

-- DEWSNAP --

The family groups represented in this collection may not be complete, because information was entered bit by bit as I found it or happened upon it; I have not done any systematic research on these families. Because they do not compose whole family genealogies, these listings are arranged differently from most genealogical records or histories. Each listing is a family group, and is arranged and filed alphabetically under the name of the head of the family.

Names are generally in alphabetical order (disregarding spelling variations and middle names), then in approx. chronological order. The first sorting is by surname (mixing together any and all spelling variations), then by given name, then by approximate birthdate (when known) in approximate chronological order. For easier reference, surnames in headings are grouped together under the most common spelling usage that evolved in this geographical location, regardless of individualistic spellings in the records themselves. Cross references are used in most cases where surname spellings substantially vary.

Within the quoted records, the individual spellings have been (mostly) retained because they sometimes provide clues (although in general—but with exceptions—they seem to largely reflect the record keeper's particular orthography and not always, at this early period, any special family preference). Those interested can see the variety and evolution of a particular name's spelling and the interesting and sometimes amusing attempts at phonetic reproduction. Keep in mind that before names and spellings were standardized, records reflected the individualistic whim of the particular recorder (often two different spellings of the same name within the same document). In addition, all records were handwritten, and sometimes deciphering a handwritten name in early records can be quite challenging! So expect to search under all possibilities of spelling (for both surnames and given names).

Given names are grouped together without regard for middle initials or middle names. Because middle names and/or initials are sometimes used, sometimes not used in various records, it seemed simplest to arrange entries as if the middle names or initials did not exist. Usually all variations of a given name are grouped together as though spelled one way: Jan, Johannes, John, etc. are all grouped as one (but also look under the other forms).

Sources and references are included with each "family" grouping, but may or may not include sources that are cited (or are obvious, such as baptismal records, etc.) within the narrative or listing itself.

As with any compiled genealogical record, researchers should regard this information as leads and clues, and should verify all data with independent research.

I welcome, and would be grateful for, any additions or corrections, especially with source citations.

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Dewsnap, James

James Dewsnap m. son of

b. 3 Nov 1828 England
d. 26 Oct 1905 Allendale, Bergen Co., NJ
buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, Bergen Co., NJ

He lived at 176 E. Saddle River Rd., Saddle River, Bergen Co., NJ in a house (built about 1835-1840 by Abraham G. Ackerman) he bought in 1864 from A. G. Ackerman. Dewsnap built an addition about 1870. The house was known in the 1980s as the Bishop House, so-called after a later occupant, and was the subject of efforts at preservation.

James Dewsnap was a plumber and gas fitter.

James Dewsnap, 41, farmer, and Mary Jane Dewsnap, 38, were listed in the 1870 Federal Census, living in Washington Township (Saddle River P.O.). Living with them were: Jesse Dewsnap, 14; Mary A. Dewsnap, 12; Ella Dewsnap, 10; John Dewsnap, 7; Walter Dewsnap, 2, Ellen Hays, 20, domestic servant; James Dewsnap, Jr., 1; William Fie, 15, farm laborer. (William Dewsnap was not listed in the census. Was he inadvertently omitted?)

James Dewsnap, 52, farmer, and his wife, Mary Jane Dewsnap, 45, were listed in the 1880 Federal Census, living in Washington Township. Living with them were their children (all single): Mary Jane, 22; Ella, 20; John, 16; Walter, 12; Mark, 10; James, 8; Charles, 6; and William, 4.

At the time of the 1905 State Census they were living, with daughter Mary (married), in a house they owned probably on or near Franklin Turnpike in Allendale, NJ.

Mary Jane Van Gelder

dau. of Jesse Coles Van Gelder &

Mary Danielson

b. 5 Feb 1831 NJ

d. 7 Feb 1910

buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, NJ

In June 1905 he had lived in the U.S. 69 years and he was a gardener.

---children of James Dewsnap & Mary Jane Van Gelder:

- (poss?) **James Duesnap**, b. about 1854; d. 28 April 1855, age 1; buried English Neighborhood Ref Chyd, Ridgefield, NJ.
- **Jesse Dewsnap**, b. 26 Jan 1855 NJ; d. 12 May 1906; buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, NJ.
- **Mary A. Dewsnap**, b. about Nov 1856 NY (NJ²); d. 14 Apr 1939 Saddle River; buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, NJ; m. **-?- Furman**. They had at least one child: Ethel Dewsnap Furman, b. 1 Feb 1887; d. 19 June 1895; buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, Bergen Co., NJ, who was a maid of honor at the wedding of her uncle, Walter Dewsnap.
- **Emma Dewsnap**, d. 2 Feb 1863, Chestnut Ridge, Bergen Co., NJ, aged 2 yrs., 9 mos. of scarlet fever; buried (prob) 8 Feb 1863 English Neighborhood Ref Chyd, Ridgefield, Bergen Co., NJ.
- **Ella Dewsnap**, b. about 1860 NJ; m. 19 June 1884 Saddle River Lutheran Ch, (Rev.) **David A. Shetler** (E. Shetler). He was, in 1884, pastor of the Lutheran Church in Saddle River, Bergen Co., NJ. In August 1933 and April 1939 she lived in San Bernardino, California.
- **John Dewsnap**, b. abt. 1864-1870 (about 1863²) NJ; d. 20 July 1933 Puget Sound, WA; m. **Irene Caslin** of Brooklyn, NY.
- **Walter Dewsnap**, b. 5 Feb 1868 Saddle River, Bergen County, NJ³; m. Dec 1893 Brooklyn, **Clara Thomas**, dau. of George E. Thomas. Walter Dewsnap was an Assemblyman in 1894, and mayor of Allendale 1901-1905 and 1910-1911. In 1939 he lived in Brooklyn.
- **Mark Dewsnap**, b. about 1870 NJ. He lived in Seattle, WA.
- **James Dewsnap**, b. about 1869-1872 NJ; d. July 1955 Belleville; buried Valleau Cem.; m. **Grace -?-**. In 1939 he lived in Belleville, NJ.
- **Charles A. Dewsnap**, b. 17 May 1873; d. 18 June 1902; buried Valleau Cemetery, Ridgewood, Bergen Co., NJ..
- **William Dewsnap**, b. Sep 1875-1876 (1865) Saddle River, NJ; d. Aug 1955; m. June 1902 **Mary Harris**, dau. of Alfred W. Harris & Catherine Powell. He was an architect; a graduate of Pratt Institute. Some local buildings he designed included the Allendale Church of Epiphany's Fellowship Hall; the original building of Lee Memorial Library, Allendale; St. John's Church in Ramsey; main Ramsey Country Club building (which was designed as a private residence); and Allendale's first Fire Department building.

---Sources:

[1] Dewsnap/Shetler marriage item in *The Landscape*, July 1884

[2] 1870 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Washington Township (Saddle River P.O.), taken June 1870

[3] "Vital Records, Township of Washinton, Bergen Co., NJ" copied 1991 by Mrs. Basil LoPresti, Polly Wyckoff Chapter, NSDAR Allendale Historical Society Files; 1880 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Washington Township, taken June 1880, dwelling 272, family 311 (family of James Dewsnap); 1905 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, (June 1905) Dwelling #68, Family #72; Van Benschoten, Sandy, draft manuscript of *Saddle River*, Oct 1995, p. 16; Valleau Cemetery (Ridgewood, Bergen Co., NJ) Gravestone Inscription, by Herbert S. Ackerman & Arthur J. Goff, February 1944; Mrs. B. LoPresti, Polly Wyckoff Chapter NSDAR, *English Neighborhood Reformed Church (Ridgefield, Bergen County, NJ) Cemetery Burial Records*, 1985

Dewsnap, John P.

John Dewsnap
son of James Dewsnap &
Mary Jane

m. about 1897

Irene Caslin

dau. of

b. about 1871 Saddle River (Aug 1866 NY¹)

b. about 1872 NY (Sept 1874 NY¹)

d. 20 July 1933 Puget Sound, Washington

d.

They lived on East Allendale Avenue, Allendale, Bergen Co., NJ (probably at 171 East Allendale Avenue), in a house they owned at the time of the 1905 State Census and the 1910 Federal Census. About 1928 they moved to East Sound, Washington.

He was a real estate broker (with his brother Walter in 1893), and in 1905, 1910, and 1920.

The house of "John Dewsnap" on East Allendale Avenue was shown on the 1913 Bromley Atlas of Bergen County.

She was of Brooklyn at the time of their marriage.

While they lived in Allendale, they were members of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany (on list of members in 1913).

---children of John Dewsnap & Irene Caslin:

- **Maxwell J. Dewsnap** (John W. Dewsnap in the 1905 State Census¹), b. Nov 1898 NY. He graduated from the Allendale Grammar School 19 June 1913. In January 1920 he was single and living with his parents.

---Sources:

[1] 1905 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, (June 1905) Dwelling #87, Family #93;

Allendale Historical Society Files; 1910 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, dwelling #188, family #210; 1920 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, ED #1 (January 1920), Dwelling #168, Family #175

Dewsnap, Mark A.

Mark A. Dewsnap
b. 24 April 1824 England
d. 3 Sep 1898

m. before 1870

Phoebe A. (poss. Van Gilder?)

b. 20 Sep 1829 NJ
d. 27 Oct 1903, in 74th yr
buried Valleau Cem., Ridgewood, NJ

Mark Dewsnap was the brother of James Dewsnap of Saddle River, Bergen County, NJ.

Mark Dewsnap, 26 (b. England), shoemaker, apparently single, was listed in the 1850 Federal Census, living with the family of Joseph and Ellen Coyte (Joseph was also a shoemaker) in Hackensack Township, Bergen County, NJ.

Mark Dewsnap, 48, farmer, and Phoebe Dewsnap, 40, were listed in the 1870 Federal Census, living in Washington Township (Saddle River P.O.). Living with them were Jesse Van Gelder, 68 (b. NJ); and Amelia House, 15 (b. NJ). Jesse Van Gelder, 75, married, d., a suicide, May 1875 Chestnut Ridge, Bergen Co., NJ.¹ The Washington Township d. record lists him as b. PA, married, the son of John & Phoebe Coles VanGelder.

In the 1876 Walker Atlas of Bergen Co., the house of "M. Dewsnap" was located on the corner of Chestnut Ridge Rd. and

Old Chestnut Ridge Rd. now 170 Chestnut Ridge Rd. This area was then know as Chestnut Ridge and later as Upper Montvale.

Mark A. Dewsnap and his wife, Phebe A. Dewsnap, in August 1894 signed the petition calling for a special election for the creation of the Borough of Montvale. They lived at 170 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ.²

Mark and Phebe A. Dewsnap were enumerated in the 1895 New Jersey State census living in Montvale. They were both "over 60", he was "foreign born" (not in Germany or Ireland) and she was native born. Living with them were James Fredricks, native born (aged 5-20) and Henry Creamer who was foreign born (aged 20-60.)

Phoebe Dewsnap, 70, widow, was listed in the 1900 Federal Census, living in Saddle River Borough in a house she rented. Listed with her was a servant, Margaret A. Humphrey, 17, single. Living in the same dwelling was the family of Albert Mowerson.

---Sources:

[1] "Vital Records, Township of Washington, Bergen County, NJ" copied 1991 by Mrs. Basil LoPresti, Polly Wyckoff Chapter NSDAR;

[2] Hopper, Maria Jean Pratt, *Montvale, New Jersey, Centennial, 1894-1994, Biographical and Genealogical Information on the Signers of the Petition of August 11, 1894* [calling for a special election on the formation of the proposed Borough], revised 1997;

1850 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Hackensack Township, taken August 1850, dwelling 554, family 584 (family of Joseph Coyte); 1870 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Washington Township (Saddle River P.O.), taken June 1870, dwelling 3, family 3 (family of Mark Dewsnap); 1900 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Saddle River, taken June 1900, dwelling 203, family 215 (family of Phoebe Dewsnap); Valleau Cemetery (Ridgewood, Bergen Co., NJ) Gravestone Inscription, by Herbert S. Ackerman & Arthur J. Goff, February 1944; Ackerman, Herbert S., and Arthur J. Goff, Valleau Cemetery (Ridgewood, Bergen County, NJ) Gravestone Inscriptions (typescript), copied Feb 1944; 1905 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, (June 1905) Dwelling #104, Family #110

Dewsnap, Walter

Walter Dewsnap
son of James Dewsnap &
Mary Jane

m. 20 Dec 1893
Emmanuel Baptist Church,
Brooklyn, NY

Clara Thomas
dau. of George E. Thomas &
Emily

b. 5 Feb 1868 Saddle Riverm, Bergen Co., NJ¹

b. July 1872 NY (July 1873 NY¹)

He lived in Allendale in 1894 (in "the Smith cottage"), and about Oct-Nov 1895 bought "the John Hopper house, located near Dr. Badeau's." [probably at 45 Maple Street.] About June 1902 he purchased land from the Ackerman estate ("the Benjamin Ackerman place") on Franklin Turnpike, situated next to the Pritchett property, on which he had a new house built. He moved into this house about May 1903.

Walter Dewsnap was an Assemblyman in 1894. He was an agent for the Greenwich Insurance Company in 1891. He had a real estate and insurance office at 62 Liberty St., NY in Nov 1894 and he specialized in selling and insuring "farms and country seats among the hills and valleys of northern New Jersey."

He served on Allendale's first Borough Council in 1894; the first recorded council meeting was held in his home on 18 Dec 1894. He was Mayor of Allendale from 1901-1905 and from 1910-1911.

Her mother, Emily Thomas, was living with them in Allendale at the time of the 1895 State Census.

At the time of the 1900 Federal Census, living with them was her mother, Emily Thomas, a widow, b. June 1852 England; and a servant, Isabell Leeson, b. June 1881 NJ. Living with them in June 1905 were Edith Griffith, b. Mar 1881 NY, married, a cook; William Griffith, b. Aug 1876 MD, married, a carpenter; and Samuel H. Scot, b. July 1837 MA, a widower.

On 4 June 1902 (Hackensack 546: 209) Catherine M. Scott and her husband conveyed to Clara Dewsnap the property at 256 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale.

On 8 Jan 1920 (Hackensack 1044:483) Clara Dewsnap and Walter Dewsnap, her husband, conveyed property on Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, to Louis J. Graue and A. Dorothea Graue, his wife.

---children of Walter Dewsnap & Clara Thomas:

• **Vivian Dewsnap**, b. Aug 1895 NJ

• **Walter Dewsnap**, b. Oct 1896 NJ

---Sources:

[1] 1905 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, (June 1905) Dwelling #100, Family #106;

[2] "Vital Records, Township of Washinton, Bergen Co., NJ" copied 1991 by Mrs. Basil LoPresti, Polly Wyckoff Chapter, NSDAR;

Allendale Historical Society Files; 1895 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Orvil Township, Borough of Allendale, dwelling #108, family #115; 1900 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, dwelling #127, family #134; 1910 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, dwelling #156, family #168; Dewsnap-Thomas marriage in *The Landscape*, Jan 1894

Dewsnap, William

William Dewsnap
son of James Dewsnap &
Mary Jane Van Gelder

m. June 1902
Allendale, Bergen Co., NJ

Mary F. Harris ("Maizie")
dau. of Alfred W. Harris &
Catherine Powell

b. Sep 1865 Saddle River

b. about 1871 NJ (Nov 1877 NJ¹)

d. Aug 1955 Valley Hosp., Ridgewood, NJ

d. 31 July 1964 Valley Hosp., Ridgewood, NJ

They lived at 42 Powell Road, Allendale, Bergen Co., NJ. They were members of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

He was an architect; a graduate of Pratt Institute. Some local buildings he designed included the Allendale Church of Epiphany's Fellowship Hall; the original building of Lee Memorial Library, Allendale; St. John's Church in Ramsey; main Ramsey Country Club building (which was designed as a private residence); and Allendale's first Fire Department building. He also designed many private homes in Allendale, several Allendale stores, and the Wandell School in Saddle River.

He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association in 1910 and its charter president. He was president of the Association for 25 years, and was honored by being named an honorary Chief of the Department.

She was elected secretary of the Village Improvement Association in Dec 1903. She was elected treasurer of the Allendale Library Association 9 Dec 1921.

They had no children.

In January 1920 William Dewsnap was listed as head of the household, living on Powell Road in a house he owned. Living

with him in January 1920 were his wife, Mary F.; his mother-in-law, Katherine L. Harris; his sister-in-law Ethel P. Jackson; and his nephew, Alfred D. Jackson.

In 1940 William Dewsnap owned the house at 78 Powell Road, which was sold 30 Aug 1944 to Floyd E. Phillips and Edith R. Phillips.

On 23 Apr 1923 Catherine L. Harris conveyed to William Dewsnap a 9.98 x 159 foot lot on Powell Road, beginning 125 feet from the westerly line of Asten. On the same date, she conveyed to him another lot (including the house at 42 Powell Road), 100 x 159 feet, beginning 25 feet from the westerly line of Asten.

On 20 Nov 1964 (Hackensack 4717: 439) the premises at 42 Powell Road were conveyed from Citizens First National Bank of Ridgewood, Executors of the Last Will and Testament of Mary F. Dewsnap, deceased, to Edward Vagell, Richard Van Houten, and Stephen T. Van Houten, III.

---Sources: [1] 1905 New Jersey State Census, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, (June 1905) Dwelling #94, Family #100; Allendale Historical Society Files; 1910 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, dwelling #181, family #201; 1920 Federal Census, New Jersey, Bergen County, Borough of Allendale, ED #1 (January 1920), Dwelling #152, Family #159

Unplaced Dewsnap Women:

Mary A. Dewsnap, b. about 1804; d, 24 Sep 1858; buried Old Burying Ground, River Road, Edgewater, NJ; m. **Edward Jerman**. He d. the same day. — "Bergen County Tombstone Inscriptions: From the Old Burial Ground, River Road, Edgewater, Bergen County, N.J." copied 27 July 1912 by John Neafie, in *New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings* [359?], p. 59-64