

**Example of a Proof Statement for a lineage application.**

Sometimes it is not possible to definitely link an ancestor to his parents. When filling out a lineage application, that is not acceptable. Lineage societies require proof of parentage for every generation.

In those cases, the researcher needs to ferret out numerous documents and fit them together in a dialogue that leads to a logical conclusion about the parentage. In lineage society language, this is called a proof statement.

This particular proof statement is long. In order to prove George G. Mead's parentage, we had to reconstruct his entire family; his siblings and his children.

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Generation 4; Proof statement for George G. Mead's parentage,  
By Connie Lenzen, CG

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**Subject:** George G. Mead

**Background:** A 1936 biography<sup>1</sup> gives this information about Charles Lewis Mead, son of George G. Mead:

- Charles Lewis Mead was born 24 June 1867 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- His parents were George G. and Jennie M. (Markle) Mead.
- Charles Lewis Mead attended schools in Conway Springs, Kansas.
- By 1901, Charles Lewis Mead was in Portland, Oregon.

The 1880 census gives New York as the place of birth for George Mead.<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of Findings:** The case connecting George G. Mead to his parents was made by locating a previously unknown daughter, Birdie (Mead) Sones on the 1900 census.

By analyzing evidence created around this daughter, George G. Mead was joined to his parents and siblings.

George G. Mead is the son of Lewis and Huldah (Gale) Mead. His first wife, Jennie Markle, may have died in childbirth or shortly after Charles Lewis Mead's birth.

After the linkage was made, a case was built for George G. Mead's birth and death dates.

### **Analysis of Problem**

George G. Mead was born in New York, had a son in Wisconsin, and may have lived in Conway Springs, Kansas.

Whenever we have a migration situation like this, we need to recall that family and/or community groups moved together.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Lewis Mead, "The State Reference Capitol's Who's Who for Oregon 1936-38 (Portland, OR: Capitol Publishing Company, 1938), 380.

<sup>2</sup> 1880 US Census, population schedule, Sumner County, Kansas, Eden, SD 2, ED 200, page 4 (penned), 160 stamped), dwelling 34, family 35, George Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/> hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T9, roll 398.

When we look in census records for George G. Mead, we need to look for others who may have moved with him.

### **Beginning Point: Literature Research**

In Spencer P. Mead's *History and Genealogy of the Mead Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, Eastern New York, Western Vermont, and Western Pennsylvania From A.D. 1180 to 1900*,<sup>3</sup> we have:

Huldah Gale, daughter of Jerusha Mead and George Gale, married Lewis Mead of Middleport, N.Y. They had Emily who married \_\_\_\_ Green; Jane who died young; Sarah who married Willis Haight of Somerset, New York; and **George Mead**.

*Comment by CL: This man is the only George Mead in the book who is from New York. Our George Mead's middle initial is "G." It is reasonable to think that Huldah (Gale) Mead would name a son after her father George Gale.*

The "Articles Exempted From Appraisement" in Lewis Mead's Niagara County Probate names widow Huldah and "minor children named Emily Jerusha, Jane Ann, Sarah Adelia, Mary Eliza, George G, Sylvena Rebecca, Martha Aurela."<sup>4</sup>

### **Census work – locate George Mead in the 1880 census.**

**1880** Sumner County, Kansas, Eden<sup>5</sup>  
SD 2, ED 200, page 4 (penned), 160 (stamped)  
Dwelling 34, family 35

**Mead, George**, 34, farmer, born New York, father born New York, mother born Vermont  
“ **Charles**, 13, son, at home, born Wisconsin, father born New York, mother born New Jersey, attended school within the year.

*Comment by CL: Eden Township is in the same county as Conway Springs, the town where Charles Lewis Mead attended school.*

*The birth state for George Mead is consistent with what is known about our George Mead. We have birth states for his parents; New York for his father and Vermont for his mother.*

*A line-by-line search of Eden Township does not reveal the presence of a female Mead who could be Charles' mother.*

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<sup>3</sup> Spencer P. Mead, *History and Genealogy of the Mead Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, Eastern New York, Western Vermont, and Western Pennsylvania From A.D. 1180 to 1900* (New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1901), 358.

<sup>4</sup> Lewis Mead Probate, Niagara County Surrogate Court, obtained by Rick D. Huff, M.S., [hawkhuff@msn.com](mailto:hawkhuff@msn.com), 8 January 2005.

<sup>5</sup> 1880 US Census, population schedule, Sumner County, Kansas, Eden, SD 2, ED 200, page 4 (penned), 160 (stamped), dwelling 34, family 35, George Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T9, roll 398.

### Possible Relatives

An adjacent census entry is for the Willis Haight family. Minnie Haight was born in New York, and her parents were born in the same states as were George Mead's.

Dwelling 33, family 34.

Haight, Willis, 36, farmer, New York, New York, New York

“Minnie, 32, wife, keeping house, New York, New York, Vermont

“Mary B., 6, daughter, New York, New York, New York

*Comment by CL: From Spencer P. Mead's work, Sarah Mead married Willis Haight. Here we have a Minnie who is married to Willis Haight.*

The full Eden Township census was searched for others who had a father born in New York and a mother born in Vermont. One was found, and living in the adjacent dwelling is a **Huldah Mead**, born in Vermont.<sup>6</sup>

Dwelling 64, family 65

Hall, John F, 29, farmer, Wisconsin, New York, New York

“**Orelia M**, 26, wife, keeping house, New York, New York, Vermont

“Charles G, 4, son, Wisconsin, Wisconsin, New York

“Elery M, 2, daughter, Kansas, Wisconsin, New York

Dwelling 65, family 66

**Mead, Huldah**, 69, mother in law, Vermont, New York, New York.

*Comment by CL: Orelia M. Hall has a son named Charles, as does George Mead. Huldah Mead is the mother of Orelia M. No Orelia M. Mead is listed in Spencer Mead's work, but the Wisconsin birthplace of Orelia's children suggests further study on this family.*

### ***Minnie Haight, Orelia Hall, and George Mead in 1900.***

**1900 Conway Springs<sup>7</sup>**

Dwelling 174, family 177

Seventh Street

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<sup>6</sup> 1880 US Census, population schedule, Sumner County, Kansas, Eden, page 7 (penned) 162 (stamped), SD 2, ED 200, dwelling 64, family 65, John F. Hall household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T9, roll 398.

<sup>7</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, population schedule, Sumner county, Kansas, Conway Springs, SD 7, Ed 322, sheet 10 (penned), 86 (stamped), dwelling 174, family 178, Willis Haight household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T623, roll 502.

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Haight, Willis, head, Sept. 1846, 53, married 36 years, New York, New York, New York, bank teller, rents home

“ **Minnie**, wife, Aug. 1847, 52, married 36 years, bore two children, two living, New York, New York, New York

“ Pearl, daughter, Nov 1885, 14, Kansas, New York, New York, at school.

*Comment by CL: Minnie Haight's mother's birth state is now given as New York,*

**1900** Eden Township<sup>8</sup>

Dwelling 31, family 31

Hall, John F, head, July 1850, married 29 years, Wisconsin, New York, New York, farmer, owns farm, mortgaged

“ **Mattie O**, wife, Dec 1852, 47, married 29 years, bore 3 children, 2 living, New York, New York, Vermont

“ Charles, son, Oct 1875, 24, single, Wisconsin, Wisconsin, New York, farmer

*Orelia is now Mattie O. This is possibly the Martha Aurelia from Lewis Mead's probate. Mattie's mother's birth state is now given as New York.*

**George Mead in 1900**

**1900** Conway Springs<sup>9</sup>

Dwelling 197, family 201

Sixth St.

Sones, Frank W, head, June 1863, 36, married 8 years, born Pennsylvania, parents born Pennsylvania, dry goods, owns home free

“ Birdie, wife, Apr 1871, 29, 8 years married, bore one child, one living, born Wisconsin, father born New York, mother born Canada Eng

Dodson, Lola, step dau, May 1888, 12, Kansas, Wisconsin, Wisconsin

**Mead, Geo**, father-in-law, Apr 1848, 52, widowed [23 is written in the number of years married column and crossed out], New York, New York, New York, farmer [owns farm free of mortgage is written in and crossed out, as is number 108 in the column for the number of the farm schedule. These same words and number are given to the next census entry].

*Comment by CL: This George Mead is the only George Mead in Sumner County, Kansas. His age is slightly different from the 1880 George Mead, and his mother's birth state is*

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<sup>8</sup> 1900 US Census, population schedule, Sumner County, Kansas, Eden, SD 91, ED 324, sheet 2B (penned), dwelling 31, family 31, John F. Hall household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T623, roll 502.

<sup>9</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, population schedule, Sumner county, Kansas, Conway Springs, SD 7, Ed 322, sheet 11 (penned), dwelling 197, family 201, Frank W. Sones household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T623, roll 502.

*different. (It is the same as Minnie Haight's and Orelia Halls, however.). The census page is written in fine script, but obvious strikeouts for George Mead's entries suggest carelessness.*

*This Birdie Mead is a surprise. If she is Charles Lewis Mead's sister, she may have had a different mother than Charles. His mother's birth state was given in the 1880 census as New Jersey. Birdie's mother's birth state is given as Canada.*

### **Birdie (Mead) Sones**

The Sumner County Historical Society was contacted. Della M. Shafer, their researcher,<sup>10</sup> has access to a mortuary book that gives Birdie Sones' death date. Newspaper notices of her death and funeral provide family linkage.

*Conway Springs Star*

6 June 1912

Page 1, col. 4

Mrs. Frank Sones is Dead

Mrs. Frank Sones died at a Wichita hospital at 12:20 Tuesday afternoon. She was taken to the hospital the last of the week, a serious operation was performed, and it was thought for a while that she might recover. Her daughter, Mrs. A. L. West, was with her when the change for the worse came and her husband and her **father, Geo. Mead**, were sent for but they did not get there until after she died.

Mrs. Sones was 48 years old. The body was brought down from Wichita yesterday morning and now rests at the home of her **aunt, Mrs. Minnie Haight**. Funeral services will be conducted from the Methodist church this afternoon at 2:30.

*Conway Springs Star*

13 June 1913

Page 3, col. 3

Obituary.

Birdie Nevada Mead Sones was born in Merton, Wisconsin, April 1, 1869; died at Wichita, Kansas, June 4, 1912, aged 43 years, 3 months and 4 days.

She came to Sumner County, Kansas, with her parents in 1876 and was married to Frank Sones August 17, 1898. She leaves besides her husband and **father (G. G. Mead)** two daughters, Mrs. Lola West and Gwendolyn Sones, two brothers, **C. L. Mead of Portland**, Oregon, A. L. Mead of Chicago, Ill., and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her loss. . . .

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church last Thursday afternoon and was largely attended by relatives, neighbors and friends and interment was made in the Conway Springs cemetery.

*Comment by CL: We see that George Mead was her father and Charles Mead was her brother. Further, Minnie Haight was her aunt. The question now is, was Minnie Haight the daughter of Huldah (Gale) Mead?*

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<sup>10</sup> Della M. Shafer ([thescoop@cox.net](mailto:thescoop@cox.net))

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*Birdie Sones was born in Merton, Wisconsin. Merton is in Waukesha County, which is adjacent to Milwaukee County where Charles Lewis Mead was born in 1867.*

### **Meads in Waukesha County, Wisconsin**

Four daughters of Lewis and Huldah Mead are listed in Judy Vezzetti's *Index to Waukesha County, Wisconsin Marriages, 1846-1907*.<sup>11</sup>

- Mary E. Mead married John Mayhew on 20 March 1867.
- Mattie Mead married John Hall on 28 December 1871.
- Sarah A. Mead married Charles Skinner on 11 October 1867.
- Sylvena Mead married Willis J. Haight on 27 November 1870.

*Comment by CL: Clearly, Mattie (Mead) Hall from the Sumner County censuses is the above Mattie Mead. Willis J. Haight wed Sylvena Mead. Could he have also married Sarah Mead?.*

We find Huldah Mead and family on the 1870 Merton Township, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.<sup>12</sup>

Merton Township

Page 23 (penned) 285 (stamped)

Dwelling 174, family 174

Mead, Mrs. Huldah, 58, keeping house & family, \$3800 real estate, \$520 personal estate, born Vermont

“ Sylvena, 23, at home, New York

“ Mattie O, 17, at home, New York

Skinner, Charles, 34, farm laborer, New York

“ Sarah E, 26, wife, New York

“ Eva A, 1, Wisconsin

“ Edith A, 1/12, Wisconsin

*Comment by CL: No surprises with this census. The question still remains. Who is Minnie Haight?*

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<sup>11</sup> Judy Vezzetti, comp. *Index to Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Marriages, 1846-1907* (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2001), np.

<sup>12</sup> 1870 US Census, population schedule, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Merton, page 23 (penned) 285 (stamped), dwelling 174, family 174, Huldah Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1727.

### **Minnie Haight**

From the same Sumner County mortuary book, Della Shafer, the on-site researcher, located Minnie Haight's death date and then located her obituary.

The Wellington [Kansas] Daily News

2 Sep 1916

Page 3, col. 2.

Died – Friday night. Mrs. Minnie Haight died at her home in Conway Springs. She was a **sister of Mrs. John Mayhew** who died just a week ago. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Layne and Dr. Mayhew will attend the funeral services which will be held at her home in Conway Springs Sunday afternoon.

*Comment by CL: Mary E. Mead, daughter of Lewis and Huldah Mead, married John Mayhew in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Minnie's identification as Sylvena Mead is still inconclusive.*

The digital image of Willis J. T. Haight's entry in the National Archives' Civil War Pension Index on Ancestry.com shows his wife's name as **Sylvena R. Haight**.<sup>13</sup>

Name of Soldier: Haight, Willis J. T.

Name of Dependent: Haight, Sylvena R.

Service: K 151 NY Inf.

Date of Filing:

1865 May 13, Invalid, Application No. 61445, certificate no. 26764

1906 Jan 22, Widow, 841326, certificate no. 668128

State from which filed: Kansas

*Comment by CL: Clearly, "Minnie" Haight is Sylvena Haight, and the daughter of Huldah and Lewis Mead. This makes George G. Mead the son of Huldah and Lewis Mead. The search will now turn towards locating George G. Mead's birth and death dates.*

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<sup>13</sup> National Archives and Records Administration. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934. [database online] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 2000. Data indexed and imaged from National Archives and Records Administration. General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934. T288, 544 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

## **George G. Mead's birth and death dates.**

### *Death*

George G. Mead was alive when his daughter, Birdie Sones, died in 1912. He is not in the 1920 census indexes on Ancestry.com.

His name is not in the published cemetery book for Sumner County.

There is a burial listed in Eden Cemetery for the following Meads:<sup>14</sup>

Huldah Mead, 29 Aug 1887, Block 54, space D

Berth E Mead, 25 Feb 1891 Block 42, space C

Henry L Mead, 27 Aug 1891. Block 42, space D

Della M. Shafer, an on-site researcher, checked the Sumner County, Kansas probate indexes. No entry for George. She further checked the Conway Springs cemetery listings. No entry for George.<sup>15</sup>

Therefore, we will use an **estimated death date for George – after 1912.**

### *Birth*

In the 1900 census, George Mead's birth is given as April 1848, but we have an approximate birth year of 1846 in the 1880 censuses. We need to see what is recorded on other censuses.

The 1870 census indexes on Ancestry.com were searched for George Mead, but he was not found. Variations on the search included a soundex search and a search for George born in New York and living in Wisconsin or Kansas.

**1860:** The 1860 Lockport, Niagara County, New York census shows the Huldah Mead household with George, age 14.

Lockport<sup>16</sup>

Page 267 (penned) 1071 (stamped)

Dwelling 2123, family 2133

Mead, Huldah, 47, farmer, \$5200 real estate, \$600 personal estate, Vermont

“ Emily, 22, New York

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<sup>14</sup> “Eden Cemetery,” digital database <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ksscgs/cm/EdencemL-Z.htm>, downloaded 13 December 2005.

<sup>15</sup> Della M. Shafer ([thescoop@cox.net](mailto:thescoop@cox.net)) to Connie Lenzen, 2 December 2005: “My husband and I read and did a book in 2002 on both cemeteries in Conway Springs - the Conway Springs Cemetery and the St. Josephs Cemetery and didn't find George in either of them. We even used the cemetery's burial records to find those buried without stones. I also looked in all the other cemeteries in Sumner Co. and didn't find him. . . . I also checked the Probate Index and even the records we have on the Poor Farm, which were the only other places I could think of to look

<sup>16</sup> 1860 US Census, population schedule, Niagara County, New York, Lockport, page 267 (penned) 1071 (stamped), dwelling 2123, family 2133, Huldah Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>; accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm M653, roll 823.

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“ Sarah, 18, New York  
“ Mary, 16, New York  
“ George, 14, New York  
“ Sylvena, 14, New York,  
“ Martha, 7, New York

The **1855** Lockport state census shows the Hulda Mead household with George G. listed as a son<sup>17</sup>. Note: this census gives the county of birth.

1855 New York State Census

Township of Lockport

District 2, 6/9/1855

Entry 107 Frame House, \$150

Mead, Hulda, 45, f, b. VT farmer, owner

Emily, 17, f, child, b. Niagara Co.

Jane Ann, f, 15, f, child, b. Niagara Co.

Sarah A., 13, f, child, b. Niagara Co.

Mary E., 11, f, child, Niagara Co.

George G., 9, m, child, b. Niagara Co. [Born about 1846]

Sylvena, 7, f, child, b. Niagara Co.

Martha O., 2, f, child, b. Niagara Co.

**1850** Lockport, Niagara County, New York<sup>18</sup>

Mead, Lewis, 58, born NY, farmer, \$5080 real estate

“ Huldah, 38, VT

“ Emily, 11, NY

“ Jane, 10, NY

“ Sarah, 8, NY

“ Mary, 6, NY

“ Sylvana 2, NY

“ George, 4, NY [Born about 1846]

*Analysis:*

Ages and approximate birth years for George G. Mead are as follows:

1850: 4 [about 1846]

1860: 14 [about 1846]

1880; 34 [about 1846]

1900: April 1848

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<sup>17</sup> Lockport census abstract as given by Rick D. Huff, M.S., to Connie Lenzen, in his report on materials found at Lockport Town Historian Office to Connie Lenzen, 8 January 2005.

<sup>18</sup> 1850 US Census, population schedule, Niagara County, New York, Lockport, page 141 (stamped), 281 (penned), dwelling 1750, family 2141, Lewis Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>; accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm M432, roll 560.

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The informant for the 1850 and 1860 censuses may have been George's mother. In 1880, it may have been George. In 1900, it could have been anyone in the household.

Given that family members would know a birth month, April will be used as George's birth month.

The census day for the four federal censuses listed above was June 1<sup>st</sup>. If he was born in April, he would have had his birthday shortly before the enumeration day. Therefore, his birth year would be 1846. He was born in April 1846. The 1855 census gives his birth county as Niagara.

### **Jennie Markle**

Jennie (Markle) Mead is not found in the 1880 census. She is not buried in Eden Cemetery where George's mother is buried.

The 1900 and 1910<sup>19</sup> censuses for Birdie (Mead) Sones give her mother's birth state as Canada.

The 1910<sup>20</sup> and 1920<sup>21</sup> censuses for Charles Lewis Mead give his mother's birth state as New York. The 1880 census gives her birth state as New Jersey.

Clearly, Charles Lewis Mead and Birdie Mead had different mothers.

The time span between Charles birth year of 1867 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Birdie's birth year of 1869 in Merton, Waukesha County, Wisconsin is short.

It is highly possible that Jennie (Markle) Mead, Charles's mother, died in childbirth or shortly afterwards, and then George G. Mead remarried. Since Birdie Mead was born 1 April 1869, we estimate Jennie (Markle) Mead's death as before 1869 and probably in Wisconsin.

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<sup>19</sup> 1910 US Census, population schedule, Sumner County, Kansas, Conway Springs Twp, ED 153, SD 8, sheet 5 (penned) 73 (stamped) dwelling 1, family 1, Frank Sones household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/> hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic: accessed 2 December 2005).

<sup>20</sup> 1910 US Census, population schedule, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, Ward 9, SD 239, ED 217, sheet 16 (stamped) 115 (penned), dwelling 12, family 11, Charles Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/> hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic: accessed 2 December 2005); from National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1289.

<sup>21</sup> 1920 US Census, population schedule, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, Precinct 227, SD 3, ED 125, sheet 6 (penned), 113 (stamped), dwelling 107, family 110, Charles L. Mead household; digital image by subscription, *Heritage Quest Online* (<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/>