

Nelson Evans Sears (1876-1948)

Edna Maude Barnhouse (1879-1971)

Written by Grandson Daniel Berton Cooley
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The Sears antecedents of 11th generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: 10-Margaret May Sears b. 23 May 1912, d.18 Jan 1987; 9-Nelson Evans Sears b.15 Aug 1876, d.17 May 1948; 8-Charles Madison Sears b.10 Jun 1851, d.2 Aug 1944; 7 Archibald Sears b.23 Feb 1802, d.28 Oct 1893; 6-James Sears II b.24 Mar 1778, d.28 Feb 1857; 5-Capt. Thomas Sears b.30 Apr 1745, d.26 Apr 1804; 4-James Sears I b.30 Mar 1704, d.17 Mar 1791; 3-Silas Sears Jr b.Ab. 1661, d.Ab. 1732; 2-Lieut. Silas Sears Sr b.Ab. 1641, d.13 Jan 1696/97; 1-Richard Sares, b. Abt May 1595, d.5 Sep 1676

The Barnhouse antecedents of 9th generation author Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: 8-Margaret May Sears b.23 May 1912, d.18 Jan 1987; 7-Edna Maude Barnhouse, b.24 Apr 1879, d.24 Aug 1971; 6-Ira Morgan Barnhouse, b.14 Aug 1848, d.4 Apr 1914; 5-George E. Barnhouse Jr, b.13 Sep 1813, d.21 Nov 1890; 4-George Barnhouse Sr, b.30 Aug 1785, d.20 Jun 1833; 3-Christoph Bornhaus, b.14 Oct 1757, d.1 May 1833; 2-Georg Bornhaus, b.28 Mar 1721, d.15 Jan 1781; 1-Jakob Bornhaus, b.Bef 1700, d.4 Jan 1741/42

Nelson Evans Sears (1876-1948) and Edna Maude Barnhouse (1879-1971)

Nelson Evans Sears b. 15 Aug 1876 in Plano, Kendall County, Illinois;¹ See [Appendix I](#) Nelson E Sears journal; d. 17 May 1948 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado,² bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado;³ m. 20 Sep 1907 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado⁴ to **Edna Maude Barnhouse** b. 24 Apr 1879 in South Bloomingville, Hocking County, Ohio;⁵ bap 28 Aug 1881 in Nelsonville, Athens County, Ohio;⁶; d. 24 Aug 1971 in Brush, Morgan County, Colorado;⁷ bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.⁸



Edna Maude Barnhouse and Nelson Evans Sears

Children

i. **Alva Raymond Sears** b. 22 Mar 1910 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado;⁹ d. 27 Aug 1984 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,¹⁰ (aged 74 cause of death respiratory arrest due to carcinoma lung); bur. 28 Aug 1984 in Akron Cemetery, Washington Co, Colorado;¹¹ he m. 13 Nov 1951 **Ethyl Mary Aitchison-Howard** in Denver, Denver Co, Colorado;¹² b. 22 Feb 1901¹³ in Whitley Bay, Northumberland, England,¹⁴ daughter of Joseph Aitchison and Lillian Fullbeck;¹⁵ d. abt Mar 1972 in Denver, Denver Co, Colorado;¹⁶ bur. unknown probably in Denver Colo.¹⁷

ii. **Margaret May Sears** was born 23 May 1912 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,¹⁸ d. 18 Jan 1987 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado¹⁹ (aged 74; cause of death respiratory arrest due to pneumonia and lung cancer); bur. 21 Jan 1987 in Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado;²⁰ she m. **Clifford Coyne Cooley** 21 Jun 1936 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,²¹ son of Robert Berton Cooley and Carrie Louella Miller; he was b. 15 Jul 1912 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado;²² d. 5 Dec 1970 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado;²³ bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington Co, Colorado.²⁴

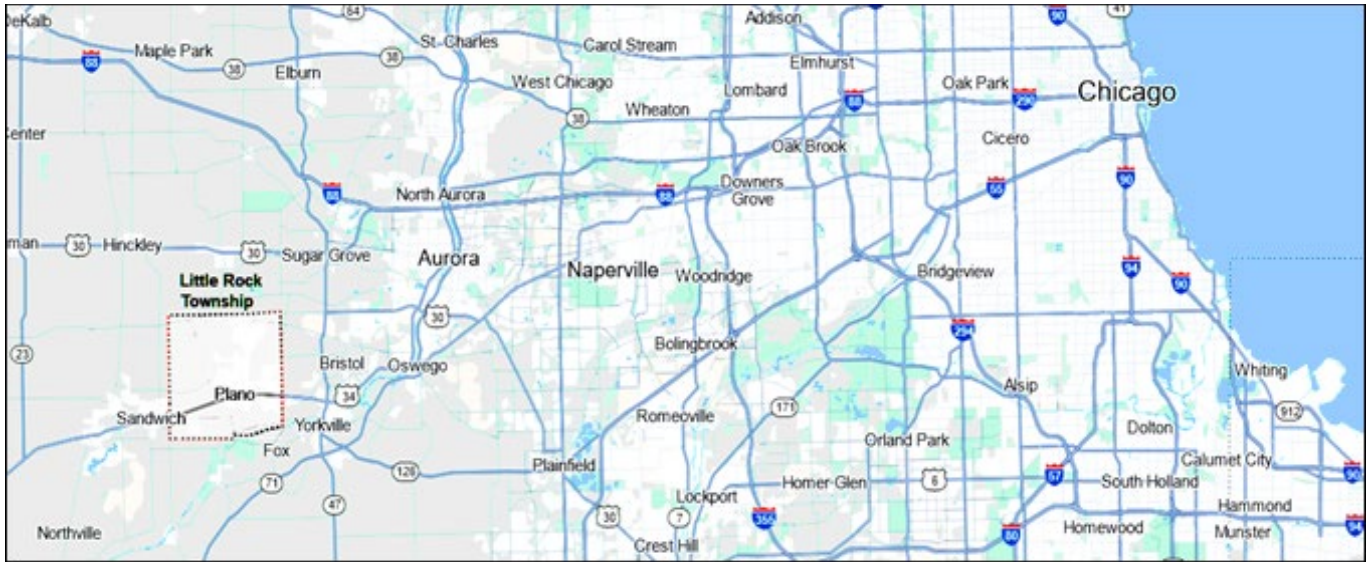
iii. **Faye Eleanor Sears** b. 8 Aug 1914 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,²⁵ d. 3 Apr 1997 in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co, California ae 82,²⁶ bur. about Apr 1997 in California exact location unknown;²⁷ She m(1) **Luke Homer Covington** 7 Apr 1933 in Sterling, Logan Co, Colorado,²⁸ son of Samuel Everett Covington and Opal Elizabeth Lee; div. abt 1936; Luke was b. 27 Apr 1912 in Decatur County Iowa;²⁹ d. 2 Mar 1976 in Evergreen, Jefferson Co, Colorado;³⁰ bur. unknown, probably Jefferson County, Colorado; Faye m(2) **Paul M Johnston** 19 Dec 1937 in Sterling, Logan Co, Colorado,³¹ son of Lawrence Emery Johnston and Mattie Belle Merrick. Paul was b. 25 Nov 1899;³² in Grant Township, Ringgold Co, Iowa³³ d. abt Jan 1962,³⁴ bur. Riverside Cem, Ft Morgan, Morgan Co, Colorado.³⁵

Nelson Evans Sears (1876 – 1948)

Just 14 days after Colorado was admitted to the Union, Nelson Evans Sears was born on 15 Aug 1876 in Plano, Little Rock Township, Kendall County, Illinois, to Charles Madison Sears and Catherine Evans. In his journal dated 1895 he said he was born "of English and Welsh parentage".

Indeed, Sears is an English name traceable back to Nelson's ancestor, Richard Sares, who immigrated to Plymouth Colony before 1632. However, while Evans is a common Welsh name, Catherine Evans' ancestor, William Evans, was born in Delgany Parish, Co. Wicklow, Ireland immigrating to Ontario, Canada in 1871. Thus, Nelson's journal should have read "of English and Irish parentage".

Fig 1. Little Rock Township and Plano, Kendall County, Illinois



Tragically, Nelson's mother, Catherine Evans, died one day after he was born. About three years later, Nelson's father, Charles Madison, was married to Celia Chambers on 19 Nov 1879 in Plano.³⁶ A few months later the family of three moved to Scranton, Iowa in 1880 living at- and working on the old John Henning farm two miles from town.

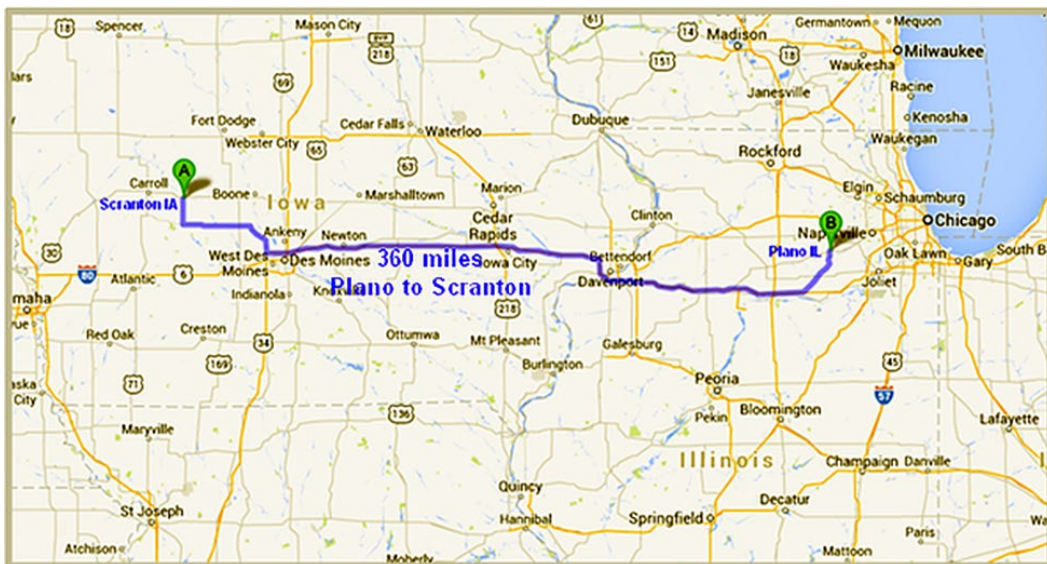


Fig 2. Charles Madison Sears, Celia Chambers, and Nelson Evans Sears family move from Plano Illinois to Scranton Iowa

After just two years in Scranton, Nelson returned to Illinois alone to live with his grandparents, Archibald Sears and Rachel Maria Carver, in Sandwich, Kendall County, five miles west of his hometown, Plano.

In 1899, Nelson went to Aurora, Nebraska, where he began farming 80 acres of land his grandmother had purchased for him in 1897 for \$2,600. He farmed the land for about three years before selling it early in 1901 for \$7,200. He traveled to Colorado in an emigrant car³⁷ chartered by a David Tittler,³⁸ arriving in Akron in March of 1901.

Nelson worked in the harvest fields southwest of Akron for Ira M. Barnhouse, his future father-in-law. After the harvest, he briefly traveled to California before returning to his father's farm in Aurora, Nebraska, in the fall of 1901.

Two years later, in 1903, he returned to Washington County, Colorado, where he resumed working for Ira M. Barnhouse. In 1907, Nelson was married to Ira's daughter, Edna Maude Barnhouse.

Move to Akron, Colorado

In 1909, Nelson and Edna moved to the town of Akron, Washington County, Colorado, while remaining active in farming and land transactions in the western part of the county. There, Nelson purchased Lots 1, 2, and 3 on Golden Street (now Date Avenue) and Lots 10, 11, and 12 on Gunnison Street (now East 5th Street), Block 11, in the Original Town of Akron..³⁹



Fig 3. The Nelson Sears's house at Golden and Gunnison (present 5th & Date) about 1939

On 22 Mar 1910 Nelson and Edna's first child, Alva Raymond Sears, was born in Akron. Their second child, Margaret May Sears, was born 23 May 1912, and their third and last child, Faye Eleanor Sears, was born 8 Aug 1914, both also in Akron.



Fig 4. Nelson Evans Sears, unidentified young man, Alva (in shadow), Maude Barnhouse, Faye and Margaret (est. 1916)



Fig 5 Nelson Evans Sears, Alva Raymond Sears, Margaret May Sears, Edna Maude Barnhouse, and Faye Eleanor Sears. Time of picture about 1941 just before Alva was conscripted for duty in World War II (served in England).

Nelson Sears Property Acquisitions in western Washington County

On 17 May 1909 Nelson “proved up” on the southern half of the southeast quarter of Section 3, and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 10 both in Township 1S of Range 55W, Washington County, Colorado. He was issued Homestead Certificate No. 0585 from the Register of the Land Office at Sterling, Colorado.

Fig 6 BLM Records showing Nelson Sears’ Land Acquisitions in Washington County⁴⁰

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	277460	SEARS, NELSON E	6/18/1912	015094	CO	6th PM	001S - 055W	E½NE¼	10	Washington
	62645	SEARS, NELSON E	5/17/1909	0585	CO	6th PM	001S - 055W	S½SE¼	3	Washington
							001S - 055W	W½NE¼	10	Washington
	439514	SEARS, NELSON F	10/30/1914	01224	CO	6th PM	001S - 054W	E½SW¼	7	Washington
							001S - 054W	Lot/Trct 3	7	Washington
							001S - 054W	Lot/Trct 4	7	Washington

On 18 Jun 1912 Nelson purchased the eastern half of the NW quarter of Sec 10, Twp 1S, Range 55W. By the end of that year he owned the northeast quarter of Section 10 and the adjacent northern half of the southeast quarter. All of Nelson's land was adjacent to land owned by his father-in-law, Ira M. Barnhouse.

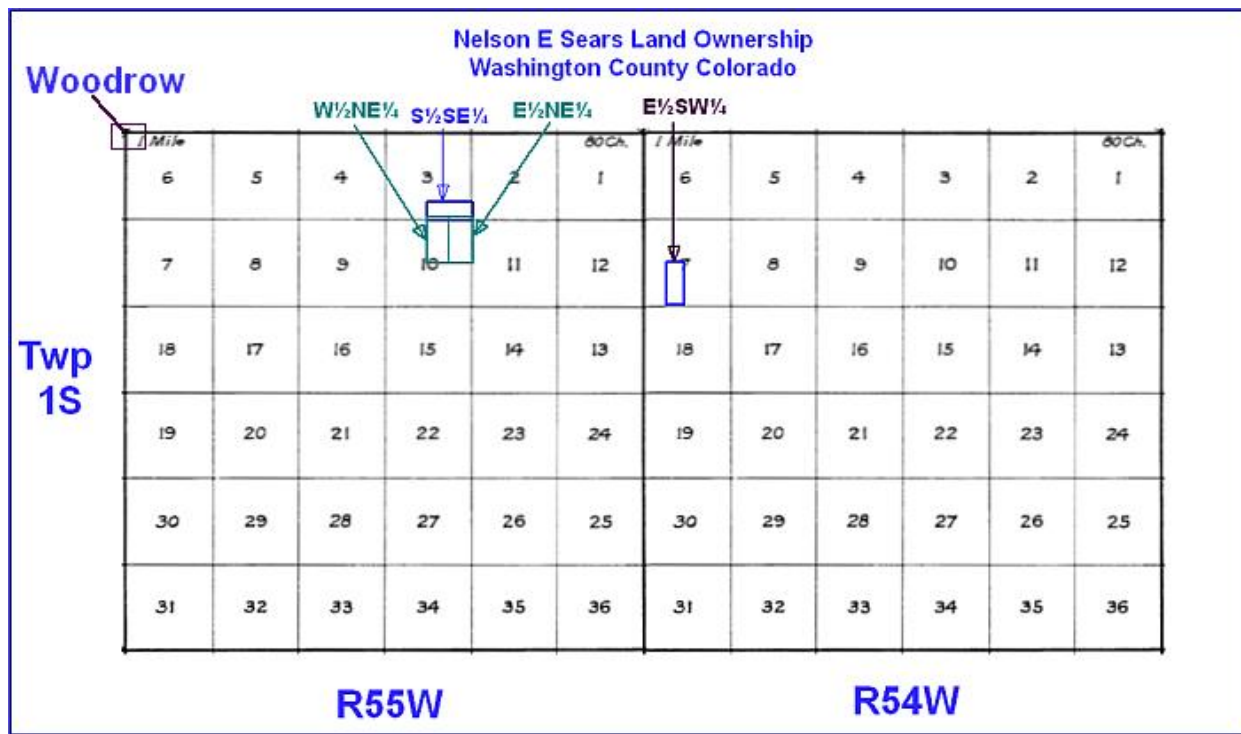


Fig 7. Nelson E Sears land ownership in the far western part of Washington County

Rural Free Delivery (RFD)

In 1914, Nelson began working for the Rural Free Delivery (RFD) system of the U.S. Post Office. (RFD-[Appendix II](#)). He started carrying mail on 11 Sep 1914, along Rural Route 1, which ran northwest from Akron.⁴¹

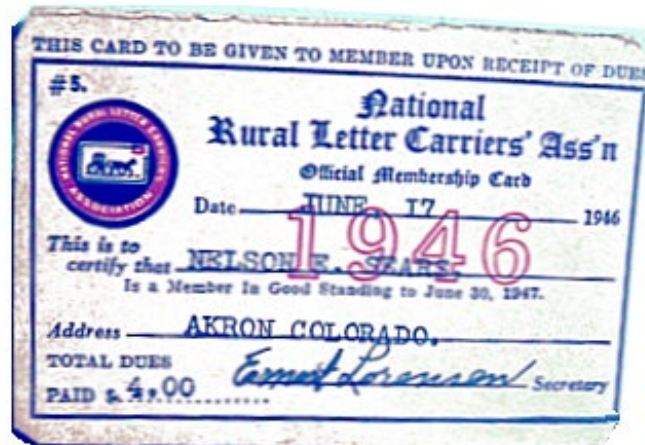


Fig 8. Nelson E Sears National Rural Letter Carriers' Assn
His membership extended after he had quit

While Nelson was not the first carrier on the route, an article in the Akron Pioneer Press on 29 May 1914, noted the route's opening:

The postmaster requests all patrons of Rural Route No. 1 to have their boxes in place ready for the reception of mail on **Monday, June 1 [1914]**. The carrier will make his initial trip on that day, and thereafter the route will be served on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week. On each Saturday, the carrier will be at the post office and will deliver route mail to patrons calling for it.

In the 26 Nov 1915 edition of the *Akron Pioneer Press* the following notice appeared:

Rural Route Extended. The extension of Rural Route No. 1 a distance of two miles northwest and one mile north will become effective on December 1st [1915].

Nelson carried mail for 25 years, retiring in 1941.

Washington County Justice of the Peace

After retiring from the U.S. Post Office, Nelson became the Justice of the Peace⁴² for Washington County, Colorado, a position he retained until his death, 17 May 1948. His office was in the Washington County Courthouse, where, at one point, his desk was located on the staircase landing between the first and second floors..

Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F)

Nelson was an active member of the Akron chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.)⁴³ According to a "30" pin (Fig 8) he was initiated into the order 10 Mar 1910. He rose quickly through the ranks serving as Vice Grand Marshall beginning Thursday night, 2 Jan 1913.⁴⁴ He was again installed in that position on Thursday evening, 1 Jan 1914.⁴⁵



Fig 9. Nelson Sears IOOF pin Chapter 30, Akron Colorado



Fig. 10 Nelson Sears' IOOF Scabbard in Akron Museum

Nelson Sears Death

On 17 May 1948 Nelson E. Sears died of "acute decompensation", that is, acute decompensated heart failure in modern terms.⁴⁶ The underlying causes were cardiovascular disease and hypertension.



Fig 10. Nelson E Sears and Edna M Barnhouse gravestone located near Akron Colorado⁴⁷



Fig 11. Nelson Sears' IOOF gravestone dagger compared with one in good condition. The initials F-L-T stand for Friendship, Love, and Truth

Edna Maude Barnhouse (1876 – 1948)

In the same month Cleveland, Ohio became the world's first city to be lighted electrically, Edna Maude Barnhouse was born on April 24, 1879, in Bloomingville, Ohio,⁴⁸ the eldest daughter of Ira Morgan Barnhouse and Mary Francis Albin.⁴⁹ She was known as Maude throughout her life.

See [Appendix III](#) for a chart of Maude's ancestry back to Hessen-Kassel, Holy Roman Empire.



Fig 11a. Edna Maude Barnhouse with her mother
Mary Francis Albin (1828-1914)
(drawing from old photo by Holly Rohne)

She grew up in a time when life was simple but full of challenges. At the age of two, her family moved to Shelby, Nebraska,⁵⁰ where she spent five years before heading west to Colorado. In the spring of 1886, they settled on a homestead near present Woodrow, about 35 miles southwest of Akron. See [Appendix IV](#). It was there, in the wide-open spaces on the plains of northeastern Colorado, that Edna grew up and found her place in the world.

On September 20, 1907, Maude was married to Nelson Evans Sears⁵¹, a farmer from Aurora, Nebraska whom had worked for Maude's father in the past.

They lived on their homestead two years before moving into the town of Akron Colorado in 1909. Their family soon grew, with the births of their three children, all in Akron: Alva Raymond (22 Mar 1910-27 Aug 1984), who would later serve in the Armed Forces during World War II; Margaret May (23 May 1912-18 Jan 1987); and Faye Eleanor (8 Aug 1914-3 Apr 1997).

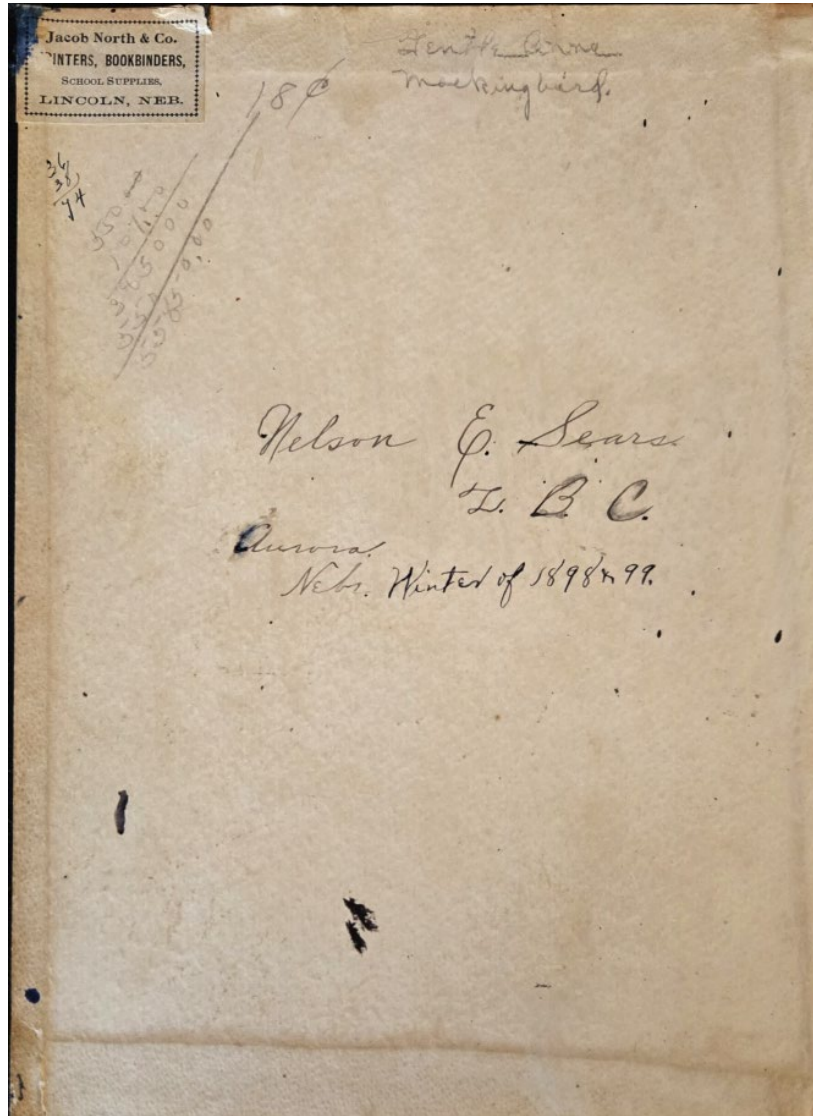
Maude was deeply involved in her community. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and joined the Rebekah Lodge in 1915, where she remained a member for 46 years. See [Appendix V](#). She also lent her time and energy to various civic activities, always willing to help out wherever she could.

When her husband Nelson died in 1948, Maude continued to live in Akron for several years. She later spent time with her daughter Faye in San Francisco before returning to Akron to stay with her daughter Margaret and family. In 1969, as her health began to decline, she moved to Sunset Manor Nursing Home in Brush, Colorado, where she spent her final years.

Maude was a vibrant and curious person, always interested in the world around her. She loved music—especially Country Western; Tex Ritter was her favorite artist—and kept up with current events as long as her health allowed. She lived a long and full life; she died on 24 Aug 1971, aged 92.

Appendix I

Nelson kept a journal the majority of which was family history notes. He gathered the information but did not list sources. Here is the inside front cover. Although "winter of 1898 & 99" is stated, he kept adding information to his death in 1948.



Appendix II

Rural Free Delivery

The United States Post Office Rural Free Delivery (RFD) service began in 1896. Prior to this time, people living in the country had to pick up their mail at the post office in town. The RFD system was made permanent in 1902.

Today it is difficult to envision the isolation that was the lot of farm families in early America. In the days before telephones, radios, or televisions were common, the farmer's main links to the outside world were the mail and the newspapers that came by mail to the nearest post office. Since the mail had to be picked up, this meant a trip to the post office, often involving a day's travel, round-trip. The farmer might delay picking up mail for days, weeks, or even months until the trip could be coupled with one for supplies, food, or equipment.

John Wanamaker of Pennsylvania was the first Postmaster General to advocate rural free delivery (RFD). Although funds were appropriated a month before he left office in 1893, subsequent Postmasters General dragged their feet on inaugurating the new service so that it was 1896 before the first experimental rural delivery routes began in West Virginia, with carriers working out of post offices in Charlestown, Halltown, and Uvilla.

Many transportation events in postal history were marked by great demonstrations: the Pony Express, for example, and scheduled airmail service in 1918. The West Virginia experiment with rural free delivery, however, was launched in relative obscurity and in an atmosphere of hostility. Critics of the plan claimed it was impractical and too expensive to have a postal carrier trudge over rutted roads and through forests trying to deliver mail in all kinds of weather.

However, the farmers, without exception, were delighted with the new service and the new world open to them. After receiving free delivery for a few months, one observed that it would take away part of life to give it up. A Missouri farmer looked back on his life and calculated that, in 15 years, he had traveled 12,000 miles going to and from his post office to get the mail.

A byproduct of rural free delivery was the stimulation it provided to the development of the great American system of roads and highways. A prerequisite for rural delivery was good roads. After hundreds of petitions for rural delivery were turned down by the Post Office because of unserviceable and inaccessible roads, responsible local governments began to extend and improve existing highways. Between 1897 and 1908, these local governments spent an estimated \$72 million on bridges, culverts, and other improvements. In one county in Indiana, farmers themselves paid over \$2,600 to grade and gravel a road in order to qualify for RFD.

The impact of RFD as a cultural and social agent for millions of Americans was even more striking, and, in this respect, rural delivery still is a vital link between industrial and rural America.



Typical early RFD horse-drawn vehicle. The man is not Nelson Sears. – Courtesy USPS

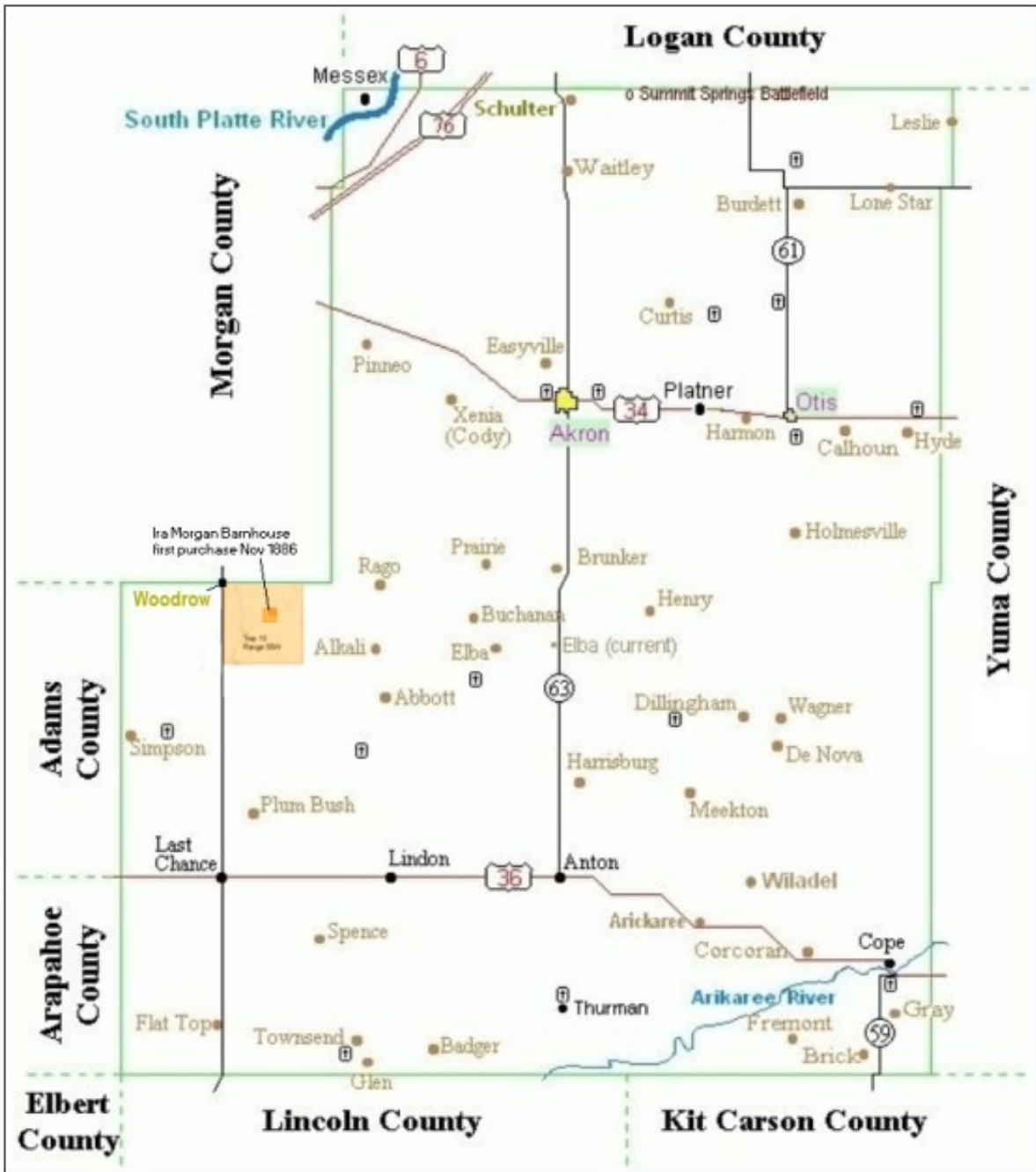


Typical early RFD motor-driven vehicle. The man is not Nelson Sears and the woman is not Edna Barnhouse

Appendix IV

Washington County Colorado before 1910

Showing location of Ira M Barnhouse's first land purchase under the Homestead Act of 1862.



Appendix V

The **Rebekahs**, also known as the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies (IARA), and originally the Daughters of Rebekah is an international service-oriented organization and a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It was initially designed as the female auxiliary of the IOOF, but now allows both female and male members.

It is one of the units of the IOOF, but women need not be related to an Odd Fellow to be a member of the Rebekahs. As long as she meets the moral, ethical and age requirement for admission, any woman may join. In most jurisdictions, women aged 16 or 18 years old and above can join a Rebekah Lodge.

The general duties of the members of this unit are, "To live peaceably, do good unto all, as we have opportunity and especially to obey the Golden Rule, Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."



Rebekah Lodge

In 1850, Schuyler Colfax was tasked to write a Degree for women. The Rebekah Lodges were founded on 20 September 1851, when, after considerable debate, the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows voted to adopt the Rebekah Degree, largely due to the efforts of an Odd Fellow named Schuyler Colfax, U.S. Vice President from 1869 to 1873. The first Rebekah Degrees were honorary awards only, conferred on wives and daughters of Odd Fellows at special Lodge meetings, and recipients were known as "Daughters of Rebekah". The name is taken from the Biblical character of Rebekah.

These early Daughters of Rebekah had no lodge system of their own, and operated in an informal and local manner. On September 25, 1868, the IOOF voted to establish Degree Lodges of the Daughters of Rebekah, mirroring the existing arrangements for their male counterparts. The Daughters were given the right to elect their own officers, charge for initiation fees, collect dues and undertake charitable and benevolent activities. The name was changed to "Degree of Rebekah" in 1874.

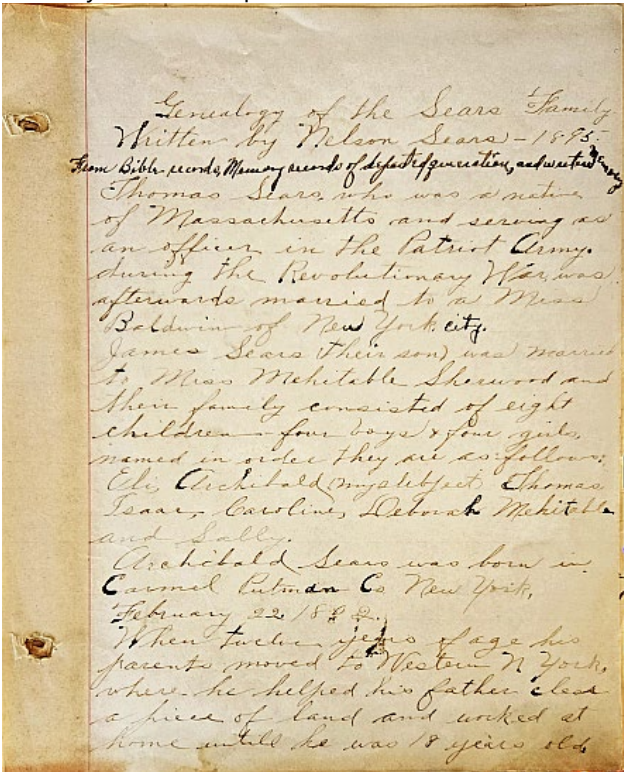
Rebekah Degree

The Rebekah Degree was designed especially for women, and its ceremony and lectures are based upon the characters of notable women in Biblical history. It is named for that woman of early Hebrew history whose kindness and hospitality to a humble and unknown stranger was thought to best portray the nobility and character of women. There are also other notable women of Biblical history whose characters and virtues form the basis for the Rebekah Degree and lessons of life to be followed by the Rebekahs. They were famous for their loyalty, patriotism, for civic and national services, for humanitarianism, and for devotion to God and the cause of righteousness among mankind.

<https://odd-fellows.org/about/rebekahs/>

Endnotes

¹ **NE Sears journal:** "Genealogy of the Sears Family" in a journal written by Nelson Sears dated 1895. The following quote was added at a later time in different ink: "From Bible records, memory records of depicted generation and writer's memory". Journal in possession of Daniel Berton Cooley. See Appendix I for the inside front cover of the journal.



² Nelson E Sears. Certified copy of death record, State of Colorado, Colorado State Department of Public Health; State Registrar or Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics; District No. 237, File No. 5

STATE OF COLORADO
OFFICE OF THE LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH RECORD

1. PLACE OF DEATH A. COUNTY Washington		2. US RES. REC. NO. (If born abroad)		3. US RES. REC. NO. (If born abroad)	
4. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Akron		5. LENGTH OF RES. IN US 37 yrs.		6. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Akron	
7. NAME OF INSTITUTION Victory Hospital		8. STREET ADDRESS		9. RESIDENCE (HOUSE CITY, STATE)	
10. PLACE OF DEATH (INSIDE CITY LIMITS) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		11. RESIDENCE (HOUSE CITY, STATE) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		12. RESIDENCE (IF ABROAD) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. NAME OF DECEASED Nelson		14. SEX Male		15. DATE OF BIRTH August 15, 1876	
16. HAIR White		17. COMPLEXION 77		18. HEIGHT 77	
19. OCCUPATION Justice of the Peace		20. PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, STATE)		21. CITIZENSHIP (WHAT COUNTRY) USA	
22. FATHER'S NAME Charles J. Sears		23. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Catherine Evans		24. MARRIAGE (DATE, PLACE)	
25. CAUSE OF DEATH PART I: Death was caused by Cardio-vascular disease		26. DURATION OF ILLNESS 5 days		27. PART II: (If death was caused by any other cause than that listed in Part I, state the cause.)	
28. ACCIDENT ()		29. HOMICIDE ()		30. SUICIDE ()	
31. TIME OF DEATH (M, P, A, S, M, N)		32. PLACE OF BURIAL		33. DATE OF BURIAL	
34. ATTENDING PHYSICIAN Park D. Keller, M.D.		35. PLACE OF DEATH		36. DATE OF DEATH	
37. FUNERAL DIRECTOR Donna C. Gordon		38. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIA		39. DATE OF BURIAL	

I CERTIFY THAT I HOLD THE OFFICE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS IN Washington County, COLORADO, AND HAVE CUSTODY OF THE DEATH RECORDS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE KEPT IN THIS OFFICE AND THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE HAS CORRECTLY BEEN COPIED FROM A RECORD OF DEATH IN MY OFFICE.

WITNESSED MY HAND AND SEAL OF LOCAL REGISTRAR ON THIS 29th day of December, 1969.

Donna M. Howard
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
FILE NO. 5 DISTRICT NO. 237
Akron, Washington County, COLORADO

COLORADO STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AD 85 16a (5-58-100)

³ FindAGrave Memorial ID 59091656 managed by DBC

⁴ Nelson E. Sears and Miss Edna M. Barnhouse joined in holy matrimony 20th day of Sept in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven



⁵ Record of Births, Probate Court, Hocking County Ohio, 1880; Hocking County Vital Records Office, Hocking County Clerk, One East Main Street, Logan OH 43138-1207; pp284-5: Barnhouse, Edna Maud , 1879 April 24, Ohio, Hocking, South Bloomingville; Father: Ira M Barnhouse; Mother: Mary F Albin; Residence of Parents: South Bloomingville; By Whom Reported: Father

⁶ Presbyterian Historical Society; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; USA,, Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1907; Accession Number: Vault Folio Box 9211 .o35764 P71

⁷ Edna Maude Sears Certificate of Death, State of Colorado, Nr 11792; another number SL-00979707 lower left

⁸ Memorial ID 59091656 managed by DBC

⁹ Certified copy of birth record, State of Colo, Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics, local registration ne 237-5, certificate nr 222. Error on Alva's birth record, Edna M. Barnhouse, his mother, was born in Bloomingville Ohio, not Nelsonville.

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF BIRTH RECORD

Warning: This copy is not valid if it does not bear the raised seal of the local registrar of vital statistics. Any reproduction or alteration of this copy is prohibited.

Name of child ALVA R. SEARS	Sex Male
Place of birth Akron, Washington County, Colorado	Date of birth March 22nd, 1910.
Name of father Nelson E. Sears	Age 33yrs
Name of mother Edna M. Barnhouse	Age 30yrs
Date record filed April 29th, 1910.	Local registration number 237-5
Place of birth Piano, Illinois	
Place of birth Nelsonville, Ohio.	

I hereby certify that I hold the office of Local Registrar of Vital Statistics in Washington County Colorado, and have custody of the birth records required by law to be kept by said office and that the information set forth above was correctly copied from a record of birth in my office.

Witness my hand and seal of Local Registrar
on this 29th day of April, 1910.

Edna M. Barnhouse
Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Registration District Number 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

No. 222 RS 15B (1-64-100)

¹⁰ Alva Raymond Sears Certified copy of death record, State of Colorado, Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics, Washington County Colo, District No. 237-20-Bk 8

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH RECORD

NAME Alva Raymond SEARS	Sex Male	Date of Birth August 27, 1910
Place of Birth Akron, Wash. Co., Colo.	Date of Death August 27, 1984	Place of Death Washington
Age 73 yrs	Sex Male	Color White
Marital Status Married	Occupation Retired	Education High School
Parents Nelson E. Sears, Edna M. Barnhouse	Spouse Mrs. Margaret Gaskin	Religion Methodist
Medical History Respiratory arrest	Cause of Death Respiratory arrest	Time of Death 11:00 PM
Physician Philip C. Brittain, D.O., Denver	Medical Examiner Philip C. Brittain, D.O., Denver	Coroner L.H. Adams, Denver

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH HEREON WAS CORRECTLY COPIED FROM THE RECORD OF DEATH AS KEPT IN MY OFFICE BY ME OR BY AN ASSISTANT OF MINE.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
This 29th day of August, 1984.

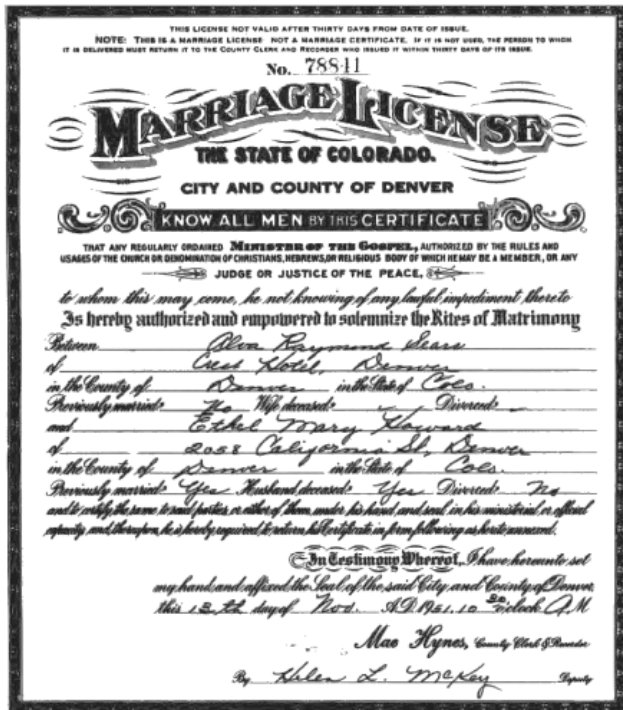
Edna M. Barnhouse
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
Registration District Number 237-20-Bk 8
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SD 88 162 (Rev. 1-78)

¹¹ FindAGrave Memorial ID 60831869



¹² Denver County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Denver County Marriages 1950-2017; year 1951; Alva Raymond Sears and Ethel Mary Aitchison Howard



¹³ Alva supplied this birthdate to DBC also, the SSDI has the exact date of birth

¹⁴ England and Wales FreeBMD Birth Index 1837-1915; Registration District, Tynemouth; Inferred County: Northumberland; Volume 10b, p270, estimated year of birth 1901. 1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, est birth year 1901, Northumberland, England; Household #159

¹⁵ England census of 1901: Name: Ethel M Aitchison; Age: 1/12; Estimated birth year: abt 1901; Relation to Head: Daughter; Gender: Female; Father: Joseph Aitchison; Birth Place: Whitley, Northumberland, England; Civil Parish: Whitley; Ecclesiastical parish: Cullercoats St Paul; Tow

¹⁶ SSDI Social Security Death Index, Name: Ethel Howard; SSN: 524-14-9580; Last Residence: 80222 Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA; Born: 22 Feb 1901; Died: Mar 1972; State (Year) SSN issued: Colorado (Before 1951)

¹⁷ DBC guess, probably the city and county of death

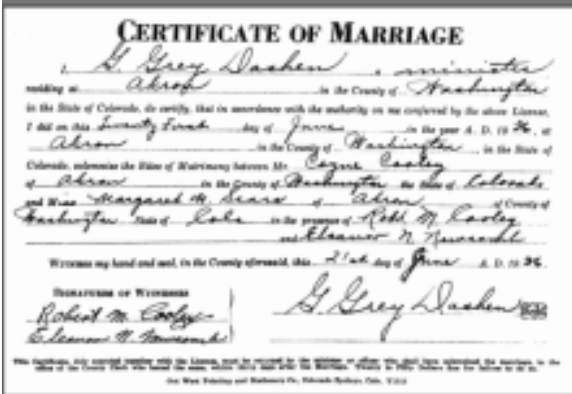
¹⁸ State of Colorado birth certificate 237 #8 nr 90

¹⁹ State of Colorado, Colorado State Department of Public Health; State Registrar or Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics; Certified Copy of Death Record, State File Number 87001682

²⁰ Findagrave Memorial ID 70816564 managed by DBC; Margaret Sears Cooley and Clifford Coyne Cooley



²¹ Clifford Coyne Cooley and Margaret May Sears, State of Colorado County of Washington Marriage License nr 2129 and religious Certificate of Marriage 21 Jun 1936;



²² State of Colorado Birth Record 236 #19 nr 91

²³ State of Colorado Death certificate, Dist 237-25

²⁴ Findagrave Memorial ID 70816562 managed by DBC

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70816562/clifford-coyne-cooley>

²⁵ Social Security Death Index has exact dates of birth and death

²⁶ Ibid also California Death Index, indexed by name and SSN

²⁷ Findagrave Memorial ID 121090011. Location of ashes unknown.

²⁸ Date according to Faye herself to DBC; there are no marriage records online

²⁹ WWII Registration Card Serial nr 1479, Order nr 1296; only the birthplace "Decatur" in Iowa was written. It could have been Decatur Township, Decatur City, or Decatur County

³⁰ Obituary 4 Mar 1976; Akron News-Reporter, Akron, Washington County, Colorado: "Luke Covington, 64, died Tuesday morning [2 Mar 1976] at his home in Evergreen, after an illness with the flu. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Covington of Akron"; Another obituary appeared in the *Evergreen Canyon Courier* 11 March 1976; The death month and year are corroborated by the Social Security Death Index

³¹ Marriage record report nr 272627 m. 19 Dec 1937; religious marriage by Christian Minister John S. George of Sterling, Logan, Colo; she was known as Faye Covington

³² WWI draft card Serial nr 452, Order nr; farmer, 19 yo, working for George I Johnston (father)

³³ US census 1900, Iowa, Ringgold, Grant Twp, ae 6/12, father and head George E Johnston, mother Della, three older siblings, Therma B ae 11, Freddie B ae 8, and Florence ae 5

³⁴ Social Security Death Index gives only month and year of death, not exact date

³⁵ Findagrave Memorial ID 74529235

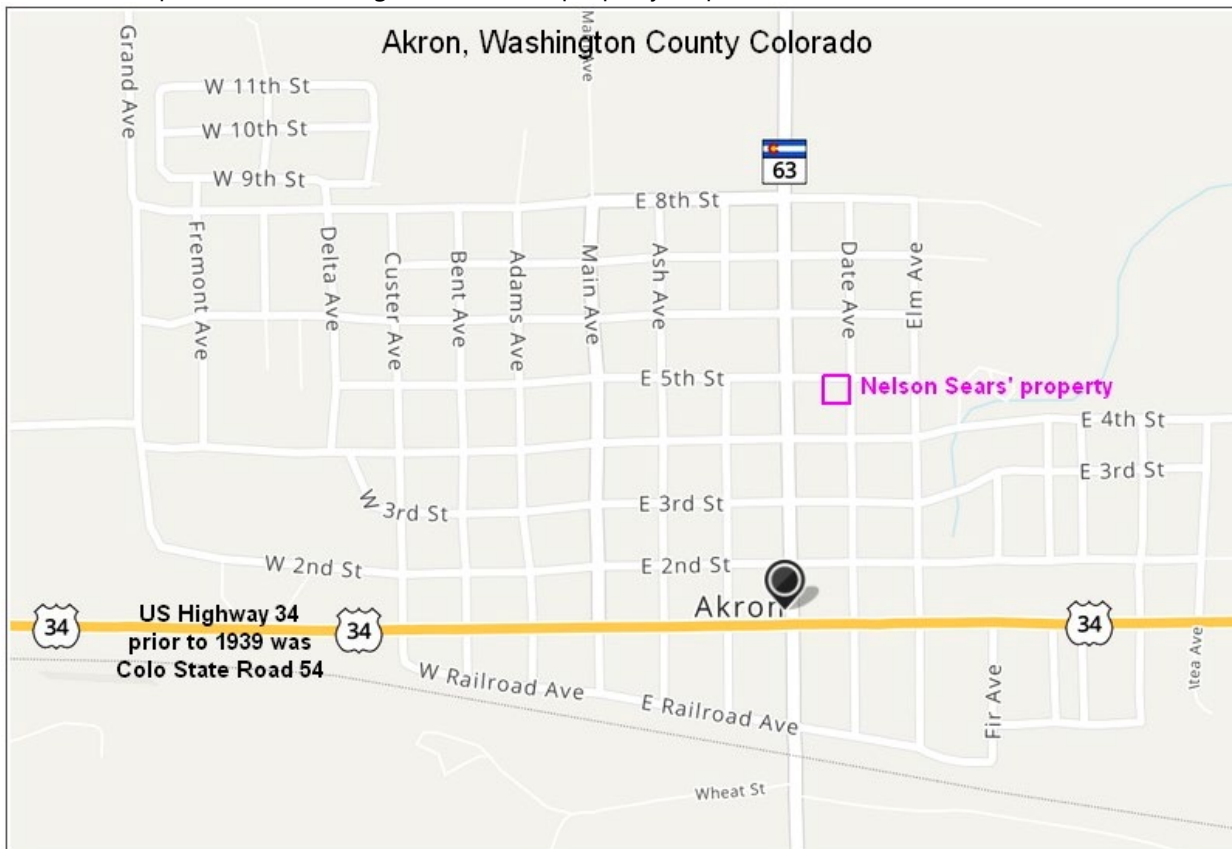
³⁶ Charles M Sears papers addendum collection by Hubert Andrew Arnold

³⁷ An **emigrant car** was a railway car set aside for transporting Americans who left the East or South to settle on the western frontier. The emigrant cars were quite basic consisting of wooden bench seating in an otherwise barren boxcar. Travel in these rudimentary conditions was definitely not conducive to long distance or overnight travel. By the 1880s improvements were made on some railroad lines with the installation of a common cooking stove and a toilet. Generally, baggage, mail, and emigrant cars were placed at the front of the train. The term for these cars was "head-end" the position of which created a safety buffer for the 1st and 2nd-class rear cars. - *Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History; Public Space on the Rails; 19th Century Life on the Rails: A Microcosm of American Society*



³⁸ David L Tittler was Washington County Assessor from 1906-1910

³⁹ Current map of Akron showing Nelson Sears' property acquisition



⁴⁰ U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records

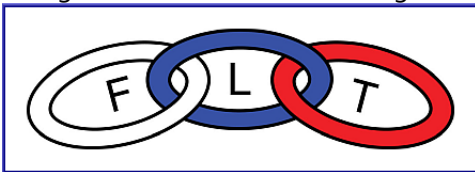
<http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>

⁴¹ Route One past Fremont Buttes



⁴² Wikipedia - A **justice of the peace** (JP) is a judicial officer of a lower court who is elected or appointed by means of a commission (letters patent) to keep the peace. In past centuries the term commissioner of the peace was often used with the same meaning. Depending on the jurisdiction, such justices dispense summary justice or merely deal with local administrative applications in common law jurisdictions. Justices of the peace are appointed or elected from the citizens of the jurisdiction in which they serve, and are (or were) usually not required to have any formal legal education in order to qualify for the office. Some jurisdictions have varying forms of training for JPs. In the United States, the justice of the peace typically presides over a court that hears misdemeanor cases, traffic violations, and other petty criminal infractions. The justice of the peace may also have authority over cases involving small debts, landlord and tenant disputes, or other small claims court proceedings. Proceedings before justices of the peace are often faster and less formal than the proceedings in other courts. In some jurisdictions a party convicted or found liable before a justice of the peace may have the right to a trial de novo before the judge of a higher court rather than an appeal strictly considered. A justice of the peace also performs civil marriages.

⁴³ **The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)** is a fraternal organization derived from the British Odd Fellows service organizations of the 18th century. The North American order was founded Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26, 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Order from England instituted Washington Lodge #1 which received its charter from Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England. The Order is also known as "The Three Link Fraternity", referring to the Order's "Triple Links" logo – three links contain the letters F, L and T, (Friendship, Love and Truth). In 1971 the IOOF changed its constitution, removing its whites only clause. In 1979 the Order had 243,000 members.



⁴⁴ *Akron Weekly Pioneer Press, Dec. 13, 1912* Jan 10, 1913. "After the installation a banquet was served at the City Restaurant by John M. Collins. The roast, turkey, and other good things disappeared as if by magic. The I.O.O.F in Akron is in a flourishing condition, new members coming in nearly [every] meeting".

⁴⁵ *Ibid*, Jan 9, 1914. "The Akron I.O.O.F Lodge held a busy session on Thursday evening [1 Jan 1914]. John Burkholtz and Axsell (*sic*) Larsen were taken in as members. On 1 Jan 1914 the following officers were installed for the present term: Nelson Sears, Past Grand; John Collins, Noble Grand...etc.

⁴⁶ Wikipedia - **Acute decompensated heart failure** (ADHF) is a sudden worsening of the signs and symptoms of heart failure, which typically includes difficulty breathing (dyspnea), leg or feet swelling, and fatigue. ADHF is a common and potentially serious cause of acute respiratory distress. The condition is caused by severe congestion of multiple organs by fluid that is inadequately circulated by the failing heart. An attack of decompensation can be caused by underlying medical illness, such as myocardial infarction, an abnormal heart rhythm, infection, or thyroid disease.

⁴⁷ **Akron Cemetery** is located one mile west on US 34 and ½ mile north of Akron, Washington County, Colorado



⁴⁸ See endnote #4 above (MS Word can't cross reference correctly)

⁴⁹ See my biography of Ira and Mary on

<https://danbcooley.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Ira-Morgan-Barnhouse-Mary-Francis-Albin-biog.pdf>

⁵⁰ **Shelby** is a village in Polk County, Nebraska, United States. The population was 714 at the 2010 census. In 1873, Civil War veteran Horace A. Cowles set up the Cyclone post office in his home one mile east and one mile south of present-day Shelby. In 1879, with the coming of the railroad, a second post office named Arcade was established one mile east of the present site of Shelby. In the winter of 1880, the post office was moved again a mile west to where Shelby is today. Postal authorities objected to the name "Arcade" due to confusion with the town of Arcadia in Valley County. In search of a new name for the settlement, the people chose "Shelby".



⁵¹ See endnote #4