



# DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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## OREGON TRAIL DODGE FLAG

John Wilbur Dodge IV, one of our DFA members, sent us an email with photos of an old newspaper article and an 1859-61 flag that was made by a Dodge family who went west on the Oregon Trail.

We posted it on our Dodge Family Association Facebook page and it elicited quite a bit of interest. We asked the question “does anyone know WHAT Dodge family this might have been?”

No answer on that question, but Eric Dodge sent us several links to articles on the internet and one of them had more information than the small photo of the newspaper article. The following article came from:

Zaricor Flag Collection: [http://www.flagcollection.com/itemdetails.php?CollectionItem\\_ID=2607](http://www.flagcollection.com/itemdetails.php?CollectionItem_ID=2607)



33 Star U.S. Flag - Dodge Family Flag from the Oregon Trail.

This period homemade example star United States flag was made to indicate the admission of Oregon as the 33rd state on February 14th 1859; and would remain accurate until the admission of Kansas on January 28th 1861, a period of 1 year, 11 months and 15 days. With this flag being in use for such a short period of time, it would be expected that the 33 star flags would be scarce, however the patriotic fervor prior to the civil war caused a bewildering array of star patterns.

Called the Dodge Flag this 33 star and 10 stripe flag is associated with the Dodge family, who made it either for or during their trek on the Oregon Trail. It appears that they were anticipating being on the trail for the 4th of July. Overland trail celebrations were a common festive affair, which represented a welcomed reprieve from the monotony of trail life. If made on the trail, it is not hard to imagine the separate sections being made by different families and when ready, being assembled into the finished flag. The teal blue and crimson materials betray the use of materials at hand; as does the ten striped field and the odd size of the canton in relationship to them.

During the 1850s numerous amounts of settlers had trekked the Oregon Trail across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains that the territory qualified to become a state. Statehood came on February 14, 1859. The flag, which was supposed to have 13 stripes, became official later that year on July 4th. The two Presidents to serve under this flag were James Buchanan (1857-1861) and Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).

So compelling was the need to hoist a flag to on the 4th of July, one of the few days the wagon trains would actually stop and rest, that they used whatever fabric was at hand. This explains the use of teal blue canton and the crimson for the ten stripes. The use of less than the official thirteen stripes has never been explained, but it is likely due to a scarcity of crimson and white cloth. The flag's extraordinary beauty is enhanced by the use of small and large stars in the canton, a common feature in 19th century flags, but unknown since 1900.

The large size indicates that this was probably a camp flag used by the entire wagon train, and it is not hard to imagine it flying from the upraised tongue of a pioneer wagon while they celebrated the 4th of July on the prairie.

The homemade nature of this flag is evident; most of the stripes are pieced from short lengths of cotton. Indeed it is conjectured that the cotton cloth used for the stripes was exhausted before the proper number was reached, such that this flag displays only ten stripes instead of the usual 13. The canton also exhibits the home made nature of the flag, as it extends halfway though a stripe rather than resting on either its top or bottom edge. The star pattern is unusual for the time of its manufacture. The makers arranged the stars in two large concentric rings with the star size varying from ring to ring and - in the case of the outer ring - from star to star. A few years after this flag was made, the concentric ring pattern became one of the predominant manners of displaying the stars on United States flags.

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(Dodge Flag-Continued from page 1)

The post (sic) Oregon Trail association of this flag is unknown but it was #254 in the acclaimed collection of noted antique dealer, Mr. Boleslaw Mastai and his wife, Marie-Louise d'Otrange Mastai (formerly of New York City, and later Amagansett, Long Island), The Mastai collection was the result of fifty years of research, study, and careful preservation by the late husband-wife team. Mastai began collecting in the early 20th century and accumulated the greatest American private flag collection. Mastai's important book , "The Stars and The Stripes: The American Flag from Birth of the Republic to the Present," (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1973) is considered an important revelation of the American Flag as artistically and socially illuminating.

Exhibition History: First Presidio Exhibit, 33-star, 10-stripe United States flag  
 Special Memorial Day Display, Suspended from ceiling of Moraga Room, Presidio of San Francisco's Officers Club, Memorial Day 2003

Chicago Meeting December, 2003, 33-Star, 10-Stripe U.S. Flag  
 Presidential Debate, Washington University at St. Louis, October 2004

Provenance:

- Dodge Family, Oregon Trail, 1859/61.
- Acquired by Mr. & Mrs. Boleslaw & Marie-Louise d'Otrange Mastai, New York City, and Amagansett, NY, The Mastai Collection, until 2002.
- Sold via Sotheby's Auction in New York City to the Zaricor Flag Collection, 2002.

ZFC Significant Flag

Sources:

- Madaus, Howard M.- Whitney Smith, The American Flag: Two Centuries of Concord and Conflict, VZ Publications, Santa Cruz, 2006.
- Mastai, Boleslaw and Marie-Louise D'Otrange, The Stars and The Stripes: The American Flag as Art and as History from the Birth of the republic to the Present, Knopf, New York, 1973.
- Mastai, Boleslaw and Marie-Louise D'Otrange, Our Unknown Flag: Almost 250 Flags and Artifacts from the famous Mastai Collection, New York, , Amagansett, Exhibited 14 June -28 July 1978, US Customhouse, Plaza Lever, 6 World Trade Center, Boleslaw Mastai, 1978.
- 33 Star Flag - (1859-1861) (U.S.), Flags of the World, 11 November 2011, from: <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/us-1859.html>

**MAILBAG**

**Carol Fritsch wrote:** "Nice article about Private Richard Dodge. I figured it out, and he is my 1st cousin 4th removed, or my Great Great Grandma Adaline Dodge's first cousin! I am always interested in finding out what her world was like.



John Wilbur Dodge IV started the investigation into the Dodge Flag (see Page 1). The original photos he sent can be seen here. One is a newspaper item and the other a picture. We would like to know what DODGE family came west in 1861, and made the flag pictured.

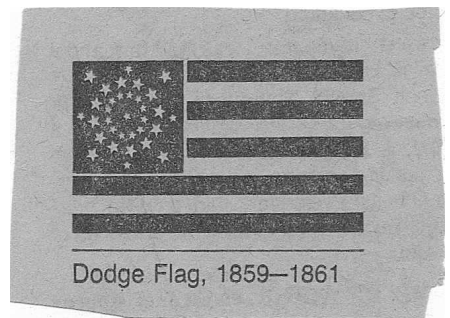
Eric Dodge, then sent us the link that provided the information found on page one.

**User Name: [dodgefamily](#)**  
**Password: [englishheritage](#)**

**Dodge Flag, 1859-1861**

For early Americans, to own a flag meant you had to make one. Since there were no laws to decree patterns for the stars, or widths of stripes, a flag could provide a unique portrait of a family's creative sense. The flag at the top of the page, its 33 stars representing the member-1861, was reported to have been ship of the Union between 1859 and made by the members of a pioneer family named Dodge as they moved westward.

**I**f you have anything of interest to Dodges, You can post that information and/or questions on our face book page. It may start a robust conversation among Dodges and Dodge descendants and may also be something we would like to use in our Dodge Family Journal.



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# The View From My Window



Recently, our choir at church (of which I am a member) sang a selection that used music **GOD OF ALL PRAISES** from **THE PLANETS** by **HOTLZ**. It is a glorious piece. It reminded me of a time back in the 1980s, when the Denver Symphony would give free concerts around the area on some evenings, and once, they gave a concert at Sloan's Lake park on the very edge of Denver and Edgewater.

One of the pieces they played was **THE PLANETS** by **HOLTZ**. I had never heard it before and absolutely loved it. That music has stayed with me over the years and I recognize it whenever I hear it.

The other thing that made such an impression on me that evening was the lights reflected in the lake after the sun went down. That, along with the final number by Tchaikovsky, the **1812 OVERTURE**, and as the guns went off at the end, and the lights twinkled on the water...I did not want it to end!

On a happier note, I recently had a foster dog, Cinder, who was 11 years old. She had been with her owner since a puppy and that owner had to enter a nursing home, so could not have her dog anymore.

When Cinder first arrived at my home, she was extremely depressed. For close to a week I had quite a time getting her to eat anything at all. Finally I managed to get her to eat a little bit of rice with chicken broth on it, and a few little pieces of chicken mixed in also.

After abt. 8-9 days, she slowly came out of her depression and became my constant follower...something my dog Polly did not really appreciate, becom-



ing a little depressed herself.

I fostered Cinder for 3 weeks. I thought she would probably not get adopted because she had the beginning of Larynx paralysis. This is usually caused by a dog who pulls a lot when walking tethered by a leash on a collar instead of a harness.

Now, you can find a lot of articles in the internet about how detrimental it is to a dog's throat when that dog pulls constantly. It is more difficult for dogs with this condition to be able to get enough air to cool themselves. Cinder had very heavy breathing and would get overheated if exercised too much. This was a problem because she was grossly obese when she arrived. Of course, a week without almost nothing to eat brought her weight down from 100 to 94. I would take her along with my dogs, Polly and Roscoe, to dog parks and for short walks. Dog parks were best because my dogs could run and play and Cinder could lay in the



shade.

Three weeks after she arrived here, Safe harbor Lab Rescue received an adoption application from a young woman who lived on a farm in Eaton, Colorado. She had trained to be a Veterinary Technician and she specialized in adopting older dogs. She had recently lost one of her 3 dogs, a Golden Retriever who was 14 yrs. She had adopted him when he was 12.

She drove to my home in Lakewood, a good distance from Eaton, to adopt Cinder and they both hit it off immediately. Cinder loved Holly and vice

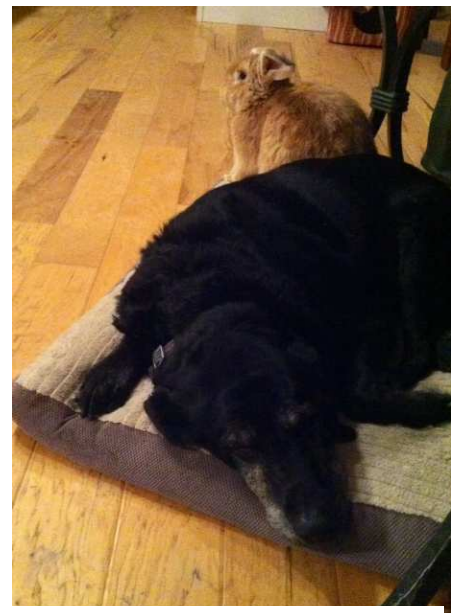


versa. Cinder is now living a life of luxury laying in the bed of a farm truck if she is with her family as they work on the farm, or relaxing on the porch enjoying her family with their morning coffee.

Interspersed in this column are photos of Cinder IN HER NEW HOME!

I now have a younger male dog who was trained as a service dog for a diabetic person.. He is also a black lab, 5 years old and contains his exuberance very well.

It is a rewarding task to foster these dogs who only want a family to love them. I am so happy when their forever home is found. *Barbara*



All photos are of Cinder in her new home and the photo just above is Cinder with her new friend, a 23 pound bunny that also lives in her new home. The bunny is house trained to a litter box. There are 2 other dogs, geese, chickens, horses, etc. on the farm.

*Barbara*

## **Who Do You Descend From?**

*Judy Ragan raganje@aol.com*

In this issue, I want to share some rules for beginning your search for your ancestry. I know some of you have been reading my articles but still haven't started the search. Obviously you know your Dodge lines because you subscribe to this journal. But remember that every generation back there are twice as many ancestors as the one before it! I am currently working on my 12th generation back, 1650-1750s. If I were to find every set of grandparents in that generation, I would have to find 2,048 people! Imagine that the next generation back would count 4,096 grandparents!! But first, you need to find your four grandparents; I'm assuming you know your parents.

Page #1 – Enter what you know about your parents. Their full names, birth dates & places, marriage dates and places, death dates and places and burial sites.

Page #2 – Enter what you know about your paternal grandparents.

Page #3 – Enter what you know about your maternal grandparents. That's four people in this generation.

Pages #4-#11 – If you know anything about your great grandparents, enter each set of grandparents on a separate page with what you know about them. There will be 8 people in this generation

Eventually you will have a whole file in a notebook for each set of grandparents and your greats. After the 60 years I have been searching, I have about 25 notebooks just for my ancestors' files.

Now is the time to start searching the billions of records available on the internet, in libraries, churches and from other family members to discover your unknown ancestors. Their stories are some of the best reading you will ever find. Because my ancestors lived during the settling of our country, I find an interest in that history that meant nothing to me as a child in History class.

Not everything on the internet is true! Gasp!! Remember that the information found on even the most popular and biggest of sites used for genealogy today is 'only as good as the person who put it there'. I don't mean that as a criticism; but many people who enter information for these sites, do not do proper research or copy someone else who is also wrong. Just because someone's family tree says John is the father of Mary, doesn't make it so. Even historical documents can be wrong. Look at the evidence and analyze it for yourself. Is it logical that Mary was only 10 years old when her son was born? Or is it even possible that Mary had a child at 82 years?!! Or does it make sense that John died before his daughter was born? I have seen each of these examples and plenty more illogical scenarios.

Start by gathering all the census records for your ancestors. The earliest census record with a listing, by name, of each person in the household, is 1850. Every ten years a new census is taken with new information about your ancestors. The last census that is open to the public is the 1940 census. In 2020, the 1950 census will be available to the public (we hope). Remember that even the census reports can be wrong; either by the transcriber's misspellings, or the memories of the person giving the information, or not being able to remember facts. But, the census reports will give you all members of the family and often extended family members who might have lived nearby. In many families I have found a brother or sister and their family which lead me to information to find my direct ancestors. Do I always look for a reliable source for the information I find on the internet from any source?

You bet I do! I like to find 2-3 historical records that will verify the information I have found on the internet and sometimes it is very hard. Remember, bigger is not better. There are no gold stars for adding 50,000 people to your tree. Having the 3rd great granddaughter of your great uncle's brother-in-law's nephew may just not be that useful. And it may confuse you down the road. Do include the siblings of your direct ancestors and their spouses. This may actually help you identify one family from another family with similar names and similar birth dates.

Be focused and concentrate on one family at a time. Trying to collect many generations of a family at the same time can lead to errors and the facts of one family get confused with another family. That's when your father John, whose father was also John, begets a child before he was born!

Genealogy is a life-long project. It is not something that can be done quickly. Take your time and enjoy your journey; it will be an amazing trip.

Tip for December 2014: When you share your family stories with your extended family, share it in small increments. This will not only give you time to research carefully throughout the year, but it gives you a new gift for Christmas or Hanukah every year!

*The source for some of the content in the article is from Ancestry.com blog, Oct. 4, 2013*

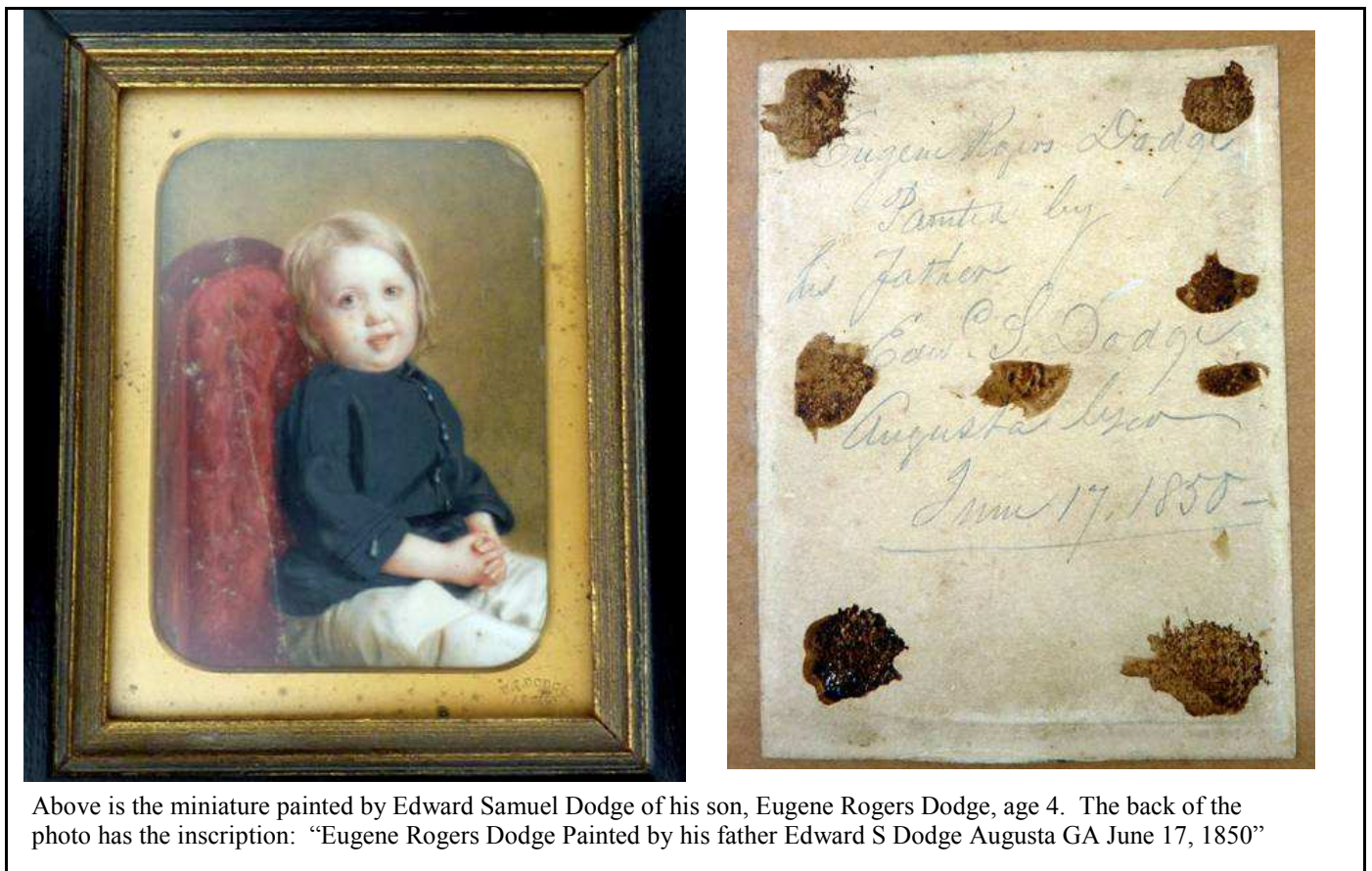
**Edward Samuel Dodge, brother of John Wood Dodge, Well Known Painter of Portrait Miniatures**

John Wood Dodge came from a large family of siblings, one whom was Edward Samuel Dodge, who also painted miniatures. Edward married Catherine Ann Rogers and they had 5 children; 4 boys and one girl. Two of the little boys, born 2 years apart, died 1 day apart at ages 3 1/2 and 1 1/2 years. That left 2 sons and 1 daughter who grew to adulthood. Edward Samuel Dodge painted a miniature of his son, Eugene Rogers Dodge at age 4.

This miniature, along with several other miniatures painted by Edward Samuel Dodge was given to Mary Anthony Dodge, the only child of Edward Simpson DODGE who was the son of the Edward Rogers Dodge in the miniature painting. Edward Simpson Dodge, born Jan. 9, 1870, and died Mar. 13, 1944, married Ruth Ann ANTHONY Jan. 3, 1901.

Mary gave them to a friend of a friend...and Charles Ellington, who is interested in genealogy bought them. We received a phone call here at our office from Charles Ellington who lives in North Carolina. He would like to find a home for these miniatures so he has decided to sell them but would really like them to go to a family member. We cannot find a living descendant in our data base, because we do not list living descendants. If you are a descendant from the Tristram Dodge line, through John Dodge and Margaret English Wood, the parents of John Wood Dodge and Edward Samuel Dodge, and have an interest in acquiring these miniatures, please contact Barbara Dodge in our office at 303-237-4947 OR email: [barbdodge@dodgeoffice.net](mailto:barbdodge@dodgeoffice.net)

We will give you the information as to whom to contact. He can send photos of the miniatures so that you can see what they are like. They are done on Ivory.



Above is the miniature painted by Edward Samuel Dodge of his son, Eugene Rogers Dodge, age 4. The back of the photo has the inscription: "Eugene Rogers Dodge Painted by his father Edward S Dodge Augusta GA June 17, 1850"

**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**



ON THE TWELFTH DAY  
OF CHRISTMAS  
My True Love gave to me  
Twelve census searches  
Eleven printer cartridges  
Ten e-mail contacts  
Nine headstone rubbings...

(.....sigh!.....)

Eight birth and death dates  
Seven town clerks sighing,  
Six second cousins,  
Five Coats of Arms  
Four GEDCOM files,  
Three old wills,  
Two CD-ROMS,  
One Bible entry





**Dodge Genealogy Brick Walls**  
by Eileen Dodge:  
Edodge1946@comcast.net



The following family is in our Dodge Mystery File – if you have any information to either solve the mystery or add to the information we already have please contact Eileen Dodge – edodge1946@comcast.net.

**First Generation**

**1. Phineas Dodge.** Born about 1786 in Windham, Windham County, Connecticut.

Phineas married **Rebecca Hardy.** Born about 1791 in Pelham, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.

They had the following children:

i. Phebe. Born on 7 Sep 1817 in Fairlee, Orange County, Vermont. Phebe died in Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, on 14 Feb 1883; she was 65. Buried in Forefathers Burial Ground, Chelmsford Center, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Find A Grave Memorial #8055624.

On 16 Mar 1856 when Phebe was 38, she married **Oliver Hutchins**, son of Eliakim Hutchins & Mary Prescott, in Nashua, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Born on 19 Apr 1800 in Carlisle, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Oliver died in Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, on 17 Jan 1862; he was 61. Buried in Forefathers Burial Ground, Chelmsford Center, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Find A Grave Memorial #18168711.

- 2 ii. Phineas H. (~1819-1884)
- 3 iii. Joseph H. (~1826-)
- 4 iv. Rev. Timothy S. (1829-1883)

**Second Generation**

**2. Phineas H. Dodge.** Born about 1819 in Vermont. Phineas H. died in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana, on 22 Feb 1884; he was 65. Occupation: Carpenter, Millwright.

On 14 Apr 1851 when Phineas H. was 32, he married **Mary Ann Knight**, daughter of Curtis Knight & Betsey Atwood, in Fairlee, Orange County, Vermont. Born on 24 May 1826 in Northfield, Washington County, Vermont. Mary Ann died in 1906; she was 79.

They had one child:

- 5 i. Warren L. (1856-)

**3. Joseph H. Dodge.** Born about 1826 in Vermont.

On 13 Jan 1850 when Joseph H. was 24, he married **Judith Janette Bacon**, daughter of Levi Bacon & Lavina Unknown, in Strafford, Orange County, Vermont. Born on 11 Jul 1828 in Strafford, Orange County, Vermont.

They had one child:

- 6 i. Leslie L. (1852-1897)

**4. Rev. Timothy S. Dodge.** Born in 1829. Timothy S. died in Illinois on 10 Jun 1883; he was 54. Buried in Union Corners Cemetery, Grant Park, Kankakee County, Illinois. Find A Grave Memorial#8055624

Timothy S. married **Elizabeth Jane Whitney**, daughter of Abner Whitney & Alice Unknown. Born in 1832 in Standish, Cumberland County, Maine.

They had one child:

- i. Phebe B. Born in 1876 in Standish, Cumberland County, Maine.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

**Third Generation**

**5. Warren L. Dodge.** Born in Oct 1856 in Michigan.

On 4 May 1874 when Warren L. was 17, he married **Mary Ann Pendergast** in Elkhart County, Indiana. Born in Oct 1857 in Michigan.

They had one child:

i. Walter Adelbert. Born on 25 Feb 1876 in Indiana.

On 12 Jul 1897 when Walter Adelbert was 21, he married **Ada M. Porter** in Saint. Joseph County, Indiana. Born in Jun 1876.

**6. Leslie L. Dodge.** Born on 22 Sep 1852 in Strafford, Orange County, Vermont. Leslie L. died on 2 Mar 1897; he was 44. Buried in Graceland Cemetery, Creston, Iowa.

Leslie L. married **Sarah E. 'Sadie' Lamb**, daughter of Unknown Lamb & Sarah E. Unknown. Born on 13 Nov 1860 in Indiana. Sarah E. 'Sadie' died on 20 Jul 1931; she was 70.

They had the following children:

i. Helen. Helen died in 1892. Buried in Graceland Cemetery, Creston, Iowa.

ii. Bertha Jeanette 'Nettie'. Born on 12 Feb 1884 in Creston, Union County, Iowa. Bertha Jeanette 'Nettie' died on 11 Aug 1968; she was 84. Buried in Graceland Cemetery, Creston, Iowa.

iii. Loren Laurison. Born on 27 Sep 1893 in Creston, Union County, Iowa. Loren Laurison died in Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois, on 14 Dec 1970; he was 77. Buried in Graceland Cemetery, Creston, Iowa.



**DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE**

**A** One Year Membership to the Dodge Family Association – \$20 - Members receive six journals each year sent electronically, and the giver can choose to add an additional gift, at no additional charge, of a Dodge Family Association Cook Book OR a Book of the Memorial First Reunion of the Dodge Family In America, published in 1879.

**C**offee mugs with the Dodge Family Crest - \$15 tax and shipping included. This is a popular gift at any time – we have only 20 left so they should go fast.

**T**ristram Genealogy Book - \$110 tax and shipping included. This is the first Tristram Genealogy published since Theron Royal Woodward published his Tristram Genealogy in 1904. Our research has added thousands of descendants. This is a two-volume book that Tristram Dodge descendants will treasure, and the copies are limited to the stock on hand as it will never again be published.

**G**enealogy of the DODGE FAMILY of Essex County, Mass. by Joseph Thompson Dodge covers the period of time from 1629 to 1898. The first Volume was printed in 1894, and the second volume was printed in 1898. In 1981, The Dodge Family Association reprinted the two volumes in one book. Pages 1 -484 contain the first volume. Pages 485 through 746 contain the second volume. The pages are sewn in and the paper used is "enamel" paper which is guaranteed to last two hundred years. The book is uniquely indexed making the information easily accessible. This Dodge Genealogy contains information about William and Richard and it also contains interesting biographical sketches of many of the descendants of William and Richard, plus a number of pictures that are of interest. Maroon hard cover with gold lettering. 9-1/4" x 6-1/4" x 1-3/4". The cost is \$50

It is hard to believe that the year 2001 was 14 years ago. We have reached back to the November-December Journal of 2001 for this article. In light of all the nonsense going on today about nothing religious on Government property, including crosses in Veteran cemeteries, and monuments that have been displayed for a couple hundred years or longer, we thought this might be of interest to you. Earl, one of our 3 founders, often said that our Constitution calls for FREEDOM OF RELIGION, not Freedom FROM Religion, and he published this this article in that particular Journal.

“Two hundred years ago, on January 1, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter observing that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had built “a wall of separation between Church and State.” In the 1947 case *Everson v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court quoted Jefferson’s phrase as expressing the intent of the Establishment Clause, and the “wall of separation” metaphor has been an important part of constitutional law ever since. Jefferson’s letter was addressed to Nehemiah Dodge (Tristram, Israel, John, John), Ephraim Robbins and Stephen S. Nelson, a committee of the Danbury Baptist Association, in response to a letter they had sent him in October. The handwriting of this letter matches a later letter from Dodge to Jefferson, so it appears that Dodge drafted the Danbury Baptist’s letter. He wrote, in part:

*“Our Sentiments are uniformly on the side of Religious Liberty - That religion is at all times and places a matter between God and Individuals - That no man ought to suffer in Name, person or effects on account of his religious Opinions - That the legitimate Power of Civil Government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor. But, Sir our constitution of government is not specific. Our infant charter, together with the Laws made coincident therewith, were adopted as the Basis of our government at the time of our revolution; and such had been our Laws and usages, and such still are; that religion is considered as the first object of Legislation; and therefore what religious privileges we enjoy (as a minor part of the State) we enjoy as favor granted, and not as inalienable rights: And these favors we receive at the expense of such degrading acknowledgements, as are inconsistent with the rights of freemen. It is not to be wondered at therefore; if those, who seek after power and gain under the pretence of government and Religion should reproach their fellow man - should Reproach their Chief Magistrate, as an enemy of Religion, Law and good order because he will not, dare not assume the prerogative of Jehovah and make Laws to govern the kingdom of Christ.”*

Jefferson wrote in reply: “Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature would ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.”

“The constitution of government” about which Dodge complained was Connecticut’s. That state had long taxed its citizens to support the Congregational Church. Although the certificate act of 1791 allowed Baptists and other dissenters to avoid such taxes by certifying that they attended another church, dissenters who failed to file certificates continued to be taxed and were sometimes imprisoned for failing to pay taxes. From 1800 to 1807, the Baptists petitioned Connecticut’s Federalist legislature repeatedly but unsuccessfully, seeking disestablishment of the Congregational Church. Disestablishment came only in 1818, after the Republican Party gained power in Connecticut and the state adopted a new constitution.

Dodge was a Baptist minister, who preached in Hampton, Southington, Berlin, Middletown, and Lebanon, before moving to New London, and was a strong proponent of disestablishment. He was active in the petition movement, but also became a supporter of Jefferson’s Republican Party earlier than most Baptists. He spoke at Republican Fourth of July celebrations in 1801 and 1802 and delivered a sermon on church and state in 1805 to celebrate Jefferson’s reelection. See 2 William G. McLoughlin, *New England Dissent, 1630-1833: The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State* 1006-08, 1017-18 (1971). Professor McLoughlin describes Dodge as a “liberal Baptist . . . evangelical in temper, but far more liberal theologically than the average Baptist.” *Id.* at 1024.

Several of Dodge’s published sermons were quite political, which was delicate for a believer in church-state separation. In the preface to a 1802 sermon, Dodge explained “that ministerial influence in political affairs has done much more hurt than good in the world for a long time” and “that gospel ministers, as such, have nothing to do with political matters, except being set for the defense of the gospel of Christ, are sometimes called to defend it from political invasions.” Dodge believed that God would support the church and ridiculed “the common complaint of many in the New England states . . . that religion will come to naught, and religious privileges be abolished, unless supported by civil power, and the fostering hand of legislative bodies!!” As explained in a 1805 sermon, Dodge also believed that the separation of church and state had a religious basis. He admitted that they had been united under the Covenant of Abraham, but “Christ came and fulfilled that Covenant, and reformed the Christians, from a national church state, into gospel churches, founded upon a new constitution, which forbid their blending church and state, as formerly.” Connecticut’s certificate act was not just a blending of church and state but also an invasion of religious freedom, for “[i]f rulers say we many worship God . . . by lodging a certificate, does it not imply that we may not without their liberty?” And Dodge defended Jefferson against the Federalist charge that he was an enemy of religion, a charge of which there was no proof “except his being unwilling to encourage, support, and vindicate such abominable hypocritical regulations.”

Nehemiah Dodge both advocated and practiced religious freedom. And his letter to Jefferson contributed in a small way to the birth of a metaphor -- the “wall of separation between Church and State” -- that helps guard that freedom today.

Further Reading: Photographic reproductions of Dodge’s letter to Jefferson and Jefferson’s reply can be found by searching for the word “Danbury” in the Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress, <[memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html)>. The texts of these letters are transcribed at <[www.wallbuilders.com/et\\_danbury.html](http://www.wallbuilders.com/et_danbury.html)>. An interesting article on the drafting of Jefferson’s reply may be found at <[www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danbury.html](http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9806/danbury.html)>.

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