

Branch 6 of 7

Bernard William Kelley

1876-1932

Great Granduncle

Bernard William Kelley, the seventh son of Sylvester and Jane Kelly, was born in Auburn, New York. Growing up in Auburn, he experienced early family tragedy when his older brother Patrick passed away at just two years old. By the time of the 1900 federal census, a 22-year-old Bernard was working as a shoe finisher and living with his parents at 112 Van Anden Street.

In 1905, Bernard married Anna Magill (1879–1970) in Auburn. Anna hailed from Seneca Falls, located about 20 miles west of Auburn. The newlyweds initially remained in Auburn, welcoming their first son, John Louis, in 1906. However, around 1908, the family permanently relocated to Seneca Falls.

Bernard and Anna arrived during a period of massive local transformation. Seneca Falls' economy was booming, driven heavily by major industrial pump production companies. In August 1915, the reconstruction of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal caused a dramatic 49-foot rise in local water levels. This intentional flooding inundated the historic "Flats" neighborhood—an area packed with island industries and tenements—submerging it to create the artificial Van Cleef Lake seen today. Simultaneously, the town remained an epicenter for social change. As the national fight for women's suffrage culminated in the 19th Amendment in 1920, the



The Flats – circa 1910



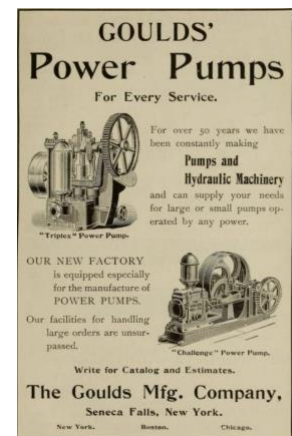
Red Mills with middle and upper falls

town took great pride in its legacy as the

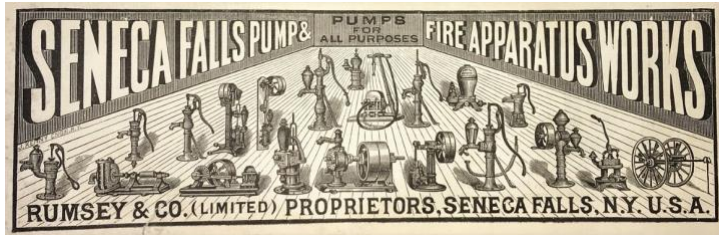
birthplace of women's rights. In 1923, the National Woman's Party selected Seneca Falls to unveil the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

To support his growing family, Bernard worked as a machinist at the town's prominent pump mills. Over the next decade, he and Anna welcomed five more children: William Vincent (1910), James F. (1911), Lewis (1914), George Francis (1917), and Dorothy Anna (1921).

While the 1925 New York State census notes that Bernard briefly returned to his childhood trade of shoemaking, by 1930 he had resumed his role as a laborer and machinist at the pump works. He was most likely employed by Goulds Pumps, Inc. (which dropped "Manufacturing Company" from its name in 1926) or the Rumsey Pump Company. Goulds was an industrial juggernaut operating massive foundry and machining complexes right in town. As a skilled machinist, Bernard utilized blueprints to configure precision machinery such as lathes, planers, shapers, and milling machines. His daily tasks involved boring out pump cylinders, shaping



Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY



impellers, and cutting exact threads into iron and brass to ensure high-pressure industrial pumps remained leak-proof.

Bernard's work environment was defined by the loud cacophony of heavy machinery, intense heat, and the sharp smells of

machine oil, sulfur, and coal smoke. Because machine shops of this era relied on exposed overhead canvas belts and pulleys to drive equipment, the job demanded constant alertness. Outside of the grueling work, the factory offered a tight-knit brotherhood, featuring company-sponsored sports leagues, brass bands, and neighborhood social events.

Tragedy struck the family on October 26, 1927, when their second son, Henry, passed away in Seneca Falls at the tender age of 19.



Henry Kelly

A few years later, the onset of the Great Depression severely impacted the local manufacturing sector. When asked on the April 1930 census if he had worked the previous day, Bernard



Anna Magill Kelley with some of her children, late 1950s
L to R: James F, John L, Anna, Dorothy, William V

responded "No," heavily implying he was facing the industrial layoffs common to the era. Bernard passed away just two years later on April 16, 1932, in Seneca Falls at the age of 53. His local obituary contained a few errors regarding his surviving family: it mistakenly listed his brother John Francis as alive when he had actually died in 1923, and it omitted his surviving brothers James Francis (of Corning) and Edward (of Oswego), while correctly noting the survival of his brother Michael and sister Jennie.

BERNARD KELLEY
Seneca Falls, Apr. 18—Bernard Kelley, 53, of 59 West Bayard Street, died last night. He leaves his wife; five sons, William, Louis, George, John and James Kelley, a daughter, Dorothy, all of Seneca Falls; two brothers, John Kelley of Corning and Michael Kelley of Cayuga; and a sister, Mrs. Robert Burke of Rochester. Funeral Thursday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Patrick's Church.



The Next Generation: An overview of Branch 6...

Descendants of Bernard William Kelley and Anna Magill

Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY

1. John Louis Kelley

1906-1980

1st cousin 2x removed

John Louis Kelley, the eldest of Bernard and Anna's children, was born on January 1, 1906. He completed school through the seventh grade and by 1925 was working as a local machinist.

On February 8, 1929, 22-year-old John married 20-year-old Anna Kowalik, a knitter in Seneca Falls. The 1930 census finds the young couple living in his parents' crowded family home at 61 West Bayard Street, which housed nine relatives ranging in age from 8 to 51. By 1935, they were renting their own home at 71 Bayard Street, just a few doors away. John continued his trade as a machinist, gaining employment with Locomotive Works.



John L. Kelley circa 1959

On January 8, 1942, John and Anna became parents with the birth of their first child, Joyce, just one month after the United States entered World War II. On May 19, 1944, at the age of 37, John entered active duty in the U.S.

Navy. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, conscription laws had been expanded to induct married men and fathers up to age 45 as draft boards exhausted their pools of younger, single men.



The military deliberately channeled mature enlistees with existing trades into technical support roles. Instead of serving on the front lines, John became a Machinist's Mate. He spent his service in ship engine rooms, maintaining steam propulsion plants, auxiliary machinery, and refrigeration systems. John was honorably released

from the Navy on November 24, 1945. A year later, the couple welcomed their second child, Francis.

By 1950, the family was residing with Anna's mother in Seneca Falls. John continued his career as a machinist, eventually retiring from the Stolp Manufacturing Company in Geneva, New York. He passed away at age 74 on January 8, 1980—his daughter Joyce's 38th birthday. Anna followed him in death three years later in 1983.

Children: Joyce A. Kelley (1942–2014), Francis Xavier Kelley (1946–2023) 

2. William Vincent Kelley

1910-2008

1st cousin 2x removed

William Vincent Kelley was a lifelong resident of Seneca Falls, completing his formal education through the fourth grade. The Great Depression hit the region's manufacturing sector hard, causing widespread layoffs and hour reductions. To pool resources and curtail living costs, William, his mother, and his younger siblings moved into the busy household of his uncle, James Kelley, around 1935. Through



William V. Kelley circa 1959

Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY

these challenging years, William managed to maintain steady work, logging 45 weeks of labor as a machinist in 1939.

On May 4, 1946, William married Seneca Falls native Margaret Mary Smith (1918–1984). Margaret was a World War II veteran, having served stateside and overseas in England with the Women's Army Corps (WAC) from August 1943 to November 1945. By 1950, William was employed as a boring machine operator. Outliving all of his siblings, he passed away in Seneca Falls on April 15, 2008, at the remarkable age of 98.

Children: Joseph Bernard Kelley (1945–)

3. James Francis Kelley—*Jimmy*

1911-1975

1st cousin 2x removed

James Francis Kelley, named after his paternal uncle, was born in Seneca Falls. By age 19, he was working as a baker. On November 4, 1933, Jimmy married Bertha Dunham (1909–1975). They welcomed their only child, James Henry, in September 1938.

The 1940 and 1950 censuses record Jimmy working as an institutional cook and Bertha working as an attendant at Willard State Hospital (formerly the Willard Asylum for the Insane). Located on Seneca Lake in nearby Romulus, New York, Willard was a massive, largely self-sufficient psychiatric complex. Jimmy's role as a cook was physically demanding, requiring him to feed thousands of patients and staff daily using industrial commercial equipment. Before the widespread use of modern psychiatric medications in the 1950s, the hospital relied heavily on "client labor." Jimmy managed patients who were well enough to assist with kitchen preparation, dishwashing, and cleaning, coordinating meals with the facility's on-site farms, canneries, and butcher shops.



James F Kelley circa 1959

The hospital also holds an intersection with the extended family tree. In May 1960, Anna Deneen—the sister-in-law of Jimmy's first cousin John "Jack" Kelly—was released from Willard into her own custody. While Jimmy's kitchen duties rarely crossed paths with patients, Bertha's role as an attendant makes it possible that she interacted with

Anna during her stay. Jimmy passed away on January 5, 1975, and Bertha followed him in death in October of that same year.

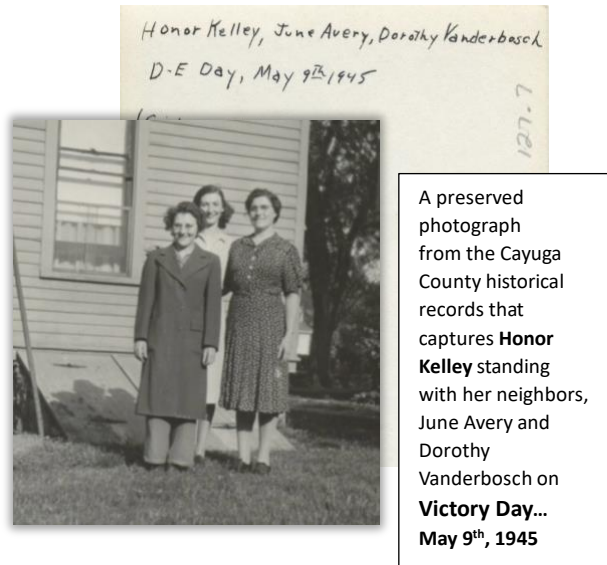
Children: James Henry "Jim" Kelley (1938–2006) 🇺🇸

Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY

4. Lewis Kelley

1914-2002

1st cousin 2x removed



Lewis Kelley was born in Seneca Falls on January 16, 1914, and completed two years of high school. He was 18 years old when his father passed away in 1932. In 1940, Lewis married Honor Joan Marsden (1916–2007), who had grown up in Auburn, New York.

The couple settled in Auburn, where both walked to their respective jobs in the local textile industry—a common necessity for working-class couples before personal automobiles became widespread. Honor worked as a weaver at the Firth Carpet Company, while Lewis worked down the street as a carder at the Auburn Knitting Mills. Carding was the mechanical process of untangling and cleaning raw wool or cotton fibers, aligning them into a soft web

or rope (a sliver) to prepare them for the knitting machines.

When Lewis registered for the draft prior to World War II, he was employed by the Columbian Rope Company in Auburn. During the war, the company pivoted its million-square-foot facility to military production, increasing output by 300% to supply the Armed Forces. By 1950, both Lewis and Honor were employed at the rug factory, likely returning to Firth Carpet Company. The couple remained in the area until their eventual retirement.



Lewis and Honor — 1980s

He was the last of his siblings to pass away. William lived to be 98 dying on April 15, 2008, in Seneca Falls.

Children: Joseph Bernard Kelley (1945-)

5. George Francis Kelley

1914-2002

1st cousin 2x removed

George was just thirteen years old when his father passed away, forcing him to enter the workforce at an early age. His extra income provided vital financial stability for his family during the worst years of the Great Depression. By at least 1935, he was working as a stripper in a local knitting mill.

During this era, Seneca Falls, New York, was a bustling manufacturing hub world-famous for its textile infrastructure, including the prominent Seneca Knitting Mills, which mass-produced wool socks and hosiery.

Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY

Within this industrial environment, a "stripper"—specifically a card stripper or bobbin stripper—performed essential technical maintenance. Before raw wool or cotton can be spun into yarn, the fibers must pass through a "carding machine" featuring giant spinning cylinders lined with thousands of tiny wire teeth designed to straighten the raw material. Over time, waste fiber, dust, and lint tightly clog these teeth. George's job was to operate specialized hand tools and heavy vacuum attachments to clean (strip) the clogged debris out of the moving machinery, ensuring the mill's high-speed production line never halted.

George dutifully registered for the military draft in October 1940 at the age of twenty-three. His son, Kevin Kelley, later shared personal insights regarding his father's military journey in an email correspondence dated June 2026: *“My memory was he was somewhat embarrassed because he wanted to join up earlier with his buddies but was denied because of bad teeth.”* Historically, dental issues were the leading physical reason young American men failed their military induction physicals. Suffering through a decade of severe poverty during the Great Depression, millions of young men had no access to dental care, resulting in rampant cavities and missing teeth. The U.S. military strictly required a recruit to possess at least twelve serviceable, natural teeth—specifically, three matching pairs of chewing teeth (molars and bicuspids) and three matching pairs of front teeth (incisors and cuspids) to ensure they could successfully bite down on hard combat rations.

SERIAL NUMBER 102	1. NAME (Print) (Last) (First) (Middle) GEORGE FRANCIS KELLEY	2. ORDER NUMBER 580
3. ADDRESS (Print) # Washington	4. PLACE OF BIRTH (Country) (State) (County) (Town) Seneca Falls Seneca N.Y.	
5. FIELDS OF INTEREST None	6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year) 23 July 10 1917	7. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.
8. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Anna Kelley	9. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON (Print) (Last) Thatcher	
10. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON # Washington	11. PLACE OF BIRTH (Country) (State) (County) (Town) Seneca Falls Seneca N.Y.	
12. EMPLOYER'S NAME Seneca Knitting Mills		
13. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Water & Bridge St.	14. PLACE OF BIRTH (Country) (State) (County) (Town) Seneca Falls Seneca N.Y.	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. N. FORM 1	(Print) Shirley Frances Kelley	(Signature) (Signature)

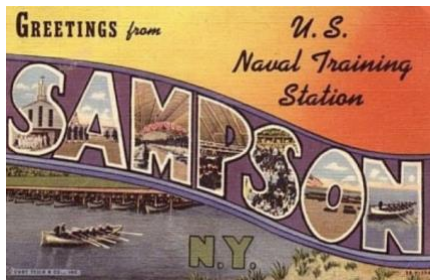
Eager to serve, George bided his time by joining the New York Guard (Company K, 3rd Regiment), where he underwent explicit training in weapons handling, sentry duties, and guarding vital local infrastructure. By the summer of 1942, the United States was facing a staggering troop shortage as global battlefronts multiplied. Realizing it could no longer turn away millions of willing men over dental cavities, the War Department completely dropped the rigid tooth-count requirement. The new medical baseline simply required an inductee to be able to "*chew army chow*," even if that meant relying on partial or full dentures.

Kevin recalled: *“He had his teeth fixed and enlisted I think in 1944 but because he had dentures he couldn't be in combat or I guess detailed to a ship... no dentists in either, so he became a Shore Patrol sergeant.”* The U.S. Navy maintained strict operational policies regarding sailors with full dentures; out on a destroyer or a battleship in the middle of the ocean, space was highly limited, and combat vessels rarely carried full-scale dental laboratories or specialized maxillofacial equipment to repair broken or lost oral prosthetics.

Recognizing George's existing state-level security and guard training from the New York Guard, the Navy realized he was an asset for domestic base security. Massive naval boot camps like the Sampson Naval Training Base required thousands of permanent, active-duty sailors to run daily infrastructure, a contingent known as the "Ship's Company." While millions of green recruits cycled through Sampson in a matter of weeks, George was assigned permanently to the base's security and guard barracks. *"He told me/us that one duty was to patrol the perimeter of the Sampson base in a Jeep,"* Kevin remembered. *"Another job was to go to Geneva to the bank to pick up the payroll in a woody station wagon, and he used to hang out at the kitchen for the mess halls."*

Kallay, George P.		7/10/12
(Last name)	(Other names)	(Date of Birth)
# Washington St. Seneca Falls, N.Y.		Seneca Falls, N.Y.
(Home address)		(Place of Birth)
(Change of address)		NEW YORK GUARD
(Change of address)		
Co K 3rd Regt.	2.	12/20/43.
(Enlistment)	(Dis. Yrs.)	(Date released)
HD to enter US Armed Forces 50 125 AGO		5/3/44.
(How separated from active service)		(Date captured)
(Remained in)	(No. Yrs.)	(Date released)
(How separated from active service)		(Date separation)
(Remained in)	(No. Yrs.)	(Date released)
(How separated from active service)		(Date separation)
(United States Service) Form A-10 F.B.I. 1-3-4 27M (10-25-43)		(Continue on back)

Family Branch: KELLY | MURPHY



Sampson encompassed miles of vulnerable lakefront shoreline and wooded boundary fencing that required relentless surveillance against civilian trespassers or potential wartime sabotage. Furthermore, because the base lacked its own Federal Reserve bank, the physical cash required to pay tens of thousands of sailors had to be transported regularly from commercial banks in nearby Geneva, New York—a massive financial responsibility that required trusted, armed Shore Patrol security.

Kevin also recalled a haunting wartime tragedy his father witnessed while stationed at the camp: *“He saw a sailor get electrocuted taking laundry from the clothesline that was a wire cable as a lightning storm began.”* To dry the heavy wool uniforms of tens of thousands of recruits, bases like Sampson featured endless rows of outdoor clotheslines. Because standard rope lines would instantly snap under the immense weight of hundreds of wet, heavy wool outfits, the military routinely strung long, steel wire cables between metal and wooden posts, turning them into lethal conductors during severe lightning storms.

George was honorably discharged at the conclusion of the war in April 1946. During his service, he married Lucienne Clary on May 4, 1944. Lucienne was also a native of Seneca Falls. By 1950, the young couple was living on Bayard Street with her aunt's family, raising their first two young sons, Michael and Kevin.



Lucienne Clary Kelley



George Francis Kelley

In the decades that followed, George worked steadily to support his growing family, securing employment with a local dairy, the Geb & Souhan Yarn Company, Sullivan's Wholesale, and eventually the American Can Company in Geneva. He and Lucienne went on to welcome three more children: George, Suzanne, and Rory. George passed away on September 30, 2003, having been predeceased by his beloved Lucienne nine years earlier in 1994.

Children: George F. Kelley (b. 1943), Michael F. Kelley (b. 1945), Suzanne Emilie Kelley (b. 1946), *Kevin George Kelley (b. 1948), Rory Kelley (b. 1964)

**Kevin has been tremendously helpful piecing together our shared Kelly/Kelley ancestry. In his first email to me he said, “anything you want to know, just ask!” And I have...thanks O’Cousin of mine!*

6. Dorothy Anna Kelley

1921-1992

1st cousin 2x removed

Dorothy Anna was born on October 18, 1921, in Seneca Falls, distinguishing her as the youngest child and only daughter born to Bernard and Anna.

At nineteen years old, Dorothy married John Patrick Clary on November 20, 1940. John had also grown up in Seneca Falls and, like many men of his generation, stepped forward to serve his country in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In 1944, the Kelley and Clary families celebrated a joyous deepening of their familial ties when Dorothy's brother, George Kelley, married John's sister, Lucienne Clary. Following the safe conclusion of the war, Dorothy and John established their permanent home in Seneca Falls. John utilized his mechanical skills as a machinist, eventually enjoying a long career before retiring from the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) in nearby Auburn. The 1950 census records that Dorothy's widowed mother, Anna, had moved into their busy household, helping care for their rapidly growing family.

Dorothy passed away on September 15, 1992. John survived his wife by eighteen years, maintaining a deep connection to their sprawling family until his own passing in 2010. Together, they left a proud legacy of seven children.

Children: Mary Frances Clary (b. 1943), Cecelia Anne Clary (b. 1945), John Patrick Clary (b. 1958), Kathleen Marie Clary (b. 1961), Jane Margaret Clary (b. 1962), William K. Clary (b. 1963), Patricia Ann Clary (b. 1966)



Dorothy Anna Kelley

