EDWARD FLATHERS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

A Genealogical History of Nine Generations in America

By Jennings H. Flathers

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
DEDICATED

To

The first five generations of Fathers who moved westward with each new generation and made homes on the cutting edge of the frontier.
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INTRODUCTION

As a child in the Texas Panhandle, I was so isolated from other Flathers families that my knowledge of my father's relatives consisted mostly of what I knew about the families of his two brothers, Charles and Irvin. We had lived near Uncle Charley when he had lived in Western Oklahoma before moving to Arkansas in 1918. In 1926 we made a trip to Franklin, Nebraska, to visit my father's birthplace, and on that trip I met my Uncle Irvin and his family. I don't recall even knowing my Flathers grandparents names until the summer of 1941, after my father's death, when my mother and I again visited in Franklin, Nebraska. It was on this trip that I gathered some family information going back to my great grandfather, John Wesley Flathers.

After my wife and I moved to McLean, Virginia, near Washington, D.C., in 1960, my wife, Elizabeth, began doing research in the National Archives and DAR Library on her family when I was away from home on trips connected with my work. Over the years, we had been in contact with my cousin, Maureta Flathers Witherspoon, Uncle Charley's daughter, and it was she who gave us our first look into the wonderful history of the Flathers family. In connection with my work I traveled throughout the United States, and on an early trip to Minnesota I found the name of Elaine Flathers, an English teacher in Waseca. Elaine grew up steeped in family history, for Homer, her father, has an insatiable appetite to learn more about the Flathers. Elaine had also inherited family records from three deceased cousins -- Myrta Flathers, Elvira Flathers Seaquist, and Clarice Flathers Shoemaker. My wife, Elizabeth, contacted Elaine, and she along with Maureta Flathers Witherspoon gave us the impetus for further research in the National Archives, DAR Library, National Genealogical Library, county courthouses, county libraries, Library of Congress, and with relatives.
In 1972 when I took early retirement, I vowed that my first project would be the writing of the Flathers Genealogical History. The first draft took months and wasn’t finished when we went exploring a third time to Kentucky, also to Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and again a third time to Indiana. We had already worked in the libraries and courthouses in Fairfax, Prince William, and Fauquier Counties, Virginia, and in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, twice.

Elizabeth carried on correspondence with members of the Flathers families from 1960 until 1972 when I was too busy with my work to gather information. Maureta Flathers Witherspoon and Elaine Flathers furnished copies of old letters, a few dating back nearly a hundred years. Mildred Flathers, granddaughter of my Uncle Irvin, sent a genealogical list of relatives dating back to our common ancestor, Edward Flathers. While this list was not complete, it furnished a solid background for further research. I ran an advertisement in The Genealogical Helper seeking information and attended meetings of the National Genealogical Society on writing and publishing a family genealogical history.

The Flathers Genealogical History has been written using the best information that could be gathered. It probably contains inconsistencies, inaccuracies, irregularities, and incomplete data, but such would necessarily be true of all family histories. If members of the family will sent to me corrected and additional information, in due time there may be a second edition. If anyone wishes further information or correspondence with anyone mentioned in the History, let me hear from you. I shall gladly respond or direct your letters to other members of the family.

If you have difficulty following the family lines as you read through the history, remember, please, that no family history with hundreds of names and many more dates is easy to follow. Use the charts at the first of the chapters as guides. I hope you have a good time reading about your family.

Jennings Harvel Flathers
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Chapter I -- VIRGINIA

If one searches through books listing English family names, he doesn't find the name Flathers. It is not a usual name, and even in England the name is seldom found. The telephone books in English cities list the name only infrequently, and then it is spelled Flather without the final s. The best research to date shows that families who spell the name with the final s are descendants of Edward Flathers. Since there is no evidence that Edward could read or write, the final s could have been added by Edward himself in pronouncing his name or by individuals who made up the Revolutionary War records. The name is spelled with the final s on the early tax rolls in Fauquier County, Virginia, and as early as May 2, 1785, in Greenbrier County (now West Virginia), when Edward's name appears in the Surveyor's Records, Book I. From that time forward all the records of Edward Flathers, including his application for a Revolutionary War pension dated November 11, 1832, in Hendricks County, Indiana, (copy in National Archives, Washington, D.C.) have the name spelled with the final s. The search through hundreds of records on which this book is based has shown that all of Edward's descendants spell their name with the final s, a fact which has made the search for the Edward Flathers records a much easier task.

The name Flather seems to be Anglo-Saxon in origin. The Angles were already established in the southern portion of England when the Saxon marauders and conquerors began to pillage the coastal regions of the British Isles as early as 400 A.D. The Saxons finally firmly established themselves in the southern portion of England, and there resulted the language and culture known as Anglo-Saxon. It is thought that the Flather families lived in this area. Authorities on the English language maintain that the th sound is Anglo-Saxon in origin, for none of the other European languages contain this sound. It is
one of the most difficult English sounds for Continental Europeans to master. Because of this evidence, plus the fact that there are many surnames and other words in the English language with the Anglo-Saxon th sound, it can be reasonably deduced that Flather or Flathers is Anglo-Saxon in origin.

Each individual has a number of heritages springing from his several ancestors. An amalgamation of these heritages influences and tends to make of each what he is. Whatever our other heritages may be, the Flathers heritage springing from our common ancestor, Edward Flathers, is white, Anglo-Saxon English, Protestant. In these days when some speak of this heritage in less than endearing terms calling us WASPS (white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant), let us never forget that it was people like our pioneer ancestors who brought forth on this continent a new concept of freedom and dignity of man. It was Elvira Seaquist, fifth generation American, who wrote, "This Edward Flathers, oldest of whom we have any record, was born in England. Back of him there may have been Irish, but I'm not going to believe it until I have proof. As for me, I am English."

The history of the Flathers family in America began with the daring exploits of a twelve-year-old boy in England, Edward Flathers, who either left the home of his parents and ran away to sea or was captured on the streets of some English city and placed on board a ship headed for America. There is no record of the place or date of Edward's birth, but when he applied for his Revolutionary War Pension in 1832, his application states that he was born in Great Britain in 1760. However, Edward's tombstone in Gentry Cemetery, Hendricks County, Indiana, states that he was 92 years old when he died in 1847. If this transcription is true, he must have been born in 1755.

A letter written in 1924 by William Edward Flathers (fourth generation Flathers and son of William Harris, son of Benjamin Franklin, son of Edward) said

My father when I would ask about his people in London would tell me

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1. Time and place for writing quotation unknown. Original in possession of Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota
all he knew that he once saw a curry comb with the name on it. The Flathers Curry Comb Factory in London. In 1910 I met a traveling salesman who had been in a Flathers Brothers Saddlery in London so that substantiated the story my Father told me 45 years ago.

Another story regarding Edward's origin in England was written to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon by Myrta Flathers (fifth generation Flathers, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Flathers, son of John, son of Thomas, youngest son of Edward). She stated that a man in Danville, Indiana, owned a woodworking plane with the name inscribed on it, "Benjamin Flathers, Sheffield, England." Benjamin might have been Edward's brother or father.

Another letter written to J. W. Ellis, Maquoketa, Iowa, by Thomas Jefferson Flathers of Rochester, Minnesota, (listed above as Myrta's father) date of letter unknown, substantiates some of the above information.

Now a good deal that I know about my ancestors is what my grandfather used to tell me. My great grandfather died about two years before I was born. ... My great grandfather, Edward Flathers, was born in England. He ran away from his parents when sixteen years of age /probably about twelve years of age/ and crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel as a stowaway. He was weeks crossing the ocean, the provisions became so scarce that all hands were forced to live on three grains of parched corn each, for several days.

He landed in Virginia, probably at Alexandria or at Dumfries, the latter a busy port rivaling Philadelphia in those days and some 15 or 20 miles south of Alexandria. He was sold to some company to work for a specified number of years, the company in turn paying his ocean passage. It is not known to whom Edward was sold as an indentured servant, but it can be surmised that it was to a man named James Grimes of Alexandria, Virginia, who was engaged in this business and purchased indentured servants to help run his business. Edward later served as a substitute for James Grimes as a soldier in the Virginia Militia.

2. From a letter written February 2, 1943, by Myrta Flathers to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon.
3. Edward Flathers Pension Application Papers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Many Englishmen and other Europeans as well looked to the New World as an escape from poverty and persecution. They could not, however, pay for the passage, so they struck a bargain with a ship's owner who would transport them to America where they were sold to a company or to individuals to labor for a specified number of years to pay for their passage.

People of every age and kind were decoyed, deceived, seduced, inveigled, or forcibly kidnapped and carried as servants to the plantations. They were hailed with delight by planters and farmers who wanted cheap labor, by speculators who needed more settlers to validate their grants of land, by colonial proprietors who wished to build up the population. They became the principal labor supply of the earlier settlements. Not until the eighteenth century were they superseded in this respect by Negroes.

It was profitable for English merchants trading to the colonies to load their outgoing ships with cargo of servants, for the labor of these servants could be transferred to colonial planters at a price well above the cost of transporting them. It was profitable to the colonial planters to buy them, for he could rise from mere subsistence to prosperity only by commanding the labor of others beside himself. 1

A study of the Virginia Land Books shows that from 30 to 40 percent of the holders in the colony had come first as indentured servants. When these individuals served their masters, they were undifferentiated and obscure serving as field hands, school teachers, pioneer farmers, wood choppers, and laborers who cleared the land of trees for farming. 3

... despite the crushing hardships of pioneer life which both master and servant had to endure together, America presented to the average man far better chance of attaining decent independence than did Europe. 4

From 1746 through 1775, nearly 5,500 came to Virginia from the port of London alone, and in the New World they became indentured servants. It is quite probable that Edward Flathers was one of this number.

2. Ibid, p 297
3. Ibid, p 7
4. Ibid, p 304
5. Ibid
If Edward were twelve years old when he came to America in 1767 and was sold into servitude for seven years, he must have finished his term of indenture by 1774. From that time until he entered the service of his country as a Virginia Militiaman in 1781, there is no record, but he must have resided in Prince William County, for later he speaks of returning home to Prince William County. He could have continued working for James Grimes, to whom he had been indentured, or he could have worked for other people. There is no record that he obtained any land. He could have leased land and farmed for himself, but that is unlikely, for then he would have been placed on the tax roll. In no place was he listed on the tax roll.

No record can be found of the marriage of Edward Flathers and Clarissa Legg. Clarissa, commonly called Clara, was probably more often called Clary. The marriage records in Prince William County go back to 1750, but their marriage is not listed. Living on Occoquan Creek, the dividing line between Prince William and Fairfax Counties, Edward and Clara could have been married in Fairfax County or even in Fauquier County. The early records in Virginia list Legg families living in both these counties, but early marriage records were not kept in either county. William E. Flathers wrote in his Genealogical Record on March 15, 1921, that Edward was married in 1781.

In August, 1781, Edward was pressed into the ranks of a Virginia Militia Company in Prince William County under the command of Captain John Britt. This company worked to clear forest near Occoquan Creek in preparation for the building of a road which General Washington and his troops would use passing southward through Virginia. In Edward's application for a pension in 1832, he states that after serving in the militia and completing the task of clearing the woods, "he returned home to Prince William County." If he were still working

1. Edward Flathers Pension Application Papers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
for James Grimes, it was to this home that he returned, but it is also possible that he had a new bride and was maintaining a home elsewhere.

After Edward was home for only a short time, he again served in the Virginia Militia, this time

... in the place of Shedwick Dent, and was put into the ranks of a militia company commanded by Capt. Walt. Pattan, and immediately after I substituted I was again marched to Ochoquon Creek in Prince William County, Virginia, on the business of aforesaid. To wit, cutting out a road for Gen. George Washington's troops to march from Pennsylvania through Virginia. We were then again discharged again after having been at least two months in the service as afore said. 1

Edward was not home long when he again joined the Virginia Militia, and whoever wrote the pension application for Edward in 1832 gave the following account:

... he again substituted in the place of one James Sinclair, in Farquar County, Virginia, and was put into the ranks of a Militia Company commanded by Col. Elias Edmonds. He states that after he substituted he was marched to York Town Virginia and there he joined the United States Army commanded by Gen. George Washington. We then fought a battle with the British royal Army—which battle was called the siege of York Town. He well recollects the orders were that no (words were omitted) should fire again but to charge with our bayonets. And after a very hard engagement with the enemy there was a great many killed both of the British and American but he does not recollect the precise number that was killed. And he recollects some of the officers names that commanded the Brittons, Cornwallis and Tafton: he states that after siege of York Town he was ordered to march to Winchester to guard the prisoners under officers Col. Elias Edmonds, Maj. Walsh, Capt. Thomas Sharpe, he states that he was returned in 7 four days. And he was then discharged and returned home to Prince William County in the State of Virginia. 2

The above is a direct quotation from Edward's Pension Application papers, and like many individuals of the day, he signed the papers with an X which indicated that he could not read or write.

The Winchester referred to by Edward is the same Winchester known in Virginia today, a distance of some 250 miles from Yorktown. With only primitive roads, the undertaking would have been a major one. The route takes is clearly

1. Ibid
2. Ibid
Returning to their tents through the same lines, the British were permitted a few days of rest, when the rank and file, with a number of officers, were marched off to prison camp at Winchester, Virginia, and Frederick, Maryland, guarded chiefly by militiamen. Their route lay through Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Red House, and Ashby's Gap, into the Shenandoah Valley. It isn't known where Red House is, but it could have been where the present town of Warrenton is located. Edward probably walked the entire 250 miles and another 100 miles from Winchester to Prince William County.

Just prior to the Battle of Yorktown, Washington had been in the north with his troops, but when the French fleet promised assistance in the Chesapeake Bay area, he quickly marched his troops through New Jersey, embarked them on transports in Delaware Bay, and landed them at Williamsburg, Virginia. Cornwallis, Commander of the British troops, had retreated to Yorktown with his army of 8,500 British regulars and had constructed trenches for protection. The British wanted to be accessible to the navy for supply purposes and for retreat if such were necessary. The army under Washington consisted of 5,500 men in the Continental Army, 3,500 Virginia militiamen, and 5,000 French regulars.

Cornwallis was in Virginia because this colony was an important source of supplies, both men and other necessities, for keeping an army in the field. He had been in a sparring position with the patriotic forces under the French General Lafayette.

The French fleet completely sealed off the mouth of Chesapeake Bay with its superior navy. When the combined American and French forces so completely overwhelmed the outnumbered British forces, with all escape by sea cut off, Cornwallis surrendered his army to General George Washington on October 19, 1781, bringing the Revolutionary War to a close. The French lost 52 killed and

1. Yorktown Campaign and the Surrender of Cornwallis, 1871, Henry P. Johnston, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1881, p 157
134 wounded. The American casualties were 32 killed and 65 wounded, while the British lost 156 killed, 326 wounded, and 70 missing. Contributions of the various states to the Revolutionary War forces places Virginia third with 26,678 men, behind only Massachusetts and Connecticut and well ahead of such neighbors as New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

An account of the surrender, which Edward probably witnessed, is given in the book listed in the footnote.

At one o'clock a garrison of York marched out to the appointed place in front of the post, with shouldered arms, colors cased, drums beating a British march, grounded their arms and returned to their encampments to remain until dispatched to their several destinations in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. . . . The land forces became prisoners to the United States, and the marine forces to the naval army of France.

The British troops marched to the field of ceremony with their usual steadiness, and the whole army having received an issue of new clothing, their appearance was as soldierly as if on garrison parade. When General O'Hare approached General Washington and apologized for the absence of General Cornwallis, on account of indisposition, he was referred to General Lincoln. That officer received, and as promptly returned his sword, and the troops having disposed their arms returned to the post.

This British stability and stalwartness, something they may have lost since World War II, has served that nation well throughout the centuries.

Edward Flathers as a member of the Virginia militia was pressed into battle with but little preparation. These militiamen did, however, perform nobly, and in the plan of battle, they filled their proper role.

Following the Battle of Yorktown and the marching of the British prisoners to Winchester, Edward returned to his home, now in neighboring Fauquier County. At this time he was not a land owner, but he is listed on the roll of Virginia Taxpayers, 1782 - 87, as a resident of Fauquier County and as the owner of five slaves. It was not uncommon in Virginia at that time, nor in other states, north as well as south, to own slaves. It was an accepted way of life.

It is not known where Edward secured the five slaves, but it is conceivable

1. Ibid. p 86
2. Ibid. p 642
that he was paid in slaves for serving in the armed forces as a substitute for James Grimes, Shedwick Dent, or James Sinclair. These three men probably were from wealthy families, quite able to hire a substitute who had recently been only an indentured servant. All about him, Edward observed that it took manpower to get ahead economically. He could have taken the money he received for fighting in the Revolutionary War and purchased the slaves, but in any case they were his when he was listed as a taxpayer in Fauquier County. He very soon moved to Greenbrier County, Virginia (later to become West Virginia) where he was listed as not owning any slaves. It is quite possible that Edward sold the slaves, using the money to buy his first land. How else could he have managed this sum of money?

Edward and Clara’s first child, Benjamin Franklin Flathers, must have been born in Fauquier County. Information handed down from generation to generation does not specify the place in Virginia where the children were born, but simply states Virginia. Benjamin Franklin was born April 22, 1782, and the next child, Mary, was born in 1783. This second child was, no doubt, born in Fauquier County before the family moved to Greenbrier County.

It is not known what the young man, Edward Flathers, looked like, and we can only guess, but there is some reason to believe that he was of medium height, possibly 5 feet 10 inches tall, of square stature with square facial features, blue eyes, and light hair. These features have been passed down from generation to generation, and some or all can be found in a number of individuals even today: Homer Flathers of Stewartville, Minnesota; John Flathers of Franklin, Nebraska; Erroll Flathers of Perryton, Texas; Howard Flathers of Delmar, Iowa; and in the sisters, Ada Flathers and Anna Flathers.

1. Virginia Tax Payers 1782-87, Other Than Those Published by U.S. Census Bureau, Augustus B. Fothergill and John Mark Nagle, 1940, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Millington, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. One sees these features in the picture of Benjamin Franklin Flathers remade from an old daguerreotype owned by Maureta Flathers Witherspoon; in the photograph of Edward's grandsons; Thomas, William, Edward and John Wesley; and most of these features are also found in the five young men who fought in the Civil War from Iowa.

Early in the years following the Battle of Yorktown, Edward and his family moved across the mountains to Greenbrier County. As has been pointed out previously, Edward was listed as living in Fauquier County in *Virginia Tax Payers 1782-87, Other Than Those Published by U.S. Census Bureau*, Fothergill and Nagle, page 43, but in this same publication, page 109, he is also listed as living in Greenbrier County. Sometime during the five years covered by the book, he moved from Fauquier to Greenbrier County. The move probably came in 1784 or early in 1785, for on May 2, 1785, the Surveyor's Record in *Deed Book I*, Greenbrier County, and *Survey Book 3* of Monroe County, page 174, shows that a survey of 155 acres was made for Edward Flathers. Later he acquired another 70 acres of land making a total of 225 acres in his farm. This land lies in what was southern Greenbrier County but is now part of Monroe County, five or six miles south of the county seat of Union, and on Indian Creek at Lick Run. The valley formed by Indian Creek is beautiful and is today a prosperous beef raising area known as The Sinks. The author has visited the area and has pictures of the region where Edward lived, but the pictures did not reproduce well for copies to be used in the book.

In moving to Greenbrier County, Edward probably traveled southward from Fauquier County until he reached the road from Dumfries and Fredericksburg heading southwestward. This was the route most often traveled by pioneers from Europe headed for the valleys beyond the mountains, then known as the frontier. This pass through the mountains is the same pass used today by Interstate 64. Once the Shenandoah River Valley was reached, however, the trip southwestward was easier until they came to the place where they must turn westward again.
near the present city of Lexington. Their westward course then took them through some of the most rugged yet beautiful country in Virginia. People were beginning to move into the area of Greenbrier County, so there must have been some kind of trail for Edward and his family to follow. There was already a settlement at Lewisburg, some hundred miles through the wild mountainous terrain from Lexington.

The areas of Greenbrier and Monroe Counties are beautiful and majestic, a vacation area today for Mid-Eastern America.

There is magic about the very words "Greenbrier County." One immediately remembers the wide, clean sweep of the farms, the unbelievable blue of the summer sky, the mountains fading to purple in the sunset and the smell of wood fires in the evening. But there is more, a feeling of calm, of plenty, and of peace -- the magic is there and it works a charm today, just as when the settlers of more than a century and a half ago were fighting heroically to establish their homes in the fertile valley. 1

The county had been created by an act of the Virginia Legislature in 1777 to take effect in 1778, so the county was reasonably well established when Edward and his family arrived six years later. Lewisburg was the county seat of Greenbrier and was more than twenty miles north of Edward's farm.

The town of Lewisburg is the oldest town in West Virginia with the exception of Clarksburg and Wheeling. It has been the county seat of Greenbrier County since 1778. . . . Lewisburg was made a town by legislative enactment in 1782. 3

In 1786 the sheriff was ordered to let to the lowest bidder the building of a courthouse. Previously, the county business had been housed in a small one-room structure. The new building was inspected and accepted in the April Court of 1790. The court records previous to 1780 have been scattered and lost, and the records of the next several years are rather meager. In one place the business transactions of Edward Flathers are listed in the Deed Book 1

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2. Ibid.
3. History of Greenbrier County, J. R. Cole, Published by Author, Lewisburg, W. V.
4. Ruth Woods Dayton, op. cit., p 144
5. Ibid., p 45
6. Ibid., p 39
under the name of Edward Flathers.

Edward's six children were all born in Virginia and in what is now known as West Virginia:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Franklin</td>
<td>April 22, 1782</td>
<td>Fauquier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>1783</td>
<td>Fauquier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John (second name could have been Wesley)</td>
<td>March 27, 1785</td>
<td>Fauquier County or Greenbrier County. This is the year Edward moved to Greenbrier County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Greenbrier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Newton</td>
<td>March 27, 1789</td>
<td>Greenbrier County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>November 25, 1793</td>
<td>Greenbrier County</td>
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Greenbrier County -- beautiful, scenic, and serene -- is a wonderful place to live today, two hundred years after Edward lived there, but farming was not profitable in the area of The Sinks. Today, cattle raising pays big dividends in Greenbrier County, but Edward had to make his living by growing crops from the soil. He kept hearing of the opportunities which lay in the land of Kentucky, still westward. This vast area had belonged to Virginia, but the Kentucky pioneers wanted a separate state. The General Assembly of Virginia acceded to their wishes, and Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the fourteenth state in 1792. Edward was filled with the thrill of the Westward Movement, just as other Flathers would be through the first five generations, and on September 13, 1797, Edward sold his land in Greenbrier County and headed westward another time.

1. Genealogical Record supplied by Mildred Flathers, Franklin, Nebraska, seventh generation -- daughter of John Elmer, son of Irvin, son of Nathaniel Thomas, son of John Wesley, son of Benjamin Franklin, son of Edward. Places of birth established by the author.
2. Survey Book 3, Monroe County, West Virginia, p 287. This same information is found in Survey Book 3, Greenbrier County.
Chapter II — KENTUCKY

After selling his land in Greenbrier County in 1797, Edward Flathers moved his family to Kentucky and is found in the Garrard County Census of 1800.

The American Revolution was followed by an extensive emigration from Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, which made its way either by the Ohio River from Fort Pitt or -- the far greater number -- by the Cumberland Gap and the "Wilderness Road," as marked by Daniel Boone in 1775. At least 95% of the population, excluding Negro slaves, were pure English, Scotch, or Scotch-Irish descent.

There is no information as to how Edward transported his family from Greenbrier County, but he, his friends and neighbors, must have made up a caravan. The William Jeffers family lived in Greenbrier County and might have gone with Edward and his family to Kentucky. Later Edward's daughter Mary married William Jeffers, sometimes spelled Jeffries. If the family went by boat, they probably waited until the spring rains came, making the Greenbrier River deep enough to float flat bottom boats on which the pioneers had constructed huts for shelter. They would have floated down the Greenbrier River to the New River, thence to the Kanawha and then to the Ohio. When they reached the Kentucky River, they would have gone up that river to the area of Madison County.

This would have been a most dangerous undertaking, however, for there must have been rapids or even waterfalls on the rivers in the mountainous regions of West Virginia. Edward would have known of these uncertainties before trusting the lives of his family on such a venture. Who is to say that Edward would not have accepted the challenge of the river if it were feasible? This is the same person who as a boy of twelve ran away from home to become a stowaway on a ship bound for America and later volunteered three times, taking the place of others in the Revolutionary War, the same young man who was a

part of the Battle of Yorktown, one of the decisive battles of the world. Who is to say that building a house boat and floating down the river to Kentucky would not have been equally challenging?

Due to the rugged mountains in West Virginia, pioneers could not travel straight westward, so it is quite likely that these noble people followed the example set by other people and followed the valleys between the ranges of the Blue Ridge Mountains southwestward to the Cumberland Gap in the area where Virginia meets Tennessee and Kentucky. There they passed through the mountain ranges and came upon the Wilderness Road as marked twenty years previously by Daniel Boone. Edward and his family went westward in 1797.

Before 1800 there was little traffic by land other than by pack horse and saddle and the so called roads were nothing more than paths. The first roads were the buffalo traces following the highest ridges and the Indian war path which the white man traveled only with the greatest of caution. When the roads were widened and the two and four-wheeled vehicles appeared upon them, the pack saddle men with their caravans objected strenuously and sometimes forced their wagons from the road.

The law was enacted in 1793 to improve the road from Milford, the county seat of Madison County, Kentucky, to Hazelpath in Rockcastle County. The state provided the funds and the road was opened in 1797. This connected up with the Wilderness Road, a state project, which was opened up in 1896.

It isn't known how Edward traveled from Greenbrier County to Central Kentucky, but if he went by land, the journey was long, tedious, difficult, and tiresome. If it were possible to get a wagon or cart over the Wilderness Road in 1797, the road was rough, narrow, and sometimes almost impossible. The low places and swamps would have been filled with logs placed crossways on the road. This kept the wagons from sinking into the swamp, but it also provided an extremely rough roadbed. The men and boys walked the 500 miles from Greenbrier County to Central Kentucky.

Most of the early settlers had little to bring with them. Farming implements, a few cooking utensels, a small stock of supplies and the women and children were all that the emigrant found it necessary to provide for. These were placed on the backs of

horses, which with one or more cows and an occasional sheep or hog made up the cavalcade, which was led by the man and boys on foot. Horses which carried the younger children were furnished with a pack-saddle, on either side of which was hung a creel, fashioned from hickory withes in the form of a crate. In these were stowed the clothing and bedding, in the center of which a child or two was securely placed and guarded against accidents by strong lacings, which prevented their falling out. No friendly inn then opened its doors to the weary emigrant, nor could they have afforded to pay for its accommodations. 1

It is possible that Edward and his family were one of the first to bring a wagon or cart through the Cumberland Gap and over the Wilderness Road to Central Kentucky. Edward was accustomed to surmounting difficulties.

The Boone Trace, and its successor, The Wilderness Road, is probably one of the most famous trails in American History. The Boone Trace originated at Cumberland Gap, crossed the Cumberland River in the vicinity of Pineville, Kentucky, followed the warrior path to the vicinity of Barbourville, Kentucky, where it branched to the west running close to the present city of Corbin, Kentucky, passing through London, Kentucky, at the Wilderness Road State Park and preceding through Laurel and Rockcastle Counties to the Daniel Boone National Forest over Big Hill to the vicinity of Berea, through the present Army Ordinance Depot and the site of Fort Estill near Richmond, Kentucky, and thence on down Otter Creek to the Kentucky River at the site of the early village of Boonesborough. 2

Thus, when Edward came to the end of the Boone Trail known as Wilderness Road, he had reached Central Kentucky which is today called The Bluegrass Region. Edward, like Moses of Old, was never to live in this Promised Land, for by the time he reached Central Kentucky in 1797, the good land of The Bluegrass Region had been taken. "Before 1785, nearly all the finest land in Garrard had been surveyed and improvements built thereon." If this were true in Garrard County, it must have been even more so in Madison County, the heart of the best land in Central Kentucky and the Bluegrass Region.

During the War of 1812, the British burned Washington, destroying the

Census Records of several states including those of Kentucky; however, a Second Census of Kentucky — 1800 has been compiled by G. Glenn Clift, Assistant Secretary of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1954. He used the tax lists of the several counties. On Page 98 of this document, dated August 6, 1800, Edward is listed as living in Garrard County, but in surveying the county records in Garrard Court House, one can find no record of Edward owning any land. Disappointed that the good land was gone when he reached Kentucky or lacking the money to purchase land, Edward must have leased land in Garrard County for farming. Information which has come from Myrta Flathers of Rochester, Minnesota, (now deceased) Maureta Flathers Witherspoon of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Elaine Flathers of Waseca, Minnesota, says that Edward also lived in Rockcastle County. Since the Rockcastle County Court House burned in 1885 destroying the deed and tax roll records, this point cannot be proved or disproved.

The 1810 United States Census of Madison County, Kentucky, lists Edward as living in that county, but a search of the land deeds in Richmond, the county seat, does not reveal any land transactions involving Edward. He must have been leasing land for farming. The 1810 Census lists only the head of the household by name with the other grouped into age brackets without names. The census listed one male over 15 and one female over 15, two males 16 to 26 and two females 16 to 26, two males and one female 10 to 16, and one male under 10. The two adults over 15 were Edward and Clara, and the two males 10 to 16 were Isaac and Thomas with the two females of this age being Mary and Nancy. We do not know the identity of the three males and the one female under 16.

The unknown children in Edward's household most likely were grandchildren who were living with Edward at the time. However, they may have been children of friends who had died. Giving a home to them sounds like something Edward would have done.

1. Madison County 1810 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
have done. In the 1870 Linn County, Missouri, Census a Thomas Flathers is listed, and there are Flathers families living in Kansas City that cannot be placed on the Family Genealogical Chart. Since Thomas Flathers of Linn County said that he was born in Kentucky about this same period and since the Flathers families in Kansas City cannot be identified, could it be possible that these young individuals living in Edward's household took the Flathers' name?

Listed also in the Madison County Census of 1810 is Benjamin Franklin Flathers who married Anna Shakelford. There is no record in either Madison or Garrard Counties of their marriage, but unrecorded marriages were not uncommon on the frontier. The marriage could have been performed by a circuit rider who retained the marriage record and never had it recorded in the county courthouse. Since transportation was slow and roads rough and muddy, it is doubtful if Benjamin traveled to the county seat of Madison County, which was Richmond, many times during the years he lived in Kentucky. Also, the marriage record could have been destroyed by fire when the courthouse in Rockcastle County burned in 1885.

The 1810 Madison County Census listed the Benjamin Franklin Flathers household as having one male 16 to 26, one female 16 to 26, and two males under 10. The two adults were Benjamin and Anna, and the two males under 10 were Edward born February 16, 1808, and John Wesley born April 23, 1809. Anna Shakelford Flathers was born April 2, 1788. The Shakelford families came to Kentucky with the first settlers and had been residing in the area for several years.

Also listed in the 1810 Madison County Census was the household of John Flathers, Edward's second son, and his wife Mary Flathers. John had no children, and none is listed in his will when he died years later, but one male is listed

1. Madison County 1810 Census, op. cit.
2. Clinton County, Iowa, 1850 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Genealogical Family Record, Mildred Flathers, op. cit.
4. Myrta Flathers letter Feb. 9, 1943. Genealogical records belonging to her fathers, Thomas Jefferson Flathers
in the household as being under 10. This was probably William Garrett, the young man whom John raised and who was mentioned in John's will.

In the 1820 Madison County Census, Edward, Benjamin, and John are all listed. Edward and Clara were both over 15 years of age, but also listed in the household was one male under 10, two between 16 and 26, and two females between 16 and 26. One can only guess who these young people are as we compare these statistics with those of the 1810 Census.

In Benjamin's household other than Benjamin and Anna, there were three males under 10, two between 10 and 16, one female under 10, and one between 10 and 16. This accounts for seven of Benjamin's eight children. The eighth could have been at the home of Grandfather Edward.

In John Flathers household other than he and his wife, Mary, the census lists one male below 10.

The three counties in Central Kentucky where Edward Flathers was supposed to have lived during the nearly thirty years of his stay in Kentucky form a triangle with Madison at the top and northeast, Garrard on the southwest, and Rockcastle on the southeast. As one drives southward through Madison County, he is impressed with the beautiful, luxurious countryside, but he can see lying on the southern horizon high hills or low rocky mountains.

Madison County has always been a prosperous agricultural section where meets the bluegrass and the knobs. Her fertility ranges from that of the lush blue grass where may be found the stately homes of pre-Civil War days to the rock-bound knobs, where economic success is almost unknown.

As has been pointed out, Edward did not obtain land when he first came to Central Kentucky; however, in 1817 he did purchase 134 acres for $170 on Clear Creek, waters of Rockcastle River, in Madison County. An examination

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1. Madison County, Kentucky, 1810 Census, op. cit.
2. Madison County, Kentucky, 1820 Census, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Glimpses of Historic Madison County, Kentucky, op. cit., p. li
6. Deed Book M, Madison County Courthouse, Richmond, Kentucky, p. 203
of the map reveals that this land lies in the southeast corner of the county near the "rock-bound knobs, where economic success is almost unknown."

Also in 1817, Benjamin obtained a land grant for 50 acres in Madison County on the fork of Paint Lick Creek, the creek which forms the boundary line between Madison and Garrard Counties, a somewhat better location than that where Edward purchased land. The same information states that Isaac obtained a 50 acre grant on Clear Creek near Edward's land, and Henry Flathers obtained a 50 acre grant on Clear Creek, just across the county line into Rockcastle County from Edward and Isaac. Henry must be the middle name for Thomas Flathers, the youngest son of Edward. Near proof that Henry and Thomas are the same person will be given in the chapter dealing with Edward's youngest son, Thomas.

The lack of consistency in the use of names even on legal documents in the United States until recent years has dealt havoc to those interested in tracing family histories and genealogy. In some instances, a person's name might be spelled two or three ways on a single document. Individuals fondly listed their heirs even in such legal documents as wills by their nicknames. Two good examples of this inconsistent use of names are Henry for Thomas in the Kentucky land grant and Edward's naming of two individuals in his will, a matter that will be discussed in the next chapter.

Edward and sons, Isaac and Thomas, obtained land in the knob section of Central Kentucky.

The knob area is very hilly and the soils are poor. Too many people try to make a living on small farms in the poor region which cannot support these people according to decent standards of living. 2

On October 1, 1821, John Flathers purchased for $250 fifty acres of land on Scaffold Cane Road from William Jeffers, the same Jeffers family Edward

2. History of Garrard County and its Churches, op.cit., p 8
3. Deed Book 4, Madison County Courthouse, Richmond, Kentucky, p 418
must have known in Greenbrier County and who probably came to Kentucky at the same time Edward came. This is also the same family who later moved to Indiana at the time Edward moved and had the son, William Jeffers, who married Edward's daughter, Mary Flathers. The Scaffold Cane Road runs south out of Berea toward Rockcastle County and isn't far from the land purchased by Edward and the brothers.

The early settlers had a hard and difficult life. First, the man together with the sons, if they were old enough, had to make a clearing for a log cabin and then construct that cabin, but the clearing of the land was the obligation of the owner of the land. Usually, the neighbors helped construct the cabin.

Maize (corn) was invariably the first crop. A small space was usually devoted to garden vegetables; a small patch for turnips was sown. Nothing could equal the Indian corn for the necessities of settlers in a new and isolated country. It furnished food for man and beast. The tender corn shaved off and eaten in milk was a dish that is still highly praised. 1

The cow was almost like a member of the family and obtained a position of importance and respect. Following the cow was the horse for riding and working, the sheep for wool for clothing as well as for food, the swine for meat, and the poultry for eggs and meat.

In the area where the Flathers family lived were some fine "sugar orchards." The maple trees furnished two real delicacies, maple sugar and maple syrup. Thomas Flathers, Benjamin Franklin's fourth son, suffered a severe accident at one of the sugar mills in Kentucky. There will be more information on this accident in the chapter dealing with Thomas after he has moved to Iowa.

As one compares the life of Edward Flathers in Kentucky with what he would have had in Greenbrier County, West Virginis, he must ask the question, "Did Edward improve his lot by making this long and arduous journey to Kentucky?"

1. Kentucky, A History of the State, op. cit., p 210
Perhaps not if the end were to be Kentucky, but the move placed him in a favorable position for his next and final move -- that which took him and his sons to Indiana.
Chapter III — EDWARD IN INDIANA

Since the age of twelve when Edward Flathers ran away from home and became a stowaway on a ship bound for America, he had been searching for something better than he had in England. He found it in America, but he was too late to get the good land in Virginia. He moved across the Blue Ridge Mountains to Greenbrier County, a beautiful place, but pioneers couldn't conquer the wilderness, raise a family, and build a nation on beauty alone. They needed land rich in mineral substance for farming. In Kentucky Edward was again too late to get the good land of The Bluegrass Region, so he had to settle for second best — the hilly knobs. When the central part of the neighboring state of Indiana was opened for settlement around 1825, however, Edward and his children were near at hand, some 200 miles away with no mountain barriers in between. They came early to Indiana and got the best of land. Edward now an elderly man of seventy years of age, at last realized the dream of a lifetime — a farm with rich, deep, fertile, level soil.

It is not known just when Edward disposed of his land in Madison County, Kentucky, for no record could be found in the county deed books of the sale of the land, but Deed Book I of Hendricks County, Indiana, page 183, lists Edward as purchasing a farm four miles northwest of Danville, the county seat of Hendricks County in March of 1828. Not only did Edward move to Indiana, but all of his children moved about the same time. Benjamin Franklin had preceded him, settling in neighboring Montgomery County in 1825. All of the other children settled in Hendricks County.

According to an early census in Hendricks County, most of the early settlers in the county came from Kentucky, with Ohio and Virginia second and third but running far behind. There hadn't been enough good land in

1. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Hendricks County, Indiana, J. B. Beers and Company, Chicago, 1878, p 5
Kentucky to meet the demand, and with the opening of Indiana for settlement, the neighboring Kentuckians were in a position to be first in line to acquire the rich, fertile, level lands that were to become America's bread basket.

No better class of emigrants ever peopled a new country anywhere than those which began the settlement of Hendricks County. They were not adventurers, but all came to stay, and were equally interested in the future welfare of their neighborhood, and being bound together by the strong ties of mutual dependence in everything, there grew up among them a fraternity of feeling for each other that the destroying hand of time had never abated. When a newcomer first arrived, the first thing he did was to begin a clearing for the site of his cabin, and in this and the building of his cabin he was generally assisted by his neighbors. The family generally moved from beneath a friendly beech tree into the house when half roofed and floorless. These were the days of johnny-cakes, venison, buckskin breeches, coonskin caps and wooden-bottomed shoes. A log sled, long sled, grubbing hoe, hand hoe, jumping plow, axe, and the hand-spike, together with the flax brake and scutching knife composed the stock of farming utensils. The spinning wheel made the music of the house. Rolling logs, building houses, clearing ground, cutting out roads, going to mill, digging ginseng, hunting bees, shooting deer and turkey, etc. constituted the work and pastime of these days and kept the larder full and furnished delicacies that would be enjoyed by people of older countries.

In the winter evenings, after it was too dark to work in the clearing, in the single room of the cabin sat the family before a huge blazing fire of hickory wood, which kept up a continuous fusilade, which scattered live coals all over the room. Near one jamb of the fireplace could be seen the large three-legged oven, with a pile of live coals under it, and in it a pan of corn bread baking for next day's dinner. Before the fire stood the johnny cake board leaning against the sad-iron, and on it was baking the delicious johnny for the coming supper. In one of the jambs was fastened the pot rack, and upon its trammel hung the pot of pounded hominy, boiling for future use; the daughters were preparing the frugal supper, the mother spinning flax on the little wheel, the father making or mending moccasins, the sons making hickory brooms or pounding hominy in a mortar burned into the end of a hickory log.

Roasting ear time was a season of rejoicing to men, women, children, squirrels, coons, and woodpeckers; but after that passed, the ripening ears were picked out and hung in the cabin to dry a few days, when they were shelled in quantities of one or two bushel and taken to the mill. In the early autumn days of those times, mush was a staple, and came as manna from heaven to those who were out of corn and money too.

Soon after the first settlement in Hendricks County, there came upon the whole country the most disastrous monetary crisis ever experienced by the American people. One man waited two months to get 25 cents to pay the postage on a letter from friends in North Carolina, which had been all that time in the post office awaiting redemption. A young man went to Owen County with 75 cents to buy corn, which he failed to get, but purchased a "little dab of flour" which his widowed mother compounded with something else to go further, and made bread of it. Upon
this and milk, the family lived, during which time, the young man walked four miles away each day, and "deadened" trees at 37½ cents a day, to pay twenty-six percent interest on money that paid for their eighty acres of land.

Thus lived the pioneers of Hendricks County, the subjugators of the wilderness, the builders of fortune and renown; and as year after year, from the sweat of their toil, wealth grew out of the ground; and as year after year the little original corn patch widened and grew to broad fields — as year after year, to the single cow and calf, to the horse and pigs, new members were added until the herds cover the hills and valleys — so the inconveniences of those early days passed slowly away. 1

It probably would have been impossible for Edward and Clara to have lived such a rugged life in a new land had not their three sons and daughter, Mary Flathers Jeffers, lived near by. The younger daughter, Nancy, lived at home, for she did not marry until she was fifty. The close relationship of the family manifests itself not only in the fact that when one member of the family moved to Indiana, all members moved, but records in the Hendricks County Courthouse show that Edward and sons John, Thomas, and Isaac all lived near by as did the Jeffers family. The land of John and Isaac adjoined Edward's on Section 29, Township 16, Range 1 west. 2

On November 14, 1832, Edward appeared in open court in Hendricks County and applied for a pension based upon his service in the Revolutionary War. On August 28, 1833, he was awarded a pension of $20.00 annually dating from March 4, 1931. At a time when a good Indiana farm of 80 acres could be purchased for $200.00, an annual pension of $20.00 was a sizeable sum. Since ready cash was a difficult handicap to the pioneers, this $20.00 must have meant a great deal to Edward and Clara.

Edward's pension application, on file in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., tells many things that would not be known without it:

(1) It says that each of the three times Edward substituted for other men in the Revolutionary War, he served at least two months. Perhaps each

1. Ibid., pp 6 - 8
length of service was not restricted to two months. Edward's third enlistment must have been considerably longer. The recruitment was done in Prince William County, from whence the Virginia Militia Company marched to Yorktown, a distance of 150 miles over difficult roads. The American and French troops were made ready for the month-long Siege of Yorktown under the generalship of George Washington. At the defeat of the British forces, Edward was among the American forces which marched the British prisoners to Winchester, a Virginia outpost well known to General Washington through his services there in the French and Indian Wars and his work as a surveyor. By the time Edward walked the 250 miles to Winchester (guarding the prisoners all the while), turned them over to other authorities, and walked the 100 miles back to Prince William County, the time elapsed must have neared half a year.

(2) The pension application says that Edward was born in England, but that he did not know the date of his birth, that he could not write his name but signed with the familiar X. These two facts say that Edward's family in England were probably poor people placing little emphasis on birthdays. Most boys of twelve years of age would have known the date of their birth. The pension also points to the fact that Edward had no formal education which was the general situation for poor children in England at the time Edward was growing up.

(3) The pension papers also state that Edward lived in Prince Willism County, Virginia, some 20 to 25 miles southwest of the present city of Washington, D. C., then moved to Greenbrier County, Kentucky, where he lived for 15 years years before moving to Kentucky where he lived for 30 years. He then moved to Hendricks County, Indiana, where he had lived for 5 years when the pension application was made. These facts have been of utmost importance in the tracing of the early history of the Flathers family in America.
The Hendricks County Census shows that living in the Edward Flathers household, other than Edward and Clara, was one male between the ages of 10 and 15, probably a grandchild, and one female between 20 and 30, who was probably the daughter, Nancy, who must have lived at home until her marriage to William Ellis, member of the well known Hendricks County family, on November 1, 1837. Nancy at age 50. The 1840 Census shows only Edward and Clara living in the household, both listed as being between 80 and 90.

The year of 1845 must have been a very sad year for Edward and Clara as well as for the entire Flathers family, for on August 1, 1845, their son, Isaac, died and was buried in the neighboring cemetery which has become known as the Gentry Cemetery. Two and one-half months later, Benjamin Franklin died while on a visit to Iowa, the date October 11, 1845. Edward Flathers died on May 7, 1847, at the home of his son, Thomas. He was 92 years of age, and Clara inscribed Clary on her tombstone, died November 30, 1849, age 94. Both are buried in the family plot in the Gentry Cemetery near Danville, Indiana, some three miles northwest of Danville and two miles from Edward's farm.

Edward's will, on file in the Hendricks County Courthouse, reads as follows:

In the name of God, Amen, this second day of Feb, in the year of our Lord, 1844, I Edward Flathers of Hendricks County and State of Indiana being in sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testimony; in form following to wit: I commend my soul to almighty God who gave it and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors, whom I shall hereafter appoint and all my funeral expenses to be paid out of the first moneys that come into the hands of my executors from any portion of my estate (for debts I know of none) and all my earthly goods I bestow in form following: I wish my beloved wife to receive one bed and bedstead and as much bed clothing as she wishes. I will and bequeath unto my Great granddaughter, Nancy Flathers, daughter of Harvy Flathers deceased, the following articles of property: Viz, one bed and bedding, one table, one sugar chest and one cloth chest. I wish all the rest of my earthly estate that is my land, household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, stock of all kinds, and all other property pertaining to me to be sold shortly after my death on a credit of twelve months and when

1. Index to Marriage Records, Hendricks County, Indiana, 1823-1920, Vol. II, p 3
2. Hendricks County, Indiana Census, 1830 and 1840, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Dates of death inscribed on tomb stones of each individual.
the money is collected by my executors, I wish it to be divided in the following manner, I will and bequeath unto my beloved wife one third, I will and bequeath unto my great grand daughter, Nancy Flathers, daughter of Harvy, deceased, $50.00 which I wish my executors to retain in their hands until she becomes old enough to take care of it herself, and the balance of the proceeds of my estate I wish to be equally divided between my six children, namely Benjamin Flathers, Polly /Mary/ Flathers, John Flathers, Thomas Flathers, and Nancy Ellis each of my sons and daughters to have equal share and share alike. I moreover appoint my two sons John Flathers and Thomas Flathers for my executors to execute this my last will and testament and finally revoking all other wills that formerly might have been made by me. In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and seal.

Edward Flathers

Edward's will had been made in 1844; he died May 7, 1847, and by August 17, 1849, the will had been fully executed. On November 23, 1847, the following was filed with the clerk of Hendricks County Probate Court:

Whereas heretofore to wit: on the 23 day of November A. D. 1847 John Darrough administrator with the will annexed of the Estate of Edward Flathers deceased filed in the clerk's office of the Hendricks Probate Court his petition representing that the said deceased at the time of his death was the owner of the following described tract of land to wit: The west half of the southwest quarter of Section Thirty in Township Sixteen, north of Range One west and that in and by his last will and Testament he directed that said land should be sold and the proceeds thereof distributed among his heirs. Also that he left the following named heirs to wit: Clarissa Flathers, his widow, John Flathers, Senr., Thomas Flathers Senr., Polly Jeffers, and Nancy Ellis intermarried with William Ellis his sons and daughters and the following named Grandchildren of his son Benjamin Flathers, deceased, Edward Flathers Senr., John Flathers, Jrn., Thomas Flathers, Jrn., William Oliver, Clarissa Ward intermarried with James Ward, and Polly Ann German intermarried with Peter German. And also the following named Grandchildren sons and daughters of Isaac Flathers deceased son of the said Edward deceased, to wit: Lindsey Flathers, William Flathers, Jrn., James Flathers, Benjamin F., Flathers, Clarissa Flathers, and Mary Flathers and that after the death of the said Edward the said will was duly proven and Letters of Administration with the will annexed were granted unto the said John Darrough and that he took upon himself the administration of said Estate and praying that the said heirs be notified of the filing and pendency of said petition and that said land be sold and the proceeds thereof be distributed as devised in said Last Will and Testament. . . . John Darrough . . . reported into Court that he had sold the land aforesaid at public auction on a credit of twelve months to one Abraham Bohannon for the sum of Six hundred and five Dollars and took of said Bohannon a note with William Pearson as security for said sum due in Twelve Months. . . .

1. Will Book 2, Hendricks County, Indiana, p 25
2. Deed Record Book 13, Hendricks County, Indiana, p 11
Edward's will and its execution are self explanatory except for one fact -- who were Harvy Flathers and great granddaughter, Nancy? We do not know. A marriage license had been issued in Hendricks County on December 21, 1835, to Harvey (or Harvy) Flathers and Mary Ann Miles. Harvy, mentioned in Edward's will, was not mentioned in the execution of the will, thus adding to the complexity of the situation.

The estate of Edward Flathers was probated in the Hendricks Probate Court on July 11, 1850, at a cost of $39.27. Thus, came to an end the life of a noble and brave person. Edward and Clara, like the countless thousands of other pioneers, suffered privations and hardships by the thousands in order to carve from the wilderness a great nation. The Edward Flathers family helped push the frontier a thousand miles westward by walking, sometimes riding, but ever westward they went carrying their few possessions in wagons whenever possible, but if not possible on their backs and on the backs of the work animals. Always they took with them seeds for a new crop, the ax with which to clear the forest, the crude farm implements with which to till the soil, but always and foremost, they took the will to work and the determination for a better life. The close knit family must have mourned the passing of the father and mother, both approaching the century mark, but these two could look back with no regret for they had been among the pioneers whose British determination and stalwart nature had served them well in establishing a nation dedicated to freedom for all.

Those whose names appear upon the schedules of the First Census were in general the plain citizens who by their conduct in war and peace made the Constitution possible and by their intelligence and self-restraint put it into successful operation.

1. Marriage Records, Book I, Hendricks County, Indiana, p 11
2. Deed Record Book III, Hendricks County, Indiana p 185
3. An introductory statement found in the publication First Census in America, 1790, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Chapter IV — EDWARD'S SON, JOHN FLATHERS

John Flathers had no descendants, and Thomas had only a few. Isaac Flathers had many more, and all of them left Hendricks County. Benjamin Franklin Flathers had eight children, five of them boys, all of whom moved to Iowa. Some of these had large families. For these reasons, the sons of Edward will not be taken in chronological order, but the organization of the history will be better served if they are taken in the following order: John, Thomas, Isaac and finally, Benjamin Franklin.

No place in the records is John called John Wesley, but this was probably his full name. Edward's other sons were named after great men, so why not John? What an imposing array of names for one's sons at a time when national pride was running high — Benjamin Franklin, John Wesley, Isaac Newton, and Thomas Jefferson. This in itself tells the descendants of Edward Flathers something about their first ancestor in America — he was a man of dignity, a man of national pride, a man of ideals. He names his sons after great men of the day, and he expected them to measure up to the dignity of these men. From all indications, they did. Edward was not a man who had the advantages of an education, but he made the best of what opportunities came his way. No family can look back with more pride in their first American ancestor than can the Flathers family.

John Flathers, Edward's second son was born March 27, 1785, in Fauquier County, north central Virginia. Edward acquired his first land in Hendricks County, Indiana, on March 22, 1828, and John soon followed with his first deed recorded on December 27 of the same year. John was a good business man. A search of the Deed Books in the Courthouse at Danville reveals the many land transactions in which John was involved, not only good farm land, but property

1. Deed Records, Book I, Hendricks County, Indiana, p 525
in the town of Danville itself. He owned property in what is now the residential section of Danville. Although he bought and sold property several times, at the end of his life in 1861 he still owned the land he first purchased in Indiana near his father, Section 29, Township 16 North and Range 1 West. This was probably the land where he had his home.

John's will is on file in the Hendricks County Courthouse. The spelling and punctuation in this will and in all other direct quotations from wills and other documents is the same as originally written.

I John Flathers of Hendricks County in the State of Indiana being weak in body but of sound mind and disposing memory and considering the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death do make and publish this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all Wills herefore made by me. First I direct that my body be decently interred and that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding with my estate and situation in life and that my funeral expenses and just debts be paid by my Executors hereinafter named as soon after my decease as possible out of the first money that may come into their hands from any portion of my Estate and as to the remainder of my personal estate I hereby will and bequeath the same to my beloved wife Mary (Polly) Flathers. I hereby will and bequeath to my Nephews John Flathers (son of Thomas) James M. Jeffries, William Jeffries and Isaac Jeffries, and to William Garnett the young man I raised Two hundred dollars each. And I hereby will and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary (Polly) Flathers all my Real Estate herein after named, to wit, Sixty acres off of the South end of the west half of the South East quarter, Sixty acres off of the South end of the west half of the South East quarter, Sixty acres off of the South end of the East half of the South West quarter, and the east half of the west half of said South West quarter, all in Section twenty nine in Township sixteen north of Range one West and lots numbered one and two in Block number six in Crawfords addition to the Town of Danville and lots number One, Two, Three, Four, Five, and Eight in Block number One, and lots numbered Two, Three and Four in Block numbered Two in Irvins addition to the Town of Danville and all that part of out Lots numbered Five and Eight in James L. Givins addition to the Town of Danville except that which is described and conveyed to John Allen by James M. Gregg by deed dated March 9th 1852 and so much of out Lots Three and Four in said James L. Givins addition to the Town of Danville as is included in the following bounded tracts or parcels, to wit, First tract or parcel commencing seven poles South of the North East quarter of said out lot Three and running north to said corner, thence west with North line of said lot Sixteen poles thence South East to the place of beginning containing
fifty six square poles, Second tract or parcel commencing at the North west corner of said out Lot four and running East with the North line of said lot twenty four rods, thence South to the center of Indiana and Illinois Central Railway, thence west with said Railway to the West boundary of said lot Four, thence North to the beginning. The third tract or parcel bounded as follows commencing one hundred and forty three feet North of the South East Corner of said out lot three, thence North to the Center of the Indiana and Illinois Central Railway, thence West Sixteen poles, thence South to the North line of the Old Town of Danville, thence East seven and one third rods thence North sixty six feet, thence East one hundred and forty three feet to the beginning. And I hereby nominate and appoint my wife Mary (Polly) Flathers Executrix and Simon T. Hadley Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and hereby authorize them to sell and convey any portion of said lands that my said wife may think proper to dispose of and that the proceeds thereof be used by my wife or appropriated to the payment of legacies herein before bequeathed to John Flathers, James M. Jeffries, Isaac Jeffries, William Garnett, Meartha Jeffries and Ailsea Ellis.

I further will and direct that as soon after the decease of my my said wife as possible her surviving Executor pay over to the above named persons severally the legacies herein bequeathed to them out of my portion of my Estate either personal or Real that may remain inexpended by her at the time of her death. It being my will that she may enjoy the whole of my Estate as long as she may live and make such arrangements with the ballance of what may be left as may seem just and right to her. Reserving however enough to pay off the legacies herein before bequeathed to the said John Flathers, James M. Jeffries, William Jeffries, Isaac Jeffries, William Garnett, Martha Jeffries, and Ailsea Ellis.

In testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of February Eighteen hundred and Sixty one.

John Flathers

From the will of John Flathers a number of interesting facts can be ascertained:

(1) John could write his name, the only one of the sons of Edward Flathers who could. Since by all indications, John was a good business man, the ability to read and write must have been a big asset.

(2) The writing, spelling, and punctuation of the day was less than accurate. For example, the name of James I. Givins was spelled two ways in the same document, as was the name Martha. The family name of John's sister, Mary Jeffers, is spelled differently from the usual spelling and differently from that on her tombstone in Gentry Cemetery.

1. Will Book II, Hendricks County, Indiana, p 254
(3) John Flathers remembered his nephews and his ward in his will with a legacy of $200.00 each but almost forgot his nieces. Their names with the amounts of their inheritance were written in between the lines as an afterthought, and then the amount was only half as much as for the nephews. This is an indication of the thinking of the day — that men were more important to the family, community, and nation than were women.

(4) John left money only to nephews and nieces still living in Hendricks County. He did not mention in his will those who had moved to Minnesota and Iowa. This probably indicated the beginning of poor communications between the families and also indicated the first break in the close family ties; however, the naming of children after Edward and his six children, especially the boys, was to continue even to the present.
# Genealogical Chart of the Descendants of Edward Flathers through his Son, Thomas Flathers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>I</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 5/7/1847</td>
<td></td>
<td>d. 9/21/1847</td>
<td></td>
<td>d. 1/1/1877</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarissa (Clary) Legg</td>
<td>m. 1781</td>
<td></td>
<td>m. (1) Frances ?</td>
<td></td>
<td>m. 1/2/1845</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1754 Maryland</td>
<td></td>
<td>m. 1781</td>
<td>m. Frances Hooten</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Thomas Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 11/30/1849</td>
<td></td>
<td>b. 1800</td>
<td>b. 1/25/1828</td>
<td></td>
<td>d. 3/3/1857</td>
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<td>Thomas was the youngest and 6th child of Edward and Clary Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td>d. 5/9/1831</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>m. Nancy Emmerine Flathers (third cousin)</td>
<td>b. 2/19/1936</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>m. 3/17/1835</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>m. (2) Polly Darnall</td>
<td>b. 11/25/1828</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. 6/19/1841</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b. 10/2/1849</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. 6/1/1930</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>m. Anne E. Holtsclaw Flathers</td>
<td>b. 6/10/1894</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>b. 7/26/1854</td>
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<td></td>
<td>m. 2/10/1875</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>m. Annie E. Holtsclaw Flathers</td>
<td>b. 3/20/1856</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>b. 5/19/1888</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. 1/31/1906</td>
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Thomas Flathers, born November 25, 1793, first acquired land in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, January 16, 1823, when he was thirty years old. Although the records of Rockcastle County were destroyed by fire in 1885, Marshall Flathers, great-grandson of Thomas who lives at Danville, Indiana, has a copy of the grant from the Kentucky Land Office in his possession. It reads:

JOHN ADAIR, ESQ. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS: KNOW YE

That by virtue and in consideration Kentucky Land-Office Warrant, No. 11726, there is granted by the said Commonwealth, unto Thomas Flathers of John Flathers a certain TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, containing fifty acres, by survey bearing date the Sixteenth day of January one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, lying and being in the county of Rockcastle on the waters of the Scaffle Cane fork of Clear Creek which is the waters of the Roundstone fork of Rockcastle joining the land of Isaac Flathers and John Hardcastle and bounded as followeth, Towit:

Beginning at a popular and three dogwoods a corner to Isaac Flathers, thence North 12 degrees to three dogwoods thence S 45 degrees E 50 poles to a beech and sugartree, thence S 30 degrees E 80 poles to a white oak, thence to the beginning.

With its appurtenances: To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land, with its appurtenances, to the said Thomas Flathers and his heirs forever. In Witness whereof, the said JOHN ADAIR, ESQ., Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, hath hereunto set his hand, and caused the seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed, at Frankfort, on the fourteenth day of June in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, and of the Commonwealth the thirty third.

BY THE GOVERNOR, John Adair (his signature)
SECRETARY, Thomas B. Monroe (his signature)

A person by the name of Henry Flathers is listed in Kentucky Land Warrents Book N, page 221 as having obtained 50 acres of land January 16, 1823. Location of land: Fork of Clear Creek, Rockcastle County, Kentucky. For several years Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers tried to find out who this Henry Flathers could be. After acquiring a copy of the Kentucky land grant from

1. Family Bible, Marshall Flathers, op. cit.
2. Original Kentucky Land Grant in possession of Marshall Flathers, Danville, Indiana
Marshall Flathers and studying it closely, they realized that Thomas Flathers and Henry Flathers were the same person, another example of the interchange of names on legal documents found in the early days of the United States.

As the document states, the grant of land to Thomas adjoined that of Isaac, but it wasn't far from the land of the father Edward and a brother John, although the latter two lived just across the county line in Madison County. Edward's land was on Clear Creek, and John's was on Scaffle Cane Road.

It isn't known just when Thomas sold his land in Kentucky and moved to Indiana, but by that time he was married to Frances. Their only son, John Flathers, was born February 24, 1824, but Frances died at an early age on May 9, 1831. Somehow, Thomas was not listed in the Hendricks County 1830 Census, even though Edward, John, and Isaac were; however, he is listed in the Deed Book I as having purchased 91 acres of land on September 11, 1827.

After the death of his first wife, Thomas married Polly Darnall on March 17, 1835. She was born June 19, 1804. Thomas and Polly Flathers made at least three land purchases from the Darnall Family over the next several years: 160 acres from Henry Darnall on April 16, 1836, for $200.00; 160 acres again from Henry Darnall on March 14, 1838, for $1800.00; and 80 acres from Turpin Darnall on January 2, 1839, for $420.00. Marshall Flathers, great-grandson of Thomas Flathers, resides four miles north of Danville on the Old Lebanon Road on some of the land acquired by Thomas at this time.

The History of Hendricks County by John V. Hadley found in the Hendricks County Library states that Thomas Flathers and wife were early members of

2. Ibid.
3. Deed Records, Book I, Hendricks County, Indiana, p. 55
5. Deed Records, Book IV, Hendricks County, Indiana p. 277
6. Deed Records, Book VI, Hendricks County, Indiana, p. 411
the Regular Baptist Church. Among other early members was Thomas Hooten, an elder, who probably was the father of Frances Hooten, who later became the wife of John Flathers, the son of Thomas.

Marshall Flathers has in his possession two original documents involving the transfer of land from the Darnall family to Thomas and Polly Flathers. The first one reads:

Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Flathers, am held and firmly bound unto Henry Darnall and Sarah Darnall, the wife of the said Henry Darnall, in the penal sum of one thousand dollars lawful money of the United States, the payment whereof well and truly to be made and done, I bind myself, my heirs, Executors, and Administrators, firmly by these presents sealed with my seal and dated this 11th day of March, A.D. 1838. The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above Thomas Flathers shall keep or cause to be kept the said Henry Darnall and Sarah Darnall, his wife, in full possession of a certain frame house now being unfinished on the land that the said Thomas Flathers bought of the said Henry Darnall and also one of the Cabins now standing on said land and also equal possession in the door yard and also equal possession of the pasture lying east of the state road running through said land so long as the said Henry Darnall and Sarah Darnall, as either of them, shall live then and in that case the above obligation to be null and void otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue in law (provided however) that the said Henry Darnall nor wife is allowed to put or other person on said land or any part thereof and if the said Henry Darnall and Sarah Darnall his wife should become dissatisfied and move off of said premises their right of possession to be forfeited and become the property of Thomas Flathers interlined before signing.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and year above written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of Wm. H. Darnall
his
Thomas X Flathers
mark

It is not known who wrote the above statement, but by today's standards, some of the spelling punctuation, and expressions of thought need improvement. However, in 1838 when this statement was prepared, Indiana was still on the frontier, and because of the unique grammatical construction and expression, the owner of the document, Marshall Flathers, should prize it even more highly.

Marshall Flathers also owns another document of interest. It sounds as though this unusual statement resulted from the settling of the estate of Henry Darnall, the father of Polly Darnall (wife of Thomas.)

Know all men by these presents that we Turpin Darnall John Swain Matilda Swain William C. Hyten Eliza Hyten and William H Darnall are held firmly bound unto Thomas Flathers in the penal sum of eight hundred dollars lawful money of the United States the payment where of will and truly to be made and done we bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 6th day of June 1846.

The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound Turpin Darnall John Swain Matilda Swain William C Hyten and Wm H Darnall shall never demand or claim back any land property money or effects from the said Thomas Flathers and Polly Flathers his wife as property given to them by Henry Darnall in his life time then the above obligations to be null and void, but if any of the aforesaid heirs (viz) Turpin Darnall John Swain Matilda Swain Wm D Hyten or William H Darnall should sue for and recover any amount back as aforesaid then this obligation to be in full force and virtue against any heir so claiming back as aforesaid.

In witness whereof we have here unto set our hands and seal today and year above written.

Turpin Darnall
John Swain
Matilda Swain
Wm C Hyten
Eliza Hyten
Wm H Darnall

Those signing the document must have been the children of Henry Darnall along with their spouses. The writer of the document must have been the same person who wrote the first document, probably a self-trained lawyer living in this newly organized state.

Thomas Flathers had no children by his second wife, Polly Darnall. Thomas' only child by his first wife was John Flathers, who was born February 24, 1824, in Kentucky, and died January 1, 1877 in Hendricks County, Indiana. John married Frances Hooten January 2, 1845. She died March 3, 1855.

1. Both legal documents are owned by Marshall Flathers, Danville, Indiana
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
John and Frances Flathers had three children: Mary Jane Flathers, born August 7, 1816; Thomas Jefferson Flathers, born October 2, 1819; and William Henry Flathers, born July 26, 1854. Unfortunately, little is known about Mary Jane except that a marriage license was issued to her and James M. Carrell in Hendricks County on September 11, 1878. Fortunately, however, there is much more information on Thomas Jefferson and his brother, William Henry. Edward Flathers, the great-grandfather, would have been pleased with the naming of his great-grandson, Thomas Jefferson Flathers. Thomas Jefferson married his third cousin, Nancy Emmerine Flathers, born July 2, 1819. She had moved to Minnesota with her parents, Lindsey Cook and Mary Face Flathers, in 1854.

Thomas Jefferson, upon the death of his mother in 1855 when he was 6 years old, went to live with his grandfather, Thomas Flathers, who lived just across the road from the home of his great-grandfather, Edward Flathers. Both Edward and Clara died in the home of Thomas, Edward two years before Thomas Jefferson was born and Clara two months after. Because of this close association with his grandfather, the son of Edward, Thomas Jefferson Flathers had a great deal of information about Edward and Clara Flathers. He often mentioned his grandfather and great-grandfather when writing relatives.

Thomas Jefferson and Nancy Emmerine Flathers had one daughter, Myrta Flathers, just as interested in maintaining the family history as was her father. Myrta never married but lived at home in Rochester, Minnesota, with her parents to whom she was very devoted. She took care of them through their final illnesses which brought death to her father on June 1, 1930, and to her mother on June 30, 1931. Elaine Flathers of Waseca, Minnesota, who inherited the family records from Thomas Jefferson and his daughter Myrta, says that she recalls

1. Ibid.
2. Marriage Record Book 8, Hendricks County, Indiana, p. 522
attending the funeral of Nancy Emmerine Flathers in Rochester when but a little girl.

A letter written by Thomas Jefferson Flathers to J. W. Ellis of Maquoketa, Iowa, a descendant of Mary Flathers Jeffers, daughter of Edward and Clara Flathers, explains some family relationships:

To begin with, I am the son of John Flathers, who was the only child of Thomas, and Thomas Flathers was the third son of Edward Flathers, whom I might call the great grandfather of all of us that is of your and my generation.

I was born in Hendricks County, Indiana, October 2, 1819, and lived there until September 1870 when I came to Minnesota. I located near Pleasant Grove and lived there until the winter of 1882-83 when I moved to Rochester, where I reside at the present time. I married a third cousin of mine (Nancy Flathers who is a daughter of Lindsey Flathers.)

Lindsey Flathers was the eldest son of Isaac Flathers who was a son of Edward Flathers. My family consisted of myself, wife, and daughter (Myrta). You must be a brother of Fanny Ellis, who used to live with and help care of your grandmother Jeffers. I remember her well. Your grandmother Jeffers and my grandfather Flathers were brother and sister. Your mother and my father were own cousins. Your grandfather on your father’s side married Nancy Flathers, eldest daughter of Edward Flathers. His name was William Ellis.1

Grandmother Jeffers, referred to in Thomas Jefferson's letter, was Mary Flathers Jeffers, who was buried beside her parents, Edward and Clara, in Gentry Cemetery, Danville, Indiana. He also mentioned the other daughter, Nancy, who married William Ellis November 4, 1837, she for the first time at the age of fifty. This was the second marriage for William Ellis. After the death of his first wife, he returned from Iowa for the marriage ceremony.

Myrta continued the family interest in preserving the Flathers family history by gathering data and contacting individuals whenever possible. On February 8, 1943, she wrote Maureta Flathers Witherspoon:

Dear Cousin -- Whether you like the sound of me or not I guess that is what we are. About fourth? I haven't studied the family history to see how "cousin-ie" we are.

I live here in our home alone. I have three rooms I rent so I'm not alone in the house.

1. Original letter owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota
2. Index to Marriage Records, Hendricks County, 1823 - 1920, Vol. II, p. 3
3. Letter from Richard F. Albright, Merced, California, February 23, 1973
I am glad to hear of a Flathers who is interesting in keeping our family history. My cousin, Mrs. Seaquist (Mary Elvira Flathers) had started to collect a few facts.

Dad’s Mother died when he was seven years old and he lived with his grandfather Thomas, son of Edward. He used to tell Dad many family stories.

I hope to hear from you and about your family.

Love from
Myrta Flathers

Those interested in preserving the genealogical history of the Edward Flathers family, such as Myrta and her father, Thomas Jefferson, have been the inspiration for the development of this book. Their materials have been made available to Jennings H. Flathers through their cousin, Elaine Flathers, who has been of inestimable assistance to the author of this book.

William Henry Flathers, third child of John and Frances Hooten Flathers, was born July 2, 1854. He married Annie E. Holtsclaw, who was born March 20, 1856, and died February 10, 1875. The descendants of Thomas Flathers, always a small family, showed much devotion to each other. Writing to his brother, Thomas Jefferson Flathers, on April 11, 1887, William Henry said:

My dear brother. I will try and write to you today, and let you know how we are getting along. We are well. The reason that I have not written sooner, I have been so busy with spring work. We have had splendid weather this spring for work, it has been very dry, and we was needing rain badly, but it has begun raining from the east this morning, and now I guess we will have plenty. I am done plowing for corn, and we have had garden made for two weeks, potatoes planted, and it is just like always some done plowing and some not commenced yet, if it is still favorable there will be quite a lot of corn planted this week. I have been setting some fruit trees this year... I will only try pears, cherries, grapes, blackberries and I still like plums. I have set about 25 trees. They are the rage through a great many states. The name is the Robison plum. I went last week where they originated. The people claim that trees there last year 3 years old had a bushel of plums on them, and 7 year old from 5 to 10 bushels. So when I get to raising them by the 200 bushels maybe I will have all I can eat. There will be fruit of all kinds here, even peaches. I want to set 200 or 300 cedars back of the house this week to make me a wind break... Want to know something about these records, the reason I never sent them is because I have never been to Billy Moon’s house. He has Grandfather Hooton’s Bible... and he still keeps it. I will send you what is in our old Bible that is Grandfather Flathers Book. Mollie got another Bible and you know there was no record in it with the exception of what I wrote out of

1. Original letter owned by Maureta Witherspoon Flathers, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
our old book. I will go to Moons as soon as I can and get that for you. I have not been there since Aunt Sarah died. It seems as though we can't go to see all of them. . . .

Signed: W. H. Flathers

Not only does this letter confirm the devotion between the two brothers, but it also tells something about the kind of person William Henry was as well as pointing up the interest the brothers had in preserving the Flathers family record. The grandfather mentioned is Thomas, Edward's youngest son.

William Henry Flathers and his family continued to live on the farm (four miles north of Danville) inherited from his father and first acquired by his grandfather, Thomas Flathers. To Henry and Annie were born three children: Ada E. Flathers, December 16, 1875; Jessie May Flathers, May 19, 1888, who died at age four; and Marshall Flathers, June 10, 1894. Ada married a man by the name of McCoun but died on May 21, 1908, at the age of thirty-three. The date of the death of William Henry is August 25, 1925. He is buried in the cemetery south of Danville. This left the youngest child, Marshall Flathers, as the lone survivor in that line.

Marshall Flathers married Thelma I. Henderson on August 8, 1924. Thelma, from Southern Indiana, was attending the Normal School in Danville preparing to be a teacher. They have no children of their own but have an adopted son, Jon Betran Flathers, who lives a very close neighbor to Marshall and Thelma Flathers.

Marshall Flathers continued a close relationship with the family of Thomas Jefferson Flathers of Rochester, Minnesota, until the death of Thomas Jefferson and Nancy Emmerine in 1930 and 1931. These two families had an excellent picture made in 1924 when Thomas Jefferson and family were visiting at Marshall's home in Indiana. Marshall also has in his possession a number of letters written by Myrta Flathers, some at the time of the final illness

1. Original owned by Elaine Flathers
3. Ibid.
and death of her father, Thomas Jefferson. Myrta continued to write to
Marshall's family and to pay them periodic visits until her death in 1959.

Marshall and Thelma Flathers are genuinely hospitable and love to
visit with their relatives, though these relatives be only distantly related.
In June 1967, Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited in Danville gathering
material for this book, and in doing so, learned for the first time of
Marshall Flathers. Upon driving the four miles to the Marshall Flathers farm,
they found Marshall in the garden back of the house. Marshall rose from his
hands and knees where he had been working, walked to the fence, held out his
hand and said, "My name is Marshall Flathers." Jennings responded with, "You
know, my name is Flathers too." Since that day the two families have carried
on correspondence. Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited again with Marshall
and Thelma in October of 1972 when the Danville Chapter of the DAR dedicated
the Revolutionary War markers placed at the graves of the Revolutionary War
soldiers buried in Hendricks County. Marshall cherishes the family Bible
containing genealogical data back to Edward Flathers. Marshall and Thelma
also own choice pieces of Early American furniture, china, and bed coverings
that have been passed to them through the several generations.
William Henry Flathers and son, Marshall
William Henry, Annie Holtsclaw Flathers and daughter, Ada E. Flathers
Genealogical Chart of
Isaac Newton Flathers, son of Edward Flathers, first Flathers in America

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<td>m. 6/1/1873</td>
<td>m. William Peter</td>
<td>m. Margaret Otto</td>
<td>m. Matt Wall</td>
<td>m. 9/25/1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Mary Pace</td>
<td>m. (1) Olive Collins</td>
<td>m. (2) Myra Agnes Sloan</td>
<td>m. Mary Elizabeth Mackey</td>
<td>2. Clinton Leroy Seaquist</td>
<td>2. Robert Seaquist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7/5/1818</td>
<td>b. 3/27/1859</td>
<td>b. 4/24/1869</td>
<td>b. 11/24/1909</td>
<td>b. 9/6/1965</td>
<td>b. 5/6/1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 6/28/1891</td>
<td>d. 12/31/1913</td>
<td>d. 10/18/1946</td>
<td>d. 6/1946</td>
<td>d. 6/15/1943</td>
<td>d. 9/21/1946</td>
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</table>

Olive Collins Flathers was the mother of the five children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Effie Flathers</th>
<th>1. Kenneth Laursen</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m. Julius Laursen</td>
<td>2. Victor Laursen</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Iva Flathers</th>
<th>1. Kenneth Laursen</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5/8/1855 d. 2/18/1901</td>
<td>2. Victor Laursen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. William Murray Flathers</td>
<td>Clarence Wesley Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4/22/1885</td>
<td>d. 10/26/1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Rachel Marie Eichorn</td>
<td>b. 12/6/1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7/18/1857</td>
<td>m. Bertha Sturges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 10/26/1943</td>
<td>b. 3/30/1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Minnie Flathers</td>
<td>b. 5/31/1883 d. 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ethel Winnifred Flathers</td>
<td>1. Lyle Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Henry Wm. Turner</td>
<td>2. Dale Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9/27/1895 d. 10/25/1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ila Viona Flathers</td>
<td>m. Fred J. Marlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8/22/1898 d. 11/28/1922</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Vivian Jennie Raabe</td>
<td>1. Elaine Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2/16/1893</td>
<td>2. Harley Homer Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Homer Wm. Flathers</td>
<td>m. 9/19/1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8/22/1858</td>
<td>m. June Sylvia Jury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Vivian Jennie Raabe</td>
<td>b. 5/16/1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8/3/1878 d. 4/23/1959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nancy Emmerine Flathers</td>
<td>1. Myrta May Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7/2/1850 d. 6/30/1931</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Thomas Jefferson Flathers</td>
<td>b. 8/3/1878 d. 4/23/1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10/2/1849 d. 5/1/1930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10/30/1853 d. 9/11/1896</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Clarice Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1/16/1889 d. 12/31/1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Thanksgiving Day 1915</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Earl Shoemaker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 11/9/1915</td>
<td>b. 3/30/1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Genieve Flathers</td>
<td>m. Leora Rions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5/20/1923</td>
<td>3. Myrta May Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Eddie Hayden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Edward John Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4/4/1964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Homer Wm. Flathers</td>
<td>b. 6/27/1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Edward John Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4/4/1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jeffrey Alan Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2/2/1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Emily Suzanne Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9/21/1967 Twin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Jane Elizabeth Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9/21/1967 Twin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Isaac Ellet Flathers</td>
<td>Sylvia May Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Emley Ann Flathers</td>
<td>Lennie Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sarah Elizabeth Flathers</td>
<td>Mary Snee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mary Flathers</td>
<td>Will Pace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. James Pace</td>
<td>3. John Pace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Charles Pace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. James Pace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Alice Pace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Frank Pace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. William G. Flathers</td>
<td>Jacob A. Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. (1) Sally Jane Holtsclaw</td>
<td>b. about 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. (2) Mariah R. Holtsclaw</td>
<td>b. about 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children born to Mariah R. Holtsclaw</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Clara Flathers</td>
<td>m. ? Maddox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. James B. Flathers</td>
<td>John W. Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Elizabeth A. Flathers</td>
<td>2. Mary C. Flathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Benjamin Franklin Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter VI — EDWARD'S SON, ISAAC NEWTON FLATHERS

Isaac Newton Flathers, Edward's fifth child and third son, was born in Greenbrier County, Virginia /West Virginia/, March 27, 1789. When only eight years old, he moved with his family through the difficult mountainous terrain from West Virginia to Kentucky, a move which could have been a traumatic experience for one so young. He grew to be a young man in Central Kentucky where he married Elizabeth (Betsy) Cook, June 6, 1819. He acquired his first land consisting of 50 acres in Rockcastle County on August 20, 1821. Since the early records of Rockcastle County were destroyed by fire, it is not known when he sold his land, but he first purchased land in Hendricks County, Indiana, on September 19, 1829. It was the southeast quarter of Section 29, Township 16, Range 1 West adjoining the property purchased earlier in the year by his father, Edward. In September of 1837 he purchased 40 more acres adjoining his farm, and again in 1838 he purchased another 40 acres of Section 29. According to the Hendricks County Deed Books, he also made other land transactions during the next few years. Isaac Newton died August 1, 1845 and was the first member of the family to be buried in the Gentry Cemetery near Danville. In two years he was joined by his father and in four years by his mother. Also buried in the same family plot were his sister, Mary Jeffers who died February 16, 1865, at the age of 81 years, 8 months, and 14 days, and her husband, William Jeffers.

There is some discrepancy in the record inscribed on Isaac's tombstone. It says that he was 45 years old at the time of his death, yet information from descendants of his son, Lindsey Cook, and his brother, Benjamin Franklin Flathers, gives his birthdate as March 27, 1789. This would make him 56 at the time of his death.

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1. Elaine Flathers' letter, January 7, 1973, quoting Elvira Sequist's DAR Papers
3. Deed Records, Book 1, Hendricks County, Indiana, p. 264
4. Deed Records, Book 5, p. 4
5. Deed Records, Book 7, p. 191
6. Family Bible of Lindsey Cook Flathers owned by his grandson, Homer Flathers
time of his death. The information on the tombstone could be wrong. It is not known who had the stones placed in Centry Cemetery or when they were placed. Since the adults buried in Centry Cemetery died twenty years apart, it isn't likely that all the stones would be alike; yet they are alike. It could be that the stones were all placed in the cemetery at one time by someone years after the death of Isaac — thus the ten year discrepancy as to the number of years Isaac lived.

Isaac and Betsy Flathers had six children. It is known that Lindsey was the oldest, born April 30, 1821, Rockcastle County, Kentucky. William was born in 1824 and James B. in 1834. Nothing is known about the birthday of Frank, whose complete name was Benjamin Franklin, named for his uncle, Isaac's brother. The two daughters were named Clara or Clarissa after Grandmother Flathers (maybe called Clary as her grandmother was) and Mary after Isaac's sister, Mary Jeffers.

In the 1830 Hendricks County, Indiana, Census it is stated that Isaac had two boys 5 to 10. These must have been Lindsey and William. The same census states that Isaac had two girls under 5. They were the two girls, Clarissa and Mary. This leaves James B. and Benjamin Franklin to be born after 1830.

When Isaac died in 1845, he left a young family whose oldest son was but twenty-four and had been married less than a year (married November 3, 1845). The second son, William was twenty-one, and the other four children were minors. Homer Flathers, grandson of Lindsey Cook, writing to the author of this book on November 18, 1972 said, "Lindsey, my grandfather, was the oldest in his family. . . . when his father, Isaac died. He tried to keep

1. Ibid.
2. Jones County, Iowa, 1860 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. Hendricks County 1860 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
5. Index To Marriage Records, Hendricks County, 1823-1920, p. 285
the family together. ... he was no doubt a bit hard on them as the three
younger boys left home for good."

Young Lindsey Cook Flathers was granted "letters of administration"
to the estate of Isaac Flathers.

Be it remembered that on this 11th day of September 1844, Lindsey C. Flathers filed in the clerk's office of the Hendricks Probate Court the relinquishment of Elizabeth Flathers of the right to Letters of Administration on the estate of Isaac Flathers late of the county of Hendricks dec. in the words and figures following, to wit: I, James M. Gregg, Clerk of the Probate Court in and for the County of Hendricks in the State of Indiana, do hereby certify that administration of the goods, chattels, rights, credits, moneys and effects which were of Isaac Flathers, late of Hendricks County, deceased, who died intestate is granted to Lindsey C. Flathers; and the said Lindsey C. Flathers having qualified and given bond as such administrator is duly authorized to take upon himself the administration of such estate according to law.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty-four.

And the said administrator is directed to give notice of his appointment by setting up written notices in five of the most public places in the County of Hendricks, there being no newspaper published in said county.

Attest, J. M. Gregg, Clerk

There is some discrepancy in the date of the above document, September 11, 1844, for Isaac Flathers did not die until August 27, 1845. The clerk must have meant 1845 instead of 1844, or did Isaac die in 1844, not in 1845?

Lindsey Cook Flathers appeared before the February, 1846, Term of the Probate Court in Hendricks County and asked that he be relieved as administrator of Isaac Flathers' estate. He also requested that he be paid $2.32 expenses incurred while acting as administrator. As suggested by Homer Flathers in his letter of November 18, 1972, the younger boys must have resented their older brother being given the power of administration.

1. Letter from Homer Flathers to Jennings Flathers, November 1, 1972
2. Probate Court Records, November Term 1844, Hendricks County, p. 61
3. Probate Court Records, February Term 1846, Hendricks County, p. 337
of the father's estate. At the same term of court is found the following entry:

Come now Clarissa Ann and Mary Jane Flathers and file their petition for permission to choose a guardian (insert) and the said Clarissa A. and Mary J., being permitted make choice of Elizabeth Flathers and Elizabeth Flathers widow of Isaac Flathers deceased, files a petition praying the court to appoint a guardian for James B. and Benjamin F. Flathers (here insert) and the court being advised in the premises do now appoint the said Elizabeth Flathers guardian of the estates of the said Clarissa A., Mary J., James B., and Benjamin F. Flathers, and said Elizabeth Flathers comes into court and accepts said appointment and files a bond with security (insert) which is approved by the court, and also a copy of her oath as such guardian (insert). 1

At his request, Lindsey Cook had now been relieved as administrator of the estate. He then proceeded to file with the Probate Court at the May, 1846, Term a request for further reimbursement of expenses. At a time when a good farm in Indiana could be purchased for $200 or $250, the $11.20 for which he filled was a considerable sum of money.

Comes now Lindsey C. Flathers formerly Administrator of said estate and presents a claim against said estate for his services as such administrator for the sum of eleven dollars and twenty cents which is allowed by the court and further proceedings herein are continued. 2

Also filed in the Hendricks Probate Court, May 1846, were the expenses for executing the Isaac Flathers estate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To docketing estate 29 times</td>
<td>$8.421/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enter 24 orders and motions</td>
<td>2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To filing additional inventory and qualifying</td>
<td>.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To filing report and 16 vouchers</td>
<td>1.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>To swearing administrator to report</td>
<td>.06</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12.021/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees due John Irons, Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>To docketing one time</td>
<td>.121/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enter order</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To making final record</td>
<td>1.10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1.321/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees due James M. Gregg, Clerk</td>
<td>1.321/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To taking and filing relinquishment</td>
<td>.50</td>
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</table>

1. Ibid. p. 336
2. Probate Court Records, May Term, 1846, Hendricks County, p. 434
The final settlement of the Isaac Flathers’ estate came in March of 1858 when James B. Flathers and wife, Elizabeth Flathers; William G. Flathers and wife, Mariah E. Flathers; and the mother, Elizabeth Flathers, wife of Isaac Flathers, sold their shares of the estate to a man by the name of Alfred Stenley. Lindsey Cook Flathers sold his share of the estate to the same man in August of 1959. He had purchased for $75.00 on January 10, 1857, the portion owned by Mary Flathers Pace, his sister.

In the transaction James B. sold one-fifth, William G. sold one-fifth, and Lindsey Cook sold two-fifths. Nothing is stated as to what happened to the other one-fifth unless that is the portion Elizabeth, the mother sold. In that case, what happened to the shares owned by Clarissa (Clara) and Benjamin Franklin? Homer Flather of Stewartville, Minnesota, stated in a letter dated January 5, 1973, that Benjamin Franklin, called Frank, lived for sometime with the Pace families in Austin, Minnesota. If so, he possibly sold his share at a later date.

The records show that James B. and wife Elizabeth; William G.; and Lindsey Cook could read and write. Elizabeth, the mother and wife; Mariah, the wife of William G.; and Mary, the wife of Lindsey Cook, could not write but signed their names with the letter X. In some respects this reflected

1. Fee Book for Wills, Hendricks County, Indiana, p. 185
2. Deed Records, Book 22, Hendricks County, p. 171
3. Ibid, p. 693
4. Deed Records, Book 16, Hendricks County, p. 16
the thinking of the day -- that only the men needed the benefits of an education.

In a letter dated November 18, 1972, Homer Flathers wrote to Jennings H. Flathers:

In 1852 Lindsey Flathers bought out James Pace I in Indiana, and James Pace I moved to Minnesota. In 1854, Lindsey Flathers moved to Minnesota also. • • • Isaac, Emily Ann, and Sarah were born in Minnesota after they got here. They settled in the Pleasant Grove area east of Stewartville, Minnesota. 1

The statement made by Homer Flathers regarding the sale of land by James Pace to Lindsey Cook agrees with the record of the sale registered in the Hendricks County Courthouse as of January 10, 1852.

In a letter dated March 9, 1964, written by Elaine Flathers, daughter of Homer Flathers, to Elizabeth Flathers, wife of Jennings H. Flathers, she stated:

Lindsey and his family came to a farm site north of Pleasant Grove, Minnesota, on May 1, 1854. He built the brick house and stone barn which are in use today (but not owned by any Flathers now.) In the early days Pleasant Grove was an important community center. The stage line went through it, and there were two churches, a hotel, a brick yard, post office, etc. Now there isn't much but a church (Christian), a well kept cemetery, a grocery store, and a few homes. 2

Stewartville is eight miles south of Rochester, Minnesota, made famous by the Doctors Mayo and the Mayo Clinic. It is located very near the air terminal serving Rochester and is on Interstate 90 which crosses the Mississippi at La Crosse, Wisconsin, and runs westward toward Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The History of Olmsted County, Minnesota, published in 1910 and found in the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., states the following about Lindsey C. Flathers:

1. Letter written by Homer Flathers of Stewartville, Minnesota, great, great grandson of Edward Flathers, November 18, 1972
2. Elaine Flathers letter, daughter of Homer Flathers, March 8, 1964
Brick house built by Lindsey Cook Flathers not long after he settled near Stewartville, Minnesota, 1854

Barn constructed by Lindsey Cook Flathers soon after he came to Minnesota. Rafters hand hewed from single trees run the entire width of the barn.
Lindsey Cook Flathers was born in Indiana; he actually was born in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, and there reared, educated, and married. In 1854, accompanied by his family, he emigrated westward to the fields of Minnesota where he pre-empted 160 acres of land in Pleasant Grove Township, Olmsted County. There for nearly forty years he engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The trip from Indiana to Minnesota was made by rail to Dunleath, Illinois, opposite Dubuque, Iowa, thence by passenger boat up the Mississippi River to Winona, and overland from there to Pleasant Grove.

At that time very few settlers had come and most of the land was rough and uncleared, but Mr. Flathers set to work with a will, grubbing and clearing. By hard and concentrated work he eventually acquired a competency.

While on a visit to California, he died. To him and his wife were born six (actually seven), five still living (1910). Mr. Flathers was one of Olmsted’s earliest and best citizens and did much toward the growth and development of the country.

In another section of History of Olmsted County is found a very vivid description of the privations of the early settlers:

The winter of 1854-55, the first experienced by the pioneers, is spoken of by them as one of extraordinary severity. With houses miles apart and homes primitively poor, and few of the conveniences of our later civilization and lack of money added in many cases to their isolation, the period before their farms had become self-sustaining was truly one of great privation. The first three or four winters were seasons of scarcity and poverty. The winter of 1855-56 is reported to have been colder than any since. There is said to have been ninety days in which the snow did not thaw and it is believed that if there had been any thermometers in the country their record would have lingered below zero. The winter of 1856-57 was one of deep snow-drifts covered with a hard crust and made roads impassable and deer could be killed with clubs. Wood had to be hauled on hand sleds.

During the years that the country was passing from a region of wild prairie to one of cultivated farms, the prairie fire was a constant menace to the settler. In the fall and till snow-fall in the winter, the dry grass on the untitled quarter-sections of the prairie was liable to be set on fire by a careless hunter, or sometimes by a careless farmer, and then whole neighborhoods would have to turn out and fight the fire. The brilliant fire light against the sky was a frequent sight at night, and not a few farmers mourned the loss of stacks or buildings.

Most of the movers arrived at their future homes in emigrant wagons. Those prairie schooners, those argosies of the frontier, were an every-day feature of the landscape wherever there was unclaimed land. A wagon covered with canvas, or, sometimes, oilcloth, drawn by two or four horses or oxen, with a sturdy father driving and a family of generally a wife and several children, as passengers,

1. History of Olmsted County, published in 1910, no author given, found in DAR Library, Washington, D.C.
and packed full of household belongings, with often a coop of chickens
on behind and more or less stock, cows, or horses or both, driven
as often as otherwise, by a barefooted and bareheaded, or sunbonneted
girl, and a dog or two trudging along. . . .
The life of the pioneer farmer was a rough and hard one; the
creation of a home in a wilderness and the transmutation of the soil
into a competency was a long and laborious process. The life of the
pioneer man was hard, but that of the pioneer woman was harder. Many
a farmer's wife did the hard work of both a woman and a man. 1

Lindsey Cook's oldest son, John Wesley Flathers was born September 14,
1845, and came to Minnesota with his parents when only eleven years old.
After attending high school in Chatfield, he began farming on his own. He
married Olive Collins June 1, 1873, and five children were born to this
family -- Elvira, Effie, Iva, Milo, and Clarice. He was a member of the
Christian Church and was a Mason and a Republican.

John Wesley Flathers held a number of publically elected offices --
Chairman of the Supervisors of Olmsted County for three years and township
treasurer for ten. He was elected County Commissioner in 1904 and was
made chairman of the Board. In 1910 when the History of Olmsted County was
written, he was serving a second term. 2

The first wife of John Wesley Flathers and mother of the children died
on December 31, 1913, but John Wesley was married again, the second time
4
to Myra Agnes Sloan, born August 16, 1851, in Belchestown, Massachusetts.
They moved to Southgate, California, where both he and his wife died. The
date of his death is not known, but Myra Sloan Flathers died January 16, 1925.
John Wesley was returned to Pleasant Grove for burial, but it not known if
5
his wife was buried in California or in Minnesota.

John Wesley's oldest child and daughter was Elvira Flathers who
married W. P. Seaquist, a Mankato, Minnesota, dentist. They had three

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1. Ibid., pp. 29 - 31
2. Ibid., p. 138
3. Elaine Flathers letter, March 8, 1964
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
sons — John, Duane and Clinton. The following letter was written by W. P.
Seaquist, January 19, 1943, to Mrs. Maurita Flathers Witherspoon of Pine Bluff,
Arkansas, a sixth generation Flathers. She is the daughter of Charles Flathers,
son of Nathaniel Thomas Flathers, son of John Wesley Flathers, son of
Benjamin Franklin Flathers, son of Edward Flathers.

Dear Mrs. Witherspoon —

It falls upon me to reply to your letter of January 13th addressed
to my wife.

My wife, Mary Elvira Flathers, passed away March 7, 1938.

For several years before her death she had worked on the
Flathers "family tree" and I believe had traced her pro-genetors
right into George Washingtons retinue. Where this data is now I
don't know, but you still have three other sources of information
to whom you should write. One is Mrs. Clarice Shoemaker, my wife's
sister, and last member of that family, who, for twenty or more years
and until a few days ago was a secretary in the Mayo Clinic... She and my wife were the daughters of J. W. Flathers of Rochester.

He had moved to Los Angeles where he died several years ago. Also
in Rochester is my wife's cousin, Miss Myrta Flathers, only child of
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Flathers, (both dead) — address 10 4th Ave. N.W.,
Rochester, Minnesota, and third, still another cousin, Miss Ila
Flathers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Flathers, address 332 Center
St., Mankato, Minnesota. She is a teacher of our public schools,
lives with her mother, her dad having died many years ago.

I am sure all of these women would be glad to help you with any
information in their possession if you will write them. In addition
to above names, I find in Mama's address book the following —
Miss Ada Flathers, 3601 South Dupont, Minnesota; John J. Flathers
315 11th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota; and W. E. Flathers, 806
Barry Ave., Chicago, Illinois...

I wish you much success. Such a tree as you are erecting,
no doubt, will lead to some interesting ramifications and we all
would be delighted to get a copy of your findings.

To identify myself, I am retired dentist, 73 years past, have
three sons, two in the service, oldest married, a five year old
daughter, and living with his father-in-law. I live all alone in
one of my eight apartments.

Sincerely yours,
W. P. Seaquist

A postscript added by Maurita Witherspoon to the author of this book said,

"Papa said Mary Elvira and Clarice visited in our home when I was a
baby. Maurita."
William Murry Flathers, third child and second son of Lindsey Cook and Mary Pace Flathers was born April 22, 1818, in Hendricks County, Indiana. He was only eight when he gave great assistance to the family when they moved to Minnesota in 1854. He married Rachel Marie Eichhorn in Rochester, Minnesota, on December 2, 1871. She was born in Germany July 18, 1857. Their granddaughter, Elaine Flathers, wrote:

He was a farmer all his life on a farm three miles south of Pleasant Grove where he built the brick house and frame barn still in use. The address is now Stewartville, and my father owns it and lives there. That is where my brother Harley and I were raised.

Grandmother Rachel Marie Eichhorn Flathers was the first organist of the Christian Church at Pleasant Grove. The church officials told her they would buy an organ if she would learn to play it. Then she gave piano lessons and was active in WCTU.

Homer Flathers, son of William Murry Flathers, has much information about his family and their early hardships when pioneers in Minnesota. On January 5, 1973, he wrote:

My father ... told me many tales about the early days, one how they had to carry their water 50 rods up hill from a spring. I have been there and walked up and down the hill. Pa said once a big buck deer was standing in the water and wouldn't let Pa have any. William Murry Flathers told Homer Once when father Lindsey Flathers went to Winona with a load of wheat he bought two hand corn planters and said "Boys see what they have invented, something to plant corn with. What will they think of next?" Now we can plant any amount of corn. Pa said they had been planting only about twenty acres with two men with hoes and two kids to drop the corn. I own one of these planters Lindsey bought.

The trip to Winona with wheat took five days a distance of about 50 miles each way. If they couldn't start Monday morning, they didn't go that week two days down, one day to sell and purchase a few things, then two days to come back.

Pa told me he was helping his father cut down a big tree when he was 8 years old when a dead limb broke off and struck him in the chest and shoulder. His father took him home on the sled and thought him dead, but he wasn't, but he always had a sunken spot in his chest and a lump on his shoulder. I remember the lump causing him trouble. Mother examined it and pulled out a sliver of bone he had carried for nearly 60 years. Then the lump went down. This accident always made it hard for him to breathe in cold weather. He died at 67 years with a ruptured appendix, June 10, 1915.

William Murry Flathers died in Rochester, and Rachel Marie Eichhorn Flathers died October 26, 1943, at Mankato, Minnesota. Both are buried at Pleasant Grove.

The oldest child of William Murry Flathers was Clarence Wesley Flathers, born March 8, 1877, Fillmore County, Minnesota. He married Bertha Sturges, born March 30, 1885. Clarence Wesley died February, 1953, but Bertha sill lives in Rochester. They attended the Christian Church in Pleasant Grove, but since moving to Rochester, Bertha Sturges Flathers attends the United Methodist Church. They had three children: Lois, Boyd, and Genevieve. Boyd Flathers lives in Long Beach, California, and is married to Leora Rions. Boyd was born Dec. 6, 1913, and has one son, Ronnie, born January 10, 1948.

William Murry Flathers second child was Minnie who died at age ten. The third child, Ethel Winnifred, was born April 24, 1889, Fillmore County, and married Henry Turner September 22, 1915. They have three children: Lyle, Dale, and Ivah. She taught school before her marriage. Henry Turner died in December of 1965, and Ethel Winnifred now lives in Stewartville.

Ila Viona, William Murry's fourth child, was a teacher for many years in Mankato, Minnesota. She taught junior high school English and was active in the Camp Fire Girls and other community and church related programs. She had a B.S. Degree from Mankato State College and an M.A. from Columbia University, New York. She married Fred J. Marlow, July 11, 1954. He died in June of 1961. Elaine Flathers, who has been extremely generous in supplying material for the Flathers Genealogical History, lived with her Aunt Ila when attending Mankato State College during the 1940's. After retirement, Ila Flathers Marlow was active in leadership roles with the retired teachers association. She died October 25, 1965, and is buried in Pleasant Grove.

The fifth child of William Murry Flathers was Homer William Flathers, born August 22, 1898, Fillmore County. He married Vivian Jennie Raabe November 20, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was born in Spring Valley, Minnesota.

1. Ibid
2. Ibid
3. Ibid
February 16, 1893. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November of 1972. Regarding the anniversary Homer wrote:

Nearly 300 signed the Guest Book at the Open House at our church for our Golden Wedding. Howard Flathers and wife and his sister, Lena Hansen, from Garner, Iowa, were there, also her husband. We enjoyed meeting them. We also received 75 cards in the mail. . . . Howard's grandson drove for them so we got to meet another Flathers. 2

The Homer Flathers Family attend the Summer Center United Methodist. They formerly were Evangelical United Brethren, until the recent merger, where Vivian was church organist for over thirty years. On January 5, 1973, Homer wrote:

When Vivian and I were married November 28, 1922, we drove to California . . . . There were only 40 miles of hard top road between here and California. It took us 17 days. . . . I got to building as a carpenter and Vivian got a piano class. The last of June in 1921 we drove home. . . . We started farming again October 1, 1921. I had farmed 7 years before after Pa died June 10, 1915. My sister, Ila, wanted college so we sold stock and farm equipment and moved to Mankato where I went to business college.

I have Lindsey's old Bible published in 1841 which came with them in a covered wagon to Minnesota Territory in 1854. . . . They got here May 1st. Grandmother Mary Pace Flathers drove the first team of horses into that neighborhood. In the covered wagon with her was her daughter Nancy (3) and Milton (1), also her mother in law, Elizabeth Cook Flathers (widow of Isaac). My parents have told of her many times. She has been in our house which is 99 years old, built of brick from the Pleasant Grove brick yard. Grandfather Lindsey Flathers had oxen on another wagon filled with seed wheat and their plows and drags hung on the side. The boys walked from Winona, a two day trip, and drove the cattle and loose oxen — boys John Wesley, age 8½ years, and William, my father, age 6 years.

My father died 7 June 10, 1915. I came home from school then. . . . and took over the farm. I wasn't 17 years until August 22. That morning everything was white with frost. Never since have we had anything like that.

I knew my grandmother couldn't write. I have the old deed where they deeded this farm to my father and she signed with an X with a witness signing saying this is her mark. Mother told me that Grandma was a good woman. I am very happy to be able to own this farm and live on it. 3

Homer and Vivian Flathers have two children, Elaine, born May 12, 1926, and Harley, born August 27, 1931. Elaine, a junior high school English teacher in the Waseca, Minnesota, Public Schools received her B.S. Degree from Mankato State

1. Ibid
2. Homer Flathers, op. cit;
3. Homer Flathers Letter, January 5, 1973
Homer William and Vivian Raabe Flathers

Children: Standing Edward John
Seated Jeffrey Alan
Twins Emily Suzanne
June Elizabeth
College in 1948 and her M.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1957.

Harley Homer Flathers, a 1953 graduate of Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an announcer in Rochester, Minnesota, at Station KROC. Both Elaine and Harley attend the United Methodist Churches in their towns. Harley suffered a severe case of polio in the summer of 1949 just after graduating from high school and must use canes for walking. In spite of this, he is one of the most sought after individuals to lead community projects. In 1966 he received the Golden Deeds Award from the Rochester Junior Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his many services to the community. In 1973 Harley is County Chairman of the March of Dimes, and he has often served in other capacities — master of ceremonies at banquets, pop concerts, beauty pageants, etc.


Elaine Flathers, in replying to the first letter of inquiry written to her by Elizabeth Flathers, wrote on October 7, 1962:

I was very interested and happy to get your letter inquiring about the Flathers family tree. I've heard about Edward all my life since my father is intensely interested in the family history... I plan to go to my folks next weekend. I will get the records that I inherited a couple of years ago when our elderly cousin, Myrta Flathers, of Rochester, Minnesota, passed away. She and two other cousins, Mrs. Sequist and Mrs. Shoemaker, had done quite a bit of research years ago. As you say, all the Flatherses who know anything about their background can be traced to Edward.

The name is so scarce around here that I was amazed to see the return on your letter. Your husband's name rang a bell in my memory. Is he an educator? It seems to me that a Jennings Flathers spoke at a group meeting of our Minnesota Education Association two years ago. I was disappointed not to be able to hear him as I was curious about the name. Your husband and I are both of the sixth "branch" of the tree... Sincerely,

Elaine Flathers
This was the first of a number of letters between Elaine Flathers, her father, Homer Flathers; and Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers. This couple from Virginia visited with the Homer Flathers family in Rochester and Elaine Flathers in Waseca in July, 1967, and again in August, 1973.

An interesting letter from Elaine Flathers, April 6, 1961, states:

In the summer of 1854 a man named George Head beat down the brush with a team of oxen to make the first street of Rochester, Minnesota, which he named after Rochester, New York. Until the streets were renamed by numbers, there was a Flathers Avenue because Thomas Jefferson Flathers, Myrta’s father, owned land on it. It was May 1, 1854, that Lindsey came to Minnesota, but the Flathers family, from Lindsey’s line anyway, have not kept pace with Rochester’s growth! Harley and our cousin Boyd in Long Beach are the sixth generation men, and their sons are the seventh. I learned recently that our home farm, which my father bought in 1935 from his widowed mother, had been bought in 1872 by his father, William, from Dad’s grandfather, Lindsey, who bought it in 1861 but never lived there or worked it. It lay idle for eleven years.

The third child of Lindsey Cook Flathers was Nancy Emmerine (born July 2, 1850) who married her third cousin, Thomas Jefferson Flathers. It was from their daughter and only child, Myrta May Flathers, that Elaine Flathers inherited much of her Flathers materials and information. Elaine states that all the relatives called Myrta “Myrtie” just as Clarissa or Clara, the first mother and grandmother in the Flathers family, was called Clary. The inscription on her tombstone lists her as Clary Flathers. The Thomas Jefferson Flathers family is more fully discussed in the chapter dealing with Thomas Flathers, the youngest son of Edward, since Thomas Jefferson descended from Thomas Flathers.

Milton Thomas Flathers, the fourth child of Lindsey Cook and Mary Pace Flathers, was born October 30, 1853, and died at less than four years of age on September 11, 1856. When Homer Flathers wrote of this death, he said:

When little Milton died, his father, Lindsey Flathers, made a coffin for him and his mother, Mary, lined it with her wedding dress. That was before the cemetery was started in Pleasant Grove, so he was buried in the corner of a farm where there were a few other graves.

2. Ibid.
Grove Cemetery was started, the other graves were moved to it. That is where my parents are buried, also my two sisters Ila and Minnie, my Grandmother (Lindsey's wife), and his mother (Elizabeth Cook Flathers), little Milton, and Isaac, Milton's brother. 1

The fifth child of Lindsey Cook and Mary Pace Flathers was Isaac Ellet Flathers who was born September 11, 1855, and died of pneumonia on February 8, 1888. Weather records show that the winter of 1888 was one of the worst to be recorded. One of the early merchants of Pleasant Grove, he married Margaret Ann Maginnis who died in California in 1923. Of this family Elaine Flathers said:

   Daughter, Sylvia Mae Flathers, used second name. Born November 13, 1881 -- Pleasant Grove, died June 16, 1963, Pasadena, California -- buried there. She was a retired school teacher with a great interest in the mission work of her church, Lake Avenue Congregational Church of Pasadena, California. She had been a Sunday School teacher for many years, was active in the State Christian Endeavor and was Chairman of the Missionary Committee and Superintendent of Missions for 22 years. She even traveled to China in the 1920's to visit friends in the mission field. 3

   She married Marion Parks and had one son, Linnie, who lived in Northern Minnesota and had eight children -- six boys and two girls.

   The last child of Lindsey Cook and Mary Pace Flathers was Sarah Elizabeth Flathers, number seven, who was born Sept. 8, 1901, and was married to Lawrence Snee. She was born in Pleasant Grove, Minnesota, but died in California. She had four children -- Mary called Nama, Lawrence who is dead, Sara called Sally, and Lavinia called Babe. None of the girls married. Sally and Babe live in California.

   This accounts for the seven children of Lindsey Cook Flathers, the oldest son of Isaac Newton Flathers, the fifth child of Edward Flathers.

   The second child of Isaac Newton Flathers was Mary Flathers who married James Pace I on January 10, 1850, and moved with the family to Minnesota in 1852. Homer Flathers wrote on November 18, 1972, saying:

   1. Letter from Homer Flathers, January 5, 1973
   2. Letter from Elaine Flathers, March 8, 1964
   3. Letter from Elaine Flathers, January 11, 1973
   4. Letter from Elaine Flathers, March 8, 1964
   5. Ibid.
Yes, Lindsey Flathers had brothers William, James and Frank, also two sisters -- Nancy who married Maddox, first name I do not know, and Mary who married James Pace. We know many of their family. The Paces moved west of here 40 miles. I met two sons of the first Pace family, John and Charley, about 38 years ago. They told me they had walked from Lindsey's farmhouse at Pleasant Grove, Minnesota, to Austin, (45 miles) between suns. They were well over 6 feet. John was 6 feet 4 inches, and at 80 years he said he had never been sick. They also had sisters living at that time. They were Alice and Sarah, all tall.

Little information is available about the third child of Isaac Newton Flathers, William G. Flathers. He was probably married twice, for the marriage records in Hendricks County, Indiana, Courthouse show that he first married Sally Jane Holteclaw with the license issued July 6, 1843. She probably died, for William G. remarried, this time to Mariah B. Holteclaw with license issued January 21, 1848. After difficulties in the family, William G. moved to Iowa and is found in the Jackson County, Iowa, 1850 Census. In the 1860 Jones County, Iowa, Census, William G. was listed as living in that county, postoffice address, Wyoming, Iowa. The following information was given:

William Flathers, age 36, born in Kentucky
Maria /Spelled Mariah in all other places/, age 31, born in Indiana
Jacob A., age 11, born in Indiana
Mary A., age 8, born in Iowa
Sarah J. (could have been Z.), born in Iowa
Martha, age 3, born in Iowa
Value of real estate, $800.00
Value of Personal Property, $300.00

William G. Flathers and family have not been found in the 1870 Iowa Census. He could have moved to some other county, or he might have left the state. Searching the census is a long and tedious job for the names are not in alphabetical order, and some of the microfilm copies are dim and difficult to read.

The fifth child of Isaac Newton Flathers was James B. born in 1834. No account could be found of his marriage in the Marriage Records of Hendricks County. He must have gone to Iowa after leaving Indiana, for J. W. Ellis, a descendant of Edward's daughter, Mary Flathers, wrote the following to Mrs.

1. Letter from Homer Flathers, September 20, 1967
2. Index to Marriage Records, Hendricks County, Book 2, p 197
3. Ibid. Book 3, p 103
4. Jones County, Iowa, Census, 1860, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Elvira Seaquist on October, 1924, from Maquoketa, Iowa:

First, I don't see how I could have made a mistake in regard to the record of Isaac Flathers. I got my information from J. B. Flathers, son of Edward, the founder of the family in America. 1

The J. B. Flathers referred to must have been James B. Flathers, son of Isaac Newton Flathers. Also James B. is found in the 1880 Census of Indiana as having a child born in Iowa. He reads

J. B. Flathers, living in Indianapolis, age 46, born in Indiana
Elizabeth A. Flathers, age 41, born Kentucky
John W. Flathers, (son) 22, born Iowa
May C. Flathers (daughter), age 10 born Indiana 2

It is difficult to know what happened to James B. Flathers after 1880 for the 1890 United States Census were destroyed by fire, and the 1900 Census have not been released to the public as yet. When they are released, and if they are in alphabetical order, what a world of information they will contain!

Little is known of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, known as Frank, after he left Indiana following the death of his father, Isaac Newton Flathers. He is not listed as coming in for his share of the father's estate when the settlement was made in 1857. Homer Flathers wrote the following of Frank:

My father, William Murry, son of Lindsey, told me that Frank, Lindsey's brother, was very musical. (Story) Lindsey and Frank were riding horses once in Indiana when they passed a cabin where a man was playing a fiddle. They waited, and when he finished, Frank asked him to please play it again. And on returning to their home, Frank picked up his fiddle and played it. I know that Frank married and had a son named Frank and his wife died. They came to Minnesota and used to live with some of the James Pace family at Austin, Minnesota. Mrs. Pace (Mary Flathers) was his sister. 3

Frank may have come in for his share of the Isaac Newton Flathers estate with settlement made later. What else could have been the reason for holding one fifth of the estate at the time of settlement? If this is so, what happened to the second sister, Clarissa?

1. J. W. Ellis letter to Mrs. Elvira Seaquist, October 19, 1924
3. Homer Flathers letter, January 5, 1973
Addendum

Mary Elvira, born June 29, 1874, at Pleasant Grove, Minnesota, married William Peter Seaquist, D.D.S., on April 2, 1903. She died March 7, 1938, and is buried at the Tivoli Cemetery, Tivoli, Minnesota. William Peter Seaquist was born April 24, 1869, in Jangry, Sweden, and died October 10, 1946, and is buried beside his wife in the Tivoli Cemetery.

Their oldest child, Eleanor Seaquist, died at birth.

The second child, Clinton Leroy Seaquist, was born November 24, 1909, Mankato, Minnesota, and married Margaret Otto, May 29, 1936. She died June of 1965 at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Clinton Seaquist married Elizabeth Varco in 1966. Two children were born to Clinton Leroy and Margaret Otto Seaquist, (1) Mary Martha Seaquist born March 12, 1937, in Mankato, Minnesota. She married Matt Wall in 1961 at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, children -- Mark Wall born April 10, 1964, and Michael Wall born September 25, 1969. (2) Robert Seaquist born August 6, 1941.

The third child, John Seaquist, was born March 19, 1912, at Mankato. He married Elizabeth Jensen Spoors on August 20, 1955, and they live at St. Peter.


No information is available on the occupation of the Seaquist families.
Chapter VII — EDWARD'S SON, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FLATHERS

Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816, but it wasn't until nine years later that the central-western rich lands were open for settlement. Benjamin Franklin was the first Flathers to leave Kentucky. On September 24, 1825, Benjamin sold his 75 acres of land in Madison County in preparation for the move to Indiana. The registration of the sale of land in Madison County shows that both Benjamin and Anna, spelled Anny on the deed, signed using the letter X. Benjamin and his family moved to Montgomery County, Indiana, located some forty miles northwest of the capital, Indianapolis. He had secured a land grant two miles southeast of Crawfordsville, the county seat, on the road to Whitesville and Ladoga. He received the east half of the southeast quarter section 8, Township 18, range 4, 80 acres. The transaction was dated August 23, 1825, which indicates that Benjamin had visited Indiana prior to his selling his farm in Madison County, Kentucky. In 1831, he acquired an additional 80 acres of land making 160 total.

When Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816, the Indians held most of its 36,291 square miles. In 1818 the Miamis signed a treaty ceding over 4,000,000 of land for which the Indians were paid $2 per acre. The treaty land known to the Indiana settler as the New Purchase was described by the pioneer as the most fertile part of the state of Indiana and as desirable as any land in the Northwest. Montgomery County, located in the western part of the New Purchase, presents some of the characteristics of the entire purchase. The southern half of the county was densely wooded with some heavily timbered, rough land in the southwestern section. To the north the timber gradually "thinned out" to a point where the prairie appeared. Here was a rich, well drained soil, except for some swampland bordering Coal and Potato Creeks.

Sanford Cox, who observed Montgomery County in the 1820's wrote: "The natural scenery of the Wabash Valley as it was found by the first settler -- was beautiful and picturesque. Hills and dales, forests and prairies, grottos, rivulets and rivers checkered and diversified every portion of it." This description could also have been applied to an extensive section of the Sugar

1. Deed Book Q, Madison County, Kentucky, p 432
2. Index of Original Entry Book of Land Grants, 1821-1836, Montgomery County Courthouse, Crawfordsville, Indiana, p 56
3. Ibid., p 58
Sugar Creek runs on the north edge of Crawfordsville. Along the bottom land silvery green sycamores lined the water's edge. Redbud blossoms made a brilliant pattern set in the soft green of maple and popular or fringed the darker green of the austere and unbending hemlock. White dogwood massed on a far hillside foamed against the slope like a gentle surf of some inland sea and nearer at hand shadbush, cherry and plum billowed like puffs of gray-white smoke along a terraced ridge.

The state had created Montgomery County in 1822, but it was not until 1823 that Major Whitlock opened the land office that formed the nucleus for a pioneer village. ... By 1824, in addition to the land office there were two general stores, two shops, one tavern, one blacksmith shop, one grist mill, one shoe shop and tannery and three public buildings. The land office was log cabin as were the jail and courthouse. The courthouse cost $295, was built of logs. It was 26' long and 20' wide and two stories high. The jail was one story and cost $250. In 1824 two roads were laid out from Indianapolis to Crawfordsville, another from Crawfordsville to Terre Haute. These roads were little more than trails, with logs set to give bottom to swampy sections and an occasional stump-studded path cut through a densely forested area. Another so-called road extended northward from Madison by way of Greencastle to Crawfordsville, and it was over this road that most of the early settlers found their way to Crawfordsville.

They came in dearborns, oxcarts, on horseback, and a few adventurous young men traveled on foot. Here at the land office in the village of Crawfordsville, on December 21+, 1821+, the public land sale opened. Buckeyes, Kentuckians, Hoosiers from the Ohio River settlements and scattered representatives from other states gathered at the land office determined to outwit the speculators in the bidding for choice sections of land.

A stalwart pioneer would push through the crowd with a hangman's rope dangling from his arm, or a rifle-toting spectator might loudly query his companion: "John, do you need any help clearing out those skunks that are messing up your quarter section?" And John would reply: "I think those varmints are too smart to hang around where they ain't wanted." Usually John made himself understood, and the unregistered owner was able to bid in his improved land at the government price of $1.25 per acre. In 1821 a great majority of the settlers came from Kentucky, but there was a small registration from the Middle States States and New England. Montgomery County pioneers gave most of his time to clearing than cultivating his land. A new arrival might have the aid of neighbors in raising his cabin, but the job of clearing land belonged to each family. ... Trees must be felled and the trunks and branches cleared away. If the stumps were not too large the seed corn would be planted among them, at least for the first year. 1

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1. *Sugar Creek Saga, A History and Development of Montgomery County*, Ted Gronert, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1938, pp 3 – 5 (Source materials for this book came from the State Historical Library, Indianapolis; newspapers and letters of Montgomery County; various town, city, and school libraries; personal collections; the archives of Wabash College and Courthouse records; and the Crawfordsville City Building. Also the Crawfordsville Journal Review.)
Edward's children were all born in Kentucky prior to the move to Indiana. There were eight children in all, five boys and three girls. It will be noted that the date of birth, with the exception of Willis, is listed for each of the boys, but no date is given for any of the three girls. Significantly, this indicated the importance the early families placed on the male over the female. The year Willis was born was obtained from the United States Census Records. The same information could have been obtained for each of the girls; however, such research would have taken hours, and it is not the purpose of this genealogical history to trace the families of the Flathers women.

1. Clara Ellen (named for Grandmother Clara Legg Flathers, no doubt)  
2. Dica  
3. Edward born Feb. 16, 1808 (named for Grandfather Edward Flathers)  
4. John Wesley born April 23, 1809 (named for Uncle John Flathers)  
5. Willis born 1811  
6. Thomas S. born March 18, 1813 (named for Uncle Thomas Flathers)  
7. Mary (named for Aunt Mary Flathers Jeffers)  
8. William Harris born June 11, 1815  

No information is available on the move from Madison County, Kentucky, to Montgomery County, Indiana, but the journey must have been difficult and slow. The roads could hardly be called that. It is not known if it were possible to bring a wagon to Montgomery County or if the early settlers walked and carried their few possessions on the backs of oxen and other work animals. In some manner or other, however, Benjamin transported the few farm implements, seeds for planting, the few cooking vessels that the family possessed; but more than anything else, Benjamin and his family brought to Montgomery County, Indiana, the will and the desire to work, to cut down trees, to clear land, and to develop a civilization on the raw frontier of America.

1. Genealogical Family Record, Mildred Flathers, Franklin, Nebraska  
Year of birth for Willis Flathers obtained from Jackson County, Iowa, 1850 Census Records found in National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Most of the settlers came from Kentucky and Ohio. These pioneers brought with them but few of the necessities of a civilized life, and none of the luxuries of that day. They lived in rude cabins built of round poles, usually, and these had their ends beveled on top and notched underneath. . . . The cracks left between the logs were filled with mud and the cabin was thus made tight and comfortable. . . . The cabin usually consisted of but one room and in this the pioneer housewife and daughters cooked their scanty meals consisting for the most part of corn meal and meat.

In 1825 the settlements were scattered over the county, but the whole population within twenty miles of Crawfordsville was probably less than five hundred souls. 1

This is what Benjamin Franklin Flathers and his family found when they moved to Indiana in 1825, and this is the kind of life they lived.

The land is sold in tiers of townships, beginning at the southern part of the district and continuing north until all has been offered at public sale. . . . This rule adopted by the officers insured great regularity in the sale, but it would keep many there several days, who desired to purchase land in the northern portion of the district. 2

Since Benjamin purchased the Indiana land before transporting his family, only he had to wait until the piece of land he wished to purchase came up for sale. It is quite possible that the family moved directly to the 80 acres of land two miles southeast of Crawfordsville. The first job for the family was to clear the land and build a cabin. To this day the land near Benjamin's farm contains many trees in areas not farmed, and one can visualize the dense forest on the land which Benjamin purchased. On the small patches he cleared from the forests, he planted corn and the other foods on which the family was to live. Meat for the family was obtained from the wild animals, plentiful in the forests.

But as more and more families came to the county, the young people made friends, and they assembled for social affairs.

In those days the sugar-maple was thick in almost every neighborhood, and the settlers had no trouble in providing themselves with

2. Ibid., p 68
an abundance of good sugar and molasses. The young men and women of the whole neighborhood would often gather at the "sugar camp" at night and there have their candy-pulling. 1

Benjamin's older children must have attended the log cabin school near their home in Kentucky; as far as is known, all could read and write. It is quite possible that the younger children -- Willis, Thomas, Mary, and William Harris -- attended school in Indiana. By 1830 nearly every township in Montgomery County had its organized school district supported by tax levy, contributions, and/or donations. The school term was usually three months long during the winter when the children were not demanded on the farm for labor. The teacher's pay was $15.00 for the term of three months. 2

Benjamin's eight children grew to adulthood in Montgomery County. The record of marriages in the county courthouse carries the following information on the issuance of marriage license:

John Wesley Flathers and Juliann D. Taylor, September, 5, 1832. They were issued the 370th license in the county. 3
Edward Flathers and Mary Willson, January 9, 1834. 4
Disey Flathers and Elias Oliver, January 25, 1838. 5
William Harris Flathers and Sarah Ann Ellis of Hendricks County, Indiana, February 9, 1843. 6

Four of the sons of Benjamin Franklin Flathers -- Edward, Thomas S., Willis, and William Harris -- went to Iowa to live in 1842. William Harris must have returned for his bride in 1843. Three years later the parents, Benjamin and Anna, went for a visit to Iowa, and there Benjamin took sick and died October 11, 1845. Benjamin was buried in Iowa, but Anna returned to Indiana

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1. Ibid., p 69
2. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p 132
5. Ibid., Vol II, p 14
6. Marriage Records, Book I, Hendricks County, Indiana
7. Information furnished by Howard Flathers, Delmar, Iowa, grandson of Thomas Flathers in whose home Benjamin Franklin Flathers died. Also from date on gravestone Union Cemetery. Died Oct. 11, 1845, age 62 years, 5 months, 19 days.
where she lived on the farm the remainder of her life. Elaine Flathers of Waseca, Minnesota, has information that Thomas drove her back to Indiana, driving the horses with his one good hand and doing many things that showed skill and courage.

An excerpt from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson Flathers of Rochester, Minnesota, to J. W. Ellis, Manquoketa, Iowa, gives some information regarding the family of Benjamin Franklin Flathers. The date of the letter is unknown.

Benjamin Flathers, Edward's oldest son, lived near Crawfordsville, Indiana. . . I do not know his wife's name. He had four sons — William, John, Thomas, and Edward [Should have been five sons.— he left out Willis] and I think, one daughter [Should have been three daughters], one I know, Disa, who married a man named Oliver and lived and died near Crawfordsville, Indiana. I think there was a daughter named Clary Ellen but I do not know for certain about this.

The only one of Benjamin's sons that I ever remember seeing was Thomas. He visited my father and grandfather in Indiana after he had lived in Iowa for a number of years. I remember he had a deformed hand that my grandfather told me was caused by falling into a furnace, when a boy, when they were making maple sugar. [1]

In order to settle the estate of Benjamin Flathers, his wife, Anna, asked for an inventory of the property which was filed at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Crawfordsville, January 2, 1846. An introductory statement spelling out the terms of sale tells something about the tight money at the middle of the last century.

A credit of nine months given on all sums exceeding three dollars, the purchaser giving his note with approved surety. Without any relief from valuation or appraisement, loans and cash in hand was required on all sums of three dollars and under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchaser's name</th>
<th>Article Sold</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Flathers</td>
<td>1 blind bridle and chain and collar</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna's son. He must</td>
<td>1 waggon</td>
<td>21.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have returned from</td>
<td>1 bay horse</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa for the sale</td>
<td>1 sorrel horse</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or it could have been</td>
<td>1 rifle gun</td>
<td>1.87½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas from Hendricks</td>
<td>1 bay of timothy seeds</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County, Benjamin's brother</td>
<td>1 lot of corn in the barn</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note given for above with Ann Flathers surity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$79.37½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Original letter owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota
Grave of Benjamin Franklin Flathers
Union Cemetery, Maquoketa, Iowa

Benjamin Franklin Flathers and
Anna Shakelford Flathers

Gentry Cemetery, Danville, Indiana
Graves from left to right - Isaac Flathers, Edward Flathers, Clary (Claressa) Flathers, William Jeffers, Mary Flathers Jeffers
The following sold to other people:

1 lot old iron cash paid .25
1 iron wedge 3.33
1 little wheel 3.00
1 set harrow teeth 2.56  $6.00

1 iron wedge
1 oven and lid (cash paid) .02
1 drawing knife, 8 gimlet (cash paid) .25

2 augers .81
1 log chain 2.75
1 set of bricking 1.75  $5.31

1 X cut saw (cash paid) $3.00
1 knot mall and narrow hoe
1 X cut saw (cash paid) $3.00
1 knot mall and narrow hoe .25
1 sow and pigs .93  $9.56
1 bedstid and bedding 2.00
1 lot of carpeting 2.75
1 1/2 dozen at 10 cents per dozen 1.20
1 stack of hay 9.06  $18.01
1 square table (cash paid) .37

1 corner cupboard 5.00
6 sheep 8.00  $13.00
1 big wheel .17
1 candle stand .37
1 trundle bed .87
3 mowing sythes .63
1 spade .37
1 wheat fan and flax brake .50
1 mattock and broad hoe .31  $3.31

Sold to Anna Flathers

1 dining table 2.00
1 carpet 1.50
18 pounds of wool yarn 1.50
18 pounds of wool yarn 1.00
1 lot of wool rolls .50
1 piece of carpeting .25
1 bed and bedding 1.00
1 bedstead .25
1 bed .50
1 bedstead .25
1 lot of sash .12
1 hatchet .06  $1.28
1 pair of strechers .12
Sold to John Flathers

John Wesley Flathers, 1 coop hatchel (cash paid) $2.00
Anna's son

Sold to other people
1 stone hames $1.10
1 pair stretchers .50
1 cane plough .62
1 bull plough 2.68
6 sheep, 3rd choice 6.75
6 sheep, 5th choice 6.37
10 bu. wheat at 75¢ per bushel 7.50
10 bu. more at 75¢ per bushel 7.50
10 bu. at 70¢ per bushel 7.00
6 bu. and 45 pounds at 73/4¢ 32.15
per bushel
1 black colt 21.37
1 small stack of hay 3.00 $95.59

I Jacob Thompson clerk of the sale of which this foregoing purports to be an account, do solemnly swear that said sale was made at the time and place and on the terms stated and that the foregoing account, thereof is in every material particular, correct as I do verily believe. Jacob Thompson

On January 7, 1847, the children and heirs of Benjamin Franklin Flathers sold one 80 acre tract of land to which they were entitled leaving the remainder of the farm, at least 160 acres obtained by Benjamin Franklin as cited in the Original Land Entries, for Anna, the mother. On this date only John Wesley Flathers and wife, Julia Ann D. Flathers, and Elias Oliver and wife, Dicy Flathers Oliver, were living in Montgomery County. All the other children had moved to Jackson County, Iowa, and they signed the indenture in that county and state on February 10, 1846. Those having moved to Iowa were:

Edward Flathers and wife, Mary Willson Flathers
Willis A. Flathers and wife, Anna (signed X, her mark) Flathers
Peter Jerman and wife, Mary Ann Flathers Jerman. Jerman was also spelled German in this document.
James Ward and wife, Clarissa E. Flathers Ward
William H. Flathers and wife, Sarah Ann Ellis (signed X, her mark) Flathers
Thomas S. Flathers (unmarried)

1. Inventory and sale of the estate of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, Inventory filed Montgomery County Courthouse, February 2, 1846, and sale filed two days later.
2. Deed Book 12, Montgomery County, Indiana, pp 172-174
From the sale of the land and personal property of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, one can draw a number of conclusions:

* Benjamin Franklin Flathers had done well financially in the twenty years he had lived in Montgomery County, Indiana. He owned a considerable amount of land, and the sale of personal property raised a sizable sum of money in spite of the low prices set on certain items.

* The real worth of the farmer lay in livestock and grain. Wheat selling at 75¢ a bushel seemed unusually high when compared with the price of other items — household furniture, for example.

* The family had to be self sufficient in making such items as sugar from maple trees, warm clothing from the wool of the sheep, other clothing from linen produced from the flax plant, food from corn and wheat, and even furniture which was made by hand at home.

* The family had a good amount of furniture, even carpeting, which would indicate that the family no longer lived in the log cabin. The house probably contained several rooms.

* Much work on the farm was done by the individual, hand operating crude farm implements — the walking plow, the scythe and the cradle, and the cross cut saw.

* Correct spelling was a problem. Anna could not read or write, but the clerk of the sale, hired for this specific job, misspelled a number of words or sometimes spelled the words correctly and the next time incorrectly. The spelling in the bill of sale was copied exactly as filed in the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Having experienced the difficulties of settling the estate of her husband, Benjamin Franklin Flathers, Anna Shakelford Flathers saw that her children did not have these same difficulties when she died. Her will is on file in the Montgomery County Courthouse.
I, Anna Flathers, knowing the uncertainty of life do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

I direct that after my departure from this life my body be buried in the old Graveyard north of Crawfordsville and that a suitable grave stone with my name, age, and date of decease engraved on the stone be erected at the head of my grave, and paid for out of my estate, and that my funeral expenses and doctor bill be paid. I will and bequeath unto my Grand Daughter, Hannah Oliver, my young red cow, called "Grummy" which is to be in full of the share of her Mother, Dica, to my estate. I further direct that my executor immediately after my decease shall inventory and appraise all of my property except the above cow which he shall deliver to said Hannah and sell the same at a public sale so soon as practicable on such terms as he may think best and reduce to cash all my accounts, notes and property as above stated as soon as the same can be done conveniently and after all expenses are paid to distribute the money as follows: To wit:

I will and bequeath one half of the same, which my executor will pay over equally to each of my two sons, Edward Flathers and Thomas Flathers and the other half of said money to be distributed equally among my three sons, William, John and Wilace Flathers, my daughter, Clara Ellen Ward, and Grand Daughter Anna Ballard, giving to each an equal share.

I appoint John Beard my executor of this Will. In testimony I here into subscribe my name this 1st day of June 1853.

Anna Flathers

Anna died on the morning of 23 August 1853. . . . Will proved 25 August 1853. Signed Anarene P. Lynn, Clerk

This will shows that Anna had a mind of her own, for she left half of her estate to two of her sons, Edward and Thomas, with the other half going to the other six children except that two granddaughters got the full estate of their mothers. Of course, we do not know what financial help Anna and even Benjamin Franklin had given to certain of the children previously. It is not known if daughters Dica, most often called Dicy, and Mary were dead at this time, probably not, but even if they were, there were other grandchildren in the two families. Anna was 65 years old at the time of her death. She had been born in Kentucky in 1788 and knew only the privations of pioneer life, even troubles with the Indians. She was a true pioneer woman in the finest sense of the word.

1. Will Book I, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 24
On October 7, 1972, Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited the Old Town Cemetery on the north edge of Crawfordsville looking for the grave of Anna Shakelford Flathers. The dates of Old Town Cemetery run from the founding of Crawfordsville in 1821 to 1873. Located just off U.S. Highway 231 on Covington Street, the cemetery is located in an old part of the town and has been receiving good care of recent years. There was no fence around the cemetery, however, which allowed animals to wander on the grounds. Since this may have been true for all or part of the 120 years since Anna's death, many stones are broken and some are entirely gone. The grave of Anna could not be located, and the stone could not be found, either standing or lying broken on the ground.

By the time Anna Flathers died in 1853, all her children with the possible exception of Dica Flathers Oliver and husband, Elias Oliver, had moved to Iowa.
All five sons of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers moved from Indiana to Iowa between 1840 and 1850. The best description of the move is found in an essay written by Helen Bernice Hovey Schrader, niece of Cecelia Purdy Flathers, wife of John Windsor Flathers and son of Thomas S. Flathers, one of the five sons. Bernice Hovey was living in the home of John Windsor Flathers in 1921 when the essay was written as a project for 9th grade English. John Windsor Flathers dictated the material to Bernice as his father, Thomas S. Flathers, had told it to him.

On April 2, 1842, Thomas Sheridan Flathers, and his three brothers and brother-in-law, with their wives and children, left their homes in Indiana, enroute for Iowa. They were driving ox-teams which were hitched to the covered wagons. These vehicles were quite large and carried both them and their possessions on the search for new and better homes.

After several days travel (31 days according to Howard Flathers, grandson of Thomas S. Flathers) they reached the Mississippi River at Comanche. They drove into the camping grounds and unhitched and fed their oxen. They then began conversing with the other campers, making inquiries as to when they could cross the Mississippi river. One man said that he was due to cross in about two weeks, while another stated that he could not get a transfer until about the middle of June.

The means of transportation was a very slow and tedious task. It was accomplished by a ferry-boat, which was constructed of logs twenty feet long. It was held to stream by a rope, running from bank to bank, and forced by the current with a current drive. This consisted of a plank which was generally about two feet wide and projected down into the water.

When the Flathers brothers went to the boat-man to get information as to when they could get a passage, he replied that it would be at least two months. They then went back to their wagons, got their guns, and started out in search of some wild game with which to satisfy their hunger. They succeeded in shooting a deer.

After walking about a mile and a half, they discovered a saw-mill, and, in scrutinizing the waste pile, they found a great many good slabs. This discovery gave them a new idea, and they decided to try and construct a raft which would carry them and their possessions safely to the opposite shore. They then went to the sawyer and asked the price of a load of slabs. He replied that they could have them free of charge if they would destroy the whole pile, as they were of no use to him. At Thomas's request the sawyer also agreed to slab three twenty-foot logs, each on one side, for them.

The men then carried the deer back to camp and unloaded one of the wagons. They next told their plan to several other campers and requested
the assistance of a few men, which they gave willingly. They immediately hitched up a team of oxen, drove back to the mill, and began the work, with Thomas and Edward Flathers as foremen on the job. They first picked out and loaded those which they desired and threw the remainder into the river. After this had been completed, they put the three logs which the sawyer had slabbed for them, into the wagon and returned to the rest of the party. They then retired for the night.

After rising early the next morning they prepared and devoured the morning meal as quickly as possible. When everything had been cleared away, the men got out their tools -- axe, saw, and auger -- and began the construction of a boat. This task was completed in approximately three hours. The next thing to be done was to get a rope strung across the river, so that the raft would be held to stream. This was accomplished by harnessing a horse, tying one end of a rope to the harness, and then having one of the men ride the animal to the other side.

When every minor task had reached completion, they sent a load of men across; this was for the purpose of helping to unload the boat each time it arrived. It made thirty-minute trips all that day, and the next day at noon every emigrant had reached the opposite shore. Then, by means of their covered wagons, they continued their journey on the search for a suitable place to settle. Thomas and his companions headed in a north western direction.

The descendants of the five Flathers brothers owe a great debt of gratitude to Helen Bernice Hovey Schrader for preserving these days of pioneer Flathers history. More of the essay will be quoted in Chapter XI, the chapter dealing with the lives of Thomas Sheridan Flathers and his descendants.

As was pointed out in the preceding chapter, John Wesley Flathers stayed in Indiana after the other boys had left for Iowa so the four brothers referred to in the essay are Edward, Willis, William Harris, and Thomas S.

Genealogies dealing with hundreds of names, many more dates, as well as with several generations, become complicated, confusing, and difficult to follow. The genealogical development of the Flathers story in the next five chapters is no exception. The author suggests that the reader follow closely the genealogical charts provided at the first of each chapter as he reads the story of the five sons of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and their descendants.
There is no simple, direct, or easy way to tell the genealogical story of the five sons of Benjamin Flathers and their descendants. The form used in developing the five stories must necessarily vary and may seem, to some readers, to have inconsistencies. These variations are necessary, however, due to:

* The great variety of information available to the author. For some families more material was available than could be used. For others, there was no material or almost none.

* The work, activities, and manner of living of the different people and families covered almost the whole of the broad spectrum of life in America.

* The great variety of family size. When there are three or four especially large families in one chapter, the process becomes complicated.

* The naming and renaming of individuals with the familiar family names — Edward, John, Benjamin, Thomas, Newton, Isaac, and Nathaniel

* The determination of the author to present the Flathers, living and dead, as individuals with hopes, desires, dreams, ambitions, attitudes, and convictions.

* The direct quotations from letters, some from people long since passed on. These letters add to the interest of the story and are far more interesting to the reader than if the author had retold the contents in his own words.
Four sons of Benjamin Franklin Flathers  
taken in Maquoketa, Iowa, about 1885

From left to right

standing

Thomas Sheridan Flathers -- William Harris Flathers

seated

Edward Flathers -- John Wesley Flathers
Genealogical Chart of Edward Flathers,
Son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and Grandson of Edward Flathers, first Flathers in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1834</td>
<td>m. ? Drake</td>
<td>2. Iyle Flathers</td>
<td>one daughter and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Andrew Sheumaker</td>
<td>3. Edward Sheumaker</td>
<td>m. Eileen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Lucy Ellen Sheumaker</td>
<td>2. Mary Flathers</td>
<td>d. 1971</td>
<td>m. ? Barnum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. William O. Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1837</td>
<td>2. Mary Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1863</td>
<td>m. Ida</td>
<td>1. Mary Flathers</td>
<td>m. C. E. Tenny</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. John Eli Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1866</td>
<td>b. 7/27/1904</td>
<td>m. (1) Opel Marie ?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Ida ?</td>
<td>2. Iyle Flathers</td>
<td>(2) Goldie Urback</td>
<td>2. Shirley Flathers (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. William C. Flathers</td>
<td>d. 1971</td>
<td>b. 2/26/1902</td>
<td>3. Flenn Flathers (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. ?</td>
<td>1. Mary Flathers</td>
<td>1. Mary Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. William Co Flathers</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>1. Lilah Elizabeth Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 17/1972</td>
<td>d. 12/10/1952</td>
<td>b. 6/5/1900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Benjamin B. Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1870</td>
<td>m. ? Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Susie Marie Clark</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>1. Lilah Elizabeth Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Lewis C. Flathers</td>
<td>b. 7/7/1954</td>
<td>b. 6/5/1900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. 6/30/1899</td>
<td>m. ? Morris</td>
<td>1. Lilah Elizabeth Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Nellie Flathers  
   b. 5/4/1882  
   m. ? Lilly  

7. Blanche Flathers  
   m. ? Baldwin  

8. Julie Flathers  
   b. 7/20/1887 d. 7/16/1962  
   m. Bert Newman  

9. Clarence Eugene Flathers  
   b. 7/5/1906  
   m. ? Eagen  

10. Iva Bell Flathers  
    b. 4/21/1906  
    m. ? Anderson  

11. Estella May Flathers  
    b. 8/21/1912  
    m. ? Boggs  

12. Gilbert Carl Flathers  
    b. 5/15/1914  
    m. ? Jensen  

13. Leonard Glen Flathers  
    b. 1/24/1916  
    m. ? Struble  

14. Gretchen Lucille Flathers  
    b. 10/6/1919  
    m. ?  

15. Harley Glenn Flathers  
    b. 5/1/1923  
    m. ?  

16. Benjamin Flathers  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12/9/1839 d. 6/16/1940</td>
<td>m. 3/23/1911</td>
<td>m. 5/2/1912</td>
<td>m. 7/26/1939 m. 6/28/1939</td>
<td>b. 6/8/1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 7/14/1931 m. June Lillian Yockey b. 4/15/1873</td>
<td>m. Earl Tegard Evans b. 6/8/1911</td>
<td>m. Vera Irene Klingensmith b. 3/18/1916</td>
<td>m. Ray Carol Howland Howland b. 4/2/1954</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1842 d. 6/20/1920</td>
<td>b. 9/27/1913 d. 2/24/1931</td>
<td>b. 9/19/1941 m. 7/11/1957</td>
<td>b. 9/19/1941 m. 7/11/1957</td>
<td>b. 9/11/1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11/29/1871 d. 6/3/1952</td>
<td>m. Hattie Grapes</td>
<td>b. 7/25/1901</td>
<td>m. 9/28/1929</td>
<td>b. 11/25/1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. ? Whites</td>
<td>m. Harry A. Wetmore b. 2/7/1900</td>
<td>m. Adelaide Huse b. 4/21/1908</td>
<td>m. ? Bell</td>
<td>m. ? Tanck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10/16/1873 d. 3/22/1959</td>
<td>m. 2/7/1900</td>
<td>b. 1/7/1932</td>
<td>b. 7/7/1932</td>
<td>b. 5/1/1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. ? Adelaide Huse</td>
<td>m. Laura Wetmore b. 9/20/1902</td>
<td>m. ? Tanck</td>
<td>m. ? Arnold</td>
<td>m. ? ? Arnold</td>
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</table>

Note: The table contains genealogical information for the families of Benjamin Lewis Flathers and related individuals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
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<td>b. 6/20/1947</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>b. 3/15/1963</td>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>b. 3/15/1963</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. LaVaune Johnson</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Christopher Jordan</td>
<td>b.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 8/19/1914</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Gloria Lawrence</td>
<td>b.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Charles Wetmore</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Adelaide M. Bailey</td>
<td>b.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 12/20/1914</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>m. Robert Harry Caldwell</td>
<td>b. 1926</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. LaVaune Johnson</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>m. Gloria Lawrence</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>b. 10/27/1961</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 1/14/1877</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>6/24/1937</td>
<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 5/21/1955</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. John W. Murphy</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>b. 10/11/1967</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 11/9/1861</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rosa Bell Flathers</td>
<td>b. 12/20/1850</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 3/18/1927</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>m. ? Van Dorn</td>
<td>d. 6/15/1925</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 2/22/1866</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Edward Flathers</td>
<td>b. 12/20/1850</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 10/11/1863</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 9/2/1884</td>
<td>b. 5/17/1905</td>
<td>b. 5/17/1903</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 9/2/1884</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Harvey Bailey</td>
<td>d. 1954</td>
<td>d. 1954</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Flora Preaux</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Harvey Bailey</td>
<td>b. 12/21/1946</td>
<td>b. 11/26/1942</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 8/28/1886</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Harvey Bailey</td>
<td>d. 1946</td>
<td>m. John W. Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 2/22/1866</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 12/21/1946</td>
<td>m. 11/26/1942</td>
<td>b. 11/9/1900</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Lydia Winifred Flathers</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 1946</td>
<td>m. 11/26/1942</td>
<td>b. 5/17/1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 9/5/1892</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 1946</td>
<td>d. 1954</td>
<td>b. 5/17/1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 4/13/1898</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Arthur Wilson</td>
<td>m. 1926</td>
<td>m. 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 6/1/1916</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>b. 1/1/1905</td>
<td>b. 11/26/1942</td>
<td>m. 11/26/1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 6/1/1916</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 1970</td>
<td>m. Adelaide Clust</td>
<td>m. 11/26/1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 1951</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Helen Bailey</td>
<td>b. 2/10/1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 1926</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Adelaide Clust</td>
<td>d. 1951</td>
<td>m. Adelaide Clust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Adelaide Clust</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>m. Robert Rector Bailey</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 2/10/1901</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>b. 2/10/1901</td>
<td>b. 2/10/1901</td>
<td>b. 6/24/1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 1951</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>d. 1951</td>
<td>d. 1951</td>
<td>b. 6/24/1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. John Q. Flathers</td>
<td>9. Oliver Harmon Flathers</td>
<td>b. 11/30/1852</td>
<td>m. ? Adkins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Oliver Harmon Flathers</td>
<td>b. ? d. 4/25/1919</td>
<td>b. 1/7/1883</td>
<td>2. Elmer Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Mary M. Mathine</td>
<td>13. Ashley Flathers</td>
<td>b. 11/30/1852</td>
<td>m. ? Barton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. 1/2/1828</td>
<td>14. Clara Flathers</td>
<td>m. 5/24/1882</td>
<td>m. 1/2/1928</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Paul French</td>
<td>15. Ruth Flathers</td>
<td>m. Mary M. Mathine</td>
<td>m. Paul French</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2 children**
Chapter VIII - EDWARD'S GRANDSON, EDWARD FLATHERS

Edward Flathers, born February 16, 1808, and oldest son of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers, was named for his grandfather Edward, first Flathers in America. Sometimes called Ned, he was 17 years of age when his family moved from Madison County, Kentucky, to Montgomery County, Indiana. Edward married Mary Wills January 8, 1834. She was born in Ohio January 19, 1815.

Edward acquired land in Montgomery County, but people were beginning a movement toward the Territory of Iowa, and in 1840 some of the 13,000 settlers of Iowa wanted to apply for statehood. It was not until 1841, however, that a convention was called, and a formal application for admission was made. In 1846 the territory became a state, but by this time six of the eight children of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers were living there, four sons and two daughters.

As was pointed out in the Introduction to Chapters VIII through XII Edward and Mary Willson Flathers and their four children moved from Indiana to Iowa in 1842. They settled in Jackson County in the Iron Hills area about ten miles northwest of the present county seat of Maquoketa.

A two volume History of Jackson County written by J. W. Ellis, grandson of Mary Flathers Jeffers who was a daughter of the first Edward Flathers, states that there were no land titles issued by the government in Jackson County until 1845. The first land office opened in Dubuque in 1845. The very early settlers staked off their claims, built their cabins and depended on such mutual protection as they could afford each other by banding together as a claim society to prevent speculators from taking advantage of them. 2

In the Annals of Jackson County, Iowa, published in 1905 by the Jackson

1. Information in Pension Application Papers based on Civil War Service of Henry G. Flathers made by mother, Mary Flathers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
County Historical Society on page 2 is an article by J. W. Ellis in which he states that the early roads
were generally single track through the great forests and were often impassable. It was many years before the trees were cut to let the sun in to dry them. Another difficulty was the bridges. It seems that no matter how high we made them the water would get high enough to take them out. In the spring the roads through the river bottoms would be under water.

The 1850 Census of Jackson County, Iowa, gives the following information regarding the family of Edward Flathers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Real Estate</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Flathers</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>farmer</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Flathers</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dicy Ann</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William O.</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin L.</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Wilson</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry G.</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia J.</td>
<td>female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As has been pointed out previously, Edward's brother, William Harris, Willis A., and Thomas Sheridan and two sisters, Mary Ann Flathers Jerman and Clarissa E. Flathers Ward, had also moved to Iowa. In the fall of 1845 the parents, Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers, paid them a visit. It is not known how long it took them to make the trip, but Howard Flathers of Delmar, Iowa, says that it took the original group thirty one days to travel from Crawfordsville to the Mississippi River with oxen pulling the covered wagons. It is possible that Benjamin and Anna made the trip much faster. They probably crossed the Mississippi River by ferry just above Clinton as did their children three years earlier. While on the visit Benjamin Franklin became sick and died. He was buried at the Union Cemetery, four miles south of Maquoketa, and his tombstone can be read easily even today -- Benjamin F. Flathers, Died Oct. 11, 1845, age 62 years, 5 mo. and 19 days. As was pointed out in the previous chapter, Benjamin Franklin had no will.

1. Jackson County, Iowa, 1850 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
The eastern part of Iowa was heavily timbered when the first settlers arrived, and Edward lived in the heart of what was known as the Big Timber near the Maquoketa River where wild game was plentiful. He was known to have been an unusually good shot and kept his family well supplied with meat from the forests — deer and wild turkey. George Wetmore, great grandson of Edward Flathers, has possession of Edward's hunting gun today.

Five of the Fourth Generation Flathers from Iowa fought in the Union Army of the Civil War, three of the five from the family of Edward Flathers — Benjamin L., Adam Wilson, and Henry G. It is from the pension application papers based on the service of these three men that a great deal can be learned both about them and about their parents, Edward and Mary. For example, from the pension application papers filed in 1885 based on the service of Henry G. Flathers, fifth child of Benjamin and Mary, it is learned that two additional children were born after the 1850 census — John Q. on November 30, 1852, and Oliver H. on September 12, 1855, making nine children in all.

Also in the pension application papers, the physical condition of Edward is described by Dr. Preston Lake of Maquoketa, October 6, 1885:

During the month of September, 1851, I was a resident of Maquoketa, Iowa, above named and was called to treat him, the said Edward Flathers. I then made a careful examination of said Flathers and found him suffering with Typhoid Pneumonia severely. I gave him careful attention for a period of ten days or two weeks and prescribed for him for some days thereafter. After the said Edward Flathers had become convalescent and was able to be about the same Flathers complained to me of his inability to use his right arm. When upon examination of the arm, I found it partially paralyzed, evidently the result of said fever, and I have known him intimately from that date until the present time and ever since said date, to wit September 1851, the said Edward Flathers' right arm has been partially paralyzed rendering the same but of little use and painful when he attempts to use his arm.

I know that said Edward Flathers has complained of Chronic Rheumatism since A.D. 1851. I have never treated him for that disease. I have now made a careful examination of him and find that he is suffering with Chronic Rheumatism. The said disease has resulted in disease of the heart and the kidneys so that now he is suffering above disease as sequence of Chronic Rheumatism. The above afflictions

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1. Pension Application Papers based on Civil War Service of Henry G. Flathers, made by mother, Mary Flathers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
cause great difficulty and weakness rendering him unable to perform manual labor. 1

Dr. Preston Lake stated that he had been a practitioner of medicine for 40 years.

The fact that Edward suffered from rheumatism was further confirmed by Laura Wetmore of Sioux City, Iowa, Edward's great granddaughter. She said that she had been told that when he had visited them in their homes in the Sioux City area, he had complained of rheumatism and had spent a great deal of time near the fire for the cold weather affected him severely.

From the many pages of supportive evidence on file in the National Archives dealing with the pension application of Edward and Mary Flathers based on the Civil War service of their son, Henry G., a good deal of family information emerges.

* With three sons serving in the Union Army and with Edward in unsatisfactory physical condition, there was a scarcity of labor force for the farm.

* The conscription of horses for service in the war caused a shortage for civilian use. When Edward lost a good team of horses by lung fever, he was sorely in need of horse power for the farm.

* Edward raised a fine pair of colts for farm labor -- worth about $80.00 a pair -- which shows something about the cost of horses at that time. This pair gave some relief to the shortage of horse power for the farm.

* Henry G. Flathers was good to his parents, an excellent worker, and was a real contributor to the welfare of the family.

* In 1863 Edward's land had increased in value to $25.00 an acre.

* In 1864 Edward added 40 acres of adjoining land to the 160 acres he already owned making 200 acres total, a good size farm in those days before mechanization.

1. Pension Application Papers based on service of Henry G. Flathers
According to information on file in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., Mary Flathers, mother of Henry G. Flathers was granted a pension on March 13, 1885, based on her son's service in Company F, 31st. Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers, Civil War. Mary Flathers was born January 19, 1815, and died June 4, 1889, five years after the pension was granted to her.

In spite of the fact that Edward became almost totally disabled, according to Dr. Preston Lake of Maquoketa, he lived to age 84 dying August 5, 1892. He was born February 16, 1808.

The will of Edward Flathers, on file in the Jackson County Courthouse, Maquoketa, Iowa, reads in part:

I, Edward Flathers aged eighty four years of sound and disposing mind and good memory but realizing the uncertainty of life do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

1st. I will and direct that all just claims against my estate be paid.

2nd. I will devise and bequeath unto my granddaughter, Mary, the daughter of my son William O. Flathers, now married to some person whose name I do not know but who resides in Woodbury County in the State of Iowa, one feather bed and bedding used with the same.

3rd. I give devise and bequeath unto my children William O. Flathers, John Q. Flathers, Benjamin L. Flathers, Adam W. Flathers, Jacob M. Flathers, Oliver A. Flathers and Lydia J. Bowling share and share alike, subject to certain advancements and indebtedness to me and certain indebtedness I may be compelled to pay. . . . the undivided seven eighths (7/8) of all of the rest residue and remainder of my estate both personal and real estate and wherever located and whatever kind. . . .

4th. . . .

5th. I give devise and bequeath from the remaining one-eighth (1/8) part of my estate to my Grandson Scott Bowling the sum of twenty-five dollars.

6th. I give devise and bequeath unto Susan Drake, Abraham Bowling, Edward Sheumaker, Eli Sheumaker, Lucy Ellen Sheumaker children of my daughter Dicy A. Sheumaker deceased all the rest residue and remainder of the one eighth (1/8) part of my estate both personal and real estate and wherever found or located share and share alike. . . .

Witness my hand this 25th day of May 1892.

Edward Flathers

The will was written on May 25, 1892, less than three months before the death of Edward Flathers. The farm of 200 acres consisted of the 160 acres Edward obtained in the original land grant when he first moved to Iowa plus

1. Dates for Edward and Mary Flathers taken from the grave stones where they are buried at Iron Hill, Iowa. The cemetery is once a Presbyterian Cemetery according to Howard Flathers of Delmar, Iowa.
plus the 40 acres of adjoining land mentioned in the pension application papers. The land is found in sections 16 and 17, township 85, range 2 east about 10 miles northwest of Maquoketa and 1 mile north and 1 mile east of Iron Hill. A full description of the land is found in conjunction with Edward's will when Jacob M. Flathers, son of Edward and administrator of the will, reported that the land had been sold at a private sale for $3200. Also in connection with the will was a statement telling where each heir lived.

William O. Flathers  age 56 years, resides at Woodbury County, Iowa
Benjamin L. Flathers  52  Woodbury County, Iowa
Adam W. Flathers  50  Maquoketa, Iowa
Lydia J. Bowling  46  Chicago, Illinois
Jacob M. Flathers  43  Maquoketa, Iowa
John Q. Flathers  40  Republic City, Kansas
Oliver H. Flathers  36  Iron Hill, Iowa

Also the following names of persons who were heirs at law and interested in the estate:

Susan Drake  30  Lomsville, Nebraska
Abraham W. Bowling  26  Cass County, Iowa
S. T. Bowling  24  Jackson County, Iowa
Edward Sheumaker  22  Cass County, Iowa
Eli Sheumaker  21  Cass County, Iowa
Lucy Sheumaker  19  Cass County, Iowa

As one looks at the photograph of the four brothers, sons of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers, who moved from Indiana to Iowa, he notices immediately the similarity in facial features and body stature. The fifth brother, Willis, died sometime between 1856 and 1860. All must have been around five feet ten inches in height with square facial features, fair complexion, and light colored hair when young. These characteristics can be found even into the sixth and seventh generations. It isn't known when the picture was taken probably around 1880 or 1885. The men are all well dressed, and Edward's suit looks new, probably purchased for the occasion. The picture was made by a photographer in Maquoketa near the homes of Edward and Thomas S., but many reprints can be found in the possession of sixth and seventh generation Flathers descendants. All four Flathers men have many of
the facial features of their father, Benjamin Franklin.

Dica Ann was the oldest child of Edward and Mary Willson Flathers. She was born in 1834 while the family was still in Indiana and was probably named for her Aunt Dica, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and his sixth child. She first married a man by the name of Bowling or Bowling. He died and she later married Andrew Sheumaker, a brother of Delilah Sheumaker who married Dica's brother, William O. Flathers, just younger than she.

As was pointed out in Edward's will, she probably had three children by her first husband, Bowling — Susan, Abraham, and S. T. She later had three children by her second husband, Andrew Sheumaker — Edward, Eli, and Lucy Ellen. Nothing more is known of the family of Dica Ann, the oldest child of Edward and Mary Willson Flathers.

The second child of Edward Flathers was William O. Flathers born in Indiana. He raised a large family, moved to Woodbury County, Iowa, and then to Oklahoma where he died February 11, 1926. The 1880 Census of Jackson County, Iowa, lists William O. Flathers and his family as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
<th>Born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William O. Flathers</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>farmer</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delilah Flathers, wife</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Eli, son</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary, daughter</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas, son</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis, son</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin, son</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly R., daughter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lilly R. must have died young for there is no further mention of her. Since the 1880 Census are the latest available in the National Archives, other sources had to be relied on to learn that there were three daughters born after 1880:

Blanche who married a Baldwin
Nellie who married a Lilly
Julia who married a Newman

1. Jackson County, Iowa, 1880 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
On October 19, 1924, J. W. Ellis of Maquoketa, Iowa, wrote to Mrs. Elvira Seaquist of Mankato, Minnesota, descendant of Isaac Flathers, son of the first Edward, regarding some members of the family of William O. Flathers:

... Now as to John Eli Flathers, I only remember him as a boy of 8 or 10. He was the oldest son of William Flathers, son of Edward, son of Benjamin, son of Edward. William, son of Edward married Delila Shoemaker, and they raised a large family, but left Jackson County, Iowa, at least forty years ago. William and wife are still living, or was three years ago, in Oklahoma, near the Texas line. But no one here knows anything about John Eli, as to his whereabouts. J. M. Flathers / Jacob M. Flathers, son of Edward, brother of William lives in Maquoketa, and after reading your letter yesterday, I had a long talk with him, but he did not know much more about John Eli than you do. . . . Dicy Flathers, sister of William, married first Bowling. He died. She next married Andrew Shoemaker brother of William's wife. . . . I am descended from Mary, daughter of the old Edward. She married William Jeffers, my grandfather. The two people I remember best in Indiana were my grandmother Jeffers and Aunt Betsy Flathers, wife of Isaac, son of Edward, who lived just across the road from Flathers house. . . . I have visited the Old Gentry Graveyard in Indiana where my great grandparents are buried.

More information about John Eli Flathers, oldest son of William O. Flathers came from Thomas W. Flathers of Independence, Missouri, son of Thomas Flathers who was third child of William O. Flathers. In a letter dated November 18, 1972, he said, "I had an uncle in Seattle, Washington. He used to work for the Great Northern Railway. His name was John. He had several children." John Eli Flathers had four children, but he went west and the family lost communication with him. The children are — (1) Harry Flathers who lives in San Diego, California, had one daughter, now deceased. (2) Lyle Flathers who lives in Bettendorf, Iowa, had one daughter and two sons, one deceased, (3) Addie Flathers, who died in 1971, married a Barnum, and (4) William C. Flathers who worked for General Motors for 36 years, then ran a resort in Wisconsin for 17 years, now retired and lives at Birchwood, Wisconsin.

No information is available on the second child of William O. Flathers,

1. Letter from William C. Flathers and wife, Eileen, to Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota, September 1, 1973
Jake Flathers, his daughter May, and his wife, Nellie

Thomas William Flathers, rodeo performer and wife, Goldie

Edward Flathers
Grandson of the 1st Edward

Mary Willson Flathers
Mary, the granddaughter to whom her grandfather, Edward, willed a feather bed and bedding except that she married Beatty. She probably moved to Ellis County, Oklahoma, when her parents moved from Woodbury County, Iowa. There were Beattys living in Ellis County to whom the Flathers were related during the first part of the present century. Families of Beattys are still living in Ellis County.

Considerable information is available on the third child of William O. and Delilah Flathers, Thomas, through his son, Thomas William Flathers of Independence, Missouri. Jennings H. Flathers received two letters from Thomas William toward the latter part of 1972. He stated:

I was born in Montana on Flathead Indian Reservation July 17, 1901. My mother's name was Susie Marie Clark and my Dad's name was Thomas Flathers... My Dad's father moved from Iowa to Oklahoma several years before I was born. I had a sister 18 years older than I was. She died several years ago. Her married name was Mary Tenney. I have three nieces and a nephew... I forgot to give the two uncles names. John was in Seattle, Washington, and Ben was in Atlantic, Iowa... Lew, Mary, and Mrs. Bert Newman were in Oklahoma. Lew and Mary died several years ago. Mrs. Julia Newman lives in O'Keene, Oklahoma.

In a second letter from Thomas William Flathers dated November 28, 1972, he stated:

My Dad was an Indian Scout for the 7th Calvary at Old Fort Keough, Montana. That was across the Wind River at Miles City, Montana. He went from there to Kalispell, Montana, in Flathead Reservation. I went to school at Ronan. It is at the foot of Flathead Lake, and then we went by covered wagon to Sidney, Montana... My grandfather lived at Arnett, Oklahoma. I never saw him... Grandfather's name was William. I don't know what his middle name was. At Arnett, Oklahoma, there are Beattys that are related to my family. James Beatty married Mary Flathers.

Thomas William Flathers was a Rodeo Performer for many years. In his first letter to Jennings H. Flathers he said, "I have had several top positions in the Rodeo World. I won top honors in the United States and Canada."

I had a very bad accident in the middle thirties and for about 3½ years I don't remember much what happened... I was hurt in
New York City. I left home at an early age. I never heard from any of the folks until several years passed. As you know, the rodeo and horse breaker never stay in one place too long. I have been in and out of the hospital with broken bones and several accidents.

... I have been to Fort Worth; Pendleton, Oregon; Great Falls, Montana; Billings, Montana; Sidney, Iowa; Chicago, Illinois; New York City; and all the big shows in the Southwest and California.

According to information from several members of the Flathers family, Thomas Flathers, the father of Thomas William Flathers was killed in an explosion. One said he was carrying a bucket of nitro-glycerine when it exploded.

The two letters from Thomas William Flathers of Independence, Missouri, filled in a great many of the missing gaps as to what happened to William O. Flathers and his family after they left Iowa. Since Thomas William said that William O. Flathers and his family moved to Oklahoma and may have lived in Ellis County, the author searched the records of Ellis County in the summer of 1973 while looking for other information. The Ellis County Deed Books revealed that Lewis W. Flathers, fourth child of William O., obtained a farm in Section 15, Township 19, Range 25 which was five miles west and two south of Arnett, the county seat, on June 28, 1907. This was probably an original land grant called a claim on which he settled. The pioneers came to Ellis County in 1901 and filed on their claims which were "proved up" five years later if the claim holder continued to live on the claim for five years. It is quite probable that Lewis failed to get to the courthouse in 1906 to obtain the land title, but it was done in 1907. Such a delay was not unusual. He obtained more land in 1908.

William O. Flathers also obtained land in Section 15, Township 19, Range 25 in 1908 probably not from an original land grant but from a claim holder who was disappointed with western Oklahoma. He was 71 years of age at this time.

1. Deed Book I, Ellis County, Oklahoma, p 363
2. Deed Book IV, Ellis County, Oklahoma, p 1446
3. Deed Book VI, Ellis County, Oklahoma, p 405
Julia, the youngest child of William O. Flathers was born July 2, 1887, and died July 16, 1962, in Woodward, Oklahoma. Lewis never married. It is reported that he lived for a time in Carson County, the Panahndle of Texas, but a search of the courthouse records there did not reveal that he owned any property in that county. He was born June 2, 1872, and died at Tonkawa, Oklahoma, December 10, 1952.

The third son of William O. and Delilah Flathers was Benjamin B. Flathers, born in Jackson County, Iowa, July 23, 1875, but who lived most of his life in Atlantic, Iowa. He married May ______ at Onawa, Iowa, June 30, 1899. This family was living in Atlantic when Jennings H. Flathers met with the local teachers association there in 1964 and noticed the name of Mrs. May Flathers in the telephone directory. He made a telephone call, and there followed an exchange of a number of letters. Benjamin B. Flathers died in Atlantic August 19, 1946, and is buried in the Atlantic Cemetery.

At the time of the writing of this genealogical history in 1973, Mrs. May Flathers is 92 and has a remarkable memory. In her letter dated December 11, 1966, she said:

I am 84 years old, soon 85. I still get around, pay my bills and do my cooking. My children are nearly all close, and I see some of them every day. I have one girl in Arizona and one in Texas. I have six girls and four boys. I am great, great grandmother. I sew quilts, been quilting all fall. I don't think I will ever be able to come to see you, but you could come see me. I don't have a lot, but I love people. I try to make them welcome. . . . I am getting a lot of Christmas Cards. I am sending out about a hundred. My family will not be here with me for Christmas. I don't have room in winter, but they all come in summer on my birthday so we can eat picnic style.

Again on December 16, 1971 Mrs. May Flathers wrote:

I get around, go to town, do my shopping. I am not all alone. My son is here with me. . . . I will be 90 in June. The relatives from Oklahoma were here to see me last summer. I have been down there several times. I had a card from Howard Flathers at Delmar, Iowa. He is not in the best health. Well, I think we will have a nice Christmas. I am supposed to go to my grandson's for Christmas Dinner. I am thankful to be able to go.

1. Letter from Mrs. May Flathers, wife of Benjamin Flathers, March 1, 1964
2. Ibid
In the letter dated March 1, 1964, Mrs. May Flathers sent the names of her children, all born in Iowa:

Lilah Elizabeth born Danbury, Iowa, August 5, 1900, married a man named Morris.

Edna Mable born Anthon, Iowa, October 19, 1901, married a man named Harland.

Ester Jessie born Anthon, Iowa, died in infancy.

Velma Charlotte, born July 7, 1905, at Anthon, married a man named Eagen.

Clarence Eugene Flathers, born December 5, 1906, Danbury.

Ina Bell, born April 21, 1908, Oto, Iowa, married a man named Anderson.

Estella May, born August 21, 1912, Atlantic, Iowa, married a Boggs.

Gilbert Carl, born May 15, 1914, Atlantic, not married, lives in Atlantic.

Leonard Wilson, born January 24, 1916, Atlantic, Iowa, served in World War II, has two boys, one of them named Lynn.

Alice Bernice, born January 15, 1918, Atlantic, Iowa, married a man named Dibble. Harley Glenn, born May 1, 1923, Atlantic, Iowa, has two boys named Raymond L. and Benjamin C.

Mrs. May Flathers also gave some further information regarding John Eli Flathers saying that he at one time lived in Woodbury County, Iowa. This completes the information available on Benjamin B. Flathers and his father, William O. Flathers second child of Edward Flathers, grandson of first Edward.

The third child of Edward and Mary Willson Flathers was Benjamin Lewis Flathers, the name Benjamin probably came from his grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Flathers. It should be noted that the husband of Mrs. May Flathers was also Benjamin but was a nephew of Benjamin Lewis Flathers. Benjamin Lewis, born in Montgomery County, Indiana, December 9, 1839, moved with his parents to Iowa in 1842. In 1927, his daughter, Mary Luella (Dolly) Flathers wrote a sketch of her father in which she said:

1. Dates for birth and death of Benjamin Lewis Flathers from his grandson, Charles Wetmore, Vermillion, South Dakota
At about the age of nineteen he and his older brother, William, with a neighbor or two drove by team to Denver (Golden) Colorado, where he worked in the gold mines for a time. Denver was just a small place then, as you well know. His brother got sick shortly after he got there, and taking one of the teams drove home alone to Jackson County.

He came home and enlisted for service in Co. M, 2nd Iowa Cavalry and served a little more than three years and was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa, October 1864.

He then worked in a saw mill near Iron Hills, and in the fall of 1867 came to western Iowa in quest of a homestead. While he was here at that time, he worked a short time in a saw mill at Oto, Iowa. He made his stopping place at Aleck Jones, seven miles south of our present home. Mr. Jones offered to show him over this new country and showed his kindness and hospitality in every way he could, for which my father was always grateful.

He returned in early winter to Jackson County, and on March 25, 1868 was married to Miss Almira Frazier, a teacher in Jackson County.

About April 1st, he in company with his wife’s father, Thomas Frazier and family. . . . and Mr. John Wetmore (H. A. Wetmore’s grandfather) and family started for the new country that was to mean so much to them all.

My father drove two team of oxen, the trip taking about three weeks. I have heard my aunts, Mrs. Mary Becken and Mrs. Mattie Bryant, then just little girls tell, that when they had to drive through a river or slough, as they did many times, they always wanted to ride with Ben. They thought he was such a good driver.

My mother did not come at this time but stayed in Jackson County and taught school.

He settled on his homestead and soon started building his house, a hard slow task but he was young and strong and full of hope and courage. He even made the shingles that covered the roof of this house. They were made of oak. In wrecking this old house just last fall (1927) we found one of those old shingles in very good state of preservation. (Laura Wetmore now has it as a keepsake.)

When he found himself getting short of money as he had very little to start with, he would take his two good ox teams and break prairie for men that were not so well equipped with oxen or horses, for which he would get $3.00 per acre. He would break two and one half or three acres in one day.

After a long summer of hard work the new house was almost completed. In December of 1868 he returned to Jackson to spend the winter with Mrs. Flathers. Then in the spring of 1869 they both came to the new house on the homestead and where they worked under what would seem to us now great difficulties and hardships, although my mother always said those times were not so bad, people were brought close together by their hardship.

Three times I believe, grasshoppers took their crops — at one time there were so many, it seemed the sun was darkened, there were such clouds of them, and what devastation they left in their wake!

Then another menace was the prairie fires. Several times my father’s hay, that he had worked hard to cut, rake and stack, was burned.

The long winters with snow much deeper than we see now, and my father did most of his hauling to Sioux City, with oxen at first. When he went with oxen he would take both yoke and put on a big load, and it took three days. He would go part way the first day and camp for the night, then
drive on into the city, deliver his grain, produce or whatever he had, do his trading and start back and camp again, and finish the trip the third day.

At this time there were just three houses on the road to Sioux City, between his home and the city.

He was here four or five years before he owned any horses.

All the wood they used and he always kept well supplied, was hauled from the Sioux River, about seven or eight miles the nearest way. He would leave for the river in the morning and not come home until late in the afternoon of the short winter day. He would haul home the big logs, then saw them into short lengths and split the wood. He had been raised in the timber and thoroughly understood this kind of work. My mother’s wood piles used to be the envy of her neighbors whose husbands were not so handy with an ax.

He was always public spirited and wanted what was best for people in general. Took an interest in the schools and when the first M. E. Church was built no one was more interested and worked harder than he.

On September 4, 1861, at the age of 21 Benjamin Lewis Flathers enlisted in the Union Army. He served as a private in Company M, Second Iowa Calvary, and was stationed at Memphis, Tennessee, the only place mentioned in his army papers. At the time of his enlistment he was described as being 21 years of age, 5 feet 10½ inches tall, fair complexion, hazel eyes, and had dark hair. As his daughter said in her descriptive passages, he was discharged on October 3, 1864, in Davenport, Iowa, after his three years of enlistment had expired. On January 8, 1900, he was granted a pension from the Federal Government based on application number 1212090, certificate number 1006179. The amount was not stipulated in the papers found in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Lewis and Almira Frazier Flathers had five children:

1. George Lewis Flathers, born September 12, 1869, and died August 16, 1940. He married Lillian Yockey March 23, 1911. They had three children, the oldest of whom was Martha Lois Flathers, born May 2, 1912, at Smithland, Iowa. She is a graduate of Lakeland Community College, Mentor, Ohio, but has also attended a number of other colleges and universities. Martha Lois Flathers married Earl Tegard Evans July 12, 1946. He was a major in World War II having participated

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1. Excerpt from a short history of Benjamin Lewis Flathers written by Dolly Flathers
2. Civil War Service Record, Benjamin Lewis Flathers, National Archives, Washington D.C.
3. Civil War Pension Record, Benjamin Lewis Flathers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Almira Jane Frazier Flathers

Benjamin Lewis Flathers
Taken soon after Civil War

Benjamin Lewis and Adam W. Flathers
In Civil War Uniforms
in a number of campaigns in the European Theater of Operations. He is a graduate of the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute, Chicago, and is employed in Willoughby, Ohio.

The second child was Benjamin Lewis Flathers III, born at Clear Lake, South Dakota, September 27, 1913, and died February 24, 1931, at Rock Branch, Iowa. At one time Rock Branch had a post office but is now served by Correctionville.

Max Gregory Flathers, the third child, was born December 17, 1914, also at Clear Lake, South Dakota, and was married to Vera Irene Klingensmith on June 2, 1937. The now live on the original farm Benjamin Lewis Flathers secured in 1867. They have two children: (1) Nancy Lorraine Flathers, born July 26, 1939, and married to Ray Carol Howland on June 28, 1959. He is a minister of the United Methodist Church. They have two children -- Lynda Christine Howland born June 8, 1960, and Joane Rae Howland born April 2, 1961.

(2) Benjamin Larry Flathers was born September 19, 1941, and married Bonnie Mae Beaman on July 11, 1967. They have one child, Julie Ann Flathers born September 11, 1972. Benjamin Larry is engaged in farming and also runs a fertilizing business in the Rock Branch Community. More information on the many activities of Max Gregory Flathers elsewhere in the chapter.

2. The second child of Benjamin Lewis and Almira Frazier Flathers was Thomas Edward Flathers, born November 29, 1871, and died June 3, 1952. He married Hattie Grapes and moved to Iroquois, South Dakota. They had two children -- Glennie Mildred Flathers born September 22, 1902, who served as postmistress of Iroquois and Ronald Flathers born April 7, 1905, and lives on the family farm.

3. Phylena Mae (Lena) Flathers was the third child of the family of Benjamin Lewis Flathers. She was born October 16, 1873, and married Harry A.

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1. Two letters of information, May 23, and June 18, 1973, from Lois Flathers Evans, Mentor, Ohio.
2. Genealogical Chart of Nancy Flathers Howland, Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 28, 1973
3. Lois Flathers Evans, op. cit.
Wetmore, a successful business man who ran an automobile agency in Sioux Falls, on February 7, 1900. Lena died March 22, 1959, and is buried in the rural cemetery very near the home of her grandfather, Benjamin Lewis Flathers, in the Rock Branch Community, the family plots for the Wetmores and the Flathers. Max Flathers is on the cemetery board.

Three children were born to the Wetmore family — (1) Laura born September 20, 1902, lives in the beautiful family home not far from the central business district of Sioux City, Iowa. She is an accomplished musician, and on the grand piano in her home can be seen concertos belonging in the repertory of a concert pianist. Laura also enjoys painting, and a number of her pictures are displayed in her home. She collects antiques and proudly displays family heirlooms and other valuable pieces of furniture and works of art. One of her prize possessions is a chest made by her great grandfather, Edward Flathers.

(2) The second child is George Wetmore who lives at Viborg, South Dakota, and makes his living from agriculture. He was born July 25, 1901, and married Adelaide Huse born April 23, 1908. They have five children:

Joanne Rae Wetmore born September 26, 1929, married a Bell
Mary Adelaide Wetmore born November 25, 1930, married a Tanek
James Harry Wetmore born January 7, 1932
Patricia Elaine Wetmore born May 1, 1936, married an Arnold
Virginia Louise Peterson born February 27, 1946, married a Peterson

(3) The third child is Charles Wetmore born December 20, 1911, and married LaVaune Johnson. The family lives in Vermillion, South Dakota, and agriculture is also the occupation of Charles. He served in World War II and was located part of the time at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where his great uncle Henry G. Flathers died during the Civil War and where he is also buried. Charles furnished a great deal of material for the chapter on Edward Flathers, grandson of the first Edward. Charles and
and LaVaune Johnson Flathers have one son, Mark Wetmore born June 20, 1947. He holds a Bachelors and Masters Degree from the University of South Dakota in areas related to economics and finance. In August of 1973 he started to work for the State of South Dakota in Pierre, the capitol city. He is aware that James Newton Flathers, a descendant of John Wesley Flathers, is also a state employee and works in Pierre.

4. Mary Luella (Dolly) Flathers was born January 14, 1877, and died May 24, 1955. She never married but lived at home and cared for her father in his latter years. He was nearly always mentioned in the many interesting letters she wrote to other members of the Flathers family. Some of these letters contained important genealogical information, for Dolly maintained a great deal of interest in this subject. She is also buried in the family plot at the cemetery just a few hundred yards down the road from the family home. Next door to the cemetery is the Methodist Church which the family has attended down through the years.

b. The youngest member of the family of Benjamin Lewis Flathers was Martha Catherine Flathers, born December 12, 1880, and who died June 15, 1925. She, like her sister, Dolly, did not marry but lived at home with her father.

Dolly Flathers wrote the following letter to Mrs. Elvira Seaquist, Mankato, Minnesota, April 12, 1927. Elvira Seaquist is identified elsewhere in this chapter.

My dear Cousin, Your good letter came last week, and I will try to answer it... My father [Benjamin L. Flathers] is quite well, has been unusually well this past winter. Yes, he is eighty seven. He has failed so much

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1. Two letters of information, April 20 and May 28, 1973, from Charles Wetmore, Vermillion, South Dakota.
though, the last year or two. He moves around very, very slowly now but has a good appetite and sleeps so much. He rests well at night, and takes good long naps through the day for which I am very thankful.

You asked about John /Eli, cousin to Dolly/ Flathers. Now we did not know him so very well, but knew his father, mother, brothers, and sisters real well.

His father and mother moved to Oklahoma a good many years ago, and both of them are dead now. /This is the family that lived near Arnett Oklahoma, at the time the author's mother and father were living in Ellis County. They knew each other but thought they were not related/ His father died a little more than a year ago, a very old man, I think almost 89. Aunt Delilah has been gone eight or ten years.

His brother Tom was killed in an explosion a year or so ago, maybe it was two years. Times flies so fast. /The Tom referred to was Thomas, the Indian Scout, who lived in Montana and was the father of Thomas William Flathers, the rodeo performer/ His sister and family were here visiting last summer.

Two sisters, Mary and Blanche, died twenty years ago. Nellie and Julie live in Tonkawa, Oklahoma. Lewis in Panhandle, Texas.

Nellies name is Lilly and Julia's Newman. They have been married for years, have children married. Lewis, or Lude as we always called him, is not married.

I want to take some snap shots of Father and some more of my people and send to you. I surely do appreciate getting those pictures of you. We have been talking of a new car this spring, and my sister, Mrs. H. A. Wetmore (Iena) of Sioux City and I think we would like to drive up to see you and our other relatives in Mankato.

If your father comes, why couldn't you come to see us?... Will stop now. Hoping to hear from you often. I enjoy your letters so much.

Dolly Flathers

The following article appeared in one of the local papers, probably a Sioux City daily. The original is owned by Charles Wetmore, grandson of

Benjamin Lewis Flathers. Date, probably the year of 1930.

Moville, Iowa — B. L. Flathers, 91 years old and a resident of Woodbury County since 1868, has lived all these 62 years on the farm on which he located in 1868...

In 1868, Mr. Flathers determined to "go west and grow up with the country." He emigrated to Woodbury County, driving two yoke of oxen to bring his household goods, supplies and farm implements.

In telling of his experiences Mr. Flathers says, "I hauled wheat to Sioux City for 35 cents per bushel then hauled a load of lumber from Sioux City to Correctionville and received $2.50 for the hauling. Then I cut a load of wood by the river and hauled it home. This trip took me three days. We sold eggs for 5 cents a dozen and butter for 6 cents a pound. Dressed hogs at Boggs packing plant brought $3.75 per cwt. Chickens sold for $2.00 a dozen. One winter I bought some turkeys for 50 cents and after several weeks sold them in Sioux City for $1.00 each. One gobbler weighed 35 pounds."

A large barn on Mr. Flathers farm was built with lumber saved from trees which he planted.

1. Dolly Flathers letter to Mrs. Elvira Seaquist, April 12, 1927. Original owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota.
Pioneer log cabin constructed by Max Flathers at his home to celebrate the farm's centennial year. His grandfather, Benjamin Lewis Flathers homesteaded here in 1868.

Mary Luella Flathers usually called Dolly

Max and Vera Flathers in front of their home built by Max's grandfather, Benjamin Lewis Flathers
In response to an inquiry from Jennings H. Flathers about a wheat farm near Booker, Texas, said to be owned by the family of Benjamin Lewis, Charles Wetmore wrote on April 20, 1973:

Grandpa bought a section of land two miles south of Booker in about 1911. Today my brother and sister and I own the major portion of it. We heard there was a Flathers in Perryton, I believe it was, but were unsuccessful in contacting him a number of years ago. Grandpa had a brother just across the line in Oklahoma who told him what great country it was and that is how he happened to go there and buy land.

When the author was checking records in the Lipscomb County Courthouse in the summer of 1973 on his own family, he found that Benjamin Lewis Flathers actually purchased Section number 1116, Block U3 on May 18, 1906, which is some of the best wheat land in the United States. The brother who recommended that he purchase the land was William O. Flathers of Ellis County, Oklahoma, the next county east of Lipscomb County, Texas.

In 1967 the Benjamin Lewis Flathers farm was declared a Centennial Farm and to commemorate the occasion Max Flathers planned a special observance. The Moville, Iowa, Record on August 27, 1967, carried the story under the heading "Pioneer Day Observed at Rock Branch Community." There was a 9:00 A.M. Sunday church service with the congregation singing old hymns accompanied by a reed organ. Many families and friends dressed as they did years ago. Following the service about 400 friends gathered at the home of Max Flathers for potluck food brought by the guests. One of the highlights of the day was a large cake decorated with 100 candles brought by Laura Wetmore, granddaughter of Benjamin Lewis Flathers. The afternoon was spent visiting and viewing the displays of keepsakes and antiques of the pioneers of Rock Branch Community. There were rides in a prairie schooner built by Max Flathers and drawn by a mule team. There were also other rides.

Max Flathers has constructed on the lawn of the pioneer home a log cabin similar to one used by the early pioneers. Inside the cabin are articles and
and furniture of pioneer days. Especially revered is a beautifully carved oak bed belonging to Dolly Flathers. Outside on the walls are pioneer hand tools, farm implements, and a yoke for oxen.

Benjamin Lewis Flathers died July 19, 1931, a greatly loved and highly respected individual. He was known as "Uncle Ben" to all in the community. He is buried in the family plot of the cemetery adjoining the United Methodist Church which he attended much of his life, both only a few hundred yards from his home in the Rock Branch Community.

Adam Wilson Flathers (perhaps Wilson should be spelled Willson like his mother's maiden name), fourth child of Edward and Mary Willson Flathers, grandson of Benjamin Franklin and great grandson of Edward, first Flathers in America, was born November 9, 1841, and in the spring of 1842 when less than a year old, he moved with his parents from Indiana to Iowa. Like the other members of Edward's family, he was brought up on the farm northwest of Maquoketa. On September 4, 1861, when he enlisted in Company M, Second Iowa Cavalry, he was listed as being 5 feet, 6½ inches tall, fair complexion, eyes black, and color of hair dark. Both Adam Wilson and Benjamin L. were listed as having dark hair and Adam Wilson with black eyes. These characteristics must have been inherited from their mother, Mary Willson, and as the name sounds, perhaps a descendant from the Welsh. He was discharged from the army on October 3, 1864, but only after participating in a great many battles and skirmishes including: Battles of Farmington, Boonesville, Rienzi, Tuka, Corenth, Coffieville, Palo Alto, Birmingham, Jackson, Grenada, Collierville, Moscow, Pontotoc, Tupilo, Old Town, Oxford, and the march on Nashville, and the Battle of Nashville.

After his return from the service,

1. History of Jackson County, Western Historical Society, Chicago, 1872, p.245
he engaged in farming; since 1874 he has been engaged in
the stock business, buying and shipping. He married Miss Eliza
J. Priaulx, a native of Ohio, February 22, 1866. They have three
children — Rosa Belle, Edward, and Lydia Winifred. 1

According to the Flathers Family Records provided by Mildred Flathers
of Franklin, Nebraska, he had two more children — a son named John and
a daughter named Emma who married a Frary. Charles Wetmore says that the
Frary family lived in Vermillion, South Dakota, for many years. Eliza Priaulx
Flathers died September 2, 1884, age 40 years, 11 months, and 20 days —
so states the inscription on her memorial stone in the Buckhorn Cemetery
west of Maquoketa. Beside her are buried three infant children: Harry D.
died August 4, 1884, and twin girls, Mary E. and Martha E. April 3, 1875.

Through the kindness of Howard Flathers of Delmar, Iowa, Jennings and
Elizabeth Flathers accompanied by Howard visited this cemetery in August, 1973.

On October 28, 1901, Adam Wilson Flathers applied for a pension
based on his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. The application
stated that he was 60 years old, was a resident of Sioux City, Woodbury
County, Iowa, with post office address as Stockyards, Sioux City, Iowa,
his business address. When making application for the pension he stated
that he was partially disabled because of the following reasons:

Injury to right ankle incurred about spring of 1864 at or near
Wall Hill, Mississippi, caused by my horse being shot and falling
upon ankle. . . . heart disease, disease of respiratory organs. . . . 2

Adam Wilson Flathers received his pension January 2, 1902. He moved
to Florida in 1913, and from that state he wrote the following birthday
card to his brother, Benjamin Lewis Flathers, Correctionville, Iowa:

Orange Center, Florida, December 9, 1916. Dear Brother. This
is to remind you of your 77 birthday. How swiftly the years glide
by. It seems only a few years since we were boys playing along the
Spring Branch. Hoping you may live to enjoy more and happy birthdays.
I am as ever your brother. A. W. Flathers 3

1. History of Jackson County, op. cit., p 629
3. Copy of card sent to author by Charles Wetmore, Vermillion, South Dakota
Adam Wilson Flathers had been receiving his pension for a number of years when he made application for further assistance. This additional application states "that he requires the personal aid and attendance of another person on account of . . . . cataract growth over the eye sight."

At that time the application states that he was living in Osceola County, Florida. According to the DAR papers of his daughter, Winifred and Emma, he died February 17, 1927, Kissemee, Florida. The following obituary appeared in the Maquoketa, Iowa, paper:

**TAPS SOUND FOR FORMER MAQUOKETA CIVIL WAR VETERAN**

Adam W. Flathers, son of Edward and Mary Flathers, was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, November 9, 1841. . . . and when the call came for volunteers in 1861 he at once enlisted in Co. M, 2nd Iowa Cav., and served three years in defense of the Union. . . . He was a fearless and brave soldier, always ready for duty and willing to risk his life for the preservation of the Union and received an honorable discharge.

He married February 22, 1866, to Miss Eliza J. Priaulx, who passed away in September, 1884. She was the mother of six children, four of whom are living, Mrs. Harvey Bailey of Emline, Edward of California, John of Iron Hill and Mrs. Emma Frary of Vermillion, S.D. Mrs. C. G. Van Doren passed away a year and a half ago and one child died in infancy. [According to the markers at the Buckhorn Cemetery west of Maquoketa, three children died in infancy.]

In 1887, Mr. Flathers was married to Miss Flora Priaulx, and they moved to Morning Side, Iowa, and lived there until January 1913, when he moved to Florida where he has lived since.

. . . . He was ill only about four weeks when the end came last Friday, February 18, 1927. Beside his wife and children he leaves a brother, B. L. near Correctionville, Ia., J. M. of this city and John Q. of Idaho, and one sister, Mrs. L. J. Bowling of Twin Lakes, Michigan. Burial was made in the cemetery at Kissimee, Florida.

The second marriage of Adam W. Flathers is recorded in Marriage Book I, page 80, Jackson County -- Adam W. Flathers, grain dealer of Maquoketa, age 45, married to Flora Adeline Preaulx, age 27, by Catholic Priest, August 28, 1886.

Two daughters of Adam W. Flathers, Lydia Winifred and Emma, joined the Daughters of the American Revolution on the record of their ancestor, Edward Flathers. Their DAR papers give the following information:

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2. Obituary sent to Jennings H. Flathers by Charles Wetmore, Vermillion, S.D.

Emma Flathers Frary, wife of Guy G. Frary, born Maquoketa, Iowa, lived 200 Frost Street, Vermillion, South Dakota, applied March 4, 1927, accepted June 3, 1927. 1

Also belonging to the DAR from the descendants of Adam W. Flathers is Adelaide M. Bailey Caldwell, 1307 Country Club Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a granddaughter of Winifred Flathers Bailey. According to authorities at the DAR Headquarters, Washington, D.C., she is the only living descendant of Edward Flathers who is at the present time, a member of the DAR. Her DAR number is 4104296. She was born August 4, 1928, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Rector Bailey who was a son of Winifred Flathers Bailey. He graduated from West Point in 1924 and married Adelaide Clust of Brooklyn, New York, in 1926. More information on their two children, Adelaide M. Bailey and Kenneth Rector Bailey, Jr., will be given later.

Lydia Winifred Flathers, third child of Adam W. and Eliza J. Freaulx, was born November 26, 1872, in Jackson County, Iowa, and married Harvey Bailey. The family lived on a farm in Jackson County, and this is where the children grew to adulthood. Very little information is available on the family other than that in the genealogical chart, this information sent to the author by Mrs. Glen F. Bailey of Maquoketa, Iowa, a retired teacher very interested in family history.

Adelaide M. Bailey and her brother, Kenneth Rector, Jr., grew up in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, after the parents were separated in 1936. Adelaide married Robert Harry Caldwell who is employed by the Armstrong Cork Company, and they live in Lancaster Pennsylvania. They have two children -- Kenneth Robert Caldwell born March 15, 1963, and Allison Marie

Caldwell born February 16, 1965. Since Winifred Flathers Bailey was already a member of the DAR, Adelaide Bailey Caldwell, her granddaughter, had no difficulty proving her relationship to Edward Flathers upon whose service in the Revolutionary War she joined the DAR.

Kenneth Rector Bailey, Jr., is also a graduate of West Point, having graduated in the class of 1954. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army stationed in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He has, however, seen service in various parts of the world, the most recent in Vietnam where he was the commander of a battalion in the conflict there. On January 28, 1961, he married Gloria Lawrence Blouin and they have three children — Melanie Lawrence Bailey born October 23, 1961; Christopher Jordan Bailey born March 12, 1963; and Jeremy Douglas Bailey born October 14, 1967. The family lives in McLean, Virginia, where Gloria Bailey does volunteer work tutoring children with learning difficulties in the Fairfax County Public Schools.

The fifth child of Edward and Mary Flathers was Henry Go Flathers who was born in 1814 according to the Jackson County 1850 Census. He entered the Union Army on October 13, 1862, at 18 years of age and was dead six months later of cold, exposure, and perhaps flu and pneumonia. The cause of death was listed as consumption, a disease which could have covered a multitude of diseases known today. As his brother, Benjamin Lewis, said the men looked for a flat board or anything on which to lie to keep them off the cold, wet ground while those in the cavalry used their saddle for a pillow. One has to do no more than read the pension application papers of the five Flathers men who served in the Civil War from Iowa to realize the many hardships and privations under which the Civil War soldier, south as well as north, lived.

1. Information given to author by Gloria Bailey, wife of Kenneth Rector Bailey
At the time of his enlistment he was described as being 5 feet, 9 3/4 inches tall, having grey eyes, auburn hair, and light complexion. From the affidavits signed by neighbors when his parents were applying for a pension based on his service record, he was said to be a diligent, hard work boy devoted to his parents and family. He died at the Eliot General Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, on May 12, 1863, and is buried at the National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, a sad commentary on the plight of the individual when pressed into war. He was in "F" Company, 31st Regiment, Iowa Infantry Volunteers. In applying for a pension, his mother, Mary Willson Flathers, signed with the familiar X.

The sixth child, Lydia Jane Flathers, was born in 1847. She must have married a Bowling, for Edward mentioned her in his will and called her Lydia J. Bowling. Her husband could have been a brother to the first husband of Dice Ann Flathers, Edward's oldest daughter. She is mentioned again in the obituary of Adam W. Flathers, for it said that Mrs. L. J. Bowling lived in Twin Lakes, Michigan. At the time when Adam W. died, Lydia Jane Flathers Bowling must have been 80 years of age.

The seventh child of Edward and Mary Flathers was Jacob Flathers born March 21, 1849 in Iowa. He married Nellie __________ who was born in Iowa in 1852. Their marriage is not recorded in the Jackson County Courthouse, for marriage records were not kept prior to 1880. In the 1880 Jackson County Census Jacob and Nellie Flathers were listed as living at the home of Edward, the father, probably doing the farming and caring for the two aged parents. In the same 1880 Census they were listed as having one daughter, May. According to various members of the family, Jacob and his family lived all their lives

2. Jackson County, Iowa, 1850 Census, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
3. Henry G. Flathers Pension Records, op. cit. The pension papers of Henry G. Flathers lists the birthdays of the three youngest children in Edward's family — Jacob, John, and Oliver.
in Jackson County except for a short period spent in Denver during the gold rush days. J. W. Ellis, quoted elsewhere in this chapter, also a descendant of the first Edward Flathers through his daughter, Mary Flathers Jeffers, was a good friend to his distant cousin, Jacob. According to various letters written by J. W. Ellis, they often discussed family relationships and other topics of mutual interest. Mrs. Jessie Ellis Farnham, daughter of J. W. Ellis who still lives in Maquoketa, said that her father visited Jacob and family while they were living in Denver. She also recalls, along with other members of the family, that Jacob was a handsome man and always had excellent clothes. She recalls that Jacob maintained a good home and that his wife, Nellie, had beautiful dishes. Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited with Jessie Farnham on their visit to Maquoketa in August of 1973.

Jacob's daughter, May, lived in Chicago for many years and worked in the business world. When her father died in 1926, she was living in the McCormick Hotel, Chicago. Both Jacob and Nellie are buried in the Iron Hill Cemetery where Jacob's parents are buried. They share a common stone which reads Jacob M. Flathers 1849 - 1928 and Nellie J. Flathers 1852 - 1934.

The eighth child, John Q. Flathers, was born November 30, 1852, in Iowa. He had nine children — Bertha who married an Adkins, Elmer, Clara, Ruth, Opal, Ora, Barton, and Hilda. When his father died in 1892, John Q. was living in Republic City, Kansas, but when Adam W. died in 1927, the obituary stated that he was living in Idaho.

The ninth and youngest child of Edward and Mary Flathers was Oliver born September 12, 1855. The marriage records of Jackson County gives the following information — Oliver H. Flathers of Iron Hill, Iowa, age 27 married Mary M. Mathine, age 19, date May 21, 1882, Maquoketa. Their first child, Ashley, was born January 7, 1883. According to the genealogical chart of Mildred Flathers,

1. Mildred Flathers, op. cit.
2. Marriage Book I, Jackson County, Iowa, p 18
Nebraska, there was a second child named Alma. The death records of Jackson County states that Oliver Harmon Flathers died April 25, 1919, age 62, at Otter Creek and that burial was in Silva Cemetery. The record also states that he was a widower.

This completes the information available on Edward Flathers, grandson of the first Edward, and his descendants.
Genealogical Chart of John Wesley Flathers

Son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and Grandson of Edward Flathers, first Flathers in America

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<td>m. (1) Richard Dean Haar 2. Sherry Lynn Haar</td>
<td>m. Janice Ann Schuster 2. Clayton Keith Flathers</td>
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<td>m. Mary Wesley Conant</td>
<td>m. Peggy Hancock 2. Theodore James Spence</td>
<td>b. 5/30/1967 b. 5/30/1967</td>
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<td>b. 10/30/1911 d. 2/21/1966</td>
<td>m. Katherine ?</td>
<td>m. Gary Montgomery</td>
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<td>b. 8/29/1959</td>
<td>b. 4/3/1908 m. 4/25/1936</td>
<td>b. 4/15/1939 m. 6/12/1956 m. 3/7/1958</td>
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<td>b. 10/30/1911 d. 2/21/1966 m. Marie Simmons</td>
<td>m. 3/26/1915</td>
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<tr>
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<td>m. Erroll Newton Flathers</td>
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<td>b. 4/4/1875 Flathers</td>
<td>b. 4/4/1875 Flathers</td>
<td>b. 4/4/1875 Flathers</td>
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<td>m. Erroll Maurine Goin</td>
<td>m. Erroll Maurine Goin</td>
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<tr>
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<td>m. Rose Isabell Jennings</td>
<td>b. 3/26/1915</td>
<td>b. 8/29/1959</td>
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<td>m. Anne Wright</td>
<td>2. Raina Lee Ayres</td>
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<td>b. 6/15/1915</td>
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<td>12. Effie Arminta Flathers</td>
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<td>2. John Taylor Flathers</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>m. Ruth Langdon</td>
<td>2. David Harry Flathers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McMillan</td>
<td>b. 11/9/1916</td>
<td>b. 11/5/1944</td>
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<td>3. John Emery Flathers</td>
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<td>4. Ruth Elizabeth Flathers</td>
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<td>1. Julia Rae</td>
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<td>m. Clara Berg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>died age 6 months</td>
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<td>m. (1) Pauline Rowland</td>
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<td>(2) Nannie A. Moore</td>
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<td>b. 11/26/1944</td>
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<td>1. Lillian Mae Flathers</td>
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<td>2. Dennis Clifford Flathers</td>
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<td>d. 1/29/1910</td>
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<td>m. (1) Ralph Coons</td>
<td>m. Pete Herrington</td>
<td>1. Debbie Flathers</td>
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<td>(3) Ira Rucker</td>
<td>(3) Ira Rucker</td>
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<td>2. Sandy Flathers</td>
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<td>b. 9/18/1913</td>
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<tr>
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<td>m. ? 1942</td>
<td>m. ? Edwards</td>
<td>m. ? Edwards</td>
<td>m. ? Edwards</td>
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<td>b. 9/26/1950</td>
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<td>Isaac Newton Flathers</td>
<td>1. Raymond Newton Flathers</td>
<td>9/30/1882</td>
<td>12/5/1966</td>
<td>b. 2/17/1849 d. 3/27/1930 m. 11/2/1881 m. Lillian Grant Leonard b. 3/7/1864 d. 2/28/1931</td>
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<td>2. Anna Mary Flathers</td>
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<td>5/30/1884</td>
<td>7/1/1922</td>
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<td>9/30/1882</td>
<td>12/5/1966</td>
<td>m. 11/2/1881 m. Lillian Grant Leonard b. 3/7/1864 d. 2/28/1931</td>
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<td>4. Shirley Dee Flathers</td>
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<td>5/30/1884</td>
<td>7/1/1922</td>
<td>b. 5/30/1884 m. 7/1/1922 m. Frederick Burton Millington d. 7/1/1947</td>
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<td>b. 1852</td>
<td>m. J. Curry Smith</td>
<td>2. Bert Smith</td>
<td>3. Lewis Smith</td>
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<td>m. 10/7/1869</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Mary Eveline Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Luther Benn</td>
<td></td>
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<td>d. 1950</td>
<td>m. ? Hand</td>
<td>m. ? Hand</td>
<td>m. ? Hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Lernard F. Benn</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10. Ruben Been</td>
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</table>
Chapter IX -- EDWARD'S GRANDSON, JOHN WESLEY FLATHERS

John Wesley Flathers, third generation American, born on April 23, 1809, in Kentucky, was the fourth child and second son of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford Flathers. After moving to Indiana with the family in 1825, he grew up on the farm two miles southeast of Crawfordsville.

Following the normal pursuits for a young man of that period, he cleared the land for farming; tapped the sap of the maple trees for making maple sugar and syrup; worked in the field with plowing and planting corn, wheat, and flax; and may have gone to the district school since he was only sixteen when the family made the move.

On September 5, 1832, he acquired a very early Montgomery County marriage license, number 370, and married Julia Ann D. Taylor, one of the eight children of Nathaniel and Eleanor Taylor, who had also moved to Montgomery County from Kentucky, but not from Madison County. They did move from the general area where it is known that the family of Zachariah Taylor did live. This and other information gives some credence to the family information that Julia Ann D. Taylor was a niece of Zachariah Taylor, twelfth President of the United States. A thorough search of the Taylor family papers in the Filson Library, Louisville, Kentucky, would not substantiate the claim; however, the Zachariah Taylor genealogical papers are not complete by any means. Nathaniel Taylor, Julia Ann's father, died March 26, 1847, and Eleanor Taylor died October 22, 1941. The name, Nathaniel, is carried by a number of Nathaniel Taylor's descendants in the Flathers family.

The family of John Wesley Flathers, son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and grandson of Edward Flathers, lived in Montgomery County which adjoins

1. Marriage Record Book I, Montgomery County, Indiana
Hendricks County, home of Edward Flathers, on the northwest. He must have seen his grandfather, the first Flathers in America, many times.

On April 12, 1831, John Wesley Flathers acquired his first land in Montgomery County not far from that of his father's southeast of Crawfordsville, the farm lying just east of the village of Mace. He acquired this farm of 80 acres just one and one half years before his marriage to Julia Ann D. Taylor. He later acquired an adjoining farm of 80 acres.

He later sold the first part of this farm on January 7, 1846; his one eighth share in the land inherited from his father after his death on June 9, 1848; and the last of his land in Indiana October 5, 1849; all of this in preparation for his move to Iowa. In the 1850 Census he is reported as living in Linn County, Iowa, with real estate assets worth $480.00.

Sometime between 1850 and 1860, John Wesley moved to Tama County, the last move of his lifetime. He first acquired land in Tama County June 21, 1853, and during the next forty years purchased several more pieces of land making him owner of considerable farming property. The 1860 Tama County Census gives the following information for John Wesley Flathers and family:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Real Estate</th>
<th>Personal Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Wesley Flathers</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>farmer, real estate</td>
<td>$3300</td>
<td>$621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Ann D. Taylor</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John William</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>attended school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Taylor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Newton</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Elizabeth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Eveline daughter</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

From the above information, one can draw some conclusions about the family:

1. Original Entry Book, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 15
2. Deed Book 15, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 126
3. Deed Book 12, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 172
4. Deed Book 13, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 625
5. Deed Book 15, Montgomery County, Indiana, p 128
6. Linn County, Iowa, 1850 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. Deed Book 1, Tama County, Iowa, pp 439 - 440
8. Tama County, Iowa, 1860 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
During his lifetime John Wesley Flathers became a farmer of considerable means, as one of his granddaughters said, "a gentlemen farmer."

The two older boys, Nathaniel Thomas, and Benjamin Franklin, were both gone from home by 1860.

The family was placing an importance on education for even the older children, John William, age 17, and James Taylor, age 14, were in school as were the younger children.

The complete family birthday record has been supplied by Mildred Flathers, great, great granddaughter of John Wesley Flathers, who lives in Franklin, Nebraska. It is as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>John Wesley Flathers</th>
<th>father</th>
<th>born Kentucky, April 23, 1809</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Ann D. Taylor</td>
<td>mother</td>
<td>Kentucky, July 1, 1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Thomas</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Kentucky, June 19, 1831½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Franklin</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Kentucky, August 20, 1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Eleanor</td>
<td>daughter</td>
<td>Indiana, died age 6 mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John William</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Indiana, 1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Taylor</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Indiana, March 21, 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Newton</td>
<td>son</td>
<td>Indiana, February 17, 1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Elizabeth (Smith)</td>
<td>daughter</td>
<td>Iowa, 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Eveline (Benn)</td>
<td>daughter</td>
<td>Iowa, December 4, 1855</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The History of Tama County, Iowa, by the Union Publishing Company, Springfield, Illinois, 1883, lists some of the early citizens of Tama County followed by a short paragraph or two about each family. Two or three families, including that of John Wesley Flathers, were listed but omitted from the discussion. It is quite possible that each family was asked to furnish the information; most did but a few did not. It is regrettable that John Wesley did not see the value of contributing family information to the county history for the sake of posterity. There is some general information of interest, however, to the Flathers family in the history.

A portion of the county was surveyed in 1813, and it was completed about 1815 and 1816. . . In 1843 entries of land were made and soon afterward the pioneers began drifting into Tama County. In 1850 the U.S. Census gave the county a population of eight people but in
reality it was about double that number. This rapidly increased
until in the spring of 1853 there were a number of neighborhoods in
various parts of the county which made a total population of consider­
ably over 200. . . . 1

In Columbia Township where John Wesley settled the first
settlers came in 1851. . . . 2

After 1854, the settlers came in more rapidly. Among
those who came in since that time and who are still here may be
mentioned 3

The first school taught in the township was in 1855-56.

Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers died August 21, 1893, and John Wesley
Flathers passed away three years later on August 2, 1896. Both are buried
in the beautiful Oak Hill Cemetery, in the rolling countryside just at
the east of the town of Tama.

John Wesley’s last will and testament, filed August 6, 1896, in the
Tama County Courthouse is found in Will Book 4, pp 60 - 61. It reads as
follows:

I, John Flathers of the City of Tama, County of Tama and State
of Iowa, do make publish and declare this to be my last will and
testament hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time made.

First, I direct that all my debts if any and the expenses of my
last sickness and funeral be paid by my Executor out of my estate as
soon as practicable after my decease.

Second. I give and bequeath to my son Nathaniel Thomas Flathers
the sum of fifty dollars.

Third. I give and bequeath to my daughters Mary Evaline Benn
all articles of personal property belonging to me and now in her
possession or that of her husband, excepting the corn and hay owned
by me but now on the farm occupied by them, which corn and hay are
to be a part of my estate to be disposed of in the next paragraph
of this will.

Fourth. I give and bequeath unto my daughters, Julia Eliza Smith
and Mary Eveline Benn in equal shares shall share and share alike, all
the property of every kind which I may own at the time of my death,
except only such as is disposed of in the preceding paragraphs of
this will.

Fifth. In making this will I am not unmindful of my sons
Benjamin Flathers, James Taylor, and Isaac Newton and of the children
of my deceased son John William, but in consideration of what I have

1. History of Tama County, Union Publishing Co., Springfield, Ill., 1883, p 256
2. Ibid, p 676
3. Ibid, p 680
4. Ibid, p 692
John Wesley and Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers

Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda McMillan Flathers
already done for my children and what they have done for me, and their circumstances in life, I consider the disposition made of my property in this will to be just right and fair to all concerned.

Sixth. I nominate my son-in-law, J. C. Smith of Tama, Iowa, to be the Executor of this my last will and testament without bonds.

Subscribed as and for my last will and testament at Tama, Iowa, this 18th day of April 1896.

John X Flathers

John Wesley had signed other documents during his lifetime using his full name. It could be that he was too old, sick, and feeble only four months before his death to do other than sign with the X.

Nathaniel Thomas Flathers, oldest son of John Wesley and Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers, was born June 19, 1834, near Crawfordsville, Indiana, and moved to Iowa with his parents in 1848. He married Marilda May McMillan; born near Muncie, Indiana, May 19, 1837; on January 30, 1854. She was the daughter of Junius McMillan, born in 1801 in Pennsylvania and died in 1876, and Cassander Easley McMillan, born in 1809 in Kentucky and died in 1869. Nathaniel Thomas died October 27, 1900, at the home of his daughter, Ida Bell Flathers Wilson in Newkirk, Oklahoma, and is buried in the Wilson family plot, Newkirk. Jennings H. Flathers visited his grave in July, 1973.

In a letter to Jennings H. Flathers dated January 29, 1973, Maureta Flathers Witherspoon said:

It seems that from what Papa told me that his dad had been in poor health for a number of years and that he took Grandpa and Grandma to Salida, Colorado, to live with him but that they had to return to Kansas as Grandpa could not take the climate in Colorado.

Marilda McMillan Flathers died March 3, 1912, at the home of her son, Irvin Flathers, near Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas and is buried near her granddaughter, Daisey Flathers, daughter of Irvin Flathers, in a country cemetery four miles northwest of the now abandoned town of Reamsville.

1. Mildred Flathers and Maureta Flathers Witherspoon, op. cit.
2. The birth of Julius and Cassander Easley McMillan from Linn County, Iowa, 1850 Census. The death dates from Mildred Flathers and Maureta Flathers Witherspoon

Twelve children were born to Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda May Flathers, and most of them were still living at the home when the family moved from Iowa to Smith County, Kansas, probably in the year 1877. Since Nathaniel Thomas received title to 114 acres of original patent land, Sections 1 and 2 of Township 1, Range 15 west, on July 2, 1883, he must have arrived in Kansas at least five years earlier. It took that many years to "prove up" a homestead and for the land to be transferred to the pioneer owner. The land lay on the Kansas-Nebraska line, eight miles southwest of Franklin, Nebraska. In selecting the new land, Nathaniel Thomas passed over the level land north of the present town of Franklin and north of the Republican River in favor of more hilly land south of the Republican River. Here he found plenty of timber and several springs flowing with fresh water, two resources very necessary to the homesteader.

The family first lived in a partial dugout near the springs and near the creek and timber. Later, a three room frame house was constructed, still standing in 1973 when Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers were taken for a visit to the farm by John Flathers, son of Irvin Flathers and resident of Franklin, Nebraska. The springs were no longer flowing, and elm blight had killed many of the large trees, but just across the creek is still clearly visible the remains of the foundation of a Pawnee Indian Council House. The family lived on this homestead until the children were grown and had left the farm to make homes for themselves.

A short sketch will be given about each of the twelve children, but three of the children's families, through which the Flathers name can be

1. Original Patent Deed Book, Smith County Courthouse, Smith Center, Kansas
traced, will be more fully developed. Most of the following information has been furnished by Mildred Flathers of Franklin, Nebraska, granddaughter of Irvin Flathers, and Maureta Flathers Witherspoon of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, daughter of Charles Flathers.

1. John Wesley Flathers — born January 19, 1855, Tama County, Iowa, married Sarah Myers in Linn County, Iowa, had two children — Edward and Ethel. He died May 12, 1888, after developing blood poisoning from an injury in his hip following a fall during threshing season. He had fallen on an oil can. At the time of his death, Edward was six years old and Ethel was three. No information is available on what happened to the two children. John had homesteaded on 160 acres next to his father's land and had received the deed "proving up" his land on October 1, 1883, Smith County, Kansas.

2. Cassandra Jane (Cassey) Flathers — born August 14, 1857, at Springville, Linn County, Iowa, died November 2, 1869, age 12 years.

3. Juleyann Emilene Flathers — born November 17, 1858, and died in infancy.

4. Luella May Flathers — born May 1, 1860, Springville, Linn County, Iowa, and died Franklin County, Nebraska, February 16, 1938. She married Perry Sweet February 20, 1883, at Smith Center, Kansas. They had three children — twins who died in infancy and Millie who married Lee Brown. Millie and Lee Brown lived on a farm near Franklin, Nebraska, for many years, then moved to Franklin for retirement where Lee died before long. Millie had worked hard all her life and especially following the move fixing and painting the house. She was so burdened with the move and with Lee's death that she seemed exhausted. After spending a number of months in a rest room in Franklin, she died on August 9, 1973.

5. Benjamin Marion Flathers — born May 13, 1862, at Springville, Linn County, Iowa. He married Emma Parker but separated from her five years later. There were no children. He moved to Shattuck, Indian Territory, (Oklahoma) but there is no record that he filed on a claim as did his two brothers, Charles and Newton. He did own property in Shattuck, however. He married a second time to Emily J. Depue, who had two children, and who had a claim northwest of Shattuck very near the claims of Benjamin's two brothers. Emily J. Flathers and husband, Benjamin Marion, sold her claim February 16, 1910. That may be when they purchased property in Shattuck. They lived in Shattuck for several years selling their property there about 1916. Benjamin Marion died October 17, 1946, probably in Nebraska.

6. Irvin Flathers — born December 12, 1864, Tama County, Iowa, and died Franklin, Nebraska, April 15, 1951. Details on family of Irvin Flathers to be given later.

1. Deed Book 3, Ellis County, Oklahoma, p 219, original patent for claim of Emily J. Flathers, formerly Emily J. Depue. Deed Book 12, p 4, account of sale of this land.
7. William Flathers — born September 24, 1866, Jones County, Iowa, and died December 21, 1921.

8. Ida Boll Flathers — born June 4, 1868, Linn County, Iowa, and married John Wilson May 28, 1887, at Bloomton, Nebraska. They had ten children — Edward, Jessie, Ethel, Goldie, Clarence, Doris, Lester, Kenneth, Delbert, and Cecil William. The family lived in Newkirk, Oklahoma, where Ida Boll died August 27, 1941. Her father, Nathaniel Thomas Flathers, had died in her home in 1900, and he, Ida Boll, and John Wilson are buried in the same plot in the Newkirk Cemetery.

9. Lilly Adell Flathers — born August 13, 1870, Gentry County, Missouri, married William R. Searls at Beaver City, Nebraska, in 1894. They had four children — Lewis, Leland, Hazel, and Charles. For many years the family lived in Denver, Colorado. In a letter dated January 29, 1973, Maureta Flathers Witherspoon wrote, "Lilly said they had plenty as they were growing up and from all the old pictures I have, they seem well groomed and well dressed. I had a couple of long visits with Aunt Lilly and Hazel while living in Denver. Aunt Lilly was tall, then, and very active. In fact, when she died — she sat up 'til midnight watching TV and died in her sleep shortly after going to bed. Charles had died just before that and Hazel died a year or so later. Lewis was dead and I suppose Leland is still living." No further information is available on the date of Lilly's death.


11. Newton Nathaniel Flathers — born April 4, 1875, Dallas County, Iowa, and died April 23, 1939, Perryton, Texas. Details on family of Newton Flathers to be given later.


As has been stated before, Irvin Flathers, sixth child of Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda McMillan Flathers, was born December 12, 1864, in Tama County, Iowa. He moved to Smith County, Kansas, in 1877 with his parents and on November 4, 1892, married Sophia Rozetta (Zettie) Isett. He became a successful farmer living in Smith County, his farm five miles south of the Kansas-Nebraska state line. In 1923 he retired from farming and moved to Franklin, Nebraska, the county seat of Franklin County. Irvin died March 10, 1951, and Sophia Rozetta Flathers followed on April 15, 1951. Both are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Franklin, Nebraska.

1. Information supplied by John Flathers, son of Irvin Flathers, and Mildred Flathers, John's daughter.
Four children were born to this family — Lawrence Irvin, the oldest, born August 25, 1893, at Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas. He married Mildred Lane on July 14, 1920, and was a partner in the hardware business with his brother-in-law, Ross Lane, in Riverton, Nebraska, from 1920 to 1926. From then until 1936, he was a partner with his brother-in-law in the Chevrolet Agency at Holdrege and Alma, Nebraska. In 1936 he sold his part of the business and moved to Salem, Oregon, where he was a salesman and appraiser for the Douglas McKay Chevrolet-Cadillac Agency. During the war he worked in the shipyards in Washington State but returned to the Douglas McKay Agency after the war and worked there until his death June 25, 1971. Two children were born to this family:


1. Information supplied by Mildred Flathers, Franklin, Nebraska, when author visited there in August, 1973
Mary Eloise Flathers — born December 14, 1921, at Riverton, Nebraska. She married Marlyn Anderson August 1942, at Salem, Oregon, and they have four children — Marlyn Kent Anderson born March 22, 1943, Portland, Oregon; Judith Elaine Anderson born December 29, 1944, Corvallis, Oregon; Richard Brent Anderson born June 3, 1946, Corvallis, Oregon; and Byron Scott Anderson born September 22, 1952, at Watsonville, California. The Anderson Family lives at Tigard, Oregon, a suburb of Portland. No further information is available on this family; however, it is quite likely that there are ninth generation children just as in the other Flathers families descended from Irvin and Rozetta Flathers. The above information was supplied by Mildred Flathers, Franklin, Nebraska.

Roy Claire Flathers, the second son of Irvin and Rozetta Flathers was born September 13, 1896, at Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas. He married Ruby Whitmore on February 24, 1918, at Franklin, Nebraska. While in Nebraska he was engaged in farming. They have two children — Irvin Leroy, born April 16, 1925, and June Marie, born December 16, 1930. The family moved to the State of Washington in 1936 where Roy Claire did construction work on the Grand Coulee Dam until 1939 at which time he became an apple farmer. In 1942 he gave up the apple growing business and became a warehouse foreman and continued at this work until 1962 when he retired. Ray Claire is usually called Jim. The two children are:


June Marie (June) Flathers — born December 16, 1930. She wrote on February 8, 1973, "I might add that everyone has called me June all my life, but my name is really Jane. Now are you thoroughly confused? I hope not. My name was supposed

1. Mildred Flathers, op. cit.
2. Letter from June Marie Flathers Adams, April 5, 1973
Irvin and Rozetta Isett Flathers
Franklin, Nebraska

John Elmer and Veda Cook Flathers
Franklin, Nebraska
In relation to age -- oldest to youngest

Irvin Flathers -- Roy Claire Flathers
Irvin LeRoy Flathers -- Irvin Eugene Flathers
to be June but the doctor didn't write very clear, and when the birth certificate came back, it was Jane, and Mom and Dad never had it changed." She married Eldon Earl Adams, and they have three children — (1) Connie Marie Adams born January 1, 1948, who married James Alan Schmitt March 10, 1967. They have one child, Travis James Schmitt born May 18, 1969. They live in Woodbury, New Jersey, where he is advertising manager for the newspaper there. (2) Donald Earl Adams born December 9, 1950, and (3) Robert LeRoy Adams born August 29, 1954.

The third child of Irvin and Rozetta Isett Flathers was Daisey Gladys, the only girl, born December 28, 1900, and died when only eighteen years of age on October 11, 1918. She died of flu and the complications which followed. As was pointed out previously, she is buried in the Clemans Cemetery not far from where she was born and where the family lived in Smith County, Kansas.

The fourth child of Irvin and Rosetta Flathers is John Elmer Flathers born August 23, 1902, at Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas. He married Veda Cook on January 19, 1922, at Franklin, Nebraska, and they had three children — Elizabeth Marie, Mildred Irene, and John Jr. John Elmer was a farmer until 1937 and lived on his parents farm south of Franklin. At that time he moved to Franklin where he purchased half interest in an auto salvage business. He continued with this kind of business both in Franklin and Oxford, Nebraska, through 1943. He purchased half interest in the John Deere Agency and in 1944 obtained the Chrysler-Plymouth Agency in Franklin. In 1954 the partnership was dissolved and John became the sole owner of the Chrysler-Plymouth Agency and has been engaged in that business since that time. When Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited Franklin in August of 1973, John Elmer Flathers and his daughter, Mildred, were extremely cordial in explaining the family historical

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1. Letter from June Marie Flathers Adams, February 8, 1973
background and in showing them places of family interest, especially to descendants of Nathaniel Thomas Flathers. The three children of John Elmer and Veda Cook Flathers are:

Elizabeth Marie Flathers — born August 18, 1922, at Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas, and married Charles E. Murry December 28, 1944. He entered the service of his country May 28, 1942, and was commissioned October 28, 1943. He flew fighter aircraft during World War II and was released from service May 19, 1946. He was recalled to service March 10, 1951, during the Korean Conflict and flew C-47s in the Eighth Air Rescue Squadron, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was called to B-26 training, and went to Korea in June, 1952, where he received the Air Medal with two clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He returned from Korea in November 1952. He served as a Major with the Strategic Air Command in Newfoundland, and the family presently lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has been promoted to a full Colonel. They have two children — (1) Roger Michael Murry born July 6, 1946, and married to Sandra Clarey June 2, 1967, at Lafayette, Indiana. At the present time they live in Terre Haute, Indiana, and have two children — Kelvin Machael Murry born October 11, 1968, and Kirk Steven born October 11, 1970. (2) Patricia Joyce Murry born June 7, 1948, married Terry Lee Witt June 15, 1968. They live at Midland, Michigan, and have one son, Troy Eric Witt born November 21, 1971. Charles E. Murry retired from the United States Air Force in 1970.

Mildred Irene Flathers — born December 29, 1923, at Reamsville, Smith County, Kansas. She is associated with her father in the Chrysler-Plymouth agency in Franklin and has given much assistance to the author of this book by making available to him genealogical papers on which he depended very much as a basis for starting this study of the Flathers genealogical data. She inherited this Flathers genealogical material from her grandmother, Rozetta (Zettie) Flathers. She has furnished all the material for the family of John Flathers and his descendants. Her name will be found at various places throughout this book especially in the footnotes.

John Jr. Flathers — born September 15, 1926, and died January 11, 1943, age 16 years. He is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery where his grandparents, Irvin and Zettie Isett Flathers are also buried.

This completes the discussion on Irvin Flathers and his descendants.

Attention is now turned to Western Oklahoma and to the families of (1) Charles Denver Flathers and (2) Newton Nathaniel Flathers.
After the turn of the century, the western part of the Indian Territory later to be known as Oklahoma was opened for settlement, and in 1901 three Flathers brothers came to Woodward County, later to be divided, and the part where they lived to become Ellis County. The three were Benjamin Marion, Charles Denver, and Newton Nathaniel. They came to the new town of Shattuck, formed the same year they arrived in the Indian Territory.

By buckboard and covered wagon came the bewhiskered, tobacco-chewing homesteaders wearing faded, patched overalls; the barefoot, tow-headed youngsters with freckled and sun-baked faces; the brave, clear-eyed women going uncomplainingly about their hard tasks and harder child-bearing.

They came with their farm animals, a pair of tough mules pulling the wagon, a squealing hog or some crated at the endgate, a dry cow tied to the back. Usually a couple of bony hounds trailed behind or trotted ahead. Bravely they staked their claims... where the black diamond rattler slithered through the purple sage, bunchgrass and bluestem; where black choking dust storms and raging prairie fires vied for fearfulness with the stunning blizzards, the vicious tornadoes and the devastating floods...

This town/Shattuck/ was the only shipping point north to the Kansas line and for many miles in the other directions. Freight wagons pulled by eight to ten mules or horses swarmed into Shattuck for supplies shipped in by railway. /The Santa Fe/ This demanded feed yards, and in 1905, a half dozen such yards were in operation on a grand scale... Frequently, herds of wild horses came through driven in from the plains of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas by horse traders. The animals were commonly mustangs or descendants of the wild Spanish horses, wiry, tough and unkept. Many were later broken out for saddle horses or buggy horses... Cattle were driven overland to the railroad for shipping to eastern markets and Shattuck required a large stockyard... The growing cow town had a hardware store as well as saddle and harness shops. Several blacksmith shops provided wagon wheel repair and horse shoeing.

Broom corn thrived on the sod and this was known to be the largest broom corn market in the world. In season, baled broom corn was piled for blocks approaching the railroad... A sprinkler wagon hauled water and dribbled it over the deep dust of the streets. /Main street was up hill and down, with a few plank sidewalks above the deep mud or dust of the thoroughfare. Each business house had a porch with a steep flight of steps and a platform leading from hitching post to veranda. A large windmill and water tank stood in the center of town. /Main street still looked very much like this in the early 1920's when the author attended grades 4 through 7 in the Shattuck Public Schools -- the same windmill and watering tank in the middle of main street, the same covered verandas and steep flights of steps/
Outside the city limits at West Rock Creek crossing stood a huge cottonwood tree known far and near as a landmark. Weary travelers, upon seeing the top of the cottonwood, knew they were almost to Shattuck. Picnic parties were frequent at the cottonwood and it is said that many marriage matches were made in its benevolent shade. Circuit rider preachers here converted the citizens and baptized them in nearby brisk and bubbling Rock Creek. Fifty years ago a disastrous fire occurred and two blocks of early Shattuck were destroyed. Every possible wagon, buggy and hack hauled water from the creek which was dashed by bucketful on the licking flames. Nearby roofs were covered with flour, sand and salt but the destruction spread until halted by a stone building. The town then decided to buy fire equipment, so [they purchased] a team of horses and a fire wagon. Soon the horses were so well trained that they were off at the first blast of the whistle.

About this time, a telephone exchange was established. This long step in communications was perhaps a greater boost to civic pride than any one improvement since the town began.

This is the start of one settlement in Oklahoma, busy and bustling on the way to the proud Shattuck and Ellis County of today.

Charles Denver Flathers, tenth child of Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda May McMillan Flathers, was born July 29, 1872, in Gentry County, Missouri, and died February 16, 1952, in McGehee, Arkansas. On November 11, 1904, he married Bessie Helen Blaine at Gage, Oklahoma. She was born January 19, 1888, in Moberly, Missouri, and died May 5, 1950, at McGehee, Arkansas.

The following was written by their oldest child, Maureta Flathers Witherspoon.

His schooling was to the 6th grade and his teacher was his sister, Luella May (Ellie) who was a schoolteacher. In spite of his lack of schooling, he wrote a beautiful hand, spelled well, and had a good knowledge of mathematics.

He left home as a young man and moved to Salida, Colorado. It is thought that at this time his brothers Benjamin Marion and Newton Nathaniel joined him in this move. It is not known what the young men did in Salida for a living, but it is assumed that Charles worked in a blacksmith shop and bought and sold horses.

Charles' father had been in bad health for a number of years and he moved his mother and father to Salida hoping this would improve the health of his father. It was decided his father could not live in the climate of Colorado and they returned to Smith County, Kansas.

Sometime in 1901 Charles Denver went to the Indian Territory and filed on a claim, the northeast quarter of Section 2, Township 21, North of Range 25. This property was four miles north and four miles west of Shattuck. Since

he sold the property December 14, 1906, he must have arrived in Oklahoma in 1901, for it took five years to "prove up" a claim.

... /In Shattuck/ he bought property for a home and property for a location for a blacksmith shop. He built a three room house, furnished it, and then sent for his mother (his father had died in 1900). Later his brother Newton ("Newt") joined them. In 1901 when he decided to marry, he added another room, back and front porch, sank a well, put up a windmill and water tank, and fenced the yard. At this time his mother returned to Smith County, Kansas, to live with another son, Irvin ("Irv"), and Newt continued to live with Charles and his wife, Bessie, for awhile. /Deed Book 3, p. 86, Ellis County Courthouse, shows that Marilda Flathers, the mother, sold 40 acres of land on September 10, 1906, to her son Charles. It is not known if she had filed on this land or if she had purchased it/.

Their first two children, Maureta and Earl, were born at this home. ... Then in 1910 he decided to buy a farm which was always referred to as "The Walton Place."...

He continued to maintain the operation of his blacksmith shop, leaving the men he had hired to attend to the business and since The Walton Place was not too many miles from town, he kept an eye on the business. ... 

Their third child, Helen, was born at The Walton Place. In the spring of 1911, Charles decided that farming was not his calling. /Deed Book 14, p 631, Ellis County Courthouse, shows that Charles and Bessie Flathers sold a farm four miles north and three east of Shattuck on November 7, 1912. This could have been The Walton Place. / He bought a place referred to as the "5 acres" with a small house and lived there a short time. Bessie's mother (widowed in 1908) decided she would like to file on a claim on land located at Mt. Dora, New Mexico, (near Clayton) and Charles decided he would like to do the same. So Mary Blaine, Charlie, and his family... moved there in a covered wagon. Each filed on 360 acres, Charles and Mrs. Blaine on opposite sides of the road. ... 

... When he had his wife and three children settled in their new home, he returned to Shattuck to look after his business and have a home ready for his family's return. In the interim he made frequent trips to New Mexico. About the time the claim was proved up, his oldest daughter, Maureta, was at the age to start to school. He purchased a two story house. ... Their fourth child, Claude Marion, and fifth child, Olive Charlene, were born in this house. /Charles purchased more property/ built a brick commercial garage and blacksmith shop on the corner(just one block from the main street of Shattuck). ... 

He furnished his blacksmith shop with electric machinery; cars were becoming more numerous by then, and he hired a man... for mechanic and he rented space to "drummers" who had started to travel by car. He also put up a gasoline pump, at this time pumped by hand. ... He also had two men who worked in the blacksmith shop with him.

Charles seemed to do well financially in Oklahoma. He always worked very hard; he was a good husband, very good father (his family was always considered first), he always provided a well furnished
home, good food, good clothing, music lessons for Maureta and Helen, and had time for trips to visit his brothers, and sisters as well as his wife's folks, and for his hobby, hunting and fishing.

During World War I, there was a land boom in Arkansas and in 1918 Charles (and several others from Shattuck) went to Arkansas and invested in land, and moved his family to McGehee, Dasha County, Arkansas, located in the lower southeast portion of the state and about 15 miles from the Mississippi River. He bought a home, put up a blacksmith shop. Blacksmith shops were not in demand as they were in Oklahoma, due to the type farming done in the South; however, he made a living. During this time he had cleared a portion of his land, which was about 3 miles out of McGehee, built a two story house, barn, chicken house, got a horse and a few cows, sold the town property and moved to the country. Charles knew little about farming in that area, knew little about timber. He then went to work for the Missouri Pacific Railroad shops and remained with them until his retirement. Not long after he went to work for the railroad he bought a home in town, gave up the farm, and lived at this home until the time of his death.

There was never a time that the "kids" would come home, but that they were always greeted with the open arms of both Charles and Bessie. Bessie was a wonderful cook and the children have often wondered how she could, with little effort, have a good meal on the table for one or all. Charles and Bessie were very fine looking and throughout their lives they "kept up with the times" in their dress, modern improvements and developments.

Maureta Gladys Flathers — born October 1, 1905, at Shattuck Oklahoma, married Lyter D. Witherspoon, February 8, 1933, but was divorced in 1947. She is a graduate of Tyler, Texas, Commercial College and has spent 47 years working in the business world in Dallas, East Texas, Houston, Los Angeles area, Denver, St. Paul, and Akron, Ohio. During this time her work consisted mostly of office management and accounting in large corporations. She retired in 1970 and moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where she now makes her home.

Maureta studied piano for a number of years and is an accomplished musician, has painted a number of water colors which hang in her home, and is interested in knitting, crocheting, creweling, doing needlepoint, and in a number of other arts and crafts.

Maureta began her research in the Flathers family genealogy in the early 1940's and has maintained her interest ever since that date. She has
Charles Denver Flathers
age 21

Maureta Flathers Witherspoon

Five children of Charles and Bessie Flathers

Maureta Flathers Witherspoon
Earl Flathers
Helen Flathers Bowen
Claude Flathers
Olive Flathers Spence
furnished the author of this genealogical history with information, pictures, vital statistics, letters, and encouragement. Without her enthusiasm and assistance, and a review of her work with the author when he visited her in Denver in 1952, there might not have been a Flathers Book. Because of this deep loyalty and devotion to the family, she one time wrote:

From all the information, it seems that we are from good, solid stock, made up of educators and farmers, with a few straying out of these categories, particularly during our generation. No one made a "big name" or made "Big financial status", but above average stock, honest, hardworking, and a very proud people. Maybe this is the best. I've been associated with some of the other kind and such miserable lives both in family life and social life, and their names and money couldn't buy love, respect or even common decency. So there is an advantage to somethings, you know.

I know I couldn't have had finer parents and the kids in our family are still very closely knit, likewise your family. This is something we all should be proud of.

Robert Earl Flathers, the second child of Charles and Bessie Blaine Flathers, was born February 25, 1908, in Shattuck, Oklahoma. On May 18, 1933, he married Craig Hudspeth at Gillett, Arkansas. She was born March 30, 1912, at Mr. Pleasant, Texas. After working on the farm for a short time, Earl went to Detroit, Michigan, to seek work. After a short time he returned to Arkansas and worked on various projects of the U. S. Corps of Engineers; from there he worked for the Navy in Charleston, South Carolina. He then returned to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and worked for the government arsenal for several years. At the end of World War II he went to work for the Cotton Belt Railroad as machinist, where he worked for twenty seven years, retiring in May, 1973. His hobbies are fishing, hunting, and gardening.

His wife, Craig Hudspeth Flathers, worked in the offices of the Arkansas Power and Light Company for many years.

Jo Bess Flathers, the only child of Earl and Craig Flathers, was born January 23, 1935, at McGehee, Arkansas, and was married to Fredrick Henry Dieckmann January 9, 1956 at Dallas, Texas. Fred was born February 2, 1932, Queens, New York. They have two children — Fred Henry Dieckmann, born Dec. 19, 1956, Queens, New York, and John

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1. Letter from Maureta Flathers Witherspoon, January 29, 1973
Robert Dieckmann, born April 30, 1958, Dreaux, France. Jo Bess attended Texas State College for Women, Denton, Texas, and Nursing Extension at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. In 1972-73 she is attending State College of Arkansas, Conway, working for her RN-BS Degree. Fred Dieckmann, husband of Jo Bess, attended the University of Vermont and in December, 1972, retired from the United States Air Force as lieutenant colonel. While in the service, the family lived in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, California, Montana, Michigan, Germany, and France. Both were active in their base activities. Fred received many commendable citations, and Jo Bess was president of the Air Force Wives Association. She contributed much to the building of the structure in San Antonio, Texas, for the widowed wives of the United States Air Force and represented her base when the building was dedicated. The Dieckmann family retired at Conway, Arkansas, where they are making their home.

Helen Ione Flathers, the third child of Charles and Bessie Blaine Flathers was born December 8, 1910, at Shattuck, Oklahoma, and married Theodore Bowen on September 12, 1931. He was born February, 1907, at Des Arc, Arkansas. Helen is a business school graduate and she and her husband, "Ted", both worked for the United States Corps of Engineers in the Arkansas-Mississippi area but were sent to Glasgow, Montana, for the Fort Peck Dam Project. Helen stopped working when the first child arrived, but Ted continued to work and retired after 32 years of service. Beside being located in the afore mentioned places, the family also lived in Trinidad, Port of Spain, and California. They now live in Riverside, California. Both Helen and Ted have been active in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTA, and have taken a great interest in politics. Both are interested in the arts and crafts, rock hunting, camping and fishing.

Robert Charles Bowen, oldest child of Helen and Ted Bowen, was born May 30, 1939, at Glasgow, Montana. He married Patricia Marie Foster of Corona, California, on June 19, 1959, and they have two children — Theodore H. Bowen born in Syracuse, New York, and Ginger Marie Bowen born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Robert Bowen in a graduate of Chaffey College, Ontario, California, and holds a Masters Degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of California, Berkley. He had received scholarships for all his college education. He taught in Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, before accepting employment with the Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where they now live.
Kerry Glen Bowen — born April 27, 1943, at Miami, Florida, and married Lajune Ann Watts in July of 1963. They are divorced. On December 20, 1971, he married Mary Wesley Conant at Tesaque, New Mexico. She was born April 10, 1957, at Burlington, Iowa. Kerry was a good athlete in high school, earning letters in both basketball and football. In 1960 he joined the Navy and served as a radio cryptographer on the U.S.S. Fort Snelling.

Paul Christy Bowen — born December 25, 1948, Corona, California, was married to Katherine August of 1971. Paul is employed by the DeYoung Construction Company, Ontario, California, and resides in Etiwanda, California. Paul has many talents — in the field of mechanics, oil and charcoal in art, in the building of furniture, and in other areas all beautifully done. Katherine Bowen completed her studies in the field of accounting at Chaffey College in 1973.

Nancy Helen Bowen — the youngest child of Helen and Ted Bowen, was born June 30, 1950, at Corona, California, and has attended Chaffey College and San Diego State College with a B.S. Degree in physical education. Nancy returned to San Diego State College in 1973-74 to complete her requirements for teaching. She has been active in Girl Scout work and has been a counselor at the Azela Trails, California, Camp for the past several years. In 1973 she was business manager for the camp. Nancy and her brother, Kerry, sing and play the guitar. Her solo work at his wedding was highly praised.

Claude Marion Flathers, the fourth child of Charles and Bessie Blaine Flathers, was born October 30, 1914, at Shattuck, Oklahoma. He married Marie Simmons June 20, 1958, at McGehee, Arkansas. They have three children — James Denver Flathers born April 29, 1959; Darryl Flathers born in Little Rock, Arkansas; and Marie Claudett Flathers born in Memphis Tennessee. Claude served a hitch in the United States Marines and a hitch in the United States Navy. During World War II he was a diesel mechanic on a sub chaser. Claude Flathers died February 21, 1966, at Detroit, Michigan, and is buried at Parkview Memorial Gardens, Wayne, Michigan.

Olive Charlene Flathers, the youngest child of Charles and Bessie Blaine Flathers was born April 17, 1917, at Shattuck, Oklahoma, and married James Thomas Spence May 5, 1934, at Monticello, Arkansas. James Spence died January of 1970. This couple had two children — Marion Denver Spence and Claudia Detra Spence. "J. T." Spence was a Mason and Shriner.
and Olive is a member of the Eastern Star and has served as Worthy Matron of her chapter. J. T. who had attended Monticello A and M College worked for his brother for a short time and then went into business for himself at Hamburg, Arkansas, owning a Western Auto Store. He sold this business when he was inducted into the armed forces during World War II. After the War he located at Weleetka, Oklahoma, and owned another Western Auto Store. After his death, Olive continued to run the store. Olive and J.T. have been active in community affairs and have devoted much time to the Methodist Church, civic projects, and to education. J. T. was president of the local school board for a number of years. Olive plays both the piano and the organ.

Marion Denver Spence -- the oldest child, was born May 15, 1939, at McGehee, Arkansas, and married Peggy Hancock of Midwest City, Oklahoma, on January 28, 1961. They were divorced in 1972. Two children were born to this couple -- Stephanie Rochelle (Shelly) July 20, 1962, at Cushing, Oklahoma, and Theodore James (Todd), born May 30, 1967, at Ardmore, Oklahoma. Marion Denver Spence attended the University of Tulsa, East Central State College at Ada, Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma at Norman. He has Bachelor and Master Degrees in Music Education. After his graduation he was band director at Cushing, Oklahoma, and at Ardmore, Oklahoma. He then moved to Ada, Oklahoma, and established the Spence Music Company where he handles pianos, organs, other musical instruments, musical supplies and uniforms for school bands. Commonly called Denny, he is active in the Methodist Church, civic affairs, and in musical organizations.

Claudia Detra Spence -- born July 10, 1943, at Monticello, Arkansas, married Gary Montgomery on August 7, 1971. She has a Bachelor of Physical Education Degree from East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma, and is working toward her Masters Degree. After finishing college she traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, where she worked for the YWCA and was teenage counselor. She returned to Oklahoma and since 1971 has been physical education coach at Okemah, Oklahoma, High School, the first female coach in the history of the school. Gary attended Oklahoma State University where he received his Bachelors Degree in Physical Education and is assistant coach at Okemah High School. Both will return for the additional work on their Masters Degrees. 1

This ends the information on Charles Denver Flathers and his family.

1. All information on Charles Denver Flathers and his descendants from Maureta Flathers Witherspoon, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Newton Nathaniel, the youngest child of Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda Flathers, left his home in Smith County, Kansas, when in his teens to live with his brothers, Benjamin Marion and Charles, in Salida, Colorado. He also spent some time at Cripple Creek, Cororado, during the gold rush days. He journeyed to Shattuck, Indian Territory, and filed on a claim in late 1901 five miles north and five miles west of Shattuck, the southeast quarter of Section 35, Township 22, North of Range 26 west, 160 acres. It isn't known when Newt learned the barbering trade, but he probably became a barber in Shattuck from the very beginning since the homesteaders did not have to live on the claim more than six months each year. He was a good barber, and the bustling town of Shattuck needed someone good in this vocation. After Charles Denver married, Newt stayed in their home. In later years, Newt seldom spoke to his family of his brothers and sisters, but when he did, it was usually of Charles and his brother, Irvin, who lived near Franklin, Nebraska. He seemed to hold these two individuals in especially high regard.

Rose Isabell Jennings also came to the Indian Territory about this time and settled on a claim three miles southeast of Shattuck, southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 21, Range 25. She and her brother, Jasper Jennings, filed on adjoining claims building their "soddy" of two rooms with one room on Rose's property connected by a door to the second room on Jasper's. By so doing they met the requirement that each must live on his own claim. Rose often spoke of the good times they had as young people in Western Oklahoma while "proving up their claims." Their life didn't have all the glamour so theatrically portrayed in the musical, Oklahoma, but some of the elements were there. Rose would say,

My brother, Jap, had a rubber tired buggy with red wheels. It was the best rig from all around and was the envy of all the other young men. We always had good times on Saturday nights when we would go to the dances at Arnett, Shattuck, or someplace in the country.

1. Deed Book 3, Ellis County Courthouse, Arnett, Oklahoma, p 200
2. Deed Book 4, Ellis County Courthouse, Arnett, Oklahoma, p 152
We would dance all night, mostly square but sometimes round, and would be driving home as the sun was coming up Sunday mornings. None of us had much money but everyone was friendly, and we were living in a new country.

The young folks must have felt like the words in the song, "Oklahoma."

They couldn't picka better time to start in life!
It ain't too early and it ain't too late.
Startin' as a farmer with a brand new wife—
Soon be livin' in a brand new state!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Flowers on the prairie where the June bugs zoom—
Plen' of air and plen' of room—
Plen' of room to swing a rope!
Plen' of heart and plen' of hope! 

The young settlers had plenty of hope, and many living in Ellis County today are descendants of those early settlers.

Newton Nathaniel Flathers and Rose Isabell Jennings, born May 20, 1876, were married in Woodward, Oklahoma, November 19, 1906, he at the age of 31 and she at the age of 30. Newt sold his claim in 1906; Rose sold hers in 1908. Both had more than met the five years minimum homestead time and they moved just across the state line into Lipscomb County, Texas. They purchased a farm of 320 acres eight miles west of Lipscomb in August of 1907, but again farming wasn't what Newt liked to do. They rented out the farm and built a house in Lipscomb, and Newt purchased a barbershop which also had two bathtubs where the men of the town came to take their weekly baths on Saturday nights. Erroll Newton Flathers, their oldest child, was born April 3, 1908, on the farm missing his father's birthday only one day, but Jennings Harvel Flathers, the second son, was born April 4, 1911, on his father's birthday while the family was living in Lipscomb. The third child, Ada Isabell Flathers, was born May 23, 1915, after the family had moved to the farm again.

While living in Lipscomb, the barber business was good enough that

1. Words taken from the song, "Oklahoma", from the musical of the same name.
2. Deed Book 5, Lipscomb County, Lipscomb, Texas pp 550 and 551
Newt hired two barbers to run the shop while he, in a new red Reo touring car, hauled drummers from Higgins, Texas, twenty miles away and on the railroad, to Lipscomb and on to Ochiltree, thirty miles to the west. The roads were merely trails through ranches separated by fences with wire gates and across streams with no bridges, but this was the kind of care-free life that Newton Nathaniel Flathers enjoyed.

Getting an education was always a real problem for families living in the country in those days. The three children went to school at various times to the one room school three miles away, to Lipscomb which had four teachers, to Shattuck when the family again lived there from 1920 until 1921, and to the town of Canadian twenty miles to the south but with an accredited high school. There was no school bus, only dirt roads, and no one ever thought of driving a Model-T Ford forty miles a day to school. Rose Jennings Flathers was determined that her three should graduate from high school so they stayed in Canadian and "batched" during the week — ages 11, 15, 18. This continued for three years, but each finished high school.

In 1930, Newt and Rose Flathers sold their 360 acres in Lipscomb County and purchased 640 acres in Ochiltree County, next county west. Ochiltree County was known for having some of the finest wheat land in America — but then came the depression and the drought which resulted in the "dust bowl." If they raised any wheat during those difficult days, it sold for as little as 35¢ a bushel, but most often the seemingly endless days of wind and blowing dust resulted only in cows bawling at dried up watering holes and soil piling as high as a horse’s head around farm machinery or any obstacle that started a hummock.

Conditions began to improve toward the later part of the 1930’s, but then Newt died suddenly of a stroke on April 23, 1939, and was buried in the Ochiltree Cemetery, south of Perryton. Rose kept the farm until just before
her death July 3, 1960, at Amarillo, Texas. She is buried beside her husband.

Erroll Newton Flathers, the oldest child, lives on the home place in Ochiltree County where he farms wheat and raises cattle. He married Maurine Goin April 25, 1936, and they have two children — Barbara Maurine and Erroll Neal. Maurine Goin Flathers had been a teacher before her marriage, and she returned to the classroom during the teacher shortage in 1948 and teaches first grade in Perryton, 25 miles from the farm. She is recognized as one of the finest first grade teachers anywhere. She graduated from West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas, in 1951 with a major in elementary education. They are members of the Southern Baptist Church in Perryton.

Barbara Maurine Flathers — born January 29, 1937, married Richard Dean Haar December 28, 1953. They had two children — Sherry Lynn Haar born September 25, 1954, and Edward Neal Haar born August 31, 1955. Both graduated from Panhandle High School in the spring of 1973 where Sherry was voted the outstanding senior girl by the Carson County Women's Club. In 1973-74 she is a freshman at Texas Tech, Lubbock. Edward Neal won a National Merit Scholarship of $1000, a competitive scholarship based on a series of tests with only 1000 given to the top graduating seniors throughout the United States. In 1973-74 Eddie is a freshman at Rice University, Houston, Texas, one of the nation's top scientific and engineering schools. Barbara was divorced from Richard Haar and on December 28, 1965, was married to James Williams. Barbara, a graduate of West Texas State University, taught in Panhandle and Amarillo. James Williams is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Erroll Neal Flathers — second child of Errol Newton and Maurine Goin Flathers, was born April 15, 1939, at Perryton, Texas. He graduated from Texas Tech, Lubbock, in 1962 with a major in agriculture and taught this subject at Gruver, Texas, for several years. At the present time he is associated with the Production Credit Association and has lived at Brownfield and Canadian, his present home. This organization finances about 75% of the agricultural operations of the area. Neal married Janice Ann Schuster June 12, 1957, and they have two children — Jancal Renee Flathers, born March 7, 1958, and Clayton Keith Flathers born March 17, 1961. Both are in the public schools at Canadian.

Jennings Harvel Flathers, born April 4, 1911, received his Bachelors Degree from West Texas State University, Canyon, in 1937 and his Masters Degree from the University of Colorado in 1946. He also attended the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and the University of Denver.
Jennings Harvel and Elizabeth Caldwell Flathers

Newton Nathaniel and Rose Jennings Flathers
Wedding Picture October 1906
Left to right
Jennings Flathers, Ada Flathers Ayres, Erroll Flathers

Elizabeth Flathers, Barbara Flathers Williams,
Ada Flathers Ayres, Maurine Flathers

Jennings Flathers at graves of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, (his right),
Mary Gregory Flathers, first wife of Thomas Sheridan (his left), Thomas Sheridan
(tall monument), Catherine Teskey Flathers, second wife, low stone, far right
He spent nearly four years in the air force during World War II, with one and one half years of this time in Europe. He was a teacher of speech and drama in the high schools of Amarillo for many years, but also taught for West Texas State University in the evening and during the summer terms. He married Elizabeth Caldwell, born September 7, 1914, Bronte, Texas, on August 21, 1948. She has her Bachelors of Music from Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, and Masters of Music from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, now a part of the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. Elizabeth has taught music in Sonora, Austin, and Amarillo, Texas, and at the present time is a music teacher in the Fairfax County Schools, Virginia.

Both have had active roles in the First Christian Church, Amarillo, and in the National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C. Jennings has served as chairman of committees and has been on the official board of both churches. When a teacher in Amarillo, Jennings was President of the Amarillo Teachers Association, District VII of the Texas State Teachers Association, and the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. He also served as Regional Representative for the eight South Central Regional States for the National Education Association before joining the staff of that organization in 1959. Since that time he has worked with teacher organizations throughout the United States, and since 1965 worked with allied organizations interested in education — school boards, PTA’s, American Legion, Boy Scouts, and many other related organizations. During the 1960’s he was listed in Who’s Who in the South and Southwest. He retired from the Staff of the National Education Association September 1, 1972, and has since spent his time writing the Flathers as well as the Jennings Family Genealogies. During his spare time he gardens and plays the guitar. Elizabeth belongs to the DAR, and they live in McLean, Virginia.

Ada Isabell Flathers, youngest child of Newton and Rose Flathers, was
born May 23, 1915, on the farm in Lipscomb County. She received her Bachelor's Degree from West Texas State University in 1938 and has taught in the schools of Gruver and Vega, Texas. She married Elmer Ayres May 23, 1940, and they have two children — Lee J. Ayres born February 14, 1944, and Robert Eugene Ayres born June 7, 1950. Elmer Ayres served in the Navy for three years during World War II and was located in the South Pacific Battle Area much of the time. The Ayres family lives at Vega, Texas, 35 miles west of Amarillo where Ada is a second grade teacher and Elmer is engaged in farming and raising beef cattle. The family attends the Vega Church of Christ.

Lee J. Ayres — spent four years in the U. S. Air Force during the Vietnam conflict working as an airplane mechanic and was stationed most of the time at Del Rio, Texas. He married Anne Wright of Tahoka, Texas, on July 22, 1967, and they have two children — Rhonda Ayres born December 28, 1970, and Raina Lee Ayres born February 26, 1973. Anne Wright Ayres is a Registered Nurse having graduated from the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas, in May 1967. She passed the State Board in August of 1971. Lee J. Ayres is a graduate of Connally State Technical Institute, Waco, Texas. He works for the Lone Star Steel Company, Dangerfield, Texas, about 100 miles east of Dallas. Anne is employed part time in one of the local hospitals.

Robert Eugene Ayres — was in the armed forces during the Vietnam conflict and spent several months near Da Nang, Vietnam. He has attended West Texas State University where he majored in agriculture. On June 5, 1973, he married Janice Rhea Walton, a graduate of Texas Tech, Lubbock, a major in elementary education. Jan was born November 4, 1949, and is a kindergarten teacher in Amarillo. They make their home in Wildorado, Texas, where Bob is working with his father-in-law in the agriculture supply business. Bob also raises cattle.

This ends the information on the family of Newton Nathaniel Flathers and the family of his parents, Nathaniel Thomas and Marilda McMillan Flathers.

The second child of John Wesley was Benjamin Flathers born August 20, 1836, in Indiana and moved to Linn County, Iowa, with his parents and married Rowena McMillan on August 13, 1859. There is information in Deed Book 8, Tama County, Iowa, p 394, that Benjamin F. Flathers purchased 40 acres of land in Section 15, Township 82, Range 14. On page 531 - 532 of this same publication, he and his wife, Rowena Flathers, were listed as having sold this farm February
29, 1960. This farm was very near the home of Benjamin's father, John Wesley, who lived on section 12, same township and range. There seems to be some variance between this information and some of that found in the following quotation taken from the publication History of Walla Walla County, a county in the state of Washington. This two volume history is found in the DAR Library, Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Franklin Flathers, deceased, was one of the old and honored residents of Walla Walla, where he made his home for almost half a century. He was born near Louisville, Kentucky, [the correct place is Crawfordsville, Indiana] on the 20th of August, 1836, and was the son of John and Julia Flathers. During his boyhood he received a limited education in the country schools located near his home. He was only a small boy when the family moved to Iowa and located on a farm. When still quite young he sought new and more favorable conditions of life and left home, roughing it in various parts of the United States for some time. He finally arrived in New York City, where he mustered on a freight ship, and made the long voyage around the Horn, landing in San Francisco, after having experienced some very rough weather.

Throughout his business career Mr. Flathers was variously employed. When a young man he engaged in firing on a railroad for a short time and on reaching California in 1854 became a packer, operating a train along the coast. He remained a resident of the Golden State until 1861 and from there removed to The Dalles, Oregon, whence he came to Walla Walla, Washington. He continued to operate a pack train until 1869 traveling from Montana to Arizona, but in that year he sold his outfit to the government while in the latter state. In 1870 he located on a homestead in Walla Walla County, where for years he conducted a forage station, furnishing accommodations for travelers over the old Mullen trail from Walla Walla. He gradually worked into agriculture and continued to follow farming for thirty years with good success but at the end of that time retired from active labor and divided his magnificent farm among his children. With a comfortable fortune he then removed to Walla Walla, where his last days were spent in ease and quiet. There he passed away on May 10, 1910, leaving his immediate family as well as many friends to mourn his loss.

On the 1st of January, 1869, Mr. Flathers was united in marriage to Mrs. Melinda (McQuown) Harris, who was born in Russell County, Virginia, May 3, 1836 [she moved to Missouri with her parents and later married Jack F. Harris. They and their two small children journeyed across the plains in an ox cart. After a hazardous journey, they came to Idaho City in December and remained there until spring when they came to Walla Walla. The two children had died in Idaho City, but another was born along the way. In 1865, the husband had died leaving the wife and one child who continued to live in Walla Walla until 1869 when she became the wife of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and they located on a farm on Touchet River. . . . The following year, however they purchased . . . . the farm which they continued to own throughout the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Flathers were born five children, as follows: Julia M., John Taylor, Emery, Charles F., and Harry J. [Julia was probably
named for Benjamin Franklin's mother, Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers, and John Taylor for both his father and his mother back in Iowa. This would indicate his appreciation and love for his parents.

Mr. Flathers was reared in the Baptist faith and although he did not hold membership in any church he contributed to the support of all denominations when called upon to do so. This is the only information available to the author as to the church John Wesley and Julia Ann D. Flathers may have attended. He was an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Masonic fraternity and the Elks. In early life Mrs. Flathers was a member of the Methodist Church of Walla Walla, with which she was connected at the time of her death which occurred April 21, 1917. She was an earnest and consistent Christian and both she and her husband were held in the highest regard by all who knew them.

According to Harriet Flathers, granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin and Malinda Flathers, six children were born to her grandparents.


3. Emery Flathers — born March 27, 1872, Prescott, and died December 29, 1949, Walla Walla, was married to Rae Dunlap December 23, 1908. The following information on Emery Flathers comes from the book, History of Walla Walla County:

Emery Flathers, who followed farming on section 31, township 10 north, range 36 east, is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Walla Walla County. From an early period in the development of the state the family has taken an active part in the work of general progress and improvement and is particularly well and favorably known in connection with the agricultural development of this section. Emery Flathers was born on the old homestead farm adjoining the town of Prescott, March 27, 1872, a son of Benjamin F. and Malinda S. (McQuowan) Flathers. The father was a native of Louisville, Kentucky (Montgomery County, Indiana) while the mother was a native of Virginia.

Upon the old homestead Emery Flathers was reared and in the schools of Prescott he pursued his education. In 1905 he entered into partnership with his brothers, John and Charles, and for five years they were associated in farming operations. In 1910, however, Emery Flathers withdrew from the firm and since that time has rented his land and lived retired. He owns two hundred acres, constituting a valuable

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1. History of Walla Walla County, Washington, W. D. Lyman, W. H. Leaver, Publisher, pp 564 and 569
property, and his rental returns to him a very gratifying income.

On December 23, 1908, Mr. Flathers was married to Miss Rae E. Dunlap, daughter of John K. Dunlap. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Flathers became the parents of two children, a son and a daughter, Howard and Frances. Mrs. Flathers departed this life July 17, 1915, and her death was deeply regretted not only by her family but by many friends.

Mr. Flathers is independent in politics, voting for the men and measures he considers of the best interest of all the people. He keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but neither seeks nor desires office. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. . . . He has likewise crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, being a member of El Katif Temple of Spokane. He is a substantial citizen, widely and favorable known by reason of his business ability, his loyalty in citizenship and his personal worth. For forty-five years he has been a resident of Walla Walla County witnessing its growth and development. He has lived to see its pioneer cabins replaced by commodious and substantial residences, it wild lands converted into productive fields, its hamlets developed into thriving cities, and as the years have gone by he has ever willingly cooperated in any plan or movement for the general good. 1

Howard Flathers — the oldest child of Emery Flathers, was born August 20, 1908, Prescott. He married Ruth Langdon, and they have five children:

David Harry Flathers — born November 5, 1944, Walla Walla
Ruth Elizabeth Flathers — born September 6, 1948, Walla Walla
Shea Marie Flathers — born August 13, 1949, Walla Walla

Frances Flathers — second child of Emery Flathers. No further information is available on whom she married or where she lives. She has two children:

Julia Rae ? — born April 25, 1947
Peter Edward ? — born April 1, 1949

4. Ivia E. Flathers — born September 12, 1873, Prescott, and died February 20, 1892, age 19 years, at Prescott.

5. Charles Franklin Flathers — born March 17, 1876, Prescott, and died March 2, 1959, Walla Walla. His niece, Harriett Flathers, states that he was married three times, but there were no children. The following account is found in the book, History of Walla Walla County.

Charles R. Flathers is a representative agriculturist of Walla Walla County, owning and cultivating six hundred and fifty-two acres of valuable land situated on section 32, township 10 north, range 36 east. It was upon this farm that he was born March 17, 1875, Harriett Flathers, his niece, says 1876, a son of Benjamin F. and Melinda (McQuown) Flathers. He was reared upon the old homestead and became a pupil in the Prescott schools, dividing his time between the duties of the school room, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued to assist his father until 1905, when he joined his brothers, John and Emery Flathers, and for five years the three brothers conducted farming interests in a partnership relation. Emery then withdrew but Charles F. and John continued their interests together until 1911. Since that time Charles F. Flathers had carried on farming interests independently and is now the owner of six hundred and fifty-two acres of valuable wheat land, which he carefully and successfully cultivates. He has become one of the most substantial agriculturists of Walla Walla County. He studies closely everything bearing upon wheat culture and the production of other crops suited to soil and climatic conditions here and his progressive methods produce splendid results. His farm with its broad fields, its substantial buildings and its modern improvements presents a most pleasing appearance and is a very attractive feature of the landscape.

On the 20th of October, 1911, Mr. Flathers was married to Miss Elizabeth Fowler, of Walla Walla, a daughter of Colonel Alexander Fowler, of Fort Scott, Kansas, who won his title by service in the Civil War and has now passed away. In politics Mr. Flathers is a democrat but not desirous to hold office. He is a member of Prescott Lodge, No. 16, T. O. O. F. At the time of her marriage Mrs. Flathers was engaged in nursing in Walla Walla. She is a lady of liberal education and culture and both Mr. and Mrs. Flathers are widely and favorably known in their section of the county, enjoying the high regard of an extensive circle of friends.

6. Harry J. Flathers — sixth child of Benjamin Franklin and Melinda Flathers, born July 14, 1893. He married Clara Berg, and they have two children.

Benjamin Berg Flathers — born June 22, 1918, is separated from his wife. He has two children — Michael Benjamin Flathers born May 30, 1948, and Daniel Flathers born April 9, 1950. In the 1966 Walla Walla Telephone Directory he was listed as Vice-President of the Walla Walla Port District. His home is in Prescott. He visited Washington, D.C. in 1968 while attending a convention and visited with Jennings H. and Elizabeth Flathers. At that time one of his sons was enrolled at the University of Virginia.

Harriett Flathers — born April 8, 1921. In receiving a divorce from her husband, Harriett reinstated her family name of Flathers. She has one son, Nathaniel Harry Flathers, born April 17, 1950. While the author was attending a convention in Portland, Oregon, in 1971, he visited with Harriett Flathers several times over the telephone. They were to have dinner together, but a disturbance in downtown Portland prevented this meeting. Harriett is employed in the business world.

1. History of Walla Walla County, op cit. pp 45 - 46
2. Information other than that found in History of Walla Walla County, furnished by Harriett Flathers, Portland, Oregon
Before concluding the information on the descendants of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, third son of John Wesley and Julia Ann D. Taylor, a point should be made of the use of well known family names — Benjamin, Franklin, Taylor, and Nathaniel.

John William Flathers, born in 1843 in Montgomery County, Indiana, was the third son of John Wesley and Julia Ann D. Flathers. On August 15, 1862, at age 19 and while living in Tama County, Iowa, he enlisted in Company F, 28th Regiment of the Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Eleven months later at Jackson, Mississippi, while in the camp hospital, he was captured by the Confederate forces. On March 22, 1876, at the age of 32, in making an application for a pension he described some of his experiences in the Civil War. He stated that he was enrolled in the Iowa Volunteer Infantry

... on the 15th day of August A. D., 1862, and was honorably discharged at Savannah, Georgia, on the 31st day of July, A. D., 1865; that his personal description is as follows: age 32 years; height five feet nine inches; complexion, light; hair auburn; eyes, gray; that while in the service aforesaid, and in the line of his duty, he received the following disability and to wit: was taken sick at Jackson, Mississippi, on 12th day of July 1863 and taken prisoner on that day while in Camp Hospital at that place and taken by Confederates from there and confined in Libby Prison. Was removed from there while sick with Chronic Diarrhea to Belle Island for 8 months and from thence taken to Andersonville Prison and confined 6 months and from there to Savannah, Georgia, and from there to Miller Prison and confined 2 months. When I was parolled, I suffered continuously with diarrhea during said time and since. I received some treatment in ward no. 2, General Hospital, Savannah, Georgia, from July 20th, A. D., 1865. That since leaving the service, this applicant has resided in the County of Tama in the State of Iowa, and his occupation has been that of a farmer ... and now he is three-fourth disabled from obtaining his subsistence from manual labor.

The application was signed J. W. Flathers and was in very good handwriting which reflected the education he had received in the rural school near his home.

The privations of at least one of the prison camps is reasonably well known. The Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume I, page 899, says that

1. John William Flathers, Pension Application Papers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
the prison • maintained in an open stockade of 26½ acres near the village of Andersonville, Georgia, and was a quagmire crowded with huts and men. Due to the intolerable conditions, 13,000 of the 49,485 prisoners admitted during the war died of hunger, exposure, and disease.

John William evidently had some difficulty in obtaining his pension for he had to get

... the testimony of his Captain showing origin of disease in service and line of duty and submit here with the best testimony which he can obtain as to treatment in service of disease which chiefly existed while he was a prisoner of war and that he deems it an unprecedented hardship that he should be expected to prove treatment for disease in service for which he was treated but one day before capture by the enemy and held at Andersonville and elsewhere as above stated.

Signature: John W. Flathers

John William Flathers died February 8, 1891, age 48, and probably as a result of hardships experienced during the Civil War. Some years later, date unknown, Nancy A. Flathers, his widow, made application for a pension based on the service of her deceased husband. A friend of John William, John E. Rockenfield, age 72 at that time, gave the following testimony in behalf of Nancy A. Flathers:

I was a comrade of John W. Flathers. We went out together and messed and bunked together until the Battle of Champion Hills, Mississippi, where I was wounded and was then sent North and was discharged October 21, 1863. I know that said Flathers was a hearty robust man when he went into the army. I remember at Helena, Arkansas, I think about two or three weeks before the Battle of Duvall's Bluff, that said Flathers was out all night on guard in a heavy rain and took a hard cold that settled in his lungs and he was short of breath and was troubled about breathing. He got medicine from Regt. Surg. Vets for his cold. We were ordered to Duvall's Bluff. The night we got there about eight inches of snow fell. The exposure caused his cold to become worse. He coughed badly nights and some nights had to sit up in bed to get his breath and wheezed and breathed with great difficulty. I had seen people with the asthma and told him I thought he had asthma. He went to Dr. Vest for treatment for his cold for a number of mornings. He got better but was troubled more or less with asthma while I was with him — until May 16, 1863.
The next time I saw Flathers was when he returned to his home a paroled prisoner of war. I was with his father and told him that was Willie, he didn't know him he was so poor and emaciated. Then said soldier said Father don't you know me and he recognized him from his voice. I know that he had asthma when he came home from the army a paroled prisoner of war. He would cough and be short of breath and wheeze and he also had Chronic Diarrhea. Said soldier did not seem able to return to his Regt. but was anxious to have an honorable discharge. I persuaded his mother to let him go so that he might be regularly discharged. After he came back home he gradually improved and gained some in flesh but he continued to have more or less trouble from year to year from asthma and Chronic Diarrhea. In a few years he began to run down and for a number of years before his death he was not able to do any manual labor. I have every reason to believe and do fully believe that said soldiers death was the result of his army disease -- Asthma and Chronic Diarrhea. 

John E. Rockenfield, like his friend John William Flathers, had good spelling, reasonably good sentence structure, and good handwriting. The rural schools of America were beginning to be effective.

John William Flathers was first married to Lucinda S. Garver, February 6, 1867. The 1880 Tama County Census lists three daughters -- Mary N. born 1868, Julia S. born 1870, and Nellie G. born 1872. John William's second marriage was to Nannie A. Moore, January 5, 1875. Since John William mentions a son, Clinton L. Flathers, in his will, a son must have been born to this couple. According to information connected with his will, John William must have died early in 1891, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery where his mother would be buried in 1893 and his father in 1896. He is not buried beside his parents, however, and Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers did not locate his grave when they visited Oak Hill Cemetery in August of 1973.

The grave should carry the marking of the G. A. R., Grand Army of the Republic.

The following quotations from the will of John William Flathers, filed February 12, 1891, should be of interest to other members of the Flathers' family:

Section II -- I give, devise and bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy A. Flathers in lieu of her dower interest in my estate our present home, viz: Lots Four and Five (4 and 5) in Block Four (4) in Parks

2. Tama County Marriage Book A, Iowa, p 78
3. Tama County Marriage Book B, Iowa, p 293
1st addition to Tama City now the incorporated town of Tama in Tama County, Iowa, together with the improvements thereon all and singular. Also all my household effects in and around our said present home except such articles, that were left me by my former wife -- now deceased -- that are understood to belong to my children by said former wife. It being directed and understood by me that the mortgage of Two hundred Dollars and interest on the aforesaid property shall be paid off and discharged in full out of the proceeds of the remainder of my estate so that our said present home in said Tama may become the property of my said wife, Nancy A. Flathers free from incumbrance including the taxes for the year 1890 not yet paid.

Section III -- I give, divide and bequeath to my beloved children Mary M. Christian, Julia S. Beem, Nellie G. Torrey, and Clinton L. Flathers, the remainder of my property whether real, personal or mixed to be divided among them and each of them share and share alike in manner and form as follows, to wit: I hereby order and direct and it is my will that all of my said property except that heretofore bequeathed to my said wife Nancy A. Flathers shall be charged with the payment of all of my debts of every kind and nature including the mortgage and taxes of 1890 on our present home bequeathed to my said wife, Nancy A. Flathers and to that end my executor, J. T. Flathers, hereinafter nominated is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to sell all of my property of every kind and character within 3 years after my decease. ...

Section IV -- I hereby nominate and appoint my brother J. T. Flathers, of Tama, Iowa, my lawful executor to administer upon my estate. ...

Signed at Tama, Iowa, this 5th day of February A. D. 1891.

John W. Flathers

This concludes the information of the third child of John Wesley and Julia Ann. D. Flathers. Their fourth child was Anna Eleanor who died at six months of age.

The fourth son and fifth child was James Taylor Flathers, born March 21, 1846, and married Lillian A. Wilson December, 1879. The family lived in Tama fourteen years where James Taylor owned and operated a butcher shop. Later, the family moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where they lived on a farm for nineteen years. James Taylor retired in 1913 and lived in Marshalltown until his death May 30, 1913. His wife, Lillian, died April 29, 1910. Six children were born to this family -- James Elmer, Mable, Ruth A., Ralph Henry, Julia E. and Merlin C.

1. Will Book No. 3, Tama County, Iowa, pp 193 - 194
2. Letter to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon from Ralph Henry Flathers, 3/18/1943
3. From Obituary of Lillian A. Flathers owned by Mrs. Merlin C. Flathers
4. Letter cited above March 18, 1943
James Elmer Flathers, the oldest child of James Taylor and Lillian A. Flathers, was born in Tama County, Iowa, April 28, 1882. In a letter dated February 11, 1943, to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon he gives a considerable amount of information about himself and his family:

316 West Windsor Road
Glendale, California
Feb. 11, 1943

Dear Mrs. Witherspoon:
I was glad to receive your letter of January 13. Have somewhat delayed in answering same as I have been very busy of late; am a railroad man and we have been having some bad storms. However, I will give you what information I can regarding our family.

I was born in Tama, Iowa, April 28, 1882, and my father was James Taylor Flathers. I have three sisters, Mrs. Mable Roberts, residing near Union, Iowa, Mrs. Charles A. Johnson, Marshalltown, Iowa, and Mrs. Julia E. Good, 603 West Linn St., Marshalltown, Iowa. Also two brothers, Ralph S. Flathers, Melbourne, Iowa, and Merlin C. Flathers, Garwin, Iowa. My father passed away in 1918, and my mother, who was Lillian Wilson before her marriage, passed away a couple of years ago. I am not perhaps so well informed regarding the family as I have been in the West since 1905, although I have made many visits back to Iowa.

My early recollections of my grandfather Flathers [John Wesley Flathers] was when they lived about 10 miles southeast of Tama, Iowa. According to my memory, there were four sons, Benjamin, who went West and resided for a number of years near Walla Walla, Washington. William, who served in the Civil War, was in poor health during the time I remember him, married Nannie Moore, as his second wife. I believe they had one son Clinton Flathers and resided when I last heard of them at Tama, Iowa. I have a faint recollection, however, that this boy died when in the twenties. [See list of John William Flathers' children] The youngest sons name was Newton and the last I heard of him and his family was they resided in Minnesota. They had some children, the only name I remember is that of a daughter named Ada. As I remember it, there were two daughters in the family, Eliza Smith who resided in Tama until her death more than ten years ago, and Mary Flathers Benn, who was still alive a few years ago when I last heard of her and she was residing then in a small town near Ames, Iowa. My Aunt Mary had four children, Luther Benn, Julia Benn Hand, Alto Benn Hand, and Ruben Benn, the youngest. The first three reside someplace in the vicinity of Chelsea, Iowa. . . .

Yours truly,
James Elmer Flathers

P.S. I have four children, James Lee Flathers, Marcus Elmer Flathers, David Flathers, and Mrs. Lillian Flathers Boyles. The first three live in Glendale and my daughter resides in Los Angeles.

James Elmer Flathers married Maude Aline Nobles, born August 2, 1885. He died September 1, 1961, and Maude Nobles Flathers on March 1, 1963.

1. Dates checked with Mark E. and David Clifford Flathers, sons of James Elmer and Maude Nobles Flathers

The second child of James Elmer and Maude Nobles Flathers was Lillian Mae born July 18, 1918. In a letter dated September 15, 1973, from her brother, David Clifford Flathers, he said, "My sister was married three times. Her first husband's name was Ralph Coons and they had one child named Anita Mae (Herrington, married name). ... The second husband was Robert Boyles. ... Her present husband is Ira Rucker, a retired policeman (Los Angeles). ... They had a son from this marriage, Jimmy Lee Rucker.

The third child of James Elmer and Maude Nobles Flathers was Marcus Elmer, who had his legal name changed to Mark E. Flathers, born October 22, 1920. When looking through the city directories throughout the United States for the name of Flathers, those of Mark E. Flathers and Terry L. Flathers were discovered in the Seattle, Washington, telephone directory. Both responded to letters of inquiry revealing that Mark Flathers is the father of Terry Lee. Terry, age 22 and the first to respond, should be commended, for it isn't often that one so young is interested in genealogy. In his letter of November 21, 1972, he stated:
Dear Jennings,

I am very intrigued by your research. I would like to be kept informed on your progress and especially when your research is completed. I will answer as many of the questions you asked as I can.

1. Name — Terry Lee Flathers, single, male
2. Born — Spokane, Washington, August 26, 1950
3. Age — 22 years
4. No children
5. Parents — Father, Mark E. Flathers from Glendale, California
   Mother — Eva D. Carey (deceased) from Hartline, Washington
   Step Mother — Jordis Hovland from Williston, North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Terry L. Flathers

In a second letter dated January 2, 1973, Terry Lee Flathers added to the above information stating that after graduating from high school he attended Shoreline Community College for 2 years. I was going to transfer to the University of Washington but instead worked ... for a while. ... Starting this year, I transferred to the University of Washington and that is where I am presently attending classes. I'm majoring in Accounting which really fascinates me. I should graduate with an Accounting Degree in 1 \(\frac{1}{2}\) years. I will then take the CPA exam in hopes of being a CPA. And then I will give a lot of thought to keeping on with my schooling and getting a Masters Degree.

Terry L. Flathers

In a letter dated December 10, 1972, Mark E. Flathers gave information regarding his family. On September 19, 1942, he married Eva DeVee Carey, and to this union were born seven children:

Terry Lee Flathers born August 26, 1950, Spokane, Washington
Judy Darlene Flathers born July 1, 1952, Moscow, Idaho
Joan Darlene Flathers born October 4, 1953, Colfax, Washington
Susan Joy Flathers born April 23, 1957, Colfax, Washington
Randy Alan Flathers born January 13, 1957, Coulee Dam, Washington
Melody Lynn Flathers born March 9, 1961, Ellensburg, Washington

After the death of his first wife, Eva DeVee Carey Flathers, Mark E. Flathers married Jordis Evelyn Hovland on August 10, 1962. To this union was born Bonnie Jean Flathers in 1966, Seattle, Washington.

In a second letter responding to an inquiry regarding the fact that he is listed in the telephone directory as Rev. Mark E. Flathers, he wrote on March 31, 1973:
I shall attempt to give you some information regarding my work in the ministry.

In 1949, I was licensed to preach with the Assemblies of God after graduating from Southern California Bible College with A.B.A. Degree in Theology. My first effort was in Troy, Idaho, where I worked and pastored for 2½ years. Then we moved to Rosalia, Washington, and pastored there for 3½ years. Following this we moved to Kittitas, Washington, and pastored there for 5½ years. Our move to Seattle, Washington, was to be a temporary one (between pastorates) but proved to be more permanent. Have been here for about 10 years. Although still ordained, I don't preach much anymore. Have been a faithful member of the Westminister Assembly for the past 8 years and teach an adult Sunday School class.

To support my family I work in the shipping room of a commercial fishing supply company.

The fourth and youngest child of James Elmer and Maude Nobles Flathers was David Clifford Flathers born June 5, 1927. At one time he was a teacher but has been in the pharmaceutical business for a number of years. He has resided in New York City but lives in San Francisco at the present time.

On September 15, 1973, he wrote to the author:

I did so enjoy your recent letter, and especially to look over the family tree and accompanying material about the Flathers Family. I had heard our name was fairly common in England. I have been over several times on European jaunts and never once came across the name. I checked the many telephone directories in London and went to a Genealogical Association there, but never found a thing. The author has seen the name Flather without the a number of times in the English Midlands, Birmingham and Manchester.

I was born June 5, 1927. I have travelled extensively, first with the Army as an Information and Education Specialist during the Korean uprising, and spent a year checking I and E centers in the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Saigon. Since then, I have made several trips to Europe, while living here in San Francisco and a two-year period from 1968 to 1970 living in New York City. I did enjoy living there very much, except for the humid summers, which I'm sure I could never learn to tolerate. I still have many good friends there, hence the short trip in November. I'm also an Opera buff (if there is such a word) and will be attending several performances of the Metropolitan Opera while there.

Since your visit with Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota, I have received a second letter from her. Both letters were very warm and friendly, and it would be nice to meet her in person sometime. However, with the New York trip this November, and a planned trip to Scotland and the Scandinavian countries next May, it may be some time before getting to the Mid-West.

1. Letter David Clifford Flathers to Elaine Flathers, August 7, 1973
This completes the information available on James Elmer Flathers, oldest child of James Taylor Flathers, and his descendants.

Maureta Flathers Witherspoon had letters from the second and third children of James Taylor Flathers -- Mable Flathers Roberts and Ruth Flathers Johnson -- in the early 1940's giving family information. This information can be found in the genealogical chart.

The fourth child -- second son -- of James Taylor and Lillian Wilson Flathers was Ralph Henry born September 23, 1886. In response to a letter written to him by Maureta Flathers Witherspoon, on March 13, 1943, he said:

I married Grace Crawford, January 29, 1913. We have one child, Robert Edward Flathers, born July 31, 1916. Grace died February 8, 1919. I married Grace's sister, Lulu, August 26, 1922. Our only child, Grace Gail Flathers, was born May 25, 1925.

Robert Edward is in the service -- enlisting in 1941. He married Ardis Beardsley, August, 1937. They have one son, Wayne Walter Flathers, born August 11, 1938. Robert has been in Africa since December and is reported missing since February 17.

Reba is attending Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls.
We received a letter from a Mr. and Mrs. Ben Flathers today. They had seen in the Des Moines Register about Robert reported missing.

Robert Edward is in the service -- enlisting in 1941. He married Ardis Beardsley, August, 1937. They have one son, Wayne Walter Flathers, born August 11, 1938. Robert has been in Africa since December and is reported missing since February 17.

Reba is attending Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls.
We received a letter from a Mr. and Mrs. Ben Flathers today. They had seen in the Des Moines Register about Robert reported missing.

In a later letter by Mrs. Lulu Flathers, then living in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Elizabeth Flathers dated March 7, 1964, she stated that Robert had been a prisoner for 22 months in a German Prison Camp but that at the present time he was living in California. In the summer of 1973 Merlin C. Flathers, brother to Ralph Henry Flathers, said that Ralph Henry had died March 3, 1965. His wife, Lulu Crawford Flathers and his daughter, Reba Gail Flathers who married George Schuck, both live in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Julia E. Flathers, born June 18, 1892, fifth child of James Taylor and Lillian Wilson Flathers, married Jake Good and lived in Marshalltown, Iowa, for many years. She graduated from Central Iowa Business College and taught in

1. Letter from David Clifford Flathers to Jennings H. Flathers, September 25, 1973
the Marshall County Schools for a number of years. Later on, she was bookkeeper for a feed company for twelve years. Her husband, Jake S. Good, operated the Good Appliance Store until 1942. He died in 1948. Julia E. Flathers Good was a member of the Congregational Church and was also a member of the Eastern Star for more than fifty years. She died at age 80 on March 6, 1973.

The youngest child of James Taylor and Lillian Wilson Flathers was Merlin C. who married Stella Powers and who resides in Marshalltown. For many years Merlin had been a farmer near Garwin, Iowa, not many miles northeast of Marshalltown. Later he moved to Marshalltown and worked at the Soldiers Home Hospital retiring in 1960. The author spent an evening with Merlin and Stella Flathers in August, 1973, and received from them much information on various members of the Flathers family. Stella, a great collector of information, had saved newspaper clippings, pictures, obituaries, and other pieces of information which she drew on liberally to supply information and to fill in missing bits needed for this Flathers genealogical history. Merlin has a picture of his father's family taken before any of the children left home which reveals as handsome a family of individuals as one would ever see anywhere.

Merlin said his father, James Taylor Flathers, was a carpenter before his marriage and was working in DeWitt, Clinton County, Iowa, when he fell and hurt his back. He met his wife, Lillian A. Wilson, a school teacher, while at DeWitt. James Taylor Flathers told his son, Merlin C., that while running a butcher shop in Tama, Iowa, he never charged more for beef steak than two pounds for 25¢. His retirement from the meat market was due to the back injury.

Merlin and Stella Powers Flathers have three children -- (1) Wilma, born December 16, 1925, who married Merrill Mitchell, June 1, 1946. They

have three children — Virgil Mitchell born February 16, 1947; Harlan Mitchell born May 12, 1948; and Clair Mitchell born March 12, 1950.

(2) Doris Marie Flathers born July 8, 1928, married Charles Hayden April 6, 1947. They have three children — Darrell Hayden born March 11, 1948; Dennis Hayden born June 14, 1950; and Lennette Hayden born April 6, 1956.

(3) Darwin Ray Flathers born March 26, 1933, and married Doris Lowrey January 1, 1952. They have three children — Ricky born March 15, 1955; Rebecca born July 9, 1956; and Buckey born September 12, 1958.

Merlin C. Flathers was in the army in World War I and served in France. This concludes the information on the six children of James Taylor and Lillian Wilson Flathers.

The sixth child and youngest son of John Wesley and Julia Ann Taylor Flathers was Isaac Newton Flathers, born February 17, 1849, and died March 27, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Lillian Grant Leonard November 2, 1881, at Perry, Iowa, Dallas County. In 1903 the family moved to Flandreau, South Dakota, a few miles northeast of Sioux Falls and near the Minnesota state line. Isaac Newton was probably named Isaac Newton for his great uncle and son of Edward, the first Flathers in America. Isaac Newton, a great fancier of good horses, often raised big horses for the brewery wagons and Arabian horses and spotted ponies for the circus. While the family was living in Southeastern South Dakota, John Wesley Flathers paid them a visit. Adah and Anna, daughters of Isaac Newton, recall their grandfather had curly hair, a boyish face, and was about 5 feet, eleven inches tall. In a letter dated February 8, 1973, Adah Flathers wrote:

My father spoke very little of his family but we do remember a visit from our grandfather. He gave each of us kids a quarter and we shall never forget that. We understand that he was a prosperous farmer near Tama City. With our knowledge of geography at that age, that was a very remote place.

1. Information gathered from conversation with Anna Flathers Millington and Adah Flathers on author's visit to their home July, 1967, Minneapolis, Minn.
In the same envelope was a letter from Anna Flathers Millington, sister of Adah. Anna said:

Our father, Isaac Newton Flathers, lived in Iowa until 1903. He moved with his family to a large farm in the Big Sioux Valley, near Egan, Moody County, South Dakota. There he lived for many years raising very large crops of small grain and was widely known for this and for the fine horses he raised. . . . After retiring, our father lived in Minneapolis, passed away on March 25, 1930, and is buried in Sunset Memorial Park in Minneapolis.

Anna also added that her father was a gentleman — quiet, dignified, soft spoken and saw that his family had the best advantages that he could provide. Both Anna and Adah spoke of their parents with respect and devotion.

Isaac Newton and Lillian Leonard Flathers had four children — Raymond Newton Flathers, Anna Mary Flathers, Ross Leonard Flathers, and Julia Adah Flathers — born in that order. For the sake of organization, the two boys will be discussed first, then followed by the two girls.

Anna and Adah have provided all the genealogical chart material as well as much of the other information for the family of Isaac Newton Flathers.

The oldest child, Raymond Newton Flathers, was born September 30, 1882, in Jefferson, Greene County, Iowa, and married Marie Collins June 18, 1920, in Billings, Montana. His sister, Anna Flathers Millington wrote, "Ray as a young man, took a trip with friends to Montana, fell in love with that state, married there and lived the remainder of his life in Great Falls and Ft. Benton." Raymond Newton Flathers died December 5, 1966. All four of the children of Raymond Newton and Marie Collins Flathers were born in Billings.

Milton Eugene Flathers, the oldest, was born July 24, 1921. He entered the United States Air Force in October, 1942, and was discharged in November, 1945. According to the information sent the author by Anna and Adah he is not married.

Leonard W. Flathers, the second son, was born June 2, 1923, and served in the United States Army during World War II from March, 1943, until November, 1945. He was wounded in Germany in April, 1945, and was sent to a hospital in England but was later transferred to a hospital in
Isaac Newton Flathers and his four children

Raymond Newton 1882 - 1966
Anna Mary and Julia Adah
Ross Leonard 1885 - 1963

Isaac Newton and Lillian Leonard Flathers
Taken about 1890
Anna Flathers Millington and Julia Adah Flathers

Milton Eugene Flathers, lives at Denver

Leonard William Flathers, lives at Havre, Montana
the State of Washington and was discharged from a post in that state.
Leonard W. Flathers lives in Havre, Montana, and has seven children,
all born in Havre:
- Sharon Ann born February 6, 1949
- Connie Lee born October 9, 1950
- Timothy Leonard born October 23, 1952
- Gary Michael and Gayle Marie (twins) born October 30, 1955
- Bruce Vincent born November 9, 1957
- Mary Lynn born November 22, 1959

Helen Julia Flathers, the third child of Raymond Newton and Marie
Collins Flathers, was born October 5, 1925. She married Tony Draviski,
and they have one child, Raymond Williams born October 8, 1951.

Shirley Dee Flathers, the fourth child, has two children — Kathy
Marie born January 9, 1953, and Debra Colleen born December 5, 1959.
No further information is available on this family.

Ross Leonard Flathers, third child and second son of Isaac Newton and
Lillian Leonard Flathers, was born September 30, 1885, also in Greene County,
Iowa. When he died March 28, 1963, the following obituary appeared in a
Spokane, Washington, newspaper and was clipped by Mrs. Floyd Flathers of
Mullan, Idaho, who sent the copy to the author:

Bonners Ferry, Idaho — Funeral services for Ross L. Flathers, 77
who died Thursday at a local hospital, will be at 2:00 P.M. today
at Hillcrest Memorial Chapel. He is survived by his wife, Ruth,
at the home; three sons, Leonard, Yakima; Ross, Worthington, Minnesota;
and James, Pierre, South Dakota; a daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Spicer, Spokane;
a step daughter, Mrs. Ray Coebel, Sioux City, South Dakota; a brother;
two sisters; 15 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and three great-
great grandchildren.

Anna Flathers Millington said that her brother, Ross Leonard Flathers,
"worked for the Milwaukee Railroad Company and in later years owned and
operated a grocery in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho." Ross Leonard Flathers and
his first wife, Alice Hyzer whom he married October 28, 1909, had two
children — James Newton Flathers born November 8, 1911, and Ross Abram
Flathers born May 10, 1913.

James Newton Flathers married Velda Mae Donaldson January 5, 1935, and
they live at Pierre, South Dakota, where both are employed by the State of

1. This and all other information related to the family of Isaac Newton
Flathers and his descendants supplied to the author by Anna Flathers
Millington and her sister, Adah Flathers, unless otherwise stated.
of South Dakota. This couple had five children:

Adah Mae born April 21, 1935, married Jack E. Klapi
Lois Marie born April 4, 1941, married Marvin L. Young September 4, 1958
James Allen born February 28, 1938, died at birth
Jean Ann born September 10, 1949, married Ronald E. Bliss July 5, 1965

Ross Abram Flathers, the second child of Ross Leonard and Alice Hyzer Flathers, married Eileen N. Breedlove in 1936, and they live in Worthington, Minnesota, where they own the Breedlove Plumbing and Heating Company. Alice Hyzer Flathers has an apartment in the home of her son and keeps busy with hobbies — leathercraft, knitting, sewing, and reading. She was 86 in February of 1973.

Ross Abram Flathers was a boxer in South Dakota when he was young and was state champion in two different weights. He maintains an interest in this sport and sponsors boxing in Worthington. He takes his young boxers to all the major meets within a radius of 200 miles of Worthington and sponsors them in the regional and other eliminating tournaments in the Upper Midwest. These boys who enter the Golden Gloves Boxing are often boys who are not eligible for school sports.

Eileen Breedlove Flathers works part time at the family business but is also very active in church work and the Eastern Star. Besides other things that I do in those organizations, I am Cheer chairman for both. I go to the hospital every day and check to see if any of our members, or anyone from out of town who is a Methodist, are new admittances. I send flowers from the appropriate groups and call on all if our pastor is out of town. I also call on all those who are from out of town to see if we can be of any help, other than spiritual. It is very interesting.

Connie Flathers, born December 3, 1937, is the oldest child of Ross Abram and Eileen Breedlove Flathers. On July 16, 1965, she married Russell Weston who is an advanced electronics instructor at Brown Institute in Minneapolis. Connie is also employed at this same institution. They have one child — Michelle Eileen Weston born May 9, 1970.

1. Letter from Connie Flathers Weston to Elizabeth Flathers, October 3, 1962
2. Letter from Eileen Breedlove Flathers to Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota, January 30, 1973
Michael Ross Flathers, born December 14, 1941, is the second child of Ross Abram and Eileen Breedlove Flathers. He married Linda Lee Snyder in 1963, and they have one child, Brett Michael Flathers, born March 15, 1964, who is an excellent student, a good swimmer, and a sports enthusiast. Michael Ross Flathers is in business with his father.

Patrick David Flathers, born November 21, 1945, is the youngest member of the family. Also in business with his father, he is not married.

Leonard Ray Flathers, the third son of Ross Leonard Flathers and one of two children by his second wife, Ruth Harriet Foreman, was born April 3, 1919, at Des Plains, Illinois. He married Constance Alene Hoffman of Worthing, Minnesota, May 16, 1943, at Brownwood, Texas, while he was serving in the armed forces and was stationed at Camp Hood. His service extended from August 14, 1942, until November 19, 1945. He was a technical sergeant in both the United States and in the European theater of operation. This family now lives in Yakima, Washington, the apple country, where Leonard Ray is a field representative for the Social Security Administration. Mrs. Floyd Flathers of Mullens, Idaho, found his picture in a Spokane, Washington, newspaper and sent it to the author of this book. Below the picture was the caption, "Social Security." The present address of Leonard Ray Flathers was furnished by June Flathers Adams, great granddaughter of Nathaniel Thomas Flathers. In a letter dated February 8, 1973, she said, "There are some Flathers listed in the telephone book in Yakima, Washington. I have never met them. . . . I'll send their names in case they are some you don't have. Leonard R. Flathers, 2211 Eleanor, Yakima, Washington, and Richard Flathers, Naches, Washington." There is no information available on Richard Flathers. Leonard Ray and Constance Hoffman had five children:

Carol Alene born June 25, 1947, married Ray B. Boyles August 24, 1968
Marilyn Ruth born November 16, 1949, married James M. Cook June 27, 1970
Margaret Jean born December 30, 1951
Barbara Ann born June 16, 1954
Elaine Kay born January 11, 1957

The second child born to Ross Leonard and Ruth Foreman Flathers was

Anita Lorayne Flathers born August 12, 1927, and married Lloyd Wayne Spicer July 19, 1952. They have two children:
Nancy Eileen Spicer born March 3, 1955
Gary Douglas Spicer born June 12, 1957

This completes the discussion of the families of the two sons of Isaac Newton and Lillian Leonard Flathers, and attention is now turned to the two daughters -- Anna Mary Flathers, born May 5, 1884, (second child) and Julia Adah Flathers born October 20, 1889, (fourth child). Anna and Adah live in a large white frame house on Grand Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they enjoy life and especially enjoy visiting with relatives. In the summer of 1967 Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers visited in their home and found them to be delightful and charming women. A picture of Anna and Adah taken at that time is a part of this chapter. They are first cousins to the author's father.

Anna Mary Flathers married Frederick Burton Millington July 1, 1922, but he died in 1947. There were no children. In a letter from Anna Flathers Millington dated February 6, 1973, she told of her work:

Anna attended teacher's college in Madison, South Dakota, and after teaching for a short while, worked as a traveling representative for the Children's Home Society of South Dakota, and later for the Children's Protective Society of Minneapolis.

Among other things, Anna worked to find foster homes for children and at times would bring children home with her until other homes could be found for them.

Julia Adah Flathers, probably named for her grandmother Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers, is one of many girls among the descendants of John Wesley
and Julia Taylor Flathers with the name Julia. This could denote the high regard the children and grandchildren had for Julia Ann D. Taylor Flathers.

Adah also attended Madison State College, Madison, South Dakota, and was a teacher for many years, part of the time at Osseo, a suburb of Minneapolis. After retiring from teaching, she became a business woman.

On March 27, 1973, she wrote:

> I was with the Northwestern School Supply Company for five years. That was some time ago. The state was dotted with schools, small, medium, and large. I went only to conventions, county and area, which were held every year at the county seat. The salesmen took the N.E. counties. I made the rest of them.

We are sending some pictures... Of course, we have hundreds of snapshots, maybe not suitable. We would be pleased if some of our mother and father could be used. The one picture of them was taken after about ten years of marriage.

And on February 8, 1973, Adah wrote:

> We admire both of you for the time and effort you are giving. We are really interested as I'm sure others must be.

> I only hope your courage and endurance will hold out. Don't weaken some morning wondering why you didn't skip "Family Tree" and take up some project less complicated...  

This completes the material available on the descendants of Isaac Newton, sixth child and youngest son of John Wesley and Julia Ann Taylor Flathers. Much appreciation must go to Anna Flathers Millington and to her sister, Adah Flathers for the work they have done. Both are now in their eighties, yet they have done a magnificent job collecting the genealogical data and other information.

The seventh and eighth children of John Wesley and Julia Ann Taylor Flathers were girls -- Julia Elizabeth Flathers, born in 1852, Linn County, Iowa, and Mary Eveline Flathers, born December 1, 1855, Tama County. Very little information is available on Julia Elizabeth except that she married a Smith. In a letter dated May 25, 1973, Adah Flathers wrote:
My parents always spoke of Julia Elizabeth as "Aunt Liza." She lived in Tama. Her husband was known to us as "Uncle Curry Smith". Their daughter, Julia, visited at our home when I was about ten years of age. I remember her as being a "most beautiful lady". There were two sons, Bert and Lou. Julia was the eldest and I believe she never married. . . . I believe Uncle Curry had a grain or food store of some sort in Tama. Julia was employed in one of the stores there.

Strange that all of this should come back to us as we read of them. [Julia Elizabeth Flathers and Mary Eveline Flathers]

Four letters are on file from Julia Hand, daughter of Mary Eveline Flathers Benn. Two of these were addressed to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon in 1943 and two to Elizabeth Flathers in 1964. Most of the information available in these letters is found elsewhere in this chapter; however, she did say that she lived about four miles from the home place of John Wesley and Julia Ann Taylor Flathers and that they were buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Tama. Julia Hand said that her mother, still living in 1943, had a family Bible. It is not known who has this Bible today. Mary Eveline Flathers married a man by the name of Benn, and they had four children: Luther Benn, Julia Benn who married a Hand, Alto Benn who also married a Hand, and Ruben Benn. Mary Eveline Flathers died in 1950.

It will be recalled that John Wesley Flathers left practically all of his property to his two daughters, Julia Elizabeth Smith and Julia Eveline Benn. J. Curry Smith was appointed executor of the estate by his father-in-law, John Wesley Flathers. The will also states that the family of Mary Eveline Flathers Benn was living on a farm owned by her father. By the time John Wesley Flathers died August 2, 1896, all of his sons had moved to other states except John William Flathers who was dead.

Jennings H. and Elizabeth Flathers spent one day in Tama County in August, 1973, and made every effort during the limited amount of time to contact Julia Hand, daughter of Mary Eveline Flathers Benn. Because there were a great many places

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1. Information taken from the four letters on file from Julia Hand, Tama, Iowa
places to visit and many people to see and interview in Iowa, time spent in
Tama County was insufficient.

A picture is available of Julia Elizabeth Flathers Smith, a most
beautiful woman.

This completes the information available on the descendants of John
Wesley Flathers, fourth child and second son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers.
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<th>Generation</th>
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<td>d. 1/11/1912</td>
<td>d. 5/13/1950</td>
<td>m. 7/5/1941</td>
<td>l. Tracy Flathers</td>
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<td>m. 10/28/1868</td>
<td>m. 2/24/1917</td>
<td>m. Leonora Tisler</td>
<td>2. Harold LeRoy</td>
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<td>m. Hester A. Clem</td>
<td>m. Beryl Ida Torry</td>
<td>m. Ola Theodora Danielson</td>
<td>Flathers</td>
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<td>b. about 1852</td>
<td>b. 1/1/1857</td>
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<td>d. 6/21/1947</td>
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2. Beryl Mae Flathers

b. 3/21/1921
m. 8/29/1949
m. Gerald C.
Beaderstadt
b. 8/15/1919
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<td>Larry W. White</td>
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<td>Waunema Marie Beaderstadt</td>
<td>4/12/1929</td>
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<td>9/12/1934</td>
<td>11/27/1957</td>
<td>William B. Hornback</td>
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<td>6/15/1973</td>
<td>Larry W. White</td>
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<td>Susan Diane Flathers</td>
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<td>12/2/1957</td>
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<td>5/7/1959</td>
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<td>Harry Leo</td>
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<td>5/6/1946</td>
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<td>8/21/1968</td>
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2. James Otis Flathers
b. 2/17/1925
m. 6/16/1947
m. Barbara Ann Richardson
b. 7/10/1927

2. Perrie Dean Flathers
b. 4/11/1949
m. 12/24/1969
m. Irvin Robinson

3. Kitti Lou Flathers
b. 7/2/1951
m. 6/1/1972
m. Donald Howard Fish

1. Jackie Sue Flathers
b. 7/10/1953
m. 12/22/1970
m. Robert LeWayne Boswell

5. Ricky Lee Flathers
b. 10/21/1956
m. 2/8/1973
m. Gloria Dunn

6. Vicki Ann Flathers
b. 10/21/1956

1. Kathleen Ann Flathers
b. 1/22/1971
m. L. W. Coursey

2. James Anthony Flathers
b. 1/22/1948
m. 1/6/1968
m. Linda Windsor
b. 9/1/1951

3. Robert Alan Flathers
b. 8/10/1951

1. Christine Renee Flathers
b. 1/29/1971

4. William Arnold Flathers
b. 8/31/1952

5. Gary Lee Flathers
b. 2/7/1954

6. Janet Marie Flathers
b. 5/19/1955
m. 10/12/1973
m. William Douglas
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<td>1. Doloris Ball</td>
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<td>3. Betty Ball</td>
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<td>4. Clem Huffacker</td>
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<td>l. Carrie Mildred Flathers</td>
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<td>b. 4/4/1939</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. George Roupp</td>
<td>m. Elizabeth Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6/21/1884</td>
<td>m. Jacqueline Collins</td>
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<td>2. Margaret Elizabeth Roupp</td>
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7. Deborah Jean Flathers  
8. John Fitzgerald Flathers  

b. 10/6/1958  
b. 12/17/1963
Willis A. Flathers, fifth child and third son of Benjamin and Anna Shakelford Flathers, was born in 1811 in Madison County, Kentucky, and moved to Montgomery County, Indiana, with other members of the family in 1825. He, like his other brothers before and after him, did the usual farm work for a young man of that period.

No information is available on when Willis married or to whom except that her first name was Ann, and she was born about 1829. It could be that when he went to the Territory of Iowa in 1842 with his brothers — Edward, Thomas Sheridan, and William Harris — he was a single man and was married either in Jackson or Clinton County. Perhaps information related to his marriage could be found in one of these counties if the author had had unlimited time for research when he visited these counties in August of 1973. It often takes three or four trips to a county courthouse for a genealogical researcher to find all the hidden information related to a family. The author did make three trips to the courthouse in Montgomery County, Indiana, and found no marriage record there, but he had the opportunity for only one trip to the courthouses in Jackson and Clinton Counties, Iowa. Sometimes, early marriage records were not recorded or were lost.

When the estate of Benjamin Franklin Flathers was settled in Montgomery County, Indiana, January 7, 1846, Willis A. was already married and was living in Jackson County, Iowa. He, his wife, and other descendants of Benjamin Franklin Flathers living in Iowa signed the indenture settling the estate in Jackson County, February 10, 1846. Willis A. could sign his name but Ann could not as evidenced by her signing with the X.

The Jackson County 1850 Census gives the following information regarding the family of Willis A. Flathers:

1. Deed Book 12, Montgomery County, Indiana, pp 172 - 174
Willis Flathers  
age 29  
farmer  
real estate $400  
born Kentucky

Ann Flathers  
age 21  

Ira  
age 3  
born Indiana

There seems to be some discrepancy in the 1850 census about (1) the age of Willis, for if he were born in 1811 as other records indicate, he must have been 39 years of age, and (2) if Ira were born in Indiana, Willis and Ann must have been on a visit to Indiana. This, of course, is possible.

Willis A. Flathers sold his land in Jackson County on February 18, 1850, and moved to Tama County, 75 to 100 miles to the southwest and nearer the center of the state. Here he acquired land warrant number 9324 for 200 acres in Section 9, Township 82, Range 14 north. The date is March 13, 1854, but he probably moved to Tama County immediately after leaving Jackson County, for the homesteaders did not receive title to their land until they had lived on the land for five years.

Willis A. Flathers died sometime around 1857 or 1858. Deed Book 10, pp 595 - 596 shows that he sold one acre of land for $5.00 to James W. Clem June 26, 1856, yet the 1860 Tama County Census reveals that Ann, the widow of Willis, had married W. T. Hiatt and living in the Hiatt household were two Flathers children:

Ira C. Flathers  
age 12  
born Indiana

Julia M. Flathers  
age 9  
born Iowa

This is where the big break came in the genealogical records and genealogical information for the descendants of Willis A. Flathers. The children came to think of William T. Hiatt as their father, and the grandchildren in later years to speak of him as "Grandfather Hiatt." Carrie Flathers Roupp, daughter of Ira C. Flathers and granddaughter of Willis A. Flathers spoke of "Grandfather Hiatt" in terms of endearment when she was interviewed by the author in her apartment in the Tallcorn Hotel, Marshalltown, Iowa, August, 1973.

1. Record of Deeds, Book I, 1847 - 1851, Jackson County, Iowa
2. Deed Book 1, Tama County, Iowa, p 80
On November 6, 1868, a disposition was made of the estate of Willis A. Flathers by selling the land he had acquired in the original land warrant in 1854. The land was sold for $2,220 and the heirs were listed as Ira Flathers, Julia Flathers, Ann Hiatt and William T. Hiatt.

Ira C. Flathers fought in the Civil War and drew a pension based on his service covering the period between May 23, 1864, and September 28, 1864. He was a member of Company K, 47th Iowa Infantry Volunteers. His personal description fits that which by now must be familiar for the men of the Flathers family — "light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, and five feet ten inches in height." He was only 17 years old.

Carrie Flathers Roupp, Ira's daughter, said that her father had not wanted to apply for a pension based on his service in the Civil War but that he was talked into doing so by a lawyer. Her grandfather had said that the country did not owe him anything. Carrie Flathers Roupp proudly possesses her father's army discharge papers and once when the fire alarm sounded in the Tallcorn Hotel where she lives, the two items she chose to carry with her from the building were her purse and her father's Civil War Discharge Papers.

Ira C. Flathers, born October 18, 1846, married Hester A. Clem on October 28, 1868, and they had five children:

Willis R. Flathers born October 15, 1872
Genno R. Flathers born January 8m 1876 (Genno is the spelling used by Ira C. Flathers in his pension application papers. He was usually called None -- with a long o.)
Goldie M. Flathers born October 8, 1877
Carrie M. Flathers born February 19, 1884
A daughter, Dollie, died in infancy (Information from Olga Flathers)

Ira C. Flathers died at Marshalltown, Iowa, January 14, 1912, and on January 18, 1912, Hester A. Clem Flathers applied for a widow's pension under the act of April 19, 1908, providing for a widow's pension. Hester

1. Deed Book 28, Tama County, Iowa. Exact page number not available.
2. Ira C. Flathers Pension Papers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. Ibid.
died in January, 1935, and is buried by her husband, Ira C. Flathers and "Grandfather Hiatt" in the Marshalltown Riverside Cemetery. She was 83 years of age.

The children of Ira C. Flathers and their descendants will be discussed in chronological order starting with Willis Richard Flathers, born October 15, 1872. He married Beryl Ida Torry, born January 1, 1867, on May 27, 1895. Willis Richard Flathers died in Kansas City, Kansas, November 19, 1946, at 74 years of age, and his wife, Beryl Torry Flathers, died the following year on June 21, 1947, at 80 years of age. Willis Richard owned a grocery store in Marshalltown for a time but moved to Kansas City in 1917. Beryl Torry Flathers had a sister who lived in Kansas City, and she wanted to be near her sister and other family members. Willis Richard worked as a cabinet maker for a casket company doing the finishing work on each casket.

Three children were born to this family — Harlie V. Flathers born June 15, 1897; Mildred E. Flathers born November 3, 1901; and Bonita Gretchen Flathers born April 5, 1905, all in Marshalltown.

Harlie V. Flathers, the oldest child, married Olga Theodore Danielson, born June 26, 1899, on February 24, 1917. He worked for the Marshalltown Trowel Company, a nationally known manufacturer, for 27 years as a machine operator. Before that, he was employed for 7 years making shears. He died of a heart attack on May 13, 1950. Four children were born to Harlie V. and Olga Danielson Flathers:

The oldest child, Wilbur Arthur Flathers, was born at Ferguson, Iowa, on January 22, 1918, and served as a sergeant in the Army Air Corps, stationed part of the time at Dyersville, Tennessee. He married Leonora Tisler, born July 21, 1922, on July 5, 1941, at Idena, Missouri. For the past 15 years he has been employed by Sears Roebuck and Company.

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1. Letter from Olga Flathers to Jennings Flathers, November 1, 1973
2. Ira C. Flathers Pension Papers, op. cit.
3. Information in letters from Mildred Ekel and Olga Flathers
4. Letter from Mildred E. Ekel, Overland Park, Kansas, to author Sept. 6, 1973
5. Letter from Olga Flathers, Albuquerque, N.M. to author, November 1, 1973
in Colorado Springs and prior to that for Bordens Dairy in Iowa.

Eleven children were born to this family:

1. Marjorie Ann Flathers born March 13, 1942
2. Harold LeRoy Flathers born April 11, 1943 — married November 15, 1964, and has five children: Tracy, Gina, Wendy Kay, Rickey, and Ronnie
3. Linda Katherine Flathers born August 24, 1946
5. Patricia Jo Flathers born August 12, 1950
6. Blanche Marie Flathers born September 13, 1951
7. Debra Lee Flathers born April 19, 1953
10. Craig Harlan Flathers born January 17, 1961

Beryl Mae Flathers, born April 21, 1921, the second child of Harlie V. and Olga Danielson Flathers, also lives in Colorado Springs.

Beryl Mae Flathers joined the navy in 1943 and was discharged in 1949. She worked in the Navy Department and later in the Department of the Interior, both in Washington, D.C. On August 29, 1949, she married Gerald C. Beaderstadt who had served in the army from 1942 to 1945. He is employed by the Western Forge Company, Colorado Springs, which manufactures Craftsman Tools sold by Sears Roebuck and Company. For a number of years while living in Colorado Springs Beryl Mae Beaderstadt has been working with pre-school education, first as an assistant in a pre-school program owned by another, but for the past several years she has owned and managed her own pre-school. The school cares for 30 children a day — ages from 2 1/2 to 6 years — and employs four staff members. The school is "approved by Board of Standards of Child Care and complies with local zoning regulations, building codes, safety from fire hazards, and approved by the Department of Public Health." In an attractive brochure the aims and goals of the school are explained to interested parents. These might be summed up in the statement, "To provide a desirable supplement to home life. To insure good learning experiences through adequate supervision by qualified teachers."

In addition to owning the Pixie Village Pre-School, Beryl Flathers Beaderstadt works for Public School District Two, Colorado Springs, a city of mushrooming growth. Beryl and Gerald Beaderstadt have three children:

1. Gary Paul Beaderstadt born March 10, 1954, finished high school in 1972, met with a bicycle accident the day before he was supposed to enter college in fall of 1972
2. Carol Ann Beaderstadt born August 7, 1955, and finished high school in 1973, is employed at dress shop and aspires to be a model
3. Sandra Kay Beaderstadt born February 18, 1960, and is going to school

1. Letter from Olga Flathers, November 1, 1973
2. Letter from Beryl Mae Flathers Beaderstadt, October 6, 1973
Without Lester G. Flathers, the third child of Harlie V. and Olga Danielson Flathers, this chapter would have ended with Ira Flathers and the information available in his Civil War Pension papers. While visiting in Marshalltown, Iowa, in August of 1973, the author found the name of Lester G. Flathers in the telephone directory. Through a visit with him, much of this chapter has been made possible.

Lester G. Flathers was born on January 28, 1929, in Marshalltown and married Waunema Marie Beaderstadt on June 10, 1951. She was born April 12, 1929, and is a sister to Gerald C. Beaderstadt, husband of Beryl Mae Flathers Beaderstadt who lives at Colorado Springs. Lester has served in the United States Air Force as a corporal and in the Aviation Engineers as a senior draftsman stationed at a number of places throughout the Caribbean. He is employed as a switchman and conductor for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The family is affiliated with the Baptist Church. Lester is very interested in the genealogical record of the Flathers family and gave the author an entree to the descendants of Willis A. Flathers. Lester and Waunema Flathers have eight children:

2. Susan Diane Flathers born January 15, 1954, a sophomore at Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina
3. Jerry Harlie Flathers born April 11, 1956, is 6 feet, 5 inches tall and plays forward on the Marshalltown High School basketball team, The Bobcats
4. Robert Orville Flathers born December 2, 1957
5. Nancy Karen Flathers born May 7, 1959
7. Donald George Flathers

Nellie Marie Flathers, born September 12, 1934.
Nellie Marie Flathers married William B. Hornback November 27, 1957. He is a native of Hodgenville, Kentucky, and has served in the United States Air Force for 18½ years. He has been stationed in Colorado Springs; Rapid City, South Dakota; Sacramento, California; and now at Albuquerque. Nellie Marie Flathers Hornback worked for the Base Exchange at Rapid City and is also employed at the Base Exchange at Albuquerque and is a department manager. The whole family attends and belongs to the Southern Baptist Church. There are two children:

1. Jody Aline Hornback born November 30, 1958 at Colorado Springs
2. Brian Scott Hornback born July 11, 1967, also at Colorado Springs

1. Information supplied by Lester G. Flathers, October 29, 1973
2. Information supplied by Nellie Marie Flathers Hornback, November 1, 1973
Harlie V. Flathers Family  February 12, 1944

Back Row, Left to Right — Wilbur Arthur, Beryl Mae, Lester George
Front Row — Harlie V. Flathers, Olga T. Flathers, Nellie Marie

Lester G. Flathers Family  March, 1972

Back Row, left to Right — Susan Diane, Waunema (Dolly) Flathers, Jerry Harlie, Nancy Karen, Lester G. Flathers, Marsha Lea
Front Row — Richard Alan, Donald George and Ronald Arthur (twins), Robert Orville
The second child of Willis Richard and Beryl Torry Flathers was Mildred E. Flathers born November 3, 1901, Marshalltown, Iowa. On November 11, 1926, she married Walter Thompson Ekel, but they were later divorced. Mildred Flathers Ekel owns the family Bible that once belonged to her parents, Willis Richard and Beryl Torry Flathers. It was from this Bible that she obtained much genealogical information on the family which she sent to the author. She wrote, "I enjoyed your letter very much and I hope to hear from you again. . . . My father said so many times that he did not know much of his father's family. He would have enjoyed meeting you and visiting with you." Mildred Ekel lives at Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, Kansas. She has two daughters:

1. Dorothy Dean Ekel born June 11, 1928, and married Vincent Lane August 3, 1957. Two children — Jamie eleven years old and Robert eight years old when book was written in 1973

The third child of Willis Richard and Beryl Torry Flathers was Bonita Gretchen Flathers born April 5, 1905, and died July 23, 1927.

This completes the information available on Willis Richard Flathers, the oldest child of Ira Flathers, son of Willis A. Flathers, grandson of Edward, first Flathers in America.

The second child was Genno (usually called None) born January 9, 1876. He lived at Marshalltown, Iowa, and was married twice, first to Celia Palmer and second to Nan Lowe. Celia Palmer, according to Mildred E. Flathers Ekel, was the mother of the only child, Harry Leo Flathers, born September 26, 1897. While Harry was in the military service, he met and married Margaret Lena French in Louisville, Kentucky. He died in 1931 as a result of injuries sustained during his service in the military. Margaret French Flathers, his widow did not remarry but still lives in Louisville, age

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1. Letter from Mildred E. Ekel, op. cit.
2. Ibid.
86 years. Their two sons are 1. Harry Leo Flathers born March 29, 1924 and 2. James Otis Flathers born February 17, 1925, both of the seventh generation Americans. Just as are their relatives Wilbur A. Flathers, Beryl Mae Flathers Beaderstadt, Lester G. Flathers, Nellie Marie Flathers Hornback, Dorothy Dean Ekel Lane, and Marlene Ekel Joyce.

Harry Leo Flathers, Jr. married Willie Jeneva LaForce on August 14, 1945, and lives in Marrero, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. They first lived in Louisville, Kentucky, for a time after their marriage where Harry Leo worked for the L and N Railroad. They then moved to Corbin, Kentucky, where he became a printer. He has followed that trade for 22 years. His wife, Willie LaForce Flathers wrote, "He doesn't like for me to say it, but he's a real good printer." He plays the guitar, and his children are also interested in music and art. The children are:

1. Tony Lynn Flathers born May 6, 1946, and married Molly Ann Southard August 21, 1968. They have two children — Christopher and Terry
2. Perrie Dean Flathers born April 14, 1949, and married Irvin Robinson on December 24, 1969
3. Kitti Lou Flathers born July 2, 1951, and married Donald Howard Fish on June 1, 1972
5. Ricky Lee Flathers born October 21, 1956, and married Gloria Dunn February 8, 1973

James Otis Flathers, the second son of Harry Leo and Margaret French Flathers, lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

James Otis entered the United States Navy February 12, 1943, when he was only seventeen years of age and remained in the navy until September, 1954. He married Barbara Ann Richardson of Brooklyn, New York, on June 16, 1948, and they returned to Louisville to live after his discharge. They are members of the Catholic Church. On September 4, 1973, James Otis wrote to the author and said, "I am employed at General Electric Appliance Park in Louisville as a millwright. I serve as a union steward and edit a newspaper for International Union of Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, Local 761. On May 31, 1973, I was appointed to the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board by the Honorable Wendell Ford, Governor of Kentucky.

Later on September 19, 1973, James Otis wrote, "All my children are musically inclined as was their Grandfather and also myself. Military service seems to run in our families. My father, Harry Leo,  

1. Letter from Mrs. Harry Flathers to Jennings H. Flathers, September 23, 1973
“Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Act”
“One of the Best” — Says Newest Board Member

Kentucky Governor Wendell Ford shows James Otis Flathers the Executive Order naming Flathers to the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board. Flathers will serve as a representative of Labor on that Board.

James Anthony Flathers
US Marines

William Arnold Flathers
US Navy

Harry Leo Flathers
1897 - 1931

James Otis and Barbara Ann Richardson Flathers
served in the army. I served in the U. S. Navy for 12 years; my son James Anthony spent two years in Vietnam as a U. S. Marine receiving the Bronze Star for heroic action, and my son William Arnold is currently serving a hitch in the U. S. Navy and is aboard the U.S.S. Blue Ridge somewhere in Southeast Asia. Needless to say, I am most proud of all my children. . . . In closing, let me express my personal and deep appreciation to you for what you are doing, I have often wondered about my ancestors."

Children born to James Otis and Barbara Richardson Flathers are:

3. Robert Alan Flathers born August 10, 1951
4. William Arnold Flathers born August 31, 1952
5. Gary Lee Flathers born February 7, 1954
7. Deborah Jean Flathers born October 6, 1958
8. John Fitzgerald Flathers born December 17, 1963

This completes the information on Genno R. Flathers and his descendants, second child of Ira C. Flathers, son of Willis A. Flathers, son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, son of Edward Flathers who was the first Flathers in America.

Goldie M. Flathers, third child of Ira C. Flathers, was born October 8, 1877, and died in the 1940s. She lived in Marshalltown, Iowa, and was married three times -- first, Frank Marshall.

By her husband, Frank Marshall, she had two children (1) Clarice Marshall born in 1896. She married a Graham and had one daughter, Marian Graham born March 7, 1918. She was married a second time -- to Elmer Hausfuss. They had one child, Doris Jean born in 1930. She is married and has three boys. (2) Sylvia Mae Marshall, born 1906 and died in 1960. She married Ed Ball and they have three children — Doloris, Robert, and Betty

Second husband was Richard Huffacker — father of four sons: Ira, James, Kenneth, and Clem. The third husband was Thomas Vangilder. There were no children.

1. All information of family of James Otis Flathers contained in the two letters dated September 4, 1973, and September 19, 1973
2. Information on Goldie M. Flathers supplied by Lester G. Flathers, Olga Flathers, and Mildred Ekel
The fourth child of Ira C. Flathers is Carrie Mildred Flathers born February 19, 1884, and married to George Roupp on September 12, 1904. The author met Carrie and George Roupp in August, 1973, in their apartment in the Tallcorn Hotel, Marshalltown, Iowa. The author and his wife were taken to their apartment by Carrie's great nephew, Lester G. Flathers. One could see a great bond of affection between Lester and his great aunt, Carrie Flathers Roupp. She spoke of her "Grandfather Hiatt" (who married her grandmother, Ann Flathers, upon the death of her grandfather, Willis A. Flathers) as a good man.

George Roupp worked for the Marshalltown Manufacturing Company and was in the Gauge Department when he retired. Carrie and George Roupp have spent most of the winters recently in Southern Texas, usually the Rio Grande Valley.

They have one child, George Frederick Roupp II born May 2, 1911, and married Elizabeth Palmer on July 21, 1937. They have two children, (1) George Frederick Roupp born April 4, 1939, and married Jacqueline Collins June 12, 1965. They have one daughter, Katherine Jean Roupp born December 22, 1969. (2) Margaret Elizabeth Roupp born March 23, 1942.

This completes the information available on Willis A. Flathers, grandson of the first Flathers in America, Edward Flathers, and the descendants of Willis A. Flathers.
# Genealogical Chart of Thomas Sheridan Flathers

Son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and Grandson of Edward Flathers, first Flathers in America

**Generation IV**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3/23/1851</td>
<td>d. 6/10/1877</td>
<td>m. Cecelia Purdy</td>
<td>b. 11/7/1891</td>
<td>m. Manie Collenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7/11/1857</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
<td>m. Mary Gregory</td>
<td>b. 5/7/1860</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2/16/1825</td>
<td>d. 6/14/1919</td>
<td>m. Thomas S.</td>
<td>b. 2/3/1881</td>
<td>d. 6/14/1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3/20/1865</td>
<td>d. 7/30/1947</td>
<td>m. William E.</td>
<td>b. 7/5/1964</td>
<td>Flathers</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7/30/1865</td>
<td>d. 7/30/1947</td>
<td>m. Rosa May Tautman</td>
<td>m. Marie J ohnanna Gohlman</td>
<td>b. 11/19/1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 4/11/1872</td>
<td>d. 7/24/1945</td>
<td>m. Marie Johnanna Gohlman</td>
<td>b. 11/9/1895</td>
<td>d. 6/7/1959</td>
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**Generation VI**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. ? 1858</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
<td>m. Mary Gregory</td>
<td>b. 5/7/1860</td>
<td>m. Manie Collenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. ? 1858</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
<td>m. Mary Gregory</td>
<td>b. 5/7/1860</td>
<td>m. Manie Collenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. ? 1858</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
<td>m. Mary Gregory</td>
<td>b. 5/7/1860</td>
<td>m. Manie Collenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. ? 1858</td>
<td>d. 12/27/1898</td>
<td>m. Mary Gregory</td>
<td>b. 5/7/1860</td>
<td>m. Manie Collenbach</td>
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**Generation VII**

- Christopher Flathers named in obituary is son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers who drowned, see pages 193-194. The Ben referred to is his brother, Benjamin Franklin, and the sister is probably Leola.

**Generation VIII**

- See obituary in column VIII

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**Sunday Nov. 1, 1964**

CHRISTOPHER FLATHERS

Funeral services for Christopher A. (Shadow) Flathers, 76, longtime Salix resident who died in a Sloan nursing home Friday after a long illness, will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Nelson-Berger Northside Funeral Home in Sioux City. The Rev. Mitchell Cotrone of the Albaton, Iowa, Methodist Church will officiate, and burial will be in the Sergeant Bluff cemetery.

Pallbearers include Jens, Dale and Rubol Iversen, Eli Moreau, Richard Harrington and Ray Douglas.

Mr. Flathers was born March 3, 1888, at Rock Branch, Iowa, Survivors are a brother, Ben of Watertown, S.D.; a sister, Mrs. Norma George of Sioux City; a half-brother, Earl Maynard of Tioga Center, N.Y.; and a half-sister, Mrs. Helen Frantz of Iowa City, Iowa.

Received too late to include at proper place in book.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Carroll Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1/19/1926</td>
<td>m. 2/19/1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Louise Margaret Jochimsen</td>
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<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Catherine Opal Flathers</td>
<td>b. 5/17/1935 d. 2/11/1962</td>
<td>m. (1) Walter Peterman m. (2) Frank Seymour</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 7/6/1926</td>
<td>m. Arlan Wayne Lass</td>
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<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Donna Marie Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1/13/1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. William Sweany</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Robert Howard Flathers</td>
<td>l. Robert Flathers</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5/19/1911 m. 5/11/1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Lynda Dodd</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>l. Kathy Erma Flathers</td>
<td>b. 8/6/1946 m. 12/23/1960</td>
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<td>m. Victor Olson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Craig William Flathers</td>
<td>b. 6/29/1951 m. 9/18/1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Kathleen Marie Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Mary Jill Flathers</td>
<td>b. 2/1/1953</td>
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<td>7. Rebecca Ann Flathers</td>
<td>b. 4/1/1954</td>
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<td>8. Cynthia Ellen Flathers</td>
<td>b. 11/6/1955</td>
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<td>1. Dean Allen Flathers</td>
<td>Twins</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2/15/1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jean Ann Flathers</td>
<td>b. 2/15/1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. 8/11/1973</td>
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<td>m. Ernie Greger</td>
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<td>3. Duane Carroll Flathers</td>
<td>b. 7/9/1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Kurt Lynn Flathers</td>
<td>b. 6/15/1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Ardith Louise Flathers</td>
<td>b. 1/17/1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. David Allan Lass</td>
<td>1. Matthew Otto Less</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10/31/1927</td>
<td>b. 7/3/1973</td>
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<td>m. Marie Mutieries</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Dennis Arlan Lass</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 10/25/1947 m. 10/9/1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Sandra Jane Doescher</td>
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3. Lena Violet Flathers  
   b. 6/9/1903  
   m. 6/18/1930  
   m. Howard Hansen  

1. Verna Mae Hansen  
   b. 10/26/1932  
   m. 6/1/1952  
   m. Duane Elmer Reese  
   b. 2/11/1934  

2. Merna Janice Hansen  
   b. 2/17/1935  
   m. 10/28/1956  
   m. Lawrence W. Pinneke

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<tr>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
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</table>
| 3. Gwen Ellen Lass  
   b. 2/22/1952  
   m. 12/29/1972  
   m. Mark Alan Entsinger  
| 1. Karen Jean Reese  
   b. 10/10/1953  
| 2. Donald Kirk Reese  
   b. 5/1/1956  
| 3. Linda Sue Reese  
   b. 3/27/1951  

1. Jim Lawrence Pinneke  
   b. 3/21/1957  

2. Michael Lee Pinneke  
   b. 7/16/1959  

3. Julie Linn Pinneke  
   b. 10/12/1961
As has been pointed out previously, Thomas Sheridan Flathers was one of the four sons of Benjamin Franklin Flathers who came to Iowa in the spring of 1842. He "squatted" on government land in what is now Section 7 of Bloomfield Township, Clinton County, not far south of Maquoketa, county seat of Jackson County. The early settlers "squatted" because there was no land office available where they could file for their property rights until 1845 when the first land office was opened in Dubuque.

Thomas Sheridan Flathers was born in Madison County, Kentucky, March 18, 1813. When he was two years old, he was caught by a rolling log and was pushed into a pile of burning coals at a sugar camp. He received severe burns on different parts of his body, especially on his left hand and arm, which resulted in the loss of his left arm at the elbow — but not until years later when he was living in Iowa. This handicap, however, did not prevent his carrying out the usual duties of the pioneer — clearing land, breaking out sod, building a log house, and other work necessary in a new land.

Bernice Hovey, in her ninth grade English essay referred to in the "Introduction to Chapters VIII through XII," said that after the Flathers families crossed the Mississippi River

...for approximately two days they continued their search for a good location in which to make their homes. They finally stopped at a point about four miles from the place which now bears the name of Maquoketa. Thomas's three brothers and brother-in-law, Joe German, traveled on and located in various spots not far distant, but he [Thomas] made his home here.

During the first summer Thomas lived in his covered wagon. His main task was preparing the soil of the prairies for crops. He did this by breaking the soil and then dragging it with a wooden harrow. He next sowed the largest portion of his soil to wheat, which he obtained at McCloy's mill. It stood on the bank of a stream which emptied into the Maquoketa River. The wheat was sowed by hand.

1. History of Jackson County, op. cit., p 59
2. Portrait and Biographical Album of Clinton County, Iowa, Chapman Brothers, 1886, pp 346 and 347
He planted a small portion of the land to Yankee corn, each ear bearing exactly eight rows of kernels. It was planted by cutting a notch into the newly broken sod and dropping about three kernels in a hill. These were generally about two feet apart. It needed no cultivation, but only trouble being to keep the deer away. This corn was raised chiefly for cornbread and mush.

When the wheat was ready for harvesting, he cut it with a cradle, bound it by hand and threshed it with a flail. As soon as it had been taken care of, he was confronted by the task of making hay. He cut this wild crop with a scythe, raked it with a two-tined fork, and then stacked it. He next picked his corn, cut the stalks and shocked them, and later, when they had been sufficiently cured, they were stacked for fodder.

After the crops had been harvested, Mr. Flathers found it necessary to build fences in order to protect his crops. He built fences of two types — the worm fence and the stake and rider fence the former being the better one because it was more compact.

The worm fence consisted of ten rails which were laid so that there would be an angle of three feet. This proved to be durable enough to withstand the onslaughts of both the wind and animals.

In constructing the stake and rider fence, the stakes were first driven into the earth about ten feet apart, and extending about a foot and a half above the ground. After this, five rails were laid on top of them, having an angle of about one foot. Then a stake was driven at either side of the angle and was about a foot higher than the fence which had been thus built. The fence then reached completion by having rails placed in the angles formed by these two stakes.

After the crops had been taken care of and the fence had been built, Thomas's next task was to build a log cabin, which would provide warmth and shelter, as the cold winter months were near at hand. He first went to the forest and selected and hewed the trees which were most appropriate for this purpose. He then hauled them to the place where he had decided to erect it. When it was completed, it contained a stone fireplace, but it had a common dirt floor. He resided in this little cabin for five years.

When Thomas Sheridan Flathers was still living on this original homestead, he married Mary Gregory, a native of Vermont, on May 2, 1850. They had one child, John Windsor Flathers, born March 23, 1851. Mary Gregory Flathers died in February, 1856, and Thomas then remarried, this time to Catherine A. Teskey, a native of Ireland who had come to the United States when sixteen years of age. They were married on October 23, 1856.

After this second marriage...

... he built a frame house and continued cultivating his farm...

For this house he cut the logs and hauled them to mill himself. It was constructed of hard-wood, and was about a story and a half high.
The frame was made of oak; the siding of basswood; shingles of oak, which were split by hand; and the floor was of maple.

He was appointed surveyor of Clinton County in 1852, which occupation he held until 1866, chaining every half-section of the land in the county. Sometime in the fifties, Thomas and his assistants -- two chainmen and a flagman -- were surveying in the Northwestern territory when he ran across a community of settlers. These surveyors were the first white men they had ever seen since they settled here. Thomas called them a Lost Nation and received the reply that they were lost. He then offered to survey the land and help them to get this claim from the government. They accepted this offer and agreed to pay him four dollars a day for his services. He also laid out a public highway for them, following the divide which separates the waters of the Wapsipinicon River from those of the Maquoketa. This route started at Smithtown, led about a mile north of Lost Nation, and passed through Welton. During this time he also laid out the first town lots of Clinton and DeWitt, and all the public highways needed at that time. He also did some work in Jackson County at the request of the trustees. 1

When still a young man at Crawfordsville, Indiana, Thomas helped construct the original buildings for Wabash College, a Presbyterian supported school, and he attended classes here for three years. This connection with the college probably accounts for his knowledge of surveying, the development of some of his leadership skills, and for his strong Presbyterian convictions.

Mr. Flathers is very pronounced in his temperance views and is a radical Prohibitionist. He was formerly an Elder in the Presbyterian Church at Maquoketa and still belongs to that denomination. In politics he is a member of the Republican Party. 3

Thomas Sheridan remained on the land on which he "squatted" when he first came to Iowa until 1854. At that time he moved to Berlin Township, Clinton County, and purchased 120 acres of land. He later acquired another 160 acres and was successful at raising both crops and cattle, his cattle mostly shorthorns. Even though he was a successful farmer, at one time during his early days in Iowa when money was very scarce, "he offered to pawn his hat and vest for six cents to redeem a letter, but was unable to do so." 4

1. Bernice Hovey, op cit.
2. Information which Howard Flathers, grandson of Thomas Flathers, gave to the author on August 9, 1973
3. Portrait and Biographical Album of Clinton County, Iowa, op. cit., p347
4. Ibid.
Thomas Sheridan Flathers, highly respected in Clinton County, served one term as County Surveyor and was elected County Supervisor and served in that capacity for two years. He held a number of minor offices in Berlin Township as well.

After he quit surveying he devoted his entire attention to farming and acquiring more territory. He broke his last piece of prairie soil in 1870, and at this time he owned three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he had cultivated. On his newly acquired land he built a new house, which was located about five miles south of the old one.

In 1886 he retired from farming and moved to Maquoketa. He passed away on October 21st, 1891 at the age of 77.

Thomas Sheridan Flathers wrote his will and had it witnessed on January 6, 1891, the year of his death. It is on file in the Jackson County Courthouse, Maquoketa, Iowa. He named his wife, Catherine A. Flathers, as the executrix of his will.

1st. [usual introductory statements]

2nd. I give to my two sons, Benjamin Franklin Flathers and William Edward Flathers to hold jointly in equal undivided shares, the following real estate, to wit: the west half (2) and the north east quarter (1) of Section one (1), except the school house lot and burying ground there in, and the north east quarter (1) of south east quarter (4) of Section two (2) all in Township 82, North, Range 2, east of the 5th P.M. the same being my home place. This devise, however, I make subject to an annual charge of seventy five dollars ($75.00) on each of the two shares in said lands; said sums to be paid to my wife Catherine A. Flathers during her natural life by each of my said sons at the end of each year from the time they take possession of said lands. Also subject to the payment to my said wife of two fifths of the expenses of the administration of this my last will, not including hereby the payment of bequest to my son John hereinafter mentioned.

3rd. I give and devise to my two sons Christopher Tesky Flathers and George Sheridan Flathers my farm known as the Wright farm in Brookfield Township, Clinton County, Iowa, of one hundred and sixty acres, to have and hold the same jointly and in equal undivided shares, subject however to an annual charge of seventy-five dollars ($75.00) on each of the two shares in said farm or lands, said sums to be paid to my wife Catherine A. Flathers during her natural life by each of my said sons at the end of each year from the time they take possession of said land. Also subject to the payment to my said wife of two fifths of the expenses of administration of this my last will not including hereby the payment of bequest to my son John hereinafter mentioned.

1. Bernice Hovey, op. cit.
4th. In lieu of dower or other distributive share in my estate, I give and devise to my beloved wife Catherine A. Flathers the residence property in Maquoketa, Iowa, on which I now make my home with all the appurtenances thereby belonging. . . . And I further give and bequeath to my said wife, subject to the charges and expenses mentioned in paragraph numbered First in this will, and subject to the bequest herein after mentioned to my son, John Windsor Flathers, all my bank accounts and all other dues and accounts belonging to me at my decease, and all the personal chattels of which I may die possessed.

5th. I give and bequeath to my son John Windsor Flathers in addition to what I have already advanced to him, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars in money, the same to be paid to him, without interest, by my said wife, at any time within one year after she shall have reduced my afore mentioned bank accounts to her possession and control.

. . . . Witnesses my hand this 6th day of January A.D. 1891.

Thos. S. Flathers

The accounting of bills paid in connection with the death of Thomas Sheridan Flathers made by Catherine A. Flathers, acting as executrix, clearly indicated some things about Thomas and about the day in which he lived and died:

* In 1892 money was very dear and services were cheap in comparison with costs of like services today.

* The cost of taxes on 320 acres of good farm land in Clinton County and on a home in Maquoketa as compared with the cost of taxes today are in sharp contrast.

* The devotion and dedication of Thomas to his church continued even after death.

The costs were:

- Glasser, undertaker, coffin and hearse: $80.00
- Jenkins and Company, teams at funeral: $9.00
- Dr. Bowen, medical services last sickness: $35.00
- Gravestone over deceased: $150.00
- Taxes deceased real estate Clinton County, 1891: $65.49
- Taxes deceased real estate Jackson County, 1891: $21.44
- C. S. Flathers care of deceased last sickness: $40.00
- Church subscription of deceased: $15.00
- Edward Flathers wood: $18.00
- John W. Flathers, legacy under will: $500.00
- Clerk letters executrixship: $10.00
- Public notice probate will: $4.00
- Attorney's fee for assisting executrix: $15.00
- Probate last will: $10.00
- Appraisers personal property: $2.00

1. On file in Jackson Courthouse in connection with will of Thomas S. Flathers
Catherine A. Flathers, wife of Thomas Sheridan Flathers, died March 30, 1920, but her will was written and filed March 6, 1912. She left her entire estate to her two sons, George S. Flathers and William E. Flathers. In the meantime, her other two sons, Christopher Tesky Flathers and Benjamin Franklin Flathers, had both died. She did not leave any of her estate to John Windsor Flathers, the son of Thomas Sheridan Flathers and his first wife, Mary Gregory Flathers.

John Windsor Flathers, the oldest child of Thomas Sheridan Flathers, was born March 23, 1851, and married Cecelia Purdy on June 10, 1877. The following is taken from the obituary of John Windsor:

John Windsor, son of Thomas Sheridan and Mary Gregory Flathers, was born near Delmar, Iowa, March 23, 1851. As a lad he went with his parents to a farm six miles northwest of Welton where he attended school and grew to young manhood. He was united in marriage to Cecelia Purdy at Maquoketa June 10, 1877, and located northwest of Welton where he lived and his family grew to manhood and womanhood.

In the spring of 1913 he moved to a farm west of Lost Nation, in which vicinity he lived until one year ago, when he moved into Lost Nation where he bought a home in which to spend the remaining years.

Mr. Flathers was the fond, happy father of four children, two sons, Sheridan and Elzie at home, and two daughters, Mrs. Rosa Willey and Lizzie who kept house for her father since her mother passed away Nov. 11, 1919. He was a good neighbor, ever ready to help anyone in need of help, a jovial friend and liked by all who knew him.

He was over to Maquoketa to visit friends on Sunday, Feb. 15, as well as usual, and on Monday morning swept the snow from the walks about the house and turned to enter the house when he sank gently down to the sidewalk and neighbors carried him into the house. He never spoke again and gradually failed until midnight when he passed peacefully away at the age of 73 years, 10 months and 23 days.

Beside the sorrowing children, four grandsons, Oliver, Charles, John Marvin and Elzie Willey, two brothers, George of Maquoketa and William of Welton, a grand-niece, Bernice Hovey, who wrote the 9th grade essay of the Flathers Pioneer Family. The information was dictated to her by John Windsor Flathers who made her home in the family since her mother's death eight years ago, also a large circle of friends mourn his departure.

Funeral services were held in the home on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 1 P.M. where a large circle of relatives and friends gathered to pay last earthly tribute to the departed... Burial was made in Lost Nation Cemetery.

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1. Newspaper clipping of Obituary of John Windsor Flathers owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota
Seated: Thomas Sheridan Flathers and Catherine Teskey Flathers
Standing left to right: John Windsor, Cristopher, Benjamin Franklin
and George S.
Middle Standing: William E.
1882

Home of Howard Flathers on farm near Delmar, Iowa. Back part built by
Thomas Sheridan Flathers, 1854
John Windsor and Cecelia Purdy Flathers had four children. The following is the information available to the author on each:

1. Sheridan Flathers — first married when he was 50 or more years of age. When he left his home community, he went to work for the Northwestern Railway and lived in Clinton, Iowa, but was later transferred to Marshalltown. He and his wife are buried at Marshalltown. There were no children.

2. Elzie Flathers — death records in the Jackson County Courthouse state that he was born November 23, 1882, and died August 27, 1952. He is buried at Lost Nation Cemetery. He is listed as having lived in Clinton County.

3. Rosa Flathers — married to Richard Willey. They had four children: Oliver Willey, Charles Willey, John Willey, and Elzie Willey. Elza and Charles are buried at Union Cemetery, four miles south of Maquoketa.

4. Elizabeth Flathers — married Carl Engles after her father's death in 1919. According to the obituary of John Windsor Flathers, Sheridan Elzie and Elizabeth were all living at home at the time of his death. Elizabeth died with the flu when expecting her first child.

As has been said previously, following the death of his first wife, Thomas Sheridan Flathers married Catherine Teskey on October 3, 1856. Five children were born to this union, all sons.

1. Christopher Teskey Flathers — was born in 1858, according to the information contained in the papers proving the last will and testament of Thomas Sheridan Flathers. He married Manie Collenbough on February 3, 1881, and the couple settled on a farm about five miles northwest of where Thomas lived. In 1883, they moved to Odebolt where Christopher died December 27, 1898. Manie Collenbough Flathers continued to live in Odebolt, earning her living by clerking in stores, until her death September 5, 1925. She was devoted to the Presbyterian Church where she was a member, and it may be assumed that Christopher also attended the Presbyterian Church as did his father before him.

2. Benjamin Franklin Flathers — the second son, was born in 1862, according to the probate of the will of his father. He married Alice

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1. Newspaper clipping of Obituary of Manie Collenbough Flathers owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota.
E. Brown, age 19, on February 3, 1887, and had three children — Christopher born in 1889, Leola born in 1890, and Frank born in 1891. When the will of Thomas Sheridan Flathers was probated in 1891, Benjamin Franklin, named for his grandfather, no doubt, was listed as being 29 years of age and living in Rock Branch, Woodbury County, Iowa. However, when Benjamin Franklin died from drowning on August 23, 1892, age 30, he was listed as living in Clinton County according to the death records in the Clinton County Courthouse. At the time of the probate of the will of Catherine A. Teskey Flathers on April 19, 1920, all three of Benjamin Franklin's children were listed — Christopher age 35, Leola age 33, and Frank age 28, but the grandmother did not leave them any inheritance. The ages listed in the will are probably wrong for Christopher and Leola for their parents were not married until 1887. Benjamin Franklin Flathers is buried in Union Cemetery with his mother and father, his grandfather Thomas Sheridan Flathers, and his great grandfather Benjamin Franklin Flathers.

3. George S. Flathers — very little information is available on George S. except that he was born March 20, 1865, and was living in Odebolt, Iowa, at the time his father's will was probated October 21, 1891. However, when his mother's will was probated April 19, 1920, he was listed as living in Maquoketa and was 55 years of age. According to the death records in the Jackson County Courthouse, George S. Flathers died July 30, 1947, age 82 years, 4 months, 10 days, occupation barber. The author has no information that he was ever married. He was buried in Pine Hill Cemetery, a plot of land given for this purpose by his father and very near the school which he attended and the home where he lived as a boy and young man.

4. William E. Flathers — born April 14, 1872, in Clinton County, the

1. Marriages Records, Book 1, Jackson County, Iowa, p 4
Howard Flathers
at the graves
of his parents
William E. and
Rosa May
Flathers

William E. Flathers
Rosa May Taubman
Flathers
Probably their
wedding picture
fifth child and son of Thomas Sheridan Flathers and the fourth of Thomas and his second wife, Catherine Teskey Flathers. He married Rosa May Taubman on January 1, 1895. She was born July 30, 1875, and was a native of Clinton County. At the time his father's will was probated October 21, 1891, William E. was 19 years of age and was living in Maquoketa with his parents, but when his mother's will was probated April 19, 1920, he was listed as living at Delmar, Iowa, probably on the farm he inherited from his father, the farm his father acquired in 1854. William E. Flathers continued to live on the farm until he moved to Welton, a small town five or six miles distance, in 1922. At that time his son, Howard Flathers, took over the farming operations. William E. Flathers died in Welton July 22, 1945. Rosa May Taubman Flathers, wife and mother, died June 7, 1959. Both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Delmar, Iowa.

William E. is the youngest son of Thomas Sheridan and Catherine Teskey Flathers except for Thomas Flathers who died in infancy.

William E. and Rosa Taubman Flathers had three children. The oldest was Joseph Howard Flathers -- born February 8, 1896, and the only son of his parents. He married Marie Johnanna Gohlman, born November 9, 1896, of Danish and German parents, on March 15, 1922. Howard and Marie Flathers live on the land originally acquired by Thomas Sheridan in 1854 and then inherited by Howard's father, William E. Flathers. On November 29, 1973, the farm will have been in the Flathers family 120 years. Part of the house occupied by Howard and Marie Flathers is the one originally built by Thomas Sheridan when he first acquired the farm in 1854. An oak tree in the front yard, probably over 200 years old, has been declared a "Historical Landmark." A similar one cut down recently showed 260 year rings of growth. Howard Flathers is on the Board of the Clinton County Historical Society.
Howard Flathers served in World War I. When he left Clinton County on a train with 225 other recruits on July 25, 1918, Merlin Flathers of Marshalltown was on the same train, but neither knew the other Flathers nor knew of the relationship. Not until they met in 1954 did they learn that they were stationed in Camp Pike, near Little Rock, Arkansas, at the same time. Howard was aboard the Empress of Britain ready to sail for Europe when the Armistice was signed. The troops were disembarked.

Howard shipped cattle to Chicago over a period of twenty or more years. As is the custom of many, perhaps most, Flathers, he looked in the telephone directory for the name of Flathers and found that of William E. Flathers, the orchestra leader and son of William Harris Flathers and Howard's second cousin, but he never contacted him.

Howard Flathers, intensely interested in the Flathers family history, knows much about the family in both Clinton and Jackson Counties. When Jennings H. and Elizabeth Flathers visited Howard and Marie Flathers in August, 1973, they were met by Howard at the Pine Hill Cemetery, some distance from his home. His grandfather, Thomas Sheridan, gave this land for the cemetery and for the Carroll School nearby. This is the rural school attended by both Howard and his father, William E., as well as the other children of Thomas Sheridan and Catherine Teskey Flathers. They were at that time about the only family of English or Irish descent in the community.

Buried at Pine Hill Cemetery

George S. Flathers (son of Thomas Sheridan Flathers)
born — May 20, 1865
died — July 30, 1947
age — 82 years

The Teskeys — parents of Catherine A. Teskey Flathers, second wife of Thomas Sheridan Flathers

Following the visit to the Pine Hill Cemetery, a trip was made to several other cemeteries in Clinton and Jackson Counties where Flathers are buried.
Golden Wedding Anniversary
Center -- Howard and Marie Flathers
Buried at Elmwood Cemetery, Delmar, Iowa, Clinton County

William E. Flathers (son of Thomas Sheridan and father of Howard Flathers)

born — April 14, 1872

died — July 22, 1945

age — 73 years

Rosa Taubman Flathers (wife of William E. Flathers)

born — July 30, 1875

died — June 7, 1959

age — 84 years

Catherine Opal Flathers Seymour (daughter of William E. and Rosa Taubman Flathers)

born — May 17, 1898

died — February 11, 1962

age — 64 years

Buried at Lost Nation Cemetery

John Windsor Flathers

born — March 23, 1851

died — January 15, 1925

age — 74 years

Cecelia Purdy Flathers (wife of John Windsor Flathers)

born —

died — November 1919

age —

Buried at Union Cemetery — 4 miles south of Maquoketa, but in Clinton County

Benjamin Franklin Flathers (father of Edward, John Wesley, Willis, William Harris, and Thomas Sheridan)

born — April 22, 1782

died — October 11, 1845

age — 62 years

Thomas Sheridan Flathers

born — March 18, 1813

died — October 24, 1891

age — 78 years

Mary Gregory Flathers (1st wife of Thomas Sheridan Flathers, buried on left side of his grave)

born — 1830

died — February 1856

age — 26 years

Catherine A. Teskey Flathers (2nd wife of Thomas Sheridan Flathers, buried on right side of his grave)

born — 1845

died — March 30, 1920

age — 75 years
Benjamin Franklin Flathers (son of Thomas Sheridan Flathers)
born -- 1865 (or 1862 according to his father's will)
died -- August 13, 1892
age -- 27 years

Elzie Willey (grandson of John Windsor Flathers and great grandson of Thomas Sheridan Flathers)
no dates available

Charles Willey (brother to Elzie Willey)
no dates available

Buried at Buckhorn Cemetery -- a few miles west of Maquoketa. This information has been used in the chapter on Edward, grandson of the first Edward.

Eliza J. Priaulx Flathers (1st wife of Adam W. Flathers, son of the second Edward)
born -- October 11, 1843
died -- September 2, 1881
age -- 41 years

The infant children belonging to Adam W. and Eliza Priaulx Flathers
Harry D. Flathers -- died August 1, 1881
Mary E. and Martha E. Flathers (twins) died April 3, 1875

Buried at Iron Hill Cemetery, East -- about 10 miles northwest of Maquoketa. This information has been used in the chapter on Edward, grandson of the first Edward.

Edward Flathers (son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers, grandson of the first Edward)
born -- February 16, 1808
died -- August 5, 1892
age -- 84 years

Mary Willson Flathers (wife of Edward Flathers)
born -- January 19, 1815
died -- June 4, 1889
age -- 74 years

Jacob M. Flathers (son of Edward and Mary Willson Flathers)
born -- March 21, 1849
died -- 1928
age -- 79 years

Nellie J. Flathers (wife of Jacob M. Flathers)
born -- 1852
died -- 1931
age -- 82 years
Howard Flathers, who was the author's guide to each of the cemeteries visited, has a family Bible which belonged to his grandfather, Thomas Sheridan Flathers, with the date plainly printed, 1811. He also possesses a Latin and arithmetic book dating back to 1838, also two papers in which the judge commissioned his grandfather, Thomas Sheridan, to survey the roads of Clinton County.

Howard was a Presbyterian, like his parents and grandparents before him, but a number of years ago joined the DeWitt Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, to be with his wife, Marie. Their son, Carroll Flathers and family, also belong to this same Lutheran Church in DeWitt.

Donald Flathers, the oldest son of Howard and Marie Gohlman Flathers, was born November 23, 1923. He served in the United States Air Force during World War II and was stationed part of the time at Tyler, Texas. He married Verna Randolph February 15, 1943, and they have eight children:

- Donna Marie Flathers, born December 13, 1946, married William Sweeny — one child, David William Sweeny
- Robert Howard Flathers, born May 19, 1947, married Lynda Dodd on June 14, 1969 — one child, Robert Flathers
- Kathy Erma Flathers, born August 6, 1948, married Victor Olson on December 23, 1970 — one child, Katharine Olson
- Craig William Flathers, born June 29, 1951, married Kathleen Marie Kruger on September 18, 1970 — one child, Angela Renee Flathers
- Mary Jill Flathers born February 1, 1953
- Rebecca Ann Flathers born April 1, 1954
- Cynthia Ellen Flathers born November 6, 1955

The second marriage of Donald Flathers was to Evelyn Fae Emmert on September 14, 1973.

The second son of Howard and Marie Gohlman Flathers is Carroll Flathers, born January 19, 1926, and was married to Louise Jochimsen on February 19, 1950. They live on a farm very near Howard and Marie, and Carroll farms the land owned by his parents. They have five children:

Duane Carroll Flathers born July 9, 1954.
Ardith Louise Flathers born January 17, 1966.

Catherine Opal Flathers, the second child of William E. and Rosa Taubman Flathers was born May 17, 1898. She married Walter Peterman, and they had one child, Betty Jean Peterman. Her second marriage was to Frank Seymour.

She died February 14, 1962. Betty Jean Peterman, born October 31, 1927, married Arlan Wayne Lass September 2, 1945. They have six children:


Lena Violet Flathers, born June 9, 1902, is the youngest child of William E. and Rosa Taubman Flathers. She married Howard M. Hansen June 18, 1930, and they have two children:

Verna Mae Hansen, born October 28, 1932, at Clear Lake, Iowa, married Duane Elmer Reese June 1, 1952. He was born February 11, 1934, at Forest City, Iowa. They have three children — Karen Jean Reese born October 10, 1953; Donald Kirk Reese born May 1, 1956, and Linda Sue Reese born March 27, 1961, all three at Forest City.


The author believes that Howard and Lena Flathers Hansen also live at Garner, Iowa.

All of the information on Thomas Sheridan Flathers and his descendants, except where indicated in the text or by footnote, has been supplied to the author by Howard and Marie Gohlman Flathers of Delmar, Iowa, he a grandson of Thomas Sheridan Flathers.
## Genealogical Chart of William Harris Flathers

Son of Benjamin Franklin Flathers and Grandson of Edward Flathers, first Flathers in America

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Generation IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Benjamin Ellis Flathers</td>
<td>Ela Otis Flathers</td>
<td>Alwyn Flathers</td>
<td>Verna Jean Flathers</td>
<td>Harold Steele Bradshaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6/15/1845</td>
<td>d. 1/9/1905</td>
<td>m. Mary Isabelle Hazeltine</td>
<td>b. 11/19/1870</td>
<td>m. ? Healey</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. 8/23/1915</td>
<td>m. Ruth McBride</td>
<td>b. 12/10/1900</td>
<td>(1) Ida Cleora Davis</td>
<td>b. 7/13/1930</td>
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<td>m. 1/6/1870</td>
<td>b. 1/23/1858</td>
<td>d. 11/17/1972</td>
<td>m. 1/30/1947</td>
<td>m. 6/20/1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. 9/27/1923</td>
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<td>m. 12/24/1928</td>
<td>(1) Ben Austin Bradshaw</td>
<td>(2) Anthony Peter Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Doris Hanksins</td>
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<td>Melo</td>
<td>Randy Labe Melo</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. 3/13/1970</td>
<td>m. Judy Mae Travis</td>
<td>m. 3/13/1970</td>
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<td>m. 12/24/1970</td>
<td>b. 9/30/1949</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. William Allen Hinkle</td>
<td>m. William Allen Hinkle</td>
<td>m. William Allen Hinkle</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. 3/13/1970</td>
<td>m. 3/13/1970</td>
<td>m. 3/13/1970</td>
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<td>IV</td>
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<td>VII</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Lucy Helen Flathers</td>
<td>b. 9/15/1872 died in infancy</td>
<td>4. Otessa Flathers</td>
<td>m. (1) (2) ? (3) Julius Vanden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eva Flathers</td>
<td>b. 11/1873 died in infancy</td>
<td>1. Ethel McPherson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 11/26/1894</td>
<td>3. George McPherson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Charles P. McPherson</td>
<td>4. Ruby McPherson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 1873 d. 11/11/1946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Robert Ellery Flathers</td>
<td>b. 8/13/1877 d. 5/1967</td>
<td>1. Robert Flathers</td>
<td>m. 6/29/1904</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Nancy Wilford</td>
<td>2. Charles Edward Flathers</td>
<td>1. Audie Flathers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 5/1/1907</td>
<td>2. Edward Flathers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 11/1929</td>
<td>3. Evelyn Flathers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Lilly Evelyn Scott</td>
<td>4. Dorcas Flathers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Benjamin Wilford Flathers</td>
<td>5. Meryl Flathers</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 11/12/1908 m. 1933</td>
<td>6. Beryl Flathers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Anna Thompson</td>
<td>7. Meryl Twins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Cora Ruth Flathers</td>
<td>8. Beryl Flathers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 12/12/1912</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. 11/12/1935</td>
<td>1. Dortha Janetta Sweet</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m. Harry Sweet</td>
<td>b. 2/21/1936</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 11/31/1904</td>
<td>2. Edward Harry Sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 12/20/1937</td>
<td>b. 12/24/1938</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Ross Ellery Sweet</td>
<td>1. Roy Wayne Sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 3/28/1943</td>
<td>b. 12/24/1943</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Clarence Wilford Sweet</td>
<td>6. Wesley John Sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 2/10/1945</td>
<td>b. 6/12/1940</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Samuel Glenn Sweet</td>
<td>7. Samuel Glenn Sweet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 5/30/1946</td>
<td>b. 5/30/1946</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>VI</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mary Flathers</td>
<td>died in infancy</td>
<td>1. Patricia Glenn Flathers</td>
<td>b. 3/24/1929</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Charles Espy Flathers</td>
<td>b. 5/27/1865</td>
<td>m. 10/12/1950</td>
<td>m. Forrest Giannonotti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 6/26/1970</td>
<td></td>
<td>b. 11/3/1953</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Glenn E. Flathers</td>
<td>not married</td>
<td>2. Reathel Clair Giannonotti</td>
<td>m. 11/3/1953</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 6/26/1970</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Patricia Glenn Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3/24/1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. 10/12/1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Forrest Giannonotti</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11/3/1953</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11. Jessie Edith Flathers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7/21/1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>m. 1917</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. A. J. Archer</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Victoria Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3/1850</td>
<td>m. 1878</td>
<td>m. Mark Lamb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 10/1915</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Frances Helan Flathers</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1/1847</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d. 11/1859</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. George Fares Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6/13/1854</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d. 11/1855</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Mary Melissa Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6/19/1863</td>
<td>m. 1878</td>
<td>m. George Baldwin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 1915</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Lavinia Martha Flathers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6/12/1857</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. 4/1881</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Peter M. O'Flaherty</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Julia Ann Flathers  
   b. 10/10/59 d. 1/1864

8. Emma Flathers  
   b. 12/1852 d. 2/1864

9. William Edward Flathers  
   m. Jennie Griffin  
   b. 5/21/1887 d. 1911

10. Eliza Olga Flathers  
    b. 5/21/1873  
    d. about 1940  
    m. Robert Trumbull
Chapter XII—EDWARD'S GRANDSON, WILLIAM HARRIS FLATHERS

William Harris Flathers, youngest son of Benjamin Franklin and Anna Shakelford, was born June 11, 1815, in Madison County, Kentucky, and like the rest of the family, moved to Montgomery County, Indiana, in 1825. After growing up on the farm near Crawfordsville, along with his brothers; Edward, Willis A., and Thomas Sheridan; he moved to Iowa in 1842 when the state was still a territory and settled in what is now Jackson County. Marriage records in Hendricks County, Indiana, show that he married Sarah Ann Ellis on February 9, 1843, so he must have returned to Indiana for his bride. Sarah was born in Kentucky on February 13, 1827.

The 1850 Jackson County, Iowa, Census gives the following information for William Harris:

William Flathers age 34 farmer born Kentucky
Sarah Flathers 22 Kentucky
Benjamin Flathers 5 son Iowa
Frances Flathers 3 daughter Iowa
Victoria 6 mo. daughter Iowa 3

The Deed Books in the Jackson County Courthouse indicate that William Harris had at least four land transactions in that county before moving to Tama County, probably around 1852, not too long after his brother, John Wesley, moved to that county from Indiana. According to the Deed Books in Tama County, he bought and sold only one piece of land during his eight or ten years of tenure in that county. The 1860 Census of Tama County, Iowa, gives the following information.

William Flathers age 44 farmer born Kentucky Real estate $1,000
Sarah Ann Flathers 33 Personal Property $204

1. Index to Marriage Records, Hendricks County, Indiana 1823-1920, Vol. I
3. Jackson County, Iowa, 1850 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
The following account is given in an early history of Keokuk County, Iowa, which shows that William Harris Flathers and family moved to that county soon after the United States 1860 Census was taken:

William Harris Flathers, proprietor of Valley House, What Cheer, Iowa, was born June 15th, 1814; family records say 1815, Kentucky being his native state. In 1824 he moved with his family to Montgomery County, Indiana. There he was raised on a farm and attended the common school; in 1842 he came to Iowa, locating in Jackson County, remaining there until 1854. In 1860 he came to Keokuk County; he married Sarah A. Ellis, a native of Kentucky and they have 6 children: Benjamin Ellis, Victoria, (now Mrs. Lamb), Melissa, Lavinia (Mrs. Bigelow), William and Olga.

Mr. Flathers has been keeping the hotel, which is the largest in the town, for 12 years. His business has increased from time to time so that he has been obliged to enlarge this house.

In 1880 Keokuk County, Iowa, Census gives the following information for the family of William Harris Flathers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Harris Flathers</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Flathers (wife)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Melissa Flathers</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Edward Flathers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olga</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavinia Flathers Bigelow</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Iowa (married daughter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Flathers Lamb</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Iowa (married daughter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Lamb</td>
<td>8 mo.</td>
<td>Iowa (grandson)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information is not available on when William Harris and Sarah Ann Flathers left Keokuk County, but their grandson, Hal O'Flaherty, son of their daughter, Lavinia, and one of the editors of the Chicago Daily News, wrote a letter dated June 23, 1948, to Myrta Flathers in which he said:

1. Tama County, Iowa, 1860 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. History of Keokuk County, no author or publisher given, book in DAR Library, Washington, D.C., p 727
3. Keokuk County, Iowa, 1880 Census, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
I visited What Cheer, Iowa, about two months ago. Nearly every trace of the Flathers family has disappeared but old residents remember my mother and her parents very well. I talked with a Mr. Bedford who went to school with my mother. The homes in which my grandparents lived were torn down long ago. Both Grandfather Flathers and my grandmother are buried here in Chicago. Their graves are well kept. My mother and father are buried at Des Moines where they died. /Hal O'Flaherty joined the Sons of the American Revolution, SAR, on the Revolutionary War Record of Edward Flathers.🌟

The following information on the children of William Harris Flathers is based on the genealogical information furnished by Doris Hankins Flathers of Mullan, Idaho, and Mildred Flathers of Franklin Nebraska:

Benjamin Ellis Flathers — born June 16, 1845, in Iowa and died August 23, 1915, in Sturgis, South Dakota. Information in more detail will be developed further along in the chapter.

Victoria Flathers — born March, 1850, and died September, 1915. She married Mark Lamb in 1878. He was the son of Wilkie Collins Lamb and was born in England. They had one child, Wilkie Jr.

Francis Helen Flathers — born January, 1847, and died September, 1859, age twelve years.

George Pares Flathers — born June 13, 1854, and died November, 1855, age, 1 ½ years.

Mary Mellissa Flathers — born August, 1854, and died in South Dakota in 1915. She married George Baldwin, January, 1882. Four children were born to this family: Frank, Addie, Olga, and Dot. There is obviously some discrepancy in the dates of birth for either George Pares or Mary Mellissa. Both could not have been born on the dates listed.

Lavinia Martha Flathers — born June 12, 1857, and died about 1916. More on Lavinia's family further along in chapter.

Julia Ann Flathers — born October, 1859, and died January, 1861, age two years and four months.

Emma Flathers — born December, 1862, and died March, 1864, age one year and four months.

William Edward Flathers — born May 21, 1867, and died about 1939 or 1940. More information available further along in chapter.

Eliza Olga Flathers — born May 21, 1873, but date of death not available. She married R. J. Trumbell October, 1893, and they had two sons. The family resided at 5736 Lerington Avenue, Hollywood, California. She also joined the DAR on the Revolutionary War record of Edward Flathers.
Of the ten children, only six lived to maturity. Of these six, four were girls, but it is not the purpose of this Flathers Genealogical History to trace the families of the Flathers women. The family of Benjamin Ellis Flathers will be discussed in some detail, and if available, some information will be given about each of the other children. The descendants of Edward Flathers, his son, Benjamin Franklin Flathers, and his son, William Harris Flathers; and the Flathers name can be traced through Benjamin Ellis Flathers and his children. The other son, William Edward Flathers, had only one child, a daughter named Doy.

Benjamin Ellis Flathers married Ruth McBride January 6, 1870. She was born in Iowa April 22, 1848, and was the daughter of Andrew and Ruth McBride. She died September 27, 1923. Benjamin Ellis was born June 16, 1845, in Jackson County, Iowa, but lived most of his life in South Dakota. A search of the Civil War records in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., failed to produce any military record for William Ellis Flathers. Those interested in further search in this area might try the Iowa State Archives.

After their marriage, Benjamin Ellis and Ruth McBride Flathers lived in What Cheer, Iowa, where Benjamin Ellis did carpentry work. He was a cabinet maker by trade and he also owned a furniture store and undertaking store. This was sometime during the 1880's. What Cheer was a small mining town. The miners went on strike, and this broke up the business because of unpaid bills. There were around $5,000 unpaid bills on the books. He was forced to sign away all of his dwellings and his equity in the store building. If he had not been forced to sign off his equity, he could have more than paid off the indebtedness against the business.

Benjamin Ellis then came to South Dakota, in 1886 it is believed, and he nearly had a cabin completed before the family arrived. He had located on a pre-emption claim about three miles south and one west of the present town of Piedmont. Then the rest of the family came — Grandmother, oldest daughter, and four sons: Ellery, Ben, Wilbur (my father), and Charlie. The oldest boy, Otis, had already been here. They hauled their goods by oxen team from Iowa to their new home near Piedmont.

1. Letter from Wilma Papka to Jennings H. Flathers, April 10, 1973
They lived on the pre-emption claim long enough to get the title to the land. Glenn Flathers was born about this time. In a few years they moved to the mouth of State Barn Canyon where the stage stockade was just beside the house. This is where a daughter, Jessie Flathers, was born July 2, 1891.

Grandfather was elected assessor of Meade County, the largest county in the state, in the latter part of the 1890's. Each term was for a period of two years. Grandfather traveled by horse or horse and buggy. At one time he had five deputies, three of them his sons — Wilbur, Ellery, and Ben.

Just before the World Fair in San Francisco, California, in 1892, Grandfather and a few others went to the fair. The men worked at different jobs while at the fair. Grandfather came home in the fall of 1893. He traveled home by a light wagon and horses, the horses the tallest ever seen. They had been on exhibition at the fair.

In later years the family moved again to Stage Barn Canyon Creek and filed on a homestead near where the creek empties into Elk Creek.

In 1909, grandfather sold his homestead and other land and bought the Matt Ward Ranch on the east prong of Ash Coudie Creek in Harding County. He bought all the stock of the Matt Ward Ranch which consisted of 8 head of steers and 70 head of horses. He later leased the ranch and sold the livestock.

The family moved to Jump Off Country in Harding County. . . . and then moved to Camp Crook in 1910. In 1913 or 1914, they moved to Sturgis, South Dakota, and lived there until Grandfather's death August 23, 1915. They were members of the Baptist Church, but my grandmother was raised as a Quaker. Grandfather was a Mason for over 50 years and also belonged to the Odd Fellows Organization. Grandmother was a Rebecca.

My grandfather never used outraged language and never said a bad thing about a person. He said if you can't find good points or say something good, keep quiet. . . .

My grandmother had a stroke and lay in bed for 6 months not able to move or talk. 1

In writing to Mrs. Maureta Flathers Witherspoon in 1943, Jessie Edith Flathers, daughter of Benjamin Ellis Flathers and his eleventh child, gave the following information regarding her father's family:

Ela Otis Flathers — born in Iowa, November 19, 1870, and died in South Dakota in 1905. He married Molly /Mary Isabelle/ Hazeltine. They had four children — Alwyn, Ruth, Floyd, and Otessa. More information on this family further along in the chapter.

Lucy Helen Flathers — born September, 1872, and died October, 1872, in Iowa.

Eva Flathers — born in Iowa, November, 1873, and died April, 1874.

Clara May Flathers — born in Iowa, July 17, 1875, and died in Nebraska, February, 1940. She married Charles McPherson and had four children — Ethel, Edward, George, and Ruby.

Robert Ellery Flathers — born in Iowa, August 13, 1877. He married Nancy Wilford in Canada and still lives there. Eight children were born to them: Robert, Benjamin, Cora, Pearl, May, Abner, and John. More information will follow on Robert Ellery Flathers in letters from Wilma Papka and Doris Hankins Flathers.

Benjamin Emil Flathers — born in Iowa, October 6, 1879, and died in South Dakota, April 13, 1928. He was not married.

Wilbur Clements Flathers — born in Iowa, August 26, 1881. He married Carrie Boylan, and they had two children — Wilma and Harry. (A later letter from Wilma Flathers Papka stated that Wilbur Flathers died March 13, 1946) More information on Wilbur Clements Flathers will follow.

Mary Flathers — born dead, July 17, 1883.

Charles Espy Flathers — born in Iowa, May 27, 1885. He was not married. (Doris Hankins Flathers of Mullan, Idaho, in a letter dated March 2, 1973, gave additional information on Charles Espy Flathers. He died June 26, 1970. He spent most of his life in Keystone, South Dakota, and worked on the faces of Mt. Rushmore for a period of time. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Keystone which is located at the foot of Mt. Rushmore.)

Glenn E. Flathers — born in South Dakota, September 6, 1888. He was married to Jessie Burgdof and had one daughter, Patricia Glenn. More information on Glenn E. Flathers will follow.

Jessie Edith Flathers — born July 21, 1890, in South Dakota. She married A. J. Archer in 1917, and they have two sons — Douglas and Victor.

Very little information is available on Ela Otis Flathers, the oldest child of Benjamin Ellis Flathers except that he had four children — Alwyn, Ruth, Floyd, and Otessa. Ruth, the second child, ran a beauty shop in Washington D.C. The shop was called Suzanne's, and Ruth had taken the name of Suzanne but her last name is Healey. The author made an effort to contact her, but the shop had had been closed. No information is available on Alwyn or Otessa, but a great deal of information is available on Floyd

1. Letter from Doris Hankins Flathers to Jennings H. Flathers March 2, 1973
through his wife, Doris Hankins Flathers. Floyd was born in Hayward, Pennington County, South Dakota, December 10, 1900, and died November 17, 1972. In a letter dated March 2, 1973, his wife sent the following family information to Jennings H. Flathers:

He lived in Hayward, South Dakota, with his parents. His father, Ela Otis Flathers, worked for the railroad and did some panning of gold. In 1905 Ela Otis Flathers was killed when a carload of logs fell on him. Olga was born. . . . after he was killed. She was named after him.

The 30th of May, 1906, Floyd’s mother, Mary Elizabeth Hazeltine, married again to Cyrus Barnett Johnson. . . . After Floyd’s mother remarried, they moved to a farm that Cyrus Johnson owned 13 miles east of Sturgis, South Dakota.

Floyd started and finished his schooling near there in a little country school.

He stayed on the farm and worked until he was 24 years old when he went to Keystone, S.D., where he worked for his Uncle Paul Hazeltine for some time. He worked on the faces on Mt. Rushmore and later worked 11 years in a Felspar mill in Keystone.

In 1944, he and his family moved to Wallace, Idaho. He went to work at the Star mine in Burke, Idaho, (Hecla Mining Company) as a miner and later as a timberman.

In 1948, we bought our home here in Mullan, Idaho, where we now live. Floyd worked at the Star Mine until December, 1965, when he retired. After retirement, he did some carpenter work for people, was a very good carpenter and mechanic.

17th of November 1972, he passed away, buried 22nd November at Mountain View Cemetery, Mullan, Idaho. He had been sick for the past 3 years. He was a wonderful husband and father. They just don’t come any better.

You have all the rest on Floyd’s first marriage and our marriage and family on your sheet.

Mrs. Floyd Flathers

Floyd Flathers was first married to Ida Cleora Davis, December 24, 1928, at Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota. They had one child,

Verna Jean Flathers, born July 13, 1930, at Rapid City. She married Ben Austin Bradshaw January 30, 1947, and they have five children — Harold Steele, Bruce Lee, Donna Leora, Diana Lynn, and Dale. By a second marriage to Anthony Peter Paul Melo, she has two more children — Randy and Angelo Anthony.

1. Letter from Doris Hankins Flathers to Jennings H. Flathers, March 2, 1973
The second marriage of Floyd Flathers was to Doris Hankins, October 1, 1941, at Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming. They have six children:

James Edward Flathers — born July 16, 1942, at Rapid City, South Dakota. He served in the United States Navy and on April 15, 1972, was married to Susan Korakis whose first husband was killed fighting in Vietnam.

Robert Ray Flathers — born April 12, 1944, at Rapid City, S.D., and on December 12, 1963, was married to Judy Mae Travis. They live in Wallace, Shoshone County, Idaho, and have three children — Lynette Suzanne Flathers, Brenda Jo Flathers, and Robert Ray Flathers II.

Donald Arthur Flathers — born June 6, 1946, at Wallace, Idaho, and served in the United States Army. When stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, he spent a weekend with Jennings and Elizabeth Flathers. They found him to be an outstanding young man. At the time this book is being written in 1973, he is enrolled at the University of Idaho and is maintaining a straight A average. His mother said that he is very interested in the Flathers family history, an unusual trait for one of his age.


Richard Alan Flathers — born January 27, 1955, at Wallace, Idaho. I writing to Elizabeth Flathers on September 21, 1969, Doris Hankins Flathers said,

I finally have the information you need on our family. I hope you can figure it out without any trouble. I think you can.

I have a sheet on Newton Nathaniel Flathers, born 4 April, 1875, married to Rose Jennings. Children — Errol Flathers, Jennings Flathers, and Ada Flathers. This is all I have on any of these. I would really appreciate it if you would fill me in on all you can. I am enclosing some blank sheets.

If I can get any more on the Flathers line will sure send it to you. There is a Flathers in Spokane, Washington, I am going to contact one of these days. I found the Flathers name seems to be very uncommon. Any Flathers I have located so far we have been related to. The Flathers in Spokane, Washington, is accounted for in the line of Isaac Newton Flathers, son of John Wesley, son of Benjamin Franklin, son of the first Edward.

1. All genealogical information on the family of Floyd Flathers furnished by his wife, Doris Hankins Flathers, at various times in letters to Jennings H. and Elizabeth Flathers
Doris and Floyd Flathers and grandson
William Allen Hinkle
April 1972

Floyd Flathers
Picture taken in 1942

Wilma Papka, Clayton Hildreth, Vernetta Papks Hildreth, Vernon Papka
Wedding of Vernetta Papka and Vernon Hildreth
August 1963
As has been said previously, Robert Ellery Flathers, second son and fifth child of Benjamin Ellis Flathers moved to Canada. In a letter written to Myrta Flathers of Rochester, Minnesota, by Wilma Flathers Papka from Buffalo, South Dakota, on January 18, 1948, she said that her Uncle Ellery Flathers from Canada had been visiting. He had four sons who were in World War II, and two saw action overseas. In a letter dated March 2, 1973, Doris Hankins Flathers added that she hadn't heard from Robert Ellery Flathers for several years. Wilma Papka wrote that Robert Ellery died May, 1967.

In the January 18, 1948, letter to Myrta Flathers, Wilma Flathers Papka gave more information on other children of Benjamin Ellis Flathers:

> Maybe you didn't know it but my Dad [Wilbur Clements Flathers] died three years this 13th of March. He had heart trouble and asthma and died suddenly while hauling hay. Mother was with him. He would have been 65 in August. He loved music and had an orchestra. He also was leader of a band here at [the] time of his death...

> Mrs. Charles (Clara) McPherson [Fourth child of Robert Ellery Flathers] died two years before Dad and Charles [her husband] died two years ago. There living in Woodlake, Nebraska...

> Uncle Ben [Benjamin Emil Flathers] has been dead for years.

> Uncle Charles [Charles Espy Flathers] is at Keystone, South Dakota.

> Uncle Glenn is at Camp Crook. That is 26 or 28 miles west of Buffalo. He is in the forestry and has two more years and has to retire...

> Otis [Ela Otis Flathers] is dead also. Aunt Jessie [Jessie Edith Flathers Archer] lives at 325 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, California

> Uncle Ellery always wore a mustache and he got in an accident while at [Camp] Crook and had to have stitches taken and mustache shaved off. It took 17 years to grow it...

> My mother's name was Carrie Boylan. Glenn's [wife's name] was Jessie Burdouff. Uncle Ellery wife's name was Nancy Wilford. They live at Lindale, Canada.

> With love, your distant Cousin,

Wilma Flathers Papka

Credit for most of the present day information on the descendants of William Harris Flathers must go to Doris Hankins Flathers and Wilma Flathers Papka. On April 10, 1973, Wilma Papka wrote that her father, Wilbur Clements Flathers, seventh child of Benjamin Ellis and Ruth McBride Flathers, married

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1. Wilma Flathers Papka letter to Jennings H. Flathers, April 10, 1973
Carrie Boylan on September 2, 1902. She also said that her parents

... lived in the Black Hills and then in 1905 moved to Harding, S. D. and did ranching until 1918. They then moved to Buffalo, S. D., because of better schooling for their son, Harry. Wilbur was sheriff for two terms but had also served as deputy sheriff. He carried mail on the Buffalo-Harding-Camp Crook route, operated a dairy, was director of school band at time of his death. He also had a dance orchestra. While here in Buffalo, Carrie (Mom) took in school children and roomers. They owned a very large, 2 story, 5 bedroom home. Mom had roomers all of her life until she fell in July 1965. ... She passed away Sept. 23, 1966.

Three children were born to Wilbur and Carrie. The first boy died as an infant. Harry was born Feb. 2, 1910. He married Irene Dunn April 12, 1931. To them 2 girls were born -- Venita Kay June 5, 1932, and Linda Jean Sept. 13, 1941. Harry and family moved to Vermillion, S. D., in 1947 and then in a year or two moved to Milbank, S. D. Harry got into the International Co. and later was dealer for Pontiac cars. He kept the International Co. until he sold that and went to John Deere. In 1972 he sold that and now just has Pontiac cars. He had to sell on account of his health. His wife, Irene, passed away August 1968, and Harry remarried in 1969. ... See genealogical chart for more information on children of Harry Flathers.

I, Wilma Papka, was born May 19, 1920, at Buffalo, S. D. I went all twelve years to school here and helped the folks with the dairy. I played in Dad's orchestra. On May 19, 1941, I married Vernon Papka, born Dec. 29, 1911, and raised in Harding County. We lived on a ranch near Ludlow, S. D. and then moved to Buffalo where we have lived since. Vern has some cattle and does carpenter work. To us, two girls were born, Vernetta Kay... who lives in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Clay [her husband] is assistant manager in a Winn Dixie Store. Cora Jane was born July 4, 1952, at Bowman, N. D. She got into 4-H Club work at age 10 and loved being in rodeos. She won several trophies and got to be Harding County Labor Day Queen in September, 1969. ... In August [1972] she and her Dad bought the Western Chef Cafe in Buffalo. Now she and her husband, Gary, own it. See chart for more information.

Several references have been made to Glenn Flathers, tenth child of Benjamin Ellis Flathers, who was a forest ranger and resided in Camp Crook, South Dakota. Glenn was born September 6, 1888, and died September 25, 1958. On December 13, 1942, he wrote to Maureta Flathers Witherspoon in response to a letter from her:

Dear Mrs. Witherspoon -- Your letter of Nov. 10th was duly received and have delayed answering it, hoping that I could run across some ancient history of our family, but it seems that it has been so well put away that I have given up hopes of finding it, and also since I can direct you to a source that would be much more complete.

1. Letter from Wilma Flathers Pakpa, April 10, 1973
My sister, Jessie Edith Flathers, now Mrs. A. J. Archer, who resides in Long Beach, California, has a copy of the Family Tree, which has been pretty thoroughly brought up to the present generation.

I have no doubt but what we are related in a way as the given names mentioned in your letter seem to be the same as the given names that were used in my Father's family; however, if my recollections of our family traditions are correct, the Flathers first came to America during the early part of the 18th Century.

I do not have what history I have well enough correlated to give it in the proper order; therefore, I am referring you to my only living sister, Mrs. A. J. Archer, 35 Vista del Jalfo, Long Beach, California, who I am sure will be glad to give you all the information she has, and could also give you the address of our only living aunt on father's side, Mrs. Olga Trumble, whom I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time in December, 1939.

Very sincerely yours,
Glenn Flathers.

Maureta Flathers Witherspoon then contacted Jessie Flathers Archer who responded with the following letter and other information. This material has been generously used as the basis for information on Benjamin Ellis Flathers and his family of eleven children.

Dear Maureta — I am sorry to be long in sending the Flathers History I have, but trust it will help you some.

A few years ago Mrs. W. P. Seaquist, granddaughter of Lindsey Cook Flathers who went to Minnesota from Indiana, called on me in South Dakota and later sent me the family tree. Her husband is a dentist.

My Aunt Olga Trumbull may have more of the history or can give you more information than I can. Her address is 5736 Lerington Avenue, Hollywood. She joined the DAR and has papers for getting in she told me.

In the Los Angeles telephone directory are the names of Thomas H. Flathers, 2330 Milville Drive, San Marino, J. E. Flathers, 316 W. Windsor Road, Glendale, and Mae Flathers, 1004 E. Villa, Pasadena.

I think anyone with the name of Flathers must be related to all of us.

Sincerely,
Jessie F. Archer

It isn't known who the Thomas H. Flathers was, but the J. E. Flathers was James Elmer Flathers, son of James Taylor Flathers, the fourth son of John Wesley Flathers. Mae Flathers was the granddaughter of Lindsey Flathers who went to Minnesota in 1854. She was a great church worker.

1. Letter from Jessie Flathers Archer to Maurita Flathers Witherspoon dated 1943. Jessie Archer stated that the Flathers genealogical information was given to her by Uncle William Edward Flathers, ninth child of William Harris Flathers, who resided in Chicago.
This completes the information on Benjamin Ellis Flathers, the oldest child of William Harris Flathers, and his descendants. Lavinia Martha Flathers O'Flaherty had two sons, Leo and Hal, but no information is available on either except that contained elsewhere in this genealogy and in the letter below. Lavinia wrote the following letter to Mrs. Elvira Flathers Seaquist of Mankato, Wisconsin, on December 21, year unknown, but it must have been about 1926. The year of the death of Lavinia is not known. The original is owned by Elaine Flathers, Waseca, Minnesota.

Dear Cousin, ... Mr. O'Flaherty and myself are well. We were in Los Angeles three years ago. I looked in the phone book. Could find no Flathers. ... A cousin of ours was attending the Grand Army Encampment. He came out and stayed with us. I was so pleased. He is Uncle Edward Flathers son. He is 85. Lavinia was referring to Adam Wilson Flathers, fourth child of Edward, son of Benjamin Franklin, son of the first Edward. Since Adam was born in 1841, he was 85 years of age in 1926. He is so spry, a wonderful actor in mind. Not the least deaf. He looked so much like my Father that I cried. I saw him 40 years ago, the only time ever saw him. He lives in Kissena, Florida. Has lived there 11 years.

Julia Smith from Tama visited us this fall. They are the only family of FlATHERS that ever visits. In fact, there are not many of them left. Julia Smith was the 7th child of John Wesley Flathers, Tama County, son of Benjamin Franklin, son of the first Edward, or Lavinia may have been referring to Julia Smith, the daughter of Julia Smith, and the granddaughter of John Wesley.

Our son that was in London has come back to the U.S. to stay. He is Foreign Editor of the Chicago Daily News. If any of you go to that city as many do, call at the Chicago Daily News office. You will see him. He would be pleased to meet anyone related to his mother. I visited him in November. It was a most enjoyable time. He has been in Europe for ten years. They have two children, Barry and Sheila. Our other son lives in Los Angeles, California, Leo O'Flaherty, 800 Burnside Ave. If any of your folks live there, have them see him.

My sister, Olga Trumbull, lives at 350 Florida Avenue, Hollywood. She is a missionary.

Now Mrs. Seaquist, I would be so glad if you would come and make us a visit when you and your husband take a vacation. We would make it a pleasant trip. We are both well. Could show you the city, Des Moines, Iowa, and enjoy getting acquainted. Mr. O'Flaherty owns the Peoples Barber Shop. We are both as busy as we ever was. Now you think about this visit I have planned. We sure would be delighted to see you any time.

Write soon. Very best wishes to you and yours for a happy New Year.

Sincerely your cousin,

Vina O'Flaherty
Left to right -- Charlie Flathers, Nancy Flathers, Robert Ellery Flathers, Carrie Flathers, Jessie Flathers Archer, Glenn Flathers
Picture taken in 1952

Clara May Flathers McPherson and Charles McPherson and grandchildren

Cora Jane Papka
Labor Day Queen, 1970
All the remaining available information regarding the descendants of William Harris Flathers can be gathered from the Genealogical Chart except that related to William Edward Flathers, the ninth child and second son to grow to maturity. He was very interested in the Flathers family history as is borne out by the numerous references after his name in the index. He had only one child, Doy, a daughter.

The was director of the William Flathers Band, address 175 West Washington Street, or 618 Custer Street, Chicago, Illinois. The letter head and description of the stationery read:

William Flathers Band of Chicago. This magnificent organization is composed of noted and talented instrumental and vocal soloists, selected to meet the discriminating requirements of the public for high grade performances. Every program is given under the personal direction of WILLIAM FLATHERS, Composer of London Hippodrome and World's Military Marches.

In a letter written on the official stationery described above dated March 15, 1921, to a person not named in the letter, William Flathers stated that Mrs. P. M. O'Flaherty (Lavinia Flathers) lived at 1017 Pleasant St., Des Moines, Iowa. Her son, Leo J. O'Flaherty, was connected with the California Branch Bank, 1600 West Washington, St., Los Angeles, California, and her second son, Hal O'Flaherty, was in charge of the Chicago Daily News Office, Trafalgar Square, London, England. He was listed in Who's Who in America at that time.

William Edward Flathers must have taken care of his parents in their last years for they are buried in Chicago according to the letter written by Hal O'Flaherty and quoted on pages 206 and 207.

This completes the information available on William Harris Flathers and his descendants.

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1. All the above information taken from the letter written by William Edward Flathers to an unknown person, March 15, 1921.
CONCLUSION

Now that the book, Edward Flathers and His Descendants, has been written and we know who we are and where we came from, each from the first Flathers in America to the children of the ninth generation can be proud of his American Heritage. Our first American ancestors, our pioneer forefathers, our parents, those who participated in the different wars, and those who do their job well from day to day are and have been an integral part of the development of our country. The family is now spread from Virginia and Pennsylvania on the east, across the Mid-West and South, the Mountain States to the West Coast and even into Canada.

The first five generations were mostly farmers and made their living from the land, for new land was free or nearly free to these people. In many cases, each new generation moved westward as the Nation moved westward establishing new homes in a new land. With the sixth generation, however, there was no longer free land so many Flathers turned to other occupations and professions — business, education, the sciences, military service, and many other ways of earning a livelihood.

Starting with the third generation, most of the children went to school, to the one-room rural school to be sure, but they learned to read and write. A very few of the fifth generation attended institutions of higher learning, but starting with the sixth generation many took special training — business, industrial and academic. With the seventh generation and those following, special and higher education became available to nearly all who desired it.

The author is convinced that all Flathers in America who spell their name with the final s are related and nearly all could immediately be placed on the family tree once he was identified through his father or grandfather. One family living in the Kansas City area remains a puzzle, however. William Earl Flathers, 2717 West 74th, Prairie Village, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City, is extremely anxious to identify himself with the descendants of Edward
Flathers. His father, James Weaver Flathers, was born July 3, 1885, and had the following brothers and sisters:

- Ellen S. Flathers born July 23, 1887
- Edward B. (Bart) Flathers born March 10, 1890
- Beatrice B. Flathers born November 18, 1891

Grandfather — William Riley Flathers born in LaClede, Linn County, Missouri, March 31, 1865, married Sarah Jane Packham born December 25, 1864, LaClede, Missouri, married in 1883.

Earl William Flathers has twelve brothers and sisters.

William Riley Flathers would need to be the son of a third generation Flathers, or possibly a very early son of a fourth generation. He might be a descendant of William G., Benjamin Franklin, or James B., all sons of Isaac Flathers and all brothers of Lindsey Flathers who went to Minnesota very early. With the Flathers information now assembled in a book, the link between William Riley Flathers and the descendants of Edward Flathers should be possible.

It has been a great joy for the author to develop the book, Edward Flathers and His Descendants, and to share this information with other members of the family interested in Flathers genealogy. The author would have been interested in writing the book, however, even if no other family member were interested in purchasing a copy. The author was interested in learning who he was and how the family developed.

There are 503 Flathers names coming from approximately 150 families listed in the book. This plus 676 allied family names makes the Flathers family exceedingly small compared to most other families in the United States. These names plus related dates were written many times in the work copies as well as in the final copy. The author apologizes for any wrong spellings or incorrect dates. Sometimes conflicting spellings as well as dates were supplied the author so a choice had to be made. The author did not seek to interpret the lives of the individuals in the book but simply
to record the lives from the information available to him.

The author hopes you will enjoy having the book, Edward Flathers and His Descendants, and that you are as proud of the family history as Edward must be if he is somewhere looking over his family.
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