

# Edison, Miller, and Affiliated Families

## *Thomas Alva Edison and His Family Tree*

Thomas Alva Edison (TAE) was interested in his family history, but his autobiographical notes and other writings reveal major misconceptions that have found their way into numerous biographies. For example, he mistakenly believed that John Edison, whom he characterized as “a Rebel in [the] Revolution” who “fled to Nova Scotia,” was his grandfather, rather than his great-grandfather. Moreover, he claimed that his great-grandfather, whose name he never mentioned, was a “Banker in Wall Street.” This garbled account of TAE’s ancestry also appears in the authorized biography, *Edison: His Life and Inventions* (1910) by Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Commerford Martin. The authors embellished TAE’s recollections by giving his great-grandfather a name (Thomas) and stating that he had been a “stalwart Continental” during the War of Independence—a position that supposedly estranged him from his Loyalist son and inspired John to move to Canada after the war.

Some of TAE’s misconceptions about his paternal ancestors were no doubt acquired from his father, Samuel Ogden Edison Jr. Of course, Sam was well aware that John Edison was not TAE’s grandfather but, rather, his own. His recollection of his family history formed the basis for an article in the *St. Thomas (Ontario) Times*, published on November 30, 1885. In Sam’s version of the story, it is John Edison (rather than John’s mythical father “Thomas” whom Sam does not mention), who is the “prominent bank officer on Manhattan Island.” In addition to being a prosperous banker, he also owned “nearly all the land on which Jersey City is now built, and also a large tract of land in Manhattan Island.” Sam’s account correctly notes that John declined to take up arms against the British but incorrectly claims that he fled to Nova Scotia at the beginning (rather than the end) of the Revolution. Realizing

that “he had more money than he could use profitably in a new country,” John stashed most of his fortune in the Bank of England for safe keeping. According to the article, Sam was planning to go to Europe, along with TAE’s lawyer, to make claim to the family money.

William Adams Symonds, author of *Edison, His Life, His Work, His Genius* (1934), was the first biographer to present an accurate genealogical account of John Edison and his descendants and to recognize that the patriarch of the Edison family was a successful farmer in Caldwell, New Jersey, with no connections to Wall Street or banking. His chapter, “The ‘Lost’ Grandfather,” which was based on extensive research in Canadian provincial records and other primary sources, remains the most complete biographical account of John Edison. Symonds also addressed the mystery of Thomas Edison, the fictitious great-grandfather in the Dyer and Martin biography, concluding that he was a clerk in the office of the secretary of the Continental Congress and was most likely either John’s brother or cousin. As a government official, Thomas had authority to sign bills of credit, and his signature appeared on Continental currency. One of these old notes fell into the possession of Samuel Edison, which gave rise to the myth that Thomas had been a Wall Street banker. Symonds’ account of TAE’s paternal ancestors, which was subsequently endorsed by Matthew Josephson in his highly regarded *Edison: A Biography* (1959), remained unchallenged for almost seventy years until genealogists raised new questions regarding long-accepted beliefs about John Edison’s Dutch ancestry.

Misconceptions about TAE’s maternal ancestors have persisted for much longer. Ironically, his brief jottings in a notebook dating

from the early 1880s reveal a fairly accurate understanding of his ancestry. He mentions that his grandfather was Capt. Ebenezer Elliott and his grandmother was a woman named Peckham and then correctly lists the names of their three sons and three daughters. However, in another handwritten note, undated but probably written many years later, he remembers Capt. Elliott as being his mother's uncle. The Dyer and Martin biography, approved by TAE and based on his own recollections, muddies the waters still further by asserting that Capt. Elliott was Nancy Edison's grandfather and making Rev. John Elliott (actually her brother) her father.

The interest of William Adams Symonds in TAE's paternal ancestry did not extend to his mother's side of the family. His 1934 biography only briefly mentions the Elliott family, repeating the misinformation in Dyer and Martin. These inaccuracies, which also appear in the biography by Josephson, remained unchallenged until the 1990s. Robert Conot's *A Streak of Luck* (1979) does not mention Capt. Elliott but erroneously states that Nancy Edison was the "daughter of an

American Baptist minister who had gone to preach in Vienna, Ontario." The reference is clearly to Rev. John Elliott, who, contrary to Conot's inference, most likely became a minister after his family had moved to Vienna. Martin V. Melosi's *Thomas A. Edison and the Modernization of America* (1990) explicitly states that Rev. John Elliott was Nancy's father. Paul Israel's *Edison: A Life of Invention* (1998) makes the same claim without mentioning John by name.

Neil Baldwin, author of *Edison: Inventing the Century* (1995), is the first biographer to correctly identify Ebenezer Elliott as Nancy Edison's father. More dubious is his assertion that she was the "granddaughter of a Baptist minister." Research by Meaghan Louise Scott has established that Ebenezer Elliott, whose birth name was Matthews, was the youngest son of Abner Matthews of New Haven, Connecticut. The chances that Abner was a Baptist minister in Congregationalist Connecticut during the mid-1700s are remote. The unnamed Baptist "grandfather" to whom Baldwin refers is almost certainly Nancy's brother John, who appears in earlier biographies as her father.

## *A Note on Sources*

Much of the genealogical information about the Edison family, which appears in the biographical sketches below, is from John L. Burton, "Edison Descendants" (1996). Despite occasional errors and omissions, this 88-page typescript is generally accurate and reliable. Also of considerable value are the genealogical charts of the Alexander, Edison, Miller, and Stilwell families prepared for the Charles Edison Fund (CEF) by John Deissler and others. In addition, Series 4 (Genealogical Records) of the CEF Collection in the Edison National Historic Site (ENHS) archives contains fourteen boxes of genealogical information sheets, charts, and other materials about the Alexander, Edison, Elliott, and Miller families, along with numerous affiliated families, which were compiled over the years by Dorothy Malloy and others for the CEF and its predecessor, the Brook Foundation. Also useful for the Miller family is a transcription, prepared by former ENHS curator Leah Burt, of birth, deaths, and marriages recorded in a bible found at Glenmont, the Edison family home in West Orange. Obituaries and other

biographical information, primarily from newspapers, can be found in the Edison Biographical Collection, Scrapbook Collection, and Clippings Collection in the ENHS archives. Many of these documents have been published in the microfilm and digital editions of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers*.

OneWorldTree and other family trees available online at ancestry.com have also provided useful information, particularly about the Balcom and Matthews/Elliott families. These trees must be used with great caution, however, since they contain a considerable amount of erroneous information. An example is the case of TAE's maternal grandmother, Mercy Peckham Elliott. The Edison/Saxton/Ogden Family Tree, along with several others, identifies her as Mercy Peckham (1783–1850) of Kingston, Rhode Island, daughter of William Peckham and Mercy Perry. That is highly unlikely, however, since the Canadian censuses and other sources establish that Nancy Elliott Edison's oldest brother, Stephen, was born between 1790 and 1795. Assuming that

her own birth year is correctly given, Mercy Peckham of Kingston would have been much too young to bear children during the early 1790s. Another red flag is that Stephen Elliott and Nancy's other four siblings are missing from the tree. Moreover, Mercy's husband is incorrectly identified as Thomas Elliott, although he is given the same birth and death years as Ebenezer Matthews Elliott.<sup>1</sup>

Recent genealogical research has cast doubt on traditional accounts of the family tree of TAE's great-grandfather, John Edison. An exhaustive investigation by E. K. Lyon, formerly of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers*, of numerous local records, family histories, and other genealogical sources raises the possibility that the Edison family may have been in America for several generations by the time John was born. On the other hand, research by Sara Woodall of Cambridgeshire, England, has led her to believe that TAE's ancestors were descended from the Eddisons of the Yorkshire/Nottingham area of England. She believes that John Eddison's family lived for a time in the Netherlands, perhaps to escape religious persecution, and that his father, Thomas, died before his family arrived in America. Her hypothesis is consistent with the claim of a British-born resident of Seattle named Arthur D. Eteson, who wrote to TAE in 1908 affirming that they were distant relatives and tracing their lineage back to Yorkshire. By itself, however, this letter merely confirms the fact that there was a family named Eddison living in Yorkshire around the time that John Edison and his mother supposedly sailed to America.

Numerous primary sources, all available on ancestry.com, have been used to correct and supplement the information in the genealogical sources mentioned above. They include: United States Censuses, 1840–1880 and 1900–1930; Ohio

---

<sup>1</sup>There is a much stronger possibility that Mercy Peckham of Kingston is correctly identified in the Kurtz, Howey, Starkweather, Dresser Tree. That tree indicates that she married John Bigland Dockray of Kingston and had four children between 1813 and 1820. The credibility of the information in this tree is enhanced by the facts that Dockray can be located on the 1782 Rhode Island census and tax list, that John Dockray Jr. is enumerated in the U.S. censuses from 1850 to 1880 with the same birth year as in the family tree, and that Dockray Jr. named his oldest daughter Mercy P.

Census of 1910; Ontario, Canada Births, 1869–1909; Ontario, Canada Census Index, 1871; 1901 Census of Canada; Canadian Census of 1911; Connecticut Town Birth Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection); Connecticut Death Index, 1949–2001; Florida Marriage Collection, 1822–1875 and 1927–2001; Florida Death Index, 1877–1998; New York Passenger Lists, 1820–1957; Ohio 1910 Census Miracode Index; Ohio Deaths, 1908–1932, 1938–1944, and 1958–2002; Minnesota Death Index, 1908–2002; Ontario, Canada Deaths, 1869–1934; and Social Security Death Index. Also valuable for twentieth-century family members are the World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918, which include an exact date of birth, signature, and physical description along with other information.<sup>2</sup>

Another important source of information about the Edisons and Millers is the family correspondence in the ENHS archives and the CEF collection in Newark, New Jersey. Many of these letters have been published in the microfilm and digital editions of the *Thomas A. Edison*

---

<sup>2</sup>With the exception of the census of 1900, the U.S. censuses indicate only the age of an individual on his or her last birthday. Thus, it is often not possible to definitively ascertain a person's birth year from the census returns. An approximate birth year can be established by subtracting the age from the census year, but the individual might actually have been born in the previous year depending on when the enumeration took place. For example, TAE, who was born on February 11, 1847, is listed in the census of 1920 as being 72 years old because the enumeration was made on January 2. In this case, subtracting his age from the census year would yield an incorrect birth year of 1848. Had the enumeration been made after TAE's birthday, as was the case in the 1930 census which gives his age as 83, the process of subtraction would have produced a correct birth year. Birth years that have been estimated from the census returns are indicated in the biographical sketches by a "ca." preceding the year. A question mark following a birth year or any other event year indicates that the date comes from a source whose reliability is questionable. Two years separated by a slash (for example, 1890/1891) indicate that there are conflicting dates for a particular event. In that regard, it should also be noted that there are errors in census records, marriage records, death indexes, family bibles, and other genealogical sources, as well as inconsistencies in the age given for certain individuals in census records from one decade to the next. Moreover, genealogists generally do not give specific citations to their sources, which makes it difficult to verify the accuracy or reliability of their information. For those reasons, all dates in this or any other genealogical account should be regarded with a certain amount of skepticism.

*Papers*. Mina Miller Edison (MME) generally corresponded with her mother, siblings, in-laws, and other members of her immediate family. TAE, on the other hand, frequently received letters from distant relatives. Typically, these individuals were seeking financial support, but their correspondence often contains genealogical and biographical information as well. TAE sometimes responded to such letters with his own observations about his ancestry and family. As historical sources, these letters are most reliable when the correspondents are writing about their immediate family, current events, or past events in which they directly participated. They are considerably less trustworthy when discussing long-dead ancestors or recounting old family traditions.

Apart from TAE, only two family members have been subjects of full-length biographies. In 1925 Ellwood Hendrick, a chemist by training, published *Lewis Miller: A Biographical Essay*, which was based in part upon an examination of the Miller family papers in the possession of MME. TAE gave his endorsement to the final product by writing a three-page introduction. The life of MME's oldest son, Charles, who went on to a distinguished career in business and government after his father's death, is recounted in *Out of the Shadow: The Story of Charles Edison* (1978) by John D. Venable. A longtime family friend and trustee of the Charles Edison Fund who served as press secretary during Edison's term as governor, Venable also wrote a short biography of MME: *Mina Miller Edison: Daughter, Wife and Mother of Inventors* (1981). Brief biographical sketches of MME's parents and siblings, based largely on the research of Hendrick, can be found in the finding aid to the Lewis Miller Family Collection at the Chautauqua Institution archives ([www.chautauqua-institution.org/miller\\_family.html](http://www.chautauqua-institution.org/miller_family.html)). The Edison Family Album on the ENHS website

([www.nps.gov/archive/edis/home\\_family/fam\\_album.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archive/edis/home_family/fam_album.htm)) contains capsule biographies of MME, her parents, in-laws, children, and step-children.

Useful information about TAE's children, their spouses, and other family members can also be found in the obituaries published in the *New York Times*, available online through Proquest Historical Newspapers. The Edison Pioneers Collection in the ENHS archives includes lengthy obituaries of many of TAE's employees, including relatives Frank Holzer, John Vincent Miller, and Charles F. Stilwell. Biographical sketches of Charles Edison, Emily Clark Huntington Miller, Lewis Miller, and Benjamin Franklin Goodrich appear in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. Emily Miller and Goodrich are also included in the more recent *American National Biography*. A lengthy account of the career of Theodore Edison's father-in-law, Winthrop John Van Leuven Osterhout appears in the *National Academy of Sciences Biographical Memoirs*, 44 (1974): 213–249 (available online).

The annotations in the book edition of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers* (6 vols. to date) have also proven useful for some family members. The Appendix to Volume 1 contains a transcription of the reminiscences about his ancestry and boyhood that TAE prepared for the authorized biography, *Edison: His Life and Inventions* (1910) by Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Commerford Martin. Finally, information about various members of the Edison and Miller families can be found on the Internet through search engines such as Google and Yahoo. For example, the website for The Cliff House at Pikes Peak ([www.thecliffhouse.com](http://www.thecliffhouse.com)) contains an account of the role of Edward E. Nichols (Mary Emily Miller's brother-in-law) in transforming the sleepy town of Manitou Springs, Colorado, into a thriving resort community.

## **Biographies**

The following are capsule biographies of members of the families of Thomas Alva Edison (TAE) and Mina Miller Edison (MME), as well as individuals, and relatives of those individuals, who married into the Edison and Miller families. All family members who appear in the microfilm edition of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers* as authors, recipients, or name mentions are included. Female members of the Edison and Miller families are listed according to their birth name, with a cross reference from their married name. Children are listed in the entry for their Edison-related or Miller-related parent if both parents have entries. This is also the case for female members and descendants of the Alexander, Elliot, and Stilwell families. Individuals mentioned within the entries who also have entries of their own are indicated by italics.

**Abbott, Melissa Wheeler.** See Wheeler, Melissa.

**Alexander, Charles.** b. 1820. “Uncle Charles.” Uncle of MME. Half-brother of *Mary Valinda Miller*. Son of *Hugh Alexander* and his first wife, Hannah Tozer (d. 1820). Born in Kendall County, Illinois, he married Achsah H. Smith in 1842. They moved to California during the early 1850s with their two children, where Charles engaged in farming. Three additional children, including *Julius Myron*, were born there. He was living in Sonoma County at the time of his death.

**Alexander, Cynthia Mandeville.** b. 1799; d. ante 1871. Grandmother of MME. Born in Lucerne County, Pennsylvania, she was the second wife of *Hugh Alexander*. They married in 1822 and had four children.

**Alexander, Henry.** b. 1824. “Uncle Henry.” Uncle of MME. Older brother of *Mary Valinda Miller*. Born in Illinois, he moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, during the 1850s. A cabinet maker by trade, he was also a farmer and a merchant. He married Elmira T. Ayer (b. ca. 1835) in 1861. They reportedly had nine children.

**Alexander, Hugh.** 1789–1871. Grandfather of MME. The son of David Alexander and Margaret Miller, he was born in Tioga, Pennsylvania. He moved with his family to St. Clair County, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life, engaging in farming and milling. In 1812 he married Hannah Tozer (d. 1820). They had four children who lived to adulthood: Julius Tozer (b. 1814), Edward R. (b. 1816), Margaret E. (Peoples) (b. 1817), and *Charles*. His second wife was *Cynthia Mandeville*, whom he married in 1822. They had four children: *Henry*, *Lucy Ann (Hunter)*, *Mary Valinda (Miller)*, and *Hugh Milton*.

**Alexander, Hugh Milton.** 1833–1916? “Uncle Milton.” Uncle of MME. Younger brother of *Mary Valinda Miller*. Born in Illinois, he moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War and engaged in farming. He married Ellen S. Cooley (ca. 1842–1873) in 1854. They had four children: Charles (b. ca. 1857), Hugh (b. ca. 1860), Emerson C. (b. ca. 1861), and Mary V. (b. ca. 1863). His second wife was Helen Grover Updike (ca. 1846–1900), whom he married in 1874. They had no children. After her death, he lived in Minnesota and Washington but frequently visited his sister in Ohio.

**Alexander, Julius Myron.** 1857–1932. Cousin of MME. Youngest child of *Charles Alexander*. He was born, and spent most of his life, in Sonoma County, California, although he lived for a time in San Francisco around 1900. At various times he worked as a telegrapher, clerk, real estate agent, and insurance salesman. He also wrote poetry, some of which was published. He never married, and after the death of his parents, lived primarily in boarding houses. He became seriously ill in August 1929 and spent almost three months in a hospital. Later that year, he wrote MME to thank her for sending “The Life of Mr Edison” (probably Arthur Judson Palmer’s *The Life of Thomas A. Edison in Word and Picture*) as a Christmas gift.

**Alexander, Lucy Ann.** b. 1826. “Aunt Lucy.” Aunt of MME. Older sister of *Mary Valinda Miller*. Born in Illinois, she married John Hunter and had two children, Arabel (b. ca. 1848) and Hugh (b. 1850). Her husband may have died around 1850, since Lucy and her two children were living with her parents and siblings that year.

**Alexander, Mary Valinda.** See *Miller, Mary Valinda*.

**Aultman, Cornelius.** 1827–1884. “Uncle Aultman.” Uncle of MME. Step-brother of *Lewis Miller*. He was the son of Elizabeth Tawney (Aultman) (d. 1883), who married John Edwin Miller (1786–1875) in 1830 after the death of her first husband. Cornelius and Lewis went into business together in Canton, Ohio, as C. Aultman & Co., manufacturers of farm implements. They established an affiliated company in Akron known as Aultman, Miller & Co.

**Balcom, Edith Katherine Peterson.** b. ca. 1878. Some sources give her first name as “Edythe.” Daughter-in-law of TAE’s cousin, *Stephen Hume Balcom Sr.* She and *Stephen Hume Balcom Jr.* had two sons. The family was living in Brooksville, Florida, in December 1915, when Edith wrote TAE in regard to an old mortar and pestle that had once belonged to his mother.

**Balcom, Elizabeth Elliott.** See *Elliott, Elizabeth Matthews*.

**Balcom, Mercy Jane.** 1826–1875. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Elizabeth Matthews Elliott* and *Winslow Winston Balcom*. Born in Lanesborough, Massachusetts, she met and married Zadoc S. (“Zed”) Richardson (1815–1855?) after her family had moved to Canada. They had seven children: Ernest Elgin, William Winston (1843–1903), Harry Harrison (b. 1845), *Alva Almond (Richardson)*, *Mary Elizabeth (French)*, Kalilly Isabel (Rathburn) (1853–1924; mother-in-law of *Elizabeth Gaylord Rathburn*), and Aleanor Jane (Bartow). After the death of her husband, she moved to Milan, Ohio, and lived with or near her parents.

**Balcom, Nancy Elizabeth.** 1834–1920. “Lizzie.” Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Elizabeth Matthews Elliott* and *Winslow Winston Balcom*. Born in Cortland County, New York, she moved with her

family to Canada but returned to the United States in 1845. She grew up with TAE in Milan, Ohio, and was reportedly his favorite cousin. She married *William Wadsworth* on December 8, 1855. They lived in Cleveland and had four children: *Marietta E.*, Charles C. (b. 1866), Nellie E. (b. ca. 1873), and Percival O. (b. ca. 1877; married *Gertrude Wadsworth*). TAE and Lizzie corresponded frequently. Around 1911 she moved into the Edison family home in Milan, which TAE had repurchased in 1905.

**Balcom, Stephen Hume, Sr.** b. ca. 1839; d. ante 1916. “Hume.” Cousin of TAE. Son of *Elizabeth Matthews Elliott* and *Winslow Winston Balcom*. He was probably born after the Balcoms moved to Vienna, Ontario. He returned with his family to the United States in 1845. Along with his sisters Mariette and *Nancy Elizabeth* and his brother Charles, he grew up with TAE in Milan, Ohio. In 1860 he was still living in Milan and working as a mechanic. By that time, he had married. He subsequently had at least one child, *Stephen Hume Balcom Jr.*

**Balcom, Stephen Hume, Jr.** b. ca. 1870. Son of TAE’s cousin, *Stephen Hume Balcom Sr.* He and his wife *Edith Katherine Peterson* had two sons: Harold (b. ca. 1901) and George Alva (1913–1994). The family lived in Cleveland until 1912, when they moved to Florida. They returned to Cleveland in 1916. In 1930 Stephen was working as an inspector for an electrical appliance company.

**Balcom, Winslow Winston.** 1804–1883. Uncle of TAE. Born in Boston, he married *Elizabeth Matthews Elliott* on August 6, 1823. They had at least eight children. After living in Massachusetts and New York, the family moved to Canada but returned to the United States in 1845. They settled near the Edison family in Milan, Ohio, where Winslow worked as a carpenter and joiner. He and Elizabeth were still living in Milan in 1870.

**Berger, Clara.** See *Oeser, Clara Berger*.

**Bradley, Alva.** 1814–1885. “Capt.” Connecticut-born boat operator who boarded with the Edison family in Milan, Ohio, during the 1840s. He was engaged to TAE’s cousin *Ann Dunham* at the time of her death. TAE, born two years later, was named Alva in honor of Capt. Bradley. In

1880 he was living in Cleveland with his wife, Hellen, and his grown children, Morris and Nettie. At the time of his death, he was the largest individual owner of boats on the Great Lakes.

**Church, Arthur M.** d. ante 1900. Husband of Cynthia/Ruth E. Edison (1851–1925), daughter of TAE’s cousin Marcellus Edison (1826–1908) and granddaughter of *Henry M. Edison*. They were married in 1870 in Dodge County, Minnesota. In 1878 he expressed interest in becoming a demonstrator of TAE’s phonograph.

**Doak, Annie K.** b. ca. 1864. Daughter of TAE’s cousin *Rachel Edison* and Rev. William Doak. After she and her mother moved to Boston around 1890, TAE secured her a position with the Edison Phonograph Toy Manufacturing Co.

**Doak, Rachel Edison.** See *Edison, Rachel*.

**Doak, William Edison.** b. ca. 1860. Son of TAE’s cousin *Rachel Edison* and Rev. William Doak. In 1880 he was living in Montana and engaging in mining.

**Dunham, Ann M.** 1822?–1845. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Fannie Elliott* and Sam Dunham. Granddaughter of *Ebenezer Matthews Elliott*. She was engaged to Capt. *Alva Bradley* at the time of her death from tuberculosis. She is buried in the Edison family plot in Milan, Ohio, along with *Carlisle Snow Edison*, *Samuel Ogden Edison III*, and *Eliza S. Edison*—TAE’s siblings who died as children.

**Eckles, Ellen Holihan.** See *Edison, Ellen J. Holihan*.

**Eckles, James.** b. 1856. Second husband of *Ellen J. Holihan Edison*, widow of TAE’s brother *William Pitt*. They married some time before 1900 and lived in Port Huron, Michigan, where he worked in the insurance business. In 1911 he expressed an interest in selling Edison batteries but apparently no arrangement was ever made. In 1930 he was still living in Port Huron and working as a sergeant in the town’s police department.

**Edison, Absolom Oscar.** 1830–1906. Cousin of TAE. Oldest son of *David Edison*. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved to Iroquois County, Illinois, before the Civil War and engaged in farming. He married Louisa M. Miles in 1856 and Emily Jane Holmes (1839–1935) in 1862. He and

Emily had two children who lived to adulthood: Cyrus Holmes (1864–1954) and Libbie S. (1873–1941).

**Edison, Anna Elizabeth.** 1823–1910. Cousin of TAE. Sister of *Jacob Cerenus Edison* and *Peregrine Maitland Edison*. Daughter of Marcellus Edison (1794–1849) and Susanna Roup/ Rupe? (1796–1870/1880). Born in Vienna, Ontario, she was living in Port Huron, Michigan at the time of her death. TAE provided her with financial support during her later years.

**Edison, Anna Maria Osterhout.** 1901–1993. “Ann.” Daughter-in-law of TAE and MME. Daughter of *Anna Maria* and *Winthrop John Van Leuven Osterhout*. She met *Theodore Miller Edison* while they were students at MIT and married him on April 25, 1925. They had no children.

**Edison, Beatrice Heyzer.** ca. 1882–1950. Daughter-in-law of TAE. Second wife of *Thomas Alva Edison Jr.* She was a trained nurse who tended to the younger Edison during his illness in 1904. According to some accounts, she was the widow of Thomas Montgomery, an employee of Madison Square Garden. They married on July 7, 1906, and had no children. She died at her home in East Orange, New Jersey.

**Edison, Blanche Travers.** 1879–1946. Daughter-in-law of TAE. Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Dr. Edward Travers, a surgeon and physician. She married *William Leslie Edison* on November 7, 1899. They had no children. Her older sister Fannie (b. 1877) and younger sister Alicia (b. ca. 1889) lived with Blanche and William for a time in West Orange, New Jersey, according to the census of 1910. She died at her home in Westover Hills, a suburb of Wilmington, Delaware, to which she and William had moved during the 1920s.

**Edison, Carlisle Snow.** 1836–1842. Some sources give his first name as “Carlile.” Older brother of TAE. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he died before TAE was born. He is buried in the Edison family plot in Milan, Ohio, along with his siblings *Samuel Ogden Edison III* and *Eliza S. Edison* and his cousin *Ann M. Dunham*.

**Edison, Carolyn Hawkins.** 1883–1963. Called “Pony” by Charles Edison. Daughter-in-law of

TAE and MME. Daughter of Horatio Gates Hawkins (1848–1907) and *Ada Jane Woodruff*. She married *Charles Edison* on March 27, 1918. They had no children.

**Edison, Carrie May.** b. 1880. Daughter of TAE's cousin *Jacob Cerenus Edison*. Born in Dodge County, Minnesota, she married a man named Morse and was living in Detroit when she wrote to TAE in 1914 regarding some books that belonged to him in his boyhood.

**Edison, Charles.** 1890-1969. Eldest son of TAE and MME. He attended MIT (1909-1912) but left without graduating. He worked for the Boston Edison Co. and spent several months in San Francisco before going to work for his father in January 1914. He became chairman of the board of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. in December 1916, vice president and general manager in January 1919, and president in August 1926. He also served as an official in other Edison-owned companies, including Edison Storage Battery Co. and Edison Portland Cement Co. During the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he served as Assistant Secretary (and later Secretary) of the Navy (1937-1940). He resigned in June 1940 to wage a successful campaign for governor of New Jersey. During his single term, he promoted the revision of the state's antiquated constitution. His efforts led to the adoption of a new constitution in 1947. He returned to Thomas A. Edison, Inc. in 1944, serving as president until its merger with McGraw Electric Co. in 1957. He was chairman of the board of the merged company, McGraw-Edison, until his retirement in 1961. During the last two decades of his life, he lived at the Waldorf Towers in New York City and became close friends with former president Herbert Hoover, a fellow resident. He married *Carolyn Hawkins* on March 27, 1918. They had no children. He bequeathed most of his estate to the Charles Edison Fund, a philanthropic institution that he had established in 1948.

**Edison, Charles Oscar.** 1836–1922. “Oscar.” Uncle of TAE. Half-brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Vienna, Ontario, he lived his entire life in that province, where he engaged in farming. He apparently bore a strong physical resemblance to TAE. He married Mary Ann Finch (1844–1927) in 1862. They had six children who

lived to adulthood: Annie (1865–1934), Ella Finch (Mackie) (1867–1950), Clara Eda (1869–1956), Frederick O. (1873–1909), Myrtle L. (Jackson) (1878–1965), and *Nora Ogden (Coombe)*.

**Edison, Charles Pitt.** 1860–1879. “Charley.” Nephew of TAE. Son of *William Pitt Edison* and *Ellen J. Holihan*. Born in Port Huron, Michigan, he worked as an assistant in TAE's Menlo Park laboratory during the 1870s and was sent to Great Britain in early 1879 to demonstrate TAE's telephone. He died in Paris of peritonitis.

**Edison, David.** 1799–1885/1886. Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Nova Scotia, he moved with his family to Vienna, Ontario, in 1811. He married Frances Amanda White around 1823. They had seven children: Nancy (ca. 1823–1890), Huldah Ann (1827–1889), *Absolom Oscar*, Susan (1831/1833–1916), Cyrus (b. 1834), Hiram (1835–1902), and *Frances (Floyd)*. He moved to Iroquois County, Illinois, during the late 1830s or early 1840s where he worked as a brick mason. He is probably the “uncle in Illinois who left many descendants” to whom TAE referred in 1919.

**Edison, Deborah Ann.** 1853–1928. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Henry M. Edison*. She lived her entire life in Elgin County, Ontario. She married Thomas Blain (1848–1932), a local farmer, around 1871. They had two daughters: Carrie (1872–1929) and Mary (1874–1919). She wrote to TAE in 1912 requesting a phonograph.

**Edison, Edith Clarissa.** ca. 1870–1947. “GaGa.” Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Simeon Ogden Edison* and *Julia Andrus Tilden*. Born in Ohio, she moved with her parents to New York City during the late 1880s. The family subsequently moved to East Orange, New Jersey. She is frequently mentioned in the family correspondence of the 1890s and 1900s. In 1910 she became engaged to a widower named *Frank Allen Potter*. They married on July 29, 1911. She was active in social and charitable activities in the Oranges.

**Edison, Eliza S.** 1844–1847. Older sister of TAE. Born in Milan, Ohio, she died when TAE was ten months old. She is buried in the Edison family plot in Milan, along with her siblings *Carlisle Snow Edison* and *Samuel Ogden Edison III*, and her cousin *Ann M. Dunham*.



**Edison, Ellen J. Holihan.** 1840–1927. “Nellie.” Sister-in-law of TAE. She married *William Pitt Edison* on September 11, 1856. They had two children: *Nellie Marion (Poyer)* and *Charles Pitt*. After the death of her first husband, she married *James Eckles*.

**Edison, Fordice Warner.** 1832–1923. “Ford.” Uncle of TAE. Half-brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved to Port Huron, Michigan, where he married Emily Jane Johnston (1847–1881) in 1865. He subsequently moved to Lorain County, Ohio, and opened a hardware store. He was city treasurer of Lorain in 1900 and twice served as mayor. He and Emily had three children: *Homer Page*, Harry J. (1870–1891), and *Grace W.* His second wife was Martha C. Bell (b. 1844), whom he married in 1884.

**Edison, Frances.** b. 1842. “Fanny.” Cousin of TAE. Youngest daughter of *David Edison*. She was born shortly after the family moved from Ontario to Illinois. She married Gusten Floyd and was living in Redondo Beach, California, in 1900 when she wrote TAE for financial assistance. TAE responded with a gift of fifty dollars.

**Edison, Frank.** b. ca. 1845. Cousin of TAE. Son of *Snow Edison*. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he was living in San Gabriel, California, and in poor health in 1919, when TAE sent him a phonograph and some records.

**Edison, Frank P.** 1874–1960. Cousin of TAE. Son of *Mahlon Burwell Edison*. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he lived his entire life in Elgin County. He supposedly bore a strong physical resemblance to TAE. He married around 1910 but his wife was very sick when he wrote to TAE in 1912 for financial assistance. Four years later, he was working as a day laborer on the Michigan Central Railroad and again in financial trouble.

**Edison, George M.** 1830–1912. Second cousin of TAE. Son of his great-uncle Moses Edison (1782–1849). Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved with his parents to Kent County, Michigan, in 1839 or 1840 and engaged in farming. He subsequently entered the real estate and insurance business. His first wife was Lucinda Helmka (1833–1886), whom he married in 1851. They had three children who lived to adulthood: *Georgianna (Hall)* (1858–

1927), *Lafayette* (1860–1936), and *Sarah Elnora* (1866–1939). His second wife was Mary Elizabeth Scagel (b. 1835).

**Edison, Grace W.** b. 1873. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Fordice Warner Edison*. She was living in Cleveland in 1908 when TAE sent her a phonograph and some records.

**Edison, Harriet Ann.** 1833–1863. “Tannie” or “Tan.” Older sister of TAE. Born in Vienna, Ontario, she moved with her family to Milan, Ohio, and subsequently to Port Huron, Michigan. She married Samuel Bailey (1834–1861), a lumber dealer, on May 30, 1855. They had two children: Arthur Willis and Gaunie.

**Edison, Harry James.** 1878–1968. Son of TAE’s cousin William H. Edison (1836–1903). Grandson of *Henry M. Edison*. Brother of *Inez M. Edison*. He lived his entire life in Dodge County, Minnesota, where he practiced as an attorney. He married Myrtle A. Saxton (b. ca. 1887) some time before 1912.

**Edison, Hazel.** b. 1892. Daughter of TAE’s cousin *Thomas S. Edison*. Born in Grand Forks County, North Dakota, she was living in Ansonia, Connecticut, by 1917 and married to Franklin Farrel Jr. (1881–1967), son of a prominent local manufacturer. They had a son named Almon (1917–1965). TAE’s daughter *Madeleine Edison* apparently met her second cousin in 1931 and began socializing with her.

**Edison, Helen Gladys.** b. 1894. Daughter of TAE’s cousin *Thomas S. Edison*. Born in Grand Forks County, South Dakota, she married Orson B. Powers (b. 1892), a salesman and purchasing agent, in October 1915. They had two children: Edison (b. ca. 1917) and Patricia (b. 1924). The family was living in Watertown, Connecticut, in 1930.

**Edison, Henry M.** 1800–1883. “Harry.” Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Nova Scotia, he moved with his parents in 1811 to Vienna, Ontario, where he engaged in farming. He married Caroline Harris (1808–1878) around 1824. They had nine children: John (ca. 1824–1903), Marcellus (1826–1908), Stephen H. (b. 1835); William H. (1836–1903), *Thomas S.*, Charles (1840–1929), George (b. ca. 1842), Rachel (1846–1911), and *Deborah Ann*.

**Edison, Hester Smith.** b. 1843. Wife of *Thomas Edison*, a distant relative of TAE. They married in 1861 and by 1911 were living in Monroe, Washington. TAE provided financial assistance to Thomas and Hester during their later years but cut off support after Thomas died in 1919.

**Edison, Homer Page.** b. 1867. Cousin of TAE. Son of *Fordice Warner Edison*. Born in Port Huron, Michigan, he moved to Lorain County, Ohio, with his family and married around 1888. He and his wife Louise had at least one child, Ethel S. (b. 1889). In 1886, he applied unsuccessfully to TAE for a position at his works. By 1900 he was employed as a machinist at a steel mill.

**Edison, Inez M.** 1866–1932. Daughter of TAE’s cousin William H. Edison (1836–1903). Granddaughter of *Henry M. Edison*. Sister of *Harry James Edison*. She lived her entire life in Dodge County, Minnesota. Some time before 1900 she married attorney *John J. McCaughey*. Inez and John visited the Edison family in 1929.

**Edison, Jacob Cerenus.** 1836–1881. “Jake.” Cousin of TAE. Brother of *Anna Elizabeth Edison* and *Peregrine Maitland (“Rene”) Edison*. Son of Marcellus Edison (1794–1849) and Susanna Roup/Rupe? (1796–1870/1880). Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved with his family to Port Huron, Michigan. Along with Rene, he operated the Edison Brothers general store in Fort Gratiot, Michigan. Later, they were licensed to sell Edison electric pens. He married Carrie E. Verkins in 1876. They had three children: Rene Marcellus (1877–1968), Anna Louise (b. 1878), and *Carrie May (Morse)*.

**Edison, John.** 1724?–1825? Spelled “Edeson” in some records. Great-grandfather of TAE. According to most accounts, he and his widowed mother immigrated to the colonies from the Netherlands in 1730. Recent research casts doubts on that assertion and suggests that the family had been in America for several generations by the time John was born. He may have been the grandson or great-grandson of Pieter Marcellus van Beest, who settled in what is now Bergen County, New Jersey, in 1674. Other research speculates that the Edison family was British rather than Dutch, and that John may be the

grandson of John Eddison (1658–1728) of Yorkshire, whose son Thomas (b. ca. 1700) fled with his family to Holland to escape religious persecution and subsequently died on the voyage to America. A family tradition that John was a wealthy New York City banker, which found its way into print as early as 1885, is almost certainly not true. He owned a tract of land in Caldwell, New Jersey, and married *Sarah Ogden* on October 10, 1765. They had nine children: *Samuel Ogden*, Adonijah (1772–1825), Thomas (1777–1850), Mary (Dowling) (ca. 1779–1841), Sarah (Wilson) (1781–1837), Moses (1782–1849), Marcellus (b. 1784), Catharine (Weaver) (1785–1872), and Margaret (Saxton) (1791–1879). A Loyalist during the American Revolution, he was imprisoned in Morristown, New Jersey, for more than a year, and his life was spared only because of his connections with the influential Ogden family. In 1783, he moved with his family to Digby, Nova Scotia, where he engaged in farming and held a number of minor government positions. In 1811 the family moved to Elgin County, Ontario, where he spent the remainder of his life. According to one source, his tombstone bears a death date of 1825 and indicates that he died at the age of 101. Other sources give his probable birth year as 1727.

**Edison, John.** b. 1852. Son of TAE’s cousin Marcellus Edison (1826–1908). Grandson of *Henry M. Edison*. He was born in Wisconsin shortly after his parents moved there from Elgin County, Ontario. The family subsequently moved to Dodge County, Minnesota, where he married Emma Campbell (b. ca. 1857) in 1876. He wrote frequently to TAE between 1880 and 1893, primarily in an effort to secure financial assistance or a job.

**Edison, John McEwan.** 1868–1957. Son of Eli Edison (1833–1870), grandson of John Edison (1805–1889), and great-grandson of TAE’s great-uncle Moses Edison (1782–1849). He was born in Michigan and spent much of his life in Grand Rapids working as a real estate broker. However, he died in St. Petersburg, Florida. He married Charlotte E. Watson (1874–1936) around 1893. His second wife, whom he married in 1937, was named Susan. John and Charlotte had three children who lived to adulthood: *Lewis Watson*,

Haynes Eli (1899–1984), and Richard McEwan (1909–1992). John wrote TAE in 1915 regarding the possibility of a job for Lewis.

**Edison, Julia Andrus Tilden.** 1831–1911. “Aunt Julia.” Second wife of TAE’s uncle *Simeon Ogden Edison*, whom she married around 1862. They had two children.

**Edison, Lewis Watson.** 1893–1956. Son of TAE’s distant relative *John McEwan Edison*. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1915 with a degree in civil engineering. He married Jansen M. Mitts (1894–1976) around 1920. They had three children. His father wrote TAE in 1915 about a possible job for Lewis. TAE did not answer.

**Edison, Mabel Clare.** 1882–1959. Half-sister of TAE. Daughter of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* and *Mary Sharlow*. She married Leroy Schreiber and had a son named Frederick.

**Edison, Madeleine.** 1888–1979. Affectionately nicknamed “Toots” by her relatives. Daughter of TAE and MME. She attended Oak Place School in Akron, Ohio, and Bryn Mawr (1906–1908). She married *John Eyre Sloane* on June 17, 1914, despite the Edison family’s opposition to John’s Catholicism. They had four sons: *Thomas Edison*, *John Edison*, *Peter Edison*, and *Michael Edison*. Madeleine was the only one of TAE’s six children who had children of her own. A lifelong Republican, she briefly ran for Congress in 1938 as a reformer. During World War II she gave much of her time to blood drives for the New Jersey Red Cross. She also administered the Edison birthplace in Milan, Ohio, after her mother’s death.

**Edison, Mahlon Burwell.** 1828–1911. Uncle of TAE. Half-brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Vienna, Ontario, he lived his entire life in that town, where he engaged in farming. He married Sarah E. Putnam (1835–1921). They had six children who lived to adulthood: Mahlon Leo (1855–1935), Julia M. (Allen) (b. 1860), Amelia M. (Martin) (b. 1864), James Grant (b. ca. 1867), *Frank P.*, and *Marion N. (Paupst)*. TAE assisted him financially during the last years of his life and purchased an interest in the Edison family home in Vienna, where his widow continued to live after Mahlon’s death.

**Edison, Marie Louise Toohey.** 1880–1906. Daughter-in-law of TAE. First wife of *Thomas Alva Edison Jr.* They were married on February 19, 1899, but separated about eighteen months later. The Edison family had opposed the marriage because of Marie’s Catholicism. TAE paid the expenses of her funeral.

**Edison, Marietta.** 1873–1931. Half-sister of TAE. Oldest daughter of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* and *Mary Sharlow*. She married William Kuhn and had two daughters, Marian and Gladys (Cooley).

**Edison, Marion Estelle.** 1873–1965. Oldest child of TAE and *Mary Stilwell*. TAE gave her the nickname “Dot” as a child and referred to her as “George” for a time after her mother’s death. She attended the Bradford Academy in Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1888. A year later, she left school to join her step-aunts *Mary Emily Miller* and *Grace Miller* in Paris. She came back to the United States in 1892 but returned to Europe the following year. She married *Oscar Oeser*, a German army officer, on October 1, 1895, and lived in Germany for the next thirty years. Their marriage began to deteriorate during World War I. In 1919 she discovered that her husband was having an affair with *Clara Berger* and left him. They divorced in 1921. She returned to the United States in 1925 and lived first in East Orange, New Jersey, and then in Norwalk, Connecticut.

**Edison, Marion N.** b. 1879. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Mahlon Burwell Edison*. Born in Vienna, Ontario, she lived her entire life in Elgin County. She married Benjamin A. Paupst (1877–1911) and had three children: Marcellite (1900–1909), Helen (b. 1905), and Fordice (b. 1909). Some time after 1914 she married a man named Coatsworth. In 1914 she gently chided TAE for not visiting his relatives in Vienna, Ontario.

**Edison, Marion Wallace.** 1829–1900. Sister of TAE. Born in Vienna, Ontario, she moved with her family to Milan, Ohio, and remained there for the rest of her life. She married *Homer Page* on December 19, 1849. They had two children: *Isobel W. (Ristine)* and Henry Crass (1860–1862). Six years before her death, Marion re-purchased the house in Milan, Ohio, where TAE had been born

and added a bathroom and other modern conveniences.

**Edison, Mary Ann.** b. ca. 1840. “Annie.” Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Snow Edison*. She was born in Vienna, Ontario, and was living in Dundas, Ontario, in 1878 when she wrote to TAE for financial assistance. She recalled meeting him when they were children at the home of their uncle *Thomas Edison* in Vienna.

**Edison, Mary Sharlow.** 1854–1917. Second wife of TAE’s father, *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Canada, she was the daughter of Joseph (or James) and Margaret Sharlow. In 1870 she was working as a housekeeper in the Edison home in Fort Gratiot, Michigan. Samuel began living with her shortly after the death of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. It is not clear whether they ever legally married. They had three daughters: *Marietta (Kuhn)*, *Maude M. (Johnston)* (1878–1938), and *Mabel Clare (Schreiber)*.

**Edison, Mary Stilwell.** 1855–1884. First wife of TAE. Daughter of *Nicholas Stilwell* and his second wife *Margaret Crane*. Born in Newark, New Jersey, she met TAE while working for his News Reporting Telegraph Co. They were married on December 25, 1871, and had three children: *Marion Estelle (Oeser)*, *Thomas Alva Jr.*, and *William Leslie*. She died at Menlo Park and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Newark. Although some secondary sources affirm that she died of typhoid, her death certificate states that she died of “congestion of the brain.”

**Edison, Maurice Holmes.** 1888–1958. Son of Cyrus Holmes Edison (1864–1954). Grandson of TAE’s cousin *Absolom Oscar Edison*. Born in Iroquois County, Illinois, he lived his entire life there. He married Harriet Rivard (b. ca. 1887) in 1909. They had three sons: Thomas A. (b. 1911), Eugene H. (b. ca. 1913), and Harry Elmer (b. 1915). In 1907 he asked TAE for a phonograph to “influence others around here to purchase one.”

**Edison, Mina Miller.** 1865–1947. Affectionately called “Billie” by TAE. Second wife of TAE. Daughter of *Lewis Miller* and *Mary Valinda Alexander*. Born in Akron, Ohio, to which the family had moved a few years earlier, she graduated from Akron High School in 1883. After traveling to Europe, she became a student at Mrs.

Johnson’s Finishing Seminary in Boston. According to some biographers she met TAE in Boston through Mrs. Ezra T. Gilliland. Others believe that they met several months earlier at the World Industrial & Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans. They were married on February 24, 1886, and had three children: *Madeleine (Sloane)*, *Charles*, and *Theodore Miller*. She played an active role in the social and civic affairs of West Orange, New Jersey, and Fort Myers, Florida, where the family usually resided for several months during the winter. She was also a member of the Chautauqua Association, the National Audubon Society, the John Burroughs Association, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Four years after TAE’s death, she married *Edward Everett Hughes*. They lived in Glenmont, the Edison family home. After Hughes died in 1940, she resumed using the Edison name.

**Edison, Minnie J. Rolfe.** b. 1864; d. post 1910. Distant relative by marriage of TAE. First wife of Calvin W. Edison (1863–1926), who was the son of Isaac H. Edison (1825–1907) and grandson of TAE’s great-uncle Moses Edison (1782–1849). They had two daughters, *Blanche H. (Lange)* (b. 1885) and *Hazel (Curtis)* (b. 1888). Minnie and Calvin apparently divorced, because he married Myrtle L. Reed (1875–1922) in 1900. In 1908 she asked TAE for a loan of one thousand dollars to send Hazel to college. TAE did not respond.

**Edison, Nancy Elliott.** 1808–1871. Mother of TAE. Daughter of *Ebenezer Matthews Elliott* and *Mercy Peckham*. Born in Chenango County, New York, she moved with her family to Vienna, Ontario and taught school there before marrying *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* on September 12, 1828. They had four children who lived to adulthood (*Marion Wallace (Page)*, *William Pitt*, *Harriet Ann (Bailey)*, and *TAE*), as well as three others (*Carlisle Snow*, *Samuel Ogden III*, and *Eliza S.*) who died young. Most sources give her birth year as 1810, based on an entry in the Edison family Bible. However, more recent genealogical research suggests 1808 as her probable year of birth.

**Edison, Nellie Marion.** 1858–1947. Niece of TAE. Daughter of *William Pitt Edison* and *Ellen J. Holihan*. Born in Port Huron, Michigan, she married *William A. Poyer* around 1882. They had

four children: *Lucille (Hoopes/Chappell)*, Edison Perry (b. 1883; d. post 1935), *William G.*, and *Charles Edison*. After the death of her husband around 1900, she lived in Cleveland, Chicago, and Detroit. Some time before 1920, she and her son William moved back to Port Huron to live with her mother and stepfather, *James Eckles*. They subsequently moved to Florida where Charles had established residence. She died in Dade County but was buried in Port Huron. Among the nieces and nephews of TAE, Nellie was the most frequent correspondent.

**Edison, Nora Ogden.** 1883–1981. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Charles Oscar Edison*. Born in Vienna, Ontario, she spent her entire life there. She married John P. Coombe some time after 1913 and had two children, Cora and Charles. In 1913 she wrote to TAE in regard to possible employment as a singer.

**Edison, Peregrine Maitland.** 1833–1899. “Rene.” Cousin of TAE. Brother of *Anna Elizabeth Edison* and *Jacob Cerenus Edison*. Son of Marcellus Edison (1794–1849) and Susanna Roup/Rupe? (1796–1870/1880). Born in Elgin County, Ontario, he moved with his family to Port Huron, Michigan. Along with Jacob, he operated the Edison Brothers general store in Fort Gratiot, Michigan. They were later licensed to sell Edison electric pens. He was still single in 1880 and apparently never married.

**Edison, Rachel.** b. ca. 1834. Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Thomas Edison* and his second wife Mary Ann Harris. Born in Vienna, Ontario, she married Rev. William Doak (b. ca. 1823) on July 21, 1858. They had two children, *William Edison* and *Annie K.* Around 1890 Rachel and Annie moved from their home in Sarnia, Ontario, to Boston, Massachusetts, indicating that Rev. Doak may have died. Soon afterwards, TAE secured a position for Annie at the Edison Phonograph Toy Manufacturing Co.

**Edison, Samuel Ogden, Sr.** 1767–1865. Grandfather of TAE. Son of *John Edison* and *Sarah Ogden*. Born in Essex County, New Jersey, he moved with his family to Nova Scotia after the American Revolution. He married Nancy Simpson (1769–1821) on November 14, 1792. They had eight children: Marcellus (1794–1849), John

(1796–1824), *Thomas, David, Henry M., Samuel Ogden Jr.*, Eliza (Secord) (ca. 1807–1827) and *Snow*. Shortly after the birth of their youngest child, the family moved to Bayham Township in Elgin County, Ontario, where they helped establish the town of Vienna. After the death of his first wife, Samuel married Elizabeth Yokum (1799–1890) on September 5, 1825. They had five children: *Simeon Ogden, Mahlon Burwell, Elizabeth Jane (Putnam)* (b. 1830), *Fordice Warner*, and *Charles Oscar*. As a child TAE frequently spent part of the summer at his grandfather’s home in Vienna.

**Edison, Samuel Ogden, Jr.** 1804–1896. Father of TAE. Son of *Samuel Ogden Edison Sr.* and his first wife Nancy Simpson (1769–1821). Born in Nova Scotia, he subsequently moved with his family to Elgin County, Ontario. He married *Nancy Matthews Elliott* on September 12, 1828. Four of their seven children (*Marion Wallace (Page), William Pitt, Harriet Ann (Bailey), and Carlisle Snow*) were born in Vienna, Ontario. The other three (*Samuel Ogden III, Eliza S., and TAE*) were born in Milan, Ohio, where the family moved after Samuel fled Canada following the failure of the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837. Carlisle, Samuel, and Eliza all died in early childhood, while Harriet Ann died at the age of thirty. The family moved to Port Huron, Michigan in 1854 or 1855. By 1870 Samuel and Nancy were living in nearby Fort Gratiot. Shortly after the death of his wife in 1871, he began an affair with his housekeeper, *Mary Sharlow*, by whom he had three children: *Marietta (Kuhn)*, Maude M. (Johnston) (1878–1938), and *Mabel Clare (Schreiber)*. He also lived for a time during the 1870s in New Jersey and supervised the construction of TAE’s Menlo Park laboratory. In 1880 Samuel and Mary were living in the home of her parents, Joseph (or James) and Margaret Sharlow, in Fort Gratiot. He died in Norwalk, Ohio, but was buried in Port Huron.

**Edison, Samuel Ogden, III.** 1840–1843. Older brother of TAE. Born in Milan, Ohio, he was the first of the Edison children to be born in the United States. He died before TAE was born and is buried in the Edison family plot in Milan, along with his siblings *Carlisle Snow Edison* and *Eliza S. Edison* and his cousin *Ann M. Dunham*.

**Edison, Sarah Jane.** 1837–1926. Daughter of John Edison (1805–1889). Granddaughter of TAE’s great-uncle Moses Edison (1782–1849). Born in Elgin County, Ontario, her family moved to the United States in 1840 and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She never married. She met TAE in 1874 in Port Huron. Almost forty years later, her nephew *John McEwan Edison* commented, “she wore her hair in curlers down her back at that time and does still.”

**Edison, Sarah Ogden.** b. ca. 1745; d. post 1811. Great-grandmother of TAE. Daughter of Samuel Ogden (d. 1789) and Phebe (Phoebe?) Baldwin. She was born in Orange, New Jersey, and married *John Edison* on October 10, 1765. They had nine children, the oldest of whom was TAE’s grandfather *Samuel Ogden Edison Sr.*

**Edison, Simeon Ogden.** 1826–1916. “Uncle Sim.” Uncle of TAE. Half-brother of *Samuel Edison Jr.* Born in Elgin County, Ontario, he moved to the United States during the 1850s, settled in Cleveland, and became an iron dealer. Around 1884 he established the Edison Lock Co. to manufacture burglar-proof furniture and sash locks. He married Julia M. Reddington (1827–1856) in 1855. His second wife was *Julia Andrus Tilden*, whom he married around 1862. They had two children: Richard Tilden (b. ca. 1868) and *Edith Clarissa* (b. ca. 1870). The family was still living in Cleveland in August 1886. By September 1888, however, they had moved to New York City and by 1900 they were living in East Orange, New Jersey. In 1890 TAE agreed to give Simeon ten thousand dollars to set up a business for himself, along with a salary of \$125 per month for three years. Despite his avowal that the payment would be “final and all that I am ever to give him,” he continued to support his uncle financially for the remainder of his life. During the late 1880s and the 1890s Simeon assisted TAE in negotiating leases for mining property and securing supplies for his mines. At TAE’s behest, he also went to Germany in 1894 to meet *Oscar Oeser*, the fiancé of *Marion Estelle Edison*. He died in East Orange but was buried in the family cemetery in Milan, Ohio.

**Edison, Snow.** 1809–1849. Uncle of TAE. Younger brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Nova Scotia, he moved with his family to

Elgin County, Ontario, in 1811. He married Christiana Burkhold (1814–1847) around 1834. They had seven children: Christine (b. ca. 1834; d. ante 1879); Courtland (b. ca. 1836); Catharine (1838–1841); Samuel Edgar (1840–1841), *Mary Ann*, Michael B. (b. 1844), and *Frank*. After the death of his wife, Snow moved to California to participate in the Gold Rush but died soon after arriving.

**Edison, Theodore Miller.** 1898–1992. “Ted.” Youngest son of TAE and MME. He was named after his uncle *Theodore Westwood Miller*, who was killed in the Spanish-American War. He graduated from the Montclair Academy in 1916, attended MIT (1919–1923) and married *Anna Maria Osterhout*, a fellow MIT student, on April 25, 1925. They had no children. He worked for Thomas A. Edison, Inc., until 1931, when he established Calibron Products, Inc., an engineering consulting firm. In his later years, he became active in the environmental movement and was an early opponent of the Vietnam War.

**Edison, Thomas.** 1798–1867. Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* Born in Nova Scotia, he moved with his parents in 1811 to Vienna, Ontario, where he lived for the remainder of his life. He and his wife Deborah Ann (1800–1830) had two children: George Wellington (b. ca. 1827) and Samuel S. (ca. 1828–1852). He had eight more children by his second wife, Mary Ann Harris (1812/1813–1901), whom he married in 1831: Deborah Ann (Smith) (1832–1852), *Rachel (Doak)*, Eliza Jane (White/Stoddard) (1836–1915), Martha (McIntosh) (b. 1838), Sarah (b. 1841/1842), Mary (b. ca. 1847), Frances Caroline (Bigg) (b. ca. 1848), and Ann (1850–1852).

**Edison, Thomas.** 1839–1919. Son of Enos Edison (1798–1855) and grandson of TAE’s great-uncle Adonijah Edison (1772–1825). Born in Elgin County, Ontario, he married *Hester Smith* there in 1861. By 1911, they were living in Monroe, Washington. TAE provided Thomas with a bimonthly stipend during his later years and then paid his funeral expenses.

**Edison, Thomas Alva.** 1847–1931. Youngest child of *Samuel Ogden Edison Jr.* and *Nancy Matthews Elliott*. Born in Milan, Ohio, he moved with his family to Port Huron, Michigan, in 1854

or 1855. He married *Mary Stilwell* in Newark, New Jersey, on December 25, 1871. They had three children: *Marion Estelle (Oeser)*, *Thomas Alva Jr.*, and *William Leslie*. His second wife was *Mina Miller*, whom he married on February 24, 1886. They had three children: *Madeleine (Sloane)*, *Charles*, and *Theodore Miller*.

**Edison, Thomas Alva, Jr.** 1876–1935. Eldest son of TAE and *Mary Stilwell*. TAE gave him the nickname “Dash” as a child. He attended St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire, from the fall of 1891 until he dropped out in January 1893. He married *Marie Touhey* on February 18, 1899, but separated within a few years. They had no children. During the 1890s and early 1900s he lent his name to a number of dubious business ventures such as the Edison Jr. Electric Lamp Co., Edison Jr. Chemical Co., and Thomas A. Edison Jr. & William Holzer Steel & Iron Process Co. (which he set up with his uncle, *William Holzer*). These activities estranged him from his father until he formally agreed in June 1903 not to use the Edison name commercially. After the death of his first wife, he married a widow, *Beatrice Heyser*, on July 7, 1906, and for a time used the name “Burton Willard.” They had no children. That same year, he purchased a farm in Burlington, New Jersey, with his father’s financial assistance. Between 1918 and 1934 he applied for and received ten U.S. patents and tried unsuccessfully to persuade Henry Ford to adopt his ecometer, a fuel-saving device attached to an automobile carburetor. He and Beatrice were still living in Burlington in September 1918 when he registered for the draft, claiming that he was engaged in “scientific research” for the U.S. Government. By 1920 they were living in Orange, New Jersey. He subsequently went to work for his father in the West Orange laboratory, where he developed a line of toasters and other “Edicraft” consumer products. He died in a hotel room in Springfield, Massachusetts, under mysterious circumstances. Some biographers claim that he took his own life.

**Edison, Thomas S.** 1838–1900. Cousin of TAE. Son of *Henry M. Edison*. Born in Elgin County, Ontario, he was living in Grand Forks, North Dakota, at the time of his death. After the death of his first wife Martha (1843–1884), he married Sarah C. Moore (1867–1936) in 1890. They had

two daughters: *Hazel (Farrel)* and *Helen Gladys (Powers)*.

**Edison, William Leslie.** 1878–1937. “Willie”; later “Will.” Youngest son of TAE and *Mary Stilwell*. He attended St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire, from the fall of 1891 until probably the spring of 1893. He subsequently attended Trinity Preparatory School on Staten Island. He married *Blanche F. Travers* on November 7, 1899. They had no children. After their marriage, they lived for a time in Salisbury, Maryland, with Blanche’s aunt Mary Hearn and her sister Fannie Travers. In 1903 he opened an automobile garage in Washington, D.C., and subsequently worked for several automobile companies as an agent and factory superintendent. He experimented on an improved spark plug and established the short-lived Edison Auto Accessories Co. By 1910 he was living with Blanche and her sisters Fannie and Alicia in West Orange, New Jersey. In 1913 he leased the Packard Farm in nearby Morristown and supported himself by raising pheasants and other game birds. He joined the army in 1918 and served overseas in France as a sergeant in the recently established U.S. Tank Corps. In 1926 TAE bought some property in Westover Hills—a residential section of Wilmington, Delaware—and had a house, designed by architect R. Brognard Okie, built for William and Blanche. Between 1928 and 1931 William applied for and received five U.S. patents on radio devices and signaling systems. He died in Westover Hills after a six-week illness.

**Edison, William Pitt.** 1831–1891. “Pitt.” Older brother of TAE. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved with his family to Milan, Ohio, and then to Port Huron, Michigan. He married *Ellen J. Holihan* on September 11, 1856. They had two children: *Nellie Marion (Poyer)* and *Charles Pitt*. He was superintendent of the Port Huron & Gratiot Street Railway Co. and its successor, the Port Huron Railway Co. TAE owned stock in these companies, which he sold when Pitt retired as superintendent in 1883. TAE also invested in the Samia Street Railway Co., of which Pitt served as secretary.

**Elliott, A. H.** One of several family members who wrote letters of condolence in 1884 following the

death of TAE's wife *Mary Stilwell*. The correspondent, who was living in Chicago, claimed to be TAE's cousin. None of the genealogical sources indicate that a brother of *Nancy Elliott Edison* had a child with those initials, and there is no known connection between the Stilwell and Elliott families. Elliott is probably the correspondent's married name.

**Elliott, Ada.** b. 1842. Wife of TAE's cousin Zeno Elliott (b. 1841), a Methodist minister who was one of the sons of *John Matthews Elliott*. They married in 1862 and had two daughters: Lois Louisa (b. 1867) and Lillian Belle (b. 1869). By 1918 her husband and children were dead, and she was living in difficult financial circumstances in Detroit. She wrote to TAE for financial assistance. Although he apparently did not know Mrs. Elliott, TAE asked one of his connections in Detroit to investigate her situation, and beginning in November 1918 he provided her with a monthly allowance of ten dollars. The following summer, efforts were made to persuade her to enter an "Old Ladies Home" where TAE felt she would receive better care at less expense to him. It is not clear whether these efforts were successful.

**Elliott, David.** d. ante 1920. Cousin of TAE. Son of *Isaac Matthews Elliott*. According to his granddaughter, *Lillian Hunter*, he lived to the age of seventy and "had only one daughter, my mother." TAE recalled visiting him near Vienna, Ontario, when he was a boy of seven. He erroneously told Lillian that his own mother, *Nancy Elliott Edison*, was "a daughter of one of David Elliott's brothers."

**Elliott, Ebenezer Matthews.** 1759–1848. "Capt. Elliott." Maternal grandfather of TAE. Son of Abner Matthews (1712–1777) and Lois Hotchkiss (1719–1777). Born in New Haven, Connecticut, he was the youngest of eleven children. Although his birth name was Matthews, he assumed the name Elliott after his aunt. He gained his title "Capt." from his service in George Washington's army during the American Revolution. He had one son, Salmon Matthews (b. 1784), by his first wife Mary. He subsequently married *Mercy Peckham* and had six children: *Stephen Matthews*, *Isaac Matthews*, *John Matthews*, *Elizabeth Matthews (Balcom)*, *Nancy Matthews (Edison)*, and *Fannie (Dunham/Wheeler)*. The family moved from

Connecticut to Chenago County, New York, some time between 1805 and 1808 and subsequently to Vienna, Ontario. The official biography, *Edison: His Life and Inventions* (1910) by Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Commerford Martin, states that Capt. Elliott was Nancy's grandfather. This error, which was based on TAE's own misconceptions about his ancestry, has been repeated in numerous other secondary sources.

**Elliott, Elizabeth Matthews.** 1805–1890/1891. "Aunt Betsy." Aunt of TAE. Older sister of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. Born in Stonington, Connecticut, she moved with her parents to Vienna, Ontario. She married *Winslow Winston Balcom* on August 6, 1823. They had eight children: *Mercy Jane*, Charles G. (1828–1881), *Mariette (Smith)* (b. 1831), *Nancy Elizabeth*, *Stephen Hume*, Ann (1840–1841), John Glaspie (1843–ca. 1924), and *Mary Elizabeth*. After first living in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and Cortland County, New York, the family moved to Vienna around the same time that Nancy Edison was leaving town to join her husband in Milan, Ohio. They moved to Milan in 1845. She and Winslow was still living there in 1870.

**Elliott, Fannie.** Aunt of TAE. Sister of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. She married Sam Dunham and had at least one daughter, *Ann*, who was engaged to Capt. *Alva Bradley* at the time of her death. She subsequently married a man named Wheeler and had at least one daughter, *Melissa*.

**Elliott, Isaac Matthews.** ca. 1800–ca. 1881. "Rev." Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. Born in New York, he moved with his parents to Vienna, Ontario and became a missionary to the native Americans. He married Elizabeth Sibley. They had four sons, *David*, Isaac, Isaiah, and John, and two daughters, Matilda and Lavinda. In 1871 he was living on a farm in Dereham, Ontario, near his son Isaac.

**Elliott, John Matthews.** 1803–1855. "Rev." Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. Born in Stonington, Connecticut, he moved with his parents to Vienna, Ontario, and became a Baptist minister. He built a large church popularly known as God's Old Barn. He also owned a lumber yard and a planing mill. He married Elizabeth Ann Anderson (1803–1869) in



1819 and had ten children: Stephen W. (b. 1820), John N. (b. 1822), Isaac C. (b. 1824), Louisa (b. 1825), Nancy (1826–1910), Lucene (or Luceine) M. (1834–1909), Lois (b. 1836), Rachel R. (1838–1851), Zeno (b. 1841), and James Hughson (1843–1914). Shortly before his death, he became the first reeve (mayor) of Vienna. He is probably the “preacher named Elliott” whom TAE remembered visiting in Vienna when he was “a boy of five years.” The official biography, *Edison: His Life and Inventions* (1910) by Frank Lewis Dyer and Thomas Commerford Martin, states that John Elliott was Nancy’s father. This error, which was based on TAE’s own misconceptions about his ancestry, has been repeated in numerous other secondary sources.

**Elliott, Mercy Peckham.** Grandmother of TAE. Mother of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. She was the second wife of *Ebenezer Matthews Elliott*. They had six children. Although some genealogists claim that she was Mercy Peckham (1783–1850) of Kingston, Rhode Island, that woman (who actually married John Bigland Dockery in 1800) would have been too young to bear children in the mid-1790s. According to TAE, his grandmother was born in Connecticut and was the “daughter of a Scotch Quaker.” After the death of her husband, Mercy lived with the family of her daughter *Elizabeth Elliott (Balcom)* in Milan, Ohio.

**Elliott, Nancy Matthews.** See *Edison, Nancy Elliott*.

**Elliott, Stephen Matthews.** b. ca. 1790–1795; d. 1881. “Steve.” Uncle of TAE. Older brother of *Nancy Elliott Edison*. Born in Connecticut, he moved with his family to Vienna, Ontario. He married Lavina Purdy and had seven children: George Washington (b. 1837; d. post 1926), David (1839–1906), William, John H. (d. ca. 1892), Lavina (d. ca. 1918), Martha (d. 1922), and Earl Gray (d. 1921). Although he lived most of his life in Vienna, where at one time he owned a hotel business, he spent some time with the Edison family in Milan, Ohio, where according to the census of 1850 he worked as a shingle maker. TAE recalled in 1924 that “my mother had two brothers [actually three], one of whom lived in Milan.” He may have returned to Canada around the same time that TAE and his family moved from Milan to Port Huron, Michigan.

**French, Mary Richardson.** See *Richardson, Mary Elizabeth*.

**Gill, Mary Jane.** b. 1856; d. post 1919. Cousin of TAE’s first wife *Mary Stilwell*. She was the daughter of Eliza Stilwell (d. 1884), the oldest sister of *Nicholas Stilwell*, and George N. Blake. She married George R. Gill (b. 1852) in 1877. They had two children: Thomas A. (b. 1879) and Edna G. (b. 1880). In 1900 they were living in Newark, New Jersey, where George worked as a trunk maker. She corresponded with TAE and his secretaries several times between 1884 and 1893, always asking for money. TAE initially provided her with some financial assistance but eventually tired of her repeated requests. In 1893 his secretary John F. Randolph bluntly told her not to write again as TAE “has told me no about half a dozen times.” In 1910 secretary Harry F. Miller remarked that TAE “helped her for a long time and because he stopped, she attempted to commit an outrageous injury to him.”

**Goodrich, Benjamin Franklin.** 1841–1888. Physician and industrialist. He incorporated the B. F. Goodrich Tire Co. in Akron, Ohio, in 1880. He was related to the Miller family through his marriage to Mary Elizabeth Marvin (b. 1841), whom he married in 1869. Mary Elizabeth was the sister of *Richard Pratt Marvin* and sister-in-law of *Jane Eliza Miller*. The Goodrich children—*David Marvin*, *Charles Cross*, and *Isabella Marvin* (“May”) (b. 1874)—were playmates of the younger Miller children in Akron.

**Goodrich, Charles Cross.** b. 1871. Son of *Benjamin Franklin Goodrich* and Mary Elizabeth Marvin. He grew up with the Miller children in Akron, Ohio. He became a stockbroker in New York City and bought a home in Llewellyn Park, the private residential community in West Orange, New Jersey, where TAE and MME also lived.

**Goodrich, David Marvin.** 1876–1950. “Dade.” Son of *Benjamin Franklin Goodrich* and Mary Elizabeth Marvin. He grew up with the Miller children in Akron, Ohio. He fought in the Spanish-American War with *Theodore Westwood Miller* and the Rough Riders. He married Ruth Williams in 1903. His second wife was Beatrice Morgan.

**Halsey, Charlotte Hawkins.** See *Hawkins, Charlotte*.

**Halsey, Samuel Armstrong.** ca. 1885–1945. Brother-in-law of TAE's son *Charles Edison*. He was hired by the Edison company in 1921 when he passed the first "Edison quiz." The following year, he married *Charlotte Hawkins*, sister of *Carolyn Hawkins Edison*. During the 1920s he served as manager of the Phonograph Corporation of Manhattan and, later, as assistant to Charles Edison.

**Hawkins, Ada Jane Woodruff.** 1852–1943. Mother-in-law of TAE's son *Charles Edison*. Born in Vermont, she spent most of her life in New England. She married Horatio Gates Hawkins (1848–1907) and had three daughters: *Charlotte (Halsey)*, *Edna* (b. ca. 1878), and *Carolyn (Edison)*. She moved to East Orange, New Jersey, some time between 1910 and 1920.

**Hawkins, Carolyn.** See *Edison, Carolyn Hawkins*.

**Hawkins, Charlotte.** 1880–1950. Sister-in-law of TAE's son *Charles Edison*. Sister of *Carolyn Hawkins*. She married *Samuel Armstrong Halsey* in 1922.

**Hitchcock, Grace Miller.** See *Miller, Grace*.

**Hitchcock, Halbert Kellogg.** 1865–1930. "Hal." Brother-in-law of MME. Son of Elizur Hitchcock (b. ca. 1833) and *Lucretia Kellogg*. Born at Williamsfield, Ohio, he studied engineering at Ohio State University and in 1901 became consulting engineer to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. He married *Grace Miller* on February 15, 1916. He had previously been married to Elizabeth Perry (ca. 1871–1915). He originated and patented many improvements in sheet window glass manufacturing processes as well as other lines of manufacturing. He also wrote a guide book, *Trailing the Sun Around the Earth*.

**Hitchcock, James MacNeil.** b. ca. 1899. "Jim." Nephew of MME's brother-in-law *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock*. Son of *Lucius Walcott Hitchcock* and *Sarah MacNeil*. Born in Ohio, he was living with his parents in New Rochelle, New York, in 1920. Ten years later, he was living in Manhattan with his wife *Augusta* and working as a salesman.

**Hitchcock, Lucius Walcott.** 1868–1942. "Lu." Younger brother of MME's brother-in-law *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock*. A well-known artist, he painted TAE's portrait, as well as portraits of some members of the Miller family. His illustrations also appear in the works of Mark Twain. He married *Sarah MacNeil* around 1896. They had two children: *James MacNeil* and *Ethan* (b. ca. 1903). The family moved from Ohio to New Rochelle, New York, during the early 1900s.

**Hitchcock, Lucretia Kellogg.** b. ca. 1838; d. ca. 1922. "Mother Hitchcock." Mother-in-law of MME's sister *Grace Miller*. Her husband was Elizur Hitchcock (b. ca. 1833; d. ante 1920), a physician. They had three children: *Halbert Kellogg*, *Lucius Walcott*, and *Gertrude (Smith)* (b. ca. 1863). In 1880 she and Elizur were living in Akron, Ohio. After the death of her husband, she lived with Halbert and Grace in Pittsburgh.

**Hitchcock, Sadie.** d. post 1930. "Aunt Sadie." Aunt of MME's brother-in-law *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock*. Probably *Sadie Keyes* (b. 1850), who married newspaperman *Lucius Hitchcock* (b. 1849) on October 8, 1871, and was living in Buck Prairie, Missouri, in 1910.

**Hitchcock, Sarah MacNeil.** b. ca. 1869. Wife of *Lucius Walcott Hitchcock*, the brother of MME's brother-in-law *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock*. Born in Ohio, she married *Lucius* around 1896 and had two sons.

**Holt, Harrison J.** b. ca. 1866. "Harry." Born in Iowa, he was the husband of *Ida Nichols*, the sister of MME's brother-in-law *William Wallace Nichols*. They married around 1890. In 1910 he was living in Manitou Springs, Colorado, where he worked as assistant manager for the local railroad. He subsequently became manager of the Manitou Springs Bath House, which his brother-in-law *Edward E. Nichols* had added to his resort hotel, The Cliff House.

**Holt, Ida Nichols.** See *Nichols, Ida*.

**Holzer, Alice Stilwell.** See *Stilwell, Alice*.

**Holzer, Alice Stilwell.** b. 1888. Daughter of TAE's sister-in-law *Alice Stilwell* and *William Holzer*. She moved with her family to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1907. She apparently never married.

**Holzer, Frank.** 1859–1927. Younger brother of TAE’s brother-in-law by marriage *William Holzer*. He worked at the Menlo Park laboratory as a glass blower (1880–1882) and then moved to the lamp works at Harrison, New Jersey, where he continued to work on the manufacture of lamps until 1922.

**Holzer, Mary Edison.** b. 1883; d. post 1938. “Mame.” Daughter of TAE’s sister-in-law *Alice Stilwell* and *William Holzer*. She was named after her aunt, *Mary Stilwell Edison*. She moved with her family to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1907. She apparently never married.

**Holzer, William.** 1844–1910. TAE’s brother-in-law by marriage. Born in Germany, he worked for TAE as a glassblower at the Menlo Park laboratory beginning in January 1880. He married *Alice Stilwell* in 1881. They lived in the house in Menlo Park in which TAE and his family had resided before their move to New York City. He worked as superintendent of the glass department of the Edison Lamp Co. and its successors through at least the mid-1890s. His relationship with TAE became strained during the late 1890s when he engaged in a number of dubious business ventures with *Thomas A. Edison Jr.* In 1907 he moved with his family to Hamilton, Ontario. TAE associate Frank L. Dyer characterized him in 1910 as a man “whose character is of the very shadiest description and with whom Mr. Edison has had nothing to do for a good many years.”

**Hoops, Lucille Poyer.** See *Poyer, Lucille*.

**Hoops, Walter Williams.** b. 1882. First husband of *Lucille Poyer*, daughter of TAE’s niece *Nellie Edison Poyer*. He was an advertising executive. They married some time before 1910 and lived in Chicago. Walter, Lucille, and Nellie met TAE and MME in Chicago in October 1915 and accompanied them to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. He and Lucille divorced some time before 1920.

**Hughes, Edward Everett.** 1862–1940. Attorney, businessman, and second husband of MME. Born in Shippenville, Pennsylvania, he practiced law in Franklin, Pennsylvania, serving as city solicitor until 1900, when he turned to the steel business. He became head of the Franklin Steel Co. and was founder and president of the Rail Steel Bar

Association until his retirement in 1930. His first wife, Susan Taylor Mackney, who bore him two sons, died in November 1932. He married MME on October 30, 1935. They lived in Glenmont, the Edison family home in Llewellyn Park. According to one newspaper account of the wedding, Edward and MME had been playmates during the 1870s when their families both had summer homes in Chautauqua, New York, and they became reacquainted years later when their families began wintering in Florida. This statement is probably the basis for claims by some biographers that they were “childhood sweethearts” or “playmates in Akron, Ohio.”

**Hunter, Lillian.** b. ca. 1879. Granddaughter of TAE’s cousin *David Elliott*. She was living in Drumbo, Ontario, in 1919 and 1920, when she wrote to TAE about David, his father *Isaac Matthews Elliott*, and other members of the Elliott family.

**Hunter, Lucy Alexander.** See *Alexander, Lucy Ann*.

**Igoe, Louise.** See *Miller, Louise Igoe*.

**Igoe, Stanley.** 1855–1913. Brother of MME’s sister-in-law *Louise Igoe Miller*. Born in Iowa, he married Georgia Schwister (b. 1869 and referred to as “Aunt Georgia” in the family correspondence) around 1893. They had one son, Stanley Jr. (b. 1896). In 1900, they were living in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Loynes, Eliza.** b. ca. 1861. TAE’s second cousin. Born in Ontario, she was the daughter of Clarinda Saxton (1823–1900) and William Farthings (1814–1898). Her grandmother was TAE’s aunt Margaret Edison (1791–1879), who married Lt. Col. William Saxton (1789–1873). She married John J. Loynes, a carpenter. They moved to North Dakota in 1886, shortly after their first child, Clara C. (Clapshaw) (b. ca. 1884), was born. Their four other children—Lina L. (b. ca. 1888), Tina E. (b. ca. 1894), John F. (b. ca. 1896), and James H. (b. ca. 1898)—were all born in North Dakota. Sometime before 1908, the family moved to Forest Grove, Oregon. After hearing that TAE was planning a trip to Portland, Eliza invited him to visit. TAE did not respond.

**McCaughey, Inez Edison.** See *Edison, Inez M.*

**McCaughey, John J.** 1868–1949. Husband of *Inez M. Edison*, who was the granddaughter of TAE’s uncle *Henry M. Edison*. They lived in Dodge County, Minnesota, where he practiced as an attorney.

**Marvin, Jane Miller.** See *Miller, Jane Eliza*.

**Marvin, Richard Pratt, Jr.** 1848–1906. Brother-in-law of MME. Born in Chautauqua County, New York, he was the youngest son of Richard Pratt Marvin (1803–1892), an attorney, state legislator, and U.S. Congressman (1837–1841), and Isabella Newland (1811–1872). An attorney by profession, he moved to Akron, Ohio, some time before 1880, where he lived in the home of his brother-in-law and business partner *Benjamin Franklin Goodrich*. He married *Jane Eliza Miller* on April 20, 1892. He suffered a stroke while *Mary Emily Miller* and *Grace Miller* were visiting in 1906 and died soon afterwards.

**Miller, Alice N.** “Aunt Alice.” Aunt of MME. Second wife of *Jacob Miller*, older brother of *Lewis Miller*. They married some time after 1880.

**Miller, Cornelia Elizabeth Wise.** 1864–1935. “Cora.” Sister-in-law of MME. Born in Westport, Connecticut, she married *Ira Mandeville Miller* on October 19, 1886. They had two daughters.

**Miller, Cotta Smyser.** b. 1893. Sister-in-law of MME. Born in Reedsburg, Ohio, she married *Lewis Alexander Miller* on November 20, 1916. They had one son. According to one account, she was MME’s private secretary prior to her marriage.

**Miller, Edith Hotchkiss.** b. 1890. Wife of MME’s nephew *Robert Anderson Miller Jr.* She was born in Connecticut. They married in May 1918 and had three children.

**Miller, Edward Burkett.** 1858?–1936. Older brother of MME. Born in Canton, Ohio, he attended Ohio Wesleyan College and then Stevens Institute in Hoboken, New Jersey. In 1886 he was assistant superintendent of Aultman, Miller & Co., manufacturers of farm implements. By the mid-1890s he was associated with the Akron Iron Co. and eventually became president of the company. He subsequently began a real estate business. A bachelor until his early sixties, he lived much of that time at Oak Hill, the family

home in Akron, Ohio, with his parents and unmarried siblings. He married his housekeeper, *Elizabeth Ann Lewis*, around 1919. They had no children. He died while visiting Florida.

**Miller, Elizabeth.** 1892–1962. Niece of MME. Born in Akron, Ohio, she was the younger daughter of *Ira Mandeville Miller* and *Cornelia Elizabeth Wise*. She never married. In her later years, she lived with, or near, her sister *Margaret Miller (Newman)* in Connecticut.

**Miller, Elizabeth Anne Lewis.** b. ca. 1883. “Betsy.” Sister-in-law of MME. Of Welsh ancestry, she worked as a housekeeper for MME’s brother *Edward Burkett Miller* before marrying him around 1919. They had no children, but the census of 1920 indicates they had a 12-year-old ward named Alice Young. Some time after Edward’s death in 1936, she married H. W. Beattie.

**Miller, Emily Clark Huntington.** 1833–1913. “Aunt Emily.” Aunt of MME. She was born in Brooklyn, Connecticut, the daughter of Thomas Huntington, a physician and Baptist minister, and his second wife, Paulina Clark. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1857. While there she met John Edwin Miller II (1824–1882), the half-brother of *Lewis Miller*. They married in 1860 and had three sons, *Frederick C.*, *Harry H.*, and *George A.* (b. ca. 1869), and a daughter who died in infancy. During the early years of her marriage, she moved between various towns in Illinois and Ohio, where John held teaching positions. In 1868 they settled in Evanston, Illinois, where John gave up teaching and became publisher of the *Little Corporal*, a children’s magazine. Emily was a frequent contributor and went on to write for other magazines, including the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Century*, *Cosmopolitan*, *McClure’s* and *Scribner’s*. She also became known for her activities on behalf of foreign missions, Sunday schools, women’s education, and temperance. The Millers moved in 1878 to St. Paul, Minnesota, where John worked for a harvester company. She returned to Evanston in 1889 and two years later became principal of the Woman’s College and assistant professor of English literature at Northwestern. She retired as principal in 1898 but continued to teach until 1900. She spent the

remainder of her life in St. Paul and died at the home of her brother in Northfield, Minnesota.

**Miller, Eva Lucy.** 1853–1869. Eldest sister of MME. She was born in Canton, Ohio, moved to Akron with her family, and died shortly before they moved into their home, Oak Hill.

**Miller, Florence Nichols.** 1883–1943. Sister-in-law of MME. Born in New York, she married *John Vincent Miller* in March 1921. They had two children.

**Miller, Frederick C.** b. ca. 1863. “Fred.” Cousin of MME. Son of John Edwin Miller II (1824–1882) and *Emily Clark Huntington*. Born in Illinois, he moved with his family to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1878. He was living in Northfield, Minnesota, in 1913.

**Miller, Grace.** 1870–1952. Youngest sister of MME. Born in Akron, Ohio, she attended school in Farmington, Connecticut, and then went to Wellesley College. She taught at Oak Place School in Akron and at the Hathaway Brown School in Cleveland. Unmarried until her mid-forties, she lived much of that time at Oak Hill, the family home in Akron, with her parents and unmarried siblings. She married *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock* on February 15, 1916. They had no children.

**Miller, Harry H.** ca. 1862–1936. Cousin of MME. Son of John Edwin Miller II (1824–1882) and *Emily Clark Huntington*. Born in Illinois, he moved with his family to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1878. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1882 with a specialty in chemistry and electricity. After graduation, he worked for an assay office in St. Paul. He subsequently moved to Canada, where he took charge of a silver mine. In 1918 he was working as a consulting mining engineer in Tucson, Arizona.

**Miller, Helen Mathews.** 1898–1997. Wife of MME’s nephew *Lewis Miller II*. Born in Illinois, she married Lewis in 1926. They had one child and adopted another. She was living in New Haven, Connecticut, at the time of her death.

**Miller, Ira Mandeville.** 1856–1934. Oldest brother of MME. Born in Canton, Ohio, he attended Ohio Wesleyan College and then entered his father’s business, Aultman, Miller & Co., in

Akron, Ohio. He also served as vice president of the Akron Twine and Cordage Co. and was midwestern agent for several automobile companies, including the Edison-owned Lansden Co. He was instrumental in establishing the first street rail system and commercial electric light works in Akron. He married *Cornelia Elizabeth (“Cora”) Wise* on October 19, 1886. They had two daughters, *Margaret (Newman)* and *Elizabeth*. He and Cora moved to Westport, Connecticut, in 1924.

**Miller, Jacob.** 1827–1889. “Uncle Jacob.” Uncle of MME. Older brother of *Lewis Miller*. He was a co-founder of C. Aultman & Co. of Canton, Ohio, manufacturers of farm implements, and a major stockholder in Aultman, Miller & Co. in Akron. He also had an interest in the Akron Iron Works and was active in the Chautauqua movement. He was twice married. His first wife was Margaret (Shanafelt?). His second wife was *Alice N. Miller*.

**Miller, Jane Eliza.** 1855–1898. “Jennie.” Some family records give her name as Eliza Jane. Older sister of MME. Born in Canton, Ohio, she married *Richard Pratt Marvin* on April 20, 1892. They had no children.

**Miller, John Jacob.** b. 1875. Cousin of MME. Eldest son of *Levi Lewis Miller Sr.* and *Marcia Lucinda Bostwick*. He married Frances Lynch (b. ca. 1879) in 1914, and they had two daughters. In 1920 they were living with his parents in Cleveland, where he worked as an accountant.

**Miller, John Vincent.** 1873–1940. Younger brother of MME. Among the siblings of MME, he was the one most closely involved in the business activities of TAE. Born in Akron, Ohio, he attended Yale University during the early 1890s, at the same time as his younger brother *Theodore Westwood*. Upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as an ensign on the ship *Marblehead*. He was first employed at the West Orange laboratory in 1899. In that year he went with a party to the Ortiz mine near Santa Fe, New Mexico. From 1901 until 1904 he supervised magnetic surveys, diamond drilling operations, and nickel searches in the Sudbury district of Ontario. He also served as agent of the Mining Exploration Co. of New Jersey. In 1903 he was

elected president of the newly organized New Jersey Patent Co. In 1907 he was put in charge of TAE's Canadian properties and administered attempts to sell, lease, or option the Darby Mine, a cobalt-bearing property in the Nipissing district of Ontario that TAE had purchased in 1905. He subsequently served as division manager of the Edison Chemical Works. During the 1920s he was TAE's personal business secretary. He also served as executor of TAE's estate and as a director in several Edison companies, including the Edison Storage Battery Co. and the Edison Portland Cement Co. He married *Florence Nichols* in March 1921. They had two children, *Stuart Alexander* and *Nancy*.

**Miller, Levi Lewis, Sr.** 1842–1931. Uncle of MME. Half-brother of *Lewis Miller*. Son of John Edwin Miller (1786–1875) and his second wife, Elizabeth Tawney (Aultman) (d. 1883). He married *Marcia Lucinda Bostwick* on September 30, 1874. They had three children: *John Jacob*, Richard Bostwick (b. 1876) and *Levi Jr.* Richard may have died young, as he is not mentioned in the correspondence. In 1880 the family was living in Canton, Ohio, where Levi worked as a banker. Some time after 1900 they moved to Perry, Ohio. By 1920 they were living in Cleveland.

**Miller, Levi Lewis, Jr.** 1887–1969. Cousin of MME. Youngest son of *Levi Lewis Miller Sr.* and *Marcia Lucinda Bostwick*. In 1920 he was living with his parents in Cleveland and working as a manager in an advertising firm. He and his wife Linda had two sons: Richard (b. 1924) and John Bostwick (b. 1925). Their wedding, which took place on the East Coast, was attended by TAE and MME. He died in Medina, Ohio.

**Miller, Lewis.** 1829–1899. Father of MME. Born in Greentown, Ohio, he was the third son of John Edwin Miller (1786–1875) and his first wife, Elizabeth York (1797–1829/1830). He married *Mary Valinda Alexander* on September 16, 1852. They had eleven children. Together with his step-brother *Cornelius Aultman*, he established C. Aultman & Co., manufacturers of farm equipment, in Canton, Ohio. The family moved to Akron in 1863, when Lewis became manager of the newly formed Aultman, Miller & Co. An inventor as well as a businessman, he received patents for several improvements in the implements

manufactured by his company. He also played an active role in the civic and cultural affairs of Akron, serving as a member of the school board, a trustee of Mount Union College, and president of its board (1868–1899). Along with John Heyl Vincent, he was co-founder of the Chautauqua movement and served as its president from the mid-1870s until his death.

**Miller, Lewis Alexander.** 1863–1943. “Lew.” Older brother of MME. Born around the time the family moved from Canton, Ohio, to Akron, he attended Mount Union College for two years before entering the family business as manager of the Akron Twine & Cordage Co. (twine mill of Aultman, Miller & Co.). He subsequently entered the real estate business and by 1909 was manager of the Miller Land Co. A bachelor until his mid-fifties, he lived at Oak Hill, the family home in Akron, with his parents and unmarried siblings and took care of his widowed mother, *Mary Valinda Miller*, during her last years. He married *Cotta Smyser* on November 20, 1916, and had one son, *Milton Alexander Smyser*. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Glendora, California, where they owned an orange and lemon grove.

**Miller, Lewis, II.** 1894–1989. Nephew (and godson) of MME. Son of *Robert Anderson Miller Sr.* and *Louise Igoe*. At the beginning of World War I, he enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army artillery and was stationed in Watertown, New York. After the war, he worked as a bond salesman for Haley, Stuart & Co. of Chicago. He married *Helen Mathews* in 1926. They had two children: Barbara (adopted in 1931) and Mary Louise (b. 1937). He died in New Haven, Connecticut.

**Miller, Louise Igoe.** 1858–1937. Sister-in-law of MME. The daughter of Martin Igoe of Indianapolis, she apparently knew MME before her courtship by *Robert Anderson Miller Sr.* She married Robert on January 25, 1887. They had three children. After his death in 1911, she and her son *Robert Anderson Miller Jr.* set up a business in New York City (with sales offices in Puerto Rico) called Robert A. Miller, Manufacturer. The company manufactured and sold Puerto Rican needle work.

**Miller, Marcia Lucinda Bostwick.** 1851–1945? “Aunt Marcia.” Aunt of MME. Born in New York, she married *Levi Lewis Miller Sr.* on September 30, 1874, in Ripley, New York. They had three children, one of whom probably died in early childhood.

**Miller, Margaret.** 1887–1981. Niece of MME. Daughter of *Ira Mandeville Miller* and *Cornelia Elizabeth Wise*. She lived for a time at Glenmont, the Edison family home in Llewellyn Park, New Jersey and “formed part of the family circle.” She married *Henry O. Newman* on May 29, 1926. They lived in Waterbury, Connecticut. They separated on January 1, 1930, but it is unclear whether they ever formally divorced. She continued to use the Newman name until her death. Margaret was an avid collector of documents and memorabilia relating to the Miller family. Her collection forms the core of the Miller Family Collection at the Chautauqua Institution.

**Miller, Mary Emily.** 1867?–1946. Some sources list her birth year as 1869. She is sometimes referred to as “Mame” or “Mamie” in the family correspondence. Younger sister of MME. Born in Akron, Ohio, she matriculated from Wellesley College in 1888 and then traveled extensively throughout Europe with her sisters *Jane Eliza*, *Mina*, and *Grace*. Unmarried until her mid-forties, she lived much of that time at Oak Hill, the family home in Akron, Ohio, with her parents and unmarried siblings. She apparently had a mental breakdown in 1909 and spent some time that year at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan. She lived with the Edison family at Glenmont in Llewellyn Park, New Jersey, during much of 1910. She married *William Wallace Nichols* on June 26, 1912.

**Miller, Mary Valinda.** 1830–1912. Mother of MME. Daughter of *Hugh Alexander* and his second wife, *Cynthia Mandeville*. Born in Plainfield, Illinois, she married *Lewis Miller* on September 16, 1852. They had eleven children: *Eva Lucy*, *Jane Eliza*, *Ira Mandeville*, *Edward Burkett*, *Robert Anderson*, *Lewis Alexander*, *Mina*, *Mary Emily*, *Grace*, *John Vincent*, and *Theodore Westwood*. After the death of her husband, she continued to live with her unmarried children at Oak Hill, the family home in Akron, Ohio.

**Miller, Milton Alexander Smyser.** b. 1917. Nephew of MME. Only child of *Lewis Alexander Miller* and *Cotta Smyser*. Milton was conceived before their marriage in November 1916—a matter of some concern to Lewis and Cotta.

**Miller, Mina.** See *Edison, Mina Miller*.

**Miller, Nancy.** b. 1922. Niece of MME. The daughter of *John Vincent Miller* and *Florence Nichols*, she grew up in South Orange, New Jersey. She married Dr. Edward Thomas Arnn Jr. (1919–2002) in 1944. Their three children are: Edward Thomas III (b. 1946), Florence Mina Miller (Weiler) (b. 1948), and Nancy Kim (b. 1956). She is one of the Trustees of the Charles Edison Fund of Newark, New Jersey.

**Miller, Rachel Alice.** 1891–1970. Niece of MME. Born in Ohio, she was the daughter of *Robert Anderson Miller Sr.* and *Louise Igoe*. She was TAE’s goddaughter. She never married. In 1920 she was living with her widowed mother and brother *Lewis* in Westchester County, New York.

**Miller, Robert Anderson, Sr.** 1861–1911. “Rob.” Older brother of MME. Born in Canton, Ohio, he married *Louise Igoe* on January 25, 1887. They had three children: *Robert Anderson Jr.*, *Rachel Alice*, and *Lewis*. As a young man, he worked at the C. Aultman & Co. plant at Canton, Ohio, as an assistant to his uncle *Jacob Miller*. In 1899 he was appointed postmaster general at Ponce, Puerto Rico, by President William McKinley, a personal friend of the family. He served there until his death.

**Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr.** 1889–1959. Nephew of MME. Son of *Robert Anderson Miller Sr.* and *Louise Igoe*. After the death of his father, he and his mother set up a business in New York City (with sales offices in Puerto Rico) called Robert A. Miller, Manufacturer. The company manufactured and sold Puerto Rican needle work. He married *Edith Hotchkiss* in May 1918. They had three children: Robert Anderson III (1920–2004), Frederick (1924–2002), and Richard H. (b. 1932). In 1930 the family was living in Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania, and Robert was working as assistant superintendent of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., where his uncle, *Halbert Kellogg Hitchcock*, had worked for many years as consulting engineer.

**Miller, Stuart Alexander.** 1925–1981. Nephew of MME. The son of *John Vincent Miller* and *Florence Nichols*, he grew up in South Orange, New Jersey. He married Linda Sue Gorton in 1962. They had two children: Valinda Alva (Valcich) (b. 1965) and Jennifer Alexandra (b. 1967).

**Miller, Theodore Westwood.** 1875–1898. Youngest brother of MME. Born in Akron, Ohio, he attended Yale University (1893–1897) and studied law in New York City before enlisting in the “Rough Riders” at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. He died in Cuba. MME’s youngest son, *Theodore Miller Edison*, who was born a few days after Theodore’s death, was named after his uncle.

**Newman, Henry O.** b. 1891. Husband of MME’s niece *Margaret Miller*. Born in Ithaca, New York, he moved to Waterbury, Connecticut, where he worked as an industrial chemist. He and Margaret were married on May 29, 1926. They separated on January 1, 1930.

**Newman, Jane E.** b. 1857. “Janie.” Mother-in-law of TAE’s niece *Margaret Miller*. Born in New York, she married *Jared Tremon Newman* around 1886. They had four children: Mary L. (b. 1887), Robert W. (b. 1889), and twins *Henry O.* and *Charles H.* (b. 1891).

**Newman, Jared Tremon.** 1855–1937. Father-in-law of TAE’s niece *Margaret Miller*. He was an attorney, banker, and trustee of Cornell University. He also served as mayor of Ithaca, New York (1907–1908). He married *Jane E. Newman* around 1886. They had four children, including Margaret’s husband *Henry O. Newman*.

**Newman, Margaret Miller.** See *Miller, Margaret*.

**Nichols, Edward E.** b. 1866. “Eddie.” Younger brother of MME’s brother-in-law *William Wallace Nichols*. Born in New York, he moved with his family to Colorado during the 1870s. In 1886 he purchased a twenty-room boarding house near Pikes Peak, renamed it The Cliff House, and transformed it into a sophisticated resort hotel. He was largely responsible for turning the community of Manitou Springs into a popular resort specializing in water therapies. He served as its

mayor for eight terms. He and his wife Grace S. Nichols (b. 1872) were married around 1896. They had two sons: Edward (b. 1898; d. ante 1910?) and Proctor W. (b. ca. 1903).

**Nichols, Ida C.** b. ca. 1865. Younger sister of MME’s brother-in-law *William Wallace Nichols*. Born in Vermont, she moved with her family to Colorado during the 1870s. She married *Harrison J. Holt* around 1890. In 1915 she was living in Manitou Springs, Colorado, the town where she had grown up. TAE and MME visited the Holts in 1915 on the way home from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

**Nichols, Marian.** 1897–1988. “Mary Ann.” Stepdaughter of MME’s sister *Mary Emily Miller*. Daughter of *William Wallace Nichols* and his first wife, Marise Naughton. Around the time of her father’s remarriage, William and Marise were involved in a custody battle over Marian, who was living with her father. She married Albert (“Bert”) de Marconnay in 1932.

**Nichols, Mary Miller.** See *Miller, Mary Emily*.

**Nichols, William Wallace.** 1860–1948. “Will.” Brother-in-law of MME. His second wife was *Mary Emily Miller*, whom he married on June 26, 1912. A mechanical engineer with a speciality in steam and hydraulics, he grew up in Colorado, graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, and received his master’s degree from Yale. He served as superintendent of telegraph for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and later was superintendent of the Chicago Telephone Co. He temporarily retired from business to serve as an instructor at Yale. He subsequently became assistant manager of the Baltimore Copper Smelting & Refining Co. and vice president of Allis-Chalmers Co. He married Marise Naughton, an actress, in 1896. They had one daughter, *Marian*. Marise sued William for divorce in 1909 on grounds of abandonment and won her case.

**Oeser, Clara Berger.** Mistress, and later second wife, of TAE’s son-in-law *Oscar Oeser*. She met Oscar during World War I, when she was working as a waitress in a bierhaus in Muehlhausen, Germany. TAE’s daughter *Marion Estelle Edison* learned of the affair in June 1919 and divorced Oscar in 1921. He married Clara in 1924.



**Oeser, Eugenia.** b. ca. 1840. “Mother Oeser.” German mother-in-law of TAE’s daughter *Marion Estelle Edison*. She married *Hermann Oeser* and had at least two children: *Oscar* and *Friedrich*.

**Oeser, Friedrich.** “Fritz.” Brother of *Oscar Oeser* and brother-in-law of TAE’s daughter, *Marion Estelle Edison*. He took the side of Marion during her estrangement from Oscar.

**Oeser, Hermann.** 1839–1911. German father-in-law of TAE’s daughter, *Marion Estelle Edison*. Husband of *Eugenia Oeser* and father of *Oscar* and *Friedrich*. He was a publisher.

**Oeser, Marion Edison.** See *Edison, Marion Estelle*.

**Oeser, Oscar.** b. 1865. Full name: Karl Hermann Oscar Oeser. TAE’s son-in-law. The son of *Eugenia* and *Hermann Oeser*, he was an officer in the German army at the time he met *Marion Estelle Edison*. He wrote to TAE on July 23, 1894, asking for permission to marry her, but TAE did not agree until after he sent his uncle *Simeon Ogden Edison* to meet Oscar and give his approval. They were married in Germany on October 1, 1895. TAE and MME visited the Oesers during their European tour of 1911. There is no evidence that either Marion or Oscar visited the Edison family in the United States during their marriage. America’s entry into World War I in April 1917 put a strain on the marriage, since Oscar was still in the German army, but the couple remained together until November 1919, when Marion left Oscar because of his affair with *Clara Berger*. They divorced in 1921.

**Ogden, John.** 1609–1682? Patriarch of the Ogden family. Born in Hampshire, England, he was the son of Richard Ogden and Mary Elizabeth Huntington. One of the founders of Elizabeth, New Jersey (then known as Elizabethtown), he was the great-great grandfather of *Sarah Ogden*, who married TAE’s great-grandfather *John Edison*. Both TAE and MME were interested in the genealogy of the Ogden family. TAE corresponded several times with his distant relative, *William Ogden Wheeler*, about the family, and MME ordered a copy of Wheeler’s book, *The Ogden Family in America*, from J. B. Lippincott Co.

**Ogden, Sarah.** See *Edison, Sarah Ogden*.

**Osterhout, Anna Maria.** See *Edison, Anna Maria Osterhout*.

**Osterhout, Anna Maria Landstrom.** b. 1874. Mother-in-law of TAE’s youngest son, *Theodore Miller Edison*. Born in Illinois, she married *Winthrop John Van Leuven Osterhout*, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1899. They had two daughters: *Anna Maria (Edison)* and *Olga (Sears)*. They divorced in 1932.

**Osterhout, Olga.** 1905–1992. Younger sister of *Anna Maria Osterhout* and sister-in-law of TAE’s youngest son, *Theodore Miller Edison*. She married *Harold Bright Sears* on October 12, 1931—six days before TAE’s death. They had three children. She was residing in Falmouth, Massachusetts, at the time of her death.

**Osterhout, Winthrop John Van Leuven.** 1871–1964. Father of *Anna Maria Osterhout (Edison)*. Father-in-law of TAE’s youngest son, *Theodore Miller Edison*. A botanist and biochemist, he taught at Brown University (1893–1895) and at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his Ph.D. in 1899. In 1909 he accepted a position at Harvard, where he taught for the remainder of his career. He was co-founder and co-editor (with Jacques Loeb) of the *Journal of General Physiology*, which he edited for forty-five years. Around 1899 he married *Anna Maria Landstrom*. After their divorce in 1932, he married Marian Irwin.

**Page, Homer.** 1826–1897. Brother-in-law of TAE. Born in Vermont, he married *Marion Wallace Edison* on December 19, 1849. They lived in Milan, Ohio, where he engaged in farming. They had two children.

**Page, Isobel W.** 1852–1917. “Belle.” Niece of TAE. Daughter of *Marion Wallace Edison* and *Homer Page*. She and her husband *George Washington Ristine* lived most of their life in the Chicago area. They had five children: Homer Page (1874–1881), Grace (1876–1881), George Washington Jr. (1879–1966), *John Dixon*, and *Marion Isabel (Wheeler)*. It was Belle who informed TAE about the death of his sister in January 1900.

**Page, Marion Edison.** See *Edison, Marion Wallace*.

**Potter, Edith Edison.** See *Edison, Edith Clarissa*.

**Potter, Frank Allen.** ca. 1865–1921. Husband of TAE's cousin *Edith Clarissa Edison*. They married on July 29, 1911. A widower, he had two children from his first marriage: Mrs. Henry P. Chapman and Allen B. Potter. At the time of his death, he was president of the American Coal By-Product Co.

**Poyer, Charles Edison.** 1892–1981. “Charlie.” Youngest son of TAE's niece *Nellie Marion Edison* and *William A. Poyer*. Born in Norwalk, Ohio, he moved to the East Coast and began working for TAE in 1911, experimenting on storage batteries and their applications in delivery wagons and country house lighting. By 1914 he was manager of the House Lighting Dept. of the Edison Storage Battery Co. He was very sick in 1916–1917 and was confined part of that time in a sanitarium. However, he eventually returned to work for TAE. He married Eleanor Louise Jaeger (b. ca. 1895) on April 30, 1919. They had at least one son, Charles E. (b. ca. 1920). He moved to Chicago around 1930 to become an executive in the Prestcoke Corp. He subsequently moved to Florida, where he engaged in a successful real estate business in Miami Beach. In 1949 he married Mary Osborne (1903–1991), a prominent educator.

**Poyer, Lucille.** 1882–1949. Daughter of TAE's niece *Nellie Marion Edison* and *William A. Poyer*. Born in Ohio, she married *Walter Williams Hoops* some time before 1910 and lived in Chicago. Walter, Lucille, and Nellie met TAE and MME in Chicago in October 1915 and accompanied them to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. She and Walter were divorced by 1920. She subsequently married a man named Chappell. She died in Dade County, Florida, where she had been living with or near her mother and brothers.

**Poyer, Nellie Marion Edison.** See *Edison, Nellie Marion*.

**Poyer, William A.** b. ca. 1843; d. ante 1901. Husband of TAE's niece *Nellie Marion Edison*. They married some time after 1880 and lived in

Norwalk, Ohio, where he worked as a grain merchant.

**Poyer, William G.** 1889–1978. Son of TAE's niece *Nellie Marion Edison Poyer* and *William A. Poyer*. In 1920 he was living with his mother in the home of his grandmother, *Ellen J. Holihan Edison*, and step-grandfather, *James Eckles*, in Port Huron, Michigan, where he worked as a laborer. He probably moved to Florida at the same time as his mother. He married there in 1949.

**Rathburn, Elizabeth Gaylord.** b. 1877. Wife of Howard Martin Rathburn (1876–1944), grandson of TAE's cousin *Mercy Jane Balcom (Richardson)*. Howard was the son of Kalilly Isabel Richardson (1853–1924) and Riley Henry Rathburn (1848–1914). He and Elizabeth married in 1898 and had four children: Winthrop Gaylord (1900–1944), Margaret (Kaser) (b. 1902), Lois Mercedes (b. 1914), and Constance Elizabeth (1920–1976). Around the time of their marriage, Howard was working as a shipping clerk. In 1924 TAE responded to Elizabeth's request for his recollections about the Elliott family, conceding that he had “very little information in regard to pedigree on my mother's side.”

**Richardson, Alva Almond.** 1847–1898. Son of TAE's cousin *Mercy Jane Balcom* and Zadoc S. (“Zed”) Richardson (1815–1855?). Born in Vienna, Ontario, he moved with his widowed mother to Milan, Ohio, shortly before the Edison family moved to Michigan. He married Cecelia Isabel Percival (1851–1908). They had two children who lived to adulthood: Alva L. Richardson (d. 1908) and Marietta Grace (Nelson) (1870–1943). He was working in the city clerk's office in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1884, when he wrote to TAE in regard to a possible electric light agency in Mexico. The agency never materialized, and he remained in Lincoln until his death.

**Richardson, Mary Elizabeth.** 1851–1933. Daughter of TAE's cousin *Mercy Jane Balcom* and Zadoc S. (“Zed”) Richardson (1815–1855?). Born in Vienna, Ontario, she moved with her widowed mother to Milan, Ohio, after her father's death. She visited TAE in Port Huron around 1868. She married J. E[ugene?] French (d. ante 1931). They had at least one child: Harry (d. 1933). She was living in Seattle, Washington, in

1917 when she wrote to TAE with recollections of the Port Huron visit. She subsequently moved to Idaho and died in the town of Priest River.

**Richardson, Mercy Balcom.** See *Balcom, Mercy Jane*.

**Ristine, George Washington.** 1846–1918. Husband of TAE's niece *Isobel W. ("Belle") Page*. Born in Pennsylvania, he married Belle some time before 1875. They had five children, two of whom died in early childhood. In 1880 they were living in Cleveland. In 1888 the family was living in Chicago, where George was working for the Erie Railroad as general manager of the Erie Despatch.

**Ristine, Isobel Page.** See *Page, Isobel W.*

**Ristine, John Dixon.** 1881–1959. Grand-nephew of TAE. Youngest son of TAE's niece *Isobel W. Page* and *George Washington Ristine*. Born in Ohio, he moved with his family to Chicago as a child. He and his wife Elizabeth Ecton (b. 1881) lived in Cook County, Illinois. They had two children: John Dixon Jr. (b. ca. 1907) and Marion R. (b. 1910). In 1918 he asked TAE to use his influence to secure him a commission in the U.S. Army Ordnance Dept. In 1920 he was working as an executive for a Chicago packing company.

**Ristine, Marion Isabel.** 1883–1963. Grand-niece of TAE. Daughter of TAE's niece *Isobel W. Ristine* and *George Washington Ristine*. Born in Ohio, she moved with her family to Chicago as a child. She married Edward Dinsmore Wheeler (1878–1953) on June 5, 1902. They lived in Chicago, where Edward worked for an advertising agency, and had two children: Edward Dinsmore Jr. (1905–1981) and Richard Page (b. 1909). Marion Isabel apparently inherited the Edison birthplace in Milan, Ohio, from her grandmother, *Marion Wallace Edison (Page)*. TAE purchased it from her in 1905 and took possession the following year. She died in Norwalk, Ohio.

**Sears, Harold Bright.** 1903–1997. "Harry." Husband of *Olga Osterhout*, sister-in-law of TAE's son *Theodore Miller Edison*. They married on October 12, 1931—six days before TAE's death—and had three children. He worked in the retail clothing business. He was residing in Hartford, Connecticut, at the time of his death.

**Sears, Olga Osterhout.** See *Osterhout, Olga*.

**Sloane, Adelaide.** b. ca. 1890. Sister-in-law of TAE's daughter *Madeleine Edison* and her husband *John Eyre Sloane*. Born in New York, she married John's older brother, *Charles O'Conor Sloane*, around 1912. By 1930 she was suffering from a serious mental illness, which Madeleine reported in several letters to MME.

**Sloane, Alice.** d. 1961. Sister-in-law of TAE's daughter *Madeleine Edison*. Sister of *John Eyre Sloane*. She married Arthur Marvin Anderson. They had a daughter, Alice, who became engaged in 1934.

**Sloane, Alice Eyre.** ca. 1861–1952. Mother-in-law of TAE's daughter *Madeleine Edison*. Born in Ireland, she married Dr. *Thomas O'Conor Sloane* in 1884. They had two sons, *John Eyre* and *Charles O'Conor*, and one daughter, *Alice (Anderson)*.

**Sloane, Charles O'Conor.** 1885–1979. Brother-in-law of TAE's daughter *Madeleine Edison*. Older brother of *John Eyre Sloane*. Born in South Orange, New Jersey, he lived his entire life there and in nearby West Orange. He married *Adelaide Sloane* around 1912. They had three children: Charles O'Conor Jr. (b. ca. 1915), Mary (b. ca. 1918), and Harriet (b. ca. 1921). In 1916 he was president of the Phonograph Sales Co. in Newark. By 1930 he was working as a securities salesman.

**Sloane, John Edison.** 1918–1990. "Jack." Grandson of TAE and MME. Second son of *Madeleine Edison* and *John Eyre Sloane*. He graduated from Yale University and served during World War II with the 102nd Cavalry in England, Africa, and Italy, attaining the rank of captain. He was an investment counselor from the late 1950s until his retirement in 1985. He and his wife Jule Day had three children: Madeleine E. (b. 1946), John Heywood (b. 1948), and Christopher Barry (b. 1960).

**Sloane, John Eyre.** 1886–1970. Son-in-law of TAE and MME. Son of *Thomas O'Conor Sloane* and *Alice M. Eyre*. Born in South Orange, New Jersey, he was educated at Carteret Academy and Columbia University. After graduation he set up his own business, the Sloane Aeroplane Co., to manufacture airplanes in Plainfield, New Jersey.

During World War I he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Service (Signal Corps) in Washington, D.C. He married *Madeleine Edison* on June 17, 1914, after an eight-month engagement. The Edison family had initially opposed the marriage because of John's Catholicism. He and Madeleine had four sons: *Thomas Edison*, *John Edison*, *Peter Edison*, and *Michael Edison*.

**Sloane, Madeleine Edison.** See *Edison, Madeleine*.

**Sloane, Michael Edison.** 1931–1948. Full name: Michael Nicholas Samuel Edison Sloane. Grandson of TAE and MME. Youngest son of *Madeleine Edison* and *John Eyre Sloane*. He was killed while mountain climbing in Austria.

**Sloane, Peter Edison.** b. 1923. Grandson of TAE and MME. Third son of *Madeleine Edison* and *John Eyre Sloane*. He was married twice, first to Edith Staiger and then to Barbara Milford. He had one daughter by his first marriage, Lizabeth (Taraskewicz) (b. 1956), and one son by the second, Michael Blais (b. 1966).

**Sloane, Thomas Edison.** 1916–1990. “Teddy.” Grandson of TAE and MME. Oldest son of *Madeleine Edison* and *John Eyre Sloane*. TAE was his godfather. He married Elaine Bernice Levy and had two children: Thomas Edison Sloane Jr. (b. 1940) and David E. Edison Sloane (b. 1943). He died in New Haven, Connecticut, and was a real estate broker at the time of his death.

**Sloane, Thomas O’Conor.** 1851–1940. Father of *John Eyre Sloane* and father-in-law of *Madeleine Edison*. A scientist, author, and inventor, he served as editor of *Amazing Stories* and associate editor of *Science and Invention*. He was twice married. His first wife was Isabel X. Mitchell, by whom he had one son, Thomas O’Conor Jr. His second wife was *Alice M. Eyre*. They had two sons and one daughter: *Charles O’Conor*, *John Eyre*, and *Alice (Anderson)*.

**Steindorf, Michael C.** b. 1862. Born in Iowa, he was the son of Henry F. Steindorf (b. 1837) and his wife Anna (b. 1844). He claimed to be TAE’s third cousin. The family was living in Englewood, Illinois, when Michael, an electrician by trade, wrote TAE in 1890 seeking financial assistance.

There is no record of TAE’s response. His wife died sometime between 1895 and 1900, leaving him with a daughter, Ferell (b. 1895).

**Stilwell, Alice.** 1853–1932. Older sister of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. She lived with the Edisons until her marriage in 1881 to *William Holzer*. They had two daughters: *Mary Edison* and *Alice Stilwell*. The family moved to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1907, where her mother *Margaret* and her sister *Eugenia* had been living since the 1890s. After William’s death in 1910, TAE provided financial support to Alice and her daughters. In her later years, she corresponded extensively with former Edison employee Francis Jehl, biographer William A. Symonds, and Henry Ford’s secretary Frank Campsall regarding her recollections of the Menlo Park years.

**Stilwell, Charles F.** 1861–1939. Younger brother of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. At age thirteen, he was employed by the firm of Edison & Gilliland at 41 Dey Street in New York City. He joined TAE at the Menlo Park laboratory in 1876 and became an assistant to his brother-in-law *William Holzer* in the glass blowing department of the lamp works in the winter of 1880–1881. In 1881 he married *Sarah Frazer* and moved to Montreal, where he set up a lamp manufacturing factory. They had five children while living in Canada and two more after their return to the United States: Edna Louise (b. 1882), Muriel Eleanor (“Nellie”) (b. 1884), Francis U. (b. 1885), Margaret (b. 1887), Walter E. (b. 1892), Willetta Alice (b. 1898), and Howard A. (b. ca. 1903). From 1883 until 1893 he was superintendent of the Canada Lamp Works in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1891 he seriously injured his eyes in an industrial accident and by 1900 had become totally blind. The family moved back to the United States in 1897 and lived in Caldwell, New Jersey, and Hauppauge, Long Island, before moving to Avon, Connecticut in 1907. Charles’s relationship with TAE was sometimes contentious. In 1902 he became involved in the business dealings of *Thomas A. Edison Jr.*, which led TAE to accuse him of taking advantage of his son. Nonetheless, TAE provided the family with financial support, the terms of which were formalized in a written agreement. In 1915 Charles instituted a lawsuit against TAE “to recover damages for breach of

contract.” After the death of his wife, he moved back to New Jersey and lived for a time in Newark. He spent his final years in the home of his daughter Nellie and her husband Ithiel Hart (1885–1975) in Avon.

**Stilwell, Eugenia L.** b. 1868. “Jeannie” and “Jennie.” Younger sister of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. Born in New Jersey, she moved with her family in November 1881 to Montreal, where her brother *Charles* was setting up a lamp manufacturing factory for TAE. She returned to New Jersey two years later. After her father died, TAE paid for her schooling in Bordentown, New Jersey. She moved to Hamilton, Ontario, with her mother during the mid-1890s and established a business making ecclesiastical embroidery and vestments. She apparently never married.

**Stilwell, Harriet.** b. ca. 1844. “Hattie.” Half-sister of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. She was the daughter of *Nicholas Stilwell* and his first wife, Ann Leake. Around 1865 she married *Cornelius A. (“Neal”) Van Cleve*, who subsequently worked in TAE’s Menlo Park laboratory. She may have died before 1900, since Neal was living with his brother-in-law *Charles F. Stilwell* by that time.

**Stilwell, Isabelle.** b. 1856. “Belle.” Cousin of MME’s first wife *Mary Stilwell*. She was the youngest daughter of William Stilwell (ca. 1810–1887), who was the brother of Mary’s father *Nicholas*, and Sophia Trimmers (ca. 1816–1896). Born in New Jersey, she moved with her family to Kansas. She lost her eyesight at the age of ten and received her education at the Kansas State School for the Blind. In 1879 she married Samuel G. Mitchel (b. 1847), who was partially blind. They lived in Winchester, Kansas. The Mitchels made their living by teaching music and giving “musical entertainments.” In 1897 Belle wrote TAE in regard to the possibility of demonstrating his kinetoscope. TAE did not respond.

**Stilwell, Margaret Crane.** 1831–1908. Mother of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. Born in Kingston, New York, she was the second wife of *Nicholas Stilwell*. In addition to Mary, they had three children who lived to adulthood: *Alice (Holzer)*, *Charles F.*, and *Eugenia L. (“Jennie”)*. In 1881 the family moved to Montreal, where Charles was setting up a lamp manufacturing factory for TAE.

She returned to New Jersey two years later, while Charles remained in Canada. During the mid-1890s she and Jennie moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where she spent the remainder of her life.

**Stilwell, Mary.** See *Edison, Mary Stilwell*.

**Stilwell, Nicholas.** 1824–1884. Father of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. Born in New Jersey, he was the youngest son of Nicholas Stilwell and Temina Aber. A sawyer and sometime inventor, he lived in Newark. He was twice married. He had three children by his first wife, Ann Leake: George G. (b. 1842), *Harriet (Van Cleave)*, and Caroline (Henry) (b. ca. 1846). He subsequently married *Margaret Crane* and had at least four children who lived to adulthood: *Alice (Holzer)*, *Mary (Edison)*, *Charles F.*, and *Eugenia L.* Another daughter, Margaret (b. ca. 1871; still living in 1880) probably died young. In 1881 the family moved to Montreal, where Charles was setting up a lamp manufacturing factory for TAE. He returned to New Jersey two years later and became property manager for the Menlo Park laboratory, which TAE had left several years earlier when he had moved to New York City. On April 9, 1884, he became so ill that TAE had to send for a “trained man nurse who is not afraid of person out of mind.” He died two days later.

**Stilwell, Sarah Frazar.** b. 1861; d. ca. 1914–1921. Wife of TAE’s brother-in-law, *Charles F. Stilwell*. Born in New Jersey, she married Charles in 1881 moved with him to Montreal shortly afterwards. Five of their seven children were born in Canada.

**Stilwell, Vernon.** b. 1896. Son of George L. Stilwell (b. ca. 1871) and grandson of George G. Stilwell (b. 1842), who was the half-brother of TAE’s first wife *Mary Stilwell*. He was living in Nutley, New Jersey, when he wrote TAE in 1915 asking for a meeting and a job with the “Edison Motion Picture Co. of New York.” TAE did not answer.

**Stilwell, W. T.** One of several family members who wrote letters of condolence in 1884 following the death of TAE’s wife *Mary Stilwell*. Writing from Springfield, Ohio, he characterized Mrs. Edison as a “distant blood relative.”

**Todd, George W., Jr.** b. 1893. Cousin of TAE’s daughter-in-law *Blanche Travers Edison*. His

father was a prominent physician in Salisbury, Maryland, who founded the Peninsula General Hospital in 1897. The younger Todd also became a physician. He was living in Salisbury when he wrote to TAE in 1913 regarding his interest in acting in motion picture films. He married Hannah White Phelps in 1927.

**Van Cleef, Clara.** Possibly the sister of Catharine (“Katy”) Van Cleef (b. 1850; d. ca. 1900–1910), who married George G. Stilwell (b. 1842), the half-brother of TAE’s first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. She claimed to be a “great favorite of Cousin Mame” when she wrote TAE from New York City in 1910 asking for money. TAE did not respond.

**Van Cleve, Cornelius A.** b. 1840. “Neal.” Husband of *Harriet Stilwell*, half-sister of TAE’s first wife *Mary Stilwell*. They married around 1865. He worked in the Menlo Park laboratory, beginning in June 1880. In 1900 he was living in the home of his brother-in-law *Charles F. Stilwell* in Caldwell, New Jersey, and working as a farm laborer.

**Van Cleve, Harriet Stilwell.** See *Stilwell, Harriet*.

**Wadsworth, Gertrude.** b. ca. 1877. Daughter-in-law of TAE’s cousin, *Nancy Elizabeth Balcom (Wadsworth)*. Born in Ohio, she married Lizzie’s youngest son, Percival O. (“Percy”) (b. ca 1877) around 1901. Some time before 1910, they moved to San Bernadino, California, where Percy took a job as a foreman on a fruit farm. They subsequently adopted a daughter named Eileen A. (b. ca. 1900). Twenty years later, they were still living in San Bernadino, and Percy was working as a clerk in an automobile sales room. Gertrude wrote TAE in 1910 to request a phonograph.

**Wadsworth, Marietta E.** 1864–1944. “Metta.” Oldest daughter of TAE’s cousin *Nancy Elizabeth Balcom* and Capt. *William Wadsworth*. She lived in Cleveland with her parents (and later in Milan with her widowed mother) and apparently never married. In 1930 she was living in the Edison birthplace in Milan, which TAE had re-purchased in 1905.

**Wadsworth, Nancy Elizabeth.** See *Balcom, Nancy Elizabeth*.

**Wadsworth, William.** b. 1830. “Capt.” Husband of TAE’s cousin *Nancy Elizabeth Balcom*. They married on December 8, 1855, and had four children. They lived in Cleveland, where William worked as a ship captain. He died some time between 1900 and 1910.

**Weaver, John Augustus.** b. 1855. Son of TAE’s cousin Lucene (or Luceine) M. Elliott (1834–1909) and Henry Allan Weaver (1833–1898), who was also related to TAE. Lucene was the daughter of TAE’s maternal uncle *John Matthews Elliott*. Henry was the son of Phoebe Edison (1795–1884), daughter of TAE’s great-uncle Adonijah Edison (1772–1825). In 1910 John was living in Salt Lake City, in ill health and in danger of losing his house. TAE assisted him with a gift of fifty dollars.

**Wheeler, Marion Isabel.** See *Ristine, Marion Isabel*.

**Wheeler, Melissa.** Cousin of TAE. Daughter of *Fannie Elliott* and her second husband, whose surname was Wheeler. She married A. G. Abbott, a carpenter. They were living on a farm near Cary, Illinois, in 1880 when she wrote TAE congratulating him on his success and inviting him to write her. He did not respond.

**Wheeler, William Ogden.** 1837–1900. Descendant of *John Ogden* and distant relative of TAE. Born in New York, he was the son of Nelson K. Wheeler (b. ca. 1807), a wealthy attorney, and his wife Emily (b. ca. 1816). Still a student in 1860, he was living with his parents and five siblings in Tompkins, New York. By 1880 he had earned enough money as a speculator to retire from business. At that time, he was living in Sharon, Connecticut, with his widowed mother, three sisters, and two servants. He subsequently moved to New Jersey and devoted the remainder of his life to collecting genealogical information about the Ogdens and affiliated families. He was the author of numerous books, including *The Ogden Family in America*. He corresponded with TAE several times between 1889 and 1894 about the Ogden family, sent him some genealogical materials, and made arrangements to visit the inventor in West Orange. It is unclear whether a meeting ever took place.

**Williams, Caddie.** Cousin of TAE's first wife, *Mary Stilwell*. She was living in Brooklyn when she wrote TAE around 1900, informing him that her alcoholic husband was going away for treatment and requesting fifty dollars to set up an apartment for her and her daughter. TAE did not answer.

**Yokom, William R.** 1867–1911. Characterized in the newspapers as a cousin of TAE, although the

exact nature of the relationship is uncertain. Born in Vienna, Ontario, he had recently moved to nearby St. Thomas when he died in an accident, leaving a wife, Florence, and a ten-year-old son, George. An anonymous reader of the *St. Thomas Journal* sent TAE a clipping about the accident and appealed to him to assist financially. There is no record of a response by TAE.

