Your Great Grandfather, **Joseph Bowes**, was an Englishman. He married and had eight children, four boys and four girls: **John**, **Robert**, **Nesbit**, **Joseph**, **Kate**, **Jane**, **Mary** and **Fannie**.

The son Joseph is the one appointed as a Lighthouse Keeper. But, all records show he was born in Nova Scotia after his father came from England.

He and his family came from the Isle of Wight in the English Channel, to Halifax, Nova Scotia; where he engaged in business as a merchant. After a few years he loaded his possessions and merchandise on a sailing vessel and with his family, came to Philadelphia. Unfortunately, the vessel on which they sailed was wrecked at the Delaware breakwater, just inside the Delaware Capes. Although they were alive, the vessel and its cargo were a total loss.

1- **John Bowes** married name unknown. From the marriage came one child, a boy: **George**.
   - **George Bowes**, as a boy growing up to manhood, learned to blow the cornet. He became a professional musician and traveled every winter to Florida or California. Once, when asked how he made his living, he replied, "by blowing my horn." He lives in Providence, RI.

2- **Robert Bowes**, deceased; married. From this marriage came three children, two boys and one girl: **Billie**, **Ella**, and **George**. His wife is deceased. They lived in Providence.
   - **Billie Bowes** ran away from home when he was in his teens and was never heard from again.
   - **Ella Bowes**, deceased; married unknown. Her husband was Fire Chief of the city of Providence. From this marriage came two children, one boy and one girl: **Fred** and **Helen**.
     - **Fred**, unmarried, lives in Providence, RI.
     - **Helen**, unmarried, is an artist and lives in Providence, RI.

3- **George Bowes**, deceased, remained a bachelor and lived with his sister, **Ella**.

4- **Nesbit Bowes**, deceased; married and had one child, a girl: **Addie**.
   - **Addie Bowes** married and from this marriage came four children, all girls. **Addie** and children live in Providence. Her husband was a painter at one of the streetcar barns.

5- **Joseph Bowes**, deceased; married a **Mary-Emmaline Weeks Reynolds**, your Grandmother. Joseph married his wife in Barrien, Michigan in 1855. Why they got married there is a mystery. Your Grandfather, after his marriage, moved to LaPort, IN. Here, **Robert-Edgar** was born. **Joseph** then moved to MA where **Frank** was born. He then moved to Attleboro, MA where **Louis**, your Father, was born. **Joseph** then moved to Providence, RI. Later he moved his family to Pawtucket, RI, a small manufacturing city with the oldest cotton mill in America, the old "Slater" mill. Later **Joseph** moved his family to Pleasant View. During these years he still kept his business in Providence. Almost in every place where Joseph Bowes lived, we can track his main profession as a "shoemaker". His father was a shoemaker, as well as his brother Nesbit. I suspect he still practiced his trade while working at the lighthouse.

   After a number of years **Joseph** was appointed by the government as Lighthouse Keeper at Sabins Point, five miles down the Bay of Narraganset. Four years later, he loaded his possessions, including a sailboat, aboard a sailing vessel, and with his family

voyaged to Florida (buying property near Jacksonville). A few years later, he sold his property and, with his wife and son **Frank**, moved to Elwood, NJ, where he again purchased property. The youngest son **Louis**, was left in Florida, as he was employed in an orange grove (and it being the busy season the boy did not feel satisfied to leave), but he later rejoined the family at Elwood. After a few years, Joseph sold his property at Elwood and moved to Camden, NJ, purchasing property at 536 Ray Street, in which house you were born. After your Grandmother died, he went to live with his son Frank. A year or so later, he came to live with his son Louis, at Bluefield, WV. Here he died and was buried in the family plot of his son Louis, in Walnut Grove Cemetery, in Bluefield, WV. I shall refer again to your Grandfather after I finish the history of his brothers and sisters.

6- **Kate Bowes**, deceased; married a **Kenyon**. From this marriage came no children.

7- **Jane Bowes**, deceased; married a **Sturdy**, a manufacturing jeweler. From this marriage, came two children, girls: **Agnes** and **Katie**, both old maids. **Agnes** is manager of the Providence agency of the New York Life Insurance Co. The girls by some means acquired the property of **Kate** and **Fannie**, their aunts, the property being valued at $20,000. They live in Providence.

8- **Mary Bowes**, deceased; married unknown and lived in Newport, RI.

9- **Fannie Bowes**, deceased; married a **Gilbert**. From this marriage, came no children. **Fannie**, was an artist. They lived in Providence, RI.

10- **Louis-Albert Bowes**, your father, married a **Cole**. **Louis**, at the age of four years, lost part of two fingers by playing with a hay-cutter. At the age of eight years, he was living at Pleasant View, RI. The Great Chicago Fire occurred in Chicago when he was this age. The book *Barriers Burned Away*, a most interesting book, was the outcome of this great fire. At the age of ten years, he was living in the lighthouse off Sabins Point in Narraganset Bay. Here he learned all about boats and boating and had many thrilling experiences with "wind and waves" and "saving lives" in summer, and "ice and snow" in winter. Here the ice in winter would grow to the thickness of four feet, and thrilling incidents came when the ice broke up in early spring. At the age of fourteen, he was living in Florida. Here he first followed the water - making trips down the Florida coast with merchandise and bringing back oranges, sometimes carrying a cargo of oranges in bulk as far north as Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC. Later, he went down into the interior of the state and learned to bud, prune, and care for orange groves. While at this occupation, his parents moved to Elwood, NJ.

Later, when the orange season was over, he followed his parents home, shipping on a sailing vessel as second mate. While crossing the bar at the mouth of the St. Jon's River, the vessel sprung a leak. Immediately outside she encountered a northwest gale and was driven far out in the Gulf Stream. With all hands at the pumps, night and day, she could not be kept free and rather than venture around Cape Hatteras, she put into Wilmington, NC with eight feet of water in her hold. Here, the vessel was dry-docked and her seams re-calked and she put to sea again, eventually arriving in Philadelphia. From this city, the boy and his dog took train for Elwood. **Louis** remained at Elwood during the remainder of his teens and during this period learned telegraphy, for which he gave a year's work and was paid $40.00. During this year he also learned the railroad agency business.

Later, as a telegrapher, **Louis** traveled all over the country and down into old Mexico where he stopped awhile as a railroad agent; learning sufficient of the Spanish language to be able to do business within a month after taking the position. Here many interesting incidents occurred.

Another time, **Louis** made a trip around South America, stopping at the island of St. Thomas, in the Danish West Indies. He crossed the Carribean Sea, stopping at Pernambuco, in Brazil, then continuing on to Montevideo, in Uraguay and from there down the Patagonian coast and thru the straits of Magellan to Valparaiso, in Chili. From there he went to Calio, in Peru and on west to Tacoma, on Puget Sound, in the state of Washington. There were many things of interest on shipboard, as well as in the different foreign countries. The trip covered over four months time.

Louis returned home by the over-land route, occupying several more months, stopping off at many points and getting a wonderful knowledge of the far west, its characteristics and its peoples. He came in contact with cowboys, metal miners, railroad people, etc. In the Rocky Mountains to Eagle City (a new mining town), in the dead of winter, he traveled on snow shoes and with a dog team. Eventually he reached home at Elwood again. Long afterwards he came down into the West Virginia hills and married your mother.

This is the grave marker of Joseph Bowes. He died in Bluefield, WV in 1899 while living with his son Louis Albert Bowes. His grave is in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Bluefield, WV.



I wish we had pictures of Joseph Bowes, but none have been found after many years of looking. The picture be low of his son is the only one I have of any of Joseph's children. He is my great grandfather, the writer of this history.



This is the son of Joseph Bowes, Louis Albert Bowes,Sr. He was born in 1861 in Attleboro, Mass. He lived in the Lighthouse with the family from age 10 until age 14. With him is his wife Pearl Mae Cole Bowes.