

Relationships of 3 Boys in 1 Family

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Clark Wood and Mary Hilborn are my paternal great grandparents. My grandfather was the only child they had together. However, there were two more boys in the family and explaining the relationships between the three boys always gets involved and complicated but here goes.

According to a family bible entry, Clark Wood was born 22 July 1827 in Millcreek Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania.¹ The best source for the birth of Mary Ann Hilborn comes from her mother's Civil War Pension application² where she had to list the names and birthdates of all her children. Mary was born 18 Feb 1842 in Erie County, Pennsylvania. (Answering the question of why the Civil War Pension Application is another story altogether!)

Marriage records from those days are hard to come by because the government wasn't much interested in who married, who was born or who died. Times change! But, according to a source that has so far been trustworthy,³ Clark and Mary were married on 23 Mar 1871 in Belle Valley, Erie County, Pennsylvania. It was the second marriage for both of them.

My grandfather, Harley John Wood, was born on 26 Aug 1876 in Belle Valley.⁴ He was actually named John Harley but preferred to be called Harley, so he switched the name order. Also, he was named for his uncle Harley Hilborn who died of wounds received in the Battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War. (That's part of that 'another story altogether!')

OK, so far, so good. We have a husband and wife with a son. Now, where did the other two boys come from? Remember I said, "It was the second marriage for both of them."

Clark Wood first married Louisa "Lucy" Cook on 14 Feb 1867 in Belle Valley.⁵ They had a son, Walter Ernest, born 29 Dec 1867 probably in Erie County. I cannot 'prove' his birth date and place but the 1870 and subsequent census back up that date.⁶ Walter's mother, Lucy, died 25 Dec 1868 probably in Erie County but I have not documented that date or place.

Mary Hilborn first married John Eliakim Cook on 9 May 1867 in Greene Township, Erie Co, Pennsylvania.⁷ They had a son, Edward Hilborn, born 25 Mar 1868 in Erie, Pennsylvania.⁸ Edward's father, John Eliakim, died 27 Jan 1870 in Millcreek Township, Erie Co, Pennsylvania but I have not documented that date or place.

¹ WOOD Family Bible. (Last known in the possession of Mark Kennelley Aulenbacher, North East, PA.).

² Civil War Pension Application No. 386545 for Harley J. Hilborn and Roxy A. Hilborn (mother). Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

³ Charles Wells Hayes, *George Hayes of Windsor & His Descendants* (1883; reprint, Salem, Massachusetts: Higginson Book Co., 1994), p. 73.

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Erie Society for Genealogical Research, "Marriages: (Continued from Vol. 38 No. 1)," *Keystone Kuzzins*, Volume 38 No. 2 (May 2010): 13. (Abstracted from Erie Newspapers.)

⁶ 1870 Federal Census (population); Pennsylvania, Erie Co., McKean Twp., Page 5, Lines 15-19. National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, roll 1341, n. 266.

⁷ Charles Wells Hayes, *George Hayes of Windsor & His Descendants* (1883; reprint, Salem, Massachusetts: Higginson Book Co., 1994), p. 73.

⁸ *ibid*

OK, that's the other two boys listed as family members in the U. S. Census. Now what is the relationship between Walter, Edward and Harley? Harley is a half-brother to Walter because they have a common father, Clark, but different mothers. Harley is also a half-brother to Edward because they have a common mother, Mary, but different fathers. From what I have told you so far there is no consanguineous⁹ relationship between Walter and Edward but is there more? Yes!

Clark Wood first married a Cook. Mary Hilborn first married a Cook. Were these two Cooks, Lucy and John, related? Yes, they were brother and sister. They were the children of John Cook and Mary Elizabeth Russell, who were married 1 Jan 1840.¹⁰

Now what is the relationship between the three boys? Walter and Edward have common grandparents, John Cook and Mary Elizabeth Russell, and that makes them first cousins.

Was Harley related to the Cooks? Not really, but it could be called an affine¹¹ relationship because they were related by marriage. Am I related to the Cooks? I am Harley's grandson so it is also an affine relationship. But, both Walter and Edward are my great uncles. Consanguineous great uncles through my great grandparents.

Want to have some fun? Try making a pedigree chart of this mess. Now you understand why I said the "Relationships of 3 Boys in 1 Family" was, "involved and complicated."



Seated in the chairs are Clark WOOD and Mary Ann HILBORN (COOK) WOOD.
On the left are Edward Hilborn COOK and his wife Jemima "Mima" Esther MORROW
COOK with their two children Edith M. COOK and Edward Everett COOK.

On the far right top step is Harley John WOOD.

Seated on the second step are Blance QUANCE WOOD and her husband Walter WOOD.
This picture was taken around 1898 because the children look to be about two and five.

⁹ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/consanguineous> : of the same blood or origin; specifically: descended from the same ancestor.

¹⁰ *History of Erie County, Pennsylvania* (1884; reprint, Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co, 1976), p. 120.

¹¹ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/affine> : a relative by marriage.