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From the First Industrial City to the Wisconsin Frontier: William Scholes (1814-1864), Ann Mills Scholes (1814-1875), and Their Family

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Abstract: William Scholes and wife Ann Mills Scholes (daughter of Samuel Mills and Alice Stocks) emigrated from Oldham, Lancashire, England to Marquette County, Wisconsin, US, in 1849, with their six children, with the help of the mutual-aid Potters' Emigration Society. Five more children were born in Wisconsin. William was a cotton carder in England, a farmer in Wisconsin, and a Civil War soldier who died at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1864. Seven of their eleven children are believed to have living descendants. Surnames: Audiss, Dixon, Hull, Hume, Mills, Mozley, Park(e)s, Scholes, Sherwin, Stocks, Smith.

At the end of 1848, William Scholes was working as a cotton carder at the Jones cotton factory in Oldham, Lancashire, England. He operated a machine whose needle-pointed wires removed impurities from the cotton and made its fibers parallel and ready for spinning. The air in carding rooms was invariably hazy with dust, and "carder's cough" was a common medical complaint. (1)

He was just another cog in the industrial revolution, with a wife and six children, living and working in Oldham, a few miles east of Manchester. (2) But on New Year's Day 1849 his life changed forever. He was one of six lottery winners at a huge "tea party" held by the Lancashire chapter of the Potters' Emigration Society. (3) Less than six months later he and his family had embarked on a new life and were learning to farm on the central Wisconsin frontier.

The Potters' Emigration Society was a mutual-aid effort of pottery workers desperately trying to cope with the uncertainties of rapid change. Their strategy was to help randomly selected members to emigrate, hoping thus to make it easier for those left behind to find

work. One group emigrated in 1847. The society soon expanded to include other counties and other trades, and William Scholes joined at that time. (4)

William's parentage is not known, although family tradition says he was born either in or near Oldham on 14 December 1814. (5) He and Ann Mills, daughter of cotton carder Samuel Mills and Alice Stocks (6), were married ten miles away from their hometown at Prestwich, Lancashire, on 20 April 1835. (7)

Within months of the lottery, the Scholes family crossed the Atlantic on the ship *Marmion*, leaving from Liverpool, and arriving in New York 30 April 1849. (8) On May 19 the family arrived in Wisconsin. (9) In September William wrote home, extolling the new land and encouraging others to support the society:

"Some people said that [the soil at the settlement] was too sandy to produce anything," he wrote, "but I only wish I had it in my power to send you a sample of some potatoes that have been got up this week, and I think the most prejudiced would admit that finer potatoes were never grown, they have not had one particle of manure, the sets were put under the sod; and that is all they have had, except hoeing up, and the crop is a surprising one"

"We are ten miles from the post office, and about 120 miles from Milwaukee, about the same from Galena, but in a few years we shall have a market of our own, and every thing requisite to make man comfortable. I expect next year to have 10 acres of wheat with my yoke of oxen and plough, which, together with my labour for others in a few years will render my work much easier, and my family out of the reach of want. How many of our friends in Oldham can say the same? Not many, I think.

"For my part, I would not come back for the best shop and two pounds per week in Oldham, for I think I can do much better here; I am only sorry that I did not come sooner, . . . I assure you that the exchange to the back woods, from the stinking factory is greatly in favour of the former, and I often wish that more of our hard working townsmen would leave their sickly toil and come to one of the healthiest spots on the earth." (10)

In December William was one of 58 signers to a note praising Thomas Twigg, the society's Wisconsin agent, for enabling them "to escape from the vile, grasping, and intolerant domination of the aristocracy of England." (11)

William's optimism about the family's new start was not immediately borne out. The Potters' Emigration Society soon collapsed, leaving many members in want and lacking proper title to their land. (12) Exactly how this upheaval affected the Scholes family is not known, but they have yet to be located in the 1850 census.

In 1860, after presumably ten years of occupancy, the Scholes farm was noticeably less prosperous than most of its neighbors in Moundville Township, according to the 1860 Census of Agriculture. (13) This may have had to do with William's apparent lack of

farming experience, or with the fact he was probably short of field help during that first decade: the couple's first son, Robert, was three years old when they arrived in Wisconsin. Another indication that times were hard is that the family lost two young children, Marie and Hannah, in the early 1850s. (14)

For whatever reason, in January 1864, at the age of 49 -- with six of his nine surviving children still at home and the youngest only four years old -- William joined the Union Army, Company E, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry. (15) The Civil War was then entering its third year, and rather than draft soldiers, Wisconsin was offering a bonus to enlistees. (16) The husbands of William's two oldest daughters also signed up. Mary's husband Bissell Sherwin enlisted September 20 in Company D of the 19th Regiment, perhaps in part for this reason (17), and Sarah Ann's husband Robert W. Hume enlisted in February in Company C of the 23rd Wisconsin. (18)

Later that year two of the three were dead. Sherwin died in action at the Second Battle of Fair Oaks near Petersburg, Virginia. (19) William perished as most Civil War fatalities did, not from enemy fire but from disease. He died at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on 13 October 1864 (20) and is buried in grave G 4874 at Vicksburg National Cemetery. (21) The military record says he died of "chronic diarrhea." (22) His widow was granted a pension and she survived until 1875. (23)

William and Ann had eleven children. Nine of them nine lived to grow up, eight had children of their own, and seven had grandchildren. All eight married spouses of British descent, either recent immigrants or old New Englanders. (William and Ann's 31 grandchildren were more exogamous, as later articles will show.) Of the eight married children, the three earliest-married (daughters married in the 1850s and early 1860s) had a total of 17 children, while the three last-married (sons married in the 1880s) had just seven.

Genealogical summary, beginning with William's father-in-law:

Generation One

1. Samuel¹ Mills married Alice Stocks on 4 January 1810 St. Mary' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (24)

Their children: (25)

i. John² was baptized on 3 February 1811 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (26)

ii. Ann was baptized on 20 November 1814 St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England (27); married William Scholes.

iii. Samuel was baptized on 3 August 1817 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England (28) He was alive circa September 1849 when William Scholes arranged for James Grey's

share in the local branch of the Potters' Emigration Society to be transferred to 'Samuel Mills, of Bow street [Oldham], my brother-in-law.'" (29)

iv. Sally was baptized on 4 May 1820 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (30)

v. Maria was baptized on 5 October 1823 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (31)

vi. Alice was baptized on 11 February 1827 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (32)

vii. Joseph was baptized on 15 February 1829 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (33)

viii. Hannah was baptized on 23 September 1832 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (34)

Generation Two

2. Ann2 Mills (Samuel1) may have been born on 19 November 1814 Manchester, Lancashire, England. (35) She was baptized on 20 November 1814 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (36) She married William Scholes on 20 April 1835 Prestwich, Lancashire, England. (37) She died on 15 February 1875 Wisconsin. (38)

Their children:

3. i. Mary3

Born 27 September 1835 Lancashire, England. (39)

Baptized 6 December 1835 St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England. (40)

Married Bissel Sherwin, son of Bissel Sherwin and Experience Whitney, 26 August 1855 Packwaukee, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (41)

Died 27 December 1910 Sparta, Monroe County, Wisconsin. (42)

Five children.

4. ii. Sarah Ann

Born 7 November 1837 Lancashire, England. (43)

Baptized 12 November 1837 St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (44)

Married Robert Walker Hume Sr., son of James Hume Sr. and Ann Margaret Walker, 7 November 1858. (45)

Died 24 March 1874 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (46)

Seven children.

iii. Maria

Born on 27 February 1840 Lancashire, England. (47)

Baptized on 10 May 1840 St. Peter' s, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (48)

Died circa 1852 Wisconsin. (49)

iv. Elizabeth

Born on 12 November 1842 Lancashire, England. (50)

Baptized on 13 November 1842 St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (51)

Died 2 January 1929 Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin. (52)

She nursed many family members through hard times and was remembered by a niece as "a maiden lady, a beautiful character, beloved." (53)

5. v. Alice

Born 6 April 1845 Lancashire, England. (54)

Baptized 11 May 1845 St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, England. (55)

Married Joseph Cockroft Smith, son of Henry Smith and Zillah _____, circa 1864. (56)

Died 1923 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (57)

Five children.

6. vi. Robert

Born 22 January 1847 Lancashire, England. (58)

Baptized 7 February 1847 St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, England (59)

Married Caroline Cornelia Parkes, daughter of William Norman Parkes and Abigail Welch, 11 December 1868 Dekorra, Columbia County, Wisconsin. (60)

Died 12 March 1885 Moundville Township, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (61)

Three children.

7. vii. Samuel Mills

Born 10 August 1849 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (62)

Married Harriet Newell Mozley, daughter of Rev. Thomas Mozley and Elizabeth Van Natta, 28 June 1875 Marquette, Green Lake County, Wisconsin. (63)

Died 25 May 1914 Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. (64)

Four children.

viii. Hannah Ellen

Born on 12 January 1852 Wisconsin. (65)

Died circa 1854 Wisconsin. (66)

8. ix. William

Born 11 May 1855 Wisconsin. (67)

Married Mary Ellen Dixon, daughter of Favil Dixon and Sarah Ann _____, 26 November 1885 Fort Winnebago, Columbia County, Wisconsin. (68)

Died 2 January 1929 Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin. (69)

Two children.

9. x. George Walker

Born 24 March 1857 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (70)

Married Susanna Rebecca Audiss, daughter of Rev. William Audiss and Ann Codling, 24 February 1885, Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (71)
Died 21 January 1941 Endeavor, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (72)
Three children.

10. xi. James Mills

Born 11 July 1859 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (73)
Married Emma Maria Hull, daughter of Henry Hubbard Hull and Caroline A. Brewster, 15 December 1886 Buffalo, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (74)
Died 29 December 1936 Moundville, Marquette County, Wisconsin. (75)
Two children.

SOURCES

1. *The Cotton Industry*, by Chris Aspin, Shire Album 63, Shire Publications Ltd, 1981, pages 6-7. Factory named by son Samuel Mills Scholes in 1903 letter to Arthur D. Marsh of New York, transcribed in the Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 81 (photocopies of this manuscript are in possession of the author, original in possession of his father-in-law; entries probably made circa 1930).

2. According to the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin*, 1890, p. 757 -- undoubtedly based on information supplied by his children -- William "learned the trade of a silk-weaver in his youth, but afterward worked in a cotton factory. He rose successively step by step until he became superintendent of the carding-room." However, William's children's baptismal records in Oldham, 1835-1847, describe his occupation consistently as "carder" with no indication of a change in position.

3. Clipping from the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 13 January 1849, supplied through the courtesy of Roger G. Bentley, 4874 Parkinson Blvd., Pierrefonds, Quebec H8Y 2Z3, Canada; in author's possession.

4. Letter, Roger G. Bentley to Harold Henderson, 22 July 2002, in author's possession.

5. Location is given as "Oldham" in the Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63. But in a letter to Arthur D. Marsh of New York, written in 1903 and transcribed in the Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 81, his son Samuel Mills Scholes states that William "was born near Oldham . . . though the exact place of his birth I am unable to give at the present writing." Tradition adds that William was the youngest of 13 children, the others said to have included James, John, George, Ellen, Amelia, Elizabeth, and Richard. Sister Elizabeth is said to have married a Greaves (Greanes?) and emigrated to Cincinnati. Sister Ellen is said to have married a Tetlow, and had a daughter Ellen who married a Johnson and emigrated to New Jersey. (Scholes Family Ledger Book, pages 74 and 81) The Tetlow marriage and daughter have been confirmed in English records, but none of the alleged emigrants has been located in US records. It is

hoped that this extensive family information will help us to find William's birth family in records of Oldham or nearby, but so far it has not.

6. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1813-1818, page 93, Number 724, Ann Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1655906.

7. Parish Church of St. Mary, Prestwich, Lancashire, England, Marriages 1813-1837, page 90, Scholes-Mills, Family History Library microfilm #2113206.

8. Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter, June 1982, volume 29, number 1, page 25, "Wisconsin-Bound Passengers on Ship 'Marmion,'" transcribed from item 337, microfilm roll 78, National Archives series M237 by Michael Cassady.

9. Letter, William Scholes to the Oldham branch of the Potters' Emigration Society, 23 September 1849, as published in *The Potters' Examiner and Emigrants' Advocate*, Volume IX, No. 74 (November 1849), pages 587-588, supplied by Roger G. Bentley; in author's possession.

10. Ibid.

11. *The Potters' Examiner*, December 1849, page 606, supplied by Roger G. Bentley; in author's possession.

12. Letter, Roger G. Bentley to Harold Henderson, 22 July 2002, in author's possession.

13. 1860 US Census of Agriculture, Moundville Township, Marquette County, Wisconsin, photocopied from Wisconsin State Historical Society collection. In 1860, the Scholes farm had a cash value of \$500. Only eight of the 80 farms in the township had lower valuations, and all of them were smaller than the Scholes's 80 acres. Most of the details of the farm's crops and livestock confirm this picture.

14. See genealogy below.

15. Ann Mills Scholes, Widow's Pension Application #79.106, certificate 46.660. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin*, 1890, p. 757, gives an apparently erroneous March date.

16. "Civil War Letters Describe Brief Time in the Service," Monroe County Wisconsin Historical Society Newsletter, June 1991, Volume 19, #1, page 8, citing *The History of Wisconsin -- Civil War Era*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1976, page 327.

17. Mary Scholes Sherwin, widow's pension application 108,205, certificate 73064, Adjutant General's Office letter.

18. Robert W. Hume obituary, Portage (Wisconsin) *Democrat*, 13 May 1915.

19. "Civil War Letters Describe Brief Time in the Service," Monroe County Wisconsin Historical Society Newsletter, June 1991, Volume 19, #1, pages 8-10.
20. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties, Wisconsin*, 1890, p. 757; some records in Ann Mills Scholes's widow's pension application give 14 Oct 1864.
21. Notes by granddaughter Bonnie Scholes in author's possession; Burial index at www.interment.net/data/us/ms/warren/vicksnat/vicksburg_s.htm, where he is called "Sholes."
22. Ann Mills Scholes, Widow's Pension Application, as cited above in note 15, Surgeon Gess's report.
23. Declaration for Pension of Children under Sixteen Years of Age Surviving, affidavit by Robert Scholes. Minor pension application 220230, certificate 170286.
24. Marriages, St. Mary's, Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1809-1812, page 905, Number 1229, Mills-Stocks, Family History Library microfilm #1656118.
25. Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 73, lists "Family [i.e. siblings] of Ann Mills Scholes," naming Sally, Samuel, Joseph, Hannah, and Sophia. Since the St. Peter's baptismal record includes Ann baptized the day after her birth date as given in the ledger book, as well as four of the five siblings named there, I conclude that this must be the family of the emigrant woman who married William. William and Ann's first child born in Wisconsin was thus named directly for her father, who they would never see again. That suggests the a speculation that their first son Robert, born in England two years earlier, might have been named after William's father.
26. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1803-1812, page 83, John Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1655906.
27. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1813-1818, page 93, Number 724, Ann Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1655906.
28. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1813-1818, page 250, Samuel Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1655906.
29. Letter, William Scholes to the Oldham branch of the Potters' Emigration Society, 23 September 1849, as cited above in note 10.
30. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1820-1824, page 8, Sally Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.

31. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1820-1824, page 231?, Maria Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.
32. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1824-1829, page 145, Alice Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.
33. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1824-1829, page 272, Joseph Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.
34. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1829-1834, page 190, Hannah Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.
35. Family tradition as recorded in the Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 63, but not too plausible as to place, given that the baptism was several miles away in Oldham.
36. Baptisms, St. Peter's Oldham, Lancashire, England, 1813-1818, page 93, Number 724, Ann Mills, Family History Library microfilm #1655906.
37. Parish Church of St. Mary, Prestwich, Lancashire, Marriages 1813-1837, page 90, Scholes-Mills, Family History Library microfilm #2113206.
38. Affidavit by Robert Scholes, as cited above in note 22.
39. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.
40. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1834-1838, page 84, number 672, Mary Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656068.
41. Handwritten marriage certificate by Rev. John Wilcox (Presbyterian) contained in Bissel Sherwin Civil War pension file (as cited above in note 17); photocopy in possession of author; copy provided by courtesy of Barbara J. Butler, Howell, Michigan. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63, erroneously gives 'Beryl Sherwin.' In some records he is called Bissel Sherman or even Sherman Bissel.
42. Obituary, 'Mrs. Mary Sherwin,' Monroe County (Wisconsin) *Democrat*, Sparta, Wisconsin, page 8, 29 December 1910 (Volume 50, Number 52).
43. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.
44. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1834-1838, page 236, number 1882, Sarah Ann Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656069.
45. Exact date from www.wadeweb.net/stories/lhb_11.htm, Lois M. Jones Harvey Bennett, 'The Jones Family Journeys and Happenings.' Husband Robert W. Hume's obituary in the *Portage Democrat* 13 May 1915 gives simply November 1858. As to the

fact of the marriage, Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63. Also, the marriage records at the Wisconsin State Historical Society for three children identify their mother by maiden name: James Hume, Columbia County, volume 4, p. 308, #55, 25 March 1896; George Hume, Marquette County volume 2, p. 206, #4, 16 June 1901; and Robert Hume, Marquette County, volume 2, p. 21, 4 Apr 1889.

46. Lois Bennett, "Jones Family" as cited in note 45; Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

47. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

48. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1838-1842, page 97, number 773, Maria Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656069.

49. "Members of Scholes Family Dedicate Memorial Window," undated local newspaper clipping, circa 1954, in possession of the author. Maria is referred to as having died at the age of 12 years.

50. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63; obituary, "Were Brother and Sister," clipped from local newspaper and pasted into Scholes Family Ledger Book at page 62.

51. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1842-1848, page 12, Betty Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656069.

52. Obituary, "Were Brother and Sister," clipped from local newspaper and pasted into Scholes Family Ledger Book at page 62.

53. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

54. Ibid. In Alice's case the birth date is also noted at her baptism.

55. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1842-1848, page 143, number 1139, Alice Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656069.

56. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63, gives fact of marriage but no date. The 1900 US Census, Wisconsin, Marquette County, Roll 1799, Page 133B, Joseph Smith household, states they had been married 36 years.

57. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

58. Ibid.

59. Baptisms, St. Peter's, Oldham, Lancashire, 1842-1848, page 243, number 1940, Robert Scholes, Family History Library microfilm #1656069.

60. Columbia County, Wisconsin, Marriages, Volume 2, page 2, #01525, Wisconsin State Historical Society. The Scholes Family Ledger Book gives the erroneous "Caroline Parkinson."

61. Marquette County, Wisconsin, Registration of Deaths, volume 1, page 52, number 07016, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

62. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63. Obituary "Samuel Scholes," *Green Lake County Reporter*, 4 Jun 1914. Ann Mills Scholes Widow's Pension Application (as cited above, note 15) gives 15 August 1849.

63. Marriage certificate, attached to Scholes Family Ledger book, page 74; Green Lake County, Wisconsin, Marriages, volume 2, page 220, #35, #02836.

64. Obituary "Samuel Scholes," *Green Lake County Reporter*, 4 Jun 1914.

65. Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63.

66. "Members of Scholes Family Dedicate Memorial Window," undated local newspaper clipping, circa 1954, in possession of the author. Hannah is referred to as having died at the age of 2 years.

67. Ann Mills Scholes Widow's Pension Application (as cited above, note 15) gives 11 May 1855. But Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 63, gives 12 May 1854, as does the obituary "Were Brother and Sister," clipped from local newspaper and pasted into Scholes Family Ledger Book at page 62.

68. Columbia County, Wisconsin, Marriages, Volume 3, page 206, #225, #02520; obituary,

69. Obituary, "Were Brother and Sister," clipped from local newspaper and pasted into Scholes Family Ledger Book at page 62.

70. Widow Ann Scholes Claim for Pension. Obituary "George W. Scholes," clipped from a local newspaper, copy in possession of author. Scholes Family Ledger Book, page 63, gives year as 1856.

71. Marquette County, Wisconsin, Marriages, Volume 1, page 305, #25, #01753, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Obituary "George W. Scholes," clipped from a local newspaper, copy in possession of author.

72. Obituary "George W. Scholes," clipped from a local newspaper, copy in possession of author.

73. Ann Mills Scholes Widow's Claim for Pension (as cited above, note 15). His obituary and the Scholes Family Ledger Book, Scholes family list, page 63, give 12 July.

74. Marquette County, Wisconsin, Marriages, Volume 1, page 322, # 60?, Wisconsin State Historical Society. Obituary, "Descended from Sturdy English Stock," Portage Register-Democrat, no date on clipping, copy in possession of author.

75. Obituary, "Descended from Sturdy English Stock," Portage *Register-Democrat*, no date on clipping copy in possession of author.