

### Letter From the Editors

Since our last newsletter we heard from Laurie Kearney who has been researching her husband's line for several years. She wants to correct some information we had written in our December 2012, V 8, N 2 issue regarding, Charles Paris Armfield the grandson of Jacob and Ann Armfield and son of Paris Armfield (1820-1878). As there are several of our readers who descend from these lines, we thought it would be of interest to you and we always want to receive your input and research.

Joseph Henry Armfield contributed several newspaper articles for us to use in our newsletter. Joe was introduced in our June 2014 newsletter on page 7. These stories begin on page 3.

If any of you would like to connect up with others doing similar research in these or other family lines just send us your permission and address and we will put you in touch with each other. Thank-you all! Joyce & Connie

### Charles Paris "Red" Armfield (c1867- )

Laurie has been researching her husband's line for a several years. He descends from Frederick Daniel Bourke (1913-2005) > Pernia Armfield (1898-1965) > Charles Paris Armfield (c1867-). Much of her initial information came from her husband's mother Penny Lynn and his grandmother Pernia Armfield Bourke. In the early 1950's they were living in Oregon and met an Armfield family at a Job's Daughters ceremony; Penny's sister Dana Lou Bourke Bateman (1936-1986) and Gail Edith Armfield (1936 -2013) daughter of John Paris Armfield (1906-1982) a son of Elmer Armfield (1874- 1949). In talking the families discovered Gail's grandfather Elmer Armfield was a brother of Dana's great grandfather, Charles Paris Armfield. Penny Lynn was about 10 at the time and remembered they were told that they had "just missed him" which led her later in life to believe Charles Paris had recently died. Due to this statement Laurie had always thought Charles had died about 1953 in Oregon. She says this has since gone viral and now that information is everywhere; in other family files, on findagrave and even in our newsletter. Elmer Armfield was born in 1874 and died in 1949. Laurie now believes that is who the family "just missed".

As far as Charles Paris he can be found in census records from 1870 to 1920. The last census we have found him in is the 1920 census in Red Lodge, Carbon, Montana. The last record we have of him is a U.S. City Directory entry in 1923 in Billings, Yellowstone, Montana. He was also mentioned in the 1928 obituary of his mother Sarah and living in California. No death record has been found for him. His birth of Oct 1867 and place Iowa comes from the 1900 US Federal Census.

Charles was not mentioned in his sister Diana Armfield Cooper's 1933 obituary. It can be found in the Lincoln, Nebraska newspaper; "THE LINCOLN STAR" Monday 06 Mar 1933, p 5. Diana Cooper died at the age of 62 in Lincoln in the home of her daughter Mrs. Ora Wymore. Before moving to Lincoln, Diana resided for forty years in Edgar, NE. Her obituary

names another daughter Thelma Cooper of Lincoln, two sisters Mrs. Turley Parker and Mrs. John Ripley and two brothers David and Elmer and two grandchildren.

Another researcher of the Paris Armfield line, Sue Whiteley sent a transcribed copy of the obituary for Sarah Ann Townsend Armfield (1842-1928) wife of Paris John and mother of Charles. She has a very old typed version not the original newspaper clipping. It unfortunately does not give the name of the paper. She thinks Diana may have sent it to her sister Sarah Ann Armfield Ripley (1869-1936), Sue's great grandmother. Diana may have had to send it to different family members and not having many copies of the newspaper, she typed it out. Following is the obituary article text as possibly typed by Diana Armfield Cooper to send to family members:

Obituary: "Sarah Ann Armfield passes away in Edgar, Nebraska"

*"Sarah Ann (Townsend) Armfield was born at Boldock, Hartfordshire, England 15 January 1842, the book of earthly life was closed March 18, 1928 at Edgar Nebraska, having lived 86 years, 2 months, and 2 days. She came to America with her parents, she was 16 years of age. Father Townsend was a Methodist, Episcopal minister. The family lived where his work called him, though the period of Civil War the family lived then in Northeastern Missouri. The work of the minister was multitudenous as was that of his family. On October 16th 1886, Sarah Ann Townsend, and Paris took upon themselves the pledge of fidelity to one another in matrimony at Chillicath. Her father Rev. C. R. Townsend officiated at these ceremonies, this union was blessed with the birth of eight children. After twelve years of happy married life, the grim reaper came and took the husband from the embrace of the young family and left the widow and her brood to battle the uneven path of life alone. The family were living at Powersville, Missouri when this disaster overtook them. Here Mrs. Armfield made her home and here she reared her children and gave them the best that her circumstances permitted. Of two pairs of twins were given the Armfield family, one of each pair was called to the great beyond, one as an infant and the other at the age of seventeen. Both of the deceased children were sons. Six children remain to mourn the going of Mother. Charles, who resides in California, Mrs. Ann (Armfield) {Mrs. J. H. Ripley} of Oliver B.C. Canada, Mrs. Diana (Armfield) Cooper; Edgar, Nebraska, Mr. Elmer Armfield- Caldwell Idaho, David Armfield - Meridian Idaho, Mary (Armfield) Parker - Bellingham, Wash. and a brother of Stoneham, Colo.*

*Funeral services were held Wednesday Afternoon Maerch 21st, at two O'clock at the home of Mrs. O. U. Cooper in Edgar, Clay center Nebraska, cemetery."*

Charles nickname "Red" was more than likely because of the color of his hair. Several other lines have this characteristic red hair color. He was married three times: Julia Ann Cooper, 1891; Mary Lang, 1895; Nettie Unknown c1908. Julia Ann is possibly the woman Julia A Armfield found in the Tecumseh Cemetery, Block 101 Lot 4 in Tecumseh, Johnson, NE (FAG). The date of marriage comes from a descendant and a Townsend family note says Charlie had one girl. Charles marriage to Mary Lang is found in the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900 at ancestry. In the 1910 census Charles is in Minnesota and married two years to Nettie. Mary recorded as divorced in this census in Illinois.

## Newspaper Contributions

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### **FOUND DEAD IN BUGGY**

**Carl Armfield Suffers Peculiar Accident Near Jamestown.**

(Special to Daily News.)

Jamestown, Sept. 20.— Carl E. Armfield, son of the late Dr. David Armfield, was found dead in his buggy near his home here yesterday morning at 4 o'clock. He was found with his head between the shafts and wheel, with a broken neck. As the body was rigid it is thought that death occurred earlier in the night. He was about 31 years old.

The deceased is thought to have been returning to his home from Greensboro when the accident occurred that caused in death. It was known that he had been drinking heavily for the past three weeks and his head bore several abrasions, supposed to have been caused by having fallen from his buggy, while under the influence of whisky. It is surmised, therefore, that while in this condition he fell over the dashboard of the buggy and being under the influence of whisky was unable to recover his position on the seat.

When found the buggy wheel was against a post and it was thought that the horse, having pulled aside from the road, struck this post and in doing so wrenched the shafts around and broke Mr. Armfield's neck. As this was the apparent cause of death, the coroner did not deem an inquest necessary.

Monday afternoon Mr. Armfield applied to a prominent physician for chloral, stating that he was in a bad condition and hinted at delirium tremens. The physician stated that he would have administered the drug, but did not have it; he saw that Mr. Armfield needed it. It was suggested that this condition might have given rise to the accident.

The remains were carried to the Sechrest Undertaking company, at High Point, to be prepared for burial, which will take place at Deep River church today at 11 o'clock. The remains will there be interred in the family burying ground.

*September 21, 1911*

*Greensboro Daily News from Greensboro, North Carolina*

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### **B B Shots**

**by Bert Brown**

In reminiscent mood yesterday, Assistant Postmaster J.H. Armfield told us all about that unforgettable occasion 20 years ago when he surreptitiously spiked the punch at a W.C.T.U. meeting, thus bringing about more happiness among its members than they ever cared to admit.

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. Armfield's mother-in-law, and the theme of the discussion was to have been, "Enforcing Temperance in Greensboro." Mr. Armfield, he recalls, was left alone in the kitchen with the ingredients for the punch – innocent fruit juices and harmless flavorings. Therefore, he proceeded to be helpful and mix them up.

When he had finished he sampled the punch and found it lacking in zip and zest. This reminded him of a quart bottle of Sherry wine he had concealed about the house – so with a burst of generosity he uncorked it and dumped it into the W.C.T.U. punch-bowl.

Came time for refreshments. The punch was served. The temperance advocates went for it like a hungry dog after a bone, some of them, no doubt, being so unversed in the subject of fermented juices that they did not imagine what made it so good, while others, better informed, realized but failed to be deterred thereby.

A W.C.T.U. meeting is usually a glum affair. Pessimism as to the fate of the world is the predominant note, but somehow the ladies shed their gloomy demeanor and became scandalously jovial. According to Mr. Armfield, they laughed and carried on just as though they had forgotten that the salvation of the world depended on their efforts. The meeting degenerated rapidly into a happy throng of human beings, campaigns were forgotten and a holiday spirit prevailed.

At last the meeting broke up and the members departed, but behind them they left coats, hats, glasses, pocketbooks, handkerchiefs, so unconcerned had they become over their material possessions.

For a week afterwards, Mr. Armfield said, they were calling at his mother-in-law's house to reclaim their belongings, but the meeting became, by unwritten understanding, a closed chapter. To mention it was as taboo as a rattlesnake. Nobody did for a long, long time, least of all Mr. Armfield.

*Greensboro Record*  
*Greensboro, N.C.*  
*Thursday, December 22, 1938*

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## **"Perk" Plays a Joke**

Assistant Postmaster Joseph H Armfield Pulls a Fast One On His Son and Daughter in Johnson City.

Joseph H. Armfield, genial assistant postmaster, played a pretty joke indeed on his son Joe (Rev. Joseph H., Jr.) and daughter-in-law Elizabeth, who live in Johnson City, Tenn.

Some fathers and son are not any too friendly but the Armfields have been buddies ever since young Joe arrived on the scene. His baby name for his daddy was "Perk," and the nickname still crops out some times.

Recently Armfield, Sr., went out to Johnson City to visit in his son's house. When he returned he wrote a postal card, addressed to himself, enclosed it in a letter, sent the letter to the Johnson City postmaster and got him to mail the card back to Greensboro, bearing, of course, a Johnson City postmark. Here's what the card said:

"Dearest dad: Very bad luck has overtaken us. We thought we were getting along fine, but yesterday I lost my pocketbook with all our funds in it including an advance of two-weeks' pay. Today we have suspended the maid and butler, eat but once a day, cut out the lights and turn off the heat at 6 p.m. when we retire, swapped our stamps for gas and mailed this card to you. Please tear it up or return it and help us quick. Joe and Lib."

Back to Johnson City went the card again, this time to the Joe Jr., house and in the letter with it this greeting:

"Your card of the 22nd just to hand;  
Well! Such a message – I'll be hanged,  
And write my check for twenty grand,  
To underwrite you where you stand.

Keep your chins up, there'll come a time,  
When both you kittens will again feel fine,  
So I hasten along this check of mine  
And may your answer be sent in rhyme.

Don't you worry, it had to be  
To make you children write to me.  
Now may the maid and the butler, too,  
Resume their jobs of waiting on you;  
And when again you get in a murk  
Just send a message to the original Perk."

The other day "Perk" got his rhymed answer, bound in blue, and entitled "A Morn in November."

"Twas a morn in November and thru ev'ry room  
Such a cloud was descending of heaviest gloom,  
All the dishes were standing, stacked high on the table  
There awaiting the hand of a maid that was able.  
And the dust on the floor gave evidence keen  
That the face of the butler just hadn't been seen.  
The car in back was waiting, alas,  
To have it's tank filled with one gallon of gas.  
Joe, with a groan, and I, with a wail,  
Were pondering thoughts of a bankruptcy sale.  
When at the front door there arose such a clatter  
We sprang to the window to see what was the matter  
And what to our wondering eyes could be seen  
But the face of our postman, so very serene.

He was knocking quite loudly, this postman in blue,  
And we hastened to greet him with a nice 'howdy-do.'  
'Here's a letter in haste,' he replied with a jerk,  
And we looked at the handwriting, 'No, not from Perk!'  
We first read the postal with queer puzzled looks,  
Then that marvelous poem unequalled in books.  
So the joke was on us, we soon found with much glee,  
Oh, such side-splitting laughter you never did see!  
And then, could we see right? A check came in view.

This surely was great of our dear dad to do.  
Now our household's in order – it's running like new

We have paid for our servants, gas, heat and light too.  
And here we are waiting with everything prime  
For a nice prolonged visit from you any time.  
We are using the stamp to tell you in rhyme  
'Here's to Perk and his jokes.  
They are both superfine."

*The Democrat*  
*Greensboro, NC*  
*Thursday, January 8, 1942*

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### **Queries & Comments**

*"Hi, My name is Phyllis Zegers. I see from the Armfield Newsletter that **James Albert Armfield** (1867 - 1941) may be in your family tree. He was the son of T. A. Armfield and Sarah Beckett. James died at the Oregon State Hospital a facility for treating people with mental illness in Salem, Marion County, Oregon on 7/6/1941. I have updated a memorial for him on Find-A-Grave.com. Here's the URL:*

*<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=66065614>*

*The on-line memorial contains his death certificate, a biography and information about the location of his ashes. According to hospital records his cremains are being held at the Oregon State Hospital and can be claimed by any blood relative. The state only charges about \$23 for the death certificate and will mail the cremains to you. I have an interest in those like James who died at an Oregon state institution and whose cremains have not yet been taken by the family. My hope is to let relatives know where the cremains are now in case they would like to claim them. The link to the state department in charge of the cremains is <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/osh/pages/cremains.aspx>*

*On YouTube there is a trailer for a documentary video that explains the situation with the ashes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E95cb54tG9w>*

*Please let me know if you have any questions."*

*Phyllis Zegers  
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*Pat Crockett wrote following our last newsletter of December 2014; "My Aunt **Ruth Armfield** (my dad's sister) was married to Edgar Columbus Huff. Edgar's father was Benjamin Huff. Small world isn't it!" She also sent a copy of the tombstone of Sarah Eleanor Armfield. The Newsletter states she was born December 1830. The stone has engraved March 25, 1831. [crockett1942@gmail.com](mailto:crockett1942@gmail.com)*

*After our December issue Susan Newman also wrote and responded to the date of birth discrepancy on the headstone of **Sarah Eleanor Armfield**. "Thanks so much for the wonderful newsletter! Yes, there are inconsistencies. Not sure where the Dec. 1830 DOB date came from? The original handwritten letter from Mary (Speck) Adams even has written March 25, 1832. Mary would have written that letter probably to my aunt (Geraldine Speck)*

*in the early 40's when my aunt was doing a college research paper on genetics and genealogy. Mary was in her early 70's at the time. My guess is the tombstone was purchased by the children of Sarah. We have all seen the tombstone many times (photo on Findagrave was taken by me) and my mother certainly knew the date on it. I have already added Sarah's obit. on Findagrave." There were also errors in her mother's obituary about the Balch lineage. The whereabouts of the little book that Benjamin Huff did his writing in is not known and she hopes someone has it. "Thanks again for the newsletter and beautiful tribute to my mother. She loved researching so much and was fascinated by the personal stories of our relatives."*

Susan sent this image <http://www.newspapers.com/newspage/61683039> from "The Daily Commonwealth on Kansas Historical Society" powered by Newspapers.com. It is an article that described the same incident that we wrote about Sarah Armfield Speck and husband Archimedes Speck "Death to Abolitionists" in Dec . It can be found in the third column from the left, "Free State man, Mr. Speck". It described their home, a log cabin 10X12 and slave warrant served for Archimedes. Sarah truly was a very brave woman!  
[snewman1781@gmail.com](mailto:snewman1781@gmail.com)

Avis Armfield Solie (June 2014 newsletter, p7) sent the following story about **Nellie Criswell Green** (1899-1986) wife of **Arthur Howard Armfield** (1899-1926). *"Nellie Criswell, her older brother John and their two youngest brothers left Philadelphia on an orphan train. They were taken in by the Green family in Council Bluffs, IA. Later they discovered that the Greens had officially adopted the younger boys, but not Nellie or John. Both did, however, keep the Green name. We all knew Nellie as Grandma McCurdy. Some time after Arthur Armfield died, Nellie married a Mr. McCurdy. After their marriage, however, Mr McCurdy informed Nellie that the boys (Howard & Larry) would be going to an orphanage because he wouldn't raise someone else's sons. Nellie left him. Good decision. But she had little education and few resources. Dad doesn't think she was aware of the possibilities of having the marriage annulled and having the Armfield name restored. After leaving Mr McCurdy, Nellie did have to put her boys in an orphanage for one year as she couldn't put a roof over their heads. Dad has no negative memories of that time in the orphanage! I'd always known that Arthur Armfield died of an infection resulting from a farm accident, and that it was a lingering infection. For some reason, I always assumed that injury was to a leg, or possibly an arm. I just recently learned that the infection developed when he cracked a buggy whip and caught himself in the eye. They traveled to several regional specialists, but none could stop the progress of the infection."* [avissolie@gmail.com](mailto:avissolie@gmail.com)

### **Contributors & Reminder**

Thank all of you who contributed material for this newsletter! Don't forget about the 46th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, June 5 - June 7 at the LA Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 Hollywood Way. Dave Dowell, one of our Armfield cousins will be a speaker at the event. [phinkel@scgsgenealogy.com](mailto:phinkel@scgsgenealogy.com)

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