

THE LEAP FAMILY

Background

My great-grandmother May Skinner (1875 – 1963) was raised from childhood by the Leap family. The Leaps were farmers who lived north of Hurffville, in Washington Township, Gloucester County, NJ.

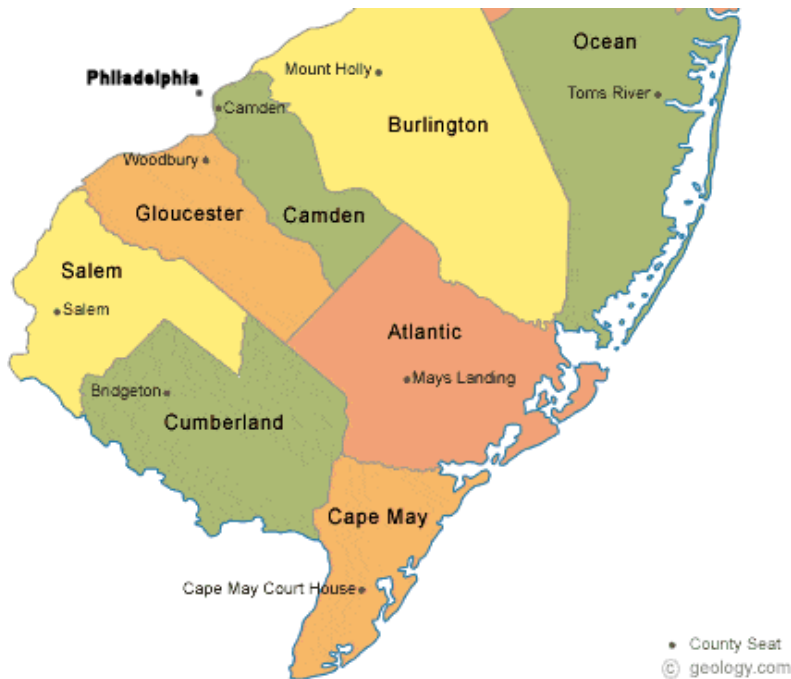
Mrs. Leap (Mary S. Leap) lived until 1920 and was well known to her grandson, Earl Skinner (my grandfather), born 1901.

However, nothing was known of Mr. Leap, who had died in 1904. My grandfather's wife, Lillian Skinner, thought that Mr. Leap had been a well-to-do judge and that he had been from Media, Pa. That information does not appear to be accurate.

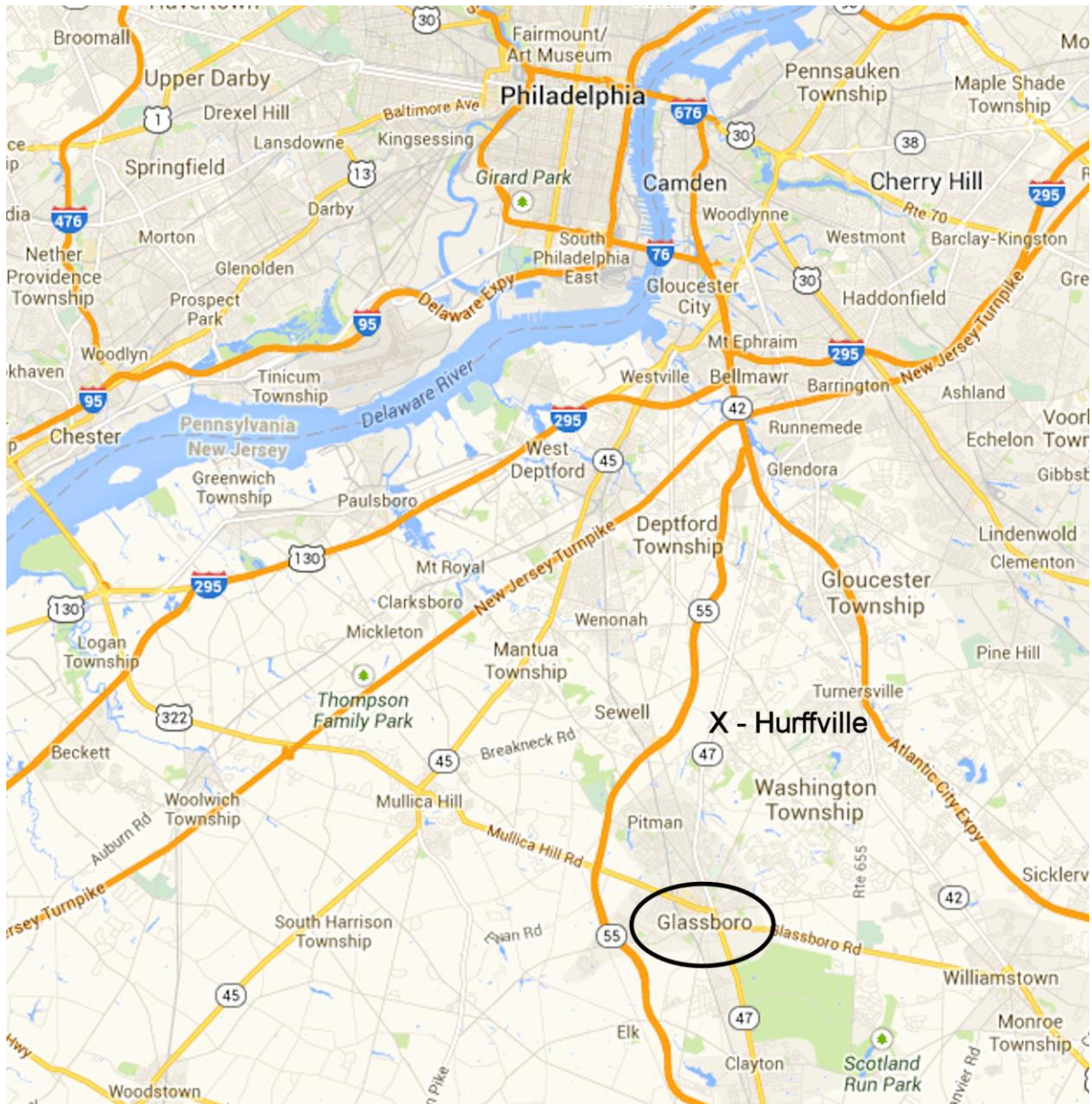
The Leaps

Mr. Leap was Joseph A. Leap, born 1829, part of the large Leap clan of Gloucester County, NJ. He was a life-long farmer.

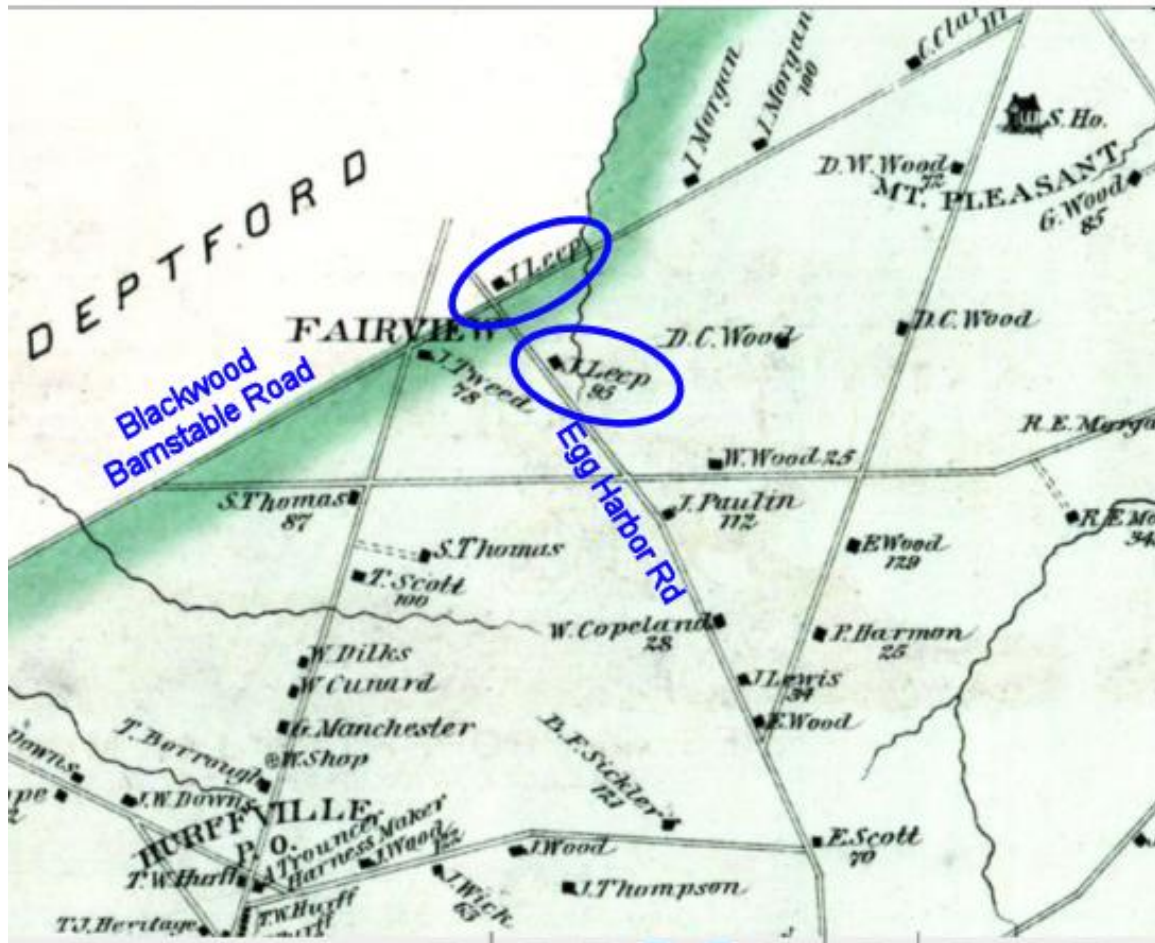
Mrs. Leap was born Mary S. Dare. Her family was from Cumberland County, south of Gloucester County. Like her husband, she was born in 1829.



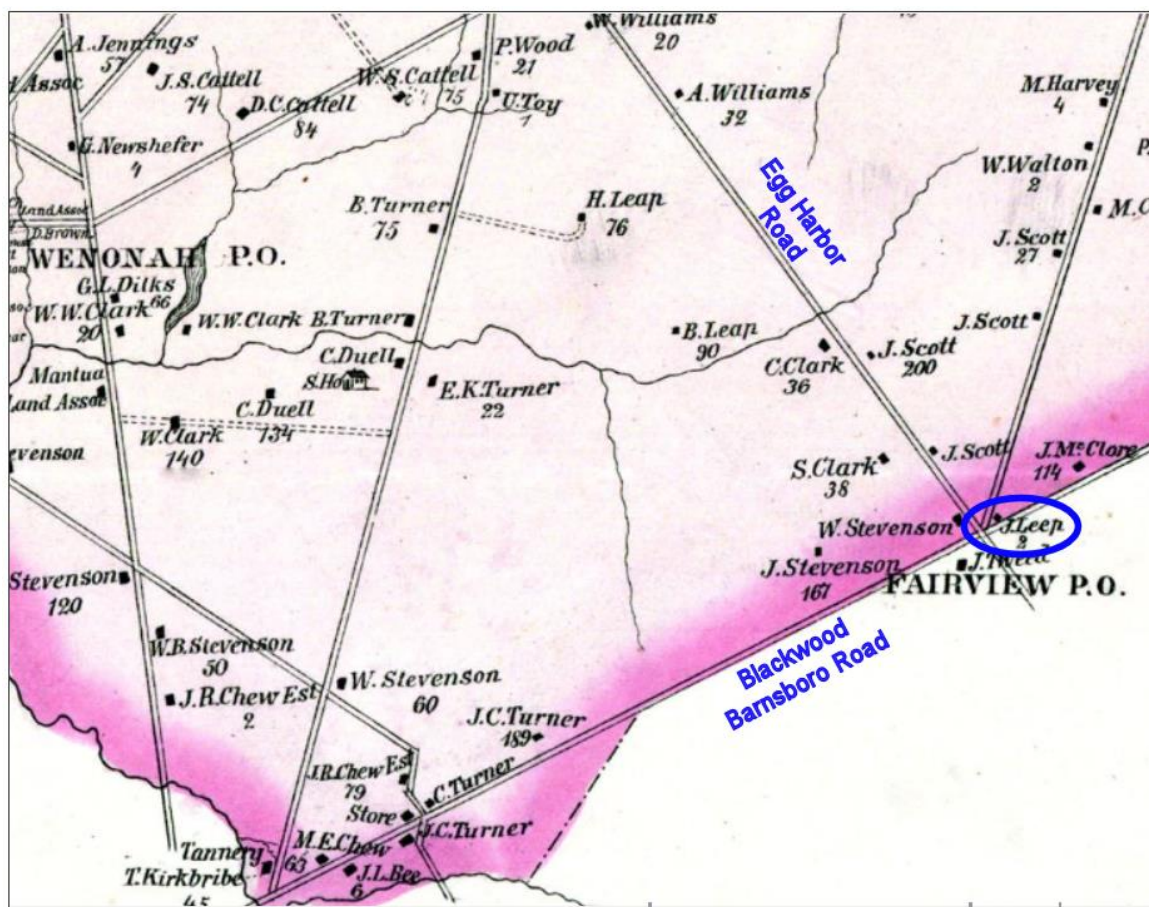
South Jersey Counties
[Geology.com]



The Leap family lived on a farm just north of the small community of Hurffville. They were recorded at this address from 1870 thru 1895. This is where May Cauley, born 1875, grew up.



Mary and Joseph Leap had lands that straddled the Blackwood Barnstable Road - the dividing line between Deptford Township [white area] and Washington Township [green area]. They had a 2 acre home lot north of the road, and a 95 acre farm south of the road. Members of the Wood family, with whom they were friends, lived around them.

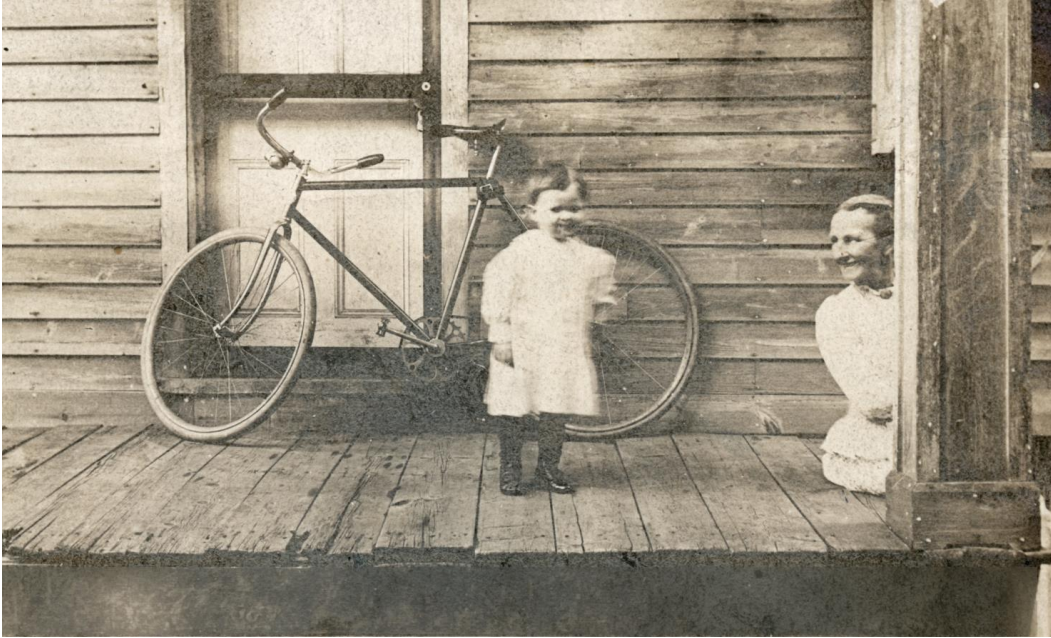


Many of the relatives of the Leap family, with surnames of Leap and Turner, lived nearby in Deptford Township [pink area]

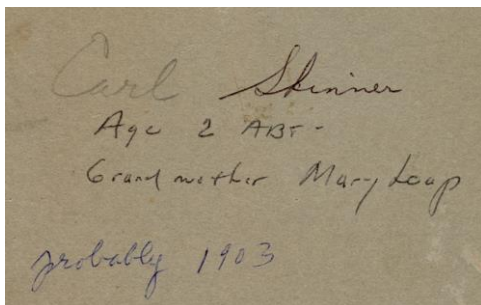
Leaps – Marriage and Children

Mary S. Dare and Joseph Leap were married 2 March 1853 in Gloucester County. They had two children. First son George was born nine months after their marriage. Second son Ellison was born three years later in 1856.

May Skinner was born Viola May Cauley in 1875. By the time of the 1880 census, May was five years of age and under the care of the Leap family. May was nearly a generation younger than the two Leap boys, who were adults by that time.



Earl Skinner (b. 1901) with grandmother Mary S. Leap (1829-1920)
Likely at the Glassboro home of Mary's son Ellison,
with whom she lived in later life.



Annette's writing; Earl's printing

Leap Family Genealogy

The Leap family, and Turner family with whom the Leaps are closely associated, have a long history in South Jersey. Here are the Leaps of interest to our family:

Joseph Leap (1802 – Mar 22, 1885, age 84)

md. **Mary A. _____** (1802 – Jul 23, 1879, age 79 at home of son-in-law Ellison Turner). Per 1850 & 1880 census - farmer, Deptford Twp.

A. **Joseph A. Leap** (b. 1829- d. Apr 2, 1904)

md. 1853 **Mary S. Dare** (Dec 22, 1829 – June, 1920)

1. **George K. Leap** (b. Dec 6, 1853)

md. 20 Nov 1877 in Camden Co., NJ to **Ella F. Moore** (b. circa 1856)

2. **Ellison Turner Leap** (b. Sep 2, 1856 – d. 1923)

md. 1879 at Camden, NJ to **Abigail Shute Allen** (b. 1856-d. 1929)

Ellison's middle name of 'Turner' comes from the fact that his father's three siblings all married into the Turner family.

a. **Emma A. Leap** (b. Aug 5, 1880 Glassboro - d. 1961)

Per Earl Skinner- wild character, smoked cigars

b. **Frank Leap** (b. Aug 21 1883 Glassboro - d. Mar, 1913)

md. 1902 **Ella C. Shreve** (b. 1884). Child – Allen Leap (b. 1903). Earl Skinner had told me Frank committed suicide; The records say that he drowned in the Big Timber Creek, age 29 [www.darefamily.com].

c. **Mary D. Leap** (b. Dec 6, 1888 Glassboro – d. 1977)

md. 1911 (h1) **Earl B. Park** (b. 1888)

Child – W. Burdsall Park (b. 1914); Kenneth Park per Earl Skinner.

c. **Mary D. Leap** md. (h2) _____ **Wood**

Related to Wood School Bus Company; Children - five

3. (Adopted) **Viola May Cawley** (1875 - 1963). md. 1900

Warren Skinner (1887-1970); Children – Earl (b. 1901) and Gladys (b. 1909)

B. **Henry M. Leap** (b. circa 1833 - d. 1896) md. Dec 2, 1858 Glou. Co.

to **Martha H. Turner** (b. Aug 1835). Child: Hiram S. Leap

C. **Benjamin H. Leap** (b. 1835 - d. 1891 Glou. Co.) md. Apr 18, 1867 Presby Parsonage, Blackwood, Camden Co. to **Elizabeth C. Turner** (b. 1843)

1870 & 1880 census - farmer, Deptford Twp.

Children: Wilmer, Anna, Fannie, Benjamin H., Abigail A. Leap

D. **Mary Ann Leap** [maybe named for family friend Mary Anna Batten.]

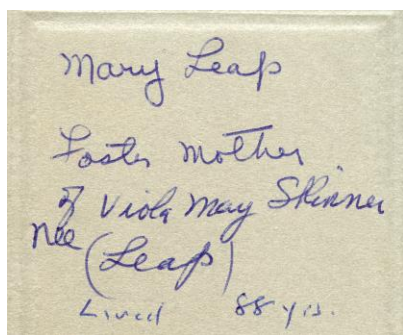
md. Mar 20, 1862 Glou. Co. to **Ellison H. Turner**

Children: Josephine, Ellison H., Mary A. Turner

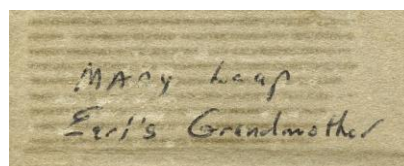
The Turners that married into the Leap family were all siblings.



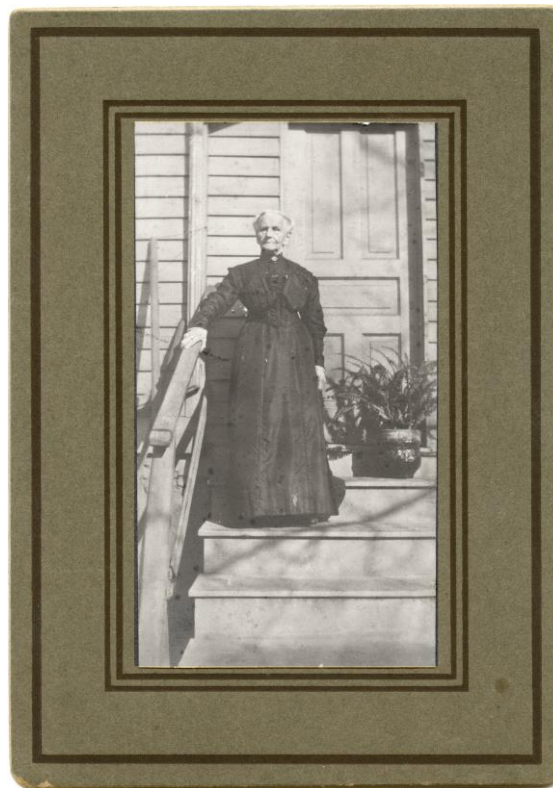
Mary S. Leap
She lived with son Ellison Leap



Lillian's writing; Earl's printing
Lived 90 years, not 88.



Earl's printing



Mary S. Leap
Front Steps, 40 Winona, Norwood, PA
Home of her daughter May Skinner

Mary Leap
taken at Mae's and
Warren's Home on Winona
Ave. Norwood, PA.
in early 1920's

Earl's printing

Misspelled Winona Ave.
Photo taken prior to Mary's death in 1920.

1860 Census

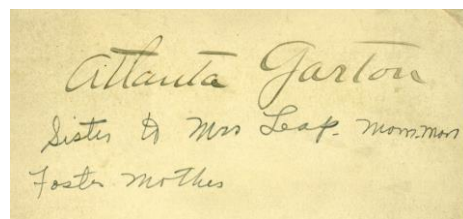
Per the 1860 census, Joseph Leap and family were renting land at Woolwich Twp., Gloucester Co., NJ (Swedesboro Post Office). Joseph was a farmer, age 30. Wife Mary was also age 30. Sons George and Ellison were ages 6 and 3.

Niece Atlanta Mills

Per the 1860 census, a ten-year old girl by the name of Atlanta Mills was living with the Leaps. Atlanta Mills was the daughter of Mary Leap's sister - Sarah (Dare) Mills (1828–1893) and Sarah's husband Jeremiah Padgett Mills. It is not clear why Atlanta was living with the Leaps – the Mills' family seemed intact at the time. As an adult, Atlanta Mills married Levi Garton and lived in Cumberland County, NJ. Atlanta and Levi had a daughter, Ida Garton, who married John Shull. Ida and John Shull were about the same age as May Skinner and were good friends with the Skinners in the early years of the 1900's (see Shull photos in 'GWS' file).



Atlanta Garton (b. circa 1850)
Niece to Mary S. Leap
[Service Studios– Bridgeton, NJ]



first line – unknown writing
second line – Lillian's writing;
Neice, not sister, to Mrs. Leap

Niece Magie (sic) Dare

Magie Dare was another niece of Mary S. Leap. Her relationship to Mary Leap is shown here:

Children of Thomas Dare and Ruth Clark -

- i. **George Dare** (1825-1893) – married Martha Demaris. Children included **Magie Davis Dare** pictured below. Magie married, 1894, Henry Goodwin (1872-1906); They lived at Roadstown, Cumberland County.
- ii. **Sarah Dare** (1828-1893) – married 1846 to Jeremiah Padgett Mills. Children included **Atlanta Mills**.
- iii. **Mary S. Dare** (1929-1920) – married Joseph Leap. Raised **May Skinner** from childhood.
- iv. **Ruth Dare** (b. 1832) – no further info.



Margaret 'Magie' Dare (1862-1935)
Neice to Mary S. Leap
[Service Studios– Bridgeton, NJ]



'Magie Dare', barely discernable

1870 Census

Per the 1870 census, Mary and Joseph Leap were living on land they owned in Washington Township, Camden Co., NJ (Williamstown Post Office). Joseph was a farmer and age 40. Mary was also age 40. Sons George and Ellison, laborers, were ages 16 and 14. Business directories indicate that the Leap farm was in the Hurffville section of Wash. Twp., just northeast of the town of Glassboro.

The census indicates that Washington Twp. was located in Camden County while today the township is part of Gloucester County. The census is correct - Washington Twp was temporarily part of Camden Co. from 1844 to 1871.

1880 Census

The 1880 census again shows the Leaps owning a farm in Washington Township, NJ. Sons George and Ellison were on their own and no longer living with their parents. The Leaps now had a young female housekeeper to help them and, surprisingly, were now raising a young child – my great-grandmother May Skinner. May was 45 years younger than the Leaps.

1885 Census

The Leaps, with adopted daughter Viola May Cawley, appear in the 1885 Census living in Deptford, NJ

1886

Howe's Business Directory of farmers in Gloucester County for the time period 1886/1887 identifies Joseph A. Leap and Ellison T. Leap (son of Joseph) as being farmers in Hurffville (Washington Township).

1890

Howe's Business Directory of farmers in Gloucester County for the time period 1890/1891 identifies Joseph A. Leap as being a farmer in Hurffville (Washington Township).

Viola May Skinner

May Skinner (born 1875) was raised by the Leap family from an early age. Very little is known of May's birth parents. Per her daughter-in-law Lillian Skinner – May's birth mother was a widow and working for the Leaps as a housekeeper when Mrs. Leap, who had grown fond of the young May, agreed to raise her.

The birth mother had given up her young child in order to remarry. The birth mother retained custody of one or two other unknown children – sisters to May, who were older and not requiring as much care.

May knew her birth mother into adulthood, despite being raised by the Leaps. May was a conservative, religious person - quite different from her birth mother. One Sunday afternoon, May and her husband traveled from PA to South Jersey to visit her mother. Seeing the lax conditions at the boarding house that the mother was running out of her home, May left never to return. This is a story often retold to me by Lillian Skinner, May's daughter-in-law.

May's surname at birth and other information about her birth family have been lost to later generations. May's son, Earl Skinner (my grandfather), made no mention to me of his mother's surname, despite his numerous notes and stories relating to family history.

While Earl loved to tell stories about his father's side of the family, it was his wife, Lillian, who liked to talk about Earl's mother – May. Lillian told me in the 1990's that she had known May's birth surname and thought it was 'Chew'.

1880 Census and Identity of Viola May Skinner

The birth name of May Skinner (born 1875) is revealed by the 1880 census of the Leap household:

1880 Census; Washington Twp., Gloucester Co., NJ

Name / Race / Sex / Age / Relation to Head of Household / Occupation / Birth Place /
Father's Birthplace / Mother's Birthplace

Joseph A. LEAP / w / male / 50 / head of household / Farmer/ NJ / NJ / NJ

Mary S. LEAP / w / female / 50 / wife / Keeping House./NJ / NJ / NJ

Yolah M. CAULEY / w / female / 6 / help / At Home /NJ / NJ / NJ

Mary NORTH / w / female / 17 / help / Hired Help /NJ / NJ / NJ

Yolah M. Cauley is a 6-year-old girl living with Mary and Joseph Leap. 'Yolah' is a misspelling or variation of the name 'Viola'. My great-grandmother, whose married name was Viola May Skinner, was born Viola (or Yolah) May Cauley.

Per Lillian, May's mother was single and a widow at the time she left May with the Leap family. Not sure if Cauley was the mother's married surname.

The census shows that May is age 6. According to family information from May's daughter (Gladys Hughlett), May was born in May of 1875, and should have been age 5 at the time of this June, 1880 census. This discrepancy is not surprising – the ages in census records are often off by a year or two [or more!].

As the story goes, May's birth mother came into contact with the Leap family as a live-in housekeeper. Nearly one-fifth of the US population had housekeepers at the time, to assist in the manual labor necessary to run farming households.

By the time of the 1880 census shown above, the birth mother of May was no longer living with the Leap household. However, the census shows that the Leaps now had another housekeeper - Mary North, age 17. Mary was from the city of Camden, NJ. Note that Mary North could not be the mother of young Viola Cauley who was also living in the household. Housekeeper Mary North was not old enough to be May's mother and the census would have indicated any mother/daughter relationship between the two.

The 1880 census does not show any children other than Yolah Cauley living with the Leaps. That is because the other Leap children – George and Ellison Leap, were a generation older than adopted daughter Yolah Cauley and living on their own.

1880 Census Record

Enumeration District 114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1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1885 NJ State Census

Viola May appears in the 1895 NJ State Census as Viola May Cawley. Her last name is spelled Cawley, with a 'w'. The previous 1880 census had spelled her name Cauley, with a 'u'.

May appears in the census with her adoptive parents – Joseph and Mary Leap. The family were recorded at Deptford. Note that their home was in Deptford Township, across the street from their farm and farmhouse which were in Hurffville, Washington Township.

1895 NJ State Census

Viola May appears again in the 1895 NJ State Census as May Cawley. She would have been age 20 at the time. She is now going by her middle name of 'May' as she would the rest of her life.

The 1895 census shows that May had left home – she was no longer living with her adoptive parents (the Leaps). Instead, she was living with a family in nearby Glassboro, presumably as a boarder. She would marry husband Warren Skinner in 1900.

The 1895 census shows Mary and Joseph Leap residing in Deptford, Camden County.

1900 Federal Census and Death of Joseph Leap

Mary and Joseph Leap are missing from the 1900 census. Both would have turned age 71 in 1900.

Mary and Joseph were residing with one of their two sons, Ellison Leap, at his Glassboro farm when Joseph died April 2, 1904. Ellison had a poultry farm in the 200 block of High Street in Glassboro, just east of today's Delsea Drive (Delsea Drive was called Stone Road at the time). Per [The Farm Journal of Gloucester County, NJ, 1913], Ellison Leap had a 38 acre lot.

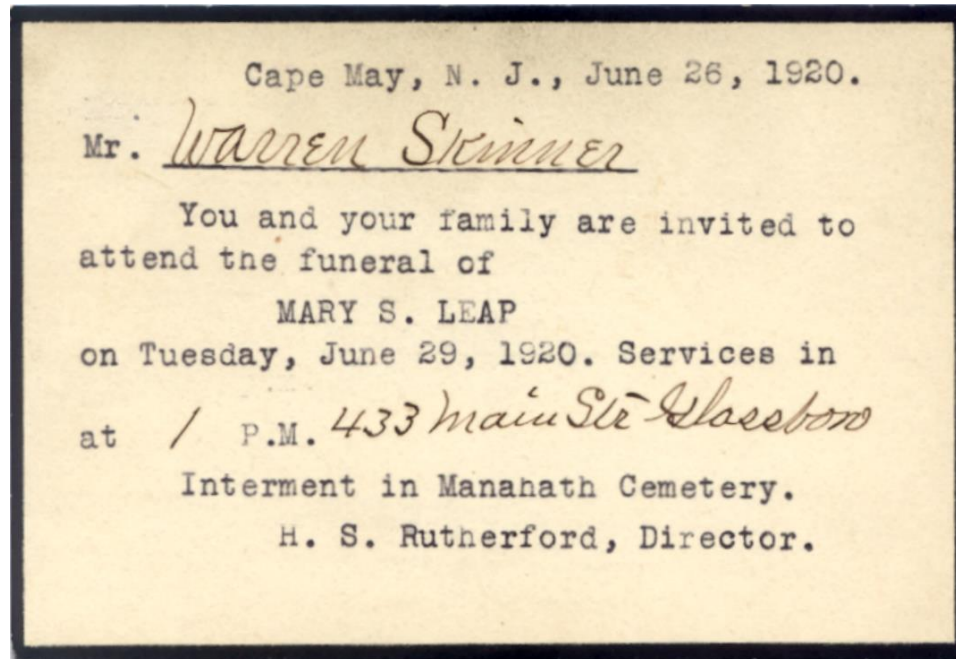
1910 Census

Mary S. Leap appears in the 1910 census with her son Ellison at his farm on High Street in Glassboro. Mary was described as age 80 and a widower. Son Ellison was age 53 and had been married for 30 years. He was still in the poultry business. Family correspondence indicates that Ellison maintained a team of horses there as late as 1915.

Per the next census of 1920, Ellison, at age 65 or so, had retired from the poultry business and had moved on to a home at Cape May.

Death of Mary Leap

Mary died in 1920 at the age of ninety, just prior to the census of 1920. She is buried beside her husband Joseph in Glassboro's Manahath Cemetery.



Mary S. Leap, deceased, was foster mother to May Skinner.

Invitation is addressed to Warren Skinner, husband of May Skinner.

433 Main Street was the funeral home and residence of Louis and Rennie Shreve; Rennie Shreve was an aunt to Warren Skinner, Rennie being a sister of Warren's father.

This letter was mailed by Mary's son Ellison T. Leap from his home at Cape May.



Correct spelling of Wenonah is Winona

The Leap Children – George and Ellison

Ellison and George were the sons of Mary and Joseph Leap, and foster brothers to my great-grandmother May Skinner.

I have little information on George Leap. No one in the family ever made mention of a person by that name and, though he married, he disappeared from census records at an early age.

His brother, Ellison Leap, was known to the family. My grandfather, Earl Skinner (b. 1901), sometimes recalled his Uncle Ellison whom Earl had known in his youth.

Ellison cared for his parents, Mary and Joseph Leap (Earl's grandparents), in their final years. Ellison died in 1923, just three years after his mother.

Children of Ellison Leap (Grandchildren of Mary and Joseph Leap)

Ellison and his wife Abigail 'Abbie' Leap had three children – Emma, Frank and Mary. Emma Leap never married and per my grandfather, Earl Skinner, "was a wild character; smoked cigars". One surprising piece of information is that Emma lived until 1961. My grandfather, Earl, had probably not seen her since his youth in the early 1900's. And the rest of us knew nothing of her.

The second child of Ellison and Abigail was Frank Leap. Frank married Ella Shreve in 1902 and had a son Allen Leap in 1903. Frank died in 1913 at age 29. My grandfather Earl Skinner (b.1901) said he committed suicide, but the records say that he drowned in the Big Timber Creek. He was buried at Bethel Methodist Cemetery near Hurffville. A letter from Mary S. Leap (Frank's grandmother) indicates that Frank's mother went down to Bethel, NJ in October, 1913 to look at tombstones for Frank and that the week had been "unpleasant".

The third child of Ellison and Abigail was Mary Leap, not to be confused with her grandmother Mary S. Leap. Mary married twice. Her second husband was part of the large Wood family of South Jersey. Many members of the Wood family had lived in Washington Township during the 1800's and had been neighbors to Mary Leap's grandparents – Mary S Leap and husband Joseph.

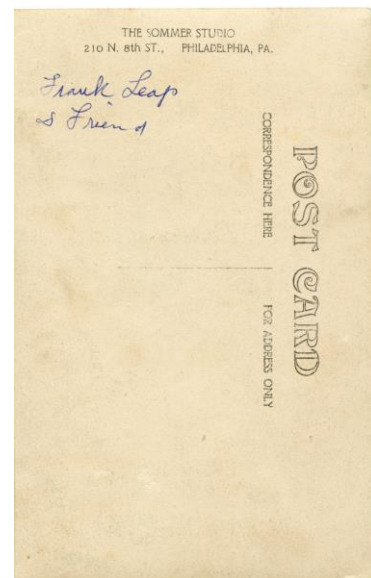


Supposedly Emma Leap & Friend;
Maybe Emma with her mother?
[tin-type image]



Frank Leap & Friend

Above photo from decayed photo album of Elizabeth Ungerbuehler. Caption copied from the album. Need to verify identity with members of the Leap, Park or Wood family.



Lillian's writing

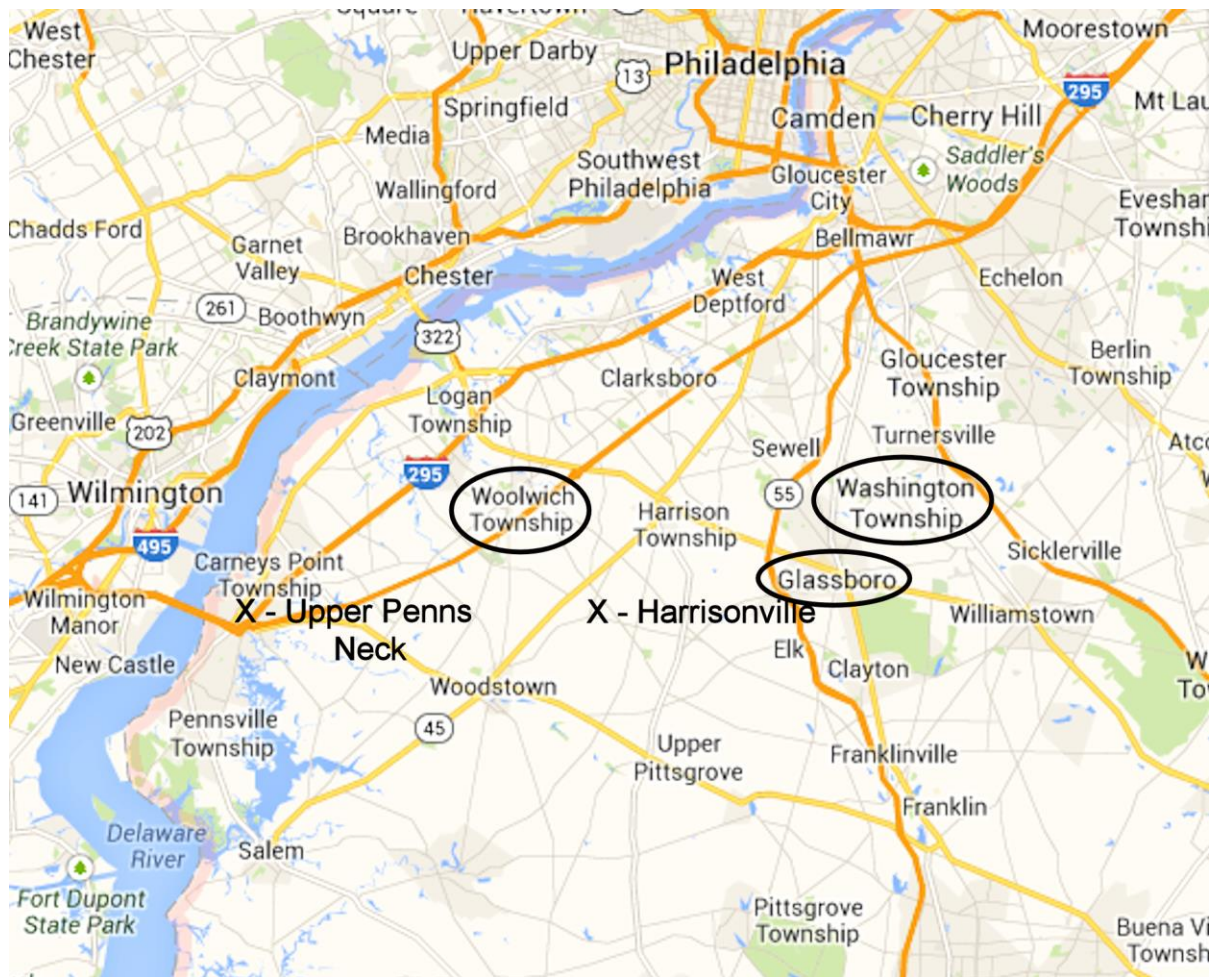
Cauley / Cawley Heritage

Viola May Skinner appears in the 1880 federal census as Yolah M. Cauley and as May Cawley in the 1895 state census. She also appears in records of the Glassboro Methodist Church as Viola M. Crawley about 1897. The names Cauley and Cawley would have been abbreviations of the Irish name McCauley. There were many families with these surnames in the Philadelphia area. It would be interesting to locate the applicable family, as May Skinner was said to have had one or more older sisters.

May Skinner likely descends from a Cawley clan who lived during the 1800's in an area that included Woolwich Township (town of Swedesboro), Gloucester Co. and Upper Penns Neck, Salem Co. to the south.

This family includes the descendants of Abraham (born circa 1809) and Susanna Cawley (born circa 1811) of Woolwich Township. They had two sons John and William, born in the 1830's, either of whom could have been grandparents to May Skinner (b. 1875). May's foster parents could have come into contact with the Cawleys since they also lived in Woolwich Twp. for a time (per the 1860 census).

A second possibility is that May Skinner descends from the family of Joseph Cawley (born circa 1813), who lived south of Woolwich Twp. at Harrisonville, Gloucester Co. and later, Upper Penns Neck, Salem Co. This family includes a granddaughter of Joseph named Lizzie Cawley, six years older than May Skinner and possible sister to May. The family had some problems as Lizzie ended up living with her grandparents in Upper Penns Neck by the time of the 1880 census. This family saw a marriage of a Joseph Cawley and Hannah Albright in 1867 at Harrisonville. [www.state.nj.us/state].



Southern New Jersey [msn.com]

Map Key

Mary and Joseph Leap lived at **Woolwich Twp.** per the 1860 census.

The Leaps lived at Hurffville, **Washington Twp.** per the 1870 and 1880 census. They raised Viola May Cawley (b. 1875) from childhood. She first appears with the Leaps in the 1880 census.

By the 1900's, the aging Leaps were living with their son Ellison in **Glassboro**. May Cawley was also living in **Glassboro**, but on her own, per the 1895 State Census. May was working at a **Philadelphia** 'Notions' store while dating her future husband, Warren Skinner, in the late 1890's. Not sure where she was living as she is missing from the 1900 census. Warren Skinner was living with his parents in **Glassboro** where he was born and raised, per the 1895 and 1900 census.

May Cawley may descend from several Cawley families who lived in a region that included **Woolwich Twp.**, the town of **Harrisonville**, Gloucester County and **Upper Penns Neck**, Salem County.

[blank]

Letters From Mary S. Leap To Her Daughter May Skinner:

There are many surviving letters written from Mary S. Leap to her adopted daughter May Skinner.

Mary Leap did not use capital letters to mark the beginning of sentences nor periods to end sentences. She rarely used paragraph breaks. She routinely misspelled common words, such as would and could (wold and cold). Her letters in the 1913 time frame show that she had good vision. Her letters in the 1917 time frame showed very poor eyesight. She died 1920.

Mary's letters indicate she was living with her son Ellison and his wife Abbie, which is confirmed by census records. Many of the people mentioned in Mary's letters can be found in the Leap Family Tree presented on page four (4).

Letter A - April 14, 1913:

April 14
Glassboro

Dear May

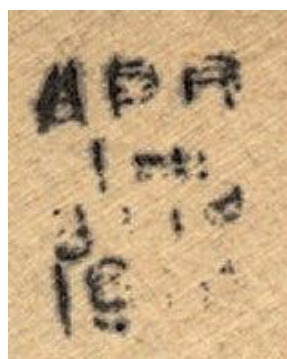
You wanted to know how much the feathers would be. I asked Abbie. She said 2 cents/lb. I do not know how many lbs for a bed. Have you gotten your ticks. If i had any way to help you. Had better wait until you come over. If Warren is home you cold come over some day. Abbie is cleaning the kitchen today. She is dun upstairs. The club met here last night. Did not get to bed. Fran[?] was here. She is sewing at Tallows [?]. I went to Wenonah Satterday and came home Monday morning with her. Made my visit at _____. They are as well as usual. Mary Cattell had a nice baby. Mrs. Jones is the happy Mother of a daughter born Satterday. Both doing well. I expect I am forgetting something. Yes. Ella Dunham sent me three bottels of very nice grape juice. Wasn't that nice of her and I do not know her. Good by. Love to you all.

M. S. Leap

April 14
Glassboro Dear May
you wanted to know
I H. H. H. H.

I don't know her
good by love to you
all M S Leap

Good by. Love to you all. M S Leap



Postmark

Letter B - 9 October 1913:

October 9. 1913

Glassboro

Dear May

Your letter received. I should have written before this. Had bin looking for you as you said you would come over when I got home. Abbie has bin to the city today. She went up Monday, got her hat, and did not like it. Went up to have it fixed. **Frank Height tuck her Tuesday afternoon to Bethel to see the grave stones for Frank Leaps grave. I should have gawn if it had bin pleasant for the Auto ride. It has been a very unpleasant week.** Abbie is dun cleaning. Was dun upstairs when i got home. She stopped off at Pitman to Marys. Her and her baby are well. He is growing. When you write tell Warren to tell me if the celery that he passes when he goes to work is dying. Ell's has the blight, is no good. All the celery in this vicinity is the same and the wet weather has ruined his late potatoes. The vines are dead and no potatoes on them. Mrs. Richard had the rumatism so bad she could not clean my room for me so I thought I would make out with what I could do. It isent very dirty. Nine weeks it wasn't used. I had a letter from Josephine [Turner]. Mrs. Scott had her sale and has gone to live with Em Turner. Ha could she have gotten to live with her. So nice as Mrs S since Mrs. Turner's death. There was a man here some weeks since, I think his name was Jackson. He was speaking of Norwood to me. He said he had a sister living there, a ____ I think not far from you. He said if it wasn't for his grandson he thought he would like to live thar.

Good night.

Lovingly,

Mary S. Leap

October 9 1913
 Glassboro Dear Mary
 Your letter received I should
 have written before this had

"Dear May
 Your letter received. I should
 have written before this."

some he thought me
 to live there good night
 lovingly Mary S Leap

Good Night. Lovingly, Mary S. Leap

Letter C - 5 January 1913 or 1914:

[Very interesting in terms of the discussion of food and horses]

Glassboro the 5

Dear May

Excuse the led pencil. I am writing on my lap. Your letter lay on my plate Sunday morning. The bread is alright for your chicks. You should not try _____ to keep only just your _____ for those eggs for the family is so small a place. Elizabeth Leap never sits but one here then raises as many as they eat. Wasn't the storm awful.

El went to Atlantick Citty Sunday. He said things

2

was piled up dreadful you spoke in your letter of Evel pants. Abbie had given me two pairs of her own _____ pants. I think I could get him something out of them. If you cannot they will do for Warren to work in. I will send them as soon as I can by parcel post as I cannot do these things myself. I depend on the kindness of the rest of the family. The folks came after me the day before xmas and brought me home

3

Sunday. The rest came Thursday morning. Lib stayed until Sunday. Had a nice time as I always do when I go to Annie's. We all got our share of presents and I got more. Every one useful and what I needed. We have a red lilly in the front window that is just full of bloom and [Emma?] has the most beautiful xmas reath I ever did see. We have had turkey, goose, chicken, a barrrel oyster the day before. Plus we had two pairs of ducks for supper. _____

4

Tallen and wife have had some bad luck with our xmas cards. **Ell has lost one of his nice bay horses. That breaks up his team. He has sold the one you drove to Pitman.** He would not do to you with the other bay. When you get the pants write and let me know if they will do. I got a nice present from **Annie Wood**. I will send the card I got from Sarah [W. Batten?]. Now I think I had better stop before I make you sick. With much love and a happy new year ever true.

Mary S. Leap

Glassboro the 5
 Dear Mary excuse the led
 pencil iam writing on my lap

Letter concerns Christmas,
 probably written 5 January, probably 1914.

you sick with much love
 and a happy new year ever true
 Mary S. Leet



Letter Seal



Letter D - May 25, 1917:

<p>Friday Morning May 25 Cold and windy. More like more like March. Monday the night you left we had we had a car load of folks from Vineland. Mary had just left to go home to dinner. Had gone down _____ to play cards. Ell had gone _____ _____ day.</p>	<p>2 Josephine [Turner] sends her [greetings] to you. The boys go to school. Elle goes to W_____. They both have paper rout and they fight _____ city and _____ about five in the morning. So you see they haven't no _____ so _____ gust coming home last night. Ell an Abbie sent to Allen_____ in the afternoon. and _____ diwb _____ at _____ all night. At home this morning. Ene had just come now. Bin to the _____ house. _____ you could see them.</p>
<p>3 The most beautiful thick flowers _____ of _____ I can't _____ you _____ find I must hold _____ glass bone eye. We haven't any flowers out yet. Mrs. Allen sent a bun of _____ There's so much. I could say but I cannot write. Abbie taking a nap. She did not sleep good last night. Now I must close. With love to you all. Keeping you _____ Good by. <i>M S Leap</i></p>	<p>4 Monday the 28 Dark and stormy. Yesterday, I went to Wenonah. Went to Harry Coles. Had a good time. All the folks came in to see me. Edna in too. Mrs. Scott _____ and they Scot boy all the time to gather melon. Mrs. Maleson and I was _____ Ellison _____ if I could _____</p>

Friday Morning May 2^x
 cold and windy
 More like

"Friday Morning May 2x"

This would be May 25 as the letter later refers to Monday the 28th.
 This could only occur in the year 1917.

you all those with best
 Good by hoping you can see
 by M S Leap

"Good By", M S Leap



Letter E - June 15, 1918

<p>June 15</p> <p>Dear May</p> <p>1</p> <p>My thoughts are in Norwood this morning and I would be there to if I could. So sorry you are so poorly and I cannot do anything for you _____ little bed in the _____.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>You spoke of [cherries?] I haven't seen any. What few there was on one tree the birds took before they was ripe. Bought seventy pounds and Mrs. [Batten] sent us some so we _____ Will put up our beets this week.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>She got some medicine of Dr. Izards. Has bin at home _____ Ellison an did not bark at all. There is so much I would say to you but I can not see to write. Did you get the stockings. Abbie has gone to church. Emma is at Marys.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Do not go on any trips until you are stronger. Write to Mrs. [Stammersend?] Ask her to take you for a week. Just rest. Let [Gladys?] wait on you. She would _____ much luck. and when you are stronger go to Battens. Mary has the bronchitis. Gets ached all the time. The Dr. did her no good. _____ come</p>
	<p>5</p> <p>of this. This makes you sick. Get Harry to read. Good by with love.</p>

at this
moment
you are
very happy
to read
a good
week
done
H. L.

Dear Mary my thoughts
are in kind
and
Thurs. morning

(continued)



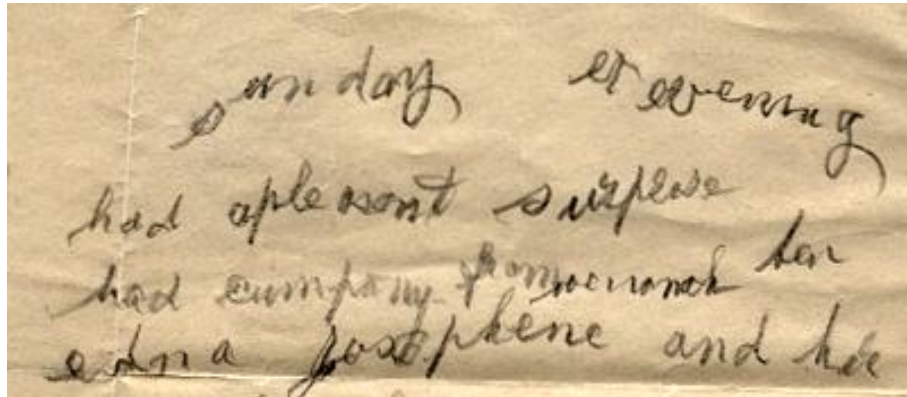
Earl Skinner's printing -
 "This letter written by Mary Leap (foster Mother of May Skinner)
 Her eyes failing bad at this time."



1918

Letter F (partial letter fragment) probably 1918:

Sunday Evening
Had a pleasant surprise. Had company from
Wenonah here. Edna. Josephine, and her
now big boys. How glad I was. Look
in the slant drawer shelf. Is there
my little file. Thought I brought it home. Cannot
find it.
Mom

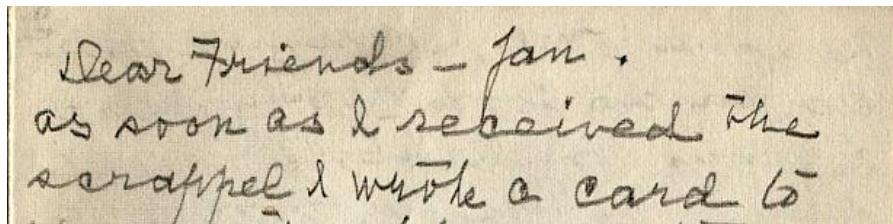


Sunday evening
had a pleasant surprise
had company from Wenonah here
Edna Josephine and her

Un-dated sad letter from unknown 'C.B.'; Can not connect to the Skinners, Leaps or Battens:

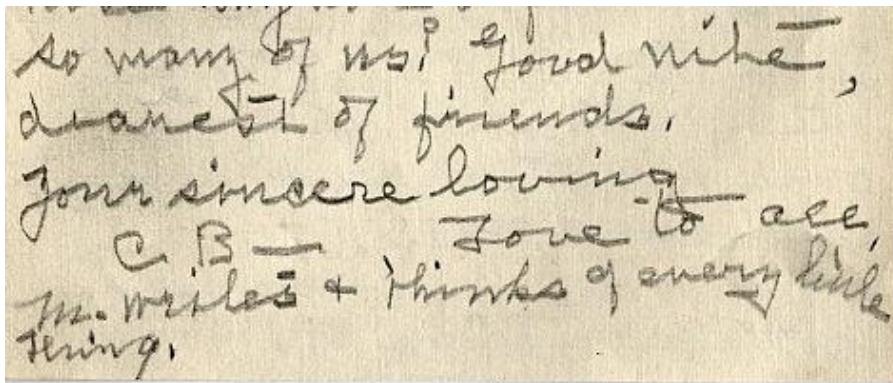
<p>Dear Friends - Jan As soon as I received the scrappel I wrote a card to Warren thanking you both Probably lost with c'mas rush (the card) Needless to say I enjoyed every bit of it. I have had the lonely "blues", missing M, etc. & so, & many cards & letters have not been answered. I sent no cards didn't feel able to write them all of yours so lovely. Marion better but so lonely & suffering. She aims to keep her house. Everything clear, paid for. Hope she can keep it - so may take a roomer. All of my folks well in New Jersey Mr. Alvern has taken a _____ apartment & glad to</p>	<p>2 be alone again, the 2 families did not get along so well, but M helps Eve's brother Don't sleep well thinking of M my life so lonely & miserable awful storm for 2 days now. Pains in my back so painful too. I don't even want to go to Heaven. Half the time the house is cold & especially my room in the back. Been trying to get in a "home" somewhere, but they all put 2 in a room. I can't stand that, so guess I'll freeze. Ella was coming for c'mas but I can't find a room for overnight, so we hope by Easter we may. I did go out for c'mas dinner just across the St. & they</p>
<p>3 so lovely to me. Bran new folks. Don makes good money, what a grand boy he is. Our old house is closed. Nothing done to it. We just 2 doors below you know. Don't know why they changed the St, from Park to St. Feel sick when I look up there & wish we were all there again. Can't believe what happened to us? I wish I slept & never wake again. Awful to be without one's home. I didn't mean to write such sad thoughts. So glad <u>all</u> you folks are doing so well. My room cozy & comfy & I'm nice & warm in bed. Room hot? tonight. Did you go to c'mas church service or are you</p>	<p>4 getting old too. Bro Albert able to work half day now. All the babies in the families are "wonderful, the cutest ever, etc." I think of you more & more often these days. Mrs. Flanders still sits & waits for the end, mind clear, etc. 96. I think if I only had the money to go & live there. But its cold there too & dirty & no longer nice. Why does life do this to so many of us? Good nite, dearest of friends. Your sincere loving C. B. - Love to all, M. writes & thinks of every little thing.</p>

Snippet - un-dated letter from C.B.:

A photograph of a handwritten note on aged, textured paper. The ink is dark and the handwriting is cursive. The text reads: "Dear Friends - Jan. as soon as I received the scrapper I wrote a card to".

Dear Friends - Jan.
as soon as I received the
scrapper I wrote a card to

"Dear Friends - Jan.
As soon as I received the
scrapper, I wrote a card ..."

A photograph of a handwritten note on aged, textured paper. The ink is dark and the handwriting is cursive. The text reads: "so many of us? good night, dearest of friends, your sincere loving C.B. - Love to all, M. writes & thinks of every little thing."

so many of us? good night,
dearest of friends,
your sincere loving
C.B. - Love to all,
M. writes & thinks of every little
thing.

"C.B. - Love to all,
M? writes & thinks of every little thing.