

A Note on Long's Children:

As previously mentioned, I had always heard from local Stanberrians that Long's two spinster daughters, Grace and Ruth, continued to publish the *Owl-Headlight*, or at least continued to work for the paper, after their father's passing. Well, after combing through the paper's archives, I've found that's not quite true. I also discovered that Long may have had as many as 11 children, that is, depending on the accuracy of his "Find a Grave" online-obituary as compared to the *Stanberry Headlight* obituary for his second-wife, Julia (see attachments). The former lists a son named Melvin, while the latter does not. Also, neither obituary lists by name an infant daughter, Crystal E. Long, who died one year after birth (1896-1897), according to PeopleLegacy.com.

More to the point, it is not inconceivable that several of W. C. Long's children would have found themselves in their father's print shop helping out with the *Owl* or *Owl-Headlight* from time to time. This seems particularly true for at least two of his offspring who became more than just helpers, but actual employees. The first available issue of the *Stanberry Owl* in the SHSMO archive (Aug. 26, 1902) identifies W. C.'s son, Irvin N. Long, as the paper's editor—a position Irvin held at least until the Jan. 24, 1905 issue. After that issue only W. C.'s name appears as both publisher and editor. (Based on Irvin's obituary, my guess is that he left his dad's employ to start his own newspaper [the *Clyde Times*] in the community of Clyde, about 15 miles northwest of Stanberry. But sadly he would die just ten years later at the relatively young age of 48.) It also appears that W. C.'s oldest daughter, Grace, got the newspaper bug as well. According to her *Headlight* obituary she not only worked with her father in his publishing endeavors, but also assisted Irvin with his *Clyde Times*. After her father sold the *Owl-Headlight* in 1912, Grace evidently continued to work for the new owners as a typesetter and continued working for the *Headlight* in various capacities until her retirement in 1967 at the age of 79.

Her sister, Ruth, on the other hand, may have also helped with the family's newspaper business in her younger years, but various newspaper items suggest she made a career out of working for the telephone company in Stanberry. Grace and Ruth never married, and lived in the same Stanberry home with a third Long sister, Ardath, who also never married. Later a fourth Long sister, Mary Ivan, would also join them in their Stanberry home after her husband, Harry J. Welshimer, passed away in 1955 in Wichita, Kansas. The only sisters I had ever heard about were Grace and Ruth. So the information about Ardath and Mary Ivan was a revelation. I had no idea that the Stanberry Long Sisters were indeed *four*, not just two. What a close knit family they must have been.

In case your interested, here's a list of W. C. Long's children:

He had three sons by his first wife, Flora A. Grubb, who died in 1879:

Clarence G. (1863—1944) buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Irvin N. (1866—1915) served as "Editor" of the *Stanberry Owl* with his father as "Publisher" at least from Aug. 26, 1902 until Jan. 24, 1905; also published the *Clyde Times*; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Frank (1869— ?)

After marrying Julia Lamb in 1883, W. C. and Julia had three sons and five daughters:

Manley W. (1883—1949) lived in Seattle, Washington; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Chester N. (1886—1975) WWI veteran; lived in Chicago, Illinois; worked for U.S. Postal Service; managed local baseball teams; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Grace A. (1888—1970) never married; lived in Stanberry; worked for local newspapers; retired in 1967 at age 79; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Mary Ivan (1891—1979) called by her middle name, “Ivan,” which must have had a feminine pronunciation; married Harry Joyce Welshimer (1894—1955); lived in Wichita, Kansas until her husband’s death; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Ruth E. (1893—1989) never married; lived in Stanberry; worked for the telephone company; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Melvin (1894—?)

Crystal E. (1896—1897) died as infant; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry, Missouri.

Ardath G. (1898—1956) never married; lived in Stanberry; buried at High Ridge Cemetery, Stanberry Missouri.

The following obituaries from the *Find A Grave* website and the *Stanberry Headlight* in the SHSMO archive (1914-1975 only) provide documentation for the above information. The obituaries are arranged by order of death.