

## *Descendants of Sarah Jane Seslar and Charles Elliott Logan*

### *Generation No. 5.3*

**SARAH JANE<sup>5</sup> SESLAR** (*Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Sesler, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) was born June 12, 1857 in Lima, Allen Co., OH, and died April 17, 1937 in Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE. She married **CHARLES ELLIOTT LOGAN** December 09, 1888 in Camp Clarke, Cheyenne Co., NE, son of **EPHRAIM COOPER LOGAN** and **FRANCES ISABELLE MELLON**. He was born May 30, 1861 in Mansfield, Richland Co., OH, and died February 20, 1940 in Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE.

Children of **SARAH SESLAR** and **CHARLES LOGAN** are:

- i. **SAMUEL J.<sup>6</sup> LOGAN**, b. August 1892 in Bridgeport, Cheyenne Co., NE; d. July 23, 1987, Centralia, Lewis Co., WA. He m. **WINNIE EDITH KILBURN** December 25, 1916, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; b. March 26, 1897, Pacific Junction, IA; d. May 14, 1987, Oakville, Grays Harbor Co., WA.
- ii. **FRED B. LOGAN**, b. October 23, 1896, Bridgeport, Cheyenne Co., NE; d. December 30, 1933, Denver, Denver Co., CO. He m. **LILLIS CATHERINE DAVIS** June 9, 1919, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; b. May 30, 1897, Sidney, Cheyenne Co., NE; d. November 09, 1995, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA.
- iii. **RUTH ISABELLE LOGAN**, b. June 09, 1898, Bridgeport, Cheyenne Co., NE.; d. May 05, 1991, Pewaukee, WI. She m. **CHARLES BURRY** December 23, 1923, Bridgeport, Morrill Co., NE; b. May 04, 1890, NE; d. July 07, 1969, Delafield, WI.

**SARAH JANE SESLAR 1857 - 1937**  
**and**  
**CHARLES ELLIOTT LOGAN 1861 - 1940**

*To others the country was aloof, austere, forbidding; the wind sucking their courage as it sucked the green from the grass by mid-June. Some saw it as a great sea caught and held forever in a spell, and were afraid. And here and there were a few sensitive to the constantly changing tans and mauves of the strange, rhythmical hills that crowded away into the hazy horizon. They heard the undying wind rattle the seed pods of the yuccas against the sky, sing its thin flute song over the tall, sparse grasses of the slopes. They smelled the strange odors of marsh and mint rising from the wet valleys at dusk, saw spring run in sudden fire of yellow blossoms over the low knolls and give way to deep blue. Then that too was gone as though no flower had ever been, until August brought the long, graceful white phlox blossoms and the reddening bunch grass turned to russet waves under the stern caress of the chill fall winds.<sup>1</sup>*

*When I first came to this country, you could go from Camp Clarke to Cheyenne without seeing a barbed wire fence.<sup>2</sup>*

Charles E. Logan

**Sarah Marries A Pioneer And Homesteads In Nebraska**

Sarah Jane Seslar, known as Sadie, was born June 12, 1857 in Lima, Allen County, Ohio. She was the third child of Thomas Martin Seslar and Elizabeth Mahala Aldridge.<sup>3</sup> She attended school in Ohio<sup>4</sup>. Following the death of her father, she moved westward with her family to Camp Clarke Township, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. There she met and married Charles Elliott Logan on December 9, 1888.<sup>5</sup> They took up a homestead three miles west of Bridgeport where he farmed and they lived for thirty-five years. They had three children; Samuel J. Logan, born August 2, 1892, Fred B. Logan, born October 23, 1896 and Ruth Isabelle Logan, born June 9, 1898.<sup>6</sup> (Plate 19)

During the first decade of the 1900s when the Seslar siblings and their families lived on farms or ranches, they were in almost daily contact. John Baldwin Seslar's day journal describes some of their work and social activities:

*Aug. 18, 1907 - I went on the hunt of my horses and Sadie and Charley Logan was here and Eleik [Alexander] Seslar was here. . . .Feb. 3, 1908 - It was a little cooler today and I stayed at home and Laura Young came down and Charley and Sadie Logan came over and stayed for dinner and Maggie Patton went up to Kushmauls. . . .Oct. 22, 1908 - I went over to help Maggie Patton to pull her turnips and went over to Logan's for dinner and got some cabbages.<sup>7</sup>*

Much of other documentation about this family pertains to Charles. However, one of Sadie's grandnieces described Sadie's house and hospitality.

*When the children left home, Charlie and Sadie retired from the farm and moved into a place at the edge of the city of Bridgeport. . . .Their home became a showplace in western Nebraska. It had a small barn, grape vineyard, bees, garden, and an out-building with a concrete floor, the function of which was to house 20-gallon crocks of sauerkraut and other food staples. A front door seldom used opened into the living room. The back door welcomed friends into the kitchen where sauerkraut always cooked. A small sink hung on the wall at the*

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*end of which was a hand pump connected to the well which provided running water, a real status symbol of the early 20's. A formal dining room contained a large table always set with white linens, homemade bread, butter, honey, sugar cookies. Partaking of food was informal but set out in a formal way. No one sat at the table to eat. They simply helped themselves, when hungry, to the kraut in the kitchen and then on to the dining room for the rest of the fare, finally joining Charlie and/or Sadie or both in the parlor heated only by a [Majestic coal and wood] heating stove.<sup>8</sup>*

Additional recollections describe how Sadie prepared guests for a cold night on the prairie.

*Sadie made down pillows, down ticks, and feather beds. When bed time came she would open the door into the parlor, beautifully furnished, and with a lovely piano standing silently along the wall. This room was called the "drawing room" and it was colder than Billie B. Damned. As you entered this room your breath when blown out appeared in great circles of vapor. Off this room was the spare bedroom which, too, was extremely cold. . . .The guest was instructed to undress by the fire and hurry through the parlor and into the bedroom. Once there one found a bed turned down, with a feather bed underneath and one to pull over the top and lovely fat down pillows. What a heavenly night's rest the guest got in this bed.<sup>9</sup>*

Charles experienced the excitement and life of the wild prairie when he arrived in 1881. Before he married, he was a freighter, cowboy and trapper as described in his obituary.

*Charles E. Logan, Western Nebraska pioneer who came to old Cheyenne county in 1881, passed away at his home in Bridgeport early this morning from pneumonia, after an illness of only a few days. . . .Mr. Logan's death marks the passing of another colorful, historic character of the west. Cowboy, freighter, and homesteader in early days, he experienced the many hardships and privations which were the lot of those who took up their abode in this untamed prairie land. He came to Nebraska at the age of 18 years from Michigan with sheep belonging to Goodyear and Watching of Michigan. . . .In 1881 he came west to Sidney, hired out to the Pratt and Farris and Ruett and Ruett Freighting company, freighting from Sidney to Deadwood, S. Dak., over the Sidney-Deadwood trail which crossed the North Platte river at Camp Clarke over the toll bridge built by H. T. Clarke in 1875-76. . . .Mr. Logan freighted with an eight-horse team and two wagons. He camped wherever night overtook him usually at a watering place.*

*Leaving freighting for life as a cowboy, he was employed by Mark M. Coad, driving cattle from Mitchell bottoms to Ogallala and west to Lone Tree Meadows in Colorado, and from west of Cheyenne to North Platte. . . .During his early years here, Mr. Logan trapped a great deal. Beaver, otter, and coyote were his preference. . . .He killed a few buffalo and a number of elk, deer and antelope. At one time he told of fighting prairie fires for two weeks at a time and of seeing persons burned to death in fires which swept across the prairies, traveling 40 miles per hour on a windy day and stopping only when it reached a river. . .*

*During his later years, Mr. Logan had an interesting hobby—carving canes and lamp bases from diamond willows.<sup>10</sup>*

Sadie Logan died on April 17, 1937 and just a few years later, at the age of almost seventy-nine years, Charles died on February 20, 1940. “*On the last day of his life he had walked to the theater about ¼ mile from his home. While in the movie a violent blizzard hit with all its force. Charlie started walking to his home, but was found dead the next morning in a snow drift frozen to death.*”<sup>11</sup> Charles and Sadie are buried at Forest Lawn cemetery, Bridgeport.

### Additional Information About The Children Of Sadie and Charles

Samuel J. Logan married Winnie Edith Kilburn on December 25, 1916 in Bridgeport. They moved to Laramie, Wyoming and then on to the state of Washington. They had nine children. Edith died May 14, 1987 and Samuel followed two months later on July 23, 1987.<sup>12</sup>

Fred B. Logan married Lillis Catherine Davis and they three children, Kathleen Genevieve, Alice Ruth and William Elliot Logan. ‘Billy’ was born March 5, 1924 at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. When he graduated from the Washington-Lee high school in Arlington, Virginia, he joined the Marines. Private First Class ‘Billy’ Logan was killed in action on the Japanese island of Saipan on June 17, 1944.<sup>13</sup> Fred Logan died in December 1933.

Ruth Isabelle Logan married Charles Burry December 23, 1923 and had a son and daughter, Robert Otis and Orel Rosalee Burry. In 1940 Ruth was living in Angora, just north of Bridgeport, where she was caring for her aging father. Charles died July 7, 1969 in Delafield, Wisconsin, and Ruth died May 5, 1991 in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.<sup>14</sup>

### Generation 5.3 End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Mari Sandoz, *Old Jules*, 1935, Boston, Massachusetts, (Little, Brown, and Company), page 354.

<sup>2</sup> *Bridgeport News Blade*, Bridgeport, Morrill County, Nebraska, obituary, February 27, 1940.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas M. Seslar and Elizabeth M. Aldridge family bible, “Sarah Jane Seslar was borned June, the, 12, 1857.”

<sup>4</sup> US Census 1870, M593-1168, page 18, household 132, Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio.

<sup>5</sup> *Bridgeport News Blade*, [Note 2], March 1, 1940, obituary, Charles E. Logan.

<sup>6</sup> US Census 1900, T623-919, enumeration 49, sheet 8, line 12, family 118, Camp Clarke Township, Cheyenne County, Nebraska. [Note: Morrill County was formed out of the northern portion of Cheyenne County in 1909]

<sup>7</sup> Day journal, March 6, 1907 to April 20, 1910, of John Baldwin<sup>5</sup> Seslar (*Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Sesler, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*). In possession of Kathleen Laverne Mount (Ruf) as of 2001.

<sup>8</sup> Kathleen Laverne Mount, “A Historic Western Character, Uncle Charlie Logan,” unpublished character sketch; Kathleen Laverne<sup>7</sup> Mount (Ruf) (*Bertha Elizabeth<sup>6</sup>, John Baldwin<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Seslar, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*).

<sup>9</sup> Frieda M. Steenrod, *Blowouts, Blizzards and Bunk, Ghost Town, Northport, Nebraska*, 1989, Tigard, Oregon, (B&B Litho.), chapter 12, “Whitlin’ and Sauerkraut Cookin,” page 58; Frieda<sup>7</sup> Todd (Steenrod) (*Alice Rose<sup>6</sup> Kushmaul, Virginia Adeline<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Seslar, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*).

<sup>10</sup> *Bridgeport News Blade*, [Note 2].

<sup>11</sup> Recollection of Michael L.<sup>8</sup> Logan (*Glen Leroy<sup>7</sup>, Samuel J.<sup>6</sup>, Sarah Jane<sup>5</sup> Seslar, Thomas Martin<sup>4</sup> Sesler, Jane<sup>3</sup> Hibben, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*).

<sup>12</sup> Michael L. Logan GEDCOM.

<sup>13</sup> *Bridgeport News Blade*, [Note 2], June 1944, obituary, Billy Logan.

<sup>14</sup> Michael L. Logan GEDCOM.