

**TO**

The Navta-Swanson file

**SUBJECT**

Harry L. Grantham, Jr. and family

**GOAL**

Locate, compare, contrast, and discuss the information about the Harry L. Grantham, Jr. family that appears in the 1920 and 1930 censuses.

**BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

Through prior research we know Harry Lee Grantham, Jr. was born 29 January 1890 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. He died 27 December 1945 in Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. He married Isabelle Alice Geary on 15 September 1915 in Crystal Lake, McHenry County, Illinois. She was born 05 August 1893 in Wauconda, Lake County, Illinois and died 05 July 1959 in Avon, Fulton County, Illinois. They had four children, Audrey Lorraine, Udell Harry, Arbutus Dale, and Ardath Arlene.

**RESTRICTIONS**

Eight hours researching and reporting

**REPOSITORIES VISITED**

None

**ONLINE RESOURCES USED**

*Ancestry*

*IPUMS*

*National Archives*

*U.S. History*

*Google Maps*

**SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Harry L. Grantham and family were located in Wauconda, Illinois in both the 1920 and 1930 census enumerations. In both cases they were living adjacent to or dwelling with Harry's parents Henry L. and Ida M. Grantham. In both enumerations, Harry was listed with his wife, Isabelle, and three of their four children.

Harry's father is known to be Henry L. Grantham who was born in England. Another Grantham in Wauconda, Oliver W. Grantham, also had a father who was born in England. Further research is needed to confirm a family link.

If not the middle class, Harry and family were secure in their working-class life. This may have been helped by his father, Henry's, privately owned and operated ice business. Although Harry and family rented in both 1920 and 1930, it is not a far stretch to assume that they were renting from his parents at both times.

Note: a full discussion with source citations is found in the Itemized Research Findings section of this report.

## RESEARCH NOTES

### Harry L. Grantham household, 1920 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>1</sup>

*Partial census image*

34	34	Grantham	Harry L.	Head	R.	M	W	29	M
			Isabelle A.	wife		F	W	26	M
			Audrey L.	daughter		F	W	4 1/2	S
			Harry U.	son		M	W	2 1/2	S
			Arbutis D.	daughter		F	W	7	S

Harry L. Grantham, a 29-year-old married, white, male, was enumerated as the head of his household in 1920. No address was given for the dwelling that the family rented when the census enumerator visited the household on 02 January 1920. Harry L. Grantham was born in Illinois as well as his mother, while his father was born in England. He earned a wage as a day laborer at a milk condensery. He and his wife could read, write, and speak English.

Twenty-six-year-old Isabelle A., Harry's wife, was born in Illinois, as was her mother, while her father was born in New York. She did not work outside of the home.

Audrey L. Grantham, age 4 years 1 month, was Harry's daughter. She was born in Illinois. Like her siblings, she did not attend school and was not able to read or write.

Harry U. Grantham, age 2 years 6 months, was Harry's son. He was born in Illinois.

Arbutis [sic] D. Grantham, age 7 months, was Harry's daughter. She was also born in Illinois.

### The neighbors

While we don't know the family's exact address in 1920 we do know that they were living in the Village of Wauconda and not on a farm. Of the 45 neighbors enumerated on the same census

<sup>1</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Village of Wauconda, ED 269, sheet 2A (penned), dwelling 34, family 34, Harry L. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 382.

page as Harry L. Grantham all were born in Illinois except six who were born in Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa, Florida, Scotland and Bavaria. Both of the foreign-born individuals were naturalized like Henry. All households on the page consisted of nuclear families; there were no households with lodgers, boarders, servants or other relatives. About half of the families had children present. Nine out of fifteen, or roughly two-thirds, of the households owned their dwellings as opposed to renting. Everyone enumerated on the page was white. The neighbors had a mixture of white- and blue-collar jobs and all school-aged children and adults could both read and write. Those who worked on their own account were a retail ice merchant, a grocery merchant, a farmer, a barber, and a blacksmith. Those who employed others were two garage owners. The rest worked as farm laborers, a telephone operator, a bank cashier, a milk marketing secretary, a lumber yard manager, and an express wagon driver. This information together gives us a picture of a mostly American-born, mixed-age, financially-stable, small town working-class neighborhood.

### **Other Grantham families in Wauconda, Illinois in 1920**

#### **Henry L. Grantham household, 1920 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>2</sup>**

Henry L. Grantham, age 55, was born in England as were both of his parents. He immigrated to the United States in 1866 and was naturalized in 1873. He was employed on his own account as a retail ice merchant. Ida M., age 57, his wife, was born in Illinois, her father in Pennsylvania and her mother in New York. Both individuals could read, write, and speak English. Henry and Ida M. owned free and lived in the dwelling next door to Harry and Isabelle and through prior family research we know that Henry and Ida M. are Harry's father and mother.

#### **Ollie W. Grantham household, 1920 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>3</sup>**

Ollie W. Grantham, age 38, was born in Illinois as well as his mother, while his father was born in England. He earned wages as a lumber yard laborer. Orpha M., age 35, his wife, was born in Wisconsin as were both of her parents. Flora M. Grantham, age 14, and Fern E. Grantham, age 11, were Ollie's daughters and both attended school within the last 4 months. All individuals over the age of 10 could read, write and speak English. Ruby E., age 6, Ollie's daughter and Richard G., age 6, Ollie's son, both attended school within the last 4 months and spoke English but could not read or write. All four children were born in Illinois, as were their fathers. Their mothers were born in Wisconsin.

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<sup>2</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Village of Wauconda, ED 269, sheet 2A (penned), dwelling 35, family 35, Henry L. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 382.

<sup>3</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Village of Wauconda, ED 269, sheet 4A (penned), dwelling 85, family 88, Ollie W. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 382.

**Ellis P. Jecks household, 1920 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>4</sup>**

Caroline Grantham, age 70, widow, born in Illinois, was mother-in-law to Ellis P. Jecks in Jecks' home. No address given.

**Harry L. Grantham household, 1930 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>5</sup>**

*Partial census image*

35	38	Grantham Henry L	Head	R	\$12,000	R	ns	M	W	65	M	21
		— Ida M	Wife-H				V	F	W	67	M	26
	39	— Harry L	Head	R	\$40	R	ny	M	W	40	M	24
		— Isabell A	Wife-H				V	F	W	37	M	21
		— Audrey L	Daughter				V	F	W	14	S	
		— Udell H	Son				V	M	W	12	S	
		— Arbutis D	Daughter				V	F	W	10	S	

Harry L. Grantham, a 40-year-old married, white, male, was enumerated as the head of his family in 1930. Harry and family were living in the same dwelling as his parents, Henry L. and Ida M. Grantham, when the census enumerator visited the household on 03 April 1930. Henry owned the dwelling valued at \$12,000 and Harry paid \$40 per month rent. No address was given for the dwelling but it is noted that it was on Main Street. The family owned a radio. Harry L. Grantham was first married at age 24. He was born in Illinois as well as his mother, while his father was born in England. Harry earned a wage as a dairy inspector and was not a veteran.

Thirty-seven-year-old Isabell A. was his wife. She was first married at age 21. She was born in Illinois as was her mother, while her father was born in New York.

Audrey L. Grantham, age 14, was his daughter, Udell H. Grantham, age 12, was his son, and Arbutis [sic] D. Grantham, age 10, was his daughter. All three children were born in Illinois as well as both of their parents. All three children attended school; all could read, write and speak English.

**The neighbors**

The 1930 census again did not provide us with an address for the Grantham family but there were two different streets listed on the census page, Main Street and Park Avenue. Using those two street names and plotting the intersection on a map we can determine where about the Harry L. Grantham family resided in 1930. This area appears to be just outside of the

<sup>4</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Village of Wauconda, ED 269, sheet 7B (penned), dwelling 160, family 169, Ellis P. Jecks; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 382.

<sup>5</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Wauconda Town, ED 49-68, sheet 2B (penned), dwelling 35, family 39, Harry L. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 529.

downtown business district of Wauconda. None of the neighbors in 1930 seems to be the same as 1920. It is unknown if the Henry and Harry Grantham families moved between the two census enumerations or if they lived in a transient neighborhood. It is likely that the two Grantham families moved since a good portion of their neighbors in each enumeration owned their dwellings and one would not expect that many people to sell and move in a 10 year period.

Fifteen families living in twelve dwellings were enumerated on the same page. There were two instances of multigenerational dwellings. Both cases were a couple living with at least one adult child with a family of their own. Everyone on the census enumeration page was white and all school-aged or older people could read, write, and speak English.

Seven families owned their dwelling and the estimated values ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000 the median being \$16,000. The dwelling that Henry L. Grantham owned and that Harry and his family lived in was valued at \$12,000. We can infer that their dwelling was a little below average among their neighbors. Seven families rented their dwelling and the rents ranged from \$25 to \$40 per month, the median being \$32 per month. Harry L. Grantham was paying \$40 per month, one of the higher rents. Three of the dwellings on the census page did not have radios. The lack of a radio did not seem to be an indicator of dwelling value. One of the highest valued dwellings and one of the highest rents were of families without a radio.

Of the forty-seven people enumerated on the page twelve, or roughly one-fourth, were children school-aged or younger. Eighteen people were recorded as having an occupation, three worked on their own account as a summer resort manager, a bathhouse proprietor, and an ice business proprietor. The other fifteen were wage earners in a mixture of white- and blue-collar occupations. There were four adult males not working. One appeared to be retired while the other three were unemployed and enumerated on the unemployment schedule.

There was only one veteran enumerated on the page and he served in the World War.

### **Other Grantham families in Wauconda, Illinois in 1930**

#### **Henry L. Grantham household, 1930 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>6</sup>**

Henry L. Grantham is likely the same person as the individual with the same name enumerated in Wauconda in the 1920 census. Henry, a 65-year-old married, white, male, was enumerated as the head of his family in 1930. He owned the dwelling, valued at \$12,000, that his wife and his son and his son's family shared. No address was given for the dwelling but it is noted that it was on Main Street. The family owned a radio. Henry was born in England as were both of his parents. He immigrated to the United States in 1871 and was naturalized. He was first married at age 21, employed on his own account as an ice business proprietor and was not a veteran.

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<sup>6</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Wauconda Town, ED 49-68, sheet 2B (penned), dwelling 35, family 38, Henry L. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 529.

Ida M., age 67, his wife, was born in Illinois, her father in Michigan and her mother in New York. Both individuals could read, write, and speak English.

**Oliver W. Grantham household, 1930 Wauconda, Illinois census<sup>7</sup>**

Oliver W. Grantham is likely the same person as Ollie W. Grantham that was enumerated in Wauconda in the 1920 census. Oliver, a 48-year-old married, white, male, was enumerated as the head of his family in 1930. Oliver did not own the dwelling but paid \$30 per month rent. No address was given for the dwelling but it is noted that it was on Maple Ave. The family owned a radio. Oliver was born in Illinois as well as his mother while his father was born in England. Oliver W. Grantham was first married at age 22, employed and earned wages as a buildings carpenter and was not a veteran. Orphia M., age 45, his wife, was born in Wisconsin as were both of her parents and was first married at age 19. Richard G., age 16, and Ruby E., age 16, are living in the home and attend school. All in the home can read, write, and speak English.

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<sup>7</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Lake County, Illinois, population schedule, Wauconda Township, Wauconda Town, ED 49-68, sheet 4A (penned), dwelling 89, family 97, Oliver W. Grantham; image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 May 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 529.

## FURTHER RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the data we have gathered leads us to further questions that require research of their own. These questions and suggested avenues are:

- Where is Ardath A. Grantham? Why is she not enumerated with her family?
  - o It is possible that Ardath was not born at the time of the 1930 census. Search the 1940 census for Harry and his family and see if she is enumerated with the family.
- Where did Harry L. Grantham live? Did the family move between 1920 and 1930?
  - o Neither census enumeration gave an exact address for Harry's dwellings but both times he was living next to his parents. Search for a local city directories that may have addresses for Harry and his family between 1920 and 1930. Search for other records that may have an address listed. Those include a birth certificates for Harry & Isabelle's children and draft registration cards. Also try to find the family in the 1940 census. An address might be listed at that time. Compare that address to others found.
- Find more information about the milk condensery and the ice business.
  - o Harry worked in the dairy and milk industry during both census enumerations. Search for local histories and city directories that may mention dairies by name.
  - o Henry owned his own ice business. Was this prior to modern refrigeration? Did he need to be near the water? Search local histories, genealogical societies and city directories for more information. Look for an address? Look for an advertisement? Research how ice was made / gathered / stored / distributed in the 1920s and 1930s.
- How are the Grantham families in the area related to one another?
  - o Both Harry L. Grantham and Oliver W. Grantham had fathers who were born in England. Are Harry and Oliver brother? Cousins? Do further census research in 1910 and 1900 to determine who each of their parents were.
- When did Henry L. Grantham immigrate to the United States?
  - o Henry's immigration date changed between the 1920 and 1930 censuses. Search ship manifests to find the exact date of when Henry arrived in the U.S. Search for naturalization papers for exact dates.
- Where was Ida's father born?
  - o Ida's father is listed as being born in Pennsylvania and Michigan in the two enumerations. Do further census research in 1900, 1880 and 1870 to determine where, in fact, he was born. Also search for a death record for Ida Grantham to see if a birth location is listed for her father.

**TIME TRACKING LOG**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>	<b>Total Time</b>
17 May	Home	Live Classroom	8:00 pm	9:00 pm	1.0
18 May	Library	Research - census lookup			0.5
18 May	Library	Research - time & place historical context / census enumerator instructions			1.0
18 May	Home	Research - how to write report			1.0
19 May	Library	Research - time & place historical context / census enumerator instructions			1.0
21 May	Library	Report generation			3.0
				<b>TOTAL TIME</b>	<b>7.5</b>