

Share Report Abuse Next Blog»

Create Blog Sign In

Diana's Brick Wall

This blog contains information and speculations about Diana Livingston Ellsworth (b. 1811?), mother and grandmother of many generations. Diana's roots remain a mystery to her posterity. The purpose of this blog is to post past and current research efforts for those attempting to unravel Diana's history. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT DIANA PLEASE CONTACT US AND SEND US COPIES OF DOCUMENTS...PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!

"There are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know..." Donald Rumsfeld

Ray William Ellsworth, father and grandfather to posted researchers for this site, spent about 20 years in genealogical research before any computer could help him. Had he lived to our day when we can do so much with computers he'd be amazed at what we can do in genealogical research now. He didn't spend all his time with Diana's problem, but kept returning to it, never could "crack the code" so to speak. Any light that anyone could shine on this problem will be very much appreciated. **Now, we invite you to contribute information, ideas, theories, questions to this blog. At left below see much info and suggestions of a professional genealogist.**

Pages

[Home](#)

[What we know about](#)

[Diana](#)

[What we don't know about Diana](#)

[Old Family Photos](#)

Suggestions from a professional: Dick Hillenbrand

Diana's Researchers:

Lynn Ellsworth

Evelyn E Gwartney

Elaine E Ward

Luke Ellsworth

Susan E Green

Suggestions from a professional: Dick Hillenbrand

The following are emails between myself (Lynn Ellsworth) and Dick Hillenbrand, a professional genealogist from New York.

February 23, 2010

Hi, Came across your Oswego county online partial deed index.

Very handy and thanks. I am curious as to what information you

have on these people. For instance what do you know for sure

and sources. What you presume and why. What land, estate records, census, church records, etc. that you have on them.

I am

most interested in when was the very last time they were in Oswego county and then where do you find them next, and what

sources. It is my experience that everyone moved in either small

or large groups, or settled next to or near others that had gone before them, or made efforts to bring other family members out west with them. If you want to send me some data, research outline, family group sheets, census reports, etc. I will take a look and see if I can suggest something that you might not have checked yet. I am very familiar with the migration pattern through this exact corridor of Upstate NY, out to the upper mid-west. Often central NY people would linger for a while in the western counties of NY before following the setting sun. Sounds like a fun project.

Best regards.

Dick Hillenbrand
Upstate New York Genealogy
<http://www.unyg.com/>

On Thu, Feb 25, 2010 at 11:57 PM, Lynn Ellsworth
<lellsworth@frontiernet.net> wrote:

Mr Hillenbrand

I enthusiastically respond. But, I need to do it in two parts:

the short answer and the longer one. The short because I want to respond to you while you're still interested. The long one because I need some time to get all my "stuff" together. The short one right now, the long one within a few weeks. We know all we need to know about how Diana's children were raised and how we descend from David and Diana, what really puzzles us is who Diana was, where she was born, and who her parents really were.

The Short one: We absolutely know:

1. Diana was the widow of James Look (a deed says "relict" of James Look).
2. She later married my great-great grandfather David Ellsworth.

He moved down from Leeds, Canada to Oswego, but had been born in Rutland, Vermont. They purchased land, near relatives about 7 miles SouthWest of Oswego, NY on the "road to Sodus Bay".

3. While in Oswego they had two children, James Henry Ellsworth, born in 1835 and younger sister Lucinda Sophronia Ellsworth, born after 1835.
4. David and Diana joined the "Mormon" church in about 1835 and the family later moved to the Nauvoo, Illinois area.

(But, did Diana herself really move with the family?)

5. She disappeared from the family shortly after this. David and a stepmother raised her two young children. Diana lived

at least until 10 February 1840. (See #13, below)

6. The family moved from Oswego, NY to Nauvoo, Il, to Payson, Utah Territory, then James' family to Walker, AZ Territory (Taylor, now), then to Safford, Graham County, AZ. Lucinda Sophronia's family stayed in the Ogden, Utah area.

What we don't know:

7. Who she really was, who her parents were, where she was born, why she disappeared from the family, was it divorce?

her death? she just stayed behind? Where did David and Diana meet? Where and when did they marry? When and

where did Diana die? Some family lore says in Nauvoo, Il, but I can't prove that.

Family lore about David and Diana.

8. *The 'greater' Ellsworth family believes her maiden name*

was Livingstone, and that her parents were

Nehemiah

Livingstone, Jr. and Indiana Foster, also that she was born

in 1811 in England.

9. *One guess from some family members is that she may*

have refused to go West with the Mormons.

Other information of interest:

10. An LDS Church record book from Payson, Utah in the late 1800's, recording the parents of James Henry Ellsworth,

in two places, give Diana's maiden name as Herrick, not Livingstone. Although the record asked for "mother's maiden name" perhaps Herrick was erroneously recorded

as a later married name? See US/Can film #26401.

11. We can prove that Nehemiah Livingstone, Jr and Indiana

could NOT have been Diana's parents. Perhaps her brother and sister-in-law, but not her parents.

Nehemiah Livingston, Jr and Indiana (Foster) were married in NY in 1832, no child named Diana. Diana's oldest child,

James Henry Ellsworth was born in 1835. See Portrait & Biog.

Album of Otoe & Cass Counties, NE Vol II pp 900-902
This biographical sketch of Nehemiah and Indiana was written

while Nehemiah was still alive, late 19th century in Nebraska where he was living at the time

12. See several deeds, transcribed by me and available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyoswego/>

See this site...Deeds and Wills

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyoswego/deeds/livingston.html>

13. Notice in the above mentioned deeds that Nathan and Trustum Look witness James' deeds. Were they his brothers?

His sons? Cousins? Notice also that in one of the deeds that

Diana signs the deed with an "X" (illiterate) 10 Feb 1840 - Israel,

Maria, David, Dianna Ellsworth sell 83.3 acres in Lot 23 to U.G. White. Includes parcel described in 1824 and 1826. Deed Book 30, pp 480-2, FHL Microfilm 1,011,772

14. See this: <http://insearchofdiana.blogspot.com/>

My father spent about 20 years in genealogical research

before any computer could help him. Had he lived to our day when we can do so much with computers I think he'd

be amazed at what we can do in genealogical research

now. He didn't spend all his time with Diana's problem,

but kept returning to it, never could "crack the code", so

to speak. I'm amazed at what he did find. Any light that

anyone could shine on this problem will be very much

appreciated. I thank you sincerely for your interest and hope something can come of it.

Lynn Ellsworth PO Box 776 ljells@kina.net

Eagar, AZ 85925-0776 ph. 928-245-5956

or 435-705-5397

Feb 26, 2010

Dear Mr. Ellsworth,

Well this is surely an interesting project.

Milton V. Backman did a lot of work on the Nauvoo families. I will have to dig through some old research to come up with an exact title, but he created a sort of census of saints at Nauvoo from historical records. Perhaps you know of the book. I just went on worldcat.org and typed in 'backman nauvoo' and there are over a thousand records returned. This particular book should be of interest to you but I do not think it is the one I am thinking of.

http://www.worldcat.org/title/people-and-power-of-nauvoo-themes-from-the-nauvoo-experience/oclc/49350354&referer=brief_results

This is very preliminary and I will mention the following only for a possible option that Diana might have had. At the same time the saints were gathering and had gone from Ohio to Illinois, there was a similar migration that came out of Oswego county and went to the Racine and Kenosha Wisconsin area.

If you do some online searching of history of Kenosha, WI and history of Hannibal, NY you will find reference to "The Western Emigration Company". Here is one book, you will find many.

http://www.archive.org/stream/collectionsstat03unkngoog/collectionsstat03unkngoog_djvu.txt

I only mention this possibility because you seem to have lost track of her about the Nauvoo time period. I have worked on some of the Nauvoo people previously and in my opinion if she does not show up there in documents that have been collected, compiled and reported on, then she might have joined people from another group and this Western Emigration Co was a pretty big deal in that day, though not many people know anything about it now. I would keep an open mind to that or some similar possibility. I also noted on worldcat that there is a collection of Nauvoo photographs from S(amuel) George Ellsworth, is he yours? **If I were you I think that it would serve a good purpose to go back to the LOOK information. I suspect**

you have of course, but that is where you will find the best opportunity to pick up clues on early Diana. I am a member of the HERRICK Family Association, and spoke at their annual HERRICK Family Reunion last year in Albany, NY. I will send a note to Richard HERRICK who operates their database and see if any of your notes might tie in with anything they have accumulated. I visited Nauvoo a few years ago, and have visited many of the LDS historical sites in my 30-40 years of genealogy trekking. Such a fascinating story and time period. I do still work for a living and will not be able to devote thousands of hours to this but will be very happy to give you thoughts that pop out, so I look forward to your additional details. Best regards.

Dick Hillenbrand

Upstate New York Genealogy

<http://www.unyg.com/>

Lynn,

What deed do you have than names Dianna as relict of ____

LOOK?

I find it interesting that the Hannibal, Oswego county deeds were recorded in Cayuga county, other than Humphrey HOWLAND was a well known person in Cayuga co. The HOWLANDs of Scipio were Quakers/Friends and there is much on them in print and on the web. There is a Nathan LOOK in Virgil on the 1820 Cortland census. There are also several HERRICKs in Homer, Cortland Co, 1820.

Dick

Friday, February 26, 1020 11:39 PM Lynn Ellsworth wrote:
Dick, here's a transcription of the deed showing that Diana was the 'relict' of James Look: deedoswny34p189-91.
doc 12 Jun 1841 - David and Catherine Ellsworth
sell 13.33 acres in Lot 23 to Rathburn Miller.
Dianna is now deceased *Deed Book34,pp189-91,
FHL Microfilm 1,011,774 This Indenture, Made the
twelfth day of June in the year of our Lord one-thousand
eight hundred and forty one Between David Ellsworth
of the Town and County of Oswego and State of New York
and his wife Catherine...

On 27 Feb. 2010, at 4:50 AM Dick Hillenbrand

Lynn,

Here are some random thoughts.

Partial will index Cortland Sampubco.com

LIVIGNSTON, ALMIRA P. CINCINNATUS NY-12-N-283

LIVIGNSTON, HATTIE E. MARATHON NY-12-X-429

LIVINGSTON, PERCY H. CINCINNATUS NY-12-W-277

LIVINGSTON, HUGH G. CORTLANDVILLE NY-12-V-325

LIVINGSTON, JOHN CINCINNATUS NY-12-S-757

LIVINGSTON, JOHN D. CINCINNATUS NY-12-Y-573

(No HERRICK or LOOK wills listed in Cortland index)

(Checked Onondaga county online 'wills' index, no

LIVINGSTON, HERRICK or LOOKs listed.)

Have you checked Oswego county estate records for a probate or administration file of James LOOK?

Have you looked at the deed in 1828 mentioned where Diana received the land on Lot 23 from: Trustrum Look, Lucy Look (poss Trustrum's wife) , Nathan Look, Louisa Look (poss Nathan's wife). Walter Harris and Thankful Harris to the then Widow Dianna Look (relict of James Look deceased)

and afterwards, wife of the said David Ellsworth) now deceased

It appears to me that the LOOK names are likely children of James LOOK, releasing their interest in their father's land to James's widow Dianna. Thankful HARRIS is possibly a sister and sister-in-law of Trustrum, Lucy, Nathan and Louisa.

Sometimes this type of deed is not in the grantee/grantor

indexes as it might have been handled in probate court. Alexander LIVINGSTON witnessing all of those 1828, post James LOOK's death deeds, would not be unusual for a brother or close relative of the widow to be involved. Those property divisions being mentioned in what looks like one-fourths or one-thirds tells me this is the settlement of an estate. I would dig real deep on each and every possibility of finding more information on Alexander LIVINGSTON. A terribly common name, but stick with it. A curious thing is how the heck does a female name of "Indiana" appear in this time period? I would scour all of the online records at Footnote.com in the hopes that some LOOK/LIVINGSTON data might show up in an earlier generation, say like Rev War pension records. Another thing to consider is that township/town/county lines were constantly changing during this period of time. The old Hannibal township, Lot 23 finally ended up within the now town of Oswego, after the Hannibal town borders were defined. Did you ever find where Humphrey HOWLAND got the lands in military lot 23 of Hannibal township? He lived quite a long walk away from there in Scipio/Aurora, Cayuga county. As I recall he could have been a land speculator buying up good bargains. Don't know for sure but there is a Howland's Island area in what is now Montezuma swamp, only mentioning it, no particular reason. It appears as though Diana/Dianna as alive as of 10 FEB 1840, and that she was deceased as of 12 JUN 1841, and that David had mourned long enough to remarry before that date. Understandably with two small children. So do you believe that David and Catherine left after 1840 to go to Nauvoo? Do you have census records on all of these people? Why in your original communication was there a question as to what happened to Diana?

Regards. Dick Hillenbrand

On 28 Feb. 2010, at 7:12 AM Dick Hillenbrand
And another thing... \grin/ OK, you got me. You have created a massive amount of material on what you could find about what you know and it is extremely helpful. You are all to be commended greatly for what you have done to date. Obviously you would work on what you know and can trace. Now I want you to step outside the box and chart what you want to know and what you don't know. The former is easy, the latter is very hard, but not impossible.
Here is what I mean:
You want to know who Diana was and who her parents were and where she came from. You don't know when she was born, where she was born, when she married James LOOK, where she married James LOOK, was she his first wife? So now you can approach this project

much easier by ONLY working on the LOOK family. They are your ticket to discovery. James met her somewhere didn't he? In my opinion Nathan and Tristram (varipus spellings) are on the 1820 census in Virgil, Cortland county, NY. If I were you I would beat that to a pulp. When did they arrive? Did they purchase land there? Are there any type of court records there regarding LOOK families, civil, probate, criminal, anything? Cortland county newspapers are extant that go back as far as 1814, I believe. You can probably order them on microfilm through inter-library-loan. Have you gone to the Cortland County Historical Society and spent a few weeks yet? You need to, and here is why. If the LOOKs arrived in the Cortland area before 1808 then their records will be in Onondaga county. If you just contact CCHS through a letter, they will put a volunteer on your query and that person will go through some of the files and send you a report. You might get lucky. Better you should go there and spend several days in a row going over every possible lead and thought that you have and try to get the ear of Anita and follow her advice very closely. She will find things like road tax books, that will describe where their houses were and how much they were taxed and if they worked on the road for their payment or if they paid fifty cents to not have to do the work. This stuff is invaluable and you will not get it out of a query letter. That is only an example, you will have dozens of new resources and research possibilities after such a foray. Want to know who people in those days married. It was ALWAYS the same, they married the neighbors! There were no roads to speak of. When you look on old maps and see roads delineated, these were nothing more than paths that you could walk on, drive an ox cart on, and they were most of the time muddy slimy messes, frozen ruts, or terribly dusty. There were no paved roads of any kind. You never went far to marry. So I would map everything on every single person that might provide a clue. Using every kind of map available from the earliest time to modern day tax maps and even aerial photographs. You will get to know the names of the neighbors, where they likely would have sold their brooms or agricultural largess, and where the sawmills were and where the footbridges were over the creeks, streams, rivers, swamps, etc. All of this is important for studying your people in the time period of interest. Where were the nearest cemeteries? Where were the nearest churches? What religion do you think these people practiced? In that early time period most religious needs were filled by a guy who came around on horseback or by foot once a week or once a month. Those Oswego county deeds showing always the same names means to me that they were all related. I think

the LOOKs came from Massachusetts, just an opinion.
If you consider the IGI info it looks like James was
several years older than Diana, might he have had a
first wife that died?
Have fun. Dick Hillenbrand



[Home](#)

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)