Ancestors of Charles Leslie CONGER

First Generation

1. Charles Leslie CONGER was born on 17 Jan 1869 in Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co., WI. He died on 2 Jun 1934 in McIntosh, Polk Co., MN.

Charles Leslie Conger

PARENTS: William Conger and Susan Wright

CHILDREN: He had two children with his first wife.

NO_ISSUE: There was no issue of the marriage of Charles Leslie Conger and his second wife, Louise A. Heiser.

OCCUPATION: Bank cashier and owner of farms he rented to tenants.

RESIDENCES: Northwood, Iowa; McIntosh, Polk Co., MN

PUBLIC_SERVICE: Mayor for seven years, treasurer for fourteen years, served on the school board

ORGANIZATIONS: Knights of Pythias, Royal Arch Mason, member of the Elks

BIOGRAPHY: Charles Leslie Conger received his education in the public schools of Northwood, Worth Co., IA, and Bryan and Stratton's Business College, Chicago, IL. In 1891, he went to McIntosh, MN and accepted a position with the Citizen's Bank of McIntosh, handling their collections and outside business. In 1898, he was made cashier of this institution, and in 1917 became the principle owner and president of the bank.

He also became interested in a number of other financial institutions in northern Minnesota, among which were the First National Bank of Cass Lake, where he served 10 years or more as vice-president; The First State Bank of Remer, Minn., of which he was president; the Scandia American Bank of Crookston, Minn., of which he was president for about 10 years; the Crookston Realty Company, and Cass Lake Land & Loan Company, and the Remer Lumber Company, in all of which institutions he was a member of their Board, and president of the organizations.

He served for a time as the president of the Working Men's Building & Loan Association, and also vice-president of the Miller Fiber Mills of Crookston, Minn., and of Valley City, ND; also served as vice-president of the Northern Development Association and was a large holder of Polk County, Minnesota real estate, his principle improved farms being in the vicinity of Crookston and McIntosh, Minnesota.

On 30 April 1911 he was registered as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (National Number 21524 and State Number 725) and was a member of the board for managers for many years. In October 1919 at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, Grand Domain of Minnesota, held at St. Paul, he was chosen Grand Chancellor of the Grand Domain of Minnesota for a term of two years. On 28 Oct 1907 he became a member of the Crookston Lodge #141, A.F. & A.M. About 1900 he became affiliated with the B.P.O. Elks.


RESEARCHER:
Charles Leslie Conger, born on 17 Jan 1869 in Eau Clair, Eau Clair county, WI, compiled the bulk of the Conger material now existing. It appears that he spent thousands of dollars to have research done, and it is said he died a poor man, although he had been a banker. He died in 1934 when the country was still feeling the effects of the 1929 "Crash". His only son, William Lloyd Conger, had but one child, Jean, who died unmarried.

Charles L. Conger wrote a letter dated, 23 Feb 1932, to Clement Ellis Conger in which he said he intended to place his records with the New Jersey Historical Society. He added, "I have not done much to add to the records in the past twenty years and there are other sources of information that I would like to tap, but I guess it is out of the question. Among my other so-called troubles is my eyesight that is failing me so much that I can hardly see to read large print (can not read newspapers, except the headlines) and glasses will not help. However, I am not kicking. My race is nearly over and I have had a very good time on this earth until recently." He died two years later on 2 Jun 1934 at McIntosh, Polk county, MN at the age of 65.

Another letter to Clement Conger, dated 20 Mar 1932, reads, in part, "I wish the first time that you go to The Congressional Library in Washington that you would ascertain for me whether or not they would be interested in unpublished manuscripts such as I have, regarding the Conger family. I have three copies of my work, one which I have always wanted to place with The Historical Society of New Jersey, one copy in the Newbury Library in Chicago and if there is a genealogical department in the Congressional Library at Washington I should like to place a copy there. I have a large amount of data all classified and
Clement E. Conger adds a note of humor to this as he wrote on 26 May 1970, "It would amuse you to know that when I took the Conger genealogy book to the head of the Genealogy Section of the Library of Congress many years ago, he asked me how many Congers were in the book. I made a trivial remark that we Congers were like rabbits because in ten generations there were 25,000 people in the book. The head of the Genealogy Department replied the Congers had not done their duty. In ten generations the average American family is 35,000 people. He was so delighted with all this work that the book was placed in the Rare Book Section where, I presume, it may be consulted at any time. 

BIOGRAPHY:

Charles L. Conger, cashier of the Citizens State bank at McIntosh, [Minnesota,] was born at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, January 17, 1869, the son of William and Susan (Wright) Conger. He is the descendant of revolutionary and colonial stock, the Congers having been soldiers and patriots since the settling of the colonies by England, the residence of the family dating from 1640. In 1667 a John Conger located on land in New Jersey, near Woodbridge, and about a century later, in 1770, Gershom Conger, the great-grandfather of Charles L. Conger, removed from that state to Vermont. He was one of the followers of the Quaker faith who by their sturdy qualities played such an important part in the building of the nation, but despite his religious beliefs gave valiant service during the war for independence and died in Vermont in 1835.

His son, Asher Conger, was born in Danby, Vermont, in 1799 and his death occurred in 1852, in his native town, which was also the birthplace of his son, William Conger, who was born November 10, 1819. The latter went to Wisconsin in 1867, two years before the birth of his son, Charles Conger, and later removed to Northwood, Iowa, where he died on August 16, 1898. He is survived by his wife, a native of Utica, New York, born May 19, 1835. She now makes her home with J.P. Foote of Crookston, who is her son by a previous marriage.

Charles L. Conger was two years of age when the family removed to Northwood, Iowa, and was reared and educated in that place. In September, 1891, he came to Crookston, where his half-brother, Mr. Foote, resided, and in the same month secured the position of assistant cashier in the Citizens State bank of McIntosh, of which Mr. Foote is president.

Mr. Conger has since devoted his business career to the able discharge of his duties as cashier, his successful association with this institution winning him recognition in the financial circles of this section.

The position of assistant cashier of the Citizens State bank has fitted a number of the influential bankers of the state for more important positions; among the former occupants of these positions are, Alfred Hoel, now vice president of the First National bank at Gilbert; First National of Biwabik, Minnesota, and State Bank of Arura, Minnesota; Charles Hoel, cashier of the Miner's National bank at Eveleth; A.J. Hoel, assistant cashier of the First National bank at Cass Lake; A.I. Solberg, cashier of the Farmers State bank at Winger, and T.A. Thompson, who was the first assistant cashier appointed in the McIntosh bank and has held the office of registrar of deeds of Polk county for ten years.

Mr. Conger is further identified with the business interests of the county as a landowner and farmer and is the proprietor of two farms, of 240 and 160 acres, and several tracts of land in St. Louis and farm lands in Pennington counties. He takes great interest in the management and the direction of the work of improvement of his farms, which are occupied by tenants. He is a member of the Democratic party and is widely known for his services in the political field and is active in conventions and in the direction of party affairs, he has never sought the honors of office, but has served as mayor for the past seven years and as treasurer for the past fourteen years, and has also served on the school board. He was appointed by Governor Hammond to the board of visitors to the state institutions but recently resigned from his membership in that body.

Mr. Conger's favorite recreation is a good game of the national diversion of baseball, which he enjoys from the standpoint of a former player, and he has given his support and influence to the encouragement of local enthusiasm and the home team.

In fraternal circles he was one of the organizers of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is Past Chancellor and a member of the Grand Lodge. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Elks lodge at Crookston.

Mr. Conger was married at Litchfield, to Leona Halverson, and her death occurred on September 14, 1902. His second
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marriage was solemnized with Louise A. Heiser of Albert Lea, Minnesota, December 8, 1903. He has one child, William L. Conger, who was born in 1901 and is a student in the junior year of the McIntosh high school.

Mr. Conger is a member of the board of managers of the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the Revolution. He is also a member of the executive council of the State Bankers association from the Ninth congressional district, and has served as president of the Ninth district group of bankers. He also served as vice president and director of the Northern Minnesota Development association and as president of the Commercial club.

[Note: Paragraph breaks added by researcher, Richard E. Henthorn on 24 July 2013. Mr. Henthorn makes the observation that the paragraph listing the other assistant cashiers of the Citizens State bank is very unusual in this type of biographical sketch.]

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Richard E. (Edson) Henthorn
5403 76th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20784-1705
Email: Dick.Henthorn@gmail.com

Second Generation

2. William CONGER was born on 10 Nov 1819 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT. He died on 16 Aug 1898 in Northwood, Worth Co., IA.

William Conger

CHILDREN: William Conger and Julia Ann Coy had 6 children all of whom died in infancy.

DIVORCE: The marriage of William Conger and Julia Ann Coy ended in divorce.

MARRIAGE: After his divorce William went to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin and visited there for some time at the home of an uncle, Daniel Gilmore. It was there that he met, Mrs. Susan Wright Foote who became his 2nd wife. (CFA I, p. 509)

RECOLLECTIONS:
At an early age he shipped from Newbury Port, Massachusetts, on a whaling voyage which took him into the North Atlantic, into the Mediterranean Sea, around Cape Horn touching the Sandwich Islands, the North Pacific Ocean, Japan and back again by the way of the Cape of Good Hope off the south coast of Africa, thence north on the Atlantic to the home port. During this time he was the ship's carpenter, and about seven years was spent on the cruise. [Note: William Conger was married at age 19. If he spent 7 years at sea before then, he was only about 12 years old when he left on the voyage.]

After this he went into business developing old water power, grist mill properties, improving them, operating them for a while and then placing them upon the market.

In his younger days he was a very rugged and hearty man. He was a warm-hearted man, true to his friends, and generous to all.

Early in life William Conger became a licensed exhorter of the Troy, New York Methodist Conference. He was also noted as a baritone singer -- a gift that he retained all his life.

Shortly after marriage to Susan, they settled in the vicinity of Eau Claire, WI, where William owned a large tract of timber. In 1870, this tract was badly damaged by fire, so William decided not to wait until the wood could be cut for timber. In the spring of 1871 he removed to Wells, Minnesota and engaged in bridge building, carpenter work, etc. In the fall of the same year he removed to Northwood, Worth, Iowa, where he engaged in the same line of business and remained there until his death in 1898.

During his residence at Northwood, Iowa he filled many positions of trust and endeared himself to the people by his straightforward blunt and upright manner. No one had more friends and no one one's death was more deeply mourned.


William CONGER and Susan WRIGHT were married on 7 Apr 1867.
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3. Susan WRIGHT was born on 19 May 1835 in Utica, Oneida Co., NY. She died on 9 Feb 1916 in Crookston, Polk Co., MN.

Susan Wright

AKA: Mrs. Susan (Wright) Foote (CFA I, p. 509)

SPOUSE: First married to Horace Foote

RECOLLECTIONS:
Susan Wright's first husband was Horace Foote, born 23 June 1832 at Rawleigh, NC. They were married at Utica, NY. He died in the Civil War on 21 Jun 1861. They had but one child, a son, Jay P. Foote, born 7 Feb 1858.

In October 1865, after the death of her husband, Susan and her son moved to Lake Mills, Wisconsin, where she conducted a photo gallery.

CONFLICT-BIRTH: Charles Leslie Conger in his two biography pages stated that his mother was "a native of Utica, New York, born May 19, 1835." Other researchers listed the date of birth as May 9, 1835.

Third Generation

4. Asher CONGER was born on 21 May 1799 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT. He died on 24 Mar 1852 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT. He was buried in Mar 1853 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT, Scottsville Cemetery.

Asher Conger

Problem: Was the date of birth 21 May 1799 or 21 May 1798? CFA I, lists both.

5. Chloe GILMORE died about 1871 in Phillipsburg, , Quebec, Canada.

6. Joseph WRIGHT has no further information available.

7. Mary HART has no further information available.

Fourth Generation

8. Gershom CONGER was born between 1763 and 1767 in Rahway, Middlesex Co., NJ. He died in 1837 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT.

Gershom Conger

BIRTH-DEATH: b. 1767, d. 1837, per Harold Murton Hyde

BIOGRAPHY-LAND:
At the division of his parent's estate, Gershom Conger, signed surety bon for 1000 pounds as surety for this brother, Enoch Conger, as executors of their parent's estate, 5 Jul 1794. He purchased the interest of his sister, Ruth Irish, [sic, Note that CFA I, lists Ruth Irish as the wife of his brother, Enoch. REH] and his brothers John and Moses, in the estate of their parents. His other brothers, Job, Enoch and Asher, sold their interest to their brother, Coddington Conger.

On 27 Jan 1795 he purchased the interest of his brother, Benjamin, in the estate of their parents, said deed being a matter of record in Rutland county, Vermont. This deed was witnessed by his brother, Coddington Conger.

On 7 Oct 1797 he purchased from his brother, Coddington Conger, "all interest of a tract of land which was a part of First Division Lot #47." This deed was witnessed by Isaac Conger, his oldest son.

He sold to his brother, Enoch, 57 1/2 acres of land in Danby, [VT] for 108 pounds. The deed was witnessed by Coddington Conger.

In 1801 he served as Grand Juror.
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Gershom Conger recorded his ear mark on 19 Sep 1805. In the same year he served as Selectman (a town officer chosen annually to manage the concerns of the town, provide for the poor, etc.).

In 1835, he served as Hayward (guard the hedges to keep the cattle from harming them).

William's "History and Map of Danby," has the following to say about Gershom, "He was an early settler, and married Frances Ballard of Tinmouth, Vermont. He was a man of ability, industry and integrity, and was ranked among the worthy, and influential men of the town. He died in 1837, aged about 70."

In 1870 [sic, (1770?) This date long after his date of death] he served as a Private in Captain Stephen Calkin's Company of Col. Ira Allen's Regiment of Militia, and with Captain Ebenezer Wilson's company in the Revolutionary War (Goodrich's Vermont Revolutionary Rolls, p. 373).

Both he and his wife were Quakers, joining the church at Danby, [VT].

PROBATE: His will, dated 11 Apr 1835, reads as follows:
I, Gershom Conger of Danby, in the county of Rutland, and state of Vermont, considering the uncertainty of life and being of sound and perfect mind and memory do make and publish, this, my last will and testament, in the manner and form following:

FIRSTLY, at my decease, that this will be approved according to law and all my just debts and funeral charges paid. And all the remaining part of my property, I will that my wife Frances Conger shall have the use of until her deceased. And at her decease, I will that my three daughters, namely: Dorcas, Ruth and Almy, all of which are my daughters, shall have all the household furniture, divided equally among them. And I also will that my executors, hereinafter named, pay to each of them a middling (equal in quality) likely cow, and I do further will that at the decease of my wife Frances, that all the rest of the dues, demands, land and property of all kinds left, be equally divided among my five sons, namely Isaac, Enoch, William, Asher and Gershom, and in case of their decease, or either of them, to their heirs.

And I hereby appoint my two sons William and Enoch, my executors of this my last will and testament, and hereby revoke all former wills, by me made.

In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal, the 11th day of the fourth month 1835. GERSHOM CONGER
Signed, sealed and declared, by the above named Gershom Conger, to be his last will and testament, in the presence of us, who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses, in the presence of the testator. William Stimson, Joseph P. Brownell, Job Scott.

CONFLICT-DEATH: Charles Leslie Conger in his two-page biography claims he died in Vermont in 1835. Others say he died in 1837 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT.

9. Frances BALLARD was born about 1765 in Tinmouth, Rutland Co., VT. RESIDENCES: She was “of Tinmouth, Vermont”

Fifth Generation

16. Enoch CONGER was born about 1730 in Rahway, Union Co., NJ. He died after 19 Feb 1777 in Rutland Co., VT.
Enoch Conger

EMIGRATION: Enoch Conger removed to Dutchess county, New York and on to Danby, Vermont. CFA I, p. 275.

COMMENT-CHILDREN: On page 158 of CFA I, the family of Enoch Conger is listed. His son, Moses Conger, born, Abt. 1770 in Dutchess Co., NY is not listed. He is, however, listed, with his own family, on page 379 of CFA I. Son, Coddington Conger, is also not listed on page 158. A daughter, Ruth, is listed in his will but not listed as a child in CFA I, p. 158.

RECOLLECTIONS:
Enoch Conger, son of Job and Keziah Conger, was named as executor of his father's will, and also inherited one-half of all his
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father’s real estate. The will was dated 29 Jan 1749, but was not proved until 17 Feb 1758, at which time it is thought the youngest son, Moses, became of age. The will provided that Enoch was to have the use of the inheritance of his brother, Moses, for a period of seven years. The will further provided that neither Enoch or Moses could dispose of their inheritance until they had attained the age of thirty years.

It is thought Enoch Conger left Rahway [NJ] about 1765, or later, and removed to Nine Partners, town of Northeast, Dutchess County, New York, a place only a short distance from New Fairfield, Conn, where his cousin, Joseph Conger, was then living. From there he moved to Danby, VT before 1770.

From Wiliams's "History and Map of Danby, Vt," we gather the following abstract of the settlement and organization of the town. Sixty-eight persons petitioned to the governor of the Province of New Hampshire for a grant of land six miles square. On 27 Aug 1761, the petition was granted. Enoch Conger was not one of the petitioners.

Each one of the petitioners was to have an equal share and their share, or lot, was to be numbered. The company had their headquarters at Nine Partner's, Dutchess County, New York, where the drawing took place on 5 Sep 1763. Among the first settlers who came in 1765 was Joseph Earl. The annual meeting of the proprietors was held in 1766, 1767 and 1768 at Nine Partners, and after that at Danby, [VT].

The organization of the town of Danby, VT, dated from 1769, and in that year the first highways were laid out, and the second division of land was made. The first road laid out was on the land of Joseph Earl. Quite a number of the original proprietors were selling their rights to new settlers. The trouble over the "New Hampshire grants" was on, and was causing a great deal of disturbance. New Hampshire, the Province that made the grants, was exercising authority over them and this authority was disputed by the Province of New York. Hence the reading of the body of the deed, next to be mentioned.

These deed records are taken from the Danby Town Records. As Williams makes no mention of Enoch Conger. A deed dated 23 Mar 1771 and recorded 29 Apr 1775, Joseph Earl to Enoch Conger, "all undivided lands after the third division, belonging to the first division right of lot number 35". This was originally owned by William Barton, and lot number 47 by William Shaw, both of whom sold to Joseph Earl.

On 20 May 1772 Enoch Conger recorded his ear mark, which is a slit in the top of each ear of livestock. The next reference to Enoch Conger is dated 6 June 1776: "then surveyed and laid out for Enoch Conger, one fifty acre lot of land, laying on the west side of Micha Vail's third division lot. The above fifty acres belong to the right number 35, in the first division of land in said township.

(Furnished by Harold Murton Hyde, also in CFA I, p. 158-159)

PROBATE: Will of Enoch Conger
Danby, [NY], February the 19th, 1777: In the name of God Amen.

Whereas I Enoch Conger of Danby, in the county of Charloeet, and state of New York, being low and weak in body, but in my right mind, and perfect memory, than[k] God, do make this, and ordain the same to be my last will and testament as follows:

First of all, I will and bequeath to my dear and well beloved wife Berzillah, all that 50 acres of land wherein she now lives, as long as she remains my widow, to have the whole of the profits therefrom, arising and further, that my said widow keep her family together, as much as in her power, and convert the profits of said farm to the use of bringing up my poor orphan children until the youngest shall become to the years of maturity, or to the age of twenty and one.

Further, I do hereby constitute and appoint my two sons, Job and Enoch, after my decease, to pay all of my funeral charges, cost of doctors and nurses, and all other necessary charges accrued in this my sickness, out of such part of my estate as can be spared, out of my family so left, and further, if my said widow shall think most convenient for herself to marry after my decease, in any time before my youngest son shall be of age, that I hereby order my two sons here made executors to take all my estate both real and personal, and forthwite have the same inventoried, and appraised according to law, and give to their mother her third. And then divide all the rest, and remainder of my estate equally with all their brothers, and making their sister Ruth equal with any of her brothers, always reserving to themselves, over and above any of the rest, sufficient to pay all my just debts. And this I make and ordain to be my last will and testament, according to the true intent and meaning, herein set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year written above.

(signed) Enoch Conger.


Enoch CONGER and Berzillah CODDINGTON were married about 1750.

17. Berzillah CODDINGTON was born about 1732 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. She died in Jun 1794 in Danby, Rutland Co., VT.
Berzillah Coddington
Ancestors of Charles Leslie CONGER

PARENTS: 8th child of Benjamin Coddington.

PARENTS: There has been a question about whether Job Conger was married to Lydia Coddington or to Mary Coddington. Dally's History of Woodbridge, [NJ] gives a list of 21 children born to Benjamin and Mary Coddington in which their 7th child, Lydia, married Job Conger, Jr. and their 8th child, Zillah (Berzillah), married Enoch Conger.

AKA: Zillah in Dally's History of Woodbrigde, NJ

Sixth Generation

32. Job CONGER was born on 9 Jun 1694 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. He died in 1758 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ.
Job Conger

PARENTS: The parents of Job Conger were, John Belconger and Sarah Cawood.

RELATIONSHIP: A descendant of Job Conger, Lt. Col. Everton J. Conger, was Aide to Lafayette C. Baker. Lafayette C. Baker was the Chief of the National Detective Police (NDP, i.e., secret service) at the time of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, May 1865.

SPOUSE: Mary (Pierce) Percy is also listed as a spouse in Ancestral File. Can this spouse be proven? What is the source citation?

SPOUSE-QUESTION: Various records have stated that Job Conger was married first to Mary Percy or Pierce, as his wife, Keziah, was mentioned in his will. According to the evidence just found among an assortment of notes, your compiler [Maxine Leonard] is of the opinion, Job had but one wife.

Frome the "Hartford Times Queries," Hartford Times, Jan 23, 1854, Query B-5907, in part: "Job's wife was Mary Keziah, dau of Joseph (2) Thorp (Thomas 1) of Woodbridge. Deed of Zebulon (3) Thorp (Joseph-Thomas) Feb. 6, 1736 to Benjamin Thorp by Huder: (a schoolmaster of Woodbridge, N.J.). "Land belonging to the plantation that my father Joseph Thorp and my brother, Paul, sold to Job Conger Feb. 24, 1732, witnesses John Alston and Jonathan -----." (Sent by E.E.T.)

MILITARY: In 1715, Job Conger and his brother, Joseph, were Privates in Col. Thomas Farmer's New Jersey Militia Regiment, apparently at the time in the service of the Colony of New York.

EMIGRATION: Job Conger Jr. removed to Albany County, New York; Enoch removed to Dutchess County, New York and on to Darby, VT; Moses remained in Woodbridge until 1771 when he offered his land for sale.
(Furnished by Harold Murton Hyde)

PROBATE: Job Conger's will, dated 30 Jan 1749 at Woodbridge, Rahway Neck, East Jersey, refers to himself as "Yoeman." (A freeholder; a gentleman farmer)

To wife, Kezia, he left one half of his moveable estate. To his oldest son, Job, he left but ten pounds, as money to buy a plantation which had already been given him. The balanace of his moveable estate he divided among his daughters, the married ones to have half as much as the single ones, they having had their marriage portions.

To his sons, Enoch and Moses, he left "my farm land in Woodbridge, Rahway Neck, where I now dwell," when they are 18, but they could not sell same until they were 30.

The Executors named were wife, Keziah, son Enoch, and friend William Moore; witnesses Job Pack, Benjamin Thorp and Thomas Chapman.

Will proved 17 Feb 1758.
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Richard E. (Edson) Henthorn
5403 76th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20784-1705
Email: Dick.Henthorn@gmail.com

Job CONGER and Mary Keziah THORP were married about 1726/27 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ.

33. Mary Keziah THORP was born about 1694 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ.

Mary Keziah Thorp

AKA: Also, Keziah Thorpe in Ancestral File

34. Benjamin CODDINGTON has no further information available.

35. Mary UNKNOWN has no further information available.

Seventh Generation

64. John BELCONGER was born on 8 Sep 1633 in Suffolk, England. He was christened on 8 Sep 1633 in Great Yarmouth, England. He died about 27 Aug 1712 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. He was buried about Sep 1712 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. He is reference number 4KJ0-QQ.

John Belconger

COMMENT: Ancestral File shows, John Belconger (Conger); b. 8 Sep 1633, Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, Great Britain; d. 27 Aug 1712, Woodbridge, Mddlsx, [sic], NJ; Christening, 8 Sep 1633, Great Yarmouth, England

AKA: John Conger; John Conger "primus" by Charles G.B. Conger. What does "primus" in italics mean?

BIRTH: Abt. 1633 in England, perhaps in Norfolk County. Other dates of birth of 1640 and 1641 have also been listed. In CFAII, Maxine Leonard disputes the date of Abt. 1633.

QUESTION: Can anyone cite a source for the birth date?

MARRIAGE: "A Mary Kelly, m. April 12, 1666, John Belconger. She may have been a dau. of John."


BIOGRAPHY:
John Belconger came to Newbury, Massachusetts from England in 1665. He and his first wife, Mary Kelly, had first two children in Newbury and then moved to Woodbridge, New Jersey in 1667 or 1668. Shortly after moving to Woodbridge he shortened his name to Conger. He was illiterate and always signed his name with an "X".

It has been reported by some researchers that John (Belconger) Conger is the ancestor of all Congers in America. They also report that the name, Conger, does not exist in present-day England and that the name, Belconger, is very rare, existing only in County Norfolk.

(Source: According to Karen Halter Werry in Feb 1990 this information was written by Darrell Conger of Parkersburg, WV.)

BIOGRAPHY:
In 1665, John Conger came from England to Newbury, Mass. On Jan. 12, 1666 he married Mary Kelley, b. in Newbury, Feb. 12, 1641, the only daughter of John Kelley.

John Kelley came from Newbury, England to Old Newbury, Mass. with the original founders of the town in 1635. His only other child was a son, John Jr., who married Sarah Knight, the daughter of Deacon Richard Knight. John Jr. and Sarah had five children who had numerous descendants.
The Kelley Ferry operated for many years by father and son was a popular mode of travel in the early days of Newbury.

Daniel Pierce, a prominent citizen, well known throughout Mass. colony was organizing a group of citizens to move to a newly acquired Province of New Jersey which King Charles had wrested from the Dutch in 1664. In 1667, Pierce with nine associate owners and forty-six other men, many with families, arrived in New Jersey and founded the township of Woodbridge, located on an estuary that flows between Staten Island and the mainland and between Rariton and Rahway Rivers. Woodbridge, traditions says, was named for the Presbyterian minister they left back in the Newbury home. John Conger and his wife, Mary, and their infant son were among this company. Tradition is, and can be proved by some facts, that the Conger family came from Alsace, then a French province, to Holland (the name being Koeniger about the date of the massacre of St. Bartholomew 1572), and then from Holland to England, the name being anglicized into the English, Conger.


LAND:
In 1702 John Conger deeded to his three motherless grandchildren, eighty acres of land as a token of "love and affection." He named the children as: John (b. 15 Feb 1685), Allen (b. 12 Jun 1687) and Edward, sons of Edward Wilkison of Woodbridge.

[Note: No source citation given. REH]


DEATH: According to Robert Guilinger a death date of Sep 1712 is recorded in New Jersey.

WILL: 11 Jan 1711 with Codicil of 14 June.
He left a will, dated 11 Jan 1711, proven before Thomas Gordon on 27 Aug 1711, approved and sealed by Col. Hunter on 17 Oct 1712.

(Source: J. Bass. Liber I, Folio 382, New Jersey Wills, Sec. of State Archives)

PROBATE: Will of John Conger, 11 Jan 1711
In the name of God, Amen, the 11th day of January 1711. I JOHN CONGER of Woodbridge, in the county of Middlesex, and Province of East New Jersey, Planter, being in bodily health and in perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God, therefore: Calling in mind the mortality of this body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and for my body I recommend it to the earth, to be buried in a Christian-like and decent manner, at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, to bless me in touching such worldly estate, wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life. I give, devise, and dispose of the same in the follow manner and form:

ITEM: My will is that my farm or plantation on which I now dwell to be equally divided into two parts, beginning at the River and running with a direct line through the whole length of my said farm or plantation, the Eastern division whereof I will and bequeath to my son BENJAMIN CONGER, to be by him quietly and peacable possessed, and enjoyed as soon as he shall arrive at the age of 21 years, and if my son JOSEPH please, he shall have the liberty to live upon it 10 years after my decease, paying the charge arising thereon.

ITEM: The use and improvement of the western division of my said farm or plantation, and my dwelling house standing thereon I give to my wife during her state of widowhood and when her condition shall change either by marriage or death I will and bequeath the said western division of my farm together with my now dwelling house and all other buildings thereon to my son JOB CONGER.

ITEM: My will is that if either of my three sons above mentioned, JOSEPH, JOB or BENJAMIN, shall die without issue, then what land I have willed to them do descend to the survivor or survivors, and be equally divided between them.

ITEM: I give to my son JOHN ten schillings; to my son JONATHAN five schillings; to my son GERSHOM five schillings; and to each of my daughters five schillings, all to be paid by my son JOB, if demanded.

Lastly, I give all my cattle, horses, sheep and household stuff, to my faithful and beloved wife, SARAH CONGER, whom I do nominate and appoint my sole Executrix, to see that this, my last will, be punctually fulfilled, and I do declare this to be my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me formerly made. In witness whereof I have
Ancestors of Charles Leslie CONGER

hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year above written.
JOHN CONGER X (His Mark)

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said John Conger, as his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, the subscriber viz:
--James Connet, James Connet Jr., Richard Pangbourner, John Bishop

CODICIL: June 14, I the above name John Conger, being very sick in body and not expecting many hours of this life, and my son GERSHOM being born since the making of this my Will, above written, do declare that my will & desire is that my three sons, JOSEPH, JOB and BENJAMIN, as they come to age, give unto my son GERSHOM, ten schillings, each of them and that seven pounds out of my moviable estate be put out for his use when he comes to age, this I declare to be my desire before thise witnesses.
--John Stille, John Moore and John Bishop

Proved before Thomas Gordon, the 27th of August, and approved and sealed by his Excellency, Col. Hunter, the 17th day of Oct 1712. (Some say he died on 27 Aug 1712. Maxine Leonard states he died in September 1712.)
(J. Bass. Liber I, folio 382, New Jersey Wills, Secretary of States Office.)

CONFLICT: Codicil Confusion
The naming of a youngest son, Gershom Conger, in the Codicil has caused confusion and conjecture among Conger researchers, owing to the fact that an elder son of John Conger, named Gershom who had been born in 1685, was listed in the last "ITEM" of the 11 Jan 1711 will. At the time the will was written, the elder Gershom was married and was father of David, born in 1707 and Phoebe, born in 1708.

Researcher, Charles L. Conger, believed that the Gershom Conger, born in 1711, was the son of Gershom Conger, born in 1685. Gershom Conger, b. 1685, supposedly died before his father, a date of death of, Abt. 1710/1711 in Union Co., NJ, has been listed by some researchers.

It seems highly unlikely that John Conger would have had a son in 1711. At that time, his health was probably already failing, since he had drawn up a will. And, his second wife, Sarah Cawood, who had been born in 1660, would have been 51 years old.

It seems more reasonable that either the person drawing up the Codicil made a mistake when he wrote, "... my son Gershom being born since the making of this my Will..." or that John Conger was confused in his last days, and that the family pampered him in his belief that his grandson was indeed his son. If the Gershom, mentioned in the Codicil, was indeed the grandson of John Conger this would raise the question of why this grandchild was the only one that John Conger chose to mention, by name, in his will.
[Note: This discussion from CFA II, p. 20, has been edited by Richard E. Henthorn in order to clarify and expand on some of the points made.]

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Richard E. (Edson) Henthorn
5403 76th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20784-1705
Email: Dick.Henthorn@gmail.com

John BELCONGER and Sarah CAWOOD were married about 1689 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ.

65. Sarah CAWOOD was born in 1660 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. She died after 1710 in Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., NJ. She is reference number 4KJ0-RW.

Sarah Cawood

BIRTH: Probably in Woodbridge, NJ

SPOUSE: Sarah Cawood was the 2nd wife of John Belconger.

AKA: Caywood; Carwood by Sharon Reichert; Sarah Cawood or Carwood in Ancestral File.

COMMENT-MOTHER: Second wife of John Belconger. Her father was Thomas Cawood, but Rebecca Potter was not her mother. Rebecca was d/o, William Potter, and was married 27 Nov 1667 to Thomas Adams of New Haven.
Eighth Generation

130. **Thomas CAWOOD I** has no further information available.

_Father:_ According to CFA II, p. 722. Thomas Cawood was the father of Sarah Cawood the 2nd wife of John Belconger. He was also the father of Thomas Cawood who married Ruth Adams. Their son, Thomas Cawood, III married his 1st cousin, Rachel Conger.

_Spouse:_ The wife of Thomas Cawood was "not" Rebecca Potter.

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Richard E. (Edson) Henthorn
5403 76th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20784-1705
Email: Dick.Henthorn@gmail.com

Prepared by:
Richard E. (Edson) Henthorn
5403 76th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20784-1705
(301) 459-0535
Dick.Henthorn@gmail.com
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