

Great-Great-Great Grandfather

Caleb Jewett

1822-1905

GGG Grandmother (bio)

**Nancy Stewart
Jewett**

GGG Grandmother (step)

Elmira Nye Jewett
1825-? (wife 2; married 8 years)

GGG Grandmother (step)

Polly Viola Richardson Jewett
1834-1907 (wife 3; married 44 years)

**REFERENCE: these are the Grandparents of my Great Grandmother, Pearl Jewett Wade Roberts. Based on mother, Barbara Pearl Yenny Saucerman. Bio/timeline prepared by Stephen S. Saucerman 4-24-2019*

Caleb Jewett, was born in the town of Palmyra in Somerset County, Maine on September 23, 1822. He worked on the family farm and took advantage of schooling available at the time. On August 21, 1845 - when Caleb 23 - he married Nancy Stewart (also a native of Palmyra) and the couple shortly thereafter relocated to southern Wisconsin, near the Town of Madison. Caleb became very active in local community affairs and was elected or nominated to town School Supervisor, Town Supervisor and Justice of the Peace at various times during his residency.



On motion, E. A. Sheldon, N. Kellogg, Caleb Jewett, and J. W. Gorum, were nominated as candidates for Justice of the Peace.
On motion, Geo. A. Carey and Geo. Whare were nominated for constables.
On motion, Henry Turnill was nominated for Superintendent of Public Instruction.
The chair appointed Thomas Reynolds, Wm. E. Warren and Stephen D. Hunt town committee to act for the ensuing year.
Mr. Carey offered the following resolution, which was adopted:
Resolved, That we, the Republicans of the town of Madison, having been forced against our wishes by the action of our opponents to nominate a party ticket, hereby individually pledge ourselves to use every honorable effort to secure its success, and to make every exertion to that end by seeing every voter, and, if possible, taking all to the polls on Tuesday next.
On motion, the proceedings of the meeting were directed to be furnished to the *State Journal* for publication.
The meeting then adjourned *sine die*.
H. A. TENNEY, Chairman.
W. R. WARREN, Secretary.

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He was also deeply involved in political affairs but also appears to have shifted his alliances over years, starting out as a Democrat, then switching for a short time to the Whig Party and finally aligning himself to the Republican party movement. As it was in Maine, his life occupation continued in farming and in 1861, he even gained some regional notoriety when a new grain-binding attachment was demonstrated for the first time in Wisconsin on Caleb's farm (this was a BIG deal at the time). The Caleb family also suffered a serious incident on June 19th, 1860, when lightning struck their home, causing major damage to the dwelling and minor injury to Caleb. Insurance paid for the damage.

By 1867, Caleb was on his third wife, Polly Viola Richardson Jewett (although, they would be married for a total of 44 years, so the third time seemed to be the charm) and the couple moved to Iowa. They remained there for about 16 years - again operating a family farm - until Caleb's health began to decline. They tried out different areas of California, but by 1898, the couple settled in in Elmhurst, CA to be near his daughter Minerva (Mrs. J. B. Ayres).

Town Nominations.
At the Union Caucus, held at the Plow Inn, in the town of Madison, on Saturday, the 26th inst., the following ticket was nominated for town officers:
Chairman of Supervisors—Wm. D. Bird.
Supervisors—A. Morton, R. A. Sheldon.
Clerk—Jas. Cavenor.
Treasurer—A. Dunning.
Sup't Schools—Caleb Jewett.

Caleb went on to become known and respected in the Elmhurst area, but only six years later, Minerva died. Caleb moved from Fruitvale to Healdsburg to Hayward until finally - with his (and Polly's) health worsening - he was taken in once again by a daughter, this time Nellie (Mrs. C. F. Tweedie) of Castro Valley, CA. Polly Viola, whose health was also in decline, was taken in by her daughter who also happened to live in CA (*daughters are angels*).

Caleb Jewett died of pneumonia on February 24th, 1905 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. F. Tweedie in Castro Valley, CA. He was 82 years old and had been seriously ill for only a week. He left a widow Polly (who dies November 22, 1907), the daughter, 4 sons: Walter, Winfield, William and David. [Fun Fact: Caleb also had one brother, B. G. Jewett, who was a captain in the Civil War and another Brother, John N. Jewett (who had died a year previous), who was one of the most prominent lawyers in the city of Chicago, for many years owning the distinction of leading the bar. Caleb's obituary went on to say:

The late Mr. Caleb Jewett was an honorable, upright gentleman. He was kind in his greetings and affable to all. He was a man of whom any community would be proud to hold among its citizenship. His friends who knew him in life will mourn him in death.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Madison **in the County of** Jane **State** of Wisconsin **enumerated by me, on the** 29th **day of** August **1850.** Royal Buck Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-house ranked in the order of valuation.	Facilities numbered in the order of valuation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place or Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.		
			Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Other.				10	11	12
761	763	Caleb Jewett	27	M		Farmer	2000	Maine			
		Nancy "	28	F				do			
		Mary E. "	4	F				do			
		W. H. "	2	M				Wisconsin			
		W. J. "	12	M				do			
		David "	59	M		Farmer		V. H.			
		Hannah "	36	F				do			
		Daniel G. "	17	M		Farmer		Maine	1		
		G. W. Norton	25	M		Farmer		do			
		James E. Jewett	36	F				do			

REALLY FUN BUT NOT RELEVANT FACT: Although this doesn't apply to this biography directly, I have to share something I came across while researching Caleb. As it happens, there is another Caleb Jewett (actually, I found FIVE different Caleb Jewetts/families of the period) who was a gold miner in California during the big rush. This Caleb also achieved some notoriety ... but not the good kind. The story goes (a story that made it in to many newspapers, even back out east) that as Caleb and 3 friends were returning home to Terre Haute, Indiana after spending two years laboring in the mines, the foursome managed to capsize their boat as they attempted to cross the Stanislaus River in CA. **THEY WERE CARRY 158 ½ POUNDS OF GOLD** (worth about \$2.75 million today)! The men saved themselves, but all their gold sank to the bottom of the deep, churning river - lost forever.

Facts & General Information

Circa:	1822-1905
Relationship	Great Great Great Grandfather
Who	Caleb Jewett
Birth date	Sept 23, 1822
Death date	Feb 24, 1905 (pneumonia)
Occupation:	Farmer
Birth where	Palmayra, Somerset Cty, Maine
Death where	Castro Valley, CA (his daughter's, Nellie Tweedie home)
Burial loc:	Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, Alameda Cty, CA
Spouse:	Wife #1: Nancy Stewart Jewett – married 8/21/1845 in St. Albans, Somerset, Maine **
Spouse:	Wife #2: Elmira Nye Jewett – married 10/11/1852 in Rock County, WI **
<p>**Author's Note: <i>I have to admit defeat on this one. Even with considerable resources and time, I could find surprisingly little verifiable info regarding Caleb's 1st & 2nd wives, Nancy & Elmira (or 'Almira'; it's spelled both ways on general records). Other than marriage records (which I did find) and Nancy's birthdate/location, it's like they fell off the face of the earth. No grave records, newspaper blurbs, nothing. We DO know - for those who may wish to pursue it - that (per the US Census) in 1850, Nancy is in the Caleb Jewett's household. In 1860, she's not. We know further through birth records that Elmira gave birth to son, John Jewett, in 1854, so it looks like Nancy was gone by 1854. I also came across some oddly-worded correspondence tenuously implying that Nancy <u>may</u> have died giving birth to Winfield Jewett in 1850. Since I could find no divorce record regarding the couple (and knowing that – sadly - childbirth was still a very real danger to the mother back then), I'd lay money that Nancy died and was buried right on the farm (which is something they were allowed to do in those days). Of course, I may be wrong.</i></p>	
Spouse:	Wife #3: Polly Viola 'Viola' Richardson Jewett - married 10/23/1861 in Madison, WI
Birth date	April 7, 1834
Death date	November 22, 1907
Birth where	New York, USA
Death where	Berkeley, Alameda County, CA
Burial loc:	Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, Alameda Cty, CA
Children #1:	Mary Ellen Jewett Jester 1846-1920 *by Nancy
Children #2:	Walter R. Jewett 1848-1929 *by Nancy
Children #3:	Winfield Jewett 1850- *by Nancy
Children #4:	John Jewett 1854- *by Elmira
Children #5:	Lura (Lina, Lurinita) 'Nettie' (Erdman) 1858-1938 *by Elmira
Children #6:	William Denzer Jewett 1862-1932 *by Viola
Children #7:	Nellie L. Jewett Tweedie 1862-1951 (CA) *by Viola
Children #8:	Ervin David Jewett 1867-1957 *by Viola
Children #9:	Minerva Viola Jewett Ayres 1872-1901 *by Viola
Children #10:	*Caleb/Elmira adopt Laura N. Beeke in 1856
Mother:	Hannah Yale Jewett 1796-1875
Father:	David Hale Jewett 1792-1875
Sibling #1:	Daniel Gale Jewett 1830-1906
Sibling #2:	Francis E. Jewett 1825-
Sibling #3:	Mary E. Jewett 1846
Sibling #4:	W. R. Jewett 1848
Sibling #5:	W. S. Jewett 1850

Caleb Jewett Timeline/Chronology

Date:	Caleb's Age	Event:
September 23, 1822	-	Caleb Jewett [<i>Pearl Roberts grandfather on her father's side</i>] is born in Palmyra, Somerset County, Maine, USA. He will have 2 brothers, Henry (who settled in Galena, IL) and James (who settled in Beloit, WI). Caleb would settle near Racine, WI.
1834	12	Caleb's future 3rd wife, Polly Viola Richardson, is born in Madison, WI.
August 21, 1845	23	Caleb Jewett marries Nancy Stewart in St. Albans, Somerset County, Maine. *This will be Caleb's first marriage of three.
<i>Dec 2, 1845</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>President Polk invokes Manifest Destiny, announcing the Monroe Doctrine will be strictly enforced and the settlement of the West will be aggressively pursued.</i>
+/- 1846	24	Caleb and Nancy Jewett relocate to the Madison, WI area.
1846	24	Caleb & Nancy Stewart welcome a new daughter, Mary Ellen Jewett (Jester), into the world.
July 29, 1847	25	At the meeting of the Democratic Whig Party, Caleb Jewett is elected one of nine delegates to represent Madison at the upcoming county convention.
1848	26	Caleb Jewett and Nancy Stewart Jewett welcome a new son, Walter Reed Jewett (Great-great Grandfather; Pearl's father).
April 8, 1848	26	Caleb Jewett is appointed school commissioner for the town of Madison
<i>1848</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Wisconsin officially becomes a United State.</i>
1850	28	Caleb & Nancy Stewart welcome a new son, Winfield Jewett, into the world.
1850	28	1850 Census shows Caleb & Nancy are living with Caleb's parents - David H. Jewett & Hannah Gale Jewett of Madison, WI - at the time.
7/10/1850	<i>28</i>	<i>Millard Fillmore is sworn into office as the 13th President of the United States after the death of Zachary Taylor the day before.</i>
October 11, 1852	30	Caleb marries his second wife, Elmira Nye, Rock County, WI [*Note: I couldn't find anything as to what happened to Caleb's first wife Nancy (divorce? Death?), but we do know she was still around in 1850 due to the census from that year.]
1854	32	Caleb & Elmira welcome a new son, John Jewett, into the world.
November 9, 1854	32	Caleb Jewett is elected to the 'Civic Betterment Committee' of the First Bapstist Church of Madison.
October 28, 1856	34	Caleb Jewett is elected one of twenty-four vice-presidents of the Madison Democratic Party Committee.
1856	34	From census information, it appears strongly that Caleb & Elmira adopted a daughter, Laura N. Beeke (Erdman) in 1958. This is corroborated when Laura marries in December of 1889 and Caleb/Elmira sign the marriage record as her parents. Laura also lists her age as 31 on that same record, indicating she was a newborn/infant when adopted.
1858	36	Caleb & Elmira welcome a new daughter, Lurunitta "Nettie" Jewett (Erdman), into the world.
April 5, 1858	36	"The voters of the town of Madison have discarded politics [...] and united upon the following ticket" "Supervisors: Caleb Jewett"
March 27, 1859	37	Caleb Jewett is nominated for Superintendent of Schools representing the Union Caucus.
April 4, 1860	38	Caleb Jewett represents the Republicans at the Union Caucus held in Madison on March 31st.
June 19, 1860	38	Caleb Jewett's home is struck by lightning. Caleb is slightly injured. The bolt melted the lighting rod on the home, broke 10 window panes, split window sashes and floorboards, and <i>'tore across a breadth of carpet, destroying over half of the room'</i> . [Note: holy cow!] The article does go on to say that the home was insured and <i>'will be promptly paid'</i> .
<i>11/6/1860</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln defeats three opponents in the campaign for the US presidency.</i>

April 1, 1861	39	Caleb Jewett is nominated for Justice of the Peace at a meeting of 'The Replicans of the town of Madison'. [Note: you probably noticed that Caleb starts out democrat and then is suddenly Republican, so I assume he switched parties. The meeting minutes from this meeting do include: "the Reblicans of the town of Madison, having been forced against our wishes by the action of our opponents to nominate a party ticket ..." so it appears some sort of upheaval had been going on among the Democrats.]
September 20, 1861	39	A mechanical 'grain binder' is demonstrated for the first time in Wisconsin (it had been used in Iowa) on the Caleb Jewett farm. The binder attaches onto the front of traditional grain reapers and "neatly and strongly binds the grain into sheaves as the reaper proceeds". [Note: this was BIG deal at the time. Stories about Caleb's demonstration were featured in newspapers all over the northeast.]
October 23, 1861	39	Caleb marries his third wife, Polly Viola Richardson.
1862	40	Caleb & Polly Viola welcome twins, a new son, William Denzer Jewett and a new daughter, Nellie. L. Jewett (Tweedie), into the world.
September 20, 1864	42	Caleb Jewett is drafted into the Union Army (*yes, even at 42; the Civil War was like this) after the latest draft held in Janesville, WI, on September 19th where "a blind-folded blind boy was employed to draw the tickets from the wheel". [Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox April 9th, 1965 - about six months later. It doesn't appear Caleb was ever involved in any combat.]
4/9/1865	43	<i>General Robert E. Lee, commander in chief of Confederate forces, surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Abraham Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC five days later. Seven month later, the 13th Amendment would be passed abolishing slavery forever in the US.</i>
+/- 1867	45	Caleb and (3rd wife) Polly Viola Jewett relocate to Iowa, where they will stay for 16 years
1867	45	Caleb & Polly Viola welcome a new son, Irvin David Jewett, into the world.
1872	50	Caleb & Polly Viola welcome a new daughter, Minerva Viola Jewett, into the world.
5-17-1873	51	Son Walter marries Emily Ann Roberts. To this union, 8 children will be born (3 will die young).
1874	52	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter (Pearl's sister) via son Walter and his wife Emily, Lilly May, into the world. 5 weeks & 4 days later, Lilly dies.
1876	54	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new grandson (Pearl's brother) via son Walter and his wife Emily, John Caleb 'Johnie O', into the world. He dies at the age of 1 year, 4 months and 12 days.
1876	54	<i>Lt. Colonel George Custer and his 7th U.S. Cavalry engage the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians at Little Big Horn. It does not go well for George.</i>
1877	55	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter (Pearl's sister) via son Walter and his wife Emily, Minerva, into the world. *Minerva breaks the string of tragedies endured by the Walter and Emily. She's born healthy and will (as all her sisters who will come later) a long and healthy life.
1878	56	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter (Pearl's sister) via son Walter and his wife Emily, Emma, into the world.
9/28/1878	56	Caleb's son Walter sells the family farm down near Volga and moves his family to house in north Arlington, IA
1881	59	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter (Pearl's sister) via son Walter and his wife Emily, Nelly, into the world.
+/- 1883	61	Caleb and Polly Viola move to California.
1884	62	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter (Pearl's sister) via son Walter and his wife Emily, Myrtle, into the world.
1885	63	<i>The Statue of Liberty arrives for the first time in New York harbor.</i>
3/5/1886	64	Caleb & Nancy welcome a new granddaughter via son Walter and his wife Emily, Pearl (*my great grandmother) into the world.
1893	71	Caleb Jewett relocates to Elmhurst, CA

October 21, 1901	79	"Caleb Jewett and family have returned from Healdsburg where they spent the summer" - Oakland Tribune, Oakland, CA
1904	82	Caleb Jewett moves in with daughter
<i>February 11, 1905</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>The final golden spike of the transcontinental railroad is driven into the ground at Promontory, Utah.</i>
February 24, 1905	83	Caleb Jewett dies of pneumonia at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. F. Tweedie in Castro Valley, CA.
February 27, 1905	83	"The funeral of Caleb Jewett took place at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Tweedie, this morning. Rev. Lyons preached the sermon".
November 22, 1907	-	Polly Viola Jewett dies at the home of her daughter in California on November 22.