

Ida Grace Dorcy and George Jackson Bennett

Ida was named for her maternal grandmother when she was born 21 January 1897 in Mason County, Michigan but she was called Peggy mostly. She came to Washington with her family when she was about nine years of age. Most of her school years were spent in Anacortes, WA and she was in the graduating class of 1916 at Anacortes High School. She entered nurses training at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham from 1916 -1919 and was in the first graduating class from there. She received her Registered Nurse credential in 1920.

In the 1920 census for King county Ida, or Peggy as she was known, is single, a boarder at St. Teresa's on Howard Ave., and a private nurse.

The Polk directory for Seattle for 1920 shows "Ida G. Dorcy nurse, 1216 University, Seattle." She and Molly, her sister who is a stenographer, lived in the same boarding house.

Ida said in a letter to John Dorcy's wife, Florence, that she tried to get her birth certificate in 1943 so she could join the Navy Nurse Corp.



Ida Grace Dorcy about 1919

"I found there was no record of my birth or baptism. My parents were dead by then, but an older brother and sister said I had always been in the family! This did not satisfy the Navy, but perhaps we could venture to put it in a biography."

Whether it was as a result of her application to the Navy or a requirement for Social Security her birth is now recorded in Mason County, Michigan as a delayed birth record. Ida's Aunt Cora (Knapp) is said to have helped her get her birth record established since she was present at the birth. Ida didn't serve in the Navy, but she was head of OB nursing at St. Joseph Hospital, Bellingham, for many years. Her nephew, John Achey, remembers her as a "very proper lady".

Ida married George Jackson Bennett, son of George W. and Mary (Jackson) Bennett, in Bellingham on 10 Feb 1923. Ida's husband, George, served in the U.S. Coast Guard and retired in 1934 in California with a medical discharge. He worked in a gas station in Garden Grove, California, for some time when the children were small. The family returned to Bellingham in 1935 where George worked as a machinist and Ida was head obstetrics nurse for St. Joseph's hospital. Later she worked at St. Lukes hospital, also in Bellingham. They lived at 19th and Harris in South Bellingham for some time

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before moving out to Lake Whatcom to live on a piece of property willed to Ida by a former patient. In 1943 George and Ida went their separate ways. George Bennett died in 1970. Ida died in Bellingham in 1972 of heart trouble and is buried in Green Acres Cemetery, Ferndale, WA. George and Ida had three children;

(4) **Mary Frances Bennett** was born in Anacortes, WA in 1923 and married Sargent Robert Grunhurd in 1944 in Munich, Germany. He was a tailgunner in a B-17 in the Air Force and was killed in action in 1945. Mary served in the U.S. Navy Waves for two years beginning in 1944. She married Percy Komen in 1948 in Bellingham. Percy was born in 1922 in Lynden, WA. In 1996 they live in Arizona. They adopted three children while living in Port Townsend:

(5) Charles Edward Komen was born in 1962 and died in 1969 in a tragic accident in Port Townsend, WA.

(5) Stephen Michael Komen was born in Port Townsend, WA in 1963. In 1991 he married Carinne Baldwin. They have two children:

(6) Patty Komen was born in 1979.

(6) Stephen Ray Komen was born in 1995.

(5) Valerie Lynn Komen was born in Prosser, WA in 1965. She married Tim Kaiser 29 June 1983 and had:

(6) Larry Charles Kaiser was born in 1983.

(6) Jaimie Kaiser was born in 1987.

(6) Alan Kaiser was born in 1989.

(4) **Olive Carolyn Bennett** was born in Anacortes, WA in 1925. When Carol, as she was known, was in the first grade, her father was transferred to California. She vividly remembers the 1933 earthquake in Lomita, CA although she was only eight years old. She graduated from high school in Bellingham, WA in 1943. She worked for twenty years in bakery sales as a cake decorator, retiring in 1982. Carol married George Gooding, son of Edward W. Gooding and Sadie May Brenninghouse, in Paris, TX, in 1944 where he was serving in the army at Camp Maxey. They recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. George was born in 1922 in Bellingham, WA. He served in the US Army in WW2 in the field artillery with Gen. Patton's 3rd Army in Europe and retired from the Washington State Department of Highways. They have two children:

(5) **Susan Diane Gooding** was born in 1946 in Bellingham WA. She graduated from Bellingham High School and in 1996 and she graduated from McDonalds Beauty School. Susan is employed in housekeeping in Skagit Valley Hospital. She married Clinton Parker in 1975 in Bellingham. Clint was born in 1940 in Burlington, WA and served in the Vietnam war. He works in construction and their child is:

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(6) **Krystal LeAnn Parker** was born in 1978 in Mt. Vernon, WA.

(5) **Stephen Gooding** was born in 1950 in Bellingham WA. He graduated from Bellingham High School in 1968 and served in the US Army for eight years, a large part of the time in Korea and Germany. Steve earned a BSEE degree in engineering from Mesa College in Arizona in 1987. For sixteen years he has worked in Scottsdale, AZ for Motorola Aero Space and in 1996 is in a Government and Space Technology Group. He married Janet Kincaid in 1975 in Mesa, AZ and they divorced in 1993. Their daughters are:

(6) **Jennifer Lynn Kincaid Gooding** was born in Mesa, AZ in 1971. She graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education from N.A.U. in Flagstaff, AZ. Jennifer teaches in Special Education.

(6) **Melissa Carol Gooding** was born in 1980 in Bellingham, WA. She attends Mesa High school in Arizona.

(4) **George William Bennett** (called Bill) was born in 1926 in Anacortes, WA. He finished the eleventh grade and went into the Navy. When he returned from the Navy he earned a General Education Diploma and worked in the butcher business for five years. He then worked as a fireman in Bellingham, WA for twenty eight years, retiring as acting Chief. Bill taught classes in hydraulics to the firemen and EMT classes through out the county as well as various classes at Bellingham Community College. For many years he held two jobs, working for the church as janitor on week ends. After retiring from the fire department Bill worked for Whatcom County for four years learning about hazardous materials and emergency management. While there he developed skills and wrote manuals on how to manage hazardous materials and other emergencies. Three days after retiring he was invited by three different people to do the same work at the state level. He started working in Olympia in 1985 and he and his wife soon moved to Lacey, WA. Bill is currently working for the Washington State Patrol setting up a program for hazardous waste problems. In Bellingham in 1946, he married Della Marie Chrisman who was born in 1928 in Wolf Point, MT, the daughter of Arthur and Gusta (Courtney) Chrisman. Bill's hobby is his beautiful yard and he spends most of his evenings and weekends tending it. Della simply loves being at home. They have four children:

(5) **Julie Ann Bennett** was born in 1948 in Bellingham, WA. She graduated from Bellingham High School and attended Northwest College in Kirkland, WA., for a year and a half. In 1969 she married Ronald C. Jantz. Ronald graduated from

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Northwest College as a minister. They lived and worked in Edmonds for two years then moved to Tennessee where they started a church. In 1973 they moved to Odessa, WA, to work with Ronald's father in the wheat farming business and are still there in 1996. Julie has five jobs including caring for Ron and their two children. She is City Librarian, works for the town newspaper, works in the Mall one day each week, and one day a week she works in the fabric shop. Julie was choir director for the church but not currently. Ron preaches now only occasionally. Their children are:

- (6) **Rebecca Joy Jantz** was born in 1971 in Edmonds, WA. She attended the University of Washington for two years, working for two Seattle area magazines while living there. She loves to write and has had several articles published. She reminds her dad of his Aunt Frances (Sister Mary Jean) Dorcy. Journalism and communications are her strong points. She is currently attending Lewiston Community College in Lewiston, ID. Rebecca married Brian Lee Parks in July 1996 in Lewiston, ID. Brian works for a bank as a Farm Credit Loan Officer.
- (6) **Jeffrey Scott Jantz** was born 1977 in Spokane, WA. After taking an intensive radio course of study in Yuma, AZ he is currently working for Mobile Radio in Auburn, WA.
- (5) **Thomas William Bennett** was born in 1951 in Bellingham, WA. He graduated from Bellingham High School and served two years in the army, spending most of his time in Germany. He worked several years on the fishing boat, Eric, and in canneries in Alaska. He is currently a taxi driver in Seattle on the night shift. He is not married and loves to fish.
- (5) **Daniel Craig Bennett** was born in 1953 in Bellingham, WA. He graduated from Bellingham High School. Dan has worked for Boeing Company for many years. He is not married and lives in Renton, WA. Dan loves cars, car shows and drag races.
- (5) **John Mark Bennett** was born in 1960 in Bellingham, WA. He has been a chef for many years and is currently working at Shuksan Golf and Country Club. He lives at White Salmon, WA. John spends all of his spare time working on and repairing computers. John is not married and has a son by Colette Brown:
 - (6) **David Daniel England** was born in 1981. Later he was adopted by Mr. England, his mothers husband.