

Descendants of Corwin Radcliff and Elva Louise Washburn

Generation No. 6.4

CORWIN⁶ RADCLIFF (*Minerva⁵ Corwin, Rebecca Jane⁴ Hibben, William³, Thomas², John¹*) was born July 10, 1872 in Ottawa, La Salle Co., IL, and died August 19, 1945 in Merced, Merced Co., CA. He married **ELVA LOUISE WASHBURN** November 23, 1904 in Princeton, Bureau Co., IL, daughter of (unknown) **WASHBURN** and (unknown) **LOWE**. She was born August 15, 1873 in IL, and died August 06, 1951 in Merced, Merced Co., CA.

Child of **CORWIN RADCLIFF** and **ELVA WASHBURN** is:

- i. **WASHBURN⁷ RADCLIFF**, b. September 30, 1905, CA; d. October 1905, CA.

CORWIN RADCLIFF 1872 - 1945
and
ELVA LOUISE WASHBURN 1873 - 1951

Roughly speaking, the early days of the County were those of the cattlemen. Coming down the years we come to the grain era and finally to the period of intensive cultivation under irrigation. Merced County has grown from 500 in 1855 to roundly 50,000 in 1940.¹

Corwin Radcliffe

Corwin Radcliff Follows In His Father's Footsteps

Corwin Radcliff was the youngest son of Minerva Corwin and George M. Radcliff. He was born in Ottawa, La Salle County, Illinois on July 10, 1872. In 1940, he published a history of Merced County, California in which he wrote his own biography.²

Corwin Radcliffe was born July 10, 1872, in Ottawa, Illinois, where his father George M. Radcliffe, and his grandfather, Franklin Corwin, published the Ottawa Republican under the firm name of Corwin and Radcliffe. His mother was Minerva Corwin.

The elder Radcliffe moved with his family from Ottawa to Joliet, Illinois, in the seventies where he published the Joliet Daily Sun. A year or two later he moved to a farm at Cedar Point, near La Salle, where the mother died and was buried in the Corwin burial plot in Peru, Illinois.

Following the death of his mother, Corwin Radcliffe went to Bureau County, Illinois, where he was raised and schooled, attending the grammar and high school at Princeton. His brother, the late C. D. Radcliffe, had come to California in 1888 and settled at Colusa where he published the Colusa Herald. In 1890 C. D. Radcliffe came to Merced and, with J. H. Rogers, established the Merced Evening Sun. The senior Mr. Radcliffe, who had come to California to join his son, did the editorial work on the paper. He died in Merced in 1891.

Corwin Radcliffe came to Merced in 1894, purchasing a half interest in the Sun in 1895, which was thenceforth for twenty-four years published under the firm name of Radcliffe Brothers. C. D. Radcliffe died in 1919, after which the paper was conducted by Corwin Radcliffe, for a time in partnership with the late U. J. Hoult. May 1, 1925, Radcliffe sold the paper to the McClung Brothers who merged it into the present Merced Sun-Star.

Since 1922, first on the Sun and then on the Sun-Star, Mr. Radcliffe has conducted a daily column in the paper under the caption of 'Rad's Ramblings.'

Mr. Radcliffe is a charter member of the Merced Rotary and a Past President of the club. During his presidency he represented the club at the convention of Rotary International in Denver in 1926 and at Ostende, Belgium, in 1927. Radcliffe is also a charter member of the Merced Lodge of Elks.

On the 23rd of November, 1904, at the bride's home in Princeton, Illinois, Mr. Radcliffe married Miss Elva Louise Washburn. The family home is at 523 Twentieth Street, Merced.³

THE WILLIAM HIBBEN LINE

What he did not mention was that Elva and he had a son, Washburn Radcliff who was born September 30, 1905.⁴ The infant died about two weeks later.⁵ Corwin and Elva are recorded in the 1910 and 1920 US Censuses living in Merced City, Merced County, California. Corwin's employment was that of a newspaper proprietor.⁶

Corwin died August 19, 1945.⁷ Under his photograph and heading, '30' FOR AUTHOR OF RAD'S RAMBLES, in the *Merced Sun-Star*, was the following eulogy. The *Merced Sun-Star* offices were closed the next day in observance of his funeral.

*Merced and vicinity was shocked yesterday to learn of the passing of one of the colorful and beloved characters of this section of the valley for over half a century. Corwin Radcliffe, 73, widely-known throughout the state as a newspaperman and the author of 'Rad's Rambles,' regular Sun-Star feature column, died early yesterday morning. He had been a newspaperman most of his life. He suffered the fatal stroke in the Sun-Star newsroom last Thursday morning. Today for Rad's Rambles, '30', the newsman's symbol denoting "The End" is up. Rad has signed '30' to his final column.*⁸

Elva died August 6, 1951, in Merced.⁹

Generation 6.4 End Notes:

¹ Corwin Radcliffe, *History of Merced County*, 1940, Merced, California, (A. H. Cawston, Publisher), Foreword.

² Ibid., pages 413-14.

³ *Merced Sun-Star*, Merced, Merced County, California, August 20, 1945.

⁴ California Birth Records, <<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/birth/search.cgi>>.

⁵ Sandy Walls, <swalls@pacifier.com>, 2nd great niece of Elva Washburn Radcliffe.

⁶ US Census 1910, T624-89, enumeration 102, household 72, Merced City, Merced County, California; US Census 1920, T625-121, enumeration 150, sheet 20, line 85, precinct 1, 528 20th St., Merced City, Merced County, California.

⁷ Merced County, California Death Records, book 14, page 676.

⁸ *Merced Sun-Star*, [Note 3].

⁹ California Death Records <<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>>.