SISLER FAMILY GENEALOGY

My Great Great Great Grandfather, George I (Lewis I) Sisler was born about 1755 in Germany or Philadelphia. He was married around 1783 and moved to Lancaster County, PA. Sometime before 1790, they moved to Northumberland/Lycoming County and in 1790 had three sons (George, James, and Lewis) and two daughters (Betsy and Mary). They had two more sons Houston and Nicholas while there. The 1800 census shows George Sisler living in Lycoming County. The family may have moved to Canada around 1803; however, maybe only George II and James moved there. If the family moved, some information says George I moved back to Pennsylvania before his death in 1820. (Information on the family in the 1700s is very limited so what follows is my best attempt to define the family)

George and his wife had the following children:
George Sisler (Sisley), b. 1784 in PA; d. 1835 Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.
James Sisler, b. 1786 in PA; d. 1824 Bogartown, Ontario, Canada
Lewis II Sisler, b. 1788 in PA
Betsy Sisler, b. in PA before 1790
Mary Sisler, b. in PA before 1790
Houston Sisler; b. 1792 Muncie Township, Lycoming Co., Pennsylvania; m. Rachel Scott about 1820; d. 1867 in Michigan
Nicolas Sisler; b. 1801 Muncie Township, Lycoming Co., Pennsylvania; no other record, may have died young.

My Great Great Grandfather, Lewis Sisler II, was born in 1788 in Muncy Township, Lycoming County, PA, and died June 22, 1851 on his farm in Aurora, Erie County, New York. In 1828, he moved his family to Erie County, N.Y., where he purchased a farm with a log cabin on it, but no other improvement. This farm Lewis cleared from the wilderness and erected on it good, substantial buildings, and made it one of the best homesteads in the county. He became a man of wealth and influence, and gave all his sons academic educations, and, as a Whig, was elected to several township offices. In the 1850 census, it showed that he had 114 acres of land, 2 horses, 9 milk cows, 2 other cattle, 44 sheep and 12 pigs. He married Margaret Marsh about 1812 in Lycoming County, PA. She was the daughter of George Marsh and (Unknown). She was born Apr 5, 1795 in Germany and died at the home of her daughter Margaret, on Mar 28, 1872 in Manchester, Summit County, Ohio. They had the following children:

George Washington Sisler
Houston Sisler, b. 15 Dec 1815 in PA; m. Glorvinea Elizabeth Hamm 5 Oct 1841; d. 30 Jun 1862 in Akron, OH.
- He was Treasurer of Summit County.

John Sisler, b. 16 Dec 1817 in PA; m. Mary Justus 1 Jun 1853, d. 27 Feb 1902 Manchester Village, Summit County, Ohio.
- Arrived in Manchester, Ohio in 1839, where he taught school several years. He operated a general merchandise business and was a farmer.

Dr. William Sisler, b. 12 Sep, 1819 in Lycoming, PA; m. Lorohama R. Hoy 23 Jul 1846, d. 9 Jun 1896 Akron, Ohio.
- Came to Manchester, Ohio and engaged in teaching when he first arrived, then read medicine. In 1873 opened a pharmacy.

Thomas Sisler, b. 28 Dec 1821; m. Mary Lucinda Triplett 3 May 1849; d. 17 Apr 1854 Triplett, Illinois

Dr. Adam Sisler, b. 29 Dec 1823 in Lycoming Co, PA; m. Amanda E. Hoy about 1848; d. 24 Oct 1907 Manchester, Ohio
- Came to Manchester and read medicine with his brother William.

Charles Sisler, b. 1828 in PA; m. Edith Ann Brown about 1854; d. 11 Feb 1858 in Aurora, NY.

Lewis E. Sisler III, b. 10 Jul 1831 in Erie County, NY; m. 10 Jan 1856 Cordelia E. Wheeler; d. 17 Feb 1895 in Elma, NY.

Mary Ann Sisler, b. 14 Sep 1832 Erie County, NY; m. Samuel Ice 1879; d. 1898 Paulding County Ohio

James Alonzo Sisler, b. 8 Dec 1834 in Erie Co. NY; m. about 1853 Elizabeth Stuart; d. 16 May 1894 in Siloam Springs, Howell Co, MO.

Margaret Sisler, b. 1837 in Erie Co, NY; m. Henry A. Housman 1854; d. 1915

My Great Grandfather, George Washington Sisler was born in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, June 9, 1814 to Lewis Sisler II and Margaret Marsh. He first moved to New York where he met his future wife and then moved to Bureau County, Illinois, in 1839, thus casting in his lot with the early settlers who reclaimed this region and planted the seeds of early civilization and development here. He saved his money and after six years was able to buy a farm in Wyanet Township (although part of the farm was located in Princeton Township). He married Nancy J. Perkins on Apr 14, 1842 and had five children. She was born on Dec 14, 1824 and died on Feb 20, 1854, leaving George W. Sisler with four children under ten years of age.

Elizabeth N. Sisler b. 20 Aug 1843; m. Phillip P. Toll about 1862; d. 24 Jul 1868 age 25 maybe during childbirth of her youngest daughter Libby in Princeton, Illinois

Margaret Sisler b. 6 Nov 1845; m. 25 Aug 1864 to Amos Greenamyre; d. 28
Jun 1930 age 85 Lincoln, Nebraska
George Lewis Sisler b. 15 Feb 1848, m. Zilpha Triplett 1 Dec 1869, d. 28 Oct 1928, age 82 Princeton, Illinois
Lucy C. Sisler b. 30 Jun 1850; m. 30 Nov 1868 to Henry Clay Franks; d. 29 Jul 1900 Genesee, Illinois
Mary L. Sisler b. 8 Jan 1852, d. 25 Feb 1864, age 12

George Washington Sisler married Mary Ann Whitmarsh on Aug 21, 1855 and they had eight children including Alvah Mason Sisler (Grandpa) who was born in Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois in October 1863. This was during the Civil War, which occurred between 1861-1865. Mary Ann was born Jun 15, 1825 in Massachusetts. Mary A. (Whitmarsh) Sisler's father was named Alvah and her brother Alvah Mason died in Aug 1863 during the Civil War. So when Grandpa was born in Oct 1863, it was logical to name him after her brother.

Charles Edward Sisler b. 2 Aug 1856, m. 17 Nov 1881 Elizabeth (Lizzie) R. Breed; d. 2 Jan 1926 Ohio, Illinois
Anna Laura Sisler b. 19 Jan 1858, m. 29 Oct 1903 to William L. Degroff, d. 12 Nov 1932 Chicago, Illinois
William Houston Sisler b. 23 Dec 1859; m. 12 Jun 1889 to Martha McClintock; d. 21 Jan 1924 Geneva, Nebraska
Nell (Nellie) W. Sisler b. 11 Aug 1861, never married, d. 1956, age 95; Princeton, Illinois
Alva Mason Sisler
Henry Lincoln Sisler b. 28 Oct 1867, m. Inez Daisy Hibbard 1892, d. 14 Sep 1940 Seattle, Wash
Mary Elizabeth Sisler b. 4 Mar 1871, d. 1885 Wyanet, Illinois

My Grandfather Alva Mason Sisler (Grandpa) was born Oct 14, 1863. He went to school in Princeton, Illinois through about 10th grade. While not in school, he worked on the farm. Instead of completing high school, he decided to go to Colorado where he sold books for a company there. He did this for only a year and became homesick. He returned to Princeton and taught school in the "Little Sisler School" during the winter months. Every Saturday night, large groups of people from miles around would gather at the school for community singing and spelldowns. Grandpa was always the leader on all of these occasions. During the months that he did not teach, he worked on his father's farm and others in the area. One summer, he worked at the farm of
E. O. Downing. This was probably his most enjoyable summer, for here he met and fell in love with Adelaide Downing (Grandma), Edwin Downing’s daughter. Adelaide (Addie) Downing was born in March 1867 also in Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois. After their marriage in Princeton October 7, 1889, they moved into a small tenant house near the school in which Grandpa taught. Grandpa and Mr. Downing must have discussed the dairy business, because in 1892 Mr. Downing commenced the dairy business, supplying milk and cream to the citizens of Princeton, running two wagons, and meeting with fair success.

Grandpa’s father, George W. Sisler died on Jun 12, 1890, having for several years survived his wife, Mary Ann (Whitmarsh) Sisler who had passed away February 1, 1882. The family farmed in Illinois so the children had experience growing up and working on farms. Grandpa’s mother died when he was nineteen years old and he continued living with his father until he was married to Adelaide Downing in 1889.

Addie with her siblings. Addie is in center with bow. Her father is on right.
Around 1910 - Front row: Clifford, Grandpa, Grandma, Gladys. Back row: Marjorie, Ralph (my father), Ray

Grandpa and Addie had a total of five children. They moved to Minnesota in 1892 after the birth of Raymond. Grandma died in Grand Rapids on March 18, 1927. Grandpa died in Grand Rapids on November 9, 1936. Their children were:

Raymond Lee Sisler; b. 16 Aug 1890; m. Elizabeth (Bess) Diana Kelley 21 Oct 1915; d. 2 Jul 1969
Marjorie Sisler; b. 20 July 1893; m. John Emil Holm 1916; d. 11 Jan 1974
Clifford Edwin Sisler; b. 14 Sep 1895; m. Ella Peck 1921; d. 5 Jan 1983
Gladys May Sisler; b. 21 Jun 1897; m. Asa David Anderson 1928; d. 10 Jan 1963
Ralph Downing Sisler; b. 9 Jul 1903; m. Jun 1930 Doris Colburn; d. 1 May 1970

My Father Ralph Downing Sisler was born July 9, 1903 in the Minnesota farmhouse that his father had built between 1895 and 1900. He attended school in LaPrairie through the 9th grade followed by a year or two of vocational farm schooling at Grand Rapids High School. His brother Clifford, whose children were taught by Doris Colburn in Grand Rapids, introduced him to his future wife. He was married to her in June of 1930 and moved into the adjoining farmhouse that his father had built for Ray around 1923. He and
Doris lived there until they moved to the main farmhouse around 1933 and continued to live there until his death in 1970.

Dad as a baby and as a teenager.

Dad and Mom in their mid to late 20s
Mom and Dad while dating about 1929

Wedding picture in June of 1930
Dad and Doris (my mother) had four children:

Ralph Lee Sisler; b. 30, Mar 1932; m. Jun 1955 to Yulah Jean Brink; d. Oct 2013 in Austin Tx
Marilyn Ruth Sisler; b. 7 Feb 1934; m. Jun 1958 to Duane Sea
Janet Helen Sisler; b. 5 May 1937; m. Jun 1964 to Alvin Eckmann
William Mason Sisler; b. 20 Feb 1940; m. 30 Jun 1962 to Marilyn Lea Welman

I, William Mason Sisler was born February 20, 1940 in the same farmhouse that my dad (Ralph) was born. I attended elementary school in LaPrairie through fifth grade and completed high school and junior college in Coleraine, Minnesota. Marilyn Lea Welman and I were married on June 30, 1962 in Grand Rapids. She had just graduated with a teaching degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. I attended college and was drafted into the Army in 1963. We lived in Alaska while serving and I completed a degree in Mathematics at the University of Alaska. Marilyn taught fifth grade on Fort Wainwright military base. We moved to Seattle in 1967 where I worked for Boeing Aerospace Division for two years. I then joined Sperry Univac in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1969 and continued with Univac for 15 fifteen years ending up in the San Francisco, California area. We continued living there until retirement in 2002, then moved to Paso Robles, California. William (Bill) and Marilyn had two children:

Marc Douglas Sisler; b 28 Jun 1972 in Houston, Texas