

G. Clarinda (Edgecomb) and Peter Snyder

Clarinda Edgecomb was born 11 Dec 1822¹ in northeastern Ohio. When she was about 10 years old, her family moved to the wilderness of Bath Township in Allen County, Ohio. In the ensuing years, members of a number of other Trumbull County families also moved west to Allen County. One such person was Peter Snyder, born 13 Aug 1820. In 1839, at the age of 19, Peter followed his brother, Lorenzo, to Bath Township². Upon his arrival, he began working as a farm laborer. During this time Peter became acquainted with Clarinda's family and the next year on April 9th, Peter and Clarinda were married.³

Peter and Clarinda rented a 160 acre farm and in subsequent years became the parents of many children. Their names were as follows:⁴

GA. **Josiah**, 18 Sep 1840⁵ - Dec 1862, m. Clarissa Reed

GB. **Marilla (Reed) (Mason)**, b. 28 Mar 1842. Marilla Snyder married a man named Reed. This was probably when they lived in Shawnee, because there were several Reed families in the area there. She had two sons from this marriage: William and Arthur.

Rilla's second marriage was to Sumner F. Mason, and they lived on a farm in Bath Township on Stewart Road three quarters of a mile south of Bluelick Road.

GC. **William H.**, 10 Jun 1844 - Jun 1862.

GD. **George**, 15 Oct 1846⁶ - 12 Sep 1901, m. Barbara A. Roeder.

GE. **Amy Louisa (Mason)**,⁷ 13 Sep 1848⁸ - 28 Feb 1912, m. Marquis D. Mason

GF. **Henrietta "Hettie" (Shinaberry)**,⁹ 17 Mar 1850¹⁰ - 1923¹¹, m. Charles Alden Shinaberry.

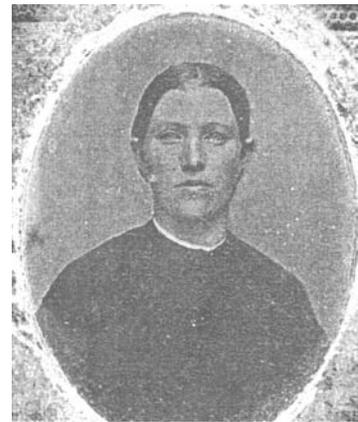
GG. **Walter**,¹² 14 Oct 1852 - 15 Feb 1927, m. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Roeder.

GH. **Jasper**, 29 Mar 1854 - 17 Nov 1926, m. Alice Lackey.

GI. **Newton**,¹³ 9 Jun 1857¹⁴ - 31 Mar 1923¹⁵, m. 3 Apr. 1886 to Emma Mary Custer, 15 Jul 1865 - 14 Nov 1927.

GJ. **Cassius Clay**,¹⁶ 3 Jun 1860¹⁷ in Allen Co., OH - Jul 1932, m. Christina Weber

GK. **Anna (Protsman)**, b. 26 Nov 1862 - 1943¹⁸, m. John Protsman.



Marilla (Snyder) Mason

In 1849, Peter and Clarinda bought a 47 acre farm in Bath Township on what is now the Old Dixie Highway just northeast of Bluelick Road. This was just west of where Clarinda's father was living with her brother Marquis and sister Anna.¹⁹ They later added 100 acres to this and lived there until about 1856, when they sold the farm and moved to Shawnee Township²⁰.



Amy Mason Everett (left) and Margaret Mason (wife of Donald, right) 21 Aug 1950. "Little stream here where my grandmother got rattlesnake bit, same barn. Breese Farm, Shawnee Twp." (written on back by Amy Everett)

Their farm in Shawnee was located along the Ottawa River just north of Adgate Rd. on what is now called Fort Amanda Rd. One day while walking along a small stream on the farm, Clarinda was bitten on the ankle by a rattlesnake. Her family quickly put her foot into a bucket of fresh milk, which supposedly drew the poison out of the wound and curdled the milk. They put her foot in another bucket of milk until it curdled. They repeated this again and again until the milk no longer curdled and they know that all of the poison had been drawn out. She thus survived the bite of the snake.²¹ In another version of the story, Clarinda was bitten on the big toe by a rattlesnake and died of the bite.²²

By the time of the 1860 census, there were ten children, aged one month to nineteen years, all under one roof. But this was not to last. In 1861, the Civil War broke out and in October of that year, seventeen year old William enlisted as a private in the 81st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Less than a year later, in June of 1862, he was dead.²³ On July 6 the oldest son, Josiah was married to his next door neighbor, Clarissa Reed, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Akers) Reed of Fairfield Co. (This may be the same Reed family of Marilla's first husband.) But only a month later, he enlisted as a private in the 99th O.V.I. and left home. By December, he died in Nashville, Tennessee, leaving behind his widow, pregnant with their first child, Pet Snyder, who was born the next year.²⁴ Both of the Snyder boys were buried in the old cemetery at the corner of Zurmehly and Shawnee Roads.

In 1862, the family sold out and moved back to Bath Township. There they bought the farm on Sugar Creek Road one half mile west of Slabtown Road. A distinctive feature of this farm was the large brick house that would eventually be occupied by four generations of Snyder descendants.

There must have been some trepidation when on 20 September 1864, seventeen year old George signed up in the 180th O.V.I. Fortunately, he survived the war and returned home in July of 1865 to go back to work on his parents' farm.²⁵

On 19 December 1866, Clarinda died at the age of 44. She had spent 23 out of her 26 years of marriage either pregnant, or caring for infants in diapers. She was buried in Shawnee next to her two sons.

Peter remarried to Ellen (Baker) Kollar, widow of George W. Kollar and seventeen years his junior. Mrs. Kollar was born on 10 July 1837, the daughter of John and Arzilla (Minnis) Baker. By 1870, their household contained the six youngest children of Peter's first marriage, Talitha, Joseph, and George W. Kollar, Jr., children from Ellen's first marriage, and Alta, Peter and Ellen's child. Also living with the family was Peter's oldest daughter Marilla Reed, whose husband had died, and her two sons, William and Arthur Reed. Peter and Ellen were the parents of seven more children:^{26 27}



Alta

Ida

Della

Alta (Roberts)(Renolett) 1 Aug 1869²⁸ - 16 Dec 1955. Alta married Albert Roberts of Bath Township, but they were divorced. She met Charles Daniel Renollet, a telegrapher in Cecil, Ohio, and they were later married. They lived in Paulding County, Ohio where he worked as a building contractor. Alta and Charles had one child, **Raymond Charles Renollet**. In 1920 when they moved to Defiance, Ohio where Charles died on 1949 January 15. In 1951 Alta was the first person to be admitted into the River Rest Convalescent Home. She died there in 1955.

Ida May (Getz) 16 Feb 1871²⁹ - 27 May 1894. Ida married James Getz of Bath Township. They had one child, **Lillie M Getz** on 1893 July 1. About nine months later, Ida died.

Della (Kiser)(Cox) 8 May 1872³⁰ - 24 Mar 1954. Della married Dr. Kiser of Bluffton, Ohio. They had no children. When she was in her 50's, her first husband died. In the 1930's she married Lorenzo Cox.



Edward

James

Edward F. 16 Sep 1873³¹ - 20 Aug 1899. Edward lived in Beaverdam. He died of tuberculosis and had no children.

James 26 Oct 1875³² - 4 Mar 1933. Jim Snyder had some kind of disability in one leg that caused him to put his hand on one knee when he walked. He married Eva 1870-1951. He also had no children.



Laura

Addie

Laura (Lenney) b. 7 Apr 1878³³. Laura married John Lenny. They had only one child, **John Lenny, Jr.**

Adda (Grant) 1 Jun 1881³⁴ - 23 Jan 1936. Addie married Oren Grant. They had three children, one of whom was **Evelyn E. Grant Drew**. At the time that she died in 1936, they lived in Kiefer, Oklahoma which was an oil town.

Many of these children were members of the Church of Christ.

In 1875, Peter bought a farm in Bath Township on Findlay Road (now the Old Dixie Highway) just southwest of Thayer Rd. Peter and Ellen lived there for the rest of their days. About this time, George, his oldest living son was married and lived on Peter's old farm on Sugar Creek Road. George later bought the farm from his father.

During his later years, Peter, a Republican, served as Township Trustee for several terms³⁵.

In his last years, Peter's daughter Henrietta Shinnaberry and her family lived on his farm. Peter and Ellen lived in a little house just west of the Shinnaberrys. Lela (Shinnaberry) Jacobs remembered them butchering beef when she was a little girl. They would take a quarter of beef and hang it up over the stove to dry it. When Lela would go down to visit them, her "Aunt Ellen" (as she called her) would cut a piece off and give it to her. Lela thought that was pretty good! Her only memories of her Grandpa Snyder were that he had a moustache and was not a very large man.



Ellen (Baker)(Kollor) Snyder



Peter Snyder

Peter died on 1 Oct 1900 at the age of 80. Lela remembered riding in her mother's lap in a horse and buggy on the way to his funeral. At her young age she couldn't understand why her mother felt so bad and was crying.³⁶ The process of settling Peter Snyder's estate among his eighteen children was immense and took years. Peter's executor was his son George, but George died before settling the estate, so the task fell to Dave Byerly, who was George's executor (George also had a large family).³⁷ One result of this is that tombstones for Peter, George, and Peter's first wife Clarinda were purchased at the same time. So although they are found in three different cemeteries, they all have the same style. Ellen Snyder lived for about five years after Peter died. She was ill for some time and had an operation to relieve her condition, but it failed and on 17 January 1906 January she died.³⁸

¹ Tombstone inscription, Old Shawnee Cemetery, Zurmehly and Shawnee Rds., Shawnee Twp., Allen Co., OH. "CLARINDA WIFE OF P. SNYDER DIED DEC. 19, 1866 AGED 44 Y 8 D"

² *History of Allen County, Ohio*. Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1885. p.587-88.

³ Allen County, Ohio Marriage Record No. 1 (1831-1842), p. 137.

⁴ Family Bible of Peter Snyder. Copies of the information in the Bible were provided by Brian Clark of DeGraff, Ohio. The owner of the Bible is unknown. Note: The entries were probably made as late as 1890, and so there may be inaccuracies in the exact dates.

⁵ Josiah's birth date in the family Bible is given as September 28, 1840. It seems unlikely that he was born before this, since Peter and Clarinda were married on 9 Apr 1840. However, the 1840 census lists a male under the age of 5 in the household, and the censuses were usually taken during the summer. His age was given as 10 in the 1850 census which was taken on 19 July 1850.

⁶ Date given in family Bible of Peter Snyder is November 13, 1846. However, his tombstone in the Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH states "GEORGE SNYDER DIED SEPT.12, 1901 AGED 54 Y. 10 M. 28 D." This gives a birth date of 15 Oct 1846. Since the early dates in the Bible were written long after the fact and many are known to be inaccurate, the tombstone date is used here.

⁷ Vernon Cloyd Hennon, *BES family update 13* (1977).

⁸ Date given in Peter Snyder family Bible is September 14, 1847. In the 1850 census, taken on 20 July she is listed as aged 2. Date given on tombstone is 1848.

⁹ Lela Shinaberry, *BES family update 31* (1977).

¹⁰ Date given in Peter Snyder family Bible is March 17, 1849. However, this is clearly wrong since the 1850 census lists her as 6/12 years old on 20 July 1850. On her tombstone, her birth date is given as 1850.

¹¹ Tombstone, Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH "SHINABERY, SON FRANK 1885 - 1909 FATHER CHARLES ALDEN 1850 - 1918, MOTHER HENRIETTA SNYDER 1850 - 1923"

¹² Margaret Louise Hall Hall, *BES family update 88* (1978).

¹³ Raymond K. Snyder, *BES family update 56* (1977).

¹⁴ In I. John Letherman, *All Leatherman Kin History* [Descendants of Elder Daniel Leatherman] (1940), p.83, Newton's birth date is given as 1858. In the family Bible of Peter Snyder it is given as 1856.

However, the 1860 census for Shawnee Twp., Allen Co., OH (p.309), taken on July 5 gives his age as 3 and the 1870 census gives it as 13. Thus 1857 seems more likely to be accurate.

¹⁵ Letherman, p. 83.

¹⁶ Kathryn Snyder Geiser, *BES family update 27* (1977).

¹⁷ The family Bible of Peter Snyder lists his birth date as 1859. However, the 1860 census, taken on 5 July gives his age as 1/12 year. Thus his birth date must be 1860.

¹⁸ Tombstone, Bluelick Cemetery, Bath Twp., Allen Co., OH. "PROTSMAN JOHN 1854 - 1921 ANNA 1862 - 1943"

¹⁹ United States Census, 1850, Allen County, Ohio, Bath Township, p.493-4.

²⁰ Deeds Book W, p. 228, Allen Co., OH Records Office. 5 Sep 1856.

²¹ This story was told by Amy Snyder Mason to her daughter Amy Mason Everett. The story was passed on to Shirley Everett Clark and Wib Everett, children of Amy Everett, and was told to Steve Baskauf by Shirley and her cousin Michael Wildermuth. Although rattlesnakes do not now occur in northwest Ohio, the massasauga or swamp rattlesnake was formerly present throughout the northern and central parts of the state. They thrived in the huge wetlands originally present in northwestern Ohio. Habitat destruction has now caused the snake's range to have decreased considerably - the species was last seen in northern Ohio in the 1950's on the Catawba and Marblehead peninsulas near Toledo. The species' habitat is river bottoms and nearby fields, so the "small stream" of the story would have been a likely place to have encountered a massasauga. This rattlesnake species is not particularly aggressive, but it may bite if stepped on while it is quietly sunning itself concealed in vegetation. There are numerous folk remedies for rattlesnake venom. However, it is estimated that as many as 60% of bites of humans by poisonous snakes are "dry" bites where the snake injects little or no venom, saving it instead for actual prey. In another telling of the story, the snake was a copperhead, but it is questionable whether copperheads ever lived in this part of Ohio.

²² This version of the story was told by Calvin Snyder, son of Jasper in an account that he wrote in 1956.

²³ *Historical Atlas of Allen County, Ohio*, 1880, Philadelphia: R.H. Harrison, p.140.

²⁴ Carrie Wallace, interviewed by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 August 11.

²⁵ A George Snyder who enlisted in the Union Army on 20 Sep 1864 served as a sergent in the 180th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and was discharged in Jul 1865. Although it is not known for sure whether this was the same George Snyder, the grave of our George (b. 1846) has a G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) marker, indicating that he was a Civil War veteran. The George who enlisted in 1864 is the only George Snyder listed from Allen County.

²⁶ Dates from Family Bible of Peter Snyder. Note: these birth dates agree with the dates listed on an old paper seen by Brian Clark at the Kimmey/Baker Reunion in 1973, except that the dates on that paper were all one year earlier.

²⁷ Information from *A Portrait and Biographical Record...*, 1896, p.490; interview of Lela Jacobs, 1977; and information obtained from Evelyn E. Drew (daughter of Addie Grant) and other sources by Brian Clark of DeGraff, Ohio in about 1977.

²⁸ 1870 in Bible, 1869 on old paper. The 1870 census, taken on 12 August, lists her age as 10/12 year. Either this was a mistake and should be 1/12 (making her born in 1870) or she was born in 1869 and was actually about a year old (and born in 1869). The latter seems more likely. The 1870 census supports this, giving her age as 10 on the 10th day of June 1880.

²⁹ 1872 in Bible, 1871 on old paper. Age on 1880 census was given as 9 on 10 June, supporting the 1871 date.

³⁰ 1873 in Bible, 1872 on old paper. Age on 1880 census was given as 8 on 10 June, supporting the 1871 date.

³¹ 1874 in Bible, 1873 on old paper. His tombstone, old Beaverdam Cemetery, Richland Twp., Allen Co., OH. says "Edward F. Snyder Died Aug 22, 1899 Aged 25 y 11 m 6 d". This produces a birth date of 16 Sep 1873 rather than 1874. His age given in the 1880 census is 6 on 10 June, supporting the 1873 date.

³² 1876 in Bible, 1875 on old paper. His age given in the 1880 census is 4 on 10 June, supporting the 1875 date.

³³ 1878 in Bible, 1877 on old paper. Her age given in the 1880 census is 2 on 10 June, supporting the 1878 date.

³⁴ 1882 in Bible, 1881 on old paper. Since the dates on the old paper seem to generally be more accurate, 1881 is used here.

³⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Record of Allen and Van Wert Counties, Ohio*. Chicago: A. W. Bowen & Co., 1896. p. 489-490.

³⁶ Interview of Lela Shinaberry Jacobs by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) on 1977 June 15.

³⁷ Interview of Nina (Byerly) Landes by Steve Bassett (Baskauf) 22 Sep 1977

³⁸ Obituary of Ellen Snyder, *The Lima Daily News*, Vol. 10, No. 17, 1906 Jan 19, p.2.