

Great-Great-Grandfather
Walter Reed Jewett
 1848-1929

Great-Great-Grandmother
Emily (Emma) Roberts* Jewett
 1851-1930

*Based on my mother, Barbara Pearl Yenney Saucerman. Bio/timeline prepared by Stephen S. Saucerman 4-22-2019
 Note: there were two separate instances of the Roberts surname being infused into the family line.

Walter Reed Jewett was born in Madison, Wisconsin on April 5th, 1848 – the year Wisconsin officially became a state. He grew up on his family’s small farmstead until 1869, when his family moved from Madison to Linn County Iowa. Walter was 21 years old.



On May 17th, 1873, he married Emily ‘Emma’ Ann Roberts, whose family had also previously moved from Wisconsin (this time, from Racine, WI) to the Fayette Country, IA area, near Arlington. Emma’s family had made the migration from WI to IA in covered wagon. Her mother, Sarah Jenkins Roberts, operated the wagon while father, John Roberts, drove the family’s cattle and sheep down dirt roads, paths and fields along the route. Emma had been born near Racine on December 11, 1851. She was the eldest of John and Sarah’s four children and she and her siblings would grow to adulthood in and near the Arlington area, taking advantage of the schools, churches and society of the time.



Heartbreaking Beginnings

However, the early years of Walter and Emma’s marriage would prove tragic. Excitement over their a first child turned to sadness when new daughter, Lily May, died five weeks after she was born. This was 1871. Resolute, the couple waited four more years to try again in 1875 but, this time, their new daughter, Anna Vera, died shortly after birth. And it would happen a third time. A year later, son John Caleb – who they called ‘Johnie O’ and who had seemed so healthy at birth, died at the age of one year, four months and twelve days.

One can only imagine what a devastating and perplexing time of life this must’ve been for the young couple. Thankfully, fate stepped in to quell the pattern in 1877. Emma gave birth to a healthy baby girl named Minerva (see photo below). This was happily followed up in ’78, ’81, ’84 & ’86 with the addition of four more daughters: Emily, Nelly, Myrtle and (*last but not least, our grandmother*) Pearl, respectively. All five women would go on to live long and happy lives.

In 1878, the couple sells their small rural farm and purchase a house in northern Arlington, which he subsequently remodels/enlarges to accommodate his growing family. Walter, Emma and daughters remain quite active in the community and devote particular attention to local United Brethren Church activities and functions. They also spend time calling on friends and family and entertaining neighbors in their home. On May 24th, 1923, Walter and Emma celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, surrounded by family and friends.



Eldest daughter – and Pearl’s older sister - Minerva

The late ‘20’s sees Emma raising chickens in her backyard, but both Walter and Emma’s health begins to succumb to age and infirmity. In 1928, after 56 years in their home in



Arlington, the couple sell the home and move in with their daughters, who care for them. Walter moves in with daughter Pearl (now Mrs. Harry Wade) and Emma moves in with daughter Minerva (Mrs. Roy Metcalfe). Walter Reed Jewett dies on May 26th, 1929 and beloved wife Emily 'Emma' Ann Roberts Jewett dies a little over seven months later, on January 9th, 1930. Both are surrounded by family and friends when they pass. They are buried side-by-side at Arlington Cemetery.

Facts & General Information

Circa:	1848-1929
Relationship	Great Great Grandfather (Pearl's father)
Who	Walter Reed Jewett
Birth date	1848
Death date	26-May-29
Occupation:	Farmer
Birth where	Racine, WI
Death where	Fayette Township, Linn, IA
Burial loc:	Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, IA
Spouse to:	Emily 'Emma' Ann Roberts Jewett
Married date:	May 17, 1873 in West Union
Birth date	1852
Death date	1930
Birth where	Wisconsin
Death where	Arlington, IA
Burial loc:	Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, IA
Children #1:	Lilly May (1874 died in infancy)
Children #2:	Anna V. (1875 died in infancy)
Children #3:	John Caleb (1876 died in infancy)
Children #4:	Minerva (1877-)
Children #5:	Emma (1878-)
Children #6:	Nelly (1881-)
Children #7:	Myrtle (1884-)
Children #8:	Pearl (1886-1976)
Mother:	Nancy Stewart (or Steward) 1821-
Father:	Caleb Jewett 1822-1905
Sibling #1:	William Denzer Jewett 1862-1932
Sibling #2:	E. D. Jewett (male; living at Caleb's death)
Sibling #3:	Mary Ellen Jewett Jester 1846-1920
Sibling #4:	Lura Nettie Jewett Erdman 1858-1938
Sibling #5:	Nellie L. Jewett Tweedie 1862-1951
Sibling #6:	Ervin David Jewett 1867-1957
Sibling #7:	Minerva Viola Jewett Ayres 1872-1901
Other spouses:	n/a

Walter Reed & Emily 'Emma' Roberts Jewett Timeline/Chronology:

Date:	Walter's Age:	Event:
September 23, 1822	(26)	Caleb Jewett [Pearl Roberts grandfather on her father's side] 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.
Feb 28, 1827	(21)	<i>The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad becomes the first railroad in the US to offer transportation for people and commercial goods; a law prohibiting sale of alcohol to Indians is passed, but fur traders revolt because they were trading alcohol to the Indians in exchange for pelts.</i>
June 16, 1837	(11)	Sarah Jenkins [Pearl Roberts grandmother on her mother's side] is born.
12/2/1845	(3)	<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>
1848	-	Walter Reed Jewett (Great-great Grandfather; Pearl's father) is born. This happens a short time (weeks?) before/after Caleb Jewett (26) marries Nancy Stewart - who is only 14 years of age at the time, so one might reasonably suppose the couple wed because Nancy was pregnant.
12/11/1851	3	John & Sarah Jenkins Roberts (who is only 14 at the time) welcome a daughter, Emily 'Emma' Ann Roberts , into their home near Racine, WI. She will be the eldest of 4 children to the couple. She has 2 brothers; William [Roberts of Marion] and Frank P. [Roberts of Webster City] & 1 sister, [Mrs. George Liekiss of Arlington, IA]
1854	6	In spring, Emma Ann Robert's immediate family moves from Racine, WI to Clayton County, IA in a covered wagon (the rest of the extended family in WI will move to IA by the 1890's). Emma's mom Sarah drives the wagon while father John drives/herds sheep and cattle along the way. They settle near Edgewood, locating to a farm in Patnam Township.
1855-1869	7-21	Emma Ann Roberts spends her youth going to school (what was available), helping with the farm and being raised in a strict Christian home affiliated with the United Brethren Church.
1864	16	Emma's uncle (mother Sarah Jenkins' youngest brother), Henry, who came with the family from Racine to IA, dies from typhoid in the Civil War.
<i>February 11, 1905</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>The final golden spike of the transcontinental railroad is driven into the ground at Promontory, Utah.</i>
5-17-1873	25	Emily Ann Roberts marries Walter R. Jewett. To this union, 7 children will be born (2 will die young).
1874	26	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter (Pearl's sister), Lilly May, into the world. 5 weeks & 4 days later, Lilly dies.
1875	27	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter (Pearl's sister), Anna Vera, into the world. Anna dies shortly after birth.
1876	28	Walter & Emily welcome a new son (Pearl's brother), John Caleb 'Johnie O', into the world. He dies at the age of 1 year, 4 months and 12 days.
1877	29	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter, Minerva, into the world.
9/28/1878	30	Walter Jewett sells the family farm in Volga to Joseph Jennings.
2/22/1878	30	Walter Jewett purchases George Sevoss' house on the north side.
6/7/1878	30	Walter Jewett remodels his home 'adding very materially to its looks and usefulness'
1878	30	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter (Pearl's sister), Emma, into the world.
1881	33	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter (Pearl's sister), Nelly, into the world.
1884	36	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter (Pearl's sister), Myrtle, into the world.
3/5/1886	38	Walter & Emily welcome a new daughter, Pearl (*great grandmother) into the world.
<i>February 28, 1905</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Geronimo and his band of Apaches surrender to Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles at Fort Bowie in southeastern Arizona.</i>
9/2/1897	49	Walter Jewett and Emily call on friends in Deep Creek Sunday
March 29, 1900	52	Walter & Emily's daughter, Emma, is married to George Hetzel at the Walter Jewett home in Arlington

November 6, 1900	52	<i>November 6, 1900 - President William McKinley wins his second term as president, this time with Theodore Roosevelt in the second spot on the ticket, again defeating William J. Bryan by an Electoral Margin of 292 to 155.</i>
April 7, 1904	56	Emily "Emma" Jewett spends several days at Charley Bond's residence
December 25, 1904	56	Walter Jewett and family are entertained for Christmas at the home of Mr/Mrs L. James
December 25, 1905	57	Walter & Emily's Daughter, Pearl (great grandmother), marries Harrison 'Harry' Wade. They go on to have three daughters, Ruth, Lillian and M. Faye
<i>March 19, 1905</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>The city of Las Vegas, Nevada is established with the sale of 110 acres in the downtown area.</i>
March 31, 1906	58	Walter & Emily welcome a new granddaughter through Harry and Pearl Wade, Ruth . *it appears Pearl was 6 months pregnant when she married Harry Wade. [NOTE: of course Walter & Emily had other grandchildren through their other kids; I'm only including Harry & Pearl Wade because they are in our direct bloodline.]
1907	59	Walter & Emily welcome another new granddaughter through Harry and Pearl Wade, Lillian .
1909	61	Walter & Emily welcome a third granddaughter through Harry and Pearl Wade, M. Faye [" Aunt Babe "].
<i>January 5, 1914</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>Basic wage rates are increased by Ford Motor Company. Workers now would receive \$5 per day for eight hours of work versus \$2.40 per day for nine hours previously.</i>
1918	70	Sarah Jenkins Roberts (Emily's mother; Pearl's grandmother) dies.
<i>April 3, 1920</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>Women are given the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment.</i>
April 6, 1922	74	Walter Jewett spends a few days at the homes of his daughter, Mrs. Roy Metcalf of Fayette
May 24, 1923	75	Walter & Emily Jewett celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 17th.
<i>October 6, 1923</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>First sound on film motion picture Phonofilm is show in the Rivoli Theatre in New York City.</i>
January 17, 1924	76	Emma Jewett is reported 'rising earlier than the chickens', raising a number of 'thrifty little fellows of three weeks old'. The baby chicks are beginning to feather out.
August 6, 1925	77	Mr/Mrs Frank Roberts and son Earl Roberts/wife of Webster City are guests for a week at the home of Mr/Mrs Walter Jewett
December 15, 1927	79	A surprise party is thrown for Emma Jewett for her 76th birthday. Emma is described as 'an exceptionally active lady for one of her years'.
1928	80	After 56 years at their home in Fayette County, the infirmities of age cause Walter & Emma to close their home in Arlington and move in with a daughter.
May 26, 1929	81	Walter Reed Jewett dies at the home of his daughter, Pearl Wade in Fayette. He had been in ill health for some time.
<i>1929-1931</i>	<i>*Emma is 78</i>	<i>Postwar prosperity ends with a Stock Market crash lasting from 1929 and 1931 with losses estimated at \$50 billion and considered the worst American depression in the nation's history.</i>
January 9, 1930	<i>*Emma is 79</i>	Emma Ann Roberts-Jewett dies at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Roy Metcalfe in Fayette, IA. She is interred at Arlington Cemetery.
January 14, 1930	<i>*79</i>	Funeral services are held for Mrs. Walter (Emily) Jewett, 79, who died Thursday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Roy Metcalfe of Fayette. She has lived with the daughter in Fayette for that past 3 years. She is survived by Mrs. George Hetzel, Arlington; Mrs. Harry Wade and Mrs. Metcalf of Fayette.