

Gedling

The Gedling Generations

John Gedling
1827

Harry Gedling
1861

Harry H. Gedling
1884

Belin H. Gedling
1904

Harry Henry Gedling, Sr.
1934

Harry Henry Gedling, Jr.
1965

The Connections

JAMES KESSLER and CATHERINE GEDLING married and had two children DOROTHY (Reilly) and VERNA (Connelly). CATHERINE'S second marriage was to ALBERT K. MONROE. CATHERINE'S mother was RHODA REDFIELD who married HARRY GEDLING her father. RHODA'S second marriage was to GEORGE WILSON. There were three children from the first marriage: BELIN, CATHERINE and RHODA. HARRY GEDLING'S father was HARRY H.

GEDLING. The parents of HARRY H. GEDLING were JOHN and HANNAH GEDLING.

JAMES KESSLER'S mother, AMANDA was a MUNION. One of KESSLER'S daughters' married a REILLY. CATHERINE GEDLING'S mother, RHODA was a REDFIELD.

Catherine M. Gedling

Birth: February 10, 1908

Place of Birth: Camden, New Jersey

Death: April 13, 1970

Maiden Name: Gedling

Her parents: Harry and Rhoda (Redfield) Gedling

Spouse: James H. Kessler

Married: In 1924

Children:

**Dorothy Marie Kessler Reilly
Verna E. Kessler Connelly**

Rhoda Gedling Wilson was the girls' grandmother.

Rhoda and Harry would divorce and then Rhoda Gedling would marry George Wilson. Catherine's second marriage was to an ALBERT K. MONROE. He was born on May 7, 1889 and died on December 15, 1967, in Camden, New Jersey (SS# 157-03-5738.)

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.

Catherine Gedling

Born: February 10, 1908

Died: April 13, 1970

James H. Kessler

Born: March 7, 1904

Died: January 11, 1958

Children:

Dorothy M. Kessler Reilly

Born: January 18, 1926

Died: May 4, 2003

Married: Edward Reilly March 16, 1946

**Children: John James Reilly
 Stephen Andrew Reilly**

Occupation: Secretary retired Delaware River Port Authority

Verna E. Kessler Connelly

Born: November 23, 1928

Died: February 6, 2004

Married: Robert L. Connelly, Sr.

**Children: Verna
Robert
Bonnie**

Occupation: retired from New Jersey Telephone Co. after 45 years.

Dorothy Marie Kessler would marry an Edward Reilly and this is where the Reilly family would be connected to the Kessler, Gedling, Munion, and Redfield families.

1930 U.S. Census

In 1930 the Kessler family was living at 1033 Segal Street in Camden, New Jersey, and 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, worked 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 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 has loved vegetable soup her whole life.

Skillman Village for Epileptics

Second, the father, James H., whose Grand Mal epilepsy would worsen and he would begin to developed 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 at Skillman. Two times when she was young and 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 16th 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 Gedling and George Wilson

In 1920 Rhoda Gedling was now married to a George M. Wilson. Rhoda, who married at age 16, and Harry, had 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. 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.

Belin Gedling

Belin Gedling was the older brother of Catherine Gedling Kessler Monroe. He was born June 3, 1904 and died in March of 1967 (SS# 153-01-4014.) His last residence was in Maple Shade, Burlington County, New Jersey. In 1920 Belin was 16 years old and living with his mother Rhoda Redfield Gedling and her second husband, George Wilson. In 1930 according to the U.S. Census Belin Gedling was a boarder at 312 Bailey Street, Camden, New Jersey. At age 25 he was an Iron Worker. He

would marry an Elvira A. Gee who was born October 2, 1906 and at age 97 she died on April 20, 2004. Dorothy Reilly whose mother Catherine was the sister of Belin always had fond memories of Belin and Elvira Gedling when she was young. She remembers how he would come over on Sundays for a visit and do the crossword puzzle. As an adult Dorothy would do crossword puzzles and she traced her love for them to her Uncle Belin. She also recalls really liking to go to Belin and Elvira's house because it was always so nice. Dorothy remembers the rice pudding she always made. Perhaps that is why rice pudding was a regular dessert at the Reilly home. There were six children in the Belin and Alvira Gedling family; three sons and three daughters:

JEAN A. CASTELLANO and husband WILLIAM of Ocean city, NJ

BARBARA A. ARENA and husband WILLIAM of Maple Shade, NJ

RITA E. VANDERGRIFT and husband JOSEPH of Camden, NJ

HARRY H. GEDLING, SR. and fiancé JOAN of Maple Shade, NJ

KENNETH G. GEDLING and wife CAROL SUE of Maple Shade, NJ

ROBERT B.L. GEDLING and wife JUDY of Pennsauken, NJ

Harry H. and Harry, Jr.

A census search for a Harry Gedling did not turn up anything in New Jersey, New York, Maryland or Pennsylvania in the census years 1900, 1920 and 1930. A Harry Gedling of Delaware was located in the 1900 U.S. Census. This Harry Gedling was

born June of 1884 and is 16 years of age in 1900. The Harry Gedling who married Rhoda Redfield no later than 1904, because their first son, Belin, was born in 1904 would have been about 20 years of age when he married. The name "Belin" was a family name from the Redfield line which has been passed down several generations. This Harry Gedling who was born in Delaware and his parents were both born in Pennsylvania, this is the Harry who married Rhoda because the father of their children was from Delaware. This is the connection for the father of the three Gedling children born in New Jersey and their father being born in Delaware. Listed with 16 year old Harry is his father Harry Gedling, born May of 1861 and is now 39 years of age. He was born in Pennsylvania as were his parents. Harry, the father is listed as the son of a John and Anna Gedling and Harry, age 16, the son is listed as their grandson. With the grandson at age 16 this would mean that his father and mother were married no later than 1884. In 1900 there is no listing for the wife or mother of the two Harry's. Some time between 1884 and 1900 there was a death or divorce. The father was employed as an Agar Dealer and his son was a Morocco worker.

The 1900 U.S. Census

In 1900 the family of John and Anna (Hannah) Gedling were living at 800 West Seventh Street, in Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware. They were renting a house not living on a farm. John at time was 72 years old with a possible birth date in November of 1827. Anna is 66 years old with a birth date in November of 1833. According to this census they had been married 48 years which means their

marriage took place around 1852. John was about 25 years old when he got married. Anna was about 19 years of age when she married. In 1900 the Gelding's have one daughter and one son living with them and a total of three grandchildren. Ida Gedling Everett is the daughter who at age 42 is widowed with two children. She had been married 21 years before she was widowed. This would place her marriage in about the year 1879 and she would have been 19 years old. The 1880 U. S. Census dates have her getting married about 1882 and being about 23 years of when she married. Ida was born in Pennsylvania as were both her parents. Her occupation is as a storekeeper. Charles is the 18 year old son of Ida. March of 1882 is given as his birth date. The daughter Bertha is 16 years old and has a birth date of May 1884. Charles' birth in Delaware in 1882 with her parents being born in Pennsylvania would indicate that the Gedling family did not move to Delaware any later than 1882. Living with John and Anna Gedling is their son Harry, 39, and grandson, Harry, 16; again the father was born in Pennsylvania and his son was born in Delaware. There is no listing for the wife. All members of this family were born in Pennsylvania except their children were born in Delaware. Why this family moved to Delaware is unknown at this time. It is also unknown how Harry age 16 got to New Jersey, where he would eventually marry Rhoda Redfield sometime after 1911.

The 1880 U.S. Census

The 1900 U. S. Census placed the Gedling family in Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware. It was noted that John and Anna, and two of their children were still living with them, Ida and Harry, were all born in Pennsylvania. A more

complete look at this family is found in the 1880 U. S. Census. John and Hannah (Anna) and their children are located in Wilmington, Delaware, as they would be for the 1900 U.S. Census. It is noted in the 1880 U. S. Census that all their children were born in Pennsylvania. The youngest, Elizabeth, age 14, was born in 1866. This information means that the Gedling family could not have moved to Delaware any earlier than 1866 and would have had to be there by 1880 being in that census.

Gedling's in Pennsylvania

John Gedling, the head of the household, was born in 1829 and was 51 years of age in 1880. His occupation was as a cigar maker. Hannah, his wife was born in 1834 and is 46 years of age in 1880. She keeps house. Based on the oldest child's age, William Gedling, age 26 in 1880, it would seem that John and Hannah were married before 1854. He would be about 25 years old and she would be about 20 years of age at the time of their marriage. The parents of John and Hannah were both born in Pennsylvania according to the 1880 U.S. Census. Research was unable to find the parents of John Gedling in Pennsylvania or anywhere else, or to find the parents of Hannah in the 1880 or 1900 U.S. Census. According to the 1900 U.S. Census Hannah had given birth to 7 children but only 6 were living.

John and Hannah's Children

There are 6 children listed in the 1880 U.S. Census which would mean the missing children died before the year 1880. The Gedling's had 4 sons and 2 daughters. The names of the children were:

William	age 26	1854
Elwood	age 24	1856
Ida (Everett)	age 21	1859
Harry	age 19	1861
Francis	age 16	1864
Elizabeth	age 14	1866

The occupations of the children were: William and Elwood were Morocco Dressers, Ida was at home, Harry was a clerk in a grocery store, Francis was a laborer and Elizabeth was at home.

The Gedling Family Descendants

RHODA REDFIELD and HARRY H. GEDLING

CATHERINE GEDLING and JAMES H. KESSLER

DORTHY M. KESSLER and EDWARD REILLY

JOHN JAMES REILLY and JOAN MARIE REILLY

EDWARD JAMES REILLY

STEPHEN ANDREW REILLY and PAT FOOTY

JENNIFER REILLY

JACOB REILLY

MARGARET

TERESA REILLY

MICHAEL REILLY

VERNA KESSLER and ROBERT CONNELLY

VERNA

ROBERT CONNELLY

BONNIE CONNELLY SMITH

RHODA GEDLING—unknown

BELIN H. GEDLING and ELVIRA GEE

JEAN A. CASTELLANO and husband WILLIAM of Ocean city, NJ

BARBARA A. ARENA and husband WILLIAM of Maple Shade, NJ

RITA E. VANDERGRIFT and husband JOSEPH of Camden, NJ

HARRY H. GEDLING, SR. and fiancé JOAN of Maple Shade, NJ

MAUREEN

DENISE L.

DONNA E.

HARRY HENRY GEDLING, JR.

CHERYL A. (ex-wife)

CHRISTOPHER A.

ERICA M.

MEGARA M.

SHARON M. (wife)

ASHLEY A.

ANDREW S.

ALYSSA M.

AMANDA L.

KENNETH G. GEDLING and wife CAROL SUE of Maple Shade, NJ

ROBERT B.L. GEDLING and wife JUDY of Pennsauken, NJ

**Descendants of
Catherine Gedling and James Monroe**

CATHERINE GEDLING and ALBERT MONROE

MILDRED MONROE and DANIEL PRIEST (d)

KATHRYN

CHARLES PRIEST of South Carolina

DIANE (d)

PAT PRIEST THOMAS of Philadelphia

DOROTHY (d)

SUSAN _____ of Alabama

MILLIE _____ of New Mexico

**EMMA PRIEST and MITCHELL and DILLENGER
(Grier, S.C.)**

CINDY _____ of New Jersey

ERNEST MITCHELL of New Jersey

DEBBIE _____ of South Carolina

MICHAEL MITCHELL prison in So. Carolina

DENNIS MITCHELL of Gloucester, New Jersey

BILLY MITCHELL of South Carolina

DONNA DILLENGER of South Carolina

LAURIE DILLENGER of Spartanburg, S.C.

EDMUND and LEONA MONROE of New Jersey

JULIA _____ of New York (twin)

JOYCE ECKMAN (twin)

KIM MONROE of Clayton, New Jersey

CHRISTINE KINEARD of New Jersey

MICHAEL ULRICH of Pennsauken, N.J.

ALBERTA MONROE and JOE HODGE

SONYA _____ of Virginia

DAVID HODGE of South Carolina

DAWN _____ in military

ROBERT HODGE of Camden, New Jersey

EDMUND THOMAS HODGE (d)

CATHERINE MONROE (d) and ALVIN HERMAN

ALVIN HERMAN of New Jersey

BRIAN HERMAN of Riverside, New Jersey

LISA _____ of Toms River, New Jersey

