

Prologue

The earliest mention of the surname Mead or atte Mede dates back to about 1250. There may have been people with this name before that, but very few records survive from before 1200.

At this early date this was not a hereditary surname, just a nickname indicating someone who lived at a meadow. At the same time in the early records there were people called de prato or ad pratium, the Latin equivalent of atte Mede. This was not a surname, just a descriptive name, like faber (smith) or filio Ricardi (Richard's son).

By about 1300 there are indications that the name had become hereditary, particularly in Somerset and in the counties north of London, especially in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Interestingly, this pattern continued at least until 1881. Some of these families can be traced for several generations during the 14th and 15th centuries, but they are not related to each other. The surname Mead originated in several locations, so there are several unrelated families with the same name.

My own family's earliest known member was Richard Mead, the grandfather of William Mead of Stamford, Connecticut. Richard Mead was born in about 1515 and lived in Watford, Hertfordshire, about 15 miles northwest of the center of London. This research appeared in an article by Gordon Remington in the January 1998 issue of *The American Genealogist*.

So far this is the end of the line. At the beginning of the 16th century there were a number of Meads living within 10 or 15 miles of Watford, but no evidence yet to link them to Richard Mead.

In the past it has been thought that Gabriel Mead of Massachusetts and William Mead of Stamford, Connecticut were brothers. This was not the case. Gabriel was born Gabriel Meades in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. This was discovered through research done by Vance Mead in England in June 2002.

I am descended from William's son John, through Jonathan, Timothy, James, James, Franklin, Benjamin, Alpha, then Charles and Elizabeth Mead.

Mead Family Coat of Arms



The Mead family coat of arms is thus described : Sa. a chev. betw. three pelicans or. vuln. gu.

Explanation :

Sa., the color is sable, / . e., black.

Chev., a chevron represented as two rafters of a house joined together and descending in the form of a pair of compasses to the extremities of the shield.

Or., signifies gold, and in engraving is represented by small dots.

Three pelicans vuln. gu., / . c, wounding themselves, according to the old tradition that the pelican picked its own breast to nourish its young.

Crest, an eagle displayed.

Motto : Semper Paratus — Always Ready.

Here are some meanings for the items on the Coat of Arms:

The chevron symbolizes protection; Builders or others who have accomplished some work of faithful service.

The pelicans symbolize self-sacrifice and charitable nature; When feeding her young ("in her piety"), symbolizes the duties of a parent or parental love.

The eagle crest symbolizes a person of noble nature, strength, bravery, and alertness; or one who is high-spirited, ingenious, quick-witted, and judicious; "True magnanimity and strength of mind" acc. to Guillim.

The colors sable and gold represent faithfulness and generosity respectfully.

(-I-) William Mead

William Mead was born 1592 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, married 1625 and died 1663 in Stamford, Connecticut.

The brothers Gabriel, David and William Mead came to America in April 1635, on the ship Elizabeth, from Lydd, County Kent, England. William brought his family with him from England. The first English settlement of Connecticut was made at Windsor in October, 1633, and another settlement was made at Wethersfield soon after where William probably first settled, and in 1641, he removed to Stamford, Connecticut with several others from Wethersfield. Captain Turner, as agent for the New Haven Colony, first purchased from the Indians on the first day of July, 1640, lands now lying in the Town of Stamford. This tract was afterwards sold, November fourth of the same year, to Andrew Ward and Robert Coe, representatives of about twenty-two families of Wethersfield, but the first settlement of Stamford was not commenced by them until the spring of 1641, and among the first forty-two land proprietors of Stamford, Connecticut, we find the name of William Mead. The following is a copy of the entry in the Stamford Town Records:

Dec. 7, 1641, William Mayd (Mead) received from the Town of Stamford, a homelot and five acres of land.

This William was the ancestor of the Mead family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, although family tradition declares that John was, also of eastern New York, western Vermont, and Meadville, Pennsylvania. There is record of three children, but there probably were four, including a son who died in 1658. They were as follows:

JOSEPH, b. in 1630, married Dec. 4, 1654, Mary Brown of Stamford, d. May 3, 1690. He was the ancestor of the Ridgefield and North Fairfield County Meads, and had Zachariah, Joseph, Daniel, Elisha, Richard, and Mary.

MARTHA, b. about 1632, who married John Richardson of Stamford. No further traces have been found.

JOHN (i), b. about 1634, who married Hannah Potter of Stamford, probably in 1657, d. February 5, 1699. He was the ancestor of the Greenwich Meads, and had John (2), Joseph, Hannah, Ebenezer, Jonathan, David, Benjamin, Nathaniel, Samuel, Abigail, and Mary.

The following record of some of the proceedings of the Court of Magistrates held at New Haven, shows that both William and his two sons, Joseph and John, settled here long before 1660, which is declared by family tradition to be the date of their settlement.

1654, October 18. Joseph Mead of Stamford, testifies on behalf of his sister Martha, the wife of John Richardson.

1656, May 26. John Mead, of Stamford, enters an action of ye case against Richard Law, of Stamford.

1656, May 26. Richard Law, of Stamford, complained of John Mead, of Stamford.

1656, May 26. Jno. Waterbury complained of John Mead.

1657, March 25. Joseph Mead, of Stamford, again a witness.

1657, March 27. A Petition from John Mead was presented desiring the Court to remitt the fine of ten pounds laide upon him last year.

1657, March 27. A Petition from William Mead, on behalf of John Richardson (his son-in-law), was presented, desiring the Court that the fine of ten pounds laide upon him be abated.

Of William, the ancestor of all the Fairfield County-Meads, very little concerning him, except that already mentioned, has been found. His wife died in Stamford, September 16, 1657. No record of his death has as yet been found.

(-II-) John Mead

John Mead was the second son of William Mead and Philippa. He was born in about 1628, but it is not known where. His older brother, Joseph, was christened on April 24, 1624, in Watford, Hertfordshire, but there is no record of John's baptism. In November 1626, "An infant of William Meades" was buried in Watford. This was probably "Mary Daughter of Willia Mede & Philippe his wife" who was born in March 1621/2.

After 1626, nothing else is definitely known of John Mead and his family until 1641, when William Mead was granted land in Stamford, Connecticut. Before that, sometime in the mid to late 1630s, the family - William and Philippa, and their children Joseph, John and Martha - sailed to America, probably landing at Boston. They may have stayed in the Boston area for a few years, before moving to Stamford. This is where we find the first definite record of them.

The town of Stamford was founded in the summer of 1641 by 28 men and their families from Wethersfield, who came under the leadership of Reverend Richard Denton. On December 7, 1641, a house lot and five acres of land, together with woodland, was granted to Willam Mayd (Mead). There is no record of the route William and his family took to Stamford, but they probably went the same way as the other early settlers, from Boston going west to the Connecticut River and south along the river by way of Wethersfield to Stamford.

John Mead grew up in Stamford, where there are a few records of him as a young man. On May 26, 1656, John Mead, of Stamford, entered an action in a case against Richard Law of Stamford. On the

same day Richard Law and John Waterbury complained of John. On March 27, 1657, John Mead presented a petition asking the court to remit a fine of ten pounds laid upon him the previous year.

In the spring of 1657, John moved to Hempstead, Long Island, which had been founded by some families from Stamford in 1644. In a tax record of 1658 in Hempstead, John had two milk cows.

In about 1657, John married Hannah Potter, the daughter of William Potter of Stamford. Hannah's father later owned Shippan Point in Stamford, and through her John received a considerable amount of property.

In the fall of 1660, John moved back across Long Island Sound to Old Greenwich, now known as Sound Beach. On October 26, 1660, he purchased some houses and land from Richard Crab of Greenwich. The property consisted of the house that Richard Crab lived in, a house that Thomas Studwell lived in, a barn, the home lot and eighteen acres in Elizabeth Neck. In the same transaction John also bought 14 acres of meadow in Elizabeth Neck and Mianus Neck. The deed was witnessed by Adam Mott and Robert Williams.

John Mead made another purchase on December 21, 1661, when he bought a parcel of land from Thomas Studwell. And on December 30, 1670, he was granted part of the lowermost meadows lying south of the Westchester Path.

Greenwich was incorporated as a township in 1665 at a session of the General Court held at Hartford. John Mead was one of the original proprietors.

The first settlement of Old Greenwich had been at Elizabeth Neck. In May 1669, a committee including John Mead was appointed to survey Horseneck to the west to see if it would be a suitable place for settlement. In 1670 another committee, with John Mead again on it, was appointed to "lay out a township upon the land lying near Horseneck brook to the number of 30 lots, four acres to a home lot, if the tract will bear it, and be mindful for a piece of land for a common where it is most meet." They then obtained title to the land from the Indians.

The original owners of Horseneck, today the center of Greenwich, were called the "27 Proprietors of 1672". Among the 27 proprietors were John Mead and his brother Joseph.

In 1670 John Mead was made a freeman of Greenwich by the assembly. He was a member of the assembly in 1679, 1680 and 1686.

In 1691 the town voted to build a new meeting house, and John Mead and his son John were amongst those chosen to procure materials and build the house. It was built on a small rise northwest of the old burying ground at Old Greenwich, near where the present First Congregational Church now stands.

John Mead died on February 5, 1698/9. In his will, written on the 16th of March, 1695/6, he left

considerable amounts of land to his surviving sons Joseph, Ebenezer, Jonathan, David, Benjamin, Nathaniel and Samuel, and to his grandson John, the son of his son John. He also left five shillings to each of his children. The overseers of his will were his sons Joseph, Ebenezer and Benjamin.

A story is told about John Mead that shows something about his character. I'm not exactly sure what it shows, but I will repeat the anecdote and leave it to you to decide. One day, when John was quite an old man of almost 70, he was riding on horseback to the mill at Dumpling Pond to fetch his grist. Before he reached the Mianus River, he overtook an elderly Quaker man walking slowly, loaded down with a heavy pack. In a spirit of kindness he offered to take the Quaker's load on his horse. "No," said the Quaker, "thou cannot have my bundle, for I can read men's minds. Thou want my bundle and then thou shalt run off with it."

"Very well," John replied and they went on together. Soon they came to the bank of the Mianus River. Here the Quaker was in trouble, since it would be very hard for him to cross the waist-deep river with his heavy bundle. Again John offered his assistance, and this time the Quaker accepted. He climbed on behind, and they put his bundle on the horse's neck in front of John. When they reached the middle of the river, John reached down, pretending to adjust the stirrup. He grabbed the Quaker by the heel and threw him into the river.

The Quaker man was extremely angry at this treatment. With stones in his hands, he threatened revenge - except that John threatened to throw his bundle into the water as well. John now informed the man that he had done it for his own good. He said that he hoped the man would never again claim to be able to read men's thoughts. "I asked you to ride, kindly in the first place," he said. "But you refused. But the second time I asked, I really intended to do as I have done." With that he tossed the bundle to the man and rode away.

It is supposed that John Mead is buried in the old burying ground on Greenwich Point, but all traces of this burial place have long since disappeared.

(-III-) Jonathan Mead

Jonathan Mead was born about 1665 and died about 1712. He was the fourth son of John Mead. He married Martha Finch about 1688. It is not known when Martha died, but probably before February 12, 1722, when her son James bought from his brothers Jonathan, Isaac and Timothy "all their right and interest in their mother's estate". Jonathan and Martha had nine children: Jonathan born about 1689; Sarah born October 11, 1691; Martha born December 11, 1693; James born March 11, 1696; Isaac born December 8, 1698; **Timothy (see(IV) Timothy Mead) born April 22, 1701**; Mary born May 22, 1704; Mary born May 22, 1704; Hezekiah born August 30, 1705 and Rachel born November 22, 1708.

(-IV-) Timothy Mead

Timothy Mead was the fourth son of Jonathan Mead. He was born April 22, 1701 in Greenwich, Connecticut and died in 1790 in Rutland, Vermont. Before 1754. He married first Martha Weeks, second

Sarah Bouton. Timothy moved his family to Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York. In 1769 the family moved to Rutland County Vermont. They were the first white settlers in Vermont. Timothy fought in the Revolutionary War in Ira Allen's Regiment of Vermont militia. Five of his sons and several of his grandsons were soldiers in the war, most prominently his son James, who was a colonel. The children of Timothy were: Timothy born January 7, 1724; Martha born September, 1726; Zebulon born October 5, 1728; **James(see(V) James Mead) born September 6, 1730**; Stephen born January 23, 1734; Ezra born October 9, 1737 and Tameson born November 20, 1739.

(-V-) James Mead

James, third son of Timothy and Martha (Weeks) Mead was born on September 6, 1730 at Greenwich, Connecticut. James married Mercy Holmes in August of 1752, and died January 17, 1805. He moved to Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York before 1754. The family then moved to Rutland, Vermont in March, 1769 (the first white settler in the Valley of the Otter Creek and father of the first white child born there). The first night that Colonel James and his wife spent in Rutland, he and his wife occupied an Indian wigwam through the courtesies of the Indian Chief on the banks of Otter Creek. He was the first moderator upon the organization of the town and the first elected selectman and representative from Rutland to the first Vermont legislature. He might be called the first real estate man, for there could not have been many competitors when he purchased from Nathaniel Stone of Windsor, Vermont, 7,000 acres of land, paying for the same in horses valued at \$333.33. Colonel Mead was among the most active patriots of his day and early in the Revolutionary War, he was made Colonel of the Third Vermont Colonial Regiment. The Vermont payroll contains the record of a payment to Colonel Mead's militia for their tours to Ticonderoga in 1777. He was a member of the Dorset Convention of September 25, 1776 and of the committee appointed by the Windsor Convention in June, 1777 to arrange with the commander of Fort Ticonderoga for the frontier defense. The State's records for 1777 show that Colonel Mead's regiment rendered efficient service in scouting after Tories at sundry times and guarding such as were taken and supposed to be enemies. In 1779, Colonel Mead was engaged still in guarding the frontier, showing that not only upon the field of battle but also dealing with a wily foe in ambush, he was a living illustration of the watchword of his ancestors, "Semper Paratus" which means "Always Ready." Colonel Mead, at the time of his death, held the highest military office in his town and was also its largest land proprietor. The honors he received evidently were conferred by his townsmen as an appreciation of his valuable services. Mrs. Colonel James Mead was a woman of extreme bravery and courage. At the time of the Battle of Hubbardton she was informed that the enemy was in the neighborhood and as she was left at the home alone with her three small children, she became alarmed and going into the pasture she caught a young colt that had never been thoroughly broken and with much difficulty saddled it. She then managed to place one child in front of her and one behind. Taking the third child in her lap she rode from Rutland to Bennington (55 miles). One must remember that there were no state roads at that time and much of the journey was performed through unbroken forests with little to guide her of an earthly nature. But "He who protects and guides us all" brought her to her desired haven where she was safe among friends as she deserved. This feat was heralded as one of the most courageous of that long and weary struggle and Mrs. Mead became an acknowledged heroine. Their children included Sarah (born August 14, 1753; she died in her 24th year), James (born

August 9, 1754, he died in his 19th year), Abner (born February 14, 1756; died January 11, 1813), Samantha (born July 16, 1757), Stephen (born February 15, 1759), Mary (born May 29, 1761), Dorcas (born January 25, 1763), Hannah (born December 16, 1765), Damarius (born August 31, 1766), Tameson (born January 22, 1769), William (born September 25, 1770--first white child born in Rutland), **James (see(VI) James Mead) (born December 12, 1773)**, and one other child who died in infancy, unnamed.

(-VI-) James Mead

James was born in Rutland, Vermont on December 12, 1773 and died June 10, 1813. He married Phebe Smith who was born on November 8, 1773 and died October 3, 1850. They had five children: James S August 24, 1799; Mercy born June 27, 1801; Pamela born on August 29, 1802; **Franklin(see(VII) Franklin Mead) born November 30, 1804** and Phebe born September 30, 1806.

(-VII-) Franklin Mead

Franklin Mead was born in Rutland, VT on November 30, 1804. His death was on July 18, 1859. In 1836 he married Rachel Price in Rutland, Vermont. She was born in Hamilton, Canada, West on August 25, 1817. Her death was on July 16, 1877. They had six children. Roland Price born April 10, 1837; George Hackstaff born April 2, 1838; James born September 25, 1839 in Greenfield, IN; George Smith born October 20, 1840; Phebe Narcissa born February 19, 1842; **Benjamin Franklin (see(VIII) Benjamin Franklin Mead) born November 11, 1843.**

Franklin Mead was in The War with Mexico 1846-1848.

(-VIII-) Benjamin Franklin Mead

Benjamin Franklin Mead was born in Port Dover, Canada, West on November 11, 1843. His death was in Buffalo, NY in 1916. In 1870 he married Ada Savory. She was born in Vermont, August 1854. Her death was in Williamsville, NY in 1929. They had ten children. Myrtie Bell born July 15, 1871 died October 11, 1871; William Abner born February 8, 1873 died 1958; Mary May Evelyn born July 5, 1875 died 1956; Frank born April 19, 1878 died 1894; **Alpha David (see (IX) Alpha David Mead)**; Ernest Perry born 1883; Blanche Emily born 1885 died 1921; Albinos P. born 1893 died 1932; Genevieve Harriet Hazel born 1898.

(-IX-) Alpha David Mead



Alpha David "AD" Mead was born in Elmira, NY on November 11, 1880. His death was in Buffalo, NY on August 22, 1955. He married (date unknown) Elizabeth "Liz" Brandt Rogers who was born in Cape Elizabeth, ME on July 25, 1889. Her death was in Buffalo, NY on July 6, 1931. They had two children born in Buffalo, NY. Lillian Beatrice Mead was born on April 13, 1908 and Charles Franklin Mead was born February 27, 1911.

(-X-) Charles Franklin Mead



Charles Franklin Mead was born in Buffalo, NY on February 27, 1911. His death was in Buffalo, NY on March 9, 1962. He married Persis Ethylene Buck in 1934. She was born in Weare Township, **Oceana**, MI on June 17, 1906. Her death was in Colorado Springs, CO on April 6, 1984. They had two children born in Niagra Falls, NY. Elizabeth Beatrice Mead was born on April 25, 1937 and Charles Franklin David Mead was born on January 25, 1939.

I sat down and did an interview with Persis, and obtained some facts that I would like to share. Alpha David Mead's brother George Rollin Mead was in the Army during WWI. He was stationed in Europe and married a nurse in England. Alpha's other brother William Abner Mead was in the Navy during the Spanish-American War. Charles and Persis both worked on the Food Ration Board during WWII, and Persis also worked on the Draft Board during WWII. Charles had bad eyesight and flat feet, so he was not drafted. Persis had a half-sister named Ruby. Her father Parmer E. Buck was a Methodist Preacher as well as a 32nd Degree Mason. He owned a 1,000 acres of land, and raised cattle and Arabian race horses. Two of his horses were entered into the Kentucky Derby. Parmer's mother was a Ute Indian. The parents of Persis's mother, Sarah Margaret Conroy, emigrated to America from County Cork, Ireland.

(-XI-) Elizabeth Beatrice Mead



Elizabeth "Betty" Beatrice Mead was born in Niagra Falls, NY on April 25, 1937. Her death was in Colorado Springs, CO on May 31, 2010. She married Donald Ray Johnson [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They had two children. Donald [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Catherine [REDACTED]

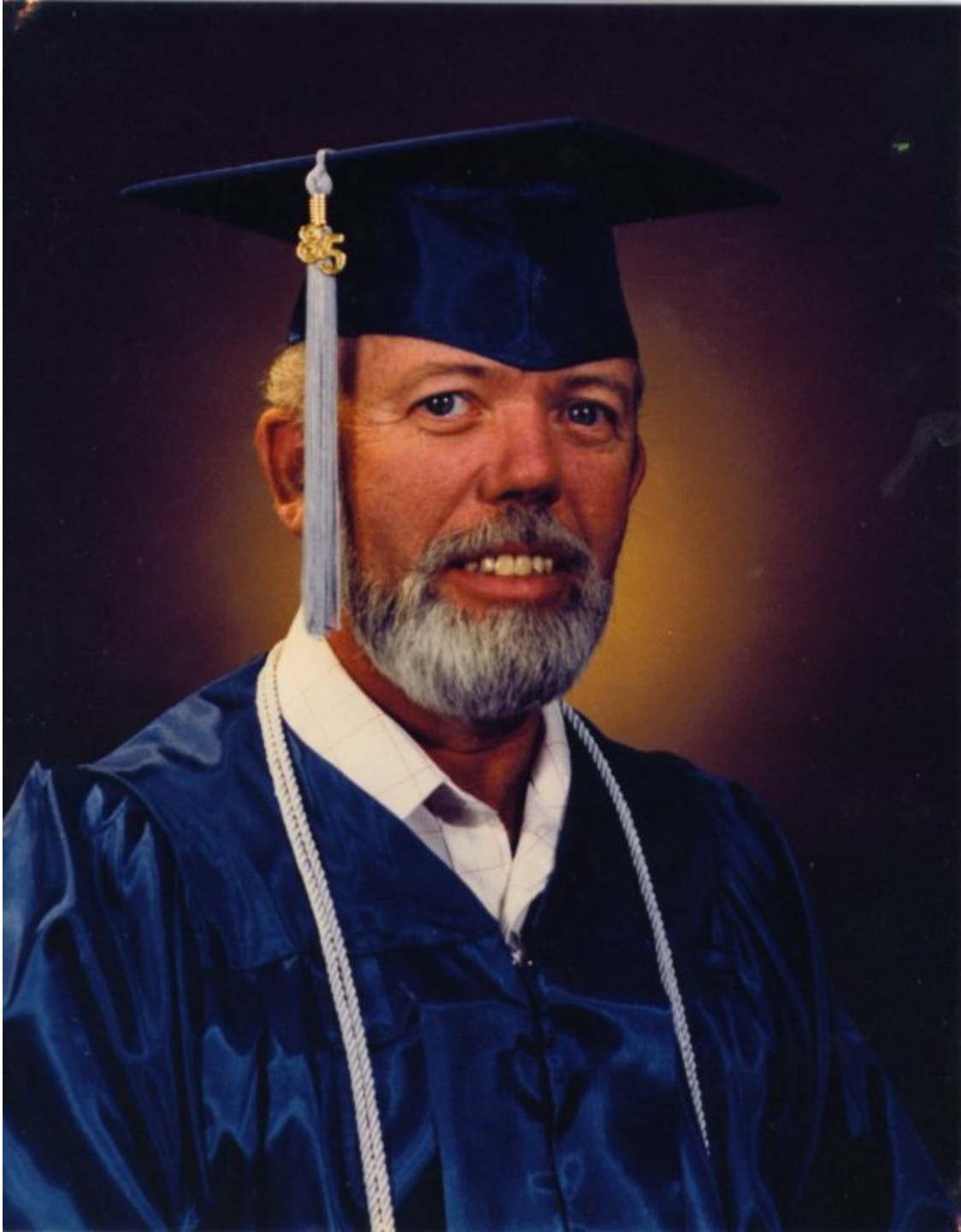
[REDACTED] Elizabeth and Donald divorced in Concord, CA. Elizabeth then married Rodolphe

Juventino Alejandro in Honolulu, HI on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] His death was in Colorado Springs, CO on October 16, 2007. They had one child, Timothy [REDACTED]

Elizabeth lived most of her early years in New York. She lived in California from 1960 until the summer of 1969, when the family moved to Hawaii for a year. In 1970 the family moved to Colorado, where she remained until her death. Elizabeth was a VERY avid Elvis Presley fan and owned every album he ever released. She did some work as a model in her late teens/early twenties. In the 1960's she was a keypunch machine operator with Pacific Gas & Electric and in the 1970's she started Sewer 'O' Service with her husband "Tino". The company slogan was "In a mess, just S.O.S."

(-XI-) Charles Franklin David Mead



Charles "Charlie" Franklin David Mead [REDACTED] He married Ruth

[REDACTED]
They had three children. Charles [REDACTED]

Shawn [REDACTED] Colleen [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(-XII-) Donald Ray Johnson Jr



Donald "Don" Ray Johnson Jr was born in [REDACTED]. He married Cynthia [REDACTED]. They had two children. Jeremiah [REDACTED] Christia [REDACTED]. Donald and Cynthia divorced [REDACTED]. Donald then married Karen [REDACTED]. She had two children that he adopted, Chad [REDACTED] Jennifer [REDACTED]. Donald and Karen divorced [REDACTED]. Donald then married Paula [REDACTED].

██████████ She had two children, one of which he adopted ██████████ Jennifer ██████████
██████████ Loni ██████████
██████████

Donald met Cynthia ██████████ while they were in high school. He met Karen at a Parents Without Partners function ██████████. He met Paula online when he ran a Bulletin Board System (BBS), The Saturday Knights BBS. As a young man, some of the most notable places he worked in the Colorado Springs area were: Broadmoor Hotel, Ski Broadmoor, Pikes Peak Cog Railroad, Manitou Incline and Santa's Workshop. Donald joined the Colorado Air National Guard on November 15, 1979. He also worked as a stationary engineer 1980-1981, like his grandfather, after which he became a fulltime employee of the COANG. He loves dancing, music & golf. He does many things to support Junior Golf programs, such as fund raising tournaments and volunteering his time to instruct junior golfers. His specialties are rules, ethics and putting.

EPILOGUE

I would like to thank all the relatives who, over the years, have supplied much of this. I would like to thank Spencer Percival Mead for his book "HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE MEAD FAMILY of Fairfield County, Connecticut; Eastern New York; Western Vermont, and Western Pennsylvania from A.D. 1180 to 1900". I would also like to thank Vance Mead, whom I met on www.genealogy.com, who continued the work of Spencer and helped me fill in a lot of blanks. Without these resources, I would not have been able to provide the information contained within this document. I hope all of you see the exciting accomplishments of our ancestors, and the proud military heritage that many of them have held dear, accomplishing both the creation and defense of this great nation we live in. I hope that this information continues to be passed on, and becomes an inspiration to the generations to come.

This is all dedicated to my mother, Elizabeth Beatrice Mead, whose death gave us all the inspiration to bring the family back together. We love you mom!

Donald Ray Johnson, Jr.