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## Walter J. Ogden

1869-1948

DRANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA

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#### PREFACE

A family history is never completed. Always new generations to be added and older generations discovered; collateral lines that might lead to fame and fortune; new facts, legends, mysteries. The only limitations are time and money. So this is my limit for now. Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the research and all the people who have encouraged me in this endeavor. And thank you to those who may correct or add to this. Please let me know.

### ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA

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Walter Joseph Ogden was born on 27 September 1869 in Charleston, Coles County, Illinois. He was the second of two sons born to John Wesley Ogden and Frances Hutchinson Van Meter (Fannic). On the 1870 Federal Census<sup>1</sup> father was listed as a peddler, born in New York. His mother was listed as a dressmaker, born in Illinois.

Fannie died in Charleston on 17 March 1874 at the age of 24. John removed his small family to Chicago where he married again on 9 May 1876<sup>2</sup> to Anna S. Barker, daughter of wealthy industrialist John H. Barker of Michigan City, Indiana. There were two more children born of this union, Marian in 1879<sup>3</sup> and John Wesley Ogden in 1885, one month after his father's death<sup>4</sup>.

Uncle Walter often fondly recalled growing up in a large mansion, with his constant companion the son of family retainers who "practically raised him". (see photo, possibly a wedding portrait)

Part of Walter's education was at a university in Germany. I inherited his black silk collapsible opera hat, monocle and working sword cane. By this time hc had grown to his full height of 6' 4", a gentle, easy going personality that no one apparently wanted to test, as he claimed never to have needed the cane for protection.

In 1890 he is listed as a clerk residing at 3336 Michigan Avenue in Chicago. In 1896 and 1897 he is listed in the Michican City, Indiana, City Directory as Asst. Bookkeeper with H & B Car Company, which was owned by his stepmother's brother, John H. Barker. He was boarding with his brother Harold and family in 1902 at 219 E. 7th Street in Michigan City.

#### LEGEND

At one period of time in his business career, he and three friends went to Olympia Washington and built the first sawmill in that frontier town. The mill provided all the lumber for the sidewalks and shipped timber to the Orient. FACT The first sawmill was built in the 1840s, thirty years before Walter was born.

In 1913 he was living in St. Paul, MN and worked for Northwestern Fuel Co. This company was a distributor of coal, primarily for home heating. They also maintained

a marching band, which participated in various events in the Twin Citics. I have a photograph of a very small drummer boy with Uncle Walter wearing the band uniform of blue and tan with a very tall shako. A treasured letter from his stepmother is addressed to him there and mentions that she had been in Egypt recently and would be presently going to Florence, then back to Karlsbad. She died in Hamburg, Germany in 1922. I often wonder where she was during the " war to end all wars".

By 1924 Walter was living in San Diego, California. There he met Grace O'Neil, who was a retired legal secretary from Terre Haute, Indiana. Grace was barely 5' tall and rarely weighed more than 100 lbs. They were the perfect couple because she was as feisty as he was easy going. On 26 November 1924<sup>5</sup> they were married.

Around 1928 they decided to build a home and chose a site on Cypress Avenue on a ravine across from the zoo. The home became a showplace and was "written up" in several papers. It was two-story, with a three car garage, maid's quarters, an excellent outdoor aviary. The Scottish gardener, Hugh, imported the first Bird of Paradise from Hawaii to a place of honor on the lawn outside the living room by the lily pond. As a child I was enchanted by the gazebo and exotic fruit trees (strawberry guava for one) planted at the edge of the canyon and often heard the lions roar.

Their next door neighbor was an exiled Presidente of Mexico (I believe his name was Rubio) and he had a guardhouse and high walls around the property.

In 1930 Walter Ogden's cousin, Catherine Barker Spaulding, wrote that she was getting married ("please don't tell anyone") to Charles Hickox and was her pleasure to increase his annuity to \$10,000 per year. What a nice person.

Ey 1940 it was becoming more and more difficult to hire good help, so when Hugh retired as gardener-chauffeur and several good cook-housekeepers had come and gone, they sold their home and moved into the El Cortez Hotel, which at that time was one of the luxury hotels. From there, they moved to Artesia, California to be near Grace's brother Robert O'Neil and then back to San Diego on San Juan Hill above Old Town. Walter Ogden died in San Diego's Mercy Hospital on 11 January 1948<sup>6</sup> and was placed in a crypt at Holy Cross Cemetery, which was a long way out in the country in those days. Now it overlooks a very busy freeway.

Walter Ogden was accustomed to wealth all of his life so he was not impressed by it nor affected by lack of it.

2 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Status symbols as such were not important to him. He did get pleasure from having people remember him by name. He was an avid stamp collector and corresponded with Franklin D. Roosevelt as an equal. One of his favorite stories was how William Randolph Hearst would have his dining table set with fine china and crystal and elaborate silver ornaments alongside paper napkins and jars of mustard and catsup. He and Grace were frequently invited to high society affairs but rarely accepted. One in particular that they spoke of with regret was a reception for the Prince of Wales at the Hotel del Coronado where the Prince first was introduced to Mrs. Wallis Simpson.

MCRE "UNCLE WALTER" STORIES as recalled by nephew, Jim. O'Neil.

Auntie Grace always wanted a fine piece of "jewel jade". After many years, Uncle Walter decided she deserved it, so of course they had to organize a trip to Gumps in San Francisco because that was the "only" place to get good jade. Auntie Grace perused the stock (without prices marked) for some time, and then announced her choice. Uncle Walter approved her choice and asked the price. When told it was \$25,000 he nodded and asked if he could get another just like it. When told it was a unique, hand-carved ring and no other could exist, he declined the ring because he "really wanted a matched set."

While visiting in Montana, Uncle Walter was invited to go on a "roundup." When he learned that they would leave after dark and return by dawn he declined the offer, saying "I have been a lot of things in my life, but rustler is not one of them."

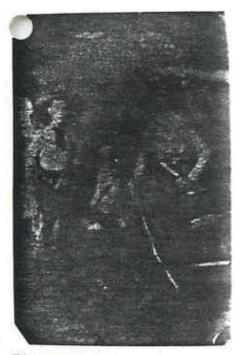
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Mahogony writing desk Melodeon from John Wesley Ogden home Maple twin beds & chest from 1007 Cypress Rosewood dining table and four chairs Rosewood desk

Photo albums Deed to Pine Lake Cemetery, La Porte Co. Indiana Wholesale clothing catalog, authored and autographed by John Wesley Ogden Letters written by Catherine Barker (Spaulding-Hickox) 1930; Fannie Ogden, 1870; Nancy Hutchison, 1871; Anna Ogden Austin, 1913

Monocle Collapsible opera hat Sword-cane

Black diamond and sterling ring and carved ivory dogsled and team from Alaska, circa 1940

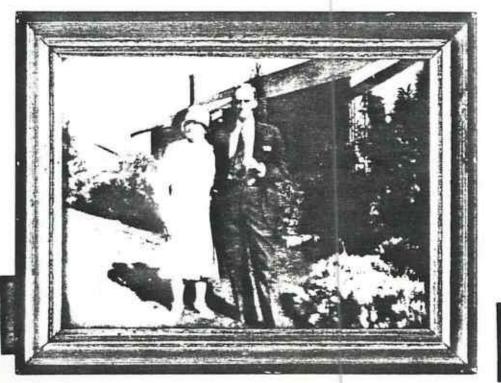


Tintype - probably c.1882 Walter, Father, Harold Ogden

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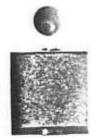


Probably Walter Ogden's friend born around 1070





Emma and Harold Ogden





Snapshot at San Juan Rd. San Diego c.1942 L.to R.Robert O'Neil, Roberta O'Neil, Malter Ogden, Grace O'Neil Ogden, Jim and Bob O'Neil

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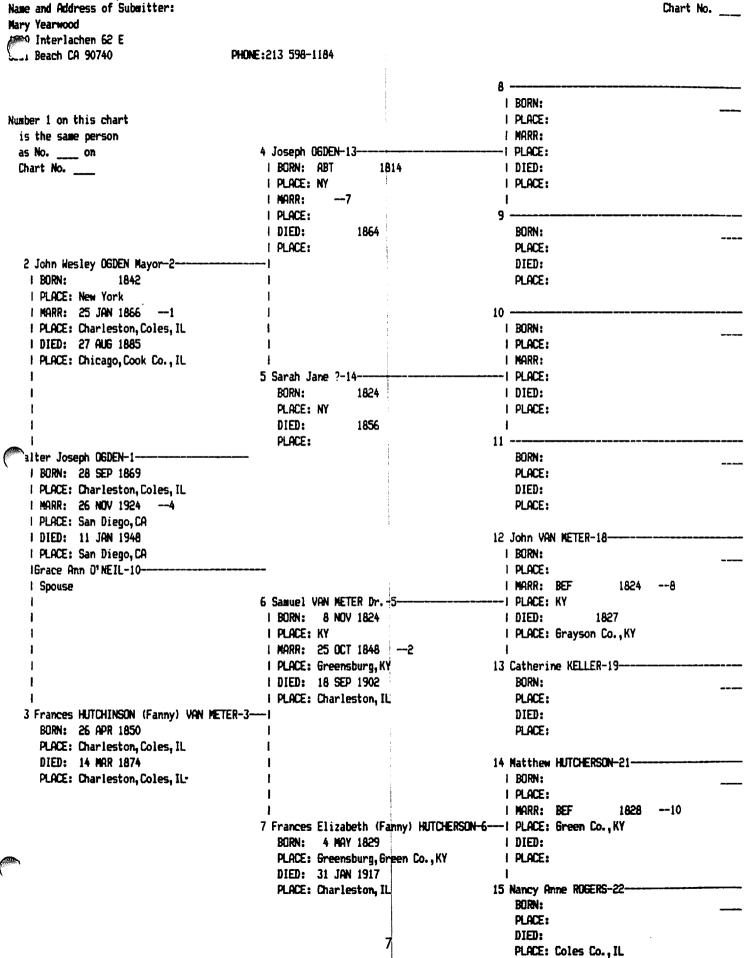


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RETURN OF A BIRTH State of Allinois, The Physician According or person in alloudance, should immediately retorn this Certificate, accurately filed out, to Chunning Cherks. Plankty \$10.00, if not so certified and returned within 30 days. COOK COUNTY. Manan Vaden 1. Full Name of Child (if any),\* Final Race or Color (if not of the white race): 1.40 licm Number of Child of this Mother :\_\_\_ 22,187 Date of this Birth :. No. 68 Place of Birtht : Street. Ward. de 6: Residence of Mother: Nationality : Place of Birth : 7. Age of : Holly My aner a. Father: ann michigan Cil b. Mother :\_ Ogdus 8. Full Name of Mother : \_ Maiden Name of Mother :\_ 9. 10. Full Name of Father:\_ Occupation of 11. Name and Address of other Attendants, if any :. 1.2.1 Returned by M.D. 1879 Dated. Midwife. Residence "The given same of Galid should be cortified, if possible, when this Ourtificate is pasts, and should, in any case, be cortified and registered within a year, fQity, number, street and word; same in towns that have them; township or precinct. HE &. M. W. JOHES STATIONERY AND PRIMING CO., CHOAGO.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO. STATE OF CALIFORNIA JA BIRE ENTROLATED CITY Chese Presents are to authorize and licenseany fustice of the Supremi Court Justice of the District Vourt of Sppcal, Judge of the Superior Court, Justice of the Years, Judge of any Police Court, City Recorder, Priest or Minister of the Gaspel of any denomination, to seleminize within said County the . Harriage of natived aged Haled County of years, resident of native of Standar \_ alor aged and Vier Same County of Non 2 years, resident of being of sufficient age to be capable of contracting. Harriage. Jaid parties In Wilness Whereof, Thave, hereunte set my hand, and affixed the Seal of the Superior Court of said County. S. 19.19.4 County Clerk and a office Blech of Departer Court in and for the County of San Ling Somy Clent STATE OF CALIFORNIA. 155 Showing Certify, that Thelieve the facts stated in the above Lieuse to be true. and that upon due inquiry there appears to be no legal imposiment to the Marriage of said Watter AD 1924 in Sand purties were fined in Maringe by me on the 26 said bienty of said bienty of -Groce D' hul and Said County and Mate: november day of Can . allage 2 - Ca Withuson \_ that State of C 11000 a multined of Cali formin and were present as witnesses of said commony. County of Sala Diego .I lale of A .... tes 5/1/124 InWitnessWhereof, Thave hereande set me Sand this 20 days Can count le promite albelie and

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Brilliant Party.

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AND A HAPPY THRONG

Christmas evening witnessed the largest and most brilliant party ever known in this city, if not in this portion of the During the past summer and fall Coon & Gage, contractors State. of this city have employed most of their time and a large force of workmen in building a residence for Mayor J. W. Ogden, near the Methodist church, on Washington Street. The house was completed early in December, having cost its fortunate and happy possessor between eighteen and twenty thousand dollars, being in all respects the finest, handsomest, and most convenient family residence in the county. The building contains three stories with basement; is lighted with gas in every department and has water pipes leading to almost every room. To say that Mayor Ogden has furnished his magnificent home in a style that is entirely in accordance with the enormous sum spent in its erection and with excellent judgment and good taste would give but a partial idea of the internal appearance of the house, which must be seen to be appreciated and fully realized. Even then our powers of description would fall far short were we to attempt to portray the magnificence and splendor of its parlors, hall, This much for the house; now let us tell you libraries, etc. something of the party about which we intended to speak in the first place: invitations were sent to between three and four hundred persons, nearly all of whom were present, many ladies and gentlemen being in attendance from Mattoon, Paris, and other neighboring cities. By nine o'clock the greater portion of the guests had arrived, and, after having been welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Ogden, were ushered to the various dressing rooms by polite and attentive servants; after which they were expected to enjoy themselves as none could help doing under circumstanes so peculiarly pleasant. Surrounded by so much wealth, youth and beauty, mingled with sweet music and dazling[sic] splendor, what mortal could avoid being happy? Certainly none. At eleven o'clock seventy-five persons were invited to supper, followed by others, and others, until all had partaken of a banquet fit for kings and queens. Never was such a supper, such an abundance and such a variety--endless and almost inconceivable--prepared for the benefit or pleasure of Charleston's favored people. Balshazzar's famous feast could not have surpassed. But time forbids our longer dwelling upon a description of this altogether pleasant affair. Suffice it to say that late and reluctantly the guests took their departure, only regretting that they could not always remain where all was so blissful and joyous; but with many kind wishes for the continued prosperity and happiness of Mr. Ogden and his amiable wife.

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ORANGE CONSISTY CALIFORNIA GENERALUGICAL SOCIETY

Name	Page	Br/Ch Year	Dt/Bu Year	Spouse or *Father Name
?,Sarah Jane	8,9	1824	1856	OGDEN, Joseph-13
BARKER, Anna S.	1,8	1855	1922	OGDEN, John Wesley Mayor-2
HUTCHERSON, Frances E	7	1829	1917	VAN METER, Samuel Dr5
HUTCHERSON, Matthew	7			ROGERS, Nancy Anne-22
JOHNSON, Emma F.	8			DGDEN, Harold VAN METER-4
KELLER, Catherine	10			VAN METER, John-18
	10			William, William L20
D'NEIL, Grace Ann	2,8	1887	1974	OGDEN, Walter Joseph-1
DGDEN, Cecelia M.	9	1840		*OGDEN, Joseph-13
DGDEN, Harold VAN METER	1,8	1866	1944	JOHNSON, Emma F11
DGDEN, John Wesley	1,8	1885	1946	*DGDEN, John Wesley Mayor-2
EN, John Wesley Mayor	1,8	1842	1885	VAN METER, Frances H-3
				BARKER, Anna S7
DGDEN, Joseph	9	1814	1864	?, Sarah Jane-14
DGDEN, Levine? A.	9	1846		*DGDEN, Joseph-13
DGDEN, Marian	8	1879		RICHARDSON, Harold-12
DGDEN, Mary G.	9	1850		*OGDEN, Joseph-13
DGDEN, Walter Joseph	1,8	1869	1948	O'NEIL, Grace Ann-10
RICHARDSON, Harold	8			OGDEN, Marian-8
ROGERS, Nancy Anne	10			HUTCHERSON, Matthew-21
VAN METER, Frances H	8	1850	1874	DGDEN, John Wesley Mayor-2
VAN METER, John	10	A 10 10 10 10 10 10	1827	KELLER, Catherine-19
VAN METER, Samuel Dr.	10	1824	1902	HUTCHERSON, Frances E-6
William, William L.	10			KELLER, Catherine-19

GENERLOGICAL SOCIETY