

Descendants of William H. Sesler and Elmira Thomas and Anna Cline

Generation No. 4.2

WILLIAM H.⁴ SESLER (*Jane³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*) was born May 1834 in OH, and died June 12, 1905 in National Military Home, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. He married (1) **ELMIRA THOMAS**. She was born Abt. 1836 in Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH, and died October 27, 1884 in Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. He married (2) **ANNA CLINE** November 04, 1879 in Miamisburg, Montgomery Co., OH, daughter of **THOMAS CLINE**. She was born June 1860 in Waverly, Pike Co., OH, and died 22 August 1934 in Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH

Child of **WILLIAM SESLER** and **ELMIRA THOMAS** is:

- i. **CHARLES⁵ SESLER**, b. Abt. 1855, OH.

Children of **WILLIAM SESLER** and **ANNA CLINE** are:

- i. **CHARLES⁵ SESLER**, born June 24, 1879, Wilmington Clinton Co., OH; d. December 17, 1945, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. He m. **MISSOURI EMMA BRITZ**; b. July 24, 1879, PA; d. September 10, 1941, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH.
- ii. **CLELA MAY SESLER**, b. September 01, 1884, OH; d. August 12, 1969, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She m. (1) **RICHARD EBERLY GREENAWAY** Abt. 1900; b. December 03, 1882; Columbus, Franklin Co., OH; d. July 28, 1922, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH. She m. (2) **FRANK M. ARMSTRONG** Aft. 1922; b. January 20, 1879, Hamilton Co., OH; d. June 2, 1952, Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH.
- iii. **SAMUEL SESLER**, b. July 27, 1887, OH

Revised 01/09, 01/10 & 12/10

WILLIAM H. SESLER 1834 - 1905
and wives
ELMIRA THOMAS Abt. 1836 - 1884
ANNA CLINE 1860 - 1934

*While not the past forgetting,
To-day, at least, contention sunk entire—
peace, brotherhood uprisen;
For sign reciprocal our Northern, Southern hands,
Lay on the graves of all dead soldiers, North and South,
(Nor for the past alone—for meanings to the future,)
Wreaths of roses and branches of palm.¹*

Walt Whitman

William Served In The Civil War

William H. Sesler was born in May 1834 in Ohio.² He was the second son of Jane Hibben and Thomas Sesler and grew up in Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.³ At the age of 23 early in the Civil War, he was recruited by Alexander Selkirk Ballard, the husband of a first cousin, Mary Jane Hibben Ballard, to join the Union Army. On October 9, 1861 he enlisted for three years as a member of Company H, 74th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He only served for nine months. *Said soldier has been unfit for duty 7 days on account of a wound received from a bullet while on duty in Camp Tod the 4th of July 1862. The wound is in the left hand.*⁴ William was discharged July 11, 1862 at Nashville, Tennessee. He was allowed a pension in 1892 for “*gun shot wound of left hand and locomotor ataxia.*”⁵

William Married Twice

Records about William’s marriages and children are open to question. The 1880 Census records that William, his wife age 50, Elmira Thomas, and twenty-five year old son, Charles were living in Dayton, Ohio.⁶ Then in 1898 in response to a questionnaire sent by the Bureau of Pensions, William responded that he was married to Anna (Cline) Sesler in Miamisburg, Montgomery County, Ohio in 1897. He also gives the names of his former wife as Almira Sesler, who died at Dayton, and two children, Cleavy May born September 1, 1884 and Samuel Sesler born July 7, 1887.⁷ However, the 1900 Census records that he had another son, a second Charles, born in June 1880,⁸ and this Charles’ death certificate states that his mother was Anna Cline. Perhaps the first Charles was not listed on the pension questionnaire because he was over sixteen years of age. To add further confusion, a death certificate submitted by Anna (Cline) Sesler in 1920 to support her widows pension claim, recorded that Almira died of accidental burns on October 27, 1884.⁹ If the second Charles was Anna (Cline) Sesler’s son born in 1880, it would appear that William and Almira had been previously divorced. Or, perhaps William transposed the date numerals in his response to the Bureau of Pensions and meant that he was married to Anna in 1879 rather than 1897.

“I certify that the records of this Home show that William H. Sesler, late H. Co., 7th Ohio Inf., pension certificate number 339203, died at this Home June 12, 1905 of chronic cystitis.”¹⁰

THE JANE HIBBEN LINE

Sometime after William's death in 1905, Anna married again. Her new husband was Joseph R. Miller, also a veteran of the Civil War. Anna became a widow again when he died in December 1919. The Bureau of Pensions records include claims by Anna for benefits as Joseph's widow. Also, it is interesting to note that in the 1930 Census she was recorded twice, once as living with her daughter, Clela, in Dayton and again with her grandson, Curtis Greenaway in Madison Township.¹¹ She died August 24, 1934 and was buried in Woodlawn cemetery in Dayton.¹² William Sesler died June 12, 1905 at the National Military Home in Dayton and was buried in its Military Cemetery.¹³

Additional Information About The Three Children Of William H. Sesler and Anna Cline

The Charles Sesler who was born June 24, 1879 married Missouri Emma Britz about 1905. Their daughter Mildred was born about 1907. Census reports record that over the years Charles held diverse jobs; iron molder, paper cutter and paint mixer.¹⁴ Charles and Missouri lived in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio from the time of their marriage until they died. A wealth of information can be gleaned from their death certificates:

Charles Sesler, 2708 Oakridge Dr., M, W, widowed, wife - Missouri Emma, b. June 24, 1879 Wilmington, OH, age 66 yr 5 mo 23 da, rental sales ass't at Fields, father, Charles [William] Sesler b. (unk), Mother - Anna Kline [Cline] b. Clinton Co., OH, Informant - Mrs. R. M. Armstrong, 2708 Oakridge Dr., dod - Dec. 17, 1945, burial 12-19-1945 Woodlawn cemetery.¹⁵

Missouri Emma Sesler, 30 George st., F, W, married to Charles Sesler, b. 7-24-1879 PA, age - 62 yr 1 mo 16 da, housekeeper, father - George A. Britz b. PA, mother - Mary Miller b. PA, Informant - Charles Sesler, dod - 9-10 1941, burial - 9-12-1941 Woodland cemetery.¹⁶

In 1923 at the age of fifteen, Mildred Sesler married twenty-two year old Ivan L. Miller. The 1930 Census records that they had two children; Joyce M. Miller, born December 1926 and Charles W. Miller, born May 1928, and that the family was living with Mildred's parents in Dayton. Ivan was employed as a motorman for the city street railway.¹⁷

At the time of her marriage about 1900, Clela May Sesler, (a.k.a. Cleavey) was working as a tobacco sizer. She was fifteen years old that year when she married Richard Eberly Greenaway, a pattern maker in a shop, most likely in Dayton.¹⁸ Richard was the son of Isaiah Peter Greenaway,¹⁹ who was born in New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana, and Naomi DeButts. Clela and Richard had a son, Curtis Arthur Greenaway, born July 5, 1903.²⁰ Richard died in July 28, 1922:

Richard Eberly Greenaway, 2714 Edward Ave., M, W, married to Clela Greenaway, b. Dec. 3, 1882 Columbus, OH, age 39 yrs 7 mo 25 da, occupation - Foreman pattern dept. Delco Light, father - Isiah Greenaway born IN, mother Naomi Debutts born Cin., Ohio, Informant - Clela Greenaway, dod - July 28, 1922, burial Woodland cemetery July 31, 1922.²¹

Clela married Frank M. Armstrong and continued living in Dayton. Frank died June 2, 1952. Clela was the informant listed on his death certificate. Clela died August 12, 1969 and was buried in Woodland Cemetery in Dayton.²²

*Frank M. Armstrong, M, W, married, b. Jan. 20, 1879 Hamilton, OH, age - 73 yr 4 mo 12 da, Foreman Harris Seybold, Father - James Armstrong, Mother - (unk), Soc. Sec. 287-07-7945, Informant - Clela M. Armstrong, dod - 6-2-1952, burial 6-6-1952 Woodland cemetery.*²³

Curtis Arthur Greenaway married Lilian Margie Miller about 1920 and they had two daughters, Irene and Vivian.²⁴ It is believed this marriage ended in divorce and Curtis later married Tresy (unknown).²⁵ Curtis' descendants confirm that he was also known as Richard Eberly Johnson, and in about 1935 he married Violet Augusta Erickson. Richard and Violet had two sons, Curtis Greenaway Johnson and Dennis Scott Johnson. Richard became estranged from his family about 1944. Violet, assisted by her parents, Anders Theodore 'Ted' Eriksen and Martha Elizabeth Martinson Eriksen, raised the boys. She was an elementary school teacher. Later in her life Violet married Harvey W. Bergander. Richard Johnson died January 15, 1982 in Azusa, Los Angeles County, California.²⁶ Violet died 13 September 1986 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.²⁷ Harvey Bergander died July 5, 1988 in Chicago.²⁸

Little is known about the youngest Sesler child, Samuel. The Census taker in 1910 found him at age twenty-two, living with his brother's family in Dayton, single and working as a furnace setter.²⁹

Generation 4.2 End Notes:

¹ Justin Kaplan, editor, *Walt Whitman, Poetry and Prose*, 1982, New York, New York, (Viking Press), page 630.

² US Census 1900, T6523-1308, West Precinct, Harrison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

³ US Census 1850, M432-693, page 405, Silver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio.

⁴ Civil War Pension Records, National Archives and Records Administration, #339,203, Certificate of Disability for Discharge, July 11, 1862.

⁵ Civil War Pension Records, [Note 4], Pension certificate, June 13, 1892.

⁶ US Census 1880, T9-1051, page 357C, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.

⁷ Civil War Pension Records, [Note 4], Letter from Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, January 15, 1898.

⁸ The 1900 Census [Note 2] records that Charles was born in June 1880. Charles' death certificate [Note 13] states he was born June 24, 1879.

⁹ Department of Public Welfare, Division of Health, Dayton, Ohio, Certificate of Death #1241.

¹⁰ Civil War Pension Records, [Note 4], Letter from National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Central Branch, National Military Home, Ohio, July 19, 1920.

¹¹ US Census 1930, T626-1857, page 2B, enumeration 162, Madison Township., Montgomery County, Ohio; US Census 1930, T626-1855, page 14B, enumeration 210, Dayton City, Montgomery County, Ohio.

¹² Ohio Deaths 1908 - 1953, electronic; Death Certificate #50870, Montgomery County, Ohio; Anna Sesler, date of death - August 22, 1934.

¹³ Death Certificate, dated July 19, 1920 by Gov. W. J. White, "William H. Sesler, late H Co., 74th Ohio Inf., pension certificate number 339203, died at this home June 12, 1905 of chronic cystitis."

¹⁴ US Census 1900, T623-1308, enumeration 87, sheet 2, line 90, West Precinct, Harrison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio; US Census 1910, T624-1217, page 4B, enumeration 81, Ward 5 Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio; US Census 1930, T626-1852, page 32A, enumeration 51, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.

¹⁵ Ohio Deaths 1908 - 1953, electronic. Death Certificate #75676, Montgomery County, Ohio.

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¹⁶ Ibid., #56334.

¹⁷ US Census 1930, T626-1852, page 32A, enumeration 51, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.

¹⁸ US Census, T623-1308, enumeration 87, sheet 2, line 90, West Precinct, Harrison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

¹⁹ *William E. Greenaway Manuscript of the Greenaways*, William E. Greenaway, about 1943. In possession of Viva Greenaway Davis. This manuscript documents the Greenaway family back to William Henry Greenaway born between 1740 and 1745 in London, England.

²⁰ "Bridges and Allied Families" database, William Bridges, <Rootsweb.com> World Connect.

²¹ Ohio Deaths 1908 - 1953, electronic, Death Certificate #41207, Montgomery County, Ohio.

²² James A. Wright, electronic, <jawright56@gmail.com>

²³ Ohio Deaths 1908 - 1953, [Note 21], #40725.

²⁴ James A. Wright, [Note 22].

²⁵ US Census 1930, T626-1857, page 2B, enumeration 162, Madison Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

²⁶ California Death Records, 1940-1997, "Richard Greenaway, M, b. 5 July 1903, OH, d. 15 Jan 1982, Los Angeles, CA, mother's maiden name – Sesler.

²⁷ Social Security Death Index, #338-03-3609, "Bergander, Violet, b. 12 Jan 1912, d. Sept 1986, age 74, last benefit - Chicago, Cook Co., IL, issued IL"

²⁸ Ibid., #377-01-5441, "Bergander, Harvey W., b. 28 May 1908, d. 5 July 1988, 80, last residence - Chicago, Cook Co., IL, issued IL."

²⁹ US Census 1910, [Note 13].