

The History of Blanche G. Benjamin's Family  
( Written by Mrs. Benjamin September 1, 1950 )

Having reached the age of eighty years and yielding to the wishes of our two sons, Edwin and Harold, I decided to write down some items of family interest known only to myself and liable to be forgotten as time goes on.

I was born September 1, 1870 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My father was Robert Elwood Grimshaw, born in Philadelphia in 1815, the year of the battle of Waterloo. His father was an English sailor, named Wm. Grimshaw. He married Barbara Farrier of Philadelphia. When their son, Robert E., was a young boy, he was apprentised to a carpenter and builder to learn a trade until he was twenty-one. Father had three sisters, Jane, Sarah, and Kate. He exchanged letters and visits with them through a long series of years. When father finished his apprenticeship, he married Mary P. Nicholson. Father bought a prairie schooner and drove across the country from Philadelphia to Minnesota, in the vicinity of Glencoe, where he had taken up a claim. His wife and a young daughter, Virginia, accompanied him. They had a log cabin and lived there for some years.

They were the parents of five children:

- 1) Virginia - died at an advanced age
- 2) Elwood - died in middle age
- 3) Lida - died at an advanced age
- 4) Emma - died a young girl
- 5) Elwood - died at an advanced age
- 6) Wm. Harrison - died at an advanced age
- 7) Kate Elizabeth - died in middle age.

Father's wife died at the birth of Kate Elizabeth. Virginia took care of the baby Kate and kept house for the other children until father could send for them and live with them in Minneapolis. Virginia, or Ginnie as she was called, married very young, Mr. James Balwin Hunt. They had twelve children grow up, and one died in infancy.

*Salome  
H*

Mary Virginia - died in middle age	
Geo.	Will
Elwood	Robert
Bertha	Rhoda
Ella	Alice
Mabel Clare	Jessie Baldwin
Letitia Gertrude	Hazel

Virginia Hunt's married children

Mary Virginia married Chas. Dailey - They had three children.  
 Mabel Clare married Harry Owen - They had one daughter, Jessie.  
 Rhoda married Kent Campbell - They were divorced and Rhoda married Edward Garrigues  
 Alice married Mr. Stimson - They have five children.  
 Hazel married Mr. Vance - They had one daughter.  
 Jessie married Simeon Ford. They had four children.

Father's married children

Elwood married Alice Payne - They had four children, Calude, Ray, Myrtle, Maude.  
 Wm. Harrison married Marian Bliss after divorcing Minnie Grimshaw.  
 Wm. and Minnie had three children.  
 Edna and Minnie died in childhood.  
 Wm. E. died in middle age.

Lida Grimshaw Cooley married George W. Cooley. They had three sons, George W., Francis M., and Ralph, and three daughters, Zoe, Sophia, and Lida Mae. Zoe died in 1950. Lida and George W. lived to advanced age. Francis died in middle age. Sophia took care of her sister Zoe and was always a devoted daughter to her family.

Kate E. Grimshaw married H. T. Cooper, an Englishman. They had two sons, Henry and Elwood. Henry died when he was twenty-one. Kate and her husband died in middle age.

Mabel Hunt Owen married Harry N. Owen. They had one child, a daughter, Jessie Virginia.

Kate was the only one who ever lived at home. The others were married and had their own homes. Kate was six years old when father married again, Salome Boutel. Ginnie had been married some time, also Lida, Well, and Elwood.

My mother was Salome Boutel. She married father in 1862. She was born in 1832. She lived in Vermont until she came West to Bloomington to teach school and lived with her cousin Rebecca Goodrich. She taught in Minneapolis the next year and was one of the first teachers in Minneapolis. She and father had three children.

Maude, born 1864 - died 1926  
 Walter, died at the age of four  
 Blanche, born 1870

Maude Grimshaw married Chas. M. Jordan. They had two daughters, Helen Dorcas and Mildred Salome. Helen Dorcas married Percy Cowan. They had two sons, John G. and Peter G. Mildred married Archie Coleman. They had one son, Archie Northrup Coleman who died in 1948.

Blanche Grimshaw married Arthur Edwin Benjamin in 1900. They had five children. Their first child, a girl, did not live, died in 1903. Edwin Grimshaw born in 1905. Harold Garner was born in 1907, Maude Elizabeth in 1910, and Alice Louise in 1913.

Edwin Grimshaw Benjamin married Marian Jones in 1935. They have three children, Alice Anne, Marjorie, and Elizabeth. Harold Garner married Lois Groves in 1937. They have two children, Eleanor Jean and Robert Groves. Maud Elizabeth married Chas. J. Hoover in 1935. They have an adopted son, Donald Benjamin Hoover.

My mother, Salome Boutel, was born in West Enosburg, Vermont in 1832. When she was a young woman she graduated at New London and had fitted herself to be a teacher. She had cousins, Rebecca and Emily Goodrich, married and settled in Bloomington, Minn. She came to them and taught school in a log cabin. The Indians came and looked in the windows. The next year she went to Minneapolis, having secured a position in the public schools. She was one of the first teachers to come to Minneapolis. Lucy Rogers Gove was the first one, and they were lifelong friends.

Mother had three sisters, Abbie, Susan, and Sarah. They all married and lived all their lives in Vermont. They had one brother, James Boutel. In 1876 mother took her two little girls and our half-sister, Kate, and visited father's sister Jane Hughes in Philadelphia where we all attended the Centennial, the Exposition of 1876. Kate stayed

in Philadelphia that summer, but mother took Maude and me to visit our relatives in Vermont. Our three aunts were married and lived on farms near East Berkshire. I remember they all cried when we first met. It had been so long since they had seen Salome. They thought then they would never meet again. However they did. They came to Minnesota to see us several times and we went to Vermont. Mother always kept up a correspondence with them. They were very religious and mother was an ardent church member all her life. She was a member of Plymouth Church and later on of the Park Avenue Congregational Church. She did her best to always make a pleasant home for us and father and all of his children. She was very fond of flowers. Father saw to it that she had a large glassed in space to our sitting room filled with potted plants. Father built a large house in 1876 while we were at the Exposition, on the corner of 16th Street and Portland. We thought we were moving out in the country. Mother survived father twenty years and died in that house when she was eighty-two. It was a mecca for all the family. We always celebrated father's birthday, November 12, and holidays. When Maude and I were married we lived near mother and always kept in touch with her. She was never so happy as when she could do something for us and our children.

Arthur Edwin Benjamin, b. 1868, Dec. 19.

Arthur's father and mother were both English. His father's name was John Benjamin. His mother's name was Elizabeth Garner. They were married very young and came to this country at an early date. They settled at Hutchinson and had nine children, Arthur's father was an M.D. Arthur attended the public schools in Hutchinson but received his M.D. from our state university.

He married Blanche Grimshaw January 1, 1900. We built the home where we now live in 1902 and our five children were all born there. The four living children all are members of Plymouth Church and graduates of the University of Minnesota.

Robert Elwood Grimshaw, b. 1817 in Philadelphia, d. in 1900 at the age of 82.

He was a self-educated man. He was very fond of reading. He retired at the age of sixty. He built a good many houses here and public buildings. His favorite style was a square blue lime stone with a Mansard roof. Some are still standing. He built the old Minneapolis Central High School and the Syndicate block. The Syndicate block was his last building. He bought Spray Island, Lake Minnetonka in about 1875. Later he built a house on it where we spent our summers for many years. The island remained in his possession until his death and later became the property of Maude and Blanche. Maude sold her half of the island to Blanche. It is now the property of the Belham Co. whose members are our four children. Father was always a good judge of real estate and acquired a good deal. He was always land poor, paying taxes on his land. At his death mother was left all of his property in trust and Wm. Grimshaw was his executor. There were seven heirs, Ginnie, Lida, Well, Elwood, Kate, Maude, and Blanche. At mother's death it was divided. Father had already given Ginnie, Elwood, Lida and Kate their shares and there was not much left by that time.

Father was a public spirited and loyal republican. He contributed generously and had served on the Minneapolis School Board many years. He was a member of the Unitarian Church and thought a great deal of their minister, Mr. Simmons.

Maude became a teacher. Father sent her to the Winona State Normal School and later on sent her to Wellesly College for a year. She took the music course and became an accomplished musician. Father sent her to Europe for several months. She went with Dr. and Mrs. Draper of Boston. Maude did not want me to become a teacher. Her husband, Dr. C. M. Jordan, superintendent of schools, gave me a position in the teacher's library where I remained for several years. Father sent me to Vassar College, 1891 and 1892.

In 1860 the time of the Civil War father too old to enlist and had a large family to support. He always helped Ginnie and Lida with their expenses. He paid several thousand dollars of Elwood's debts before he went to Deadwood, South Dakota with his wife and family. Mr. Cooper always took care of Kate and her two boys.

Father depended on Will a good deal the last years of his life. Will would stop in to see him on his way home every night. Father had a black pony named Black Crook. For a great many years he would take me to ride on Sunday afternoons, always stopping at Ginny Hunts.

Lida's husband, George W. Cooley, was always so kind and generous to Maude and me. He gave us presents and valentines. Lida and Kate both went back to Philadelphia to visit father's sisters. In 1891 when father sent me to Vassar, I spent Christmas vacation in Philadelphia with father's relatives the Foxes. When I was twenty-five I earned most of the money for a trip to Europe. I went with two high school teachers, Mrs. Allard and Miss Paige. We were away three months and had a grand time in England, France, and Italy. After father died in 1900 mother lived on alone in the old house with a housekeeper, Agnète Jensen until her death in 1915.

Before father died, mother bought a lot in Lakewood cemetery where father was buried. Father had owned a lot in Layman's cemetery. His wife, Mary Nicholson Grimshaw, was buried there, also another daughter Emma, a son Walter four years old, my mother's only son. Layman's cemetery was taken over by the city. Mother had the graves moved to Lakewood and the names put on the monument. Then mother deeded to me the other half of the Lakewood lot. Our baby girl was buried there in 1903. According to the laws of

*Beulah*

succession at Lakewood, at mother's death the half of the lot where she and father are buried became the property of Maude Jordan. At her death her daughter, Helen Cowin, became the owner. Helen is also the owner of the Jordan cemetery lot. Maude and her husband are buried there, also Archie, Mildred Coleman's only son.

Arthur and I were married January 1, 1900. We went to Chicago on our wedding trip, having planned to go to Europe in May of that year. We sailed May 5, 1900 on the Spartan Prince from New York. We landed in Naples. We visited Rome, Florence, Venice and then went to Vienna. Arthur did some medical work there and then we went to Munich, Oberammergau, Paris and London for more medical work.

The next few years we took a good many auto trips. When Alice was about three we left them at home with Ida Carlson and took the boys, Edwin and Harold, on an auto trip to California. It was in 1915, the year of the Spanish Exposition. We saw Olive and Howard and took them to the Mariposa Grove. We all enjoyed the Grand Canyon.

In 1917 we took all four of the children to New England.

In 1925 we took them to Europe for three months. Alice was eleven, Maude 14 and the boys sixteen and eighteen.

In 1930 when the girls were eighteen and fifteen we took them on an auto trip West. We stopped at Olive's and went on to San Diego. The boys were married in 1935 and 1937. Maudie, January 1, 1936.

The summer that we were West with the girls, Harold went to Europe with Evans Healy for three months. Edwin worked in the Pillsbury Flour Mills. It was the first time we were so widely separated.

On our return from our trip in 1900 we found a letter from sister Maude telling us that during our trip that summer our dear old father had passed on and was buried at Lakewood. We found mother very much worn out and so alone. She begged us to stay with her and we agreed. The second year we completed our new home and moved in early in the fall. We secured some good boarders for mother, Miss Hove and her mother. Mother was fond of them and they stayed with her for several years. Mother came to see us often,

Blanche  
N

but she enjoyed her own home and never wished to give it up. Maude and I went to see her often, but she enjoyed her own home and wished to remain there. She died in 1915 and was buried at Lakewood.

One Sunday p.m. when I was about twenty-nine I was sitting on one end of the front porch with Mabel Owen and her husband. Brother Will Grimshaw was on the other end of the front porch having a confab with some lawyer about some law business. They spoke in low tones until suddenly Will raised his voice and said, "Well I would introduce my sister but she is only an old maid and it's no use." So the lawyer smiled and took his leave. Then Will walked over to us and I was ready for him. I raised my left hand and flashed the beautiful diamond ring Arthur had given me, in his face. He looked dumbfounded and said, "Oh, you have Mabel's ring on!" Then she raised her hand and showed her ring. I said, "You have called me an old maid for the last time." He said, "I'll go talk to mother about this." When he came out he said, "Well, Blanche, do you mean I am to go home and tell Marian you are going to be married?" I said, "That is what girls usually mean when they show their diamond rings." A few days after he came in and said, "Well, he is O.K. I know some of his friends in Hutchinson and the doctors in town speak well of him." We were married January 1, 1900.

Mother gave me a beautiful wedding. Father was not himself at all, but we got someone to stay with him. I had all my intimate friends and relatives there. Kate Gibbs played my wedding march. I think that was the last wedding there. Kate was married there. Ella Murray was married there. She was father's sister's Kate's child. She had been at our home a good deal and we all loved her. Maude was married there - four weddings, I think.

While we lived with mother, Arthur and I became members of the Park Avenue Church. Later on we joined Plymouth.

When mother came to Minneapolis to teach, she boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Florida. Mother loved Mfs. Florida very much and the two families were great friends. Carrie



*Blaughe*

and Jessie Florida were great friends of Maude and me and have been life-long friends. In those days family supper parties were the favorite entertainment. When father and mother were first married, father ~~had~~ owned a house on First Avenue North and Tenth Street. Maude, Walter, and I were born in that house. Father built a home at 1520 Portland Avenue where we lived for many years - from 1876 to 1915 when mother died.

Father sang a lot of Irish songs learned in his boyhood in Philadelphia. Names of the songs.

In Limerick Town

In Dublin Town

Barney Bodkins

They made me a Sojer

Butter and Cheese and I

Larry, O Goof

Blue eyed Sue

Beautiful boy

Barney Bodkins broke his nose  
Without money makes him sad.  
Without feet he can't have toes  
Crazy folks are always mad.

We shall live until we die  
Church wardens' hearts are made of stone  
Not forgetting, ti, trum, tie.  
Barney leave the girls alone.  
Pigeons do make pretty pies  
Christmas comes but once a year  
Patriots say they'll save the nation  
Seven pence a quart of beer.

My father he lived in Limerick Town  
A swate little place of great renown  
With mirth and beauty all around  
So frolicsome and Frisky  
Me mother was sitten down to knit  
Me father was diggen peraties so swate  
An I was born where cronies did  
Mate, to drink me health in whiskey

I rambled to England  
I met with a squad of boys  
They got me promoted to carry the load, me boys  
I crept up the ladder like a cat newly shod, me boys  
Strait way to riches says Larry O Gof  
They made me a sojer  
And O how genteel I was  
Scarlet and tape from the neck to the heel, I was  
But somehow or other when brought to the field  
I was  
Larry, this work, it don't suit ye behalf.

In Dublin Town the ither night  
A courier came with all his might  
To tell us of a jolly fight, at the  
wake of Teddy, the tyler.  
Now Teddy was a dacent mon.  
His head was like a frying pan,  
And ivery night he made it a plan  
To go and visit Miss Judy McGann  
Twas in the hither amongst the bogs  
Where Patrick banished toads and frogs  
With a gruntin squakin of the hogs,  
At the wake of Teddy the Tyler

Filly loo, Hubby-loon, Whack a roar  
There was a grand potato war  
At the Wake of Teddy the Tyler.

A cook I had for my sweetheart,  
I'll tell the reason why  
On Xmas she made plum pudding  
She likewise made mince pie  
She said in the pantry she had good store  
And she did keep the keys.  
One packet I filled with butter  
And the other I filled with cheese  
Now the cutting of the cheese brought the  
Master to the doo-  
I being in a quandry what to do  
She bade me the chimney fly  
So up into the chimney went  
Butter and cheese and I  
Butter and cheese and I.  
Being up the chimney and seated  
At my ease.  
The fire began to melt the butter,  
Likewise to toast the cheese.  
The master being in the house  
He thought the devil was there  
For every drop that fell in the fire  
Oh my how it did flare  
Oh my how it did flare!  
The master he went to the top of the house  
But deil a word could I say  
Thinking that some water would drive the deil away  
And sure enough it came falling down  
Oh my how it did fall!  
And I came tumbling after and  
Butter and cheese and all  
Butter and cheese and all

Around the face of blue-eyed Sue  
Did auburn ringlets curl  
Her lips were nectar  
Dipped in dew  
Her teeth two rows of pearl

Joe of the Bar, whose wine they said  
Was new, in cask, as he, in trade  
Espoused this non parielle, espoused  
This non parielle.

You keep the bar, said Joe, "me dear"  
And be obliging, Sue, "Do you hear?"  
And prove to all who love good cheer  
These welcome hither "to the Belle"

A London rider chanced to slip  
Behind the bar to dine  
Where he found sweet Susan's ready lip  
Much mellower than her wine.

Then in came Joe and he stamped and tore  
And to the London beau he swore  
He dust his jacket well  
He dust his jacket well.