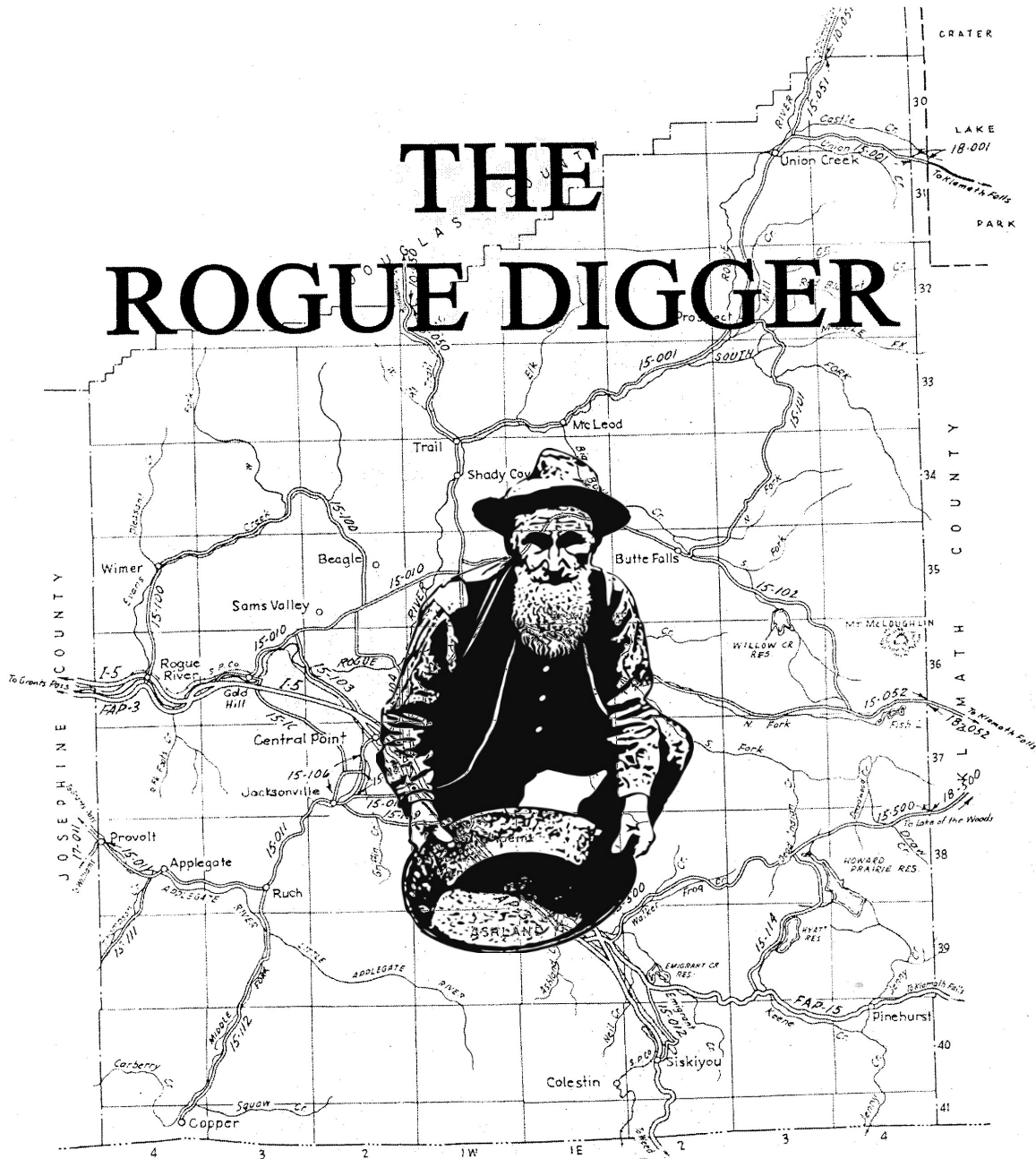


THE ROGUE DIGGER



ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Second Prize Winner
Second Annual RVGS Writing Contest
May 2011

Note: Although every attempt was made to reproduce this entry accurately, some minor changes have been made to layout and formatting of the contents. The original of this entry, the first-prize winner, and the four honorable mention entries can be seen at the Jackson County Genealogical Library, 95 Houston Rd., Talent, Oregon, OR 97535-1468 or on the society's website, <http://www.rvgsociety.org>

EISHYSHOK

by Steve Kious

Eishyshok was the name of the town in Lithuania where my Jewish grandmother was from. This is the story of the town (called a *shtetl* in Yiddish) and what happened to the Jews who lived there during World War II, and of those who left before the war or escaped during the massacre which occurred there in September 1941.

There are other variant Yiddish spellings of the town, as well as the Lithuanian version (Eisiskes) and the Polish version (Ejszyski).

The history of Eishyshok began in 1065, when the legendary Lithuanian military commander Eisys helped recapture some of the territories that had been seized by a Russian prince. As a reward for his bravery, Eisys was granted land in a clearing in the forest. He built a town there and named it Eisiskes after himself. It was among the earliest settlements in the region of Lida and Vilna, which is the capital of Lithuania and is located about 40 miles from Eishyshok.

The existence of Jewish tombstones in the Old Cemetery bear dates as early as 1097 -- over nine centuries ago (1). The Jewish community in Eishyshok lived under all the various governments that had fought for control of it over the centuries: Lithuanian, Polish, German, Russian, and Soviet (2). My grandmother read and spoke Yiddish (her native tongue), Hebrew, and Polish, and learned English after she immigrated to the United States.

Numerous sayings about Eishyshok indicate it was famous for being obscure. Well into the twentieth century it was the town you named to make a point about something being remote, or primitive, or old-fashioned -- the Eastern European Jewish equivalent of Podunk.

For example, a common Yiddish proverb to describe those who lost their way said that they were "farkrokh in Eishyshok" -- lost in Eishyshok (3).

A fire in 1895 virtually destroyed all of the town. Germans occupied the town during World War I and were friendly towards the Jews, a situation that fatally changed during World War II. They left in 1918. In 1921 the town became a municipality of the newly created independent state of Poland (4).

During World War II, the German Einsatzgruppen, or "Action Groups," murdered an estimated 1.5 million men, women, and children across Eastern Europe at hundreds of killing sites. They were composed of the German SS and police and were aided by local auxiliaries. The Einsatzgruppen went to town after town, village after village, killing Jews one bullet at a time. But this system of killing was deemed too inefficient -- it was considered a waste of bullets -- and resulted in the invention of the death camps, which first became operational in 1942. The Einsatzgruppen continued their killing practices throughout the war (5).

The German army occupied Eishyshok in June 1941. In a two-day period from September 25-26, the Germans killed over 5,000 Jews from Eishyshok and surrounding villages. It was reported that of that number, 3,446 Jews were from Eishyshok. The men were killed on the first day, which coincided with Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), and the women and children on the second day. Thirty-six Jews managed to escape. German documents state that they killed 137,346 Lithuanian Jews between July 4 and November 25, 1941 (6).

The killing strategy of the Eishyshok Jews was similar to what occurred in the other towns. The men were killed first, then the women and children. Everyone had to undress first, then were herded naked into a deep trench, where they were machine-gunned. A layer of lime and then topsoil was placed over the bodies, and then the next group of victims was executed (7).

Eishyshok's rabbi was kept alive in order to witness the murder of thousands of people from his beloved flock. Finally, the rabbi himself was killed. According to some eyewitness accounts he was shot. According to others, a machine gun was fired over his head and he was then buried alive. Nine centuries of tradition had come to an abrupt end. Today not a single Jew lives in Eishyshok. The town's synagogue sits abandoned (8).

Local townspeople reported seeing the ground moving for several days. Some people were still alive (9).

One man -- Zwi Michaeli, who was 16 years old at the time -- survived because his father shielded him from the bullets by falling on top of him in the mass grave. Once darkness fell and everything was silent, the man crawled out of the open grave. He walked shivering in the night, stopping at several houses to ask for shelter. Everywhere he was told, "Jew, go back to the grave where you belong." Finally, he was given shelter by a woman who lived in a farmhouse about two miles from the village (10).

Dr. Yaffa Eliach was four years old when the massacre occurred in Eishyshok. She survived with her family by hiding in caves, pigsties, and barn rafters with her family, then returned to the village after it was liberated in 1944 and witnessed the murder of her mother and baby brother by partisans in the Polish Home Army. Soon after, her father was arrested and thrown in a Russian jail on what she says were trumped-up theft charges made by the men responsible for her mother's murder. She emigrated to Israel, then to the United States (11).

More than 200 of Eliach's relatives died in the massacre. In 1993 Eishyshok still remained home to the Polish woman who saved Eliach from the Nazis, as well as the Polish man who killed her mother and baby brother. Eliach says the former neighbor didn't want Jews to reclaim their property (12).

In 1993 the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum opened in Washington, D.C. One of the exhibits is called the "Tower of Life." Over a period of years, Dr. Eliach collected over 1,600 photographs of the residents of Eishyshok. The photographs are displayed on the walls of a soaring, three-story space. I submitted a photograph of Leah Radowsky, my grandmother's sister, and Leah's daughter, Bashe Frenkel, who were killed in the massacre.

© KIDUS - LEAH & BASHA RADOWSKY.JPG

Page



Leah Radowsky and Leah's daughter Bashe Frenkel

In 1997, Dr. Eliach and a group of Eishyshok survivors and their family members returned to the town after over a 50-year absence. Included in the group were Zwi Michaeli, who came from Israel, and Abe Asner, cousin of actor Ed Asner, whose family was from Eishyshok. A remarkable documentary entitled "There Once Was A Town" aired on PBS in 2000 and chronicles their journey.

Dr. Eliach visited her grandmother's house where her mother and baby brother were killed and relived the emotional incident, pointing to the spot on the floor where her mother and brother had died. Zwi Michaeli had been hidden for a few years after the massacre in the home of a non-Jewish family. Their 6-year-old daughter, named Genya, had brought his food to him. In the documentary, Zwi managed to locate Genya in a nearby town and they experienced a tearful reunion (13).

In 1998, Dr. Eliach published a 697-page book entitled "There Once Was A World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok." The book is dedicated to all of the martyrs of Eishyshok murdered during the Holocaust and the post-liberation period.

Many Holocaust survivors created memorial books about the specific areas in which they lived. They are called *yizkor* books. There is such a book for Eishyshok.

My grandmother, Rebecca Goodman, was born Nov. 9, 1879 in Eishyshok. Her sister, Leah Radowsky, was born there in 1874. They were the daughters of Shlomo and Majassah Becker. At that time Eishyshok was part of czarist Russia. Pogroms were widespread and caused many Jewish people to immigrate.

Rebecca and her first husband, whose name is unknown, immigrated to the United States in 1901 -- "the year President McKinley was shot" -- as she used to say. They lived on the East Coast and moved to Denver after her husband contracted tuberculosis. He was a patient of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society. After he died, she married Henry Goodman (1871-1946), who was the son of Jewish-Polish-Russian immigrants. He was born in New York City and raised in Boston before moving to Denver. Rebecca and Henry were married on January 23, 1906 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

This was also Henry's second marriage. He first married Annie Cohen, a Russian-Jewish immigrant, on January 21, 1900 in Denver. They had three daughters: Beatrice, or "Tootsie" (1901-1982), Dorothy (1904-2002), and Katie, who died in 1904 at the age of eight months. Their divorce was filed in August 1905 and according to the divorce papers, Henry was a perpetrator of domestic violence. He was asked to pay \$5 a week for child support. Dorothy told me that her mother had run off with a man named Harry Wagner and had abandoned her and Beatrice. She said that she and her sister, Beatrice, were raised in an orphanage because Colorado laws wouldn't allow them to be raised by a single father. She said that Mother Shephard raised her for five years in New Mexico before she could return home. A sentence in one of Henry's notebooks states that he took Beatrice home with him on March 1, 1906, shortly after he married Rebecca. It is unknown when Dorothy returned home.

Dorothy said that Henry took Rebecca to a dance after knowing her for only a week. When Henry asked someone else to dance, Rebecca became jealous and tapped him on his shoulder. It appears that they got married after a whirlwind courtship.

Henry's various occupations included being a printer, a photographer, and the owner of a curio shop. The family home was located at 1560 Hooker Street in Denver, where they lived for many years. Henry and Rebecca produced three children: Mamie (1906-1938), who was born nine months and a week after her parents' marriage, Samuel "Spots" (1908-1963), and Edith "Buzzie" (1914-2009), who was my mother.

Dorothy had some interesting anecdotes. An Indian named Pedro lived outside on their property. He worked for Henry and posed in photos. In 1908 Rebecca's nephew, Samuel Radow (1892-1961), immigrated to the United States and came to live with them. He was the son of Leah Radowsky and chopped off the "sky" on his name. He worked as an apprentice printer to Henry.

Dorothy said that when Samuel moved in with them, all of the neighbors came to see the "greenhorn." He reportedly ate a banana without peeling it.

According to his son, Sammy E. Radow (1922-2001), Samuel was paid only \$2 per week and felt that Henry was cheap. Disgusted, he decided to move and his decision was made on the basis of a coin toss -- heads was Portland and tails was New York. The toss came up heads and he moved to Portland.

One can only wonder if Samuel had heard of the story of how Portland was named. In 1851, Francis Pettygrove of Portland, Maine, and Asa Lovejoy of Boston, who each owned half of a 640 acre site, wanted to name the new city after their respective home towns. They decided to flip a coin to determine the city's name. Pettygrove won two out of three tosses.

I only met my grandmother twice. The second time occurred when I was five years old and my mother and I traveled from our home in Oakland to Denver to visit her. At that time my grandmother had had both legs amputated due to diabetes and was confined to a wheelchair. I can remember that she spoke in a Yiddish accent and offered me a chicken sandwich that she had hidden in her wheelchair.



Sometimes in genealogical research you get a lucky break. My mother had never asked her mother about her family history

so I thought I had reached a dead end. The only items that provided a clue to where my grandmother was from were two old envelopes addressed to my grandmother and mailed to her from her sister, Leah Radowsky. One was postmarked 1937 from Ejszyszki and had Polish stamps on it. Also helpful was a picture postcard dated 1913 from Portland. It was mailed to my grandfather in Denver and was signed "S. Radow." This was what led me to discover Samuel Radow's son, Sammy, who lived in Clackamas, Oregon. We first met in 1986 and he provided me with family history and other documents which proved to be invaluable.

I learned that Yankel David Radowsky, the husband of Leah, had died in 1906. He had four brothers who immigrated to South Africa in 1907. Samuel's sister, Miriam, who later married Abraham Brower, also immigrated there.

Over a period of time I corresponded with descendants of these people -- Dorothy Goodman of South Africa, Ann Jonas of England, and Ann Achron of Israel. I got to meet Dorothy when she visited her Oregon relatives in 1990.

Ann Achron wrote me an interesting letter regarding her history. She was born in 1912 in Olkenik, a small town near Eishyshok. In 1920 her family moved to Alitus, then Lithuanian and in 1987 a part of Soviet Russia. In 1926 her family moved to South Africa. In 1973 Ann settled in Israel.

The names of my relatives who were killed in the Eishyshok massacre were Leah Radowsky, her daughter, Bashe Frenkel, age 36, Bashe's two daughters, Sarah, age 14, and Dorothy, age 13, and Joseph Radowsky, Samuel's brother. I corresponded and talked on the phone with Benjamin Frenkel, Bashe's husband, who survived the massacre.

I also corresponded with Melissa Crane, whose family was also from Eishyshok. In 1999 she visited the town. She said that the men's grave is marked with a boulder. The women's grave is located in a prairie with a white picket fence around it. She accompanied a group led by Abe Asner. Melissa said that Benjamin Frenkel told her that he had escaped the massacre by hiding in the woods. He eventually made his way to the United States and lived in Hollywood. He died in 2005 at the age of 100.

In 1988 I corresponded with Z. Tinsky of Jerusalem, Israel, to ask him if he knew anything about my family. He didn't but he wrote: "I myself came to Israel a year before World War II in 1938 and we, the Eishishok people, got together and organized a free loan association named after the 'Martyrs of Eishishok.' We lend money interest free. This form of benevolence is our tribute to the memory of the fallen. It has the official government sanction. If you are interested in this may you be blessed."

The Eishshok Society in Brooklyn holds regular memorial meetings for relatives who perished during the Nazi occupation.



During the close of World War II and afterward, Jewish people wanted to know if they could learn the fate of what happened to their relatives in Europe. One method of doing this was to send an "enquiry form" to the Red Cross, who were keeping lists of survivors. Mariam Brower, the daughter of Leah Radowski, sent this form to the Cape Branch of the South African Red Cross Society on April 12, 1944. On this form Mariam provided basic information: her mother's name and date and place of birth, and the names of Leah's parents -- Shlomo and Majassah Becker (who would also be my great-grandparents). It is unknown if she received a response.

However, the fate of Leah and other relatives was subsequently learned.

A letter dated September 14, 1953 -- 12 years after the massacre -- from Samuel Radow to his sister Miriam describes his anguish after he had learned of their fate:

"I was glad to hear from you, it is (sic) been long time since I seen you. Sorry, and forgive me dear Sister Mariana. In Yiddish I can read and I do understand. I read your letters a dozen times to get the meaning. I finally got the definition word by word. I still understand Hebrew and Yiddish. We never use Yiddish, all English. Our heart goes out for our dear mother Leia (sic) and two brothers and little sister and her daughters and her fine husband. It was shock to us. We tried to send Care packages to them. It was no use it could not reach there, it was under Nazi government. Over here a wonderful country, democratic, a God's place. God Bless America. Freedom for all, no race prejudice."

FOOTNOTES

- 1) Yaffa Eliach, "There Once Was A World: A Nine-Hundred-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok," Little, Brown and Company, 1998, p. 16.
- 2) Eliach, *ibid*, p. 3.
- 3) Eliach, *ibid*, p. 15
- 4) Ellen Livingston, "Tradition and Modernism in the Shtetl Aisheshuk, 1919-1939," Princeton University Press, 1986.
- 5) "Hitler's Hidden Holocaust: the Einsatzgruppen," aired August 8, 2009 on the National Geographic Channel.
- 6) Eliach, *ibid*, p. 575-594.
- 7) "Hitler's Hidden Holocaust: the Einsatzgruppen."
- 8) Eliach, *ibid*, p. 593.
- 9) "Hitler's Hidden Hococaust: the Einsatzgruppen."
- 10) "There Once Was A Town," PBS documentary aired in 2000, WETA, Washington, D.C.
- 11) "Memories Help Put Face On Death," Medford Mail Tribune, January 24, 1999.
- 12) "1,500 Photos Document Life Before the Horrible Selection," USA Today, April 15, 1993.
- 13) "There Once Was A Town."

April 2011

The April 19, 2011 RVGS workshop by Beverly Rice, "Using Timelines," led to the development of the following timeline for John William Whipple, a sometime Jackson County resident.

**Timeline for John William Whipple
1899 - 1958
Son of May Gambel and Eugene William Whipple**

- 1899 Nov 24 Born Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas
 [Return of Marriage, Jackson Co, OR, gives age on date of marriage (5 Sep 1922) as 22 y, 10 m, 11 d.; place as Kansas]
 [New York Passenger List for S.S. Santa Barbara, sailing for Valparaiso, Chile, April 29, 1933, gives date of birth 24 Nov 1899 and place of birth Emporia, Kansas.]
 [World War I Draft Registration Card gives date of birth 24 Nov 1899]
- 1900 June 6 Residing with family in Emporia Twp, Lyon County, KS¹
 Whipple, Eugene Head Aug 1871, 28, marr 5 yrs, b. IA PA ME
 May Wife Oct 1877, 22, mo. 3 liv ch, b. IA PA KS
 Anna Dau May 1896, 4, b. KS IA IA
 Jennie Dau Dec 1897, 2, b. KS IA IA
 John W. Son Nov 1899, 6/12, b. KS IA IA
 David, Frank Servant 1855, 15, single b. KS unk unk
 Gambel, Charles B Inlaw May 1879, 21, single b. KS PA KS
- 1902 Sep 6 Sister Ethel born Corning, Tehama County, CA (see her Return of Marriage info, August 20, 1920.)
- 1908 Sister Minnie born CA (see 1910 census)
- 1909-1910.1 Family moves to Oregon (see father's obituary 26 July 1925)
- 1910 May 3 Residing with family in Williams Pct, Josephine, OR²
 Whipple, Eugene W. Head 38, 1st marr of 15 yrs, b. IA PA ME
 May E. Wife 33, 6 liv ch b. IA IA IN
 Anna M. Dau 14 b. KS IA IA
 Jennie A. Dau 12 b. KS IA IA
 John W. Son 10 b. KS IA IA
 Della A. Dau 8 b. KS IA IA
 Ethel E. Dau 6 b. CA IA IA
 Minnie M. Dau 1 11/12 b. CA IA IA
- 1912 Jun 27 Reside 620 West Eleventh Street, Medford, Jackson, OR with family, age 12
 [Speculation based on info in next entry]

¹ Ancestry.com, database, 1900 United States Federal Census.

² Ancestry.com, database, 1910 United States Federal Census.

1912 Jun 27 Sister Anna May Whipple died.

Gravestone in Eastwood IOOF Cemetery:

“Anna May/Daughter of/E.W. & May E./Whipple/May 12, 1896/June 27,
1912/A Native of Kansas”

Medford Sun, Friday Morning, June 28, 1912:

“Funeral Service for Miss Whipple this afternoon.—

Anna May Whipple, daughter of E. W. Whipple, 620 West Eleventh street, died at the family home yesterday morning. She was 15 years of age. The funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the South Methodist church, corner Oakdale and Main, Rev. Goulder officiating. The Odd Fellows will meet to attend the funeral.”¹

Medford Sun, Saturday Morning, June 29, 1912:

“Funeral Services of Miss Anna M. Whipple.—

The funeral services of Miss Anna May Whipple were held from the South Methodist church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Rev. W. T. Goulder officiating. Interment followed in the I.O.O.F. cemetery. The following young men acted as pallbearers: W. T. Goulder, Jr., W. E. Martin, C. McLain, L. B. Williams, E. J. Nunn and Harry Reineberger.”²

Note: No Death Certificate was found in the RVGS Library collection of photocopied Jackson County Death Certificates from the Oregon State Archives.

Note: Anna Whipple is not listed in the Oregon Death Index at Ancestry.com

1917 May 5 Sister Jennie marries Claude Chapman

Marriage Certificate, Jackson County, OR³

Married at the house of ME South Parsonage by H. M. Branham, Medford, OR,
minister of the gospel.

Witnesses: Virginia McCreight & Thomas T. Engle

Recorded May 8, 1917

“*Medford Sun*, Sunday, May 6, 1917

Mr. Claude Chapman and Miss Jennie Whipple were married at the Oakdale Avenue Methodist parsonage, Saturday at 2:30 p.m., May 5th, the Rev. H. M. Branham officiating. The young couple will live on a farm near Medford where Mr. Chapman is manager.”⁴

1918 Sep 7 World War I Draft Registration Card, Jacksonville, Jackson County, OR⁵

¹ *The Medford Sun*, newspaper abstracts, 20 June 1912-29 June 1913, vol. 2, p. 2, by Ruby Lacy & Lida Childers. RVGS Library 979.527/N298/Med/v.2.

² *The Medford Sun*, newspaper abstracts, 20 June 1912-29 June 1913, vol. 2, p. 3 by Ruby Lacy & Lida Childers. RVGS 979.527/N298/Med/v.2.

³ Jackson County, Oregon Marriage Records, vol. 12, p. 146. Jackson County Clerk's office, Medford, OR

⁴ *The Medford Sun*, newspaper abstracts, 1 May 1917-22 May 1918, vol. 7, p. 2 by Ruby Lacy & Lida Childers. RVGS 979.527/N298/Med/v.7.

⁵ Ancestry.com, database, *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*.

- Laborer on road construction with U.S. Engineer Department at Crater Lake, Klamath County, OR.
- Permanent address 404 N. Grape St., Medford, Jackson County, OR
- Nearest relative E. Whipple, father, 404 N. Grape St, Medford, Jackson County, OR
- Blue Eyes, Light hair; one thumb missing.

1920 Jan 8 Residing with family at 229 N. Ivy, Medford, Jackson County, OR¹ (renting):
 Whipple, Eugene W. Head 48 b. IA PA MA janitor, P.O.
 May E. Wife 42 b. IA IA IN dressmaker at home
 John W. Son 20 b. KS IA IA mechanic. shops
 Ethel E. Dau 16 b. CA IA IA cashier, dept. store
 Minnie M. Dau 11 b. CA IA IA
 Ruth I. Dau 8 b. OR IA IA

1919 guess Sister Della marries Otto J. Briscoe, probably in California
 (They are in 1920 Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA census)
 (This was extrapolated from father's obituary 26 July 1925)

1920 Aug 22 Sister Ethel marries McKinley S. Gentry
 Affidavit for marriage license²:
 "I, May Whipple of Medford...acquainted with McKinley S. Gentry of Jackson
 County, OR and Ethel E. Whipple of Jackson County, OR; former above age 21,
 latter above age 17."
 (signed) Mrs. May Whipple
 August 21, 1920
 "I, May Whipple do hereby give my full and complete consent to the marriage of my
 daughter Ethel E. Whipple to McKinley S. Gentry."
 Mrs. May Whipple

Marriage Certificate³: McKinley S. Gentry & Ethel E. Whipple
 Both of Jackson County, OR
 License Aug. 21, 1920
 Married Aug. 22, 1920 at the house of D. J. Gallanders
 Witnesses: Florence Meligan and James E. Meligan
 Married by D. J. Gallanders, Ashland, OR
 Congregational Minister of Ashland, Jackson County, OR
 Recorded Aug. 24, 1920, Jackson County, OR

Return of Marriage⁴, County of Jackson, City of Ashland, Aug. 22, 1920
 McKinley S. Gentry, res Medford, OR, age 23y, 10m, 24d,
 b. Harrinan, TN [sic for Harriman], orchardist, 1st marriage,
 father b. TN; mother b. TN

¹ Ancestry.com, database, *1920 United States Federal Census*.

² Jackson County, Oregon Marriage Records, vol. 12, p. 466. Jackson County Clerk's office, Medford, OR.

³ Jackson County, Oregon Marriage Records, vol. 12, p. 466. Jackson County Clerk's office, Medford, OR.

⁴ Jackson County, Oregon Clerk's office. Extracted by Anne Billeter in 1980s.

Ethel E. Whipple, res Medford, OR; age 17y, 11m, 15d [Sep 6, 1902]
 b. Corning, Tehama County, CA; clerk, 1st marriage,
 father b. IA; mother b. IA

Medford Mail Tribune, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1920

“Mr. And Mrs. E. W. Whipple announce the marriage of their daughter, Ethel E.,
 to McKinley F. Genry (sic) last Sunday.”¹

1922 Sep 5 Marries Leta Belle Grigsby in Medford, Jackson County, OR

Affidavit for Marriage License²

“W. H. Boren of Junction City, Lane County...is acquainted with J. W. Whipple of
 Jackson County, OR and Leta Belle Grigsby of Jackson County; former above 21,
 latter above age 17. W. H. Boren, Sept. 5, 1922.”

Consent³

“I, Mrs. Mable Grigsby, hereby give my full and complete consent to my daughter’s
 marriage to J. W. Whipple. Dated Sept. 5, 1922 Mrs. Mabel Grigsby.”

Marriage Certificate⁴: Leta Grisby [sic] and Jno. W. Whipple

Both of Jackson County, OR

License Sept. 5, 1922; Married Sept. 5, 1922

At the home of Jouett P. Bray

Witnesses W. H. Boren & Mrs. Maggie Boren

By Jouett P. Bray, minister of the Gospel, M. E. Church South

Filed Sept. 6, 1922, Jackson County, OR

Return of Marriage⁵

J. W. Whipple, res Medford, age 22y, 10m, 11d [24 Nov 1899]

b. KS, machinist, 1st marriage, father b. IA; mother b. IA

Leta Belle Grigsby, res Medford, age 17y, 8m, 4d [1 Jan 1905]

b. Jackson County, OR; housewife, 1st marriage; father b. Medford, Jackson
 County, OR; mother b. CA

Medford Mail Tribune, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1922, p. 8⁶

“Wedding Bells

John Whipple and Miss Leta Grigsby were married today at noon at the
 home of Dr. J. P. Bray. Both young people are well known in Medford, being
 active members in the First Methodist Church South. They will reside at Crater
 Lake, as Mr. Whipple is employed by the government there.”

1923 Daughter Betty L. Whipple born (see 1930 census)

¹ *Mail Tribune*, newspaper abstracts, 3 Apr. 1919-30 Dec 1920, vol. 5, p. RVGS 979.527/N298/Med/v. 5.

² Jackson County, Oregon Clerk’s office. Extracted by Anne Billeter in 1980s.

³ Jackson County, Oregon Marriage Records, vol. 13, p. 95. Jackson County Clerk’s office, Medford, OR.

⁴ Jackson County, Oregon Marriage Records, vol. 13, p. 95. Jackson County Clerk’s office, Medford, OR.

⁵ Jackson County, Oregon Clerk’s office. Extracted by Anne Billeter in 1980s.

⁶ microfilm, Jackson County Library, Medford, OR.

- 1924 Father moved to Los Angeles. (See father's obituary 26 Jul 1925)
- 1925 Jul 16 Father Eugene W. Whipple dies, Los Angeles County, CA (age 53, spouse initials ME)
California Death Index, transcribed by Anne Billeter
- 1925 Jul 26 Father's obituary, *Medford Sun*, Medford, Oregon newspaper
Sunday Morning, July 26, 1925
OBITUARY.—
The funeral services of E. W. Whipple, formerly of Medford, were held Monday, July 20, at 3 p.m. in the undertaking parlors of W.A. Brown, 1335 South Flower street, Los Angeles, Calif. The Rev. Robert Sculer of the Trinity Methodist church, officiated at the services with the I.O.O.F. ceremony at the grave in the Odd Fellows cemetery of Los Angeles.
He was 57 years of age and leaves his wife and six children to mourn his loss, three of whom reside in Medford and three in Los Angeles. Those of Medford include Mrs. Jennie Chapman, Mrs. Ethel Gentry and John W. Whipple; Mrs. Delela (sic) Briscoe and Misses Minnie and Ruth Whipple of Los Angeles.
Mr. Whipple until a year ago had been a resident of Medford for 14 years and was one of the managers of the Valley Fuel company for seven years.¹
- 1925 Sep 17 Son Fred Eugene Whipple born, Medford, Jackson County, OR²
- 1927-28 District superintendent Southern Oregon Gas Co; also volunteer fireman;
Residing 1017 W. 9th St., Medford, Jackson County, OR with wife "Leta B"
*Medford, Oregon City Directory, 1927-1928*³
- 1930 Apr 3 Resides Grants Pass, Josephine County, OR⁴, manager, Gass (sic) Company,
Not a veteran of the U.S. military.
- | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|----|----|----|
| Whipple, John W. | Head rents \$20/mo | age 30, | marr at age 22 | CA | CA | CA |
| Leta B. Wife | | 25, | marr at age 17 | OR | OR | CA |
| Betty L. Dau | | 7 | | OR | CA | OR |
| Fred E. Son | | 4 | | OR | CA | OR |
- 1931 Sep 3 Divorce, Jackson County, OR, Case #JR5066 4964E⁵ Suit filed.⁶
"That defendant, on August 23, 1930, wilfully abandoned and deserted the plaintiff in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, against her will, and without her consent..."
- 1931 Oct 1 Divorce decree signed and filed, Jackson County, OR⁷

¹ *The Medford Sun*, newspaper abstracts, 7 Jan 1923-27 Dec 1925, by Ruby Lacy and Lida Childers, vol. 9, c. 1992. RVGS Library 979.527/N298/Med/v.9.

² see son's 1984 obituary

³ *Medford, Oregon City Directory, 1927-1928*, West Coast Directory Co, Medford, OR. RVGS 979.527 D372 MEDFORD 1927-28

⁴ Ancestry.com, database, *1930 United States Federal Census*.

⁵ Jackson County, Oregon Divorce Index, 1856 – 1949, v.1. RVGS Library 979.527/D395/CHILDERS/VOL. 1

⁶ JR 5066 4964E, Jackson County, Oregon Circuit Court, Divorce. Microfilm, Circuit Court Archives, Medford, OR.

After Oct 1 1931 – Before May 11, 1933 Married Ruth Hopkins **RESEARCH: PANAMA?**

1933 May 11 Embarked at Cristobal, Canal Zone on S.S. Santa Barbara¹

1933 May 17 Arrived at Port of New York on S.S. Santa Barbara²

New York Passenger List

S.S. Santa Barbara sailing from Valparaiso, Chile, April 29, 1933,

Arriving at Port of New York 17, 1933

Passengers Embarking at Cristobal, C.Z., May 11, 1933

Whipple, John W., age 33 yrs, 6 mos, male, married,

b. Emporia, KS Nov 24 1899;

Address in U.S.: 607 Hermosa Av, Redondo Beach, Cal

Whipple, Ruth H. age 28 yrs, 10 mos, female, married,

b. Punxsutauriey, PA July 11, 1904

Hopkins, Myrtle M. age 55 yrs, 9 mos, female, married,

b. Hudson, PA 17 Aug 1878

Address in U.S.: Punxsutawney, PA

1937 Jul 18 Sailed from Balboa, Canal Zone on S.S. Berganger³

1937 Jul 26 Arrived at Port of Los Angeles, CA⁴

List of United States Citizens, S.S. "Berganger"

Whipple, John W., age 37, male, married, b. Nov. 24, 1899, Emporia,

KS; address in United States: 503 Sapphire Str, Redondo, CA

Whipple, Fred E. age 11, male, single, b. Sept. 17, 1926, Medford, OR;

Address in United States: "Same adres." (sic)

1948 Oct 29 Sailed from Cristobal, Canal Zone, First Class on S.S. Ancon⁵

1948 Nov 3 Arrived at Port of New York⁶

List of Passengers, on S.S. "Ancon"

Whipple, John W., age 48, male, married, b. Emporia, KS; destination

in U.S.: Hotel McAlpin, New York City, NY

Whipple, Ruth H., age 44, female, married, b. Punxsutawney, PA;

same destination

1958 Dec 23 Died Panama Canal Zone

Panama Canal Zone, Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Records, 1906-1991⁷

John William Whipple, est. b. yr: 1899; age 59; male, white, US;

c. state: Canal Zone; d. place: Canal Zone

Cremation Date: 29 Dec 1958; Cremains: Next of Kin

Grave number: Ashes to Family/Dec 30 58

Register 30364

¹ Ancestry.com, database. *New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957*.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ancestry.com, database, *Panama Canal Zone, Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Records, 1906-1991*.

Recorded date: 23 Dec 1958
Responsible Person: Ruth Whipple-Wife
Status: Dock Foreman

1984, Nov 19 Son Fred Eugene Whipple died.

Medford Mail Tribune, 20 November 1984, Tuesday.¹

The service for F. Eugene Whipple, 59, of Medford, who died Monday at his home, has been held with Perl with Siskiyou Funeral Services in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Whipple was born 17 Sep 1925 in Medford. On 1 Aug 1952 he married in Panama the former Barbara Brown who survives.

He served in the U. S. Navy, retiring with the rank of Commander. They moved to Medford in 1976. He was a member of the DAV and the Naval Reserve. Survivors, in addition to his wife include two sons, William Lee Whipple, Newport Beach, and Michael Allen Whipple, Long Beach; one sister Betty Gomes, Central Point, and his stepmother, Ruth Hopkins Whipple, Dunedin Florida.

¹ microfilm, Jackson County Library, Medford, OR, extracted by Barbara W. Billeter, November, 1988.

Editor's Note:

Apologies to the author, Anne Billeter. Due to software formatting issues, the editor was unable to present this timeline properly with footnotes sequentially numbered throughout. The editor will endeavor to remedy this problem in future issues.

OREGON MARRIAGES NOW EASIER TO FIND

Until recently there was a huge gap in the indexing of Oregon Marriages, as indexes did not exist for 1925 through 1945, critical years for many researchers and genealogists. Thanks to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, which produced the missing indexes on CD-ROMs, and thanks to the book budget of RVGS, we now have Indexes to Oregon Marriages for 1906 – 2006. The format of the indexes varies, depending on the years:

1906-1924 are on microfilm: 979.5/M177/OR, rolls 1-4

1925-1945 are on CD-ROM: 979.5/M177/Sta, v. 1-4

(The CD-ROMS are currently shelved upstairs; ask a librarian for these. They may be used on any of our 7 public computers.)

1946-1960 are on microfilm: 979.5/M177/OR, rolls 5-7

1961-2006 are on microfiche: Microfiche, Book 4, Oregon Marriages

NOTE 1: The Genealogical Forum indexers pointed out that many Oregon marriages were of people from out of state. If you haven't been able to find a Washington or California marriage (or Idaho or Nevada or ???), maybe they came to Oregon to be married!

NOTE 2: Presently Ancestry.com only has indexes for Oregon Marriages from 1906 – 1920. Come to the Jackson County Genealogy Library (RVGS) to research Oregon Marriages!

JACKSON COUNTY OREGON PROBATE RECORDS

1855-1925

From the beginning (circa 1855) to December 1925, the Probate Records are in Salem at the Oregon State Archives. Those from 1855 through 1920 (ending with file no. 4766) have been microfilmed and are available by rental from the Family History Library at \$5.50 per roll. Through the generosity of Melinda Henningfield, the first 4 microfilm rolls are on permanent loan at JCGL. They are currently stored with the other rental microfilm at the reception desk, but will be cataloged and placed in the microfilm storage cabinet soon. They contain:

Probate Case Files Index, 1853-1920	film # 2111548 item 2
Probate Case Files (Un-numbered files)	film # 2111548 item 1
Probate Case Files no. 1-19	film # 2111548 item 3
Probate Case Files no. 20-46	film # 2111551
Probate Case Files no. 47-74	film # 2111550
Probate Case Files no. 75-105	film # 2111549

We also have combination indexes and abstracts of the unnumbered files (approximately 43) and files no. 1-4094 in a set of 4 books in the JCGL collection:

Jackson County Oregon Wills, Probate, Estate Files, Guardianships, vols. 1-4. (979.527/C597/JAC/v.1-4) These were produced by Ruby Lacy and Lida Childers.

1926-1975

Microfilm of the 1926-1975 probate case files are available in the Jackson County Courts Archives, in the basement of the Justice Building in Medford. (Case File Numbers 4776 through 75-0206P)

1976-present

Cases filed 1976 to date are all hard copy and available in the Jackson County Courts Archives, in the basement of the Justice Building in Medford.

NOTE 1: The numbering of the early probate records had no discernible order, either chronological or alphabetical. Consequently, the indexes are essential in order to find the case file number.

NOTE 2: Probate cases also include conservatorship and guardianship (both of adults and children) cases. These cases often list family members...and often there is NOT a subsequent estate case filed.

NOTE 3: We are exploring methods of obtaining copies of the probate records for JCGL.

NOTE 4: The March 2011 issues of the *Rogue Digger* contain three articles written by Melinda Henningfield that provide a description of probate records available for Jackson County Oregon.