

*THE MICHAEL TARNISH
AND
CLARA HEMBERT FAMILY*

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Michael TARNISH

Born: 29 Mar 1848^a, Sheldon, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 06 Aug 1916, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Clara HEMBERT

Born: 27 Sep 1850, Strykersville, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 21 Feb 1935, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY

Married: 12 Jan 1871, St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Sheldon, Wyoming Co., NY

CHILDREN

1F: Louise Elizabeth TARNISH

Born: 23 Jun 1874^b, Strykersville, Wyoming Co., NY

Died: 08 Feb 1934, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: William HOWIE

Born: Jan 1871, Canada

Died: between 1900 -1905

Married: about 1893

& Other Spouse: Robert BELLINGER

Born: Feb 1881, New York

Died: after 1930

Married: about 1905

2M: John Julius TARNISH

Born: 08 Feb 1881, Wyoming Co, NY

Died: 12 Apr 1917, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: Kathryn E. HOFFOWER^c

Born: 01 Jul 1885, New York

Died: 18 Nov 1950, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY

Married: about 1905

^a Michael's tombstone lists his year of birth as 1848, The St. Cecilia Church records list his date of birth as 29 March 1848.

^b Louise's tombstone inscription gives her year of birth as 1875.

^c Kathryn's tombstone reads 1884 where she is buried with her second spouse Henry Zee.

Michael and Clara Hembert, the daughter of Philip Hembert and Maria Dellinger, were married in 1871 at Sheldon's St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Wyoming County, New York. According to the 1870 Federal Census, Michael was living with his older brother John and his wife Mary Goebel and their two-year-old daughter Clare in Covington,

Wyoming County. Francis J. Winch and George Henley were also living in the household.

Michael and Clara raised a family of two children, Louise Elizabeth and John Julius. By 1900 Michael and Clara were living in East Aurora Village, Erie County, New York, with their daughter and son-in-law William Howie and their family. Michael and Clara's son John Julius was also living in the home. William, Michael, and John listed their occupation as teamsters. They were hired to drive the teams of workhorses for heavy work and they also cared for the daily needs of the horses.

Michael died in 1916 and is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in East Aurora, New York.



Michael Tarnish
Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish¹

Author's Note: Michael's tombstone has his year of birth as 1847. His tombstone and the Death Notice for his wife Clara use the surname Tarnish instead of Tharnish. Michael purposely changed the spelling of his surname to Tarnish and his following descendants have used this spelling.

After Michael's death in 1916, Clara continued to live with her daughter who, in the 1920 census, was then a widow and they have moved to Buffalo. By 1930 Clara is still living in Buffalo in a boarding house on Warwick Avenue owned by Herbert Zarnstoff. Her granddaughter Grace and her husband Samuel Lytle were also living in the residence. Clara is listed as a housekeeper. She passed away five years later and is buried with her daughter Louise Elizabeth Howie in the Buffalo Cemetery (Sec. Q) in Cheektowaga, Erie Co., New York.

¹ From <http://www.findagrave.com>



Clara Tarnish and Daughter Louise (Tarnish) Howie
Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga Erie County, New York
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish²

[Daughter Louise Elizabeth Tarnish \(1874-1934\) and Spouses William Howie and Robert Bellinger](#)

Louise married Canadian-born William Howie in 1893. They raised two children, Grace and Harry William. The family is enumerated in the 1900 Federal Census for East Aurora Village in Erie County, New York.

Transcribed 1900 United States Federal Census³

Household Members: Name and Age	
William Hornie, 29	Michael Tharrish, 54
Louise Hornie, 25	Clara Tharrish, 49
Grace Hornie, 5	John Tharrish, 20
Harry Hornie, 3	

The residence was a rented home located on Main Street. Louise's parents Michael and Clara and their son John were also living in the home. William, Michael and John listed their occupation as teamsters. William passed away sometime between 1900 and

² From <http://www.findagrave.com>

³ From ancestry.com

1905 and Louise then married Robert Bellinger about 1905. Robert and Louise continued to live in East Aurora Village and Louise's children Grace and John were living in the home. Louise passed away in 1934 and is buried with her mother in the Buffalo Cemetery (Sec. Q) in Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York.

Daughter **Grace HOWIE**

Born: May 1895, New York

Died: 09 Dec 1952

Buried: undetermined

&Spouse: **Samuel S. LYTLE**

Born: 18 Apr 1892, Franklin, Venango Co., PA

Died: 18 Jul 1978, Clarence, Erie Co. NY

Buried: Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, Erie Co., NY

Married: 15 Nov 1922

Son **Harry William HOWIE**

Born: 05 Jan 1897, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY

Died: 29 Apr 1963, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **Gladys Leone BROWN**

Born: 25 May 1901, Pelham Twp. Welland Co., Ontario, Canada

Died: 09 Jan 1981, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY

Buried: Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY

Married: 1923

In 1922 Louise and William's daughter **Grace** married Pennsylvania-born Samuel S, Lytle, the son of Charles Lytle and Bertha Wolcott. Samuel was a Private First Class in WWI. In 1930 Grace and Samuel were living in Buffalo, Erie County, New York on Warwick Avenue in a boarding house. Samuel listed his occupation as a mechanic in a garage and Grace as a housekeeper in a private home. Grace's grandmother Clara is also living in the residence.

Grace passed away in 1952 and Samuel in 1978 and he is buried in the Clarence Fillmore Cemetery in Clarence, Erie Co., New York.



Samuel S. Lytle
Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, Clarence, Erie Co., NY
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish⁴

⁴ From <http://www.findagrave.com>

Son **Harry William** married Canadian-born Gladys Leone Brown, the daughter of Harry Curt Brown and Lily Catherine Singer, about 1923. In 1930 they and their six-year-old son Douglas Harry were living as boarders in the Charles Hart residence on Dart Avenue in Buffalo. Harry listed his occupation as a chauffer for a taxicab company and Gladys was a waitress in a restaurant.

Harry passed away in 1963, and was a member of the Northeast Masonic Lodge No. 995. Gladys passed away in 1981 and they are both buried with their son in the Buffalo Cemetery (Sec. Q) in Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York. Son Douglas died at the age of eight.



William H., Gladys L. and Son Douglas
Buffalo Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie Co., NY
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish⁵

⁵ From <http://www.findagrave.com>

Son John Julius Tarnish (1881-1917) and Spouse Kathryn E. Hoffower (1885-1950)

John Julius married Kathryn L. Hoffower, the daughter of Fred Hoffower and Frances Stoerr, about 1905. They had five children, Geraldine, Harold Richard, Frances, Cathryn and Verna Marian. John passed away in 1917 and is buried in the Oakwood cemetery in East Aurora, Erie County, New York. Kathryn remarried Henry Zee about 1926. She passed away in 1950 and is buried with her second husband in the Evergreen Cemetery in Wales Center, Erie County, New York.



John Julius Tarnish
Oakwood Cemetery, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish⁶

⁶ From <http://www.findagrave.com>

Daughter **Geraldine TARNISH**

Born: 15 Jul 1905, New York
Died: 23 Apr 1980, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **August F. ERDMAN**

Born: 21 Aug 1897, Lancaster, Erie Co., NY
Died: 24 Sep 1966, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Married: about 1922

Son **Harold Richard TARNISH**

Born: 27 Feb 1907, New York
Died: 30 Apr 1971, Hamburg, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **Daisy Viola FINCH**

Born: 12 Oct 1913, Topeka, Shawnee Co., KS
Died: 15 Dec 1998, Hamburg, NY
Buried: Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, Erie Co., NY
Married:

Daughter **Frances H. TARNISH**

Born: 03 Oct 1910, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Died: 18 May 1974, Depew, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **Clayton H. NORTH**

Born: 27 Sep 1901, New York
Died: 08 Oct 1958, Depew, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Lancaster Rural Cemetery, Lancaster, Erie Co., NY
Married:

Daughter **Cathryn V. "Katie" TARNISH**

Born: 14 May 1913, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Died: 13 Jul 2006, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **Wilford GUSTAVEL**

Born: 20 Sep 1907, North Collins, Erie Co., NY
Died: 04 Mar 1995, Last residence: East Aurora, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Wales Center, Erie Co., NY
Married:

Daughter **Verna M. TARNISH**

Born: 04 Aug 1915, Wales Hollow, Erie Co., NY
Died: 12 Nov 1992, East Aurora, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Marilla Cemetery, Marilla, Erie Co., NY

& Spouse: **Lyle G. LIPPERT**

Born: 29 Jan 1911, New York
Died: 21 Nov 1989, Alden, Erie Co., NY
Buried: Marilla Cemetery, Marilla, Erie Co., NY
Married:

John and Kathryn's daughter **Geraldine** married August F. Erdman, the son of Ralph and Julia Erdman about 1922. In 1930 they lived in Wales Center in Erie County, New York. August and his father were partners in a sawmill they owned. August and Geraldine raised a son Ralph and a daughter Audrey. August passed away in 1966 and Geraldine in 1980. Both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Wales Center, New York.

Son **Harold Richard** was still living at home with his mother and stepfather Henry Zee in 1930. He was working for the state highway department as a crane operator. He married Kansas-born Daisy Viola Finch, the daughter of James and Alice Finch. Harold enlisted in the US Army in August of 1942 as a Private and upon his discharge he held the rank of Technical Sergeant. Harold passed away in 1971 and was a member of the Hamburg American Legion, Post Number 527. His wife Daisy passed away in 1998. They are both buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Hamburg, Erie County, New York.

According to Daisy's 1998 obituary "she he was a seamstress until retiring last year. She was also a past member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She was born in Kansas and raised in Colorado before moving with her family to Marilla. She loved canning foods, especially making hot sauce, and baking Christmas cookies. She is survived by a son, John H. of Hamburg,"



Harold Richard Tarnish and Daisy (Finch) Tarnish
Courtesy of Steven Tarnish⁷

Daughter **Frances H.** married Clayton H. North, the son of Herbert R. North and Anna B. Zee. In 1930 they lived in Lancaster Village, Erie County, New York. Clayton

⁷ From <http://www.findagrave.com>

worked for the County Highway Department. They raised four daughters, Norma, Janet, Ann and Karen and one son Clayton.

Clayton passed away in 1958 and Frances in 1974. Both are buried in the Lancaster Rural Cemetery in Lancaster, New York.

Daughter **Cathryn** married Wilford Gustavel, the son of Herman M. and Lizze Gustavel. They had two children, Barbara and Wilford, Jr. Wilford passed away in 1995 and Cathryn in 2006. Both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Wales Center, Erie County, New York. Both their children preceded their mother in death.

Daughter **Verna M.** married Lyle G. Lippert, the son of George and Alice Lippert. They raised a family of four daughters, Beverly, Marlene, Betty, and Deborah, and one son Larry and unofficially adopted Kenneth Beatier. Lyle passed away in 1989 and Verna in 1992. Both are buried in the Marilla cemetery in Marilla, Erie County, New York.