

Descendants of Francis Gray and Anna McGraw

By

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Introduction

Michael McGrath and his brother John came to the U.S. with their mother, Mary Ryan McGrath, on board the British Queen that landed at New York City on November 7, 1850. They were rejoining their father, Edmond McGrath, who had arrived in the U.S. two years earlier on the New Hampshire that landed at New York City on November 29, 1848. Edmond had been farming in the southeastern corner of the town of Fabius in Onondaga Co., NY. Also in Fabius, perhaps on the same farm, was Edmond's brother Lanty (Alanson). Lanty's family came to the U.S. on the British Queen with Edmond's family. Edmond and Lanty's father, Michael McGrath, and their siblings Thomas, and Margaret came to the U.S. in about 1852. Michael, Thomas, and his wife, the former Catherine Gleeson, were living on a farm on in the northern portion of the town of Pompey at the time of the 1855 census. By that time Margaret had married Richard Long and was living nearby.

According to family lore a tornado had wrecked Edmond's farm in southeastern Fabius at some time prior to 1855. In the census of that year Lanty was living in the village of Fabius with no farm land, although he owned farm animals, and Edmond owned land on Morgan Hill in the town of Truxton (later part of the town of Cuyler). Later Lanty moved to Arab Hill in what is now Highland Forest Park and then by 1860 he and his family had settled in Clifton Springs, Ontario Co., NY.

Sometime prior to 1860 the patriarch of the family, Michael McGrath, passed away and he is thought to have been buried in old St. Mary's Cemetery on Renwick Ave., in the city of Syracuse. Edmond's sibling, Thomas and his wife, the former Catherine Gleeson, along with 12 other individuals from the Upperchurch area of Ireland migrated to Maple Ridge in the town of Martinsburgh in Lewis Co., NY around 1858-9. Among the dozen was Thomas' sister Margaret who had married Richard Long at St. Mary's in Syracuse. Richard was a neighbor from back in Ireland. Thomas stayed in Maple Ridge but Margaret and Richard returned to Pompey in a few years and they settled in a farm on the same road where Michael and Thomas had been living in 1855. The Longs are still living on that road and it is now named Frank Long Road after one of Margaret and Richard's descendants.

Edmond's son John joined the army and participated in the Civil War. Upon his return to Morgan Hill he went to work on his family's farm. His parents and his brother were on the family farm further down the road on Morgan Hill. In 1867, Edmond and his sons bought a 225-acre farm in the northwestern corner of the town of Truxton on Kettlebail Road. Living just up the road from the McGraw family, on Morgan Hill, was the John Comerford family. In 1870 John McGraw married their daughter Ellen and they started their family on Kettlebail Road. After the Panic of 1873, financial ruin spread across the farms of central New York. In the

summer of 1874 the McGraw family lost their farm to foreclosure and the family spread out. Michael, who was still single, landed on the Miles farm in the southwestern corner of the town of Fabius. Immediately after the foreclosure John and his family moved back to Morgan Hill and they settled next door to the Gleason family on the northern end of Morgan Hill.

Shortly after that John and his family, along with his parents bought the former 1-1/2 acre Kent farm on Shackham Road in the northeastern corner of the town of Truxton. By 1880 John and his family had left his parents at the Shackham Road farm and moved to a farm on the eastern side of the North Road out of Truxton. Their neighbor was his wife Ellen's brother, John Comerford.

Despite the uncertainties caused by the foreclosure, John and Ellen's family continued to grow. Mary (1871) and John J. (1873) had been born on Kettlebail Road. Anna (1876), and probably Patrick (1878), and Margaret (1879) were born on Shackham Road. James (1881) and Helen "Nellie" (1883) were born on the North Road.

The late summer of 1883 had an epic tragedy in store for John McGraw and his family. Within a month of having given birth to their eighth child (Nellie), Ellen died (Aug 29th) from complications due to childbirth. Over the course of the next month John lost three of his children to typhoid, thought to be due to contaminated well water: Patrick (Sept 7th), Mary (Sept 12th), and Catherine (Sept 28th). At the urging of relatives John moved the remainder of his family into the village of Truxton where they would be able to help with the children. The exact disposition of the children is not certain but it is known that John J. moved across the street to the Goddard Hotel where Mary Goddard took him under her wing. Young Nellie was supposedly raised by John's brother Michael.

Back in about 1881, John had accompanied his brother Michael to Albany (probably by train) to meet two young single ladies, named Alice and Mary Rooney, who were just arriving from Ireland. Who sent them to Albany has always been a family mystery. In 1882 Michael married Alice Rooney and soon thereafter moved in with his parents on Shackham Road. In 1890, some seven years after his family's tragedy, John married Mary Rooney at St. Patrick's church in the village of Truxton, with his daughter Anna serving as witness. John had been living on a 6-acre farm on the West Road (Tully-Truton Road) which he later purchased from John O'Connor. On July 22, 1891 Mary gave birth to a daughter named Mary Alice — nine days later the baby died on August 1st. By the time of the 1892 census the couple had split up and left the farm on the West Road. In the census Mary was living in Truxton with the Parker family, under her maiden name of Rooney. At this same time John was also living in Truxton, with the Michael O'Brien family where Michael's wife, a Comerford, was John's sister-in-law.

John McGraw had only two grandchildren whereas by contrast his brother, Michael, had 33 grandchildren. Mary, Catherine and Patrick had died young. James never married. Margaret and Nellie both married but had no children. While John J. married twice no children resulted from either marriage. Anna McGraw (married Francis Gray) was the only sibling to have any children. We knew that Francis and Anna had two children: William (1897) and Bertha (1899) but that was where the trail had ended.

Eventually my curiosity got the better of me and I went searching for the descendants of Francis Gray and Anna McGraw through the census records.

Francis Gray was born in CT in about 1873. His parents had both been born in Ireland. He was married to Anna McGraw in 1895. The family wasn't found in the 1900 census.

In 1910 the family was living on the Main Road in New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT and Francis' occupation was that of a farmer. They only had two children during their 14 years of marriage and both of them were living at home with their parents in 1910. William F. (13), and Bertha (11), were both attending school.

By the time of the 1920 census the family was still living together in New Canaan but they had moved off the farm. They were living with the Edson Smith family at 91 Forest Street. Francis was employed as a chauffeur, driving a taxi. Both of his children: William F. (23) and Bertha M. (21) were employed as clerks in a grocery store. His wife Anna (44) was listed as having no occupation but of course she was keeping house for the family.

At the time of the 1930 census Francis Gray (or Grey) could not be found in the census records. Neither Anna nor her daughter Bertha could be found. There was a William F. Gray (34) living on Hillside Ave. in New Canaan Borough, Fairfield, CT, in the 1930 census. He was renting his home for \$22 per month and the family had a radio set. William's wife Mary J. (34) had been born in Ireland in 1896 of Irish parents. She had come to the US in 1912 and had been naturalized. William was still employed as a clerk in a grocery store. He and Mary had four (4) children. There were 3 sons and 1 daughter: John (9), James D. (7), Edward (8), and Anna May (4). William was a veteran of WWI. From the location of the births of their children it appears that William and Mary had lived in New York for a while: about 1922-1925.

Eventually the census records ran out and the search once again came to an end — for a while. After about 10 years the search began again and with the help of the online city directories and the Find-a-Grave website the living descendants of Francis and Anna Gray were finally found.

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Francis Gray and Anna McGraw

(s/o Samuel Gray and Kate LNU)

(d/o John McGraw and Ellen Comerfort)

Francis Gray
b. 1873, CT
d. May 17, 1936, CT

= **Anna McGraw**
b. 1876, Truxton, NY
mar 1895
Last appeared in New Canaan city
directory in 1953.

Anna McGraw was the younger sister of John J. McGraw (NY Giants) and the 1st cousin of Edward McGraw, my grandfather.

Anna, a widow, was living with her daughter Bertha's family in 1940.

Still living at home in
Jan 1920

= **William F. Gray**
b. 1896, CT
WWI Vet
mar 1920
d. Sept 27, 1973,
Norwalk, CT

= **Mary J. LNU**
b. 1896, IR
To US 1912, Naturalized
Alive in 1976

John F. Gray Never married
b. Dec 13, 1921, CT
d. Dec 31, 1988, Norwalk, CT

James Daniel Gray Never married
b. May 21, 1922, NY
d. Jun 12, 1982, VA
bur St John's Cem, Norwalk

Edward T. Gray Never married
b. 1924, NY
d. 1952, New Canaan, CT
bur Saint John's Cemetery,
Norwalk, Fairfield Co, CT

Anna May Gray = **Robert Menke**
b. 1926, CT
d. Apr 18, 2015, Kenwood,
Hamilton Co, OH
bur Gate of Heaven Cem,
Montgomery, Hamilton Co, OH
b May 8, 1925
mar Nov 30, 1957, New
Canaan, CT
d. Dec 6, 2011
bur Gate of Heaven Cem,
Montgomery, Hamilton Co, OH

Still living at home in
Jan 1920

= **Bertha M. Gray**
b. 1899, CT
d. 1970
bur Lakeview Cem, New
Canaan, CT

= **Arthur C. Bliss**
b. 1891, NY
mar 1920
d Sept 13, 1946, New Canaan

Bertha and son
Frank share a
gravestone. Where
Arthur was buried is
unknown at this time.

Frank A. Bliss = **Mary Birge**
b. 1921, CT (Grave)
mar Jul 17, 1954, New Canaan
d. Apr 6, 1966, Hamden, New
Haven, CT
bur Lakeview Cem, New Canaan,
CT
Mary's initial
appearance was in
the 1955 New
Canaan city directory.
She was gone in the
following directories.

FRANK BLISS and MARY BIRGE married on 1954-07-17 in NEW CANAAN, CT
ROBERT MENKE and ANNA GRAY married on 1957-11-30 in NEW CANAAN, CT
From 1936-1953 Anna L. Gray resided at 5 Marshall Ridge, New Canaan, CT

Census Records

1880 CT Fairfield New Canaan - 150

Res 495, Fam 545

Samuel Gray, 50, M, Works for Shoe Manufacturer, IR, IR, IR

Kate Gray, 49, Wife, M, keeping house, IR, IR, IR

Edward M. Gray, 24, son, S, work for a clothing manfg, Conn, IR, IR

William S. Gray, 21, son, S, work on farm, Conn, IR, IR

Emma Gray, 11, daughter, S, at school, Conn, IR, IR

Francis Gray, 8, son, S, at school, Conn, IR, IR

M. W. Davenport, 3, "no relation", S, no occupation, Conn, Conn, Maine

1892 NY Cortland Cortlandville

Anna L. McGraw, 18, US, C, Servant

1900 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 0078

Forest Street, Rents home

Res 66, Fam 73

Francis Gray, Head, June 1870, 29, 3 yrs, CT, IR, IR, Laborer

Annie Gray, Wife, Jan 1876, 29, 3 yrs, 2/2, NY, IR, NY

Francis Gray, son, Nov 1897, 2, S, CT, CT, NY

Bertha Gray, Daughter, Dec 1898, 1, S, CT, CT, NY

1910 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 0087

Main Road, Res 30, Fam 32, Rents house

Francis Grey, Head, 38, M1, 14 yrs, CT, IR, IR, Farmer, on p farm

Anna Gray, Wife, 35, M1, 14 yrs, 2/2, NY, IR, NY, None

Bertha Gray, daughter, 11, S, CT, CT, NY, None

William Gray, son, 13, S, CT, CT, NY, None

1920 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 0131

91 Forest Street, Res 275, Fam 242, Rents

Francis Gray, Head, 47, M, CT, IR, IR, Chauffeur, Taxi

Anna L. Gray, Wife, 44, M, NY, IR, NY, None

William F. Gray, son, 23, S, CT, CT, NY, Clerk, Grocery

Bertha W. Gray, daughter, 21, S, CT, CT, NY, Clerk, Grocery

Francis and Anna L. Gray were not found in the 1930 census.

1930 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 0142

Hillside Avenue, Res 5, Fam 6, Rents home for \$22/mo & has a radio

William F. Gray, Head, 34, M, mar @ 24, CT, CT, NY, Clerk, Grocery store

Mary J. Gray, Wife, 34, M, mar @ 24, IR, IR, IR, 1912, Na, None

John Gray, son, 9, S, CT, CT, IR, None

James D. Gray, son, 7, S, CT, CT, IR, None

Edward Gray, son, 5, S, CT, CT, IR, None

Anna May Gray, daughter, 4, S, CT, CT, IR, None

1930 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 0143

Richmond Hills, Owns home, \$10,000, has a radio

Res 480, Fam 501

Arthur C. Bliss, Head, 39, M, mar @ 29, NY, NY, MO, Chauffeur, Market, \$3990

Bertha M. Bliss, Wife, 31, M, mar @ 21, CT, CT, NY, None

Frank A. Bliss, son, 8, S, CT, NY, CT, None

1940 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 1-77

Fam 167, Owns home, \$6000, not a farm

Arthur C. Bliss, Head, 48, M, H-3, b. Brooklyn, Same house in '35, Driver, meat wagon, \$1245

Bertha Bliss, Wife, 41, M, H-4, b. CT, Same house in '35

Frank Bliss, son, 18, S, 0 yrs of school?, b. CT, Same house in '35

Anna Gray, Mother-in-law, 65, Wd, 8 yrs of school, b. NY, Same house in '35, housekeeper

1940 CT Fairfield New Canaan Dist 1-75

36 East Ave, Fam 59, Rents \$30/mo

William Grey, Head, 42, M, H-4, b. CT, same place in '35, Grocery clerk, Road Construction? \$680, \$46 wks.

Mary Grey, Wife, 43, M, 8 yrs, IR, same place. Housewife

James Grey, son, 17, S, 9 yrs, CT, same place, Student

John Grey, son, 19, S, H-4, CT, same place, Janitor helper, Schools, \$216, 24 wks

Edward Grey, son, 16, S, 6 yrs, CT, same place, Student

Anna M. Grey, daughter, 14, S, 8 yrs, CT, same place, Student

Raymond Inwood, Lodger, 43, S, 8 yrs, Scotland, same place, Laborer, Road widening, \$250, 28 wks.

Neither Francis nor Anna Gray was found in the Social Security Death Index: 1935-2014.

Neither Francis nor Anna Gray was found in the Find-A-Grave database.

Connecticut Death Records Index: 1897-2001

<https://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/death-records/>

FRANCIS GRAY 1936-05-17 NEW CANAAN

ANNA GRAY Not found, even with all reasonable name variations.

Not obits for Francis or Anna were found on Newspapers.com

William F. Gray Family

City Directories

Source: ancestry.com - U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995

Year	City	Entry	Comment
1936	N.C.	Frank Gray (Ann L) r Marshall Ridge rd William F Gray (Mary) emp ERA h 97 Main	Frank Gray died May 17, 1936.
1937	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F Gray (Mary) emp US Dept Agriculture h 60 Forest	
1938	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J.) h 36 East av	
1939	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J.) emp WPA h 36 East av	
1940	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J.) emp WPA h 36 East av	
1941	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J.) emp WPA h 36 East av	
1942	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) Chauff Harry H Pike h.45 East av	
1943	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) guard Bridgeport h.45 East av	
1944	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) guard Bridgeport h rear 249 Main Anna Gray clk Edward T Gray in US Army James D Gray in US Marines John B Gray mach opr All four children - r rear 249 Main	

Year	City	Entry	Comment
1946	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) chauf 115 Main h 18 Richmond Hill rd Anna May Gray student Edward Gray James Gray John Gray All four children - r 18 Richmond Hill rd	
1947	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) chauf 115 Main h 18 Richmond Hill rd John Gray painter James Gray Edward Gray Anna May Gray atdt Stamford All four children - r 18 Richmond Hill rd	
1948	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F. Gray (Mary J) chauf 115 Main h 18 Richmond Hill rd John Gray painter James Gray Edward Gray painter Anna May Gray atdt Stamford All four children - r 18 Richmond Hill rd	
1949	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F Gray (Mary) clk 56 forest r 5 Marshall Ridge rd	1949 Norwalk - 1 page
1950	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F Gray (Mary) clk 56 forest r 5 Marshall Ridge rd	1950 Norwalk - 1 page
1951	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd. William F Gray (Mary) rem to Norwalk	
	Norwalk		William Gray and family not in Norwalk
1952	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
	Norwalk		William Gray and family not in Norwalk
1953	N.C.	Anna L Gray wid Frank r 5 Marshall Ridge rd	Anna remained in New Canaan when her son William and his family moved to Norwalk.
	Norwalk		William Gray and family not in Norwalk

Year	City	Entry	Comment
1954	N.C.	No Anna L Gray	
	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) h 13 Ingleside av N John F Gray emp 197 Conn Av SN Anna Mae Gray dental asst New Canaan Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	James and Edward Gray were not in Norwalk
1955	N.C.	No Anna L Gray	
	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) h 13 Ingleside av N Anna Mae Gray dental asst Washington DC John F Gray emp 197 Conn Av SN Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1956	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) clk New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N Anna Mae Gray dental asst Washington DC John F Gray cabinetmkr 197 Conn Ave SN James D Gray Three children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1957	Norwalk	John F. Gray cabinetmkr 197 Conn Av SN r 13 Ingleside av N James D. Gray. Anna Mae Gray dental asst Washington DC Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1958	Norwalk.	William F Gray (Mary J) clk New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N Anna Mae Gray dental asst Washington DC John F Gray cabinetmkr 197 Conn Ave SN James D Gray Three children at - 13 Ingleside av N	
1959	Norwalk		1 page only
1960	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) taxi driver New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N John F Gray James D Gray Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1961	Norwalk		1 page only
1962	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) taxi driver New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N John F Gray clk SNPO James D Gray Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1963	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) taxi driver New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N John F Gray clk SNPO James D Gray Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	

Year	City	Entry	Comment
1964	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) taxi driver New Canaan h 13 Ingleside av N John F Gray clk SNPO James D Gray Both children at - r 13 Ingleside av N	
1965	Norwalk		Only one page
1966	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) banker State & Nat Bank NC ret h 13 Ingleside av N James D Gray r 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
1967	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) banker State & Nat Bank NC ret h 13 Ingleside av N James D Gray r 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
1968	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) banker State & Nat Bank NC ret h 13 Ingleside av N James D Gray r 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
1971	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) ret h 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray emp Trudy Toy Corp r 13 Ingleside av N James D. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	William F. Gray Phone: 847-7311 (ZIP 06850)
1972	Norwalk	William F Gray (Mary J) ret h 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray emp Trudy Toy Corp r 13 Ingleside av N James D. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
1974	Norwalk	William F Gray <u>died Sept 27, 1973 age 76</u> Mary J Gray wid William F ret h 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray emp Trudy Toy Corp r 13 Ingleside av N James D. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
1976	Norwalk	Mary J Gray wid William F ret h 13 Ingleside av N John F. Gray emp Trudy Toy Corp r 13 Ingleside av N James D. Gray ret r 13 Ingleside av N	
No more Norwalk directories on Ancestry.com - Norwalk directories 1969, 1970, 1973, and 1975 are missing			

Connecticut Death Records Index: 1897-2001

<https://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/death-records/>

JOHN	GRAY	1988-12-31	NORWALK
JAMES	GRAY	1982-06-17	NORWALK
EDWARD	GRAY	Not found	

John F. Gray

Not found in Find-A-Grave

James Daniel Gray

BIRTH 21 May 1922, New Canaan, Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA
DEATH 17 Jun 1982 (aged 60), Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA
BURIAL Saint John's Cemetery, Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA
MEMORIAL ID 169482957
Source: Find-A-Grave - No image

Edward T. Gray

BIRTH 1924
DEATH 1952 (aged 27–28)
BURIAL Saint John's Cemetery, Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA
PLOT Section A
MEMORIAL ID 148155766
Source: Find-A-Grave



Social Security Death Index

Name	Birth	Death	Last Residence
John F. Gray 043-12-1987 (CT)	Dec 13, 1920	Dec 31, 1988, Age 68	06850 Norwalk, CT
James D. Gray 044-16-0510 (CT)	May 21, 1922	Jun 12, 1982, Age 60	VA
Edward T. Gray	Not found		
There was an Edward G. Gray in Manchester in 1983 and earlier. Our Edward is Edward T. Gray.			

No Anna or Francis Gray were found in the SS Death database. Anna May probably married and changed her name so she wasn't found. No William or Bertha Gray were found nor was their daughter, Mary J. Gray. Marriage and the accompanying name change could explain Mary J.'s absence.

Anna May Gray

Robert H. Menke

BIRTH 8 May 1925, USA

DEATH 6 Dec 2011 (aged 86), USA

BURIAL Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Montgomery, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA

MEMORIAL ID 81716695

Menke Robert H. beloved husband of Ann (nee Gray), devoted father of Mary (Mike) Rogers, Patricia (Jim) Wahl and Catherine (Don) Smith, cherished grandfather of Colin Smith, Anne Smith, Emma, Harry and James Wahl, loving great-grandfather of Gavin Smith, dear brother of Phyllis Mulligan. Passed away on Monday, December 6th at the age of 86. Friends are invited to visit with the family on Friday, December 9th from 5-7PM at Thomas-Justin Memorial, 7500 Montgomery Rd. (45236). Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 9:30AM at St. Gertrude Church, 7630 Miami Ave. (45236). Interment will immediately follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. If desired, donations may be directed to Habitat for Humanity International, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA (31709-3498). Condolences may be shared with the family through our web site, ThomasJustinMemorial.com.

Published in The Cincinnati Enquirer on December 8, 2011



Anna May Gray Menke**BIRTH** 1926**DEATH** 8 Apr 2015 (aged 88–89), Kenwood, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA**BURIAL** Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Montgomery, Hamilton County, Ohio, USA**MEMORIAL ID** 144957778

Anna May (nee Gray), was the beloved wife of the late Robert H Menke, devoted mother of Mary (Mike) Menke Rogers, Patricia (Jim) Wahl and Catherine(Don)Smith and Emma, Harry and James Wahl. She is also survived by her great-grandson, Gavin Smith. Anna passed away on Wednesday, April 8th at the age of 89. She loved spending time with family and friends. Her guests were always welcomed as family for Sunday dinners.

A visitation was held on Sunday, April 12th from 3 to 5 pm at Thomas-Justin Memorial funeral home, 7500 Montgomery Road, Kenwood, Ohio 45243.

A mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, April 13th at 9:30 am at St. Gertrude Catholic Church, 6543 Miami Ave., Madeira, Ohio 45243. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Hospice of Cincinnati, Ohio.



Menke Robert H. beloved husband of Ann (nee Gray),
Father of

Mary Menke = Mike Rogers,

Patricia Menke = Jim Wahl

Catherine Menke = Don Smith,

cherished grandfather of

Colin Smith, Anne Smith,

Emma, Harry and James Wahl,

loving great-grandfather of

Gavin Smith, dear brother of Phyllis Mulligan.

Anna May (nee Gray), was the beloved wife of the late Robert H Menke,
devoted mother of

Mary Menke = Mike Rogers,

Patricia Menke = Jim Wahl

Catherine Menke = Don Smith

grandmother

Emma, Harry and James Wahl.

[Missing: Colin Smith and Anne Smith]

She is also survived by her great-grandson,

Gavin Smith.

Robert Menke and Anna May Gray

(s/o Father and Mother)

(d/o William F. Gray and Mary J LNU)

Robert Menke

b May 8, 1925

mar Nov 30, 1957, New
Canaan, CT

d. Dec 6, 2011

bur Gate of Heaven Cem,
Montgomery, Hamilton
Co, OH

=

Anna May Gray

b. 1926 CT

d. Apr 18, 2015, Kenwood,
Hamilton Co, OH

bur Gate of Heaven Cem,
Montgomery, Hamilton Co, OH

—

Mary Menke

=

Mike Rogers

—

Patricia Menke

=

Jim Wahl

—

Emma Wahl

—

Harry Wahl

—

James Wahl

—

Catherine Menke

=

Don Smith

—

Colin Smith

=

Unknown

—

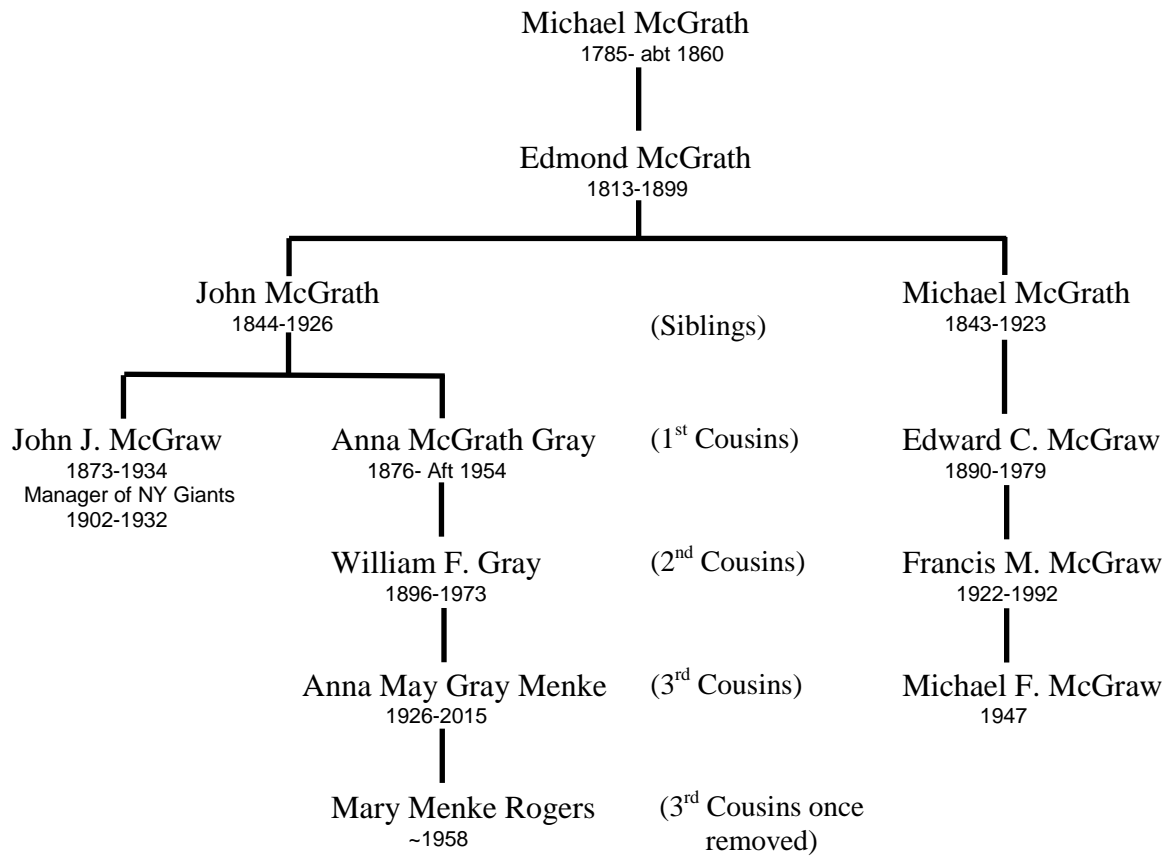
—

Gavin Smith

—

Anne Smith

Connections to John J. McGraw



John J. McGraw is Mary Menke Rogers' gg-uncle.

Bertha Gray Bliss Family

Social Security Death Index

Bertha Bliss (043-16-9612)

Born Dec 21, 1898

Card issued in CT before 1951

Death March 1970

Last residence: Norwalk, Fairfield, CT 06850

Arthur C. Bliss not found in the SS Death Index

Arthur Bliss not found in Find-A-Grave

Neither Arthur and Bertha Bliss were found in the Connecticut Death Records Index: 1897-2001

City Directories

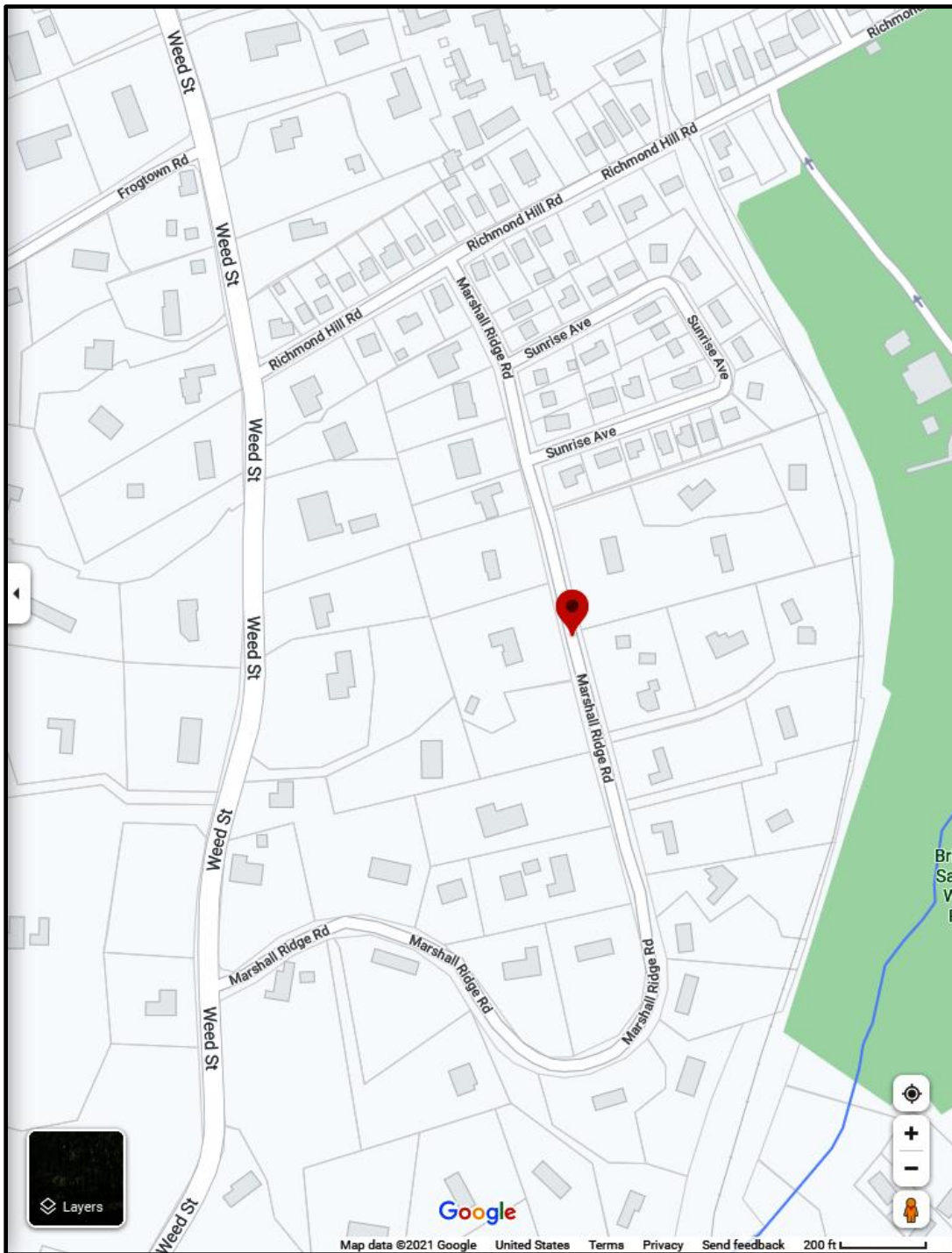
Year	City	Entry	Comment
1926	N.C.	Arthur Bliss clk 117 Main r Richmond Hill Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk h Weed RD 50	
1928	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1930	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1932	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1934	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1935	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1936	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1937	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1938	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) clk 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1939	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M.) chauf 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1940	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M.) chauf 117 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd.	
1941	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss - Marshall Ridge Rd	
1942	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M.) chauf 125 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd. Frank A. Bliss r Marshall Ridge Rd. (son)	Son Frank shows up - age 21. Born 1921
1943	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M.) chauf 125 Main h Marshall Ridge Rd. Frank A. Bliss r Marshall Ridge Rd. (son)	

1944	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M.) chauff h Marshall Ridge Rd. Frank A. Bliss r Marshall Ridge Rd. (son)	Son Frank leaves
1945	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) gas sta atdt 23 South av h Marshall Ridge Rd	
1946	N.C.	Arthur C. Bliss (Bertha M) gas sta atdt 23 South av h 5 Marshall Ridge Rd	
1947	N.C.	Arthur C Bliss died Sept 13, 1946 age 56 Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1948	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1949	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1950	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1951	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1952	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	
1953	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C clk Wilton h 5 Marshall Ridge rd	Anna Gray (wid of Frank) at Marshall Ridge appears for the last time.
1954	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C clk Wilton h 5 Marshall Ridge rd Frank Bliss r 5 Marshall Ridge rd	Son Frank is back
1955	N.C.	Bertha M. Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge Rd. Frank Bliss (Mary) h 18 East av	Frank's wife Mary appears. Married July 17, 1954
1956	N.C.	Bertha M Bliss wid Arthur C h 5 Marshall Ridge Rd. Frank A. Bliss r 5 Marshall Ridge Rd.	Frank's wife disappears
1957	N.C.	Bertha and her son Frank are missing	
1958	N.C.	Mrs Bertha Bliss matron 147 South av r 18 East av	No Frank A Bliss in New Canaan
1959	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur matron 147 South av, h 18 East av	No Frank A Bliss in New Canaan
1960	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur matron 147 South av, h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av.	Bertha's son Frank reappears
1961	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur matron 147 South av, h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av.	

1962	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur, h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av	
1963	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur, h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av	
1964	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid Arthur, h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av	
1965	N.C.	Bertha Bliss wid (Arthur) h 18 East av Frank Bliss r 18 East av (son)	
1966	N.C.	Bertha and her son Frank are missing	Not in Norwalk
1967	N.C.	Bertha Bliss is missing	Frank A. Bliss died in 1966. Bertha not found in Norwalk.
1968	Norwalk	Bertha Bliss r 23 Prospect N	Is this the same Bertha Bliss from New Canaan?

N.C. - New Canaan, Fairfield Co., CT. After 1967 the only other New Canaan directories at Ancestry.com are 1979 and 1980. After 1968 the only other Norwalk directories at Ancestry.com are 1971, 1972, 1974, and 1976.

Bertha died in 1970.



The above is a map of a portion of New Canaan. The streets found in the city directories are seen here: Weed St., Richmond Hill Rd., Marshall Ridge Rd.

Bliss Gravestone



Frank A. Bliss 1921-1966

Bertha G. Bliss 1898-1970 (Mother)

Lakeview Cemetery, New Canaan, Fairfield County, CT.

Connecticut Death Records Index: 1897-2001

<https://www.ctatatlbrarydata.org/death-records/>

FRANK BLISS 1966-04-06 HAMDEN

Hamden is a town in New Haven County, CT

Additional Work Needed

Francis Gray and Anna McGraw Family Tree

1. Any missing dates, mostly dates of deaths.
2. Burial locations
3. Maiden name of William Gray's wife Mary J.
4. Bertha and Arthur Bliss' son Frank married Mary Birge but she disappeared from the city directories after an initial appearance in 1955. Did Frank and Mary have any children?

Pictures

Mary - If you have any photos of the older folks that you would be willing to share they would really help this paper.

Family Stories

With the exception of the introduction, this paper is very sterile and clinical. It is lacking in the family stories that would give it life. For example

1. How did a girl from Truxton, NY meet a guy from New Canaan, CT? There must be a story there.
2. Two of William's children were born in NY, according to the census. The family appears to have moved to NY and then back to CT.
3. According to the city directories Anna May was a dental assistant and appeared to be employed in Washington DC - quite a commute from CT.
4. If you have a few other interesting family stories I would love to blend them in.

Some insight from Mary Rogers (3-19-22)

After high school my Mother (Anna May Menke) worked as a nurse in a maternity hospital, but decided she did not like shift work. Next she went to dental school and enjoyed working as a dental assistant. Old film stars Tallulah Bankhead and Zasu Pitts were clients.

I guess she wanted to see what else was out there besides New Canaan/Norwalk and she went to Washington, DC with a girlfriend. This must have been a big decision because she was very close to my Grandmother. I think she lived at home until she moved to DC. She worked there as a dental assistant as well. She loved to dance and go to parties and met my father at a friend's party.