

CHAPTER 8 – PART B

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM BELL, JR. AND SALLY BEACH

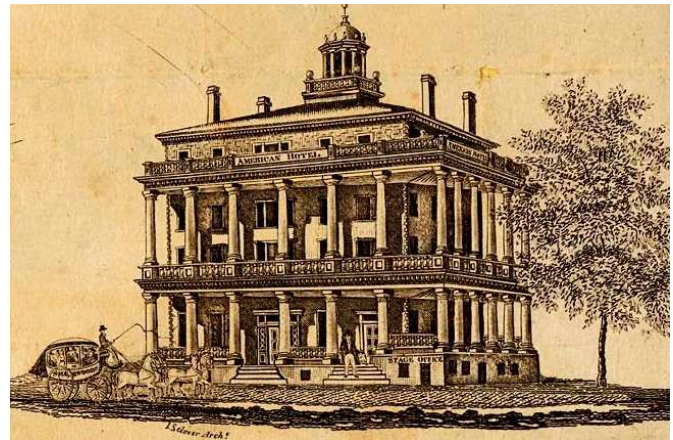
LAVINIA

Lavinia Bell (1835-1894) and William Francis Albro (1838-1906)

Sally and Will Jr's second daughter and fourth child came along two years after Electa. Her name came from Roman mythology, appeared in a Shakespearean play and was rather popular in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Yet it was often misspelled. Newspapers occasionally identified her as "Lavina" or "Levina", and census enumerators sometimes opted for "Lovina" and "Lavina"; but the inscription on her tombstone reads "Lavinia", so we're going with that.

She turned 18 on August 28, 1853 and, within the next year, her mother died, her father remarried and her new step-mother, Mary, moved onto their farm with three children of her own, creating a household of nine. Lavinia's brothers, Robert and Milo, already had married and moved on, so Electa was the eldest of the combined offspring still there. Six months later, in December 1854, Electa married, too, leaving Lavinia, at 19, as the eldest by seven years. Then, the following April, her step-mother, Mary, gave birth to a son, William Henry – the only half-sibling in their blended family. (*See Key Relationships*)

Lavinia didn't appear on the 1860 census or, it seems, in any directories or newspapers over the next five years, so it's unclear where she lived during the Civil War; but by mid-1865 she had moved in with her brother, Robert, his wife Margaret and their son, Delavan.¹ Turning thirty that August, she earned a modest income as a self-employed "tailoress". Then, on January 6, 1869, she married a carpenter and Civil War veteran named William Francis "Frank" Albro, who was 21 months younger than she.



Most weddings of the era were modest affairs at someone's home, especially when the bride was past thirty; but Frank and Lavinia exchanged vows at Auburn's stately American Hotel, where eminent figures often stayed and political parties held conventions (*see 1837 sketch above, source unknown*). Neither Lavinia nor Frank had much money, so it's a good bet her father footed the bill.

Main Cast of Characters - Lavinia

<u>Lavinia Bell</u>	<u>(1835-1894)</u>	<u>m (1869)</u>	<u>William Francis Albro</u>	<u>(1837-1906)</u>
❖ Robert Albro	(1870-1938)	m (1895)	Julia Miles	(1874-1948)
• Lavinia Albro II	(1896-1972)	m (1913)	Peter A. "Frank" Palmer	(1897-1941)
• <u>Then</u> Lavinia Albro II		m (1944)	Frank Van Erk	(1899-1977)
• Miles Joseph Albro	(1897-1946)	m (1937)	Gertrude Smith	(1905-____)
• Catherine M. Albro	(1899-1971)	m (1918)	Edwin B. Evans	(1890-1940)
• <u>Then</u> Catherine Albro		m (1947>)	Alfred E. Bellevue	(1890-1960)
• Edward Francis Albro	(1902-1944)	m (>1942)	Julia Ann _____	(____-____)
			(Edward's marriage has yet to be confirmed)	
• Mary E. Albro	(1904-1948)	m (1942)	Edward J. Foley	(1880-1943)
• Iva Louise Albro	(1906-1966)	m (1924)	Joseph Francis Hagen	(1905-2000)
• Ernestine Jane Albro	(1910-1995)	m (1934)	John Peter Krause	(1908-1981)
❖ Zeno Albro	(1872-____)	m (1895) dv (1916)	Grace Colville	(1876-1954)
• Helen F. Albro	(1897-____)		Never married	
• Edmond Zeno Albro	(1898-1899)		Died of Cholera Infantum at 8 months	
• Anna Elizabeth Albro	(1899<1967)	m (1920)	Albert S. Adams	(1897-1967)
❖ Iva Lavinia Albro	(1875-1942)	m (1893) dv (1926)	Edgar Roy Colville	(1872-1958)
• Lavinia Belle Colville	(1896-1932)		Never married	
• <u>Then</u> Iva Albro (Colville)		m (>1930)	Frank E. Kendrew	(1864-1945)

Key Relationships

Parents of Lavinia Bell

William Bell, Jr. + Sally Beach

William Bell, Jr. + Mary Delano Hoagland

Nephew of Lavinia Bell

Robert Ferris Post + Carrie Sayer

Parents of Wm. "Frank" Albro

Joseph Albro + Polly Mullen

Grandparents of Wm. "Frank" Albro

Thomas Albro + Eva Tice

Francis Mullen, Sr. + Elizabeth "Betsy" Forshee

Uncles and Aunts of Wm. "Frank" Albro

Zeno Albro + Mary Ann Clark

Francis Mullen, Jr. + Emeline Hoagland

Siblings of Lavinia Bell

Robert Bell + Margaret Weston

Milo Bell + Margaret Wright

Electa Bell + Jacob Post

Mary C. Bell + Franklin McKone

Martha Sally Bell + Preston (P.W.) Ross

Step-Siblings of Lavinia Bell

Emeline Hoagland + Francis Mullen, Jr.

Louisa Hoagland + Charles Foster

Romain Hoagland – Never Married

Half-Sibling of Lavinia Bell

Wm. Henry Harrison Bell + Mary Hoagland

Siblings of Wm. "Frank" Albro

Elizabeth Mary Albro + Levi Fischer (?)

Thomas Joseph Albro – Unknown

Catherine Albro + Jethro Tyler

Children of Lavinia + Frank Albro

Robert Albro + Julia Miles

Zeno Albro + Grace Colville

Iva Albro + Edgar Roy Colville

Grandchildren of Lavinia + Frank Albro

Children of Robert and Julia

Lavinia Albro + Peter/Frank Palmer

Miles Albro + Gertrude Smith

Catherine Albro + Edwin Evans

Edward Albro + Julia Ann _____

Mary Albro + Edward J. Foley

Iva Albro + Joseph Francis Hagen

Ernestine Albro + John Peter Kraus

Children of Zeno and Grace

Helen Albro – Never Married

Edmond Albro – Died in Infancy

Anna Albro + Albert S. Adams

Children of Iva and Roy

Lavinia Belle Colville – Never Married

Frank's father, Joseph (Joe) Albro, was born in New York's Dutchess County in 1806, and his mother, Polly Mullen, 65 miles southwest of there in 1814. Soon after Polly's birth, her own parents, Francis and Elizabeth "Betsy" Mullen, moved to a farm just outside Port Byron in Cayuga County, where Betsy gave birth to another 9 or 10 children. Then, in 1831, Joe's parents moved to Genesee County, 90 miles west of the Mullens. Their route took them north on the Hudson River to Albany, then west on the Erie Canal through Port Byron and Rochester to the village of Albion, from where they trekked 15 miles south to the Town(ship) of Oakfield. During a layover in Port Byron, though, Joe had met Polly and become so enamored, he either stuck around or returned soon afterward to woo her. He was 25 and she, 17, when they married on Valentine's Day 1832.

After joining Joe's family in Genesee County, Polly gave birth to four children: Elizabeth "Mary" (1834), Thomas Joseph (1835), William Francis on May 20, 1837, and Catherine Louisa in December 1838. ² William's middle name was a tribute to Polly's father and, following the trend of the era, she and Joe called him "Frank". When he came of age, he used "W.F. Albro" and "Wm. F. Albro" interchangeably for his signature. By 1840, Polly and Joe had moved back eastward to the village of Waterloo in Seneca County, where he plied a trade of some kind. Then, on April 24, 1841, less than a month before Frank's fourth birthday, Polly died at age 26. She's reported to have died in Auburn, but her grave is 15 miles west of there at Waterloo's Elisha Williams Cemetery, which would mean they transported her remains across the renowned mile-long Cayuga Bridge. Joe dropped from sight after that, and his parents and brother, Zeno, took at least Frank and Catherine back to Genesee County. Uncle Zeno married Mary Ann Clark in 1847 and, a year later, she gave birth to a son they named "William", which reinforced the family's habit of referring to Joe's son as "Frank". ³

Following the death of Frank's grandmother, Eva, in October 1851, the Albros returned to Dutchess County, where his grandfather died the following September. Eight years after that, Uncle Zeno and Aunt Mary were farming there in a place called Union Vale, and 23-year-old Frank was a live-in farm laborer a few miles to the west, in the Town of LaGrange. His elder sister, Mary, had married and started a family and his brother, Thomas, moved to California at some point. His younger sister, Catherine, then married Jethro Tyler and moved to a farm in Sennett on the north side of Auburn. Their late mother's family, the Mullens, still lived just west of there, near Port Byron.



When the Civil War began, Frank returned to his birthplace in Genesee County and, on May 31, 1861, enlisted in New York's Volunteer Infantry. He reenlisted the next year and served another three before mustering out at Elmira on June 19, 1865 (*see 1890 Federal Census*). As a private in the 28th Regiment's Company F, his first move in 1861 was to Washington, D.C., where things took an odd turn. Medical officers ordered the troops to stand in formation, then rode down the rows on horseback, silently summoning those who appeared unfit to step forward. Frank was one of 76 pulled out and left behind when the regiment went off to battle. His commanding officer, though, appointed him sergeant of the guard at Georgetown, which led to a brief encounter and conversation with President Lincoln. (*See pp. 24-25, below. Photo at left: W.F. Albro, ca 1861*)



After reenlisting the next year, Frank took part in several renowned battles, with the regiment's heaviest losses coming in July 1863 at Gettysburg. The survivors were folded into the 94th Regiment, but Frank soon transferred to the 1st NY Light Artillery Battery, then re-enlisted again in 1864 before mustering out when the war ended a year later. Despite all the horrors he witnessed and the dangers he himself faced, his only battle-related injury was a broken collarbone sustained when his horse was shot from beneath him. Years later, though, he said the war had "completely ruined" his health. His 1864 muster abstract listed him as five feet, seven inches tall, with gray eyes, dark hair and a light complexion.

After mustering out at Elmira, New York, Frank headed north to Cayuga County to visit his sister, Catherine, and their late mother's family. His grandfather and namesake, Frank Mullen, Sr., had died a month after the war began, but his grandmother, Betsy, was still there, along with a multitude of aunts, uncles and cousins. One uncle, Frank Mullen, Jr., was a year *younger* than he and had married Lavinia Bell's younger step-sister, Emeline Hoagland, in 1861. They, in turn, introduced Frank Albro to Lavinia – which led to the wedding at Auburn's American Hotel in January 1869.

The Albros' first child, Robert, whom they named after Lavinia's brother, arrived April 21, 1870, and their second, Zeno (named after Frank's uncle), in May 1872. A few weeks before Zeno's birth, Frank almost lost his hand while doing carpentry at the Cayuga Chief Manufacturing Company. An errant blow with an ax severed the tendon and radial artery of his left wrist, permanently disabling his thumb and putting him out of work while he recuperated (*Auburn Daily Bulletin*, Apr 27, 1872). The year after that, he was standing on a ladder above a train's coal car, holding an armful of slate, when the ladder rung broke and the fall knocked him "insensible" (*see Auburn Weekly News*, Sep 11, 1873, *right*). During his recuperation, their only income was from Lavinia's tailoring, which made it hard to pay rent; but they were continually moving even with Frank's income, because expenses rose with the birth of each child.

The places they lived varied in charm. Shortly after marrying, they were in a flat across from the tranquil and lovely campus of Auburn Theological Seminary. Then, by 1874, they were on perpetually dismal Wall Street, where the foreboding 20-foot wall of Auburn State Prison loomed just yards from their door. Lavinia's 18-year-old half-brother, William "Henry" Bell, roomed with them that year while working in Auburn's nearby downtown. (*ATS campus on postcard, 1875, public domain*)

FELL FROM A LADDER.—Mr. W. F. Albro, a carpenter, residing on Seymour street, met with a painful accident on Friday last, while engaged in making some repairs to the roof of the gas house. He was ascending a ladder, with an armful of slate, when a round broke under his feet, and he slipped through the space, falling on his back upon the next round below, and then fell a distance of twelve feet, striking on a coal car which stood on the track, and loaded with coal. He was taken home in an insensible state, and surgical aid was promptly summoned. No bones were broken, but his bruised condition and injury of the back produced much pain.



Lavinia gave birth to their only daughter, Iva Lavinia, on November 11, 1875. After that, they moved (without Henry) another four times in six years, renting flats on Paul, Elizabeth, Steel, and State streets, all within walking distance of Frank's job. Uncle Zeno visited in July 1878, and what he learned about their living situation and frequent moves might have been the inspiration for what he later put in his will (*see Map 8B-2, below*).

As noted earlier, Lavinia lived with the family of her brother, Robert, until she married, then named her first son after him. Electa also had named her first son after their brother. When the elder Robert died in November 1879, Lavinia passed the news (a bit late) to the *Evening Auburnian*, adding that her son, Zeno, had developed a fever. The paper then placed those two events together in this grammatical mishmash, demonstrating that not all news writers knew how to write: "Robert Bell of Montezuma was buried yesterday who was the brother of Mrs. Frank Albro of this village. Mrs. Albro's youngest son is dangerously ill with fever." (*November 15, 1879*). Robert had died of typhoid fever, so pairing his burial with news of Zeno's dangerous fever could mean Zeno had typhoid, as well – but then, it also might have been something entirely different. The boy, in any event, later recovered.

Nineteenth century Americans often devoted large portions of what little free time they had to non-profit organizations, such as churches, clubs and political parties. More than a few non-profits tried to address social ills, such as alcoholism. Methodists, for example, had been advocating temperance since the days of John Wesley in the 1700s and, by the late 1800s, quite a few Americans, Methodist and otherwise, had become outright prohibitionists. The Sir Knights of Rechab and the International Order of Rechabites were parachurch organizations designed to advance the cause of sobriety and, as this blurb from Auburn's 1878 Directory shows, Frank Albro was active in both. Lavinia's father, sister, brother and cousin were involved in the Montezuma chapters (*cf. "Mary C", below*).

* Temperance Societies*

SIR KNIGHTS OF RECHAB, NO 2.—Meets every Thursday evening in Rechabite Hall, 81 Genesee St. J. M. Austin, P. C. ; R P. Vroman, C.; John J. Poane, V. C*; W. L. Bundy, Chap. ; F. M. Austin, Recorder ; A. M. Sanders, Treas; W. F. Albro, C. of G.; Henry Clark, M.; W. H. Morwick, I. S.; C. Kirkpatrick, Q. S.

AUBURN TENT I. O. OF RECHABITES, NO. 27.—Organized in April, 1870; meets every Friday evening in Rechabite Hall, 81 Genesee street. Martin Harrington, C. R ; John J. Doane, D» R ; Rev^ Julius Robbins, Shepherd ; William Marks, P. C. R.; George Anderson, R. S.; W. F. Albro, F. S.; B. B. Roseboom, Treas.; O. C. White, I. S.; Elvido Webster, O. S.

In September 1883, Frank was one of 25 people who braved a cold rain to attend a countywide prohibition convention at the Cayuga County Courthouse in Auburn. The other attendees included such prominent local leaders as industrialist William P. Osborn and the Rev. William Hosmer, who edited the *New York Methodist Advocate*. Frank was there as Commander of a local Knights of Rechab unit, called a "Tent". The convention then appointed Frank and six others to represent every prohibition group in the county at a statewide convention that fall. A month after the convention, Frank's Uncle Zeno died in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and by February, life had changed dramatically for the entire Albro family. (*Weekly News & Democrat, September 13, 1883, and February 5, 1884*)

Death of Zeno Albro

Zeno Albro died yesterday morning at the residence of his son, Councilman John P. Albro, 815 Jefferson Avenue. He had been ill some weeks with a disease of the kidneys, and breathed his last at six o'clock. The remains will this morning be conveyed to Dutchess County, New York, for interment.

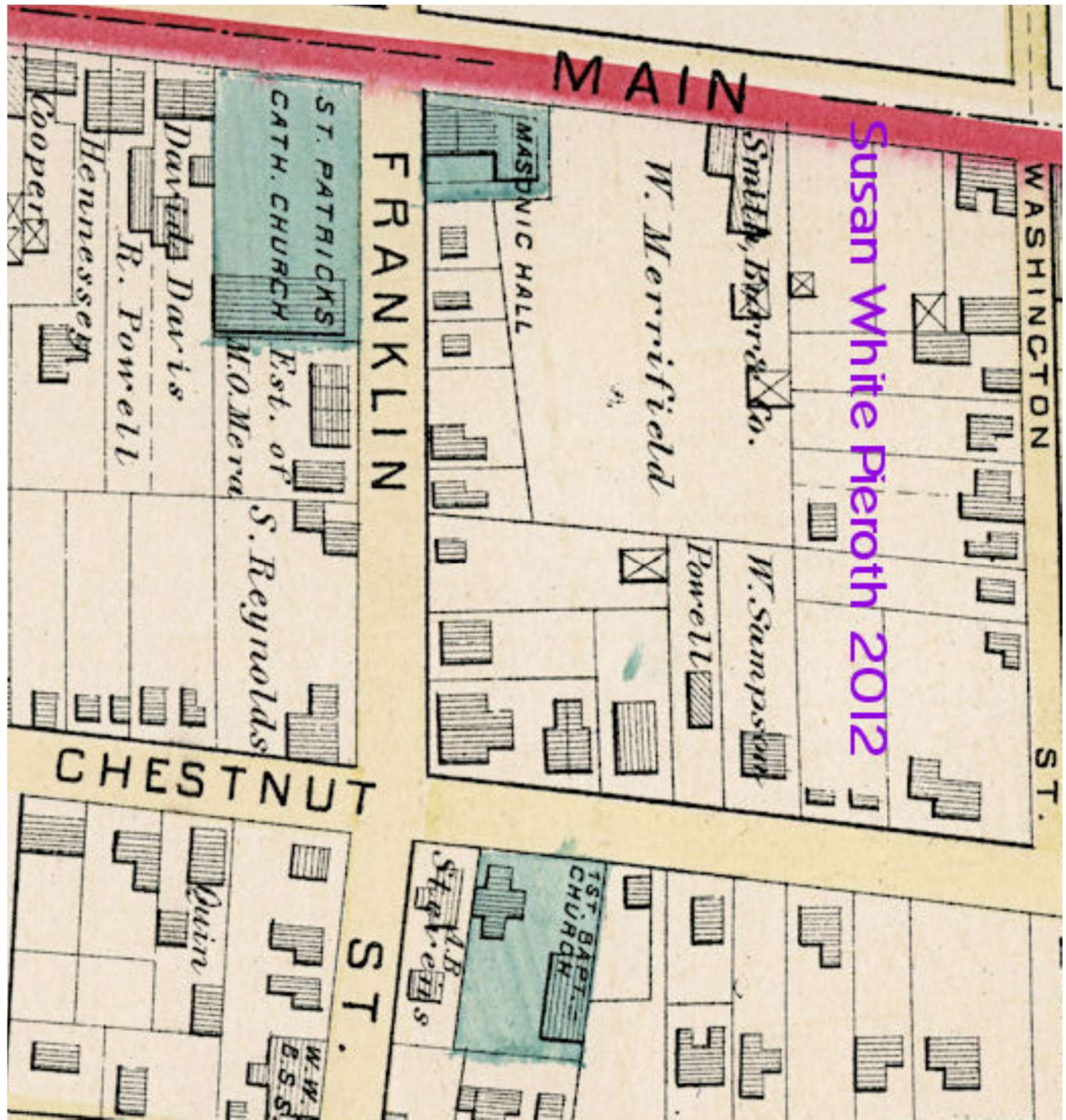
He was born in Dutchess County, NY., and was in the seventy-fifth year of his age. Having a son in Poughkeepsie and another here, he has, [for several] years past, divided his residence between the two cities, in both of which he had large real estate interests. He was one of the pioneers of this valley, and once owned immense tracts of land hereabouts. His property here is still quite a valuable one. He leaves a wife who is now in Poughkeepsie, two sons, John P., of Scranton, and William C., of Poughkeepsie, both lawyers, and a married daughter.

Mr. Albro was a shrewd business man, straightforward in all his transactions, of the strictest integrity, and possessing confidence of all with whom he did business. He was outspoken in all his opinions of men and things, but did not form opinion hastily nor utter them rashly. His memory of historical and political facts was something remarkable. He read much and observed closely, and seemed to forget nothing that he had read or observed. The incidents related of his tenacious memory are almost incredible. Hence, he was one of the well-informed men, a cyclopedia of such facts as he had given his attention to. He will be missed very seriously by all with whom he was in any way associated.

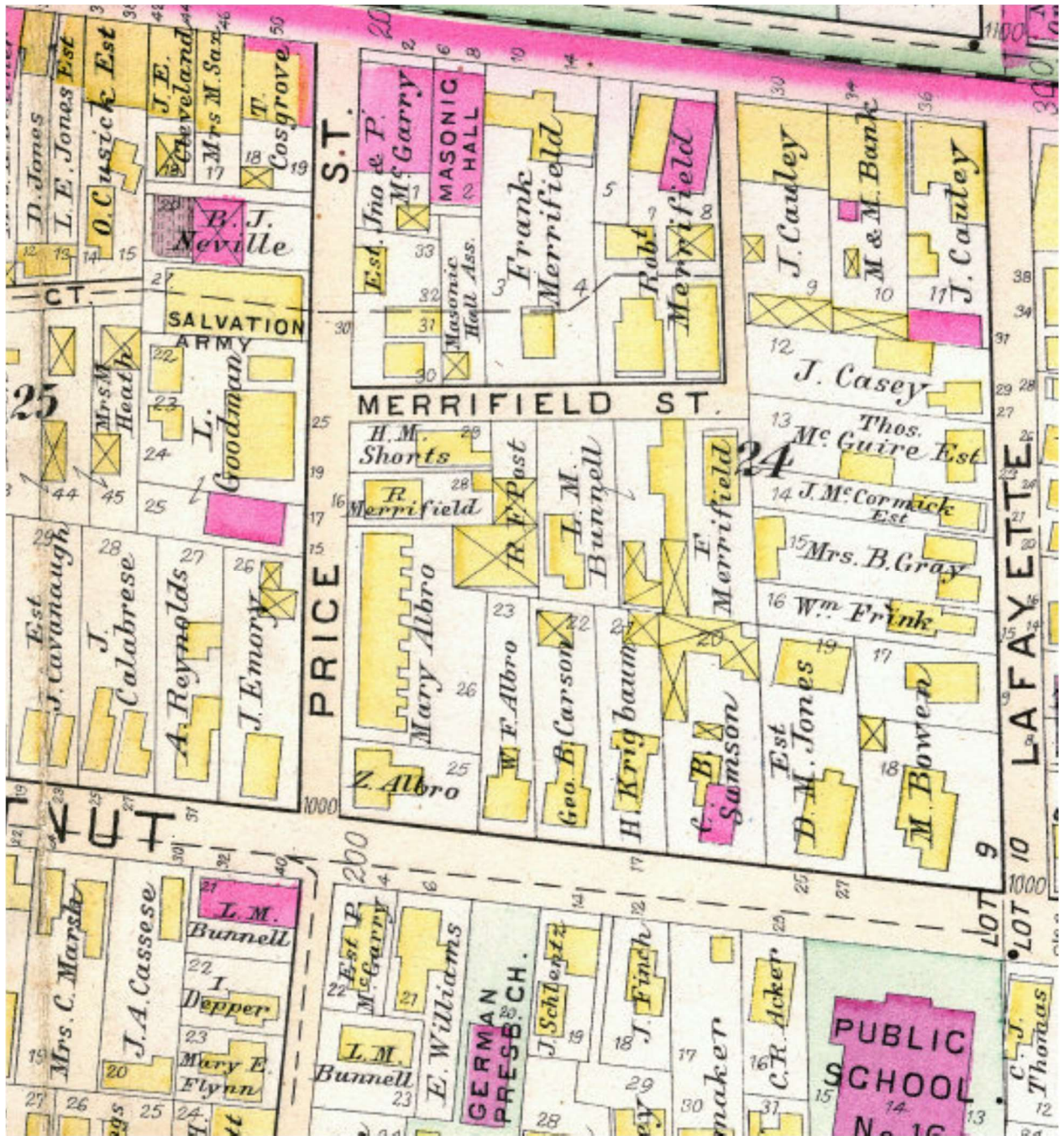
Scranton Republican, Nov 26, 1883

In its allusion to Uncle Zeno's extensive land holdings, the obituary glossed over a key event fifty years earlier. He and his partners, William Merrifield and William Rickettson, had once owned a huge tract of land that was rich in iron and coal deposits, and they made a fortune by selling it to a consortium headed by the Scranton family. The consortium then set up a large mining operation on the site, which, in time, became the City of Scranton.⁴ That and a few other projects had made Uncle Zeno both well-known in Scranton and wealthy, and his will distributed a substantial estate.

His primary beneficiaries were his wife, children and grandchildren, but he made other bequests to Frank, Robert, Zeno II, and Frank's sister, Catherine, whose husband had died in 1880. He didn't even mention Lavinia and Iva, apparently assuming the males in their lives would take care of them. He left \$500 (more than half an annual wage) to Frank plus one double house each to Frank, Robert and Zeno II. Each double house was more like a modern duplex than a "twin house" in that it occupied a single city lot instead of two. A codicil to the will included a rudimentary map specifying who was to receive which property, with a recommendation that Frank later bequeath his double house to his younger son, Zeno – illustrating the benefit of being named after a rich uncle (*see Map 8B-2, below*). There's no telling how old the houses were at the time, but they remain occupied to this day, standing next to one another in the Hyde Park neighborhood on Scranton's west side. The house willed to Zeno II faced Franklyn (later Price) Street at the corner of Chestnut, Frank's was directly behind it on Chestnut, and Robert's next to Frank's. Chestnut is now St. Francis Cabrini Avenue.⁵



Map 8B-1 - Chestnut Street, Hyde Park, Pennsylvania - 1877
Plate B - City Atlas of Scranton, Pennsylvania
G. M. Hopkins, C.E., 1877
 (Copyright 2012 by Susan Carter White Pieroth - Used by Permission)



Map 8B-3 - Chestnut Street, Hyde Park, Pennsylvania - 1898
 Plate 17 - Atlas of Surveys of the City of Scranton & Borough of Dunmore, PA
 Graves & Steinbarger, Boston & Philadelphia, 1898
 (Copyright 2009 by Susan Carter White Pieroth - Used by Permission)

Note that all three maps include the name "Merrifield", Uncle Zeno's real estate partner.

Lavinia, Frank and the children arrived from Auburn in February 1884, moving into 207 Chestnut while renting out the other units. That decade brought other changes to the neighborhood, too. Uncle Zeno had bequeathed some decrepit houses along Franklin Street to his widow, Mary, and with the help of one of their sons, she replaced them in 1886 with a block of ten brand new row houses. The Baptist congregation directly across from the Albros moved to a new building that same year, selling the one on Chestnut to a German Presbyterian congregation. The city, in turn, razed three houses a few lots north of the church and erected School No. 16 by 1890. All the houses on Chestnut sat at the front edge of their lots, with covered porches extending to within a few feet of the sidewalks on each side of the street. The sidewalks, in turn, ran right alongside the narrow roadway with no tree lawn as a buffer, which made the entire block appear cramped and enclosed. Fairview, the next street to the east, was little more than a bicycle path. (*See Map 8B-3*)

A block west, the Main Street business district had a crowded ambiance, too, especially during business hours. Stores and offices nestled wall-to-wall along the wide sidewalk bordering the brick roadway, with apartments, storage areas and other businesses on the upper floors. Horse-drawn and (as of 1886) electric streetcars heading north along Main Street cut east a block before Price, crossed Chestnut and zig-zagged north and east over a wide swath of railroad tracks and the Lackawanna River. ⁶

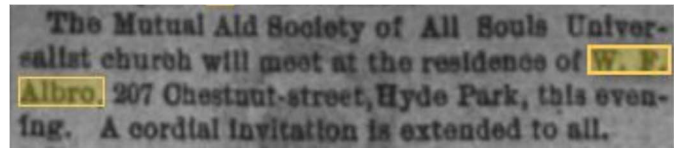


Scranton Suburban Railway Car No. 4 – 1886
Test run of first electric streetcar in Scranton

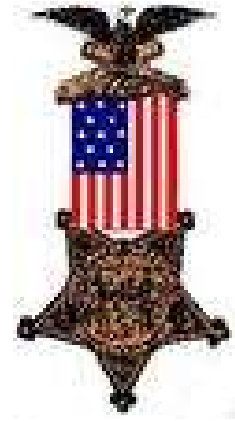
As a typical late 19th century wife and mother, Lavinia’s daily life centered on housekeeping, sewing and tending to the needs of her husband and children, but she also developed outside interests and relationships. Prior to the advent of radio, moving pictures, and television (let alone, 21st century social media), religious and fraternal organizations thrived as people sought distractions from the daily drudgery of work, whether inside or outside the home. Those who were literate read books and wrote letters, and neighbors spent time in conversation. Lavinia exchanged letters with family members and friends back in Auburn and elsewhere, while also attending church regularly and participating in at least three fraternal organizations with other family members.

Her parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all had been founding members of the Mentz M. E. Church near the farm where she was born and raised, and she remained a committed Methodist all her life. At some point after arriving in Scranton, she joined Hyde Park’s First M. E. Church over on Main Street, a three-block walk from their home. According to her family, Lavinia was the sort of affable, self-effacing church member who always showed up to help, and who brought cheer whenever she entered the room. After completing a remodeling campaign in 1890, the congregation re-named itself the “Simpson M.E. Church” in honor of a renowned Methodist Bishop.⁷

Frank seems to have followed a somewhat different religious path. As an ardent prohibitionist, he had held leadership positions in the Order of Rechabites, which was consistent with the stance of the Methodists. But in early 1888, a note in the *Scranton Tribune* invited people to a meeting of the Mutual Aid Society of All Souls Universalist Church at the home of “W.F. Albro”, i.e., Frank. It’s the only source discovered so far that references his personal involvement in any specific church, so there’s no way to know the depth or duration of his involvement; but hosting a meeting at his home implies he was more than a back row observer. (*Scranton Tribune, Feb 8, 1888*)



By mid-life, Frank’s most passionate involvement (apart from Lavinia and their children) was the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a nationwide organization of Union Army veterans that emphasized Civil War history, mutual support and charitable causes. On May 6, 1887, three years after arriving in Scranton (and a month after turning 50), he joined the Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Post No. 139, which met less than a mile from their home via the new electric street car. In time, he came to hold several different leadership positions, including Junior and, then, Senior Vice-Commander. Lavinia, in turn, became active in the post’s Ladies Relief Corp, which provided direct assistance to disabled and otherwise needy veterans and their families. (*Image at right: a G.A.R. lapel pin*)



It appears they still had openings on their calendar after all that because they also joined an organization called the “Improved Order of Red-Men” (IORM). It originated in the late 1700s as a tribute to the American colonists who had disguised themselves as Native Americans to carry out the Boston Tea Party. By 1810, there were around 150,000 members in 21 states and, by 1920, more than a half-million in 46 states. It was well-known in its time, as well as thoroughly and overtly racist.

Using pseudo-Indian jargon, the 1886 IORM bylaws in one state said a successful candidate for membership must be “... a free white male of good moral character and standing, of the full age of twenty-one great suns, who believes in the existence of the Great Spirit, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and is possessed of some known reputable means of support.” The irony of limiting membership to white men while calling themselves “Red Men” evidently escaped them.

The appropriation and distortion of Native American cultures was evident at every organizational level in every state. “Great Sachems” oversaw statewide “reservations” that included local “tribes”. The national treasurer was the “Great Keeper of the Wampum”, local meeting sites were “Wigwams”, and non-members were “Palefaces”. Beginning in the late 1880s, the IORM compounded racism with sexism by establishing female auxiliaries, called “Pocahontas Tribes”, whose function was to serve and support the male tribes. Lavinia joined the one affiliated with Frank’s tribe. In 1892, there were seven distinct tribe-auxiliary pairings in Scranton alone, and all the participants, wore pseudo-Indian costumes to their Friday night gatherings, which must have seemed odd as they strolled down the street. Appropriately enough, Scranton’s “General Council” met on Race Street. ⁸

It was common in the 19th century for families to take relatives and other roomers into their homes for extended periods. For Lavinia it was simply a way of life. She had lived with her eldest brother, Robert, and his family during and after the Civil War, and her youngest brother, Henry, had roomed with Frank and her in the late 1870s. A year before they took in Henry, Robert and two other siblings, Milo and Martha, had “adopted” the recently orphaned children of their late sister, Electa. Then, when Electa’s son, Robert “Ferris” Post, neared his 21st birthday in 1887, Lavinia invited him to join her family in Scranton, where he’d have more economic opportunities. Chapter 8A recounts Ferris moving in with Lavinia’s family late that year and finding work as a teamster for a local drayman (i.e., a freight hauler). After launching his own draying business in 1890, he married Carrie Sayer in February 1891 and moved a few blocks west of the Albros. (*See fn. 7 and Chp 8A*).

R. F. POST, DRAYMAN,

OFFICE:
14 Lackawanna Avenue.



ALL KINDS OF DRAYING.

MOVING SAFES A SPECIALTY.

Residence, No. 1116 Jackson St., Scranton, Pa.

Telephone 755 at Residence. Telephone 2523 at Office.

In August 1888, about a year after Ferris arrived, the Albros visited friends and relatives back in Cayuga County. Lavinia also went the next year to see Robert’s ailing widow, Margaret, who, with Robert, had taken in Ferris a decade earlier (*Cayuga County Independent, Aug 1888, Jul 31, 1889*).

Lavinia’s son, Robert, made his debut in the city directory in 1889, listing himself as a “book-keeper”. He appeared the next year as a “student” (perhaps completing high school) and, in 1891, as a brakeman for the railroad, which, at that point, was the nation’s largest employer. By 1893, his brother, Zeno, had become a brakeman, too, and two years after that, their cousin, Ordie Post (Ferris’s younger brother), became a switchman in Minnesota and stayed in railroading until he retired (*cf. Chp. 8A*).

Soon after hiring in, Robert and Zeno joined the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen (BRT), a union formed to negotiate contracts and provide insurance for members. It had started in 1883 as the Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen (BRB), then changed the word “Brakemen” to “Trainmen” to include other employees – although, judging by the organization’s title, the focus was still on male, rather than female, employees. Lavinia, in turn, joined the BRT Ladies Auxiliary, an organization of wives, mothers and sisters founded in 1889 to support the workers. Apart from arranging dances and other social events, its precise function and range of activities is a bit vague; but as a committed 19th century Methodist, Lavinia certainly wasn’t whirling around any dance floors.

Two other prominent organizations at the time were the Order of United American Mechanics and its “Junior” order. The second group morphed in 1885 from a youth auxiliary into an independent group for young adults. Lavinia’s son, Robert, was president of Scranton’s Junior Order when the statewide organization held a thousand-person parade there in May 1892. Members from Pittsburgh, Bethlehem and other regions arrived by train in the morning, often with their own bands, and the city’s Court House Square and surrounding streets became a great “mass of humanity.” Robert’s brother, Zenon, served as an aide to the Grand Marshall and rode in the parade’s first carriage, while Robert, the mayor of Scranton and chapter leaders from other places rode in the carriages that followed. Robert then was among those onstage during the speeches at Scranton’s Music Hall that evening, which were followed by music and dancing. (*Scranton Republican*, May 18, 1892)

Flags were flung to the breeze and red, white and blue bunting was prettily displayed from all buildings, yesterday, the occasion being the Thirty-ninth anniversary of the Junior Order United American Mechanics of the State, observed in this city. The day was all that could be wished for. Not a cloud dimmed the clearness of the sky, and the scorching rays of the sun beat down upon the multitudes of marching men until many of them dropped from the ranks out of sheer fatigue.

The name “Order of United American Mechanics” has the ring of a trade union, but, in fact, it was nothing more than an anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant political group opposed to the hiring of low wage immigrant laborers. It also promoted so-called “American” businesses, meaning those owned and operated by native-born white Anglo-Saxon protestants. The Albros’ involvement is disturbing, but also confusing because Robert later became involved with an Irish-Catholic woman whose immigrant father worked in the coal mines (*see below*).

The name “Order of United American Mechanics” has the ring of a trade union, but, in fact, it was nothing more than an anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant political group opposed to the hiring of low wage immigrant laborers. It also promoted so-called “American” businesses, meaning those owned and operated by native-born white Anglo-Saxon protestants. The Albros’ involvement is disturbing, but also confusing because Robert later became involved with an Irish-Catholic woman whose immigrant father worked in the coal mines (*see below*).

In contrast to the Order, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen was an authentic labor union, representing railroad employees in wage and benefit negotiations and offering supportive services to members. It undoubtedly supported Robert, for example, after a steam engine ran into him at the railroad yard in May of 1893. The news report (*right*) implies the collision fractured his pelvis, an injury sure to put him out of work for several weeks. In addition to helping with medical expenses, the BRT would have ensured he still had a job once he recuperated. (*Scranton Tribune*, May 25, 1893).

Hurt in the D., L. & W. Yard.
Mr. Robert Albros of Chestnut street, while at work in the D., L. & W. yard, yesterday morning, was severely hurt about the hips by being struck by a train. Dr. Hermanns is attending to his injuries, which are reported to be of a serious nature.



The Albros’ home was more crowded than usual during Robert’s convalescence because they now had a roomer, 20-year-old Edgar “Roy” Colville (*photo left*). They had first met him in the 1880s when his uncle, the Rev. Murray Colville, served as their pastor. Roy’s mother, Jennie Edgar, had died during his birth in October 1872, after which her family, the Edgars, took in Roy and his sister, Eunice. His father, Andrew, then remarried and his second wife, Annie, bore a daughter, Grace, in 1876 before dying during a failed birth a year later. At that point, Murray and his recent bride, Susie, took Roy into *their* family. Andrew, Murray and two other brothers, Henry and Albert, were Scottish immigrants, and all of them, save Murray, lived in New York City, where Roy had been born. (*Photo: Edgar Roy Colville, per John and Beverly Binfield*)

Andrew had been a successful jeweler at the time of Roy's birth, then entered the ministry along with Murray and William Edgar, the brother of his late wife, Jennie. Andrew's ministry was different, though. Murray and William had attended Wyoming Seminary, twenty miles from Hyde Park, and were serving M.E. churches in that region, whereas Andrew claimed to have studied in Scotland and served only small mission churches in New York City. He even identified himself as a missionary in the 1877 city directory and sometimes preached in churches of other denominations and cities.

By June 1880, Andrew and his daughter, Grace, were living with his brother, Henry, and Henry's bride, Louisa, while his elder daughter, Eunice, was still with the Edgar family and Roy was with Murray and Susie. Then, on September 1, Murray officiated the wedding of Andrew and a 25-year-old Irish immigrant named Elizabeth "Lizzie" Keely, who was a member of his church. A year or two after that, their brother, Albert, married Lizzie's much younger sister, Catherine "Kitty" Keely.

Roy Colville had been 12 years old when Murray and Susie brought him to Hyde Park in mid-1885, and was going on 15 when the bishop moved them to Binghamton, New York, in late 1887. He returned to the Scranton area in 1890 to enter Wyoming Seminary, but dropped out after a year or two and found work in Hyde Park. He also rejoined what was now the Simpson M.E. Church and became reacquainted with the Albros. By the time the train collided with Robert in May 1893, Roy had moved into their home.

All three Albro siblings belonged to Simpson's Epworth League, a young adult social group focused on faith and service, and Roy joined as well. He took part in the League's public speaking contest in the fall of 1892 and served as one of two delegates to a regional convention the next June. Then, on Tuesday, July 11, 1893, Roy and 17-year-old Iva Albro (who had just finished the 11th grade) took a train north to Binghamton and exchanged wedding vows before his uncle, Murray Colville. The announcement in a Scranton paper used the word, "eloped", implying the marriage was a surprise to everyone else. Whatever their reaction, the only immediate change in their household routine was that Roy and Iva began sharing the same bedroom; but a more profound transition was coming.

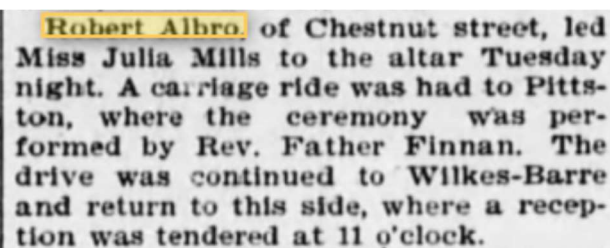
Shortly after the new year arrived, Lavinia developed pneumonia. The relevant antibiotics and vaccines hadn't been developed yet, so she lay bedridden for a week and, in the early hours of Tuesday, January 16, 1894, she died at age 58. The Scranton Tribune posted four different obituaries over the next four days, finding a novel way to misspell her first name each time. The last one identified her as "Nevidah Albro".

The G.A.R. Women's Relief Corps posted a separate notice, asking members to gather at the Albros' at one o'clock Sunday. They brought food and crowded into the modest front room for a brief ceremony before escorting Lavinia's family to the Simpson M.E. Church for the two o'clock funeral. Then some remnant of mourners joined the cortege of black carriages and buggies trailing along behind the horse-drawn hearse as it processed slowly across town to the Forest Hill Cemetery in Dunmore, and they laid their beloved wife, mother, sister and friend to rest. ⁹



The five-day gap between Lavinia's death and her funeral enabled out-of-state relatives to attend, such as Mary C, Martha and Henry from Michigan, and Emeline from Auburn. An Auburn paper posted the obituary a week after the funeral, and noted in the same edition that Martha's husband, P.W. Ross, was visiting friends in Montezuma. Mary, Martha and PW habitually made such journey's together and evidently stopped in Cayuga County on their way home. Henry would have done that, too, perhaps escorting Emeline home, then stopping to see his brother-in-law, Will Hoagland.

While all that was unfolding, a woman named Julia Miles observed her twenty-first birthday down in Pittston, a booming coal mining town nine miles southwest of Hyde Park. Her parents, Terrance and Catherine, were illiterate Irish Catholic immigrants and her father, a coal miner. Her brother, John, though, became a railroad brakeman, which might be how Julia came to know Lavinia's son, Robert. Despite the deep ethnic and religious divisions of the era, they began courting and, on May 15, 1895, married in Pittston. They arrived in a carriage that evening and exchanged vows before her family's priest, Fr. John Finnan, then returned to Hyde Park for a reception. Once the hoopla was over, they moved into 211 Chestnut, the house adjoining 207, where Frank went on living with Zeno, Iva and Roy. (*Scranton Times*, May 17, 1895)



Robert Albro, of Chestnut street, led Miss Julia Mills to the altar Tuesday night. A carriage ride was had to Pittston, where the ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Finnan. The drive was continued to Wilkes-Barre and return to this side, where a reception was tendered at 11 o'clock.

Seven weeks later, Zeno married Roy Colville's 19-year-old half-sister, Grace, which made Zeno and Roy brothers-in-law twice over, and Grace and Iva sisters-in-law twice over. The announcement appeared in the *Scranton Times* two days before the July 3rd wedding, creatively misidentifying the betrothed couple as "Zano" and "Ida". It also said the wedding would be at her "parents' home" in Brooklyn, New York; but Grace's birth mother had been dead 18 years and her father, Andrew, lived in Manhattan, not Brooklyn. The people hosting the wedding, therefore, must have been relatives of her late mother, Annie Drury. Andrew had sent Grace to live with them when he remarried in 1880, and she had still been there, on Brooklyn's Myrtle Avenue, in 1890. Their exact identity remains uncertain for now, but welcoming a gaggle of strangers into their home for a wedding implies a strong bond with Grace, so she might well have referred to them as her "parents".

Following the wedding, all three couples – Zeno and Grace, Iva and Roy, and Robert and Julia – left for a joint honeymoon in Ocean Grove, a renowned Methodist Camp Meeting community on the Jersey shore. It featured cozy Victorian-style cottages, stately homes and elegant hotels, most of which remain in use to this day and are as impressive now as they were in the 1890s. Daily programs included musical performances, guest speakers, Bible studies and worship led by renowned preachers and scholars and, of course, toe-dipping in the ocean. Yet, for all the enchantment and propriety of their collective honeymoon, just one of the three marriages would last.

When they returned to Hyde Park, Zeno and Grace moved into his house on the corner (1002 Price) while the others remained in Frank's double house behind it. Roy and Iva were on the first floor of 207 Chestnut, with Frank on the second and Robert and Julia in the adjoining unit, 211. A year later, Mabel and Elise Colville – two of Grace and Roy's four younger half-sisters – came to visit from

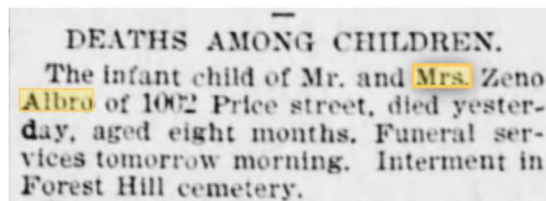
New York City (not Brooklyn). Eight-year-old Elise stayed with Grace and Zeno, and Mabel, who was 13 or 14, with Robert and Julia. They might have come for all kinds of reasons, but the most obvious was to meet the first two members of the next generation. (*Scranton Times, Jul 11, 1896*)

Julia had given birth to a daughter, “Lavinia”, on the third of March, 1896, and, on May 20th, Iva delivered “Lavinia Belle” – each named in honor of the Albro family’s late matriarch. Grace, in turn, gave birth to a daughter, Helen, in January 1897, and Julia bore the first Albro grandson, Miles (Julia’s original surname), that October. Then, in the summer of 1898, Grace and Zeno welcomed a son, Edmond Zeno, followed by a second daughter, Anna (named after Grace’s mother). The other five children of that generation all belonged to Robert and Julia: Catherine (named for Julia’s mother) in April 1899, Edward (1902), Mary (1904), Iva (honoring Robert’s sister) in 1906, and Ernestine in 1910 – a total of seven for Robert and Julia, three for Zeno and Grace, and one for Roy and Iva.

Shortly after the first two babies arrived in 1896, Lavinia’s nephew, Ferris Post, moved with his family to 221 Chestnut, three doors north of the Albros. Their draying business had become one of the largest in Scranton by then, and their new home was one of the largest on Chestnut. They needed the space because their household now included eleven people: Ferris, his wife Carrie, their two daughters and newborn son, and six employees in their twenties – a female housekeeper and five draymen. The housekeeper and draymen might have received room and board as part of their remuneration. The Posts divided their horses, buggies and draying wagons between a large barn behind the house and an even larger one on Merrifield Street, directly behind Frank Albro’s house. (*See Map 8B-3 from 1898, which still showed the previous occupant, F.B. Samson, at 221 Chestnut*) ¹⁰

Just as the Posts were moving in, though, Robert and Julia were moving out. They vacated 211 Chestnut, sold Robert’s double-house next door (213-215 Chestnut) and headed a mile northwest to 120 N. Bromley Street, where Julia gave birth to their son, Miles, in late 1897. By the time their daughter, Catherine, arrived in 1899, they had moved a second time – to Hyde Park Avenue – and then, a year after that, to Julia’s hometown of Pittston, where Edward, Mary and Iva were born.

Back on Chestnut Street, Zeno and Grace lost their son, Edmond, to cholera on July 16, 1899 (*see right, Scranton Tribune, July 20, 1899*). The *Tribune* had reported six months earlier that Zeno himself had been “very ill”, which could mean he had contracted cholera, too. The



streets in every city of that era were rife with horse manure, domestic garbage and even human waste, and all that filth contaminated well water, leading to infections and deaths from cholera, typhoid and other diseases. All three of the Albros’ double houses were still reliant on well water and outhouses, so Zeno and Edmond might have contracted cholera right there in their home. By that December, when Grace gave birth to a second daughter, Anna, they had moved a half-mile west to Academy Street, which might or might not have had city water. Two years after Edmond’s death, Zeno’s father, Frank, finally acquired a permit from the Scranton City Council to connect his house on Chestnut to the city sewers. (*Scranton Tribune, Aug. 29, 1901*)

Grace's brother, Roy, took a train to New York City in February 1900 for a death-bed visit with their father, Andrew (*Scranton Times, Feb 17, 1900*). No obituary or grave marker has turned up so far, but the 1900 U.S. Census listed Andrew's third wife, Lizzie, as "widowed", so he must have died sometime between Roy's visit and the recording of the census in June. Lizzie and her four youngest children had moved in by then with her sister, Kitty, and Kitty's husband, Albert, who was Andrew's youngest brother. Back in February, Roy's sister, Grace, had been unable to make the trip to New York with him because she had just lost Edmond and given birth to Anna; but she might also have stayed home because she'd become irredeemably alienated from Andrew.

Within just a few years of marrying Lizzie in 1880, Andrew had become a verbally and physically abusive alcoholic, which was radically inconsistent with his role as a Methodist pastor. Methodists had advocated temperance for more than a century and, by the 1870s, were leaning toward outright prohibition – as illustrated by the involvement of several Bell relatives in the Order of Rechabites. When New York City's Methodist leaders became aware of Andrew's condition in 1884, they removed him from active ministry. They considered ordination itself, however, to be an act of God, irrevocable by the Church, so Andrew was able to go on using the title "Reverend" despite having no ministerial standing or function. It was no coincidence that, as his life and ministry were dissolving in a sea of alcohol, his brother Murray was becoming an ever more strident advocate for prohibition (*Scranton Republican, April 22, 1885*).

Andrew's perpetual inebriation led, in time, to perpetual unemployment in any field whatever. He might have had some savings from his previous work as a jeweler, but Lizzie's dressmaking for affluent women soon became the family's primary source of income, and she was remarkably good at it. More remarkable still, she did it while bearing and rearing five children in their first seven years of marriage: Maud (whose formal name seems to have been "Catherine") in 1881, Mabel in 1883, Ethelwyn in 1885, Howard (who died within a few months) in 1886, and Elise in 1887. Andrew's occasional alcoholic eruptions made everything even more challenging. Neighbors and friends often noticed bruises beneath Lizzie's face powder, and there were rumors that some of her pregnancies were the product of marital rape. Then, in early August of 1890, Andrew chased her into the street and beat her so severely their landlord evicted them. Lizzie always refused to press charges though, so the violence continued; but then, shortly after their forced move, she and the girls packed their bags and sailed to her native Ireland. She told everyone she was taking the girls on an extended vacation while scouting new fashions, but it was obvious to some that they were simply escaping.

On the evening of August 12, Andrew sat alone in their new apartment, drinking heavily as he wrote a few brief messages, including one to his brother, Albert, concerning burial arrangements. Then, just after one in the morning, he picked up a 32-calibre pistol and tried to shoot himself. Being drunk, he missed twice before inserting the barrel in his mouth and pulling the trigger a third time. That bullet lodged behind his eye and he was bleeding severely, but somehow remained conscious. Rather than try a fourth shot, he made his way downstairs to the sidewalk and stumbled a full mile in his bare feet to Bellevue Hospital. Neighbors, meanwhile, had heard the shots and contacted the police, who followed the trail of blood under the gaslights all the way to the hospital. (*See newspaper article below: "Rum Caused His Ruin", The World, New York City, Aug. 14, 1890*)

RUM CAUSED HIS RUIN.

THE REV. ANDREW COLVILLE TRIES SUICIDE WHILE DRUNK.

A TRAIL OF BLOOD MARKED HIS COURSE TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

A Former Pastor of Grace Mission Church Now on a Prisoners Cot— He Had Become a Drunkard, and by His Brutal Treatment Drove His Wife Away—Repentance Too Late.

The Rev. Andrew Colville is tossing uneasily on a cot in the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital with a bullet lodged either in or near the brain. He attempted to kill himself yesterday morning while drunk in his flat, No. 630 Sixth avenue.

Colville only moved into the place about the first of the month and his neighbors know very little about him. People were impressed with the man and his family, which consisted up to last Saturday of a wife and four pretty little children between the ages of six and twelve years, until they discovered that the man was a sot. A few days ago the wife and children disappeared, and from that time until yesterday Colville appears to have been on a debauch.

Shortly before 1 o'clock yesterday morning the family living in the flat above Colville's heard three pistol shots. At the time they were not certain as to the cause of the sounds and concluded that they were not pistol shots as they soon heard Colville go staggering down the stairs and out of the front door into Sixth avenue. But the drunken man had, in a fit of delirium, shot himself. Only one shot took effect. He placed the pistol in his mouth for that one, pulled the trigger and the ball ploughed its way up the roof of his mouth and into his head, lodging below and behind the right

eye. When he felt the pain of the wound he repented and started off in search of a doctor, not even stopping to put on his shoes. He tramped down Sixth avenue to Thirty-fourth street, and thence across the city to Bellevue Hospital. His course was plainly marked by the blood splashes on the sidewalks and the street the entire distance of nearly a mile. There are spots along the way where he seems to have stopped to rest.

The strange part of it is that he was not seen by either police or citizens during his long journey, and he arrived at the hospital faint and weary. He gave his address and Detective Hayes, of the Nineteenth Precinct, was sent to investigate. At the house he discovered that the man had shot himself while in bed, for his pillows and bedding were saturated with blood, and pools of blood were upon the floor. His discarded shoes were also found where he had left them in his hurry to get to the hospital. On the table in the room were several brief notes in his handwriting. The first one read:

I die willingly by my own hand. I blame no one. My brother Albert will attend to my burial. His address is Nineteenth street, third door west of Third avenue. A. COLVILLE.

A letter to his brother was as follows:

DEAR ALBERT—Bury me in the cheapest way. The money is in the desk. Send Kitty the remainder for Lizzie and the children.

In a third note he gives directions about packing his books.

Albert Colville, the brother mentioned in the letter, says that Andrew was formerly in the jewelry business, from which he retired fifteen years or more ago with considerable means. That since that time he has not been in any business. He declares his brother was never a minister to his knowledge, but admitted that he had known little of him or his pursuits for some time, and that he may have been interested in religious matters. Mrs. Colville and the children, he said, went to Europe by the steamer *Devonia* last Saturday. She wishes to study the new styles in goods and gowns, as she is a dressmaker with a large and fashionable custom. At the Hospital Andrew Colville told the doctors that his wife had gone to Dublin.

Before removing to the house on Sixth avenue Colville lived for four years at No. 411 Fourth avenue. It is said by the neighbors there that he never worked, but spent his time reading and drinking and abusing his family, while his wife worked night and day at her dressmaking business and supported the house.

(Continued on Next Page)

The story appeared in newspapers from coast to coast and as far away as West Yorkshire, England, which must have made the situation even more difficult for friends and relatives. Beyond whatever concern they had for Andrew, Lizzie and the girls, they had to endure the probing and judging of others. *The New York World* dragged Andrew's brother, Albert, into the story with an interview, during which he tried to distance himself by claiming he was unaware Andrew had been a minister – which was laughably untrue. Andrew had been serving a congregation right there in New York City when Albert arrived from Scotland and married Lizzie's sister, Kitty. Andrew's "defrocking" also had appeared in the papers, and would have been a prominent topic of conversation between Albert, Kitty and other relatives. Albert even knew the ship Lizzie and the children had taken. So, whatever his relationship with Andrew, he knew all the key facts.

It took a while for authorities to reach Lizzie in Ireland, and even longer for her to return with her daughters and a 19-year-old relative named, Jessie Keely. Their ship, the *Circassia*, sailed from Ireland to Glasgow before departing October 9 and arriving in New York City on the 19th, eight weeks after the incident.

Bellevue discharged Andrew by late November and he rejoined Lizzie and the children; but his alcoholic binges and violence continued. On March 30, 1891, he arrived home drunk and announced he was going to kill everyone. Then he spread a sheet on the floor and told Lizzie and the children to stand on it so he could slit their throats. He was sharpening a carving knife in the kitchen when Lizzie managed to alert the police, who returned him to Bellevue. All that made the papers, too. ¹¹

What didn't make the papers was that Lizzie was four months pregnant. It would be her sixth child overall and Andrew's ninth, and it's doubtful either of them was happy about it. ¹² When the baby arrived, Lizzie would be a 42-year-old woman with a nursing infant, four older daughters, a violently alcoholic husband and a business to run. Andrew, it seems, had expressed his own views by trying to murder everyone. Having already failed so spectacularly as a husband and father, the prospect of yet another child apparently was more than he could bear.

Lizzie delivered a son on the first of September and, perhaps to placate Andrew, named the boy "Andrew Colville, Jr". They rarely appeared in the news after that. Lizzie joined Broadway Presbyterian Church in 1895 and, surprisingly, Andrew Sr. attended a meeting of Presbyterian clergy in New Jersey in 1898. His highly-publicized and shockingly violent alcoholic eruptions were seven

Colville was pastor at Grace Chapel (Episcopal), on Twenty-second street, near First avenue, about ten years ago. His present and third wife was a Sunday-school teacher there when he met her. By his first wife he has two children, a son now at college at Kingston, Pa., and a daughter; by the second wife a daughter, and by the present wife four daughters. Mrs. Colville is said to have supported the entire family by her work. Mr. W. Keely, of No. 39 Eighth avenue, Brooklyn, a friend of the Colvilles, was seen yesterday by a *World* reporter. "Mrs. Colville," said he, "sailed for Scotland on Tuesday last in an Allan steamship and took with her four of her husband's children by two former wives. She went ostensibly for a holiday trip to Europe but in reality because she was afraid of her husband. You see Mr. Colville has been a hard drinker, particularly so of late, and was quarrelsome in his cups. Mind you his wife never complained. She was too proud to do that, but I am sure he ill-treated her as well as his own children. She left him lots of money to keep him during her absence. She always allowed him to live in style as well as his children and she could afford it, for she had a dressmaking establishment on Nineteenth street, patronized by some of the wealthiest people of New York. Andrew has not preached for a number of years, owing to hemorrhages of the nose, but when he did practice his sacred calling he was attached to the Grace Mission Church." The Rev. Mr. Colville has a daughter living on Myrtle avenue, Brooklyn, with the relatives of her mother, Mr. Colville's second wife.

years in the past at that point, and the Presbyterians evidently took their doctrine of redemption quite seriously. Lizzie and the children, meanwhile, had stayed in touch with other Colvilles, as when Mabel and Elise visited Scranton in 1896. Following Andrew's death in 1900, Lizzie and the children stayed with Catherine and Albert for at least a while, and then Lizzie herself died on June 19, 1909.

Alcoholism also destroyed the lives of Andrew's brothers, Henry and Albert. Henry had married a few months before Andrew and Lizzie, and over the next seven years, his wife Louisa gave birth to three children. Louisa had them all baptized the same day in 1888 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in the Bronx; but a year earlier, the rector had come to their home to baptize Henry *in extremis* – meaning “near death”. The church record doesn't specify his affliction, but in light of later events, it might have been alcohol-related. At five-nine and 141 pounds, he was fairly thin, with deep-set blue eyes, a large, “peculiarly-shaped” (perhaps broken) nose, thick brown hair and a “dark, sallow complexion”, which might have been jaundice due to liver damage from alcoholism. He also had several scars. ¹³

In September 1889, a court sentenced Henry to six months in jail for assault. Then, after his release, he was working as a hotel painter at Brooklyn's Coney Island resort and spending his days off with his family in Manhattan. After he failed to arrive home as expected in late June, Louisa read that the police had found an unidentified body, so she went to the police station and morgue to see if it was him. She was relieved it wasn't, but then, two days later, she was visiting a friend when Henry showed up drunk, stabbed her seven times, and ran off. Police found him that evening in an unlit park, bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. (*L.A. Herald, Jul 4, 1890*)

A Murderous Painter.
NEW YORK, July 3.—Henry Colville, a dissolute painter, to-day stabbed his wife seven times and fled. She is in a critical condition. To-night Colville was found in a dark park bleeding to death from wounds inflicted by his own hands.

Both he and Louisa survived, but he was convicted of attempted murder and spent close to six years at Sing Sing Prison. Louisa then divorced him and took the children to live with her father in the Bronx. Four months after his release in 1896, Henry was working as a bartender in Brooklyn (really) when he died of tuberculosis. It was the leading cause of death in New York that century and especially virulent in tenements, but Henry had contracted it back in prison. He left no money, so the authorities buried him among the poor and destitute at Brooklyn's County Farms. A few years later, despite all that had happened, his daughter Ellen named her first child “Henry”. (*Sources: Admission Register, Sing Sing Prison, August 26 1890; Discharges of Convicts, Sing Sing Prison, 1896; news clipping above, Los Angeles Herald, July 4 1890; see also: The World, June 18, 1890*)

The youngest Colville brother, Albert, had been a tailor when he arrived from Scotland, then tried a few other things before he, too, became a bartender – and a well-known one. He and all his brothers were well-acquainted with alcoholic spirits because their father had sold them in Scotland. But, as with Andrew and Henry, alcohol eventually overwhelmed and shortened Albert's life.

Mrs. Catherine Colville went to the room of her husband Albert in the boarding-house of Marguerite Moras, at No. 156 West Forty-Fifth street, to-day to learn why he had not answered a summons to appear in Jefferson Market Police Court and answer to a charge of non-support. She found Colville's clothing scattered around the room and the summons lying on a table, under a cocktail glass containing a few drops of a reddish liquid.

Supposing her husband had stepped out for a moment, Mrs. Colville sat down. The change of position brought into her vision a bare foot and ankle protruding from under the bed. Something about them caused the woman to run screaming into the hall. Fred Shaw, occupying the next room, peered under the bed. There he saw Colville in his pajamas, all twisted up and dead.

Mrs. Colville fled, policemen arrived and were followed by the Coroner. The liquid in the cocktail glass told the whole story. Colville had mixed himself a cocktail of red wine and carbolic acid, had swallowed it to the dregs, set the glass on the table and then fallen to the floor in his death agony. As he struggled he gradually worked his way under the bed and there he died.

The tragic end of Albert Colville will cause sorrow to hundreds of men prominent in business and sporting life who knew him when he was one of the popular bartenders of Broadway. He had worked in most of the big hotels, and possessed an acquaintance that included men in every station in life. He belonged to the old [...] of bartenders, who made courtesy and good nature the groundwork of their business.

Finally, Colville saved up enough to go into business for himself. He prospered for a time, but eventually he failed. Inability to get another start and the invasion of his field by young unskilled men made him despondent.

In the days of his success he never touched the liquor that he dispensed, but when misfortune overtook him he had recourse to the bottle. He lost all his ambition and frequently quarrelled with his wife, who is a dressmaker at No. 306 Madison avenue.

Mrs. Colville tried to arouse his spirit of self-reliance and get him to do something for himself. He was not an old man and dissipation had not ruined him physically. Arguments brought about a separation, and Colville went to live at West Forty-fifth street.

The wife got a summons commanding him to appear in Jefferson Market Court last Friday and show cause why he should not contribute to her support. He ignored the summons and she got another, returnable to-day.

The Evening World, Oct 6, 1905

Relatives of Roy's mother were dying young, too. While growing up in the home of his paternal uncle, the Rev. Murray Colville, Roy also had become close to his maternal uncle, the Rev. William Edgar. That became clear when, during Rev. Edgar's transition to a new congregation in 1900 (the year Roy's father died), his two young adult sons roomed with Frank, Roy and Iva on Chestnut Street. Rev. Edgar was barely a year into the new pastorate, though, when his wife died prematurely and, then, in March 1902, he himself died at age 46. Roy and Iva had just moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, a few months earlier, so they took a train back to Scranton and joined family members, congregants and more than a dozen clergy for Rev. Edgar's funeral at the Dunmore M.E. Church. It was familiar territory because Rev. Edgar had once served there and it was near Forest Hill Cemetery, where Lavinia and her infant grandson, Edmond, were buried. (*Scranton Tribune, Mar 11, 1902*)

Adding to the gloom, Grace and Zeno's marriage had begun to unravel after Edmond's death. They appeared on the 1900 Census in Scranton, but by the time Rev. Edgar died, they had joined Iva, Roy and Belle in Jersey City. Grace stayed with them at 47 Zabriskie Street while Zeno roomed two doors away. Where the girls stayed isn't clear. Zeno is missing from the 1905 state census, but Grace appeared on it *twice*: first, as a roomer a mile from the Colvilles and, two weeks later, as a patient at

Jersey City's Christ Hospital. During the first interview, on June 8th, the enumerator superimposed a "W" over a "D" in the column for marital status, as if Grace had said she was divorced, then thought better of it and claimed she was a widow. Then, while hospitalized eleven days later, she told a different enumerator she was still married. There was no option on the form for "separated" nor any space for explaining that her infant son had died, her marriage had folded and both she and Zeno had just lost custody of their daughters – all of which contributed to her collapse and hospitalization.

Their daughters, Helen and Anna, had been taken across the Hudson River to Brooklyn's Home for Destitute Children (*photo right*). The 1905 New York Census listed them consecutively among hundreds of children there. Exactly how and when they came to be there is open to speculation, but someone in authority clearly decided it would be more beneficial for them to live there rather than with either parent. Helen was eight at the time and Anna, listed as "Annie", was five. Helen then disappeared from public records for 13 years, while, by age 11, Anna was at an orphanage in Somerset County, New Jersey, 50 miles west of Brooklyn.



The next year brought its own pain. Grace and Roy's half-sister, Mabel (one of the two who visited them in Scranton in 1896), had survived the violence of their father, Andrew, married in 1905 and become pregnant. But she contracted tuberculosis while pregnant and died after giving birth in 1906. Then her infant died, too (*Brooklyn Standard Union, Jun 27, 1906*). And there was more.

Zeno's father, Frank, had endured hardship, loss and grief, too. After losing his parents as a child, he had taken part in battle after battle during the Civil War, then struggled through serious work injuries and even Lavinia's death. Now in his sixties, he volunteered as an inspector (with integrity) at polling places, served on trial juries and continued to hold leadership roles in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). As his post's Vice-Commander, he was among the leaders at every Veterans Day parade in Scranton and regularly participated in color guard ceremonies at veterans' funerals. Yet, he was still grieving. Lavinia was gone, all his children and surviving grandchildren had moved away, Zeno's marriage was failing, two of his granddaughters were in a far-off home for destitute children, his health was declining, his finances were a shambles and he was unable to find work.

A rare bright spot had been a November 1903 story in the *Scranton Republican* concerning Frank's long-ago encounter with Abraham Lincoln. For Lincoln, it had been a fleeting, forgettable moment amid the most profound and difficult period of his life; but for a lowly recruit initially deemed unfit for battle, it had been transformative – the highlight of his young life – and it was soon magnified by Frank's involvement in many of the most horrific and significant battles of the Civil War, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Appomattox Courthouse. It reads like a summary of the entire war. (*See Scranton Republican, Nov 1, 1903, below*)

A LONG SERVICE MAN'S WAR CAREER

Scranton Man, William F.

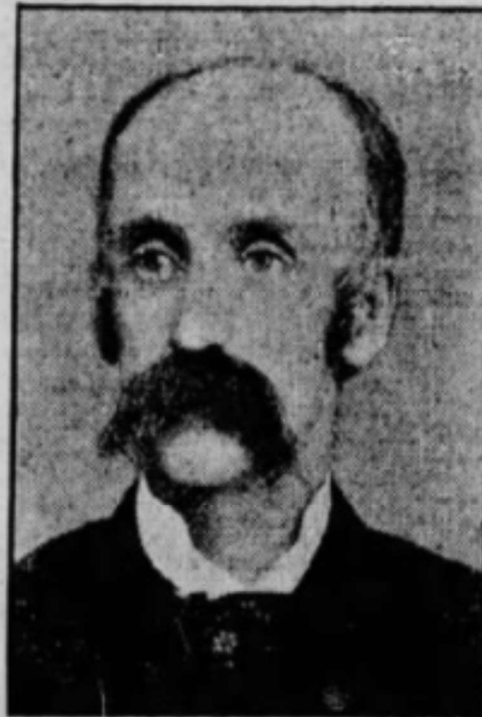
Albro. One of the Very Few Men Who Held Conversation With President Lincoln. Numerous Battles in Which He Fought.

William F. **Albro**, a veteran of the civil war, and one of the leading members of the Ezra S. Griffin Post, G. A. R., of this city, has the distinction of being one of the few private soldiers who ever held a conversation with President Abraham Lincoln during those troublesome times. The incident occurred at Georgetown in the latter part of June, 1861, while **Albro** was on provost duty at that place.

Albro had a long, varied and honorable career as a soldier. He enlisted from Genesee county, N. Y., May 21, 1861, and on May 22 was mustered in as a private of Company F, Twentieth regiment, N. Y. Vol. Inf. This regiment left the state June 25, 1861, going to Washington, D. C., where they were assigned to Butterfield's brigade of Patterson's corps.

Several days later the regiment was inspected by a number of regular army surgeons. The recruits were drawn up as if on regimental parade and the medical men rode slowly up and down the line, closely inspecting each man as they passed. Now and then they would raise their fingers, and the man signed to was compelled to step forward a pace. This meant they had been picked out as unfit for active service and among the 76 men so indicated, all of whom were privates, was **Albro**.

When the officers were examined



William F. **Albro**.

First Lieutenant W. W. Rowley, of **Albro's** own company, was placed among the disabled. They were compelled to remain in camp while their comrades were marched across the Potomac. Three days later General Halleck, then commander-in-chief, ordered them on provost duty at Georgetown.

Lieutenant Rowley was appointed provost marshal general and, knowing **Albro**, he made him sergeant of the guard. It was here that **Albro** had his experience with President Lincoln.

MEETS LINCOLN.

One morning during the latter part of June, **Albro** was sitting on the steps of his commander's quarters about 30 feet from Erastus Peck, of Brockport, N. Y., who was on sentry duty. A finely appointed carriage drove along, the inmates of which **Albro** recognized as President Lincoln, his son, Robert, and their coachman. They intended crossing the river to Arlington.

UNTESTED DIVORCE

They were instantly halted by Peck. **Albro** ordered him to let them pass, but he refused and though the order was repeated three times the sentry was obdurate.

Turning to **Albro** Mr. Lincoln remarked that there appeared to be some sort of a disagreement and asked him who he was. **Albro** replied that he was the sergeant of the guard. "Then who is this man?" asked the president."

On being informed that Peck was the sentry, Mr. Lincoln asked **Albro** what the orders were. The sergeant replied that they were very strict, as they were not to permit any one to pass without a pass from General Halleck.

"Why then do you pass me?" asked the president in a puzzled tone.

"Because," replied **Albro**, "you are the president of the United States and it is not presumable you would travel on a pass from a subordinate."

The answer pleased President Lincoln and he desired to know who was in charge. Lieutenant Rowley was then called and they had an interesting chat.

The president did not go to Arlington that day, but desired it to be understood that he was not to be challenged in the future. He refused to punish Peck, saying that the man had but done his duty and was rather to be commended.

July 24, of the same year, all these men were mustered out. **Albro**, however, was determined to fight and he reenlisted Feb. 14, 1862. He was mustered in March 15, 1862, this time being assigned to Company E, 105th regiment New York infantry. They were a part of the second brigade of the Army of the Rappahannock, until Sept. 12, when they were transferred to the first corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Then it was that **Albro's** active service began. He fought at the battle of Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Junction, Rappahannock river, Thoroughfare Gap, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and took part in Burnside's famous mud march.

Albro miraculously escaped without a scratch. The regiment had been so badly decimated that where once was a strong regiment, there were barely men enough to form a respectable company. Together with their colonel, John W. Shedd, they were transferred to the 94th New York cavalry, Col. Adrian R. Root, commanding.

With this regiment, **Albro** participated in the battles of Pollock's mill creek and Chancellorsville. With the 27 men left of his old regiment he was then transferred to the 5th main battery. He took part in the battle of Gettysburg and then his term having expired

of Lackawanna street, Lackawanna avenue and Cliff street. Both phones.

Funeral Director.

WILLIAM PRICE & SON,
Funeral directors, Offices, 135 South Main avenue, 232 Adams avenue. Telephone No. 1903, 3745.

Harness and Horse Clothing.

G. W. FRITZ & CO.,
410 Lackawanna avenue. Trunks, traveling bags, dress-suit and sample cases, telescopes, small leather goods, etc.

Livery.

H. S. GORMAN & CO.,
Livery, 420 and 422 Spruce street (rear), Scranton, Pa. Telephone, 1414.

Schools.

SCHOOL OF THE LACKAWANNA,
Scranton, Pa. Courses preparatory to college, law, medicine or business. Opened Sept. 17th. Send for catalogue. Alfred C. Arnold, A. B., principal.

was discharged at Culpepper Court House Feb. 14, 1864.

Albro was now a tried veteran and like many others could not be kept out of the fight. He immediately reenlisted in Capt. Charles E. Minks' battery for a period of three years.

Capt. Minks' battery was assigned to the artillery brigade of the Army of the Potomac and with them **Albro** saw active service until the end of the war. He was at Cold Harbor, Bethesda church, Petersburg, Five Forks and at Appomattox Court House.

At this time **Albro** was a forage master, having been promoted for meritorious service. Petersburg is the battle he will probably remember best as he had a horse shot under him, while the next he mounted threw him, breaking his left collar bone. He was taken to the field hospital, but the indomitable pluck that had led to his promotion make hospital life irksome, and 24 hours later he was back with his comrades. He speedily recovered from his injury and was not wounded in all his future fighting.

At the close of the war **Albro** received his final honorable discharge at Elmira, N. Y., the date being June 19, 1865.

Mr. **Albro** was born at Seneca county, N. Y., May 20, 1837. Jan. 6, 1849, he married Lavina Bell of Auburn, N. Y., and by her had three children, Robert, Zeno and Iva. His wife died Jan. 17, 1894.

Mr. **Albro** is a highly esteemed resident of this city. In the Griffin post he has held the offices of senior and junior vice-commander.

After Roy and Iva moved to New Jersey in 1901, Frank had begun renting the lower floor of 207 Chestnut to a couple named Rauner, and he supplemented the modest income from that by publicly endorsing Post breakfast foods (which had nothing to do with Lavinia's nephew, Ferris Post). Based in Battle Creek, Michigan, the Post company launched a nationwide advertising campaign featuring Frank's over-the-top claims about Grape-Nuts cereal and Postum Food Coffee. With obvious help from the company's advertising department, he wrote that two strokes had left him with a nervous disability on which he had "doctored hundreds of dollars away". After he began eating Grape-Nuts Breakfast Food every day, though, he "steadily gained in strength and health ... worked every day...walked several miles a day" and had "not enjoyed better health for over 20 years..." (See "*The Big Earner*" below right. *The Topeka State Journal*, Topeka, Kansas. 1902).

It was hype verging on humbug, and eating cereal certainly couldn't resolve the grief of losing his wife and grandson (Edmond) or the flood of loneliness after all his children and other grandchildren moved away. The failure of Zeno's marriage to Grace and the related placement of their daughters in a home for destitute children only deepened his misery. And so, late in the evening of Saturday, March 31, 1906, Frank sat in his kitchen and wrote two brief letters – one to Iva and another to a friend from the G.A.R. After setting them out on the table, he closed himself in his bedroom, fashioned a noose at one end of some heavy wrapping twine and stood on a chair to tie the other end to the transom over the door. Then he slipped the noose around his neck and kicked out the chair.

After knocking at Frank's door that evening and the next, a friend across the street asked his daughter to check on him. She and the downstairs tenant, Mrs. Rauner, then found the body and alerted police. ¹⁴

The Albros had held Lavinia's funeral at the Simpson M.E. Church five days after she died, but Frank's was at a funeral home two days after they found him. He had never joined Simpson Methodist and apparently was no longer involved with the All-Souls Universalist Church, because the officiant at his service was the pastor of the Park Place M.E. Church. Given the circumstances, the pastor likely read straight from his funeral manual with just a few remarks of his own. Robert came up from Pittston, and both Zeno and Iva arrived from Jersey City by train. News accounts made no mention of spouses or children, but Robert's family might have been there. Zeno's, of course, had already dissolved and Iva's marriage was rapidly fading. Six of Frank's fellow veterans from the G.A.R. served as pall bearers, and several others joined the cortege to Forest Hill Cemetery, where they held the same service of honor Frank himself often had led. Then they laid him alongside Lavinia and went home. ¹⁵

A BIG EARNER.
Good Food Pays Better Than Any Other Investment.

Money put into properly selected food that brings health and maintains it is better invested than any other way.

A man who had spent hundreds of dollars in medicines to try and get well writes that the past year he has used 158 packages of Grape-Nuts. He says, "Several years ago I had two severe shocks of paralysis, bringing on general nervous debility. I was not able to do work of any kind for several years.

I doctored hundreds of dollars away. About a year ago I began using Grape-Nuts Breakfast Food and have so steadily gained in strength and health that since last July I have worked every day at collecting for a large company, walking several miles a day, and have not enjoyed better health for over 20 years than I do now. I am able to use all kinds of food, but do not eat much besides Grape-Nuts and Postum Food Coffee."

W. E. Albro, 207 Chestnut St., Scranton, Pa.

Don't overlook the recipe book in each package of Grape-Nuts.

By 1910, Robert and Julia had moved to New York City, renting a flat on 27th Street near the enormous Hudson Yards rail center where Robert worked as a railway conductor. They were sharing the flat with a newlywed couple when Julia gave birth that April to another daughter, “Ernestine”. She was the seventh and last of the brood and brought the total household population to eleven. Privacy and personal space were at a premium.

Peter A. Palmer, son of Mrs. Hannah Palmer, of New York, and Miss Lavinia Albro, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Albro, formerly of this city but now of New York, were married yesterday at the Church of the Guardian Angel, New York. Rev. Daniel Paut, a schoolmate of the bridegroom, performed the ceremony. Many friends were present at the ceremony and all the members of the St. Columbia choir, of which the bride and groom are members, were present. Miss Albro is well known in this city, and the news of her marriage will be received with pleasure by her many friends.

Ernestine was three and a half when 17-year-old Lavinia, married Peter Palmer, whom she had met in a church choir (*see above right: Scranton Truth, Dec 16, 1913*). Nine months later, they had a flat of their own in the Albro’s building when Lavinia gave birth to Lavinia “Rita”. Peter then dropped from sight, possibly relocating for a job, while Lavinia took Rita and moved back in with her family. Remaining there more than a decade, Lavinia found work as a telephone operator, voted in the 1924 presidential election and performed as a soloist at concerts, weddings and other venues. Cramped as it was, there was no end of elegant music emanating from the Albro’s flat.¹⁶



Like their sisters, Robert and Julia’s sons, Miles and Edward, went on living with their parents well into their twenties, but their work differed from those of their sisters. Miles, for example, was 14-years-old when he worked aboard boats on the Hudson River in the spring of 1912. His employment certificate said he was just under five feet tall at the time and weighed 95 pounds. A decade later, he was 5’5½” and 31 pounds heavier, but still smaller than average, and it seems likely that Robert and Edward were around the same size. (*Photo: Miles Albro, 1921*)¹⁷

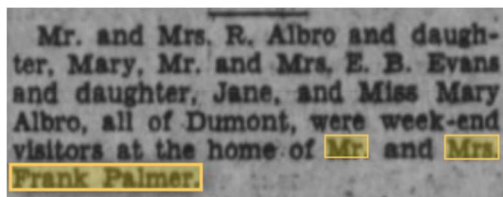
Robert left the railroad sometime before 1915 and, as of 1920, was a foreman for a wholesale grocer. Their daughter Catherine had married Edwin Evans on December 13, 1918 (her sister Lavinia’s fifth anniversary), and he lived with them, too, before he and Catherine moved to New Jersey. The fourth sibling, Iva, then married a mason, named Joe Hagan. During the summer of 1925, Joe lived and worked in the Bronx while now-pregnant Iva stayed with her family until the baby arrived in September. She and everyone else, apart from Julia and ten-year-old Rita, also worked outside the home.

By 1928, Lavinia had reunited with Peter (who, assuming it was the same guy, was now going by “Frank”) and they had moved to Waldwick, New Jersey, ten miles north of Catherine’s family in Dumont. Robert, Julia, Mary and Ernestine then moved to 18 Oak Street in Dumont, a block over from Catherine’s family on Hickory. It was “a quiet residential town” with electric street lamps, a good sewer system and a busy downtown. Robert was still a foreman for a wholesale grocer, Julia kept house and Mary clerked for an insurance company. Ernestine, like all her sisters before her, became a telephone operator – forty years before Lily Tomlin’s Ernestine character showed up. (*Photo: Dumont, ca. 1930, www.dumontnj.gov/dumont-history, public domain*)

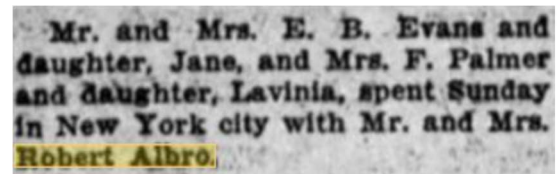


Robert and Julia soon took in Julia's unmarried younger brother, John Miles, as well. Like Robert, he'd been a railroad brakeman back in Pennsylvania before following Robert, Julia and another sister, Mary Clarke, to New York City. Then, while working as a carpenter there and rooming with Mary's family, he developed some unspecified fatal illness. At that point, he moved in with Robert, Julia and their daughters, and remained there until his death in early October, 1930.

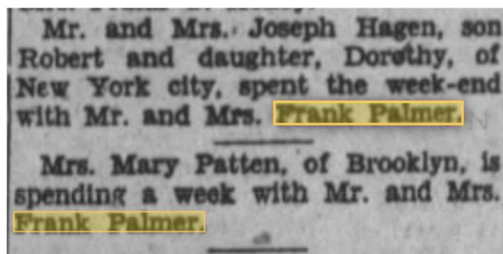
The Great Depression had started a year earlier and would last into the 1940s, but Robert, Julia and their children made it through the first few years without overt setbacks. They also remained involved with one another and had occasional parties together. In the four news clippings below, "Mrs. Frank Palmer" refers to their daughter Lavinia, "Mrs. E.B. Evans" to Catherine, and "Mrs. Joseph Hagan" to Iva. "Mrs. Mary Clarke" was Julia's sister in New York City. Other reports over the years mentioned their vacations, involvement in scouting and community events, and Lavinia's singing.



Mr. and Mrs. R. Albro and daughter, Mary, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Evans and daughter, Jane, and Miss Mary Albro, all of Dumont, were week-end visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer.

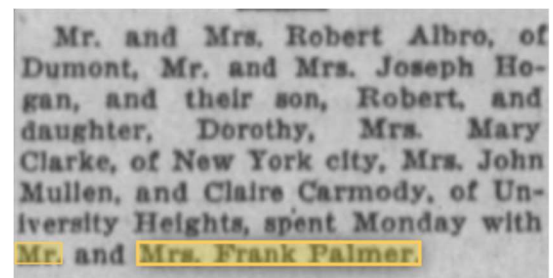


Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Evans and daughter, Jane, and Mrs. F. Palmer and daughter, Lavinia, spent Sunday in New York city with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Albro.



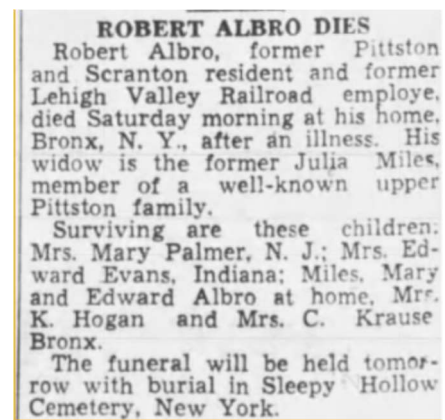
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hagen, son Robert and daughter, Dorothy, of New York city, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer.

Mrs. Mary Patten, of Brooklyn, is spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Albro, of Dumont, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hagan, and their son, Robert, and daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. Mary Clarke, of New York city, Mrs. John Mullen, and Claire Carmody, of University Heights, spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer.

The late 1930s to mid-forties were far more difficult. At some point, Robert and Julia moved back across the Hudson to the Bronx, where Robert died in 1938 at age 68. Catherine's husband, Edwin, died in Indiana a year later, and Lavinia's husband, Frank-who-was-no-longer-Peter, in 1940. Then Edward died in 1944 and Miles in 1946. Mary was sharing an apartment with her mother when she married Edward Foley in 1942, but he died in a WWII naval battle the next year, and Mary, in January 1948. Julia herself died the following August and now lies alongside Robert in Tarrytown's legendary Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

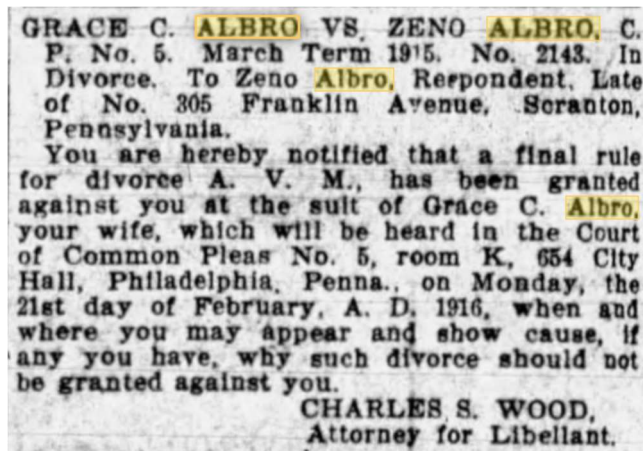


ROBERT ALBRO DIES
Robert Albro, former Pittston and Scranton resident and former Lehigh Valley Railroad employe, died Saturday morning at his home, Bronx, N. Y., after an illness. His widow is the former Julia Miles, member of a well-known upper Pittston family.
Surviving are these children: Mrs. Mary Palmer, N. J.; Mrs. Edward Evans, Indiana; Miles, Mary and Edward Albro at home, Mrs. K. Hogan and Mrs. C. Krause Bronx.
The funeral will be held tomorrow with burial in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, New York.

Robert's brother, Zeno, whose marriage and family had dissolved, had left the states in 1907 to work on the Panama Canal. Hiring in as a machinist that October, he listed Iva's address in Jersey City as his own. The work force in Panama turned out to be highly segregated, with the best jobs and pay going to white men. Most Americans left within a year, but Zeno lasted three, earning 44 cents per hour as his job status flickered back and forth. He was laid off for two weeks in July 1908 for being AWOL, then again in October as part of a reduction of force. After resuming work in November, he quit in March 1909, went back in April, left in May, and returned in October. He left for good in

September 1910 and sailed to New York City aboard the S.S. Advance. After arriving, he might have stayed briefly with Robert's family, but never reunited with his own. Grace and Helen, in fact, are missing from that year's census, and Anna had been moved to the orphanage in New Jersey.

Four years later, on March 15, 1914, Anna was baptized at the Gaston Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Grace was there, too, and finally filed for divorce the next year, a full decade after separating from Zeno. The notice at right appeared in the *Scranton Times* on January 29, 1916, and the final decree came three weeks after that. Apart from the reference to Zeno as "Late of No. 305 Franklyn Avenue" in Scranton, there seems to be no readily available record of his whereabouts after 1910. He just vanished.



GRACE C. ALBRO VS. ZENO ALBRO, C. P. No. 5. March Term 1915. No. 2143. In Divorce. To Zeno Albro, Respondent, Late of No. 305 Franklin Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
You are hereby notified that a final rule for divorce A. V. M., has been granted against you at the suit of Grace C. Albro, your wife, which will be heard in the Court of Common Pleas No. 5, room K, 654 City Hall, Philadelphia, Penna., on Monday, the 21st day of February, A. D. 1916, when and where you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why such divorce should not be granted against you.
CHARLES S. WOOD,
Attorney for Libellant.

By the summer of 1920, Grace had become a caretaker at Philadelphia's Odd Fellows Home for Orphans, where she also resided. Anna lived at the nearby YWCA, as many single women did, and was still attending the Gaston Presbyterian Church, where, on October 14, 1920 (seven weeks shy of her 20th birthday) she married Albert S. Adams. The newlyweds then moved just outside Albert's hometown of Reading, where Anna eventually gave birth to four children. They named their second daughter "Grace Helen" in honor of her mother and sister, but passed on naming anyone "Zeno".

Years later – evidently to be closer to them – Grace became a housekeeper and live-in companion for a woman in Reading. Then, in 1940, she returned to her birthplace of New York City and shared an apartment with Helen, who somehow had completed three years of college and become an accountant. Their apartment was near the Queensborough Bridge and (as of 1951) the United Nations building. Grace died there on March 20, 1954, at age 78, but her place of interment is as unknown as Zeno's. (*Phila. Inquirer*, Mar 23, 1954)

What's certain is that the failure of Zeno's marriage to Grace contributed to the failure of Iva's marriage to Roy, as Iva and Roy each sided with his/her sibling until their own differences became irreconcilable. Roy moved out after Iva secured a legal separation on September 19, 1907 – which means she and Belle already were alone at 47 Zabriskie Street when, upon leaving for Panama the next month, Zeno listed that as his home address.

Roy and Iva were still married, though, when 35-year-old Roy impregnated 21-year-old Ethel Mae Grant the following June. She lived a mile from Zabriskie Street, but we have no clue how they became involved or to what extent Iva was aware of it. Ethel gave birth to Edgar Roy Colville, Jr. at New York City's Harlem Hospital on March 9, 1909. Then, when presenting the baby for baptism at Manhattan's Episcopal Mission Society, the presumably happy parents identified themselves as "Edgar Roy and Ethel Colville," which, considering Roy was still married to Iva, would qualify as a fib.

Iva eventually learned Roy was in New York City and might even have known about Ethel and their son, but she neither sought nor consented to a divorce – yet. As a woman on her own with a child, remaining married, even technically, protected both Belle’s reputation and her own. Roy and Ethel, by contrast, embarked on a life of perpetual deceit as they churned out another five children. Most people considered it immoral to bear children outside of marriage, but there was no law against it. Then, in 1907, New York made it illegal to engage in *adultery*, i.e., a sexual relationship in which at least one participant is married to someone else. Roy and Ethel, therefore, had a lot to hide, and they did it so well, their descendants appear unaware of it to this day (unless they’re reading this).

By June 1909, in any event, Belle and Iva had returned to Scranton, where they shared 207 Chestnut with the Rauners. Iva hired in as a clerk at the International Correspondence Schools (ICS), which offered in-person and correspondence courses in some 40 engineering trades, and enrolled 100,000 new students each year. She also began identifying herself as “Mrs. Iva Colville”, implying she was married, yet independent. Newspapers, of course, typically ignored such subtleties, referring to her as “Mrs. Roy Colville” or simply, “Mrs. Colville”. Some also identified her as “Ida”, with a ‘d’.

As the sole adult in their home, Iva now had to rely on Belle using good judgment during her many hours alone. It helped that Iva’s cousin, Ferris, lived a few doors away with his wife and daughters, who often included Belle in family events. School No. 16 also was just down the street, but after a coal mine caved in beneath it (really – it was Scranton), the students had to walk to a more distant school. Then Belle fell in with a younger girl across the street and everything went awry.

Girls Raised Money; Left to Spend It

Nora Biles Aged 11, and Levina (*sic*) Colville 13, Missing – Forged Check and Borrowed Coin

Every officer in the Scranton police department was on the lookout today for a pair of precocious offenders who disappeared from their homes in West Scranton yesterday leaving a record behind them that an accomplished crook might well feel proud of. Nora Giles, aged eleven, and Levina Belle Colville, aged thirteen, were the fugitives and before they left, they raised \$62. How they did it by borrowing and forgery makes up an almost incredible story of childish ingenuity and boldness.

The two girls were located at the Laurel Line depot in this city shortly after 1 o’clock this afternoon. They were taken to police headquarters and are now in [the] charge of Mrs. Duggan.

Yesterday afternoon the girls started for New York on the 3:33 train, but when they reached Hoboken, they were both afraid to start out to see the sights and they remained in the station until the next train for Scranton and arrived here at 6 o’clock this morning. Then they went to Avoca to call upon relatives of the Giles family and these people promptly got into communication with the parents in this city.

At the police headquarters they are charged with forgery and larceny. It appears that before getting the money they went into a Lackawanna Avenue store and took a hand purse and then started out to get the money to fill the new purse.

Both girls have been attending school at No. 18 on Hyde Park Avenue and they started for the afternoon session yesterday afternoon. When they did not return late in the afternoon

Mrs. Colville visited the school and to her astonishment learned that neither had been there for a week, for the very good reason that they had been suspended for misconduct. When Mrs. Giles started out to look for her missing treasure, she went to W. C. Bruning's grocery store on North Main Avenue, thinking that she might have stopped in there on her way from school. Mr. Bruning told her that Nora had not been there.

"Oh, by the way, Mrs. Giles" said the grocer, "how about this check." And he showed her a slip of paper showing that somebody had secured \$50 on what purported to be a check on the Keystone bank. It was made out to Mrs. Almira Giles and properly endorsed in a round school girl hand. "Nora brought it in and I gave her money on it," continued Bruning.

Of course, it didn't take long for the woman to explain that the check was a forgery and during the chat between mother and grocer that followed, some more startling information was brought out. Nora had been there a few days before and borrowed ten dollars, which she said her mother needed very badly.

Add to this, two dollars that little Miss Coville borrowed from the family butcher, W.C. Davis, of Lafayette Street, for her mama, and the result is \$62. Some of this was spent, of course, but the pair had the most of it with them when they disappeared yesterday.

When the parents of the girls reported their disappearance to [Police Superintendent] Day this morning, they were very much excited – particularly Mrs. Colville.

Mrs. Colville lives at 207 Chestnut Street and her husband lives in New York. She scouts the theory that Levina Bell's (*sic*) father might have enticed her away.

The Giles' live at 227 Chestnut Street. The children have been together constantly and, since No. 16 school was put out of commission by the mine cave-in, they have been going to No. 18.

Scranton Times, November 10, 1909

The incident was shocking, but what Belle had endured up to that point might explain her role in it. She had been just five years old when her parents took her to New Jersey, where she witnessed a) the breakup of Grace and Zeno's marriage, b) the removal of her closest cousins, Helen and Annie, to some mysterious "home" over in Brooklyn, c) the implosion of her own parents' marriage, and d) her father's abrupt exit from her life. As a postscript, she'd been torn from all her friends in Jersey City and taken back to Scranton to live in the same crowded rooms where her grandfather had died – all before she was 12 years old. It's understandable, then, that at 13, Belle acted out by "borrowing" two dollars and running off with a new friend (who was even more delinquent than she).

The problem now was that, due to the newspaper reports, almost everyone in Scranton knew every embarrassing detail of her escapade. Just showing up at school, church and neighborhood stores would have been awkward for both mother and daughter. Yet, with help from friends, their church and the Post family, they each managed to move on. Belle even did well enough academically to advance to Scranton's Technical High School. But it didn't last. As she neared her 17th birthday in the spring of 1913, Belle, now in the 11th grade, was assuring Iva that everything was going well, which wasn't even close to the truth. In fact, a calamity was at hand. Iva received a note from the school principal in mid-April, asking her to meet with him at his office, where he informed her that Belle had stopped showing up for classes and was failing every subject. The details of what happened next are a bit blurry, but the central fact is that, on Tuesday, April 15, Belle disappeared.

No trace of the whereabouts of Lavinia Colville who ran away from her home last Tuesday has yet been found. The girl is the daughter of Mrs. Roy Colville, 207 Chestnut Avenue, West Scranton.

There is no reason as far as is known for the girl leaving home. She is ... sixteen years old, five feet tall, very thin, of dark complexion, and long dark hair. When she left home her hair was done up in knobs in the back and she wore a red felt hat, gray chinchilla coat trimmed with black velvet and a red serge dress trimmed in black satin and buttons. Any information concerning the girl or her whereabouts should be sent to Mrs. Roy Colville, 207 Chestnut Avenue.

Scranton Times, Apr 22, 1913

It came out afterward that Belle had taken some of Iva's money and boarded a train to Jersey City, where she stayed with old childhood friends. She told their parents she had Iva's permission to be there, but Iva's frantic search makes clear that wasn't true. After several days, her friends' parents became suspicious, so Belle headed for Manhattan. She and her friends spent a day there and, when her friends were ready to head home, Belle said she was going to visit an aunt some blocks to the north. Of four aunts in that vicinity, though, she certainly wasn't heading to see Julia Albro, because Julia would have nabbed her and notified Iva. Belle, in any event, was short of money, so her friends gave her enough to board the streetcar at Sixth Avenue and 25th Street. The friends then left for Jersey City, whereupon Belle "dropped from sight entirely" (*Scranton Truth, Aug. 18, 1913*).

Back in Scranton, Iva was continually urging local and New York City newspapers to publicize the search and to encourage anyone with information to contact either her or the police. Journalistic integrity, of course, varied, with some papers showing authentic concern while others enticed readers with lurid scenarios of an innocent young female wandering alone in the dark, sinister metropolis. One New York writer envisioned Belle falling prey to "notorious...persons who deal in the purity of young girls". Playing up the fact that she was pretty and, at just five feet tall, unusually petite, made the images even more ominous. Another paper said police believed she was dead. Iva herself wondered, as she had during Belle's 1909 disappearance, if Roy was involved. A neighbor said Iva knew Roy worked in a New York City laundry, but hadn't communicated with him since their separation.

In early August, four months after Belle ran off, Iva herself went to New York City to pursue a lead Robert had uncovered, which proved to be a dead-end. The police there had been searching, too, so Iva checked in with them, but they offered little, if any, hope Belle would be found. Undeterred, Iva went to Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*, a paper with a worldwide circulation and news service, and pleaded with an editor there to run Belle's photograph with a request for help in locating her. All she wanted, she said, was for Belle to come home. The editor agreed, and Belle's face soon appeared in newspapers as far away as Texas and California (*see right, El Paso Herald, Aug. 14, 1913*).



Now exhausted and, as she herself put it, "heartbroken", Iva returned to Scranton, where she told a flock of local reporters, "All our efforts to find Belle have so far failed utterly" (*Scranton Truth, Aug. 18, 1913*). The following Sunday, August 24, a couple in New York City saw Belle's picture in *The World* and notified the police.

Technical High School Girl Who Left the City Suddenly Several Months Ago Found Employment in the Home of A. McPherson, of 157 West Seventy-Ninth Street, That City.

Miss Belle Colville, the pretty seventeen-year-old Technical High school student, for whom the police of this city and New York have been ceaselessly searching since her mysterious disappearance four months ago, has at last been found.

Mrs. Iva Colville, the girl's mother, who has never ceased to hope that her daughter would be returned to her, left for New York yesterday afternoon on the 12:40 train, and last evening there was a joyful reunion between mother and daughter at the apartment of A. McPherson, 157 West Seventy-ninth street, where Belle was located. The missing girl had been working in the McPherson household as a maid. A picture published in Sunday's World was the means of clearing up the mystery which has baffled the police and detectives of two cities. Her employer recognized the likeness of the girl and communicated with the authorities.

Mrs. Colville, worn out by the strain of four months' anxious waiting for some news of her missing daughter, broke down and wept when the good news reached her yesterday. A telephone message came to the home of Mrs. R. F. Post, 213 Chestnut street, this city, that the Colville girl had been located. The mother was told at once of the good news, but after following so many false clues in the long weeks since the girl's disappearance, could scarcely believe that her search was ended at last. She took the first train for New York and at 6 o'clock last evening, mother and daughter were clasped in each other's arms, the girl penitent, and the mother too overjoyed at the meeting to chide her. Mrs. Colville and Belle will return to Scranton in a few days.

What motives have kept the missing girl silent during all the weeks the unremitting search for her has been going forward, are a matter of conjecture. When she went to live with the McPhersons the girl told them that her parents were dead. Mrs. Colville's pathetic plea, "I cannot stand the separation much longer," and "Belle, please write to mother," which in the form of a letter to the editors, appeared in a number of New York newspapers, and the picture in the World on Sunday, proved the means of restoring the girl to her mother's arms.

The girl disappeared from Scranton last April. She was traced to New York and then to Jersey City, where she spent several days with friends. She later dropped from sight entirely and the police were about ready to accept the foul play theory when the object of their search was located yesterday.

Scranton Truth, Aug. 25, 1913

The couple, whose name was McPherson, said the girl in the photo was their live-in housekeeper. The police, in turn, contacted Iva to say they were following a lead, meaning they were interviewing the McPhersons and the girl. The McPhersons also alerted *The World*, and a reporter went to their home that evening. Belle admitted her identity to the reporter, but claimed she was 18 (a year older than she was) and that her parents had died, after which she had stayed with friends and relatives in New York and New Jersey before finding work as a nanny and, now, a housekeeper. In short, she told the truth about who she was and what she'd been doing, but lied about her age and family situation. Her clumsiest effort to mislead was claiming her mother had been dead for a year, when it was obvious the reporter was there because Iva had just posted the plea with Belle's photo in that day's paper. Belle simply lacked her father's gift for spontaneous deceit. (See *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, Aug 25, 1913, below)

SCRANTON GIRL WHEN FOUND SAYS SHE WAS NOT LOST

NEW YORK, August 25.—"I am not lost now and never was."

With this emphatic denial Maud Bell Colville, until last April a student in the public high school at Scranton, Pa., greeted a reporter last night at No. 157 West Seventy-ninth street, where she is employed as a maid to Mrs. A. McPherson, the wife of the superintendent of the apartment house at that address. More than that, Miss Colville declared that both her parents were dead.

These statements were made in answer to an article that appeared yesterday on the authority of a Mrs. Iva Colville, of No. 207 Chestnut street, Scranton, who wrote declaring that she was the mother of "seventeen-year-old Bell Colville," who had been missing for some time.

According to Mrs. Colville, Miss Colville was last seen at Sixth avenue and Twenty-fifth street, Manhattan, on May 7 last; it being explained that, though she had been away from her Scranton home a month or so before that date, she had been found with some relatives in New Jersey, and still later with other relatives here in New York. The girl's picture was recognized by Mrs. A. McPherson. Mr. McPherson telephoned the information and said he would gladly allow a reporter to interview the girl.

"Miss Colville is a fine girl," he said yesterday, "and she has had a good home since she came to us. She has been with us since July. Before that she worked a month in another home and came to us well recommended. We have made her practically a member of our family."

All of which was corroborated by the girl. After sitting for her picture she made this further statement:

"I have not been in Scranton since last April. My father died when I was five years old and my mother about a year ago. After her death I went to live with an aunt, who had enough children of her own to take care of. I have relatives in New Jersey and some here in New York. I think the New York relatives have moved since I saw them last. Anyhow it was a case of me looking out for myself. I needed clothing and could not get it unless I worked.

"I left my relatives and started out to take care of myself. I got work with a family and kept it for a month when Mrs. McPherson brought me here. I am just getting on my feet, so to say, and I guess I am strong enough every way to guard myself. I can't understand why anybody should use my mother's name in such a fashion, as my mother is dead. If she were alive I would be with her. I think it must have been my aunt who sent that letter to The World.

"One thing is sure, I'm the girl they are after. But I don't intend to leave here unless I am not needed any longer. I am eighteen now. Mr. McPherson can tell you that I wrote to my aunt; as he instructed me, shortly after I came here. And I have never heard from her. More than that, I wrote half a dozen letters to other relatives. They must have got my letters, because they did not come back here. Just say that I am well and content."

Iva had no telephone and, so, had given the police and newspapers in New York City the home number of her cousin, Ferris, a few houses north — which is how, on the morning of Monday, August 25, his wife, Carrie, became the first person in Scranton to learn Belle had been found. Carrie then raced over to tell Iva, who "broke down and wept". Still stunned and disbelieving, Iva boarded the 12:40 train for New York City and reunited with Belle at 6:00 that evening. Despite Belle's earlier deceptions, she and Iva "were clasped in each other's arms, the girl penitent, and the mother too overjoyed at the meeting to chide her." (*Scranton Truth*, Aug. 26, 1913)

Less than two weeks after Belle and Iva returned home, Ferris and his crew were installing a floor safe at a Scranton train station when he suffered a heart attack and died (*see Chp 8A*). It was a major shock to his family and friends, but Carrie revealed her inner strength by taking charge of the family draying business and moving on with her three children. The Posts also included Belle and Iva in family events. Carrie's middle child, Mary, was two years older than Belle and, when she married the next year (1914), the newspaper account described, not only Mary's dress, but Belle's.

Belle and Iva had been attending the Simpson M.E. Church since moving back from New Jersey in 1909. Now, following Belle's most notorious adventure, they joined Bible studies both there and at ICS, where Iva worked. Belle even became active in Simpson's Epworth League, the young adult group that had helped bring her parents together in the 1890s. She and Iva also attended women's teas and other social events in the area. With the salacious details of their lives having once again become so extraordinarily public, walking into each gathering for the first time might have been difficult, but the support of people who cared about them helped them endure.

Belle soon landed the same position as Iva at ICS and they went on living in the tiny upper flat on Chestnut. Then, in late 1920, they moved to N. Bromley Street and, by 1923, to East Market Street. Two years after that, they were in rural Wayne County, 20 miles east of Scranton. Most people were heading the other way, as industrialization pushed and pulled people from farms into cities. So, it's baffling that two lifelong city women would abandon their jobs, network of friends and urban resources to move to a farm area. More baffling still, Iva chose that time and place to divorce Roy, filing her petition at the Wayne County Courthouse in Honesdale in October 1925. She cited his adultery as the reason, which would be hard to dispute now that he and Ethel had six children. Subpoenas went out in December and the final decree came in July 1926. They'd been married 33 years by then, and separated almost nineteen. In fact, it's doubtful they'd even seen each other since 1908.

Iva then married Frank Kendrew, a farmer who was twelve years older than she. During the 1890s, Frank and his first wife, Lucy, had lived in Scranton, just a mile or so from the Albros, before returning to farming. After Lucy died in 1909, Frank's niece, also named Lucy, lived with him until 1921, by which time he had re-married. Then, his second wife, Katie, died in April 1926, three months before Iva's divorce became final. By the time the 1930 Census came around, Frank and Iva were living with Belle in Pike County's Greene Township, a mile or two east of his previous farm.

Two years later, in April 1932, Belle, who was a month shy of 36 and had never married, developed a gall bladder inflammation, called "cholecystitis", and died in a Scranton hospital. After laying her next to her grandparents, Lavinia and Frank, at the Forest Hill Cemetery in Dunmore, Iva and Frank K. returned to the farm and, within the next five years, they moved back across the county line to Sterling Township. It was around then that Iva was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. Insulin had been available since 1920, but her health continued to decline and, on February 27, 1942, ten years after losing Belle, she died of cardio-renal failure at age sixty-six.



Iva's death certificate says she was interred at Forest Hill alongside Belle and her parents, but her widower, Frank, who had provided headstones for his first two wives, apparently never arranged one for her. He himself died three years later at age 81 and lies alongside his first two wives, Lucy and Katie, over at Madisonville's Hornbaker Cemetery.

HVS-5P-650M-3-40
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 File No. 16836
 Registered No. 57

Primary Dist. No. 64-04-83
 536

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

<p>1. PLACE OF DEATH: (a) County <u>Wayne</u> (b) City or borough or township <u>Sterling</u> (c) Name of hospital or institution: (If not in hospital or institution write street number or location) (d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution _____ (Specify whether _____) In this community <u>20 yrs</u> years, months or days)</p>	<p>2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED: (a) State <u>Pa.</u> (b) County <u>Wayne</u> (c) City or town <u>Rural</u> (If outside city or town limits, write RURAL) (d) Street No. <u>Sterling</u> (If rural give location) (e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? _____ years.</p>
<p>3. (a) FULL NAME <u>Iva G. Kendrew</u></p>	
<p>3. (b) If U. S. Veteran, complete reverse side of certificate _____ 3 (c) Social Security No. _____</p>	
<p>4. Sex <u>F</u> race <u>W</u> 5. Color or _____ 6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced <u>Married</u></p>	
<p>6. (b) Name of husband or wife <u>Frank Kendrew</u> 6 (c) Age of husband or wife if alive <u>77</u> years</p>	
<p>7. Birth date of deceased <u>Nov 11 1875</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)</p>	
<p>8. AGE: Years <u>66</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>15</u> If less than one day _____ hr. _____ min.</p>	
<p>9. Birthplace <u>New York</u> (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p>	
<p>10. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u></p>	
<p>11. Industry or business <u>Own home</u></p>	
MOTHER	<p>12. Name <u>Frank Albrow</u></p>
	<p>13. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p>
	<p>14. Maiden name <u>Lavina Bell</u></p>
FATHER	<p>15. Birthplace _____ (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)</p>
	<p>16. (a) Informant's own signature <u>Mr. Frank Kendrew</u> (b) Address <u>Sterling, Pa.</u></p>
	<p>17 (a) <u>Burial</u> (b) Date thereof <u>3/2/42</u> (Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year) (c) Place: burial or cremation <u>Forest Hill Cem. Dunmore, Pa.</u></p>
<p>18. (a) Signature of funeral director <u>Russell E. Tracy</u> (b) Address <u>So. Sterling, Pa.</u></p>	
<p>19 (a) <u>March 1, 1942</u> (b) <u>Gene C. Ehrhard</u> (Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)</p>	
<p>MEDICAL CERTIFICATION</p>	
<p>20. Date of death: Month <u>Feb</u> day <u>27</u> year <u>1942</u> hour <u>5</u> minute <u>45</u></p>	
<p>21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <u>Nov 1, 1941</u>, to <u>Feb 27, 1942</u>, that I last saw her alive on <u>Feb 26, 1942</u>; and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.</p>	
<p>Immediate cause of death <u>Cardio-renal disease 5 years</u></p>	
<p>Due to <u>Diabetes Mellitus</u></p>	
<p>Due to _____</p>	
<p>Other conditions <u>1310</u> (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)</p>	
<p>Major findings: Of operations <u>None</u> Of autopsy <u>None</u></p>	
<p>PHYSICIAN Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.</p>	
<p>22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following: (a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____ (b) Date of occurrence _____ (c) Where did injury occur? _____ (City or town) (County) (State)</p>	
<p>(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____ (Specify type of place) While at work? _____ (e) Means of injury _____</p>	
<p>23. Signature <u>W. H. Summers</u> (M. D. or other) _____ Address <u>Newfoundland</u> Date signed <u>2-28-42</u></p>	

Roy Colville outlived Iva by 16 years, and his mistress, Ethel Mae Grant, by twenty-eight. If he and Ethel "married" prior to July 1926 (when Iva finally divorced him), then he was a bigamist, and if they hadn't, then Ethel was in on the deception. Some of their descendants now post their family tree on the Internet, supplemented by photos and an obituary. The obituary mentions Roy's participation in a church, Boy Scouting and freemasonry, then lists his "wife" and children by name, adding that he had 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren at the time of his death (*see obituary, below*). Yet, nowhere in any of those family trees or attachments is there any mention of either Iva or Belle, his only lawful wife and child. It's as if they never existed. Yet, clearly, they did.



Photo: Edgar Roy Colville (seated) with daughters Ruth June, Lucena Austin, and Jean Ellie (undated)

Photo and obituary both posted on Ancestry.com., March 30, 2018, by Heather Elaine Sneddon

THE REPORTER DISPATCH
White Plains NOV 14 1958

COLVILLE, Edgar R. Sr., Nov. 13, 1958.
 Reposing at the Oelker & Cox Funeral Home, 262 E. Main Street, Mt. Kisco. Service Sunday at the Mt. Kisco Methodist Church, 2 p.m. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. 11-14

EDGAR R. COLVILLE, Sr.
MOUNT KISCO—

Edgar R. Colville Sr., eighty-six, died yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lucena Sneddon of 45 Dakin St., where he lived.

Mr. Colville had been a Mount Kisco resident for about 35 years and was a member of the Mount Kisco Methodist Church. He had been active in Boy Scout work and was a Mason. At one time he owned and operated his own laundry business in New York. His wife was the late Mrs. Ethel Grant Colville.

Surviving are three other daughters, Mrs. Ethel Knapp, also of Mount Kisco, Mrs. Jean Banks of Wappinger Falls, Mrs. June Acosta of Plymouth Meeting, Pa.; two sons, Edgar R. Colville Jr. of Washington, N. J., and Capt. Warren Colville, USA, stationed in Frankfurt, Germany; 22 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

There are no documents at hand to prove it, but the Rev. G. Murray Colville – the uncle who had taken Roy in as a child and officiated at his wedding to Iva – must have known Roy’s relationship with Ethel was illicit, assuming he knew about it at all. He simply was too well-acquainted with Roy, human frailty and sin to be taken in. He also would have known that: a) his three brothers had become alcoholics, b) two had tried to murder their wives, c) one had served time in prison, d) the youngest had taken his own life, e) his niece, Grace, had separated from Zeno and f) her daughters had ended up in a home for destitute children. Apart from praying and cajoling, though, all Murray could do was watch from a distance as some mixture of alcoholism, mental illness, deceitfulness and unrelenting self-centeredness engulfed, ruined and, in some cases, ended each of their lives.

The most horrifying and tragic development, however, came almost four years after Murray’s death and involved his eldest daughter, her husband and their children. It took place in Passaic, New Jersey, the night of Tuesday, December 2, 1919, but the story didn’t make local papers until later that week, at which point it spread nationwide. The version below is a blend of reports from Passaic and other cities that appeared in the *Elmira Morning Telegram* on Sunday, December 7.

Murdered Wife Was Daughter of the Late Rev. Dr. and Mrs. George Murray Colville Formerly of Binghamton and Scranton—Mrs. Strong Attended the Binghamton High School.

Binghamton, Dec. 6.—No tragedy in recent years has so shocked this city as that, disclosed at Passaic, N. J., Thursday afternoon, when it was discovered that Mason R. Strong had smashed with an axe the heads of his wife and eldest daughter, seriously injured their three other children and cut his throat with a razor. Mrs. Strong was formerly Miss Lena Colville, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Dr. and Mrs. George Murray Colville. Dr. Colville had been pastor of the Centenary and Tabernacle M. E. churches and the West Presbyterian church in this city. His family passed most of their earlier years here and Mrs. Strong attended the high school. It was in Binghamton that Mr. Strong met his wife, while he was an engineer engaged in the construction of the viaduct, in the employ of the Erie railroad. They subsequently had married in Racine, Wis., where Dr. Colville held a pastorate after leaving this city after his first period of residence here. Though Mrs. Strong had not visited this city frequently since her marriage with Mr. Strong, she was held in fond remembrance by the friends of her girlhood days. Charming, accomplished and beautiful, inheriting her father's brilliant mind, she had friends without number. Her marriage with Mr. Strong pleased her friends. He was a son of a clergyman, and a successful structural engineer. In recent years, they had resided in Passaic, where he was one of the most widely known residents. In addition to his business in Passaic, Mr. Strong also had offices in New York city.

The crime appears to have been committed some time Tuesday night, and evidently was the deed of a mad man. Mr. Strong appeared to have arisen in the night, and to have read in a copy of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's book, "In His Steps." The book was found opened on a dresser, marked at a passage which described the plight of a clergyman who realized that his powers were falling. It is believed that he went to the cellar of the home, procured an axe, and crush-

ed the head of his sleeping wife with two terrific blows. Then he attacked his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, sixteen years old, and who apparently had been aroused, striking her down. After striking his eleven years old son, Nathaniel, and inflicting possibly fatal injuries, Strong, his fury passing, inflicted minor injuries upon two other daughters, Nina, fourteen years old and Suzanne, nine years old, and then went to the bath room, severed his jugular vein with a razor and died. The tragedy was not discovered until Thursday afternoon, when playmates discovered Nina and Suzanne, stupefied and dishevelled at their home. They with the boy were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Strong was an elder in the First Reformed church at Passaic, and a deeply religious man. During the past year, two of his older sisters died, and he suffered a nervous breakdown, from which, however, it was believed that he had recovered.

Dr. Colville, father of Mrs. Strong, was while connected with the Methodist church, one of the most conspicuous figures in Wyoming Conference. He left the Methodist ministry to become a Presbyterian, and after holding a pastorate in the west returned to the West Presbyterian church in this city. He died at Liberty, N. Y., about five years ago. The Colville family at one time resided at Scranton, Pa.

Known in Scranton.

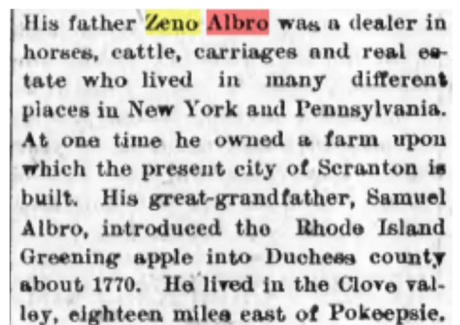
Scranton, Pa., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Mason R. Strong, who was killed with several of her children by her husband, in Passaic, N. J., was a former Scranton girl. She was the daughter of Rev. D. G. Murray Colville, who in the early 80's was pastor of the M. E. church of West Scranton. At the time Mrs. Strong was about eight years of age, Rev. Colville left here for Binghamton and it was there his daughter met Mason R. Strong, who at the time was building engineer for the viaduct over the Erie tracks. Strong was well known in Scranton and during his life built many bridges and viaducts for the Lackawanna railroad.

ENDNOTES – LAVINIA

- ¹ The assertion in Chapter 6 that Lavinia lived with Robert and Margaret from 1855 through 1864 is speculative.
- ² Source: David Michael Hatch, Ancestry.com; citing International Genealogical Index, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1980, 2002. Frank Albro's death certificate lists his father's name as "James", but his mother's tombstone identifies her husband (i.e., Frank's father) as "Joseph". Inasmuch as his father paid for his mother's tombstone, we're going with "Joseph". None of Frank's children ever met his father, so either the person providing the information for his death certificate or the person recording it simply confused "Joseph" with "James".

The birth year of Frank's younger sister, Catherine Louisa, is ambiguous, as well. Most posts concerning the Albro family on Ancestry.com claim she was born in early December 1837, whereas the birth year engraved on her tombstone is 1836. If her birth month was December, however, neither year is possible. Several far more reliable sources indicate that Frank was born in May 1837. Had Catherine been born the previous December, their mother, Polly, would have been no more than four and a half months along when Frank arrived, which would have been unsurvivable. Similarly, Polly would have been no more than six months along if Catherine were born in December 1837, which also would have been unsurvivable. Census data recorded from 1830 through 1900 reflected facts as of June 1 in the census year. The few census reports in which Catherine appeared imply she was born in either late 1837 or early 1838. Inasmuch as she could not have been born the same year as Frank (1837), she must have arrived in 1838 – assuming the census reports were more accurate than her tombstone. She eventually married a farmer named Jethro Tyler and spent her adult life on a farm in Sennett, a northern suburb of Auburn.

- ³ Thomas and Eve had three other children who already had died, one of whom they had named "Philo". Zeno of Elea was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, whom Aristotle later called the inventor of the dialectic, and Philo Judaeus was a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria. Naming their sons after ancient philosophers (as opposed to family members, friends or prominent Americans) suggests that at least one of the parents was well-read in an era when most farmers were, at best, only marginally literate.
- ⁴ News clipping at right: A summary of the life of W.F. Albro's uncle, Zeno Albro. The full article was about Zeno's son, William C. Albro. "The Evening Enterprise", Pokeepsie (sic), NY, July 5, 1902.



His father Zeno Albro was a dealer in horses, cattle, carriages and real estate who lived in many different places in New York and Pennsylvania. At one time he owned a farm upon which the present city of Scranton is built. His great-grandfather, Samuel Albro, introduced the Rhode Island Greening apple into Dutchess county about 1770. He lived in the Clove valley, eighteen miles east of Pokeepsie.

- ⁵ The original address of the house on the corner – the one left to Frank and Lavinia's son, Zeno – was 1002 Franklin, but the city soon changed the street name to "Price". The 1915 city directory listed the second unit there as 1000 Price Street, but with no occupant, and there seems to be no evidence that it was ever used as a double house during the Albros' tenure. The addresses at Frank's house were 207 and 211 Chestnut and, at Robert's, 213-215. Each double house comprised two side-by-side, two-story units. Upon arriving in Scranton, all five Albros moved into 207 Chestnut while renting out the other units. They later divided 207 into upper and lower flats, each of which was quite small by later standards. Iva sold 207-211 in 1920, at which point city officials changed the first number from 207 to 209. Every other house number on the block remains the same now as when the Albros arrived in 1884. The city renamed Chestnut Street "St. Francis Cabrini Avenue" sometime between 1946 and 1949, reflecting changes in the neighborhood's ethnic character.

PLEASE NOTE: Chapter 8A includes a major error, saying the Albros and Posts lived in the borough of Dunmore, which is on the far side of Scranton from Hyde Park. Both boroughs had streets named "Franklin" and "Chestnut" in the early 1880s, but, as noted here, the city later renamed those in Hyde Park, leading to the error in Chapter 8A.

- ⁶ Scranton Suburban Railway Car No. 4 "travelled five blocks, from the intersection of Franklin and Lackawanna to Adams and Spruce, in four and a half minutes. When the company began business the following day, it became one of the nation's first commercial all-electric street car services." Charles J. Van Depoele Library and Archives, the Electric Trolley Museum Association.
- ⁷ Lavinia's nephew, Lester Bell, a son of her half-brother, William Henry Bell, would later attend another Simpson M.E. Church in Detroit.

8 The photo at right shows costumed members of a Pocahontas Auxiliary in another state in 1912. Eatonville Pocahontas Auxiliary to IORM, 1912. Rich Williams, <http://eatonvilleforrainier.com/?p=1591>,



9

The Late Mrs. Lavina Albio.
 Mrs. Lavina Albio, a brief mention of whose death appeared in this column yesterday, has been a resident of this city for the past ten years. She was born in Mentz, N. Y., in 1835. She was connected with the Simpson Methodist Episcopal church and the Ladies' Relief corps of Griffin post, 139. Grand Army of the Republic. She was also a member of Pocahontas Tribe, Independent Order of Red Men, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. Services will be held on Sunday in the Simpson Methodist Episcopal church. Interment will be made in Forest Hill cemetery. She is survived by a husband and three children. They are Robert, Zeno and Mrs. Roy Colville.

Mrs. Albro Dead.
 Mrs. Lavina Albro, wife of W. F. Albro, of 207 Chestnut street, died yesterday after a short illness. Mrs. Albro was an earnest christian woman, whose genial and happy manner won the esteem of her friends. She was 53 years of age, and formerly resided in Auburn, N. Y. She is survived by her husband and two children, Zeno Albro and Mrs. Roy Colville. The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Services will be conducted by Rev. L. C. Floyd, D. D. Interment will be made in the Washburn street cemetery. Auburn papers please copy.

RETURN OF A DEATH.
 TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA.
PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE.

Name of Deceased, *Mrs W. F. Albro*
 Color, *White*
 Sex, *Female*
 Age, *53 years*
 Married or Single, *Married*
 Date of Death, *Jan. 16 1894*
 Cause of Death, *Pneumonia*
 Nationality, *Am*
 Residence, *307 Wash. Av*

Undertaker's Certificate in Relation to Deceased.

Occupation, *House Wife*
 Place of Birth, *N. Y. State*
 When a Minor, { Name of Father, _____
 Name of Mother, _____
 Ward, *14th*
 Street and Number, *207 Chestnut St*
 Date of Burial, *Jan 21st 1894*
 Place of Burial, *Forest Hill*
 Residence, *City*
 Date of Certificate, *Jan 18th 1894*

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS, NO. 50.
 Members of Lieut. Ezra S. Griffin W. R. C., No. 50, are requested to attend the funeral of our deceased sister, Mrs. Lavina Albro, from the family residence, 207 Chestnut street, Sunday afternoon, January 21, 1894, at 1 p. m. sharp. By order of the President.
 MRS. ETTA L. PEARCE.
 MISS MARGARET BRISTLEY, Sec'y.

Newspaper notices: *Scranton Times and Scranton Tribune, Jan 18-20, 1894*

- ¹⁰ In addition to mistaking the location of the Albros and Post homes in Chapter 8A, I erred in saying Ferris and Carrie Post owned the house at 217 Chestnut prior to “building” the one at 221 Chestnut. On further review, there is no evidence they ever built, owned or otherwise occupied 217 Chestnut. 221 Chestnut, moreover, had been there since at least the late 1870s. The Posts did, however, build the large barns on Merrifield Street, directly behind the Albros’ home, which supplemented the existing barn behind 221 Chestnut. Ferris’s wife, Carrie, remained at 221 until her death in 1954, by which time the street had been renamed “St. Francis Cabrini Avenue”. In her later years, she took in roomers. Photo below left: 207-211 Chestnut St (now 209-211 St. Francis Cabrini Avenue) as of 2021. Photo below right: 221 Chestnut St. (now 221 St. Francis Cabrini Avenue) as of 2021. Images downloaded from Google Maps.



- ¹¹ Boston Globe and others newspapers, March 31, 1891.

- ¹² Some of the people posting family trees on Ancestry.com claim Lizzie gave birth to a daughter, Marie Effingham Colville, in 1884, but there is no evidence for that. A New York birth certificate, however, indicates Andrew and Lizzie had a daughter, Catherine Effingham Colville, on May 24, 1881. It’s the only official record appearing online as of February 2022 that indicates they had a child by that name. The birthdate, however, is the same as that of their daughter, Maud(e) Colville, who eventually married a man named Farwell. It appears, then, that Catherine either became known as “Maud” or was Maud’s twin and died in infancy. No other government record has yet surfaced indicating they had a child named Catherine and none whatever has surfaced showing they had a daughter named Marie. For now, we’re proceeding on the assumption that Lizzie gave birth to six children and that the eldest, Catherine, became known as “Maud”.

From Ancestry.com:

Name:	Catherine Effingham Colville
Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	24 May 1881
Birth Place:	Manhattan, New York City, New York, USA
Residence Address:	320 East 30 th Street
Certificate Number:	312867
Father:	Andrew Colville
Mother:	Lizzie Colville
Mother Maiden Name:	Keely

- ¹³ Admission Registers, Sing Sing Prison, 1890-1891. New York, Aug 25, 1890.

SOLDIER A SUICIDE

W. F. **Albro** Found Hanging to the
Transom of His Bedroom Door.
Had Been Dead for Hours.

FINE MILITARY RECORD

William F. **Albro**, one of the best known G. A. R. men in this city, committed suicide by hanging himself to the transom of his bedroom door some time during Saturday night. Mr. **Albro** resided alone on the upper floor of his house, two hundred and seven Chestnut avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rauner occupied the lower portion of the house. They say the last they heard of Mr. **Albro** was about 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon, when he was walking around the rooms.

John Finch, who also resides on Chestnut avenue and was a particular friend of Mr. **Albro** and helped look after him, called on Saturday evening but found the door locked and lights out. He supposed **Albro** had gone to bed, so he returned home. Shortly after dinner yesterday he called again with the same result. After he returned home he became worried and sent his granddaughter to see if Mr. or Mrs. Rauner could tell anything about Mr. **Albro**. Together they went upstairs and tried the door, but were unable to secure an entrance. They looked through the crack under the door and could see his toes just touching the floor.

looked through the crack under the door and could see his toes just touching the floor.

They hurried out and notified Sergeant Thomas Lowry of the West Side police station who, with Patrolman Evans, hurried to the scene. They burst open the door and found him hanging from the transom. He was immediately cut down, but the body was cold, showing that he had been dead for several hours.

He had used a heavy wrapping twine, which he had tied to the transom and around his neck, while standing on a chair. He had miscalculated the distance and the rope was long enough so his toes just reached the floor.

Albro was fully dressed, and on the table in the kitchen were two envelopes, sealed, stamped and directed. One was to a friend in Syracuse and the other was to his daughter, Mrs. Iza Colville, of Jersey City.

For several years he had been living alone, his wife having died about ten years ago. He had been quite cheerful of late, in fact his friends had not noticed any change. About a year ago he had a stroke of paralysis and it is thought that he feared another stroke and for this reason he took the course he did.

He is survived by two sons, Robert of Pittston and Zeno of Jersey City and one daughter, Mrs. Iza Colville of Jersey City.

Coroner Stein was notified and after an examination ordered the body to be taken in charge by Undertaker Price.

15 William F. Albro Death Certificate, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Filed Monday, April 2, 1906.

FORM V-B, 2003.

PLACE OF DEATH
County of Lacka

Registration District No. 4

Township of _____ or Borough of _____ or City of Scranton (No. 907 Chestnut St St. 14 Ward) File No. 39684

Primary Registration District No. _____ Registered No. 557

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information."] FULL NAME William F. Albro

(If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <u>M.</u>	COLOR _____	DATE OF DEATH <u>Apr 1</u> 190 <u>6</u>	(Month) (Day) (Year)
DATE OF BIRTH <u>May 20</u> 18 <u>37</u>	(Month) (Day) (Year)	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 190_____ to _____ 190_____	
AGE <u>68</u> years, _____ months, _____ days		that I last saw him alive on _____ 190_____	
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Widowed</u>		and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>9</u> A. M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:	
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>New York</u>		<u>Suicide by hanging</u>	
NAME OF FATHER <u>James Albro</u>		(Duration) _____ Days	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>New York</u>	(State or country) <u>don't know</u>	Contributory _____	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER _____		(Duration) _____ Days	
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>don't know</u>	(State or country) _____	(Signed) <u>James Stein</u> M. D.	
OCCUPATION <u>Retired</u>		<u>Apr 2</u> 190 <u>6</u> (Address) <u>Scranton Pa.</u>	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF		SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents. How long at _____ Days	
(Informant) <u>Geo L. Leville</u>		Usual Residence _____ Place of Death? _____ Days	
(Address) <u>47 Zeligskul St. Scranton</u>		Where was disease contracted? _____	
Filed <u>Apr 2</u> 190 <u>6</u>	<u>W. H. Hartman</u> Registrar	PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Forest Hill Cem.</u>	DATE OF BURIAL <u>Apr 3</u> 190 <u>6</u>
		UNDERTAKER <u>Wm. Bruce & Son</u>	ADDRESS <u>Scranton</u>

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH. If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.

16 1924 Voter List, New York, New York. Robert and Miles also cast ballots in the 1924 Presidential election.

17 Application for Seaman's Certificate of American Citizenship, Miles Albro (b. Scranton, PA, October 26, 1897), June 16, 1921.