

*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

The documents on the web site <http://MelissaCravenFowler.com> (Melissa's Ancestry tab) bring 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 to the USA in the early twentieth century; and Nancy Manship Craven, whose lineage reached back to pre-Revolutionary English and Scots-Irish settlers in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Nancy and Frank Craven were my parents. As a teen, one of my favorite rainy-day activities was to pour through old family archives: photos and mementos of the ever widening list of those from whom I had descended. Mother had a master-bridge-player's memory -- every name and connection she gave me has since been corroborated. I was "hooked". My interest in genealogy remained dormant, however, until 2005 when my husband and I drove through Delaware and casually stopped to see the grave of my maternal grandparents, to which Mother had taken me years before. My memory of where the cemetery and graves were was 40 years old and much had changed. We departed Milton that day, distressed that we had not been able to find those graves.

That's when the genealogy mania overcame me. Did I find my grandparent's grave site? You bet. The amazing INTERNET!!! On Ancestry.com, I corresponded with a very distant cousin and genealogy researcher, Parker Todd, who knew where those Manships were buried. I had opened a door to the past I could not but climb through. Ancestry.com enabled me to start adding to the family tree I already had, utilizing some of Parker's meticulous Manship research, for instance. My hand-drawn charts became tangles of inserted names, dates, scribbles and arrows, which necessitated the move to a genealogy database program, and later I began composing the written "chapters" about each of my lines.

Much of what I was adding to the tree at first were "other people's data" (OPD) from Ancestry.com, especially their family trees, also introducing a lot of their error! (Later I reviewed the entries to verify these OPD.) My family -- siblings and cousins -- helped enormously, contributing pictures, memories and family stories. Ancestry.com's continuously increasing collection, FreeBMD.org.uk, Fold3, Zabasearch, Genforum and Rootschat bulletin boards, Find-A-Grave, and even Facebook provided records, leads,

and connections. Cemetery caretakers, county and town historical societies and libraries, professional genealogists – many helpful folks were generous.

So the lineage stories found at MelissaCravenFowler.com are a mixture of verified family trees and other people's careful research, birth, marriage, death certificates, census records, draft cards, city directory listings, maps, surveys, tombstones, commemorative plaques, obituaries, family stories, bible transcriptions, old history books (the information in which might have been exaggerated or just plain incorrect), memories of family members, and sheer supposition. I have done my best to let the reader know about the sources of any information, and leave it to you to decide how much credence to put on it.

About "chapters": when you try to bring together multiple lines of ancestry to produce a clear story, it gets confusing -- fast. Each chapter lists generations of males of that surname, arranged in bulleted lists, starting with the oldest, and working forward in time to either Mother or Father. Each section also discusses the family of the woman who married that man – unless her lineage is so long it needs its own chapter. With those, I start as far back as I can go and then bring the generations forward until they merge with another line (usually when the female changes her name to that of her husband). Events from 1948 on, after Nancy and Frank married, are discussed in the last "chapter". Hopefully, this will be as clear to readers as I can make it.

This project has been fun for me, but it is really a gift to my parents who (I believe) would be pleased, and especially to my siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins. I am confident more information will come along, so the copies of these documents which are posted on-line at <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> will be updated from time to time. The date on which a document was last edited can be found at the bottom of every page. Download them, PLEASE, and save them to your own computer and archives for posterity. And PLEASE contact me if you have things to contribute.

As of this writing, there are over 18,000 individuals in our family database (which includes my husband's lines as well). If you have a subscription, you can access the entire tree at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/113195954/family>. Or write me for an invitation to view it.

Also at <http://www.melissacravenfowler.com> (choose Melissa's Ancestry tab) are descendant documents in PDF format, which outline the descendants of various patriarchal couples in my lineage. These were generated by Ancestry's Family Tree Maker software. If you find errors in them, please let me know.

Sincerely, Melissa Craven Fowler, Ithaca, New York
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