

Descendants of Thalia Dorothy Dillie Meissner

Generation No. 1

1. THALIA DOROTHY DILLIE¹⁰ MEISSNER (*ADOLPH FREDERICK⁹, FRIEDRICH ADOLF⁸, ERNST FRIEDRICH⁷, CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH⁶, CHRISTIAN⁵ MEICHSNER, GEORG⁴, CHRISTOFF³, GEORG², ??¹*) was born 25 May 1884 in Cashton, Portland Twp, Monroe, WI, USA, and died 19 Jun 1952 in Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles, CA, USA. She married (1) EDWARD HAYES MONROE 27 Jun 1906 in Pullman, Whitman, WA, USA, son of DAVID MONROE and SARAH HAYES. He was born 04 Apr 1882 in Carlin, ?, NV, USA, and died 03 Apr 1913 in Pomona, Los Angeles, CA, USA. She married (2) JACOB WILLIAM SCHERTZ Mar 1914 in CA, USA, son of ? SCHERTZ and CATHERINE [SCHERTZ]. He was born Jun 1864 in IL, USA, and died 11 Oct 1927 in San Bernardino Co, CA, USA. She married (3) GEORGE ZAICH 12 May 1921 in Santa Ana, Orange, CA, USA, son of ?? DZAJIC and ?? PRIMARAC. He was born 23 Apr 1887 in Hercegovina, Austria, and died 26 Jun 1953 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Notes for THALIA DOROTHY DILLIE MEISSNER:

Shown as Dorothy in CA Death Record and most census records. Some records show "Doratheia."

= Listed as "Dorothy Zaich, Owensmouth CA" in FAM 1930 will (C Davis records).

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US Census 1900 at Merlin, Josephine, OR: see note at Adolph Frederick Meissner.

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From the diary of her mother: Sep 8 1907, at Pullman WA; Dec 20 1908, moved to Montana; Mar 17 1909, at Calgary, Alberta, Can; Jan 1 1910, at Edmonton, Alberta, Can; Dec 1911, at Alabama; Jan 1913, at CA; Jan 1918, "Still at Upland."

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No US Census 1910 listing, as she was living in Canada during that year.

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See Entry from Canada to US, Jan 1912, at Petition for Naturalization, below

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After Dillie's first husband (Ed Monroe) died at Upland (or Pomona) CA in April 1913, she married Bill Schertz. (See Jacob William Schertz b 1864.)

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Her brother Adolph states in his autobiography: "she met Bill Schertz in Upland [CA], and married him. This marriage soon ended in divorce."

Her brother Paul says in his autobiography that she was married to William Schertz when the family came to live with her [in April or May 1914, at Upland, San Bernardino Co, CA] after being expelled from Mexico.

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Dillie and Bill lived at Upland for a few years but I have no documentation that they were married there. They may have been still legally married in Jan 1920; she gave his surname at census. She married George Zaich in 1921: see Petition for Naturalization, below.

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Compare note at sister Carrie: Dillie's parents and several siblings went to Panama in 1916; Andrew Zaich wanted to marry Carrie so she didn't go to Panama, but she waited to finish high school at Chaffey HS in Ontario (near Upland) before marrying Andrew on June 26 1918 [LPM 1958 survey:

http://meiszen.net/family/1958_Survey_index.htm]. Carrie and Andrew were living at Los Angeles in 1920 census; and Dillie Schertz and George Zaich were living in the same house with them. It seems likely that Dillie lived at Upland or Ontario at least until Carrie's graduation and wedding in June 1918, but Dillie could have left Bill and moved to Los Angeles most any time after that. (Note US Draft Registration World War I, Cards 1917-1918 (Ancestry.com), date 24 Oct 1918: brother Charles Whittier Meissner, employed at Panama Canal, Ancon, Panama, shows home address "Upland, California.")

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US Census 1920 (10 Jan) at 2430 Houston St, Los Angeles (County), CA:

Zaich, Andrew - Head (renter) - male, white - 28 [1892], married, immigrated 1908, alien; can read & write; b Croatia.

Carrie H - Wife - female, white -19 [1901], married, alien naturalized 1918 [see note at Carrie Hilda Meissner];

can read & write, b OR.

Josephine - Daughter - female, white - age 4 mo [1919], b CA

George L - Cousin - male, white - 29 [1891], single, immigrated 1907, alien; can read & write; b Croatia.

Schertz, Dillie M - Sister-in-law - female, white - 35 [1885], married; b WI. (This is the only written record I have seen, for her second husband's surname.)

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US Census 1930 (7-8 Apr) at Calabassas Twp, Los Angeles Co, CA: George Zaich 42 [1888] b Austria, first married age 33 [1921], occ: "caretaker, private estate"; wife Dorothy P 45 [1885] b WI, first married age 22 [1908], [LPM note: The location was probably Malibu Lakeside resort near Calabassas, near where Dillie and George lived till about 1950.]

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Listed as "Dorothy Zaich, Owensmouth CA" in father's 1930 will (C Davis records)

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Petition for Naturalization (under act of 22 Sep 1922 as amended), filed Los Angeles, 1 Aug 1935 shows Thalia Dorothy Zaich b La Cross WI 25 May 1884;

(Husband: George Zaich m 12 May 1921 at Santa Ana CA, b 23 Apr 1887 at Hercegovina Austria; entered US 1906 at NY);

Last foreign residence: Castor, [Alberta,] Canada, entered (place unknown) under name Thalia D Monroe on 10 Jan 1912 via train. Entry date may be slightly in error - see diary entry (above) showing Dillie at Alabama in Dec 1911.

= NOTE (LPM): As I understand it, US immigration law when Dillie and George were married in 1921 provided that a woman who married an alien man took on the citizenship of her husband and had to go through a legal process to regain US citizenship.

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There is no record for Dillie at LPM 1958 Meissner Family survey. (She had died in 1952.)

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Death record at CA Vital Records.aka: Dillie

Notes for EDWARD HAYES MONROE:

1900 census: at Payette, Canyon, ID age 18, living with younger siblings George 14, Adrian 10, Mary 2.

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ES: Attended agricultural college in WA. Married ID 1906. (Other sources show marriage loc Pullman WA.)

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Excerpt from AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ADOLPH ELMER MEISSNER (b 1889)

see www.meiszen.net

... PA [Adolph Frederick Meissner, b 1861. - LPM] decided to go somewhere else. He wrote to some people by the name of Peterson, who lived in Pullman, WA, to inquire about renting a farm. From their letters, PA decided to move up there and find a place to live. [The move from OR to WA was in Dec 1905, according to Manly's recollection. - LPM] ... The next spring, we moved to a place called the Sothe farm.

...

The Church of God home was just down below our home, on the bottom land by the creek. That's where we went to church. Some of the elderly ministers and others passing through stayed there. They used to hold camp meetings every summer. ... They had wonderful times at those meetings. People would come many miles in their wagons to attend, and camp out for the week.

... we moved from there, taking with us Edith and Percy -- the Sothe farm was their birth place. [Edith was born 28 May 1906; Percy was born 19 Jun 1907; however Manly stated that Percy was born in a tent on Neal place near Pullman WA. - LPM]

...

Mr [David T] Monroe, a saint preacher, and his wife and two sons came in to town in their covered wagon while we were living at the Sothe farm. [This is David Monroe b 1844; he was a preacher in Church of God, whose members were called saints. - LPM] I'm not sure where they came from. Their oldest son was named Ed. He was a common laborer. He'd work at any job he could get. The younger brother was a school teacher. Ma got it into her head that it was time Thalia (nicknamed Dillie) got a man. She was close to twenty years old and Ma thought Ed would make her a good husband. Mrs Monroe got together with Ma and talked things over and got Dillie interested in Ed. It wasn't too long afterward that they got married. [Dillie was 21 when the family moved to WA; she had her 22nd birthday just before her marriage to Ed in Jun 1906. Her family was still living on the Sothe farm at the time of the wedding, because Percy was born at the farm in 1907. - LPM]

The Monroes moved away with Dillie and went up to Alberta, Can and took up homesteads We heard from

Dillie now and then. They only stayed in Alberta just one winter, and then got out of Canada. It was so cold their horses almost froze to death. All they had was a sod barn to keep them in. The following spring they headed south and traveled to one of the southern states. I believe it was Georgia where Ed contracted the fever and died. Dillie went out to CA, USA after the funeral. [The "southern state" was Alabama, not Georgia; Ed died 1913 in CA. Indications are that they moved from AL to CA in hopes of improving Ed's health. - LPM] Dillie worked as a cook in some of the sawmills in the northern part of the state. Later she met Bill Schertz in Upland, and married him. This marriage soon ended in divorce. ...

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Middle name on death cert spelled Hay

Notes for JACOB WILLIAM SCHERTZ:

Dillie (Thalia Dorothy) Meissner was married to Bill Schertz when her parents and several siblings (Manly, Charlie, Carrie, Paul, Lillian, Edith, and Percy James) returned after Apr 1914 from living in Mexico, and came to live with her (or nearby) at Upland CA (according to autobiography of brother Paul - see www.meiszen.net). Dillie's first husband, Edward Hayes Monroe, had died at Pomona CA 3 Apr 1913. Paul's story says Dillie and Bill were soon divorced. Dillie married George Zaich May 1921.

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In documents related to Upland, San Bernardino Co, CA, I found only two families with surname Schertz.

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Solomon David Schertz and his wife Lena (m 1911) moved from IL to Upland around 1919 and died there after 1960 - he pretty obviously DID NOT marry Dillie in 1914.

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The other "candidate" is Jacob William Schertz who came to San Bernardino County before 1910, and died there in 1927. (Seems likely he might have been a relative of Solomon, but I can't make a connection.) I'm assuming he was Dillie's second husband Bill - see "PROOF?" paragraphs at the end of this note.

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So far as I know, Bill was never married except to Dillie - note that he was 20 years older than Dillie (or 26 years older if 1880 census age 22 is correct). Their marriage was about 3 years after the death of his mother. I haven't found Bill's father, or any siblings. Four records show his mother Catherine (or Kate): 1880, 1900, and 1910 census (all with Jacob); and her 1911 death record. 1880 census shows her as wife of Benj Stimbert; her marital status in 1900 is married (no of years, 38 [1862]; no of children not shown), in 1910 divorced. (Her surname in 1900 and 1910 is transcribed incorrectly but is legible on microfilm as Stimbert). Her surname on death record is Schertz.

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US Census 1910 is probably the easiest record to find, that locates Jacob William Schertz at Upland in the 1910-1920 era. He lived at 183 Eleventh St, age 45 [1865] b IL, single, father b France, mother b IL. The only other person shown in his household was his mother Catherine Stimbert (her surname spelling fits 1880 data) 72 [1838] b IL, widowed, both parents b France.

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The following records (shown here in chronological order) confirm his residence in Upland, or at least in San Bernardino County, during the next several years:

= No 1870 census record found.

= 1. US Census 1880 at Linn, Woodford, IL: Jacob Scherz 22 [1858] b IL (age inconsistent with most other records - sb 15?), father b France, mother b IL. In household of Benj Stimbert 28 [1852] b Hanover Germany, and wife Kate 41 [1839] b IL, parents b France.

= 2. US Census 1900 at Bernardo Twp, San Diego, CA (possibly near the present site of Rancho Bernardo, just south of Escondido), Jacob W Scherz 35 b Jun 1864 IL, father b France, mother b IL. With mother Kate Stimbert 62 b May 1838 IL, married, her mother b France, father b Germany. Nobody else in household.

= 3. CA Voter Registration 1910 at Upland CA: Jacob William Schertz 45 [1865], teamster, Democrat;

= 4. US Census 1910 at Upland, San Bernardino, CA (with mother Catherine Stimbert: see above)

= 5. CA Death Record: Catherine Schertz, San Bernardino Co, 31 Jan 1911, age 73 [1838] - see note at Catherine Schertz.

= No record of marriage to Thalia (Meissner) Monroe found

= No 1920 census found

= 6. CA Voter Registration 1920 at Upland CA: Jacob William Schertz, G St, laborer, Democrat.

= 4. CA Voter Registration 1922? at Upland CA: Jacob William Schertz, 5th Ave, laborer, Democrat.

= 7. CA Death Record: J W Schertz, San Bernardino Co, 11 Oct 1927, age 63 [1864], spouse initials TM (could be Thalia Meissner or Thalia Monroe).

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PROOF?

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At this point the main documented facts are:

= (1) Jacob William Schertz lived in Upland between 1910 and 1927.

= (2) Dillie Meissner married Bill Schertz at Upland CA around 1914, but the marriage "soon ended in divorce" - according to Meissner family records including biographies written by two of her brothers, and US Census 1920 at Los Angeles (see note at Thalia Meissner).

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But, how do we know Dillie's "Bill" is the same person as "Jacob William" in the 7 documents listed above? The closest to "proof" that I've seen, is the initials TM on his birth record summary at CA Vital Records on-line. (I have ordered a photocopy of the actual CA death record.) Records so far are consistent with "Bill Schertz married to Dillie Meissner about April or May 1914, divorced before 1921"; but I can't claim to have proof that would stand up in court.

US Census 28 JUN 1880 = Linn, Woodford, IL, USA

US Census 15 JUN 1900 = Bernardino Judicial Twp, San Diego, CA, USA

US Census 6 MAY 1910 = Upland Twp, San Bernardino, CA, USA

Notes for GEORGE ZAICH:

CA Death Record shows mother's maiden name: Primarac; father's surname Dzajic.

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US Census 1920 (10 Jan) at 2430 Houston St, Los Angeles (County), CA:

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