

Ralph Orzben Reigel

1. **Ralph Orzben Reigel**^{1,2,3} was born on 14 Feb 1875 in Lycoming Co., Pennsylvania.^{4,5,6} He married **Edith Jennie Roberts**, daughter of **Adin Roberts** and **Sarah Jane Hodge**, on 25 Dec 1896 in View, Clark Co., Washington, with Rev. A. Roberts (perhaps the bride's father) officiating.^{7,8,9} He died on 4 Jun 1957 in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., California, at age 82.¹⁰ He was buried on 7 Jun 1957 in Oakwood Memorial Park.¹¹

He moved circa 1892 to La Center, Clark Co., Washington, with his parents **Benjamin Franklin Riegel** and **Esther Matilda Gann**.^{12,13,14} He and **Edith** lived in Clark Co., Washington for a time after their marriage. They were listed in the Chelatchie section in the 1900 census, and he reported he was a resident of La Center in his homestead application in 1908. But in the meantime they were in Idaho long enough for the birth of Adin there in 1905. They completed a house on their homestead in Arrow, Lake Co., Oregon in Nov 1908, and occupied it 28 May 1909. They apparently didn't live there long after the homestead patent was issued in Apr 1915, as Edith was replaced as postmistress in Oct 1915, and the office was closed 2½ years later.^{15,16,17,18,19} He applied for a homestead of 160 acres in Arrow, Lake Co., Oregon, on 19 May 1908. Under new homestead provisions enacted in Feb 1909, he submitted a supplemental application on 11 Mar 1913 to increase the size of the grant to 325 acres. The patent formalizing the grant was issued 29 Apr 1915.^{20,21}

In developing their homestead, the family built a 20 by 30 foot home, with a 12 by 16 foot "L" and a 10 by 12 foot cellar. They apparently kept livestock, as they built a 24 by 28 foot barn, and an 8 by 10 foot chicken house. They erected fencing for the garden, a hog lot, and over a mile and a half of barb-wire fencing of fields. They dug two wells, one 27 feet deep, the other shallower.²² But homesteading in the bleak area of central Oregon seems to have been very difficult, as seen from the results of the family's first five years of farming. In 1910 they planted 2½ acres of oats, and harvested nothing. The following year 10 acres of rye yielded one ton of hay. In 1912 plantings of an acre of rutabagas, 3 acres of wheat, and 12 acres of rye produced only 7 tons of hay. In 1913 25 acres of rye yielded 12 tons of hay, apparently a high point. The next year 20 acres of rye were planted, along with 4 acres of alfalfa, 4 of wheat, and 12 of barley, all to harvest 1½ tons of hay. The family lore that they "nearly starved" during this time seems not far from the mark.^{23,24}

The family did have a vegetable garden of about ½ acre each year, and operated a small store and post office, apparently in their home. Edith was postmistress of Arrow, Oregon, from 21 May 1910 until 8 Oct 1915. At least part of the time Ralph worked elsewhere, as he reported in the 1910 census he was a sawmill engineer, and was not out of work in 1909.^{25,26,27}

By Jan 1920 the family had moved to Terrebonne, Deschutes Co., Oregon and by Apr 1930 they lived in Ashland, Jackson Co., Oregon.^{28,29} **Ralph** seems to have regarded his primary occupation as a steam engineer, or operator of steam engines. In the 1900 and 1910 censuses he reported that he was a sawmill engineer, and in 1930 as a stationary engineer. But he was engaged in agriculture for much of his life. His homestead application in 1915 lists various crops attempted, and on the 1920 census he reported his occupation as farmer.^{30,31,32,33,34} **Ralph** and at least some of his sons lived and worked in various areas of northern California, mainly working in the fruit orchards. By Jan 1931 he was in Maxwell, Colusa Co., but later moved farther north. The family was living in Orland, Glenn Co., when his granddaughter, **Elizabeth**, was born in Jul 1932. He was still in that area as late as Oct 1941.^{35,36,37,38} He and **Edith Jennie Roberts** moved to Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., California circa 1944. At the time of their deaths they were living at 1037 17th Ave., Santa Cruz.^{39,40,41}

Ralph Orzben Reigel and **Edith Jennie Roberts** appeared on the 1900 Federal Census of Chelatchie, Clark Co., Washington, enumerated 20 Jun 1900, reporting that the family owned it's farm. Their daughter **Sara Matilda** was listed as living with them.⁴² He and **Edith Jennie Roberts** appeared on the 1910 Federal Census of Silver Lake, Lake Co., Oregon, enumerated 10 May 1910, living next to her brother **Fred**, and his family. Their children **Sara Matilda**, **Bessie Regina**, **Bennie Rolland**, **Adin Ralph** and **George F.** were listed as living with them.⁴³ He and **Edith Jennie Roberts** appeared on the 1920 Federal Census of Terrebonne, Deschutes Co., Oregon, at Redmond Terrebonne Road, enumerated 19 Jan 1920. Their children **Bennie Rolland**, **Adin Ralph**, **George F.** and **Juanita A.** were listed as living with them.⁴⁴ He and **Edith Jennie Roberts** appeared on the 1930 Federal Census of Ashland, Jackson Co., Oregon, at 771 North Main St., enumerated 21 Apr 1930, reporting that the family owned a home worth \$1,000, and a radio. Their son **George F.** was listed as living with them.⁴⁵

Endnotes

- ¹Benjamin Franklin Reigel Family Bible, (n.p.: n.pub., n.d.); present owner unknown. Photocopy of the "Births" page obtained from Ella Reigel. Copy has been associated with 3 Oct 1941 affidavit by Ralph O. Reigel regarding birthdate of Frank William Reigel, in which a notary refers to family bible of Benjamin Franklin Reigel and declares the attached copy an exact duplicate. Entries begin with Benjamin Franklin and his wife Esther Matilda Gann, and list their four children, apparently all in the same hand and with the same pen, so all appear to have been entered after the last child was born. The only exception is the birth year for Ida May, which has been changed in the last digit to a four. Copy held by author, shows name as Ralph Orzben Reigel.
- ²Ralph Franklin Reigel Family Bible, (n.p.: n.pub., n.d.); present owner unknown. Photocopy of the "Births" page of what appears to be a family Bible, provided by Juanita Ala (Silver) Dailey 9 Mar 2004. Entries begin with Ralph Franklin and his wife Edith Jennie Roberts, and list their six children, apparently all in the same hand and with the same pen, so all appear to have been entered after the last child was born. Copy currently held by Terrence William Reigel. Copy held by author, shows name as Ralph Osborne Reigel.
- ³Ralph Orzben Reigel, Certificate of Death, No. 4400-347 (19 Oct 1999), copy held by author, Boone, North Carolina, issued by California County Recorder of Santa Cruz County, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, Santa, filed 5 Jun 1957; shows name as Ralph Orzben Reigel.
- ⁴Benjamin Reigel Family Bible, shows date.
- ⁵Ralph Orzben Reigel Certificate of Death, shows date and state.
- ⁶Ralph Reigel household, 1900 U. S. Census, Clark Co., Washington, population schedule, Chelatchie Precinct, Enumeration District (ED) 24, sheet 7A, dwelling 149, family 149, National Archives micropublication T623-1742, viewed online at Ancestry.com, <www.ancestry.com> Dec 2005, shows month, year, age 25 and state.
- ⁷Ralph O. Reigel and Edith J. Roberts, Marriage Record no. 1475 (30 Dec 1896), Washington Secretary of State, SouthWest Regional Archives, 1129 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington. Copies of Application for License to Wed and Certificate of Marriage obtained 8 Mar 2004, Application, filed 9 Dec 1896; Certificate recorded 30 Dec 1896, shows date, town, county, state, and minister.
- ⁸Ralph Reigel household, 1900 U. S. Census, Clark Co., Washington, population schedule, Chelatchie Precinct, ED 24, sheet 7A, dwelling 149, family 149, shows married, 3 years.
- ⁹Ralph O. Reigel household, 1910 U.S. Census, Lake Co., Washington, population schedule, Silver Lake Precinct, Enumeration District (ED) 138, sheet 12B, dwelling 321, family 322, National Archives micropublication T624-128, viewed online on Ancestry.com 10 Feb 2004, shows married, for 13 years.
- ¹⁰Ralph Orzben Reigel Certificate of Death, shows date and place.
- ¹¹Ralph Orzben Reigel Certificate of Death.
- ¹²David Hurt to B. F. Reigel, deed (25 Mar 1893), Clark Co. Deeds and Mortgages, bk 18, pp 78-9, County Auditor's Office, Courthouse, Vancouver, Washington. Copies provided by Peggy M. Winston, CGS, Sep 2005.
- ¹³Washington Marriages of Clark County, compiled by volunteers from the Vancouver Washington Stake, Vancouver Washington West Stake, L.D.S. Church, and Clark County Genealogical Society. Contains typescript index and copies of index cards with handwritten extracts of original records. Microfilm no. 1206366-8, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, shows Ralph was married 25 Dec 1896 in View, Clark Co., Washington.
- ¹⁴Benjamin Franklin Riegel, Certificate of Death, No. 4 (13 May 1999), copy held by author, Boone, North Carolina, issued by Bureau of Vital Statistics Washington State Board of Health, PO Box 9709, Olympia, Washington 98507, filed 6 Jan 1931; shows lived in registration district 38 yrs.
- ¹⁵Ralph Reigel household, 1900 U. S. Census, Clark Co., Washington, population schedule, Chelatchie Precinct, ED 24, sheet 7A, dwelling 149, family 149.
- ¹⁶Adin Ralph Reigel, Certificate of Death, No. 4400-886 (19 Oct 1999), copy held by author, Boone, North Carolina, issued by California County Recorder of Santa Cruz County, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, Santa, filed 6 Dec 1955; shows born in Idaho.
- ¹⁷Ralph O. Reigel, "General Land Entry Files", Patent # 470,596; National Archives and Records Administration; Washington, Application dated 19 May 1908 shows resident of La Center, Clark Co., Washington, R.F.D. No. 1. The Final Proof, dated 23 Feb 1915, shows date the home was completed, date of occupancy, and that Ralph lived there continuously until that date.
- ¹⁸Ralph O. Reigel, land patent, 29 Apr 1915, No. 470586, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Land Office, 333 SW First Ave, Portland, Oregon, shows grant date.
- ¹⁹Joanne Skelton, "Re: Naomi Constance Wynne #3909," e-mail message from <jskelton@oip.net> (Cottage Grove, Oregon) to Terrence W Reigel, 11 Mar 2006, citing Julie Kidd, *Postmaster Appointments for the State and Territory of Oregon 1847-1971* (Portland: Oregon Territorial Press, 1998), pg 106, shows Edith Reigel was replaced as postmaster of Arrow 8 Oct 1915, and the office was closed effective 28 Feb 1918.
- ²⁰Reigel, land patent, 29 Apr 1915, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Land Office, shows date, acreage, and description by range and township. Map provided by Oregon/Washington office of BLM places it about 5 miles north and 3 miles east of Silver Lake, in Lake County.
- ²¹Reigel, Patent # 470,596, Application dated 19 May 1908 for ¼ section, additional application dated 11 Mar 1913 for 165 acres.
- ²²Ibid., Final Proof dated 23 Feb 1915, supported by testimony of two witnesses.
- ²³Ibid., Final Proof, Testimony of Claimant dated 23 Feb 1915 shows crop history, and lists improvements; Testimony of Witness by two witnesses, same date, state essentially the same facts.
- ²⁴Interview with Elizabeth Delia (Reigel) Robasciotti (Hanford, California), by Terrence W. Reigel, 4 Sep 2003, by telephone, said

she had been told the family "nearly starved" while living on the homestead.

²⁵Reigel, Patent # 470,596, Final Proof, Testimony of Claimant, dated 23 Feb 1915, mentions garden, small store and post office, and lists improvements, which do not include a separate building for the store/post office; Testimony of Witness by Claud M. McCall, same date, states he sees the family twice a week or oftener when he stops for his mail.

²⁶Skelton, "Re: Naomi Constance Wynne #3909," e-mail to Reigel, 11 Mar 2006, citing Julie Kidd, *Postmaster Appointments for the State and Territory of Oregon 1847-1971* (Portland: Oregon Territorial Press, 1998), pg 106, shows Edith Reigel was appointed postmaster at Arrow 21 May 1910 and a new person was appointed 8 Oct 1915, and the office was closed effective 28 Feb 1918.

²⁷Ralph O. Reigel household, 1910 U.S. Census, Lake Co., Washington, population schedule, Silver Lake Precinct, ED 138, sheet 12B, dwelling 321, family 322, shows occupation as sawmill engineer, working for wages, and no unemployment in 1909.

²⁸1920 U.S. census, Deschutes Co., Oregon, Enumeration District No. 39, Terrebonne Pct., Microfilm No. T625-1493, dwelling no. 115, household no. 115.

²⁹Ralph Reigel household, 1930 U.S. Census, Jackson Co., Oregon, population schedule, Ashland, Enumeration District (ED) 15, sheet 3B, dwelling 88, family 90, National Archives micropublication T626-1944, viewed on Ancestry.com 24 Dec 2002 and 3 Sep 2003.

³⁰Ralph Reigel household, 1900 U. S. Census, Clark Co., Washington, population schedule, Chelatchie Precinct, ED 24, sheet 7A, dwelling 149, family 149, shows occupation as sawmill engineer.

³¹Ralph O. Reigel household, 1910 U.S. Census, Lake Co., Washington, population schedule, Silver Lake Precinct, ED 138, sheet 12B, dwelling 321, family 322, shows occupation as saw mill engineer.

³²1920 U.S. census, Deschutes Co., Oregon, Terrebonne Pct., Enumeration District No. 39, dwelling no. 115, household no. 115, shows occupation as farmer.

³³Ralph Reigel household, 1930 U.S. Census, Jackson Co., Oregon, population schedule, Ashland, ED 15, sheet 3B, dwelling 88, family 90, shows occupation as engineer, industry as "stationary."

³⁴Ralph Orzben Reigel Certificate of Death, shows occupation as steam engineer.

³⁵Benjamin Franklin Riegel Certificate of Death, shows Ralph as informant, with an address of Maxwell.

³⁶Ralph O. Reigel, Forest E. Reigel, and Ida May Angell to Frank W. Reigel, quit claim deed (9 Nov 1931), Clark Co. Deeds and Mortgages, bk 218, pp 26-7, shows Ralph's signature notarized 24 Oct 1931 by a Colusa Co. notary living in Maxwell.

³⁷Ralph O. Reigel affidavit (3 Oct 1941), Birth Date and Place of Frank William Reigel, copy in possession of author, notarized in Glenn Co., California.

³⁸Interview, Elizabeth Robasciotti, 4 Sep 2003, said her parents drove from Orland, where they lived, to Oregon for her birth, and that Ralph lived in Orland "to the war years." Said that Ralph and sons worked in fruit orchards during that time.

³⁹Edith J. Reigel, Certificate of Death, No. 4400-347 (19 Oct 1999), copy held by author, Boone, North Carolina, issued by California County Recorder of Santa Cruz County, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, Santa, filed 20 Apr 1956; shows address, city, county, state, and lived in city 12 yrs.

⁴⁰Ralph Orzben Reigel Certificate of Death, shows address, city, county, state, and lived in city 13 yrs.

⁴¹Edith J. Reigel obituary, *unknown newspaper*. copy provided by Juanita Ala (Silver) Dailey 9 Mar 2004, shows she was a resident of Santa Cruz since 1944.

⁴²Ralph Reigel household, 1900 U. S. Census, Clark Co., Washington, population schedule, Chelatchie Precinct, ED 24, sheet 7A, dwelling 149, family 149.

⁴³Ralph O. Reigel household, 1910 U.S. Census, Lake Co., Washington, population schedule, Silver Lake Precinct, ED 138, sheet 12B, dwelling 321, family 322.

⁴⁴1920 U.S. census, Deschutes Co., Oregon, Terrebonne Pct., Enumeration District No. 39, dwelling no. 115, household no. 115.

⁴⁵Ralph Reigel household, 1930 U.S. Census, Jackson Co., Oregon, population schedule, Ashland, ED 15, sheet 3B, dwelling 88, family 90.