Mary Youvan Skubitz and the Frontenac Triangle

A Family History of the Amazon Army and Twentieth Century America

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Mary Youvan Skubitz and the Frontenac Triangle
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Author Note

This family history centers on my great aunt Mary Youvan Skubitz, a leader of the Amazon Army in the Kansas coalfields in December 1921. It follows her parents' European records, the immigrant household, her organizing and surviving journal, and the congressional career of her son Joe. Her brother Frank's marriage into the Menghini family extends the account to coalfield business, remembered work in the atomic industry, inheritance, and household harm. The public record and the family's private experience belong together in this history.

Frontenac is the family center. Girard, Lamar, and Galena with Baxter Springs supply the surrounding regional essays. Their closeness provides a setting; particular connections are identified where records or my recollections support them. Two generations of Joseph Skubitz and two women named Mary appear in the family. The older Joseph was Frank's brother-in-law; Congressman Joe was Frank's nephew. Joe's mother, Mary Youvan, is distinguished throughout from his wife, Mary Jess McClellan Skubitz.

At seventy-one, after three years of collaboration with artificial intelligence, I have brought family papers, archival descriptions, and public records together with personal memories. The interpretation is offered in my name. Numbered chapter notes identify documentary sources, published transcriptions, and my testimony. I retain my disagreement with the recorded 1962 death year of Joe's mother as a disputed point. I also preserve my clarification that Dole's 1988 question about Tess concerned Joe's wife. The nickname and remembered grave inscription require separate attention from those established relationships.

The Sunday Meeting in Franklin

December 11 1921

On Sunday, December 11, 1921, about five hundred women gathered at the miners' hall in Franklin, Kansas. They came from the mining communities of Crawford and Cherokee Counties during a strike that had interrupted the income of their households. Their meeting produced a public commitment to support the striking miners and a plan to confront the mines that continued operating. Mary Youvan Skubitz, my great aunt, was one of the meeting's leaders. [1.1]

The next morning, women assembled at Franklin and began marching toward the working mines. Over December 12, 13, and 14, the movement drew thousands of participants and spread across the coalfields. My great grandmother Julia Youvan, Mary's mother, is named with Mary among its leaders. The demonstrations became known as the Amazon Army. The December 11 assembly was the point at which the women's shared difficulties became an organized public action. [1.2]

For Mary, the strike reached into a household in which food still had to be prepared and a son still had to be cared for. She had married Joseph Skubitz in the early years of the century; their son Joe was born in 1906. The woman who helped organize the march was a wife and mother whose daily responsibilities continued while she took part in it. Her political action belonged to that life. It did not begin with the name that newspapers later gave the movement. [1.3]

The women sought to stop coal production that weakened the strike. Their intervention therefore went beyond asking spectators to sympathize with their families. It brought them into direct confrontation with people who continued working. Reports describe intimidation and physical coercion as well as flags and determined marching. Those methods, and the state's response to them, belong in the account alongside the grievances that brought the women together. [1.4]

Mary also wrote about the demonstrations. Her ten-page account on ledger paper survives in the collections of Pittsburg State University. Published excerpts preserve a participant's judgment of the women and their purposes. That record gives this family history something more substantial than a famous relative attached to a famous event: it gives Mary a surviving voice. [1.5]

The Woman Behind the Public Name

The woman at Franklin was Mary Youvan Skubitz, daughter of Julia and Andreas, wife of Joseph Skubitz, and mother of Congressman Joe. She is distinct in the documentary record from the congressman's wife, Mary Jess Skubitz. My family-name and gravestone recollections associate Tess and the wording Mary Tess Skubitz with my great aunt. The birth and family papers identifying the Amazon Army participant use Maria and Mary. I have clarified that Dole's 1988 health inquiry concerned the congressman's wife; Chapter 12 preserves that encounter. [1.6]

Mary was my grandfather Frank Youvan’s sister. Julia was their mother and my great grandmother. Congressman Joe Skubitz was Mary’s son, the relative I call Uncle Joe. The family relationships are set out together at the back of this book, so that the narrative can follow their lives without repeatedly reconstructing the same genealogy.

Joe’s later congressional career made his name accessible in national records. The earlier family history requires a different search: a military discharge, a marriage certificate, a passport, a birth record, a household in a mining community, and Mary’s account of collective action. Each has a place in explaining how this branch of my family came to Frontenac.

Looking Back From the Meeting

To understand the woman at Franklin, the account now turns back to her parents and the European records that preceded their American life. It follows Julia and Andreas into the coalfields, considers the work of their households, and then returns to the demonstrations and their aftermath. Mary’s marriage, motherhood, leadership, writing, and later documentary presence carry that story forward.

Girard, Lamar, and the Galena and Baxter Springs area form the surrounding regional frame I call the Frontenac Triangle. Their publishing, religious, and presidential histories appear as shorter regional essays. The family’s own path continues through Joe’s public service, the Pittsburg aircraft industry, and my return to the records.

I was born in 1955 and approach these materials as a descendant, not as a witness to the march. At seventy-one, I can place surviving documents beside the names and recollections that came down through my family. The meeting in Franklin is where I begin because it puts Mary in the history through something she did. The chapters that follow seek the life around that action.

Two Generations Named Andreas

A Packet from Washington

On May 5, 1966, Congressman Joe Skubitz wrote to Frank Youvan in Frontenac, Kansas. His greeting was the familiar ‘Dear Unk.’ Enclosed were copies of family papers and their English translations: his grandfather’s military discharge, marriage certificate, passport, and immigration papers, together with his mother’s birth certificate. A promise made several years earlier had become a packet an uncle could hold and read. The letter joined Washington to an older household history preserved in German and Serbian records. [2.1]

Frank was Mary’s brother and my grandfather; Joe was Mary’s son. The packet crossed those branches of the family without requiring a public ceremony or an official account of the congressman’s achievements. It concerned the people from whom both men descended. The same Mary whose leadership had entered newspapers in 1921 appeared here as a child in a parish register and a family passport. Her father’s service record reached farther back, into a European army and a life preceding Kansas. The letter’s destination was 605 West Harris, Frontenac. Its familiar greeting and local address keep the exchange rooted in a family. Although a federal institution had prepared the translations, Joe’s purpose in forwarding them was practical: to put the records into his uncle’s hands.

The papers carry several dates because they passed through several hands. Nineteenth-century authorities recorded service, marriage, birth, and permission to travel. Vladimir N. Pregelj prepared a memorandum for Joe at the Library of Congress on January 30, 1963; George Starosolsky translated the discharge on January 31. Joe forwarded the material to Frank in 1966. Jessica S. Pringle and I brought the letter, translations, family trees, and timeline together in a June 20, 2024 compilation. The translated certificates and the modern genealogy have different evidentiary roles, even when they appear within the same file. [2.2]

Father and Son

The modern family tree identifies an elder Andreas Youvan, born in 1808 and deceased in 1892, and a younger Andreas Youvan, born in 1852 and deceased in 1926. The younger man was Julia’s husband and Mary’s father. Their shared name can compress two lives into one in an inherited account. Their dates restore the distance between them: the elder was already in his forties when the younger was

born. Those lifespans come from the compiled genealogy; they are not all supplied by the military certificate. [2.3]

The younger Andreas appears in his discharge as Andreas Juvan, born in 1852 at Zabava 14, in the district of Littai, province of Krain. His religion is entered as Catholic. The passport translation identifies Littai with Litija. Krain was Carniola, in the Austrian imperial territory now within Slovenia. These particulars place him in an administrative setting before the family's American surname, Youvan, became familiar. [2.4]

The marriage extract uses another form: Johan Andreas, a coalminer. His father is also entered as Johan Andreas and described as a laborer. Pregelj treated Johan as a surname form in these papers, rather than proof that another man named John had entered the household. The marriage entry connects a son and father bearing the same recorded name; the later tree supplies the elder man's lifespan. Together they preserve a lineage, while leaving the origin of each detail identifiable. [2.5]

The Dragooner's Discharge

On December 31, 1884, the younger Andreas received his discharge at Stockerau. He had completed twelve years, eight months, and seventeen days of service. The certificate divides this into ten years, eight months, and seventeen days of earlier service and two years with the K.K. Landwehr Dragoon Regiment No. 1. It describes duties as Dragooner and Unterfahr-cannoneer, followed by service as a Dragooner. At approximately thirty-two, he had spent a substantial part of his adult life under military obligation. [2.6]

K.K. identifies the Austrian imperial establishment. A dragoon was a cavalry soldier, but the word alone does not identify his army. The issuing authority, final unit, and Stockerau discharge establish Austrian imperial service. They do not establish service in the army of the Kingdom of Serbia. The family's description of him as Serbian concerns cultural identity and inherited memory; the surviving military record answers the narrower question of the institution in which he served.

One earlier unit designation is uncertain. The translation prints a dragoon regiment number as '52' with a question mark, and also refers to Artillery Regiment No. 6. That uncertainty belongs beside the number. The final Landwehr regiment and discharge date are clearer. The certificate states that Andreas fulfilled his military obligation and was discharged under Section 39 of the Military Service Law. Its practical meaning was release from the obligation recorded in the paper. [2.7]

Printed language calls his service faithful and brave. Fields for a campaign, battle, decoration, and military service badge contain no specific identifying information in the translation. They cannot supply a battle or medal omitted from the surviving account. What the document does give is a long period of service and a formal civilian transition. Within four months, Andreas appears in a marriage record as a coalminer in Kostolac. Soldier, husband, and worker are successive identities we can follow through dated records.

Names and an Inherited Story

Serbian identity belongs to the family's account of itself. Austrian birthplace and service, marriage in Serbia, and movement among languages add particulars to that account. A birthplace describes location; a regiment describes service; a parish entry describes a marriage. None provides an exhaustive account of cultural belonging. The papers show a man moving through adjoining European worlds before the family moved to the United States. [2.8]

Pregelj identified Juvan, Jovan, and Johan as forms appearing in the documents. He observed that the Austro-Hungarian papers used Juvan, with an apparent unofficial alteration to Jovan, while the Serbian papers used Johan. He proposed that a priest might have interpreted the surname through its resemblance to the Serbian given name Jovan, corresponding to John; Johan or Johann was a German equivalent. This was a translator's hypothesis about the spellings. Andreas corresponds to Andrew, not John. [2.9]

A separate family tradition places an Andreas 'close' to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The archduke and his wife Sophie were killed in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. The elder Andreas had died in 1892 according to the tree. The younger would have been about sixty-two in 1914, decades after his discharge. The surviving family papers do not identify his location then or explain what 'close' meant. No evidence presented here establishes participation, acquaintance with the assassins, or another personal connection. [2.10]

That inherited phrase remains an open question. The younger man's military history is much firmer: he completed Austrian imperial service in 1884 and married Julia in 1885. Following him into that household brings us to the people whose lives can next be traced through parish extracts, a passport, and the Kansas coalfields.

Julia and the Journey to Kansas

A Marriage in Kostolac

The marriage register brings Julia into the documentary story. An extract from the Rukomija church community's register, associated with the Church of Holy Father Nikolaj, records the marriage on April 21, 1885. Both bride and groom were residing in Kostolac. The groom was Johan Andreas, a coalminer; the bride was Julija Gasparović. It was the first marriage for each. The ceremony followed Andreas's December 1884 discharge by less than four months, placing their married life immediately after his recorded military obligation. [3.1]

The register records Julia's birth as February 2, 1866, at Kamenica in Austria-Hungary, and names her father as Gašpar Čendeš, a coalminer. Andreas's father was a laborer. The witness, Mateas Zori, was another coalminer residing in Kostolac. These entries place the marriage within a working community. Mining appears beside the groom, the bride's father, and the witness. The occupation later associated with the family in Kansas was already part of its European world. [3.2]

Julia's name changes across the surviving material. The marriage translation gives Julija Gasparović. The modern tree uses Julia Charvas, while the timeline uses Julia Gasparovic Csendes. Čendeš and Csendes are written forms associated with her paternal name. The documents do not establish that every spelling is interchangeable in every setting. They show how her identification varied across a parish extract, a modern genealogy, and an American family account. Julia Youvan is the name through which her Kansas history is most readily recognizable. [3.3]

The modern tree gives her lifespan as 1866–1944. In April 1885 she was about nineteen; her husband was in his early thirties. The marriage extract was issued at Kostolac on March 19, 1889, several years after the ceremony. That issue date belongs to the copy, rather than the marriage itself. Preserving both dates gives us a household beginning in 1885 and a family obtaining a documentary extract before its later migration. [3.4]

Maria Becomes Mary

The same church community recorded the birth of their daughter Maria at Kostolac in 1887. Her parents were entered as Andreas Johan and Julija. A note distinguishes September 28 according to the calendar described as Greek from October 10 according to the calendar described as Roman Catholic. These are the

Julian and Gregorian dates for the same birth. They are not different birthdays belonging to different children. [3.5]

The register records baptism at the Church of Holy Father Nikolaj on September 29 in its own calendar. It identifies Maria as female and as her mother’s second baby. The godparent was Marija, wife of Matija Zoro, a coalminer in Kostolac. That small entry records a relationship around the child as well as another mining occupation. It does not preserve the history of Julia’s earlier baby. Maria’s place within an existing household is clearer than the full composition of that household at the time. [3.6]

Later summaries sometimes describe Mary as Slovenian-born. The Pittsburg State University finding aid does so, while giving her birth year as 1887 and arrival in America as 1890. The translated parish extract supplies the more specific birthplace, Kostolac. Her parents’ Austrian localities and her own Serbian birthplace make the family’s regional history more complicated than a short immigrant biography can convey. For the event of her birth, the parish record presented here provides the closest surviving evidence. [3.7]

The birth extract identifies Maria, the daughter who became Mary Youvan Skubitz in the Kansas record. I connect the familiar name Tess and the reported gravestone inscription Mary Tess Skubitz with my great aunt. The birth extract does not supply that later name. [3.8]

A Family Passport

On March 30, 1890, the imperial and royal county office at Littai issued a passport to Andreas Juvan. Its translated heading invoked Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. Andreas’s occupation was coalminer, his birth year 1852, and his residence Zabava, in the county of Littai and crownland of Krain. A pencil correction altered Juvan to Jovan. Birthplace, occupation, and surname variation link this travel paper with the discharge and marriage records. [3.9]

The family table lists his wife Julie Juvan, his daughter Maria Juvan, and his son Johann Juvan, born in 1889. Maria’s age is entered as three. Julia’s is entered as twenty-five, slightly different from the age produced by a February 1866 birth in March 1890. Rather than correcting those entries silently, we can retain them as the passport’s particulars. The table’s main contribution is the family grouping: two parents and two young children appear together under one travel authorization. [3.10]

The passport gives physical descriptions and marks Andreas as illiterate in the space for his signature. This is an official entry concerning the bearer, without a

fuller account of what he could read or understand. His service, marriage, children, and travel were being documented by other people. For his descendants, such paperwork would become a rare means of recovering the outline of his life. The paper that once identified a traveler became a record of a household's departure from its earlier world.

Its stated travel covered the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and other European countries, with validity for three years. March 30 is the issue date, not a proved Atlantic sailing date. The university account independently places Mary's arrival in America with her parents in 1890. Together, these sources locate the migration around that year while leaving the ship, crossing, and precise arrival day undescribed. Mary was a small child; the documents do not tell us what she remembered of the journey. [3.11]

Life in Another Coalfield

In American family usage Andreas became Andrew and Juvan became Youvan. The university account identifies Andrew as a coalminer in Crawford County. His occupation runs through the surviving sequence: miner at marriage, miner in the passport, miner in Kansas. The records do not explain why the family chose a particular Kansas town. They do show work continuing across migration, within the larger movement of European households into American coalfields. [3.12]

Julia's household expanded in America. The modern timeline lists Mary and John Andrew among the older children, followed by younger sons and daughters. Frank belonged to the younger generation. The branch leading through Mary became the Skubitz family; Frank's branch retained the Youvan name through which I know this history. They grew from the same immigrant household, with children reaching adulthood at different times. [3.13]

By December 1921, Julia and Mary were acting together in the Kansas coalfields. A photograph published in the Pittsburg Daily Headlight on December 19 shows Mary Skubitz with her mother, identified in the caption as Julia Youvain. The photograph was later reproduced with an identification of both women as march leaders. Their recorded presence joins the mother who had married a miner at Kostolac to the daughter listed in the family passport, now taking part in a public labor struggle. [3.14]

Their shared action has more depth when placed beside those earlier records. Mining had shaped the family's work before Kansas; migration had carried its children across languages and borders; years of household life preceded the

moment a newspaper made the women visible. Julia’s individual arrest is not established by the sources used here. Her place beside Mary in the leadership is documented. The women who entered the December marches carried this earlier family history with them.

Mary and the Coalfield Household

Daughter Wife and Mother

Before she was an Amazon Army leader, Mary was a daughter in an immigrant family and then a wife and mother in the Kansas coalfields. The distinction matters because her household was not simply background to the march. It was one of the places where the conflict acquired its urgency. A mine paid wages to an individual worker. Food, clothing, shelter, and the care of children depended on what that wage could support. The people outside the mine were already living with the consequences of decisions made inside it.

Mary's translated birth certificate places her birth at Kostolac, Serbia, in 1887. She entered the Kansas story as a young child in the family of Andreas and Julia Youvan. The university finding aid reports that the family reached America in 1890 and that her father worked in Crawford County's mines. In the early 1900s she married Joseph Skubitz. Their son Joseph, later known publicly as Joe, was born in 1906. The finding aid does not supply a wedding date or describe Joseph's occupation. [4.1]

The husband in this marriage was the older Joseph Skubitz. Their son, Joseph Skubitz Jr., became Congressman Joe Skubitz. Since Mary was Frank Youvan’s sister, her husband was Frank’s brother-in-law and their son was Frank’s nephew. Those descriptions belong to two generations of men. The shared names do not establish that both men married women from the Youvan family. Joe’s wife is separately recorded as Mary Jess McClellan Skubitz. [4.6]

That marriage joined the Youvan and Skubitz names within the mining community. Julia's daughter became Mary Skubitz in the record of the march and the archive that preserves her account. Her public name did not cancel her earlier relationships: she was still Julia's daughter and a sister within the Youvan family. In 1921, mother and daughter entered the same protest as adult women, each already possessing years of experience in the region. Mary was about thirty four; Julia was about fifty five.

One recollection brings Mary closer to the household than a list of dates can. Joe later remembered that she instructed him in making bread for the mornings when she would be away marching. The account, preserved in regional public history, shows preparations for a protest becoming a practical family arrangement. There was work to be done at home while Mary took part in action beyond it, and her son

took on part of that work. The source calls him fourteen, but his documented birth in May 1906 makes him fifteen in December 1921. [4.2]

The bread-making detail shows the practical preparation behind Mary’s participation. Her son experienced the dispute through his mother’s instructions and absence, as well as through public events. The household arrangement belongs beside the account of her organizing.

The Industry Inside the Home

A miner's household could not put its needs on hold while a labor dispute awaited settlement. An interruption of earnings changed what could be bought and what had to be postponed. Winter made those decisions more pressing. Household work might stretch a limited supply or distribute a shortage, but it could not produce the wages that had disappeared. The apparent boundary between company property and a miner's home concealed a deeper connection: industrial decisions reached people who had no place on the company's payroll.

The men who worked underground confronted the employer directly. Women experienced the same relationship through another set of obligations. A reduced income altered the provision of meals, the purchase of clothes, and the care of children. In these circumstances, supporting the strike could mean accepting immediate hardship in the hope of obtaining greater security. A household could believe the miners' cause was just and still suffer because the dispute continued. Commitment did not abolish need, and need did not automatically abolish commitment.

It would be misleading to portray women as discovering politics only when they left their homes. Managing a family under difficult conditions already required decisions about scarcity, mutual help, and competing obligations. Those decisions were connected to the public world, even when made privately. The march changed the visibility of that connection. Women who ordinarily absorbed the consequences of industrial policy at home appeared where coal was being produced and challenged work that weakened the strike.

The household also made the dispute a question about the future. Children needed food and clothing immediately, but parents were deciding what conditions those children would inherit. The women could oppose a law for its present effect on family earnings and for the power it gave the state over future labor struggles. When they spoke about protecting children, they joined the immediate task of provision to a longer concern about freedom. Their domestic responsibilities

supplied a reason to participate in public life, rather than an explanation for remaining outside it.

The Law and the Divided Union

The Kansas Court of Industrial Relations was created in 1920 to intervene in industries considered essential to public welfare, including coal. Its supporters wanted production maintained and disputes settled under state supervision. The law gave the tribunal authority over wages, hours, and working conditions. It recognized collective bargaining but prohibited concerted action intended to interrupt covered industries, while preserving an individual's right to quit. That distinction was crucial: a worker could possess a formal freedom to leave and lose the organized means by which workers hoped to negotiate from a stronger position. [4.3]

The law also placed obligations on employers, restricting certain deliberate reductions in production and providing procedures for permission to reduce or end operations. Its wording was therefore broader than a command to labor alone. Yet placing formal duties on both sides did not remove their different practical positions. An employer controlled a business and its resources. Workers depended on selling their labor. A prohibition on concerted withdrawal affected the instrument by which employees could most directly challenge the terms of that sale.

Alexander Howat, the miners' district leader, resisted the court's authority. His imprisonment helped provoke the strike that preceded the women's intervention. The conflict also divided the United Mine Workers of America: Howat's Kansas supporters opposed the national leadership under John L. Lewis. A family could therefore support its district while finding itself at odds with the larger union. The struggle concerned authority within organized labor as well as authority imposed by the state. Coal produced during the walkout weakened the pressure the striking families hoped to exert. [4.4]

A Woman Who Could Be Understood

Mary brought abilities to the dispute that were useful in a region of immigrant communities. The historical literature credits her with five languages, naming German, Italian, Slovene, and English. It also describes her as a socialist with a history of activism in the coal camps. Her prominence did not begin with a journalist noticing an unfamiliar spectacle. She could communicate with women of

different backgrounds and speak with people working at the mines. Those abilities helped turn grievances shared across households into action that could cross neighborhood and language boundaries. [4.5]

The name Little Balkans should not make those communities seem interchangeable. A common destination did not erase differences in language, religion, or political experience. Cooperation had to be built among people who could face similar economic pressures without sharing every custom or conviction. Leadership in such a setting included the work of making a proposal understandable. Mary could help explain a dispute and carry an understanding across a social boundary; the women who accepted the proposal gave it force.

By December, families had endured months without ordinary earnings. The meeting at Franklin carried that experience into collective action. The next chapter follows the three days when women confronted the coalfield economy together.

The Amazon Army of December 1921

A Decision Becomes a March

The December 11 meeting introduced at the beginning of this book was the point at which household grievances became a collective decision. About five hundred women gathered at the miners' hall in Franklin. Mary was among its leaders and addressed the women; Julia is also named among the movement's leaders in regional histories. Their resolution supported the miners' resistance and connected the industrial court dispute with the future of their children. The following morning brought the first march. [5.1]

The union hall brought women from different households and mining communities into one discussion. The decision then depended on participants carrying it back through their neighborhoods and making their own arrangements to march.

The principal marches occurred on December 12, 13, and 14. Women gathered before dawn on the first morning and went toward operating mines. Surviving summaries give estimates from roughly two thousand to six thousand as the demonstrations developed. These figures describe a movement changing in scale while groups formed, divided, and reassembled. Thousands of participants carried the action beyond one mine or neighborhood. More than sixty mines appear in accounts of its reach. [5.2]

Their purpose was to prevent work that undermined the strike. This made the march an economic intervention as well as a public demonstration. Coal still being extracted reduced the pressure the striking community hoped to exert. The women confronted the places where that extraction continued. Their grievance concerned the families bearing the costs of resistance while production by other workers made those costs less likely to achieve the intended result.

Mary Among the Marchers

Mary's role carried the decision beyond the hall. She led groups moving between mines and possessed the language abilities needed to engage women from different communities. Fluent English also helped her deal with mine personnel. Her leadership therefore involved more than being conspicuous in a crowd. An organizer had to make an argument understood, help people act together, and deal

with those who rejected the argument. The record places Mary in that work rather than simply naming her as a symbolic representative. [5.3]

Julia's participation adds a generational dimension. Mother and daughter entered the same struggle as experienced adults, linked by kinship but also connected with the wider mining community. Their shared presence does not identify a private conversation between them or reveal how they divided responsibilities. What it establishes is that two generations of this immigrant family belonged among the movement's recognized leaders.

The march also brought different family relationships into public view. Wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, and other women associated with mining households participated. Their stake was not limited to being the spouses of particular union members. Coal production sustained dependencies across generations. The work being disputed belonged to employed men, but the consequences extended through families that contained many people with no direct employment relationship to the operator.

For those women, an operating mine was a place where the community's division could be confronted. The marchers sought to make continuing work difficult and to persuade or compel workers to stop. This was the deliberate exercise of pressure. To describe it only as a procession would miss its objective; to describe the participants only as a mob would conceal the circumstances and arguments that brought them there. Their methods and their grievances both belong to the account.

Flags and Coercion

American flags feature prominently in the photographs and descriptions. They expressed a claim to belong to the nation whose authorities the women challenged. The marchers did not concede that obedience to the industrial court exhausted the meaning of citizenship. They could dispute the government's use of power while invoking the country's symbols. Visible patriotism also challenged efforts to dismiss immigrant participants as outsiders whose ancestry disqualified their political demands. [5.4]

The confrontations were not confined to peaceful symbolism. Accounts include intimidation, the overturning of food containers, physical assaults, and red pepper thrown at people continuing to work. Pepper was a means of harassment capable of causing pain. Recognizing the women's hardship does not require treating its use as harmless or removing coercion from the story. The intervention sought to interrupt

production, and some of its methods imposed that objective on people who opposed it. [5.5]

Mary's writing offers a participant's account of another kind of encounter. As reproduced by Goossen, her journal describes three African American workers at a Weir Coal Company mine agreeing to leave after the women explained the dispute. The episode suggests that explanation could accompany confrontation. It remains Mary's account of a particular exchange, rather than proof of agreement throughout a movement marked by competing loyalties and racial inequalities. [5.6]

Descriptions of the marchers as an army made the event recognizable to audiences far from Kansas. The New York Times photographic section of December 25 spread the image nationally. Its military language emphasized the spectacle of women invading the usual territory of male industrial conflict. The name Amazon Army endured, but it did not make Julia and Mary officers in a formal military organization. The women remained people from households and neighborhoods who had undertaken a coordinated protest. [5.7]

Arrest and Aftermath

Governor Henry J. Allen sent the Kansas National Guard into the district, and troops arrived on December 15. The deployment included cavalry and a machine gun component. State intervention changed the conditions under which further demonstrations could proceed. The principal three days of marching had made the conflict nationally visible; the arrival of troops made the government's assertion of authority another part of the confrontation. [5.8]

Mary was among four prominent leaders imprisoned on December 16, with bail set at $750 each. For families already affected by months of interrupted earnings, the criminal process brought an additional financial burden. A woman who had helped organize a public response now faced individual exposure to state power. Mary's arrest is documented. Julia's identification as a leader does not establish that she was arrested with her daughter. [5.9]

The strike continued beyond the marches and ended in January 1922. Three days of collective action did not immediately secure all that the participants wanted. The women could interrupt production and attract national attention without obtaining a simple victory over the institutions they opposed. The immediate outcome nevertheless does not make the intervention empty. Women had entered the industrial struggle with their own account of who was suffering and what public protection ought to mean. [5.10]

The legal dispute continued too. The Supreme Court's 1922 disposition of Howat's appeals was not a general constitutional endorsement of every part of the industrial court law. In 1923, the Wolff Packing decision rejected compulsory arbitration as applied to the business before the Court. These were developments in a continuing legal struggle; they should not be presented as rulings directly won by the women's march. [5.11]

Mary returned from the December events with more than a place in newspaper coverage. She had acted with women whose household work usually remained outside the public record, had faced arrest, and had written about the experience. Her pages preserved something the photographs could not: the voice of a participant describing the movement from within. The next chapter follows that voice and the traces of the life that continued after the crowd dispersed.

Mary's Words and Later Life

A Participant on Ledger Paper

Mary wrote about the Amazon Army while its events were unfolding. Pittsburg State University preserves her account as manuscript SpC MS 0319. The finding aid describes ten pages on ledger paper, written during the December 1921 march. Its online description identifies the material but does not reproduce the pages. The complete journal has not been inspected for this book. The brief passages used here are therefore identified by the published sources that reproduce them. [6.1]

One sentence carries Mary's identification with the other women: 'There was absolutely no fear in these women's hearts.' The Miners' Memorial marker attributes it to her journal entry of December 15. Goossen reproduces the same sentence in his study, citing entries of December 12 and 15. These are Mary's words as preserved in public quotation, rather than dialogue reconstructed for a later family history. [6.2]

A second fragment on the marker returns the account to the needs discussed in the previous chapters: 'their little ones would have food, something to wear in the cold'. Courage and provision belong within the same passage. The women were described as prepared to confront the militia because something had to be done for children. In Mary's account, the march was a response to obligations that could not be postponed until a more favorable moment. [6.3]

Mary's judgment about fear is testimony from someone who identified with the marchers. It cannot measure every participant's private feelings. Its value is that it preserves the terms in which a leader understood the women beside her. The sentence is forceful because Mary does not describe courage as a possession reserved for a few exceptional organizers. She attributes it to the women collectively. Her writing keeps that confidence present after the moment that produced it has passed.

Ledger paper is an ordinary material on which to leave such an account. A journal of ten pages cannot include every mine, confrontation, or household. It can nevertheless preserve a viewpoint absent from production figures or court proceedings. A newspaper presents an event to readers; a participant writes from within it. Mary's pages belong beside the reporting and official records because they retain an understanding formed through involvement, including her own choices about what deserved to be remembered.

The Years beyond the March

The three days of marching occupy the most thoroughly documented public episode of Mary's life. They were not its conclusion. A family history must make room for the years that followed even where their daily contents remain imperfectly recorded. Returning a woman to her household after a protest should not mean making her disappear from the account.

The university's brief biography supplies the marriage to Joseph and their son's birth but gives little account of the marriage's later years. A tombstone transcription hosted by Crawford County provides a further trace. On its Highland Park Cemetery page 51, a grouped Skubitz entry lists Joe, 1884-1941, and Mary, 1887-1962. The pairing is consistent with Joseph and Mary, although the transcription does not explicitly state their relationship. The 1962 death year is a recorded date I dispute; no death certificate or photograph of this stone has been inspected for this book. [6.4]

A photograph reproduced in Goossen's study provides another point of continuity. Its caption dates the portrait to the 1940s and credits the Skubitz family. Mary was therefore remembered visually as a mature woman decades after her role in the march. The portrait does not disclose her daily routine, household income, or opinions about later political events. It does restore a span of life easily lost when a person is represented only by the dramatic event for which an archive preserves her name. [6.5]

Her son's path led through education and work into national politics. Mary had raised the boy who remembered taking over bread-making during the demonstrations. Joe eventually entered Congress as a Republican; the account of Mary's earlier activism places her in a socialist coalfield tradition. The contrast makes both lives more interesting than a story of unchanged politics handed down through a family. Their relationship connected different ways of acting in public life, while the documents do not authorize assigning her a reaction to every position her son later held. [6.6]

The Name Tess and the Two Marys

The Mary who organized in 1921 was Congressman Joe's mother, married to his father Joseph Skubitz. The documentary record separately identifies the congressman's wife as Mary Jess Skubitz. In House remarks on May 9, 1977, Joe referred to his wife as Jess. A Pittsburg State alumni memorial list records M. Jess

McClellan Skubitz. The Old Mission Cemetery transcription in Wichita gives her dates as September 15, 1909, to February 22, 1994. These records distinguish the wife from the mother. [6.7]

My family-name and gravestone recollections associate Tess and the wording Mary Tess Skubitz with my great aunt Mary Youvan Skubitz. I have now clarified a separate memory: Dole's question about Tess in 1988 definitely concerned Congressman Joe's wife. Records naming that wife use Jess. This clarification does not merge the two women or verify the remembered inscription. A photograph of the relevant grave would help check it; no expanded formal name is established here.

I dispute the mother's recorded 1962 death year. Both the finding aid and Highland Park Cemetery transcription give that year, but their agreement does not establish that they derive from independent evidence. My clarification of the 1988 encounter means Dole's question is not evidence against the mother's listed death date. The Amazon Army journal belongs to Joe's mother, Julia's daughter and Frank's sister.

Papers Carried Forward

Joe's May 5, 1966 letter to Frank Youvan records one act of that transmission. He enclosed copies and English translations of older family documents, including his mother's birth certificate. The ancestry chapters have already followed those papers in detail. Here the letter's significance is more personal: Mary's son used the resources available to him to make the family's earlier records available to another relative. [6.8]

Preservation was more than retaining sheets of paper. Different languages, jurisdictions, and spellings had separated the records from descendants who wanted to understand them. Translation made relationships legible across that distance. Copying allowed papers held or consulted in one setting to reach a household in Frontenac. Family continuity depended on practical acts of explanation and sharing, as surely as the march itself had depended on practical arrangements at home.

Mary's journal followed another route into public memory. It acquired an institutional home at Pittsburg State University. The Miners' Memorial at Immigrant Park places her words in the region where the story unfolded. A National Park Service article identifies her as an Amazon Army leader and credits the university's Special Collections for her photograph. The forms differ, but all

allow a woman from the coalfield community to remain recognizable to people who never knew her. [6.9]

Public commemoration necessarily makes selections. A marker cannot present the whole industrial court dispute or the uneven conduct of the demonstrations. An archive preserves material that can support a more detailed inquiry. A family account carries relationships that a visitor to a monument may never learn. Mary's record benefits from their combination: she appears as Julia's daughter, Joseph's wife, Joe's mother, a multilingual organizer, an arrested participant, and a woman who wrote what she had witnessed.

Before turning to the surrounding towns, the book follows Mary's brother Frank and the extended family around him. Her place in that family opens a further view of household life, coalfield business, and remembered work in the atomic industry. These relationships keep the public figure connected with the household from which she came.

Mary and the Menghini Family

Her Brother and a Family of Owners

Mary's brother Frank married Edith Menghini, daughter of the man I know in family history as Anthony Menghini. The local memorial uses the name Antone Menghini, Sr. Through this marriage, the Youvan family became connected to a family involved in coal production, banking, and the sale of necessities to mining households. Frank was my grandfather; Edith was my grandmother. Their sons Donald and Charles were Mary's nephews, and Charles was my father. His obituary identifies his parents as Frank and Edith (Menghini) Youvan and records his birth in Frontenac on April 3, 1935. [7.1]

The Mary at the center of this extended-family account is Frank's sister and Congressman Joe's mother. I approach her through her position within the family, informed by her recorded concern for miners' children. The sources consulted do not document her reactions to the circumstances described here. The perspective is my interpretation, and later events are read from my own vantage point.

The Miners' Memorial records that Peter and his brother Antone founded the Menghini Coal Company in 1916. Peter managed operations. Miners received their pay at the Menghini home and could purchase meat and other supplies from the family's nearby businesses. The memorial also identifies Antone, Sr., as an original director of Miners State Bank, which received its charter in 1919. Coal wages and the businesses supplying miners therefore met within a family enterprise. These were identifiable local relationships between employment, household spending, and banking. [7.2]

My family account extends that picture to a packing house, Budweiser distribution, and land, and attributes a substantial business position to Anthony. The memorial corroborates several Menghini family business connections; it does not establish his sole ownership of every enterprise I remember. For Mary, the relevant relationship was close: her brother had married into a family with assets and business interests in the same coalfield where she and Julia organized. The evidence does not identify a Menghini operation as a target of their December 1921 marches. [7.3]

That marriage complicates any division of the family into workers on one side and owners on the other. Frank is remembered as a pipefitter. Kinship with an owning family did not itself give him control of its businesses or assets. Mary

could have had relatives whose circumstances differed markedly while remaining committed to the needs expressed in her Amazon Army account. Her possible feelings about the marriage are open; the connection between the households is the substance of the history.

The Children Inside the Household

Donald and Charles brought another account of that household into family memory. Both, as I recall their accounts, described physical domestic abuse and continual arguing in their childhood home. My father also remembered being left at home for months with just Donald. I preserve those recollections as testimony given within the family. They do not supply a complete chronology or identify who committed every act of violence. [7.4]

These memories change the meaning of prosperity in the story. A family could have access to employment and wealthy relatives while its children lacked dependable care. Bank shares, business connections, and land could not establish what happened behind the door. The boys' recollections describe the home they experienced, a different kind of evidence from the public account of a successful local enterprise.

Mary's concern in 1921 was that children should have food and clothing despite the coalfield conflict. Read beside the accounts from Frank and Edith's household, that concern acquires a painful proximity. The children whose welfare matters in this history eventually include her own nephews. The comparison comes from the subject of her testimony, not from a surviving statement about Donald or Charles. [7.5]

An absence for work and a child's experience of abandonment also require separate attention. My recollections do not yet date the months the boys spent alone or connect those months to a particular job Frank took. The household account must retain that distinction even as his work becomes more specific. A family history can record an industrial opportunity and the insecurity remembered by children without assuming that it has explained the whole relationship between them.

Frank and the Work at Paducah

I remember Frank talking about Kentucky and naming Paducah. I also remember his description of miles and miles of pipe. These are memories of what my grandfather told me about his trade. They make the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion

Plant a plausible worksite, although an employment record has not yet identified his employer, assignment, or dates. [7.6]

The plant's initial construction began in 1951. Its first process buildings began operating in September 1952 while further construction continued. The Department of Energy's history places Paducah within the expansion of atomic production ordered during Harry Truman's presidency. Its early purpose included the national nuclear-weapons program; later it supplied enriched uranium for commercial nuclear power. This was a Cold War undertaking that followed the wartime Manhattan Project. [7.7]

Gaseous diffusion enriched uranium through repeated stages involving uranium hexafluoride gas. Large process buildings and supporting utilities gave pipefitters a place in such industrial work. Frank's remembered quantity of pipe is compatible with that setting, but it does not tell us which systems he worked on. A later construction-worker assessment also notes that workers did not always know activities beyond their own tasks. That provides context for limited knowledge without establishing what Frank himself knew. [7.8]

Charles was fifteen at the beginning of 1951 and turned sixteen that April. He graduated from Frontenac High School in 1952. The construction period could therefore overlap an absence remembered from his teenage years. If the months alone occurred when he was substantially younger, they belonged to an earlier period. The Paducah name strengthens the location in Frank's account while leaving the timing of the boys' experience to be resolved.

The Kentucky recollection also gives the book a connection to Truman more concrete than proximity between Frontenac and Lamar. Truman's administration expanded the atomic industry in which Frank may have worked. It remains an institutional and chronological connection, with Frank's particular employment still unconfirmed.

A Brother in the Utah Uranium Mines

Another of Frank and Mary's brothers worked as a uranium miner in Utah, according to my family recollection. After his death, I met his wife in Moab in the late 1980s. I have not identified this brother by name in the present account, and I do not give him a mine, employer, or period of employment that I cannot presently establish. The visit to his widow is a memory from my own life; it does not establish what Mary knew about his work. [7.9]

Utah's first uranium boom began in 1948, when the Atomic Energy Commission offered guaranteed prices and bonuses for domestic ore to support nuclear-weapons production. The Utah Geological Survey describes production rising through the 1950s and peaking in 1958. Moab became an important uranium-processing location: its mill was constructed in 1956, and its uranium concentrate was sold to the commission for national-defense programs through December 1970. Those facts describe the region in which I later visited the widow; they do not place her husband at that mill or date his work. [7.10]

The two brothers' remembered occupations bring different forms of atomic-era labor into the family account. Uranium mining extracted ore. Enrichment increased the proportion of uranium-235 after other processing steps. Frank's possible work at a diffusion plant would have involved a different industry and location from his brother's mining. Their relationship gives these activities a common family setting without establishing that their jobs or employers were connected.

These recollections extend the family's remembered industrial work from coal into uranium mining and possible uranium-enrichment construction. The brothers' employment dates have not been established, so this account cannot determine how much of that work Mary knew. Their remembered occupations still give her extended family a place in the changing industrial history of the century.

The Promised Bank Shares and Land

Inheritance made the connection to the Menghinis a source of anger for my father. I remember his outrage over bank stock and land that he understood his grandfather had promised him. The portion of bank stock in that promise was described in our family account as one third; I have not established what that fraction referred to. In the family account I preserve, Edith directed her inherited Menghini assets back to her maiden-name family, leaving neither Donald nor Charles a share. This is the disposition I recount; the underlying wills, share records, deeds, and estate transfers have not been examined for this history. [7.11]

A remembered promise explains what my father expected and why the outcome angered him. It does not, by itself, establish a legally enforceable entitlement or the ownership and eventual transfer of particular land or shares.

The family account nevertheless preserves a significant experience. Charles understood the bank and land as part of his anticipated future. The outcome, as he and I understood it, excluded both sons from assets associated with their mother's

family. Wealth that seemed close through kinship did not necessarily pass along the line of descent the sons expected.

From Mary's position as Frank's sister and the boys' aunt, marriage had linked two families whose resources and expectations differed. The later inheritance account shows why that link cannot be treated as a simple story of improving circumstances. Its dates are not yet established, so I do not assign Mary a reaction to its outcome. The disappointment belongs to the testimony of the generation that reported it.

Later Family Consequences

Donald and Charles were different men, and their childhood accounts do not erase that difference. I describe Donald as a violent man who committed domestic abuse and abandoned his children. I have also recounted that he worked in New York City as a bagman for organized crime; that claim remains my account without independent corroboration. His earlier experiences and his later conduct must be recorded separately, without assuming that one explains the other. [7.12]

The consequences of the abuse remain present in my life through a woman who experienced it and is still living. I leave her unnamed. The trauma I encounter in her life is the deepest I have personally seen. That statement describes my experience of its severity; it does not substitute for her own account. The family history reaches into the present through someone who continues to carry its harm.

The Two Marys Across the Generations

Congressman Joe's wife, Mary Jess, belongs to this later family history in her own right. The National Park Service's Fort Scott history records the 1978 monument honoring both Joe and Mary Jess for their help in preserving the site. Her documented role in his public career is distinct from his mother's earlier coalfield history. [7.13]

Joe also left a specific account of Jess organizing for children. Speaking in the House in 1977, he recalled their son's inadequate one-room portable school in Southeast Washington. Jess and other mothers circulated petitions and wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt. Joe credited their effort and Roosevelt's visit with securing the later school building on Minnesota Avenue SE. This was his public testimony about his wife. It gives the later Mary a documented act of advocacy, distinct from the earlier Mary's coalfield organizing. [7.13]

The distinction gives the family two different women named Mary. Joe's mother connects the immigrant household, the Amazon Army, and her brother Frank's branch of the family. His wife belongs to the later household and political life. The separate accounts of their advocacy for children can be read together while preserving each woman's identity.

Reading the Family Through Mary

Mary's place in the family draws these experiences together. She was the daughter of immigrants who entered the Kansas coalfields, the sister of men remembered for industrial work, the aunt of children whose home life became a painful family recollection, and the mother of a future congressman. The relationships carry the story across different occupations and levels of public influence. They also make the household consequences harder to overlook.

Her Amazon Army account gives the extended-family history a specific question: how were children provided for and protected? That question can be asked of wages, parental absences, the use of inherited assets, and later abuse. It does not require pretending that she asked it about every event described here. Her documented concern supplies the point from which I read the family evidence.

Coalfield organizing and economic advancement therefore remain only part of what the family carried forward. Alongside them are the boys' recollections, my father's anger about an inheritance, the remembered work in Kentucky and Utah, and harm still borne by a living person. A history centered on Mary can include the public courage preserved in her words while giving these private experiences their own place.

Girard and the World of Haldeman-Julius

Regional Essay on the Printed Coalfield

Mary's march belonged to a coalfield that could make itself heard across the country. Girard, the Crawford County seat, supplied a powerful instrument for that purpose: the printed page. This regional essay follows the newspaper and publishing enterprise that developed near her community. It does not establish that Mary knew the Haldeman-Juliuses or read their books. Its closest connection to her life is more concrete: their newspaper reported the struggle in which she participated.

Julius A. Wayland founded the socialist Appeal to Reason in Kansas City in 1895 and resumed publication in Girard in 1897. Its circulation eventually reached hundreds of thousands. A small Kansas town thus became a place from which writers addressed labor conditions, inequality, and the power of employers before a national audience. The coalfield's experience could travel well beyond the people who worked its mines. [8.1]

That reach helped bring Upton Sinclair's investigation of Chicago meatpacking before the public. Appeal editor Fred Warren commissioned the work in 1904; it appeared serially in 1905 and as The Jungle in 1906. Chicago supplied the subject, but Girard supplied part of the institutional machinery that turned the investigation into a national argument. For the history surrounding Mary's household, this matters: southeast Kansas was already producing public discussion about industrial conditions before the Amazon Army marched. [8.1]

Emanuel Julius arrived in Girard in 1915 to work for the Appeal. Born in Philadelphia in 1889 to Jewish immigrant parents, he had left school early and pursued his education through reading. Socialist journalism brought him into a community where working people's education and political dissent already had a public presence. The newspaper preceded his arrival; the publishing venture he later built grew from that established world. [8.2]

Marcet and the Pocket Library

Marcet Haldeman, born in Girard in 1887, was Mary's contemporary in age, although their household circumstances differed. Marcet came from a prosperous local family and was a niece of Jane Addams. She and Emanuel married on June 1, 1916, combining their surnames as Haldeman-Julius. In January 1919, Emanuel

purchased the Appeal with Marcet's financial backing. Her contribution belongs in the history of an enterprise often remembered chiefly through her husband's name. [8.2]

The pocket-book venture that became the Little Blue Books began in 1919. Its format brought a different scale of buying and reading within reach. Approximately three and a half by five inches, the books could be carried easily; prices fell from twenty-five cents to ten cents and eventually five cents. Readers could assemble a personal library one inexpensive purchase at a time. Affordable production made self-education a practical possibility for people whose wages left little money for conventional books. [8.3]

The catalog offered literature, philosophy, reference works, and practical advice. Surviving holdings include Shakespeare, Poe, Ibsen, Tolstoy, Voltaire, and Thomas Paine, alongside abridgments and original writing. Religious criticism, sex education, birth control, socialism, and labor questions also appeared. This variety served readers with different purposes: filling gaps in schooling, encountering disputed ideas, or finding a manageable introduction to an unfamiliar subject. The series invited ordinary buyers to choose among arguments that local institutions might discourage them from reading. [8.3]

The publishing household itself connected Girard to a wider intellectual circle. Emanuel and Marcet bought their house at 310 North Sinnett Avenue in 1918 and enlarged it in 1923 with a library, study, and stage. The Kansas Historical Society records visits by Jane Addams, Upton Sinclair, Clarence Darrow, and Will Durant. These documented visitors show how far Girard's network extended. The house and the small books made different forms of access possible: one gathered writers and reformers; the other carried their subjects into readers' homes. [8.4]

The Women's Struggle in the Appeal

The connection to Mary becomes direct at the level of contemporary reporting. Historian Benjamin Goossen's study of the women's march cites Appeal articles by John Gunn about the conflict over Alexander Howat, the Kansas Industrial Court, and the striking miners. Gunn's December 10, 1921, report appeared immediately before the women's December 11 meeting in Franklin. His December 31 report addressed imprisonment and threats; January 1922 articles discussed a vagrancy law and the strike's ending. The newspaper followed the dispute through the weeks in which the Amazon Army acted. [8.5]

Emanuel owned the newspaper; Gunn supplied reporting that later historians used. That is the documented connection. Mary and the other women remain the organizers of their own action. Their protest did not require direction from a publishing office to become historically important.

The newspaper nevertheless helped determine what later generations could recover. Accounts of intentions, confrontations, and official responses entered a public argument and survived beyond the protest itself. Historians can compare those accounts with Mary's journal and other records. The women acted at mine entrances; the press carried reports to people who had never seen a Kansas coal mine. Together, those activities made a household struggle visible as a question of public power.

What Survived in Girard

By Emanuel's death in 1951, the Little Blue Books comprised more than two thousand titles, with estimated sales in the hundreds of millions, according to Pittsburg State University's collection history. Larger Big Blue Books provided space for extended discussions. The company continued printing after his death until a fire destroyed the plant and warehouse in 1978. Surviving books, correspondence, business records, photographs, and printing plates preserve evidence of this extraordinary local enterprise. [8.6]

I remember an FBI agent conveying a counterfeiting allegation in a local bar; that conversation is uncorroborated, whereas the documented 1951 conviction concerned tax evasion. [8.6]

Girard broadens Mary's historical setting without taking her place at its center. The same county contained women organizing against strikebreaking and publishers expanding access to inexpensive print. Their purposes were not identical, but both challenged the assumption that ordinary people in a small industrial region had little capacity to affect national life. The newspaper's surviving reports bring that comparison back to the event that matters here: the women who left their households and made the coalfield hear them.

Galena and Baxter Springs in the Pentecostal Story

Regional Essay on the Galena Revival

South of Mary's coalfield, another mining district became the setting for an influential public movement. Galena was shaped by lead and zinc mining when Charles Fox Parham brought his Apostolic Faith preaching there in autumn 1903. This regional essay identifies Galena's revival and Baxter Springs's later role as his base. No evidence examined here places Julia or Mary at his meetings; the connection is the religious history developing nearby during their lives.

Sarah Parham's retrospective account describes meetings beginning in Mary Arthur's home, moving into a tent when the house became too small, and entering the Grand Leader building as colder weather arrived. A household gathering had become a public undertaking requiring larger premises. Galena gave Parham's teaching an audience and a means of expansion beyond the first meetings. [9.1]

Contemporary newspaper records help place that expansion. The St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat covered the revival in January 1904 under a headline announcing religious cures. That is evidence of coverage and participants' claims, rather than proof of medical outcomes. The Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center's catalog describes a January 19, 1904, Galena Evening Times clipping referring to meetings at the Grand Leader building, the Baxter Springs opera house, Gorden, and Cave Springs. The catalog thus records activity spreading into neighboring communities. [9.2]

Holiness Roots and Pentecostal Beginnings

Parham was a pioneer of modern Pentecostalism, not the founder of the older Holiness movement. Holiness traditions developed from Wesleyan teachings about sanctification and holy living. They supplied much of the devotional language from which Pentecostalism emerged, but the two terms are not interchangeable. Holiness affiliation does not by itself establish belief in speaking in tongues as evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit. [9.3]

Parham's background included Methodist ministry and divine-healing work. He opened a healing home in Topeka in 1898 and a Bible school in 1900. In January 1901, student Agnes Ozman was reported to have spoken in tongues after prayer; others subsequently described similar experiences. Parham linked tongues with Spirit baptism and initially expected them to supply languages for missionary

work. The teaching became influential, although later Pentecostal interpretations often emphasized spiritual speech without claiming ordinary foreign-language competence. [9.4]

The movement spread through other people whose contributions deserve recognition. At Parham's Houston school in 1905, the African American Holiness preacher William J. Seymour encountered his teaching; Lucy Farrow was important in that connection. Seymour became the central leader of the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles in 1906, a major point of departure for international Pentecostal expansion. [9.5]

Parham's support for segregation complicates this inheritance. The University of Kansas religious-history exhibition describes Seymour receiving Houston instruction from outside the classroom. The preacher excluded from shared seating went on to lead an influential interracial revival. Acknowledging Parham's doctrinal role therefore requires acknowledging Seymour's agency and the racial restrictions he faced. [9.5]

Baxter Springs During Mary's Lifetime

Galena identifies the revival of 1903–1904; Baxter Springs identifies the continuing headquarters. Parham and his family moved to Baxter Springs in March 1909. He organized preaching journeys, publications, and gatherings from that base until his death on January 29, 1929. In the years surrounding Mary's march, his ministry remained rooted in southeast Kansas while its influence traveled elsewhere. [9.6]

Surviving records extend the chronology beyond the first revival. Oral Roberts University's archive preserves issues of Parham's Apostolic Faith newspaper from 1925 through 1929 and catalogs a July 1927 Baxter Springs newspaper announcement of the twentieth annual national camp meeting. These are tangible traces of a lasting regional institution. [9.6]

My approximately twenty years in Pentecostal churches, followed by attendance at a Holiness church, make this history personally significant. That experience belongs to a later generation. Mary's documented public action concerned labor, strikebreaking, and household survival. Parham's work adds a different strand to the surrounding landscape: religious ideas taking shape in mining communities and reaching national audiences. The two stories share a region without requiring a common purpose.

Lamar and the Regional Origins of Harry Truman

Regional Essay on Birth and Departure

Lamar brings a president's birthplace within the regional map surrounding Mary's home. Its significance differs from Girard's publishing enterprise and Galena's revival: Harry Truman began life there, but departed in infancy. This regional essay follows that origin and his later return to the nearby mining district. It supplies no evidence of a meeting with Mary or Julia. The strongest comparison concerns the industrial economy they encountered from different positions.

Harry S. Truman was born in Lamar on May 8, 1884, to John Anderson Truman and Martha Ellen Young Truman. His parents had bought their modest house in 1882. Official National Park Service testimony gives March 3, 1885, as the date the family left for Harrisonville. Other Missouri communities shaped his childhood; the family settled in Independence in 1890. Lamar's claim is therefore precise: it was his birthplace, rather than the principal setting of his upbringing. [10.1]

A Mining Venture in 1916

Truman returned to this broader industrial region as an adult. In 1916, he joined Jerry Culbertson and Thomas Hughes in the TCH Mining Company, involved in lead and zinc around Commerce, Oklahoma. The National Park Service places his investment at approximately five thousand to fifty-five hundred dollars and records the venture's failure. These were metal mines, distinct from Mary's coalfield, but they depended on the same practical necessities of equipment, credit, labor, and continuing production. [10.2]

His correspondence with Bess Wallace makes the venture unusually visible. A letter dated March 5, 1916, places him at the Yates Hotel in Joplin, waiting for an expert's advice about the mill associated with the Eureka mine. He considered repair costs, unused ore, and hoped-for earnings. The future president appears as a young man trying to judge an investment and explain its prospects to someone whose confidence mattered to him. [10.3]

The August letters describe less promising circumstances. On August 26, writing from Commerce, he explained the difficulty of meeting the weekly payroll. A banker, lead buyer, and ground boss helped arrange an advance against expected production. With Hughes away, Truman was managing the operation himself. Ore

in the ground offered little immediate help when wages had to be paid at the end of the week. [10.3]

On August 29, he described boiler damage, repair expense, lost production, homesickness, and disappointment over the money at risk. His letters place him within the mining economy through specific work and financial problems. Mary's household encountered that economy through mine labor and family survival. He had money invested in an operation; workers depended on its wages. Comparing their positions clarifies why a stoppage could threaten different people in different ways, without making their circumstances interchangeable. [10.2]

The Distance From December 1921

By the Amazon Army's December 1921 marches, Truman's daily life centered on Independence and Kansas City. After First World War service, he married Bess in June 1919 and made his home in Independence. That November he and Eddie Jacobson opened a Kansas City men's clothing business. The haberdashery failed in 1922 during the postwar recession. His earlier mining venture connects him with a neighboring industrial district; it does not place him at the women's protest. [10.4]

He entered elected county government in 1922, began Senate service in January 1935, and later attracted national attention through his wartime investigation of defense production. His route from local work and unsuccessful business into public administration offers a different regional trajectory from Mary's. Her son Joe would also enter national politics, but through his own education, employment, and party affiliations. Neither career should be treated as the inevitable outcome of a Kansas or Missouri upbringing. [10.4]

Lamar and Pittsburg in the Public Record

Truman renewed his adult association with Lamar on August 31, 1944, delivering his formal acceptance speech for the vice-presidential nomination there. The Truman Library preserves the recording. Following Franklin Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945, he became president. His presidency ended in January 1953; Joe began House service ten years later. [10.5]

A more specific southeastern Kansas connection appears in Harry Easley's 1967 oral history. Easley recalled a Washington visit involving Kenneth Spencer and a delegation from Pittsburg. He said Senator Truman arranged a White House conference with Harry Hopkins concerning regional development, and credited him with helping secure the Jayhawk Ordnance Plant between Joplin and Pittsburg.

This is a participant's retrospective attribution of influence, not proof that Truman alone obtained the plant. It does identify a delegation, an intermediary, and a federal project through which regional interests reached Washington. [10.6]

Truman returned to his restored Lamar birthplace for its dedication in April 1959. The United Auto Workers had purchased and restored the house before giving it to Missouri. A labor organization thereby helped preserve this point of regional origin. [10.5]

For Mary's history, Lamar supplies perspective rather than a presidential subplot. A nearby birthplace led outward into national office; a failed mining investment exposes an earlier, more local life. The region surrounding her household contained several paths into twentieth-century America. The next chapters return to the path with the clearest family connection: Joe Skubitz, Mary's son, carrying a Frontenac upbringing into Congress.

Joe Skubitz from Frontenac to Congress

A Son of the Coalfield

Joe Skubitz was born in Frontenac on May 6, 1906. His mother, Mary Youvan Skubitz, would join the Amazon Army when he was fifteen. The boy who belonged to that household eventually became a teacher, a lawyer, a Senate administrative assistant, and a congressman. His career carried him into national politics, but its beginnings remained close to the mines and to the people whose livelihoods depended on them. [11.1]

Joe's part in the episode is remembered through a household task: his mother's bread-making instructions, discussed earlier in this book. That small recollection places him inside the practical arrangements that made the protest possible. [11.2]

For Joe, the strike was an event in his own community and family. Adults argued about work and authority; households dealt with the consequences. His mother's participation made the dispute immediate. Mary's journal later gave the family a written account, but Joe had lived through the period himself. His subsequent study of mining would extend that early familiarity into history.

It is easy, looking backward, to make this childhood experience explain his whole public life. A longer view gives him room to develop. The mines supplied an early setting; education, law, party politics, and years of government employment added others. His later concern for miners can be understood against the family experience while also belonging to the work of an adult representative responsible for many kinds of constituent.

In my family he was Uncle Joe. The name placed the congressman within the familiar world of relatives and southeastern Kansas. It is the name through which I approach him here. His public biography supplies the chronology, while the family connection explains why that chronology matters to me: someone associated with Mary's household became a participant in decisions reaching far beyond Frontenac.

The Teacher Who Studied the Mines

Joe's first professional work was in education. The Kansas Historical Society records his service as a teacher, principal, and debate coach in southeastern Kansas. He began teaching in 1927 and received his bachelor's degree at Pittsburg in 1929. School work offered a path into a profession within the region, bringing

him into contact with the children and institutions through which the community prepared its next generation. [11.3]

He continued his education and completed a master's degree in 1934. His thesis examined the development of deep mine production in Crawford County and the factors that had influenced it. The university repository identifies the work as a history thesis, completed in August at Kansas State Teachers College. Its subject connected academic inquiry directly with the industry around which his family and county had organized so much of their lives. [11.4]

The thesis's opening contrasts an earlier promise of industrial growth with the later evidence of decline: deserted camps, diminishing deep mining, and a landscape altered by stripping. That comparison gives Joe's subject its tension. The county had been promoted through its mineral wealth. By the time he wrote, the question included what happened to places and people when the expected prosperity changed. Historical study offered a way to examine the distance between promise and experience.

Joe’s graduate work establishes a sustained interest in the history of mining before his Washington career. The thesis gave that interest a date, an institutional setting, and a written form.

Teaching and historical study also broaden the picture of the coalfield. Southeastern Kansas contained schools, professional ambitions, and scholarship alongside its mines. Joe's route through these institutions shows one way a person could acquire skills beyond the industry while continuing to think about it. The community's experience became a subject he could investigate and explain, preparing him for a career in which explanation and argument would have practical value.

An Apprenticeship in Washington

Joe began working in Washington in 1939, more than twenty years before he won his own congressional seat. He served as administrative assistant to Senator Clyde M. Reed from 1939 to 1949 and to Senator Andrew F. Schoeppel from 1949 to 1962. When he entered the House in 1963, he was a new representative with a long background in the institution's neighboring chamber. [11.5]

An administrative assistant's work generally attracts less attention than a senator's speeches or votes. Yet congressional offices depend on people who handle correspondence, follow requests, and keep business moving between constituents and government agencies. Joe's employment placed him within that

working structure for successive Kansas senators. The dates establish an extensive apprenticeship even though the concise biographies do not reconstruct his daily assignments or identify every relationship he formed.

During those years he completed legal training. After attending Washburn, he obtained his law degree at George Washington University in 1944 and was admitted to the bar that year. Education, legal study, and Senate employment gave him several kinds of preparation. His later elected career grew out of experience acquired over time, including work in which influence depended on knowledge of offices and procedures rather than on holding an elected title.

He won election in 1962 and took office on January 3, 1963, representing Kansas's Fifth District. The Kansas Historical Society records that he won the Republican primary by 148 votes. A career that appears settled in an official directory began with a close contest. The margin reminds us that eventual longevity could not have been known at the moment voters chose him over his rival.

Seven further election victories followed. Joe served until his resignation on December 31, 1978, completing nearly sixteen years in the House. That tenure gave him repeated opportunities to respond to a district's concerns as circumstances changed. His Washington experience, counting the Senate offices, stretched across almost four decades. He lived until September 11, 2000, when he died in Wichita.

Representation and the Miners' Inheritance

Mining remained among his public concerns. Pittsburg State University's description of his papers identifies assistance to miners suffering from black lung. The Kansas Sampler Foundation associates him with the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 and the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972. These were collective legislative achievements to which his work belonged; the regional account presents them as part of his continuing relationship with the coalfield. [11.6]

Their significance extended through families. A worker's illness affected the household that depended on his wages. The results of labor underground could continue after the work itself ended, making compensation and benefits matters of daily survival. The concerns were familiar in communities where several generations had worked in or around mines. National legislation addressed burdens that residents encountered as personal and local facts long before they appeared in federal debates.

Mary's march and Joe's congressional work met different parts of that history. In December 1921 the women confronted the immediate strike situation, including the arrival of replacement workers. Decades later, safety legislation and black-lung benefits addressed dangers and disabilities associated with coal mining. The family connection joins those episodes across time. It does not require their methods or political circumstances to be identical: protest in the coalfield and representation in Washington each responded to pressures on working households.

Joe also worked toward federal recognition of the old fort at Fort Scott. The university's collection description places that effort alongside his concern for miners. A representative's responsibilities included both the needs of living constituents and the preservation of a place through which the region could tell its history. His district contained several kinds of inheritance, each capable of becoming a matter for public action. [11.7]

Mary and Joe consequently left archives of different dimensions. Her journal records a short, intense episode from a participant's perspective. His papers cover years of public business, correspondence, and representation. Read together, they allow the family's political history to continue beyond the march. The mother who recorded the coalfield protest and the son who studied mining and served in Congress belong to successive chapters of the same regional story.

Kennedy, Dole, and Family Memory

Joe and the Kennedy Years

I have understood Uncle Joe to have been a friend of John F. Kennedy. That understanding belongs to the family's account of him. The documents assembled here establish an official exchange with Kennedy's administration, while the private friendship remains a recollection for which I have not supplied personal correspondence. The distinction leaves the family statement intact and identifies what the surviving public record can actually show. [12.1]

Joe entered the House in January 1963, during Kennedy's presidency, after his long service in Senate offices. A November 14, 1963, press release preserved in the Dole Archives records a telegram sent to Kennedy by ten members of Congress, including Joe Skubitz and Bob Dole. They sought clearer information about proposed wheat transactions with the Soviet Union, including financing and shipping arrangements. [12.2]

Wheat brought Kansas representatives into a question extending well beyond agriculture. A commercial sale could involve credit, government commitments, and relations with a communist state. The telegram shows Joe taking part in that discussion alongside Dole and other members. Kansas's economic interests had an international setting, and its delegation questioned the administration about the terms under which those interests were being pursued. For farmers and traders, the terms of such a transaction could matter alongside the decision to permit it.

The exchange also captures the difference between acquaintance and agreement. A public request for information tells us what its signatories wanted the president to address. It cannot settle whether two men were friends in private, and disagreement over policy need not have ended a friendship. For this book, the telegram supplies a dated encounter with the administration rather than a substitute for the personal relationship remembered in the family.

Dole's Public Words about Joe

Bob Dole left more direct evidence of his regard for Joe. In remarks prepared for the Lincoln Day luncheon at Independence, Kansas, on February 11, 1967, he called him “my good friend, Joe Skubitz.” The phrase is modest but clear. It records how Dole described the relationship before a Kansas audience, during the years when both men served in the House. [12.3]

On December 13, 1969, Dole spoke at a dinner honoring Joe at Wig's Restaurant in Independence. By then Dole was a senator. His prepared remarks supported Joe's continued representation of the Fifth District. The dinner brought friendship into an occasion centered on Joe's public career, combining personal regard with the practical work of maintaining a political colleague's standing. [12.4]

Their careers give context to another family recollection. Joe was seventeen years older than Bob, although Dole had entered the House in 1961, two years before Joe. Joe's experience as an administrative assistant reached back to 1939. His later arrival as an elected member therefore concealed a much longer familiarity with Washington. The distinction between elected seniority and accumulated institutional experience matters when considering how one colleague might advise another. [12.5]

Late in life Joe described himself as Bob's mentor. That is how I remember his claim. The surviving speeches establish friendship and public support; they do not identify the particular advice or introductions behind the word mentor. I retain it as Joe's account of his own influence. It tells us how he understood a relationship that had continued while the younger man's national prominence grew. [12.6]

Dole’s public words give Joe’s remembered claim of mentorship a documented setting. The relationship was visible and favorable; the particular counsel Joe supplied remains part of family memory.

A Question about Tess in 1988

During the 1988 presidential campaign, I attended a rally in the Boston suburbs while I was working at MIT. I remember approaching Bob Dole and being told by a Secret Service agent to shake hands with my left hand. Dole then asked me about Tess's health. I am certain he meant Uncle Joe's wife. After he had left, CBS spoke with my wife and me. These are the details I remember; the rally's exact date, location, and campaign phase remain unidentified. [12.7]

Dole sought the Republican presidential nomination earlier in 1988, while George H. W. Bush became the party's nominee that year. Dole received that nomination in 1996. The distinction fixes the wider chronology without deciding the circumstances of the rally. His wartime injuries had severely limited the use of his right arm, providing a public context for the instruction about the handshake. [12.8]

The health question is the part that has stayed with me. A campaign rally brings a national politician before many people, each with a different reason for attending. Dole's question felt personal. I understood it through the family's connection with

Uncle Joe, and it gave that connection an immediacy that a prepared tribute or an official biography could not provide.

I remember Joe alive and talking in Frontenac in the 1990s. I have clarified that Dole meant Joe's wife, recorded as Mary Jess, who died in 1994. My earlier family-name and gravestone recollections associate Tess with my great aunt, Joe's mother. I still dispute her recorded 1962 death year, but the 1988 question concerned his wife and is not evidence against that listing. The remembered inscription remains unverified. [12.9]

The encounter linked two settings in my life. I was working at MIT, far from southeastern Kansas, yet a politician associated with Uncle Joe brought a family name into the conversation. The question was brief, but it stayed in my memory alongside the handshake and the television interview. It is through moments like that, as well as through documents, that I remember the reach of Joe's political relationships.

Pittsburg Aircraft and the War in Southeast Asia

An Aircraft Industry Close to Home

Helio Aircraft manufactured short takeoff and landing airplanes in Pittsburg, within the district Joe Skubitz represented. The name remembered locally as Heliocraft leads, in the records, to Helio Aircraft Corporation, its Mid-States Manufacturing Division, and the Courier and Super Courier aircraft. A contemporary Kansas industrial brochure dates continuous Courier production in Pittsburg to mid-1955, several years before Joe entered the House. [13.1]

The brochure also identifies an institutional connection that interests me because of my later work at MIT. Otto C. Koppen, an MIT aeronautical engineering professor, was the original designer and developer; Lynn L. Bollinger, formerly of Harvard Business School, was a cofounder. The enterprise joined technical work and business organization in Massachusetts with manufacturing in southeastern Kansas. The connection belongs to the company's history, independently of my later career.

STOL performance concerned access. A short runway or restricted landing area could determine whether an aircraft reached a place at all. The Courier's high-lift wing features allowed it to operate where a more conventional airplane required greater ground space. The official Army history describes leading-edge slats and extensive flaps among the features contributing to that capability. [13.2]

The brochure describes about 200 employees in Pittsburg and 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space. The factory therefore offers a different view of the region's industrial life from the familiar history of coal. Its workers made a machine whose usefulness depended on specialized engineering and whose destinations extended far beyond Kansas. Pittsburg production connected the skills of a local workforce with commercial and governmental customers operating in places the aircraft's builders might never see.

Aircraft in Southeast Asia

The military and intelligence connection is documented. Charles H. Briscoe's official Army Special Operations history identifies Pittsburg as the manufacturing place of the U-10A Super Courier and records use by the CIA, Army, and Air Force from 1962 into the late 1970s. It also identifies Air Force B and D models

flown in Vietnam. The central local memory has a firm basis: aircraft built near Frontenac served the governmental aviation world of Southeast Asia. [13.3]

The operational history includes neighboring countries as well as Vietnam. The History of Aviation Archives at the University of Texas at Dallas maintains distinct accounts of Air America's work in Laos and Vietnam. Its Laos history describes a March 1962 operation in which a Helio Courier led helicopters. That episode gives the aircraft a particular country and operational setting, rather than placing every flight under the broad label of Vietnam. [13.4]

Short-field capability had practical value in such operations. Personnel and supplies arriving at a large airport still had to reach their final destinations. Where usable landing space was limited, the airplane's operating characteristics could become decisive. The Courier's design made it useful for that last stage of movement. Its specialized performance connected an engineering choice with the day-to-day requirements of distant intervention.

The product itself connects the Pittsburg factory to Southeast Asian operations. Manufacturing in Kansas served different customers and organizations; that connection does not establish a common destination for every aircraft or a common knowledge among all involved.

A Financial Record

A specific financial trace survives in the Comptroller General's 1966 annual report. Under Air Force contract audits, it lists Helio Aircraft Corporation's Mid-States Manufacturing Division in Pittsburg and dates a report issued to agency officials July 26, 1965. The entry places a named local manufacturer within the federal contract-audit system during Joe's congressional service. [13.5]

The table supplies no contract amount or audit findings. Its congressional-recipient columns are blank. It is consequently a record of an audit, with a date that could guide further examination, rather than an account of who obtained the underlying contract. A later House hearing roster places Joe on the Transportation and Aeronautics Subcommittee, establishing his committee involvement without documenting an intervention for Helio. [13.6]

My hypothesis has been that Uncle Joe helped obtain concealed funding for the aircraft work. His Washington experience, the factory's district location, and the aircraft's intelligence use prompted that interpretation. The materials assembled for this book do not identify a covert appropriation or payment he secured. I retain the idea as my hypothesis, alongside the documented manufacturing, operational, and

audit records, without treating an unanswered funding question as evidence that a secret arrangement existed. [13.7]

The Company's Dispute with Air America

The company's dealings with the intelligence aviation world included conflict. A September 30, 1976, submission preserved at the Ford Presidential Library records a $25 million claim by General Aircraft Corporation against the CIA and associated parties. Its attorneys alleged interference with the company's aircraft business, including matters involving the Helio name, overseas marketing, proprietary information, and competition. The file preserves a formal corporate accusation, not an agency admission. [13.8]

The dispute later reached federal court. In General Aircraft Corporation v. Air America, Inc., a January 30, 1979, opinion described antitrust allegations involving sales, competitive conduct, and unauthorized fabrication of Helio aircraft or parts. The court addressed jurisdiction, limitations, foreign-government purchasing decisions, and pleading issues. Some claims were dismissed; opportunities to amend others remained. This procedural opinion did not establish the alleged conspiracy as a proven historical event. [13.9]

These records complicate the picture of a manufacturer serving a powerful customer. The usefulness of an airplane did not guarantee the producer's control over its technology, reputation, or market. The company alleged that relationships within the aviation network had damaged its business. The claim and litigation show what it contested and how that contest entered governmental and judicial records, while leaving the allegations at their proper evidentiary level.

Neither the inspected claim nor this opinion identifies Joe Skubitz as a participant in the alleged conduct. My earlier literary narrative, Echoes from Frontenac, imagined discoveries concerning covert workshops and political influence; those scenes supply no independent factory or procurement evidence. The records used here establish the more specific history: Pittsburg aircraft, Southeast Asian operations, federal auditing, and a commercial dispute with an intelligence aviation network. They bring a place close to Frontenac into the history of international power through identifiable people, products, and documents. [13.10]

From Frontenac to Science and Back

A Different Route Out

My route into the wider world was science. I studied electronics and biology, completing my undergraduate biology work at Pittsburg State University and a doctorate in biophysics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1981. I later worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in applied biological sciences and then chemistry, reaching the rank of associate professor. Those institutions and disciplines shaped much of my adult life. [14.1]

The opportunities were different from those available to the earlier generations. The family had lived through immigration, mining work, and labor conflict before universities became my route out of the region. Looking back, I can see a change in circumstances without treating it as a planned ascent. Each generation faced its own choices. Scientific work was my experience of a wider world, just as the coalfields and public organizing had been part of Mary's.

The old documents interest me partly because they demand attention to particulars. A service period has a duration. A birth entry has a place and a calendar. A passport has an issue date, which need not be the day a ship sailed. These distinctions are familiar to anyone trained to ask what an observation establishes. Family history gives them a personal weight: the names in the entries belong to people whose decisions made my own circumstances possible.

Returning to Kansas

I returned to Kansas after September 11, 2001. Frontenac and Pittsburg then stood beside my experiences elsewhere. I knew the family names and the places, but distance had changed the questions I asked of them. A local household could be connected to labor reporting, congressional correspondence, and institutions whose records were kept far away. Returning gave me a place from which to follow those connections. [14.2]

The generations remained unevenly accessible. Julia died before I was born. Mary's adult organizing preceded my childhood. Joe lived into 2000 and left an extensive public record. Their different traces affect how they appear on the page. A surviving certificate may be all that identifies one period; an archive may preserve dozens of public appearances from another. The greater volume of Joe's

record should not determine which person occupies the center of this family account. [14.3]

I keep returning to Mary because her life connects the immigrant household with public action. Bringing her forward also changes how I read the later family history. Politics does not begin here with a congressional election. A woman's organizing in the coalfields had already carried the family into national reporting. The opportunity to recover that earlier presence has become one of the reasons to write.

A New Way to Assemble the Record

At seventy-one, after three years of working with artificial intelligence, I have a new practical means of assembling scattered material. AI has helped locate sources, compare accounts, organize chapters, and develop this manuscript. My contribution includes the family relationships, recollections, questions, and decisions about what this particular history means. This book grew through that collaboration. [14.4]

No search can recover an unrecorded household conversation simply because it mattered. Some of the account therefore depends on what I remember and what the family passed down. Writing gives those memories a source and a place beside the documents. It also allows another relative or researcher to contribute something I do not know. The story can outlive its present arrangement.

I am the descendant bringing these particular records and memories together. That is my claim to the account. The aim is to preserve a continuity I carry while making it available to people who did not know the household, the names, or the region.

What This Family History Carries Forward

A Household in Public History

National history becomes easier to follow when its consequences have names. Immigration appears here through a married couple, their children, and records obtained before a journey. Labor conflict reaches the household through interrupted work and decisions about collective action. The family gives these events a human scale without reducing them to private experience. The coalfield struggle involved many households; Mary’s is the one through which I approach it.

Her importance rests on a documented action as well as a family relationship. Mary and Julia helped lead women into the mining dispute in December 1921. Mary’s son later entered Congress. Their methods of public action differed, but both belonged to the history of people from this region acting beyond the household. The family connection allows those episodes to be read together without making one the inevitable cause of the other. [15.1]

The European records extend the story backward. They recover a soldier becoming a miner, a young woman marrying within a working community, and children born before migration. Those beginnings do not explain every later choice. They give the Kansas years a past and keep the immigrant household visible beside the public figures who emerged from it.

The extended family also carries experiences that resist an account of steady advancement. Frank's remembered trade and the Menghini business connections belong beside the childhood accounts of Donald and Charles, the disputed expectations around inheritance, and the later abuse described in my testimony. Mary's concern for children's welfare gives those experiences a place in the history as well. [7.4] [7.11] [7.12]

The Place That Holds the Story

The Frontenac Triangle offers a way to look around that household. Girard’s publishing, the religious histories of Galena and Baxter Springs, and Lamar’s presidential association show different currents within a small region. Their differences make the landscape more interesting than a single regional identity could suggest.

Frontenac remains my center of place because the family names belong there in my understanding of them. The surrounding towns help describe the world beyond

the doorstep. Mary remains the center of the book because her life connects its strongest materials: an immigrant family, household economics, and a women’s movement that entered contemporary national reporting. The regional essays widen that view while the family gives it direction.

For the Next Reader

A usable family history leaves something more than conclusions. It preserves names that can be searched, dates that can be compared, and the origins of statements that another reader may question. The chapter notes and source list provide that route through the material. Where a record ends, a recollection or inherited story should remain recognizable as such. Future discoveries can then enter without having to untangle an assertion whose origin has disappeared.

At seventy-one, I want this history to carry the family's continuity beyond the person now assembling it. Other relatives will have memories I lack. Archives may hold papers I have not seen. This book gives those additions a place to begin. Mary Youvan Skubitz should be remembered as a woman whose household life and public action belong together. [15.2]

Her story reaches across the century without requiring every possible connection to be resolved. The preserved records and the account of the marches already give the family a substantial history. Leaving that history in a form that can be opened again is the work this book carries forward.

The Family Relationships

The European Generations

The elder Andreas appears in the compiled genealogy as Andreas Youvan, 1808–1892. The younger Andreas, 1852–1926, was Julia’s husband and the father of Mary and Frank. The marriage translation independently names an Andreas as the groom’s father. The elder man’s dates come from the modern family tree, while the younger man’s birth year is also recorded in his military discharge.

Julia, 1866–1944, appears under several forms of her name. The marriage translation gives Julija Gasparović and identifies her father as Gašpar Čendeš. The modern tree and timeline also use Julia Charvas and Julia Gasparovic Csendes. These forms are retained as part of the documentary history rather than collapsed into a single supposedly definitive maiden name.

Mary Frank and Joe

Mary Youvan Skubitz, born in 1887, was the daughter of Julia and the younger Andreas. Her birth certificate places her in Kostolac, Serbia, with September 28 and October 10 representing the Julian and Gregorian calendar dates of the same birth. She was Congressman Joe Skubitz's mother and the wife of his father Joseph. The author identifies her in family memory as Mary Tess and disputes her recorded death year of 1962.

Frank Youvan was Mary’s brother and Douglas Youvan’s grandfather. The modern tree and timeline disagree by one year about Frank’s birth, so this account does not choose a birth year for him. That difference leaves the relationships central to this book unchanged.

Joe Skubitz, 1906–2000, was Mary’s son. He was Frank’s nephew, Douglas’s father’s first cousin, and Douglas’s first cousin once removed. Uncle Joe is the author’s familiar family usage. Mary was Douglas’s great aunt; Julia and the younger Andreas were his great grandparents.

Two Generations Named Joseph

Joseph Skubitz, Mary Youvan’s husband, was Frank Youvan’s brother-in-law because Mary and Frank were siblings. Joseph and Mary’s son, Joseph Skubitz Jr., was the congressman known as Joe. He was Frank’s nephew. Joe’s 1966 greeting to Frank, “Dear Unk,” belongs to that second relationship. The father and son

shared a given name, which accounts for the apparent conflict between the two kinship descriptions.

The two wives named Mary also belong to separate generations. Mary Youvan married the older Joseph. Mary Jess McClellan married Congressman Joe. The material presented here establishes no second marriage into the Youvan family. The wife’s recorded name is supported by the university alumni memorial and a contemporary directory of congressional wives. [4.6]

The Name Tess and the Two Marys

Congressman Joe's wife is recorded as Mary Jess Skubitz, with dates September 15, 1909, to February 22, 1994, in the Old Mission Cemetery transcription. A Pittsburg State alumni memorial list names her as M. Jess McClellan Skubitz. The documentary record distinguishes her from his mother Mary Youvan Skubitz, who married the congressman's father Joseph. [7.13]

The author's family-name and gravestone recollections associate Tess and the wording Mary Tess Skubitz with his great aunt Mary Youvan Skubitz. He disputes her recorded 1962 death year. He has now explicitly clarified that Dole's 1988 question about Tess concerned Congressman Joe's wife, whom the records name Jess. This clarification does not merge the two women or verify the remembered inscription. No expansion to Elizabeth or another longer name is made. Chapter 12 preserves the encounter and its source note.

Frank, Edith, Donald, and Charles

Frank married Edith Menghini, identified by the author as the daughter of Anthony, whose name appears as Antone in the local memorial. Their sons were Donald and Charles F. Youvan. Charles, the author's father, was born April 3, 1935, and died July 28, 2017; his obituary identifies Donald as a brother who had already died. [7.1]

The author also remembers another brother of Frank and Mary as a uranium miner in Utah and recalls meeting his widow in Moab in the late 1980s after his death. The brother's name and mining employment have not been established in this edition. [7.9]

A Chronology of the Family and Region

1808. Birth year of the elder Andreas in the modern compiled family tree.

1852. Birth of the younger Andreas, recorded in his military discharge.

1866. Birth year of Julia; her marriage record specifies February 2.

December 31, 1884. Andreas’s discharge at Stockerau after twelve years, eight months, and seventeen days of military service.

April 21, 1885. Recorded marriage of Andreas and Julia at Kostolac.

1887. Mary’s birth at Kostolac, dated September 28 in the Julian calendar and October 10 in the Gregorian calendar.

March 30, 1890. Issue of the family passport. The university’s later account places Mary’s arrival in America with her parents in 1890; the passport does not establish the precise Atlantic sailing date.

1892. Death year of the elder Andreas in the modern family tree.

1897. Appeal to Reason resumes publication in Girard.

January 1901. Pentecostal experiences at Parham’s Topeka Bible school support his teaching about tongues and Spirit baptism.

Fall 1903 to winter 1904. Parham’s major Galena revival.

May 6, 1906. Joe Skubitz is born in Frontenac.

March 1909. Parham establishes his later family home and ministry base in Baxter Springs.

September 15, 1909. Birth date recorded for Mary Jess, later Congressman Joe's wife, in the Old Mission Cemetery transcription.

June 28, 1914. Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Sophie in Sarajevo. A family tradition about an Andreas’s connection remains unresolved.

1915. Emanuel Julius arrives in Girard.

1916. Emanuel and Marcet marry and combine their surnames. Truman’s correspondence places him in the Joplin and Commerce mining district.

1916. Peter and Antone Menghini found the Menghini Coal Company, according to the Frontenac memorial.

1919. Haldeman Julius pocket publishing begins. Truman marries Bess Wallace and opens the Kansas City clothing business with Eddie Jacobson.

1919. Miners State Bank receives its charter; the memorial identifies Antone Menghini, Sr., among its original directors.

1920. Kansas establishes the Court of Industrial Relations.

December 11, 1921. Approximately five hundred women meet in Franklin before the march.

December 12 to 14, 1921. Principal Amazon Army demonstrations across the coalfields.

December 15, 1921. National Guard troops arrive in the district. Mary’s journal entry describes the women’s courage.

December 16, 1921. Mary is among four prominent leaders imprisoned; published historical research reports $750 bail for each.

December 25, 1921. New York Times photographic coverage carries the women’s march to a national audience.

1926. Death year of the younger Andreas in the modern family tree.

January 29, 1929. Parham dies; his later base and burial are in Baxter Springs.

1934. Joe completes his master’s thesis on deep mining in Crawford County.

April 3, 1935. Charles F. Youvan, son of Frank and Edith (Menghini), is born in Frontenac.

1939 to 1949. Joe serves as administrative assistant to Senator Clyde M. Reed.

1944. Julia’s death year in the compiled family record. Joe completes his law degree and is admitted to the bar. Truman accepts the vice-presidential nomination in Lamar.

1945 to 1953. Truman’s presidency.

1948. Utah's first uranium boom begins under the Atomic Energy Commission's ore-pricing and bonus program. The employment dates of the Youvan brother remembered as a uranium miner remain unknown.

1949 to 1962. Joe serves as administrative assistant to Senator Andrew F. Schoeppel.

1951. Emanuel Haldeman Julius’s tax-evasion conviction and death. The documented tax case is distinct from the counterfeiting allegation recalled by the author.

1951 to 1952. Construction begins at Paducah in 1951; its first process buildings start operating in September 1952. The author remembers Frank naming Paducah, but his work dates and assignment remain unconfirmed.

1955. Douglas Youvan is born. Continuous Helio Courier production begins in Pittsburg during the same year.

1956. The uranium mill at Moab is constructed. This regional date does not identify the mine or employer of Frank and Mary's brother.

1962. The finding aid and cemetery transcription list this as Mary Youvan Skubitz's death year, which the author disputes. Joe wins election to the House. Official Army history dates the beginning of the Super Courier’s CIA, Army, and Air Force use to this period.

January 3, 1963. Joe begins service in the House of Representatives.

January 1963. Library of Congress staff prepare translations and a memorandum concerning the family’s European documents.

November 14, 1963. Joe and Dole are among ten representatives sending Kennedy a telegram about Soviet wheat transactions.

July 26, 1965. Date of an Air Force-related Helio contract audit listed in the Comptroller General’s annual report.

May 5, 1966. Joe sends Frank copies of the family documents and translations.

February 11, 1967. Dole’s prepared speech describes Joe as his good friend.

December 13, 1969. Dole speaks at an Independence dinner honoring Joe. The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act becomes law that year.

1972. The Black Lung Benefits Act extends the national response to miners’ disability.

September 30, 1976. General Aircraft Corporation submits the $25 million claim preserved at the Ford Presidential Library.

December 31, 1978. Joe resigns from the House. A fire destroys the Haldeman Julius printing plant and warehouse that year.

January 30, 1979. The federal district court issues the procedural opinion in General Aircraft Corporation v. Air America.

1981. Douglas completes his biophysics doctorate at Berkeley.

1988. The author places his encounter with Bob Dole at a rally in the Boston suburbs during that year's presidential campaign. He explicitly identifies the woman in Dole's question about Tess's health as Congressman Joe's wife. The particular rally and campaign phase remain unidentified.

Late 1980s. After the death of the brother remembered as a Utah uranium miner, Douglas meets his widow in Moab.

February 22, 1994. Death date recorded for Congressman Joe's wife Mary Jess in the Old Mission Cemetery transcription. She is distinct from his mother, Mary Youvan Skubitz.

September 11, 2000. Joe dies in Wichita.

After September 11, 2001. Douglas returns to Kansas.

July 28, 2017. Charles F. Youvan dies. His obituary names Frank and Edith as his parents and Donald as his deceased brother.

June 20, 2024. Jessica S. Pringle and Douglas assemble the surviving family papers and modern genealogical material into the ancestry compilation.

2026. At seventy-one, after three years of AI collaboration, Douglas brings the family and regional histories together in this paperback edition, including his recollections of the Menghinis, Paducah, Utah, inheritance, and household harm.

Chapter Notes

Using the Notes

The small superscript numbers in the text identify these notes. Each note names the claim, cites the numbered bibliography and supplies a page or section locator where available.

Chapter 1 The Sunday Meeting in Franklin

1.1. The December 11 meeting and Mary’s leadership. References 2, 7, 8. PSU finding aid, biographical description; Kansas Sampler account, December 11 paragraph; Goossen, pp. 210–211.

1.2. Dates of marching, participation and Julia’s leadership. References 7, 8. Kansas Sampler account, paragraphs on December 12 assembly, three days of marching and named leaders; Goossen, pp. 210–212. Participation estimates vary across accounts.

1.3. Mary’s marriage and son. References 2, 48. PSU finding aid, biographical description identifies her husband as Joseph and the son’s birth year as 1906; House biography supplies Joe’s May 6, 1906 birth date.

1.4. Direct action and coercion. References 8. Goossen, pp. 211–212, discussing attacks, pepper and the effort to stop production. The fuller account follows in Chapter 5.

1.5. Mary’s surviving account. References 2, 8. PSU finding aid, collection description, SpC MS 0319; Goossen, reproduced journal wording and note 15. Published excerpts are distinguished from inspection of the original ledger.

1.6. Documentary distinction between Mary Youvan Skubitz, the congressman's mother, and Mary Jess Skubitz, his wife; the author's clarification of the Dole inquiry. References 2, 4, 72, 73. PSU Mary Skubitz finding aid identifies the Amazon Army participant as the mother and wife of Joseph; Joe's House remarks identify his own wife as Jess; Old Mission Cemetery transcript gives the wife's 1909-1994 dates. The author's family-name and gravestone recollections associate Tess with his great aunt. He now explicitly identifies the woman in Dole's 1988 health inquiry as the congressman's wife.

Chapter 2 Two Generations Named Andreas

2.1. Joe Skubitz forwarded family papers to Frank Youvan on May 5, 1966. References 1. May 5, 1966 letter, compilation p. 1; greeting and enclosure description.

2.2. Translation, transmission, and modern compilation are separate events. References 1. Pregelj memorandum, January 30, 1963, p. 4; Starosolsky discharge translation, January 31, 1963, p. 5; letter p. 1; June 20, 2024 compilation title and date.

2.3. The modern genealogy distinguishes two generations named Andreas. References 1. Modern family tree, p. 18, Andreas Youvan 1808–1892 and Andreas Youvan 1852–1926.

2.4. The younger Andreas's birthplace, birth year, religion, and Austrian administrative locality. References 1. Discharge translation p. 5; passport translation pp. 8–9, Littai/Litija locality wording.

2.5. Father and son appear as Johan Andreas in the marriage translation. References 1. Marriage extract pp. 6–7; surname memorandum p. 4.

2.6. Stockerau discharge, service duration, and final Landwehr unit. References 1. Military discharge translation p. 5, December 31, 1884; twelve years, eight months, seventeen days.

2.7. Uncertain earlier regiment number, Section 39 discharge, and blank military fields. References 1. Military discharge translation p. 5; question mark after ‘52’; unfilled campaign, decoration, and badge fields.

2.8. Serbian cultural identity is the family account; the certificate documents Austrian imperial service. References 1, 4. Author's inherited family identification, 2026; discharge p. 5 and marriage pp. 6–7.

2.9. Juvan/Jovan/Johan and the possible interpretation through the given name Jovan. References 1. Pregelj memorandum p. 4; explanation is explicitly proposed rather than demonstrated.

2.10. The family tradition about an Andreas and the Archduke remains unestablished. References 1, 3, 4. Author's inherited statement, 2026; family tree p. 18; Vienna museum account of the Sarajevo assassination, June 28, 1914.

Chapter 3 Julia and the Journey to Kansas

3.1. Julia and Andreas married at Kostolac on April 21, 1885. References 1. Marriage extract pp. 6–7, spouses, residence, first-marriage entries, and ceremony date.

3.2. Julia's birth entry, father, and the wedding witness's occupation. References 1. Marriage extract pp. 6–7: February 2, 1866, Kamenica; Gašpar Čendeš; witness Mateas Zori.

3.3. Julia's name differs across the marriage extract, tree, and timeline. References 1. Marriage pp. 6–7; modern tree p. 18; timeline p. 19. The text preserves rather than resolves variant forms.

3.4. Julia's compiled lifespan and the marriage extract's later issue date. References 1. Tree p. 18, Julia 1866–1944; marriage extract pp. 6–7, issued March 19, 1889.

3.5. Maria's Kostolac birth and equivalent Julian/Gregorian dates. References 1. Birth extract pp. 10–11: September 28 and October 10, 1887; parents Andreas Johan and Julija.

3.6. Baptism, mother's second baby, and godparent entry. References 1. Birth extract pp. 10–11, baptism September 29; Marija, wife of Matija Zoro.

3.7. The university's broad birthplace description differs from the parish extract's specific location. References 1, 2. PSU finding aid, biographical note; birth extract pp. 10–11, Kostolac.

3.8. Maria in the birth extract is Mary Youvan Skubitz; Tess and the reported gravestone wording belong to the author's family recollection. References 1, 2, 4, 72. Family ancestry packet, birth extract; PSU finding aid, mother and son; author's reported name and gravestone recollections, linked to his great aunt. Congressional Record-House, May 9, 1977, p. 13934, separately names the congressman's wife Jess. The author explicitly clarifies that the 1988 Dole inquiry concerned that wife. No stone photograph or expanded formal name has been established here.

3.9. Passport issue date, issuing authority, residence, and surname correction. References 1. Passport translation pp. 8–9, issued March 30, 1890, Littai; pencil correction Juvan to Jovan.

3.10. The passport's family table and age entries. References 1. Passport pp. 8–9: Julie, Maria, Johann; Maria age three, Julie age twenty-five, Johann born 1889.

3.11. The passport's travel scope and signature entry; 1890 American arrival is a later biographical account. References 1, 2. Passport pp. 8–9, three-year validity and signature field; PSU finding aid biographical note, arrival 1890.

3.12. Andrew's American occupation was Crawford County coal mining. References 2. PSU finding aid biographical note, Andrew Youvan and Crawford County mining.

3.13. The later household's family branches and additional children. References 1, 4. Modern family tree p. 18 and timeline p. 19; author's relationship identification. No disputed birth year is assigned to Frank.

3.14. Mary and Julia appear together as march leaders in a contemporary photograph. References 9. Schofield, p. 164, caption reproducing the Pittsburg Daily Headlight photograph, December 19, 1921; Julia identified as Youvain.

Chapter 4 Mary and the Coalfield Household

4.1. Mary's birth at Kostolac comes from the translated birth certificate in the family packet. The university finding aid supplies arrival in 1890, Andrew's coal-mining

occupation, marriage to Joseph Skubitz in the early 1900s, and the son's birth in 1906. Its Slovenian-birthplace description conflicts with the family birth record; the latter is followed here. References 1, 2. Family packet, pp. 10–11, translated birth certificate; p. 4, translator's memorandum; PSU finding aid SpC MS 0319, Description, biographical paragraph.

4.2. Joe's bread-making recollection is reported in Kansas Sampler's historical account. Its age fourteen conflicts with the congressional biography's birth date of May 6, 1906; the manuscript uses the resulting age fifteen without altering the substance of the recollection. References 7, 48. Kansas Sampler, paragraph beginning 'Joe Skubitz who was 14 at the time'; U.S. House biography, Concise Biography, opening sentence.

4.3. Powers and restrictions of the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations, including collective bargaining, individual quitting, concerted interruption, and employer limits. References 10. Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin 322 (April 1923), Text of Law, pp. 1–9, especially sections 3, 6–9, 14, and 16–19.

4.4. Howat's imprisonment, the strike, and conflict between Kansas District 14 and John L. Lewis's national union leadership. References 11, 17. Howat v. Kansas, 258 U.S. 181 (1922), statement of proceedings; Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, 'Amazon Army,' opening paragraphs.

4.5. Mary's five-language command, socialist affiliation, earlier activism, and role addressing women and leading groups. References 8. Goossen, 'Like a Brilliant Thread,' Kansas History 34 (2011), p. 215, paragraph beginning 'Among the leaders of the Kansas march' and Mary Skubitz portrait caption. Only four of the reported five languages are named.

4.6. Two Joseph Skubitz generations and the two wives named Mary. References 1, 2, 75, 76. PSU’s Mary Skubitz finding aid identifies Joseph as Mary Youvan’s husband and Joseph Jr. as their son; the 1966 family letter addresses Frank as “Dear Unk.” Frank’s sibling relationship to Mary comes from the family material. The university alumni memorial names M. Jess McClellan Skubitz, and the 1975–76 Republican Congressional Wives directory identifies Mrs. Joe Skubitz as Mary Jess. These sources establish no second Youvan marriage. Return 1 · Return 2

Chapter 5 The Amazon Army of December 1921

5.1. December 11 assembly, approximately five hundred participants, Mary addressing the meeting, Julia's leadership, and the resolution's concern for families and children. References 2, 7, 8. PSU finding aid, Description; Kansas Sampler, paragraphs concerning December 11 and named leaders; Goossen, pp. 211 and 215, notes 12–14.

5.2. Dates, crowd estimates, and movement across more than sixty mines. References 7, 17. Kansas Sampler, paragraphs beginning 'At 4 a.m.' and 'Defying the governor'; Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, 'Amazon Army,' account of the three-day march.

5.3. Mary's direct leadership of groups and multilingual communication. References 8. Goossen, p. 215, Mary Skubitz discussion and portrait caption.

5.4. Flags and the marchers' public assertion of American identity. References 15, 16. The New York Times, Sunday photographic section, December 25, 1921, p. 68; Kansas Memory item 224194, Topeka Daily Capital photograph dated December 20, 1921. The citizenship interpretation is the author's reading of this imagery and the dispute.

5.5. Intimidation, assaults, red pepper, and overturned food containers. References 7, 8. Kansas Sampler, paragraph concerning Marie Merciez and pepper; Goossen, pp. 211–212 and 217, including note 33. These descriptions concern the movement and are not individual assault allegations against Julia or Mary.

5.6. Mary's account of three African American workers leaving the Weir Coal Company mine after discussion with the women. References 8. Goossen, p. 216, paragraph beginning 'When the women encountered black miners,' note 31 citing the Skubitz journal. This is a paraphrase of a published account based on Mary's journal, not a transcription from the original ledger pages.

5.7. National photographic coverage and the army metaphor. References 12, 15. The New York Times, December 25, 1921, p. 68, 'The Women's Army of Kansas on the March'; Miners' Memorial marker, captions to reproduced newspaper photographs.

5.8. Arrival of troops December 15 and the cavalry and machine gun components of the state response. References 7, 8. Kansas Sampler, militia paragraph; Goossen, pp. 217–218, state deployment and arrival.

5.9. Mary's imprisonment on December 16 and bail of $750; Julia's individual arrest remains unestablished. References 8. Goossen, p. 218, paragraph beginning 'On December 16, 1921.'

5.10. Strike conclusion in January 1922. References 17. Encyclopedia of the Great Plains, 'Amazon Army,' concluding paragraph, date January 13, 1922.

5.11. Scope of the later Supreme Court decisions. References 11, 18. Howat v. Kansas, 258 U.S. 181 (1922), opinion and disposition; Charles Wolff Packing Co. v. Court of Industrial Relations, 262 U.S. 522 (1923), opinion, especially its treatment of compulsory wage settlement.

Chapter 6 Mary's Words and Later Life

6.1. Extent, material, contemporary date, and archival location of Mary's journal; online access does not include a verified complete transcription or facsimile. References 2. PSU finding aid SpC MS 0319, Description and Manuscript Number. The download attached to the record is a finding aid, not an identified digitization of the ten ledger pages.

6.2. Exact short quotation about fear, reproduced from Mary's journal in public interpretation and scholarly quotation. References 8, 12. Miners' Memorial, Amazon Army marker, journal quotation attributed to December 15, 1921; Goossen, p. 212, note 15, citing December 12 and 15 entries. The original manuscript has not been inspected.

6.3. Exact fragment about food and clothing for children, retained from the journal passage reproduced on the marker. References 12. Miners' Memorial, Amazon Army marker, December 15, 1921 quotation, second sentence. This edition quotes only a short fragment and does not silently correct or expand the surrounding inscription.

6.4. Highland Park transcription pairs Joe Skubitz 1884-1941 with Mary Skubitz 1887-1962; the author disputes Mary's recorded death year. References 2, 4, 6. Highland Park Cemetery tombstone transcription, printed p. 51, grouped Skubitz entry; PSU finding aid, biographical note. The cemetery master index derives from the transcription and is not independent corroboration. The finding aid's source for the death year is unspecified, so its independence is unestablished. No death certificate or photograph of the actual stone has been inspected for this book.

6.5. A portrait of Mary from the 1940s survives in published family-sourced imagery. References 8. Goossen, p. 215, portrait caption: date decade and credit to the Skubitz family. No photograph is reproduced in this edition.

6.6. Mary's socialist activism and Joe's later Republican congressional service. References 8, 48. Goossen, p. 215, Mary Skubitz biography; U.S. House biography, Concise Biography, Republican election and service beginning in 1963. Commentary on differing political paths is the author's interpretation.

6.7. Mary Youvan is Joe's mother; Mary Jess is his wife; the author's Tess recollections and disputed maternal death date. References 2, 4, 6, 72, 73, 75. PSU finding aid and Highland Park transcript record 1962 for Mary Youvan, disputed by the author; their independence is unknown. Congressional Record, May 9, 1977, p. 13934, names wife Jess. Old Mission transcript dates the wife 1909-1994; PSU 2024 memorial booklet, PDF p. 34, names M. Jess McClellan Skubitz. The author identifies Dole's 1988 referent as the wife; the great-aunt inscription remains unverified.

6.8. Joe's letter transmitting translated family records, including his mother's birth certificate, to Frank Youvan. References 1. Family ancestry packet, compilation p. 1

(transcription) and PDF p. 2 (facsimile), Joe Skubitz letter dated May 5, 1966; accompanying Library of Congress translations dated January 1963.

6.9. Institutional preservation and public commemoration of Mary as an Amazon Army leader. References 2, 12, 13. PSU manuscript finding aid SpC MS 0319; Miners' Memorial marker, journal quotation and Mary portrait caption; National Park Service, 'Finding Women's History in Unexpected Places,' Mary Skubitz image caption and university credit.

Chapter 7 Mary and the Menghini Family

7.1. Frank and Edith's marriage connection, Donald and Charles as their sons, and Charles's parentage and birth. References 4, 67. Author's October 10, 2026 recollections; Charles F. Youvan obituary, Morning Sun, August 2, 2017, opening biographical paragraphs: born April 3, 1935, to Frank and Edith (Menghini), and brother Donald listed as predeceased. Anthony is the author's family usage; Antone is the memorial's form. Return 1 · Return 2

7.2. Menghini Coal Company founded by Peter and Antone in 1916; family payroll, retail businesses, and bank connections. References 66. Frontenac Miners' Memorial inscription, Peter Menghini and Miners State Bank sections. Antone, Sr., appears among several original bank directors. The inscription records family involvement, not sole ownership by him.

7.3. Broader family account of packing-house, Budweiser-distribution, and land interests; no identified Menghini mine as a target of the march. References 4, 66. Author's October 10, 2026 account supplies these broader interests. The memorial independently supports coal, retail, and bank roles. It does not verify all of the author's ownership statements or identify a December 1921 protest at a Menghini operation.

7.4. Donald and Charles's reported childhood experiences of physical domestic abuse and constant arguing; Charles's recollection of months alone with Donald. References 4. Author's October 10, 2026 recollections of accounts given by the two sons. Exact ages, dates, circumstances of absence, and perpetrators of particular acts are not specified. These are attributed family accounts, not independently reconstructed incidents. Return 1 · Return 2

7.5. Mary's recorded emphasis on food and clothing for children provides the basis of the chapter's interpretive comparison. References 12. Amazon Army memorial, passage attributed to Mary's December 15, 1921 journal. The chapter adds no quotation to the short excerpts in Chapter 6. The connection to her nephews is the author's interpretation, not a reported statement by Mary.

7.6. Frank's pipefitting, extensive piping, Kentucky, and the specific name Paducah in the author's recollection. References 4. Author's October 10, 2026 clarifications. The location is a remembered statement from Frank. Employment at the gaseous diffusion plant remains a plausible identification without an employer, date, or assignment record.

7.7. Paducah construction in 1951, startup in September 1952, and the Cold War expansion during Truman's presidency. References 68, 69. DOE Paducah Background, Background section, Truman/AEC expansion; construction-worker needs assessment, May 2003, PDF p. 4, Paducah section: first phase began January 2, 1951, first process buildings operated September 1952. This establishes plant history, not Frank's service dates.

7.8. Gaseous-diffusion process and limited knowledge of wider operations among some construction workers. References 68, 69. DOE Paducah Background, Site Description; construction-worker assessment, PDF pp. 4-5, diffusion stages and uranium hexafluoride, and PDF p. 7, paragraph noting that former workers did not always know activities beyond their tasks. This does not establish what Frank knew.

7.9. An unnamed brother of Frank and Mary mined uranium in Utah; the author met his widow in Moab in the late 1980s. References 4. Author's October 10, 2026 recollection. Brother's name, employer, mine, work dates, and date of death are not supplied. The visit occurred after his death and does not date the mining employment. Return 1 · Return 2

7.10. Utah's AEC-driven uranium boom from 1948 and Moab mill's 1956 construction and defense-market sales through December 1970. References 70, 71. Krahulec, Energy News, May 2008, paragraphs on first and second uranium booms; DOE Moab overview, Background and History, first paragraph. Regional context does not establish the brother's mine or employment.

7.11. Author's account of Edith's inheritance disposition and Charles's anger over grandfather-promised bank shares and land. References 4. Author's October 10, 2026 account: a portion of bank stock described as one third, and land reportedly promised to Charles; the denominator of the fraction has not been established; assets said to return to the Menghini family, with neither son receiving them. No will, deed, probate file, share register, or transfer record has been examined; no legal entitlement or unlawful transfer is asserted. Return 1 · Return 2

7.12. Author's account of Donald's later domestic abuse, child abandonment, alleged New York organized-crime work, and continuing harm. References 4. Author's October 10, 2026 testimony. Organized-crime claim has no independent corroboration in this edition. The living survivor is unnamed and her own account is not reproduced. The author's description of trauma is personal testimony, not a clinical assessment; no causal inference from childhood to later abuse is established. Return 1 · Return 2

7.13. Congressman Joe's wife Mary Jess is distinct in the documentary record from his mother; Joe's testimony about her school advocacy and her Fort Scott recognition. References 2, 4, 72, 73, 74, 75. PSU Mary Skubitz finding aid, mother and son relationships; Congressional Record-House, May 9, 1977, p. 13934, Joe's wife Jess and the school campaign; Old Mission Cemetery entries, wife 1909-1994; NPS Fort Scott history, printed p. 87, wife Mary Jess and May 19, 1978 dedication; PSU 2024 memorial booklet, PDF p. 34, M. Jess McClellan Skubitz. The author explicitly clarifies that Dole's 1988 health inquiry concerned the congressman's wife. Return 1 · Return 2 · Return 3

Chapter 8 Girard and the World of Haldeman-Julius

8.1. Appeal to Reason founding and Girard publication; national circulation; Warren's commission and publication of Sinclair's investigation. References 21. University of Kansas Libraries, Appeal to Reason, opening two paragraphs and Appeal to Reason Office section: 1895/1897 newspaper chronology; Sinclair commission in 1904, serialization in 1905, book publication in 1906. Return 1 · Return 2

8.2. Emanuel's background and 1915 arrival; Marcet's family and 1916 marriage; joint surname; Marcet's backing of the January 1919 acquisition. References 19, 20. Kansas Historical Society, Marcet and Emanuel Haldeman-Julius, biographical header and paragraphs 1–4; Pittsburg State University, Haldeman-Julius Collection, introduction, paragraphs 1–4. Return 1 · Return 2

8.3. Little Blue Books' start, dimensions, prices, literary range, and disputed subjects. References 20, 22, 23. PSU collection introduction; KU Libraries, The Little Blue Books, Poe's Poems and When a Woman Enjoys Herself sections; Kent State inventory, Historical Note, Scope and Content, and Series 1, boxes 1–3. Return 1 · Return 2

8.4. Girard house purchase, enlargement, facilities, and named visitors. References 24. Kansas Historical Society, Haldeman-Julius House, opening paragraphs: purchase in 1918, additions in 1923, and recorded visitors.

8.5. John Gunn's contemporary Appeal coverage of the 1921–1922 coalfield dispute. References 8. Benjamin W. Goossen, ‘Like a Brilliant Thread,’ Kansas History 34 (Autumn 2011), pp. 206–223, notes 8, 25, 38, 39, and 50; articles dated December 10 and 31, 1921, and January 14 and 21, 1922.

8.6. Publishing scale, continuation and 1978 fire; surviving archive; documented tax-evasion case distinguished from the author's counterfeiting recollection. References 4, 20, 25, 26, 27. PSU collection introduction and Big Blue Books exhibit; PSU's March 5, 2025 history, paragraphs beginning ‘Following World War II,’ ‘His company continued,’ and ‘Today, a copy’; TIME, April 3, 1950, The Cost of Living section, for the earlier

income-tax indictment. Counterfeiting statement: author's October 2026 recollection, not independently corroborated. Return 1 · Return 2

Chapter 9 Galena and Baxter Springs in the Pentecostal Story

9.1. Parham's autumn 1903 Galena arrival and the sequence of meeting venues. References 28. Apostolic Archives International, Galena, Kansas—1903, opening account incorporating Sarah Parham's retrospective description of the Arthur home, tent, and Grand Leader building.

9.2. Contemporary revival coverage and cataloged January 1904 meeting locations. References 29, 30. Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, Galena Evening Times clipping, January 19, 1904, p. 3, archive ID 158005, location 15/4/1; Oral Roberts University, Parham Newspaper Clippings, item 18, St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, January 2, 1904. Venue details come from the catalog; the original clipping was not inspected.

9.3. Older Wesleyan Holiness background and the distinction from Pentecostalism. References 31. Religion in Kansas Project, Holiness Movement and the Foundations of Pentecostalism, opening discussion of Wesleyan roots and Charles Parham and the Holiness Movement section.

9.4. Topeka institutions, reported January 1901 experiences, and Parham's tongues doctrine. References 32, 33. Gary B. McGee, ‘Parham, Charles Fox,’ Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions (1998), pp. 515–516, reprinted by Boston University; Religion in Kansas Project, The Topeka Outpouring of 1901, opening chronology and Significance section.

9.5. Houston instruction, Lucy Farrow, Seymour, segregation, and Azusa Street. References 34. Religion in Kansas Project, Parham's Texas Ministry and William Seymour, William Seymour and Houston Bible College sections. Classroom arrangement is attributed to that exhibition. Return 1 · Return 2

9.6. March 1909 Baxter Springs relocation, January 1929 death, and surviving publication and camp-meeting records. References 35, 36. Religion in Kansas Project, Parham's Later Life and Legacy, Move and Relief in Baxter Springs section; Oral Roberts University Apostolic Faith issues, 1925–1929, and Parham Newspaper Clippings, item 36, July 11, 1927. Author's church experience is personal testimony supplied during preparation of this book. Return 1 · Return 2

Chapter 10 Lamar and the Regional Origins of Harry Truman

10.1. Truman's Lamar birth, parents, house, and departure in infancy; later settlement in Independence. References 37, 38. National Park Service testimony on H.R. 3265, October 30, 2007, paragraph beginning ‘President Harry S Truman was born’; Missouri

State Parks, General Information, Presidential Beginnings section. Exact departure date is used instead of the testimony's approximate age.

10.2. TCH Mining Company, partners, investment and failure; August 29 boiler and production difficulties. References 40. National Park Service, Dear Bess: August 29, 1916, podcast episode dated August 29, 2022; historical introduction and reproduction of the Commerce letter. Return 1 · Return 2

10.3. Joplin mill consultation and Commerce payroll arrangements in Truman's letters. References 41, 42. Truman to Bess Wallace, March 5, 1916 [postmark], Yates Hotel, Joplin, HST-FBP_3-68_01, National Archives ID 962058; August 26, 1916, Commerce, HST-FBP_4-26_01, National Archives ID 962085. Return 1 · Return 2

10.4. Truman's 1919 marriage and haberdashery, 1922 business failure and county election, 1935 Senate entry, and wartime investigating committee. References 43. Truman Library, Prepresidential Years chronology, entries for 1919, 1922, 1935, and 1941. Return 1 · Return 2

10.5. 1944 Lamar acceptance speech, presidential dates, Joe's House entry, and 1959 birthplace dedication and preservation. References 44, 45, 46, 48. Truman Library recording SR70-62, August 31, 1944; presidential chronology, April 12, 1945 and January 1953; post-presidency chronology, April 19, 1959; House biography, Joe Skubitz, service beginning January 3, 1963. Return 1 · Return 2

10.6. Easley's recollection of the Pittsburg delegation, Hopkins meeting, and Jayhawk Ordnance Plant. References 47. Harry Easley oral history, interview by J. R. Fuchs, August 24, 1967, transcript pp. 63–66, especially pp. 64–65; retrospective participant testimony.

Chapter 11 Joe Skubitz from Frontenac to Congress

11.1. Joe's birth date and place; Mary Youvan Skubitz's relationship to Joe and participation in the Amazon Army. References 2, 48. the U.S. House biography of Joe Skubitz, Concise Biography, opening birth statement; the PSU Mary Skubitz collection finding aid, collection description and biographical note, SpC MS 0319. Joe's age fifteen in December 1921 is calculated from his May 6, 1906 birth date.

11.2. Later account of Joe remembering his mother's bread-making instructions during the march. References 7, 48. the Kansas Sampler Amazon Army account, paragraph beginning 'Joe Skubitz who was 14 at the time.' That retrospective account gives age fourteen; the official birth date in Joe Skubitz’s U.S. House biography makes him fifteen. The bread recollection is retained as a later account, without adopting its age.

11.3. Teaching from 1927, school administration and debate coaching, and Pittsburg degrees in 1929 and 1934. References 49. Biographical entry, education and teaching paragraphs, including the bachelor's degree, master's degree, and school positions.

11.4. The subject, institution, award date, and opening historical contrast of Joe's mining thesis. References 50. Repository record, title and author fields, Date of Award August 1934, degree and department fields, and Abstract opening paragraph. The account of the opening is confined to material supplied in the repository record.

11.5. Senate assistant service, legal training, 1962 election, primary margin, House tenure, resignation, and death. References 48, 49. the U.S. House biography of Joe Skubitz, Concise Biography, Reed 1939–1949 and Schoeppel 1949–1962 service clauses, 1944 legal education and admission, and House service January 3, 1963–December 31, 1978; the Kansas Historical Society biography of Joe Skubitz, 1962 primary paragraph, 148-vote margin.

11.6. Joe's concern for black-lung sufferers and regional retrospective association with the 1969 and 1972 mining laws. References 7, 51. the PSU Joe Skubitz collection description, collection description, black-lung benefits passage; the Kansas Sampler Amazon Army account, paragraph beginning 'Joe Skubitz who was 14 at the time,' naming the 1969 and 1972 acts. These descriptions support involvement, not sole legislative authorship.

11.7. Joe's work for federal historic-site recognition at Fort Scott. References 51. Collection description, passage identifying establishment of Fort Scott as a federal historic site among Skubitz's concerns.

Chapter 12 Kennedy Dole and Family Memory

12.1. Family understanding of Joe's friendship with Kennedy. References 4. Author's recollections recorded during preparation of the book, updated October 10, 2026; statement concerning Kennedy friendship. The claim is not treated as independently established by the official wheat-trade telegram.

12.2. November 14, 1963, congressional telegram to Kennedy concerning Soviet wheat transactions, signed by Skubitz and Dole. References 52. PDF page 1, telegram text and financing/shipping questions; PDF page 2, list of ten signatories. This is the November 14 telegram, not the earlier September or October telegrams mentioned on page 2.

12.3. Dole publicly described Skubitz as his good friend in 1967. References 53. February 11, 1967, Lincoln Day luncheon prepared remarks, PDF page 1, opening acknowledgment of Joe Skubitz.

12.4. Dole spoke at the 1969 dinner honoring Joe and supported his continued Fifth District representation. References 54. December 13, 1969, Wig's Restaurant, Independence, Kansas, prepared remarks, PDF page 1, heading and opening tribute.

12.5. Comparison of Joe's and Dole's birth years, House entry dates, and Joe's earlier Senate employment. References 48, 55. the U.S. House biography of Joe Skubitz, Concise Biography, May 6, 1906 birth, administrative assistant service beginning 1939, and House entry January 3, 1963; the U.S. House biography of Bob Dole, Concise Biography, July 22, 1923 birth and House entry January 3, 1961.

12.6. Author's recollection of Joe's late-life claim to have mentored Dole. References 4. Author's recollections, updated October 10, 2026, Joe's description of himself as Dole's mentor. Dole's prepared speeches establish friendship and support, without identifying particular mentoring episodes.

12.7. Author's 1988 presidential-campaign rally recollection in the Boston suburbs, MIT employment setting, left-hand instruction, inquiry about Tess, and CBS conversation afterward. References 4. Author's clarification, October 10, 2026. The year is supplied by the author; exact date, suburban location, campaign phase, and independent broadcast record remain unidentified. The account does not assume that the encounter occurred during Dole's own primary bid.

12.8. Dole's 1988 presidential bid and 1996 nomination, Bush's 1988 nomination, and Dole's lasting right-arm limitation after wartime injuries. References 56, 57. the Dole Institute biography of Bob Dole, Political Career, presidential campaigns paragraph (1980, 1988, 1996 and 1996 nomination), and Recovery and Education, opening paragraph on loss of right-arm mobility; George H. W. Bush’s August 18, 1988 acceptance address, August 18, 1988 address, opening acceptance of the Republican presidential nomination. These sources establish campaign chronology and contextualize the handshake, without verifying the remembered Secret Service instruction or identifying the rally's campaign phase.

12.9. Author identifies Dole's 1988 inquiry as concerning Joe's wife and remembers Joe in Frontenac in the 1990s. References 2, 4, 6, 72, 73. Author's October 10, 2026 clarification; Congressional Record, May 9, 1977, p. 13934 (wife Jess); Old Mission entry (wife's death February 22, 1994). The author's great-aunt name and inscription recollections, and objection to Mary Youvan's recorded 1962 death, are separate; the stone remains unverified.

Chapter 13 Pittsburg Aircraft and the War in Southeast Asia

13.1. Pittsburg manufacturing from mid-1955 and the Koppen/MIT and Bollinger/Harvard origins of Helio. References 58. The Kansas Aircraft Industry, Helio

Aircraft Corporation section, PDF page 6; continuous-production date, founders, and Mid-States Manufacturing Division passages. The brochure discusses 1967 developments; its exact publication date is not asserted. The same section supplies the workforce and manufacturing-space figures.

13.2. Super Courier high-lift wing features contributing to short takeoff and landing capability. References 59. Veritas 14, no. 1 (2018), U-10A Super Courier sidebar, printed p. 31, physical PDF p. 7, leading-edge slats and high-lift flaps description.

13.3. Pittsburg manufacture, CIA/Army/Air Force use from 1962 into the late 1970s, and Air Force variants in Vietnam. References 59. Veritas 14, no. 1 (2018), U-10A Super Courier sidebar, printed p. 31, physical PDF p. 7, manufacturer, operators, period of use, and Vietnam B/D-model statements.

13.4. Helio Courier participation in Air America operations in Laos, including leading helicopters in March 1962. References 60. Air America in Laos II: Military Aid, Part I, passage dated March 12, 1962, describing a Helio Courier leading two UH-34D helicopters. The passage was available in the search index; direct PDF retrieval failed, so no unverified page number or aircraft serial is supplied.

13.5. Air Force contract audit entry for Helio's Pittsburg division, report issued July 26, 1965. References 61. Printed page 171, PDF page 185, Audit Reports Issued during Fiscal Year 1966, Department of the Air Force, Contract Audits, Helio Aircraft Corp. Mid-States Manufacturing Division row. Report-number and congressional-recipient fields are blank; the row gives no contract amount or audit findings.

13.6. Joe's membership on the House Transportation and Aeronautics Subcommittee in 1974. References 65. Amtrak Authorization—1975 hearings, June 17 and 20, 1974, Serial No. 93-82, preliminary page II, PDF page 8, subcommittee roster. The hearing concerns Amtrak and supplies no Helio funding evidence.

13.7. Author's hypothesis that Joe assisted with concealed aircraft funding. References 4. Author's recollections and interpretation, updated October 10, 2026, Helio/Heliocraft funding statement. This is an attributed hypothesis; no appropriation or procurement document naming Joe as its source has been established here.

13.8. General Aircraft Corporation's September 30, 1976, $25 million claim against the CIA and associated parties. References 62. Submission addressed to George Bush, dated September 30, 1976; introductory statement of the $25 million claim and Statement of Facts. Claims about interference and competition are the company's allegations.

13.9. The 1979 opinion describes allegations and decides procedural issues. References 63. 482 F. Supp. 3 (D.D.C. 1979), January 30 memorandum, pp. 5-11: lost-sales discussion and limitations/leave-to-amend rulings. This is not a final merits finding that the alleged conspiracy occurred.

13.10. Limits of the inspected corporate and court records; earlier literary scenes are not factory or funding evidence. References 62, 63, 64. General Aircraft Corporation claim, September 30, 1976; General Aircraft v. Air America, January 30, 1979, pp. 3-11. Neither inspected record names Skubitz; this limited finding does not rule out congressional involvement. Youvan's January 13, 2024 Alex Carter and workshop scenes are literary passages.

Chapter 14 From Frontenac to Science and Back

14.1. Author's education and MIT academic career. References 5. Author-supplied biography: electronics and biology education; PSU; Berkeley biophysics doctorate, 1981; MIT applied biological sciences and chemistry; associate professor.

14.2. Author returned to Kansas after September 11, 2001. References 5. Author's biographical account of his return to Kansas.

14.3. Julia died in 1944, the author was born in 1955, and Joe died in 2000. References 1, 5, 48. Family tree p. 18, Julia 1866–1944; author birth year 1955; Joe Skubitz congressional biography, death September 11, 2000.

14.4. Author's age and three years of collaboration with AI. References 4, 5. Author's statements during preparation, October 2026.

Chapter 15 What This Family History Carries Forward

15.1. Julia and Mary were identified as march leaders; Joe was Mary's son and later served in Congress. References 2, 9, 48. Schofield p. 164 photograph caption; PSU Mary Skubitz finding aid biographical note; Joe Skubitz congressional biography, service 1963 –1978.

15.2. Author's age and intention to preserve the family history. References 5. Author's biographical statements, October 2026.

Sources

Reading the Sources

Chapter Notes connect particular statements to these numbered references and provide page or section locators. References are grouped by subject; a printed URL identifies an available online source, while a collection description identifies material held by an archive.

The family compilation preserves original documents in translation, a 1966 covering letter, and a modern genealogy. The surviving Mary Skubitz ledger journal has not been freshly transcribed for this book. Its short quoted excerpts are credited to the published transcription or memorial inscription through which they were checked. Personal recollections include Tess, the reported gravestone wording, the 1988 Dole encounter, and Joe in Frontenac in the 1990s. The author's latest clarification identifies the woman Dole meant as Joe's wife; his separate name and gravestone recollections concern his great aunt, whose recorded 1962 death year he disputes. The accounts also include the Menghini family, Frank's Paducah recollection, the Utah uranium miner, inheritance, and household abuse. The extended-family chapter interprets Mary's position without assigning her private thoughts or knowledge of later events. Online sources were checked in October 2026.

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About the Author

Douglas C. Youvan is a biophysicist from the Frontenac and Pittsburg region of southeast Kansas. He studied biology at Pittsburg State University and received his doctorate in biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1981. He later served at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was an associate professor. He returned to Kansas after September 11, 2001.

His family connection to this book runs through his grandfather Frank, the brother of Mary Youvan Skubitz. Julia was his great grandmother, Mary his great aunt, and Joe Skubitz the relative he calls Uncle Joe. At seventy-one, he brought three years of collaboration with artificial intelligence to the preparation of this family history.