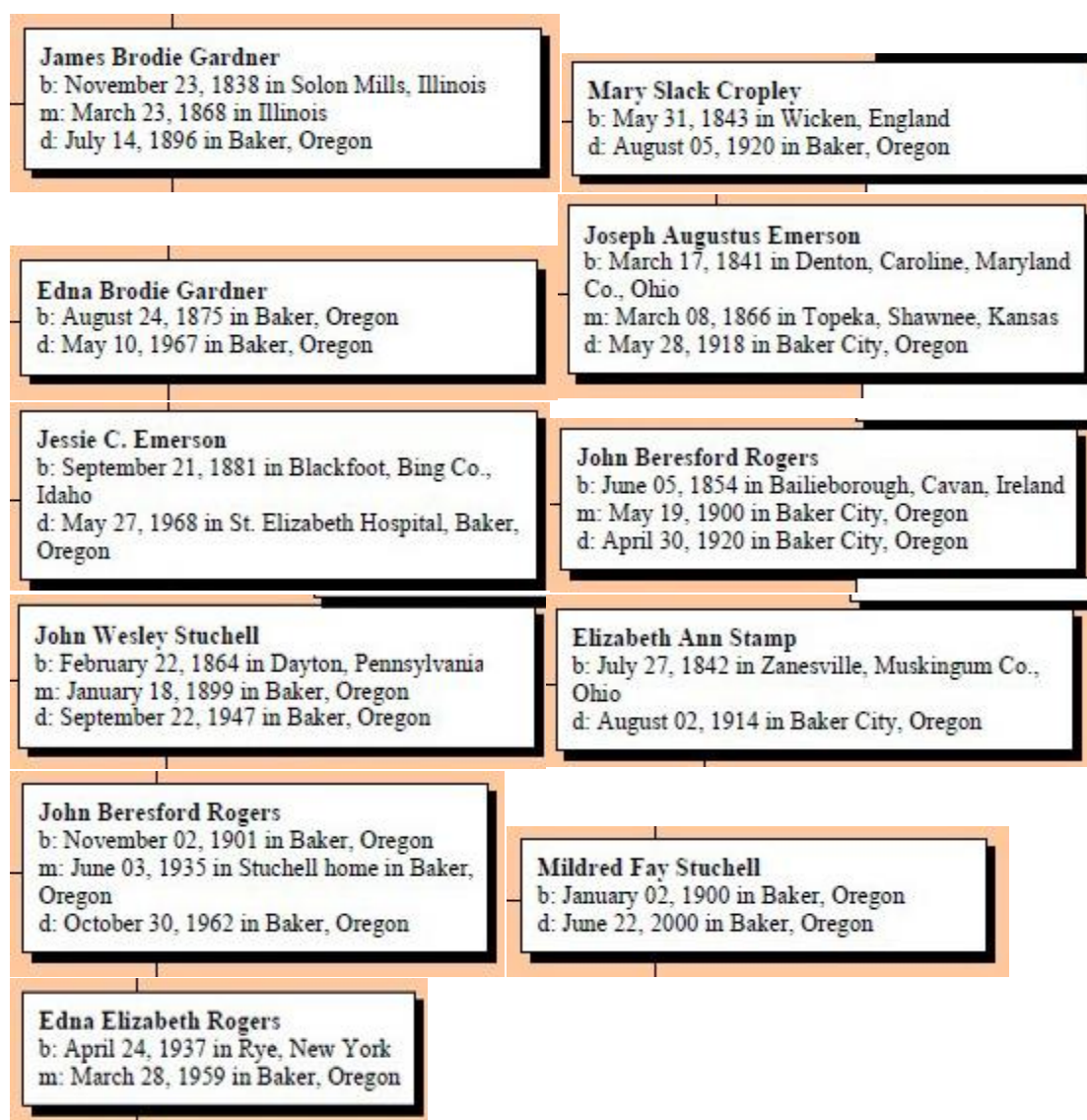


# HISTORY OF EDNA ELIZABETH ROGERS HARRELL AND HER ANCESTORS

## Introduction

(Edna's daughter, Beth Harrell Mackenzie, created a wonderful Ancestors Chart, which unfortunately won't fit in this document. The ancestors information below has been excerpted via Photoshop from the Ancestors Chart. Chosen are all the ancestors who came to or were born in Baker County and/or are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City.)



## CHAPTER 1--Edna Rogers Harrell marries Robert (Bob) Harrell.

Following introductory remarks and photos are 15 photos of the wedding of Robert Harrell and Edna Rogers, which took place on March 28, 1959, in the Presbyterian Church in Baker City.



*Edna Elizabeth Rogers, ca. 2013.*



*Robert Lewis Harrell, ca. 2013.*





*Edna age 15, 1953.*



*Bob Harrell, 8, & baby sister, Barbara, in Medford, OR.*



*Beth Harrell Mackenzie, Edna Rogers Harrell, Gary Dielman in the Mackenzie home on 4-6-2023. These three teamed up over several months to record the ancestral history of Edna and Beth (mother and daughter). Edna is the matriarch of the Harrell Hereford Ranch. Beth and husband Wannie have nearby Mackenzie Ranch. Gary is a local historian and archivist for the Baker County Public Library, who put the history of this pioneering family on the library's online website for all to enjoy.*

Today in 2023, Edna lives on the Harrell Hereford Ranch six miles NW of Baker City; former husband Bob lives near Bellevue, Washington.

Bob and Edna have three children: Elizabeth "Beth" Anne Harrell Mackenzie, born 1959; Robert Lewis Harrell, Jr., born 1961; and Linda Marie Harrell Madsen Anderson, born 1965, lives in La Grande, OR.

Edna Elizabeth Rogers was born on April 4, 1937, in Rye, NY, on the north side of Long Island Sound and just west of the border with Connecticut. Her parents were John "Jack" Beresford Rogers and Mildred Stuchell Rogers, who were married in 1935 in Baker City. At the time of Edna's birth, her father had been working in banking for a dozen years in New York City. A year after Edna's birth, the family returned to live in Baker City.

Since Edna's ancestors settled in Baker County going back several generations, the history of her forebears will follow information about Bob Harrell and his family.

Bob was born April 30, 1938, to Lyle and Frances Harrell, right after his father's transfer to the Oregon State Police office in Grants Pass, OR. Bob's only sibling, Barbara Mae, who was born in 1946 and graduated from South Salem High School, died in 2008 in Renton, WA.

Bob attended schools in Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, and finally in Baker, where he entered 6th grade (ca. 1950). In 1956, just in time for Bob's graduation from Baker High School, his paternal grandmother, Helen Harrell, came to live at 2005 Myrtle, next door to her son Lyle's family at 2025 Myrtle in Baker City, OR. Bob's parents died a year apart, Frances in 1980 and Lyle in 1981. Both parents are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker.

Edna Rogers and Robert Harrell were married on March 28, 1959, in the Presbyterian Church in Baker City, Oregon. The wedding took place in the new brick Presbyterian Church, which just four years earlier replaced the wooden church built in 1898. Both stood/stand on the SW corner of 4th and Washington streets west of the Courthouse and south of Helen M. Stack Junior High School.

The wedding was a candlelight service on Easter Eve conducted by Presbyterian Minister Jack Urey. Both Bob and Edna dated during high school and in 1959 were college students, Edna in her fourth year at the University of Oregon and Bob in his third year at Stanford University in California, where he was also a member of the Air Force ROTC. After Edna and Bob had both graduated, Bob served a stint in the Air Force. When his service was completed, Bob flew for Pan American Airlines and later United Airlines until mandatory retirement age in 2001, followed by a couple of years as a flight instructor for United Airlines.

Below are 15 images of Edna and Bob's wedding.



*Edna receiving her mother Mildred Stuchell Rogers' blessing before the wedding.*





*Edna and Bob kneeling before the altar of the Presbyterian Church.  
Ceremony conducted by Presbyterian Minister Jack Urey.*



*Bob and Edna exchanging vows accompanied by four bride's maids and four groom's men.*



*Mrs. and Mr. Harrell walking down the central isle after exchanging vows.*



*Portrait of the newlyweds.*





*Bob and Edna making first cut of 4-tier wedding cake.*



*Edna posing in front of altar after the wedding service.*



*Edna throwing her bouquet from the staircase in the Rogers home at 1357 Dewey.  
Watching on at right is groomsman Paul Bauge (BHS '57).*





*Guests throwing rice at the newlyweds descending the stairs,  
as they prepared to depart on their honeymoon..*





*Edna and Bob about to begin their honeymoon in Edna's father's 1958 Buick convertible during a rare end-of-March snow storm.*

Bon Voyage!

Below are a few more wedding photos:



*Wedding party in front of altar facing camera.*

Left to Right: Mary Belle Rogers, Patricia Palmer McDonald, Judy Rogers, Maid of Honor Nancy Jane Scott, Edna Elizabeth Rogers Harrell, Robert Lewis Harrell, Best Man Robert McKim, Paul Bauge, Neil Scheiddel, Phil Burkland.



*Edna seated in wedding dress.*



*Edna and bride's maids: at left are Judy Rogers and Marybell Rogers (Edna's cousins, Uncle Joe Rogers' daughters); at right are Patricia Palmer McDonald and Nancy Jane Scott.*





*Lyle & Frances Harrell, Edna Rogers Harrell, Mildred Stuchell Rogers.*



*Edna's Uncle Joe Rogers, Mildred Rogers, Edna & Bob, Frances & Lyle Harrell.  
(Edna's father, John "Jack" Rogers, was in a Portland hospital.)*

## Chapter 2--Harrell Hereford Ranch

The Harrell Hereford Ranch (HHR) is located at the intersection of Pocahontas & Salmon Creek roads about 6 miles NW of Baker City. Looking back over the last fifty years, Edna says she was raised as a city girl never dreaming she'd be living on a ranch ten minutes from town. Nor did she have an inkling of premonition that her son, Bob Jr., would one day be honored by the American Hereford Association by being inducted into the American Hereford Association's Hall of Fame.



*HHR house and outbuildings, ca. 1970. Salmon Creek Road runs along the south side. Pocahontas Road is about a quarter mile east of here.*



*Recent photo of HHR residence of Edna Rogers Harrell and outbuildings. Only a mile away is the spectacular backdrop of Elkhorn Butte rising to almost 9,000 ft.*

The headquarters of the three-generation Harrell Hereford Ranch (HHR) is located on Pocahontas Road 6 miles NW of Baker City, where in 1970 Bob and Edna Harrell purchased the 69-acre original home ranch. While Bob continued in his occupation as a Pan American Airlines pilot, Edna, along with her son Robert Lewis "Bobby" Harrell, Jr., managed the ranch with the help of his wife, Becky, and their daughter, Lexie, who represents the third generation.

Over the years other family members joined in the operation of HHR, including Edna's daughter, Beth Harrell Mackenzie, and her husband, Duncan "Wannie" Mackenzie. Beth and Wannie bought acreage nearby on Chandler Lane. Wannie, in partnership with his brothers, is also involved in a third-generation ranch on Succor Creek in Jordan Valley, Malheur County, that was established in 1890 by Wannie's grandfather, Duncan Mackenzie.

The HHR raises registered Hereford cattle, Black Angus cattle, and commercial Black Baldy cows in their breeding program, plus registered Quarter Horses. HHR hosts an annual production sale every first Monday in March, offering registered bulls, heifers, and started 2-year-old Quarter Horse prospects. And on Sunday, the day before the March sale, at the Mackenzie Ranch the sale horses are ridden by professionals and trainers, so customers can see how each horse performs.





*HHR management team: Bob, Jr., wife Becky, Lexie (daughter of Bob & Becky), Edna, Beth, Wannie, and their children Duncan & Maggie.*



*Sale barn, interior, during a March auction.*

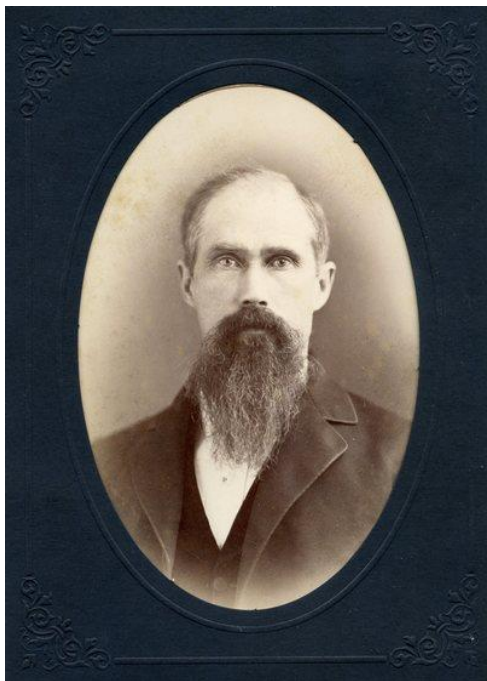




*Sale barn, interior, during a March auction.*

### CHAPTER 3 – Gardner-Cropley Family

In Edna Rogers Harrell's Ancestor Chart, James Brodie Gardner (1838-1896) and Mary Slack Cropley Gardner (1843-1920) are the earliest relatives who ended up living in Baker County. James Brodie Gardner was born in Solon Mills, Illinois. Mary Slack Cropley was born in Wicken, England. They were married March 23, 1868, in Illinois.



*James Brodie Gardner*

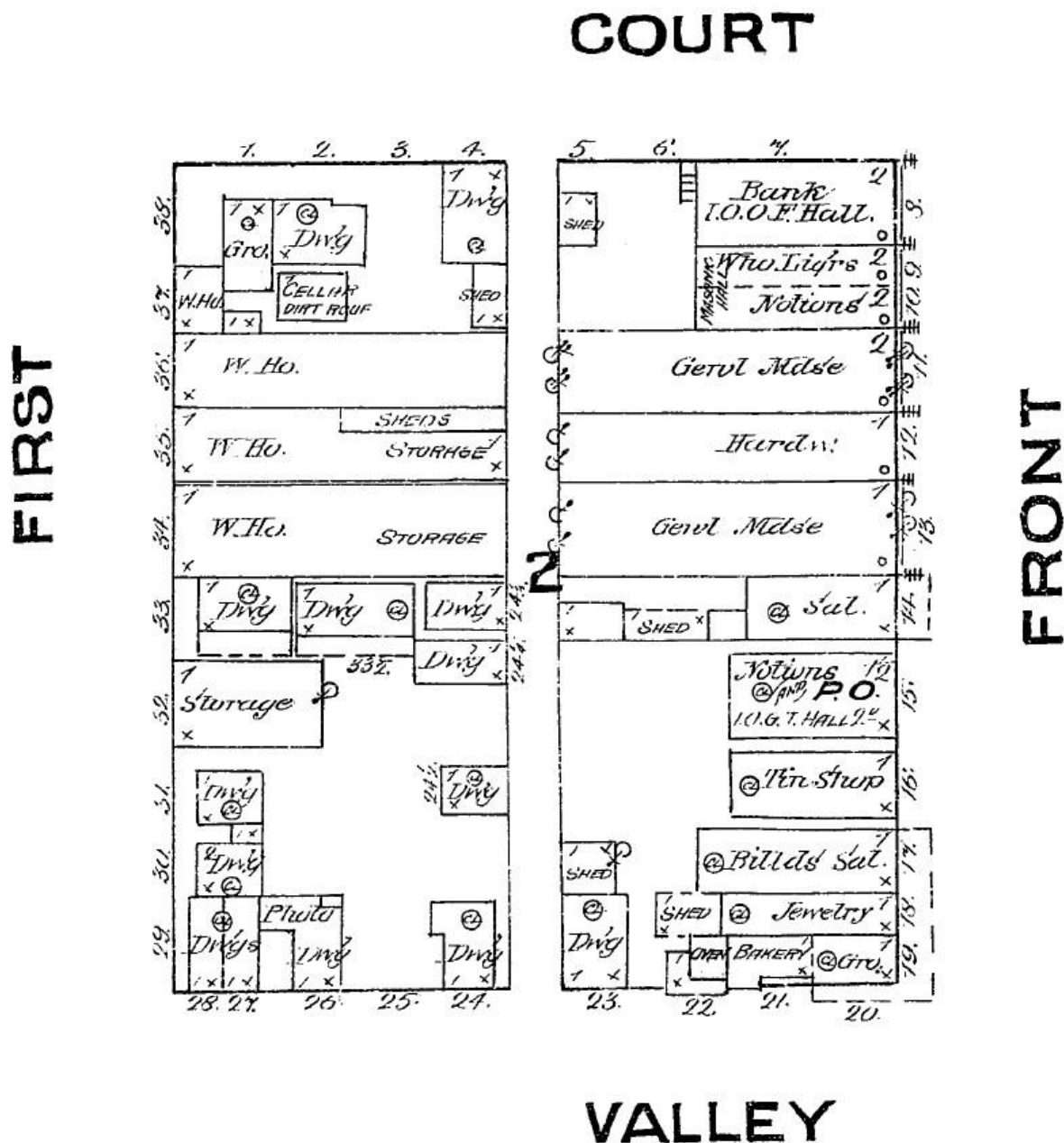


*Mary Slack Cropley*

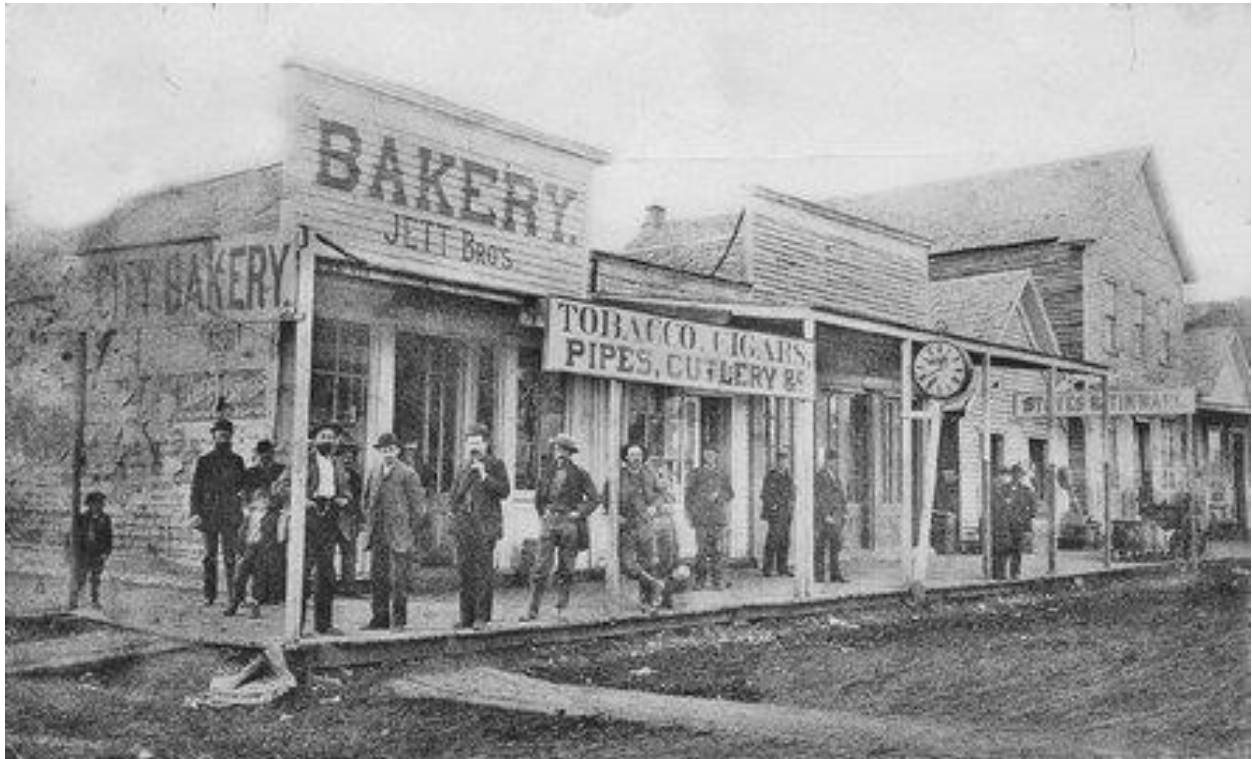
In 1870 James and Mary traveled to Oregon via the Isthmus of Panama then up Columbia River to Walla Walla, Washington. J.B., as Gardner was known, opened a jewelry and watch repair shop. Within a short time rumors of the rich gold mines in Eastern Oregon lured Gardner to Baker City, which J.B. and Mary reached by horseback in 1870. The 1870 U.S. Census of Baker City lists James

B. Gardner, age 32, as a jeweler having come from Illinois. Mary S. Gardner is listed as his wife, age 25, keeping house, having come from England.

J.B. opened a jewelry shop on the north side of the Jett Bros. grocery and bakery store, which was located on the NW corner of Front (later Main) and Valley streets. The Gardner family lived in a small house on Valley Street next to the alley behind the Jett Bros. store. J.B.'s and Mary's daughter, Edna Brodie Gardner, was born in that little house on August 24, 1875.



On this Sanborn Insurance map one sees in the lower right corner Gardner's jewelry shop and next to it a grocery and bakery shop, behind which next to the alley is a small house (DW'G, abbreviation for dwelling), where the Gardners lived. That is where their daughter and only child Edna was born on August 24, 1875.



*The Jett Bros. Bakery-Grocery store was on the NW corner of Front (later Main) and Valley streets. The clock out front announced J.B. Gardner's Jewelry store, a common way of advertising watch making and repair. See that corner of the block on the Sanborn Insurance map above. Today that corner is occupied by the tuff stone Kicks sporting goods store, which for several decades was the site of Palmer Bros. store.*



*Gardner family ca. 1885: John, Mary, daughter Edna.*

J.B. became interested in mining and for the next ten years the family spent summers at the Trail Creek Mine (later known as French Diggings) located 12 miles north of Granite and several miles west of Anthony Lakes. Every June they loaded their wagon for the three-day-trip to the mine via Granite, taking chickens and a cow as well as necessary supplies for the summer. In autumn once back in Baker City, J.B. turned the gold he mined during the summer into jewelry.

In 1883 the Gardner family moved to a house on the west side of the 1800 block of 1st Street. A fire, which started in a lodging house on the NW corner, burned down including the house the Gardners were living in and other structures in the south half of the block. (In 1940 the Eltrym Theatre was built on that corner.) The 1888 Sanborn Insurance map provides evidence of the fire, since it shows the south end of the block devoid of buildings.





*Edna Gardner's 8<sup>th</sup>-grade graduating class of 1891. Edna is seated at right end of bottom row.*



*In 1896 Edna Gardner posed holding her certificate of graduation from Baker High School.*

James and Mary's daughter Edna attended all 12 years of schooling in Baker City, starting in a two-story wood frame building on the present site of today's Middle School. Edna received the rest of her education in the three-story brick Central School, which was constructed in 1889 on the same site.



*Baker City's first school building constructed in 1869, replaced in 1889 by this 3-story brick school, both on the site of today's Middle School built in 1936.*

Eventually J.B. bought the wooden Jett Bros. store next door, thereby more than doubling the size of his jewelry and watch repair store. J.B.'s business was profitable enough that in 1888 he bought a large two-story house at the north end of a triangle block with address 1357 Dewey Street.

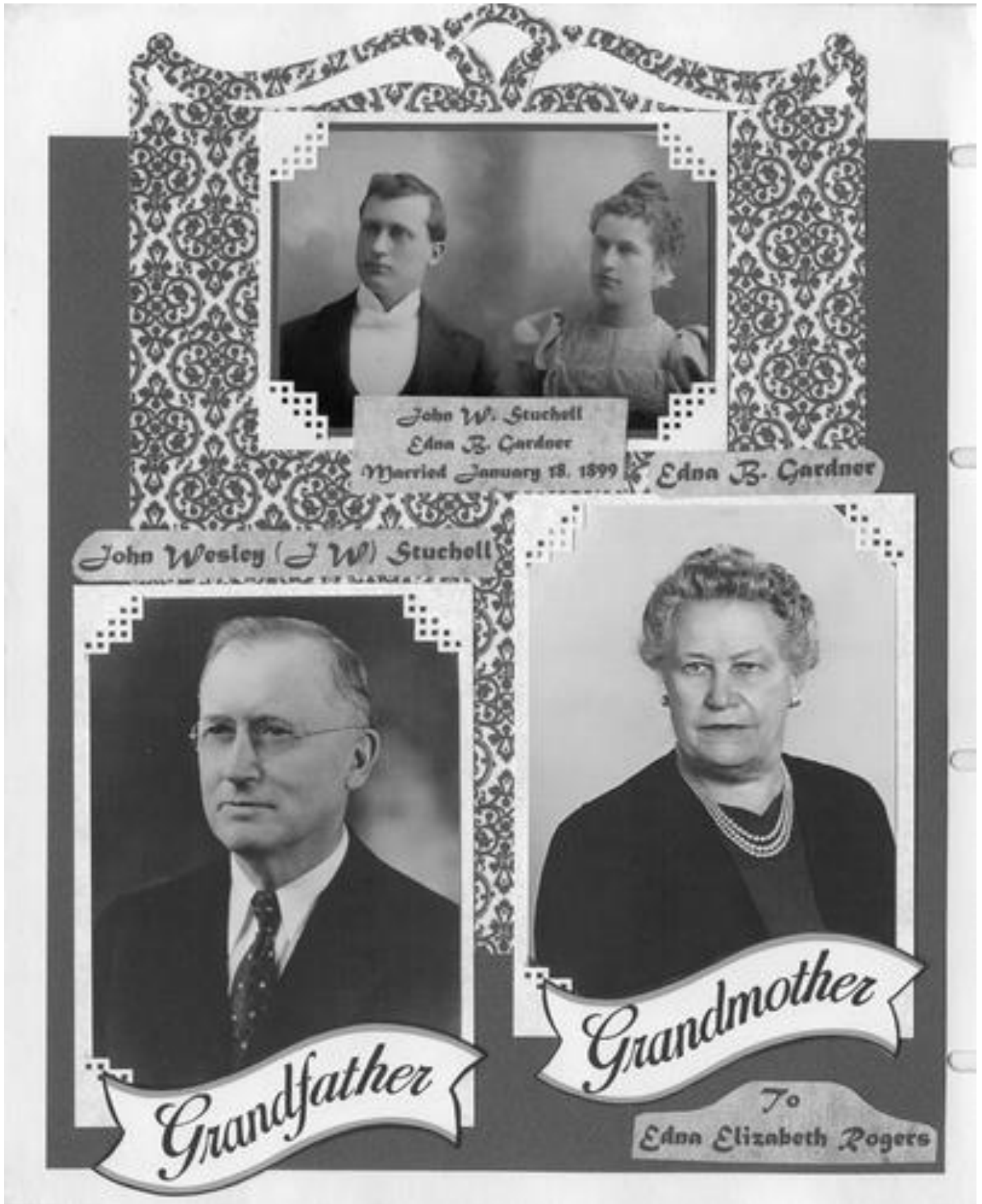


*Shortly before his death in 1896, J.B. bought this house located at 1357 Dewey Street. In 1937 it was replaced by Jack and Mildred Rogers' dream home.*

In 1896, while Mary and Edna were visiting relatives in Chicago, they received word that James Brodie Gardner had died of spotted fever. He was 58 years old.

After J.B.'s death, Mary sold the jewelry business to a couple of Palmer brothers, who in 1906 replaced the wooden structures with a two-story, tuff-stone building, which became Palmer Bros. Store dealing in jewelry, optometry, sporting goods, and bicycles. Today it is the site of Kicks sportswear store.

Chapter 4—John Wesley Stuchell marries Edna Brodie Gardner



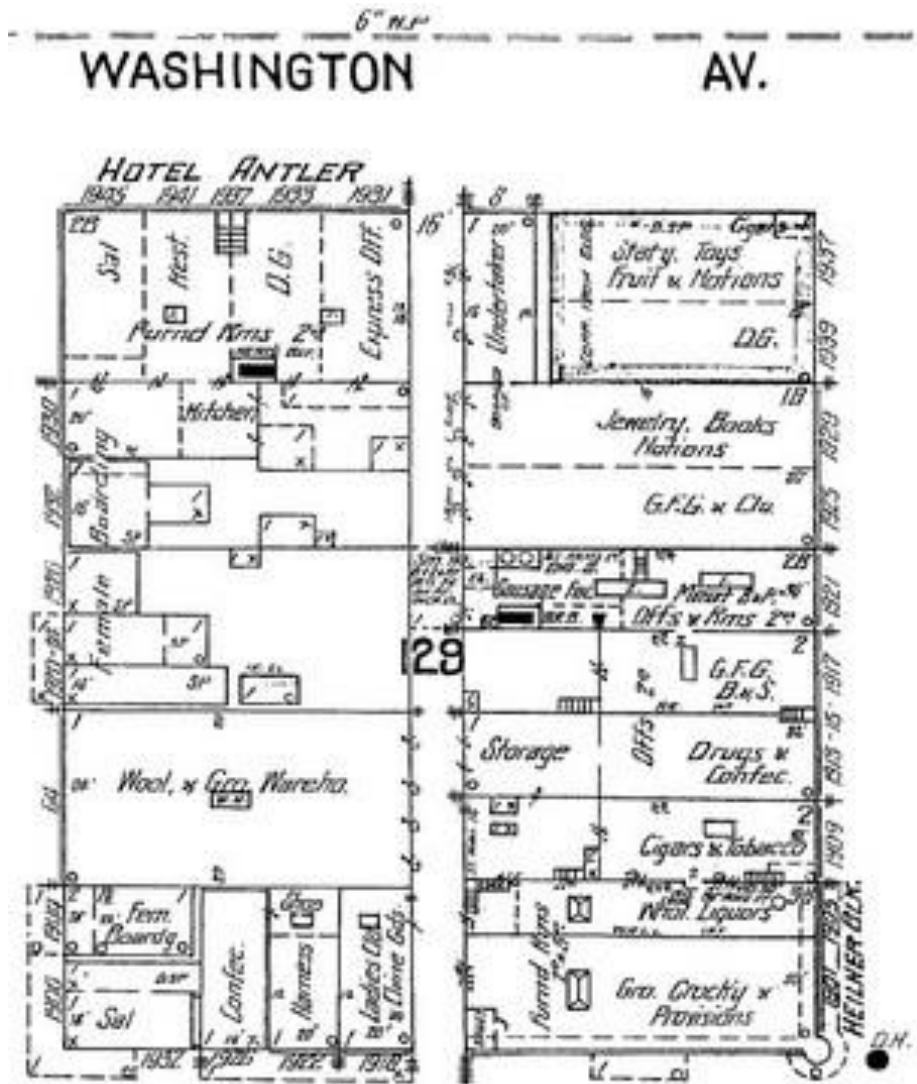


*At top is the January 18, 1899, wedding photo of John Wesley Stuchell and Edna B. Gardner. In the bottom half of photo is the couple taken decades later. The collage of photos occupies a page in their Granddaughter Edna Rogers Harrell's photo album.*

John Wesley Stuchell was born February 22, 1864, in Dayton, Armstrong County, PA. He was the fourth son in a family of eleven (five sons and six daughters). His father was William J. Stuchell, born May 28, 1828, and died December 3, 1881. His mother was Lucinda Jane Potts, born December 31, 1836, and died July 26, 1922 in Washington state.

In the late 1800's "J.W." Stuchell came west via the Panama Canal to join his brother William Harry Stuchell in California. William later settled in Everett, Washington. Wes worked his way north to Portland, OR, then to Harrisburg, OR, as a dealer in general merchandise. In about 1895 Wes travelled all the way across Oregon to Snake River, where he set up a forwarding house in a little hamlet called Robinette, OR, serviced by a spur railroad from Huntington, OR.

In 1896 J.W." settled in Baker City, OR, which became his home for the rest of his life. Around that time he purchased a notions and dry goods store from a Mrs. Whitaker on the SW corner of Main and Washington streets. He called his business "Spot Dry Goods Store." (See Sanborn Insurance map below, which shows site of Wes' first merchandise store in Baker City.)



*J.W. Stuchell's first store in Baker City was located in the top right corner of this Sanborn Insurance map. Notice that the store next to the alley behind J.W.'s store was occupied by an undertaker. Across the alley was Hotel Antler, known later as Antlers Hotel.*

By 1900 Wes partnered with a couple of men named Murphy from Chehalis, Washington. They formed M & S Forwarding Co., which was a wholesale grocery business. The 1900 Baker City Directory listed the company's taxing value as \$4,000 (equivalent to about \$140,000 in 2023 dollars). Soon the Murphys quit the partnership, leaving J.W. as sole owner.

On January 18, 1899, at age 24, Edna married John Wesley Stuchell, in Baker City. JW was 11 years older than Edna. The Stuchell couple lived with Edna's mother, Mary Gardner, at the top end of the triangle block. Mary Cropley Gardner died August 5, 1920, at the age of 77. She is buried beside her husband, James Brodie Gardner, in the Old Masonic section of Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City. J.B. had the foresight to purchase quite a number of grave plots, which have become the burial site of a number of Edna Rogers Harrell's relatives.

In 1902 J.W. founded Baker Grocery Co. Wes was involved in the wholesale grocery business for the next forty years.

Around the time Mary Gardner died John and Edna built and lived the rest of their days in a bungalow on the narrow south end of the same triangle-shaped block, address 1351 Dewey.



*The Stuchell bungalow was built in 1920 on the south end of the triangle block, address 1351 Dewey. View looks north down 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.*

What happened to the Gardner house after Mary died? A search of Baker City Directories shows that none of the Gardner-Stuchell relatives lived in the Gardner house after Mary Gardner's death. The house was apparently leased by various persons between 1920 and 1938. At least 12 different families and renters lived in the old Gardner house during those years. Then in 1939 no one was listed as living at 1357 Dewey, because during that year Jack and Mildred Rogers had the Gardner house razed or moved and built their dream house in its place.

In 1931, J.W. and Mr. I. Lang of Portland formed the Intermountain Grocery Co., with J.W. as President. The company had branches in Baker, Ontario, Weiser, and Boise. In addition, from 1934 to 1942 J.W. was President of the General Grocery Co. in Portland.

In 1920 J.W. diversified by entering the banking business. That year J.W. purchased stock in Citizens National Bank at the NW corner of Main and Washington streets, Thomas G. Montgomery President and Stuchell Vice President. By 1934 J.W. became President of Citizens National Bank, when Montgomery resigned and moved on to become Secretary-Treasurer of Baker Production Credit Association.

As an influential leader in business in Baker, J.W. supported construction of Hotel Baker, still today the tallest structure east of the Cascade Mountains. How much he invested in Hotel Baker stock is not known. What we do know is that the celebration of the opening of Hotel Baker occurred in August 1929, just two months before the big stock market crash of 1929. The 300 investors probably never recouped their investments.



*In 1928 banks were allowed to print their own \$5.00 bills. Notice that John Rogers is Cashier (lower left corner) and J.W. Stuchell is listed as President (lower right corner).*



In 1934 J.W. acquired the First National Bank of Baker and merged it with Citizens National Bank at 2003 Main Street under the name First National Bank. That year J.W. appointed Mildred's brother-in-law, James "Joe" Rogers, Cashier at First National Bank; his brother, John "Jack" Rogers, was still working at National City Bank of New York.

In 1944 J.W. disposed of his grocery business holdings to devote his time to banking. Stuchell was known for his benevolence. During the Depression years of the 1930's, J.W. bought up mortgages of Baker County farmers who had hit on bad times. When they could get back to productive farming at the end of the Depression, J.W. returned their mortgages without charging them interest on the payments he had made.

During the Depression of the 1930's, J.W.'s First National Bank was the only bank in the state of Oregon that never closed, deposits were always available for depositors to withdraw.



During World War II, J.W. led the charge that spurred Baker County residents to invest over ten-million dollars in War Bonds. Baker County exceeded its assigned goal by ten percent.

After a four-weeks illness, John Wesley Stuchell died September 22, 1947, at St. Elizabeth Hospital. He was 83 years old. Probate court valued Stuchell's estate at \$763,958, the largest ever filed in Baker County up to that date. (Details of J.W.'s assets: cash \$288,770; bank shares \$458,892; treasury and municipal bonds \$222,290; notes and mortgages \$51,794; misc. real estate \$22,130.)

J.W. held the position of President of First National Bank until his death, ending a career of 51 years of service to Baker City and eastern Oregon. J.W. was praised as a "wheelhorse, a tireless worker, and a great patriot." His bank associates in Portland called him "the strong man in his community, where his reputation for probity, steadfastness, and sound judgment was recognized by all."

J.W.'s motto: "It isn't what you make, but what you save that counts."

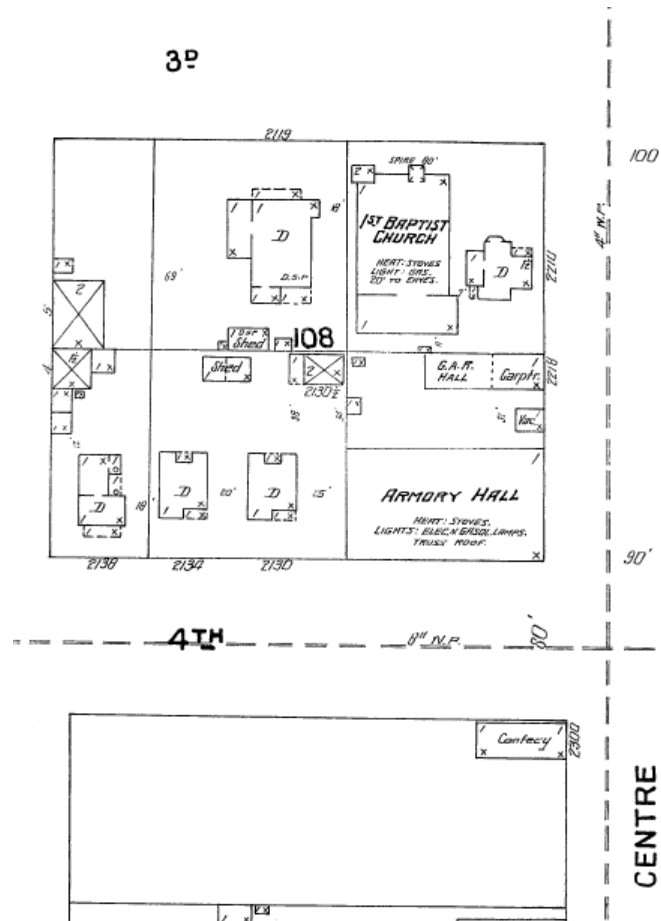
Recently Edna Rogers Harrell wrote about her Grandfather J.W. Stuchell: "He had a 'canny' way of waiting for the right time to make his business investments," and he "was a very generous man, and I personally believe that my mother (Mildred Stuchell Rogers) inherited his benevolence for the good of the community."

## Chapter 5—John Beresford Rogers (no. 1) and Jessie Emerson

John Beresford Rogers (1) 1854-1920 and Jessie C. Emerson Rogers 1881-1966

(Before reading Chapter 5, I refer the reader to excerpts from Edna's Ancestor Chart on the first page of this history. There you'll see John Beresford Rogers 1 and 2. No.1 is father of No. 2.)

Both John Beresford Rogers and Jessie Emerson began their domiciles in Oregon in two modest houses located on the east side of the 2100 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street around 1900. See following Sanborn Insurance map of the area.



*This 1903 Sanborn Insurance map shows three houses on the east side of the 2100 block of 4<sup>th</sup>. John B. Rogers lived at 2138 4<sup>th</sup>, where Church Street intersected with 4<sup>th</sup>. The Emerson family lived at either 2130 or 2134 4<sup>th</sup> Street.*

Jessie Emerson was born September 21, 1881, in Blackfoot, Idaho, a farming community in southeastern Idaho near the Wyoming border. Shortly before 1900 Jessie's parents, Joseph A. Emerson (1841-1918) and mother Elizabeth A. Emerson (1843-1914), moved their large family from Idaho to a house on the east side of the 2100 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Baker City, from which Joseph Emerson operated a transfer company.

Also living in that block on 4<sup>th</sup> Street was wealthy John Beresford Rogers (no. 1). The source of his wealth is unknown. Later genealogical research disclosed that Rogers was born in 1854 in Baileborough, Cavin, Ireland. Also unknown is what brought Rogers to Oregon.



*Jessie Emerson, age 19 in 1900.*



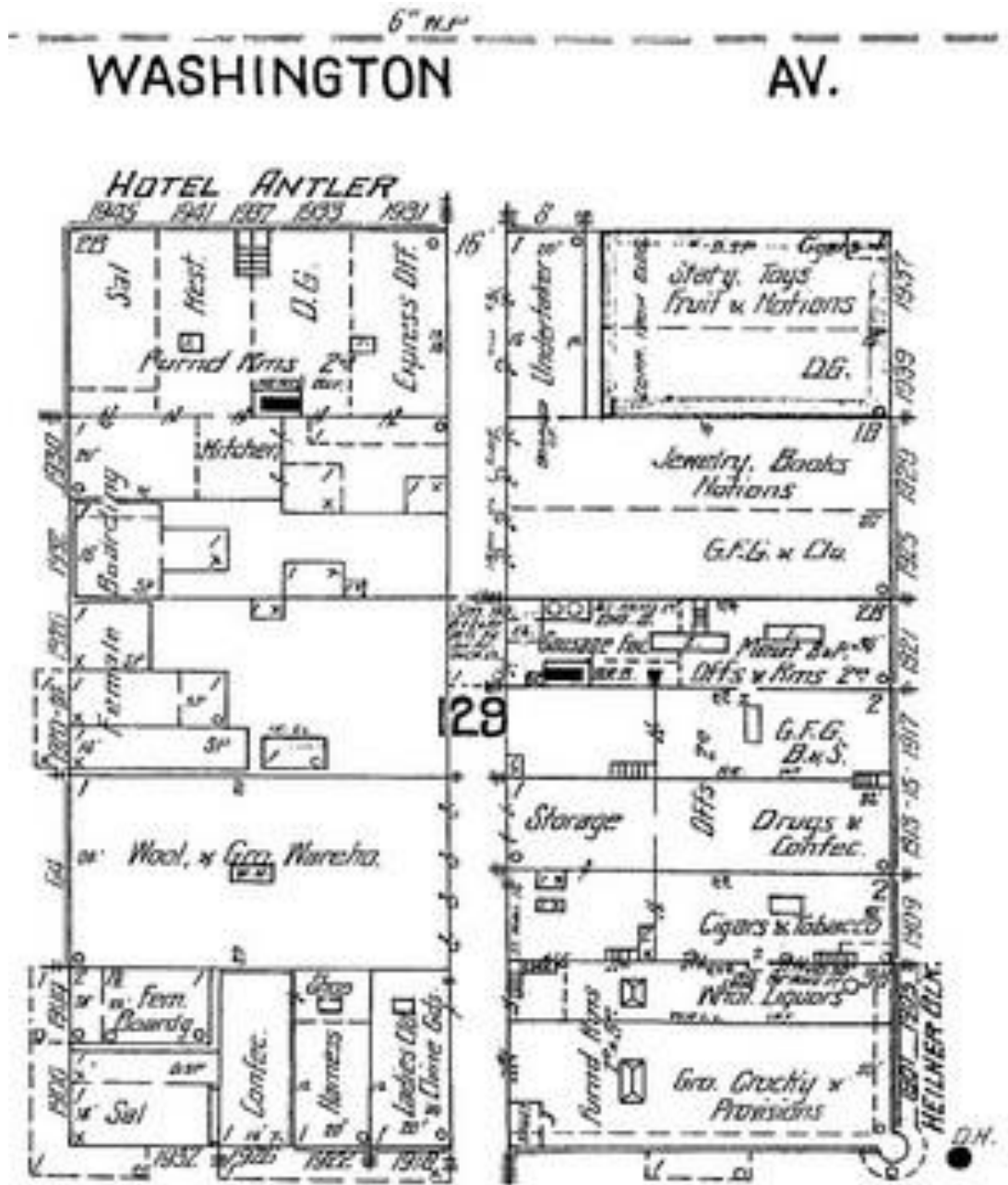
*John Beresford Rogers (no. 1). Photo taken in Hazeltine's studio in Baker City, around 1900.*

Living in close proximity to each other, John Rogers, age 46, and Jessie Emerson, age 19, developed a relationship that resulted in marriage in 1900. Jessie's father disapproved of the marriage and promptly disowned Jessie. Subsequently he moved the remainder of his family and his transfer business to 2419 Campbell.

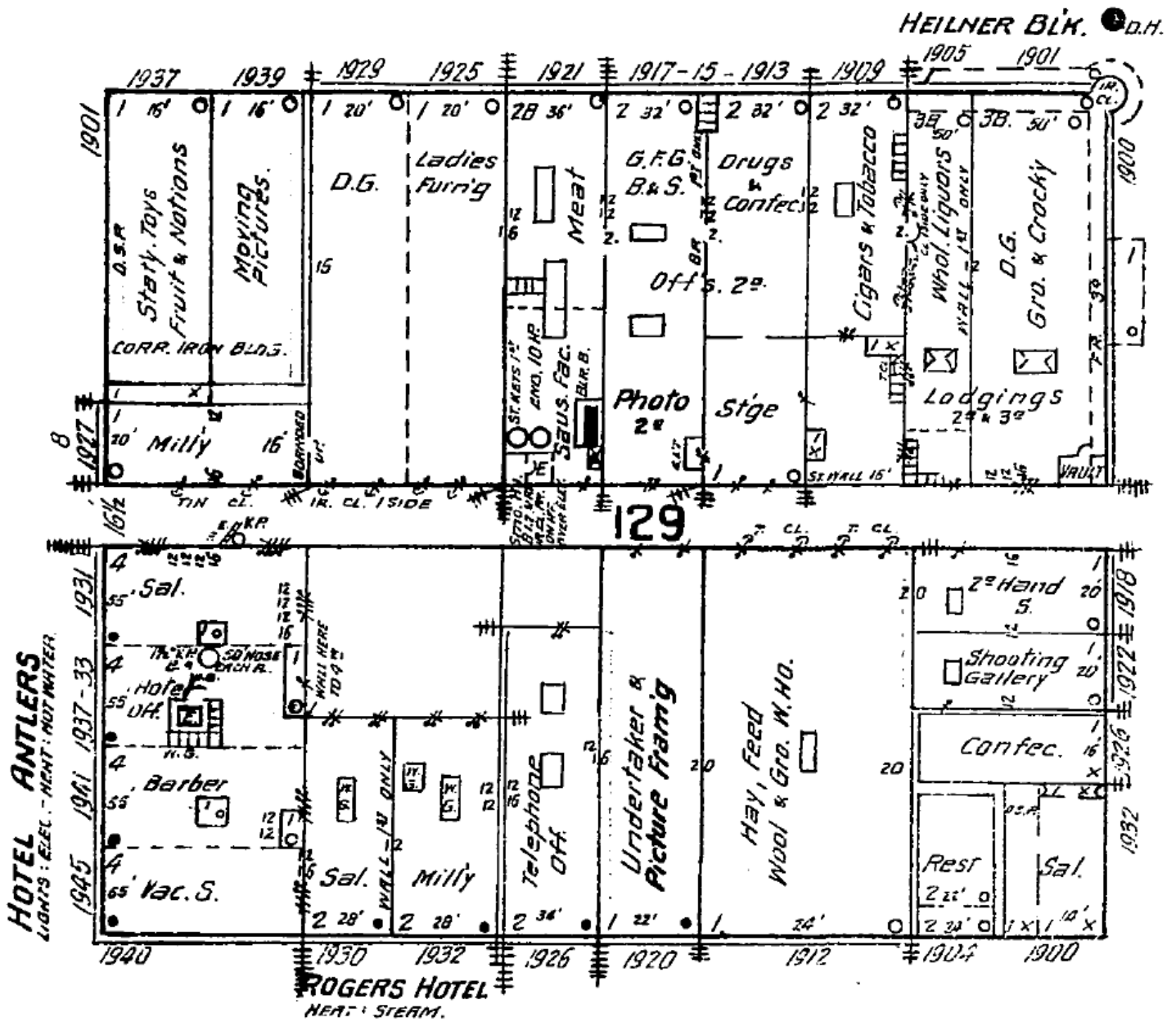
John and Jessie continued living on 4th Street, where their two sons were born, John "Jack" Beresford Rogers (no. 2) in 1901 and Joseph "Joe" Rogers in 1903.



In 1906 Baker City Council decided to upgrade 1<sup>st</sup> Street to rival the main business area on Front Street (later Main Street). Just south of the Antlers Hotel were several one-story wooden prostitution cribs, which the City decreed be vacated. John Rogers took advantage of this new policy to hire construction of the brick two-story Rogers Hotel located at 1926-1930 1<sup>st</sup> Street, adjacent to the south side of Antlers Hotel. Rogers Hotel, sometimes referred to as Hotel Rogers, was one of several brick structures, including the adjoining new telephone office, constructed on the vacated site of the one-story wooden prostitution cribs. Below see an excerpt from a 1903 Sanborn Insurance map showing the location of the cribs on the east side of the 1900 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Then compare the area with the following 1911 map.



This 1903 Sanborn Insurance map shows Front Street (later Main) at right and 1<sup>st</sup> Street at left. Six prostitution cribs on 1<sup>st</sup> Street are denoted as "Female Boarding" and "Fem. Boarding."



This 1911 Sanborn Insurance map shows Rogers Hotel on 1<sup>st</sup> Street; Main Street is at top. The hotel takes up two lots. The "2" at lower left of each lot, indicates the building is two stories high. On the ground floor of the hotel were a saloon and a millinery shop. Hotel rooms were on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The blank area behind hotel indicates the hotel is ca. 60' deep. By 1923 a third story had been added to the hotel.



*In this copy of an image from a newsprint publication ca. 1906, one sees two new buildings on the east side of 1900 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street: Rogers Hotel and telephone company (right). Construction equipment is still on site.*



*The Rogers Hotel building today with three stories.  
Rogers building had not functioned as a hotel since ca. 1925.  
At left is south side of Antlers Hotel, at right is former telephone company building.*

The four members of the Rogers family moved into the Rogers Hotel, as soon as it was finished in 1906-1907. The family resided in the hotel while Jack and Joseph were young. Jack and Joe worked in the hotel as bellboys, made up rooms after guests checked out, and did the laundry.



*John Beresford Rogers no. 1, ca. 1920.*

Income from the Rogers Hotel was only enough to send one of the boys to college. The older boy, Jack, attended the University of Oregon graduating (one of four) with honors. Jack went to New York, where he was employed in banking for a decade. Then after marrying and having their first child, Jack and Mildred returned to Baker City. Joe went to work in his uncle J.W. Stuchell's bank in Baker City, Later in life Joe moved to San Jose, CA, where he started a successful bank.





*Jessie Emerson Rogers with sons Joe (left) and Jack, ca. 1908.*



*Lobby of Hotel Rogers. Behind the desk is John B. Rogers (no. 1).  
Either Jack or Joe is the bellhop sitting on a chair.*

John Beresford Rogers (no. 1) died in 1920. In 1925 Jessie was still managing Hotel Rogers; Joseph still resided in the hotel but worked as an assistant cashier in the First National Bank.



*Jessie continued living in the Rogers Hotel until 1935, when she sold it, and moved to a small stucco duplex at 2485 Resort Street across from Baker City Park, where she resided until her death in 1968.*

Mount Hope Cemetery records show that the Emerson family remained in Baker City. Both parents and at least three of Jessie's siblings are buried there. John and Jessie are buried in the Mausoleum in Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City (see image below).



*Photo of crypts for Jessie E. and John B. Rogers in the Mausoleum at Mt. Hope Cemetery.*

## Chapter 6--John "Jack" Beresford Rogers and Mildred Stuchell.

John "Jack" Beresford Rogers was born November 2, 1901, at Baker, OR in a five-room white cottage located on the southeast corner of 4th and Church streets. His parents were John Beresford Rogers (1) and Jessie Emerson Rogers. He had one brother, Joseph, born June 11, 1903. The family moved to the Rogers Hotel, at 1930 1st Street, when Jack was 5 ½ years old. Jack attended the three-story brick Central School--on the site of today's Middle School--and graduated in 1920 from the then new stone Baker High School on Washington Street. He was class historian and Captain of the High School Cadet Corp.





*John "Jack" Beresford Rogers, ca. 1945.*

Jack Rogers was awarded a scholarship to Willamette University, but instead enrolled in the University of Oregon. He graduated in the class of 1925 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He was one of only four in a class of over 400 awarded highest honors in scholarship.

In January 1926 Jack went to New York City with the intention of taking graduate work at Columbia University. But instead, when offered an attractive position with the National City Bank of New York, Jack opted to go to work for the bank, beginning February 1, 1926.



*Wedding portrait of Mildred and Jack Rogers.*

In 1935 Jack Rogers returned to Baker to marry Mildred Fay Stuchell, whose father was the leading wholesale grocery and banking entrepreneur in Baker. The couple lived in Rye, New York, 27 miles northeast of New York City. Jack commuted each day by train to his work at National City Bank.

On April 24, 1937, their only child, Edna Elizabeth Rogers, was born in Rye, New York. Being of the opinion that their infant daughter would be better off being brought up in their home town, the family left New York to settle in Baker, arriving on July 1, 1938.

Initially the family lived in the bungalow at 1351 Dewey with Edna's parents and Grandmother Gardner, while the Gardner house at 1357 Dewey was torn down and replaced by Mildred and Jack's dream house of Cape Cod style. Right away they hired architects Tourtellotte & Hummel of Boise, ID to draw up blueprints. During construction, so the story goes, unbeknownst to her parents, two-year-old Edna visited the site and came back home with a mouth full of nails.



*Rogers House on SW corner of Dewey and Carter streets.*



*South side of Rogers House at 1357 Dewey.  
Jack and Mildred Rogers fell in love with this Cape Cod style house,  
when they were living in New York awaiting birth of their daughter, Edna Elizabeth in 1937.*



*When Jack and Mildred returned to Baker from New York, they commissioned architects of Tourtellotte & Hummel of Boise, Idaho, to produce the blueprints for basement, first floor, and second floor of their dream home.*



*Rogers family, Jack & Mildred with daughter Edna Elizabeth, in front of their house ready for a sled ride.*

Jack's brother, Joseph "Joe" Rogers, who didn't get to go to college and was still living with his mother in Rogers Hotel in 1925, had become an Assistant Cashier in J.W. Stuchell's First National Bank. By the time big brother Jack returned to live in Baker, Joe was married and living at 1226



Dewey, across the street from J.W.'s residence. By 1935 Joe was Cashier of First National Bank. By 1937 Joe had married and was living with his wife, Belle, at 2485 8th Street in an imposing two-story brick house surrounded by a low brick fence that enclosed a half block of land bordered on the north by Campbell Street. By 1937 Jack and Joe's mother, Jessie, had sold Rogers Hotel. Not long after that Joe and Belle moved to San Jose, California, where Joe acquired and managed his own bank.

Although Jack had lived in New York for twelve-and-one-half years working in the banking business, he did not immediately go to work in banking in Baker. Instead, his father-in-law, J.W. Stuchell, put Jack in charge of managing J.W.'s wholesale grocery businesses. From 1938 to 1944 Jack was Treasurer of J.W.'s Intermountain Grocery Co., Baker Grocery Co., and Ontario Grocery Co.

In 1944 J.W. sold his grocery businesses in order to concentrate on banking. Only then did J.W. bring Jack into his banking business in the position of Vice President and Trust Officer of the First National Bank, a position he occupied until 1947. When J.W. died September 22, 1947, Jack became President and Trust Officer of First National Bank.

Jack Rogers filled the void left by the death of his father-in-law. Among other accomplishments, in 1951 Jack was elected President of the Oregon Banker's Association; in 1953 Jack was elected to a three-year term on the Executive Council of the American Bankers Association; in the same year Jack became a Director of the Portland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

In 1959 Baker's First National Bank became a branch of United States National Bank of Portland, with John B. Rogers in the position of Vice President.

On October 30, 1962, John (Jack) Beresford Rogers died in Baker. He was 61 years old. He is buried in the Gardner section of Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker. His widow, Mildred Stuchell Rogers, died on June 22, 2000, having outlived her husband by almost forty years.

## Chapter 7--Mildred Fay Stuchell Rogers (1-2-1900 to 6-22-2000)

On January 18, 1899, Edna Brodie Gardner married John Wesley Stuchell, in Baker City. One year later their only child, Mildred Fay, was born.



*Two early photos of Mildred Fay Stuchell, at age 12 and 21.*

Mildred's public school education began with five years at Tiedemann Elementary School, followed by six years at Central School--site of today's Middle School. In 1917 Mildred and her classmates were the first senior class to graduate from the brand new Baker High School located on Washington Street. After graduation Mildred continued her education by attending and graduating from two years at Baker City Business College located on the second floor of the Shoemaker Building on the southwest corner of Court and 1st streets.



*Tiedemann Elementary School, constructed 1901, just north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.*



*Old Central School, constructed in 1889, housed all 12 grades.  
It was razed in 1936 and replaced by Helen M. Stack Junior High School,  
today called Baker Middle School.*





*Baker High School on Washington Street, constructed in 1916.  
It served as a high school until today's Baker High School  
in North Baker was constructed in 1951.*



*After graduation from Baker High School in 1917, Mildred attended two years at Baker City Business College located on the second floor of the Shoemaker Building. At left Brig and Eagle are hitched to the Baker City fire wagon.*

Mildred married John "Jack" Beresford Rogers on June 3, 1935, in Baker, when Jack was visiting his home town after over a decade working at National City Bank in New York City. After the wedding the couple made Rye, NY, their home located within a few miles of the border with Connecticut. Jack commuted via train to his work at National City Bank. (See Chapter 6 for wedding photo of Mildred and Jack Rogers.)

On April 24, 1937, Mildred and Jack's only child, Edna Elizabeth Rogers, was born in Rye, New York. Her parents decided Baker would be a better place to raise Edna. In 1938 they returned to Baker, which became their permanent home. Jack applied his extensive bank experience by going to work in his father-in-law J.W. Stuchell's wholesale grocery business.

In 1966 at the suggestion of her mother, Edna B. Stuchell, Mildred established in honor of her father, the J.W. Stuchell Scholarship to be awarded every April to a worthy graduating Baker High School senior. Mildred set up a \$35,000 Trust to finance the yearly award.

In remembrance of her husband, Mildred established the John B. Rogers Professor in Banking and Finance Chair at the University of Oregon.

When the Carnegie Library (built in 1910) was no longer adequate for a full-service library, in 1970 Mildred donated \$280,000 towards construction of today's Baker County Public Library on Resort Street in honor of her mother, Edna B. Stuchell. (See attached photo of the Library entrance way.)



*April 9, 1970, signing of the title to city property west of Geiser-Pollman Park to the county for purpose of construction of a new Baker County Library.  
Left to Right: Baker County Commission Randall Guyer, library board member, Gill Wright, Baker County Commissioner, Mildred Rogers, major donor of funds to construct the new library, Jesse Himmelsbach, Baker County District Attorney, and Wilber Smith, Baker County Commissioner.  
Location is County Commission Chambers in the Baker County Courthouse.*



*Edna B. Stuchell Memorial adorns the wall of the front entrance to the Baker County Library on Resort Street.*



Bronze plaque on wall of front entrance to the Baker County Library.



Mildred contributed substantial money for construction of another important Baker City facility, Sam-O-Swim Center, which opened on the east side of town in 1983.

In 1999 Mildred donated money for the construction of a wing on the north side of the Presbyterian Church. The wing is called Mildred F. Rogers Fellowship Hall.

One-hundred-year-old Mildred Stuchell Rogers died June 22, 2000. In the last year of her life, Mildred, who enjoyed holding her recently-born great-grandchild, Duncan Riley, would sing him songs like "Let me call you sweetheart" and "You are my sunshine." Mildred is buried beside her husband, John "Jack" Rogers, in the Gardner section of Mount Hope Cemetery, in Baker City, Oregon.

Mildred's philosophy of life was borrowed from Will Rogers: "Greet each day with a sense of humor. Laughter is the best medicine for a long and happy life. He who laughs.....lasts."



*Mildred surrounded by family on her 100th birthday, Jan. 2, 2000.  
Standing: Bob Harrell, Bob Jr., wife Becky, Linda Harrell Mack, Linda's daughter Amanda,  
Wannie Mackenzie, Beth's husband.  
Seated: Edna Rogers Harrell, Mildred Stuchell Rogers, her great-grandson Duncan, and his  
mother Beth Harrell Mackenzie.*

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Following are some anecdotes of Mildred's life, as remembered by friends:

\*\*Mildred caddied for her father, an avid golfer. Possibly with her father's influence, at age 16 Mildred became the first female to play golf at the until-then men's-only golf club on Baker's east side. Mildred

became a frequent competitor at golf tournaments. After 71 years Mildred gave up golf. In her honor the Golf Club declared a "Mildred Rogers Golf Day."

\*\*As a young child, Mildred used to enjoy watching two firemen exercise a team of white horses named Brig and Eagle hitched to the city's fire engine come flying passed her house on 2nd Street, followed by a gaggle of neighborhood kids and dogs trying to keep up. After several blocks the show was over and the kids would ride on the fire engine back to the Fire Station behind City Hall.

\*\*Mildred had a playful side. After Mildred and Jack returned from a vacation in Hawaii, she taught Hula lessons in her living room.

\*\*Not fond of "new-fangled" gadgets, Mildred resisted getting a microwave, until her family gave her one as a gift. Then she loved it. She was of the same mind about changing fashions. For many years she always golfed in dresses, until a friend kept suggesting she try pants. When she finally did, she agreed, "These pants really are quite comfortable for playing golf in."

\*\*Mildred was especially noted for telling slightly off-color jokes, which she was still telling in the last three years of her life at Meadowbrook assisted living home in Baker City.

\*\*One of Mildred's favorite jokes: A golfer and his friend were playing golf one day, when a funeral procession passed by. The man respectfully removed his hat and bowed his head until they passed. His golf partner commented, "That was certainly a reverent thing to do." The golfer replied, "Well, after all, we were married for fifty years."

\*\*An example of the latter category of off-color jokes, no doubt spoken tongue-in-cheek, is this joke Mildred told: When Mildred was pregnant with Edna Elizabeth in New York, she went into labor and sat down on the curbside. A policeman, who saw her in pain with husband bending over her, asked if the man was molesting her. She quickly retorted, "No, but he did nine months ago."