

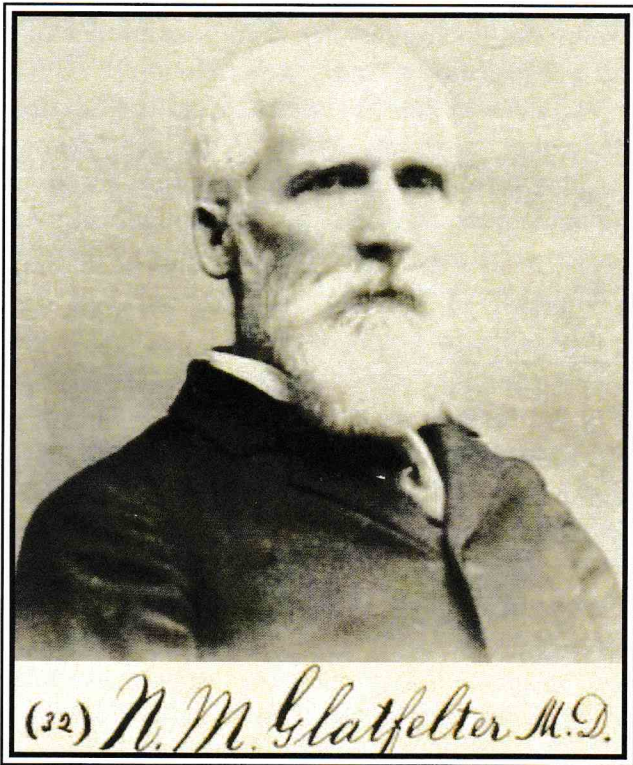


————— HONORING —————
DR. NOAH MILLER GLATFELDER
 (1837-1911)



THE AUTHOR OF THE FIRST GLATTFELDER GENEALOGY, 1901:
 "THE RECORD OF CASPER GLATTFELDER, CANTON ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, IMMIGRANT 1743, AND HIS DESCENDANTS"

Dr. Noah Miller Glatfelter in 1901 published the first genealogy book on Casper Glatfelter and all descendants for whom information could be found. A 1910 supplement followed. His work was the catalyst for the creation of the Casper Glatfelter Association of America.



NOAH M. GLATTFELTER
 (CA.1900S)

Dr. Noah was a remarkable gentleman, a most admirable gentleman, a credit to Casper Glatfelter and his following generations. The major events and chronology of his life are fascinating. But even more intriguing: the character and quality of Noah as an individual.

In 1859 Jonathan Glatfelter (1803-1883), a York County farmer, dictated to his son Noah what he called "a family tree," listing the members of the first four generations of the family and "placing every then known name in proper relation." Jonathan knew personally five of Casper's six sons. These notes were to become of extreme value decades later. That value was realized when, in the late 1890s, Dr. Noah, then a physician in St. Louis, commenced the writing of the genealogy. With the help of five other Glatfelter descendants, this book listed 861 families. In 1910, Noah published a supplement with 545 additional names. For his research, publications and service to the descendants of Casper, he is honored by this new plaque.

NOAH'S LIFE FLOW OF TIME & EVENTS

Noah Miller Glatfelter was born on a York County, Pennsylvania, farm in 1837. He was the great-great grandson of Casper Glatfelter (1709-1775) and a son of Jonathan Glatfelter (1803-1883) and Elizabeth Miller (1808-1885).

He lived on the farm and attended local schools, displaying special interest and competence in mathematics and sciences. When he was seventeen years old, he began teaching school in the town of Lebanon. He finished seven terms in this role, during which time he attended successively the York County Academy, Lancaster County Normal School, and Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster, PA. In 1862, he enrolled in medical school at the University of Pennsylvania.

He graduated in 1864 with a dissertation on "Hospital Gangrene". In September 1862, when General Lee invaded Pennsylvania, Noah joined a new local troop company and was in several minor skirmishes. Noah returned to college after Lee retreated.

Upon his 1864 graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a major and assistant surgeon in the medical corps. He was stationed in Washington and then with General Grant's Army of the Potomac. At one time he commanded a large hospital ship handling about 10,000 casualties.

In November 1864, at a Philadelphia party, Noah met Miss Mary Hegarty (1843-1907), an 1848 Northern Ireland immigrant. It was instant mutual love, and the two were married in Philadelphia in March 1865. When the war ended, Noah was assigned to an Army unit at the Crow Creek Agency in the unsettled Dakota Territory. Mary remained in Philadelphia. In 1867, that tour of duty ended and Noah resigned from the Army as a brevet major. Noah and Mary moved to St. Louis. They owned a farm for a few years and then Noah opened a medical practice in which he continued until 1907.

Noah's scientific and aesthetic interests in botany blossomed full flower in the early 1880s. He explored a new means of classifying a willow species. Within a few years a hybrid willow was named for him. In 1889 he was awarded a medal from the French "Academie Internationale de Geographic Botanique" for his research. In the late 1890s, his eldest daughter Lisbeth, a post-graduate student at Harvard, joined the Boston Mycology (the study of fungi) Club. She wrote to Noah about this. He promptly turned his scientific genius to the taxonomy of mushrooms. In 1906 he published a list of over 700 species of St. Louis area mushrooms. He found seven new species and they were named for him. He was in the Missouri Academy of Science.

Mary passed away in 1907. Noah then retired but continued his mycological work until his death in 1911 when he fell from a ladder while repairing a fence and died of a brain hemorrhage.

In his 1901 book, Noah states in his preface regarding his father's notes from 1859: "Being in possession, therefore, of the only key wherewith to unlock the past, the author felt an incumbent responsibility which would not be shaken off." And "with the conviction that as the years roll by

the importance of his work will be more and more realized, became a sufficient motive to engage in it. A work of this kind must be a labor of love."

NOAH THE PERSON - HIS CHARACTER

The fabric of Noah's character was woven of intertwined threads – his attributes. The following eight attributes best define the person of Noah as discerned from reports about him and from his letters and diaries. (Noah's words in this section are in quotation marks.)

An Extraordinary Intellect. Noah had a superb ability to identify, describe, analyze and organize the features of any subject to which his mind turned. (In science, such systematic thought is termed "Taxonomy"). It requires a penetrating and analytical mind seeking in-depth analysis of subjects. His hobbies on willow and mushroom botany resulted from that intellect, as did his genealogy family tree taxonomy. Even in early schooling, he collected and categorized geological samples. Noah's medical school dissertation on gangrene was another example. He made new, progressive advice on cleanliness and on sterilizing tools and facilities to prevent infection spread.

An Inquiring Mind. His innate curiosity covered a wide range of subjects in depth as well as breadth. The environment, history, literature, health, mathematics, teaching methodologies, culture and literary expression – very little escaped attention. He pursued math in school: geometry, which "teaches a person to think correctly," and "Intellectual Algebra" - the solving of problems in his head without pencil and paper. This attribute is powerfully evidenced by his prowess in botany, mycology and infection control as the chronology states.



MAJOR NOAH GLATFELTER M.D.
(1865)

Moral Values. Noah had a reverence for life, compassion, and a concern for service to others. His years as a teacher were marked by extra efforts to benefit his students. In St. Louis, Dr. Noah worked with the Sisters of Bethany to provide free medical services to people in need. His respect for life is evident in a letter about mice that his orderly trapped in his Army quarters: "When my orderly is away, if the trap falls, I take it some distance from my room and let the dear little things run, for I could not think of killing a mouse, though strange to say I can cut off a limb when necessary, with almost perfect indifference." (That was needed to save lives, of course.) His medical career was devoted to the preservation and the quality of life. A man of faith and a church member, he adhered to the teachings "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" and "whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." He was in the Ethical Society of Saint Louis.

Socio-Cultural Conditions. These factors - present and historical - captured his interest and attention. His opinion on the importance of the Civil War was germane: "Let all vote for Old Abe once more and he will end the war in the best way. So that we shall have a lasting peace hereafter for the inheritance of our children." A letter about his finding evidence of an abandoned Indian village near his Dakota post displays his breadth of inquiry on what he saw and his interpretation. "In the onward progress of human events people after people are swept away; nation subdues nation, occupying in turn the limited portion of soil on which its predecessors had been established, perhaps by similar means, and had flourished for a while until its purposes of existence had been fulfilled in the great economy of human life, while now, like a bubble vanished in the great ocean, its very existence is swallowed up in the depths of past ages, and is recorded on the historic page as a mere myth."

Aesthetics – a Sense of Beauty. Items and features of beauty - natural and made-made - moved his soul and his intellect. He had a duality of perception: an aesthetic response concurrently stimulated scientific curiosity. His letters often spoke of sunsets, lovely terrain, and for geology and flowers, he combined the sense of beauty with analytical observations. From the Crow Agency, he wrote to Mary: "(The prairies)

spread out before you as far as the eye can reach, like a vast lake covered with even grass & interspersed with various wildflowers" and "Occasionally analyze a plant, still sometimes finding new species."

Personality. Noah was a modest man of many talents – especially his writing skill. He made this apparent in a letter home while a teacher in 1858. The County School Superintendent selected math teacher Noah to present an essay on "The best plan of teaching writing and pen" at a convention. He wrote home: "To do this right, I feel myself entirely unfit, and I don't know what our worthy 'Co. Supt.' means by appointing such a German boy -- farmer's boy -- say ploughboy -- to speak something about handling the pen." There is nothing to suggest that the German plowboy ever abandoned this humility. Indeed, in his correspondence to others, including leading scientists, he maintained civility with no display of ego or pride or superiority. Detractive accounts of him or evidence that his service to others was for personal glory cannot be found.

A Family Man. Noah was a copious letter-writer to his closely-knit family. Only a person with this "family" attribute would devote so much time and effort to genealogy as did Noah. He was an excellent father, ensuring that his children were well educated in the arts and sciences just as he had been. Two - Lisbeth and Herbert – were leaders and award-winners in their professions and communities. Two others became respected teachers. Noah's brilliance, cultural interests and character were passed on to his children. Mary must have been Noah's equal as a parent.

Patriotism. As the Civil War broke out, Noah said "I am ready to go myself if I am drafted." When Gen. Lee's army invaded Pennsylvania in September 1862, he joined a new volunteer unit "to fight the traitors." He wrote "Our Americans can not bear that their 'Stars and Stripes' shall be trampled in the dust." He saw action in several skirmishes and returned to medical school when Lee retreated. In 1864 he graduated as an M.D. and that same day joined the Union Army as a major, desiring to attend to battle casualties and treat the ill. After the war, he was an active life member in the Grand Army of the Republic.

The plaque honoring Dr. Noah is well justified for his contributions to the Glattfelder family, for his accomplishments and for his admirable life.

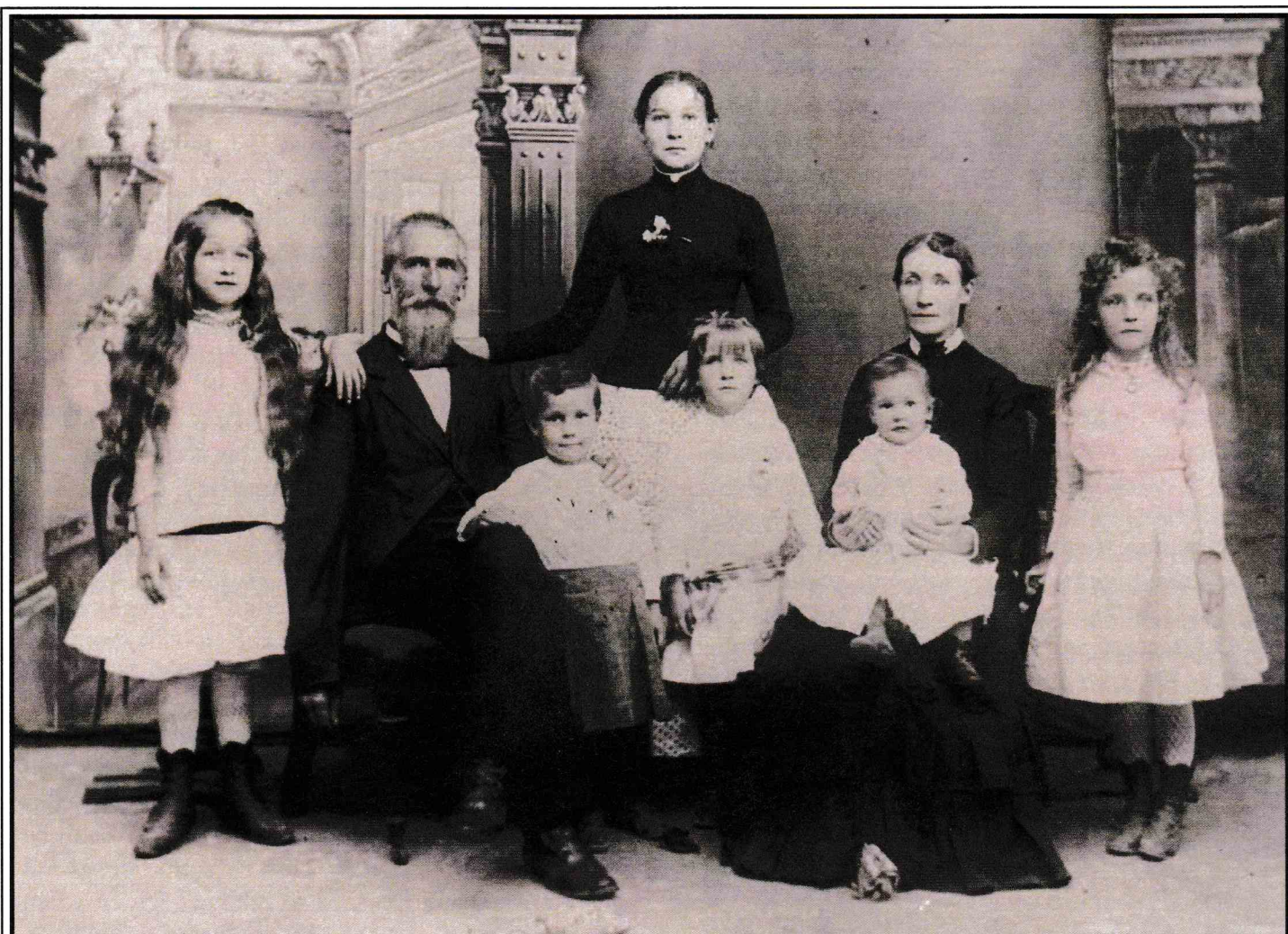
LISBETH GLADFELTER FISH

(1869-1955)

ELDEST CHILD OF NOAH AND MARY GLATFELDER

As Noah worked on his genealogy, Lisbeth was teaching science in the St. Louis schools. She and Noah shared professional and familial relationships. The family tree intrigued her. With husband Albert Fish, she visited the family church in Glattfelden, obtaining information for Noah. Historian Dr. Charles Glatfelter stated that she must have been the first Casper descendant to visit Glattfelden, even before Samuel Glatfelter made the first visit for the new Association. She attended Association annual meetings with her children and grandchildren. Her Glattfelder bonds never faded.

Lisbeth was a remarkable person: in her own way, a Noah with his attributes. She was a 1890s Harvard graduate student in sciences when she inspired Noah's interest in fungus science. She was a botanist, horticulturalist, a leading Colorado poet, a tireless and effective activist for social concerns including civil rights, women's rights, Native America well-being, education, health and health sciences, classical music, art, the natural environment, civic parks and facilities, history and her Unitarian Church. She was a founder, organizer, activist, editor, officer, or honoree of no fewer than 38 organizations, was nationally known and was a civic leader. Above all, she loved her family. We descendants cherished her: a loving, fascinating grandmother, a great cook!



Noah and Mary with six children

From left to right: Edith Edna b. 1877 • Noah • Herbert Spencer b. 1882 • Standing: Lisbeth b. 1869
Grace Agnes b. 1884 • Mary • Alice M.M. b. 1880

Authors: Albert Melcher, Lisbeth Fish Kalstein, Sarah Melcher. **Sources.** (1) "Noah Miller Glatfelter" Wikipedia; (2) Speech by Dr. Charles Glatfelter 1995; (3) "Noah Miller Glatfelter" by Patrick Harvey, "Fungi" magazine Summer 2013; Letters, diaries and other material in authors' possessions.