



Genealogical and Historical OF THE INTERNATIONAL
Review Cody Family
Association

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OUR OWN VIGGO!



Yes, the actor who portrayed 'Aragorn' in Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy is our own Viggo Mortensen 282/14231!

Some time ago, Past President, Suzanna Cody, announced that the actor who played [Aragorn](#) in the *Lord of the Rings* is our own Viggo Peter Mortensen Jr., a Cody Cuzzin!

Viggo Peter Mortensen is a Danish-American actor, producer, and musician. Following his first film appearance in Peter Weir's 1985 thriller, *Witness*, he has appeared in many other well-known films, including *The Indian Runner*, *Carlito's Way*, *Crimson Tide*, *Daylight*, *Hidalgo* and *28 Days*. He received international recognition with his role as Aragorn in the epic film trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. His performance in *Eastern Promises* earned him a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor. His role in *A Dangerous Method* earned him a nomination for the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Viggo also received a Best Actor nomination at the 89th Academy Awards for his performance in *Captain Fantastic* and won an Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in the movie, *Green Book*, in 2018. His new movie is *The Dead Don't Hurt*, set in the Civil War era.

Also an author and poet, Viggo has various books of poetry, photography, and painting to his name. He founded the [Perceval Press](#) publishing house to help publish the works of little-known artists and authors. He is a renowned painter and photographer as well. His paintings, which are mainly abstract with fragments of his poetry, have been featured in galleries worldwide. As a musician, he has experimented by mixing his poetry and music. He has been granted an honorary doctorate by his alma mater, [St. Lawrence University](#) in Canton, NY.

Viggo Mortensen's Cody Lineage

This investigation began with Suzanna Cody's assertion that the famous film star, Viggo Mortensen is member of our Cody Family! To prove this claim, we began by searching for Viggo Mortensen in our 2017 Genealogy and found his record as;
282/14231 Viggo Peter Mortensen b NYC NY 10/20/1958

How can we be sure that the film actor is really the same person as the person named in that record?

To answer that question, we searched the internet using the words... Viggo Peter Mortensen born 1958... and found a bio on [Wikipedia.org](#) that shows the actor's birth date as October 20, 1958 and his mother's name as Grace Gamble Atkinson.

While this confirms our record of Viggo's birth date, there's a disagreement between that bio and our record of his birth place.

That bio also mentioned his mother, Grace Gamble Atkinson.

Checking our 2017 Genealogy, we find that Viggo 282/14231's mother's record is;
282/1423 Grace Gamble Atkinson b Watertown NY 1/1/1928 m1 Viggo Mortensen b Denmark 10/24/1924 d 10/26/1978

Excited by this match, we searched for more evidence of the actor's birth place and found a bio on [TheFamousPeople.com](#) that confirmed Viggo's birth date and gave his birth place as New York City, which agrees with our record.

So now we have evidence that Viggo, the actor, was born the same day, in the same place, to a Grace Gamble Atkinson who was the wife of Viggo Mortensen Sr., which matches our record of Viggo Peter Mortensen (Jr.) 282/14231!

We used FindAGrave.com to find [Grace Gamble Atkinson's page](#) which confirms Viggo Peter Mortensen Jr. as her son by Grace's first husband Viggo Peter Mortensen Sr. It lists Grace's birth date as August 8, 1928 which agrees with our record of her birth year.

Grace's FindAGrave.com page links to her first husband, [Viggo Peter Mortensen Sr.'s FindAGrave.com](#) page, where we find his bio which confirms much of Wikipedia.org said about his childhood and parents and also shows his birth date as 5/8/1929.

Turns out that Viggo Jr.'s father went by his middle name, Peter, dropped out of school after the 7th grade, and had an long, exciting life as an entrepreneur in Europe, South America and the U.S.

Peter Mortensen's FindAGrave.com bio says;
 "He eventually earned a college degree in agriculture and completed his military service as a Royal Guard in Copenhagen before moving to Oslo, Norway. There he met Grace Atkinson, of Watertown, New York, who was working at the American Embassy at the time. They were married in Watertown in 1954. In spite of not having attended high school, Mr. Mortensen was a driven autodidact and 'self-made' man. He earned a business degree from Massachusetts' Babson College in 1957, and became a successful life-long entrepreneur."

That bio continues with, "Mr. Mortensen was also a gifted athlete, and counted among his many accomplishments winning national championships in Denmark for cross-country skiing and in Norway for rowing. He represented Denmark as a cross-country ski racer in the 1954 F.I.S. World Championships, held in Falun, Sweden. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and was also a member of a Danish expedition to uncharted areas of Tierra del Fuego in 1965."

Having satisfied ourselves that the actor, Viggo Mortensen really is the same person as our Viggo Peter Mortensen 282/14231, we present his grandmother's record as;
282/142 Mary Annis Gamble b 8/1/1898 m1 Walter S Atkinson

Viggo's great-grandmother's record is;
282/14 Blanche Ethelwyn Chapman b IL 3/1/1873 bur 200c959 m1 John Munson Gamble

His great-great-grandfather's record is;
282/1 James Lincoln Chapman b Marcellus NY 1/26/1829 m1 Agnes Josephine Barnes

A pioneer genealogist, [James Lincoln Chapman](#) was the first to trace his own Cody lineage back to Beverly, MA!

Viggo's 3x great-grandmother's record is;
282 Sarah Reed b Marcellus NY 6/20/1803 d Marcellus NY 12/16/1885 m1 1/1/1828 Lincoln Chapman b New Haven CT 7/2/1802 d Chicago IL 2/19/1881

Returning to our 2017 Genealogy book, we see that Viggo's 4x great-grandmother's record is;
92 Rhoda Cody b Milford MA 5/11/1784 d Otto NY 8/7/1859 m1 Thornhill NY 2/26/1801 Jonathan Reed b Fairfield Co CT 1774 d Marcellus NY 10/16/1828

Viggo's 5x great-grandfather's record is;
24 Joseph Cody b Hopkinton MA 5/2/1736 d 1787 m1 Upton MA 12/17/1757 Mary Parmenter b Hopkinton MA 4/18/1737 d Clintonville Onondaga Co NY 3/?/1817

Joseph was a soldier in the American Revolution, so Viggo's mother, sisters and daughters would qualify for the DAR.

Viggo's 6x great-grandfather's record is;
5 Isaac Cody b Beverly MA 1/17/1703-4 d Hopkinton MA c1737 m1 Hopkinton MA 2/8/1753 Hannah Carryl b Hopkinton MA

Viggo's 7x great-grandfather's record is;
1 Philip Lescaude b St Pierre Parish Isle of Jersey GBR 8/23/1668 d Hopkinton MA c2/3/1743 m1 St Brelade's Church Isle of Jersey GBR 9/15/1692 Martha b Isle of Guernsey GBR c1668 d Hopkinton MA c1745

Our website's Kinship Calculator says that Viggo is William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's 4th cousin 4 times removed! i.e. Isaac 5's brother, Joseph 3's 2x great-grandchild! Use our [Kinship Calculator](#) to see how you're related!

2026 Reunion Candidate #1, New England!

Come explore New England, where Phillip and Martha ‘Le Cody’ bought their first home in North America around 1698.

We’ll visit the site of their [Beverly Homestead](#), where they lived and raised their family, visit their neighbors at the [Balch House](#), the [Dodge Family Cemetery](#) and the [John Hale Farm](#). Tour Beverly’s [1st Parish Church](#) where Reverend Hale preached to our Philip and Martha. Drive to [Essex](#) where Philip owned land and where his son [Joseph](#) lived. Lunch at [Woodman’s](#), then tour the [Essex Shipbuilding Museum](#) and [Cogswell’s Grant](#).

In [Hopkinton](#), we’ll see the site of Philip and Martha’s farm and visit the Historical Society and the Cody Room at the town’s library, near the starting line of the Boston Marathon.

For recreation, sail on a [large fishing schooner](#) or [go whale watching](#). Visit a local [beach](#) to walk, play or swim. Take the opportunity to go [fishing](#), sea kayaking, or even scuba diving!

Visit the historic fishing port of [Gloucester](#), sight-see, browse local art galleries, go antique shopping or drive to scenic [Rockport](#). We could visit [Salem](#), where Philip and Martha lived during the Witch Trials and tour the [Peabody Essex Museum](#) or the [Salem Witch Museum](#).

Celebrate our country’s 250th anniversary at Revolutionary War sites along the [Freedom Trail](#) in [Cambridge](#), [Bunker Hill](#), the [Dillaway-Thomas House](#), [Dorchester Heights](#) and the [Tea Party Ships](#), climaxed by [Sail Boston](#) and the July 4th Fireworks!



[Visit the Balch House, Neighbors of Our Philip & Martha.](#)



[Tour the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.](#)



[If it's Saturday, we can have a beer at the Hale Farm.](#)



[Browse the Museum of Folk Art at Cogswell's Grant.](#)



[Tour Beverly's 1st Parish Church.](#)



Visit New England®

[Click here to vote for New England, the password is '2026'!](#)

2026 Reunion Candidate #2, Cody, Wyoming!

Experience the Wild West! Come to [Cody](#) for a ‘Buffalo Bill’ weekend in Wyoming’s scenic Bighorn Basin, right next to [Yellowstone National Park](#) and close to the [Beartooth Scenic Highway](#). This is where the mountain men came for beaver, so get ready for an overdose of soaring mountain landscapes!

We’ll take a private family tour of the [Buffalo Bill Center of the West](#), where you’ll be greeted by the ‘ghost’ of Buffalo Bill. This modern complex houses 5 different museums, each with it’s own attractions. There’s the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Plains Indian Museum, the Whitney Western Art Museum, the Cody Firearms Museum and the Draper Natural History Museum. You’ll see the [Deadwood Coach](#), [Wild Bill’s Revolver](#), and learn all about [Buffalo Bill and his Wild West!](#)



The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is the main attraction.

We’ll enjoy a buffet dinner at the [Irma Hotel](#), tour the [Cody Heritage Museum](#), stroll around [Old Trail Town](#) to visit mountain man Jeremiah Johnson’s grave and see Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’s cabin and a Wyoming saloon frequented by Cassidy’s ‘Hole-in-the-Wall Gang’.

We’ll motorcade up the [Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway](#), past the [Buffalo Bill Dam](#) and through the Shoshone National Forest to [Pahaska Tepee](#) and the [TE Ranch](#). This is one of the most photographed drives anywhere.

We’ll thrill to the [Cody Stampede Rodeo](#) and, for you cowboys and cowgirls, ride the high country around the [Bill Cody Ranch](#) on horseback!



The Staff awaits your pleasure at the Irma!



Bob Edgar’s Old Trail Town has many historic buildings!



‘Cowboy Up’ for the Cody Stampede Rodeo!



Visit Pahaska Tepee, Buffalo Bill’s Hunting Lodge!



Click here to vote for Cody, WY, the password is ‘2026’!

'Thank You' to Our Donors and Active Members!



These Donors contributed in 2024!

B. Cowell (117)
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 M. & D. June (133)
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 A. Jordan (184)
 C. Jordan (184)
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Click here to support the ICFA in 2025!

These are the ICFA's Active Members (& their Branch Numbers) who contributed their Voluntary Annual Dues for 2024!

B. Cowell (117)	M. & D. June (133)	K. Jordan (184)	R. & N. Spoon (264)
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[Click here to contribute your Voluntary Annual Dues & become an Active Member!](#)

Get Ready for Our 2026 Genealogy!

Well, it's been 7 years since the ICFA published its 2017 Genealogy. Over these 7 years Allan Cody, our ICFA Genealogist, has processed hundreds, if not thousands of updates and additions to our records!

As announced at our 2024 General Business Meeting, held during our North Platte Reunion, the ICFA is planning to publish an updated edition of our genealogical records in time for our 2026 Reunion.

Our 2017 Genealogy is sold out and we thank everybody who bought the 2-volume set, the revenue will be used to help us publish our 2026 Genealogy books.

We hope for a good response to our 2026 edition and that revenue will help fund the next edition.

Milestones

Births:

No births to report.

Deaths:

142/17241 [James Edwin Reid](#) b Brantford ON 1/12/1936 d 8/11/2024

266/62831 [Robert Arnold Gurney Jr](#) b Long Beach CA 1/3/1947 d Belen NM 10/20/2024

Marriages:

266/628361 [David Joseph Arana](#) b Riverside CA 12/6/1988 m1 Santa Barbara CA 9/3/2024 [Katherine Elizabeth Pilgrim](#)

Please use the fill-in forms under CONTACTS on the website's home page to report family news.

Family genealogists! It's time to check your records and update them for inclusion in the new edition and thereby earn yourself a place in the book.

Canvass your family branch for births, deaths or marriages and submit your branch's updates to genealogist@cody-family.org as a batch.

Submitting them in batches allows family genealogists to bypass our fill-in forms, which saves them the drudgery of sending additions and updates piecemeal.

Remember, our goal is to publish the new edition in time for our 2026 Reunion, so we must set a deadline of June 2025 for all the updates to be included for publication in the final version.

ICFA Executive Board

Kevin Cody, President
getkevin247@gmail.com

Dwight Cody, Vice President
dwightcody@gmail.com

Dwight Cody, Treasurer
dwightcody@gmail.com

Allan Cody, Secretary
allancody148.3422@gmail.com

Mark June, Chaplain
markanddonnajune@gmail.com

Darcey Zumwalt,
 DAR Consultant

Special Thanks to Kellie Edwards
 for her Cody Kids Corner!

Please help us with your [Donations](#)
 and [Voluntary Annual Dues!](#)

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Send inquiries to: editor@cody-family.org

New Improvements to the BBLG Web Site!

by Kevin Cody, ICFA President & BBLG Chair

Our Buffalo Bill Legacy Gallery (BBLG) website has many new additions and updates we would like to share with you. These recent improvements on this ICFA committee platform are primarily a result of our last reunion as well as the recent changes that have occurred in our Executive Board's line-up.

We have updated our [Home page](#) with a new photo and recap of our 2024 Reunion in North Platte, NE. Our [About page](#) has been updated with new photos and text to announce the Executive Board's new titles and roles. We have also added 2 new contributions to our [BBLG Donor Leader Board on our Donate page](#).

Thank you so much for your recent donations, Stan and Joan Wolcott, and Eileen Simon! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to improve and expand our grand, ongoing vision of honoring the legacy of our beloved William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

Our [Visit page](#) has many new Buffalo Bill related attractions, sites, and landmarks to see in both North Platte and Harrison, Nebraska. With these new additions, we now have a list of 48 unique places to visit throughout the world that are associated with Buffalo Bill. Please take a close look for yourselves and tell us if we are missing anything noteworthy that should be added.

Lastly, we have compiled a complete and chronological list of all the publications regarding our ICFA Cody Circles and Biennial Reunions from 2013 to the present on our [News page](#). These publications include links to literature, video, and audio from a variety of sources including newspaper articles, television news broadcasts, radio broadcasts, and our very own *Cody Review* Newsletter. The summation of this list is a testament to the ICFA's mission and purpose; That is to not only bring our family together to enrich and empower our own kindred spirits, but to share the ideas and stories related to our unique history and accomplishments amongst our communities and the collective human spirit!

The Theodore Roosevelt Association Invites You!

The [Theodore Roosevelt Association](#), in conjunction with the Town of Oyster Bay are meeting the weekend of May 31-June 1, 2025 for a Rough Riders Reunion - the first since 1968 - with ancestors of Rough Riders and Spanish-American War vets!

We'll have re-enactments like the [Charge Up San Juan Hill](#), which of course is in *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* programs from the [1899 season](#) on, replacing Custer's Last Stand. And of course he was friends with Theodore Roosevelt, and was close to fighting in the Spanish-American War as well. The connection is certainly there. And we're looking for lectures and topics that would captivate people's attention. Lieutenant [John Avery McIlhenny](#), heir to the [Tabasco sauce](#) fortune, was a Rough Rider. Plus, I believe at least a dozen of the [Rough Riders performed](#) in *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* after the war for some seasons.

Would any of you be interested in coming to Oyster Bay for this reunion as a special guest(s) and to give a talk on Buffalo Bill's show? It doesn't have to be focused on Theodore Roosevelt or the Rough Riders either. It would be an honor to have any of you involved. Please contact me, [Brian Tadler](#), to volunteer!

Editor's Note: The Spanish-American War was declared April 1898. This [period recording](#) shows that Buffalo Bill supported the cause. At home in Cleveland, Ohio, [Private Arthur P. Cody 148/27](#) recruited volunteers and accompanied his regiment, the 'Cleveland Grays,' to Florida to prepare for deployment. Arthur's father, [Lindus Cody 148/2](#) went to Cuba as a missionary after the invasion. [Corporal Myron Cody 270/33](#) won a Certificate of Merit from Theodore Roosevelt and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1938 for his heroism in the Philippines. [Captain Edgar C. Barnes 183/32](#) led Company D, 2nd Wisconsin, in Puerto Rico. If you have ancestors who served, please tell us, so we can honor them too!



This 1902 *Wild West* Poster glorifies the famous battle.

*Hey kids, please tell us what kind of stuff you would like to see in our next issue?
Just click this [link](#) to email your suggestions!*

CODY KIDS CORNER

WILLIAM F. CODY
Horseman

VOLUME 11 December 2024

By Kellie Cody Edwards - 145/44331
Cody, WY Ambassador

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was, above all else, a superb horseman. Horses were important to him in almost every phase of his life. When he was just 11 years old, he took a job carrying messages on horseback for the freighting firm of Majors and Russell. Majors and Russell soon became Russell, Majors and Waddell, the largest transportation company in the West. This was the company that started the Pony Express system in 1860. It is believed that young Bill rode for the Pony Express when he was just 14. He later joined the Seventh Kansas Cavalry and then became a scout and guide. From those early scouting days on, he was continually on horseback. He later worked in western Kansas for a meat contractor that provided food for the crews building the Kansas Pacific Railroad. His job was to kill buffalo. It is with this job that he became known as Buffalo Bill, which remained with him through life.

Buffalo Bill is pictured below atop his horse, Charlie, one of his companions in his scouting days. According to Buffalo Bill: "Charlie was an animal of almost human intelligence, extraordinary speed, endurance and fidelity."



COL. W. F. CODY, (BUFFALO BILL) & HIS OLD WAR HORSE "CHARLIE."
ELLIOTT & FRY. Copyright 55 & 56, BAKER ST LONDON W

When the Wild West Show opened at Omaha in May, 1883, Charlie was the star horse, and he held that position at all exhibitions in this country and in Europe during the first season abroad in 1887.

One of the most beautiful horses which Buffalo Bill ever owned was Duke. The picture to the right shows Buffalo Bill atop Duke, a magnificent chestnut. Duke was known to audiences all over the country in the early 1900s.



In 1910, he began a series of Farewell tours, looking forward to retiring at his ranch, the T.E., outside of Cody, Wyoming. Isham, the white horse pictured to the left, carried Buffalo Bill into many of his last shows. Unfortunately, the Wild West Show ended in bankruptcy in July 1913. Everything was auctioned off, even Cody's horse, Isham.

It was a friend of Cody's, Colonel C.J. Bills, who purchased Isham and had him shipped up to the TE Ranch in Wyoming as a gift to Buffalo Bill. The photo of Cody and Isham above was taken at the TE Ranch in 1914.

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

Horses are magnificent creatures, each with their own unique characteristics. There are over 350 breeds of horses worldwide.

The five most popular breeds in the world are:

1. American Quarter Horse
2. Arabian
3. Thoroughbred
4. Appaloosa
5. Morgans



Horses come in a variety of colors with many different markings. How do you tell the difference between horses? If you go into a herd, how do you know which one you're looking for? Knowing the names of the different colors and markings can help with the identification of individual horses. The most common colors are Bay, Black, Chestnut, and Grey. There's also Dun, Roan, Palamino and Buckskin. Any of the colors can have a white face or leg markings. Points include the ears, lower legs, mane and tail. Black horses often have dark eyes, hooves, and skin. Chestnut

horses, sometimes called sorrel, have a coat that is basically some shade of red, including the points. If the horse has a red or brown coat but black points, then it's a bay. Grey horses may be born any color and have white hairs that begin to appear at or shortly after birth. They usually have dark skin and eyes. Other colors include dun (a yellow coat with dark points), palomino (golden coat with a light mane and tail and no black points), paint or pinto (white patches on the body, combined with any other color), or Appaloosa (coat has a spotted pattern, usually over the rump; hooves may be striped and skin may be mottled with colors). [Click for a video!](#)



Bay

Black

Chestnut



Dun

Grey

Roan



Palamino

Buckskin

FACE AND LEG MARKINGS

Horse markings are typically white areas on an otherwise dark base coat colour. The skin under such a marking is white or pink. These markings are present at birth and remain constant throughout the horse's life. Although there are several basic facial markings on horses, each marking will be unique in shape to each horse. Like snowflakes, no two are precisely the same. Markings are useful for horse owners because it provides a means of accurate identification. A horse's face marking could include a star, snip, stripe, blaze, or a bald face.



Star

Any white marking on the forehead. Comes in many shapes and sizes.



Snip

A small white marking on the muzzle, not connected to any other markings.



Stripe

A narrow band of white running up a horse's face from the nose to between the eyes.



Blaze

A white marking wider than a stripe and thinner than a bald face, not including the horse's eyes.



Bald Face

The most dramatic face marking, covering most of the face, possibly covering the eyes.

Leg markings are identified by how high they extend up a horse's leg.

- **Coronet:** White just above the hoof, usually no more than 1 inch above the hoof.
- **Pastern:** includes the pastern but doesn't cover the fetlock
- **Sock (sometimes called an anklet):** includes the fetlock joint
- **Half-stocking (or half-cannon):** continues partway up the horse's cannon bone.
- **Stocking:** covers the entire lower leg and sometimes goes past the knee.



A horse's markings contributes to the unique identity of a horse and understanding horse markings can not only help you identify horses, but also deepen your appreciation for the diversity and individuality of horses.



Sources:

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I Am My Own Grandpa!

When genealogists need a break from combing through census records and family trees, they can sing this novelty song.

Novelty songs are built upon some gimmick, piece of humor, or popular fad and achieved great popularity during the 1920s and 1930s, with a resurgence of interest in the '50s and '60s. They even hit the charts from time to time, who can forget the classics, *Purple People Eater*, *The Chipmunk Song*, *Witch Doctor*, *Monster Mash*, *Alley-Opp*, *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini*, *Please Mr. Custer* or *Deck Of Cards*?

This one was inspired by Dwight Latham's discovery of *Very Closly Related*, an anecdote in *Wit and humor of the age*, by Melville D. Landon and Mark Twain, published in 1883. In the 1930s, Latham had a musical trio named *The Jesters*, who performed spoken humor and novelty songs on network radio. Working with publisher and Tin Pan Alley composer, Moe Jaffe. Latham recorded it with his group, *The Jesters*, and then sold the rights to Lonzo and Oscar who had a hit with it in 1947.

In the song, the narrator marries a widow with an adult daughter. Subsequently, the narrator's father marries the widow's daughter. This creates a comic tangle of relationships by a mixture of blood and marriage. The situation is complicated further when both couples have children!

First, the narrator marries the older woman, so the woman's daughter becomes his stepdaughter. Subsequently, the narrator's father marries the older woman's daughter. The woman's daughter, being the new wife of the narrator's father, is now both the narrator's stepdaughter and his stepmother simultaneously.

Concurrently, the narrator's father, being his stepdaughter's husband, is also his own stepson-in-law. The narrator's wife, being the mother of his stepmother, is both the narrator's spouse and his stepgrandmother. Genealogically, the husband of the narrator's wife would then be the narrator's stepgrandfather. Since the narrator is that very person, he has managed to become his own (step-step)grandfather. The 'step-step' concept applies because the stepfather of one's stepmother would be one's step-step-grandfather, making a 'double step' relationship.

But that's not enough, the song continues with the narrator and his wife having a son. The narrator's son is the half-brother of his stepdaughter, since the narrator's wife is the mother of both.

Since his stepdaughter is also his stepmother, then the narrator's son is also his own (half) stepuncle because he is the half-brother of his stepmother. The narrator's son is therefore a half-brother-in-law to the narrator's father, because the son is the half-brother of the father's wife.

The narrator's father and his wife (the narrator's stepdaughter) then had a son of their own. The child is the narrator's stepgrandson because he is the son of his stepdaughter. The son is the half-brother of the narrator because they share a father.

Confused? Try sorting it out, lyric by lyric, with this [animation!](#)

The Tastyest Jesters first performed singing commercials on radio shows sponsored by the [Green Brothers Co.](#), makers of [Tastyest candy bars](#) in 1930. Shortening their name to *The Jesters*, they became famous for their novelty songs and snappy patter and appeared in 7 films between 1939 and 1945. They also sang back-up for the twentieth-century superstar, [Bing Crosby](#), on many of his classic recordings.

I Am My Own Grandpa! by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe

*It sounds funny I know
But it really is so, oh
I am my own grandpa!*

*I am my own grandpa
I am my own grandpa
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh, I'm my own grandpa!*



*Now, many many years ago, When I was twenty-three
I was married to a widow, Who was pretty as could be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter, Who had hair of red
My father fell in love with her, And soon they too were wed.*

*This made my dad my son-in-law, And changed my very life
For my daughter was my mother, 'Cause she was my father's wife.
To complicate the matter, Even though it brought me joy
I soon became the father, Of a bouncing baby boy!*

*My little baby then became, A brother-in-law to dad
And so became my uncle, Though it made me very sad.
For if he was my uncle, Then that also made him brother
Of the widow's grown-up daughter, Who of course was my
stepmother!*

*I am my own grandpa
I am my own grandpa
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh, I'm my own grandpa!*

Tell us more about how you became your own grandpa!

*Well, father's wife then had a son, Who kept them on the run
And he became my grandchild, For he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother, And it makes me blue
Because although she is my wife, She's my grandmother too.*

*Now, if my wife is my grandmother, Then I am her grandchild
And every time I think of it, It nearly drives me wild.
For now I have become, The strangest case you ever saw
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!*

*I am my own grandpa
I am my own grandpa
It sounds funny I know
But it really is so
Oh, I'm my own grandpa!*

Video Reviews



This docudrama airs on Sling, Roku, Peacock and Tubi.



Streaming on Sling, Roku and Xumo!

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Daniel Boone: Cunning Woodsman, escapes captivity.
Mason & Dixon: Trailblazing Surveyors, settle a border dispute.
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Robert Rogers: Frontier Solider, in the French and Indian War.

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Bill Hamilton: The Last Mountain Man, escapes Indians.
Lucien Maxwell: Legend of New Mexico, Kit Carson's pal.
John Coffee Hays: A Texas Legend, veteran Texas Ranger.
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Brothers in Arms: When they are ambushed by a vengeful Blackfeet war party, Jim Bridger and a lone Shoshone brave must find a way to defeat their common enemy.

The Spirit of Truth: After his fur trapping expedition is surprised by a Crow war party, Jim Bridger finds himself in a desperate struggle to save his fellow trappers.

Molly's Choice: A young Jim Bridger helps a squaw escape the clutches of her cruel and abusive husband and soon realizes she is none other than Sacajawea.

The Snakeroot Cure: When a young girl is bitten by a rattlesnake, mountain man Jim Bridger desperately searches the wilderness for a medicinal plant.

The Fossil Feud: Canadian trappers try to kill him, but Jim Bridger takes cover in a valley where he meets a family who shows him the footprints and bones of long-dead monsters.

A Shard of Glass: Haunted by the memory of leaving a man to die, Jim Bridger resolves not to repeat the mistake. When his trapping party runs out of water in a barren desert, Bridger struggles desperately to keep them all alive.

Bonsel or Bunting – Which Middle Name Is Correct?

by Christopher Bunting, History Detective



This is the only known photo of Mary Ann B. Laycock Cody, mother of William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody – and Julia Cody Goodman.

Her grandfather was Thomas Laycock – who came from Yorkshire, England – who married Hannah Bunting. They initially rented a farm known as Bartram’s Garden.¹

Thomas was killed by his horse running away at Market Street Bridge, Philadelphia. His son, Samuel Laycock, married Hannah Taylor. They had four children, William, Mary, Samuel Jr. and Eliza.²

However, despite such rich historical insight, confusion still reigns over Mary’s full name, which – prior to becoming a Cody – can be given in many forms, such as:

MARY ANN “B...” LAYCOCK. There appears an unsettled question as to whether the “B” is from Bonsel or Bunting.

Which was first made known to the public? For this we have to refer to the different memoirs by her daughter, Julia Cody Goodman.

Buffalo Bill: King of the Old West by Elizabeth Jane Leonard was published 1955. “Mrs. Goodman <Julia Cody Goodman>, a sister of Cody, prepared the manuscript before her death in 1928”.³

Elizabeth Jane Leonard reveals this to have “occurred over a period of more than a year... until her <Julia’s> death... on November 2, 1928”.

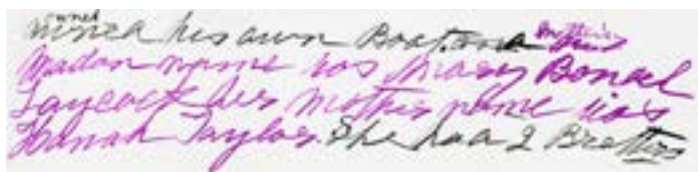
We can therefore timestamp *King of the Old West* as having been written around 1927-1928.

In 1960 came *The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill* by Don Russell – yet this was based on a different memoir, one handwritten by Julia during 1926.

For all intents and purposes, Julia’s handwritten draft of *Lives and Legends* looks have been written a year prior to *King of the Old West*.

Both mention a clear and direct connection to the Bunting family. *King of the Old West* presents the name of the mother of Julia – on two occasions – as “Mary Bunting Laycock” (pages 25; 28). This surely appeared in both Julia’s handwritten (or transcribed) draft of *King of the Old West* – and throughout drafts prior to final publication – which may infer that Julia was happy with it.

While the handwritten draft of *Lives and Legends* can appear to present the name “Mary Bonsel Laycock”:

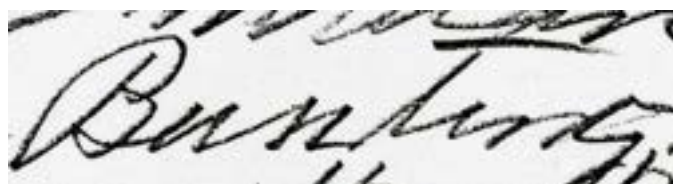


1926 extract showing Mary Bonsel[?] Laycock. Courtesy of American Heritage Center (University of Wyoming).

Of course, the “Bonsel” apparently written here is by no means definite. Russell himself questions it in his typed transcription:

Mother's Maiden [maiden] name was Mary Bonsel [?] Laycock.

Although, it almost certainly seems completely set apart from Julia’s written “Bunting”:



“Bunting” in Julia’s handwritten Manuscript.

Julia’s use of “Bonsel” could be an outright and simple mistake of memory, as it was another family name closely associated with the Laycocks and Codys.

Julia (1843-1928) – writing in her old age – despite her incredible memory, was understandably given to the odd error in her genealogical recollections, probably drawn from memory alone:

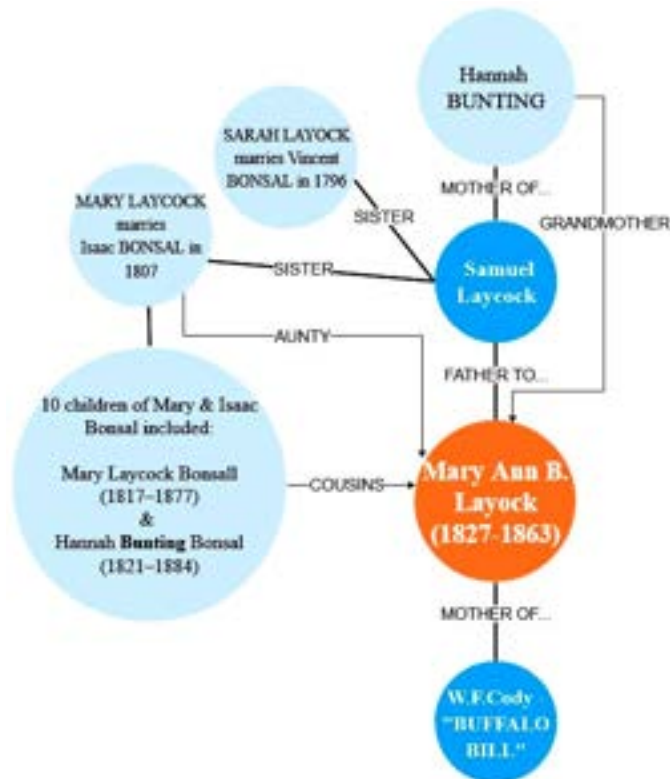
- i. in 1926 (draft of *Lives and Legends*), she goes on to misspell her mother’s name as “Hanah”.
- ii. in 1927/28 (*King of the Old West*), Julia gives <her grandmother, the> mother of Mary B. the maiden name of Bunting. Yet in 1926, she correctly gives the maiden name of the grandmother (her *mother’s* mother) as “Hanah Taylor”.

Could grandmother Hannah Taylor have *originally* been another “Hannah Bunting” – firstly marrying a Taylor, only to *later* remarry Samuel Laycock? Going on current family trees, this appears highly unlikely – but stranger things have happened in genealogy. The 1772 marriage certificate of Thomas Laycock to Hannah Bunting suggests that she was one of two Hannah Buntings present. However, the above

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notion can be completely dismissed due to the *Memorandum of your Ancestors*⁴ – heavily featuring Laycock history – stating: “Your grandfather, Samuel Laycock married Hannah Taylor. Her father, Enoch Taylor, owned a farm where Media now is.”

The same *Memorandum* confirms that a generation prior to this: “Thomas Laycock, a native of Yorkshire, England ... married Hannah Bunting, a member of the Darby meeting.” This diagram helps to clarify the relationships:



Bonsel, as a family name, had married into that of the Laycock family (see diagram⁵) – therefore, how likely would it be for Samuel Laycock (with no actual blood relation to the Bonsel family) to use it for his bloodline (daughter Mary)? Perhaps if his Laycock sisters – Sarah and Mary Bonsel – had failed to produce issue, that is, carry on their line; yet, Mary Bonsel alone had 10 children. Then there is the interesting matter of one of these children named as [Hannah Bunting Bonsel](#)⁶.

She is clearly named after her grandmother, [Hannah Bunting](#), wife of Thomas Laycock, here is her birth record;



Hannah Bunting Bonsel was born 1821, six years before her first cousin, Mary Ann B. Laycock, which may have inspired Mary's father Samuel Laycock to also use the Bunting name. Or perhaps it had always been agreed among the Laycock family?

Julia writes proudly of the “prominent” Bunting family ancestry in both her memoirs. It should be said that the Buntings were a long-standing land-owning yeomen family of Ashover (England) – while Anthony Bunting of nearby Matlock (grandfather of Hannah Bunting) seemed to also be of considerable means – and an early Quaker. Did this prove a

source of noteworthy pride for the Laycocks? Bunting was after all, Samuel Laycock's mother's maiden name – and the surname of his grandfather, [Samuel Bunting](#), who he was almost certainly named after.

Another note - the widely accepted other middle name of “Ann” has often been missing⁷. Mary Ann B[...] Laycock seems to be her full name. William F. Cody himself, in *An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill*, presents her maiden name as “Mary Ann Leacock” in the 12th paragraph of Chapter 1:

We were comfortable and fairly prosperous on the little farm. My mother, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Leacock, took an active part in the

Extract from *An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill*.

Frustratingly, her other middle name – whether Bunting or Bonsel – is not mentioned whatsoever by William F. Cody.

Can we find any inspiration for the use of “Ann”? Possibly – for father Samuel Sr. was a passenger on Joseph Jenkins' schooner, the [Ann Maria](#), captained by Simon Fernald:



Samuel Laycock's Immigration Record.

Sadly, the merchant – Samuel Laycock Sr. – who for a time successfully traded in South America and the West Indies, died when wrecked at sea. Buried “in the great deep”, he had been accompanied by his young son, Samuel Jr., who survived that disaster.

Another intriguing possibility has recently been raised by Allan Cody⁸. He wonders whether the name was intended to actually be Mary HANNAH B. Laycock – but through the British habit of dropping the “H” (particularly in the dialect of Derbyshire⁹, their original home), added to the ascent of the American accent, Hannah eventually was given or spoken as ‘Ann’, itself possibly derived from ‘(H)Anna(h)’.

With her cousin named Hannah Bunting Bonsel (1821-1884), it must be considered a real possibility. Was Mary Ann's father, Samuel Laycock Sr., intent on honouring his mother (Hannah Bunting) by the naming of a daughter? Had a little sibling rivalry crept in, and not to be outshone, he was determined to honour his mother, just as his sister Mary already had done? Samuel may have satisfied both families by simply using a ‘B’, which could signify either surname.

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And what of **Bonsall** – the ancient village in England, that sits near Matlock? What clues might it hold?



The Bonsall Cross Stands in the Village Marketplace.

Bonsall is a village widely considered to be the ancient, pre-Domesday Book (1086) homestead of the Bunting family (which has in fact long resided there), hence its far earlier name of “Bunteshale”¹⁰. Without any doubt, the village was – centuries later as surnames took hold – the reason for the surname of the Bonsall family, who originated there¹¹. The Bunting (and Derbyshire) heritage of William F. Cody and his clan seems to run deep.

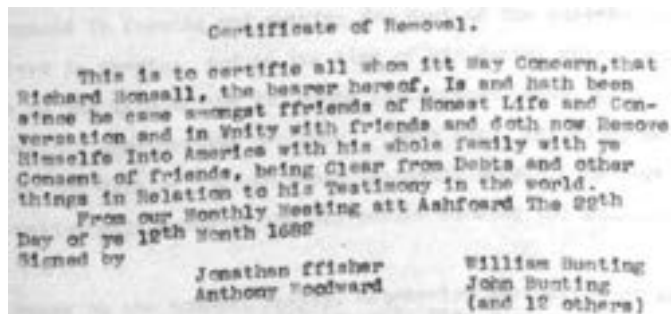
Let us consider the ‘stats’ for the early uses (that is, before any following researchers and historians became involved):

King of the Old West has Julia herself give “Mary Bunting Laycock” twice – but altogether it appears on five occasions throughout the book (including as “Mary Bunting Cody”).

Lives and Legends presents the name “Mary Bonsel Layock” just once in Julia’s testimony.

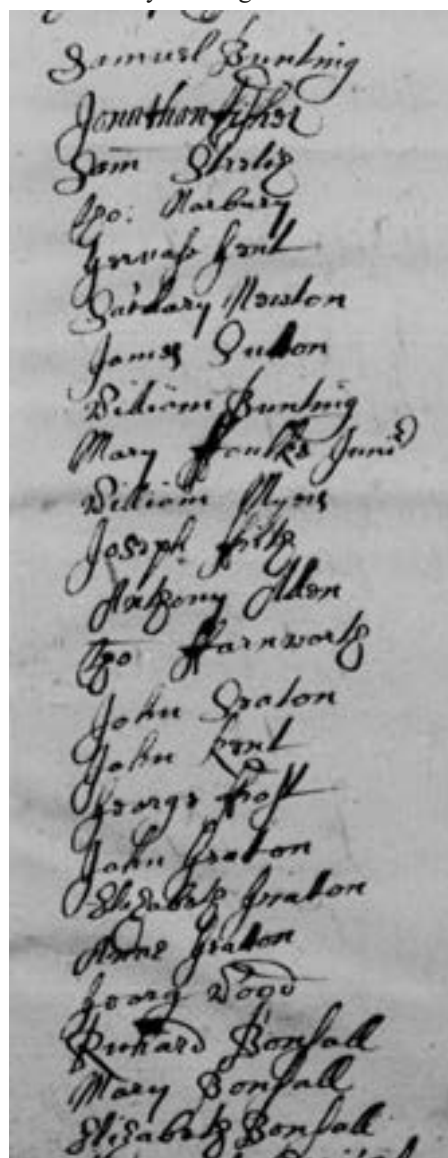
Both make direct and notable mentions of the Bunting family – while it seems that the Bonsel/Bonsall family fails to be further noted whatsoever.

Even so, the close ties of the Bunting-Bonsall families cannot be dismissed. Richard Bonsall (1641/42-1699) – considered to be the progenitor of the American Bonsalls – was linked with Buntings, who were fellow Quakers of Derbyshire:

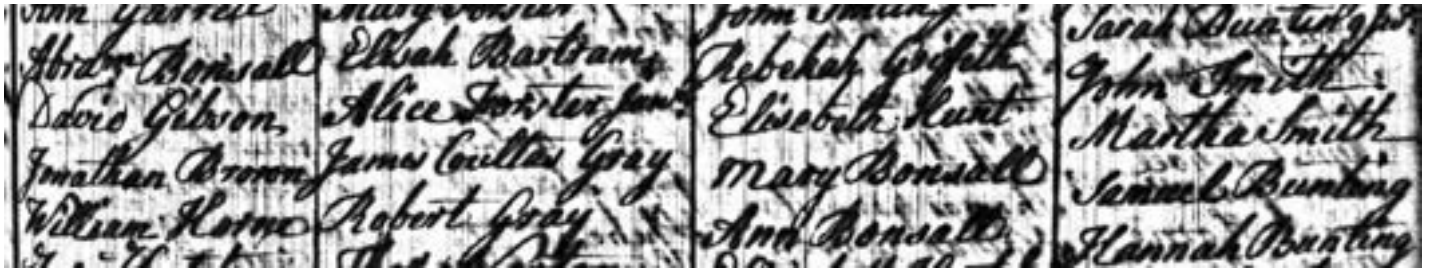


Richard Bonsall’s Certificate of Removal (the move to America) is signed by William Bunting and John Bunting¹².

Other Quaker records, dated around 1670s, list Richard, Mary and Elizabeth Bonsall (bottom three on the list below), along with the sons of Anthony Bunting of Matlock¹³:



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Witnesses to Hannah Bunting's 1772 Marriage Covenant to Thomas Laycock

Richard Bonsel appears again as a witness on the 1682 intention to marriage for William Bunting and Mary Stevenson. As mentioned in my previous article *Buffalo Bill, Son of Olde Derbyshire*, William's son – Samuel Bunting – came to settle in America during 1722, and was to become the great-great grandfather of William F. Cody.

Allan Cody's research into the Bonsel family further highlights other continued connections once in the New World – such as Matha Bonsel as witness to the 1727 Marriage Covenant of Samuel Bunting and Sarah Fearnie – namely the parents of Hannah Bunting (Mary Laycock's grandmother).

The same Hannah Bunting – on her 1772 Marriage Covenant to Thomas Laycock – has as witnesses (among several Buntings) members of the Bonsel family, in the form of Abraham, Mary and Ann.

Prior to this, 1763 title deeds of property (Pennsylvania) mention Joseph Bonsel and (the late?) Enoch Bonsel as neighbours to Josiah Bunting.

These sets of facts represent an intriguing puzzle.

Both memoirs by Julia Cody Goodman were written within the same period of 1926-1928.

The Bonsel family and Bunting family were known to Julia, both directly and by past association. But more importantly to this investigation would be the association with her *grandparents*, Samuel Laycock and wife Hannah Taylor, who after all, *named* Mary, mother of Julia.

A longstanding association of Bonsel-Buntings clearly existed, dating all the way back to the 'Old World' of England. For Samuel Laycock, this would be more immediate: the two Bonsel brothers had married his two sisters.

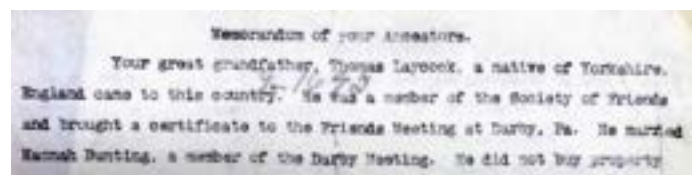
Yet a simple but understandable error, despite Julia's remarkable ability for recollections, could result in a red-herring for historians and genealogists.

Aside from Julia's two memoirs, there is also the *Memorandum of your Ancestors*¹⁴ – mostly concerning Laycock history.

(The *Memorandum*'s author is currently unidentified¹⁵. It was written some point after 1831, seemingly by an aunt (or uncle?)

writing a family history for their child: their child would be a contemporary of both Julia and William F. Cody – a sibling or first cousin? It would not look to be a member of the Bonsel family, due to the only reference it makes confirming what would already be well-known to those Bonsel family. The *Memorandum* is far more Laycock-orientated. My best guess is that Eliza Laycock (later Eliza Guss; granddaughter of Hannah Bunting) wrote this for one of her children, such as William Laycock Guss.¹⁶)

The Bonsel brothers (Vincent and Isaac) are mentioned as marrying the two Laycock sisters (Sarah and Mary). Although, appearing more prominent is the early reference to the seeming matriarch: Hannah Bunting:



Memorandum of Your Ancestors
(Author Unknown)

Either surname could, feasibly at least, have been used to provide Mary Laycock her middle "B" name.

The Bunting-Laycock connection needs equal consideration. As late as 1793, Samuel Bunting (nephew of Hannah Bunting) wrote to inform his father Josiah Bunting as to the death of their apparent relation, a Laycock family member.¹⁷

By adding into the reckoning Mary Laycock's first cousin 'Hannah Bunting Bonsel', I feel an immediate family name would win out. Samuel ultimately seemed far likelier to draw 'Bunting' from his own mother – and give that to his daughter, Mary Ann B. Laycock.

"Hannah Bunting" used as a double middle name, appears likelier than "Ann Bonsel".¹⁸

I will go out on a limb, and suggest that the likelier – if not correct – middle name of Mary Ann B. Laycock was Bunting. Julia gives it repeated references throughout her memoirs (with Bonsel only getting a single one), and the Laycocks clearly continued to openly express pride in their ancestral descent from the "prominent" Bunting family of Derbyshire.

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brother would tell stories about their ancestors. Her mother, whose maiden name was Bunting, had been descended from the prominent Bunting family of Derbyshire, England, whose members were among the colonists sent to the New World by William Penn in the years between 1680 and 1690. He would repeat the account, passed on from generation to generation, of how Josiah Bunting had witnessed the famous treaty Penn had made with the Indians. And most often he would regale her with

Extract from *Buffalo Bill, King of the Old West*.

I also align with the newly developed line of thought that the full name – as opposed to “Mary Ann B[...] Laycock”

(and despite ‘Ann’ having actually been *pronounced* that way) – was intended to be: “**Mary Hannah Bunting Laycock**”.

For now, at least, I will consider the ‘B’ – belonging to the middle name of the mother of William F. Cody and Julia Cody Goodman – as being for *Bunting*.

Presumption (even with some supporting evidence) in genealogy can be confirmed – but also overturned. Will untapped evidence yet be uncovered to challenge, or even finally settle this matter?¹⁹

It certainly feels like a necessarily respectful challenge to resolve which name belonged to the letter ‘B’.

Footnotes

1. Almost certainly taking its name from the Bartram family – John and Elizabeth Bartram appearing (along with Richard Bonsall) on a 1686 certificate for the Darby meeting (suggesting it was an early immigrant family) [Genealogical material relating to Bunting family]. Benjamin Bartram living 1783. Isaac Bartram described as son-in-law of Thomas Laycock in 1804 administration. [PDF: Bunting-Morgan Bunting 2024-06-03.] Today, [Bartram’s Garden](#) survives as a public park.

2. I place great faith in this document, *Memorandum of your Ancestors*, as being both authentic and accurate. The “four children” (of Samuel Laycock and Hannah Taylor) would rule out the spurious online records and trees suggesting two other children, Steven Laycock and Baltzer L. Laycock (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9VQ2-B6M>).

3. Kansas Historical notes “1955winter_notes” (Kansas Historical Quarterly). https://www.ksks.org/publicat/khq/1955/1955winter_notes.pdf#page=2

4. Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College: series 1 - *Bunting Family Deeds, Genealogical Material, Correspondence, 1832-1908*.

5. Laycock can be given as ‘Leacock’ or ‘Laycack’ (*An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill* by Colonel W. F. Cody).

6. *Delaware, Church Records, 1707-1939*, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q654-Y1CF> : Sun Mar 10 04:48:13 UTC 2024), Entry for Hannah Bunting Bonsel and Isaac Bonsel, 17 August 1821.

7. Thanks to Allan Cody for highlighting this.

8. Email, 21 Nov 2023.

9. In some of the strong [Derbyshire dialect](#), used to this day, for example, *her* can become *’er*; *his* can become *’is*, etc.

10. *BONSALL – BUNT’S CORNER OF LAND* by Julie Bunting: www.peak-advertiser.co.uk/post/bonsall-bunt-s-corner-of-land; also see <http://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/Derbyshire/Bonsall/53284cf4b47fc4095c001814-Bonsall>

11. Interestingly, a surname of ‘*Bunteshale*’ also appears from around the 13th century in Derbyshire; still in use as ‘*Bonteshall*’ by 1759.

12. Source: PDF: FL13696479_2843955 - *Bonsall family of Delaware*, page 8. Also listed is Anthony Woodward of Matlock, mentioned in my previous article – associated with Anthony Bunting.

13. Other Quaker Records TNA_RG6_1415_0_0058. John Gratton & Thomas Foulke – from part 1 – also appear.

14. Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College: series 1 - *Bunting Family Deeds, Genealogical Material, Correspondence, 1832-1908*.

15. More pages may possibly exist, if they became separated. Friends Historical Library in email: “Our students scan folders rather than reading and searching around for particular topics/authors, so the fragment is otherwise unaccompanied by other Laycock material, and we don’t have Laycock records in our collection.”

The *Memorandum* however was/is not identified as Laycock, but resides in a Bunting collection. (I believe I identified this to the Friends Historical Library as being Laycock.)

16. Of the four children (of [Samuel Laycock](#) and Hannah Taylor), William Laycock, Samuel Laycock (‘junior’) and almost certainly Mary Ann too, can all be ruled out as author. If it was written by Eliza, who seems the current favourite, I suspect that more pages do exist (otherwise it perhaps seems far too brief).

17. This was “young Hannah Laycock” – presumably Samuel Bunting’s first cousin.

18. [Richard](#), “the progenitor of the American Bonsalls”, had a daughter, [Ann](#) (1680-1749) [Allan Cody email, Nov 2023].

19. One potential source worthy of consulting is *Julia Cody Goodman Family Papers* - Archives West <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:80444/xv796360>