WHERE WILL ALL OF MY GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH BE . . .

10 YEARS AFTER I DIE??

OR 30 YEARS AFTER I DIE??
REMEMBER:

MEMORIES LAST ONLY IF YOU SHARE THEM.
Dr. Bill Bates was born on Monday, March 22, 1915, in Melrose, Monroe County, IA, the son of Joe and Maggie (Morrison) Bates. On Monday, March 29, 1915, he was baptized at Melrose St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. He was raised in Melrose and graduated from MHS in 1932.

On Thursday, September 25, 1941, Bill married Brownie Marvin at St. Mary’s Catholic HS Chapel in Omaha, Douglas County, NE. Bill’s cousin and lifelong friend, Father Jack Burns, said the Mass.

Bill graduated from the Creighton University dental school in 1941 with a DDS degree. He was a dentist in George, Lyon County, IA, from 1946 to 1949; and then at Remsen, Plymouth County, IA, from 1949 until his health-forced retirement in 1976.

Bill was a Major in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II (1942-1946).

Bill was a radio broadcaster by avocation, and he worked at radio station KCOM in Sioux City, Woodbury County, IA, in professional baseball broadcasts of the minor-league Sioux City Soos and in high-school boys and girls basketball broadcasts. He is best-remembered for his insightful and entertaining basketball half-time and post-game interviews. He also refereed high-school basketball games.

Bill was a member of Remsen St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the American Legion Post 220.

Bill was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, although the Cubs never won a World Series during his lifetime. (He only lived 74 years.) As a boy, he used to hitchhike to Chicago with his cousin Jack Burns to watch the Cubs.

His hobbies included owning and racing thoroughbred horses, doing crossword puzzles, reading western novels, making and painting plaster of paris statues, and growing beautiful roses. Late in his life, after he went blind from macular degeneration, he would listen to recorded books.

Bill and Brownie had 4 sons and 1 daughter: Bill, Terry, Joe, Brownie, and Bob.

Bill, 74 years old, died at 3:38 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 1990, at Floyd Valley Hospital in Le Mars, Plymouth County, IA, after a lengthy illness. The cause of his death was coronary artery disease, although he also had terminal bladder cancer and gout, along with multiple heart attacks. Fisch Funeral Home in Remsen was in charge of arrangements. On March 17 Bill was buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, IA.
VITAL RECORDS

• Birth certificates
• Marriage certificates
• Death certificates
MY STATE VITAL RECORDS

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Washington
SAMPLE VITAL RECORD
OBITUARIES

- Photo of person
- Photo of grave marker
- Cemetery, with grave coordinates
- Newspaper obituary
- Newspaper source
JOSEPH LEO BATES (1880-1934)

J. L. BATES, 54, DIED WEDNESDAY; FUNERAL FRIDAY

Had Been Rural Mail Carrier in County for 30 Years

Joseph L. Bates, 54, died at 6 p.m. Wednesday [December 26, 1934] at his home in Melrose, where he had been a rural mail carrier for the last 30 years.

Funeral services will be at 9 a.m. Friday [December 28] at St. Patrick's Church in Melrose, the Rev. D. B. Browne officiating. Burial will be at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Melrose.

Mr. Bates had spent almost his entire life in Melrose. He entered the United States mail service there in 1904 and was a rural carrier continuously until stricken four months ago with the illness that proved fatal.

He earned retirement for 30 years service last October.

His wife died seven years ago. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Dwight Humeston, Jr., of Albia; three sons, Dr. Maurice Bates of Iowa City, Dr. J. J. Bates of Albia, and William Bates of Melrose; and two brothers, D. W. Bates of Des Moines, Iowa superintendent of banking, and Thomas Bates of Denver, CO.

The Albia Union-Republican, December 27, 1934, page 1
FOREBEARS

• More one-page obituaries

• Go back further than my 4 grandparents and my wife’s 4 grandparents
James Francis “JAMESY” Morrison was born on Thursday, March 4, 1852, in Westport, North Crosby, Leeds County, Ontario, Canada, the son of James and Bridget (Carbin) Morrison.

On Thursday, February 8, 1877, James married Maggie Murphy in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Melrose, Monroe County, IA.

In 1853, at the age of one, James emigrated with his family from Canada to Iowa.

James spent most of his life in Monroe County as a farmer and teamster. He was a farmer in Melrose according to censuses in 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, and 1920. In 1914 he earned $600, and there was no lien on his $1,000 farm.

James lived with Al and Lu Bergquist, his son-in-law and daughter, in Melrose when Al owned the grocery store there in the late 1920s; when the store closed during the Depression and the Bergquists moved to Spokane, James went to live with Oscar and Nell Olson, another son-in-law and daughter, in Ottumwa, Wapello County, IA.

James was adept at watching the sky and making accurate weather forecasts. One of his sayings was “A patch of blue sky as big as a Dutchman’s pants means that the day will be clear.”

James was a Roman Catholic. Late in his life he was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Ottumwa.


James’ wife Maggie died on Thursday, December 17, 1903. James lived as a widower for the next 35+ years.

James, 87, died at 8:25 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 1939, in Center Township, Ottumwa, at the home of his daughter Nell at 214 North Market St., after being in poor health for several years and bedridden for the last year of his life. The immediate cause of death was apoplexy, compounded by 10 years of acute myocarditis and chronic nephritis. At 9:00 a.m. on March 11, Father J. J. Welsh said the funeral Mass at Melrose (IA) St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. James was buried beside his wife and parents-in-law at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Melrose on March 11. The services were arranged by the Humeston Funeral Home in Albia, Monroe County, IA.
IN THE SERVICE OF COUNTRY

Relatives who served in:

– The American Revolution
– The US Civil War
– World War I
– World War II
– The Korean War
– The Vietnam War
– Post-Vietnam conflicts
– “peacetime”
Howard Fiedler enlisted in the US Army at Fort Omaha, NE, on 24 April 1942. He served on active duty for a total of 1 year, 7 months, and 21 days of foreign service; and 1 year, 11 months, and 5 days in CONUS. He was released from the Army with an Honorable Discharge at the Separation Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS, on 19 November 1946. He was a member of the American Legion for more than 50 years.

2 Ibid.
4 WD AGO Form 100.
5 Ibid.
6 “Funeral Saturday for Fiedler; Owned Café Near CU Campus,” Omaha World-Herald, September 13, 1996.
LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

• Matrix of family immigrants
• Family immigration stories
• Declarations of Intention (First Paper)
• Petitions for Naturalization (Second Paper)
• Certificates of Naturalization (Final Paper)
• Background information on US immigrations
CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

MICHAEL MORRISON (7 September 1863)

State of Iowa, Monroe County

Be it remembered that on this 7th day of September AD 1863 personally appeared before the County Court of Monroe County Iowa Michael Morrison and made application to be admitted as a citizen of the United States. And it being made to appear that he declared his intention on the 18th day of August AD 1858 to become a citizen of the United States as by act of Congress is made and provided. And the Court being satisfied that said Michael Morrison has resided within the United States five years at least and within this state one year at least and that during all that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the people.

Whereupon the said Michael Morrison declared on oath that he would support the Constitution of the United States and that he did absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whereof he was before a subject.

It is therefore ordered that the said Michael Morrison be and he is hereby admitted as a citizen of the United States.

William P. Hammond, County Judge

Book B, page 519.
EXAMPLES OF THE MEMOIRS

- How I selected my alma-maters-to-be
- How I came to be a career soldier
- How I learned to be a public speaker
- How I came to be a genealogist
- March Madness Week #1 is the best week of the year
- How I became a marathoner
I was an officer in the US Army for 30 years (1964-1994), the last 28 years on active duty. And I retired as a Colonel, the rank I held for the last 6½ years.

So when did I first think about the possibility of being a career soldier? In 1970, when I was a Captain, married, with three children.

After HS graduation in 1960, I attended Creighton University in Omaha, NE. Because Creighton is a land-grant college, male freshmen and sophomores were required to take courses in Military Science (ROTC). I hated the subject, changed out of my uniform as soon as possible, and sang marching cadence “M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E” as loudly as anyone else.

My junior year I did not take ROTC. But the Vietnam War was starting up, young men were getting drafted, and my father convinced me that I was going to Vietnam as an enlisted man or officer, so I might as well be an officer. I agreed and took compressed (years 3 and 4) ROTC in my senior year.

Then came summer camp at Fort Riley, KS, where I was one of the worst soldiers in my 47-cadet company. The Army officer in charge of us (Captain Andrew DeGraw) recommended that seven of us be dismissed without a commission, but six of our schools backed us, and all but one of us was commissioned on July 31, 1964. One cadet was sent back to Minnesota without a commission.

I was indifferent to the Army. I went into the US Army Reserve and took a two-year academic delay of my active-duty obligation so I could go to graduate school at the University of Maryland. And that’s what I did, although I didn’t finish my Master’s thesis or get my MA degree.

On October 9, 1966, I reported to Fort Gordon, GA, for my two years of active duty. I was on orders for nine weeks in Georgia, followed by 13 months in Korea. I was still singing “Mickey Mouse.”

While at Fort Gordon, I volunteered for assignment to the war in Vietnam, and my orders were changed. I ended up with three tours of duty in Korea, too, but I never dreamed about that.

I was a good soldier in Vietnam, got promoted from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant, and worked for a Lieutenant Colonel who had just come from an assignment in Department of the Army headquarters in Washington, DC. I explained to him that I had not yet finished my Master’s work at the University of Maryland, so he pulled strings to get me assigned to HQDA in DC.

I returned from Vietnam to the US on January 10, 1968, and Joan Ritz and I were married on January 20. I liked my Army job in DC, and I extended my obligation from October 1968 to July 1969 so I could accept promotion to Captain in July 1968 and serve one year in grade.

I earned my MA degree in 1969 and job hunted, but a Master’s degree in English seemed to qualify me best to sell insurance or write Hallmark’s greeting-card jingles. I extended my obligation again, this time to July 1971, and kept job hunting, but I disliked the kinds of interview offers I was getting.

Meanwhile, our office manager, Colonel Dan McElwee, declared that every Friday was “Bill Bates Go RA Day.” Each coworker was required to come to me each Friday and tell me one reason I should stay in the Army. At the same time, I continued to like my Army job and dislike the civilian job offers I was getting. I also liked the free medical care and the discounts at the commissary and PX.

In the fall of 1970, I accepted a Regular Army commission with no automatic release date. I was married with three children, doing well in the Army through four years, and thought an Army career was a good solution for me and my family.

Joan and I did well. The kids turned out very well. I was a success in the Army, commanding troops as a Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel.

And Captain DeGraw, the officer who tried to prevent my commissioning at Fort Riley in 1964? He retired as a Major. Funny, actually.
SO NOW I ASK,
WHERE WILL ALL OF YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH BE . . .

10 YEARS AFTER YOU DIE??

OR 30 YEARS AFTER YOU DIE??