



DISCOVER HOW THESE IOWANS IMPACTED
THE 1920s AND 1930s EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN CREAM

Saturday, June 10

JEWELL MUSEUM, 2 PM

Jewell Veterinarian Dr. Erick Christian

by Barbara Knox Homrighaus and Nancy Eich Kayser

Saturday, July 8

ELLSWORTH LIBRARY & MUSEUM, 2 PM

Ellsworth Farmers John and Jessie Lakin Yancy

by Barbara Knox Homrighaus

Saturday, July 15

RADCLIFFE DAYS, in the Park, 2 PM

Lyon Township Farmers Charlie and Hattie Hildal Knox

by Barbara Knox Homrighaus

*Developed in Iowa, the American Cream is
the only draft horse breed native to the United States*

National American Cream Draft Horse Day is declared July 11

American Cream Draft Horse Association

Saturday, July 8
ELLSWORTH LIBRARY & MUSEUM, 2 PM
Ellsworth Farmers John and Jessie Lakin Yancy
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Research by Barbara Knox Homrighaus and Nancy Eich Kayser

Yancy

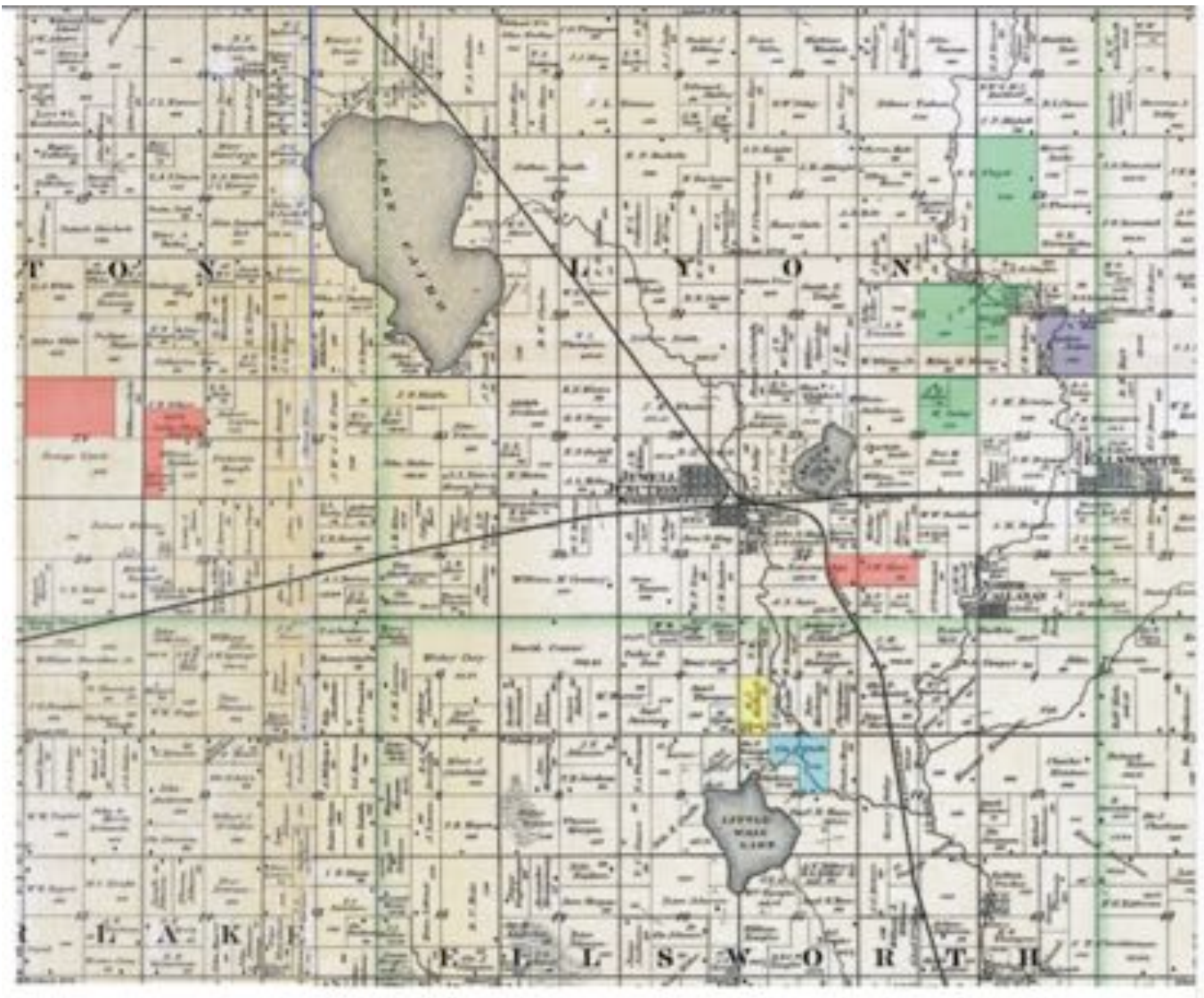
One Man, One Decision, One Horse

We are starting to celebrate National American Cream Draft Horse Day, about 80 years after the ACDH, the breed Association, was chartered by the state of Iowa in 1944. That day — July 11th — is three days away.

As we go forward and Celebrate every July 11th, it seems like it's almost too late to document the earliest years of the breed — the twenty years between 1911 and 1933 — for the only draft horse native to the United States, including information about the five breeders of the first Cream horses listed on the ACDHA Registry.

We do know some things, because C T Rierison and Karene Topp recorded all the information they could gather about Cream horses in 1935, and their interviews became Record Cards then, and the basis of the ACDH Registry in 1944 when the Association was chartered. The information was also the basis for Karene's History and Development of the American Cream Horse in Feb 1946.

The earliest breeders owning and/or developing Creams were five men who all lived here in Lyon Township on farms just east of Jewell and just north of Ellsworth, as I've colorized on a Hamilton County map:



Inset of the 1883 Hamilton County Map. Each square equals one square mile.

Their names were

Harry 'Hat' Lakin, (purple farm)

Hans Nelson and his sons the Nelson Bros, (green farms)

John Yancy, (purple farm)

Erick Christian, DMV (town of Jewell and Hans Bergeson farm*)

and Charles Knox (red farm east of Jewell)

*further research is needed for the location of the Hans Bergeson farm

This is the order the first five American Cream Draft Horses and Pioneer Breeder names appeared on the ACDHA Registry of 1944: In position Number 1, Old Granny; in position Number 2 Nelson's Buck; Yancy No 3; Eureka No 4; and Knox 1st No 5.

ACDHA Registry Numbers 1-5

<u>Horse</u>	<u>Breeder/Owner</u>	<u>Year born</u>
1 Old Granny	Hat Lakin	1911 purchased
2 Nelsons Buck	Hans Nelson	1920
3 Yancy	Hans Nelson Owner: John Yancy	1923
4 Eureka	Hans Bergeson Owner: Dr Erick Christian	1926
5 Knox 1st aka Big Buck	Charles Knox	1926

Hat Lakin owned the anomaly, —the singularity if you will — foundational mare, Old Granny, purchased in 1911 at a farm auction in Story County, in the number 1 position on today's Registry.

Hans Nelson purchased Old Granny from Hat Lakin and owned Old Granny's foal, Nelson's Buck, born 1920, in the number 2 Registry position. He also owned a colt sired by Nelson's Buck in 1923 which he sold to John Yancy, date unknown.

John Yancy owned the Cream stallion foaled in 1923, in the number 3 position, purchased from Hans Nelson, later named Yancy on the Registry.

Dr. Erick Christian owned Eureka, Sired by Yancy, and foaled in 1926, as Registry number 4.

Charles Knox owned Big Buck, also sired by Yancy, and foaled in 1926, listed as Knox 1st, in position number 5 on the Registry.

Charles Knox or 'Charlie' was my grandfather. I didn't start learning about his work with Creams until 2019. After two years of research, I wrote a self-published book for my family about his farming with and breeding Creams between 1925 and 1945. Then I decided to be more active as an Associate Member of the ACDHA in my grandparents memory because they loved farming with these horses; I became interested in promoting and preserving the breed, which is the mission of the ACDHA, an all-volunteer group that has succeeded in doubling the number of Creams in the world today to about 450, from very low numbers in the 1980s.

I hope to support the efforts of those who are working hard to again double the number of Creams upwards from 450. So I'm researching and documenting local history, the early days of the breeders and horses that came before my grandfather got involved. And doing a series of three talks in 2023 to Celebrate National American Cream Draft Horse Day, of which this presentation is the second, with Nancy Eich Kayser, retired Hamilton County local historian as my co-researcher for the first two of them scheduled for this year.

I've learned that little has been preserved yet about the first twenty years when Hat Lakin bought Old Granny at a Story County farm sale in 1911, and pastured her back at his farm in Lakin's Grove just north of Ellsworth, to 1933, when CT Rierson in Hardin County began his successful persistent efforts to invest in, refine, market the new draft horse, form and charter and then lead the ACH Association in 1944, attain National Stallion Enrollment Board recognition in 1948, and finally to gain state recognition for the new breed in 1950.

We don't for example, have a photograph of all of the first five breeders, or of all of their Cream horses. But we haven't lost the chance to do that, not just yet... Children, grandchildren, great grandchildren may have items that are important details. This is why my goal is to Celebrate American Cream Draft Horse Day by both sharing information and encouraging every effort to gather photos, letters, and family stories for the sake of further documenting the early breeders and the early horses 1911-1933. If you know of details, or items, or of anyone who might remember, please consider looking for those items that are still around, yet unrecognized, and some of which may be hidden even in plain sight.

Last month the first presentation at the Jewell Museum on "Dr. Erick Christian 1858-1932, Jewell veterinarian and visionary in the early development of the American Cream Draft Horse", included newly found images of Old Granny No 1's owner, 'Hat' Lakin:



Fred, Bessie, and Hat Lakin. Courtesy of Janet Adix.



Fred Lakin, center and Hat Lakin, far right. Courtesy of Janet Adix

And photos of Erick Christian, located for the first time, owner of Eureka No 4:







Photos of Erick Christian p 7-9 courtesy of Mark Christian, Laura Obrien, Ann Omvig Maine.

And the Jewell presentation included the known photo of Charles Knox with Big Buck aka Knox 1st No 5:



Charles Knox with Big Buck aka Knox 1st No 5. About 1930. Esther Knox Murray photograph collection. Courtesy of the Esther Knox Murray family.

Research on Hat Lakin/Old Granny No 1, Hans Nelson/Nelson's Buck No 2, John Yancy/Yancy No 3, Dr Christian/Eureka No 4, and Charles Knox/Big Buck No 5, is ongoing. And today in Ellsworth, we will continue with that documentation of information and images for the first twenty years of the early development of the American Cream Draft Horse 1911-1933.

I'm here in Ellsworth with a special focus. I'm going to talk about **one man; one decision; and one horse**

- "The man" was John Yancy.
- "The decision" was this: John arranged to buy from his neighbor Hans Nelson an American Cream Draft Horse foal, sired by Hans' Cream stallion Nelson's Buck and Hans' black Percheron mare Queene. Hans Nelson and his sons the Nelson Bros lived on several farms near Lakin's Grove where John Yancy was farming when their foal, sired by Nelson's Buck, was born in 1923. After John bought the Nelson's 1923 Cream foal, purchase date unknown, from Hans Nelson, the horse came to be known as Yancy, listed in the third position on the American Cream Draft Horse Registry in 1935.
- "one horse" is how, after John Yancy bought Yancy No 3 he became a Cream Draft Horse breeder for Eureka No 4 and Knox 1st No 5. All American Cream Draft Horses today descend from them; All American Cream Draft Horses today descend from their sire, Yancy No 3. So that in the American Cream Draft Horse World, Ellsworth's claim to fame is John & Jessie Lakin Yancy and their Cream Draft Horse stallion Yancy No 3.

Part 1: One man. One decision. One horse.

Back in 1910, when John Yancy was 15, he did not continue to farm for his mother in Indiana. He left home. He went to Iowa. Plenty of people continued to go to Central Iowa for opportunity. To buy farmland or to open new business in the expanding small towns there or to work for farmers and townspeople until they could save enough money to take the next step in their own dream. This was "The Farmhand route as the way to prosperity" and it had worked for many.

We have questions and only a few clues about why John went to Iowa to work at age 15. But he went there as a hired hand.

- 1910 Census records taken April 15th in Indiana show him listed still in his mother's household, but 1910 Census records taken April 15th in Iowa also show him working as a hired hand for William and Morisini Anderson on their farm in Lyon Township east of Jewell.



William and Morisini Everitt Knox Anderson. Courtesy of Janet Adix.

- Perhaps John's family in Indiana expected him to return, and so told the Census taker that he lived there; perhaps the William Anderson family in Iowa had no doubt John was staying on as their hired hand when the Census taker came to their farm, and said that John lived there. John seems to have been counted on the federal Census in both places.

How did John come to work as a hired hand for the Andersons? Did John go to Iowa with his family covering for him in Indiana, listing his age as 19 on the Indiana Census for some reason? Did John have an introduction of some sort through mutual acquaintances, or simply knock on the door and ask for work? William would have been hard to fool about age I would think. He was a teacher in Canada, and then in Jewell, where he was later a Jewell school principal who served two terms as county auditor, and two as county superintendent of schools. He worked at First National bank in Webster City and spent 10 years there when superintendent and then bank employee. He was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Jewell. He had also served as the

mayor of Jewell for many years. In 1910 when John Yancy arrived, William Anderson was President of the Bank in Jewell. So just how was it that in both Indiana and in Iowa, the Census would say John was 19 and 20 respectively, when he was actually only 15?

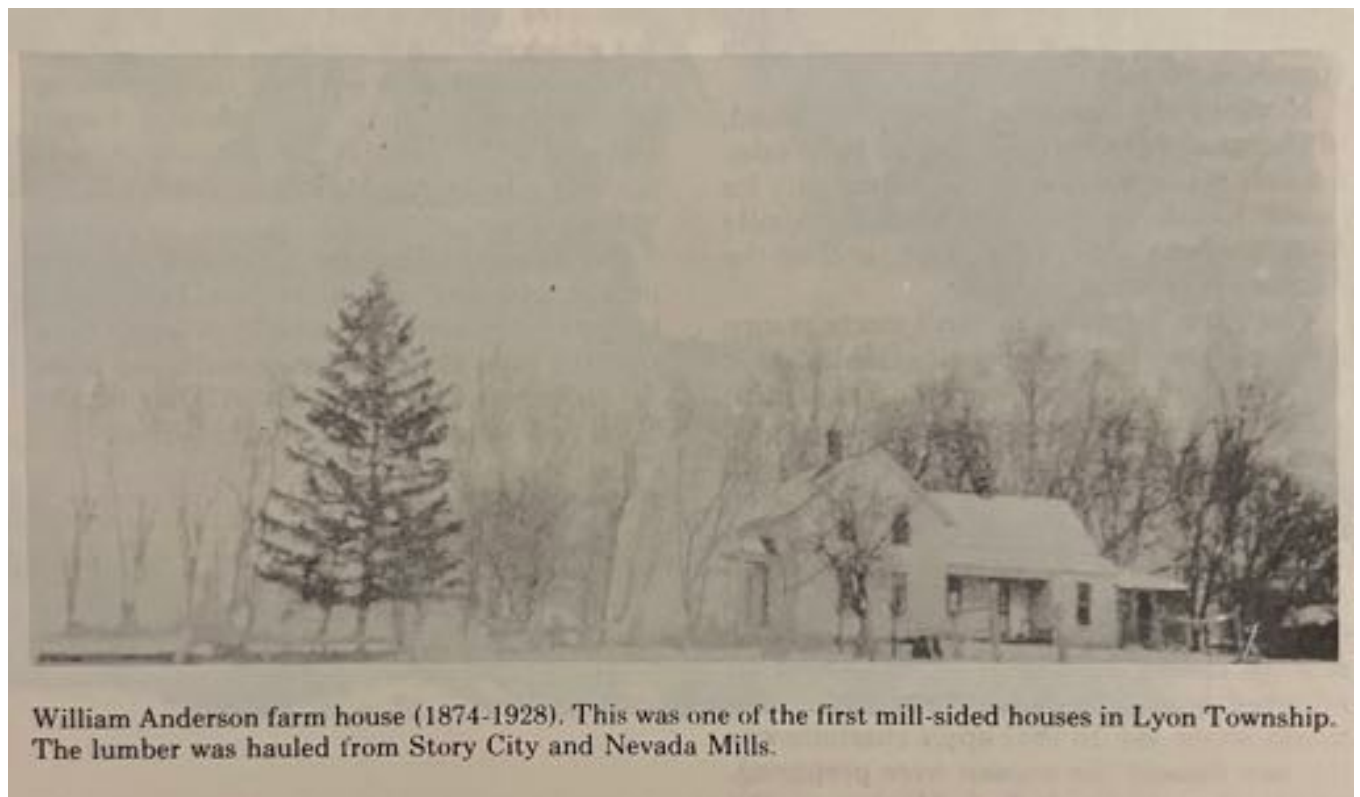
As a 5'9", 140 lb teenager with black hair, blue eyes, John was the youngest of the six Yancy children. His mother Barthenia Gould had grown up on an Indiana farm in Davis county, a farm her mother Susan Webber Gold ran after her father William Gold was killed as a Union soldier in the siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Susan, John's Grandmother, ran the Gold farm and raised her 6 children. And perhaps John's mother Barthenia was just as tough and independent as his grandmother Susan, because after 33 years of marriage, Barthenia divorced John's father Thomas two years before Thomas died in 1912.

John's father, born in Kentucky as the son of North Carolinians, died at the age of 68 of articular rheumatism of 48 years duration. Something happened after 33 years of marriage, that resulted in divorce just before he died, and Barthenia running the Yancy farm. It was an unusual repetition in that Barathenia's mother Susan had run the Gold family farm the generation before:

- Did John go to Iowa to work there as a farm hand, rather than stay in Indiana to work on his mother's farm, because he disapproved of the divorce?
- He completed 5th grade in school. Had John quit school after 5th grade to help out at home farming because of his father's chronic condition?
- In addition to his father's illness, how much was John impacted as a 4 year old by the death of his 17 year old sister Nannie in 1898, and his grandmother Susan's death in 1903 when he was 9?

We don't know how John reacted to these life events. But they are the conditions to consider about what might have shaped John before he left home and went to Iowa. And I don't believe for a minute that it was easy when John left home in 1910, and presented himself to the world and William Anderson in Iowa as a 19 year old looking for hired hand farm work, when he was actually still 15. But that seems to be what happened if we go by his death certificate and the date on his headstone, both of which give 1894 as his birth year.

While in Jewell, Iowa, John got married. It was four years later, in 1914, that John married Jessie Gertrude Lakin. On their marriage certificate Jessie was 19; John said he was 24 (but John was still 19, soon to be 20). We don't know when or how they met. Perhaps the location of the William Anderson farm, and the cousin relationships William's wife, Morisini Everitt* Knox, had in the community, were part of how John Yancy in Jewell and Jessie Lakin in Ellsworth came to know each other. The Anderson farm was a mile east of Jewell.



From The History of Hamilton County Vol I, 1986, p 79

It was located in Section 26 and took up the NW quarter of that square mile. As you can see from the map below and the Anderson farm location, was about two miles West of Ellsworth, where Jessie lived.

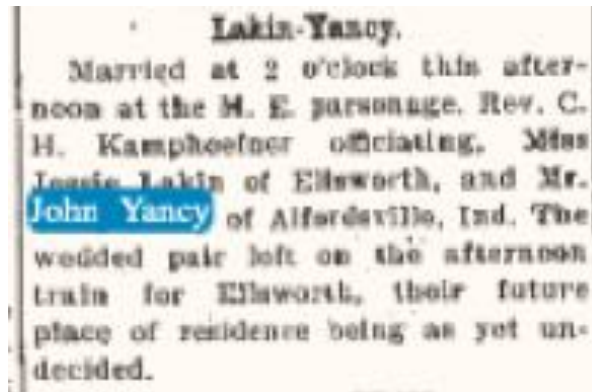
*In Everitt genealogy, Morisini's mother Harriet Everitt is Ellsworth Museum Director Janet Adix's gr gr grandmother; Harriet's brother Lewis Everitt is Clair Rierson's gr gr grandfather; Harriet and Lewis's sister Fanny Everitt is my gr gr grandmother. We discovered we are not only 4th cousins but also have Cream Draft Horse connections in that Janet is Hat Lakin's



shirt-tail relative and Jessie Yancy's second cousin once removed; Clair is CT Rierson's grandson; and I am Charles Knox's granddaughter

William and Morisini's youngest son, M Merle Anderson, who still lived at home on the Census of 1910 and truly was 19 — the same age 15 year old John Yancy was passing for that year — would have known of and socialized with Jessie Lakin as her older, shirt-tail relative who lived nearby. In such a small community with many interconnected families, John Yancy probably saw or met Jessie Lakin while working for the Andersons, just by knowing and working with Merle, because Morisini Everitt Anderson's Uncle's wife (Emaline Staples Everett) and Jessie's paternal grandmother (Emilie Staples Lakin) were sisters.

The significant thing about John and Jessie getting married in 1914 is that John would not have been five years older than Jessie when they married — he would have been almost the same age. But John was still saying he was 24. I know people tell white lies about their age. And Census records have varying ages on record for individuals that are in error, all the time. But in John's case, given the age range involved, I really think it was a very difficult thing he was doing. When you are young and inexperienced, you are young and inexperienced, no matter how old you say you are. Inevitably there must have been incongruities in his behavior at times when working or socializing because of it. My impression about the situation was reinforced by an announcement printed in the Webster City Tribune on the day John got married:



People start out married life young and in love, without much to their name, every year. However the young man who got married in Webster City and took the train to Jessie's parents house in Ellsworth, who was actually a 19 year old about to turn twenty and become a father six months later, had presented himself to the world in both 1910 and in 1914 when they got married, as much older than he actually was. And that young man, John, didn't know where they were going to live.

Fortunately, from 1914 when John married Jessie, he was enfolded into the Lakin family. It wasn't so much that he was out of contact with his family in Indiana — it was that the Lakin prominence in the area included him, and Jessie's father liked him. Jessie's father Fred Lakin was a well known Ellsworth resident and livestock-buyer who was Hat Lakin's younger brother and had been born and raised in Lakin's Grove, a small settlement founded in 1854 by his parents Luther Lakin and Emilie Staples, and his grandparents Elisha Lakin and Cynthia Ainsliee when they all left Illinois, and were earliest settlers there in Hamilton County. The Lakins had big families — Jessie's father Fred was one of Luther Lakin's 16 children; her grandfather Luther was one of Elisha Lakin's 15 children. And in 1914 Fred Lakin's mother, the widow Emilie Staples Lakin (who I just mentioned as a shirt-tail relative of Morisini Everitt Anderson), was 78 and still lived on the Lakin homestead farm in Lakin's Grove two miles North of Fred.



Kendall Young Library. Ellsworth: Slide #41 Inside the stockyards - Fred Lakin on the job. Hamilton County Historical Association 1975-1976, Led by Ed Nass, Iowa Central Community College and Dr Lloyd Oakland, retired. NEK

Just as Jessie's father was the son of pioneer settlers, Jessie's mother Aurelia 'Rilla' Frakes was the daughter of John Patrick Frakes and Fanny Gertrude Caulkins, "two fine old Martin county [Minnesota] pioneers." Not only were Jessie's maternal grandparents county pioneers by the Minnesota/Iowa State line, but her grandfather John Frakes had a half brother named Andrew Jackson Frakes who was famous for land he owned by Webster City in Iowa. When Jessie's mother died in 1903 and her father Fred remarried Dora Kumrow Grund the following year, extended family ties with the Frakes were maintained, and 8 year old Jessie had grown up with her step brother, 6 year old Clifford LeRoy Grund, in Ellsworth.

In 1914 some Iowa farmers and also some town and city people were beginning to look at farm ownership as an easy way to get rich quick... Rising corn prices, beginning in the early 1900's had sent the price of farm land and buildings on an upward path. Selling for around 30 cents a bushel in 1900, corn was selling at double that at

60 cents a bushel in 1914. Keep in mind that as Yancys married in 1914, almost every year from 1900 on had had a new all-time high property value record, and the farm of 1914 was worth almost three times its value in 1900. (The Palimpsest, Vol XLVIII, Oct 1967, No 10, p 461)

I don't know when John stopped being a hired hand and began farming independently with Jessie on rented farms near Ellsworth, but there are clues that they did just that and happily started their own family from 1914-1918, as Iowa farm "values continued to rise during the World War I years... and the years after 1914 saw "prosperity piled on top of prosperity" (Palimpsest p 462), during a time when, if you owned a farm, it was increasing in value over \$2,000 per year, and if you rented and farmed, you were making money — 1919 corn prices at \$1.30 a bushel were more than double the 1914 level. (Palimpsest p 462) Son Lester Monroe was born in 1914, daughter Maxine Rilla in 1915, and just before October 1918 when their son Theao Thomas arrived, John registered for the Draft in Hamilton County in 1917 stating that he was a farmer south of Ellsworth with an RFD Story City address.



Insets of Lester, Maxine, Theo, and Wilbur Yancy. Photo courtesy of Dennis and Patti Yancy.

Only two months after Theo was born, Jessie's 82 year old grandmother Emilie Staples Lakin passed away December 2, 1918. The end of her life unexpectedly set off a series of unforeseen family actions. As Emilie Lakin's children, including her son Fred, worked to settle Emilie Lakin's estate in 1919, their efforts collided with the year-long Iowa Land Boom, which was a unique Iowa farm-economy event of quickly climbing land pricing that crowned Iowa's fourteen year long run of farm prosperity. Emilie's children found themselves going to court over land partition — which generally means no one could

agree — and there was a court ordered notice of referee's sale for the partition and sale of Luther and Emily Lakin's farmland, with newspaper notices until sale day July 30, 1919 that said "\$2,000 down and balance due and possession March 1, 1920" for public sale of the Lakin estate, while the Land Boom, running from March 1919 to March 1920, was in frenzied full swing.

Nearly 50 years later the high prices people were willing to go into debt for, in order to buy farmland in Iowa in 1919, were still being written about as extraordinary: "nothing like the 1919-1920 (land) boom had ever happened before in Iowa nor has it happened in the 47 years following 1920" (Palimpsest p 463, 464)

The transaction that Jessie Yancy's father Fred Lakin, livestock buyer, longtime resident of Ellsworth, a 48 year old grandfather of three, and non-farmer made, was solemnly reported in the Story City Herald when he bought the Luther Lakin homestead for \$42,400 at the public estate sale in August, 1919:

The Lakin's Grove farm, over near Ellsworth, originally owned by Luther Lakin and which has been owned by the Lakin family for sixty-five years, was bought at auction Wednesday from the Lakin estate by Fred Lakin. There are 160 acres in the place and it sold for \$265 an acre. (August 7, 1919, p 4)

It was the the Land Boom; the price per acre was the highest paid locally. Fred probably planned from the beginning to ask John and Jessie to live on and farm the newly acquired home place because after Fred took possession on March 1st 1920, the Jewell Record reported three days later that Yancys moved there from a farm south of Ellsworth. (Jewell Record SOUTH OF ELLSWORTH, March 4, 1920 p 7). And probably counting on continued good hog market prices, John Yancy had already purchased three purebred Duroc-Jersey-Swine boars and six sows in October, 1919, anticipating the move the next March.

To summarize, Jessie's grandmother died, the Iowa Land Boom started, Fred Lakin bought the Luther Lakin estate, and John and Jessie moved there in 1920. The following year their fourth child, son Wilbur Yancy was born on the farm, at his great grandfather's place in Lakin's Grove, in June of 1921, when Lester was 7, Maxine was 6, and Theo was 3. John and Jessie Lakin Yancy farmed the Luther

and Emilie Staples Lakin home place for Fred Lakin for six years and made their decision there about owning a Cream draft horse.

Part 2: One Man. One decision. One horse.

Hans Nelson had purchased Old Granny from Hat Lakin, and crossed her with his Percheron stallion for that outstanding colt that foaled in 1920 that I mentioned before, called Nelson's Buck. John Yancy, farming the Lakin place for Fred by March 1920, would have seen Old Granny in the Nelson pastures; he would have eventually seen her with her foal, Nelson's Buck that year. The 11 month gestation time for horses allows us to guesstimate backwards that if Nelson's Buck foaled in 1920, then Hans Nelson purchased and owned Old Granny no later than 1919. As time went by John Yancy and family living on the Lakin place would have seen Nelson Buck turn 1 in 1921, and turn 2 in 1922.

According to The History of the American Cream Horse by Karene Topp 1946, sometime during 1921 and 1922 Dr Erick Christian was asking the Nelsons to keep their Cream stallion, Nelsons Buck, ungelded. Dr Christian had noticed that Old Granny kept having foals that matched her, regardless of the coloring of the Sire. As the vet in Jewell, he had talked for years, even while Hat Lakin owned Old Granny, about the possibility that Old Granny's matching foals were so unusual it was indicating a new draft horse breed. By 1920 when Nelson's Buck foaled and Hans Nelson owned Old Granny, Dr Christian asked the Nelsons to wait if they were gelding Nelson's Buck because he wanted to see if that stallion, in the generation after Old Granny, sired Cream foals: it was the only way to see whether or not this really was possibly a new draft horse breed.



Dr. Erick Christian

Nelsons did as Dr. Christian asked with Nelson's Buck, but only for about a year. The Records from 1935 confirm that when the Cream Nelson's Buck was 2 in 1922, Hans crossed the stallion with one of his black Percheron mares named Queene, and though nobody back in 1922 really knew what would happen, whether there would be a Cream foal or not, it was a spectacular Cream colt that arrived in 1923.

Spectacular or not, I can't imagine what brought John to make the decision to buy that 1923 Cream foal from Hans Nelson. From the time when the Iowa Land Boom ended in March of 1920, farmers were struggling with a downturn in the economy, with no end in sight. The Iowa Farm Depression, began at least nine years before Wall Street crashed in 1929, and was going to last another fifteen years after 1929, until 1944. In 1923 was John still raising the purebred Duroc hogs he bought in 1919? Was he raising Durham cattle, like Jessie's grandfather Luther had there years before? What about corn — was he raising corn, and plowing with draft horses? or was John farming with a tractor? What draft horses did he even have? The 1925 Census for Hamilton County reported that of 2,171 farmers, whether renting or owning farms, only 611 had tractors. Did John buy Hans Nelson's 1923 Cream foal because he wanted to raise a new breed of Draft horse, as Dr Christian had hoped for, or was John's decision to please Jessie and about how her Uncle Hat Lakin owned Old Granny in the past there on the Lakin farm, so they would have a foal from that line there on the Lakin farm and in the Lakin pastures once again?

We don't yet know when, after the colt arrived in 1923 and was weaned, it would have been brought over to the Lakin farm. And though in 1935 this horse was recorded as Yancy No 3, we don't know when the Yancys purchased him, or what he was first named: the purchase date of John's decision to own the 1923 Cream is unrecorded and unknown. Even so, after 1923 we can piece together a few facts: In 1924 Yancy was a yearling and by then, Nelson's Buck had probably been gelded; when Yancy turned two in 1925, John Yancy probably owned him because that would have been the latest date by which the stallion could have been crossed with a mare in order for that mare to birth a foal for the client eleven months later in 1926. Yancy No 3 was the only Cream draft horse descended from Old Granny available for breeding in 1925 if you wanted to try for a

Cream of your own, and John Yancy had been approached by two clients in 1925 for that very purpose.



Charles Knox. Courtesy of Esther Knox Murray and June Knox Nemechek Photo Collection.

The first client was Dr. Erick Christian. Erick's Buyer-deal for the early summer of 1925 was that Hans Bergeson's light bay mare would be crossed with Yancy No 3 to try for a Cream foal that he, Dr Christian would own, after it foaled in 1926. The second client was Charles Knox. His deal with John Yancy for July of 1925 was that his bay grade Shire mare Flody would be crossed with Yancy No 3 to try for a Cream foal, which he would own, also due in 1926.

This was how, in the summer of 1925, John Yancy's one decision to own a Cream Draft Horse as the Buyer of Yancy No 3, led to John Yancy in a new role as the owner of Yancy No 3 breeding Cream draft horses.

This was not an economic answer for surviving the hard times. In the Fall of 1925 John was in the newspaper with Airdale pups for sale, which was also not an economic answer for the times. One month later, on November 25, 1925 "Neighborly Act, Ellsworth News" listed John Yancy with twenty men and thirty wagons who put their neighbor WW Holt's entire crop in the corn crib by 2 in the afternoon, and then hauled and stacked his fodder.

As a traditional safety net by neighbors and kin (Mr Holt's wife, Cora Keesee was a Staples and thereby Fred Lakin's first cousin), even this tried and true remedy for giving a helping hand in hard times, was not enough to be an answer for the toll that depressed crop prices were taking year after year on Iowa farmers, many of whom had improved and/or expanded with crop loans and mortgages before and during the Iowa Land Boom, and now, no

matter what they sold off or got term extensions for, were unable to pay back or pay off.

Page 2 of Daily Freeman Journal, published in Webster City, Iowa on Saturday, November 28th, 1925

with the corn husker Mr. Smith caught the sleeve of his coat and his arm was carried the full length into the husker before the machine could be stopped, breaking the bones in the forearm and elbow of the right arm and badly crushing the arm to the elbow. In order to release the arm it was rolled out, as that seemed the quickest way to bring relief. Mr. Smith was taken to Webster City, where the arm was x-rayed. The wound has been giving him a great deal of pain, especially the first few days. He is, however, resting easier now.

A Neighborly Act:

Ellsworth News: Friends and neighbors of the W. W. Holt family spent Friday in his cornfield, and had a regular picnic. With about twenty wagons and over thirty men, his entire crop was put in the crib by about 2 o'clock. Mr. Holt's corn was blown down badly last summer so his friends decided that if a heavy snow came it would be a great loss to him. After the corn was in the crib they hauled

Page 2 of Daily Freeman Journal, published in Webster City, Iowa on Saturday, November 28th, 1925

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and stacked his fodder. Mr. Holt is now able to do a little light work, after a severe sickness, beginning in September.

The dinner was served by Mrs. Holt assisted by her daughters, Mrs. A. H. Thompson and Mrs. Ryberg, also friends, Mrs. Sadie Harmon and Mrs. John Yancy.

To partly show his sincere appreciation of the kindness shown him, Mr. Holt in return, invited the men with their families, to his home the same evening to partake of an oyster supper. Seventy guests were present. At a late hour they departed for their homes much pleased with such a successful and enjoyable day.

The men who worked were: Otto Knudson, John and Fred Nelson, Chas. Barkhuff, Perry Peterson, Wm., Edgar and Roy Harman, Lewis and Carl Rasmussen, Frank Johnson, John Peterson, Ed Ward, Fred and John Bonner, Geo. Olson, H. H. and R. R. Keese, A. H. Thompson, Jim Felix, John Yancy, John and Carl Jewell, J. H. Corn, Jim Slaughter, Frank Vondersitt, Oscar Gabrielson, Henry Johnson, Geo. and John Barkema, Walter Jensen, Martin Shaw, Jeter Shillinglaw, Jr., Peter Rasmussen, Henry McDonald, Elmer Voss and Lawrence Austin.

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All may explain why, even before Erick Christian and Charles Knox's Cream foals arrived in 1926, the Yancys made a bold economic change: John and Jessie decided to negotiate terms of a rental farming contract with a farm owner over in Dows, IA in 1925. They moved to Dows by March of 1926. I would have to guess they would have continued farming as renters for Fred Lakin if his debt margins would have allowed him to compete with the Dows contract terms.

But pressure on Fred Lakin over meeting mortgage payments was possibly already underway: The American Commercial Savings Bank later took over ownership of Fred Lakin's farm in September of 1928.

When John and Jessie negotiated the Dows contract in 1925, the the number of farm renters outnumbered the number of farm owners in the Hamilton County for the first time in Iowa State Census history, so in one way Yancys, having rented farms since they first married in 1914, were part of that growing group. But in another way, when they stopped renting from Fred Lakin and moved to Dows to begin farming on a year long contract that began in March of 1926 and was negotiable yearly, they were part of another trend — a new farm renter subset of entrepreneurs. Farm contracts like theirs meant they were gambling with the thinnest of margins, and that given what they negotiated, they might move to make money with their contract — money dependent on their guesses about what crop prices might be the following year.

For the next twelve years, the Yancy family moved if a better contract warranted it and, as per the ACDHA in 1946, until Yancy No 3 passed away, the Yancys took their Cream stallion Yancy with them each move.* During those years the Farm Depression continued and farming contract to contract was so prevalent as an economic answer to current conditions, that newspapers printed contract forms for the renter entrepreneurs among all the other legal forms they offered farm Renters and Owners alike.

My grandparents, Charlie and Hattie Hildal Knox were neighbors and renters a few miles away from the Lakin farm in Hamilton County, who made the same decision in 1925 to take a rental farm contract for 1926 and move, at exactly the same time the Yancys did. March of 1926 they began a contract over in Rose Grove Township at one of the Ordain Oskvig farms, after farming as renters for my great grandmother, Mary Ellen Merritt Knox on the home place, from the time they married in 1915. In their situation, Mary Ellen had life estate and as per the provisions of my great grandfather's Will, one of her

*If the original Record Card information was gathered in 1935, and The History and Development of the American Cream Horse in 1946 said Yancy No 3, foaled in 1923, lived with the Yancy family until he passed away at the age of about 15 years, does that mean that the ACDHA gathered information about Yancy No 3 a second time i.e. after 1938?

children would have to buy out the others when Mary Ellen passed away if they wanted to own the Knox farm. Given the farm economy, if my grandparents ever wanted to own a farm, they were going to have to figure out a way to make money — to have enough money for a down payment on a farm to buy one.

Like the Yancys, they negotiated a contract in 1925 and moved to begin farming as renters for Ordain Oskvig by March 1926. Their Cream foal, Big Buck was born that May and my Dad, Charles Kenneth Knox, was born that September on the Ordain Oskvig farm.

Page 7 of Daily Freeman Journal, published in Webster City, Iowa on Monday, August 31st, 1931

LEGAL BLANKS

The following legal forms are carried in stock at all times:

- ATTORNEY'S FEE AFFIDAVIT
- ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE (Corp)
- ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE
- BILL OF SALE
- CHATTEL MORTGAGE
- CHATTEL MORTGAGE (Dup. Form)
- CORPORATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT
- CERTIFICATE OF PROTEST
- FARM LEASE (Share Rent)
- FARM LEASE (Cash Rent)
- INDIVIDUAL OR PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT
- LAND CONTRACT
- NOTICE OF PROTEST
- ORIGINAL NOTICE (Short Form)
- ORIGINAL NOTICE (Long Form)
- PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT
- QUIT CLAIM DEED
- RELEASE OF MORTGAGE (Short Form)
- RELEASE OF MORTGAGE (Long Form)
- REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE (3 Forms)
- TOWN LEASE
- TRADE NAME FORMS
- WARRANTY DEED

Sold Single Blanks or in Quantities

Freeman-Journal Press

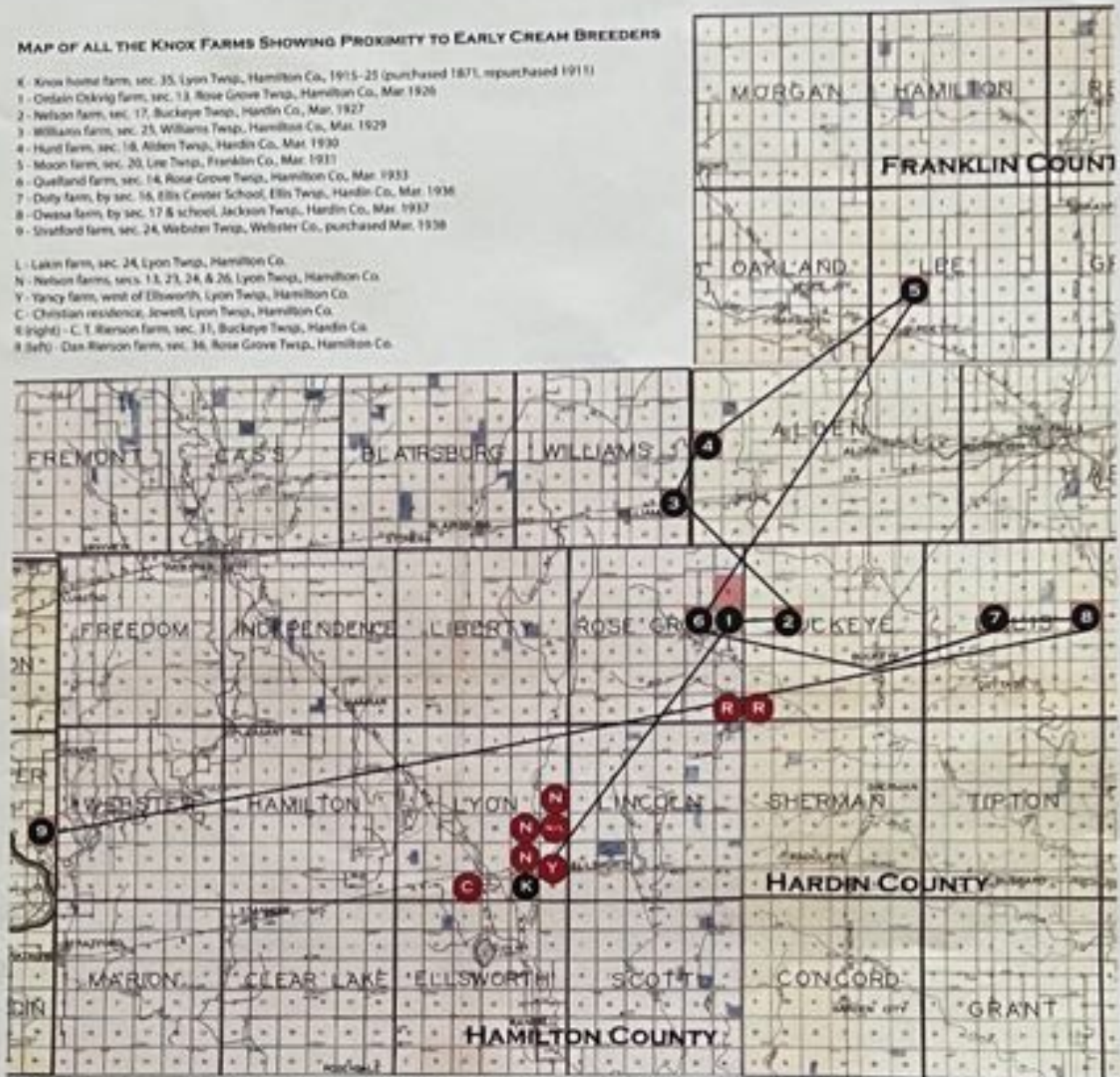
TELEPHONE 83

AND THE POLISH

These are all the places Charlie and Hattie Knox contract farmed during the Farm Depression years until they purchased a farm in 1938:

MAP OF ALL THE KNOX FARMS SHOWING PROXIMITY TO EARLY CREAM BREEDERS

- K - Knox home farm, sec. 35, Lyon Twp., Hamilton Co., 1915-25 (purchased 1871, repurchased 1911)
- 1 - Orlain Oskvig farm, sec. 13, Rose Grove Twp., Hamilton Co., Mar. 1926
- 2 - Nelson farm, sec. 17, Buckeye Twp., Hardin Co., Mar. 1927
- 3 - Williams farm, sec. 25, Williams Twp., Hamilton Co., Mar. 1929
- 4 - Hunt farm, sec. 18, Alden Twp., Hardin Co., Mar. 1930
- 5 - Moon farm, sec. 20, Lee Twp., Franklin Co., Mar. 1931
- 6 - Quelfand farm, sec. 14, Rose Grove Twp., Hamilton Co., Mar. 1933
- 7 - Doty farm, by sec. 16, Ellis Center School, Ellis Twp., Hardin Co., Mar. 1936
- 8 - Owens farm, by sec. 17 & school, Jackson Twp., Hardin Co., Mar. 1937
- 9 - Stratford farm, sec. 24, Webster Twp., Webster Co., purchased Mar. 1938
- L - Lakin farm, sec. 24, Lyon Twp., Hamilton Co.
- N - Nelson farms, secs. 13, 23, 24, & 26, Lyon Twp., Hamilton Co.
- Y - Yancy farm, west of Ellsworth, Lyon Twp., Hamilton Co.
- C - Christian residence, Jewell, Lyon Twp., Hamilton Co.
- Wright - C. T. Benson farm, sec. 31, Buckeye Twp., Hardin Co.
- R (RR) - Dan-Renson farm, sec. 34, Rose Grove Twp., Hamilton Co.



Composite map Courtesy Barb Homrighaus and Ruth Homrighaus.

John and Jessie Lakin Yancy were doing the same thing as farm contract renters. These are the places they lived, starting with Dows in Iowa and then in Martin County, Minnesota from 1926 to 1942:



- 1 – 1926 Dows, Iowa
- 2 – 1929 Martin County, Minnesota
- 3 – 1930 Rolling Green Township, Martin County, Minnesota
- 4 – 1934 Welcome, Minnesota
- 5 – 1935 Rural Fraser, Martin County, Minnesota
- 6 – 1936 Henry Ripkey Farm near Triumph (later Trimont) Minnesota
- 7 – 1939 Ceylon, Minnesota
- 8 – 1940 Fox Lake Township, Martin County, Minnesota (owns farm)
- 9 – 1941 Triumph, Minnesota
- 10 – 1942 Central City RFD, Linn County, Iowa

Composite map Courtesy Barb Homrighaus and Barry Homrighaus

Another thing the Knoxes had in common with the Yancys back then had to do with family emotional support. I always thought my Dad was born on and grew up on the farm my grandparents bought in 1938. Until I researched Charles Knox and American Cream Draft Horses, I never realized his family moved 1926-1938 as contract renters during the Depression, or how very much my grandparents relied on letters and visits with my grandmother Hattie's mother, Lena Maland Hildal Rentschler, as part of their family network for emotional support during the Depression. The Yancy's did the same. After their Dows contract ended, they moved to farm where Jessie's mother's family was from, just over the Iowa line in Martin County, Minnesota, where they were warmly welcomed in 1929:

"John Yancy and family of five have moved up from Franklin county, Iowa, to occupy the John Niesz place in Rolling Green, and [Mr and] Mrs Niesz has moved to Iowa on an 1,100 acre place which he acquired in a trade for Martin county holdings. Mr Yancy begins as a Martin county citizen in the right way by ordering the Sentinel. He is a good citizen whom we are glad to acquire from the Hawkeye state, and will find that his neighbors of Rolling Green are neighborly folks. Mrs Yancy is a grand-daughter of Mr and Mrs John Frakes [Frakes], fine old Martin county pioneers who last fall moved to Swea City and who recently celebrated their 53 [63] wedding anniversary at that place." March 27, 1929. Martin County Sentinel, p 3. from Dona Paris, Martin County MN Historical Society. email 24 Feb 2023"

In summary, the **"one decision"** to own Yancy No 3 was made while John and Jessie Lakin Yancy were living on Fred Lakin's farm as the Farm Depression was underway. In 1925 when their Cream draft horse stallion was two, the Yancys were renting the Lakin farm when they crossed Yancy No 3 with two mares for two clients who were specifically hoping for Cream foals in 1926. Before either Cream foal arrived, the Yancys and one of their clients each independently made the bold economic decision to begin contract rent farming and moved.



Jessie Lakin Yancy photo Inset. Courtesy Dennis and Patti Yancy

Yancys left to begin their new contract in Dows in March 1926 and after three years, Yancys left Dows for rent contract farming in Rolling Green Township, Martin County, Minnesota.

The question after making the decision to own a Cream draft horse descended from Old Granny, and having two clients who wanted Cream draft horse foals in 1925 is this: was John Yancy still breeding Yancy No 3 for clients between 1926 and 1938, and if so, were his clients hoping for Cream draft horse foals? The answer is "Yes" Yancy's were breeding their draft horse Yancy No 3, and also "No" — John Yancy's ad in the April 1929 Martin County Sentinel, one month after leaving Dows, says it all:



John was farming, shearing sheep, and publicly standing Yancy No 3 as a Percheron stallion in 1929. He had another ad in the newspaper, offering to sell or to trade his 1928 Chevy truck for cattle. It was the Depression and every income source counted.

All of which seems to suggest that before Yancys moved to Dows in 1926, Dr Erick Christian and Charles Knox's interest in trying for a Cream foal had been a very local one, and a very personal one

for both in whether or not Old Granny and her Cream foals were a new draft horse breed. When Eureka No 4 foaled for Dr Christian in 1926, probably late Spring or in April in Jewell, it was shortly before Big Buck No 5 foaled for Charles Knox in May on the Ordain Oskvig farm. Yancys were in Dows. Three years later Yancys left Dows in 1929, Yancy No 3 was six years old, in prime condition, and a source of income. As a Percheron. Yancy No 3 was not being offered then or promoted then as a unique and possibly new draft horse breed. This means the Yancys decision to own Yancy No 3 may have had stages: at first it was a decision to own a draft horse descended from Old Granny's line, then it developed further when they decided to breed Yancy No 3 in 1925 because two clients wanted to try for Cream foals like Old Granny, and finally it evolved on or before 1929 when the practical money option was to stand No 3 as being of a known breed, ie as his Dam, a Percheron.

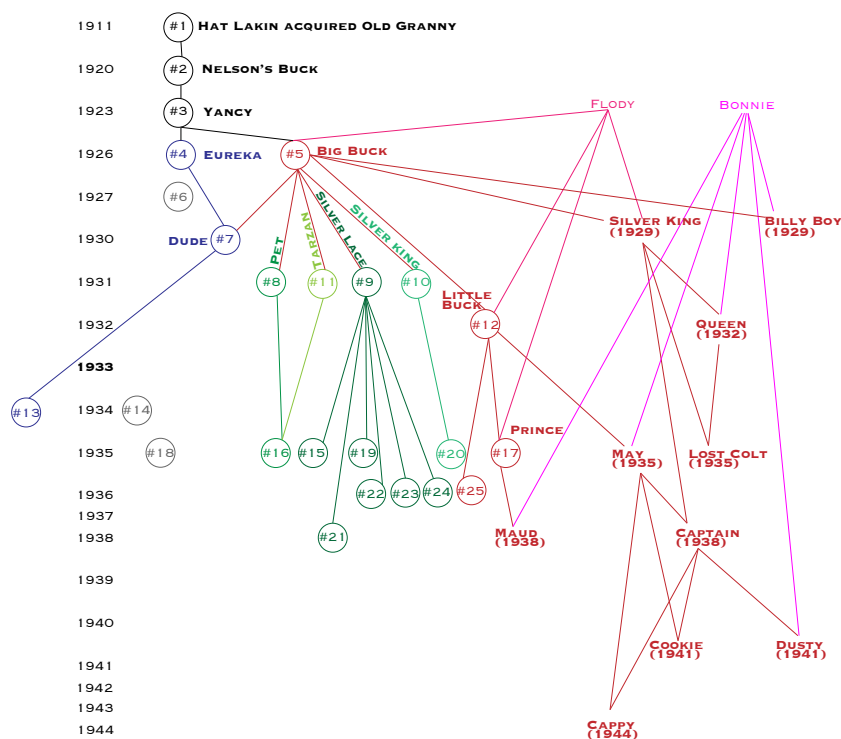
Part 3: One man. One decision. One horse.

Despite the absence of any information about Cream draft horses sired by Yancy No 3 in Dows or Martin County MN after 1926, the impact of this American Cream Draft Horse after he sired the two Cream foals, Eureka No 4 and Big Buck aka Knox 1st No 5, was profound.

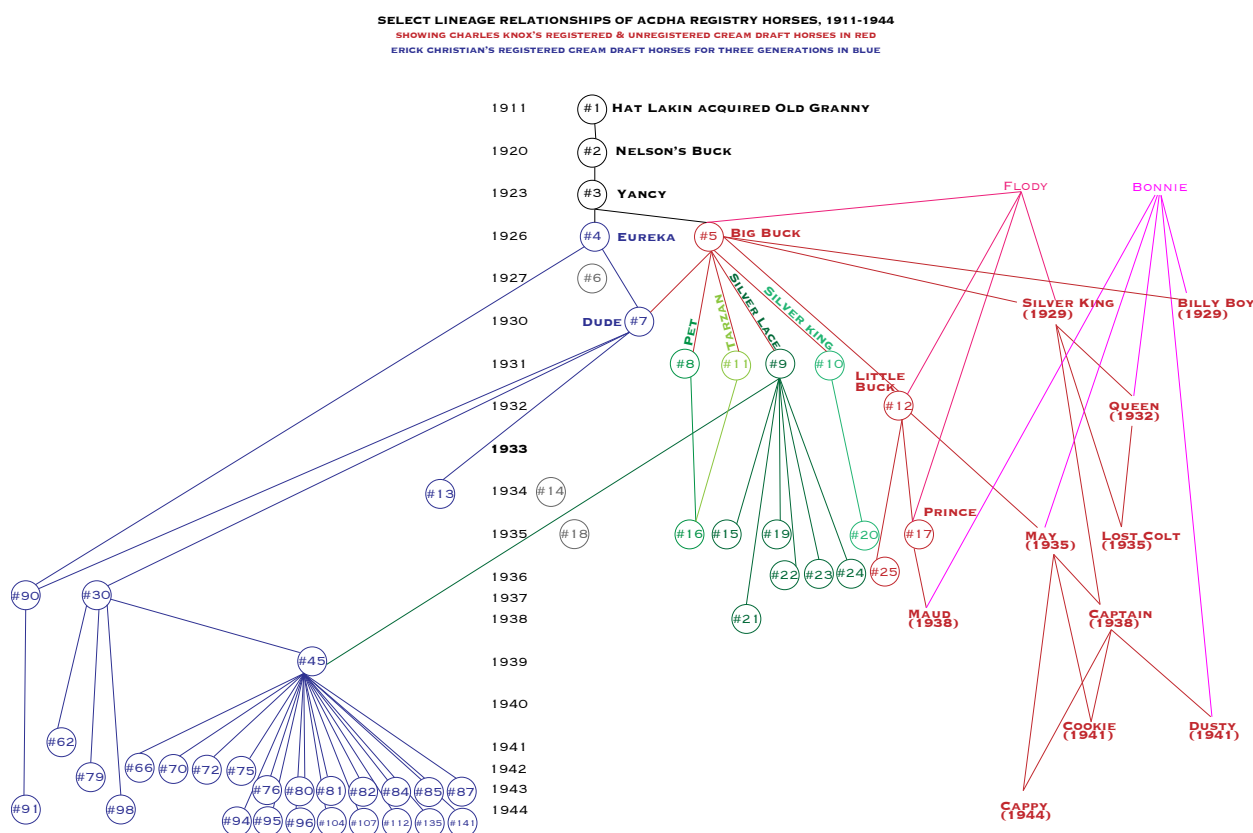
The next three diagrams illustrate Yancy No 3's impact.

The first diagram illustrates the descendants of Yancy's foal, Big Buck No 5, as owner Charles Knox steadily developed a line of Creams 1926-1944 while farming with them:

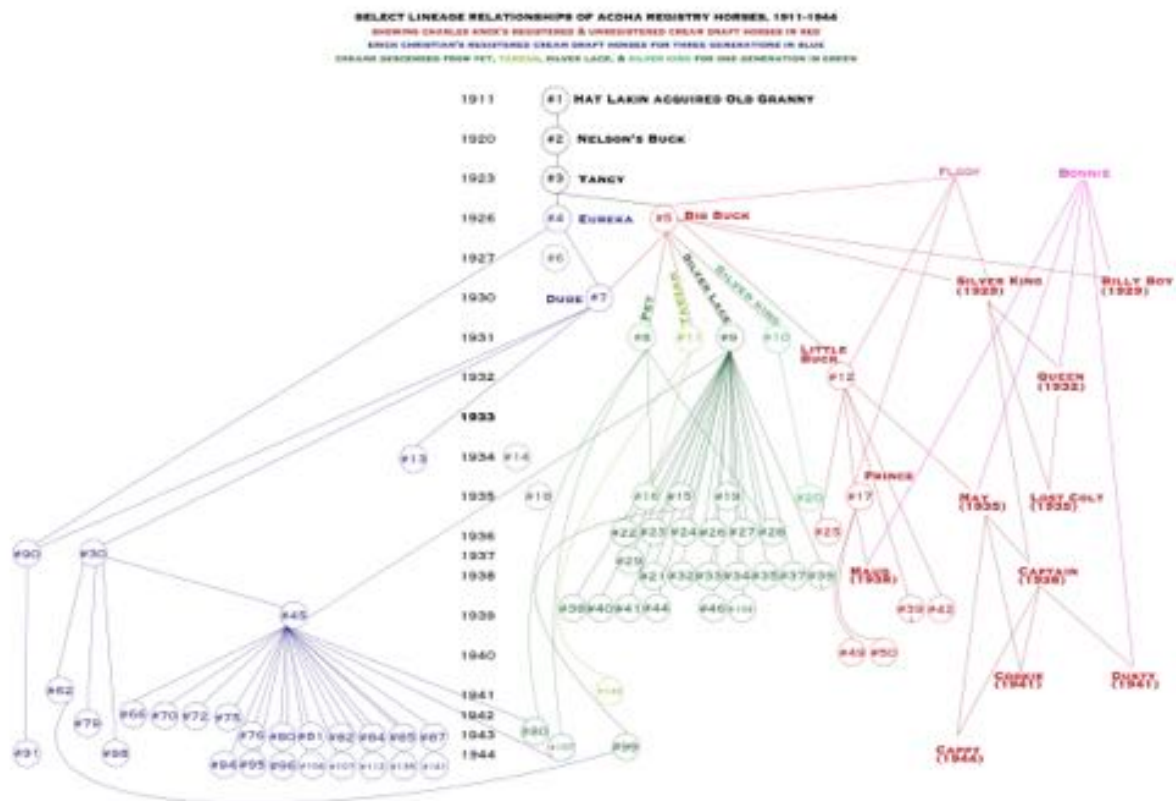
LINEAGE RELATIONSHIPS OF ACDHA REGISTRY HORSES NOS. 1-25
SHOWING CHARLES KNOX'S REGISTERED & UNREGISTERED CREAM DRAFT HORSES IN RED



The second diagram illustrates the descendants of Yancy's foal Eureka No 4, including when Dr Erick Christian and Charles Knox collaborated in 1929 to cross Knox 1st No 5 and Eureka No 4 for Dude No 7. This was the first Cream on Cream cross and the first time since 1911 that there was more than a 50/50 chance of producing a Cream. Dr Christian sold Eureka and Dude to Sam Twedt before he died in 1932; Sam and others developed that line 1932 - 1944:



The third diagram* illustrates how Yancy's line through Big Buck, after Dude No 7 in 1930, resulted in three very influential Cream horses in 1931, in that Pet No 8, Tarzan No 11, were the beginning of CT Rierson's later successful breeding program in 1933 with Pet and Tarzan, and Silver Lace No 9 was GA Lenning's famous breeding stallion Silver Lace, from whom about a third of all Creams are descended today, and whose many fillies were found and purchased from 1935 on by CT to include in his breeding program with Pet and Tarzan.



*Note: Pet #8 and Tarzan #11 were owned by brothers Henry and Fred Johnson respectively. They were among the WW Holt neighbors and friends listed with John Yancy in 1925. They were also neighbors of the Knoxes, as was GA Lenning, owner of Silver Lace No 9, in 1929 and 1930, when Knox's moved from the Nelson farm in Sec 17 of Buckeye Twsp, Hardin Co, to the Williams farm, Sec 25 in Williams Township, Hamilton Co., and then to the Hurd farm, Sec 18, Alden Township, Hardin Co. The central section of the third diagram is in process. When

finalized, there will be more than 60 additional green circles descending from the central section 1939 to 1944.

Yancy No 3s impact on American Cream Draft Horse development is undeniable. I hope the diagrams adequately show the important place Yancy No 3 holds in the early history of the only Draft Horse breed native to the United States. I hope it's clear how Yancy, as the direct descendant of Old Granny, is the horse from which all American Cream Draft Horses are descended today. And also that in ACDHA history, John and Jessie Lakin Yancy and their Cream Draft Horse stallion Yancy No 3 are Lakins Grove and the town of Ellsworth's "claim to fame." With all of that in mind, I am very proud to introduce nine family members and friends of the John and Jessie Lakin Yancy family who traveled from Dover, Delaware, Garland Texas, and the twin cities in Minnesota to be here today. They are Paige Yancy, her fiancé Garrett Rogers, her parents Kipling and Linda Yancy, her Aunt and Uncle Patti and Dennis Yancy, her Uncle Martin Yancy, and Cheryl and Ross Hanson.

Earlier this year, John and Jessie Yancy's great granddaughter Paige answered my [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) inquiries about whether there might be photos of the American Cream Draft Horse Yancy No 3 connected to her family genealogy research. Paige said her Uncle Dennis Yancy would know, and Dennis recalled a large image of his father Theo Yancy with his brothers and sister and parents, all on horseback. The remembered photo was searched for and located in family memorabilia. The photo, undated and unlabeled, is shared with us all today.

If the boy on the pony, fourth from the left, is Wilbur Yancy, born in 1921, he looks as though he might be 12 or 13, which dates the photo to about 1934. The bare tree branches suggest the photo was taken in the Spring of 1934, the year Wilbur's eldest brother Lester Yancy married Frances Atzenhoefer August 16th — perhaps Frances isn't in the photo prior to the wedding scheduled for later that year. In 1934 the Yancy family would have been living on a farm near Welcome, Minnesota. It appears that Theo Yancy is far left. He would have been 16 in 1934. To his right is Maxine Yancy, 19; Lester Yancy, 20; Wilbur Yancy, 12 or 13; guest #1; then John Yancy, 40; guest #2; guest #3; and Jessie Lakin Yancy, 38. It's unknown why the photo was taken or who the three guests are: it does not appear to

be a funeral, a wedding, or a club. Most importantly, for the purposes of our Celebration today, Yancy No 3 is the draft horse second from the right hand side. In 1934 he would have been 11 years old.



This photo is rich with information. As Nancy Eich Kayser said:

“it had to have been taken by a professional photographer as a small hand held camera would not have the clarity, depth and width as shown in the pix. Everyone is dressed up and artistically posed - which would not be the case if this was just a casual shot. No one would have had that many saddles on their farm unless they were ultra wealthy and raised horses for a living. It appears that there are at least 3 teams and 3 saddle horses in the photo. Was it a traveling photographer who supplied saddles/bridles for photo ops...This is an extremely unusual photo.....In all of the old photos I've seen, I've not seen a family photo like this, posed, with the

women and girl side-saddle in long skirts, and wearing the frilled heavy bonnets, anywhere.”

For the Yancy family to still have this unique photo of their family with their Cream draft horse, Yancy No 3 is, in my opinion, miraculous. If the photo was taken in 1934 it may be 89 years old. That it has survived all these years is incredible. In terms of Cream Draft Horse documentation, it's the only photo I've seen to date of John and Jessie Lakin Yancy, possibly the only photo of Yancy No 3 that exists, and as such represents the only photo found to date of one of the first three Creams 1911-1933 on the ACDHA Registry.

After closely examining the photo on a large computer monitor (before this meeting), and speaking with Yancy family members (after this meeting), I'm adding this: I now believe that John

Yancy's **one decision** had another stage after 1929. Even in the late 1930s, developing Creams as a new draft horse breed was not John Yancy's passion, vision, chance, luck, or plan. Not only did Yancys invest in the saddle horses we see depicted, but Martin Yancy recalls his father Theo saying that John Yancy was very proud of owning the first tractor in Martin County. Furthermore, researched newspaper items after 1926 reveal that John and Jessie were in the Ellsworth area visiting family, attending reunions, helping out former neighbors etc well into the 1940s. Yet up through 1938 when Yancy No 3 passed away, they did not

- between 1926 and 1938, showcase Yancy No 3 as a “proven” and available Cream Sire,
- between 1926 and 1938, sell Yancy No 3 to the few interested Cream breeders back in Central Iowa
- between late 1920 through the 1940s, develop a string of Cream draft horses to farmed with, as Charlie Knox did in Illustration 1



- in 1928 or after 1929, collaborate with Dr Erick Christian to cross Yancy No 3 with Eureka No 4, as Erick did with Charlie Knox in 1929
- after 1932, cross Yancy with Eureka by pursuing a deal with Sam or Joe Twedt, and develop the breed as they did after Dr Erick Christian's death in 1932
- in 1933 and/or 1935, sell Yancy No 3 to CT Rierson when CT was looking for breeding stock before 1939
- in 1935 and beyond, pursue growing interest in Yancy No 3 as a Cream stallion after CT and Karene recorded all of the breed history they could find in 1935 — because between 1935 and when The History and Development of the American Cream Draft Horse was printed in 1946 someone in the ACDHA followed up enough on Yancy No 3 to know that he died at the age of about 15, and that fact only existed after 1938.

Finally, considering how the four Yancy children grew up with Yancy No 3, and the Cream draft horse was part of every family move for 12 of its' 15 years of life, no stories seem to have been handed down after 1938 to John and Jessie's grandchildren about Yancy No 3 as an early American Cream Draft Horse, or of that Cream's importance to their Lakin heritage, or as a noted part of the Lakin achievement with Old Granny generally.

In closing, with “**One man. One decision. One horse.**”, John Yancy's role in wanting a Cream from Hans Nelson out of Old Granny's line, breeding that Cream for two clients who wanted a Cream foal, and then standing that stallion as a Percheron, keeping that Cream horse for decades through the Farm Depression its entire life during hard economic years, is one of the stories about the early development of the breed, and an important one. Jessie Lakin Yancy's role, hinted at as one in which as a Lakin with her uncle Hat first owning the breed's foundational mare Old Granny, she played an important part in why the Yancy's acquired and then kept the American Cream Draft Horse through many contract farming moves, has been less knowable within a traditional family role that may be masking her actual influence by default.

The Yancy family's photo from about 1934, including Yancy #3, is an exciting and wonderful part of Celebrating National American Cream Draft Horse Day July 11th. We once again thank them for this rare opportunity to see an image of Yancy No 3 and thereby learn more.

Before we adjourn, and drive over to Zearing and Nevada so that we can all see Tony Stalzer and Butch Sowers' American Cream Draft Horses, I would also like to acknowledge and thank everyone who helped make today's meeting possible. The list of support is long, with special thanks to the Ellsworth Library, the Ellsworth Museum, Librarian Salena Schmitz, Museum Director Janet Adix, Nancy Eich Kayser, Clair Rierson, ACDHA Secretary Treasurer Kerrie Beckett, ACDHA President Belle Davis, Jodi Knox, Galen Crawford, Tony Stalzer, Butch Sowers, and Barry Homrighaus.

The third and final presentation of this series is in Radcliffe next Saturday on July 15th at Town Hall re Charles and Hattie Hildal Knox and the American Cream Draft Horse "Pioneer Breeders".