

From Thomas Rapp

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#### HISTORY OF THE SHARPS

(Each is the child of the preceding one)

The 1887 biography of William P. Sharp (6) gave his father as James O. Sharp who married Margaret Crosby in Pennsylvania, and moved to Wayne County, Ohio, about 1815. As the couple married young and moved right away, James left no record of himself as a head of a family in Pennsylvania. It was not stated from where in Pennsylvania they came and, as the state in 1800 abounded with Sharps, even with James Sharps, I was stuck for years.

When I learned that my father's cousin, Bessie (McElroy) Sharp was a member of the DAR through John Crosby, father of Margaret, a small step forward was made. John joined the militia in Chester County, but he died in Washington County, both in Pennsylvania.

It was then easy to pick up the similarity in first names of Sharps in Washington County and in Wayne County, Ohio.

A query in the Wooster newspaper in 1969 brought a reply from a DAR who was trying to work out a Sharp line for another lady. She confirmed the two George Sharps as I had theorized. The father of George (9), when found, may have been the immigrant. Unfounded stories are that the Sharps were from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Connecticut, or Maryland.

GEORGE SHARP (Generation number 9 back from the writer's children), was b. probably in 1732 in <sup>Washington County, Pa.</sup> ~~Washington County, Pa.~~ m. 1) MARY <sup>TAYLOR</sup> ~~TON~~ ca. 1750, and 2) Mrs. Rachel Johnson, and d. on June 7, 1812 in Hopewell township, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

During the Revolution he resided in Washington County and enlisted as a private. He later was elected captain of the 3rd Battalion of the Washington County militia commanded by Lt. Colonel David Williamson.

One account gave George's wife Mary as Mary Taylor. Mrs. Johnson was a widow and she and George had no children.

The children of George and Mary Sharp were (8):

- Margaret*, b. 1751, m. John McFadden, a native of Dublin, Ireland. They moved to *Cats*, Harrison County, Ohio in 1801.
- ii. Jane, m. Mr. Tate, moved to Morgan County, Ohio.
  - iii. Sarah, m. John Doulin.
  - iv. Mary, m. Isaac Anderson, moved to Waterford township, Washington County, Ohio.
  - v. George, b. 1757, m. Mary Officer, see next.
  - vi. Joseph, b. 1760, m. Agnes Henderson (1759-1836), moved to Belmont County, Ohio, and d. on March 6, 1815. He is buried in Uniontown. He was second in command under Daniel Morgan in the Whisky Rebellion. He was a representative from Belmont County in the first through tenth general assemblies.
  - vii. John, b. 1762, m. Elizabeth Denny, moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1797.
  - viii. Thomas, b. 1768, m. Jane Taylor (1766-1857), was buried in 1825 in *Cats*, Ohio.
  - ix. ? a daughter who m. a Mr. Weir ?

All but George are listed in the father's will, along with the wife, Rachel.

A George Sharp was paid \$17/15/0 for a tour of duty March 5 through April 16, 1782. A George Sharp under Captain David Reed was paid \$5/5/0 for a tour of duty March 2 through April 2, 1782.

Hanna shows George Sharp of Hopewell township who d. in 1812 to have been an elder in the North Buffalo United Presbyterian Church.

The Horn papers maps show George Sharp with 377 acres called "Gooseberry Hill" in Hopewell township on the north branch of Buffalo Creek. Transactions pertaining to the land were in 1785 and 1789.

He appears in the census records for Washington County in 1790, in 1800 (over 45), and in 1810 (over 45 with no children at home).

GEORGE SHARP (8), was b. in 1757 in Cumberland Co. Pa

m. MARY OFFICER ca. 1786, and d. on October 17, 1840 in Wayne County, Ohio, and was buried in Tracy cemetery, two miles east of Apple Creek.

Mary (Officer) Sharp was b. in 1773 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, the dau. of William and Elizabeth ( ) Officer. William (9, 1738?-1811) was a resident of Tyrone township in that county, and was a private in the 6th class, 5th battalion, 1st company of Cumberland County militia. He served under Captain James Fisher.

The children of George and Mary (Officer) Sharp were (7):

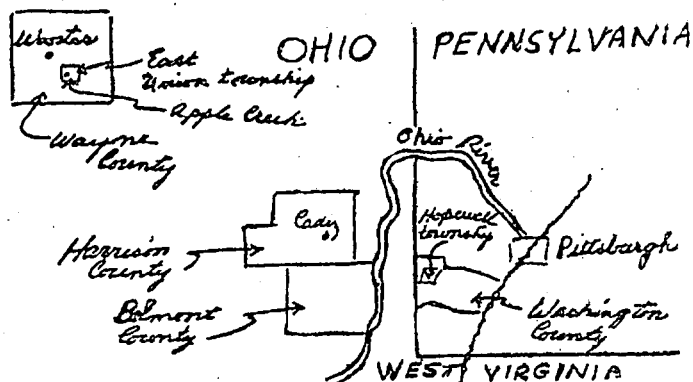
- i. John.
- ii. Matthew, b. 1796, m. Joanna Tracy, resided in Wayne County, Ohio.
- iii. James O. Sharp, m. Margaret Crosby, see next.
- iv. Eleaner, b. 1800, m. George Hackett on July 25, 1822, lived in Wayne County.
- v. George, b. 1802, m. Elizabeth Fluhart on March 9, 1830, and d. in 1853, Wayne County.
- vi. Nancy, b. 1804, m. Robert Hackett on October 16, 1826. Also of Wayne County.

The "O." in James' name could very well be Officer.

George was a farmer and was a private in his father's company. He is listed in Revolutionary soldiers buried in Ohio.

In the censuses he appears in Washington County, Pennsylvania from 1790 through 1810 (in 1810 with several children, including James who was then 12, and near George, sr. and John Crosby. He was in the 1820 and 1830 records for East Union township of Wayne County, Ohio.

Hanna reports that the family, as it came west from Washington County, Pennsylvania, bought land in Wheeling township, Belmont County, Ohio in 1806, just south of Athens and Short Creek townships of Harrison County.



JAMES O. SHARP (7), was b. in 1798 in Washington County, Pennsylvania, m. MARGARET CROSBY while in Pennsylvania, moved to Wayan County, Ohio in 1815, and d. in 1838 in Wooster, Wayne County.

Margaret (Crosby) Sharp was b. ca. 1794, the dau. of John and Sarah ( ) Crosby, and d. in 1848 in Wayne County, Ohio. John Crosby (8, 1739-1820) was a native of Pennsylvania and was a sergeant in the Chester County militia during the American Revolution. By 1810 he appeared in the census for Hopewell township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. His will was made February 14, 1820 and proved July 22, 1820. It left his plantation to his son William. The DAR incorrectly gives his death date as 1824. Sarah, when a widow, moved next door to James Sharp in Ohio, according to the 1830 census.

The children of James O. and Margaret (Crosby) Sharp were (6):

- i. Mary M., b. 1821, m. Thomas L. Wasner and lived in Wells County, Indiana.
- ii. Elizabeth Sarah, m. Ayers Knight of Defiance County, Ohio, in 1846, d. 1877.
- iii. William P., b. 1825, m. Sophia Helfer, see next.

James, in the 1820 census, was in Wooster township of Wayne County, just south of the town of Wooster. In 1830 he had moved to East Union township. The film

shows his wife was in the decade bracket older than he; they had a son under 6 (William P.) and two daughters between 5 and 10.

James was a farmer. His wife died in 1848.

WILLIAM P. SHARP (6), was b. on October 19, 1825 in Wayne County, Ohio; m. SOPHIA HELFER in 1846 in Ashland County, Ohio, and d. in 1909 in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Sophia (Helfer) Sharp was b. on May 2, 1829 in Ashland County, Ohio, the dau. of Christopher and Lydia Helfer. She d. on September 9, 1910 in Ottumwa, Iowa.

William P. Sharp was a traveling salesman and served briefly in the Civil War.

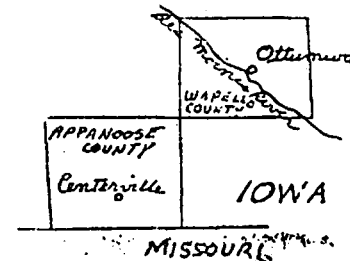
The children of William P. and Sophia (Helfer) Sharp were (5):

- i. Oscar H., b. 1847, m. Margaret Wright, see next.
- ii. Ida May, b. 1857, d. 1865, buried with her parents in Ottumwa cemetery.
- iii. Flora Emma, b. 1860, d. 1865, buried with her parents in Ottumwa cemetery.
- iv. Mary, m. Charles E. Boude of Ottumwa.
- v. \_\_\_\_\_, also a child who died young.

From the Chapman Brothers Biographical Album of Wapello County, Iowa for

1887: "Lt. William P. Sharp, a resident of Ottumwa, and an honored pioneer of Wapello County, came to this region at an early period in its history and has watched with intense interest and pleasure the progress of the remarkable changes which have taken place

since. When a young man he crossed the Father of Waters and gazed with wonder and admiration upon the beautiful country, with its great possibilities, which



lay before him.

"Mr. Sharp is a native of Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, and was born October 5, 1825 (Note: other references and tombstone say October 19, 1824), his parents being James O. and Margaret (Crosby) Sharp, both natives of Pennsylvania. They removed from their native state to Ohio in 1815 and were among the early settlers in that locality. The cabins of the pioneers were few and far between, and they made the journey thither with teams, cutting their way through heavy timber. Amidst this timber they also settled, erected a rude cabin, and commenced to clear a spot of ground...by incessant industry they soon brought a few acres under cultivation, and established a comfortable home."

(Note: For marvelous background on this area, read Conrad Richter's *Trilogy*.)

"James O. and Margaret Sharp were the parents of three children, as follows: Mary became the wife of Thomas L. Wisner, who was the County Clerk of Wells County for twenty years, Sarah was the wife of Ayers Knight of De-fiance County, Ohio, and died in 1877, and William P., our subject.

"James Sharp departed this life in 1838 at the age of forty years. His wife, Margaret, survived him ten years, passing to her final rest in 1848. They were most worthy and excellent people, highly respected in the county where they resided, and active members of the Baptist Church.

"William P. Sharp was reared in his native county, receiving careful parental training and a fair education in the pioneer schools. The school buildings at that day and in that section consisted of log cabins with puncheon floors, and slabs for seats and desks, supported by poles fastened in the wall. He was fond of his books, and after completing his primary studies, entered Edinburg Academy at Edinburg ( ) where he took a thorough course, became qualified as a teacher, and followed this occupation for some time afterward.

"At the age of eighteen years he was employed as a

clerk in a general store in the town of Congress, Wayne County, which position he occupied for two years following, when he returned to his father's homestead and remained for about three years.

"The marriage of William P. Sharp and Miss Sophia Helfer was celebrated in 1846, at the residence of her parents in Ashland County, Ohio. Mrs. Sharp was the daughter of Christopher and Lydia Helfer, natives of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Ohio at an early day and shared, in common with their fellow pioneers, the privations and hardships incident to the early settlement of that state.

"In 1848 Mr. Sharp with his wife removed to Indiana and located in Bluffton, Wells County. There he pursued the occupation of a clerk in a general store for two years, after which he returned to his native state and engaged in the sale of boots and shoes. He then returned to his former residence in Indiana remaining there until 1856, when he removed to Danville, Iowa, and two years later came into Ottumwa.

"Mr. Sharp then started a boot-and-shoe store in the city, and was engaged in this department of trade until 1862. After the Rebellion had necessitated an urgent call for troops for the preservation of the Union, when Mr. Sharp, laying aside his personal interests, volunteered his services to his country, and enlisted in Company H 34th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. They first rendezvoused at Keokuk for two months and then proceeded to Benton Barracks, St. Louis. They were soon ordered to Helena, Arkansas, and Mr. Sharp was detailed for guard duty. He only served about one year, as the exposure and hardship incident to a soldier's life undermined his constitution, and becoming unable to fulfill his duties, he was compelled to abandon his post and return home, receiving his discharge on account of disability. He has never recovered from the effects of army life, and still suffers from the hardships which he endured. During his brief experience as a soldier he received the encomiums of his superior officers for duty bravely performed.

"Mr. Sharp was employed as a traveling salesman for

about twenty years, and in that time has made many trips from Boston to St. Louis, while transacting a large amount of business in the intervening cities.

"Mr. Sharp went into the army a Democrat, and now may be classed as an independent Republican. His aim is to vote for the best man and best measures without regard to party.

"Socially he belongs to the I.O.O.F., with which he has been connected for a period of thirty-seven years. He became a member of the Wooster (Ohio) Lodge No. 42 in 1850, and upon his removal in Indiana withdrew from this, and was transferred to Bluffton Lodge No. 142, afterward becoming a member of the Charity Lodge No. 56 at New London, and after coming to Ottumwa he joined Ottumwa Lodge No. 9, and has been a delegate to the sessions of the Grand Lodge of the United States. He was Grand Master of the State of Iowa in 1868-69, Grand Patriarch in 1872-73, and Grand Representative in 1871-72.

"Mr. and Mrs. Sharp became the parents of five children, only two of whom are living: Oscar H., a jeweler of Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa, and Mary, the wife of Charles E. Boude, ticket agent of the C.R.I. & P. R. R. Three children died in early childhood. The family residence is pleasantly located at No. 437 East Fourth Street and during a residence of twenty-eight years in Ottumwa, Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have occupied an enviable position in the community and enjoy in the highest degree the respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances."

My aunt, Margaret (Sharp) Tennessee recalls that William P. Sharp was a very large man and that Sophia was a very little woman.

From Roster of Iowa Volunteers, War of Rebellion:  
"Sharp, William P., age 38, residence Ottumwa, nativity Ohio. Appointed 2nd Lt. August 7, 1862.  
Mastered August 23, 1862. Resigned June 2, 1863."

The 36th Infantry was from southeast Iowa under

Colonel Charles W. Kittredge of Ottumwa. It went to Memphis, Tennessee, to Helena, Arkansas, then to Little Rock. The line officers of Company H. were Captain John E. Wright, 1st Lieutenant William H. Clifton, and 2nd Lieutenant William P. Sharp.

The 1880 Wapello County, Iowa, census for Center township, 3rd ward, West Second Street gave:  
"Sharp, William P., age 54, commercial traveler, ill with physis bronchitis, born in Ohio, his father born in Pennsylvania and his mother also born in Pennsylvania. His wife, Sofia, age 51, born in Ohio, her parents born in Pennsylvania. Living with them were their daughter, "Mollie H." and her husband, Charles E. "Bowd" and two other Bowdes."

They later lived at 437 East Fourth Street, and that house still stands.

Tombstones in the Ottumwa cemetery read: "William P. Sharp, 1824-1909, Sophia Sharp, 1829-1910, Ida May, 1857-1885, and Flora Emma, 1860-1865."

Sophia (Helfer) Sharp's death certificate: "born May 2, 1829 in Ohio, died September 9, 1910 in Ottumwa, of burns on 7/8s of her body." She was turning trash at the time.

OSCAR H. SHARP (5), was b. May 20, 1847 in Wayne County, Ohio, m. MARGARET WRIGHT in 1869 in Appanoose County, Iowa, and d. March 18, 1917. He is buried in the Ottumwa cemetery. He was a jeweler in Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa.

Margaret (Wright) Sharp was b. on February 28, 1845 in Warren County, Indiana, the dau. of John B. and Elizabeth (Purjoe) Wright. She d. on August 15, 1912 in Burton, King County, Washington. She is buried in the Tacoma cemetery.

The children of Oscar H. and Margaret (Wright) Sharp were (4):

1. Frank W., b. July 7, 1871, Stella Johnston, see next.

- ii. Harry W., a twin to Frank, unmarried, d. in Tacoma, Washington.
- iii. William Cyrus, b. October 11, 1877, m. Bertha McElroy, d. January 8, 1920 of diabetes.

The Sharps had a cottage on Vashon Island where Margaret died. My father visited them there in 1912. On our 1967 visit to Margaret (Sharp) Tonneson, of Seattle, and her daughter, Marcia, of Vashon Island, we saw the cottage.

The twin, Harry, worked for a railroad, may have worked in his father's jewelry store. He came and went and my father's recollection is that "Uncle Harry appeared out of nowhere for a visit, then left the house ostensibly for a trip down town, only to disappear until he turned up for another surprise visit a year or so later." My aunt Margaret thinks he died around 1930 in the vicinity of Tacoma, Washington.

FRANK WRIGHT SHARP (4), was b. on July 7, 1871, a twin in Ottumwa, Iowa, m. STELLA MAUD JOHNSTON in 1897 in Ottumwa, and d. on February 15, 1960 in Houston, Texas, while visiting a daughter.

Stella (Johnston) Sharp was b. on November 6, 1873 in Ottumwa, the dau. of Allen and Elizabeth (Wiley) Johnston, and d. on May 5, 1945 in Seattle, Washington, while on a visit. She is buried in Ottumwa.

The children of Frank W. and Stella (Johnston) Sharp were (3):

- i. Margaret, b. January 29, 1899, m. 1) Duke Tonneson ca. 1920, was divorced, and 2) Richard J. Brehm in 1969. She lives in Seattle.
- ii. Allen Wiley, b. September 17, 1903, m. Mary Alcindia Bonniel, see next.
- iii. John H., b. 1903, m. Betty Brown of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, lives in Ottumwa.
- iv. Helen, b. August 16, 1910, m. 1) Adrian LaDosa and 2) Mike David, divorced both, lives in Houston, Texas.
- v. Angelina, b. February 8, 1916, m. Arthur

Woodridge, lives in Alta Loma, Texas.  
vi. Elizabeth, b. April 22, 1921, m. Russell E. Schlorff, a patent attorney, lives in Houston, Texas.

Frank and Stella Sharp, my grandparents, lived at 403 N. Marion Street, a steep hill in Ottumwa. This house was across the street from the back door of the Allen Johnston home at 531 N. Court Street. 403 was a two story yellow clapboard bungalow and was built for them by the Johnstons. I spent much time at the Sharps. For the first three years of my life, we lived in the upstairs of the Johnston house. After we moved into the Bonniel house, we frequently spent Sunday afternoons with Grandfather and Grandmother while our parents played golf. I well remember tri-cycling around the neighborhood.

Frank Sharp was sales manager for the Johnston-Sharp Manufacturing Company, which preceded the Johnston Lawn Mower Company.

Shortly after breaking up housekeeping on Marion Street and moving to Seattle, Grandmother Sharp died. In fact, I remember that May 5, 1945 clearly for it was also the death date of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the funeral dirges on the radio played upon the nerves of my parents. Stella was cremated and the ashes were buried in the Ottumwa cemetery.

Grandfather Sharp then wandered about between Seattle, Ottumwa, and Texas, and, like his twin brother, appeared and disappeared without notice. He was 85 when he died in Houston in 1960.

Grandmother Sharp attended Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. She was the genealogist of her generation, but my memories are of being quite bored whenever she tried to tell me where great-aunt so-and-so was buried. What she wrote down was in note form only.

ALLEN WILEY SHARP (3), was b. on September 17, 1900 in Ottumwa, Iowa, m. MARY ALCINDA BONNIFIELD on September 17, 1925, and lives in Ottumwa. He is an inventor with 8 patents in his name.

Mary Alcinda (Bonnifield) Sharp was b. on April 22, 1901 in Ottumwa, the dau. of William Benson and Lisette (Near) Bonnifield.

Their children (3) are:

1. Virginia, b. 1927, m. Thornton Hooper, see next.
- ii. Allen Bonnifield, b. 1930, m. Mary Louise Daine.

Allen Sharp grew up in a house at the top of steep Marion Street hill, a house built for them by his grandfather, Allen Johnston. He graduated from Ottumwa High School and attended Iowa State College at Ames, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He completed all the requirements in the mechanical engineering curriculum, but failed to receive his diploma, having thought his excuse from physical education for an appendectomy would suffice all four years. He was informed that he could have the B. S. if he would run around the track for a quarter, but chose to go home empty handed.

He then took a job at the R and H Lawn Mower Company, near Richmond, Ind., for a short time and returned to Ottumwa to work for his father in the Johnston Sharp Pressed Gear Company. The depression and the drought of 1935-36 caused rough years for the company, but its product, the Johnston lawn mower, enjoyed an excellent reputation.

My father was interested in flying at an early age and during his years at the lawn mower company provided free services making parts for airplanes in need of repair at the municipal airport. In return for this he was to receive flying lessons, but when he started them, installation of the U. S. Naval Air Station in 1942 put a stop to civilian flying. Now that former

naval air station in the scene each Labor Day of the national antique airplane fly-in, which my father thoroughly enjoys.

The Johnston Lawn Mower Company eventually sold out to the Jacobson Corporation of Racine, and later moved its entire operation to Brookhaven, Mississippi. Allen Sharp became head of the experimental design dept. at the Barker Poultry Equipment Company in Ottumwa in 1942 and remained with them until 1962, when the one-man company sold out to Waterman Pen.

Following his resignation from Barker, my father was low-spirited as he did not think he could re-locate at age 62 and said he didn't even feel he could understand a first course in college physics at that point.

A Delaware company was all too happy to hire him as a consultant designer and he set up a new office at 2nd and McLean in Ottumwa. In about a year or two he changed his affiliation to the Gainesville Poultry Company of Gainesville, Georgia, for whom he designed a new rubber finger (for picking chicken feathers), which is now being manufactured in Cedar Rapids and is selling well. He also does other designs for them.

So at the age of 69 here is a fortunate resourceful man who rather than being retired is remaining very productive.

Allen and Mary Alcinda (Bonnifield) Sharp were high school sweethearts and though they attended different colleges returned to Ottumwa to marry on September 17, 1925, his twenty-fifth birthday. She was 24. They made their first two homes in the upstairs of relatives' homes.

From 1925 to 1930 they lived in the Allen Johnston home at 531 N. Court and from 1930 to 1941 in the William B. Bonnifield home at 121 N. Jefferson. At last in 1941, with the help of an F.H.A. loan they were able to build at 1540 N. Van Buren, on a heavily wooded hilly lot of nearly an acre. The house is a modified Georgian style and landscaping has been their hobby for the twenty-eight years they have lived there.

My brother, ALLEN DONNIFIELD SHARP, was b. May 24, 1930 in Ottumwa, Iowa, m. on August 5, 1952 MARY LOUISE DAINE, dau. of Dr. Manton and Dorothy Daine, in Ames, Iowa, and resides in Ottumwa.

Their children are:

- i. Julie Rae, b. August 7, 1953 in Ottumwa.
- ii. Daine Allen, b. August 21, 1955 in Ottumwa.
- iii. Daniel Lee, b. August 14, 1957 in Ottumwa.

Allen graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1947 and from Iowa State College in 1947 with a B. S. in mechanical engineering. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Mary also attended Iowa State and had one year at Iowa University, was a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

Allen was in the AROTC in college and as a 2nd lieutenant reported to Shemya Island, two miles by four miles, at the far end of the Aleutian chain. Mary went with him, returning in 1953 for Julie's birth.

Lamentably, I was in Europe at the time Allen and Mary were married and so missed the wedding of my only brother.

Allen worked for Winger Manufacturing Company in Ottumwa and had a home at 305 E. Pennsylvania. They now live at 1511 N. Jefferson, around the corner.

In 1963 Allen patented several inventions: a removable box which can be unloaded from the semi-trailer by controls in the cab and left for refilling or unloading, then picked up later, a vibrating flat truck bed which makes it possible to transport and unload fertilizers which had formerly "gummed up" the works of conveyor systems, and a car crusher. He formed a corporation with Joh Kneen as salesman, called Al-Jon and rented a factory at the old Ottumwa Naval Station, now the municipal airport and industrial center.

The Al-Jon business and received publicity in the Ottumwa Courier and the Des Moines Register and received a letter from Lady Bird Johnson, in connection

with her beautify America project. The car crusher is the big product and they have placed fifty of them with scavenger companies as of this writing.

This was not the first car crusher, but was the first one to be portable, fitting within highway limits for size of load. This enables a scavenger company to invest in one, then go about from junk yard to junk yard. The crushed car is approximately six inches high and 72 inches wide and of a length varying with the original size of the car. The profit for the operator varies with the market value of scrap metal.

One of Allen's employees appeared on the "What's My Line?" television show a few years ago.

I, VIRGINIA SHARP, was b. August 29, 1927 in Ottumwa, Iowa, m. on February 9, 1957 in Ottumwa THORNTON HOOPER. My numbers are h83-24-9155 (social security), 119-h598 (Kaiser Medical Clinic), M611083 (driver's license), 7561 (Co-op Grocery member), h08-248-9639 (telephone number), 95051 (zip code), and 7518 (bicycle license number), for such is our way of life in 1969.

Thornton and I have three boys (1):

- i. Douglas Allen, b. 1958 in Wichita, Kansas.
- ii. Charles Lytton, b. 1960 in Wichita, Kansas.
- iii. Stanley Wilson, b. 1962 in Denver, Colorado.

I graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1945 and received a B. S. in horticulture from Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) in 1949. I am a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

After graduation I worked in Chicago at a lithography studio which did work on the Sears Roebuck catalog, at the Chicago Natural History Museum as secretary to the Chief Curator of Botany, at the Continental Illinois National Bank as a credit investigator and for Kemper Insurance as a personnel assistant.

While working in Chicago I shared apartments with other girls at 1532 N. Wieland (near North Avenue and Wells, then down-and-out, now quite fashionable),



and at 140 E. Elm Street (near Lake Michigan).

In 1952 I and two Chicago friends, Margot Copeland (now Mrs. Newson) and JoAnn Halford (now Mrs. French) and my girlhood chum, Janet Fiedler (now Mrs. Good-ecke) toured Europe for two months. We went over on the very old M. V. Georgic and returned on the Queen Mary. We tried bicycling with little success and many laughs, then traveled in Scotland, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. We were not on a tour and took plenty of time just to sit around with a glass of wine or beer and enjoy the local citizenry. We came back with so-so slides, depleted bank accounts, and wonderful, wonderful memories.

Thornton and I were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Ottumwa, with a trainload of Chicago friends in attendance, and took a wedding trip to New Orleans. Our first home was an apartment over a drug store in Hinsdale at 34 Village Plaza. We were thirty feet from the whizzing Burlington trains which had us sitting straight up in bed in stark terror.

Our moves west is mostly Thornton's story.

Our first son, Douglas, was born April 4, 1958 in Wichita. I was as surprised as Great-grandmother Johnston was in 1873 to see the doctor hold up a red-haired baby. Thornton was a very proud father, proclaiming that live begins at forty. Our second boy, Charles, was born May 5, 1960 in the same hospital. The third, Stanley, was born April 3, 1962, in Denver with Thornton present in the delivery room, as we were fortunate in living near two doctors who had a flourishing natural childbirth practice.

Off and on I have flirted with art lessons, always receiving encouragement from the teachers, but have yet to buckle down and accomplish the task.

My love of regional and other history led to genealogy and that in turn led to being president of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society for two years (1965-1966). I am finally realizing from the enthusiastic turnouts at our meetings that curiosity about one's family history is a natural state.

#### References:

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Horn Papers, Vol. 3 (Maps of Land Warrants) -- the authenticity of this set has been questioned by historians (it may even be fraudulent), but the map volume has possible truth. Our George Sharp was in the right township, so I used the material.  
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