

PROPERTY  
OF  
JAMES O. APLAN  
PORT JERRY  
SOUTH DAKOTA

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STATEMENT CONCERNING THE OBITUARY OF ELEONITTE IOTT

The attached is a facsimile copy of the obituary of my great-grandmother, the same having been published in the Rushville, Nebraska, Recorder, on July 6, 1905. The original clipping was preserved in my Mother's scrapbook and was removed by me therefrom and is now in the hands of my son, James O. Aplan of Sturgis, South Dakota.

I am not at all sure that "Eleonitte" is the proper spelling of her first name although it so appears on her tombstone. I do not find the name "Eleonitte" used as the spelling of a girl's name in any of my many reference books concerning persons of French origin. I do find the name "Lionette" occasionally used by the French and it may well be that "Eleonitte" is an Americanized spelling of that name.

Eleonitte Janis Iott was born October 3, 1820. The date which appears on her tombstone is 1818 but Mother, in her own handwriting, recorded the year of birth in certain family records which I have in my possession as being 1820. She was born at St. Charles, Missouri, and died at Rushville, Nebraska, on June 28, 1905. She is buried on the Aplan family burial plot in the Rushville, Nebraska, cemetery.

Eleonitte Janis married Sefroy Iott at St. Charles, Missouri, probably during the period 1840-45. As yet, I have not found the exact date of their marriage. They had but one child, my grandmother, Emily Iott.

Emily Iott first married a man by the name of Longtean (Longtane, Longtain) and had one child by him, a son, Philip. (I am sure that the spelling of this name as "Leahty" in the obituary is in error for I have checked the record title to Philip's homestead. In various instruments which appear of record in the Office of the County Clerk of Sheridan County, Nebraska, I find discrepancies in the spelling of his name. It appears "Longtean", "Longtane" and "Longtain" in these records.)

Longtean died and my grandmother Emily then married Peter Leaneagh. (The spelling of this name as "Leaneagh" in the obituary is another error.) I do not have the exact date of their marriage but it undoubtedly occurred in the year 1863 or early in the year 1869 for my mother, Marie Leaneagh, was born at St. Charles, Missouri, on January 21, 1870, and was the oldest of six children born as the issue of this marriage. Mother was the "Molly" mentioned in the obituary. Her real name was Marie but, due to the manner in which the French "roll" the letter "r" in pronouncing the names Marie and Mary, she was called "Molly".

The Mrs. "Palmer" mentioned in the obituary was the half-breed daughter of Antoine Jenis. Her name was Merguerite and her husband was John Palmier. This latter spelling "Palmier" is the correct spelling of that name.

I have no idea who supplied the data for the obituary but am positive that whoever did so was in error in stating that there was an "English" father involved. These people, except perhaps Leaneagh, about whom I know nothing, were French.

*Frank F. Aplan*