

Geer Family Association Newsletter

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3

Gear, Geer, Geere, Gere, Etc (G/G/G)

SUMMER, 2003



Feature: Captain Billy Geer, Riverman William Harrison⁷ Geer [ID# 638-3-G]



William Harrison Geer [ID# 638-3]

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“Down the road from the homestead lived a man, **Captain Billy Geer** [William Harrison⁷ Geer ID# 638-3-G] of Jefferson Co., OH. **Captain Geer** was an experienced riverman who had spent years on Ohio canals, sometimes as a boat hand and other times driving mules that pulled the canal boats. He was the grandfather of **Margaret, Alice and George Geer**.

Captain Geer had a wealth of interesting stories of the life on the Ohio canals and the Ohio River. He would go up the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers buying up logs that had been cut in the Pennsylvania mountains. He would make rafts of the logs and then float them down the river selling them as he came down stream. He would have as many as four or five rafts each trip with the logs as long as 14, 16, 20 to 24 ft. long. Rough boards would be fastened on the logs and nearly always some kind of shelter was built to cover the roust-about or any hands he hired to help. Straw was used for beds and a crude stove was set up for cooking while traveling downstream. Ham or bacon cooked in soup beans was the main dish.

Stops were made at saw mills along the way at such places as Bruno Island, Rochester, East Liverpool, Wellsville, Ekey's saw mill, **James Stone** mill, Newburg (Toronto) to **Jef Saltsman's** mill and on to Bridgeport, Wheeling, to Big Hocking, a boat building company.

Captain Billy Geer was a great teacher in the ways of the river. **John Ekey** made his first trip on the river with **Captain Billy** when he was fourteen years old. The pay was one dollar a day and your food. The trips would take ten to fourteen days and three or four trips could be made each summer.”

Source: The Stratton Village [Jefferson Co., OH] Story: A Community History 1880-1976, written by **Mary Ekey Robinson**, A Souvenir of the Bicentennial Celebration 1776-1976.

Sent to the GFA by **Robert D. Vance** [ID# 638-3-3-7-1-G] of Ontario, CA.

“My father made his first trip into the Penn. Mountains when he was sixteen. **Billy Geer, Alice's** grandfather went to see Dad's father, for permission to take Dad on a logging trip. Dad had many stories to tell about the 3 yrs. he [was] with **Mr. Geer** on the river. He taught Dad many things. They never cut the logs but bought up the ones already down. Floated them down to Pittsburgh and made very large rafts. Once in the river they never left them. Built a shanty to sleep in and cook in, it was wild country then. There were no locks and dams in the river, just sand bars and Islands to guard against. Sometimes they would have to wait for the river to raise. They would sell the logs at different sawmills along the river from Pittsburgh to Wheeling [WV]. **Mr. Geer** had worked on the Ohio Canal from Cleveland to Portsmouth. As long as **Billy Geer** lived Dad always went to see him.”

Source: Additional info on **Capt. Geer** of Jefferson Co., OH, written by 80 year old author of above book, **Mary Robinson** to Geer descendant and submitter to GFA, **Robert D. Vance**.

[Historian's note: See also the Feature by **Cash M.⁸ Geer** [ID# 254-1-6-G], Riverman of Brookville, PA in *GFA Newsletter* Vol. 19, No. 1 (Fall 2001)].

*This is a partial current newsletter posting to promote membership and our Triennium Reunion in New London, MN. scheduled for July, 16-17th, 2004. To join, please see **The GFA** page on this web site.*

Presidents Message



Ken Geer, GFAPresident

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone is having a nice summer. I also hope everybody has made or will soon be making, their reservations for our **July 16th and 17th 2004 Geer/Gear/Gere Reunion** in New London, Minnesota!! We have reserved blocks of rooms at certain hotels and hope we have enough set aside. **Marilyn Geer** & other Minnesota Geer family members are doing a lot of work to get a feel for attendance, so let's help out by calling and making your reservations now! (*See insert in this issue for form.*)

There will be many things to see and do in the area. A popular water ski show, car racing, and other attractions may need early reservations. See our tentative agenda in this issue on page 53. More details and information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

Think about what **Geer/Gear/Gere Memorabilia** you have that you can bring along to share with everyone. We will have an area set up for **Show and Tell!** If anyone has any grand ideas or comments, please feel free to contact me.

On other business: Our membership is growing and doing fine. But, don't forget to send in your dues. Our 3 years for \$60.00 is the best buy for everyone. Of course, life memberships are always welcome.

That's all for now. Talk to you in the fall.

Take care, Ken

Start making your reservations now for the
Geer Family Association Triennium Reunion 2004
New London, Minnesota. July 16 and 17, 2004

Getting to Know Each Other . . . Meet our Region 4 Trustee - Mark J. Geer

Hi, my name is **Mark J.¹¹ Geer** [ID# 668-5-1-3-6-3-G]. I was born in Willmar, MN. We lived about 6 miles West of New London, MN. My dad had an Auto Body Shop there, so I grew up with cars. I was born with a rare heart defect, and my first few years were spent in the Univ. of MN Hospital a lot. I had open-heart surgery when I was 15 mo. old.

When in high school, my uncle **Paul Rader¹⁰ Geer** [ID# 668-5-1-3-3-G, former GFA VP] got me interested in the GFA. Before he passed away he gave up his GFA Trustee job and passed it on to me. After high school I attended Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, ND, and also went to Technical College for Insurance Adjusting. I thought that with being around cars all the time and helping my dad, I'd be good at estimates, etc. But after finishing found that everywhere I applied they wanted someone with 5 yrs.

experience. I finally asked one guy if he had any idea of how I could get 5 yrs. experience. I have worked for this friend driving wrecker most of the time.

The fall before the last CT reunion, which we were planning to attend, I got sick [**Mark** and his parents **Charles Strong¹⁰ Geer** [ID# 668-5-1-3-6-G] and **Marilyn J. (Nelson) Geer**] had attended the GFA NC Reunion]. The doctors didn't think I would make it to the hospital. They sent me via ambulance, and when they got me stabilized they sent me to Fairview Univ. Hospital in Minneapolis. Then they did a work-up for a heart transplant, but I started improving and eventually got home again. It was answered prayer that got me through that.

I then started volunteering at the Lighthouse Teen Center in Willmar, MN. There I met a **Linda Carlson**, who is now **Linda Geer!** We were mar. Jan.



Mark J.¹¹ Geer

26, 2002. We live in New London next door to my folks.

I race stock cars, a mod-4 in Willmar every Thurs. evening from May thru Sept. I am still working part-time driving wrecker.

Right now we are helping my mom plan the next GFA Reunion. Hope to see you all here and meet every one of you! Oh yes, I almost forgot we do have a big baby! A golden lab named Dew.

GFA Reunion 2004: Things to See and Do



The Minnesota Historical Society History Center

... is an architectural masterpiece made of Minnesota materials - Rockville granite and Winona limestone. With something for everyone, it is home to an innovative museum and a modern library. It is a great place for family research and learning about the history of the territory and its people..

An exhibit, Tales of the Territory, can be seen at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul from October 1999 until fall 2004. Stop by and enjoy many of the stories of people and events introduced here.

Check it out on the web! <http://www.mnhs.org/places/historycenter/exhibits/territory/index.html>.

www.ironrangerresearchcenter.org
for more MN interesting places!

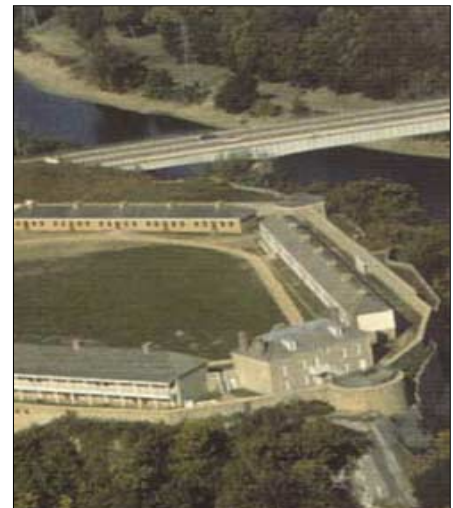
George Gilbert Geer, member of our planning committee and one of our reunion speakers.



Battle of Birch Coulee - Dakota War

“Just before sunrise on Sept. 2, 1862, the sharp crack of a warning shot signaled the start of the Battle of Birch Coulee, one of the hardest fought battles of the U.S.-Dakota War. The Dakota kept U.S. soldiers under siege for 36 hours before a relief detachment arrived from Fort Ridgely.”

Visit: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/bc/index.html> for more details and history !



Fort Snelling

Visit: <http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/hfs/index.html> on the web for more fun facts and details!

Several Kandiyohi County Historic Sites

One is the **Guri Endreson** log house which was built in 1858 and was the home of Guri Endreson and her family. In the **Dakota Conflict**, Guri saved three men, her husband and son were killed and her daughters kidnapped. The cabin is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** and is open to the public. The house is located NW of Willmar, off Highway 12 and County Road 5.

Another interesting site is the **Oscar Erickson Cabin**. **Oscar Erickson** and **Solomon Foot** were wounded and a Dakota Native American was killed at the **Erickson Cabin** during the **Dakota Conflict**. Erickson and Foot were two of the first settlers in Willmar Township. The Erickson Cabin still stands and is located west of Willmar off U.S. Highway 71.

GFA Reunion 2004: Places to Stay and Play

Camping at the reunion.

Sibley State Park

(about 4 miles from New London)

You can make reservations for camp sites by calling 1-866-857-2757. This is a place that makes reservations for all the state parks so need to *specify* "Sibley State Park at New London, Mn."

Reservations can be made up to 90 days ahead of time but at least 3 days ahead for whatever length of time from 1 day to 2 weeks. It is a nice park and with a variety of things to see and do.

Kandiyohi County Park #7

(about 7 miles from New London)

They do not take reservations until after Jan. 1 of the year you want to camp, so after Jan. 1, 2004 you could make reserv. there. They will only reserve for at least a week, but if anyone comes on Thursday, there is a pretty good chance they could get in.

We will call this park to make a reservation for the picnic shelter for that Sunday so if there are some that want a picnic or just want to spend the Sunday at the beach they can.

Motels we have blocks reserved until 1 month early.

Northern Inn and Suites on Green Lake, Spicer, Mn. (3 miles from New London) 154 Lake Ave. S. Spicer, Mn. 56288

1-800-941-0423

1-320-796-2091

We have 1 block which is 15 rooms here.

Super 8 Motel 2655 1st St. S Willmar, Mn. 56201 (13 miles from New London)

1-320-235-7260

We have 3 blocks of 10 rooms each (30 rooms total) Twenty rooms are under "Geer Family Reunion" and an additional 10 rooms reserved under "Mary Fisher"

Other motels in the area, such as Days, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn will only take reservations for a min. of 3 nights and the cost will be more than usual. There are a couple motels in Saux Center and one in Benson which are a little farther away but if needed.

Information courtesy of Marilyn Geer [mjgeer@tds.net].

Tentative Agenda



Reunion Center: Peace Lutheran Church, New London, MN.

Thursday: July 15th

Pre-reunion dinner meeting for Trustees and Officers: (Time TBD)

Stock Car Race: 7:00 P.M.

Trustee **Mark Geer** races stock car in Willmar at the fairgrounds.

Friday: July 16th

Officers & Trustees meeting:

9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

Location TBD

Book & History Committee Meeting

1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Location TBD

General Assembly

3:00 to 5:00 P.M. *Welcome* by Region 4 Trustee, **Mark Geer**, *Speakers:* **Lynn (Geer) Pryor**, **Hal Geer** of California on his career in Hollywood

Catered Dinner:

5:15 to 6:30 P.M.

All meals at Peace Lutheran Church
Little Crow Ski Show: 7:00 P.M.

(For those not planning to attend the Ski Show - you are invited to **Helen Geers** for coffee and refreshments, or join us after the show.

Saturday: July 17th

Continental Breakfast:

7:45 - 8:30 A.M.

Peace Lutheran Church. Sat. morning includes tables, booths, & posters for membership to SHARE their G/G/G family info, memorabilia, books, etc.

GFA General Business Meeting:

8:30 - 11 A.M.

Sandwich/Salad Bar Lunch: 12:00

Burbank Cemetery Tour: 1:00 P.M.

Catered Dinner: 5:00 P.M.

Program & Fellowship 6:00 P.M.

Speaker: **George Gilbert Geer**, on "The Minnesota Reg. At Gettysburg during the Civil War"

Sunday: July 18th

Games Lake Picnic: Time (TBD)

Our Hosts and Reunion Organizers:



Those who are on our comm. are: **Bill and Lee Geer** of Grand Forks, N.D., **George and Janice Geer** of Brooten, Mn., **Steve Beachler** of Plymouth, Mn., **Helen Geer** of New London, Mn., **Mark and Linda Geer**, and **Charles and Marilyn Geer**.

Geer Family Reunion 2004: Fort Snelling Gear Connections

Ezekiel Gilbert Gear

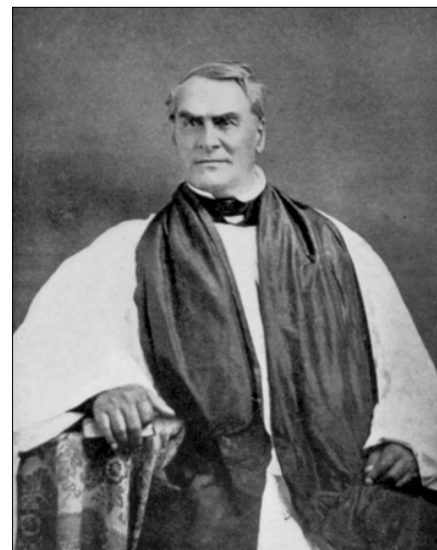
[ID# of 451-G]

"... **Rev. E. G. Gear**, [John Henry Gear's father], was born in 1792, and became a distinguished clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His family had moved with him, while he was still young, to Pittsfield, Mass., and in the year 1816, after his ordination as a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, he went to New York and located at Onondaga Hill near the city of Syracuse. Shortly after this settlement, the young minister was united in marriage with Miss **Miranda E. Cook**. After serving various congregations in Western New York for many years, he determined to become a pioneer in Northern Illinois, which at

the time, in the year 1836, was being rapidly settled up. He found a desirable location at Galena where he remained until 1838, when he received the appointment as Chaplain in the United States army while located at Fort Snelling, Minn. He lived a long and active life, doing much good, quitting his labors in the year 1874, at the advanced age of eighty-two years."

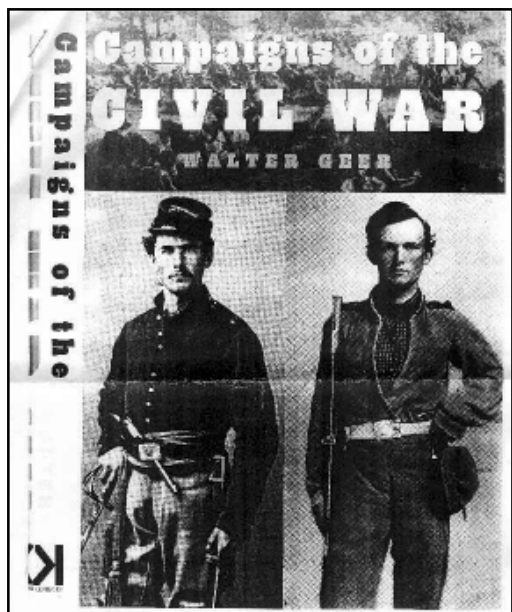
*Source: Available online at http://freepages.books.rootsweb.com/~cooverfamily/album_12.html - historical book, owned by **Pam Reitsch** - Mardos Online Memorial Library.*

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, General Collections and Rare Book and Special Collections Division.



Ezekiel Gilbert⁶ Gear
Born in 1793 CT and died 1877.

Book Review: Campaigns of the Civil War



Walter⁷ Geer [ID# 80-T] Author and Civil War Historian

Campaigns of the Civil War, by **Walter Geer**, 1926, reprinted by Konecky and Konecky Publ., Old Saybrook, CT.

Late in life, **Walter Geer** (1857-1937), of New York City, NY was quite an author. From 1919 to 1926, he wrote no less than six books plus the original Geer Genealogy in 1923. His works included books on Napoleon and the French Revolution. Those with an interest in the American Civil War couldn't do much better than to read Walter's last work, Campaigns of the Civil War.

The front endpaper of the dust jacket states that this was "the first successful historical analysis of both the tactical and strategic decisions that shaped the conduct and final outcome of the war." It goes on to say that it has been called groundbreaking by generations of historians since its first publication.

Campaigns of the Civil War has been recently reprinted by Konecky and Konecky, publishers of Old Saybrook, CT, which specializes in military history books. Walter gives us a general overview of all of the major campaigns of the Civil War in both the Eastern and Western theaters. He does it in a fast-paced, easy-to-read style without getting bogged down in troop movements, as a lot of historians tend to do. Walter is not afraid to offer his opinion on the tactics of the commanders of both sides and frequently refers to Napoleon in illustrating those opinions and his observations.

All in all, it is an excellent selection if you're looking for a general, yet concise history of the most catastrophic, but most important event in our nation's history after the Revolutionary War.

Reviewed by GFA member, **George Gilbert¹⁰ Geer** [ID# 1659-4-1-G] of Derby, CT, who plans on being a speaker at our Summer 2004 Geer Reunion.

Feature: A Man with Two Families

Lebeus Beed⁶ Geer/Gier [ID# 712-G]



See caption for individual listing at bottom left.

Lebeus Beed⁶ Geer [ID# 712-G], son of **Amos⁵ Geer** [ID# 308-G], was b. in 1819 in Oneida Co., NY. He was brought up in Georgetown, Madison Co., NY, m. **Grace Wait**, about 1842 in Brookfield, Madison Co., NY, and sired 7 children. The family moved to a farm near Sauquoit, Oneida Co., NY where his 1st child was born. Later they moved to Oriskany Falls, in the same county, where **Lebeus** lived and farmed with his family until the spring of 1861. At that time he left home—working for a while on the Erie Canal—before the Civil War broke out. He enlisted twice in the 8th NY Cavalry, and served in VA and PA at least. He never returned to his NY family. His 16 y.o. son **George** enlisted in Co. H, 146th NY Inf. and saw **Lebeus** twice—first at Aldee’s Gap, VA and again near Harper’s Ferry, VA. At these times **Lebeus** chose not to speak with his son. Years later, **Lebeus Geer** claimed in a pension physical exam that his feet and legs were frost-bitten during the war while riding picket duty at Winchester, VA and that his skin on both legs peeled off, never growing back normally.

After the hostilities, **Lebeus** fol-

lowed a Union soldier to Stewart Co., TN. The soldier m. a widow and **Lebeus** lived with them until meeting and marrying young **Maranda Lancaster** there in 1865 as **Lebeus Gier**. Subsequent census records of this man have him shaving off at least 10 years from his age, claiming to have Irish-born parents, and being recorded variously as **Lebius/Lebis/Lebins/Libbins/Lebrus**. He and

Maranda had 6 ch. in TN.

Apparently, there were letters back to his sister, **Rachel⁶ (Geer) Miner** [ID# 711-G] in NY, wife of **Lebeus’** companion in the war, **Chauncey Miner**, who served in the same company. It is unclear whether **Grace (Wait) Geer** was ever aware that her husband survived the war, as her oldest son **George Addison⁷ Geer** [ID# 712-1-G] was surprised, yrs later, to learn that **Lebeus** had remar. and had add’l ch. We know that as an older woman, **Grace** was m. to **Nicholas Neskern**. She had been listed as a *widow* in the censuses after the war, and she received a widow’s pension.

After **Lebeus Geer/Gier’s** and his wife **Maranda’s** death (**Lebeus** d. in 1888 and **Maranda** followed in 1889), **Maranda’s** brother applied for his brother-in-law’s pension to help raise the minor **Gier** children. He was told that **Lebeus Geer** had a “widow” and family in NY, and that no funds would be forthcoming. **Miner** wrote to NY, receiving a letter from **George Addison⁸ Geer**, expressing his surprise, and offering info on this father’s background, and abandonment of the first family.

Photo Above: Seated father and mother: **George Addison⁸ Geer, Jr.** [ID# 712-1-1-G] and **Eunice (Tooley) Geer** of NY. Children clockwise from oldest dau. standing, center of pic.: **Lena A.⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-1] (b. 1887), **Lawrence Deforest⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-3] (b. 1892), **George McKinley⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-5] (b. 1896), **Mabel⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-8] (b. 1905), **Harriet Eunice⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-6] (b. 1899), **Gladys Winnie⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-7] (b. 1902), and **Loretta⁹ Geer** [ID# 712-1-1-4] (b. 1894). Photo sent to GFA by member **Vernon Wesley “Pete”¹⁰ Geer** of Tekonsha, MI.

Strangely, this is not the only **Geer** who traveled after abandoning his family, changed the spelling of his name, and raised another family—it happened long ago out on the west coast as well!

Gier descendant-researcher **Bill Hooks** of Mesa, AZ, after applying for pension records on ancestor **Libbens Gier**, was astounded to receive over 200 pp. of government records, enlightening him about the earlier family. **Bill** has been sending GFA **Gier** genealogy of these TN cousins at the same time that half-relations of the first family—**Dennis James Geer**, of Whitesboro, NY, and **Vernon Wesley Geer** of Tekonsha, MI— have been sending in their lines! Combining family stories and old photos has been fun for all concerned!

[Historian’s note: See also GFA Newsletter, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Fall 2002), “Historian’s Report,” pp. 8,9 for more on this family, as well as early **Geer** family portraits.]



George McKinley⁹ Geer [ID# 712-1-1-5-G], in WW I uniform. Sent by member **Vernon Wesley “Pete”¹⁰ Geer** of Tekonsha, MI. See also Milestones, p. 68, this issue, for **Vernon Geer’s** anniv. announcement.



Early Geer Correspondence (1934) RI to KS

(Wherein the birth of *our current GFA V.P.* is announced!!)
Pascoag, R.I. Mar 20th [1934]



Author: **Grace Edith⁸
(Geer) Ballou**
[ID# 70-1-1-6-2-G]

My Dear Cousin [**Dora Mahalia⁸ (Geer) Griffiths** ID# 70-1-2-1-1-G of Kansas]

I [**Grace Edith⁸ (Geer) Ballou** ID# 70-1-1-6-2-G] received your letter and was very glad to hear from you but why oh why didn't I know you folks were on this way in 1911[?] I would have looked for you and father [**James Arnold⁷ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-6-G] would have been more than glad to have seen you. he all ways liked to see his folks and talk with them. I like to see any folks to[o.] now if you are going to sell out and move don't you think it would be a good idea to come this

way visiting before you go so far away[?] it wouldn't take long to come in an auto and I'm sure I'd be glad to have you and I can say the same for others of the cousin's and if you get tired of our chatter I have a cottage right beside the salt water where you could camp until you got rested in fact as long as you wished to stay you better think it over. you asked if I lived alone. No I have a man, wife & son here with me. I have a small place 1 1/2 miles out of Pascoag. The house is large 9 rooms but I only have 4 acres with this place. No I haven't any children the folks that are here with me I have known 23 years. The son [**Francis Foster**] will be 23 in July. I was with the mother when he was born and I have had him with me most of the time since he was 4 years old. My uncle on mother's side bought right beside me. He is alone and now I have had to take over his place and expect I will have to take him next. He will be 78 the 11 of Nov. Yes my brother is living. His home is Riverview R.I. that is near the salt water. his name is **Ossian Eugene⁸ Geer** [ID# 70-1-1-6-1-G]. He is married and has 3 daughters and one son. the oldest girl is **Helen Grace⁹ [Geer]**. second one **Irene Elizabeth⁹ [Geer]** married **Harold Wilson**. third **Ruth Edna⁹ [Geer]**. Boy **Eugene Warren⁹ Geer** [ID# 70-1-1-6-1-4-G] married and wife gave birth to a son March 1st 1934- **Eugene Warren¹⁰ [Geer], Jr.** [ID# 70-1-1-

Photo Captions:

- Caption 1 **James Arnold⁷ Geer** [ID# 70-1-1-6-G] and wife **Ursula Almira (Mathewson) Geer**.
- Caption 2 **Irene Elizabeth⁹ Geer** and her Aunt **Grace [Edith⁸] Geer** [ID# 70-1-1-6-2-G].
- Caption 3 **Great- Aunt Grace Geer** w/cow on the farm in RI.
- Caption 4 **James Arnold Geer**, his daughter **Grace Geer**, and granddaughter **Irene Geer**.

Photos sent by GFA V.P. **Gene Geer** of Hazlet, NJ.



Early Geer Correspondence, *continued*

6-1-4-1-G]- so that is one more to keep the name going. You said your father had been married before. Yes his first wife was my mothers sister. She married afterwards to **Hammond Metcalf**. They had one son he is living but Aunt & Uncle passed away. Uncle in 1920 Aunt 1925. my fathers name was **James Arnold⁷ Geer** [ID# 70-1-1-6-G]. Grandpa's name was Harris. I have heard who the other couple was but can't think now. I will ask Aunt Francis she and Eunice would be the only one's that would know. My grandfather **Harris C.**⁶ [Geer ID# 70-1-1-1-G] married **Roby B. Perkins**. Their children **Mary E.**⁷ [Geer ID# 70-1-1-2-G]] married twice 2 children [by] first and 1 by second [husband]. **Thomas R.**⁷ [Geer] born & died 1839. **Sarah M.**⁷ [Geer ID# 70-1-1-4-G] married & had 3 children. I believe one is living. **John H[arris⁷ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-5-G] married had 3 sons [and 1 daughter]. **William M.**⁷ [Geer] died when 16, then my father **James A.**⁷[Geer], then **Charles S[mith⁷ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-9-G] married no children. The **Benjamin F.**⁷ [Geer] died when 5 years old. **Roby A.F.** [Geer] died when 2 years old, then **Frances L[ucinda⁷ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-10-G] married and had 4 children but we are all getting old and lots have passed away. Grandpa died when my father was eleven years old. I know your grandpa [**Ebenezer⁶ Geer** ID# 70-1-2-G] and mine were brothers and there was a **William** [Geer] -he was married twice—first marriage there was a son **Ambrose**, daughter **Lillian** and I don't know about the second marriage and I never saw him. Father said to go see him when he went to Providence he had a fish market but he never went to the house. I have never seen **Lillian** but saw **Ambrose** twice and that was enough of him. He was most to[o] lazy to feed himself. Then there was a **John** [Geer]. He went west so I never saw him. He had 1 or 2 sons that went to Texas to live. They were about 30 miles from where we were. Mother [**Ursula Almira (Mathewson) Geer**] wrote to them but they didn't answer so we didn't write again. The German might have been related intermarried we have most all the nations married in. I have been over Eacochoag Hill. I saw Uncle **Arnold Perkins**, his daughter and son but never

went to his home that was grandma's brother. My father looked like him. Pascoag is in the northern part of R.I. I will send you a map when I get one. I have a horse, cow a few hens 3 turkeys, dog, 6 cats and I'm not an old maid. You spoke of your husbands health, its to[o] bad. I know how to think & feel for you. My husband [**Warren R. Ballou**] had pneumonia before we were married and he was never strong. The last two years that he lived he had to have something injected in his back every Saturday and the end was T.B. I wanted him to go to Cal. but his folks were getting old and he wouldn't leave them. They and a brother passed away in 1900 then he wouldn't have me go away from my folks for they were getting old and he wouldn't go unless I did so we didn't get there. My brother & wife with a **Mr. & Mrs. Flagg** went to Cal. two years ago. I don't know whether I'll ever get there or not. I have a car, an Oakland 6, but I don't do much driving myself—the man that lives

here drives it for me and for him self to[o]. you spoke of harvest time when we were out south the men used to go from farm to farm to help and the women went to help get dinner and to visit houses were few and far between where we were. I don't know enough about the family to know about the D.A.R. you will see by my letter I jump from one thing to another. well I set it down as I think of it. Hope you can make it out. anyway well it's time for me to hit the hay so I will finish this another day. You spoke of **Susie** [**Susan May⁹ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-5-1-1-G] to[o]. H[ear]d her health is so bad and **Clarence** [**Linwood⁹ Geer** ID# 70-1-1-5-1-2-G] to[o]. I don't see why we can't be healthy until we are 100 then pass out sleeping and not suffer.

[Sent to GFA Historian about 15 years ago by **Mrs. Veda E. (Griffiths) Kidby** [ID# 70-1-2-1-1-1-G], a daughter of the recipient.]

Dora Mahala Geer, the receiver of this correspondence from her cousin Grace Edith⁸ (Geer) Ballou



The Griffiths family of Clay Center, KS: Seated (l. to r.)—Hubert J. Griffiths, Hubert John “Jack” Griffiths II, Dora M.⁸ (Geer) Griffiths — Standing: daughters Violet Agnes and Veda Elizabeth Griffiths.



Dora Mahala⁸ Geer [ID# 70-1-2-1-1-G] as a young woman. Photo sent by granddaughter Ramona James of Clay Center, KS.



Farm house where Dora Mahala⁸ (Geer) Griffiths & husband Hubert J. Griffiths, Sr. lived in Clay County, KS prior to their move to Oregon in the early 1930s. Photo sent by descendant Ramona James of Clay Center, KS.

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