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MY GLOUCESTER ROOTS

A Memory Book

By Leslie Kieran



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leslie (Newman) Kieran was born and raised in Gloucester, graduating Gloucester High School in 1967. She now lives in Texas. Leslie has been researching her family history, a family with roots in Gloucester since the early 1600s. Here we share a few of her memories, and a collection of her photos that tell their own story.

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top left: O'Neil & Newman Dairy in Gloucester, owned by Richard O'Neil and Seth Newman (the author's grandfather) on the day they sold out to HP Hood in 1945. Front row, left to right: Eddie Spittle, Myron Newman (author's father), unknown woman, Noel Perkins, a man called Red, and Marion Hodgkins (the author's great-aunt Annabelle's daughter). Back row, left to right: Pete Carter, (possibly Pete's brother?) and an unknown man. Behind Marion (with the dog) is the author's grandfather, Seth Newman. On far right, two unknown men. This picture was taken at 356/357 Essex Ave in West Gloucester.

Bottom left: Leslie Kieran holding an original Hood milk canister. Photo taken in 2020.

Bottom right: Leslie's mother, Marion (Loring) Newman in Gloucester, 1918.

Please see full photo collection starting on Page 5.

MY GLOUCESTER ROOTS

A Photo Memory Book

By Leslie Kieran

My sister Margie was 13, and Barbara was 10 when Route 128 was built during 1947-1948. The workers had to blast the rock, and everyone living close by had to leave their homes when they did. Our house was across from the 128 exit on Concord Street. One of the rocks hit the roof of our house and landed in the attic, crushing my sister's sled. I was not born until later that year.

My sister said it was all woods then and lots of deer. My grandfather was glad they built 128; he said it opened up a whole new world. My 3rd great-grandfather, John Newman (1790-1873), at 14, took six long voyages to the Dutch East Indies. Buying and trading were important in those days, and it was not uncommon for a 14-year-old boy to embark on voyages or be in a war. He married Lydia Robinson (1795-1851).

My other 3rd great-grandfather, Morris Hodgkins (1792-1864), married Lydia Parsons Tarr (1795-1880). She was a direct descendant of Benjamin Tarr, who landed at Sandy Bay in 1623. My great-grandfather, Charles Franklin Newman (1849-1923), married Lucy Boynton. He was a stone cutter in his early years. He traced family history through his father to the Robinson family and his mother to the Saville family. Charles was well known in Gloucester and had a keen mind. He was often consulted on matters of history as he was always the scholar, keeping well-informed on all vital subjects.

My grandfather, Seth Newman (1889-1968), owned O'Neil & Newman Dairy with his brother-in-law Richard O'Neil at 357 Essex Ave. My father, Myron Newman (1911-1980), also worked there. They sold out to HP Hood in the late 40s, and both worked for HP Hood until they retired. Seth also was an Air Raid Warden. My Dad helped him, and when the siren sounded, they geared up and headed out to make sure everyone had house lights off and cars had to have 1/2 of the headlights painted black. I am sure many of you will remember when we had to have drills at school and hide under our desks.

My 2nd great-grandfather, William Henry Robinson (1852-1882), was a blacksmith. He married Laura Lufkin. Many Gloucester people protected the shores of Gloucester from invasion and fought for our freedoms. In 1947, a fire burned scores of acres in Gloucester and West Gloucester as it jumped the Little River. People fought these fires to save their homes and neighbors' homes. My Dad and his father fought those fires using brooms, garden hoses, and stirrup pumps. Charles Tucker, who lived on Woodward Avenue, went to move his things and found another car that had locked bumpers with it. There was no time to move it, so it was left to the flames. The fire raged for over a week, and no one was lost. There were only two minor injuries, which the firemen and police said was a miracle. The people of Gloucester united to save homes and lives.

Many fishermen living on the seacoast, and I have some in my family who were lost at sea. The sea also brought more immigrants to Gloucester: My great-grandmother Mary C. Conceice Perry (1859-1934) came from the Azores, she was the wife of Joseph F. Perry (1854-?);

my grandmother Mary Clara Perry (1889-1960); my great-uncle Joseph Perry (1885-1974); Mary and her brother Joseph were young children when they immigrated to Gloucester in the late 1800s. My mother, Marion (Loring) Newman (1910-1992), and her sister Clara (Loring) O'Brien (1908-1986), and later Watson, were born in Gloucester.

I am proud of my heritage and all the people who made Gloucester home, drenching us in history from the 1600s to the present.

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### AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to offer a special thank you to my cousin, Bob Hubbard (1952-2019), who was born and raised in West Gloucester. Bob sent me the original Hood milk can which was a story in itself. The milk can was mailed from Maine to Texas and arrived at my front door as is. Bob called me and said, "You have something, open your front door." I was surprised. Bob and I shared many family stories; he would have loved being part of the Gloucester400+ Stories Project.

I would like to thank my Dad for the family tree he shared, and for the stories of his life; my mother for the Portuguese roots and food; my sisters who shared what they remembered; and finally, my ancestors who were brave enough to leave their country and travel to a new life in Gloucester where one day I would be born and grow up with many wonderful memories. Gloucester, my home.



Me showing off an original Hood milk canister. Photo taken in 2020.

### EDITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Larry Maver and Terry Weber Mangos for photo restoration.

### NOTE

Photo collection starts on the next page.

# A PEEK AT LESLIE KIERAN'S FAMILY PHOTO COLLECTION

*All photos are owned by Leslie (Newman) Kieran and her family.*



On far right are my great-grandparents, Charles Newman and Lucy Boynton. They are Seth Newman's parents. The rest are a mix of Charles and Lucy's children and unknown persons. Circa late 1800s to early 1900s.

For context, my name is Leslie (Newman) Kieran. My father's name is Myron Newman. His father was Seth Newman, and Seth's parents are Charles and Lucy, pictured above.

Charles and Lucy married in 1873. They were married 51 yrs. They had 13 children: Allan Franklin, born 1-16-1875; Ruthela, 9-16-1877; Charlie, 8-2-1878; Waldo Preston, 9-16-1880; Lloyd Garrison, 5-24-1882; Eunice Gott, 7-1-1883; Paul Boynton, 7-1885; Hubert R., 7-8-1886; Annabelle, 7-31-1888; Seth Myron, 8-27-1889; Dorothea, 7-21-1891; Grace, 7-25-1895; Ralph Hodgkins, 11-18-1897.



My great-grandmother,  
Mary C. Conceice Perry, late 1800s.



My great-uncle, Ralph Newman,  
in Gloucester, early 1900s.



Three generations of my family in Gloucester, circa 1912: Lucy (Boynton) Newman, 1855-1929; Charles Franklin Newman, 1849-1923; Seth Newman, 1889-1968, holding my dad, Myron Newman, who was born in Gloucester in 1911.



Annabelle Newman (my great-aunt) with my dad on left and his brother Charles, circa 1913.



My grandfather, Albert P. Loring, of Gloucester, shown here in France during World War I, circa 1917.



My mother, Marion (Loring) Newman in Gloucester, 1918.



Left to right: My mother Marion, her sister Clara, and cousin May Alves, in Gloucester, circa 1922.





My mother's sister, Clara Loring, born in Gloucester in 1908.



My father Myron Newman went to Citizens Military training camp in the summer at Fort McKinley in Maine during 1927, and Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont in 1928. He was a sharpshooter and a Corporal. All the young men who went to military camp would march thru Gloucester with horses as they headed to camp. He later enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1933 and was a corporal and first-class gunner. Photo circa 1927, when he was about 16 years old.



My mother, Marion (Loring) Newman, in Gloucester, 1928. She lived from 1910-1992.



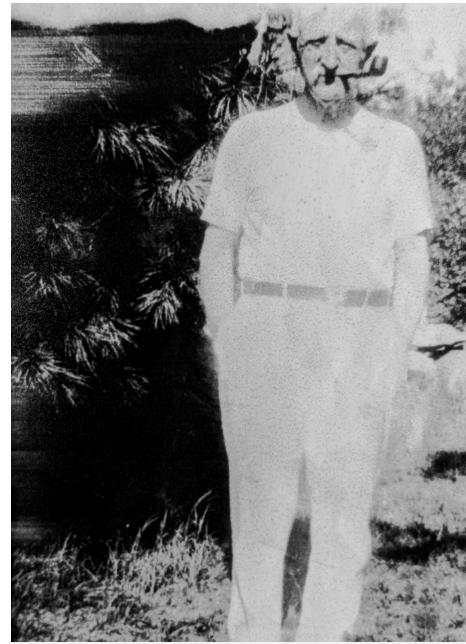
My great-grandmother, Eva Mae (Robinson) Brown, circa 1930s.



My father and his Pontiac Sport Roadster. Left to right: Myron Newman (my father); Lawrence Purdey; unknown man (sitting); my uncle, Charles Newman with pipe; at Day Court in West Gloucester, 1930.



My grandparents, Seth and Ethel Newman, circa 1940.



My great-grandfather, James Brown, 1930s.



O'Neil & Newman Dairy in Gloucester, owned by Richard O'Neil and Seth Newman (my grandfather) on the day they sold out to HP Hood in 1945. Front row, left to right: Eddie Spittle, Myron Newman (my Dad), unknown woman, Noel Perkins, a man they called Red, and Marion Hodgkins (my great-aunt Annabelle's daughter). Back row, left to right: Pete Carter, (possibly Pete's brother?) and an unknown man. Behind Marion (with the dog) is my grandfather, Seth Newman. This picture was taken at 356/357 Essex Ave in West Gloucester.



My grandfather, Seth Newman, as an employee of Hood after selling his dairy farm, 1940s.

### ANOTHER SCENE OF RUIN AND RUBBLE IN WEST GLOUCESTER



**THIS WAS THE snug home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Tucker on Woodward avenue. The car has a story in itself. Mr. Tucker had raised the rear deck so he could pack some belongings when he saw the fire roaring toward the place. But when he returned with the things he found that another car had locked bumpers, and there was no time to free the machine, so it was left to the flames. The car had recently been overhauled preparatory to being driven to Florida. Mr. Tucker, a retired employee of the Pilgrim Trust Co. in Boston, lost a good deal of jewelry and other valuable things when the house was destroyed.**

My father and grandfather helped put out this devastating fire in 1947.  
Photo credit: *Gloucester Daily Times*, October 27, 1947.



My grandmother, Mary Clara (Perry) Loring, circa 1958. She was born in the Azores and immigrated to Gloucester in the late 1800s, living on Friend Street.



Me and my parents at my high school graduation, Gloucester High School, 1967.



My parents, Myron and Marion Newman, in the 1960s.



Me and my sisters, left to right: Marjorie, Barbara, and me, all of us born in Gloucester, living on Concord Street, circa 1977.



Me and my sisters, from left: Barbara, Margie, (and me), this time in 2010.

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