

LEE ANCESTRY

(Photos courtesy Candace Medeiros, unless otherwise listed.)

As we now know for certain, George Waith Lee was the son of Franklin Lee and Marianne Waith. Marianne was reportedly born in London, England, on January 23, 1831, the daughter of William Waith and Sarah Bunting.¹ At age 2, she and her family sailed on the Columbia from London to New York, arriving on 5 September 1832.² They settled in Silver Creek, Chautauqua, New York, where Mr. Waith was a clergyman.³ After her marriage to Franklin Lee, Marianne became the mother of George and six daughters:

Henrietta Maria (a.k.a. Etta Lee) who married Edwin Jacob Ferdon and had two sons, Franklin Lee Ferdon and Edwin Nelson Ferdon;

Cora, who died in infancy;

Elizabeth, a.k.a. Lizzie and Daisy, who married Henry E. Smith and had one child, Marianna Lee Smith;

Mary, who married Frank Osborne and had three children, all of whom died in infancy;

Nora, who married James Padelford Brown and had one child,

Dorothy Woodbridge Brown; and

Anna Olive, who did not marry.⁴

Mrs. Franklin (Marianne) Lee was a life member of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, which promoted reforms through literary materials.⁵

Marianne
Waith Lee



EVENING NEWS.

N. Y., WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1903.

CHICKEN BONE IN HER THROAT KILLED HER.
Mrs. Franklyn Lee Meets a Sudden Death on Her Way Home From Florida.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 6.—Mrs. W. Lee of Buffalo, N. Y., died here today from the effects of a chicken bone which caught in her throat yesterday. Mrs. Lee, accompanied by her husband, Florida, accompanied by her husband, so the dispatch states, when her sudden death occurred. At the home of the family this afternoon it was said that there was no one there when she died.

EVENING, MAY 6, 1903. NO. 4395

AN AGED WOMAN IS FATALLY CHOKED BY A BONE

Sharp Substance Scratched Her Larynx, Causing Acute Inflammation from which death Came Shortly.

WAS STRANGER IN THE CITY

Dead Woman Was Mrs. M. W. Lee, of Buffalo, N. Y., Who was Enroute Home at Time of the Accident.

On May 5, 1903, while traveling in the dining car of a train from DeLand, Florida, back home to Buffalo, New York, Mrs. Lee swallowed a portion of a chicken bone, which lodged in her throat. Although initially not alarmed, she later agreed with her husband to stop in Charlotte, North Carolina, so a physician could examine and perhaps extract the bone from her throat. They checked into the Buford Hotel, and a message was sent to Dr. E. R. Russell, who came and inserted an instrument to detect the location of the bone. Because her throat was swollen from the bone passing through the larynx, the doctor decided to try to push the bone into the stomach rather than extract it. When he left at midnight, she seemed to be okay, but in less than 30 minutes after his visit the next morning, she died from "acute oedema of the larynx." The body was transported to an undertaker and later shipped to Buffalo for burial.⁶

Headlines about Marianne's unusual death in 1903 (see endnotes)

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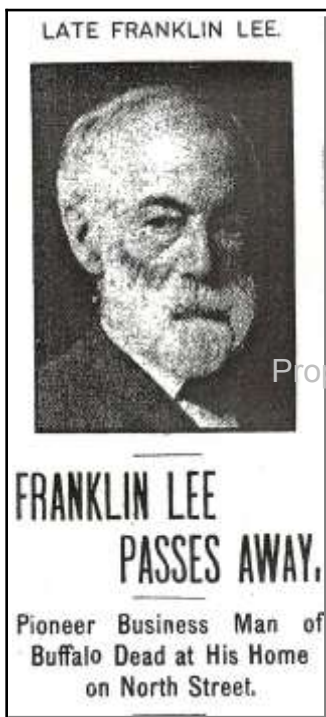
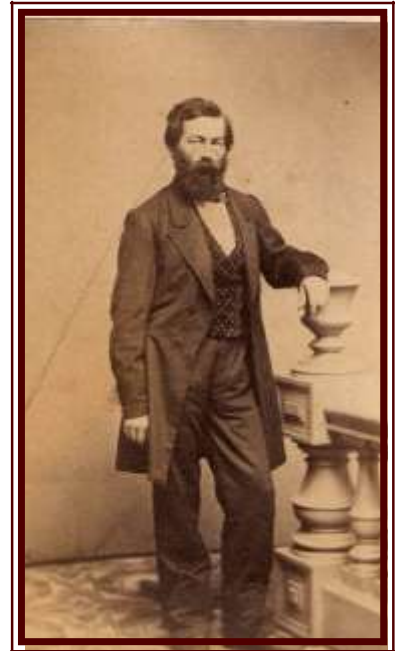
Franklin Lee, as previously cited, was involved in the shipping business with his brothers and brother-in-law in the firm Lee, Abell & Co. He was listed as an agent for the American Transportation Company in 1858.⁷ This firm, with Rufus C. Palmer as president, became owner in 1855 of eight propellers mentioned in the ledger pages of the "Scrap Book of Picture Cards": Buffalo, Cataract, Detroit, Milwaukee, Niagara, Nile, Pocahontas, and Toledo. He later became a coal merchant in a partnership named Lee & Loomis, and was also a partner with his brother, James H. Lee, and brother-in-law, Henry Montgomery, in a lumber business called Lee, Holland & Co.

Franklin Lee as a young man

During the Civil War, Franklin Lee was a subscriber at the \$50 level in the Buffalo Board of Trade's effort to reestablish the 100th Regiment ("to be known as the Board of Trade Regiment") with a war fund devoted to the enlistment of men. This regiment had lost nearly half of its original 960

Buffalo-area volunteers in a Rebellion fight at Fair Oaks in July 1862.⁸ Mr. Lee was also a co-founder, along with Rev.

William Waith (Marianne's brother) and others, of the Lancaster Literary Society in 1866.⁹ In 1892, he furnished materials for a loan library for eighteen crew members on the Bark Xenia bound for Sydney.¹⁰



Franklin Lee and Charles F. Dunbar of Erie, Pennsylvania, received federal Treasury funds in the amount of \$10,200 for the construction of a channel at the harbor of Ashtabula, Ohio, under the direction of an officer of the Army Corps of Engineers.¹¹

Franklin Lee died on July 9, 1906. An obituary in the Buffalo Evening News summed up his life as follows:

Franklin Lee as an elder
(photo in Buffalo Evening News, 1906)

FRANKLIN LEE PASSES
AWAY,

Pioneer Business Man of Buffalo
Dead at His Home on North Street.

Franklin Lee of No. 165 North street died of heart failure early this morning. He was in his usual health the night before except for a slight difficulty in breathing and his death must have been quiet [sic] painless. He was 80 years old, born at Westfield, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1826, the son of Oliver and Eliza Lee. His early life was passed at Silver Creek, N.Y., later resided at Lancaster, N.Y., but for many years past he has been a resident of this city.

During the fifties he was closely identified with the lake shipping interests of Buffalo. About 1868, under the firm name of Lee & Loomis, he carried on an extensive coal business and was also interested in dredging and contracting with the late Charles F. Dunbar under the name of Lee & Dunbar. About 1879 he entered the lumber and planing mill business with his brother, James H. Lee, under the firm name of Lee, Holland & Co., retiring from active business about 1898.

His wife, Marianne Waith, died three years ago and since then his health has noticeably failed and he was obliged to spend each winter in California.

He is survived by two brothers, James H. Lee of Buffalo and John M. Lee of Silver Creek, N.Y., two sisters, Mrs. Helen L. Montgomery of Buffalo, and Mrs. Maria L. Talcott of Silver Creek, N.Y., one son and four daughters—George W. Lee, Mrs. Henry E. Smith, Miss Nannie Olive Lee of Buffalo, Mrs. Edwin J. Fenton of St. Paul, Minn., and Mrs. James P. Brown of Milwaukee, Wis.¹²

PARENTS OF FRANKLIN LEE

Franklin Lee was the seventh child and third son of Oliver Lee and Eliza Downer. They were both born in Connecticut, where they married on 13 October 1813. Oliver's careers started with farming in Orangeville, Genesee (now Wyoming) County, New York. He became a constable for the county and was later appointed deputy sheriff. After moving to Warsaw, he opened a public house, then a mercantile store in Sheldon. The family then relocated to Westfield in 1825, where Oliver and his partner, John McWhorter, ran a shop. He bought the mill and farm of John E. Howard of Silver Creek, Chautauqua County, then moved his family to this community. In the following years, he partnered with his son-in-law, Clark C. Swift, then his eldest son, Charles H. Lee,





in the mercantile business. After retiring, he formed the Bank of Silver Creek, as well as Oliver Lee & Co.'s Bank of Buffalo. He died on 28 July 1846 in Buffalo.¹³

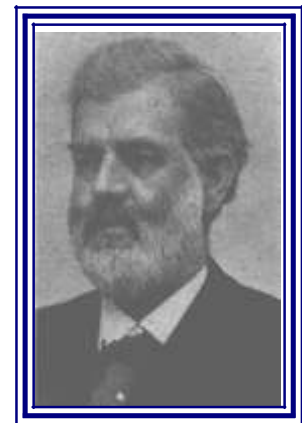
Eliza Downer Lee, widowed at age 52, did not remarry and continued to live in Silver Creek. In 1850, she headed a household that included her son, James H.; three members of a Young family; N. B. Lee, age 70 (possibly Eliza's brother-in-law, Nathan, born in 1780); a gardener, V. H. Lowrer; and a 19-year-old female, M. Dalrymple.¹⁴ In 1880, she was in the household of her daughter and son-in-law, Maria L. and Chancey (Chauncey) Talcott.¹⁵ She died on 9 November 1882 at the age of 88.¹⁶

Eliza Downer Lee
[??]

OTHER CHILDREN OF OLIVER AND ELIZA DOWNER LEE

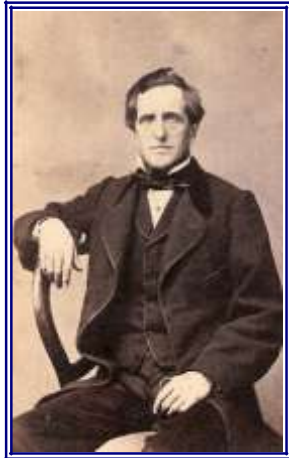
Oliver and Eliza Downer Lee had eleven children:

- Eunice, who married Clark C. Swift;
- Caroline, who married Daniel Young; Charles
- Henry, who did not marry;
- Eliza, who married William Hawks Abell; James
- Howe, who married Lucretia M. Clark; Mary, who died in infancy;
- Franklin, already mentioned;
- Mary Margaret, who died in infancy;
- Helen, who married Henry Montgomery;
- John McWhorter (most likely named after his father's business partner), who did not marry; and
- Maria Love, who married Chauncey Goodrich Talcott.



Charles Henry Lee

Eliza Lee and William Hawks Abell were married on 22 October 1846. They had four children. Mr. Abell had first worked at the Oliver Lee & Co. Bank in Buffalo, then became a partner in the firm Lee, Abell & Co. He was also a freight clerk for the Buffalo & Attica Railroad for a time, later becoming president of Western Elevating Association and a Director of the Western Savings Bank. Eliza died in 1868, after which time Mr. Abell remarried and had two more children. He died in 1887.¹⁷



William Hawks Abell



Eliza Lee Abell

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Helen Lee married Henry Montgomery in 1858. They had three sons: George Brewster, Henry Ernest (H. E.), and Nelson Lee.¹⁸ (As mentioned in the “Three Buttes Ranch” chapter, H. E. Montgomery attended the University of Michigan in the 1880s, at the same time as his first cousin, George Waith Lee. Henry and his wife were also listed as devisees in the original Will of George W. Lee’s widow, Adele F. F. Lee.) Henry Montgomery Sr. was involved with the lumber business of Lee, Holland & Co., which he organized with his brothers-in-law, Franklin and James H. Lee, and N. Holland. Henry Montgomery Sr. died in 1887; Helen died after 1907.¹⁹



Maria Love Lee Talcott



Chauncey Goodrich Talcott

By lucky coincidence, Franklin's youngest sister, Maria Love, married Chauncey Goodrich Talcott, also in 1858—lucky because two men, Melvin Montgomery and William S. Talcott Jr., ran a drug store in Silver Creek. A few of the trade cards advertising their business, named Montgomery & Talcott, ended up in the collection of George Waith Lee. Although Melvin and William were not George's relatives, they may well have been related to his uncles-in-law.

Maria and Chauncey, a farmer, had no children of their own, but raised Helen Maria Abell, the youngest child of Eliza Lee and William Hawks Abell, after Eliza died.²⁰ Maria died after 1907.²¹

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EARLIER ANCESTRY

The paternal ancestry of the Lees can be traced back to Israel Lee and his wife, Dorothy Tracy. They were the parents of Solomon Lee, who was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, on 29 March 1747 and died there on 30 September 1811. Solomon married Anne Brewster, who was a fifth-generation descendant of William Brewster, who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. A Brewster--Lee descendency chart, mostly derived from data in *The Brewster Genealogy 1566-1907*, can be found on the following page.

One of the people mentioned in the "Journey" and "Owners of Vessels" chapters was Uriah D. Lee. This man was the son of Oliver's older brother, Brewster Lee. One of the vessels named in the "Scrap Book of Picture Cards," the U. D. Lee, was most likely named after Uriah D. Lee. Brewster and Uriah are also listed on the following chart, to show relationship to the other Lees.

BREWSTER--LEE DESCENDANTS

1-William Brewster (1566-10 April 1644)
+Mary Unknown (estimated 1560-17 April 1627)
..... 2-Love Brewster (estimated 1600-1650)
..... +Sarah Collier (about 1615-26 April 1691)
..... 3-Deacon William Brewster (about 1645-3 November 1723)
..... +Lydia Partridge (estimated 1655-2 February 1743)
..... 4-Joshua Brewster (about 1698-27 March 1776)
..... +Deborah Jackson (11 March 1704-1 September 1769)
..... 5-Nathan Brewster (21 December 1724-3 November 1808)
..... +Rachel Partridge (25 October 1726-26 April 1757)
..... 6-Anne Brewster (16 December 1755-3 March 1824)
..... +Solomon Lee (29 March 1747-30 September 1811))
..... 7-Brewster Lee (1782-14 July 1861)
..... +Annice Downer (20 January 1789-7 November 1851)
..... 8-Uriah Downer Lee (23 July 1814-22 June 1891)
..... +Abigail Delia Huntington (about 1817-)
..... 7-Oliver Lee (23 December 1791-28 July 1846)
..... +Eliza (Elizabeth) Downer (22 July 1794-9 November 1882)
..... 8-Eunice Lee (16 February 1815-6 March 1866)
..... +Clark C. Swift (-)
..... 8-Caroline Lee (9 November 1816-12 April 1895)
..... +Daniel Young (-)
..... 8-Charles Henry Lee (1 October 1818-2 March 1904)
..... 8-Eliza Lee (25 November 1820-21 March 1868)
..... +William Hawks Abell (29 January 1814-15 November 1887)
..... 8-James Howe Lee (16 September 1822-4 March 1907)
..... +Lucretia Clark (-)
..... 8-Mary Lee (14 June 1824-1825)
..... 8-Franklin Lee (20 February 1826-9 July 1906)
..... +Marianne Waith (23 January 1831-6 May 1903)
..... 9-Henrietta Maria ("Etta") Lee (24 February 1853-19 October 1937)
..... +Edwin Jacob Ferdon (28 August 1851-10 November 1881)
..... 10-Franklin Lee Ferdon (6 October 1880-after 1939)
..... 10-Edwin Nelson Ferdon (30 January 1882-after 1939)
..... +Julia B. O'Meyer (about 1885-)
..... 9-Cora Lee (1854-estimated 1855)
..... 9-Lizzie ("Daisy") Lee (21 November 1855-after January 1920)
..... +Henry E. Smith (May 1856-before 1920)
..... 10-Marianne Lee Smith (20 February 1884-March 1969)
..... +George C. Andrews (about 1882-before 1959)
..... 11-George C. Andrews Jr. (1912-4 October 1959)
..... +Elizabeth Unknown (-)
..... 11-Franklin B. or L. Andrews (December 1919-)
..... 9-Mary Lee (6 October 1857-2 March 1893)
..... +Frank Russell Osborne (7 September 1858-)
..... 10-Nora Lee Osborne (5 July 1887-27 January 1888)
..... 10-Roger Lee Osborne (22 June 1889-20 April 1891)
..... 10-Dorothy Lee Osborne (12 June 1891-1 January 1892)
..... 9-Nora Lee (4 September 1859-after 1930)
..... +James Padelford Brown (January 1860-after 1920)
..... 10-Dorothy Woodbridge Brown (15 June 1896-9 July 1978)
..... 9-George Waith Lee (30 November 1862-25 August 1926)
..... +Adele Felt Ferdon (June 1882-2 March 1962)
..... 9-Anna Olive Lee (September 1865-3 November 1918)
..... 8-Mary Margaret Lee (25 April 1828-6 September 1828)
..... 8-Helen Lee (9 February 1830-)
..... +Henry Montgomery (17 February 1827-5 October 1887)
..... 8-John McWhorter Lee (3 October 1831-)
..... 8-Maria Love Lee (30 October 1835-)
..... +Chauncey Goodrich Talcott (1834-1905)

GENEALOGY OF ELIZA DOWNER

Eliza, or Elizabeth Downer, was born on 22 July 1794 in Bozrah, Connecticut, the fourth child of seven born to Desire Hough and Captain Uriah Downer.

Desire Hough was born on 4 January 1764 and died on 12 March 1816. Her father was Captain David Hough of Bozrah. She married Captain Uriah Downer on 15 November 1787. Uriah, second child of Margaret Caruthers and Richard Downer, was born on 12 November 1762, and died on 17 November 1825 at Bozrah.

Margaret Caruthers, a native of Bennington, Vermont, was born on 9 August 1742 and died on 3 February 1830 in Bozrah. She married Richard Downer, who was born on 16 February 1726-7 at South Norwich, Connecticut, the first child of Richard Downer (Sr.) and Mercy Horton. He died on 20 October 1809 in Bozrah.

Richard Downer (Sr.) and Mercy Horton, both of Colchester, Connecticut, were married on 13 January 1726. He was born on 11 February 1701-2, the fifth child of Joseph Downer and Hannah Grafton.

Hannah Grafton, whose birth date is unknown, married Joseph Downer in 1692 at Newbury, Massachusetts. She died on 12 October 1741 in West Farms district, Norwich, Connecticut. Joseph, the second child of Mary Knight and Joseph Downer (Sr.), was born on 25 April 1666 in Newbury, Massachusetts. His date and place of death are unknown.

Mary Knight, daughter of John Knight of Romsey Hants, England, and his wife Elizabeth, married Joseph Downer (Sr.) on 9 July 1660. He may have been a son of Robert Downer and Hannah Vincent of Wiltshire, England, and reportedly emigrated to Newbury, Massachusetts, in about 1650. Their dates and places of death are unknown.²²

See group sheets for the families of Oliver Lee and Eliza Downer, and Franklin Lee and Marianne Waith, as well as a pedigree chart for George Waith Lee.

¹Emma C. Brewster Jones, *The Brewster Genealogy 1566-1907: A Record of the Descendants of William Brewster of the "Mayflower," Ruling Elder of the Pilgrim Church which Founded Plymouth Colony in 1620*, volume 1 (New York: The Grafton Press, 1908), p. 800.

² William Waith and family, Columbia passenger manifest, 5 September 1832, sheet 4, lines 27-31, in Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1820-1897, National Archives microfilm series M237, roll 17, list 641. (Ancestry.com showed ship name as "Columbus." : accessed 2008.)

³ William Waith household, 1850 federal census, Silver Creek, Chautauqua, New York, stamped page 33, written page 651, lines 25-30; National Archives microfilm series M432, roll 484.

⁴ Jones, *Brewster Genealogy*, 800-801.

⁵ Mrs. Frederick J. Shephard, compiler, "The Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Buffalo," *Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society*, volume XXII, (Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Historical Society, 1918), 147-200.

⁶ "An Aged Woman is Fatally Choked by a Bone," *Charlotte News*, Charlotte, NC, Wednesday, May 6, 1903, 1, columns 5-7; "Buffalo Lady Dies in Charlotte," *Charlotte Daily Observer*, Charlotte, NC, Thursday, May 7, 1903, 6, column 2; "Chicken Bone Caused Death," *Buffalo Courier*, Buffalo, NY, Thursday, May 7, 1903, 6, column 7.

⁷ *Disturnell's New York State Register for 1858* (New York: John Disturnell, 1858), 386.

⁸ Frank H. Severance, editor, "The Buffalo Board of Trade," *Buffalo Historical Society Publications*, volume 13, (Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Historical Society, 1909) 271-273.

⁹ Truman C. White, editor, "Town of Lancaster," *Our County and Its People: A Descriptive Work on Erie County New York* (Boston: Boston History Company, Publishers, 1898), 571.

¹⁰ "American Seamen's Friend Society's Report of New Loan Libraries Shipped in March, April and May, 1892," *The Sailors' Magazine and Seamen's Friend*, vol. 64, no. 7, July 1892; digital images, Google Books (<http://books.google.com/> : accessed 2008).

¹¹ *Laws of the United States Relating to the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors from August 11, 1890, to March 4, 1907*, volume II, from 1890 to 1907 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), 938; digital images, Google Books (<http://books.google.com/> : accessed 2008).

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¹² "Franklin Lee Passes Away," *Buffalo Evening News*, Buffalo, NY, Monday, 9 July 1906, 5 o'clock edition, 1, column 2.

¹³ Andrew W. Young. *History of Chautauqua County, New York* (Buffalo, NY: Printing House of Matthews & Warren, 1875), 421.

¹⁴ Eliza Lee household, 1850 federal census, Silver Creek, Chautauqua, New York, stamped page 33, written page 651, lines 31-38; National Archives microfilm series M432, roll 484.

¹⁵ Chancey Talcott household, 1880 federal census, Silver Creek, Chautauqua, New York, stamped page 11B, written page 2, lines 17-22; National Archives microfilm series T9, roll 816. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

¹⁶ David R. Downer. *The Downers of America with Genealogical Record* (Newark, NJ: author, 1900), 114.

¹⁷ *Memorial and Family History of Erie County New York*, volume II Biographical and Genealogical (New York-Buffalo: The Genealogical Publishing Company, 1906-8), 82-83.

¹⁸ *Memorial and Family History of Erie County New York*, volume I, 245-246.

¹⁹ *Memorial and Family History of Erie County New York*, volume II, 358-359.

²⁰ Chancey Talcott household, 1880 census.

²¹ *Memorial and Family History of Erie County New York*, volume II, 359.

²² David R. Downer, *The Downers of America with Genealogical Record*. (Newark, NJ: author, 1900), 1, 18, 28-29, 37, and 113-115.