

The Eustis Family

Charles Lyman Eustis was born November 15, 1802 in Rutland, Worcester Co., MA, and died July 10, 1890 in Beaufort, Beaufort Co., SC. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Mason Eustis. He married first Sarah B. Williams May 24, 1829 in Taunton, Bristol Co, MA. Their children were Julia Williams Eustis, b. May 05, 1830, John Tappan Eustis, who was born November 22, 1831, and Edgar Mason Eustis, born Feb 28, 1834. Sarah died December 27, 1840. Charles married second Deborah Jane Barker January 02, 1842, daughter of Samuel Barker and Abigail Blanchard. She was born April 09, 1817 in Bethel, ME.

They had four children; all were born in the same house (illustration 1). Sarah Jane was born June 16, 1844; Charles Buckminster and George Barker were born April 20, 1848, and James Lyman was born February 08, 1860 (possibly in Auburn, ME) and died August 30



Illustration 1: Charles L Eustis House, Dixfield, Maine

of the same year. Charles & Deborah Eustis and their daughter Sarah were in Livermore, ME in the census of 1870, where he was a farmer, though he had a spinning mill in Dixfield as well as other interests. Sarah married March 02, 1875 to Phillimore (or Prentiss) Whitman, who was also born (August 09, 1838) in Maine but by 1870 was a watchmaker in Beaufort, SC¹, and was living with his brother Joshua on Washington St. In the census of 1880 Charles and Deborah are listed in the census as being in Beaufort.

¹ Mr. Prentiss Whitman, son of Alden and Betsey Whitman, was born near Bangor, ME August 9, 1838.

He came to Beaufort in 1864 and opened a jewelry store on Bay Street, continuing in business there till he sold out to Mr W.R. Bristol. He bought the pleasant estate on the corner of Green and Carteret Sts., now owned by Mr. Claghorn, and in March 1875 brought hither his bride, Miss Sarah Eustis of Auburn, ME.

Two children were born to them, Charles, a beautiful boy who died at the age of 2 years; and Herbert, an unusually interesting lad, who died at the age of fourteen, after the family had moved to Augusta.

Mr. P.M. Whitman wrote to his mother, soon after he located in Beaufort, that he had joined a Bachelor's Club whose members neither swore, not smoked, nor drank, nor gambled. His letters induced his older brother, J.A. Whitman, to come here and later bring his family and buy an estate and to spend his life here. Their parents also spent their last years in Beaufort. During the twenty-five years of his residence here, Mr Whitman was the life of his large circle of friends, admired and loved not only for his clean life and sterling character but for his bright, genial and charming personality, which won all who knew him.

Like many more of our native New Englanders who have come to the Sea Islands, "Beaufort" was written on his heart. And here his earthly body was laid to rest last Saturday, in the family lot in the Baptist Churchyard. Beaufort [SC] "Gazette", Jan 21, 1916.

A few years before his death in 1892 Charles L. Eustis wrote the following letter about his youth and an important land sale.

Beaufort, SC July 25 1886

My Dear Grandson,

I was delighted last week to rec. letters from two of my sons, John T and E.M.E. and two grandsons in regard to their excursion to the tim pond in the town of Eustis and I thought perhaps a short out (outline?) of my first interest in that wild region would interest you, and accordingly I will give you some of the details of my experience. When 20 years old I was convinced that the pioneers of a new country had the best opportunity to make money and accordingly my brother John and Harvey Wait (Brother-in-Law) agreed to go and investigate the Dead River region in the month of May, 1822. We set a day. When I was ready they were not which was thrice repeated and I started alone to explore the wilds of Dead River. On Horsback I started for Kingfield 75 miles from Dixfield, arrived there the second day, put up my horse till I called on my return. On foot assended the high land west of Kingfield at the head of what was called Jerusalem Stairs which are gintle regular steps in solid rock of the mountain only navigated on foot --- arrived at Jerusalem 2 o'clock PM 2 miles to Dead River engaged a pilot to show me the way for 100 pay in advance, he representing himself as a wonderful traviler in the woods --- after going about 2 miles I found myself some rods ahead of my guide and I simply thought he intended to desert me. I told him I had engaged him to show me the way and I thought he could better do it by going ahead. We arrived at Mt. Noah Staples at the head of Mt. Bigelow at sunset. The next day with Mr. Asa Richardson we ascended Mt. Bigelow about 2000 feet had a grand view of the surrounding country with the same Mr. Richardson I went up the north branch to tim Brook and then returned to Dixfield.

In the autumn of 1822 my mother wished to visit her friends in Mass. and she owning a good chaise the only one in town and I having a good strong horse proposed to harness up and take the journey through Mass in September. On arriving in Boston I learned that there was to be a sale of land at auction in Boston of land in Maine belonging to Mass embracing the same I had in view; the terms was 1/4 cash the ballance in 4 equal annual payments. I talked the matter over with Daniel Adams who married my cousin and Joseph Clark who married my aunt, of Medfield, Mass, if they would make the first payment of cash and I would meet all the other payments by sales of timber and give two thirds of the land all paid for at the end of 4 years which as you will undoubtedly see was a most extravagant offer. After I viewed the land in May the forest fires went through the tract I expected to

get my first money from and in November I went to see that in order to save anything it must be cut immediately and foolishly sold at a loss of more than \$1500, whereby I got the most insulting and abusive letters from Clark and Adams and backed by my old aunt Clark our intercourse was very cool during the winter and as we had so many unhappy words I resolved to take the responsibility on my own shoulders. In the spring of 1823 had in my (own) enough to pay them what they had advanced and told them I was determined to clear them from all responsibilities and I told them I would go on and complete the original agreement on one condition that I would never be the subject of such complaints and paid over to Mass the next payment due Oct 8, 4 months in advance and have kept the bills all paid in advance all bills paid and I had given Clark and Adams some 4 or \$400 clear profit and after some 4 or 5 years I recommended to buy north half of next range which is now called West Eustis. When we completed that trade I told them I should charge Company 200 per day for service; Adams proposed 1/2 the amount to be paid me when I had paid from sales of timber but we never cut a stick of timber on the tract but I sold land and timber together for 300 per cent profit giving Adams a profit of \$11,000 when he refused to pay me extra dollar because I did not sell the timber but sold land and timber all together.

... - I hope you will be able to read & understand my tremulous writing as I am almost 4 score & 4 years old.

Your Affect. Grandpa Chs. L. Eustis
(signed)

Grandma & Aunt Sarah desire to be remembered in Love



Illustration 2: Charles Lyman Eustis memorial, near Eustis, ME

The transaction was commemorated in 1922 with a monument at the crossroads near Eustis, ME.² (illustration 2)

“Charles Buckminster Eustis was born Apr 20, 1848 at Dixfield, ME and died Jan 5 1922 at Minneapolis, MN. He was educated in public schools and at the Edward Little Institute, Auburn, ME, and learned the jewelry trade at Lewiston, MA. He worked at the trade temporarily at Hartford, Conn., came to Minneapolis and in company with his twin brother, George B. Eustis, established the jewelry firm of Eustis Bros, 1872. A Republican, Universalist, 32nd degree Mason [32] and a Shriner. His recreation was yachting and he was a commodore of the Minnetonka Yacht Club.”³ His twin brother George Barker had the same schooling, was also a Republican and Universalist, was a member of the B.P.O.E. Club, and died Mar 7 1932 at Minneapolis, Minn.”⁴

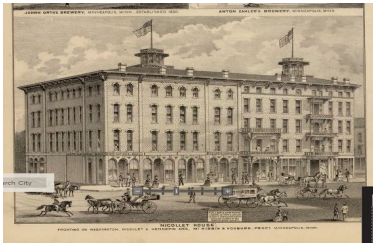
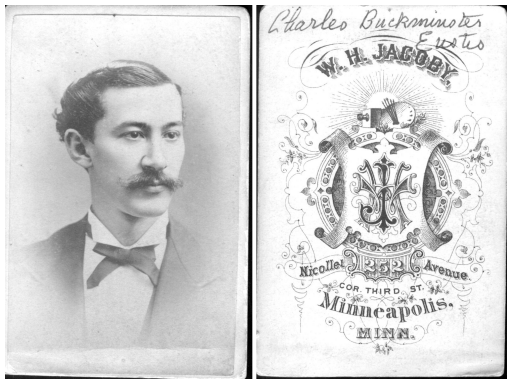


Illustration 3: Nicollet Hotel



Charles Buckminster Eustis [1848-1922] about 1875

Illustration 5: Charles B Eustis about 1880

The brothers’ jewelry and watchmaking business began at 15 Nicollet House Block in 1875, moved uptown to 238 Nicollet Ave in 1880. In 1888 it was at 328 Nicollet Ave, in 1899 at 600 Nicollet Ave., and in 1910 5 S. 7th St. The Eustis brothers operated their business until about 1915, when they sold it to Jacobs & Co. Both George and Charles became members of the Jacobs organization,

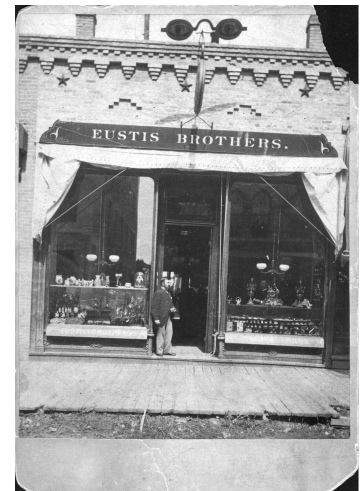


Illustration 4: Eustis Bros Jewelry Store, abt 1874

2 The Franklin Journal, Farmington, ME Aug 8, 1922 Founding of Eustis is Memorialized

.... Charles Lyman Eustis, was born in Rutland, Mass., in 1822, the pioneer lumberman of the Dead River and the first white man to go through this part of the Country after General Arnold’s march toward Quebec. Desiring to perpetuate the memory of this sterling pioneer, his oldest grandson, now a man past the noon-day of life, John P. Eustis of Cambridge and Newton, Mass., has erected a memorial in the Cathedral Pines in Eustis, a natural, irregular prism, we think some six or seven tons, cut from an outcropping ledge some four or five miles away, hauled to the pines and erected on a concrete base.

On this natural shaped monument, some eight feet high, is fixed a life-size bas-relief likeness in bronze of the pioneer. It was modeled from a daguerreotype taken when he was about forty years of age. The bronze also shows appropriate words and dates. Discerning people who have seen this impressive memorial are unanimous in praise of it from an artistic point of view, and all who have seen the picture from which the bas-relief was modeled express wonder and delight for the perfect likeness attained by the noted sculptor, F.W. Allen of Boston.

It is interesting to know that George Barker Eustis of Minneapolis, Minn., the last surviving son of Charles Lyman Eustis, arrived here a few days ago to view the memorial. He is visiting his nephew, J.P. Eustis, at The Birches, in Eustis

3 Eustis, Warner - The Eustis Families in the United States from 1657 to 1968 - limited private edition published in Newton, MA.

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and George was associated with it for 15 years, until about 5 years before his death.⁵

The brothers lived together most of their lives. George married Mary Lois Skidmore about 1875 and they had two children. Henry Whitmore was born December 06, 1877, and Louise Annette was born October 30, 1879. Mary Eustis died December 22, 1886.

George Eustis was “known as the father of choral Minneapolis, [and] was known best as a leader in the formation of the Apollo Club. From boyhood, he had been interested in choral singing and in 1874, two years after coming to Minneapolis, he organized the Bassini Club, a male chorus.

“Next, he joined with David Blakely, concert manager, in forming the Mendelssohn club, which presented recitals by a mixed chorus and sponsored the Minneapolis appearances of many noted artists. This club opened the old Grand Opera house on Sixth street with a series of concerts.

“Mr. Eustis was a leading figure in the organization of the Apollo Club in 1893 and was one of its most active and enthusiastic members until age compelled him to retire from all musical and business activities a few years ago. One of the early presidents of the club, he held every office in its organization and for many years was a member of the board of directors.⁶

“Mr. Eustis is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Herbert Easterly of Detroit, and a son, Henry Eustis, who is attached to the United States legation at Berne, Switzerland. Mrs. Easterly will arrive in Minneapolis Tuesday morning. Funeral arrangements were delayed pending her arrival.”

George (and his father) also apparently had an interest in genealogy, according to a letter written by H.L. Eustis in 1878

I am happy to add you to the list of my correspondents on the question of genealogy. In sheer despair, I have rushed my results into print, with all their imperfections, thinking that those interested would perhaps correct my mistakes, when they would not take the trouble to send me the desired information. The history of the family is now in press, and will appear in the next number of the Historical & Genealogical Register. I shall have extra copies of this struck off, which I propose to send to members of the family, in hope of getting corrections and additions. I have printed it in the New England Register because I thought it would reach a very much larger number of readers, and persons connected by marriage would thus become interested and perhaps aid me in procuring information. Your father has helped me more than any other member of the family and it is entirely through his aid that I have been able to trace some of the branches who migrated to Maine. There are still several of the branches of the family untraced. If you can get me any information of any of the name in Minnesota, or in Ottawa, Ill of the family of William ⁶ (son of William ⁵ of Newburyport) who last lived near Fort Atkinson, Jefferson Co, Wis I shall be much indebted.

In the mean time please send me, that I may add it when the proof sheets come in, the date of your marriage and the maiden name of your wife's mother. My record now reads George Barker ⁷ s of Chas. Lyman ⁶ and Deborah Jane Barker; b Apr 20 1848, m _____ Mary Lois, dau of William & Frances C Skidmore of Mt Vernon, N.Y. [Were you married at Mt Vernon or in Minneapolis?] children: Henry Whitmore ⁸ b Dec 6 1877 (Minneapolis?)

Give my regards to your father, and tell him I recall with pleasure his short visit to me.



*Illustration 6: "Breezy Point Club - my first home
⁵(signed) Catherine Eustis Peck*

Charles Buckminster Eustis was a member of the choir of the Church of the Redeemer. He also, with his brother George and friend Charles Reeve, was one of the charter members of the Apollo Club and the Minneapolis Choral Society. He also was one of the charter members of the Minneapolis Club. He was active in the Minnetonka Yacht Club. Charles and three friends built a house on Spirit Knob, Lake Minnetonka, a favorite holiday and picnic

⁶ Obituary of George Barker Eustis

site near Minneapolis, which they christened “Breezy Point.” Charles met Charlotte Duhme in 1895, and they married in 1896. Quite a lot more about Charlotte and her life is covered elsewhere.

The Eustis family seems to have lived a pleasant life – see Catherine Eustis Peck Memoirs for one view – summers were spent at Lake Minnetonka, and they made occasional trips to Cincinnati.

Gran and perhaps Carly and I agreed to meet at the Santa Barbara Zoo for an outing with the little ones, Spencer, Andy, Chris and David. We were all having a wonderful time, the children looking forward to riding on the newly rehabilitated train. We saw the dolphins, ad the elephants and so on, and the children were especially enchanted at one point by the sight of a monkey. But Gran shrank back - didn’t like to stand close to the cage. And she explained that when she was a little girl she was given a penny to hand to the organ grinder’s monkey. When she reached out her hand, the monkey snatched the whole hand and bit the terrified little girl.⁹



Charles Buckminster Eustis [1848-1922]- about 1920

For a number of years the Eustis family lived in the summer at Breezy Point Club. One weekend day Grammy looked out and saw some people in a big car pull up, spread their belongings and have a picnic. Grammy was furious; she took down the license plate number and found the name of the owners. The next weekend she bundled up a picnic basket and her children Catherine and Claribel (Gran said that she was mortified), drove to the imposing home of the intruders, and settled down for a nice picnic. Soon the “hosts” raced out and said “Whatever are you doing?” To which Grammy retorted, “You came and ate on MY lawn last week, and now I’ve come to

YOUR house.”

The early 1920's were difficult ones for the Eustis family. In December of 1921 Claribel married Torrance Fiske, a handsome and intelligent young man, an architect, of Minneapolis. Charles Eustis died less than a week later of gall bladder disease. The family sorrow might have been alleviated by the birth of Claribel’s baby, but late in her pregnancy she contracted scarlet fever and she died November 28, 1922. Her son, Torrance, born November 05, 1922, died of pneumonia December 14, 1922. Catherine's marriage was failing and Charlotte moved about 1925 to California.

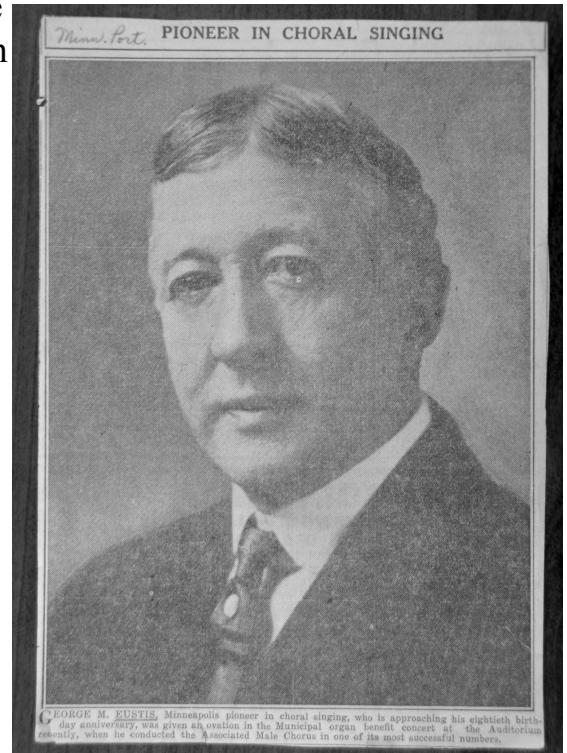
George Barker Eustis remained in Minneapolis, enjoying yachting and music and occasionally having his sister Sarah Whitman as a house guest. Sarah died in Augusta, GA in 1931, and George in Minneapolis in 1932.

A brief discussion of the children of George B Eustis; these would have been Gran's first cousins. Henry was born in 1877, in Minneapolis, and Louise was born in 1879. Henry, in 1902 applied for a passport to go to Europe to study music. He got a job at the U S Consulate in Berlin and was employed as a courier between Berlin and London with a special diplomatic passport. In 1909 he married a woman from Maine, twenty years older than he, but they seem to have been content. Henry at some time after 1916 became a code clerk, but did well until his wife and sister-in-law were killed in a motor-car accident in 1929. From then Henry's "fitness reports" became less and less positive.

The next year he married a German woman and he complained more and more, wanted less-expensive postings and more money but was increasingly inflexible and cranky. Finally he was sent home in 1940, and he and his German wife lived the rest of their lives in Augusta, Georgia. More elsewhere

Louise Eustis, sometimes called Lulu, married on January 23, 1902, Louise Annette Eustis married James Frederick Whallon, more than 20 years older than she. They married at the Church of the Redeemer; more than a thousand people were present at the wedding. Louise's little nieces Catherine and Claribel were her attendants. Louise and her husband had no children, and the marriage was ended when James Whallon was killed in an auto accident in 1926.

Louise's second husband was Herb Easterly, and they lived in Detroit in a very upscale residential hotel. Louise died in 1949, Herbert in 1962. In the late 1950's he apparently moved and gave a lot of stuff to Gran who passed it on to Dad and Mom. After he died there was some stuff that went to Carly, cut-glass sherbet glasses to Bill, and gold and green plates with the Easterly monogram in the center. There were some fabulous golden plates, not intended to be used but to somehow hold the place - 8 dinner plates and 12 smaller dessert/salad plates. Also a partial Limoges service, white with a gold Greek key border; 18 dinner plates, 12 salad plates, 13 small bowls, 6 dessert plates, 8 coffee saucers, 3 coffee cups, 3 other cups with matching saucers, 1 serving platter & one gravy boat. Also (probably) some little brilliant-cut glasses, 2 or 3 oz.⁷ When I told Gran about some of the things that had been given, as I understood it, to Mom by Herb Easterly Gran sniffed, "well, I'm glad he did. I sent him boxes of dates for years."⁸



⁷ Interview with Helen Sieger, 1982.

⁸ Interview with CEP, 1986