

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE W. SOUTHWORTH

By Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

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George Washington Southworth was born January 1, 1811 in New York. His ancestry has not been discovered, but it is known that he graduated from Amherst College in New York.

From the Biographical Record of the Alumni of Amherst College, 1821-[1896], Volume 1, page 154: "George Washington Southworth was a resident of Prattsburgh, NY, while in college. Studied at Auburn T. T. '38 - '40; was licensed to preach, but became deranged and was never ordained. In 1844, he started to go to Kentucky, visited a relative in Chautauqua Co., NY and since then nothing has been heard from him."

In fact, in Wheeling, Ohio County, (W) Virginia, this George W. Southworth married Sarah "Kessiah" McConkey on May 27, 1848.

And he had the good sense to settle in the beautiful valley of Boggs Run.

According to family legend, Kessiah's parents emigrated from Ireland and then walked and rode horseback over the mountains, arriving in Wellsburg, Brooke County, (West) Virginia, a few days before the Kessiah's birth. This is in conflict with the census records that consistently state her place of birth as Pennsylvania. Her birth year was circa 1821-1824, according to those records.

1850 Census, Ohio County, (W) Virginia:

SOUTHWORTH (1092)

George, 30-wm, Laborer, b NY

Kissiah, 29-wf, PA

Franklin, 1-m, b VA

On June 18, 1855, George W. Southworth purchased from Thomas P. Jones "1 acre & 60 poles, more or less" on Boggs Run, in Marshall County, (West) Virginia. This property was part of a larger tract of land bought by Thomas P. Jones from Benjamin McMechen on February 19, 1844. It was described in the deed as follows:

"...a certain tract of or parcel of land on the Waters of Boggs Run in the County of Marshall in the State of Virginia and adjoining lands with the BARTO tract and others and being a part of a tract of land purchased from Benjamin McMechen by Sd Thomas P. Jones. In deed bearing date on the 19th day of February 1844 bounded as follows. Beginning at a poplar corner to the old Clark Survey now the BARTO tract therein with the lines of said tract North 72 1/2° West 56 poles to a stake in the ravine, therein down said ravine North 11 1/2° West 4 poles to stake in Boggs Run then up said run North 82? 3/4° East 12 3/5 poles to stake therein South 51° East 10 poles to stake by spring therein leaving said run South 65 1/2 ° East 37 posts to the beginning, containing one acre and sixty poles more or less...."

This description of the property, of course, is not readily understood by lay people. However, this land was *in the vicinity of Orum's Lane*, just off Boggs Run, near the bottom of Boggs Run Hill. The property, which adjoins the BARTO tract, was either to the left of the

entrance to Orum's Lane, or just across the road from it - perhaps both. This was the location of a log cabin home built by George W. Southworth.

Before George bought the property in 1855, he and Kessiah had a son, Franklin, born in 1849; a daughter, Mary Anna, born November 17, 1851, and daughter, Eliza Jane, born March 27, 1853. On October 17[or 18, per W.Va. birth record], 1856, their daughter, Charity Isabella, was born. Franklin, fate unknown, is not found with the family in the 1860 census.

1860 Census, Marshall County, (W) Virginia:

SOUTHWORTH (2146)
George, 40-wm, farmer, NY
Keziah, 38-wf, PA
Mary A., 10-wf, VA
Eliza J., 7-wf, VA
Charity, 3-wf, VA

On January 1, 1861, Sarah "Emma" Southworth was born to George and Kessiah.

1870 Census, Union District, Marshall County, West Virginia

See actual census - <http://boggsrun.com/southworth1870.pdf>

SOUTHWORTH (245)
George W., 59-M, Promiscuous?, NY
Kesiah, 46-F, Keeping house, PA
Mary A., 18-F, House keeper, WV
Jane, 17-F, WV
Isabel, 12-F, WV
Emma, 9-F, WV

George W. Southworth bought another tract of land, 2 acres & 61 poles, on March 28, 1873 from James F. Dowler. The deed describes the property:

"...A certain tract of land or parcel of land situate on the waters of Boggs Run, Union Township, Marshall County, State of West Virginia and described and bounded as follows (to wit). Beginning at a Poplar, corner to the heirs of John Barto deceased and others, thence N. 72 1/2° W 33 25/100 Poles to a stake, thence N 41° E 12 28/100 Poles to a Stake in road, thence with said road S 80° E 30 12/100 Poles to a Stake, thence leaving said road 57° W 25 Poles to a Stake on a ravine a branch of Boggs Run and on a line of Wm. Remke, thence W 4 57/100 to the beginning Containing 2 Acres and 61 Poles. The same being a part of the land conveyed to said parties of the first part and Daniel Steenrod and wife by a deed dated the 27" day of March 1872...."

Based on subsequent deeds for this property, it is probable that this tract was the area that is Orum's Lane, off Boggs Run Road.

Charity Isabella "Belle" Southworth married Reuben Mobley on November 11, 1874 in Marshall County, West Virginia.

1880 Census, Union District, Marshall County, West Virginia

SOUTHWORTH (66)

George, 62-wm, married, laborer, NY ENG

Mary, 23-wf, keeping house, WV NY

Jane, 26-wf, domestic servant, WV NY

Emma, 19-wf, keeping house, WV NY

Where was Kessiah in 1880?

Reuben and Belle (Southworth) Mobley, in 1880, lived in Union District, Marshall County, but not on Boggs Run. According to familiar names in the census, they probably lived in the area that is now Mt. Olivet and Fairmont Pike, along Rt. 88.

The death of George W. Southworth was not reported to the county, but gr-gr-granddaughter, Marguerite Eimer Andres, states he died in 1886.

Presumably, following George's death, Kessiah Southworth remained in the home place with her daughters, Mary Anna, Eliza Jane and Emma. Neither Mary Anna nor Eliza Jane married, but Emma married Joseph E. Orum, a blacksmith, on March 4, 1890.

Joseph E. Orum, the son of James Orum and Loremma "Mary" Shaw, was named after his mother's brother, Joseph Shaw, a Civil War soldier, who was Killed in Battle on July 18, 1864. His death occurred while serving in Company "K" 1st W. Va. Infantry at the Battle of Snicker's Creek. His Civil War service medal, issued by the State of West Virginia, is in the possession of Marguerite Eimer Andres.

Joseph and Emma Orum had a daughter, Edna, born in 1890, and a son, George, born in 1896.

The death of Kessiah McConkey Southworth is not recorded at the county courthouse but her death occurred March 30, 1896. Marguerite Eimer Andres stated:

"I have an invoice from "Becker & Zimmerman, Furniture, Carpets, Oil Cloth, Ect." (Embalming and Undertaking a Specialty) that I found in my grandmother's papers. It is made out to "Mr. Reuben Mobley for Mrs. Southworth" and dated Benwood, WV, March 31, 1896. The invoice is for "1 5/6 Brn, casket Rough box, funeral cart attendance" - \$50.00. This matches the date we have for Kessiah's death (March 30, 1896). I also found a note that says "Kessiah Southworth lived w Mobleys in same house".

Both George and Kessiah Southworth are buried behind the Allen Grove Presbyterian Church in Sherrard.

Although no will was found at the Marshall County Courthouse, deeds indicate that Emma Southworth Orum was the heir to the Southworth property. It's possible that the sisters shared equally, but in any case, deeds reveal that the two parcels of land purchased by George W. Southworth in 1855 and 1873, respectively, were sold for nominal sums by Joseph and Emma Orum in February 1898 to Emma's three sisters, Mary Anna, Eliza Jane, and Isabella "Belle" Mobley, wife of Reuben Mobley.

The next month, on March 29, 1898, Emma Southworth Orum bought the adjoining property on the south side of Boggs Run from the children of James and Margaret J. (Allen) Gosney, heirs to the part of the John Barto property that included the area that is now Fort Clark Estates.

Joseph and Emma Orum built a house and a blacksmith shop on their property. At the bottom of Boggs Run Hill, the property is currently the second on the left, 514 Boggs Run Road. The original plot also contained the lot that holds the first house on the left. When Jack Cunningham owned the property in 1946, he gave the upper lot to his sister, Ruth Cunningham Clarke.

At the time of the 1900 census, Reuben and Belle Mobley, with two of their children, were residing in the Southworth homeplace with Belle's sisters, Mary Anna and Eliza Jane.

1900 Census, Union District, Marshall County, West Virginia

MOBLEY (511)

Reuben, Head, 48, b May 1852, married 25 yrs, Day Laborer, WV OH OH

Belle, Wife, 44, b Oct 1855, 4 children/3 living, WV NY PA

Ida M., Dau., 20, b July 1879, WV WV WV

Albert, Son, 15, b May 1885, At school, WV WV WV

Southworth, Mary A., s-in-law, 49, b Nov 1850, WV NY PA

Southworth, Liza J., s-in-law, 47, b Mar 1853, WV NY PA

The older Mobley son, Thomas George Mobley, born in May 1876, had married Clara Andreas in Marshall County on October 16, 1898.

Next door to the Southworth-Mobley family was Joseph and Emma Southworth Orum, who had bought the property two years earlier.

ORUM (510)

Joseph, Head, 36, b Nov 1863, 36, married 11 yrs, Blacksmith, WV WV WV

Emma, Wife, 39, b Jan 1861, 2 children/2 living, WV, NY, WV

Edna, Dau., 9, b Aug 1890, WV WV WV

George, Son, 3, b Nov 1896, WV WV WV

Edna Estelle Orum, daughter of Joseph E. and Emma Southworth Orum, married a cousin, Ira Orum, in Marshall County on September 26, 1908. Ira Lawson Orum, born December 3, 1879, was the son of Civil War veteran (Company "H" 17th W.Va. Infantry), Peter Orum, and Esther/Hester Phoebe McHenry, residents of Rock Hill Road in Sherrard.

In the 1910 census, Reuben Mobley and the Southworths were still on the Southworth property, Joseph and Emma Southworth Orum were next to them, and George Mobley and wife, Clara Andreas, were living nearby, possibly down the road in the next house on the other side. George and Clara sold "a parcel" to George Andreas, possibly Clara's brother, in 1916. The "parcel" may have been property and a house, or it might have been a piece of the property that George built a house on. George and Bertha lived there all their lives and then their son's family lived there.

1910 Census, Union District, Marshall County, West Virginia

MOBLEY (433)

Reuben, Head, 57, married once, 37 yrs, Laborer Odd Jobs, WV WV WV

Belle, 54, Wife, married once, 4 children/3 living, Washerwoman, WV, NY, WV

Ida M., Dau., 20, WV WV WV
Albert, Son, 25, Laborer Odd Jobs, WV WV WV
Southworth, Mary A., s-in-law, 59, WV NY WV
Southworth, Eliza J., s-in-law, 57, WV NY WV

ORUM (432)

Joseph E., Head, 47, married once, 12 yrs, Blacksmith own shop, WV, WV, WV
Emma, 49, married once, 2 children/2 living, WV NY WV
George J., Son, 14, WV WV WV

MOBLEY (431)

George, Head, 34, married once, 12 yrs, 4 children/3 living, WV WV WV
Clara, Wife, 29, married once, 2 children/2 living, Ger Ger Ger, immigrated 1881
Walter, Son, 9, WV WV Ger
Elvin, Son, 5, WV WV Ger

Thomas "George" and Clara (Andreas) Mobley moved to Akron, Summit County, Ohio before the 1920 census; George was working in a Rubber shop there. He had bought (or was given) part of the Southworth property in 1921, but the details of that transaction were not researched. However, it was probably the property share of the unmarried Southworth sisters; his parents retained the rest. Mary Anna Southworth died on Boggs Run on February 27, 1923.

Ida Mobley, daughter of Reuben and Belle (Southworth) Mobley, married Melvin Morris in 1902 in Marshall County. On 30 April 1918, Ida received from her father, Reuben Mobley, the deed to the small piece of property that is just below the entrance to Orum's Lane. Ira Orum, a carpenter, constructed a Sears Roebuck house for them and it is still there, although remodeled. A photo of the original house is shown in the photo gallery on this site.

1920 Census, Union District, Marshall County, West Virginia

MOBLEY (84)

Reuben, Head, 67, Farm Operator, WV MD WV
Isabelle, Wife, 63, Wife, WV, NY, PA

ORUM (85)

J. E., Head, 56, Blacksmith, WV WV WV
Emma O., Wife, WV NY OH

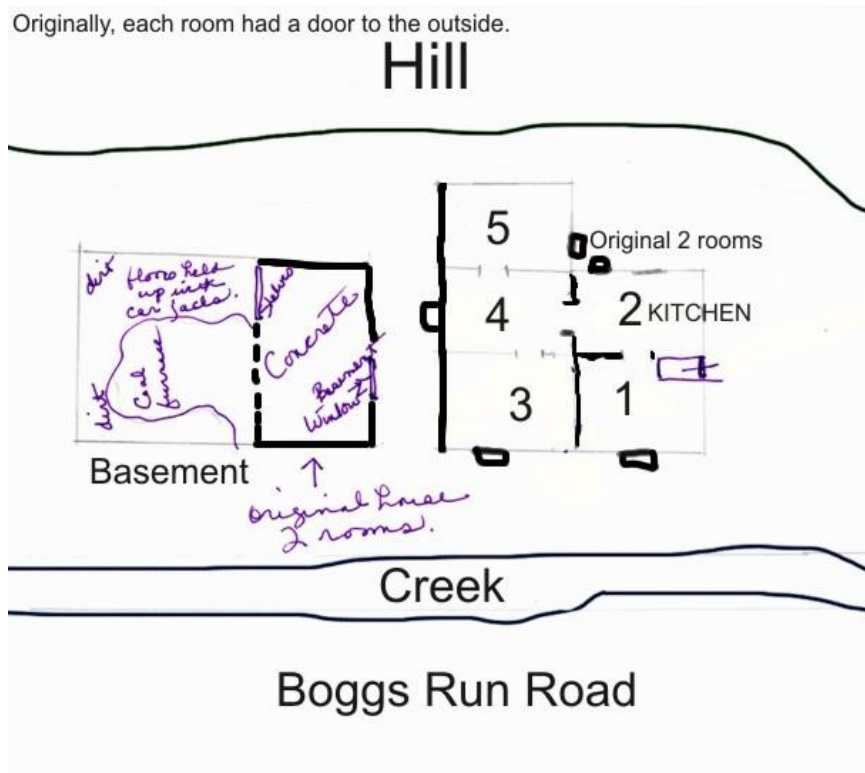
Southworth Property: George's father, Reuben Mobley, died in Akron on October 25, 1935, and his mother, (Charity) Isabella Southworth died soon after, on June 3, 1936. The next year, on April 11, 1937, Eliza Jane Southworth died in the County Home. - George owned the Southworth property and sold it in 1937 to Earl Scott Orum.

Earl Scott Orum was the son of Newton Scott Orum, the brother of Ira Orum. - Earl Orum owned Orum's Lane and lived in a big house at the back of the lane. He was a carpenter but it is not known if he built the house. His only son, Jack E., built the middle house on the lane and lived there with his wife, Norma, and his son, Scott E., until they moved to Indiana, probably in the late 1950s. Earl died in 1965, but had not been living on the lane since the previous decade. The large house was sold, but the property and two smaller houses were held by his son's family and was rented to numerous families for many years.

Joseph & Emma Southworth Orum Property: Joseph E. Orum, born in an unknown location on Boggs Run on December 31, 1863, died March 6, 1922. On May 1, 1924, Emma Southworth Orum conveyed their Boggs Run property to their daughter, Edna, and her husband Ira Orum, with the condition that she "have, hold and occupy as a residence and home two rooms of dwelling house on said property during her lifetime."

It is likely that Ira and Edna moved into the home with Emma about that time, along with their two daughters, Dorothy and Marie, who attended Sherrard High School. It also seems reasonable that the fifth room was built on the back of the house at that time. Photos taken about 1928 don't show the room, so it was probably built by Ira after Joseph's death, perhaps as a room for Emma, or for the two girls. It was built without a foundation or heat source, but it was the nicest room in the house in the 1940s, with flowered wallpaper and hardwood floors. Like all the rooms, it had a door to the outside. The inhabitant of the room could have stepped out the door to the backyard to go to the kitchen or the outhouse, without disturbing the other residents.

This is a very poor sketch of the original house, 514 Boggs Run Road, which had a concrete floor under the original two rooms, with rooms two and three built over dirt floor.



Emma died in 1941 in Warwood, West Virginia, and the property was sold by Ira and Edna to Herman Cunningham in 1943.

Ira Lawson Orum died November 4, 1947 in Jefferson County, Ohio; Edna died in February 1983 in Toronto, Ohio. They are buried at Allen Grove Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Sherrard. Edna's parents, Joseph E. and Emma (Southworth) Orum, as well as the other Southworth relatives, are also buried there.

Ira and Edna (Orum) Orum had two daughters: Hilda Marie was born April 3, 1910 and Dorothy Marguerite was born September 13, 1913.

Dorothy Marguerite Orum married (1) Charles Cunningham, and (2) John Zimmerman, She died in Steubenville, Ohio in 2004.

Hilda Marie Orum married John Robert Eimer on October 20, 1934 in Wheeling. They lived in the vicinity of the Weirton Steel Corporation, John Eimer's place of employment. They had three children: Charles Kenneth Eimer, born in 1940, died shortly after birth. John Robert Eimer, born in 1941 in Steubenville, Ohio, married Hope Milhone; his death occurred in 2003. Marguerite Ann, a teacher, was born in Weirton, W. Va.; her husband is Charles Ronald Andres.