

Fred and Farrand Anderson Hunt

Father and Son and Lifelong Companions

Introduction

In April, 2019 I was contacted on the Ancestry.com message system by a personal assistant of a woman, Virginia, at a senior living facility in Hawaii. The assistant reached out to me asking for help to determine the biological father of Virginia. Virginia, adopted at birth in the spring of 1929 in Long Beach, CA, had submitted a DNA sample to Ancestry. She had only fragments of information about her possible biological parents, thus no family tree. Checking Ancestry, I found that Virginia and I had a 2nd-3rd cousin DNA relationship (157cM's), on my father's side. At that time, I was unable to determine the family tree link between Virginia and me and the Lawrence County Baldwin, Hunt and Justice families.

Meanwhile, I discovered a story that involved a First Cousin 1x removed, Fred Hunt (1881-1945). Fred fathered a son in 1905, Kelton Hunt-Roten (1905-1987). See: *Kelton J Hunt-Roten - a remarkable life lived* in this Blog.

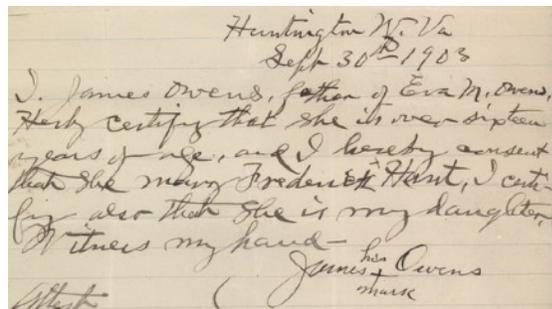
Little did I know then that Fred Hunt's story was far deeper and far reaching - all the way to my new cousin, Virginia. This then is the story of Fred Hunt, his son Farrand Anderson Hunt (1907-1961), and Virginia (1929-), and me. It's a story of multi-faceted genealogy research, DNA analyses, basic detective work, and a little luck.

Fred Hunt Biography

- compiled from census and residence records and newspaper articles

Fred Hunt (soldier, furrier, magazine salesman, fisherman, house boater, no middle name) was born Oct. 2, 1881 in the Lost Creek area of Lawrence County, OH. [Note: Lost Creek, named by the surveyors who were lost on it. This creek comes in west of Marion. Its first large branch on the north was called Hunt's branch. Anderson Hunt (abt. 1821 - art. 1907) being the original settler on it. Fred's birth name was Fredince Justice, but, throughout life he used, Fred Hunt (no middle name), as his legal name. He was born to Rachel Justice (1849 to 1903) and George W Hunt (1848-1909), a son of Anderson Hunt. Rachel and George W Hunt were never married, though they lived next door to each other. Thus, Fred and his half-sister Delsia (Delcie Hunt-Baldwin, my grandmother) were considered illegitimate in the Lawrence County records.

Fred Hunt's early life remains mostly unknown. He joined the US Army In January, 1900 as a trumpeter for the 8th US Cavalry. He was wounded in the Spanish-American War (likely in the Cuban occupation of July 1898-May 1902), **losing his left leg**. He was Honorably Discharged at the Hot Springs, AR military hospital in Dec. 1902. He was granted a lifetime invalid war pension.



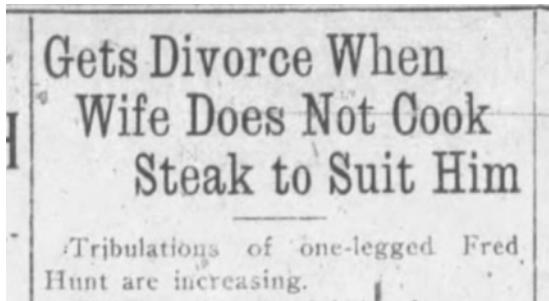
Huntington W. Va
Sept 30th 1903
J. James Owens, father of Eva M. Owens,
Herby certifies that she is over sixteen
years of age, and I hereby consent
that she marry Fred Anderson Hunt, I cer-
tify also that she is my daughter.
Witness my hand -
James Owens
Marion

In Sept. 1903 he married Eva Owens (1888-1958). Eva was 15 at the time and required a letter from her father, James Owens, stating that she was 16, for permission to marry Fred Hunt.

In Oct. 1905 they had a son, Kelton (see Introduction above). Fred divorced or abandoned Eva and Kelton about 1906.

Fred married Zola Thompson (1882-1912) circa 1907 in Scioto County, OH. They had a son, Farrand Anderson Hunt (1907-1961) and a daughter, Margaret (1910-1911; Polio).

Following the death of Zola in 1912 (Tuberculosis), Fred and Farrand moved to the Cincinnati, OH area, perhaps living on a raft/house boat, on the Ohio River. His occupation may have been as a furrier. Fred married Edith Williamson in Sept. 1913. They apparently married in Omaha, NB but lived on his raft/house boat in the Cincinnati, OH area. This marriage did not last long as they parted ways in Nov. 1913 and formally divorced in Oct. 1916 in Omaha, NB.



In the divorce proceedings, Fred stated that he had "walked from Paducah, KY to Denver, CO to avoid trouble with his wife". And, that he had "bought a steak for her to cook. He said she had told him that she had been a trained chef. But, he stated to the judge that the steak was cooked without grease, without seasoning, and burnt to a crisp." Following an hour's recital of clashes between husband and wife, the judge granted the divorce. Fred never married again.



Fred and Farrand Hunt remained in the Omaha, NB area through 1917 and 1918. At least part of this time was spent living on Fred's house boat/raft, parked on the Missouri River. He apparently was a commercial fisherman. Farrand was in school during this time. He even won an art contest in 1916.

After 1918, it's unclear as to their movements. They likely moved to the Los Angeles, CA area between 1919 and 1921. They seem to have avoided the 1920 US Census and other public records until 1928, when Farrand had a residence record (living in the Kern County, CA area as a surveyor).

In the 1930 census, Fred Hunt was listed as having a Los Angeles residence, widowed, living alone, renting a house, and retired. In a 1932 residence record, Fred was listed as living with Farrand in Los Angeles. On Farrand's 1940

military draft card (Fred and Farrand remained close throughout his life), Fred was listed as living in Lakeport, CA (on a raft??), northeast of San Francisco. By 1945, Fred was a resident at a Yountville, CA veterans home - where he died Sept 10, 1945.

Farrand Anderson Hunt Biography

- compiled from census and residence records and newspaper articles

Farrand Anderson Hunt (surveyor, chauffeur, foreman, seaman) was born Mar. 21, 1907 in Rarden, Scioto County, OH. His first name likely originated from his father's army enlistment. Farrand Sayre (1861-1952) was Fred's commanding officer in basic training. Farrand's middle name likely originated from Fred's father, Anderson Hunt. Farrand remained a stalwart companion of his father (see above) until Fred's death in 1945.

Farrand Anderson Hunt and Virginia

- compiled from census and residence records, newspaper articles, correspondence, and DNA analysis

In June, 2021 I contacted Virginia's assistant for an update on their search for her biological parents. Virginia's assistant reported they had identified (via DNA matching) Virginia's biological mother; Hazel Marie Freeman (1906-1996). With this new information I reopened my research to identify her biological father.

Initially, Fred Hunt, based on Virginia's DNA Match (157 cM's) with me, and the fact that Fred likely was in the Los Angeles area in the 1920's, lead me to speculate that he was the biological father of Virginia. I found a shared DNA match on the Justice line. The Justice line would only be through Rachel Justice, Fred's mother (my 2nd grandmother). Thus, the Hunt line and the Justice line seemed to strongly implicate Fred Hunt. However, Fred would have been in his 40's in the late 1920's.

A new theory then emerged. Fred Hunt could have had a second wife and possible children. He reported that he was widowed in the 1930 census. Who was his wife? When were they married? Did Fred Hunt have a son who was the father of Virginia?

Checking the 1910 census records for counties adjacent to Lawrence County, OH, I found a key record for Fred Hunt and wife Zola Thompson-Hunt. And low and behold, there was a son, Farrand Anderson Hunt listed, born 1907. From this key document, I was able to proceed to reassemble the lives of Fred Hunt and Farrand Anderson Hunt.

I found a series of Bakersfield, CA residence records for Hazel Freeman in the 1920's. She was a cashier at the Nile Movie Theater in 1927, 1928, and then again in 1930. So, there was a definite residence gap for Hazel between 1928 and 1930. Virginia was born spring, 1929.

I found a 1928 residence record that showed Farrand Hunt working as a surveyor, living in Kern County (Bakersfield, CA area). With Hazel Freeman working as a cashier at the Nile Theater in Bakersfield, could it have been that Farrand (age 21) and Hazel (age 21) met there? However they met, they had a sexual encounter about July, 1928 that resulted in Hazel's pregnancy with Virginia.

A granddaughter of Helen Freeman (Hazel's twin sister) stated: "*she (Virginia) was told as a child that the father was engaged to Hazel and left her alone when she got pregnant to figure out what to do on her own.*" However, searching newspapers of Los Angeles and Bakersfield for the period 1925 to 1930, there is no mention of an engagement or marriage license.

In 1929, Farrand married Irene (unknown maiden name) and settled in Los Angeles. He did not remain with Irene for long, likely divorced before 1935. In April, 1940, Farrand was listed as single in the federal census. However, in July, 1940, he married Rhoda Dolores Sprague. They remained together until Farrand died in 1961. With the exception of Virginia, I found no evidence that Farrand Hunt fathered any other children.

I'm still piecing together details, however, this mystery is mostly solved. Virginia and John Baldwin are second cousins, with common great grandparents: Anderson Hunt III and Rachel Justice.

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