The Kelley Family
Of Manitowoc, Wisconsin

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This is the story of the Kelley family of Manitowoc, wisconsin, one of the many families who escaped the poverty, plagues and wars which beset the Continent for centuries. It will, however. treat with only a segment of that family's history, beginning with Timothy J. Kelley who was born in 1849 to Margaret Mahoney Murphey in Springfield, Mass. His parents moved to Maple Grove, west of Manitowoc, when he still was a small child. Tim ran away from home when he was 12 and signed on as a cabin boy on a Great Lakes sailing ship. The Manitowoc harbor and the river were crowded with ships in those days because it was a large natural harbor. Legend has it that his pay for his first season on that ship was a pair of stout new boots in addition to his keep.

Tim was a diligent sailor and gained steady advancement. He also realized the value of formal education and enrolled during the winter seasons in classes at the Spencerian Business College in Milwaukee. In 1870 he married Annie Buggie in Chicago and they established a home in what now is the near north side of Manitowoc. Annie had come to Manitowoc from Haverstraw, N.Y. a small town on the bank of the Hudson River near West Point.

Great Lakes seamanship always has been a perilous occupation and was so especially during the days of sails. Tim, when he became a captain, had several of his sons work his ships during summer school vacations and at least one family member said one of his nephews was lost one year when he fell while working the high rigging. Salt water sailors looked with some disdain on fresh water sailors but often changed their attitude if they came inland. Sailors explain that the peculiar configuration of the lakes and the prevailing winds can result in storms with choppy, hard waves powerful enough to smash large ships to pieces.

Ocean storms are more likely to produce great swells that swamp ships.

Sailing also was a more personal occupation in those days, requiring knowledge of winds and weather which led to such adages as, "Red sky at night, a sailor's delight; red sky at morning, sailor take warning." Navigation was by the stars, which meant that among other things Tim had to acquire some knowledge of astronomy and late in life he delighted in entertain ing his grandchildren with stories about the constellations in the Manitowoc heavens.

Tim earned his Master's Papers by the time he was 21, making him the youngest captain then on the Lakes. The No.2 licese he proudly displayed allowed him to command ships of all tonnage from the Head of the Lakes (Duluth) to Boston, through the St. Lawrence River.

Tim was known on the Lakes as a strict captain. He permitted no profanity or gambling on board and attendance at Sunday church services was required for all hands.

Tim and Annie had seven children. The eldest and only daughter, was Mary -- known to all as Mayme. She quickly assumed the post of "second mother" helping Annie keep the often-mischievous boys in line. Throughout life, each of the boys claimed -- in jest, of course -- that he had received the strictest treatment from Mayme. Not much ever was said about her early years until she somehow got to Escanaba, Mich., where she met and married Matt Ryan, who was the postmaster (indicating he must have been active in politics because such positions were filled on a patronage basis in those days) and owned a wholesale grocery business. He had become quite wealthy but developed a serious illness (apparently cancer) at a relatively young age. The illness drained the family's financial resources so Tim had Mayme and her children move back to Manitowoc.

Tim had bought a two-bedroom cottage (at 630 N. 7th ?). Jt was cramped quarters for the family and at least one of the boys slept in the atticRichard soon went off to Madison and after graduation in business administration entered the Jesuit seminary at Florissant, Mo., (St. Louis). Edward earned a law degree at Notre Dame University. MaryBeth attended Lincoln High School in Manitowoc.

When Grandma Kelley died in 1927, Tim moved out of 717 N. 7th and into the small cottage. He had a small bedroom at the rear of that house which had been remodeled to be similar to a captain's quarters on board ship, with a bunk built into the wall.

He lived there until he died at 94,in 1943, spending much of his time reading because he had become quite deaf, making conversation difficult. He gained quite a reputation for irascibility. At one point Mayme was aggitating to have the walls and ceiling of the dining room washed and painted. He balked. Finally she had someone start washing the ceiling while he was out one day. "See the difference?" Mayme asked. Looking up, he , he in turn asked her,"Why is one color better than the other?"

Tim and Annie's first boy child was Edward. He studied law and practiced in Manitowoc and became active in politics. But he was an odd Kelley in that he was a staunch Republican, often running for public office and serving for awile as attorney general. Republicans dominated state government in thos days. He married Margaret Usher, who was ill much of the time and suffered several miscarriages which were said to have caused her illnesses.

Another son was John, who became a doctor. He graduated from the standard three-year course at what then was the Marquette University Medical School in Milwaukeee and established a practice in Cato, Wis., a crossroads town a few miles west of Manitowoc.

Cato achieved international fame because it was the birthplace of Thorsten Veblen, an economist noted especially for his book, "The Theory of the Liesure Classes" which excoriated the nation's wealthy. A historical marker on the Main street takes note of this. It was also the site of a pre-prohibition era saloon which was frequented by the Kelley youth. It was owned by a man named Reitmeyer who had lost one arm in what was variously described as a hunting accident or an encounter with some sort of farm equipment in his earlier days. The Kelley boys dubbed the place "The Reitmeyer Arm."

John's office was a room adjoining the family parlor, which served as the waiting room for patients, too. The most remarkable feature of his office was a full human skeleton which hung from a hook near his desk. In early days he served the community with a horse and buggy and a sleigh in winter. He didn't like to drive and always insisted upon his children helping him. Though he provided well for his family, payment by patients often came in the form of dressed chickens or smoked hams instead of cash.

Tuberculosis was a major scourge in his early days of practice and governments were concerned about it. There were no antibiotics or other medicines to treat it. The recommended treatment was fresh air. Sanatoriums were built with large screened porches and patients were wheeled onto thos open-air rooms for long hours winter and summer. It proved a fairly effective treatment, especially when combined with good nutrition. One such sanatoriums was built in Cato and Uncle Doc was emplyed as the director.

There seems to be little record of another son Tim, who somehow went to Beloit, Wis., where he worked in the office of the gas company. His wife, Nell, did not approve of drinking so when Tim showed up at family events in Manitowoc and imbibed a bit

with the boys he would slip out to the garden an tear off a small bunch of parsley to munch as a breath freshener.

Charles was the fourth child and he had decided uponed upon a career in railroading, that being the transportation system of "the future" in those days as aviation became in the next century. He signed on with the Soo Line railroad, which operated in Wisconsin, but was killed the first week on the job in a head-on collision of two locomotives. Family members said his parents said the rosary for him every night as long as they lived.

George Kenneth was the youngest child. Lacking educational ambitions, Ken, as he was known to everyone, went to work at the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co. where he was hired by Frank Egan, who was an executive at the company and Ken's second cousin. He was known as an expert ship fitter. He married Eleanor Schroeder late in life and they were regarded as "party people."

Harry was a sort of "middle child" in this family. He had developed a bone disease when a small boy which resulted in an open wound on one heel. and later also in one arm. He dressed those wounds himselt daily. Anti-biotics were unknown then so doctors resorted to drastic methods in such cases. As a smalll boy, Harry was shipped off to a Chicago hospital for an entire summer where the doctors applied maggots to the wounds, thinking they would "eat out" the infection. but to no avail. The family had no members in the Chicago area so Harry was quite alone, spending long hours reading. His mother made frequent trips to Chicago to bring him complete sets of Dickens and other classics which he treasured, read and re-read and kept to read many years later to his children and grandchildren. The grandchildren remembered his reading Uncle Remus stories to them with appropriate dialect.

Harry graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school and returned to Manitowoc to establish a practice with Wyseman. The practice was diverse but Harry became known as the

advocate for Lake Michigan fishermen and represented their Two Rivers organization many times in cases that went as high as the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The issue in many of those cases was size of nets, the fishermen striving to protect their difficult livelihood by using nets of smaller sizes to increase their catches. Because cases were scarce and payment often was slow or defaulted, the lawyers had to accept all who sought representation. That meant Harry sometimes was asked to represent someone who was seeking a divorce. Being Catholic, that created a conflict for him, but like John F. Kennedy many years later, he drew a distinction between faith and law. Aunt Mayme would be furious when she heard talk of his taking such cases, but he just chuckled and did what he conceived of as his duty as an officer of the courts.

He supplemented his law income in many odd ways. He would travel to Milwaukee every summer to be the clerk of the races at the State Fair. These were Grand Circuit races, bringing some of the nation's most famous trotters and pacers to the one-mile track. There was no betting on those races.

Harry became involved in politics at all levels. He had decided he was a Democrat at a time when Democrats were few in Wisconsin, this state having been the birthplace of the Republican Party (Ripon, Wis.). So he often was called upon to "fill out the state ticket" by allowing his name to be on the ballot as the candidate for attorney general. He held only one public office -- city attorney of the City of Manitowoc under a Socialist mayor who gave the city very progressive government. He was instrumental in establishing the Manitowoc Public Utilities Commission which made Manitowoc the first city in the nation to have a publicly-owned electric power company

He also was an advocate of what was known as the "single tax®-- a proposal that would have eliminated all taxes but that on property. It was an idea which became quite popular for a time nationally, as the "flat tax" has in recent years (2000).

Harry often was asked to lecture on that subject to community groups around the state. He enjoyed the teaching role, having worked as an elementary school teacher briefly while still a college student.

He also wrote the "police blotter", a weekly column enumerating the minor offenses which had come before the court, sometimes making personal comments which made it popular reading. The "blotter" appeared in the Manitowoc Pilot which was owned by the Crow family. The Crows were commercial printersbut apparently also existing in part on the income from the city, county and other "legal" advertising.

At that time, Carl Sandburg, who was to become famous as a poet, balladeer and historian, was still a working newspaperman. He was for a time the city editor of the Socialist daily Milwaukee Leader but also was an editor of the Manitowoc daily. Carl and Harry sometimes would meet for a game or two of billiards, perhaps at the Elks Club. On the way home, if the season was right, he might stop of at Fitzgerald & Bruder's, a genteel old saloob on Eighth Street which regularly imported fresh oysters from New Orleans for customers with refined palates. The oysters would come up on the Illinois Central Railroad to Chicago and change there to a North Western Rail Road express under ice. Harry also from time to time enjoyed treats such as calves' brains and scrambled eggs for breakfast and for dinner perhaps some fresh blood sausage which probably came from his father-in-law's farm out on the Plank Road. The sight of the juices flowing from those sausages would cause his children to make a hasty exit from the dining room.

His law partnership was a progressive firm and pioneered in diversity. When late in his law career Harry became postmaster, the original partners took in Jake Muchin as a partner. Jake was Jewish and so represented a quite-small minority in Manitowoc.

The partners had a secretary named Ruth Hanson. She showed interest in the law and so the senior partners took it upon themselves to teach her all she needed to know without attending law school and she,too, became a partner.

Harry would very much liked to have been a judge and he was offered interim appointments to the bench upon occasion but declined, saying he could not risk the loss later in elections when he had to care for his large family. He was rewarded by the Democratic Party for his long faithful servive when Franklin D. Roosevelt won the presidency. He was appointed postmaster and served in that post until his retirement.

He somehow became involved with a small-time industrialist named Eastman in Manitowoc, apparently through doing law work for the company. Eastman had invented and patented a coupling which was in much demand, apparently a device for quick and efficient jointing of lines such as fire hoses and the product sold widely. Harry apparently was paid at least in part in Eastman company stock which rose steadily in value. He helped guide the company into Delaware corporation status for tax purposes and was made a member of the company board. He and Eastan and a small number of other company officials also became fast friends and several times took fishing vacations in Canada.

Harry's good humor was often shown in his family relationships. There was an annual tradition which involved him awakening on April 1 and finding -- surprise, surprise!! -- his trouser pants legs sewed shut with basting thread

He never showed any inclination toward mennial household chores or repairs. If asked to do something like fixing a light switch, he would explain, "i can't do that because I don't have a draw shave." The draw shave was a two-handled blade which early cabinetmakers and wheelwrights used to fashion wood pieces. Most family members apparently had no idea what it was. But finally one Christmas a son-in-law found a draw shave in a hardware store

and put a riotous end to his long-held excuse. There was, however, no record of his making any repairs after the gift.

So ends this chapter of the history of the Kelley Family of Manitowoc, Wis.

It has been prepared from recollections contributed from some of the next generation and their spouses. Historians should note that the information in it is undocumented, but much of it undoubtedly can be authenticated or corrected in existing official records in Manitowoc County.

It has been compiled in the hope that it will imbue the younger generations of the family with some of the spirit which drove these early members and made made them interesting people who contributed much to the development of their community.

The impetus for this document has come from a long series of Kelley Family Reunions held every two years somewhere within the family sphere. Over the course of the years, a "tradition" emerged of presenting to some "deserving" family a somewhat ragged mounted goat head which had been found in a neighborhood estate sale. The fortunate recipient was named the "old Goat of the Year." It was, of course, purely a joke but also had a touch of the old theme of Irish prosperity being demonstrated by the number of goats which a family kept on its roof, which was a factual matter.

In 2005, it was decided to make more than a joke of this tradition and the family contributed one or more live goats to destitute families in foreign lands through th Interantional Heifer Project. The poor recipients are trained in dairy goat husbandry so they can provide their families with much-needed milk, process the surplus into cheeses or bottle it for distribution and sale. The original goat becomes the base of a family herd after it is bred. The Kelley Family name thus has been entered into the book of international good deeds.

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(Part Two)

Capt. Tim Kelley and his wife, Annie Buggie Kelley had seven children -- Mary (Mayme), Ed, John, Harry, Tim, Charles and George Kenneth.

Ed became an attorney and was involved in state politics with the Republican Party. He and his wife, Margaret Usher, had only one surving child, Philip who during World War II became an "expediter" for the federal government at the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co., which was engaged in the building of Navy craft, submarines and landing ships for use in the reinvasion of Europe.

John became a doctor, practicing medicine from his home in Cato., Wis., a few miles west of Manitowoc. He also was the director of the Manitowoc County Tuberculosis Sanatorium. He and his wife, Sadie Brennanhad four children. Charlie was a "solid citizen" type of person of immen se good humor. He was known for his ability to sleep standing upright. During WW II he enlisted in the Navy, was sent to a communications school at the University of Chicago and finally was sent Adak, Alaska, where he was a chief petty officer in supply, experiencing the war on the Soviet front. He married Doris (Dodda) Kunz, who also was a blythe spirit and they had two children, Tim and Suzy. Charlie became a newspaper editor at the Sheboygan Press. Tim became city attorney of Green Bay, Wis., and Suzy became a registered nurse at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan.

Marian took her turns as the driver for her father who disliked operating any kind of machinery. She went off to Madison and earned her degree as a teacher of history. She then taught at rural high schools in Kiel and other communities and finally at Lincoln High in Manitowoc. She returned to school to earn a graduate degree in counseling and then became a counsellor at Lincoln until her retirement. More and more over the years she became interested in Church affairs and in partcular in the question of the ordination of women. Never having married, she joined up with a friend who was a retired nun also much interested in the ordination and other wome ' issues and for a number of years they shared an apartment in Milwaukee. After that frien died, Marian was befriended by a couple in rural Madison who were engaged in psychiatric and psychological studies and practices until she had to enter a life care facility. She also had been much interested in the peace movement, sometimes traveling to military installations to join in protests. Francis was a rather passive person, resembling his mother. When his cousins would be visiting in Manitowoc, Francis would come to join them, driving his ram-shackled old auto which had an inside door handle which had to be pulled out of the glove compartment and slipped into place in order to open the passenger side door for escape. He always carried a case of cheap auto oil in his trunk to be added as often as the car would need a small refueling of gas. "Rockefeller has to live, too," he would comment.

Francis was known to cousins and friends as "Hoover" because of his resemb ance to the former president. When Ho would arrive late -- as usual -- at a family event, he always would explain his tardiness bysaying he "Had to stop at the firemen's picnic at some crossroads to speak.

Hoov always was welcomed at those family gatherings because he would add his excellent voice to the group which called itself "The Four K's" -- and consisted of various brothers and cousins who sang such old favorites as Cab Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher", encouraging the assembled family members and friends to join.

He died in middle age while having dinner alone at a downtown Manitowoc restaurant. He had been commuting to Kohler, Wis., daily to work at the company which makes plumbing fixtures.

Johnny was very shy. At large gatherings such as wedding receptions, he might try to hide behind pillars or large plants in the hotel lobby to avoid meeting the guests. But he overcame his shyness to mary Bette. Hayden whom he had known since childhood.

He was employed before World War II at Western Electric in Illinois and so when he entered the Army he was assigned to communications. He served in North Africa and then went on to Italy to fight the Axis forces on what Churchilll had described as "the soft underbelly of Europe." Underbelly it may have been, but hardly "soft" as Johnny learned. He talked hardly at all about his experiences there, but apparently he was in that small company of specialists which was sent to lay communications lines in advance of the troops which were to assault the Germans at places such as old monasteries which made mighty fortresses. He came under frequent and heavy fire in such exposed locations.

After the war, he was diagnosed as having a service=related disability but Western Electric said it was unable to re=emplye him. Bette worked as a grocery and drug store clerk to help family finances until she passed civil service exams to become a federal government telephone operator.

Johnny and Bette had four children -- Dennis, who was born handicapped, Maureen, who died young of a heart attack and Mary Pat

and Eileen.

Harry became an attorney. Through his law partner, he became acquainted with a Polish immigrant family which had moved to Manitowoc. His partner had suggested that Harry visit the newcomer, Anton Crapikosky, who claimed Lithuanian citizenship. In those days, however, the control of Poland shifted frequently and for a time it actually was run by Lithuanians who had been invited in by the Polish leadership. He was known as "Dziadek", which is Polish for grandfather. He spoke six languages and was called upon on occasion to serve as a court interpreter. His wife, Bronislawa, had served as an interpreter, too, in the aftermath of the Great Chicago Fire. Anton was her second husband. The first was John Barzynski, who was born in Sandomierz, Poland, in 1849 and died in Chicago at about age 40, leaving his wife the owner of a retail coal business.
The Barzynskis had three children, Mary, Kathryn and Joseph.
It was Kathryn who caught Harry's eye when he visited the farm on the Plank Road which Crapikosky maintained with a toll gate.
Katherine had been about 3 years old when her father died. Her step-father had a rather miliary bearing and so was dubbed "the General by the youngsters. Sister Mary married Julius Smietanka, a Chicago attorney and president of a couple of banks. They owned an entire city block on Oglesy avenue until his banks went bankrupt during the Depression. The Smietankas also owned a fruit farm and large summer home on the Lake Michigan shore in Michigan. The Smietankas brought Katherine back to Chicago for about three months so she could get lessons in china paintng at the Art Institute school and advanced piano lessons.
They also introduced her to several Polish men including one named Demaraysay (SP?) an artist who gave her a huge oil painting he had done.
But Katherine married the poor Wisconsin lawyer and they had 5 children.
Their first-born was named Harry, but with the middle name

of John, so he was not "Junior.". His father's middle name wa Francis.

Young Harry went to Madison to study accounting and returned to Manitowoc to work at the Shipyards. He married Dorothy Fetzer daughter of a Whitelaw farmer and his wife. She was a school teacher at a one-room school in the Cato-Whitelaw area. The boys of the community used to take delight in harrassing her in her teaching job. Once several of them, including Harry and some of his cousins, went up into a silo with a burlap sack and captured a flock of sparrows which they released in her schoolroom at night, creating a messy havoc next morning. The boys in those days always seemed full of pranks. They also delighted in teasing Manitowoc's sole motorcycle policeman who apparently was as an officious type. One time they tied the rear wheel of his cycle to a pole while he was chasing some of them on foot, and then guffawing as he tumbled off the machine when he tried to roar off.

Harry was commissioned an ensign in the Navy during World War II and served on board destroyers as a supply officer in both the At lantic and the Pacific. He returned to Manitowoc after the war and before long was appointed postmaster, too. He and Dorothy had 6 children. Nancy went off to a convent while still in grade school. Peggy married James Schroeder of Appleton, whose family owned a United Van lines franchise there. Jim later moved the family to the Milwaukee area where he established his own United franchise and for a time was a vice president of United. They had two children. Michael studied social studies at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and after a few "wanderlust" years settled down as a social worker in Manitowoc and became an activeleader of his union there. Kathy was a vivacious youngster and prankster. She loved to climb ladders to rooftops

to the dismay of her mother and baby-sitting aunts. Once while playing baseball in the backyard, she slugged a ball through a basement window. Boldly, she marched into the house to tell elders that "a window broke."
Kathy became a speech therapist and worked for the Cleveland, Ohio, school system. She married Charles Ohlrich, who owned a business analysis firm and on Friday nights regularly played his drums with a restaurant dance band until well into his normal retirement years.

Mimi showed uncharacteristic lack of interest in education and declined to go to college. She worked at various jobs in Milwaukee for several years , met and married Jon Hibbard, a landscaper and roofer who suffered severe disabling injuries in two falls off roofs in his work. Mimi finally went to school to become a para-legal and joined one of Florida's leading real estate firms in Sarasota.

Tom was the youngest of Harry and Dorothy's children. He went to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Wis., to study business and became an investment counselor. He married Margie Major, the daughter of a Polish immigrant who became one of the most enthusistic members of the Irish community, noted for her annual corned beef and cabbage dinners for many of the Kelleys.

Virginia was born less than two years after Harry, so they spent early years in quite close relations. One day a neighbor called the Kelley home to tell Katherine that her two tiny children seemed to be headed off to the Manitowoc River on the north side of town. The mother tracked them down, carrying sticks to which Harry had tied strings with bent pins as hooks, determined to go fishing. That may have been the basis of Harry's claim later in life that "All Kelleys think they can sing and fish."
Virginia went to Chicago to enter nurses' training at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in the old Polish neighborhood on the northwest side. The hospital was run by an old Polish order of nursing nuns which was well known to the Barzynski family. Nurse training in those days was rigorous with students receiving classroom training and courses at De Paul University as well as working seven days a week "on the floor.' She had a half day free each week. But in her last year of training she met Erwin Kieckhefer of Milwaukee who had just been transferred to the

Chicago bureau of the United Press Associations, an international news gathering organization. Actually, they had met for the first time at a 21st birthday dinner a Milwaukee friend had arranged shortly before his transfer to Chicago. They were married less than a year after she graduated. They moved to Minneapolis where Erv worked for the Minneapolis Star and took a year leave to accept a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. They moved again to Louisville, Ky., and finally to Memphis, Tenn., where Erv became the editorial page editor of The Commercial Appeal.

Virginia was active in Democratic Party affairs in Memphis, working on the campaigns of Sen. Albert Gore (the elder) and Sen. Jim Sasser and the presidential campaigns of Sen. George McGovern, who had become a personal friend during a year when she ran the Democratic Party headquarters in Beadle County, S.D.

In Memphis, she also was active in civil rights protest movements and was tear-gassed at least once during a march down famed Beale Street with Martin Luther King and Church leaders, including her bishop. King was shot and killed in Memphis about five years after the Kieckhefers moved there.

Virginia and Erv had two sons, Robert, who after 28 years as an editor and executive with United Press International became the vice president for public and legislative affairs. Robert followed his father's path in journalism, working for the the United Press for many years before becoming the public and governmental affairs director for Blue Cross / Blue Shield health insurance of Illinois and a vice president of that firm. Richard was an avid scholar and after earning a BA in philosophy at St. Louis University won a scholarship to the University of Texas where he earned his MA in philosophy and then a PhD in medieval history after a year of study in Munich on a grant. He joined the faculty of the history and literature of religions at North-

western University and became the chairman of that department and the author of numerous books in that field.
Robert married Jan Walter and they had three children.
Kelley went to New York to run a business staging business meetings and conferences. Ben became a reporter for the Reno, Nev., newspaper and Gretchen earned a degree in law enforcement. Richard's son Dan became a University of Chicago librarian and his sister, Christine, earned a degree in linguistics. After Robert and Jan were divorced, he married Cynthia Jania and they lived in Batavia, Ill.

Beatrice was born in 1919, less than 18 months after Virginia and about three years after Harry. The family then was living at 717 N. 7th street where Capt. Tim and Annie had arranged a small apartment out of some of the upstairs bwdrooms for themselves. But the house was getting crowded with only one full bath bathroom downstairs and a half-bath (just toilet and wash stand) upstairs. Beats, when she was old enough to manage stairs, would scamper upstairs every ... morning to have Grandma wash her. and dress her for school.
The girls were close and shared the front bedroom of 717, also

sharing memories of winters up there. The house, like all those old houses, had no inulation and the windows gave little protee - tion from the chill west winds

Beats was known as "Beats" though nobody seemed to know the origin of that contraction. She showed an aptitude for art and for mathematics and majored in math at the UW-Madison. At the University she met Anthony Agathen, an agronomy (soils and crops) major from Eagle, Wis., a rural Waukesha County, Wis. town. They were married soon after graduation and Tony got a commission as a Navy supply officer, too. As such, he also went to Harvard to become a "90-day wonder ensign." The young cadets were required to move everywhere on the Harvard Yard in militayy formation. As they marched, they would sing their own, sometimes a bit ribald ditties -- "When the war is over we'll all enlist again,, we will, like hell we will."..... In the spring the Harvard grounds keepers would find strange plants growing in abundance along the walkways. Radishes! The cadets had dropped the seeds as they marched.

Beatrice also got an appointment to Harvard for some sort of work or graduate studies in mathematics. Her work brought her into contact with Harvard's famed pioneer computer, a contraption of hundreds of vacuum tubes that occupied many rooms in one of the Harvard buildings. After graduation, Tony went to work as an agronomist for a Waukesha County, Wis., cannery, but after a time he moved to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, helping farmers design their farms. In that work he was transferred to Macomb, Ill., until he again changed career, becoming a civil- ian emplye of the U.S. Defense Department in St. Louis.

Beats and Tony had 5 children. Mary had been born during World War II when Beats was living with her parents in Manitowoc. She had suffered some sort of brain injury which left her permanently handicapped.

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Paul became an attorney and became an executive with the St. Louis gas company. Alan studied Russian at Georgetown University but then decided he, too, would become a lawyer. He established a practice in a St. Louis suburb.

The boys were adventurous. With one of theirAgathen cousins, they decided to emulate Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. With considerable help from Tony, they built a large raft and launched it on the Mississippi River. The voyage was fraught with disasters, including a fire that almost destroyed their cache of bills they had "safely" stored in an empty ca. They did make it to New Orleans where they disposed of the raft and returned home with their parents

Jeannie was a good student, too, but also had the wanderlust. she traveled widely on very small resiurces, working as a tutor for a family in Vienna for awhile and on a kibutz in Israel. She arrived back home after her long sojourn with 59 cents in her pocket. Her sister Annie was an accountant.

Paul also became an accountant and worked for Kimberly-Clark Corp., the international paper-making company, in that company's headquarters in Appleton, Wis., moving into the firm's international accounting division. That resulted in lengthy assignments in such places as Tokyo and Paris, sometimes to the irritation of his wife Rosalie. One bitter cold day Roz was clearing their front walk of a heavy snowfall when the postman arrived with a letter from Paul in Tokyo. She read it avidly. He was staying in Tokyo's finest hotel and the water in the hotel swimming pool was too warm to be invigorating! He was lucky to be so many miles distant that he couldn't hear her comments.

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Roz was a strikingly beautiful Polish girl (Kaminski) from Niagra Falls, N.Y., where her father also worked for Kimberly-Clark. Paul and Roz had three children. Linda became a speech therapist and a hospital executive in Minneapolis. They adopted two children, Matthew and Elise, who became experienced world travelers at early ages because their father, Stuart Baumann, was a Northwest Airlines pilot and so eligible for free transportation for the family. They also became exporienced skiers, visiting some of the best slopes in Canada and the U.S. frequently. Paul was another Kelley with aptitude for mathematicsHe taught the subject at a suburban Minneapolis high school and was a member of a national committee working to improve math textbooks. Harry was what some people described as a "hyper" child, always active and highly mischievous, but much loved because of his great good humor. He ran the premiums department for Pillsbury Mills for many years, but his real ambition was to be a fiction writer and he worked hard at that endeavor.

The youngest of what might be termed the 717 Kelleys was Robert, who was born in 1924. He was still of school age when the U.S. entered World War II. The Army decided to make him a "professional student" apparently. He attended Marquette University and was sent to Clinton, Ontario, to attend a course which was to make him a meteorologist. But before he could complete that course, the Army decided it had a "surplus" of meteorologists. He also attended Brown University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He picked up a degree in electrical engineering and another in computer technology. And his studies in Clinton made him eligible for an "overseas service" decoration even during those months he frequently hitch-hiked home to Manitowoc to see

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a girl friend.

He wrote a thesis entitled, "An electronic analog for a hydraulic flow valve," which translates roughly to "An wall switch substitute for a water faucet"

After the war, Bob decided he would be a priest. He disposed of his worldly goods, much of it by selling it to siblings, and packed off to the Jesuit seminary in Missouri. He studied there for several years before opting for the secular life.

After he was there, his mother learned that the Jesuits had a summer home on the Chain of Lakes in Waupaca, wis., and that every afternoon they would canoe through those lakes for exercise. Visits to the seminary were limited to avoid distraction from studies. So Mama saw an opportunity. She would rent a cottage on one of the lakes and be able at least to see her darling son as his canoe sailed by. Not to be accused of trying to skirt the Jesuit rules, she announced that the "real" purpose of renting the cottage each year was to invite children and grandchildren to come there for a week or more of vacation. The dodge worked but the fathers would deliver mothers and children at the cottage and immediately take off for work back home, thus escaping the chore of "baby-sitting" 8 or 10 raucous children.

One afternoon, the one father who had not been able to find an excuse for leave from camp found a half dozen or more of the youngsters swimming across the spring-fed, deep and icy cold lake of the chain without life guard, boat, life vests, etc. They were put on KP for several days.

Bob changed jobs frequently, working for several computer software companies in California and in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston and the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. The family ended up in Florida with Bob

spending weekends "at home" in the Tampa Bay area and commuting across the state to his job in Melbourne, Fla.
Bob and Clairie had 4 children. Dan went off to Dallas. Marilyn was regarded as a sort of genius and went to M.I.T. to become a physicist. She had an Air Force scholarship and so after graduation went off to the Air Force Academy. She married Peter McQuade who also was an Air Force officer and a physicist.

Suzy went to law school in Chicago and then returned to Boston area to work in the law field.
Over the years, an increasing number of the Kelleys either moved to Florida or had time-share conominiums there, so mini family gatherings were common there throughout the year.

Waupaca had attraction for some of the multitude of "kids" long after they were married and some of tbem rented houses on the lakes for their nostalgic older vacations there. That attraction probably was highest for Peg Kelley and Jim Schroeder because it was at Waupaca that they first met. Jim's parents had rented a cottage adjoining the one the Kelleys had that year, so dating off to places like Inian Crossing were easy, fascill-itating the match.

The reunions of the Kelley Family of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, began some time in mid-Twentieth Centurybut they are steeped in traditions and lore that includes castles and lace curtains and goats on roofs and enthusiastic singing of traditional songs washed down with quantities of beer.

They began quite informally as a result of the confusions brought about by World War II. Several marriages took place shortly before the United States was drawn into that war. Young wives with infants to care for were seeking a temporary home while spouses were off to service in the Army or Navy and the Kelley home at 717 N. 7th street in Manitowoc, which had been established late in the Nineteenth Century by Capt. Tim Kelley and his bride, Annie Buggie, seemed ample enough to shelter several of those "war widows."

After the war, Harry J. and Dorothy decided the little upstairs apartment which had been carved out of 717 N 7th for two familieswas no longer adequate for their growing brood and they bought 612 N.6th Street. They took in Harry F. and Katherine when they no longer could manage the old manse and remodeled it to provide accommodations for the elderly couple and for the widow in later years.

The remodelling resulted in a much larger living room and so Harry J. decided to organize what had been informal reunions, inviting all and sundry and leaving the details and considerable work to Dorothy. Tents sometimes were set up in the back yard and guests slept there. Once those outdoor guests found themselves sharing their "bedroom" with a family of skunks which seemed to think they had replaced the snakes St. Patrick had driven out of Ireland.

Those reunions began developing a pattern. An informal gathering with beer and cribbage and poker and much talk on Friday afternoon and evening, a buffet brunch on Saturday with more

talk. Late evening brought much more singing (Following Harry J's dictum that all Kelleys think they can fish and sing) with Beatrce Agathen leading the rendition of the ballad "Dear Evalina" in her best country singing voice. She was the only one who knew all the many verses.

Sunday morning a sobering Kelley familia would gather for a breakfast at 612 N. 6th followed by a Mass. For a number of years that Mass was conducted by Richard Ryan, the Kelley cousin (Aunt Mayme's son) who had become Jesuit priest. Fr. Ryan had been president of Regis University (Denver) and Creighton and in late years was assistant to the president of Marquette.

One year Harry J and Harold Crowe, an old friend of the family whose family operated a printing company in downtown Manitowoc and for a number of years published a weekly newspaper called The Pilot. (The pilot existed apparently on the revenue it obtained from the mandatory legal advertising of city, county and other legal notices.) noticed that one of the "old families" of the city was having an estate sale. They dropped by to see what was being offered. Among the "treasures" was a stuffed hunting trophy of what appeared to be a deer or something similar. The boys decided it was an old Goat and bought it. Let's present it to Erv Kieckhefer at the next Kelley reunion, they agreed. Erv had established something of a reputation as a grouch after numerous sessions at Waupaca where he would be the sole father in the house for days, rain or shine. Old Grouch= Old Goat. And so a tradition was born. Erv accepted the trophy with good grace and proudly displayed it on his dining room wall. So it was decided it would become the one and only award at future reunions, going to some male Kelley or, as they were dubbed one of the Kelley "outlaws. It became a coveted honor.

In 2004, Erv suggested that the Old Goat become a real award of merit with the Kelley family establishing it as an international gift of real worth to worthy recipients. Heifers International

was being run by a group of U.S. dairy farmers. Each farmer would contribute a heifer calf each year and those heifers would be sent to worthy but extremely poor people in foreign lands. The project had been expanded to include goats because goats are easier to manage than cows and are cheaper for the recipients to keep because they are very efficient graziers. The foreign recipient, often a widowed mother of small children, would be trained in goat management to produce milk for her family, to make cheese with the surplus milk and to serve as the foundation of a dairy goat herd. is certainly a fitting symbol of the Kelleys.

So, at the 2005 reunion, which took place in Manitowoc where all Kelley family history began, contributions were solicited and enough money was accumulated to send a check to Heifers International to provide three goats to worthy recipients in foreign lands so thet, too, could have goats on their roofs -- if they had roofs. The original Old Goat trophy was "retired" in the 1990s, tattered and torn, some say moth-eaten and smelly due to abuse by ssome spouses who relegated it tobasements and garages. A proper "Mass" was conducted for it with Erv Kieckhefer presiding with Dominus vobiscums and et-tu-spirit-tu-tuems. It was consigned to a black "body bag" from the Wauwatosa recycling service in the back yard of Tom and Margie Kelley. A new trophy had been found in Texas by Dan Kelley, son of Robert and Clairie.

It should be noted that goats are fast becoming an important part of U.S. agriculture. For many years they were known primarily for their servive at meat packing plants where they would lead reluctant sheep into the slaughtering pens, giving them the designation of "Judas goats". In the South, they also were used by sheep producers to protect their flocks from roving dogs and then for barbecues. But the rapidly rising numbers of Muslims in the U.S. created a demand for goat meat and so the establishment of numerous goat farms and even packing plants which specialized in goat slaughter. Indeed, there were at least two goat farms

in the Manitowoc vicinity. The demand for goat milk was greatly increased, too, by the knowledge that goat milk is more easily digested than cow milk because it is naturally homogenized and some doctors think it is the closest thing to mother's milk which is available. The expansion of goat milk production in regions such as Africa has been welcomed because it could replace the powdered "formula" which an international candy company had promoted. The formula had to be mixed with water and water in the regions where milk was needed often was contaminated. So the Kelley Family Reunion goats are making a major contribution to the health and welfare of some of the world's most deprived children.

The Kelleys always have been proud of their family name and their Irish heritage. But over the years the name has been somewhat "diluted" through marriages. The products of those "mixed marriages" sometimes have been referred to as "Kelley Outlaws" and indeed at one time an attempt was made by some of those "outlaws" to form a Kelley Outlaw Protective Society".
Such un-Irish names as Fetzer, Kieckhefer, Bauer, Kaminski,Bauman,and Agathen now make up the reservation lists at the Kelley Family reunions and in time they may actually predominate. But the Kelley family spirit remains and it is hoped that this small compilation of that family's history will help to sustain that spirit for generations to come.

Kelley Family History Addenda

Enthusiasm over the family name has been shown in several ways. Mimi Kelley (who married Jon Hibbard) retains the Kelley name in her business affairs. But she goes beyond that in her observance of St. Patrick's Day. She gave up sending Christmas cards to relatives and friends and send St. Patrick's cards instead

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In at least one instance, Kelley has become the given name of someone and in another it became the middle name.

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Kelley youngsters often have proved innovative and have been assisted in their innovations by relatives who just as proudly carry Polish or German names. One such assists came about for Virginia and Beatrice Kelley and their cousin Marybeth Ryan in 1933. The three teenagers decided they wanted to travel from Manitowoc to Chicago to see the world fair known as the Century of Progress exposition. They had somehow accumulated enough money to buy three round-trip rail tickets and had arranged with another cousin, Dorothy Smietanka in Chicago for accomodations for several days. When they arrived, Dorothy (being somewhat older and more responsible) asked if they had brought any money. No, they had not. Well, Dode said, she would solve that problem. Her father ran an account at the grocery store. She talked the grocer into tacking an extra fake item to the next bill and giving her the cash which that item represented. Uncle Julius never did know that he had financed the girls' fair visit.

Kelley family history addenda 2-2-2

Virginia and Beats had another travel adventure when thet were in their 70s. They had gone to England and to Paris. As the finale of that trip they were going to the Lakes Country by rail. They were not familiar with the operation of the door mechanism and had difficulty getting off at their destination. Virginia finally got off but Beats was caught when the train started again before she was fully off. She fell on the platform and broke a leg and an arm.
The British health service took excellent care of her. She was hospitalized for several weeks. The hospital had a guest house, and Virginia was given free accommodations there in a small apartment with access to the employees cafeteria. The pastor of one of the nearby churches and his wife took her in hand and toured Virginia around the area. They provided free ambulance service to the London airport for both. .

Trips to Wisconsin for family reunions also gave youngsters some unusual experiences. Robert and Richard, if they came in June, would look forward to some special "road kill" when they got into Wisconsin.
Wisconsin was a major producer of vegetables for canning companies in the days before most such vegetables were frozen rather than canned. Early June peas were harvested with large "rakes" that pulled up the vines, roots and all. They were loaded onto flatbed wagons for transport to the cannery. Inevitably, some of the harvest would fall off the flatbed. Rob and Richie came prepared with 20-pound grocery sacks and would hop out of the family car to gather that sweet "road kill" which they then would shell and eat as the trip to Manitowoc went on.

Having grown up in a family in which "thrift" was almost part of the family name, Virginia took early to looking for bargains. She didn't read the newspaper ads for sales. She went to the sources. From her church, she knew about such organizations as the St. Vincent de Paul Society which was in the recycling business long before the term had been coined . She would seek out the resale shops at the churches which had the most affluent parishioners and the synagogues, too. Erv said she could "smell" a resale shop as he would drive by. Often that meant only a half hour or so of "just shopping" without purchases but now and then it also would result in the puchase of some really "classy" label product for little money. She had three closets and a basement locker filled with such gems. She introduced nieces and sister-in-law to this game and no gathering seemed complete with a visit to "Vinnies". Dorothy and Harry were active members of St. Vincent's and attended many of its national meetings. Dorothy worked at the Manitowoc Vinnie store every Monday even when she moved into her 90s and had several hip replacements. .

Several of the Kelleys showed artistic abilities. Virginia once created an Easter egg tree. More than a dozen eggs were "blown" by puncturing each end and then hand-painted with holiday designs to be hung on dried branches stuck into jars.

Clairie started making pottery from molds as a hobby and then began teaching other women how to make the novelties. Over the years every Kelley family probably acquired some of her Christmas tree ornaments, pitchers, picture frames, etc.

Harry and Dorothy took classes at the voetional school and then set about reupholstering some of their living room chairs with a professional touch.

Kelley Family History Addenda 4-4-4

While the people who live in Wisconsin do not have quite as much "dialect" in their speech as do Texans or Mississippians or Maine Yankees, many do have tones and speech patterns which are identifiable. Much of that dialect has been disappearing in recent years but it still is heard among "old folks" in such communities as Manitowoc.

An example:

A coach of an amateur softball team had become exasperated with his players and after some foolish play shouted to the offending players: "If you don't know where should you go, then stay where are you yet." That "yet" was once as common as was the Canadians' "Eh?" Another example involved an elderly lady who was shopping in Milwaukee back in the time of electric streetcars before buses. A commuter could ask the conductor for a transfer when she boarded the first car and paid the 7-cent fare. The conuctor would punch the transfer to indicate the time of purchase. She could ride another car later simply by showing the next conductor her original transfer and he would punch it yet again to show validity if it was froffered within the original time limit.

As the story went, the lady hopped aboard the second or third car on her shopping spree and shouted, "Punch out my hole, Mr. Conductor, so I can go by Shusters. " Shuster's was the city's leading department store at tha time.

The term "go by" meaning to "go to" some place was common among German immigrants. It derived from the German "gehe bei" which translates to "go to."

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All of this document has been composed out of recollections by family members, mostly undocumented. Doubtless documentation for most of it does exist somewhere and can be obtained. It is believed to be honest and accurate but undoubtedly errors are contained in it. Readers beware!
It is being left open-ended so that others can add their own knowledge if they so desire.
After thoughts and material only slightly related to the family has been appended as addendum.

Compilation by Erwin W. Kieckhefer,
Husband of Virginia Kelley Kieckhefer 1917-2002