# **Frank Paige**

#### SECOND GENERATION

## Alice Sheppard's Father and Relatives

#### Frank Haven Paige

B: 5/7/1881 Lac Qui Parle MN M: 4/26/1904 Susie E. Nicholson, (place unknown) B: 2/11/1881 Shabbona, DeKalb County, IL D: 5/9/1909, age 29 (place of death unknown; buried In Shabbona) One child: Charles Wesley Paige M: Jennie Irene Lowe B: 9/23/1881 Packenham, ON M: 12/28/1911 Forest River ND D: 1/27/1968, age 86 Grand **Forks Buried Forest River ND** One child: Alice Bethel Paige D: 2/2**2**/1924 Wibaux, MT Buried Forest River, ND

#### Family Tree:

View details about ancestors and Frank's siblings and their daughters of his brother Daniel by signing in to FamilySearch.com. Use the *FIND* Tab to locate Frank Haven Paige. Select the *Find by ID* option, and then enter ID No. GQ7V-T3Q. No details are known about Paige family relatives who might be living.





Frank Paige as young man ca 1900, ca 1915

The son of Charles and Rose Paige, was facile with words, possibly developed by his parents' appreciation of reading and by doing odd jobs around his father's newspapers in Dawson, MI, where he grew up beginning at age 9 and attended high school.

As a youth, he developed an interest Morse Code, reflected in the inspiration of the coded inscription in the pocket Bible he received as a young man.

At 19, according to the 1900 U.S. Census, Frank still resided with his parents. However, a profile of his father contained in a book published in 1904 (and possibly based on information from 1903) indicated that Frank was working as telegraph operator for the Northern Pacific Railway, which operates lines from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest.

By 1904 he also had married his first wife, Susie E. Nicholson, although where and how they met is unknown and the available information is inconsistent. A June 1905 Minnesota census showed the couple, both age 24, each had resided in Wadena MN for six months; Susie reported having lived in the state for a total of 13 months, while Frank reported in resided in the state for 24 years and one month -- his entire life. The couple's only child, Charles Wesley Paige, was born in Wadena in the following month (see below). However, when the baby was only age 4, his mother died. The circumstances are not known but she was buried in her family's cemetery plot near DeKalb, IL.

By 1910 or 1911, after possibly have served at other Northern Pacific outposts, Frank became a telegraph operator and station agent in Forest River, ND, where the Northern Pacific had constructed a branch line in 1897. He was the first agent to reside on the second floor above the depot. It was in Forest River he met 30-year-old Jennie Lowe, who he would marry a few days after Christmas 1911.

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Frank Paige employment record at Northern Pacific ca 1910

Two travel Northern Pacific newspaper ads with F.H. Paige listed as local agent. The following year, Frank and his bride transferred to the Northern Pacific stations in Wibaux, MT, situated only 8 miles west of the North Dakota border. He soon left the railroad to join the staff of the First National Bank of Wibaux and by 1913 as listed as the cashier in a national bank directory. He would serve in that capacity for 12 years until his death in 1924. He registered for the draft in Wibaux for World War I but never served and the couple is listed in the 1920 Census.



Frank Paige (center at machine) behind the counter line at Wibaux bank.



As was then custom, banks in the United States issued their own currency backed by gold on deposit at the national treasury. As cashier, Frank Paige's signature (FH Paige) appeared on currency issued by the bank (see bottom under "Ten.'. Currency such as this \$10 bill are now rare and highly valuable.

The couple's only child, Alice Bethel Paige, was born in 1916 while Jennie was visiting her family in Forest River and could not return in time for her birth. Alice would spend the first eight years of her life in Wibaux. She later recalled that her father would speak at school functions and people were amazed he spoke in public so well. (For several years he served on board of education of the high school.)

Frank died after being ill intermittently for several months. He encountered severe pain following the passage of gallstones, was operated on in nearby Glendive and passed away a week later.

Frank was eulogized in an extensive story on the top of the front page of the *Wibaux Pioneer-Gazette* with the headline, "Well Known and Highly Respected Citizen Passes Away. Remains Shipped to Forest River." His funeral was described as the one of the largest ever held in the community. As cashier at the bank, he was described as having "won a host of friends, always proving dependable and trustworthy." The newspaper eulogized him further:

Mr. Paige took an active part in all worthy movements, to the betterment of the city, [and] was an active member of the Commercial Club, of which he was President at the time of his death. He was a staunch Mason and served as Past Grand Master for two different terms. He was also an active member of the Eastern Star—a faithful worker always ready to discharge any responsibility laid upon him.

..

Frank Paige was a man of retiring disposition, quiet and unassuming; yet ever alert to all possibilities of service. His unimpeachable character, his sterling worth and his ever ready service make his loss one that the entire community will long lament.

### **Son: Charles Wesley Paige**

Among the mourners in Wibaux was Frank's son with his first wife, Charles Wesley Paige, who had come to reside with his father and stepmother Jennie when a junior in high school, while his step-sister Alice was in first grade. Charles was 10 years older than his step-sister, Alice, and not surprisingly, the two shared little in common, but later maintained contact by mail. They visited only once, in 1966, when Alice visited him in Arizona in connection with a trip to settle the affairs of their mutual aunt (see next section).



Charles had gone to live with a maternal aunt (either Margurite, age 30 at the time of his mother's death, or Edith, then 27). Following Frank's death, he returned to Illinois. He attended Northern Illinois State Teachers College in DeKalb (now Northern Illinois University) and taught in an elementary school and at Chicago's Lane Tech college preparatory school. He lived in several Midwestern cities before moving to Arizona, where he entered the insurance business. He suffered from polio, which mildly impaired is walking throughout this life. He was married twice, but had no children and thus was the last descendant to use the Paige surname.

Charles Wesley Paige B: 7/29/1905 Wadena MN M:

M:

D: 5/29/1967 Wickenburg AZ

# "Nell" Ellen C. Paige Aka Ellen P. Richardson

Cemetery Hanover, NH

B: 10/10/1884 Lac Qui Parle MN
M: 6/30/1917 Ralph Johnson
Richardson, Lac Qui Parle
B: 1886 Minnesota
D: 1927 Hanover, NH
Daughter: Anne Paige
Richardson (1920-1943)
Resided Grafton NH (1920 Census)
D: 1/22/1973 Claremont, CA
Cremains interred with spouse
and daughter, Dartmouth

## Frank Paige's Siblings

Besides an older brother who did not survive infancy (Harlan, 1879), Frank Paige had a younger sister and brother.

**Ellen C. Paige (Nell Richardson)** was the only sibling to maintain contact with the family. She left Minnesota as a young woman and married a

Dartmouth College graduate ('09) who later performed staff work at YMCA at Dartmouth and Chicago. Later became an ordained minister but his pastoral work was cut short by his untimely death in 1927. They had one daughter, Anne, who never married.

Nell worked most of her life in New York City where she served as the financial controller at Union Theological Seminary, while also earning a degree at Columbia University. Alice Sheppard recalls visiting her aunt in New York where they saw the



sights and attended Broadway shows. She visited Grand Forks several times. Upon retirement Nell relocated to a retirement community for church workers. As her health declined, in 1966 niece Alice and grand-niece Jean helped her relocate out of her independent living cottage as she made the transition to an assisted living, and later skilled nursing, facility. Nell died on 1973.



Nell Richardson visited the Sheppards in 1958 and was treated to a ride in Bob's wagon.

#### **Daniel Porter Paige**

B: 12/7/1888

M: 1917 Orpha Elizabeth Jenkins B: 8/1/1898 Groton, SD D: 6/8/1990

D: 12/8/1930 Spink County SD Mildred Louise Paige 1919-21 Margery Rose Paige 1918-50 Never Married

Mavis Maxine Paige 1921-1926

**Daniel P. Paige.** Few details are known about Frank's brother, a farmer who lived in Spink County SD, northwest of Watertown. Two daughters died as young children, while a third lived to age 32, but never married. A letter written by his wife Orpha in October 1932, two years after his death, focused on her remarried life with Frank Woodward and is among the handful of Nell Richardson's correspondence that was preserved.

