

ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The *Rogue Digger* is a publication of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (www.rvgsociety.org), which is a non-profit organization governed by a fifteen-member Board consisting of elected officers, past president, and appointed directors of the Standing Committees, all with voting rights. A subscription to *The Rogue Digger* is included with membership. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual; additional members in the same household are \$15 each. Membership includes library checkout privileges. Our library website is www.rvgslibrary.org. Background map of Jackson County, OR, and miner's image courtesy RVGS.

*NOTE: THERE WAS NO JUNE 2015 ISSUE.

Editor's Note:

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to present in this issue a trio of research success stories; one from our 2014 membership sharing session, another from our Library Director, and the third from our Mentoring Coordinator.

LAODICEA LANGSTON DAUGHTER OF SOLOMON LANGSTON AND DAUGHTER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By Alice Thomsen



It is an honor to be a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution or Sons of the American Revolution. For anything this worthy you have to do your research and prove your ancestry. You begin with yourself and prove your ancestral line to the relative that was involved in the American Revolution. It may be a distant great-grandfather, great-uncle, great-cousin or great-aunt. For me it was a sixth great-grandfather and his daughter, my sixth great-aunt.

My sixth great-grandfather was Solomon Langston, born in 1732 at Isle of Wight, Virginia. He died in 1825 in Enoree, Laurens County, South Carolina. My sixth great-aunt was Laodicea "Dicey" Langston—born in 1766 at Granville, Laurens County, South Carolina and died in 1837 at Travelers Rest, Greenville County, South Carolina.

The true story I am about to relate is regarding the actions of my sixth great-aunt. The two incidents in this tale saved not only the life of her father on one occasion but also the life of her brother and fellow patriots on another. She performed both of these actions at a high risk of losing her own life.

The Langstons lived in an area that had a heavy concentration of British Loyalists (Tories), which included many Langston relatives. Therefore it was easy for Laodicea to gather information regarding the Tories' plans while amongst family members and report this to the family members who were Patriots (Whigs). The Tories eventually became suspicious of such subterfuge.

A particular band of Loyalists were known as the "Bloody Scouts," led by the notorious Bloody Bill Cunningham. He was noted for riding into a town and killing any Patriots.

On one occasion the Bloody Scouts broke into the home of my great-grandfather, Solomon Langston. They threatened to kill all the Langston men. However, only my grandfather and great-aunt, who was only about 15 at the time, were at home. Grandfather had been crippled by the war and could not do much to defend himself any longer. The Bloody Scouts held him at gunpoint and threatened to kill him. Aunt Laodicea (also known as "Dicey") stepped in front of my grandfather, shielding him with her own body. She told the Bloody Scouts that they would have to kill her first. One of the Scouts was impressed by her bravery and stopped the assault, keeping Dicey and my grandfather from being killed. That Scout's



Miss Langston shielding her father

name was Thomas Springfield. (You will hear about him again shortly.)

On another occasion, Dicey overheard that a band of Bloody Scouts planned to attack the Elder Settlement at Little Eden, South Carolina, at dawn. Dicey set out on foot, during the middle of night, crossing 20 miles of marshes and the swollen Enoree River, almost drowning, in order to give warning to her brother. Despite the many challenges she faced, she made it and was able to warn James. James and his men, in turn, were able to warn the Elder Settlement, and the Bloody Scouts arrived to a totally empty settlement.

After the American Revolution was over, one former Bloody Scout returned to the homestead of Solomon Langston. His name was Thomas Springfield. He eventually married Laodicea “Dicey” Langston. They had 22 children together.



Thomas Springfield house



Dicey’s gravestone



Dicey’s hearth memorial



Hearth memorial and site where Dicey’s home once stood in Travelers Rest, South Carolina.



Memorial plaque

To the credit of Laodicea Langston and her accomplishments are the following:

- ◆ She was accepted by the Daughters of the American Revolution as a Revolutionary herself. This was based on her merits alone and not those of her father—my sixth great-grandfather—Solomon Langston.
- ◆ She was written about in the books *The Patriot Wore Petticoats* and *Angel and the Enemy*, both by Marnie L. Pehrson
- ◆ A Carolinian song, “The Courage of Dicey Langston,” was composed about her. (Original author unknown)



- ◆ A monument known as the Dickey Monument was erected in her honor at Travelers Rest, South Carolina. Its center stone was the hearthstone of Dickey's home there.
- ◆ Langston Charter Middle School, which was named in Dickey's honor, opened in August 2005 in Greenville, South Carolina.



Langston Charter Middle School



Sources:

<http://womenhistory.blogspot.com/2009/04/dickey-langston-springfield.html>

<http://www.diceylangston.com/song.php>

<http://www.diceylangston.com/bloodybill.php>

<http://www.diceylangston.com/womenofrevolution.php>



Song: The Courage of Dickey Langston

Her name was Dickey - just sixteen years
 She was very brave - seem to have no fears
 She stood up for freedom through her father's tears
 In Laurens District, South Carolina

So many Tories and Loyalists around
 Harassing the people - terrorizing the town
 Someone had to stand up and not let them down
 In Laurens District South Carolina

CHORUS:

Many stories of Dickey's been told
 Of the lass so brave and so bold
 Not a Tory or Loyalist could hold
 A candle to Dickey Langston

So one day she overheard a plot that was cruel
 With so many relatives it was easy to fool
 They didn't know Dickey didn't go by their rules
 In Laurens District, South Carolina

So she crossed The Enoree - an American Spy
 To report to the Whigs anything that came by
 By accident heard of a plot coming nigh
 In Laurens District South Carolina

CHORUS

Bloody Bill Cunningham and his Scouts would soon ride
 To kill off some Patriots in a town close by
 She must warn her brother and others to hide
 Away from Little Eden South Carolina

Dickey left in the night crossing marshes and streams
 Twenty miles and a river swollen by recent rains
 She made it to tell her dear brother James
 In Little Eden, South Carolina

CHORUS

So she saved the Patriots lives on that day
 She continued to spy Dickey would have her way
 Even saved her father from the Tories they say
 Near Travelers Rest, South Carolina

©Bernie Griff 2001*Redding, CA (5/24/01)

THE SWIHART FAMILY, IN AND OUT OF JACKSON COUNTY

by Anne Billeter

JCGL received a research request from Minnesota with payment of \$15.00 for one hour's research, requesting information about Bertha (Henningson) Swihart. In particular an obituary was requested, with the note that Bertha died 11 July 1925 and that she resided in Two Mile.

Unfortunately, Two Mile is not in Jackson County. It is in Coos County. Bertha is buried in Bandon, which is two miles south of Two Mile. The patron was informed that the obituary was probably available from the Coos Bay Family History Center and contact information was provided.

Some of the Swihart extended family lived in Jackson County. JCGL is rich in Jackson County research resources, and other genealogical resources are available at JCGL via eight subscription websites and other sites on the Internet.

Mary Ann Ropogle, age 24, and Henry Henningson, age 35 married 26 Jun 1881 in Cook Co., IL. [Ancestry.com. *Cook County, Illinois, Marriages Index, 1871-1920*, database online, from FHL film #1030118]

Nora Sina Henningsen was born 6 Apr 1882, Chicago, Cook, IL to Niels Henry Henningsen, age 38 and Mary Ann Repogle, age 26 on 6 Apr 1882. [Ancestry.com. *Cook County, Illinois, Birth Certificates Index, 1871-1922*, database online, from FHL film #1287822]

A record of Bertha's birth was not found, but her gravestone [Findagrave.com, IOOF Cemetery, Bandon, OR] gives her birthdate as 10 May 1884.

1885: The family is residing at 1105 19th Street, Omaha, Douglas, NE on 8 June.

Henningson, H.	48 Head Tailor Denmark Denmark Denmark			
Mary	48 Wife kpg hse	IN	OH	PA
Louis	9 Son at sch	WI	Den	WI
Wm	6 Son at sch	IL	Den	WI
Nora	3 Dau	IL	Den	IN
Baby	1 Dau	NE	Den	IN

I interpret this information to mean that Louis and Wm [William] were sons of Henry Henningson by a first wife, name unknown, who was born in Wisconsin. I believe "Baby" daughter is Bertha, as the age matches other sources, which give her birth as May 1884.

1900: Bertha is residing in Irving, Kandiyohi, MN, with her stepfather, mother, and two half-brothers.

Campbel, Charly	Head Feb 1860 40 1 st marr	MN ME ME
Mary A.	Wife Mar 1857 43 1 st marr 2 ch, 2 liv	IN OH PA
Fred	Son Jul 1885 14	MN MN MN
Orren	Son Feb 1887 13	MN MN MN
Henningson, Bertha	Step-Dau May 1884 16	NE NE IN

This information is interpreted to mean that Mary (Repogle) Henningson has married Charly Campbel(l). Regardless of the fact that it says first marriage for both of them, each has been married before and Charly's sons Fred and Orren are by his first wife, name unknown, who was born in MN.

Bertha M. Henningsen, born Omaha, NE, and David L. Swihart, born Marshal Co, IN, were married 19 Nov 1901 in Clark Co, WI. Her father's name was Henry Henningsen; mother Mora (Mary) A. Replogle. Groom's father's name was Matthias Swihart; his mother's name was Elizabeth Rothenberger. [FamilySearch.org. "Wisconsin, Marriages, 1836-1930" from FHL film #1275880]

1905: David and Bertha are residing in 4th Ward, Stanley, Chippewa, WI, with 1 daughter:

Swihart, David L.	Head 38 IN sawyer
Bertha	Wife 21 NE
Evelyn	Dau 5/12 WI

According to her obituary, Evelyn May Swihart was born 3 Jan 1905 in Stanley, WI. [Obituaries from Newspapers, v. 23, Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL) 979.527/V381/Obi v.23] [Probably from the Medford Oregon *Mail Tribune*]

According to her obituary, Opal Lenora Swihart was born 5 Mar 1908 in Stanley, WI.

[*The World*, Coos Bay, OR: http://theworldlink.com/news/local/obituaries/opal-lenora-clausen/article_f3069ddf-bcd0-5896-b6b9-0ce0c3de0740.html]

1909: Swiharts move to Jackson County, Oregon from Stanley, Chippewa, WI

[Opal's obituary: "Opal had been a resident of Oregon since the age of 1. Her family moved from Stanley to Jackson County, Oregon.]

1908/9: "Dave Swihart built the first country store [in Derby] around 1908. It was situated on a meadow east of the Derby school. People traveling the dusty road would stop for groceries or have Dave measure them for ready made dresses and suits." [*Country Folk: Butte Falls, Derby, Dudley* by Barbara Hegne, published by the author, 1989, p. 2]

21 January 1910, *Medford Mail Tribune*, page 3: "Born – On the 17th instant, to Mr. and Mrs. David Swihart, near Derby, a 12 ½ pound boy. The parents think that Southern Oregon is a good place for babies." [http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu]

April 1910: David and Bertha are residing in Big Butte Precinct on Reese Creek Road:

Swihart, David L.	Head 42 marr 8 yrs	IN OH Switz merchant, genl mdse
Bertha M.	Wife 28 3 ch, 2 liv	NE Denmark IN
Evelyn	Dau 5	WI IN NE
Opal	Dau 2	WI IN NE

I interpret this to mean that the infant son born 17 Jan 1910 died between January and April, although no record of the death was found. This is probably one of the two "infant sons" buried in the Butte Falls Cemetery to the left of Elizabeth and Matthias Swihart. (These are David's parents, who did not come to Jackson County until after Elizabeth's childbearing years had ended, so they are not Elizabeth's. David's brothers stayed in the Midwest, so they are not their children. My conclusion is that the only Swihart of the right age to have infants buried in Butte Falls is David's wife, Bertha.

23 November 1910: "Swihart's store" is referred to in newspaper:

"LOST. September 25, 1910, on the road from Swihart's store to my home on Box creek, a Medford National bank purse, containing (I think) \$19.05; I think I lost it at the Oak spring. Return to Mail Tribune office or notify Jasper W. Miller, Dudley, Or., and receive reward." [*Medford Mail Tribune*, Medford, Or, November 23, 1910, image 7. [\[http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu\]](http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu)

23 June 1915, infant son dies: "PROSPECT NEWS. The funeral of Mr. And Mrs. Swihart's infant son was held from their residence Wednesday. The babe was buried in Butte Falls Cemetery." [Friday Morning, June 25, 1915, *Medford Sun*, v.4. JCGI 979.527/N298/Med/v.4]

I interpret this to be the second infant son. Additional confirmation is in Opal's obituary, which states that "She was preceded in death by ...two brothers in infancy..."

Circa 1916-1917: Fire burns Swihart store in Derby. "With the store business destroyed, Dave Swihart set up a mill, bought a team of Clydesdale's for logging, then opened a commissary near the mill. Then, when World War II (sic) came along, many of his crew signed up for the Army, and he was out of business again." [*Country Folk: Butte Falls, Derby, Dudley*, p. 2-3, reporting reminiscences by Evelyn (Swihart) Griffith in 1989]

1918: Swiharts move to Coos County: "...[Opal] had lived in Coos County since 1918, and completed her high school education in Bandon." [Opal's obituary]

14 and 28 February 1918, Delinquent Tax List

"Central Point, Constant Tract

D. L. Swihart, 46 ft des DR 102, p. 399, pt of 2 \$1.24"

[*Ashland Tidings*, Ashland, Or, February 14, 1918, repeated February 28, 1918.

[\[http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu\]](http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu)

16 January 1920: residing on Bandon-Langlois Road, Two Mile Precinct, Coos, OR

Swihart, David L. Head 53 IN OH Switz yardman, lumber mill

Bertha M. Wife 35 NE Den IN

Evelyn M. Dau 15 WI IN NE

Opal L. Dau 11 WI IN NE

11 July 1925: Bertha May (Henningsen) Swihart died, Coos County, OR

[Oregon Death Index, accessed on Ancestry.com, indexes this death

Scothard, Bertha Coos 7/11/25 certificate #188]

Bertha May (Henningsen) Swihart is buried in the IOOF Cemetery, Bandon, Coos, OR

[\[find-a-grave.com\]](http://find-a-grave.com)

15 Apr 1930: husband David L. Swihart resides Bandon, Coos, OR

Swihart, David	Head	64 wid	IN MI Switz carpenter home
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Griffith, William P.	Son-in-law	36 1 st marr age 28	NE IN IN carpenter home
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“ Evelyn M.	Dau	25 1 st marr age 18	WI IN NE
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1940 census: David Swihart not found and not living with either married daughter:

Opal L. Clausen with her husband Lester F. in Bunker Hill, Coos, OR

Evelyn Mae Griffith with her husband William P. and son William Floyd (age 2) in Wimer, Jackson, OR

2 March 1961: husband David Swihart dies Coos County, OR; buried IOOF Cemetery, Bandon, Coos, OR
[findagrave.com]

27 April 1989: daughter Evelyn May (Swihart) Griffith dies White City, Jackson, OR

buried Hillcrest Memorial Park, Medford [*Obituaries from Newspapers*, v.23, p. 91, JCGI 979.527 V381 Obi v.23]

11 January 2009: daughter Opal Lenora (Swihart) Clausen dies Coos Bay, Coos, OR

buried IOOF Cemetery, Bandon, OR [http://theworldlink.com/news/local/obituaries/opal-lenora-clausen/article_f3069ddf-bcd0-5896-b6b9-0ce0c3de9740.html]

Was this the end of Bertha (Henningsen) Swihart's line? No, Bertha's daughter Evelyn's obituary states that Evelyn was survived by a son residing in White City, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



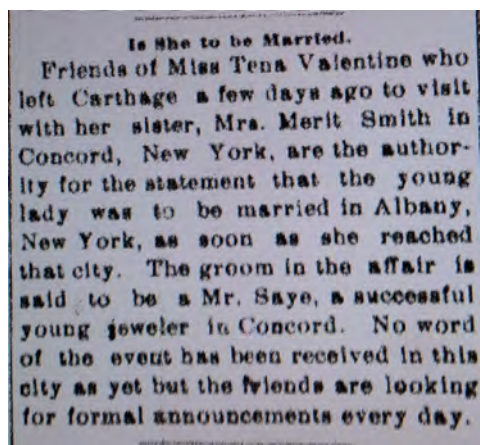
PARTY GIRLS OF 1904

by Tom Sayre

Miss Tena Valentine was born in Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri, in 1882. In 1902, at the age of 20, she made the long train journey to visit her married older sister Emily Valentine (Mrs. Merit Smith) in Corinth, Saratoga County, New York. Soon after arrival, she met a local young man named John Wesley Sayre, and in no time she and John became engaged to be married.

Tena returned home to Carthage, but family lore passed down through the years indicated young John made extra money shooting pool, enabling him to pay for train transportation to Missouri several times to ease his smitten heart.

Leap forward 111 years. In August 2015 a fellow genealogist and researcher from Carthage, Missouri, discovered and sent me the following old newspaper clipping from the *Carthage Evening Press* dated April 28, 1904. It somewhat inaccurately tells the story of Tena's upcoming wedding and certain friends who travelled there to participate in the festivities. (Concord and Albany are actually Corinth; Mr. Saye is Mr. Sayre, though he was never a jeweler, but what did anyone know?)



I could not help but feel that there was more to this story than that simple article from long ago. I dug through old family photographs and found a certain few with which I was familiar and had always enjoyed viewing. Although I had names written on the back, I did not know the circumstances attributed to the images.

Photos 1, 2, and 3 are dated May 1904, and were taken by Tena's sister Emily in an upstairs bedroom of the Sayre Family home on Center Street in Corinth, NY. The occasion was a bachelorette party for Tena.

These photographs complimented further the sketchy newspaper article shown above.



Photo 1. L-R: Tena Valentine, Mary Sayre, Etta Jennison, Mabelle Sayre. Mary and Mabelle Sayre were the sisters of the groom-to-be, John Wesley Sayre. Etta Jennison lived in Carthage, MO, close to the Valentine home, and accompanied Tena to New York for her wedding. Etta carried a special package with her.



Photo 2. "Tea Time" L-R: Etta, Mabelle, Tena and Mary



Photo 3. "Oh, such fun!" Top to bottom: Mabelle, Etta, Tena, Mary.



Photo 4. Tena's wedding portrait with the dress made by her mother and brought to New York by Etta Jennison.

John Wesley Sayre and Tena Valentine were wed May 4, 1904, and were to become my paternal grandparents. It took that obscure old newspaper clipping to further define the 111 year-old photos.

