

Ware Roots and Branches



Ware's Grove Lutheran Church, 1862
Sketch by Jerome Anderson

The Newsletter of the Ware Family Association

No. 8 - July 2005



THE FAIRBANKS HOUSE

The Ware Connection to the Oldest Timber Frame House in America

By Cindy Joy

In Dedham, Massachusetts, about 10 miles southwest of downtown Boston, is located what is claimed to be the oldest surviving timber frame house in America. It is called the Fairbanks House and was built in 1636. Jonathan Fairbanks, builder and original owner of the house, arrived from England in 1633 with his wife, Grace, and their six children. Their oldest daughter, Mary Fairbanks, married Michael Metcalf. One of Michael and Mary Metcalf's

daughters, Mary, married John Ware, and another daughter, Sarah, married Robert Ware. John and Robert were sons of our immigrant ancestors, Robert Ware and Margaret Hunting.

Therefore anyone descending from these two second generation Ware brothers, John or Robert, is also a descendant of Jonathan Fairbanks, and has a direct connection with this historic house. This includes all of us who are presently "family members" of the Ware Family Association.



Ann Tindall, left, video-taped Fairbanks cousins as they viewed the items in the silent auction.

Last July, after the Gilsum get-together, three WFA members still had not had enough! Ann Tindall, Emily Osborn, and Cindy Joy traveled to Dedham to continue the search for information about our earlier Ware ancestors.

On Saturday morning, July 17, our plan was to visit the Fairbanks House for a possible tour. Upon approaching the house, we saw a crowd of people and tents, tables and chairs set up outside the old house. It didn't take us long to discover that we had accidentally stumbled upon the Annual Reunion of the Fairbanks Family of America!

Being a legitimate prospective member, Emily graciously paid the \$25 membership fee and we all paid the \$25 reunion registration fee on the spot. After attaching a name tag which specified "Mary," i.e. Mary Fairbanks Metcalf, as our connection to the Fairbanks Family, we were then "official" and were able to mingle with our 75 or so newly-found cousins.

We enjoyed a catered lunch in the American Legion Hall next door, and listened to a speech given by a Dedham historian filled with anecdotes about the first Fairbanks in Dedham. The children put on an historic skit, and we were all encouraged to make our own ice cream sundaes. The best they saved for last – the tour of the 368 year-old homestead.

Only a limited number of us were admitted to the house at any one time. The ceilings are low and passageways narrow. The original core of the house has undergone little modification and a very high percentage of the original features have been retained over the years. Two additions were made soon after the house was built. The East wing was built in 1648 for

Jonathan's first son, John and his family. The West wing was added in 1654. These additions make for an interesting floor plan for the house. There is a stairway to a second floor in each section, but the bedrooms upstairs are not connected.

Eight generations of Fairbanks lived in this house. In 1843 three unmarried sisters inherited the homestead and lived there for 30 years or so. The house with its three sections and three sets of stairs formed a perfect arrangement. They could live together and yet apart. The last Fairbanks family member moved out in 1903. The home was acquired by the Fairbanks Family of America. This family association, composed of descendants of Jonathan Fairbanks, have been the caretakers of the old homestead and surrounding grounds for over a hundred years.

Walking through this old home, we marveled that the house had survived 368 seasons of rain, hot sun, wind and snow. A poem written in 1936 by Mary Edna Fairbanks Rock seems appropriate to quote.

*Springs have come and gone, summers blossomed
and fled,
Autumns garnered their golden grain, white winters
broken and fled.
But the old house under the elms, stands as in its
prime,
With the quiet sturdy strength, of the folk of an older
time.*

As the three of us left the Fairbanks Homestead on that warm Saturday last July, we were glad we had made the effort to visit Dedham, and happened upon this very enjoyable once-a-year gathering of our Fairbanks cousins.



Cindy Joy, left, and Emily Osborn wait by the well for their turn to tour the Fairbanks House.

To find out more about . . .

The Fairbanks House

If you find yourself in the Boston area and are interested in historic houses, don't miss this one. It is open from May through October, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The last tour of the day begins at 4 p.m. The cost of a tour is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, but if you are a member of the Fairbanks Family in America,

the tour is free. Visit the website for the house at www.fairbankshouse.org.

The 103rd annual reunion of the Fairbanks Family of America is set for August 20th, 2005. There will be in-depth tours of the old house in the morning in addition to self-paced tours in the afternoon. Children attending will get to try their hand at colonial games and crafts and there will be a special tour of the house for the children.

- WARE FAMILY ASSOCIATION - 2005 Membership Meeting

Ware-Ward-Turner-Osborn Reunion

You have less than a month left to sign up for the WFA meeting and Ware family reunion in Montgomery County, Illinois, **August 11 through August 14, 2005**. WFA needs your registrations by July 25 in order to allow time for planning meals and events. If you have misplaced your registration and reservation form, write to our membership chairperson, **Marilyn Maccanelli** at 6405 Mullins Trail, Butler, Illinois 62015, or email her at mamh99@consolidated.net.

Events are scheduled beginning **Thursday, August 11**, when cousins will bring their genealogy books, photographs, and computers, to the Ware's Grove Lutheran Church in Butler Grove Township, and will continue through **Sunday, August 14** when family and friends will gather at the Butler Community Building for group photographs, membership meeting, catered dinner, and time to visit with relatives and view family heirlooms. Don't forget to bring your family photographs.

On Thursday and Friday there will be time to exchange genealogical information, visit cemeteries, and visit area libraries or the State Archives in Springfield to use genealogy resources.

On Saturday morning at Ware's Grove Church, WFA member **Bill D. Oakley**, a Ware descendant from Kansas, who spoke to us in 2001 about Daniel and Maria Ware Lee's adventures as missionaries in Oregon, will tell us the "rest of the story." Daniel and Maria resided in Montgomery County for a number of years, but then moved west.

After lunch on Saturday, WFA member **Patricia Osborn Olmstead** will tell us some of the earlier history of our ancestors' movements, titled "Why the Migration Westward from New England." This

will also be an opportunity to view the video of the WFA members' trip to New Hampshire and photographs of family homes and gravestones we located. Cousins will be on hand to share part of the New England history of the Ware family and related families, such as Proctor, Brigham and Mack. For a more complete agenda, check our website...

www.warefamilyassociation.com

In addition to the Ware reunion and WFA events, the Butler Homecoming celebration is scheduled for the 13th and 14th, so there will be activities in Butler on Friday night and Saturday.



Bring your recipes – old and new!

We ask you to bring at least one recipe with you to the Sunday WFA meeting and Ware reunion dinner. This is the first step towards a compilation of Ware Family Recipes for a cookbook. Besides your family's current favorites, we ask you to look through any of your parent's and grandparent's cookbooks and recipe cards that have been handed down in your family. If you are able to share old family recipes, please provide information about the source of the recipes and any memories you associate with a particular recipe. If the recipe is from an early Ware's Grove church, Montgomery church, Butler, Hillsboro, or Litchfield community cookbook, please include the source with your recipe so that we can give credit. Some of my favorite childhood memories are of Aunt Thelma's fried chicken, Great-Aunt Fern's coconut cake, and my mother's home-made ice cream that my Dad cranked in the old wooden freezer. What are yours? Thanks, Emily Osborn

Hillsboro High School Recognizes Athletic Achievements of Harold M. Osborn, 1924 Olympics gold medal winner

By Emily Osborn

On November 30, 2004, Harold M. Osborn, a 1918 graduate of Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro, Illinois, was inducted into the high school's Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place in the gymnasium at the half-time break during a basketball game between Hillsboro and neighboring Nokomis high school. Many of those present, along with a dozen or so Osborn family members, were aware that the Hall of Fame induction event was scheduled, but most were too young to remember Osborn or his accomplishments.

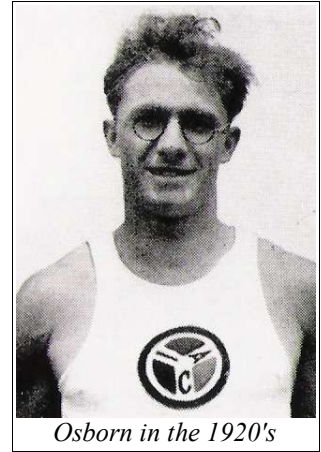
The crowd grew silent as high jump poles and a crossbar were erected on the gym floor. The athletic director and high school principal then asked Osborn's four daughters to come forward – Carol Grimm, Roberta Huneryager, Elizabeth Osborn, and Susan Jones. While they looked on, the director read a summary of Osborn's athletic career and achievements in track and field. At the end of that summary, the crowd rose in a sustained standing ovation.

The highlights of Osborn's career occurred at the 1924 Olympic games in Paris, France (the VIII Olympiad, featured in the popular film, *Chariots of Fire*). At these Olympic games he won gold medals in both the high jump competition and the decathlon. He was the first and, to this day, the only athlete ever to win gold in both the decathlon and another event.

Youth in Montgomery County

Harold Osborn was born April 13, 1899, the fourth child and third son of Jesse Ware Osborn and Emma Ware, whose parents and grandparents, Wares and Osborns, were early settlers in central Illinois in the early 1800's. He grew up on the family's farm in Butler Grove Township, Montgomery County, Illinois. Jesse and Emma were second cousins through the Ware side of their families.

Family lore tells us that Harold and his brothers, Wesley, Clarence, and Loren, were encouraged to run and practice jumping hurdles on the farm. Some reports even say that J.W. built a track and hurdles on the farm so that the boys could practice. After team practices in football, basketball, and track at Hillsboro High School, Harold had to walk or run



Osborn in the 1920's

the four miles home to the farm. Throughout Osborn's athletic career, few people were aware that he had lost most of his vision in one eye due to an injury during his teenage years. As a result he had very little depth perception, making it difficult to know when to jump as he approached the cross bar. He compensated by carefully measuring from the take-off point to a point where he began his running approach.

After high school, Osborn attended the University of Illinois at Urbana, from 1919 through 1922, majoring in agriculture. He then accepted a high school teaching job at Lewiston, Illinois, where, sponsored by the Illinois Athletic Club of Chicago, he continued to train and to compete in track and field events in preparation for the upcoming 1924 Olympic games. Osborn left Lewiston after a couple of years to take a job at Champaign High School, where he would be closer to the University as he continued his training.

Osborn did not, however, forget one of the students he met at Lewistown. He stayed in touch with Margaret Bordner, a striking brunette, and after the 1924 Olympic games, Osborn began a serious long-distance courtship of Margaret by mail while he was competing in Europe. Osborn prevailed in love as well as in track and married Margaret in 1928.

WARE LINEAGE: Harold M. Osborn, born April 13, 1899, died April 5, 1975, was a descendant of Robert Ware, the immigrant from England who settled in the Massachusetts Colony as part of the first wave of Puritan immigration from England between 1620 to 1640.

Osborn's mother's Ware lineage: Emma Ware Osborn/David Smith Ware/David Ware/Captain Benjamin Ware/Moses Ware/Moses Ware/John Ware/John Ware/Robert Ware. Osborn's father, Jesse Ware Osborn, was also a great-grandson of Captain Benjamin Ware through Benjamin's daughter Rebecca Ware Kendrick.

Athletic Career and Records

Osborn won gold medals and set Olympic records in both the high jump and the decathlon at the 1924 Olympics. His 6' 6" high jump remained the Olympic record for 12 years, while his decathlon score of 7,710.775 points also set a new world record, and resulted in world-wide press coverage calling him the "world's greatest athlete." The decathlon competition was especially grueling, conducted just four days after the high jump competition, and consisting of ten events run in extremely hot and humid weather conditions over two days at the end of the games.

Although the 1924 Olympic games were a high point in Osborn's career, there were many others. While competing for the University of Illinois in 1920, 1921, and 1922, Osborn helped Illinois win both the indoor and outdoor Big Ten titles all three years. He tied for the NCAA and AAU outdoor high jump championships in 1922.

On May 27, 1924, Osborn's 6' 8-1/4" high jump set a world record at an AAU meet held at the University of Illinois campus in Urbana. He won the AAU outdoor title in 1925 and 1926, the indoor title four years in a row, 1923-26, and he was the AAU decathlon champion in 1923, 1925, and 1926. He also achieved prominence in several events which have been discontinued, winning the AAU indoor 70-yard hurdles in 1925, and the AAU indoor standing high jump from 1929 through 1931, and taking second place in the standing broad jump in 1930. Osborn was 5' 10 1/2" tall and weighed about 175 pounds during his competitive years.

Competing at Home and Abroad

Osborn spent much of the year after the 1924 Olympics traveling and competing in European games with a small group of other Americans who had competed in the Olympics. As a result of the Olympic gold medals and the many meets in Europe, he became well known in Europe and acquired fans there who followed his career.

A month after the 1924 Olympics he competed in Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland, in the Tailteann games. His major competitor in those games was Larry Stanley, a native of Kildare, Ireland, and Ireland's entrant in the 1924 Olympics. Stanley was a celebrated Gaelic footballer and the Irish emotions ran high at the Tailteann games, but Osborn defeated Stanley, jumping 6' 4-1/2" to Stanley's 6' 3-1/2".

Osborn also was asked to compete in track meets in the United States. In 1925, Clyde Littlefield, an outstanding track and field athlete from Texas, became the coach at the University of Texas. Littlefield started an event known as the Texas Relays, a showcase for track and field athletes, which continues today. Osborn competed in the first of the Texas Relays, along with the 1924 Olympic 200-meter champion, Jackson Scholz. Both did well. Scholz won a special 100 meters, and Osborn reportedly "thrilled" the 6,000 spectators by clearing 6' 8-15/16", higher than his earlier world record set in 1924. (see TexasSports.com) This reported height may not be accurate, however; it conflicts with other sources reporting that Osborn's highest lifetime jump was 6' 8-1/2".

Osborn competed in the Olympics again in 1928. In the high jump, four competitors tied for second place. In the runoff jumps, Osborn was not able to jump high enough to win the bronze medal and had to settle for a participant medal. The initial tying jumps for second place were 6' 3- 1/2", just an inch behind gold medalist, Robert King, who jumped 6' 4-1/2". No one was able to match or better Osborn's 1924 jump.

After the 1928 games Osborn returned home, married Margaret, and continued to teach and coach at Champaign High School until 1933, when he returned to school. He received his doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathy in 1937. The Osborns, by then the parents of two daughters, returned to Champaign, Illinois, where he practiced osteopathic medicine, continued to compete in athletics, and assisted the University of Illinois track coach in the 1940's. Two more daughters were born in Champaign, where Harold and Margaret Osborn continued to reside until his death on April 5, 1975.

Altogether Osborn won 17 national titles and set six world records during his career. He held world indoor records in the standing hop, step, and jump; the 60-yard high hurdles; and the running high jump. His world record in the standing high jump of 5' 5-3/4" still stands today (and will continue to stand as this event is no longer part of track contests). He achieved that record at the age of 37.

Near the end of his life Osborn enjoyed new honors and a chance to revisit Europe and some of the sites of his earlier competitions. Osborn was enshrined as a charter member of the U.S. Track & Field Hall of Fame in 1974, along with such other track greats as Jessie Owens, Babe Didriksen Zaharias, Bob Mathias, and Wilma Rudolph. In 1974, he was also invited to return to Dublin for the Golden Jubilee commemoration of the

Tailteann Games, where he met and reminisced with Larry Stanley.

Even with his busy life of coaching, practicing osteopathic medicine, and raising a family, Osborn never lost interest in staying physically fit, active, and healthy. At the age of 40, he could jump 6'3". At the age of 50, he could clear his own body height of 5' 10½". In his later years he also competed in the field of archery.

The coach at Hillsboro High School summed up his career quite aptly at Osborn's induction into the high school Hall of Fame:

"As a world class athlete, Osborn is one of the greatest. As an individual competing for the sheer joy of sport and dedicated to the highest ideals of amateur sport, he has few equals. Osborn died at the age of 75 after a long life of service to his community and inspiration to all who knew him."

High Jumping Styles - the Osborn roll and the Western roll

Osborn developed a unique variation of the Western roll style of high jumping. While Osborn was practicing his hurdles and jumping in the field at his farm home in Illinois, the Western roll was gradually replacing an earlier jumping style called the scissor-kick. In the Western roll, the bar was approached on a diagonal -- the inner leg used for the take-off, while the outer leg was thrust up to lead the body sideways over the bar. Using the Western roll, George Horine first took the world high jump standard to 6' 7" (2.0m) in 1912. Horine is sometimes cited as the originator of the style.

Osborn worked on his own form and obviously paid attention to the style that was developing as he competed in high school and college. He modified the Western roll technique by developing an efficient side-to-the-bar clearance, which resulted in more height and consistency. His jumping style was sometimes referred to as the Osborn roll, but is also often lumped together with other variations of the style of jumping that is generally referred to as the Western roll. By 1924 he was using the style to attain new heights.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's Osborn corresponded from time to time with Volker Kluge of Altenburg, Germany, a journalist who published a sports magazine, and who had a passionate interest in the Olympics and the changes in track and field over the years. Volker asked Osborn many questions about his participation in the '24 Olympics and published articles about Osborn and other athletes who competed in Europe. In a letter to Volker dated January 31, 1969, Osborn described how he developed his style of jumping:

"I more or less found my style of high jumping by accident, as I was trying to imitate [Ed] Beeson's style, and what developed was natural to me, and as I became more proficient and with much practice, I utilized leg and arm lift and body 'kip' and then slid across the bar more or less on my back, and as I got to the far side of the bar then started to uncoil and dropped my take-off leg and arms for landing."

Ed Beeson was a Berkeley student and track competitor who also used the Western roll style. In the same letter to Volker, Osborn commented on Dick Fosbury's jumping style -- the Fosbury flop. Osborn wrote that Fosbury's style would have been illegal when he was competing in 1924 because the rules did not allow the head to cross the bar first. The flop was an innovation in the high jump that attracted a lot of attention when Fosbury introduced it at the 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City. Fosbury jumped with his back to the bar and went over head first. It required much more cushioning on the landing side, also a dramatic change from the days when Osborn jumped into sand.



Osborn jumping in the 1924 Olympics

- Photo courtesy of Osborn Family

About the Ware Family Association

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Web Master: Emily Osborn

Membership

WFA Membership dues are \$20 for two years and renewals are due in August 2005, payable by mail or at the biennial meeting in Illinois. If you are joining WFA for the first time, please send your name, address, email address, Ware lineage and check to Marilyn Maccanelli at 6405 Mullins Trail, Butler, IL 62015. Marilyn's email address is mamh99@consolidated.net

WFA web site: warefamilyassociation.com

Publications

WFA's newsletter, *Roots and Branches*, is published twice each year by the Ware Family Association (WFA) and distributed to members by email or regular mail. It includes articles about association business, events, trips, and information about family history and genealogy. Please share your issues with other family members, family associations, and libraries and encourage them to join us in preserving our family artifacts, history, and genealogy. Members with email addresses will receive *Roots and Branches* by email in PDF format which can be downloaded, viewed, and printed using Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program available on the web. Members who do not have email will receive a paper copy by regular mail.

WFA's email bulletin, *WFA e-News*, communicates association news about membership meetings and special events. Membership is not required. If you would like to receive the e-News, send your request and email address to Emily Osborn at emilyosborn@tds.net

You are invited to send newsletter articles, family news and photographs to web master/newsletter editor, Emily Osborn, 1541 Williams Dr., Stoughton, Wisconsin, or by email to the newsletter team members:

Emily Osborn at emilyosborn@tds.net Cindy Joy at thejoypeople@adelphia.net
Ann Tindall at tiniking@aol.com Patricia Olmstead at pat.donolmstead@suscom.net

Send your genealogy information or inquiries about extended Ware genealogy to our genealogy team:

Dorothy Lay at dottylay@aol.com Ann Tindall at tiniking@aol.com
Patricia Olmstead at pat.donolmstead@suscom.net

We look forward to seeing you at the **WFA biennial meeting**, scheduled for the weekend of August 11 through August 14, 2005, at Ware's Grove Church and the Butler Community Building, both located in Butler Grove Township, Montgomery County, Illinois.