

By Helen Allman Schacht. Started 1/20/85

My great grandfather, James Kelley and great grandmother Kelley lived on Wisconsin Avenue in Racine where the courthouse now stands. James Kelley owned the lumber company at the end of Main Street next to the bridge. It has been torn down for a number of years. Branums bought the company. Frank Kelley, who was my grandmother Cora Kelley Wheeler's brother, managed the company after his father James' death. The Frank Kelleys lived in a house on Main Street next door to Dr. Fazen. This house was built during the Civil War. It was torn down later, and an office building was built in its place.

Aunt Emily Lee lived at 1504 College Avenue. Her husband was an attorney for Horlicks and the Case Company. Aunt Emily left the house to my grandmother Wheeler who in turn sold it to Bernie Miller, and it was made into apartments. Jerry Naleid has owned it for several years. Aunt Emily was my grandmother's sister and her husband, Charles, left \$100,000 to the Racine Public Library as he was the first President of the Library Board. He also wished to have money left to the City of Racine and the Taylor Orphanage. The Library Board used the money (interest) for the Emily A. Lee Lectures. He had been a very wealthy man.

Mary Kelley, my grandmother's sister lived in Marshfield and was married to William H. Upham. This you will find in the Upham Book. William Upham was Governor of Wisconsin just before the turn of the century. He was a Republican. After Mary's death, he married a Southern woman named Grace. He was years her senior, but they had two children, William Jr and Frederick. William Jr. lives in Milwaukee and ran for Governor on the Independent ticket. William Upham's nephew, Frederick Upham, was National Chairman of the Republican Party for years and lived in Chicago.

There were 12 children in my grandmother's family. Some died in infancy. James Kelley married a widow with 2 or 3 children and they had 3 girls, Hazel, Helen, and Bertha. Helen and Bertha never married, but after graduating from Wells College in New York, they taught in Katherine Girls Secretary School. Helen, a few years later, bought the "Old Colony Secretarial School" in Boston which she kept until the depression. Hazel married Steve Tolman and continued to live in New York City. I was named after Helen Kelley.

As my grandmother Cora Kelley Wheeler grew up in Racine, she had many close friends. Her girlhood chum was Elizabeth Mitchell (Mitchell Cars). The picture which I treasure was given to her by her friend as a birthday gift. Dr. & Mrs. Meachum were also good friends of hers.

My grandmother's sister and brother are listed in the Kelley genealogy which was compiled by Herbert Wheeler, my mother's brother.

My grandmother, Cora A. Kelley, married Merrill Herbert Wheeler who came from Rutland, Mass. when he was 18 years old. He was a cousin of William Upham, and the Upham family

originally came from Racine where these two met. The Wheelers moved to Marshfield and lived next door to the Upham's. Both houses are still standing. The "Upham Mansion" has become a National Historical Site. Betty Wheeler Abbott has much interest in the "Mansion" as it is called.

I believe that the James Kelley's were charter members of the First Presbyterian Church of Racine as they married in 1837. I have my great grandmother's watch which was a wedding gift from her husband.

When Governor Upham adopted daughter Caroline was married to Philatus Sawyer of Oshkosh, the wedding took place at the Governor's Mansion in Madison. My mother, Rae, was a bridesmaid. Marilyn McGriff has the pin made of a \$5 gold piece which was the bridesmaids gift.

Charolette Kelley Gaemer was the oldest sister of my grandmothers, and she lived with her son in Brainard, Minn. Ella Kelley was another sister of my grandmothers. She taught school in Marshfield and later came back to Racine and lived with her sister, Emily Lee.

I really don't know too much about the other brothers and sisters, but you could find them in the Kelley genealogy. Each one of you; John, Peggy, and Marilyn, were given a copy of the Kelley, Wheeler, and Schacht families which you should keep for your children.

Grandma [Cora] and Grandpa [Herbert] Wheeler lived in Chicago for several years. Laura (Aunt Liz) and Warren lived with them. I don't know too much about their difficulties, but they were separated and after 35 years of marriage were divorced. I guess my grandfather was a very difficult man to live with. I remember hearing them talk about it when I was a young child, and I was puzzled and couldn't forget about it.

Soon after their marriage in Racine they moved to Marshfield and lived next door to the Upham's. Then they moved to Minneapolis and had a grocery store - set up by William Upham.

My mother and father were married in Minneapolis June 10, 1900. They lived in Marshfield where dad was assistant postmaster. It was a political job, and as he wasn't promoted to postmaster, he left Marshfield and went out to Spokane, Washington, seeking a job but was not successful. Uncle Harry Wheeler was in the brokerage business in Minneapolis and got my dad a salesman job with Green De Laitte Co., wholesale grocers. He later became a buyer.

I forgot to mention that my mother, then Rae Wheeler, went to Racine High School for two years and lived with Grandma Kelley. She was a little younger than Hazel, Helen, and Bertha, but went to High School with them. I think that Hazel taught Latin in Racine High School after graduating from Wells College.

When we lived in Minneapolis, Uncle Harry lived with us before he was married. After his

divorce, Grandpa Wheeler lived at Uncle Harry's. Harry was married at the time and grandpa had meals at our house. He passed away in Long Beach, California, where he went during the winter. He is buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. Harry had given him a job and was very good to him.

Rollie and I were married June 29, 1933, the depth of the depression which we will never forget. You just can't imagine the misery for some people. We were lucky, but NOT WEALTHY.

I was teaching in Excelsior, Minnesota, (Lake Minnetonka) in 1926 to 1928 when my dear mother who was 48 years old died of a stroke. She had her first stroke at 40 years old and was a semi-invalid. My little sister, 15 months old, Kathryn Wheeler Allman, passed away. It would have been so nice to have a sister, something I always missed.

We moved to Minneapolis when I was 4 or 5 years old, and I spent my school days there. I went to Clara Barton Grade School and West High School. Those were good years, and I had such nice girlhood friends; especially Hope, Agnes, Mary, Charlotte, and Harriet. I went to Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, one year, and then transferred to Miss Woods Kindergarten and Primary Training School and graduated.

You would probably like to know something about my fathers family. His father was born in Germany and came to the United States when he was 4 years old. He was a farmer and his wife, Mary Russell, was of English descent. They had 6 children. My grandmother Allman died quite early in life. Dad had 2 sisters; Mary and Dora, and 2 brothers; George and Will. His sister, Mary, had a boarding house (mostly teachers) for years and his sister Dora lived in Milwaukee. She married Louis Povitz. Lois Povitz, their daughter, died a number of years ago. She was married to Herbie Seitz of Marshfield and they had one son, all living in Medford, Oregon. Dorothy Allman Fulwiler lives in Algoma, Wisconsin, and I hear from her at Christmas time. I really don't know the other Allman cousins.

Now to get back to my mothers family. Her mother, Cora Adelaide, was a remarkable woman. She was a great student and took "U" correspondence courses for years. Her short stories were accepted by magazines and she paid her son Herberts tuition with the receipts. She also wrote a small novel, "My Allegiance". The 6 children in my mothers family were: Herbert (died at 39 years of a stroke), Rae (died at 48 years of a stroke), William (Betty Abbotts father), Harry (Marjories father), Warren, and Laura (Aunt Liz). Warren had two marriages: Kuhn - 20 years older than Warren, and Pam about 10 years older. He went through his money and passed away in a Veterans Home in Pennsylvania. You know Uncle Herb, Hope, and Dottie and their families.

Actually Racine is the home base of my mothers family as all the Kelley's lived there. My mothers family:

Herbert - died at 39, Richard and E. Goodrich sons wife Ora

Rae - my mother Helen and Kathryn - husband Fred  
Will - Betty, wife Myrta  
Harry - Marjorie, Harry Jr., Howard, wife Anne Warren - Helen, Kuhn, Pam  
Laura - Aunt Liz, Hope, Marion - husband Uncle Herb

Will give you a short summary of Rollie and my early years as your children and grandchildren might be interested.

Rollie graduated from Racine High School and then went to Laurence College for two years, then joined the Navy during the First World War. He was in the Navy for 2½ years and then came back and spent his senior year at Beloit College. He was given credit for his years in the Navy as a pharmacist mate. He attended Pre-Med at Madison, University of Wisconsin, and worked his way thru with very little help from his parents as he got \$30 a month for being in the Navy and then waited tables at the fraternity house as he was a Sigma Chi. He also fired furnaces.

As they didn't have a medical school at Madison, he went to Rush Medical School University of Chicago. He lived in Oak Park with his sister Freda and her family, and commuted to school every day on the subway. I forgot to tell you that he was stationed at the Great Lakes and Brooklyn during the War. He became ill and couldn't go over seas with his contingent, and they were wiped out. He practiced medicine in Towanda, Illinois, for a short time and then returned to Racine as his father was ill and started a practice there. His first office was in a building where the Granada Theatre stood. I think O&H Bakery is in that area. Then he moved to Douglas Avenue above the mens clothing store, and finally to North Side Bank Building.

My mother and father moved from Marshfield to St. Paul (1 year) and then to Minneapolis where I spent a year or so at Calhoun School and then we moved to 3932 Lyndale Avenue S. I attended Rosedale Grade School until 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade and then Clara Barton, graduation from West High School. My first job was a first grade class at Excelsior, Minnesota, where I stayed for two years. Then I was accepted in the Racine School system and taught at Gilbert Knapp School for three years. I had the travel bug so I applied in Orange, New Jersey, where I taught for two years. I had a great time living so near New York City. We spent much time there. My room-mate, Florence Cragin, was from Portland, Maine, and I spent several vacations with her family. It was an interesting experience living in the East.

My cousin, Betty Wheeler Abbott, and I had our first trip of any length to Washington, D.C. for a week. Grandma Wheeler took us there and paid all our expenses. She also took her friend, Fanny Botsford, with us as a chaperon as she wasn't too well at the time. She took us to Annapolis and all the places of interest around Washington.

The William H. Upham book has interesting stories about his life. I have that book which you may all enjoy reading.

Rollie and I had many nice trips together. We went to Europe in 1964, taking the Grand Tour and then ended our trip in Vienna at the International College of Surgeons meetings where there were medical personal from all over the world. It was in Rome at the Excelsior Hotel where we had our interesting conversation with "Sergie" the Russian. He was obnoxious, but wanted to quiz us about our country.

Elsa Jacobsen and I had some nice trips together when we were alone. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland, and England. And to top these trips, three weeks in the Orient - Japan, Thailand—Bangkok, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Just don't think I'm too sentimental, but I have a wonderful family of children (in-laws included), and grandchildren. I am waiting to be a great grandmother!

