

Beezley Ancestry

A guide in pictures and diagrams.

Edited By Douglas Beezley

Gering, Nebraska

The Earliest Known Ancestors

According to a history developed by John Beatty, a genealogical researcher and descendent living in Fort Wayne, Indiana, The earliest known ancestor “William Beezley, perhaps a son of Major Beesley of Prince William and later Frederick County [Virginia], was born in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, perhaps as early as 1720.”

In those days, name spellings were variable, but descendents before the end of the 1700's were found fairly consistently to list the uncommon spelling Beezley instead of the more common Beasley.

William had two sons (probable), **John** and Isaac. Both **John** and Isaac served in the Revolutionary War in Virginia. **John's** earliest service record is “in Lord Dunmore's War in 1774, when he served as a Private in the regiment of Captain Zackquill Morgan of Monongalia County. Listed with him were Isaac 'Prekit' or Prickett, Sergeant, and fellow Privates Josiah Prickett, Jacob Prickett Senior and Jacob Prickett Junior.” The Prickett name accompanied the family in travels following the war.

It was common practice following the War to offer land in the western territories in lieu of pension. A common path from Northern Virginia was to the lush valleys of Western Ohio, particularly the Miami River.

From here, follow **John Beezley's** descendents spread west to Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and on to Oregon. The **DARK** boxes show **MY** family line.

John Beezley (c 1750 to c 1812)
Married with descendents
Sarah (Prickett?) (c 1751 to c 1785)

William M. Beezley (1774 to 1825)
Married with descendents
Elizabeth Knepper (1777 to 1841)

William Beezley continued on next family tree slide...

Jane Beezley (1776 to 1847)
No known marriage or descendents

Joseph Beezley (c 1778 to 1851)
Married with descendents
Phoebe Reeves (? To 1851)

Isaac Beezley (unknown)
Marriage and descendents
posited but not proven.

Sarah Beezley (c 1775 to ?)
No known marriage or descendents

Rachel Beezley (c 1778 to ?)
Married with descendents
John Redmond Medaris (1784 to 1860)

Thomas Beezley (c 1783 to ?)
Married with descendents
Martha or Mary (unknown)

Dark background are direct ancestors of Doug Beezley, editor. Medium background are Beezley's with known descendents. Light background are those with no known descendents.

Beezley's and Prickett's go West

At some time before the War, John Beezley married Sarah... perhaps a Prickett by birth or marriage. She gave birth to four sons and three daughters. Three of the sons and one of the daughters have long lines of descendents. Sarah died in the mid 1780's. In 1787, John married Rachel Prickett, the widow of Isaac or Jacob Prickett. She and Isaac had 3 sons and a daughter.

The Beezley's and Pricketts left records of their travels and settlements in several western Ohio Counties, Clark, Brown, Clermont, Hamilton and Shelby to name a few. Later, some of the families crossed over to Noble County Indiana where many descendents remain today. Here are some quotes from Beatty's paper:

"Not long after marrying Rachel, John desired to move to the Ohio Country, where plenty of free land was available for Revolutionary veterans. Almost certainly he sailed with his family by raft down the Ohio River to Cincinnati, where he prospected for land and settled. They arrived in Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio as early as 1790 and chose to settle on the west side of the Little Miami River near the present town of Plainville in a part of Ohio known as the Symmes Purchase."

"In 1792, John and Rachel were admitted as members to the Columbia Baptist Church, the earliest extant record of them in Hamilton County. The tradition of Baptist Church membership would persist for many years among their descendents."

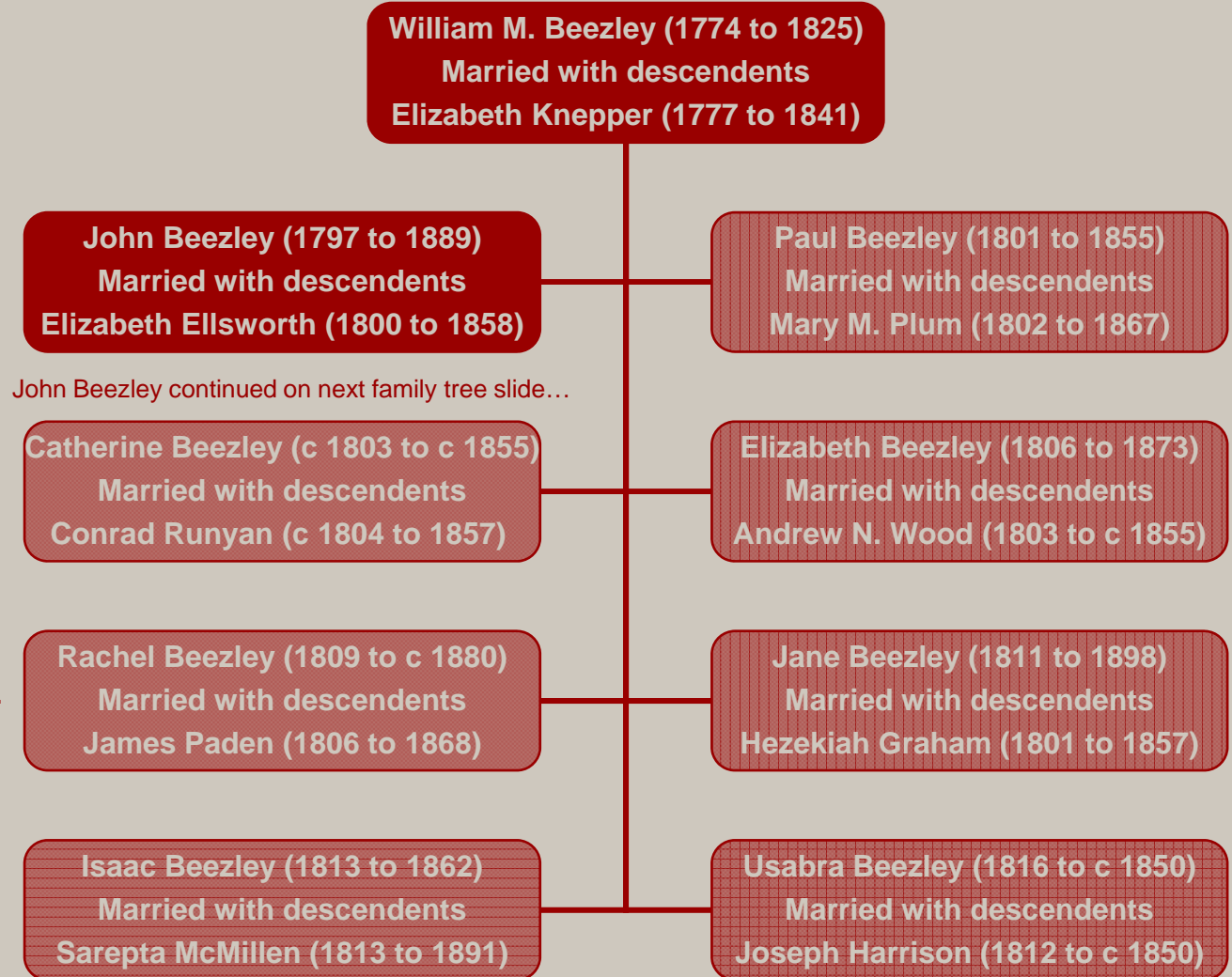
Beatty's paper includes records of stories of the Beezley family's gun battles with Natives. This included participation by his wife, sons and daughters.

"For a number of years John operated a mill, which he probably used for grinding grain and sawing lumber... Judging by his will, he was clearly a prosperous pioneer and farmer by frontier standards and left his heirs comfortably well off at the time of his death."

William Beezley and Elizabeth Knepper

William married Elizabeth Knepper (Knapper, Knoepper). Elizabeth's sister Catherine married Rachel (Prickett) Beezley's son Nicholas.

William and Elizabeth had eight children, all of whom were married and had descendants. They were all born in Ohio. Some stayed in Ohio, but most moved on to Indiana or Illinois. Their oldest son, John, was my great great grandfather.



John Beezley 1797-1889

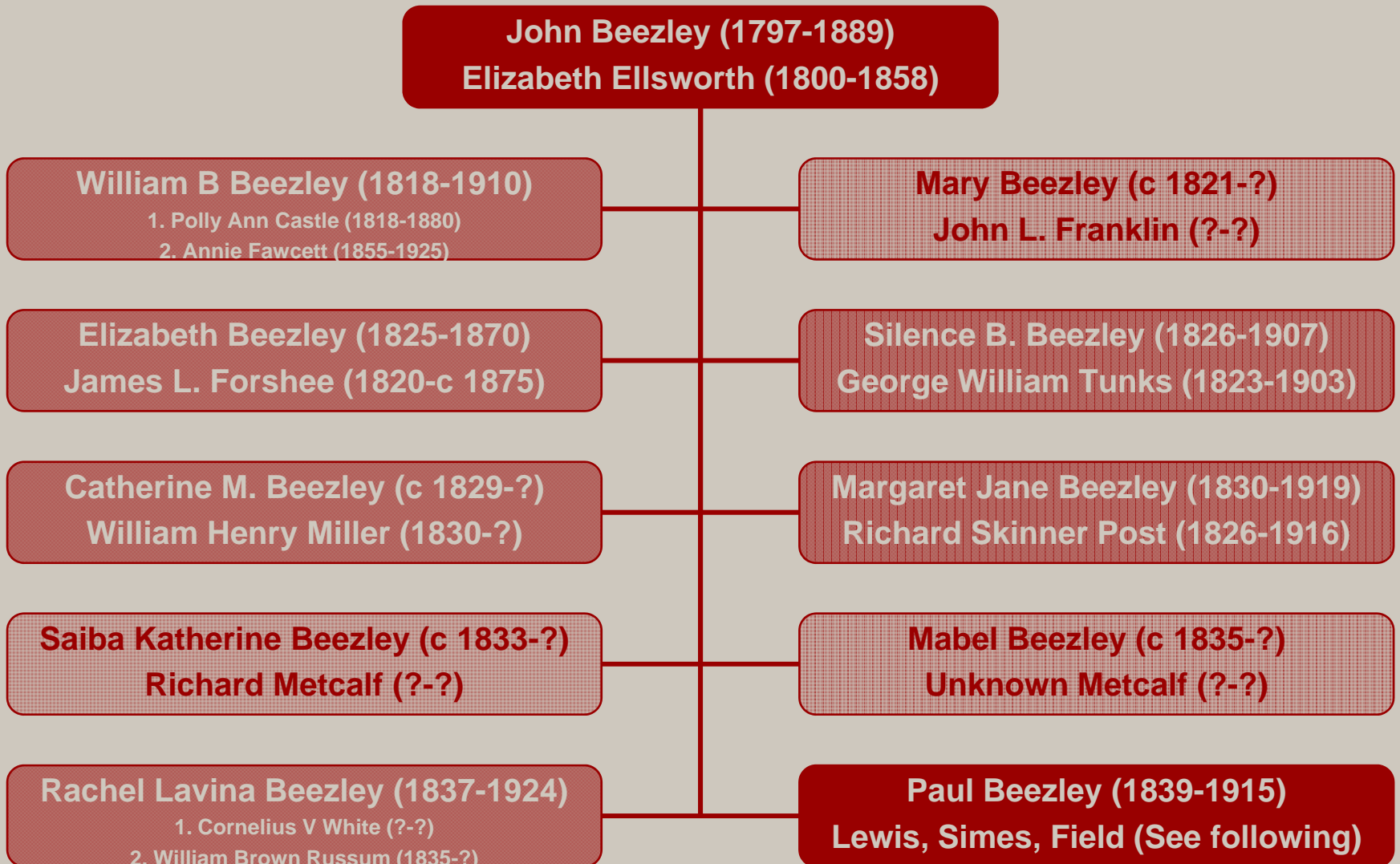
John Beezley is the Great Great grandfather of Doug Beezley, owner of the website. He was married to Elizabeth Ellsworth in Ohio in 1816. He had 10 children, all married with descendents, including 2 sons to carry on the family name.

From the History of Shelby County, Ohio, 1883:

“The subject of this sketch was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, on the 22nd day of October, 1797. He is a son of William and Elizabeth Beezley, who moved from Hamilton to Clermont County, Ohio, remained until 1812, when they removed to Clarke County, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. In October, 1816, he married miss Elizabeth Ellsworth, of Clarke County, daughter of John and Mary Ellsworth, of Clarke County, remained until the spring of 1826, then they came to this county and settled in Green Township, where he has since resided and made farming his vocation. They reared a family of nine children, five of whom are yet living - William, Paul, Silence, Jane and Rachel. William and Paul are now in Iowa; Silence and Jane are living in Missouri, and Rachel is living in Illinois. All are married and have families. William Beezley served three years in the war of 1861, as captain of a company in the Illinois regiment. Paul Beezley served four years during the late war, as a private in the 20th O.V.I., and was honorably discharged at the close of the war.”



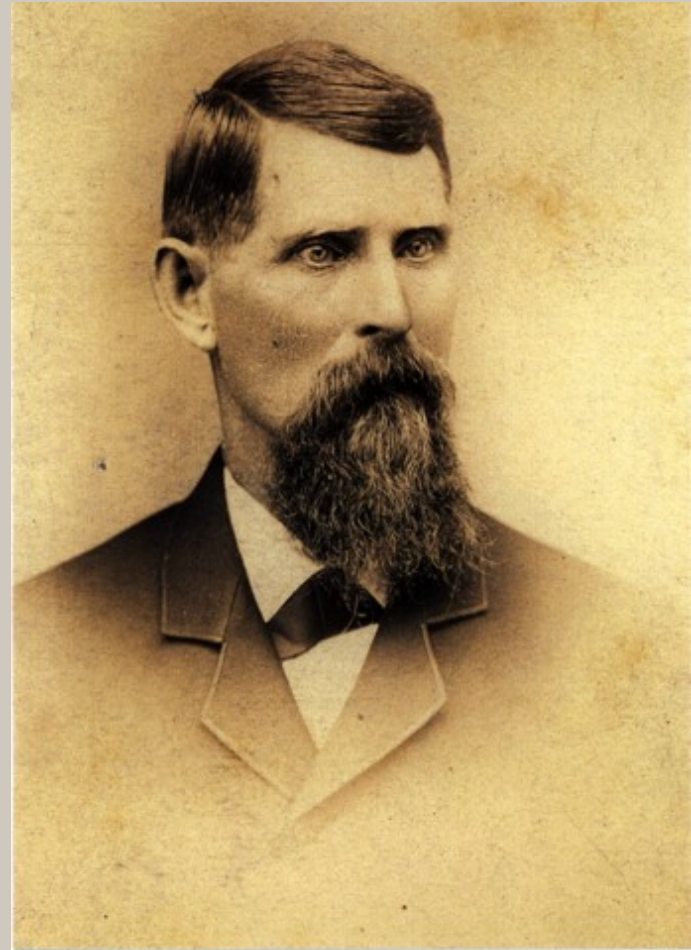
John Beezley and Elizabeth Ellsworth



Paul Beezley continued on next 3 family tree slides...

Paul Beezley 1839-1915

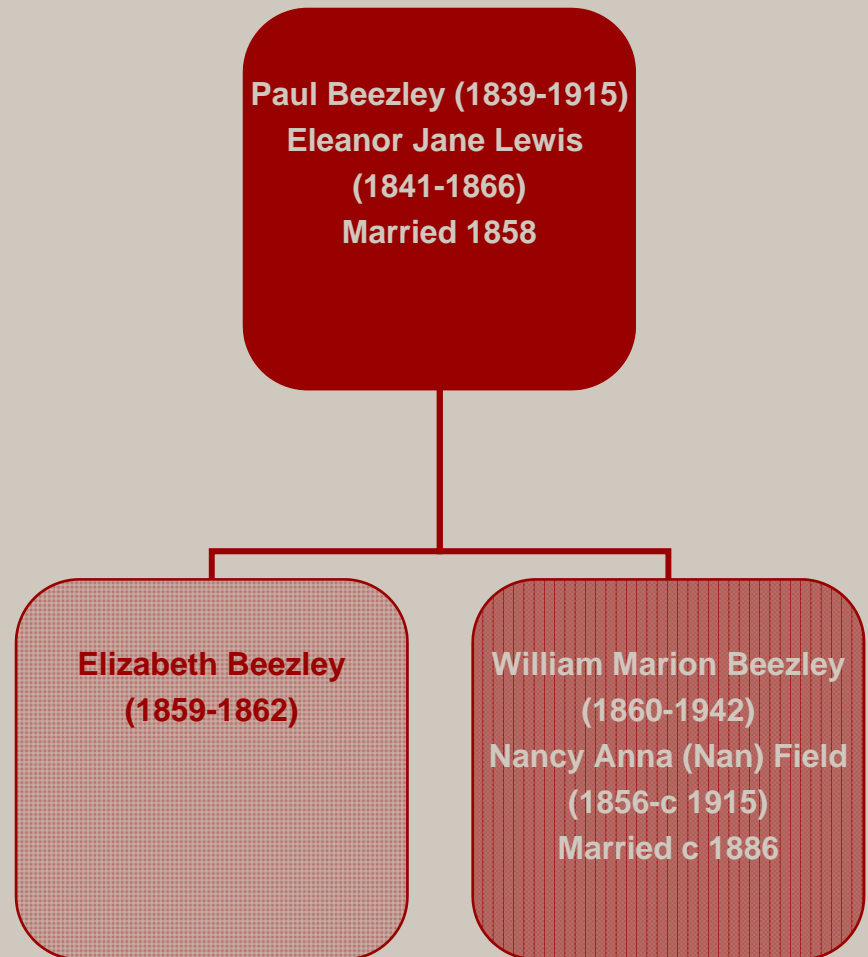
Paul was the youngest child of John and Elizabeth (Ellsworth) Beezley. This picture is the earliest I have, perhaps 1860's or 1870's. He was married 3 times, surviving the first two.



Paul Beezley and Eleanor Jane Lewis

Paul Beezley married first Eleanor Jane Lewis from New Jersey. Their daughter died very young and Eleanor a few years later. Elizabeth died while Paul was serving Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry from October 12, 1861 until the end of the Civil War. His regiment was in 32 battles, including the memorable march with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. He participated in the “Grand Review” at Washington at the war’s end. Eleanor died shortly after his return.

I have seen no pictures of Eleanor. The two following pictures are said to be of his eldest son, William Marion.



William Marion Beezley 1860-1942

William was the only child by Paul's first marriage (Eleanor Jane Lewis) to have survived to adulthood.



William Marion Beezley 1860-1942, Nancy Anna Field 1856-1920

William married at age 26 and had two sons and two daughters, all with descendants. Nancy (Nan) was the older sister of Paul Beezley's 3rd wife, Sophronia Field. Note attached to the photos refer to Nancy and Sophronia as twins, but actually, Sophronia's twin is Selena.



Paul Beezley and Jerusha Simes

Paul Beezley (1839-1915)
Jerusha Ann Simes (1847-1878)
Married 1867

John R Beezley (1870-1950)
Winnie Stevens (1880-1962)
Married 1899

Minnie Belle Beezley (1872-1952)
Jesse Runyan Hughes (1872-1922)
Married 1893

Jesse Beezley (1873-c 1878)

Othello Beezley (1875-1955)
Paula Antonie Schellenberg
(1884-1957) Married 1915

Othello Beezley continued after the 3rd Paul Beezley family tree slide...

Mattie Alice Beezley (1877-1962)
1. **Oscar L. Ford**
2. **J. B. Thompson**

Jerusha Simes 1847-1878

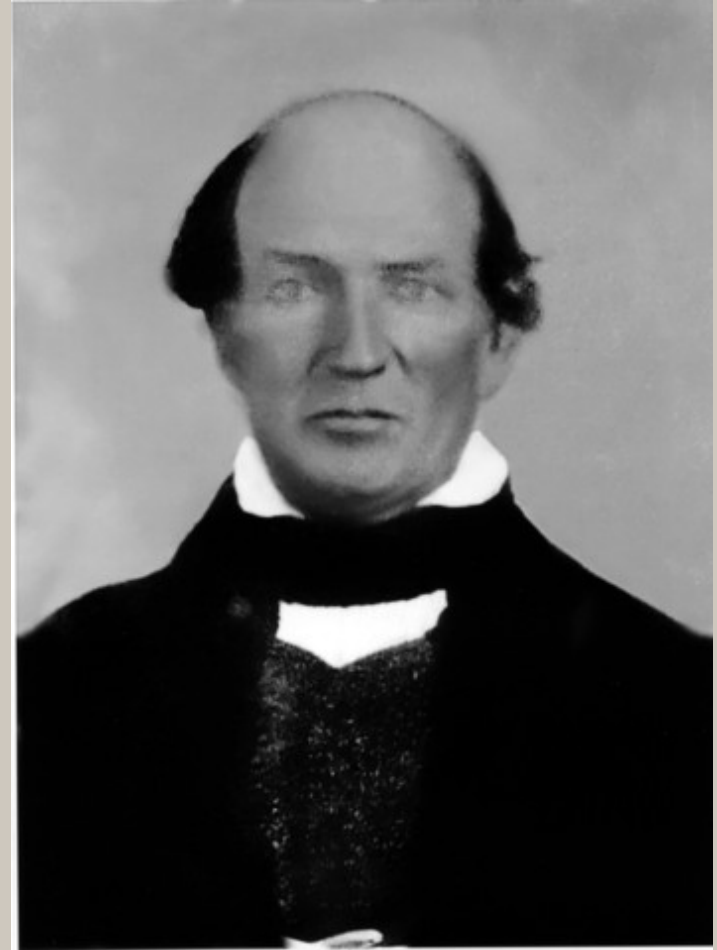
Jerusha, younger of two daughters of Chesley Simes and Mary Wells. Married Paul Beezley a year and a half after the death of his first wife. She was born in Ohio, but her family, the Sims or Simes and the Walkups were colonial Virginians. The Walkups (Vachub) came from Ireland in the mid-1700's



Chesley Kinney Simes - 1809-1887

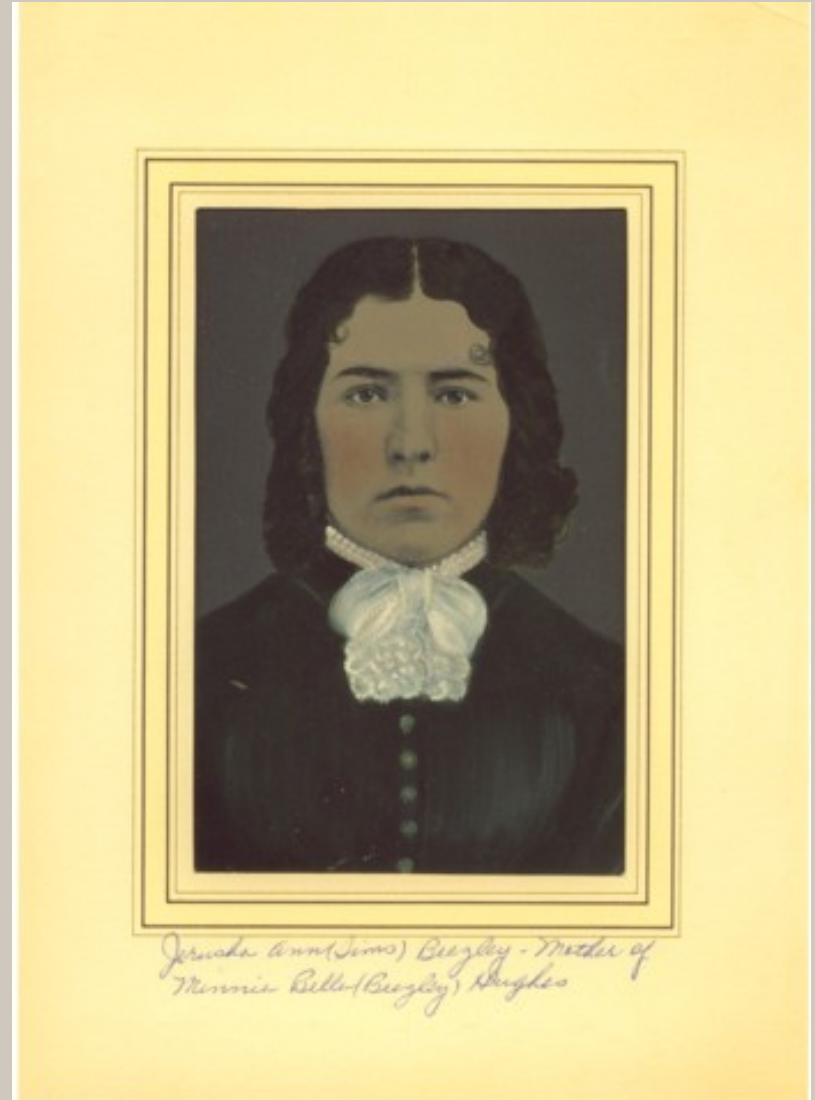
Chesley Simes was the father of Jerusha Simes, Chesley is my Great Great Grandfather. His father and grandfather went by "Sims", but for some reason unknown to me, Chesley and three of his eight siblings changed to the Simes spelling.

Chesley was married to Mary Wells. I have no information about her parents or ancestors.



Jerusha Simes 1847-1878

This picture is a copy of a tin-type representation of a painted photo. If you look closely, you can see the brush strokes. After her death, Paul's family split up and were found in the 1880 census to be with relatives in several states.



Jerusha Simes 1847-1878

Paul and Jerusha had 5 children in their 11 years of marriage, 4 of whom lived to adulthood and had descendents. This picture was taken in 1875 at Riley Studio in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Sons and daughters of Paul and Jerusha Beezley



Sons Othello (left) 1875-1955 and John R (right) 1880-1950
Daughters Mattie Alice (left) 1877-1962 and Minnie Belle (right) 1872-1952

John (1870-1950), Minnie (1872-1952) and Mattie (1877-1962) Beezley

These two pictures include descendents of Paul and Jerusha. The upper picture, left to right, is Minnie Bell (Beezley) Hughes, John Beezley, and the youngest, Mattie Alice. Next to her is her husband Oscar Ford.

The lower picture is Mattie and Minnie, with Tine Woodward, unknown to me.

Minnie (Beezley) Hughes was the mother of Ida, who was the author of a remarkable history of the Beezley family posted on my website. Ida's daughter, Patty Mummert, my second cousin, provided this set of pictures from her mother's collection.



Othello Beezley 1875-1955

This is a photo of my grandfather, Othello, brother of John, Minnie and Mattie. It is the youngest picture of him I have seen. My father told me that Othello had worked as a wagon driver along the Lead-Deadwood Trail from Sidney, Nebraska to South Dakota at the turn of the century.

Othello was single until the age of 40 when he married Paula Schellenberg. Paula was born in Nemaha County Nebraska, but her parents had immigrated from Germany. She was a piano player and singer who is said to have performed professionally before marriage.

Othello and Paula had four sons, the youngest was my father, Nathaniel.



Paul Beezley and Sophronia “Phronie” Field

Paul Beezley (1839-1915)
Sophronia Field (1859-1953)
Married 1881

Rudy Raymond Beezley (1882-1979)
Della Lenorah Kennicutt (1887-1918)
Married 1907

Vernon Leroy Beezley (1883-1962)
Mary Glee Maxwell (1886-1974)
Married 1907

Melissie Valentine Beezley
1891-1893

Paul Cassius Beezley (1895-1975)
Esther W. Walsworth (1895-1968)
Married 1919

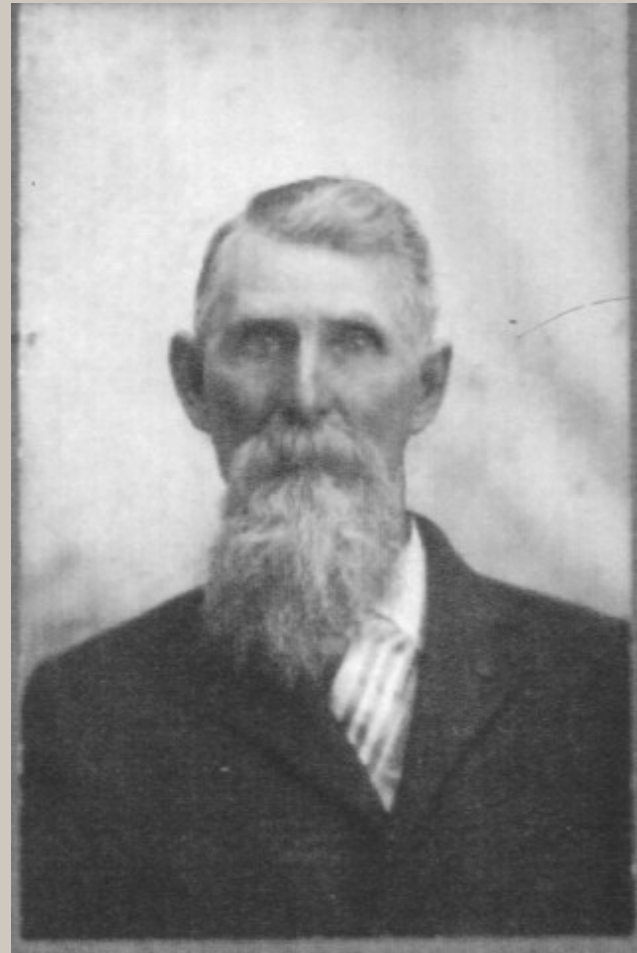
Paul Beezley 1839-1915, Sophronia Field 1859-1953

Paul married Sophronia about 3 years after the death of his second wife, Jerusha. This marriage produced 4 children, 3 of whom lived to adulthood and had descendents.



Paul Beezley - 1839-1915

This picture of Paul is later, perhaps in the 1890's. after the death of his second wife, Paul and his children split up to live with relatives for a couple years. He was hardly ready to be done with family making, marrying Sophronia Field, 20 years his junior. Together they had three sons and a daughter who died young. Sophronia outlived Paul, but not before having 5 great grandchildren by the time of his youngest son's 20th birthday.



Paul Beezley 1839-1915



This is the latest picture in the batch of Paul taken later in life, probably after 1910. I have several other later photo's of Paul from other sources.

Beezley families



I estimate this picture to be about 1917, considering Cassius' WW uniform. Clustered at the left are Jesse Runyan Hughes, husband of Minnie Belle, Ida, Jennie and Lawrence Hughes (the three youngest living children) with Minnie to the left. On the right, are Minnie's sister Mattie and her husband Oscar Ford. The young man behind Minnie is Vernon Beezley, middle son of Paul and Sophronia. In the uniform, center is Vernon's younger brother Paul Cassius Beezley. Vernon and Cassius are half-brothers of Minnie and Mattie.

Nancy (1856-abt 1915) and Sophronia (1859-1953) (Field) Beezley

Nan and Phronie (Field) Beezley are not my blood relatives. But their cluster of families surrounded the long life of my Great Grandfather, Paul Beezley for many years. The two sisters were eighth and ninth among 11 children of Reverend Armenius John (AJ) Field, originally from Pennsylvania.



Phronie's and Nan's families



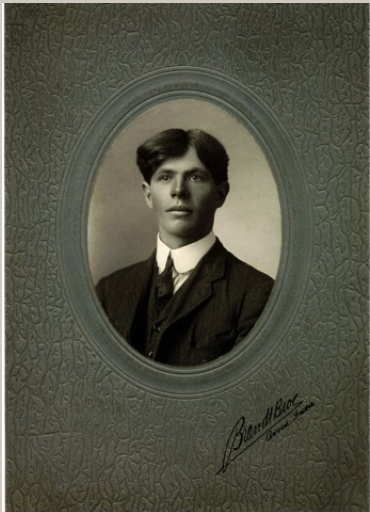
If the notations on this photo are correct, I'd say this must be about 1899. Young Cassius, center, looks about 3 or 4 in the arms of his mother, Sophronia. Behind her are her sons Vernon and Rudy. To the right, is Nancy with her two sons behind her, William Lionel and Manning Paul Beezley. The youngster at her side is not identified. Nancy would have had two young daughters at that time.

Raymond Beezley Family

This photo is Rudy Raymond (Ray) Beezley, his wife, Della Lenorah (Nora) Kennicutt, and their four children. Standing to the left would be Eleanor Charlotte Beezley. In Ray's lap is his young son Paul Beezley. Standing next to Ray is the oldest son, Oscar Raymond Beezley. To the right is Mattie Lucille Beezley (who went by Lucille). Ray and Nora married in Missouri, but by the time of this picture, lived in Iowa.



Vernon Beezley 1883-1962



These photos are of Vernon Leroy Beezley, second son of Paul and Sophronia Beezley. To the left we see him as a boy and as a young man. To the right, with his mother, his oldest daughter Mable Marie Beezley Heady, and her youngest son, Lawrence "Larry" Richard Heady.

This ends the photos from Ida Manley Hughes. Now, the rest of MY Beezley story.



Othello Beezley and Paula Schellenberg

Othello Beezley (1875-1955)
Paula Antonie Schellenberg
(1884-1957) Married 1915

Paul Julius Beezley (1917-1996)
Barbara Anne Stone (1919-1999)
Married 1945
Daughters Janet and Bonita

Othello Robert Howard Beezley
(1918-1984)
Married Nellie Marie Gilman 1950
Daughter Paula Ann

Marion Orval Beezley (1920-1981)
1. **Beverly Elaine Olson (M 1941)**
Daughter Beverly Kay
2. **Madeline McCormick (1916-1988, M 1947)**
Daughters Deborah Claire, Julie Ann

Nathaniel Willard Beezley (1923-1999)
Lucille Pearl Barnard (M 1948)
Sons Douglas Alan, Randall Scott
and Brian Paul

Nate Beezley continued on the next family tree slide...



Othello Beezley and Paula Schellenberg

Four Beezley Brothers



Left photo, l-r Paul Julius, Marion Orval, Othello Robert Howard and Nathaniel Willard

Right Photo, l-r Nathaniel Willard, Marion Orval, Othello Robert Howard, Paul Julius

Marion Orval, Nathaniel Willard

Othello Robert Howard, Paul Julius





**For years, the Beezley families met monthly for dinners. This feast was held in 1953, including all grandchildren except for the two born after Othello and Paula's death (Brian and Julie)
Back row, left to right: Beverly, Madeline, Debby, Orval, Lucy, Barb, Paul, Bonny, and Nell
Front row, left to right: Nate, Randy, Doug, Grandma, Jan, Grandpa, Paula Ann and Bob**

Sons of Nate and Lucy Beezley

**Nathaniel Willard
Beezley (1923-1999)**
Lucille Pearl Barnard
1926
Married 1948

Douglas Alan Beezley
1948
Barbara Gail Schroer
1949
Married 1969

Randall Scott Beezley
1952
Christine Momi Omoto
1950
Married 1991

Brian Paul Beezley
1959
1. Susan Langsley
Married 1987
2. Lynn Ackerman
Married 1993

Doug Beezley continues on the next family
tree slide...

Nathaniel Willard Beezley and Lucille Pearl Barnard



Nate and Lucy were married on February 4, 1948 at the Barnard home, a farm 30 miles south of Lincoln, Nebraska. They met in September 1947 on a blind date. Within a week, Nate proposed.

Above are their High School graduation pictures. Lucy graduated from Beatrice High School, the only one among the 10 Barnard siblings to do so. Nate graduated from Lincoln High School in Lincoln, then obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from University of Nebraska. After graduation he enlisted in the Army, served in the European Theater and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

Nate and Lucy Beezley Family

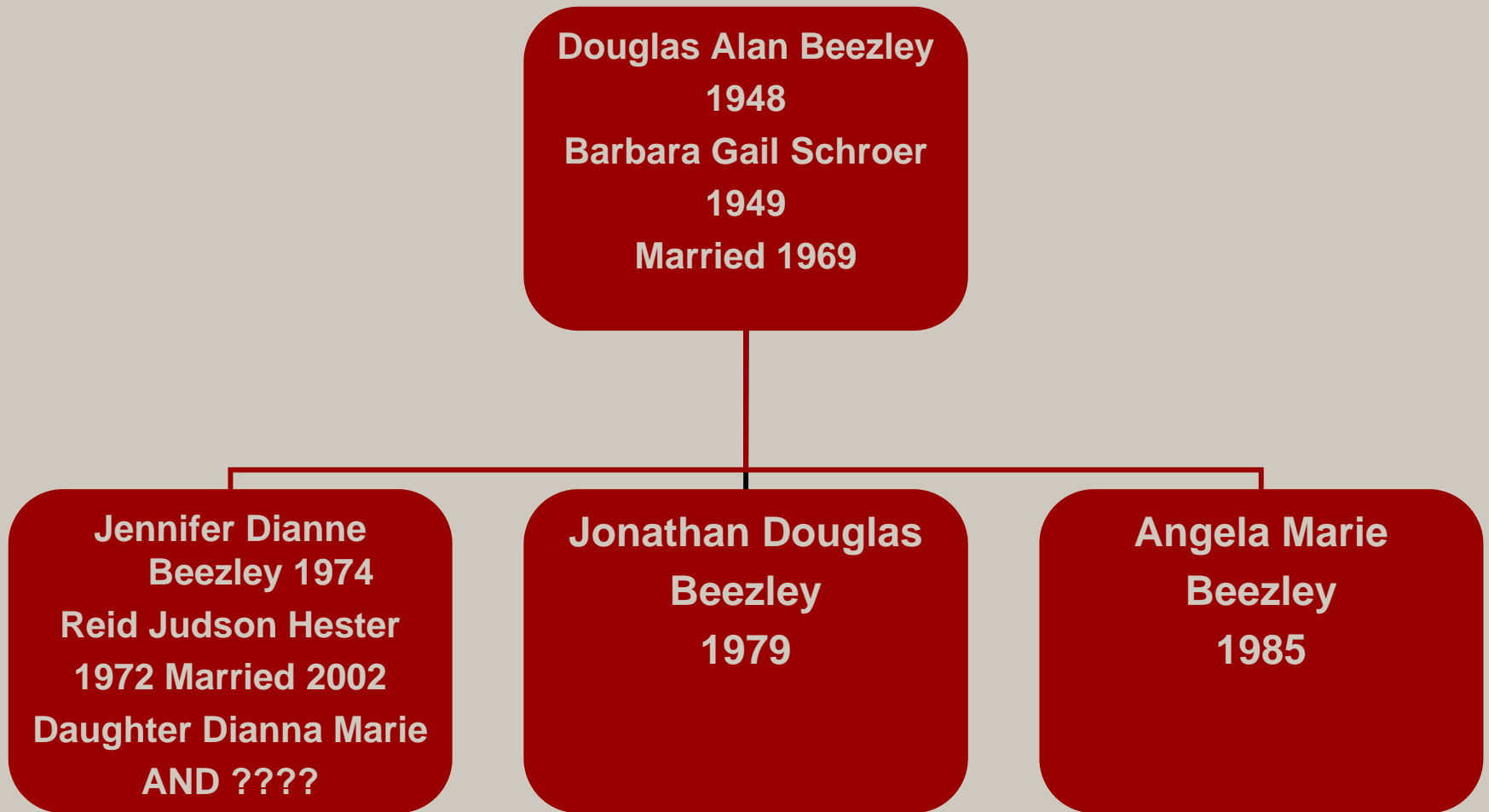
The first picture includes sons Doug and Randy in 1953.



The second picture shows Doug, Randy and Brian with parents in 1968.



Doug and Barb Beezley Family

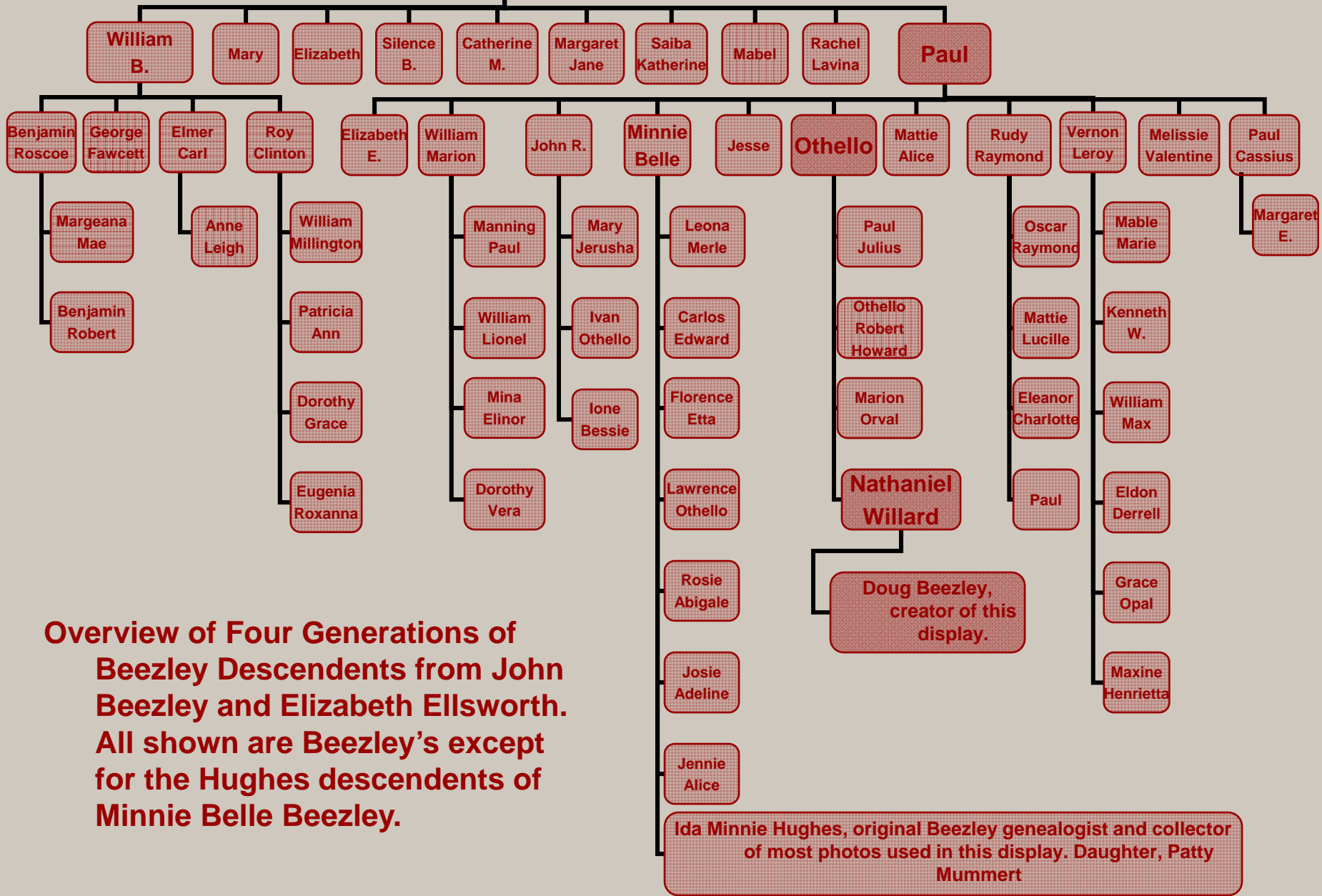


The next and final family tree slide is an overview of four generations...

The Beezley (Hester) Family



John, son of William, son of John, son of William



Overview of Four Generations of Beezley Descendents from John Beezley and Elizabeth Ellsworth. All shown are Beezley's except for the Hughes descendents of Minnie Belle Beezley.

Ida Minnie Hughes, original Beezley genealogist and collector of most photos used in this display. Daughter, Patty Mummert

Appreciation to Ida Hughes Manley for getting this started, to her daughter Patty Mummert for keeping her work alive, to my parents, Nate and Lucy Beezley for gathering genealogy materials from many family sources, to John Beatty for sharing his expert research and support and to the many Beezley family members who have contacted me and shared additional information.

Finally, appreciation to my wife, Barb, and my family for the support and tolerance of my obsession with this endeavor.

Doug Beezley, Gering, Nebraska, March 2007