

**A Brief Genealogy**

of the

**LEE, BILLINGS,  
ELLIOTT and DEXTER  
FAMILIES**



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Compiled by  
CHARLES WILLIAM WESLEY LEE

To My Children  
This Book is Affectionately  
Dedicated

January 15, 1949



Vera Verna Stover  
Robert Earl Lee      Ralph Harold Lee  
As they graduated, from the University of Alberta,  
at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada,  
in 1921, 1934 and 1937, respectively.

## OBLIGATIONS

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Obligations are especially acknowledged to the following people who, interested in preserving their family records, have generously and kindly assisted me to secure much data which otherwise would have been impossible to have obtained:

Mrs. MARGARET M. BENNETT ..... Neligh, Nebraska  
ARTHUR K. LEE ..... Wilmette, Illinois  
RALPH H. LEE ..... Wilmington, Delaware  
ROBERT E. LEE ..... Chicago, Illinois  
Mrs. VERA V. STOVER ..... Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
ROBERT M. LEE ..... Olympia, Washington  
WILSON S. BENNETT ..... Neligh, Nebraska  
CORDELIA BAILEY ..... Seattle, Washington  
ANNIBEL L. BROTT ..... Seattle, Washington  
SYLVIA LEE ..... Wilmette, Illinois  
LEEOTHA LEE ..... Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
MARY D. PAUL ..... Clear Lake, Iowa  
Mrs. ARTHUR HANKINS ..... Lakeside, Nebraska  
YETTA F. ANSON ..... Monrovia, California  
DELIA MERRION ..... Alameda, California  
PRISCILLA WALKER ..... Rushville, Nebraska  
DAVID H. DEXTER ..... Hay Springs, Nebraska  
SADIE BENNETT ..... Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
ADDIE LEE ..... Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
ESTHER COOK ..... Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada  
ALTUDELL LAGEER ..... Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
DELLA L. STEPHENSON ..... Gormley, Ontario, Canada  
ELIZABETH FOOTE ..... Stouffville, Ontario, Canada

It was for the purpose of handing down to my children these bits of my own family history in as convenient and comprehensive form as possible that I prepared this little booklet. Naturally, under these conditions, the bulk of the text deals with people and incidents closely connected with our own particular branch of the families mentioned. To have followed in detail all of the branches of the family would have been far too great a task to have undertaken in a brief work like this, and would have been far beyond my ability.

Much of this information has been furnished to me by various members of the families represented. Appreciating their kindly spirit and realizing that they, too, may be glad to have some parts at least of this information in a permanent form, I am glad to be able to supply them with copies of this booklet, the price to be not more than the cost of printing it. It is not made for sale, and has not been issued with the intention of being marketed. A limited edition has been printed to supply the possible members of the families desiring one, to put in his library.

C. W. W. LEE.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada,  
January 15, 1949.

## A Bit of Family History

YIELDING to the wishes of my children, Vera Verna Stover, Ralph Harold and Robert Earl Lee, I will endeavor to set down some of the family history as far back as it is possible to trace it in a more or less casual manner. In doing so there is a certain amount of pride and pleasure—not that any of the ancestry was ever a President of the United States, or of the Royal Family of any foreign country, or even that they were among the many thousands who are said in these days to have come over in the Mayflower, but the pride does come that even after looking far back into the family tree—back for generation after generation—it has not been possible to find suspended by a rope from any of the limbs of a tree a member of our ancestral group, and that certainly is just reason for some pride at least.

To begin, not quite at the beginning, but some years after, Vera Verna (Lee) Stover, Ralph Harold Lee and Robert Earl Lee, as well as the little girl that passed on in 1904 at two years of age, Edna Etta Lee, were the children of Charles William Wesley Lee and Leetha (Billings) Lee.

Vera Lee was born at Mariaville, Nebraska, on July 18, 1899. Edna Etta Lee was born at Neligh, Nebraska, on February 21, 1902, and passed on March 29, 1904, at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Ralph H. Lee was born at Las Vegas, Nevada, April 6, 1911, and Robert E. Lee was born at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, December 15, 1915.

Their grandparents were Samuel Lee and Harriett Jane Lee, Joseph Billings and Margaret Billings, all of Neligh, Nebraska.

### Lee History, Commencing with C. W. Lee's Grandparents

James Lee married Esther Barefoot, January 12, 1830, and bought a hundred acres of timber land near Stouffville, Ontario, for 81 pounds and five shillings, which afterwards became the family home, where the children were born and received their education.

James Lee was born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1799, and passed away October 19, 1857. Esther Lee was born in Down County, Ireland, in 1810 and passed away October 19, 1872. James Lee came to Canada about 1825 and their children were: Prudence, Thomas, Robert, James, William, Samuel, Samuel, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Esther Jane, John, David, Alexander, and Margaret Lee. There were nine sons and five daughters in all. I now note that the father, James Lee, came to

Canada from Dunsmore, Parish of Disemartin, County Derry, Ireland. His sister, Mary Lee and James Huston were married while the sisters of James Lee's wife, Nancy and Margaret Barefoot, married Robert Henry and Edward Logan respectively.

James Lee had two brothers go to the United States about the time he came to Canada.

Their father was born in Londonderry, Ireland, about 1750.

Prudence Lee married John Agnew, and their children were: Esther, Rebecca and James Agnew. Esther married John Hannah, Rebecca married Edward Harrison, and their children were not named to me. James Agnew married Elizabeth Richie, and their children were: John, Dellah, and Mary Agnew.

Thomas Lee married and his daughter's name was Agnes Lee.

Robert and William may never have married, so far as we know.

James Lee died at about 25 years. The first Samuel died in infancy, and the second Samuel Lee married Harriett Jane Dexter. The children were: James A., Margaret M., Charles W. W., Frank D., and Arthur K. Lee. Our parents were married at Markham, Ontario, May 2, 1866. Their children were one daughter and four sons.

Mary Ann Lee married Edward C. Bennett, and their children were: George F., William J., Francis C., Barwell L., Mary E., Esther S., and Septimus C. Bennett. George married Annie Mann, and their only child married a Mr. W. Dowds; they became the parents of three children. William J. Dowds married Mary A. Hammel and had two children, Willie and Edith. Willie has four daughters, and Edith has one daughter. Francis C., who married Milinda Ausburn, had three children: Edward, Addie and Roberta Dowds. Edward has three daughters; Addie has two daughters and one son; Roberta has a son and daughter.

Barwell L. married Belle Scutt, but had no children.

Mary E. married James A. Lee, and they have one daughter, Annabel Louise Lee. She married a Mr. Allister Gordon Brott, January 29, 1945, at Seattle, Washington. They have a daughter, Carolyn Lee born in Seattle Washington, 3-8-1947.

Esther S. married George Cook. They had no children.

Septimus S. married Sadie Middleton and they have two sons and one daughter, Wilbur and Norman, Dianne Elizabeth Marie, respectively. Wilbur married and has a son, Fraser Bennett. Norman was married and the couple have a son and daughter, Robert and Barbara Bennett. Dianne Elizabeth Marie married in 1946.

Elizabeth M. Lee married Robert Hannah, and their children were: Esther, Frances, Alberta, William J., Robert and Eva Hannah.

Esther M. Hannah married Edward Cane, and their children were: Edward M., Lyla M., and William M. Cane. Edward M. married Grace Manuel, and their son is William Cane. Lyla M. Cane married Lewis Foster. Their children were Grace and Edward Foster. William M. Cane married Mary Marrow, and they have a son Jack.

Frances M. Hannah married William J. Bennett, who died in 1945. They had no children.

Alberta Hannah did not marry.

William J. Hannah married Martha M. Eldon, and a daughter is Elizabeth Hannah.

Robert M. Hannah married Eva Elleson. Their children were: Violet, Ruth M., Irene, Robert, Marion, Richard and William.

Eva M. Hannah married William J. Shaw. Their children were: Jack, Dorothy M., and Eleanor M. Shaw. Dorothy M. married John Webster and has a son, John A. Webster.

Esther Jane Lee never married. She made her home with her sister, Margaret Foote.

John Lee, a doctor, married and had a son, John, and three daughters, Mary, Clara and Bedotha Lee. All married except Mary.

David Lee married Agnes Hannah, and their children were: Robert J., Maud, Addie, Elizabeth and Martha Lee. Robert married Mary Wilson, and they have no children. Maud married Henry McCullough, and they have a daughter, Marjory McCullough. Addie Lee did not marry, but lives with her sister, Maud McCullough. Elizabeth Lee married Charles Mitchell; they have four children, David, Kenneth Dorothy and Martha. David is married.

Alexander Lee may never have married. He was attending a medical school in Chicago when last heard of.

Margaret Lee married Herbert Foote; their children are Septimus, Elizabeth and Pearle Foote. Pearle married Frederick Whittlesey, and they have a daughter, Jean, who married R. Warren. They have a daughter, Nancy Warren. Septimus and Elizabeth never married, but live on the old home farm, near Stouffville. Their father bought the old Lee farm many years ago.

Mrs. Esther Lee, father's mother, and three sisters came from Down County, Ireland. They must have come to Canada about 1825. The sisters were four in all, Mary, Nancy, Esther and Margaret. Thomas Barefoot, the father, must have been born about 1750 or 1760.

### Some Dexter History

This properly begins with the birth of Elisha Dexter about 1750, near Nottingham, England. No record has been received of his wife.

He served in Captain Masey's Company, 6th Battalion, 1776 the Company raised in June to help Washington in New York.

The United States census of 1790 gives Elisha Dexter in Connecticut listed as the head of a family of one male over 16 and three under 16 years, and two females. He had a son, John Dexter, who married Jane Niece in Geneseo, New York, in 1796. John was born February 13, 1773, in Connecticut, and died October 30, 1815.

Jane (Niece) Dexter was born February 11, 1772, and died July 14, 1839.

Their children were: Amos, Elizabeth, Asher, Hiram, John, Mary, Elisha, Asakel, and Alijah Dexter.

Hiram Dexter claimed he was born in Pennsylvania, even though the home was in Connecticut in 1801 and until after 1803 when his brother, John Dexter, was born. Hiram Dexter was my grandfather, mother's father. Hiram Dexter died at Neligh, Nebraska, in March, 1888, while living with my parents. He first married a Mary Williams, and years later, about 1843, he married again, after the death of his first wife. The children in his first family were: Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Margaret, Rebecca, John, Benjamin, Hiram, Matilda and Harriett Jane Dexter.

Elizabeth Dexter married a Mr. Robert Mason, of whose family I will tell more later.

Mary Ann married a Mr. Wygent, an Englishman and the couple went to London, England to live. Nothing has been heard of them since.

Margaret Dexter married a Mr. John Hamilton. Four children were born to them: two sons and two daughters, Charlotte, Hiram, Wesley and Lulu. Charlotte married a Mr. Smith. A daughter, Minnie, was born, and shortly afterward Charlotte passed away. Hiram was married twice. After his first wife died, he married again. Children were born in both families, but I have no other record. Wesley married, but had no children. Lulu married Frank Stephenson, a brother of Herbert Stephenson, the husband of Minnie Smith as above, (daughter of Charlotte Smith). They had a son and two daughters. Leonard is married and lives in North Toronto. He has children. Della L. Stephenson did not marry. She cares for her father since her mother passed away. Rebecca is married and has two children. Charlotte (Smith) Stephenson, who married Herbert Stephenson, had three sons. Herbert died and one of the sons is dead; the other two are married and have children, and live at Gormley, Ontario.

Rebecca Dexter married, but had no children.

### **Now the Elizabeth (Dexter) Mason History**

Elizabeth Dexter married a Robert Mason (whose father, Robert Mason, came to Canada years before, from England). Their children

were: William, Margaret, Robert, Rebecca J., Herbert, Harriett, Cordelia, and twin boys who died in infancy. The mother died then also.

Mrs. Cordelia (Dexter) Bailey, in a letter written to me about January 5, 1945, regarding her ancestry, writes as follows: "My mother, Elizabeth (Dexter) Mason, married Robert Mason, who was the son of Robert Mason, who came from Hull, England, to Sherbrooke, Quebec, in 1831, and died in January, 1832. My mother and father had nine children, who were:" (as above named, except the names of the twins were added, Arthur S., and Joseph F.) "The children are now all dead excepting myself, Cordelia. My father was born in Easington, in 1823, a small seaport town in Yorkshire, England, and died February 28, 1901."

She gives the following: "William married and had four sons, Arthur A., John, Robert Edwin, and Louis P. Mason.

"Arthur married and had two sons and a daughter, Wilford, Roy and Hilda. All have families of their own.

"Margaret Mason married a Mr. Lehman and they had four daughters, Minnie, Edith and Altudell Mason. A baby died not named.

"Minnie married a Guy Clendenning, and had four daughters, Minnie, Altudell, Edith. Edith married Mr. Hubbard, and they had a son and daughter, William and Margaret Hubbard. Both are married and live in Seattle, Washington. The mother and sister Minnie have passed away. Hubbard has not been heard from in years.

"Altudell married a Mr. Lageer and they have one daughter, Lucilla, who married Robert John Whitla. They have a son Bobbie.

"Of late I hear the name of the husband of Margaret Hubbard is a Mr. Fortune.

"Robert Mason passed on at twenty-one years of age.

"Rebecca Mason married a Mr. Thomas M. Wilson, and this couple were the parents of a daughter, Della, and son, John. Both were married. Della had no children before passing on. John Wilson had a son and three daughters: Thomas Ruth and Jane. Helen died at two years. Thomas married a daughter of Lady Kempt's, and they have two children. Ruth is not married; Jane Wilson is married.

"Herbert Mason married, but they are both dead and their only child also. Harriett Mason and her husband have died and they had an only daughter, Edith, who is married and lives in Ottawa, Ontario. Cordelia Mason married a Mr. Bailey, and had two sons, who were: Albert Mason Vaughn and Roy Kimberly Basley Bailey. Mr. Bailey and both of the children have passed on. Cordelia Bailey at present is making her home with Delia and Joseph Merrion in Alameda, Calif.

"This is all of the Mason family history."

### We Now Return to the Rest of the Hiram Dexter Family

Next is Benjamin Dexter who married a Caroline Fessenden, and had a son and four daughters. The son, Thomas F., passed away in early life, and two younger sisters followed shortly afterwards because they cared for him and caught the disease off him in his last illness. The five children were: Zoa Sarah, Yetta Fessenden, Thomas Fessenden, Mary Emma and Mabel Mercy Dexter. Benjamin Dexter and Caroline Fessenden were married at Sublette, Illinois.

The last my mother heard of this family was when it went west from Omaha, about 1880. Mother wanted me to look the family up when I went to California in 1907. I wrote a few letters and located the family at Monrovia, and went out to visit them, with my wife and daughter in 1907.

At Monrovia there were but two daughters and the mother living. Benjamin was at Lewiston Montana, prospecting for gold. He never was in California but twice to visit his family. The family had gone to Montana from Omaha, but when Thomas had a cold that did not seem to relax in the least, the mother and girls decided to move to California for the boy's health. The two youngest daughters took care of the son, but when he passed on, it was not long until the two sisters also passed away. It was consumption that took the three of them.

The mother passed away at Monrovia, and the other sister, Zoa, was married and left children, one of whom was married, and left a son, now nearly grown, and making his home there with his great-aunt, Yetta Anson. Yetta married a Mr. Charles Anson, who was for many years the postmaster at Monrovia. They had no children, and have a nice home at 133 Stedman Place. Yetta was a school teacher, near Sacramento, for many years. But when I learned the address of Benjamin, I wrote to him telling him that his two sisters yet living wanted very much to see him. I gave him their address, and he wrote to me, and the older sister, Margaret Dexter, Hamilton, near Toronto, Ontario, saying that he would go to see them the following summer. Then it was but a short time later when we heard of him falling over dead, while going to picket out his horse, at Maiden, Montana.

Hiram Dexter, Benjamin Dexter's brother, died in infancy.

Matilda Dexter married a Doctor Leonard in Chicago; there were two sons born to them, B. F. Leonard and Ralph Leonard. The mother of these two boys discovered that her husband was untrue to her. B. F. married in Chicago; and Matilda and her son Ralph went to Nebraska, where our family was living. She bought a farm for Frank, who soon came out with his wife and daughter, Maude Leonard.

Matilda started a millinery shop, and later married a Mr. Franklin. It appeared that he had a family in Iowa. He was wanted very much by Doc. Middleton, who was a noted horse thief. Matilda and her

husband went up onto the Niabra River to homestead. Franklin was away most of the time. When he made one of his periodical visits home, he took a young man with him to act as his hired man. Franklin, coming back in about six months, notified Matilda that the young man had jumped his place. Matilda told Franklin never to come back again. She and Ralph and the new daughter that had been born to her went down the river with their cattle, located another homestead, and later located a homestead that eventually was made a part of the townsite of Wood Lake.

Ralph while getting his hair cut in a barber shop, got a finger hurt, and later it ran into blood poison which caused his death. Matilda grieved so much over his death that she became sick and later my mother went up to Wood Lake and brought her down to Neligh. Matilda died just five weeks after Ralph passed away, and was buried at Wood Lake.

A stranger, named Honey, was left as administrator. The little girl, Hope, was nine years old. Part of the cattle was willed to B.F., but a carload of fat steers was to be marketed and the proceeds was to be used for Hope's education. After a while Honey adopted Hope. She could not go to school, but later, when sixteen, came to live with mother at Neligh. However, Honey took all of the property and townsite away from her.

Hope later married Edward Hunter, at Oakdale, Nebraska. A son Ralph and daughter Doris were born to the couple. Both children married. Doris taught school and married a professor, named Price. He teaches at Norfolk. This couple have no children.

B. F. Leonard, who married a Hallie Chamberlin in Chicago, located on a farm near Mariaville, Nebraska. He was County Treasurer in Rock County for many years. The couple had two girls and five boys: Maude, Vine, Joseph, Louis, Mabel, Ralph and Frank. All married and live in Rock County, except Vine Leonard and Mabel Berry, who died in 1945. Mabel had two nice daughters, who are married. Hallie, the mother, passed away in September, 1947, at Bassett. Maude, who married six times, lived at Bassett, Nebraska, a while and is now Mrs. Maude Lanz, who now lives at Bassett.

Maude has a son, Vance Carter, who lives in California, and has two daughters married.

Vine Leonard married, and has children married. He lived on an island on the Niabra River.

Joseph, married, has one son living on his land over on the Niabra River, who also has a son. For many years Joe was sheriff of Rock County. He has a big cattle ranch north of Bassett. He lives in Bassett. His son is living on the ranch.

Louis is married, and had four sons. The oldest two died many years ago, but two are living. Kenneth is a student at Done College, Crete, Neb., 1948. Louis has his home in Bassett, Nebraska.

Ralph is married now for the second time and has several children. He is a wool commissioner or merchant at Ainsworth, Nebraska.

Frank Leonard is married and has no children, and is an abstract commissioner at Bassett.

B. F. Leonard passed away many years ago at their home near Mariaville, Nebraska.

### More Lee History

Father Lee, after marrying, rented the old family Lee farm near Stouffville for a couple of years. While riding a horse down the lane to break the snow so he could get out with his cutter, the horse threw him off, hitting his temple on a post so hard that he appeared to go more blind than ever. So he had a sale and went to California, via New York and the Isthmus of Panama. A doctor had been recommended to him who lived at the west coast. The purpose of his trip was to consult this doctor for his eyes.

The boat out of New York was new and nice, while the one from the Isthmus to San Francisco was an old boat. There was much thieving and stealing going on, on this boat. The suspect asked father if he was not afraid of being robbed, but father said he told him the purser could take care of all he had. Also, he said, he always had a razor under his pillow at night anyway.

Father was unable to recover his sight while in California, and after he and mother had run dairies in different places—Oakland, Woodlawn and perhaps other places—they decided to go back to Canada at or near Winnipeg on the Red River, where father had cousins by the name of Logan (who later moved to Victoria, B.C.) The Union Pacific Railroad had just been completed, so they travelled on this road as far as Omaha. But father's money was becoming depleted, and he heard so much about the Elkhorn Valley that he and mother, with their son James Albert, decided to go and take up a homestead there.

They first located on what is now known as the Hans Lorenzen place. Father was having a well put down, by a Mr. Neligh, and when the hole was one hundred feet deep, father suggested trading the place for the well rig. He asked what the rig was worth, and Mr. Neligh said "eight hundred dollars." Father put the price on the place at a thousand dollars. A trade was made; and father got a cow and a mule, also some well notes, to boot. So he moved onto the Jim Minkler place, three miles east of what is now Neligh. But because Mrs. Minkler would not return from Iowa to live with her husband unless he got the place back, father sold it back to Mr. Minkler for \$50 more than he gave for it. Father paid \$350 for it. Then father located on the Potter place joining the Minkler place on the north-west, but across the road or section line. Here is where the family was raised and received their education. (James A. was born at Stouffville, Ontario;

Margaret May, on the Hans Lorenzen place; Charles W. W., Frank Dexter, and Arthur Kirk Lee were born on this Potter place).

Father hired a man and put in wells all over eastern Nebraska, while mother took care of the family and did the farm work. Sometimes father would be away a month at a time. I remember the seven acres of land that was broken was in corn, and mother took us three oldest children and weeded out this patch twice in one summer, as well as the north line—a fireguard of one acre, a rod wide. Albert was 11, Margaret was 8, and I was 6 years old. It was real work.

Oakdale was started in 1872 and Neligh in 1873. I was the first boy born in Neligh Township, and about a year before Neligh was started.

Brother Frank D. died at home of diphtheria at the age of three years.

The country was new and the railroad was not built into Neligh until about 1886. The lumber for the curbing of the wells father bored had to be hauled from Columbus, some 80 miles south.

Father hired a man, and with the help of the man that wanted the well put in (the three) they could put a well in 50 feet deep and complete it in a day. Father sometimes would lose the auger while boring in deep holes, and if the auger struck rock, it had to be blasted to pieces or shoved out of the way by means of a six-foot drill which father had made out of a piece of railroad rail. By an attached rope the men would let the drill fall some twenty feet or more. He charged a dollar a foot to make the well complete, bucket and rope. When the price was that, he could do very well, and even at 50c a foot, but when competition cut the price, father sold the rig.

My brother and I were then large enough to do all the farm work. When Albert and I were married, in 1892, father rented the home for a few years, then sold it for \$4,000, for he had built a nice house across the corner north-east of the old home.

Sister Margaret married Willard Johnson Bennett in 1888, and James Albert married Martha Billings in October, 1892, while I (Charles W. W. Lee) and Leotha Billings, were married August 28th, 1892.

While at home, when the children were old enough, they were sent to our country school four months during the winter each year.

The Bennetts made their home on 80 acres of land that Willard had bought from Jim Minkler. There were two sons and three daughters born to them: Laura Beatrice, Nelson Lee, Wilson Selery, Hope Carmel and Alice Ruth Bennett.

Laura married Phillip Reutzel, and their children were Iva Viola and Donald Wayne. Laura died shortly after Donald was born. Iva married Mr. Homer Kenneth Kester, and they have three nice little

girls and one son, Carol Louise, Iva Marie, Linda Lou, and Homer Philip Kester. The family home is in Neligh, where Homer has a carpenter business.

Nelson Lee Bennett, after living at Seattle, Washington, some time, married a Miss Nona Belle Moore and the couple have two nice sons grown, Wayne and Dale Bennett. Wayne had been in the army, and both have finished high school.

Wilson Selery Bennett farmed and cared for his parents for several years. His father died in 1928 at the home near Neligh. Wilson then married a Miss Gadikan, and their children were one son Larry Lee Bennett, and five daughters, Marie, Joanna, Marlene, Nancy, and Shirley Lee Bennett. The family home is on the Willow, which is about ten miles north-east of Neligh.

Hope Carol Bennett taught school many years, and married Mr. George M. Kaltenbach. The family lived at Buffalo, but later moved to Billings, Montana. They have a daughter, Lois, and a son John Kaltenbach. The children have finished high school in Billings and are both attending college there. My sister, Margaret May Bennett, makes her home, for the present, with the Kaltenbach family at Billings, or with Alice R. Bennett at Casper, Wyoming.

Alice Ruth Bennett did not marry, but has taught school for many years, and in 1946 changed location from Midwest, Wyoming, to the city schools at Casper, Wyoming.

James Albert Lee was farming when he married Martha Ann Billings in 1892. Later he moved the family to an acreage on the outskirts of Neligh so the children could attend school in town. Later he bought what was then called the M. C. Remington half-section a mile east of Neligh. While the family lived there, the couple separated. Albert has been in the butcher business, then the mercantile business in Neligh after quitting the farm. He sold his property and moved to Ballard with the children. He ran a mercantile business in Ballard for some time, but passed away in Seattle in 1939 at the age of 72 years. His children were: Robert Milton, Raymond E., James Arthur, Alberta Martha and Mary Vivian Lee. Later in 1907, Albert married Mary Elizabeth Bennett of Toronto, at Vancouver, B.C. To this couple one daughter was born, Annabel Louise Lee, who married A. G. Brott, January 29, 1945. She gave up her university work to care for her mother while she was living, then to care for her father in his declining years. Then she married this Mr. Alister Gordon Brott, who went to Sunday School with her years before. Alister finished with his army work, and they are now making their home in Seattle, Washington, where he has a nice position with the city.

Robert Milton Lee married after returning from the First World War. He was engaged in banking for several years, but now has a good position with a plywood company in Tacoma, and makes his home in Olympia. Three boys were born to the couple; the first passed away

in infancy. The oldest, Mervyn, is married now, and has two sons. He lives in Los Angeles, and Harold finished high school in Olympia in June, 1947.

Raymond E. Lee has a confectionery store and news stand in Seattle. He never married.

James Arthur Lee is married and lives in Casper, Wyoming, where he has been with the Ohio Oil Company for over twenty-five years. He is now a Vice-President of the Company. He has never had any children.

Martha Alberta Lee, after teaching school for some time, married a Mr. Ira Bolton, and they have a son who served in the Army, World War II. They have made their home for many years at Lakeview, Oregon.

Mary V. Lee taught school for a time, then went to New York City to make her home. She made a trip to, and returned from, Europe. She never married, but taught music in the Columbia University in New York, and had a good position in the Morgan Library in New York City when last heard from, in 1946.

The father of this family, James Albert Lee, retired a few years before he passed away.

Arthur Kirk Lee, after finishing his education at Neligh and Omaha, Nebraska, went to Wyoming, taking employment with the Union Pacific Railroad Company; then to a position as Secretary to the Governor of the State; then went into the bank examining business, and later bought three or four banks, and went into power manufacturing at Cody, and gas business, first in Kansas, and selling this, went to Chicago where he promoted and organized the United Cities Utilities Company. He is now President of that Company, and has a beautiful home in Wilmette, Illinois, just some 17 miles north of Chicago. He was married in 1907 to a Miss Sylvia Sieben of Geneseo, Illinois. They have one son, Richard S. Lee, who, before going into World War II, married a daughter of a prominent physician in Louisville, Kentucky, and since the close of the war has been in a prominent position with the United Cities Utilities Company, and the couple has a son.

Arthur had been a Senator while in Wyoming.

The second marriage of Hiram Dexter was to a widow lady who had three nearly grown daughters. To this marriage, four children were born: David, Ruth, Priscilla and John Dexter.

David married twice. After the death of his first wife, he married her widowed sister who had a son and daughter whose names were Edward and Belle Nowlan.

David had two children in the first marriage: Retta and Benjamin Dexter. Retta married and had three sons. Benjamin married, and

to this couple were born: Ruth Louise, Floyd Charles, Kenneth Jones, Martha Emmaline, Grace Claire, Lucilla, Benjamin Franklin, Mary Ann, Alpha Jean, Gordon Oliver, Muriel Lee, and Laurence Ray Dexter. All of these children are living near or in Pine Ridge South Dakota, near the family home.

Retta passed away several years ago, the boys went out west, and nothing more has been heard of them.

In David Dexter's second marriage there were: David H., Priscilla, Louis, Frank, and Charles Dexter. These children live in Dawes County, Nebraska.

David has two sons and a daughter. The sons are married. One lives in Decatur, Illinois, and the other is farming near Hay Springs, Nebraska. The daughter has just finished high school at Hay Springs, in 1946.

Priscilla has three children: two sons and a daughter. The sons were in World War II. They nearly all live near Rushville, Nebraska, except the daughter, married, and lives in Montana.

Ruth Dexter married a Mr. Reed in Ohio and had one child, named Frank. When Frank was last heard from, he was at Springfield, Illinois.

Ruth's sister, Priscilla Dexter, married a Mr. Merrion, who lived at a town just south of Chicago. Since the parents passed away several years ago, the Merrion children live in or near Alameda, California. Their names were: Delia, Edith, Joseph, Priscilla, John Dexter and Paul Layton Merrion.

Delia never married. Edith married, and they separated. Others were married, but I lack the record. Several of these children passed away during the last few years. Priscilla and John Dexter Merrion passed away in 1943.

John Dexter married, and one child was born, now Mrs. Phillips of Oakland, California. The parents are dead.

Delia Merrion states: "I was told at one time that the great-grandfather's name was in the Book of the Four Hundred, in Nova Scotia; also, a man by the name of Jones, who was grandmother's father was there." I wrote only once, and there was no reply. However, there was a Mrs. Jones whom Jennie Wilson went to visit in Cleveland, Ohio. Her cousin, said Mrs. Jones, had the WILL of John Williams, who formerly settled at New Amsterdam. John Williams was my great-grandfather of the long advertised estate, in the Court of Chancery, in England.

### Some Odds and Ends

Father, Samuel Lee, had two brothers, Robert and William Lee, who went to Australia, for the health of Robert, in the early 1860's. After twelve years William Lee died, and Robert continued in the

business in which the two brothers were formerly engaged—gold mining. Doctor John Lee, a younger brother, who was holding a position at the time Grover Cleveland was President, had been corresponding with Robert for some time, and then Robert suddenly quit writing to John. So John wrote to the Postmaster at Dark River for information as to whether Robert was in need, or hard circumstances, saying that he could offer him a home, or help if it was needed by Robert. John Lee said to the Postmaster, "I am drawing a good salary and can help him if he needs it." But when the Postmaster asked Robert a few of these questions, Robert said, "By whose authority are you asking these questions?" "I just received an enquiry from your brother." Robert said, "Give me that letter, I'll answer it." And he wrote, "I have your letter to the Postmaster. I don't need any of your help. You have driven me out of the country. There are men here that would knock me over in a minute, if they knew I was here alone. I have more money than all of the Lees put together. I owned the largest gold mine in New Zealand at one time. You will never hear from me again. I leave this place tonight." And his statement was good. He has never been heard from since.

These two Lees often did business in Johannesburg, South Africa.

\* \* \*

My grandfather, Hiram Dexter, had a brother John who was two years younger than himself. This John Dexter married Miss Margaret Dudgeau, and their children were: Harriet Elizabeth, Thomas Jefferson, Mary, Matthew, Mark, Simon Bolivar and Martha Anne Dexter. Their children are all grown and most of them have families of their own.

Mark Dexter (whose twin brother died in infancy) had seven children: Olive, Dwight, Mark Whitney, Edith, Mary Jane, Sebee M. and Thomas Dexter.

Olive was about 88 years old when she passed on in 1947, and she had three sons married and in the cattle business in Dawes County near Lakeside, Nebraska. Her husband is dead, and she did live at the hotel in Rushville or Gorden in the winter time.

Dwight is dead. Mark Whitney Dexter and his family live at Hamilton, Washington. Edith Dexter is dead. Mary Jane (Dexter) Paul, a childless widow, lives at Clear Lake, Iowa.

Sebee M. Dexter married a Mr. Hankins, and has a son at home and a daughter living in Michigan, who is married and has children. The Hankins family live out from Lakeside about 26 miles in Dawes County, Nebraska, and are in the cattle business. Mr. Hankins passed on in 1946, and Mrs. Hankins in 1947.

Thomas Jefferson Dexter lived, and raised a family, near Sacramento, California. Two of his daughters were in the teaching profession when Yetta (Dexter) Anson was up there teaching perhaps fifty years ago.

Mary Dexter married Mr. Ruggles, and they have a daughter who lives in San Francisco in the winters. Harriet Elizabeth Dexter married a Mr. Edward Fessenden, a brother of the Mrs. Caroline Fessenden Dexter that married Benjamin Dexter, whose family live at Monrovia. The Fessendens have a couple of sons yet living, one in Daly City, California, the other in Mason City, Iowa.

### **The Dexter Watch in Museum at Sacramento**

I asked Mary Paul if she knew anything about the watch marked "Dexter" in the State Museum at Sacramento. I asked if it was left there by her grandfather, John Dexter, or her uncle, Thomas Jefferson Dexter, who used to live in that vicinity. (He was a brother of Martha A. Ruggles). I herewith copy parts of Mrs. Paul's reply of 1945:

"William Dexter from the east spent some time in and around Sacramento, having stayed with Uncle Thomas J. Dexter near Woodland, California. Uncle Thomas told me of him. I believe he was unmarried.

"Aunt Martha Ruggles' daughter is Mrs. Gertrude Farmer, 64 Graystone, San Francisco 14, California (care of E. E. Neher). She is spending the winter with her daughter, and for some years lived at Hanford, California.

"Aunt Harriet Fessenden has a son living at Manly, Iowa—Francis Dexter Fessenden; also a son, J. H. Fessenden who lives at Daly City, in San Francisco, can be reached care of his son, Robert Fessenden, 571 San Diego Avenue, or J. H. Fessenden at 169 W. Lake Avenue, Daly City, San Francisco, California.

"Uncle Thomas J. Dexter's oldest daughter is Mrs. D. N. Gibbs, 550 3rd Street, Woodland, Yolo County, California. Uncle Thomas went to California during the gold rush in 1849, and for 45 years did not see my father, Mark Dexter—finally coming back to our home in 1906 and meeting father and Uncle Simon B. Dexter. That was a joyous meeting for all of us. Uncle Thomas J. Dexter was a joy. We were very fond of him. You see he lived his (almost) entire life in and near Sacramento. He had four daughters, only two now living, in 1946.

"No telling what Dexter's watch is in Sacramento Museum. A real Dexter was always more or less broke. You see I had one for a father—but they lived for all life's worth. The watch—I am quite sure—is not grandfather's. I have a faint recollection of grandfather carrying a huge old silver watch. He was never in California.

"Uncle Thomas was a lovable, handsome, intelligent man; Uncle Simon a gentle, quiet, kindly, sad man."

### **Ancestry of Mrs. Leetha Lee**

Joseph Billings was the son of John and Sabra McCollister Billings, and was about four years younger than Milton Billings, who was born August 2nd, 1830, in Ross County, Ohio. Joseph Billings was born there in 1934, and as Joseph was between two and three years old when his mother died, he made his home with and wherever Milton was living: first with Samuel Minear and Malinda McCollister Minear. Samuel was the son of Phillip Minear and Elizabeth McCollister Minear, and both he and his wife were full cousins of Milton and Joseph Billings, as well as being full cousins of each other. Samuel Minear's first wife died comparatively young, leaving two daughters, one who later became Mrs. Edward Shasteen of Cerro Gordo and Decatur, Illinois, and the other became Elizabeth Smith. Mr. Minear then remarried, this time marrying a second cousin, who had much influence over Milton and Joseph Billings, and for whom they retained a sonlike devotion throughout their early lives. After the death of Mr. Minear, his widow married Mr. Clark, and they lived for a long time near Monticello, Illinois.

### **Grandfather McCollister a Scotch Musician**

The grandfather of Milton and Joseph Billings, on their mother's side, was Robert McCollister, of Scotch descent. It is said of him that he was quite a musician of his time, and it was a standing saying that he could play any instrument to be found in the pioneer country round about Ross County. Once a travelling musician arrived with a bagpipe, and the young fellows, anxious to see the undoing of Great-grandfather McCollister as the local musician, hurriedly sent for him. He took the bagpipe from the minstrel, and, being a true Scot, could beat him playing on his own instrument.

Joseph Billings had two brothers and three sisters born in Ohio. The brothers were Milton and William, and the sisters, Mary Acton, Sarah Kendall and Elizabeth Steele. William died when quite young. Joseph served in the regular army, then in the Civil War for four years without being injured. Later he married Margaret Elliott. He lived in Ohio, then southern Illinois, and then to Maroa, then Iowa, and later to Nebraska, where he homesteaded west of Clearwater. The family only lived on the homestead one year before they moved to Neligh. Here the children received their education, and were married. (The parents are buried in the Neligh graveyard. Joseph died July 10, 1910, and his wife died February 13th, 1913. (She was born February 5, 1847)). Mary Billings married James Acton, and they came to Illinois in an early day, but after a brief stay became homesick for Ohio, and moved back, there to remain in Ross County for the remainder of their lives. I think Sarah Kendall remained in Ohio. Elizabeth Steele and her husband lived in Portland, Indiana, for many years. To the best of our knowledge she had two sons, James and

Thomas, and a daughter, Mary, who married a man named Hanna, of Fort Wayne Indiana.

### The Milton Billings Family

The wife of Milton Billings was Arthalinda Callen. She was born in Indiana, April 8th, 1832.

Milton Billings came to Decatur, Illinois, from Ross County, Ohio, in November, 1851. He had driven a team and wagon through from Ohio, and the first night stopped at the only tavern. Arthalinda Callen, a girl of 19, was staying near the tavern with "Aunt" Juda Oglesby, aunt of Richard J. Oglesby, later Governor of Illinois, and she came to see the wife of the tavern keeper on an errand of some kind. After she had gone, Milton told the landlady that he was going to marry that girl. Later on he made another trip to and from Ohio by wagon, and on April 8, 1852, he made good his assertion, by marrying probably the first girl he had seen in Decatur. For some years they lived on farms north of Decatur, and five children were born.

Mary Billings was born September 26, 1853; Robert McCollister Billings, August 13, 1856, and Clara Olive Billings, March 30, 1860.

Milton served in the Civil War from August 8, 1862, until the war ended. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, and with Sherman's men on their march to the sea.

Another son, James Milton, was born while Milton was in the war, but died with whooping cough.

### Ancestral Data of the Billings'

(Direct Ancestors in Capitals)

EDWARD M. BILLINGS was born near Sheffield, England, in 1732. In his twenty-fifth year he was married to Ella McGuire, an Irish maiden. In 1762 they came to America, settling first near Pittsburgh, but after a short stay there removed to Cape May County, New Jersey. Later they moved to Ross County, Ohio, and, still later, to Vermillion County, Indiana Edward M. Billings coming there in 1802 with his son, WILLIAM T. BILLINGS. Edward M. Billings died in 1804, and was buried at Newport, in Vermillion County. Edward M. and Ella Billings were the parents of six sons and ten daughters: Ross, Eva, William T., Charles R., Frederick, Milton, JOHN D., Catharine, Nancy, Grace, Plynia, Martha, Minnie, Estella, and May Billings. A baby died unnamed. (This data came in part from Arthur R. Billings of Hillsboro, a grandson of William T. Billings).

JOHN D. BILLINGS and SABRA McCOLLISTER were married in Ross County, Ohio, January 5, 1826. Their children were: Mary, Milton, Elizabeth, JOSEPH, Sarah and William Billings. William died in infancy. JOSEPH BILLINGS and MARGARET ELLIOTT were

married in Ohio, in 1867. JOSEPH BILLINGS died July 10th, 1910. (He was born in 1834). MARGARET BILLINGS was born February 5, 1847. Milton Billings' children were: Mary, Clara, Edward, and James Milton. Mary married John Swearengen, and their children were: Orton Allen, Alva Lemar, and Augusta Swearengen. John Swearengen died in Kansas City on July 24, 1909. Orton married Gertrude Hapworth, and they live in Kansas City. Their children were: Cecil, Mildred, Milton and Elizabeth Swearengen. Cecil married Laura West, their children were: Edward and Shirley. Alva Swearengen did not marry. Augusta Swearengen married Orno Taylor. Their children were: Arthur and Gertrude.

Clara Olive Billings married William H. Givler, who died April 17, 1925. Their children were: Clara Olive, who died when young. Robert McCollister Billings, born August 13, 1856, and killed by the kick of a horse July 8, 1872, while on the Jones farm. James Milton Billings, born January 6, 1863, died October 16, 1864. William Edward Billings, born September 21, 1869, married Pearl Leffel, June 2 1904. (Their son John Milton was born in North Manchester, Indiana, June 16, 1908).

Referring back to John Swearengen's children, we may say, Mildred married Fred G. Brose, and children were: John Roland, James Frederick and Milton Brose. Elizabeth Swearengen married Fred M. Zumalt and has a daughter Barbara.

### The Joseph Billings Family

The children of Joseph and Margaret Billings were: Martha Ann, Laura Jane, Leetha, Leonora, Artha Linda, Arthur Noah, Lincoln Lester, Logan Earl, and Pearl Ethel Billings. The twins died, not named.

Martha Ann worked for Mrs. Alder at dressmaking. She was born November 16, 1868. She married James Albert Lee, and their children were: Robert M., Raymond E., James A., Alberta M. and Mary V. Lee. (Albert's second marriage was to Mary Elizabeth Bennett. Their daughter, Annabel, married a Mr. A. G. Brott).

The second child of the Joseph Billings family was Laura Jane Billings. She married a William Udey at Neligh Nebraska. He had a family of seven by his first wife, and about seven from the second marriage to Laura J. Billings. Several of the children have passed away, and most of the rest live in Nebraska. A couple of the sons live on the West Coast. Then Laura J. is the mother of ten: Blanche, Maud, Bertha, Jewel, George, Theodore, Margarette and Charles, pair of twins died unnamed. Blanche is a nurse in Omaha. Maud died leaving two sons. Bertha, married, had a daughter who is married to the Postmaster at Mitchell, South Dakota, and she has a daughter. Jewel was married when last heard of. George died. Ted married

and lives in California. Margarette is married in South Dakota, at Mitchell. Charles is perhaps in Washington. Bertha's husband has a good butcher business in Wayne, Nebraska.

Leeotha Billings married the author (Charles W. W. Lee), and had four children: Vera V., Edna E., Ralph H., and Robert E. Lee.

Vera V. Lee, after finishing high school, business college, and her B.A. and M.A. in the Alberta University, went with Norman, her husband, to Urbana, to help him get his Ph.D. in chemistry, and after Norman finished, he instructed in Manhattan, Kansas, for one year, and was then employed by our University here, where he remained for the rest of his life. Vera and Norman McKee Stover finished their Masters' Degree here in the University together, and were married about a year later, August 1st, 1922. They have a daughter, Eleanor Diane Stover, born March 1st, 1935. Norman was born September 4th, 1896, and was 42 years old when he passed away the 29th of October, 1938. Vera is now holding a technical position in the Varsity in the Geology Department, and keeping her home in order at 11112 90th Avenue. Diane is in the eighth grade and finishes in 1949 in the Garneau School.

Ralph H. Lee, after finishing high school and business course, finished a course in Electrical Engineering in the University here, in 1934, and went to Chicago to work for the United Cities Utilities Company for a year or so, then he hired to the National Geophysical Company, after he had taken a course in Air Conditioning in Chicago. Later he was transferred to the Company's head office at Dallas, Texas. After working for the company a year or so, he married Miss Dorothy Higdon Duke, at Dyersburg, Tennessee, June 28th, 1938. Later, and after having worked in Dallas for two or three years, he accepted a position with the DuPont Company of Wilmington, Delaware, at a good increase in salary. While he was working there, he was transferred to work for the same company at Richland, Washington. Some 17 months later it was suggested to him that the parent company at Wilmington wanted him transferred back there. He was sent back in April, 1946. He took some part in the construction of the Atomic Bomb, that did so much destruction in Japan, when the Japanese War was closing. Little Linda Karen Lee was born to this couple. November 23rd, 1942, at Wilmington, Delaware, where Robert Duke Lee was born August 28, 1947.

Robert Earl Lee was born December 15th, 1915, at Edmonton, Alberta. After finishing high school in Garneau, he entered the University here and graduated in Commerce in May, 1937. He then went to Chicago to work for an accounting firm (the Chartered Accounting firm of Wolfe and Company). He then took an examination and became a C.P.A. man. He was drafted for a year of military training, and started it June 10th, 1941, being sent first to Camp Roberts, in California. On December 7th, 1941, war was declared on Germany and Japan by the United States. Robert then asked for financial train-

ing and was sent to Duke University, at Durham, North Carolina, where he was graduated. He was sent to Europe in 1943, and back to America in August, 1945. He was married October 20th, 1945, to a Miss Helen Elizabeth Clever, at the home of her parents in Indianapolis. A very nice home wedding, followed by a honeymoon down through the Smoky Mountains. Upon their arrival back in Indianapolis, Robert received his discharge from the army, about Nov. 1st, 1945. He then quit his former Chicago position and hired with the Peat, Marwick, Michell & Company of Indianapolis, for they were unable to locate a home in Chicago or vicinity suitable for Helen E. (Clever) Lee. This move was on Helen's account, desiring to live near her old home.

Soon after their marriage, Helen must have thought that she had married out of her class, as her parents were quite wealthy, and she was the only heir.

Robert had a wonderful education and was drawing some \$300 a month and was without bad habits. Had an excellent character. He had been studying Christian Science for some time, and I consider this the greatest of achievements, far surpassing wealth accumulation, and inheritance of riches. However, Helen asked for a divorce, and was assisted by Robert to get one. It was granted about the 27th of May, 1946, at Indianapolis. Robert continues on with his chosen work at Indianapolis, Indiana.

(While in the war, Robert was in the Financing Disbursing Section of the American Army). He came back as Major Robert E. Lee, August 2nd, 1945).

\* \* \*

Now back to the balance of the Joseph Billings children.

A pair of twins died, not named. Leonora died at three years. Artha Linda died at a year and a half.

Arthur Noah Billings, when 16 years of age, went to the Philippine War as Arthur Hayward, because he was not old enough to join up in his own name. He was married shortly after returning from the war, but soon left wife and home, and was not heard of again before the death of his parents. When he became bedfast some years later, he advertised for his people. Mrs. Lee and I, with the boys, went to visit with him when he was at a military hospital at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1932. About a year later he passed away at the Fort Leavenworth Hospital in Kansas, at the age of 43 years.

Pearl Ethel Billings was born January 8th, 1888, and after finishing high school at Neligh, Nebraska, taught school for a few years before she married Mr. Jesse Clarence Yates. They live in Neligh. When first married, the couple farmed near Clearwater, Nebraska. Their children were one daughter and four sons. The daughter, Catharine, married Mr. LaForest Arbogast and the couple have two

sons, living on a farm near Clearwater. The sons were all married but Donald who went into the Navy before World War II started. He died in prison in Burma, by Jap unattention and starvation. I think Ronald D. had four children, and he was in the war. The family live in Neligh.

Joseph Billings and his wife were buried in the Laurel Hill Cemetery at Neligh. This completes the history of Joseph Billings.

### **A Well by the Roadside, Dug by Milton Billings**

North of Decatur, Illinois, two or three miles on the Bloomington road, is a well that for many years was a watering place for the weary teams of travelers going north and south between Decatur and Bloomington. Milton Billings had often told of digging that well. He lived on the place, then known as the Hallman farm, that being some time in the reasonably early fifties. At the depth of about thirty feet the hole was dry. To see if it was worth while to continue digging he took an auger and bored down about three feet when water spurted up through the hole. He plugged the hole, walled the well, and when the plug was removed water soon raised near the top. He never knew the well to go dry, though of dry seasons the pump would be going day and night, pumping water for thirsty horses and ox teams that were driven past. The well was a great curiosity, as in the flat country of Illinois it was seldom that a vein of water was found that would raise to any height in a well. The well was still by the fence by the roadside when seen in 1924, but few of the thousands of automobiles that travel that road have any use for it. It stood as an old pioneer, having had its part in the progress of the early days, but is now unnoticed by the travelers who pass it by without a glance.

### **Billings Family in Vermillion County**

When Edward M. Billings moved from Ohio to Vermillion County, Indiana, in 1802, he was accompanied by at least one of his sons, William T. Billings. They settled on what is known as the Tree Spring farm in the northern part of Vermillion County, not far from Montezuma. There William T. Billings married and conducted the first mill, cooper shop and blacksmith shop in Vermillion County. There this branch of the family dropped the "s" from the name, claiming it did not belong in the name, but was added when the family came from England. Edward M. Billings was one of the early Quaker preachers of both Ohio and Indiana. William T. Billings was the father of nineteen children: Edward, Frank, Ella, Josiah, Belle, Stephen, Alice, Frederick, John, William B. Catharine, Philip, Josephine, May, Arthur, Jasper, Polly, Nancy and Sarah, the last being the baby and is said to now live at Bismark, Illinois. James William Billings, the father of Arthur T. Billing, from whom much of this information comes,

was a grandson of William T. Billings, who was married five times. This William T. Billings seems to have been a marrying man. He was married in Ohio but was separated from his wife through trouble of some kind with her family. One son, Edward, remained in Ohio, and has a number of descendants in that State. Arthur R. Billing of Hillsdale, was twice married, but both wives are dead, as are his two sons, John and Edward. He has two brothers living at Hillsdale, Edward and Ira.

### **The First Billings in America**

The first Billings to come to America of which I have any record (written by W. E. Billings of North Manchester, Indiana), was Roger Billings, immigrant, carpenter and proprietor of the town of Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1648. He bought land from the Indians, and was one of the petitioners for a township six miles square at Hanover. He died November 15, 1683, aged 65 years. He was three times married and the father of ten children, one Roger II, born 1657, who was married to Sarah Paine in 1678 by Governor Bradstreet. They were parents of fourteen children, one of whom, Joseph, married Rachael Babcock, and located at the town of Milton, Massachusetts. (It is to be noted that from that time on Milton is a common name among the Billings people, but whether it comes from this town cannot be stated. It is to be noted, too, that from the first, Roger has also been a common name in the family, and C. D. Billings, president of the First National Bank at Seymour, Indiana, told us though he has never traced a direct connection to these early Massachusetts Billings that nevertheless he picked Roger as the name for his son, following a long standing family tradition). Ebenezer was another son of Roger Billings I. He married Hannah Wales and their first son was Richard, born September 21, 1675, who graduated from Harvard College in 1698, and who became a minister at Little Compton. There were twelve other children in the Ebenezer Billings family.

### **Took New Jersey on a Debt**

Edward Byllings was one of the first, if not the first governor of West Jersey, but his affairs soon came into such a condition that William Penn was selected to look after them. It was while doing this that Penn became sufficiently interested in America that he obtained a grant to what became the State of Pennsylvania. There is no record that I can find to show that this Edward Byllings was any relative of the Edward M. Billings who came to this country nearly a hundred years later, but the fact that they both came from the same part of England and bore the same name admits a possibility that some place there may have been a relationship. A little of history of this Edward Byllings is interesting, anyway. In 1664, Charles II granted what is now the State of New Jersey to his brother, James,

the Duke of York, who the next year transferred his rights to Lord Berkley and Sir George Carteret, and the latter named the tract New Jersey because the Isle of Jersey was his old home. Carteret was the first governor but soon became unpopular. In the meantime Berkley traded his interest to Fenwick and Byllings. He appeared to have owed these men and it seemed to be a habit of debtors in those days to give land in America in settlement of debts much as folks a few years ago would trade land in Texas or Florida. It appears that Byllings must have been financially involved, too, for by the transfer his share was given to Fenwick in trust for him. Fenwick came to this country, but he and Byllings quarreled about the time he started, and history says Byllings was not able to raise enough money to make the trip. New Jersey was divided about that time, the western part being known as West Jersey and in the State history Byllings is listed as being the first governor of this tract, though how he ever managed to raise the money to come to America, or whether he ever did come in person, seems to be left in doubt so far as we can tell from authorities at hand. Samuel Jennings was his deputy governor, and he and Byllings indulged in a fierce and wordy quarrel, the charges and counter charges of which have become a matter of history, but what the quarrel was all about was so lost sight of in their efforts to vilify each other, that today by reading that controversy one cannot tell what was the real bone of contention. Byllings soon resigned as governor, and made an assignment of all of his interest to William Penn for the benefit of his creditors, going out of office March 25, 1679.

### **The Billings Name in History**

John Shaw Billings, M.D., surgeon and statistician, born 1838, served through the Civil War. Has written books on hygiene, ventilation, vital statistics, and numerous papers in medical and scientific journals. On consolidation of the Astor and Lennox libraries with the Tilden Foundation into the New York Public Library, he was placed in charge as chief librarian. He was an early authority on heating and ventilating, publishing "Principles of Ventilation and Heating" in 1884.

Joseph Billings was an English navigator and was with Captain James Cook on his last voyage. This voyage was commenced July 12, 1776, when Cook in the Resolution and Captain Clarke in the Discovery set out to find a passage through the Bering Strait. Billings was with Captain Cook when the latter met his death on the island of Hawaii, February 14, 1779, Cook being killed by savages while he was attempting to recover a boat that had been stolen from the Discovery. After this, in 1785, Joseph Billings went into Russian service, and explored the region around the Kolyma River in East Siberia. In 1789 and 1790 he made several voyages in the Okhotsk seas and the Arctic Ocean, exploring the islands near the coast of Alaska. He returned to Kamchatka in 1791.

Robert William Billings, born in London in 1813, and acquired during a seven years' apprenticeship with John Briton, typographical draughtsman, a taste for and a facility in the production of illustrations of historic buildings. Between 1838 and 1849 he produced illustrations of several churches and cathedrals, as well as his "Architectural Antiquities of the County of Durham." His chief work was entitled "Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland" (four volumes, 1845-52) with 240 illustrations. Under his direction was restored the Chapel of Edinburgh Castle, and the Douglas Room in Stirling Castle. He died in 1874.

### **"Josh" Billings**

It seems that all through the later generations of the Billings family there have been members who have born the nickname "Josh." Milton and Joseph Billings were called that more than they were called their own names. All through life in North Manchester, Eddie Billings answered as though he was addressed that way more than being called by his own name. But the real "Josh" Billings was not a Billings at all. He just took the name as a good one and did his best to live up to its requirements. His real name was Harry Wheeler Shaw, and he was born at Lanesboro, Massachusetts, in 1818, and died in 1885. After a brief term in Hamilton College he went west where for 22 years he worked on steamboats and on farms, finally becoming an auctioneer. Then he returned east, locating at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he wrote the humorous newspaper sketches for which he became famous. His peculiar spelling attracted much attention, as well as his original wit and drollery, all coupled with everyday wisdom. He was also well known upon the lecture platform where his affected awkwardness amused many, and helped him to make his points.

### **Christenings**

At the time I was registering the name of Robert E. Lee, a few days after he was born, I was asked what the "E" stood for. I was unable to say off hand just what the "E" did stand for, but we knew we intended he should have the name of the Southern General of Civil War fame, a General in the Confederate Army. But as I could not give it, I just told them to call it "E for Earl." It was learned afterward that it should have stood for "Edward," so as Robert went through the city schools he just used the name "Edward" for a middle name. When he finished school, he and I went down to have the name changed, but we were told it could not be changed. Well, I knew it could be changed, but as Robert advised to let it go, I did not go to the expense of changing it.

My sister, Margaret May Lee and I were christened by a Methodist minister when we were about five and three years old respectively. My name was pronounced by the minister as "Charles William Wesley

Lee." and my sister's name was to be "Margaret May Lee." This was the way we were christened about the year of 1876 when on the farm near Neligh, Nebraska.

### **The Samuel Lee Family in the Pioneer Days**

Mother was the most important person around the home near Neligh. She kept the home going when father was away. She and the three oldest children were to be cared for: James Albert, Margaret May, and myself, Charles William Wesley Lee.

She made presents for young and old for Christmas gifts—pop-corn, candy, fudge, mittens and stockings. This was a very joyful time of the year.

Mother had friends among all the old settlers, and when later the town grew to some size, mother milked cows and made butter for Saturday's delivery in town. Later she sold wall paper and in order to make a sale lots of times she would agree to put it on the wall for the people.

Once when mother was going out with her pony and while she was getting out of the buggy, the pony got scared and cramped the buggy, throwing mother out. She must have been injured at that time; she passed away about a year later. The funeral procession, made up of teams, buggies and wagons, was a mile and a quarter long, so well known was she, and loved.

She was a wonderful mother to us.

### **William Billings**

William Billings was born in 1746, died 1800. He was the first New England composer of whom there is any record, and gave up his trade as a tanner to teach psalm singing. He published six books of tunes, nearly all of which were his own composition. He is said to have been the first American composer of music, and is regarded as the founder of New England church music. His patriotic airs were popular among the New England troops during the Revolutionary War. The best known of his six musical books were "The Singing Master's Assistant," (1778) styled "Billings' Best," and "The Psalm Singer's Amusement," (1781). The very title of the latter indicates that he was not as straight laced and melancholy in his productions as most of the psalm singers of his day, for it would be hard to find how any "amusement" could be found in the way a lot of those fellows did their singing.

### **The Doctor John Lee Family**

The family lived in Dexter, Michigan, while the doctor was alive; and while the children were being educated, at Dexter and Ann Arbor.

During the Grover Cleveland Presidential Administration, Dr. John Lee was the State Medical Officer, and drew a good salary. In his family there were one son and three daughters: John, Mary, Clara and Bedotha. All married but Mary, who was the oldest.

At one time, when out looking for employment, I went to St. Louis and west to Oklahoma City, where I accepted employment on the railroad. While working there I looked up the family of Dr. John Lee, as I heard that it had moved there. I had never met any of the family before.

During the four months we lived there, the members of this family were much interested in getting Mrs. Lee and myself to go to Australia to see if I could find anything of Uncle Robert Lee or his estate. So I finally went down to get a lawyer to draw up some papers for me to protect me and also to provide some little pay if I could be successful. After the Lees there, had signed the paper, to let me have half of the estate if any could be recovered, I sent it to the heirs connected by relation, in Canada. This was in 1906.

The papers were returned to me by Septimus Bennett, in Toronto. He said they did not care to sign such a document, because the money would eventually come to the heirs in time without going there after it, and that he for one did not care to let any of his money go to make nice trips on the railroad, for any of the men who delight in such trips at somebody else's expense. Well, I let it drop. But twenty years after this, I wrote a long letter to Sep., asking him if he had ever recovered any of the Robert Lee estate, and if so to kindly let me know and put me wise to the procedure, as I could use a little extra money just then. Later, I took his letter of 1906 back to him in person. Several letters had been written to the Government of Australia, and it was learned that only relatives of someone authorized to look up records were allowed to look into the particulars. (Earlier, Dr. John Lee wrote to, and received letters from, Robert Lee in Australia, as I have related before).

### **The John Williams Family**

John Williams was born, reared and married in England. He was the oldest son of five, and was the favorite, seeming to be consuming much of the family money. So, as in Bible times with Joseph, who was a lone horse, the other four ran John out of the home. So he took his family and located in New Amsterdam, now New York, in America. He had one son and three daughters besides his wife to care for.

When the war of 1812 between the British and Americans broke out, he was solicited to enter the American Army. This he did not do. But six months later the government went after him again to press him into the American Army. So he moved his family and

settled in a thinly settled part of Canada. But here the British government wanted him to join the Canadian forces, and he finally was drafted. But he froze his feet the first winter, and died from the effects.

Of course they had servants. He had two log houses built, ends together, with a doorway connecting them. The house took fire and was nearly destroyed before the mother, sewing in the far end of the house, was aware of the fire. All she saved was an old cedar chest. This contained all of their stocks and bonds, with other valuable papers.

However, a neighbor lady that was going to New Amsterdam, induced the mother to let her oldest girl go with her, and while she was there she could collect the rent on the sixteen houses that the family had left rented in New Amsterdam. The mother let the oldest girl, aged 13, go with this neighbor. She was never heard of again, nor the woman that went with her.

There were still two girls and a boy left in the family. Mary Williams, the second daughter of this John Williams family, married Hiram Dexter, and was my grandmother in later years. The son married and had children out north of Toronto, while the other daughter married and raised a family down at Cleveland, Ohio. I think her name was Jones. At least she was later found to be in possession of John Williams' WILL.

While she was carrying some papers out to the garbage can in Cleveland, she said to the man next door, "Did you ever see an English seal?" He said "No." She said, "Here is one." He then enquired as to what she was going to do with those papers, and she said she was throwing them out. "Let me take this," he said, "and I will try to recover the possible property, share and share alike with the children." But she just took this back into the home.

Jennie Wilson of Toronto told me this in person, as she had been down there on a visit to the family. But the woman died before anything was recovered, and those papers would go to the daughter, it was assumed. However, John Williams was advertised for by the Court of Chancery of London, England, and it seems that mother's sisters wrote the Court advising they had John's WILL. The Court wrote and said send it to the Court. Of course they had to acknowledge that the evidence had now been mislaid. Nothing was ever again heard of the immense fortune that would have come to the heirs of John Williams.

(Jenny Wilson made the above mentioned visit to Cleveland in 1909).

*Contents of Letters from Mrs. Hankins and Mrs. Paul (sisters; and grand-daughters of John Dexter, a brother of my grandfather, Hiram Dexter).*

In answer to letters addressed to Mrs. Hankins of Lakeside, Nebraska, asking for history of the John Dexter family, I have the following:

"Lakeside, Nebraska,

"January 17, 1944.

"Dear Mr. Lee:

"Your nice letter came to me Friday, the 14th.

"I am sorry I can't give you information on the family history, only that Mark Dexter, my father, was the son of John Dexter, who, of course, is my grandfather and a brother of Hiram Dexter, your grandfather. I guess John Dexter had six children: Thomas, who lived in California; Simon, living, or did live, at Mason City, Iowa; Matthew and Mark (twins), Matthew died in young manhood; Mark, my father, died a few years ago.

"That is about all I can give on family history, except father's sisters: Mary, Martha, and Harriet. Mary was Mrs. Tourtlott, of Amboy, Illinois; Harriet Fessenden of Mason City; Martha Ruggles of California.

"If you'll write to my sister, Mrs. John Paul, Clear Lake, Iowa, I'm sure she'll give you more data on the family of Dexters. She has taken pains to collect information on the family tree. Then my brother, Whitney Dexter, of Cedro Woolley, Washington, might be able to tell you more than I can.

"I'm the youngest of our family, 69 years old. When you and your good wife come to our lovely U.S.A., just come on down here, then on to Clear Lake, Iowa. Just visit all that's left of the old family.

"I have a sister here that is 83 years old, very jolly and full of fun, loves the old Dexter relation. Wish you could both come and meet her.

"I'm sorry I couldn't help out more in the history, but this will help, I hope. Best regards to you both.

"Mrs. Arthur Hankins."

"January 31, 1944.

"Dear Mr. Lee:

"I will try to answer your questions correctly this time. I was very glad to receive your nice letter.

"We are snowed in now with about three feet of snow on the level, and banks around nine feet high. No mail now for several days, perhaps several more before our mail can get through. Guess I didn't tell you that we live in the country on a ranch, 26 miles from town. Lakeside is where we get our mail, and Rushville is our County seat and business town. Of course, when we have a deep snow, our

mail carrier can't get through. Then, too, he is crippled, one arm is useless and one leg, yet he carries the mail very well.

"We live in the sand hills of Nebraska, just a stick country, and run white-faced cattle (Herefords).

"Have a son at home 45 years old, and one daughter living near Battle Creek, Michigan. She has six children: three boys nearly grown, and three tiny girls. . . ."

\* \* \*

Mrs. John Paul of Clear Lake, Iowa, wrote in part as follows:

"And you live in the busy section of Alberta, at Edmonton. I read a piece in the *Saturday Evening Post* of the activities in Edmonton, due to the Alaska Highway.

"In Sacramento, a grand-daughter of Uncle Thomas Dexter has her home. Her mother, Mrs. D. N. Gibbs, lives in Woodland, seventeen miles from Sacramento.

"Aunt Martha Ruggles' only living child is in Sacramento for the winter. Her son, Milton Horner, has a law office in the city, and has a 'phone. She has three daughters and four sons, all grand people.

"I have a history of Lee County, Illinois, stories of early days. Some drove covered wagons there from Canada.

"Mark Dexter raised seven children after mother died.

"I live in an apartment in my old home town. My father came here in 1856, and mother was the third teacher in the town in 1857. She was from New York and was Amanda M. Whitney. Mother died in 1880.

"Mr. Paul and I lived in California ten years and many winters, a few winters in Hawaii (Honolulu). My interests are here and I need to look after them since Mr. Paul passed on.

"I've spent many pleasant hours in the old Lee home while in Washington, D.C. I'm glad you have a Robert Lee. I do like the name so much.

"The following is from the John Dexter family Bible:

"John Dexter, son of Elisha Dexter, was born on February 13, 1773, in Connecticut, U.S. Died October 30, 1815. Jane Dexter, born February 11, 1772. Died July 14, 1839. John Dexter and Jane Niece were married at Geneseo, New York, in 1796."

"Their family were:

"Amos Dexter, born February 3, 1797.

"Elizabeth Dexter, born October 31, 1798; died September, 1816.

"Hiram Dexter, born April 24, 1801; died April, 1888.

"John Dexter, born October 8, 1803; died May 23, 1888.

"Mary Dexter, born July 27, 1805; died December, 1849.

"Elisha Dexter, born June 8, 1807; died April, 1850.

"Asakel Dexter, born March 14, 1809.

"Alijah Dexter, born February 6, 1811.

"Harriett Elizabeth Dexter.

"Thomas, Mary, and Matthew of our family were born in Vaughn, home district, also Mark Dexter, Upper Canada, near Toronto.

"The family crest—a *pirate head and turban*—shows the family started out to be Catholic, except those in France, then Protestants after 1625. Thus our early ancestor was a pirate and thorn in the side of the English Throne and was alluded to as a bloody pirate.

"The crown of England claimed he was not particular whether the ships were English or not.

"You may not care to know an early ancestor was 'a bloody pirate,' but I really like the idea. He, as the story goes, was hung at the 'Yards Arm,' but in 1625 his work was an honorable calling; anyway, he must have had great sport keeping Eiggled on the squeegee—

"My grandparents were John Dexter and Margaret (Dudgeau) Dexter. Married on September 24, 1829, at Youngstown, New York. Margaret Dexter, born September 5, 1812, died May 21, 1845, at Amboy.

"Their children were:

"Thomas Jefferson Dexter, born October 22, 1830, died leaving four daughters.

"Mary Jane Dexter (Turtillotte), born November 8, 1832, died October, 1878.

"Matthew Ralph died in infancy.

"Henry Mark, my father, raised seven children—four girls and three boys.

"Simon Bolivar Dexter, born July 22, 1836, left no family.

"Martha Anne Dexter (Ruggles), born May 13, 1838, still living.

(Signed) "Mrs. Mary Paul."

\* \* \*

#### Ancestors of C. W. Lee's Children

Robert Lee of Londonderry, Ireland, born about 1750, to James Lee of Londonderry to Canada, born about 1800, to Samuel Lee of Stouffville, Canada, and Neligh, Nebraska, 1840-1909, to

Charles W. W. Lee of Neligh and Edmonton, born 1873, to His four children.

\* \* \*

### **Ancestors of Leeotha Lee's Children**

Edward M. Billings, born Sheffield, England, in 1732, died 1804, to

John D. Billings of Ross County, Ohio, to

Joseph Billings, born about 1834, of Ross County, died July 10, 1910, to

Leeotha Lee, born Chillicothe, 1872, to

Her four children.

\* \* \*

### **Direct Descendants of Elisha Dexter, of Connecticut**

Elisha Dexter of Connecticut, 1750, to

John Dexter of Connecticut, 1773, to

Hiram Dexter of Canada, 1801, to

Harriett Jane Lee (Dexter) of Neligh, Nebraska, 1842; died June 26, 1907, to

Charles W. W. Lee, of Edmonton, Canada, 1873, to

Our four children: Vera Verna Lee, Ralph Harold Lee, Robert Earl Lee, and Edna Etta Lee.

\* \* \*

### **Direct Descendants of Mr. Elliott of Ohio**

Mr. Elliott, of Chillicothe, Ohio, born about 1810, to

Margaret Elliott, of Chillicothe, Ohio, born about 1847, to

Leeotha (Billings) Lee, of Chillicothe and Edmonton, to

Our children.

\* \* \*

(The Mother's ancestry has not been noted very much, where the Father's record is prominently recorded).

\* \* \*

We have now touched on the four branches of your ancestry. But the ancestry of Leeotha Lee and her mother, Margaret Billings, and grandfather, Milton Elliott, born about 1790, have nothing that we can get hold of, or trace. We have the United States military record of the brothers of Margaret Billings. BENJAMIN ELLIOTT was enrolled as a Private in Company "K," 90th Regiment, Ohio Vol. Inf. on the 29th day of July, 1862, and was mustered into the United States service as such for the period of three years, on the 26th day of August, 1862, at Camp Circleville, Ohio, by Frank P. Muhlenberg, U.S.A. Mustering Officer, and that he died April 20th, 1863, at Cripple Creek, Tennessee, buried in Wayne Township, Clinton County, Ohio.

EDWARD ELLIOTT was enrolled as a Private in Company "B," 2nd Regiment, Ohio, Vol. Cav., on the 10th day of February, 1865, at \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ and was mustered into the United States

service as such for the period of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ U.S.A. Mustering Officer, and that he was mustered out with Company, September 11th, 1865, at Benton Barracks, Missouri. He was 20 years of age at date of enlistment.

(This information was obtained from D. F. Pancoast, Adjutant General of Ohio, and was all the information I could get of the Government, at Columbus, Ohio).

I find there were but five children, two boys and three girls: Benjamin, Edward, Rhoda, Mary, and Margaret Elliott.

\* \* \*

### **I Related To My Family Some Ten Years Ago (November 27, 1945)**

I related that this planet had been in existence for many millions of years. It may have been a part of the sun, but since has been cooling rapidly.

The discovery of the skeletons of the dinosaurs, found here on the Red Deer Valley, reveals that these animals were in existence in a warm climate. However, if these and other animals were in plentiful numbers, the animal or material man was here also. For where these animals could live, man could also live.

We have found where animals were killed by man with wooden spears, when in need of meat.

The Chinamen have a record of man being on the earth some 14,000 years ago, it is said; while our Biblical history reaches back some 6,000 years.

I read in newspapers some ten years ago of a city being unearthed, or uncovered, in Mexico, which geologists claim was in the height of its glory some 30,000,000 years ago,

It has been my candid opinion that this planet has been inhabited many years and many times, by man.

Wars and financial depressions may have caused a mere handful of the people to move back into hiding, and stay hid (while all other people have been destroyed by bombs or something else) for years, perhaps, until they could not read, nor their children. When they finally came out, there was no remembrance of the existence of an earlier inhabitation. The people of the remaining group then started perhaps to become civilized, and enlighten themselves and their children, and they made laws for themselves.

As long as greed and aggression have hold on the people, "there will be wars and rumors of wars in worlds without end."

### **Man's Native Freedom**

Freedom is native to man because it is God-derived. This is why men throughout all the ages have worked and lived, fought and died

for their ideals of freedom. Patrick Henry expressed the value which men have placed upon it when he cried, "Give me liberty or give me death."

It was because the early settlers of America prized their freedom above all else that they left the comfort and security of their native lands and built their homes in the wilderness of the new world. Here they watchfully tended and cultivated the tender plant of freedom, until it grew into a great and hardy tree, and under the shelter of its great branches the people, too, grew and prospered.

But as yet, the tree of freedom had not borne its full fruitage. When the hearts of men were prepared for the revelation and experience of freedom in its diviner aspects and deeper meaning, the long awaited fruition came.

In 1875, "Science and Health, with key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, was published. In this book we read (p. 266), "The voice of God in behalf of the African slave was still echoing in our land, when the voice of the herald of this new crusade sounded the keynote of universal freedom, asking a fuller acknowledgement of the rights of man as a Son of God, demanding that the fetters of sin, sickness, and death be stricken from the human mind and that its freedom be won, not through human warfare, not with bayonet and blood, but through Christ's divine Science."

Here, at last, Christian Science had brought the full revelation of the meaning of freedom, and pointed the way to its scientific attainment. It brought the joyous message: First, that freedom is natural and inherent to man as the idea of God and that this fact of being is true now, not something to be attained in the future. Secondly, that all forms of human bondage, including sin, sickness and death, are unreal; that human bondage is self-imposed; and that the human person is held in subjection by his own false beliefs, not by divine law. Thirdly, that the scientific understanding of man's oneness with God and the demonstration of this oneness bring complete deliverance from limitation and bondage, and the limited sense of human personality surrenders to the dominion and freedom of man's true being.

In the wonderful exegesis of Genesis in Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy differentiates between the true and the false account of creation. The first chapter of Genesis recounts the true creation, wherein man is made in God's own likeness, and possesses and reflects God's dominion "over all the earth." In the second chapter, because of a mist or obstruction of thought, man appears to be made of the dust of the ground, with the breath of life in his nostrils. This mystified, erroneous sense of man then finds itself in the Garden of Eden, A MATERIAL BODY, the inevitable externalization of a false, limited concept of true being. By accepting the belief of life and intelligence in matter, that false concept of human life comes under its self-imposed limitations and laws of sin, disease, and death, and is condemned to live

by the sweat of its brow. Fearing for its mortal sense of life, this erroneous sense strives to perpetuate itself, and out of one mortal man it makes men many, thereby fancying itself a creator.

This picture is diametrically opposite to the real man, whom God created in His own likeness and to whom He gave dominion. Was man in God's likeness, possessing and reflecting God's dominion over the whole earth, ever put into the garden of Eden, into a material body, and condemned by the laws of sin, sickness and death? No. Mrs. Eddy describes this second record of creation as the history of error in its visible forms, and designates the whole account as mythology. (Science and Health, p 522).

We must then conclude that man never has lived and does not live in matter, and therefore cannot be subject to its limitations of time or space, or be condemned by its laws of mortality and disease. In "Unity of Good," Mrs. Eddy thus defines true creation (p. 32): "Spirit is the only creator and man including the universe is His spiritual concept." Man, being God's spiritual concept, cannot be in anything material or be localized in any way. We cannot conceive of any true immortal idea as being here or there, or as ceasing to exist at any time.

Man, who fully represents in quality infinite Mind, is as uncircumscribed, as eternally ever present, as Mind itself. When the universe is seen to be purely spiritual, consisting of ideas, it can be readily understood that man includes, through understanding, the universe, for only thus could he exercise his God-given dominion over it.

Humanly speaking, learning to express spiritual dominion, and freedom seems to entail the process of repudiating false fears and beliefs, and replacing the false human sense with divine concepts. With each dismissal of the aggressive suggestions of sin, with each healing of sickness and disease, some matter-sense or limitation drops away, and thought is clarified and liberated. As we learn progressively to identify ourselves with the true concept of man as the reflection of the one infinite Mind, matter ceases to have any real entity for us as man, and consciousness continues joyously and perfection of limitless, all-inclusive being, the glory that was ours before the world (or the restricted sense of existence) was.

The Master experienced to the fullest extent this glorious sense of freedom and in these few words he told mankind how to obtain it: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8: 31, 32). When he proved that even a tomb could not enclose him, Jesus gave the proof that man cannot be imprisoned in matter. Triumphant he emerged from the rockribbed sepulcher, a living witness to the continuity and eternity of Life, entirely apart from the belief of matter.

Knowing full well the tyrannic tendencies of the human mind, Jesus with his deep and tender Love for humanity, felt the need of

admonishing his disciples to be alert in defence of their divine rights and liberties: "What I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13: 37). Centuries later, in 1852, Wendell Phillips, in an address before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, sounded a similar warning quoting the famous words, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

In the present hour our brave men in the armed forces are engaged in a gigantic victorious struggle to liberate the peoples of the world from the cruel and aggressive forces of evil which have been holding them in oppression and slavery. Are we Christian Scientists faithfully and unceasingly keeping on watch? Are we strengthening the citadel of consciousness and defending our heritage of freedom against the hidden forms of tyranny which often appear in the guise of good? Seeing the danger, do we, as did Jesus, hold watch over our consciousness?

Complete freedom is found in the reign of Principle, and is attained, as Mrs. Eddy points out, not by human warfare or human methods, but through the understanding and practice of Christ's divine Science. Freedom is a spiritual idea. Therefore it is universally available and can never become exhausted or inadequate. Spiritual freedom can be humanly evidenced, not by the restriction of man's true and lawful rights, but by the free release and exercise of them. The clearer our realization that the jurisdiction or government of the world is in the one Mind, the closer will we approximate the ideal of world organization.

The fulfillment of this ideal will be a blessing to all, for all nations will be able to co-ordinate their efforts along lines universally beneficial, adjust their difficulties and resolve their differences, not by human warfare, but from the basis that the divine law of mercy, justice, and freedom is operative for all. This can result in no loss of individual liberty, but only in the priceless gain of a better understanding of "On earth peace, goodwill toward men." Mrs. Eddy gloriously portrays the reign of freedom in an article entitled "Spirit and Law" (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 258): In the spiritual Genesis of creation all law was vested in the law giver, who was a law to Himself. He governs the universe. And the last paragraph of this article reads:

"When the lawgiver was the only law of creation freedom reigned and was the heritage of man; but this freedom was the moral law of good, not of evil: it was divine Science, in which God is supreme, and the only law of being. In this eternal harmony of Science man is not fallen: he is governed in the same rhythm that the Scripture describes, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

## My Views of What the Future Holds in Store

### (Material Views Only)

#### The Highest Type of Material Conception of This Planet

There will come, well within the lives of the present generation, a period at which the blind forces of destruction will appear to be in the ascendant. It does not seem to me to be necessary that this should be true, but it does seem to be probable.

There is, at the moment, no party, group, or individual possessing at once the power, the knowledge, and a will, which would transmute the growing social unrest and resentment (now chiefly marshalled under the crudities Socialism and Communism) into a constructive effort for the regeneration of Society.

When this occurs mankind will have reached one of those crises which no doubt have frequently been reached before, but which so far have failed to avert the fall of humanity back into an era of barbarism out of which new civilizations have slowly and painfully arisen.

Under the present monetary system, the present type of civilization cannot long continue. We have now reached a parting of the ways. Some changes are taking place. The rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. I herewith quote what President Abe Lincoln said, near the close of the Civil War, in reply to a letter from a friend in Illinois:

"Yes, we may all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of America. Youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the Nation might live. It has been indeed a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future, a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money powers of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.

"I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

I herewith quote what Mrs. Eddy wrote over 75 years ago in her Text Book, Science and Health. She could see the error of material organization, as did President Lincoln.

"This material world is even now becoming the arena for conflicting forces. On one side there will be discord and dismay; on the other side there will be Science and peace. The breaking up of material beliefs may seem to be famine and pestilence, want and woe, sin, sickness, and death, which assume new phases until their nothingness

appears. These disturbances will continue until the end of error, when all discord will be swallowed up in spiritual Truth."

This was about 1864, and similar predictions were made by other noted men since that time. As I see the matter, there is but one hope to avert the catastrophe, in all countries, for all seem to be affected nearly the same way, without hopes of recovery. All countries are very deeply in debt. Most countries are unable to even pay their carrying charges.

The one hope I have for success of the people to avert the trouble is through reversing or reverting the credit of the country back to the people through some such principles as are now being offered under Social Credit. But hardly Technocracy.

I have endeavored to advocate reform government, and democratic principles, through existing political parties. I fully believed in promoting it through some reform party, but not through any of the present organized political forms of the country. But I have little hopes. They seem to have too much POLITICS, graft and greed or aggression.

As I see it now, all old parties could unite for a time just to defeat any true effort to avert catastrophe, just so the perpetrators can hoodwink the people, to possess power to obtain money. If necessary to cause slavery. To quote the Bible: "There will be war, and rumors of war, in worlds without end"—and while greed and aggression are in possession of those in charge of our affairs.

Russia has 14 million slaves or more at the present time, and perhaps more now. (See *Reader's Digest* of April, 1947).

CHARLES W. W. LEE

January 15, 1949,  
at Edmonton, Alberta.

### The Balance Sheet

When December's sun is settin', and the days are growin' cold;  
When the harvest is all over, and half the crops are sold;  
Then's the time to sit and study as you count the effort spent,  
If the game was worth the winnin' after payin' all your rent.

As you look the year all over, seein' just what crops have failed,  
And where you made your livin' when the products were retailed;  
Then you'll put it all together, findin' out just where you're at,  
Seein' if the year has left you way up high, or just down flat.

So when Life's sun is sinkin', and you're figurin' out what's done,  
Findin' out your future standin', whether good or evil's won;  
Then you'll put it all together—balance good against the bad—  
And if evil stands the highest then you're feelin' pretty sad.

But if as you look backward on the record spread out clear,  
You find marks of deeds of kindness and of honest words of cheer,  
Then you're feelin' pretty happy, and you step right up to ride  
In the boat across the river, for the balance is on your side.

(Selected by C. W. Lee, 1949).

<u>Robert Lee</u> Londonderry, Ireland Birth and death not known but must have been born about 1760.	<u>William Lee</u>	<u>Prudence Lee</u> 14 12 1831 - 28 2 1904	<u>Jacob Stover</u> 3-11 1864-
<u>Wife</u> History not known	<u>Harry Lee</u>	<u>Thomas Lee</u> 7 12 1832 - 6 3 1865	<u>Norman McKee Stover</u> 3-9 1895 - 29-10-1938
	<u>John Lee</u>	<u>Robert Lee</u> 5-1 1834 1889 last heard from	<u>Ross Stover</u> 17-11 1897-
	<u>James Lee</u> 1799 - 19 10-1857	<u>James Lee</u> 17 12 1834-16 3-1872	<u>Marion Stover</u> 15 11 1898-
	<u>Samuel Lee</u>	<u>William Lee</u> 9-5 1836- 20 2 1874	<u>Eleanor McKee</u> 8-2 1872-
	<u>Thomas Lee</u>	<u>Samuel Lee</u> 1838 - 1838	
	<u>Mary Lee</u>	<u>Samuel Lee</u> 6 7-1840-28 8-1909	<u>James Albert Lee</u> 17 10-1867-17 11 1939
	<u>Mary Barefoot</u>	<u>Mary Ann Lee</u> 2-11 1842- 8 3-1913	<u>Margaret May Lee</u> 27 6 1871-
<u>Thomas Barefoot</u> Dawn Ireland	<u>Nancy Barefoot</u>	<u>Elizabeth Lee</u> 14-12 1844-25 3 1926	<u>Charles W W Lee</u> 15 1 1873-
<u>Wife</u> History not known	<u>Esther Barefoot</u> 1810- 19-10-1872	<u>Esther Jane Lee</u> 27-6 1846-11-3-1918	<u>Vera Verna Lee</u> 18-7 1899-
	<u>Margaret Barefoot</u>	<u>John Lee</u> 1-3 1849- 3-11 1903	<u>Edna Etta Lee</u> 21 2 1902- 29-3-1904
	<u>Daughter</u> History not known	<u>David Lee</u> 10-7-1850-29-2 1916	<u>Ralph Harold Lee</u> 6 4-1911-
	<u>John Williams</u>	<u>Alexander Lee</u> 29 3-1852-	
	<u>Mary Williams</u>	<u>Margaret Lee</u> 9 5-1853 - 29-3 1928	
<u>Wife</u> History not known	<u>Esther Williams</u>	<u>Elizabeth Dexter</u>	
	<u>Amos Dexter</u> 3-2 1797-	<u>Mary Ann Dexter</u>	
	<u>Elizabeth Dexter</u> 31-10-1798- 9-1816	<u>Margaret Dexter</u> 4-1 1833- 1-7 1927	
	<u>Asher Dexter</u>	<u>Rebecca Dexter</u>	
<u>Elisha Dexter</u> Served in Capt. Masey's Co. 6 <sup>th</sup> Battrn, 1776 Company raised in June to reinforce Washington in Conn. In the census of 1790 Elisha Dexter is listed as head of a family of 1 male over 16 yrs - 3 under 16 & 2 females, in Conn. Birth and death not known, but must have been born about 1750 in Conn.	<u>John Dexter</u> 13-2-1773- 30 10-1815	<u>John Dexter</u> 8 10-1803- 22 5-1888	
<u>Wife</u> History not known	<u>Jane Niece</u> 11-2-1772- 14-7-1839	<u>Mary Dexter</u> 27-7 1805- 12 1849	
		<u>Elisha Dexter</u> 8-6 1807 - 4 1859	
		<u>Asakel Dexter</u> 14-3-1809-	
		<u>Aligah Dexter</u> 6-2 1811-	
		<u>2nd Wife</u>	
		<u>Ross Billings</u>	
	<u>Edward M. Billings</u> 1732- 1804	<u>Mary Billings Aclon</u>	<u>Martha Ann Billings</u> 16-11 1868 -
<u>Born Sheffield, England</u> Married in his 25 <sup>th</sup> year. Came to America 1762 First Ross County, Ohio later Vermillion County, Ind arriving there 1802 with his son William T. Billings	<u>Eva Billings</u>	<u>Milton Billings</u> 1838- 15-4-1917	<u>Laura Jane Billings</u> 16-8 1870-
<u>Much of this data furnished</u> by Arthur R. Billings of Hillsboro, a grandson of William T. Billings	<u>William T. Billings</u>	<u>Elizabeth Billings Steele</u> 1840- 10 7 1910	<u>Lee Otha Billings</u> 23 10-1872-
	<u>Charles R. Billings</u>	<u>Joseph Billings</u> 1840- 10 7 1910	<u>Leonora Billings</u> 1878 - 1881
	<u>Frederick Billings</u>	<u>Sarah Billings Kendall</u> Died in infancy	<u>Artha Linda Billings</u> 30-12-1880- 1881
	<u>Milton Billings</u>	<u>William Billings</u>	<u>Arthur Noah Billings</u> 28-4-1893- 9 1932
	<u>John D. Billings</u>	<u>Benjamin Elliot</u>	<u>Lincoln Lester Billings</u> 8 9-1885- 1886
	<u>Catharine Billings</u>	<u>Edward Elliot</u>	<u>Logan Earl Billings</u> 8 9-1885- 1886
	<u>Nancy Billings</u>	<u>Rhoda Elliot</u>	<u>Pearl Ethel Billings</u> 8-1-1888-
	<u>Grace Billings</u>	<u>Mary Elliot</u>	
	<u>Plynthia Billings</u>	<u>Margaret Elliot</u> 5-2 1847- 13-2 1913	
	<u>Martha Billings</u>		
	<u>Minnie Billings</u>		
	<u>Stella Billings</u>		
	<u>May Billings</u>		
	<u>A Baby - not named</u>		
	<u>Sabra McCollister</u>		

Elisha Dexter  
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and death not known,  
but must have been born  
about 1750 in Conn.

Wife  
History not known

A copy of this family history  
may be received by writing  
either of the three names  
following, at a cost of Two  
Dollars, by relatives.  
Mrs. Vera V. Stover 11112-90<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Edmonton, Alta.  
R. H. Lee, 207 Curtis Ave  
Wilmington 177, Delaware  
R.E Lee, 5831 Delaware,  
Indianapolis 5, Ind