

## ***ALL-PEOPLE***

***SOME LINEAGES of BARBARA ANN FISHER and KARL FREDERICK EDLER Jr  
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### **PREFACE**

**Purpose** -- *All-People* is a collection of stories about the members of our families who are no longer with us -- information about our ancestors and other relatives of earlier generations. It includes what we have found about them from many sources.

While it's primarily for our children and their children, and for our siblings and their children, we hope it will be useful to other family members and researchers as well.

Incidentally, we don't consider *All-People* to be "genealogy" -- we aren't professional genealogists, we're amateurs who enjoy trying to find as much as we can about our families.

**Background** -- An interest in family history began in childhood for both of us -- Barbara Ann Fisher (BFE) and Karl Frederick Edler Jr (KFE) -- inspired by stories told by grandparents and other relatives.

Much later, after retirement, we began more seriously collecting and recording information. KFE keeps most of it in a data file on his computer, while BFE converts and expands the material into narrative form, adding as many anecdotes and observations as possible.

Beginning in 1997, as we completed drafts of various Sections, we printed them and gave photocopies, designed for three-ring binders, to our children and other interested relatives. In 2006 we began grouping Sections and Parts into Volumes and sharing *All-People* in a more permanent bound version.

**Distribution** -- We plan to continue giving copies in this incomplete form, intended only for study purposes, to interested family members. We're glad to do this as a hobby and to help others in our families, with no charge of any kind for our research and writing efforts.

To make our findings available to other family researchers (not just close family members), we have donated copies of *All-People* to several research libraries, and in 2009 we have begun placing its contents on our Website ([www.edlers.org](http://www.edlers.org)).

**Living persons** -- In the past, *All-People* included some information about persons living at the time the material was written. We felt this was acceptable since it was distributed only to family members. As this version may be seen by non-family members, we have removed all information about living persons.

In most cases, we've used 1915-1920 as a birthdate "cut-off" when we don't know whether a person is living in 2006-2008. As with all our information, we hope we haven't made too many mistakes!

As time and energy permit after we complete placing *All-People* on the Web, we hope to prepare some supplementary material about living people in a different format, for distribution only to family members.

**Format** – Readability was our primary goal when developing our format. It is not in any of the standard styles we've seen. We hope, however, that the family lines in *All-People* can be easily followed, especially by readers not familiar with other approaches.

Material in larger type is from our data file, containing factoids familiar to family researchers, while that in smaller type is the less formal material we have added. Please be patient with us if we sometimes seem inconsistent in placing information -- we're amateurs; gathering and presenting this material continues to be a learning experience for us!

**A suggestion about reading *All-People*** -- In spite of our efforts to give more than just a listing of begats -- to tell about the lives of the people who came before us -- many of our pages do look like a rather colorless record of birthdates, marriage dates, death dates.

We suggest that, when you look at a page, try to read between the lines. Look at the places as well as the dates, and the relationships between the families, and their moves (when? where? why?). See if you can imagine, at least a little bit, how they lived. You may find more than you expected!

**Sources** – The material in *All-People* has been assembled with the help of many family members and other researchers, and we are most grateful for their loving advice and help. We have traveled to places where our ancestors and other relatives lived, and have spent countless hours in libraries, courthouses, cemeteries, historical societies, and other facilities. In recent years we have done a good deal of our research via the Internet and, while it isn't as satisfactory as on-site research, we've found many leads that way.

We've tried (though surely not hard enough) to check material for correctness, and to give essential sources in endnotes. You should keep in mind that *All-People* isn't intended to be a "scholarly dissertation". Instead of a source for every scrap of information, we often show sources for a page as a whole, or for a family or other grouping. This is to make the text easier to read, without interruptions from frequent superscripts.

You will see from the endnotes that some of our sources are generic in nature, especially when they refer to our personal correspondence or, more recently, to Web browsing. Clearly, you could have trouble revisiting and verifying such citations. Two possibilities come to mind:

- Contact us (or our children after we're gone) for further details from our data files; or
- Take our writing with a large dose of skepticism and use it only as a starting point to check the many existing online tools and local genealogical archives for better or more recent information.

**You should regard all of our information as needing further verification.**

**PLEASE** -- We have no plans to publish *All-People* commercially and, in any case, genealogical facts themselves obviously cannot be “owned” by anyone. We have no intention of trying to keep anyone from using the data in *All-People*. We do, however, urge you not to republish our data without including the source information we have provided, and warning your readers of possible inaccuracies. As we have stated repeatedly, much of our material is unverified, and we believe that substantial errors may exist in what we have written.

Most family researchers have encountered many instances of incorrect data passed along from one document to another, and are aware of the consequences. We would like to avoid any such occurrence based on information in *All-People* -- this is why we encourage you to verify such things as names, event dates and places independently, before sharing them with others.

**Permission?** – Family researchers may certainly photocopy pertinent pages of *All-People* for personal use. Family researchers are welcome to quote limited passages in their own work, as long as they are attributed, for reasons stated above, to “incomplete and partly unverified data from *All-People* by B and K Edler, Accokeek MD 1997-2009”.

**Corrections** -- In the past, we created updates to various sections of *All-People* frequently, and distributed them to fit the three-ring binders. With the bound volumes, we aren't able to do this as easily. We nevertheless continue to urge readers to LET US KNOW of CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS -- as time and energy permit, we will prepare revised and/or new material for the Website.

**Contact us** -- Our e-mail is [family@edlers.net](mailto:family@edlers.net). Our website is [www.edlers.org](http://www.edlers.org).

**Some comments about research and the Internet** -- Much more information, and new and improved tools and techniques for finding the information, are now readily available via the Internet, than when we began working on *All-People*. For example, a much appreciated improvement is that it's much easier to find when some events took place -- such as when the counties in a state were formed, and from what other counties.

Another very useful example is that on-line indexing can save hours of line-by-line searching of census records -- but transcriptions and indexing often introduce errors. Sometimes these mistakes can be corrected through on-line access to images of original documents, which enable close examination of the handwriting on the originals. It's definitely quicker and easier than traveling to the archives!

Some of the techniques we used in the past are still valid today. In most cases, we haven't simply copied another researcher's notes; we have attempted to confirm (or refute) the data by checking other sources. Also, we've found it helpful to give a “sanity test” to everything -- for example, asking ourselves if an event would have been possible in the time period, or whether the stated ages make sense.

#### **A few explanations about *All-People*** --

*Superscripts*: By a person's given name, a superscript indicates the generation down from the first person in that Section. By any other word, a superscript refers to an endnote (source of the data).

*Why are some names in bold type?* In explanatory or descriptive information, we use bold type the first time a surname is mentioned, to make it easier to catch the eye of the reader.

*Why are some women's surnames shown within brackets?* Whenever we can, we identify a woman by her maiden surname. We use brackets around her married surname when we don't know her maiden name, or when we know (or suspect) the surname was from a previous marriage.

*What does the symbol (--?--) stand for?* Usually, it means we don't know the person's first name. In a few cases, we use [--?--] to show that we don't know a man's surname.

*How many children did this couple have?* Sometimes we show only one or two children in a family; this does not necessarily mean these were the only children of those parents.

*What do we "believe"?* -- A phrase such as "we believe that" or "it is said that" simply means that we haven't been able to confirm something positively, or perhaps haven't even tried to confirm, but don't want another researcher to assume that we have done so. We haven't included anything we know is incorrect.

*Where does the family data come from?* -- A variety of places, with varied reliability.

Original sources of information, such as wills, MBDs (marriage, birth and death certificates), land conveyance records, and census records, generally provide a fair degree of assurance.

Secondary sources, such as books written or compiled by others, may or may not be reliable, depending on the quality of the research and the documentation provided.

Third hand sources, such as data gathered by an organization and, especially, data passed along through the Internet, are generally less reliable until verified. They can, however, provide wonderful starting points!

When several sources agree, even if they individually may not be the most reliable, we might conclude they collectively carry more weight, as long as we feel sure they weren't just copying each other.

*For any source, possible examples of reasons for doubt might be:*

- interviewee's or correspondent's well-intentioned but failing memory
- difficulty in reading early handwriting
- variances in early spelling
- changes in official calendars, holidays, dates on which new year begins
- transcription errors

### **A bit about Calendar systems**

From the beginning, people have found ways to keep track of time. Many calendar systems have been developed, some of them discarded, some still in use by various groups. It's not our purpose in *All-People* to explain concepts or history of calendar systems -- just to give a little information to help our readers.

The calendar system used in 2009 in the USA and many other countries is the one most readers are familiar with -- the Gregorian calendar. It supplanted the Julian calendar in various countries beginning in 1582, but didn't begin to be adopted in England and her colonies until about 1752. (And the reader needs to keep in mind that there are cases where the Gregorian calendar was used informally before it became official, and cases where the Julian calendar remained in use even though it was no longer official.)

Adoption of the Gregorian calendar resulted in the "dropping" of eleven days. While this was a major improvement in making up for mistakes in past calendars, some uneducated folks believed that eleven days of their lives were being taken away, and some of them rioted. If this intrigues you, consult your encyclopedia!

What a family history researcher usually needs to know is that, when converting a date from Julian to Gregorian, eleven days must be added. All this is further complicated by a change in New Year's Day -- under the Julian calendar it was 25 March, while under the Gregorian calendar it's 1 January.

So, when converting a date from Julian to Gregorian, if the date is between 1 January and 25 March, in addition to adding eleven days, one year must be added. For example, George Washington was born 11 Feb 1731 according to the Julian calendar in use at the time. Converted to the Gregorian calendar, he was born 22 Feb 1732, the date most of us learned in school.

Dates between 1 Jan and 25 Mar are often written with two years -- OS or "Old Style" refers to Julian calendar, NS or "New Style" refers to Gregorian calendar. For example, 14 Feb 1714/15 is 14 Feb 1714 OS and it is also 25 Feb 1715 NS.

We hope this is helpful; *please consult authoritative sources for more complete information.*

### **A few definitions used in *All-People* and/or other family history documents**

- LDS Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, sometimes called "Mormons"  
FHL Family History Library of the LDS, in Salt Lake City and in branches in various other locations  
IGI LDS International Genealogical Index  
Ancestral File A database of family relationships maintained by the LDS Family History Department
- FGR Family Group Record, a standard display of relationships, used by FHL and others
- NARA National Archives and Records Administration (US Archives)  
LOC Library of Congress
- SSDI Social Security Death Index, issued periodically by the Social Security Administration  
GNIS Database of geographic names in USA and its territories  
GNS Database of geographic names in countries other than USA
- GEDCOM A standardized computer exchange format for genealogical data  
FAQ Frequently asked questions, answered on some websites
- Co County  
Twp Township  
c or ca circa (about)  
inst "of this month"; for example, "5<sup>th</sup> inst" means "5<sup>th</sup> of this month"  
dsp died without having children  
nee literally "born"; refers to a woman's maiden name  
ED Enumeration District, an identifier in census records
- Great Britain -- England, Scotland, Wales  
UK United Kingdom -- England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland  
Ireland -- Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland  
British Isles -- Great Britain, Ireland, and the adjacent islands
- CSA Confederate States of America  
USA United States of America

**States of the USA**

*Note: early state abbreviations varied widely. These are the official postal codes in 2009.*

AL Alabama	ID Idaho	MO Missouri	PA Pennsylvania
AK Alaska	IL Illinois	MT Montana	RI Rhode Island
AZ Arizona	IN Indiana	NE Nebraska	SC South Carolina
AR Arkansas	IA Iowa	NV Nevada	SD South Dakota
CA California	KS Kansas	NH New Hampshire	TN Tennessee
CO Colorado	KY Kentucky	NJ New Jersey	TX Texas
CT Connecticut	LA Louisiana	NM New Mexico	UT Utah
DE Delaware	ME Maine	NY New York	VT Vermont
DC District of Columbia	MD Maryland	NC North Carolina	VA Virginia
FL Florida	MA Massachusetts	ND North Dakota	WA Washington
GA Georgia	MI Michigan	OH Ohio	WV West Virginia
HI Hawaii	MN Minnesota	OK Oklahoma	WI Wisconsin
	MS Mississippi	OR Oregon	WY Wyoming

**Provinces of Canada**

*Note: early province abbreviations varied widely. These are the official postal codes in 2009.*

AL Alberta	NF Newfoundland	PE Prince Edward Island
BC British Columbia	NS Nova Scotia	PQ Quebec
MB Manitoba	NT Northwest Territories	SK Saskatchewan
NB New Brunswick	ON Ontario	YT Yukon Territory

Many more definitions are available at [www.eogen.com/\\_Index](http://www.eogen.com/_Index)

*Note: the word Index in the website address must be capitalized, and must be preceded by an underlined space.*

**English translations of a few German place names**

Preussen	Prussia
Pommern	Pommerania
Schlesien	Silesia
Bayern	Bavaria

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