

Memories of My Grandma and Grandpa Enos  
(1818-1901) (1799-1877)

By

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(1875-1963)

Also

A brief History

Of

The Wilbur Family

Caroline Frances Child- Born at Brandon, Vermont, Oct. 18, 1818. Married to Moses John Enos of Leicester Vt. In 1840, March 5<sup>th</sup>. He was born about 1798. They lived in Vermont until 1844 when they came to the territory of Wisconsin and settled on a farm on Eagle Prairie in Waukesha County where they lived for 23 years. When they came there the land was covered with forests and inhabited by Indians, with very few white people. They were about 40 miles from Milwaukee which was the nearest town or trading post. They bought 40 acres of land from the government, cleared most of it and built a log house.

Frances Enos was born Feb. 10, 1841 and died of croup Sept. 13 1844. Her father went by ox team to Milwaukee to get medical help, but travel was so slow that she died before he got home with the medicine.

Clarence H. Enos was born Nov. 28, 1845 and died of Scarlet Fever Dec. 24, 1854.

Another son was born the next year, but lived only a few hours.

Addie Enos was born May 6, 1850. She was married to Smith D. Wilbur in October 1871

Mr. and Mrs. Enos lived on the farm until 1867 when they purchased a home in the village of Eagle, where Mr. Enos died March 9, 1879. They worked very hard on their little 40 acre farm: the work was done with very poor tools, -walking plow or breaking plow drawn by oxen and later partly by one horse: they raised some wheat which was cut by hand using a sickle or cradle and threshed by flail. They also raised flax which was used to make linen for bedding and underwear after my grandmother had woven it into cloth on a loom. They also had a few sheep and used the wool for warm clothing.

Some of the linen was mixed with wool and woven into cloth for clothing and all was sewn by hand as sewing machines were unheard of. All this work had to be done by daylight or candle light or light from the fireplace.

Later they made light by tying a rag around a large button, placing it in a saucer of oil and lighting it.

To get fire, they rubbed steel on flint to get a spark to drop on oiled paper or cloth, and when a fire was started in the fireplace they were very careful to never let it go out, but covered it with ashes to keep it alive.

Baking was done in an oven made of brick or stone and placed next to the fireplace. Firebrands were placed in the oven and left there till the oven was hot: then they were removed, the oven swept clean and loaves of bread were placed on the hot oven floor and baked. Wild game was plentiful and used for food. There were rabbits, squirrels, partridge, quail, wild geese, wild turkey, deer, antelope and buffalo. The skins of the animals were used to make shoes, jackets, leggings and also for harnesses- all of which had to be made by hand. When a crop had to be planted in rows my grandfather walked across the field and dragged a chain behind him to make the row.

Other people came from Vermont, Massachusetts, New York and other eastern states and soon formed a colony of friendly neighbors and all helped each other: they had saw mills and made lumber, and homemade chairs, benches, tables, bedsteads or bunks etc. Little school houses were built and besides schools for children they had singing schools, debating societies, church etc. They made sleighs and rode wagons and visited neighbors in winter evenings. Much of the travel was by boat on lakes and rivers as well as by covered wagon drawn by horses or cattle.

They made their own candles from melted tallow and ran it into molds into which wicks had been placed.

## II

My grandmother Enos was of Welsh descent: her parents "kept tavern" which was much like a hotel: they had some quite permanent guests and also many temporary ones- people traveling thru on horseback or otherwise. My grandmother was their first baby - the oldest of nine children and many of the boarders wanted to name the baby so she was rather overburdened with names- Caroline, Frances, Gulnare Child. She was a beautiful child with very dark brown eyes, dark hair, and clear white complexion. Her first sister was named Helen, then there were Adeliza, Augusta, Antoinette and Sobrina and Charlotte. Also two boys, Harry and George. When Harry was born there were already three or four girls and they were angry and felt disgraced to have a boy in the family. My grandmother told me of how a neighbor scolded them for feeling that way about the little boy and said he would probably someday be a great blessing to them: she remembered it and when she was old and poor he was so good to her: he had a grocery store on Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis and once or twice a year sent her a box of groceries: many things she was unable to buy in our little town of Palmyra, Wisconsin. She was very brilliant and a great reader all her life, and read about all inventions and lived to see many of the great changes- such as

electric lights, telephones, telegraph, railroads, automobiles and was always waiting for the perfection or aeroplanes (flying machines) she called them: she read about the Wright brothers and hoped for their success.

Shortly after my grandfather Enos died in 1879 she fell and broke her hip from which she never fully recovered and always walked with a crutch or cane and had a shoe with a very thick sole and heel. In spite of this she had a nice garden every summer and many beautiful flowers, roses, phlox, dahlias, larkspur, nasturtiums, holly hocks and others but was more fond on nasturtiums than the others I believe. She kept her garden free of weeds and her house immaculate, and also did her own washing by hand on a washboard and made sure her wash was whiter than those of her neighbors. She was very fond of me and I of her so I spent much time with her and helped her all I could and she let me experiment with baking: My mother didn't have the patience to let us practice so I made cookies, but my specialty was pie and my first pie was a cherry pie which is really a very difficult one, but it turned out beautifully except that when I was taking it from the oven some of the juice spilled out and burned my hand very badly. Grandma sent me to her next neighbor, Mrs. Grove who was wonderfully kind to us. She put lard on the burns, then flour and a bandage to keep out the air and my hand didn't blister and was well in a short time. One day my mother came over to see us and saw the pie I had made and after that I had to bake pies for her too as she said they were much nicer than she could make. I still love to make pies. Grandma had a very good memory, and told me much about her ancestors. They had come from Wales and a colony settled in Vermont and I read recently that many of them still speak Welsh, and have their church services in that language. She however did not speak it but she and her husband were married by a Welsh minister.

Her mother's maiden name was Charlotte Sessions- the name of the previous generation was Loomis and some before were Green, Dunn, and Crawford although she wasn't real sure of the order in which those names came. She lived in Eagle several years but later my parents moved to the town of Palmyra which was only seven miles west of Eagle, so she moved there too and bought a house not far from us where she lived until I could not stay with her anymore as I began teaching, so she tried to live with my mother but they were never happy together so a neighbor persuaded her to sell her home and enter the Frances Hinton Home in Milwaukee, which was a Protestant Home for the aged in 1895. She sold her home for a little over \$300 as all that was required then was a payment of \$300 and she was guaranteed care for life. I visited her there many times and did sewing and repairing for her and thought it was a wonderful place: they had every modern convenience and with fireproof stone floors but covered with lovely rugs: she was allowed to have her own furniture and took with her a large 4

drawer dresser which she wanted me to have after her death. I couldn't keep it where I lived at Wist, so Minnie had it and painted it many times so it didn't look good and I gave it to my son Peter who scraped all the old paint off and enameled it a beautiful blue so it is real pretty.



**Frances Hinton Home in Milwaukee**

Grandma Enos taught school in Vermont from the time she was sixteen until she was married at the age of twenty: She was paid one dollar per week and "boarded round" which meant staying at the homes of the pupils: the length of stay depended on the number of pupils from that family. She thought the wages were good because girls who did housework got only fifty cents a week, but she did not like the food at many places and often made excuse to go home and get a "good meal of Ma's cooking".

When my grandpa and grandma Enos and little Frances went from Vermont to Wisconsin to live there were no railroads so they went by boat on canal, St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes to Milwaukee. She told me Milwaukee was a marsh spot with a cluster of houses and stores and she couldn't imagine it would ever be a large city.

Grandpa Enos had a brother Herman who had gone to Wisconsin earlier and bought land and built a house for himself, but was a bachelor so he came by ox team to Milwaukee to meet them and took them to his house and they lived with him for some time until they could get land and build a log house for themselves. This brother married later and they had two daughters: he later returned to Vermont where he passed away at the age of 70.

The school houses in those days were built square with a row of benches around inside the walls for the large pupils and inside of that another row of benches for medium sized pupils and still another for the real small ones and in the middle stood the schoolmaster with a rod or staff to administer justice and keep order. They had no text books but read from the Bible: one pupil would read a few lines or verses and another was called on to continue and if he hadn't paid attention so that he knew where to begin he received a sharp rap as a reminder. The master taught them sums which was the beginning of Arithmetic.

I do not know much about my grandpa Enos as he was twenty years old that his wife (my grandmother) but I believe he was of English descent as he had a sister who was married to a rich English planter and they lived in Virginia and owned slaves. He was a kind husband and father and a good neighbor and my mother was very fond of him but he died when I was about three years old, so I do not remember him at all. I dimly remember standing by his open grave. He was buried in a little country cemetery beside his three children. When my grandmother died at the Home in Milwaukee, March 26, 1901, my mother and I were with her and tho weather was wintry and snow on the ground, do decided it was better to bury her there in Milwaukee at Forest Home Cemetery than to take her to the little ill kept cemetery on Eagle Prairie.



## The Wilbur Family

The first Wilburs in this country came from England.

Sam Wilbur and wife Ann Bradford were admitted to the First Church of Boston December 1, 1633. Sam Wilbur was admitted as Freeman of Boston March 4, 1634: he was owner of considerable property in Taunton, Mass., also in Boston and evidently divided his place of residence between the two places. In Nov. 1637 he was one of a party that was banished from the colony on account of religious views in variance of those held by ruling majority of the colony, and on the advice of Roger Williams, he and others fled to Providence where they purchased the Island of Aquidneck (Now Rhode Island) from the Narragansett Indians and early in 1638 moved his family to the new location.

In March 7, 1638 these 18 persons by solemn compact, founded a new colony.

In 1645 Samuel returned to Boston and built an iron furnace at Taunton, Mass., the first in New England. He was clerk of town board in 1638, constable in 1639, sergeant in 1644.

His wife Ann died and he remarried Elizabeth Lechford, a widow: these dates are not known. Elizabeth was admitted to the First Church of Boston Nov. 29, 1645. Samuel died July 24, 1656. It is said that he left four sons.

William and Shadrach are the ones from whom the Wilbors, Wilbers, Wilburs etc. have descended: The Shadrach branch settled more thickly around Boston, while the Wm. Branch settled near Little Compton R.I. It is said that at one time there were only two votes cast in Little Compton that were not Wilbors. It is assumed that our branch of the family came from the Little Compton family.

William born 1630-married Martha – settled at Little Compton RI. About 1654, died at Twerton, RI.: their son Joseph born 1656 married Ann Brounell in 1683. They had 10 children: the 8<sup>th</sup> was Benjamin- born June 20, 1699 – married Deborah Gifford: their son Christopher was born Dec. 23, 1726 – married Sarah – had several children. David was born Nov.12, 1771, married Polly Peck. He died in 1865. One daughter Sally married David Calkins. Chas Calkins and son Ed of Palmyra Wis. are descendants. Another daughter Cynthia married Sidney Purdy. They had a daughter Laura who married a Mr. Frounfelter and lived for years in Milwaukee. I knew them well. A son, Miles is our direct ancestor. He married Lovina Duncan who

lived only one year (after marriage) and his second wife, Phebe Potter was my grandmother.



Joseph Wilbur House Little Compton Rhode Island 1690

They had eight children 2 died in infancy. Chas. H born Oct 8, 1849 - married Irene Boulanger. They had two daughters. Both are living. Smith Wilbur married Addie Enos and they had three daughters, Evelyn born August 18, 1872, Pearl born November 14, 1875 and Minnie born January 1, 1879 at Eagle, Wis. Orley married Libbie Riley and they had 4 daughters- all are not deceased. John Wesley married Eliza Adsit. They had one son Orley. All are deceased. Miles Jr. married May Coon. They had several children Charles Lester born June 29, 1875. Elisha born 1878 and another son Max born later lived to be about 3 years and died of whooping cough when the family was living in Milwaukee. They bought him to Palmyra for burial. Elisha was in the war in Philippines and became an officer. He died of a ruptured appendix and was buried in Palmyra. Chas. Married and had a large family and they lived at Denver, Colorado.