

Manwaring Family History Poem

By Beth Manwaring Schick
(Presented at a Manwaring reunion, 1960.)

Have you ever wondered,
And I'm sure we all do-
Where the name Manwaring came from?
Just listen, and I'll tell it to you.
It all started many years ago,
Way back in France.
When it was called De Mesnilwaren,
Of that first spelling, let's take a glance.
It means a manner or Warren
Or a residence or place.
And referred to an estate probably
Or at least a large amount of space.

Our first known ancestor--Ranalphus
Was a general tried and true.
In William the Conqueror's army,
They must have been friends, those two--
For Ranalphus came with William
In the year 1066,
From Normandy to England to live,
And the King gave him 15 Lordship estates to fix.
They were in Little Poebre, Cheshire,
About ten miles away
From Sandbach, where the Manwarings we know lived
And where heads of families live today.
Ranalphus became a wealthy Lord,
In the King's service was he,
As were many of the Manwarings at that time,
A noble line of people they came to be.

On down through the years,
This name has changed a lot,
From a hundred and 30 different spellings,
Until Manwaring is what we got.

It's a name that is not common
Like Jones or Jensen or Smith,
And yet it's well known in our time too.
It's a proud name to live with.
We don't have much information
About this great family of ours,
From Ranalphus down to John Manwaring, Sr.
To find out more would take hours.
So let's jump from the early years,
To the Manwarings more of our time.
And find out a few things about them
And what makes this Manwaring name sublime.

John Manwaring Senior
Is the earliest ancestor we know much about,
His wife was Mary,
They had a son John^{3/4} of this there is no doubt.
John Junior was born in a little thatch roofed house,
On a farm in Sandbach, England.
To make John Sr. proud of his spouse
John Jr.'s wife was Eleanor Bratt
Their children numbered twelve.
It's the seventh child Henry,
Into whose life we want to delve.

Henry and his wife Sarah Barber
Didn't do so bad
With carrying on the Manwaring name,
For it was 9 children they had.
Their 2nd child, George, brought fame to the name,
For a song writer he turned out to be,
And several of his hymns appear
In the songbook we sing out of at Church on Sunday.

Their first child Herbert
In whose honor we clan together each year,
To keep the family name alive,
And to each other become closer and more dear.
Herbert learned his father's trade
A shoemaker he was to be.
But somehow Herbert didn't like this job.
So many different kinds of work tried he.

Carrying bricks and working on farms--
There wasn't much chance for school.
At 12 he followed his father and joined the Church.
He always tried to live the golden rule.

At seventeen, his chance finally came
To America and Zion he was to go.
He boarded the sail boat John Bright,
What was ahead of him he did not know.
How many days he was on the water,
His records do not clearly state,
But they went through terrific wind, storm and fog,
And other hardships too numerous to relate.
Herbert finally made it to Wyoming
After taking a steamboat and train ride,
When helped to get the wagons ready
For a trip across the plains so rough and wide.
About the middle of June, 1866,
In an oxen team he started
And encountered many hardships along the way
Which made him tired and downhearted.
By September 1st, however,
They pulled into the tithing yard at Salt Lake.
And Herbert found odd jobs here and there to do,
For his board and room and a little money to make.
1870 was a year
Herbert did not want much to remember,
For he was struck with lightning,
Which left him partially deaf forever.

After five long years in America
He had money enough to send
For his mother and father, brothers and sisters
From England to America their journey to wend.
Just two weeks after their arrival here,
Herbert's sister Mary took sick,
With mountain fever, then pneumonia
Her life in America ended quick.
The family finally settled in Springville,
But Herbert stayed in the Salt Lake area to work,

Farming, mining then freighting,
His responsibilities he never would shirk.

Then a lovely girl came into the picture,
Clarissa Wilkins was her name.
They married and settled in the Granger area
Many hardships they overcame.
It was lonely and discouraging--
To develop this new area for people to live,
And this couple had their share of trials,
They were poverty stricken and had not much to give.
Their church duties were sadly neglected for a while,
There was no church organization close enough for them to go.
Four of their children were born without being blessed,
A ward organization was established when the settlement began to grow.

In 1889--a big land boom came to the valley.
Herbert and Clarissa got in the swing too and
Bought some land at Mapleton
And built a two roomed lumber house anew.
A few years after moving,
Clarissa took a severe sick spell,
And for many years could not do much work,
They wondered if she would ever get well.
Sons Orson, Walter, Arthur and families
To Groveland, Idaho, had gone to farm.
Herbert and Clarissa decided to move there too,
To be nearer them would do no harm.
They moved in the year 1910
And just 3 years after this
Clarissa took sick and for many weeks
Was helpless with paralysis.
Though better at times
From this sick spell she never did fully recover,
And on the 26th of July, 1914,
Her existence in this life was over.

Herbert then spent a lot of time
In the temples of our Lord.
Doing work for our dead ancestors,
Seeking out genealogy whenever the time would afford.
Sometimes he stayed with his sons

And at Springville stayed with his mother,
Until her death in 1918
Then back to temple work and visiting with one son or another.
It was while he was at Blackfoot,
His book of life closed for this earth,
He'd lived a good exemplary life
It had been 87 years since his birth.
Though Herbert has been gone,
These many, many years,
The Manwaring name has been carried on
Through his sons' families and their careers.
There are so many Manwarings
It's hard to know who's who,
So let's see the descendent of each son
This will include all of you!

(At this point all the descendents of each of the sons of Herbert came to the front and introduced themselves and performed on the program.)

Hyrum was the oldest son,
His life was wrapped up in Ricks College.
He was a believer in school and education,
And was always seeking more and greater knowledge.
He married Bessie Bird
A believer in improving yourself, too.
They had 4 children to be proud of,
They're Manwarings through and through.

Next in line was Levi
Who is alive to this day.
He worked in the railroad shops.
That's how he earned his pay.
His wife was Clara Belle Whiting.
They had 3 children to boast about
As well as a foster son Leo Perry
To the Manwarings, they are devout.

Charles Herbert then was born
On this earth he was not to stay.
For five days after his birth,
He was quickly taken away.

Their fourth son was Orson
At farming he tried his hand.
He was also field man for the Upper Snake River Dairyman's Association,
Which made him much in demand.
He married Jessie Whitney,
And to them three sons came along.
They've become a credit to the family,
Proclaiming it's name loud and strong.

Walter was the fifth son,
His life on this earth was rather short.
But he set out to be a farmer,
His accomplishments are worthy of report.
Emogene Bird was his sweetheart,
And later became his wife.
Five children came to them
During their short married life.

Arthur was son number six.
A farmer he was too.
As well as being the county assessor
Which gave him plenty to do.
Terese Holley is his wife.
She's alive and active as yet,
And mighty proud of her children--
They've helped make the Manwaring name famous you can bet!

Next in line came Horace
Whose occupation was a bookkeeper.
His life ended not too long ago,
And memories of him grow deeper.
Ivy Lee was his wife,
She is also alive today.
Their families live in California,
They had 5 children if you may.

David is the youngest son
Though not too young any more.
The creamery business was his life's work
Of many jobs he knows the score.
Zella Hart is his companion--
The only couple of the sons still living.

Their five children are here today too,
To the Manwarings their time and efforts are giving.

Now you know the history
Of this Manwaring family great.
Let's continue to get together each year
So the links in this family chain will never separate.