

**ROBINSON TO NADZAM PEDIGREE**

(4TH) DUNCAN ROBINSON (1758-1809) – JENNIE DOULAN (1761-1813)  
(3RD) JAMES ROBINSON (1787-1874) – NANCY ANN TINSTMAN (1795-1873)  
(2ND) JAMES F ROBINSON (1833-1879) – SARAH WHITE (1842-1925)  
DONNA ROBINSON (1869-1956) – DAVID M LUCAS (1866-1956)  
CHARLES W LUCAS (1889-1972) – SARAH ELIZABETH KING (1896-1968)  
ELSA LOUISE LUCAS (1917-1985) – GEORGE L NADZAM (1917-2006)  
DAVID H NADZAM – VICTORIA SWAMP

*The Robinson Family Line*

A few years ago I gave my daughter a diamond Celtic pin that I had made with a family heirloom diamond. While the Celtic knot perhaps represents her Irish heritage, it perhaps represents a lengthy legacy. Without knowing, maybe I was guided in selecting this design as I was shepherded in writing the stories of the Nadzam and Lucas families. The diamond's story goes back decades to perhaps the mid to late 1800s.

The diamond in the pin is not perfect and has at least one chip in it. The chip perhaps is symbolic of the lives of those who also possessed it at one time or another as no one has perfect lives. The diamond came from a ring that belonged to my mother, Elsa (Lucas) Nadzam. The ring held three diamonds as well as some diamond chips. Upon her death in 1985, the three diamonds were removed from the ring and given to me and my brothers.

At least one or two of the three diamonds belonged to Donna (Robinson) Lucas, my great-grandmother. The third diamond was part of the original engagement ring given to mom by my father, George Nadzam. Although I am not certain, I would assume the other two diamonds were given to Donna Robinson by her husband, David Minor Lucas. I do not know which of the three diamonds I was given. I've been told that the cut of the diamond in the pin is "old" as it is round and somewhat flat; the cut makes for a larger appearance although the weight is small.

When I received the diamond, I had it set in a men's ring (I originally planned to give it Vicki but she said it was given to me so I should have it). I wore it for a few years but I was not one to wear jewelry so eventually just put the ring away. At some point I decided I was going to pass it along to my daughter.

I cannot say with certainty when mom received the diamond(s) from her grandmother. Donna (Robinson) Lucas passed away in 1956 followed shortly thereafter by her husband, David for whom I am named. Donna, born in 1869, was 86 while David, born in 1866, passed at age 90. At the time of their deaths, they lived on Florien Street in Pittsburgh.

Being only three years of age at the time of their deaths I do not recall either David or Donna. I do not know whether I ever met them. There are not a lot of family stories to tell so what I am writing is based on what I have found in various places and the story of their families will go back as far as the late 1700s.

Their house on Florien Street still stands and, my sister, Sally recalls visiting their home. She remembers the railroad tracks in the back (visible on Google Satellite images of the area). She told me that it was nice and that she had a collection of lead crystal. Some of the crystal was given to mom which she displayed on a hutch in the dining room of our Cleveland Heights home. After my dad died, Sally asked if I wanted any of the pieces but I declined. I do not know what happened to the lead crystal pieces.

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Donna (Robinson) Lucas (1869-1956) was born in Dunbar Township west of Connellsville to James F Robinson (1834-1875) and Sarah (White) Robinson (1842-1925). She was one of ten children; her nine siblings were:

- Franklin (1859-1915)
- Eliza Jane (Robinson) Minor (1861-1894)
- Leroy or Lee Roy (1862-1940) lived in Bowling Green, Ohio at E Wooster and Main around 1900; it is a small world!
- Nina May (Robinson) Hassler (1865-1966) Yes, 101 years old if records are correct!
- Jesse (1867-?) moved first to Toledo, Ohio and then to Bakersfield, California. It is not certain when he passed.
- Bertha (Robinson) Smith (1871-1939)
- Grace (Robinson) Buttermore (1873-1935) lived in Washington DC.
- Pearl (1878-1968)
- Pauline (1885-1944)

When Donna was about 10 years old or so, her father, James F, died as the result of a horrific farming accident involving a threshing machine. (Threshing machines are connected to a tractor using open belts and pulleys that spin tooth-filled drums for separating grain from stalks; getting caught in the belts or falling into the machine would leave a victim seriously maimed or killed.)

The farm was sold the following year (1880) in order to settle some debts. Sarah (White) Robinson moved to Connellsville with the children. There is no indication that she remarried following James F's death.

A strange turn of events seems to have occurred in the family after moving to Connellsville. According to some census records Donna's sister, Pauline, was born around 1884. Death records indicate James F was the father and Sarah, the mother. Now, it is conceivable Sarah was Pauline's mother but it is very difficult to believe James F was the father as it is not likely Sarah remained pregnant for five years.

Initially, I thought Pauline's birthdate was recorded incorrectly but Pauline was not listed in the 1880 census and later censuses suggest a birth year of either 1884 or 1885. There are a couple of possibilities to explain what happened. One, Sarah became pregnant and the real father is not known thereby making Pauline a half-sister to Donna.

The second possibility is that Pauline was the grandchild of James F and Sarah (White) Robinson meaning that Donna or one of her older siblings was the parent of Pauline. Because a child born out of wedlock was considered scandalous in the Victorian age, I can understand the motive to list James F as the father and Sarah White as the mother on the death certificate (Pauline died in 1944 while institutionalized in Somerset, Pennsylvania). Unfortunately, Pauline's real story may never be known as she never married and, as far as we know, she never had

*(Continued on page 3)*

## SALE OF REAL ESTATE.

By a virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Fayette County, the undersigned, Administrators of the estate of James F. Robinson, will sell for the payment of the debts of said Robinson, on the premises, on

**Saturday, February 21st, 1880,**

At 1 o'clock, P. M., A TRACT OF LAND in Dunbar Township, Fayette County, Pa., two and one half miles west of Connellsville, adjoining lands of Jacob Strickler, Wm. Reynolds, Albert Robinson, Stephen Leighty, George Cunningham and James C. Patterson, containing NINETY EIGHT ACRES, more or less, on which are erected a Log House, a large Frame Barn, and out-buildings. There is a good orchard on the place, and the land is well watered. The land is of good quality. The sale includes the right of way for a private road from the land to the Mud Pike.

The bituminous coal in and under said lands is excepted, and not included in this sale, the same having been heretofore sold by the owners of the land, to wit: By deed of James Robinson and others, to D. R. Davidson, dated June 23d, 1864, recorded in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County, in Deed Book, No. 15, page 561; by deed of Martin B. Stouffer and wife, to Daniel R. Davidson, dated December 4, 1864, recorded in the same office, in Deed Book, No. 16, page 69; and by deed from William Martin and wife to Daniel R. Davidson, dated December 23, 1864, recorded in the same office, in Deed Book, No. 16, page 74.

**TERMS.**—Ten per cent. of one-third of purchase money to be paid on day of sale, and the balance of said third at the confirmation; one-third in six months, and the other third in one year after confirmation, with interest on said two thirds, from confirmation.

**JOS. R. STOFFER,**

**Feb 21 JAS. C. PATTERSON, Administrator.**

This notice for the sale of James F Robinson's farm was placed in *The Weekly Courier* of Connellsville, Pennsylvania Friday, February 6, 1880, Page 2. This was about three months after his death.

## *The Lucas Branch: Robinson Family*

children.

### *James F Robinson Family History*

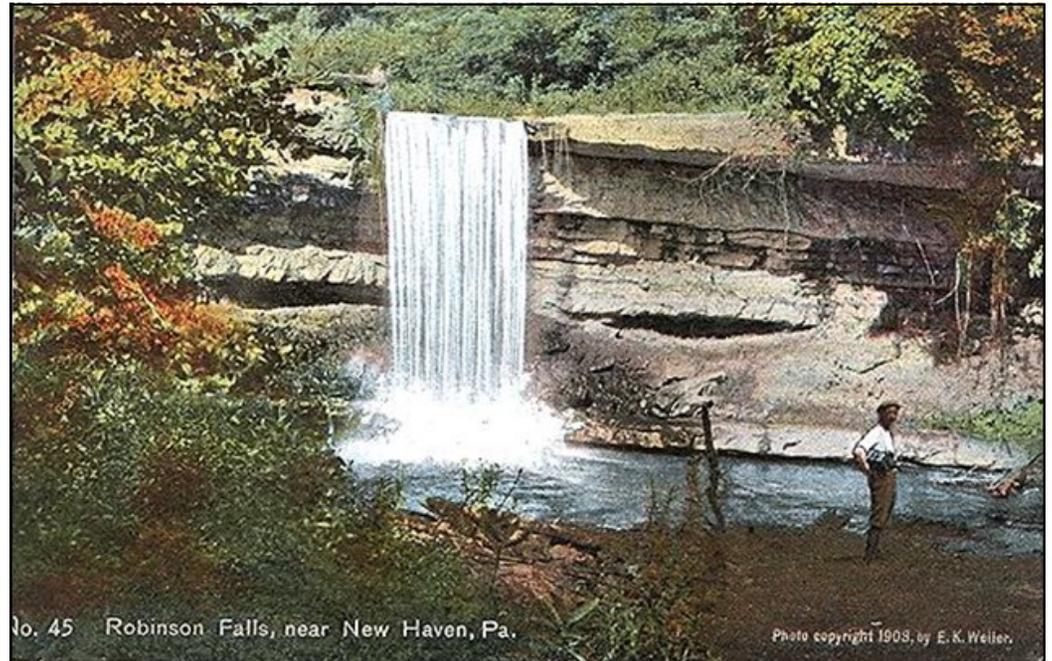
James F, Donna's father, was born to **James Robinson and Nancy (Tinstman aka Tinsman, Tintsman) Robinson** in 1834 in Dunbar Township. James F's siblings included:

- **Cyrus** (1816-1881). Cyrus' life ended tragically at age 65. While Cyrus was observing a quarry excavation on his farm, he died when a tree fell, crushing and killing him instantly.
- **Eliza** (Robinson) White (1817-1884)
- **Frances** (Robinson) Freed (1818-1883)
- **Nancy** (Robinson) Patterson (1824-1909)
- **Adaline** (Robinson) Hugus (1827-1889)
- **Albert** (1838-1910) Albert's life was taken as the result of an accident as well; he fell from a wall at Leisenring #1 (coal and coke works) and broke his hip later dying from the incident. Although he was a farmer, one source indicated he was a miner yet his death is not listed by the bureau of mines. His death certificate identified him as a "gentleman." Although his farm was not far, why he was at Leisenring #1 has not been determined.

James F's father, James, is believed to have been born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. In Genealogical and Personal History of Fayette County by James Hadden, family stories are inconsistent regarding his birthplace as one story indicates he was born in Scotland.

According to an Albert Robinson biography, James first arrived in Westmoreland County though the exact year is unknown. He may have arrived in or near East Huntingdon where he probably met his future wife, Nancy Tinstman, before moving to Fayette County about 1820. In Dunbar Township he established a farm with a distillery and gristmill.

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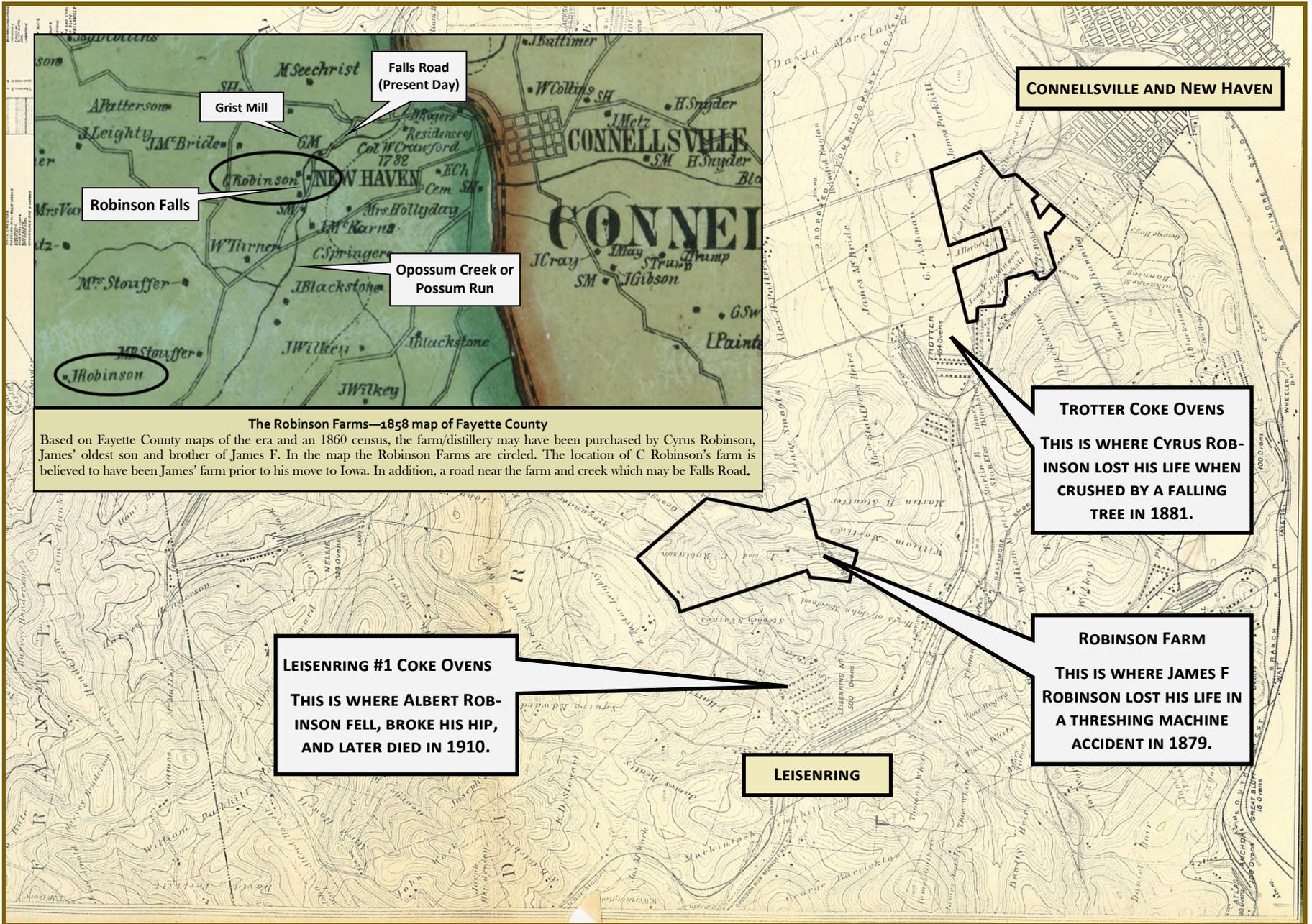


Robinson Falls was named for James Robinson, father of James F Robinson, as it was on or near his farm outside of Connellsville in Dunbar Township. The falls is also known as "Cowpaddy Falls" by locals.

"In J.P. Leslie's 1876 publication, "Geologic Explorations of Pennsylvania and Other States," it is reported that the first recorded geological description of any part of Pennsylvania was delivered by Thomas Hutchins to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia on January 28, 1786. Hutchins' 300-word sketch eloquently described the interval exposed under a scenic waterfall, formed in the Benwood Limestone member of the Upper Pennsylvanian Monongahela Group. The section is composed of several feet of calcareous silt and clay shales at the base overlain by increasingly purer beds of limestone, reaching a total height of 22 feet... Hutchins probably made his observations during the summer of 1784 while helping out with the surveying of the Mason-Dixon Line, but he had earlier opportunities to visit this rock exposure during his travels as a soldier in western Pennsylvania. Hutchins' attention to detail makes it possible to ascertain with complete certainty that this is the same site he described over 200 years ago."

"The falls flow over a rock ledge on which is located the Catawba Indian Warpath that ran from North Carolina to New York. General Braddock used this path on his way to Fort Duquesne, and his army may have camped at the falls. Thomas Hutchins fought in the French and Indian War and was commissioned a lieutenant in the British Army in 1757, and captain in 1763."

*The Lucas Branch: Robinson Family*



**The Robinson Farms—1858 map of Fayette County**  
 Based on Fayette County maps of the era and an 1860 census, the farm/distillery may have been purchased by Cyrus Robinson, James' oldest son and brother of James F. In the map the Robinson Farms are circled. The location of C Robinson's farm is believed to have been James' farm prior to his move to Iowa. In addition, a road near the farm and creek which may be Falls Road.

**CONNELLVILLE AND NEW HAVEN**

**TROTTER COKE OVENS**  
 THIS IS WHERE CYRUS ROBINSON LOST HIS LIFE WHEN CRUSHED BY A FALLING TREE IN 1881.

**ROBINSON FARM**  
 THIS IS WHERE JAMES F ROBINSON LOST HIS LIFE IN A THRESHING MACHINE ACCIDENT IN 1879.

**LEISENRING #1 COKE OVENS**  
 THIS IS WHERE ALBERT ROBINSON FELL, BROKE HIS HIP, AND LATER DIED IN 1910.

**LEISENRING**

**ROBINSON FAMILY PROPERTIES, DUNBAR TOWNSHIP, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ARE OUTLINED IN BLACK. THE LARGE MAP IS FROM THE LATE 1800S AND SHOWS COAL MINES AND COKE OPERATIONS.**

(Map courtesy of Penn State Eberly Campus at Uniontown, PA)

**An Appalling Accident.**

An accident appalling in its results occurred on Saturday morning at the stone quarry of Joseph Wagner, on the farm of Cyrus Robinson, in Dunbar township, about one and a half miles west of this place, by which two men met a horrible death, and a third received injuries that may possibly terminate fatally. Mr. Wagner has a contract for furnishing the large quantities of stone now being used by the Connellsville Gas Coal Company in the erection of their coke ovens at Trotter, and in getting them out he employs that powerful explosive—dynamite. About eight o'clock on the morning of the day in question a blast was set off which rent the rocks and earth asunder and left a large excavation underneath the bank whereon stood an immense white oak tree. It being necessary for the men to resume work under the tree, an examination was made, and it was pronounced safe, one of the men going so far as to assert that he would work there all day and sleep there all night without fear. About ten o'clock, as was frequently his custom, Mr. Robinson went to the quarry to watch the progress of the work, and at the time of the occurrence was standing beneath the tree in conversation with William Aul, foreman of the work, when without the slightest sound of warning the mighty oak fell, crushing to the earth with a sickening thud Mr. Robinson and a quarry laborer named Daniel M'Cady. The bodies were with great difficulty taken from beneath the ponderous weight which crushed them, it being necessary to saw the giant oak into three

pieces before this result could be accomplished. An examination revealed the fact that Robinson's neck, back and legs were broken, besides being completely disembowled. Death must have been instantaneous. As in the case of Robinson, M'Cady was instantly killed, his skull being fractured, both arms and legs broken, and his chest crushed. Coroner Sturgeon was notified, and upon his arrival empaneled the following jury to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of the unfortunate men: Squire J. M. Lytle, foreman, Herbert Nelson, B. Blough, Daniel Sturgeon, Alphens Bevington, and Simon Hay. After a rigid examination of all the parties present when the calamity occurred, and a thorough investigation of the surroundings, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death in both cases. Of M'Cady little is known. He had been in the employ of Mr. Wagner about three weeks, and is said to have been a sober and industrious young man, well liked by those with whom he was associated. A trunk belonging to him, which had been left with a family in New Haven with whom he boarded a short time previous to entering the employ of Wagner, was opened by the proper authorities and the contents examined, but nothing

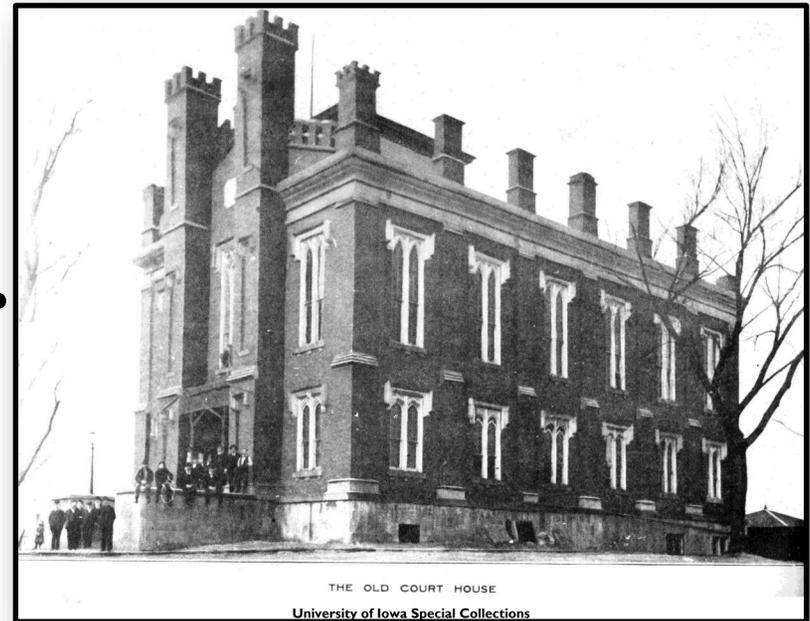
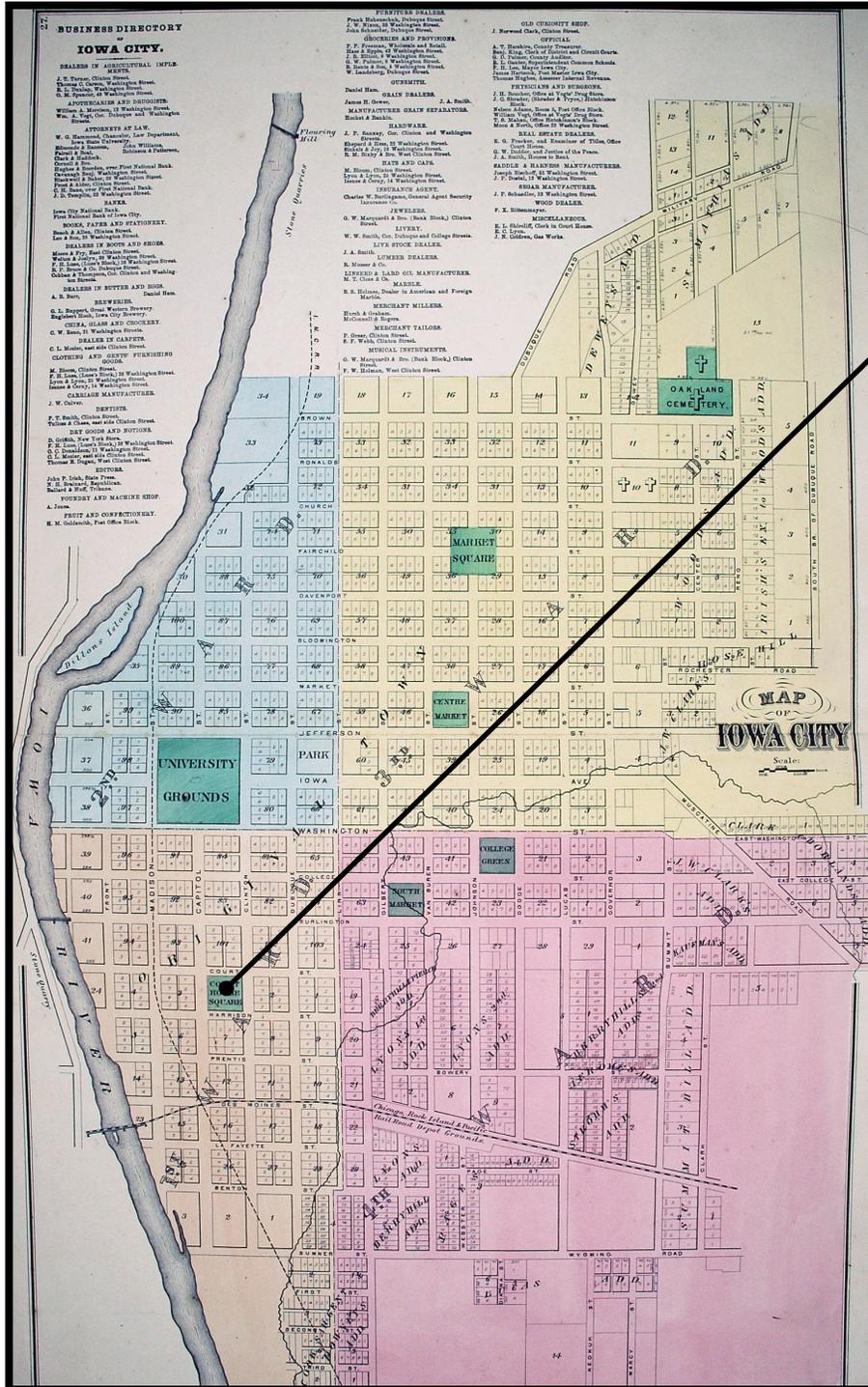
was found by which his identity could be established, and naught is known of him. His remains were brought to the undertaking rooms of Porter Brothers, Saturday afternoon, and interred in the Catholic cemetery, Sunday morning, the county bearing the expense of interment. Thomas M'Kinzie, also an employe of Wagner, was struck by a limb of the falling tree and had an arm and a leg broken, besides sustaining numerous severe bruises. He was removed to his boarding house, a short distance from the scene of the distressing accident, and Dr. Phillips summoned, who after a careful examination of the case states that the injuries though severe are not necessarily fatal, and that with proper care and attention he will recover. He was sent to Mercy Hospital, Pittsburg, on Monday.

**DEATH OF CYRUS ROBINSON**  
*The Weekly Courier*  
Connellsville, Pennsylvania  
Friday, January 21, 1881

A rather detailed description of Cyrus's death in 1881. All three of James and Nancy (Tinstman) Robinson's sons died as the result of accidents. James died as the result of a threshing machine accident. Cyrus died when a tree fell on him. Albert fell from a wall breaking his hip and later died as a result.



# The Lucas Branch: Robinson Family



**Iowa City Map (1870) and Johnson County Courthouse**

The Courthouse is the approximate location of where James Robinson lived with his daughter Adaline (Robinson) Hugus and her family around 1860. According to the Iowa census of 1856 Adaline and her family were already in the area residing in Liberty, Iowa.

James Robinson was the apparent owner of the parcel (where the courthouse was built) with a value of \$2500 in 1860. Whether James's wife, Nancy (Tinstman) Robinson ever lived in Iowa isn't known. Unfortunately, documents do not reveal the motivations of individuals. We don't know what motivated the sale or the reason for returning to Pennsylvania. Was it sentimental reasons? Was it the Civil War?

*The Lucas Branch: Robinson Family*

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT.**— About eight o'clock Monday morning, while engaged in threshing on the farm of his brother, Cyrus Robinson, a short distance from town, James Robinson, a well known farmer of this vicinity, caught his coat sleeve in the tumbling shaft of the threshing machine, which was revolving at a high rate of speed, and was instantly drawn upon it. Realising [sic] his perilous situation, the unfortunate man instantly clasped his arms about the body of the shaft, and was hurled around with terrible velocity, striking his head against the machine, and thrashing his legs with fearful violence upon the barn floor. It is supposed that he made about thirty revolutions before the machinery could be stopped, and when picked up, his clothes being completely stripped from his body.

The unfortunate man was picked up and carried into the house, where an examination of the injuries revealed an ugly scalp wound, three broken ribs, a crushed knee cap, various bruises and it is feared internal injuries of a serious character. As we go to press he is still in a critical condition.

**James F Robinson Accident Transcription**  
*The Weekly Courier*  
Friday, October 24, 1879  
Connellsville, PA

**DEATH OF JAMES ROBINSON.**—It becomes our painful duty to record the death of James Robinson, who was caught in a threshing machine last week, and, as it proved, fatally injured, a full account of which accident is contained in last week's paper. The injured man sank gradually, until on Monday his physicians pronounced the case hopeless. On the following day about noon, he breathed his last. The funeral, which took place Wednesday afternoon, was largely attended, not less than fifty vehicles, and horsemen in proportion, followed the remains to their last resting place. Deceased was well known and was much liked in this community, and his untimely death is universally and deeply regretted.

**James F Robinson Obituary**  
*The Weekly Courier*  
Friday, October 31, 1879  
Connellsville, PA

**Grim Reaper**

**MRS SARAH ROBINSON**  
\_EAD ROBINSON DEATH \_ his \_  
Mrs Sarah White Robinson, 81 years old died at her home on South Pittsburg Street at 10 o'clock Thursday night from complications of Bronchial Asthma. She had been in good health until 10 days ago when she was confined to her bed. Mrs Robinson was a life long resident of this city being born and raised here. She was one of the \_\_\_ of the community. She married the late James Robinson. A number of the children survive Mrs R Hassler, Easley Ala, Lee Roy Coffeyville Kan, Jesse Bakersfield Cal, Mrs D M Lucas of Pittsburg, Mrs A J Buttermore Washington DC, Mrs \_\_\_ of this city, Miss Sadie Robinson Youngstown, Ohio and Miss Pearl and Pauline Robinson both at home. Mrs Robinson was a member of the Christian Church.

The funeral \_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_ with Reverend \_\_\_ pastor of the Christian Church\_\_\_. Internment will be \_\_\_ Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

**Transcribed from *The Daily Courier***  
Friday, February 13, 1925  
Connellsville, PA

Flowing through or near his farm was, and still is, the Opossum Creek (some older maps identify it as 'Possum Run). On the creek is a water falls known as Robinson Falls. The falls was named for James and is also popularly known by locals as Cowpaddy Falls (perhaps because of the nearby farms still in the area).

In this who's who biography, James Robinson sold the farm and relocated to Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa for a brief period. This was around 1860 (I presume the farm was sold to either or both of his sons, James F and Cyrus). His move to Iowa was preceded by his two daughters, Eliza (Robinson) White and Adeline (Robinson) Hugus. Eliza appeared to be the first one to move before 1850. She remained there with her family until her death in 1884.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## *The Lucas Branch: Robinson Family*

Adeline appeared to have moved to Iowa after 1850 as she and her family were listed in the Iowa state census in 1856 and the 1860 federal census. The 1860 census showed that James was living with Adeline and her family in Iowa City. The Iowa property was said to be where the Johnson County Courthouse was located although no proof was offered. Meanwhile back in Dunbar Township, Nancy (Tinstman) Robinson, was living with her son, James F' and his family including Albert, James F's brother.

James returned to Fayette County along with daughter Adeline sometime in the 1860s. James, Nancy, Adeline, and grandson, George D Hugus were living on a farm next to Cyrus Robinson and his family in 1870. In 1873, Nancy passed away followed by James in 1874.

James Robinson's Parents were **Duncan Robinson (1758-1809)** and **Jennie (Doulan) Robinson (1760-1813)**. Other than relocating to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania there is not much information about James' parents and siblings. Duncan came from Scotland and Jennie from Ireland. According to Duncan's 1809 Last Will and Testament, James' seven siblings were: **Jane (?-?)**, **Alexander (1789-?)**, **John (1791-?)**, **William (1793-?)**, **Susannah (1795-?)**, **Mary or Maria (1796-?)**, and **Sarah (1799-?)**. Sources indicate that James may have been accompanied by his brother, John Robinson, to Fayette County. While there are records of a John Robinson in the Fayette County, there isn't enough documentation to prove that this particular John Robinson was James' brother.

### *Sources*

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- Hechler, Karen. *Robinson Falls – Historic Water Falls on Opossum Creek*. Connellsville Crossroads. Fayette County Cultural Trust Summer 2014.
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- Ellis, Franklin. Editor. *History of Fayette County, Pennsylvania : with biographical sketches of many of its pioneers and prominent men*, LH Everts, Philadelphia, 1882.
- The Weekly Courier, Connellsville, PA.
- The Daily Courier, Connellsville, PA.
- **ROBINSON FALLS, THE SITE OF THE FIRST RECORDED GEOLOGIC DESCRIPTION IN PENNSYLVANIA, HAS BEEN FOUND NEARLY THE WAY THOMAS HUTCHINS DESCRIBED IT OVER TWO CENTURIES AGO.** Northeastern (46th Annual) and North-Central (45th Annual) Joint Meeting (20-22 March 2011) Paper No. 66-1.  
[https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2011NE/finalprogram/abstract\\_183835.htm](https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2011NE/finalprogram/abstract_183835.htm)
- <https://uncoveringpa.com/how-to-get-to-robinson-falls-connellsville>
- *Along the Banks of Jacobs Creek: A Genealogy of a Mennonite Community, A Genealogy of the Mennonite Families Who Settled in southern Westmoreland County and northern Fayette County, Pennsylvania, 1790-1810.* Compiled by Winifred Paul, © 1990 (?); Mennonite Publishing House, Scottdale, PA.