

## John Michael Dorcy and Opal Aloha Hempsmeyer

John was born 23 Nov. 1896 in McHenry, Harrison Co., Mississippi on the 160 acre homestead which his father, John Carroll Dorcy, and his mother, Bridget Corr Dorcy, had struggled to build up since about 1892. The family moved to Sedro Woolley, Washington leaving Mississippi Sept. 4, 1906 and arriving in Skagit county Oct. 1, 1906. One family story said that they stopped briefly in Oregon, but moved on to Washington where work was more plentiful.

John went to school in Sedro Woolley through the 8th grade and one year of high school in Bellingham, Washington. He took his first communion in Sedro Woolley in 1906. He had some schooling at the University of Washington. Bridget, John's mother was her children's first teacher & John said she was a good reader & really made the stories come alive. The first school was in a rented church building. The boys had to take turns carrying wood for the stove. There were two teachers, one on either side of the room. There was no division or aisle in the room. At first whomever was punished had to sweep the floor and John did his share of that duty. He did such a good job that the teacher asked him to continue but he said no until they offered him pay. So John swept for 25 cents a week. They gradually added to his duties until he was earning \$5.00 a week. He gave the money to his mother saying he had no use for money since he had all the food & everything he needed. After the 8th grade John started teaching school.

He went to work for Dempsy Logging Co. in upper Skagit. The post office was Birds View. The family album includes a picture of him on a logging crew in 1916. Later he worked for Matlock Logging Co. in Shelton as 2nd rigger & loader.

John married Opal Aloha Hempsmeyer in April, 1918. Their marriage is registered at Sacred Heart Parish in South Bellingham. In September John was drafted to serve in World War I. After training he was sent overseas almost immediately, and he reached France as the armistice was signed. A lovely greeting card that he sent to his sister, Sarah, on 26 Nov. 1918 from Vitrey, France has been preserved in the family memorabilia. He served in Verdun, France, also. Later he served in Pershing's Army of Occupation in Germany for some time and while he was there his son, Johnnie, was born.



Opal and John

## The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

He sent a post card to his sister, Sarah, dated 31 March 1919 from Berncastle, Germany on the banks of the Moselle River. On May 3rd while in Germany he completed a course in telegraphy. He was serving at that time in company F, 358th Infantry, 90th Div., AEF in Berncastle. He said he felt as though it was still war conditions in occupied Germany. He was mustered out in June, 1919, as a private, 1st class.

In 1920 John, Sr. was again working in the lumber camp as shown by a picture in the family album. In a letter from Opal to her mother on Oct. 19, 1922 she says that they are living at Camp Four somewhere near Shelton. By 1923 they are again in Skagit County. In the 1923-24 Polk directory for Skagit County John and his father-in-law are running a garage in Concrete, WA.

In 1924 their home was in Bellingham at 807 Elk Street, and he owned and operated the Triangle Service Station at the intersection of Boulevard and Elk Streets. He also operated the Standard Station at Elm Street and continued to operate service stations until at least 1927. In 1934 John, Sr., was interested in politics and ran for councilman of the sixth ward in Bellingham. By 1935 he was custodian at Washington School and lived at 815 Donavon, Bellingham. John continued working for the schools during the depression and transferred to Seattle in 1942. He held a Certificate of Graduation from the "Technology of Steam Engineering and Building Operation" dated 1956. He was president of Union 609, Operating Engineers for 2 years. Starting in 1949 he was financial secretary of W.P.S.E. for 6 years, then Treasurer for W.P.S.E. from 1960 for some period of time.

Opal, who was born in Kansas in 1901, daughter of Nellie Teal and William Hempsmeyer, died in October 1948, age 47, and is buried in Evergreen Memorial Park in the Seattle area. Their residence at the time of her death was 1721 N. 41st, Seattle.

John married Florence (Russell) Jacobson in April 1949 and in 1996 she lives at the family home in Snohomish, Washington.

John was a member of the Masonic Lodge at least as early as 3 May 1941 and received Master of the Royal Secret of the 32nd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite on 25 Feb 1942. He also held the position of Noble Grand of the Ballard IOOF. The Masonic Lodge funeral team of Seattle participated in his funeral service in 1988.

John Michael Dorcy, Sr. died 8 Sept 1988 in Snohomish, WA and is buried in the G.A.R. Cemetery there.

John and Opal had their first child while John, Sr., was still serving in Germany:



John in 1918 or 1919

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(4) **John Michael Dorcy, Jr.** was born 7 Feb 1919. He graduated from Western Washington College in June 1941 and was a teacher after his military service. He entered the service and completed armed forces aircraft armorer school Oct. 26, 1943. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Europe for eighteen months during WW2 and returned to the U.S. on the Queen Elizabeth to New York on 31 Aug. 1945 as a corporal. He taught at Highline High School and Puget Sound Junior high. He taught at Sylvester Junior High when it first opened. His specialty was Northwest and American history. He was a baseball umpire for twenty years, and worked in Little League and Boy Scouts. A letter from Nanrue to her in-laws, John and Florence Dorcy, 13 Oct. 1974 talks about John's hospitalization for heart trouble. He died in 1975 in Burien, Washington and the Sylvester Junior High School gives out a John M. Dorcy Memorial Scholarship award annually for high school graduates. John married Nancy Rue Battenfield in 1945 in Yakima, Washington. She was the daughter of Bruce J. and Myrtle Battenfield of Yakima, Washington and was born in 1920 at Newaukum, Washington. John and Nanrue had:

(5) **Lee Denise Dorcy** was born in 1947 in Seattle. She married Frank Harold Chaney in Seattle in 1968. Lee raised Kari L. Lucena, and Kari attended Hamlin University in Minnesota. Lee and Frank Chaney divorced in 1975. Their child is:

(6) **Sara Kathleen Chaney** was born in 1972. Sara earned her degree and attended graduate school at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She returned to Seattle to be close to her mother.

(5) **Bruce J. Dorcy** was born in 1948. Bruce's career is in music. He spent many years on the East Coast where he graduated from New York Conservatory of Music. In a letter from Nanrue to her husband's parents, she said "Johnny (Bruce's father) warned Bruce about string players, but I guess he didn't heed the good advice. He married one anyway", Debbie Greitzer in 1974 in New York. In 1996 he is living in Seattle with his new wife, Beverly Reese. He continues to perform for symphonys, ballets, etc. Bruce and Debbie had:

(6) **Rebecca J. Dorcy** was born April 1979.

John, Sr., came home from Germany in late summer 1919 and said his wife, Opal, didn't recognize him until his father-in-law welcomed him. He was much heavier and had a mustache. Their second child was:

(4) **Arthur Eugene Dorcy** was born 21 Aug. 1920 in Bellingham, Washington. He was a mathematics major in Western Washington College of Education when there were indications of a war starting. He moved to Seattle, rooming with his brother, and went to work for Boeing making B-17 bombers. He enlisted in the Air Force in

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September, 1942 and trained at many bases in the U.S. before going to Lakeland, Florida air base. He served twenty one months in the 15th Air Force bomb group in Foggia, Italy in the intelligence section and was a staff sergeant. His first trip ashore on Italian soil was in Taranto, Italy 14 Feb 1944. After his discharge in December, 1944, he earned his B.A. in Education. He began his teaching career in the Grays harbor area, but soon moved to the Tacoma school districts. He taught at Brown's Point Elementary in North Tacoma and in 1953 was baseball coach for the champs. After about thirteen years of teaching he served an additional twenty one years as principle of elementary schools. He has had many interests and was a scoutmaster in 1941, taught gymnastics for several years, was president of the Tacoma Agate Club in 1968 and during retirement has become a talented woodcarver. Arthur met Lessie Lavon Smith at a USO dance in Lakeland, Florida, and corresponded with her while he was in Italy. She is the daughter of Rev. John J. and Minnie (Hayline) Smith. After Art returned from overseas they married in Lakeland in July of 1946. Their children are:

(5) **Lynn Diane Dorcy** was born in 1951 in Tacoma, Washington. She graduated from Wilson High School in Tacoma and earned an associates degree from Tacoma Community College. She married Gary Alan Lyscio in Tacoma in December 1971 and ran a day care for children for twelve years. She divorced Gary and worked for security at the Tacoma Dome for several years. She is a security supervisor for Meydenbauer Convention Center in Bellevue and resides in Tacoma. In her spare time Lynn is doing her own remodeling of her home and is an avid gardener. Lynn and Gary's children are:

(6) **Anthony Lee Lyscio** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1972. He graduated from Wilson High School in Tacoma and he has finished three years at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He plans to finish his degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota. Tony married Tanya Kay Collins in August 1993 in Montana. She was born in 1975 in Missoula, Montana and earned her BA in Elementary Education from Bethel College. Tony has his own business of printing personalized children's books.

(6) **Michelle Le'Anne Lyscio** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1977. She graduated from Henry Foss High School in 1995 and is currently attending Tacoma Community College. She works at *Exclusively Pets* and lives with her mother.

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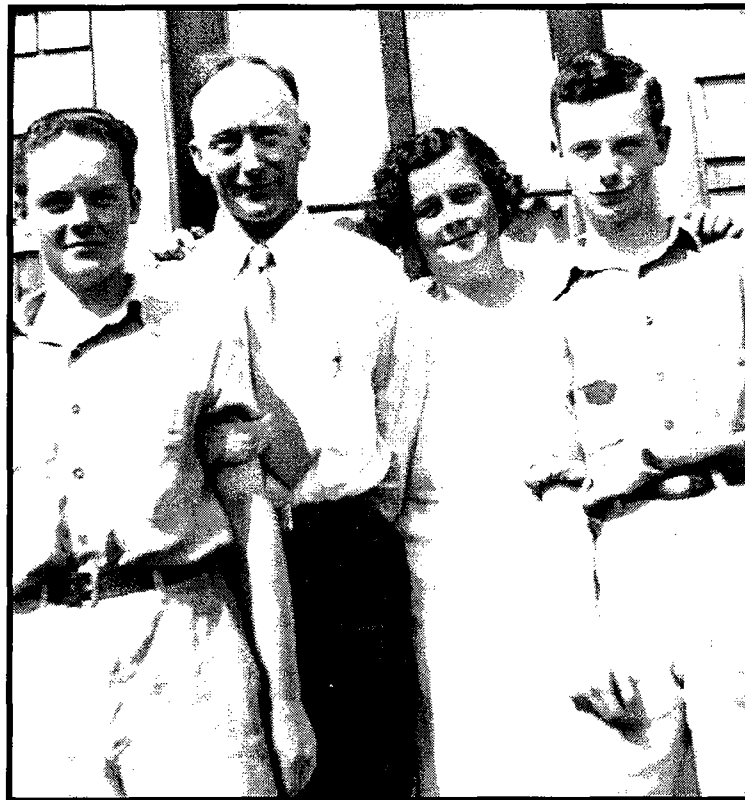
(5) **Sharon Kay Dorcy** was born in Tacoma, Washington in 1956. Sharon graduated from Wilson High School and is working at the Auburn Super Mall. Sharon has three children:

(6) **Clarissa Dione Dorcy** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1977. She graduated from Henry Foss High School in 1995 and is working for Milgard Manufacturing Company in Fife, Washington.

(6) **Sasha Jenelle Dorcy** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1983.

(6) **Marcus Eugene Dorcy** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1992.

(5) **Robert Arthur Dorcy** was born in Tacoma, WA in 1959. He graduated in 1982 from ITT Technical Institute. Robert currently works in the Portland, Oregon area in the electronic industry. He married Charlene Annette Keeney in Portland, OR in July 1996 and they make their home in Vancouver, Washington.



L- R: Art, John, Sr., Opal, John, Jr.

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