
Chapter 4

John and Ida Higginson Crabtree's Children

Myrtie, Johnie, LeRoy, Mary

1. Amanda Myrtie Crabtree

Myrtie arrived during a snowstorm in the sod house of her parents near Springview, Nebraska, on November 17, 1891. Harry Irwin Briggs married Myrtle, as he liked to call her, on September 2, 1919, in Ainsworth, Nebraska. Irwin, as he was called, was born about eight months before Grandma Myrtie in Danville, Illinois. See Part I to read my grandma Myrtie Crabtree's story.

I (Louise) have enjoyed learning about Grandma's two brothers. I spent time with Great Aunt Mary on several occasions, but I never met LeRoy or John. ❀

2. Johnie Abel Crabtree

Johnie arrived in Bonesteel, South Dakota, on September 18, 1900, nine years after his sister Myrtie was born.

In 1910, Johnie and his younger brother, LeRoy, attended Miss Elsie Murray's class at a Brown County school. Johnie seems to have gone farther in school than LeRoy.

A page from Ainsworth High School's yearbook, *The Prairie Schooner*, shows Johnie with the Editorial Staff. Johnie, the Business Manager, is at the typewriter dressed in a suit.



Johnie and Berenice Crabtree, Ollie and LeRoy Crabtree, Myrtle Briggs, Ida Crabtree, Mary Crabtree, and LeRoy's children.



Johnie, Mary, Ida, LeRoy, and Myrtie. In front are three of LeRoy's children.



Irwin and Myrtle Crabtree Briggs' Family: Irwin, Laura, Mildred, John, Mrytle, Mary.

"The Prairie Schooner" Editorial Staff



*Front row left to right: Edna Winger, Ethel Gordon, John Crabtree
 All row left to right: Gladys Ecker, Yvonne Kelly, Ruth Fischer, Helen Truss,
 Lyman Ross, Verma Dixon*



Johnie Able Crabtree 1902.



Johnie Crabtree, High School.

John Crabtree of Ainsworth appears on the Ainsworth High School Alumni list for 1920. The 1920 census also indicates that Johnie attended school that year. He also worked as an electrician at a local garage.

Where Johnie went after he left home, is a bit of a mystery. He may have met his wife to be, Berenice, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Berenice Eleanor Miles, born in Elmwood, Nebraska, in 1896, was the daughter of Matthew Wright Miles and Isabella Edwards.

Berenice had been married to and divorced from John Jay Cissna. They had five children: Maureen, Wilma, Wilson, Edward, and Curt. The family lived in Julesburg through 1920, at least. Jay worked as a farm laborer and remarried in 1933.

Johnie Abel Crabtree married Mrs. Berenice E. Miles on April 23, 1941, in Omaha, Nebraska. A.A. Brooks performed the ceremony. Edith Williams and L.C. Anspach were witnesses.

By 1943, Johnie and his family were in Council Bluffs, Iowa. They later lived in Denver, Colorado, and Sterling, Colorado. In 1946, they moved to Springfield, Oregon, where they lived in a green two-story house at 400 N. 37th Street (then called Riley Lane). Johnie worked as a mill hand at a mill in Thurston.

In 1951, Johnie and Berenice went to California, and acquired a place on Alexander Valley Road just out of Healdsburg. This is the place I (Cal) remember them living in. I remember this place as being large. There was the house, a separate garage, a large yard with a well kept lawn, trees (one with a tire swing), some of which bore different types of plums, a large field out back, and a sunken bathtub for a fish pond. For a long time Johnie kept an old car out there, a 1930 Cord, which he kept covered.

Teri, his adopted daughter, recalled, " He always worked as a mechanic of some sort when he could find work. In the mills he was a machinest keeping all the machines running. But I remember one year going with him to pick fruit 'cause that's the only work there was. I was young and I think there was some kind of recession. I know he was really smart. He'd check

my math homework in High School for me.”

I recall him as a quiet man, like his brother, LeRoy. I seldom heard him speak. Berenice I recall as a sweet, grandmotherly type.

Berenice died October 7, 1974, in Healdsburg, California. She was buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Healdsburg.

Johnny died February 27, 1987, in a nursing home in Healdsburg, California. He was 86 years old. He was also buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Healdsburg.—*Cal Bivens*

Note: Teri, was the daughter of Edward Clark Cissna and a granddaughter of Berenice. Teri's parents divorced when she was a baby and Johnie and Berenice raised her. It is my understanding that Teri took care of Johnie when he was older.—Louise Smith ❀



Great Uncle Johnie on his motorcycle.



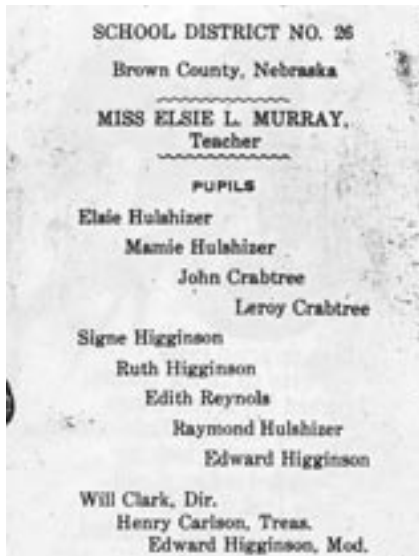
Johnie talking to Willard, husband of his niece Hazel Crabtree Ramey.



My sister Mary Austin sitting on Great Uncle Johnie's motorcycle.



Johnie's backyard in Healdsburg, California.



Greeting card from the school teacher, 1910. John and LeRoy Crabtree as well as some of their cousins were in the class.



The original is among the papers and effects of LeRoy Howard Crabtree, my grandfather. The “Greetings from your Teacher,” image is the front of the card, the middle image is the back. The image with names is on the inside of the card. It is made of heavy bond paper with a string attached through the spine. I made the photocopy and the digital image. Card and comment: Cal Bivens.



LeRoy and Jasper.



LeRoy and daughter Mary Ellen.

3. LeRoy Howard Crabtree (1903–1980) and Olive Lucille McElroy (1914–1988)

by Grandson Cal Bivens

LeRoy liked to say that he first met Ollie (his wife) when she was first learning to walk. This may well have been true. The older McElroy boys went to school with the Crabtrees in Ainsworth. LeRoy stopped at their place frequently to visit Alfred and Tom, and play cards, rummy, pinochle, etc.

As she got older, Ollie took quite a liking to the tall slender young man. He had a keen sense of humor and often joked around with her when he came to visit the boys. By the time she was 14, Ollie had her heart set on going steady with him.

One day, LeRoy came to visit and she was standing on a chair hanging some curtains. They talked as she finished and she asked him to help her down from the chair. He reached up and took her into his arms and as she

stepped to the floor they kissed.

(Ollie, my grandmother, told me this story along with many others during our visits the last ten years of her life. She knew I was recording the family folklore and she was very fond of reminiscing. These visits were delightful and are my fondest memories of her.)

Ollie got her wish. Four years later, she and LeRoy Crabtree were married. An old bachelor named Les Rickert lived next door to the Crabtrees. LeRoy was pretty well acquainted with him. On December 31, 1932, LeRoy asked Les if he could borrow his car. He said that he had to go over to Bassett on business. Use of the car was given and LeRoy and Ollie drove off. Ella and Everett McElroy, Ollie's mother and brother, came along as witnesses. The young couple was married in the vestibule of a church. The weather began to turn bad, so right after the ceremony the group drove back to Long Pine. The newlyweds stayed at the home of his mother, Emily, for three days.



Newlyweds LeRoy and Ollie Crabtree.

That first winter of their marriage, LeRoy and his young bride lived in a 7 ft. by 9 ft. tent, while he finished out the

trapping season. There are photos of my grandmother and this tent, and later photos of my grandfather with some of the pelts he acquired.

The first summer of their marriage, LeRoy and Ollie lived at Les Rickert's place. Ollie cooked and did the housekeeping in lieu of rent.

Life at the Rickert place was anything but dull. Les and one of his brothers periodically took to shooting flies off the door frame between the living room and the main bedroom with a .22 rifle, with the obvious result that the door frame was full of holes.

It sometimes got even livelier. One of the old man's brothers came for a visit, once, and spent much time lying on the bed and reading. Apparently Les considered this a curious way for someone to spend their time. Such idleness. He got the notion that maybe, just for a laugh, he ought to spark the boy into moving. Hauling out the trusty .22, he fired a shot into the wall of the bedroom just above the headboard of the bed where his brother was lying. Les displayed great amazement and amusement at the speed with which his brother could move.

A daughter, Mary Ellen, was born in May of 1934. In August of that year the family left Long Pine and moved to Oregon.

LeRoy, Ollie, baby Mary Ellen, Ollie's parents (Calvin and Cora McElroy), her brothers Everett, Tom, Orie, Don, and Art, sisters Shirley and Lela, and Lela's baby, Betty, all packed themselves and their belongings into a four door Buick which pulled a four-wheeled trailer, and headed out. They took turns riding in the trailer as there was not enough room in the car for everybody.



The four Crabtree children, Hazel, Vernon, Marie, and Mary Ellen at John Reynolds's place in Nebraska, 1946. John Reynolds was a Higginson cousin to LeRoy Crabtree. He was Raleigh Emry's grandfather.



Marie and Vernon Crabtree and their dad, LeRoy.

Travelogue of Crabtrees and McElroys August of 1934

August 16: Left Long Pine and camped at Kearney, Nebraska, some 140 miles south.

August 17: Headed west along the Platte River and camped at Sidney, Nebraska, some 220 miles.

August 18: Continued west into Wyoming and camped at Elmo, about 185 miles from Sidney.

August 19: Traveled 225 miles west and spent the night at Kemmerer, Wyoming, about 30 miles east of the Wyoming-Utah border.

August 20: Stayed at American Falls, Idaho, on the Snake River.

August 21: Traveled just under 200 miles northwest to Boise and camped for the night.

August 22: Traveled to Ironside, Oregon and camped.



Hazel Crabtree's Graduation. Hazel is the youngest daughter of LeRoy and Ollie.



Mary Ellen Crabtree Adams, daughter Cecily, and mother Ollie Crabtree.



Vernon Crabtree's Graduation picture. Vernon is the son of Ollie and LeRoy.

August 23: Camped at Fossil.
 August 24: Stayed in Portland.
 August 25: Drove south and arrived in Eugene.

LeRoy and his family rented a house at 549 5th Street in Springfield, across the Willamette River from Eugene. He worked as a mechanic. Calvin and Cora McElroy lived with them.

On July 2, 1936, a second daughter, Ida Marie, was born. She is my mother. She was born in the hospital then on the corner of

7th and F Streets. This place was later converted into an apartment house and still stands in 1999.

Emily, LeRoy's mother, and Mary, his sister, who had not come out in 1934, arrived in Springfield on November 9, 1937. Emily and Mary rented a house in Eugene, at route 2 #157. They lived there in 1938 and '39 (at the junction of the Pacific Highway and the McKenzie Highway near Judkins Point).

LeRoy and Ollie lived nearby at #155. LeRoy worked for Inter-City Sand and Gravel at 3698 Highway 99 South, perhaps since 1935. By 1937, he was a foreman there. A son, Vernon LeRoy, was born in August 1937, in Eugene. Another daughter, Hazel May, was born in October 1938.

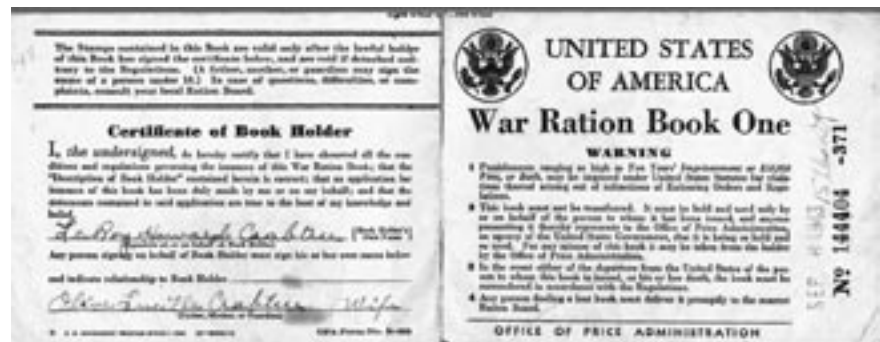
In 1939, LeRoy's sister, Mary, and mother, Emily, remained in the same area, perhaps a different house (the number is now 265). Mary worked as a practical nurse.

In 1940 LeRoy and family lived at 606 Mill Street. He was a foreman at Inter City Sand and Gravel. Emily and Mary lived close by on the corner of F and Water Streets.

In December 1941, news arrived in the area of the Japanese surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. According to the newspapers, many Springfielders were sure that Japanese bombers would next hit the mainland. This fear was widespread along the west coast. People were worried. With the fear of imminent attack, "blackout" conditions were instituted. Windows were covered with black at night, headlights of cars were painted blue, and patrols were sent out by neighborhoods to check for light leaks.

Graveyard shifts at the mills were cancelled until the proper blackout conditions could be observed, and the afternoon shifts left early, to get home before dark.

Company D of the 162nd Infantry, the local national guard unit, was assigned to guard the railroad throughout the valley. Soldiers and sailors on leave left for their posts, reservists reported for duty.



LeRoy Crabtree's ration book from World War II.

My mother once told me about having air raid drills in school. They sounded very much like the ones we had in grade school preparing for earthquakes or nuclear attack.

Sales of new tires to civilians stopped at the end of 1941. The last automobile for civilian use rolled off the assembly line in February of 1942.

May of '42 saw the end of production of more than 400 separate metal products. In December gas rationing began. Rationing became necessary for other goods, also, as the country's economy geared for war. LeRoy worked as a mechanic for Cluster's Auto Wreckers in Eugene.

About 1942, LeRoy Crabtree moved his family to Portland where he worked as a welder in the shipyards there. I once heard him tell of watching PT boats being tested on the Columbia River. He seemed impressed with their speed and the way in which the bow rose up out of the water when a boat was at full throttle.

When school was out in '43, the family returned to Springfield and moved into the same house they had lived in before, 606 Mill Street. LeRoy stayed and worked in Portland until that autumn. When he came back, he returned to Cluster's.

By 1945, Emily and Mary had moved to 1258 E Street in Springfield. Mary worked at the New Service Laundry.

LeRoy went to work in a sawmill on Mill Street in 1946. Here he met Chauncey Pettibone. They would be acquainted for many years to come.

That year, 1946, the Crabtrees took a trip back to Nebraska. En route they stopped and visited Johnie and Berenice at Sterling, Colorado. In the area of Long



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs with Marie Crabtree Bivens Cissna and Mary Crabtree. Marie is holding her daughter, Lisa Cissna. Marie is LeRoy and Ollie's second daughter and Cal Bivens' mother.



Mary Ellen Crabtree Adams; her father, LeRoy Crabtree; her sister Hazel Crabtree Ramey holding daughter Edie; Mildred Briggs Lufburrow, Myrtle's daughter and cousin of Mary Ellen and Hazel.



LeRoy Crabtree, David Bivens, Olive Crabtree, and Cal Bivens. Christmas time 1970. Taken at Yoncalla, Grandpa and Grandma's home. Photo: Cal Bivens.



Back Row: Cal Bivens, Bryan Cissna, Olive Crabtree, Pam Ramirez, Marie (Cal's Mom) Shoemaker, LeRoy Crabtree. Front: Rick Cissna, David Bivens, Lisa Cissna. Christmas 1977. Taken at mom's house, Little Fall Creek, Oregon. Photo: Cal Bivens.

Pine, Nebraska, they visited LeRoy's Higginson cousins: John Reynolds, Myrtle (Reynolds) Billings, Mae (Reynolds) Horton, Edith (Reynolds) Seastrom, and Jessie (Reynolds) Sorbon.

Ken McElroy, Ollie's brother, lived in Long Pine, also. Fannie Adams, Ollie's grandmother, still lived at Schuyler. All were visited. There is a photo of Mary Ellen, Marie, Vernon, and Hazel sitting one behind the other on a horse, taken at John Reynolds' place.

I am not certain if LeRoy and Ollie helped Johnie and Berenice move to Oregon, but '46 is the year they came out. There was another reunion on that occasion. Myrtie came out to visit, Mary was here, LeRoy, and now Johnie. The four got together with their mother, Emily, an occasion that was commemorated with photos.

In 1947, LeRoy went to work for Chauncey and Charles Pettibone, partners in Pettibone Forest Products. The sawmill was located at 1315 Mill St. (Mill and M streets) in Springfield.

Emily Crabtree died in May of 1948, and was buried at the Laurel Hill Cemetery. Johnie and Berenice were in Oregon and Myrtie and Irwin drove out from South Dakota to attend the funeral. The family had last been reunited in 1946, shortly after Johnie and Berenice moved to Oregon from Colorado.

By 1949, LeRoy and Ollie had moved to a house on Hampton Road in Goshen. Their address was Rt.4 Box 210. He drove a truck for Commercial Loading.

Mary Ellen Crabtree married George Clinton Adams, a veteran of the army in the late war, in April 1951. George was a nephew of Cora McElroy, Mary Ellen's grandmother, and first cousin of Ollie McElroy Crabtree, her

mother. In May, Marie (my mother) married Pat Bivens (my father), in Springfield.

That December, Mary Ellen gave birth to a son, Allen Dale Adams, at Dexter. He died that same day and was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery. I am curious how Alan came to be born at Dexter, since George and Mary Ellen were then living on Hampton Road, neighbors of her parents.

By 1951, Chauncey Pettibone had moved to California. He called LeRoy and asked him to come to work for him at the Springfield Lumber Company in Healdsburg. LeRoy and Johnie both took their families and went down. LeRoy's son, Vernon, stayed with Mary Ellen and George for the summer, and got to California in time to start school.

LeRoy worked as a millwright and a planer tender for Pettibone. While in California, he also began to build G&R Lumber in Cloverdale. The superintendent at the G&R site kept pressuring LeRoy to work faster. LeRoy tried to reassure him that everything would come out alright. The situation became increasingly unpleasant and finally LeRoy got disgusted and quit.

In the summer of 1955, LeRoy moved his family back to Oregon. They returned to the Hampton Road address. Soon afterward, he received word that they wanted him back at the G&R site. His reply was simple: No.

Then he heard from Chauncey again. Seems he was running a mill in Princeton, Idaho, for a man named Stitsinger and he wanted LeRoy to come and work for him. So, in 1962, LeRoy and Ollie moved to Idaho, settling in Potlatch. LeRoy resigned from his job as a custodian at the University of Oregon to take the



Vernon Crabtree, LeRoy and Ollie's son, and his wife; Mary Crabtree and her brother, Johnie Crabtree. Mary and Johnie Crabtree are Vernon's Aunt and Uncle.



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, Hazel Crabtree Ramey, LeRoy Crabtree, Mary Ellen Crabtree Adams and son, Willard Ramey with daughter Edie.

job. A year later Stitsinger sold the mill and LeRoy and Ollie returned to Oregon. They settled in Yoncalla, just out of Roseburg.

Here LeRoy acquired a house which they moved into. He fixed it up and sold it, acquiring another

just up the hill from the first. They moved into the second house and remained there. He did buy a third house, on the crest of the same hill. This one he bought for the back taxes, \$300. He then fixed that one up and sold it.

Hazel Crabtree Ramey

I met Hazel, daughter of LeRoy and Ollie Crabtree, when I visited my Grandma in Oregon in the mid-1970s. Hazel drove Grandma and me to the Sea Lions' Cave, Crater Lake, and other places. Hazel got a kick out of taking me to an ice cream stand where the small-sized ice cream cones had three huge scoops. It was almost too much ice cream even for me.

Hazel visited and helped both my grandma and her sister Mary in their senior years. I have called Hazel a number of times as I have worked on this book (Hazel has done extensive family research also), and at one point she said, "I sure miss those two ladies." ❀



Hazel Crabtree Ramey.

Yoncalla was a small town, nestled among some hills off the I-5 corridor. It generally tended to be pretty peaceful. I enjoyed going there to visit Grandpa and Grandma. I can recall sledding down the hill in the snow; the alley behind their place was great for that.

Just beyond the crest of the hill, a short way down the other side, was a pond. There were ducks there and Grandpa liked to go over there and feed them. He raised a small garden behind the house in the back yard, growing some of the tastiest strawberries I ever ate.



Hazel helping her Aunt Mary Crabtree and Aunt Myrtle Crabtree Briggs (my grandma), when they lived in Oregon.



On the right: Hazel and her husband Willard, and their daughter Edie. On the left: Mildred Briggs Lufburrow, Hazel's cousin (my aunt), and my grandma, Myrtle Crabtree Briggs.

He was a soft-spoken man, even-tempered, and had a wry sense of humor. My Grandma was very devoted to him. Whenever she spoke of him you could tell that he was the only one for her.

I enjoyed visiting with her. She told me most of the stories I have related here. She helped me with the family history, allowing me to copy notes and photos from the old leather-bound family album. Her sense of humor was no less keen than his and we shared a good many laughs together as she told me some very funny anecdotes.

LeRoy smoked for many years, always rolling his own cigarettes. I remember the red tobacco tin and papers. The habit eventually was the cause of his emphysema. Health issues forced the both of them to make adjustments in their diets as they got older.

LeRoy, Grandpa, required an oxygen tank in his later years, and he seemed to adjust as well as could be expected. He just seemed to accept it as another part of life, and as was characteristic of him, if there was humor to be found in a situation, he found it. I recall that Grandma let me read a very amusing poem that he had written about "oxycart races."

LeRoy Howard Crabtree, my maternal grandfather, died in the hospital at Roseburg on May 2, 1980. I was at home when my brother, Rick, came to tell me the news. But earlier that day during some quiet time, the news came to me. A feeling had come over me, and I just knew that he was gone.

Olive Lucille McElroy Crabtree, my maternal grandmother, had a



This photo was taken at the funeral of Mary Ellen Crabtree Adams who died of cancer in Springfield, Oregon, July 1993. Left front: Mary Crabtree. Left back: Cal Bivens, Ida Marie Crabtree Shoemaker (Cal's Mom), Mildred McElroy Hunter (Marie's cousin), Vernon LeRoy Crabtree.



LeRoy and Ollie celebrate their January birthdays.

heart condition that she apparently kept secret from her children. That was the impression I got from my mother. She had a heart attack in December of 1988, and went into the hospital at Cottage Grove.

I went to see her when she was in ICU. She was not doing well but she spoke with me and with the nurse. On the following day, I arrived and found Hazel there with her. Hazel was trying to get her to eat, but Grandma would not. I tried my best persuasive technique, got her to chuckle, and she took a little to eat.

I later assisted the staff in transferring her out of ICU. The doctor told the family that her prognosis was poor and it was decided that she would prefer to let nature take its course rather than perform any heroics that would make no difference in the outcome. Her children knew her well and they were unanimous. I knew it was the right thing to do, you just had to know Grandma to know that she would want it no other way. She died on the last day of 1988, what would have been hers and Grandpa's anniversary. They are buried side by side in the cemetery at Yoncalla. It was very hard for me to lose her, I felt a special bond with her.—*Cal Bivens* ❀

Cal Bivens

I was born in Eugene, Oregon. We moved to northern California when I was 2 years old and I spent 7 years growing up in the wine country of Sonoma County. These are some of my fondest memories. We moved back to Oregon when I was 9 and I spent the rest of my youth in the Eugene-Springfield area.

After 2 years in the army I came home and was briefly married. I worked in logging and mills for a few years. I returned to northern California in 1976 and lived there a couple years before coming back to Oregon. While working at Morgan Wood Products there I became the shop steward for the Union.

After returning to Oregon, I attended Lane Community College and left wood products. I worked in an optical lab and then went into the nursing profession and worked there for 11 years on the night shift. My son was born during this time and since both parents worked, he received a certain amount of familiarization with the facilities in which we worked.

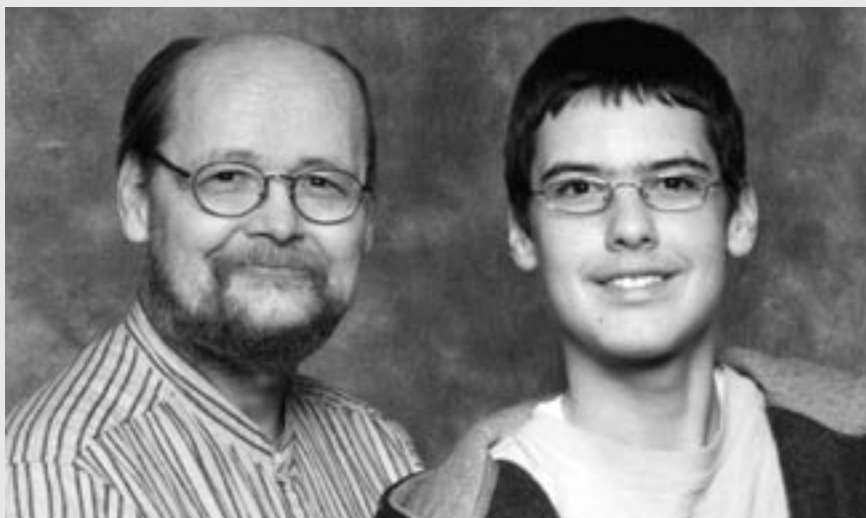
After leaving nursing I went to work as a photographer's assistant for a local studio, which sent me over a good part of this state, seeing places I had never been. I then transferred to the lab where I became a printer. I have watched the nature of the business evolve rapidly over the last 9 years. We now do mostly digital printing and I expect the photography end to be entirely digital within the next couple of years.

I have always had a great interest in history and have been working on genealogy for more than 30 years now (off and on; more on since having the internet). ❀

Note: Special thanks to Cal Bivens. He has contibuted many photos and much of the information in this book.



Jonathan and Cal Bivens, 2002.



Cal Bivens and son Jonathan, 2004.



Mary holding a cat.



4. Mary Ida Crabtree

Mary Ida Crabtree was born in Mondamin, Iowa, September 26, 1906. Family information says she weighed 13 pounds.

Great Aunt Mary never married. I have heard that she promised her father on his deathbed that she would look after her mother. She remained with Emily for many years.

Mary and her mother came to the Eugene-Springfield, Oregon, area in 1937, and lived in Glenwood, the area between Eugene and Springfield. By 1940, they lived at F and Water Streets in Springfield. They remained here perhaps until after the war.

Mary worked as a practical nurse through 1939, perhaps later. After the war she went to work for the New Service Laundry on High Street in Eugene. By this time, she and her mother had moved to 1258 E Street in Springfield. Mary worked at the laundry through 1949, after the death of her mother.

By 1963, she was working as a housekeeper for Judge William



Mary Crabtree Graduation.



Mary Crabtree.
Photos from Ron Horton.

Fort at 815 Willacade Court (on Kelly Butte) and as a janitress at Kaufman's Department Store in Eugene. Mary had a basement apartment at the judge's house. I recall once going up there with Mom. This arrangement remained the same until she retired in 1971.

In her later years Mary's health declined, but her independent nature remained as strong as ever. She was a person of strong opinions but she also giggled like a young girl when viewing a picture of her mother that she thought made her look "so fierce."

Mary died May 22, 1998, in a Eugene, Oregon, nursing home. By her request, there was no funeral. She was almost 92 years old.—*Cal Bivens*

Mama was nearly 15 when Aunt Mary was born and was away teaching a few years after that. She said that Aunt Mary, when small, had trouble pronouncing some letters. One day Mary came running in all excited and said, "Oh, Mama, the willies are all up in the willie bed!"

On another occasion she told about the big bird she had seen, "First he whooped and then he hollered!"—a whooping crane.

When Mama came home on occasion from her "boarding around" teaching, she enjoyed doing up her little sister's hair. Grandma evidently kept vaseline on it to keep it healthy and kept it in braids. Mama enjoyed washing Mary's hair and spreading it out in long, beautiful curly locks.

Aunt Mary and Grandma Crabtree always sent us Christmas presents. One time when we were in Long Pine, Aunt Mary made me a special box. She stuffed cotton under the delicate, pink material she had put around a cigar box.

—*Mildred Briggs Lufburrow*



Sisters: Mary Crabtree and Myrtie Crabtree Briggs.



Mary Ida Crabtree.



Mary Ida Crabtree.



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, Ollie McElroy Crabtree, and Mary Crabtree.



Mary Crabtree.

Great Aunt Mary visited my family in the Detroit suburbs when Grandma was living with us. I remember her as a very pleasant, soft-spoken talker with a twinkle in her eye.

When I visited Grandma in Oregon in the 1970s, I often saw Aunt Mary who lived nearby. There was a strong bond between Aunt Mary and my grandma, but apparently it was better for each to have her own apartment.

In her last years, Aunt Mary corresponded with my mom telling how she forced herself to go walking as she was in continual pain from arthritis and the walking seemed to help.

Several of the new cousins I have exchanged emails with and some of the information I have gotten other places mention Aunt Mary as an interesting correspondent of family information.

Great Aunt Mary died at the age of 91, and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Glenwood, Oregon, the same cemetery where her mother, Ida Higginson Crabtree was buried.

—*Louise (Austin) Smith* ❀



Great Aunt Mary in back of our (Austin) home in Southgate, Michigan.



Mary Crabtree.



Grand Aunt Mary visited me at my apartment in Fenton, Michigan, when I first started teaching in the 1970s. My brother Chuck and myself (Louise) are standing. Great Aunt Mary and my sister Mary are sitting down.

The Crabtree Siblings



1948 photo of Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, John Crabtree, LeRoy Crabtree, and Mary Crabtree at the funeral of their mother, Ida.



John Crabtree and his sister Mary.



Back: John, Mary. Front: LeRoy and Ollie.



Mary, Leroy, Johnie, Myrtle in Oregon.



John Crabtree and his sister, Myrtle.



Myrtle Crabtree Briggs, Johnie Crabtree, and Mary Crabtree.

Recipes

I still remember the tasty meatloaf with a wonderful topping that Aunt Mary made when I visited Grandma in Oregon. The recipe follows.

Grand Aunt Mary Crabtree's Every Day Meatloaf

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup dry bread crumbs

1 cup milk

1½ pounds ground beef

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup grated onion

1 ts. salt

$\frac{1}{2}$ ts. sage

Soak crumbs in milk.

1. Mix all ingredients.
2. Put in a loaf pan.
3. Spread Piquant sauce on top.
4. Bake 350 degrees for an hour.

Piquant Sauce

3 T. brown sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup catsup

$\frac{1}{4}$ ts. nutmeg

1 ts. dry mustard

Great Grandma's Cookies were a big hit with her Briggs Grandchildren. Here is the recipe as I found it.

Great Grandma Ida Crabtree's Cookies

1 cup shortening

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 cup milk

1 ts. nutmeg (scant)

1 ts. vanilla

2 ts. B.P.

Flour

Roll out, cut, and put on baking pans.
Brush with cream and stick full of raisins.
