

Family History

Norman Lewis Robertson born 27 August 1927,
Chicago, Illinois, son of Norman Lewis Robertson
and Mary Beattie Robertson.

Maternal ancestors:

Abigail Hammond (1762-1836) was married to Enoch Leonard (1763-1847)
on April 10, 1788, and her daughter

Lavinia Leonard (1800-1872) was married to Oliver Warren (1807-1872)
in April 1832, and her daughter

Mary Warren (1836-1909) married Erastus Dunbar (1832-1864) who was
killed in the Battle of The Wilderness in the Civil War. She later
married William G. Bates, a lawyer from Springfield, Illinois.

Laura Mabelle Dunbar was the only surviving child out of 13 from
her first marriage and Katherine Bates the only one from the second.

Laura Mabelle Dunbar (1859-1906) married Henry James Strong and
they had six children.

1. Caroline Mabelle (1879-1940?) the eldest married Earl Crozman and
they had two children.

William Strong Crozman (1902-?), who the last I know, was employed
by the telephone company (Pacific Bell?) in San Francisco, California.
(I tried to locate him when I was there in 1970, but without success)
and a daughter

Jean Marie Crozman (1904-1925) who never married.

2. Warren Erastus Strong (1882-196-?) whose wife's given name was Edith
(last name unknown) and they had three children

Linnett (1906-?)

Leroy (1908-?)

Shirley (circa 1920-?)

3. Laura Griffiths (Dix) (1885-1970) who married William Larkin Beattie (1882-194?) and, as you know, had one child Mary Catherine (1903--.)

4. Mary Beatrice (always called Dottie) (1887-1940) who married Franklin M. Baldwin, who came from a Quaker family in Indiana, was an accountant, and they moved to Danville, Illinois, and had two children

Harry (1908-?) who married but to whom and whether they had children, I do not know. He has remained in Danville (to the best of my knowledge.)

Laura Muriel (1910--?) who joined the WAC's, never married and left service at retirement age. I do not know if she went back to Danville, but Dix's address book might give some clue.

5. Harry Dunbar (always called Jim) 1890-195-?) who, after attending Morgan Park Military Academy, ran away and joined the U. S. Navy, from which he deserted. He came to Chicago, worked as a street car conductor and after he moved to the Colonial Hotel (where we were living) married a waitress from the hotel named Nell. They had no children and were divorced. Finally he moved out to that shack along the drainage canal.

6. Lida Packard (1893-1933) who married Frederick O. Goetz, an accountant who became a C.P.A. They had two children

Robert (1920--?) I believe he is still alive but know nothing of him

Margery (1923--?) who is married to William A. Kleist, Jr., and lives at 226 Middaugh Road, Clarendon Hills, Illinois, 60514, who has three children. I usually receive a nice note about the family at Christmas, but I do not remember the names or sexes of her offspring. She always kept in touch with Dix.

Other Information Regarding The Maternal Side

Henry James (who later used the name Harry) Strong was an Englishman who emigrated to London, Ontario, Canada. I do not know why or when he came to the United States. He was a member (while there) of The London Old Boys. He was naturalized and became a citizen of the U.S., but never voted in any election. He was manager of the Chicago Branch of The Baldwin Piano Company (on the East side of Wabash Avenue between Adams and Jackson Boulevard.) He had a sister, Caroline, who was married to a minister named Mansville, and lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They had a son Gobson, who was killed in World War 1. The Strong Family (as I remember it) lived in Rogers Park (then a suburb) then moved to Aldine Square, then to 58th and Calumet and from there to 61st and Prairie. When Dix was about 10 or 11 they moved to Morgan Park on the hill to a place called the "Castle" and finally my Grandfather built the home on Wood Street (110th Street). After my Grandmother died he married his secretary, Miss Jennie England. She had a housekeeper who lived with them as well as a number of cats. In about 1911 they moved to Bellefontaine, Ohio, where my Grandfather had a music store, and a few years later moved to Paso Robles, California, where my Grandfather died in about 1921. My Grandmother and Lida are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Morgan Park. I don't know for sure but I think Jim was also buried there. The other members of the family gave the three unused gravesites to Fred Goetz for their family.

My Grand Aunt, Katherine Bates, married Charles Baum and always lived in Ridge Farm, Illinois, where her father William Bates lived with them. They had three children:

Mary Louise (1904-192-?) who married but had no children,

Katherine and a twin, Margaret, who died in infancy. In about 1908, Katherine married (I can't remember her husband's name) and had no children, but adopted a child and lived down state in Indiana, where Dix visited them before Katherine died. (There may be a name and address in Dix's address book.)

Additional Information

I do not know whose child she was (probably Lavinia Leonard Warren) but Lavinia Warren was the wife of General Tom Thumb (whose real name was Charles Sherwood Stratton), a dwarf with P. T. Barnum who was 34 inches tall and she was only 32 inches. They were married in Grace Church in New York in 1863. He died at age 45 and she lived to be 77. (1838-83) and (1845-1918).

Our ancestor who was a member of the group on The Mayflower was Richard Warren. Between 1903 and 1906 Grandma Strong made a trip back to Massachusetts to visit relatives (particularly in Plymouth and Salem). While she was there she had her children and her only two grandchildren registered (I haven't the name of the organization in Plymouth) as descendants of Richard Warren and The Mayflower. Early in the last war there was a lot of publicity in the newspapers about FDR and Churchill having a common ancestor - Richard Warren. This moved Dix to try and find out the names of the people in between and she had me get all the books I could from the Newberry Library in Chicago about the Warren family. I am sorry to say there was no one she was able to link up with the family names she knew. Nevertheless, if you should want to have yourself and Norman so registered, I am sure you can find out the name of the agency and whether it can be done by mail and what documents are necessary.

Aunt Kate, who was the only living member of the family particularly interested in our antecedents, had lots of information but would not pass it along and where it wound up I have no idea. However, when I used to visit Ridge Farm she often could be coaxed to bring out some of the items for us children to see and hear about. One was a little mitten without a thumb about one inch square with a drawstring and an old coin in it. This, she said, had been knitted as a protective charm by one of the young ladies when her sweetheart was going off to fight in the Revolutionary War. (He must have come back or how would the piece have been handed down in the family.) Another was a

black satin bag about 6 by 8 inches with a drawstring which had a raised spray of sumac in color for decoration and this had been a possession of Lavinia Warren. The last one I remember was a small bible, about 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches which had been carried by Erastus Dunbar when he was in the Union forces of the Civil War. It had a hole through it and was blood-stained from the bullet wound which killed him in the Battle of The Wilderness. She also had the lining of his uniform coat which was black satin and had a small American flag embroidered in color on it. When Grandma Bates died (I attended the funeral) a pillow was made of this satin with the flag for her head. Incidentally, Aunt Kate made up the D.A. R. papers for me, which I never used. I am afraid I resented the fact she had used an obscure relative, Rnoch Leonard, a private, instead of one of the Warrens. Her own and her daughters were "Warren". She said it was because she wanted to show we had more than one ancestor in the War. I have a piece of an old Paisley shawl but do not remember to whom it belonged. It is too ragged and worn to be any use other than "ancestral".

All of the family, as I heard it, came from Massachusetts, but when and why they came west I do not know. She must have come with her mother or other family member. She lived with Erastus Dunbar in Lincoln, Illinois. After the war, as she was a veteran's widow, she was made postmistress of Ridge Farm, Illinois, where she also had a millinery shop (which I have visited). When she married Grandpa Bates, who was a lawyer, knew President Lincoln and also came from Lincoln, Illinois, she gave up the postmistress job but not the millinery store.

With regard to the name "Warren" in the family: the oldest male in each generation was so named and if I had been a boy would have been named Warren (because Carrie did not carry on the tradition when her son Billy was born. My Uncle Warren had a silver Scotch Thistle pin which would have been passed on to me in due time. It was most handsome and impressive and I suppose that his oldest son, Linnett, had or has it.

My Paternal History

Mary Anne Larkin, Bill's Mother, (1856-1927) was born of Irish parents in Massachusetts or Vermont and raised on a farm outside of Iowa City, Iowa. It was a fairly large family (I don't know how many) but Gram had a sister 2 years younger than herself who, as is frequently the case, was her Father's pet and could get away with almost anything, which, Gram said, she did constantly. Finally Gram left home at age 16 or thereabouts and went to work in a paper box factory in Iowa City. There she met David Beattie, an Englishman, who seems to have come from the sporting world, and they were married and had two sons. Somewhere along the line they moved to Lockport, Illinois, and then to Chicago, where he had a shoe repair shop on Wabash Avenue between Van Buren and Harrison Streets, and they lived in a flat across the street until (I guess) he got tired of her nagging about the liquor and the bums he always seemed to have hanging around (many former small time prize fighters) and many of them he allowed to sleep there. So, one night when he didn't come home she went to the shop and he was gone. She was too proud to try and do anything to find him and as far as I know she never heard of or saw him again. The two boys were:

William Larkin Beattie (June 23, 1882-Chicago 195?) who was born in Lockport, and

James Francis Beattie (1886-1905?)

She soon had to take in washing in order to support them, but it was not easy. So, when neighbors of theirs, Karl Hild and his wife, who were both musicians, (he had been a member of the Imperial Orchestra in Germany) had noticed Bill sitting outside their door several times listening, they approached me Grandmother and asked her to let them take him to New York with them and they would give him a musical education she agreed for she felt she would be depriving him of something she had no prospects of ever being able to provide. He was then 5 years old. He received the musical training but the Hilds were heavy drinkers and when drunk often mistreated him. Once when he was playing the piano and made a mistake Karl whacked him across the back of the head and he broke his nose on the music rack, they didn't do anything about it. They sent him to a German school and insisted he speak only German. Occasionally they would have out-of-town engagements and would lock him in the house with what they considered

sufficient food until their return. Finally my Grandmother became suspicious when she got very little news about him and she wrote that she wanted him returned to which she received no reply. She finally went to New York and got him. When they were on the train on the way back to Chicago there was a German woman who did not understand English who needed to change to another train and no one could explain to her, so Gram insisted Bill tell her, which he finally did, but after he got home he would not speak a word of German nor touch either the piano or violin. He pretty well stuck to it through his entire life. I don't know just when she moved to Morgan Park but Dix and Bill went to their last years of Grammar School and the little high school they both had until their marriage. Actually, they were married twice. Dix and most of her sisters and brothers were shipped off to Ridge Farm every summer during school vacation and in 1901 Bill met her in Danville (on her way home) and they were married there by a Justice of the Peace. They managed to keep their secret and stick it out for a while, but along in November Bill went to my Grandfather to ask for consent to their marriage and was thrown bodily out of the house. They decided to run away to New York (you can see the newspaper account in the newspaper clipping, so I won't repeat.) At any rate they came back and were married in the Episcopal Church in Morgan Park on December 12, 1901. Bill got a job working for the Illinois Central down at 12th Street and they moved to a flat in Woodlawn, on the north side of 63rd Street, west of and right up against the IC tracks where they were living when I was born. Not long afterwards they moved back to Morgan Park to a flat in the McCormick Block on the south side of 111th Street (then Morgan Avenue) between Emond Street and the Rock Island tracks, where we stayed until 1910 when we moved to Kansas City, Missouri. Somewhere along the way (I do not know how or when) Bill attended night classes at The Art Institute. Bill's brother Frank was quite a problem. I believe he finished grammar school and then ran away - went on the bum - for several months. I remember Dix telling how she came into the flat and there on the couch in the parlor was the dirtiest, awfu lest looking bum

she had ever laid eyes on - sound asleep and snoring. She was about to go for a policeman when she decided to get a good look so she could describe him and when she did she realized it was Frank. He did this and that - never long at one thing - but finally he was on the road in some kind of job and got married to a Jeanette (I cannot remember her last name) from Appleton, Wisconsin. They had one son, William Francis, born about 1909, who was killed at Corregidor and did not marry. They came to Morgan Park, where Jennie and Billy stayed with us until we moved to Kansas City. It wasn't too complicated for Gram lived in a flat down the hall in the same building but finally moved in with us. Gram always supported herself by going out to do washing and ironing for "folks on the hill", but when we moved she went along with us to Kansas City. She stayed on there with Jennie and Billy when we left and later lived near (not with) Bill in various places and finally died in Minneapolis in 1927.

When I was about 2 years old Bill got a job as salesman for Bakers Chocolate Company and from there went to the Southern Cotton Oil Company as a traveling salesman. When they opened an office in Kansas City they made him manager. We were there for 2 years (and I hated every second of it) and then returned to Chicago and Bill to traveling again, which he liked much better. We first lived on 65th Place between Jefferson (now Harper) and Stony Island Avenue, but after about a year we moved to the Colonial Hotel (just South of 63rd Street on the East side of the street which was then called Monroe and is now Kenwood). That is where we became friends of the Bondys. Bill and Dix separated and she and I moved to share an apartment with them at 6413 Harper (by then the name had change). We were there for about 2 years and then Dix, Lida, who had been living at the Colonial Hotel, and I moved to an apartment at 6058 Stony Island Avenue, where we stayed until the summer of 1911, when Lida got married. We next had an apartment just off South Shore Drive on 73rd Place for the summer (did I have a ball being that close to 74th Street beach and all I had to do was some marketing, help with the housework and get dinner started).

Dix and I then moved to 6331 Woodlawn Avenue, where Louie Schwartz (later Reynolds) shared the apartment with us. In the Fall of 1920, I started going with Hamilton Plimpton and finally one evening he brought his older brother Paul along for Dix. You know the outcome of that. Paul was the oldest of four: Florence (Mrs. Lawrence Riddle of Mattoon, Illinois, who had 2 or 3 children (I don't know the names), Louise (Mrs. Harry Myrick) who is now a widow, blind, and lives with Hamilton in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Ham and Paul took over their Father's wholesale furniture agency, until it folded and each went on to work for others.. Dix and Paul were married May 14, 1921, in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of 64th and Kimbark Avenue, and we moved to an apartment at 6639 Greenwood Avenue for 3 years then to 6251 Woodlawn Avenue and then to the corner of 74th and Colfax Avenue, where Norm and I were married on May 8, 1926.