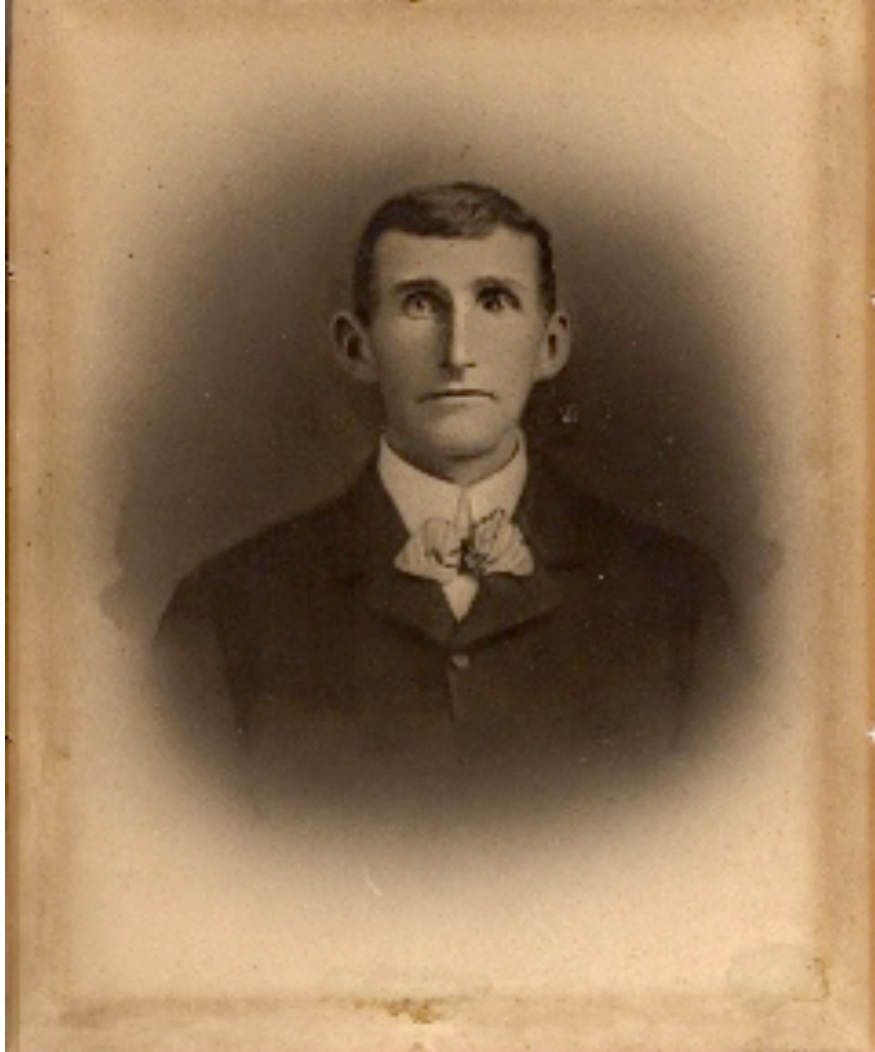


THE MARTIN THARNISCH

AND

ALICE E. PERRY FAMILY



Martin Tharnish
Courtesy of Alice (Tharnish) Skuse

THE MARTIN THARNISH AND ALICE E. PERRY FAMIY

Martin THARNISH

Born: 03 Nov 1857, Bennington, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 31 May 1914, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Curriers Rural Cemetery, Curriers, Town of Java, Wyoming Co., NY

& Spouse: Alice E. PERRY

Born: 21 Nov 1852, Bennington, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 17 Sep 1942, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Curriers Rural Cemetery, Curriers, Town of Java, Wyoming Co., NY

Married: 03 Jul 1879, Sacred Heart Of Jesus Catholic Church, Bennington, Wyoming Co., NY

CHILDREN

1F: M. Edna THARNISH

Born: 19 Aug 1880, New York

Died: 21 Jan 1892, New York

Buried: Curriers Rural Cemetery, Curriers, Town of Java, Wyoming Co., NY

2M: William P. THARNISH

Born: 19 Aug 1887, Bennington, Wyoming Co., NY^a

Died: 21 Apr 1968, Last residence: West Falls, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Griffins Mills Cemetery, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Carrie Vera "Viva" WEATHERLOW

Born: 22 Oct 1890, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Died: 1933

Buried: Undetermined

Married: 10 Nov 1909, Sardinia Erie Co., NY

& Other spouse: Bessie SKINNER

Born: about 1892, New York

Died: 15 Aug 1943

Buried: Undetermined

& Other spouse: Hazel OWENS

Born: 24 Mar 1893

Died: 06 Jan 1977, Last Residence: West Falls, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Griffin Mills Cemetery, Griffin Mills, Erie Co., NY

3M: Clare Arthur THARNISH

Born: 13 Oct 1891, Strykersville, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 03 Jan 1961, Erie Co., New York

Buried: Sardinia Cemetery, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Jessie May FOLLMAN

Born: 30 Apr 1894, Colden, Erie Co., NY

Died: 14 Nov 1919, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Sardinia Cemetery, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Married: 12 Aug 1914, Chaffee, Erie Co., NY

& Other spouse: Mildred HENRY

Born: 13 Jul 1903, Ohio

Died: 18 Jul 1973, Harrison Co., Ohio

Buried: Sardinia Cemetery, Sardinia, Erie Co., NY

Married: 13 Nov 1924, Chaffee, Erie Co., NY

^a The St. Mary Church records and the Social Security Death Index list his date of birth as 19 Aug 1887, however a family diary lists the date as 24 Sep 1887.

Martin and Alice, the daughter of Williams¹ Perry and Asenath Warren, were united in marriage in 1879 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Bennington, Wyoming County, New York. Alice was previously married to Fredrick William Zehler. After Fred's death in 1877 in Big Rapids, Mecosta County, Michigan she and her son Floyd returned to Bennington to live with her parents. Martin had been working on her father's farm. Martin, like Fred, was Catholic and Alice was Protestant, however, prior to her marriage to Martin she was baptized into the Catholic Church.

Shortly after their marriage, Martin, Alice and Floyd migrated to Iowa and intended to settle in Audubon where Martin's brothers Peter, John, and Joseph lived. The family did not stay long and returned to New York the following spring as Alice was unhappy with life on the Iowa frontier and became homesick.

According to the Federal Census of 1900 the family was living in Arcade Township, Wyoming County, and about 1903 they moved to Sardinia in Erie County where they eventually settled on Matteson Corners Road not far from the junction with Savage Road. Martin was considered a progressive farmer and was elected Road Commissioner for three terms.

Martin and Alice raised two children, William and Clare Arthur. Their first-born child Edna died in 1892. Martin passed away in 1914 and is buried in the Curriers Rural Cemetery. Alice continued to live in Sardinia with her son Clare and his family. Alice passed away in 1942 and is also buried in the Curries Rural Cemetery.



Martin and Alice (Perry) Tharnish and Sons William And Clare
Courtesy of Alice (Tharnish) Skuse

¹ The 1850 census record lists his surname as Williams and the 1880 record lists it as William.



The Martin and Alice Tharnish Family
Left to right seated: Alice and Martin, Standing: Sons Clare and William
Courtesy of Alice (Tharnish) Skuse

[Daughter M. Edna Tharnish \(1880 – 1892\)](#)

Daughter **Edna** was born in 1880 and passed away in 1892 at age eleven due to an enlarged heart. She is buried next to her parents in the Curriers Rural Cemetery in Curriers, Wyoming County, New York.



M. Edna Tharnish, Curriers Rural Cemetery
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish²

Son William P. Tharnish (1887 – 1968) And Families

Son **William P.** married Carrie Vera “Viva” Weatherlow in 1909 in Sardinia, Erie County, New York. They first settled in Sardinia where William owned his own butcher shop. They are enumerated in the 1910 Federal census.

Transcribed 1910 United States Federal Census³

Household Members: Name and Age

William P Tornish, 22

Vira V Tornish, 20

Their son Dudley was born in December after the census was taken in April. Dudley’s mother Viva died in 1933.

According to the 1920 Federal Census William and his children, Arvella, Winfield and Charles were living in Sardinia. Williams’s brother Clare, his family and their mother Alice were also living in the household. The census record listed William’s wife as Bessie E. The author could not find a marriage record for William Tharnish and Bessie Skinner. Family members believe this was a common law marriage.

In the 1920 Federal Census William is listed as a farmer and son Dudley is no longer living with the family.

Transcribed 1920 United States Federal Census³

Household Members: Name and Age

Williams R Tharnish, 32

Bessie E Tharnish, 28

Arvella B Tharnish, 6

Winfield P Tharnish, 5

Charles O Tharnish 3 4/12

William and Bessie’s son Martin was born in 1921 and daughter Wilma in 1926.

According to William’s 1968 obituary, his wife Hazel (Owens) and their sons William P. Tharnish, (Jr.) and Donald Esterbrook survived him. It is not clear if William had actually adopted Donald or who his parents were. William is buried in the Griffins Mills Cemetery

² From fidagrave.com. The year 1892 is listed as the year of death,

³ From: <http://www.ancestry.com/>

in Erie County, New York. Hazel passed away in 1977 and is also buried in the Griffins Mills Cemetery.



William P. and Hazel (Owens) Tharnish
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish⁴

Son Dudley THARNISH

Born: 06 Dec 1910, New York
Died: 11 Jan 1981, Last residence: Alexander, Genesee Co, NY
Buried: Forest Hills Cemetery, Attica, NY

& Spouse: Stella ARTER

Born: 04 Dec 1913, New York
Died: Jan 1977
Buried: Undetermined

Married: 18 Aug 1931, Lockport, NY

& Other spouse: Isabel F. TIEDE

Born: 17 Feb 1925, Bethany, Genesee Co., NY
Died: 23 May 1991, Batavia, Genesee Co., NY
Buried: West Middlebury Cemetery, West Middlebury, Wyoming Co., NY

& Other spouse: Elaine SCROVER

Born: about 1922
Died: 15 Jun 2002
Buried: Undetermined

Daughter Arvella THARNISH

Born: probably about 1913
Died: 29 Dec 1938, Jewettville, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Buffalo Cemetery, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Emil "Red" WAHL

Born: about 1903, New York
Died: between 1930 and 1938

⁴ <http://www.findagrave.com>

Buried: Undetermined
Married: between 1930 and 1938

Continued

Son **Winfield Paul THARNISH**

Born: 13 May 1914, New York
Died: 05 Feb 1991, Buffalo, last residence: Elma, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Undetermined
& Spouse: Iris REDDER
& Other Spouse: Dorothy PEARSON
& Other Spouse: Mary PUSCTAY
& Other spouse: Lois E. JAMES

Son **Charles THARNISH**

Born: about 1916
Died: 08 Jan 1924
Buried: Undetermined

Son **Martin William THARNISH**

Born: 28 Oct 1921, New York
Died: 25 Aug 2000, Hopkinsville, Christian Co., KY
Buried: Undetermined
& Spouse: Sharon Lux
& Other spouse: Ann undetermined maiden name
& Other spouse: Ruth A. AHONEN (still living)
Married: 17 May 1980, Christian Co., KY

Daughter **Wilma THARNISH**

Born: 01 Apr 1926, Hornell, Steuben Co., NY
Died: 11 Oct 2003, Newark, Wayne Co., New York
Buried: East Palmyra Cemetery, Wayne Co., NY

Son **William P. TARNISH, Jr.** (still living)

Son **Dudley** first married Stella Arter in 1913 in Lockport, Niagara County, New York. Prior to his marriage he was living in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, working as a caretaker of a kennel. Dudley and Stella had two children, a son Don and a daughter Shirley. Son Don preceded his father in death in 1981. Dudley second married Isabel Tiede and then Elaine Scrover. Dudley and Elaine had two daughters Lois and Margaret "Peggy". The authors and his collaborators discovered a family tree that listed Esther Frankenbeck as Dudley's later partner and they had a daughter Maria Mae. Dudley passed away in 1981 and is buried in the Forest Hills Cemetery in Attica, Wyoming County, New York, where his son Don is buried.

Daughter **Arvella** married Emil "Red" Wahl sometime after 1930. According to the 1930 Federal Census for Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York, Emil is listed living with his parents Emil and Emma, a spouse Dorothy who was born in Florida and their two children Kenneth and Dorothy who were born in New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. Arvella passed away in 1938 and is buried in the Buffalo Cemetery in Erie County, New York. Her obituary reports that her husband was the late Emil "Red" Wahl and that she was the mother of two children, Kenneth and Dorothy.

Son **Winfield Paul** was a carpenter for C.A. Batt Construction Co. He also bred, trained and showed quarter horses. He was one of the founders of the Western New York

Quarter Horse Association. He was a member of the Aurora Trail Riders, Niagara

Frontier Horsemen's Association and Empire State Quarter Horse Association. In 1978, he won a trophy from the Empire State Quarter Horse Association for his work in the field. In 1988, he received the Erie County Fair Endowment Fund Award for his involvement in the fair over the years.

Winfield passed away in 1991. At the time of his death, his wife Lois E. (James) Tharnish and their three sons Robert, Richard and Roger survived him.

Previous spouses include: Iris Redder and children Iris and Irene, Dorothy Pearson and child Faye, and Mary Pusctay and children Wayne and Barbara. The children from his previous marriages were also surviving when Winfield passed away.

In 1930 son **Martin** and his sister Wilma were living with their mother Bessie in Hornell, Steuben County, New York. In 1980 Martin married Ruth A. Ahonen in Christian County, Kentucky. According to the Kentucky Marriage Index this was Martin's third marriage. The first ended in the death of his wife Sharon Lux and his second marriage with Ann ended in divorce. Martin passed away in 2000 and his wife Ruth is still living.

Daughter **Wilma** passed away in 2003 and is buried in the East Palmyra Cemetery, Wayne County, New York. She had many friends at the Cobblestone Arts Center, which is a non-profit organization of the Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Services Office that offers dance, music, theatre and visual arts to people of all ages and abilities.

Son **William P., Jr.** is still living. It is believed that he was married three times and the father of four children. He first married Sally and their first child was named Debra Arvilla. The author was unable to document the given names of other children and spouses.

[Son Clare Arthur Tharnish \(1891 – 1961\)](#)
[And Spouses Jessie Follman \(1894 – 1919\) And Mildred Henry \(1903 – 1973\)](#)

In 1910 son Clare Arthur was living at home with his parents in Sardinia in Erie County assisting his father with farming the family farm. In 1914 he married Jessie May Follman, the daughter of John Follman and Rose Miller, in Sardinia, Erie County, New York. Jessie died in 1919 during the birth of her son Jesse and is buried in the Sardinia Cemetery. Clare was left with three young children, Donna, Gordon and Jesse. The family is enumerated in the 1920 Federal Census for Sardinia in Erie County where Clare was operating his dairy farm.

Transcribed 1920 United States Federal Census⁵

Household Members: Name and Age

Clare A Tharnish, 28
Donna M Tharnish, 4 4/12
Gordon G Tharnish, 2 8/12
Jesse F Tharnish, 2/12
Alise (Alice) E Tharnish, 67
Olara (Clara) E Westman. 23

Clare's mother Alice was living in the household. Daughter Donna remembers that Clara Westman was a neighbor who was helping to care for the children. The children also remember a lady they called Aunt Nettie who was also helping. She was actually not their aunt but was a sister of Minnie Zahler who was Floyd's wife.

According to the 1920 Federal Census Clare's brother, William and his family were living in the same dwelling.

Transcribed 1920 United States Federal Census⁵

Household Members: Name and Age

William P Tharnish, 32
Bessie E Tharnish, 28
Arvella B Tharnish, 6
Winfield P Tharnish, 5
Charles D Tharnish, 3

Clare second married Ohio-born Mildred Henry in 1924 in Chaffee, Erie County, New York. They continued to live in Sardinia where Clare was farming. Mildred soon gave birth to a son Paul Earl. Clare passed away in 1961 and is buried in the Sardinia cemetery in Erie County. Mildred passed away in Harrison County, Ohio, in 1973 and is also buried in the Sardinia Cemetery.

Clare and Mildred and the family are enumerated in the 1930 Federal Census living on Matheson Street in Sardinia, Erie County, New York. Clare is engaged in farming.

Transcribed 1930 United States Federal Census⁵

Household Members: Name and Age

Clare H Tharnish, 38
Mildred C Tharnish, 26
Gordon G Tharnish, 12,
Jesse F Tharnish, 10,
Paul E Tharnish, 9/12

⁵ From: <http://www.ancestry.com/>

Daughter **Donna Marie THARNISH** (still living)

& Spouse: Henry MARTINDALE

Born: 31 Aug 1914, New York

Died: 06 Jul 1991

Buried: Holland Cemetery, Erie Co. NY

Married: 25 Apr 1936

Son **Gordon G. THARNISH**

Born: 27 Nov 1917, Sardina, Erie Co., NY

Died: 17 Jun 1996, Last residence: Lawtons, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Dorothy Maude LANGLESS

Born: 17 Mar 1920, New York

Died: 23 Oct 1993, Last residence: Lawtons, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, Erie Co., NY

Married: 04 Jan 1941, Gowanda Cattaraugus Co., NY

Son **Jesse "Jess" F. THARNISH**

Born: 14 Nov 1919, Sardina, Erie Co., NY

Died: 26 Jun 2000, Collins, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, Erie Co., NY

Married: 10 Oct 1944

& Spouse: Arlene LANGLESS (still living)

Son **Paul Earl THARNISH** (still living)

& Spouse: Donna M. LANGLESS

Born: 20 Apr 1931

Died: 13 Dec 1996, Springville, Erie Co. NY

Buried: Collins Center Cemetery, Collins Center, Erie Co., NY

Married: 02 Dec 1950

Daughter **Donna** married Henry Martindale. They raised two children, Audrey and Jerry. Henry passed away in 1991 and Donna is still living.

Son **Gordon** married Dorothy Maude Langless, the daughter of Clinton and Maude Langless, in 1941 in Gowanda Cattaraugus County, New York. They raised a family of three daughters, Alice, Susan and Janet and two sons, Bruce and Donald. They lived in Lawtons, Erie County, New York. Dorothy passed away in 1993 and Gordon in 1996. They are both buried in the Collins Center Cemetery in Collins Center, Erie County New York.

Son **Jesse** married Arlene Langless, the daughter of Henry R. Langless and Kathryn C. Moritz. Jesse and Arlene have a family of two daughters, Cheryl and Gail and two sons, Larry and Jack. Jesse passed away in 2000 and is buried in the Collins Center Cemetery in Collins Center, Erie Co., New York. Arlene is still living.

Son **Paul Earl** who always went by Earl married Donna Langless, also the daughter of Henry R. Langless and Kathryn C. Moritz. Earl and Donna have six children, Terry, Keith, Barbara, Judith, Kay and Bradley. Daughter Barbara passed away in 1964. She was born with a heart problem and did not survive the surgery to correct the problem. Donna passed away 1996 and is buried in the Collins Center Cemetery in Collins Center, Erie County. Earl is still living.

Arlene and Donna Langless were cousins to Gordon and Dorothy's children and they also became the children's aunts when they married Gordon's brothers Jesse and Earl. All the children loved confusing people with their dual relationships.