SOMETHING OF OURSELVES:

THE NUTTING FAMILY

By Ruth Berry McDonald
(1913-2000)

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S O M E T H I N G O F O U R S E L V E S

December 16, 1980

Meghan McDonald, Born Yesterday, is Polly and Rym's first great grandchild. So she is partly Irish Nutting. I worked on the Nuttings last summer after gathering mounds of material from Aunt Grace and sorting it out.

Much more needs to be done, with Berry and Gould stories included. At least arrows are pointed toward needed records for information to make this acceptable to genealogists.

I hope that another Nutting descendant will find this kind of effort as rewarding as I have. Inclinations and motivations as well as the way we look come from genes. I never understood why I felt strongly for some things which my contemporary/were against until I met the ancestors. Such feelings were shared by them, I found. They gave me something to live up to.

Lee Nutting, for instance, became the head of a large family when his father deserted his mother and five children to run off to the California Gold Rush. Much later Lee must have died with satisfaction about a challenging life well lived. His father must have died with bitterness. Living with satisfaction, if not happily, implies having values and long term goals. Living with confidence and a feeling of self worth involves meeting challenges in terms of inborn values.

I hope that this addition to your family history helps you to "Love Thyself" without comparing yourself or your family to any other.

As John Stanton Gould said: "These are the people who have loved and suffered before us and who have given us our existence". Willem and Kathy are finding out how it feels to be a parent as I write. For me, late in life, there is a desire to provide something which might not be known otherwise, about those who have gone before us.

The Nuttings were surprisingly like the Berrys and the Goulds. They arrived in Connecticut about 1640 so that records about them must exist. There are probably records about the family of Polly's mother, Arietta Tuthill Duryea. Tuthills and Duryeas are still there. I intend to send a copy of this to some Nuttings in California who may have more to include.

So consider this first draft a labor of love. Possible pictures are only suggested. Others who may pick up the ball and run with it are more than welcome.

Affectionately,

Ruth - A Nutting daughter

L E E N U T T I N G

Look at his face. Do you agree that he lived and died with satisfaction? Do you think he lived with confidence?

THE CHILDREN OF LEE NUTTING

Polly is the baby in the middle

Look at their faces. You can tell something about their genes of physical appearance.

GRANDDAUGHTERS OF LEE NUTTING

Polly Marries Romeyn

As a house party girl at Cornell University where her brother, Raymond Nutting was an engineering student and athlete, Polly met Romeyn Berry. This was about 1905 when she was a student at Wells College and he was working on his graduate law degree. For at least two years Polly became Rym's house party girl at the Beta Theta Pi house. In the summer of 1908 when she was 20, her father Lee Nutting died at the home of her sister, Grace Nutting Moore, in Nova Scotia. He wrote her a letter with a marriage proposal; she said "yes"; and a vacation was arranged with his law firm in New York. And so they were married hastily without the usual amenities.

The Philip Moores with two small daughters, Marian and Arietta, lived at Crescent Beach, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia where the wedding was pulled together. A more glamorous honeymoon in Halifax and Boston began with catching the Halifax train by flagging it at Italy Cross station (gone-6/06 still there). Rym split his best coat loading Polly's trunk on the train. The Royal Suite at the Halifax Hotel awaited them (gone). The oft repeated story is that Rym read out loud, Pickwick Papers, his Dickens favorite. She had never read Dickens. their daughters knew them

By the time/this pre World War I marriage was sailing along, weathering the storms nicely. The backgrounds of Polly and Rym were much alike so that their aspirations were similar and they enjoyed the same kinds of people. Both families had fled to America in the mid 1600s for religious reasons; both had a scattering of professional people who required brains to survive; both expected the women as well as the men to have more than a rudimentary education; both had overcome severe challenges and both had members considered black sheep.

Ruth had about ten years and Hilda about eight to consciously or unconsciously evaluate the marriage. To Ruth, it was remarkable for its lack of friction: she can't remember a fight, harsh words or even disagreement between them. Polly's admiration of Rym was entirely uncritical. Quite seriously she considered him the greatest poet, speaker - whatever. While she was alive, he was probably an over-achiever. When she died at 40 --instantly at a railroad crossing - he probably never recovered. His marriage four years later into a really distinguished American family - the Bancrofts - was not a tie of similar families. The first was made in heaven, it appeared to Ruth.

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Lee Nutting's Father and Mother

After Polly's death, her sister, Grace sent Ruth information about her mother's family which needs checking. Probably it is generally if not specifically correct. The only information that she provided about the Nutting line was that John Nutting emigrated in 1640 to Connecticut. Descendents appear to have moved to Massachusetts and even to Nova Scotia where they were substantial people.

Grace's father may have influenced her feelings about the Nuttings. He had good reason to scorn his father and to give full credit to the Walshes, his mother's family, for the Nutting's survival in his generation.

The Walshes came to this country from County Tyrone, Dunganon in northern Ireland in 1793. The emigrant was Thomas S. Walsh who sailed out of Belfast harbor in his own four masted ship with all his relations to escape famine. He had two boys and three girls. The youngest, Louisa who was Lee's mother, was born after they landed in in New York on Broadway. There is an oft repeated story that the Walshes entertained P.T. Barnum and his protege, Jenny Lind, at their home. Marion Crawford who became a well known American sculptor was one of Louisa's suitors. But her father insisted upon a promising young man in the wholesale grocery business whose name was Nathan ?? Nutting. They were married in some style - probably in 1835 - in the Trinity Church building which burned in 1838. Their first child, Lee, was born on October 14, 1836. There were five boys and one girl.

When Lee was 15 - in 1851 - his father disappeared leaving Lee in charge of the family. He had been lured by the Gold Rush which started in California in 1849. Gold nuggets and money arrived at first. Then there was nothing for about 30 years. A cousin who was editor of a San Francisco paper (named Willis) found him paralized by a blow on the head and brought him back to Brooklyn in 1884. This was after Lee's marriage to Arietta Duryea in 1883 and after the Civil War in which Lee fought so gallantly for four years. The paralyzed father died soon after his arrival.

Lee Nutting: Polly's Father

Romeyn vividly remembered Polly's father as a handsome erect military figure who usually wore boots with spurs. As one of the few Union men who won the Congressional Medal of Honor when it was first awarded during the Civil War, he bathed in that aura until the end of his life. It was important to be a veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic - G.A.R. - and to be one of the 120 medalists made Lee Nutting very important. Warriors were revered until after World War I.

It was Lee Nutting who was selected to make the 24 page address at Gettysburg on July 2, 1889 when the New York State monument to the 61st Regiment was dedicated. The following is exerpted from that speech:

> Of the 93 men who started at Gettysburg, 63 were either killed or wounded. The 61st came close to losing the greatest percentage of men in action. On two occasions it captured more prisoners than it had men in the ranks.
>
> It was the 61st Regiment, New York Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Corps organized September 1861. Mustered out July 14, 1865.
>
> In the spring of 1862, the 61st brigaded with the 5th New Hampshire, 81st Pennsylvania and 64th New York forming the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division, 2nd Army Corps under the command of General O.O. Howard. It marched to Manassas.
>
> (Without knowing the family connections on both sides the William N. McDonalds took their son, William N. IV with a visiting French boy, Jean Celier, to see the reenactment of the first battle of Manassas or Bull Run as the North referred to it. Edward McDonald, close brother of the first William N. fought here with Stonewall Jackson. Thomas J. became Stonewall after this battle.)
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> After the 2nd Battle of Manassas, Nutting led his men to the Rappahannock River in pursuit of Johnson's army. Returning to Alexandria, a transport steamed them down to Yorktown where they waded ashore at Ship Point. President Lincoln reviewed them there. He rode by our Regiment, tall, gaunt and sad-eyed and the boys gave him a hearty cheer....By easy marches we got to Antietam Creek and beheld the Army of Northern Virginia of General Robert E. Lee. We fought in the center of what is now called the Sunken Road on this bloodiest battlefield. 29 balls and shell passed through our flag...

(Julia Davis based her book Mount Up on her grandfather Edward McDonald's war diary. He must have fought in relatively the same position for the South. He refers to Sunken Lane, not Sunken Road. Antietam is very near Charles Town, West Virginia just over the Maryland border. It is also very near Harper's Ferry where Nutting spent the month of October in the next entry. Three years before John Brown's raid made Harper's Ferry unforgettable. John Brown was captured and taken to Charles Town, then as now a McDonald stronghold, where he was tried in the Court House with a McDonald husband as his defense lawyer, and hung outside the lawyer's house. The Historical marker is a few doors down South Samuel Street from other McDonald houses. The lawyer's wife who had fled to the attic to escape the hanging found herself looking out the window at the dangling figure as the trap was sprung.)

When Lee retreated, he marched to Harper's Ferry where he spent the month of October. On October 20 he started down the Loudoun Valley reaching Rector town November 6. Here General McClellan was relieved of the command of the army. November 17 saw him at Falmouth opposite Fredericksburg (where Angus McDonald, emigrant, landed in 1746.) Here he went into winter quarters. He crossed on April 30, 1863 and marched to Chancellor House in the Wilderness.

It was during the Battle of the Wilderness that Lee Nutting won the Congressional Medal of Honor at the engagement of Todd's Tavern. He was almost fatally wounded during the battle by a bullet which went through his breast pocket where he carried a small Bible which blunted the blow. The account of the engagement is taken from Charles Fuller's letter to Captain Isaac Plumb. Note that the first William Naylor McDonald was also severely wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness.

7/18/07 - Nutting Medal File from Nat. Archives says Plumb wrote to Fuller June 7, 1864

"You know how we advanced across an open field under rebel fire, the boys tumbling one by one. Nutting was the star actor in that play He had command of the color company after Colonel Nelson Miles was wounded. He led the advance with lifted sword, his tall form (6" 2') making him a conspicuous mark for the rebs. Well, they hit him under the shoulder, near the breast. We thought that he was mortally wounded."

With Colonel Nelson Miles, Nutting was loaded on a boat for a Washington hospital where he was tended by Walt Whitman and the lady doctor Walker. In later years, the Nutting house in Brooklyn hosted reunions of that group. Colonel Miles also received a Congressional Medal of Honor. The inscription on the back of Nutting's medal:

"The Congress to Captain Lee Nutting Co. C 61st N.Y.
Todd's Tavern May 8, 1864

The original was replaced by a solid gold one by Theodore Roosevelt.

A yearly Loyal Legion Dinner was held yearly at Delmonicos for the medalists in the G.A.R. Captain Nutting always attended with Nelson Miles who became a General. Following is an exerpt from a letter received by Lee's brother Marcus, dated November 2, 1908.

> He was an exemplar and a leader of men. He fulfilled his mission and duty as a soldier and has maintained the honorable position of a patriotic citizen. The death of such a man is not only a loss to his family and friends but to the community and to the State.
>
> "It was my good fortune to know him and be associated with him in the great cause of the preservation of our country."

The Nuttings After the Civil War

After Lee Nutting was mustered out of the service, there was a period of adjustment before he managed to set up his own business in grain and feed on a lot which stretched between East 10th and 11th Streets in what was then a fashionably residential section of town. With him was working his youngest brother, Marcus. He was 30 years old. Servicing the horses of the neighborhood turned out well in that location so that ultimately he was able to look for a bride. She turned out to be Arieta Duryea, a girl of good family whichhe had known before the war in Orange County.

Arieta's paternal ancestors were French Huguenots who fled to Holland from France after Catherine de Medici's Edict of Nantes which began a persecution of Protestants. Jost or George Duryea emigrated in 1675 to Jamaica on Long Island and settled, as a pioneer in Bloomingrove, Orange County. Both Eager's History of Orange County, published in 1846-47, and Headley's History published in 1908 list holders of town offices in Orange County including George and Garrett Duryea from 1765 to 1775 in Cornwall, Bloominggrove and Monroe, New York. (sp)

George, son of the emigrant George,saw active service in the cavalry during the Revolution and Arieta's D.A.R. papers are based upon him. He married Hannah Hudson of Goshen and they had five sons and four daughters. Their son, John, married in 1800, Mary, daughter of Samuel and Jeanette (McCurdy) Crawford of Montgomery. They settled on a farm near Blooming burg? in the town of Wallkill. They had six children of which Samuel C. was the youngest. (Portraits belonging to Hilda are of them.) Samuel C. (or Jonathan Crawford?) married Emily Tuthill. From a tintype picture, Arietta appears to be one of five daughters and one son. She stands at the left weating glasses in the tintype. Her name wassArietta Tuthill Duryea.

Aunt Grace remembered her grandfather as a lovely old white bearded man who bought her a piano before she went to Dresden (Germany) to study music. (She refers to him as Jonathan C.) Grandfather had paid a Canadian adventurer a thousand dollars to enlist for him in the Civil War. His slaves had been freed before the Emancipation Proclamation and he had supported them afterwards. When Aunt Grace knew him, he drove a spirited Hambletonian horse and raced at Goshen. (Such races still held there.) As a teenager, Aunt Grace visited the old Duryea (sp?) family burial ground near Bloominggrove - not far from Newburgh.

Arieta and Lee settled first in Brooklyn and later moved farther out into real country in Hollis (now in Queens), L.I. which is far from that now. Their daughter, Grace was born in 1883, Raymond in 1885 and Polly (Olive) on February 1, 1888.

The Other Nuttings

It was only a few years before in 1884 that their Grandfather Nutting had reappeared paralyzed by a Gold Rush experience to die in Brooklyn. His children, beside Lee, might be worthy of further pursuit. The youngest brother, Marcus, died unmarried in the early 1920s. He spent his last years in Sherburne, (Chas. Fuller's hometown!) New York with his niece, Louise Martin, who was called Cousin Lou by Hilda and Ruth. She was the daughter of another brother, Thomas. Uncle Marcus had carried on Lee Nutting's business after his death in 1908 and probably was associated with it from its beginning in 1866. The letterhead of an old envelope says: Lee Nutting: Flour, Grain, Feed Hay 403 East 10th Street 402 East 11th Street. New York City.

Lee's brother, Nathan, became a doctor and practiced for years in Mount Vernon, New York. His son, Herbert, was Dean of Classics at the University of California at Berkley. Probably he was considered the success story and deservedly so: he taught sanscrit among other ancient languages. His sons were Marcus and Lee, named for his uncles. Marcus was an electrical engineer in 1960 with 50 people working under him at Bell Lab, according to a letter from his unmarried sister, Elizabeth who was a teacher and wrote to Aunt Grace. Marcus' son LeRoy and his wife, Edna, live in Burlingame, California. He probably made money having invented Hill's freeze dried coffee. Lee is married and appears to be retired according to the Christmas cards received by Ruth. Marcus and Lee also had a sister, Louisa, who married a Walker.

It was Grace Moore (1868-1944) who kept in touch with these relatives. With the exception of Louise Nutting Martin who bought a farm in Sherburne, N.Y. not far from Ithaca, Polly only spoke about them occasionally. Polly took the children with her when she visited Louise Martin. Ruth and Hilda remember driving over a big hill on a dirt road from DeRuyter. Once this happened in a blinding snow storm with the children taking turns with the windshield wiper. Thanksgiving was a good time to go because Romeyn had to be in Philadelphia for the annual Cornell-Pennsylvania football game. This visit stopped after 1928 with Polly's death.

Olive Nutting's father was prosperous enough by the nineties to send the children to private schools so that both Grace and Polly went to Packer and Adelphi, considered excellent schools a century later. Grace had a year at Smith College and a year to study music in Dresden (Germany). Her instrument was the piano. She married a Harvard man, Philip Moore, against the wishes of her father. He was the type who got into schemes to make money fast and apparently borrowed money from his father in law without repaying it. So when Lee Nutting's estate was settled, the Moores felt that they got less than they should have. A listing of Lee's assets indicates that the estate may have been in the neighborhood of $60,000 at the turn of the century. Romeyn never trusted Phil. The estate was too small to make much difference to either family but the relationship was poisoned always over its disposal.

After Grace was married, Polly and her father took off to such resorts as Pinehurst in North Carolina in the winter where there are pictures of Polly playing golf and tennis. Always she was a center of attention and she had fun while making life interesting for her father. When college was considered, Wellls was appropriate because her brother, Raymond, was studying Civil Engineering at Cornell -28 miles away. Ray had joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house and had made the varsity crew which continued to beat other crews for years. He was responsible for her introduction to Romeyn.

Polly and Ray were so close that it was a great shock when he was killed in 1911 after her marriage. He was engaged in a mining project in Peru. Soon after in 1912 she lost her first child, Elizabeth Wright, when then incurable spinal meningitis struck suddenly.

Polly and Romeyn in Summit

The still attractive New York suburb of Summit, New Jersey was their home between 1908 and 1919, They shared a double house with the Daniel Burkes (later with his son, Coleman, head of the American Bible Society). A ton of coal was the prize for a bridge game which lasted all winter. To escape the unhappy associations, Polly and Romeyn moved to a single quaint Victorian house at 8 Franklin Place which had woods on two sides and still does. After they moved to Ithaca, the house was bought by a decorator who made it so much more attractive that it was used as a story for the magazine "House and Garden". But while the Berrys lived there it was lighted by gas and heated by coal. Here Ruth was born on May 21, 1913 and Hilda on January 26, 1916.

Before moving to Ithaca when Ruth was six, there are a few memories of Summit. World War I started soon after Ruth was born. Romeyn was in the 7th Regiment , a social plus for a young lawyer, so he was in uniform early guarding a resevoir. During the flu epidemic of 1917, Polly's sister Grace brought her two children to live in Summit: Marian was 14 and Arieta 12. Ruth got the flu and was sent to the hospital. The cousins got it, too. They died. Hilda was less than a year old and evidently had a baby's immunity. Romeyn had to get leave to come home and nurse everybody including Polly. Ruth recovered. The relationship

When the war was over, Summit went wild. Ruth found herself in the middle of it with her mother. There was dancing in the streets. A hearse filled with flowers drove around with people in it scattering flowers. Cars honked. Sirens screamed and airplanes buzzed overhead. And that turned out to be the false Armistice. November 11, 1918 was an anti-climax. Everybody had celebrated.

In the spring of 1919, the soldiers came home and marched down Fifth Avenue. Twice Ruth was taken into New York by Polly to Elizabeth Rowe's apartment. She lived on the fourth floor of 4 West 40th Street and was an interior decorator. This was a great place to see a parade overlooking the steps of the Public Library from the south. Ruth can remember trying to take a nap and being kept awake by the noise of the traffic. Automobiles made a lot of noise for at least 10 years more.

They Move to Ithaca

After the war at the age ~~of 37,~~ Romeyn decided that the argumentation and unpleasantness of the law were not for him and that he preferred to take the position of Graduate Manager of Athletics at Cornell University. He had kept up many ties and loved Ithaca. In the spring of 1919, he went to Ithaca and bought the first house he looked at: 102 Triphammer Road for $10,000. It had never been lived in. He paid off a small mortgage quickly. His annual salary was $12,000 - at least twice that of most professors. His position was newly created' his grandfather was an original trustee and remembered so he and Polly could look forward to living in highly stratified Ithaca. Both were attractive and socially ambitious about fitting into both Town and Gown.

Polly and Romeyn moved to Ithaca in August of 1919. Mitchell the Mover of Ithaca sent a van to Summit which was so small that it took only half of the shipment. The rest didn't arrive until six weeks after the family. Polly got a nurse to take care of Hilda who was only three and Romeyn reserved the compartment of the Lackawanna sleeper from Hoboken which switched off at Owego and got to Ithaca about 7 am. Ruth will never forget the gorgeous approach to Ithaca as the train zigzagged down South Hill. (The Lackawanna railroad is defunct and most of its South Hill property is covered by Ithaca College.) Romeyn met the train and took everybody by street car to the Ithaca Hotel for a good breakfast. Then another street car up the hill to Risley Hall and Wait Avenue. Romeyn didn't know about the cinder path where Hilda and Ruth caught the trolly and later the bus countless times later.

Soon after arriving, Ruth was taken to a little house on Wait Avenue to register with Miss Hitchcock at the Campus School. It was private and intended for the children of professors . Both Ruth and Hilda got very good marks there which was gratifying to their parents. Hilda was in a class with Mary Lauman who has always been a friend since. Ruth could never do better than Sancie Lauman who became the Reference Librarian at the University Library.

Miss Hitchcock took charge of the Cayuga Heights School when Ruth was in the fifth grade. Through the eigth grade in good weather, Ruth rode a bicycle home for lunch clocking four miles a day. In the winter, she and Hilda took the Cayuga Heights trolly - an ancient Toonerville driven by a fat and tired motorman. The children took turns running the trolly while the motorman sat.

During the first winter in Ithaca (1919-1920), Romeyn's mother, Elizabeth spent most of the time in Ithaca - partly on Triphammer Road and later in rented rooms on Seneca Street just below Stewart Avenue. When she was a young girl she had traveled with her father while he lectured at Cornell. People like Davey Hoy and Tefee Crane (immortalized in the song often sung at Cornell) remembered her. This was the last year of her life which Ruth enjoyed with her because entertaining the grandchildren entertained her.

Children in a Social Town

Like other academic communities, Ithaca was a social town. Both Polly and Romeyn enjoyed entertaining and went out often in evening clothes. As he had a newly created job, the pecking order hadn't been established for the wife of the Graduate Manager of Athletics. Either because she was presentable or a friend of the President's wife, Polly preceded the Deans' wives at formal university things . She was one of the first people to call on the new president's wife: Mrs. Livingston Farrand, better known as Daisy. They became close friends and Hilda and Ruth were often invited to the President's House for tea. She had two Skye terriers - one black and one white. Each had tea served by the butler on either side of the mantel piece in one of the first Cornell President's many drawing rooms. Daisy was a great gardner and was the first president of the Garden Club of Ithaca: Polly was the second president. It was one of the first such clubs and is still going strong.

9/14/05: no record of Polly as president per Dorothy Cole, IGC, the Daisy was 1st pres. Mrs. Hild 2nd pres. (Farrand)

Usually Ruth and Hilda were not included in the whirl which embraced Polly and Romeyn. For their parents, this was challenging business and not necessarily fun. The children took a back seat and were seen and not heard. Ruth aimed to please. For Hilda, it was probably harder not to be the center of attention and kept out of the way.

Polly entertained a lot. A beautifully trained maid, named Bridget who served at the nice parties about town, helped. If a child was willing, she could help Bridget and learn the right things to do. Retrieving the lace doily under the finger bowl before the dessert was served was something which Ruth learned young. When Ruth and Bill hit stylish entertaining, occasionally, it was a good thing to know.

Ruth and Hilda were never taught to cook and were expected to stay out of the kitchen and not bother the maid. It was not until she got out of college that Ruth ever put together a meal on a maid's night out. Polly did make a point about her learning to answer a formal invitation. When the efforts in that direction came in after such an invitation to the opening of the Johnny Parsons Club on Beebee Lake arranged by Polly and Rym, Ruth helped her mother sort the correct answers from the incorrect. The party was a splash to inaugurate the restaurant over the skaters' warming house with a butler announcing each guest. Ruth and Hilda made full use of the winter skating and the warming house after the Johnny Parsons Club opened.

To secure a built-in sitter for the children Polly provided a medical student with a room. Part of her job was to get Sunday supper on the maid's night out. Usually the medical student brought home specimens to entertain: pickled eyes, for instance. The main topic of conversation was about "stiffs" cadavers to anyone else. Cornell medical students get all their training in New York now.

Memories of the Early Twenties

There was an open Buick touring car which could be driven with the top down. This was before glass windows when celuloid windows in canvas flaps protected occupants in the winter. There were no heaters then and no electric windshield wipers. Hand ones were used in poaring rain or snow.

One of those early Buick touring cars took the whole family to Canaan to see each Tyson cousin after its arrival. The first drive from Ithaca to Canaan took all day starting at 6 am in the morning. On that trip there were seven tires. There was an atmosphere of real cameraderie on the Hill at that time. Uncle Stod had an early station wagon which drove ahead of our car to the Ladies Beach at Queechy Lake.

In the Shanty kitchen Blanche turned out still remembered meals with no equipment or running water in the Shanty kitchen and Miss Jewell took care of the children. Romeyn said many times that he never regretted giving his half of the Shanty to Aunt Pat who paid the taxes and maintenance for nearly 50 years. Patty Tyson's warm welcomes gave Canaan an indelible allure for both Hilda and Ruth.

Another summer highlight in the early 20s was swimming in the pool of Irene Castle Treman on Cayuga Heights Road. She is still remembered as the person who changed the appearance of women drastically after World War I. She popularized short hair and short dresses, dyed her hair and smoked cigarettes. By 1923 women across the country, thanks to her movies, were doing the same thing. Polly was part of this revolution by wearing sport clothes and going in heavily for horseback riding and golf. She also stood on her head at parties with others.

The bathing suits worn at Irene Castle's pool were frumpy black with black bathing stockings and black bathing shoes which gradually changed as the 20s progressed into suits recognizable today. The pool had a 12 foot diving board with two lower ones. Romeyn always went off the high one. At 40, he could do a somersault and hit the water head first and do the same backward somersault in midair. He could also swim under water vast distances - at least to a child of eight. It may be of interest that after Irene and Bob Treman came for dinner, they couldn't start their Ford coupe afterwards. It was out of gas. Polly got a bottle of carbona out of a medicine cabinet and it was all the Ford needed to get home.

Polly used to laugh about Romeyn's change in character as a householder in Ithaca. In Summit, he worked around the house doing odd jobs and mowing the lawn. When they got to Ithaca, Romeyn came home to relax. He could afford to pay for dirty jobs. The household revolved around him. He didn't like carrots so they were never served. If the children had a fight, they were told to keep quiet. A referee wasn't available. But he always fixed the coal furnace, shoveled the coal and shook down the ashes. They were dumped in a big cellar room and removed in the spring for the muddy road outside. In the summer the dirt road blew up into clouds of dust when a car went by. Hosing the road to keep down the dust was one of Romeyn's few projects at home.

There was electricity at 102 Triphammer Road but it was several years before there was an electric refrigerator. Ice was delivered from a truck by the 50 or 100 pound hunk. Football players worked their way through college by carrying ice.

There were no electric irons or washing machines. A laundress came onee a week and washed the clothes in double tubs in a basement laundry room. It dried on a line outside. A little coal stove heated irons with removable handles which could be frequently changed as the iron cooled. Shirts were easy to burn and a real professional was required who got $8 a day. Until the advent of the automatic washer after World WarII, most people sent wash to a laundry.

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This story about the Nuttings ends on a July day in 1928 when Polly drove Ruth to Camp Anna Botsford Comstock for two weeks. On the way home her two seater Ford stalled on the railroad tracks. Polly's hearing difficulty prevented her from hearing the approach of a crack train as she tried to start the car. The word traveled fast because Ruth hadn't finished lunch before the Jess Dalls appeared in their flashy Pierce Arrow to drive her to the Baldridges. (Ruth had yearned to drive in that Pierce Arrow and there she was as she drove to the Baldridges with foreboding.) There she and Hilda met their father. With his arms around both and bursting into tears, He told us that mother had been killed. Ruth cried all that day and through the night. The dog, Mr. MacPherson was a great comfort. A lot of people called. Aunt Hid and Aunt Pat came. Romeyn told jokes and laughed a lot. 350 floral tributes were delivered at Sage Chapel, jammed for the funeral. Ruth and Hilda walked down the aisle with their father behind the coffin. Afterwards they went to the cemetery for the lowering of the coffin. We never saw the body: closed coffins were a tradition in our family. An explanation about what to expect would have lessen the shock for the children.

The Presbyterian service on Sunday after teaching Sunday School helped Ruth. She felt a reason for existing with unconscious goals and a sense of purpose which kept her together. A magnet pulled her forward. With a lot of effort and that pull of a higher power, she managed to get beyond her limitations and believe in her potential.

It was uphill for Ruth until she graduated from college (Wells) in 1935. There she learned to study, learned how to dress and keep her figure in shape. She began to enjoy life after her graduation and after she left Ithaca. She was vastly relieved when Romeyn married Hester, four years after Polly died. Looking back, it was a turning point in Ruth's life - very much for the better.