

Rivette Family Notes

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.

10 August 2004

Stephen P. Rivette
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Steve & Susie:

A couple of days after talking to you I called back but you had already departed on your trip. I thought I might catch you before you had left. I hope you had a great trip. Did you learn anymore?

I have done some checking for the Rivette and Leseth families on the Internet. I have enclosed copies of some items I found.

You probably already have the following on your grandparents: Phillip Rivette born 23 April 1878 in Canada. Died 7 October 1956 in Stearns County, MN. Married about 1916 to Martha Leseth, who was born 22 April 1885 Winneshiek County, Iowa and died 10 March 1965 in Stearns County, MN. I found their family in the 1920 & 1930 censuses of Todd County, MN. The data suggested they moved to Minnesota between 1917-1919. Both census records had that Phillip Rivette immigrated to the US in 1880. If you don't already have copies of their death certificates you can obtain copies from the Minnesota Department of Health. Generally parent's names are recorded on death certificates. I have included two blank forms for ordering death certificates from there. Obituaries for them may be recorded in the newspapers in either Stearns or Todd County, Minnesota.

I found that some papers related to Phillip Rivette's naturalization (citizenship) were recorded in Todd County, MN. The index was not clear regarding the original source – it appears that one reference appeared in Volume 4 – page 40; two other pages, 23 & 391, were also cited but I am not sure about the volume – may have been volume 6 (or 4). Copies of these possibly could be obtained by writing the County Court Clerk at the Todd County Courthouse.

The names of Phillip Rivette's parents may also be recorded on his marriage. Their marriage about 1916 may have been recorded in Grand Forks County, North Dakota, where your dad was born in 1917, or it may have been in her native county of Winneshiek in Iowa. In the 1880, 1900 or 1910 US censuses I could not locate Phillip Rivette (1878-1956). In these censuses I found several Rivette / Rivett families. Most of these were found in northern states along the Canadian border. Many of these had household heads that were either born in Canada or had fathers that were born there.

I found Martha Leseth listed with her parents in the 1895 Iowa state census and in the 1900 Federal Census of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Her father, Peter Edwin Leseth was born about 19 July 1852 in Norway. He immigrated in 1867 and appears to have died between the 1920 & 1930 censuses of Winneshiek County, Iowa. He and his wife were buried in the Hesper Lutheran Cemetery in Winneshiek County. He married Ellen T. about 1883. Their marriage was probably recorded in Winneshiek County. Ellen was born about 1857 in Norway, immigrated in 1877 and died between 1900-1910. The 1900 census records that she was the mother of 9 children, 6 of who were then living. These included: Edward T. (1883), Martha S. (1885), Maria/Mary J. (1890), Thomas J. (1892), Peter O. (1894), & Julia C. (1896). Thomas J. Leseth was born 8 June 1892 and continued to live in Winneshiek County and died in Feb 1985.

On the Winneshiek County, Iowa GenWeb Internet site I found were a Peder Leseh, born 1797, died 1869, was buried in the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery in Hesper Township. The English equivalent of Peder is Peter. Peder may be the father of Peter E., born 1852. I could not find any more proof but feel they have to be closely related. Also on this site I found were Peter E. Leseth from Norway on 15 Oct 1877 recorded documents related to his US citizenship in Winneshiek County, IA (Book 6, page 326 – this would be at the Winneshiek Courthouse).

I have also included a few additional pages related to the Weikel family that I have found since I did the book. I included another copy for Susie.

If you have any questions about what I have sent feel free to call me any time or you can contact me through E-mail (address = j-long@prodigy.net).

Best wishes,
Jerry Long

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e-mail to Brian M. Long, 28 November 2017, from Jerry Long:

Brian today I was able to learn that your grandfather, Albert Rivette, had a half-brother, Palmer Braaten (your great-uncle). In 1994 when I did the book on your mother's family I decided to stick to your grandmother Rivette's family because they lived locally and I could travel to the Indiana counties where they had resided for several generations. In 1994 the main way to do research out of your region was by corresponding or traveling to the area where the family had lived. Little genealogical resources were available on the Internet in those ancient times!

Albert Phillip Rivette was born 1 September 1917 Manvel, Grand Forks County, ND and died 11 September 1980 Owensboro, KY. He served as a sergeant in the Army during World War II (7 July 1941 – 16 Dec 1945). During his service he was stationed for a time at Camp Breckinridge in Morganfield, Kentucky. While in Western Kentucky he met Mary Margaret 'Monnie' Yeand of Owensboro, KY. They were married on 25 May 1944 in Owensboro. At the

time of his marriage he was a resident of Todd County, MN. He is listed in the 1920, 1930 & 1940 censuses of Todd County.

Albert was the son of Phillip Rivette & Martha Sophia Leseth. Phillip Rivette was born 23 April 1878 Montreal, Canada (his parents were also natives of Canada) and he died 7 October 1956 Stearns County, MN. He immigrated to the US in 1883. He was a farmer and owned his own farm in Todd County, MN. He married Mrs. Martha S. (Leseth) Braaten 28 March 1917 in Grand Forks County, ND; they were both then residents of Manvel, ND, he was 39 and she 32. Listed in his home in the 1920 census were two Brattan (sic) stepchildren, who were born in North Dakota.

Phillip Rivette & Martha Leseth were members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. They had five children – Albert, Ronald Nelson (born 16 September 1919, died 15 November 1983 Chicago, Cook County, IL), Lavina Eleanor (born 4 April 1922, died 6 August 1984 Hennepin County, MN, married Gunner Olson), Rosella Josephine (born 28 October 1925, died 5 July 2002 Chicago, Cook County, IL, married Robert Harrison) and Melvin Gaynard (born 1 January 1931, died 29 September 2012 MN); all were born in Todd County, MN except for Albert. Between 1917-1919 Phillip & Martha moved their family from Grand Forks County, ND to Todd County, MN.

Albert Rivette's mother, Martha Sophia Leseth, was born 22 April 1885 Winneshiek County, Iowa and died 10 March 1965 Stearns County, MN. She is listed in the 1900 census of Winneshiek County, IA with her parents, Peter E. Leseth (born 1853 Norway, immigrated 1867) & Ellen Thompson (born 1857 Norway, immigrated 1877, married 17 years). Peter & Ellen were buried in the Hesper Lutheran Cemetery in Winneshiek County, IA. Peter's name was originally Peder Esten Estensen and he arrived in Canada in June 1867 on the ship Neptunus. A family tree on Ancestry.com takes Martha Leseth's family back to her great-great-grandparents, who were residents of Holtaalen, Norway.

Martha Leseth married first Gustav Martin Braaten on 22 April 1908 in Grand Forks County, ND and they are listed together in the 1910 census of Grand Forks County, ND. Gustav was born 1878 Norway and died 6 June 1912. They had two children – Gertina Irene Braaten (born 14 February 1909 Grand Forks County, ND) & Palmer Melfred Braaten (born 13 December 1910 Manvel, ND, died 31 January 1997 Osakis, Douglas County, MN).

On Phillip Rivette's marriage license in 1917 his name appears as Teofille Rivett (see attached copy). In the 1915 North Dakota State Census Teofille Rivett (aged 20-60) and Ellen Rivett (aged over 60) are listed as residents of Walsh County (adjoins Grand Forks County on the north). In the 1885 North Dakota State Census Teofille's family was living in Grand Forks County. In the latter census he is listed as being the son of Ellen Rivett (age 40, widowed). Ellen and her parents were born in Canada. In Ellen's home in 1885 were listed four children – Frederick (14), Michael (12), Theafile (7) & Adelina (4); all were born in Canada. Ellen Rivett appears in the 1900 census of Grand Forks County, ND, 1910 census of Walsh County, ND and 1920 census of Grand Forks County, ND. The 1910 census reported that Ellen immigrated to the US in 1883 and was the mother of 7 children, two of whom were then deceased.

Living with Ellen Rivett in 1910 & 1920 was a daughter, Adeline Roach. Adeline Marceline Roach, reported on her naturalization record that she was born on 6 August 1880 Sheenboro, Quebec, Canada and arrived in the US at Port Huron, Michigan in the fall of 1883. Adeline died 11 February 1966 in Whitman County, WA. An Ancestry.com family tree of Adeline's family reports her parents as Narcisse Venance Nelson Rivett & Ellen Arcand.

Teafille Rivet is enumerated in the 1900 census of Solway, Beltrami County, MN. He was reported to be single and was working as a day laborer. Living in the next residence was his brother, Frederick Rivet (born December 1870 Canada). Frederick Nelson Rivette on his naturalization papers reported that he was born 28 December 1870 at Palmerston, Ontario, Canada and arrived in the US on the Grand Trunk Railway at Port Huron, Michigan on 10 January 1883. Frederick died 21 September 1960 at Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, ID, where he is buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery. His death certificate reported his parents as Nelson V. Rivette & Ellen Arcand.

Ancestry.com family files report that Narcisse Venance Nelson Rivett was born 19 June 1840 Montebello, Papineau, Quebec, Canada and married Helene Ellen Arcand on 31 October 1864 Perth, Ontario, Canada. Ellen Arcand was born 15 July 1845 Kemptville, Leeds, Ontario, Canada and died 30 March 1925 Grand Forks, Grand Forks County, ND; she was buried at the St. Vincent Cemetery, Manvel, Grand Forks County, ND. She was the daughter of Pierre 'Peter' Arcand (born 18 June 1814 Montreal, Quebec, Canada & died 1851 Canada) and Marie Agathe Gerbeault dit Bellegarde (born 18 October 1818 Louiseville, Quebec, Canada), who were married 17 October 1841 Quebec, Canada. In a Thoe family tree on Ancestry.com many ancestors of Marie Agathe Gerbeault dit Bellegarde are traced back to the 1500's.

I really enjoyed seeing you all last Friday. I got a charge out of your family history inquiry.

--- Jerry Long

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY
12 September 1980

Albert P. (Al) Rivette, 63, of 2945 Royal Drive, Owensboro, died Thursday, Sept. 11, 1980, at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. He was born in Manvel, N.D., was a veteran of World War II, was a retired service station operator, was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and its Men's Club, VFW and T.P.A.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Margaret (Monnie) Rivette; three sons, Stephen Rivette of Louisville and Charles and Paul Rivette, both of Lexington; two daughters, Mrs. Phillip (Sue) Reich of Louisville and Mrs. Mitchell (Linda) Long of Owensboro; nine grandchildren; two brothers, Ronald Rivette of Chicago and Melvin Rivette of Minneapolis; a half brother, Palmer Braatan of Long Prairie, Minn.; and two sisters, Mrs. Robert Harrison of Riverdale, Ill., and Mrs. Gunner Olson of Minneapolis.

Services are at 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Burial in Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation from 2 to 8 p.m. today at Haley-McGinnis Funeral Home where prayers will be said at 7:30 p.m. today.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY
17 November 1986

Mary Margaret "Monnie" Rivette, 62, of 2945 Royal Drive, Owensboro, died Saturday, Nov. 15, 1986, at her home. She was born in Daviess County and was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Daughters of Isabella, Catholic Women's Club and Ensor Homemakers. Her husband, Albert P. Rivette, died in 1980.

Survivors include three sons, Stephen Rivette of Louisville, Charles "Chuck" Rivette of Houston, Texas, and Lt. Paul Rivette of Fort Knox; two daughters, Mrs. Phillip (Suzie) Reich of Corydon, Ind., and Mrs. Mitchell (Linda) Long of Owensboro; 13 grandchildren; two brothers, Joseph Yeand and Martin "Buddy" Hayden, both of Owensboro; and five sisters, Ann Stuart, Barbara Norvell, Mary Emma Reisz, Jean "Duppy" Cecil and Lillian Murphy, all of Owensboro.

Services are at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Burial in Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation after 2 p.m. today at Haley-McGinnis Funeral Home, where prayers will be said at 6:30 p.m. by the Daughters of Isabella. Prayers will also be said at 7 p.m.