

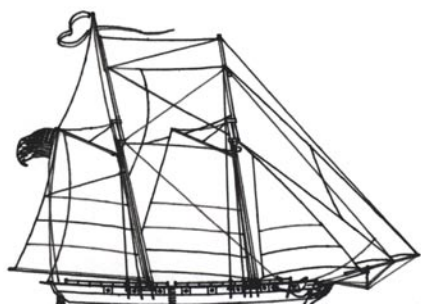
Florida Keys

Sea Heritage Journal

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USS SHARK



 OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE KEY WEST MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bahamian Roots

Clinging Vines and Ties that Bind

By Elizabeth Ann Gardner

Usually a family history is referred to as the family tree, but I do not see all of my family lines as coming from one root system. I visualize my family as an entanglement of many vines, each with its own roots. I have been able to trace the roots of my vines (line) back to various locations at points in time and have determined how the entanglement evolved from one vine to another.

On my father's side, among the oldest of my Bahamian roots are three Roberts lines, probably all descendants of a common ancestor who came from Ireland in the Eleutheran Adventure (1648). One of these lines can be traced back to one John Roberts with a wife Ann (?Lowe). Their seven children were:

1. John Roberts Jr., born July 10, 1799, baptized July 11, 1799, St. John's Harbour Island records. This child apparently died soon after birth.

2. Susannah Roberts, born October 5, 1801, baptized November 22, 1801, St. John's Harbour Island.

3. John "Johnny Cake" Roberts, born December 8, 1803, baptized



Adolphus and Alicia Curry, the great grand parents of the Author. Photo credit: the Author.

July 8, 1804, St. John's Harbour Island. He married Sarah Ann Curry and they moved to Key West.

4. Moses Roberts, born January 5, 1809, baptized June 18, 1809, St. John's Harbour Island.

5. Richard Roberts, born June 30, 1816, baptized September 8, 1818, St. John's Harbour Island. He was not given a middle name,

so to distinguish himself from the many other Richard Robertses, he gave himself the middle initial T. Eventually the T became Tuggy and thereafter, he was known as Richard "Tuggy" Roberts, or just "Tuggy" Roberts. He was married three times. His first wife was Mary Lowe, sister of John Bartlum's wife, Sarah Lowe.

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Ed Little

As I write this, the long, steamy, Key West summer of 2005 is beginning to draw to a close. In a few weeks, the first "northers" (cold fronts) that sweep down across the Gulf will signal the onset of cooler weather. And, just about that time, many loyal Society members will be returning to our island, after spending a few months "up north".

The return of those folks is something I always look forward to. Why? Because, like the cooling breezes of the "northers", that seasonal increase in our membership helps to add vigor and energy to the aims and projects of our Society. It is among the "snowbirds" that we number the most avid and dependable of all our "crew".

Year after year, I see many of those seasonal residents (and their guests) consistently filling the seats at our programs of free public lectures. They also are among the most numerous mailing addresses to which our quarterly, the "Florida Keys Sea History Journal" is mailed. Some even regularly "take pen in hand" to contribute article to that journal. So, I say, "welcome back".

It is through the continued support of those seasonal residents, and the hundreds of "locals", that our Society has been able to provide a unique "window" into the maritime past. Now, we need that support more than ever...

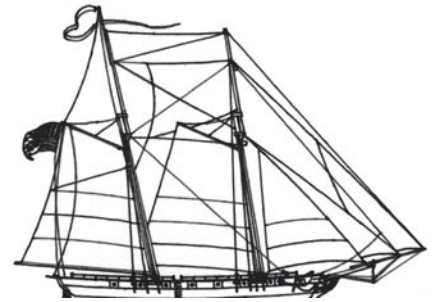
At recent Board meetings, we've become aware that the total paid membership of the Society is slowly dwindling. That is not too suprising, given that many families have left the Keys for

more affordable locales. We need to attract new members to replace those that have moved on. Now, here is where every member can help. If you know someone who would enjoy our Journal, and who would like to receive advance notice of our lectures and field trips, get them to join. It is as simple as calling me (my # is 305-296-9882) to sign them up. Or they can just send a check (with their mailing address) made out to "K.W. M. H. S" for the appropriate membership category to our Post Office Box 695, Key West, FL 33041. Our membership fees are \$ 20. for individuals, \$30. for families, \$50. of business/corporate sponsors, and \$100 for sponsors of Educational programs (amounts greater than these will, of course, also be accepted). Incidentally, you may have noticed that our membership fees are now \$5.00 more than before. In April. our Board voted to increase the fees (they had been unchanged since the early 1980's) to offset the rising cost of Society operations. So, despite the increase, I think all members will agree that the Board has done an outstanding job of "holding the line" on costs of membership for all those years.

What of the future? Well, our project to create a diorama of the Key West waterfront of the 1850's has received a matching grant from the State of Florida. This, and additional interpretive materials are in the works to help locals and visitors achieve a greater insight into the days when Key West was truly a hub of seagoing commerce. We are also planning for our program of events for the 2005-2006 "winter season."

New Member

Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



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Editor: Lynda Hambright
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Letters and articles are welcome. Please write to: Editor, Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal, KWMHS, P.O. Box 695, Key West, FL 33041.

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Posing for a Spy

By Thomas Neil Knowles
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As rumbles of war rolled over the world in the late 1930s, the City of Key West was returning from the brink of economic disaster. Massive unemployment in the fishing and tourism industries brought on by the Great Depression had forced the town to declare bankruptcy on July 4, 1934. The situation became so serious there was even talk of evacuating the 12,000 inhabitants to the mainland. Fourteen months later the first Category V hurricane to strike the United States destroyed the railroad that linked Key West to Miami. At the end of 1935, the future of what had been promoted as the “Bermuda of the Caribbean” looked bleak indeed; however, during the latter part of the decade a remarkable turn-around occurred.

The reversal of Key West’s economic misfortune was begun by converting some of the railroad’s bridges and trestles to vehicular use to provide a continuous highway down the Florida Keys. With trucks and cars having convenient access to the islands, the fishing and tourist industries began to revive. The most dramatic change in the local economy came as the 30s drew to a close and a series of conflicts erupted in Europe and the Far East.

By the fall of 1939, Japan and China were at war, Germany had invaded Poland from the west, Russia had invaded Poland from the east, and Britain and France had declared war on Germany. The United States was still neutral on November 1, 1939 when the Key West Naval Station was reopened. After a two decade hiatus, Key West as about to become a major military installation again. Hundreds of local residents were put to work



Henderson Renfro was a strong man from northwest Florida whose occupation routinely involved dangerous situations. Photo credit: W.D. Renfro.

expanding facilities and building housing for the steady stream of military personnel and their families that were arriving each day.

There was so much work that the Navy hired contractors who brought in crews of civilian workers, some of whom were accompanied by their families. When 35 year-old Henderson Renfro came to Key West from Pensacola in 1940, he brought along his wife Pearl and young children (daughter Ann and son “Buddy”).

Renfro was a diver who specialized in underwater welding and is believed to have been recruited to work on the submerged section of a 3,000-ton marine

railway that was being built at the Key West Naval Station by the W. P. Thurston Company of Richmond, Virginia. Construction of the large ways began in November 1940 and was complete by September 1941. With the renovation of piers, installation of fuel oil pipelines, and restoration of existing facilities, Renfro’s skills would have been in great demand at the Naval Station during the early 1940’s.

The resurgence of military activity and the reopening of the submarine base at Key West was well known, and was a site of interest to German intelligence. During World

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The Key West Naval Station in the late summer 1941. The steel framework of the cradle of the large marine railway that was nearing completion can be seen at the southeast corner of the sub basin (extreme left). To the right of the cradle, a crane on a barge floats over the submerged portion of the rails. This is one of the sites where Henderson Renfroe is believed to have worked as a diver doing underwater welding. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

(Spy from page 3)

War I, naval facilities at Key West were expanded to provide support for submarines, both as a defensive measure and to provide facilities for antisubmarine warfare research and development. Thomas Edison spent the winter of 1917-1918 at the Key West Naval Station conducting depth charge research. After the war, the base was deactivated and the Navy departed Key West except for a small staff left to man its radio station.

Over the next 20 years Germany developed a large U-boat fleet. By the late 1930s when the full extent of the submarine threat became apparent, the need for the United

States to modernize its submarine fleet and antisubmarine warfare techniques had become urgent. As a result, in 1939 the Navy established two sound schools; the West Coast Sound School at San Diego and the Atlantic Fleet Sound School at the sub base in New London, Connecticut. In mid 1940, soon after graduating its first class, the New London school was transferred to the Key West Naval Station and later became known as the Fleet Sonar School.

With a favorable climate and close proximity to the deep water of the Florida Straits, Key West was an ideal base for conducting training and research in underwater sound detection and antisubmarine

warfare techniques. As a result, soon after its reopening, submarines filled the finger piers of the Naval Station while at Trumbo Point on the north side of the island destroyers and destroyer escorts docked at the seaport facilities built by Henry Flager for his railroad ferry service to Cuba.

As a center for antisubmarine warfare expertise and technology, the “Southernmost City in the United States” escalated to a high priority site for German intelligence services. Although not at war with the U.S. until December 11, 1941, Germany had been organizing spy networks in the United States during the 1930s. On June 28, 1941, a major spy ring was eliminated after



Sailors and marines crowd a bar in Key West. The reactivation of the Naval Station in 1939 was followed by the opening of a seaplane base at Trumbo Point and a military airfield at Boca Chica, an island to the east of Key West. At the peak of the World War II buildup, 15,000 servicemen were stationed in the Key West area. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

a two year investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; 32 people in various cities across the Nation were arrested and convicted of spying for Germany. Japan was also engaged in espionage, often hiring German agents to gather intelligence because they were better able to blend in with the Americans.

The German intelligence services (there were several) were eager to recruit people living in the United States to spy on their country. First they had to find people who had access to classified material or were in a position to observe secret weapons/innovations. When such

candidates were located, then an attempt would be made to bring them into the espionage operation either with money or by finding a relative or close friend who could be held hostage under threat of being maimed or killed if the person of interest did not agree to become a spy.

In Key West, German agents were said to have been working the bars and houses of prostitution throughout the war, targeting sailors and contractor crewmen. Long hours of hard work, the uncertainty brought on by war, and loneliness made

them vulnerable to exploitation by a pretty face and a bottle or two of liquor. But, as the Renfroe family discovered, the network of spies on the island did not stop there.

One sunny day a woman Henderson described as "horsefaced" came through the neighborhood where the Renfroes had their apartment. She had a small pony, a camera, and a tripod. For a very reasonable fee she would take a child's picture. It did not seem unusual that she asked questions as she was setting up, making light

(Continued on page 6)

(Spy from page 5)

conversation and getting to know a little about her clients to help her capture the essence of her subject. The Renfroes were delighted to have their young son photographed.

About two weeks after the portrait was delivered, Henderson and Pearl were surprised to learn that the woman who had photographed their child had been arrested and charged with being a spy for Germany. She had the perfect cover for roaming about with a camera and for having a darkroom in a locale of intense military activity during a time of war.

It is quite possible that the pleasant lady with the small pony was part of the screening process used to find candidates for co-opting, or she may have been using her camera to surreptitiously photograph facilities of interest to the Germans. What led to her downfall is not known; perhaps she asked too many questions or was caught taking pictures of military installations. In any case, when the Renfro family moved to Mobile, Alabama in 1943 they carried with them an interesting souvenir of their stay in Key West.

Notes and Sources

1. Information regarding the Renfro family and the photographs of Henderson and his son were provided by W. D. Renfro.

2. "Six Months of the New Deal in Key West", a radio address given by Judge Julius F. Stone, Jr., Florida Emergency Relief Administrator, on January 15, 1935, Station WIOD, transcript appearing in the The Key West Citizen, January 18, 1935, pgs 1 & 4.

3. "Editor's Notes" by Stuart McIver, South Florida History Magazine, vol. 24, no. 3 (Winter 1997).

4. "KEY WEST UNDER



William D. "Buddy" Renfro, age 15 months, poses for a German spy in Key West, Florida during the autumn of 1940. Photo credit: W.D.Renfroe.

STATE CONTROL—Passes Into Hands Of FERA In Rehabilitation Program", The Key West Citizen, July 5, 1934, pg 1.

5. Material compiled by the Commander Key West Force Public Affairs Office that appeared in "Your Navy In Key West", a publication of Boone Publications, Inc., Lubbock, TX, © 1972.

6. Information on the following subjects was obtained from the internet sources listed below.

Fleet Sonar School:

www.sonarshack.org/milestones.htm

Edison: <http://www.charlesedisonfund.org/TomEdisonBio/ch13>

World War II Chronology: <http://www.jcs-group.com/military/wars/1941.html>.

Japanese espionage activities in the United States: <http://www.ww2pacific.com/attacks.html>.

German Espionage: <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq114-1.htm>

(Roots from page 1)

In 1847, Richard “Tuggy” Roberts and John Bartlum disassembled their homes on Green Turtle Cay, loaded the pieces on a barge, and carried them to Key West, where they reconstructed them next door to each other. The Bartlum house faces Eaton Street at the corner of William Street. Richard Tuggy’s house is on William Street, behind the Bartlum house.

6. Edward “Eddie” Roberts, born about 1819 in Green Turtle Cay. He and wife Catherine and sons Calvin and Amos moved to Key West in 1847, where four more children were born.

7. Matilda Roberts, born in early 1820’s. She married William Roberts, son of John Roberts and Sarah. Matilda and William are my great, great grandparents. They stayed in the Bahamas. By this marriage, two Roberts line (vines) were intertwined.

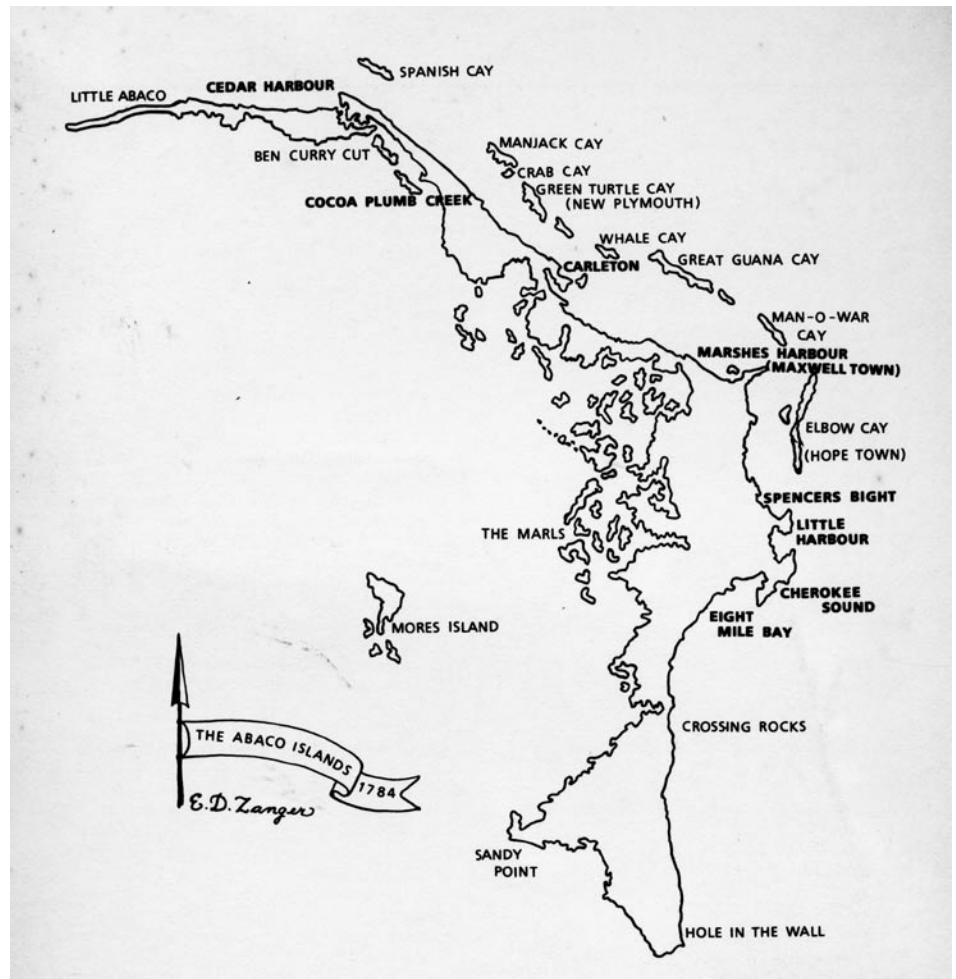
The second of my Roberts lines is that of one of John Roberts with wife Sarah. They had the following seven children, all born in Green Turtle Cay:

1. John Roberts Jr., born February 9, 1812. He married Elizabeth Augusta Curry (? or Albury). Some of their descendants moved to Key West.

2. Richard Roberts, birth date unknown. He married Emily Griffin on October 18, 1841. Some of their eight children moved to Key West.

3. Benjamin A. Roberts, born about 1827. He married Marquerite Jane Saunders. They and their four children moved to Key West, where Benjamin died on April 6, 1911 and Marguerite died on February 12, 1891.

4. Edward Roberts, birth date unknown. He married Mahala Curry, daughter of Howell Curry



The Abaco Islands of the Bahamas. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

and Rachel Weatherford. He was my grandmother’s great uncle. She said that he owned three large ocean-going ships - the *Hattie*, the *Pajara* and the *Lady Bannerman*. Edward and Mahala stayed in the Bahamas. Their son, William Edward Roberts married Amelia Lowe. They and their seven children moved to Key West.

5. Sarah Ann Roberts, birth date unknown. She married Christopher James Fisher. They had a daughter who married Jeremiah Sweeting Sr. After she died, Jeremiah married Euphemia Roberts, daughter of William Roberts and Matilda and they moved to Key West.

6. Mary Roberts, birth date unknown. She married William Marshall Sweeting in Key West on October 7, 1841, but they did not stay in Key West. They apparently

went back to the Bahamas. William Marshall Sweeting was the son of William Sweeting and Martha. He was born January 15, 1815 and baptized June 4, 1818, St John’s Harbour Island.

7. William Roberts, birth date unknown. He married Matilda Roberts, daughter of John Roberts and Ann. He and his sons William Jr. and Thomas went out fishing one day and never came back. As stated before, William and Matilda are my paternal great, great grandparents. Their nine children were all born in Green Turtle Cay. Birth dates are unknown, except for their three daughters who moved to Key West. Their nine children were:

(1). William Roberts Jr. lost at sea along with his father and brother Thomas. William was married and

(Continued on page 8)



New Plymouth (Key West's sister city) on Green Turtle Cay in the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

(Roots from page 7)

had children, but my grandmother never mentioned their names.

(2). Edward Roberts names of wife and children are unknown.

(3). Thomas Roberts not married. Lost at sea.

(4). Jane Roberts not married, died at age 26 years.

(5). Susan Roberts died at age 4 years.

(6). Romalda Roberts died in infancy.

(7). Euphemia Roberts born April 12, 1847. She married Jeremiah Sweeting Jr. They and their two children moved to Key West.

(8). Ellen Roberts born April 2, 1850. She married Samuel Lowe. They had nine children. They and all but one of their children moved

to Key West. Their daughter, Annie Lowe, married Henry Foster Roberts and stayed in Green Turtle Cay. Their daughter, Cinderella Roberts, was born January 2, 1889 in Green Turtle Cay. In 1890, Annie died and Henry took Cinderella to Key West to live with her grandparents, Ellen and Sam Lowe.

(9). Alicia Ann Roberts born April 10, 1845. She married Adolphus Curry, son of Joseph Curry and Charlotte Adams. Alicia Ann and Adolphus are my paternal great grandparents. Joseph and Charlotte are my great, great grandparents. Joseph Curry was the grandson of one of the five Curry Brothers who were Loyalists during the American Revolution. After the war, they and other Loyalists who moved to the Bahamas included Jacob Adams

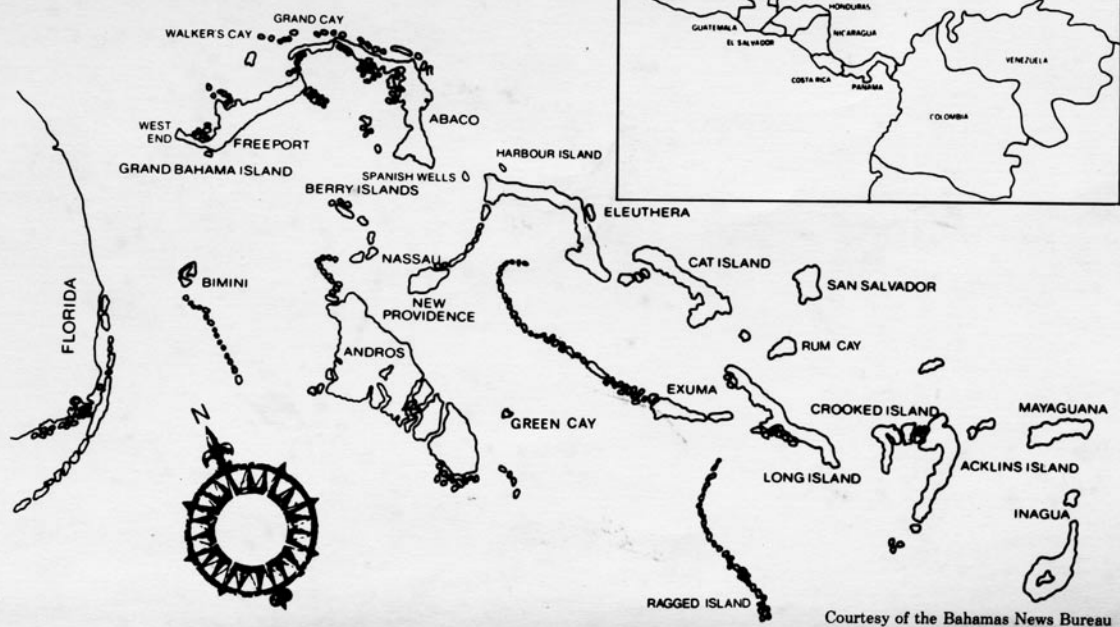
and the widow Wyannie Malone with her children Ephraim Malone, David Malone and Wyannie Malone Jr.

Jacob Adams married Wyannie Malone Jr. and they had twelve children. As stated above, their daughter Charlotte Adams married Joseph Curry and they had thirteen children. After Charlotte died, Joseph married Emaline Albury and had another child.

In 1890 Adolphus Curry and Alicia Ann and their six children moved to Key West. There Alicia Ann died on July 24, 1918 and Adolphus died on April 9, 1927. Their six children were:

(1). Susan Melana Curry, born December 23, 1867, died February 1, 1958 in Key West. On February 1, 1892 she married John Gardner

Commonwealth of The Bahamas



Courtesy of the Bahamas News Bureau

The Bahamas. Photo credit: Bahamas News Bureau.

son of John Henry Gardner and Elizabeth Roberts. Their children will be listed later under descendants of James Roberts and Patience Adams.

(2). Libbie Lisbon Curry, born January 6, 1870, died June 18, 1917 in Key West. Libbie married Clement Louis Knowles, son of Clement Edward Knowles and Julia Eliza Rahming, daughter of George Rahming, Esq. and granddaughter of Governor Archibald Campbell.

(3). Joseph Wilbur Curry, born October 25, 1872, died December 11, 1953, Miami, Florida. Wilbur's first wife was Mae Lowe. His second wife was Gertrude Amanda (Nina) Weech.

(4). William Adolphus "Buster" Curry, born April 15, 1875, died September 26, 1907, in Key West. He was married to Savalita Stirrup.

(5). Thomas Jenkins Curry, born July 13, 1878, died April 29, 1958 in Key West. He married Muriel

Louise Thompson, daughter of Caleb Thompson and Effie (Affie) Sarah Russell. Jenkins and Louise had two daughters.

(6). Theresa Irene (Tessie) Curry, born September 13, 1883, died March 27, 1969 in Key West. Tessie never married.

So far, two Roberts lines (vines) have intertwined with each other. The Curry line and Adams line have intertwined with each other and then with the John Roberts and Sarah line. Next the Adams line becomes intertwined with a third Roberts line.

One Joseph Roberts with wife Martha had the following six children, who are listed in the baptismal records of St. John's, Harbour Island.

1. Sarah Roberts, birth date not given, baptized April 3, 1796.

2. Male Roberts, born December 1796, apparently died soon after birth.

3. John Roberts, born January 26, 1798, baptized February 28, 1798.

4. James Roberts, born August 24, 1798, baptized September 4, 1798. (Note : I doubt that James was born just seven months after the preceding child. I think that the person who copied this information from St. John's records made an error. He was probably born on August 24, 1799 instead of 1798.) James married Patience Adams, daughter of Jacob Adams and Wyannie Malone Jr. Patience was born August 7, 1801 in the Bahamas.

5. Mary Elizabeth Roberts, born February 26, 1801, baptized October 4, 1801. She married Thomas Adams, son of Jacob Adams and Wyannie Malone Jr. and brother of Patience and Charlotte Adams. Mary Elizabeth and Thomas Adams had eight children and they moved to Key West, where Thomas died on

(Continued on page 10)



The "Tuggy" Roberts' home at 408 William Street. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

(Roots from page 9)

July 18, 1863 and Mary Elizabeth died on December 21, 1890. (Note: Mary Elizabeth's parents were not J. Thomas Roberts and Sarah Lowe as stated in "The Genealogy of Wyannie Malone American Loyalist, and Early Settler of Hope Town, Abco, Bahamas" by John J. McAleer Jr.)

6. Catherine Roberts, born November 27, 1802, baptized May 3, 1803.

James Roberts and Patience Aams are my paternal great, great grandparents. They were married July 13, 1816 in Christ Church, Abaco, Bahamas. They had eleven children. In 1838 they and their first eight children left the Bahamas and

moved to the wrecking community on Indian Key in the Upper Florida Keys. Their ninth child was born there in 1839.

In the night of August 7, 1840 the Florida tribe of Seminole Indians attacked Indian Key and burned every building. Some of the residents were shot or stabbed to death. James and Patience and their children survived the massacre by hiding in the cistern beneath their house as did some of the other families.

Since Indian Key was totally destroyed, James and Patience and their children moved to Key West, where two more children were born, making a total of eleven children. Their daughter Elizabeth Roberts was almost 9 years old when

Indian Key was destroyed, She grew up in Key West on April 22, 1850 was married to John Henry Gardner, who was from Salem Massachusetts. He had been a member of the crew on a ship that was wrecked on the reef, and he decided to stay in Key West. He was a 7th generation descendant of Thomas Gardner, who was sent from England in 1624 to oversee the planting in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and he is sometimes called the first governor of Massachusetts.

Elizabeth and John Henry Gardner had twelve children, which included two sets of twins. Their second child was John Gardner, who was born on September 2,



In the Spring of 2005 the Commonwealth of the Bahamas issued four colorfully stamps (shown here in black and white) honoring the Bahamas-Key West connection. The stamps were from paintings by Bahamian artist Alton R. Lowe. Left is William Curry born Green Turtle Cay who after moving to Key West became Florida's first millionaire. Right is famed Key West shipbuilder, John Bartlum, who was also born on Green Turtle Cay. (For more on Bartlum see Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal of Spring 1991 and Spring 1997). Center: The two Key West houses that were moved from New Plymouth to Key West. Top is the Bartlum house at 730 Eaton Street. Bottom is the "Tuggy" Roberts house at 408 William Street. For information on ordering the stamps contact: The Bahamas Philatelic Bureau, c/o G.P.O., P.O. Box 8302, Nassau, Bahamas. Photo credit: Alton R. Lowe.

1855 in Key West. One day in early 1890, when John was 34 years old and still a bachelor, he looked out of a window and saw one of his sisters at the gate talking with a young woman. He had never seen this young woman before and did not know who she was, but he said that it flashed in his mind at that moment that he was going to marry her.

After being properly introduced to Susan Melana Curry by his sister and courting her for several months, he proposed and she accepted. He promptly wrote to her father, Adolphus Curry, in Green Turtle Cay for permission to marry her. The original letter which Adolphus wrote in reply has been preserved. Adolphus was hesitant to grant permission until he did further investigation of the stranger. He sent for Susan and her brother Wilbur to return to Green Turtle

Cay immediately.

In late 1890 Adolphus and his wife and six children moved to Key West. It was then that Adolphus discovered that John Gardner was the grandson of Patience Adams, who was the sister of Adolphus' mother, Charlotte Adams. Thus, John Gardner's mother, Elizabeth Roberts, and Adolphus Curry were first cousins, and John Gardner and Susan Melana Curry were second cousins. With permission granted by Adolphus, John and Susan were married on February 1, 1892, in St. Paul's Episcopal church and lived the remainder of their lives in Key West. John died on February 22, 1935 and Susan died on February 1, 1958. They are my paternal grandparents. Their six children were:

(1). Gloriana Melana Gardner, born December 23, 1892. She

married Edward John (Ted) Bayly, son of Philip James Bayly and Emma Louisa Lowe, daughter of John Lowe Jr. and Mary Elizabeth Lowe. Gloriana and Ted had one child, Edward Philip Bayly, who married five times and had no children. Gloriana and Ted were divorced in 1940. Gloriana died June 14, 1987.

(2). Eliza Melicent Gardner, born January 26, 1895. She never married. She retired in 1950 after teaching high school math for 32 years. She died on September 2, 1995, at the age of 100 years, seven months.

(3). John Grant Gardner, born October 29, 1897. He died with a high fever on November 9, 1898, at the age of one year.

(4). Susie Alicia Gardner, born

(Continued on page 12)

(Roots from page 11)

February 21, 1899. She never married. She retired in 1956, after teaching kindergarten and first grade for 33 years. She died on July 23, 1973 at the age of 74 years.

(5). John Adolphus Gardner, born September 9, 1900. He earned his degree in Pharmacy from the University of Florida and owned and operated Gardner's Rexall Pharmacy in Key West from 1928 to 1968. He married Martha Elizabeth Keiser from Macon, Georgia. They had no children. John died at the age of 69 years on October 15, 1970 in California, while he and his wife were visiting her nephew, who was stationed there in the Air Force.

(6). Henry Alban Gardner, my father, was born January 7, 1905. He married my mother, Edna Eurania Arnold, on April 3, 1928 in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He retired in 1958, after serving in the Florida National Guard for several years, followed by 32 years in Federal Civil Service, starting as a custom agent for several years before transferring to the U.S. Postal Service. My father died on October 9, 1975 and my mother died on December 30, 2002. They had the following eight children:

1. Susan Elizabeth Ann Gardner, born May 28, 1929. Since my grandparents were second cousins, my father was his own third cousin and I am my own fourth cousin. I never married. I earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree from Florida State University. My major was in food and nutrition, with a minor in biochemistry. I did my year of dietetic internship at Charity Hospital of Louisiana in New Orleans. I was a Registered Dietitian with 30 years of membership in the American Dietetic Association. In addition to working on the staff of

Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and Clinical Research Unit of University of Miami Medical School, I also taught food and nutrition at Florida State University for one year. I finally became a Public Health Nutritionist for four years with the Dade County Health Department in Miami and 12 years with the Monroe County Health Department in Key West before retiring.

2. Henry Alban Gardner Jr. born September 25, 1930. He never married. He became a master electrician and died on November 29, 1986.

3. Edna Jean Gardner, born September 30, 1931. She married Peter Daniel Valdez and has always been a homemaker. They both still live in Key West and have two sons and a daughter and seven grandchildren.

4. Richard Ward Gardner, born February 15, 1933. He is a retired automotive mechanic. He and his first wife, Alvania Singleton, have one son and five grandsons. Richard and his second wife, June Molina, have no children. They live in Ft. Myers, Florida.

5. Clara Adina Gardner, born April 18, 1934. She married Alton Kenneth Cates, who was a great, great, great grandson of Thomas Adams and Mary Elizabeth Roberts. Clara has always been a homemaker. She and Alton have one daughter who lives in Key West and one son who lives in Tampa and three grandchildren. Alton died January 19, 1992.

6. Mary Lou Gardner, born September 15, 1935. She married Maxey Dell Love Jr., who was born in Trenton, Florida. They have a son and two daughters and seven grandchildren. Mary Lou died November 1, 1999 in Columbia,

South Carolina and was buried in Trenton, Florida.

7. John Louis Gardner was born June 13, 1942. He is an electrician. He married Dianne Sue Devore. They live in Cape Coral, Florida. One of their two sons lives in Ft. Myers, Florida and the other lives in Cottage Grove, Oregon with his wife and two young daughters.

8. Arthur Grant Gardner was born September 26, 1946. He was married and divorced five times, but had no children. He and his second wife adopted a son, Aaron Alban Joseph Gardner, who was born in 1977 and died in 2002. Arthur is an electrician and lives in Key West.

This is not the end. It completes my father's side of the story, but I also have Bahamian roots on my mother's side. The oldest of her lines (vines) is that of John S. Skelton, who was born about 1785 in Harbour Island. He was the son of John Skelton and wife Elizabeth.

On December 13, 1810, John S. Skelton married Martha (?Myrtle) Thompson, daughter of Nathaniel Thompson and Martha. John, Martha and their five children moved to Key West, where John became a U.S. citizen on March 5, 1837. Their five children were:

1. Mary Skelton, born about 1813. She married Thomas Thompson in Key West on February 2, 1842.

2. Martha Skelton, born September 30, 1817. She married a John Russell.

3. John S. Skelton Jr., born about 1823. In Key West on December 10, 1845, he married Amelia Pent, daughter of Temple Pent and Mary Kemp.

4. Richard Skelton was born in March 1824. He apparently died young and was never married.

5. Susan Skelton was born about 1820-1822. In Key West on July 18, 1844, she married Charles F.

Thompson, who was born about 1818 in New York. Their children were Nancy Beatrice Thompson, who was born in September, 1849, Charles F. Thompson Jr., who was born in 1853 and in 1897 married Hester Jackson and Susan M. Thompson, who was born December 3, 1856 and in 1872 married John Thomas Marshall.

Charles F. Thompson Sr. died between 1856 and 1859 and Susan married her second husband, Lafayette Williams. Their children were James Lafayette William, born in 1863 and Elizabeth Ann Williams, born in 1860.

As stated above, Nancy Beatrice Thompson, the daughter of Susan Skelton and Charles F. Thompson Sr. was born in September 1849 in Key West, where she died on June 11, 1928. She was married to George E. Pinder on December 20, 1869 in Key West. George was born in 1847 in Spanish Wells, Bahamas. Since he came to Key West as a young single man, I have been unable to determine who his parents were, or if any other Pinders who came to Key West as adults were his siblings. George became a U.S. citizen on September 29, 1870. Beatrice and George had two children.

1. William T. Pinder was born in October 1870. He first married Sarah Jane Palmer in 1893. She died in 1898 and in 1899 William married Susan M. Carey. They had three children.

2. E. Victoria Pinder was born in October 1873. In 1891 she married Pablo Rivero who came to Key West from Cuba. These are my mothers maternal grandparents. Victoria and Pablo had three children.

(1). Philomena Victoria "Minnie" Rivero was born October 11, 1892. She first married Merrell Frank Sands in 1910. They had three sons. After Merrell died in 1936, Minnie

1. Green Turtle Cay
23rd April 1890

Mr. John Gardner

Dear Sir - your letter of 29th March is to hand and its contents been looked over the subject upon which you write is one that requires a little time to be considered and decided, this you seem to be somewhat aware of, certainly if you regard for Susan, be of the lasting sort, you will be satisfied to await a short time for an answer final on my part, truly we have no desire for Susan to marry and live apart in the distance from us, yet we will be considerate towards her in any change that we consider is likely to add to her

The first page of the letter from Adolphus Curry to John Gardner. For the complete letter visit the following web site: <http://palmm.fcla.edu/index.html>, then look in the Florida Heritage Collection. Photo credit: the Author.

married Eloy Blanco. She died February 15, 1970.

(2). George V. Rivero was born in 1902. He married Cora Sterling and moved to Miami. They had several daughters.

(3) Amanda Virginia Rivero was born October 17, 1895. On November 19, 1911. She married Louis Franklin Arnold. These are my mothers parents. Their children

(Continued on page 14)

(Roots from page 13)

will be listed under the Malone-Russell-Arnold line which follows.

Ephraim Malone was probably born before 1765 in Virginia. He was a Loyalist and after the American Revolution he moved to the Bahamas with his mother, the widow Wyannie Malone, his brother David Malone and his sister Wyannie Malone Jr. It is thought that he first settled on Harbour Island, Eleuthera. There he married Elizabeth (?Marie) Tedder. They later moved to Marsh Harbour and then to Hope Town both in the Abaco Islands.

Ephraim and Elizabeth had six children. One of their daughters was Anne Malone, who was born April 17, 1807, at Great Harbour, Hope Town. On August 17, 1823, she married Edward Russell of Harbour Island, son of Joseph Russell and Sarah Albury. Edward was born April 5, 1804 at Spanish Wells or Harbour Island. He probably died in Hope Town. Anne later married Robert Keene who died in 1884. Anne died October 27, 1893 in Hope Town. She and Edward Russell had nine children.

One of their sons was John Russell, who was born about 1824. In "The Genealogy of Wyannie Malone American Loyalist, and Early Settler of Hope Town, Abco, Bahamas" states that Anne Malone's son John might have been the John Russell who married a Sarah and had a son Daniel Russell. McAleer was wrong. Anne Malone's son John Russell married Matilda Curry, daughter of one Richard Curry and wife Charity Eliza.

John Russell died in the Bahamas between 1860 and 1863. His widow Matilda and four children arrived in Key West in 1863. On April 14, 1864 Matilda married Peter L. Jaycocks, but the marriage did not

last long, since Peter L. Jaycocks married again two years later. Then on September 26, 1869 Matilda married Daniel Campbell who was from Scotland. They had a son William Campbell, born in 1870. He contracted tuberculosis and died in 1896.

John Russell and Matilda Curry had the following children, all born in the Bahamas.

1. Theodosia (Dosia) Russell, who was born December 29, 1845. She married Charles Smith who was from Germany. They had a daughter Harriet (Hattie) Smith and a son Rufus Smith. (Note: Rufus is not a common name. I have looked through the index of "The Genealogy Wyannie Malone American Loyalist, and Early Settler of Hope Town, Abco, Bahamas" and cannot find the name Rufus under any other surname. The name Rufus Russell is repeated several times in descendants of Anne Malone and Edward Russell.)

2. Thomas Richard Russell was born December 17, 1847. In Key West on September 26, 1868 he married Romalda Jane Baker, daughter of John T. Baker and Sarah A. Russell. Thomas was an architect and a builder. He and Romalda had eight children.

3. A male child born August 18, 1850 apparently died in the Bahamas before 1863.

4. John R. Russell was born September 12, 1853. He died in Key West from yellow fever on November 18, 1872 at the age of 19 years.

5. Eurania Russell was born in 1854. In Key West on June 6, 1873 she married Henry William Arnold, who was born in Ireland in 1843, with the name of Henry William O Dubhagain. In 1845-47, when Henry was only 2 to 4 years old, a mysterious blight destroyed the entire potato crop in Ireland.

The consequence was a dreadful famine during which hundreds of thousands died including both of Henry's parents.

Henry was one of the orphans who were sent to England for adoption. He was adopted by an Arnold family, and his surname was legally changed to Arnold. When he was old enough to understand, his adopted parents told him the story of his early life, and so he was able to pass the information on to his children.

It was probably about 1872 when Henry was on a ship from England to the Bahamas. The ship never reached the Bahamas, because it ran aground and was wrecked on the reef. The passengers, crew and salvaged cargo were brought to Key West. Probably because he met Eurania and fell in love, Henry decided to stay in Key West. Eurania and Henry had six children,

1. Male Arnold, born about 1876. As a young child, he accidentally swallowed a nickel and died.

2. Louisa C. Arnold was born about 1880. She married Antonio Pazo. They had one son, Henry Paso. Louisa and Antonio were divorced and she died in 1962.

3. Henry Jerome Arnold was born in 1881. He never married, and he died 26 November 1926.

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4. Nellie E. Arnold was born in 1882 and died young.

5. Clara B. Arnold was born in 1885 and died December 3, 1904, at the age of 19 years.

6. Louis Franklin Arnold was born May 20, 1889. In Key West on November 19, 1911, he married Amanda Virginia Rivero, daughter of Victoria Pinder and Pablo Rivero. Louis and Amanda are my maternal grandparents. They had the following five children:

(1) Edna Eurania Arnold, born January 8, 1914. She married Henry Alban Gardner. Edna and Henry Alban Gardner are my parents. Their eight children were listed under descendants of James Roberts and Patience Adams.

(2) Louis Paul Arnold, born May 17, 1915. He married Bertha Mae Moat, who was from Georgia. They had seven children. Louis died on April 21, 1993.

(3) Joseph (Joe) Archibald Arnold was born October 17, 1917. He married Blanca, who had a

daughter by her first husband. Joe had no children. He died in 1986 in Bronson, Florida.

(4) Vera Victoria (Vicky) Arnold was born August 20, 1919. She married Walter C. Cooper. They had no children. Vicky died May 3, 1965.

(5) Ralph Arnold was born January 30, 1922. He married Ysel Maria Caraballo and they had two sons. Ysel died May 18, 1971, and Ralph died October 11, 1995.

I previously stated that since my father's parents were second cousins, my father was his own third cousin, and I am my own fourth cousin. The following diagram shows that my mother and I are fifth cousins. My mother was my father's 4th cousin once removed.

Elizabeth Ann Gardner graduated from Key West High School and Florida State University with a Master Degree in Food and Nutrition with a minor in Biochemistry. She retired as Monroe County Nutritionist.

Wyannie Malon

Ephraim Malone married	Brother & Sister	Wyannie Malone Jr. married
Elizabeth Tedder daughter		Jacob Adams daughter
Anne Malone married	1st Cousins	Charlotte Adams married
Edward Russell son		Joseph Curry son
John Russell married	2nd Cousins	Adolphus Curry married
Matilda Curry daughter		Alicia Ann Roberts daughter
Eurania Russell married	3rd Cousins	Susan Melana Curry married
Henry William Arnold son		John Gardner son
Louis Franklin Arnold married	4th Cousins	Henry Alban Gardner Sr. married
Amanda Virginia Rivero daughter		Edna Eurania Arnold daughter
Edna Eurania Arnold	5th Cousins	Elizabeth Ann Gardner

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