

## Chapter II

### The Gale Family



Olive Beatrice McLean (February 22, 1905-May 16, 1979) G2 was the daughter of William Curtis Hill Jr. (1877-ca 1935) G3, and Olive Gale (18191-1941) G3. (See Charts 7 and 8.) They were married at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London, England, on September 20, 1902. In 1913, however, Olive Gale divorced "Willy" Hill and, in November, 1916, married Admiral Ridley McLean. The two children, Olive and Gale (1908-1987), from the Hill marriage took the name of McLean.

Gale McLean was educated at St. George's School and Princeton University. In 1934 he married Mary Preston Gibson (1913-2000). They had two children, Locke 1936-) and Leith (1941-). Locke McLean has married twice, Gay and Sara P. Ridgeway. He and Gay had two children, Stewart and Samantha, who married Halsey Spruance. The children of his second wife, Sara, are George and Emily. Leith married Charles Adams, who had children by a previous marriage, and had none of her own.

#### **William Curtis Hill, Jr.** (b. 1877-ca 1935) G3



William Curtis Hill, Jr., who had bright red hair, was from Loudon County, Virginia. Will was color blind and wore glasses by the time he met Olive in 1899. He went to the preparatory schools of Lawrenceville in Lawrenceville, N.J. and Cascadilla in Ithaca, New York. He attended Cornell University for one semester, 1895-96, earning A's in his four law courses. He was in the class of 1898 and a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity but did not graduate.

Apparently Willy was a charmer and almost everyone liked him. He played the piano beautifully and sang very well. Willy belonged to the Dunbarton Club and the Columbia Golf

Club. It was he who introduced the custom of naming everything into the family. He also loved to gamble. It is reputed that he couldn't resist pulling to an inside straight. He preferred to spend the grocery money on poker. Through his gaming, he went heavily into debt and even pawned his wife's jewelry to cover his losses. Gale McLean heard that Thomas Gale paid \$100,000 of his son-in-law's debts at the time of the divorce. Given Thomas Gale's assets, which at the time of his death in 1920 were valued at under \$400,000, this appears an extraordinarily large sum.

There may have been more to the divorce than William Hill's gambling. There are sections of Olive Gale's diary which indicates that she considered him morally reprehensible. This may have been due to his gambling or his pawning of her jewelry, but it suggests that there may have been other factors as well. A letter from Thos. C. Bradley, the attorney for William Hill, to Thomas Gale, indicates that there was significant trouble with the law. The relevant section of the letter reads:

As you know, the evidence upon which the decree of divorce was based was furnished by Mr. Hill upon certain considerations, among which was his relief from his entanglements with the criminal law in Birmingham, Alabama. The Birmingham situation fell to the plaintiff's counsel for attention but because of his inattention to the matter I assumed the burden and accomplished the composure of my client's difficulty and saved the plaintiff's children from having the stigma of felony upon their father. I was told that this you were extremely anxious to accomplish, my informant being Mr. Henry E. Davis [attorney for Olive Gale].

After the divorce, Willy married twice. He was traced to Arizona and to California. Gale McLean received a letter from his father in 1936 from a hotel in Los Angeles, California. Willy never bothered the family again.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This conflicts with the story of Mary McLean shortly before her death that she and Bea had found out around 1935 that Willy was living in Arizona. They planned to visit him but he died before they could effect the trip.

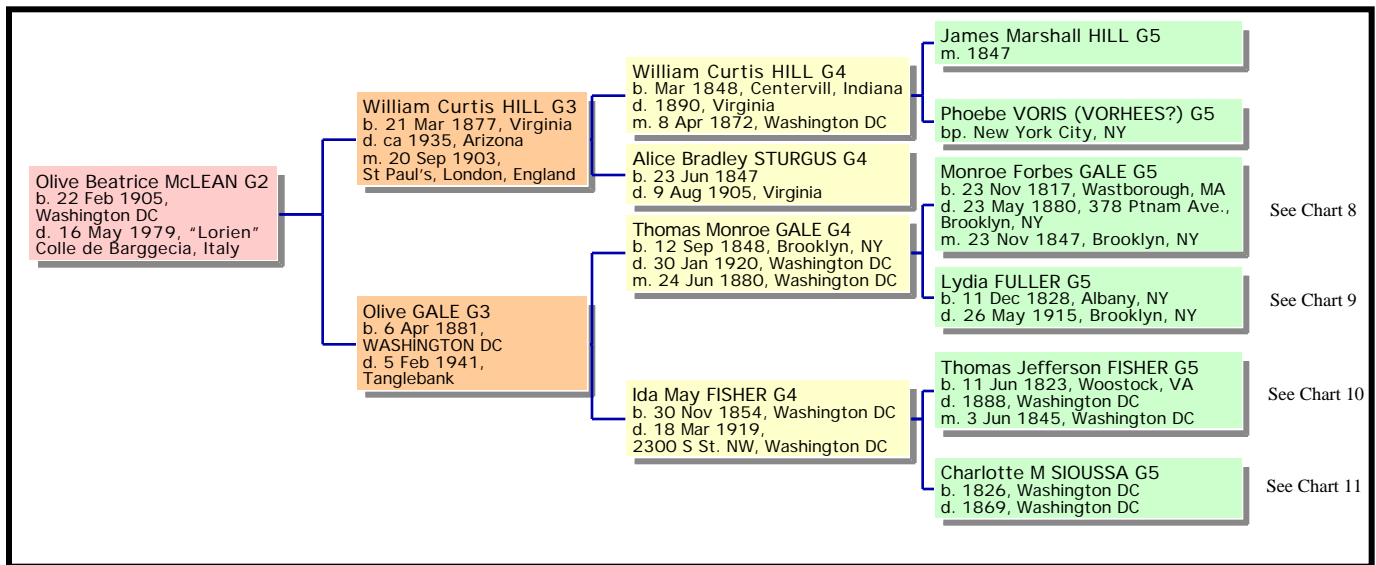


Willy's parents were **William Curtis Hill** (1848-1890) G4, and **Alice Barton Sturgis** (1847-1905) G4. They were married in 1872 in Washington, DC., and had eight children. Willy was the third child and first boy. William Hill Sr.'s parents were **James Marshall Hill**,



G5, born in Hillsville, Va. and married three times. The first marriage (1847), to **Phoebe Voris** (perhaps Vorhees) G5, of New York, who died in her early twenties produced William Hill, Sr.

**Chart 7**  
**The Hill, Gale and Fisher Families**



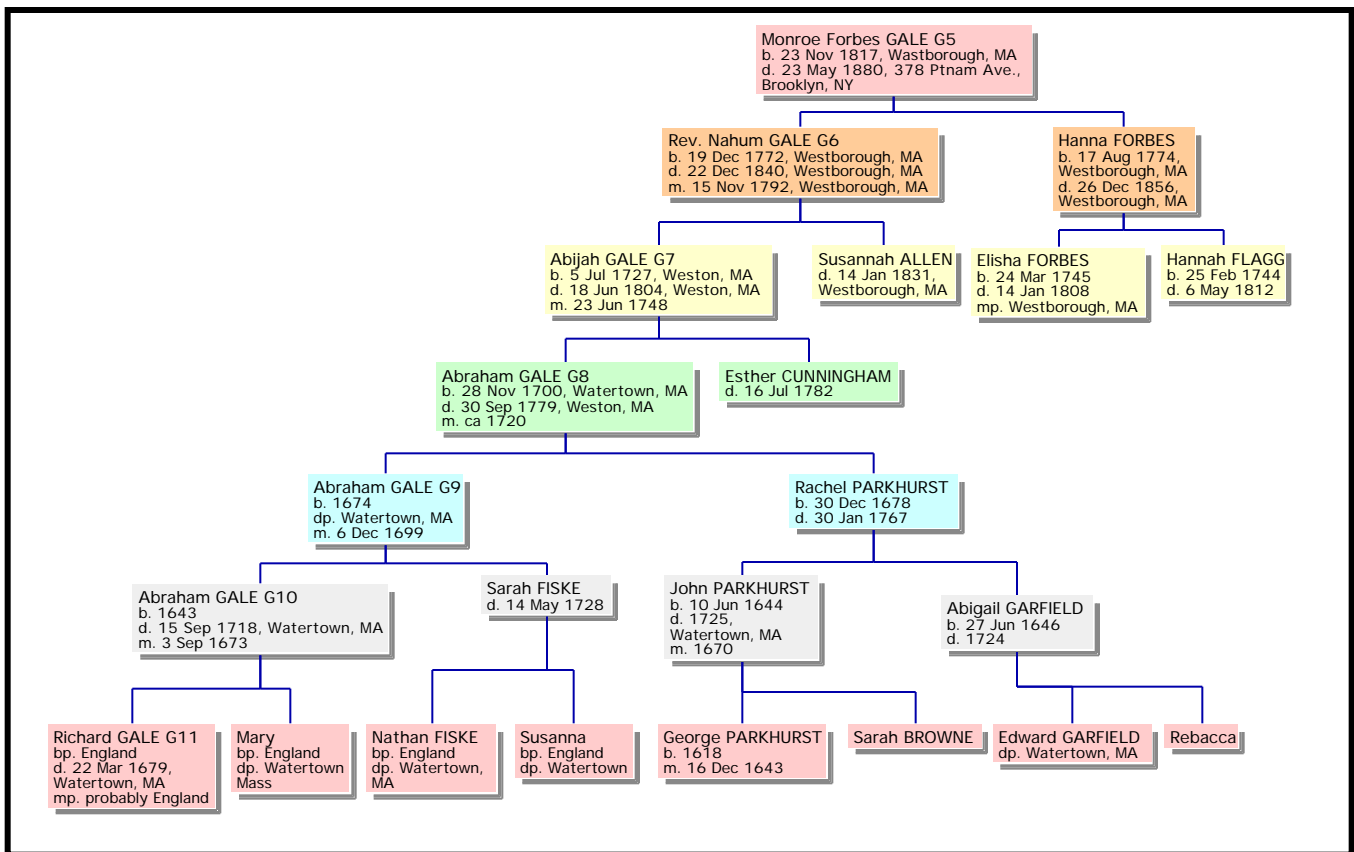
**Richard Gael** (d. 1679) G 11

Olive Gale's family came over from England in the first half of the seventeenth century. At that time they spelled their name Gael. Richard and **Mary Gael** G11, who had been married in England, emigrated to Massachusetts and died in Watertown MA. They had five children. In 1640, Richard Gael purchased a "homestead" of six acres in Watertown, Massachusetts, where he is buried. In 1661 he purchased Oldham Farm, containing 250 acres on which part of the village of Waltham now stands. The family occupied this farm until 1854. The oldest boy and second child was Abraham.

## Abraham Gael (1643-1718) G10

Abraham Gael became a freeman in 1682, that is he qualified for the right to vote which was quite limited in those days, and a selectman in 1706 and 1718. In 1673, he married **Sarah Fiske** (d. 1728) G10 and had fourteen children, the oldest of whom was named Abraham. The sixth son of Abraham died intestate in 1719, and his brothers and sisters in dividing up his property spelled their name Gale for the first time.

**Chart 8**  
**The Gale, Forbes, Parkhurst, and Fiske Families**



### The Fiske Family:

The family can be traced back to **Simon Fiske** G17, who died in Laxfield, England, during the reign of Henry IV. The family later lived in St. James, South Elmham, and Miltfield, England, before Nathan and **Susanna Fiske** G11 emigrated to the New World and settled in Watertown, MA sometime before 1673.

### **Abraham Gale, Jr., (b.1674) G9**

Abraham Gale, Jr. had a large farm. Like his father he served as a selectman in 1718, and like his father and grandfather he is buried in Watertown, MA. On December 6, 1699, he married **Rachel Parkhurst** (1678-1767) G9. They had eight children. Nearly all the five boys became well-to-do. Some served in the French and Indian and some later in the Revolutionary wars.

### **The Parkhurst Family (Chart8):**

Rachel's grandmother, **Sarah Brown** G11, who married **George Parkhurst** G11, on December 16, 1643, was from an English family whose ancestors can be traced back to **John Brown** G20, who was Chief Magistrate of Stamford, 1376-77. His grandson, **John Brown III** (d.1442), G18, was a draper merchant of the staple [market] of Calais. He served as an Alderman of Stamford, England. All Saints Church was erected at his expense. He and his descendants are buried in a private chapel at the church where their tombs can still be seen. His son, **John Brown IV** (d. ca 1466) G17, presented the spire to the church. Sarah Brown's parents, **Abraham** and **Lydia Brown** G12, were from Swan Hill, Suffolk, England, which is nine miles from Bury St. Edmonds.

### **Abraham Gale III (1700-1779) G8**

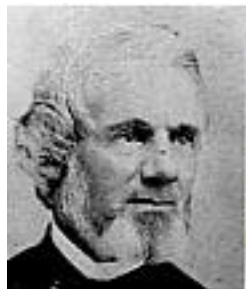
His oldest son, Abraham Gale III, became a blacksmith and a man of note in Weston, MA., where he is buried. Around 1720 he married **Esther Cunningham** (d. 1782) G8. They had nine children of whom the fourth was Abijah.

### **Abijah Gale (1727-1804) G7**

Abijah Gale of Westborough married twice. By his first wife, Abigail Amsden, he had six children. By the second wife, **Susannah Allen** G7, whom he married in June of 1748, he had eleven. We are descended from Nahum, his first born of the second marriage. Abijah served in the French and Indian Wars in 1756 and 1757. He was part of the company not surrendered to the French at Ft. Wm. Henry in 1757. He was constable in 1764 and surveyor, 1769-1770. In

1778, he was chairman of the “Committee to consult together on the plan of government sent out by Congress.” He reported that: “We are of the opinion that the Protestant Religion is not duly guarded in said Constitution” and suggested adding the word “God.” Abijah is buried in Weston, MA.

#### **Nahum Gale (1772-1840) G6**



Nahum Gale was a Protestant minister in Westborough, MA. He married **Hannah Forbes** (1774-1856) G6, on November 15, 1792, and they had twelve children. The eleventh child was **Monroe Forbes Gale**, born November 23, 1817. Hannah’s father, **Elisha Forbes** (1748-1808) G7, married **Hannah Flagg** (1744-1812) G7 in Westborough, MA. They had eight children of whom Hannah was the third.

#### **Monroe Forbes Gale (1817-1880) G5**



On Monroe’s thirtieth birthday, November 23, 1847, in Brooklyn, New York he married **Lydia Fuller** (1828-1915) G5. Monroe Forbes Gale and Lydia had three children, Thomas Monroe (1848-1920), Lydia Monroe, who died at two, and Alice (1861-1903). After



Monroe’s death, May 23, 1880, Lydia lived at 378 Putnam Ave., Brooklyn, often visiting her son and granddaughter in Washington. Both Monroe and Lydia are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Monroe Forbes Gale was a newspaperman. He started as a printer, eventually becoming foreman of the New York Times. He made up the “form” from which the first copy was printed. Monroe Gale was born in Dedham, MA. and served his apprenticeship with the Merriam brothers, printers, in Springfield, MA. He went to New York in 1835 and after working in various offices, at length secured employment in the Tribune’s composing-room. He stayed with

the Tribune until he joined the Times at its founding in 1851 when he became foreman from the first day of its publication.

Early in 1846 the Associated Press decided to send a competent man to England to make arrangements for obtaining the latest news from Great Britain and the Continent with greater dispatch than previously, and Monroe Gale was selected as its representative. The packet-ships of the day were easy-going vessels, and, as they were frequently distanced by the pilot boats in short voyages, it was thought that a more speedy trip across the Atlantic might be made in one of the latter. The pilot-boat William J. Romer was accordingly fitted out for the adventure. She was of 50 tons burden, and perfectly seaworthy. The little boat started on her voyage Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1846. Mr. Gale and William Brogan were her only passengers, and her officers and crew consisted of Capt. James McGuire, two mates, a steward and two seamen. Hardly was the pioneer boat out of sight of land when the weather became heavy. After struggling along for two days the little craft hove to, and the crew and officers went below, where they were compelled to remain for three days. On March 1 the weather cleared up and the voyage was resumed. The boat escaped the fury of the gale with the loss of her cockpit-bench. Cork Harbor was reached on March 10. Monroe Gale went immediately to Liverpool, transacted his business, and returned on the 12th. The Romer sailed for New York the same day, arriving with foreign news five days later than the regular packet s.<sup>2</sup> *The New York Times* wrote about him:

He was a man of marked force of character, of great intelligence, and displayed executive ability of a high order. Above all, he was a man of sterling integrity and worth. Under a somewhat brusque manner was concealed the greatest kindness of heart. He was known as one of the best printers in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

As is well known, during the Civil War *The New York Times* supported the draft. A family story is that, during a draft riot there was an attempt by the crowd to storm the newspaper

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<sup>2</sup> Obituary, Monroe Forbes Gale, *The New York Times*, May 24, 1880..

<sup>3</sup> *The New York Time*, May 24, 1880.

building. Monroe took a pistol, strode onto the balcony of the *Times* building at Times Square, and announced that the first person to cross the curb, he would shoot dead. No one crossed the line. The pistol was owned by Gale McLean, Monroe Gale's great-grandson and presumably now is in the hands of one of his two children.

Unfortunately the story appears to be an exaggeration. According to the inventory of Ida May Gale's belongings the pistol was "one of the pistols furnished Times Office employees during the draft riots in New York City." No mention of such an heroic affair is mentioned either in Monroe's obituary or in accounts by the New York Times of the draft riots.

### **The Fuller Family (Chart 9):**

Lydia Fuller was a direct descendent of **Edward Fuller** and **Ann** G13, who came to America on the Mayflower in 1620. The Mayflower Fullers, unlike many of the Mayflower's passengers, came directly from England. They joined the other Pilgrims, who had come from Holland in the Speedwell, when they reached Southampton, England and changed to the Mayflower. Edward Fuller's name is one of the forty-one recorded in the compact which was drawn up in the cabin of the Mayflower just before landing at Cape Cod. It is sometimes stated that Edward's wife was named Ann, but this is a surmise. Gov. Bradford wrote, "Edward Fuller and his wife died soon after they came on shore."

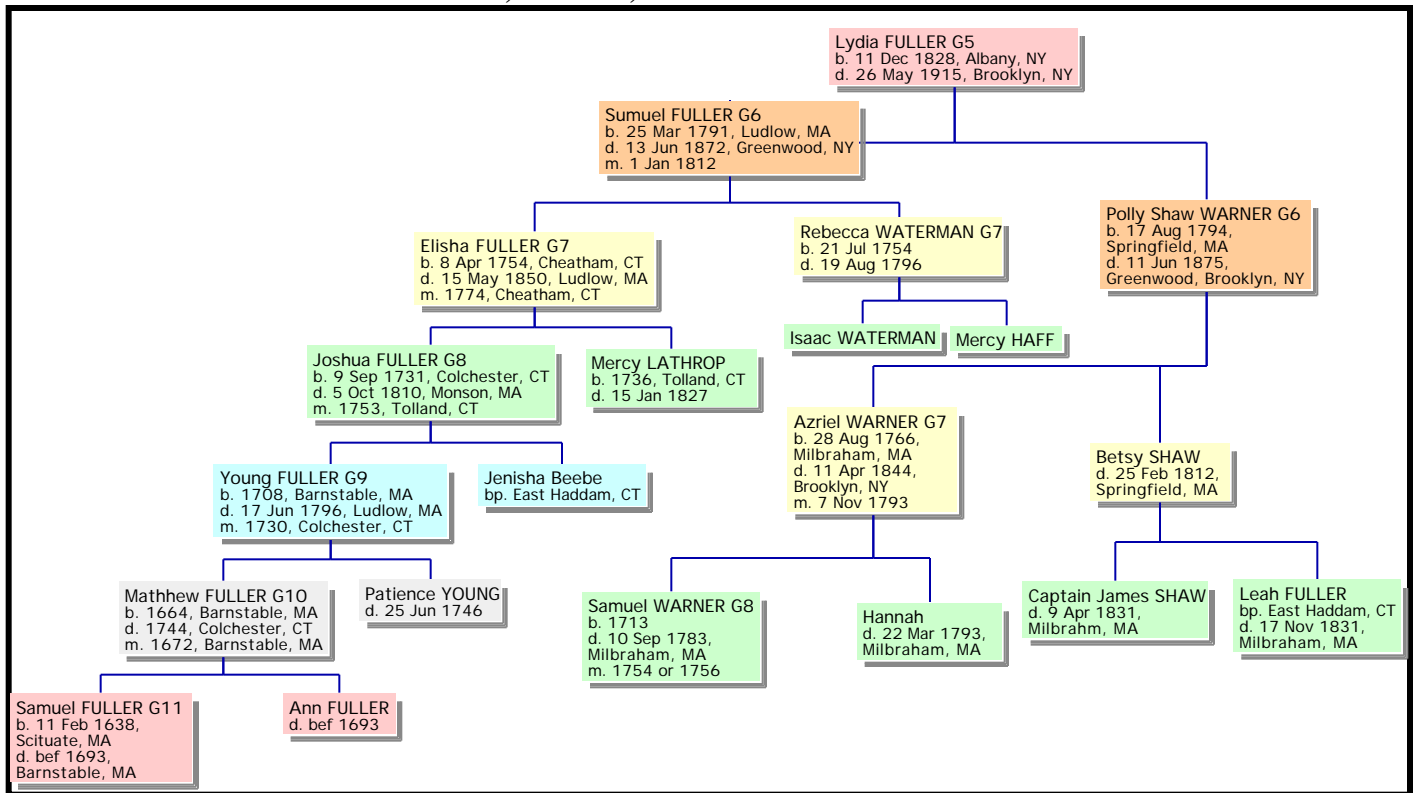
Their ten-year-old son, **Samuel** (1616-1683) G12, was raised by his uncle, Dr. Samuel, who prospered in Plymouth. Dr. Samuel, who had children of his own, remembered Samuel in his will: "Item, I give to him my Rufflet cloake and my stufte suit I now weare."

Samuel married **Jane Lathrop (1614 -1683)** G12 from Edgerly, England and daughter of the **Rev. John Lathrop** G13. Captain Miles Standish performed the wedding ceremony at Scituate, MA., on April 8, 1635. They had eight children, of whom the second was Samuel, Lydia's ancestor.



The first Samuel left Plymouth and moved to Barnstable. There he built a house, “a small plaine, pallizadse house” as Dr. Lathrop, his father-in-law, called it. It was made of poles stuck in the ground, the space between being filled with clay and stones. It was roofed with thatch and floored with hand-sawn planks. It was a good house, as houses went in the colony, but Dr. Lathrop remembered more prosperous times in England.

**Chart 9**  
**The Fuller, Warner, Waterman and Shaw Families**



Samuel accumulated a good sized fortune, as shown by his will and inventory, still in existence. His inventory sometimes lists his possessions in curious groups. Some examples are: “Item a shirt, capps, yarne, sisers, thrid,” “Item in beese and hunny,” “Item in sheeps, woole, feathers, tobacco, baggs, earthen dish, brimston.”

**Samuel Fuller, Jr.** (b. 1636-bef 1693) G 11 married **Ann Fuller** G 11, a cousin. They lived in Barnstable, MA and had six children. The oldest was Mathew, born in Barnstable.

In 1672 **Mathew Fuller** (1664-1744) G10, married **Patience Young** (1670-1746) G10, at a ceremony in Barnstable. They had five children and were interred in Colchester, CT Their third child and second son was named Young.

**Young Fuller** (1708-1796) G9, married **Zenisha Beebe** G9, in a ceremony at Colchester, CT., in 1730. They had five children, the oldest being Joshua, who was also born in Colchester, on September 9, 1731, and who died in Monson, MA.

In 1774 **Joshua Fuller** (17731-1810) G8, married **Mercy Lathrop** (1736-1827) G8 in Tolland, CT (See Chart 9) Their oldest of seven was Elisha. **Elisha Fuller** (1754-1850) G7, of Ludlow, MA, was Lydia's grandfather. His youngest sister was the first in the family known to bear the name "Olive." Elisha fought in the Revolutionary War and served time as a fifer. For his government service he was entitled to some land, which he refused, saying that the government needed it more than he did!

Elisha married **Rebecca Waterman** (1754-1796) G7 in a ceremony in 1774 at Cheatham, CT. They had nine children. Elisha is buried in Ludlow, MA. He must have been prosperous for he gave a farm to each of his six sons.

His third son, **Samuel Washington Fuller**(1791-1872) G6 Lydia's father, sold his inheritance and moved first to Albany, New York, and subsequently to Brooklyn, where he married **Polly Shaw Warner** (1794-1875) G6 on January 1, 1812. Lydia Ann Fuller, born in Albany, N.Y., in 1828, was their eighth child of twelve Samuel and Polly Fuller are interred in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn.



Samuel Fuller was an a landscape painter, mainly of up-state New York views. He exhibited one landscape at the May, 1838, public show of the National Academy of Design in New York. The next year he had for sale one landscape and a fruit piece at the Academy annual show. He exhibited at the American Art-Union during the years 1849-51. It seems unlikely that he was

able to make his living at painting since he is one of the less known artists of the time.

### **The Warner Family** (Chart 9):

Polly Warner's grandfather, **Samuel Warner** (1713-1783) G8, married twice. By his second wife, **Hannah** G8, he had four children, the third being **Azriel Warner** (1766-1844) G7, who was Polly's father. Samuel Warner was clerk to Captain Hitchcock's company from April, 1755, to 1756 and kept a journal of the expedition to Ticonderoga and Crown Point during the French and Indian Wars of 1755-60. In 1759, in the billeting roll of the company of Captain John Baneroff of the regiment of Col. Timothy Ruggles, his name and that of his son's by his first marriage appear.

In 1793, Azriel Warner married **Betsy Shaw** (d. 1812) G7. Betsy's father, **James Shaw** (d. 1831) G8, was a captain in the Revolutionary War. He was present with a company of fifty-two men on the opposite side of the river at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga. He and his men served for only thirty-two days

### **Thomas Monroe Gale** (1848-1920) G4



Monroe Forbes and Lydia Fuller Gale's only son Thomas Monroe Gale, was born September 12, 1848. On June 24, 1880, when he was almost thirty-two I he made a very fortunate match by marrying in Brooklyn, **Ida May Fisher**, or "Idy." She was the twenty-five year old daughter of Thomas Fisher, the founder of Thomas J. Fisher & Co., an up and coming real estate firm in Washington, D. C. The Gales had only one child, Olive Gale, born in Brooklyn, April 6, 1881, one year after they were married.

A little over a year after his marriage to Ida May Gale and a few months after Olive was born, Tom joined Thomas J. Fisher & Co. His brother-in-law, Edward J. Stellwagen had married Idy's lovely sister, Charlotte or "Lottie," about three months after Tom wed Idy. Edward, who had practiced as a lawyer in Washington during the Civil War, had been with the firm as a notary since its inception in 1878. The firm was initially located at 1223 F Street, NW; in 1884, the



Lottie

offices were moved to 1324 F, then in 1900, to 1414 F St. The concern prospered and so did Thomas Gale.

His card identified the business as Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers Estates Managed, Loans Negotiated, Real Estate Bought, Sold and Exchanged. Fire Insurance Effected in First Class Companies.” In those

days real estate was normally sold through auctions and thus the firm was primarily an auction company.

With silver money from Francis Newlands, U. S. Senator from the new state of Nevada, they formed the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1890. The name was suggested by Stellwagen, after the name carried in the old grants of this particular land, an euphonious name with an historical background, and one easy to remember. The Company acquired approximately 2000 acres of land, ranging from a line, then called the Boundary, now Florida Avenue, to Jones Mill Road beyond Chevy Chase Lake. This land was essentially a wide strip on both sides of and included what is now Connecticut Avenue. The Company built and dedicated Connecticut Avenue, graded it, built the Culvert Street bridge, built the Cling Bridge, and organized and built the first Connecticut Avenue street car line, then called the Rock Creek Railway. In 1893 and 1894, the Company built a few homes around Chevy Chase Circle in order to promote the project, and after selling these, devoted its time to the selling of lots in the development, which it laid out with wide streets, parks, and shrubbery, employing the best landscape architects for the work. Reputedly Idy and her sister Charlotte chose the street names After a section was developed it would be turned over to the city to maintain.

In connection with the development of the land along Connecticut Ave., both men were instrumental in establishing the Chevy Chase Club. They were among the charter members in 1893 and continued as members the rest of their lives establishing a family tradition that has endured to the present.

In 1899, after a change in the banking laws the two brothers-in-law founded a bank, Union Trust Since Stellwagen was the more outgoing of the two, he was made President of Union Trust; Tom Gale was listed as Vice-President and Treasurer of the larger Fisher & Co. Fisher & Co. held a fifty-one percent interest in Union Trust. Union Trust is now operated under the name "First American Bank."

In 1901, Thomas Gale and Edward Stellwagen also went into the hotel business by leasing for twenty years the new Willard Hotel, which had been designed by Henry J. Hardenbergh, the architect of the Plaza in New York. They also acquired the Capitol Park and the Raleigh Hotel. Having some of the best hotels in Washington during the First World War turned out to be a profitable business. To service their hotels they established the Yale Laundry which is still in business.

Thomas Gale loved to play poker and he and Edward regularly hosted card parties. Tom was admitted to membership of the Columbia Chapter, No. 1, of the Royal Arch Masons of DC, on 19th of October, 1904. He often enjoyed a beer, and regularly played billiards with Edward and his father in-law. He was an active member of the Potomac Canoe Club, which often held "camp fire parties" where the banjo was played and everyone sang. Camp fire meetings were occasionally open to the women folk. Some camp fires were held at the boat house and Tom would paddle Idy in his canoe up the Potomac in the moonlight.

Thomas Gale enlisted in the 23rd Regiment of the National Guard of the State of New York in 1869. By 1876 he was a 2nd lieutenant. After he moved to Washington he joined the District National Guard where he served as inspector general with the rank of major. He was known by many of his friends the rest of his life as "Major."

In 1884, he built a home at 1314 L St., NW It stood next door to his father-in-law's house at 1324, where Edward and Lottie Stellwagen also lived. At the same time Thomas Fisher was



2300 S Street

building anew home at 1310 L.<sup>4</sup> The Gales, the Stellwagens, and the Fishers thus formed an extended family. It is clear from Idy's diary that they enjoyed each other's company and got together regularly. The extended family lived in that compound until 1900 when Edward and Lottie moved to 1803 Baltimore Ave. Around 1903,

Tom Gale built another new home at 2300 S, a handsome building that is occupied by the Burmese Embassy today. Because he was known to be wealthy, he had strawmen buy the land first, knowing that otherwise he would have been charged an exorbitant price.

Four years later, in 1907, using Appleton Clark, the architect who had designed the S Street house, Tom and Idy built a summer place called High Wyndam at Bluemont in the Blue



High Wyndam

Ridge Mountains of Virginia. This estate consisted of fifty-seven acres of land with about fifteen under cultivation. The rest was woodland down the mountain. The main house was built of stone and timber with a green shingled roof. There was a large porch across the front with square stone pillars. The house had sixteen rooms, four baths, and a cellar lavatory. On the main floor were the living room,

dining room, pantry, kitchen, maids' dining room and kitchen porch. There was a back stairs and two bedrooms with a connecting bath on the first floor. On the second floor there were four very large bedrooms and one a little smaller. There were two master baths. The four servants' rooms shared a bath on the second floor. On the property there stood a barn with stalls for five horses, two carriage rooms, and a harness room. The tenants occupied a substantial house of five or six rooms. There was a large chicken house, milk house, stone ice house, refrigerating plant, a wind mill, and water tower. For recreation, there was a nine-hole putting course and a grass tennis

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<sup>4</sup> On the land occupied by these three houses there is now a nondescript office building and a parking lot.

court. The grounds included a large vegetable garden, tool house, large flower garden with a concrete pool, a large orchard with apples, pears, and a few quinces, a grape walk with red and blue grapes. Many fine evergreens were planted and a large stand of rhododendrons was naturalized near the house. Several rustic seats were scattered around the grounds. In 1923, after Thomas Gale's death, High Wyndam was sold, but the building still stands with the Thomas Gale front-door knocker and is still called High Wyndam.

### **Ida May Fisher Gale (1854-1919) G4**



Ida May Fisher Gale was the first in the family from a non-British background. She was also an accomplished woman in the contemporary sense. Ida was born November 30, 1854, in Washington, DC. When she was eleven, the family moved to Brooklyn, New York, and took up residence at 434 Washington Avenue where they remained for twelve years. In 1874, when she was twenty, Ida went off to Germany to study music for a year with a friend, Louise Sanborn (married Buchanan in 1885). Her music teacher, Miss Amend, served as chaperone. Her first journal, which covers the period from July, 1874, to 1886, starts:

Sunday July 12, 1874:

We have had a delightful voyage thus far and to-day are on the banks of Newfoundland - to-morrow we will be out in mid-ocean. A trip across the Atlantic is very entertaining when you are in interesting company which we have the good fortune to be in. We are all well acquainted now - it is wonderful what an amount of interest one can take in people you are obliged to meet for a fortnight, people who under other circumstances perhaps you would not trouble yourself to speak twice to.

Once in Germany, according to family stories she met a handsome German count, an army officer, and fell madly in love with him. Since she was a commoner, however, he could not marry her, so she followed his regiment around for two years until her father came and dragged her home. Unfortunately her diary fails to confirm this romantic account. During her stay in Germany she lived mainly in Wiesbaden where a contingent of German soldiers was stationed.

She and Louise Sanborn did have friends among the officers and her officer was a “von Lordier.”

Idy first mentions him:

Wiesbaden April 4, 1875

This week artillery No 27 leaves Wiesbaden much to the regret of every one “T’was ever thus” the very finest officers are in it and they are to be sent to Mayence where there is already too much military. We are still in a state of harrowing doubt as to whether (sic) “von Lordier” is to be sent.

The order was later countermanded and the company stayed in Wiesbaden. However, on May 10, 1875 she wrote:

I am disgusted with the officers, von Lordier for some unaccountable reason has got-offended and acted most ungentlemanly last night in the Teurgarten.

She did not mention him again while she was over there. The diary gives no indication that she was ordered home or that she followed him around. In fact, during her last summer she took two trips, one to see the descendants of the Fischers in Kunzelsau and a sight-seeing trip to Koln. Later after she returned to the U.S. she received a letter from Miss Amend that mentioned him.

Did she visit Germany again before her marriage, that is, during the period from May, 1879, when she stopped writing in her diary for two years, to June 1880, when she married Thomas Gale? Clearly not In 1883, her diary mentions taking German lessons and how pleased she was not to have forgotten much since Wiesbaden. One entry in 1884 goes, “Ten years ago today we sailed for Germany! These entries and others indicate that there was no trip to Germany during the missing thirteen months. The diary does reveal that she had a marvelous time in Germany, as she still wrote with nostalgia of it twelve years later, and she may easily have been quite attracted to von Lordier.

Idy did meet and become close pen pals with Bertha Krupp of the munitions firm in Germany. Bertha Krupp was well known for the huge siege gun bearing the name of “Big Bertha” which shelled Paris almost daily during the First World War. Because of this Idy was shunned at Poland Spring in the summer of 1917 and banned from the popular pastime of



making bandages for the doughboys overseas for fear that she would put broken glass in the bandages.

She was an accomplished pianist; she loved the theater and the opera. Her diary portrays her life before marriage as a pleasant, gay round of theater visiting people going with friends roller skating which she preferred to ice skating, and horseback riding which she adored. The practice in those days was to call on friends and relatives and if no one was home to leave your calling card. Virtually every day Idy would call or be called upon, a pattern that continued after her marriage. During the summers she and her family usually went away. The three summers described in her diary before her marriage were spent at resort hotels located at mineral springs in the Western part of Virginia.

Idy took an active interest in politics during this period. She was particularly upset with the election of 1876, in which Tilden, the Democrat, received 250,000 more votes than Hayes, the Republican, while Hayes garnered one more electoral vote. The outcome, Hayes, was decided after months of controversy and claims of fraud by a commission which voted on strict party lines. She wrote:

November 8, 1876

Tilden was elected president yesterday by an overwhelming majority. We are at last to have a democratic president after 16 years of republican rule. That party has grown so corrupt in power that we hope for reform and better rule in the democrats. The working classes are so badly off and the pinch of hard times so generally felt that it stirred the masses for reform.

November 13, 1876

Last week was one of the wildest excitement in the political world owing to the election, both parties claiming the president. Tilden was fairly elected but the dishonest Republican party now in power have tried to "count him out" of the Southern states. The eyes of the whole people though directed to the disputed state - Florida. Prominent men of both parties have gone there to detect fraud if any exists, so I hardly think here is a doubt but Tilden will yet be President. It does not seem a fair thing exactly, this choice by electoral vote, it surely is not the voice of the people, for presidents have by that system

gotten in on the majority. Tilden in the popular vote is five hundred thousand majority.

In the fall of 1877, her father built and sold five houses on the back of their lot, eliminating a cherry orchard and a stable for a total of 90 feet of land. The following spring the family sold the place in Brooklyn and moved to 1324 L St. in Washington.

The Gale family first appears in her diary on July 20, 1878, when she, her sister, Charlotte, whom she called "Lottie," her younger brother, Tom, and her youngest sister, Bertie, were vacationing at Jordan Alum Springs Hotel in Virginia. Lottie, who was nineteen, received a letter that day from Mrs. Gale to the effect that her daughter, Alice, a great friend of Lottie's, was sick and very much wanted to see Lottie. Alice, who was a flighty seventeen, must have become friends with Lottie in school in Brooklyn. Idy, then twenty-three, wrote:

Jordan Alum Springs July 31, 1878

Mrs. Gale, her son and Alice arrived last night. We were shocked to see Alice she is so emaciated. Her brother carried her upstairs in his arms, she was utterly prostrated by the journey. Her mother says they hardly thought she could live through it. There does not seem to be any disease either, only entire prostration and weakness and this desire to see Lottie which amounted to a disease in itself. It certainly is strange, she seemed to revive instantly when she saw Lottie and is really better already this morning. Her brother is very good and kind to her carries her all over the house wherever she wants to go She likes to be moved from Lottie's to her room quite frequently... Bertie and I will leave day after tomorrow. Mr. Gale who is going home will wait a day and go to Washington with us.

Washington, DC, August 4, 1878

... Mr. Gale was very kind and a pleasant traveling companion ...

Her diary skips from April 26, 1879, to April 6, 1881, right after Olive was born. Later references in the diary, however, indicate that Tom and Idy were married in Brooklyn and went to the Astor House after the ceremony. They had lunched there before when they were engaged and while Idy was accompanying her father to Boston. On October 1, 1881, they started housekeeping at 1239 12th street. Idy began cooking lessons in February of 1883 and reported

happily on March 7: “made my first attempt at chicken croquettes this morning successfully. Attended cooking school in the afternoon.”

There may have been complications with Olive’s birth as she was never able to have any more children. She apparently doted on her daughter and took her everywhere. When Olive was fifteen months old she is reported to have weighed twenty pounds, while her mother, Idy, weighed only 105. Idy was apparently a small woman.

As a young woman married to a prosperous business man she lived a pleasant life, although she was unwell much of the time from 1882 at least until the end of her first diary in 1886. The doctors were unable to diagnose her illness. It would appear from the diary that people were more often sick then than today. She gave and attended dinners and card parties; progressive euchre and the new game of hearts were popular. Idy went to the theater when she felt well enough. She had some household help, but she did much of the cooking and most of the shopping. Tom and Idy were in the earliest editions of the *Social Register*. Her diary describes a small dinner party as follows:

Friday March 12th, 1886.

Lottie and Edward, Miss Nightman and Mr. Goodrich dined with us last night and afterwards we gave them a theatre party. Dinner was served at six and tho an unpretentious little affair was very nice. My two good Bridgets as usual when I have company did so well and served everything in pretty style. I used Mr. Donnelly’s mirror platter for the first time, setting it for a center piece and on it my handsomest cut glass dish filled with Bon Silene roses, violets and smilax. At each place was a little floral design of tulip, lily etc. made with one center to hold conserved fruit. The guest cards had little colored designs of vegetables upon them. The first course was oysters on the half shell; then came a French soup; then baked shad, new potatoes and radishes, the fish garnished with watercress; then French chops and peas, asparagus, mushrooms and Saratoga fried potatoes; then lettuce and fresh sliced tomatoes salad with mayonnaise dressing. Then followed cream and cake, the creams were very pretty. A square of varied cream on which was heaped spun sugar which looked exactly like fine spun glass. The sugar was tied to the cream with colored ribbons the bow on top forming a handle to lift them up by, they were set on lace paper of the proper size and each prettily filled a large glass

dessert saucer which I have. Coffee, fruit, nuts, etc. followed. We had to hurry from the table to get to the opera house in time.. .

After they saw “La Belle Helene,” a light comic opera:

. . They all came in when we came back and we renewed our desert.

After work, Tom usually walked the five blocks from his F street office to the house where dinner was normally served about 5:30 in the afternoon. In the evenings, friends or relatives would often drop in or they would call on others. Occasionally they would go to the opera, to a lecture or play cards. Without radio, television, and motion pictures, evenings were more relaxed and Tom occasionally read aloud. However, Idy had a very modern complaint: “I am such a slow reader that the books I want to read are piling up on my bed side table.” When she was about thirty, she started banjo lessons ; Gilbert and Sullivan and college songs were favorites. On hot nights, they sat out on the front step or on the back porch.

Until Tom gave Idy a carriage in 1886, she walked, took the streetcar or occasionally a cab. Apparently, they had no fear of harm even of walking through the streets of Washington at night. During the day, she shopped, tried on clothes, visited, went to art galleries or museums, or did needle work. Her interest in art, however, did not extend to new developments. She wrote in her diary about a trip to the National Academy of Design in New York, “In one room are some specimens of the Impressionist School - which only impressed me ludicrously. And they call that Art!”

Idy had an interest in politics and followed it closely but was not greatly interested in the suffragette movement. She reported :

February 19, 1886

As I passed the national suffragette convention here at the Universalist Church I thought I would venture in out of curiosity to hear the greatest speakers, but there was an admission fee and I had not my pocket book and did not care enough to come home for it.

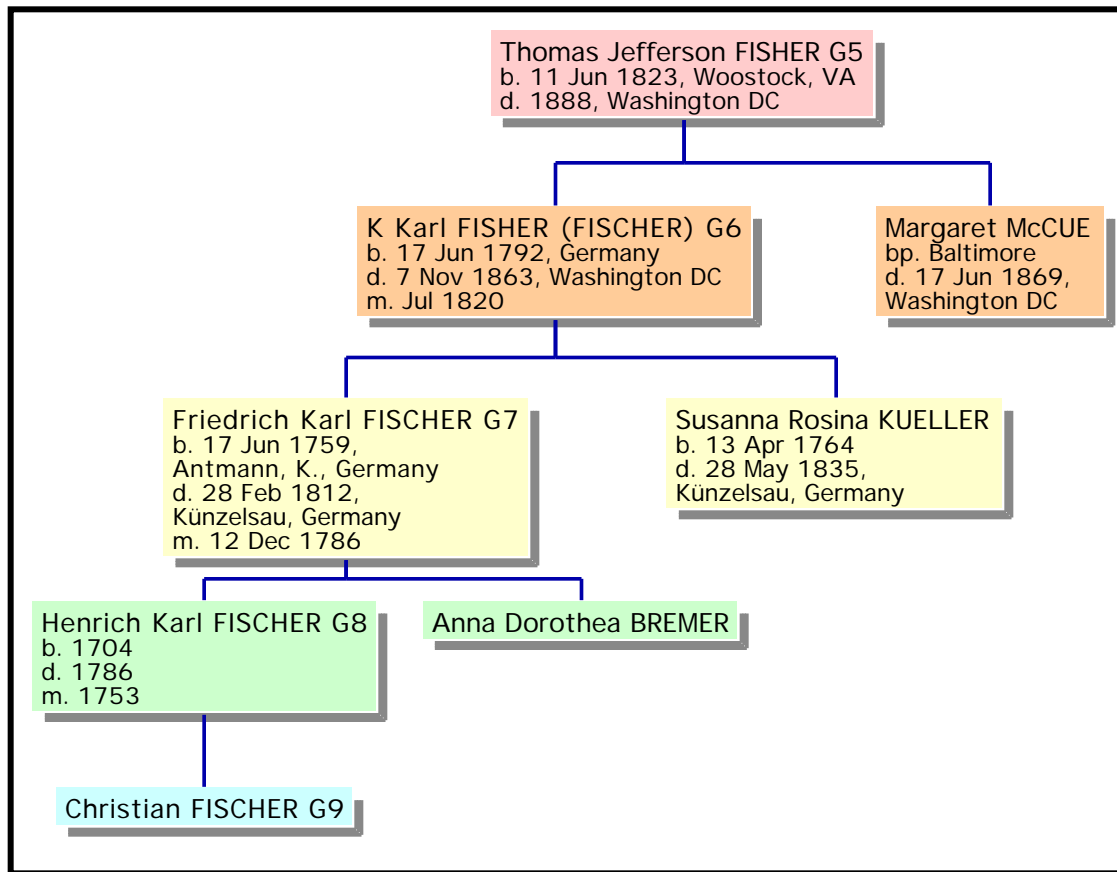
Unless she felt unwell or the weather was bad, she always went to church, usually to Epiphany, the Episcopal church where Olive was christened, but sometimes to the Unitarian church, All Souls. She often commented in her diary about the sermon. Later she broke with the Episcopalian bishop and led the family into the Unitarian church. She gave the library at All Souls, which bears her name.

Idy was very happily married. Her husband adored her and was heartbroken when she died of Bright's disease in March of 1919. Beatrice Moore remembered looking for "Gramps" one day some time after Idy's death so that he could read her one of the Oz stories. (It was Tom who introduced the Oz books to the family.) Hearing a sound she went into Idy's bedroom and discovered her grandfather on the bed, clutching Idy's pillow, and sobbing. He never really recovered from her death and died only ten months later. Tom and Idy are both buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, DC.

#### **The Fisher (Fischer) Family** (Chart 10):

The Fishers had originally come to the-United States from Germany where the name had been spelled "Fischer." The first Fischer of whom we have records was **Christian Fischer** G9, Justice in the Province of Brandenburg, Russia.

**Chart 10**  
**The Fisher (Fischer) Family**



His son, **Heinrich Karl Fischer** (1704-1786) G8, married three times. (See Chart 11.) By his first wife, Sophia Eleanora Muller (1724-1752), he had five children, some of whom left descendants. By the second, **Anna Dorothea Bremer**, G8, whom he married in 1753, he had three children: Anna Susanna, Katharine, and **Friedrich Karl**. By his third, Rosina Sybil Tindal, he had four children. He was the judge in the local court in Kunzelsau. **Friedrich Karl Fischer** (1759-1812), G7, was born in Amtmann in Kunzelsau and died in Wurtemberg, Germany. He served as clerk in his father's court and also crafted leather. On December 12, 1786, he married **Susanna Rosina Kueller** (1764)-1835) G7. They are both buried in Kunzelsau, Germany. Of their twelve children, only three reached maturity: Friedrich Karl Fischer, who emigrated to America, Dorothea, who married Karl August Saur in 1816, and Charlotta, who married in 1835.

Ida May Fisher (Gale) visited Dorothea, who was quite old and bedridden, in April of 1875; Dorothea died two months later.

**Friedrich Karl Fischer, Jr.** (1790-1863) G6, came to America in 1816 and settled in Woodstock, Virginia. Charles Fisher, as he became known in this country, worked as a clerk in the Treasury Department. In the summer of 1820, he married **Margaret McCue** (d. 1869) G6, of Baltimore. They had eleven children. Charles was extremely patriotic and named his child and first son, who was born June 11, 1823. Thomas Jefferson; his fourth child and third son, he called George Washington. His tombstone in Glenwood Cemetery bears the inscription: "For 25-years was a faithful and efficient clerk in the Treasury Department."



**Thomas Jefferson Fisher** (1823-1888) G5, became a very successful businessman, although he started with little. He grew up in Woodstock, Virginia, but moved to Washington at fifteen to find work. After several jobs he went to work in 1851 for Dyer & McGuire auctioneers at 10th & D Streets. Evidently he had found his niche: the firm made Thomas Fisher a partner and changed its name to James C. McGuire & Co., auctioneers, with offices at 420 New York Avenue. He served on the city council and became president of Franklin Fire Co. In 1869, he was made president of the Tucker Bronze manufacturing Co. of Boston with headquarters in New York City and moved his family to Brooklyn. Apparently he had extensive business interests up and down the coast. During the twelve years he lived in Brooklyn he spent a great deal of time traveling to Boston, Baltimore, and Washington. On November 26, 1878, at the age of fifty-five, Thomas J. Fisher founded, with Edward Stellwagen as the notary, the successful and profitable real-estate firm which bore his name.

The business thrived from the beginning. Idy's diary reports that he rented the Willard's hotel to Mr. Bresline. "Mr. Willard was hard to get to agree to anything." Tom Fisher was a director of the Telephone Company in New York in the mid 1880s and in 1887 had one of the first private phones in Washington, number 388. He was director of the Columbia Fire Insurance

Co. and Columbia Street Railroad Co. At the time of his death he was involved in the development of the Kalorama tract.

Tom Fisher served as director of the Children's Hospital, the Foundling Asylum, the Night Lodging House, and Columbia Hospital. According to his daughter's diary, he usually started the day with a large glass of buttermilk. Thomas Fisher was also very popular. Two years before they moved back to Washington, Idy wrote with pride:

Brooklyn January 4, 1876

The *Capital* received today says "Thomas J. Fisher is in town, but we are requested by host not to give his residence as he says his door bell cannot stand more than fifteen hundred pulls a day."

In June of 1845, Thomas Jefferson Fisher married **Charlotte Margaret Sioussa** (1826-1869) G5, the daughter of a very interesting Frenchman, Jean Pierre Sioussa (See Chart 11). Thomas Jefferson Fisher and Charlotte had twelve children, of whom seven died young. Charlotte herself died when she was only forty-three and Thomas's older sister, Susan Fisher or "Aunt Susie," brought up the children.



The oldest, Louis Haslup, born about 1846, was married in 1865 and lived with his family in the New York area in the 1870s. Apparently he moved later to Washington where he was connected with the "Knights of Malta." Idy did not think much of him or his family for she wrote, after a visit by his wife in 1886: "both [are] incompetent and worthless. The children scarcely brought up at all, one might say." Tom Fisher clearly distrusted his son, for Louis's share of his father's estate was left in trust for him for a minimum of ten years and a maximum of twenty. During that period he was to receive the income only but could not touch the principal. Ida May Fisher was the next oldest.

Idy's younger sister and also apparently her favorite, Charlotte Margaret (Lottie or Tante) (1859-1934), married Edward J. Stellwagen on September 29, 1880. Their first child was born dead, and they were unable to have others. Lottie was evidently the beauty of the family, being



dark and petite. She also had amazingly small feet and Beatrice Moore kept for years one of her tiny shoes (Olive Mullet now has the shoe). Having no children, she devoted herself to Edward and, according to Beatrice Moore, would run down the stairs each night to greet him on his return with a glad cry of “Darling!” As an adult she evidently kept the sense of fun she had had as a child. Beatrice remembered talking to her about her troubles with gymnastics, whereupon Lottie reassured her that cartwheels were easy and immediately started to turn one after the other, her long ruffled skirts windmilling over her head.

Thomas Wendall, the next oldest, was educated at Cheshire Cross Military School located near New Haven, Conn. At that time Idy was very fond of “Tom.” Later, however, she turned against him.

On Sunday, August 15, 1885 she wrote:

Father is not home yet. He went on Monday to Albany where the last of Tom is traced. He wrote from there to Miss Conckling that he was going to take his life. We are so distressed for Father, he is nearly heart-broken. Tom has frequently acted in this way before, but Father seems to feel this time he will not come back. Father’s heart is wrapped up in the boy whose wild, dissipated life has so wretchedly repaid his loving, trusting generosity. He walked out of the house intoxicated four weeks ago without so much as a change of linen ...

Tom returned in January of 1886 from New Orleans where he had been roughing it. In September of that year, he left for the Wyoming Territory. He subsequently shot himself in San Francisco and is reported to be buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery there.<sup>5</sup>

The last child, Bertha Virginia (1865-1936) or “Bertie,” on June 16, 1885, married Thomas McKnew. Their first child was born in August of 1886.

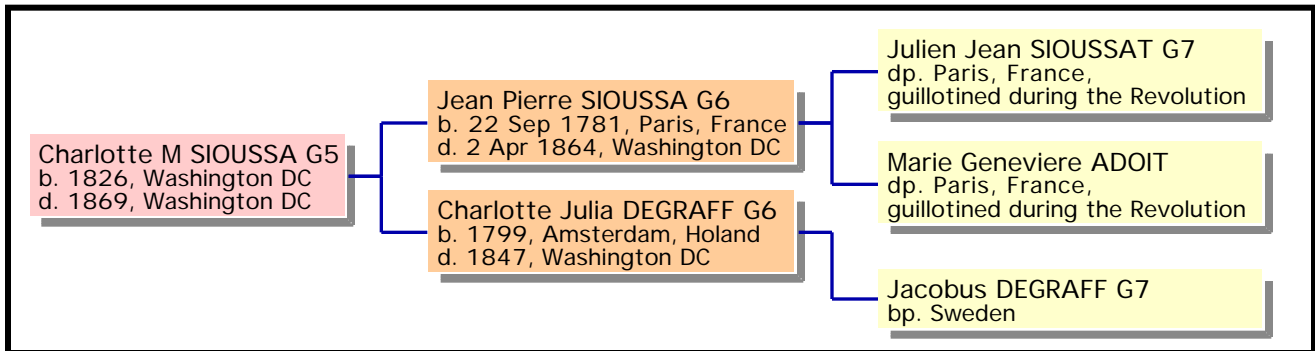
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<sup>5</sup> The records from the Odd Fellows Cemetery list no Thomas Fisher between 1898 and 1910 when the cemetery was closed for twenty years.

## The Sioussa Family:

**Julien Jean Sioussat G7**, living at New St. Anatose St, St. Paul's Parish, Paris, in 1781, was married to **Marie Geneviève Adoit G7**. They had four children, Jean Pierre, Aimee, Frances, and Genevieve. Jean Pierre Barré, a bachelor stockbroker, was Jean's godfather.

**Chart 11**  
**The Sioussat Family**



**Jean Pierre Sioussat** (1781-1864) G6, was raised within a stone's throw of the Rue St. Antoine, the direct route from the Tuileries to the Bastille. On January 21, 1793, his father held him above the heads of the crowd to witness the beheading of Louis XVI and, a few months later, the guillotining of Marie Antoinette. Subsequently, during the Reign of Terror, his parents lost their lives on the guillotine and the children became wards of the Roman Church. Two of his sisters became nuns, another, Anne'e, became lady-in-waiting to a person of rank. Jean Pierre was educated for the priesthood but escaped and ran away to sea.

He reached America in 1804. Soon after his arrival in Washington, because of his knowledge of court manners, he was employed by the new British embassy. Dolly Madison made his acquaintance there. When the Madisons took over the White House he was hired to be Dolly's major domo to help her organize White House fetes. When the British threatened Washington, he helped Dolly Madison remove the portrait of George Washington from the

White House.<sup>6</sup> After she escaped, according to family tradition, he took the White House silver and buried it in his back yard until the British left.<sup>7</sup> He became a valued friend and adviser to the Madisons and has been called the first Master of Ceremonies at the White House. Later in the middle 1840s, as a prosperous man, he also helped an aging and poverty-stricken Dolly Madison with many “thorny business deals.”<sup>8</sup>

Jean, who on arriving in America anglicized his name to John Peter Sioussa, married three times. By his first wife, Elizabeth Bockman of Washington, he had four children. His second marriage (1820) was to **Charlotte Julia Delmont** (née **DeGraff**) (1799-1847) G6, of Amsterdam who bore him ten children, the fourth being Charlotte Margaret, who married Thomas Jefferson Fisher. His third wife was Mary Louisa Schwab of Switzerland. Jean and Charlotte are buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, DC.

Charlotte DeGraff was the granddaughter of a Swedish nobleman (probably living in the reign of Adolphus Frederick 1751-1771) who was killed in a duel fought for political purposes during the turbulent times of “Hats and Caps.” The estate was confiscated by the Crown and the family banished. The son, **Jacobus DeGraff** G7, went to Amsterdam, married an Englishwoman, and became a merchant. Charlotte married Delmont and accompanied him to America. Their ship was wrecked near Baltimore in the Chesapeake Bay. Only Charlotte and one sailor were saved. She attempted to walk to Washington to seek aid from the Dutch Minister but was picked up fainting on the out skirts of Washington.

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<sup>6</sup> William Seale. *The President's House*, White House Historical Association, Washington, DC, 1986, p. 134.

<sup>7</sup> While there seems to be no historical record of this story, it is true that after the British burned the White House, Soussat helped dig up the iron cooking utensils from the ashes, Seale, p. 138.

<sup>8</sup> Seale, p. 256.

### Olive Gale (1881-1941) G 3



Olive Gale was the only child of Thomas and Ida Gale. Idy reports in her diary of May 25th, 1887 that “In the Gale family record today saw the name of Olive Gale which first suggested Olive’s name to me. She was born in Marwick England 1764, married in 1788 Josiah Conant of Marwick.”

Olive was brought up with Victorian attitudes, although apparently with humor. Her mother reports:

Sunday January 11th ‘85

Olive was asking me yesterday who made me, who made her etc and after replying the same to several questions I added, “God made everything.” “But he don’t make the beds,” she remarked, “Mary makes them every morning.”

June 30, 1886

This morning for some slight disobedience I slapped Olive’s hands. She flushed up but did not cry, suppressing her tears. We went down to the breakfast table where Tom already sat. He saw Olive wipe off her face with a pocket handkerchief and asked if she were warm. “Well,” she replied, “Mama has made this a pretty hot day for me.” How we laughed!

Sunday Aug. 7th 1887

Miss Linch asked me why I do not plan to make a writer of Olive. I replied that writers are born not made. She said then that Olive was born’ one and I should educate her with that end in view. She had listened to and watched Olive at play up in the woods and was impressed with her invention and imagination. “She will compose books” was her prediction.

On Olive’s fourteenth birthday, she was given a diary, which she kept until she was thirty-four. It is a moving account of her two tragic romances; nearly two-thirds of the diary is reproduced in Appendix A. The following is taken from her diary.

In the summer of 1896, when Olive was fifteen, the family visited Poland Spring,, Maine. They had summered there several times before, the first being in 1887 when Olive was only six. Olive’s diary describes an idyllic time in which she and a group of friends went boating, played



Poland Spring ca 1912

golf, strummed the mandolin, danced, and generally had a good time. She soon paired off with Walter Berri and increasingly they did everything together. Walter had bright red hair and was 5 feet 11 1/2 inches tall.

A few days before the Gales left, the Berris returned to their home in Brooklyn. On the way back to Washington the Gales stopped in New York and Walter, dressed in a tuxedo, took Olive to the theater. During that winter they wrote

frequently. The following summer the romance resumed in Poland Spring. Walter came down to Washington for the period from Christmas, 1897, to New Years and they went to dances, saw the sights, and were deeply in love. In the spring of 1898, Olive paid a surprise visit to the Berris in Brooklyn. Her diary is full of anticipation for the upcoming summer in Poland Spring. Tragically, in the middle of that summer of 1898, Walter Berri dies of diphtheria. Olive never really gets over it. There are references to Walter throughout the rest of the diary.

For a year and a half the diary is devoted to her overwhelming grief, her desire to die and join Walter, and her search for emotional equilibrium. In the summer of 1899, her mother took her to Europe, undoubtedly to help her over her grief.

On the twenty-third of December 1899, she first met William Curtis Hill, who like Walter had bright red hair. Between that first meeting and his departure for South America on February 3, 1900, he courted her assiduously. She says that he brought light back into her life. On March 20 she received a letter from him professing his love for her and asking her to marry him. She wrote in her diary that she did not love him as she had loved Walter but that she would learn to love him. During that spring, Willy wrote sporadically, very long and impressive letters. It is obvious from the diary, however, that Olive's parents were not taken with William Hill. On June 4, 1900, Willy returned from South America. What he was doing there is unclear but he visited Colombia and wrote that he suffered severe hardships. Late in June of 1900, upon Olive's

insistence, Willy spoke to Thomas Gale about his desires. Apparently Tom decided not to oppose the romance openly but to postpone any engagement announcement and wedding as long as possible.

Olive Gale had her debut party December 7, 1900. No announcement of any engagement was made. During the summer of 1901, Idy took her daughter to Europe again. Will kept pleading to be married. On October 21, 1901, their engagement was announced and the wedding set for September 2, 1902. Olive was offered the choice of a large wedding in Washington or a smaller one in London with a honeymoon in Europe. She chose the latter.

Willy's landlady had attempted to warn Thomas Gale about his future son-in-law. It is said that she telephoned to urge him to forbid the marriage. Tom naturally asked why he should do so. "Well," said the landlady, "he smokes and he gambles." Tom, who liked fat cigars and a good game of poker, either saw nothing out of the ordinary in this or more likely felt he could do nothing about it. However, he never took Willy into the firm as his father-in-law had done for him.

It is apparent from the diary that during the summer of 1902 before the wedding, Olive was becoming more and more apprehensive about sex and motherhood. The wedding was all set. The bridesmaids had been gowned by Worth and numerous invitations had been sent. Then the bride contracted scarlet fever. Her father commandeered one entire floor of Brown's Hotel and bribed all and sundry to say nothing. He also prevented the cutting of his daughter's long hair, a common treatment in those days. Olive did recover; at least one bridesmaid was rounded up; and the wedding was held on the twentieth, five days after she was discharged from the fever. Rumors had circulated about her illness but her flowing hair served to refute them. The marriage was not consummated on the wedding night as she was too upset and weak from her recent illness. The diary makes it appear that it may not have been consummated for over nine months.

Upon their return to Washington, they set up housekeeping at 1318 Massachusetts Ave., NW. In December of 1903, Thomas Gale completed the new house at 2300 S Street and Willy

and Olive moved in. Olive regretted leaving her little house even for the more luxurious quarters of her parent's mansion. Their two children were born at 2300 S St. She had considerable difficulty with both deliveries and even with becoming pregnant. Moreover, even before the birth of Gale, there is evidence from the diary that the marriage was having difficulties.

Willy tried real estate and insurance without much success. In 1903 and 1904 he was in real estate on F Street. In 1905, he changed offices and expanded to loans and insurance as well as real estate. For the next two years he had an office in the Colorado Building. For the years 1908 and 1909 his insurance, real estate, and loans business was headquartered in the Union Trust Building. In 1910 and 1911, he was listed as simply selling insurance on H Street. By 1912, he was partner in a firm, Poe & Hill, but the partnership dissolved and he returned to real estate in 1913, the last time he was listed in the Washington City Directory.

His father-in-law was fed up with his lack of concern for money and convinced Olive to end the marriage. Apparently she loved him almost to the end and was quite reluctant to separate,



Tanglebank

although she recognized the logic of the arguments. Gale McLean remembers what he thinks was their last meeting in which they parted with a very passionate kiss. Both his children loved him and thought he was a marvelous father. He obviously loved his children and was very good with them.

At this time the only acceptable charge for divorce was adultery, so Willy agreed to be "framed." He was duly discovered in a Virginia hotel room and in 1913, Olive was granted the divorce which became final in 1916. Later the Merrills, who were friends of the family, introduced Olive to Ridley McLean, whom she married in 1916. When Olive's father died in



Olive Gale 1935

1920 (Idy had died the year before), they bought “Tanglebank” at 2121 Kalorama Rd. which remained their home until Olive died of lung cancer in 1941. She never smoked! In her second diary she complained bitterly about having to go the wardroom on board ship which was thick with cigarette smoke. Ridley died in 1933 on his battleship Nevada in San Francisco harbor.

“Mutterchen,” as Olive was called by her grandchildren, often took Beatrice and Gale up to the mountains at High Wyndam. Once when they were vacationing up there she discovered, to her horror, the two children playing in the chicken coop. They were covered from head to toe with chicken lice. Everything went into the wash!

After Ridley died Olive wintered in Hawaii regularly and painted the tropical flowers. I still have these paintings. She also had a studio above the garage, which must, in an earlier age, have been a separate stable. In the studio, she did book binding as well as painting. I remember as a child playing in the adjoining loft above the garage with mountains of trunks had been winched up through a trap door from the garage.



Studio at Tanglebank

Tanglebank was a large house, although they had bought it because 2300 S was too large. On the first floor, it had a glass-enclosed arboretum, library, sitting room, large living room with a concert piano, dining room, kitchen and pantry, plus, on the second floor, servants’ quarters, and at

least four good sized bedrooms. I remember her Filipino butler, Mateo, teaching me in the pantry how to work a yo-yo. After her death Tanglebank was sold, and an undistinguished apartment house, now the Chinese Embassy, was erected on the site.