

# **Redfield**

## **The Connections**

**RHODA A. REDFIELD** married **HARRY H. GEDLING**. Their daughter **CATHERINE GEDLING** married **JAMES H. KESSLER**. One of their daughters, **DOROTHY M. KESSLER** married **EDWARD REILLY**. **CATHERINE GEDLING**, was the sister of **BELIN H. GEDLING**. A daughter of **HARRY H. GEDLING** and **RHODA A. REDFIELD** was named **RHODA GEDLING** and there was a **RHODA A. REDFIELD**, who was the grandmother of **RHODA A. REDFIELD**, who married to **C.V.M. REDFIELD**.

**RHODA A. REDFIELD** was the daughter of **BEALON H. REDFIELD** and **LUZETTA REDFIELD**. **C.V.M. REDFIELD** and **RHODA A. REDFIELD** were the parents of **BEALON H. REDFIELD**.

There is a connection with the **GEDLING** family and the **REDFIELD** family through the names: **BELIN H. GEDLING**, **BEALON H. REDFIELD** and **BELAM REDFIELD**, as well as, **RHODA GEDLING** and two **RHODA A. REDFIELD'S**.

**C.V.M. REDFIELD** married **RHODA A. REDFIELD**. Their son **BEALON H. REDFIELD** married **LUZETTA REDFIELD**. Their daughter **RHODA A. REDFIELD** married **HARRY H. GEDLING**. Their daughter **CATHERINE GEDLING** married **JAMES H. KESSLER**. Their daughter **DOROTHY M. KESSLER** married **EDWARD REILLY**.

# **The Redfield to Gedling Generations**

**William Redfin Redfield**  
1610

**James Redfin Redfield**  
1646

**Theophilus Redfield**  
1672

**William Redfield**  
1727

**Samuel Redfield**  
1757

**Belin Belair Redfield**  
1808

**C.V.M. Redfield**  
1833

**Bealon H. Redfield**  
1860

**Harry H. and Rhoda Redfield Gedling**  
1884-1887

**Belin H. Gedling**  
1904

**Harry Henry Gedling, Sr.**  
1934

**Harry Henry Gedling, Jr.**  
1965

# **The Redfield to Gedling to Reilly Generations**

**William Redfin Redfield**  
1610

**James Redfin Redfield**  
1646

**Theophilus Redfield**  
1672

**William Redfield**  
1727

**Samuel Redfield**  
1757

**Belin Belair Redfield**  
1808

**C.V.M. Redfield**  
1833

**Bealon H. Redfield**  
1860

**Rhoda Redfield Gedling**  
1887

**Catherine Gedling Kessler**  
1908

**Dorothy Kessler Reilly**  
1926

**John James Reilly**  
1952

**Edward James Reilly**  
1978

## **Rhoda A. Redfield**

**Rhoda A. Redfield is the daughter of Bealon H. and Luzetta Redfield. She was born in October of 1886. The Redfield family lived in Camden, New Jersey. Rhoda was 16 years old when she married Harry H. Gedling sometime around 1902 but definitely before 1904, when their son, Belin was born. They lived in Camden but exactly where is not know at this time. Harry and Rhoda had three children:**

<b>Belin</b>	<b>1904</b>
<b>Catherine</b>	<b>1908</b>
<b>Rhoda A.</b>	<b>1911</b>

**Harry and Rhoda divorced sometime after 1911 and before 1920. Catherine M. Gedling, their daughter would marry a James H. Kessler. There would be two daughters born to the Kessler's:**

<b>Dorothy M.</b>	<b>(1926)</b>
<b>Verna E.</b>	<b>(1928)</b>

**By the early 1930's events would take place that resulted in the girls being raised by Catherine's mother, their grandmother, Rhoda Redfield Gedling Wilson.**

## **Catherine M. Gedling and James H. Kessler**

**Catherine M. Gedling and James H. Kessler would marry sometime in 1924. According to the 1930 U.S. Census in 1930 James H. was 28 and Catherine M. is 22. He was 22 years old and she was 16 years old at the time of their marriage.**

### **1930 U.S. Census**

**In 1930 the Kessler family was living at 1033 Segal Street in Camden, New Jersey, renting for \$15.00. Dorothy was 4 years 2 months old and Verna 1 year 4 months old. James H. was working as a staker at a leather factory which was located at the end of Segal Street. Catherine was not working having two small children at home. All members of the family were born in New Jersey and the parents of each were born in New Jersey, with the exception of Catherine's father, Harry Gedling, who was born in Delaware. This fact helped trace the Gedling line. James and Catherine lived just two doors down from her mother, Rhoda Redfield Gedling, who was now married to a George Wilson, at 1037 Segal Street. There was a cousin, Clarence Dougherty, living with them in 1930. He was 28 and single, working as a riveter in a shipyard.**

### **Two Tragic Events**

**The years 1930 and 1931 would be tragic years for the Kessler family, especially for the two little girls, Dorothy and Verna. Two events took place that would affect the girls for the rest of their lives.**

First, Catherine Gedling Kessler would leave James Kessler for another man. This would take place sometime between April 1930 and September 1931. For a short time Dorothy and Verna would be with their mother and her new husband. There is some question as to whether they were ever married. The children's grandmother, Rhoda Redfield Gedling Wilson would at some point turn her daughter, Catherine, into the authorities, for some illegalities involving support payments from the State of New Jersey. Dorothy and Verna would become wards of the state and eventually Rhoda Gedling Wilson would be given custody of the children. She would raise them in a very strict home environment until they graduated from high school. Catherine would raise a whole new family with Albert K. Monroe, while the girls felt abandoned by their mother and would have contact with her only sporadically in the years to come. The girls would be haunted by the questions of why their mother left them and why they could not have a regular family like their half brothers and sisters. Dorothy does remember visiting her mother in Camden over the years; especially after she got married. She spoke fondly of the vegetable soup her mother would make when she visited and Dorothy loved vegetable soup her whole life.

### **Skillman Village for Epileptics**

Second, the father, James H. Kessler's Grand Mal epilepsy would worsen and he began to develop mental problems apparently in response to Catherine's leaving. This would result in James being institutionalized for the rest of his life at the Skillman Village for Epileptics in Skillman, New Jersey. Dorothy was about 5 years

old and Verna about 3 years old when this happened. His two little girls would only be able to visit him at Skillman a few times over the years. Dorothy only remembers making three visits to see her father. Two times when she was young her great grandmother Munion took her. She was the mother of Amanda Munion who married Albert Kessler, the parents of James H. Kessler.

## **Catherine and Albert Monroe**

Catherine Gedling Kessler and Albert K. Monroe would marry most likely in 1930-1, or at least some time after James Kessler was court ordered to Skillman Village. Catherine and Albert would have 5 children:

**Mildred Monroe Priest**

**Emma Monroe Mitchell Dillenger**

**Edmund Monroe**

**Albert Monroe Hodge**

**Catherine Monroe Herman**

## **Catherine Gedling Kessler Monroe**

According to a newspaper funeral notice Catherine Monroe died on April 13, 1970. Albert Monroe preceded her in death on December 15, 1967. They are buried next to each other in the New Camden Cemetery, Camden, New Jersey, Section E, Plot 94. The double plot was in the name of James and Catherine Kessler. A funeral

record from the Oliver Bair-Schroeder Funeral Home obtained from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, contained some biographical information about Catherine and the family. Catherine was 62 years of age when she died and the cause of death was cited as coronary thrombosis. She apparently died while visiting a daughter in Scotia, New York. At the time of her death Catherine was living 203 Abblett Village in Camden. She was brought back to Camden and the arrangements were handled by the Oliver Bair-Schroeder Funeral Home. The funeral took place on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> with the Reverend William L. Ziegenfus presiding. Catherine was survived by 1 son and 6 daughters and 35 grandchildren. Her daughter Dorothy Reilly has always remembered seeing her mother in the casket; and realizing that the wedding ring she wore was the one given to her by James Kessler.

### **Rhoda Redfield Gedling and George Wilson**

Rhoda Redfield Gedling would remarry. According to the 1920 U.S. Census Rhoda Gedling was now married to a George M. Wilson. Rhoda, who married at age 16, and Harry Gedling divorced sometime after 1911 because their daughter, Rhoda, was 9 years old in 1920. The divorce would have taken place before 1920 because the 1920 Census has George and Rhoda married. According to the 1920 U.S. Census George and Rhoda lived at 819 Division Street, Camden, New Jersey. He was 47 years old which places his birth about 1877. At this time George was a truck driver. Dorothy Reilly remembers that he always maintained he was part Mohawk Indian but no one believed him. She recalls being at his funeral and observing that his side



of the family seemed a little darker skinned than the others. The 1920 U.S. Census lists his race as Indian. George Wilson was born in Montana as was his father. His mother was born in Nebraska. Rhoda was 33 years old which places her birth about 1887. George and Rhoda were married some time between 1912 and 1920. Dorothy Reilly remembers that people in the neighborhood did not believe that George and Rhoda were married and talked about it. This bothered Rhoda to the point that one day she taped their marriage certificate in a front window for all in the neighborhood to see. Rhoda was born in New Jersey as was her father. In the 1920 U.S. Census it is noted that her mother, Luzetta Redfield was born in England. Family oral history says Luzetta was born on a ship coming over from England with her family to America and she was named after the name of the ship. Based on Belin Gedling being 16 in 1920 Rhoda and Harry were married about 1903. Rhoda's three children from her marriage to Harry Gedling were with her in 1920. They were:

Belin	age 16	(1904)
Catherine	age 12	(1908)
Rhoda	age 9	(1911)

All the children were born in New Jersey as was their mother. The father, Harry Gedling, was born in Delaware. This information helped to find the Gedling family in Delaware in the 1900 U.S. Census. All in the family could read and write. Belin Gedling at age 16 worked as a "passer boy" in a shipyard. Everybody called him 'Harry' because the family did not like the name Belin. In the 1930 U.S. Census

George and Rhoda Wilson were living at 1037 Segal Street, Camden, New Jersey and renting for \$15.00. They were living two doors down from James and Catherine Kessler. The children: Belin age 26, Catherine age 22 and Rhoda age 19 were no longer at home. George and his parents were all born in Montana according to the 1930 U.S. Census. Rhoda and her father, Bealon H. Redfield, were born in New Jersey and her mother, Luzetta Redfield (married name), was from England. In 1930 George worked as a gravedigger in a cemetery. Dorothy Reilly remembers George Wilson as a kind man. When the grandmother would be mad or was being very strict with the girls, George Wilson would tell his wife Rhoda to go easy on the girls. He was like a buffer between the grandmother and the two granddaughters.

### **Bealon H. and Luzetta B. Redfield**

According to the 1900 U.S. Census Bealon H. and Luzetta B. Redfield lived at 822 Pine Street in Camden, New Jersey. They are renting a home. Bealon is 39 years of age and has a birth month of June in 1860. Luzetta B. is 34 years of age and has a birth month of August in 1865. They have been married for at least 15 years because their oldest daughter has a birth month of June in 1884. Bealon's occupation is as a carpenter. Luzetta is at home. They have three children at this time:

Ada C.	June, 1884	age 16
Rhoda A.	Oct., 1886	age 13
Powell	Sept., 1892	age 7

Everyone in the family can read, write and speak English. Ada C. is employed as a Wool Reeler. Rhoda A. and Powell (who is listed as Paul in the 1920 U. S. Census) are both in school. It would be Rhoda A. who would marry Harry H. Gedling between 1902 and 1904.

### **1910 U.S. Census**

In 1910 Luzetta is a widow. She is 44 years old. Ada C. and Rhoda A. are married. Only her youngest child is living with her. Powell is now 17 years of age. They live at 724 Cherry Street in Camden, New Jersey. Luzetta works as a janitress at the Court House.

### **1920 U.S. Census**

In 1920 Luzetta Redfield is widowed and 55 years of age. She is living at 780 Walnut Street in Camden, New Jersey. Luzetta is working as a Janitress at the Court House. Her son, Paul, (Powell) age 28, single and is living at home. He is working as a Tacker in a Leather Factory.

### **1930 U.S. Census**

In 1930 Luzetta Redfield, age 64, is living at 914 Lawrence Street in Camden, New Jersey. She is unemployed. A boarder living with her is a William K. Price, age 70. He is widowed and retired. William and his parents were all born in Delaware. Powell Redfield, Luzetta's son is now married to Helen Redfield (maiden name

unknown.) They live at 473 Old Cove Road, Pennsauken Township, Camden County, New Jersey. He is 37 years old and she is 35 years old and they have been married about two years. Powell is a Tacker in a leather factory and Helen is a bookkeeper at a steel factory.

### **Connecting Bealon H. and C.V.M. Redfield**

In the 1880 U.S. Census there is a C.V.M. and Rhoda A. Redfield, who are the parents of Bealon H. Redfield, living in Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey. It seems that the Redfield family was associated with Gloucester County for some time. There are several reasons why the conclusion is made that C.V.M. and Rhoda A. Redfield listed in the 1880 U.S. Census are the parents of Bealon H. Redfield cited in the 1900 U.S. Census. First, the Redfield's have listed a Belam Redfield as their son in the 1880 U.S. Census. Second, there is the similarity in the names Belam, Bealon and Belin over three of four generations from the Redfield family to the Gedling family. Third, C.V.M. Redfield's father was Belin Belair Redfield. C.V.M. named his son after his father. Fourth, the year of birth of 1860 for Bealon H. in the 1900 U.S. Census and the year of birth of 1861 for Belam in the 1880 U.S. Census. Finally, repeating of the name Rhoda A.; from Rhoda A. wife of C.V.M. Redfield and Rhoda A. her granddaughter.

### **Belan and Rebecca Redfield**

In the 1850 U.S. Census there is a Belan and Rebecca Redfield living in Delaware Township, County of Camden, New Jersey. Belan is the Belin Belair Redfield born

**in 1808 who married a Rebecca Howe. Belin was a farmer. He is 42 years of age and she is 39 years of age at this time. They have six children:**

<b>Mary</b>	<b>age 20</b>	<b>(1830)</b>
<b>Charles</b>	<b>age 18</b>	<b>(1832)</b>
<b>William</b>	<b>age 16</b>	<b>(1834)</b>
<b>Robert</b>	<b>age 15</b>	<b>(1835)</b>
<b>Ann</b>	<b>age 12</b>	<b>(1838)</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>age 12</b>	<b>(1838)</b>

**The names of the children are important in connecting the Charles Redfield and C.V.M. Redfield as being the same person.**

### **Charles and Rhoda Redfield**

**According to the 1870 U.S. Census Charles Redfield, the son of Belin and Rebecca, is now married to a Rhoda and living in the Township of Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey. He is a store keeper and she keeps house. The value of their real estate is \$2500 and the value of their personal property is \$500. Charles is 38 years of age and Rhoda is 36 years old. Everyone in the family was born in New Jersey except for Charles who was born in Pennsylvania. There are 5 children:**

<b>Bealing H.</b>	<b>age 10</b>	<b>(1860)</b>
<b>Rebecca</b>	<b>age 7</b>	<b>(1863)</b>
<b>Elizabeth</b>	<b>age 5</b>	<b>(1865)</b>
<b>Mary</b>	<b>age 3</b>	<b>(1867)</b>
<b>Martha</b>	<b>age 2</b>	<b>(1868)</b>

## **C.V.M. and Rhoda A. Redfield**

According to the 1880 U.S. Census C.V.M. and Rhoda A. Redfield are husband and wife living with their four children in Deptford, Gloucester, New Jersey. C.V.M. is 47 years old in 1880 giving him a birth year of 1833. He is working as a laborer. Rhoda A. 45 years old giving her a birth year of 1835. She keeps house. Their oldest child is 19 years of age which would indicate that they were married before 1860-61. C.V.M. was about 27 years old and Rhoda A. was about 25 years old when they were married. There were 4 children:

Belam	age 19	1861
Rebecca	age 16	1864
Elizabeth	age 15	1865
Amy	age 7	1873

Belam was employed as a laborer and the three sisters were at home. It is interesting to note that Belam is also listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as living with another family in the Township of West Deptford, Gloucester County, New Jersey. He apparently was working on their farm as a laborer. All the children, their mother and her parents were born in New Jersey. C.V.M.'s parents were born in New Jersey but the 1880 U.S. Census indicates that he was born in Pennsylvania.

## **The Next Connection Question**

Is C.V.M. Redfield and Charles Miller Redfield the same person? Through the 1880 U.S. Census it was established that C.V.M. Redfield is part of the Redfield line being

traced through several connecting points of information. The issue is to establish who was the father of C.V.M. Redfield. The problem is that there are not any earlier references to a C.V.M. Redfield. However, the FamilySearch International Genealogical Index of the LDS website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) does help to make a reasonable connection. Searching the FamilySearch International Genealogical Index finds these connections:

**Family Group Record for a husband CHARLES REDFIELD and wife RODA was son BELAM H. REDFIELD born January 22, 1861 in Mantua Twp., Gloucester, New Jersey. This would be the CHARLES REDFIELD of the 1870 U.S. Census. BELAM H. Redfield according to the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Census was born 1861 and 1860, respectively. CHARLES REDFIELD and C.V.M. REDFIELD are the same. RODA and RHODA are also similar.**

**Family Group Record for a BELIN BELAIR REDFIELD and a REBECCA HOWE as husband and wife with a son named CHARLES MILLER REDFIELD and born March 31, 1832 in Gloucester City, Gloucester, New Jersey. This would be the BELAN AND REBECCA REDFIELD OF THE 1850 U. S. Census. The family name of BELIN seems to be the connecting factor between CHARLES MILLER and C.V.M. REDFIELD of the 1880 U.S. Census. The 1880 U.S. Census has a birth year for him as 1833 and the Family Group Record with a birth year of 1832 does not break the connection.**

## **The Final Connection**

The final confirmation comes when the family of Charles Redfield in the 1870 U.S. Census is compared with the family of C.V.M. Redfield of the 1880 U.S. Census. Charles Redfield's wife is Rhoda and the wife of C.V.M. Redfield is Rhoda. There are the same children for Charles in 1870 and for C.V.M. in 1880. They are:

<b>1870</b>	<b>Bealing H.</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>Belam</b>
	<b>Rebecca</b>		<b>Rebecca</b>
	<b>Elizabeth</b>		<b>Elizabeth</b>

Charles Redfield and C.V.M. Redfield is the same person. With this connection made research posted on the FamilySearch International Genealogical Index traces 5 more Redfield generations back from Belin Belair Redfield the father of Charles/C.V.M. Redfield. There are a total of thirteen generations of the Redfield's and their descendents.

### **Belin Belair Redfield** Generation six

According to a record in the FamilySearch IGI Belin Belair Redfield was born about 1808 in Gloucester City, Camden, New Jersey. His parents were Samuel Redfield and Ann Heritage. Belin married Rebecca Howe of Gloucester City, Camden, New Jersey in January, 1829. They married in Woodbury, Gloucester, New Jersey. She was born about 1810. Belin was 21 years old and Rebecca was 19 years old when they married.

### **Samuel Redfield** Generation five

Samuel Redfield was born January 23, 1757 at Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut and was the son of William Redfield and Elizabeth Starr. He resided about 1794 at Gloucester, New Jersey. He was a sea captain. Samuel would die at sea circa 1812.



About 1795 Samuel Redfield and Ann Heritage, the daughter of John Heritage and Susannah Marple, would marry in Gloucester, New Jersey. Ann Heritage was born about 1774 in Gloucester, New Jersey and died about 1825 in Gloucester, New Jersey. Samuel was about 19 years of age and Ann about 2 years of age at the start of the Revolutionary War. He was about 38 years of age and she was about 21 years of age when they married. Samuel and Ann would have 5 children. Their fourth child would be named Belin Belair Redfield.

### **William Redfield**

#### **Generation four**

William Redfield was probably born on December 5, 1727 at Killingworth, Middlesex, Connecticut. His parents were Theophilus Redfield and Priscilla Grinnel. William would marry Elizabeth Starr, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth de Jersey on January 8, 1755 at Middletown, Connecticut. William lived in Guilford, Connecticut and in Middletown, Connecticut. He was a sea captain. He was an innkeeper. He was Commissary for the Connecticut battalions on July 1, 1777. William would die on July 17, 1813 at the age of 85. He is buried at Middletown, Connecticut. Elizabeth was born February 4, 1733/34 in Middletown, Connecticut. She died circa 1800 at Middletown, Connecticut. William and Elizabeth had 11 children.

### **The origin of Belin**

One of their children was Elizabeth Redfield born May 11, 1763. She married a Jean Phillippe Belin Belair in January of 1799. They resided in 1803 at Montreal, Canada, where she died in October, 1828 at age 65. Her brother Samuel Redfield

and his wife Ann would name their fourth child Belin Belair Redfield after Elizabeth's husband, Jean Phillippe Belin Belair. Belin would become a family name passed down the generations in the Redfield and Gedling families with Belin H. Gedling born 1904 being the most recent.

## **Theophilus Redfield**

### **Generation Three**

Theophilus Redfield was born May 31, 1672 at Saybrook, Connecticut. His parents were James Redfield and Elizabeth Howe. He married Priscilla Grinnell, daughter of Daniel and Lydia Pabodie, on December 24, 1706. Theophilus was a joiner by trade and resided in Killingworth, Connecticut. He died February 14, 1759 at the age of 87 at Chestnut Hill, Killingworth, Connecticut. Priscilla was born circa 1690 at Little Compton, Newport, Rhode Island and died January 12, 1770 at Chestnut Hill, Killingworth, Connecticut. Theophilus and Priscilla had 13 children. One son, Captain James Redfield born 1733 was a private during the French and Indian War and a private during the Revolutionary War. Another son, Captain Peleg Redfield born 1723 was a captain during the French and Indian War.

## **James Redfield**

### **Generation Two**

James Redfield was born about 1646 at New London, Connecticut. His parents were William Redfield and Rebecca (maiden name unknown). James Redfield was also known as James Redfin. He resided in a number of places: Cambridge and Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, also, New London, New Haven,

Saybrook and Fairfield, Connecticut. James died about 1723 at Killingworth, Middlesex, Connecticut. He would marry Elizabeth Howe, the daughter of Jeremiah Howe and Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) in May of 1669 at New Haven, Connecticut. She was baptized March 30, 1645 at New Haven and died March 23, 1695 at New Haven, Connecticut. James and Elizabeth would have three children.

### **William Redfin** Generation One

William Redfin, also known as William Redfield was born in England about 1610. He would marry Rebecca (maiden name unknown) about 1635. William and Rebecca immigrated before 1638 to Massachusetts. William died about 1662 in New London, Connecticut. Rebecca was born about 1614 and died about 1667 at New London, Connecticut.

These generations of the Redfield family were researched by a John Marshall and posted on [homepages.rootsweb.com](http://homepages.rootsweb.com) as part of a Marshall Family Genealogy.



