**THE MAXWELL STORY**

When I became curious, about my family's history on my mother's side I decided to research and write a small booklet on our connection. My great grandparents came from New York to Kirkland, Washington in 1889 just before the big Seattle fire. Because I now live in Kirkland it was easy to research different areas of interest. My great grandfather owned a hotel, a blacksmith shop, and various other business interests in Kirkland. His father Job Gilbert fought in the Civil War in the North Army. Job was wounded and sent to Harwood Hospital in Washington D. C. The facilities were tents with very unsanitary conditions. He contracted Typhoid Fever and died leaving his young son Elmer and his brother fatherless. It appears Elmer was also a Kirkland City Councilman. I began to search the old newspapers. Luckily our library had archived the old newspapers on microfiche and much information was available to me. Because of their visibility in the Kirkland area, there were many articles describing their lives in this little town.

My mission to write a book on the Gilbert family of about 30-40 pages, turned into a 220 page book. I inserted into the book all the articles I could locate from the old newspapers. Also in my quest, I found many cousins I did not know existed. I found cousins in California, Arizona, Oregon, Ohio, and even England. It was a very exciting journey. Since the writing and printing of the book much information has come to me regarding more ancestors in this family. I found I had ancestors who had come over on the Mayflower, who fought in the Civil War for the North, and even those who fought in the American Revolutionary War. I even found an ancestor who fought in the Spanish American War. This information gave me a broader picture of my mother's family.

I then began to wonder about my father's family. Except for very small bits of information, he never talked of them or their journey through life. My father's sister Eunice stayed in the Chicago area where my father's maternal family lived. My daughter had been in contact with her two daughters. And on a whim, I decided to find the phone number of one of her daughters, Maryanne (Mimi), who had moved out to the Portland, Oregon area. We connected and started exchanging information. Her sister Paula had passed away a few years before during an operation. Paula had already started her investigation of her mother's paternal and maternal families. Mimi gave me the information that Paula had gathered on the family.

I am very grateful for Paula’s information and Mimi’s generosity in sharing Paula’s discoveries and their family pictures.

I wondered why it was so important to discover families. I was searching around in my computer and discovered a quote from Alex Haley, author of “Roots”. It read*,* ***”in all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum. An emptiness. And the most disquieting loneliness.”***

Somehow this made sense to me and it prompted my journey to discover my ancestors.

I was going to combine my father's paternal side, the Maxwells, and his maternal side the Fiedler's. However, once researching the Maxwells first I found so much information, pictures and articles from librarians, historical society organizations, and from even more relatives. I decided each family needed a book all to themselves. So begins the Maxwells from Woburn, Massachusetts story. This book may also be over 200 pages. And, I have already researched and gained so much information on the Fiedler family that they will need their own book.

**SAMUEL GALBRAITH MAXWELL, SR.**

I am beginning with Samuel G. Maxwell, Sr. born 1795 (Pictou, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, Canada. I could not locate a death date for him. He was married to Anna Blair born 1795 and she died 1854 in Merigomish, Nova Scotia, Canada. My cousin Paula wrote that she believes the G. in Samuel's name stood for Galbraith. Samuel’s grandson Samuel G. Maxwell, had the same middle name.

**ANNA BLAIR MAXWELL (wife of Samuel Maxwell, Sr.)**

Only information I have on Anna is that she was born 1795 Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada and died 1854 in Merigomish, Nova Scotia, Canada and that they had three children.

1. Samuel G. Maxwell, Jr. born 1824 in Pictou, Pictou County, Canada and died August 16, 1874 New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada.
2. Anna Maria Maxwell born 1813 in. Pictou, Pictou County, Canada
3. John R. Maxwell (my great great grandfather) born June 26, 1828 in Pictou, Pictou County, Canada moved to Massachusetts USA died August 12, 1908 in Winchester, Massachusetts, USA.

So far in my research, this was the only information I found on John’s father Samuel, Sr. and mother Anna and the first two born Samuel and Anna. The third born John R. Maxwell was my great great grandfather. I have traced John and Mary's family to present day.

**Samuel Maxwell and Anna Maxwell’s three children:**

**Firstborn was Samuel Maxwell, Jr.**  Born 1824 he died on August 16, 1874 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada and he was buried in Riverside Cemetery, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia Canada. He was married to Catherine Henderson who was born in 1839. She died in 1905. Samuel and Catherine had the following children:

* 1. John H Maxwell was born in 1855
	2. Anna Blair Maxwell born in 1858
	3. James W Maxwell born in 1860
	4. Robert S Maxwell born in 1864
	5. Kenneth Grant Maxwell born in 1868

**Second born was Anna Maria Maxwell** (her husband was James Henderson). She was born in 1813 and they had the following children:

1. Elizabeth Henderson born 1849
2. Anna Blair Henderson born 1851
3. Mary M Henderson born 1853
4. George Henderson born 1855
5. Maxwell Henderson born 1857
6. Rebecca Henderson born 1859
7. W. Brown Henderson born 1862
8. Clara Henderson born 1865

**Third born, my great great grandfather, John R Maxwell** born June 26, 1828 in Pictou, Nova Scotia Canada. He died on August 12, 1908, in Winchester, Massachusetts, USA. He was buried in Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn Massachusetts. John received his U. S. Nationalization on October 30, 1872 in the Court District: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. He was 43 years old. When he lived in Pennsylvania he met his wife Mary Jane Nichols who was born in 1832 in Pennsylvania, she died 1913 in New York City New York. They were married January 6, 1852 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania at the First Independent Church.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH AND TOWN RECORDS**

**JOHN MAXWELL TO MARY J NICHOLS**

**JANUARY 6, 1852**



Mary Jane Nichols, daughter of George Nichols and Mary Wasson, was born on February 27, 1832, in Woodbury New Jersey, and died on February 27, 1913 in New York City, New York. She was buried in the Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn Massachusetts. John and Mary Jane had the following twelve children:

1. John R Maxwell, Jr. born September 10, 1852
2. James W Maxwell, 1854
3. Anna B. Maxwell born 1856
4. Samuel Galbraith Maxwell born September 5, 1858
5. George Henry Maxwell born September 16, 1860
6. Virginia Maxwell born July 24, 1863
7. Victoria Maxwell – born September 15, 1865
8. Milton G. Maxwell born September 26, 1867
9. Mary E. Maxwell born October 13, 1869
10. Blanche B. Maxwell born March 1, 1872
11. Albert Hobart Maxwell born December 2, 1873 (Twin)
12. Frances Hobart Maxwell born December 2, 1873 (Twin)

There are some gaps that I will continue to research, but I wanted to put together this book to show a strong Maxwell family history on the East Coast. Maxwells moved out as far as the West Coast in Seattle Washington and down to California through Arizona, Texas and many other parts of the United States. I am hoping to find even more relatives that could tie together the Maxwell family. So now I will begin the family journey of John R. Maxwell and his wife Mary Jane Nichols Maxwell.