

Descendants of George Alexander Seslar and Flora Belle Pooler

Generation No. 5.2

GEORGE ALEXANDER⁵ SESLAR (*Thomas Martin⁴ Sesler, Jane³ Hibben, Thomas² John¹*) was born March 12, 1856 in Lima, Allen Co., OH, and died January 27, 1932 in Northport, Morrill Co., NE. He married **FLORA BELLE POOLER** December 25, 1888 in Lima, Allen Co., OH, daughter of **JAMES POOLER** and **ELECTA RAWLEY**. She was born December 31, 1869 in Broadway, Union Co., OH, and died September 29, 1938 in Northport, Morrill Co., NE.

Children of **GEORGE SESLAR** and **FLORA POOLER** are:

- i. **VERNON OSCAR⁶ SESLAR**, b. March 13, 1892, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. December 20, 1957, Harbison Canyon, San Diego Co., CA. He m. **CHRISTINA MARILLA IOLA McGREW** March 31, 1919, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; b. August 18, 1903, Burwell, Garfield Co., NE; d. August 4, 2001, Kennewick, Benton Co., WA.
- ii. **RUTH ELECTA ELIZABETH SESLAR**, b. June 15, 1901, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; d. September 1983, Naselle, Pacific Co., WA. She m. **EDWIN ROSS JANES** May 15, 1922, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; b. October 22, 1902, Burwell, Garfield Co., NE; d. December 3, 1989, St. Helens, Columbia Co., OR.

GEORGE ALEXANDER SESLAR 1856 - 1932
and
FLORA BELLE POOLER 1869 - 1938

*Grandpa had an old Model 'T' truck, and if you know anything about them, you know how frustrating they could be. He cranked and cranked on that thing until he was worn out. Then he stepped back and said: 'Plague on the luck. If it weren't for the high cost of shoe leather, I would kick you.'*¹

Dale Laverne Seslar

George And Flora Homestead On A Ranch Near Northport, Nebraska

George Alexander Seslar was the second child and first son of Thomas Martin Sesler and Elizabeth Mahala Aldridge. He was born March 12, 1856 in Lima, Allen County, Ohio.² In the 1870 Census, at the age of 14, he was recorded as a farm laborer, rather than 'at school,' as one might expect. Evidently, George did not like school.

*George played hooky from school. He was sitting on the rail fence enjoying his freedom when along came the neighbor lady. She said, "George, aren't you supposed to be in school?" He said, "What's school?" The neighbor told his mother, and he was spanked for being sassy.*³

As his father was in poor health and subsequently died in 1877, George, or Alexander as he was often called, continued to work as a farm laborer to help support his family. The 1880 Census records him living and working on a neighbor's farm.⁴

George married Flora Belle Pooler on Christmas day 1888 in Lima, Allen County, Ohio. (Plate 17) Shortly thereafter Flora and he moved to Chicago where Vernon Oscar Seslar was born on March 13, 1892. George worked for the Pullman Company and was a Sunday School teacher at the Inman Congregational Church. When he and his family left for Nebraska he was presented with a bible by the congregation. His family records were written in this bible.⁵

*George made a trip to Nebraska before he was married and put in a claim for a tree claim. Then went back to Chicago, IL. Worked for the Pullman Company, married Flora Belle Pooler. When their son, Vernie, was four years old Flora took Vernie and made a trip to Nebraska to visit her mother-in-law and hoping the climate would be better for her health. When she saw all the land George had a claim on and would loose it if he didn't plant trees on it, she insisted he move out to Nebraska. So he came out, planted trees plus took out a homestead. Moved to Camp Clarke, NE in 1896. Superintendent of first Sunday school in Northport, NE. His dream was to own all the land from the river to the hills, he and his family. He wanted to have a large ranch, but irrigation came and it was too expensive not to farm.*⁶

Five years after the family's arrival in Northport, Ruth Electa Elizabeth Seslar was born on June 15, 1901.⁷ George had become a rancher and specialized in the raising of mules or 'jacks,' as they were called. (Plate 17)

THE JANE HIBBEN LINE

I remember the story about the sale of the mules that he was raising for the army during the first world war. He stuck to the price he had set while the war was still on, but the next morning it was over. Making a sale was a lot harder for the demand for mules had dropped as the only ones to buy them were the farmers around there and they didn't have any money.⁸

Other tales about George reveal his disposition and character.

Grandpa Seslar was a very religious man and I remember my Dad telling us that the only time he ever heard him use bad words was one day when they were trying to load a calf on the wagon and the calf kicked grandpa in the stomach. He called the calf a S.O.B. He would usually take out his frustrations with 'Plague on the luck'.

Notice the pipe in Grandpa's mouth. Unless he was sleeping or eating he had it in his mouth. After fifty years of smoking, on his seventieth birthday, he swore off smoking and burned everything pertaining to smoking and never smoked again. I was only eight years old when he died so I don't remember the time so well, but I remember his barn burned down and he lost some cattle and the others were badly burned. The fire probably started from some ashes from his pipe. My grandmother was quite a nag and I'm thinking she never let him forget about the barn burning. No one ever said that is why he stopped smoking but that would be a pretty good reason.⁹

George died at the age of 75 years, 10 months and 15 days on January 27, 1932, and Flora died at the age of 68 years, 9 months and 29 days on September 29, 1938. Both are buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bridgeport, Nebraska.¹⁰

Additional Information About George And Flora's Children

Vernon Oscar Seslar married Christina Marilla Iola McGrew on March 31, 1919 at Bridgeport, Morrill County, Nebraska. They had three children; Duane Vernon Seslar, Dale Laverne Seslar and Nola Joyce Seslar. Vernon died December 20, 1957 at Harbison Canyon, San Diego County, California.¹¹

Ruth Electa Elizabeth Seslar married Edwin Ross Janes on May 15, 1922 at Bridgeport, Morrill County, Nebraska. They had three children; Lorraine Adaire Janes, Glade Janes and Gerald Janes. Ruth died in September 1983 and Edwin Ross Janes on December 3, 1989 at St. Helens, Oregon.¹²

Generation 5.2 End Notes:

¹ Written recollection of Dale Laverne⁷ Seslar (*Vernon Oscar⁶, George Alexander⁵, Thomas Martin⁴ Sesler, Jane³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*).

² Thomas M. Sesler and Elizabeth M. Aldridge family bible, "George Alexander Seslar was borned March th 12, 1856"; George A. Seslar and Flora B. Pooler family bible, "born George A. Seslar Mar. 12/1856"; Death Certificate C 841, Northport, Morrill County, Nebraska.

³ Written recollection of Dale Laverne Seslar, [Note 1].

⁴ US Census 1880, T9-990, page 394C, Bath Allen County, Ohio.

⁵ George Alexander Seslar family bible, in possession of Dale Laverne Seslar as of 2001.

⁶ Written recollection of Dale Laverne Seslar, [Note 1].

⁷ George A. Seslar and Flora B. Pooler family bible, "born Ruth E. E. Seslar June 15, 1901."

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⁸ Written recollection of Dale Laverne Seslar, [Note 1].

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ancestor Chart, Lorraine Adaire⁷ Janes (Olsen) (*Ruth Electa Elizabeth⁶, George Alexander⁵, Thomas Martin⁴ Sesler, Jane³ Hibben, Thomas², John¹*); Death Certificate C 841, February 2, 1932, Northport, Morrill County, Nebraska.

¹¹ California Death Records, <userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>; Ancestry Chart, Lorraine Admire Janes (Olsen); Ancestry Chart, Nola Joyce Seslar (Chappell).

¹² Ancestor Chart, Lorraine Adaire Janes (Olsen).