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## THE HISTORY SHACK

By James Shackelford | Email the author | September 27, 2011

The Neighborhood Files

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## Life for African Americans in the Late 1800's

Part one of a three-part column.

0 Comments

Grandma Nixon -



About this column: The History Shack is an ongoing column exploring interesting stories, people, facts and landmarks from South Brunswick's past. James Shackelford is an independent researcher and historian with a passion for preservation and researching the history of slavery and slave graveyards. His experience and knowledge has led him to become an expert on the history of slavery in Central Jersey.

"Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can."  
— Arthur Ashe

Usually week in and week out topics come to mind with ease for me, but this week it was a struggle. When that happens I visit the library for some ideas. With visits to Plainsboro and Cranbury, I found several interesting subjects for the next few weeks.

In past columns I have mentioned the Negro Burial Ground at the Brainerd Cemetery, but until today I have not had much history of the families.

I found an interview with Mrs. Viola Phares (pronounced Ferris) Nixon. In 1973, Mrs. Nixon was the oldest living person in Cranbury at 99 years old and heading for 100.

She was living at the Sunnyfield Nursing Home on Maplewood Avenue in Cranbury. Born in 1874 and having spent her entire life in Cranbury, she shared life experiences.

Mrs. Nixon told the story of her kidnapping at the age of two by local Gypsies who persuaded her young sister to trade Viola for candy. When her sister returned without her, the father and his employer, Nathan Guyre, took off by horse and wagon after the gypsies.

They reached a toll gate at the corner of North Main Street and what is today Route 130 as the gypsies were paying toll and they rescued the child.

When asked what she thought was the most exciting invention of the past century she cited the installation of an indoor toilet at John Silver's home.

Mrs. Nixon's family has been members of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury for almost 190 years. Mrs. Nixon and her husband joined in 1922.

One Branch of the  
Family Tree!  
GARY

→ 190 YRS AS of when Article was written in 1973  
→ SINCE AT LEAST 1783!!

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Records of the Nixon family state other family members may have been buried above the existing graves. Also many have been buried without headstones, only represented by wooded crosses which have long rotted away.

Baptism and marriage records of the First Presbyterian Church, from 1802 until 1833, record over 90 names of African Americans. Parents, children or newlywed couples are also listed in the official church records.

Most of the recorded marriages list only first names and the name of the masters who owned each slave. Only a few list themselves by surname, Peter Ongue, Catherine Hawkins and Solomon Sharp, which may someday assist in research of these family names.

The Baptisms lists show many more surnames such as Ditmars, Freeman, Baird, Little and Scudder. This makes the lack of records more curious at the African Methodist Church, which many would have moved to worship at.

The African Americans also have long family bible records history that would lead us to believe the church records would have high priority.

These records and the oral history of Viola Phares Nixon give a small glimpse into the lives of African Americans in Cranbury and throughout Middlesex County in this time period.

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#### COMMENTS (1)



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Generation of Parents

└ GARY JR's FATHER

7. WILLIAM NEAL FIELD (Jasmine's father) was born on 30 January 1934, in Somerville, New Jersey, to Clifford Huston<sup>12</sup> and Cecil O. Field<sup>13</sup>, as shown in family tree 3.

Note: Born on January 30, 1934 at home (120 W. Brown St., Somerville, NJ). to the late Cecil O'dell Field, he was raised by his Aunt Vickie (mother's sister) from the age of 13 yrs after his mother died. He went to Somerville High School, and played the clarinet, and saxophone, and played with the schools orchestra, marching band, and dance band. He was also on the wrestling team sophomore thru senior year. He graduated from Somerville High School in 1951. He joined the US Navy in 1951, During the Korean War, and was aboard the USS Chukawan (ao100) (Auxiliary Oiler), and was a Radio Petty Officer, 2nd Class. He was honorably discharged in 1954.

8. BARBARA R. PANKOWSKI (Jasmine's mother) was born on 24 August 1937, in Manville, New Jersey. See family tree 2. William Neal Field<sup>7</sup> and Barbara R. Pankowski had one daughter:

Jasmine K. Field<sup>5</sup> in 1967

The following information is also recorded for this family. Partners.

This family is shown as family tree 2.

9. JOSEPH FIELD (Jasmine's uncle) was born to Clifford Huston<sup>12</sup> and Cecil O. Field<sup>13</sup>, as shown in family tree 3. Joseph is no longer living.
10. RICHARD A. FIELD (Jasmine's uncle) was born on 24 July 1946, in Somerville, New Jersey, to Clifford Huston<sup>12</sup> and Cecil O. Field<sup>13</sup>, as shown in family tree 3. Richard died in 1998, aged about 51, in Greensboro, North Carolina.
11. SCOTT NIXON (Jasmine's second cousin, once removed) was born to Jean D. Nixon<sup>23</sup>.

Generation of Grandparents

12. CLIFFORD HUSTON (Jasmine's grandfather) was born in 1915, in Somerville, New Jersey. See family tree 3.
13. CECIL O. FIELD (Jasmine's grandmother) was born on 16 September 1911, in Somerville, New Jersey, to William H. Field<sup>29</sup> and Elizabeth Nelson (Bessie) Nixon<sup>30</sup>, as shown in family tree 4. Cecil died in 1947, aged about 35, in Glengardner, New Jersey.

Note: Cecil was born at 120 W. Brown St. as were her siblings and son William Neal Field.

In the POLK & Co., Publishers Somerville and Bound Brook Directories:

1936-1937 Cecil worked as a maid.

1942 Cecil worked as a porter

1948 Kitchen worker at the Golden Pheasant Coffee House.

Clifford Huston<sup>12</sup> and Cecil O. Field had three sons:

William Neal Field<sup>7</sup> in 1934

Joseph Field<sup>9</sup>

Richard A. Field<sup>10</sup> in 1946

The following information is also recorded for this family. Partners.

This family is shown as family tree 3.

14. MARGERT KATHERINE FIELD (Jasmine's great-aunt) was born on 7 December 1907, in Somerville, New Jersey, to William H. Field<sup>29</sup> and Elizabeth Nelson (Bessie) Nixon<sup>30</sup>, as shown in family tree 4. Margert died (Diphtheria) on 8 July 1920, aged 12, in Somerville, New Jersey. She was buried in New Cemetery, Somerville, New Jersey.

15. VIOLET FRANCES FIELD (Jasmine's great-aunt) was born on 9 November 1908, in Somerville, New Jersey, to William H. Field<sup>29</sup> and Elizabeth Nelson (Bessie) Nixon<sup>30</sup>, as shown in family tree 4. Violet died (Stroke) on 12 August 1976, aged 67, in Somerville, New Jersey. She was buried in New Cemetery, Somerville, New Jersey.

Note: Obituary:

Somerville--- Mrs. McKinley Irby

Mrs. Violet F. Irby, 67, of 120 W. Brown St. died Thursday, August 12, 1976, in Somerset Hospital.

A Native and lifelong resident of Somerville, Mrs. Irby was a former trustee of the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Thomas AME Zion Church and a former pastor's aide. She was a past daughter-ruler of IBOElkes of New Brunswick. She was a former



4-20 cook at Foothill Acres Nursing Home and St. Josephs Convent in Bound Brook retiring in 1971. She is survived by her husband, Mckinley Irby, and two nephews, William Neal and Richard Field, and a host of great neices and nephews.

16. SIMON MCKINLEY IRBY (Jasmine's great-uncle by marriage) was born on 2 October 1901, in Blackstone, Virginia. Simon died in September 1985, aged 83, in Virginia.



Simon McKinley Irby, aged 25, married Violet Frances Field<sup>15</sup>, aged 18, on 7 May 1927 in 120 W. brown St. Somerville, NJ.

The following information is also recorded for this family. Widowed.

17. ELSIE NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born on 2 August 1923, in Jamesburg, NJ, to Stanley Nixon<sup>38</sup> and Carrie Nixon<sup>39</sup>. Elsie died on 25 August 2010, aged 87, in Heightstown, New Jersey. She was buried in Fernwood Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.



Note: She was a Graduate of Bordentown Manual Traing School where she received an education rich in black history and was trained in beauty culture. She had a long time employment as a nanny to three children in Jamesburg. And finally retired from I.B.M in Jamesburg, in 1989 after 22 years of service. Elsie ended every conversation or visit with, "I love you, God bless you always".

18. GRACE L. NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born on 3 April 1925, in Jamesburg, NJ, to Stanley Nixon<sup>38</sup> and Carrie Nixon<sup>39</sup>. Grace died on 28 August 1998, aged 73. She was buried in Fernwood Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.
19. JOHN D. MASSEY SR. (Jasmine's cousin's husband, twice removed) was born on 3 August 1924. John died on 26 June 2000, aged 75, in Jamesburg, NJ. He was buried in Fernwood Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.  
John D. Massey Sr. married Grace L. Nixon<sup>18</sup>.
20. STANLEY NIXON JR. (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born to Stanley Nixon<sup>38</sup> and Carrie Nixon<sup>39</sup>. Stanley died in Sarasota, Fl.
21. DORIS NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1929, in Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey, to Arthur James Nixon<sup>40</sup> and Mabel Rice<sup>41</sup>.
22. JAMES AUTHUR NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1932, in Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey, to Arthur James Nixon<sup>40</sup> and Mabel Rice<sup>41</sup>.  
Note: Family would call him "Brother" as his nickname. .
23. JEAN D. NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in September 1933, in Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey, to Arthur James Nixon<sup>40</sup> and Mabel Rice<sup>41</sup>.  
Jean gave birth to one son:  
Scott Nixon<sup>11</sup>
24. FRANKLIN NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1926, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Franklin Y. Nixon<sup>42</sup> and Alberta Nixon<sup>43</sup>.
25. ELEANOR NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1928, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Franklin Y. Nixon<sup>42</sup> and Alberta Nixon<sup>43</sup>.
26. FREDERICK NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1930, in cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Franklin Y. Nixon<sup>42</sup> and Alberta Nixon<sup>43</sup>.
27. CLIFFORD NIXON (Jasmine's cousin, twice removed) was born in 1931, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Franklin Y. Nixon<sup>42</sup> and Alberta Nixon<sup>43</sup>.
28. OSCAR F. PHARES (Jasmine's second cousin, twice removed) was born in 1926 to James H. Phares Jr.<sup>49</sup>.



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Generation of Great-Grandparents

29. WILLIAM H. FIELD (Jasmine's great-grandfather) was born on 6 August 1887, in Metuchen, New Jersey. See family tree 4. William died in 1942, aged about 54, in Somerville, New Jersey.
30. ELIZABETH NELSON (BESSIE) NIXON (Jasmine's great-grandmother) was born on 31 May 1889, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Elizabeth died on 4 November 1970, aged 81, in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. She was buried in New Cemetary, Somerville, New Jersey.
- Note: *Obituary: Mrs Field, 81, of Somerville, nj. (1970).*

*Mrs. Elizabeth N. Field of 120 Brown St, a longtime resident of Somerville, died last Wednesday at Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg. She was 81. Before entering the hospital, Mrs. Field had been a patient at the Garden Nursing Home in Phillipsburg for the past five years.*

*A native of Cranbury, Mrs. Field came to Somerville 64 years ago after her marriage to the late William H. Field. She was the oldest living member of St. Thomas AME Zion Church.*

*Among Mrs. Fields' survivors is her mother, Mrs Viola Nixon, who is 97. Mrs. Nixon lives at 120 Brown St. with Mrs. Fields' daughter, Mrs. Violet Irby. In addition to her mother and daughter, Mrs. field also leaves two grandchildren (Neal and Richard), 10 great grands and three brothers, Stanley Nixon of Jamesburg, Arthur Nixon of Hightstown and Franklin Nixon of Cranbury. Burial was New Cemetary. (Somerville).*

William H. Field<sup>29</sup>, aged about 18, married Elizabeth Nelson (Bessie) Nixon, aged about 17, between 1905 and 1907 in Somerville, New Jersey. They had three daughters:

Margert Katherine Field<sup>14</sup> in 1907

Violet Frances Field<sup>15</sup> in 1908

Cecil O. Field<sup>13</sup> in 1911

*This family is shown as family tree 4.*

31. GRACE A. NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-aunt) was born on 10 July 1891, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Grace is no longer living.
- Note: *In 1930, Joseph and Grace (Nixon) Copeland lived in Hightstown, NJ.*



32. JOSEPH D. COPELAND (Jasmine's great-great-uncle by marriage) was born in 1888, in new Jersey. Joseph is no longer living.
- Note: *Joseph Copelands parents were from North Carolina. His nickname was Joe D. as in (Jodee). He owned a bar in Hightstown,, NJ. When W. Neal Field was a boy, he would stay at their house (Uncle Jodee and Aunt Grace )and Uncle Arthur, Aunt Mabel and cousins Doris, James (aka Brother) and Jean lived right across the tracks from them in Hightstown. They all played together. .*
- Joseph D. Copeland married Grace A. Nixon<sup>31</sup> in >.

33. CLIFFORD F. NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-uncle) was born on 15 March 1896, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Clifford died on 30 April 1963, aged 67, in Trenton, NJ. He was buried in Ewing Cemetary, Trenton, NJ.

Note: *Trenton Evening Times Friday, March 1, 1963*

*Obituary---Trenton----- Clifford F. Nixon, 66, of 125 Frazier Street, who died yesterday April 30, 1963, will be held at noon at the Union Baptist Church with the Rev. Albert Tibbs officiating. Burial will be held at Ewing Cemetary. Friends may call at the aNderson Funeral Home, 300 North Willow Street, after 7pm Sunday.*

*Nixon was a retired foreman for the J. B. Richardson Company .*

*Surviving are his wife, Mrs Daisy Nixon, his mother, Mrs Viola Nixon of Somerville, a son, Charles of Philadelphia, a daughter, Mrs Margaret Baylor of Trenton, three brothers, Frank of Cranbury, Arthur of Heightstown, and Stanley of Jamesburg, a sister, Mrs Bessie Fields of Somerville. 18 grandchildren, 17 great grand-children, an many neices and nephews.*

34. CHARLES E. NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-uncle) was born on 9 September 1898, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Charles died on 26 April 1958, aged 59, in Princeton Hospital. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.
- Charles married three times. He was married to Ethel Nixon<sup>35</sup>, Minerva Unknown<sup>36</sup> and Mary Lyles<sup>37</sup>.

Note: *Trenton Evening Times Sunday, April 27, 1958*

*Obituary*

*Cranbury---Charles E. Nixon, 60, husband of Mrs. Mary Lyles Nixon of Plainsboro Road, died yesterday in Princeton Hospital.*

*A truck driver for the central dempsey Farmers Co- operative Association, he was a member and founder of the Etra*



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Rod and Gun Club. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs Viola C. Nixon of Cranbury; a sister, Mrs Elizabeth N. Fields of Somerville, and four brothers, Clifford of Trenton, Stanley of Jamesburg, Arthur of Hightstown, and Frank of Cranbury.

Services will be held Tuesday at 2 pm at the A.S. Cole Funeral Home with the Rev. John ? of the Methodist Church officiating. Interment will be at Brainerd Cemetery in Cranbury. Friends may visit tomorrow evening.

35. ETHEL NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage) was born in 1898. Ethel died in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.



Charles E. Nixon<sup>34</sup> married Ethel Nixon.

The following information is also recorded for this family. Widowed.

36. MINERVA UNKNOWN (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage). Minerva is no longer living.

Charles E. Nixon<sup>34</sup> married Minerva Unknown.

The following information is also recorded for this family. Widowed.

37. MARY LYLES (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage). Mary is no longer living.

Charles E. Nixon<sup>34</sup> married Mary Lyles.

38. STANLEY NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-uncle) was born in 1900, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Stanley died in 1997, aged about 97. He was buried in Fernwood Cemetery, Jamesburg, Middlesex County, NJ.

39. CARRIE NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage) was born in 1907. Carrie died in 1990, aged about 83. She was buried in Fernwood Cemetery, Jamesburg, Middlesex County, NJ.

Stanley Nixon<sup>38</sup> married Carrie Nixon in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey. They had three children:

Elsie Nixon<sup>17</sup> in 1923

Grace L. Nixon<sup>18</sup> in 1925

Stanley Nixon Jr.<sup>20</sup>

40. ARTHUR JAMES NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-uncle) was born in 1903, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Arthur died on 19 October 1973, aged about 70, in Princeton Medical center. He was buried in Trenton, NJ.

Note: *Trenton Evening Times Sunday October 21, 1973. Obituary*

#### Arthur J. Nixon

*Princeton--- Arthur J. Nixon, 69, of 27 Clay Street, died Friday October 19, 1973, in the Princeton Medical center.*

*Born in Cranbury, 1903, he was a lifelong area resident. He was retired from the Chamberlain and Barclay Fertilizer Company of Cranbury.*

*he is survived by his wife, Bessie Thompson Nixon, two daughters, Doris Velasquez of Hightstown and Mrs. Jean Booker of Trenton, one son, James Arthur Nixon of Indianapolis, Ind., his mother, Mrs Viola C. Nixon of Cranbury, two brothers, Stanley of Jamesburg, and Frank of Cranbury, three step-daughters, Mrs Joan Briscoe and Mrs Bertha Daniels and Miss Cynthia Thompson all of Princeton, one step-son, Robert Thompson of Trenton, 28 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.*

41. MABEL RICE (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage) was born in 1905, in Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey. Mabel is no longer living.

Arthur James Nixon<sup>40</sup> married Mabel Rice. They had three children:

Doris Nixon<sup>21</sup> in 1929

James Arthur Nixon<sup>22</sup> in 1932

Jean D. Nixon<sup>23</sup> in 1933

42. FRANKLIN Y. NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-uncle) was born on 29 July 1904, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> and Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup>, as shown in family tree 5. Franklin died on 10 January 1988, aged 83, in Cranbury, NJ. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Middlesex County, NJ.

43. ALBERTA NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-aunt by marriage) was born on 5 October 1905. Alberta died on 7 June 2001, aged 95, in Cranbury, NJ. She was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Middlesex County, NJ.

Franklin Y. Nixon<sup>42</sup> married Alberta Nixon. They had four children:

Franklin Nixon<sup>24</sup> in 1926

Eleanor Nixon<sup>25</sup> in 1928

Frederick Nixon<sup>26</sup> in 1930

Clifford Nixon<sup>27</sup> in 1931



- 7-20 44. WILLIAM A. PHARES (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born in March 1888 to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. William is no longer living.
45. EDITH M. PHARES (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born on 11 June 1891, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. Edith died in January 1963, aged 71.  
 Note: *Edith's highest grade completed was 8th grade.*  
*1920 Edith lived in Wilmington Ward 7, New Castle Delaware and worked as waitress and lived with Kerkus family.*  
*1930 As a Roomer in Manhattan, NY*  
*1940 Lived in Verona Burrough, Essex cty and used to live in Glenridge, Essex cty, Nj and worked as a servant at age 49.*
46. MARION PHARES (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born in February 1892, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. Marion is no longer living.
47. CORNELIA J PHARES (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born in February 1896, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. Cornelia is no longer living.
48. VIOLA F. PHARES (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born in 1902, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. Viola is no longer living.
49. JAMES H. PHARES JR. (Jasmine's cousin, three times removed) was born on 29 September 1904, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> and Eva Lena Phares<sup>57</sup>. James died in February 1970, aged 65, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.  
 Note: *Also known as Harvey James. He was widowed in the 1930 census.*  
 James fathered one son:  
 oscar F. Phares<sup>28</sup> in 1926

#### Generation of Great-Great-Grandparents

50. CHARLES S. NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-grandfather) was born in July 1865, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Samuel Nixon<sup>74</sup> and Margaret Nixon<sup>75</sup>, as shown in family tree 6. Charles died in 1942, aged about 76, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Cranbury, Middlesex County, NJ.  
 Note: *In 1880 at the age of 15 yrs. Charles worked as a farm laborer in Cranbury and lived with a white family. Their names were: Charles (age 50) and Sarah Herbert (age 49) and their daughter Ella (age 15) and granddaughter Mary Hutchinson (age 6).*



*Trenton Evening Times (NJ) Friday, January 16, 1942 Obituary*

*Charles S. Nixon*

*Cranbury, January 16, 1942--- Charles S. Nixon, retired farmer, of Dayton Road, died yesterday January 15, 1942, at his home after a lengthy illness. He was in his 77th year. Born here, he was a life-long resident, having been a farmer for 35 years, retiring in 1937.*

*He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, and besides his wife, Mrs Viola Ferris Nixon, is survived by five sons, Clifford of Trenton, NJ; Charles and Frank of Cranbury, NJ; Stanley of Jamesburg, NJ; and Arthur of Hightstown, NJ; and two daughters, Mrs William Fields of Somerville, NJ, and Mrs Joseph Copeland of Hightstown, NJ; a brother James of Burlington, NJ; 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.*

*The funeral will be held from the parlors of A.S. Cole & Son, this placed, Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm, with services by the Rev. Stanley Mcleave, of Cranbury Methodist Church. Burial will be in Brainerd Cemetery, Cranbury, NJ.*

51. VIOLA C. PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-grandmother) was born on 15 June 1874, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Viola died in January 1974, aged 99, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey. She was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Middlesex County, NJ.  
 Note: *In 1973 she was the oldest living person in Cranbury, where she was born and spent her entire life. At the age of 99 years old, she was living at the Sunnyfield Nursing Home on Maplewood Ave in Cranbury.*  
*She tells the story of her kidnapping at the age of two by local gypsies who persuaded her older sister to trade Viola for candy. When her sister returned without her, her father George, and his employer, Nathan Guyre, took off by horses and wagons after the gypsies. They reached a toll gate at the corner of North Main Street and what is today Route 130 as the gypsies were paying toll and they rescued her.*  
*When asked what was the most exciting invention of the past century she cited the installation of an indoor toilet at*



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*Phares, of Cranbury, and Mrs Wilson Robinson of Cape May.*

*Funeral services will be held in the church chapel Sunday at 2:30pm. Burial will be in Brainerd Cemetery, under the direction of A. S. Cole Son and Company.*

James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> married Eva Lena Phares. They had six children:

William A. Phares<sup>44</sup> in 1888

Edith M. Phares<sup>45</sup> in 1891

Marion Phares<sup>46</sup> in 1892

Cornelia J Phares<sup>47</sup> in 1896

Viola F. Phares<sup>48</sup> in 1902

James H. Phares Jr.<sup>49</sup> in 1904

58. FRANCIS A PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-aunt) was born in 1867, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Francis is no longer living.

59. BAXTER C. PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born in January 1870, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Baxter is no longer living.

*Note: Baxter lived with the Barclay family as a laborer in 1885. Baxter was married to Cornelia J. Watkins and has a daughter born May 2, 1889 in Cranbury, NJ. Cornelia died.*

*In 1896 he married Annie S. Thompson( mulatto) from Connecticut.*

*In 1900 He lived in Ansonia, Ward 2, New Haven, Connecticut with wife Annie and mother in-law Sara Thompson.*

*1910 Lived in Ansonia Ward 4, New Haven, Ct. with wife.*

60. ANNIE S. THOMPSON (Jasmine's great-great-great-aunt by marriage) was born in 1880, in Connecticut. Annie is no longer living.

Baxter C. Phares<sup>59</sup>, aged about 26, married Annie S. Thompson, aged about 16, in 1896.

61. WILLAMINA PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-aunt) was born in 1872, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Willamina died on 1 December 1887, aged about 15, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey. She was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Middlesex County, NJ.

*Note: Died at age 15 yrs.*

62. OSCAR PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born on 29 August 1876, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Oscar died (Train Crash) on 14 June 1929, aged 52, in Heightstown, New Jersey.

*Note: Trenton Evening times Saturady, June 15, 1929*

*INJURY IN TRAIN CRASH IS FATAL----Ferris Succumbs--*

*Oscar Ferris, negro,, one of two men injured on Tuesday night after their truck was struck by a train on a private grade crossing at Windsor, died last night at St. Francis Hospital without having gained conciousness since the mishap. Thomas O'reilly, 22 yrs old, of Windsor, driver of the truck, regained concsciousness yesterday for the first time, but lapsed back into a coma today. He is suffering from a fractured skull.*

*As a result of Ferris' death, Mr. I K Perrine of Evans Avenue, engineer of thre train which struck the truck will not be arrested until an investigation is made by county authorities.*

*Ferris was caught on the pilot of the engine at the impact of the crash and carried for more than 300 yards down the tracks before Perrine could stop the train. He died of a fractured skull, broken right leg and left arm and internal injuries.*

*He leaves his wife, Mrs. Lizzie Ferris: a daughter, two brothers, James Ferris of Cranbury, and Fred Ferris of Princeton, and a sister Mrs. Charles Nixon of Cranbury.*

*Funeral services will be conducted at the victims late home at 243 Academy St. Heightstown. Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Burial will be at Cranbury Cemetary.*

63. GEORGE E. PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born on 23 December 1877, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. George died on 19 October 1896, aged 18, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.

64. FREDERICK D. PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born on 25 February 1879, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Frederick died on 24 March 1963, aged 84, in Hightstown, Mercer County, New Jersey. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetery, Middlesex County, NJ.



Note: Trenton Evening Times Monday, March 25, 1963

10-28

*Frederick D. Ferris Succumbs at 84*

*Hightstown -- Frederick D. Ferris, 84, died Sunday (March 24, 1963) at his home on Mercer Street after a short illness. He was the husband of the late Mary Demmis Ferris.*

*Born in Cranbury, He lived in Hightstown, NJ for 30 years. He was employed by Tri- County Auction Market for 25 years before retiring in 1961.*

*Mr. Ferris was a member of the Aaron Lodge #9, F & AM, of Princeton and the Etra Rod and Gun Club.*

*Surviving are a sister, Mrs Viola Ferris Nixon of Cranbury, and many neices and nephews.*

*Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 2 pm at the A. S. Cole Funeral home. Interment will be in Brainerd Cemetery in Cranbury.*

65. LOUISA PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-aunt) was born on 7 September 1882, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. Louisa died in cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.
66. CLARENCE PHARES (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born on 12 August 1883, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. clarence died on 20 December 1885, aged 2, in cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.
67. MALE FERRIS (PHARES) (Jasmine's great-great-great-uncle) was born on 6 December 1886, in cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup> and Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup>, as shown in family tree 7. male died in cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey.
68. NORMA AUGUSTA DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's cousin, four times removed) was born on 14 June 1885, in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, to Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup> and Virginia Leach Sheldon<sup>79</sup>. Norma died (eclampeca) on 15 February 1886, as an infant, in Boston, Massachusetts.
69. MARY V. DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's cousin, four times removed) was born in 1890, in Providence, RI, to Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup> and Virginia Leach Sheldon<sup>79</sup>. Mary died (Drowning (Accidental) In the Charles river) on 30 June 1908, aged about 18, in Newton, Massachusetts. She was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston, Mass.  
Note: At the time of death, they lived at 67 Phillips St, boston, Mass.
70. CLARISSA A. (CLARISINA)DITMUS DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's cousin, four times removed) was born between 1875 and 1880, in Connecticut, to Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup> and Frances E. M. Ellis<sup>80</sup>. Clarissa died in Atlantic City, New Jersey.  
Note: Clarissa was born in Connecticut in about 1880, and finished 4th year of highschool. Clarissa was married to Wrennie Banning about 1920 when Clarissa was 40 years of age. On some census' they spelled her name Clarisina. In 1930 Census Clarisina and Wrennie lived on 25B North Delaware Ave, Atlantic City, NJ.  
On the census in 1940( which noted same house for 1935) ,Clarissa was widow, and lodged in the home of Charles McGuire age 67,(Born in Antigua, BWI) and Rachael McGuire age 62, born in Pennsylvania. Address was 117 Maryland Ave. Atlantic City, NJ.
71. WRENNIE BANNING (Jasmine's cousin's husband, four times removed) was born on 25 March 1878, in Richmond, Virginia. Wrennie is no longer living.  
Wrennie Banning, aged about 42, married Clarissa A. (clarisina)Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>70</sup>, aged about 41, about 1920 in Connecticut.
72. FREEMAN D. MERRILL (Jasmine's cousin, four times removed) was born on 10 July 1863, in monroe, Middlesex, NJ, to Peter Merrill<sup>82</sup> and Ann Elizabeth Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>81</sup>. Freeman is no longer living.
73. REBECCA J. MERRILL (Jasmine's cousin, four times removed) was born on 5 August 1865, in monroe, Middlesex, NJ, to Peter Merrill<sup>82</sup> and Ann Elizabeth Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>81</sup>. Rebecca is no longer living.



11-20

Generation of Great-Great-Great-Grandparents

74. SAMUEL NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-great-grandfather) was born in 1804, in Cranbury, NJ. See family tree 6. Samuel is no longer living.

75. MARGARET NIXON (Jasmine's great-great-great-grandmother) was born in 1825, in Cranbury, NJ. See family tree 6. Margaret is no longer living.

Samuel Nixon<sup>74</sup>, aged about 47, married Margaret Nixon, aged about 26, in 1851. They had five children:

Edward Nixon<sup>52</sup> in 1852

Henry Nixon<sup>53</sup> in 1860

Alice Nixon<sup>54</sup> in 1862

Charles S. Nixon<sup>50</sup> in 1865

Harriet Nixon<sup>55</sup> in 1869

*This family is shown as family tree 6.*

76. GEORGE FERRIS (PHARES) (Jasmine's great-great-great-grandfather) was born in November 1837, in Pennsylvania. See family tree 7. George died (?) 'Cranbury' in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey. He was buried.

*Note: The name Ferris or Phares is used. Some people in the family spell it these 2 different ways. George was living in Mercer County, Nj when he married Cornelia. George was a noted grave digger for the county, in Cranbury, and on March 29, 1900 He dug up the first skeleton, which was that of a man buried over 100 yrs ago and was almost in perfect condition. The 27 graves were dug at the old baptist burying ground in Cranbury, nj. Which was one of the oldest in the state.*

77. CORNELIA NELSON DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's great-great-great-grandmother) was born in October 1844, in Cranbury, Middlesex, New Jersey, to Lewis Freeman Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>83</sup> and Catharine A. Johnson<sup>84</sup>, as shown in family tree 8. Cornelia died in Cranbury, NJ.

*Note: Cornelia (Cornela) Ditmus and George Ferris (Phares) had a total of 12 children, but only 7 were still living in 1900. On February 6, 1847, Cornelia was baptised at The 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, NJ.*

*Cornelia was living in Monroe Township when they married in Dec, 1862.*

George Ferris (Phares)<sup>76</sup>, aged 25, married Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus), aged 18, in December 1862. They had eleven children:

James H. Phares<sup>56</sup> in 1864

Francis A Phares<sup>58</sup> in 1867

Baxter C. Phares<sup>59</sup> in 1870

Willamina Phares<sup>61</sup> in 1872

Viola C. Phares<sup>51</sup> in 1874

Oscar Phares<sup>62</sup> in 1876

George E. Phares<sup>63</sup> in 1877

Frederick D. Phares<sup>64</sup> in 1879

Louisa Phares<sup>65</sup> in 1882

clarence Phares<sup>66</sup> in 1883

male Ferris (Phares)<sup>67</sup> in 1886

*This family is shown as family tree 7.*

78. EDWARD AUGUSTUS DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's great-great-great-great-uncle) was born on 9 August 1841, in Monroe, Middlesex, NJ, to Lewis Freeman Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>83</sup> and Catharine A. Johnson<sup>84</sup>, as shown in family tree 8. Edward died on 14 January 1934, aged 92, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetary Brighton Boston, Mass.

Edward had two partnerships. He was married to Virginia Leach Sheldon<sup>79</sup>. He was also the partner of Frances E. M. Ellis<sup>80</sup>.

*Note: Was baptised on March 25, 1843 at The First Presbyterian Church in Cranbury, NJ*

*At the outbreak of the Civil War, (1863) he enlisted with the company 8 of Norwich, Connecticut, and was later promoted to sargeant. He was a G. A. R. Veteran (Grand Army of Republic) with the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment (volunteer) Infantry. They served alongside the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer (colored) Infantry Regiment.*

*Boston Herald Newspaper article, Friday, November 5, 1886*

*Edward A. ditmus (colored), formerly employed as a porter on the Boston & Providence railroad, was arrested yesterday in New London, Conn. upon the order of Supt. Small, on the charge of embezzeling \$240 from Post #134, G.A.R. of which he was treasurer, in October last.*

*Boston Herald, Wednesday, April 8, 1931*

*G.A.R. Perhaps the most outstanding veteran at Faneuil Hall yesterday was Edward A. Ditmus, sole Negro veteran to attend the encampment. Ditmus enlisted with the 29th Connecticut Volunteers, served in almost every Virginia engagement and marched triumphantly into Richmond, Va on April 8th, 1865, the day that Lee surrendered.*

*Ditmus had had his canteen shot away, his hat and buttons severed by confederate bullets, but emerged from the four-year struggle with but a single scratch upon his leg to show for his service. He will be 90 in a few months, and has*



been Commander of the Robert Bell post on Joy Street since 1904.

12-20

*Boston Herald, Sunday, May 31, 1931 Article: Elks hold Excercises*

*Memorial excersises were held at the RoberT Gould Shaw Monument on Boston Common by Robert A. Bell post 134.*

*G.A.R. Only two of the five members of the post, Commander Edward Ditmus, 90, and Senior Vice- Commander. William H. Jackson, 82, were able to be present..*

*Commandeer Ditmus said that "his time will come shortly" and urged the younger generation to continue the memory of the Civil war. He read general Logans order on Memorial Day. Earlier in the day, Comdr. Ditmus and the Rev. E George Biddle, chaplain of the post, visited Rainsford Island.*

*Boston Herald, Thursday, January 18, 1934 Obituary*

*Edward Augustus Ditmus*

*Military funeral services will be conducted at the south Armory on irvington street, Sunday at 1:30 pm, for Edward A. Ditmus 92, a G.A.R. Veteran, who died Sunday, January 14, 1934, at his home, 30 Windsor street. Burial will be in Evergree Cemetary, Brighton.*

*Mr. Ditmus was born in Cranberry Neck, New Jersey, and attended school there. His parents were Lewis F. and Catherine Ditmus.*

*At the outbreak of the civil war, he enlisted with the company 8 of Connecticut and was later promoted to Sargeant.*

*Besides being Commander of the Robert A. Bell post of Boston for 27 years, Mr Ditmus was an honorary member of the Boston Spanish American War Veterans' Association, and the Patrick E. Carter post of the American Legion.*

*He leaves a daughter, Mrs Chris Banning of Atlantic City, NJ and a cousin, Miss Venus Clark of 60 West Rutland Square.*

79. VIRGINIA LEACH SHELDON (Jasmine's great-great-great-great-aunt by marriage) was born in 1850, in Norfolk, Virginia, to Joseph E. Leach<sup>87</sup> and Ann Elizabeth Seldon<sup>88</sup>. Virginia died in 1924, aged about 74, in Boston, Massachusetts.

[See also: Indirectly Related via Virginia Leach Sheldon]

Note: Mr. E. A. Ditmus and Virginia Seldon were married on Wednesday, October 31, 1883, at the residence of the parents of the bride. Rev. L.G. Walden officiating. Miss Josephine Seldon acted as bridesmaid, Mr. L.T. Clinton as groomsman. The Bride was elegantly attired in a costume of ashes and rose silk. A reception was held after the ceremony, at which many valuable gifts were given to the happy couple.

W. B. Clark and Alex Seldon acted as ushers for the occasion.

Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup>, aged 42, married Virginia Leach Sheldon, aged about 33, on 31 October 1883 in New jersey. They had two daughters:

Norma Augusta Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>68</sup> in 1885

Mary V. Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>69</sup> in 1890

80. FRANCES E. M. ELLIS (Jasmine's great-great-great-great-uncle's partner) was born in 1848, in Norwich, connecticut. Frances died before 1882, when younger than 33.

Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup> and Frances E. M. Ellis had one daughter:

Clarissa A. (clarisina)Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>70</sup> about 1878

The following information is also recorded for this family. Unknown Relationship.

81. ANN ELIZABETH DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's great-great-great-great-aunt) was born on 12 December 1842, in Monroe, Middlesex, NJ, to Lewis Freeman Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>83</sup> and Catharine A. Johnson<sup>84</sup>, as shown in family tree 8. Ann died in 1916, aged about 73. She was buried in Brainerd Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.

Note: Was baptised on March 25, 1843 at The First Presbyterian Church in Cranbury, NJ. She married Peter Merle in 1863 at the first Presbyterian Church of Cranbury.

82. PETER MERRILL (Jasmine's great-great-great-great-uncle by marriage) was born in 1838, in monroe, middlesex county, New Jersey. Peter died in 1919, aged about 81. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.

Note: Peter married Ann E. Ditmus on March 21, 1863.

Peter Merrill married Ann Elizabeth Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>81</sup>. They had two children:

Freeman D. Merrill<sup>72</sup> in 1863

Rebecca J. Merrill<sup>73</sup> in 1865



13-20

Generation of Four-Times-Great-Grandparents

83. LEWIS FREEMAN DITMUS DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's four-times-great-grandfather) was born on 13 July 1820, in Monroe, Middlesex, NJ, to Horace Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>85</sup> and Fanny Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>86</sup>, as shown within family tree 7. Lewis died (Crushed by Wagon) on 20 January 1860, aged 39, in Cranbury, NJ. He was buried in Brainerd Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.

Note: *He was baptised on November 16, 1820 at The 1st Presbyterian Church in Cranbury. On January 3, 1840, He became a Communicant of 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, NJ.*

*He and Catharine Johnson were married Oct. 25, 1840 at the first Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, NJ. His Funeral was on January 22, 1860. .*

84. CATHARINE A. JOHNSON (Jasmine's four-times-great-grandmother) was born in 1818. See family tree 8. Catharine died on 8 November 1868, aged about 50, in Ten Mile Run, NJ. She was buried in Brainerd Cemetary, Middlesex County, NJ.

Note: *On October 25, 1840, Catharine married Freeman Ditmus, at the 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, NJ and the witness was a man by the name of Richard Conover. In the 1850 census Freeman and Catharine Ditmus resided in Monroe township, Middlesex County, NJ with their three children.*

Lewis Freeman Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>83</sup> married Catharine A. Johnson. They had three children:

Edward Augustus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>78</sup> in 1841

Ann Elizabeth Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>81</sup> in 1842

Cornelia Nelson Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>77</sup> in 1844

*This family is shown as family tree 8.*

Generation of Five-Times-Great-Grandparents

85. HORACE DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's five-times-great-grandfather). See family tree 7.

86. FANNY DITMUS (DITMAR) (DYTMUS) (Jasmine's five-times-great-grandmother). See family tree 7.

Horace Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>85</sup> married Fanny Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus). They had one son:

Lewis Freeman Ditmus Ditmus (Ditmar) (Dytmus)<sup>83</sup> in 1820

*This family is shown within family tree 7.*



14-20

**5. INDIRECTLY RELATED via VIRGINIA LEACH SHELDON**<sup>79</sup>

(Jasmine's great-great-great-great-aunt by marriage)

**Generation of Jasmine's Four-Times-Great-Grandparents**

87. JOSEPH E. LEACH (Virginia's father).

88. ANN ELIZABETH SELDON (Virginia's mother). Ann is no longer living.

Joseph E. Leach<sup>87</sup> married Ann Elizabeth Seldon. They had one daughter:

Virginia Leach Sheldon<sup>79</sup> in 1850



15-20

1

# J. S. SILVERS & Bro. COMPANY

Cranbury & Hightstown, NJ

June 5, 1974

By ~ the Bookkeeper

Reba Thomas Davis

Born 1888 – Died 1991

J. S. Silvers & Bro. Company was a man by the name of [unclear] years, he took in John S. Silvers as a partner. Upon the death [unclear] Silvers joined his brother and the company was known as [unclear] the year 1866, and prior to this date the business was known [unclear] an old tin container of mustard which I have on the shelf, it and below this name in parenthesis is printed "American



Grandma Nixons brother  
James Phares  
Teamster  
He would deliver goods  
throughout middlesex County, VT

circa 1901

located behind shops on North Main St



The company's main business covered the counties of Monmouth, Mercer and Middlesex; plus parts of South Jersey, where they supplied the shore hotels and grocery stores. However, as time went on, the chain stores moved in and many of our customers were forced to close their businesses. There didn't seem to be much future for the wholesale grocery business. This with the withdrawing of some capital caused hardships for the company and they closed their doors during the year 1935.

On my desk as I am writing this history of the company, I have an item of great interest. It is a brass letter opener, which the company gave all their customers as a souvenir in celebration of their fifty years in business. At this time they also took all the employees of the company out to dinner at the Cranbury Inn.

The letter opener is inscribed with the following:

J. S. SILVERS & BRO. COMPANY  
(TEAS, COFFEES)  
1866 1916  
(SPICES, EXTRACTS)

I retired as bookkeeper of the J. S. Silvers & Bro. Company about a year before the closing of the business after being there for over 28 years.

[Visit the Cranbury Museum, 4 Park Place E. to see items from the Silvers company.]



1917-1918

## Form 1 2223 REGISTRATION CARD

No. 42

- 1 Name in full William H. Field Age, in yrs. 29  
(Given name) (Family name)
- 2 Home address 228 Danport Somerville N.J.  
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)
- 3 Date of birth August 6 1887  
(Month) (Day) (Year)
- 4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural Born
- 5 Where were you born? Newark N.J. USA  
(City) (State) (Country)
- 6 (I am a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?) Citizen U.S.
- 7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Janitor Pub School Louis
- 8 By whom employed? Amos Field (24)  
Where employed? at Public School
- 9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Wife and three children
- 10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? African
- 11 What military service have you had? Rank no branch no  
years no Nation or State no
- 12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? on account of wife & children

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

William H. Field 222  
(Signature of registrant)

Serial No.

166

165

Registration No.

166

1

166

165

166

Age, in yrs.



18-20

Toggle full screen

# REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1. Tall medium or short? *Medium* Slender medium or stout? *Medium*
2. Color of eyes? *Black* Color of hair? *Black* Bald? *No*
3. Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled, severely? *No*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

*Marshall H. Johnson*  
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct *2*  
City or County *Amersett*  
State *N. J.*

*June 5 1917*  
(Date of registration)





JURISDICTION: LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL

ING ADDRESS

NAME

Residing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none, report wo

| ONE      | 5. AGE IN YEARS | 6.    |
|----------|-----------------|-------|
| YE       | 54              | N     |
| 161 T    | DATE OF BIRTH   | N     |
| (Number) | AUG 6 1887      | (Yr.) |

ND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS



20-20

1942

*Deceased*  
 REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER

U 2182 William HENRY FIELD

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)

120 W. BROWN ST. SOMERVILLE SOMERSET NV

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS

AME

4. TELEPHONE

5. AGE IN YEARS

6. PLACE OF BIRTH

SOM 1617

54  
 DATE OF BIRTH  
 AUG 6 1887

NETUCHEN

NEW JERSEY

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS

MRS. ELIZABETH FIELD 120 W. BROWN ST.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

UNEMPLOYED

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1  
 (Revised 4-1-42)

(over)

16-21630-2

William H. Field

(Registrant's signature)

1942 Draft card