

Mary (Harrington) Watson's sister Sarah W. Richmond

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This article is an adjunct to our [essay about Alice Watson](#), whose son Benjamin G. Watson married Mary A. Harrington. Alice Watson's story is part of a larger family history, **The WATSON Family of West Greenwich, Rhode Island**, links to which can be found at our website, www.queenealogist.org.

How we discovered that Mary and Sarah were sisters

Sarah Richmond's death late in 1909 was soon followed by standard legal proceedings:

To the Probate Court for the District of Plainfield [Connecticut].
Estate of Sarah W. Richmond

late of Plainfield , in said District , deceased.

The Subscriber represents that Sarah W. Richmond last dwelt in the Town of Plainfield, in said District, and died on the 31st day of December, A.D. 1909, possessed of goods and estate remaining to be administered, leaving a husband whose name is Allen Richmond and whose residence is unknown and as her only heirs at law and next of kin the persons whose names, residences and relationship to the deceased are as follows, viz:

Mary Davis, June Street, Fall River, Mass., Niece;
Frank Watson, Sterling, Conn., Nephew;
Ann Cole, " " Niece,
and that said deceased left no will.

Frank Watson and Ann Cole, both of Sterling, CT, were the children of Benjamin G. & Mary A. (Harrington) Watson. Mary Davis of Fall River, MA, wife of Frederick W. Davis, was the only child of Nathan W. Harrington and his 2nd wife, Rebecca Pease Fish.

This is how we learned that Mary A. (Harrington) Watson was the sister of Sarah W. Richmond. Armed with this knowledge, we set out to learn of Sarah's parentage.

We found Sarah and her husband Allen H. Richmond mentioned in a Richmond family history.

Eighth Generation. 493

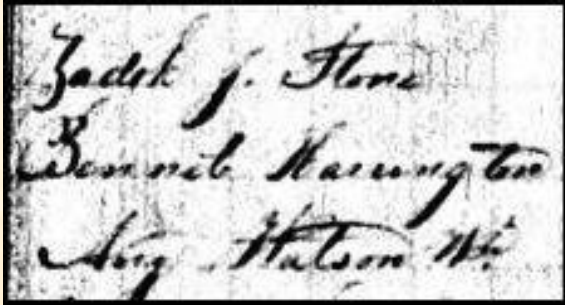
5603. ALLEN H. RICHMOND⁸ (Asa⁷, Stephen⁶, Edward⁵, Stephen⁴, John³, Edward², John¹) was born in Griswold, Conn., June 27, 1842. He married, September 17, 1865, Sarah W., daughter of Bennet and Olive (Stone) Harrington; she was born October 18, 1839.

CHILD (1896):
— 7688. ALLEN H.⁹, born Aug. 25, 1870.

We don't know if Mary and Sarah shared the same mother, Olive W. Stone. Ten years separate Mary's birth and the oldest known child born to Bennet and Olive Harrington – daughter Eunice T. (1833-1835). But we may assume that Bennet Harrington was father to both Mary and Sarah. Given that Mary named her only daughter Olive, she likely had a good relationship with the woman who raised her.

Bennet Harrington's family

Bennet Harrington and his family were enumerated in West Greenwich, RI, in the 1840 census. He headed a household of eight people, six of them young enough to be his children. Mary, born January 20, 1823, would have been the female between the ages of 15-19. Sarah, born October 18, 1839, as noted in the Richmond family history, was the female under the age of 5. She was a toddler when her father died on November 22, 1840.



Listed on the same 1840 federal census page for West Greenwich: Zadok J. Stone; Bennet Harrington; and Amy Watson, *widow*. Alice “Elcy” Watson was listed ten lines below Amy. Zadoc was brother to Bennet Harrington’s wife Olive W. Stone. Bennet’s daughter Mary A. became the wife of Benjamin G. Watson, Alice Watson’s son. Amy Watson was the widow of Alice’s

older brother Hazzard Watson. This was the Watsons’ neighborhood in the Escoheag area of West Greenwich, close to the Exeter, RI, and Voluntown, CT, town lines.

On November 14, 1844, in Sterling, CT, Olive (Stone) Harrington of West Greenwich, RI, married widower Benjamin Briggs of Voluntown, CT.

The 1850 census shows the three youngest Harrington children – **Nathan W.**, **John L.**, and **Sarah W.** – living in Benjamin & Olive Briggs’s household in Voluntown. Benjamin Briggs died in May 1855; he was buried in Gallup Cemetery, Sterling, CT, where he shares a headstone with his 1st wife, Hannah Gallup.

In 1860, 19-year-old Sarah W. Harrington was one of a number of young boarders living in the Plainfield, CT, household of John Freeman. Though her occupation wasn’t noted in that year’s census, Sarah likely worked in a local textile mill.

Nathan W. Harrington is nowhere to be found in the 1860 census. He’d married his 1st wife, Mary Brooks Waite, in 1858 and had been living in Fall River, MA.

But his brother John shows up twice, both times in the town of Sterling, CT. On July 30th, 23-year-old John L. Harrington, “farmer,” was listed as residing in the household of Elisha Gallup. The next day, he was enumerated as 22-year-old John Harrington – still a farmer, but this time the head of his own household. Living with him was 60-year-old “Mrs. Briggs,” his widowed mother. Olive (Stone) (Harrington) Briggs died on April 22, 1861. She was laid to rest with her 1st husband Bennet Harrington in Union Cemetery, Moosup, Plainfield, CT.

Allen H. Richmond & Sarah W. Harrington

According to the Richmond family history, Allen H. Richmond was born on June 27, 1842, in Griswold, CT, the son of Asa and Nancy (Pollard) Richmond. On September 17, 1865, in Plainfield, CT, Allen married Sarah W. Harrington, the daughter of Bennet and Olive (Stone) Harrington; she was born October 18, 1839.

In 1870, Allen and Sarah resided in Sterling, CT. They were listed in that year's census immediately after the family of George W. Cole, whose wife Olive Ann was Sarah's 1st cousin. Listed further down on the same page: Olive Ann's parents Benjamin G. and Mary (Harrington) Watson and her brother Frank C.

By 1880, George W. Cole had moved his family to Ledyard, CT. Allen & Sarah Richmond and their 9-year-old son (also named Allen H.) remained in Sterling. The 1880 census shows them living with Benjamin G. & Mary (Harrington) Watson.

And then something happened

Something serious must have happened in the early 1880's, resulting in Allen leaving Connecticut. He shows up in Kansas, *via Illinois*, without Sarah. The 1885 state census for Gove township, Pratt co., Kansas, shows Allen Richmond with a new wife, living next door to the family of John Harrington, Sarah's brother. (Much more about this later.)

We haven't found any record to indicate a divorce (which isn't surprising). The 1890 census being unavailable (having gone up in smoke in 1921), we've had to rely on other bits of information to tell us what became of Sarah after Allen left her.

Death of son Allen Hazard Richmond

Allen's and Sarah's son, named Allen H. like his father, must have gone by his middle name: His gravestone names him as Hazard A (suggesting that his father's middle name might also have been Hazard). Young Hazard Richmond died on September 25, 1884 at the age of 14 years, one month. This data neatly fits the Richmond family history info, which states son Allen H.'s birth date as August 25, 1870.

Hazard A. was laid to rest in Union Cemetery in Moosup, Plainfield, CT, where his Harrington grandparents were buried. His surname got lumped in with his maternal relatives, resulting in an old typescript record listing this child under the **Harrington** surname, i.e., *Hazard A. Harrington*. But you can discern the **Richmond** name on his weathered gravestone if you look closely.

508-16 Union Cemetery		84
Harrington, Charity Phillips, wife of James C., died Apr. 10, 1859,	age 38 yrs., 2 mos.	
Harrington, Diantha E. Cleveland, wife of James C., died Mar. 22,	1865, age 31 yrs.	
Harrington, Sarah E. Stevens, wife of James C., born Jan. 7, 1841,	died Mar. 11, 1925.	
Harrington, James C., son of Charles L. & Harriet, died Nov. 18,	1894, age 8 yrs., 6 mos.	
Harrington, Hazard A., son of Allen H. & Sarah W., died Sept. 25,	1884, age 14 yrs., 1 mo.	
Harrington, Sarah W., died Dec. 31, 1909, age 70 yrs., wife of	Allen H.	

Sarah's remaining years

What we know of the rest of Sarah's life is derived from the 1900 census and her obituary.

In 1900, Sarah was 60 years old and living in Plainfield, CT. That year's census listed her as a servant in the household of 57-year-old Arca Payne (he spelled it *Paine*). Arca, never married, likely employed Sarah as his housekeeper.

Payne Arca	Head	W	M	Jan	1843	57	5			
Richmond Sarah W	Servant	W	F	Oct	1839	60	m	30	1	0

Notable about Sarah's census entry: She was listed as married (the column with the M). The number of years married (30) is off, however. Sarah and Allen were wed in September 1865, nearly 35 years prior to the June date of this census page. Mother of how many children? One. Number of these children living? Zero.

Sarah died on December 31, 1909, in the village of Moosup in Plainfield, CT. (Note: The line about *Special Evangelistic Services* in the header of Sarah's obituary shown below refers to a different item that followed.)

"Sudden Death of Mrs. Sarah Richmond"

"Mrs. Sarah Richmond, aged 70, died suddenly last Friday night at the residence of Arca Payne, where she had been employed for over twenty years. She had attended to her household duties as usual. Just before retiring for the night, she complained of being cold, and a friend whom she was entertaining gave her some hot drink and left her for the night. In a very short time she was heard to make an unusual sound, and upon going to her room she was found lifeless. The coroner, Dr. W. W. Adams, attributed death to heart disease. The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon. Burial was in Moosup cemetery. Mrs. Richmond had been a resident of Moosup for many years, and was highly esteemed."

MOOSUP
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—Special Evangelistic Services.
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Sarah was laid to rest in Union Cemetery in Moosup, Plainfield, CT, where her parents and her son were buried. Sarah's gravestone names her as Sarah W. Harrington but also notes her as the wife of Allen H. Richmond.

Retracing Allen H. Richmond's steps

The 1885 Kansas state census for Gove, Pratt co., KS, listed "The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of March, 1885 was in this family." It asked not only for birth places but also the state from which each person came ("where from to Kansas").

Allen Richmond and his wife, and John Harrington and his family, all gave Illinois as the place from which they came to Kansas.

30	30	Allen Richmond	42	M	W	1			Carpenter	2	17	Connecticut	Illinois	1
		Olive Richmond	29	F	W	1			Agricultural		18	Connecticut	Illinois	
31	31	John Harrington	48	M	W	1			agricultural		19	Connecticut	Illinois	
		Mary Harrington	45	F	W	1			agricultural		20	Rhode Island	Illinois	
		Lloyd Harrington	22	M	W		1		Agriculture		21	Connecticut	Illinois	
		Dora Harrington	20	F	W		1				22	Illinois	Illinois	
		Elsie Harrington	18	M	W		1				23	Illinois	Illinois	
		Hattie Harrington	16	F	W		1				24	Illinois	Illinois	
		Ann M Harrington	12	F	W		1				25	Illinois	Illinois	
		Mary Harrington	10	F	W		1				26	Illinois	Illinois	

John and Mary A. Harrington had moved from Connecticut to Illinois sometime between June 1863, when John's name was entered in a Connecticut Civil War draft registration; and October 5, 1865, the date on which their daughter Eldora was born near Odell, Livingston co., IL. In the 1870 census, this family was recorded in Milo, Bureau co., IL.

By 1880, John and family were living in Dwight, Livingston co., IL. Their 18-year-old daughter Olive was listed as a servant in the household of Isaac & Ella Wheatley in Broughton, Livingston co., IL (about ten miles from Dwight).

We're guessing that Allen arrived in Illinois between 1880-1883, because he got married again in 1884. His bride was his niece – Olive Iola Harrington, eldest child of John L. Harrington, Sarah's brother.

We found their marriage year in Olive's 1909 obituary, published in Guthrie, OK, where she and Allen lived after moving on from Kansas. Given that their first child, son Clifton J., was born on September 29, 1885, we'd guess that Allen and Olive were wed late in 1884. When Clifton died on June 21, 1890, he was buried in Guthrie, Logan co., OK – suggesting that Allen & Olive didn't spend too many years in Kansas.

Allen and Olive (Harrington) Richmond had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood. The following info on their children was found at

www.familysearch.org:

MRS. A. H. RICHMOND DEAD.

After undergoing a serious operation at the Methodist hospital, Mrs. A. H. Richmond, wife of one of Guthrie's prominent business men, died at 5 o'clock yesterday morning at the hospital.

Mrs. Richmond was born in 1861 in Connecticut. In 1884 she was married to Mr. Richmond and since the opening of Oklahoma she was one of the pioneers of Guthrie. She leaves her husband, three daughters, two sisters and father and brother.

i. **Clifton J. Richmond** (1885-1890)

ii. **Adeline Zaruah Richmond** (1886-1951), married Rev. Shuble Elsworth SEEDS (1880-1950) on August 13, 1903, in Guthrie, Logan, OK. They had a large family of children.

iii. **Hattie M. Richmond** (1891-1956), married Ed COLLIE (1885-?) in Guthrie, Logan, OK, about 1931.

iv. **Myrtle Gladys Richmond** (1894-1895)

v. **Phyllis Mabel Richmond** (1896-1965), married Hugh W. HOWARD (1881-1953). They, too, had a large family of children.

Allen seems to have thrived as a businessman in Guthrie. The 1900 census lists his occupation as “bakery and grocer merchant.” This is in contrast to how Allen earned his living in Connecticut, where he worked at various times as an operative in a cotton mill, a 3rd class peddler (per an 1869 tax list), and a carpenter.

Olive’s occupation in the 1900 census was “restaurant keeper.” Members of the Richmond household that year included three men listed as servants – two of whom were restaurant workers, and one who drove a bakery wagon. Olive’s death in 1909 likely ended the family restaurant business. The 1910 census lists Allen simply as a baker.

We find it ironic that both of Allen’s wives died in 1909 – the much younger one passing away just months before the older one.

The irregularity in Allen H. Richmond’s birth year

We noticed that the 1900 census recorded Allen’s age as 64 (born June 1836). In 1910 he was listed as being 74 years old. All of his previous census records, including the 1885 Kansas state census, are consistent with Allen’s birth in June **1842**. We don’t know why he would represent himself as six years older than he really was.

This irregularity followed Allen H. Richmond to the grave – literally. When he died in late April 1915, Allen was buried in Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, Logan, OK, with his wife Olive. Allen’s date of birth on their shared grave monument is inscribed as June 27, **1836**. (His obituary, shown at right, reflects the same inflation in his age.)



John L. Harrington's wife Mary

Mary A. Harrington's obituary and her probate documents reveal some precious details.

Her middle name was Ann; her maiden name was Lillibridge. She was born in Exeter, RI, on April 13, 1837, later moving with her parents to Westminister, Connecticut (a village in the town of Canterbury). Mary Ann married John in Westminister on February 2, 1861.

She had ten children but was survived by only four of them.

Her husband John's middle name was Leonard.

We weren't able to pin down Mary Ann's family of origin; but we located her in the 1860 census, in Plainfield, CT.

90	446	660	John Freeman	28	m
91			Ester "	28	f
92			Mary E "	1	f
93			John Mc Roberts	19	m
94			Maria "	20	f
95			Lucy Keime	25	f
96			Matilda "	22	f
97			Sarah "	20	f
98			Mary Ann Lillibridge	22	f
99			Sarah Harrington	19	f

Summary

When Sarah W. Richmond died, she left "a husband whose name is Allen Richmond and whose residence is unknown." The names of her surviving kin told us that Sarah was the sister of Mary A. Harrington, wife of Benjamin G. Watson.

Census records show that Allen Richmond went to Illinois – where he connected with the family of Sarah's brother John L. Harrington, later marrying John's eldest daughter. They all moved together from Illinois to Kansas. Allen and his 2nd wife ended up in Oklahoma.

Death of Mrs Harrington.

Mary Ann Lillibridge was born at Exeter, Rhode Island, on the 13th day of April 1837, moved with her parents to Westminister, Con., where she was united in marriage to John L. Harrington on February 2nd, 1861. To this union ten children were born of which only four are living.

A. H. Richmond and Mrs. Mary Thompson, of Guthrie. Okla., Mrs. W. A. Worden, of Stafford and Elwin Harrington of this county. In 1884 she moved to Pratt county, Kansas, where they lived until a year ago when they moved to Guthrie, Okla., thinking the change would benefit her health but in vain, she died on the 18th of March 1909, and was buried in the Grand View Cemetery near Cuthrie, Okla. She was converted at the early age of ten years and lived a faithful christian life to the end. Death had no terror for mother Harrington for she was ready and willing to go. Rev. Peacock of the Free M. E. Church conducted the services and in a few chosen words from the beautiful text taken from the 23rd Psalm and 4th verse: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Mary Ann boarded at the same place as Sarah in 1860. It's possible, even likely, that Mary Ann met her future husband through his sister.

After Allen's departure from Connecticut, his only child with 1st wife Sarah died at age 14.

Sarah W. (Harrington) Richmond represented herself as married in her 1900 census listing in Plainfield, CT. If she ever heard from Allen or her brother John's family, she kept it to herself.

Sources & Resources

www.ancestry.com – our favorite source for census records

www.findagrave.com memorial pages:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84455685/bennet-harrington>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84455401/olive-harrington>

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84455598/hazard_a-harrington

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84455458/sarah_w-harrington

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84535371/nathan_w-harrington

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/239290522/mary_i-davis

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70009044/john-l-harrington>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7009045/mary-a-harrington>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86856436/olive-richmond>

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86856429/allen_h-richmond

Sarah W. Richmond's probate documents:

Plainfield, Windham, Connecticut, United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L922-N6LJ?view=fullText>: Mar 7, 2026), image 166 of 604; Connecticut. Probate Court (Plainfield District). Image Group Number: 007627469

"Plainfield, Windham, Connecticut, United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L922-N6NX?view=fullText>: Jul 20, 2026), image 243 of 604; Connecticut. Probate Court (Plainfield District).

Sarah's estate amounted to \$35.17 ("Deposit Jewett City Savings Bank, Jewett City, Conn., Book #3221"). Every penny went to pay probate fees.
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Allen W. Richmond in *The Richmond Family*, noting his marriage to Sarah W. Harrington:

Richmond, Joshua Bailey. *The Richmond Family, 1594-1896, and Pre-American Ancestors, 1040-1594*. The compiler, 1897. Available online at <https://archive.org/details/richmondfamily1500rich/page/492/mode/2up>

Mary A. (Harrington) Watson's date of birth was calculated from her headstone inscription data using the Tombstone Birthday Calculator at this website:

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/birthday.html>

Allen H. Richmond and John L. Harrington and their families in the 1885 Kansas census:

Kansas State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas; 1885 Kansas Territory Census; Roll:

KS1885_109; Lines 17-26

The 1890 US Federal Census: "On January 10, 1921, a fire in the Commerce Department building, Washington, DC, resulted in the destruction of most of the 1890 census, to the woe of researchers ever since." <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1890>

Obituary for Sarah W. Richmond: The *Norwich Bulletin*, Norwich, CT, 8 January 1910, pg. 10.

Obituary for Olive Iola (Harrington) Richmond: The *Oklahoma State Register* (Guthrie, OK), 23 September 1909, page 5.

Obituaries for Allen H. Richmond: The *Guthrie Daily Leader*, Guthrie, OK, 30 April 1915, pg. 3; and the *Oklahoma Weekly Leader*, Guthrie, OK, 6 May 1915, pg. 3.

Note: Both newspapers ran the exact same obituary for A. H. Richmond, saying he "passed beyond Thursday afternoon," despite a six-day difference in publication dates.

Obituary for Mary Ann (Lillibridge) Harrington: The *Pratt Union*, Pratt, KS, 25 March 1909, pg. 7.

Obituary for John L. Harrington, in which his son Elwin's name is misspelled: The *Pratt Union*, Pratt, KS, 11 December 1913, pg. 14.

John Harrington died Saturday night at the home of his son Elvin. Mr. Harrington had been ill with dropsy for a few weeks and suffered considerably. He had long been a resident of Pratt county and had many friends who sympathize with his bereaved relatives. He was taken to Guthrie for burial.