

The John Robinson Family of Wisconsin

1847 - 2006

Roger A. Robinson

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The Robinson Family Migrated to Wisconsin in 1847



The Robinson Family moved to Wisconsin from Rochester, New York in 1847, the first to arrive was my great grandmother Lucy China (Newell) Robinson at 19 years of age; she was the daughter of Josiah Newell & Ann Marie (Hungerford) Newell. My great great grandfather John Robinson and his son John W. Robinson arrived in 1853-51, also from Rochester, New York and Natchez, Mississippi respectively. John W. Robinson & Lucy Newell were united in marriage on the 21st May 1851; it is unknown what relationship existed between the Robinson & Newell families in Rochester prior to moving to Wisconsin.

John Robinson won the election for mayor, forming the first city government of Beaver Dam, Dodge County, Wisconsin with a total of 548 votes cast. His son John W. Robinson was elected as the 4th Ward Alderman under his father's administration in 1856. That same year John & John W. Robinson, along with 18 others started the Masonic Lodge in Beaver Dam. They met in February of 1856 under dispensation from the Grand Lodge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the Lodge was granted a charter in June of that year. John was elected as the worshipful master and John W. Robinson was elected secretary pro-tem. It is believed the Robinson's were members of Lodge No. 660 in Rochester, New York prior to their move to Wisconsin. The city was growing rapidly with great opportunities for their family's growth and service to the community.

The Mayor's son John W. Robinson was a prominent druggist and businessman in Beaver Dam. In 1855 John W. Robinson was named a charter member of Wayland University during its incorporation by the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly; this was historically unprecedented to list the individual names of charter members.

John W. Robinson died the 7th February 1857 on his return trip home from a business engagement in Chicago, Illinois. Stricken by a sudden illness, he stopped at the home of his sister and brother in-law (Mr. Charles M. & Katherine E. Hoyt) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There he succumbed to Quincy (inflammation of the tonsils). His body was returned to Beaver Dam where he received a Masonic Funeral, and was laid to rest in the cemetery on University Avenue and Burnett Street in Beaver Dam. Even though he died in the 31st year of his life, his accomplishments were many, as I have documented in the following text. May he rest in peace!

Index

1. Introduction page 1
2. Acknowledgements page 2
3. Albert Earl Raske tribute page 248-259
4. Books & City Directories page 5
5. British Soldiers Memorial, Concord, MA. page 316
6. Bundy, Joyce (Close) page 108
7. Cemetery Collection page 167-227
8. Close, Betty Jean page 109
9. Close Children page 107
10. Close, Loren page 106
11. Close, Loren J. II page 110-111
12. Close, Margaret (Robinson) page 103-105
13. Cole, Maybella (Robinson) page 62-63
14. Collicott, Donna (Robinson) page 127-130, 135
15. Collicott, Jennifer page 132-135
16. Creighton, Bridget page 302, 303
17. Creighton, Dale page 298, 302, 303
18. Creighton, Jason page 298, 302, 303
19. Creighton, Therese page 298, 299, 300, 301, 302
20. Disease definitions page 322-329
21. Dodge/Jefferson County Genealogical Pioneer Family Certificate page 260
22. Doerring, Orlu (Close) page 112
23. Dunham, Ida (Hoyt) page 24, 28
24. Family Bibles & Resource Books page 262-277
25. Fishermen's Memorial / Widows Memorial / Gloucester, ME. Page 317, 318, 319
26. Gatlinburg, Tennessee page 312
27. Grant Elementary School photo page 129, 334
28. Griebel, Betty (Olson) page, 124
29. Harrison, China page 69
30. Harrison, President William Henry page 69
31. Hartzell, Bill page 134
32. Hartzell, Jodi (Collicott) page 130-131, 134, 136
33. Hinckley / Hinkley Family page 144-166
34. Hoyt, Charles M. page 21-26, 28
35. Hoyt, Frank Mason page 24, 26-28, 173, 247
36. Hoyt, Katherine E. (Robinson) page 20, 21, 24, 26-28
37. Hungerford, Amos page 69
38. Hungerford, Ann Marie page 56, 57, 60, 61, 192,
39. LaBelle, Isabel (Robinson) page 104, 141, 143, 226, 227, 241
40. LaBelle, John (Jack) page 142, 226, 227, 241
41. Mattson, Marion (Olson) page 124

-
42. Mercy Hospital, Janesville, WI. page 330
 43. Newell, Ann Marie (Hungerford) page 56, 61, 192
 44. Newell, Josiah page 13, 53, 56-59, 61
 45. Newell, Mary page 57
 46. Newspaper Sources / Articles & Sources page 6
 47. Never ending journey page 304-310
 48. Obituary Collection page 228-247
 49. Olson, Oscar page 122, 124, 125, 128
 50. Olson, Mildred, page 122,124, 125
 51. Olson, Richard E. page 124
 52. Olson, Robert page 124
 53. Poem, Dear Ancestor page 320
 54. Research Sources / Cemetery Sources page 4
 55. Robinson, Charles H. page 169-172, 260, 295
 56. Robinson, Caroline Louise (Johns 1st wife) page 18-20, 262, 276, 277, 279, 295
 57. Robinson, Christopher page 314, 315
 58. Robinson, Clarence page 285
 59. Robinson, Clifford Henry Robinson page 102
 60. Robinson, Emma page 285
 61. Robinson, George Harland page 113-118, 129, 330
 62. Robinson, Grace page 285
 63. Robinson, Henry Clark page 65
 64. Robinson, Henry Clark & Mildred Alice (Hinkley) page 79-84
 65. Robinson, Isabella J. page 169-172, 262, 295
 66. Robinson, James H., Johns son from 2nd marriage page 278-286, 297
 67. Robinson, John page 6-19, 295, 311
 68. Robinson, John W. page 39-54, 295
 69. Robinson, John W & Lucy C. (Newell) page 55-61
 70. Robinson, Marion page 278, 279, 283, 284, 286, 297
 71. Robinson, Mark A. page
 72. Robinson, Mary N. page 64
 73. Robinson, Mary (Johns 2nd wife) page 276-278, 280-282, 295
 74. Robinson, Mildred (Hinkley) family page 85-88
 75. Robinson, Nellie page 284-286
 76. Robinson, Roger Alan page 136-139
 77. Robinson, Ruby Jeanette (Olson) page 114, 119-128, 131
 78. Robinson, Roger, Therese & family Mark, Bridget, Dale, and Jason page 298-303
 79. Robinson, Walter page 285
 80. Rochester City Directories, page 286-296
 81. Rowell, Caroline Louise (Robinson) page 66-67
 82. Rowell, Elizabeth Libbie page 70
 83. Rowell, Frank Robinson page 68, 74, 78
 84. Rowell, Jay Samuel page 69
 85. Rowell, Joseph N. page 69
 86. Rowell, John S. page 71-73, 76, 77, 309, 310

-
87. Rowell, Robert Robinson page 70, 78
 88. Rowell, Samuel & George page 74
 89. Saint Bernard's Church page 321
 90. Saint Mary's Church page 331, 332
 91. Saint Mary's School page 333
 92. Sampson, Avis (Springborn) page 96, 100
 93. Springborn, Bill page 98, 101
 94. Springborn, Dwayne page 99, 101
 95. Springborn, Mayme Iona (Robinson) page 94-95
 96. Springborn, Robert page 97, 101
 97. Travel photos page 312-319
 98. USS Wisconsin page 313
 99. Vacation photos page 312-319
 100. Watertown, WI. Page 321
 101. Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Pioneer Family Certificate page 261
 102. Wood, Caroline Jane (Robinson) page 29-38, 175-177, 228
 103. Wood, Colonel Joseph page 182, 183
 104. Wood, Herbert W. page 32, 33, 180, 181, 229
 105. Wood, Hiram page 30, 31, 34, 36, 178, 179, 228, 229
 106. Wollitz, Leon page 90-92
 107. Wollitz, Lyle page 90-91
 108. Wollitz, Nina page 90, 91, 93
 109. Wollitz, Sadie (Robinson) page 90-91