

Governor Edwin B. Winans Family History
As presented by Valerie Winans at the Hamburg Township Museum
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Edwin B. Winans (1826-1894), 22nd Governor of Michigan. Photo circa 1880's

I grew up in the Lansing [Michigan] area, and there were many places where the Winans name, the Winans family name, was known in Lansing. Dave's nieces' great grandfather, Case Winans, had a little grocery store on Cedar Street. And a lot of the local people knew about that store. And of course the Winans Dairy company that turned into Lansing Dairy. The Winans Dairy did a series of calendars with children shown drinking milk and all dairy things, and those were quite popular. Still are quite popular on the internet and different places. Gerald Winans, my husband's father, Lisa's grandfather, had a school named after him. There is a Winans Elementary School on Michigan Avenue in Lansing. So, in that general area, people knew the Winans name.



Walking stick of Edwin B. Winans

Within the family, we knew anecdotal stories about Governor Winans, and we can pass this [a walking stick] around. This walking stick belonged to Governor Winans, and it has been passed down through the generations. My husband now has this walking stick with its quartz gold nugget on the top of it. So, after writing a few books, I knew that my next book needed to be about the governor known as the "Teddy Roosevelt of Michigan." But the challenge was how to tell his story. How do we get into the head of Governor Winans with so little actual facts that we know about him? So, I have, for example, I probably have 12 or 14 books on the Overland Trail. I learned what the Overland Trail was because he went on the Overland Trail. I had to be able to put him in that scene. And then for each thing, I have books on how to mine gold, on Panama and on Washington DC, etc. So, I'm going to relate this evening some stories about the Governor, and some of them I'm sure you already know. But maybe there are some things you don't know.

You probably know that he [Edwin B. Winans] was born in Avon, New York. Avon, New York is on the Genesee River in Livingston County, New York. Kind of a coincidence. And they moved. They left Avon, New York in 1834 to come to Michigan. And they had a farm in Unadilla, Michigan. What you might not

know is that Edwin Winans was the 8th child of John Winans and the only child of Eliza Way Winans. Now John Winans was married to Betsy Bates Winans, and she died in 1818. And then he married Eliza Way. So, Edwin had 7 siblings, half-siblings: 6 half-sisters and 1 half-brother. And so when they moved, of course Edwin came with them. Nancy came with them, and Harriet came with them. Emily, Theron and some of the other ones were a little bit older, and they stayed in New York. Nancy was 16, and 4 years after the move she married Leland Walker right here in Hamburg. So, it's reasonable to think that she moved with the family when she was 16. They lived in a 1-room log home, and the girls kind of went on their way after a few years. Harriet married Mr. Moorehouse and lived in the nearby town. Nancy moved to Hamburg and was married to Leland Walker. And when Edwin got old enough to go to school, he came to Hamburg and lived with Nancy and Leland Walker in order for him to go to school. Now this next picture is one that you may be able to tell me about. This is the school that I found in Hamburg. Do you know which one it is?

[Audience member] The first Hamburg school was somewhere close to Merrill and Strawberry Lake roads.

[Audience member] That's actually the second school built in 1901, I want to say.

So Edwin did not go to this school.

[Audience member] This one was where the elementary school ended up being built on Learning Lane.



Gravestone of John Winans, Edwin B. Winans' father

Edwin left the one-room log cabin and went to school in Hamburg. Then in 1843, John Winans died. And he is buried in the Sprout Cemetery near Pinckney [Michigan]. It's right on the highway near the old Pinckney elementary school. There's not anyplace even to park, and a house across the road. You kind of have to park in the ditch and walk across. There's no fence or gate to keep you from getting in. John is buried there.



Seth Petteys

So, Edwin had to get a job. He got a job with Seth Petteys. "Pettysville [Michigan]," you may be familiar with. Seth Petteys had a woolen mill and Edwin carded wool. I don't know if you are familiar with that, I wasn't familiar with that until I heard he did it. You take these two bristles and you comb the wool to get all the fibers going in the same direction and get all the knots and the imperfections out of it. And then you roll it up and the women would take that and spin yarn from the carded wool. Edwin had said about carding wool, "I always did my best job and gave it my best effort because, if I left knots or imperfections, the local ladies would let me know I did a bad job and I would be embarrassed." Somehow, they got a little log cabin house where he and his mother lived right near Pettysville while he was working for Seth Petteys.

So, he completed his contract with Seth Petteys and he taught school himself in the district in 1846 and 1847. And he also then attended Albion College. Now this is a drawing of early Albion College at the time Edwin might have gone there. And



Albion College, Michigan

he did graduate from Albion College. He wanted to go to University of Michigan. It was his plan to go to University of Michigan and go to law school. But people at that time were still suffering from the 1837 recession, and money was still probably pretty tight.

The next thing that came down the pike was the gold rush in California. Edwin and 2 friends decided they were going to go to California and make their fortune. Edwin tells the story of the Colonel Edward Bishop. He was sheriff for a while, and he owned the E. Bishop and Sons Wagon Makers. And Edwin said, "I remember the sign nailed to a tree in the woods at the fork for the road as you came west from Hamburg village: E. Bishop and Sons Wagon Makers." So I wonder, and there is no way to know for sure, if the wagon they took west was a Bishop and Sons wagon. Likely could have been.

So, Edwin and 2 friends and 4 horses and a wagon full of supplies headed for the gold fields. They probably started on the Chicago Road. The Chicago Road went from Detroit to Chicago. It was an Indian trail, and in 1850 it wasn't much more than an Indian trail. But it was the road west and they followed it towards Chicago. After Chicago there were several what they called "jumping off points" along the Missouri river to cross the river. It makes sense they used one of the more northern points, that they didn't go way south only to come back north. They probably jumped off at either Kanessville or Old Fort Kearny. And once they crossed the Missouri they were in Indian territory. They were outside the United States of America.

There were many milestones across the county that they would have seen. The Overland Trail would take them either across the northern boundary of the Platt River or coming out along the southern part of the Platt River until they got to South Pass. Once they got to South Pass, then they had to decide: were they going to go north to Fort Hall and then south around the Humboldt River, or were they going to go south from South Pass to Salt Lake City and then go through the Great Basin to the Humboldt River until they got to the Humboldt Sink? I don't take my map much farther than that because, once you got out of the Humboldt Sink, there were any number of different trails that they could have taken. From the Humboldt Sink they had to cross the desert and Sierra Nevada Mountains. That's where the Donner party died, in the Sierra Nevada. They had lots of interesting things that they could see along the way: the Courthouse Rock, Chimney Rock, Independence Rock. Independence Rock was where people signed their names. We searched to see if Edwin had signed Independence Rock, but we couldn't find it anywhere. And he possibly did and it wore away over time. Or maybe he just thought it was a foolish thing to do. Who knows?

One of his friends, one of the three died, along the way. Probably of cholera. Cholera killed a lot of people on the Overland Trail west. Cholera killed a lot of people all over the country in those days. They didn't know what caused it. Some of them would go to the center of the river and dip, and get their drinking water there, thinking it may be better at the center. And some dug along the banks, thinking if it went through the sand, it would be better water. And they still died in droves. So, it's likely that the first partner died of cholera. As they walked along the way, it wasn't long before the horses gave out. Of course then the wagon was of no use, and so they had to pack on their backs everything that they could

take. And then his last partner weakened and was very sick by the time they got to Placerville in July 1850. Shortly after they got there, the second man died. And I think how brutal that must have been for Edwin. This was the man he walked across a continent with, that buried their friend together, that suffered all of these things along the way, and now he had died. So, Edwin had to be sure that he was safely buried and get on with the business of getting some gold.

And he did mine for gold, just like everybody else, with a shovel and a pan, and went at it. The finding of gold at Sutter's Mill was almost 2 years before that. The easy gold was pretty well gone by the time Edwin got there. So, it was kind of like whack-a-mole. "Oh, there's gold up on that creek!" And they'd all rush up there, and maybe there was gold and maybe there wasn't. And maybe it was already gone. But evidently good fortune followed him, and he was able to get enough gold that he eventually made some very good investments.

Edwin tells the story about living in a miner's shack with a dirt floor. And there were rats in the shack. And so one night he was shooting at a rat and saw something shiny in the dirt of the floor, and he went and dug it up and it was a bunch of gold coins. And he and his partner are thinking, "Wow! This is fortuitous we have this pile of gold coins!" But it wasn't long before a man came by and said, "I left my gold coins buried in the floor here 'cause I was afraid of being robbed." And he could tell them the exact amount. And so they gave him his coins back. Edwin was telling this story to a group in Flint, Michigan after he was back living here. And a man stood up in the audience and said, "That's a true story. I was that man." And it was Judge Newton from the Flint area. That's a cool little anecdotal story.



Example of ditch systems used to mine gold during the Gold Rush

So, success in mining turned into investment in the Randolph Hill mining company and the Rough and Ready Ditch Company. This is an example of some of the ditch systems. There were hundreds of ditch systems in California in the gold rush. The miners started out finding gold in the riverbeds and along the banks. But the easy pickings were soon pretty well gone. They found that there was gold where rivers used to be. In an alluvial plain. They could get the gold dirt out of these areas, but they needed water to separate the dirt from the gold, and that's where these ditch companies came in. Edwin was part-owner in the Rough and Ready Ditch Company. It ran from Deer Creek down to Rough and Ready. And it was up to him as part-owner to patrol that area. So, he's patrolling that area and got into an altercation with a man that was taking water that Edwin didn't think he was entitled to. And they ended up getting into a knock-down drag-out fight. And the man was not really fighting fair, and he chewed Edwin's finger until it was totally deformed. His nail was all crooked and his finger was deformed the rest of his life. But he kept the water! The guy didn't get the water.

The Randolph Hill mine company that he invested in was one of the most successful mining operations in the area. They took out hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold out of that mine. Edwin also filed a lawsuit there in Rough and Ready, actually Nevada City, which isn't far away. They filed a lawsuit as "Edwin Winans, et al." It was for the Rough and Ready Ditch Company against somebody who was trying

to get water they weren't entitled to. The court ruled in their favor and stopped the people from taking the water.

So, time went on and Edwin was doing really well. The Randolph Mine was doing well. The Ditch Company was doing well. So he and a friend got together and opened a bank. He bought gold from the miners and sold it to the mint. He couldn't have been doing any better. He was just doing well. So success made him think about that sweetheart back in Michigan, Sarah Galloway. "I've got to get back to Michigan and see if Sarah is still available." So he got back to Michigan, only to find out that his mother had died. He did not know. There must not have been any communication with people at all while he was out there.



Gravesite of Eliza, mother of Edwin B. Winans

I think that he came back through Panama. The isthmus of Panama. It just makes sense to me. He had a lot of money. Money was not an object. So he would have gone from Rough and Ready to Sacramento, which was a little ways. And then he would get on a steamship at Sacramento that would take him to San Francisco, where he would get on an ocean-going steamship and take it down to Panama. Now in 1855, the railroad had just finished being built across the isthmus of Panama. So, it was a 5-hour train ride across to pick up another steamer, go to New York, and you're on your way to Hamburg.

So now his mother had died. And he was definitely mourning his mother. But there's a poem at the base of her stone that kind of gives you a picture of sentimental Edwin. And that says, "When thou were with me, Mother, here on this dreary earth, though I did love thee dearly, I knew not half thy worth. --E.B. Winans." That's at the Sprout Cemetery right next to John.

So the Galloways were also mourning at the time because George Galloway, the patriarch of the Galloways, had gone to New York on a business trip and came down with cholera and died within a few days. Boom and George was gone. So the Galloways were feeling bad about the loss of their father, and Edwin was feeling bad about the loss of his mother. So he didn't waste any time to get to the Galloway farm and talked to Sarah. And as most of us know, Sarah said "No bueno. No, I'm not interested. I have this other beau that I'm more interested in. Besides, I'm not going to California. I'm not going to that wild country. But why don't you ask my sister Liz? Liz will probably go with you." Sure enough, he asks Liz to marry him. Liz says, "Sure, why not?"



St. Stephens Church, Hamburg, Michigan

And the Galloways were famous St. Stephens people. They went to St. Stephens church. But I don't think that Edwin and Elizabeth were married there. Because in 1855 when they were married, Algernon Hollister was the rector at St. Stephens. And Edwin and Elizabeth were married by William Henner, Minister of the Gospel. Anyone familiar with that name? I'm thinking they didn't get married at St. Stephens. And I certainly don't know why. And Elizabeth's brother, Stephen, and her mother, Susan, were witnesses.

So johnny-on-the-spot they return to California to Rough and Ready where he had the bank and was very successful. I need to tell you about Rough and Ready where they lived for a few years. It was a really different place on the planet. It really was. Before California became a state, the people in Rough and Ready decided to secede. They were going to make their own country because they were unhappy about some tax regulations and some regulations that they did not agree with. And so they made their own country. They seceded and made the country of Rough and Ready. But then they got to thinking, "You know, July 4th was the best celebration of the year." They *loved*, they all *loved* the July 4th celebration. They would have floats and do all this stuff. And they go, "Wow! That's not our Independence Day anymore! We're a different country. Well, this won't work." So, the country only lasted 3 months and they all voted to go back into the union because they wanted to celebrate the 4th of July.



Hotel at Rough and Ready, California

I just picture Elizabeth and Edwin riding into town. Now I bet they came by wagon. You know she brought things. She didn't come all the way from Michigan without some of her own things. And he knew a lot of things in Rough and Ready were hard to get a hold of and expensive. So I'm sure they stopped in Sacramento and loaded up with all the stuff they might need. As they pulled into town, here was this sweet little town. Oak-lined streets with buildings on both sides. The road took you up a hill. At the top of a hill was a church with a beautiful steeple and some wide steps. They called it Piety Hill. At one point the

reverend was saying prayers over a grave, and he looked up to see the mourners were all... what were they doing? They were staking claims because in the dirt of the grave somebody saw gold! So they were kind of an easy-speasy group.

One of the women that Elizabeth I'm sure met there was Mary Downey. Mary Downey and her husband and children were going west, of course, for the gold rush. And at Fort Laramie, Mr. Downey died. Left her a widow with 12 children. She made it to Rough and Ready, built a hotel, ran that hotel, and supported her children. What a gal. So, I'm sure that would be a woman that Elizabeth would connect with. Then there was the Single family. They owned the carpenter shop. The Fippin family owned the blacksmith shop right next door. And Julia Single married John Fippin. Go figure.



The "Slave Tree" at Rough and Ready

California joined the union as a free state. But the rules were pretty loosey-goosey. Nobody really enforced them. And a man named Colonel English came with 50 slaves to work in a mine nearby Rough and Ready. But the Colonel was killed in a robbery shortly thereafter and the slaves just dispersed. They just took off and made their own living. But one of them that stayed around was Caroline Allen. And Caroline used to ride into town and go to the bar at the hotel, and they would give her free drinks. Don't ask. And one rainy day, Caroline rode in, tied her horse to a post outside Fippins' blacksmith shop, and

stuck her willow whip into the ground. And legend has it that it grew into a huge tree, and they called it the Slave Tree. And this is the slave tree in Rough and Ready.

So, they were in Rough and Ready when George Galloway Winans was born in 1856. And I imagine it was a pretty big deal. I mean he was the banker. The banker and his wife had this beautiful little son, and I'm sure that all the ladies in town gave them booties and cute little embroidered clothes and things. That was a big deal that the banker's wife had a baby.

But about that time, 1857, there was less and less gold being brought out of that specific area. So, the bank was taking in less and less. And a lot of the miners were moving north to areas where they could get more gold. So it was time to come back to Michigan. They were very wealthy. They had a lot of money. And there was no Western Union where they could wire their money from California to Michigan, so they had to bring it with them. You may have heard this story about Elizabeth sewing gold into their clothes. But then the clothes were so heavy they couldn't wear them. So, Edwin had bags of gold. They had gold in their trunks and in bags that they brought. So, to protect his investment, Edwin carried a Colt revolver on his hip. They came back through the isthmus of Panama on a train as I talked about before. They would take a ship from San Francisco to Panama City, and get on the train for 5 hours. It cost \$25 one way. But of course they had plenty of money, so that didn't bother them. Then they would get on a steamship in Aspinwall, which is on the Atlantic side, and go to New York City. Once in New York City they could deposit their money in a bank and have it be safe there. And go on to Hamburg, Michigan.

When they came back, they moved in with the Galloway family. Right after they moved in, Fred Galloway and a friend of his said, "We've got this great idea. We're gonna make a bunch of money. We're gonna send all of these material items to St. Joe. Then we're gonna go there and buy wagons, and load up these wagons, and drive the wagons west to the Silver Mines in Idaho. And we're gonna sell all these goods and make all this profit. It's gonna be a great deal." And they wanted Edwin to go, of course, because he had done a similar trip before. So, Edwin goes with them. Everything works fine. All the goods went to St. Joe. They get there. They buy wagons. They load 'em up. They get ox or whatever they used to pull the wagons. They get to Idaho. They sell everything--wagons, oxen, goods--they sell everything. They've got a great profit. They are happy as they can be. And they are gonna head home on a stagecoach.

It was still kind of difficult times. They might be threatened by Indians. They might be threatened by robbers. So all the men had loaded guns. And when Edwin loaded his gun he said, "The guy that gets this... the robber that gets this... will get (blank)." Fill in the blank with a bad word. Well, they didn't have any Indians. They didn't have any robbers. But the stagecoach hit a bad rut in the road, flipped over, Edwin flipped out and he shot himself in the shoulder and chest. He was badly injured, and the closest place they could take him was Salt Lake City. He spent some time recovering in Salt Lake City before he could even make it home. And that's obviously not the stagecoach that tipped over [photo of stagecoach], but it is a stagecoach. So, he comes back to Michigan. He is recovering. He decides he is going to buy the Galloway farm.



2022 view of Lakeland Golf Course in Hamburg, Michigan. Formerly a portion of the Galloway farm purchased by Edwin B. Winans

Now you may recognize this slide. It's not the Galloway farm, I'm sure [image of overhead view of Lakeland Golf Course]. It didn't have sand traps, is all I'm saying. I'm sure they didn't have drones to fly overhead to get a really cool picture. But that's where a big piece of the Galloway farm was... right there. That's what it looks like today. And in 1860's, farming was no jaunt in the park. That was some hard, difficult work with plows. Hopefully you had a steel plow or iron plow-- that would be better than a wooden one-- pulled by horses. Excruciating amount of work. So, he bought the Galloway farm for 400 acres for \$6900. Don't you wish you could do that today? And so farming, although it was a lot, one of the census records does show that he had hired help that lived on the farm.



Michigan's second state capital building, at the time Edwin B. Winans was in the state legislature during the Civil War

But then he went to the state legislature, the Michigan legislature, during the Civil War from 1860-65. This was the capital building, the second capital building in Michigan. And this was the capital building when Edwin was in the state legislature during the Civil War. Looks really different than what we have today. So, there were Civil War issues that they faced. One of the issues they debated was putting together a troop of black soldiers that would fight for the north in the Civil War. Of course, there were so many contentious things going on at that time. But they did approve the unit of black soldiers, and they really did an amazing job. They were sharpshooters. They did an amazing job fighting for the Union.



Howell, Michigan, about the time Edwin B. Winans was probate judge (1876-80)

From the state legislature he also served on the constitutional convention, helped write the constitution for Michigan. He was Hamburg Township supervisor for a couple of years. And then he ran for probate judge. In 1876-80 he was probate judge in Howell. There is a census that shows he was a boarder in Howell. And you think, "Gosh, you know Hamburg isn't that far from Howell. Why would he get a room in Howell?" But you know, I think it was a whole other thing if you had to take a horse and buggy or a horse. You don't want to do that every day in order to have enough time to get your work done. These are some pictures of Howell during the time that he was there.

Elizabeth went with him wherever he served. She was with him in Howell. She was with him in Lansing. She was with him in Washington, D.C. And his next step on the ladder of success was in Washington, D.C. This shows a picture of Pennsylvania Avenue in 1883. He went there in 1883. This was what it looked like when he was there. The picture on the upper right-hand side is a drawing of the inaugural ball of Glover Cleveland when he was there. The bottom picture is the

unfinished Washington monument. The Washington monument was completed when Edwin was in the 49th congress. So, he was the agricultural committee, the pension committee, and served our country that way.



Pennsylvania Avenue in 1883 in Washington DC when Edwin B. Winans served in the 49th Congress

That's where I'm at in my research. I don't have as much to tell you as I would like.



Michigan state capital building when Edwin B. Winans was Governor 1891-93

Then he became governor of Michigan. And when he was governor, we have the capital similar to what we see today. He was a very practical governor. He reduced the number of state governing boards. Everybody had their own governing board. He said, "This is ridiculous. We're gonna reduce these and combine boards so that one board can rule on more than one department." He built up the roads. He did some tax reform. A big thing that he did was insist on being able to vote privately. So, either go into a booth or have a little shelter. You don't have to mark your ballot right next to somebody that's seeing how you are voting. So that idea of the importance of the privacy of your vote was something that he pushed. The other law that he signed into effect when he was governor was the John Miner law. That had to do with the electoral college. Instead of having all the electoral votes for Michigan go with the majority of votes for the state, he said we ought to break up the electoral votes by district. So for example, maybe the UP would have a couple of districts, and maybe northern Michigan would have a couple of districts, and the rest would be in southern Michigan where most of the population and most of the districts were. That way, Detroit could vote one way, and eastern UP could vote entirely different

and their electoral votes could go to somebody else. You may have heard about Maine. Maine and Nebraska, I think, are states that still do it that way. Edwin just felt that it was more representative of the people than having all the electoral votes go to one candidate. But the next governor that came in repealed that law, and so we don't have that in Michigan. But that was one big thing he did.



*Michigan building at the Chicago World's Fair
1893*

The other thing that was big while he was governor was the Chicago World's Fair. They were getting ready to have a fair. This was supposed to be the Columbia Exposition. It was in celebration of Christopher Columbus. It was supposed to be in 1892, 1492 to 1892, but like everything else it was a little bit late on getting ready, so it wasn't [held] until 1893. There was a World's Fair bill that passed, and it said that management of the fair, after the opening, shall be vested in a national commission composed of 2 members from each state who are to be nominated by their governors and appointed by the president. So, Edwin had all kinds of correspondence from people that were interested in being on the commission, people that wanted to be part of the Michigan house. There was a special

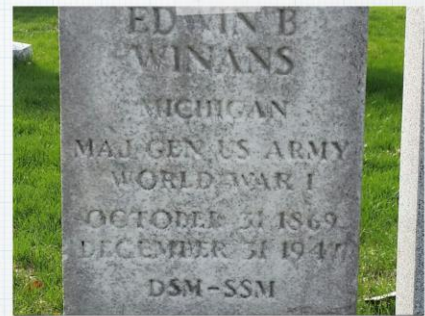
letter from a Mrs. M.R. Bissell, president of the Bissell carpet sweeper company. And she was recommending a Mrs. Kittie Closs for matron of the Michigan building. The Michigan building was quite the thing. Mrs. Bissell took over the sweeper company when her husband died and made a huge success out of it. Obviously, we know about Bissell even today. That was unusual for a woman at that time to take charge and do what Mrs. Bissell did.

The Michigan building was 3 stories. It was beautiful. It wasn't meant to hold a lot of exhibits. It did have some exhibits. You could go to the top of the tower and look out over the fair. There were balconies where you could relax. There were many exhibits throughout the fair that connected with Michigan--wood, wooden products. Some guy took plated corn husks and built a family of four. That had to be something to see. And visitors to the mines and minerals [exhibit] saw two massive pieces of copper and a cross-section of an iron mine. I'd like to see that today. So that took up some of his time as governor. They had a generous budget, as you can see from this Michigan building [picture]. It was quite the deal. It was near one of the entrances to the fair.

Edwin Winans had two sons. This is the son we have a picture of... Edwin junior, the younger son. George Galloway, the older son, we don't have a picture of. George, from every census we can find him in, was a farmer. In the 1920 census he was 63 years old as head of household as a farmer in Hamburg Township in Livingston County. His household consisted of his wife Catherine, his son Edwin Valentine, Edwin's wife Ethel, and their son George D. Winans. He sold the farm in 1922. His mother died in 1926. The next time we find him is in his 1933 death record in Flathead, Montana. and his son Edwin V. was also in Montana at that time. It seems beyond the pale that he left his mother. She died in 1926. So we're not sure exactly what happened.

Now George Galloway and his wife Catherine had a daughter, Bessie (Elizabeth), born in 1891 and who died just a few months before Governor Edwin died. And her little grave is right here in the Hamburg

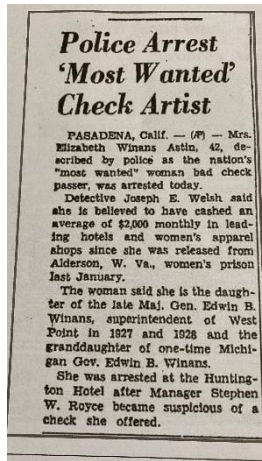
Cemetery. When my daughter and I first went to the Hamburg cemetery and she was cleaning the stones, we said "Bessie... who was Bessie?" So, Bessie was Edwin's granddaughter and George Galloway's child. Now George Galloway is mentioned as being in the military and having the title of major in several different areas. But looking in military records, so far we can find no military record. I have one more website I'm going to go to where you send the application in and they research and send it back to you. So I am still in the process of verifying his military status. But on one record it asked for veteran status, and George marked "no." So whether he was part of a group and just got called "major," or maybe a militia and got called "major," it stuck, kind of like "Colonel Sanders." I don't know. We're still working on it.



Edwin B. Winans, Junior

But Edwin junior, the brigadier general we have here, we have all kinds of military records on him. He graduated from the US military academy at West Point in 1891. And he served all over the world. He was in the Philippines. He was in Hawaii. He served in Mexico. He served in WWI under General Pershing and received the distinguished service medal and the silver star. He was quite the soldier. He commanded a couple of forts back here in Michigan after the World War. Then he was superintendent of West Point. He was superintendent of the military academy 1927-1928. He got into a dust-up with the admiral that was the superintendent of the naval college. And their dust-up was over eligibility for football players. I mean, what's more important than that? They did not agree about eligibility for football, so there was no Army-Navy game in 1928 or 1929. Edwin by that time had moved on to other duties. They finally resolved it in 1930 and had another Army-Navy game.

The general was a great person, an honorable person. And then we come to his daughter. [Reading from photo of newspaper clipping] "Mrs. Elizabeth Winans Astin, 42, described by police as the nation's most wanted woman, bad check passer, was arrested today. Detective Joseph E. Welsh said she's believed to have cashed an average of \$2000 monthly in leading hotels and women's apparel shops since she was



released from Alderson, West Virginia Women's Prison last January." Oh, for heaven's sake! She's your relative! "The woman said she's the daughter of the late Major General..." thank god it was the late general...if he had been alive... "...the late Major General Edwin B. Winans, superintendent of West Point in 1927 and 1928, and the granddaughter of the onetime Michigan Governor Edwin B. Winans. She was arrested at the Huntington Hotel after manager Stephen Royce became suspicious of the check she offered." So there you have it. There's one in every family, right?

Well, she wasn't the only one. She wasn't the only person that got thrown in jail with the name of Winans. Then there was Ross Winans. This is a blurry picture. But he didn't write bad checks. He was one of the first multimillionaires of the

country, Ross Winans. He lived in Baltimore. During the Civil War he was a southern sympathizer. He was a member of the Maryland house of delegates. He was arrested shortly after the Baltimore riot of 1861 over statements he had made promoting secession. Probably not a wise or smart thing to do. He was released and arrested again for the same kinds of comments and rabblorousing. And at the time that all this was going on, his company was building up a supply of weapons and munitions to hold in the defense of Baltimore against the Union army. He was probably lucky they didn't hang him for being a traitor.



Ross Winans

But he was a prolific inventor. He invented a steam locomotive called a "camelback locomotive." He invented a cigar-shaped steamship that went across the big pond. And many other things. He was a prolific inventor. He made millions and millions of dollars selling locomotives and setting up a railroad in Russia and the United States. He got started in Russia and sent a couple of his sons over there. History repeats itself. Here we are doing it all over again. Interesting enough, Ross's daughter married into the Whistler family, and the famous painter did a drawing of Ross. But they were making me pay for it, so I didn't get one. This is Ross's house in Baltimore. It's a museum now. It was empty for many years, and then some good people rescued it and made it into a museum.



Ross Winans' home in Baltimore, now a museum

I passed the walking stick around. We talked before that Edwin had a half-brother, Theron. Theron had the walking stick. He gave it to his son, Nathaniel. Nathaniel gave it to his son, Theron, and Theron gave it to his son, Case, and Case gave it to his son, Gerald, and Gerald gave it to his son, David, who is her father [Valerie points to her daughter, Lisa]. So, there is a legacy here that I can't help but write about. And I still have quite a bit of research to do, but I'm always happy to share what I know. And I hope that some of what I gave you today was things that you didn't know that added to your knowledge of Governor Winans. So, I will open it to questions.

[Question 1] What do you know about Governor Winans' death year? He died quite soon after his term. In his sixties. Do you know what he died of?

[Answer] Heart failure. That's what they say. Heart failure runs in the family. He had not been well when he was governor. In 1894, they knew when someone had heart trouble, but there wasn't a lot they did for it like they can today. They knew he had a bad heart.

[Question 2] Winans Lake Road, Winans Lake, when and how were they named?

[Answer] With George Galloway Winans. George stayed on the farm and farmed the area. He sold part of the farm to the Lakeland Golf Club. He fought for water rights on Winans Lake. I guess it went all the way to Supreme Court that it was a private lake, and that you couldn't just launch your boat there.

[Audience member- it still is a private lake to this day]. Lakeland Golf Course started in 1922 or 23; George Galloway sold it to them in 1922. [Audience member- the golf course is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.] [Audience member- Bishop and Walker played a role in Edwin's early life and both have lakes named after them.] Edwin *loved* Leland Walker, his brother-in-law. He thought the world of him. Leland Walker also died young, in his sixties.

[Audience member] We have a photo of Governor Winans during his governorship. He is 65 years old at that point, but he looks 85. He had a busy life.

[Question 3] Did Sarah regret not marrying Edwin?

[Answer] When Sarah's husband died, Sarah was disabled. [It was said] a "disabled widow" went to live with Edwin and Liz, and they took care of her. And took care of everybody. The sisters, half the Galloways, they took care of them all. That's the kind of people they were.

[Audience members] His marker in the Hamburg Cemetery is being redone. There is also a stone on Winans Lake Drive at his home site. I think it was put up in the 1930s.

There are some ancestors of Edwin in California and Colorado, but you cannot research living people.

I want what I put in his biography to be truthful. I write the story of him coming back to Michigan. Then all of a sudden, up pops this article from the early 1900s talking about the fact that Edwin took a stagecoach back to Michigan from California to reconnect with Sarah, and was shot by Indians along the way. I never heard that! My daughter said, "Mom, think about this. He went out west with Fred Galloway and came back in a stagecoach and shot himself? What's the chances that he got shot twice on the same trip?" It didn't happen. [Lisa- Both things didn't happen. You don't come back and say "Well, I shot myself." You make up a story.] They've always been storytellers. I sometimes have to take the most factual and most reasonable, based on what I know. And that's the story I tell.

Dave's father, Jerry Winans, was quite the storyteller. He would tell stories about when he was a boy in Lansing. They would bring the cattle in from the farm on Creights road for the summer months. They had Winans Dairy. They would bring them in to about the corner of Waverly and St. Joe Road in the

winter, and would do a cattle drive back to the main farm. You didn't always want to believe everything he would say. When Jerry died, my grandson wanted to know where the Indian chief was and why the Indians weren't there. Grandpa had always told them he was an Indian chief! Biggest lie ever. They were story tellers way back.

--Valerie Winans married into the Winans family, and is the wife of David Winans. She was accompanied that evening by their daughter, Lisa.