

Chapter Five

West to Illinois—Daniel Riddlesberger (1814-1888) and his brothers, Jacob and Samuel

Daniel Riddlesberger [also spelled “Riddelsbarger” in the 1860 Census] was born in Washington Township in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on March 8, 1814. The oldest son of Jacob and Josephine Riddlesberger, Daniel was born during the presidency of James Madison while the nation still at war with England. He died in his seventy-fourth year on December 8, 1888, the same year Benjamin Harrison was elected to be the twenty-third president of the United States. Daniel lies buried in the Emmert (or “Dunkard”) Cemetery in China Township, near his former home in Franklin Grove in Lee County, Illinois.

According to census records and family notes, Daniel and his family arrived in Lee County from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, some time in the late 1850's—his youngest daughter, Anna M. was born in Pennsylvania in 1856. The 1850 Federal Census for Quincy Township in Franklin County,¹ indicates that Daniel “Rettlesberger” worked as a laborer and that his children were all in school. Apparently, he left Pennsylvania with the goal of purchasing or homesteading his own farm, for in the 1860 Census for Lee County, Illinois, his occupation is listed as “farmer.”

Daniel Riddlesberger married **Susan Barncord** about 1835. There are no extant Franklin County marriage records from that period, and the German Baptist Brethren likewise did not keep such records of weddings or baptisms. Susan’s father, **Jacob Barncord** (b. December 4, 1787, d. February 1, 1853), was likely the son of Peter Barncord of the Greencastle area of Antrim Township, the area just to the west of Waynesboro.² According to the book [American Revolutionary War Soldiers of Franklin County](#), Susan’s father, Peter, and her uncle Jacob, both served under Captain Walter McKinnie in the 8th PA Regiment from 1781-82.³ Nothing is known of her mother, though her father married Catherine Brandt, a German immigrant through Ireland, about 1830, after Susan’s mother died. According to land records, census data and probated

¹ Quincy Township was created from the northern part of Washington Township in 1838. John Riddelsberger’s land was located near what is now the border of Washington and Quincy Township.

² Information supplied by the Waynesboro Historical Society in correspondence of August 2, 1998. The information is culled from various census, death, orphan’s court, and other records.

³ Virginia Shannon Fendrick, [American Revolutionary War Soldiers of Franklin County](#) (Historical Works Committee, DAR, Franklin County, PA, n.d.), pp. 301, 305-306.

wills, the Barncords remained in the Greencastle-Waynesboro area for some time, thereafter.⁴ The 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses for Ashton township of Lee County, indicates that Susan Barncord was born in Pennsylvania, and her date of birth was March 16, 1816. According to the 1880 census, Susan is listed as a widow even while she was living in the home of Daniel. This means that Daniel was her second husband. She died two years after her husband on May 24, 1890 and is buried next to him in the Emmert Cemetery.⁵

Together with their seven children, (**David Henry**, Sarah, Mary, Jacob, John W., Susan and Ann M.) Daniel and Susuan Riddlesberger arrived in the China Township area of Lee County, apparently, to be near three other local residents, Daniel's brothers **Jacob** and **Samuel** Riddlesberger, [spelled variously as "Riddlesberger" in the 1860 Census, or "Riddlesbarger" in cemetery records], and his mother **Josephine Foreman Riddlesberger**, who had arrived in Lee County about fifteen years earlier. Handwritten notes, found in the Franklin Grove library, indicate that Daniel and Susan moved to "our village [i.e., Franklin Grove] from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania."

In moving west when they did, the Riddlesbergers had no idea that they left Waynesboro just a few years before the citizens of the Cumberland Valley would watch the swaggering soldiers of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia pass through the area as they headed north to Carlisle before turning south again on their way to a major defeat at the hands of the Federal army at Gettysburg early on July 1-3, of 1863. Throughout their foray into the state of Pennsylvania, Confederate soldiers helped themselves to produce, whiskey, wagons, horses, mules and other farm animals owned by the local citizens, though at General Lee's instance, payed for them in Confederate dollars. Waynesboro miraculously escaped the brunt of Rebel activity, or so it seemed, until General Ewell's retreating column crossed South Mountain at Fairfield gap and then marched through the city before turning south on its way to Hagerstown where they re-crossed the Potomac. As the defeated and exhausted Confederate Army left the Cumberland, they took much of Waynesboro's livestock and produce with them.⁶ One of the members of the Royer family, who lived near-by, reportedly suffered a heart-attack and died due to stress brought about by the loss of all of his horses and most of his farm animals at the hands of the hungry and increasingly

⁴ Information supplied by the Waynesboro Historical Society in correspondence of August 2, 1998.

⁵ Burial Records for the Emmert Cemetery in Franklin Grove, were supplied by the Lee County, Illinois, Historical Society.

⁶ Information supplied by the Waynesboro Historical Society in correspondence of August 2, 1998.

opportunistic Rebel army.⁷ Worthless Confederate money offered little consolation to those whose livelihood ended up as booty for an invading army.

Our knowledge about Daniel and Susan's children varies greatly. Based upon cemetery records, we do know their youngest daughter, **Susan Elizabeth**, died on April 1, 1869 at sixteen years of age and is buried near her parents. The youngest son, **John W.** married Lucy Hilles but then had his last name legally changed to "Franklin" at some time in the 1870's. He is regarded as a traitor and a rat!! He and his wife had an unknown son and a daughter. In addition to David Henry, Daniel's other son, **Jacob Bixby**, later married Catherine Bachman and made his way to Belleville, Kansas, by 1890. Jacob and his wife had three children, Albert, Clarence and Ida. **Mary Catherine** married Chilian Buck in 1864 and had six children, Emery Allen, Hazel Fern, William, Dorsey Chronister, Ada Blanche, and Nona Ola. **Anna Riddelsbarger**, married Samuel Sollenberger, had two sons, Orville and Arlyn, and two daughters, Ila and Maude, and moved to Fairbury Nebraska, right across the Nebraska state line, from Belleville, Kansas.⁸ Interestingly enough, this is also where my father-in-law, M. D. "Doc" Nutter, was born. His mother's family were also Dunkards and would have, in all likelihood, attended church with the Sollenbergers. It is truly a small world!

There is a great deal of quality information about this period in our families' history proving that Daniel, Jacob and Samuel are brothers. The 1830 Census for Franklin County, PA, shows Josephine Riddlesberger as the head of a household in Washington Township with three sons, one aged between 15-20, one between 10-15, and one between 5-10. This corresponds perfectly to the known ages of Daniel, Jacob and Samuel who would have been 16,14 and 7 at the time. Further evidence comes from handwritten notes found in the Franklin Grove library which describe various members of the Riddlesberger families who moved there from PA. Daniel, Jacob and Samuel and their families are all treated in sequence though there is no explicit mention of any relationship. There are many other indicators as well: the common membership in the German Baptist Church; the use of distinctive Christian names given their children such as "Daniel," "Jacob," "Susan" and the frequently re-occurring name "Emery"; and the fact that Daniel and Jacob were both residing in the same portion of Franklin County, PA before arriving in Lee County. The evidence, therefore, that the three are brothers is quite conclusive. The 1840 Pennsylvania Census shows a Daniel "Ritlesperger" between the ages of 20-29 along with his wife and two small children—corresponding to the ages of David Henry and oldest sister Sarah—as well as a "Jacob Ritlesperger" and his wife, residing in Quincy Township of Franklin

⁷ Royer family Webpage.

⁸ This information came from family notes found in Franklin Grove public library.

County. Quincy and Washington Townships adjoin one another, and it is possible that these tracts of land straddle the dividing line between the townships. This was the case with Foreman land that David Foreman sold to his daughter and son-in-law, Jacob and Hannah Riddlesberger, who in turn sold it to Jonathan Foreman, Jacob's uncle and Hannah's cousin, and who in turn was married to Elizabeth Riddlesberger, a cousin of Jacob. It is a wonder we don't all have three eyes!

The Federal Census of 1860 for Lee County indicates that Josephine Riddlesberger was living with Jacob and his family. Josephine was 77 at the time of the census [having been born in Pennsylvania in 1793]. She died five years later on February 7, 1875, at the age of 82. Like her three sons and many of her grandchildren, Josephine awaits the resurrection in the Emmert cemetery near Franklin Grove, Illinois. Her son, and my ancestor, Daniel, died on December 8, 1888, followed by his wife, Susan, just two years later. All their children had moved away by this time and no known Riddlesberger descendants remain in the Lee County area. Daniel's death was noted in the *Dixon Evening Telegraph* of January 23, 1889, but there was no obituary.

According to the History of Lee County as well as local cemetery records, **Jacob Riddlesberger** was born "of true German ancestors" in Franklin County, PA, on March 30, 1816 and died in Lee County on June 14, 1887.⁹ His wife, **Hannah Foreman** [May 14, 1817-January 22, 1901] was also born in Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of Abraham Foreman, a second cousin, also of German ancestry. They arrived in Lee County in 1845—the year Florida and Texas became states—traveling to the area with a number of Brethren families in a covered wagon from near Hagerstown, Maryland, [Waynesboro, PA, is just about 12 miles northeast of Hagerstown] settling first in Oregon township and then finally settling on the north side of Franklin Grove.¹⁰ At the time, Franklin Grove was but a small hamlet, until the *Chicago and Northwestern Railroad* reached the area in 1854. Jacob and Hannah had four children: **Mary E. (Price), Ann Catherine (Miller), Susan M. (Brecunier), and Daniel F.**—all of whom lived out most of their lives in the Franklin Grove/China Township area. Together with several local German families (the Emmerts and the Lahmans), Jacob and Samuel Riddlesberger and their wives hosted the first meetings of the German Baptist Brethren church in their home soon after their arrival in the area in 1845.¹¹

The Franklin Grove area has been described as "one of the fairest portions of Illinois,"

⁹ History of Lee County, (Chicago: H. H. Hill and Company, 1881), pp. 860 ff. Note, there is no author listed for the volume.

¹⁰ History of Lee County, p. 592. Brethren migration info also needed.

¹¹ History of Lee County, p. 592.

and certainly was a great place to settle. "The creek which flows through it into the Rock River affords much picturesque scenery. Along its banks, in places, the sandstone walls reach a height of fifty feet. The beauty of this stream is unsurpassed, if equaled, by anything in northern Illinois, excepting only a little of the Illinois River. The different varieties of oak, hickory, walnut, elm, cherry, maple, and the soft woods except pines were found here in large trees by the settlers. Much of the large timber has been cut off, and some of the ground is now tilled, but the area of the grove by the growth of young trees has been increased. For several years after the pioneers came deer were seen in the grove; there were also a few wild cats. Prairie wolves and badgers were numerous. The bluffs along the creek contain much valuable building material."¹² As a prominent early settler of China Township, the local history recounts that Jacob Riddelsbarger was "reared a farmer. He had very limited means of procuring an education, though by close observation and extensive reading he has gained a fair business education on all subjects. Pertaining to practical business he is one of our best posted men. In the fall of 1837 he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Foreman....After his marriage Mr. Riddelsbarger engaged in a mixed business of farming, butchering and saw-milling till 1845, when he came to Lee County, justly believing that on the broad, beautiful prairies of Illinois he would find ample room to bring into practice that early training which has characterized his principles through life. After his arrival here he at once bought a farm and engaged in farming and stock-raising, living on his first farm thirty years, and then fulfilled a long-cherished desire to see settled on the old home one of his children. He sold out to his son-in-law, Mr. J. L. Miller, and built for himself a residence on a little farm of eleven acres near Franklin Grove, and is now enjoying the blessings which result from a life of industry and conscientious living....Mr. Riddelsbarger and family are members of the German Baptist church, an organization for which he has given liberally."¹³

According to the 1870 census for China Township, Jacob's son, **Daniel F.** [1845-1918] was a local printer, but for a time was an engineer in Chicago. Daniel F. married Miss Mary A. Bailey [1846-1926] and had two known children, a son and a daughter. They are both buried in the Franklin Grove cemetery. Their oldest son, **Elson B. Riddelsbarger**, also remained in the area, and according to the *Dixon Evening Telegraph* [October 28, 1930], though he was detained "against his will" for two years in the county slammer under the watchful eyes of Sheriff Ward Miller! Elson was arrested for refusing to report the details of his accounting of the estate of his late father, Daniel F., and disobeying a court-order to give full disclosure. He was not released

¹² Where did I get this?

¹³ History of Lee County, p. 860. Both Jacob "Riddelsberger" and his brother Samuel appear in an 1868 subscription list for the *Christian Family Companion*, a Brethren publication. See Brethren Roots, Vol. 31, Winter 1999, num. 4., p. 76.

until other relatives raised an amount equal to that which the court determined was due the estate. Elson's wife, the former Ida A Maronde, died at the age of 79, on January 3, 1947 in Como, in Whiteside County, Illinois—just to the west of Lee County. Ida was born near Chicago in 1867 and moved to the area as a child, and was married to Elson on September 2, 1888. They outlived two sons, Warren and Paul [who died of Tuberculosis at age 19] and were the last of the Riddlesbargers still residing in the area. Elson lived to age 87, also dying in Como, Illinois in November of 1954.

One of Jacob's daughters, **Mary E. Riddlesbarger**, was born in 1840 and married a **Mr. David M. Price**—"Price" [German, "Priesz"] was a common and prominent name in German Baptist Brethren circles—and died on March 25, 1880, at the young age of 40 years, 5 months, 5 days. She is buried in the Emmert Cemetery near her parents. Mary's children, Lester, Beryl and Gertie are mentioned in Jacob Riddelsbarger's will. Her sister **Susan Maria**, was born near Hagerstown, in Maryland (which is right across the state line from Franklin County, PA), on May 25, 1843 and died in Franklin Grove many years later on May 14, 1929, at age 85. She too is buried in the Emmert Cemetery. On February 22, 1863 she married Peter L. Brecunier (born in Huntingdon County, PA on February 14, 1834), and together they had two sons, Quimby A. and Byron L. According to her obituary "she became a member of the Brethren Church in June 1864, and lived a consistent Christian life." Her husband Peter, was "one of the most successful farmers" in the area, eventually purchasing a farm of some 205 acres, one "of the model farms of Ashton township." The Brecuniers were also Brethren.

Ann Catherine Riddlesbarger, born in Franklin County, PA. on April 27, 1841, married a Mr. Jacob L. Miller, on December 18, 1860. According to the Lee County history, Jacob Miller was "among the few young men who came to Lee County poor and without means many years ago, and have since by industry, hard work and close attention to business, became wealthy, prosperous and comfortably established in life. He is a son of Samuel and Mary (Lahman) Miller, and was born [as was his wife] in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1835." Jacob Miller eventually bought out his father-in-law Jacob Riddelsbarger, and together he and his wife had four children, two of whom, Elmer E. and Orvil P., were still alive in 1881, when the history of Lee County was written. The Millers were likewise, members of the German Baptist Church. There are, apparently, Miller and Brecunier descendants still living in the Franklin Grove area.

One interesting anecdote involves the very grizzly murder in the fall of 1847, of a Mr. Moody Thompson and his friend Olig Gamerson, two local residents both found dead in their cabin with their heads split open by an axe. According to local accounts their money chest "was found broken open and rifled of its contents. Gold coin to the amount of \$60 or \$70 was found remaining in the chest. Wednesday evening Thompson had been to Mr. Riddelsbarger's to get a bag of corn. He was not seen alive after this; but one feed for his hogs seemed to have been

taken out of the bag of corn....Considerable effort was made to find the criminal or criminals, but the perpetrator of the crime has never been found, and a veil of mystery hangs over the horrible deed."¹⁴ Thus Jacob Riddelsbarger was the last to see them alive and this certainly must have been a horrific shock to him and to his family.

Samuel Riddlesberger was born July 1, 1823, also in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. His wife **Mary A. Foreman**, also a second cousin and sister of Jacob's wife Hannah, was born in Pennsylvania on January 14, 1824. In 1854, he purchased some 40 acres of land from the State of Illinois for the whopping price of \$3.50 per acre, and lived next door to brother Jacob, according to the 1878 map of China Township. According to census and cemetery records Samuel and Mary were quite prolific. Some thirteen children were born to them, all in Illinois after they moved west from Pennsylvania in the 1840's. These include; Joseph, William, John, Sarah, Hannah, Lydia and Emery. But Samuel and Mary also knew great sorrow as five of their children died quite young: **Marcus**—d. May 3, 1866 at 5 years of age; **Josephine**—d. September 10, 1846, 1 year old; **Ann E.**—d. January 25, 1849, 1 year old; **Mary G.**—d. June 5, 1851, 1 year old; and **Emma J.**—August 11, 1863, 6 years of age; all are buried in the Emmert cemetery near their parents.

Joseph S. [1848-1930], Samuel's oldest son, married Miss Ellen E. Cruey [1856-1939] in December of 1873. It is also quite likely that during the Summer of 1870, Joseph worked as a farm-hand on the farm of **David Henry Riddelsbarger**, as the 1870 census for Marion Township, Marshalltown, Iowa, indicates that a "Joseph Riddlesbarger," then 22 years of age, lived with David Henry's family serving as a "farm laborer." According to the "handwritten notes," Joseph's wife, Ellen, was a resident of Marshalltown, and the two apparently met while Joseph was working for his cousin, David Henry. Joseph and Ellen returned to Franklin Grove in 1906, and took in two young men [Andrew Naylor and Roy Plowman] who were "partially adopted." Joseph lived to the ripe old age of 82! He and his wife are also buried near Joseph's siblings in the Emmert cemetery.

Marriage records indicate that Samuel's youngest son, **Emery N. Riddlesbarger** [born 1857] was wed to a Miss Mary I. Powelson [April 15, 1869-September 8, 1916]. Mary died quite young [47] and is buried in the Franklin Grove cemetery. After his wife's death, Emery moved first to Reiback, Iowa, and then later to Washington. They had three children, sons Glen S. and Wilbur P. and daughter Netha. Another of Samuel's sons, John H. married Almira Baldwin and had three unknown sons and a daughter, Edna. He too moved to Iowa and died in 1922. Nothing is known of Samuel's son **William**. Three of Samuel and Mary's daughters, **Lydia** [Ella], **Hannah** and **Sarah** all married local men. Lydia, who lived to age 98, married Frederick Trottnow, and had two sons, Ivan and Kenneth. Hannah married O. E. Orner and had no children. Sarah married

¹⁴ History of Lee County, p. 581.

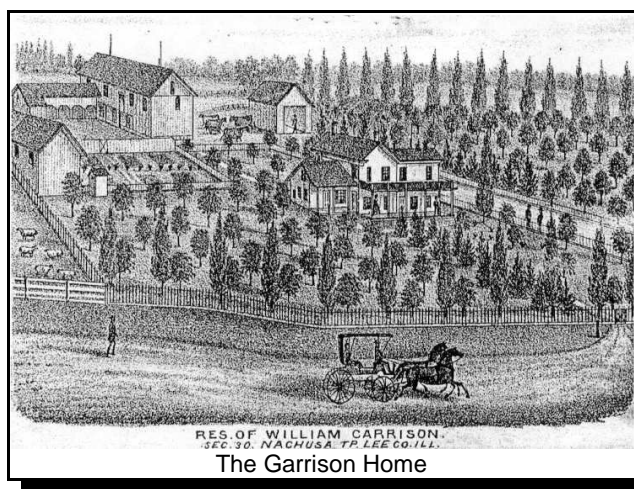
Lewis Meyers and had five children, an unknown son, Ralph, Charles, Verna, and Mary.

One interesting “tidbit” surfaced in the historical record at this point. According to Lee County marriage records, Samuel Riddlesbarger married a “Susan L. Wolf,” on December 16, 1897, nearly two years after his wife Mary’s death in 1896. What is interesting about this is that the 1870 census lists a certain “Susan Wolf”—twenty years younger than Samuel—as a resident in the Riddlesbarger home. When Samuel Riddelsbarger married Susan Wolf twenty-eight years later, he was 74 years old and his blushing young bride was 55! According to the local newspaper account [The Evening Telegraph of December 10, 1897] “a charivari party made the night hideous until the old gentleman gave up a few dollars as a treat.” Charivari parties were a form of playful hazing in which newlyweds were tormented by friends and family, and the whole things sounds like great fun! Cemetery records and his obituary indicate that the “old gentleman” died just over a year later and I will resist the temptation to speculate about the manner and circumstances of his death! I can just hear my mother calling him “an old goat” rather than an “old gentleman”!

The Garrisons of Lee County

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of my research into our history was the discovery of family roots and long-lost cousins that I never knew we had. The discovery of our family’s connection to the Garrison family of Lee County was another most pleasant surprise. None of the living Riddlebargers that I spoke to even recall hearing the Garrison name in connection with the Riddlebargers, though the evidence shows that a hundred years ago, we were very closely connected—for the Garrison’s bequeathed to the Riddlebargers their daughter and my great-great grandmother, **Elizabeth Elenor Garrison**.

According to Harriet Garrison’s obituary, **William Garrison** and his wife **Amelia** were both born in Pennsylvania and arrived in Lee County in 1845, “having traveled overland by team, bringing with them their seven children the eldest being at the time ten years of age. Their route at times was through dense forests or over open uncultivated prairies. Mr. Garrison obtained a tract of land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. With characteristic energy he began its development and converted it into



productive fields from which he gathered good crops that enabled him to provide a comfortable living for his family” [The Evening Telegraph, Dixon Illinois, Friday, October 3, 1930].

William Garrison was born on July 22, 1813 in Luzerne County, PA. William was one of twelve children born to Matthias Garrison [b. October 30, 1777, d. December 4, 1855] and Susannah Seely, who was born on February 24, 1784 and died on September 14, 1828 at the young age of 44. Garrison descendants can trace their roots back through the Seely family back to England in the 1560's. **Amelia Oman Garrison**, was born near Lightstreet in Northumberland (now Columbia) County, PA on January 31st 1811, and she and William were married the day after Christmas in 1833. Amelia Oman is the daughter of Peter Oman and Susanna Hilborn. Her father was born on January 26, 1772, in Wawarsing [Ulster County] New York, was baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church of which he remained a life-long member. Finally, another Reformed believer in the family!!! Peter moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, after the death of his wife, who was born in Greensburg PA, and who died on New Years' Day 1840 in Columbia County, PA., having giving birth to twelve Oman children! Peter Oman's father, George [Jurrijie] Oman [s], likely arrived in America from Germany sometime before 1770, and fought in the Revolutionary War with Militia regiments from Pennsylvania and possibly New York. Peter's mother, Maria Mack, hailed from Columbia County, PA. Nothing is known of her date of birth or her death.

The Garrisons originally moved to prairie land in Ogle County (north of Dixon, Ill), which was later sold to William Garrison's older brother, Matthias. On this farm was a sawmill and chair factory, and Garrison descendants were boasting as late as the 1930's of still having furniture that was made there. Eventually, William Garrison purchased land from the federal government—paying a whopping \$1.25 for each of some 80 acres—on the Grand Detour-Nascua Road near Franklin Grove, establishing the family home where William lived until his death in 1883. A line drawing of this striking home and grounds is found in the History of Lee County. Amelia died on December 27th, 1870, at the age of 59, likely of heart disease. According to her obituary she was “the mother of fourteen children, she lived to see nine of them grown up to adult years—four sons and five daughters, and to see most of them settled in this life, and making preparation for the life to come. The other five died in infancy, and awaited her coming to the other shore—as a wife and mother she endeavored to discharge well the responsibilities of her station, and her memory is fondly cherished, and her loss deeply mourned by a large circle of relations. She was converted to God in early life and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in which she continued a faithful, devoted member till removed as we totally trust to the church triumphant on high. Her last sickness was short and her sudden departure unexpected to many of the friends, but from the first attack of the disease she felt sure that her work was done. She gave all into the hands of Jesus, and patiently, we may say *gladly*, waited her final release” [Dixon Telegraph and Herald, Thursday, January 19, 1870]. She is buried in the Girton cemetery next to

William, who died on April 3, 1883. William subsequently married Lucinda Shute on October 15, two years after Amelia's death, though little if anything is known of her.

Census records of 1850 from Ogle County mention the names of eight Garrison children, John (1835-1893), Peter (1837-1917), George L. (1839-1909), Hester A. (1840-1897), Hannah (1842-1902), **Elizabeth E.** (1843-1905), William II (1847-1899), and Harriet E (1848-1930). Garrison relatives identified another daughter, Martha, who was born in 1852, and who died in 1923, and who is not mentioned in the census. Several of them are of particular interest to us: Elizabeth, of course; John and Peter; who served in the 75th Regimental Infantry during the Civil War; and Harriet E, who is one of our most notable ancestors.

John Garrison was born on July 29, 1835 in Columbia County, PA. John married Mirandia Depuy and together they had ten children. She died in 1890, her husband died on July 7, 1893 of heat stroke. Along with his brother Peter, John served in the 75th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was composed entirely of Lee County boys [minus the Brethren pacifist David Henry Riddelsbarger!]. The 75th was organized in Dixon on September 2, 1862 and was in fierce combat just under a month later. The unit was first involved in the hot pursuit of Confederate General Braxton Bragg's army then escaping from Kentucky. Attached to what became known as the Army of the Cumberland, the 75th Illinois saw action in the battles of Perryville (under Union General Don Carlos Buell), Wilson's Creek, Stone's River, Chickamauga (under General Rosecrans), Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta (under General Sherman), and then finally, in operations against John Bell Hood and Nathan Bedford Forrest immediately before the war's end (under George Thomas). The regiment suffered a total of 205 casualties [97 dead], one of them being **Peter Garrison**, who was shot in the thigh when he and the members of company "G" engaged rebels units at close range during the battle of Perryville, in Kentucky. According to unit records during the battle, some 75 of "G" company's 90 men were either killed or wounded during what was their very first engagement. According to veteran's records, John Garrison was hospitalized twice, once in Lebanon, Kentucky, shortly after the unit's first engagement in October of 1862, and again a second time in May of 1863, when his unit was in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He was finally mustered out in of the army in December of 1863. Peter became quite ill while recovering from his wound and he was mustered out in April of 1863. Though he eventually recovered to live a long and healthy life, his obituary mentions that the bullet buried in his thigh surfaced in the skin above his knee many years later and was still giving him problems when he died.

After the war, Peter married Miss Sally Thomas [also of Pennsylvania] on Christmas day, 1867. In 1869, they purchased a farm in Reynolds Township [Lee County], moving later to Portland, Oregon, and then finally to Azusa, California. Peter and Sally had four sons [two of whom served in the US Army Air Corps during WW I] and two daughters [I do not know their

names]. Peter died of kidney failure on May 19, 1917, after a six-week deer hunting trip in the local mountains with his four sons. It is hard to imagine finding enough deer in our local mountains to occupy five hunters for six weeks, but then again, times have changed! Peter was a prominent member of the Azusa Methodist Church and is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Covina, CA. This is the same cemetery where Albert and Paulina Riddlesbarger, and George and Cora Chamberlen are also buried. Ironically, Peter's sister, Dr. Harriet Garrison, was planning to come to California to celebrate his 80th birthday, when she received news of his death.

My great-great grandaunt, **Harriet E. Garrison** is certainly one of the most noteworthy members of our extended family. According to the second volume of the published history of Lee County (1914), "among the more successful physicians of Dixon is Dr. Harriet E. Garrison, who was born in Lee county on October 28, 1848....Dr. Garrison was trained to the usual household duties but the parents were ambitious to give their children good educational opportunities and she was anxious to take advantage of such. Accordingly she supplemented her public-school course by study at Mount Morris, Illinois, [a Brethren college] and also in the Rock River Seminary. By this time she had determined to engage in the practice of medicine and pursued her studies at the Women's Medical College of Chicago, from which she graduated with the class of 1876. She also took a six month's hospital course and thus gained the broad knowledge and



Harriet E. Garrison

experience which only hospital service can bring. On the 5th of October, 1876, Dr. Garrison came to Dixon and opened an office and has since engaged in practice here, although she went to new York city in 1890 and again in 1891 for post graduate work. In this and other ways she has continually broadened her knowledge and increased her skill. She traveled in Europe with a party of physicians in 1897. She was the only general practitioner among them and when Dr. Senn, a noted surgeon of Chicago, became ill she was called upon to attend him. Her trip was for the purpose of attending the International Medical Association at Moscow, Russia, and in 1900 Dr. Garrison again went abroad attending the International Medical Association at Paris. She has attended five different meetings of the American Medical Association and she is also a member of the Lee County and the Illinois State Medical Societies. She has largely specialized in the treatment of diseases of children

and is a recognized authority on many points relative thereto. Articles which she has written have appeared in various leading medical journals of the county and many prominent men of the

profession have borne testimony as to their merits. She has ever held to the highest professional standards and step by step has advanced to a conspicuous, prominent and honorable position in the ranks of the medical profession in Illinois" [Frank B. Stevens, History of Lee County, Vol II, 302-306]. As her obituary notes, "she is the last member of a large family," and after her death at age 82 on October 3, 1930, she was buried in the Garrison family cemetery [Girton] east of Dixon.



Peter, Elizabeth, Harriet and George Garrison at the September, 1901 Garrison family reunion held at the old Garrison home