

Discovering the Grandmother I Never Knew: A Case Study in Genealogical Research by Karen Harris

My genealogy journey began, as it does for so many family history researchers, as a result of two deaths, having lost both of my parents within a period of 10 months of each other. The subsequent grieving process invited a further exploration of ancestral roots in an effort to keep the memories of these very significant relatives alive. This occurred to me in January of 2000 while in Arizona as I was sorting through my deceased parents' household belongings, tossing out the unwanted items, saving the keepsakes in the multitude of storage boxes for the rental truck trip back to California, donating clothing to worthy causes, and books to local library, and finally selling the remainder of their things at the Estate Sale. While reviewing an odd assortment of miscellaneous documents in my mother's desk, I came across a file of letters from the American Red Cross, along with military documents related to my grandmother's service in the US Army during World War I which involved, overseas deployment to France, hospitalization for the 1918 flu, disability reports for lung disease, as well as the receipt for some "R and R" at the Queen Hotel in Nice, France.

Our family possessed a picture of my grandfather in his World War I uniform and I remember vividly going to the VA hospital in Ohio with him for medical services when I was in elementary school. I knew he belonged to the American Legion, but never knew anything about my grandmother's war time service. Her obituary only mentioned her membership in the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. There were very few pictures of her in our family photographic archive and none were of her in uniform.

Marie Brown Williston died in 1952, when I was barely a year old. My mother, who was very close to her, suffered from a complicated grief; consequently, she did not speak very often about her beloved mother. Marie's husband, **Clifton**, lived almost twenty more years and was similarly afflicted with a sadness at the loss of his beloved wife. Whenever we visited him in the city of Ashland, Ohio, a trip to the cemetery to tidy her grave site or bring flowers was always included on the agenda. After more than 15 years of family history research, my grandmother still remains the relative I would like to know better, but now, additional information has been found to form a more complete picture of her life than what was originally discovered in 2000.

We first meet her as a three months' old infant in the 1885 State Census for Kansas in Arkansas City, Cowley County. This is significant because her gravestone at the Ashland Cemetery, along with her death certificate, lists her year of birth as 1893 as shown in the photograph of the gravestone in the Find a Grave Memorial #28450177. During the course of her life, my grandmother's name was changed from **Martha Pauline Brown**, to the contraction of Martha and Pauline as "Marine Brown," and finally to Marie P. Brown. Upon her marriage, she became **Marie Williston**.

In the census, Martha was listed with her parents, **Chauncey Brown**, a druggist and **Ella A. Brown**. All members of the family were born in Ohio and they had come from Iowa to settle in Kansas. The printed form stated the date of the Census as March 1885; however, there was nothing written by hand at the top of the form to indicate the exact day the census was taken. Her age, listed as three months old, would indicate that either, her birthday of March 4 is incorrect and she was born in the previous December, or the census was taken later, perhaps during June, of 1885.

Since Ohio did not impose mandatory birth records until 1908, I have yet to find an alternative birth index or christening record for her in Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio. This situation has led to speculation on my part as to her true identity and inspired me to become engaged in DNA genealogy. To date, I have confirmed at least one genetic connection through the Family Finder Autosomal DNA from FamilyTree DNA and several more through Ancestry.com DNA which suggest that the previously amassed paper trail, may well be correct.

In an attempt to establish the family's time line in Kansas, Newspapers.com provided some helpful clues. Since the family was listed in Arkansas City, it was most fortunate that the website included selected newspapers, a daily and the weekly, in their database from the period of 1885, when the family arrived there, through 1898 when her father, Dr. Chauncey D. Brown, died.

One of the first reports of her father was found in this news item:

Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Wednesday, February 4, 1885, Page Three

M. J. Brown of the Farmer's and Merchants [sic] Bank" of Cadiz, Ohio, made us a pleasant call while in the city last week upon a visit to our townsman Capt. C. M. Scott. The gentleman is the father of Dr. C. H. [sic] Brown, who spent several days visiting friends in the canal city last month.

The local newspaper reported in late April that Dr. Brown has arrived in the community:

Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Wednesday, April 29, 1885, Page Three

Dr. Brown, late of Cadiz, Ohio, is now busily engaged in fitting up and furnishing the stone building he purchased from E. Mason, on north Summit street, for a drug store and physician's office, and hopes to have the same ready for occupancy in two or three weeks. The Doctor is quite an acquisition to our business circle and we are pleased to chronicle his advent to the Canal City.

While this item suggests that they are now entertaining out of town family guests:

Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Wednesday September 16, 1885, Page Three:

M. J. Brown and wife, parents of Dr. C. D. Brown, arrived in the city on Monday, and will be the doctor's guests for two weeks. They are from Cadiz, Ohio, Mr. Brown being cashier of the Farmers and Mechanics National bank of that place. They were accompanied by J. W. Scott, also of Cadiz, father of our fellow townsman, C. M. Scott. We hope the party will enjoy a pleasant visit.

While conducting his business as a drug store proprietor, Dr. Brown became acquainted with a petty thief whom he fired; this man later returned to Arkansas City causing further trouble:

Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Wednesday, January 12, 1887, Page Three:

Look out for Beats

We again take occasion to caution our merchants and others against crediting an employe [sic] of this office without an order from the proprietor. We do this because of a sharp trick played by a printer named Tom Phillips, whereby a restaurant keeper was defrauded out of three weeks board. Tommy is a slick and innocent looking youth, but Dr. C. D. Brown, who employed him as a drug clerk for awhile, represents him as a genuine Artful Dodger. his latest achievement sustains the doctor's estimate. The young man drifted off to Denver which discharged from the drug store, and from there he wrote to this editor, being in dire distress, and asking employment. We promised him a sit, and he came along, and was duly assigned to a case. After foraging around for his board for a while, he presented himself at the counters of the European restaurant, and saying that Mr. Lockley had recommended him there and would be responsible for his bill, he was admitted to the dining hall. At the well served tables of the European Restaurant he feasted three weeks. His next exploit was to print a meal ticket (some evening when alone in the office) which he presented to the clerk but the counterfeit was detected, and its currency refused. Phillips left the city on Sunday evening, giving out that he was going to work on the Bluff City Tribune. To avoid the repetition of such frauds we caution all persons against crediting tramp printers, who may be temporarily employed in this office, unless they present a written order signed by the proprietor.

Later in the same month, Dr. Brown had an unexpected but potentially dangerous incident that was recounted in this article:

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Dr. C. D. Brown met with a very narrow escape, by the discharge of a revolver on last Friday night. He drove into Smith's livery to have his team cared for and jumping out of the buggy, drew the lap robe with him. He had left the revolver on the seat, but it was caught in the robe and fell, the hammer striking the floor, sending a 44 calibre ball past the doctor's head and through the roof of the barn. The doctor is considerably powder burned.

The family appears again in the 1895 Kansas State census in Arkansas City, Cowley County. This time, Dr. Brown is listed as MD by profession, E. A. Brown, is noted as housekeeper and a Matie or Marie Brown, is now aged 10, and M. L. Rusk, aged 21, a female, was born in OH.

1895 Kansas State Census Page 31 Visitation 238 4 in household
C. D. Brown aged 35, born in OH, came to KS from OH, MD by profession,
E. A. Brown, aged 32, born in OH came to KS from OH, housekeeper
Matie or Marie Brown aged 10, born in OH, came to KS from OH
M. L. Rusk, aged 21, born in OH, came to KS from OH

M. L. Rusk was Macie Llewelyn Rusk, a female cousin of my grandmother's; their mothers were the sisters, Emma Wilcoxon Rusk and Ella Wilcoxon Brown.

In those early years of the genealogy journey through the Brown branch of the family tree, this entry was found on the Ancestry.com subscription website in a database entitled: Directory of Deceased American Physicians.

Directory of Deceased American Physicians (through 1929)

C. D. Brown,
Type of practice: Allopath
Medical School: Starling Medical College, Columbus, 1882

As an allopath, he would rely on drugs or surgical remedies to cure diseases, unlike a homeopath. It should be noted that at this time in the late 19th century, medical doctors often were additionally dispensing pharmacists.

Starling Medical College was established in 1847 and was named after its benefactor, Lyne Starling, a wealthy, local businessman, from Columbus, Ohio; the college would subsequently become the Ohio State

While doing research in a Columbus library, I found a published history of the Starling Medical College which reported the following:

"In the 35th Announcement of the Starling Medical College, C. D. Brown is listed as a matriculant in 1880-1881."

A Cadiz newspaper clipping from 1882, source unknown, notes the graduation of one of their citizens:

Dr. Wortman, M. J. Brown and wife, and Alex. Osborn are at Columbus, this week, attending the examination and commencement exercises of the Columbus Medical College, where Drs. C. D. Brown and Jesse Osborn will graduate Thursday evening, Dr. Wortman is one of the examiners.

Dr. Chauncey Dewey Brown was named in honor of his father's friend and business associate, Chauncey Dewey. He was the second of five sons born to Melford Johnston Brown and Martha Robinson Brown on

August 29, 1859 in Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio. Of his parent's five sons, four survived childhood, but only one grandchild was born from this quartet and that was Martha Pauline Brown.

One of his brothers, Melford Robinson Brown was employed for a time as a professional photographer in Cadiz. This discovery occurred when I turned the picture of my grandmother taken as a small child and found the name of her Uncle "Miffy" as the photographer.

On a research trip to Harrison County, the local Cadiz public library yielded a collection of newspaper clippings that included this description of her uncle's new business venture dated November 14, 1889:

Messers Melford R. Brown and Frank Welch have opened a new photograph gallery in the third story of the F & M National bank building over the [Cadiz] Republican [newspaper] office. The rooms have been fitted up in excellent style and make a really beautiful and attractive place for this business. Mr. Welch is an expert artist and Mr. Brown has been giving the business close attention and study during the past year. They are both young men of good habits, good business ability, and are determined to make their chosen profession a success. They are entitled to public confidence.

Her grandfather, M. J. Brown was, for a time, quite an accomplished entrepreneur who built a fine house for his family that still stands in Cadiz. As a prominent citizen, his biography with a lovely portrait, appeared in the *History of Harrison County* published by Beers. Unfortunately, many of the details regarding the Brown family were inaccurate.

These obituaries from March of 1908, from the local Cadiz newspapers, gave testimony to the esteem by which he was regarded:

Obituary:

Death of M. J. Brown, President of the Farmers and Mechanic's National Bank, came as a shock to the people of Cadiz. He had been engaged in the Bank as usual all of Wednesday, last week, and walked out to his home in the evening, but during that night, or rather on Thursday morning at three o'clock, was found to be seriously ill. Physicians were summoned, but he soon became unconscious, and so remained through the following day and night and passed peacefully away on Friday morning, March 13, at three o'clock. His age was a little past seventy-six years old. Mr. Brown was born at Brownsville, PA, January 16th, 1832. His parents moved to Cambridge, Ohio, in 1844. He came to Cadiz in 1855, at the age of 23, and had been a citizen of this place ever since. He soon secured the position of Teller in the Harrison Branch Bank, and remained with the Bank for many years, becoming its Cashier, and retaining the same position after its reorganization as the Harrison National Bank. In 1880 Mr. Brown and others organized the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank, and since that time he had served as its president. Mr. Brown was married to Miss Martha Robinson, whose death occurred in December, 1904. They were the parents of five sons, three of whom survive. Charles O. F. Brown, Courtland E. Brown, and Melford R. Brown, all engaged in business in Cadiz. Mr. Brown was one of the most active business men of Cadiz. In addition to his Bank business he was President of the Peoples' Building and Loan Association, and also had large property interests demanding his care and attention. He had large working ability, and up to his last illness was seldom, if ever, sick a day in his life. Mr. Brown was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was a loving and devoted husband and father, and his family relationships were of the happiest character. After the death of his wife, three years ago, he experienced great loneliness, and often expressed to his intimate friends the hope that he might soon be permitted to depart and be again with her whom he loved. The funeral was held from his late home on last Sunday afternoon, conducted by his pastor, Dr. Plumer, assisted by Drs. Hamilton and Wood, and later the beautiful Masonic burial service was recited, led by Mr. W. S. Cessna, Master of the Lodge, some sixty members of the Masonic fraternity taking part, and accompanying the body to the grave. Mr. Brown had been a member, and Treasurer of the Cadiz Masonic Lodge for many years. In his death the town of Cadiz loses one who has filled a most prominent place in all business and social circles throughout a long and active life. The relatives of Mr. Brown who were present at the funeral from a distance were the following: Mr. O. M. Brown of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Mr. Robert E. Brown of Cambridge, Ohio, brothers, Mr. O. C. Hoge of Cambridge, Ohio, nephew, Miss Martha Marie Brown of Galion Ohio, a granddaughter. Messrs Frank and Herbert Robinson of Granville Ohio, nephews, and Mr. James E. Gaston and little son Robert of Wilmington Ohio. The pall bearers were Messrs. C. M. Hogg, R. H. Minter, J. B. Beadie and E. N. Haverfield, Directors of the F & M Bank, Col. Conwell and Mr. W H Arnold.

Obituary:

Melford J. Brown

Prominent Cadiz Banker and Business Man Succumbs to Stroke Friday Morning Last

For the second time in the last three weeks we are compelled to mention the death of one of our most honored citizens. This time, it is M. J. Brown president of the F & M National Bank, who died at his home on Lincoln Avenue dearly Friday morning March 13. He was in his 77th year. Mr. Brown to every outward appearance was enjoying his usual excellent health, and his friends were surprised and pained to learn on Thursday morning that he had suffered a slight stroke of paralysis during the night. He never fully regained consciousness, however, and a few hours later passed to his final rest. By the passing of Mr. Brown the town has lost one of its most valuable citizens, one who was closely identified with the town's early successes and his place will be difficult to fill in business and social affairs. He was a tireless worker, and the early business hours of the day always found him at his (desk.) Coming to Cadiz in 1855, he was first engaged in the mercantile trade with William Hogg, one of the town's successful business men of that time and he had ever since been identified with the leading enterprises and in the promotion of the community's business and social interests. Retiring from the mercantile life Mr. Brown accepted the position as teller in the Harrison Branch Bank, which was later organized into the Harrison National Bank and was cashier of that institution at the time of its robbery in 1866. He later organized the Harrison Building and Loan company out of which grew the Farmers and Mechanic's Bank, of which he had since served as president. Mr. Brown was a Pennsylvanian by birth and was born in Brownsville in 1832. He came with his parents to Cambridge in 1844. In 1851 he was married to Miss Martha Robinson daughter of an early settle of Cadiz; Mrs. Brown died three years ago. Three sons, Charles O.F. Courtenay, and Melford survive; also two brothers, O. W. of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Robert of Cambridge. He was a member of the Cadiz Presbyterian Church and was also one of the oldest members of the Cadiz Masonic Lodge, F and A. M. of which lodge he was also treasurer. Funeral services were held from his late residence on Sunday afternoon, conducted by his pastor, Dr. Plumer, assisted by Dr. Wood and Dr. Hamilton. At the close of these services the Masonic ceremonies were held. The casket bearers were W. H. Arnold, Col. John Conwell, John B. Beadle, E. N. Haverfield R. H. Minter C. M. Hogg. These present from out of town were his brothers O. W. and Robert; his nephews Frank and Hubert Robinson, of Granville; Miss Marie Brown, of Galion, Mrs. Gaston of Washington; O. M. Hoge of Cambridge.

These tributes incorrectly stated when Melford came to Cadiz, as the 1850 Federal Census for Ohio found him already living there:

1850 Ohio Census Harrison County Cadiz

Melford Brown age 18 birthplace PA clerk listed with John Parrish age 41 Merchant

Although the obituaries gave a glowing portrait of my great-great grandfather's life, they omitted the sad fact of his financial troubles resulting from poor investments during his later years. These were found in newspaper accounts written subsequently to his death and in probate records in the Harrison county court house. Many of the family real estate holdings, including significant city buildings such as the Arcade Hotel and Cadiz Opera House as well as other undeveloped lots which were sold to satisfy creditors.

These obituaries also neglected to mention the story of his participation as part of the Harrison County Home Guard during the Civil War and his effort along with his nephew, John Robinson, to warn citizens to be prepared for the coming of Morgan's Raiders as retold in *A Brief History of Harrison County* by S. B. McGravan, M. D.

"Reminiscences of Morgan's Raid through Moorefield:

On a bright and beautiful day in July, 1863, the peace and quiet of our little village was disturbed by the anticipated invasion of Rebel forces numbering five or six hundred mounted cavalry, under command of the noted Rebel General John Morgan. The air was full of rumors of the great destruction of property along the line of the march, and the alarm for the safety of family and property became intense. This feeling of insecurity was somewhat increased when M. J. Brown and John Robinson, of Cadiz, driving a spirited team, rushed through here to discover if possible the line of march the Rebels were likely to take. In about an hour, or perhaps less, they returned, furiously driving Jehu like, announcing that the Rebels were coming this way, and would be with us in a short time."

My great-grandmother, **Ella A. Wilcoxon Brown**, was born in August of 1860 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, the last daughter of Sarah Foreman Wilcoxon and James E. Wilcoxon, a veteran of the Mexican War who served under Capt. Braxton Bragg in the 3rd Regiment US Army Artillery and saw action on February 22-23, 1847 in the Battle of Buena Vista. Sarah Foreman was born in Pennsylvania and her father's family may have originally been known as Fuhrmanns, the source of my Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry according to family legend. Finding her mother's surname has been a brick wall which I have not yet been able to dismantle. Her brother, Solomon Foreman, was a surveyor for the US Government who left Ohio, spent time in Arizona and later settled along the Central Coast of California, living first in Santa Cruz and then in San Luis Obispo.

Having scoured various locations in Ohio with a connection to the Brown and Wilcoxon families including, Franklin, Guernsey, Tuscarawas and Harrison counties, I had been frustrated in finding the marriage record for Chauncey Dewey Brown and Ella A. Wilcoxon. My cousin Leslie, who is the daughter of my mother's sister, mentioned that she had Ella's wedding ring with the inscription of their marriage date: September 15, 1882. While unsuccessfully researching marriage records for Ella's brother, James Mason Wilcoxon, in the Pittsburgh Public Library, I stumbled across the marriage record for my great-grandparents! This was completely unexpected and made the entire trip, taken in 2006, a total success. What brought these two Ohioans to Pittsburgh for a marriage ceremony is a mystery; perhaps Dr. Brown was practicing medicine there, or maybe Ella was living with her brother. The larger mystery was how a medical doctor from Cadiz who was educated in Columbus met his future wife who was raised in Uhrichsville.

The review of the Arkansas City newspaper yielded a few more details of the life of Dr. Brown as he settled into his medical practice in Kansas:

Arkansas City Weekly Traveler, Wednesday November 24, 1886 Page Three:

Dr. C. D. Brown carries a very ingeneous [sic] device on his buggy, known as an odometer with a small bell attached, that rings every mile he travels. It is fastened to the hind axle of the buggy with a pin in one of the spokes of the wheel that strikes the odometer at every revolution. The works tally the revolutions on the same principle that the two hands of a clock tally the time of day.

While conducting his business as a drug store proprietor, Dr. Brown became acquainted with a petty thief whom he fired; this man later returned to Arkansas City causing further trouble.

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This interesting news item, from Ella's hometown, revealed Dr. Brown's occupational pursuits while living in Arkansas City during one of their trips to Ohio to visit friends and family.

"Uhrichsville Clippings, March 9, 1892

"Dr. C. D. Brown. wife and daughter of Arkansas City, Kansas left for their home last week after a pleasant visit with Cadiz and Uhrichsville friends.

"The Dr. is in the drug business and also holds the position of Surgeon of the 5th Cavalry of the US Army at Fort Reno."

A description of Fort Reno can be found in Wikipedia, by following this link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Reno_%28Oklahoma%29

"Fort Reno, was established as a permanent post in July 1875 near the Darlington Indian Agency on the old Cheyenne-Arapaho reservation in Indian Territory, in present-day central Oklahoma. Named for General Jesse L. Reno, who died at the Battle of South Mountain, it supported the US Army following the Cheyenne uprising in 1874."

After Oklahoma statehood in 1907 the post was abandoned the following year, but remained as a US Army remount depot until 1949. During World War II, it served as the location for a German Prisoner of War camp. Today, the grounds of the old fort are home to the US Department of Agriculture's Grazinglands Research Laboratory.

The Wikipedia post also provides a chronicle of the land controversy which began with an executive order that assigned over 9,000 acres in the Cheyenne Arapahoe reserve for military purposes in 1883. President Benjamin Harrison signed a proclamation on April 12, 1892, extinguishing all Cheyenne-Arapaho claims to their reserve except for individual allotments, including any claims to Fort Reno.

Within the last 20 years, the descendants of these Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes have been trying to re-acquire their lands, but opposition by the entire Oklahoma congressional delegation, state political and civic leaders, and historical preservationists has obstructed their efforts.

The death index from Harrison County, Ohio, compiled prior to mandatory reporting, indicated the following with regard to Martha Marie's father:

"Chauncey D. Brown February 21, 1898, Married, aged 37, died in Kansas, born in Cadiz
Occupation: Doctor, Cause of Death: Heart; Reported by W. A. Knox."

With a death date and the lead from the Kansas State census records, a request for additional information was made to the local Genealogical Society. Weeks later an envelope came to our house with a more complete story regarding the early death of Dr. C. D. Brown which came as a surprise. According to family legend, my cousin, Leslie, told me that her mother, my Aunt Jean, told her that our great-

grandmother, Ella, had told our grandmother, Marie that Chauncey had died heroically in a fire. What the newspaper reported was, in fact, very different:

Arkansas City Daily Traveler, Wednesday February 16, 1898, Page Eight

Dr. C. D. Brown, who is out in East Bolton township is reported in bad condition. He has had two strokes of paralysis within the last week.

Five days later his death was announced on February 21, 1898:

“Arkansas City Daily Traveler, Monday, February 21, 1898, Page Eight

“Died--this morning at the home of Albert Haines in east Bolton, township of heart trouble, Dr. C. D. Brown, of this city. The deceased was 42 years of age and has resided here for about ten years. The remains were brought to the city this afternoon and will be held here until word can be received from his father in Ohio.”

On the following day, his obituary was reported as a front page story:

Arkansas City Daily Traveler, Tuesday, February 22, 1898, Page One

This morning the remains of Dr. C. D. Brown were sent to Cadiz, Ohio for burial. The life and death of Dr. Brown in this city was rather a sad affair. Over ten years ago the doctor and his family came here and located. At that time, the doctor was a bright young man and had a good start up the ladder of prosperity. His family relations were of a happy nature and he fell into a good practice almost immediately after his location here. At that time the soldiers were stationed along south of the city to prevent invaders going into Oklahoma and he secured the army practice. This is probably what started him on his downward road. He began drinking and was an inveterate cigarette smoker. From drink he began the use of morphine and in a few years he was unfit to practice his profession. His family relations became unpleasant and he continued his downward course. His money went faster than he could make it and more rapid than his father would supply him.

Occasionally he would brace up and do better and his friends thought he would turn out better. The bracing up never lasted a great while and as he continued to fall his friends began leaving him until at the time of his death there were but few who still clung to him. At a recent term of the district court he and his wife were divorced. Since then he has been despondent and dispirited and his acquaintances expected to hear of his death most any day. When it came it was no surprise to them. His death occurred at the home of Albert Haines in East Bolton township. C M Scott was a friend of the family and he stuck to Dr. Brown until the last. The night before his death he was with him nearly all night and after death he took charge of the body and had it prepared to be sent to Ohio according to the wishes of the father of the deceased.

I can certainly understand Ella wanting to tell her almost thirteen-year old daughter that her father died tragically, rather than as a result of his addiction to morphine or alcoholism. But what about the divorce? This loose end was finally tied together in April of 2015 while preparing this article by reading two editions of the *Arkansas City Traveler* online:

Arkansas City Daily Traveler Saturday August 21, 1897 Page Four

Legal Notice:

In the district court of Cowley county, Kansas

C. D. Brown, Plaintiff vs. Ella A. Brown, Defendant

To the defendant above named, Ella A. Brown.

You are hereby notified that you have been used by the plaintiff in the above entitled action, and that he has filed his petition with the clerk of the district court of Cowley county, Kansas, on the 21st day of August, 1897.

You are further notified that you are required to answer said petition on or before the 2nd day of October 1897, or said petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered against you accordingly.

the said plaintiff in his said petition demands a judgment against you for divorce, and for a dissolution of the marriage contract heretofore existing, and that he further demands judgment for the custody of the said child, Martha Marie Brown, and for the costs of said action, and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper. And you are hereby further notified that the ground for said petition and judgment is abandonment by you of the said plaintiff.

Charles L. Brown, attorney for plaintiff

Arkansas City Daily Traveler, Tuesday November 16, 1897, Page Five

The case of Dr. C. D. Brown against his wife, Mrs. Ella Brown, for divorce and the custody of their minor child, Marie, was heard in the district court yesterday and resulted in a divorce for Mrs. Brown. The custody of the child was awarded to her and the court ordered that Dr. Brown pay \$10 per month for five years for the maintenance of the child. Beekman & Swarts and Judge Troupe were the attorneys for Mrs. Brown and C. L. Brown for the doctor.

According to the 1900 Census for Ohio, Crawford County, Ella and her daughter Marie, returned to Ohio, settling in the city of Galion, where her sister Emma Rusk lived.

1900 Ohio Census Crawford County Galion 2nd Ward ED 13 Sheet 1A

Ella Brown aged 39, born in August 1860, born in OH, father born in VA, mother born in OH, widowed, compositor
Marie, aged March 1885 born in OH, parents born in OH, at school
128 West Main Street

We must assume that the sisters were quite close because, Emma's twins, born in 1888 were named Chauncey Brown Rusk and Ella Marie Rusk in tribute to her sister, brother-in-law, and niece.

Marie was enrolled in the Galion High School and graduated in 1902. The 1902 Galion Year Book, *The Spy*, noted Marie's accomplishments as the author of her Senior Class Essay, The Marble Waiteth, and her role as Grace in the play, "Who Was It" at the Thirtieth Annual Commencement of the Galion High School held on June 13, 1902 at the City Opera House.

Following graduation, she enrolled at Ohio State University with a major in Home Economics. She did not graduate from this institution until 1916. Marie spent fourteen years working as a public school teacher while pursuing her Bachelors of Science degree. Until decades later in 20th century, it was common practice to hire unmarried women with a high school diploma as public school teachers. According to the next U. S. Census, both mother and daughter are still living in Galion:

1910 Ohio Census Crawford County Galion Polk Township ED 20 Sheet 5B

Ella A. Brown aged 49, widowed, 1 child, 1 living, born in OH, parents born in OH Sales Lady, Dry Goods Store
Marie Aged 24, born in OH, parents born in OH, Teacher, Public School
405 South Market Street

During a research visit to the Columbus campus library on a bright sunny Friday afternoon, I took the opportunity to explore the stacks. While reading through the various editions of *The Makio*, the OSU yearbook, as well as the class catalogs from the first two decades of the 20th century, I found my grandmother's name with S. S. next to it, signifying that she was a Summer School student. At the time of her enrollment, it was quite unusual for women to attend the University and she was certainly in the minority. Since that time, I have wondered if Marie ever contemplated her father as she walked across the campus on the very same grounds where Chauncey had trod as a young medical student in the early 1880s.

Armed with her newly minted diploma, her next stop was Ashland College where she was hired to serve on the faculty. Our family has a formally posed photograph of a youthful looking Marie Brown. On a research visit to the school's archives, it was discovered that this photograph was published in the Ashland College 1917 yearbook, *The Pine Whisperer*, with the following caption: "Marie P. Brown, B.

Sc. Home Economics, Ohio State University; Instructor in Household Economics.” How satisfying it must have been for her to obtain this position after so many years of study.

When the United States entered the First World War in 1917, the American Red Cross began recruiting nurses and other allied health personnel to assist in the treatment of wounded soldiers. As a trained home economist with a B. S. degree, she was asked to join the US Army in the following correspondence written on The American Red Cross National Headquarters stationery:

January 28th, 1918

Miss Marie P. Brown
829 Grant Street, Ashland, Ohio

My Dear Miss Brown:

We have a letter from Miss Bengtson, Chief Nurse of Base Hospital Unit, No. 48, asking that you be put on the list as Dietitian for that Unit. Please consider yourself definitely appointed and communicate with Miss Bengtson in regard to future plans of the Unit. We have submitted your examination papers to the surgeon who reports on this for the Red Cross.

Sincerely Yours,

Elva A. George, Dietician, Bureau of Nursing Service

Most likely, Professor Brown was teaching at Ashland College during the recruitment process after war had been declared in 1917, and might not be available until the closure of the school term. The following notification was written on War Department Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D. C. letterhead:

War Department Office of the Surgeon General, Washington

July 12, 1918

WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, MARIE P. BROWN of ASHLAND, OHIO is hereby appointed Dietitian, United States Army Medical Department, at large, at \$720.00 per annum, with rations and lodging, and will enter upon her duties after taking the oath prescribed by section 1757 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

Surgeon General, US Army

C. R. Darnall, Colonel, Medical Corps

The next in this series of documents described Marie P. Brown reporting for duty at The Nurses Mobilization Station, Holle Hotel, New York, New York, on July 17, 1918, for mobilization with B. H. #48. She had previously been vaccinated successfully in the past November for Typhoid and her monthly payment allotment of \$25 would be payable to her mother, Mrs. Ella A. Brown, 111 East Liberty Street, Ashland, Ohio, commencing August 1, 1918.

During the period that our family lived in Ohio, I spent a lot of time with my grandfather Clifton Williston, and I never realized that he was living in the house that my great-grandmother had purchased when Marie began teaching at Ashland College. Among those original documents was the Warranty Deed recorded on May 3, 1918, in Ashland County, for the 38 feet by 148 feet Lot No. 199 on East Liberty Street in South Ashland for the sum of \$3800.00.

Much of the story of my grandmother's experience with the Nurses Corps, beginning that summer with her trip to New York City, is recounted in the digitized scan of the book, *48 An Informal & Mostly Pictorial History of U. S. Base Hospital 48 1918-1919 including maps, cartoons, photographs and personnel*, written by Martin Matheson and is located online at the following website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gregkrenzelok/basehospno48aefww1.html>

This history was published in 1939, but was not the first description written about BH 48. In 1923. A chapter, "Forty-eight," was edited by Dr. Frederick M. Dearborn for *American Homeopathy in the World War* which also included a description of the experience of the Nurses Corps. Lt. Col. Frederick M. Dearborn, was associated with the Metropolitan Hospital Center as Chief of Medical Services which was the location for the mobilization of the Base 48 originally organized in November of 1917.

This has also been scanned and digitized at the following link:

<http://homeoint.org/books2/ww1/48nurses.htm>

Overseas, US Hospital Base 48 was located at Mars-sur-Allier, Nievre, southwest of the city of Nevers in the central part of France as part of the US Army's Medical Department Camp complex serving the American Expeditionary Forces. It was built under the direction of the US Army Corps of Engineers by colonial French Indochinese laborers known as Annamites, from a French protectorate in the central region of Vietnam. and also by Spanish laborers since their country was neutral they could supply construction workers. These laborers were imported as a result of the French manpower shortage due to vast numbers of able bodied men called to defend their country. This location was chosen because of its access to the river, a plentiful water supply subsequently harnessed by the Corps of Engineers as well as convenient proximity to the train station. Upon arrival at Mars-sur Allier, an anonymous observer remarked: "A wilderness of wooden shacks . . . acres of lumber and other building materials . . . a mushroom American city rising in completion literally overnight."

The Mars Hospital Center consisted of Base Hospitals No. 14, 35, 58, 62, 68, 80, 107, 110, 123, and 131 and Evacuation Hospitals No. 30 and 110. The 109th Engineers and Company C 521st Engineers, along with Sanitary Squad No. 43 were also stationed at the facility.

BH 48 was composed of buildings housing A Receiving ward, patients and personnel baths, x-ray and operating theatre, clinic, 20 wards, Nurses Quarters and Mess, Officers Quarters and Mess, Patients kitchen, two dining halls, quartermaster, Wash room, medical supply and latrines, along with tents #21-40.

The first members of Base Hospital No. 48, US Army Officers and enlisted men, left the United States on the S.S. Aquitania and reported at Mars Hospital Center on July 25th 1918. Along with Base Hospital No. 68, they treated the first train of patients who arrived on August 2nd. Until the Nurses Corps assigned to Base Hospital 48 was posted, the Army relied on small detachments of nurses temporarily assigned to this facility.

The BH 48 had its own publication, *The Martian Camp Newspaper*, featuring articles with illustrations and humorous cartoons depicting Army life. The male officers and enlisted men formed a football team and three close games were played with the Convalescent Camp who won two out of three from BH 48.

During their assignment at this hospital, twenty-three different officers performed 332 operations including an Operating Team which was staffed by members of the Nurses Corps, providing care at the Front.

In Chapter VIII: The Nurses of No. 48, the book described the mobilization of the Nurses Corps, which included my grandmother and other non-enlisted female personnel in New York City on July 15, 1918 and their journey across the ocean on the *S. S. Olympic*, a sister ship of the *Titanic*; the liner was camouflaged due to the dangerous wartime conditions posed by German submarines. They departed on August 8th, landing in Southampton, England on August 16th. Due to wartime conditions, the ocean liner was camouflaged. The Nurses corps was divided into two small hospital boats, the *St. David* and the *St. Patrick*. The 100 nurses and six civilians were assigned to each boat and then sailed across the English Channel at 10 o'clock that evening, wearing life preservers and disembarking at Le Havre in France where they stayed overnight. The ladies arrived in Paris the following evening and were escorted in Red Cross ambulances to their hotel through unlit streets of the city. After spending the night at the Hotel Regina, they took the train from Paris to Nevers. The final leg of the journey from the train station was by Army trucks to the hospital camp at Mars on August 20th.

Since most of the chapter is devoted to the nurses, these observations about the other civilian personnel offered some glimpses of life at the hospital:

The “thrill that comes once in a lifetime” . . . three of the No. 48 civilians rating a special handshake and a few words from General Pershing on his visit to Nevers—while the officers, nurses, and enlisted men received only the usual official impersonal inspection.”

“Katherine Dougherty learning with dismay that a bacteriologist was a non-existent animal as far as Army classification went—neither officer, nurse, civilian nor enlisted man . . . and going three months without pay while someone was making up his mind!”

Perhaps Miss Brown, or the unfortunate Miss Dougherty, received one of the special handshakes, or maybe they bonded together as sister ‘non-existent animals.’

The chapter is filled with remarks about the usual conditions found in serving with the Army, unpleasant and crowded living conditions, and of course, the rainy weather with its complimentary mud.

In a letter written by one of the Nursing Corps to her family on November 16, 1918 regarding her time spent at Base Hospital 48 and how the Armistice on November 11th was celebrated:

“But all the celebration, as much as it meant and as wonderful as it was, was as nothing when compared with what the end of the War really means—a cessation of the awful slaughter at the Front. No more dread of train after trainload of wounded and suffering to be unloaded and put to bed. That was all I could think of. Our cases here are now in very good shape; very few of them are in any danger of death, I believe, and isn't it fine to know that there will be no more, for we understand that the evacuation hospitals have been quite emptied, but that also may be a rumor.”

The anonymous author of this letter also reported on and improvement of their uniform situation:

“Did I tell you that we have been issued khaki breeches, OD shirts, caps, etc., to wear when the weather is bad? I can see dad getting a disgusted look on his face when he reads this, but I want to tell you that after it has rained just one day, I can't even cross the road without getting spattered with mud halfway to my waist. Then I came in here, where the floors are wet and muddy, and sit down, and of course my dresses wipe up the floor. But as a matter of fact, they are very particular about our wearing them only when necessary demands it, and they really are a great comfort. In the first place, they're mighty warm and just great when you want to go out on a hike. Generally we wear a short skirt, or our long coats, over them, so you could scarcely tell that we have them on. . . and I have also brought large over shoes (size 6, man's) from the quartermaster here and if you could ever see us walking about in them! We have to keep them in the hall outside our room as there isn't room inside for them; we call them “our

family.” Everyone that comes down the hall in the dark falls over them, and cusses mentally; and we try to stifle our giggles inside.”

Although the war was officially over in November, the hospital did not completely shut down until months later. They continued to work with patients, but had time for a theatrical production, *The Red Lamp* by the Players of Forty-eight. The staff spent Christmas overseas at Mars enjoying a dinner preceded by specially typed menus for the occasion.

The nurses were gradually evacuated as was reported by Lt. Col. Dearborn:

“After the departure of our Chief Nurse, Miss Bengston, Miss Harriet A. Langwig, acted as Chief Nurse until she too left with the detachment sent to Dijon. Then Miss Jane K. Spore became Acting Chief Nurse of the twenty-two on duty with Evacuation Hospital No. 37. It is well to mention in accounting for the nurse personnel of B. H. No. 48 that no less than eight had been returned to the US in October and November of 1918 because of ill health. Our civilian personnel was likewise broken up in as much as Miss Rowell had returned to the US on January 8th, the Misses Goold and Wade were ordered to Center Hospital at Savenay on January 28th, and Miss Bulger had been attached to our own Hospital Center Headquarters. This left the Misses Brown and Dougherty to return home with the balance of our nurses.”

In the final chapter of the book is a listing of the Honor Roll for Distinguished Service, Necrology and the Personnel of BH 48 including, Officers, Enlisted Men, Nurses Corps, and Non-Enlisted Personnel: Marie P. Brown, Columbus, O. Dietitian; Lillian Bulger, Albany, NY, Stenographer; Katherine Dougherty, Philadelphia, Pa., Laboratory Technician; Katherine Goold, Albany, NY, Interpreter; Jean Rowell, NY, Stenographer; Lucille A. Wade, New York, NY, Stenographer.

A very useful resource for an understanding of my grandmother’s assignment as a dietitian working for the US Army in World War One can be found at the website posting of the *US Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History*, Part 1 The Constituents Groups Before World War II, Chapter II, Dietitians Before World War II written by Colonel Katherine E. Manchester, AMSC, USA, and Major Helen B. Garinin USA (Ret.)

http://history.amedd.army.mil/corps/medical_spec/chapterII.html

The information in this chapter explains the necessity of the role of the dietitian as first envisioned by Florence Nightingale whose experience in the Crimean War (1854-1856) led to essays, “Taking Food” and “What Food” and importance in healing the injured soldiers she had attended.

Testimony given in 1898, before a Congressional committee by Dr. Anita Newcombe McGee, who described the valuable assistance given during the Spanish-American War by “nurses who had been in charge of diet work in military hospitals and that their services were most satisfactory.”

However, when the US entered World War I, there were no dietitians employed by Army Hospitals. As the number of injured soldiers increased, it became apparent that a specialist with dedicated training would be useful in conserving necessary food and, treating those with chronic and convalescent diagnoses in need of special diets. Therefore, The American Red Cross Dietitian Service was asked to furnish trained dietitians for base hospitals in the US and for those overseas. In the previous year, a National Committee on Dietitian Service was formed to assist with the enrollment of dietitians, and established the first qualifications for those employed in military hospitals. A basic requirement was a 2 year college course in Home economics along with at least 4 months’ practical work experience in a general hospital. Recommendations by the academic training and hospital facilities would be required. Successful passage of a physical examination by the family doctor with an age requirement between 25 and 35 years were also necessary to be considered by the Red Cross.

Under Executive Order of May 11, 1917, dietitians were appointed by the Surgeon General as civilian employees in the Medical Department at Large for temporary duty for the period of the war emergency. Under these special circumstances, the Civil Service did not impose its written examination. The basic salary would be \$60 a month and of head dietitian \$65. Overseas pay would be an additional \$10 per month. Their housing would be in the nurses' quarters, if space permitted.

The Chapter also provided a picture showing the contrast in Uniform styles between World War I and World War II as worn by Miss Lenna F. Cooper, supervisor of Army dietitians in 1918 and Miss Helen C. Burns, a supervisor in World War II when they were photographed in 1942. The most obvious difference was the longer length of the earlier uniform.

Miss Cooper was appointed to the position of supervising dietitian to care for the activities of the dietetic service in the Surgeon General's Office. Ironically, she took the oath of office on November 11, 1918, the day of the Armistice. Later relinquishing her position in August of 1919 to return to Battle Creek College as an instructor; her replacement was Miss Josephine Hopper who was assigned to Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington DC and remained the acting supervisor until January of 1920.

The authors of this chapter made the following observation which reflected the newly created position within the military hospital staff hierarchy:

"Perhaps the reason that dietitians accomplished as much as they did was because they were in a sense undisciplined. Their training had given them fundamental knowledge of their subject matter together with a genuine desire to put this to practical use. Since they were not oriented to the discipline of either the soldier or nurse, they worked on their own initiative, little troubled by precedent, proceeding as fast and as far as the commanding officer or mess officer would permit. Surely, whatever success the dietitians had to their credit in the early part of the war was because once given the opportunity, they were able, in most instances, to demonstrate their value to the service. . .

"Since there were no regulations published for dietitians before May 1918, the duties of dietitians were not standardized. Overseas, their duties varied from taking care of the nurses' home and giving occasional assistance to the officers' mess to planning and serving diets to patients. In some instances, the dietitians themselves prepared food for the very sick patients or had charge of the general hospital diet kitchen. During the early months of the war, few dietitians were given an opportunity to plan menus and supervise the preparation of regular diet food in the patients' kitchen."

The file of miscellaneous records related to Marie Brown's service during World War I included an incomplete series of muster roll documents which provide a time line of her service and sick duty:

The ladies reported to BH 48 on August 20, and immediately, she was on sick duty for one day with laryngitis as diagnosed by Captain Randall. (Dr. Edward G. Randall, Waterville, New York.)

Her next date of illness was reported on October 9, 1918 with a diagnosis of exhaustion as reported by Captain Miller. (James D. Miller, of Pasadena, California.) In a little more than two weeks later, she was placed on sick duty in quarters, then, a day later, On October 27, 1918, she was transferred by Dr. Miller to Base Hospital 62 with the Camp at Mars with a diagnosis of "Influenza" where she remained until November 3, when she was returned to quarters.

Base Hospital No. 62 was the fifth medical organization to arrive at Mars, where it formed a part of the large hospital center there. This facility was opened on October 5, 1917 and had a normal capacity of 1,000. This unit treated 3,631 sick and wounded, of these, 3,232 were medical and 399 surgical cases until its closure on February 15, 1919.

On the National Archives website a question was posed: “True or False? The influenza of 1918 killed more people than died in World War I.

“. . . World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people. One fifth of the world’s population was attacked by this deadly virus. Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history.

The plague emerged in two phases. In late spring of 1918 the first phase, known as the “three-day-fever,” appeared without warning. Few deaths were reported. Victims recovered after a few days. When the disease surfaced again that fall, it was far more severe. Scientists, doctors and health officials could not identify this disease which was striking so fast and so viciously, eluding treatment and defying control. Some victims died within hours of their first symptoms. Others succumbed after a few days; their lungs filled with fluid and they suffocated to death.”

It is believed that the crowded living conditions and movement of troops during WWI throughout the US and Europe permitted the spread of this epidemic. It was attributed as the Spanish flu in 1918 because the major European powers were engaged in war and censored the reports of deaths, while neutral Spain honestly reported the serious condition of King Alfonso XIII among others, thereby suggesting that this country was suffering disproportionately high mortality as a result of the virus.

The majority of those fatally afflicted with the dread disease were young people and the Central Powers (Germany and Austria Hungary) were especially devastated by the epidemic. It has been argued that the timing of the illness and its effects may have been a crucial factor in hastening the conclusion of the First World War.

On November 7th, my grandmother returned to BH 48 from sick duty. During the period of her exposure and hospitalization for influenza, three unit nurses, Margaret Worth, Elizabeth Weiman, and Anna M. Breen, died while in service in France.

Following the Armistice and prior to her leaving Mars, Marie spent some time in France along with other members of Base Hospital 48. This was evidenced by the receipt from the Queen’s Hotel dated January 29 through February 6th.

An anonymous writer described the R and R visit to Nice as follows:

“Nice is a fairly large city, surprisingly so. I had an idea it was like Cannes and similar smaller places. It is a resort of course, and not like the industrial cities—Lyon, Dijon, Nevers, and such.

“The climate, as one would expect, is superb, and the scenery is everything, which is claimed for it. Of most interest to us were the innumerable orange groves, and the limestone cliffs, which rise to dizzy heights all along the coast. And the sun—God, was there ever such sunshine anywhere in the world! The whole scene is like a picture, and even more beautiful. What luck to be alive to see and enjoy all this.

The Promenade des Anglais is a handsome thoroughfare, and you see there any number smartly dressed lovely women. To us that was almost as dazzling a sight as the reflection of the sun on the waters of the Mediterranean!

“I shall never forget as long as I live—the one grand blowout of our trip—a dinner which we planned for days. It was to include everything, which we had lacked during our months in France. Now, more than a week later, I can remember every course as if it were an hour ago. An epicure accustomed to the best would undoubtedly disagree with many of our selections. But, if the epicure had lived on beans, ‘slum,’ ‘goldfish,’ and similar dainties, he might forgive us our gastronomic sins!”

As Marie recovered and was returned to her regular duties, she continued to show signs of illness according to the report of the Disability Board held at BH 123 on February 23, 1919 that stated her Chronic Bronchitis did not exist prior to entry into the service and the disability is in line of duty. She was given a Classification of “D.” BH 123 was also part of the medical complex situated at Mars-sur-Allier. It was the eighth hospital unit to reach this location, having arrived on December 2nd.

She was subsequently transferred to BH 113, located at Savenay in another Camp hospital center in Western France. There she received a final diagnosis of Chronic Bronchitis according to The Clinical Record showing her admission on March 17, 1919. This medical unit was organized in August 1918 at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia and sailed for Europe on the day after the Armistice, arriving at Brest, France on November 22. BH 113, was specifically designated as the medical evacuation hospital for all disabled nurses prior to their return to the United States. It operated in this capacity until March 31, 1919 and admitted over 6,000 patients.

The Special Orders No. 72 written on American Expeditionary Forces France, Headquarters Hospital Center, Savenay dated March 15, 1919:

“9. Pursuant to authority contained in General Orders 37, paragraph 2, section 2, Hq. SOS, 1918, the following named nurses, Army Nurse Corps, Class “D” patients at this Center, Base Hospital No. 113 will proceed without delay on Hospital Train No. 62 from Savenay (Loire Inferieure) to the port of Brest (Finistere), being reported upon arrival by the Commanding Officer of the train to the Commanding General, Base Section No. 5, for transfer to the US: . . . Marie B. Brown, Dietitian.

Transportation for the journey from Savenay to Brest will be furnished by Hospital Train No. 62. The travel directed is necessary in the military service. By order of Colonel Cooper, R. E. Frederickson, Major, Sanitary Corps, Adjutant.

At Brest, on March 16, 1919, the ladies boarded the *S. S. Leviathan*. Originally named the *Vaterland*, this ocean liner was built by Germany, but seized by the US Government after war was declared in 1917 and renamed the *Leviathan*. Like the *Olympic*, it too, was camouflaged during the war with dazzle paint and arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey on April 2, 1919. Immediately, she reported to USA Emb. Hosp. 4, in New York City. Then on April 12, 1919, she left for USA General Hospital #12, Biltmore, reporting upon arrival for observation and treatment.

In June, 1919, she was granted a leave of absence for 21 days with pay and allowance. She received an additional seven days leave of absence, without pay.

Returning in August, she was reassigned for duty to the USA General Hospital #19 in Oteen, North Carolina. This facility was located near Asheville and was dedicated to the care of patients with TB. Her pay records note an increase in compensation of \$20.00 per month as approved by the Secretary of War effective August 1, 1919. She continued to work and receive payment until December 31, 1919.

While posted at this facility, Marie became acquainted with Sergeant Clifton A. Williston who was assigned to the General Hospital as an enlisted member of the Medical Department. After a short courtship, they were married on January 2, 1920, at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina by Rector Willis G. Clark. The new Mrs. Williston requested a leave of absence and eventually received her discharge order from the Surgeon General's Office on January 30, 1920. In the meantime, her husband had been Honorably Discharged on January 22nd, 1920 at Camp Dix, New Jersey.

In the 1920 US Census, Marie is listed with the US Army Hospital in Buncombe County, NC as a dietitian, along with four other women similarly employed. Since she had recently married and was on a leave of absence, the documentary evidence did not include where she or her parents were born, or her age. Her mother, Ella, is living in Ashland at the 111 East Liberty address.

Clifton is listed with his parents, Roland and Adele, and his two sisters, Florence and Dorothy, in their home in Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts:

1920 MA Census Hampden County, Holyoke ED 65, Sheet 3A
Roland Williston, aged 48, born in MA, father born in MA, mother born in VT Foreman, Ely Lumber Company
Adelle, aged 45, born in MA, parents born in MA
Clifton, aged 23, born in MA, parents born in MA, Nurse, Hospital
Florence aged 20, born in MA, parents born in MA, Bookkeeper
Dorothy, aged 11, born in MA, parents born in MA

After their wedding, the Williston family moved back and forth between Holyoke and Ashland over the early years of their married life. Their first daughter, Jean was born in Ohio in 1921 and in 1923 their second daughter, Virginia was born, also in Ohio.

The school yearbook for Ashland High School, published in 1926 included a photo of Marie Williston as a member of the faculty, teaching French. The discovery of this document on Ancestry.com in May of 2015 was a complete surprise since I was expecting to find her teaching home economics. In this photograph, her hair has been bobbed.

Clifton and Marie were listed in the Ashland City Directory in 1927 and the Holyoke City Directory from 1927 through 1932. The 1930 Federal Census found their family living in Massachusetts:

1930 MA Census Hampden County Chicopee ED 7-121 Page 3B
Clifton A. Williston, aged 33, aged 23 at 1st marriage; born in MA, parents born in MA; salesman, hardware store; veteran, World War
Mary P. aged 36, aged 26 at 1st marriage; born in OH, parents born in OH, veteran, World War
Jean L. aged 8, born in OH, father born in MA, mother born in OH
Virginia A. aged 7, born in OH, father born in MA, mother born in OH

In 1930, Ella was still living in Ashland, but at a different location:

1930 OH Census Ashland County, Ashland City ED 18 Page 11A
Ella A. Brown, aged 69, widowed, born in OH, father born in VA, mother born in OH
Living at 618 Vine Street

Included in those documents found in 2000, this obituary, most likely published in Massachusetts on August 27, 1931, reported the death of Marie's mother:

Mrs. Ella A. Brown, Former Resident of Ohio Dies at Home of Daughter in Willimansett
Mrs. Ella A. Brown aged 71, died last night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clifton A. Williston, 49 Prospect Steet, Willimansett. She was born in Uhrichsville, Ohio, and lived there until a short time ago, when she came to Willimansett to live with her daughter. She leaves besides her daughter, two grandchildren, Jean and Virginia Williston; two nieces, Miss Ella Rush [sic] and Mrs. George Romig of Ohio, and four nephews, John and Glen Rush [sic] of Ohio and Chauncey and Orlee Rush [sic] of California. The funeral will be held in the Alger funeral home Saturday with Rev. Dr. John Alison officiating. Burial will be in Forestdale Cemetery.

This particular obituary led me to a fruitless day spent at the Los Angeles Family History Library, hand cranking through endless rolls of microfilm, as I hunted for Rushes, instead of Rusks!

On my first trip to Holyoke, armed with a grave map from the Sexton's office, my daughter and I wandered unsuccessfully through the Forestdale cemetery, looking for her gravestone. Perhaps due to the circumstances of the Depression, money was not available for a cemetery marker. The following obituary was published in Ohio several days later with the correct name of her extended family members:

Galion Inquirer September 3, 1931

Funeral services for Mrs. Ella A. Brown, aged 71 who died on Wednesday, August 26, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clifton A. Williston in Willimansett, MA were held Saturday, August 29, from the Alger funeral home with Rev. John Alison, officiating. Burial was made in Forestdale Cemetery, Holyoke, MA.

She was born in Uhrichsville, OH and lived in Ashland until a short time ago until she went to Willimansett to live with her daughter. She is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, Jean and Virginia Williston, two nieces, Mrs. Ella Rusk and Mrs. George Romig of Uhrichsville, and four nephews, John Rusk of Cleveland, Glenn Rusk of Galion, Chancey, [sic] and Arlee Rusk of San Diego, CA.

By 1932, they had returned to Ashland where they lived permanently. The 1940 Census enumerated the family in Ashland, Ohio, living in the house where Ella lived in the 1930 census:

1940 OH Census Ashland County Ashland City ED 3-19 sheet 16A

Clifton A. Williston, aged 43, born in MA, one year of high school; lived in same house 5 years ago; printing pressman

Marie P. aged 46, born in OH, 5 years of college

Jean L. aged 18, 4 years of high school, born in OH

Virginia A. aged 17, 3 years of high school, born in OH
618 Vine Street

Marie and Clifton continued to live in Ashland at the house on Vine Street and rented out the other property. Following the graduation from the Ashland High School of their two daughters, Jean went to Western Reserve University in Cleveland and her sister, Virginia, spent one year at Ashland College, before marrying a young soldier, serving with the 94th Infantry Division who was being trained as a Medic at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Their marriage did not last and she married my father in 1948. After her college graduation, Jean left Ohio to work in Chicago where she met her husband and they were married in 1951. At the time of Marie's death in Ashland, in October, 1952, she was blessed with two grandchildren, one from each of her daughters; two more grandchildren from her eldest daughter would follow.

Her death record reported the cause of death as pancreatic cancer with metastases to the liver. Her mother, Ella, died of leukemia, and her grandmother, Sarah, died of cancer of the womb. Among the records that had been kept since her death were the hospital bills from Good Samaritan in Ashland which were astonishing in comparison to our current medical costs.

The local Ashland newspaper printed the following obituary:

Mrs. C. A. Williston Dies in Hospital After Long Illness

Mrs. Marie Williston, aged 59, 618 Vine Street died at 8:40 am today at Samaritan Hospital following a lingering illness. She was born March 4, 1893 at Cadiz, the daughter of Chauncey and Ella A. Brown and was a graduate of the Ohio State University and Wooster College. She also taught in the Ashland High School and Ashland College. She was married January 2, 1920 to Clifton A. Williston who survives her. Survivors besides her husband include two daughters, Jean Skall of Crystal Lake, Illinois and Virginia Ann Harris of Parma and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents. Mrs. Williston was a member of the Presbyterian church and the American Legion Auxiliary of Ashland. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 pm Thursday from the Gilbert Funeral Home with her pastor, Rev. William G. Chalmers officiating. Burial will be at Ashland Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 7 to 9 Wednesday evening.

A couple of years after beginning the genealogy journey while visiting Ashland late one afternoon, I drove by the cemetery only to learn that the Sexton's office was closed for the day. I decided to drive through the cemetery because I had this hazy memory of my grandparents shared gravestone being situated very close to the street when we visited almost 40 years ago for the last time prior to our move to California. As I slowly drove the circular road, I seemed to remember that it was on the right side and

when I happened to look in that direction, there it was, not in the first row, but in the second. I parked the car and brought out the camera to snap a photograph of the cemetery marker with that incorrect birth year carved in stone. I decided to stay a few minutes and take in the solitude of this sacred place and, without any warning, tears began falling and falling. Pent up grief from the losses of two years ago found a safe and quiet place to finally give expression.

As a result of the early efforts to accumulate genealogical information, I knew some of my grandmother's history by this time and felt a compelling longing to have known her. I craved more details and wished to ask her questions about being an only child, leaving Kansas and coming back to Ohio after her parents divorced, what was it like to attend Ohio State University as one of the few women on campus, did she celebrate when women's suffrage was passed, and of course, her experience serving with the US Army in France and her deployment across the ocean during wartime, and finally, why did she keep the receipt from the Queen's Hotel?