

OCTOBER 1979

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Up until now I have written only about the Sharbondys. Papa told me they came from France, and that tells us their nationality, but I never learned anything about where the Bogers came from or their nationality. I read a book about the French Revolution which led me to think that that may have been the reason for many migrating at that time in history. The Bogers may have come from the same area due to the same reason. Both families settled in the same area in Mercer County Pennsylvania at about the same time. The name I have been told is neither Dutch or German.

The first Boger that I have any record of was Ephriam our Great-Grandfather. He married Hannah Marie Wertz, and reading from her obituary, I learned that she came over the mountains from Lehigh County Pennsylvania to Mercer County at the age of 11 years with her Father John Wertz, three brothers, two sisters and her Grandfather. They numbered 28, the younger members of the family walked a great deal of the way. The Sharbondy family Bible has a record of Hannah Wertz Boger born April 12, 1824 and died January 18, 1908. There is no record or date of her marriage to Ephriam. He died February 27, 1866. Mother told me he was murdered. He had taken a cow into Jamestown, Pennsylvania to sell and walking home down the railroad track, someone murdered him, took the money he had gotten for the cow, laid him across the tracks, thinking, of course, that the train would run over him. A couple of hunters came along and found him before the train came. I asked my Mother if they ever found out who did it. She said, at that time, there was no investigation. But later the man, they surmised, was seen wearing his watch chain. Nothing was done.

His death left his wife Hannah with four sons and five daughters to raise. The framed picture that I have, and which many of you have seen, shows four of the daughters, our great aunts, her two grand-daughters, our Mother and Mother's sister our Aunt Mary Barbour. I have written the names of those in the picture on the back of the picture. This picture was taken in 1906. Goldie and I are in it. Blanche, too, but no one knows, yet. The fifth daughter, Ellen Beck, lived in Rathdrum, Idaho. She is not in the picture. Of the four sons I have found a record of only two, Henry of Ramsie, Idaho and Willoughby, our Grandfather. The Boger name, I particularly mention here because the name has died out in the area in Pennsylvania where I lived. There was just one male living in that area, Clifford Boger. He never married, and since has passed away. Henry may have left male heirs in Idaho, and since people travel so much, it might be of interest to look up the Bogers, if any family member happens to be in that area.

Willoughby married Julia Ella Webber. She was born October 22, 1846 and died June 1, 1895. Willoughby was born May 30, 1849 and died April 1, 1904. He was living with his daughter, our Mother, at the time of his death. He was buried beside his wife in Pennsylvania. To this marriage seven children were born. I found where my Mother had in her beautiful handwriting left a record of their births and deaths. There were four girls and three boys. Two boys died at an early age. The girls were Arretta, our Mother Mary Ellen and Allire Jane outlived the boys. The fourth girl Anna Belle died in infancy.

Two of Ephriam's daughters married Sherbondys. Emaline or Emma as she was called married Sam. Lucy married John. They were son's of Jake Sherbonda, cousins of our Father, Peter Sharbondy. Ephriam's sister, Sarah Boger, married Andrew Sherbonda, our Grandfather, his second marriage. Our Father, Peter, was their first born. As I go on with this history you will see why our Mother and Father were second cousins, and maybe you will figure out why the Bogers and Sherbondys were so closely knit.

They were living in a sparsely settled neighborhood. The roads were trails and they had no means of transportation, except horses and a buckboard. People walked in groups to gatherings.

When I lived in that area there were 17 Sherbondy families. The only time I got to see them all was at the yearly family picnic, and I never did learn to know them as well as the Boger women. Both the Sherbondy and Boger families were good, good people, well respected, kind, and loving.

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NOVEMBER 4, 1979

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Today is Sunday and a good day for me to write about the Sharbondy Heritage. Three brothers John, Phillip and Velker migrated from France in the late 18th Century. The name has changed in spelling from Sherbonda, the original spelling, to Sherbondy and our Father spelled it Sharbondy. Why? I don't know.

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John Sherbonda married a Bates. They had nine children - Andrew, Reason, Katie, Mary, Sally, Salina, John, Jake and Thomas.

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John and Phillip settled in Mercer County Pennsylvania. Velker may have settled near Akron, Ohio. There is a long hill there named Sherbonda Hill.

Phillip lived near and later in Jamestown, Pennsylvania. In my notes I have recorded three boys listed as his children - George, Dave and Joe. George had two children, a boy and a girl. The girl married Doctor Bailey, a medical General Practitioner in Jamestown. They had one child, a girl, who married an Earhart. The Earharts had a daughter named Amelia. She attended Teel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania. I was told that she was a distant relative. The Earharts lived in Jamestown. A clipping taken from a Jamestown paper dated August 23, 1907 tells that a Dr. J. A. Sherbondy, Youngstown, Ohio spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Sherbondy. That's all I have on the Phillip Sherbondy family.

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Andrew Sherbonda, John's oldest son, was our Grandfather. He married Sylvia Yokes. To this marriage three children were born - Jake, Ellen and Mary. Their Mother died at an early age. Andrew later married Sarah Boger in 1847. Sarah Boger Sherbonda was our Great-Grandfather, Ephriam Boger's sister. This may be confusing but remember the two families lived in this sparsely settled community and there were very few opportunities of meeting people from a greater distance.

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Sarah and Andrew had seven children - four boys - Peter, Andrew, Edward and Manuel and three girls - Pricilla, Emeline and Sarah. When Andrew and Sarah came out to Iowa in 1863, Ellen stayed in Pennsylvania. She later married Isaac Morland. They lived in Jamestown, Pennsylvania, raised two sons Isaac and James, both medical General Practitioners in Jamestown.

I went to Aunt Ellen's funeral. She lived to be 96 years old. I will always remember her as a dear little old lady who smoked a clay pipe. She had told her living family and friends that she had no relatives except her Grand-daughter, Nellie Carringer, who cared for her. I told the minister before the services that she had a sister, Mary Brockway, Clarksville, Iowa; a brother, Jake, Volony, Iowa; and half-brothers, Peter and Andrew, Cloverdale, Iowa; Edward, Shovel Lake, Minnesota; Manuel, Monona, Iowa; two half-sisters, Sarah Clark, New Market, Iowa and Emeline Jones, Cheney, Washington. I'm sure this was a big surprise to Nellie as well as her friends. When our Uncle Andrew died, Nellie Carringer came into her Grandmother's inheritance which was a help in her husband's business.

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John, our Great-Grandfather, settled in Mercer County Pennsylvania. Each settler in Mercer County Pennsylvania received 400 acres of land. The taxes were \$2 an acre which seems pretty steep for that time in history, but since the land was a gift to settlers maybe that was in the agreement. John lost all but 100 acres. John's son, Andrew, our Grandfather, inherited 50 acres of land. He had a debt of \$40 or \$50 which caused him to become discouraged. After getting directions from John Reed who lived in Waukon, Iowa, Andrew moved to Allamakee County in Iowa. Papa, Peter, was 16 years old. The family came by train to the end of the line at Prairie-du-chine, Wisconsin and after buying a team of horses and a wagon, they traveled on to Volony, Iowa where they settled. There was an abundance of timber for housing and for heating, good water for drinking, streams for good fishing, game for hunting and plenty of wild fruits all for a means of livelihood. He bought 40 acres of timber land at Wolf Hollow for \$80. He made maple sugar from the sap and later cut the trees for lumber. Later he sold this land and bought 40 acres for \$400. This land at the time of Andrew's death was inherited by our Uncle Jake, his oldest son. Papa helped clear the land, but he could see there was no chance to get ahead.

Henry and William Dagel were migrating farther west looking for better land. They came out in May, 1871 and then went back to harvest their crops. They started west again in September. Papa came with them. He was 26 years old at this time. The Dageles built a sod house. Papa ate with them, but slept in a dug out on the line between his land and the Dageles. In 1871 he homesteaded Section 6-98-41 and obtained a Letters Patent from President, Ulysses S. Grant, on May 1, 1874. For 16 years, as a bachelor, he fought all the odds of pioneer life, including prairie fires, paralyzing blizzards and having crops destroyed by locusts.

Since he left an older half-sister, Ellen, and many cousins in Pennsylvania he must have gone back for visits occasionally. After he had established himself as a successful farmer and felt able to support a family he proposed to our Mother, Arretta Sophia Boger. They were married October 16, 1889 at Greenville, Pennsylvania by Peter J. Fritz, Justice of the Peace. Peter was 42 years and Arretta 20 years. They left immediately after their marriage, by train. The connections were good but the trains were slow. It took three days.

Papa had built a house and had had a housekeeper during the busy season, Kate Meyers, from Sioux City, Iowa. Our Mother spoke of her many times. Papa's brother, Andrew, was farming and living with him, too.

There is much that I could write from what Mother told me about those first early years. I may try again next year.

Sarah, Goldie, Alvin and I, Marie, were born on the farm. My only recollection of having lived there was sitting on Grandmother's lap in front of the west kitchen window when the barn burned. There was so much excitement in the air. The commotion still lingers in my mind. I must have been about 2 years old.

Papa had bought the store at Cloverdale, Iowa and took possession on my birthday, August 25, 1903. He hired Clark Greenfield and Sebastian Miller as clerks until he had a closing out farm sale. Grewes were building a new house in Cloverdale and they were living in the living quarters of the store until their house was finished. This was another reason for not leaving the farm until 1905.

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I am going to list births, marriages and deaths here for future references of the Peter Sharbondy family.

Sarah Etta - September 13, 1890. Married to Fred Klatt September 4, 1910 in Cloverdale, Iowa. Died 1963.

Golden Pearl - July 29, 1894. Married Arthur Switzer April 29, 1914 in Cloverdale, Iowa. Died July 29, 1965.

Alvin Leroy - October 28, 1897. Married to Elsie Pohlman February 14, 1925 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Marie Hannah - August 25, 1903. Married Joseph LaVerne Prosser January 30, 1926 in Greenville, Pennsylvania. Divorced.

Marie Hannah - married Lester Dummett August 25, 1938 at Brookings, South Dakota.

Blanche Magyl - January 7, 1907. Married Clarence Durfee June 9, 1935 in Cloverdale, Iowa.

Dorothy Ferne - January 29, 1909. Married to Wayne Hunt March 31, 1928 in Cloverdale, Iowa.

Frieda - October 10, 1911. Died November 10, 1911.

Ruth Louise - February 11, 1913. Married to Ivan Hall November 24, 1934. Divorced.

Ruth Louise to Joseph Strand June 21, 1974. Married in Two Harbors.

I hope this is only a beginning of the Sharbondy and Boger History. I am setting this up so each member of the family can add a memoir of their life as a part of the Peter Sharbondy family and then a memoir of their life with their own family to be passed on to their children and grandchildren.

Marie Sharbondy Prosser Dummett