

Mistakes would be less exasperating if we always could anticipate their nature and prepare for them mentally; or if we could find them all ourselves and correct them before anyone else did; or if they were all minor. But things don't work that way. Presumably, if you always could find your own mistakes nothing would ever be called a mistake. And even so-called minor mistakes often don't seem so to the one who makes them. With respect to proof-reading a manuscript, the more times you do it the less likely you are to find certain kinds of errors because you have inadvertently closed your mind to some possibilities by focusing on others. So there are lots of ways to reduce errors, but no way confidently to eliminate them. In the end, the only way to avoid the sinking feeling that accompanies them is either develop an extremely thick skin or else don't ever finish anything. I've given this advice to my students for more than 30 years, but I've never admitted to them how difficult it is for me to accept it myself.

A family history will never be entirely correct or complete, and I'll take some solace in that. These things said, however, here is the first list of corrections and additions to *Mom's Story*. Rest assured, there'll be more!

p. 6: A doozy! The picture on the right at the bottom of the page is not Katharine Elizabeth but her daughter, Nell Katharine (Alexander Beadles)! Martha Ann (Heath Stanley) Rhodes first pointed this out to me. How embarrassing! But we can look at it philosophically. Consider this: You are treated to an additional view of Noel's and my older sister back when she was still cute rather than beautiful.

p. 22. Grandma Ambrose (Sally Stockton Huff Ambrose) was actually 76 years and four months old when she died, not 75 (see p. 103).

p. 26. Mom and I wavered over the identification of the woman in this picture. She looks a lot like Aunt Lillian (Heath Haines). After the book was printed I found a snapshot of Lillian, George, and Noble Porter on a beach with their winter clothes on. On the back it identified the scene as one from Lillian and George's honeymoon to Florida at Christmas time in 1918. I phoned Mom to confirm this and asked her why in the world NPH accompanied the Haines on their honeymoon. She snorted a little and said, "You tell me!" Maybe this picture is from that 1918 trip and not the earlier one. It doesn't matter much: in fact it is a scene from the era being discussed in the text, and it's a picture of relatives.

p. 90. After the book was printed I found a letter I had never seen before, written by Nell Ambrose when she was 15 years old to her Aunt Josie Madden. I thought it had to be included, and this blank page is a good place to paste it in, just across from Nell Ambrose's picture.

p. 103. Mom and I were discussing Sally Stockton Huff after the book was printed, and I remarked that she was married at 18 but didn't have her first child until she was 22. Mom said, "Oh, I forgot to tell you that she lost twins before that!" That resolved a problem in my mind that I had actually forgotten: the discussion in our family of the notion that twins skip generations, and Mom saying that, since she also lost twins, she wondered if Margaret (Nell's daughter) would have twins. Keep trying, Margaret!

p. 104. I neglected to put in the dates of Lemuel Ambrose's birth and death: 8 March 1849 and 13 February 1941, the latter at 7:30 p.m., as Mary Jane (Mengel: Aunt Florence's youngest) told me by telephone.

p. 108. In the last paragraph of this page I am unfortunately about a half mile off! Almer Heath's land, in 1875, actually lay just south of that later owned by Bill Alexander, and in 1875 G. Fisher not D. Clouser owned the land Bill Alexander later bought (I confused myself by misidentifying the position of Route 10 on the 1875 map). By 1910, Almer Heath had sold his earlier farm to Mr. Caldwell, and his land consisted instead of 143 acres that extended from just west across the road from the Ingram Cemetery southwest to even with what later became Bill Alexander's south line. This latter I saw in Leslie Alexander's *Standard Atlas* of 1910. Leslie told me of a conversation he had once had with Grandma Alexander Brady (Ida Belle Winters). He asked her how she and Bill Alexander met. She told him that "We all used to walk from Centerville up to the Argo Settlement to church. I was in the choir, and he saw me there and asked someone who that dark-haired little girl was."

p. 124. The 1875 map of Sangamon Township is from the Warner and Beers Atlas. The 1989 map is, as indicated, used with the permission of the Rockford (Illinois) Map Publishers, Inc.

Mom' Story: Corrections and Additions #2: 20 January 1992

Note: For all but the first of these corrections and additions, thanks to Martha Ann Heath Stanley Rhoades

pp. 12 and 16: Lola Branch was married to Max, not Tom. Tom, Max's brother, was Paul's, Charles', and Leslie's father.

p. 13: According to Lillian Heath's diary, the picture was taken in 1914, and the site Mom described was then called Munson's Cabin (Mom believes that at some time it was also called Nelson's Cabin because the people who lived on that property were the Nelson's).

p. 24: In the second paragraph read Heath Snyder not Keith Snyder.

p. 31: In the second paragraph from bottom read Verta not Verna.

p. 49: In the caption of the bottom picture read Teresa not Theresa.

p. 104: In the tenth line from the bottom read Lou (from Louis) not Lew.

p. 107: MAHSR read in a newspaper that Noble Porter Heath's house burned in December 1893, the same year he died; she believes it was rebuilt in 1895.

p. 117: The middle picture is not of the Interurban Station but of the Illinois Central Railroad Depot that stood next to the Interurban Station.

p. 119: Noble Porter Heath II's barn burned December 1945.