

## **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.

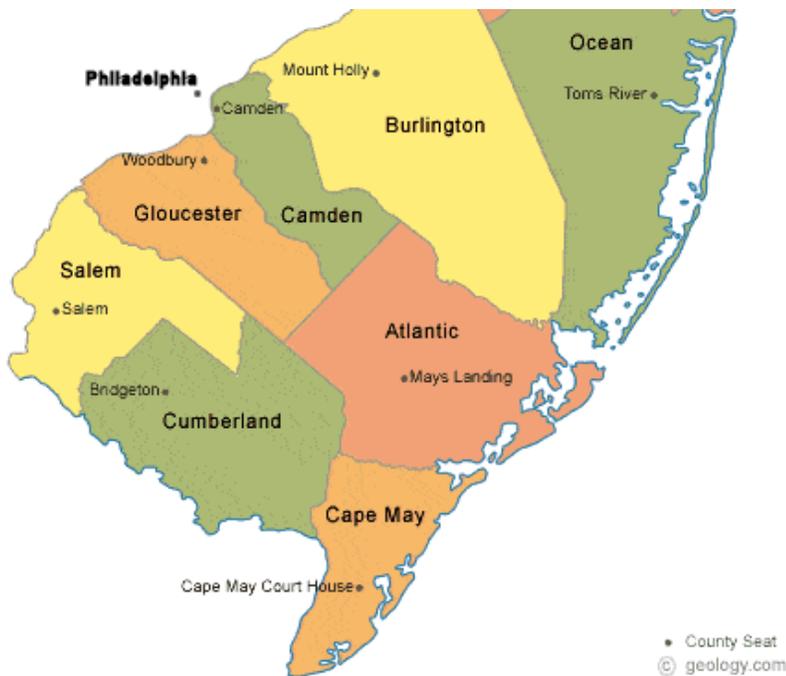
Mrs. Leap (Mary S. Leap) lived until 1920 and was well known to her grandson, Earl Skinner (my grandfather), born 1901.

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.

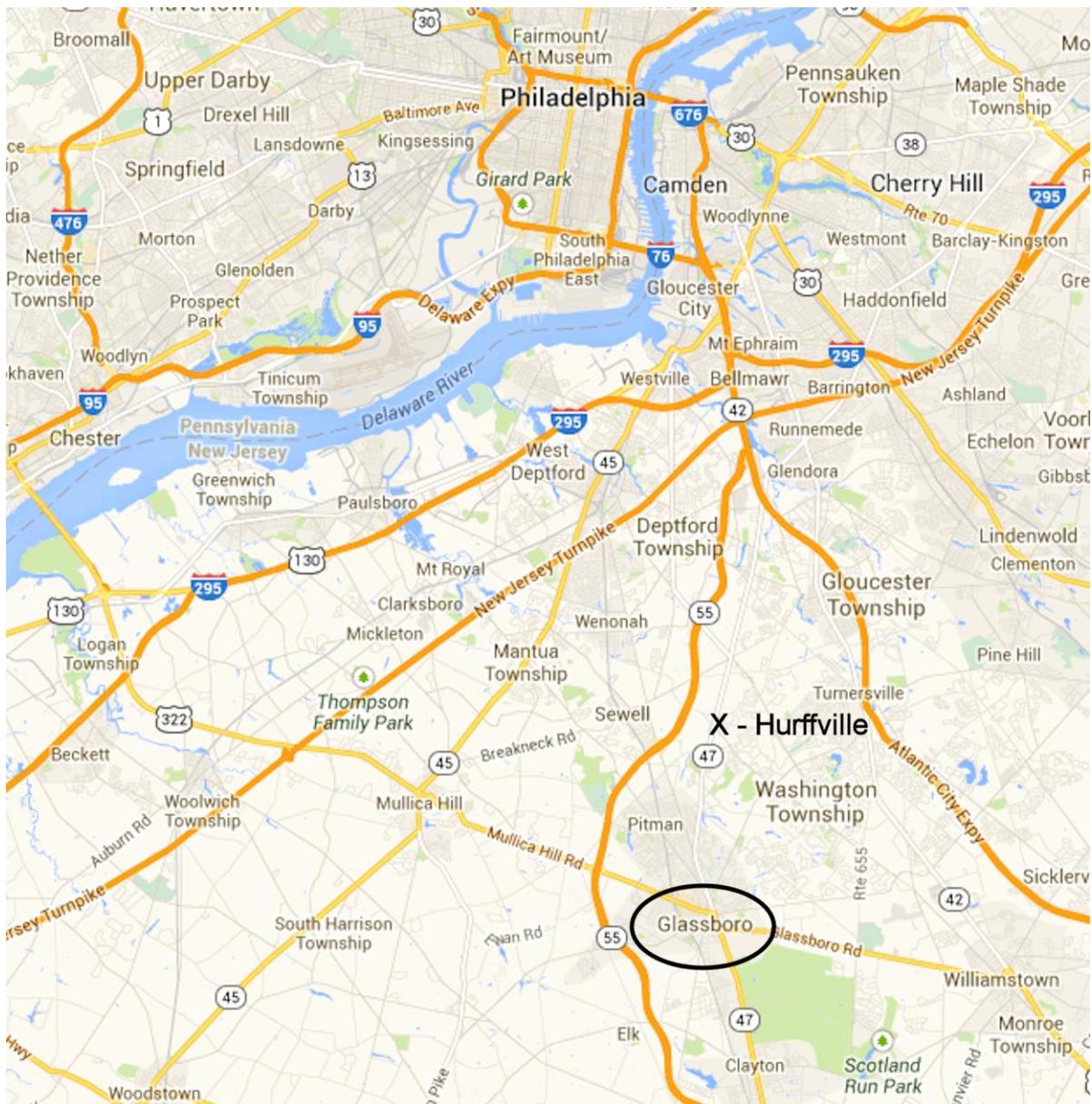
## The Leaps

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

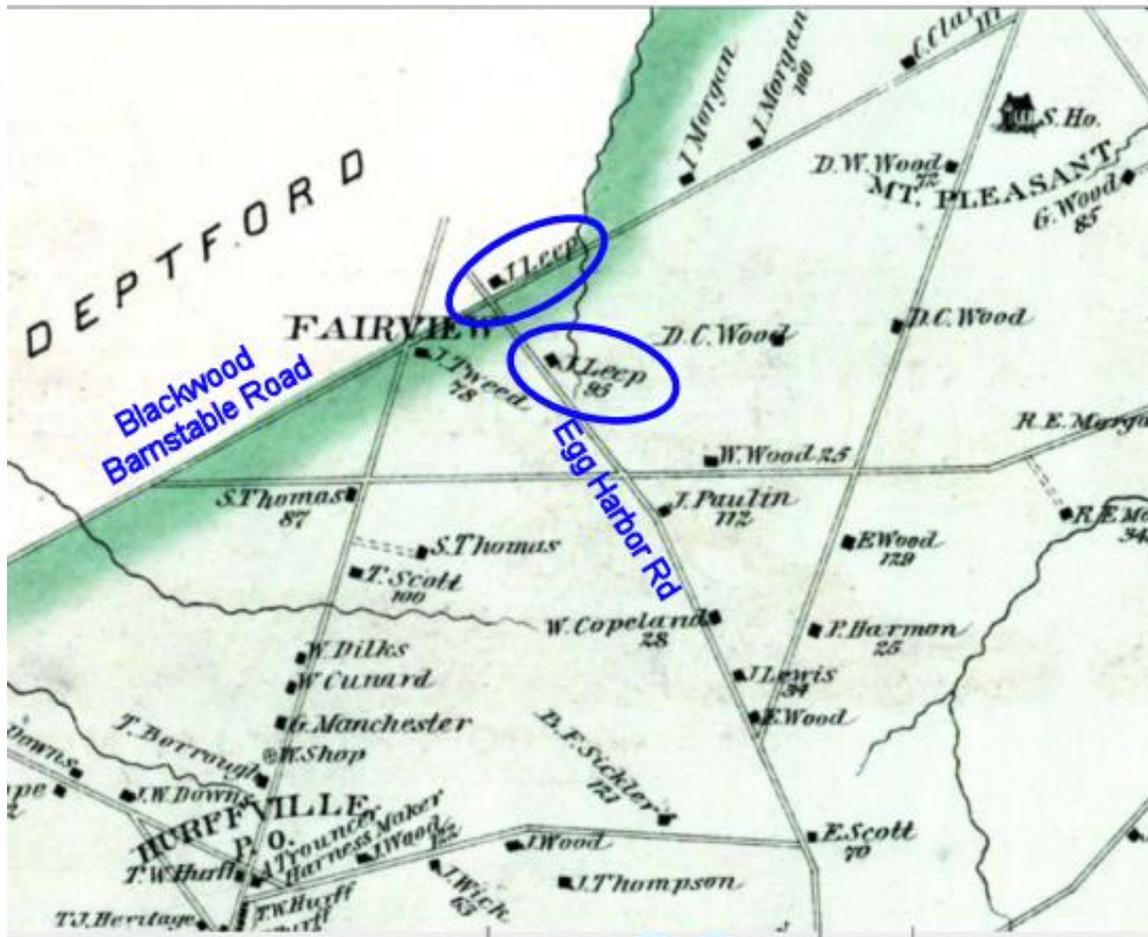
Mrs. Leap was born Mary S. Dare. Her family was from Cumberland County, south of Gloucester County. Like her husband, she was born in 1829.



South Jersey Counties  
[Geology.com]

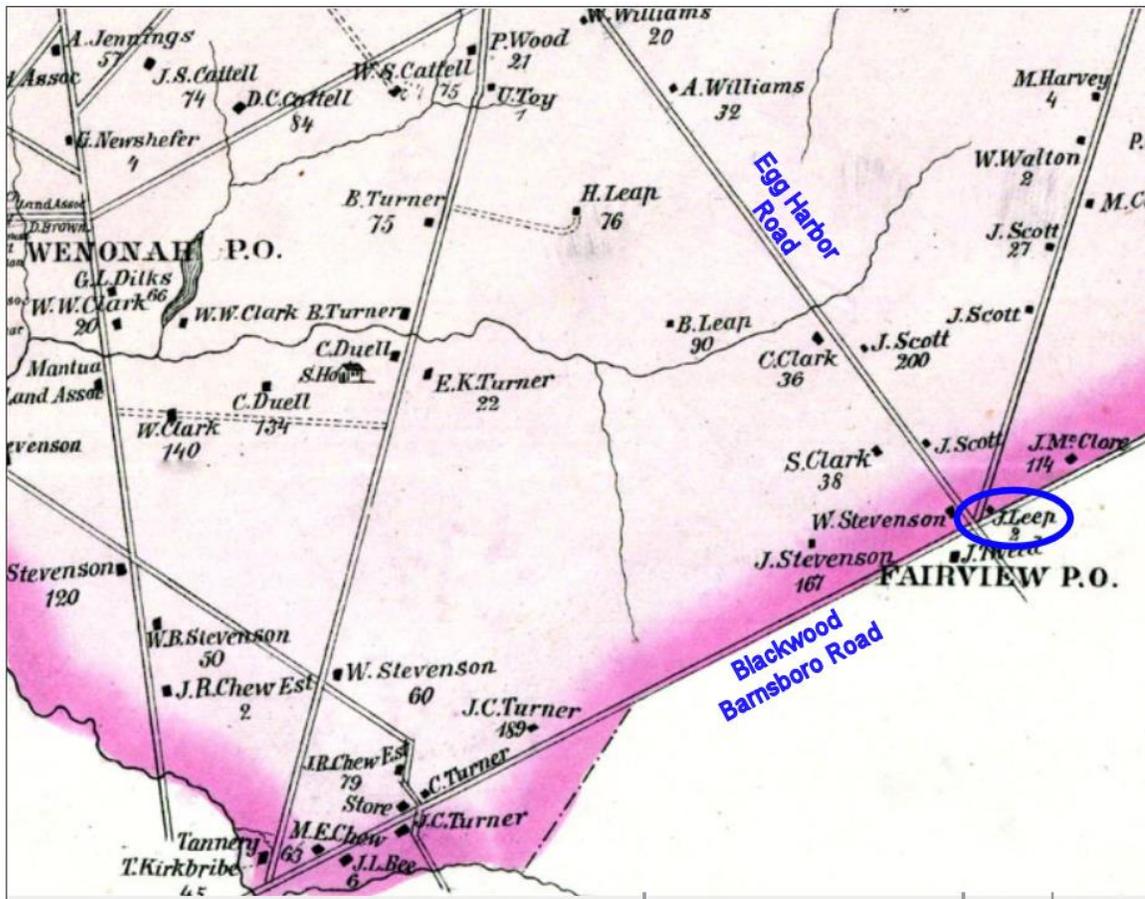


The Leap family lived on a farm just north of the small community of Hurffville.  
 They were recorded at this address from 1870 thru 1895.  
 May Cauley, born 1875, was raised by the Leap family and grew up in Hurffville.



Mary and Joseph Leap had lands that straddled the Blackwood Barnsboro Road (oops – misspelled it on map) - the dividing line between Deptford Township [white area] and Washington Township [green area]. They had a 2 acre home lot north of the road in Deptford, and a 95 acre farm south of the road in an area considered to be Hurffville. Members of the Wood family, with whom they were friends, lived around them.

Note that the road that comes thru Hurffville and intersects Blackwood Barnsboro near the Leap residence is today's Delsea Drive.

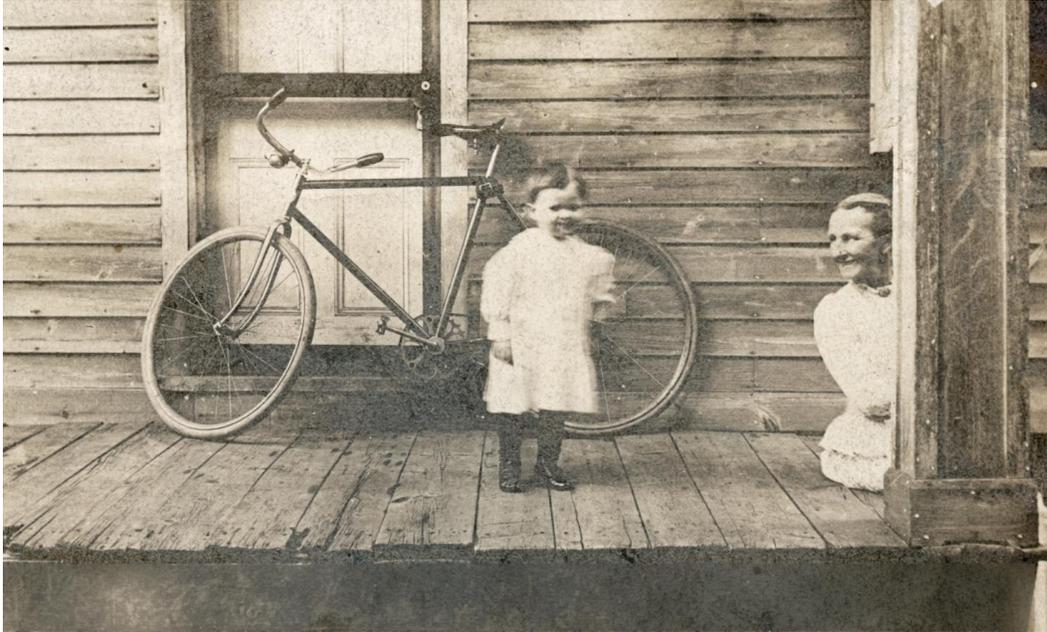


Many of the relatives of the Leap family, with surnames of Leap and Turner, lived nearby in Deptford Township [pink area]

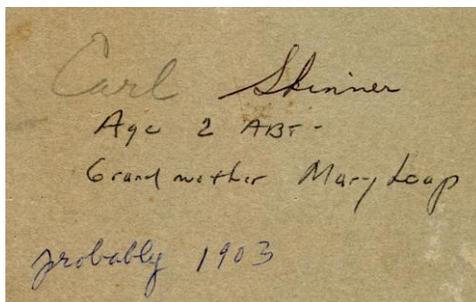
## Leaps – Marriage and Children

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 his 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, age84)

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 my grandfather Earl Skinner- Emma "was a 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, possible suicide.

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) **George Raymond Wood**

Related to later 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.]

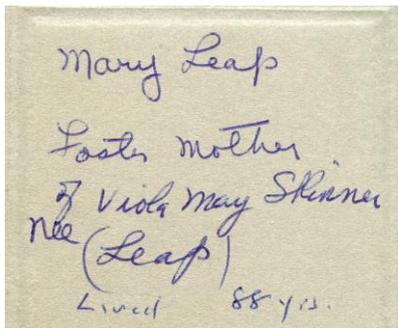
md. Mar 20, 1862 Glou. Co. to **Ellison H. Turner**

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

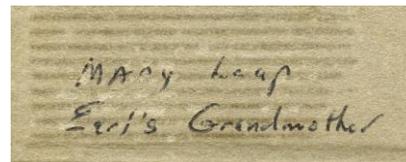
The Turners that married into the Leap family were all siblings.



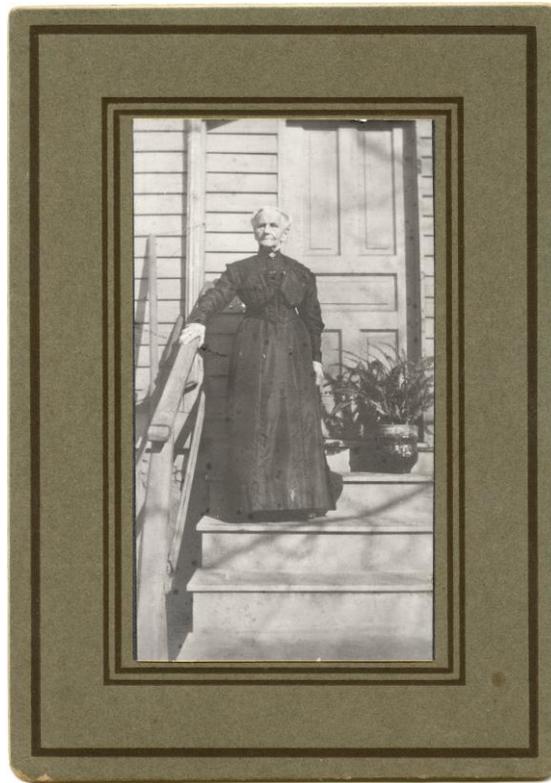
Mary S. Leap  
She lived with son Ellison Leap



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

“Taken At Mae’s” [May Skinner was Earl’s mother]  
Earl 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 (Cauley) 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]

Atlanta Garton  
Sister of Mrs Leap. m. m. m.  
Foster mother

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** (1829-1920) – married Joseph Leap. Raised **May Skinner** from childhood.
- iv. **Ruth Dare** (b. 1832) – no further info.



Margaret 'Magie' Dare (1862-1935)  
Niece 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 Washington Township.

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 census shows that the Leaps now had a young female housekeeper to help them. And, surprisingly, the Leaps were now raising a young child – my great-grandmother May Skinner. May was 45 years younger than the Leaps.

## **Viola May Skinner**

May Skinner (born 1875) does not appear in the records until she was recorded with the Leaps in the 1880 census. Almost nothing is known of May's birth parents.

Per her daughter-in-law Lillian Skinner – May's birth mother was a single widow working for the Leaps as a housekeeper. The birth mother wanted to give up her youngest child in order to move on with her life and remarry. Mrs. Leap, who had grown fond of May, agreed to raise her. According to Lillian, 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. In a story often retold to me by May's daughter-in-law Lillian Skinner - one Sunday afternoon, May and her husband traveled from PA to South Jersey to visit her birth mother. Seeing the lax conditions at the boarding house that the mother was running out of her home, May left never to return.

When I was growing up, no one ever mentioned anything about the birth family of May Skinner, or any surviving siblings of May. I never asked, but no one seems to even have known her maiden surname at birth. 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'. She got the first letter correct.

## 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.

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 would have just turned 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, serving as a live-in housekeeper to the Leaps. At the time, nearly one-fifth of the US population had housekeepers, 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 had moved on and was no longer living with the Leaps. 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 Cauly. 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 Viola Cauley living with the Leaps. That is because the other Leap children – George and Ellison Leap, were a generation older than adopted daughter Viola Cauley and living on their own.



## 1885 NJ State Census

The Leaps were recorded at Deptford, NJ. Deptford was the location of their home. Their farm was a short walk away, but officially in neighboring Hurffville. Viola May appears in the 1885 NJ State Census with the Leaps 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'.

## 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).

## 1892 Church Records

By 1892, when May was 17 years of age, she had already left the Leap family and was living on her own. Church records of the Glassboro Methodist Church show that May Skinner was accepted as a full-fledged member of the church, following a probationary period and was boarding with a Glassboro family.

## 1895 NJ State Census

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

Viola May appears 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 do for the remainder of her life. She is still boarding with a family in Glassboro, as previously recorded by church records in 1892.

## 1900 Federal Census

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

**Late 1890's into the 1900's**

May Skinner appears in the church records of the Glassboro Methodist Church as May Crawley, later as May Cauley, and later, as a married May Skinner.

**1904 – Death of Joseph Leap**

Mary and Joseph Leap were residing with one of their two sons, Ellison Leap, when Joseph Leap died April 2, 1904.

Their son Ellison had a home and poultry farm in the 200 block of High Street in Glassboro, the same town where his much younger step-sister May Skinner was living.

Ellison's farm was 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.

**1909 Birth Record**

May Skinner is identified as being Viola M. Cauley Skinner in the record of the birth of her daughter Gladys in 1909.

So May Skinner appears in the records in her youth as May Cawley, May Crawley and May Cauley. I would put my money on the 1909 birth record of her daughter as being the record that she personally would have filled out – so Cauley it is. So far, I have not been able to identify her birth family under any surname.

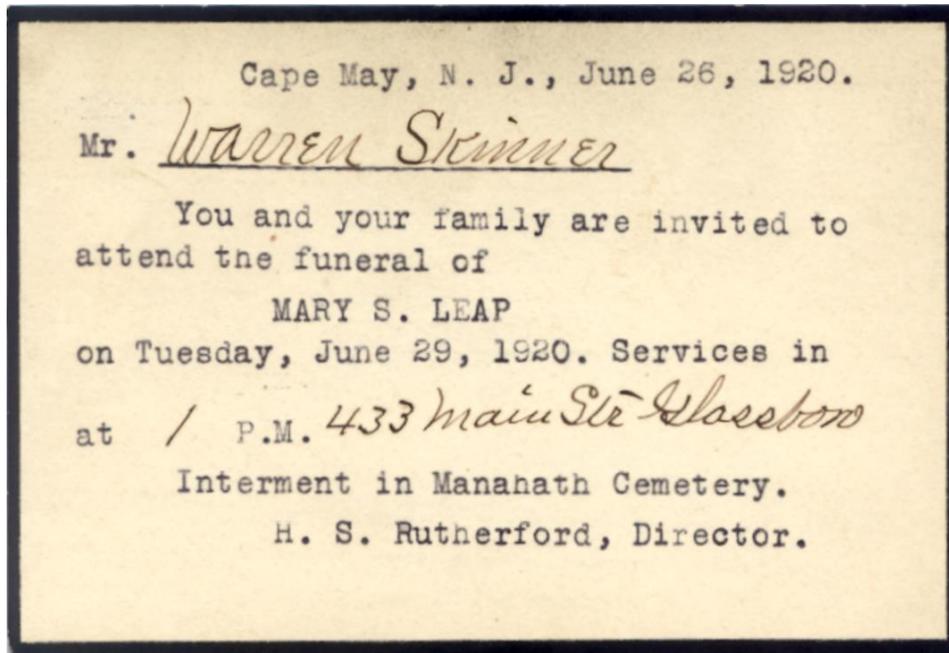
**1910 Census**

Mother 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 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 the Jersey shore town of 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 Ave. is Winona Ave.

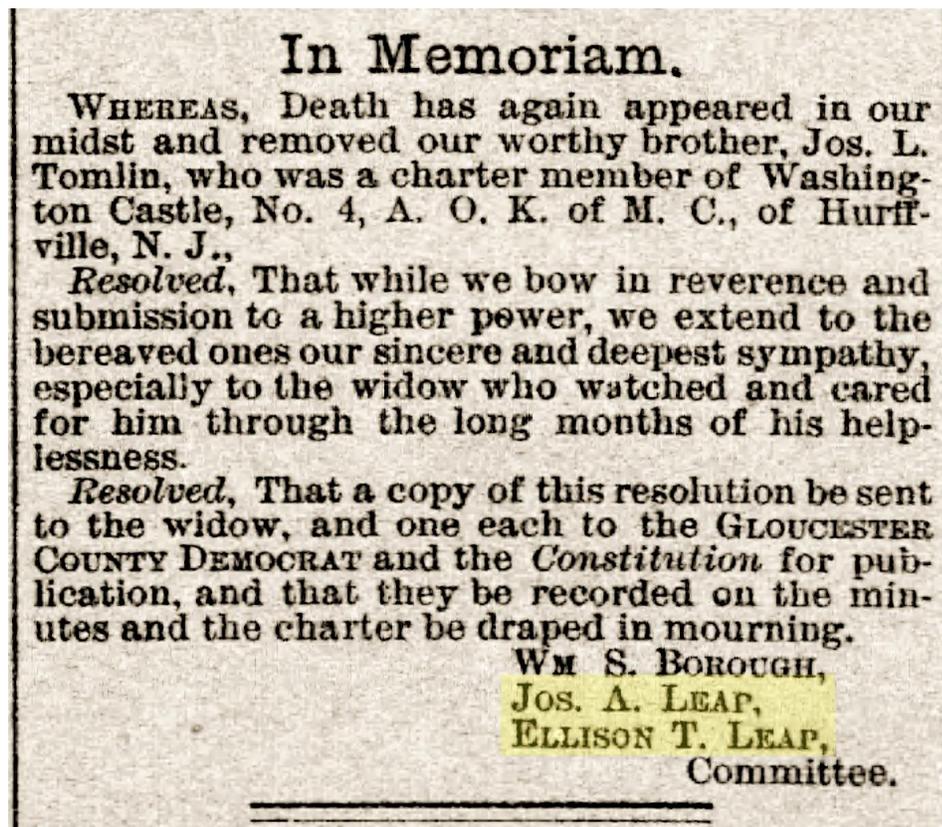
## The Leap Children – George and Ellison

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 the death of his mother.



Joseph and son Ellison Leap  
May 21, 1885, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

## Mr. Joseph A. Jackson

DEAR SIR—I want to say to you—that set of OAK TANNED harness you sold me a year ago is the only harness I ever owned that would not mold. It hangs in the same room with several other sets, every one of which has mold on it. That's worth TEN dollars to any man—yes sir, it's that difference every time.

ELLISON T. LEAP.

Glassboro, N. J., August 23, 1906.

The above compliment is but a sample of many I am receiving about my oak tanned harness and like others came to me entirely unsolicited from Mr. Leap.

**JOSEPH A. JACKSON,**

VEHICLE DEALER,

Richwood, . . . . . New Jersey.

Phones—Keystone, 16x (Rural); Bell, 25x.

30 Aug 1906, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

E. T. Leap, of Glassboro; Mr. Pyle, of Wenonah; Harvey Snyder and Frank Clouds, of Pitman, went on a fishing trip to Elmer Saturday morning in Mr. Snyder's fine auto. The fish were not desirous of being caught, so after a good dinner at Elmer, Mr. Snyder gave the party a spin to Bridgeton and Millville before returning home.

23 Jul 1908, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

Wildwood Crest Co. to Ellison T.  
Leap. \$1. Lots 42 and 43, block 8.

4 Dec 1908, Five Mile Beach Weekly Journal [newspapers.com]

Mr. Edward Pyle with Mr. Ellison Leap, of Glassboro, left last Friday for a three weeks' stay in the southern part of Florida.

15 Feb 1912, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

Ellison T. Leap, of East High St., has his irrigation plant in operation and it is working very successfully. The Citizens Military Band furnished the music at the Grange Picnic at Alcyon Park last week.

15 Aug 1912, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

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

Ellison Turner Leap was named after the Turner family, who had many intermarriages with the Leap family. 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 Leap died in 1913 at age 29. His body was found in the Big Timber Creek in Westville, NJ. My grandfather Earl Skinner (b.1901) was under the impression that Frank had died from suicide.

Frank 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 paternal grandparents – Mary S Leap and husband Joseph.

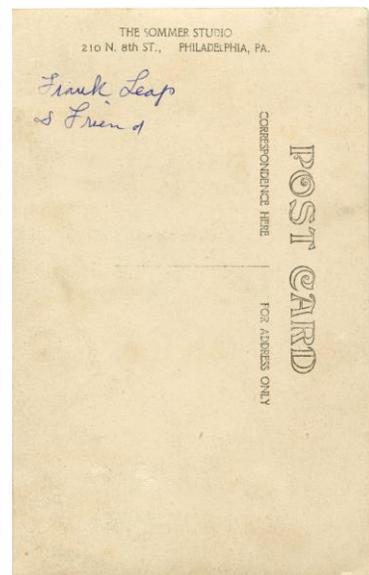


Supposedly Emma Leap (standing) & Friend  
[tin-type image]



Frank Leap (seated) & 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

## Emma Leap (1880-1961), Daughter of Ellison Leap:

### Birthday Surprise Party.

On Saturday, June 20th, many of the friends and relatives of Miss Fanny Leap, near Wenonah, called to remind her of her eighteenth birthday, expecting to take her by surprise, but arrived only to find her fully prepared for the occasion. The evening was spent in playing games and singing, and at an early hour in the morning the guests repaired to the dining-room and partook of the bountiful feast that had been prepared. Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Leap and daughter, Helen, Mrs. Martha Leap, Mrs. Elizabeth Leap, Mr. and Mrs. Burriss Turner, Misses Fannie, Annie, Abbie and Emma Leap, Josie and Mary Turner, May Leap, Minnie Watson, Reba Stevenson, Harriet and Sarah Ellis, Ada and Anna Turner, of Salina; Belle Cattell, Miss Redrow, of Wenonah; Miss Poinsett, of Mantua; Cora Kirby, of Mickleton; Miss Wilson, of Bunker Hill; Charles Dilkes and wife; Messrs. Harry Coles, W. Cattell, Reeves Batten, Ellison Turner, J. Paulin, Isaac, Walter and Howard Dilkes, Frank Doran, Wilmer and Benj Leap, Emerson Turner, John Bee, W. Scott.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

Abbie, wife of Ellison, daughter Emma and Ellison's foster sister May Leap  
 Gloucester County Democrat, 25 Jun 1896

### GLASSBORO.

Mrs. Wm. Rogers, of Phila., is visiting relatives in Glassboro.

C. Edward Shute and wife spent Saturday and Sunday with F. W. Bowen and family at Cedar Beach.

Misses Nellie Haight and Emma Leap left on Saturday for a two weeks' outing at Seneca Falls, N. Y.

Gloucester County Democrat, 9 Jul 1903 [newspapers.com]

Misses Nettie Haight, Emma Leap, Bertha Paulin and Lou Paulin have been spending several days at Atlantic City.

Gloucester County Democrat, 3 Aug 1905 [newspapers.com]

One of the successful social events of the season took place Friday evening at Carnell's Hall when some of the young ladies of the town gave a party to the young men. Dancing until a late hour and the collation served by the ladies made this a most successful affair. Among the guests were Mrs. W. S. Dawson, Jessie Stanger, Florence Sickler, Adalaide Carrol, Nettie Fisler, Daisy Luffbary, Bessie Shreeve, Emma Leap, Mary Leap, Bessie Fasmer, Nellie Haight, Mina Eastman, Elsie Allen, Bertha Paulin, Elizabeth Skinners. Messrs. Wilbur Luffbary, Dr. V. L. Stultz, Carl Prickett, Walter Dumam, C. H. Shute, Warren Lutz, Thomas Adams, J. Roy, Charles Pierce, John Fisler, John Dilkes.

Gloucester County Democrat, 7 Mar 1907

Mrs. Mary Park, of Wildwood avenue, is on a motor trip to the South with her sister, Miss Emma Leap, and Miss McGarr, of Atlantic City.

Nov 14, 192\_\_, The Morning Post, Camden [newspapers.com]

Mrs. G. Raymond Wood has returned to her home on Cyrus avenue, Pitman, after spending some time in Miami, Fla., and in Virginia, as the guest of her sister, Miss Emma E. Leap.

\* \* \*

The Morning Post, 1 Apr 1943 [newspapers.com]

**Frank Leap (1883-1913), Son of Ellison Leap:**

Frank Leap, charged with assault and battery on Bert Ford, pleaded guilty.

Gloucester County Democrat, 2 Nov 1902 [newspapers.com]

Much anxiety is felt in Glassboro over the absence of Frank Leap, one of the most prominent young men of that place, who has been missing from his home since Sunday. Mr. Leap spent Saturday and Sunday with friends at Penns Grove and left that place Sunday night at nine o'clock for New Castle, that he might take the midnight train home. He reached New Castle safely and since then no trace of him can be found. He carried considerable money with him and it is feared he may have been foully dealt with.

Penn's Grove Record, 4 Apr 1913

### BELIEVES SON WAS MURDERED

**Coroner, Who Thinks Frank Leap Was Suicide, Will Hold Autopsy.**

Glassboro, N. J., April 16.—The body of the man floating in the Big Timber creek at Westville, N. J., Sunday was positively identified as that of Frank Leap by his father, Ellison Leap, of this city.

Mr. Leap stated that his son must have met with foul play. Coroner Saunders of Camden will hold an autopsy, although he believes Leap committed suicide because his attentions were refused, it is said, by Miss Wenke, a schoolteacher in Pennsville, N. J.

Leap was separated from his wife and was suing her for divorce.

Central NJ Home News, 14 Apr 1913

Frank Leap, a chicken buyer for Thos. Allen, of Salem, who was last seen at Pennsville on Sunday night three weeks ago was found dead in Big Timber Creek, at Westville, last Sunday night.

Penns Grove Record, 18 Apr 1914

## IDENTIFY BODY OF FRANK LEAP



FRANK LEAP.

The body of an unknown man that was found in Big Timber creek Monday afternoon was last night positively identified by State Detective Frank Miller and his assistant, A. L. Class, as that of Frank Leape, of Glassboro, N. J., who disappeared on Friday, March 21, 1913. Miller and Class had been retained by Mr. Leap's father to ascertain his whereabouts his friends being doubtful as to his safety and feared foul play.

Frank Leap, it is claimed, was a man of good habits and was one who always respected his parents and always informed his mother of any intentions he may of had for staying away from his home, if only for a night.

The detectives conducted a diligent search for the man, who was found in Big Timber creek. They traced him from Glassboro, to Philadelphia as far as Market street ferry, where all search proved futile. By the investigation conducted by Miller he says there are conditions surrounding this case which friends of the drowned man believe to be foul play. Miller refuses to give his opinion at this time, but he can't understand why Leap crossed a broad stretch of water on two different occasions and went to Timber creek to commit suicide.

Courier Post, Camden, 14 Apr 1913

## INSURANCE SLIP CLUE TO IDENTITY

Body of Man Found in Timber  
Creek That of Frank Leap,  
of Glassboro.

HAD BEEN MISSING  
SINCE GOOD FRIDAY

Through an insurance receipt found in the clothing the body of the man fished out of Timber Creek was partially identified to-day as that of Frank Leap, of Glassboro, who has been missing from his home since Good Friday. The body is in such a state that the features cannot be distinguished, but the clothing tallies with that of the missing man, and there is no doubt but that it is that of Leap.

Leap was a chicken buyer for Thomas Allen, and after he vanished it was thought that he had lost his life in the Wharton fire at Glassboro, as he had been at the place just before the flames broke out. Later it was learned that Leap on the following Sunday night had hired a boatman at Pennsville to take him to Newcastle, Del. Relatives from Glassboro are expected here this afternoon to complete the identification.

The body was found on the Camden county side near the wagon bridge at Westville, by Charles Reader and Edward Sharp. He had on a dark suit, kid gloves and russet shoes. The hair is light. Coroner Saunders sent the corpse to the morgue.

Morning Post, Camden, 14 Apr 1913

## ELDER LEAP HOLDS FOUL PLAY THEORY

Father of Man Found in Creek  
Asks Prosecutor to In-  
vestigate.

CASE OF DROWNING  
CORONER BELIEVES

County Detective Cheeseman is investigating the death of Frank Leap, whose body was found floating in Timber Creek on Sunday. The investigation is being made at the instigation of Edward F. Leap, the dead man's father, who is a poultry dealer at Glassboro. He fears that his son met with foul play.

Coroner Saunders this morning made a minute examination of the body. He failed to find any evidence of violence, and in his opinion death was due to drowning.

Leap disappeared on Good Friday, and the conditions of the body indicates that it has been in the water two weeks.

Frank Miller, a private detective in the employe of the Leap family, said to-day that he is sure the dead man was a victim of foul play. The body was shipped to Glassboro this afternoon.

Morning Post, Camden, 15 Apr 1913  
[newspapers.com]

**Mary Leap (1888-1977), Daughter of Ellison Leap:**

**Birthday Surprise Party.**

On Saturday, June 20th, many of the friends and relatives of Miss Fanny Leap, near Wenonah, called to remind her of her eighteenth birthday, expecting to take her by surprise, but arrived only to find her fully prepared for the occasion. The evening was spent in playing games and singing, and at an early hour in the morning the guests repaired to the dining-room and partook of the bountiful feast that had been prepared. Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Leap and daughter, Helen, Mrs. Martha Leap, Mrs. Elizabeth Leap, Mr. and Mrs. Burris Turner, Misses Fannie, Annie, Abbie and Emma Leap, Josie and Mary Turner, May Leap, Minnie Watson, Reba Stevenson, Harriet and Sarah Ellis, Ada and Anna Turner, of Salina; Belle Cattell, Miss Redrow, of Wenonah; Miss Poinsett, of Mantua; Cora Kirby, of Mickleton; Miss Wilson, of Bunker Hill; Charles Dilkes and wife; Messrs. Harry Coles, W. Cattell, Reeves Batten, Ellison Turner, J. Paulin, Isaac, Walter and Howard Dilkes, Frank Doran, Wilmer and Benj Leap, Emerson Turner, John Bee, W. Scott.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

Gloucester County Democrat, 25 Jun 1896 [newspapers.com]

One of the successful social events of the season took place Friday evening at Carnell's Hall when some of the young ladies of the town gave a party to the young men. Dancing until a late hour and the collation served by the ladies made this a most successful affair. Among the guests were Mrs. W. S. Dawson, Jessie Stanger, Florence Sickler, Adalaide Carrol, Nettie Fisler, Daisy Luffbary, Bessie Shreeve, Emma Leap, Mary Leap, Bessie Fasmer, Nellie Haight, Mina Eastman, Elsie Allen, Bertha Paulin, Elizabeth Skinners. Messrs. Wilbur Luffbary, Dr. V. L. Stultz, Carl Prickett, Walter Dumam, C. H. Shute, Warren Lutz, Thomas Adams, J. Roy, Charles Pierce, John Fisler, John Dilkes.

Gloucester County Democrat, 7 Mar 1907

Outwitting their friends. Earl B. Park and Miss Mary Leap, both well-known and popular residents of this place, went to the M. E. Parsonage on Saturday night and were married by the Rev. J. Morgan Read. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellison T. Leap and the groom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Park, and a grandson of the late Rev. Samuel S. Park. He is also a prominent secret order man and a member of the Glassboro Country Club.

21 Dec 1911, Gloucester County Democrat [newspapers.com]

**Mrs. Mary Park, of Wildwood avenue, is on a motor trip to the South with her sister, Miss Emma Leap, and Miss McGarr, of Atlantic City.**

Nov 14, 192, The Morning Post, Camden [newspapers.com]

Mrs. G. Raymond Wood has returned to her home on Cyrus avenue, Pitman, after spending some time in Miami, Fla., and in Virginia, as the guest of her sister, Miss Emma E. Leap.

\* \* \*

April 1, 1943, Courier Post & also the Morning Post, Camden [newspapers.com]

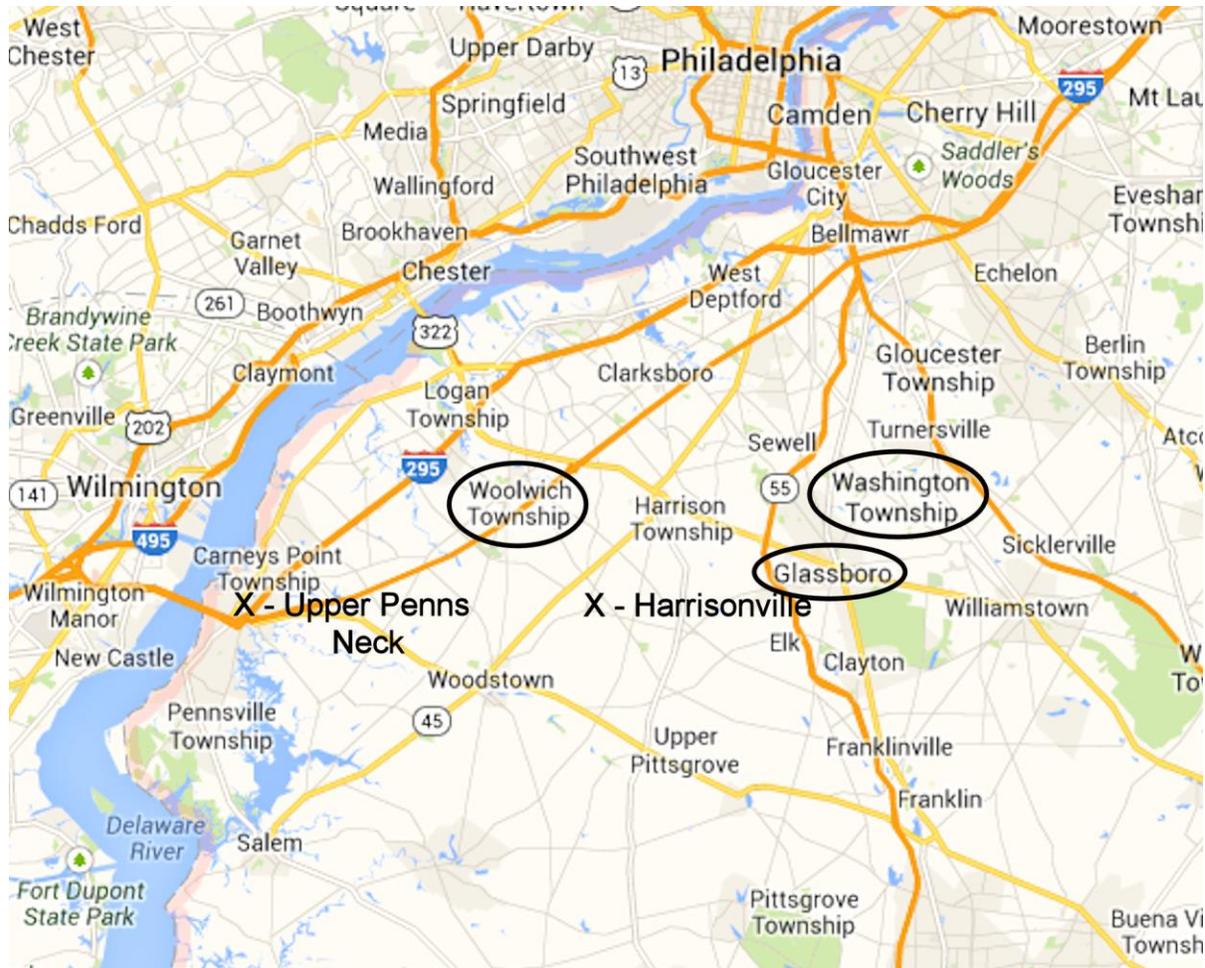
## Cauley / Cawley Heritage

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. Cawley 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 may descend 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](http://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.

## Land Transactions Involving the Leap Family, up to 1907:

Grantor [Seller]	Grantee (Buyer)	Deed Book #, Page #	Deed Date	Deed Filing Date With County
<b>familysearch Index Pg 641:</b>				
Nathan S. Abbott	Emma E. Leap	163, 134	4/25/1893	4/26/1893
Thomas Allen	Ellison Leap	146, 589	2/16/86	2/17/86
Thomas Allen	Ellison Leap	181, 36	9/19/99	9/26/99
Manahath Cemetery	Ellison Leap	195, 533	4/18/1904	10/11/1904
<b>Thomas Allen et al</b>	Emma Leap	198, 328	10/1/1904	10/11/1904
<b>familysearch Index Pg ???:</b>				
Ellison T. Leap	Geo Wetherley	144, 262	4/13/87	4/13/87
"	John Wilkins	"	"	"
"	John Irwin	"	"	"
"	Ellison A. Turner	"	"	"
"	Robt Turner	"	"	"
"	Jim Quones	"	"	"
"	Berry & Allen	148, 297	6/11/88	6/14/88
"	John Shute	154, 306	4/14/90	4/18/90
"	Robert Lutz	151, 70	4/14/90	8/27/89
"	Elisha Chew	161, 506	2/16/93	2/18/93
"	Mary S. Leap	196, 408	5/10/1904	5/26/1904

**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  
the letters

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

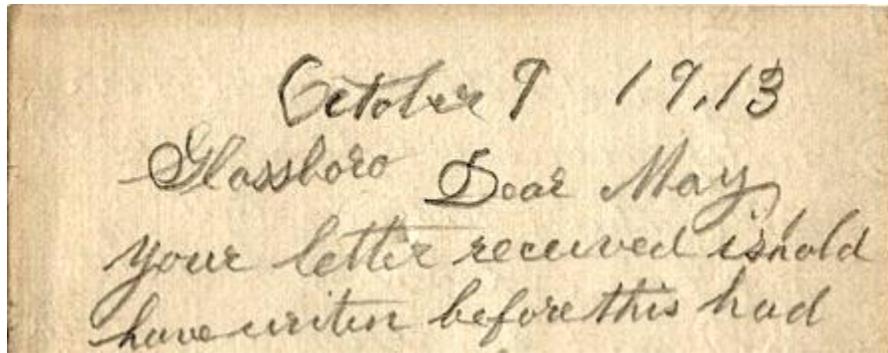
Dear May

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.

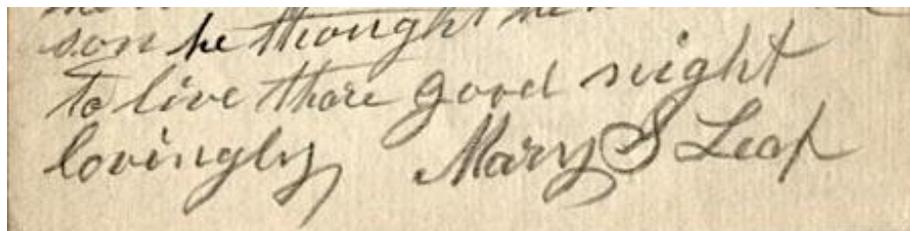
Lovingly,

*Mary S. Leap*



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

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



...son 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*

Glasboro 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. Leeb



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<sup>x</sup>  
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.

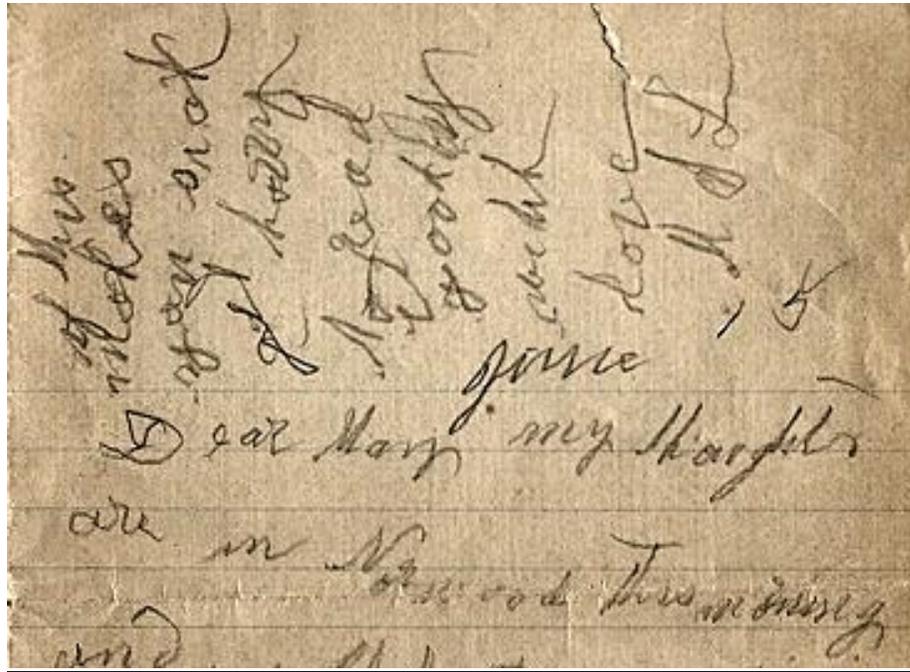
you all those with best  
good by hoping you see each  
by M S Leap

"Good By", M S Leap



## Letter E - June 15, 1918

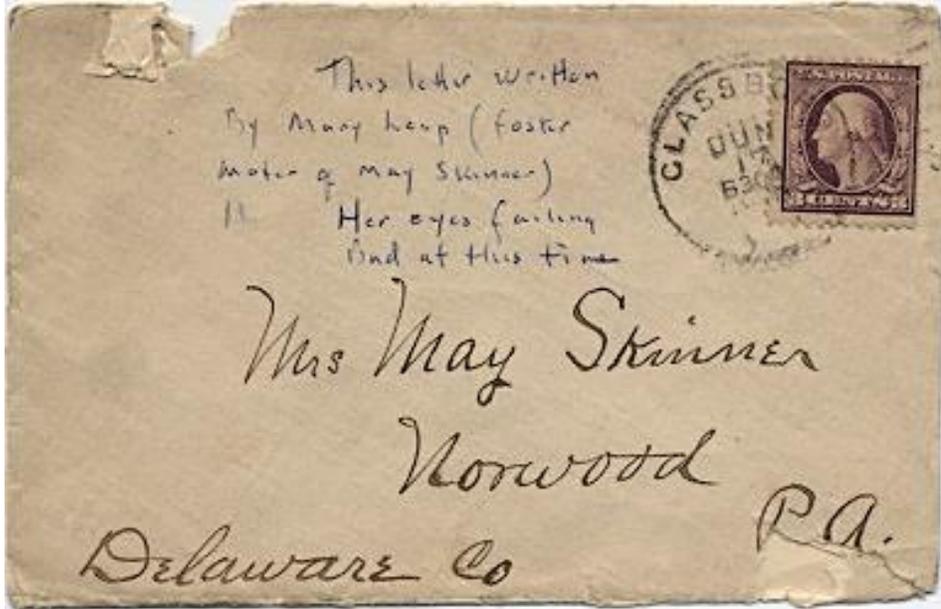
<p>June 15 Dear May 1 My thoughts are in Norwood this morning and I would be there to if I could. So sorry you are so poorly and I cannot do anything for you _____ little bed in the _____.</p>	<p>2 You spoke of [cherries?] I haven't seen any. What few there was on one tree the birds took before they was ripe. Bought seventy pounds and Mrs. [Batten] sent us some so we _____ Will put up our beets this week.</p>
<p>3 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 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 of this. This makes you sick. Get Harry to read. Good by with love.</p>



Signature of M.S. Leap is in the upper right (sideways)

"June 15  
Dear May my thoughts  
are in Norwood this morning"

(continued)



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



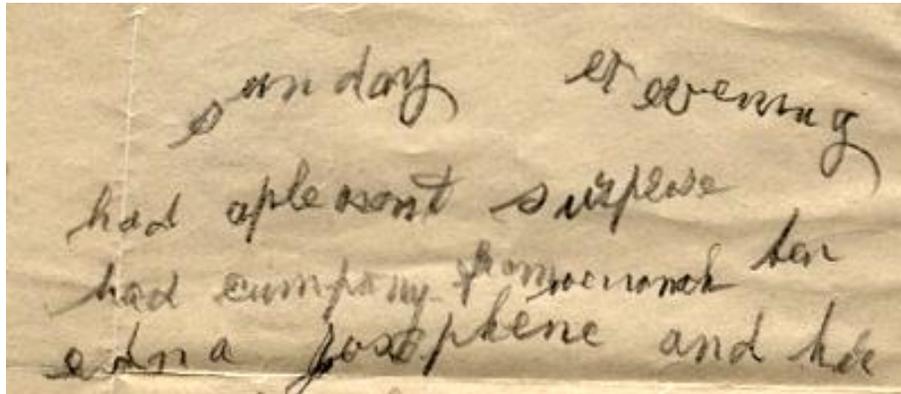
1918

**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*



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 scrapel 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. &amp; so, &amp; many cards &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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. &amp; 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 &amp; wish we were all there again. Can't believe what happened to us? I wish I slept &amp; 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 &amp; comfy &amp; I'm nice &amp; 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 &amp; more often these days. Mrs. Flanders still sits &amp; waits for the end, mind clear, etc. 96. I think if I only had the money to go &amp; live there. But its cold there too &amp; dirty &amp; 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 &amp; thinks of every little thing.</p>

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

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

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

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.