

Withers Family

OFFICERS:

- President: Mrs. Georgia Morgan, 714 S. Hillward Ave., West Covina, Calif. 91791.
213-339-3851.
- Vice-President: Mrs. Becky Haver, P. O. Box 884, West Covina, Calif. 91793.
- Secretary: Mrs. Ruth C. Ruth, 1015 Fuchsia, Ontario, Calif. 91762.
- Treasurer: Mrs. Jane Berryman, 3638 Philadelphia St., Pomona, Calif. 91766.
- Membership Chairman: Mrs. Helen Heckman, 2147 S. San Antonio Ave., Pomona, Calif. 91766.
- Bulletin Chairman: Mrs. Mary C. Swank, 1920 Miramar St., Pomona, Calif. 91767.
- Librarian-Cordinator: Mrs. Martha Wise, 574 S. San Antonio Ave., Pomona, Calif. 91766.
- Supply Chairman: Mrs. Verla H. Hand, 127 Villanova, Claremont, Calif. 91711.
714-624-0112.

QUERIES ?????????

6. Seeking information on the descendents of Samuel POLLOCK b. 23 Oct. 1833, Clarion Co., Pa., d. 4 April 1921 in San Diego, Calif.; m. 1863 Emma KNIGHT who d. 1911 in San Diego. Mrs. E. H. Wilkins, 842 No. Rose St., Burbank, Calif. 91505.
7. Seeking information on the descendents of Thomas Hamilton POLLOCK b. 28 Apr. 1837, m. 1869 Augusta BROWER, BREWER or BROWN. Daughter Lee Eleanor (Bird) m. William Miller GRAHAM and had son Earl and daughter Geraldine. Mrs. E. H. Wilkins, 842 No. Rose St., Burbank, Calif. 91505.
8. Want information about FITZ RANDOLPHS of England, New Jersey and Virginia (W. Va.) also on family of John BONNELL (m. Rhulanah FitzRandolph) and his son Charles BONNELL (m. Jane MARTIN) all of West Virginia (1797-1889). Mrs. Mary L. Johnson, 234 So. Vista Bond Ave., Glendora, Calif. 91740.

RIBLE RECORDS: The following record from the WITHERS Family Bible was submitted by Mary Wilkins of Burbank, Calif., from the Bible in her possession. Printed: Boston, 1828 by C. Ewer, T. Bedlington, and J.H.A. Frost.

Marriages

- George Withers and Elizabeth Metzger was married on Sunday the 30th day of December A.D. 1827 at Lititz by the Rev. Jacob Rauschenberger.
- George W. Withers and Mary Ann Shultz was married on Wednesday evening the 25th of November A.D. 1857 by the Rev. J.V. Echert.
- Michael M. Withers and Elizabeth C. Fahnestock was married on Thursday afternoon the 21st day of June A.D. 1866 at Marietta by Rev. Wm. A. Fleming.
- John J. Sherts and Catharine J. Withers was married on Tuesday morning the 17th day of November A.D. 1868 at Willow Street by Rev. H. E. Spayed.
- Jacob K. Miller and May Rinestine Withers was married on Wednesday the 17th day of February A.D. 1892 at Maytown by the Rev.
- Henry Hartman Sherts and Esther A. Eagles were married by the Rev. Clarence E. Macartney, D.D. pastor of Arch St. Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa. on September 24th, 1919 in Philadelphia.
- Ernest Wilkins and Mary Eleanor Sherts were married on March 2, 1940 at Yuma, Arizona by Rev. Raymond C. Achenson, a Presbyterian minister of their acquaintance.



Births

- George Withers son of George and Anna Withers was born the 29th day of March 1798.
Elizabeth Metzger daughter of Jonas and Mary Metzger was born the 17th day of April 1808.
- George Howard Withers son of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 27th day of July 1822. Baptized by the Rev. John Baker the 7th day of September 1828.
Sponsors Father and Mother.
- Michael Metzger Withers son of George and Elizabeth Withers born January 17th A.D. 1830. Baptized January 12th A.D. 1831 by the Reverend John C. Baker. Sponsors Father and Mother.
- George Washington Withers son of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 25th day of July A.D. 1831. Baptized December 7th A.D. 1831. Sponsors Father and Mother.
- Howard Hopkins Withers son of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 9th day of January A.D. 1833. Baptized May 5th A.D. 1833 by the Rev. John C. Baker.
Sponsors Howard H. Hopkins and Ann Susan Metzger.
- Ann Elizabeth Withers daughter of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 26th day of November A.D. 1834. Baptized March 13th A.D. 1835 by the Rev. John C. Baker. Sponsors Father and Mother.
- Mary Catharine Withers daughter of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 15th day of May A.D. 1837. Baptized December 11th by the Rev. John C. Baker.
Sponsors Father and Mother.
- Catharine Jemima Withers daughter of George and Elizabeth Withers was born the 15th day of December A.D. 1839. Baptized the 27th Day of March A.D. 1840 by Rev. John C. Baker. Sponsors Father and Mother.
- Henry Howard Withers son of George W. and Mary Ann Withers was born January 19th 1861. Baptized November 24th 1862 by Rev. F. W. Conrad. Sponsor Grandmother Withers.
- May Rinstine Withers daughter of Michael M. and Elizabeth C. Withers born December 17th A.D. 1868. Baptized June 17th 1869 by Rev. Greenwald.
- Elizabeth Withers Sherts daughter of John J. and Catharine J. Sherts was born September 17th A.D. 1870. Baptized October 8th 1872 by Rev. Banam, Pastor Presbyterian Church, Stradburg.
- George Howard Sherts son of John J. and Catharine J. Sherts was born April 15th A. D. 1872. Baptized October 8th 1872 by Rev. Mr. Bamun, Pastor Presbyterian Church, Strasburg.
- Henry Hartman Sherts son of John J. and Catharine J. Sherts was born January 5, 1874. Baptized October 12, 1876 by Rev. R. K. Baynum.
- John Clarence Sherts son of John J. and Catharine J. Sherts was born September 13, 1876. Baptized October 12, 1876 by Rev. R. K. Baynum.
- Annie Catherine Sherts daughter of John J. and Catherine Sherts born July 26, 1879. Baptized February 2, 1880 by Rev. Haney.
- Mary Eleanor Sherts daughter of Henry H. and Esther E. Sherts born August 24, 1921 at Lancaster, Pa. Baptized Nov. 2, 1921.
- Natalie Elizabeth Wilkins daughter of Ernest H. and Mary S. Wilkins born January 3, 1941 at Montebello, California.

Deaths

Departed this life on Thursday the 25th day of November in the year of our Lord 1830 George Howard Withers son of George and Elizabeth Withers. Aged 2 years, 3 months, 29 days.

Mary Catharine Withers daughter of George and Elizabeth Withers died the 13th day of December A.D. 1837. Aged 6 months and 28 days.

Jonas Metzger died the 29th day of April A.D. 1817. Aged 49 years, 6 months and 27 days.

Mary Metzger wife of Jonas Metzger died the 31st day of December A.D. 1858. Aged 84 years, 1 month and 14 days.

George Withers died May 23rd A.D. 1811. Aged 63 years, 8 mo. and 9 days.

Anna Withers died June 30th 1861. Aged 92 years, 3 months and 16 days.

Henry Howard Withers son of George W. and Mary Ann Withers died the 23 day of August A.D. 1864. Aged 3 years, 7 months, and 4 days.

George Washington Withers M.D. died the 12 day of January A.D. 1870. Aged 38 years, 5 months and 18 days.

George Withers died April 17th A.D. 1876. Aged 78 years and 19 days.

Michael Metzger Withers, M.D. born January 17, 1830 died at Maytown, Friday, January 20, 1888 at 5^h15 A.M. Aged 58 years and 3 days.

Elizabeth Withers wife of George Withers died Saturday, October 17, 1891 at 7:45 P.M. Aged 83 years and 6 months.

John Clarence Sherts son of John J. and Catherine J. Sherts died September 9, 1895. Aged 19 years, 11 months and 26 days.

Howard Hopkins Withers, M.D. born January 9, 1833 died Sunday, September 15, 1895 at 2 A.M. Aged 62 years, 8 months, and 6 days.

Family records in my aunts hand inserted on extra pages

Henry Hartman Sherts son of John J. and Catherine J. Sherts died June 18th 1930 at 5^h30 P.M.

Jonas Metzger Jr. died October 18th 1823.

Henry Metzger died November 8, 1881.

Elizabeth C. Fahnestock widow of Michael M. Withers, M.D. died April 23, 1909 at 4:15 P.M. She was born October 6, 1836 and was aged 72 yrs., 6 mos., 18 days.

Mary Ann Shultz widow of George W. Withers, M.D. died at the home of her sister Mrs. J. G. Weaver at Strasburg, Pa. March 16, 1915 in the 79th year of her age.

Catherine J. Withers, wife of John J. Sherts died at 502 E. King St., Lancaster, Pa. June 5, 1916 at 1:40 A.M.

Mae R. Withers daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael M. Withers and wife of Jacob K. Miller, died at Maytown, Pa. February 3, 1917 at 6:45 A.M. aged 48 yrs. 1 mo. and 16 days.

John Jacob Sherts, husband of Catherine J. Withers died on Sunday morning June 25th 1922 at his home no. 19 South Ann Street, Lancaster, Pa. He was born March 29, 1845 and was aged 77 years, 2 months and 26 days.

Ann Elizabeth Withers daughter of George and Elizabeth Metzger Withers died at her home no. 27 South Lime St., Lancaster, Pa. on Saturday, October 7th 1922 at 4:40 P.M. from infirmities of old age. Aged 87 yrs. 10 mo. and 11 das.

Jacob K. Miller, husband of Mae R. Withers died at his home at Maytown, Pa. on Saturday July 17th 1926 about noon, from stomach trouble.

Inna Catherine Sherts, daughter of John J. and Catherine J. Sherts, died suddenly at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kessler near Strasburg, Lancaster Co., Pa. on Friday morning, March 15th, 1929 between 7 and 8 o'clock in the 50th year of her age.

Obituaries and/or Death Notices and some marriages attached to Withers Family Bible

Shaub, Raymond
Herr-Benedict
Withers, Michael

Dittus, Margaret
Wagner, Peter
Hopkins, Mrs. Laura E.

Sherts, Henry H.
Spangler, Sarah R.
Shirk, Blanch Weaver

Nutto, Emil Albert
Mowrer, Sarah
Pennock, Joseph L.
Fahnestock, James D.
Shaub, John R.
Sherts, Elizabeth
Withers, Mary A.
Sherts, J. Harry
Wagner, J.H.B.

Breneman, Ella von Ossko
Withers, Grace B.
Withers, Howard H.
Fahnestock, Maria Reigart
Landis, Elizabeth
Brubaker, Clayton
Miller, Park O.
Hall, Isaac A.
Withers, Howard A.

Grant-Evans
Withers, Michael A.
Franklin, Josephine
Keener, John H.
Withers, Elizabeth C.
Gramm-Franklin
Withers, Louise
Misc: Trinity weather
vane
Patriarch of Herr
family (Christian
Charles)

STATE RESEARCH AIDS

MASSACHUSETTS

Historical Information:

- 1620 10 November. Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock.
1628 A colony was formed at Salem through the initiative of the Massachusetts Bay Company.
1630 The towns of Boston, Charleston, Roxbury, Dorchest, Watertown, and Newtown which later became Cambridge, were founded.
1788 Became the 6th State of the Union.

Vital Records:

The birth and death records since 1850 may be obtained from Registrar of Vital Statistics, 272 State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133. Fee: \$2.00. Some records prior to 1850 are in the offices of the city or town clerks in localities where incident happened. Similar records for Boston are available since 1639 in the office of the City Registrar, Registry Division, Room 1004 City Hall Annex, Boston, Mass. 02108.

Partial marriage records from 1841, and complete from 1848 are in the office of the Division of Vital Statistics, The Secretary of State, Boston, Mass. 02133. Similar records in the offices of the city or town clerk where license was issued. Marriage banns may be found in respective churches in the city.

Divorce records are with the Clerk of the Superior Court or the Registrar of Probate in the county where divorce was granted.

Many cities and towns have published birth, death, and marriage records. Check with the Los Angeles Public Library to see if they have the records for the area you are interested in.

See pages 75-85 of Genealogy In America by Norman Edgar Wright, Vol. 1, for a listing of the Vital Records for the towns which have been published.

Probates, Wills, Deeds and Land Transactions:

Are in the Office of the Secretary of State.

gue and the poem, consisting of a series of discourses, begins. Job breaks the silence with a touching lament in which he bewails the day of his birth, and wishes that he had never seen the light. His friends answer in turn, each in his own way, endeavoring to prove that suffering is due to guilt, while Job maintains his innocence of any sin deserving the dreadful fate which has befallen him. In chapter 32 a fourth speaker is introduced in the person of Elihu, who indignantly reproves Job for daring to question the justice of God and the three friends for their failure to convince Job. In a long address, or rather series of addresses, he adds little to what has already been said concerning the justice and wisdom of God, and man's duty of abject submission. At length Jehovah himself is represented as answering Job out of the whirlwind, rebuking him for his presumption in endeavoring to fathom the mysteries of God, and showing the limitations of human power in contrast to the omnipotence of the Creator. Job humbly confesses his error and declares his repentance. The book closes with an epilogue in which Jehovah rebukes the three friends and requires them to take an offering of seven bullocks and seven rams and go to his servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for themselves. Upon Job's intercession for them, He will forgive them and not deal with them according to their folly. When Job had thus prayed for them, his own afflictions ceased and God gave him twice as much as he had had before. Seven other sons and three daughters were born to him, and we are told that "in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." The rest of his life was peaceful and happy and he died in a good old age.

The book of Psalms consists of five collections of the hymns used in the worship of the sanctuary, made at different times in the order in which they stand in our Bible. The close of each collection is marked by a doxology, the final psalm being itself a doxology. While we do not know the compilers of these collections, nor can we assign to them definite dates, it seems reasonably certain that the first collection was made in the time of David and that the whole five were gathered together in one book after the return from the captivity, most probably in the time of Ezra.

Lyric verse has been said to be "the confidant of the soul in all its moods," and surely this is especially true of the book of Psalms. It would seem that there is no mood of the spirit or experience of the heart that does not there find a record.

This book might well be called the Hymn Book of the Ages. Its lofty chants of praise and adoration, its songs of thanksgiving, its humble confessions of sin and expressions of penitence are as appropriate to the modern Christian as to the ancient Hebrew. Not only are the Psalms themselves sung in churches throughout the world today, but they form a treasury of thought and expressions from which our hymn writers have freely borrowed, so that many of our modern hymns are but echoes of the songs of Israel.

The marvellous hold which these songs have had upon the human heart throughout the centuries can be explained only by the fact that the psalmists wrote with a passionate sincerity from the depths of their own experience. Human nature is the same in all periods of the world's history and these heart cries of the singers of old Israel have voiced the feelings,

experiences and needs of other hearts from that day to this and will do so through all the ages to come.

The general subject of the Psalms may be said to be trouble and its relief. The psalmists were men who had drunk deep of the sorrows and tragedies of life. They are beset on all sides by enemies. They are "poor and needy." Their days are "as a shadow that passeth away." Tears are their "meat day and night" and they "go mourning all the day." Yet in the midst of their deepest afflictions, we hear the exultant chant:

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul,
And why art thou disquieted within me?"

Hope thou in God:
For I shall yet praise Him
Who is the health of my countenance

And my God."

No other book of the Bible gives us such a sense of the reality and personality of God. To the psalmist it was only the fool who "hath said in his heart, there is no God." They knew that life held mysteries which with all their striving they could never hope to fathom, but they only said "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and his greatness is unsearchable." They took sweet comfort in the thought that the mighty Creator of the universe was yet mindful of man.

"Like as a father pitieth his children,
So the Lord pitieth them that fear Him;
For He knoweth our frame;
He remembereth that we are dust."

The psalmists not only voice for us the needs and aspirations of the human soul, but they take us out in the open air and bring to our attention God's wondrous

A Mary Meek Atkeson Biography

ALEXANDER SCOTT WITHERS
(1792-1865)

Alexander Scott Withers was descended from English ancestry. He was born at the Virginia homestead, "Green Meadows," near Warrentown, Fauquier county, Virginia, on the 12th of October, 1792. His mother, Jannett Chinn Withers, was a cousin of Sir Walter Scott. He received his early education at home in private schools, then went to Washington College, and later was graduated from the law department of William and Mary.

In 1815 he married Miss Melinda Fisher, and about 1827 moved to western Virginia, settling near Clarksburg. At Clarksburg he met Joseph Israel, a publisher, and

contracted to publish a work on early settlement of western Virginia. He traversed the territory getting his notes, visited many of the pioneers, and published the work in 1831. Later he moved to a farm near Weston, and engaged in agriculture. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jannett Travenner, near Parkersburg, January 23, 1865. "Chronicles of Border Warfare, or a History of the Settlement by the Whites of North-western Virginia: and of the Indian Wars and Massacres, in that Section of the State: with Reflections, Anecdotes, etc." Clarksburg, Va. 1831; reprint, edited and annotated by Reuben Gold Thwaites, with a Memoir of the Author by Lyman Copeland Drper, Cincinnati, 1895.

Withers
Family

works in earth and sky and sea. The God who made the earth and the heavens cares for the humblest of his creatures. The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, even the fish of the sea—

"These wait all upon thee,
That thou mayest give them their
meat in due season."

We note also the emphasis laid by the psalmists upon the moral elements of religion. They believe and rejoice in all the stately ceremonial of the temple worship, they recognize the obligation of sacrifice, but they repudiate the outward rite when separated from what it was designed to represent. The sacrifice acceptable to God is "a broken and contrite heart" and the man who shall ascend the holy hill is "he that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

In conclusion let me quote again

The Last of the Blennerhassetts

(From "The Old Brewery, and the New Mission House at the Five Points" by "Ladies of the Mission, Stringer & Townsend, New York, 1854)

The vicissitudes of fortune is a subject of trite and common remark. In every rank of life, through all the grades of human society, the changing wheel of fortune is elevating and depressing families and individuals; and no prophetic eye can read the destiny of the man, as it gazes upon the unconscious infant, slumbering in the cradle. The insignia of wealth may be stamped upon everything which greets that infant's waking, wondering glance — tones of love may wake its young affections, and

from the author to whom I have previously referred—J. E. McFadyen in *The Messages of the Psalmists*:

"The psalms are great because they have seized the eternal things. Most of them spring from a definite historical situation, yet in most cases the traces of their origin have utterly vanished, and they articulate the pain of gladness of the universal heart. Insensibly does the psalmist pass from the ruins of Jerusalem to the contemplation of the ruins of the universe. The experience of humanity is concentrated in the Psalter, which someone has described as 'the whole music of the human heart, swept by the hand of its Maker.' That is why age cannot wither its infinite variety, and why on the praises of Israel men will lift up their hearts to God, while the world stands."

cherish them into strong and happy life; parental care may multiply its fostering influences, and centre all its ambition in schemes for the elevation and aggrandizement of that darling child, and yet — and yet "A whirlwind from the desert comes, and sweeps them in the dust."

And many a cherished one of earth lives to encounter its fiercest tempests, to feel its keenest pangs, and to prove "how much the human heart can bear," ere it breaks, and bleeds, and dies. We may read and hear and believe, but we do not realize the force of facts like these, until they are actually brought within the sphere of our own vision; and then, in our new and powerful

interest, we forget our past experience, and an almost irresistible influence impels us to narrate the story to others, in the hope of awakening a sympathetic feeling, and perhaps, receiving their practical aid. This is our apology for the following narrative, which is not as relevant to our Mission work proper, as are the former histories related in this little book; and yet it was in the prosecution of our Mission work, that this sad history was brought before our minds, and it was within the range of our Mission walks that the subject of our sketch was first found, and in the prosecution of its regular duties was he again providentially thrown upon our care.

Who has not heard or read of Blennerhassett, so famous in his connection with Aaron Burr, fifty years ago? Who has not dwelt with pleasure, on the picture, drawn by the eloquent pen of the celebrated Wirt, of the Eden, in the Ohio River, ere the tempter entered to betray and to destroy? And who has not burned with indignation or melted with sorrow, over the fearful desolation which swept that happy home, when the sad alliance with Aaron Burr was consummated, and the full result of treachery was felt by its innocent and unsuspecting inhabitants.

While all was bright and blooming in that happy Isle, ere "coming events had cast their shadows before," to awaken the slightest apprehension, a proud father and a happy mother bent rejoicing over the couch of an infant boy who seemed destined to enjoy all that earth could promise of luxury and ease. Fond hopes and joyous anticipations were indulged, and through a bright vista of happy childhood, promising youth, and successful manhood, they saw in imagination all that the fondest

parental hearts could picture or desire.

Alas for the reality! That boy is the subject of our simple narrative — and for the benefit of our youthful readers who may not be familiar with the previous history of this celebrated family, we subjoin a sketch, ere we proceed with the facts, which have been so strangely brought before our notice.

"Harman Blennerhassett, the father of the subject of our narrative, was the son of an Irish gentleman, but born in England during a temporary visit of his parents. If not of the Irish nobility they were at least of the superior gentry of their native land; and their son, educated at Westminster and Trinity College, graduated with honor, and entered upon the study of the Law at King's Inn — how successfully, is shown by the significant appendage of L. L. D. which occasionally accompanies his name. An Irishman, and an Irishman living during the excitement of the French Revolution, Blennerhassett could not but feel deeply the depressed state of his country, yet preferring the paths of literature, and the quiet of domestic life, to the turmoil of the political arena, he soon after his marriage with Miss Agnew (daughter of the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle-of-Man, and grand-daughter of the celebrated general of that name, who fell at the battle of Germantown,) left Europe for New York in 1797, determined to make this country the land of his adoption. After some inquiry, he purchased a beautiful island on the Ohio River, and there built a residence, in whose construction, economy and simplicity were unthought of. "The sum of sixty thousand dollars, it is said, was