

# Family Tree of Edward Eden Bonta



REV. E. E. BONTA.

Genealogy Report of Edward Eden Bonta  
By: Alfreda L. Potrafke  
(Third Great-Granddaughter of Edward Eden Bonta)  
December 2007  
[www.celticgirafferesearch.com](http://www.celticgirafferesearch.com)

*Descendants of Edward Eden Bonta*

*Generation No. 1*

1. EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup> BONTA was born 18 Sep 1844 in Indiana, and died 25 Aug 1908. He married ELIZABETH MATHIS 21 Sep 1865 in Jefferson County, Indiana, daughter of JOHN (MATTHEWS) and ELIZABETH LEE. She was born 07 Dec 1845 in Indiana, and died 25 Jul 1931.

Notes for EDWARD EDEN BONTA:

1850 U.S. Census:

Shelby Township, Jefferson County, Indiana; Taken August 27, 1850 by David Stevenson; Line 38; Edward Banta; 5 yrs. old; Male; b. Mississippi. (Edward is living with John Matthews; Line 35; who is 62 yrs. old; a Farmer; Real Estate value is \$6000. Also living with them is Susan Matthews (possibly John's daughter); Line 36; 42 yrs. old; b. Kentucky. Also living with them is Nathan Matthews; Line 37; 12 yrs. old; b. Iowa.).

1870 U.S. Census:

Lived in Lincoln, Madison County, Iowa. This census says he was born in Missouri!

1880 U.S. Census:

Lived in Casey County, Kentucky.

1900 U.S. Census:

Lived in Madison, Dubois County, Indiana. All can read and write.

-----

Bethel #1  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky  
1847 - present

Says: Sept. 2, 1896 - Following persons were admitted to church after a revival held by J. C. Gilliam and Rev. E. E. Bonta: Mary E. Terhune, Susie Comingo, Lee Prewitt, James Semonis, Wm. Watts, Lilly Pelly, and John Collier.

---

## SHILOH PIONEER CEMETERY INDEX

A-C    D - G    H - M    N-S    T - Z

This listing of Shiloh Cemetery was done in 2001-2002 by Sharon Himsel, MaryAlice Parks and Jane Nelson and is an updating of the last listing done in 1980. An earlier listing, which was done by George Wilson in 1929, has also been used to verify that all graves are included to the best of our knowledge. We also have consulted records from the Dubois County Courthouse and Jasper Courier newspaper clippings to list persons believed to be buried here but who have no stone visible.

The previous listing and map of Shiloh Cemetery was made in the summer of 1980 by Eugene "Butch" and Eleanor Gutzweiler, Natalie Montgomery Baker and Lillian Doane. The stones in the cemetery are placed very irregularly in many cases, and the map shows the rows somewhat straighter in order to conserve space in the making of the map. The locations are as descriptive as possible, while still maintaining a uniform mapping of stones.



Notes for ELIZABETH MATHIS:

Listed as having had 6 kids and 5 still alive in 1900.

This information is from Norma Karter (Pike and Dubois County LookUps):

She got this from a book on the History of Jefferson County Indiana.

### JOHN MATHIS

John Mathis (deceased) was a farmer of Shelby township. He was born in Trimble County, Ky., in 1808. He came to Indiana at an early date, with his mother, who was Miss Mary Warden previous to her marriage to Mr. William Mathis, father of the subject of this sketch. His father died some time before his widow; and she, with a family of young children, came to this State, and mad a new home for them, and raised them to be good citizens.

Mr. Mathis was married March 24, 1831, to Miss Elizabeth Lee, daughter of Nathan Lee, who came to Indiana from Kentucky about 1815. Mr. Mathis and wife were the parents of twelve living children: William W., Nancy A., Mary J., Nathan L., Elijah, Susan, Rachel, Cytha, Elizabeth, Warner H., Malinda, Ealy and Richard. They are all married who are living, but two, Ealy and Richard, who are still at home with their mother, their father having died in 1876.

Mr. Mathis was one of the pioneers of this county, and one of its best men. He was a prominent member and earnest supporter of the Baptist Church for forty years before he died. He was liberal and honest with his neighbors, and is much missed by his large circle of friends and relatives.

He voted for Mr. William H. Harrison for President in 1840, and was a Whig in politics, and an ardent support of Henry Clay. When the old Whig party ceased, he voted the Republican ticket. He owned 115 acres of well-improved land, which is now owned by his youngest son, Richard, who cares for his widowed mother and youngest sister.

Three of the sons, William W., Nathan L. and Elijah, served through the whole of the war. William was a Sergeant, and served for five years--he lives in Nebraska; Elijah lives in Jefferson County, and Nathan L. is a farmer in Kansas.

Richard Mathis, the youngest son, was born Jan. 1, 1854, is not married, and is one of the best and foremost farmers of Jefferson County.

Children of EDWARD BONTA and ELIZABETH MATHIS are:

2.
  - i. J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup> BONTA, b. 01 Oct 1868, Indiana; d. 23 Nov 1907, Mercer County, Kentucky.
  - ii. JANNA M. BONTA, b. Abt. 1872, Iowa.
  - iii. EFFA M. BONTA, b. Abt. 1875, Iowa.
  - iv. DAISY E. BONTA, b. Abt. 1877, Indiana.
3.
  - v. NATHAN HENRY BONTA, b. 10 Jun 1877, Indiana or Kentucky; d. 12 Oct 1948, Warren County, Kentucky.
  - vi. LIZZIE M. BONTA, b. Nov 1880, Kentucky.

*Generation No. 2*

**2.** J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup> BONTA (*EDWARD EDEN*<sup>1</sup>) was born 01 Oct 1868 in Indiana, and died 23 Nov 1907 in Mercer County, Kentucky. He married ALICE LYONS 03 Oct 1888 in Mercer County, Kentucky, daughter of ABRAHAM LYONS and BARBARA MOORE. She was born 26 Nov 1869 in Kentucky, and died 29 Jan 1907 in Kentucky.

## Notes for ALICE LYONS:

According to a family record in Ancestry.com, Alice Lyons' first name is Frony, but I have no proof of this.

## Marriage Notes for J. BONTA and ALICE LYONS:

### From Mercer County Court:

ROSE HILL KY  
October 3, 1888

M. Ben Allen, County Clerk of Mercer County Ky.

I have been informed of a matrimonial alliance between Mr. J.E. Bonta to my daughter Alice Lyons and here by send this notice to you with a request to issue the papers necessary to consimate the same.

Very Respectfully Yours,  
Abe Lyons (x-his mark)  
Attest J. M. Brown & William Lyons (x-his mark)  
1888 Oct. 3

(there are two lines that look like another mark for Wm. Lyons, and possibly something about Alice Lyons. The page was torn, and very old, and I can't read it for sure).

## Children of J. BONTA and ALICE LYONS are:

4. i. CLARENCE W.<sup>3</sup> BONTA, b. 14 Apr 1889, Burgin County, Kentucky; d. 14 Sep 1970, Burgin County, Kentucky.
5. ii. FLORENCE EDEN BONTA, b. 28 Sep 1890, Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 29 Jun 1988, Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky.
6. iii. EFFIE BONTA, b. Sep 1892, Kentucky; d. 18 May 1968, McCreary County, Kentucky.
7. iv. JAMES EDWARD BONTA, b. May 1896, Kentucky.  
v. MAUD BONTA, b. May 1899.
8. vi. HUGH SHERMAN BONTA, b. 28 Mar 1903, Kentucky; d. 14 Apr 1998, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky.

**3.** NATHAN HENRY<sup>2</sup> BONTA (*EDWARD EDEN*<sup>1</sup>) was born 10 Jun 1877 in Indiana or Kentucky, and died 12 Oct 1948 in Warren County, Kentucky. He married DIXIE A..

Children of NATHAN BONTA and DIXIE A. are:

- i. DEWEY<sup>3</sup> BONTA, b. Abt. 1898, Kentucky.
- ii. JENNIE M. BONTA.
- iii. JUANITA BONTA.

*Generation No. 3*

**4.** CLARENCE W.<sup>3</sup> BONTA (*J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 14 Apr 1889 in Burgin County, Kentucky, and died 14 Sep 1970 in Burgin County, Kentucky. He married ORA E. SALLEE Abt. 1912, daughter of H.L. SALLEE and MARY JANE. She was born 04 Jan 1895, and died 18 Sep 1974 in Mercer County, Kentucky.

Children of CLARENCE BONTA and ORA SALLEE are:

- i. JAMES E.<sup>4</sup> BONTA, b. 02 May 1915, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 27 Dec 1988, Mercer County, Kentucky.
- ii. WILLIAM R. BONTA, b. 02 Mar 1920, Kentucky.
- iii. ORA ANN BONTA, b. Abt. 1928, Kentucky.

Notes for ORA ANN BONTA:

VitalSearch for Mercer County Kentucky on the internet has a record stating there was a Meldred A. Bonta born April 28, 1828; Mother's name was Ora Bonta.

**5.** FLORENCE EDEN<sup>3</sup> BONTA (*J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 28 Sep 1890 in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, and died 29 Jun 1988 in Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky. She married MARCUS SHERMAN LYONS 21 Oct 1911 in Harrodsburg Church, Harrodsburg, Kentucky (M.E. Parsonage), son of PHILLIP LYONS and MARTHA ADKINSON. He was born 02 Jan 1891 in Kentucky, and died 11 May 1928 in Mercer County, Kentucky.

Notes for FLORENCE EDEN BONTA:

Married her first cousin.

Notes for MARCUS SHERMAN LYONS:  
Married his first cousin.

1920

Lived at Farm on Burgin Pike, Mercer County, Stringtown

Children of FLORENCE BONTA and MARCUS LYONS are:

- i. EDWARD DAVID<sup>4</sup> LYONS, b. 26 May 1913, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 27 May 1913, Mercer County, Kentucky.

Notes for EDWARD DAVID LYONS:

In the Kentucky Death Records 1911 - 2000, this son is listed as LYONS, Marcus 1.

- ii. HATTIE JANE LYONS, b. 10 Apr 1914, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 09 May 1914, Mercer County, Kentucky.

Notes for HATTIE JANE LYONS:

There is a Hattie Lyons listed in a book at the Mercer County Kentucky Historical Society, page 470; for the Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky. This book lists Hatty Lyons; died 11-02-1916; Section M; Lot 6; Grave Unknown; Lot of Phil Lyons. It also has "place of death" as "Rmvd fm place unknown".

9.
  - iii. LEE WILLIAM LYONS, b. 29 Sep 1915, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 01 Oct 1968, Jefferson County, Kentucky.
  - iv. HORACE DAY LYONS, b. 08 Feb 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky; d. 22 Feb 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky.

Notes for HORACE DAY LYONS:

According to Grandma Lyons' (Florence Eden Bonta-Lyons) Bible, Horace is spelled "Harice". Her Bible says Horace died February 22, 1917, but according to the Kentucky Death Records, he died February 22, 1918, and according to the Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky book at the Historical Society in Harrodsburg, Page 470, it says his death date was 02-23-1918. The Spring Hill Cemetery records also say Horace D. Lyons; buried in Section M; Lot 6; Grave Unknown; Lot owned by Phil Lyons.

10.
  - v. MARCUS THOMAS SHERMAN LYONS, b. 13 Mar 1919, Kentucky; d. 08 Feb 1985, Mercer County, Kentucky.

6. EFFIE<sup>3</sup> BONTA (*J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born Sep 1892 in Kentucky, and died 18 May 1968 in McCreary County, Kentucky. She married ROBERT LYONS Jun 1907 in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, son of CHARLES LYONS and SARAH PEAVLER. He was born Abt. 1889 in Kentucky.

Children of EFFIE BONTA and ROBERT LYONS are:

- i. JOHN<sup>4</sup> LYONS, b. Abt. 1909, Kentucky.
- ii. ALICE LYONS, b. Abt. 1911, Kentucky.
- iii. FLORENCE EDEN LYONS, b. 17 May 1916, Kentucky.
- iv. LUCILE LYONS, b. Abt. 1919, Kentucky.

7. JAMES EDWARD<sup>3</sup> BONTA (*J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born May 1896 in Kentucky. He married DORA ANN SALLEE 11 Sep 1915 in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky, daughter of H.L. SALLEE and MARY JANE. She was born 23 Sep 1899 in Kentucky, and died 13 Apr 1992 in Boone County, Kentucky.

Notes for DORA ANN SALLEE:

On Ancestry.com, 1852-1999 Kentucky Births, it lists a daughter for Dora Sallee:

NAME: FAOMA A. BONTA

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 NOV 1920

COUNTY: Mercer

NAME OF MOTHER: Dora Sallee

VOLUME NUMBER: 8

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 3789

VOLUME YEAR: 1921

Children of JAMES BONTA and DORA SALLEE are:

- i. ROSS E.<sup>4</sup> BONTA, b. 28 Dec 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky.
- ii. ELIZABETH C. BONTA, b. 28 Dec 1918, Mercer County, Kentucky.
- iii. FRONIA A. BONTA, b. 10 Oct 1920, Mercer County, Kentucky.

**8.** HUGH SHERMAN<sup>3</sup> BONTA (*J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 28 Mar 1903 in Kentucky, and died 14 Apr 1998 in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. He married LINNIE LALA TROXELL. She was born Abt. 1908 in Kentucky.

Notes for HUGH SHERMAN BONTA:

U.S. Phone & Address Directories, 1993-2002 Record: Hugh Bonta; 320 Burley Avenue; Lexington, KY 40503; 606-254-1239; Residence Years: 1993 - 1999.

Children of HUGH BONTA and LINNIE TROXELL are:

- i. SHERMAN<sup>4</sup> BONTA, b. Abt. 1928, Mercer County, Kentucky.
- ii. BETSY BONTA.
- iii. BUELAH BONTA.
- iv. RUBY MAE BONTA, b. Abt. 1924, Kentucky.
- v. JOE BONTA.
- vi. WALTER BONTA.

*Generation No. 4*

**9.** LEE WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> LYONS (*FLORENCE EDEN<sup>3</sup> BONTA, J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 29 Sep 1915 in Mercer County, Kentucky, and died 01 Oct 1968 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. He married MILDRED FREEMAN.

Children of LEE LYONS and MILDRED FREEMAN are:

- i. WILLIAM SHERMAN<sup>5</sup> LYONS, b. 31 Aug 1946; m. RITA CAROL JENKINS, 29 Oct 1970, Baptist Church Harrodsburg, Kentucky; b. 25 Jul 1952.
- ii. DIXIE LEE LYONS, b. 15 Mar 1949, Mercer County, Kentucky; m. MARSHALL J. MOBLEY; b. 1941.
- iii. JANICE KAY LYONS, b. 27 Nov 1950, Mercer County, Kentucky; m. ? WATTS.
- iv. MILDRED EDEN LYONS, b. 16 Jan 1954, Mercer County, Kentucky.
- v. LOU ANN LYONS, b. 24 Oct 1958, Mercer County, Kentucky.

**10.** MARCUS THOMAS SHERMAN<sup>4</sup> LYONS (*FLORENCE EDEN<sup>3</sup> BONTA, J. EDWARD<sup>2</sup>, EDWARD EDEN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 13 Mar 1919 in Kentucky, and died 08 Feb 1985 in Mercer County, Kentucky. He married (1) RUTH HOURIGAN 25 Mar 1940 in Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky, daughter of JAMES HOURIGAN and CLYDE REXROAT. She was born 14 Oct 1923 in Mercer County, Kentucky, and died 12 Jan 2001 in Hamilton County, Ohio at Hospice of Cincinnati. He married (2) BURNELL ROSE FREEMAN 24 Dec 1955 in Methodist Church, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, daughter of GLOVER FREEMAN and SALLIE ANN.

Notes for RUTH HOURIGAN:

Obituary from Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio  
RUTH SIMS

Ruth Hourigan Sims, 77, of 3216 Williamsburg Pike, Batavia, Ohio, formerly of Harrodsburg, Ky. died Friday, January 12, 2001 at Hospice of Cincinnati in Blue Ash, Ohio.

Born October 14, 1923 in Mercer County, she was a daughter of the late James Robert Hourigan and Clydia Bell Rexroat Hourigan.

Survivors include: her husband, Edgar "Fuzzy" Sims, Batavia, OH; one son, Danny Sims, and one daughter, Barbara Potrafke, both of OH; one sister, Mary Helen Zeliff, Harrodsburg; two brothers, Horace Hourigan, Harrodsburg and Thomas Hourigan, Springfield; six grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, four great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth and Stanley Hourigan, and one sister, Josephine Powell.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 16, at the Maham Funeral Home in Williamsburg, OH. Burial was in Williamsburg Cemetery.

(HH Thu Feb 22, 2001)

Marriage Notes for MARCUS LYONS and RUTH HOURIGAN:  
Marcus & Ruth Lyons were divorced February 13, 1946, but  
did not live together since around 1940 or 1941.

Child of MARCUS LYONS and RUTH HOURIGAN is:

- i. BARBARA ANN<sup>5</sup> LYONS, b. 07 Jun 1940, Harrodsburg, Mercer  
County, Kentucky; m. ALFRED HERMAN POTRAFKE, 11 Nov 1955,  
Williamsburg, Clermont County, Ohio (Nazerene Church); b. 21  
Jun 1937, Williamsburg, Brown County, Ohio; d. 14 Jan 2007,  
Batavia, Clermont County, Ohio (Clermont Mercy Hospital).