

William Jeremiah Dorcy and Emma Olive Knapp

William Jeremiah was the fourth and youngest child of John Dorcy, Civil War cavalry soldier, and Mary Ellen (Carroll) Dorcy. He was born in St. Clair County, Michigan in 1863, just a year before his father went off to war never to return. His birth and baptism are recorded at the Catholic Church, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in Emmett, Michigan. William Carroll and Emily Hyde were his Godparents. His birth is verified by his mention in the widows pension application of his mother, Mary Ellen, in 1865.

He continued to live with his mother through at least 1880 when he is listed with his mother in the federal census in Emmett, as a farm laborer. He is alone with his mother at this time. His older brothers have left home, and are probably working in the logging industry since it was going strong at that time in Michigan.



William and family, about 1917-18.

L-R back row: John, Sarah, Marjorie, Ida (Peggy) and William, Jr.

Middle row: Emma, William, Sr., Mary (Molly).

Front row: George (Buster), Frances (Sister Mary Jean), Virginia (Puss)

On 9 Dec. 1884 William bought forty acres, the SE1/4 of the SW1/4 of section 36 of T17N R17W, in Riverton Township, Mason County, MI. He bought the land from Hall Lumber Company, so one can imagine that it was probably forty acres of stumps! The location is significant because his uncle William Carroll, Mary Ellen's brother, is listed as a first land owner there in the same section of land. They lived within a mile of each other. William Carroll filed for a patent on his land in 1870 and lived on it at least as early as 1877. These families, the Dorcys and the Carrolls, as so many families of the times did, moved on to cheaper and better land as it became available; and they often moved in groups to be near family or close friends. William Carroll's brother, Cornelius, also settled in the same area a few miles west of William Dorcy's new home.

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

His mother moved to be with him soon after William bought the land in 1884, since she is listed in the 1890 Union Veteran's census as living in Riverton Township.

We think life was pretty hard for them with land to clear, a farm to run, and a house to build. However, we have no first hand knowledge of the family at that time, only the general history of so many pioneer families of that period. If William was typical of the men of his time, he was farming and probably working out part of the time in the lumber industry.

William was married in 1890 to Emma Olive Knapp, as recorded in the Mason County, MI records. Their license was issued Nov. 1, 1890 and they were married on Nov. 25th by Robert W. Brown, pastor of St. Simon's Catholic Church in Ludington, MI just a few miles from their home. Emma was born in Mason, County, MI in 1871. Her father was William W. Knapp and her mother is on the marriage license as Ida Tyler. The Knapp family were also "first owners" of their property which they bought from the government as public land. Read more about the Knapp family later in this chapter.



William Dorcy, about 1890

Many of the family photographs including the picture at the left were taken in Pentwater, Oceana County, Michigan. The families, the Dorcys and the Carrolls, lived just a few miles east of Pentwater, but their homes were in Mason County; So the marriage and the births of the children are found in the Mason County records.

In about 1905 William sold his land in Michigan and moved his family to Pueblo, Colorado in hopes that Emma's, health would improve. It didn't seem to help and after William's mother, Mary Ellen, died in the spring of 1906, the family moved to Skagit County, WA. William Jeremiah Dorcy is listed In the Skagit County directory for the years 1905-06 as living in Anacortes; so he must have moved to the Skagit Valley shortly after his mother's death.

Some of Emma's family, including her parents, had preceded them to the area. The William Knapp family sold at least part of their land in Riverton Township, MI in 1903 probably in preparation for a move. William's daughter Alice said the Knapps were here before the Dorcy's came and, as stated earlier, William and Emma were here in 1906. Alice also said William's Dorcy's family lived with Emma's brother, Fred Knapp, and his family in Getchell until the Dorcys could build their home.

By 1910 William and his family have moved to their home near Anacortes. The 10 acres he bought is on what is now 32nd street in the town of Anacortes. William was a truck gardener and the family lived there for many years, even after Emma died in 1937.

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

William and Emma had nine children. Five of them, John, Mary Agnes, Anna, Frances and Walter had no children. Four are shown on the this page with their brief biographies. Frances and the other four have their own chapters.



**John Grover
Dorcy.**

He was born in 1891 in Riverton Township, MI. and died in 1949 in Anacortes, WA. He never married and was known as a big brother to all. In the 1937 Anacortes city directory he was listed as the city clerk and was living at 1901 32nd St. with his sister, Marjorie. He loved the violin and had a special one made for himself; however, it is said he didn't play very well.



Mary Agnes Dorcy

Molly, as she was called, was born in 1895 in Riverton Township, MI, and died about 1936. We find her listed in the Polk, Seattle City Directory in 1919 as "Molly Dorcy clerk, res. at 1216 "University". She is listed in 1920 as "Molly Dorcy stenographer, res at 1216 "University".

In the 1920 census she is boarding at St. Teresa's on Howard Ave. with her sister Ida. Ida said Molly never married.



**Anna Marjorie
(Mickey) Dorcy**

She was born in 1899 in Riverton Township, MI. In 1937 she was living in Anacortes, WA and teaching at Whitney school. Margie (or Mickey) married Oral K. Motteler, a very proper downeaster, in a Catholic ceremony in 1942, a first marriage for both. He was a mill worker, a slow and deliberate person; she was a "get it done" person and very pretty according to her nephew, John Achey. She died in 1949 at Forks, WA.



**George Walter
Dorcy**

He was born in 1910 in Anacortes, WA. He was called Buster by his family. He and his sister, Alice, were good friends and always played together. Buster died in 1918 of complications of diabetes.

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

William died in 1928 in Anacortes of complications following influenza and is buried in Grandview Cemetery there. Emma died in Anacortes in 1937.

The Knapp Family

William W. Knapp was born in Ohio in May, 1849. The 1900 census lists his father, Luke Knapp, as being born in New York and his mother, Mary Ann Lewis, was born in Pennsylvania. William was a farmer. He married Ida Tyler in about 1871.

Ida Georgianna Tyler was born in August, 1850, in Wisconsin. She was the daughter of George W. Tyler, who was born in New York, and Diantha Littlefield, who was born in Maine. George and Diantha had two other children that we know of: Henry and Walter. George (M.) Tyler was listed as a first land owner in Mason County, MI, having obtained his land, which was close to the Knapp family, by patent in about 1870. The family is listed in the 1870 census in Mason County, MI. Alice Dorcy says "Grandma Knapp knit more sweaters for the soldiers in WWI than anybody."

The births of all nine children of William and Ida Knapp are listed in Mason County, MI records. They are: Emma Olive Knapp, born 5 June 1871, Cora Knapp, born 24 August 1873, Frederick W Knapp, born 6 March 1876, Ernest Luke Knapp, born 1 June 1878, Alice L. Knapp, born 11 June 1883, Laroy L. Knapp, born 21 January 1886, George Knapp, born 3 April 1888, Walter E. Knapp, born 12 June 1890, Robert Knapp, born 10 November 1894. Aunt Cora (Knapp) Mannus was a great favorite of her nieces and nephews and their children.



Four generations: L-R Emma (Knapp) Dorcy, John Grover Dorcy (baby), Ida (Tyler) Knapp, Diantha (Littlefield) Tyler