

EMIGRANTS

EUNICE DOKE AND HER CHILDREN WHY DID GEORGE STAY IN CRAWFORD?

A phone call in late winter 2010 from Vicki Doke Dellinger of Prairie View, Illinois inquired if A-CHS had any information on George Doke and his family. Long time members will remember that George lived on the Airline in Crawford and was a blacksmith. Some may know that he was married twice, first to Eunice Burgess and next to Rose Ash (Apt). We sent what little we had in our files including a picture of daughter Mary Doke and her Aunt Martha Burgess. Vicki sent A-CHS a great file on her family, some of which we share here. Thank you, Vicki, for making this article possible. Many other Crawford families disappeared from our records. Their stories are probably like the Doke siblings.

We know that Eunice Burgess's parents lived in Crawford and in Township 19. They were Nathaniel and Mary Ann (Seavey) Burgess. Nathaniel was born in 1817 and Mary in 1820, the third of fourteen children of Aaron and Sally Harmon Sevey. Crawford vitals indicate they were both of Crawford when married on December 2, 1843. Children of Nathaniel and Mary Burgess were Eunice A. (1841 - 1910), Jane C. (1844 -), Josiah R. (1851 -), Walter H (ca 1857 -) and Martha E. (1961 -). Of these Burgess children, Walter moved to North Dakota, then to Hawaii; Martha (Mrs. Fred Ganzel) moved to Seattle, Hawaii, British Columbia and back to Hawaii; and Josiah moved to Seattle.



Mary Doke and her Aunt Martha Burgess



Ralph Edward Doke

We know little of George Doke's days before he arrived in Crawford. He was born in May 1829 in Ireland. He arrived in Crawford after the 1850 census and was married to Eunice on April 20, 1857 by Daniel Wormwood. They were the parents of nine children all born in Crawford, seven of whom became emigrants; two died relatively young in Crawford.

Children of George and Eunice (Burgess) Doke

Mary Rebecca (1858 – 1923) married William A. Hawkins (1854 – 1924) on April 25, 1883. They were the parents of three children, Eugene (1886 – 1966), Laura (1889 – 1986) and Frank (1905 -). Mary and William lived in Minneapolis, Carbondale, North Dakota and Harris, Minnesota. Mary died at Grand Rapids MN on October 30, 1923

Letitia J. (1859 -) married Freemont E. Brown in 1884. They were the parents of two children, Hazel (1889 – 1977) and Louise 'Fanny' (1898 – 1983). Letitia and Freemont lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota and were of Canada in 1927 when her brother Andrew died.

Lenore F. (1863 – September 16, 1864) buried in marked grave at Old Crawford Cemetery.

Annie F. (December 1864 -) married George Leckner and they resided in Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. They were the parents of nine children: Leslie Henry (1889 – 1960), Clarence A. (1890 -), Leon Roy (1892 – 1974), Ralph Wallace (1894 – 1974), Lillian Belle (1895 -), George E. (1897 -), Percy Dewey (1899 – 1975), Eugene Robert (1901 – 1995) and Rose C. (1903 -).

Francis (1865 -) disappeared sometime between 1870 and 1880; we assume he died and is buried at Old Crawford Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Andrew N. (September 3, 1866 – September 30, 1927) married Edith Hoyt on October 15, 1897. They had four children: Baby Doke, Alice E. (1898 – 1982), Ralph Henry (1901 – 1977) and Mabel Violet (1904 – 1905). Andrew and Edith resided in Minneapolis, Township #156, Pierce County, North Dakota, and nearby Girard ND. Andrew is buried at Round Hill Cemetery, Arkansas, Wisconsin

Nellie J. (1868 -) married Eugene Bryant in 1886. They were the parents of four children: Lottie, Nora, Ray (b. 1887) and Ethel (b. 1893). Nellie married Severt Skogstad before 1910. In 1910 they were living in Stove, Mountrail County, North Dakota and about 1916 were residents of Happy Valley, Moose Junction, Saskatchewan, Canada. Nellie died after 1927.

Sarah 'Sadie' E. (October 1871 or 1872 – between 1912 & 1915) married Frank Morrison in 1890. Their children were Edith, Alice (b. 1891), May (b. 1893), Mabel (b. 1894), Laura (b. 1897) and Robert (b. 1900). By 1900 the family was in Buse, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. Sadie died soon after in North Dakota.

Ralph Edward (April 1880 – 1971) was living at Orwell, Otter Tail County, Minnesota in 1900 and about a year later when he married Emma Gundberg. Ralph and Emma had nine children: Sadie (b.1902), Lottie (b. 1904), Edward (b. 1905), Lizzie (b. 1906), Elsie (b. 1907), Walter (b. 1911) and Thomas (b. 1914). In 1910 Ralph and Emma were living in North Dakota at Township #157 Range 87. Frank and Emma apparently entered Canada at North Portal, Saskatchewan on April 7, 1911 and became residents of Edmonton then Tawatinaw, both in Alberta. He died on March 24, 1971 at Kamloops, British Columbia.

Eunice and George parted company; we've found no divorce records here in Maine. Eunice moved west, first to Orwell, Otter Tail County, Minnesota likely where she married Edward East. ca 1890. After the turn of the century, she moved and in 1910 was a resident of Township #157, Range 87, Ward County, North Dakota, probably with her son Ralph. She died on July 25, 1910 in Rugby, North Dakota.

George married Rose Apt (or was it Ash?) of Calais on October 9, 1891, again using the services of Daniel Wormwood. Alexander vitals lists a Rosanna Blackwood as probably married to a Joseph Appt in 1841. A girl child of that couple might be George's Rose. Another vital states that Jesse Lamb and Susan App, both of Alexander, were married in 1870. Searches of vitals in neighboring towns offer no help. George died on January 15, 1905 and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Old Crawford Cemetery in Crawford. We find no further record of Rose

Many readers will recognize the family names of five of the Doke siblings' spouses. Mary married William Hawkins; Letitia married Freemont Brown; Andrew married Edith Hoit; Nellie married Eugene Bryant and Sadie married Frank Morrison. It is likely that William Hawkins was born ca 1843 a son of Samuel and June Hawkins of Wesley. We did not find the others in our local records, but most of us have driven through the Hoyttown section of Machias. Bryant was and still is a common East Machias name, and Brown and Morrison are common Downeast names.

Most of the material in this article came from Vicki Dellinger. Some items were added from our A-CHS files.



Likely from left to right: Andrew, his wife Edith, their children Alice and Ralph Henry. Or is that Andrew on the right? Andrew was a teamster and homesteader in North Dakota. Obviously the things he valued were his family and his horses.

THANK YOU David Davis for a cellar walk along the New Road in Crawford and **Celia Caruso** for five topographical maps of the area, 1943 series and a copy of Wallings 1961 map of Washington County. Maps are useful tools for learning about the past. New Road is on two of the maps!

