben, who provided security for General George Washington and served an express runner during the Revolutionary War.

Alice died of lung disease as a result of her heavy smoking; she passed away in Evanston, Cook County, Illinois, on 15 August 1971. That same year, Robert retired from Pure Oil Company but continued to serve on a variety of corporate boards, including that of the Montgomery Ward Company. He also served as a member of the board of trustees for Ohio Wesleyan University from 1955 until his death and was a generous donor to the school. Robert’s involvement in his community included service as a school board member from 1943 to 1951 and as a trustee of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston.

Robert was an energetic and ambitious person. His obituary shared the story of how he admired a wooden dressing table in a home he visited once on a business trip to Brazil. He
October 11, 1985

Dad,

WE SALUTE YOU!

Throughout our lives you have been an inspiration to us all.

You have taught us by the way you do things and through your leadership.

We appreciate your continuing support and guidance as well as the foundation for life provided by your beliefs.

- Belief in absolute integrity.
- Belief in achievement, success and satisfaction based on hard work and solid accomplishments.
- Belief in concern and compassion for your fellow man.
- And your life as an example of your belief in the daily application of Christian principles.

Dad, these beliefs will serve us well in the years to come as we follow the Milligan family tradition of excellence.

We look forward to spending many more happy years with you and Mary.

Dad, we thank you and we salute you on your 85th. Happy Birthday!

Dave

Tribute speech by Dave Milligan to his father, Robert, on the occasion of his 85th birthday.
took photos of the table and, once he returned home, asked a friend to make some drawings of it. Although he had never experimented with woodworking, he was intrigued by it, and after he studied his friend’s drawings and read about how to build one, he created a beautiful replica of the dressing table as his first project.

Robert died in Evanston on 26 September 1999, when he was 98 years old. According to his obituary, Robert gave a speech to the Chicago Sunday Evening Club in the 1960s and explained his personal philosophy:

“I have long had the conviction that I should strive to be constructive and objective in the sense of acting rather than being subjective—being acted upon—to be positive rather than negative.”
—Robert Lee Milligan Sr.
The Children of Robert Lee Milligan and Alice Eltabelle Connell in Later Years

Born in Evanston, IL, Warren Lee, the firstborn son of Robert Lee Milligan and Alice Eltabelle Connell, suffered from severe asthma during his early childhood. He spent his early school days in North Carolina and at the Little Outfit ranch school near Tucson, Arizona. He then attended the University of Arizona and Ohio Wesleyan College, where he met Emily Edwards. He and Emmy married and Warren took a job as salesman for the Glidden Paint Company in Cleveland, Ohio. Due in large part to his gregarious personality and sense of humor, Warren soon became the most successful salesman in the company. He and Emmy had three children: David, Diane, and Doug. Emmy died suddenly in the early 1990s and Warren was never the same. He remarried twice but never regained his spirit and active lifestyle, and eventually died of depression.
Robert Lee Jr., usually called Bob, grew up in Evanston, Illinois, where he developed many lasting friendships. He graduated from Evanston High School in 1952 and continued his education at Ohio Wesleyan College. When he received a very low draft number, he chose to enlist in the army instead to control his future as the Korean War heated up. After a stint at Fort Leonard Wood in the Missouri Ozarks, he qualified as a sharpshooter and continued training in Japan. As a result of his hearing loss, he was assigned to the central communications center in Japan as a switchboard operator, thus avoiding combat. When he returned from Japan, he enrolled in the business school at Northwestern University. He soon reunited with his high school sweetheart, Susan Woodrow, and they married in March 1957. After he graduated from Northwestern, Bob joined IBM as a salesman. He and Sue had four children: Bill, Bonnie, Tom, and Robert Lee III (Rob). Bob enjoyed a successful career in computer sales and computer-related businesses while living much of his life in Glenview, Illinois, where he and Sue raised their children. After retirement, they moved to the Hilton Head area of South Carolina. Bob developed lymphoma and Sue cared for him for several years before she died rather suddenly in November 2011. Grief-stricken, Bob moved back to Illinois, but his health deteriorated and he joined Sue in heaven the following July.
The Milligan family (without Warren) on Aunt Edy’s ranch near Story, Wyoming
Left to right: Robert Sr., David, Alice, and Robert Jr.
David Vaughn, usually called Dave, grew up in Evanston and, in 1958, graduated from Evanston High School, where he met Susan Lind during his junior year. After his high school graduation, he headed to Princeton University. Dave and Sue married in 1960 and lived in Princeton until Dave graduated in 1963. Dave and Sue actually share a common ancestor, Thomas Robert Fairbanks of Illinois, in much earlier branches of their family tree. Dave majored in chemistry and graduated summa cum laude with Phi Beta Kappa membership. During the years the couple spent in Princeton, they welcomed a son, John, and a daughter, Mary. The family then moved to Champaign, Illinois, where Dave completed his PhD degree in organic chemistry. The family then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Dave joined the 3M Company. During their stay there, Dave and Sue had two more children, Scott and Christine. Dave rapidly advanced to become research manager for X-Ray products, and soon thereafter became Quality Control Manager for 3M’s photographic products manufacturing facility. After he served two years in that role, Dave and the family moved to Libertyville, Illinois, when his lifelong mentor George Rathmann, who had hired Dave at 3M, convinced him to join Litton Medical Systems. In 1979, George lured Dave to Abbott Laboratories, and George soon left Abbott to become a founder of Amgen. After a number of promotions at Abbott, Dave retired at age 56 as Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer. Sue was active in local efforts, including presidency of the Condell Hospital Auxiliary. She also was the founding chair of Main Street Libertyville. By that point, their children had all graduated from college and were living independently. Dave joined Bay City Capital of San Francisco and held numerous board directorships. He and Sue were able to establish a winter residence in Monterey, California, while maintaining a summer home in Illinois. All four of the Milligan children are happily married and have provided Dave and Sue with 11 grandchildren.
The family of David and Susan Milligan. Each branch of the family is dressed in a different Hawaiian pattern: Crissy Lefort (red), John Milligan (blue), Mary Funk (black), and Scott Milligan (pink), while David and Susan are on the far left and far right, respectively.

Dave and Sue Milligan together at his 70th birthday celebration.
The Lind family hailed from southern Sweden.
Few details are known about Johan Andersson Lind, the father of John Lind, except that he hailed from Sweden. Since his son John was born there in September 1870 and remained in Sweden at least long enough to complete the 4th grade, it is possible the Lind family lived in Sweden until at least 1880. Johan’s son John would later report that he arrived in America in 1892, when he was about 21 years old, but no records have surfaced to prove that his father or mother joined him in the U.S.

During the second half of the 19th century, in the years leading up to John’s birth, Sweden enjoyed a period of rapid industrial growth. In 1850, its economy was 90 percent agriculture-based, but that all changed within five decades. The construction of the country’s first railroads in the 1850s provided a new transportation network that connected Swedish cities, allowing for the rapid flow of goods and people. As the country’s population boomed and the middle class grew, there was a new market for luxury goods and a new labor force to manufacture them.

By 1900, Sweden was home to 10,000 factories. While millions of yards of cloth were produced annually for domestic consumption, Sweden also harvested and exported its vast natural resources for profit. Its high-quality coal and plentiful timber fueled Europe’s factories. Although work in the factories was grueling and dangerous, consistent wages and the promise of material comfort inspired 1.5 million Swedes to become industrial workers by the century’s end. Sweden’s coastal cities quickly became commercial epicenters from which processed and raw materials were exported to Europe and North America. Swedish timber was also used in shipyards across the Scandinavian country. Vessels were built at rapid speed to keep up with the growing demand for the country’s exports across the world.

Despite these developments, many Swedes flocked to America in the last two decades of the 19th century. Emigration gave young, rural Swedes a way to improve their lives. Farm land and higher wages—in construction, factory work, timber, mining, and housekeeping—in America’s Midwest lured Swedish families, while single men and women often sought higher wages in cities, especially Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, and Boston. Mormon Swedes, mainly from southern
Sweden, also immigrated to Utah at the end of the 19th century.

An improved economy in their homeland—and World War I—slowed Swedish immigration to America by 1920. And as less land became available in the United States, many members of the Swedish community moved to urban centers like New York City, Minneapolis, and Chicago. In fact, Chicago currently has the second largest Swedish population of any city in the world.

**John Anderson Lind and Elvira Wilhelmina Bredberg**

**John Anderson Lind**
1870–1958
b. Västra Götaland, Sweden

**Elvira Wilhelmina Bredberg**
1875–1955
b. Junction City, Kansas

John Anderson Lind was born to Johan Andersson Lind and his wife, whose name is not yet known, in Sweden, likely on 16 September 1870. At least one official document, John's death certificate, indicates he was born in Uasterjoland [sic], which was likely a phonetic spelling of the region called Västra Götaland in Sweden. This is a region of southwestern Sweden created by parts of three counties: Göteborg och Bohus, Skaraborg, and Älvsborg.

John went to school through the Swedish equivalent of the 4th grade, but likely entered the woodworking trade after that. He would spend his life making cabinets for various employers.

Very little information about the Lind family's life in Sweden has turned up, likely because Swedish emigrants often did not use a surname like Lind until after they arrived in America. If John's father was named Johan Andersson Lind in Sweden, he could have had the surname Johansson or Andersson rather than Lind in emigration records. John and his father may have used other variations of their first name, too, including Johan, Jan, Johannes, Jonas, or Hans, and may have also gone by a compound name, such as Johan Adolph.

However, the best clue about their immigration came from John himself, who later reported that he arrived in America in about 1892, when he was about 21 years old. If that date is correct, he arrived just months before a financial downturn called the Panic of 1893 crippled the U.S. economy. During this economic crisis, which lasted from 1893 to 1896, the unemployment rate ballooned to at least 25 percent. Homelessness and starvation followed.
for the working-class people of both industrial cities and depressed farms. The bankruptcy of the Reading Railroad led to the cascading failure of banks and businesses associated with the railroad. President Grover Cleveland’s lack of action to alleviate working-class distress inspired a protest march on Washington in 1894 by a group of unemployed laborers known as Coxey’s Army. It also liked caused a backlash against the Democratic Party in the 1894 election.

John married Elvira Wilhelmina Bredberg in Leonardville, Riley County, Kansas, on 1 November 1899. Elvira was born to Benedict (or Benedigt) Leonard Bredberg and Wilhelmina Christina Johnson in Junction City, Kansas, on 31 January 1875. See page 49 for more on Elvira’s parents and paternal grandparents, who also hailed from the same part of Sweden, Västra Götaland, as the Lind family. John and Elvira were married by a Lutheran minister named John A. Hemborg at the Walsburg Lutheran Church, which was located in Leonardville—likely Elvira’s hometown then.

John and Elvira had three children but it appears one, whose name is not known, died at a very young age.

**The Known Children of John Lind and Elvira Wilhelmina Bredberg**

- **Lenore Wilhelmina**
  - (11 November 1901–October 1973)
- **John Harold** (Ancestor)
  - (26 May 1906–25 September 1995)
- **Unknown child**
  - (birth and death dates unknown)
John and Elvira lived in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, in 1900, the year after their marriage.\(^8\) He was a carpenter and the couple lived at 1742 West Prospect Place.\(^6\) They moved frequently in the first decade of their marriage, and the 1901 city directory for Kansas City shows their home was located at 532 Charlotte Street.

The Linds lived at 5036 East 9th Street in Kansas City by 1910, and John worked as a cabinet maker for a furniture factory.\(^7\) He would continue this work for many years. Indeed, the 1920 census reports this as his occupation and shows the family living in Kansas City, including John and Elvira’s two surviving children, Lenore and Harold, who were teenagers by then.\(^8\) The whole family could speak English by that time. Two other native Swedes lived with the Linds: Gust
Johnson, a widower, and his 10-year-old son Carl. Gust was also a cabinetmaker who had immigrated in about 1891.

Elvira's brother Ernest had joined the Lind family in their home at 5244 Brookwood Avenue by 1930. Ernest was 48 years old then and worked as a piano tuner for a music company. John was still employed as a cabinet maker for a furniture company, and his and Elvira's 23-year-old son, Harold, lived at home with them. The Linds owned their own home and continued to live there through at least 1940. John was 69 years old in 1940, but still made cabinets for the furniture store.

John was fortunate to have a steady job as a cabinetmaker through the 1930s, when working-class and rural Americans were tightly in the grip of the Great Depression. Forty percent of the nation's banks failed between 1929 and 1933, and almost four million manufacturing jobs were lost as consumption and production became locked in a downward spiral. It was common to see people waiting in long lines for bread and soup as they looked for any kind of work available.

The first “New Deal” created by President Franklin Roosevelt and his cabinet was aimed at providing relief and recovery to those hit hardest by the depressed economy. Public work projects offered some Americans steady work, while financial reforms and regulations addressed the economic problems. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided young men with jobs in natural resource development projects, and the National Industrial Recovery Act helped people gradually get back on their feet.

Elvira died in Kansas City, Missouri, on 19 March 1955. The cause of her death was gangrene of the left leg, a result of her battle with diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. John survived to the age of 88 but suffered from heart failure and kidney disease in his final years. He died on 5 September 1958 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was buried with Elvira in Memorial Park Cemetery in Kansas City.
John Harold Lind and Marvel Fairbanks

John Harold Lind
1906–1995
b. Kansas City, Missouri

Marvel Fairbanks
1909–2000
b. Grafton, North Dakota

John Harold Lind was born to John Anderson Lind and Elvira Wilhelmina Bredberg in Kansas City, Missouri, on 26 May 1906. He grew up in Kansas City, where his father worked as a cabinet maker. He still lived with his parents at the age of 23, when the 1930 census was taken.94

John married Marvel Fairbanks, a North Dakota native who was born on 16 February 1909, and they had three children. Marvel was part of a long lineage of Fairbanks ancestors who first arrived in America from Scotland in 1636 and took part in many of the significant events of early American history. See page 52 for more on Marvel’s parents and paternal grandparents.

Sadly, John and Marvel’s first child, John Jr., was killed in an automobile accident during his senior year at Depauw University in Indiana.


Susan Mary, who was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1942, later married David Vaughn Milligan, and their life together is described in further detail starting on page 34.

Parents of Priscilla Thrapp

John and Elizabeth Thrapp

John Thrapp
1761–1844
b. Baltimore, Maryland

Elizabeth Thrapp
birth and death dates unknown
birthplace unknown

Priscilla Thrapp’s father, John Thrapp, was born in the Gallows Hill area of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1761. Gallows Hill was a plot of land at the intersection of Chase, Asquith, and Harford roads where hangings took place many years ago. Today it is a small park with some trees bearing no signs or monuments to mark the spot of its violent history, according to Maryland archivist Edward Papenfuse.95

John was born 14 years before the start of the American Revolution, but he did not enter a peaceful world. For decades French and English settlers had been fighting over land in the

Baltimore, Maryland, 1752
New World. These increasingly violent clashes culminated into a nine-year fight for continental domination starting in 1754, and it was known thereafter as the French and Indian War. The brutal conflict united British troops and American colonists against the French and Native Americans, who relied on trade with the French.

Settlers were vulnerable during the war and their houses were often burned and their property stolen. Though Native Americans were blamed for most attacks on civilians during the French and Indian War, the British and French were equally guilty. Food staples and British goods were taken for the war effort, leaving colonists empty-handed. As ties to their communities and cities began to be more meaningful than ties to Britain, the presence of British soldiers on American soil caused settlers to question their connection to the Crown. The uncertainty of a war led by British troops—increasingly seen as foreign—also made Americans desire greater control of their own affairs.

Though the British defeated the French in 1763—when John was 2 years old—and effectively pushed them off the continent, the stage was set for revolution just a decade later. After the French left North America, Native Americans lost their main trading partners. And as American colonists—including the Thrapps in later years—pushed westward, deeper into Native American homeland, already fragile British-Indian relations were weakened.

Two years after the war ended, another upsetting development related to taxation made colonists ponder revolution once again. “If taxes are laid upon us in any shape without our having a legal Representation,” wrote Boston leader Samuel Adams, “are we not reduced…to the miserable state of…slaves?” In 1765, the Stamp Act put colonists over the edge, requiring a tax on most paper goods—everything from newspapers to playing cards. The colonists prided themselves on their literacy and their blossoming print culture: the plethora of daily newspapers, magazines, and pamphlets that kept them informed. Because the Stamp Act taxed paper, the colonists feared it would lead to the death of journalism.
attacks that ultimately led to their resignations. In New York, merchants boycotted British goods and other port cities soon joined. The combined efforts of the colonists convinced Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act in little over a year.

John likely married his wife, Elizabeth, in the 1790s, and the couple were known to have lived in Loudoun County, Virginia, although details on when John left Maryland are not known. John and Elizabeth had at least one daughter, Priscilla, who was born in Loudoun County on 20 March 1796, although they almost certainly had other children whose names are not yet known. Priscilla always took great pride in her Dutch ancestry and Virginia birthplace.

At some point, the Thrapp family moved farther west to Ohio, but again, specific dates and details of their relocation are not known. The family was likely drawn by the promise of land on what was then the American frontier.

Family members believe Elizabeth died on 7 December 1837, when she was about 77 years old.98 John died in Bearfield, Perry County, Ohio, in 1844, when he was about 83 years old. This is the same area where their daughter Priscilla and her family owned a farm.

The tax felt like a violation of constitutional rights because the colonists had no representative in Parliament voting for laws that were impacting them directly. They responded by mobilizing. While leaders of the 13 colonies organized an assembly, the people took to the streets. In Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and South Carolina, hundreds of shopkeepers, printers, and other professionals intimidated tax collectors with tar-and-feather attacks that ultimately led to their resignations. In New York, merchants boycotted British goods and other port cities soon joined. The combined efforts of the colonists convinced Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act in little over a year.

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In 1765 Boston, people took to the streets to protest the Stamp Act, a tax on newspapers and other printed goods.
Rachel (Iliff) Milligan’s father, Thomas Iliff, was born in Pennsylvania in April 1803. His parents’ names are not independently confirmed, but his descendants believe he was the son of James F. Iliff and Ann Persley. Family members say Thomas married Salome Reed, the daughter of Jeremiah Reed and Jerusha Strong, on 3 April 1827, when he was about 24 years old. They had at least ten children; many of the birth and death dates shown in their family list come from documents compiled by the family.

A family history written by his grandson Melvin Milligan describes the pioneering Thomas:

“He was noted for his industry, thrift, and sound judgement. He began life like other pioneers with nothing but an indomitable determination to succeed, and having a hardy constitution and untiring industry he accomplished his ambition to a marked degree. He accumulated more than 1,200 acres of land along and on both sides of Jonathan Creek between Crooksville and McLuney.”

—Melvin Milligan
Thomas also served as a justice of the peace in Harrison Township and was “noted for his judgement and wise decisions,” according to Melvin Milligan. He also was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and served as an officer of the congregation. He donated the property for the church and helped finance its construction.

The Iliffs lost an infant son named James in August 1845, according to a compiled family history. This document also reports that Robert, their youngest son, later enlisted in the Union Army as a drummer boy but was captured. He was held as a prisoner of war in Richmond, Virginia, at the famous Confederate prison known as Libby Prison, which was notorious for its overcrowded and harsh conditions. Many prisoners got sick or died in this prison, and Robert’s health deteriorated so dramatically that he died shortly after he arrived home after the war. Family members remember him as “a happy, carefree, and charming young man.”

The Known Children of Thomas Iliff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Rebecca (Possible)</td>
<td>20 January 1828–27 January 1913</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>15 October 1829–28 April 1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Wesley</td>
<td>18 December 1831–9 February 1878</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeremiah Reed</td>
<td>3 November 1833–2 April 1906</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Harrison</td>
<td>4 January 1836–7 June 1902</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juliet</td>
<td>15 November 1837–9 May 1900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel (Ancestor)</td>
<td>16 February 1840–10 May 1917</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Corwin</td>
<td>4 March 1842–28 December 1909</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James (possible)</td>
<td>6 January 1845–6 August 1845</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>13 October 1846–17 July 1865</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Salome died on 1 December 1848, according to family members, who say Thomas married Harriet Holcomb on 31 May 1849. Thomas and Harriet and his eight children lived in Harrison Township, Perry County, Ohio, in 1850. He had real estate valued at $23,600 that year, the equivalent of about $706,000 in modern currency.

Thomas gave generously to charitable causes. When the Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, was organized, Thomas made a significant donation and two of his sons, a nephew, and his grandson Melvin Milligan all received scholarships to attend the university in later years.

Stories passed down through the family reveal that Thomas cherished his large family:

“Thomas Iliff delighted in gathering about him in the home at Christmas all his children and their families, and during the last years of his life this was an occasion when he manifested his affection and interest in the welfare of his children by substantial gifts. He was then the wealthiest man in his county and when he died he left a substantial fortune for that community and county. He was the leading citizen and most influential man of that country and his death was a great loss to the community and church, as was evidenced by the enormous crowd which attended his funeral. He was short in stature, of great indurance [sic], and weighed almost 300 pounds.”

—Melvin Milligan

The date of Thomas’s death has not been found on official documents, but family members record that he passed away on 10 October 1874.
Benedict Leonard Bredberg and Wilhelmina Christina Johnson

When he was almost 21 years old, on 22 March 1869, Benedict left Mariestad, Skaraborg County in Västra Götaland, Sweden, to emigrate to the United States.\textsuperscript{111} Like many other emigrants from that part of Sweden, he headed for the American Midwest and had settled in Junction City, Kansas, by 1870. He worked as a clerk in a store that year.

Benedict and the rest of his community of Swedish immigrants may have seen great potential in this part of Kansas because Junction City was along the Kansas Pacific Railway. It had just begun operating in 1866, opening up transportation to western markets.\textsuperscript{112}

Elvira Bredberg’s father, Benedict Leonard Bredberg, was born to Bengt Christoffer Bredberg and Aurora Leonora Andersson in Leksberg, Skaraborg County, Västra Götaland, Sweden, on 27 May 1848.\textsuperscript{110} Bengt worked at the Örebro Privat Bank (private bank), according to his son’s birth record, and also owned an estate in Sweden. However, little else is known about Benedict’s parents.
The railroad stretched all the way from Kansas City to Colorado. When the Kansas Pacific line opened for business, most of Kansas still qualified as the “Wild West;” passengers shot and killed migrating buffalo from the windows of the train. The railroad advertised to the growing market of American tourists who wanted to see the Rocky Mountains in the 1870s. Travelers collected hides and meat as a memorable souvenir of the journey.

The Kansas Pacific continued operation until 1880, when it was consolidated with Union Pacific Railroad.

Benedict married Wilhelmina Christina Johnson, who was likely the daughter of John Johnson, in 1872. She was born in Sweden on 25 August 1848.113 Benedict and Wilhelmina had at least five children whose names are known, although a Find A Grave record for them shows they had a total of ten children.114 Their oldest
daughter, Elvira, was born in 1875 and attended school in Junction City through at least the eighth grade.

Benedict became a naturalized U.S. citizen in Junction City on 19 October 1893, although he had declared his intent to become a citizen many years earlier on 7 November 1870, just a year after he arrived in America.115

Benedict lived about 25 miles north of Junction City in the unincorporated township of Bala in 1895. He worked as a merchant. When the 1900 census was taken five years later, the census taker noted that Benedict worked in a bookstore. The family would move about 145 miles east to Kansas City in the years that followed. About 2,000 Swedish immigrants lived in Kansas City at that time.116

Wilhelmina died of heart failure in Kansas City, Missouri, on 16 December 1917, about eight months after the U.S. entered World War I.117 She was 69 years old.

Benedict remained a grocery store merchant after his wife’s death, and lived in Kansas City in 1920. He also suffered from heart disease which, along with a severe case of bronchitis, caused his death in Kansas City on 17 February 1923 at the age of 76.118 He was buried in Leonardville, Riley County, Kansas, where he and Elvira had spent so much of their lives.

Death certificate for Benedict Leonard Bredberg

The Known Children of Benedict Leonard Bredberg and Wilhelmina Johnson

1875

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elvira Wilhelmina</td>
<td>Ancestor</td>
<td>31 January 1875</td>
<td>19 March 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest</td>
<td></td>
<td>born about 1882</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowland A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>born October 1885</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal P.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>born September 1890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford B.</td>
<td></td>
<td>born March 1895</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1955
Thomas Robert Fairbanks and Mary Louisa Burfield

Thomas Robert Fairbanks, the paternal grandfather of Marvel Fairbanks, was born in Illinois in August 1847. His parents were Thomas Fairbanks Sr., who had moved west to Illinois from his birthplace in Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York, and Catherine Orr, who was born in Ireland. Incidentally, Thomas Robert Fairbanks was also the ancestor of David Vaughn Milligan, who would later marry Marvel’s daughter, Susan Mary Lind.

Thomas lived with his family on their farm in Mendon, Clayton County, Iowa, by the time he was 3 years old in 1850. The Fairbanks family lived in Union, Houston County, Minnesota, by 1860, when Thomas was 13 years old. He continued to live on the farm until at least the age of 23. However, his obituary reports that, during the Civil War, he enlisted in the 6th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He joined the military in 1863 and served until the end of the war in 1865. The 6th Minnesota spent much of the war fighting the Dakota tribe of Native Americans in the northwestern United States.
States rather than participating in battles against the Confederate Army. The soldiers of the regiment pushed these tribes west across the Missouri River and north into Canada after they attacked white settlers in Minnesota, taking advantage of the fact that most able-bodied defenders were away fighting the war. Most members of the Dakota tribe were opposed to this uprising and some even helped protect the settlers, but the Dakota were all expelled from the state to calm the nervous residents.

Thomas married Mary Louisa Burfield in about 1874 and they had five children. Mary was born to Whatley Barrett Burfield and Janet Elva Williams in Toulon, Stark County, Illinois, on 17 May 1852. She moved with her parents to Houston County, Minnesota, where she likely met Thomas.

Sometime between 1879 and 1881, Thomas and Mary moved their family to Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, which was then still called Dakota Territory. They were truly pioneers, because this was before either of the Dakotas joined the Union. It was not until 2 November 1889 that both North and South Dakota achieved statehood.

Thomas died of heart failure at his home there on 30 November 1914, when he was 67 years old.

Mary Louisa lived with her sister in Seattle, Washington, in her final years. She died on 25 March 1922.

Albert Ross Fairbanks and Annie Charlotta Darellius

Albert Ross Fairbanks was born to Thomas Robert Fairbanks and Mary Louisa Burfield in Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota, on 25 August 1885.

Albert married Annie Charlotta Darellius in Cass County, North Dakota, on 5 October 1907. Annie was born to August H. and Johanna Charlotta Darellius in Od Elfsberg, Sweden, in December 1884, but moved to the United States by the time she was 15 years old. She lived in Liberty, Ransom County, North Dakota in 1900. Her family was part of a wave of Swedish immigrants during that period. Sweden in the late 19th century was full of hard times as famine struck and the economy suffered as a result. Despite

The Known Children of Thomas Robert Fairbanks and Mary Louisa Burfield

- Eugene Ray (born about September 1874)
- Myrtle B. (born about July 1880)
- Albert Ross (Ancestor) (25 August 1885–16 April 1952)
- Ida Lois (March 1887–1919)
- Roy (birth and death dates unknown)
a large anti-immigration movement in Sweden, thousands of Swedes (especially farm families) bought their tickets on steamships and headed to the United States. Emigration agents gave them glowing accounts of perfect farming country in the Midwest, easy land procurement, and opportunity to achieve their dreams. The steamships made the journey much faster, but most emigrants faced poor conditions onboard—many of them with just a spot on deck. But the journey was just the beginning of their hardships. The “easy” life promised by emigration agents was actually a struggle to tame the wilderness of the American Midwest.

But still, they came. In 1865, the Swedish-American community was only about 25,000 people. Within 25 years, the U.S. census reported 800,000.

Albert and Annie had one child—a daughter named Marvel Mary who was born in Grafton, Ward County, North Dakota, on 16 February 1909. Albert worked as a manager of a telephone company in Crookston, Polk County, Minnesota, by 1920, a job he continued through at least 1930.

Albert and Annie lived in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, by 1940, and Albert did clerical work. He died on 16 April 1952. Annie died in Minneapolis in the summer of 1971.
Each document discovered on this search for information about the Milligan, Iliff, Lind, and Bredberg ancestors has revealed more details, shining a light on the indomitable spirit of those immigrant families. This story has attempted to imagine what may have motivated them to leave their homes in Scotland and Sweden to try to build a better life in America. After arriving in the U.S., they weathered various wars and economic depressions, but continued to learn the language and customs of their new homes in order to persevere in their chosen occupations. These pieces of the puzzle, combined with historical details collected by the family over the years, have revealed this story about the many generations of the family and the lives they led.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Brenda Sunday, grave marker of Alfred P. (September 1, 1831 – April 21, 1914), Methodist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


28 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


30 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

31 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


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37 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

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39 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


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44 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


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70 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

71 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

72 Robert Lee Milligan Senior’s obituary. Provided by client.

73 Robert Lee Milligan Senior’s obituary. Provided by client.

74 Robert Lee Milligan Senior’s obituary. Provided by client.

75 Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

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78 Robert Lee Milligan Senior’s obituary. Provided by client.

79 Robert Lee Milligan Senior’s obituary. Provided by client.


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102  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

103  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

104  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.

105  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


107  Melvin Milligan Family History, Volume 1; provided by client. Document A, Milligan 1.


Image References
Note: All images not cited below are provided by client.

England, Scotland, and Wales Map
Gardner, W. R., Cartographer, Engraver, Millard Fillmore, and William Darton. New and improved map of England and Wales: including the principal part of Scotland: whereon are carefully delineated all the mail and turnpike roads direct and cross: with the various alterations & improvements ... in any other map. London: William Darton, 16th April, 1823. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/2018588029/.

Battle of Culloden

Small Pox Vaccine, Jenner

Statue of Liberty
By Albert Fernique - NYDL / Flickr: [Head of the Statue of Liberty on display in a park in Paris...], Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22269768

Mozart Family
By Louis Carrogis Carmontelle - pAG4oubzF9IxKg at Google Cultural Institute maximum zoom level, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21911733

Declaration of Independence

Bonnie Prince Charlie on Battlefield

Declaration of Independence Trumbull

Battle of Monongahela
Camp Dennison
By Frank Leslie - Scan from the original work, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5326383

1870 census showing post-Civil war household for George and Priscilla Milligan

Gravestone for George and Priscilla Milligan

Fort Sumter 1861

US Military Station Map

Cavalry Poster
Baker & Godwin/Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain

Robert Gould Shaw

1880 census showing Alfred Milligan and household

Masonic Square Compasses

Death certificate for Alfred Milligan

Gravestone for Alfred Milligan

Ohio Wesleyan University Elliott Hall
By Christopher L. Riley - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69998352

Roosevelt-Fairbanks
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William Brewster

Princeton University, 1906

Sweden and Norway Map

Marriage license for John Lind and Elvira Bredberg, 1899

1900 Kansas City directory showing John Lind working as a carpenter and living on Prospect Place
1870 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Bearfield, Perry County, Ohio, p. 3, Dwelling 22,
American Union Bank

Baltimore, 1752
By Edward Johnson Coale (Life time: 1776-1832)
- Original publication: Unsure

Native Americans Trading Goods with Settlers
By Bacqueville de La Potherie - Image description

Burning of Stamp Act

Moxahala Creek Bearfield Township

Milligan, Ohio Map
Google Maps; Map data 2018 Google

Libby Prison, David Gilmour Blythe, 1863

Thomas Iliff
Ancestry.com

Birth record for Benedict Leonard Bredberg

Kansas Pacific Railway

Buffalo Hunters

Death certificate for Benedict Leonard Bredberg

The battle of New Ulm, Minnesota, 1862

Many rural Swedish farmers bid farewell to friends and relatives in order to seek a better life in America