

*The Ancestry of Frank T. Craven and  
Nancy Manship Craven  
From Craven, Brook, Kitching, Gough,  
Manship, Kirkham, Durden, Murray, Diven, Linn,  
Junkin, Gettys, and Ramsey Surname Lines*

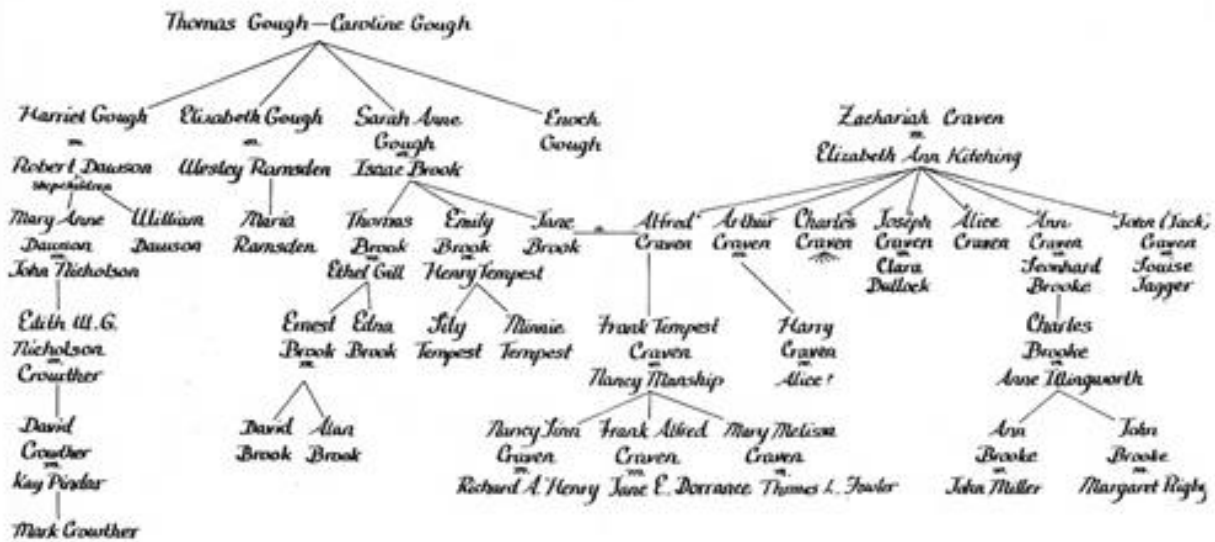
## Forward and Acknowledgements

This narrative is an historical one. It brings together the many lines of ancestors leading to two Americans who met and married in 1948: Frank Tempest Craven, a second-generation Englishman whose parents fled industrialized Yorkshire in the early Twentieth Century; and Nancy Manship Craven, whose lineage reached back in U.S. history to pre-Revolutionary English and Scottish settlers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The Cravens arrived in the United States in 1905 and 1906 aboard steamships, seeking better economic lives in the States. Nancy's earliest immigrant ancestors may have come to MD and VA from England in about 1668 and to Maryland's Eastern Shore before 1713 on sailing ships, some of them looking for religious freedom; also to Pennsylvania by the 1750's among the waves of Scots-Irish settlers from Northern Ireland.

Nancy and Frank Craven were my parents.

When I was a teen, one of my favorite "archaeological digs" was to pour through the materials stored in my father's dresser. He had died some years earlier and there was both comfort and mystery in those drawers: old formal photos of people whom I had never met, trinkets, etc. Intrigued, I asked about these materials, and Mother sketched out for me the spider-web of ancestry, an ever widening list of names and people from whom I had descended. She had a master-bridge-player's memory -- every name and connection she gave me back then has since been validated by other family members, genealogical materials, census records and the like. I was "hooked" and created hand-lettered genealogical charts in the 1970's. As an example, below is the 1977-drawn chart of my Father's family line, as I knew it then.

My interest in genealogy remained dormant until 2005 when my husband and I drove through Delaware and casually stopped to see the grave of my maternal grandparents, a site in Milton, DE which I had visited "some years before". We haphazardly scanned through the big cemetery which seemed to be in the right place and was easily located, but which did not "look right" to me: too bare, too big, too new, no trees, no iron plot railings. We also found some smaller cemeteries which "looked right", none of which contained any Manship graves. We departed Milton that day, oddly distressed that we had not been able to find those graves.



1977 tree of the Craven branch of our family tree (Melissa Craven).

That’s when the genealogy mania overcame me again. Thank goodness for the amazing resources on the Internet! Did I find my grandparent’s grave site? You bet. On Ancestry.com, I corresponded with a very distant cousin and genealogy researcher, Parker Todd, who knew where those Manships were buried. In fact, Mary and Frank are buried in that very first cemetery we looked at. The memory of what it looked like was SO CLEAR, but “some years before” had been actually *forty* years before!! Things change. Cemeteries enlarge. Iron railings crumble. Trees die. A good lesson to have learned!

I had opened a door to the past I could not but climb through. Ancestry.com enabled me to start adding to the bare-bones family tree I had in my hands from decades before. I utilized some of Parker’s meticulous family-tree data, for instance. Internet searches turned up other people’s published web sites where names overlapped those of our family. My hand-drawn charts became tangles of inserted names, dates, scribbles and arrows, which necessitated the move to a genealogy database program. This allowed auto-magic addition of people to my tree from other people’s trees, census records, vital statistics, war records, ships’ manifests, books about early settlers, etc. Much of what I was using at first were “other people’s data”, hereafter referred to as “OPD”, and there’s a lot of that in genealogical research -- unless you’re a purist and rely strictly upon primary sources, which I gradually began to do. There can be a lot of error introduced by assuming that OPD are correct. As an article in the Perry Historians Newsletter says, “Any document, database, or citation which is one or more steps removed from the original, must be evaluated as to whether the intermediary author examined the original or a reliable reference referring to the original” <sup>1</sup>.

So here is how the reader of this story should approach my sources. The following stories are a mixture of:

- “Other people’s data” (family trees and other people’s careful research into wills, legal records, etc.);
- Primary sources (created close to the time of the event) and secondary sources (created after the event), such as birth, marriage, death certificates, maps, tombstones, commemorative plaques, obituaries;
- Derivatives: scans or copies of the above, articles, family stories, bible transcriptions made after the events occurred;
- Old history books, the information in which might have been exaggerated or just plain incorrect;
- Memories of family members, which might be faulty; and
- Sheer supposition.

I have done my best to let the reader know about the source of any piece of information, and leave it to you to decide how much credence to put on any part of these narratives.

Another incident which proved a major contributing factor to my research was a visit to Letchworth State Park, south of Rochester NY, where there is a museum dedicated to a woman named Mary Jemison, born 1743, who was kidnapped by Indians from her home in the Marsh Creek Settlement of Pennsylvania in 1758 <sup>2</sup>. When I realized that my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandmother, Mary Gettys (born 1752), grew up in that same settlement and that Mary Gettys and Mary Jemison might have known each other <sup>3</sup>, I felt the need to better understand the dangers of living on the frontier in those times. I read widely about the French-Indian War and our Revolution. They were horrendous times for the people on the frontiers of Pennsylvania, and many of my ancestors had settled in those perilous areas. Later, when I dug into Manship information from Colonial times on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, I also searched out books on the history of that area which deepened my understanding of early life in that place. James A. Michener’s novel “Chesapeake” was situated in the area of the Choptank River, and so this prolific author’s treatise on that area, along with history books, made my project a far richer learning experience.

At some point, I realized this project needed to become written narrative. My immediate family helped enormously, contributing pictures, memories and family stories -- thanks to my sister Nancy Linn Craven Henry and my brother Frank Alfred Craven. Since our parents were both only children, there were no true aunts or uncles to question, but I have contacted second and third cousins: Ruth Murray Earnest, Edna Louise Murray Gentsch, Ann Brooke Miller, Nancy Davenport Davis, and Allan Brook.

Internet sites, such as Ancestry.com, the International Genealogy Index, FreeBMD.org.uk, footnote.com, Zabasearch.com, Genforum’s bulletin boards, and even Facebook provided connections, data and documents. Through a variety of means, I located people such as: Kitching cousins in California; Loretta Layton Lynn (Linn/Lynn historian – she literally “wrote the book” on the Linns); Craven second cousins in New Zealand; K. Edward Lay (Diven relative); Don Murray and Kim Taft (Murray cousins); Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff (yep, she “wrote the book” on Samuel Gettys and her descendant line from him); and Fred Ramsey (Ramsey genealogist);

Manship cousins Debbie Martindell, Richard, Ed, and Bill Manship -- all of whom generously shared their information and research on our family lines. How exciting to discover new connections as this project continues!!

William Engel shared with me his memories of our fathers and the early days of the Stonite Coil Co. Marshall Reynolds, caretaker of Odd Fellows Cemetery in Milton, DE graciously helped me find out more about Mary and Frank Manship's graves. The Perry Historians --The Perry County, PA Historical Society's Lenig Library is a goldmine, and the volunteers there passionate about family history-- brought me into contact with other descendents of the Linns and Divens. Melinda Linderer Huff of the Milton Delaware Historical Society not only sent me everything she had on the Manships, but also put me in touch with the woman who is now living in my great-grandfather's 1840's-vintage house. Melinda also began sending other Manships to me. Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg was a luxury experience for me with docent researchers assigned to help me – I accomplished weeks of research in one day. Jane Terebey of the Caroline County, MD library worked with me to research the Manships, as did Patricia Guida, land researcher from Caroline County, J.O.K. Walsh, head of the Caroline Historical Society, Becky Riti of the Talbot County Library's Maryland Room, and Jane McWilliams who performed some research for me in the Annapolis, MD archives. Other officials and officers of Caroline Co. shared their memories of the accidental exhumation of a Manship Cemetery. Thanks to all who contributed so graciously.

A quick note about names, especially those of women whose names changed several times during their lives: within the text of this document I may use an unusual number of a person's names in order to accurately identify her. For instance, in the case of my mother, I may call her Nancy Lindle Manship when describing her early years, Nancy Manship Banks, or Nancy Manship (Banks) Craven, or some other combination of her many names later in the story. Brought up to do things properly, I mean no disrespect. It was done as a device for clarity.

About chapters: when you try to bring together multiple lines of ancestry to produce a clear story, confusion can easily occur. My vision has been to discuss each line in as much detail as possible, up to the point where it merges with another line. So I start with the Cravens and Manships in Chapters 1 and 2, and follow each of those to my parents' marriage in 1948; then the Murrays, until it merges with the Manships; the Divens, until it merges with the Murrays; etc. Not all lines are split out into their own chapters, but many are. And which are split by family line into separate chapters and which are not? That made sense to me when the project started and now looks fairly arbitrary. Oh Well! Events from 1948 on are discussed in Chapter 7.

Generations of direct ancestors in each line are arranged in bulleted lists, starting with the oldest known direct ancestor and working forward in time to either Mother or Father. Hopefully, this will be as clear to readers as I can make it. There are a lot of "begats" and *oh, how I wish* we had more information about the actual people: what kind of people they were, how they really lived and loved. But we have to be somewhat content with "the facts, ma'am"!!

At the end of many chapters, I include “descendent reports” and “genealogy reports”, generated from the Family Tree Maker software program. If you are reading this on-line, those reports are listed separately on the web page as PDF files.

About web references: while writing this, there was at least one time I went back to a web page resource to confirm or expand something I had found there, and discovered the page had changed. If you follow my endnoted internet links, be aware of the dynamic nature of these references. What I copied may no longer be there, nor may the page itself. If this happens, try out the service at <http://wayback.archive.org/web/> and enter the http:// address you wish to investigate to find pages, old copies of which may have been archived there.

This project has been fun for me, but it is really a gift to my relatives, to my parents who (I believe) would be pleased, and especially to my siblings, nieces and nephews. Certainly, they could reproduce some of it, were they to become interested. But not all – the memories will dim or be lost..... That’s what I learned in 2005 -- and I continue to learn over and over again -- memories fail, people die, and history is lost.

I am confident more information will come along, so the copies of this document which are posted on-line will be updated from time to time. I will continue to consult on-line resources, because more come on-line every month, plus more digging into genealogical resources deepens the information.

Please contact me if you would like to add to this document, which will be available on-line at <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com/Genealogy.html> for as long as I maintain a website. Download it, PLEASE, and save it to your own computer and archives for posterity.

As of this writing, there are over 2000 individuals in my database. The beauty is that I have uploaded that info to Rootsweb World Connect Tree for others to stumble over in their investigations. All my research will not be restricted to my own little laptop computer. You can now access the entire family database at Rootsweb: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=melissaf52>

Sincerely, Melissa Craven Fowler, Ithaca, New York;  
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PDF files at: <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com/Genealogy.html>

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## Endnotes:

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Harrel-Sesniak, Using Rootsweb, the Perry Historians Airy View, Volume 36, No. 4, July 2011.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gettysburg.travel/about/history.asp> and <http://www.letchworthparkhistory.com/jem.html> and [http://colonial-america.suite101.com/article.cfm/mary\\_jemison\\_white\\_woman\\_of\\_the\\_genesee](http://colonial-america.suite101.com/article.cfm/mary_jemison_white_woman_of_the_genesee)

<sup>3</sup> Jemisons, in fact, lived in Buchanan Valley, some 11 miles from where we believe Mary Gettys grew up.