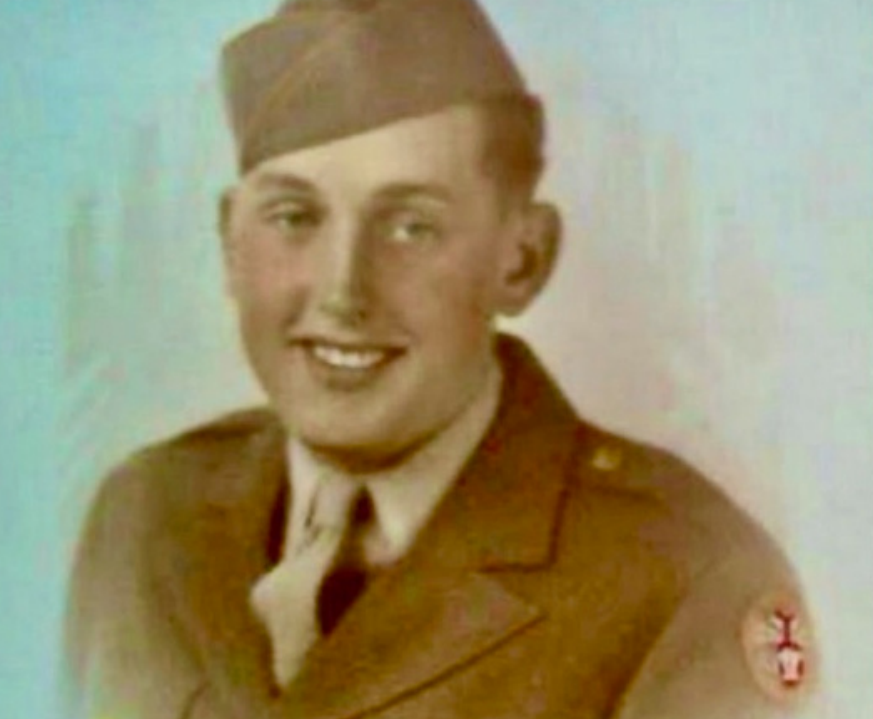


A Family History – Sodens and Yetmans



How WWII Contributed to a
Love Story Odyssey from
New Jersey to Colorado



Quick Facts

BIRTH
02 DEC 1923
Englishtown,
New Jersey, USA



BIRTH
03 JAN 1921
Jamesburg,
New Jersey, USA

MARRIAGE
17 MAR 1946
Newark,
New Jersey USA,

A Family History – Sodens and Yetmans

How WWII Contributed to a Love Story Odyssey from New Jersey to Colorado

So, how did a farm boy from New Jersey become a Ski Trooper serving in the 10th Mountain Division in Colorado and Italy?

How did a city girl from New Jersey become a WAC serving in the Army Air Force in Colorado?

And how did they meet to combine, not only their New Jersey experiences, but their heritages as well?



CAMP HOOD, TX May, 1943

Frank Myron Soden's Service

Texas to Colorado, Back to Texas then Italy
and Return to Colorado



After enlisting in April, 1943, serving basic training in Texas at Camp Hood for four months in a tank destroyer unit and later sent to Camp Swift in early August, where he was transferred to the 10th Mountain Division in the late Fall of 1943.

After transferring to Camp Hale in Leadville, Colorado during the winter 1943-1944 where he experienced the extreme cold, snow and training for mountain warfare, the Division was transferred to Camp Swift for training as a first machine gunner in the Texas heat where they embarked by train to Norfolk, VA for travel by ship "Argentina" to Italy in December 1944.



Photo of Frank and shoudler emblem patch Tank Destroyers



In a letter to his Aunt Rita, likely Saturday, May 29, 1943, he wrote:

"Today we had a parade to celebrate the official opening of North Camp Hood and it had to rain. So we had to parade around in uniform without any rain coats on, not that we don't have rain coats but just because they didn't want us to cover the uniforms and did we get wet!"

"If you want to send me anything at all I would appreciate it if you would send cookies or cake because all the boys get some of whatever a fellow gets from home and anyway and cake and cookies can be distributed the easiest." "...we do plenty of walking during our basic training period which is thirteen weeks we get plenty of double time too that's running to you civilians. I don't know rather its for going ahead faster or rather its for retreating but just the same we get plenty tough training and I do mean tough."

"Sorry I can't think of anything else to write about to-day but as soon as I can I'll write you again. Give my regards to the rest of the family. Your Nephew Bud"

Helen Marie Donnelly's Service

New Jersey to Georgia to Colorado



FORT OGLETHORPE, GA June, 1944

Helen Donnelly enlisted as a WAC June 20, 1944 in Newark, Essex County, NJ.

After completing basic training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia, she was assigned as a clerk with the Headquarters of the 2nd Army Air Force in Colorado Springs, CO.

She became a Pfc and served until April 9, 1946.

The 2nd Army Air Force served as a training ground for B-29s.



Photos of Helen (D.C. traveling to GA) pin Nat'l Assoc. Air Force Women

Having met Frank Soden at a USO dance in Colorado Springs, she has written:

"He had just returned from overseas after peace and was awaiting his discharge. We became acquainted when we found out we were both from the same area of New Jersey."

Helen's WAC Service

Fort Oglethorpe Basic then assigned to
2nd Army Air Force Headquarters

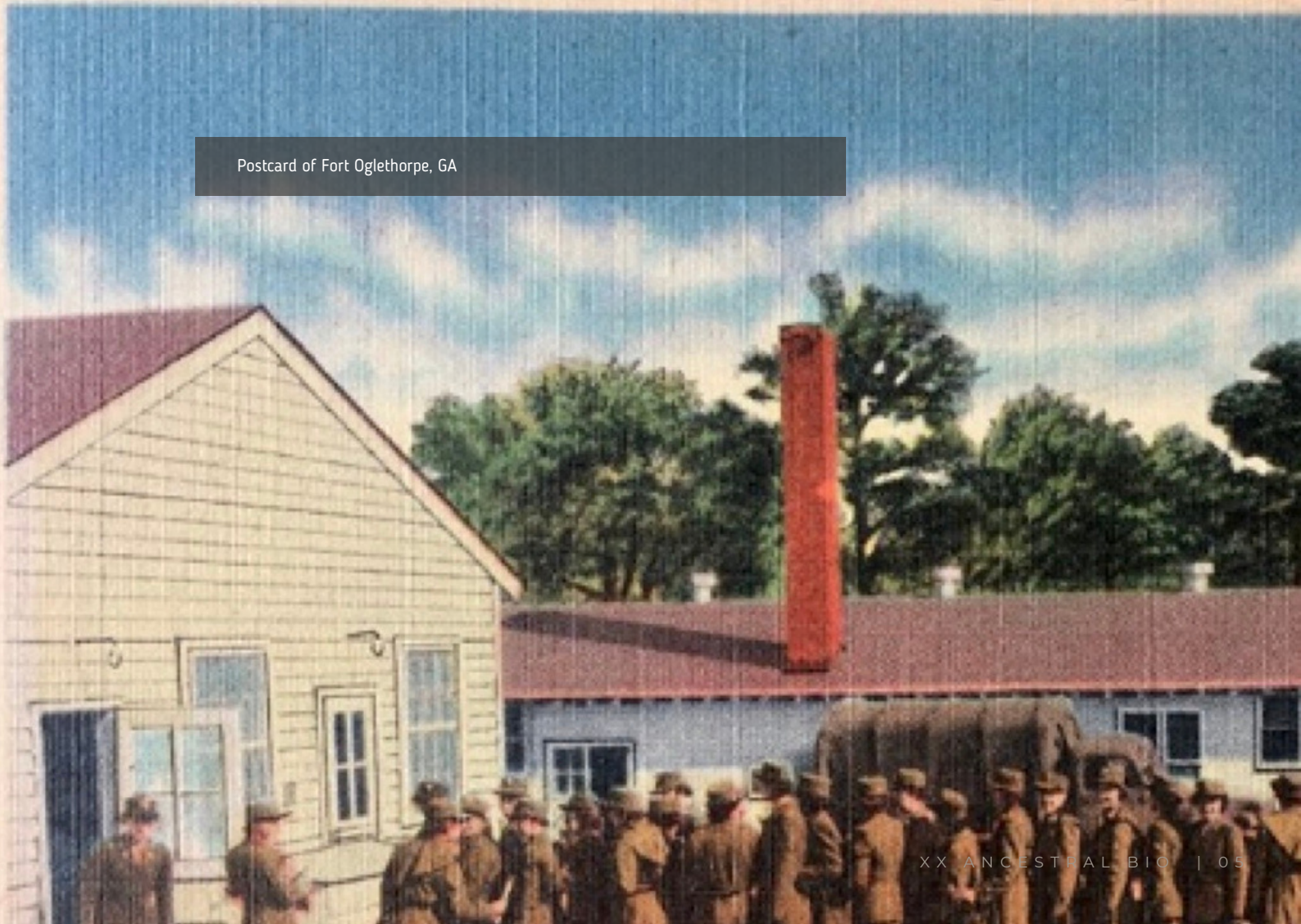
Following Women's Army Corps basic training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia, Helen was assigned to the 2nd Army Air Force base headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Three of Helen's good friends at the headquarters where Helen served as a WAC in the office as clerk, eventually helping to oversee the clerk's responsibilities, were Helen Ampler, Eleanor Meisner and Ruth Parry.



Pay Day, Third WAAC Training Center, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

Postcard of Fort Oglethorpe, GA





Frank's Service

Assigned to 10th Mountain following Basic Training

Date of Entry into Active Service was 29 Apr 1943 and

Date of Separation was 1 Mar 1946.

Military Occupational Assignments were:

4 months Pvt Basic Tank Destroyer MOS 521 (after perhaps Jul – Nov 1943 Camp Hood TX when likely transferred to the 10th Mountain)

26 months Pfc Machine Gunner Heavy 605 (perhaps Dec 1943 – Nov 1945, Camp Hale CO and Camp Swift TX)

3 months Pfc M.P. (military police) 677 (perhaps Dec – Feb 1946 Fort Carson CO)

Summary of Military Occupations:

MACHINE GUNNER, HEAVY:

“Was first gunner on a water cooled .30 cal.

Machine gun operating in combat. Provided overhead or covering fire for rifleman in combat.

Disassembled, inspected, cleaned, and reassembled weapon. Replaced worn or defective parts with new ones. Acted as assistant squad leader of the 7 man squad.”

From NJ to Camp Hood TX Apr 1943, then in Dec 1943 Camp Hale CO, Jun 1944 Camp Swift TX and Dec 22 Naples Italy

Basic training involved service with a tank destroyer unit at Camp Hood continuing with brief maneuvers in Louisiana and then transfer to Camp Hale likely in early Dec 1944.

Assigned initially to Company F, 86th Regiment of the 10th Mountain Infantry Division, he experienced the harsh well below zero winter drills in the snow and high altitude Rocky Mountains. He was photographed at a Company party in April 27, 1944.

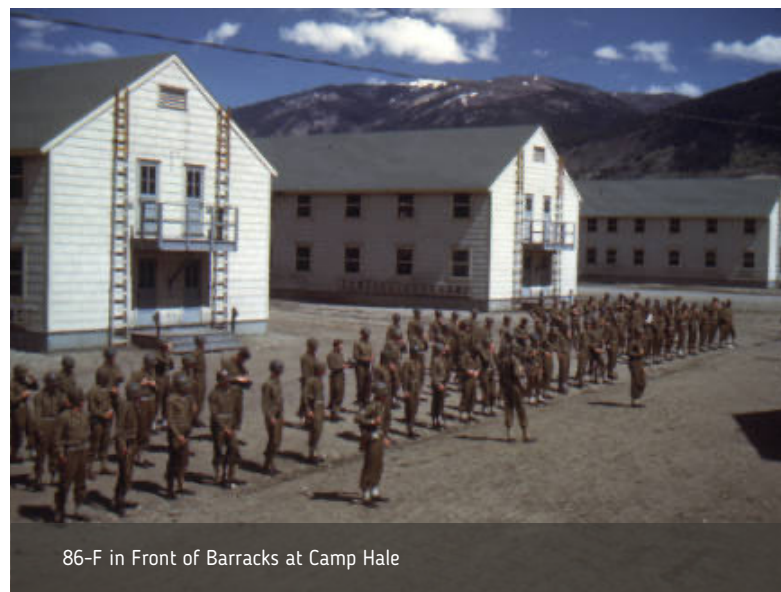
In Jun 1944 the 10th was transferred to Camp Swift TX for training in the severe heat there for a desert environment. At that time it appears he was transferred to Company H, 86th Regiment a heavy weapons unit as first machine gunner of the squad.

In Dec 1944 the 86th was shipped by train to Norfolk, VA for disembarkation to Naples Italy Dec 11, arriving Dec 22. He described the tiered sleeping as "claustrophobic" and the very restless sea sick waves.

In Italy the 10th served well, its renown as skilled mountain troops only recently being praised.



Frank (2nd on Right) 86-F Regiment Photo colorized



86-F in Front of Barracks at Camp Hale



50 Cal Machine Gun Frank Would Operate as 86-H First Gunner

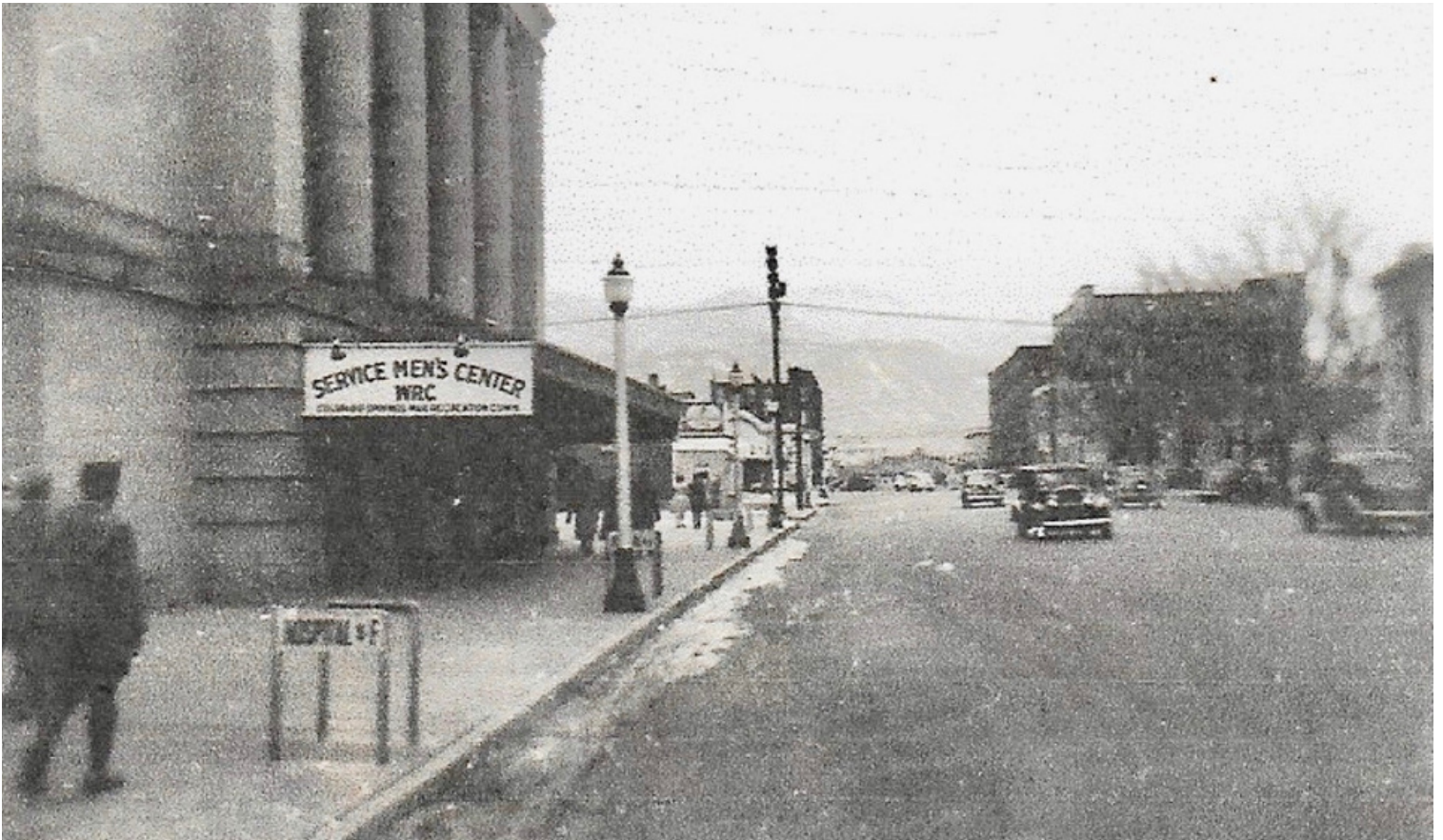


The end of WWII and Return to the United States from Italy

Upon his return to the States in August, 1945 at the conclusion of the War Frank was reassigned to Camp Carson, Colorado Springs, CO as a MP (Military Police), likely as the Camp also served as an interment location for prisoners of war from Germany and elsewhere.

It was during this time in Colorado Springs at that military establishment that he had the opportunity and occasion to meet a young lady at a USO (United Services Office) dance.

The below photo appears to be the location that dance would have been held at the Service Men's Center, which would have been the site of recreation and dances for those in the service.



SERVICE MEN'S CENTER, Colorado Springs, CO Where USO Dance Was Held



MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE

Three men from this vicinity have been cited by the 86th Mountain Regiment of the 10th "Mountaineer" Division and awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for actual participation in combat against the enemy on the Fifth Army front in Italy. They are Pfc. John Peabody, son of Walter Peabody, Stelton; Pfc. Frank M. Soden, son of Frank Soden, Jamesburg, and Staff Sgt. Russell C. Freese, husband of Mrs. Mary E. Freese, 43 Washington avenue.

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WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA Helen M. Soden



Charter Member 327511

HIGHEST RANK: PFC

SERVICE: Army Air-WAC From Jul 1, 1944 to Apr 30, 1946

WAR/CONFLICTS: WWII

BORN: Jan 4, 1921

BIRTH PLACE: Jamesburg, NJ

MAIDEN: Donnelly

PREVIOUS:

NICKNAME:

SERVICE NAME:

DECORATIONS: Army Good Conduct Medal
Women's Army Corps Service Medal
American Campaign Medal

HOMETOWN: Bernardsville, NJ

DECEASED: Feb 27, 2000

MIDDLE: Marie

AKA:

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES:

Following WAC Basic Training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia, assigned as a Clerk General 055 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Served in Headquarters, 2nd AAF. Among friends who also served were Helen Amsler, Eleanor Meisner and Ruth Parry. Met husband, Frank Myron Soden, Jr., at a U.S.O. in Colorado. He served with the 10th Mountain Division, 86th Regiment, Company H. "He had just returned from overseas after peace and was awaiting his discharge. We got acquainted when we found out we were both from the same area of New Jersey".

Helen Marie Donnelly & Frank Myron Soden

Met in Colorado Springs, CO 1945

Married in Newark, NJ 1946



Colorado, El Paso, 21-110

Monday May 21 29-6

Sheet Number 7

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

FOIA P1

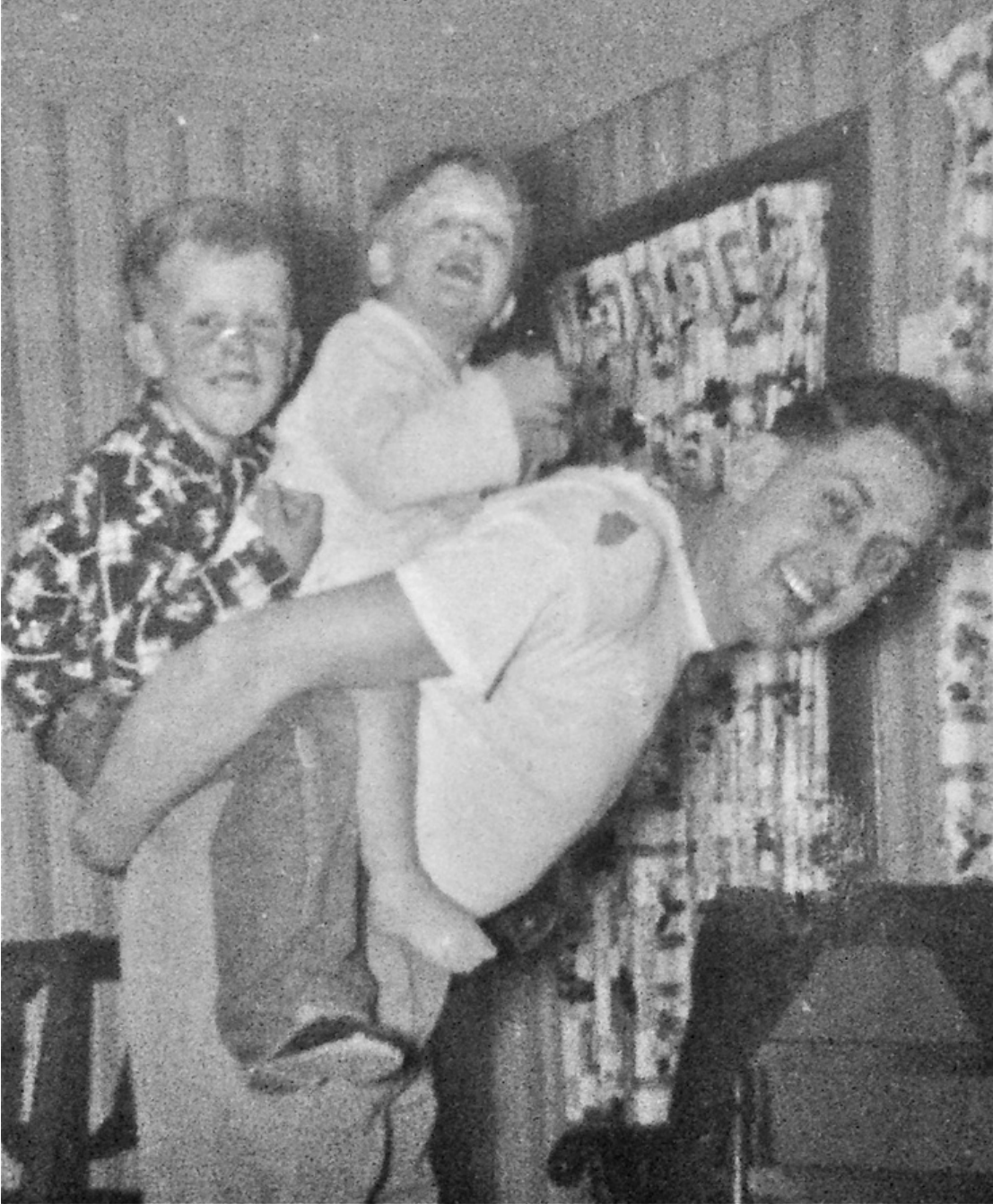
FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD		FOR ALL PERSONS										FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER									
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	SEX	AGE	ETHNIC	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	STATUS	INDUSTRY	STATUS	INDUSTRY	STATUS	INDUSTRY	STATUS	INDUSTRY	STATUS	INDUSTRY	STATUS				
Mullen, Donald R.	wife	W	56	Wh	HS																
Shaped, Lyla R.	sister-in-law	W	58	Wh	HS																
Campbell, Corla C.	head	W	62	Wh	HS																
Muller, V.	wife	W	60	Wh	HS																
Jadkin, Frank M.	head	W	26	Wh	HS																
John, M.	wife	W	24	Wh	HS																
No one home	absent																				
Clawson, Harry L.	head	W	41	Wh	HS																
Clawson, Jean E.	wife	W	46	Wh	HS																
Clawson, Donald R.	son	W	13	Wh	PK																

Return to Colorado - Glenn Enters the Picture - Three years later back in New Jersey Linda is part of the family

Following their March 1946 marriage, residing in New Jersey they returned to Colorado Springs in 1948 to continue to attend business college, which they had begun in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Despite occasional returns to their families and roots in New Jersey they were in Colorado Springs during the April 1950 Census and remained there while and after their son Glenn Warren was born. The moved to NJ again at Christmas residing their until Linda was about 2 years old.



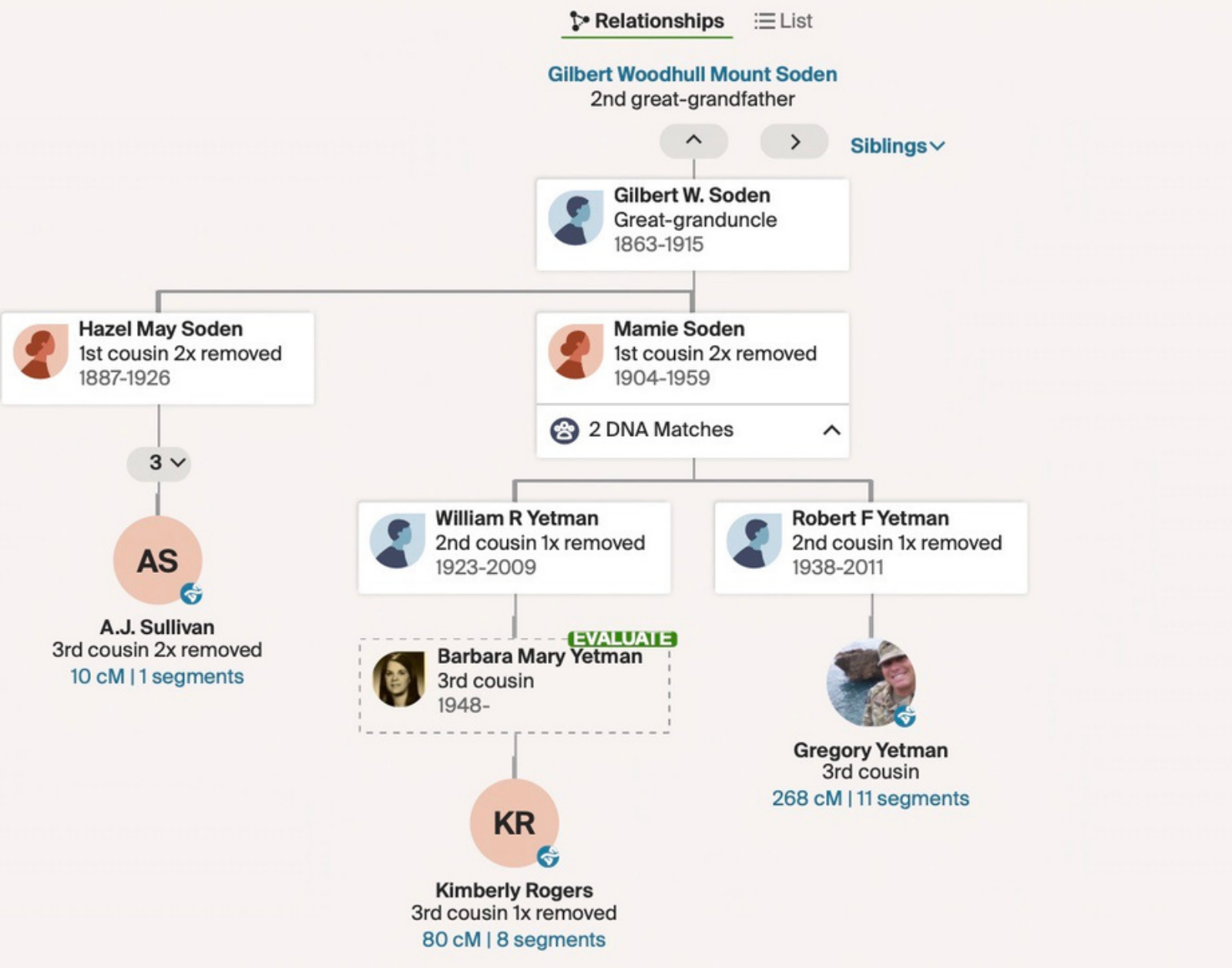


Even though Helen resided in Newark, New Jersey most of her life, her mother was from the same area Frank's family lived. Her mother, Edna Yetman Donnelly returned to that area of New Jersey during the War. Conversations and family interactions were yet to reveal that the Sodens and Yetmans had relatives marry in prior years, leading Frank and Helen to conclude, at least by their estimates they might be sixth (6th) cousins.

FAMILY HISTORY - FRANK'S 1st COUSIN 1x Removed MAMIE SODEN MARRIED (May 1922) HELEN'S UNCLE ROBERT YETMAN

ThruLines® for Gilbert Woodhull Mount Soden

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 22 DNA matches through Gilbert Woodhull Mount Soden.



FAMILY HISTORY - HELEN'S UNCLE ROBERT YETMAN MARRIED (May 1922) FRANK'S 1st COUSIN 1x Removed MAMIE SODEN

ThruLines® for Robert Potter Yetman

ThruLines® uses Ancestry® trees to suggest that you may be related to 9 DNA matches through Robert Potter Yetman.

▶ Relationships ☰ List

