
Chapter 4

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Higginson and Family

Soon after Edward and Mary were married, they moved to Illinois, where their eldest son, John, was born, in June 1855.

In 1860, Edward Higginson and his family lived in Lodi, Illinois, and were neighbors of Richard and Mary Crabtree. Edward was a laborer and rented a home, but owned no real property. The 1860 census records show the value of his personal estate as \$100, indicating they were far from affluent. The family name was misspelled as *Hickerson* in the 1860 census.

Edward Enters the Civil War

Though not a citizen of the United States at the time, Edward served in the Civil War. On January 6, 1862, Edward Higginson, 5'10" tall, of light complexion, with brown eyes and brown hair, a farmer, enlisted in the army as a private in Company A, 23rd regiment, Illinois Volunteers, in Chicago. He was enlisted by Captain Patrick J. McDermott to serve three years.

At the time Edward enlisted, he and Mary, had three children: John, 7, James, 6, and Caroline, 3. Edward David was born two months later, in March.

I believe that the enlistment bonus offered by the state of Illinois was a motivator to enlist. The Higginsons appear to have

been fairly poor and the bonus was equal to several months wages.

Also the Homestead Act would be accessible to him.—*Cal Bivens*

During the war, Mary and her children lived on the second floor of the Crabtree's house.—Myrtie Crabtree Briggs (See Chapter 1)

Grandma Myrtie also told me (Louise) that Mary was converted at one of Dwight L. Moody's meetings during the Civil War.

D. L. Moody, a famous evangelist from 1860 to 1899, preached in the Chicago area during the time of the Civil War, as well as spent time at Camp Douglas with Union soldiers and prisoners-of-war. Camp Douglas is the first place Edward went after he enlisted.

Edward was furloughed home three or four times during his service in the army.

Edward is Wounded

Edward was hit with a minie ball in his leg and arm during fighting at Maryland Heights, Maryland, in the Harper's Ferry battle, in July of 1864. He was discharged almost a year later at West Philadelphia on June 26, 1865, after spending time in four different hospitals.

The leg seems to have given him trouble the rest of his life. The arm wound was near the wrist. (Chapter 6 has more information on Edward in the Civil War.)

Where Did Mary Live During the Civil War?

It is very likely the Higginson's lived with the Crabtree family during the Civil War.

We can see their close proximity just before the outbreak of the war, the two men going to file their declarations of intention on the same day, and then the Blackberry link: Edward's family moved to that place sometime late in the war. Later the place is connected to Elijah Crabtree, Rachel's father.

Plus it has the ring of truth. A family who has the means takes in a woman and her small children while her husband is away at war. It was probably not an uncommon scene.

Richard and Mary Crabtree by this time lived alone. The Higginsons lived nearby in a rented place. The close proximity would suggest a possibility that when Edward went off to war that perhaps Mary and the kids stayed with Richard and Mary for awhile. Alternatively, Richard and Mary may have put them in touch with Arnold and Rachel Crabtree, and they stayed with them. Both possibilities seem more real now, anyway.—*Cal Bivens* ❀

Dwight Lyman Moody, Evangelist

*If I could only make men understand the real meaning of the words of the apostle John—"GOD IS LOVE," (1 John 4:8), I would take that single text, and would go up and down the world proclaiming this glorious truth. If you can convince a man that you love him you have won his heart. If we could really make people believe that God loves them, how we should find them crowding into the kingdom of heaven! The trouble is that men think God hates them; and so they are all the time running away from Him.—from Dwight L. Moody's book, *The Way to God**

Mary stayed in the US and was converted in Moody's meeting.
—Myrtie Briggs, granddaughter

At the start of the Civil War, Dwight Moody, 24, held meetings and distributed gospels and tracts among the soldiers and prisoners-of-war quartered in Camp Douglas, near the southern limits of Chicago.

Camp Douglas, a recruit center turned prisoner-of-war camp, was where Edward Higginson was first stationed when he enlisted in the Civil War in 1862 (Chapter 6). This may be where Edward first had contact with Moody's ministry.

During the Civil War, Mr. Moody was back at his Chicago Sunday School from time to time, and also on battlefields on nine occasions. At the Battle of Murfreesboro in January, 1863, under fire, Moody went among the wounded and dying asking, "Are you a Christian?"

Seventeen year old Dwight L. Moody could scarcely read and write when he went to work at his uncle's shoestore in Boston,

in 1854. In exchange for the shoe clerk job, Dwight was required to attend church.

One Saturday, in April of 1855, Sunday School teacher Edward Kimball walked into the shoe store, where Moody was working.

"I simply told him of Christ's love for him, and the love Christ wanted in return...and there in the back of that store in Boston, D. L. Moody gave himself and his life to Christ," Mr. Kimball said.

In 1856, nineteen year old Dwight moved to Chicago where another uncle found him a job as a salesclerk in Wiswall's boot and shoestore. Moody was soon doing evangelism work wherever he found the opportunity.

In 1858, Dwight started a Sunday School for poor children in an abandoned freight car on Chicago's north side, near a crime-ridden area called the Sands or Little Hell. From the freight car they moved to an old vacant saloon. Soon the school became so large that the former Mayor of Chicago gave him the hall over the city's North Market for his meetings, rent free.

By the middle of 1860, the Sunday School at North Market Hall and Dwight's YMCA work took up so much time, that Moody quit his job as a shoe salesman, to be a full time evangelist.

The Mission continued to grow and by 1862, there were 450 children attending regularly. Moody also held prayer meetings for their parents.

In 1864, the Illinois Street Church, (today known as Moody Church) was built and started, as the North Hall Mission had burned and a larger place was needed. On Friday nights,

members would gather for fellowship and prayer—an important weekly church activity. Moody usually preached there when he was in Chicago on a Sunday.

After the war, Mr. Moody returned to Chicago and again devoted himself to evangelism. By the end of his life he had held evangelistic meetings in the British Isles as well as a number of cities in the United States.

"Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.

"I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever."

—Dwight L. Moody ❀





DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
INVALID PENSION.

I certify, That in conformity with the Law of the United

Edward Higginson late Private in Company
A of the 23rd Regt. Illinois Vols. is in-
scribed on the Pension List, Roll of the Chicago Ills
Agency, at the rate of Eight dollars per month,
to commence on the Twenty Sixth day of June
one thousand eight hundred and sixty Two. No sale, transfer,
or mortgage of any description whatever, of the whole or any part of
the pension payable in virtue of this certificate, is of any legal or
binding force against either the pensioner or the United States.

Given at the Department of the Interior,
this First day
of December one thousand
eight hundred and sixty Two.

H. V. Wells
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Read and countersigned.
Joseph W. Bennett
COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

Edward Higginson's Invalid Pension document. Copy from Dorlene Tolle Higginson.

Edward's family had moved to Blackberry (now called Elburn), sometime before his discharge. Blackberry is on the Southeast corner of Virgil township and Blackberry Station.

Daughter Ida Emily, my great grandmother, was born in Lodi, Illinois, the year after Edward returned from the Civil War. Emily remembered sitting on her father's lap as a small girl

Iowa News

1871: During the dry summer, the potato bug made an appearance. The only way they could be got rid of was to pick the bugs off the plants by hand and drop them into a bucket of kerosene.

1872: There was a big train wreck about seven miles east of Iowa Falls in April of 1872. An engine and several cars derailed; the engine was buried in the mud.

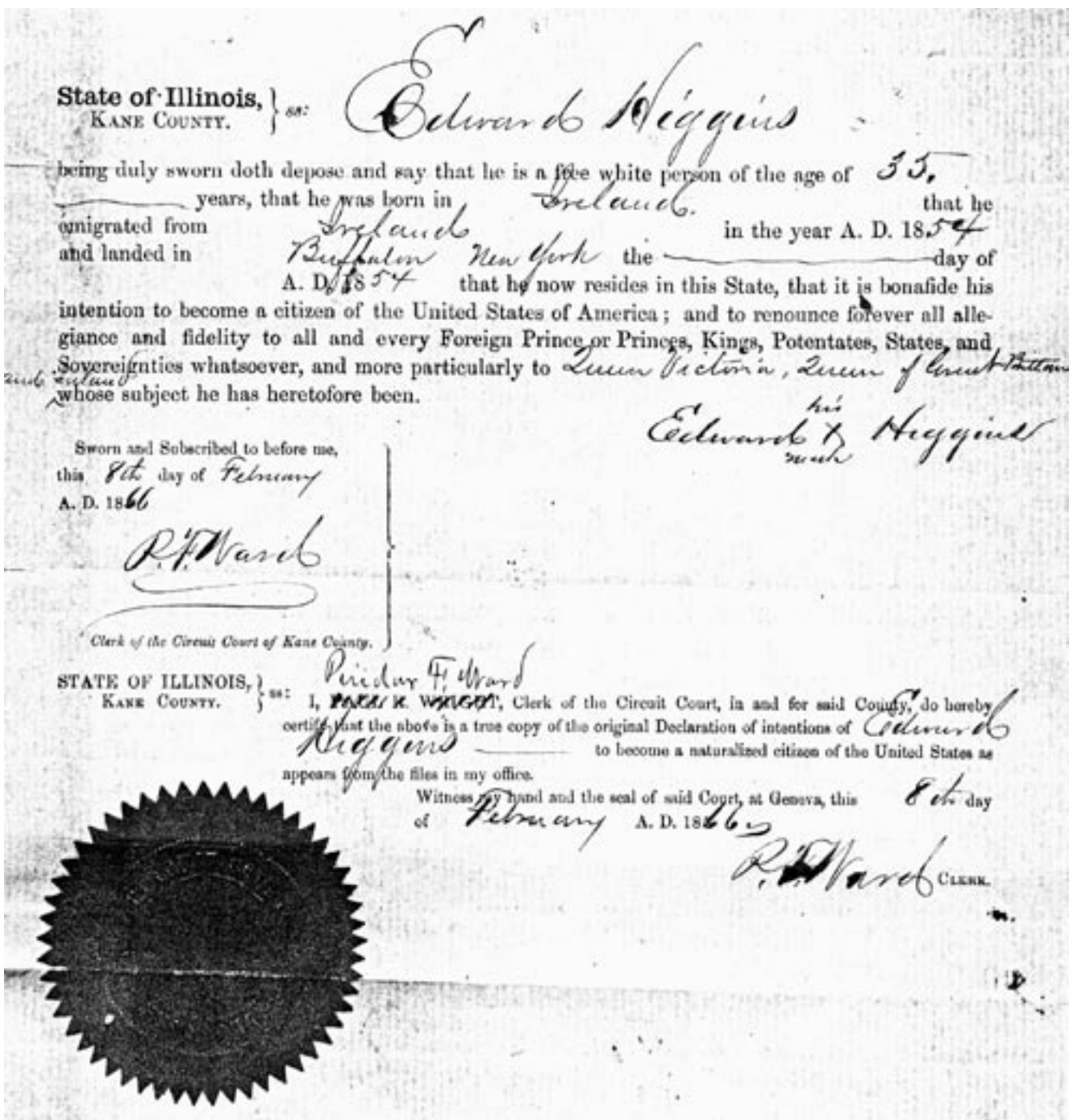
1873: Cholera broke out in the hogs, and epizootic, a type of flu, infected the horses round about in that same year. Large numbers of both animals were lost. By February of 1873, the epizootic was widespread and had infected many humans.—Cal Bivens ❀

and being able to stick her thumb in the hole near his wrist.

The same year Ida was born, 1866, Edward submitted a written Declaration of Intent to become an American citizen. It appears that Edward from Ireland, and his friend Arnold from New Brunswick, Canada, went on the same day to Kane County, to sign their Declaration of Intent.

By 1869, the Higginson family had moved to Iowa, where they lived about three miles southwest of Iowa Falls. Edward was a tenant farmer and the family lived on a rented farm. Edward and Mary's sixth child, Isabelle was born in Alden, near Iowa Falls.

Edward died in Iowa Falls, in Hardin County, Iowa, in September of 1873, on a Saturday night, from the effect of the leg wound and lung disease he had gotten in the Civil War; he was in his early 40s.



Edward Higginson's Declaration of Intent to become a US Citizen. This document gives Edward's last name as Higgins, but army documents all have Higginson, as do earlier and later census reports. One source indicates that the actual Citizenship paper is filed under Higginson. Thank you to Dorlene Tolle Higginson for a copy of the original.

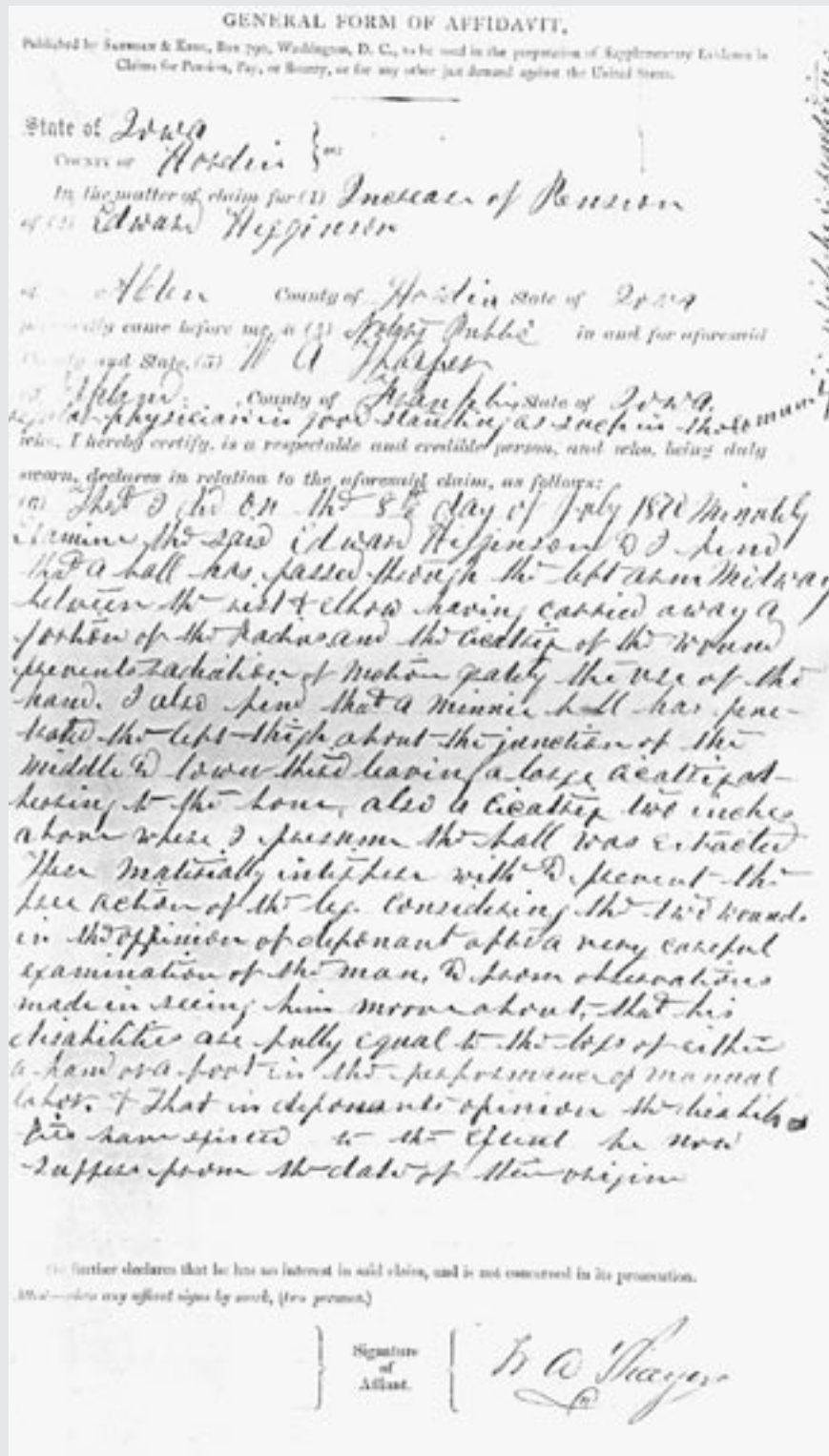
Edward Higginson's Obituary
Iowa Falls Sentinel
 Wednesday, October 1, 1873:
 Died: Edward Higginson, who lived three and a half miles southwest of Iowa Falls, died on Saturday night and was buried in the cemetery at Iowa Falls on Monday afternoon.

Mr. H. was one of the soldier boys in the late Rebellion, and the wounds he received there have finally caused his death.
 His last words were: "O, glory to God! How good it is to trust in Jesus." Glorious words for a dying man to utter. The deceased

leaves a wife and six children in circumstances illy adapted to the wants of life. The sympathies of many friends are with them.

Note: A librarian at the Iowa Falls Public Library sent this piece to Dorlene Tolle Higginson.

Dr. Thayer's Report on Edward's War Wounds



General form of Affidavit

State of Iowa, County of Hardin

In the matter of claim for

- 1) Increase of pension of
- 2) Edward Higginson of Alden County of Hardin State of Iowa personally came before me
- 4) Notary Public in and for aforesaid County and State
- 5) W. A. Thayer, county of Franklin, State of Iowa of a regular physician in good standing as such in this community in which he is practicing, who I hereby certify, is a respectable and credible person, and who, being duly sworn, declares in relation to the aforesaid claim, as follows:

6) That I did on the 8th day of July 1870, minutely examine the said Edward Higginson and find that a ball has passed through the left arm midway between the wrist and elbow having carried away a portion of the radius and the cicatrix (scar) of the wound prevents radiation of motion gratefully, the use of the hand. I also find that a minnie ball had penetrated the left thigh about the junction of the middle to lower thigh leaving a large cicatrix (scar) and adhering to the bone also a cicatrix (scar) two inches above where I presume the ball was extracted. These materially interfere with and prevents the free action of the leg. Considering the two wounds in the opinion of deponent after a very careful examination of the man, and from observations made in seeing him move about that his disabilities are fully equal to the loss of either a hand or a foot in the performance of manual labor that in deponents opinion the disabilities have existed to the extent he now suffers from the date of their origin.—W. A. Thayer ❀

Dr. Thayer's report on Edward's wounds for an affidavit for an invalid pension in 1870.—from Dorlene Tolle Higginson. The copy of Dr. Dodson's report is in the Appendix. (Thanks to Ron Horton for helping me figure out some of the words.)

Affadavit of Cynthia Wallace for Mary Higginson

Stamp: Pension office October 23, 1882

State of Iowa, Hardin County

I Cynthia M. Wallace first being duly sworn on oath depose and say that I am a resident of Wright County, Iowa. My Post Office address being Dry Lake in said County.

That I am of the age of thirty nine yr and that I am personally acquainted with Mary Higginson of Iowa Falls, Hardin County, Iowa and was acquainted with her husband Edward Higginson during his life time. That said Edward Higginson at the time of his death was residing near Iowa Falls in the county of aforesaid.

That I first became acquainted with said Mary Higginson and Edward Higginson in the year 1857. They there resided near Lodi in Kane County, Illinois. They there resided and lived together as husband and wife and had one child called John Higginson about 1 1/2 years old. They moved to Iowa together about 13 years ago and located near Iowa Falls in said Hardin County where they resided at the time of Mr. Edward Higginson's death and where the widow Mary Higginson has ever since resided.

The said Edward Higginson drew a pension after the Civil War and was drawing it at the time of his death as I verily believe. I further certify that I am not intrusted in this claim as a relative, creditor or otherwise.

Mrs. Cynthia M. Wallace

Subscribed and sworn to me by Cynthia M. Wallace before me and in my presence this 20th day of December 1881.

Note: Cynthia Wallace was a Crabtree relative. She was born Cynthia Fillmore and married Arnold Bassett Hughet Wallace in 1864, in Kane County, Illinois. Arnold Wallace was the grandson of Richard and Mary Crabtree who lived two houses away from Edward and Mary Higginson in Illinois. The Fillmore Family was one of several families that moved from New Brunswick to Illinois when the Crabtrees did. There is more about the Fillmore Family in Part V: Chapter 4. ❀



The copy of this letter is from Dorlene Tolle Higginson.

Letters from Finley Smith on Mary's Behalf

Here are the contents of both of Finley Smith's letters, including spelling and lack of punctuation:

Sanford Keya Paha Co. Nebraska June 6, 1889

Commissioner of pensions
Dear Cemch

I take in hand to write to you in behalf of Mary Higginson widow of Edward Higginson private in Co A 23 Illis. Vol. said Edward Higginson was wounded twice, and contracted other disability in line of duty, was drawing a pension of eighteen dollars a month at time of his death in sept. 1873.

Said Mary Higginson applied for a pension immediately after

his death, and has been unable to receive the pension on account of been unable to find any of her husband's comrades or officers. the regiment was made up in Chicago, Ill. and they lived in Kane Co Ill. so they were not acquainted with any one in the reigiment.

I live a near neighbour to this party and think it a shame a war widow should have to hunt up such evidence that it is impossible for her to find. she is entirly dependent and has found all the evidence called for unless those comrades and that is the grounds it was rejected on. she has proven by Doc afidvit that he Died from the effects of his wounds and lung

disease. his pension certificate and discharge paper were called for at Washington and they have never been returned. No. of claim 212367 (pending widow). No. of pension certificate: 54045.

I have no personal intrest in this case and am no relation to her. only I would like to see this widow get her rights as she is an old woman and entirely dependent. please to give this your kind attention and oblidge me. Finley Smith

Stamped at U. S. Pension Office, June 12, 1889

Mr. Commissioner, Dear Sir, I want to ask you a few questions.

Why is it required of this widow to prove such impossibilities about getting her husband's commander? to get her just dues. anyone knows that it is impossible at this late day to get such evidence how would I or you get such evidence if we should be called on to do so it is suposed that when a man goes into the army he is taken in as an able bodied man. this man was wounded twice, contracted lung disease in the service, was drawing a pension of eighteen dollars a month for wounds and lung disease.

There surely must be something wrong about this matter that she cannot get her pension. she is a woman of good character and well respected in the neighborhood she lives. I would like to see her get her just dues. I commend this case in to your hands hoping you will look it up and see that this widow gets justice. as a commorade
Yours respectfully,
Finley Smith ❀

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Finley Smith wrote two letters on Mary's behalf. Here is a portion of one of the documents. Again, thank you to Dorlene Tolle Higginson for a copy of the letters.

In 1981, Mrs. Warren E. (Betty) Kness of Iowa Falls, made an extensive search for the burial place of Edward Higginson.

Finally, a friend of hers found a list on a closet shelf in the Legion Hall with about 25 names including the name of Edward Higginson and the statement: *This list of names are people we have been unable to find their graves in Union Cemetery.* (Nothing to do with the Union of the Civil War)—*information from Dorlene Tolle Higginson.*

After Edward died, Mary and the children remained in Iowa.
Children of Edward and Mary:
 John W.
 James L.
 Carolyn (Carrie) L.
 Edward David
 Ida Emily
 Isabelle Laura

The Higginsons move to Nebraska

In 1882, Edward and Mary's daughter, Carrie Higginson, married Charley Williams, in Hardin County, Iowa.

Then in 1884, Charley and Carrie Williams, accompanied by Ida Emily, Carrie's sister, made the arduous journey from Iowa, to Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

What exactly attracted them is hard to say. Allen Silas Williams, Charlie's father, may have gone out earlier. There were a lot of promotions going on to get people to go west, the railroads being among the promoters.

Charley and Carrie's eldest child, Mae, was born at Ainsworth on the way to their property. They had a homestead at Darnall, near the Crabtrees.

About 1885, Mary, Isabelle, and perhaps Jim and Edward, went by covered wagon to Keya Paha County, Nebraska, where

Mary homesteaded 160 acres. She did not want to remarry until her children were raised. That November, Isabelle married.

The 1885 census indicates one family (Higginson) and three dwellings. That may mean they were originally all on the same homestead. Then the family spread out.

Mary's Application for a Widow's Pension

On October 21, 1873, in Hardin County, Iowa, Mary Higginson, appeared before district court clerk, James M. Boyd, to file a Declaration for an Original Pension of a Widow with children under sixteen years of age.

In her petition she referred to Edward's invalid pension: certificate No. 54045, and that Edward died from the effects of his wounds in September of 1873.

She swore to the fact that she was married under the name of Mary Donaldson to Edward

Higginson on May 10, 1854, in Chippawa, C.W. by a Reverend. The pension office took her word and did not require a certification of the record.

Mary listed her children under the age of 16:

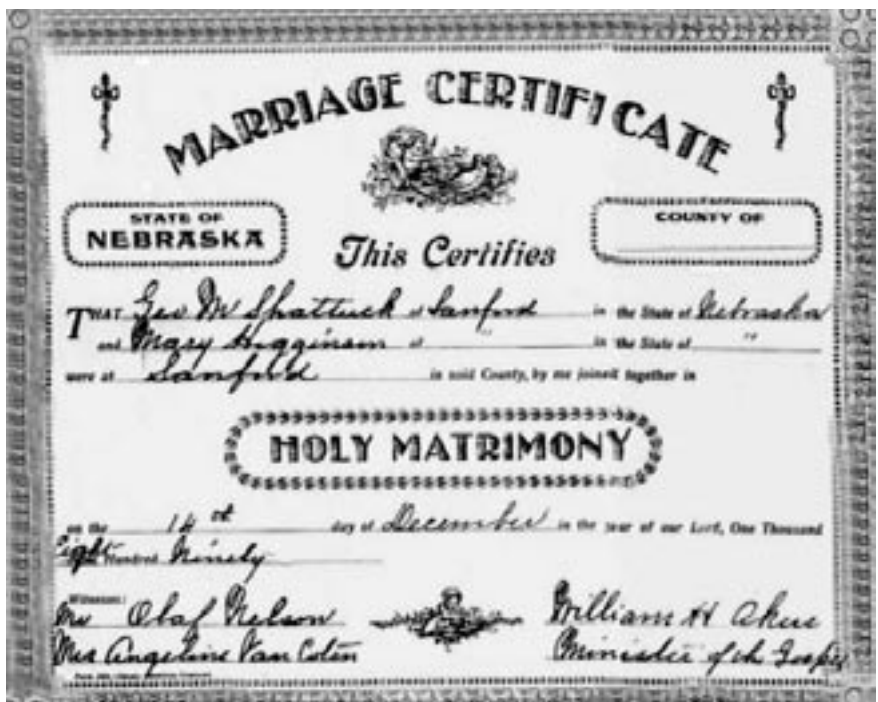
Caroline, born December 8, 1859
 Edward, born March 10, 1862
 Ida E., born June 1, 1866
 Isabella, born October 17, 1869

Mary named S.M. Weaver, attorney, of Iowa Falls, as her legal representative. Mary then signed her name; she could read and write.

Witnesses: Edward (John) and Mary Hutchinson of Iowa Falls.

Mary Marries George Shattuck

In 1890, the children were on their own and Mary married George Shattuck, (remember him?) on December 14, 1890. Two weeks later, Mary's daughter, my great grandma, Ida Emily, married John Crabtree on Christmas Day.



Marriage certificate for George and Mary Higginson Shattuck.

George Shattuck was born about 1835, in Ohio. George's first wife, Phoebe Williams, had died of pneumonia in Nevada, Iowa, in 1887. George was also a veteran of the Civil War, having



Mary Shattuck. Photo from Ron Horton.



Memorial to Mary Higginson Shattuck. Photo from Ron Horton.

served in Co. I, 9th Illinois Cavalry. George had been a neighbor of the Crabtrees in Milford, Iowa. (There is a photo of George Shattuck and more information in the Appendix.)

George and his first wife, Phoebe had nine children: Jenny, Lavant, Laura, Nettie, Henry (Harvey), Nancy, Anna, Lamar, and Maggy. Most of them remained in Iowa. Lavant moved to Nebraska, in the middle or late 1890s.

George Shattuck died in 1899, and Mary was a widow once more.

I (Louise) don't know much about Mary or Grandma Shattuck (as Grandma Myrtie called her), from 1891 until her death in 1916. One story was that Mary and her daughter, Ida, rode their spotted ponies across the Indian's sacred land with permission as the Indians recognized the ponies they rode.

The Crabtree Family moved to their Pine Glen home around 1907, and it seems Mary lived with them in Pine Glen at some point. Mary also lived with Ed and Sophie Higginson.

Mary Donaldson Higginson Shattuck died February 22, 1916.

This note from Dorlene Tolle Higginson was found in the Higginson family papers: *Funeral Service was held at the Stephenson School house at 2 o'clock p.m. and remains was laid in the Stephenson Cemetery, February 23rd 1916.*

The cemetery is on the old Meadville Road 10 miles north of Ainsworth on the northeast corner of an intersection of the Meadville Road (was old Hwy 7) and a section line road. I'm not certain of its name. Highland Grove is a community out that way. I do not know about the Stephenson name and how it connects to the geography.—*Raleigh Emry.* ❀

Mary Shattuck's Obituary

DEATH OF MRS. SHATTUCK

Mrs. Mary Shattuck died at the home of her son Ed Higginson, some 13 miles northeast of Ainsworth on Tuesday of this week, after a lingering illness.

Mary Shattuck was born in Ireland, July 10, 1833. She came to this country twenty-eight or thirty years ago; her husband having died some forty-two years since. She settled in Iowa, and later came to Brown county.

She leaves two sons, J. L. Higginson, of Springview, and E. D. Higginson who lives northeast of Ainsworth; two daughters, Mrs. Wm. Reynolds residing northwest of Springview and Mrs. Crabtree.

The funeral was held Wednesday at 2 p. m., at the school house near the Crabtree home, Rev. Pritchard conducting the services. Interment was made in the cemetery north of Ainsworth.

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Discussion about Mary's Obituary

What "country" did Mary move to 28 or 30 years ago?

The number of years given calculate to about the time she came to Nebraska. There may have been some misunderstanding as to the question at this time of sorrow, or more probably, while editing for space in the newspaper, the statement was muddled.—*Cal Bivens*

Why is George Shattuck not mentioned?

Mary was married to George for more than 10 years. Possibly, it wasn't mentioned due to space considerations.—*Cal Bivens*

Was Mary living at son Edward Higginson's or daughter Ida Crabtree's when she died? Or did Mary die while visiting her daughter, Ida Crabtree?

Raleigh Emry:

The newspaper article indicates that Mary died at the home of Ed Higginson, but then describes the location of Ed Higginson's home as somewhere near (if not the same) as the Crabtree place.

13 miles NE of Ainsworth (as the crow flies) is in the general vicinity of the old Crabtree home; exactly 13.6 miles from the corner of Main and Hwy. 20, in Ainsworth.

The article says Mary's funeral service was at a school house nearby the Crabtree home, which seemed to indicate our old school, District 26. There were several rural school houses out NE of Ainsworth so any could have been possible.

The only thing I'm fairly certain of is the location of her grave as I believe we used to visit it and decorate it on

"Decoration Day" when I was a kid, although I haven't been to the grave since then.

Cal Bivens:

Our notes never stated exactly where Mary was living when she died. Or if she died where she was living, as opposed to having died while visiting somewhere.

The 1910 census shows Mary living with the Crabtrees. The 1910 census also puts Edward and Sophie Higginson living in Pine Glen. Ed and Sophie had moved to Johnstown by 1920.

At the time that Mary died, Ed Higginson must still have been living at Pine Glen, near the Crabtrees. I am not sure how much distance 6 homes represents, but that was the number of them between the Higginsons and Crabtrees at Pine Glen in 1910.

Mary most probably was being looked after by both families since they were in fairly close proximity.

Dorlene Tolle Higginson:

My husband remembers well often hearing his father, Edward III say, "Grandma lived with us and was living with us when she died." Which would mean that Mary Shattuck lived with Edward II and Sophie Higginson when she died. Based on an old letter we have, I believe Mary lived with John and Ida Crabtree at an earlier time.

Cousin Raleigh summed it up:

It's interesting to sleuth out the truth. Newspaper reports are often in error, yet they are good evidence unless you have first person reports to rely on. ❀



Pine Glen, where the Crabtree family lived, was about 5 miles east and 12 miles North of Ainsworth. It was 6 miles south of Springview.

Mary Donaldson Higginson Shattuck



Mary Donaldson Higginson Shattuck.

Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?

(Mary's favorite hymn)

John R. Sweney, Eliza E. Hewit

1. I am thinking today of that
beautiful land I shall reach when
the sun goeth down;
When through wonderful grace
by my Savior I stand, Will there be
any stars in my crown?

2. In the strength of the Lord let
me labor and pray, Let me watch
as a winner of souls,
That bright stars may be mine in
the glorious day, When His praise
like the sea billow rolls.

3. O what joy it will be when His
face I behold, Living gems at his
feet to lay down!
It would sweeten my bliss in the
city of gold, Should there be any
stars in my crown.

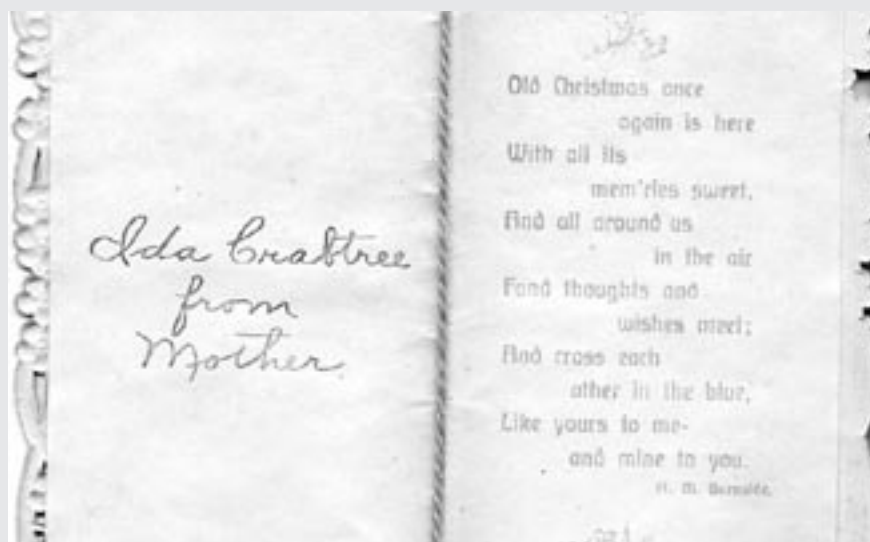
Refrain:

Will there be any stars, any stars
in my crown, When at evening the
sun goeth down?

When I wake with the blest in the
mansions of rest, Will there be any
stars in my crown? ❀



Sanford Church in Nebraska. Mary Higginson Shattuck belonged to this church. Ida Higginson Crabtree with the interesting hat, is in the back, third from the left. John Crabtree, her husband, is second from the right in the back. Mary Higginson Shattuck is the lady in black on the right. Photo and card: Cal Bivens.



A Christmas card that Mary sent to her daughter, Ida Higginson Crabtree.